

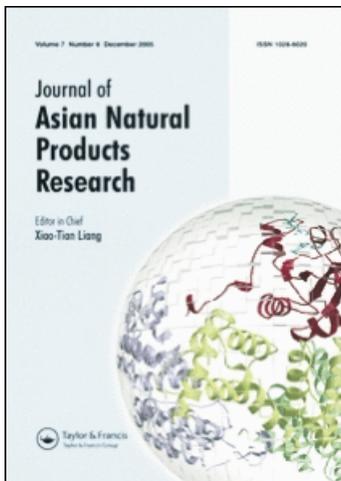
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## Three novel compounds from the leaves of *Smallanthus sonchifolius*

Ying-Kun Qiu<sup>ab</sup>, Ting-Guo Kang<sup>a</sup>, De-Qiang Dou<sup>a\*</sup>, Li Liang<sup>a</sup> and Feng Dong<sup>c</sup>

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Three novel compounds, together with five known ingredients, octacosanol, 3',4',5-trihydroxy-3,7-dimethoxyflavone, 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, isorhamnetin, and *ent*-kaurane-3 $\beta$ ,16 $\beta$ ,17-triol, were obtained from the leaves of *Smallanthus sonchifolius* (yacon), and their structures were elucidated as *ent*-kaurane-3 $\beta$ ,16 $\beta$ ,17,18-tertol (**1**), 3*R*,7*E*-9-butoxyl-megastigma-3-ol-3-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (**2**), and 3*S*,5*R*,6*Z*-megastigma-6-en-3,5,8,9-tertol (**3**) on the basis of spectroscopic and chemical methods.

**Keywords:** *Smallanthus sonchifolius*; yacon; *ent*-kaurane-3 $\beta$ ,16 $\beta$ ,17,18-tertol; 3*R*,7*E*; 7*E*-9-butoxyl-megastigma-3-ol-; 3-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside; 3*S*,5*R*,6*Z*-megastigma-6-en-3,5,8,9-tertol

### 1. Introduction

Yacon [*Smallanthus sonchifolius* (Poepp. and Endl.) H. Robinson], which was originally cultivated in the Andean highlands, was introduced into China via Japan in the 1990s. It has been reported that the tubers of yacon contained a high content of oligofructans [1] and polyphenols [2], and its leaf extract showed potent antidiabetic effects [3]. Therefore, the yacon has recently become popular as a healthy functional food in Japan and other countries. Chemical investigations of yacon have revealed that its leaves contain monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, and diterpenes, responsible for the pest-resistant and antimicrobial activities of this plant [4,5]. In addition, a considerable number of cadinene-related, homogeryl nerol-related, and many other types of compounds have been reported as constituents of yacon essential oil [6]. In this paper, we report the isolation and structural elucidation of three novel compounds, *ent*-kaurane-3 $\beta$ ,16 $\beta$ ,17,18-tertol (**1**),

3*R*,7*E*-9-butoxyl-megastigma-3-ol-3-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (**2**), and 3*S*,5*R*,6*Z*-megastigma-6-en-3,5,8,9-tertol (**3**), together with five known ingredients.  $\beta$ -Ionol-related compounds (**2**, **3**) were isolated from the genus *Smallanthus* for the first time.

### 2. Results and discussion

Compound **1** was isolated as white powder. ESI-MS gave its quasi-molecular ion at  $m/z$  339 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, corresponding to the molecular formula C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>4</sub> in agreement with the HR-ESI-MS measurement. The absence of absorption in UV spectrum indicated that there are no double bonds in its molecule. Two methyl signals could be observed at  $\delta$  1.05 (3H, s, H-20) and 0.99 (3H, s, H-19) in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR and DEPT spectra showed the presence of 20 carbons, including two methyls mentioned above, 10 secondary carbons, four tertiary carbons, and four quaternary carbons. Compound **1** comprises

