

Decandrinin, an unprecedented C₉-spiro-fused 7,8-*seco-ent*-abietane from the Godavari mangrove *Ceriops decandra*

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Full Research Paper

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Keywords:

abietane; absolute configuration; *Ceriops decandra*; circular dichroism; decandrinin; Rhizophoraceae

Beilstein J. Org. Chem. **2014**, *10*, 276–281.

doi:10.3762/bjoc.10.23

Received: 16 October 2013

Accepted: 18 December 2013

Published: 27 January 2014

This article is part of the Thematic Series "Natural products in synthesis and biosynthesis".

Guest Editor: J. S. Dickschat

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Abstract

Decandrinin (**1**), an unprecedented C₉-spiro-fused 7,8-*seco-ent*-abietane, was obtained from the bark of an Indian mangrove, *Ceriops decandra*, collected in the estuary of Godavari, Andhra Pradesh. The constitution and the relative configuration of **1** were determined by HRMS (ESI) and extensive NMR investigations, and the absolute configuration by circular dichroism (CD) and optical-rotatory dispersion (ORD) spectroscopy in combination with quantum-chemical calculations. Decandrinin is the first 7,8-*seco-ent*-abietane.

Introduction

Ceriops decandra is a mangrove of the family Rhizophoraceae. It is widely distributed along the sea coasts of South Asia down to the southern pacific islands, and of Africa and Madagascar.

The genus *Ceriops* only consists of five mangrove plant species. Besides *C. decandra*, these are *C. australis*, *C. pseudodecandra*, *C. tagal*, and *C. zippeliana* [1-4]. In Indian traditional medicine,

the bark of *C. decandra* have been used for the treatment of amoebiasis, diarrhea, hemorrhage, and malignant ulcers [5], making it rewarding to screen the bioactive compounds of this plant. Before our work, already 28 compounds had been isolated from *C. decandra* [6] (three pimaranes, four beyeranes, five kauranes, and 16 lupanes). Recently, some of us have reported on the isolation of eleven new diterpenes from this plant, named decandrins A–K [7], of which nine belong to the group of abietanes.

Seco-abietane diterpenoids are a small group of natural products. To date, a total of 58 such compounds have been reported from plants of the genera *Abies*, *Cephalotaxus*, *Colus*, *Cordia*, *Hyptis*, *Isodon*, *Pinus*, *Premna*, *Salvia*, *Taiwania*, *Thuja*, and *Vitex*, including a 1,2-*seco*-abietane [8], a 1,10-*seco*-abietane [9,10], three 2,3-*seco*-abietanes [8,11–13], three 3,4-*seco*-abietanes [8,14], 31 4,5-*seco*-abietanes [8,15,16], ten 6,7-*seco*-abietanes [8,17–19], two 7,8-*seco*-abietanes [8,20], two 8,14-*seco*-abietanes [21,22], three 9,10-*seco*-abietanes [22,23], and two 9,11-*seco*-abietanes [24,25]. Among the above *seco*-abietanes, only laxiflorin V is a *seco-ent*-abietane [14]. Herein, we report on the isolation and structural elucidation of an unprecedented C₉-spiro-fused 7,8-*seco-ent*-abietane, named decandrinin (**1**) (Figure 1), from the bark of an Indian mangrove, *C. decandra*, collected in the estuary of Godavari, Andhra Pradesh. The absolute stereostructure of **1** was established by HRMS (ESI), extensive NMR investigations, and by circular dichroism (CD) and optical-rotatory dispersion (ORD) spectroscopy in combination with quantum-chemical calculations.

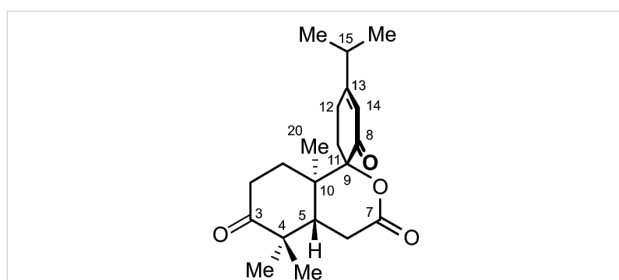


Figure 1: Structure of decandrinin (**1**).

Results and Discussion

Decandrinin (**1**) was obtained as a colorless solid. Its molecular formula was established as C₂₀H₂₈O₄ by HRMS (ESI) (*m/z* 333.2053, calcd for [M + H]⁺, 333.2060). From this formula, it was suggested that **1** has seven degrees of unsaturation, of which four could be ascribed to one carbon–carbon double bond, one lactone carbonyl group, and two ketone groups, according to its ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Table 1); the molecule should thus be tricyclic.

