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SESQUITERPENE LACTONES FROM *LEUZEA LONGIFOLIA*

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Abstract—From aerial parts of *Leuzea longifolia*, three new natural products, 11 α ,13-dihydro-8 α -methacryloyloxyzaluzanine C, 11 α ,13-dihydro-3 β -(2-hydroxymethyl)acryloyloxyzaluzanine C, 11 α ,13-dihydro-3 β -methacryloyloxyzaluzanine C and a previously reported one, 11 α ,13-dihydro-8 α -(2-hydroxymethyl)acryloyloxyzaluzanine C were isolated

INTRODUCTION

In continuation of our research interests about Portuguese endemic plants, we have studied the aerial parts of *Leuzea longifolia*. From the acetone extract, dewaxed with hexane, three major compounds were isolated and identified as 11 α ,13-dihydro-8 α -methacryloyloxyzaluzanine C (**1**), 11 α ,13-dihydro-8 α -(2-hydroxymethyl)acryloyloxyzaluzanine C (**2**), and 11 α ,13-dihydro-3 β -(2-hydroxymethyl)acryloyloxyzaluzanine C (**3**). Although compound **2** has been described in the literature [1] as a gum, we have obtained it as a crystalline solid. A minor lactone, which we were not able to purify, was identified as 11 α ,13-dihydro-3 β -methacryloyloxyzaluzanine C (**4**).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The structure of compound **1** was deduced from spectral data, mainly ^1H (Table 1) and ^{13}C (Table 2) NMR, as well as $\delta\text{H}/\delta\text{H}$ (COSY) and $\delta\text{H}/\delta\text{C}$ (HCCORR) bi-dimensional correlations, which allowed unambiguous assignments of the signals. The ^1H NMR spectrum of compound **1** showed four signals at δ 5.12 (1H, s), 5.14 (1H, s) and 5.35 (1H, t), 5.44 (1H, t), characteristic of two exomethylene protons. The *trans* fusion of the lactone ring is concluded from the coupling constant $J_{6,7} = 11$ Hz, obtained from the peaks at δ 4.20 (1H, t) and 2.70 (1H, ddd) assigned to H-6 and H-7, respectively. A doublet at δ 1.16 (3H) and a doublet at δ 2.80 (1H), $J_{11,13} = 7.5$ Hz, showed the presence of the methyl group in a position α to the lactonic carbonyl. The configuration of this methyl group was inferred from the coupling constant $J_{7,11} = 7.5$ Hz.

Table 1 ^1H NMR spectra* of compounds **1-4**

H	1	2	3	4
1	2.90 m	2.90 m	3.00 m	2.93 m
2	1.78 ddd	1.72 dt	1.88 dt	1.85 dt
2	2.31 ddd	2.30 dt	2.46 m	2.45 m
3	4.53 tt	4.51 tt	5.60 tr	5.57 m
5	2.90 m	2.90 m	3.00 m	2.93 m
6	4.20 br t	4.19 br t	4.18 dd	4.16 br t
7	2.70 ddd	2.70 dt	2.80 m	2.80 m
8	4.90 ddd	4.93 ddd	3.71 ddd	3.70 ddd
9	2.87 dd	2.83 dd	2.74 dd	2.73 dd
9	2.17 dd	2.18 dd	2.19 dd	2.20 dd
11	2.80 dq	2.76 qnt	2.80 m	2.80 m
13	1.16 d	1.14 d	1.27 d	1.27 d
14a	5.14 br s	5.13 br s	5.03 s	5.02 s
14b	5.12 br s	5.09 br s		
15a	5.44 t	5.42 t	5.38 t	5.36 t
15b	5.35 t	5.33 t	5.28 t	5.26 t
3'a	6.11 qnt	6.23 q	6.25 dt	6.13 s
3'b	5.62 qnt	5.88 q	5.90 dt	5.60 s
4'	1.95 t	4.33 br s	1.28 s	1.94 s

* Measured in CDCl_3 (**1**, **2**, **4**) at 200 MHz, int. ref. CHCl_3 and CD_3CD_2 (**3**), int. ref. TMS

