

Terpenoids from *Dysoxylum densiflorum*

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ABSTRACT

Three degraded limonoids, dysodensiols A–C (**1–3**), and three sesquiterpenoids, dysodensiols D–F (**4–6**), along with 17 known compounds, were isolated from the twigs and leaves of *Dysoxylum densiflorum*. The structures of compounds **1–6** were established on the basis of extensive spectroscopic analysis.

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1. Introduction

The genus *Dysoxylum*, belonging to the family Meliaceae, is composed of about 75 species distributed in India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, of which 15 species and one variety grow in the south of China (Chen et al., 1997). Diverse types of compounds have been isolated from this genus, such as triterpenoids (Aalbersberg and Singh, 1991), diterpenoids (Luo et al., 2001), sesquiterpenoids (Russell et al., 1994; Mulholland et al., 1998), and limonoids (Jogia and Andersen, 1987; Luo et al., 2002). *Dysoxylum densiflorum* (Bl.) Miq. has not been chemically investigated previously. In the present research, three new degraded limonoids, dysodensiols A–C (**1–3**), and three new sesquiterpenoids, dysodensiols D–F (**4–6**), together with 17 known compounds were isolated from the EtOH extract of the twigs and leaves of *D. densiflorum*. Herein we report the isolation and structural elucidation of the new compounds.

2. Results and discussion

Dysodensiol A (**1**) was obtained as a white amorphous powder. The HREIMS displayed a molecular ion peak at m/z 278.1149, consistent with a molecular formula of $C_{15}H_{18}O_5$ (calcd 278.1154) with 7 degrees of unsaturation. The IR absorptions at 3466 and 1718 cm^{-1} were ascribable to hydroxyl and ester carbonyl groups, respectively. The 1H NMR (Table 1) spectrum showed the presence

of one tertiary methyl (δ 1.07, s), one secondary methyl (δ 1.27, d, $J = 8.1$), a β -substituted furan ring (δ 7.39, 2H, br s, H-21, 23; δ 6.33, 1H, br s, H-22) which was confirmed by HMBC correlations (Fig. 1), and three protons bonded to oxygenated carbons (δ 3.56, 4.13, and 5.51). In the ^{13}C NMR (Table 1) spectrum, a total of 15 carbon resonances were observed, and were further classified by DEPT and HSQC experiments as two methyls, two sp^3 methylenes, four sp^3 methines (three oxygenated), two sp^3 quaternary carbons (one oxygenated), and an ester carbonyl (δ 167.2), together with the typical signals of a β -substituted furan ring (δ 143.1, 141.1, 119.5, and 109.8). After assignment of all the protons to their directly bonded carbons from HSQC correlations, the structure of **1** then established as a degraded limonoid with a ring-D δ -lactone, mainly by the observed correlations in the HMBC spectrum. In the HMBC (Fig. 1), the correlations of H₂-12/C-11 and H₂-9/C-11 indicated that the hydroxyl group was located at C-11. The oxygenated CH-17 methine was connected with the C-20 of the β -substituted furan ring on the basis of the HMBC correlations of H₃-18/C-17, H-17/C-13, H-17/C-14, H-17/C-20, H-17/C-21 and H-17/C-22. The assignment of a 14,15-epoxyl group was demonstrated by the mutual HMBC correlations from H₂-9, H-15, H₃-18, H₃-30 and H-17 to C-14, and from H-15 to C-16 carbonyl. Although no HMBC correlation between H-17 and C-16 was observed in the HMBC spectrum, the remaining one degree of unsaturation and the severely down-field shifted H-17 resonance (δ 5.51) indicated the linkage of C-16 and C-17 via an oxygen atom to form the six-membered lactone.

