# TRITERPENOID SAPONIN FROM ZYGOPHYLLUM DUMOSUM

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The new triterpenoid saponin, 3-O-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)- $\alpha$ -L-arabinopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranosyl]-taraxast-20(21)-en-28-oic acid-28-O-[2-O-R- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl] ester has been isolated from the roots of Zygophyllum dumosum. The structure was established primarily by NMR spectroscopy. All NMR signals were assigned by <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HMQC, HMBC, ROESY and TOCSY experiments.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Leaves, stems and fruits of Zygophyllum coccineum are used in the Egyptian folk medicine as part of a drug against rheumatism, gout, asthma and hypertension. This was the motivation to investigate the natural products of different Zygophyllum species, grown in Egypt. Previous investigations on Ζ. coccineum, Z. album, Z. dumosum and Z. decumbens showed the occurrence of saponins with quinovic acid,<sup>1</sup> arjunolic acid, 30norarjunolic acid and 29-hydroxyoleanolic acid<sup>2</sup> as aglycones. In this report the isolation and structure elucidation of the new saponin 3-O-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)- $\alpha$ -L-

arabinopyranosyl- $(1\rightarrow 2)$ - $\beta$ -D-xylopyranosyl]taraxast-20(21)-en-28-oic acid-28-*O*-[2-*O*-R- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl] ester (1) from the roots of *Zygophyllum dumosum* Boiss. is described.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

General

Mp: uncorr.; negative ion MS: MAT 8500 (Finnigan), matrix glycerol. NMR: 500.13 MHz (<sup>1</sup>H) and 125.76 MHz (<sup>13</sup>C), reverse probehead,  $\delta$  in ppm, solvent CD<sub>3</sub>OD, CD<sub>3</sub>OD signals were used as int. standard (<sup>1</sup>H: 3.30, <sup>13</sup>C: 49.0), temp. 290 K, TOCSY: phasesensitive using TPPI, mixing time 134.3 msec (80 MLEV-17 cycles plus 2 trim pulses of 2.5 msec each), HMQC: phase-sensitive using TPPI, BIRD sequence, GARP decoupled, HMBC: using TPPI, delay to achieve long range couplings: 71 msec ( $J_{C,H}$ = 14 Hz).

CC: silica gel (0.063-0.2 mm); TLC: silica gel (0.25 and 1 mm precoated plates 60  $F_{254}$ , Merck, 0.25 mm precoated plastic sheets SIL G/UV<sub>254</sub> Macherey-Nagel), the spots were sprayed with 10%  $H_2SO_4$  in MeOH, 'triterpene reagent' (1% soln. of vanillin in 50%  $H_3PO_4$ ), 'sugar reagent' (4% ethanolic aniline-4%

ethanolic diphenylamine- $H_3PO_4$ , 5:5:1 v/v) and phosphomolybdic acid reagent (Aldrich). For the prep. HPLC a Knauer HPLC system equipped with a variable wavelength monitor together with Spherisorb ODS II (250 x 8 mm, 5 µm, Bischoff) prepacked column was used. GLC (He at 50 kPa; 3 min 80°, 80-120° with 3° min<sup>-1</sup>, 120-170° with 0.5° min<sup>-1</sup> 170-280° with 5° min<sup>-1</sup>) was carried out on a Fisons GC 8000 instrument using a fused silica capillary column coated with DB 1 phase (30 m x 0.32 mm, J&W).

#### Isolation

Z. dumosum was collected in 1991 in the North of Sinai and identified by Dr. M. El-Gebaly from the National Research Centre (NRC) Cairo. A voucher specimen of the plant is deposited at the Herbarium of the NRC, Department of Chemotaxonomy. Dried powder of the roots of Zygophyllum dumosum (4.0 kg) was exhaustively extracted with 80% MeOH. After removal of the solvent by evaporation, the residue was successively partitioned between H<sub>2</sub>O-petrol, H<sub>2</sub>O-EtOAc and H<sub>2</sub>O-n-BuOH. The butanolic fr. was evaporated under red. pres. at  $50^{\circ}$  to obtain a crude saponin mixture (25 g). CC (10 g) on silica gel eluting CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O with with increasing amounts of MeOH and H<sub>2</sub>O. yielded fr. I (15 mg) which was further purified on Sephadex LH-20 eluting with MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O 85:15 v/v (8 mg). Prep. HPLC (isocratic, 32% acetonitrile in H<sub>2</sub>O, 205 nm, 3.0 ml/min) gave pure saponin 1 (4.0 mg).

