



## Structure–activity relationship of lupane-triterpene glycosides from *Acanthopanax koreanum* on spleen lymphocyte IL-2 and IFN- $\gamma$

Nguyen Xuan Nhiem<sup>a,b</sup>, Phan Van Kiem<sup>b</sup>, Chau Van Minh<sup>b</sup>, Bui Huu Tai<sup>a,b</sup>, Nguyen Huu Tung<sup>a,b</sup>, Do Thi Ha<sup>a</sup>, Kwang Su Soung<sup>c</sup>, Jun Ho Kim<sup>d</sup>, Ji Young Ahn<sup>d</sup>, Young-Mi Lee<sup>d</sup>, Young Ho Kim<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> College of Pharmacy, Chungnam National University, Daejeon 305-764, Republic of Korea

<sup>b</sup> Institute of Natural Products Chemistry, Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST), 18 Hoang Quoc Viet, Cau Gungay, Hanoi, Viet Nam

<sup>c</sup> 222, Haejeong-ri, Susin-myeon, Cheonan-si, Chungcheongnam-do 330-881, Republic of Korea

<sup>d</sup> Department of Oriental pharmacy, College of Pharmacy, Wonkwang University, Iksan, Jonbuk 570-749, Republic of Korea

### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received 11 April 2010

Revised 4 June 2010

Accepted 8 June 2010

Available online 15 June 2010

#### Keywords:

*Acanthopanax koreanum*

Araliaceae

Lupane-triterpene glycoside

Acankoreosides M–O

IL-2

IFN- $\gamma$

### ABSTRACT

Phytochemical investigation resulted in the isolation of three new lupane-triterpene glycosides acankoreosides M–O (**1**, **2** and **8**) together with eight known lupane-triterpene glycosides (**3**–**7**, **9**–**11**) from the leaves of *Acanthopanax koreanum* (Araliaceae). Their chemical structures were elucidated by mass, 1D and 2D NMR spectroscopy. The effect of eleven lupane-triterpene glycosides on Con A-induced splenolytic production of IL-2 and IFN- $\gamma$  were measured as markers of acquired immune responses. Compounds **4**, **5**, **7**, and **11** (5, 25, and 100  $\mu$ M) significantly increased IFN- $\gamma$  and IL-2 release in spleen cells.

Crown Copyright © 2010 Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Both IL-2 and IFN- $\gamma$  play an important role in the immune-regulation in the body. IL-2 is normally produced by the body during an immune response.<sup>1,2</sup> IL-2 is indispensable for the development of T-cell immunologic memory, one of the unique characteristics of the immune system, and also vital during T cell development in the thymus for the maturation of a unique subset of T cells that is termed regulatory T cells.<sup>3</sup> Thus, IL-2 is required to discriminate between self and non-self, another one of the unique characteristics of the immune system.<sup>1,2</sup> In addition, IL-2 is able to promote production of immunoglobulins made by B cells and induce the differentiation and proliferation of natural killer cells.<sup>4</sup> IFN- $\gamma$  mediates a number of modulator signals at several points in the pathway of the progression of B-lymphocyte responses.<sup>5,6</sup> Concanavalin A (Con A), a lymphocyte mitogen, induced splenolytic production of IL-2 and IFN- $\gamma$  were measured as markers of acquired immune responses.<sup>7</sup>

*Acanthopanax koreanum* Nakai is deciduous scrub of the Araliaceae family and an endemic species in Korea. Its root and stem barks have been traditionally used by practitioners of oriental medicine as a tonic, as a prophylactic, and to treat rheumatism, paralysis, hepatitis, and diabetes.<sup>8,9</sup> Previous phytochemical and

biological investigations of *A. koreanum* have yielded a number of triterpenes.<sup>10–14</sup>

In the preliminary data, the methanol extracts of leaves and stems of *A. koreanum* showed the immune enhancement activity on Con A-induced splenolytic production of IL-2 and IFN- $\gamma$ . In order to clarify the active compounds for immune responses, three new lupane-type glycosides (**1**, **2**, and **8**) and eight compounds [acankoreoside I (**3**), acankoreoside A (**4**), acankoreoside D (**5**), acankoreoside F (**6**), and acantrifoside A (**7**), acankoreosides J (**9**), acankoreoside K (**10**), and acankoreoside L (**11**)] (see Fig. 1) previously isolated from the leaves of *A. koreanum*,<sup>15,16</sup> were tested their immune enhancement activity.

