

## Isolation and characterization of miscellaneous terpenoids of *Schisandra chinensis*

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### Abstract

Two new bisnortriterpenoids with 18-norschiartane skeleton, wuweizidilactones G (**1**) and H (**2**), four new highly oxygenated nortriterpenoids based on a schisanartane skeleton, schindilactones D–G (**3**–**6**), a pre-schisanartane skeleton, pre-schisanartanin B (**7**), and a novel 3,4-*seco*-21,26-olide-artane triterpenoid wuweizilactone acid (**8**), along with 24 known terpenoids with different carbon frameworks, have been isolated from the acetone extract of the stems and leaves of *Schisandra chinensis*. The terpenoids produced by this plant have chemical diversity. The structures of new compounds **1**–**8** have been characterized by spectroscopic data interpretation. The cytotoxicity and anti-HIV-1 activity of all the *Schisandra* nortriterpenoids were evaluated.

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**Keywords:** *Schisandra*; *Schisandra* nortriterpenoids; Wuweizidilactone; Schindilactone; Wuweizilactone acid

### 1. Introduction

*Schisandra* nortriterpenoids are a structurally intriguing group of highly oxygenated, polycyclic, fused heterocyclic natural products isolated from the plants of the genus *Schisandra*.<sup>1</sup> A series of these compounds exhibiting different carbon frameworks and oxygenated pattern, such as schiartane,<sup>2</sup> 18-norschiartane,<sup>3</sup> 18(13→14)-*abeo*-schiartane,<sup>4</sup> schisanartane,<sup>5</sup> pre-schisanartane,<sup>6</sup> and wuweiziartane<sup>7</sup> skeletons, have been so far reported from different species of geographically distinct regions. Recently, we have initiated a program to discover structurally unique and bioactive natural products (especially the triterpenoids with novel carbon skeleton) from different *Schisandra* species. In this study, chemical constituents of a

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), the stems and leaves of *Schisandra chinensis*, have been extensively investigated. Our previous studies on the same species collected from the same region have led to the identification of several structurally interesting *Schisandra* nortriterpenoids, displaying novel carbon skeletons.<sup>4,6,7</sup> Further studies led to the isolation of a series of terpenoids with miscellaneous carbon skeletons, including 18-norschiartane (**1**, **2**, **9**, and **10**),<sup>4</sup> schisanartane (**3**–**6** and **11**–**17**),<sup>6</sup> pre-schisanartane (**7** and **18**),<sup>6</sup> 3,4-*seco*-21,26-olide-artane (**8**), schiartane (**19**),<sup>2</sup> 18(13→14)-*abeo*-schiartane (**20**–**23**),<sup>4</sup> artane (**24**),<sup>8</sup> 3,4-*seco*-lanostane (**25** and **26**),<sup>9,10</sup> ursane (**27** and **28**),<sup>11</sup> abietane (**29**),<sup>12</sup> clovane (**30**),<sup>13</sup> and menthane (**31** and **32**) skeletons,<sup>14</sup> which were detected in the acetone extract of this plant. Thus, the terpenoids produced by this plant showed obvious chemical diversity. The structures of new triterpenoids **1**–**8**, exhibiting four different carbon frameworks, were determined by spectroscopic data and analogous analysis with

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related known molecules. All the isolates were evaluated for their cytotoxicity and anti-HIV-1 activity.

## 2. Results and discussion

Wuweizidilactone G (**1**) was isolated as a white solid. Its molecular formula was determined to be  $C_{35}H_{44}O_{13}$  (14 degrees of unsaturation) by means of analyzing  $^1H$ ,  $^{13}C$ , and DEPT NMR spectroscopic data, and was also verified by high-resolution electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (HRESIMS) data (calcd 695.2664  $[M+Na]^+$ , found 695.2679). DEPT NMR results indicated that there were 43 protons bound to carbon atoms and one exchangeable proton. The  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR spectra of **1** showed the coexistence of five singlet and two doublet methyls, five methylenes, four aliphatic  $sp^3$  methine carbon atoms, six oxygenated  $sp^3$  methine carbons, six  $sp^3$  quaternary carbon atoms, four ester groups, and one trisubstituted double bond (Tables 1 and 2). This observation suggested that **1** was likely to be an 18-norschiartane-type bisnortriterpenoid that was substituted by an angeloyl and an acetyl groups.<sup>4</sup> This assumption was subsequently confirmed by conducting a set of 2D NMR spectroscopic experiments ( $^1H$ – $^1H$  COSY, HSQC, HMBC, and ROESY spectra). The complete structure of **1** was elucidated by analyzing the 2D NMR data obtained and by comparing these results with the NMR data obtained for wuweizidilactone B (**10**).<sup>4</sup> The close similarities of the NMR data

for rings A–F with those of a known compound **10** suggested that **1** has a similar substructure to that of **10**, but with the differences in the chemical shifts at C-23 and C-27 of G ring. These changes, along with the completely different carbon and proton chemical shifts of C-24 ( $\delta_C$  62.6, d) and C-25 ( $\delta_C$  56.3, s), indicated that the double bond in **10** was replaced by the epoxy ring in **1**. The substructure of G ring was further revealed by the  $^1H$ – $^1H$  COSY correlations of H-23 with H-24 and HMBC correlations of H<sub>3</sub>-27 with C-24, C-25, and C-26. Furthermore, in the ROESY spectrum, the correlations of H<sub>3</sub>-27 with H-23 suggested the  $\alpha$ -orientation of epoxy ring between C-24 and C-25. Thus, the complete structure of **1** was established as shown in Figure 1.

Wuweizidilactone H (**2**) was obtained as a white solid and had the molecular formula of  $C_{28}H_{36}O_{10}$  as determined by analysis of  $^1H$ ,  $^{13}C$ , and DEPT NMR spectroscopic data, which were verified by HRESIMS (found 525.2197  $[M+Na]^+$ , calcd 525.2206), requiring 11 degrees of unsaturation. The A–D rings'  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR spectroscopic data (Tables 1 and 2) were analogous to those of **1**. One of the main differences observed in the  $^{13}C$  NMR spectrum was that the signals corresponding to angeloyl and acetyl substituents at C-7 and C-12 in **1** were absent in **2**. These observations coupled with the analysis of 2D NMR data revealed the A–D rings structure (Fig. 2).

