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Two new compounds from *Ixeris sonchifolia*

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Two new compounds, named as sonchifolactone E (**1**) and sonchifolinin B (**2**), have been isolated from the whole plant of *Ixeris sonchifolia*, along with one known compound, sonchifolactone A (**3**). Their structures and stereochemistry were determined by spectroscopic methods.

Keywords: *Ixeris sonchifolia*; Compositae; sonchifolactone E; sonchifolinin B

1. Introduction

Ixeris sonchifolia (Bge.) Hance (Compositae) is abundantly distributed throughout northeastern China and commonly found in dry places. It has been used as a folk medicine in China for invigorating circulation of blood, normalising menstruation and eliminating blood stasis.¹ Studies on other species of this genus revealed the presence of sesquiterpene lactones² which showed wide biological activities, such as cytotoxicity,³ anti-repellant⁴ and anti-feedant to some insects.⁵ Further investigation on this paper has led to the isolation of two new compounds, sonchifolactone E (**1**) and sonchifolinin B (**2**, Figure 1), and one known compound, sonchifolactone A (**3**). We report here the isolation and structural elucidation of these compounds.

2. Results and discussion

Compound **1** with $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 81$ (c 0.005, MeOH) and mp 164–166°C, was obtained as yellow needles. The molecular formula, C₁₅H₁₈O₅, was determined by HRFAB-MS, which showed the $[M + H]^+$ ion peak at m/z 279.1150. IR spectrum showed the presence of hydroxyl (3450 cm⁻¹) and a γ -lactone carbonyl (1770, 1670 cm⁻¹) groups. The ¹H NMR spectrum (Table 1) displayed three methyl groups, of which two were assigned to 14,15-vinyl methyls [δ 2.37 (3H, s, H-14), δ 1.99 (3H, s, H-15)], and one to the α -methyl in a γ -lactone ring [δ 1.26 (3H, s, H-13)]. The signal at δ 3.72 (1H, t, $J = 10.0$ Hz) was assigned to H-6, which coupled with both H-5 [δ 3.36 (1H, d, $J = 10.0$ Hz)] and H-7 [δ 2.07 (1H, dd, $J = 10.0, 2.0$ Hz)] and thus established the trans-diaxial relationship of these three protons. Since the naturally occurring guaianolides have an α -oriented H-7,⁶ this meant that the orientations of H-5 and H-6 were α

and β , respectively. In addition, the ¹H NMR spectrum established the presence of two hydroxyl signals at δ 9.21 (1H, brs, 3-OH) and 5.81 (1H, brs, 11-OH). Fifteen carbon signals were observed in the ¹³C NMR spectrum (Table 1), the two most downfield signals were assigned to an α,β -unsaturated ketone carbonyl (δ 189.0) and a γ -lactone carbonyl (δ 176.8). The other signals were those for four tertiary olefinic carbons, two methylenes, one tertiary carbon, three methines, and three methyls. In the HMBC spectrum of compound **1**, the H-5 at δ 3.36 showed long-range correlations with C-1 (δ 128.8), C-3 (δ 152.7), C-4 (δ 135.8), and C-7 (δ 56.8); H-6 (δ 3.72) with C-1 (δ 128.8) and C-8 (δ 21.2), respectively. Furthermore, the HMBC spectrum exhibited correlations from the methyl protons 13-Me (δ 1.26) to C-12 (δ 176.8), C-7 (δ 56.8), and C-11 (δ 72.6); 14-Me (δ 2.37) to C-1 (δ 128.8), C-10 (δ 153.3), and C-9 (δ 36.3); 15-Me (δ 1.99) to C-3 (δ 152.7) and C-4 (δ 135.8), respectively. Therefore, all of the signals were assigned according to HMQC and HMBC spectra. Additionally, the relative configuration of 11-OH was determined as β orientation from NOESY correlations of 6 β -H with 8 β -H; 13-Me with 8 α -H, respectively (Figure 1). Thus, compound **1** was shown to be 3,11 β -dihydroxyl-1(10),3-guaidiene-12,6-olide-2-one, named sonchifolactone E.

