TEN HOMOISOFLAVANONES FROM TWO MUSCARI SPECIES

MATTEO ADINOLFI, MARIA MICHELA CORSARO, ROSA LANZETTA, GUGLIELMO LAONIGRO, LORENZO MANGONI AND MICHELANGELO PARRILLI*

Dipartimento di Chimica Organica e Biologica, Università di Napoli, Via Mezzocannone 16, 80134 Napoli, Italy; * Facoltà di Scienze, Università della Basilicata, 85100 Potenza, Italy

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Key Word Index -Muscari armeniacum; M. botryoides; Liliaceae; homoisoflavanones.

Abstract From the bulbs of Muscari armeniacum and of M. botryoides 10 novel homoisoflavanones were isolated. All these new 3-benzyl-4-chromanones were substituted with hydroxy or methoxy groups in the 3'- and 4'-positions.

INTRODUCTION

We have recently [1 3] described the isolation and the structure elucidation of a number of homoisoflavanones of 3-benzyl-4-chromanone and scillascillin type [4] from bulbs of Muscari comosum Miller (Liliaceae). The extension of this study to bulbs of other Muscari species, namely Muscari armeniacum Leicht and Muscari botryoides Miller, gave 10 novel homoisoflavanones of both types (1-7 and 13-15) in addition to some 3-benzyl-4-chromanones (8 12) already found in Muscari comosum [1 3]. The distribution of homoisoflavanones in the bulbs of the two plants examined is shown in Table 1. Its noteworthy that all the novel 3-benzyl-4-chromanones described in this paper bear oxygen functions at both positions 3' and 4'. This constitutes a unusual substitution pattern of the B ring [1 6].

The structures of the novel compounds 1 7 and 13–15 were elucidated by spectral analysis (¹H and ¹³C NMR, MS and UV). The known compounds 8–12 were identified by comparison of their physical properties with those of authentic samples.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The molecular formulae of all the compounds described in this paper have been established by high resolution mass spectrometry.

Elucidation of the carbon skeleton of 1 7 and 13-15

The 3-benzyl-4-chromanone structure of compounds 1.7 was deduced from the presence in their 1H NMR spectra (Table 2) of the signals of the $-(2)CH_2$ (3)CH (9)CH₂ grouping, which were clearly seen as eight lines at δ 4.0 4.3 [AB of ABX, (2)CH₂], one multiplet at δ 2.5 2.9 [(3)CH] and two double doublets

centred in the ranges $\delta 2.5$ 2.7 and $\delta 3.0$ –3.1 [(9)CH₂], respectively. On the other hand, the methylene protons at C-2 and C-9 in scillascillinoids 13, 14 and 15 appeared as two AB quartets (the former was centred at δca 4.5; the signals of the latter were centred at δca 3 and δca 3.5 with $J_{AB} = ca$ 13 Hz), due to the absence of a proton at C-3. The signal of the 3-carbon appeared as a singlet (δca 55) in the 13 C off-resonance NMR spectra (Table 3; compare with the known compound 16).

Elucidation of the B ring substitution pattern of 1-7

The B ring of 3-benzyl-4-chromanones 1 7 bears two oxygenated functions. In fact, the base peak in the mass

Table 1. Homoisoflavanones in M. armeniacum and M. botryoides

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
M. armeniacum M. botryoides	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×							×
wi. botrybutes									×	×	×		×	×	×