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four carbons bearing oxygen, conducted by the presence of four signals in the low field of its  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum at  $\delta$  73.3 (CH), 67.8 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ), 81.5 (C), and 66.3 ( $\text{CH}_2$ ). By comparing its  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data with those of compound **8** [15], **1** was considered as an *ent*-kaurane-type compound, whose structure was almost identical to that of **8**, except for the introduction of a hydroxyl to C-18. The hydroxyl at C-18 leads to the hydroxylation shifts in the resonances of C-18 (+38.9 ppm), C-4 (+3.4 ppm), C-3 (-4.9 ppm), C-5 (7.2 ppm), and C-19 (5.4 ppm). The linkage of 18-hydroxyl was also supported by the HMBC cross-peaks between  $\text{CH}_2$ -18 ( $\delta$  4.12 and 3.62) and C-3, C-4, and C-19 ( $\delta$  73.3, 42.7, and 12.7), as shown in Figure 1. The relative configurations of chiral carbons were revealed by the experiments of NOESY. The key correlations between H-3 ( $\delta$  4.15) and H-5 ( $\delta$  1.42), H-5 ( $\delta$  1.42) and H-9 ( $\delta$  1.02), and 18- $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$  ( $\delta$  4.12 and 3.62), indicated that H-3, H-5, H-9, and 18- $\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$  are on the same side. The cross-peaks between  $\text{CH}_3$ -19 ( $\delta$  0.99) and  $\text{CH}_3$ -20 ( $\delta$  1.05), protons on the other side, can be observed as well. All of the relative configurations in **1** are in concordance with those in **8**. Therefore, the structure of **1** was determined as *ent*-kaurane-3 $\beta$ ,16 $\beta$ ,17,18-tertol.

Compound **2** was isolated as a white amorphous powder. ESI-MS gave its quasi-molecular ion peak at  $m/z$  429  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ , corresponding to the molecular formula  $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{40}\text{O}_7$  in agreement with the HR-ESI-MS measurement. The IR spectrum showed the absorption bands at 3365 and 1642  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,

attributed to the existence of hydroxyl and  $\text{C}=\text{C}$  double bond. The UV absorption maximum at 231 nm indicated the presence of a conjugated diene system. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **2** showed the presence of a pair of *trans*-alkene protons at  $\delta$  6.04 (1H, d,  $J = 16.0$  Hz) and 5.40 (1H, m), an anomeric proton at  $\delta$  5.09 (1H, d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz), a methyl at  $\delta$  0.85 (3H, t,  $J = 7.4$  Hz) linked with a methylene, and another methyl at  $\delta$  1.33 (3H, d,  $J = 6.3$  Hz), neighbor to a methenyl. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum showed the presence of a butyl ( $\delta$  68.0, 32.4, 19.7, and 14.0) and a terminal  $\beta$ -glucopyranose ( $\delta$  102.5, 75.3, 78.6, 71.8, 78.4, and 62.8) moieties, together with the remaining 13 carbon signals including di- and tetra-substituted double bonds ( $\delta$  125.9, 137.1, 128.3, and 137.5), and two secondary carbinols ( $\delta$  71.4 and 76.9), two methylenes ( $\delta$  46.5 and 39.4), four methyls ( $\delta$  21.4, 30.2, 28.2, and 22.2), and one quaternary carbon atom ( $\delta$  36.6). The above data suggested the structure of **2** was almost identical to that of platanionoside B, isolated from the leaves of *Alangium platanifolium* [7], except for the presence of the butyl in **2** instead of the glucopyranosyl moiety in platanionoside B. The HMBC correlations between H-1' ( $\delta$  5.09) of glucose and C-3 ( $\delta$  71.1) and between H-1'' [ $\delta$  3.57 (1H, m) and 3.35 (1H, m)] of butyl and C-9 ( $\delta$  76.9) indicated that the glucose unit was linked at C-3 and the butyl at C-9. The D-glucose moiety was further confirmed by acid hydrolysis of **2**, and its  $\beta$ -anomeric configuration was determined

