

GERMACRANOLIDES FROM *MELAMPODIUM AMERICANUM* AND *MELAMPODIUM PILOSUM**

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Key Word Index—*Melampodium americanum*; *Melampodium pilosum*; Compositae; Heliantheae; sesquiterpene lactones; germacrolide; melampolides.

Abstract—Chemical analysis of *Melampodium americanum* yielded, besides the known melampodin A, four new melampolides, melampodin B, melampodin C, 9-desacetylmelampodin A and 11,13-dihydromelampodin A-9[2-methylbutanoate]. The germacrolide 15-desacetylmelfusin was found as a minor constituent. *Melampodium pilosum* yielded melampodin A and melfusin.

INTRODUCTION

In our continued biochemical systematic study of the subtribe Melampodiinae, we have analysed aerial parts of *Melampodium americanum* L. and *M. pilosum* Stuessy of section *Melampodium* [1] for their chemical constituents. Besides the known antineoplastic sesquiterpene lactone melampodin A (1)‡ [2], four related melampolides and a germacrolide were isolated from *M. americanum*. From *M. pilosum*, the known melampodin A (5)‡ [3–5] and melfusin (8) [6] were obtained. The structure elucidations of the five new compounds involved spectral methods (NMR, MS, CD) and chemical transformations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Melampodin B

Melampodin B (2), $C_{28}H_{36}O_{12}$, mp 205–206.5°, showed sharp doublets at δ 5.82 (H-13a) and 6.23 (H-13b), a multiplet 2.70 (H-7) and an IR absorption at 1770 cm^{-1} typical of an α,β -unsaturated γ -lactone. Further ^1H NMR signals, assigned by extensive spin-decoupling experiments, were very similar to those of melampodin A (1) [2] with the exception that the acetate signal in 1 was replaced by signals characteristic of 2-methylbutanoate (Table 1). The low-resolution MS supported the ^1H NMR assignments. Besides the parent peak at m/z 564, compound 2 exhibited peaks at m/z 462, $M^+ - C_5H_{10}O_2$ ($M^+ - C$), 85 (C_1), 57 (C_2) and 29 (C_3) due to the presence of the 2-methylbutanoate moiety C. Further

strong peaks at m/z 389 ($M^+ - C_7H_{11}O_5$), 176 (A) and 131 (A_2) indicated the presence of the C_7 ester moiety A, at the medium ring skeleton of 2 [2]. Side-chains A_1 and C_1 in 2 could either be attached to C-8 and C-9, respectively, or vice versa. Specific removal of the C-9 ester function under mild solvolysis with NaOMe–MeOH at 0° [7] was attempted with the readily available melampodin A (1). Reaction of 1 under the above conditions led to removal of both ester groups and an opening of the 2,3-epoxide function and thus precluded an assignment of the site of attachment of the two ester moieties.

Melampodin C

Melampodin C (3), $C_{28}H_{34}O_{12}$, a minor constituent which was not obtained completely free of 2, exhibited ^1H NMR parameters very similar to those of melampodin B (2). The two compounds differed in the C_5 ester side-chain with melampodin C showing ^1H NMR signals and MS peaks typical for the tiglate moiety (D), i.e. Two three-proton signals, a broadened singlet at δ 1.91 (C-2''-Me), a doublet at 1.79 (C-3''-Me) and a broadened one-proton quartet at 6.83 together with MS peaks at m/z 462 ($M^+ - C_5H_8O_2$), 100 ($C_5H_8O_2$, D₂), 83 (D₁) and 55 (D₂).

9-Desacetylmelampodin A

9-Desacetylmelampodin A (4), $C_{23}H_{28}O_{11}$, was a minor constituent from the polar chromatographic fractions of *M. americanum*. Spin-decoupling experiments clearly suggested structure 4 with the C_7 ester A_1 attached to C-8 (H-8, δ 6.37, $J_{8,9} = 8.5\text{ Hz}$) and a hydroxyl group at C-9 (H-9, δ 4.16, $J = 8.5\text{ Hz}$). Plans to correlate 4 chemically with melampodin A (2) by acetylation required extraction of more plant material. However, in a repeated extraction and work-up of a second batch of the same plant collection, compound 4 could not be obtained. This suggested that 9-desacetylmelampodin A (4) possibly represented an artifact formed during the first isolation procedure. We have recently observed in our laboratory [7] that treatment of melcanthin B [8] under the conditions used in our isolation procedure [9], that is,

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‡ The *in vivo* inhibitory activity against lymphocytic leukemia P-388 (PS) was assayed under the auspices of the Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center, National Cancer Institute, NIH. Melampodin A (NSC No. 294600) exhibited an optimum % T/C 140 at 12 mg/kg, melampodin A (NSC No. 155619) a T/C 128 at 12 mg/kg and melampodin A acetate (NSC No. 294602) T/C 133 at 6 mg/kg.