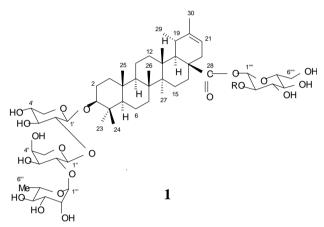
## (R)-2-Butylglycosides

A sample (ca. 250 µg) of zygophyloside L (1) was hydrolysed with 0.5 ml 5% HCl for at least 3 h at 80°. After evaporation of the acid under red. pres., 0.5 ml (R)-2-BuOH was added, dried HCl gas was bubbled through the solution for 30 s and the reaction mixture was heated for 3 h at  $80^\circ$  under  $N_2$  in a sealed vessel. Trimethylsilylation was performed with N-methyl-N-trimethylsilyltrifluoroacetamide overnight. (R)-2-butyl-L-Ara: Rt 39.41, (R)-2butyl-D-Ara: Rt 38.43, (R)-2-butyl-L-Xyl: Rt 39.23, (R)-2-butyl-D-Xyl: Rt 38.11, (R)-2butyl-L-Glc:  $R_t$  81.85, (R)-2-butyl-D-Glc:  $R_t$ 82.23, (*R*)-2-butyl-L-Rhamn: R<sub>t</sub> 52.34. Identification of the sugars were done by comparison of the R<sub>t</sub> values and co-injection

with the appropriate standard. Consequently it was shown for zygophyloside L (1) that arabinose and rhamnose belong to the L-series, glucose and xylose to the D-series.

# Spectroscopic data

3-*O*-[α-L-rhamnopyranosyl- $(1\rightarrow 2)$ -α-Larabinopyranosyl- $(1\rightarrow 2)$ -β-D-xylopyranosyl]taraxast-20(21)-en-28-oic acid-28-*O*-[2-O-R-β-D-glucopyranosyl] ester (1): amorphous powder, m.p. 260-264°. LSI-MS negative ion mode m/z (rel. int.): 1029 (10). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: Table I.



#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The n-BuOH extract of the roots of *Z. dumosum* was obtained as desribed in the experimental section and was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel using CHCl<sub>3</sub>, CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH and CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O with increasing amounts of MeOH and H<sub>2</sub>O. Further purification was achieved by column chromatography on Sephadex LH-20 followed by preparative HPLC on Spherisorb ODS II.

The <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **1** showed the presence of taraxast-20(21)-en-28-oic acid as aglycone. 23-Hydroxytaraxast-20(21)-en-28oic acid is the aglycone of two saponins from *Fagonia indica*.<sup>3</sup> Total assignment of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of pseudotaraxasterol was described before by Reynolds.<sup>4</sup> In the case of taraxast-20(21)-en-28-oic acid the 28-methyl group of pseudotaraxasterol is oxidized to a carboxyl group. The signals of the axial and equatorial oriented protons of the aglycone of **1** were assigned by ROESY experiments. Four anomeric <sup>1</sup>H/<sup>13</sup>C signals at  $\delta$  4.42 (*d*, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>1',2'</sub> = 7.4 Hz)/ 105.8, 4.97 (*d*, <sup>3</sup>*J*<sub>1'',2''</sub> = 4.2 Hz)/ 101.5,

С	<sup>1</sup> H ax/eq	<sup>13</sup> C		$^{1}\mathrm{H}$	<sup>13</sup> C
1	0.97/1.69	40.3	Xyl		
2	1.69/1.99	27.2	1'	4.42 <i>d</i> 7.4 Hz	105.8
3	3.16	91.0	2'	3.38	79.7
4		40.4	3'	3.56	78.0
5	0.72 <i>d</i> 11.1 Hz	57.3	4'	3.46	73.7
6	1.36/1.51	19.3	5'	3.39 ax, 3.75 eq	63.4
7	1.32/1.50	35.2	Ara		
8		42.2	1"	4.97 <i>d</i> 4.2 Hz	101.5
9	1.36	52.2	2''	3.87 <i>dd</i> 4.2 6.6 Hz	75.9
10		38.0	3''	3.78	72.6
11	1.32/1.56	22.8	4''	3.78	67.7
12	1.16/1.72	28.8	5''	3.42 ax, 3.93 eq	63.4
13	2.38	40.4	Rham		
14		42.9	1 · · ·	4.99 <i>d</i> 1.3 Hz	102.3
15	1.20/1.29	30.8	2***	3.83	72.4
16	1.36/2.26	33.3	3	3.67	72.1
17		49.8	4'''	3.38	73.9
18	1.19 <i>dd</i> 9.1 Hz	50.6	5***	3.83	70.3
19	2.09	38.4	6'''	1.26 <i>d</i> 6.2 Hz	18.2
20		143.9	28-Glc		
21	5.23 <i>d</i> 7.0 Hz	118.5	1	5.47 <i>d</i> 8.0 Hz	92.9
22	1.80/2.30	38.0	2	4.16	79.9
23	1.04 <i>s</i>	28.4	3	3.72	77.5
24	0.82 s	16.9	4	3.49	71.0
25	0.87 s	17.0	5	3.37	78.3
26	0.97 s	16.5	6	3.69/3.79	62.2
27	0.97 s	15.3			
28		175.7			
29	1.00 <i>d</i> 6.6 Hz	23.9			
30	1.59 s	22.0			