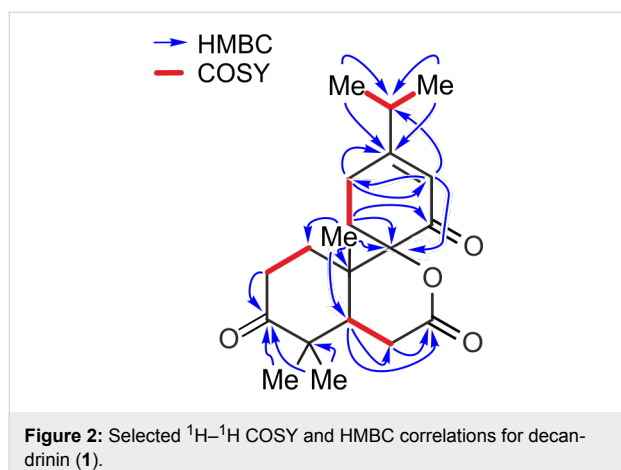
Table 1: ¹H (400 MHz) and ¹³C (100 MHz) NMR spectroscopic data for **1** in CDCl₃ (δ ppm).

Position	δ _H (J in Hz)	δ _C
1α	1.87, m	31.5, CH ₂
1β	2.03, m	
2α	2.33, m	33.8, CH ₂
2β	2.68, m	
3		213.1, C
4		47.1, C
5	2.47, m	43.1, CH
6α	2.66, m	28.8, CH ₂
6β	2.47, m	
7		170.9, C
8		195.9, C
9		88.3, C
10		39.0, C
11α	2.59, m	30.1, CH ₂
11β	2.23, m	
12	2.52, m 2.52, m	26.6, CH ₂
13		172.0, C
14	6.03, br s	124.1, CH
15	2.45, m	35.4, CH
16	1.11, d (6.9)	20.6, CH ₃
17	1.11, d (6.9)	20.8, CH ₃
18	1.06, s	25.4, CH ₃
19	1.13, s	21.6, CH ₃
20	1.37, s	14.9, CH ₃

The NMR data and a DEPT experiment (Table 1) indicated the presence of an olefinic methine group [δ_H 6.03 (br s), δ_C 124.1], two aliphatic methine groups [δ_H 2.47 (m), δ_C 43.1; δ_H 2.45 (m), δ_C 35.4], five methylene groups [δ_H 2.33 (m), 2.68 (m), δ_C 33.8; δ_H 1.87 (m), 2.03 (m), δ_C 31.5; δ_H 2.59 (m), 2.23 (m), δ_C 30.1; δ_H 2.66 (m), 2.47 (m), δ_C 28.8; δ_H 2.52 (2H, m), δ_C 26.6], five methyl groups [δ_H 1.06 (3H, s), δ_C 25.4; δ_H 1.13 (3H, s), δ_C 21.6; δ_H 1.11 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), δ_C 20.8; δ_H 1.11 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), δ_C 20.6; δ_H 1.37 (3H, s), δ_C 14.9], two keto groups (δ_C 213.1, 195.9), and a lactone carbonyl group (δ_C 170.9). The NMR spectroscopic data indicated that **1** was a rearranged abietane.

The existence of an isopropyl group was suggested by ¹H, ¹H-COSY correlations between H-15 and protons of two methyl groups [δ_H 1.11 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.11 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 3H)]. From ¹H, ¹H-COSY correlations, three further proton–proton spin systems, viz. H₂-1–H₂-2, H₂-11–H₂-12, and H-5–H₂-6, were deduced (Figure 2).

HMBC correlations between H₃-16/C-13, H₃-17/C-13, and H-14/C-15 placed the above isopropyl group at C-13, while

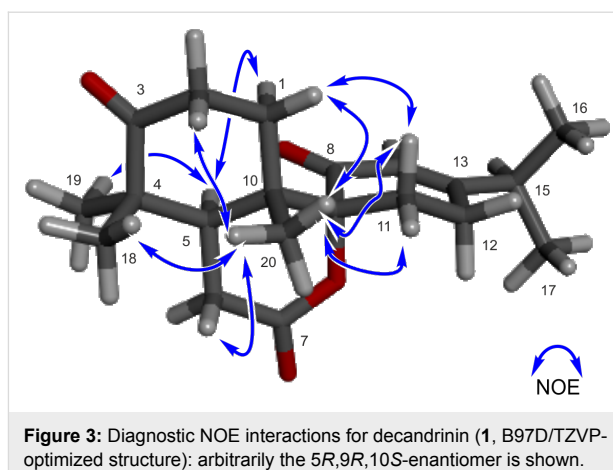


those from H-14 to C-9 and C-12 indicated the presence of a $\Delta^{13,14}$ double bond. HMBC correlations from H₃-18, H₃-19, and H₂-2 to the carbon at δ_{C} 213.1 suggested the location of a keto group at C-3, whereas those from H₂-11 to the carbon at δ_{C} 195.9 indicated that there was another keto group at C-8 (Figure 2).

