



FLAVONOIDS IN ROOTS OF SOPHORA PROSTRATA

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Key Word Index—Sophora prostrata; Leguminosae; roots; pterocarpan; flavanone; prostratols D-G.

Abstract—Further investigation of the phenolic constituents in the roots of Sophora prostrata gave 14 phenolic compounds, including four new ones, prostratols D-G. Structures were characterized by means of spectral data involving 2D NMR techniques.

INTRODUCTION

In studies on the chemosystematics of the genus Sophora, we have already reported the isolation and characterization of flavonoid compounds [1–13]. In our previous paper [14], we described three new isoflavanones, prostratols A-C, isolated from the root of S. prostrata native to New Zealand. Further chemical investigation of the roots of this species afforded 14 phenolic compounds, including four new compounds, named prostratols D-G. In the present paper, we describe the isolation and the structural determination of these new compounds.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An acetone extract of the roots of *S. prostrata* was subjected to silica gel column chromatography eluting with a *n*-hexane-acetone system. Each fraction was further purified by vacuum liquid chromatography (VLC) and preparative TLC to give 1-14 in a pure form.

Compound 1 (prostratol D), obtained as an oil, gave a $[M]^+$ at m/z 338 in the EI mass spectrum. The UV spectral data and a set of four protons $[\delta 3.55 (m), 3.59 (t,$ J = 9.8 Hz), 4.24 (dd, J = 9.8, 3.4 Hz) and 5.46 (d, J = 6.4 Hz)] in the ¹H NMR spectrum indicated that 1 was a pterocarpan derivative. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra showed the presence of a γ, γ -dimethylallyl group which was located at a position where one of the ortho-positions is occupied by an oxygen function [15] (Fig. 1), a methoxyl (δ 3.77) and a hydroxyl group (δ 8.48). The ¹H NMR spectrum further exhibited three protons in an ABX spin system $[\delta 6.35 (d, J = 2.0 \text{ Hz}), 6.55 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.0 \text{ Hz})$ and 7.31 (d, J = 8.3 Hz)] and two aromatic singlets $(\delta 6.43 \text{ and } 7.06)$ [Fig. 1]. In the phase-sensitive NOESY (Fig. 2), NOEs were observed between the aromatic singlet (δ 6.43) and the methoxyl group, and between the other singlet (δ 7.06) and a methylene (δ 3.22) of the γ , γ dimethylallyl group. The partial structures of 1 are shown in Fig. 1; the whole structure would lead to a homospecific pterocarpan, either 1 or 1a (Fig. 3) [16]. In the phasesensitive NOESY (Fig. 2), NOEs were observed between

H-11a (δ 5.46) and the *ortho*-coupled aromatic proton (δ 7.31), and between H-6a (δ 3.55) and the aromatic singlet (δ 7.06), which indicated that 1 was preferable to 1a as the structure for prostratol D. The final decision was made by 13 C $^{-1}$ H long-range correlation in the HMBC spectrum (Fig. 4). The optical rotation (see Experimental) indicated that both C-6a and C-11a had a *R*-configuration [17, 18]. Consequently, the structure of prostratol D was determined to be (δ a*R*, 11a*R*)-8- γ , γ -dimethylallyl-3-hydroxy-9-methoxypterocarpan (8- γ , γ -dimethylallylmedicalpin) [1].

