No. 10 3833

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Total Synthesis of Coumarinolignans, Aquillochin (Cleomiscosin C) and Cleomiscosin D

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The reaction of 8-hydroxy-6-methoxy-7-methoxymethoxycoumarin (3) with ethyl 2-bromo-3-(4-benzyloxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropionate (5) in the presence of potassium *tert*-butoxide gave the condensation product (6), which, on treatment with hydrochloric acid followed by reduction with lithium borohydride, was converted into a diastereomeric mixture of alcohols (8a, b). Treatment of the alcohols (8a, b) with 35% hydrochloric acid in acetic acid furnished aquillochin (cleomiscosin C) (1). The regioisomer cleomiscosin D (2) was similarly synthesized from 10.

Keywords—coumarinolignoid; aquillochin; cleomiscosin C; cleomiscosin D; fraxetin; coumarin; benzodioxane

Aquillochin (cleomiscosin C) (1) and the regioisomer cleomiscosin D (2) are members of a new class (coumarinolignoids)^{1,2)} of natural products. Aquillochin (1) has been isolated as a racemic form (no optical activity) from the stem wood of *Aquillaria agallocha* (Thymelaeaceae),³⁾ and also from seeds of *Cleome viscosa* (Capparidaceae)^{4,5)} along with the regioisomer cleomiscosin D, having no optical activity (racemic compound).

The synthesis of aquillochin (1) has been accomplished⁶⁾ by treatment of fraxetin and sinapyl alcohol under oxidative conditions (silver oxide and horseradish peroxidase) in low yield and accompanied with the formation of cleomiscosin D (2).

Herein, we describe a facile synthesis of 1 and 2 from readily available materials [8-hydroxy-6-methoxy-7-methoxymethoxycoumarin (3) or 8-benzyloxy-7-hydroxy-6-methoxycoumarin (9) and ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-bromo-3-oxopropionate (5)].

The compound $(3)^{2a}$ was condensed with 5 [prepared easily from ethyl 3-(4-benzyloxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-3-oxopropionate $(4)^{7}$ by bromination in acetonitrile in the presence of potassium tert-butoxide to give a condensation product (6) in 67% yield. On treatment with hydrochloric acid at room temperature, the condensation product (6) was converted into a phenolic compound (7), which was then reduced with lithium borohydride in tetrahydrofuran (THF) at 0° C to provide a mixture of alcohols (8a, b). The mixture (8a, b) was separated by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) as described in the experimental section. Separation by HPLC provided 8a as a main product and 8b as a minor product. The highresolution mass spectrum (MS) of each alcohol (8a, b) afforded the same molecular formula $C_{28}H_{28}O_{10}$ and the infrared (IR) spectra of 8a and 8b showed disappearance of the keto group band (1685 cm⁻¹) and the ester group band (1735 cm⁻¹) found in the starting material. In the proton nuclear magnetic resonance (1H-NMR) spectrum of 8a, the signal of the methine proton at the C-7' position was observed as a doublet at δ 5.39 whose coupling constant was 2.7 Hz. On the other hand, the coupling constant of a doublet signal assigned to the C-7' position (δ 5.23) in **8b** was 8.4 Hz. Therefore, ⁸⁾ the signal observed at δ 5.39 was ascribed to the erythro isomer (8a) and 8b was concluded to be the threo isomer. The ratio of the erythro

3834 Vol. 36 (1988)

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{CH}_{3}\text{O} \\ \text{CH}_{3}\text{O} \\ \text{CH}_{3}\text{O} \\ \text{CH}_{2}\text{O} \\ \text{HO} \\ \text{OCH}_{3} \\ \text{OC$$

Chart 1

and threo isomer was about 2.5:1 on the basis of the peak areas in HPLC. The mixture of alcohols (8a, b) cyclized upon heating in acetic acid in the presence of 35% hydrochloric acid to give aquillochin (1), whose MS displayed the characteristic retro Diels-Alder fragmentation peak⁴⁾ at m/z 210. In the ¹H-NMR spectrum, the proton signal was observed as a doublet at δ 4.97 whose coupling constant was 8.1 Hz, demonstrating that two hydrogens of the benzodioxane moiety are trans-oriented. The synthetic aquillochin (1) was identical with an authentic specimen⁴⁾ based on comparisons of MS, IR (KBr), ¹H-NMR, and carbon-13 nuclear magnetic resonance (¹³C-NMR) spectra.

