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neo-Clerodane Diterpenoids from Scutellaria galericulata

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Four *neo*-clerodane diterpenoids, neoajugapyrin A, scutegalerins A and B and scutecolumnin C have been isolated from the acetone extract of the aerial parts of *Scutellaria galericulata*. Neoajugapyrin A and scutecolumnin C are reported in this species for the first time, whereas scutegalerins A and B are new compounds. NMR data of neoajugapyrin A are discussed in detail to support the proposed revised structure of ajugapyrin A.

Keywords: Scutellaria galericulata, Ajuga pyramidalis, Labiatae, neo-Clerodane diterpenes.

Scutellaria (Labiatae) species provide a rich source of neoclerodane diterpenes [1] with potent insect antifeedant and antifungal activities [2,3]. Plant material of S. galericulata L. growing in the UK (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew), Spain (Madrid province) and Bulgaria has been studied previously, and seven novel neo-clerodanes were reported: jodrellin T, 14,15dihydrojodrellin T, galericulin [4], scutegalin A, scutegalin B [5], scutegalin C and scutegalin D [6], whereas jodrellin B was isolated previously from S. woronowii Juz. [2]. 14,15-Dihydrojodrellin T, scutegalin A, and scutegalin D were present in the Bulgarian plant [7]. All compounds, except galericulin, displayed a 2α , 19hemiacetal functionality. In continuation of our systematic studies on Scutellaria species [8-10], we have reinvestigated S. galericulata from a different geographical area. Here we report on the isolation of neoajugapyrin A (1), scutegalerin A (2), scutegalerin B (3) and scutecolumnin C (4), with full structural elucidation of 1 and 2. Neoajugapyrin A (which turned out to be 3β -hydroxyscutecyprin) was isolated previously and named ajugapyrin A, but reported as 1β-hydroxyscutecyprin from Ajuga pyramidalis [11]. The previously proposed structure has now been found to be wrong and the name neoajugapyrin A is proposed to indicate the new revised structure (with improved NMR data). The trivial name scutegalerin A is given to the real, now isolated, 1β -hydroxyscutecyprin.

Two TLC homogeneous fractions and a mixture were obtained after chromatography of the acetone extract of the aerial parts of the Bulgarian plant. Compound 1 was isolated from the most polar fraction and the IR spectrum revealed the presence of hydroxyl and acetyl groups and, in addition, bands for (E)-2-methyl-2-butenoyl ester, but the absence of those for either a lactone or furan moiety. The ¹H NMR spectrum of 1 (250 MHz) was identical (direct comparison) with that previously reported for ajugapyrin A [11]. Owing to the limited NMR data available we completed a comprehensive NMR study (600 MHz) to improve the structural elucidation and facilitate identification in subsequent isolations. The ¹H-broadband-decoupled ¹³C NMR and the DEPT spectra of **1** (Table 1) displayed 27 and 21 (5x CH₃, 6x CH₂, 10x CH) signals, respectively. Data of hexahydrofurofuran, tiglyl and acetyl moieties, as well as for C-6 to C-10 in ring B, were in close agreement with those for the scutecyprin parent system [12; Bozov and Penchev,



Figure 1: Structures of isolated neo- clerodanes and compounds used in the discussion

