

Chemical Constituents from Fruits of *Gymnocladus chinensis*

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Abstract: **Objective** To study chemical constituents from fruits of *Gymnocladus chinensis*. **Methods** The compounds were isolated by various chromatographic techniques and their structures were elucidated on the basis of spectral analyses. **Results** Ten compounds were isolated from the EtOAc extract and were identified as 2-methyl pentyl (2*E*, 6*S*)-6-hydroxy-2, 6-dimethyl-2, 7-octadienoate (**1**), (2*E*, 6*S*)-6- α -L-arabino pyranosyloxy-2, 6-dimethyl-2, 7-octadienoic acid (**2**), ethyl (2*E*, 6*S*)-6-hydroxy-2, 6-dimethyl-2, 7-octadienoate (**3**), 5, 2', 5'-trihydroxy-3, 7, 4'-trimethoxyflavone (**4**), (2*R*, 3*R*)-3, 3', 5, 5', 7-pentahydroxyflavanone (**5**), 2', 4'-dihydroxy-4-methoxychalcone (**6**), kaempferol (**7**), apigenin (**8**), 4', 7-dihydroxyflavone (**9**), and 5, 7, 4'-trihydroxy-3'-methoxyflavone (**10**). **Conclusion** Compound **1** is a new compound, compound **3** is firstly obtained from natural source, and compounds **4** – **10** are isolated from *G. chinensis* for the first time. Furthermore, the assignments of ¹³C-NMR data of compounds **3** and **4** are reported in this paper for the first time.

Key words: chemical constituents; flavone; *Gymnocladus chinensis* Baill.; monoterpene

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Introduction

Gymnocladus chinensis Baill. (Leguminosae) is a tall tree, widely distributed in South China. The dried fruits of this plant are used as a crude drug *Feizaojia* in Chinese materia medica as diuretics and expectorants (Editorial Office of National Chinese Herb Medicine Collection, 1996). Previous phytochemical studies showed ten saponins (Konoshima *et al*, 1984, Konoshima *et al*, 1985, Konoshima *et al*, 1987, Konoshima *et al*, 1995, Ma *et al*, 2007), two monoterpene glycosides (Konoshima and Sawada, 1984), and one peptide (Wong and Ng, 2003) were obtained from the fruits of this plant. Some of saponins from *G. chinensis* showed anti-HIV and anticancer effects (Konoshima *et al*, 1995, Ma *et al*, 2007). As to search for novel bioactive constituents from natural source, we investigated the chemical constituents of *G. chinensis*. In the present paper, we described the

isolation and structure elucidation of one new monoterpene derivative, as well as nine known compounds. Furthermore, the ¹³C-NMR data of compounds **3** and **4** were assigned in this paper for the first time.

Materials and Methods

Experimental and plant material

Optical rotation was obtained on Perkin-Elmer 243B polarimeter. IR spectra were recorded on Thermo Nicolet Nexus 470 FT-IR spectrometer. NMR spectra were measured on Bruker advance DRX 500 spectrometer. ESI-MS was taken by triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (Quattro VG Biotech and Finnigan MAT 311A). FAB-MS were measured on Bruker Daltonics, APEX II FT-ICR mass spectrometer. Silica gel (100–200 meshes and 200–300 meshes) for column chromatography and GF₂₅₄ silica gel for TLC were collected by Qingdao

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Marine Chemistry Co. Sephadex LH-20 column chromatography was obtained from Amersham Biosciences Co., Shanghai, China.

Samples of the fruits of *G. chinensis* were collected in Mianyang, Sichuan Province, China, in October, 2002 and were authenticated by Prof. SUN Qishi, Shenyang Pharmaceutical University, China. A specimen of the plant was deposited at State Key Laboratory of Natural and Biomimetic Drugs, Peking University, Beijing, China (GC-FZJ0210). The fruits were air-dried and milled.