Compound 2 (prostratol E), obtained as an oil, gave a $[M]^+$ at m/z 406 in the EI mass spectrum. The UV and the ¹H NMR (Table 1) spectral data showed that 2 also had a pterocarpan skeleton. The ¹H and ¹³CNMR spectrum (Table 1) exhibited the presence of a geranyl, methoxyl and hydroxyl group. The ¹H NMR spectrum further showed three protons in an ABX spin system $\delta 6.35 (d, J = 2.4 \text{ Hz}), 6.55 (dd, J = 8.3, 2.4 \text{ Hz}) \text{ and } 7.31$ (d, J = 8.3 Hz)] and two aromatic singlets ($\delta 6.44$ and 7.08), which were almost superimposable on those of 1. The positions of the geranyl and methoxyl groups were confirmed at C-8 and C-9 on the bases of NOEs (Fig. 5). In the ¹H-¹H long-range COSY spectrum (Fig. 6), the proton at C-11a was correlated with ortho-coupled H-1 $(\delta 7.31)$ and meta-coupled H-4 $(\delta 6.35)$ aromatic protons through ⁴J and ⁵J, respectively. Furthermore, a proton at C-6a was correlated with an aromatic singlet (δ 7.08) through ⁴J. These results suggested that the methoxyl and geranyl group were substituted on the D-ring. Nevertheless, ⁵J correlation was sometimes observed between a methoxyl and an adjacent aromatic proton (Fig. 6), which made it difficult to determine substitution only by long-range COSY. In the phase-sensitive NOESY spectrum (Fig. 5), NOEs were observed at H-6a and H-11a, the same as those in 1. Substitution was thus determined to be 8-geranyl-3-hydroxy-9-methoxyl. The optical rotation of 2 (see Experimental) showed that the configurations of C-6a and C-11a were both R. Consequently, the structure for prostratol E was concluded to be (6aR,

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Fig. 1. Partial structures for 1 deduced by ¹H NMR.

Fig. 2. NOEs observed in phase-sensitive NOESY of 1.

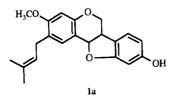


Fig. 3. Alternative structure for 1.

11aR)-8-geranyl-3-hydroxy-9-methoxypterocarpan (8-geranylmedicalpin).

Compound 7 (prostratol F) obtained as an oil gave a $[M]^+$ at m/z 392 in the EI mass spectrum. In the ¹H NMR spectrum, three protons at $\delta 2.71$ (dd, J=16.6, 2.9 Hz), 3.00 (dd, J=16.6, 12.7 Hz) and 5.45 (dd, J=12.7, 2.9 Hz) typically assignable to H-3 and H-2 of a flavanone skeleton, were observed. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral

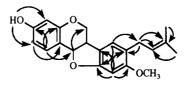


Fig. 4. Long-range correlations between C and H in HMBC spectrum (J = 10 Hz) of 1.

data (Table 2) exhibited the presence of a geranyl group. In the EI mass spectrum, the fragments at m/z 272, 203, 149 and 120, which were derived by RDA fragmentations, suggested that the geranyl and a hydroxyl group were located in the A-ring, and the second hydroxyl group in the B-ring. Furthermore, the ¹H NMR spectrum showed a set of one-proton doublets [δ 6.63 and 7.60 (J = 8.5 Hz)] due to H-6 and H-5 of the A-ring, and a set of two-proton doublets [δ 6.90 and 7.42 (J = 8.5 Hz)] assignable to those of the B-ring substituted with a hydroxyl group at C-4'. The configuration of C-2 was S from a consideration of the optical rotation (see Experimental). The structure of prostratol F was determined to be (2S)-8-geranyl-7,4'-dihydroxyflavanone (7).

Compound 10 (prostratol G), obtained as an oil, gave a [M]⁺ at m/z 460. The ¹H NMR spectrum showed a set of three protons [δ 2.68 (dd, J = 16.6, 2.9 Hz), 2.98 (dd, J = 16.6, 12.7 Hz) and 5.40 (dd, J = 12.7, 2.9 Hz)] assigned