Compound **2**, yellow solid, $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 11$ (c 0.004, MeOH), mp 135–138°C, was assigned a molecular formula of C₉H₁₂O₃, on the basis of HRFAB-MS m/z 169.0779 $[M + H]^+$. UV spectrum showed absorption maxima at 230 and 280 nm. The ¹H NMR spectrum (Table 2) displayed an ABX system at δ 6.68 (1H, d, $J = 8.1$ Hz, H-5'), 6.52 (1H, dd, $J = 1.8, 8.1$ Hz, H-6'), and 6.67 (1H, d, $J = 1.8$ Hz, H-2'), which suggested the presence of a 1,3,4-trisubstituted benzene moiety. In addition, the ¹H NMR spectrum showed a methyl proton at δ 1.25 (3H, d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, H-2) which was coupled

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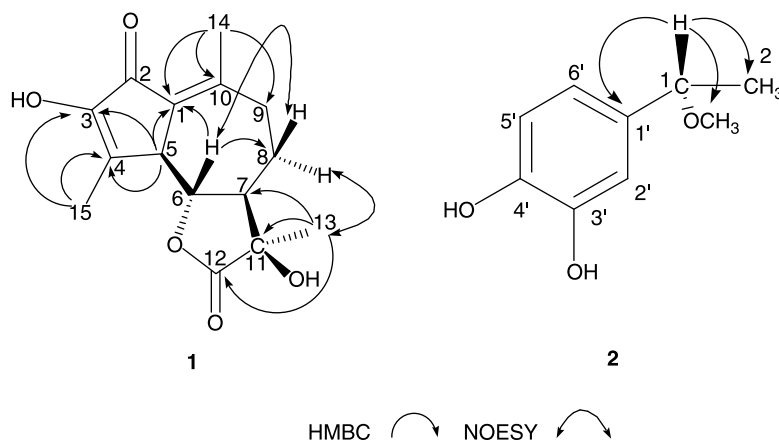


Figure 1. Structures of compounds **1** and **2**.

with a benzylic proton at δ 4.11 (1H, q, $J = 6.4$ Hz, H-1). A methoxyl proton at δ 3.04 (3H, s, OCH₃) and two hydroxyl proton at δ 8.85 (2H, brs, 3',4'-OH) were also observed. The ¹³C NMR spectrum (Table 2) indicated that there were a methyl at δ 23.8 (C-2), a methine which assigned to an oxygen-bearing carbon at δ 78.4 (C-1), a methoxyl at δ 55.5 (OCH₃), in addition to six aromatic carbons in the molecule. Furthermore, the HMBC spectrum suggested correlations of the benzylic proton H-1 (δ 4.11) to C-2 (δ 23.8), C-1' (δ 134.3), and 1-OCH₃ (δ 55.5). All of the signals were assigned according to HMQC and HMBC spectra. The absolute configuration at stereocentre C-1 was determined by CD spectrum. In the CD spectrum, compound **2** gave a positive Cotton effect at 280 nm which indicated that **2** had the *R* configuration at C-1.⁷ Thus, compound **2** was revealed as (1*R*)-3',4'-dihydroxyphenylmethoxyethane, named sonchifolinin B.

Table 1. ¹³C NMR (150 MHz) and ¹H NMR (600 MHz) spectral data of compound **1** (DMSO-*d*₆).

