

ISOFLAVONOIDS FROM *MYROXYLON PERUIFERUM**

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Key Word Index—*Myroxylon peruiferum*; *M. balsamum*; Leguminosae–Lotoideae; isoflavonoids.

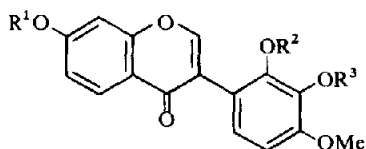
Abstract—Considerable differences in flavonoid composition of the trunkwood characterize different specimens of *Myroxylon balsamum* (L.) Harms. Only calycosin among the 11 flavonoids found in *M. peruiferum* L.f., presently considered synonymous with *M. balsamum*, had previously been located in the latter species. Two of these flavonoids, 2'-hydroxy-7,3',4'-trimethoxyisoflavanone and 2'-hydroxy-7,3',4'-trimethoxyisoflavone are new natural products.

INTRODUCTION

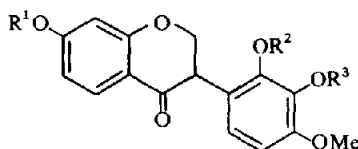
Although *ca* 6 species of the genus *Myroxylon* L.f. (Leguminosae–Lotoideae) have been described, Harms [2] recognized only *M. peruiferum* L.f. from Colombia to Bolivia and Brazil and *M. balsamum* (L.) Harms from Mexico to Venezuela and Colombia. These two species can be distinguished by their seeds, which have grooved and smooth cotyledons, respectively. According to this criterion, the copious Brazilian material belongs to *M. peruiferum* [3], the name referring to the country which exported its balsam following the arrival of the first Spanish explorers. The significance of the seed character for the distinction of otherwise morphologically indistinguishable species was later denied by Record and Hess [4] as well as by Ducke [5], who recognized only *M. balsamum* as a widespread, polymorphous species.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

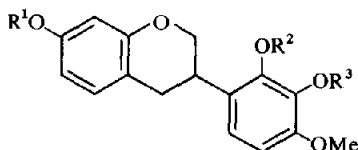
The trunkwood of a specimen earlier classified as *M. peruiferum* gave an essential oil composed predominantly of (+)-nerolidol [6]. The specimen analysed in the present work by solvent extraction, and also classified as *M. peruiferum* by Apparicio Pereira Duarte from the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden, again contained nerolidol, in addition to vanillin and the flavonoids listed in Table 1 (specimen 1). Specimens 2 and 3 were originally classified by the same botanist as *M. balsamum*. Clearly, while specimens 1 and 2 are chemically related, specimen 3 shows a quite different composition. Indeed of 19 compounds, only one is shared by specimens 1 and 3. At this stage it is impossible to recheck the precise morphology of the analysed specimens. The present work is nevertheless useful, since it demonstrates the



1



2



3

- a $R^1 = R^3 = \text{Me}, R^2 = \text{H}$
- b $R^1 = R^2 = \text{Me}, R^3 = \text{H}$
- c $R^1 = R^2 = R^3 = \text{Me}$
- d $R^1 = R^3 = \text{Bz}, R^2 = \text{Me}$
- e $R^1 = R^3 = \text{H}, R^2 = \text{Me}$
- f $R^1 = R^3 = \text{Me}, R^2 = \text{Ac}$

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considerable differences which characterize different forms or species in the *M. balsamum* group.

The structure of 1a (Table 1), $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_5 \cdot \text{OH}(\text{OMe})_3$, was deduced by spectral evidence, including the diagnostic isoflavone H-2 PMR singlet at τ 2.2 of the acetate in CDCl_3 and the retro-Diels-Alder fragments *m/e* 151 and 178, which revealed the distribution of OMe vs $\text{OH}(\text{OMe})_2$ respectively on rings A and B. The precise oxygenation pattern was ascertained by PMR data and

