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Tetrahydroisoquinolic acid derivatives from the seeds of *Mucuna pruriens* Baker

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ABSTRACT

A tetrahydroisoquinolic acid glycoside identified as 1,1-dimethyl-6,7-dihydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroxyisoquinolin-3-oic acid α -6- β -D-galactopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)- β -D-galactopyranoside (mucunatetrahydroisoquinolinic acid digalactoside) and n-tetracosan-1, 15 β -diol (mucunatetracosandiol) have been isolated as new phytoconstituents from the seeds of *Mucuna pruriens* Baker (Papilionaceae) along with the known compounds n-henetriacontane, 1,1-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-oic acid, β -sitosterol and its β -D-glucopyranoside. The structures of all the isolated compounds have been elucidated on the basis of spectral data analyses and chemical reactions.

Keywords: *Mucuna pruriens* Baker; Papilionaceae; seeds; tetrahydroisoquinolinic acids.

INTRODUCTION

Mucuna pruriens Baker; syn. *M. prurita* Hook (Papilionaceae), commonly known as kaunch, atmangupta or velvet bean, is an annual herbaceous, large climber found throughout India among bushes and hedges in damp places and scrub jungles. It is useful as a green manure and cover crop; its pods and young leaves are consumed as vegetable and fodder [1]. In Ayurveda, its seeds are prescribed as an anthelmintic, aphrodisiac, astringent, laxative and tonic, to treat cholera, delirium, impotence, gonorrhoea, leucorrhoea, scorpion sting and to improve vitality [2-4]. The seeds are used to prepare formulations for management of ageing, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, male infertility and nervous disorders. The seeds contained fatty oil, β -sitosterol and flavone glycosides [5,6], alkaloids [7], DOPA[8] and N-glycans [9]. The present paper describes the isolation and characterization of a new alkane diol and a tetrahydroisoquinolinic acid along with four known phytoconstituents from the seeds of *M. pruriens*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The melting points were determined on a Perfit melting point apparatus and are uncorrected. The IR spectra were recorded on KBr pellets using Jasco FT-IR-5000 instrument (FTS 135, Hongkong). The UV spectra were scanned in methanol on Lamda Bio 20 spectrophotometer. The ¹H NMR (400 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (75 MHz) spectra were recorded on a Advance DRX 400, Bruker Spectrospin (Rheinstetten, Germany) in CDCl₃ and TMS as an internal

standard. The mass spectra were measured in FAB ionization mode with a JEOL-JMS-DX 303 (Peabody, MA, USA). Silica gel G (60-120 mesh, Qualigens, Mumbai, India) was used for column chromatography. Silica gel G (Qualigens, Mumbai) was used for analytical TLC. Spots were visualized by exposure to iodine vapours, UV radiation and by spraying reagents.

Plant material

The seeds of *M. pruriens* (3 kg) were purchased from Khari Baoli market, Delhi and identified by Prof. M. P. Sharma, Taxonomist, Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi. A voucher specimen no. PRL/JH/04/30 is deposited in the herbarium of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi.

Extraction

The air dried defatted seeds (3 kg) were coarsely powdered and extracted with ethanol in a Soxhlet apparatus for 40 hours. The ethanolic extract was concentrated to obtain a dark viscous mass. Small portion of the extract was analyzed chemically to determine the presence of different chemical constituents.

Isolation

The viscous dark brown mass of the ethanol extract was dissolved in minimum amount of methanol and adsorbed on silica gel (60-120 mesh) to form a slurry. The slurry was air-dried and chromatographed over silica gel column packed in petroleum ether. The column was eluted with petroleum ether, mixture of petroleum ether and chloroform (9:1, 3:1, 1:1 and 1:3), pure chloroform and finally mixture of chloroform and methanol (99.5:0.5, 99:1, 49:1, 19:1, 9:1, 4:1, 3:1, 1:1). Various fractions were collected separately and matched by TLC to check homogeneity. Similar fractions (having same R_f values) were combined and crystallized. The isolated compounds were recrystallized to get the following compounds:

n-Henetriacontane (1)

Elution of column with petroleum ether-chloroform (9:1) afforded colourless amorphous powder of **1**; recrystallized from acetone-methanol (1:1); R_f : 0.23 (\underline{n} -hexane); 150 mg (0.005% yield); m. p.: 62-64 °C; FAB-MS m/z (rel. int) 436 $[M]^+$ ($C_{31}H_{64}$) (1.3).

