Chemical Constituents from the Aerial Parts of Artemisia minor

Zhi-Zhou He, Ju-Fang Yan, Zhi-Jun Song, Fei Ye, Xun Liao, Shu-Lin Peng, and Li-Sheng Ding*

National Engineering Research Center for Natural Medicines, Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chengdu 610041, People's Republic of China

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Four new compounds including three bicoumarins, arteminorins A-C (1–3), and one neolignan, arteminorin D (4), together with 31 known ones were isolated from the aerial parts of *Artemisia minor*. Their structures were established on the basis of spectroscopic data and comparison with those of the related known compounds. Ethyl caffeate (27) showed in vitro cytotoxicity against the HepG2 cancer cell line. Arteminorin C (3) and luteolin (19) showed inhibitory activity on xanthine oxidase (XOD), and caffeic acid (28) exhibited inhibitory activity on protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B (PTP1B).

The genus *Artemisia* (Compositae family) comprises approximately 300 species widely distributed in Europe, North America, Asia, and South Africa, with about 200 species occurring in China.¹ Many *Artemisia* species are popular Chinese traditional medicinal plants, and they are frequently used for the treatment of dysmenorrhea, amenorrhea, hepatitis, inflammation, bruising, jaundice, hemostasia, malaria, and cancer.² Studies on the chemical components of *Artemisia* species have led to the identification of numerous compounds, such as acetylenic monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, sesquiterpene-monoterpene lactones, triterpenes, coumarin monoterpene ethers, coumarins, and flavones.^{3–11} However, there is no previous report on the chemical constituents of *Artemisia minor* Jacq. ex Bess.

A. minor plants grow uniquely on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau of China. It has long been used as a substitute for the traditional Tibetan medicine A. sieversiana for the treatment of fever, rheumatism, dysentery, scabies, and bruising.¹ Our research led to the isolation and characterization of three new bicoumarins (1-3), one new neolignan (4), and 31 known compounds, which were identified as β -sitosterol (5), daucosterol (6), umbelliferone (7), isofraxidin (8), scopoletin (9), fraxidin (10), mandshurin (11), fraxin-8-O- β -D-glucopyranoside (12), euoniside (13), scopolin (14), 5,8dihydroxy-7,4'-dimethoxyflavone (15), syringin (16), chryseoriol (17), tricin (18), luteolin (19), acacetin (20), apigenin (21), 5,7dihydroxy-3,6,4'-trimethoxyflavone (22), tectorigenin (23), eicosyl/ docosyl-p-coumarate (24), isoferulic acid (25), ferulaldehyde (26), ethyl caffeate (27), caffeic acid (28), (-)-syringaresinol (29), (+)diasyringaresinol (30), p-hydroxybenzoic acid (31), p-methylbenzaldehyde (32), cleomiscosin C (33), cleomiscosin A or B (34), and biisofraxidin (35) (Supporting Information). We report herein the isolation and structural elucidation of the four new compounds and the results of the bioactivity screening of all the isolated compounds.

Compound **1** was obtained as a white, amorphous powder. It gave pseudomolecular ion peaks at m/z 443 [M + H]⁺ and 465 [M + Na]⁺ in ESIMS. Its molecular formula was tentatively assigned as C₂₂H₁₈O₁₀ by HRESIMS at m/z 465.0786 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd 465.0792). The IR spectrum of **1** displayed absorptions for hydroxy (3442 cm⁻¹), α,β -unsaturated lactone (1723 cm⁻¹), and phenyl (1634, 1572, and 1465 cm⁻¹) functionalities. The ¹H NMR spectrum of **1** exhibited signals at δ 6.53 (d, J = 9.6 Hz) and 8.07 (d, J =9.6 Hz), which are characteristic of a coumarin skeleton.¹² Apart from the carbon signals due to four methoxy groups (δ 62.1, 61.2, 57.0, and 56.4), there remain 16 aromatic carbons and two lactone carbons at δ 156.4 and 159.8 in the ¹³C NMR spectrum, suggesting



