

Two Novel 14-Nor-13,14-secopodocarpanes from the Bark of *Taiwania cryptomeriodes*

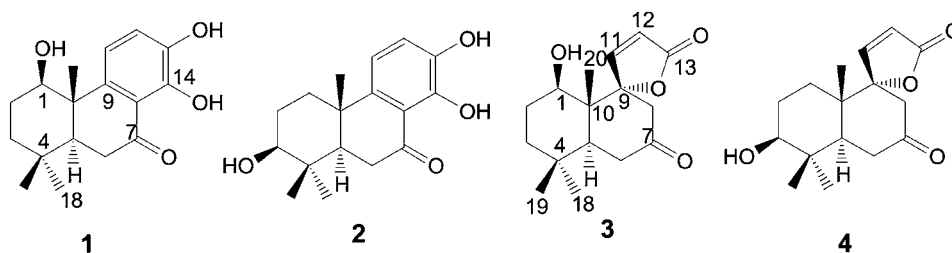
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The two novel compounds cryptomelactones A (**3**) and B (**4**) were isolated from the bark of *Taiwania cryptomeriodes*, besides the two known podocarpane derivatives 1 β ,13,14-trihydroxypodocarpa-8,11,13-trien-7-one (**1**) and 3 β ,13,14-trihydroxypodocarpa-8,11,13-trien-7-one (**2**), and were characterized by spectroscopic means including 2D-NMR techniques. Compounds **3** and **4** are novel-14-nor-13,14-seco-podocarpanes. The absolute configurations of **3** and **4** were determined by the modified *Mosher* method. The biotransformation mechanism of **3** and **4** is proposed.

1. Introduction. – The plant of *Taiwania cryptomeriodes* HAYATA (Taxodiaceae) is an endemic plant in Taiwan with one genus and one species. It is a decay-resistant and economical building material. In earlier days, we have investigated the phytochemical principles of its heartwood [1–3] and barks [4–5], and found various sesquiterpenes, lignans, and abietane-type diterpenes. *Kamil et al.* [6] have described the bis-flavones found in its leaves. Recently, many other compounds have been obtained from its leaves, including several novel structural skeletons as described by *Lin et al.* [7–10]. Podocarpane-diterpene derivatives are not very common. The genus *Azadirachta* [11–15], *Humirianther* [16], *Micrandropsis* [17], and *Podocarpus* [18] contain plenty of podocarpane derivatives. Podocarpane derivatives have not been discovered in *T. cryptomeriodes* previously. The 1 β ,13,14-trihydroxypodocarpa-8,11,13-trien-7-one (**1**) [10] was isolated for the first time from its leaves. Because the mother fraction of nimbionone and nimbionol (podocarpane diterpenes) showed significant antibacterial activity [13] and because of the many novel skeletons [7–10] isolated from the leaves of *T. cryptomeriodes*, we were encouraged to study the chemical constituents of its bark again, and we found twenty-three new podocarpane derivatives [19–23]. Among them, four components, including 3 β ,13,14-trihydroxypodocarpa-8,11,13-trien-7-one (**2**), exhibited significant antioxidative properties [23]. Further detailed reinvestigation of the same extract from the bark of this plant now yielded two novel compounds, namely cryptomelactone A (**3**) and B (**4**) besides the two known podocarpatrienones **1** and **2**. These two novel compounds have a 14-nor-13,14-secopodocarpane skeleton.