Table 1. Distribution of flavonoids in *Myroxylon*

Compound type name	Substitution pattern							Specimen		
	5	6	7	8	2'	3'	4'	5'	1	2 [7] 3 [1]
Chalcone										
Isoliquiritigenin*	---	---	OH	---	---	---	OH	---	+	
Aurone										
Sulfuretin†	---	---	OH	---	---	OH	OH	---	+	
Flavonol										
Fisetin	---	---	OH	---	---	OH	OH	---	+	
Isoflavones										
Biochanin-A	OH	---	OH	---	---	---	OMe	---	+	
Formononetin	---	---	OH	---	---	---	OMe	---		+
Texasin	---	OH	OH	---	---	---	OMe	---	+	
Afrormosin	---	OMe	OH	---	---	---	OMe	---	+	+
Calycosin	---	---	OH	---	---	OH	OMe	---	+	+
Cabreuvin	---	---	OMe	---	---	OMe	OMe	---	+	+
	---	---	OH	OMe	---	OH	OMe	---		+
1a	---	---	OMe	---	OH	OMe	OMe	---	+	
Isoflavanones										
	---	---	OH	---	---	---	OMe	---		+
	---	---	OH	---	---	OH	OMe	---		+
2a	---	---	OMe	---	OH	OMe	OMe	---	+	
Pterocarpan										
(+)-Medicarpin	---	---	OH	---	---	---	OMe	---		+
(-)	---	---	OMe	OMe	---	---	OMe	---	+	
Coumestans										
	---	---	OH	---	---	---	OMe	---		+
	---	---	OH	---	---	---	OMe	OMe		+
2-Arylbenzofuran	---	---	OH	---	---	---	OMe	OMe		+

*† According to the usual numbering system, respectively 4,2',4'-trihydroxychalcone and 6,3',4'-trihydroxyaurone.

confirmed by the identity of the methyl ether **1c** with an authentic sample prepared by oxidation of 7,3'-di-*O*-methylmucronulatol (**3c**) [8], whereby the isoflavanone **2c** was obtained as an intermediate. As shown by a positive Gibbs test [9], the hydroxyl can only be situated at C-2' or C-3', more probably at the former site in view of the relative abundances of the $[M-17]^+$ (16%) and $[M-31]^+$ (6%) MS fragments [10].

The constitution of **2a**, $C_{15}H_8O_2 \cdot OH(OMe)_3$, was also elucidated by spectra which again included the retro-Diels-Alder MS fragments, now at m/e 151 (100%) and 180 (16%), and identification of the methyl ether with **2c** [8]. Among the two possible positions for the hydroxyl, indicated by a positive Gibbs test [19], C-2' was preferred in view of the structure of the co-occurring isoflavone **1a**.

The assignment of the hydroxyls to C-2' in both natural compounds was compatible with the fact that the 3'-hydroxylated isomers **1b** and **2b** proved to be different from the natural isoflavone and isoflavanone respectively. The model compounds **1b** and **2b** were again prepared from mucronulatol (**3e**), this time by oxidation of the di-*O*-benzyl ether (**3d**) to the isoflavone **1d** via the intermediate isoflavanone **2d**, which both, upon debenzylation and selective methylation, gave the required products, respectively **1b** and **2b**.

EXPERIMENTAL

Isolation of the constituents. A trunkwood sample (11.5 kg) of *Myroxylon peruiferum*, collected in the Rio Doce region of Espírito Santo State, Brazil, was ground and extracted successively with hot C_6H_6 and EtOH. The C_6H_6 extract (313 g) was separated into petrol soluble and insoluble parts. The soluble part (178 g) was distilled (110–116°, 2 mm) to nerolidol (144 g).

The insoluble part (99 g) was cryst. from EtOH. The crystals (31 g) were washed with 3% aq. NaOH. The insoluble part was cryst. repeatedly from EtOH to cabreuvin (24 g). The alkaline soln was acidified and extracted with Et_2O . Evapn of the Et_2O gave a residue which was separated into EtOH (room temp.) soluble and insoluble parts. Silica column chromatography of the soluble part gave, upon elution with C_6H_6 , vanillin (428 mg). Silica column chromatography of the insoluble part gave, upon elution with C_6H_6 -Me $_2CO$ 9:1 initially **1a** (50 mg), next a mixture of **1a** and afrormosin (114 mg) and finally afrormosin (300 mg). Part (100 g) of the EtOH extract (628 g) was submitted to chromatography on a Si (500 g) column, eluting successively in 1 l. fractions with C_6H_6 (frs. 1, 2), C_6H_6 - $CHCl_3$ 1:1 (frs. 3–6), $CHCl_3$ (frs. 7–20), $CHCl_3$ -MeOH 95:5 (frs. 21–27). Frs. 4–7 were recryst. from EtOH to (–)-3,4,9-trimethoxypterocarpan (431 mg). Frs 8–10 were cryst. from EtOH to cabreuvin (5.4 g). The mother liquor was washed with 3% aq. NaOH. The insoluble part was cryst. from EtOH to cabreuvin (1.1 g). The alkaline solution was acidified and extracted with Et_2O . Evapn of the Et_2O gave a residue which was fractionally cryst. from EtOH to **2a** (12 mg). Frs. 11–14 were repeatedly recryst. from EtOH to afrormosin (455 mg). Frs. 23–25 were washed with petrol to a solid which was cryst. from EtOH to texasin (120 mg). The mother liquor was chromatographed on a Sephadex LH-20 column, MeOH eluting in order calycosin (6 mg) and 2 resins. Both were rechromatographed in the same way, the first giving texasin (608 mg) and calycosin (570 mg), the second giving isoliquiritigenin (150 mg). Frs. 26 and 27 were separately chromatographed on Sephadex LH-20, MeOH eluting, respectively, fisetin (385 mg) and sulfuretin (110 mg), and fisetin (160 mg) and biochanin-A (10 mg).

