Molecules 2015, 20, 15192-15201; doi:10.3390/molecules200815192

Article

A New Ionone Glycoside and Three New Rhemaneolignans from the Roots of Rehmannia glutinosa

Meng Li 1,2, Xiaolan Wang 2,3, Xiaoke Zheng 2,3, Jianchao Wang 2,3, Wei Zhao 2,3, Kai Song 2,3, Xuan Zhao 2,3, Yanli Zhang 2,3, Haixue Kuang 1 and Weisheng Feng 2,3,*

1 School of Pharmacy, Heilongjiang University of Chinese Medicine, Harbin 150040, China; E-Mails: limeng31716@163.com (M.L.); hxkuang@hotmail.com (H.K.)

2 Collaborative Innovation Center for Respiratory Disease Diagnosis and Treatment & Chinese Medicine Development of Henan Province, Zhengzhou 450046, China; E-Mails: wxl_@163.com (X.W.); zhengxk.2006@163.com (X.Z.); 15238397097@163.com (J.W.); 18236159652@163.com (W.Z.); songky5901@163.com (K.S.); lilas616@hotmail.com (X.Z.); zyl2013hnzy@163.com (Y.Z.)

3 School of Pharmacy, Henan University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Zhengzhou 450046, China

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed; E-Mail: fwsh@hactcm.edu.cn; Tel./Fax: +86-371-6568-0011.

Academic Editor: Derek J. McPhee

Received: 25 June 2015 / Accepted: 14 August 2015 / Published: 20 August 2015

Abstract: A new ionone glycoside, frehmaglutoside I (1), and three new rhemaneolignans A–C (2–4) were isolated from the 95% EtOH extract of the roots of Rehmannia glutinosa. Their structures were determined by extensive spectroscopic (UV, IR, HR-ESI-MS, 1D and 2D NMR) analyses. In addition, these compounds were evaluated for their protective effects on cardiocytes impaired by doxorubicin in H9c2 cells. Among them, compounds 1–3 exhibited protective effects against DOX-induced cardiotoxicity.

Keywords: Rehmannia glutinosa; ionone glycoside; rhemaneolignans; the protective effects of cardiomyocytes
1. Introduction

*Rehmannia glutinosa*, which belongs to Scrophulariaceae family, has been used as traditional Chinese herbal medicine for thousands of years. It was recorded in the Chinese medical classic “Shennong’s Herba” and was thought of in China as a “top grade” herb. Previous phytochemical studies on the dried and steamed roots of *R. glutinosa* have led to the isolation and identification of iridoid glycosides, ionone glycosides, phenethyl alcohol glycosides, and several other components [1–5]. In our previous studies, three new ursane-type triterpenes glutinosalactone A–C were isolated from the leaves, a new megastigmane, rehmamegastigmane, from the fresh roots, and two new ionone glycosides frehmaglutoside G and H from the dried roots [6–8]. Next, the further phytochemical study was undertaken to investigate the chemical constituents of the 95% EtOH extract of the dried roots of *R. glutinosa*, which led to the isolation of four new compounds: frehmaglutoside I (1) and rhemaneolignan A–C (2–4) (Figure 1). Their structures were elucidated by extensive analysis of HR-ESI-MS, 1D and 2D NMR, CD data, and chemical methods. In this paper, we describe the isolation, structure elucidation, and biological evaluation of the new compounds.

![Figure 1. Structures of compounds 1–4.](image)

2. Results and Discussion

Compound 1 was obtained as pale yellow crystalline powder, with a molecular formula of C_{22}H_{38}O_{9} on the basis of a [M + Na]^+ ion peak at m/z 469.2407 (calcd. 469.2414) in the HRESIMS. It showed IR absorptions for hydroxyl (3361 cm\(^{-1}\)), methyl (2923 cm\(^{-1}\)), double bond (1698 cm\(^{-1}\)) and ether linkages (1074 and 1025 cm\(^{-1}\)). In the 1H- and 13C-NMR spectra of 1 (Table 1), the signal patterns were similar to those of frehmaglutoside H [8] from *R. glutinosa*, except for the presence of one methoxy (\(\delta_\text{H} 3.32\) (3H, s, OCH\(_3\)) and \(\delta_\text{C} 58.0\) (OCH\(_3\))). The NMR chemical shifts at the C-11 position of 1 were shifted downfield to \(\delta_\text{H} 4.15\) (2H, d, \(J = 7.0\) Hz, H-11) and \(\delta_\text{C} 69.1\) (C-11) compared with those of frehmaglutoside H, suggesting that the methoxy was located at the hydroxymethyl group of C-11. This finding was
supported by the heteronuclear multiple-bond connectivity (HMBC) correlation from H-12 (δ 3.32) to C-11 (Figure 2).