The relative configuration of **1** was elucidated by analysis of the ROESY spectrum (Fig. 2). The significant ROESY correlations of CH₃-30/CH₃-18, CH₃-30/H-15, H-11/CH₃-18, and H-11/CH₃-30

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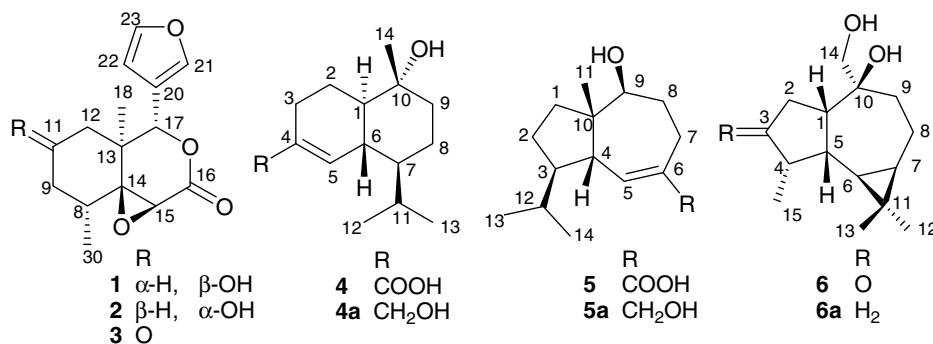


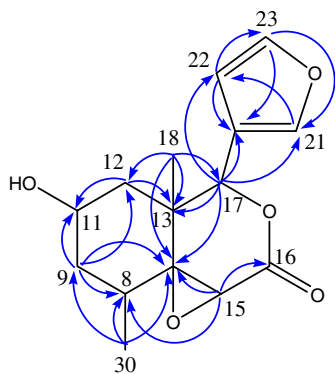
Table 1
¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data for compounds 1–3^a

Position	1 ^b		2 ^b		3 ^c	
	δ_{H}	δ_{C}	δ_{H}	δ_{C}	δ_{H}	δ_{C}
8	1.81 (m)	36.2	1.69 (m)	35.1	2.12 (m)	38.2
9 α	1.96 (m)	38.6	1.87 (m)	35.4	2.30 (ddd, 1.8, 2.4, 14.0)	45.1
9 β	1.79 (m)		2.02 (ddd, 3.7, 6.9, 14.5)		2.97 (dd, 8.0, 14.0)	
11	4.13 (m)	63.0	4.38 (m)	66.8		206.7
12 α	1.72 (m)	41.4	1.60 (m)	38.4	2.12 (dd, 13.3, 2.4)	47.5
12 β	1.39 (t-like, 11.7)		1.66 (m)		2.78 (d, 13.3)	
13		38.9		36.8		41.9
14		67.3		68.4		67.3
15	3.56 (s)	55.6	3.57 (s)	55.6	4.16 (s)	56.0
16		167.2		167.6		166.8
17	5.51 (s)	78.5	5.43 (s)	78.6	5.89 (s)	77.7
18	1.07 (s, 3H)	15.9	1.30 (s, 3H)	17.1	1.05 (s, 3H)	16.4
20		119.5		119.7		119.9
21	7.39 (br s)	141.1	7.39 (br s)	140.9	7.67 (br d, 0.7)	141.9
22	6.33 (br s)	109.8	6.35 (br s)	109.9	6.45 (br s)	110.3
23	7.39 (br s)	143.1	7.39 (br s)	142.9	7.62 (br s)	143.9
30	1.27 (d, 8.1, 3H)	18.9	1.45 (d, 7.4, 3H)	20.2	1.10 (d, 7.8, 3H)	19.3

^a Recorded at 400 and 100 MHz for ¹H and ¹³C NMR, respectively. δ in ppm and J in Hz are in the parentheses.

^b In CDCl₃.

^c In pyridine-*d*₅.