Table 1. ^1H NMR data for compounds **2–4**, **6** and **7** (200 MHz, TMS as internal standard)

Signal	2 (CDCl_3)	3 (CDCl_3)	3 (C_6D_6)	4 ($\text{Me}_2\text{CO}-d_6$)	6 (CDCl_3)	7 (CDCl_3)	7 (C_6D_6)
H-1	7.00 <i>d</i> (2.0)*	7.02 <i>d</i> (2.0)	6.75 <i>d</i> (2.0)	6.73 <i>dd</i> (3.0; 1.0)	6.96 <i>d</i> (2.0)	5.69 <i>s</i> (<i>br</i>)†	5.45 <i>s</i> (<i>br</i>)
H-2	3.67 <i>dd</i> (3.5; 2.5)	3.68 <i>dd</i> †	3.22 <i>dd</i> †	3.65 <i>dd</i> (2.0; 2.0)	3.64 <i>dd</i> (4.0; 2.0)	5.94 <i>d</i> (10.0)	5.62 <i>d</i>
H-3	3.75 <i>d</i> (3.5)	3.76 <i>d</i> (4.0)	3.13 <i>d</i> †	3.69 <i>d</i> (2.0)	3.69 <i>d</i> (4.0)	5.27 <i>d</i> (10.0)	5.11 <i>d</i>
H-5	5.34 <i>dd</i> (10.5; 1.5)	5.34† <i>s</i>	5.40 <i>dd</i> †	5.32–5.01†	5.20 <i>d</i> (10.5)	3.04 <i>d</i> † (11.5)	2.99 <i>d</i>
H-6	5.23 <i>dd</i> (9.5; 10.5)	5.23 <i>dd</i> (10.0)	5.41 <i>d</i> (10.0)		5.50 <i>dd</i> † (10.5)	4.55 <i>dd</i> (11.5)	4.39 <i>dd</i>
H-7	2.70 <i>d</i> <i>tr</i> (<i>br</i>) (9.5; 3.0)	2.66 <i>m</i> †	2.39 <i>m</i> †	2.85 <i>m</i> †	2.24 <i>dd</i> (<i>br</i>) (10.5; 8.0)	3.36 <i>dq</i> (<i>br</i>) (11.5; 3.0)	2.89 <i>m</i>
H-8	6.68 <i>d</i> (<i>br</i>) (9.0)	6.73 <i>d</i> (10.0)	7.03 <i>d</i> (10.0)	6.37 <i>dd</i> (8.5; 1.5)	6.39 <i>d</i> (<i>br</i>) (8.0)	5.67 <i>dd</i> †	5.25 <i>d</i>
H-9	5.36 <i>d</i> (9.0)	5.41 <i>d</i> (9.0)	5.52 <i>d</i> (9.0)	4.16 <i>d</i> (8.5)	5.24 <i>d</i> (8.0)	4.39 <i>s</i> (<i>br</i>)	3.83 <i>s</i> (<i>br</i>)
H-13a	5.82 <i>d</i> (3.0)	5.80 <i>d</i> (3.0)	5.76 <i>d</i> (3.0)	5.69 <i>d</i> (3.0)	—	5.42 <i>d</i> (3.0)	5.02 <i>d</i>
H-13b	6.23 <i>d</i> (3.0)	6.22 <i>d</i> (3.0)	6.14 <i>d</i> (3.0)	6.05 <i>d</i> (3.0)	—	6.17 <i>d</i> (3.0)	5.98 <i>d</i>
C-4-Me	2.21 <i>d</i> (1.5)	2.21 <i>d</i> (2.0)	1.86 <i>s</i> (<i>br</i>)	2.15 <i>d</i> (1.5)	2.17 <i>d</i> (2.0)	2.03 <i>s</i>	2.03 <i>s</i>
COOMe	3.83 <i>s</i>	3.82 <i>s</i>	3.28 <i>s</i> †	3.75 <i>s</i> †	3.81 <i>s</i>	3.73 <i>s</i>	3.30 <i>s</i>
H-3'	5.18 <i>q</i> (6.0)	5.18 <i>q</i> (6.0)			3.08 <i>q</i> (6.0)	3.03 <i>q</i> †	2.46 <i>q</i>
C-2'-Me	1.26 <i>s</i>	1.14 <i>s</i>	1.10 <i>s</i>	1.34 <i>s</i>	1.53 <i>s</i>	1.53 <i>s</i>	1.14 <i>s</i>
C-3'-Me	1.26 <i>d</i> (6.0)	1.23 <i>d</i> † (6.0)	1.10 <i>d</i> (6.0)	1.20 <i>d</i> (6.0)	1.26 <i>d</i> (6.0)	1.26 <i>d</i> (6.0)	0.96 <i>d</i>
Ac	1.92 <i>s</i>	1.90 <i>s</i>	1.66 <i>s</i>	1.81 <i>s</i>	—	—	—
C-2"-Me	1.06 <i>d</i> (7.0)	1.91 <i>s</i>	1.63 <i>s</i>	—	1.03 <i>s</i> (7.0)	—	—
C-3"-Me	0.81 <i>tr</i> (7.0)	1.79 <i>d</i> † (8.0)	1.21 <i>d</i> (8.0)	—	0.79 <i>tr</i> (8.0)	—	—
H-2"/H-3"	2.34 <i>q</i> (7.0)	6.83 <i>q</i> (<i>br</i>) (7.0)	6.81 <i>q</i> (<i>br</i>) (8.0)	—	2.3 <i>h</i>	—	—
H-11				—	2.74 <i>p</i> (8.0)	—	—
C-11-Me			—	—	1.19 <i>d</i> (8.0)	—	—