The characteristic NMR signals of C-14 ( $\delta_C$  70.5, s) and C-15 ( $\delta_H$  3.73, br s;  $\delta_C$  54.1, d) suggested the presence of

Table 1  
 $^{13}C$  NMR data of compounds **1**–**8** in pyridine- $d_5$ ,  $\delta$  in parts per million<sup>a</sup>

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	82.0 (d)	82.0 (d)	108.7 (s)	108.8 (s)	108.1 (s)	108.7 (s)	79.4 (d)	29.9 (t)
2	35.7 (t)	35.7 (t)	43.7 (t)	43.1 (t)	43.5 (t)	43.2 (t)	35.4 (t)	32.6 (t)
3	174.9 (s)	175.1 (s)	173.5 (s)	173.4 (s)	172.6 (s)	173.1 (s)	175.5 (s)	177.0 (s)
4	84.2 (s)	84.3 (s)	84.2 (s)	84.7 (s)	85.2 (s)	84.3 (s)	84.2 (s)	149.9 (s)
5	53.8 (d)	52.8 (d)	58.9 (d)	58.3 (d)	58.0 (d)	54.6 (d)	62.4 (d)	45.8 (d)
6	31.2 (t)	33.5 (t)	36.3 (t)	36.6 (t)	22.3 (t)	28.0 (t)	23.8 (t)	27.7 (t)
7	70.1 (d)	68.8 (d)	68.4 (d)	68.8 (d)	19.9 (t)	64.2 (d)	27.1 (t)	25.2 (t)
8	46.5 (d)	45.7 (d)	60.2 (d)	60.5 (d)	48.6 (d)	61.2 (s)	56.6 (d)	46.5 (d)
9	75.1 (s)	78.6 (s)	81.6 (s)	81.8 (s)	81.4 (s)	79.9 (s)	82.6 (s)	20.9 (s)
10	98.1 (s)	98.5 (s)	97.1 (s)	97.4 (s)	98.7 (s)	97.1 (s)	98.4 (s)	27.7 (s)
11	41.9 (t)	41.8 (t)	42.5 (t)	41.5 (t)	35.9 (t)	36.6 (t)	38.4 (t)	26.9 (s)
12	70.0 (d)	68.8 (d)	31.2 (t)	30.5 (t)	31.4 (t)	32.0 (t)	25.0 (t)	32.2 (t)
13	91.2 (s)	84.2 (s)	50.3 (s)	49.9 (s)	49.9 (s)	50.7 (s)	25.9 (s)	46.1 (s)
14	69.8 (s)	70.5 (s)	209.9 (s)	209.5 (s)	209.6 (s)	208.2 (s)	216.0 (s)	48.6 (s)
15	55.4 (d)	54.1 (d)	99.0 (s)	98.1 (s)	98.9 (s)	98.2 (s)	99.1 (s)	46.7 (t)
16	26.8 (t)	24.9 (t)	45.2 (d)	45.8 (d)	44.3 (d)	46.5 (d)	31.3 (d)	71.7 (d)
17	43.2 (d)	33.9 (d)	220.4 (s)	221.6 (s)	220.0 (s)	220.0 (s)	34.5 (d)	152.5 (s)
18			26.1 (q)	26.0 (q)	25.8 (q)	26.6 (q)	28.5 (q)	25.1 (q)
19	46.4 (t)	46.6 (t)	40.7 (t)	40.8 (t)	43.2 (t)	37.6 (t)	70.7 (d)	30.1 (t)
20	35.7 (d)	22.3 (d)	44.9 (d)	33.3 (d)	44.7 (d)	44.9 (d)	31.3 (d)	131.2 (s)
21	10.6 (q)	18.9 (q)	15.0 (q)	12.4 (q)	15.0 (q)	14.7 (q)	17.8 (q)	69.9 (t)
22	85.3 (d)	34.4 (t)	40.4 (d)	41.3 (d)	40.1 (d)	40.3 (d)	79.9 (d)	23.7 (t)
23	76.2 (d)	105.8 (s)	75.6 (d)	75.0 (d)	75.3 (d)	75.1 (d)	76.8 (d)	30.3 (t)
24	62.6 (d)	148.8 (d)	69.4 (d)	71.7 (d)	69.1 (d)	68.1 (d)	33.2 (t)	133.6 (d)
25	56.3 (s)	131.9 (s)	42.2 (d)	42.2 (d)	42.1 (d)	42.5 (d)	34.4 (d)	126.2 (s)
26	173.2 (s)	171.8 (s)	178.0 (s)	177.8 (s)	177.8 (s)	178.1 (s)	180.3 (s)	173.4 (s)
27	11.4 (q)	10.4 (q)	8.0 (q)	8.0 (q)	8.3 (q)	8.4 (q)	16.6 (q)	22.2 (q)
28								21.2 (q)
29	22.1 (q)	22.1 (q)	23.0 (q)	25.4 (q)	25.3 (q)	24.9 (q)	21.9 (q)	112.0 (t)
30	28.4 (q)	28.3 (q)	29.6 (q)	29.9 (q)	29.9 (q)	29.5 (q)	28.6 (q)	20.0 (q)

<sup>a</sup> The assignments were based on DEPT,  $^1H$ – $^1H$  COSY, HSQC, and HMBC experiments.