unpublished data]. Some signal assignments and J constants are corrected owing to improved resolution of the ¹H NMR spectrum. Thus, spectral data of the tiglic acid moiety were in agreement with published values [5,12,13], but the clear multiplicities now observed for Me-4' and Me-5' pointed out the interchange of assignment of these signals (as appearing in [11]). Furthermore, the 4.40 *m* was reported as collapsing "into a *t* after addition of D_2O " pointing out a likely reversal of $1\alpha/2\beta$ assignments. Moreover, since the $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.55 brd assigned to H-3a in scutecyprin [12] was not present, O-substitution at C-3 rather than at C-1 was considered a likely possibility requiring an unambiguous rational. Furthermore, the two O functions at C-2 and C-3 may be accounted for in two different ways depending on the carbon involved in the bridge to C-19 and the one with the free hydroxyl function, forming either the common 2.2.2 or a 3.2.1 bi-cyclic system. Detailed analysis of the HSQC/HMBC spectra for C-1 to C-5 established the C(2)-O-C(19) bridge unambiguously: $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.98 as H-2 [HMBC correlations with C-19, C-10 and the reciprocal H-19 to C-2], whereas H-3 α ($\delta_{\rm H}$ $4.40/\delta_{\rm C}$ 70.1) displayed only the reciprocal H-18 to C-3 correlation. The spin system in ring A (H-10–[H-1 α –H-1 β]–H-2 β –H-3 α) was finally elucidated from strong ¹H-¹H COSY cross signals and has been summarized in Figure 2. It is worth mentioning the strong $^{1}\text{H}-^{1}\text{H}$ COSY correlation and the relatively large ^{4}J constant between H-3 α and H-1 α signals, a likely consequence of flat zigzag (W) arrangement in the compound skeleton. This arrangement would not be present if the hydroxyl group were at the 3α position, whereas 1β , 3β NOE interaction could be expected. Moreover, as reported, the δ_H 4.40 band width is reduced after shaking with D₂O (at 250 MHz the HO signal overlaps/exchanges with the "water" band at ca. $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.6).

position		1			2		3	
	δ ¹³ C, nH	$\delta^{1}H$	m, $J(\text{in Hz})$	δ ¹³ C, nH	δ¹H	m, $J(in Hz)$	δ ¹ H	m, J (in Hz)
1	22.6, CH ₂	2.30	dddd, 14.7; 4.9; 4.0; 2.1	67.1, CH	4.38	ddd ^g , 3.9; 3.0; 1.2	4.33	ddd, 4.6; 3.2; 1.1
		1.90	ddd, 14.6; 11.5; 0.9					
2	71.0, CH	3.98	ddd, 4.9; 3.1; 0.8	69.3, CH	4.11	dt, 5.1; 2.7	4.10	dt, 4.9; 2.6
3	70.1, CH	4.40	ddd, 5.1; 2.9; 1.9 (2.1)	30.9, CH ₂	2.46	br d, 14.4	2.49	br dd, 14.3; 2.5
					2.25	m ^h	ca. 2.22	m ^h
4	65.9, C			60.1, C				
5	42.5, C			43.4, C				
6	68.2, CH	4.63	dd, 11.9; 4.7	67.8, CH	4.62	dd, 11.7; 4.5	4.68	dd, 11.3; 4.6
7	33.3, CH ₂	1.65 ^e		32.5, CH ₂	1.63	m ^h	ovi	-
		1.39	ddd, 13.1; 4.6; 3.0		1.37	ddd, 13.0; 4.5; 2.9	ca. 1.45	m ^h
8	35.4, CH	1.53	dqd 12.8; 6.6; 3.1	35.6, CH	1.53	m ⁿ	ov	-
9	41.2, C			40.5, C				
10	40.7, CH	1.98	dd, 11.6; 3.9	51.8, CH	1.76	d, 2.9	1.71	d, 3.2
11	86.4, CH	4.09	dd, 11.0; 5.7	87.2, CH	4.09	dd, 11.3;5.0	4.07	dd, 11.8; 5.1
12	33.3, CH ₂	1.92°		33.6, CH ₂	1.97	td, 12.5;9.3	1.97	td, 12.0; 9.4
		1.65 ^e			1.65	m ^h	ovi	-
13	41.8, CH	2.84	br ddd, 5.1; 3.0; 1.2	41.6, CH	2.92	br tt ¹ , 9.2; 4.6	2.92	br tt ¹ , 9.4; 4.7
14	32.6, CH ₂	2.15	ddt, 12.7; 9.2; 8.3	32.7, CH ₂	2.22	m	ca. 2.22	m ^h
		1.72°			1.74	m ⁿ	ca. 1.74	m ^h
$15B^{c}$	68.3, CH ₂	3.8765	ddd, 8.8; 8.7; 6.6	68.9, CH ₂	3.9414	ddd, 8.8; 8.2; 6.7	3.94	-
15A ^c		3.8617	ddd, 8.7; 8.1; 4.5		3.8755	ddd, 8.8; 7.9; 4.5	3.88	-
16	108.1, CH	5.63	d, 5.1	108.4, CH	5.69	d, 5.2	5.69	d, 5.2
17	16.4, CH ₃	0.89	d, 6.1	16.0, CH ₃	0.89	d, 6.6	0.90	d, 6.3
18B"	44.1, CH ₂	3.09	d, 4.3	50.4, CH ₂	3.00	d, 4.3	2.96	d, 4.0
18A		2.88	d, 4.3		2.51	d, 4.3	2.51	d, 4.0
19	91.0, CH	6.76	S	90.5, CH	6.68	S	5.61	S
20	14.3, CH ₃	1.19	S	16.3, CH ₃	1.22	S	1.16	S
1' (C=O)	166.0, C			166.4, C				
2'	128.7, C			128.8, C				
3'	138.7, CH	7.06	qq, 7.1; 1.4	138.7, CH	7.11	qq, 7.0; 1.5		
4'	14.5, CH ₃	1.80	dq, 7.1; 1.2	14.6, CH ₃	1.81	dq, 7.1; 1.1		
5'	11.9, CH ₃	1.87	quint ⁴ , 1.3	11.9, CH ₃	1.90	dq ¹ , 1.2		
6' (C=O)	170.0, C			169.9, C				
6 ² (Me)	21.0, CH ₃			21.0, CH ₃	1.80	S	2.06	S
(HO)		2.05	d, 5.3		3.51			
(HO)		2.39						

