

Oxygenated Secondary Metabolites from Endophytic Fungi Isolated From *Ocimum sanctum*

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Abstract: *Ocimum sanctum* Linn (Tulsi), an important medicinal plant of Bangladesh is used for antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and antiulcer activities. Eleven endophytic fungi were isolated from *O. sanctum*. The fungal strain, labeled as OS-005, was cultivated at large scale on the potato dextrose agar semi solid medium and was extracted with ethyl acetate. Repeated column chromatography of the parent extract by normal phase silica gel and one of its fraction by Sephadex LH-20 afforded linoleic acid, R (-)-glycerol monolinoleate, 9,10,11-trihydroxy-(12Z)-12-octadecenoic acid, ergosterol, ergosterol peroxide, 1,8-O-dimethylaverantin, coriloxin, and a new natural product named sanctumol. The structures of these compounds were elucidated unequivocally by UV, IR, MS and a series of 1D & 2D NMR analyses.

Keywords: Coriloxin, Dimethylaverantin, Endophytic fungi, Ergosterol peroxide, *Ocimum sanctum*, Linoleic acid.

INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh is rich in aromatic and medicinal plants. Some of these plants have been chemically characterized. But most of the endophytic fungi from these plants are unexplored except our research group investigated a few of fungal extracts [1-4]. Microorganisms that live in the intercellular spaces of stems, petioles, roots and leaves of plants without imposing any disease are known as endophytic fungi. They can spend the whole or parts of their life cycle colonizing inter- and/or intra-cellularly inside the healthy tissues of the host plant [5-7]. Some species of endophytic fungi were found to produce structurally diverse and biologically active compounds that can contribute to the discovery of new lead structures for future drug development [7-9]. With the bioactive strains, it is possible to cultivate them in large scale by fermentation to yield the active compound(s) in larger amount rather than destroying natural plant resources. *Ocimum sanctum* Linn (Tulsi) is widely grown in Bangladesh and Indian sub-continent [10]. *O. sanctum* was found to show many pharmacological activities including antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, antiulcer, antidiabetic, hepatoprotective, chemoprotective, antihyperlipidemic, cardioprotective, antioxidant activities [10, 11]. Previous investigation of other species of *Ocimum* led to the isolation of several endophytic fungi and anti-pancreatic cancer potential of secalonic acid derivatives from one of the endophytes [1]. Several new and known bioactive secondary metabolites were also isolated from other endophytic

fungus isolated from medicinal plants of Bangladesh [1-4]. In continuation of our search for novel bioactive compounds from endophytic fungi, we studied fungal strain, OS-005 isolated from *O. sanctum* and report here the isolation of one new natural product named sanctumol (**6**) along with seven known compounds namely, linoleic acid (**1**), R(-)-glycerol monolinoleate (**2**), 9,10,11-trihydroxy-(12Z)-12-octadecenoic acid (**3**), ergosterol (**4**), ergosterol peroxide (**5**), 1,8-O-dimethylaverantin (**7**) and coriloxin (**8**).

MATERIAL AND METHOD

General

UV and IR spectra were recorded on Shimadzu UV 160A and Shimadzu IR-470 spectrometer, respectively. Mass analyses were performed on Thermo Instruments MS system (LTQ XL/ LTQ Orbitrap Discovery). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded on a Varian 400 MHz spectrometer. Media was prepared under Laminar flow (Thermo Forma. Class 11 A1; Biological Safety Cabinet). Media was sterilized using HIRAYAMA autoclave (Hirayama MFG Corp.).

Plant Collection and Sterilization

The medicinal plant, *Ocimum sanctum* (Tulsi) was collected from University of Dhaka campus. Different parts (leaves, stems and roots) of the plant were cut into small pieces. Each plant part was washed and cleaned. The cleaned parts were surface sterilized by immersing in 70% ethanol for 3 min followed by 3% sodium hypochlorite and sterile water again for 3 min and finally dried under laminar flow hood.

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Culture and Extraction of Endophytic Fungi

The surface sterilized plant materials were inoculated on autoclaved potato dextrose agar media on a sterilized petridish and after 21 days, eleven fungal strains were isolated and one of the single strains labeled as OS-005 was cultivated at large scale on potato dextrose agar semi solid medium. After 21 days the fungal strains gave full growth and were collected in a round bottom flask and freeze-dried the full content. The dried powdered material was extracted with ethyl acetate (3 x 1200 mL for 24 h, at room temperature). The ethyl acetate extract was evaporated to dryness and 1.2 g extract was obtained.