J (Hz) Compound **1** $2\alpha,3=2\beta,3=7.4$, $3,15=2$, $6,7=7.8=11$, $7,11=11,13=7.5$, $8,9\alpha=4.5$; $8,9\beta=8.5$; $9\alpha,9\beta=12.5$ Compound **2** $2\alpha,3=2\beta,3=7.4$, $3,15=2$, $6,7=7.8=10$; $7,11=11,13=7.5$, $8,9\alpha=4.5$, $8,9\beta=8.4$, $9\alpha,9\beta=12.8$ Compound **3** $2\alpha,3=2\beta,3=7.3$, $3,15=2$, $11,13=8$, $8,9\alpha=4.5$, $8,9\beta=9.2$, $9\alpha,9\beta=12.2$ Compound **4** $3,15=2$, $11,13=7.5$, $8,9\alpha=4.5$, $8,9\beta=8.5$, $9\alpha,9\beta=13.4$

Table 2 ^{13}C NMR spectra* of compounds 1–4

C	1	2	3	4
1	43.7 d	43.8 d	44.4 d	44.3 d
2	38.6 t	38.6 t	46.6 t	46.7 t
3	73.7 d	73.8 d	75.6 d	75.9 d
4	152.6 s	152.5 s	150.1 s	150.3 s
5	49.8 d	49.9 d	50.2 d	50.6 d
6	79.0 d	78.8 d	79.1 d	79.5 d
7	50.7 d	50.7 d	53.6 d	53.5 d
8	72.0 d	72.2 d	70.8 d	70.4 d
9	40.4 t	40.3 t	36.5 t	36.5 t
10	142.2 s	142.3 s	142.2 s	145.4 s
11	38.1 d	38.1 d	39.1 d	39.1 d
12	178.3 s	177.3 s	179.2 s	179.2 s
13	11.3 q	11.3 q	11.2 q	11.2 q
14	117.0 t	117.3 t	115.0 t	115.0 t
15	112.7 t	113.1 t	113.6 t	113.5 t
1'	166.4 s	166.8 s	165.8 s	167.2 s
2'	136.2 s	144.3 s	145.4 s	137.6 s
3'	126.1 t	126.3 t	123.2 t	126.2 t
4'	18.2 q	62.3 t	61.3 t	18.4 q

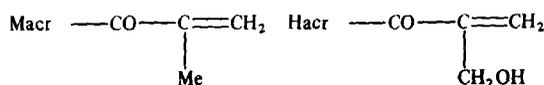
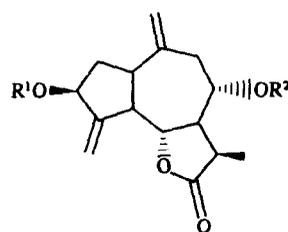
*Run at 50.3 MHz in CDCl_3 (1, 2, 4), int. ref. CHCl_3 and CD_3CD (3), int. ref. TMS.

The signal at $\delta 4.90$ (1H, *ddd*) was assigned to the H-8 proton. From the coupling constant $J_{7,8} = 11$ Hz the ester group must be α oriented. The signal at $\delta 4.53$ (1H, *tt*) was assigned to H-3, geminal with an hydroxyl group, which must be β oriented, since $J_{2\alpha,3} = J_{2\beta,3} = 7.4$ Hz. The ^1H NMR spectra also showed that the side chain ester group was a methacrylate group: the signal at $\delta 1.95$ (3H, *t*) was assigned to the vinylic methyl group, and those at $\delta 5.62$ (1H, *qnt*) and 6.11 (1H, *qnt*) to the terminal methylene. Data from ^{13}C NMR, DEPT (Table 2) and bidimensional correlations, were in agreement with the above conclusions.

The NMR spectra of compound 2 were very similar to those of 1 (Tables 1 and 2). The main difference between the two concerned the signals of the acid that esterifies the C-8 hydroxyl group: the triplet at $\delta 1.95$ (3H) in the spectrum of 1, assigned to H-4', was replaced by a singlet at 4.33 (2H), characteristic of a $-\text{CH}_2-\text{OH}$ moiety. Consistently on going from 1 to 2 the C-2' and C-4' signals exhibited a shift to lower field.

