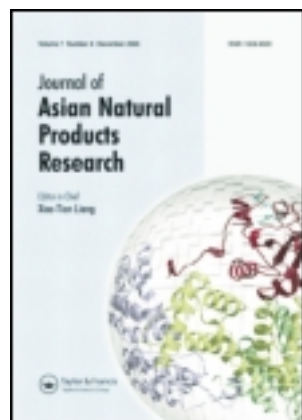


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### Two new sesquiterpenes from cultures of the basidiomycete *Agaricus arvensis*

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## Two new sesquiterpenes from cultures of the basidiomycete *Agaricus arvensis*

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Two new drimane sesquiterpenoids, 11,12-dihydroxy-15-drimeneoic acid (**1**) and 3 $\alpha$ ,11,15-trihydroxydrimene (**2**), were isolated from cultures of the basidiomycete *Agaricus arvensis*, together with one known compound 3 $\beta$ ,11,12-trihydroxydrimene (**3**). Their structures were established by means of spectroscopic analysis.

**Keywords:** drimane sesquiterpenoid; *Agaricus arvensis*; basidiomycete

### 1. Introduction

*Agaricus arvensis*, commonly known as the horse mushroom, is one of the largest *Agaricus* species [1]. The horse mushroom is regarded as one of the most delicious edible fungi, although the fruiting bodies of this and other yellow-staining *Agaricus* species often have a build-up of heavy metals, such as cadmium and copper [2]. Antioxidant activity has been investigated for this and some other *Agaricus* species [3], and in China it is claimed to have anti-cancer properties and has been used to cure lower back pain and pain in tendons and veins [4]. But little work has been done on the chemical constituents of *A. arvensis*. During our search for naturally occurring bioactive secondary metabolite from higher fungi in China, we investigated the cultures of *A. arvensis*, which led to the isolation of two new drimane-type sesquiterpenoids 11,12-dihydroxydrimene-15-oic acid (**1**) and 3 $\alpha$ ,11,15-trihydroxydrimene (**2**), together with one known compound 3 $\beta$ ,11,12-trihydroxydrimene

(**3**) (Figure 1). Their structures have been elucidated on the basis of spectroscopic analysis, especially 2D NMR experiments. Compounds **1** and **2** showed no significant activity against five human cancer cell lines.

### 2. Results and discussion

Compound **1** was obtained as a colorless oil. Its molecular formula was determined to be C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>4</sub> by HR-ESI-MS at  $m/z$  291.1573 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, in combination with <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectral data (Table 1). The IR spectrum revealed the existence of hydroxyl and carbonyl groups due to absorption bands at 3393 and 1693 cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1** displayed signals for two tertiary methyl groups ( $\delta_H$  0.73, s, H-13; 1.20, s, H-14), two oxymethylenes ( $\delta_H$  3.61, dd,  $J$  = 10.9, 7.5 Hz, H-11a; 3.85, dd,  $J$  = 10.9, 2.5 Hz, H-11b;  $\delta_H$  3.93, d,  $J$  = 12.3 Hz, H-12a; 4.24, d,  $J$  = 12.3 Hz, H-12b), and an olefinic proton ( $\delta_H$  5.73, m, H-7). The

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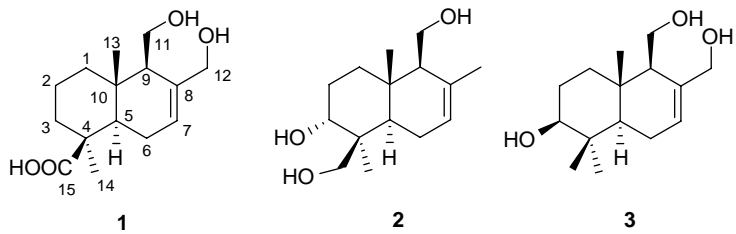


Figure 1. Structures of compounds **1**–**3**.

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **1**, together with the DEPT, HMQC, and  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra, revealed 15 carbon resonances, including two methyl carbons ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  13.9, C-13; 29.2, C-14), four methylene carbons ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  40.2, C-1; 20.4, C-2; 38.9, C-3; 24.9, C-6), two methines ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  51.4, C-5; 54.6, C-9), two quaternary carbons ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  36.6, C-10; 43.9, C-4), two olefinic carbons ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  125.5, C-7; 138.1, C-8), two oxygenated methylene carbons ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  61.2, C-11;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  66.9, C-12),

and one keto carbon at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  178.7 (C-15). In the  $^1\text{H}$ – $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum, three fragments were established by the correlations of H-1/H-2/H-3, H-5/H-6/H-7, and H-9/H-11. In the HMBC spectrum, the key correlations from H-2 to C-4 and H-3 to C-15 suggested the linkage of C-15 to C-4, the correlations of H-11 with C-8 and H-12 with C-7 revealed the connections of C-11 to C-9 and C-12 to C-8, respectively (Figure 2). The data mentioned above

Table 1.  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopic data of compounds **1** and **2** ( $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz).