Table 2. Proton shifts of homoisoflavanones in CD,OD*

							'	1	;	;	11.3	11.7
Compound	2-H2	3-н	5-H	Н-9	8-H	7-H	9-H2	4H	2'-H	H-:	H-2	r
 -	4.08, 4.25	2.79 m	12.22 s	3.80 s	5.92 s	10.66 s	2.60 dd	8.72 st	₽ 02.9	8.79 st	6.73 d	6.56 44
	AB of ABX (4.3, 7.3, 11.4)						(10.0, 13.5) 3.06 dd (4.3, 13.5)		(1.8)		(8.1)	(1.8, 8.1)
7	4.08. 4.24	2.83 ₪	12.22 s	3.77 s	s 16.8	10.5 br	2.66 dd	8.78 s	₹ 08.9	3.83 s	6.73 d	6.65 dd
ı	AB of ABX						(10.3, 13.6)		(1.8)		(8.1)	(1.8, 8.1)
	(4.0, 7.0, 11.0)						3.10 dd					
•	100	191	י נננו	277.5	100	0 87	(4.8, 13.6)	3.82 s	P 12 9	8 75 s	6.85	6 66 44
2	4.00, 4.23	E 10.7	\$ 77.71	0.11.0	5.71.5	2.0.7	1361	5 40.0	. 6		(8.1)	(1.8.8.1)
	(4.1, 7.3, 11.4)						3.06 44					
							(4.8, 13.6)		,			;
•	4.11, 4.28	2.80 ₪	11.82 s	6.10 s	8.17s	3.87 s	2.56 44	8.73 st	P 69.9	8.80 st	6.70 4	2 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6
	AB of ABX						(10.3, 13.6)		(8 :1)		(8.1)	(1.6, 8.1)
	(A.11 ,C.1 ,P.P)						(4.4, 13.6)					
*	4.08, 4.24	2.76 m	12.17 s	5.86	5.83	10.76 s	2.57 44	8.72 st	P 19.9	8.79 st	6.70 d	6.54 &
	AB of ABX			ΑB			(10.3, 13.5)		(1.8)		(8.1)	(1.8, 8.1)
	(4.6, 7.3, 11.4)			7	(2.2)		3.02 44					
							(4.5, 13.5)				:	;
•	4.02, 4.18	2.58 m	3.79 s	7 0.0	5.93	10.48 s	2.50 44	8.67 st	6.66 6.00	8.76 st	6.69 d	6.52 44
	AB of ABX			ΥB			(10.7, 13.0)		(1.8)		(8.1)	(1.8, 8.1)
	(4.4, 7.2, 11.4)			=	(1.8)		296 44					
						;	(4.4, 13.0)	;	•	6		
7	4.05, 4.21	2.66 m	3.81 s	6.07	2.97	10.48 s	2.58 dd	3.82 s	6.69	8.80 s	2.0	0.63 44
	AB of ABX			ΥB			(10.7, 12.5)		(1.8)		(8.1)	(1.8, 8.1)
	(3.7, 6.6, 11.4)			=	(1.8)		3.00 64					
-	. 5		12.05 6	608	603	3.81	293 3.48	8.82 st	6.48 st	8.79 st	6.64 st	
?				AB			AB		•			
				2	(2.2)		(13.5)					
-	4.54, 4.56	I	12.09 s	90.9	6.05	3.83 s	299, 3.51	3.76 s	6.68 s	8.88 s	6.65 s	
	AB			ΥB			AB					
	(0.6)				(2.2)		(13.2)				,	
15	4.51, 4.53	I	12.12 s	5.93	2.90	10.82 s	2.97, 3.49	3.77 s	6.68 s	8.86 s	6.65 s	ı
	νB			AB.	_		AB					
	(6.0)		:		(2.2)	•	(13.2)			. (01	7 13 7	
16 §	4.50 s	I	12.11 s	5.91	5.89	8.5-9.3	2.98, 3.51	8.27-9.5	6.82 s	3.83 s	0.51 \$	
				9 ·			AB:					
				Ξ	(1.8)		(13.2)					

•Chemical shifts are given in $\delta(ppm)$ relative to TMS. Coupling constants (in parentheses) are given in Hz. The signals of the hydroxyl protons, which were not detected in CD,OD owing to deuteron proton exchange, are reported for solutions in DMSO-46.
†‡Interchangeable values.