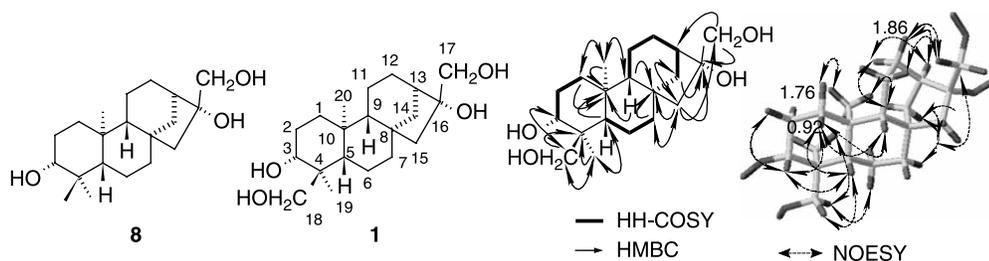


Figure 1. Structure, key  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY, HMBC, and NOESY correlations of **1**, and structure of **8**.

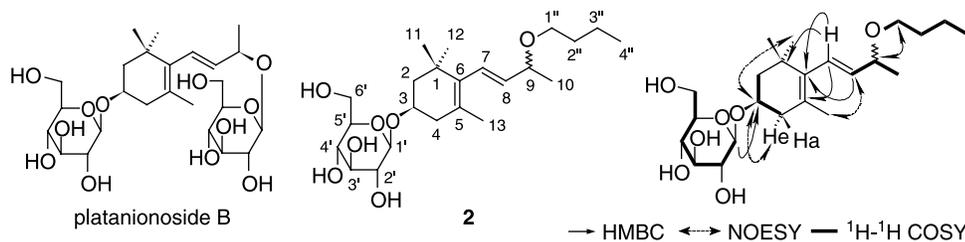


Figure 2. Structure, key  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY, HMBC, and NOESY correlations of **2**, and structure of platanionoside B.

from the coupling constant 7.7 Hz. The relative configuration of **2** was determined from the NOESY cross-peaks. The key correlations between H-4a and H-3 (assigned for 3*R*) and H-3 and CH<sub>3</sub>-12 were observed (Figure 2). The absolute stereochemistry of C-3 was assigned as *R* by comparison of the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data of **2** with those of platanionoside B and linarionoside C, similar compounds isolated from *Linaria japonica* [8]. The evidence that some signals emerged in couples, whose chemical shifts and peak intensities were in close approximation, in both the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra, revealed that the configuration of C-9 should be a mixture of *R* and *S* at a ratio of about 1:1. Therefore, the structure of **2** was determined as 3*R*,7*E*-9-butoxyl-megastigma-3-ol-3-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside, which should be an artificial new compound generated in the process of extraction and separation, based on the fact that compound **2** could not be detected in the ethanolic extract while appeared in the *n*-BuOH-soluble extract.

Compound **3** was isolated as colorless oil. The HR-ESI-MS spectrum showed an  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  ion peak at  $m/z$  245.1744, corresponding to the molecular formula of C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. The IR spectrum showed the absorption bands at 3350 and 1670 cm<sup>-1</sup>, attributed to the existence of hydroxyl and C=C double bond. All the 13 carbon signals in its  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum were expected to present a  $\beta$ -ionol-related skeleton. These signals were assigned to one tri-substituted double bond, three methines bearing a hydroxyl function ( $\delta$  63.9, 72.3, and 71.0), two methylenes, four methyl groups, and two quaternary carbons. Most of the carbons at the ring ( $\delta$  37.2, 47.0, 49.5, and 73.4) and methyls linked to them ( $\delta$  33.8, 32.4, and 33.0) were almost identical to those of cannabiside D, which has been isolated from *Senecio cannabinifolius* [9], except for the chemical shift of C-3 at  $\delta$  63.9 with a little upfield, due to the absence of the glucosyl. But the carbon signals of the side chain were quite different from those of cannabiside D,

