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A new isopimarane-type diterpene and a new natural atisane-type diterpene from *Excoecaria agallocha*

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From the woods of *Excoecaria agallocha*, a new isopimarane-type diterpene, 3 α ,11 β -dihydroxy-*ent*-isopimara-8(14),15-dien-2-one (**1**) and a new natural atisane-type diterpene, 16 β -hydroxy-*ent*-atisan-3-one (**2**) were isolated together with three known compounds, ribenone (**3**), *ent*-labda-8(17),13*E*-diene-3 β ,15-diol (**4**), and *ent*-3 β -hydroxybeyer-15-ene-2,12-dione (**5**). Their structures were determined by spectral data and x-ray crystallography evidence.

Keywords: *Excoecaria agallocha*; Isopimarane-type diterpene; 3 α , 11 β -Dihydroxy-*ent*-isopimara-8(14); 15-dien-2-one; Atisane-type diterpene; 16 β -Hydroxy-*ent*-atisan-3-one

1. Introduction

The genus *Excoecaria* of Euphorbiaceae comprises 40 species which are distributed throughout tropical Africa, Asia and northwest Australia [1]. Some of them are very well known as extreme skin irritants and tumour promoters [2]. The bark and woods of the genus *Excoecaria* have been used in traditional medicines to treat flatulence in Thailand [3]. The resinous woods including the latex of *Excoecaria agallocha* has been used as a substitute for agarwood (Jinko) incense in Okinawa, Japan [3]. Our investigation on the woods of this plant has resulted in the isolation of a new isopimarane-type diterpene, 3 α ,11 β -dihydroxy-*ent*-isopimara-8(14),15-dien-2-one (**1**) and a new natural atisane-type diterpene, 16 β -hydroxy-*ent*-atisan-3-one (**2**), along with three known compounds, ribenone (**3**), *ent*-labda-8(17),13*E*-diene-3 β ,15-diol (**4**), and *ent*-3 β -hydroxybeyer-15-ene-2,12-dione (**5**) (figure 1). In this paper, we report the isolation and structural elucidation of these constituents.

2. Results and discussion

Compound **1** was obtained as colourless needles, isolated from the alcohol extract of the wood by multiple column chromatography. The HREIMS of **1** gave an ion peak at *m/z*

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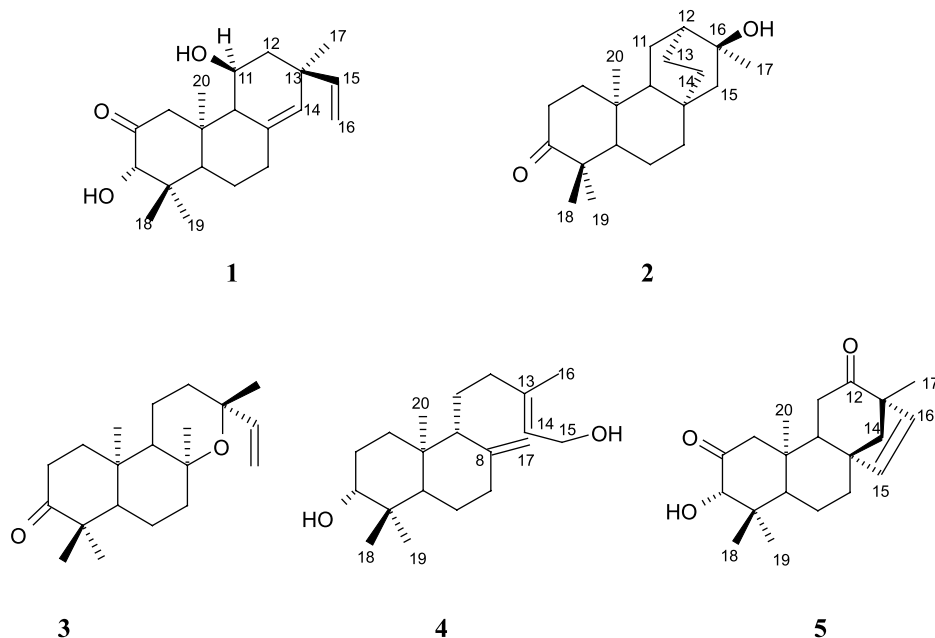


Figure 1. The structures of compounds 1–5.