Extraction and isolation

The pulverized plant material (4 kg) was extracted with 95% hot ethanol (16 L) three times, 2 h each time. The combined ethanol extracts were evaporated under reduced pressure. A suspension of this crude extract in distilled water was extracted with petroleum ether, EtOAc, and *n*-BuOH, respectively to yield about 15.6 g of a petroleum ether extract, 32.0 g of an EtOAc extract, 122.2 g of a dried *n*-BuOH extract, and an aqueous residue. The EtOAc extract was subjected to silica gel column chromatography, eluted with CHCl₃-MeOH (50 : 1–1 : 1). The eluents were combined to afford eight fractions (Fr. A–Fr. H) on the basis of TLC analysis. Fraction A (9.2 g) was further fractionated into six sub-fractions (A₁–A₆) according to TLC by using silica gel column chromatography. Sub-fraction A₂ (520 mg) was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether–EtOAc = 5 : 1) to yield compounds **1** (7.8 mg) and **3** (12.8 mg). Sub-fraction A₃ (484 mg) was subjected to Sephadex LH-20 column chromatography (CH₃OH), then further separated by silica gel column chromatography (CHCl₃–MeOH = 18 : 1) to afford compounds **4** (18.5 mg), **8** (12.3 mg), and **10** (23.0 mg). Sub-fraction A₄ (1.24 g) was subjected to repetitive silica gel column chromatography (CHCl₃–MeOH = 15 : 1) to afford compounds **6** (32.8 mg), **7** (15.9 mg), and **9** (25.0 mg). Sub-fraction A₅ (2.20 g) was separated by silica gel column chromatography (petroleum ether–EtOAc = 1 : 1) to afford four fractions, Fr. A_{5,3} (347 mg) was subjected to

Sephadex LH-20 column chromatography (CH₃OH) to afford compound **5** (26.0 mg). Fraction E was recrystallized from MeOH to give compound **2** (36.2 mg).

Results

Compound **1**: colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 8.7^\circ$ (*c* 0.31, MeOH); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3 480, 2 964, 2 931, 1 710, 1 647, 1 462, 1 276, 1 160, 1 104, 1 076, 996, 921 cm⁻¹; ESI-MS *m/z*: 269 [M + H]⁺, 291 [M + Na]⁺, ¹H and ¹³C-NMR, see Table 1.

Compound **2**: white amorphous solid; $[\alpha]_D^{27} + 4.7^\circ$ (*c* 1.07, MeOH); FAB-MS *m/z*: 317 [M + H]⁺, 298 [M – H₂O]⁺, 280 [M – 2H₂O]⁺, 184 [M + H – 133]⁺, 167 [M – Arab]⁺, 149 [M – 167]⁺, 133 [M + H – 184]⁺; ¹H and ¹³C-NMR, see Table 1. These data were consistent with those of reference (Konoshima and Sawada, 1984).

Compound **3**: colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 15.8^\circ$ (*c* 0.53, CHCl₃); ESI-MS *m/z*: 213 [M + H]⁺, 230 [M + NH₄]⁺; ¹H and ¹³C-NMR, see Table 1. These data were consistent with those of reference (Carda *et al*, 1995).

Compound **4**: yellow amorphous powder; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 12.70 (1H, s, OH-5), 9.31 (1H, s, OH-2'), 8.63 (1H, s, OH-5'), 6.77 (1H, s, H-6'), 6.59 (1H, d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, H-8), 6.53 (1H, s, H-3'), 6.37 (1H, d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, H-6), 3.83 (3H, s, OMe-7), 3.78 (3H, s, OMe-4'), 3.70 (3H, s, OMe-3); ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 179.1 (C-4), 165.9 (C-7), 161.9 (C-5), 158.2 (C-2), 157.8 (C-9), 151.6 (C-4'), 149.9 (C-2'), 139.9 (C-3), 139.7 (C-5'), 116.8 (C-6'), 109.0 (C-1'), 106.5 (C-10), 101.8 (C-3'), 98.6 (C-6), 93.1 (C-8), 60.8 (3-OMe), 56.9 (7-OMe), 56.3 (4'-OMe). The ¹H-NMR data were consistent with those of reference (Braz and Gottlieb, 1971).