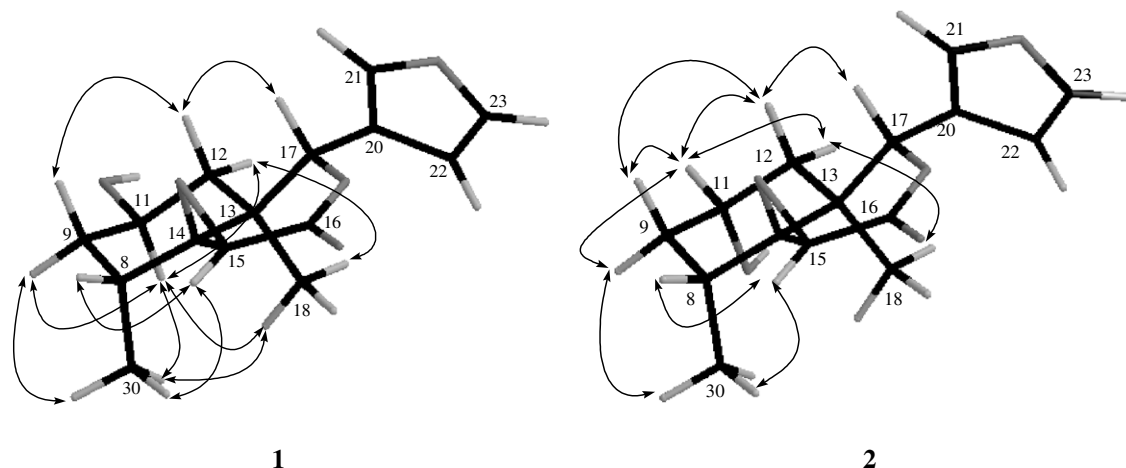
Fig. 2. Key ROESY correlations (H ↔ H) of **1** and **2**.

Table 2
¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data for compounds **4–6**^a

Position	4		5		6	
	δ _H	δ _C	δ _H	δ _C	δ _H	δ _C
1α	1.28 (m)	48.9	1.43 (m)	40.0	2.31 (m)	47.9
1β			1.67 (m)			
2α	1.23 (m)	21.9	1.81 (m)	27.5	2.14 (m)	37.5
2β	2.14 (m)		1.43 (m)		2.17 (m)	
3α	2.17 (m)	24.8	1.79 (m)	55.9		219.3
3β	2.48 (m)					
4		130.2	2.15 (m)	52.8	2.38 (m)	37.9
5	7.18 (br s)	142.6	6.88 (d, 4.6)	151.4	2.35 (m)	52.7
6	1.90 (m)	40.7		129.8	–0.21 (<i>t</i> -like, 9.2)	24.2
7α	1.18 (m)	45.7	2.72 (dd, 5.8, 13.9)	22.4	0.69 (m)	29.7
7β			2.18 (m)			
8α	1.67 (m)	22.1	1.84 (m)	27.1	1.73 (m)	17.9
8β	1.20 (m)		1.53 (m)		1.52 (m)	
9α	1.84 (m)	41.9	3.37 (dd, 5.8, 10.1)	76.1	1.51 (m)	32.0
9β	1.44 (m)				1.67 (m)	
10		72.3		47.0		75.6
11	2.21 (m)	26.1	1.02 (s, 3H)	19.8		20.0
12	0.80 (d, 7.0, 3H)	15.2	1.57 (m)	33.2	1.01 (s, 3H)	16.0
13	0.93 (d, 6.7, 3H)	21.4	0.91 (d, 6.6, 3H)	20.1	1.02 (s, 3H)	28.3
14	1.11 (s, 3H)	20.5	0.90 (d, 6.9, 3H)	22.0	a 3.30 (d, 11.2); b 3.40 (d, 11.2)	70.4
15		172.4		171.6	1.02 (d, 6.1, 3H)	9.9

^a Recorded in CDCl₃ at 400 and 100 MHz for ¹H and ¹³C NMR, respectively. δ in ppm and *J* in Hz are in the parentheses.