that **1** possesses a bicoumarin skeleton.¹² The doublets at δ 8.07 and 6.53 in the ¹H NMR spectrum were assigned to H-4' and H-3', respectively. A cross-peak between H-4' and H-5' (δ 7.33) in the NOESY experiment (Figure 1) was observed. In addition, the HMBC spectrum (Table 1) showed a cross-peak between H-5' and C-4'; the NOESY spectrum showed a cross-peak between H-5' and the methoxy protons at δ 3.82, indicating that this methoxy group was attached to C-6' (δ 149.1). The HMBC correlation between H-5' and C-7' (δ 138.6), as well as the correlation between the methoxy protons (δ 3.89) and C-8' (δ 140.5), indicated that this methoxy group was attached to C-8'. The chemical shift of C-7' suggested that this carbon was also oxygenated.¹² Therefore, C-7' was determined as the attaching site for the other coumarin moiety. In addition, the ¹³C NMR data of this moiety were similar to those of isofraxidin.¹³ Thus, a 6,7,8-trisubstituted coumarin moiety was identified in 1.

The structure of the other coumarin moiety was deduced as 3,6,7,8-tetrasubstituted as follows: H-4 (δ 7.08) and H-5 (δ 6.92) showed a correlation in the NOESY experiment. Accordingly, crosspeaks between H-4 and C-5 (δ 104.1) and between H-5 and C-4 (δ 119.7) were evident in the HMBC experiment. The correlation between H-5 and the methoxy protons (δ 3.74) in the NOESY spectrum indicated that this methoxy group was attached to C-6 (δ 146.6), which was further supported by the long-range correlation between this methoxy protons and C-6 in the HMBC spectrum. The long-range correlation between H-5 and C-7 (δ 139.5) and the correlation between the hydroxy proton (δ 9.60) and C-8 (δ 135.2) in the HMBC experiment indicated that the hydroxy group was located at C-7. The HMBC correlation between the remaining

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^{*} To whom correspondence should be addressed. Tel: +86-28-85239109. Fax: +86-28-85222753. E-mail: lsding@cib.ac.cn.



Figure 1. Key NOESY correlations of compounds 1, 2, and 4.

methoxy group (δ 3.86) and C-8 suggested that this methoxy was linked to C-8. The lack of long-range correlations between the methoxy groups in the NOESY spectrum also supports these assignments.

The connection of the two coumarin moieties was done by a comparison of the NMR data of **1** with those of rutamontin, ¹⁴ giving rise to the connectivity of C-3 to C-7' through an ether bond. The ESIMS/MS (Figure 2) of **1** showed a predominant daughter ion peak at m/z 221 deriving from fission of the C-3–O bond, together with the ion peaks at m/z 207 and 237 formed from fission of the C-7'–O bond, and the ion peaks at m/z 428 and 412 formed from loss of CH₃ and OCH₃ groups, respectively. Therefore, the structure of **1** was established as 7-hydroxy-6,8-dimethoxy-3-(6',8'-dimethoxy-7'-coumarinyloxy)coumarin and named arteminorin A.

Compound **2** was obtained as colorless needles. It gave pseudomolecular ion peaks at m/z 413 [M + H]⁺ in the positive mode ESIMS and m/z 411 [M – H]⁻ in the negative mode ESIMS. The molecular formula C₂₁H₁₆O₉ was tentatively determined by HRES-IMS (m/z 413.0866 [M + H]⁺, calcd 413.0867). The IR and ¹H and ¹³C NMR data of compound **2** were similar to those of **1**. One coumarin moiety was determined as 6'-methoxy-7'-substituted based on analysis of the NMR data and comparison of its ¹³C NMR data with those of scopoletin.¹³ The other coumarin unit was assigned to be 3-hydroxy-6,8-dimethoxy-7-substituted as that in **1** by analysis



Figure 2. Proposed fragmentation pathways and characteristic ions of compounds 1, 2, and 4.