No.	<b>1</b> <sup>a</sup>		<b>2</b> <sup>b</sup>	
	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$
1	40.2 (t)	1.18 (m)	38.6 (t)	2.07 (m)
2	20.4 (t)	2.04 (m)	28.8 (t)	1.29 (m)
		1.96 (m)		1.74 (m)
3	38.9 (t)	1.10 (m)	81.0 (d)	3.41 (m)
4	43.9 (s)	2.13 (m)	42.8 (s)	1.29 (m)
		1.46 (m)		
5	51.4 (d)	2.25 (m)	51.6 (d)	2.00 (m)
6	24.9 (t)	2.60 (m)	24.0 (t)	1.88 (m)
7	125.5 (d)	5.73 (m)	123.1 d	5.41 (m)
8	138.1 (s)		135.2 (s)	
9	54.6 (d)	2.07 (overlapped)	58.0 (d)	1.80 (overlapped)
10	36.6 (s)		36.3 (s)	
11	61.2 (t)	3.61 (dd, $J$ = 10.9, 7.5)	60.7 (t)	3.78 (dd, $J$ = 10.9, 6.7)
12	66.9 (t)	3.85 (dd, $J$ = 10.9, 2.5)	22.3 (q)	3.58 (dd, $J$ = 10.9, 5.6)
		3.93 (d, $J$ = 12.3)		1.76 (3H, s)
13	13.9 (q)	4.24 (d, $J$ = 12.3)	16.0 (q)	0.78 (3H, s)
14	29.2 (q)	0.73 (3H, s)	23.2 (q)	1.17 (3H, s)
15	178.7 (s)	1.20 (3H, s)	64.4 (t)	4.18 (2H, m)
3-OH				4.65 (d, $J$ = 4.8)
11-OH				3.38 (m)
15-OH				3.85 (dd, $J$ = 8.4, 1.8)

<sup>a</sup> At 400 and 100 MHz, in acetone- $d_6$ .

<sup>b</sup> At 600 and 150 MHz, in acetone- $d_6$ .

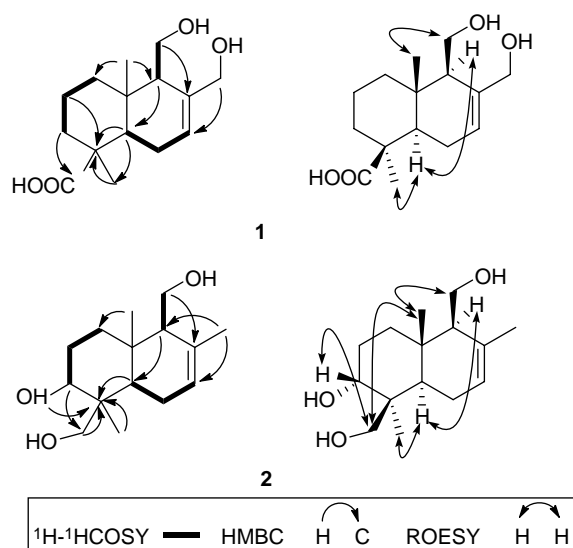


Figure 2. Key 2D NMR correlations of compounds **1** and **2**.

suggested that compound **1** possessed a drimane sesquiterpenoid skeleton related to that of 11,12-dihydroxydrimene [5], except that the methyl of C-15 was oxidized into a carboxyl group at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  178.7 (s, C-15), which was supported by the key HMBC correlation from H-3 to C-15 (Figure 2). The relative configuration was inferred from ROESY interactions between H-5/H-14, H-5/H-9, and H-13/H-11, which suggested that H-5 and C-14 were  $\alpha$ -oriented, while C-11, C-13, and C-15 were  $\beta$ -oriented (Figure 2). Hence, compound **1** was determined as 11,12-dihydroxy-15-drimeneoic acid.

Compound **2**, a colorless oil, possessed a molecular formula  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_3$  as established by the HR-ESI-MS at  $m/z$  277.1772  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ . The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data (Table 1) were very similar to those of **1**, implying that they shared the same drimane skeleton. Analysis of the NMR spectral data indicated that compound **2** was closely related to 3 $\beta$ -hydroxydrimenol [6], except that the methyl of C-15 in **2** was oxidized into a hydroxymethyl [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.18 (2H, m, H-15);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  64.4 (t, C-15)], as indicated by the HMBC correlation from H-15 at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.18 (2H, m) to C-4 at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  42.8

(s). Detailed analysis of other 2D NMR data suggested that the other parts were similar to those of 3 $\beta$ -hydroxydrimenol (Figure 2). In the ROESY spectrum, the correlations of H-5/H-14, H-5/H-9, H-3/H-15, H-11/H-13, and H-13/H-15 indicated H-3, Me-13, and  $\text{CH}_2$ -15 to be  $\beta$ -oriented, while H-5, Me-15, and H-9 were  $\alpha$ -oriented (Figure 2). Thus, compound **2** was determined as 3 $\alpha$ ,11,15-trihydroxydrimene.

