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Nor-lignan and sesquiterpenes from Cremanthodium ellisii

Bao-Ning Su, Qi-Xiu Zhu, Zhong-Jian Jia*

Department of Chemistry, National Laboratory of Applied Organic Chemistry, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730000, People's Republic of China

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Abstract

A nor-lignan and two sesquiterpenes, along with six known compounds, have been isolated from the medicinal plant *Cremanthodium ellisii*. Their structures were determined on the basis of spectral evidence, especially 2D NMR (¹H–¹H COSY, HMQC, HMBC). © 2000 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Cremanthodium ellisii; Compositae; Nor-lignan; Sesquiterpene

1. Introduction

About 47 species of the genus *Cremanthodium* (Compositae) are distributed in China, especially in the northwest and southwest regions (most of the genus *Cremanthodium* grow at an elevation of 3500–5000 m) (Northwestern Plant Institute of Botany, 1985). Some *Cremanthodium* plants like the title species have been used in traditional Tibetan medicine for anti-inflammation, detoxication and relief of pain since ancient times (Northwestern Plateau Institute of Biology, 1991).

Up to now, only the chemical constituents of *Cremanthodium ellisii* kitam collected in Zhang County, Gansu province of China have been reported (Chen, Zhu, Shen & Jia, 1996). In this paper, we report the isolation and structural elucidation of three new compounds, (-)-4'-O-methyl-nyasol (1), 2β , 3β -epoxy-4-acetyl- 5α ,8,10,-triisobutyryl-1,11-dihydroxy bisabolene (2) and 4α -acetyl- 2β , 5α ,8-triisobutyryl- 1β , 3α ,10,11-tetrahydroxybisabolene (3), as well as six known compounds, 4α -acetyl- 2β -angeloyl- 5α ,8-diisobutyryl- 1β , 3α ,10,11-tetrahydroxybisabolene (4), 4α -acetyl- 2β -angeloyl- 5α ,10-diisobutyryl- 1β , 3α ,8,11-tetrahydroxybisabolene (5), sitosterol (6), 7α -hydroxysitosterol (7),

2. Results and discussion

 4α -acetyl- 2β -angeloyl- 5α ,8-diisobutyryl- 1β ,3 α ,10,11-tetrahydroxybisabolene (4) (Chen et al., 1996), 4α -acetyl- 2β -angeloyl- 5α ,10-diisobutyryl- 1β ,3 α ,8,11-tetrahydroxybisabolene (5) (Chen et al., 1996), sitosterol (6) (Greca, Monaco & Previtera, 1990), 7α -hydroxy sitosterol (7) (Greca et al., 1990), apigenin 7- α -L-rhamnosyl-(1''' \rightarrow 6'')- β -D-glucopyranoside (8) (Kikuchi & Yamauchi, 1985) and luteolin 7- α -L-rhamnosyl-(1''' \rightarrow 6'')- β -D-glucopyranoside (9) (Imperato, 1994) were identified by comparison of their spectral data (EI and FAB mass spectra, 1 H, 13 C NMR and DEPT) with those published in the literature.

Compound 1 was obtained as a colorless gum; its HR-EIMS m/z 266.1284) indicated a molecular formula of $C_{18}H_{18}O_2$. The ¹H NMR spectrum of compound 1 showed the presence of two *p*-substituted aromatic rings at δ 6.76 (2H, d, J = 8.4 Hz, H-3", H-

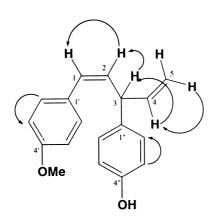
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apigenin 7- α -L-rhamnosyl-(1''' \rightarrow 6'')- β -D-glucopyranoside (8), and luteolin 7- α -L-rhamnosyl-(1''' \rightarrow 6'')- β -D-glucopyranoside (9), which have been isolated by silica gel column chromatography, polyamide column chromatography, PTLC and HPLC from the MeOH extracts of *C. ellisii* collected from a different region of China (Huzhu County, Qinghai province).

^{*} Corresponding author.