Mucunatetracosandiol (2)

Elution of the column with petroleum ether-chloroform (1:1) gave colourless crystalline mass of **2**; recrystallized from methanol. R_f : 0.73 ($CHCl_3$ -MeOH, 4:1); 94.3 mg (0.003% yield); m. p.: 112-114 °C; IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3417, 3380, 2924, 1607, 1525, 1396, 1296, 1244, 1057, 768 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR ($DMSO-d_6$): δ 3.76 (1H, m, $w_{1/2}=16.7$ Hz, H-15), 3.10 (2H, m, H₂-1), 1.35 (2 H, m, CH₂), 1.31 (2 H, m, CH₂), 1.29 (2H, m, CH₂), 1.26 (2 H, m, CH₂), 1.23 (32 H, brs, 16xCH₂), 0.82 (3 H, t, J=6.0 Hz, Me-24); ^{13}C NMR ($DMSO-d_6$): δ 73.12 (C-15), 63.01 (C-1), 45.27 (C-14), 45.05 (C-16), 30.56 (3xCH₂), 29.66 (CH₂), 28.68 (CH₂), 27.27(CH₂), 20.15(CH₂), 14.28 (CH₃-24); FAB-MS m/z : 370 $[M]^+$ ($C_{24}H_{50}O_2$) (18.9), 257 (21.3), 157 (33.6); HR-FAB-MS: 371.6605 $[M+H]^+$ (Calcd for $C_{24}H_{51}O_2$ 371.6609). Acetylation of **2** (15 mg) with acetic anhydride (5 ml) and pyridine (1 ml) yielded diacetyl derivative, m.p.: 97-98 °C and IR ν_{max} : 1733, 1725 cm^{-1} ; m/z : 454 $[M]^+$ ($C_{28}H_{54}O_4$).

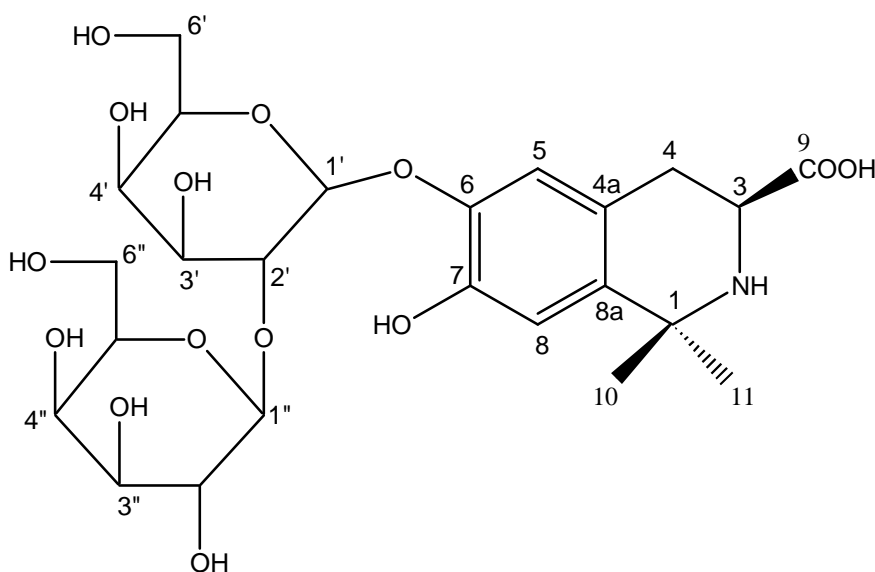
Mucunatetrahydroisoquinolinic acid (3)

