DISIDEIN, A PENTACYCLIC SESTERTERPENE CONDENSED WITH AN HYDROXYHYDROQUINONE MOIETY, FROM THE SPONGE *DISIDEA PALLESCENS*

G. **CIMINO,** P. DE LUCA, S. DE **STEFANO** and L. **MINALE***

Laboratorio per la Chimica di Molecole di Interesse Biologico del C.N.R.-Via Toiano nº 2, Arco Felice (NA), **Italy** (NA)

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Abstract-A novel pentacyclic saturated sesterterpene condensed with hydroxyhydroquinone moiety, which we named disidein (I), has been isolated from the marine sponge Disidea pollescens as disulfate sodium calcium salt. A minor accompaining compound, which seems a likely precursor of disidein, has been identified as 2 pentaprenylbenzoquinone (7).

COMPOUNDS of mixed biogenesis originating partly from mevalonate and partly from a benzoid precursor have been recently isolated from sponges.

Ircinia spinosula and I. muscarum were shown to contain 2-polyprenylbenzoquinones (mixture of isoprenologoues) and the corresponding quinols,' while *Halichondria parka* yielded a group of 'triprenyl phenols', the paniceins, whose structures include on aromatic sesquiterpenoid moiety linked to a quinol or a quinone system.²

In our continuing search for constituents of marine sponges, we have examined the extracts of *Disidea pallescens,* collected in the bay of Naples, from which we have isolated in 4% yield a tri-hydric phenol as disulfate sodium and calcium salt, giving a green coloration with ferric chloride and a red-violet coloration with Pauly reagent. For the free phenol, named disidein, on the basis of the data shown below, we propose formula **1** as the most probable structure, which combine a pentacyclic sesterterpene saturated hydrocarbon and an hydroxyhydroquinone unit.

According to essentially the same procedure as reported in previous papers, the fresh tissues of *Disidea pallescens* were exhaustively extracted with acetone; solvent was removed and the aqueous residue was extracted with ether and then with n-butanol. Chromatography on silica gel of the n-butanol-soluble material gave disidein disulfate sodium calcium salt, as a colorless water-soluble solid, resistant to attempts at crystallization. It analyzed for $C_{31}H_{44}S_2O_9NaCa_2^1$.

The UV spectrum showed λ_{max} 279 nm, batochromically shifted to 296 nm in 2N KOH. Mild acid hydrolysis gave two moles of sulfuric acid per mole of compound and crystalline disidein (1). which was recrystallized from ether, $[\alpha]_D = +24^\circ$, it decomposed at *ca* 260°, molecular formula $C_{31}H_{46}O_3$.

The IR (ν_{max} 3670, 3540, 1600 cm⁻¹) and UV (λ_{max}) 287 nm bathochromically shifted to 291 by alkali) spectra indicated that 1 has phenolic structure, and NMR spectrum contained a single aromatic proton (δ 6.79).

Disidein gave a triacetate (2) , $C_{37}H_{52}O_6$, m.p. 143-145°,

 $[\alpha]_D + 26.3^\circ$, ν_{max} 1760 cm⁻¹ and a trimethyl ether (3), m.p. 166-167°, $C₃₄H₃₂O₃$. The hydroxyhydroquinone nature of the chromophore in disidein was evident from its conversion on $Ag₂O$ oxidation to an hydroxy-pbenzoquinone compound, dec. 300". *m/e 464 (M'), 6* Q-H 5.90, having absorption maxima at 280 and 391 nm (ϵ , 10,800,260) in UV and IR bands at 3400 (sharp, H-bonded OH), 1655 (quinonoid CO), 1635 (H-bonded quinonoid CO) and 1595 $(C = C)^3$.