Table 1: Neoajugapyrin A (1)^a and scutegalerins A (2)^b and B (3)^b NMR data.

^a CDCl₃, ¹H 600.13 MHz, δ_{ref} 7.26; ¹³C 150.9 MHz, δ_{ref} 77.0 ppm; ^b CDCl₃, ¹H 400 MHz, δ_{ref} 7.26; ¹³C 101 MHz, δ_{ref} 77.0 ppm; ^c δ ¹H adjusted by spin simulation; ^d endo hydrogen; ^e data from COSY; ^f apparent multiplicity; ^g after D₂O addition; ^h multiplicity and coupling constants could not be estimated; ⁱ overlapped with the "water" band at ca. δ_{H} 1.6.



Figure 2: Ring A spin system of 1 (H-10-[H-1α-H-1β]-H-2β-H-3α; J in *italics*)

Therefore, the structure was elucidated as 3β -hydroxyscutecyprin (and named as neoajugapyrin A to indicate the change to a new revised structure supported by NMR data, as discussed). Additional inferences could be drawn by comparison of selected NMR spectral data for H-1 α and H-3 α in neoajugapyrin A with those of some *neo*-clerodanes with 2α ,19 and 4α ,18 epoxy rings [4,5,12,14], as given in Table 2. As a whole, the ¹H NMR spectrum of **1** is very close to that of scutecyprin and scupolin G and similar to that of 14,15-dihydrojodrellin T.

Table 2: C-1/C-3 substitution effects in *neo*-clerodanes with 2α , 19 and 4α , 18 epoxy rings.

compound	substitution		$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{ m H}$	$\delta_{\rm C}$
-	C-1	C-3	H-1a	Η-2β/Η-3α	C-4/C-18
neoajugapyrin A, 1	H ₂	H,OH	2.31	3.98 ddd 4.9,3.1,0.8/	65.9/44.1
			dddd	4.40 ddd 5.3,2.9,1.9	
scupolin G	H_2	H,OH	n.r. ^a	4.32 m w ¹ / ₂ 4.5/	65.8/44.0 ^b
				3.95 dd 4.1,3.2 ^b	
scutecyprin	H_2	H_2	n.r. ^a	4.18 m w ¹ / ₂ 6/	60.6/50.2°
				2.55 br d 14.3°	
			2.36 dtd ^d	4.18 dt 4.4,2.8/	60.6/50.2 ^d
				2.55 dt 14.3,2.8 ^d	
14,15-dihydrojodrellin T	H,OTig	H_2	5.51 m ^e	4.42 dt 5.3,2.6/	$59.6/50.2^{f}$
				2.48 br d14.8 ^e	

^a data not reported; ^b data from [14]; ^c data from [12]; ^d Bozov PI, Penchev PN, unpublished NMR spectral data; ^c data from [4]; ^f data from [5].

