

First Examples of Hydroxycyclopropanation in the Series of Lupane Triterpenoids

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Abstract—Hydroxycyclopropanation at the ester group in the series of lupane triterpenoids was performed for the first time using 3,3-ethylenedioxybetulonic acid methyl ester and its 20,29-dihydro analog as substrates.

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Hydroxycyclopropanation of carboxylic acid esters by the action of ethylmagnesium bromide in the presence of titanium(IV) isopropoxide as catalyst (Kulinkovich reaction) opened a way of introducing a pharmacologically important cyclopropane fragment into biologically active molecules [1] and determined new synthetic approaches to complex natural compounds and their analogs [2]. In the recent years, modification of betulin and its derivatives has attracted increased interest [3], and specific attention has been given to transformations of carboxy group with a view to obtain compounds possessing versatile biological activity [4].

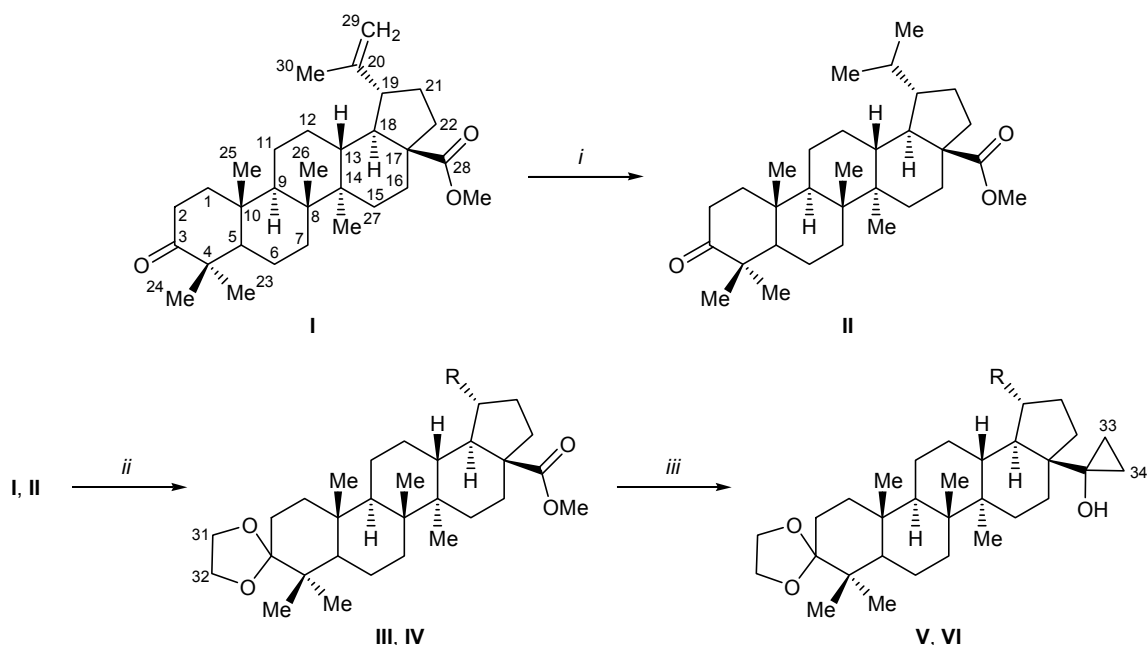
We were the first to effect hydroxycyclopropanation in the series of lupane triterpenoids using 3,3-ethylenedioxybetulonic acid methyl ester (**III**) and its 20,29-dihydro analog **IV** as substrates. Ethylene acetals **III** and **IV** were obtained by reactions of betulonic acid methyl ester **I** and its 20,29-dihydro derivative **II**, respectively, with ethylene glycol in the presence of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid. 20,29-Dihydro analog **II** was synthesized by hydrogenation of ester **I** over platinum oxide. The formation of **II** was confirmed by the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data. The ^1H NMR spectrum of **II** contained two doublets at δ 0.73 and 0.84 ppm ($J = 6.4, 6.8$ Hz) from protons in diastereotopic methyl groups in the isopropyl substituent instead of signals typical of isopropylidene group (δ_{C} 150.25, 109.51, 19.49 ppm). The structure of ethylene acetals **III** and **IV** follows from the presence in their ^{13}C NMR spectra of signals from carbon atoms in the dioxolane ring [δ_{C} , ppm: **III**: 113.21 (C^3), 64.75, 64.64 (C^{31} , C^{32}); **IV**: 113.33 (C^3), 64.86, 64.73 ppm

(C^{31} , C^{32}) instead of signal typical of the $\text{C}^3=\text{O}$ carbonyl carbon atom in **I** and **II** (δ_{C} 217.83 and 217.96 ppm, respectively). Compounds **III** and **IV** displayed in the ^1H NMR spectra additional multiplet signals in the region δ 3.81–3.93 ppm due to protons in the ethylenedioxy group.