Table 1. NMR Data of Compounds 1, 2, and 3 (DMSO- d_6 , δ in ppm, J in Hz)

	1			2			3		
position	$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{\rm C}$	HMBC	$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{\rm C}$	HMBC	$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{\rm C}$	HMBC
2		156.4			156.7			159.7	
3		140.1			137.7			118.4	
4	7.08, s	119.7	2, 3, 5, 9	7.60, s	128.0	2, 3, 5	8.24, s	143.7	2, 3', 5,9
5	6.92, s	104.1	4, 7, 9	6.99, s	104.5	4, 6, 7, 9	7.10, s	105.1	
6		146.6			146.5			146.4	4, 6, 7, 9
7		139.5			143.2			144.8	
8		135.2			135.2			135.0	
9		142.4			140.9			142.9	
10		110.3			115.1			110.7	
2'		159.8			160.6			160.2	
3'	6.53, d (9.6)	116.4	2', 10'	6.42, d, (9.6)	110.5	2', 10'		117.6	
4'	8.07, d (9.6)	144.8	2', 5', 9	8.03, d, (9.6)	144.4	2', 5', 9'	8.21, s	143.5	2', 3, 5', 9'
5'	7.33, s	106.1	4', 6', 7', 9'	7.49, s	111.3	4', 6', 7', 9'	7.04, s	112.9	4', 6', 7', 9'
6'		149.1			146.9			143.7	
7'		138.6			148.4			151.5	
8'		140.5		7.27, s	106.7	10'	6.80, s	102.8	6', 7', 9', 10'
9'		142.3			148.9			148.6	
10'		117.1			115.1			111.3	
6-OCH ₃	3.74, s	56.4	6	3.80, s	56.6	6	3.85, s	56.7	6
8-OCH ₃	3.86, s	61.2	8	3.87, s	61.2	8	3.87, s	61.3	8
6'-OCH ₃	3.82, s	57.0	6'	3.87, s	56.8	6'			
8'-OCH ₃	3.89, s	62.1	8'						
3-ОН						2, 3			

of its HMBC (Table 1) and NOESY (Figure 1) spectra. Compared with compound 1, the resonance of C-3 shifted upfield by 2.4 ppm, and C-7 shifted downfield by 3.7 ppm in 2, indicating that the two coumarin moieties of 2 were connected at C-7 and C-7' via an oxygen bridge, which was further supported by ESIMS/MS experiment (Figure 2) of 2. The daughter ion peaks at m/z 221 and 193 were derived from fission of the C-7–O bond, m/z 175 and 237 were derived from fission of the C-7–O bond, and m/z 398 and 382 were derived from loss of CH₃ and OCH₃ groups, respectively. Therefore, compound 2 was elucidated as 3-hydroxy-6,8-dimethoxy-7-(6'-methoxy-7'-coumarinyloxy)coumarin and named arteminorin B.

Compound 3 was isolated as a yellow, amorphous powder. The ESIMS experiment showed pseudomolecular ion peaks at m/z 421 $[M + Na]^+$ and $m/z 819 [2M + Na]^+$. The molecular formula was tentatively determined as C₂₀H₁₄O₉ by HRESIMS (m/z 421.0512 $[M + Na]^+$, calcd 421.0530). The IR and NMR data of **3** (Table 1) resembled those of 1, and further spectroscopic analysis revealed that 3 was a bicoumarin in which the two courmarin fragments were connected through a C-C bond. One coumarin moiety was determined as 7-hydroxy-6,8-dimethoxy-3-substituted by a comparison of ${}^{13}C$ NMR data of **3** with those of 3,3'-biisofraxidin, ${}^{15}a$ known compound isolated from the same plant. This moiety was further backed by the correlations in the HMBC spectrum of 3(Table 1). Another moiety was confirmed as 6',7'-dihydroxy-3'substituted by HMBC correlations as below. The HMBC spectrum of **3** showed correlations of H-4' (δ 8.21, s) with C-2' (δ 160.2), C-5' (δ 112.9), and C-9' (δ 148.6), indicating that this isolated proton was attached to C-4' (δ 143.5). The absent adjacent proton to H-4' (s) suggested C-3' (δ 117.6) was substituted. Cross-peaks between H-5' (δ 7.04, s) and C-4' (δ 143.5) and C-7' (δ 151.5) as well as between H-8' (δ 6.80, s) and C-10' (δ 111.3) and C-6' (δ 143.7) indicated that C-6' and C-7' were oxygenated. In addition, the HMBC spectrum showed the key correlations of H-4 (δ 8.24, s) with C-3' (δ 117.6) and H-4' with C-3 (δ 118.4), indicating that these two coumarin units were linked at C-3 and C-3' via a carbon-carbon bond. Thus, compound 3 was determined as 7,6',7'-trihydroxy-6,8-dimethoxy-3,3'-bicoumarin and named arteminorin C.