The most significant difference between the NMR spectra of lactones 2 and 3 is related to the chemical shifts of H-3 and H-8. In compound 2 the signals assigned to H-3 and H-8 resonate at $\delta 4.51$ (1H, *tt*) and $\delta 4.93$ (1H, *ddd*), respectively. In contrast lactone 3 showed the corresponding signals, at $\delta 5.60$ (1H, *tt*) and $\delta 3.71$ (1H, *ddd*), respectively. These results supported the conclusions that in this compound the C-3 hydroxyl group was esterified, whilst that at C-8 is free.

From the NMR spectra of 4, we could deduce the proposed structure. The differences between the ^1H NMR spectra of 4 and 1 were the same as those between 2 and 3, so that we could assign the methacrylate ester to the C-3 proton. This position is supported by ^{13}C NMR data (Table 2).



	R ¹	R ²
1	H	Macr
2	H	Hacr
3	Hacr	H
4	Macr	H

EXPERIMENTAL

General Mps: uncorr NMR 200 MHz, MS 70 eV.

Isolation and separation Aerial parts of *L. longifolia* Hoff & Link (4.5 kg) were collected in Loures (Portugal) in June 1986, air-dried, finely triturated and extd with *n*-hexane and Me_2CO . The Me_2CO extract (5 g) was chromatographed on a silica gel column and eluted with a *n*-hexane–EtOAc gradient. From fractions 52–55 (284 mg; *n*-hexane–EtOAc, 3:2) white needle crystals were isolated and recrystallized from EtOH–Et₂O to obtain pure compound 1. From fractions 58–60 (109 mg; *n*-hexane–EtOAc, 3:2), we obtained compound 4, which after successive TLC (*n*-hexane–EtOAc, 1:1) could not be purified. Compound 2 was obtained from fractions 89–92 (594.5 mg; *n*-hexane–EtOAc, 2:3) as white crystals after recrystallization from EtOAc. Successive CC and TLC of fractions 100–196 (686 mg; *n*-hexane–EtOAc, 3:7) produced compound 3 as a solid.

11 α ,13-Dihydro-8 α -methacryloyloxyzaluzaninone C (1) Needles, mp 141°, IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 3500, 1780, 1705 and 1640. MS *m/z* (rel. int.), 70 eV: 332 [$\text{M}]^+$ (10), 246 [$\text{M}-\text{RCO}_2\text{H}]^+$ (99), 228 [$246-\text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (50), 69 [$\text{RCO}]^+$ (100). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{24} = +103.5$ (EtOH; *c* 0.4).

11 α ,13-Dihydro-8 α -(2-hydroxymethyl)acryloyloxyzaluzaninone C (2) Needles, mp 131°, IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 3400, 1760, 1709, 1620. MS *m/z* (rel. int.), 70 eV: 348 [$\text{M}]^+$ (14), 246 [$\text{M}-\text{RCO}_2\text{H}]^+$ (72), 228 [$246-\text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (70), 85 [$\text{RCO}]^+$ (100), 57 [$85-\text{CO}]^+$ (82). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{24} = +112.3$ (EtOH, *c* 0.26).

11 α ,13-Dihydro-3 β -(2-hydroxymethyl)acryloyloxyzaluzaninone C (3) Solid IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 3400, 1765, 1710, 1625. MS *m/z* (rel. int.), 70 eV: 348 [$\text{M}]^+$ (16), 246 [$\text{M}-\text{RCO}_2\text{H}]^+$ (47), 228 [$246-\text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (19), 85 [$\text{RCO}]^+$ (100). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{24} = +96.4$ (EtOH, *c* 0.56).

11 α ,13-Dihydro-3 β -methacryloyloxyzaluzaninone C (4) Gum, IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 3400, 1765, 1708, 1640. MS *m/z* (rel. int.), 70 eV: 332 [$\text{M}]^+$ (4), 314 [$\text{M}-\text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (3), 263 [$\text{M}-\text{RCO}]^+$ (100), 246 [$\text{M}-\text{RCO}_2\text{H}]^+$ (22), 69 [$\text{RCO}]^+$ (99). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{24} = +84.4$ (CHCl_3 ; *c* 0.69).

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