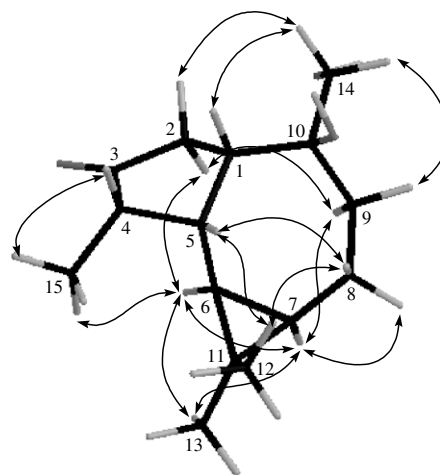
as a trisubstituted double bond, three methyls, four sp³ methylenes, four sp³ methines (one oxygenated), one sp³ quaternary carbon, and one carboxyl carbon (δ 171.6). The NMR spectroscopic data of **5** resembled those of a coexisting known compound 7-hydroxymethyl-1-isopropyl-3a-methyl-1,2,3,3a,4,5,6,8a-octahydroazulen-4-ol (**5a**) (Nishizawa et al., 1984), except for the fact that a carboxylic acid group (C-15) was attached to C-6 in **5** instead of hydroxymethyl of **5a**. The structure of **5** was further confirmed by HMBC and ROESY spectra (Supplementary data).

Dysodensiol F (**6**) had a molecular formula C₁₅H₂₄O₃ as determined by HREIMS at *m/z* 252.1736 [M]⁺ (calcd 252.1725). The IR spectrum showed absorptions for hydroxyls (3558 and 3448 cm^{–1}) and carbonyl (1722 cm^{–1}) groups. The ¹H NMR (Table 2) spectrum showed two tertiary methyls (δ 1.01 and 1.02), a secondary methyl (δ 1.02, *d*, *J* = 6.1), two geminal protons bonding to

an oxygenated carbon (δ 3.30, 3.40, each 1H, *d*, *J* = 11.2), and two protons at δ 0.69 (1H, *m*) and –0.21 (1H, *t*-like, *J* = 9.2) for a characteristic cyclopropane. Inspection of the NMR spectra indicated that **6** was an *allo*-aromadendrane sesquiterpenoid, and its structure was closely related to a coexisting known compound *allo*-aromadendrane-10β,14-diol (**6a**) (de Lima et al., 1999). The only difference was presence of a C-3 (δ 219.3) ketone group in **6** instead of a C-3 methylene in **6a**. The assignment of a C-3 ketone group was confirmed by the strong HMBC correlation from H₃-15 to C-3.

The relative configuration of **6** was established as the same as **6a** by the ROESY spectrum (Fig. 3), in which, the correlations of H-6/H₃-15, H-6/H-7, H-6/H-2α, H-9α/H-7, H-9α/H-2α, H-9β/H-14a, H-14b/H-1, and H-14b/H-2β were observed.

Seventeen known compounds including *allo*-aromadendrane-10β,13,14-triol (de Lima et al., 1999), chromolaevane dione (Misra et al., 1985), eudesm-4(15)-ene-1β,6α-diol (Zhang et al., 2003), aphanamol I (Nishizawa et al., 1984), *allo*-aromadendrane-10β,14-diol (**6a**) (de Lima et al., 1999), alismoxide (Peng et al., 2003), ethyl 3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)prop-2-enoate (Lamidey et al., 2002), 7-hydroxymethyl-1-isopropyl-3a-methyl-1,2,3,3a,4,5,6,8a-octahydroazulen-4-ol (**5a**) (Nishizawa et al., 1984), 2α,3α,19α-trihydroxyurs-12-en-28-oic acid (Seto et al., 1984), 15-hydroxy-α-cadinol (**4a**) (Kuo et al., 2002), clovandiol (Shi et al., 1997), 20S,24S-epoxy-7β,25-dihydroxy-3,4-secodammar-4(28)-en-3-oic acid (de Campos Braga et al., 2006), ficusesquilig-

Fig. 3. Key ROESY correlations (H ↔ H) of **6**.

nan A (Li and Kuo, 2000), ficesquilignan B (Li and Kuo, 2000), 2 α ,3 α ,4 β -trihydroxypregnan-16-one (Pupo et al., 1997), 2 β ,3 β ,4 β -trihydroxypregnan-16-one (Pupo et al., 1997), and 2 α ,3 α ,19 α ,23-tetrahydroxurs-12-en-28-oic acid (Seto et al., 1984) were identified by spectroscopic analysis.