The molecular formula of disidein $(C_{31}H_{46}O_3;$ nine formal unsaturations) and the absence of olefinic signals in the NMR spectrum led to consideration of a pentacyclic skeleton in addition to the hydroxyhydroquinone ring for disidein. Furthermore its NMR spectrum $(CD₃OH - CDCl₃)$ displayed signals for two benzylic protons (m centered at ca δ 2.50) and also for six t-Me's $[8 1.30 (3H), 1.01 (3H)$ and 0.85 (12H); in the spectrum of 2 run in C_6D_6 the overlapping methyl signals at δ 0.85 were splitted into well separated singlets at δ 1.00 (6H) and 0.95 (6H) ppm]. In the spectrum of 3 the benzylic protons appear as a clear AB part of an ABX pattern with line positions at δ 2.69 and 2.37 ppm and J of 13 Hz (JAB), 7 Hz (JAX) and 13 Hz (JBX); irradiation a δ 1.95 changed the 7-line signal into a sharp AB quartet (J 13 Hz). This suggested the presence of a -CH-CH₂- ϕ grouping. The presence of six t-Me's, taken in conjunction with the above evidence, indicates that disidein is represented most favourably by formulae (1 or 5, part-structure), which are also well explained from the standpoint of biogenesis.

In fact, we may imagine that 6 undergoes an essentially synchronous process for the ring formation if H^+ is furnished at C-3. Notably, examination of the ethersoluble material has afforded in 0.1% yield 2 pentaprenylbenzoquinone **(7), which** seems a likely precursor of disidein.

Its structure was suggested from spectral properties (Experimental) and comparison with isoprenologues described from two *Ircinia* sponges,' and was confirmed by synthesis. Condensation of quinol with farnesyllinalool *(trans)* in the presence of boron trifluoride gave

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2-pentaprenylquinol which was converted into the quinone with ferric chloride.

Coming back to disidein, the low field resonating angular Me signals in its NMR spectrum and in those of its derivatives $(2, 3 \text{ and the hydroxy-}b\text{-}enzoquinone)$ $(\delta$ 1.30 and 1.00 ppm ca in all spectra) can be assigned to 17-Me and 13-Me, respectively, deshielded by the neighbouring aromatic ring. In the spectrum of the model compound 8 the Me groups resonate at δ 1.30 and 1.22 ppm.⁴

Disidein (1), on KMnO₄ oxidation, furnished a carboxylic acid, characterized as the methyl ester (9), m.p. 151–153°, $C_{29}H_{48}O_4$, ν_{max} 1735 cm⁻¹, displaying in its NMR spectrum signals for 6-Me's at δ 1.04 (3H, 17-Me), 0.92 (3H), 0.85 (3H) and 0.80 (9H) ppm and for a

 $-CH₂-CO₂CH₃$ (δ 2.4, m). Its mass spectral fragmentation pattern is in full agreement with the proposed structure (9): the two major peaks occurring at m/e 259 (100%) and 191 (45%) originate by cleavage at the ring junction as indicated in 9 and loss of one hydrogen from the charged species.⁵ A minor one occurs at m/e 205 (10%). The two major fragments were accurately mass measured.

In contrast with the simplicity of the mass spectrum of 9, the mass spectrum of disidein (1) includes a conspicuous number of ions, which can be assigned to the processes indicated in Fig 1, occurring with loss of an additional hydrogen from the charged species.⁵ This offers a considerable substantial support to the structure of the C_{25} moiety of disidein. These assignments are substantiated partly by the high resolution mass spectrometry and

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partly by the spectrum of the dimethyl disidein (4; see below), in which analogous fragmentations (all accurately mass measured) are observed.

Information for the arrangement of the OH substituents on the benzenic ring was obtained from NMR data on dimethyl ether of disidein (4) in the presence of the deuteriated lanthanide shift reagent Eu $(fod-d₉)$, which favoured the substitution pattern indicated in 1.

The dimethyl ether of disidein (4) , p.f. 226-228°, was obtained on treatment of disidein with methanol-HCl. The two OMe groups are situated meta as shown by oxidation with DDQ in ethanol, which gave a yellow (main component) and a red compound.