c	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8†	10†	13	14;	15	16†
2	70.2	70.4	70.3	70.5	70.1	70.2	69.9	70.2	70.5	75.0	74.4	74.9	74.7
3	§	§	§	Ş	§	50.7	§	49.1	48.8	55.3	54.8	55.3	55.2
4	200.1	199.5	200.0	200.1	199.4	194.5	194.0	199.9	200.1	198.5	197.7	198.4	197.9
4a	102.9	103.0	103.0	103.2	102.8	105.6	105.4	102.7	103.2	103.2	102.8	102.6	102.4
5	156.8	156.7	156.8	158.2	165.8	166.9	166.8	156.7	158.2	165.6	164.9	165.9	165.8
6	130.5	130.8	129.2	93.5	97.1	97.1	96.8	130.4	93.5	95.8	95.6	97.3	97.3
7	160.9	160.8	160.9	158.0	168.2	167.3	166.8	161.1	158.1	169.6	168.8	168.4	168.5
8	95.8	95.8	95.8	127.6	95.8	94.6	94.6	95.9	127.6	94.7	94.6	96.0	96.0
8a	160.1	159.8	160.1	149.3	164.7	164.9	164.6	160.0	149.2	164.8	164.0	165.0	165.0
9	33.2	33.5	33.1	33.0	33.2	34.0	33.6	32.9	32.8	35.6	35.9	36.0	35.9
1'	130.9	130.6	132.3	131.0	130.9	131.7	132.9	130.0	130.2	134.0	134.7	135.7	134.1
2'	117.1	113.7	117.0	117.2	117.1	117.5	117.1	131.0	131.1	112.0	111.7	112.1	109.0
3'	146.4	148.9	147.8	146.4	146.4	146.8	147.8	116.3	116.4	148.4	148.8	149.6	150.8
4'	145.1	146.1	147.8	145.1	145.1	145.4	147.6	157.1	157.2	146.7	148.8	149.6	148.1
5'	116.5	116.3	112.9	116.5	116.5	116.8	113.1	116.3	116.4	110.1	106.5	107.3	110.1
6′	121.5	122.7	121.3	121.5	121.5	121.8	121.4	131.0	131.1	135.9	134.7	135.7	137.2
5-OCH ₃	_	_	_			56.6	56.5	_					
6-OCH,	61.0	61.0	61.0	-	_			60.9		_	_	_	_
7-OCH,			-	56.7	_	_			56.7	56.3	56.6	_	
3'-OCH ₃		56.5	_		_	_	_	_	_				56.7
4'-OCH ₃			56.4				56.2	_	_	_	56.1	56.9	_

Table 3. Carbon shifts of homoisoflavanones in CD₃OD*

^{*}Chemical shifts are given in δ (ppm) relative to TMS.

[†]Ref. [7].

[#]Measured in 9: 1 CD₃OD CDCl₃.

[§]Buried with solvent signals.

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spectra was due to the dihydroxytropylium fragment $(m/z \ 123)$ in the case of 1, 4, 5 and 6, and to the hydroxymethoxytropylium fragment $(m/z \ 137)$ in the case of 2, 3 and 7. None of the two oxygenated functions is ortho to the 1'-position and therefore they are at positions 3' and 4' since in the 13 C NMR spectra the signal of the 1'-carbon was at $\delta 130$ - 133, which is the same chemical shift range of the 1'-carbon of the 3-benzyl-4-chromanones bearing a 4'-hydroxyl group only [7]. The signals of the three protons at positions 2' $(d, J_{meta} = 1.8 \text{ Hz})$, 5' $(d, J_{ortho} = 8.1 \text{ Hz})$ and 6' $(dd, J_{meta} = 1.8 \text{ Hz})$, $J_{ortho} = 8.1 \text{ Hz})$ were clearly discerned in the zone $\delta 6.5$ 6.8. The NOE enhancements of the 5'-proton signal of 3 and of 7 and the 2'-proton signal of 2 upon irradiation of the methoxyl proton signal at $\delta 3.82$ (3), $\delta 3.82$ (7) and $\delta 3.83$ (2), respectively, indicated the attachment position of the B ring methoxyl group in the compounds.

Elucidation of the A ring substitution pattern of 1 7

Compounds 1 3 bear one methoxyl and two hydroxyl substituents. This was indicated by the presence in the mass spectra of the peak m/z 183, due to hydrogen shift and retro-Diels. Alder cleavage of the chromone fragment [4]. One of the hydroxyl proton signals appears at δ 12.22 (5-OH, chelated). The assignment of the second A ring hydroxyl group at the 7-position of 1, 2 and 3 was indicated by the chemical shifts of the A ring methine hydrogen (δ < 6.00) and carbon (δ 95.8 95.9) atoms [7]. The methoxyl group must be at C-6 and the 8-position must be unsubstituted since the $^{1.3}$ C NMR signal of the 5-carbon was displayed at δ 156.7 156.8, in good agreement with the value expected on the basis of substituent effects [7]. Accordingly, the chemical shifts of the remaining A ring carbons were very similar to those of known 8.