5''), 6.89 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H-3', H-5'), 7.04 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H-2'', H-6'', 7.23 (2H, d, J = 8.5 Hz,H-2', H-6'), two pairs of double bonds at δ 6.50 (1H, d, J = 11.4 Hz, H-1, 5.70 (1H, t, J = 11.4 Hz, H-2),6.00 (1H, ddd, J = 17.6, 11.4, 6.0 Hz, H-4), 5.15-5.19(2H, m, H-5), a methine proton signal at δ 4.48 (1H, m, H-3) and a methoxy group at δ 3.77 (3H, s, MeO). The above results were confirmed by ¹³C NMR and DEPT spectral data: two p-substituted aromatic rings (δ 129.8, C-1', 129.8, C-2', C-6', 113.6, C-3', C-5', 158.5, C-4'; 135.6, C-1'', 128.8, C-2'', C-6'', 115.3, C- $3^{\prime\prime}$, C-5 $^{\prime\prime}$, 154.0, C-4 $^{\prime\prime}$), two pairs of double bonds (δ 128.6, C-1, 131.6, C-2; 140.7, C-4, 115.0, C-5), a methoxy at δ 55.2 and a methine signal at δ 46.8. DEPT spectrum indicated that C-5 was a methylene carbon, consequently C-4 and C-5 was a terminal double bond. The ¹H NMR signal of H-1 was a doublet, indicating that C-1 was connected with an aromatic carbon. From the above results, the skeleton of 1 was as shown, confirmed by ¹H–¹H COSY spectral analysis (Scheme 1).

The ¹³C NMR signal of C-1' was overlapped by other carbon signals when CDCl₃ was used as a solvent (δ 129.8, C-1', C-2', C-6'); however, it was separated when CD_3COCD_3 was used as a solvent (δ 130.3, C-1', 130.6, C-2', C-6'). For determining positions of methoxyl and hydroxyl groups, HMQC and HMBC spectra were obtained. The HMBC correlations of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.77 (OMe) with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 159.6 (C-4'), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.23 (H-2', H-6') with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 159.6 (C-4') and 130.3 (C-1'), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.50 (H-1) with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 130.3 (C-1'); $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.48 (H-3) with δ 134.7 (C-1''), 142.2 (C-4) and 132.5 (C-2), δ_H 7.04 (H-2", H-6") with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 156.8 (C-4"), suggested that the methoxyl and hydroxyl groups were connected to C-4' and C-4", respectively. H-1 and H-2 must be cis according to their coupling constant $(J_{7/8} = 11.4 \text{ Hz})$ (Marini-Bettolo, Nicoletti, Messana, Galeffi, Msonthi & Chapya, 1985; Tsui & Brown, 1996). Hinokiresinol (Hirose, Oishi, Nagaki & Nakatsuka, 1965; Enzell, Hirose & Thomas, 1967; Enzell, Tomas & Wahlberg, 1967) was reported



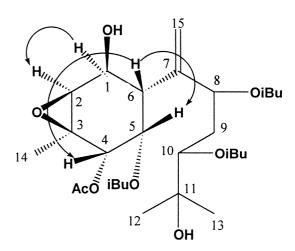
Scheme 1. ¹H-¹H COSY corrrelations of 1.

as having *trans*-stereochemistry at the 1,2-double bond, and nyasol (Marini-Bettolo et al., 1985; Tsui & Brown, 1996) was reported as its *cis*-isomer. Thus, the structure of compound 1 was determined as (–)-4'-O-methyl-nyasol.

Compound 2 was obtained as a colorless gum. The ¹³C NMR spectrum of 2 showed the presence of three isobutyryl groups [δ 175.0, 176.4, 176.2 (CO), 33.8, 33.9, 34.1 (CH), 18.6, 18.7, 18.8, 18.9, 19.0, 19.2 (CH₃)] and an acetyl group (δ 170.0, 20.4). Excluding the four ester groups, the ¹³C NMR and DEPT spectra exhibited 15 carbon signals, including three methyls, two methylenes (δ 34.6 and one olefinic carbon at δ 116.2), seven methines (six oxygenated at δ 66.7, 62.6, 71.5, 70.0, 73.5, 74.9), and three quaternary carbons (two oxygenated at δ 57.2, 72.4, one olefinic carbon at δ 141.9). The EI mass spectrum of 2 gave a molecular ion peak at m/z 500 [M]⁺ and an obvious [M-H₂O]⁺ ion peak at m/z 482. Combining the ¹³C NMR data analysis and ¹H NMR data suggested the molecular formula of 2 was $C_{29}H_{46}O_{11}$.