Compound 4 was obtained as a white, amorphous powder, with $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ –4.46. Pseudomolecular ion peaks at m/z 381 [M + Na]⁺ (positive ion mode) and 357 $[M - H]^-$ (negative ion mode) were found in the ESIMS. The molecular formula of 4 was tentatively determined as $C_{19}H_{18}O_7$ by HRESIMS (*m/z* 381.0945 [M + Na]⁺, calcd 381.0945). The structure of 4 was similar to that of 9'-methylamericanol A $(36)^{16}$ by comparison of their NMR data (Table 2). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of 4 (Table 2) indicated that there is a carboxy group (δ 12.19 and 168.2) in **4** instead of a methoxymethylene group as in **36**. The resonance of C-8' (δ 115.8) shifted upfield by 8.9 ppm compared to that in 36, indicating that the carboxy group was linked to C-8', which was supported by the correlation between H-7' (δ 7.50) and C-9' (δ 168.2) in the HMBC spectrum (Table 2). A correlation between methoxy protons (δ 3.77) and C-3 (δ 148.1) in the HMBC spectrum indicated that the methoxy group was linked to C-3. In addition, the ESIMS/MS (Figure 2) of 4 showed predominant daughter ion peaks at m/z 177 and 179 deriving from fission of both C-7-O and C-8-O bonds, together with an ion peak at m/z 313 formed from loss of a CO₂ group and ion peaks at m/z 342 and 326 formed from loss of CH₃ and OCH3 groups, respectively. Therefore, compound 4 was determined as 3-methoxy-8'-carboxy-7'-en-3',8-epoxy-7,4'-oxyneoligna-4,9-diol and named arteminorin D.

The relative configuration of **4** was elucidated from coupling constants and correlations observed in the NOESY spectrum as shown in Figure 1. A large coupling constant between H-7 and H-8 (J = 7.8 Hz) indicated that the two protons were in a *trans*-

Table 2. NMR Data of Compound 4 (DMSO- d_6 , δ in ppm, J in Hz)

position	$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{\rm C}$	HMBC
1		127.7	
2	7.01, d (1.6)	112.3	4, 6, 7
3		148.1	
4		147.6	
5	6.80, d (8.0)	115.8	1, 3
6	6.85, dd (8.0, 1.6)	121.0	2, 4, 7
7	4.95, d (7.8)	76.6	1, 2, 6, 8
8	4.19, m	78.4	
9	3.33, br d (10.9),	60.6	7,8
	3.54, br d (12.2)		
1'		128.2	
2'	7.28, d (1.8)	116.9	4', 6', 7'
3'		144.2	
4'		146.1	
5'	6.94, d (8.3)	117.7	1', 3'
6'	7.20, dd (8.3, 1.8)	122.1	2', 4', 7'
7'	7.50, d (15.8)	143.9	2', 6', 9'
8'	6.36, d (15.9)	115.8	1'
9'		168.2	
OCH_3	3.77, s	56.2	3

