Chemical shift assignments of two oleanane triterpenes from *Euonymus hederaceus**

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Abstract: ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR assignments of 12-oleanene-3,11-dione (compound 1) were completely described for the first time through conventional 1D NMR and 2D shift-correlated NMR experiments using ¹H-¹H COSY, HMQC, HMBC techniques. Based on its NMR data, the assignments of 28-hydroxyolean-12-ene-3,11-dione (compound 2) were partially revised.

Key words: *Euonymus hederaceus*, 12-oleanene-3,11-dione, 28-hydroxyolean-12-ene-3,11-dione, 1D-NMR, 2D-NMR, Assignment

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INTRODUCTION

Euonymus hederaceus champ.ex Benth (Celastraceae) has been used as a traditional medical plant (Chang *et al.*, 1996). Two compounds, 12-oleanene-3,11-dione and 28-hydroxyolean-12-ene-3,11-dione (Fig.1) were isolated by its phytochemical investigation. The complete ¹H and ¹³C chemical shift assignments of 12-oleanene-3,11-dione are described here for the first time with 1D and 2D NMR, correcting some data in Yuan *et al.*(1994). The ¹³C assignments of 28-hydroxyolean-12-ene-3,11-dione were partially revised by Shirota *et al.*(1996).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The barks and stems of *Euonymus hederaceus* champ.ex Benth, collected in October 2003 in Suicang County, Zhejiang Province, were identified by

Dr. WU Bin. After crushing them, the obtained powder was extracted thrice by methanol, once a week to give an extract (500 g) after removing methanol. The extract was partitioned between petroleum ether and water. The petroleum ether soluble fraction (33 g) was applied to a silica gel column using petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as a gradient eluent system. Compound 1 and impure compound 2 were obtained when the eluent volume ratios of petroleum ether to ethyl acetate were 10:1 and 6:1, respectively. Compound 2 was further separated and purified by preparative HPLC.

Fig.1 The structure of compounds 1 and 2
 Compound 1: R=CH₃; Compound 2: R=CH₂OH

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^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were measured on Bruker AVANCE DMX 500 NMR, using CDCl_3 as solvent and TMS as internal reference.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Compound 1 was isolated as white powder of m.p. 241~245 °C, and gave responded positively to the Lieberman-Buchard test for triterpenes. The molecular formula was deduced as $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_2$ by ESI-MS: 437.2 ($\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_2^-$, $[\text{M}-\text{H}]^-$). The ^1H -NMR data (Table 1) showed singlet signals for eight angular methyl groups.

The ^{13}C -NMR and DEPT spectra showed 30 signals for eight methyl, nine methylene, four methine and nine quaternary carbons including a keto carbonyl and an α , β -unsaturated keto carbonyl. HMQC experiments revealed ^1H - ^{13}C direct correlation between the protons of eight methyl groups and corresponding carbons, and in the observe, olean-type triterpene skeleton was deduced (Mahato and Kundu, 1994). The resonance assignments for eight methyl were at δ_{H} 1.07, 1.10, 1.27, 1.18, 1.37, 0.85, 0.91, 0.89 to H-23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 respectively. The protons of two methyl groups (δ_{H} 1.10, δ_{C} 26.5 and δ_{H} 1.07, δ_{C} 21.6), and two methylene groups (δ_{H} 2.95, δ_{C}