Position	δ_{H}	δ_{C}
1		153.3
2		189.0
3	9.21 (brs, —OH)	152.7
4		135.8
5	3.36 (d, $J = 10.0$ Hz)	46.5
6	3.72 (t, $J = 10.0$ Hz)	84.9
7	2.07 (dd, $J = 10.0, 2.0$ Hz)	56.8
8	1.35 (m)	
9	1.74 (m)	21.2
10	2.22 (m)	
11	2.42 (m)	36.3
12		128.8
13	5.81 (brs, —OH)	72.6
14		176.8
15	1.26 (s)	20.6
	2.37 (s)	20.9
	1.99 (s)	14.2

3. Experimental

3.1 General experimental procedures

Optical rotation was obtained in CH₃OH at 20°C, using a P-E 241 MC; Melting points were determined with a Yanaco micro-melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. CD was taken on a JASCO polarimeter; IR spectra were recorded on a NEXUS-470 spectrophotometer; NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker-ARX-300 and 600 spectrometer, using DMSO-*d*₆ as solvent and TMS as internal standard; HRESI-MS was carried on Q-trap LC-MS-MS; Column chromatography was carried out on silica gel (200–300 mesh) and Sephadex LH-20; HPLC was performed with a Daojin LC-10AT*vp* and LC-8A. Fractions were monitored by TLC and spots were visualised by silica gel GF254 plates sprayed with 10% H₂SO₄.

3.2 Plant material

The whole plant of *Ixeris sonchifolia* was collected in August 2005 at Shenyang city, Liaoning province, China, and identified by Professor Qi-Shi Sun, Department of Pharmacognosy, Shenyang Pharmaceutical University. The voucher specimen has been deposited in the Department of Phytochemistry, Shenyang Pharmaceutical University (No.6032).

3.3 Extraction and isolation

Dried whole plant (9 kg) was extracted three times with H₂O at boiling temperature. The combined extracts (1.5 kg) were successively partitioned with petroleum ether, CHCl₃, EtOAc, and *n*-BuOH. The *n*-BuOH fraction (100 g) was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel and eluted with CHCl₃/MeOH (100:0 to 1:1) to yield 12 fractions. Fraction 3 was purified by Sephadex LH-20 and eluted with CHCl₃/MeOH (1:1) to

Table 2. ^{13}C (150 MHz) and ^1H NMR (600 MHz) spectral data of compound **2** (DMSO- d_6).

Position	δ_{H}	δ_{C}
1	4.11 (q, $J = 6.4$ Hz)	78.4
2	1.25 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz)	23.8
1'		134.3
2'	6.67 (d, $J = 1.8$ Hz)	113.4
3'	8.85 (brs, $-\text{OH}$)	144.6
4'	8.85 (brs, $-\text{OH}$)	145.3
5'	6.68 (d, $J = 8.1$ Hz)	115.4
6'	6.52 (dd, $J = 1.8, 8.1$ Hz)	117.3
1''	3.04 (s)	55.5

give compound **3** (0.1 g). Then fraction 4 was subjected to Sephadex LH-20 by eluting with $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$ (1:1) to afford fraction C_{1-4} . Fraction C_2 was further separated by reversed-phase preparative HPLC using $\text{MeOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (50:50) as mobile phase to yield compounds **1** (9 mg) and **2** (7 mg).

3.3.1 Compound 1

Yellow needles (MeOH); $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 81$ (c 0.005, MeOH); mp 164–166°C; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} : 234, 215 nm; IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : 3450, 1770, 1670, 1620, 1400, 1210; ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectral data are given in Table 1; HRFAB-MS: m/z 279.1150 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ (calcd for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_5$, 279.1232).

3.3.2 Compound 2

Yellow solid (MeOH); $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 11$ (c 0.004, MeOH); mp 135–138°C; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} : 230, 280 nm; IR

(KBr) cm^{-1} : 3250, 1620, 1570, 1500, 1450, 1240, 1150; ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectral data are given in Table 2; HRFAB-MS: m/z 169.0779 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ (calcd for $\text{C}_9\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_3$, 169.0865).

3.3.3 Compound 3

By comparison of NMR and IR spectral data with those in the literature,⁸ **3** was identified as sonchifolactone A.

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