

THE CYTOTOXIC PRINCIPLES OF *HYPTIS CAPITATA* AND THE STRUCTURES OF THE NEW TRITERPENES HYPATIC ACID-A AND -B*

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Key Word Index—*Hyptis capitata*; Labiatae; cytotoxicity; triterpenes; hypatic acid-A; hypatic acid-B; tormentic acid; maslinic acid; 2 α -hydroxyursolic acid.

Abstract—Bioassay-directed fractionation of a methanolic extract of *Hyptis capitata* has led to the isolation and characterization of five triterpene acids which include the new hypatic acids -A and -B in addition to the known 2 α -hydroxyursolic acid, tormentic acid and maslinic acid. Spectral data in conjunction with X-ray analysis of the methanol solvate of hypatic acid-A established the structures of these compounds. Hypatic acid-A and 2 α -hydroxyursolic acid demonstrated significant *in vitro* cytotoxicity in human colon HCT-8 tumour cells.

INTRODUCTION

We reported recently on the isolation of ursolic acid as a cytotoxic principle of *Hyptis capitata* [1]. Further investigation on the cytotoxic polar triterpene fraction of the same plant has led to the isolation of new hypatic acid-A (1) and -B (4) as well as of three known triterpenes: 2 α -hydroxyursolic (2), tormentic (3) and maslinic acid (5). Compounds 1 and 2 showed significant cytotoxicity against human colon HCT-8 and other tumour cells whereas 3-5 lacked such activity (Table 1). The structures of 1-5 were elucidated from spectral data and a single-crystal X-ray analysis of the methanol solvate of compound 1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

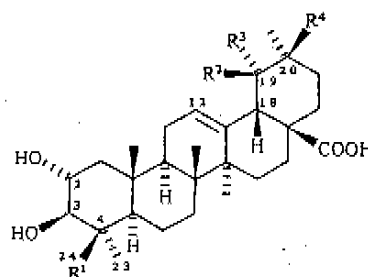
The methanolic extract of the air-dried aerial part of *Hyptis capitata* was extracted with *n*-hexane. Separation of the methanol-soluble portion by repeated silica gel column chromatography (CC) and high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) led to the isolation of compounds 1-5.

Compound 1, C₃₀H₄₈O₅, mp 298-304°, [M]⁺ at *m/z* 488, was crystallized from methanol as colourless prisms. It gave a positive Liebermann-Burchard (LB) test for triterpenes. Its IR spectrum showed the presence of a carboxylic acid group. The ¹H NMR spectrum of 1 revealed the presence of six tertiary methyls (δ 0.81, 0.92, 0.95, 1.00, 1.17 and 1.24), one H-18 (δ 2.86, *dd*, *J* = 11.5 and

4.2 Hz), one olefinic and four carbinolic protons [δ 3.79 (*ddd*, *J* = 9.7, 9.7 and 4.0 Hz), 3.06 (*d*, *J* = 9.7 Hz), 3.39 (*d*, *J* = 11.0 Hz) and 4.03 (*d*, *J* = 11.0 Hz)]. These data indicated that 1 possesses an olean skeleton. The large

Table 1. Cytotoxicities (ED₅₀, μ g/ml) of compounds 1-5 against various tumour cells.

Compound	KB	A549	HCT-8	P-388	L-1210
1	>4.0	5.9	4.2	6.7	>10
2	>4.0	4.9	2.7	6.1	>10
3	>4.0	>10	>10	>10	>10
4	>4.0	>10	>10	>10	>10
5	>4.0	>10	>10	>10	>10



- 1 R¹ = CH₂OH, R² = R³ = H, R⁴ = Me
- 2 R¹ = R² = Me, R³ = R⁴ = H
- 3 R¹ = R² = Me, R³ = OH, R⁴ = H
- 4 R¹ = CH₂OH, R² = Me, R³ = OH, R⁴ = H
- 5 R¹ = R⁴ = Me, R² = R³ = H

*Part 94 in the series 'Antitumour Agents'. For part 93, see Fukamiya, N. Okano, M., Tagahara, K., Aratani, T. and Lee, K. H. (1988) *J. Nat. Prod.* 51, 349.