Compounds **1** and **2** were evaluated for their cytotoxicities against five human cancer cell lines: MCF-7 breast, SMMC-7721 hepatocellular carcinoma, HL-60 myeloid leukemia, SW480 colon cancer, and A-549 lung cancer. Unfortunately, no significant activity was detected ( $\text{IC}_{50} > 40 \mu\text{M}$ ).

### 3. Experimental

#### 3.1 General experimental procedures

Optical rotations were measured with a Horiba SEPA-300 polarimeter. UV spectra were obtained using a Shimadzu UV-2401A spectrophotometer. A Tenor 27 spectrophotometer was used for scanning IR spectroscopy using KBr pellets. NMR

spectra were run on Avance III 600, Bruker DRX-500, and Bruker AM-400 spectrometers with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) were expressed in ppm with reference to the solvent signals. HR-ESI-MS were obtained on an API-Qstar-Pulsar-1 spectrometer. Column chromatography (CC) was carried out on silica gel (200–300 mesh, Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co. Ltd, Qingdao, China), Sephadex LH-20 (Amersham Biosciences, Uppsala, Sweden), and RP-18 (20–45  $\mu$ m, Fuji Silysia Chemical Ltd, Kasugai, Aichi, Japan). Fractions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (GF 254, Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co. Ltd), and spots were visualized by 10% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in ethanol.

### 3.2 Fungus material

The fungi *A. arvensis* were collected from Deqin County, Yunnan province, China, in August 2005, and identified by Prof. Zhu-Liang Yang, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Voucher specimens have been deposited at the Herbarium of the Kunming Institute of Botany, CAS. The mycelial cultures were derived from tissue plugs.

### 3.3 Cultivation

The culture medium consisted of glucose 5%, peptone 0.15%, yeast 0.5%, KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> 0.05%, and MgSO<sub>4</sub> 0.05% in 1 liter of deionized water (pH 6.5 before autoclaving). The fungus was grown in Erlenmeyer flasks (500 with 300 ml of medium). Fermentation was carried out in a rotary shaker at 24°C and 150 rpm for 40 days.

### 3.4 Extraction and isolation

The culture broth (25 liters) of *A. arvensis* was filtered, and the filtrate was extracted three times with ethyl acetate (EtOAc), while the mycelium was extracted three times with CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH (1:1). The

EtOAc layer, together with the mycelium extraction, was concentrated under reduced pressure to give a crude extract (16 g). The extract was subjected to CC over silica gel (200–300 mesh) eluted with a gradient of petroleum ether–acetone (1:0  $\rightarrow$  0:1) to obtain nine fractions (1–9). Fraction 5 (2.1 g) was separated by RP-18 (MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O, 3:7  $\rightarrow$  9:1) to give five subfractions (A–E). Subfraction C (120 mg) was purified by Sephadex LH-20 (acetone) CC to afford **1** (5.5 mg) and **2** (1.2 mg).

#### 3.4.1 11,12-Dihydroxydrimene-15-oic acid (**1**)

Colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 4.2$  (*c* 0.30, MeOH). UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$ : 202, 231 nm; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 3393, 2930, 2852, 1693, 1446, 1386, 1202, 1032, 987 cm<sup>-1</sup>; for <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectral data, see Table 1; positive HR-ESI-MS *m/z*: 291.1573 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na, 291.1572).

#### 3.4.2 3 $\alpha$ ,11,15-Trihydroxydrimene (**2**)

Colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 12.0$  (*c* 0.10, MeOH). UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$ : 204 nm; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 3428, 2928, 2854, 1630, 1028, 696 cm<sup>-1</sup>; for <sup>1</sup>H NMR (600 MHz, MeOD) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (150 MHz, MeOD) spectral data, see Table 1; positive HR-ESI-MS *m/z*: 277.1772 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, 277.1779).

### 3.5 Cytotoxicity assay

Five human cancer cell lines, breast cancer MCF-7, hepatocellular carcinoma SMMC-7721, human myeloid leukemia HL-60, colon cancer SW480, and lung cancer A-549 cells, were used in the cytotoxic assay. All the cells were cultured in RPMI-1460 or DMEM medium (Hyclone, Logan, USA), supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Hyclone) in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at

37°C. The cytotoxicity assay was carried out according to the MTT (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) method in 96-well microplates [7]. Briefly, 100  $\mu$ l adherent cells were seeded into each well of 96-well cell culture plates and allowed to adhere for 12 h before drug addition, while suspended cells were seeded just before drug addition with initial density of  $1 \times 10^5$  cells/ml. Each tumor cell line was exposed to the test compound dissolved in DMSO at concentrations of 0.064, 0.32, 1.6, 8, and 40  $\mu$ mol in triplicates for 48 h, with cisplatin (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, Mo, USA) and taxol (National Institute for the Control of Pharmaceutical and Biological Products, Beijing, China) as positive controls. After compound treatment, cell viability was detected and a cell growth curve was graphed. IC<sub>50</sub> values were calculated by Reed and Muench's method [8].

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