Table 2

<sup>1</sup>H NMR data of **1–7** in pyridine-*d*<sub>5</sub>,  $\delta$  in parts per million (*J* in hertz)<sup>a</sup>

Proton	<b>1</b> <sup>b</sup>	<b>2</b> <sup>b</sup>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
1	4.36 (d, 5.1)	4.17 (d, 5.0)					5.02 (d, 5.2)
2 $\alpha$	2.79 (d, 18.1)	2.74 (d, 18.0)	3.06 (ABd, 18.0)	3.10 (ABd, 18.0)	3.22 (ABd, 18.0)	3.18 (ABd, 18.0)	2.72 (d, 18.1)
2 $\beta$	3.12 (dd, 18.0, 5.1)	3.02 (dd, 18.0, 5.0)	3.15 (ABd, 18.0)	3.15 (ABd, 18.0)	3.22 (ABd, 18.0)	3.18 (ABd, 18.0)	3.32 (dd, 18.1, 5.2)
5	2.62 (overlapped)	3.15 (dd, 13.2, 3.5)	2.60–2.67 (m)	2.62 (overlapped)	2.14–2.18 (m)	2.57 (dd, 14.4, 2.6)	2.18 (overlapped)
6 $\alpha$	2.10–2.14 (m)	1.94–2.02 (m)	2.26 (overlapped)	2.26 (overlapped)	1.18–1.22 (m)	2.20–2.28 (m)	2.17 (overlapped)
6 $\beta$	1.65–1.73 (m)	1.51–1.57 (m)	2.26 (overlapped)	2.26 (overlapped)	1.18–2.22 (m)	1.58–1.65 (m)	1.37 (overlapped)
7 $\alpha$			4.50–4.60 (m)	4.50–4.61 (m)	1.57–1.62 (m)	3.91 (t-like, 6.8)	2.22–2.32 (m)
7 $\beta$	5.66 (br d, 7.9)	4.40 (d, 5.5)			1.88–1.95 (m)		2.00–2.09 (m)
8	2.90 (br s)	2.74 (overlapped)	2.91 (d, 9.8)	2.85 (d, 8.0)	3.66 (dd, 12.0, 5.0)		2.85 (dd, 7.0, 4.5)
11 $\alpha$	2.10 (overlapped)	2.01 (dd, 14.8, 9.9)	1.69–1.76 (m)	1.64–1.72 (m)	1.64 (overlapped)	1.88–1.95 (m)	1.42–1.52 (m)
11 $\beta$	2.41 (br d, 16.3)	2.27 (br d, 14.8)	2.00–2.10 (m)	2.18–2.26 (m)	2.09–2.17 (m)	2.00–2.08 (m)	2.68–2.75 (m)
12 $\alpha$			1.55–1.59 (m)	1.58–1.64 (m)	1.32–1.42 (m)	1.59–1.68 (m)	1.38 (overlapped)
12 $\beta$	5.40 (br s)	4.85 (d, 9.9)	1.83–1.89 (m)	1.74–1.80 (m)	1.80–1.86 (m)	1.97–2.04 (m)	2.45–2.52 (m)
15	3.84 (br s)	3.73 (br s)					
16 $\alpha$	2.00 (overlapped)	1.85–1.93 (m)					
16 $\beta$	1.68 (overlapped)	1.64 (overlapped)	2.83 (overlapped)	2.82 (d, 8.3)	2.77 (d, 6.5)	2.72 (d, 6.5)	1.41 (d, 7.0)
17	2.50–2.59 (m)	2.84–2.92 (m)					0.90 (t-like, 7.0)
18			0.92 (s)	0.93 (s)	0.92 (s)	0.92 (s)	0.96 (s)
19 $\alpha$	2.24 (ABd, 16.1)	2.06 (ABd, 15.6)	2.62 (ABd, 16.1)	2.45 (ABd, 16.0)	2.42 (ABd, 16.3)	2.48 (ABd, 16.4)	4.20 (d, 7.3)
19 $\beta$	2.36 (ABd, 16.1)	2.18 (ABd, 15.6)	2.79 (ABd, 16.1)	2.90 (ABd, 16.0)	2.57 (ABd, 16.3)	2.62 (ABd, 16.4)	
20	2.74 (overlapped)	2.26–2.40 (m)	2.65–2.76 (m)	3.30–3.43 (m)	2.58–2.69 (m)	2.65–2.76 (m)	3.50–3.61 (m)
21	0.84 (d, 6.8)	0.76 (d, 6.6)	1.12 (d, 6.9)	1.14 (d, 7.2)	1.27 (d, 7.0)	1.19 (d, 7.0)	1.70 (d, 6.4)
22 $\alpha$		1.38 (dd, 13.0, 3.0)	2.83 (overlapped)	2.76–2.84 (m)	2.78–2.85 (m)	2.83–2.90 (m)	5.01 (overlapped)
22 $\beta$	4.05 (d, 10.4)	1.65 (overlapped)					
23	4.78 (br s)		4.65 (br s)	4.80 (br s)	4.49 (br s)	4.61 (br s)	4.95 (overlapped)
24	4.36 (br s)	7.01 (br s)	5.31 (br s)	5.11 (br s)	4.62 (br s)	5.13 (br s)	1.92–2.18 (m)
25			3.17–3.21 (m)	3.10–3.16 (m)	3.03–3.10 (m)	3.20–3.26 (m)	2.72–2.81 (m)
27	1.62 (br s)	1.77 (s)	1.25 (d, 7.2)	1.52 (d, 8.0)	1.49 (d, 7.5)	1.68 (d, 7.2)	1.18 (overlapped)
29	1.07 (s)	0.99 (s)	1.39 (s)	1.41 (s)	1.29 (s)	1.31 (s)	1.32 (s)
30	1.22 (s)	1.21 (s)	1.30 (s)	1.30 (s)	1.36 (s)	1.27 (s)	1.17 (s)

<sup>a</sup> The assignments were based on DEPT, <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H COSY, HSQC, and HMBC experiments.<sup>b</sup> See the Section 4 for the data of angeloyl, acetyl, and hydroxyl groups.

epoxy ring between C-14 and C-15. Analysis of the COSY spectrum starting from the proton at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.73 (H-15) revealed the presence of spin system –CHCH<sub>2</sub>CHCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)CH<sub>2</sub>– (C15/C16/C17/C20/C21 and C22). In addition, the key HMBC correlations from H<sub>2</sub>–22 and H-24 to a ketal quaternary carbon (C-23,  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  105.8, s), from H<sub>3</sub>–21 to C-17, C-20, and C-22, and from H-17 to C-13 indicated the presence of a six membered oxygen ring (F ring) and that C-22 was connected with a quaternary carbon C-23 (Fig. 2). Moreover, the <sup>13</sup>C NMR signal for C-13 shifted upfield ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  84.2) in **2** compared with **1** ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  91.2), which further corroborated the structural feature that the oxygenated quaternary carbon C-13 was located in a six membered ring rather than a rigid five membered ring. Considering the molecular formula, a spirocyclic moiety (rings F and G) must be located at C-23. The strong HMBC correlations of H<sub>3</sub>–27 with C-24, C-25, and C-26 indicated the double bond at C-24 and C-25 as well as the structure of ring G. Thus, the gross structure of **2** was determined.