The yellow compound appeared to be a methoxy-pbenzoquinone derivative (part-structure 10), m.p. 202-204°, m/e 478 (M⁺), having absorption maxima at 278 and 380 nm (ϵ 10,080 and 320) in the UV, IR bands at 1670, 1645 and 1590 cm⁻¹, and NMR signals at δ 5.68 (1H, s, Q-H) and 3.71 (3H, s, OCH,). The minor compound, which was red, p.f. 198-200°, m/e 478 (M⁺) showed an UV spectrum, λ_{max} 276, 442 and 550 (should) (ϵ 4,780; 1,650 and 82), typical of o -benzoquinones;³ the IR showed bands at 1650, 1610 and 1575 cm^{-1} and in the NMR spectrum the quinonoid proton resonates at δ 5.56. The mass spectrum includes a very strong $M+2$ peak in agreement with an o -quinone structure⁶ (part structure 11).

As 1,2,4_trihydroxybenzene dimethyl ether yielded both a methoxy-p-benzoquinone and a methoxy-p-quinone, this is compatible only with a 2.4-dimethyl ether structure.

NMR data on disidein 2,4-dimethylether before and after the addition of 0.8 moles the europium shift reagent Eu (fod-d₉), are listed in Table 1. Addition of $0.2-0.8$ moles of Eu (fod), per mole of 4 caused downfield shifts, which were approximately linear with respect to concentration of Eu $(f \circ d)$.

The induced-shifts of benzylic (H_2-C-19) and 17-Me protons, which are about the same value, seem compatible with the arrangement of the substituents as shown in 4. in the case of the alternative aromatic substitution patttern (part-structure 12), the shift reagent would be expected to indice a shift for the benzylic methylene protons ($ortho$ situated in respect to the free OH) considerably further than the 17-Me signal. Furthermore in the 100 MHz NMR spectrum of 4 determined in CDCI, in the absence of a shift reagent the protons on C-18 and C-16 overlap and form a large broad multiplet centered around δ 2.0. Addition of $0.2-0.8$ moles of Eu (fod), per mole of 4 resulted in the separation of the signal into two multiplet integrating for 2H e IH, respectively. They move about the same ppm as the 17-Me and the $Ar-CH₂$ protons and this also supports the aromatic substitution pattern as shown in 4.

Significantly the terpenoid skeleton of disideiq (1) has been already encountered in scalarin, deoxoscalarin and scalaradial, sesterterpenes recently isolated from sponges.^{7,8}

Also interesting is the occurrence of the free hydroxyhydroquinone in the sponge Axinella *polypoides.'*

EXPeRIMENTAL

Sponges (Disidea pallescens) were collected in the Bay of Naples. Columns chromatography was carried on silica gel **0*05-0.2 mm** (Merck). **TLC and PLC were carried out on precoated silica gel plates (Merck). NMR spectra were determined on a Varian XL-100 spectrometer (TMS as internal reference). Mass spectra were measured on an A.E.I. MS-30 instrument at 70eV. UV and IR spectra were measured on Baush and Lomb Spectronic 505 and Perkin-Elmer 257 Infracord spectrophotometers.**

Extraction oj Disidea paffescens. Fresh material (68 g, dry after extraction) was extracted (X 3) with acetone al room temp for 3 days. The combined extracts (1 I) were concentrated and the remaining aqueous sofn was extracted with ether and subsequently with n-BuOH. After removal of solvents, the ethereal extracts gave 3-f g of an oily residue and the n-BuOH-extracts yielded 4-f g of a solid residue.