By using combined chromatographic separations, three new lupane-triterpene glycosides were isolated from the methanol extract of *A. koreanum* leaves.<sup>17</sup> Compound **1** was obtained as a white amorphous powder. Its basic ion peak at  $m/z$  989.5 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> was observed in the positive-ion ESI-MS, and HRTOFMS analysis revealed the molecular formula to be C<sub>48</sub>H<sub>76</sub>O<sub>21</sub>, with a cluster ion peak at  $m/z$  989.4989 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>48</sub>H<sub>77</sub>O<sub>21</sub>: 989.4957). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1** (in methanol-*d*<sub>4</sub>) showed the following signals: four tertiary methyl groups at  $\delta_H$  0.96, 1.08, 1.10, and 1.18 (each 3H, s); one secondary methyl group at  $\delta_H$  1.27, assigned to H-6'' of the rhamnose; and three anomeric protons were at  $\delta_H$  4.40, 4.85, and 5.46, suggesting the appearance of

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +82 42 821 5933; fax: +82 42 823 6566.

E-mail address: [yhk@cnu.ac.kr](mailto:yhk@cnu.ac.kr) (Y.H. Kim).

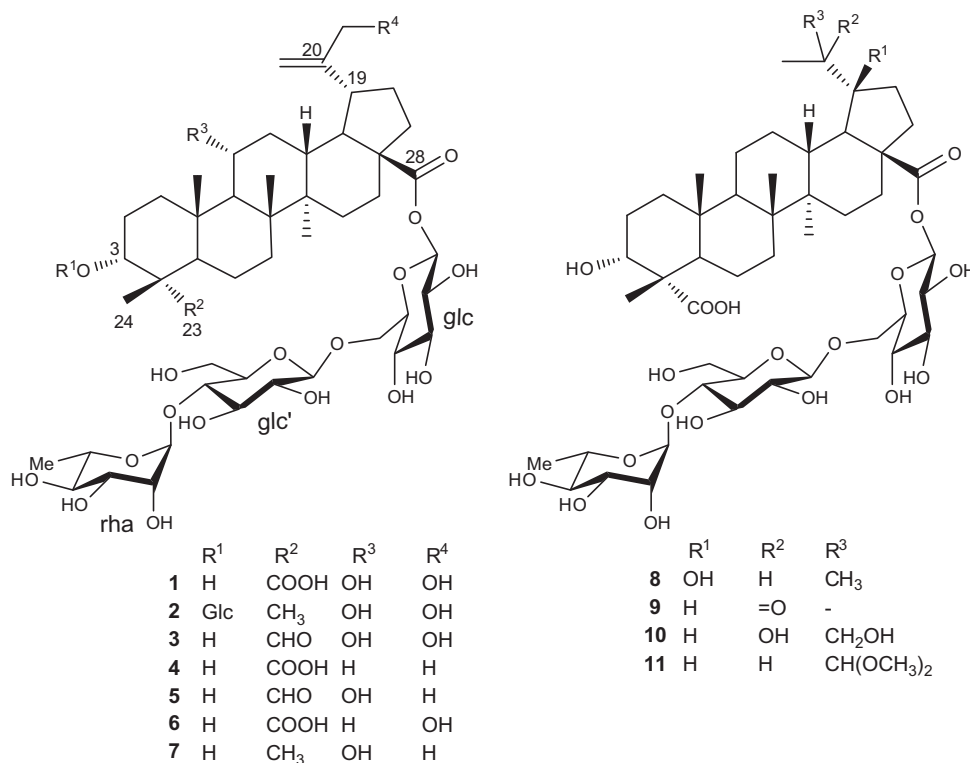


Figure 1. Structure of triterpenes (1–11) isolated from leaves of *A. koreanum*.