Isolation of Compounds

The ethyl acetate extract (1.0 g) was fractionated by normal phase silica gel column chromatography using hexane as column equilibrating solvent. After

application of the sample, solvents of increasing polarities from 100% hexane to ethyl acetate (EA) were used for elution. On the basis of their R_f values on TLC, ten fractions were obtained. Three fractions collected from 10% EA in hexane gave single spot in TLC and were collected as pure compounds, 1 (15.8 mg), 2 (23.2 mg) and 3 (25.7 mg) after removing waxy materials with *n*-hexane. Two fractions eluted with 20% EA in hexane gave single spot in TLC and were collected as pure compounds 4 (32.5 mg) and 5 (17.2 mg). The 30% EA in hexane fraction was purified by Sephadex LH-20 column using solvent mixture of dichloromethane and methanol (1:1) and compounds 6 (11.1 mg), 7 (13.7 mg) and 8 (14.0 mg) were isolated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Eight compounds (1-8) were isolated from the ethyl acetate extract of the fungal strain OS-005 isolated from *O. sanctum* L (Figure 1). The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR

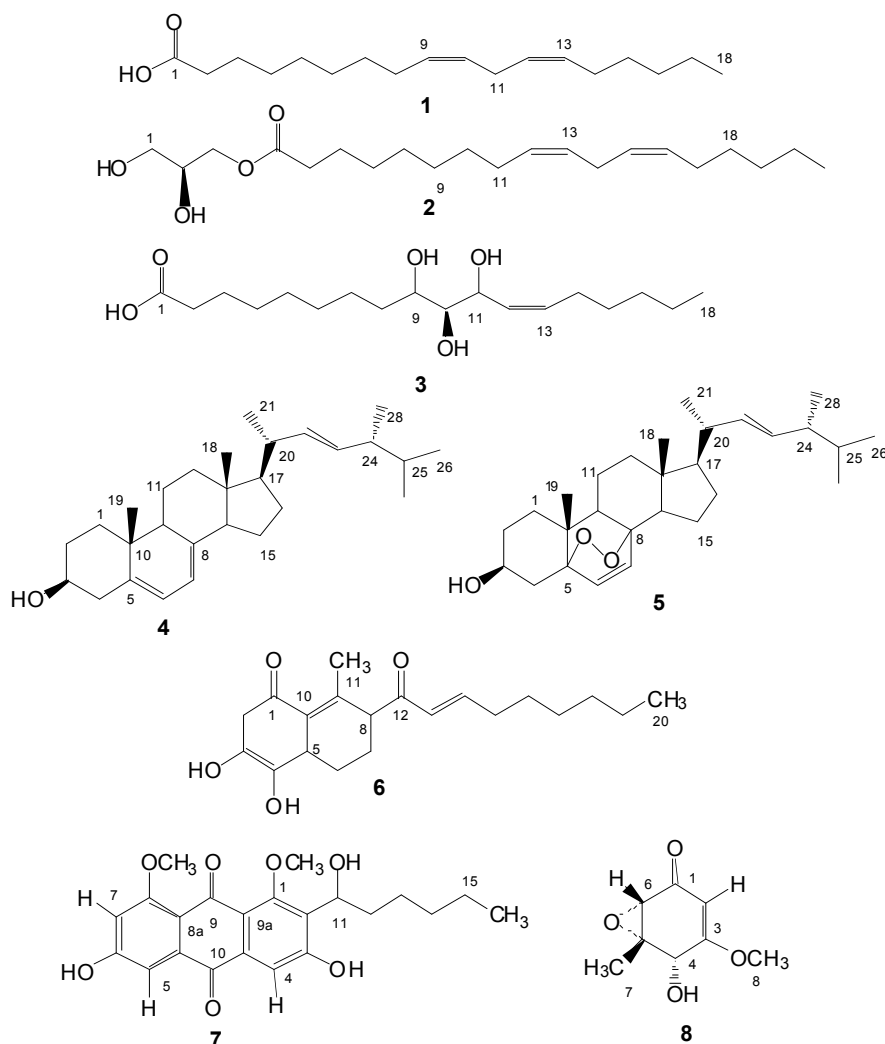


Figure 1: Structure of secondary metabolites isolated from fungal strain OS005.