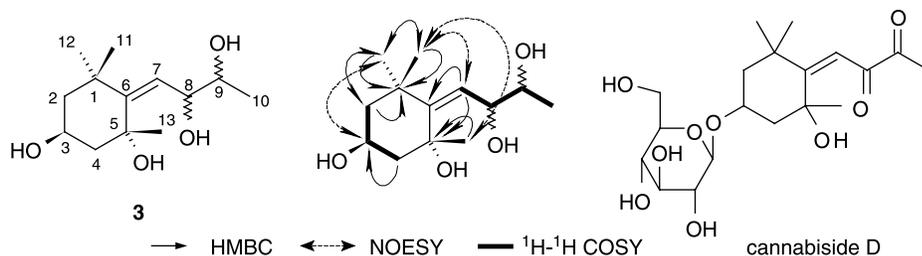


Figure 3. Structure, key  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY, HMBC, and NOESY correlations of **3**, and structure of cannabiside D.

because of the hydroxyls in **3**, instead of carbonyls in cannabisiide D, on C-8 and C-9 positions ( $\delta$  72.3 and 71.0). The linkage of the side chain was established by proton couplings from the methyl at  $\delta$  1.55 to H-9 ( $\delta$  4.38), H-8 ( $\delta$  5.43), and H-7 ( $\delta$  6.23) in the  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum. The HMBC cross-peaks between H-7 ( $\delta$  6.23) and C-1, C-5, and C-6 ( $\delta$  37.2, 73.4, and 154.8) on the ring indicated the linkage of the side chain at C-6. The relative configurations and the configuration of the double bond were elucidated on the aid of the NOESY spectrum as 3*S* [H-3 ( $\delta$  4.57) and CH<sub>3</sub>-12 ( $\delta$  1.23)], 5*R* [CH<sub>3</sub>-13 ( $\delta$  1.98) and CH<sub>3</sub>-11 ( $\delta$  1.33)], and 6*Z* [H-7 ( $\delta$  6.23) and CH<sub>3</sub>-11 ( $\delta$  1.33)] (Figure 3). Therefore, the structure of **3** was determined as 3*S*,5*R*,6*Z*-megastigma-6-en-3,5,8,9-tertol.

By comparing the physical and spectral data with those of authentic sample or literature value, four known compounds were identified as 3',4',5-trihydroxy-3,7-dimethoxyflavone (**4**) [11], 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde (**5**) [12], isorhamnetin (**6**) [13], octacosanol (**7**) [10], and *ent*-kaurane-3 $\beta$ ,16 $\beta$ ,17-triol (**8**) [15].

### 3. Experimental

#### 3.1 General experimental procedures

Melting points were determined on an XT-4 micro-melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer digital polarimeter. UV spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-260 spectrometer. IR spectra were determined on a Perkin-Elmer 683 infrared spectrometer with KBr pellets. NMR spectra were taken with TMS as internal standard on a Bruker Avance 400 FT-NMR spectrometer. HR-ESI-MS were measured on a Bruker FT-MS Apex III spectrometer and ESI-MS on a Finnigan LCQ Advantage spectrometer. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (Marine Chemical Factory, Qingdao, China), Sephadex LH-20 (Amersham-Pharmacia Biotech AB, Uppsala, Sweden), COSMOSIL 75 C<sub>18</sub>-OPN (75  $\mu\text{m}$ , Nakalai Tesque Co. Ltd., Kyoto, Japan). TLC was conducted

on silica gel GF254 (Marine Chemical Factory, Qingdao, China) and RP-18 F254 (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) plates. Detection was done by spraying 1% Ce(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-10% aqueous H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, followed by heating. HPLC was performed with a Shimadzu LC-10AS chromatograph apparatus using an ODS column (Phenomenex Luna C18, 20  $\times$  250 mm, USA).

#### 3.2 Plant material

The leaves of *Smallanthus sonchifolius* were collected in Liaoning province, China, in April 2005, and identified by Prof. Tingguo Kang, School of Pharmacy, Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. A voucher specimen (yacon20050927) has been deposited at the Pharmacognosy Laboratory, College of Pharmacy, Liaoning University of TCM.