HMBC correlations from H-5 and H₂-6 to the carbonyl carbon (δ_{C} 170.9) of a δ -lactone suggested its location at C-7, while those from H₂-11, H-14, and H₃-20 to the quaternary carbon (δ_{C} 88.3) placed it at C-9 (Figure 2).

The NOE interactions for the two methyl groups at C-4 suggested that one methyl group is located at the same side as H-5, while the other one has the same orientation as Me-20. The NOEs between the two protons of the methylene at C-11 and Me-20 led to the conclusion that the carbonyl at C-8 is opposite to Me-20 (Figure 3). If the carbonyl at C-8 was oriented in the same direction as Me-20 these NOEs would not be observed because there would be several atoms between the concerned protons (Figure S9 in Supporting Information File 1). Therefore, the relative configuration of **1** was identified as shown in Figure 1.

The absolute configuration of **1** was assigned by CD and ORD spectroscopy in combination with quantum-chemical calculations. The conformational analysis of **1** by using RI-SCS-MP2/def2-TZVP//B97D/TZVP yielded six relevant conformers within the energetical range of 3 kcal/mol above the global minimum. For each of the six conformers thus identified, TDB2PLYP/def2-TZVP calculations were performed providing single UV and CD spectra, which were then summed up with Boltzmann weighting. The resulting averaged CD spectrum was corrected by a UV shift [26] of 13 nm and compared with the experimental CD curve (Figure 4). While the CD curve predicted for the 5*R*,9*R*,10*S*-configuration was nearly opposite



