

Four New Prenylated Isoflavonoids in *Tadehagi triquetrum*

WEI XIANG,^{*,†,‡,§} RONG-TAO LI,[†] YUN-LING MAO,[§] HONG-JIE ZHANG,^{||}
SHENG-HONG LI,[†] QI-SHI SONG,[‡] AND HAN-DONG SUN^{*,†}

State Key Laboratory of Phytochemistry and Plant Resources in West China, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Kunming, 650204 Yunnan, People's Republic of China, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Mengla, Yunnan 666303, People's Republic of China, Yunnan Key Laboratory for Cultivation and Utilization of Forest Plants, Yunnan Forestry Academy, Kunming, 650204 Yunnan, People's Republic of China, and Program for Collaborative Research in the Pharmaceutical Sciences, Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy (M/C 877), College of Pharmacy, The University of Illinois at Chicago, 833 South Wood Street, Chicago, Illinois 60612

Investigation on the anthelmintic bioactive compounds of the ethanol extract of *Tadehagi triquetrum* resulted in the isolation of three new prenylated isoflavones, triquetrumones A (**1**), B (**2**), and C (**3**), and one new prenylated biisoflavanone, (*R*)-triquetrumone D (**4**), along with 16 known compounds, cyclokiefvitone (**5**), yukovanol (**6**), aromadendrin (**7**), kaempferol (**8**), astragalin (**9**), 2-*O*-methyl-L-chiro-inositol (**10**), galactitol (**11**), *p*-hydroxycinnamic acid (**12**), ursolic acid (**13**), betulinic acid (**14**), β -sitosterol (**15**), daucosterol (**16**), stigmaterol (**17**), stigmasta-5,22-dien-3-*O*- β -D-glucopyranoside (**18**), saccharose (**19**), and docosanoic acid (**20**). The structures of **1–4** were elucidated on the basis of spectroscopic and spectrometric methods. Compounds **1–3** displayed mild anthelmintic bioactivity, and compound **3** showed a significant binding ability to the estrogen receptor.

KEYWORDS: *Tadehagi triquetrum*; Papilionaceae; coumaronochromone; triquetrumones A, B, C, D; anthelmintic

INTRODUCTION

Herbivores, especially goats and rabbits, are commonly parasitized because grazing lands are frequently polluted by parasites. The control of parasites is primarily dependent upon continued applications of chemical drugs such as mebendazole and albendazole. Although effective, their repeated use has led to widespread development of resistance, undesirable effects on the environment and nontarget organisms, and especially human health concerns. For the majority of farmers, chemical drug treatment is not feasible and alternative treatments need to be evaluated. Plants may provide potential alternatives to currently used parasite control agents. Recently, herbal medicines possessing anthelmintic activity used as functional feeds have received growing attention, because the safety of herbal medicines has been partially verified in long-term use. Additionally, natural products in plants are often biodegradable to nontoxic products. These functional plants are therefore useful not only for the control of verminosis and the prevention of

parasitization but also for lack of effects on human health, nontarget organisms, and the environment.

Tadehagi triquetrum (L.) Ohashi (Papilionaceae) is widely distributed in the southern area of Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China. It has been used as an anthelmintic, stomachic, antimicrobial, and antiinflammatory herbal medicine in traditional Chinese medicine (*1*) and also has been used as a nutrient and appetitive feedstuff. A previous study found some known flavonoids in *T. triquetrum* from Guangxi Province, but the bioactivity was not assayed (*2, 3*). In the current investigation of the chemical constituents of the plant, we want to isolate the bioactive components and demonstrate that *T. triquetrum* can be used as an anthelmintic functional feed.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

General Experimental Procedures. One- and two-dimensional NMR experiments were performed on Bruker AM-400 and DRX-500 spectrometers with pyridine-*d*₅ or dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO)-*d*₆ as the solvent and tetramethylsilane as the internal standard. MS spectra were taken on a VG Auto Spec-3000 (Micromass UK Ltd., Manchester) magnetic sector instrument. Optical rotations were measured on a SEPA-300 polarimeter. UV spectroscopic data were obtained on a UV-210A spectrometer (Shimadzu Co., Tokyo). IR spectra were recorded on a Bio-Rad FTS-135 spectrometer (California) with KBr pellets. High-performance liquid chromatography analysis used a Waters 996 instrument (Massachusetts). Column chromatography was performed on 200–300 mesh silica gel (Qingdao Marine Chemical Factory,

* To whom correspondence should be addressed. (W.X.) Tel: (86)871-5138281. Fax: (86)871-5160916. E-mail: xiangwei@xtbg.ac.cn. (H.-D.S.) Tel: (86)871-5223251. Fax: (86)871-5216343. E-mail: hdsun@mail.kib.ac.cn.

