

NOTE

A stilbene from the heartwood of *Maclura pomifera*

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Abstract: Dried heartwood powder of *Maclura pomifera*, Moraceae, was extracted with acetone. Silica gel column chromatography (CC) of the crude extract yielded 2',3',4',5'-tetrahydroxystilbene (oxyresveratrol).

Keywords: *Maclura pomifera*, Moraceae, heartwood, oxyresveratrol.

INTRODUCTION

Maclura pomifera, Moraceae, is a tree native to the southwestern region of North America. A great deal of literature exists on the chemical composition of *Maclura pomifera*. The types of compounds isolated from the various parts of the plant belong to different classes such as flavonoids,^{1,2} xanthones,^{3,4} triterpenes⁵ and stilbenes.^{6,7} Stilbenes are a class of biologically active components found in plants that have been shown to possess various medicinal properties. The antioxidant properties of stilbene analogues have also been investigated. The most potent of these compounds against oxidation of the human LDL is the constituent of red wine, piceatannol.⁸ Many researches have been done on the identification of stilbenes in wines cultivated throughout the world.^{9–11} However, the amount of stilbenes that occurs in wine is far less than the amount found in the heartwood of *Maclura pomifera*.

EXPERIMENTAL

Plant material. The *Maclura pomifera* tree was collected in the area of Zrenjanin, North Serbia, in October 2000.

Extraction and isolation procedure. Two successive acetone extractions of the dried heartwood powder (1 kg) yielded a heavy viscous brown–yellow product (79.5 g). The crude extract (20.0 g) was subjected to column-chromatography (CC) using silica gel and the fractions were screened on silica gel TLC plates. The elution was started with benzene followed with benzene – acetone, gradually increasing amount of acetone (99:1, 98:2, 97:3, 96:4, 95:5, 93:7 and 9:1). The fraction eluted with benzene – acetone (9:1) contained compound **1** (0.39 g) in form of a gelatine product, crystallizing from acetone–acetic acid, as well as methanol–acetic acid.

General procedures. ¹H, ¹³C one and two dimensional NMR-spectra were measured on a Bruker DMX 600 in acetone-d₆. Low resolution mass spectra were recorded on Fissons Instruments, Manchester, England

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with mass selective detector MD 1000; m/z 50 – 750 (EI) mass spectrometer. All solvents used for extraction and isolation were reagent grade.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The isolated compound (M^+ , m/z 244) was identified as 2', 3, 4', 5-tetrahydroxystilbene (oxyresveratrol) (**1**) by the similarity of its $^1\text{H-NMR}$ data (see Table I) to those previously reported for this compound.⁷ The application of H,H-COSY revealed small long-range interproton couplings (≈ 0.5 Hz), such as $^4J_{6,8}$, $^4J_{7,2(6)}$, $^8J_{3',2(6)}$ and $^8J_{5',2(6)}$, not detected before. The $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ chemical shifts assigned by means of HMQC and HSQC are listed in Table I.

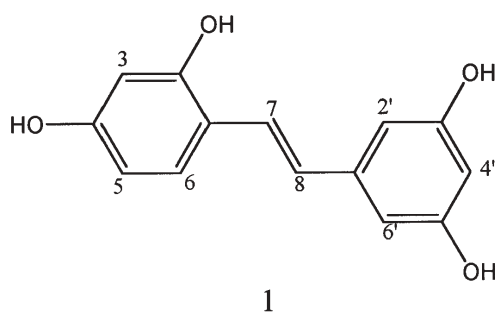


TABLE I. ^1H (600 MHz) and ^{13}C (150 MHz) NMR data in $(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$ of **1**

H/C	δ_{H} , multiplicity (J/Hz)	δ_{C} , multiplicity	HMBC (H \rightarrow C)
1		141.6 <i>s</i>	
2	6.53 <i>dd</i> (2.2; 0.5)	105.4 <i>d</i>	C-3; 4; 6; 7
3		159.5 <i>s</i>	
4	6.24 <i>t</i> (2.2)	102.3 <i>d</i>	C-2; 3; 5; 6
5		159.4 <i>s</i>	
6	6.53 <i>dd</i> (2.2; 0.5)	105.4 <i>d</i>	C-2; 4; 5; 7
7	7.34 <i>d</i> (16.4)	124.3 <i>d</i>	C-1; 2'; 6'; 1'*; 2*; 6*; 7*
8	6.89 <i>d</i> (16.4)	126.3 <i>d</i>	C-1; 1'; 2; 6; 8*; 2'*
1'		117.2 <i>s</i>	
2'		156.8 <i>s</i>	
3'	6.44 <i>d</i> (2.4)	103.6 <i>d</i>	C-1'; 2'; 4'; 5'; 8*
4'		159.1 <i>s</i>	
5'	6.38 <i>ddd</i> (8.5; 2.4; 0.5)	108.4 <i>d</i>	C-1'; 3'; 4'; 2'*
6'	7.41 <i>d</i> (8.5)	128.2 <i>d</i>	C-2'; 3'; 4'; 8
OH	8.50 <i>brs</i> ; 1H; 8.32 <i>brs</i> ; 1H; 8.11 <i>brs</i> ; 2H		

*Cross-peaks of low intensity

The potential use of *Maclura pomifera* in the industry as a medicinal crop may be an advantage due to its growing throughout the region and its stilbene content of 1.96 % in the heartwood. According to some data, in the living organisms oxyveratrol is converted to its isomer with catohol structure.

ИЗВОД

ПОЛИФЕНОЛНО ЈЕДИЊЕЊЕ ИЗОЛОВАНО ИЗ ДРВЕТА *Maclurae pomifera*, Moraceae
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Испитиван је хемијски састав дрвета *Maclura pomifera*, Moraceae. Екстракција је обављена ацетоном и ацетонска фракција је затим раздвојена колонском хроматографијом. Структура изолованог природног производа одређена је масеном спектрометријом, једно- и дво-димензионалним и хетеро- дво-димензионалним нуклеарно-магнетним резонанционим техникама. На основу снимљених спектра одређена је структура изолованог једињења и она је 2',3',4',5'-тетрахидроксистилбен (оксиресвератрол).

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