While studying Kulinkovich hydroxycyclopropanation of esters **III** and **IV** we found that target compounds **V** and **VI** were formed only when a solution of ester **III** or **IV** and $\text{Ti}(\text{OPr-}i)_4$ in diethyl ether was added to a freshly prepared suspension of ethylmagnesium bromide. If the reactants were mixed in a different order, e.g., when a solution of EtMgBr and $\text{Ti}(\text{OPr-}i)_4$ in diethyl ether was added to a solution of the substrate, no hydroxycyclopropanation occurred. Presumably, the presence of the initial reactants at the moment of formation of the true hydroxycyclopropanating agent, diisopropoxytitanacyclopropane, is necessary for successful reaction [1].

The yields of 3,3-ethylenedioxy-28,28-ethanolup-20(29)-en-28-ol (**V**) and its 20,29-dihydro analog **VI** were 84 and 75%, respectively. Their structure was confirmed by the NMR data (^1H , ^{13}C , DEPT-135°), including two-dimensional experiments (COSY, HSQC). In the ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **V**, we observed a signal at δ_{C} 60.17 ppm (C^{28}OH) and two new triplets from the cyclopropane fragment (δ_{C} 15.80 and 15.63 ppm, DEPT-135°) instead of signals from the $\text{C}^{28}(\text{O})\text{OMe}$ ester group (δ_{C} 176.53, 51.14 ppm), while signals from C^{17} (δ_{C} 41.37 ppm) and C^{18} (δ_{C} 38.98 ppm) were displaced upfield relative to the corresponding signals of its precursor **III** ($\Delta\delta_{\text{C}}$ 15.09

Scheme 1.



III, V, R = CH₂=C(Me); IV, VI, R = Me₂CH; *i*: H₂/PtO₂, MeOH–CHCl₃, 2 : 1; *ii*: HOCH₂CH₂OH, TsOH, benzene, 80°C; *iii*: (1) Ti(OPr-*i*)₄/EtMgBr, Et₂O; (2) 5% NaOH.

and 3.05 ppm, respectively). Signals from the other carbon atoms in the ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds **V** and **III** coincided within 1 ppm. The ¹H NMR spectrum of **V** contained two new strongly coupled two-proton signals (δ 0.83 and 0.67 ppm; COSY), which gave rise to cross peaks with C³³ and C³⁴ in the HSQC spectrum. Analogous differences were observed in the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compound **VI** and its precursor **IV**. The above data indicated that the C²⁸(O)OMe group in **III** and **IV** was converted into hydroxycyclopropane fragment, the configuration of the other chiral centers remaining unchanged.

EXPERIMENTAL

The IR spectra were recorded on a Specord 75IR instrument. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were measured on Bruker AM-300 (300.13 MHz for ¹H and 75.48 MHz for ¹³C) and Bruker Avance-400 spectrometers (400.13 MHz for ¹H and 100.62 MHz for ¹³C) using CDCl₃ as solvent and tetramethylsilane as internal reference. Homo- and heteronuclear correlations experiments (DEPT-135°, COSY, HSQC) were performed on a Bruker Avance-400 instrument (400.13 and 100.62 MHz for ¹H for ¹³C, respectively). The optical rotations were determined on a Perkin-Elmer-141 polarimeter. Elemental analysis was performed using a Carlo Erba 1106 analyzer. The melting points

were determined on a Boetius melting point apparatus. Column chromatography was performed on KSKG silica gel, and Silufol UV-254 plates were used for TLC; spots were detected by treatment with a 20% solution of phosphotungstic acid in ethanol, followed by heating at 100–120°C for 2–3 min.

Betulonic acid methyl ester (**I**) was synthesized according to the procedures described in [5, 6] from betulin isolated from *Betula pendula* bark [7].