Table 1. 1H and 13C NMR data of 1 and 2

Position	1		2	
	$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{ m c}$	$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{ m C}$
1	7.31 (d, 8.3)	133.0 (d)	7.31 (d, 8.3)	133.0 (d)
2	6.55 (dd, 8.3, 2.0)	110.0(d)	6.55 (dd, 8.3, 2.4)	110.4(d)
3		159.6 (s)		159.6 (s)
4	6.35(d, 2.0)	103.9(d)	6.35(d, 2.4)	103.9(d)
4a		157.7(s)		157.7 (s)
6	3.59(t, 9.8)	67.1(t)	3.59(m)	67.1(t)
	4.24 (dd, 9.8, 3.4)	. ,	4.25 (m)	
6a	3.55 (m)	40.7(d)	3.56 (m)	40.7(d)
6b	` '	119.1 (s)		119.1 (s)
7	7.06(s)	125.7(d)	7.08(s)	125.6(d)
8	` '	122.4(s)	` '	124.4 (s)
9		160.0(s)		159.9 (s)
10	6.43(s)	94.7(d)	6.44 (s)	94.7(d)
10a	.,	159.0(s)	. ,	159.1 (s)
11a	5.46 (d, 6.4)	79.1(d)	5.49 (d, 6.8)	79.1(d)
l1b	. , ,	113.0(s)	. , ,	112.9 (s)
1'	3.22(d, 6.6)	28.9(t)	3.19 (dd, 17.1, 7.6)	28.7(t)
	, ,	. ,	3.26 (dd, 17.1, 7.6)	
2'	5.26 (t-like m)	124.3(d)	$5.29 (br \ t, 7.6)$	124.1(d)
3'	, ,	131.8 (s)	, , ,	135.7 (s)
4'	$1.70 (br \ s)$	25.9(q)	2.10(m)	40.5(t)
5′	$1.70 (br \ s)$	17.8 (q)	$1.71 (br \ s)$	16.1(q)
6'	` '	. 17	2.10 (m)	27.3(t)
7′			5.12 (t-like m)	125.1(d)
8'			` ,	132.0 (s)
9'			$1.66 (br \ s)$	25.8(q)
10'			$1.59 (br \ s)$	17.7(q)
OMe	3.77 (s)	55.9(q)	3.79 (s)	55.9 (q)
ОН	8.48 (s)	. 17	$8.53 (br \ s)$	(1)

Measured in acetone- d_6 (100 MHz). All carbons of 1 were assigned by the aid of CHCOSY, HMBC spectrum.

Carbons of 2 were assigned by comparison with those of 1. Multiplicities and J are given in parentheses.

Fig. 5. NOEs of 2 observed in phase-sensitive NOESY of 2.

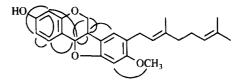


Fig. 6. Correlations in ¹H-¹H long range COSY spectrum of **2** (PI1 300 ms).

to H-3 and H-2 of a flavanone skeleton. The ¹H NMR also showed the presence of three γ,γ -dimethylallyls [δ 1.63 (9H, Me × 3), 1.71, 1.72, 1.75 (each 3H, Me), 3.33–3.40 (6H, CH₂ × 3) and 5.30, 5.33, 5.35 (CH=)] and two hydroxyl groups [δ 8.00 and 8.39]. In the EI mass spectrum, significant fragments at m/z 272, 188 and 133 were observed, indicating that two γ,γ -dimethylallyl groups and a hydroxyl were substituted at the A-ring, with the other γ,γ -dimethylallyl group and a hydroxyl on the B-ring. In the ¹H NMR spectrum, an aromatic singlet at δ 7.49 and three protons in an ABM spin system [δ 6.88

(d, J=8.3 Hz), 7.20 (dd, J=8.3, 2.2 Hz) and 7.30 (d, J=2.2 Hz)] were observed. These data indicated that the A-ring moiety had a 6,8-di- γ , γ -dimethylallyl-7-hydroxy substitution, the B-ring, 3'- γ , γ -dimethylallyl-4'-hydroxy. The structure of prostratol G was therefore determined to be 7,4'-dihydroxy-6,8,3'-tri(γ , γ -dimethylallyl)flavanone (7).