We also aimed at the synthesis of the regioisomer cleomiscosin D (2) according to the method described above. The starting material (8-benzylfraxetin) (9), prepared^{2d)} previously from 3, was treated with 5 in the presence of potassium *tert*-butoxide to provide a condensation product (10) in 81% yield. The condensation product (10) was subjected to catalytic hydrogenation, affording a debenzylation product (11) in good yield. Reduction of 11 with lithium borohydride in THF at 0°C gave a mixture of alcohols (12a, b), which was separated by chromatography on silica gel to yield the more-polar substance (12a, 45%) and the less-polar substance (12b, 4%). In the ¹H-NMR spectrum of 12a, the methine proton at the C-7' position was observed as a doublet at δ 5.20 (J=3.7 Hz) and the methine proton in 12b appeared as a doublet at δ 5.06 (J=7.7 Hz). Hence, the alcohol (12a) was shown to be the *erythro* isomer and 12b was the *threo* isomer. The ratio of the *erythro* and *threo* isomers was about 11:1 from the ¹H-NMR spectral analysis of the mixture (12a, b).

Finally, 12a, b was treated with 35% hydrochloric acid in acetic acid to furnish cleomiscosin D (2). The ¹H-NMR spectrum and MS of 2 were closely similar to those of aquillochin (1). In the MS, the characteristic retro Diels-Alder fragmentation peak⁵⁾ appeared at m/z 210 and, in the ¹H-NMR spectrum, the C-7′ proton signal was observed as a doublet at δ 4.96 whose coupling constant (J=8.1 Hz) was typical for *trans*-orientation of the benzodioxane moiety. The synthetic cleomiscosin D (2) was identical with an authentic sample⁵⁾ by direct comparison.

Thus, we have achieved the synthesis of aquillochin (cleomiscosin C) (1) and cleomiscosin D (2).

No. 10 3835

Experimental

All melting points are uncorrected. Column chromatography was run on Merck Silica gel 60 (70—230 mesh). Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on glass plates precoated with Kieselgel 60 F₂₅₄ (Merck). Electron impact (EI)-MS were recorded on a Hitachi M-52 spectrometer and high-resolution MS on a Hitachi M-80 spectrometer. Fast atom bombardment (FAB)-MS were recorded on JEOL JMS-DX300 and JEOL JMA-DA5000 spectrometer. IR spectra were obtained on a JASCO IR-810 spectrophotometer. ¹H-NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL JNM-GX-270 and ¹³C-NMR spectra on a JEOL JNM-FX-100 spectrometer with tetramethylsilane as an internal standard. Chemical shifts are quoted in parts per million (s=singlet, d=doublet, t=triple, q=quartet, m=multiplet, br=broad). HPLC was conducted on a JASCO TRI ROTAR-II instrument.

Ethyl 3-(4-Benzyloxy-3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-bromo-3-oxopropionate (5) — A solution of *N*-bromosuccinimide (2.29 g) in CHCl₃ (30 ml) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of 4^{71} (4.6 g) in CHCl₃ (120 ml). Stirring was continued for 30 min, then the reaction mixture was washed three times with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated. The crude product was chromatographed on a silica gel column (benzene–AcOEt (10:1)) to give a yellow oil (5, 950 mg, 54% based on consumed starting material) and the unaltered starting material (4, 3.17 g). High-resolution MS m/z: 438.0501 Calcd for C₂₀H₂₁⁸¹BrO₆ (M⁺ + 2). Found: 438.0511. High-resolution MS m/z: 436.0521 Calcd for C₂₀H₂₁⁷⁹BrO₆ (M⁺). Found: 436.0496. MS m/z: 438 (M⁺ + 2), 436 (M⁺), 357, 347, 345, 311, 271. IR (CHCl₃): 3020, 1760, 1680, 1590 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 1.25 (3H, t, J=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 3.88 (6H, s, 2 × OCH₃), 4.28 (2H, q, J=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.13 (2H, s, OCH₂Ph), 5.60 (1H, s, HCBr), 7.24 (2H, s, C₂-H and C₆-H), 7.27—7.48 (5H, m, aromatic protons).

Condensation of 3 with 5 (Formation of 6)—A solution of 5 (110 mg) in acetonitrile (2.0 ml) was added dropwise to a mixture of 3^{2a} (63 mg) and *tert*-BuOK (42 mg) in acetonitrile (4.0 ml). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 min, poured into ice-water, and extracted with AcOEt. The AcOEt layer was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated. The residue was purified by preparative TLC (CHCl₃-acetone (20:1)) to give a colorless oil (6, 102 mg, 67%). FAB-MS m/z: $609 (C_{32}H_{32}O_{12}+H)^+$. IR (CHCl₃): 1735, 1685, 1615, 1585 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.18 (3H, t, J=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 3.50 (3H, s, OCH₂OCH₃), 3.87 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.90 (6H, s, 2 × OCH₃), 4.24 (2H, q, J=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.13 (2H, s, OCH₂Ph), 5.20 (1H, d, J=5.7 Hz, OCH₂OCH₃), 5.23 (1H, d, J=5.7 Hz, OCH₂OCH₃), 6.14 (1H, s, C_8 -H), 6.29 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C_3 -H), 6.70 (1H. s, C_5 -H), 7.46 (2H, s, C_2 -H and C_6 -H), 7.27—7.49 (5H, m, aromatic protons), 7.58 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C_4 -H).