The mass peak at m/z 167, derived from hydrogen shift and RDA cleavage of the chromone fragment, indicated that both 6 and 7 bear one methoxyl and one hydroxyl substituent at the A ring. The UV absorptions at 284 nm (6) and at 285 nm (7) remained unaffected upon addition of aluminium chloride (absence of 5-OH, confirmed by the absence of proton signals at $\delta > 11$), but were shifted (+30 nm) upon addition of sodium acetate (presence of a free hydroxyl at C-7) [8]. The NMR signals of the two A ring methine protons appear as an AB system with J = 1.8 Hz in both compounds indicating their meta location and therefore that the methoxyl group is at position 5. Interestingly, although both 6 and 7 bear a free hydroxyl group at C-7, their NMR spectra display the signals of one of the two A ring methine protons at δ > 6.00 [7]. This is clearly due to its ortho location with the 5-methoxyl as deduced by the NOE enhancement of its signal upon irradiation at the 5-methoxyl proton frequency.

The presence of two free hydroxyl groups as the only substituents of the A ring of 5 was deduced from the MS peak m/z 153. One hydroxyl group is located at C-5 (proton NMR signal at δ 12.17). The location of the second was established to be position 7 on the basis of the chemical shift values of the 6- and 8-protons and of the 5-, 6- and 8-carbons [7].

The peak m/z 183 in the mass spectrum of 4 indicated that the A ring bears two hydroxyl and one methoxyl group. The NMR signals of the hydroxyl proton at δ 12.5 and of the A ring methine proton at δ > 6.00 revealed that

one hydroxyl group is at C-5 and the methoxyl group at C-7. The chemical shifts of the A ring carbons are very similar to those of 10. Therefore, the remaining hydroxyl group is linked at C-8.

Elucidation of the substitution pattern of 13-15

The A ring substitution pattern was deduced from the mass peaks m/z 167 (13 and 14) and m/z 153 (15), from the hydroxy-proton NMR signals at δca 12 (13 15, 5-OH) and from the chemical shifts of the A ring proton and carbon atoms [7].

The mass spectra of 14 and 15 displayed the ((2)Cring D-ring B) peak at m/z 162 which is also present in the spectrum of 16 and is indicative of one methoxyl and one hydroxyl B ring substituent [2]. The singlet appearance of the NMR signals of the two B ring protons revealed their para location. The NMR signals of the two methoxyl groups of 14 were distinguished by measuring the NOE enhancement of the signals of the two protons at C-6 and C-8 (δ 6.08, δ 6.05, ABq) and the B ring proton at δ 6.65 upon irradiation at δ 3.83 and δ 3.76, respectively. In addition, upon irradiation of the methoxyl signal at $\delta 3.77$ of 15 an NOE enhancement was measured for the singlet at $\delta 6.65$. For both 14 and 15 a long-range 2Dhomonuclear correlation experiment revealed the coupling of the $\delta 6.68$ B ring proton with the 9-protons. Therefore, the ring-B methoxyl group must be at the 4'position and the hydroxyl group at the 3'-position in both

A mass peak m/z 148 (two B ring hydroxyl groups) for the ((2)C-ring D-ring B) fragment and the singlet appearance of the two ring-B protons (location at 2' and 5') could be considered convincing evidence for the B ring substitution pattern of 13.

Assignment of 13C chemical shifts

The assignments of the ¹³C chemical shifts of compounds 1-7 and 13-15 were based on comparison with other homoisoflavanones [7] and on consideration of known substituent effects [9, 10]. In some cases additional experiments were required. They are described below.

For the 3' 4'-dihydroxy compounds 1, 4, 5 and 6, by a carbon-proton long-range 2D shift correlation experiment the 3'- and 4'-carbon lines were found to be correlated to the 5'- and to the 2'- and 6'-proton lines, respectively. This experiment was unsuccessful in assigning the remaining B ring methine carbon signals owing to the close proximity of the relevant signals in the proton spectra. However, the signal at δca 116 was safely assigned to 5'-carbon since it did not display a $J_{C,H}^3$ in the gated fully coupled spectra of the four compounds. Distinction between the 2'- and 6'-carbon lines was made easy by consideration of the shielding effect of the orthohydroxy group. The signal of the methoxy-bearing 3'carbon of 2 was distinguished from that of the 4'-carbon since it exhibited coupling with the methoxy protons in a gated coupled spectrum.

