

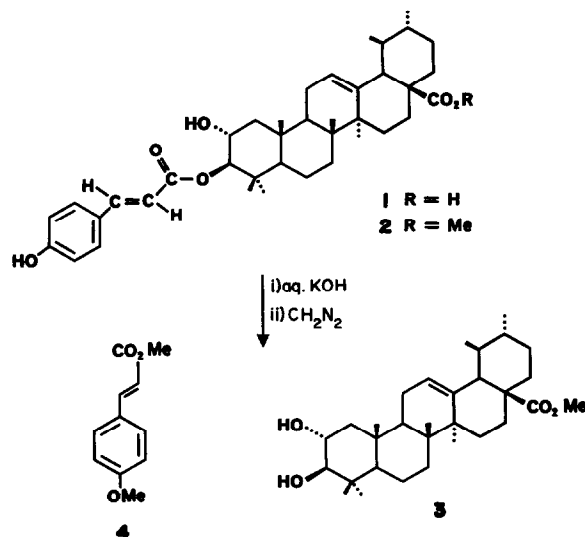
Jacaranda caucana Pittier (Voucher: Herbarium of the National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.) twig-leaf and stem bark parts were collected 3 km SW of Fusagasuga on the highway to Melgar in the Department of Cundinamarca, Colombia, 1974, by personnel from the Medicinal Plant Resources Laboratory, U.S.D.A., Beltsville MD. Jacaranone, an antitumor agent [1], and a sterol and six triterpenes [2] have been previously isolated.

The fractionation of the twig-leaf plant part is described elsewhere [2]. A fraction containing jacoumaric acid, together with jacaradic acid and a small quantity of 2 α -hydroxyursolic acid was treated with diazomethane and the methyl ester derivatives separated by chromatography on silica gel. Elution with CHCl₃ afforded jacoumaric acid methyl ester (2, 40 mg), jacarandic acid methyl ester (9 mg), and methyl 2 α ,3 β -dihydroxyurs-12-en-28-oate (3, trace).

Jacoumaric acid methyl ester (2) exhibited the following physical properties: mp 297° (MeOH), MS: m/e 632 (M^+ , 8.1%, C₄₀H₅₆O₆), 486 (2.5), 468 (6.9), 371 (9.0), 262 (100), 223 (3.8), 205 (20.0), 293 (80.6), 187 (16.0), and 147 (68.2). IR ν_{max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 3300, 1730, 1675, 1630, 1610, 1590, 1520, 965 and 835. NMR (CDCl₃): δ 0.75 (3H, s), 0.94 (12H, broad-s), 1.03 (3H, s), 1.09 (3H, s), 3.61 (1H, m, C-2), 3.62 (3H, s), 4.69 (1H, d, J 11 Hz, C-3), 5.27 (1H, m), 6.22 (1H, d, J 16 Hz), 6.77 (2H, d, J 8 Hz), 7.29 (2H, d, J 8 Hz) and 7.56 (1H, d, J 16 Hz).

These data indicated the presence of hydroxyl and saturated ester functionalities, a 1,4-disubstituted benzene ring and a *trans*-disubstituted double bond. Seven methyl groups, an *O*-acyl methine proton and a hydroxy methine proton were also suggested from the NMR spectrum. The 11 Hz coupling constant of the C-3 proton indicated the stereochemistry of the 2,3-diol to be 2 α ,3 β , and that the fragment at m/e 147 was attached to the 3 β -hydroxyl through an ester linkage. This was also suggested by the peak at m/e 371, derived by retro-Diels-Alder fragmentation of the Δ^{12} -amyrin skeleton [3]. The ion at m/e 223 indicated that two hydroxyl groups were present in ring A and/or B, and the ions at m/e 262 and 203 demonstrated that one methylated carboxyl group was present in ring D or E.

Hydrolysis of 2 with 1% KOH-MeOH at room temperature afforded two products after methylation



(CH₂N₂). The first was identified as *p*-methoxy-*trans*-cinnamic acid methyl ester (4) identical in all respects (UV, IR, NMR, MS, TLC, mmp) with an authentic sample. The second product was methyl-2 α ,3 β -dihydroxyurs-12-en-28-oate (3) identical in all respects (IR, NMR, MS, TLC, mmp) with an authentic sample [2]. Jacoumaric acid is therefore 2 α -hydroxy-3 β -*p*-coumaryloxy-urs-12-en-28-oic acid (1).

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