The relative stereochemistry of compound **2** was mainly established using information from ROESY spectrum and by comparison of its spectroscopic data to those of **1**. The same relative stereochemistry of A–E rings in compound **2** as in **1** was deduced from the similar carbon and proton chemical shifts and ROESY correlations found in **2** (Tables and Fig. 3). The strong ROESY correlations of H-15 with H-7 showed the  $\alpha$ -orientation of the epoxy ring between C-14 and C-15. The  $\alpha$ -orientation of

the OH-12 and the  $\beta$ -orientation of CH<sub>3</sub>–21 were deduced from the key correlation between H-12 and H-20 as shown in computer-generated 3D drawing (Fig. 4), which was minimized using the MM2 force field. The last question to be settled was the relative configuration of spiro carbon C-23. The weak ROE interactions of H-22 $\beta$  with H<sub>3</sub>–21 and H-24 suggested that C-24 might be on the  $\beta$ -orientation of ring G. The most solid evidence that confirmed the configuration of C-23 was the abnormal chemical shift of C-20 observed in <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum. The large upfield shift of C-20 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  22.3, d) in **2** compared with that of **1** ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  37.8, d) was attributed to the strong  $\gamma$ -gauche steric compression between oxygen atoms at C-23 (ring G) and H-20 (Fig. 3). Thus, the relative stereochemistry of C-23 was undoubtedly determined as *S*\* configuration.

Schindilactone D (**3**), a white solid, had the molecular formula C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>11</sub> as established on the basis of HRESIMS at *m/z* 583.2149 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd 583.2155). The IR spectrum showed the presence of hydroxyl (3441 cm<sup>–1</sup>) and carbonyl (1777 and 1738 cm<sup>–1</sup>) functionalities. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (Table 2) had five resonances at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.92 (3H, s), 1.30 (3H, s), 1.39 (3H, s), 1.12 (3H, d, *J*=6.9 Hz), and 1.25 (3H, d, *J*=7.2 Hz), typical of three angular and two secondary methyls; two doublet proton resonances at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.48 (1H, ABd, *J*=16.4 Hz) and 2.62 (1H, ABd, *J*=16.4 Hz) indicating an AB spin system (H<sub>2</sub>–19); proton signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.18 (2H, s) for H<sub>2</sub>–2. Above information in conjunction with the <sup>13</sup>C and

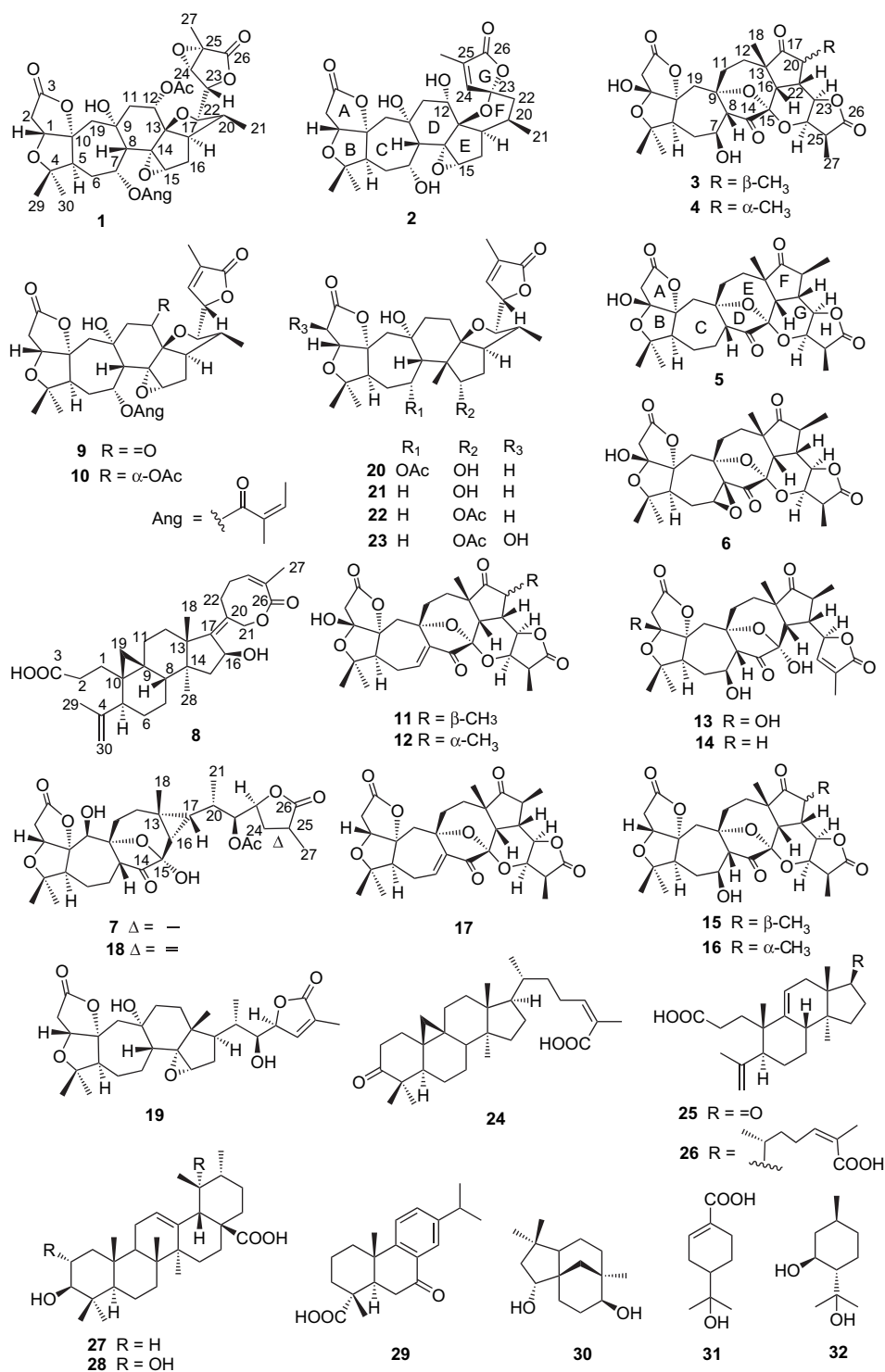
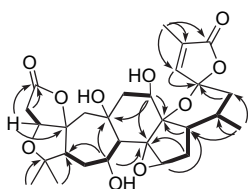


Figure 1. The structures of compounds 1–32.