Compound **5**: light yellow amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 23.8^\circ$ (*c* 1.2, CH₃OH); ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 11.89 (1H, s, OH-5), 10.81 (1H, s, OH-7), 9.02 (1H, s, OH), 8.97 (1H, s, OH), 6.86 (1H, brs, H-4'), 6.73 (2H, brs, H-2', H-6'), 5.89 (1H, d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, H-6), 5.84 (1H, d, *J* = 2.0 Hz, H-8), 5.75 (1H, d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, OH-3), 4.96 (1H, d, *J* = 10.7 Hz, H-2), 4.49 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.7, 6.2 Hz, H-3); ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ : 198.1 (C-4), 167.1 (C-7), 163.7 (C-5), 162.9 (C-9),

146.1 (C-3'), 145.3 (C-5'), 128.4 (C-1'), 119.7 (C-4'), 115.7 (C-2'), 115.5 (C-6'), 100.8 (C-10), 96.3 (C-6), 95.3 (C-8), 83.4 (C-2), 71.9 (C-3). These data were consistent with those of reference (Ding *et al*, 1997).

Compound **6**: yellow amorphous powder; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 10.25 (1H, s, OH), 9.99 (1H, s, OH), 7.55 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, H-2, H-6), 7.52 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, H-6'), 7.47 (1H, d, $J = 15.7$ Hz, H- β), 7.37 (1H, d, $J = 15.7$ Hz, H- α), 6.82 (2H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, H-3, H-5), 6.51 (1H, d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, H-3'), 6.46 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 2.1$ Hz, H-5'), 3.85 (3H, s, 4-OMe); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 189.7 (-CO-), 163.4 (C-4), 161.3 (C-2'), 160.5 (C-4'), 142.2 (C- β), 133.1 (C-6'), 131.1 (C-2, 6), 126.9 (C-1), 124.8 (C- α), 121.1 (C-1'), 116.7 (C-3, 5), 108.7 (C-5'), 100.1 (C-3'). These data were consistent with those of reference (Achenbach *et al*, 1988).

Compound **7**: yellow amorphous powder; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 12.48 (1H, s, OH-5), 10.82 (1H, s, OH-7), 10.13 (1H, s, OH), 9.41 (1H, s, OH), 8.05 (2H, d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, H-2', H-6'), 6.93 (2H, d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, H-3', H-5'), 6.45 (1H, d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, H-8), 6.19 (1H, d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, H-6); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 176.8 (C-4), 164.8 (C-7), 161.6 (C-5), 160.1 (C-4'), 157.0 (C-9), 147.7 (C-2), 136.5 (C-3), 130.4 (C-2', C-6'), 122.5 (C-1'), 116.3 (C-3', C-5'), 103.9 (C-10), 99.1 (C-6), 94.3 (C-8). These data were consistent with those of reference (Yu and Yang, 1999).

Compound **8**: yellow amorphous powder; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 12.97 (1H, s, OH-5), 10.83 (1H, s, OH), 10.35 (1H, s, OH), 7.93 (2H, d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, H-2', H-6'), 6.94 (2H, d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, H-3', H-5'), 6.79 (1H, s, H-3), 6.51 (1H, d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, H-8), 6.21 (1H, d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, H-6); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 182.6 (C-4), 165.1 (C-2), 164.6 (C-7), 162.3 (C-4'), 162.0 (C-5), 158.1 (C-9), 129.3 (C-2', C-6'), 122.0 (C-1'), 116.8 (C-3', C-5'), 104.5 (C-10), 103.6 (C-3), 99.7 (C-6), 94.8 (C-8). These data were consistent with those of reference (Yu and Yang, 1999).