three sugar units. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR and DEPT spectra revealed 48 carbon signals, of which, 30 signals were assigned to a triterpenoid sapogenol moiety and 18 signals belong to three monosaccharide moieties. The aglycone of **1** was recognized to be a lupane-type triterpene by <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR analysis (see Table 1), with the typical olefinic carbons at  $\delta_c$  155.9 and 107.7, four quaternary methyl carbons at  $\delta_c$  15.1, 17.5, 18.1, and 18.2, two oxymethine carbons at  $\delta_c$  71.1 and 73.8, one oxymethylene carbon at  $\delta_c$  65.5, and two carboxyl signals at  $\delta_c$  176.3 and  $\delta_c$  180.6. Assignment of the  $\alpha$ -hydroxyl group at C-3 was performed by comparing its spectral data with literature values.<sup>10–14</sup> The chemical shifts of C-1 ( $\delta_c$  35.5), C-3 ( $\delta_c$  73.8), and C-4 ( $\delta_c$  53.0) in the aglycone further confirmed the *axial* configuration of the 3-hydroxyl group by comparing with the corresponding data of the 3 $\beta$ -hydroxy-lup-20(29)-ene-23,28-dioic acid<sup>18</sup> [ $\delta_c$  values for C-1 (39.0), C-3 ( $\delta_c$  84.4), and C-4 ( $\delta_c$  43.0)]. Moreover, the chemical shifts of C-11 ( $\delta_c$  71.1) and C-23 ( $\delta_c$  180.6) were also similar to those of 3 $\alpha$ ,11 $\alpha$ -dihydroxy-lup-20(29)-ene-23,28-dioic acid<sup>19</sup> suggesting that the  $\alpha$ -hydroxyl group was at C-11 and the carboxylic group was at C-23. In the HMBC spectrum, the methyl group H-24 ( $\delta_H$  1.18) correlated with carbons C-3 ( $\delta_c$  73.8), C-4 ( $\delta_c$  53.0), and C-23 ( $\delta_c$  180.6). In the ROESY spectrum, cross peaks between H-24 ( $\delta_H$  1.18) and H-25 ( $\delta_H$  1.10) as well as H-3 ( $\delta_H$  3.67) indicated that the methyl group at C-4 was *axial*, which in turn suggested that the carboxylic group at C-4 was  $\alpha$ -positioned. Furthermore, the HMBC cross peaks from H-29 ( $\delta_H$  4.95 and 5.01) to C-19 ( $\delta_c$  43.7), C-20 ( $\delta_c$  155.9), and C-30 ( $\delta_c$  65.5) confirmed that the double bond was at C-20/C-29 and the other hydroxyl group was at C-30. Acid hydrolysis of **1** provided the monosaccharide components of L-rhamnose and D-glucose (identified as TMS derivatives by GC method).<sup>20</sup> Moreover, the HMBC correlations between the inner glc H-1 ( $\delta$  5.46) and C-28 of the aglycone ( $\delta$  176.3), between outer glc H-1' ( $\delta$  4.40) and inner glc C-6 ( $\delta$  69.6), between rha H-1'' ( $\delta$  4.85) and glc C-4' ( $\delta$  79.6) were observed. This evidence suggested the sequence of sugar linkages of **1**. Consequently, the structure of **1**

was determined as 3 $\alpha$ ,11 $\alpha$ ,30-trihydroxylup-20(29)-en-23,28-dioic acid 28-O-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 6)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl] ester (**1**), named acankoreoside M.

Compound **2** was also obtained as a white amorphous powder. Its basic ion peak at  $m/z$  1121.6 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> was observed in the positive-ion ESI-MS, and HRTOFMS analysis revealed the molecular formula to be C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>88</sub>O<sub>24</sub>, with a cluster ion peak at  $m/z$  1121.5824 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>54</sub>H<sub>89</sub>O<sub>24</sub>: 1121.5744). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2** (in methanol-d<sub>4</sub>) showed the following signals: five tertiary methyl groups at  $\delta_H$  0.88, 0.95, 0.96, 1.07, and 1.08 (each 3H, s); one secondary methyl group at  $\delta_H$  1.27, assigned to H-6'' of the rhamnose; and four anomeric protons were at  $\delta_H$  4.27, 4.40, 4.84, and 5.45, suggesting the appearance of four sugar units. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR and DEPT spectra revealed 54 carbon signals, of which, 30 signals were assigned to a triterpenoid sapogenol moiety and 24 signals belong to four sugar moieties. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data of **2** (Table 1) were similar to those of acankoreoside D,<sup>11</sup> except difference of isopropenyl group in E ring. On the other hand, the HMBC correlations were observed between methylene protons H-29 ( $\delta_H$  4.94 and 5.00) and C-19 ( $\delta_c$  43.8), C-20 ( $\delta_c$  156.0), and C-30 ( $\delta_c$  65.6), as well as between H-30 ( $\delta_H$  4.08) and C-19 ( $\delta_c$  43.8), C-20 ( $\delta_c$  156.0), and C-29 ( $\delta_c$  107.6), confirming the double bond was at C-20/C-29 and the hydroxyl group was at C-30. The sugar linked to C-3 confirmed by HMBC correlations between H-3 ( $\delta_H$  3.41) and C-1''' ( $\delta_c$  101.7) as well as between anomeric proton H-1''' ( $\delta_H$  4.27) and C-3 ( $\delta_c$  82.4). Assignment of the O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl moiety group at C-3 was performed as  $\alpha$  configuration by comparing its spectral data [C-1 ( $\delta_c$  36.7), C-3 ( $\delta_c$  82.4), and C-5 ( $\delta_c$  51.0)] in the aglycone and those of the 3-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl betulinic acid 28-O- $\alpha$ -L-arabinopyranosyl(1 $\rightarrow$ 6)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl ester (cussosaponin A)<sup>21</sup> [ $\delta_c$  values for C-1 (39.0), C-3 ( $\delta_c$  88.7), and C-5 ( $\delta_c$  55.9)]. The HMBC correlations between the inner glc H-1 ( $\delta$  5.45) and C-28 of the aglycone ( $\delta$  176.4), between outer glc H-1' ( $\delta$  4.40) and inner glc C-6 ( $\delta$  69.5), between rha H-1'' ( $\delta$  4.84) and glc C-4' ( $\delta$  79.7) were observed. Moreover, the NMR data of