Butanol-soluble material. This was applied to a silica gel column (200 g), which was eluted with CHCl₃ and increasing **amounts of MeOH. Disidein as disuffate sodium calcium salt (2.7 g) was recovered on the** CHCf,-MeOH, 7:3 fractions. **(Found: C. 54% H, 6.9; S, 8.9, Na, 32,OOOppm, Ca, 3O.%Oppm; C,,H&O, NaCaf requires: C, 558; H, 6.6; S, 9.6%; Na, 34,480 ppm; Ca, 29,980. Sodium and Calcium were determined by**

Table 1. NMR data on disidein dimethylether (4) before and after addition of the europium shift reagent Eu (fod-d₉),

Signal identification	δ (CDCl ₁) ^{\circ}	δ (Eu-CDC).)	Δδ
Ar-H	$6-3$	$11 - 7$	5.4
orto-OMe	3.77 or 3.85	8.6	$4.83 - 4.75$
para-OMe	3.85 or 3.77	$5-4$	$1.55 - 1.63$
$H2$ at C-19	$2 - 62$	$4 - 12$	1.50
H at $C-18$, H_2 at $C-16$	2.0 broad	(2.95 (IH)) 3.56(2H)	0.95) 1.56
Me at $C-17$	1.31	$2 - 61$	1.30
Me at $C-13$	$1-01$	$1-54$	0.53
Me's at $C-8$, $C-9$	0.85	$1-00$ 0.95	(0·15) 0.10
Me's at $C-4$	$0-85$	$0-85$	0

² Relative to TMS in the absence of Eu(fod),.

'Relative to TMS after the **addition of** 0.8 **moles of Eu(fod), per mole of 4.**

 α In the spectra of disidein and its dimethyl ether there is one more significant peak at m/e 231 (9%) and 259 (3%), respectively and it may originate by the fragmentation d with loss of a Me group instead of an H atom. The peak m/e 259 was accurately mass measured: 259-1332; calcd. for C₁₆H₁₉O₃ 259.1334.

Fig. 1. MS spectral data of disidein and its dimethylether. All the fragmentation processes occur with loss of an additional hydrogen atom from the charged species.

flame emission). UV: $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{H}_2O}$ 279 (ϵ , 1294) nm; $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{2N-KOH}}$ 296 (ϵ , 2330) nm; NMR (CD,OH) 6.80 (1H, s), 1.36 (3H, s, t-Me), 1.05 (3H, s, t-Me), 0.87 (12H, bs, t-Me's). The determination of sulfate by gravimetric method,¹⁰ after hydrolysis with dil HCl, indicated the presence of two sufate groups per molecule.

Ether-soluble material. This was chromatographed on a column of silica gel impregnated with AgNO₃ (12 g AgNO₃-60 g SiO₂), which was washed with light petroleum and increasing amounts of benzene was to remove the furanosesquiterpenoid components,¹ and further eluted with benzene and increasing amounts of ether. Fractions eluted with benzene-ether, 8:2, were subjected to PLC on $SiO₂$ in $C₆H₆$ -light petroleum (b.p. 40-70°), 1:1 to give 2-pentaprenylbenzoquinone (7), (60 mg), λ_{max} (CH₃OH) 246, 311 ($\log \epsilon$ 4.02, 2.50), ν_{\max} (liquid film) 1660 and 1600 cm⁻¹, δ (CCL) 6.64 (2H, bs, Q-H), 6.43 (1H, bs, Q-H), 5.31 (1H, t, J 6 Hz, QCH₂CH=C), 5.08 (4H, bm, CH=C), 3.08 (2H, d, J 6Hz, Q-CH₂-CH=C), 2.05 and 1.95 (16H, each bs, CH₂), 1.64 (6H, s, cis-Me of the ω -unit and trans-Me of the α -unit), 1.58 (12H, s, trans-Me), m/e (%) 448 (2, M⁺), 379 (3), 311 (3), 243 (3), 175 (4), 161 (100), 123 (80), 121 (50).

Hydrolysis of disidein disulfate sodium calcium salt. The salt (2g) was dissolved in dil 0.1N HCl (100 ml) and the soln was allowed to stand at room temp for 5 min and then extracted several times with ether to give disidein (1) as solid $(1.3 g)$. The product was crystallized from ether $(0.8 g)$ (m/e 446.3440; $C_{31}H_{46}O_3$ requires: 466.3446), dec. 260°, $[\alpha]_D + 24^{\circ} (2.3 \text{ in doxan})$; λ_{max} (MeOH) 287 nm (e, 4,990); ν_{max} (CHCl₃) 3670, 3540, 1600, 1220, 1170, 1020 and 920 cm⁻¹; 8 (CD₃OD-CDCl₃) 6.80 (1H, s, Ar-H), 2.60 (2H, m, -CH₂-Ar), 1.30 (3H, s, 17-Me), 1.00 (3H, s, 13-Me), 0.86 (12H, bs, t-Me's); the mass spectrum is described in Fig 1.