As can be seen, the reported H-2 β /H-3 α assignment for scupolin G [14] may also be reversed (the rational for the irradiation result changes ${}^{4}J_{\text{H-3,H-1}}$ to ${}^{3}J_{\text{H-2,H-1}}$. = 3.2 Hz). Therefore, the HO-substitution effect must be an up-field rather than downfield shift at the vicinal proton: $\delta_{\text{H-2}\beta}$ 4.18 (in scutecyprin) to 3.95 instead of to 4.32 (in scupolin G). From Table 2, the δ_{H} for H-1 α are very close in neoajugapyrin A and scutecyprin, as well as the δ_{H} for H-2 β /H-3 α in neoajugapyrin A/scupolin G and scutecyprin/14,15-dihydrojodrellin T, thus reflecting the methylene group at the corresponding position. Also, the hydroxyl group at C-3 (as in neoajugapyrin A and scupolin G) leads to either a high- or low-frequency shift of about 5-6 ppm for C-4 or C-18 carbon signals (last column of Table 2).

To our surprise, spectral data for **2** pointed to the true 1 β -hydroxyscutecyprin structure. Again, two H-C-O signals were part of ring A, but now, one was located at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.38 and coupled to a $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.77 doublet (J = 2.9 Hz), pointing out the HC(1)-HC(10) relationship. Furthermore, this presumed HC(1)-O signal was coupled to the second H-C-O multiplet ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.11, dqcosy) partly overlapping with HC(11)-O ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.09). The four cross peaks displayed at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.09/4.11 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.44, 2.22, 1.97 and 1.65) were sorted out as each pair in the HSQC spectrum by correlation with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 30.8 (the first two) and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 33.5 (the last two). Therefore, they could be assigned as C-3 and C-12, respectively. Thus, after a detailed study of the multiplicities, the spin system of ring A could be completed as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Ring A spin system of 2 (H-10-H-1α-H-2β-[H-3A-H-3B]; J in *italics*).

Further evidence supporting the stereochemistry was derived from NOESY results: H-C(6) interaction with H_B-C(18), H-C(8) and H-C(10) places all of them on the same β -side, and H-C(1) with H-C(20) on the same α -side. The pattern recognition (both as ddd) of the H₂C(15) spin subsystem (AB part of an AB-XY-M-xy-a spin system) is worthy of mention, owing to the anisotropic effect upon hydroxyl substitution at C-1. Chemical shifts and coupling constants reported in Table 1 were adjusted by spin simulation (and in turn those of **1**). The now isolated 1 β -hydroxyscutecyprin was named scutegalerin A (**2**).

A third (minor) isolated compound displayed most of the ¹H NMR structural features as **2** (Table 1). However, the tigloyl substituent signals were not present, while the expected change for a hydroxyl group as a C-19 substituent was observed [HC(19): δ_H 5.61 vs. δ_H 6.68 ppm). The compound (1 β -hydroxyscutecolumnin C) was named scutegalerin B (**3**).

Scutecolumnin C (4) was identified (based on ¹H NMR data) as the fourth isolated *neo*-clerodane and is reported for the first time in this species. It has been found previously in extracts of *S. columnae* [15,16], *S. alpina* [17] and *S. alpina* subsp. *javalambrensis* [18].