Hydrolysis of 6 (Formation of 7)——Saturated HCl-MeOH (2.0 ml) was added to a solution of 6 (105 mg) in MeOH (3.0 ml) and the resulting solution was stirred at room temperature for 5 min. The solvent was removed and the residue was dissolved with AcOEt. The AcOEt solution was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated. The crude product was purified by preparative TLC (CHCl₃-acetone (10:1)) to give a colorless oil (7, 93 mg, 95%). FAB-MS m/z: 565 (C₃₀H₂₈O₁₁ + H)⁺. IR (CHCl₃): 3630, 1735, 1685, 1585 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 1.23 (3H, t, J=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 3.90 (9H, s, 3 × OCH₃), 4.28 (1H, dq, J=7.1, 17.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 4.31 (1H, dq, J=7.1, 17.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.13 (2H, s, OCH₂Ph), 6.15 (1H, s, C₈-H), 6.25 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C₃-H), 6.71 (1H, s, C₅-H), 7.27—7.48 (5H, m, aromatic protons), 7.45 (2H, s, C₂-H and C₆-H), 7.59 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C₄-H), 8.35 (1H, br s, OH).

Reduction of 7 with Lithium Borohydride (Formation of 8a, b)—LiBH₄ (35 mg) was added gradually to a solution of 7 (156 mg) in dry THF (4.0 ml) at 0 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 15 min. The reaction mixture was poured into ice-water and extracted with AcOEt. The AcOEt layer was washed with water, dried over Na_2SO_4 , and evaporated. The residue was purified by preparative TLC (benzene–AcOEt (1:1)) to give an oil (85 mg, 59%). A part of the oil (1.9 mg) was separated into 8a (1.0 mg) and 8b (0.3 mg) by HPLC. [conditions: column, YMC-Pack A-302 (ODS), 4.6 mm × 15 cm; flow rate, 1.5 ml/min; detector, UV 254 nm; solvent, water–MeOH (1:1); I_R 22.3 min (8a), 34.5 min (8b)].

8a: Colorless oil. High-resolution MS m/z: 524.1681 Calcd for $C_{28}H_{28}O_{10}$ (M⁺). Found: 524.1673. MS m/z: 524 (M⁺), 506, 433, 415, 385, 316, 300, 272, 251, 208. IR (CHCl₃): 3600, 3405, 1720, 1605, 1600, 1580 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ: 3.70 (1H, dd, J = 3.0, 12.1 Hz, C_9 -H), 3.82 (6H, s, 2 × OCH₃), 3.94 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.03 (1H, dd, J = 5.0, 12.1 Hz, C_9 -H), 4.24 (1H, ddd, J = 2.7, 3.0, 5.0 Hz, C_8 -H), 4.98 (2H, s, OCH₂Ph), 5.39 (1H, d, J = 2.7 Hz, C_7 -H), 6.27 (1H, d, J = 9.4 Hz, C_3 -H), 6.65 (2H, s, C_2 -H and C_6 -H), 6.71 (1H, s, C_5 -H), 7.27—7.48 (5H, m, aromatic protons), 7.63 (1H, d, J = 9.4 Hz, C_4 -H), 8.82 (1H, br s, OH).

8b: Colorless oil. High-resolution MS m/z: 524.1681 Calcd for $C_{28}H_{28}O_{10}$ (M⁺). Found: 524.1676. MS m/z: 524 (M⁺), 506, 433, 415, 385, 316, 300, 272, 251, 208. IR (CHCl₃): 3600, 3405, 1715, 1605, 1600, 1580 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 3.47 (1H, dd, J=2.7, 12.1 Hz, C_9 -H), 3.81 (6H, s, 2 × OCH₃), 3.93 (1H, dd, J=3.0, 12.1 Hz, C_9 -H), 3.94 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.01 (1H, ddd, J=2.7, 3.0, 8.4 Hz, C_8 -H), 4.99 (2H, s, OCH₂Ph), 5.23 (1H, d, J=8.4 Hz, C_7 -H), 6.25 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C_3 -H), 6.67 (2H, s, C_2 -H and C_6 -H), 6.70 (1H, s, C_5 -H), 7.28—7.47 (5H, m, aromatic protons), 7.60 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C_4 -H), 9.28 (1H, br s, OH).