**Table 1**  
The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data of compounds **1**, **2**, and **8**

Pos.	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>8</b>	
	$\delta_{\text{C}}^{\text{a,b}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}^{\text{a,c}}$ mult. (J in Hz)	$\delta_{\text{C}}^{\text{a,b}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}^{\text{a,c}}$ mult. (J in Hz)	$\delta_{\text{C}}^{\text{a,b}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}^{\text{a,c}}$ mult. (J in Hz)
Aglycone						
1	35.5	1.40	36.7	2.24 (dd, 3.5, 13.5)	34.5	1.43
2	26.4	1.92	19.2	1.36	26.1	1.39
3	73.8	3.67	82.4	3.41	73.3	3.58
4	53.0	—	38.5	—	52.1	—
5	45.4	1.91	51.0	1.30	47.4	1.86
6	22.6	1.47	22.2	1.62, 1.77	22.2	1.46
7	36.1	2.34	36.4	2.30	35.5	1.36
8	43.5	—	43.5	—	43.1	—
9	56.7	1.60 (d, 10.5)	56.3	1.55 (d, 10.5)	52.0	1.51 (d, 10.5)
10	40.0	—	40.4	—	38.2	—
11	71.1	3.42	71.2	3.42	22.2	1.51
12	39.4	1.31	39.5	1.29	26.1	1.29
13	38.2	2.42	38.3	2.42	39.1	2.42
14	44.3	—	44.0	—	44.3	—
15	30.8	2.21	30.9	1.50	30.9	1.29
16	32.9	2.37 (t, 9.5)	32.9	2.37 (t, 9.5)	34.5	1.39 (t, 9.5)
17	57.9	—	58.0	—	59.4	—
18	50.9	1.82	51.0	1.83	50.4	1.65
19	43.7	2.90 (dt, 4.5, 11.0)	43.8	2.88 (dt, 4.5, 11.0)	85.4	—
20	155.9	—	156.0	—	36.8	1.48
21	33.6	2.26	33.6	2.07	34.5	1.39
22	37.4	1.55	37.4	1.51	37.2	1.83
		1.98		1.97		
23	180.6	—	29.8	0.96 (s)	185.2	—
24	18.2	1.18 (s)	23.3	0.88 (s)	18.6	1.08 (s)
25	17.5	1.10 (s)	17.3	1.07 (s)	17.4	0.90 (s)
26	18.1	0.96 (s)	18.0	0.95 (s)	17.1	0.95 (s)
27	15.1	1.08 (s)	15.2	1.08 (s)	15.5	1.03 (s)
28	176.3	—	176.4	—	176.7	—
29	107.7	4.95 (br s)	107.6	4.94 (br s)	21.9	1.16 (d, 6.0)
		5.01 <sup>a</sup> (br s)		5.00 (br s)		
30	65.5	4.09	65.6	4.08 s	27.0	1.31 (d, 6.0)
C-28 O-Glc						
1	95.3	5.46 (d, 8.0)	95.4	5.45 (d, 8.0)	95.6	5.45 (d, 8.0)
2	74.0	3.33	74.1	3.31	74.1	3.33
3	78.2	3.43	78.3	3.43	78.2	3.43
4	71.0	3.41	71.1	3.41	71.2	3.42
5	78.3	3.43	78.4	3.43	78.5	3.43
6	69.6	3.80	69.5	3.80	69.8	3.80
		4.10 (d, 10.5)		4.11 (d, 10.5)		4.11 (d, 10.5)
Glc' (1→6) Glc						
1'	104.5	4.40 (d, 8.0)	104.5	4.40 (d, 8.0)	104.8	4.40 (d, 8.0)
2'	75.4	3.25	75.4	3.20	75.5	3.25
3'	76.7	3.46	76.9	3.46	76.9	3.46
4'	79.6	3.54	79.7	3.54	79.8	3.53
5'	77.0	3.30	77.1	3.44	77.1	3.44
6'	62.0	3.66	62.1	3.66	62.1	3.66
		3.81 (d, 6.5)		3.81 (d, 6.5)		3.81 (d, 6.5)
Rha (1→4) Glc'						
1''	103.0	4.85 (br s)	103.1	4.84 (br s)	103.1	4.84 (br s)
2''	72.5	3.64 (dd, 3.5, 9.5)	72.3	3.62 (dd, 3.5, 9.5)	72.6	3.62 (dd, 3.5, 9.5)
3''	72.3	3.84	72.6	3.82	72.4	3.82
4''	73.6	3.41 (t, 9.5)	73.9	3.40 (t, 9.5)	73.3	3.40 (t, 9.5)
5''	70.7	3.95 (dd, 6.0, 9.5)	70.8	3.97 (dd, 6.0, 9.5)	70.9	3.96 (dd, 6.0, 9.5)
	18.0	1.27 (d, 6.0)	18.0	1.27 (d, 6.0)	18.0	1.27 (d, 6.0)
C-3 O-Glc''						
1'''			101.7	4.27 (d, 8.0)		
2'''			75.5	3.26		
3'''			78.6	3.36		
4'''			72.1	3.28 (t, 9.5)		
5'''			77.9	3.21		
6'''			63.2	3.66		
				3.85 (d, 6.5)		