318.2180 $[M]^+$, corresponding to a molecular formula of $C_{20}H_{30}O_3$. IR spectrum revealed the presence of hydroxyl (3402 cm^{-1}), carbonyl (1701 cm^{-1}) and olefinic ($1635, 1412, 1115, 910\text{ cm}^{-1}$) groups in **1**. **1** showed a close resemblance with *ent*-3 α ,12 α -dihydroxypimara-8(14),15-dien-2-one [4] in their ^1H NMR spectra. The only difference between the two diterpenes was observed in the position of the hydroxyl group. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **1** in CDCl_3 (table 1) indicated one carbonyl group [δ 211.0 (*s*)] and four olefinic carbons [δ 148.3 (*d*), 134.6 (*s*), 129.1 (*d*), 110.9 (*t*)]. Two oxygenated methine carbons resonating at δ 82.2 (*d*), 65.8 (*d*) in the ^{13}C NMR spectrum, along with its ^1H NMR data [δ 4.0 (*m*) (2H)], indicated that **1** had two oxygenated methine carbons. In the HMBC experiment (figure 2), H-12 showed long-range correlation with a methine group assignable to C-14, and H-12 also showed long-range correlation with an olefinic carbon signal of C-15. The above information suggested that one hydroxyl group might be located at C-11. The structure and relative configuration of **1** were confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analysis (figure 3), which indicated that an isopimarane skeleton for **1**. The CD spectrum of **1** showed a negative Cotton effect (286.6 nm) analogous to that of 16 α -hydroxy-(-)-kauran-2-one [5] and excoecarins K [6]. Consequently, the structure and absolute configuration of **1** were assigned as 3 α ,11 β -dihydroxy-*ent*-isopimara-8(14),15-dien-2-one.

Compound **2** was obtained as colourless needles. Its molecular formula was determined to be $C_{20}H_{32}O_2$ based on HREIMS at m/z 304.2397 $[M]^+$. The IR spectrum of **2** showed hydroxyl (3458 cm^{-1}) and carbonyl (1701 cm^{-1}) groups. The ^1H NMR spectrum of **2** in CDCl_3 (table 1) contained the four methyl signals at δ 1.06, 1.10, 1.13 and 1.32. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **2** in CDCl_3 (table 1) indicated the presence of carbonyl carbon [δ 217.4 (*s*)] and oxygenated carbon [δ 72.0 (*s*)]. The ^{13}C NMR spectral data of **2** and *ent*-16 S ,17-dihydroxyatisan-3-one [7] are very similar, except for the presence of methyl group (C-17), instead of hydroxymethene group (C-17). The chemical shift of each carbon of **2** was assigned by a comparative study of its spectral

Table 1. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data of compounds 1-2 in CDCl_3 .

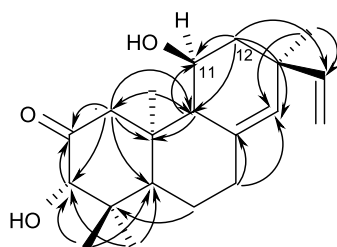
No.	1		2	
	^1H	^{13}C	^1H	^{13}C
1	2.68 s (2H)	52.2	1.38 m, 1.86 m	38.0
2		211.0	2.35 m, 2.60 m	34.0
3	4.0 s	82.2		217.4
4		45.3		47.6
5	1.68 m	53.3	1.31 m	55.7
6	1.73 m (2H)	22.3	1.41 – 1.52 m (2H)	19.6
7	2.13 m, 2.35 m	35.2	1.18 m, 1.41 m	38.8
8		134.6		33.6
9	2.02 d $J = 5.7$ Hz	59.1	1.28 m	50.3
10		44.7		37.1
11	4.0 m	65.8	1.22 m, 2.01 m	23.2
12	1.63 m (2H)	44.0	1.59 m	37.9
13		37.8	1.52 m, 1.70 m	23.9
14	5.37 s	129.1	0.88 m, 1.86 m	27.0
15	5.83 dd $J = 10, 17.8$ Hz	148.3	1.23 m, 1.38 m	57.2
16	4.94 d $J = 10$ Hz, 5.00 d $J = 17.8$ Hz	110.9		72.0
17	1.05 s (3H)	26.5	1.32 s (3H)	30.5
18	1.19 s (3H)	29.3	1.10 s (3H)	26.2
19	0.69 s (3H)	16.4	1.06 s (3H)	21.6
20	0.80 s (3H)	16.5	1.13 s (3H)	13.5