Identification of the known compounds relied on comparisons with authentic samples, with the exceptions of calycosin, which was characterized by spectra and methylation to cabreuvin, and sulfuretin which was characterized by physical constants and spectra.

2-Hydroxy-7,3',4'-trimethoxyisoflavone (**1a**). Mp 210–212° (found: M (HRMS), 328.0941. $C_{18}H_{16}O_6$ requires: M,

328.0947). ν_{\max} (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3440, 1620. λ_{\max} (EtOH, nm): 248, 262 inf., 305 (ϵ 33 400, 26 500, 16 400); no NaOAc or AlCl_3 shift; λ_{\max} (EtOH + NaOH, nm): 236, 273, 297 (ϵ 44 600, 21 600, 21 800). PMR (TFA): τ 1.64 (s, H-2), 1.97 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-5), 2.94 (dd, J = 8 and 2 Hz, H-6), 3.04 (d, J = 2 Hz, H-8), 3.27 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-6'), 3.64 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-5'), 6.34 (s, OMe), 6.38 (s, OMe), 6.42 (s, OMe). MS (m/e): 328 (100%) M, 313 (44), 311 (16), 310 (41), 309 (22), 281 (20), 280 (20), 267 (34), 253 (21), 214 (31), 198 (20), 178 (16), 151 (37), 136 (20), 134 (28). Methyl ether (1c). Mp 157–160° (Found: M (HRMS), 342.1087. $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_6$ requires: M, 342.1103). ν_{\max} (KBr, cm^{-1}): 1645, 1630, 1610. PMR (100 MHz, $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$): τ 1.88 (d, J = 9 Hz, H-5), 1.96 (s, H-2), 2.92 (d, J = 2 Hz, H-8), 2.94 (dd, J = 9 and 2 Hz, H-6), 2.98 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-6'), 3.17 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-5'), 6.01, 6.10, 6.16, 6.20 (4 s, 4 OMe). MS (m/e): 342 (100%) M, 311 (18). Acetate (1f). Mp 146–148°. ν_{\max} (KBr, cm^{-1}): 1768, 1623. PMR (CDCl_3): τ 1.80 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-5), 2.20 (s, H-2), 2.93 (d), 3.13 (d) (AB system, J = 8 Hz, H-5', H-6'), 3.00 (dd, J = 8 and 2 Hz, H-6), 3.17 (d, J = 2 Hz, H-8), 6.07 (s, 2 OMe), 6.13 (s, OMe), 7.83 (s, OAc).

(\pm)-2'-Hydroxy-7,3',4'-trimethoxyisoflavanone (2a). Mp 155–157° (Found: M (HRMS): 330.1098. $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_6$ requires: 330.1103). ν_{\max} (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3353, 1682, 1608. λ_{\max} (EtOH, nm): 235 inf., 309, 370 (ϵ 16 900, 12 800, 8600); no NaOAc or AlCl_3 shift; λ_{\max} (EtOH + NaOH, nm): 231, 305, 365 inf. (ϵ 24 200, 11 800, 8600). PMR ($(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$): τ 2.14 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-5), 3.24 (s, H-5', H-6'), 3.40 (d, J = 3 Hz, H-8), 3.50 (dd, J = 8 and 3 Hz, H-6), ca 5.4 (m, 2 H-2), ca 6 (overlapped by OMe signals, H-3), 6.10, 6.17, 6.19 (3 s, 3 OMe). MS (m/e): 330 (73%) M, 298 (39), 297 (21), 181 (69), 180 (82), 179 (23), 165 (72), 152 (75), 151 (100), 150 (57), 149 (20), 138 (22). Methyl ether (2c). Mp 133–134°, identical with an authentic sample [8].