![Figure 2. Key HMBC and 1H-1H COSY correlations of 1–4.](image)

**Table 1.** $^1$H- and $^{13}$C-NMR data for 1 (500 and 125 MHz, δ ppm).

| No. | δ_{H}  | δ_{C} | No. | δ_{H}  | δ_{C} |
|-----|--------|-------|-----|--------|-------|
| 1   | -      | 82.3  | 12  | 3.32 (3H, s) | 58.0  |
| 2   | -      | 75.3  | 13  | 1.92 (3H, s) | 21.0  |
| 3   | 1.96 (1H, m) | 35.9 | 14  | 1.17 (3H, s) | 18.8  |
|     | 1.49 (1H, m) |       |       |         |       |
| 4   | 1.96 (2H, m) | 26.9 | 15  | 0.95 (3H, s) | 22.6  |
|     | 1.88 (2H, m) |       |       |         |       |
| 5   | 3.73 (1H, m) | 85.5 | 16  | 1.03 (3H, s) | 27.0  |
| 6   | -      | 45.0  | 1’  | 4.31 (1H, d, 7.5) | 106.7 |
| 7   | 6.29 (1H, d, 16.0) | 134.1 | 2’  |        | 75.6  |
| 8   | 6.68 (1H, d, 16.0) | 127.5 | 3’  | 3.16–3.64 (4H, m) | 78.2  |
| 9   | -      | 137.5 | 4’  |        | 71.6  |
| 10  | 5.45 (1H, t, 6.5) | 125.4 | 5’  |        | 77.7  |
| 11  | 4.15 (2H, d, 7.0) | 69.1 | 6’  | 3.84 (1H, dd, 2.5, 11.0) | 62.8  |
|     |        |       |     | 3.67 (1H, dd, 5.0, 11.0) |       |

The relative configuration of 1 was confirmed by analysis of the NOESY spectrum, the correlations between H-5 (δ 3.73) and H-15 (δ 0.95)/H-16 (δ 1.03) revealed that they were β-oriented; on the other hand, the correlations between H-5 and H-14 (δ 1.17) indicated that these protons were α-oriented respectively (Figure 3).

The CD spectrum of 1 displayed positive Cotton effect at 204 nm and negative Cotton effect at 232 nm, which were also similar to frehmaglutoside H. Therefore the asymmetric centers of 1 had a $1R$, 2$R$, 5$S$ configuration. Finally, in the acid hydrolysis of 1, d-glucose was obtained as confirmed by TLC comparison with a reference sample, and the configuration was determined by measurement of the
optical rotation value. On the basis of the above analysis, 1 was identified as (7\text{E},9\text{E})-7-[(1\text{R},2\text{R},5\text{S})-trihydroxy-2,6,6-trimethylcyclohexane]-9-methyipenta-7,9-dienoic-5-O-\beta-D-glucopyranoside, and named frehmaglutoside I (Figure 1).

![Compound 1](image1)