* Figures in parentheses are coupling constants or line separation in Hz.

† Obscured by other signals.

stirring with 5% $\text{Pb}(\text{OAc})_2$ in $\text{EtOH}-\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1:1) for 24 hr at room temperature, led to specific hydrolysis of the C-9 acetate function. However, treatment of melampodin A (**1**) under similar experimental conditions did not provide compound **4**.

11,13-Dihydromelampodin A 9-[2-methylbutanoate]

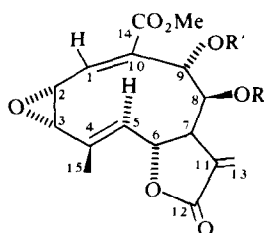
11,13-Dihydromelampodin A 9-[2-methylbutanoate] (**6**), $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_{10}$, mp 187–188°, exhibited an IR band at 1775 cm^{-1} which suggested a γ -lactone but doublets near δ 6 typical for an α -methylene- γ -lactone were missing. Instead, the presence of a three-proton doublet at δ 1.19 (C-11-Me, $J_{11,13} \approx 8.0\text{ Hz}$) indicated an 11,13-dihydro-lactone. Two three-proton absorptions, a singlet at δ 1.53 and a doublet 1.26 ($J = 6.0\text{ Hz}$), together with a quartet at 3.08 suggested an epoxyangelate side-chain in **6** and prominent MS peaks at m/z 390 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3$), 116

($\text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3$, **B**), 99 ($\text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}_2$, **B**₁) and 71 ($\text{C}_4\text{H}_7\text{O}$, **B**₂) verified the above ^1H NMR assignments. Further intense MS peaks at m/z 404 ($\text{M}^+ - \text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2$), 102 ($\text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2$), 85 ($\text{C}_5\text{H}_9\text{O}$), 57 (C_6H_9) and 29 (C_2H_5) and a three-proton singlet at δ 1.03 (C-2"-Me) together with a triplet at 0.79 (C-3"-Me) were diagnostic of 2-methylbutanoate as the second ester in **6**. Spin-decoupling experiments, which are summarized in Table 1, established the structure of the medium ring skeleton exclusive of stereochemistry and the sites of attachment of the two ester groups at C-8 and C-9. Comparison of the ^1H NMR parameters of **6** with data of melampolides of similar oxidation patterns suggested that **6** should exhibit the same configurations at C-2, C-3 and C-6 to C-9 as melampodin A (**5**) the absolute configuration of which had previously been established [3–5]. The coupling data also indicated that the conformation of the medium ring portion of **6** was not