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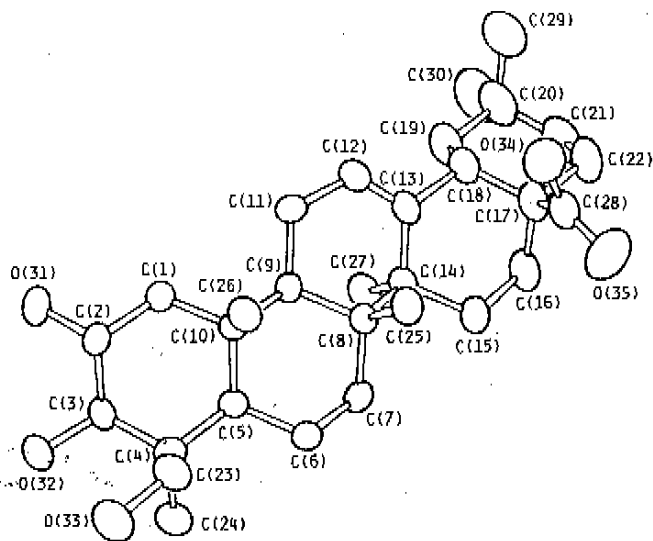


Fig. 1. Structure and solid-state conformation of one of the molecules of hyptatic acid-A (1) in the asymmetric crystal unit; hydrogen atoms have been omitted for clarity.

coupling constant ($J=9.7$ Hz) between H-2 and H-3 pointed to their axial disposition, thereby indicating that the 2- and 3-hydroxyl groups are both equatorially oriented. The presence of a CH_2OH group attached to C-4 is substantiated by the appearance of the two doublets at $\delta 3.39$ and 4.03 ($J=11.0$ Hz).

Unequivocal proof of the structure and complete stereochemistry of 1 as $2\alpha,3\beta,24$ -trihydroxyolean-12-en-28-oic acid, i.e. hyptatic acid-A, was obtained by a single-crystal X-ray analysis of the methanol solvate. The crystal structure was solved by direct methods.* Full-matrix least-squares refinement of atomic positional and thermal parameters converged to $R=0.052$ ($R_w=0.073$)† over 4071 reflections. The asymmetric crystal unit comprises two molecules of 1 and a methanol molecule linked together by O-H...O hydrogen bonds. These units are further associated in the crystal to produce an arrangement which ensures that all OH groups participate in O-H...O hydrogen bonded interactions. A view of the solid-state conformation of one hyptatic acid-A molecule is presented in Fig. 1. The conformation of the other crystallographically independent molecule of 1 differs significantly only by a 180° rotation of the acid moiety about the C-17-C-28 bond.

Hyptatic acid-B (4), mp 210 – 211° , $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_6$, showed resonances in its $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectrum indicative of the presence of five tertiary (δ 0.78, 0.99, 1.19, 1.23 and 1.33) and one secondary (δ 0.93) methyl groups, one olefinic proton (δ 5.29), two secondary [δ 3.79, (H-2 β) and 3.05 (H-3 α)] and one primary [δ 3.40 (H-24 α) and H-24 β] hydroxyl groups (Table 2). These data are similar to those for 1 except for the signals due to H β -18 and, to a lesser

degree, the methyl groups, indicating that 4 possesses the same stereochemistry as 1. The identical multiplicity (s) and the similarity of the chemical shifts for H β -18 [δ 2.51 and 2.50, respectively, in 4 and 3 (Table 2)] led to the assignment of the 2α , 3β , 19α , 24 -tetrahydroxyurs-12-en-28-oic acid constitution to hyptatic acid-B (4).

The known compounds, 2α -hydroxyursolic acid (2), tormentic acid (3) and maslinic acid (5), were isolated and identified by IR, NMR and HPLC, and mixed melting point determinations with authentic samples.

EXPERIMENTAL

Mps; uncorr. $^1\text{H NMR}$ spectra are given in parts per million (δ) downfield from an internal standard (TMS). Silica gel (Kiesel gel 60, 230–400 mesh, Merck) was used for CC, and pre-coated silica gel plates (Kiesel gel 60 F254, 0.25 mm, Merck) were used for analytical TLC. Triterpenes were detected by spraying with 10% H_2SO_4 soln containing 1% $\text{Ce}(\text{SO}_4)_2$, followed by heating. HPLC was carried out on a Waters Associates Model 510 system using Model R401 differential refractometer and a Model 450 variable wavelength detector. The column used in this system was Partisil M9 10/50 ODS-2, 20×500 mm, Whatman. MeOH and MeCN– H_2O (80:20) were used as the mobile phase and the flow rate was 2–4 ml/min.