2. Results and Discussion. – Cryptomelactone A (**3**) was isolated as colorless crystals. Its molecular formula C₁₆H₂₂O₄ was established by ¹³C-NMR and HR-EI-MS data and corresponded to six indices of hydrogen deficiency. Further spectral data (IR, UV, ¹H-NMR, COSY, HMQC, HMBC, and NOESY) established the structure of cryptomelactone A to be 1 β -hydroxy-7-oxo-14-nor-13,14-secopodocarp-11-en-13,9 α -olactone (**3**). The absolute configuration of **3** was determined by the modified *Mosher*



method [24]. Treatment of **3** with (αR)- and (αS)- α -methoxy- α -(trifluoromethyl)benzeneacetyl chloride (MTPACl) afforded the (αS)- and (αR)-MTPA esters of **3**. The $\Delta\delta$ values ($\delta(S)-\delta(R)$) of Me(18) (-4.2), Me(19) (-11.9), and Me(20) (-3.8) showed negative values, thus indicating (1*R*,5*S*)-configuration of **3** (see Fig. 1).

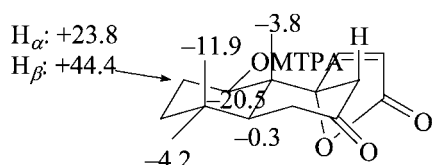
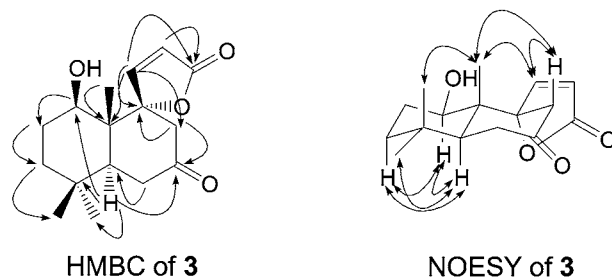


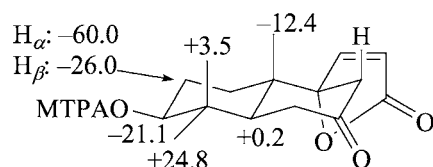
Fig. 1. $\Delta\delta$ Values ($\Delta\delta$ [Hz] = $\delta_S - \delta_R$) obtained for the (αS)- and (αR)-MTPA esters of **3**

The IR spectrum of compound **3** indicated the presence of a cyclohexanone (1715 cm^{-1}) and conjugated γ -lactone moiety (1749 cm^{-1}) as well as of an OH group (3330 cm^{-1}). The UV absorption band in MeCN at 217.5 nm confirmed the conjugated γ -lactone. The $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum (Table) exhibited signals for three Me groups (*s* at δ 0.87 (Me(18)), 0.89 (Me(19)), and 1.26 (Me(20))), a CH proton (δ 3.50 (*t*, H-C(1))), two olefinic protons with mutual coupling (δ 5.93 and 7.67 (*2d*, each $J = 5.6\text{ Hz}$, H-C(12) and H-C(11))). Two geminal protons were assigned as neighboring a ketone group due to their chemical shifts and coupling constants (δ 2.86 (*d*, $J = 16.2\text{ Hz}$, $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(8)$) and 2.06 (*dd*, $J = 16.2, 1.2\text{ Hz}$, $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(8)$)). Also, the signals at δ 2.51 (*ddd*, $J = 15.0, 4.0, 1.2\text{ Hz}$, $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(6)$) and 2.38 (*dd*, $J = 15.0, 13.8\text{ Hz}$, $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(6)$) arose from geminal protons vicinal to a ketone group. The signals at δ 2.51 and 2.06 exhibited a W-form coupling ($J = 1.2\text{ Hz}$) suggesting that **3** contains a cyclohexanone moiety. The COSY data allowed to assign H-C(5) to a methine proton at δ 2.10 (*dd*, $J = 13.8, 4.0\text{ Hz}$). Two $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ signals at δ 172.0 and 205.9 (Table) were attributed to the γ -lactone and cyclohexanone C=O group, respectively. Only two oxygenated C-atoms appeared at δ 70.1 (CH(1)) and 93.5 (C(9)). The quaternary C-atom at δ 93.5 as well as the *d* of H-C(11) (coupling only with H-C(12)) indicated that the γ -lactone is a spiro γ -lactone. The COSY experiment established the consecutive proton signals of H-C(1) and H-C(2) (δ 1.64, *m*, 2 H), and $\text{CH}_2(3)$ (δ 1.32 and 1.43). By the aid of HMQC and DEPT techniques, the correlation of C- and H-atoms was recognized. Further analysis of the HMBC correlations (Fig. 2) confirmed the proposed structure of **3**. As to its relative configuration, the NOESY correlations H-C(5)/Me(18), $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(3)$, and $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(1)$ as well as Me(20)/Me(19) and $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(8)$ (Fig. 2) confirmed the *trans*-fused A-B ring system. The NOESY correlations H-C(11)/Me(20) and $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(8)$ established the β -equatorial orientation of the olefinic function.