Table 1 ^1H -NMR, ^{13}C -NMR, HMQC, HMBC for compound 1 and compound 2

Atom number	Compound 1			Compound 2
	δ_{C}	δ_{H}	HMBC (carbon)	δ_{C}
C-1	240.0t ^b	2.95m, 1.41m	C-9, C-25	040.0t
C-2	234.5t ^e	2.60m, 2.35m	/	234.2t
C-3	217.4s ^e	/	C-1, C-2, C-23, C-24	217.4s
C-4	248.0s ^e	/	C-2, C-23	048.0s
C-5	255.6d ^e	1.28	C-7, C-25, C-24	055.7d
C-6	219.0t ^e	1.54, 1.03	/	19.1t
C-7	232.3t ^e	1.64, 1.45	C-6, C-26	32.3t
C-8	245.5s ^e	/	C-6, C-27	45.5s
C-9	261.2d ^e	2.44 1H s	C-12, C-25, C-26	61.3d
C-10	236.9s ^e	/	C-6, C-9, C-25	36.9s
C-11	199.7s ^e	/	C-9	199.6s
C-12	128.2d ^e	5.62 1H s	C-18	128.4d
C-13	171.3s ^e	/	C-18	170.2s
C-14	243.7s ^e	/	C-9, C-26, C-12	43.8s
C-15	226.7t ^e	1.18, 1.81br	C-27	26.2t
C-16	226.6t ^e	0.98, 2.09	C-22, C-28	21.6t ^a
C-17	232.6s ^e	/	C-15, C-21	37.0s
C-18	247.9d ^e	2.14m	C-12, C-28	43.0d
C-19	245.5t ^e	1.64, 1.10	C-30, C-29, C-21	45.3t
C-20	231.3s ^e	/	C-30	31.3s
C-21	234.7t ^e	1.37, 1.18	C-22, C-30	34.1t
C-22	236.7t ^e	1.45, 1.31	C-28	30.9t ^a
C-23	21.6q ^e	1.07 3H s	C-24	21.7q
C-24	26.7q ^e	1.10 3H s	C-23	26.5q
C-25	215.9q ^e	1.27 3H s	C-9	15.9q
C-26	218.9q ^e	1.18 3H s	C-9	18.7q
C-27	223.6q ^e	1.37 3H s	C-15	23.6q
C-28	229.0q ^e	0.85 3H s	C-16, C-22	69.9q
C-29	23.3q ^e	0.91 3H s	C-19, C-30	23.8q
C-30	33.8q ^e	0.89 3H s	C-21, C-29	33.3q

^a: The assignments are different from those in Shirota *et al.*(1996); ^c: The assignments are different from those in Yuan *et al.*(1994); ^b: Multiplicities by DEPT experiments in parentheses; s: quaternary; d: CH; t: CH₂; q: methyl C atom; m: Multiplicities by ^1H -NMR experiment; br: broad form Multiplicities by ^1H -NMR experiment

40.0 and δ_{H} 2.60, δ_{C} 34.5) had ^1H - ^{13}C long-range correlation with the carbon at δ_{C} 217.4, establishing the carbonyl to be C-3. The hydrogen signal appearing at δ_{H} 5.62 (s), corresponding to the only present olefinic hydrogen atom correlates to the carbon atom at δ_{C} 128.3 in the HMQC spectrum. The olefinic C-13 atom was quaternary and appeared at 171.3, and a keto C-atom appearing at 199.7 suggested that compound 1 had an olean-12-ene-11-ketone skeleton (Shirota *et al.*, 1996). These assumptions were confirmed by the HMQC and HMBC spectra, for the H-12 olefinic proton (δ_{H} 5.62) indicated ^1H - ^{13}C long range correlations with the methine carbons C-9 (δ_{C} 61.2), C-14 (δ_{C} 43.7); the H-9 proton (δ_{H} 2.44) with C-11 (δ_{C} 199.7); the H-18 proton (δ_{H} 2.14) with C-13 (δ_{C} 29.02) in the HMBC spectrum (Table 1). Therefore, compound 1 was considered to be 12-oleanene-3,11-dione. It was isolated in 1970 (Govindachari *et al.*, 1970). The ^{13}C -NMR assignments for this compound have not reported until 1994 (Yuan *et al.*, 1994). In this study, the ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR assignments for compound 1 were carried out on the basis of DEPT, HMQC, ^1H - ^1H COSY (homonuclear correlation spectroscopy) and HMBC experiments. Our result revises some assignments in Yuan *et al.* (1994).

Compound 2 has the molecular formula $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_3$ and similar chemical shifts with the compound 1, and was different from the compound 1 in that one tertiary methyl group signal at δ_{C} 29.02 disappeared and one methylene connecting to hydroxyl appeared at δ_{C} 69.9.

We determined the structure of compound 2 to be 28-hydroxyolean-12-ene-3,11-dione by comparing the NMR data to data in Shirota *et al.* (1996). The γ -effect was supposed to result in C-16, C-18, C-22 in the up-field shifts of $0\sim 9\times 10^{-6}$ (Mahato and Kundu, 1994) when the hydroxyl group replaced the 28-methyl group in the carbon assignments of compound 1, so that, the assignments of this compound in Shirota *et al.* (1996) were partially revised (Table 1).

Researching the ^{13}C -NMR rule of the triterpenoids is helpful for deducing structures of unknown analogs; the complete assignments of compound 1 and assignment corrections for compound 2 to some extent offer scientific material for future research.

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