Plant material. The *Hyptis capitata* used was from a collection made in July 1979, in Shan-De-Mun, Taiwan, by the late Professor Huan-Chan Huang. A voucher specimen of this plant is kept at the School of Pharmacy, Kaohsiung Medical College, Taiwan.

Extraction and isolation. The powdered leaves and stems of *H. capitata* (3.18 kg) were extracted exhaustively with MeOH. The MeOH extract (171 g), after removal of fatty acids with *n*-hexane (5×4 l), was subjected to CC on silica gel (10×25 cm) eluted with a gradient of *n*-hexane (4.0 l), *n*-hexane– CHCl_3 (3:1, 4.5 l), *n*-hexane– CHCl_3 (2:1, 22.7 l), *n*-hexane– CHCl_3 (1:1, 9.0 l), CHCl_3 (5.0 l), CHCl_3 – Me_2CO (2:1, 10.6 l), Me_2CO (8.0 l), MeOH– Me_2CO (1:1, 5.0 l), and MeOH (5.0 l) to give 10 fractions. Fractions 6 and 7 (9.5 g), resulting from elution with

* Crystallographic calculations were performed on a PDP11/44 computer by use of the Enraf-Nonius Structure Determination Package incorporating the direct methods programme MULTAN11/82.

† $R = \sum ||F_o| - |F_c|| / \sum |F_o|$; $R_w = [\sum w(|F_o| - |F_c|)^2 / \sum w|F_o|^2]^{1/2}$.

Maslinic acid (2 α ,3 β -dihydroxyolean-12-en-28-oic acid) (5). Compound 5 was obtained from fractions 55–61 by HPLC separation. Compound 5: R_f 10.4 min; colourless amorphous powder (MeOH); mp 290–295° (dec.) (lit. [3, 4] reported mp 280–297°, dec.); $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 34^\circ$ (MeOH; c 0.2); IR ν_{\max}^{KBr} cm^{-1} : 3400, 2920, 1680, 1455, 1375, 1040 and 945; MS m/z : 472.3490 ($\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_4$), 426, 408, 393, 248, 223 and 203; $^1\text{H NMR}$: see Table 2.

Methyl maslinate (8). Methylation of 5 in MeOH with CH_2N_2 at room temp. for 4 hr. yielded methyl ester 8 as colourless needles (MeOH); mp 254–260°; $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 58^\circ$ (MeOH; c 0.2); MS m/z 486, 468, 426, 409, 262, 249, 233, 223, 203, 189 and 133. The retention time (HPLC), R_f value and MS of 8 were identical with those for an authentic sample.

Biological assay. The *in vitro* cytotoxicity assay was carried out according to a National Cancer Institute protocol described in refs [1, 5]. In addition to the significant ($\text{ED}_{50} \leq 4.0 \mu\text{g/ml}$) cytotoxicity exhibited by hyptatic acid-A in human colon HCT-8 tumour cells ($\text{ED}_{50} = 4.2 \mu\text{g/ml}$), the present study revealed for the first time that the known 2 α -hydroxyursolic acid also possesses significant cytotoxicity ($\text{ED}_{50} = 2.7 \mu\text{g/ml}$) (Table 1).

X-Ray analysis of hyptatic acid-A as its methanol solvate (1)· $\frac{1}{2}$ MeOH. Crystal data: $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_5 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{MeOH}$, $M_r = 504.74$, monoclinic, $a = 14.302$ (3) Å, $b = 26.616$ (4) Å, $c = 7.431$ (2) Å, $\beta = 91.76$ (2)°, $V = 2827.4$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $D_{\text{calc}} = 1.186 \text{ g/cm}^3$, $\mu(\text{CuK}\alpha)$ radiation, $\lambda = 1.5418$ Å) = 6.0 cm^{-1} . Space group $P2_1$ (C_2^1) from the systematic absences, $0k0$ when k is odd, and 1 is chiral. Sample dimensions: $0.15 \times 0.20 \times 0.40 \text{ mm}$.