The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data of **2** were similar to those of four known sesquiterpene polyalcohols (Chen et al., 1996). However, the chemical shift values of C-2 (δ 62.6) and C-3 (δ 57.2) in compound **2** showed significant upfield shift, suggesting there was an epoxy between C-2 and C-3; this was confirmed by analysis of an HMBC experiment.

In the HMBC spectrum of **2**, correlations of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.57 (H-1) with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 62.6 (C-2), 57.2 (C-3) and 70.0 (C-5), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.96 (H-4) with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 170.0 (Ac) and 70.0 (C-5), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.22 (H-5), 4.72 (H-8), 5.48 (H-10) with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 175.0, 176.4, 176.2 (CO), confirmed the positions of epoxy and four ester groups. The relative stereochemistry of **2** was determined on the basis of the coupling constants (see Table 2) of H-1, H-2, H-4, H-5, H-6 and correlations of the NOESY spectrum. Thus, compound **2** was

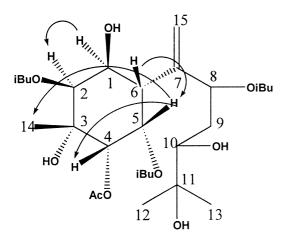


Scheme 2. NOESY correlations of compound 2.

determined to be 2β , 3β -epoxy- 4α -acetyl- 5α , 8, 10-triisobutyryl-1, 11-dihydroxybisabolene (Scheme 2).

Compound 3, was obtained as a colorless gum; its EI mass spectrum gave an $[M-H_2O]^+$ ion peak at m/z500, suggesting the molecular formula to be C₂₉H₄₈O₁₂, which was confirmed by ¹H NMR (see Table 2), ¹³C NMR and DEPT spectral data (see Table 3). The ¹³C NMR spectrum of 3 showed the presence of three isobutyryl groups [δ 175.2, 176.4, 176.9 (CO), 34.2, 34.2, 34.3 (CH), 18.6, 18.9, 19.0, 19.1, 19.2, 19.4 (CH₃)] and an acetyl group (δ 169.8, 20.6). Excluding these four ester groups, the ¹³C NMR and DEPT spectra exhibited 15 carbons, including three methyls (δ 22.8, 23.2, 25.9), two methylenes (δ 35.5 and one olefinic carbon at δ 118.2), seven methines (six oxygenated at δ 65.6, 76.1, 71.7, 70.4, 77.5, 75.0), and three quaternary carbons (two oxygenated at δ 74.0, 72.6, one olefinic carbon at δ 141.1). The ¹H NMR spectrum also showed the presence of six oxymethine protons at δ 4.60 (1H, dd, J = 11.6, 2.5 Hz, H-1), 5.36 (1H, d, J = 2.9 Hz, H-2), 4.98 (1H, d, J =3.6 Hz, H-4), 5.56 (1H, t, J = 3.2 Hz, H-5), 5.34 (1H, t, J = 6.2 Hz, H--8, 3.34 (1H, br d, J = 9.6 Hz, H--10); a methine proton at δ 2.97 (1H, dd, J = 11.6, 2.5Hz, H-6) and two terminal double bond protons at δ 5.24 (1H, s, H-15) and 5.45 (1H, s, H-15). The 1 H and ¹³C NMR spectral data of 3 were also very similar to those reported for four sesquiterpene polyalcohols (Chen et al., 1996); 3 was thus assumed to be a monocyclic sesquitepenoid.

The 1 H and 13 C NMR data were assigned on the basis of 1 H $^{-1}$ H COSY, HMBC and HMQC spectral analysis. In the HMBC spectrum of **3**, correlations of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.36 (H-2) with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 175.2 (isobutyryl-CO), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.98 (H-4) with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 169.8 (acetyl-CO), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.56 (H-5) with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 176.4 (isobutyryl-CO), and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.34 (H-8) with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 176.9 (isobutyryl-CO), suggested that the acetyl was connected with C-4 and three isobutyryls were connected



Scheme 3. NOESY correlations of compound 3.

with C-2, C-5 and C-8. The relative stereochemistry was determined by NOESY experiment and from analysis of the coupling constants of H-1, H-2, H-4, H-5 and H-6 (see Table 2). Thus compound 3 was identified as 4α -acetyl- 2β , 5α , 8-triisobutyryl- 1β , 3α , 10, 11-tetrahydroxybisabolene (Scheme 3).

