A New Sesquiterpene with a Novel 1β, 8β-Oxygen Bridge from
Heteropappus altaicus (willd.) Novopokr.

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Received: 29 November 2010; in revised form: 30 December 2010 / Accepted: 6 January 2011 / Published: 11 January 2011

Abstract: A new guaiane-type sesquiterpene, 4α,7β-dihydroxy-10βH-guai-5-en-1β,8β-
endoxide (1), was isolated from Heteropappus altaicus (Compositea). The structure of
compound 1, which contains exhibited a rare 1,8-oxide bridge, was established on the basis
of spectroscopic data.

Keywords: Heteropappus altaicus (willd.) Novopokr.; sesquiterpene; oxide bridge

1. Introduction

Heteropappus altaicus (willd.) Novopokr., which belongs to the Heteropappus genus (Compositea,
tribe Astereae), is used as traditional medicine in Tibet, and especially in Mongolia, against colds and
pulmonary diseases [1,2]. The number of diterpenes, triterpenoid saponins and flavone derivatives
have been identified in H. altaicus collected in Mongolia [3-8]. Investigation of whole plant of H.
altaicus from Shandong Province of China, in continuation of our project to compare the chemical
compositions of the same species collected from different regions, yielded a guaiane-type
sesquiterpene 1, which represents the first sesquiterpenoid of this type isolated from the H. altaicus. In
this paper we report the isolation and structure elucidation of this compound.
2. Results and Discussion

Compound 1 was obtained as a yellow oil. Its molecular formula was determined as C_{15}H_{24}O_{3} by HREIMS, which gave a peak at \( m/z \) 252.1733 \([\text{M}]^+\) (calcd. 252.1725) and NMR spectroscopic data (Table 1). The data indicate that the structure of 1 possesses four degrees of unsaturation. Its IR spectrum demonstrated the existence of hydroxyl (3,435 cm\(^{-1}\)) and double bond (1,630 cm\(^{-1}\)) functions. The \(^{13}\)C-NMR and DEPT spectra showed signals for 15 carbons, including four methyls (\( \delta \) 25.6, 16.5, 16.2 and 16.1 ppm), three sp\(^3\) methylenes (\( \delta \) 39.7, 32.8 and 30.5 ppm), two sp\(^3\) methines (\( \delta \) 42.1 and 30.9 ppm), three sp\(^3\) quaternary oxycarbons (\( \delta \) 88.5, 81.1 and 76.7 ppm), one sp\(^3\) tertiary oxycarbon (\( \delta \) 74.4 ppm) and one double bond (\( \delta \)153.8 and 122.7 ppm). The \(^1\)H-NMR spectrum of 1 displayed four methyl groups, including one tertiary methyl (\( \delta \) 1.36, 3H, s) and three secondary methyls (\( \delta \) 1.07, 3H, d, \( J = 6.8 \) Hz; 0.93, 3H, d, \( J = 6.8 \) Hz; 0.92, 3H, d, \( J = 6.8 \) Hz), one trisubstituted double bond (\( \delta \) 5.87, 1H, s) and one oxygen-bearing methine (\( \delta \) 4.25, 1H, d, \( J = 8.0 \) Hz). Thus, the tricyclic structure of 1 was revealed.

Table 1. \(^1\)H- and \(^{13}\)C-NMR spectra data of 1 (recorded at 400/100 MHz in CDCl\(_3\); \( \delta \) in ppm, \( J \) in Hz).

| No. | \(^1\)H | \(^{13}\)C |
|-----|--------|----------|
| 1   | -      | 88.5 (C) |
| 2   | 2.25 (1H, m); 1.86 (1H, m) | 30.5 (CH\(_2\)) |
| 3   | 1.94 (1H, m); 1.82 (1H, m) | 39.7 (CH\(_2\)) |
| 4   | -      | 76.7 (C) |
| 5   | -      | 153.8 (C) |
| 6   | 5.87 (1H, s) | 122.7 (CH) |
| 7   | -      | 74.4 (C) |
| 8   | 4.25 (1H, d, \( J = 8.0 \) Hz) | 81.1 (CH) |
| 9   | 2.32 (1H, m); 1.26 (1H, m) | 32.8 (CH\(_2\)) |
| 10  | -      | 42.1 (C) |
| 11  | 1.84 (1H, m) | 30.9 (CH) |
| 12  | 0.92 (3H, d, \( J = 6.8 \) Hz) | 16.2 (CH\(_3\)) |
| 13  | 1.07 (3H, d, \( J = 6.8 \) Hz) | 16.5 (CH\(_3\)) |
| 14  | 0.93 (3H, d, \( J = 6.8 \) Hz) | 16.1 (CH\(_3\)) |
| 15  | 1.36 (3H, s) | 25.6 (CH\(_3\)) |

By the analysis of \(^1\)H-\(^1\)H COSY correlations (Figure 1), it was possible to establish three partial structures of consecutive proton systems extending from H\(_2\)-2 to H\(_2\)-3; H\(_3\)-14 to H-10, H\(_2\)-9 and H-8; H-11 to H\(_3\)-12 and H\(_3\)-13.