[†] Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

[‡] Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

[§] Yunnan Forestry Academy.

^{||} The University of Illinois at Chicago.

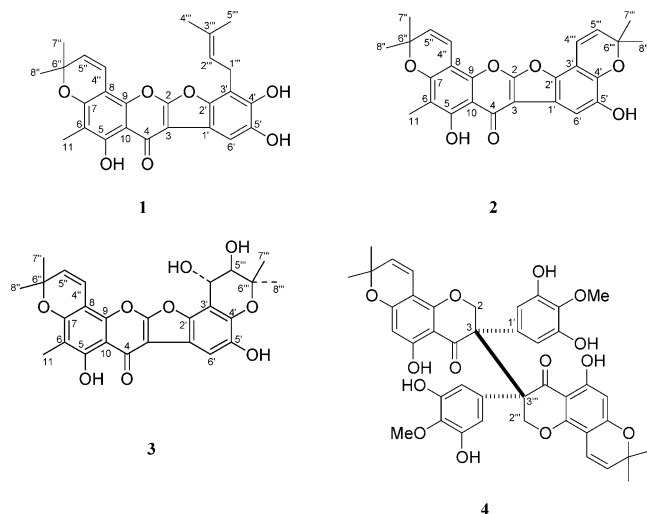


Figure 1. Structures of compounds **1–4** isolated from *T. triquetrum*.

People's Republic of China) and D101 resin (Tianjin Agricultural Chemical Co. Ltd., People's Republic of China). Fractions were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC), with visualization under UV (254 or 365 nm) or by heating Si gel plates sprayed with 10% sulfuric acid in ethanol. MOPAC calculations were determined in the 3D Ultra 8.0 software (Cambridge Soft Co., Massachusetts). The small white mouse was a Kunming mouse (5 weeks old and ca. 20 g weight).

Plant Material. The whole plant of *T. triquetrum* was collected from Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, in June 2000. The identity of plant material was verified by Prof. Xi-Wen Li, and a voucher specimen (no. MYL-001, YCP) has been deposited at the Yunnan Academy of Forestry, Yunnan, People's Republic of China.

Bioassay. For activity against coccidian eggs, the same 13 coccidian egg samples (5 g) were prepared using feces of the rabbit, which was comprised of eggs from *Eimeria magna*, *Eimeria media*, *Eimeria stiedai*, *Eimeria perforans*, *Eimeria exigua*, and *Eimeria irrisidua*. Ethanolic extracts (30, 20, and 10 mg) of the whole plant of *T. triquetrum* and compounds **1**, **2**, and **3** (10, 5, and 2.5 mg of each) (Figure 1) were dissolved in DMSO (10 mL), respectively, and then mixed into the coccidian egg samples, which were put in culture dishes and incubated at 35 °C. The total coccidian eggs in each culture dish were counted by the McMaster technique (4) at 0, 24, 48, and 144 h.

The binding responses of estrogen receptors (ER- α and ER- β) to the new compounds **1–4** were assayed as reported in the literature (5). The content of amino acid in whole plant of *T. triquetrum* was analyzed (mg/100 g) as follows: Asp (0.514), Thr (0.222), Ser (0.197), Glu (0.538), Gly (0.220), Ala (0.259), Cys (0.235), Val (0.302), Met (0.469), Ile (0.241), Leu (0.376), Tyr (0.140), Phe (0.246), Lys (0.331), His (0.130), Arg (0.225), and Pro (0.369).