**Table I:** <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectral data for saponin **1** in CD<sub>3</sub>OD.

4.99 (d,  ${}^{3}J_{1}$ ,..., = 1.3 Hz) / 102.3 and 5.47 (d, of four saccharide units, three bonded as glycosides and one bonded as glycosylester ( $\delta$ 5.47/92.9). By use of  ${}^{1}\text{H}, {}^{1}\text{H}$  COSY-45 and TOCSY experiments and the determination of the D-form for xylose, glucose and the L-form for arabinose and rhamnose (as described in the experimental part) the individual saccharides identified as D-xylopyranose, were Dglucopyranose, L-arabinopyranose and Lrhamnopyranose. The coupling constants of the anomeric proton signals of the D-xylopyranose and D-glucopyranose moiety of saponin 1 ( ${}^{3}J =$ 7.4 and 8.0 Hz) are in agreement with a  $\beta$ configuration. The coupling constants  ${}^{3}J_{1}$ , 2"

and  ${}^{3}J_{2^{\prime\prime},3^{\prime\prime}}$  of the  $\alpha$ -L-arabinopyranose moiety are only 4.2 and 6.6 Hz and the  ${}^{13}$ C chemical shifts of the L-arabinose of 1 are different from arabinofuranoside moiety<sup>5</sup> indicating to the  $\alpha$ configuration. Further evidence supporting a  ${}^{4}C_{1}$  conformation of  $\alpha$ -L-arabinopyranoside in 1 was obtained from the ROESY cross peak H- $1''_{ax} \rightarrow \text{H-5''}_{ax}$  which can not be observed for the <sup>1</sup>C<sub>4</sub> conformation. The coupling constants  ${}^{3}J_{1,.,2,.} = 4.2$  Hz and  ${}^{3}J_{2,.,3,.} = 6.6$  Hz indicate an equilibrium between the  ${}^{4}C_{1}$  and  ${}^{1}C_{4}$  with  ${}^{4}C_{1}$ conformer in excess.<sup>6</sup> The linkage of xylose and glucose to the aglycone was deduced by means of HMBC spectra. The cross peaks of the  ${}^{3}J$  long range couplings between H-1' xylose  $\rightarrow$  C-3 aglycone and H-1""

glucosylester  $\rightarrow$  C-28 aglycone indicated the points of linkage to the sapogenin. The HMBC cross peaks between C-2' xylose  $\rightarrow$  H-1'' arabinose, C-2'' arabinose  $\rightarrow$  H-1''' rhamnose prove the interglycosidic linkage of arabinose at position C-2' xylose and rhamnose at position C-2'' arabinose. The ROESY cross peaks between H-3 aglycone  $\rightarrow$  H-1' xylose, H-2' xylose  $\rightarrow$  H-1'' arabinose and H-2'' arabinose  $\rightarrow$  H-1''' rhamnose are in agreement with the linkage of the trisaccharide unit  $\alpha$ -Lrhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)- $\alpha$ -L-arabino-

pyranosyl- $(1\rightarrow 2)$ - $\beta$ -D-xylopyranose at position 3 of the sapogenin. The substitution in position 2'''' of the glucosylester could be established by the downfield shifts of the H-2'''' ( $\Delta\delta$  + 0.85) and C-2'''' ( $\Delta\delta$  + 6.1) signals compared with those of the nonsubstituted glucosylester of Zygophyloside K (2). The moiety R could be -SO<sub>3</sub>H but this assumption could not be proved by LSI-MS.

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