spectra data of compounds **1**, **2** and **3** indicated that they are similar type of compounds and might be fatty acid metabolites. The ^1H NMR of **1** gave signals at $\delta_{\text{H}} = 5.31$ (m) and 5.27 (m) for olefinic protons and at $\delta_{\text{H}} = 0.88$ (d, $J = 7.2$ Hz) for methyl group. Signals between 2.27 - 1.25 ppm were for methylene groups. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum gave signals at 174.0 , 130.4 & 128.1 , 34.3 - 22.0 and 14.3 ppm for oxygenated carbonyl carbons, olefinic carbons, methylene and methyl group, respectively. The NMR data confirmed that **1** is linolenic acid [12]. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data of **2** and **3** gave additional signals at $\delta_{\text{H}} = 4.18$, 4.15 , 3.90 , 3.70 , 3.60 and $\delta_{\text{C}} = 70.4$, 65.3 , 63.5 ppm, and $\delta_{\text{H}} = 4.32$ (2H, dd, H-11), 4.23 (1H, dd, H-10), 3.73 and $\delta_{\text{C}} = 94.1$ (10), 70.9 (9), 61.0 (11), respectively for the presence of oxygenated carbons. The spectral data of **2** and **3** were compared with reported values and found identical with glycerol monolinoleate [12] and 9,10,11-trihydroxy-(12Z)-12-octadecenoic acid [13], respectively.

The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data of compounds **4** and **5** also indicated that they were similar types of compounds. The spectral data of **4** were compared with metabolite isolated previously from the fungal strain derived from *O. basilicum* and found identical with ergosterol [1]. Ergosterol was previously isolated from many endophytic fungi and other fungus and showed cytotoxic activities [1, 2, 4, 14]. Comparing spectroscopic data with reference data [14, 15], compound **5** was identified as ergosterol peroxide.

The compound **6** was isolated as white amorphous (11.1 mg). The ^{13}C NMR spectrum displayed twenty carbons. Of them, six quaternary (δ 204.0 , 173.8 , 165.1 , 155.3 , 126.0 , 121.0), two olefinic (δ 151.6 , 129.3 ppm), eight methylene (δ 32.8 , 32.0 , 29.6 , 29.5 , 29.4 , 29.3 , 28.1 , 22.8), two methine (δ 44.8 , 39.5) and two methyl carbons (δ 17.1 , 14.3 ppm). All protonated carbons were assigned by HSQC. The ^1H NMR spectrum of **6** gave doublet at δ 7.02 ($J = 16.0$ Hz) and 6.14 ($J = 16.0$ Hz). The higher coupling constant indicated that they are olefinic protons with *trans* configuration [16]. The ^1H - ^1H COSY spectrum also showed strong correlation between δ 7.02 (H-13) and 6.14 (H-14) ppm. The ^1H NMR spectrum also showed additional peaks at 4.47 (m) & 3.13 (m), 2.98 , 2.22 - 1.20 and 0.87 ppm, respectively for the presence of methine, methyl connected with double bond, methylene and methyl group. The long range ^1H - ^{13}C HMBC correlations were observed between δ_{H} 7.02 (H-14) and δ_{C} 204.5 (C-12), 32.8 (C-15), 28.0 (C-16); δ_{H} 6.14 (H-13) and δ_{C} 204.5 (C-12), 39.5 (C-7), 32.8 (C-15); δ_{H} 3.15 (H-7) and 204.5 (C-12), 121.0 (C-8), 17.1

(C-11); δ_{H} 2.98 (H-11) and δ_{C} 121.0 (C-8), 39.5 (C-7); δ_{H} 2.22 (H-15) and δ_{C} 151.6 (C-14), 129.3 (C-13), 28.1 (C-16); δ_{H} 0.87 (H-20) and δ_{C} 22.8 (C-19). Combining all the spectral data of IR, ^1H - and ^{13}C NMR including ^1H - ^1H COSY and HMBC, the structure of **6** was elucidated and named as sanctumol. To the best of our knowledge sanctumol is a new natural product.