Extraction and Isolation. The air-dried and ground whole plant of *T. triquetrum* (5 kg) was extracted with 95% EtOH (3 \times 6 L) at 25 °C for 72 h. The combined ethanolic extracts were evaporated to dryness in vacuo and partitioned between water and EtOAc. The concentrated organic layer was dried to give 50 g of extract, which was adsorbed on D101 resin (2 kg) and eluted with a mixture of MeOH–H₂O (1:1, 3 \times 5 L) followed by MeOH–H₂O (9:1, 3 \times 5 L) to afford two fractions A and B. After evaporation of the solvent at reduced pressure, fraction B (11 g) was chromatographed on a silica gel (600 g) column, eluting with petroleum ether/CHCl₃ and CHCl₃/CH₃COCH₃ mixtures of increasing polarity. Fractions were combined based on their TLC pattern to give five pooled fractions B₁–B₅. Fraction B₁ was rechromatographed over a silica gel column (200 g), eluting with CHCl₃–CH₃COCH₃ (95:5) to yield compounds **2** (56 mg), **13** (66 mg), **14** (33 mg), **15** (52 mg), **17** (11 mg), and **20** (39 mg). Fraction B₂ was chromatographed on silica gel (200 g) eluting with CHCl₃–CH₃COCH₃ (90:10) to afford compounds **1** (30 mg), **4** (19 mg), **5** (21 mg), **6** (22 mg), **7** (32 mg), **8** (29 mg), and **9** (26 mg). Fraction B₃ was chromatographed on silica gel (200 g) eluting with CHCl₃–CH₃COCH₃ (80:20) to afford compounds **3** (15 mg), **16** (56 mg), and **18** (56 mg).

Table 1. ¹³C and DEPT NMR Spectroscopic Data for **1**,^a **2**,^a **3**,^b and **4**^b

no.	1	2	3	4 ^c
2	164.0 (C)	164.1 (C)	165.2 (C)	71.6 (CH ₂)
3	112.7 (C)	113.6 (C)	115.3 (C)	47.7 (C)
4	178.4 (C)	178.6 (C)	179.9 (C)	199.3 (C)
5	158.9 (C)	158.9 (C)	160.6 (C)	165.1 (C)
6	108.2 (C)	108.4 (C)	109.9 (C)	98.0 (CH)
7	155.6 (C)	155.7 (C)	157.1 (C)	162.9 (C)
8	100.8 (C)	100.7 (C)	102.0 (C)	102.7 (C)
9	146.7 (C)	146.8 (C)	147.8 (C)	158.7 (C)
10	103.0 (C)	102.9 (C)	104.2 (C)	104.3 (C)
11	7.0 (CH ₃)	6.9 (CH ₃)	7.8 (CH ₃)	
1'	97.6 (C)	97.3 (C)	98.7 (C)	114.5 (C)
2'	141.9 (C)	138.5 (C)	142.8 (C)	150.3 (C)
3'	111.9 (C)	106.9 (C)	112.6 (C)	137.5 (C)
4'	142.2 (C)	137.9 (C)	141.6 (C)	151.7 (C)
5'	143.9 (C)	144.2 (C)	146.6 (C)	108.6 (CH)
6'	103.1 (CH)	106.0 (CH)	107.1 (CH)	126.0 (CH)
4''	114.1 (CH)	113.9 (CH)	115.2 (CH)	116.4 (CH)
5''	128.6 (CH)	128.5 (CH)	129.1 (CH)	127.5 (CH)
6''	77.9 (C)	77.7 (C)	78.8 (C)	79.1 (C)
7''	27.7 (CH ₃)	27.7 (CH ₃)	28.4 (CH ₃)	28.6 (CH ₃)
8''	27.7 (CH ₃)	27.7 (CH ₃)	28.4 (CH ₃)	28.6 (CH ₃)
1'''	22.6 (CH ₂)			
2'''	121.4 (CH)			
3'''	131.6 (C)			
4'''	17.7 (CH ₃) (d)	114.4 (CH)	67.81 (CH)	
5'''	25.4 (CH ₃) (d)	132.7 (CH)	76.7 (CH)	
6'''		76.3 (C)	80.7 (C)	
7'''		28.7 (CH ₃)	21.0 (CH ₃)	
8'''		28.7 (CH ₃)	26.6 (CH ₃)	
OMe				60.8 (CH ₃)

^a The δ values were recorded in DMSO-*d*₆, at 125 MHz (ppm). ^b The δ values were recorded in pyridine-*d*₅, at 125 MHz (ppm). ^c Compound **4** is symmetric, and only one set of NMR signals can be seen for the two monomer units. ^d Assignment may be interchangeable.

Fraction A was combined with the water layer (69 g) and chromatographed on a silica gel column (600 g), eluting with CHCl₃/MeOH mixtures of increasing polarity to yield compounds **10** (586 mg), **11** (78 mg), **12** (52 mg), and **19** (598 mg).