**Figure 3.** Key NOESY correlations of compounds 1 and 3.

Compound 2 was isolated as a colorless amorphous powder with [\(\alpha\)]\textsubscript{D}\textsuperscript{20} = −4.20 (c 0.20, MeOD). Its molecular formula, C\textsubscript{21}H\textsubscript{24}O\textsubscript{8}, was determined by the observation of a sodiated molecular ion peak at \(m/z\) 427.1367 (calcd. for C\textsubscript{21}H\textsubscript{24}O\textsubscript{8}Na, 427.1369) in the HRESIMS. The IR spectrum showed the presence of hydroxyl (3355 cm\textsuperscript{-1}), methyl (2956, 2923 and 2853 cm\textsuperscript{-1}), ester carbonyl (1635 cm\textsuperscript{-1}), and methoxyl groups (1260 and 1022 cm\textsuperscript{-1}). The \(\text{\textsuperscript{1}H-NMR}\) data of 2 (Table 2) indicated the presence of two ABX patterns (\(\delta\)\textsubscript{H} 6.95 (1H, d, \(J = 8.5\) Hz, H-3), 7.06 (1H, dd, \(J = 2.0, 8.5\) Hz, H-4), 7.15 (1H, d, \(J = 2.0\) Hz, H-6) and 7.02 (1H, d, \(J = 2.0\) Hz, H-3'), 6.83 (1H, dd, \(J = 2.0, 8.0\) Hz, H-5'), 6.70 (1H, d, \(J = 8.0\) Hz, H-6'), \textit{trans}-olefinic proton signals (\(\delta\)\textsubscript{H} 7.59 (1H, d, \(J = 16.0\) Hz, H-7), 6.38 (1H, d, \(J = 16.0\) Hz, H-8)), and three methoxy groups (\(\delta\)\textsubscript{H} 3.81 (3H, s), 3.77 (3H, s), 3.76 (3H, s)) [9]. The \(\text{\textsuperscript{13}C-NMR}\) and DEPT spectra (Table 2) of 2 showed 21 carbon signals, including three methoxyls (\(\delta\)\textsubscript{C} 52.0, 56.3, 56.6), one methylene (\(\delta\)\textsubscript{C} 62.4), ten methines (\(\delta\)\textsubscript{C} 74.1, 85.5, 112.0, 112.4, 115.6, 116.5, 117.6, 121.2, 123.5, 129.5), six quaternary carbons (\(\delta\)\textsubscript{C} 134.0, 146.3, 147.1, 148.7, 151.8, 151.8) and one ester carbonyl (\(\delta\)\textsubscript{C} 169.5). These \(\text{\textsuperscript{1}H-}\) and \(\text{\textsuperscript{13}C-NMR}\) data implied that compound 2 should be an oxyneolignane and were similar to those of 2,2\textsuperscript{\prime}-dimethoxy-4-(3-hydroxypropenyl)-4\textsuperscript{\prime}-(1,2,3-trihydroxypropyl) biphenyl ether [10], except for the fact the hydroxymethyl group (C-9) in it was replaced by an ester carbonyl (\(\delta\)\textsubscript{C} 169.5), and one additional methoxy unit was present in compound 2. The HMBC experiment confirmed the abovementioned suggestion and placed the additional methoxyl unit at C-9 (Figure 2). The relative configuration of 2 was determined by analysis of the coupling constants. The H-7' possessed a \(\beta\)-orientation on the basis of the observed \(J\) value of 6.0 Hz between H-7' and H-8', indicating that H-7' and H-8' were in a \textit{trans}-configuration [11]. The NOESY correlations from H-8' to H-7' further supported the conclusion (Figure 3). Thus the relative configuration for 2 was determined. In addition, the absolute configuration of C-8' was determined to be \(S\), as the CD spectrum showed a positive Cotton effect at 253 nm [12,13]. Correspondingly, the absolute configuration of 7' was elucidated as \(R\). In summary, the structure of 2 was established as (7'R,8'S)-3,3'-dimethoxy-1-(3-methyl-1-acrylate)-1'- (1,2,3-trihydroxypropyl)-4-O-4' neolignan and named rhemaneolignan A (Figure 1).
Table 2. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR data for 2 and 3 (500 and 125 MHz, δ ppm).