Preparation of methyl ether 1c and 2c. To a soln of 3c [8] (800 mg) in Me_2CO (150 ml) 5% aq. KMnO_4 soln (100 ml) was added portionwise (4 hr). Work up as described [11] gave 2c (400 mg, 48%), identified by mmp and spectra. A soln of 2c (20 mg) and DDQ (31 mg) in dioxane (15 ml) was maintained under reflux (96 hr). The solvent was evapd and the residue purified by Si chromatography to 1c (6 mg, 30%), identified by mmp and spectra.

Synthesis of (\pm)-3'-hydroxy-7,2',4'-trimethoxyisoflavanone (2b). A. Preparation of (\pm)-7,3'-dibenzyloxy-2',4'-dimethoxyisoflavanone (3d). (\pm)-Mucronulatol (3e) [8] (200 mg), PhCH_2Cl (0.2 ml) and K_2CO_3 (2 g) in Me_2CO (30 ml) (reflux, 72 hr) gave 3d (287 mg, 90%), mp 90–91° (Et₂O). ν_{\max} (KBr, cm^{-1}): 1621, 1585, 748, 695. λ_{\max} (EtOH, nm): 283, 291 inf. (ϵ 13 500, 11 500). PMR (60 MHz, CDCl_3): τ 2.65 (s, 2 C_6H_5), 3.07 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-5), 3.22 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-6'), 3.40 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-5'), 3.49 (dd, J = 8 and 2 Hz, H-6), 3.57 (d, J = 2 Hz, H-8), 4.99 (s, 2 PhCH_2), 5.69 (d, J = 9 Hz, H_a-2), 5.97 (d, J = 9 Hz, H_a-2), 6.14 (s, OMe), 6.20 (s, OMe), 6.35–6.85 (m, H-3), 7.09 (d, J = 8 Hz, 2 H-4). MS (m/e): 482 (91%), 482 (91%), 392 (67), 391 (83), 303 (47), 300 (66), 299 (31), 270 (50), 237 (32), 181 (55), 180 (69), 179 (51), 168 (75), 167 (88), 165 (25), 147 (51), 107 (26), 105 (28), 92 (92), 91 (100), 77 (42), 65 (93), 39 (34). B. Preparation of (\pm)-7,3'-dibenzyloxy-2',4'-dimethoxyisoflavanone (2d). A mixture of 3d (130 mg) and DDQ (183 mg) in MeOH (6 ml) was kept at room temp. (24 hr). The solvent was evapd and the residue purified by Si chromatography to 2d (110 mg, 82%), mp 109–112°. ν_{\max} (KBr, cm^{-1}): 1682, 1651, 1602, 1568, 738, 695. λ_{\max} (EtOH, nm): 233 inf., 274, 317 inf. (ϵ 39 100, 32 700, 20 500). PMR (60 MHz, CDCl_3): τ 2.10 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-5), 2.62 (s, 2 C_6H_5), 3.19 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-6'), 3.42 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-5'), 3.49 (dd, J = 8 and 2 Hz, H-6), 3.55 (d, J = 2 Hz, H-8), 4.92 (s, PhCH_2), 5.04 (s, PhCH_2), 5.35–6.1 (m, 2 H-2, H-3), 6.22 (s, 2 OMe). MS (m/e): 496 (11%) M, 495 (45), 494 (89), 404 (81), 403 (91), 281 (36), 92 (57), 91 (100), 65 (58), 63 (25). C. Preparation of (\pm)-7,3'-dihydroxy-2',4'-dimethoxyisoflavanone (2e). A mixture of 2d (20 mg) and AcOH HCl (aq. conc.) 1:1 (6 ml) was kept slightly warm (3 hr) and inverted over ice. Extraction with CHCl_3 gave 2e (8 mg, 63%), mp 200–204°. ν_{\max} (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3420, 1667. λ_{\max} (EtOH, nm): 279, 318 inf. (ϵ 10 500, 8000); λ_{\max} (EtOH + NaOH, nm): 250, 294 inf., 339 (ϵ 15 000, 10 500, 17 300); λ_{\max} (EtOH + AcONa, nm): 281 inf.,