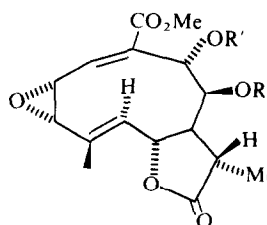
affected by the bio-reduction of the 11,13-methylene bond and should be as in melampodin A (5). The stereochemistry at C-11 was tentatively assigned based on correlations between $J_{7,11}$ and the two possible dihedral angles between H-7/H-11 α (45°) and H-7/H-11 β (160°) obtained from stereomodels. The experimentally observed coupling ($J_{7,11} = 8$ Hz) was in better agreement with the nearly antiperiplanar arrangement of H-7 and H-11 suggesting a H-11 β in 6. No chemical evidence could be provided for the attachments of the two ester functions. Nearly identical ^1H NMR shifts of the epoxyangelate absorptions in 6 and melampodin A (5) [3] were used as arguments to tentatively assign structure 6 for the new 11,13-dihydro compound.

Melampolides with a skeletal arrangement represented by melampodin A (5) and the melampodin-type compounds exhibit a strong broad positive CD band near

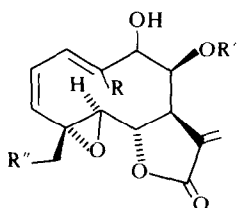
250 nm. Application of the Stöcklin–Waddell–Geissman rule [10] for the assignment of lactonization of the 6,12- γ -lactone group would predict a *cis*-lactone function in all compounds which is contrary to the data obtained from X-ray [4] and NMR studies [3]. Failure of the lactone rule for these types of melampolides seems to be most strongly influenced by the presence of a second chromophore, the α,β -unsaturated methyl ester. Indeed, the 11,13-dihydro compound 6 still exhibited a strong positive absorption at 249 nm which suggested that the major contribution to the positive bands in compounds 1 to 6 stems from the $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ -transition of the α,β -unsaturated methyl ester [7]. It should be pointed out, however, that the melampolides melampodin [2], uvedalin and polydalin [11], which resemble the same skeletal type as the above compounds, but have no 2,3-epoxide function, exhibit negative bands near 250 nm.



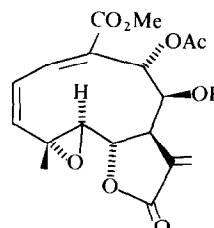
	R	R'
Melampodin A (1)	A ₁	Ac
Melampodin B (2)*	A ₁	C ₁
Melampodin C (3)*	A ₁	D ₁
9-Desacetylmelampodin A (4)	A ₁	H
Melampodin A (5)	B ₁	H



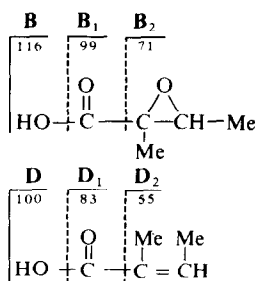
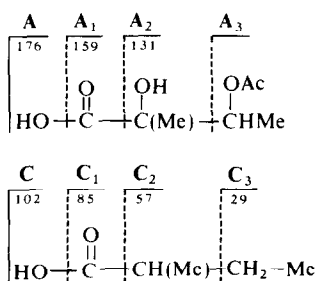
11, 13-Dihydromelampodin A,
9-[3-methylbutanoate] (6)*
R = B₁; R' = C₁



15-Desacetoxymelfusin (7)
R = CO₂Me; R' = B₁; R'' = H
Melfusin (8) R = CO₂Me; R' = B; R'' = OAc



Leucanthin A (9)
R = B₁



* Tentatively assigned on basis of NMR correlations of compounds 2, 3 and 6 with those of known melampolides. The ester side chains at C-8 and C-9 might have to be reversed. Except in B of compound 5, the chiralities of the asymmetric centres of the ester moieties A, B and C are unknown.