Cryptomelactone B (**4**) was given the molecular formula $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_4$ as deduced from the HR-EI-MS and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ data (Table). Similarly to **3**, the structure of cryptomelactone B (**4**) was elucidated as 3 β -hydroxy-7-oxo-14-nor-13,14-secopodocarp-11-en-13,9 α -olactone and its absolute configuration (3*S*,5*S*) determined ($\Delta\delta$ positive for Me(18) ($+24.8$) and Me(19) ($+3.5$) and negative for Me(20) (-12.4); Fig. 3.

Fig. 2. Key HMBC and NOESY correlations of **3**Table. NMR Data of **3** and **4**. CDCl₃ Solutions; at 500 (¹H) and 125 MHz (¹³C); δ in ppm, J in Hz.

	3		4	
	δ (H)	δ (C)	δ (H)	δ (C)
H–C(1) or CH ₂ (1)	3.50 (<i>t</i> , $J = 7.7$)	70.1	1.17 (<i>dt</i> , $J = 13.5, 3.2$), 1.34 (<i>td</i> , $J = 13.5$, 4.3)	29.5
CH ₂ (2)	1.64 (<i>m</i>)	28.3	1.63 (<i>m</i>), 1.68 (<i>m</i>)	26.5
CH ₂ (3) or H–C(3)	1.32 (<i>m</i>), 1.43 (<i>dt</i> , $J = 13.2, 3.1$)	38.7	3.28 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 11.4, 4.6$)	77.2
C(4)	–	33.3	–	39.3
H–C(5)	2.10 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 13.8, 4.0$)	45.3	2.10 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 14.0, 3.8$)	45.1
CH ₂ (6)	2.38 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 15.0, 13.8$), 2.51 (<i>ddd</i> , $J = 15.0, 4.0, 1.2$)	37.9	2.39 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 15.6, 14.0$), 2.55 (<i>ddd</i> , $J = 15.6, 3.8, 1.4$)	38.2
C(7)	–	205.9	–	205.7
CH ₂ (8)	2.06 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 16.2, 1.2$), 2.86 (<i>d</i> , $J = 16.2$)	47.2	2.17 (<i>dd</i> , $J = 16.1, 1.4$), 2.90 (<i>d</i> , $J = 16.1$)	46.3
C(9)	–	93.5	–	94.4
C(10)	–	47.2	–	40.4
H–C(11)	7.67 (<i>d</i> , $J = 5.6$)	159.9	7.42 (<i>d</i> , $J = 5.7$)	155.5
H–C(12)	5.93 (<i>d</i> , $J = 5.6$)	118.1	6.13 (<i>d</i> , $J = 5.7$)	122.9
C(13)	–	172.0	–	171.1
Me(18)	0.87 (<i>s</i>)	31.8	1.00 (<i>s</i>)	27.3
Me(19)	0.89 (<i>s</i>)	20.9	0.88 (<i>s</i>)	15.0
Me(20)	1.26 (<i>s</i>)	12.2	1.29 (<i>s</i>)	17.5

Fig. 3. $\Delta\delta$ Values ($\Delta\delta$ [Hz] = $\delta_S - \delta_R$) obtained for the (α S)- and (α R)-MTPA esters of **4**