The ^1H NMR spectrum of **7** showed signals at δ 6.95 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz), 6.43 (s), 6.08 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz), 5.28 (m) and δ 3.60 for the presence of four methine and two methyl groups. Additional signals at δ 1.98 - 1.24 and 0.80 ($J = 7.2$ Hz) were accounted for methylene and methyl group, respectively. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum showed sixteen carbons and the signals at δ_{C} 191.8 & 191.3 , 172.7 , 165.0 , 160.0 & 155.3 , 57.2 & 57.2 and 14.2 were for the presence of two carbonyl, four oxygenated olefinic, two methoxy and one methyl carbons. The spectroscopic data were compared with published data and found identical with dimethylaverantin [17]. 1,8-*O*-dimethylaverantin was previously isolated from *Penicillium chrysogenum* and showed antifungal activities [17].

The ^1H NMR spectrum of **8** showed seven signals at 5.28 (s), 4.80 (s), 4.58 (s), 3.78 (s), 3.24 (s), 1.59 (s) ppm. The ^{13}C NMR spectrum indicated the presence of eight carbons. Of them, three quaternary (δ_{C} 196.0 , 175.0 and 57.0), one olefinic (δ_{C} 98.0), two methine (δ_{C} 69.0 and 61.0), one methoxy (δ_{C} 60.0) and one methyl carbon (δ_{C} 19.1). The long range ^1H - ^{13}C HMBC correlations were observed between δ_{H} 5.28 (H-2) and δ_{C} 196.0 (C-1), 175.0 (C-3), 69.0 (C-4), 61.0 (C-6); δ_{H} 4.58 (H-4) and δ_{C} 175.0 (C-3), 19.1 (C-8); δ_{H} 3.24 and δ_{C} 196.0 (C-1), 98.0 (C-2); δ_{H} 1.59 (H-7) and δ_{C} 69.5 (C-4), 57.0 (C-5). All spectroscopic data were compared with the reported data of coriloxin and found identical with coriloxin [18]. The isolation of all compounds reported here for the first time from endophytes of *O. sanctum*. Coriloxin was previously isolated from the xylariaceous endophytic fungus obtained from plants and *Xylariaceae allantoidea* [18, 19]. Coriloxin exhibited antimicrobial and plant growth inhibitory activities [18]. These findings suggest that fungal metabolites in *O. sanctum* may be potential sources to discover new lead structures for future drug development.

Spectral Data of Constituents

Linoleic Acid (1)

Light yellow gum (15.8 mg). UV (DCM): λ_{max} 232 , 252 nm, IR (KBr): ν_{max} 2900 , 1730 , and 1450 cm^{-1} . ^1H

NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.31 (1H, m, H-10/H-12), 5.27 (1H, m, H-9/H-13), 2.71 (2H, t, H-11), 2.27 (2H, t, H-2), 2.00 (2H, m, H-14), 1.56 (2H, m, H-3), 1.25 (m, H-4/5/6/7/15/16/17), 0.88 (3H, t, $J=7.2$ Hz, H-18). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.0 (1), 130.4 (10), 130.4 (12), 128.1 (10), 128.0 (13), 34.3 (2), 31.6 (16), 29.7 (15), 29.5 (4), 29.0 (5), 29.0 (6), 29.0 (7), 27.3 (14), 27.2 (8), 25.8 (6), 25.0 (11), 22.0 (17), 14.3 (18).

R (-)-glycerol Monolinoleate (2)

Light yellow gum (23.2 mg). UV (DCM): λ_{max} 230, 252 nm, IR (KBr): ν_{max} 3450, 2900, 1730, and 1450 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.35 (1H, m, H-12/H-16), 5.33 (1H, m, H-13/H-15), 4.18 (1H, dd, 3Ha), 4.15 (1H, dd, 3Hb), 3.90 (dd, 1H, H-2), 3.70 (1H, dd, Ha-1), 3.60 (1H, dd, Hb-1) 2.76 (2H, t, H-14), 2.34 (2H, t, H-17), 2.04 (2H, m, H-17), 1.62 (2H, m, H-6), 1.30 (14, m, H-7/8/9/10/18/19/20), 0.88 (3H, t, $J=7.2$ Hz, H-21). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 174.5 (4), 130.4 (16), 130.1 (12), 128.2 (15), 128.2 (13), 70.4 (2), 65.3 (3), 63.5 (1), 34.3 (5), 31.7 (19), 29.7 (18), 29.5 (7), 29.3 (8), 29.2 (9), 29.2 (10), 27.3 (17), 27.2 (11), 25.8 (6), 25.0 (14), 22.7 (20), 14.3 (21). HR-ESIMS: 355.2838 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₃₉O₄).