15-Desacetoxymelfusin

15-Desacetoxymelfusin (**7**), $C_{21}H_{24}O_9$, mp 150–152°, exhibited spectral absorptions typical of an α -methylene- γ -lactone (IR at 1765 cm^{-1} and ^1H NMR doublets at δ 5.42 and 6.17). Further IR absorptions at 3570, 1745, 1730 and 1715 cm^{-1} indicated the presence of hydroxyl(s) and ester function(s), respectively. The assignments of the basic skeletal arrangement of **7** were mainly deduced from ^1H NMR spectral data obtained at 200 MHz in CDCl_3 and C_6D_6 , and from MS fragmentation patterns. A series of MS peaks at m/z 116 (**B**), 99 (**B**₁) and 71 (**B**₂) in combination with diagnostic NMR absorptions (a one-proton quartet at δ 3.03; two methyl absorptions, a singlet at 1.53 and a doublet at 1.26) were in accord with the presence of an epoxyangelate moiety in **7**. Detailed double resonance ^1H NMR experiments (Table 1) supported a germacranolide skeleton for the new compound. The NMR parameters suggest a skeletal arrangement and oxidation pattern of the medium ring portion similar to the known melampolide leucanthin A (**9**) [9]. A significant difference existed between the H-1 absorption at δ 5.69 in **7** and H-1 in leucanthin A which exhibited a signal near δ 7.0 diagnostic of the melampolides of type **1–5**. The appearance of H-1 in **7** below δ 6.0 indicated *trans*-attachment of H-1 and the carbomethoxy group at C-10 suggesting the presence of a 1(10)-*trans*-double bond in compound **7**. Comparison of the NMR and MS spectral data of **7** with the germacrolide melfusin (**8**) which has recently been isolated from *M. diffusum* [6] revealed gross similarities. A major difference between melfusin (**8**) and the new compound existed for C-15 which in **8** represented an acetoxymethylene function and had to be a Me group in **7** as indicated by the three-proton singlet at δ 2.03. Since the spectral and chemical arguments for configurational and conformational assignments of melfusin (**8**) have been outlined in great detail [6], we refrain from repeating the assignment of 15-desacetoxymelfusin (**7**) which due to the scarcity of material was solely determined on the basis of NMR and MS correlations between the two compounds.

EXPERIMENTAL

Melampodium pilosum (Hartman & Funk, No. 4265, collected on Sept. 5, 1976, 23 miles west of La Huacana, Michoacan, Mexico; voucher deposited at O.S., U.S.A.). Aerial parts (70 g) were extracted with 100 ml CH_2Cl_2 . Standard work-up [9] yielded 120 mg crude terpenoid syrup which was chromatographed by prep. TLC providing 3 mg **5**, 2 mg **8** and 3 mg of a mixture of melampolides (^1H NMR) which could not be further separated due to the lack of material.

Melampodium americanum (Hartman & Funk, No. 4175, collected on August 25, 1976 in Chiapas, Mexico; voucher deposited at O.S., U.S.A.). Aerial parts (1 kg) were extracted with 2 l. CH_2Cl_2 . Standard work-up [9] yielded 5.0 g crude syrup which was chromatographed over 280 g of Si gel, starting with a mixture of CHCl_3 -*n*-PrOAc (7:3) followed with mixtures of eluants of increasing polarity (CHCl_3 -*n*-PrOAc, 1:1, 2:3, 1:2, 0:1, and 100% Me_2CO) taking 20-ml fractions obtaining a total of 238 fractions. Fractions 6–16 contained 133 mg **6**. From fractions 17–42, 150 mg **1**, 81 mg **2** and 2.3 mg of a mixture of **2** and **3** were isolated by repeated prep. TLC. Compounds **2** and **6** were recrystallized from *iso*-PrOH. Fractions 55–80 provided 11.5 mg **7** which was recrystallized from *n*-hexane. Fractions 171–172 contained 10 mg **4**.

Melampodin B (**2**), $C_{28}H_{36}O_{12}$, mp 205–206.5°; UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm: 203 (ϵ 3.6×10^4); CD (MeOH; c 4.0×10^{-4}), $[\theta]_{248} + 3.8 \times 10^4$, $[\theta]_{216} - 1.7 \times 10^5$; IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 1770 (γ -lactone), 1750, 1740, 1730, 1720 (esters), 1650, 1670, (double bonds); MS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 564 (0.4) $[\text{M}]^+$, 479 (1.6) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_4\text{H}_7\text{O}_2]^+$, 462 (1.0) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2]^+$, 389 (1.0) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_7\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_5]^+$, 286 (19.1) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_5 - \text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2]^+$, 227 (15.1) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_5 - \text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2 - \text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2]^+$, 176 (11.0) $[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_5]^+$, 131 (27.4) $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_3]^+$, 85 (39.2) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_3]^+$, 57 (91.4) $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_9\text{O}]^+$, 43 (100) $[\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}]^+$, 29 (52.5) $[\text{C}_2\text{H}_5]^+$. [Calc. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_{12}$: 564.2207. Found: (MS) 564.2200.]