In the IR spectrum of **4**, OH (3459 cm⁻¹), cyclohexanone (1714 cm⁻¹), and γ -lactone (1768 and 1748 cm⁻¹) absorption bands were present. The UV absorption band at 208.5 nm (MeCN) confirmed the presence of a γ -lactone. The ¹³C-NMR signals (Table) at δ 171.1 and 205.7 arose from the above-mentioned two functionalities. Two mutually coupling olefinic proton signals at δ (H) 6.13 (*d*, $J = 5.7$ Hz, H–C(12)) and 7.42 (*d*, $J = 5.7$ Hz, H–C(11)) showed HMBC cross-peaks with δ (C) 94.4 (oxygenated quaternary C(9)) and 171.1 (C(13)), establishing the presence of a spiro γ -lactone. The ¹H-NMR spectrum (Table) showed signals for 3 Me groups (*s* at δ 1.00 (Me(18)), 0.88 (Me(19)), and 1.29 (Me(20))) and a CH proton (δ 3.28 (*dd*, $J = 11.4, 4.6$ Hz, H–C(3))).

Two geminal protons at δ 2.17 (*dd*, $J = 16.1, 1.4$ Hz, $H_a-C(8)$) and 2.90 (*d*, $J = 16.1$ Hz, $H_\beta-C(8)$) were assigned to those between a carbonyl and a quaternary C-atom due to their chemical shifts, coupling constants, and HMBC correlations to δ 94.4 and 205.7 (*Fig. 4*). A typical *ABX* pattern appeared at δ 2.10 (*dd*, $J = 14.0, 3.8$ Hz, $H-C(5)$), 2.55 (*ddd*, $J = 15.6, 3.8, 1.4$ Hz, $H_a-C(6)$), and 2.39 (*dd*, $J = 15.6, 14.0$ Hz, $H_\beta-C(6)$) and was assigned by the HMBC data. $H_a-C(8)$ and $H_a-C(6)$ exhibited the W-form coupling, suggesting the presence of a cyclohexanone moiety in **4**. The OH group was assigned to C(3) since C(4) of **4** appeared at lower field than C(4) of **3**, and $H-C(3)$ of **4** exhibited NOESY interactions with Me(18) and $H-C(5)$ (*Fig. 4*). The relative configuration of **4** was revealed by the NOESY correlations (*Fig. 4*).

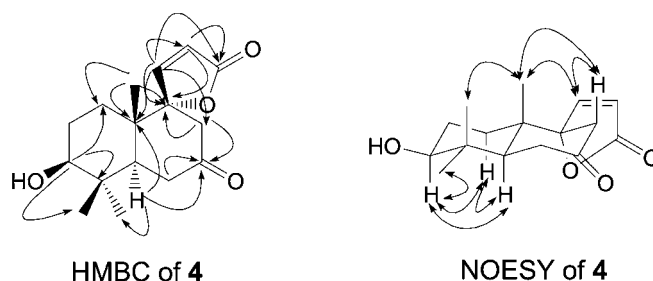
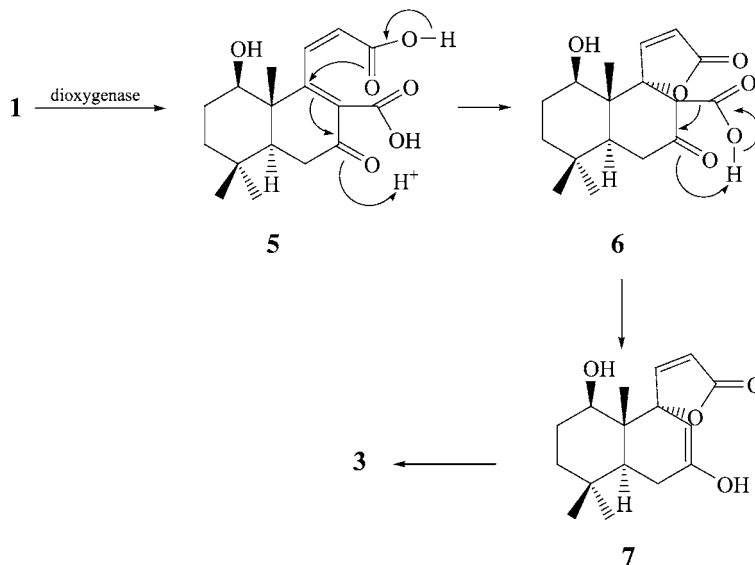