Appropriate NMR experiments were needed for the assignment of all the B ring carbons of 13. A selective INEPT experiment with irradiation at δ 2.93 (upfield signal of 9-H₂) led to the identification of the 3'-carbon line (δ 148.4) through correlation via $J_{\rm CH}^4$ coupling and,

consequently, to the assignment of the 4'-carbon line (δ 146.7). Distinction between the signals of C-1' and C-6' and of C-2' and C-5' was obtained by analysis of the signal multiplicity in a gated fully coupled spectrum.

EXPERIMENTAL

13C and ¹H spectra were recorded in CD₃OD (when not otherwise specified) solutions at 30° and 67.88/270.13 MHz (¹³C/¹H) with a WH-270 FT NMR spectrometer (Bruker) equipped with a dual-probe. One-dimensional spectra were typically obtained with 3000 Hz (¹H) and 13 000 Hz (¹³C) spectral widths. Nuclear Overhauser enhancements were obtained in the difference mode as reported in ref. [11]. Fully coupled spectra were measured in the gated mode at 67.88 MHz using a pulse width of 4 μsec, a sweep width of 13 000 Hz and blocks of 32 k data points of memory.

Selective INEPT [12] experiments were performed with the Bruker INEPTRD microprogram using delays $D_2 = D_3 = 30$ msec corresponding to $J_{C,H} = 8$ Hz. Long-range 2D carbon proton shift correlation [13] experiments were performed with the Bruker XHCORR microprogram using delay $D_3 = 100$ msec corresponding to $J_{C,H} = 5$ Hz. Long-range 2D proton-proton shift correlation [14] experiments were performed with the Bruker COSYLR microprogram using delay $D_2 = 80$ msec corresponding to $J_{H,H} = 3$ Hz.

Isolation of homoisoflavanones. Fresh bulbs (18 kg) of Muscari armeniacum Leicht (purchased from Stassen Italiana, Como, Italy, and authenticated by the Botanical Garden of the University of Naples) were homogenized in a mechanical stirrer, freeze-dried and extracted in a Soxhlet with light petrol (12 hr), with Et₂O (12 hr) and then with MeOH (12 hr).

The Et₂O extract was evapd (5 g) and chromatographed on a silica gel (120 g) column with a gradient mixture of hexane Et₂O and then of Et₂O-MeOH. Homoisoflavanones were contained in the fractions cluted with 100°, Et₂O (fraction A, 1.5 g) and with 9:1 Et₂O MeOH (fraction B, 800 mg).

Fraction B was further purified by CC (silica gel; 19:1 CHCl₃ MeOH) and HPLC (LiChroCart-NH₂ 7 µm (Merck), 250 × 4 mm, 60 atm, UV 260 nm; 1:1 CHCl₃ MeOH) to give compound 6 (26 mg). Fraction A on rechromatography (hexane with increasing amounts of Me₂CO) yielded fractions A1 (4:1 hexane Me₂CO; 200 mg), A2 (7:3; 80 mg) and A3 (3:2; 60 mg). The latter was crystallized from MeOH-hexane to give compound 4 (54 mg). HPLC (conditions as above; 7:3 MeOH CHCl₃) of fraction A2 yielded compound 5 (24 mg) and compound 1 (22 mg). HPLC (conditions as above; 3:2 MeOH CHCl₃) of fraction A1 gave two main fractions, A1A (90 mg) and A1B (102 mg). By repetitive PLC (silica gel; 98:2 CHCl₃ Me₂CO) compounds 15 (6 mg), 13 (60 mg), 9 (12 mg) and 12 (15 mg) were obtained from the former and compounds 8 (12 mg), 2 (6 mg) and 3 (5 mg) from the latter.

The MeOH extract of the bulbs was evapd (9.5 g) and submitted to CC (silica gel). The fractions eluted with 9:1 CHCl₃ MeOH were evapd (103 mg) and then purified by subsequent CC (silica gel; 9:1 CHCl₃ AcOEt) and HPLC (conditions as above; 3:7 MeOH CHCl₃) to yield compound 7 (7 mg).