data with those of *ent*-16*S*,17-dihydroxyatisan-3-one and also by its HMQC analysis. Accordingly, the structure of **2** was assigned as 16 β -hydroxy-*ent*-atisan-3-one, which was synthesised by Francis in 1983 [8].

3. Experimental

3.1 General experimental procedures

Melting points were determined on a Reichert Nr-229 micromelting point apparatus and are uncorrected. The optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 241 digital polarimeter. CD spectrum was recorded using a JASCO-712 spectropolarimeter in CHCl_3 at 25°C. IR spectra were recorded on an IMPACT 400 spectrometer. ^1H NMR (300 MHz), ^{13}C NMR (75 MHz), DEPT, HMQC and HMBC spectra were run on an INOVA-300 spectrometers with TMS as internal standard. HR-mass spectra were performed on VG-Autospec-300 mass spectrometer. Silica gel (160-200, 200–300 mesh) (Qingdao) was used for column chromatograph and silica gel GF-254 (Qingdao) for TLC.

Figure 2. The key HMBC correlations for **1**.

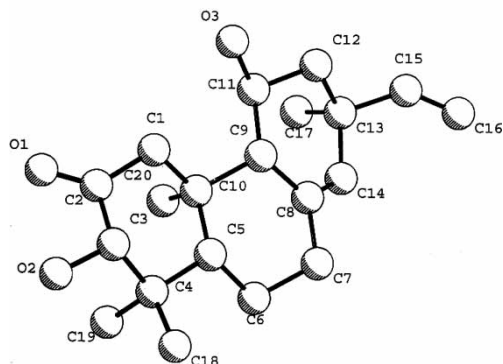


Figure 3. X-ray crystallographic structure of **1**.

3.2 Plant material

The woods of *Excoecaria agallocha* were collected in Sanya, Hainan province, People's Republic of China in September 2002. The plant material was identified by Professor Shi-Man Huang, Hainan University. A voucher specimen has been deposited at the herbarium of this institute.

3.3 Extraction and isolation

The air-dried and powdered woods of *Excoecaria agallocha* (7.5 kg) were extracted with 95% EtOH three times at reflux temperature. The combined extract was concentrated in vacuo. Then, the residue (334 g) was suspended in H₂O, and extracted with CHCl₃. The CHCl₃ fraction (111 g) was chromatographed on silica-gel column using petroleum ether–EtOAc as gradient eluent to afford pure compound **3** (100 mg) (petroleum ether–EtOAc = 9:1) and compound **4** (70 mg) (petroleum ether–EtOAc = 1:1). The other crude CHCl₃ fraction was chromatographed repeatedly on a silica-gel column (petroleum ether–CHCl₃ = 9:1) to give compounds **1** (40 mg), **2** (7 mg), and **5** (60 mg).

