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A new compound from *Gentianopsis paludosa*

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A new compound, named gentianopfluorenone (**1**), along with three known compounds, 1-*O*- β -D-glucopyranosyl-5-hydroxy-3-methoxyxanthone (**2**), 1-*O*-[β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)- β -D-glucopyranosyl]-7,8-dihydroxy-3-methoxyxanthone (**3**), and apigenin (**4**), were isolated from the whole herb of *Gentianopsis paludosa*. On the basis of spectral and chemical evidence, the structure of **1** was elucidated as 4,4a,6-trihydroxy-5-methoxy-fluoren-2,9-dione. Compounds **2–4** were isolated from the plant for the first time.

Keywords: *Gentianaceae*; *Gentianopsis paludosa*; Gentianopfluorenone; Xanthone

1. Introduction

Gentianopsis paludosa (Hook.f.) Ma (*Gentianaceae*) is an annually growing herb in bosk, meadow and damp sidehills at an altitude of 2500–4500 m in China, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim [1]. In China, it grows in the northwest region and is called ‘ji he di’ by local people. The whole herb is used for the treatment of inflammatory and gastrointestinal problems, such as gastroenteritis and diarrhoea [2,3]. In the previous studies, we have reported the isolation of fourteen compounds from the whole herb of *Gentianopsis paludosa* [4,5]. Here, we report the isolation and structural elucidation of a new compound, gentianopfluorenone, and three known compounds, 1-*O*- β -D-glucopyranosyl-5-hydroxy-3-methoxyxanthone (**2**) [6], 1-*O*-[β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)- β -D-glucopyranosyl]-7,8-dihydroxy-3-methoxyxanthone (**3**) [7], and apigenin (**4**) [8] from further investigation of this plant.

2. Results and discussion

Compound **1** was obtained as yellow powder and showed a positive reaction with FeCl₃. Its molecular formula C₁₄H₁₀O₆ was determined by HREI-MS, which gave a molecular ion peak at *m/z* 274.0481 [M]⁺. The IR spectrum suggested the presence of hydroxyl group

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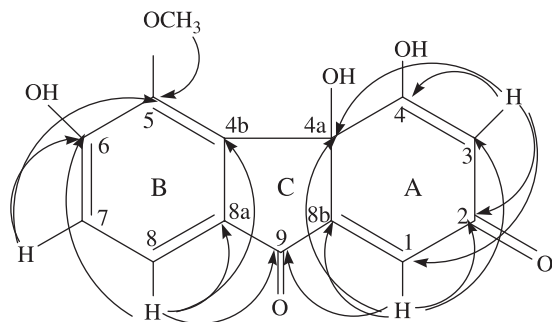


Figure 1. Main HMBC correlations of compound 1.

(3444 cm^{-1}), methyl ($2929, 2854\text{ cm}^{-1}$), conjugated carbonyl (1654 cm^{-1}) and aromatic ring ($1600, 1580\text{ cm}^{-1}$). In the ^1H NMR spectrum, two aromatic proton signals at $\delta 7.26$ (1H, d, $J = 9.0\text{ Hz}$, H-7) and 7.08 (1H, d, $J = 9.0\text{ Hz}$, H-8), two olefinic proton signals at $\delta 5.89$ (1H, s, H-1) and 5.79 (1H, s, H-3), and the methoxyl proton signal at $\delta 3.78$ (3H, s, 5-OCH₃) were observed. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum suggested the presence of two carbonyls ($\delta 178.0, 173.5$). In the COSY spectrum, the H-7 was correlated to H-8. In the HSQC spectrum, correlated peaks were observed between H-7 and C-7 ($\delta 122.7$), H-8 and C-8 ($\delta 112.6$), H-1 and C-1 ($\delta 94.6$), H-3 and C-3 ($\delta 99.9$), the methoxyl proton and the methoxyl carbon ($\delta 60.9$). In the HMBC spectrum, the H-8 and H-1 all showed correlations with C-9 ($\delta 178.0$), and H-1 and H-3 showed correlations with C-2 ($\delta 173.5$) and C-4a ($\delta 99.6$). Furthermore, the HMBC spectrum also showed that the proton of —OCH₃ correlated with C-5 ($\delta 145.2$), indicating that the methoxyl group was located at C-5. Therefore, compound 1 was established as 4,4a,6-trihydroxy-5-methoxy-fluoren-2,9-dione, and was named gentianop-fluorenone. The main HMBC correlations are shown in figure 1.

3. Experimental

3.1 General experimental procedures

Melting points were determined on an X-4 micro-melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX-400 spectrometer (TMS as internal standard). IR and UV spectra were recorded on Bruker IS-55 and Jenway 6505 UV/Vis spectrometers, respectively. APIES-MS and HREI-MS were obtained on HP 100 MSD and GCT-ES mass spectrometers, respectively. TLC employed precoated silica gel GF₂₅₄ plates.

3.2 Plant material

The whole herb of *Gentianopsis paludosa* was collected in August 2004 from Qinghai province, China. The plant was identified by Professor Bao-Chen Zhang, Northwest Institute of Plateau Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. A voucher specimen (No. NPGR-04-08) of the plant is deposited in our laboratory.

3.3 Extraction and isolation

The air-dried plant material (1.0 kg) was crushed and extracted three times with refluxing 75% EtOH. The extract was filtered and concentrated under vacuum to dryness. The residue (237 g) was suspended in H₂O and partitioned with petroleum ether, CH₂Cl₂, and n-BuOH successively. The n-BuOH extract (60 g) was separated on a polyamide column (80–100 mesh) and eluted with H₂O, 30%, 50%, 70%, 95% EtOH successively to give fractions A–E. Fraction B was chromatographed on a silica gel column (200–300 mesh) eluted with EtOAc/MeOH (10:0 to 5:5) to give compounds **2** (4 mg) and **3** (32 mg). Fraction C was also chromatographed on a silica gel column (200–300 mesh) eluted with petroleum ether-EtOAc (10:1 to 1:1) to give subfractions a–d. Subfraction a was separated by preparative TLC using petroleum ether/EtOAc (2.5:1) to yield compound **1** (7 mg). Subfraction c was purified by recrystallisation from MeOH to yield compound **4** (5 mg).

3.3.1 Compound 1. Yellow powder (MeOH); mp 229–231°C; IR (KBr) ν_{\max} (cm⁻¹): 3444, 2925, 2854, 1654, 1600, 1580, 1428, 1380, 1315, 1282, 1174, 1058, 819; UV λ_{\max} (MeOH) (nm): 245, 255, 310, 355, 380; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ (ppm): 7.26 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, H-7), 7.08 (1H, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz, H-8), 5.89 (1H, s, H-1), 5.79 (1H, s, H-3), 3.78 (3H, s, 5-OCH₃); ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-d₆) δ (ppm): 94.6 (C-1), 173.5 (2-C=O), 99.9 (C-3), 162.9 (C-4), 99.6 (C-4a), 146.7 (C-4b), 145.2 (C-5), 148.9 (C-6), 122.7 (C-7), 112.6 (C-8), 115.0 (C-8a), 157.2 (C-8b), 178.0 (9-C=O), 60.9 (5-OCH₃); APIES-MS (m/z): 273 [M-1]⁻¹; HREI-MS (m/z): 274.0481 [M]⁺ (calcd for C₁₄H₁₀O₆, 274.0477).

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