Methyl 3-oxolupan-28-oate (II, 20,29-dihydrobetulonic acid methyl ester). Platinum(IV) oxide, 0.005 g, was added to a solution of 0.50 g (1.06 mmol) of compound **I** in 30 ml of a 2 : 1 methanol–chloroform mixture, and the mixture was stirred for 8 h under nitrogen. The mixture was filtered, the filtrate was evaporated, and the residue was subjected to chromatography in a column charged with 5 g of silica gel using chloroform–methanol (50 : 1) as eluent. Yield 0.47 g (94%), colorless crystals, mp 182–184°C (from methanol), [α]_D²⁰ = +5.059° (*c* = 1.64, CHCl₃). IR spectrum (KBr), ν, cm⁻¹: 2950, 1725, 1470. ¹H NMR spectrum (400.13 MHz), δ, ppm: 0.73 d (3H, C²⁹H₃, *J* = 6.4 Hz), 0.81 s (3H, C²³H₃), 0.84 d (3H, C³⁰H₃, *J* = 6.8 Hz), 0.85 s (3H, C²⁴H₃), 0.89 s (3H, C²⁶H₃), 0.93 s (3H, C²⁵H₃), 1.01 m and 1.92 m (2H, 16-H), 1.04 m (1H, 5-H), 1.05 s (3H, C²⁷H₃), 1.05 m and 1.32 m (2H, 7-H), 1.13 m and 1.44 m (2H, 1-H), 1.19 m (1H,

18-H), 1.21 m and 1.40 m (2H, 6-H), 1.29 m and 1.48 m (2H, 2-H), 1.32 m and 1.48 m (2H, 21-H), 1.37 m (1H, 9-H), 1.39 m and 1.89 m (2H, 22-H), 1.41 m and 1.48 m (2H, 11-H), 1.44 br.s and 1.76 br.s (2H, 15-H), 1.66 m (1H, 20-H), 1.76 m and 1.05 m (2H, 12-H), 1.90 m (1H, 19-H), 2.23 d.d (1H, 13-H, $J = 11.2, 9.6$ Hz), 3.64 s (3H, OCH₃). ¹³C NMR spectrum (100.62 MHz), δ_c , ppm: 14.53 (C²⁷), 14.67 (C²⁹), 15.77 (C²⁴), 15.88 (C²⁵), 19.63 (C³⁰), 21.03 (C⁶), 21.42 (C²⁶), 22.75 (C¹¹), 22.96 (C²³), 26.59 (C¹²), 26.90 (C¹⁵), 29.64 (C²⁰), 29.72 (C¹⁶), 31.99 (C²²), 33.68 (C²), 34.11 (C²¹), 36.86 (C⁷), 37.26 (C¹⁰), 38.17 (C¹), 39.58 (C¹³), 40.61 (C⁸), 42.57 (C¹⁸), 44.14 (C¹⁴), 47.30 (C⁴), 48.86 (C¹⁹), 49.65 (C⁹), 51.15 (OCH₃), 54.94 (C⁵), 56.96 (C¹⁷), 176.77 (C²⁸), 217.96 (C³). Found, %: C 79.36; H 9.98. C₃₁H₅₀O₃. Calculated, %: C 79.10; H 10.71.