Figure 2. Key correlations of HMBC and  $^1\text{H}$ – $^1\text{H}$  COSY for **2**.

DEPT NMR spectra indicated that compound **3** was a highly oxygenated nortriterpenoid with a schisanartane core, the same as that of schindilactone A (**11**).<sup>6</sup> The NMR and MS data of **3** similar with those of schindilactone A indicated that **3** was a dehydration derivative of schindilactone A. This was confirmed by the absence of double bond signals in **3** and by the presence of two methines at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  68.4 and 60.2, in which the carbon signal at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  68.4 was attributed to an OH bearing

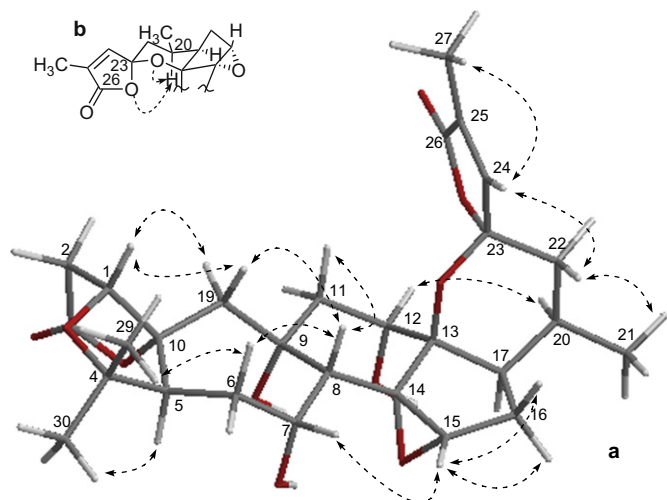


Figure 3. (a) Selected ROESY correlations and relative stereochemistries for **2**; (b) key  $\gamma$ -steric compression effect between oxygen atoms and H-20 in **2**.

carbon C-7. The hydroxyl group was connected to C-7, determined by the HMBC correlation between H-7 and C-5, 6, 8, 9, and 14. Because of the coupling constant ( $J=9.8$  Hz) between H-7 and H-8 and NOESY correlation of H-7 with H-5, the relative configuration of OH-7 was assigned to be  $\beta$ -orientation. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR chemical shift of C-20 was about 45, so the orientation of Me-21 was determined to be  $\beta$ .<sup>6</sup> The relative stereochemistry of the schisanartane core in **3** was further confirmed by the NOESY spectrum. Therefore, compound **3** was identified as shown in Figure 1, named schindilactone D.

Compound **4** was isolated as an amorphous powder and had the same molecular formula of  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_{11}$  as that of **3**, which was determined by analysis of  $^{13}\text{C}$  and DEPT NMR as well as HRESIMS data. Careful analysis of their  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data indicated that **3** and **4** might be C-20 epimers. This deduction was fully confirmed by the abnormal upfield chemical shift of C-20 from  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  44.9 in **3** to  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  33.3 in **4** due to the  $\gamma$ -steric compression effect between oxygen atom at C-23 and H-20 in **3** (Table 1). The large shift difference in  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of C-20 in **3** and **4** was also found for compounds **11** and **12**.

The molecular formula of schindilactone F (**5**) was determined to be  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_{10}$  by analysis of HRESIMS data. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum indicated the presence of two ester carbonyls ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  177.8 and 172.6), two ketone carbonyls ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  220.0 and 209.6), and two oxygenated quaternary carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  98.7 and 98.9, which were characteristic signals for schisanartane nucleus. The comparison of the spectroscopic data of **5** with those of **3** (Table 1) showed similarities except that a

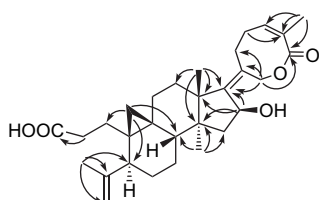


Figure 4. Key HMBC correlations of **8**.

hydroxyl bearing carbon (C-7) in **3** was replaced by a methylene group ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  19.9, t) in **5**. The structure was shown in Figure 1.

Schindilactone F (**6**) was assigned the molecular formula  $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_{11}$ , as deduced from the positive HRESIMS ( $m/z$  581.1989  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ). Comparison of the spectroscopic data of **6** with those of **3** revealed that they were quite similar except for the presence of an additional epoxy ring. The oxymethine and quaternary carbon ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  64.2, d and 61.2, s) in the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **6** and HMBC correlations of H-7 with C-5, C-8, and C-9 showed the presence of epoxy ring between C-7 and C-8. Moreover, the cross-peaks from H-7 to H-5 in the ROESY spectrum of **6** indicated that the epoxy ring had the  $\beta$ -orientation.<sup>15</sup> Thus, the structure of compound **6** was determined.

Pre-schisanartanin B (**7**) was obtained as an amorphous solid, and the molecular formula was  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{42}\text{O}_{11}$  based on its HRESIMS data ( $m/z$  613.2480  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ). Its  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum showed 31 carbon signals. Analysis of the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of **7** showed the presence of a ketone ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  216.0), two lactone carbonyl carbons ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  180.3 and 175.5), and an acetyl group ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  170.7 and 21.5;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.12, s). Comparison of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data of **7** with those of **18** suggested the similarity, except for the absence of olefinic signals attributable to H-24 and H-25. The signals corresponding to this double bond were also absent in the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **7**, where three signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  33.2 (t), 34.4 (d), and 180.3 (s) suggested that this compound has a 24,25-dihydropre-schisanartanin A moiety. This assignment was supported by the HMBC correlations of H<sub>3</sub>-27 with C-24, C-25, and C-26 as well as the  $^1\text{H}$ – $^1\text{H}$  COSY spin system H-23/H-24/H-25/H<sub>3</sub>-27. Due to the lack of useful correlation in ROESY spectrum, the stereochemistry of C-25 was not determined.