3. Experimental

3.1. General apparatus

IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet-170 SX spectrometer, NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM 400 spectrometer and mass spectra on a ZAB-HS instrument. Optical rotation was measured with a JASCO-20C auto recording polarimeter. HPLC was performed on a Gilson-Model 116 equipped with Whatman partisil 10 ODS C_{18} (9 × 250 mm) column. Silica gel (200–300 mesh) was used for column chromatography.

3.2. Plant material

The whole plants of *Cremanthodium ellisii* Kitam were collected in Huzhu county, Qinghai province of China in August 1994, and identified by Prof. Zhang Guo-liang of Lanzhou University. A voucher specimen (PV-005) has been preserved at the Herbarium of our Institute of Organic Chemistry.

Table 1 1 H 13 C NMR and DEPT spectral data of 1 (δ , ppm, 400 MHz for 1 H NMR, 100 MHz for 13 C NMR)^a

	CD ₃ COCI	O_3		$CDCl_3$		
	$\delta_{ m C}$	DEPT	$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{ m C}$	DEPT	$\delta_{ m H},$
1	128.9	СН	6.50 (<i>d</i> , 11.4)	128.6	СН	6.53 (d, 11.4)
2	132.5	CH	5.70 (t, 11.4)	131.6	CH	5.67 (t, 11.4)
3	47.8	CH	4.48 (m)	46.8	CH	4.51 (m)
4	142.2	CH	6.00 (ddd, 17.6, 11.4, 6.0)	140.7	CH	6.01 (<i>ddd</i> , 17.6, 11.4, 6.0)
5	114.6	CH_2	5.15-5.19 (<i>m</i>)	115.0	CH	5.65-5.70 (<i>m</i>)
1'	130.3	C	` ^	129.8	C	, í
2', 6'	130.6	CH	7.23 (d, 8.5)	129.8	CH	7.22 (d, 8.5)
3', 5'	114.4	CH	6.89 (d, 8.5)	113.6	CH	6.86 (d, 8.5)
4'	159.6	C		158.5	C	, , ,
1''	134.7	C		135.6	C	
2'', 6''	129.3	CH	7.04 (d, 8.5)	128.8	CH	7.10 (d, 8.5)
3'', 5''	116.1	CH	6.76 (d, 8.5)	115.3	CH	6.77 (d, 8.5)
4′′	156.8	C		154.0	C	•
MeO	55.4	CH_3	3.77 (s)	55.2	CH_3	3.81 (s)

^a TMS as internal standard.

3.3. Extraction and isolation of compounds

The air-dried, powered whole plants (7.5 kg) of *C. ellisii* Kitam were extracted three times (each for a week) with MeOH at room temperature. After concentration of the combined extracts under reduced pressure, the extract (340 g) was chromatographed over a silica gel column and eluted with petroleum ether—Me₂CO (from 20:1 to 2:1), then with MeOH; five fractions were obtained. Fraction 1 (petroleum ether—Me₂CO, 10:1) was chromatographed over silica gel and eluted with petroleum ether—EtOAc (6:1), yielding

compound **6** (200 mg). Fraction 2 (petroleum ether—Me₂CO, 8:1) was chromatographed over silica gel and eluted with petroleum ether—Me₂CO (6:1), yielding compound **7** (20 mg). Fraction 3 (petroleum ether—Me₂CO, 6:1) was rechromatographed over silica gel and eluted with petroleum ether—Me₂CO (4:1), yielding compound **1** (30 mg). Fraction 4 (petroleum ether—Me₂CO, 3:1) was chromatographed over silica gel and eluted with petroleum ether—EtOAc (4:1), yielding two mixtures (A and B). The mixtures were separated by HPLC (reversephase column, H₂O—MeOH, 1:3); compounds **2** (20 mg) and **3** (25 mg), **4** (20 mg) and **5** (60

Table 2 1 H NMR spectral data of compounds **2–5** (CDCl₃, δ , ppm, 400 MHz, TMS)