9,10,11-trihydroxy-(12Z)-12-octadecenoic Acid (3)

Light yellow gum (25.7 mg). UV (DCM): λ_{max} 234, 254 nm, IR (KBr): ν_{max} 3450, 2900, 1730, and 1450 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 5.38 (1H, m, H-12), 5.33 (1H, m, H-13), 4.32 (2H, dd, H-11), 4.23 (1H, dd, H-10), 3.73 (1H, d, H-9), 2.33 (2H, dd, H-2), 2.04 (2H, dd, H-14), 1.62 (2H, t, H-3), 1.31 (10, t, H-4/5/15/16/17), 1.58 (2H, m, H-8), 1.25 (4H, m, H-6/H7), 0.89 (3H, t, $J=7.2$ Hz, H-18). ¹³C NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 173.0 (1), 129.2 (12), 127.9 (13), 94.1 (10), 70.9 (9), 61.0 (11), 33.2 (2), 33.1 (8), 30.5 (16), 28.7 (4), 28.6 (14), 28.3 (6), 28.2 (5), 28.1 (15), 26.2 (7), 24.6 (3), 22.7 (17), 13.1 (18). HR-ESIMS: 331.2481 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₁₈H₃₅O₅).

Ergosterol (4)

White solid (32.5 mg), was soluble in DCM and MeOH. M.P. 147-148 °C. UV (in DCM): λ_{max} 262, 274 and 415 nm. IR (KBr pellet): ν_{max} 2900, 2850, 1720, 1450 and 1250 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 5.57 (1H, d, $J=7.1$ Hz, H-6), 5.38 (1H, m, H-7), 5.20 (1H, m, H-22), 5.20 (1H, m, H-23), 3.63 (1H, br., H-3), 1.03 (3H, d, $J=6.4$ Hz, H-21), 0.94 (3H, s, H-19), 0.92 (3H, d, $J=6.7$ Hz, H-28), 0.84 (3H, d, $J=7.0$ Hz, H-27), 0.82 (3H, d, $J=6.9$ Hz, H-26), 0.63 (3H, s, H-18) ppm; ¹³C-NMR (CDCl₃): 141.5 (C-8), 139.9 (C-5), 135.5 (C-23), 132.1 (C-22), 119.7 (C-6), 116.4 (C-7), 70.6 (C-3), 55.9

(C-17), 54.7 (C-14), 46.4 (C-9), 42.9 (C-13), 41.0 (C-4), 40.6 (C-20), 39.2 (C-12), 38.5 (C-1), 37.2 (C-10), 33.3 (C-25), 32.2 (C-2), 28.4 (C-16), 23.2 (C-15), 21.3 (C-11), 20.1 (C-21), 19.8 (C-26), 19.6 (C-27), 17.8 (C-28), 16.5 (C-19), 12.2 (C-18). HR-ESIMS: 397.2345 [M+H]⁺ (calcd C₂₈H₄₅O).

Ergosterol Peroxide (5)

White solid (17.2 mg), M.P. 178-179°C. UV (in DCM): λ_{max} 254, 278 and 380 nm. IR (KBr pellet): ν_{max} 2900, 2850, 1720, 1450 and 1250 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 6.82 (1H, d, $J=6.4$ Hz, H-7), 6.62 (1H, d, $J=6.4$ Hz, H-6), 5.29 (1H, m, H-22), 5.13 (1H, m, H-23), 3.60 (1H, m, H-3), 1.94-1.24 (m), 0.97 (3H, d, H-21), 0.86 (3H, d, H-27), 0.82 (3H, s, H-18), 0.81 (3H, s, H-19), 0.78 (3H, d, H-26), 0.75 (3H, d, H-28). ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): 136.5 (C-22), 135.8 (C-6), 132.1 (C-23), 130.0 (C-7), 76.2 (C-8), 75.6 (C-5), 70.6 (C-3), 55.4 (C-17), 54.7 (C-14), 54.7 (C-9), 46.4 (C-13), 42.9 (C-24), 40.6 (C-20), 39.3 (C-10), 38.5 (C-12), 37.2 (C-4), 34.6 (C-1), 33.1 (C-25), 30.0 (C-2), 28.4 (C-16), 24.9 (C-15), 22.9 (C-11), 20.8 (C-21), 20.0 (C-26), 19.7 (C-27), 18.2 (C-19), 17.7 (C-28), 12.2 (C-18).