Methyl 3,3-ethylenedioxyup-20(29)-en-28-oate (III). Compound **I**, 0.30 g (0.64 mmol), was dissolved in 50 ml of anhydrous benzene, 0.49 g (8 mmol) of anhydrous ethylene glycol and 0.02 g (0.10 mmol) of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid were added, and the mixture was heated for 3 h under reflux in a flask equipped with a Dean–Stark trap. The mixture was evaporated to 1/4 of the initial volume and extracted with diethyl ether (2 × 15 ml), the extract was washed with a saturated solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate (2 × 15 ml), water, and a saturated solution of sodium chloride and dried over magnesium sulfate, the solvent was distilled off, and the residue was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel (5 g) using chloroform–methanol (50:1) as eluent. Yield 0.31 g (99%), colorless crystals, mp 156–158°C (from MeOH), $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -6.6^\circ$ ($c = 0.62$, EtOAc). IR spectrum (KBr), ν , cm⁻¹: 2547, 1730, 1475. ¹H NMR spectrum (300.13 MHz), δ , ppm: 0.81 s (3H, C²³H₃), 0.85 s (3H, C²⁴H₃), 0.94 s (3H, C²⁶H₃), 0.96 s (3H, C²⁵H₃), 1.01 m and 1.92 m (2H, 16-H), 1.02 s (3H, C²⁷H₃), 1.04 m (1H, 5-H), 1.06 m and 1.32 m (2H, 7-H), 1.12 m and 1.53 m (2H, 1-H), 1.18 m (1H, 18-H), 1.22 m and 1.40 m (2H, 6-H), 1.31 m and 1.57 m (2H, 2-H), 1.32 m and 1.57 m (2H, 21-H), 1.36 m (1H, 9-H), 1.39 m and 1.89 m (2H, 22-H), 1.41 m and 1.57 m (2H, 11-H), 1.45 br.s and 1.76 br.s (2H, 15-H), 1.67 s (3H, C³⁰H₃), 1.72 m and 1.06 m (2H, 12-H), 2.19 d.d (1H, 13-H, $J = 12.0, 8.0$ Hz), 2.98 d.t (1H, 19-H, $J = 12.0, 4.0$ Hz), 3.65 s (3H, OCH₃), 3.81–3.93 m (4H, CH₂), 4.58 s and 4.72 s (2H, 29-H). ¹³C NMR spectrum (75.48 MHz), δ_c , ppm: 14.73 (C²⁷), 15.86 (C²⁴), 18.36 (C²⁵), 19.28 (C²³), 19.89 (C³⁰), 20.82 (C²⁶), 22.71 (C¹¹), 22.84 (C⁶), 25.38 (C¹²), 26.82 (C¹⁵), 29.58 (C¹⁶), 30.52 (C²²), 32.07 (C²), 34.11 (C²¹), 36.87 (C⁷),

36.99 (C¹⁰), 37.06 (C¹), 38.18 (C¹³), 40.63 (C⁸), 42.03 (C¹⁸), 42.34 (C¹⁴), 46.90 (C⁴), 49.36 (C¹⁹), 50.19 (C⁹), 51.14 (OCH₃), 53.30 (C⁵), 56.46 (C¹⁷), 64.64 (C³²), 64.75 (C³¹), 109.49 (C²⁹), 113.21 (C³), 150.47 (C²⁰), 176.53 (C²⁸). Found, %: C 77.60; H 10.07. C₃₃H₅₂O₄. Calculated, %: C 77.30; H 10.22.

Methyl 3,3-ethylenedioxyup-28-oate (IV).

Compound **II**, 0.20 g (0.42 mmol), was dissolved in 50 ml of anhydrous benzene, 0.33 g (5.25 mmol) of anhydrous ethylene glycol and 0.02 g (0.10 mmol) of *p*-toluenesulfonic acid were added, and the mixture was heated for 3 h under reflux in a flask equipped with a Dean–Stark trap and was then treated as described above in the synthesis of **III**. Yield 0.22 g (99%), colorless crystals, mp 206–208°C (from MeOH), $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -31.6^\circ$ ($c = 0.75$, CHCl₃). IR spectrum (KBr), ν , cm⁻¹: 2935, 1720, 1450. ¹H NMR spectrum (400.13 MHz), δ , ppm: 0.74 d (3H, C²⁹H₃, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 0.84 d (3H, C³⁰H₃, $J = 5.6$ Hz), 0.86 s (3H, C²³H₃), 0.87 s (3H, C²⁴H₃), 0.87 s (3H, C²⁶H₃), 0.95 s (3H, C²⁵H₃), 1.01 m and 1.82 m (2H, 16-H), 1.02 s (3H, C²⁷H₃), 1.05 m (1H, 5-H), 1.07 m and 1.32 m (2H, 7-H), 1.12 m and 1.54 m (2H, 1-H), 1.17 m (1H, 18-H), 1.22 m and 1.40 m (2H, 6-H), 1.30 m and 1.57 m (2H, 2-H), 1.32 m and 1.57 m (2H, 21-H), 1.37 m and 1.82 m (2H, 22-H), 1.37 m (1H, 9-H), 1.41 m and 1.57 m (2H, 11-H), 1.46 br.s and 1.76 br.s (2H, 15-H), 1.67 m (1H, 20-H), 1.76 m and 1.07 m (2H, 12-H), 1.79 m (1H, 19-H), 2.19 d.d (1H, 13-H, $J = 12.0, 4.0$ Hz), 3.65 s (3H, OCH₃), 3.89–3.98 m (4H, CH₂). ¹³C NMR spectrum (100.62 MHz), δ_c , ppm: 14.69 (C²⁷), 14.72 (C²⁹), 15.93 (C²⁴), 14.55 (C²⁵), 18.45 (C³⁰), 19.99 (C⁶), 20.94 (C²⁶), 22.77 (C¹¹), 22.92 (C²³), 22.98 (C¹²), 26.91 (C¹⁵), 26.93 (C²⁰), 29.66 (C¹⁶), 29.74 (C²²), 32.07 (C²), 34.25 (C²¹), 37.05 (C⁷), 37.15 (C¹⁰), 37.31 (C¹), 38.12 (C¹³), 40.72 (C⁸), 42.14 (C¹⁸), 42.58 (C¹⁴), 44.21 (C⁴), 48.93 (C¹⁹), 50.03 (C⁹), 51.13 (OCH₃), 53.37 (C⁵), 57.01 (C¹⁷), 64.73 (C³²), 64.86 (C³¹), 113.33 (C³), 176.89 (C²⁸). Found, %: C 76.60; H 10.32. C₃₃H₅₄O₄. Calculated, %: C 76.99; H 10.57.