Compounds 3-6 were all pterocarpan derivatives and characterized as maackiain (3), isoneorautenol (4) [19], ficifolinol (5) [20] and erythrabyssin II (6) [21] by means of spectral analysis. NMR spectra of 8 and 9, obtained as

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Table 2. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data of flavanone 7

Position	$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{ m C}$
2	5.45 (dd, 12.7, 2.9)	80.3
3eq	2.71 (dd, 16.6, 2.9)	44.6
3ax	3.00 (dd, 16.6, 12.7)	
4		190.9
5	7.60 (d, 8.5)	131.6 ^t
6	6.63 (d, 8.5)	110.4
7		162.2
8		115.4
9		162.0
10		116.6
1'		126.3
2',6'	7.42 (d, 8.5)	128.8
3',5'	6.90(d, 8.5)	116.1
4'		158.5
1"	3.36 (d, 6.8)	22.7
2"	5.26 (t-like m)	123.1
3"		135.4
4"	1.94(m)	40.5
5"	$1.64 (br \ s)^a$	16.5
6"	2.05(m)	27.4
7"	5.07 (t-like m)	125.1
8′′ .		131.6 ^t
9"	$1.60 (br \ s)^{a}$	25.8
10′′	$1.55 (br \ s)$	17.7
ОН	8.45 (C-4')	
	9.21 (C-7)	

Measured in acetone- d_6 .

oils suggested that both were flavanone derivatives possessing two γ,γ -dimethylallyl groups; they were identified as glabrol and 3-hydroxyglabrol [22], respectively. Compounds 11–13 were chalcone derivatives and identified as $3'-\gamma,\gamma$ -dimethylallyl-4,2',4'-trihydroxychalcone (11), $3'-\gamma,\gamma$ -dimethylallyl-4,2'-dihydroxy-4'-methoxychalcone (12) and 4,2'-dihydroxy-6",6"-dimethylpyrano[2", 3'':4',3']-chalcone (13). Compound 14 was identified as caffeic acid octadecyl ester by means of spectral analysis.

EXPERIMENTAL

Plant material and extraction. As described in our previous paper [14].

Isolation. The Me₂CO extract (15 g) was subjected to CC on silica gel eluting with n-hexane-Me₂CO (10:1 to 1:1). The fr. (9:1) was subjected VLC with n-hexane-EtOH (10:1) to give 1 (29 mg), 2, (20 mg) and 14 (8 mg). The fr. (7:1) was further purified by VLC with n-hexane-EtOH (10:1) and finally by prep. TLC with cyclohexane-Me₂CO-EtOH (10:2:1) to give 4 (10 mg), 5 (11 mg), 10 (3 mg), 12 (9 mg) and 13 (7 mg). The fr. (5:1) gave 3 (10 mg) and 6 (12 mg) by VLC eluted with n-hexane-EtOH (10:1). The fr. (3:1) was subjected to VLC (CHCl₃-MeOH₃, 20:1) and prep. TLC (cyclohexane-Me₂CO-EtOH, 8:2:1) to give 7 (5 mg), 8 (6 mg), 9 (4 mg) and 11 (6 mg), respectively.

Prostratol D (1). Oil. $[\alpha]_D - 186^\circ$ (MeOH; *c* 0.5). UV (nm, MeOH): 280sh, 288, 295sh, 313, 325sh. EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 338 ([M]⁺, 100), 323 (23), 307 (59), 147 (24), 123 (31). 1 H and 13 C NMR: Table 1.

Prostratol E (2). Oil. $[\alpha]_D - 170^\circ$ (MeOH; *c* 0.18). UV (nm, MeOH): 280sh, 287, 295sh, 313, 325sh. EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 406 ($[M]^+$, 60), 390 (14), 307 (100), 283 (17), 149 (21), 147 (19), 124 (28).