#### 3.3 Extraction and isolation

The leaves of *S. sonchifolius* (5.0 kg) were extracted with 60% EtOH under reflux. Evaporation of the solvent under reduced pressure gave the aqueous EtOH extract (100 g). The EtOH extract was partitioned in a CHCl<sub>3</sub>-H<sub>2</sub>O mixture, and then extracted with *n*-BuOH. Removal of the solvent under reduced pressure from the CHCl<sub>3</sub>-, *n*-BuOH-, and H<sub>2</sub>O-soluble fractions yielded 20, 40, and 55 g of residues, respectively. The *n*-BuOH-soluble fraction was subjected to normal phase silica gel column [1.2 kg, CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH (100:0  $\rightarrow$  0:100, v/v)] to give 12 fractions. Fraction 2 was further separated by normal phase silica gel column chromatography [30 g, *n*-hexane-AcOEt (10:1  $\rightarrow$  5:1, v/v)] to give octacosanol (**7**, 56 mg). Fraction 3 was separated by silica gel column chromatography [120 g, CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH (100:0  $\rightarrow$  0:100, v/v)] and by repeated HPLC [Phenomenex Luna C18, 20  $\times$  250 mm, MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (63:37, v/v)] to give *ent*-kaurane-3 $\beta$ ,16 $\beta$ ,17,18-tertol (**1**, 90 mg), *ent*-kaurane-3 $\beta$ ,16 $\beta$ ,17-triol (**8**, 20 mg). Fraction 6 was separated by reversed-phase silica gel column [120 g, MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O

(30:70 → 40:60 → 60:40 → 80:20, v/v) → MeOH] and Sephadex LH-20 (20 g, MeOH) column chromatography to give 3',4',5-trihydroxy-3,7-dimethoxyflavone (**4**, 8 mg), 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde (**5**, 10 mg), and isorhamnetin (**6**, 6 mg). Fraction 7 was separated by repeated HPLC [Phenomenex Luna C18, 20 × 250 mm, MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O (70:30, v/v)] to give 3*R*,7*E*-9-butoxyl-megastigma-3-ol-3-*O*-β-D-glucopyranoside (**2**, 19 mg) and 3*S*\*,5*R*\*,6*Z*-megastigma-6-en-3,5,8,9-tertol (**3**, 10 mg).

### 3.3.1 ent-Kaurane-7β,26β,21,29-tertol (**1**)

White powder, m.p. 203–207°C.  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  41.0 (*c* 1.0, MeOH). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N) spectral data are shown in Table 1. Positive ion ESI-MS *m/z*: 339 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, 361 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*: 339.2538 [M + H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>35</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, 339.2535).

### 3.3.2 3*R*,7*E*-9-Butoxyl-megastigma-3-ol-3-*O*-β-D-glucopyranoside (**2**).

White amorphous powder, m.p. 122–125 °C.  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  –30.1 (*c* 0.43, MeOH). IR (KBr) ( $\nu_{\max}$ , cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3365, 2927, 1642, 1386, 1075, 1042. UV  $\lambda_{\max}$  (nm) (MeOH) 231; log  $\epsilon$ , 3.71. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N) spectral data are given in Table 2. Positive ion ESI-MS *m/z*: 429 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*: 429.2849 [M + H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>41</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, 429.2847). Acid hydrolysis of **2** was performed as described in the literature [14] to give β-D-glucopyranose, which was identified by HPLC.

### 3.3.3 7*S*,5*R*-Megastigma-6-en-7,5,8,9-tertol (**3**).

Colorless oil, amorphous powder.  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$  –13.2 (*c* 0.23, MeOH). IR (KBr) ( $\nu_{\max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3350, 3019, 2926, 1670, 1385. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,

Table 1. <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N) spectral data of compounds **1** and **8** and <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N) spectral data of compound **1**.