Aquillochin (1)—A mixture of 8a, b (135 mg), 35% HCl (2.0 ml), and acetic acid (2.0 ml) was heated at 60 °C for 15 min. The reaction mixture was poured into ice-water and extracted with AcOEt. The AcOEt layer was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated. The residue was purified by preparative TLC (CHCl₃-acetone (5:1)) to

3836 Vol. 36 (1988)

afford a solid, which was recrystallized from MeOH to give colorless needles (1, 38 mg, 35%). mp 238 °C (lit., 4) mp 255 °C). High-resolution MS m/z: 416.1106 Calcd for $C_{21}H_{20}O_9$ (M⁺). Found: 416.1110. MS m/z: 416 (M⁺), 398, 249, 210, 208, 193, 182, 180, 167, 154, 149. IR (KBr): 3420, 1710, 1690, 1610, 1575 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ : 3.42 (1H, dd, J=4.4, 12.4 Hz, C_9 -H), 3.68 (1H, br d, J=12.4 Hz, C_9 -H), 3.77 (6H, s, 2 × OCH₃), 3.79 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.37 (1H, m, C_8 -H), 4.97 (1H, d, J=8.1 Hz, C_7 -H), 5.08 (1H, br t, J=5.0 Hz, CH₂OH), 6.34 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C_3 -H), 6.76 (2H, s, C_2 -H and C_6 -H), 6.91 (1H, s, C_5 -H), 7.96 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C_4 -H), 8.57 (1H, br s, OH). ¹³C-NMR⁹ (pyridine- d_5) δ : 160.7 (C-2), 149.3 (C-3′ and C-5′), 146.4 (C-6), 144.4 (C-4), 139.3 (C-9), 138.5 (C-7), 133.1 (C-8), 126.4 (C-1′), 113.8 (C-3), 111.9 (C-10), 106.4 (C-2′ and C-6′), 101.1 (C-5), 79.9 (C-8′), 77.8 (C-7′), 60.7 (C-9′), 56.4 (2 × OCH₃), 56.2 (OCH₃).

Condensation of 5 with 9 (Formation of 10)—A solution of 5 (1.16 g) in acetonitrile (8.0 ml) was added dropwise to a mixture of 9^{2d} (690 mg) and *tert*-BuOK (410 mg) in acetonitrile (20 ml). The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 30 min. The reaction mixture was poured into ice-water and extracted with AcOEt. The AcOEt layer was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel (CHCl₃-acetone (20:1)) to give a colorless oil (10, 1.28 g, 81%). FAB-MS m/z: 655 (C₃₇H₃₄O₁₁ + H)⁺. IR (CHCl₃): 1735, 1680, 1590 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.15 (3H, t, J=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 3.71 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.81 (6H, s, $2 \times$ OCH₃), 4.18 (2H, q, J=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.11 (2H, s, OCH₂Ph), 5.18 (2H, s, OCH₂Ph), 5.86 (1H, s, C₈-H), 6.34 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C₃-H), 6.63 (1H, s, C₅-H), 7.35 (2H, s, C₂-H and C₆-H), 7.26—7.48 (10H, m, aromatic protons), 7.57 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C₄-H).

Catalytic Reduction of 10 (Formation of 11)—A suspension of 10 (115 mg) and 5% Pd–C (18 mg) in MeOH (10 ml) was stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere until the H_2 uptake had ceased. The catalyst was filtered off and the filtrate was evaporated to give an oil. The crude product was purified by preparative TLC (CHCl₃-MeOH (10:1)) and then recrystallized from MeOH to give colorless prisms (11, 75 mg, 90%). mp 216 °C. FAB-MS m/z: 475 ($C_{23}H_{22}O_{11} + H$)⁺. IR (KBr): 3440, 1720, 1610, 1580 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.24 (3H, t, J=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 3.82 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.97 (6H, s, 2 × OCH₃), 4.30 (2H, q, J=7.1 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 5.74 (1H, s, C_8 -H), 6.33 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C_3 -H), 6.45 (1H, s, C_5 -H), 7.47 (2H, s, C_2 -H and C_6 -H), 7.56 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C_4 -H), 8.40 (1H, br s, OH).