Table 3. Bioactivities of Compounds 3, 19, 27, and 28

		compounds				positive controls ^a		
bioactivities	3	19	27	28	А	В	С	
anticancer activity (HepG2) GI ₅₀ (µM)	no	no	17.21	no	0.059			
XOD inhibition activity IC_{50} (μ M)	7.71	11.54	no	no		0.18		
PTP1B inhibition activity IC ₅₀ (µM)	no	no	no	3.06			27.56	

^{*a*} A–C represent taxol, allopourinol, and soduim orthorandate, respectively, which were applied as the positive controls.

configuration,¹⁷ which was consistent with the correlation between H-7 and H-9_b in the NOESY spectrum.

In vitro cytotoxicity of all 35 compounds isolated from *A. minor* was examined with HepG2 cells, a cancer cell line. The inhibitory effects on the activity of XOD and PTP1B enzymes of these compounds were also tested.^{18–22} As summarized in Table 3, compound **27** was cytotoxic to HepG2 cells. Compounds **3** and **19** showed inhibition to the activity of XOD, while compound **28** had an inhibitory effect on the activity of PTP1B.

Experimental Section

General Experimental Procedures. Melting points were measured on XRC-1 apparatus and are uncorrected. Optical rotations were measured on a PE-341 polarimeter. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 1725X FT spectrometer with KBr pellets. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AV-600 MHz spectrometer using TMS as internal standard. HRESIMS were measured on a Bruker BioTOF Q spectrometer. ESIMS and ESIMS/MS were measured on a Finnigan LCQ^{DECA} spectrometer. Silica gel (200–300 mesh, Qingdao Marine Chemical Group Co.), MCI (Mitsubishi Chemical Co.), ODS (Cosmosil 75 C₁₈-OPN), and Sephadex LH-20 (Pharmacia) were employed for column chromatography. TLC was carried out using silica gel 60 (>230 mesh, Qingdao Marine Chemical Group Co.) and GF₂₅₄ plates precoated with silica gel 60. Spots on TLC were visually observed under UV light and/or by spraying with anisaldehyde-H₂SO₄ reagent followed by heating.

Plant Material. The plant was collected at Lhasa, in Tibet, China, and identified by Professor Suolang Gesang. A voucher specimen (2007-0418) was deposited in the Herbarium of Chengdu Institute of Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Extraction and Isolation. A powdered sample from dry aerial parts of *A. minor* (10 kg) was extracted with 90% EtOH at room temperature. The concentrated extract (1.4 kg) was suspended in H₂O and then partitioned with petroleum ether, CHCl₃, and *n*-BuOH. The petroleum ether extract (200 g) was chromatographed on an MCI gel column eluted with MeOH-H₂O (9:1) and then was subjected to silica gel column

chromatography (CC) eluted with petroleum ether-acetone (8:1) to obtain compound 22 (20 mg). The CHCl₃ extract (250 g) was subjected to silica gel CC eluted with a petroleum ether-acetone gradient (from 10:1 to 0:1) to give seven fractions, A-G. Fraction A was subjected to silica gel CC eluted with petroleum ether-acetone (from 10:1 to 0:1) to obtain compounds 5 (10 mg) and 24 (100 mg). Fraction B was filtered to yield compound 7 (13 g), and the mother liquid was subjected to silica gel CC eluted with a petroleum ether-acetone gradient system (from 1:0 to 0:1) to yield compounds 32 (200 mg) and 15 (80 mg). Fraction C was filtered, the filter cake was applied to a Sephadex LH-20 column (eluted with CHCl3-MeOH, 1:1) to produce compounds 8 (770 mg) and 9 (140 mg), and the mother liquid was chromatographed over a Sephadex LH-20 column (eluted with CHCl3-MeOH, 1:1) to obtain fractions C1-C4. Fraction C2 was applied to a Sephadex LH-20 column (eluted with CHCl3-MeOH, 1:1) again, followed by silica gel CC eluted with a CHCl3-acetone gradient system (from 1:0 to 0:1) to yield compounds 30 (7 mg), 6 (10 mg), 18 (50 mg), 21 (10 mg), 27 (310 mg), 20 (82 mg), 17 (80 mg), 10 (30 mg), 23 (20 mg), 31 (8 mg), 25 (10 mg), 19 (10 mg), and 28 (15 mg). Fraction D was filtered to obtain compound 35 (100 mg), and the mother liquid was subjected to silica gel CC eluted with a gradient of CHCl3-acetone and was then applied to ODS reversed-phase silica gel eluted with MeOH-H₂O (with the MeOH amount from 60 wt % to 100 wt %) to obtain compounds 29 (230 mg), 1 (50 mg), 2 (10 mg), 33 (8 mg), 34 (10 mg), 4 (10 mg), and 3 (400 mg). Fractions E and F were filtered to isolate compounds 11 (10 mg) and 12 (25 mg), respectively. The n-BuOH (560 g) extract was subjected to silica gel CC eluted with a gradient of CHCl₃-MeOH to yield compounds 26 (15 mg), 16 (25 mg), 13 (20 mg), and 14 (10 mg).