3. Conclusion

The structural types of limonoids in the Meliaceae family, in combination with their biosynthetic pathways on the biogenetic map, serve as biomarkers for chemotaxonomic analysis (Da Silva et al., 1984). A series of limonoids isolated from the genus *Dysoxylum* (Jogia and Andersen, 1987; Luo et al., 2002) favored the affiliation of *Dysoxylum* to the subfamily of Melioideae. In our study, three degraded limonoids, dysodensiols A–C (**1**–**3**) that were likely biotransformed from a common precursor of a B-*seco*-limonoid, were isolated from *D. densiflorum*, supporting that the genus *Dysoxylum* should preferably be included in the subfamily of the Melioideae (Chen et al., 1997).

4. Experimental

4.1. General

Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin–Elmer 341 polarimeter (Na filter, $\gamma = 589$ nm). UV spectra were obtained on a Shimadzu UV-2550 spectrophotometer, whereas IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin–Elmer 577 spectrometer with KBr disks. NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker AM-400 spectrometer. EIMS and HREIMS (70 eV) were carried out on a Finnigan MAT 95 mass spectrometer. All solvents used were of analytical grade (Shanghai Chemical Reagents Company Ltd.). Silica gel (200–300 mesh), silica gel H (Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co. Ltd., People's Republic of China), C18 reversed-phase silica gel (150–200 mesh, Merck), and MCI gel (CHP20P, 75–150 μ m, Mitsubishi Chemical Industries Ltd., Japan) were used for column chromatography. Precoated thin-layer chromatography (TLC) plates with silica gel GF₂₅₄ (Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co. Ltd., People's Republic of China) were used for TLC.

4.2. Plant material

The plant material of *D. densiflorum* was collected from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Mengla County, China, and was authenticated by Professor You-Kai Xu of Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences. A voucher specimen (accession number DD-2006-1Y) has been deposited in the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica.

4.3. Extraction and isolation

The air dried powder of twigs and leaves of *D. densiflorum* (4.6 kg) was percolated with 95% EtOH–H₂O (95:5, v/v) three times. After removal of the solvent under reduced pressure, the EtOH extract (220 g) was partitioned between H₂O and EtOAc to give an EtOAc-soluble fraction (52 g), which was subjected to MCI cc to obtain fractions 1 (MeOH/H₂O, 50:50) and 2 (MeOH/H₂O, 60:40 \rightarrow 70:30). Fraction 1 was separated on a silica gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 1:1; CHCl₃/MeOH, 20:1) and then a reversed-phase silica gel column (MeOH/H₂O, 45:55 \rightarrow 50:50) to yield *allo*-aromadendrane-10 β ,13,14-triol (120 mg). Fraction 2 was subjected to a silica gel column eluted with petroleum ether/acetone (from 20:1 to 0:1) to afford three major fractions 2a–2c. Fraction 2a (1.7 g) was separated on a silica gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 6:1) and then a RP-18 silica gel column (MeOH/H₂O,

60:40 \rightarrow 80:20) to give subfractions 2a1–2a5. Recrystallization of 2a1 from MeOH afforded **3** (91 mg). The purification of subfractions from 2a2 to 2a5, by using a silica gel column, gave chromolaevane dione (7 mg), eudesm-4(15)-ene-1 β ,6 α -diol (31 mg), aphanamol I (30 mg), and **6a** (92 mg), respectively. Fraction 2b (1.0 g) was separated on a silica gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 6:1) and then a RP-18 silica gel column (MeOH/H₂O, 60:40 \rightarrow 70:30) to give subfractions 2b1–2b2. Purification of subfraction 2b1 using a silica gel column (petroleum ether/EtOAc, 3:1) gave **2** (21 mg). Purification of subfraction 2b2 using a silica gel column (CHCl₃/MeOH, 100:1; petroleum ether/EtOAc, 3:1) gave alismoxide (9 mg). A similar purification procedure on fraction 2c (4.7 g) yielded ethyl 3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)prop-2-enoate (32 mg), **1** (12 mg), **4** (11 mg), **4a** (18 mg), **5** (8 mg), clovandiol (2 mg), 20S,24S-epoxy-7 β ,25-dihydroxy-3,4-secodammar-4(28)-en-3-oic acid (9 mg), **6** (95 mg), **5a** (9 mg), 2 α ,3 α ,19 α -trihydroxurs-12-en-28-oic acid (41 mg), ficesquilignan A (25 mg), ficesquilignan B (13 mg), 2 α ,3 α ,4 β -trihydroxypregnan-16-one (40 mg), 2 β ,3 β ,4 β -trihydroxypregnan-16-one (24 mg), and 2 α ,3 α ,19 α ,23-tetrahydroxurs-12-en-28-oic acid (9 mg).