	2	3	4	5
H-1	4.57 (dd, 11.6, 4.0)	4.60 (dd, 11.6, 2.9)	4.56 (dd, 11.6, 2.7)	4.65 (dd, 11.6, 2.6)
2	2.97 (d, 4.0)	5.36 (d, 2.9)	5.47 (d, 2.7)	5.49 (d, 2.6)
4	4.96 (d, 3.5)	4.98 (d, 3.5)	5.08 (d, 2.8)	4.98 (d, 3.6)
5	5.22 (dd, 3.5, 2.7)	5.56 (t, 3.5)	5.53 (m)	5.54 (m)
6	3.00 (dd, 11.6, 2.7)	2.97 (dd, 11.6, 3.5)	3.03 (br d, 11.6)	3.01 (br d, 11.6)
8	4.72 (d, 9.2)	5.34 (t, 6.2)	4.93 (dd, 9.2, 2.8)	3.34 (br d, 9.2)
9	1.67 (m)	1.63–1.65 (<i>m</i>)	1.65 (m)	1.57-1.65 (m)
9'	1.83–1.89 (<i>m</i>)	1.85–1.89 (<i>m</i>)	1.95 (m)	$1.81-1.88 \ (m)$
10	5.48 (t, 3.6)	3.34 (br d, 9.6)	4.04 (br d, 9.6)	5.37 (t, 6.8)
12	$1.09-1.22 \ (m)$	$1.05-1.21 \ (m)$	$1.13-1.26 \ (m)$	$1.10-1.20 \ (m)$
13	$1.09-1.22 \ (m)$	1.05–1.21 (<i>m</i>)	1.13–1.26 (<i>m</i>)	$1.10-1.20 \ (m)$
14	$1.09-1.22 \ (m)$	$1.05-1.21 \ (m)$	$1.13-1.26 \ (m)$	$1.10-1.20 \ (m)$
15	5.10 (s)	5.24 (s)	5.09(s)	5.23 (s)
15'	5.31 (s)	5.45 (s)	5.26 (s)	5.46 (s)
Isobutyryl				
CH	2.53–2.66 (<i>m</i>)	2.54-2.69 (m)	2.55–2.64 (<i>m</i>)	2.53-2.63 (m)
CH_3	1.09-1.22	1.05-1.21	1.13-1.26	1.10-1.20
OAc	2.05(s)	2.05(s)	2.05(s)	2.04 (s)
Angeloyl				
CH ₃			1.13-1.26	1.10-1.20
CH			6.14 (dq, 7.2, 1.5)	6.13 (dq, 7.2, 1.5)

Table 3 ^{13}C NMR and DEPT spectral data of compounds 2–5 (3, ppm, TMS, CDCl3, 100 MHz)

	2	3	4	3
_	66.7(CH)	65.6(CH)	65.2(CH)	65.5(CH)
2	62.6(CH)	76.1(CH)	76.2(CH)	76.1(CH)
3	57.2(C)	74.0(C)	74.3(C)	74.1(C)
4	71.5(CH)	71.7(CH)	71.7(CH)	71.7(CH)
5	70.0(CH)	70.4(CH)	71.5(CH)	70.4(CH)
9	43.6(CH)	40.8(CH)	41.6(CH)	40.9(CH)
7	141.9(C)	141.1(C)	145.6(C)	141.1(C)
8	73.5(CH)	77.5(CH)	76.7(CH)	74.9(CH)
6	$34.6(CH_2)$	35.5(CH ₂)	35.5(CH ₂)	35.4(CH ₂)
10	74.9(CH)	75.0(CH)	71.4(CH)	77.3(CH)
11	72.4(C)	72.6(C)	72.0(C)	72.6(C)
12	25.9(CH ₃)	23.2(CH ₃)	25.8(CH ₃)	22.8(CH ₃)
13	26.1(CH ₃)	25.9(CH ₃)	$25.8(CH_3)$	25.8(CH ₃)
14	23.9(CH ₃)	22.8(CH ₃)	$22.9(CH_3)$	23.1(CH ₃)
15	$116.2(CH_2)$	$118.2(CH_2)$	114.2(CH ₃)	118.1(CH ₃)
OAc	170.0, 20.4	169.8, 20.6		
Isobutyryl	175.0, 176.4, 176.2; 33.8, 33.9,	175.2, 176.4, 176.9; 34.2, 34.2,	177.7, 176.0; 34.2,	176.7, 175.2; 34.1,
	34.1; 18.6, 18.7, 18.8, 18.9, 19.0,	34.3; 18.6, 18.9, 19.0, 19.1, 19.2,	34.2; 18.6, 18.8, 19.0,	34.1; 18.5, 18.9, 19.0,
	19.2	19.4	19.2	19.1
Angeloyl			167.1, 139.3, 127.2,	167.0, 139.1, 127.2,
			20.5, 15.9	20.5, 15.8