3.3.1 3 α ,11 β -Dihydroxy-ent-isopimara-8(14),15-dien-2-one (1). White needles. mp 174–175°C. $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 47.3$ (*c* 0.11, CHCl₃). CD: $[\theta]_{299} - 3899$, $[\theta]_{286} - 6530$, $[\theta]_{265} - 2244$, $[\theta]_{207} + 84747$. EIMS *m/z*: 318 [M⁺] (100), 303 (40), 285 (30), 274 (11), 227 (35), 213 (25), 199 (20), 171 (20). HREIMS: 318.2180 [M⁺] (calcd for C₂₀H₃₀O₃, 318.2195). IR (KBr) ν_{\max} (cm⁻¹): 3402, 2949, 1701, 1635, 1412, 1115, 1028, 910. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): δ 5.83 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 10, 17.8 Hz, H-15), 5.37 (1H, *s*, H-14), 5.00 (1H, *d*, *J* = 17.8 Hz, H-16), 4.94 (1H, *d*, *J* = 10 Hz, H-16), 4.00 (1H, *s*, H-3), 4.00 (1H, *m*, H-11), 2.68 (2H, *s*, H-1), 2.35 (1H, *m*, H-7), 2.13 (1H, *m*, H-7), 2.02 (1H, *d*, *J* = 5.7 Hz, H-9), 1.73 (2H, *m*, H-6), 1.68 (1H, *m*, H-5), 1.63 (2H, *m*, H-12), 1.19 (3H, *s*, H-18), 1.05 (3H, *s*, H-17), 0.80 (3H, *s*, H-20), 0.69 (3H, *s*, H-19). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃): δ 211.0 (C-2), 148.3 (C-15), 134.6 (C-8), 129.1 (C-14), 110.9 (C-16), 82.2 (C-3), 65.8 (C-11), 59.1 (C-9), 53.3 (C-5), 52.2 (C-1), 45.3 (C-4), 44.7 (C-10), 44.0 (C-12), 37.8 (C-13), 35.2 (C-7), 29.3 (C-18), 26.5 (C-17), 22.3 (C-6), 16.5 (C-20), 16.4 (C-19).

3.3.2 16 β -Hydroxy-ent-atisan-3-one (2). Colourless needles. mp 157–158°C. $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 33.0$ (*c* 0.10, CHCl₃). ESIMS *m/z*: 631 ([M × 2 + Na]⁺). HREIMS: 304.2397 [M⁺]

(calcd for $C_{20}H_{32}O_2$, 304.2402). IR (KBr) ν_{\max} (cm^{-1}): 3458, 2981, 2898, 1701, 1394, 1122, 1078. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 1.32 (3H, *s*, H-17), 1.13 (3H, *s*, H-20), 1.10 (3H, *s*, H-18), 1.06 (3H, *s*, H-19). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 217.4 (C-3), 72.0 (C-16), 57.2 (C-15), 55.7 (C-5), 50.3 (C-9), 47.6 (C-4), 38.8 (C-7), 38.0 (C-1), 37.9 (C-12), 37.1 (C-10), 34.0 (C-2), 33.6 (C-8), 30.5 (C-17), 27.0 (C-14), 26.2 (C-18), 23.9 (C-13), 23.2 (C-11), 21.6 (C-19), 19.6 (C-6), 13.5 (C-20).

3.3.3 Ribenone (3) [9]. White needles. mp 109–110°C. EIMS m/z : 304 [M^+] (20), 303 (40), 289 (40), 85 (70), 83 (100). IR (KBr) ν_{\max} (cm^{-1}): 2941, 2858, 1705, 1458, 1383, 1082, 1007. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 6.15 (1H, *dd*, $J = 12, 18$ Hz, H-14), 4.90–5.00 (2H, *m*, H-15), 2.53 (1H, *ddd*, $J = 7.5, 9.3, 15.5$ Hz, H-2 α), 2.45 (1H, *ddd*, $J = 3.9, 8.1, 15.5$ Hz, H-2 β), 2.24 (1H, *dd*, $J = 3, 9$ Hz, H-12 α), 1.90 (1H, *ddd*, $J = 4.5, 7.5, 13$ Hz, H-1 α), 1.81 (1H, *dd*, $J = 3, 9$ Hz, H-7 α), 1.25 (3H, *s*, H-17), 1.14 (3H, *s*, H-16), 1.08 (3H, *s*, H-18), 1.00 (3H, *s*, H-19), 0.84 (3H, *s*, H-20). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 217.5 (C-3), 147.3 (C-14), 109.7 (C-15), 75.5 (C-8), 73.6 (C-13), 57.6 (C-9), 54.6 (C-5), 47.3 (C-4), 42.1 (C-7), 38.2 (C-1), 36.4 (C-10), 34.7 (C-12), 33.8 (C-2), 32.6 (C-16), 26.6 (C-18), 23.3 (C-17), 20.9 (C-19), 20.7 (C-6), 16.3 (C-11), 15.5 (C-20).