| No. | 2 (CD₃OD) | 3 (DMSO-d₆) |
|-----|-----------|-------------|
|     | δH        | δC         | δH        | δC         |
| 1   | 151.8     | -          | 149.5     |            |
| 2   | 151.8     | 150.8      |           |            |
| 3   | 7.15 (d, 2.0) | 112.4     | 7.32 (d, 2.0) | 111.2     |
| 4   | 129.5     | -          | 126.7     |            |
| 5   | 7.06 (dd, 2.0, 8.5) | 123.5     | 7.18 (dd, 2.0, 8.0) | 122.6     |
| 6   | 6.95 (d, 8.5) | 117.6     | 7.04 (d, 8.0) | 114.4     |
| 7   | 7.59 (d, 16.0) | 146.3     | 7.51 (d, 16.0) | 144.7     |
| 8   | 6.38 (d, 16.0) | 116.5     | 6.52 (d, 16.0) | 115.1     |
| 9   | 169.5     | -          | 167.0     |            |
| OCH₃ | 3.81 (s)  | 56.6       | 3.80 (s)  | 55.7       |
| OCH₃'' | 3.76 (s) | 52.0       | 3.69 (s) | 51.2       |
| 1' | -         | 147.1      | -         | 145.5      |
| 2' |           | 148.7      |           | 147.0      |
| 3' | 7.02 (d, 2.0) | 112.0     | 6.95 (d, 2.0) | 111.0     |
| 4' | 134.0     | -          | 132.9     |            |
| 5' | 6.83 (dd, 2.0, 8.0) | 121.2     | 6.74 (dd, 2.0, 8.0) | 119.0     |
| 6' | 6.70 (d, 8.0) | 115.6     | 6.66 (d, 8.0) | 114.6     |
| 7' | 4.81 (d, 6.0) | 74.1      | 4.68 (d, 4.0) | 76.0       |
| 8' | 4.48 (m)  | 85.5       | 4.37 (m)  | 83.8       |
| 9' | 3.83 (m)  | 62.4       | 3.56 (m)  | 60.1       |
| OCH₃' | 3.77 (s) | 56.3       | 3.71 (s) | 55.4       |

Compound 3, isolated as a colorless powder with [α]₂⁰D +1.79 (c 0.20, MeOD), gave the same molecular formula C₂₁H₂₄O₈ as that of 2 by positive HRESIMS (m/z 427.1366 [M + Na]⁺, calcd. for 427.1369) and was found to be a diastereoisomer of compound 2. The two structures differ from each other only by the stereochemistry at the two chiral centers (C-7' and C-8'). The ¹H-NMR spectrum was almost identical to that of 2 except for the coupling constant of H-7' (δH 4.68 (d, J = 4.0)), which suggested that H-7' possessed an α-orientation, furthermore indicating that H-7' and H-8' were in a cis-configuration. The CD spectrum of 3 exhibited similar Cotton effects (positive at 258 nm) to that of 2. Therefore the asymmetric centers of 3 were 7'S, 8'S configuration. Accordingly, the structure of 3 was defined as (7'S,8'S)-3,3'-dimethoxy-1-(3-methyl-1-acrylate)-1'- (1,2,3-trihydroxypropyl)-4-O-4'-neo-lignan and named rhemaneolignan B (Figure 1).

Compound 4, as pale yellow amorphous powder, was assigned the molecular formula C₂₆H₃₆O₁₂ by HRESIMS (m/z 563.2101 [M + Na]⁺, calcd. for 563.2107). The NMR spectroscopic data of 4 (Table 3) was similar to that of daphneresinol [14], except for additional signals associated with a glucopyranosyl unit inferred from signals at δ 102.9 (C-1''), 71.4 (C-2''), 78.1 (C-3''), 74.9 (C-4''), 77.8 (C-5''), 62.5 (C-6''). In the ¹H-NMR spectrum, the anomeric proton signal at δ 4.80 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz) pointed out the existence of one β-glucopyranose unit. In the HMBC spectrum, a correlation from the anomeric proton to C-4 (δ 146.1) indicated unequivocally that the β-glucopyranosyl moiety was located at C-4 (Figure 2). Consequently, the structure of 4 was identified as 4-O-β-D-glucopyranoside-2-benzhydryl-3-hydroxymethyl butane-1,4-diol and named rhemaneolignan C (Figure 1).
Table 3. $^1$H- and $^{13}$C-NMR data for 4 (500 and 125 MHz, δ ppm).