<sup>a</sup> Measured in CD<sub>3</sub>OD.

<sup>b</sup> 125 MHz.

<sup>c</sup> 500 MHz, Assignments were done by HMQC, HMBC,  $^1\text{H}$ – $^1\text{H}$  COSY and ROESY experiments, Glc: D-glucopyranosyl, Rha: L-rhamnopyranosyl.

the sugar moiety were superimposable on those of compound **1** and sugar moieties were also determined as L-rhamnose and

D-glucose (identified as TMS derivatives by GC method).<sup>20</sup> This evidence suggested the sequence of sugar linkages of **2** was

28-O-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 6)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl]. Consequently, the structure of **2** was determined as 3-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl 3 $\alpha$ ,11 $\alpha$ ,30-trihydroxylup-20(29)-en-23,28-dioic acid 28-O-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 6)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl] ester (**2**), named acankoreoside N.

Compound **8** was also obtained as a white amorphous powder. Its basic ion peak at  $m/z$  975.5  $[M+H]^+$  was observed in the positive-ion ESI-MS, and HRTOFMS analysis revealed the molecular formula to be  $C_{48}H_{78}O_{20}$ , with a cluster ion peak at  $m/z$  975.5162  $[M+H]^+$  (calcd for  $C_{48}H_{78}O_{20}$ : 975.5165). The  $^1H$  NMR spectrum of **8** (in methanol- $d_4$ ) showed the following signals: four tertiary methyl groups at  $\delta_H$  0.90, 0.95, 1.03, and 1.08 (each 3H, s); three secondary methyl groups at  $\delta_H$  1.16, 1.27, and 1.31; and three anomeric protons were at  $\delta_H$  4.40, 4.84, and 5.45, suggesting the appearance of three sugar units. The  $^{13}C$  NMR and DEPT spectra of **8** revealed 48 carbon signals, of which, 30 signals were assigned to a triterpenoid sapogenol moiety and 18 signals belong to three sugar moieties. The  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR data of **8** (Table 1) were similar to those of acankoreoside A,<sup>10</sup> except difference of branch chain in E ring. The HMBC correlations were observed between two secondary methyl protons H-29 ( $\delta_H$  1.16), H-30 ( $\delta_H$  1.31) and C-19 ( $\delta_C$  85.4) and C-20 ( $\delta_C$  36.8), confirming two methyl groups was at C-20; and one hydroxyl group was at C-19. On the other hand, the ROE correlation between H-18 $\alpha$  ( $\delta_H$  1.65) and H-29 ( $\delta_H$  1.16) confirmed hydroxyl group at C-19 was  $\beta$ . Moreover, the HMBC cross peaks from H-3 ( $\delta_H$  3.58) to C-1 ( $\delta_C$  34.5) and C-5 ( $\delta_C$  47.4), from H-5 ( $\delta_H$  1.86) to C-4 ( $\delta_C$  52.1), C-23 ( $\delta_C$  185.2), and C-24 ( $\delta_C$  18.6), from H-24 ( $\delta_H$  1.08) to C-3 ( $\delta_C$  73.3), C-4 ( $\delta_C$  52.1), C-5 ( $\delta_C$  47.4), and C-23 ( $\delta_C$  185.2) confirmed location of the hydroxyl and carboxyl groups at C-3 and C-4, respectively. Similar to **1**, 3-hydroxyl and 4-carboxyl groups were assigned as the  $\alpha$ -positions. The HMBC correlations between the inner glc H-1' ( $\delta$  5.45) and C-28 of the aglycone ( $\delta$  176.7), between outer glc H-1' ( $\delta$  4.40) and inner glc C-6 ( $\delta$  69.8), between rha H-1'' ( $\delta$  4.84) and glc C-4' ( $\delta$  79.8) were observed. Moreover, the NMR data of the sugar moiety were superimposable on those of compound **1**, and sugar moieties were also determined as L-rhamnose and D-glucose (identified as TMS derivatives by GC method).<sup>20</sup> This evidence suggested the sequence of sugar linkages of **8**. Consequently, the structure of **8** was determined as 3 $\alpha$ ,19 $\beta$ -dihydroxylupane-23,28-dioic acid 28-O-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 6)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl] ester (**8**), named acankoreoside O. The lymphoproliferation test was conducted as previously described with minor modifications.<sup>22</sup> Spleen cells ( $1 \times 10^6$ /ml) were cultured and incubated with three different concentrations of isolated compounds (5, 25, and 100  $\mu$ M) or the positive control, Con A (1  $\mu$ g/ml). The results were expressed as mean values of picograms per milliliter of IL-2 and IFN- $\gamma$  produced with standard error in triplicate cultures comparing with IL-2 and IFN- $\gamma$  standard.