A molecular formula of  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{42}\text{O}_5$  and 10 degrees of unsaturation were determined for **8** based on accurate mass measurement and NMR data. The IR spectrum showed absorption bands due to carboxyl group (3582–3240 and 1703  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and C=C double bonds (1640  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (see Table 2) showed one isopropenyl group [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.79 and 4.95 (each 1H, br s, H-29a and H-29b), 1.67 (3H, s, H-30)], three tertiary methyl groups [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.86 (3H, s), 1.34 (3H, s), 1.91 (3H, s)], and typical cycloartane methylene group [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.33 and 0.65 (each 1H, d,  $J=4.0$  Hz)]. Analysis of the  $^{13}\text{C}$  and DEPT NMR spectra for **8** indicated the presence of 4 methyl groups, 12 methylenes, 3 aliphatic methines, 1 olefinic methine, and 10 quaternary carbons with 2 chemical shift typical of carboxyl carbons ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  177.0 and 173.4) as well as with 4 obvious olefinic carbons ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  152.5, 149.9, 131.2, and 126.2). Comparison of the spectroscopic data of **8** with those of nigranoic acid<sup>16</sup> revealed the A–C rings'  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopic data were analogous with each other. Therefore, the structure of **8** was assigned as a 3,4-*seco*-cycloartane derivative.

The HMBC correlations from angular methyl resonance at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.34 (H<sub>3</sub>-18) to C-12 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  32.2, t), C-13 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  46.1, s), C-14 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  48.6, s), and C-17 (152.5, s) as well as from H<sub>3</sub>-28 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.86, s) to C-8 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  46.5, d), C-13, C-14, and C-15 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  46.7, t) indicated that the C-17 was an olefinic carbon (Fig. 4). Although the H-16 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.04, overlapped) proton signal was overlapped by the H<sub>2</sub>O signal, the assignment for this proton



resonance could be achieved by the HSQC and  $^1\text{H}$ – $^1\text{H}$  COSY NMR spectra because of the clear correlation of H-15 with H-16. In addition, the HMBC correlations of H-16 with C-13, C-14, and C-17 helped to establish the structure of D ring, accounting for the presence of double bond between C-17 and C-20. The remaining seven carbon signals in the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **8** comprised a novel eight-membered lactone ring [a methyl ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  22.2, C-27), an oxymethylene ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  69.9, C-21), two methylenes ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  23.7 and 30.3, C-22 and C-23), an olefinic methine ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  133.6, C-24), a quaternary olefinic carbon ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  126.2, C-25), and a carbonyl ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  173.4, C-26)] as shown in Figure 1, based on the observations of HMBC correlations of H<sub>3</sub>-27 with C-24, C-25, and C-26, of H<sub>2</sub>-22 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.42–2.51, m) with C-17 and C-20, and of H<sub>2</sub>-21 (5.38, ABq,  $J=13.6$  Hz) with C-17, C-20, and C-26, as well as the  $^1\text{H}$ – $^1\text{H}$  COSY cross-peaks observed of H-22 with H-23 and of H-23 with H-24 (5.75, br s). The geometry of the double bond between C-17 and C-20 was deduced from ROESY correlation of H-16 with H<sub>2</sub>-21 (Fig. 5).

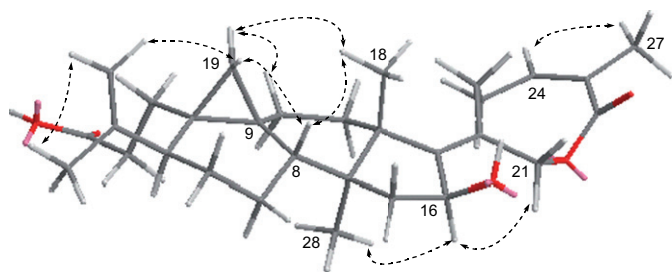


Figure 5. Key ROESY correlations for **8**.

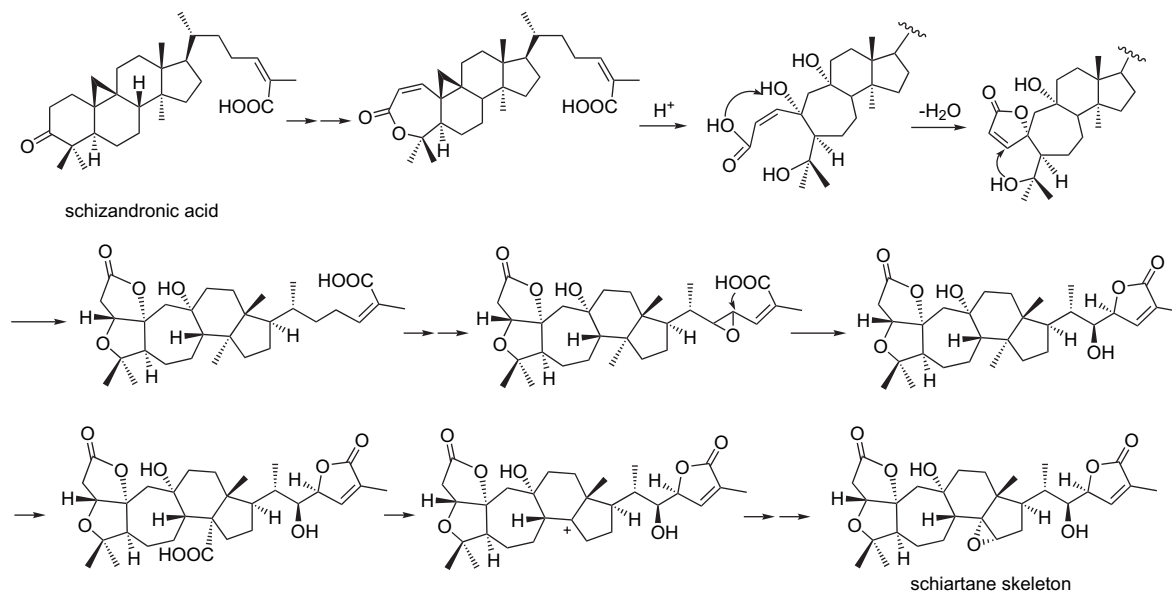
The relative stereochemistry of compound **8** was established using information from ROESY spectrum and by comparison of its spectroscopic data to those of nigranoic acid.<sup>16</sup> The same relative stereochemistry of A–C rings in compound **8** as in nigranoic acid was deduced from the similar carbon and

proton chemical shifts and ROESY correlations found in **1** (Fig. 5). The  $\beta$ -orientation for H-8 was suggested from the strong ROESY correlations of H-8 with H-19 $\beta$  and H<sub>3</sub>-18 as shown in computer-generated 3D drawing. The relative configuration of OH-16 was inferred to be  $\beta$ , judging from ROESY cross-peaks of H-16 with H<sub>3</sub>-28. Thus, the structure of **8**, named as wuweizilactone acid, was unambiguously determined.