| No. | δH   | δC   | No. | δH   | δC   |
|-----|-------|------|-----|-------|------|
| 1   | -     | 141.3| 1’  | -     | 136.7|
| 2   | 7.02 (d, 2.0) | 113.8| 2’  | 6.97 (d, 2.0) | 113.0|
| 3   | -     | 150.7| 3’  | -     | 149.1|
| 4   | -     | 146.1| 4’  | -     | 145.8|
| 5   | 7.08 (d, 2.0) | 118.2| 5’  | 6.73 (d, 2.0) | 116.3|
| 6   | 6.95 (dd, 2.0, 8.0) | 121.4| 6’  | 6.86 (dd, 2.0, 8.0) | 121.8|
| 7   | 4.07 (d, 12.5) | 52.1 | glu”|       |      |
| 8   | 3.69 (2H, m) | 44.7 | 1”  | 4.80 (d, 8.0) | 102.9|
| 9   | 1.96 (2H, m) | 43.7 | 2”  | 3.38 (1H, m) | 71.4|
| 10  | 3.75 (2H, m) | 63.6 | 3”  | 3.38 (1H, m) | 78.1|
| 11  | 3.57 (1H, m) | 60.0 | 4”  | 3.47 (1H, m) | 74.9|
| 12  | 3.38 (1H, m) | 60.7 | 5”  | 3.48 (1H, m) | 71.8|
| OCH3| 3.87 (3H, s) | 56.8 | 6”  | 3.86 (1H, 2.0, 12.0) | 62.5|
| OCH3’| 3.86 (3H, s) | 56.5 | 5’  | 3.70 (1H, 6.0, 11.0) | 62.5|

To investigate whether compounds 1–3 could protect cells from DOX-induced cell death, H9c2 cells were treated with 50 μM DOX in the presence or absence of compounds 1–3 (40 and 80 μM) and the cell viability was assessed by performing MTT assay. Among them, compound 1–3 exhibited protective effects against DOX-induced cardiotoxicity with different concentrations (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Protective effects of 1–3 on DOX-induced cytotoxicity in H9c2 cell. n = 3; *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01 compared with the DOX group.
3. Experimental Section

3.1. General Experimental Procedures

NMR spectra (500 MHz for $^1$H-NMR and 125 MHz for $^{13}$C-NMR) were recorded in CD$_3$OD or DMSO-$d_6$ on an AVANCE III 500 spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics, Bremen, Germany), with TMS as internal standard. Optical rotations were measured with an AP-IV instrument (Rudolph Research Analytical, Hackettstown, Madison, WI, USA). IR spectra were determined on a Nicolet iS 10 Microscope Spectrometer (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA). HR-ESI-MS spectra were recorded on a Bruker maxis HD mass spectrometer. UV spectra were recorded on a UV-2401PC apparatus (Shimadzu Corporation, Kyoto, Japan). HPLC was performed on a Waters Alliance 2695 separations module (equipped with Empower software) connected to a Waters 2998 photodiode array (PDA) detector (190–800 nm) equipped with a Platisil ODS C18 column (250 mm × 4.6 mm I.D. 5 μm) (Waters, Milford, MA, USA). Preparative HPLC was conducted using a Saipuruisi LC-50 instrument with an UV200 detector (Beijing, China) and a YMC-Pack ODS-A column (250 mm × 20 mm, 5 μm and 250 mm × 10 mm, 5 μm). Column chromatography was made use of Diaion HP-20 (Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, Tokyo, Japan), Toyopearl HW-40, MCI gel CHP-20 (TOSOH Corp., Tokyo, Japan), Sephadex LH-20 (40–70 μm, Amersham Pharmacia Biotech AB, Uppsala, Sweden), silica gel (160–200 mesh, Marine Chemical Industry, Qingdao, China). TLC was carried out on self-made silica gel G (Marine Chemical Industry) plates, CH$_2$Cl$_2$/MeOH/H$_2$O (10:1:0.1, v/v), CH$_2$Cl$_2$/MeOH/H$_2$O (4:1:0.1, v/v) as the eluent, and spots were visualized by spraying with 10% H$_2$SO$_4$ in ethanol (v/v) followed by heating. The chemical reagents were supplied by Beijing Chemical Plant (Beijing, China), Tianjin NO. 3 Reagent Plant (Tianjin, China) and Tianjin Shield Fine Chemicals Company (Tianjin, China).

3.2. Plant Material

The dried roots of R. glutinosa were collected from Jiaozuo, Henan Province in China, in November 2010. The plants were identified by Prof. Chengming Dong of Henan University of TCM. A voucher specimen (No. 20101101A) has been stored in the Department of Natural Medicinal Chemistry, School of Pharmacy, Henan University of TCM, Zhengzhou, China.