Experimental

Structural data: ¹H NMR spectra were recorded on either Bruker DRX-250, Varian Mercury-400 or Bruker Avance II+ spectrometers, operating at 250.13 MHz, 400.13 or 600.130 MHz, respectively. ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded at 100.61 and 150.903 MHz, respectively on the corresponding spectrometers. TMS was used as internal standard and CDCl₃ as solvent. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in ppm and coupling constants (*J*) in Hertz. The IR spectra of **1** and **4** were registered in KBr pellets on a Perkin-Elmer 1750 FT-IR spectrometer from 4000 cm⁻¹ to 450 cm⁻¹ at resolution 4 cm⁻¹ with 9 scans.

Plant material: The stems of *Scutellaria galericulata* were collected in June 2012 near Pleven, Bulgaria, and voucher specimens (no. 11927) were deposited in the Herbarium of the Higher Institute of Agriculture at Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

Extraction and isolation: Dried and finely powdered aerial parts of S. galericulata (2.8 kg) were extracted with Me₂CO (3 x 8 L) at room temperature for a week. After filtration, the solvent was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and low temperature (<40°C) yielding a gum (35.2 g), which was dissolved in aq. Me₂CO (40% H₂O, v/v, 100 mL). This solution was cooled to 4°C for 24 h and filtered. The filtrate was extracted with CHCl₃ (3 x 200 mL) and the organic layer was dried (Na₂SO₄) and evaporated in vacuum to afford a residue (3.9 g, bitter fraction). This was subjected to CC (45 g silica gel Merck n. 7734, deactivated with 10% H₂O, w/w). Pure light petroleum (5 L), followed by a gradient of light petroleum - EtOAc mixtures (10:1 to 4:1) and dichloromethane were used first as eluting solvents. The diterpene fractions (100 mL each) were eluted with 2% methanol in DCM vielding scutecolumnin C (4, 6 mg, 3 flasks) followed by 39.5 mg of a mixture (4 flasks, two TLC spots upon EtOAc elution) and 53 mg of 1 (10 flasks). Repeated prep TLC of the mixture (2% methanol in DCM) afforded further amounts of 4(1.3 + 2.3 mg) and 19.9 mg of a diterpene mixture. Prep TLC separation of this mixture (*n*-hexane-EtOAc, 1:4, x 3) further yielded 2 (1.6 mg), 3 (0.9 mg) and a minor amount of 4.

Neoajugapyrin A (1)

Colorless needles from acetone. MP: 200-202°C (lit. [11] MP: 198-200° from Et₂O-petrol). TLC: $R_f 0.67$ (EtOAc). IR (KBr): 3403, 2967, 2939, 2901, 2873, 1723, 1698, 1654, 1464, 1386, 1336, 1295, 1261, 1250, 1158, 1092, 1082, 1066, 1052, 1018, 986, 966, 942, 918, 899, 875, 835, 777, 732, 679, 628, 603, 568, 527, 485, 469 cm⁻¹. ¹H and ¹³C NMR: Table 1 (Supplementary data Table 1A). calcd for C₂₇H₃₈O₉: 506.251585 (lit. [11]: m/z (rel. int.) 506 [M]⁺ (0.12); C₁₇H₃₈O₄ (wrong formula) requires: C, 64.01, H 7.56%; Found: C, 62.19; H, 7.41)

Scutegalerin A (2)

Colorless oil TLC: $R_{\rm f}$ 0.49 (EtOAc) ¹H and ¹³C NMR: Table 1 (Supplementary data Table 1B).

Scutegalerin B (3)

Colorless oil TLC: $R_f 0.49$ (EtOAc). ¹H NMR: Table 1.

Scutecolumnin C (4)

TLC: $R_f 0.81$ (EtOAc). IR (KBr): 3444, 2960, 2877, 1729, 1648, 1456, 1374, 1249, 1093, 1021, 970, 921, 878, 732, 601 cm⁻¹. ¹H and ¹³C NMR: as in [17] with minor differences

Supplementary data: Tables of complete spectral data and the ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR and 2D NMR spectra (with enlarged detailed sections for multiplets and cross peaks) are included in a "Supplementary Data" section.

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