Isoneorautenol (4). Solid. EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 322 ([M]⁺, 47), 307 (100), 153 (16). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ1.36, 1.37 (3H each, s, Me), 3.60 (2H, m, H-6 and 6a), 4.25 (1H, d-like m, H-6), 5.49 (1H, d, J = 5.5 Hz, H-11a), 5.52 (1H, br d, J = 9.8 Hz, H-5'), 6.19 (1H, br s, H-10), 6.32 (1H, br d, J = 9.8 Hz, H-4'), 6.35 (1H, d, J = 2.0 Hz, H-4), 6.55 (1H, dd, J = 8.3, 2.0 Hz, H-2), 7.01 (1H, br s, H-7), 7.30 (1H, d, J = 8.3 Hz, H-1), 8.25 (1H, br s, OH).

Ficifolinol (5) Solid. EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 392 ([M]⁺, 100), 337 (44). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ 1.71, 1.73 (6H each, br s, Me × 2), 3.25 (4H, m, CH₂ × 2, H-1' and 1"), 3.48 (2H, m, H-6 and 6a), 4.20 (1H, d-like m, H-6), 5.31 (2H, m, CH= × 2, H-2' and 2"), 5.39 (1H, d, J = 6.6 Hz, H-11a), 6.32 (1H, s, H-10), 6.38 (1H, s, H-4), 7.02 (1H, br s, H-7), 7.16 (1H, br s, H-1), 8.23, 8.49 (1H each, br s, OH).

Prostratol F (7). Oil. [α]_D -42° (MeOH; c 0.05). EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 392 ([M] $^{+}$, 12), 377 (5), 354 (38), 349 (7), 323 (14), 307 (8) 281 (7), 273 (8), 272 (10), 271 (11) 270 (23), 269 (17), 229 (8), 218 (21), 203 (100), 187 (8), 149 (29), 137 (8), 123 (22), 120 (16). 1 H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ1.58, 1.66, 1.74 (3H each, br s, Me H-5", 9" and 10"), 1.94, 2.05 (2H each, m, CH₂CH₂, H-4" and 6"), 2.71 (1H, dd, J = 16.6, 2.9 Hz, H-3eq), 3.00 (1H, dd, J = 16.6, 12.7 Hz, H-3ax), 3.36 (2H, d, J = 6.8 Hz, CH₂, H-1"), 5.07 (1H, t-like m, CH =, H-7"), 5.26 (1H, t-like m, CH =, H-2"), 5.45 (1H, dd, J = 12.7, 2.9 Hz, H-2), 6.63 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H-6), 6.90 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H-3', 5'), 7.42 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H-2', 6'), 7.60 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H-5), 8.45, 9.21 (1H each, br s, OH). 1 H and 13 C NMR: Table 2.

7,4'-Dihydroxy-8,3'-di(γ , γ -dimethylallyl)flavanonol (9). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.66, 1.69 (3H each, br s, Me), 1.77 (6H, s, Me × 2), 3.37 (4H, m, CH₂ × 2, H-1" and 1""), 4.54 (1H, d, J = 12 Hz, H-3), 4.98 (1H, d, J = 12 Hz, H-2), 5.22 (1H, t-like m, CH =, H-2"), 5.34 (1H, t-like m, CH =, H-2"), 6.54 (1H, d, J = 9 Hz, H-6), 6.83 (1H, d, J = 9 Hz, H-5'), 7.28 (2H, m, H-2' and 6'), 7.70 (1H, d, J = 9 Hz, H-5).