3.3. Extraction and Isolation

The dried roots (20.0 kg) of R. glutinosa were cut into small pieces and extracted twice with 95% EtOH (200 L) under reflux for 2 h. After concentrating under reduced pressure on a vacuum evaporator, the concentrated solution (1500 mL) was centrifuged and subjected to Diaion HP-20 column chromatography, eluting successively with H$_2$O and MeOH, to afford water and methanol extracts (101.6 g). Next the methanol extracts were dissolved in 10% MeOH/H$_2$O (1000 mL), and subjected to Diaion HP-20 column chromatography once again, eluting successively with 10%, 30%, 50%, 70%, 100% (v/v) MeOH/H$_2$O (10 column volumes each). After removing the solvents, extracts of 65.0 g, 16.6 g, 11.5 g, 4.2 g, 2.0 g, were obtained, respectively.

The 10% MeOH/H$_2$O (65.0 g) fraction was subjected to silica gel column chromatography eluting with CH$_2$Cl$_2$/MeOH (30:1, 20:1, 10:1, 5:1) to afford Fr. 1.1–1.4. Fr. 1.3 (8.6 g) was purified over
Sephadex LH-20 using MeOH/H₂O (4:6) to afford Fr. 2.1–2.4. Fr. 2.2 was separated by preparative HPLC with MeOH/H₂O (33:67) (YMC-Pack ODS-A, Kyoto, Japan, 10 mm × 250 mm) to afford compound 1 (11 mg).

The 30% MeOH/H₂O (16.6 g) fraction was subjected to Toyopearl HW-40 column chromatography eluting with MeOH/H₂O from 0% to 100% to give Frs. 1.1–1.4. Fr. 1.4 was fractionated repeatedly by column chromatography on MCI gel CHP-20 using MeOH/H₂O (2:8) to yield Frs. 2.1–2.5. Fr. 2.4 was repeatedly chromatographed on a silica gel column with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (10:1) to yield 4 (3.5 mg).

The 50% MeOH/H₂O (11.5 g) fraction was fractionated on a silica gel column and eluted with mixtures of CH₂Cl₂ and MeOH of increasing polarity to afford fractions 1.1–1.6. Fraction 3 was chromatographed on a Sephadex LH-20 column eluting with MeOH/H₂O (7:3), followed by purification by semi-preparative HPLC with MeOH/H₂O (52:48) at a flow rate of 3 mL/min to give compounds 2 (12.0 mg) and 3 (8.6 mg).

3.4. Spectral Data

Frehmaglutoside I (1): Pale yellow crystalline powder; [α]₂⁰D −13.7 (c 0.20, CH₃OH); UV max 237 nm; CD (MeOH): 204 (Δε +3.09), 232 (Δε −5.23) nm; IR (MeOH) ν max: 3361, 2923, 2854, 1698, 1613, 1453, 1074, 1025 cm⁻¹; HRESIMS: m/z 469.2407 [M + Na⁺], C₂₂H₃₈O₉; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) spectral data and ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CD₃OD) spectral data, see Table 1.

Rhemaneolignan A (2): Colorless amorphous powder, [α]₂⁰D −4.20 (c 0.20, MeOD); UV max 325 nm; CD (MeOH): 253 (Δε +2.12) nm; IR (MeOH) ν max: 3356, 2956, 2923, 2853, 1635, 1508, 1456, 1259, 1022 cm⁻¹; HRESIMS: m/z 427.1367 [M + Na⁺], C₂₁H₂₄O₈; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) spectral data and ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CD₃OD) spectral data, see Table 2.

Rhemaneolignan B (3): Colorless amorphous powder, [α]₂⁰D +1.79 (c 0.20, MeOD); UV max 322 nm; CD (MeOH): 258 (Δε +2.73) nm; IR (MeOH) ν max: 3363, 2956, 2923, 2853, 1635, 1600, 1508, 1457, 1259, 1032 cm⁻¹; HR-ESI-MS: m/z 427.1366 [M + Na⁺], C₂₁H₂₄O₈; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-d₆) spectral data and ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-d₆) spectral data, see Table 2.

Rhemaneolignan C (4): Pale yellow amorphous powder, [α]₂⁰D −35.6 (c 0.14, MeOD); UV (MeOH) λ max: 278.3 nm; IR (MeOH) ν max: 3397, 2924, 2851, 1601, 1513, 1384, 1268, 1073, 1029; HR-ESI-MS m/z 563.2021 [M + Na⁺], C₂₆H₃₆O₁₂; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) spectral data and ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CD₃OD) spectral data, see Table 3.