28,28-Ethano-3,3-ethylenedioxyup-20(29)-en-28-ol (V). A solution of 0.75 g (1.46 mmol) of compound **III** and 0.04 g (0.15 mmol) of titanium(IV) isopropoxide in 40 ml of anhydrous diethyl ether was added with stirring under argon at ~25°C to a solution of ethylmagnesium bromide prepared from 0.17 g (7.3 mmol) of metallic magnesium and 0.79 g (7.3 mmol) of ethyl bromide in 10 ml of anhydrous diethyl ether. The mixture was stirred for 0.5 h, treated with 50 ml of 5% aqueous sodium hydroxide, and ex-

tracted with diethyl ether (3×40 ml). The extract was washed with water and a saturated solution of sodium chloride, dried over sodium sulfate, and evaporated, and the residue was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel (5 g) using chloroform–methanol (50:1) as eluent. Yield 0.63 g (84%), colorless crystals, mp 112–114°C (from MeOH), $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -5.7^\circ$ ($c = 2.54$, EtOAc). IR spectrum (KBr), ν , cm^{-1} : 3445, 2595, 1225. ^1H NMR spectrum (400.13 MHz), δ , ppm: 0.67 m (2H, 34-H), 0.80 s (3H, C^{23}H_3), 0.83 s (3H, C^{24}H_3), 0.83 m (2H, 33-H), 0.88 s (3H, C^{26}H_3), 0.98 s (3H, C^{27}H_3), 0.99 s (3H, C^{25}H_3), 1.01 m and 1.93 m (2H, 16-H), 1.04 m (1H, 5-H), 1.06 m and 1.72 m (2H, 12-H), 1.11 m and 1.53 m (2H, 1-H), 1.18 m (1H, 18-H), 1.23 m and 1.40 m (2H, 6-H), 1.31 m and 1.06 m (2H, 7-H), 1.32 m and 1.57 m (2H, 2-H), 1.37 m (1H, 9-H), 1.38 m and 1.90 m (2H, 22-H), 1.42 m and 1.55 m (2H, 11-H), 1.57 m and 1.32 m (2H, 21-H), 1.67 s (3H, C^{30}H_3), 1.75 br.s and 1.42 br.s (2H, 15-H), 2.31 d.d (1H, 13-H, $J = 12.0, 3.0$ Hz), 2.75 d.t (1H, 19-H, $J = 11.0, 6.0$ Hz), 3.86–3.92 m (4H, CH_2), 4.56 s and 4.71 s (2H, 29-H). ^{13}C NMR spectrum (100.62 MHz), δ_c , ppm: 14.96 q (C^{27}), 15.63 t (C^{34}), 15.80 t (C^{33}), 16.20 q (C^{24}), 16.27 q (C^{25}), 18.65 t (C^6), 18.88 q (C^{30}), 20.18 q (C^{26}), 21.21 t (C^{11}), 23.12 q (C^{23}), 25.57 t (C^{12}), 27.13 t (C^{15}), 29.21 t (C^{16}), 29.89 t (C^{22}), 31.67 t (C^2), 34.41 t (C^{21}), 34.67 t (C^7), 37.24 s (C^{10}), 37.37 t (C^1), 38.13 d (C^{13}), 38.41 s (C^8), 38.98 d (C^{18}), 41.37 s (C^{17}), 42.34 s (C^{14}), 42.94 s (C^4), 48.52 d (C^{19}), 50.43 d (C^9), 53.57 d (C^5), 60.17 s (C^{28}), 64.92 t (C^{32}), 65.03 t (C^{31}), 110.03 t (C^{29}), 113.54 s (C^3), 151.26 s (C^{20}). Found, %: C 79.86; H 10.71. $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{54}\text{O}_3$. Calculated, %: C 79.95; H 10.66.