Sanctumol (6)

White amorphous (11.1 mg), UV (in DCM): λ_{max} 254, 280 nm. IR (KBr pellet): ν_{max} 3450, 2900, 1750, 1457, 1075 cm⁻¹. ¹H and ¹³C NMR: Please see Table 1.

1,8-O-dimethylaverantin (7)

Colored amorphous (13.7 mg), UV (in DCM): λ_{max} 416, 310, 278, 254 nm. IR (KBr pellet): ν_{max} 3400, 2900, 1625, 1512, 1457, 1075 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 6.95 (1H, d, $J=2.5$ Hz, H-5), 6.43 (1H, s, H-3), 6.08 (1H, d, $J=2.5$ Hz, H-7), 5.28 (1H, m, H-11), 3.60 (6H, s, 2 x -OCH₃), 2.15 (1H, m, Ha-12), 1.98 (1H, m, Hb-12), 1.50 (1H, m, Hb-13), 1.40 (1H, m, Hb-13), 1.24 (4H, bs, H-14 and H-15), 0.80 (3H, t, $J=7.2$ Hz, H-16). ¹³C-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 191.8 (9), 191.3 (10), 172.7 (3), 165 (1), 155.3 (8), 151.7 (6), 139.4 (10a), 129.5 (4a), 120.9 (9a), 116.5 (2), 106.5 (8a), 103.0 (4), 102.6 (7), 75.8 (11), 57.2 (1-OCH₃), 57.0 (8-OCH₃), 39.4 (12), 32.5 (13), 28.0 (14), 22.0 (15), 21.0 (5), 14.2 (16).

Coriloxin (8)

White solid (14.0 mg); m.p. 152-153°C, UV (in DCM): λ_{max} 254, 278 nm. IR (KBr pellet): ν_{max} 2900, 1725, 1512, 1457, 1075 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃): 5.28 (1H, s, H-2), 4.80 (s, -OH), 4.58 (1H, s, H-4), 3.78 (3H, s, -OCH₃), 3.24 (1H, s, H-6), 1.59 (3H, s, CH₃). ¹³C-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): 196.0 (1), 175.0 (3), 98.0 (2),

Table 1: ¹H (400 MHz), ¹³C (100 MHz) NMR (Chemical Shift, Multiplicity, Coupling Constant, J in Hz) and HMBC Spectral Data of the Compound 6

	Chemical shift δ in ppm		
	¹ H NMR	¹³ C NMR	HMBC (H→C)
1	-	173.8	
2	1.24, m, 2H	29.6	155.3
3	-	165.1	
4	-	155.3	
5	4.47, m, 1H	44.8	173.8, 155.3, 126.1
6	1.21, m, 2H	32.1	
7	1.24, m, 2H	29.5	
8	3.15, t, 1H	39.5	204.5, 121.0, 17.1
9	-	121.0	
10	-	126.1	
11	2.98, s, 3H	17.1	121.0, 39.5
12		204.5	
13	6.14, d, J=16.0 Hz, 1H	129.3	204.5, 39.5, 32.8
14	7.02, d, J=16.0 Hz, 1H	151.6	204.5, 32.8, 28.1
15	2.22, m, 2H	32.8	151.6, 129.3, 28.1
16	1.21, m, 2H	28.1	
17	-	29.4	
18	-	29.3	
19	1.21, m, 2H	22.8	
20	0.87, t, J= 7.2 Hz, 3H	14.3	22.8

69.0 (4), 61.0 (6), 60.0 (O-CH₃), 57.0 (C-5), 19.1 (C-7).
HR-ESIMS: 171.0652 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₈H₁₁O₄).

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