3.5. Activity Assay

3.5.1. Cell Culture

The rat cardiac H9c2 myocardial cells, were spontaneously immortalized ventricular rat embryo myoblasts, were purchased from Biowit Technologies (Shenzhen, China). The cells were maintained in Dulbecco’s modified Eagle’s medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum at 37 °C in a water-saturated 5.0% CO₂ incubator.
3.5.2. Measurement of Cell Viability

Cells were split when a confluence of ~80% was achieved using trypsin-EDTA and seeded onto 96-well plates at a density of $1.0 \times 10^4$ cells·L$^{-1}$ (200 μL/well), incubated for 24 h before treatment. Thereafter, the cells were exposed to DOX (50 μM) for 24 h and then incubated in a fresh medium with compound 1–3 (80 and 40 μM) for an additional 24 h. The effects of compounds 1–3 on DOX induced cytotoxicity were assessed using the MTT assay, as previously described [15,16]. The optical density of each well was then measured on a microplate spectrophotometer at a wavelength of 490 nm. Cell viability was determined as the percentage of surviving cells compared with that of the DOX-treated control.

3.5.3. Statistical Analysis

Experiments were performed in triplicate, and the values are the averages of three ($n = 4$) independent experiments. Individual data were expressed as mean ± standard deviation (SD). A post-hoc Dunnett’s test was used to obtain corrected $p$-values in group comparisons. Statistical analyses were performed with one-way ANOVA (SPSS version 13.0). A $p$ value of 0.05 or less was considered significant.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, a new ionone glycoside, frehmaglutoside I (1), and three new rhepaneolignans A–C (2–4), were isolated from the dried roots of *Rehmannia glutinosa*. Among them, different concentrations of compounds 1–3 exhibited protective effects against DOX-induced cardiotoxicity.

Supplementary Materials

The IR, HR-ESI-MS, NMR (1D and 2D) and CD spectra of compounds 1–3 are available as supporting information. Supplementary materials can be accessed at: http://www.mdpi.com/1420-3049/20/08/15192/s1.

Acknowledgments

Our work were supported by the Key Projects in the National Science & Technology Pillar Program during the Twelfth Five-Year Plan Period (2011BAI06B02) and the Collaborative Innovation Center of Diagnosis, Treatment and Drug Research for Respiratory Disease, Henan province, China.

Author Contributions

All listed authors contributed to this work. M.L. was responsible for the extraction, isolation and identification of the plant, and preparation of the manuscript; X.W. contributed to perform the activity assay; J.W., W.Z. and K.S. were also responsible for the extraction and isolation for the plant; X.Z. and Y.Z. were responsible for NMR spectrum; W.F., X.Z. and H.K. designed and obtained financial support.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.
References