Melampodin C (**3**), $C_{28}H_{34}O_{12}$, gum, which could not be completely sep'd from **2**. UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm: 204 nm; CD (MeOH), max at 248 nm, min at 216 nm; IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 1765 (γ -lactone), 1710, 1720, 1745 (esters), 1645, 1665 (double bonds); MS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 462 (0.4) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2]^+$, 303 (4.4) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2 - \text{C}_7\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_4]^+$, 286 (24.9) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2 - \text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_5]^+$, 227 (28.1) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2 - \text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_5 - \text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2]^+$, 176 (15.6) $[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_5]^+$, 159 (4.2) $[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_4]^+$, 131 (22.3) $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_3]^+$, 100 (1.0) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2]^+$, 87 (3.1) $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_7\text{O}_2]^+$, 83 (100) $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_7\text{O}]^+$, 55 (29.8) $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_7]^+$. [Calc. for $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_{12}$ (M - D): 462.1526. Found: (MS) 462.1510.]

9-Desacetylmelampodin A (**4**), $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_{11}$, gum. MS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 480 (1.3) $[\text{M}]^+$, 462 (2.2) $[\text{M} - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$, 304 (5.7) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_5]^+$, 286 (12.3) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_5 - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$, 227 (13.4) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_5 - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2]^+$, 176 (26.7) $[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_5]^+$, 159 (12.3) $[\text{C}_7\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_4]^+$, 131 (48.0) $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_3]^+$, 87 (13.3) $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_7\text{O}_2]^+$, 43 (100) $[\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}]^+$.

11,13-Dihydromelampodin A, 9-[2-methylbutanoate] (**6**), $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_{10}$, mp 187–188°, UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ 199 nm (ϵ 2.3×10^4); CD (MeOH) $[\theta]_{249} + 3.5 \times 10^4$, $[\theta]_{215} - 1.7 \times 10^5$; IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 1775 (γ -lactone), 1760, 1755, 1730, 1720, 1710 (ester), 1670, 1645 (double bonds); MS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 404 (5.2) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2]^+$, 390 (0.6) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3]^+$, 305 (2.2) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2 - \text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}_2]^+$, 288 (29.8) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2 - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3]^+$, 273 (20.5) $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_2 - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3 - \text{Me}]^+$, 116 (2.7) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3]^+$, 102 (0.8) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3]^+$, 99 (4.3) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}_2]^+$, 85 (82.2) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_6\text{O}]^+$, 71 (19.7) $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_7\text{O}]^+$, 57 (100) $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_9]^+$, 29 (5.7) $[\text{C}_2\text{H}_5]^+$. [Calc. for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_{10}$: 506.2152. Found: (MS) 506.2155.]

Melfusin, 15-desacetoxy (**7**), $C_{21}H_{24}O_9$, mp 150–152°, UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm: end absorption at 200 (ϵ 4.5×10^4), 265 (ϵ 1.1×10^4); CD (MeOH; c 3.4×10^{-3}), $[\theta]_{272} + 4.4 \times 10^4$, $[\theta]_{218} - 3.9 \times 10^4$; IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 3670 (OH), 1765 (γ -lactone), 1670, 1730, 1715 (esters), 1640, 1650 (double bonds); MS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 404 (3.5) $[\text{M} - \text{O}]^+$, 270 (1.1) $[\text{M} - \text{O} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3 - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$, 255 (1.5) $[\text{M} - \text{O} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3 - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{Me}]^+$, 239 (1.7) $[\text{M} - \text{O} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3 - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{OMe}]^+$, 211 (24.5) $[\text{M} - \text{O} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3 - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}]^+$, 116 (6.1) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_3]^+$, 99 (2.7) $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}_2]^+$, 71 (12.5) $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_7\text{O}]^+$. [Calc. for $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_8$: 404.1469 (M - O). Found: (MS) 404.1478.]

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