Reduction of 11 with Lithium Borohydride (Formation of 12a, b)—LiBH₄ (110 mg) was added gradually to a solution of 11 (500 mg) in dry THF (10 ml) at 0 °C and the resulting mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 10 min. The reaction mixture was poured into ice-water and extracted with AcOEt. The AcOEt layer was washed with water, dried over Na₂SO₄, and evaporated to give an oil. The oil was separated by column chromatography on silica gel (CHCl₃-MeOH (10:1)), yielding a pure product (12a, 204 mg, 45%) and a crude material (12b). The crude substance (12b) was purified by preparative TLC (CHCl₃-MeOH (10:1)) to give a pure product (12b, 18 mg, 4%).

12a: Amorphous solid. TLC (silica gel/CHCl₃-MeOH (10:1), Rf=0.35). FAB-MS m/z: 435 ($C_{21}H_{22}O_{10}+H$)⁺. IR (KBr): 3420, 1710, 1620, 1580 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (acetone- d_6) δ : 3.60 (1H, dd, J=3.7, 11.4 Hz, C_9 -H), 3.80 (6H, s, 2 × OCH₃), 3.91 (3H, s, OCH₃), 3.96 (1H, dd, J=7.4, 11.4 Hz, C_9 -H), 4.23 (1H, ddd, J=3.7, 3.7, 7.4 Hz, C_8 -H), 5.20 (1H, d, J=3.7 Hz, C_7 -H), 6.32 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C_3 -H), 6.78 (2H, s, C_2 -H and C_6 -H), 6.81 (1H, s, C_5 -H), 7.15 (1H, br s, OH), 7.87 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C_4 -H).

12b: Amorphous solid. TLC (silica gel/CHCl₃-MeOH (10:1), Rf = 0.38). FAB-MS m/z: 435 ($C_{21}H_{22}O_{10} + H$)⁺. IR (KBr): 3420, 1715, 1620, 1570 cm⁻¹. ¹H-NMR (acetone- d_6) δ : 3.47 (1H, dd, J = 5.7, 12.1 Hz, C_9 -H), 3.75 (1H, dd, J = 3.0, 12.1 Hz, C_9 -H), 3.82 (6H, s, 2 × OCH₃), 3.93 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.04 (1H, ddd, J = 3.0, 5.7, 7.7 Hz, C_8 -H), 5.06 (1H, d, J = 7.7 Hz, C_7 -H), 6.33 (1H, d, J = 9.4 Hz, C_3 -H), 6.81 (2H, s, C_2 -H and C_6 -H), 6.82 (1H, s, C_5 -H), 7.21 (1H, br s, OH), 7.87 (1H, d, J = 9.4 Hz, C_4 -H).

Cleomiscosin D (2)——A mixture of 12a, b (185 mg), 35% HCl (2.0 ml), and acetic acid (2.0 ml) was heated at 60 °C for 10 min. The reaction mixture was worked up according to the same procedure as described for 1 to give an oil. The crude substance was purified by preparative TLC (CHCl₃–MeOH (10:1)) to afford a solid. The solid was recrystallized from MeOH to give colorless prisms (2, 25 mg, 14%). mp 258 °C (lit., 5) mp 243—246 °C). High-resolution MS m/z: 416.1106 Calcd for $C_{21}H_{20}O_9$ (M $^+$). Found: 416.1107. MS m/z: 416 (M $^+$), 398, 249, 210, 208, 193, 182, 180, 167, 154, 149. IR (KBr): 3420, 1715, 1690, 1610, 1580 cm $^{-1}$. 1 H-NMR (DMSO- d_6) δ : 3.39 (1H, dd, J=4.4, 12.4 Hz, C_9 -H), 3.63 (1H, br d, J=12.4 Hz, C_9 -H), 3.78 (6H, s, 2 × OCH₃), 3.85 (3H, s, OCH₃), 4.37 (1H, m, C_8 -H), 4.96 (1H, d, J=8.1 Hz, C_7 -H), 5.04 (1H, br s, OH), 6.32 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C_3 -H), 6.77 (2H, s, C_2 -H and C_6 -H), 6.95 (1H, s, C_5 -H), 7.96 (1H, d, J=9.4 Hz, C_4 -H), 8.61 (1H, br s, OH). 13 C-NMR (pyridine- d_5) δ : 160.7 (C-2), 149.3 (C-3′ and C-5′), 146.2 (C-6), 144.3 (C-4), 139.4 (C-9), 138.6 (C-7), 133.1 (C-8), 126.4 (C-1′), 113.7 (C-3), 111.7 (C-10), 106.4 (C-2′ and C-6′), 101.1 (C-5), 80.1 (C-8′), 77.4 (C-7′), 61.0 (C-9′), 56.3 (2 × OCH₃), 56.1 (OCH₃).

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References and Notes

1) Because of our interest in the biological activities of coumarinolignoids, we have developed convenient syntheses

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