4.4. Dysodensiol A (**1**)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 37.0$ (c 0.1500, CHCl₃); IR (KBr, disc) ν_{\max} (cm⁻¹): 3466, 2928, 2956, 1718, 1284, 1169, 1036, 878, 808; for ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Table 1; EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 278 [M]⁺ (20), 250 (11), 232 (12), 221 (47), 203 (37), 161 (30), 155 (99), 137 (98), 107 (88), 95 (100); HREIMS m/z : 278.1149 [M]⁺ (calcd for C₁₅H₁₈O₅, 278.1154).

4.5. Dysodensiol B (**2**)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 31.0$ (c 0.1550, CHCl₃); IR (KBr, disc) ν_{\max} (cm⁻¹): 3485, 2928, 1716, 1421, 1288, 1171, 1026, 818, 604; for ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Table 1; EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 278 [M]⁺ (5), 250 (19), 235 (9), 221 (48), 203 (28), 161 (19), 155 (61), 137 (64), 107 (90), 95 (100); HREIMS m/z : 278.1156 [M]⁺ (calcd for C₁₅H₁₈O₅, 278.1154).

4.6. Dysodensiol C (**3**)

Colorless crystal; $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 29.0$ (c 0.2450, CHCl₃); IR (KBr, disc) ν_{\max} (cm⁻¹): 3124, 2980, 1711, 1740, 1352, 1284, 1028, 810, 592; for ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Table 1; EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 276 [M]⁺ (15), 248 (9), 219 (53), 203 (7), 161 (40), 153 (87), 137 (18), 123 (75), 109 (60), 95 (100); HREIMS m/z : 276.0994 [M]⁺ (calcd for C₁₅H₁₆O₅, 276.0998).

4.7. Dysodensiol D (**4**)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 5.0$ (c 0.4800, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ): 209 (3.69); IR (KBr, disc) ν_{\max} (cm⁻¹): 3425, 2958, 2870, 1687, 1639, 1387, 1277, 1111, 1086, 924; for ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Table 2; EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 234 [M–H₂O]⁺ (38), 219 (5), 191 (100), 173 (10), 145 (24), 123 (9), 105 (19), 91 (21); HREIMS m/z : 234.1611 [M–H₂O]⁺ (calcd for C₁₅H₂₂O₂, 234.1620).

4.8. Dysodensiol E (**5**)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 40.0$ (c 0.0550, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ): 215 (3.91); IR (KBr, disc) ν_{\max} (cm⁻¹): 3423, 2956, 2870, 1696, 1630, 1277, 1198, 1034; for ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Table 2; EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 252 [M]⁺ (1), 234 (25), 219 (18), 209 (28), 191 (100), 173 (12), 153

(20), 145 (21), 123 (33), 81 (36); HREIMS m/z : 252.1729 $[M]^+$ (calcd for $C_{15}H_{24}O_3$, 252.1725).

4.9. Dysodensiol F (6)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 149.0$ (c 0.1850, $CHCl_3$); IR (KBr, disc) ν_{max} (cm^{-1}): 3558, 3448, 2954, 2881, 1722, 1456, 1375, 1090, 1043, 887; for 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic data, see Table 2; EIMS m/z (rel. int.): 252 $[M]^+$ (15), 234 (51), 221 (92), 203 (100), 175 (38), 161 (46), 147 (66), 133 (36), 107 (70), 81 (47); HREIMS m/z : 252.1736 $[M]^+$ (calcd for $C_{15}H_{24}O_3$, 252.1725).

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at [doi:10.1016/j.phytochem.2008.09.017](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.phytochem.2008.09.017).

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