Bioassays. In vitro cytotoxicity of these isolated compounds was tested with HepG2 cells, a cancer cell line, while the inhibitory effects on the enzyme activity were determined with XOD and PTP1B. The general experimental procedures of these bioassays have been described in previous detailed studies.^{18–22}

Arteminorin A (1): white, amorphous powder; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3442, 1723, 1634, 1572, 1465 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Table 1); ESIMS *m*/*z* 443 [M + H]⁺, 465 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 465.0786 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₂₂H₁₈O₁₀Na⁺, 465.0792); ESIMS/MS *m*/*z* 428 [M + H - CH₃]⁺, 425 [M + H - H₂O]⁺, 412 [M + H - OCH₃]⁺, 237 [M + H - C₁₁H₁₀O₄]⁺, 221 [M + H - C₁₁H₁₀O₅]⁺, 207 [M + H - C₁₁H₈O₆]⁺.

Arteminorin B (2): colorless needles (MeOH); mp 150–151 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3434, 1721, 1631, 1501, 1461 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Table 1); ESIMS *m/z* 413 [M + H]⁺, 411 [M - H]⁻; HRESIMS *m/z* 413.0866 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₁₆O₉Na⁺, 413.0867); ESIMS/ MS *m/z* 398 [M + H - CH₃]⁺, 395 [M + H - H₂O]⁺, 382 [M + H - OCH₃]⁺, 237 [M + H - C₁₀H₈O₃]⁺, 221 [M + H - C₁₀H₈O₄]⁺, 193 [M + H - C₁₁H₈O₅]⁺, 175 [M + H - C₁₁H₁₀O₆]⁺.

Arteminorin C (3): yellow, amorphous powder; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3434, 1721, 1630, 1570, 1464 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Table 1); ESIMS *m*/*z* 421 [M + Na]⁺, 819 [2M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 421.0512 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₂₀H₁₄O₉Na⁺, 421.0530).

Arteminorin D (4): white, amorphous powder; $[α]^{25}_D - 4.46$ (*c* 1.12, MeOH); IR (KBr) v_{max} 3438, 2978, 1612, 1505, 1265, 1125, 1048 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Table 2); ESIMS *m/z* 381 [M + Na]⁺ and 357 [M - H]⁻; HRESIMS (*m/z* 381.0945 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for

 $C_{19}H_{18}O_7Na$, 381.0945); ESIMS/MS *m/z* 342 [M - H - CH₃]⁻, 339 [M - H - H₂O]⁻, 326 [M - H - OCH₃]⁻, 313 [M - H - CO₂]⁻, 179 [M - H - C₉H₆O₄]⁻, 177 [M - H - C₁₀H₁₂O₃]⁻.

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Supporting Information Available: The ¹H and ¹³C NMR, HMBC, and NOESY spectra for compounds **1–4**, and the structures of the known compounds (**5–35**) are available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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