mg) were obtained, Fraction 5 (MeOH) was chromatographed over a polyamide column and eluted with H₂O–MeOH (3:1), yielding compounds **8** (100 mg) and **9** (150 mg).

3.4. (-)-4'-O-methyl-nyasol (1)

(–)-4'-O-methyl-nyasol (1), obtained as a colorless gum; $[\alpha]_D^{25}-42.2^\circ$ (c 0.64, CHCl₃), IR (KBr): 3600, 3400, 2959, 2867, 1717, 1664, 1465, 1379, 1056, 953 cm⁻¹; UV (CHCl₃) (log ε): 244.0 (4.78), 284.7 (4.23) nm; EIMS: m/z (%) 266 [M]⁺ (45), 251 (13), 223 (8), 196 (40), 181 (27), 158 (24), 149 (100), 121 (22), 107 (22), 91 (18), 77 (26), 57 (44); HR-EIMS: m/z 266.1284 (Calcd. for C₁₈H₁₈O₂, 266.1307); ¹H, ¹³C NMR and DEPT spectral data: see Table 1.

3.5. 2β , 3β -epoxy-4-acetyl- 5α , 8, 10-triisobutyryl-1, 11-didydroxybisabolene (2)

2β,3β-epoxy-4-acetyl-5α,8,10-triisobutyryl-1,11-didydroxybisabolene (**2**), obtained as a colorless gum; $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 68.4^{\circ}$ (*c* 0.25, CHCl₃); IR (KBr): 3479, 3075, 2976, 2935, 2878, 1716, 1644, 1386, 1358, 1228, 1202 cm⁻¹, EIMS m/z (%) 482 [M-H₂O]⁺ (1.9), 464 (1.5), 441 (1.8), 424 (1.2), 397 (1.5), 353 (1.5), 335 (1.3), 293 (1.2), 288 (1.0), 265 (2.3), 264 (2.3), 263 (1.3), 258 (1.4), 249 (1.9), 247 (3.8), 246 (5.5), 239 (1.7), 231 (2.8), 223 (2.0), 221 (3.0), 195 (2.0), 188 (6.5), 178 (6.8), 161 (7.0), 149 (5.3), 141 (4.4), 135 (5.4), 123 (20), 97 (6.1), 86 (28), 84 (36), 71 (80), 59 (17), 43 (100); ¹H NMR spectral data: see Table 2; ¹³C NMR spectral data: see Table 3.

3.6. 4α -acetyl- 2β , 5α ,8-triisobutyryl- 1β , 3α ,10,11-tetrahydroxybisabolene (3)

 4α -acetyl- 2β , 5α ,8-triisobutyryl- 1β , 3α ,10,11-tetrahydroxybisabolene (3), obtained as a colorless gum;

 $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 47.4^{\circ}$ (*c* 0.28, CHCl₃), IR (KBr): 3482, 3088, 2974, 2927, 1727, 1649, 1467, 1375, 1229, 1152, 1058 cm⁻¹, EIMS: m/z (%) 500 [M-H₂O]⁺ (1.2), 441 (4.7), 424 (2.9), 423 (2.1), 397 (2.0), 353 (4.8), 335 (2.1), 275 (1.4), 265 (4.0), 247 (4.5), 239 (3.0), 223 (4.9), 221 (3.7), 205 (16), 179 (11), 177 (13), 161 (10), 151 (6.3), 141 (13), 133 (5.8), 123 (13), 107 (5.8), 97 (18), 83 (53), 71 (100), 59 (22), 43 (67). ¹H NMR spectral: data see Table 2. ¹³C NMR spectral data: see Table 3.

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