Prostratol G (10). Oil. EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 460 ([M]⁺, 100), 445 (12), 417 (45), 405 (26), 272 (25), 217 (40), 188 (52), 173 (50), 171 (55), 133 (56). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ1.63 (9H, br s, Me × 3), 1.71, 1.72, 1.75 (3H each, br s, Me), 2.68 (1H, dd, J = 16.6, 2.9 Hz, H-3eq), 2.98 (1H, dd, J = 16.6, 12.7 Hz, H-3ax), 3.33–3.40 (6H, m, CH₂ × 3, H-1", 1"' and 1"''), 5.30 (1H, t-like m, CH =, H-2"'), 5.33, 5.35 (1H each, m, CH=, H-2" and 2"''), 5.40 (1H, dd, J = 12.6, 2.9 Hz, H-2), 6.88 (1H, d, J = 8.3 Hz, H-6'), 7.20 (1H, d, J = 8.3, 2.2 Hz, H-6'), 7.30 (1H, d, J = 2.2 Hz, H-2'), 7.49 (1H, s, H-5), 8.00, 8.39 (1H each br s, OH).

Isobavachalcone (11). Yellow solid. EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 324 ([M]⁺, 71), 309 (7), 281 (77), 269 (23), 205 (10), 204 (13), 189 (19), 176 (29), 161 (44), 149 (100), 147 (10), 120

^aInterchangeable.

bOverlapped.

(31), 91 (20), 77 (11). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.77, 1.84 (3H each, br s, Me, H-4", 5"), 3.48 (2H, br d, J = 7.3 Hz, CH₂, H-1"), 5.30 (1H, t-like m, CH =, H-2"), 6.42 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, H-5'), 6.88 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz, H-3, 5), 7.46 (1H, d, J = 15.4 Hz, H- α), 7.57 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz, H-2 and 6), 7.72 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, H-6'), 7.84 (1H, d, J = 15.4 Hz, H- β), 13.86 (1H, s, C-2'-OH).

Bavachalcone (12). Yellow solids. EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 338 ([M]⁺, 80), 323 (12), 295 (100), 284 (28), 283 (35), 282 (25), 253 (9), 218 (9), 203 (22), 190 (15), 189 (17), 175 (20), 163 (42), 147 (36), 120 (9), 119 (10), 91 (15). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ1.68, 1.80 (3H each, br s, Me, H-4", 5"), 3.39 (2H, br d, J = 7.3 Hz, CH₂, H-1"), 3.91 (3H, s, OMe), 5.23 (1H, t-like m, CH =, H-2"), 6.50 (1H, d, J = 9.0 Hz, H-5"), 6.88 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H-3, 5), 7.48 (1H, d, J = 15.4 Hz, H-α), 7.57 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H-2, 6), 7.79 (1H, d, J = 90 Hz, H-6'), 7.84 (1H, d, J = 15.4 Hz, H-β, 13.44 (1H, s, C-2'-OH).

4,2'-Dihydroxy-6",6"-dimethylpyrano [2",3":4',3'] chalcone (13). Yellow solid. EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 322 ([M]⁺, 22), 307 (56), 187 (100). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 1.47 (6H, s, Me × 2), 5.59 (1H, d, J = 9.6 Hz, H-5"), 6.37 (1H, d, J = 9.5 Hz, H-5"), 6.75 (1H, d, J = 9.6 Hz, H-4"), 6.88 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, H-3, 5) 7.43 (1H, d, J = 15.5 Hz, H- α), 7.56 (2H, d, J = 8.8 Hz, H-2, 6), 7.71 (1H, d, J = 9.5 Hz, H-6'), 7.83 (1H, d, J = 15.5 Hz, H- β), 13.76 (1H, s, C-2'-OH).

Caffeic acid octadecyl ester (14). Solid. EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 432 ([M]⁺, 80), 180 (100), 163 (61). ¹H NMR (270 MHz, acetone- d_6): δ 0.80 (3H, t-like m, Me), 1.30 (br s, CH₂), 4.14 (2H, t, J = 6.6 Hz, OCH₂), 6.27 (1H, d, J = 16.1 Hz, H-8), 6.87 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, H-5), 7.04 (1H, dd, J = 8.1, 1.8 Hz, H-6), 7.15 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz, H-2), 7.35 (1H, d, J = 16.1 Hz, H-7), 8.18, 1.46 (1H each, br s, OH).

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