Preliminary unit-cell parameters and space group information were obtained from oscillation and Weissenberg photographs. Intensity data ($+h$, $+k$, $+l$) were recorded on an Enraf-Nonius CAD-4 diffractometer (CuK α radiation, incident-beam graphite monochromator; $\omega - 2\theta$ scans, $\theta_{\max} = 67^\circ$). From a total of 5022 independent measurements after averaging equivalent forms, those 4071 reflections with $I > 3.0\sigma(I)$ were retained for the structure analysis and corrected for the usual Lorentz and polarization effects. Refined unit-cell parameters were derived from the diffractometer setting angles for 25 reflections ($41^\circ < \theta < 48^\circ$) widely separated in reciprocal space.

The crystal structure was solved by direct methods. Approximate positions for the non-hydrogen atoms were obtained in part from an E-map and from subsequent weighted F_o Fourier syntheses. Hydrogen atoms were located in difference Fourier syntheses evaluated following several rounds of full-matrix least-squares adjustment of non-hydrogen atom positional and aniso-

tropic thermal parameters. With the inclusion of the hydrogen atoms at their calculated positions, continuation of the least-squares refinement of non-hydrogen atom parameters led to convergence at $R = 0.052$ ($R_w = 0.073$). A view of the solid-state conformation of one of the molecules of 1 in the asymmetric crystal unit is presented in Fig. 1. Final atomic positional and thermal parameters, bond lengths and angles, hydrogen-bonded distances, torsion angles and a list of observed and calculated structure amplitudes have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre.

Neutral atom scattering factors used in the structure-factor calculations were taken from ref. [6]. In the least-squares iterations, $\sum w\Delta^2$ [$w = 1/\sigma^2(|F_o|)$, $\Delta = (|F_o| - |F_c|)$] was minimized.

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Table 2. ¹H NMR spectral data* for compounds 1-5

Compound	H-2	H-3	H-24 _a , H-24 _b	Hβ-18	H-12	Methyl groups
1	3.79 (ddd; 9.7, 9.7, 4.0)	3.06 (d; 9.7)	3.39, 4.03 (d; 11.0)	2.86 (dd; 11.5, 4.2)	5.26 (t, 3.2)	0.81 (s), 0.92 (s), 0.95 (s), 1.00 (s), 1.17 (s), 1.24 (s)
2	3.66 (ddd; 9.8, 9.8, 4.0)	2.95 (d; 9.8)	—	2.22 (d; 11.0)	5.27 (t, 3.6)	0.84 (s), 0.89 (s), 0.92 (d; 6.3), 1.06 (6H, s), 1.16 (s)
3	3.62 (ddd; 9.8, 9.8, 3.5)	2.91 (d; 9.8)	—	2.50 (s)	5.28 (t, 3.2)	0.80 (s), 0.81 (s), 0.95 (d; 6.1), 1.00 (s), 1.02 (s), 1.19 (s), 1.25 (s)
4	3.79 (ddd; 9.4, 9.4, 3.5)	3.05 (d; 9.4)	3.40, 4.40 (d; 11.0)	2.51 (s)	5.29 (t, 3.2)	0.78 (s), 0.93 (d; 5.8), 0.99 (s), 1.19 (s), 1.23 (s), 1.33 (s)
5	3.62 (ddd; 9.8, 9.8, 4.1)	2.90 (d; 9.8)	—	2.86 (dd; 14.0, 4.1)	5.25 (t, 3.4)	0.81 (s), 0.82 (s), 0.91 (s), 0.94 (s), 1.00 (s), 1.01 (s), 1.16 (s)

*Run in MeOH-*d*₄ at 400 MHz. Values are in ppm (δ). Coupling constants (*J*), in parentheses, are in Hz.

Table 3. Fractions of the triterpene mixture

Fraction Nos	Volume of total fraction (ml)	Yield (mg)	R _f value*
1-40	200	2,200	0.5~0.6
41-54	65	138	0.4~0.5
55-61	30	501	0.3~0.4
62-69	35	300	0.2~0.3
70-85	75	103	0.17~0.2
86-97	55	37	0.17
98-102	20	27	0.10~0.17
103-111	45	98	~0.10

*Kieselgel 60 F₂₅₄, 0.25 mm, CHCl₃-MeOH (10:1).