Triquetrumone A (1). Yellow amorphous powder; [α]_D²⁷ 0.0° (c 0.05, pyridine). UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ): 214 (4.70), 250 (4.71), 256 (4.80), 262 (4.82), 280 (4.68), 360 (3.73) nm. IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3431, 2926, 1647, 1610, 1450, 1376 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz): δ 2.07 (3H, s, H-11), 7.19 (1H, s, H-6'), 6.73 (1H, d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, H-4''), 5.81 (1H, d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, H-5''), 1.44 (6H, s, H-7'', 8''), 3.47 (2H, d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, H-1'''), 5.27 (1H, t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, H-2'''), 1.77 (3H, s, H-4'''), 1.64 (3H, s, H-5'''), 13.33 (1H, br s, OH-5), 8.65 (1H, br s, OH-4'), 9.66 (1H, br s, OH-5'). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz): see Table 1. Electron ionization mass spectrometry (EIMS) *m/z*: 448 [M]⁺ (67), 433 (100), 419 (5), 389 (6), 377(21), 365 (6), 321 (2), 293 (1), 267 (1), 233 (2), 217 (12), 208 (7), 189 (9). High-resolution (HR)-EIMS *m/z*: M⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₂₄O₇, 448.1522; found, 448.1512.

Triquetrumone B (2). Yellow amorphous powder; [α]_D²⁷ 0.0° (c 0.19, pyridine). UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ): 203 (4.07), 250 (4.31), 256 (4.41), 262 (4.40), 352 (3.10) nm. IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3441, 2927, 1645, 1606, 1441, 1378 cm⁻¹. ¹H NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 500 MHz): δ 2.03 (3H, s, H-11), 7.23 (1H, s, H-6'), 6.74 (1H, d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, H-4''), 5.82 (1H, d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, H-5''), 1.44 (6H, s, H-7'', 8''), 6.70 (1H, d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, H-4'''), 5.96 (1H, d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, H-5'''), 1.46 (6H, s, H-7''', 8'''), 13.24 (1H, br s, OH-5), 8.96 (1H, br s, OH-5'). ¹³C NMR (DMSO-*d*₆, 125 MHz): see Table 1. EIMS *m/z*: 446 [M]⁺ (70), 431 (100), 401 (2), 377 (1), 345 (1), 303 (1), 267 (1), 233 (3), 216 (11), 208 (11), 188 (1). HR-EIMS *m/z*: M⁺ calcd for C₂₆H₂₂O₇, 446.1365; found, 446.1361. ¹H NMR (pyridine-*d*₅, 500 MHz): δ 2.24 (3H, s, H-11), 7.95 (1H, s, H-6'), 6.84 (1H, d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, H-4''), 5.69 (1H, d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, H-5''), 1.38 (6H, s, H-7'', 8''), 6.79 (1H, d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, H-4'''), 5.82 (1H, d, *J* = 9.7 Hz, H-5'''), 1.46 (6H, s, H-7''', 8'''). ¹³C NMR (pyridine-*d*₅, 125 MHz): δ 164.8 (s, C-2), 115.2 (s, C-3), 179.5 (s, C-4), 160.4 (s, C-5), 109.6 (s, C-6), 156.8 (s, C-7), 101.6 (s, C-8), 147.6 (s, C-9),

104.0 (s, C-10), 7.5 (q, C-11), 98.5 (s, C-1'), 139.0 (s, C-2'), 107.8 (s, C-3'), 139.8 (s, C-4'), 146.0 (s, 5'), 107.9 (d, C-6'), 114.9 (d, C-4''), 128.6 (d, C-5''), 78.3 (s, C-6''), 27.5 (q, C-7''), 27.5 (q, C-8''), 115.5 (d, C-4'''), 132.8 (d, C-5'''), 77.2 (s, C-6'''), 28.2 (q, C-7'''), 28.2 (q, C-8''').

Triquetrumone C (3). Yellow amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_{27}^D -14.3^\circ$ (c 0.14, pyridine). UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ): 263 (4.48), 295 (4.11), 353 (3.53) nm. IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3426, 2927, 1645, 1615, 1456, 1366 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (pyridine- d_5 , 500 MHz): δ 2.25 (3H, s, H-11), 8.10 (1H, s, H-6'), 6.70 (1H, d, $J = 9.9$ Hz, H-4''), 5.79 (1H, d, $J = 9.9$ Hz, H-5''), 1.32 (6H, s, H-7'', 8''), 5.68 (1H, d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, H-4'''), 4.45 (1H, d, $J = 6.5$ Hz, H-5'''), 1.76 and 1.51 (each 3H, s, H-7''', 8'''). ^{13}C NMR (pyridine- d_5 , 125 MHz): see Table 1. EIMS m/z : 480 $[\text{M}]^+$ (65), 465 (93), 447 (11), 431 (3), 409 (15), 393 (100), 380 (31), 365 (99), 351(5), 335 (4), 309 (2), 298 (12), 267 (3), 217 (13), 183 (9). HR-EIMS m/z : M^+ calcd for $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_9$, 480.1420; found, 480.1412.