Figure 1. \(^1\)H-\(^1\)H COSY correlations (bold lines) and key HMBC correlations (H \( \rightarrow \) C) of 1.
By further analysis of the HMBC correlations (Figure 1), the guaiane-type skeleton of 1 was established. The hydroxyl groups should be positioned at a methyl-bearing carbon C-4 and an isopropyl-bearing carbon C-7, as designated by the HMBC correlations observed from the tertiary methyl (δ 1.36, 3H, s) to the quaternary carbons at δ 76.7 (C-4) and 153.8 (C-5) and the secondary methyls (δ 1.07, 3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz; 0.92, 3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz) to the quaternary carbon at δ 74.4 (C-7), respectively. Therefore, the last one additional oxygen atom should be used to form an oxide bridge in the cycloheptene moiety of the molecule. The HMBC correlations found from the H-8 (δ 4.25, d, J = 8.0 Hz) to C-1 (δ 88.5, C) further confirmed the 1,8-endoxide linkage.

**Figure 2.** Selective NOESY correlations of 1.

In the ¹H-NMR spectrum, the chemical shift value of H-9α at δ 2.32 was typical for guaiane-type sesquiterpenoid having α-methyl group at C-10 [9,10]. It was found that H-15 (δ 1.36, 3H, s) showed a NOE interaction with H-6 (δ 5.87, 1H, s), suggesting the H-15 should be positioned on the β-face which leads to a lack of NOE connectivity between H-15 and H-14α. The above observations together with the NOE correlations observed in the NOESY spectrum (Figure 2) supported the relative structure of 1 as 4α,7β-dihydroxy-10βH-guai-5-en-1β,8β-endoxide (Figure 3).

**Figure 3.** Structure of compound 1.

3. Experimental

3.1. General

Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer Model 341 polarimeter. IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet NEXUS 670 FT-IR instrument, using KBr discs, over the range 400-4,000 cm⁻¹. NMR spectra were measured on a Bruker AM-400 NMR spectrometer with TMS as an internal standard. High-resolution mass spectrometry experiments were obtained on a Bruker Daltons Apex III spectrometer. Column chromatography was carried out on Si gel (200-300 mesh) and TLC on Si gel (GF254 10-40 µm), both supplied by Qingdao Marine Chemical Co.
3.2. Plant Material

The whole plant of *H. altaicus* (willd.) Novopokr. was collected from Taian (Shandong Province, P.R. China) and was identified by Prof. Xiaochuan Liu (School of Life Science, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University). A voucher specimen (No. 080901) has been deposited in the Department of Chemistry, Zhejiang Sci-Tech University, China.

3.3. Extraction and Isolation

The air-dried plant of *H. altaicus* (10 kg) was pulverized and extracted with MeOH (24.0 L) at room temperature for 7 days. The extracts were filtered and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to yield a crude methanol extract (500 g), which was suspended in H2O (1.0 L) and extracted with petroleum ether (boiling point 60-90 °C, 0.5 L), ethyl acetate (0.5 L) and *n*-butanol (0.5 L). The EtOAc extract (200 g) was subjected to repeated chromatography, eluting with a gradient of petroleum ether-EtOAc (20:1-0:1, v/v) and seven crude fractions (A-G) were obtained. Fraction C (2 g) was chromatographed on a silica gel column, eluting with petroleum ether-EtOAc (10:1-1:1) to give seven subfractions (C-1—C-7), of which subfraction C-4 was separated by preparative TLC developed by petroleum ether-EtOAc 7:1 to yield 1 (20 mg).

4α,7β-Dihydroxy-10βH-guai-5-en-1β,8β-endoxide (1). Yellow oil; [α]D25 +39 (c 0.14 CHCl3); HREIMS m/z 252.1733 [M]+ (calcd. for C15H24O3, 252.1725); IR (KBr) *ν*max: 3435, 2983, 1630, 1065 cm⁻¹; 1H- and 13C-NMR(CDCl3) data, see Table 1.

4. Conclusions

A new guaiane-type sesquiterpene, 4α,7β-dihydroxy-10βH-guai-5-en-1β,8β-endoxide (1), was isolated from the whole plant of *Heteropappus altaicus* (willd.) Novopokr. Compound 1 contains a rare 1,8-oxide bridge. Its structure was established on the basis of spectroscopic data. As far as we know, this is the first report of guaiane-type sesquiterpenoid isolated from the *H. altaicus* and compound 1 is also the first guaiane-type sesquiterpenoid having a 1,8-endoxide bridge.

Acknowledgements

This work was financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 20902082), Zhejiang Provincial Natural Science Foundation of China (No. Y3100416), and Zhejiang Provincial Top Academic Discipline of Applied Chemistry and Eco-Dyeing & Finishing Engineering (No. ZYG2010005).

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*Sample Availability:* Samples of the compound 4α,7β-dihydroxy-10βH-guai-5-en-1β,8β-endoxide are available from the authors.

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