Compound **9**: yellow amorphous powder; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 10.74 (1H, s, OH), 10.23 (1H,

s, OH), 7.89 (2H, d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, H-2', H-6'), 7.84 (1H, d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, H-5), 6.95 (1H, d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, H-8), 6.91 (2H, d, $J = 8.7$ Hz, H-3', H-5'), 6.90 (1H, dd, $J = 8.5, 2.1$ Hz, H-6), 6.70 (1H, s, H-3); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 176.6 (C-4), 162.9 (C-7), 162.8 (C-2), 161.0 (C-4'), 157.7 (C-9), 128.5 (C-2', C-6'), 126.8 (C-5), 122.2 (C-1'), 116.5 (C-10), 116.3 (C-3', C-5'), 115.1 (C-6), 104.9 (C-3), 102.8 (C-8). These data were consistent with those of reference (Yu and Yang, 1999).

Compound **10**: yellow amorphous powder; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (500 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 12.98 (1H, s, OH-5), 10.77 (1H, s, OH), 10.08 (1H, s, OH), 7.58 (1H, brd, $J = 8.9$ Hz, H-6'), 7.57 (1H, brs, H-2'), 6.94 (1H, d, $J = 8.9$ Hz, H-5'), 6.92 (1H, s, H-3), 6.52 (1H, d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, H-8), 6.20 (1H, d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, H-6), 3.90 (3H, s, OMe); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (125 MHz, $\text{DMSO-}d_6$) δ : 182.7 (C-4), 165.0 (C-7), 164.5 (C-2), 162.3 (C-5), 158.2 (C-9), 151.6 (C-3'), 148.9 (C-4'), 122.4 (C-6'), 121.2 (C-1'), 116.6 (C-5'), 111.1 (C-2'), 104.6 (C-10), 104.1 (C-3), 99.7 (C-6), 94.9 (C-8). These data were consistent with those of reference (Yu and Yang, 1999).

Discussion

Compound **1** was isolated as colorless oil and its molecular formula was assigned as $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_3$ by analyses of ESI-MS at m/z 269 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$, 291 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$. The IR spectrum revealed hydroxy (3 480 cm^{-1}), carbonyl (1 710 cm^{-1}) and double bond (1 647 cm^{-1}) functionalities. The $^1\text{H-NMR}$ data (Table 1) indicated three terminal olefinic proton signals at δ 5.24 (1H, brd, $J = 17.3$ Hz), 5.10 (1H, brd, $J = 10.8$ Hz), 5.92 (1H, dd, $J = 17.3, 10.8$ Hz) forming an AMX system; an olefinic proton on a tri-substituted double bond at δ 6.75 (1H, brt, $J = 7.4$ Hz); two oxymethylene protons at δ 4.01 (1H, dd, $J = 10.8, 6.0$ Hz), 3.92 (1H, dd, $J = 10.8, 6.6$ Hz); four regular methylene groups at δ 1.73, 1.65, 1.45, and 1.24 (each 2H, m); as well as signals of four methyl groups at δ 1.83 (3H, s), 1.32 (3H, s), 0.93 (3H, d, $J = 7.4$ Hz), and 0.92 (3H, t, $J = 7.5$ Hz). A $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}$

(CH₃) CH₂CH₂CH₃ group, a CH₂=CH- group, and a -CH₂CH₂CH= fragment were confirmed by ¹H-¹H COSY correlations (Fig. 2). The 16 signals of the ¹³C-NMR spectrum and a DEPT experiment (Table 1) of compound **1** showed the corresponding carbon signals and in addition one carbonyl at δ 168.7, one quaternary carbon at δ 128.4 and one oxygen-bearing quaternary carbon at δ 73.5. The ¹H and ¹³C-NMR data of compound **1** were very similar to those of (2*E*, 6*S*)-6-hydroxy-2, 6-dimethyl-2, 7-octadienoic acid (Alberto *et al*, 1993) except for one more 2-methylpentanol moiety presented in compound **1**. In HMBC spectrum, the correlations between the protons of H-1' at δ 4.01 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.8, 6.0 Hz), 3.92 (1H, dd, *J* = 10.8, 6.6 Hz), and carbon signal at δ 168.7 (C-1) indicated 2-methylpentanol moiety connected with C-1 through an ester linkage in compound **1**. The absolute stereochemistry of compound **1** was under deducing. However, no matter the stereochemistry is *S* or *R*, it is still a new compound.