Disidein (1) on treatment with excess Ac₂O in pyridine (100 mg/2 ml/3 drops) at reflux for 1 hr, formed a triacetate (2), which was chromatographed on silica gel column (eluent: C_oH₆-ether, 95:5). The product was crystallized from MeOH, m.p. 143-145°, $[\alpha]_D + 26.3^\circ$ (c 3 in CHCl₃) (Found: C, 74-7; H, 8-4.
C₁₇H₃₂O₆ requires: C, 75-0; H, 8-5%), λ_{max} (CH₃OH) 220, 261 (e 4,930; 295) nm, ν_{max} 1760 cm⁻¹, δ (CDCl₃) 6.79 (1H, s, Ar-H), 2.50 (2H, m, CH₂-Ar), 2.26 (6H, s, CH₃CO-), 2.21 (3H, s, CH₃CO-), 1.30 (3H, s, 17-Me), 1.01 (3H, s, 13-Me), 0.85 (12H, s, t-Me's), in $C₆D₆$ the acetyl protons were splitted into well separated singlets at δ 2.01, 1.92 and 1.89 ppm and the t-Me's resonate at δ 1.46 $(3H)$, 1.05 (3H), 1.00 (6H) and 0.95 (6H) ppm, m/e 592 (2, M⁺), 550 (22) , 508 (63) , 466 (100) , 191 (45) .

Disidein (1) formed a trimethyl ether (3), when it was allowed to react with dimethylsulfate and NaOH aq (both added portionwise to a solution of 1 in EtOH) at reflux for 3 hr.

This was purified by PLC [eluent: C₆H₆-light petroleum (b.p. 40-70°), 9:1] and, on crystallization from MeOH, yielded crystals, m.p. 166-167° (Found: C, 80.1; H, 10.0. C₃₄H₅₂O₃ requires: C, 80.3; H, 10.2%), δ (CDCl₃) 6.27 (1H, s, Ar-H), 3.82 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3-79 (6H, s, OCH₃), δ 2-50 (2H, 7-line signal. J 13 Hz, 7 Hz, CH_z-Ar), 1.30 (3H, s, 17-Me), 1.01 (3H, s, 13-Me), 0.85 (12H, bs, t-Me's), m/e 508 (M⁺).

Disidein (1) formed a dimethyl ether (4), when it was allowed to react with MeOH saturated with HCl (48 hr at room temp). This derivative was purified by column chromatography on silica gel in C₆H₆ and it was crystallized from C₆H₆-MeOH, m.p. 226-228°, (Found: C, 80.0; H, 9.9, $C_{33}H_{50}O_3$ requires: C, 80.2; H, 10.1%), λ_{max} (MeOH) 285 (ϵ 3,480) nm, ν_{max} 3540 (sharp), the NMR is reported **in** Table I; the mass spectrum is reported in Fig I.

Oxidation of disidein

(i) *With Ag20.* Disidein (1) (30 mg) in ether (5 ml) was treated with Ag₂O (100 mg) with stirring at room temp for 5 min. Filtn, evapn of the solvent and PLC on silica gel in CAL_o -ether, 9:1, gave the corresponding *hydroxy-gbenzoquinone (18* mg), which was crystallized from CHCl₃, dec 300° (m/e 464.3286; C₃₁H₄₄O₃) requires: 464.3290), λ_{max} (CHCl₃) 280, 391 (ϵ 10,830, 260) nm, ν_{max} (CHCl₃) 3400, 1655, 1635 and 1595 cm⁻¹, δ (CDCl₃) 5.90 (1H, s, Q-H), 1.30 (3H, s), 1.01 (3H, s); m/e 466 (18, M⁺ + 2), 464 (10, M'), 191 (IOO), 189 (18).