1. Liu, Y.F.; Liang, D, Luo, H.; Hao, Z.Y.; Wang, Y.; Zhang, C.L.; Chen, R.Y.; Yu, D.Q. Chemical constituents from root tubers of *Rehmannia glutinosa*. *Chin. Tradit. Herb. Drugs* 2014, 45, 16–22.
2. Liu, Y.F.; Liang, D; Luo H.; Hao, Z.Y.; Wang Y.; Zhang, C.L.; Zhang, Q.J.; Chen, R.Y.; Yu, D.Q. Hepatoprotective iridoid glycosides from the roots of *Rehmannia glutinosa*. *J. Nat. Prod.* 2012, 75, 1625–1631.
3. Li, Y.S.; Chen, Z.J.; Zhu, D.Y. A novel bis-furan derivative, two new natural furan derivatives from *Rehmannia glutinosa* and their bioactivity. *Nat. Prod. Res.* 2005, 19, 165–170.
4. Sasaki, H; Nishimura, H; Morota, T; Katsuhara, T; Chin, M; Mitsuhashi, H. Norcarotenoids of *Rehmannia glutinosa* Ver. Hueichingensis. *Phytochemistry* 1991, 30, 1997–2001.
5. Liu, Y.F.; Liang, D.; Luo, H.; Hao, Z.Y.; Wang, Y.; Zhang, C.L.; Ni, G.; Chen, R.Y.; Yu, D.Q. Ionone glycosides from the roots of *Rehmannia glutinosa*. *J. Asian Nat. Prod. Res.* 2014, 16, 11–19.
6. Zhang, Y.L.; Feng, W.S.; Zheng, X.K.; Cao, Y.G.; Lv, Y.Y.; Chen, H.; Kuang, H.X. Three new ursane-type triterpenes from the leaves of *Rehmannia glutinosa*. *Fitoterapia* 2013, 89, 15–19.
7. Feng, W.S.; Lv, Y.Y.; Zheng, X.K.; Zhang, Y.L.; Cao, Y.G.; Pei, Y.Y. A new megastigmane from fresh roots of *Rehmannia glutinosa*. *Acta Pharm. Sin.* 2013, 3, 333–336.
8. Sun, X.G.; Ma, G.X.; Zhang, D.W.; Huang, W.H.; Ding, G.; Hu, H.G.; Tu, G.Z.; Guo, B.L. New lignans and iridoid glycosides from *Dipsacus asper* Wall. *Molecules* 2015, 20, 1178–1188.
9. Matsuda, N.; Kikuchi, M. Studies on the constituents of *Lonicera* species. X. neolignan glycosides from the leaves of *Lonicera gracilipes* var. *glandulosa* Maxim. *Chem. Pharm Bull.* 1996, 44, 1676–1679.
10. Liang, S.; Shen, Y.H.; Tian, J.M.; Wu, Z.J.; Jin, H.Z.; Zhang, W.D.; Yan, S.K. Phenylpropanoids from *Daphne feddei* and their inhibitory activities against NO production. *J. Nat. Prod.* 2008, 71, 1902–1905.
11. Sun, X.G.; Ma, G.X.; Zhang, D.W.; Huang, W.H.; Ding, G.; Hu, H.G.; Tu, G.Z.; Guo, B.L. New lignans and iridoid glycosides from *Dipsacus asper* Wall. *Molecules* 2015, 20, 2165–2175.
12. Yang, Y.D.; Hu, Z.X.; Luo, Z.W.; Xue, Y.B.; Yao, G.M.; Wang, Y.Y. A New Sesquilignan Glucoside from *Uricia sinensis*. *Molecules* 2014, 19, 1178–1188.
13. Sun, X.G.; Ma, G.X.; Zhang, D.W.; Huang, W.H.; Ding, G.; Hu, H.G.; Tu, G.Z.; Guo, B.L. New lignans and iridoid glycosides from *Dipsacus asper* Wall. *Molecules* 2015, 20, 2165–2175.
14. Yang, Y.D.; Hu, Z.X.; Luo, Z.W.; Xue, Y.B.; Yao, G.M.; Wang, Y.Y. A New Sesquilignan Glucoside from *Uricia sinensis*. *Molecules* 2014, 19, 1178–1188.
15. Matsuda, N.; Kikuchi, M. Studies on the constituents of *Lonicera* species. X. neolignan glycosides from the leaves of *Lonicera gracilipes* var. *glandulosa* Maxim. *Chem. Pharm Bull.* 1996, 44, 1676–1679.
16. Liang, S.; Shen, Y.H.; Tian, J.M.; Wu, Z.J.; Jin, H.Z.; Zhang, W.D.; Yan, S.K. Phenylpropanoids from *Daphne feddei* and their inhibitory activities against NO production. *J. Nat. Prod.* 2008, 71, 1902–1905.
17. Han, X.; Ren, D.; Fan, P.; Shen, T.; Lou, H. Protective effects of naringenin-7-O-glucoside on doxorubicininduced apoptosis in H9C2 cells. *Eur. J. Pharmacol.* 2008, 581, 47–53.
18. Wang, W.C.; Uen, Y.H.; Chang, M.L.; Cheah, K.P.; Li, J.S.; Yu, W.Y.; Lee, K.C.; Choy, K.C.; Hu, C.M. Protective effect of guggulsterone against cardiomyocyte injury induced by doxorubicin in vitro. *BMC Complement. Altern. Med.* 2012, 12, 138, doi:10.1186/1472-6882-12-138.

Sample Availability: Samples of the compounds 1–4 are available from the authors.

© 2015 by the authors; licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).