Elution of the column with chloroform furnished colourless crystalline mass of **3**; recrystallized from methanol. R_f : 0.8 (toluene-ethyl acetate-formic acid; 5:4:1); 125 mg (0.004% yield); m. p.: 180-182 °C; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} : 260 nm (log ϵ -5.7); IR (KBr) ν_{max} : 3310, 3200, 1702, 1509 cm^{-1} ; 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 7.23 (1H, dd, J=7.2, 3.0 Hz, H-8), 7.20 (1H, m, H-7), 7.11 (1H, dd, J=7.83, 2.1 Hz, H-5), 7.08 (1H, m, H-6), 3.69 (1H, dd, J=6.9, 7.2 Hz, H-3), 2.45 (1H, d, J=7.2 Hz, H₂-4a), 2.39 (1H, d, J=6.9 Hz, H₂-4b), 0.90 (3 H, brs, Me-10), 0.88 (3H, brs, Me-11); ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$): δ 45.01 (C-1), 44.90 (C-3), 30.14 (C-4), 140.84 (C-4a), 127.25 (C-5), 129.35 (C-6), 129.37 (C-7), 127.36(C-8), 136.94 (C-8a), 180.65 (C-9), 22.37 (C-10), 18.07 (C-11); FAB-MS m/z : 205 $[M]^+$ ($C_{12}H_{15}NO_2$) (22.1).

β -Sitosterol (4)

Elution of the column with chloroform-methanol (49:1) afforded colourless crystalline mass of **4**; recrystallized from methanol. R_f : 0.52 ($CHCl_3$ -MeOH, 19:1); 103 mg (0.003% yield); m.p.: 138-139 °C; (C-29); FAB-MS: 414 $[M]^+$ ($C_{29}H_{50}O$) (5.3), 399 $[M-Me]^+$, 396 $[M-H_2O]^+$, 381, 354, 273, 255, 83 and 69.

molecular formula of a tetrahydroisoquinolic acid diglycoside, $C_{24}H_{35}NO_{14}$. The ion peaks arising at m/z 381 [$M-C_6H_{12}O_6$] $^+$, 220 [$M-C_{12}H_{22}O_{10}$] $^+$, 205 [$220-Me$] $^+$ and 175 [$220-COOH$] $^+$ suggested the existence of a diglycoside unit in the molecule. The 1H NMR of **6** displayed two one-proton broad singlets at δ 6.64 and 6.56 assigned to para-coupled aromatic protons H-5 and H-8, respectively. Two one-proton doublets at δ 5.19 ($J=7.1$ Hz) and 4.95 ($J=7.0$ Hz) were ascribed to anomeric protons H-1' and H-1'', respectively. Other sugar protons resonated between δ 4.26-3.00. A one-proton broad signal at δ 2.77 was assigned to secondary amine protons. A one-proton doublet at δ 2.82 with coupling interactions of 9.5 and 5.3 Hz was accounted to α -oriented H-3 methine proton. Two one-proton doublets at δ 2.52 ($J=9.5$ Hz) and 2.48 ($J=5.3$ Hz) were due to methylene H₂-4 protons. Methyl protons Me-10 and Me-11 appeared as three-proton broad singlets at δ 0.95 and 0.91, respectively. The ^{13}C NMR of **6** displayed important signals for C-9 carboxylic carbon at δ 180.28, anomeric carbons C-1' at δ 104.08 and C-1'' at δ 91.79 and the remaining sugar carbons between δ 82.57-60.52. The aromatic carbons resonated between δ 144.90-113.18. Two methyl carbons C-10 and C-11 appeared at δ 18.28 and 18.25, respectively. The 1H NMR spectrum supported the presence of two β -galactose signals at δ 5.19 (d, $J=7.1$ Hz) and 4.95 (d, $J=7.0$ Hz). The H-2' was shifted downfield at δ 3.90 indicating that glycosylation of the second galactose unit by the first galactopyranosyl took place on C-2' hydroxyl group. The relatively upfield position of the anomeric proton of one of the galactose unit suggested that it is connected in the molecule of **6** through sugar alcoholic group and not through phenolic hydroxyl. Linkage through the latter would cause these resonances to be shifted relatively downfield [11]. The number and characteristic shifts of ^{13}C sugar signals indicated the presence of two galactose moieties existing in the pyranose form. The presence of C-2' signal in the deshielded region at δ 82.57 in the ^{13}C NMR spectrum supported that position 2' was substituted by the glycosyl chain. The HMBC spectrum of **6** showed correlation of C-9 with H-3 and H₂-4; C-6 with H-5, H-8 and H-1'; and C-2' with H-3', H-1' and H-1''. Acid hydrolysis of **6** yielded D-galactose. On the basis of above discussion the structure of **6** has been elucidated 1, 1-dimethyl-6,7-dihydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline-3-oic acid-6- β -D-galactopyranosyl-(2 \rightarrow 1)- β -D-galactopyranoside. This a new tetrahydroisoquinolinic acid digalactoside.

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