(ii) *With* $KMnO₄$. To a solution of 1 (200 mg) in 2N $K₂CO₃$ (4 ml) , 3% KMnO₄ aq (7 ml) was added portionwise in about 2 hr.

The excess of oxidant was destroyed with $Na₂SO₃$ and after filtration, the soln was acidified with 2N HCI and the acid was extracted with ether. After removal of the solvent the residue was methylated with diazomethane in MeOH in the usual way, followed by chromatography on silica gel in benzene, to give the ester 9 (mg 26) m.p. $151-155^{\circ}$ (ETOH)(m/e 460.3548; C₂₉H₄₈O₄ requires: 460.3552 , ν_{max} (liquid film) (1735 cm⁻¹), δ (CDCI₃) 3.62, 3.64 (6H together, each s, OCH₃), 2:45 (2H, m, CH₂-CO₂Me), 1.05 $(3H, s), 0.92$ $(3H, s), 0.84$ $(3H, s), 0.80$ $(9H, s); m/e$ 460 $(6, M^*)$, 259 (IOO), 205 (IO), 191 (45); accurate mass measurements: 259.2430 (calcd. for C₁₉H₃₁ 259.2425), 191.1797 (calcd. for C₁₄H₂₃ 191.1799).

DDQ *oxidation of rhe dimethyl ether (4). The* ether 4 (50 mg) and DDQ (50 mg) were kept in EtOH (3 ml) at room temp for 5 min. PLC on silica gel of the mixture in C_6H_6 -ether, 95:5 gave the *merhoxy-gbenzoquinone derivative* (part-structure 10) *(R,* 0.7, 24mg), recrystallized from cyclohexane, m.p. 202-204" *(m/e* 478.3442; $C_{32}H_{46}O_3$ requires: 478.3446), λ_{max} (CH₃OH) 278, 380 (ϵ 10,800, 320) nm, ν_{max} 1670, 1645 and 1590 cm⁻¹, δ (CDCl₃) 5.68 (IH. s. O-H). 3.71 (3H. s. 0CH.j. I.27 (3H. s). 0.98 (3H. sj. 0.82 (12H, s) ppm; m/e 480 (32, M⁺ + 2), 478 (22, M⁺), 205 (56), 203 (18), I91 (IOO), and the *melhoxy-o-benzoquinone deriuatiw (part*structure 11) *(R_t* 0.6; 7 mg), crystallized from cyclohexane, m.p. 198-200° (m/e 478.3449. C₃₂H₄₆O₃ requires: 478.3446), λ_{max} (CH₃OH) 276, 442, 550 (sh) (e, 4.780, 1.650, 82), ν_{max} 1650, 1610 and 1575 cm⁻¹, δ (CDCl₃) 5.55 (1H, s, Q-H) 3.80 (3H, s, OCH₃), 1.29 (3H, s), 1.04 (3H, s), 0.88 (12H, s) ppm; m/e 480 (100, M⁺ + 2), 478 (IO, M'), 205 (22), 203 (3), 191 (IO).

Synthesis of *2-pentaprenylbenzoquinone (7).* To hydroquinone (200 mg) and redistilled BF_3 -etherate (0.05 ml) in dry dioxan (1 ml) at 60° , all-trans farnesyl-linalool (370 mg) in dioxan (0.5 ml) was added over a period of 5 min, and the soln stirred for 1 hr at 60° then for 4hr at room temp.

The mixture was diluted with ether and extracted with NaHCO, aq. The organic phase was washed with water then shaken with ferric chloride $(1.0 M, 2 ml)$ for 10 min.

The orange ether layer was dried (Mg SO.) and evaporated to give a yellow oil, which was chromatographed on silica gel in C_6H_6 to give 2-pentaprenylbenzoquinone (80 mg) as oil.

To spectral properties were identical to those of the natural sample, given above.

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