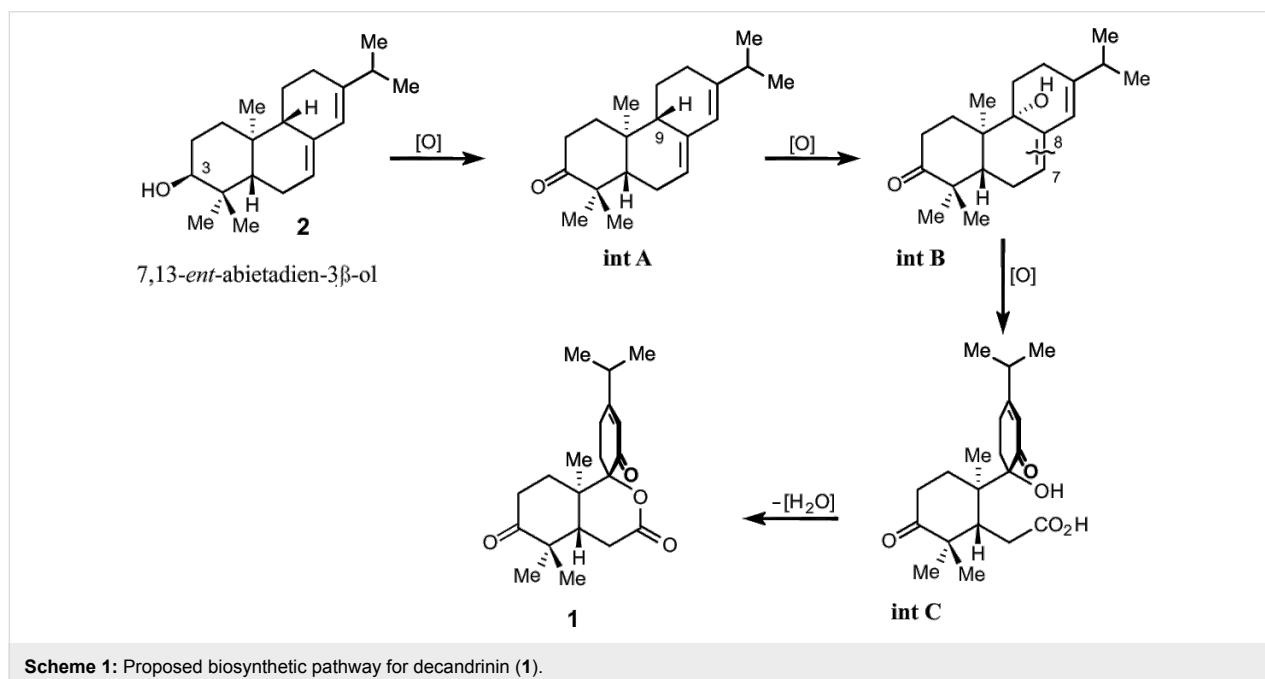
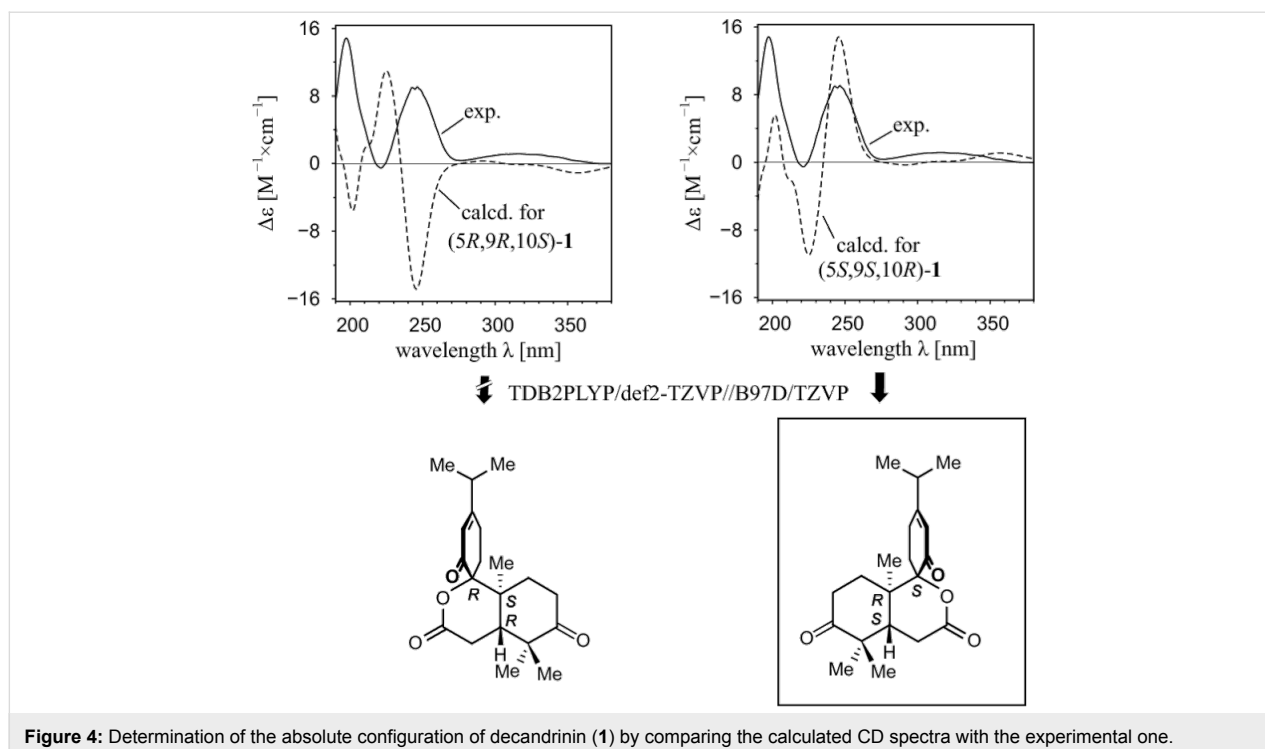
to the one experimentally observed, the spectrum calculated for the 5*S*,9*S*,10*R*-enantiomer showed a good fitting with a moderate Δ_{ESI} value of 58% [27]. To further corroborate the assignment of the absolute configuration of **1**, ORD calculations were performed using the PBE0/cc-pVDZ//B97D/TZVP method. The ORD calculated for the 5*S*,9*S*,10*R*-configuration in the non-resonant region matched with the one observed experimentally (Figure S10 in Supporting Information File 1). The good agreement of the experimental CD and ORD spectra with the ones calculated for the 5*S*,9*S*,10*R*-enantiomer revealed the absolute configuration of **1** to be as shown in Figure 4.