340 (ϵ 7400, 15 000). D. Preparation of (\pm)-3'-hydroxy-7,2',4'-trimethoxyisoflavanone (2b). 2e (4.5 mg), Me_2SO_4 (0.02 ml) and K_2CO_3 (100 mg) in Me_2CO (6 ml) (reflux, 20 min) gave 2b (2.2 mg, 47%). (Found: M (HRMS), 330.1085. $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_6$ requires: M, 330.1103). ν_{\max} (film, cm^{-1}): 3400, 1670. λ_{\max} (EtOH, nm): 275, 317 inf. (ϵ 11 200, 6700); λ_{\max} (EtOH + NaOH, nm): 235, 275, 319 inf. (ϵ 9900, 9000, 4700); no NaOAc UV shift. The compound was not identical with 2a.

Synthesis of 3'-hydroxy-7,2',4'-trimethoxyisoflavanone (1b). A. Preparation of 7,3'-dibenzyloxy-2',4'-dimethoxyisoflavanone (1d). A mixture of 2d (see above) (130 mg) and DDQ (200 mg) in dioxane (10 ml) was heated under reflux (26 hr). The solvent was evapd and the residue purified by Si chromatography to 1d (73 mg, 56%), mp and lit. [12] mp 145–147°. ν_{\max} (KBr, cm^{-1}): 1626. λ_{\max} (EtOH, nm): 241 inf., 249 inf., 308 (ϵ 14 400, 13 800, 6100). PMR (60 MHz, CDCl_3): τ 1.84 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-5), 2.14 (s, H-2), 2.60 (s, 2 C_6H_5), 2.95 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-6'), 2.99 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-5'), 3.32 (dd, J = 8 and 2 Hz, H-6), 3.39 (d, J = 2 Hz, H-8), 4.85 (s, PhCH_2), 4.95 (s, PhCH_2), 6.15 (s, OMe), 6.22 (s, OMe). MS (m/e): 494 (14%) M, 406 (29), 405 (71), 403 (31), 377 (33), 270 (41), 227 (50), 180 (25), 179 (45), 119 (30), 92 (60), 91 (100), 65 (59). B. Preparation of 7,3'-dihydroxy-2',4'-dimethoxyisoflavanone (1e). Acid hydrolysis of 1d (40 mg) according to the procedure described above gave 1e (20 mg, 79%), mp and lit. [12] mp 251–252°. ν_{\max} (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3420, 1628. λ_{\max} (EtOH, nm): 240 inf., 249 inf., 309 inf. (ϵ 7500, 3800); λ_{\max} (EtOH + NaOH, nm): 228, 256 inf., 346 inf. (ϵ 14 000, 12 200, 6900). λ_{\max} (EtOH + NaOAc, nm): 260 inf., 355 inf. (ϵ 7700, 3900). PMR (60 MHz, TFA): τ 1.15 (s, H-2), 1.50 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-6'), 2.50 (dd, J = 8 and 2 Hz, H-6), 2.57 (d, J = 2 Hz, H-8), 3.00 (s, H-5', 6'), 5.97 (s, OMe), 6.04 (s, OMe). C. Preparation of 3'-hydroxy-7,2',4'-trimethoxyisoflavanone (1b). 1e (16 mg), Me_2SO_4 (0.02 ml) and K_2CO_3 (300 mg) in Me_2CO (12 ml) (reflux, 3 hr) gave 1b (9 mg, 54%), mp 150–153° (Found: M (HRMS), 328.0900. $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_6$ requires: M, 328.0947). ν_{\max} (KBr, cm^{-1}): 3348, 1650, 1627, 1612. λ_{\max} (EtOH, nm): 240 inf., 248, 269 inf., 308 inf. (ϵ 32 400, 30 500, 19 000, 14 700); λ_{\max} (EtOH + NaOH, nm): 247, 305 (ϵ 37 700, 19 300); no NaOAc UV shift. PMR (60 MHz, TFA): τ 1.05 (s, H-2), 1.49 (d, J = 8 Hz, H-5), 2.47 (dd, J = 8 and 2 Hz, H-6), 2.54 (d, J = 2 Hz, H-8), 2.95 (s, H-5', 6'), 5.84 (s, OMe), 5.95 (s, OMe), 6.02 (s, OMe). The compound was not identical with 1a.

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