Fig. 4. Key HMBC and NOESY correlations of **4**

We propose that the biotransformation to **3** and **4** starts from **1** and **2**, respectively, as shown in the *Scheme*. Oxidation of **1** by dioxygenase would yield **5** which would be converted to spiro γ -lactone **6** under acidic conditions. Compound **6** contains a α -keto acid difunctionality, which can be decarboxylated [25] spontaneously to produce enol **7**. After tautomerization, **3** is formed. Compound **4** is supposed to be formed from **2** via the same pathway.

Scheme. Proposed Biogenetic Pathway for the Formation of **3**



The authors thank the *National Science Council of the Republic of China* for financial support, and thank Ms *Shou-Ling Huang* for NMR measurement.

Experimental Part

General. Column chromatography (CC): silica gel (*Merck* 70–230 mesh, 230–400 mesh, ASTM). Semi-prep. normal-phase HPLC: 250 × 10 mm column (5 µm, *LiChrosorb Si 60*); *LDC Analytical-III*. M.p.: *Yanagimoto* micro-melting-point apparatus; uncorrected. Optical rotations: *Jasco DIP-180* digital polarimeter. UV Spectra: *Hitachi S-3200* spectrometer; λ_{\max} in nm (log ϵ). ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR Spectra: *Bruker DMX-500* spectrometer; CDCl_3 solns. at 25°; δ values with ref. to the signal of CDCl_3 , with Me_4Si as internal standard; δ in ppm, J in Hz. EI-MS and HR-EI-MS: *Finnigan TSQ-46C* and *Jeol SX-102A* mass spectrometer, respectively; in m/z (rel. %).

Plant Material. The bark of *T. cryptomerioides* was collected in Tai-Chun, Taiwan, in 1996. The plant material was identified by Mr. *Muh-Tsuen Gun*, formerly a technician of the Department of Botany, National Taiwan University. A voucher specimen (No. 013542) has been deposited at the Herbarium of the Department of Botany of the National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan.

Extraction and Isolation. Air-dried pieces of the bark of *T. cryptomerioides* (12 kg) were extracted with acetone (3 × 60 l) at r.t. (7 d for each batch). The acetone extract was evaporated to leave a black residue, which was suspended in H_2O (8 l) and then extracted 3 × with 1 l of AcOEt . The AcOEt extract (360 g) was submitted to CC (silica gel, hexane/ AcOEt of increasing polarity) and further purified by HPLC (hexane/ AcOEt 2:8): pure 1 β ,13,14-trihydroxypodocarpa-8,11,13-trien-7-one (**1**; 40 mg), 3 β ,13,14-trihydroxypodocarpa-8,11,13-trien-7-one (**2**; 12 mg), cryptomelactone A (**3**; 16 mg), and cryptomelactone B (**4**; 4 mg).

(1R,5S,9S,10R)-1 β -Hydroxy-7-oxo-14-nor-13,14-secopodocarp-11-en-13,9 α -olactone (=Cryptomelactone A = (1'S,4'aS,8'R,8'aR)-4'a,5',6',7',8',8'a-Hexahydro-8'-hydroxy-5',5',8'a-trimethylspiro[furan-2(5H),1'(2'H)-naphthalene]-3',5(4'H)-dione; **3**): White powder. M.p. 189–191°. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -20.3$ ($c = 0.91$, CHCl_3). UV (MeCN): 217.5 (3.76). IR (film): 3330, 1749, 1715, 1013, 825. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR: Table. EI-MS: 278 (60, M^+), 260 (46), 181 (67), 162 (78), 139 (60), 121 (79), 97 (88), 81 (100). HR-EI-MS: 278.1510 ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_4^+$; calc. 278.1512).