### 3. Conclusion

The genus *Schisandra* of the family Schisandraceae has been known to be rich in bioactive lignans (mainly dibenzocyclooctadienlignans), with more than 150 structures identified from different species.<sup>17,18</sup> In earlier studies, we obtained a series of highly oxygenated nortriterpenoids with unprecedented carbon skeletons. While the previous publications have proposed biosynthetic pathways of schisanartane, pre-schisanartane, 18-norschiartane, 18(13 $\rightarrow$ 14)-abeo-schiartane, and wuweiziartane,<sup>4,6,7</sup> we now propose a biogenetic pathway to explain the formation of schiartane skeleton (Scheme 1). In addition, we found that the chemical constituents of *S. chinensis* showed obvious chemical diversity and contained all the triterpenoids skeletons characterized previously from the genus *Schisandra*. Thus, the biosynthetic study of *Schisandra* nortriterpenoids from this plant may be an interesting topic and challenge for further investigation.

The anti-HIV-1 activities of **1**–**23** were tested by a microtiter syncytium formation infectivity assay, using the method previously described, with AZT as a positive control.<sup>19,20</sup> All the compounds demonstrated weak anti-HIV-1 activity with EC<sub>50</sub> values ranging from 17.9 to 100  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , (AZT: EC<sub>50</sub>=0.0043  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ ). The cytotoxicity of all the triterpenoids was also evaluated against K562 cell lines, but they were completely inactive with IC<sub>50</sub> values of  $>100$   $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ . Although, the compounds did not display significant bioactivity in the cytotoxicity and anti-HIV assays, they are structurally



Scheme 1. Proposed mechanism for the formation of the schiartane type.

intriguing and may play a role in the pharmacological properties of these well known Chinese medicinal plants.

## 4. Experimental

### 4.1. General

Optical rotations were carried out on a Perkin–Elmer model 241 polarimeter. UV spectra were obtained in a UV 210A spectrometer. IR spectra were measured in a Bio-Rad FTS-135 spectrometer as KBr pellet. 1D and 2D NMR spectra were taken on a Bruker AM-400 or a Bruker DRX-500 NMR spectrometer with TMS as an internal standard. Mass spectra were recorded on a VG Auto spec-3000 spectrometer or on a Finnigan MAT 90 instrument. Semipreparative HPLC was performed on an Agilent 1100 liquid chromatograph with a Zorbax SB-C<sub>18</sub>, 9.4 mm×25 cm column. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200–300 mesh; Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc., Qingdao, People's Republic of China), Lichroprep RP-18 gel (40–63 µm, Merck, Darmstadt, Germany), MCI gel (75–150 µm, Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, Tokyo, Japan), and Sephadex LH-20 (Pharmacia).

### 4.2. Extraction and isolation

The aerial parts of *S. chinensis* were collected in Tonghua prefecture, Jilin Province, People's Republic of China, in September 2005. The sample was identified by Prof. Jun-Lin Yu, and a voucher specimen (KIB 05092106) has been deposited at the State Key Laboratory of Phytochemistry and Plant Resources in West China, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy Sciences. Air-dried and powdered aerial parts of *S. chinensis* (12 kg) were extracted with 80% aq acetone (25 L×4, each 2 days) at room temperature. After removal of the solvents in vacuo at 45 °C, a residue (450 g) was obtained. This residue was dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O (3.0 L) and then extracted successively with petroleum ether (60–90 °C, 1 L×2) and EtOAc (2 L×4). The EtOAc extract (210 g) was subjected to column chromatography over MCI-gel CHP 20P (90% MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O, 100% MeOH).

The 90% CH<sub>3</sub>OH fraction (170 g) was purified by flash column chromatography on silica gel (200–300 mesh, 1.5 kg), eluted in a step gradient manner with CHCl<sub>3</sub>–acetone (1:0 to 0:1) to afford fractions I–VIII. Fraction II was subjected to repeated chromatography on silica gel (petroleum ether–acetone, from 30:1 to 10:1; cyclohexane–2-propanol, 60:1) and RP-18, followed by semipreparative and preparative HPLC to yield compounds **2** (1.1 g), **3** (7 mg), **4** (11 mg), **5** (8 mg), and **13** (5 mg). Fraction III was first subjected to chromatography over RP-18 (CH<sub>3</sub>OH–H<sub>2</sub>O, from 0:1 to 1:0) and silica gel (CHCl<sub>3</sub>–acetone, from 40:1 to 20:1), followed by semipreparative HPLC to yield compounds **6** (13 mg), **16** (25 mg), **30** (4 mg), **31** (24 mg), and **32** (46 mg). In the same way, fraction IV yielded compounds **11** (16 mg), **14** (1.21 g), **15** (0.42 g), **26** (7 mg), **27** (6 mg), **28** (305 mg), and **29** (3 mg). Compound **17** (12.3 mg) was obtained from fraction V by recrystallization from CH<sub>3</sub>OH. The remnant of fraction V was

separated by silica gel chromatography and semipreparative HPLC to afford compounds **7** (12 mg), **18** (13 mg), **19** (13 mg), **20** (6 mg), **21** (7 mg), **23** (562 mg), and **25** (11 mg). Compounds **8** and **9** (45 mg), **10** (26 mg), **12** (7 mg), **22** (3 mg), and **24** (23 mg) were obtained from fraction VI. Compound **1** (9 mg) was obtained from fraction VII by repeated silica gel chromatography and semipreparative HPLC.