A plausible biogenetic precursor of decandrinin (**1**) might be the naturally more common β -diastereomer of 7,13-*ent*-abietadien-3-ol (**2**). Accordingly, its 3 β -OH group would be oxidized to yield **int A**, whose C-9 would then be hydroxylated to afford **int B**. Oxidative cleavage at the $\Delta^{7,8}$ double bond of **int B** could yield **int C**. Finally, the lactonization of **int C** would give decandrinin (**1**) (Scheme 1).

Experimental

General methods

Optical rotation values were recorded on a JASCO P-1020 polarimeter. CD spectra were recorded on a J-715 spectropolarimeter (JASCO, Gross-Umstadt, Germany). UV spectra were obtained on a Beckman DU-640 UV spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance 400 NMR spectrometer in CDCl₃. High-resolution ESI mass spectra were performed on a Bruker maXis UHR-TOF mass spectrometer in positive ion mode. For column chromatography, silica gel (200–300 mesh, Qingdao Mar. Chem. Ind. Co. Ltd.) and RP C₁₈ gel (YMC) were used. High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was performed on a Shimadzu LC-6AD controller with an SPD-20A UV-vis detector equipped with YMC-Pack ODS-A columns (250 × 10 mm i.d., 5 μm and 250 × 4.6 mm i.d., 5 μm).



Plant material

As described previously [7] the bark of *Cerriops decandra* were collected in September 2009 in the estuary of Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, India. The identification of the plant was performed by one of the authors (T.S.). A voucher sample (No. CD-001) is maintained at the Marine Drugs Research Center, College of Pharmacy, Jinan University.

Extraction and isolation

The extraction and isolation procedures were in part identical to those described recently [7]: The chloroform extract (65.2 g) from air-dried bark (7.4 kg) of *C. decandra* was subjected to silica-gel column chromatography (200–300 mesh, 3.0 kg) and eluted with petroleum ether/acetone (100:0 to 1:2) to yield 285 fractions. Fractions 173 to 204 were combined and further

purified using RP C₁₈ column chromatography eluted with acetone/H₂O (30:70 to 100:0) to give 57 subfractions. Subfractions 8–13 were combined and subjected to preparative HPLC (YMC-Pack 250 × 10 mm i.d., MeCN/H₂O, 32:68) to afford eight subfractions. Then the sixth subfraction was further purified by HPLC (YMC-Pack 250 × 4.6 mm i.d., MeOH/H₂O, 40:60) to provide **1** (1.9 mg).

Characterization

Decandrinin (**1**): Colorless solid; $[\alpha]_D^{25} +242.0$ (*c* 0.12, Me₂CO); UV (MeCN) λ_{\max} 246.9 nm; For ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data (see Table 1); HRMS (ESI) *m/z*: [M + H]⁺ calcd for C₂₀H₂₉O₄, 333.2060; found 333.2053.

Computational details

The B97D/TZVP [28,29] method was used to perform the conformational analysis of **1** with Gaussian 09 [30]. Single-point energy calculations at the RI-SCS-MP2/def2-TZVP [31,32] level and TDB2PLYP/def2-TZVP [33-35] calculations in combination with the COSMO solvation model with acetonitrile as a solvent and the chain-of-spheres approximations [35-37] were done using ORCA [38]. The optical rotatory dispersion (ORD) was calculated at the PBE0/cc-pVDZ [39,40] level using Gaussian 09. The Boltzmann weighting of single UV and CD spectra, UV shift, the determination of Δ_{ESI} values in the wavelength region between 190 nm and 380 nm (13 nm UV shift, $\sigma = 0.22$ eV), and the comparison of the calculated CD ($\sigma = 0.22$ eV) and ORD spectra with those observed experimentally were done with SpecDis 1.61 [41].

Supporting Information

Supporting Information File 1

HRMS (ESI) and NMR spectra of decandrinin (**1**), NOE interactions for the B97D/TZVP-optimized structure diagnostic for the 9-epimer of decandrinin (**1**), and comparison of the calculated ORD with the experimental one.

[<http://www.beilstein-journals.org/bjoc/content/supplementary/1860-5397-10-23-S1.pdf>]

Acknowledgements

This work was financially supported by NSFC (31100258, 31170331, and 81125022), the Guangdong Key Science and Technology Special Project (2011A080403020), and the Special Financial Fund of Innovative Development of Marine Economic Demonstration Project (GD2012-D01-001). The authors thank Franziska Witterauf for the experimental CD and ORD measurements. F.Z.K. is grateful to the BEBUC Excel-

lence Scholarship System and the Else-Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung for the support of his master studies.

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