The water extracts of *A. koreanum* stems increased to 6.6 times for IL-2 release, 3.1 times for IFN- $\gamma$  release compare to negative control. Moreover, the water extracts of *A. koreanum* leaves increased to 3.2 times for IL-2 release, 1.5 times for IFN- $\gamma$  release compare to negative control. The effect of methanol extract of *A. koreanum* leaves on both cytokine releases was greater than those of water extract of *A. koreanum* leaves. These results revealed that the immunomodulatory agents are present in both leaves and stems of *A. koreanum*. Furthermore, the genuine immune stimulating effects were assessed by IL-2 and IFN- $\gamma$  release in splenocytes treated with lupane-triterpene glycosides (**1–11**) isolated from the leaves of *A. koreanum* (see Tables 2 and 3). In absence of both test compounds and Con A, IL-2 and IFN- $\gamma$  were secreted at very low concentration ( $1.94 \pm 0.09$  and  $13.23 \pm 0.42$  pg/mL, respectively). In contrast, with the presence of Con A, the IL-2 and IFN- $\gamma$  were released  $15.67 \pm 3.78$  and  $158.53 \pm 27.36$  pg/mL, respectively. As compared with the blank and Con A, compounds

**Table 2**The effect of compounds isolated from leaves of *A. koreanum* on IFN- $\gamma$  release

Compound	IFN- $\gamma$ release (pg/mL)		
	5 $\mu$ M	25 $\mu$ M	100 $\mu$ M
Blank		$1.94 \pm 0.09$	
Con A (1 $\mu$ g/mL)		$15.67 \pm 3.78^*$	
<b>1</b>	$1.57 \pm 0.61$	$2.45 \pm 0.11$	$2.48 \pm 0.54$
<b>2</b>	$1.50 \pm 0.35$	$1.55 \pm 0.40$	$1.92 \pm 0.32$
<b>3</b>	$1.25 \pm 0.26$	$4.18 \pm 0.47^*$	$2.59 \pm 0.08$
<b>4</b>	$2.89 \pm 0.38^*$	$4.62 \pm 0.09^{**}$	$4.57 \pm 0.14^{**}$
<b>5</b>	$3.69 \pm 0.22^{**}$	$4.62 \pm 0.09^*$	$5.29 \pm 0.08^{**}$
<b>6</b>	$3.30 \pm 1.06^{**}$	$4.00 \pm 0.57^{**}$	$4.20 \pm 0.17^{**}$
<b>7</b>	$4.55 \pm 0.49^{**}$	$5.23 \pm 0.30^{**}$	$5.41 \pm 0.20^{**}$
<b>8</b>	$1.81 \pm 0.27$	$1.68 \pm 0.14$	$2.44 \pm 0.16$
<b>9</b>	$2.75 \pm 0.35^*$	$3.78 \pm 0.57^{**}$	$4.36 \pm 0.08^{**}$
<b>10</b>	$2.78 \pm 0.92$	$3.2 \pm 0.27$	$3.66 \pm 0.33$
<b>11</b>	$3.53 \pm 2.34^*$	$3.71 \pm 2.22^*$	$6.07 \pm 0.17^{**}$

Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  S.D. Statistically significant compared with blank.\*  $p < 0.05$ .\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .**Table 3**The effect of compounds isolated from leaves of *A. koreanum* on IL-2 release