CHCl₃ (5.0) and CHCl₃-Me₂CO (2:1, 10.6), were found to show significant cytotoxicity in A-549 and HCT-8 systems, and were further chromatographed on silica gel (5 × 40 ml) and eluted with a gradient of CHCl₃ (1), EtOAc-Me₂CO (1:1, 6.1) and MeOH (21). The EtOAc-Me₂CO eluate, which contained the cytotoxic triterpenes, yielded eight fractions after one more series of separations by column chromatography on silica gel (3.5 × 40 cm) with elution by CHCl₃-MeOH (10:1) and collection of 5 ml eluates per fraction (Table 3).

Hyptatic acid-A (i.e. 2α,3β,24-trihydroxyolean-12-en-28-oic acid) (1). Fractions 62-69 afforded 1 after purification by HPLC. Compound 1, *R*_f 7.0 min, was isolated as colourless prisms; [α]_D²⁰ + 57° (MeOH; *c* 0.2); IR ν_{max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 3410, 2920, 1675, 1440, 1370, 1040 and 1015; MS *m/z*: 488 (M⁺, C₃₀H₄₈O₅), 442, 393, 248, 233 and 203; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD); see Table 2.

2α-Hydroxyursolic acid (2α,3β-dihydroxyurs-12-en-28-oic acid) (2). Fractions 41-54 yielded 2 (*R*_f 10.8 min) as colourless amorphous powders (MeOH) after purification by HPLC: mp 241-245° (lit. [2] and [3] reported mp 244-246°), [α]_D²⁰ + 49° (MeOH; *c* 0.2); LB test positive; IR ν_{max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 3400, 2910, 1675, 1440, 1033 and 950; MS *m/z*: 472.3490 (C₃₀H₄₈O₄), 426, 408, 248, 223, 203 (base peak); ¹H NMR (CD₃OD); see Table 2.

Methyl 2α-hydroxyursolate (6). A soln of 2 in MeOH was methylated with CH₂N₂ at room temp. for 4 hr. The product was recrystallized from MeOH to give 6 as colourless needles: mp

211-213° (lit [3] reported mp 203-206°); MS *m/z*: 486, (M⁺, C₃₁H₅₀O₄), 468, 450, 262 and 203. The retention time (HPLC), *R*_f value and MS of 6 were identical with those of an authentic sample.

Tormentic acid (2α,3β,19α-trihydroxyurs-12-en-28-oic acid) (3). Compound 3 was isolated from fractions 55-61 after HPLC separation. Compound 3: *R*_f 6.0 min; colourless amorphous powders (MeOH); mp 265-268° (lit. [4] reported mp 266-267°); [α]_D²⁰ + 27° (MeOH; *c* 0.2); LB test positive; IR ν_{max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 3400, 2910, 1675, 1440, 1035 and 950; MS *m/z*: 488.3546 (C₃₀H₄₈O₅), 442, 370, 264, 210 and 146; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD); see Table 2.

Tormentic acid diacetate (7). Acetylation of 3 with acetic anhydride pyridine in the usual way yielded a diacetate (7) as colourless prisms (MeOH); mp 186-189° (lit [4] reported mp 194°); [α]_D²⁰ + 12° (MeOH; *c* 0.5); IR ν_{max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 3480, 1725, 1695 and 1640; MS *m/z*: 572 (C₃₄H₅₂O₇), 554, 526, 454, 262, 246, 233, 231, 201 and 146. The identity of 7 with an authentic sample of tormentic acid diacetate was established by direct comparison [retention time (HPLC), *R*_f value, mmp, and MS].

Hyptatic acid-B (2α,3β,19α,24-tetrahydroxyurs-12-en-28-oic acid) (4). Fractions 62-69 furnished 4 as colourless amorphous powder after HPLC separation. Compound 4: *R*_f 4.7 min; mp 225-228°; [α]_D²⁰ + 28° (MeOH; *c* 0.2); IR ν_{max}^{KBr} cm⁻¹: 3400, 2950, 1675, 1480, 1370 and 1040; MS *m/z*: 504 (C₃₀H₄₈O₆), 458, 386, 264, 246, 201 and 146; ¹H NMR (CD₃OD); see Table 2.