(R)-Triquetrumone D (4). Yellow amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_{27}^D -24.8^\circ$ (c 0.10, pyridine). UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ): 205 (4.89), 224 (4.43), 269 (4.88), 294 (4.25), 306 (4.07) nm. IR (KBr) ν_{\max} : 3433, 2928, 1641, 1590, 1471, 1375 cm^{-1} . ^1H NMR (pyridine- d_5 , 500 MHz): δ 4.42 (1H, d, $J = 10.9$ Hz, H-2eq), 4.59 (1H, d, $J = 10.9$ Hz, H-2ax), 5.90 (1H, s, H-6), 6.38 (1H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, H-5'), 6.63 (1H, d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, H-6'), 6.48 (1H, d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, H-4''), 5.49 (1H, d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, H-5''), 1.36 (6H, s, H-7'', 8''), 3.76 (3H, s, OMe-3'), only ^1H NMR data of a monomer. ^{13}C NMR (pyridine- d_5 , 125 MHz): see Table 1. FABMS m/z : 767 $[\text{M} + 1]^+$ (3), 384 (100), 245 (10), 191 (45). EIMS m/z : 384 (100), 369 (55), 351(19), 336 (3), 332 (1), 323 (1), 308 (1), 295 (1), 267 (1), 243 (1), 231 (3), 217 (23), 203 (76), 184 (3), 177 (9). HR-FABMS m/z : $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ calcd for $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{39}\text{O}_{14}$, 767.2340; found, 767.2372.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The air-dried whole plant of *T. triquetrum* was extracted with ethanol and partitioned between EtOAc and water. The organic and aqueous layers were dried and repeatedly chromatographed on D101 resin and silica gel to afford compounds **1–20** in pure form.

Triquetrumone A (**1**) was obtained as a yellow amorphous powder. The molecular formula was determined as $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_7$ by HR-EIMS and ^{13}C NMR and DEPT experiments, which indicated 15 degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum indicated the presence of hydroxyl groups (3431 cm^{-1}) and a carbonyl group in conjugation with an aromatic ring and also hydrogen-bonded with a hydroxyl group (1647 cm^{-1}). The ^1H NMR spectrum provided signals of most of the functional groups, including an aromatic C-methyl group [δ_{H} 2.07 (3H, s)] (6), three phenolic hydroxyl groups [δ_{H} 13.33 (1H, br s), 9.66 (1H, br s), 8.65 (1H, br s)], a γ,γ -dimethylallyl group [δ_{H} 3.47 (2H, d, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 5.27 (1H, t, $J = 7.0$ Hz), 1.77 (3H, s), and 1.64 (3H, s)], a 2,2-dimethyldihydropyran ring [δ_{H} 6.73 (1H, d, $J = 9.9$ Hz), 5.81 (1H, d, $J = 9.9$ Hz) and 1.44 (6H, s)], and one aromatic proton at δ_{H} 7.19 (1H, s). In addition, the ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **1** (Table 1) showed signals for one carbonyl group [δ_{C} 178.4 (s)], one aromatic methine [δ_{C} 103.1 (d)], and 13 aromatic quaternary carbons appearing at δ_{C} 97.6–164.0, including seven oxygenated carbon signals at δ_{C} 141.9–164.0. The above NMR data indicated that **1** had one γ,γ -dimethylallyl group, a 2,2-dimethyldihydropyran ring, and a chromene ring, and considering the absorption bands in the IR [3431 and 1647 cm^{-1} (chelated OH and C=O)] and UV (250, 256, 262, 280, and 360 nm) spectra, the orange fluorescence under UV at 254 and 365 nm revealed that **1** had an isoflavone skeleton (7, 8). On the basis of the analysis of its two-dimensional NMR spectra (HMQC and HMBC), **1** was deduced to be an isoflavone derivative. A coumaronochromone structure was proposed for **1** (9), because of the absence of a degree of unsaturation, a characteristic signal assignable for a proton at C-2 (ca. δ_{H} 8.1)

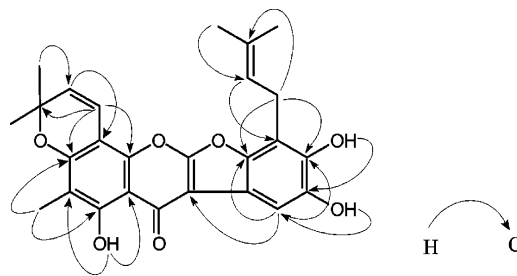


Figure 2. Selected HMBC correlations of **1**.