Mosher Esters of 3. To a CH_2Cl_2 soln. (100 µl) of **3** (1.2 mg) were added *N,N*-dimethylpyridin-4-amine (25 µg), Et_3N (10 µl), and (αR)-MTPACl (5 µl) at r.t., and stirring was continued for 3 h. After the addition of Et_3N (10 µl) and evaporation the residue was submitted to CC (silica gel, acetone/ CH_2Cl_2 1:9): (αS)-MTPA ester of **3** (1.2 mg). Amorphous solid. ^1H -NMR: 0.87 (s , Me(18)); 0.90 (s , Me(19)); 1.26 (s , Me(20)); 1.30 (m , $\text{H}_a\text{--C}(3)$); 1.45 (dt , $J = 13.2$, 3.1, $\text{H}_\beta\text{--C}(3)$); 1.73 (m , $\text{H}_a\text{--C}(2)$); 1.93 (m , $\text{H}_\beta\text{--C}(2)$); 2.04 (d , $J = 16.2$, $\text{H}_a\text{--C}(8)$); 2.21 (dd , $J = 13.8$, 4.0, $\text{H--C}(5)$); 2.38 (dd , $J = 15.0$, 13.8, $\text{H}_\beta\text{--C}(6)$); 2.50 (dd , $J = 15.0$, 4.0, $\text{H}_a\text{--C}(6)$); 2.85 (d , $J = 16.2$, $\text{H}_\beta\text{--C}(8)$); 3.48 (s , $\text{MeO--C}(\alpha)$); 4.88 (t , $J = 7.7$, $\text{H--C}(1)$); 5.92 (d , $J = 5.6$, $\text{H--C}(12)$); 7.40 (m , 3 H); 7.47 (m , 2 H); 7.67 (d , $J = 5.6$, $\text{H--C}(11)$). EI-MS: 494 (4, M^+), 261 (40), 189 (100), 137 (90).

Compound **3** (1.2 mg) was treated with (αS)-MTPACl (5 µl) as described above: (αR)-MTPA ester of **3** (1.2 mg). Amorphous solid. ^1H -NMR: 0.88 (s , Me(18)); 0.93 (s , Me(19)); 1.27 (s , Me(20)); 1.29 (m , $\text{H}_a\text{--C}(3)$); 1.43 (dt , $J = 13.2$, 3.1, $\text{H}_\beta\text{--C}(3)$); 1.62 (m , $\text{H}_a\text{--C}(2)$); 1.87 (m , $\text{H}_\beta\text{--C}(2)$); 2.03 (d , $J = 16.2$, $\text{H}_a\text{--C}(8)$); 2.21 (dd , $J = 13.8$, 4.0, $\text{H--C}(5)$); 2.39 (dd , $J = 15.0$, 13.8, $\text{H}_\beta\text{--C}(6)$); 2.50 (dd , $J = 15.0$, 4.0, $\text{H}_a\text{--C}(6)$); 2.89 (d , $J = 16.2$, $\text{H}_\beta\text{--C}(8)$); 3.52 (s , $\text{MeO--C}(\alpha)$); 4.93 (t , $J = 7.7$, $\text{H--C}(1)$); 5.90 (d , $J = 5.6$, $\text{H--C}(12)$); 7.39 (m , 3 H); 7.49 (m , 2 H); 7.67 (d , $J = 5.6$, $\text{H--C}(11)$). EI-MS: 494 (2, M^+), 261 (32), 189 (100), 137 (78).