28,28-Ethano-3,3-ethylenedioxyuplan-28-ol (VI)

A solution of 0.70 g (1.42 mmol) of compound IV and 0.04 g (0.15 mmol) of titanium(IV) isopropoxide in 40 ml of anhydrous diethyl ether was added with stirring under argon at $\sim 25^\circ\text{C}$ to a solution of ethylmagnesium bromide prepared from 0.17 g (7.3 mmol) of metallic magnesium and 0.79 g (7.3 mmol) of ethyl bromide in 10 ml of anhydrous diethyl ether. The mixture was stirred for 0.5 h and treated as described above in the synthesis of V. Yield 0.52 g (75%), colorless crystals, mp 176–177°C (from methanol), $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -32.36^\circ$ ($c = 1.26$, CHCl_3). IR spectrum (KBr), ν , cm^{-1} : 1227, 2590, 3435. ^1H NMR spectrum (400.13 MHz), δ , ppm: 0.67 m (2H, 34-H), 0.77 d (3H, C^{29}H_3 , $J = 6.8$ Hz), 0.81 s (3H, C^{23}H_3), 0.82 d (3H, C^{30}H_3 , $J = 8.8$ Hz), 0.83 s (3H, C^{24}H_3), 0.85 m (2H, 33-H), 0.88 s

(3H, C^{26}H_3), 0.96 s (3H, C^{27}H_3), 0.99 s (3H, C^{25}H_3), 1.01 m and 1.91 m (2H, 16-H), 1.05 m (1H, 5-H), 1.05 m and 1.31 m (2H, 7-H), 1.18 m and 1.53 m (2H, 1-H), 1.18 m (1H, 18-H), 1.23 m and 1.41 m (2H, 6-H), 1.34 m and 1.57 m (2H, 2-H), 1.34 m and 1.57 m (2H, 21-H), 1.37 m (1H, 9-H), 1.37 m and 1.87 m (2H, 22-H), 1.41 m and 1.55 m (2H, 11-H), 1.65 m (1H, 20-H), 1.71 m and 1.05 m (2H, 12-H), 1.75 br.s and 1.45 br.s (2H, 15-H), 1.89 m (1H, 19-H), 2.19 d.d (1H, 13-H, $J = 12.0, 6.0$ Hz), 3.88–3.95 m (4H, CH_2), ^{13}C NMR spectrum (100.62 MHz), δ_c , ppm: 14.07 (C^{27}), 14.57 (C^{29}), 14.81 (C^{34}), 15.94 (C^{33}), 16.22 (C^{24}), 17.45 (C^{25}), 18.43 (C^{30}), 20.00 (C^6), 21.05 (C^{26}), 22.93 (C^{11}), 23.09 (C^{23}), 23.89 (C^{12}), 26.92 (C^{15}), 28.72 (C^{20}), 29.69 (C^{16}), 29.91 (C^{22}), 33.62 (C^2), 34.30 (C^{21}), 37.00 (C^7), 37.13 (C^{10}), 37.82 (C^1), 40.28 (C^{13}), 41.24 (C^8), 42.13 (C^{18}), 43.00 (C^{17}), 45.31 (C^{14}), 48.62 (C^4), 49.52 (C^{19}), 49.97 (C^9), 53.31 (C^5), 59.83 (C^{28}), 64.72 (C^{32}), 64.83 (C^{31}), 113.32 (C^3). Found, %: C 79.94; H 11.06. $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{56}\text{O}_3$. Calculated, %: C 79.63; H 11.01.

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