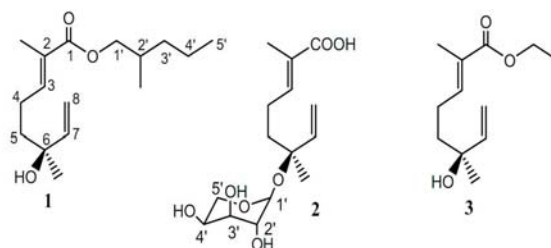


Fig. 1 Structures of compounds 1–3

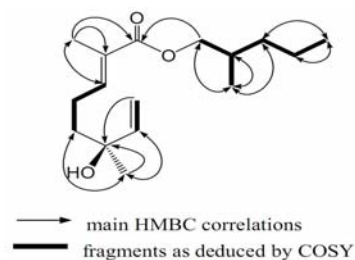


Fig. 2 HMBC and COSY correlations of compound 1

Compound **3** was synthesized in 1995 (Carda *et al*, 1995) and no report has been found that compound **3** was isolated from natural source. Compound **4** was synthesized in 1965 (Jain *et al*, 1965), and was reported from plants *Apuleia leiocarpa* (Vog.) Macbr and *Chrysosplenium grayanum* Maxim (Braz and Gottlieb,

Table 1 ¹H-NMR (500 MHz) and ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz) data of compounds 1–3; δ in ppm and *J* in Hz

No.	1 ^a		2 ^b		3 ^a	
	δ_C	δ_H	δ_C	δ_H	δ_C	δ_H
1	168.7		168.2	12.1 brs, COOH	168.6	
2	128.4		126.9		128.3	
3	142.3	6.75 1H, brt, 7.4	142.3	6.63 1H, brt, 7.5	142.3	6.75 1H, brt, 7.5
4	23.8	2.22 2H, m	22.5	2.20 2H, m	23.8	2.21 2H, m
5	41.1	1.65 2H, m	39.3	1.60 2H, m	41.0	1.64 2H, m
6	73.5		77.8		73.5	
7	144.9	5.92 1H, dd, 17.3, 10.8	144.0	5.90 1H, dd, 17.7, 11.0	144.9	5.91 1H, dd, 17.4, 10.8
8	112.6	5.24 1H, brd, 17.3 5.10 1H, brd, 10.8	115.0	5.23 1H, brd, 17.7 5.15 1H, brd, 11.0	112.6	5.23 1H, brd, 17.4 5.09 1H, brd, 10.8
2-Me	12.8	1.83 3H, s	11.5	1.33 3H, s	12.7	1.82 3H, s
6-Me	28.5	1.32 3H, s	22.2	1.27 3H, s	28.4	1.31 3H, s
1'	69.5	4.01 1H, dd, 10.8 6.0 3.92 1H, dd, 10.8 6.6	97.8	4.79 1H, brs	60.8	4.16 2H, q, 7.5
2'	34.7	1.73 1H, m	70.2	3.58 1H, m ^c	14.7	1.28 3H, t, 7.5
3'	28.4	1.45 2H, m	72.7	3.32 1H, m ^c		
4'	26.6	1.24 2H, m	67.1	4.15 1H, m		
5'	11.7	0.92 3H, t, 7.5	64.6	3.60 1H, m ^c 3.35 1H, m ^c		
2'-Me	16.9	0.93 3H, d, 7.4				

a in CDCl₃; b in DMSO-*d*₆; c overlapped

1971, Arisawa *et al*, 1991). As no ^{13}C -NMR assignments of compounds **3** and **4** have been reported so far, we gave the complete assignment of ^{13}C -NMR data of compounds **3** and **4** by COSY, HMQC, and HMBC spectra (see identification). Compounds **4-10** were isolated from *G. chinensis* for the first time.

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