(3S,5S,9S,10S)-3 β -Hydroxy-7-oxo-14-nor-13,14-secopodocarp-11-en-13,9 α -olactone (=Cryptomelactone B = (1'S,4'aS,6'S,8'aS)-4'a,5',6',7',8',8'a-Hexahydro-6'-hydroxy-5',5',8'a-trimethylspiro[furan-2(5H),1'(2'H)-naphthalene]-3',5(4'H)-dione; **4**). Amorphous solid. $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -3.7$ ($c = 0.22$, CHCl_3). UV (MeCN): 208.5 (3.87). IR (film): 3459, 1768, 1748, 1714. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR: Table. EI-MS: 278 (40, M^+), 260 (37), 140 (57), 121 (100). HR-EI-MS: 278.1519 ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_4^+$; calc. 278.1512).

Mosher Esters of 4. As described for the Mosher esters of **3**, with CH_2Cl_2 (100 µl) **4** (1.0 mg), *N,N*-dimethylpyridin-4-amine (25 µg), Et_3N (10 µl), (αR)-MTPACl (5 µl), and Et_3N (10 µl): (αS)-MTPA ester of **4** (1.2 mg). Amorphous solid. ^1H -NMR: 0.88 (s , Me(19)); 0.90 (s , Me(18)); 1.29 (s , Me(20)); 1.19 (m , $\text{H}_\beta\text{--C}(1)$); 1.49 (m , $\text{H}_a\text{--C}(1)$); 1.65 (m , $\text{H}_a\text{--C}(2)$); 1.86 (m , $\text{H}_\beta\text{--C}(2)$); 2.19 (dd , $J = 16.2$, 1.8, $\text{H}_a\text{--C}(8)$); 2.22 (dd , $J = 13.6$, 3.8, $\text{H--C}(5)$); 2.37 (dd , $J = 15.7$, 13.6, $\text{H}_\beta\text{--C}(6)$); 2.54 (ddd , $J = 15.7$, 3.8, 1.8, $\text{H}_a\text{--C}(6)$); 2.89 (d , $J = 16.2$, $\text{H}_\beta\text{--C}(8)$); 3.47 (s , $\text{MeO--C}(\alpha)$); 4.67 (dd , $J = 11.7$, 4.3, $\text{H--C}(3)$); 6.16 (d , $J = 5.7$, $\text{H--C}(12)$); 7.40 (m , 3 H); 7.42 (d , $J = 5.7$, $\text{H--C}(11)$); 7.48 (m , 2 H). EI-MS: 494 (3, M^+), 261 (36), 189 (100), 137 (87).

Compound **4** (1.0 mg) was treated with (*aS*)-MTPACl (5 μ l) as described above: (*aR*)-MTPA ester of **4** (1.2 mg). Amorphous solid. $^1\text{H-NMR}$: 0.83 (s, Me(19)); 0.89 (s, Me(18)); 1.32 (s, Me(20)); 1.20 (m, $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(1)$); 1.50 (m, $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(1)$); 1.76 (m, $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(2)$); 1.92 (m, $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(2)$); 2.19 (dd, $J = 16.2, 1.7$, $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(8)$); 2.22 (dd, $J = 13.8, 3.8$, $\text{H-C}(5)$); 2.37 (dd, $J = 15.7, 13.8$, $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(6)$); 2.54 (ddd, $J = 15.7, 3.8, 1.7$, $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(6)$); 2.89 (d, $J = 16.2$, $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(8)$); 3.53 (s, $\text{MeO-C}(\alpha)$); 4.71 (dd, $J = 11.9, 4.3$, $\text{H-C}(3)$); 6.16 (d, $J = 5.7$, $\text{H-C}(12)$); 7.38 (m, 3 H); 7.41 (d, $J = 5.7$, $\text{H-C}(11)$); 7.50 (m, 2 H). EI-MS: 494 (2, M^+), 261 (30), 189 (100), 137 (90).

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