#### 4.2.1. Wuweizidilactone G (**1**)

Amorphous powder;  $[\alpha]_D^{19} +16.8$  (c 0.26, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR data, see Table 2; angeloyl: δ<sub>H</sub> 5.82 (q, *J*=6.2 Hz), 2.01 (br s), 2.04 (br d, *J*=6.2 Hz); acetyl: δ<sub>H</sub> 2.07 (s); <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, see Table 1; angeloyl: δ<sub>C</sub> 166.4 (s), 127.9 (s), 139.6 (d), 21.1 (q), 15.9 (q), acetyl: δ<sub>C</sub> 170.7 (s), 21.4 (q); IR (KBr) ν<sub>max</sub> 3439, 2973, 2934, 1782, 1730, 1704, 1642, 1454, 1375, 1249, 1232, 1153, 1121 cm<sup>−1</sup>; FABMS *m/z* 673 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; HRESIMS *m/z* 695.2664 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>44</sub>O<sub>13</sub>Na *m/z* 695.2679.

#### 4.2.2. Wuweizidilactone H (**2**)

Amorphous powder;  $[\alpha]_D^{19} +4.8$  (c 0.35, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; OH-7: δ<sub>H</sub> 5.95 (br s), OH-9: δ<sub>H</sub> 5.73 (br s), OH-12: δ<sub>H</sub> 5.26 (br s); IR (KBr) ν<sub>max</sub> 3467, 2963, 2927, 1767, 1631, 1448, 1384, 1320, 1243, 1211, 972 cm<sup>−1</sup>; FABMS *m/z* 533 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; HRESIMS *m/z* 555.2197 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>10</sub>Na *m/z* 555.2206.

#### 4.2.3. Schindilactone D (**3**)

White solid;  $[\alpha]_D^{19} +16.0$  (c 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); IR (KBr) ν<sub>max</sub> 3441, 2932, 1777, 1738, 1456, 1383, 1112, 1090, 1011 cm<sup>−1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; FABMS *m/z* 561 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; HRESIMS *m/z* 583.2149 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>11</sub>Na *m/z* 583.2155.

#### 4.2.4. Schindilactone E (**4**)

White solid;  $[\alpha]_D^{19} +27.5$  (c 0.25, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); IR (KBr) ν<sub>max</sub> 3424, 2975, 2931, 1778, 1717, 1450, 1377, 1253, 1016 cm<sup>−1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; FABMS *m/z* 561 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; HRESIMS *m/z* 583.2162 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>11</sub>Na *m/z* 583.2155.

#### 4.2.5. Schindilactone F (**5**)

White solid;  $[\alpha]_D^{19} +68.6$  (c 0.35, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); IR (KBr) ν<sub>max</sub> 3422, 2973, 2934, 1780, 1716, 1452, 1383, 1263, 1203, 1014, 940 cm<sup>−1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; FABMS *m/z* 544 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; HRESIMS *m/z* 567.2220 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>10</sub>Na *m/z* 567.2206.

#### 4.2.6. Schindilactone G (**6**)

White solid;  $[\alpha]_D^{19} +21.4$  (c 0.56, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); IR (KBr) ν<sub>max</sub> 3414, 2979, 2933, 1791, 1779, 1716, 1452, 1380, 1218, 1006 cm<sup>−1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; FABMS *m/z* 559 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>; HRESIMS *m/z* 581.1989 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, calcd for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>11</sub>Na *m/z* 581.1998.

#### 4.2.7. Pre-schinsanartanin B (**7**)

Colorless crystals;  $[\alpha]_D^{19} +80.1$  (c 0.50 in CH<sub>3</sub>OH); IR (KBr) ν<sub>max</sub> 3441, 2934, 2871, 1764, 1739, 1638, 1456, 1373, 1238,

1069, 1035, 924  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; ESIMS  $m/z$  613  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ; HRESIMS  $m/z$  613.2480  $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ , calcd for  $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{42}\text{O}_{11}\text{Na}$   $m/z$  613.2488.

#### 4.2.8. Wuweizilactone acid (8)

White solid;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{19} +91.4$  (c 0.12, MeOH); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3434, 2928, 2875, 1712, 1640, 1455, 1376, 1269, 1169, 1109, 1032  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data (400 MHz, measured in  $\text{C}_5\text{D}_5\text{N}$ ):  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.31–2.35 (1H, m, H-1a), 1.67 (1H, overlapped, H-1b), 2.53 (1H, overlapped, H-2a), 2.79–2.82 (1H, m, H-2b), 2.52 (1H, overlapped, H-5), 1.40–1.44 (1H, m, H-6a), 1.01 (1H, overlapped, H-6b), 1.21 (1H, overlapped, H-7a), 1.00 (1H, overlapped, H-7b), 1.52–1.55 (1H, m, H-8), 2.22 (1H, overlapped, H-11a), 1.29 (1H, overlapped, H-11b), 1.78 (2H, overlapped, H-12), 2.05 (1H, dd,  $J=13.4$ , 7.8 Hz, H-15a), 1.74 (1H, overlapped, H-15b), 5.04 (1H, overlapped, H-16), 1.34 (3H, s, H-18), 0.33 (1H, d,  $J=4.0$  Hz, H-19a), 0.65 (1H, d,  $J=4.0$  Hz, H-19b), 5.38 (2H, q,  $J=13.6$  Hz, H-21), 2.42 (1H, overlapped, H-22a), 2.51 (1H, overlapped, H-22b), 2.19 (1H, overlapped, H-23a), 2.30 (1H, overlapped, H-23b), 5.75 (H, br s, H-24), 1.91 (3H, s, H-27), 1.86 (3H, s, H-28), 4.79 (H, br s, H-29a), 4.95 (1H, br s, H-29b), 1.67 (3H, s, H-30);  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data (100 MHz, measured in  $\text{C}_5\text{D}_5\text{N}$ ), see Table 1; ESIMS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  505 (100), 521  $[\text{M}+\text{K}]^+$ , 987  $[\text{2M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ; HRESIMS  $m/z$   $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$  505.2915, calcd for  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{42}\text{O}_5\text{Na}$  505.2929.

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