No.	$\delta_C$		$\delta_H$ of <b>1</b>
	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	
1	38.7	39.1	0.92 (1H, dt, <i>J</i> = 3.3, 12.6 Hz) and 1.75 (1H, overlapped)
2	27.5	28.2	1.90 (2H, overlapped)
3	73.3	78.2	4.15 (1H, t, <i>J</i> = 5.2 Hz)
4	42.7	39.3	
5	48.2	55.4	1.42 (1H, t, <i>J</i> = 11.9 Hz)
6	20.3	20.7	1.61 (1H, m) and 1.38 (1H, m)
7	42.1	42.6	1.66 (2H, m)
8	44.5	44.7	
9	56.8	57.0	1.02 (1H, m)
10	39.0	39.4	
11	18.7	18.8	1.58 (2H, m)
12	26.7	26.8	1.86 (1H, m) and 1.56 (1H, m)
13	45.8	46.1	2.43 (1H, br s)
14	37.6	37.7	1.98 (2H, br s)
15	53.7	53.9	1.78 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 13.9 Hz) and 1.68 (1H, overlapped)
16	81.5	81.6	
17	66.3	66.5	4.09 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 10.8 Hz) and 4.00 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 10.8 Hz)
18	67.8	28.9	4.12 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 10.4 Hz) and 3.62 (1H, d, <i>J</i> = 10.4 Hz)
19	12.7	18.1	0.99 (3H, s)
20	18.3	16.3	1.05 (3H, s)

Table 2.  $^{13}\text{C}$  (100 MHz) and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz) spectral data of compounds **2** and **3** ( $\text{C}_5\text{D}_5\text{N}$ ).

No.	$\delta_{\text{C}}$		$\delta_{\text{H}}$	
	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
1	36.63 (36.60)	37.2		
2	46.5	47.0	2.15 (1H, dd, overlapped) and 1.72 (1H, dd, overlapped)	2.09 (1H, dd, $J = 13.4, 7.0$ Hz) and 1.96 (1H, dd, $J = 13.4, 8.6$ Hz)
3	71.4	63.9	4.43 (1H, m)	4.57 (1H, m)
4	39.4	49.5	2.61 (1H, dd, $J = 16.7, 4.6$ Hz) and 2.31 (1H, dd, overlapped)	2.62 (1H, dd, $J = 13.8, 5.7$ Hz) and 2.39 (1H, dd, $J = 13.8, 6.1$ Hz)
5	125.97 (125.94)	73.4		
6	137.1	154.8		
7	128.36 (128.28)	126.3	6.04 (1H, br d, $J = 16.0$ Hz)	6.23 (1H, d, $J = 8.2$ Hz)
8	137.5	72.3	5.40 (1H total, dd $\times 2$ , $J = 16.0, 6.4$ Hz)	5.43 (1H, dd, $J = 8.2, 4.6$ Hz)
9	76.91 (76.87)	71.0	3.89 (1H, quintuplicate like, 6.4 Hz)	4.38 (1H, m)
10	21.43 (21.36)	19.7	1.68 and 1.70 (3H total, $s \times 2$ )	1.55 (3H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz)
11	30.20 (30.08)	33.8	1.00 (3H, s)	1.33 (3H, s)
12	28.25 (28.19)	32.4	0.98 (3H, s)	1.23 (3H, s)
13	22.24 (22.17)	33.0	1.33 and 1.32 (3H total, $s \times 2$ )	1.98 (3H, s)
1'	102.5		5.09 (1H, d, $J = 7.7$ Hz)	
2'	75.3		4.06 (1H, m)	
3'	78.6		4.29 (1H, m)	
4'	71.8		4.26 (1H, m)	
5'	78.4		4.01 (1H, m)	
6'	62.8		4.56 (1H, m) and 4.39 (1H, m)	
1''	68.03 (67.98)		3.57 (1H, dd, $J = 15.8, 6.7$ Hz) and 3.35 (1H, dd, $J = 15.8, 6.3$ Hz)	
2''	32.4		1.58 (2H, m)	
3''	19.7		1.38 (2H, m)	
4''	14.0		0.85 (3H, t, $J = 7.4$ Hz)	

C<sub>5</sub>D<sub>5</sub>N) spectral data are given in Table 2. Positive ion ESI-MS  $m/z$ : 245 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>. HR-ESI-MS  $m/z$ : 245.1744 [M + H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>25</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, 245.1747).

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