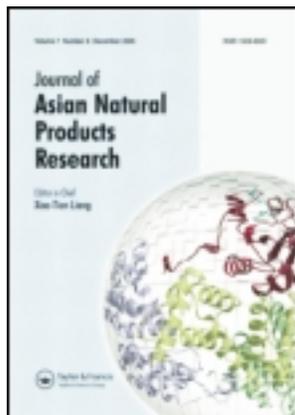


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Journal of Asian Natural Products Research

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ganp20>

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Available online: 15 Aug 2006

To cite this article: Ning Li, Ning-Hua Tan & Jun Zhou (2004): New Chlorine-Containing Phenoloid From *Curculigo capitulata*, *Journal of Asian Natural Products Research*, 6:1, 7-10

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1028602031000093375>

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NEW CHLORINE-CONTAINING PHENOLOID FROM *CURCULIGO CAPITULATA*

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(Received 4 November 2002; Revised 17 December 2002; In final form 23 December 2002)

A new chlorine-containing phenoloid, named capitulatin A, has been isolated from the rhizomes of *Curculigo capitulata*. Its structure was established as 2,4-dichloro-3-methyl-5-hydroxy-6-methoxyphenol- β -D-xylopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 6)- β -D-glucopyranoside (**1**) on the basis of the spectral data and chemical evidence.

Keywords: *Curculigo capitulata*; Hypoxidaceae; Chlorine-containing phenoloid; Capitulatin A

INTRODUCTION

The herb *Curculigo capitulata* (Lour.) Ktze, used as a tonic and a medicine for treating dysmenorrhea and rheumatism [1], is widely distributed in Southern and Southwestern China, Taiwan (China), Malaysia, India and Australia. Various compounds, including phenanthropyran [1], norneolignan and phenols [2], have been isolated from this plant. In this paper a new chlorine-containing phenoloid (**1**) was isolated from the rhizomes of *C. capitulata*. Chlorine-containing phenoloids of this kind, reported previously from the same genus, *C. orchioides* [3–5], are very scarce. Here we report the structural elucidation of **1**.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Compound **1** was obtained as colorless needles (MeOH). Its HRFAB[−]MS gave a quasi-molecular ion at m/z 515.0784 $[M - 1]^{-}$ and fragment ions at m/z 517.0748 $[M - 1 + 2]^{-}$, 519.0732 $[M - 1 + 4]^{-}$, in which the relative abundance ratio for $[M - 1]:[M - 1 + 2]:[M - 1 + 4]$ was 9:6:1, indicating that **1** contains two chlorines

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and a molecular formula of $C_{19}H_{26}O_{12}Cl_2$, which was confirmed by the ^{13}C NMR data. In the ^{13}C NMR spectrum, carbon signals at δ 145.1s, 144.5s, 142.5s, 125.9s, 125.6s and 125.0s confirmed the presence of hexa-substituted aromatic ring with three $-OR$, $-C$ and two Cl groups. Furthermore, chemical shifts at δ 17.8 and 61.1 in ^{13}C NMR spectrum are in accordance with δ 2.69 (s, 3H) and 4.13 (s, 3H) in the 1H NMR spectrum and indicate that **1** contains one CH_3 and one OCH_3 group. The correlation peaks between C-3 (δ 125.9) and protons of CH_3 , C-6 (δ 145.1) and protons of OCH_3 in the HMBC spectra of **1** (Fig. 1) confirm that CH_3 is linked with C-3 and OCH_3 with C-6. Two quaternary carbon signals, at δ 125.6 and 125.0, correlate with the protons of CH_3 in HMBC, indicating the attachment of two chlorines in C-2 and C-4. In the ^{13}C NMR spectrum the carbon signals at δ 105.2, 74.8, 77.6, 71.1, 66.9 and δ 106.5, 75.3, 77.5, 70.9, 77.9, 69.4 indicated the presence of one xylose and 6-substituted glucose. Acid hydrolysis of compound **1** showed that it contains glucose and xylose. In the FAB-MS of **1**, the ion peaks at m/z 383 $[M - 1 - xyl]^-$ and 221 $[M - 1 - xyl - glc]^-$ suggested the presence of the two sugar moieties. Two doublets at δ 5.10 ($J = 7.60$ Hz) and 4.57 ($J = 7.30$ Hz) in the 1H NMR spectrum also indicate the presence of a glucose unit and a xylose unit in **1**. From the coupling constants of the anomeric protons and the ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts, the two sugar moieties must be β -type sugars. The other positions of the two sugars were confirmed by $^1H-^1H$ COSY, HMQC-TOCSY and NOE spectroscopy. The cross signals at δ 142.5 (C-1)/2.69 (proton of CH_3), δ 142.5 (C-1)/5.10(H-1') and δ 69.4 (C-6')/4.57(H-1'') in the HMBC spectrum reveal a 1-*O*-glucoside and 1 \rightarrow 6 linkage of the two sugars moieties. In the NOESY spectrum of **1**, cross-peaks were observed between the methoxyl protons (4.13) and H-6'(4.30) of the glucose unit, indicating that the two quaternary carbons, attached by methoxyl group and glucose unit, are adjacent. On acetylation of **1**, the saponin acetate was subjected to FAB-MS analysis, and showed m/z 515 + 7 \times 42 $([M - 1]^- + 7Ac - 7H)(809)$, which indicates the presence of an hydroxy group linked with the aromatic ring. A downfield chemical shift at δ 144.5 was due to C-5 linked with the hydroxy. From the above-mentioned evidence, compound **1** was determined to be 2,4-dichloro-3-methyl-5-hydroxy-6-methoxyphenol- β -D-xylopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 6)- β -D-glucopyranoside (Fig. 1).