3.3.4 *ent*-Labda-8(17),13*E*-diene-3 β ,15-diol (4) [9]. White needles. mp 167 – 168°C. EIMS m/z : 306 [M^+] (0.5), 291 (10), 288 (5), 273 (20), 255 (15), 187 (8), 175 (10), 135 (100). IR (KBr) ν_{\max} (cm^{-1}): 3317, 2943, 1645, 1456, 1381, 1034, 891. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 5.40 (1H, *m*, H-14), 4.85 (1H, *s*, H-17), 4.53 (1H, *s*, H-17), 4.15 (2H, *d*, $J = 6.9$ Hz, H-15), 3.27 (1H, *dd*, $J = 8, 15$ Hz, H-3), 1.67 (3H, *s*, H-16), 0.99 (3H, *s*, H-18), 0.77 (3H, *s*, H-19), 0.69 (3H, *s*, H-20). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 147.9 (C-8), 140.4 (C-13), 123.0 (C-14), 106.7 (C-17), 78.8 (C-3), 59.4 (C-15), 56.0 (C-9), 54.5 (C-5), 39.3 (C-10), 39.1 (C-4), 38.3 (C-7), 38.1 (C-12), 37.0 (C-1), 28.2 (C-18), 27.9 (C-2), 24.0 (C-6), 21.9 (C-11), 16.3 (C-16), 15.4 (C-19), 14.5 (C-20).

3.3.5 *ent*-3 β -Hydroxybeyer-15-ene-2,12-dione (5) [4]. White needles. mp 161–162°C. EIMS m/z : 316 [M^+] (100), 243 (40), 201 (38), 119 (37), 105 (35), 93 (90), 59 (50), 135 (100). IR (KBr) ν_{\max} (cm^{-1}): 3525, 2939, 2873, 1705, 1388, 1111, 1092, 762. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 6.01 (1H, *d*, $J = 5.7$ Hz, H-15), 5.65 (1H, *d*, $J = 5.7$ Hz, H-16), 3.90 (1H, *s*, H-3), 1.20 (3H, *s*, H-18), 1.11 (3H, *s*, H-17), 0.74 (3H, *s*, H-20), 0.71 (3H, *s*, H-19). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 211.0 (C-2), 210.1 (C-12), 138.5 (C-15), 136.8 (C-16), 82.6 (C-3), 58.0 (C-14), 57.3 (C-13), 54.6 (C-9), 53.7 (C-5), 50.9 (C-1), 49.4 (C-8), 45.6 (C-4), 43.5 (C-10), 36.0 (C-11), 35.6 (C-7), 29.2 (C-18), 17.0 (C-17), 16.5 (C-19), 17.0 (C-6), 14.8 (C-20).

3.4 X-ray diffraction structure determination for 1

Intensity data were collected at a detector to crystal distance of 10 cm, using the $\omega - 2\theta$ scan technique ($2\theta_{\max} = 50^\circ$) at a constant speed of 1.5°/min. Crystal data: $C_{20}H_{30}O_3$; crystal size (mm), 0.01 \times 0.10 \times 0.20; crystal system, monoclinic; space group, $P2_1$; unit cell dimensions, $a = 11.216(2)\text{\AA}$, $b = 6.220(1)\text{\AA}$, $c = 13.028(3)\text{\AA}$; volume, 904.8 (3) \AA^3 ; $Z = 2$; formula weight (calcd), 318.46; density (calcd), 1.169 g/cm^3 . There were 1799, of which 1303 were observed ($|F|^2 \geq 8\delta|F|^2$).

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