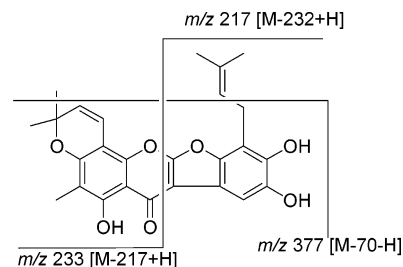


Figure 3. Selected EIMS fragments.

and a carbon at C-2 (ca. δ_{C} 153) of the isoflavone nucleus in the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra (10, 11). In the HMBC spectrum (Figure 2), the proton of the hydrogen-bonded hydroxyl group at δ_{H} 13.33 correlated with C-5 (δ_{C} 158.9), C-6 (δ_{C} 108.2), and C-10 (δ_{C} 103.0). One *cis*-olefinic proton at δ_{H} 5.81 (H-5'') coupled with C-8 (δ_{C} 100.8) and another at δ_{H} 6.73 (H-4'') showed cross-peaks with C-7 (δ_{C} 155.6) and C-9 (δ_{C} 146.7). An aromatic methyl group at δ_{H} 2.07 (CH_3 -11) correlated with C-6 (δ_{C} 108.2), C-5 (δ_{C} 158.9), and C-7 (δ_{C} 155.6). These results indicated the presence of a 5-hydroxy-6-methyl-benzoyl moiety with a 2,2-dimethyl-dihydropyran ring. The following long-range cross-peaks (2J and 3J) were observed for the B ring: a singlet at δ_{H} 7.19 (H-6') with C-3 (δ_{C} 112.7), C-2' (δ_{C} 141.9), and C-4' (δ_{C} 142.2); a methylene doublet at δ_{H} 3.47 (H-2-1'') with C-2' (δ_{C} 141.9), C-3' (δ_{C} 111.9), and C-4' (δ_{C} 142.2), which indicated the attachment of the γ,γ -dimethylallyl group at C-3' and the nonhydrogen-bonded hydroxyl groups at C-4' and C-5' on the aromatic B ring, respectively. Moreover, the retro-Diels–Alder cleavage (Figure 3) in the EIMS indicated that the above structural elucidation of **1** was reasonable (12). Thus, the structure of **1** was established as 5,4',5'-trihydroxy-6-methyl-3'-(3,3-dimethylallyl)-[6'',6''-dimethylpyrano(2'',3'':7,8)] coumaronochromone, a new natural product named triquetrumone A.

Compound **2** was obtained as a yellow amorphous powder and showed an orange fluorescence under UV at 365 nm. The HR-EIMS of **2** indicated the molecular formula $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_7$, which was supported by its ^{13}C NMR and DEPT spectra. The UV (λ_{\max} 250, 256, 262, and 352 nm), IR (ν_{\max} 3441, 1645, and 1378 cm^{-1}), and NMR spectroscopic data of **2** also suggested a coumaronochromone structure, which was very similar to **1**, except that **2** was two mass units less than **1**. Careful comparison of the NMR data of these two compounds revealed that the only difference between **1** and **2** was the existence of another 2,2-dimethyldihydropyran ring on ring B of **2** instead of the γ,γ -dimethylallyl group in **1**. Thus, the structure of **2** was established as 5,5'-dihydroxy-6-methyl[6'',6''-dimethylpyrano(2'',3'':7,8)]-[6''',6'''-dimethylpyrano(2''',3''':4',3')] coumaronochromone, named as triquetrumone B.

Compound **3** was also obtained as a yellow amorphous powder. The molecular formula of $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_9$ established by HR-EIMS was 34 mass units ($2 \times \text{OH}$) higher than in **2**. In the

concentration of 0.78 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. Compound **1** showed a 55% binding ability to ER- α at 200 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, and compound **4** showed a 38% binding ability to ER- α at 200 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. Compound **2** was not active at 200 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ to ER- α and ER- β .

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