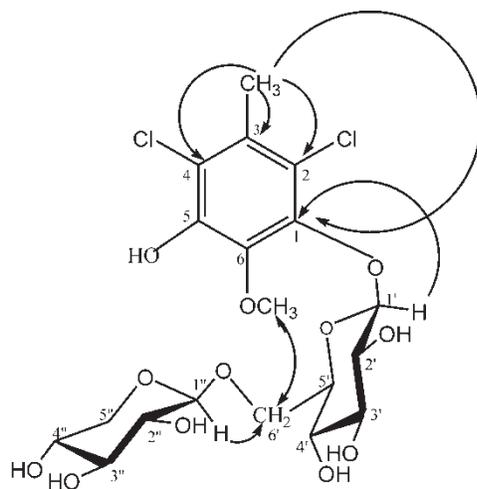


FIGURE 1 Structure of compound **1** (\rightarrow HMBC correlations; \leftrightarrow $^1H-^1H$ NOESY correlations).

EXPERIMENTAL

General Experimental Procedures

The mp was determined on an XRC-1 micro melting point apparatus and is uncorrected. $[\alpha]_D$ was determined with a JASCO-20. IR spectra were recorded on a Bio-Rad FTS-135 spectrometer with KBr pellets. UV spectra were recorded on a UV 210A spectrometer. 1D and 2D NMR spectra were run on Bruker DRX-500 instruments with TMS as internal standard using CD₃OD as solvent. The FAB-MS was carried out on a VG Auto Spec-3000 spectrometer. TLC was carried on silica gel G (MEIJING) precoated plates. Spots were detected by spraying with 5% sulfuric acid–ethanol solution followed by heating.

Plant Material

Rhizomes of *C. capitulata* were collected from the west garden of Xi Shuang Ban Na Botanical Garden and identified by Professor Zhou Jun of the Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences. A voucher specimen was deposited in the State Key Laboratory of Phytochemistry and Plant Resources in West China, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Extraction and Isolation

The air-dried and powdered rhizomes of *C. capitulata* (3 kg) were extracted with 85% EtOH (3 × 20 L) at room temperature, and the combined extracts were evaporated *in vacuo*. The residue was suspended in H₂O and then passed through a D101 resin column to eliminate sugars; the column was then eluted with 95% EtOH. The EtOH eluent was concentrated *in vacuo* to give a residue (240 g) that was chromatographed on silica gel column (200–300 mesh) with CHCl₃–MeOH (7:2) to give 8 fractions. Fraction 4 was subjected to column chromatography over silica gel eluted with CHCl₃–MeOH (10:1.5) to afford **1** (12 mg, yield 0.05%).

2,4-Dichloro-3-methyl-5-hydroxy-6-methoxyphenol-β-D-xylopyranosyl(1-6)-β-D-glucopyranoside (**1**)

Colorless needles (MeOH), mp 174–178°C, $[\alpha]_D^{21} - 36.67$ (*c* 0.30, MeOH); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} (cm⁻¹): 3419, 2927, 1634, 1467, 1072, 1045, 994; UV(MeOH) λ_{\max} (nm): 286, 205. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD, MHz) δ : 2.69 (3H, s, CH₃-3), 4.13 (3H, s, CH₃O-6), 4.57 (1H, d, *J* = 7.30 Hz, H-1''), 5.10 (1H, d, *J* = 7.60 Hz, H-1'); ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, 125 MHz) data are shown in Table I. Molecular formula C₁₉H₂₆O₁₂Cl₂ (negative HRFAB MS 515.0732; calcd. 515.0723).

Acid Hydrolysis of **1**

Compound **1** was dotted on a silica gel G plate, placed and hung in a sealed glass vessel with concentrated HCl (ca. 1 ml) at 70°C for 1 h for hydrolysis and then cooled for a few minutes; the plate was taken out, and the HCl volatilized with a ventilator. Authentic sugars were dotted to the plate, which was then developed with n-butanol–pyridine–water (6:4:3), and 5% sulfuric acid–ethanol solution used as spray reagent, followed by heating at 120°C. From compound **1** glucose and xylose were detected; *R_f*: glucose 0.40, xylose 0.52.

TABLE I ^{13}C NMR spectral data of compound **1** (CD_3OD , 125 MHz)

	Aglycone		Sugars
1	142.5 s	Glucose	
2	125.0* s	1'	106.5 d
3	125.9 s	2'	75.3 d
4	125.6* s	3'	77.5 d
5	144.5 s	4'	70.9 d
6	145.1 s	5'	77.9 d
—CH ₃	17.8 q	6'	69.4 t
—OCH ₃	61.1 q	Xylose	
		1''	105.2 d
		2''	74.8 d
		3''	77.6 d
		4''	71.1 d
		5''	66.9 t

* Data are exchangeable.

Acetylation of **1**

Compound **1** (1 mg) was dissolved in Ac_2O –pyridine (1:0.5) in a sealed micro-tube. After reacting at 60–70°C for 6 h, the acetate of **1** was subjected to FAB-MS analysis.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to the staff of the analytical group at the State Key Laboratory of Phytochemistry and Plant Resources in West China, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences for the spectral data. We thank Dr Hong-Ping He for useful suggestions regarding the structure determination.

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