Compound	IL-2 release (pg/mL)		
	5 $\mu$ M	25 $\mu$ M	100 $\mu$ M
Blank		$13.23 \pm 0.42$	
Con A (1 $\mu$ g/mL)		$158.53 \pm 27.36^*$	
<b>1</b>	$15.27 \pm 0.53$	$16.92 \pm 5.55$	$17.26 \pm 5.3$
<b>2</b>	$17.11 \pm 0.83$	$13.66 \pm 0.65$	$19.06 \pm 0.08$
<b>3</b>	$10.07 \pm 2.21$	$12.91 \pm 3.47$	$14.76 \pm 6.55$
<b>4</b>	$17.04 \pm 5.67^*$	$24.87 \pm 3.22^*$	$29.78 \pm 0.25^{**}$
<b>5</b>	$19.26 \pm 10.45^*$	$25.32 \pm 5.57^*$	$41.34 \pm 1.40^{**}$
<b>6</b>	$16.09 \pm 3.11^*$	$23.47 \pm 1.47^{**}$	$27.57 \pm 1.75^{**}$
<b>7</b>	$20.07 \pm 1.66^*$	$25.57 \pm 4.76^*$	$50.66 \pm 4.54^{**}$
<b>8</b>	$13.89 \pm 2.50$	$11.82 \pm 5.18$	$16.30 \pm 7.21$
<b>9</b>	$15.78 \pm 6.95$	$16.14 \pm 4.45$	$28.27 \pm 2.84^*$
<b>10</b>	$16.69 \pm 0.34$	$20.24 \pm 2.13$	$21.57 \pm 2.56$
<b>11</b>	$20.68 \pm 0.85^{**}$	$45.06 \pm 0.65^{**}$	$74.47 \pm 4.13^{**}$

Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  S.D. Statistically significant compared with blank.\*  $p < 0.05$ .\*\*  $p < 0.01$ .

**4**, **5**, **7**, and **11** (5, 25, and 100  $\mu$ M) significant increased IFN- $\gamma$  productions ranging from  $4.20 \pm 0.17$  pg/mL to  $6.07 \pm 0.17$  pg/mL in spleen cells. Compounds **4**, **5**, **7**, and **11** (5, 25, and 100  $\mu$ M) also exhibited potent effect on IL-2 release within  $27.57 \pm 1.75$  to  $74.47 \pm 4.13$  pg/mL. In the structure–activity relationship of these lupane-triterpene glycosides, the functional groups as methyl, aldehydic, carboxyl at C-4, hydroxyl group at C-11, and double bond at C-20/C-29 did not affect on IL-2 and IFN- $\gamma$  increasing activity. However, the presence of hydroxyl group at C-30 or absence of C-30 affected the immune stimulatory activity. The compounds **4**, **5**, **7**, and **11** having no hydroxyl group at C-30 showed significant increasing activity for both IL-2 and IFN- $\gamma$ . These results revealed that the immunomodulatory effects of *A. koreanum* were due to the lupane-triterpene glycosides in the leaves and stems of this plant.

## Acknowledgments

This study was supported by Priority Research Centers Program through the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (2009-0093815), Republic of Korea. The authors would like to thank Korean Basic Science Institute (KBSI) for taking NMR and MS experiments.