A similar isolation procedure was adopted to obtain homoisoflavanones from bulbs of *Muscari botryoides* Miller (2 kg; collected in May 1985 near Formia, Lazio, Italy and authenticated by the Botanical Garden of the University of Naples). Compounds 9 (15 mg), 10 (10 mg), 11 (24 mg), 13 (52 mg), 14 (43 mg) and 15 (23 mg) were isolated.

On TLC (silica gel; 4:1 C₆H₆ AcOEt) homoisoflavanones

1 15 exhibited the following increasing polarity order: 6 > 4 > 7> 5 > 1 > 13 > 2 > 3, 12 > 10, 11 > 9 > 15 > 8 > 14.

Compound 1 had mp 179 $\cdot 181^{\circ}$ (from CHCl₃ MeOH), $[\alpha]_D$ = 65° (MeOH, c = 0.6). EIMS, 70 eV, m/z (rel. int.): 332.0885 ([M]*; calc. for $C_{1.7}H_{16}O_7$ 332.0896) (80), 210 (100), 209 (50), 195 (60), 183 (40), 167 (30), 149 (70), 123 (85).

Compound 2 had mp 205 206° (from MeOH hexane), $\begin{bmatrix} z \end{bmatrix}_D$ $\sim 37^\circ$ (MeOH, c = 0.5). EIMS, 70 eV, mz (rel. int.): 306.1044 ($\begin{bmatrix} M \end{bmatrix}^*$; calc. for $C_{18}H_{18}O_7$, 346.1052) (25), 210 (45), 209 (20), 195 (20), 183 (30), 167 (20), 149 (35), 137 (100).

Compound 3 was a powder. EIMS, 70 eV, $m \ge$ (rel. int.): 346.1049 ([M]*; calc. for $C_{18}H_{18}O_7$ 346.1052) (30), 210 (50), 209 (20), 195 (40), 183 (40), 167 (20), 149 (30), 137 (100).

Compound 4 had mp 138 141" (from MeOH hexane), $[\alpha]_D$ = 43 (MeOH, c = 0.7). EIMS, 70 eV, $m \approx$ (rel. int.); 332.0899 ([M]*; calc. for $C_{17}H_{16}O_7$ 332.0896) (95), 210 (100), 195 (15), 183 (50), 167 (35), 149 (20), 123 (95).

Compound 5 was an oil. EIMS, 70 eV, m/z (rel. int.): 302.0781 ([M]*; calc. for $C_{16}H_{14}O_6$ 302.0790) (65), 180 (100), 179 (80), 153 (50), 123 (85).

Compound 6 was a vitreous solid, $[\alpha]_D = 59^\circ$ (MeOH, c = 0.6). UV $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{MeOH}}$ nm (log ϵ): 284 (4.2), shifted to 314 upon addition of NaOAc. EIMS, 70 eV, m/z (rel. int.): 316.0939 ([M]*; calc. for $C_{17}H_{16}O_6$ 316.0947) (25), 194 (40), 193 (40), 167 (100), 123 (40).

Compound 7 was a powder. UV $\lambda_{\rm max}^{\rm MeOH}$ nm (log ϵ): 285 (4.2), shifted to 315 upon addition of NaOAc. EIMS, 70 eV, m/ϵ (rel. int.): 330.1095 ([M]*; calc. for $C_{18}H_{18}O_6$ 330.1103) (30), 193 (10), 167 (95), 137 (100).

Compound 13 was a powder. EIMS, 70 eV, mz (rel. int.): 314.0785 ([M]*; calc. for C_1 - $H_{14}O_6$ 314.0790) (20), 167 (25), 148 (100).

Compound 14 had mp 187-188° (from MeOH), $[x]_D + 9$ ° (MeOH, c = 0.2). EIMS, 70 eV, m/z (rel. int.): 328.0940 ([M]°; calc for $C_{18}H_{16}O_6$ 328.0947) (40), 167 (100), 162 (15).

Compound 15 had mp 209-211° (from MeOH-hexane), $[\alpha]_D$ + 11 (MeOH, c = 0.4). EIMS, 70 eV, m/2 (rel. int.): 314.0788 ([M]*; calc. for $C_{17}H_{14}O_6$ 314.0790) (65), 162 (40), 153 (100).

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