## References and notes

- Cantrell, D. A.; Smith, K. A. *Science* **1984**, 224, 1312.
- Smith, K. A. *Science* **1988**, 240, 1169.
- Sakaguchi, S.; Sakaguchi, N.; Asano, M.; Itoh, M.; Toda, M. *J. Immunol.* **1995**, 155, 1151.
- Waldmann, T. A. *Nat. Rev. Immun.* **2006**, 6, 595.
- Jurado, A.; Carballido, J.; Griffel, H.; Hochkeppel, H. K.; Wetzel, G. D. *Experientia* **1989**, 45, 521.
- Arai, K.; Lee, F.; Miyajima, A.; Miyatake, S.; Arai, N.; Yokota, T. *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* **1990**, 59, 783.
- Almed, R.; Biron, C. A. *Fundamental Immunology*; Raven: Philadelphia (USA), 1999, pp 1303–1319.
- Yook, C. S. *Coloured Medicinal Plants of Korean*; Academy Publishing Co, Ltd: Seoul, 1993, pp 371–372.
- Bae, K. *The Medicinal Plants of Korea*; Kyo-Hak Publishing: Seoul, 2000, p 361.
- Chang, S. Y.; Yook, C. S.; Nohara, T. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **1998**, 46, 163.
- Chang, S. Y.; Yook, C. S.; Nohara, T. *Phytochemistry* **1999**, 50, 1369.
- Cai, X. F.; Lee, I. S.; Shen, G.; Dat, N. T.; Lee, J. J.; Kim, Y. H. *Arch. Pharm. Res.* **2004**, 27, 825.
- Park, S. Y.; Choi, H. S.; Yook, C. S.; Nohara, T. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **2005**, 51, 97.
- Choi, H. S.; Kim, H. J.; Nam, S. G.; Kim, I. S.; Lee, K. T.; Yook, C. S.; Lee, Y. S. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **2008**, 56, 1613.
- Nhiem, N. X.; Tung, N. H.; Kiem, P. V.; Minh, C. V.; Ding, Y.; Hyun, J. H.; Kang, H. K.; Kim, Y. H. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **2009**, 57, 986.
- Nhiem, N. X.; Kiem, P. V.; Minh, C. V.; Ha, D. T.; Tai, B. H.; Yen, P. H.; Tung, N. H.; Hyun, J. H.; Kang, H. K.; Kim, Y. H. *Planta Med.* **2010**, 76, 189.
- The dried leaves of *A. koreanum* (4.0 kg) were extracted with hot MeOH (three times, 50 °C, 5 L each) to yield the methanol extract (80 g), which was then suspended in water (2 L) and extracted in turn with ethyl acetate (3 × 2 L) to give the ethyl acetate (AK1, 30 g), and water (AK2, 50 g) extracts. The AK2 extract (50 g) was chromatographed on a Diaion HP-20P column (Mitsubishi Chem. Ind. Co., Japan) eluting with water containing increasing concentrations of MeOH (100% H<sub>2</sub>O, 25% MeOH, 50% MeOH, and 100% MeOH, 0.5 L each) to give five corresponding fractions, AK2A–AK2D. Fraction AK2D (10 g) was chromatographed on an YMC RP-18 column (4 × 30 cm) eluting with acetone/water (1:1, v/v, 1.5 L) to yield three sub-fractions, AK2D1–AK2D3. Sub-fraction AK2D1 (1.5 g) was further chromatographed on a silica gel column (2 × 40 cm) eluting with chloroform/methanol/water (3:1:0.1, v/v/v, 1.5 L) to obtain compound **2** (white amorphous powder, 5 mg). Sub-fraction AK2D2 (1.3 g) was further chromatographed on a silica gel column (1.5 × 30 cm) eluting with dichloromethane/methanol/water (35:10:1, v/v/v, 1.5 L) to obtain compounds **1** (white amorphous powder, 8 mg) and **8** (white amorphous powder, 7 mg).
- Jahan, N.; Ahmed, W.; Malik, A. *Phytochemistry* **1995**, 39, 255.
- Lischewski, M.; Ty, P. D.; Schmidt, J.; Preiss, A.; Phiet, H. V.; Adam, G. *Phytochemistry* **1984**, 23, 1695.
- Each compound (2.0 mg) was dissolved in 1.0 N HCl (dioxane/H<sub>2</sub>O, 1:1, v/v, 1.0 mL) and then heated to 80 °C in a water bath for 3 h. The acidic solution was neutralized with silver carbonate and the solvent thoroughly driven out under N<sub>2</sub> gas overnight. After extraction with CHCl<sub>3</sub>, the aqueous layer was concentrated to dryness using N<sub>2</sub> gas. The residue was dissolved in 0.1 mL of dry pyridine, and then L-cysteine methyl ester hydrochloride in pyridine (0.06 M, 0.1 mL) was added to the solution. The reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C for 2 h, and 0.1 mL of trimethylsilylimidazole solution was added, followed by heating at 60 °C for 1.5 h. The dried product was partitioned with *n*-hexane and H<sub>2</sub>O (0.1 mL, each), and the organic layer was analyzed by gas liquid chromatography (GC): Column: column SPB-1 (0.25 mm × 30 m); detector FID, column temp 210 °C, injector temperature 270 °C, detector temperature 300 °C, carrier gas He (2.0 mL/min). The retention times of persilylated glucose and rhamnose were founded to be 14.11 and 4.50 min, respectively, when compared with the standard solutions prepared by the same reaction from the standard monosaccharides. (The retention times of persilylated D-glucose, L-glucose, and L-rhamnose were 14.11, 14.26, and 4.50 min, respectively).
- Harinantenaina, L.; Kasai, R.; Yamasaki, K. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **2002**, 50, 1290.
- Wang, M.; Guilbert, L. J.; Li, J.; Wu, Y.; Pang, P.; Basu, T. K.; Shan, J. J. *Int. Immunopharmacol.* **2004**, 4, 311.