

Novel Triterpenoids from the Aerial Roots of *Ficus microcarpa*

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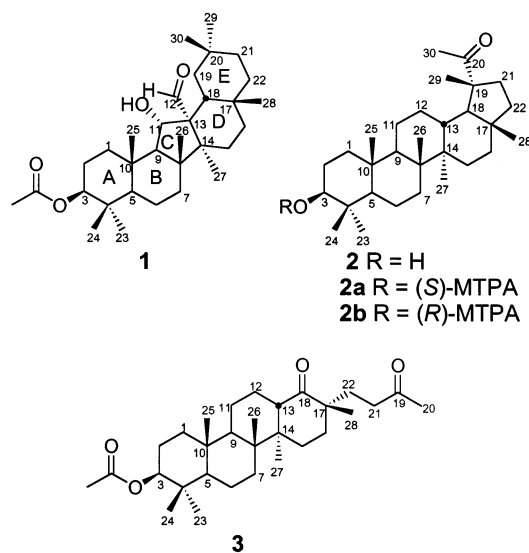
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Three novel triterpenoids, 3 $\beta$ -acetoxy-11 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-11(12 $\rightarrow$ 13)abeooleanan-12-al (**1**), 3 $\beta$ -hydroxy-20-oxo-29(20 $\rightarrow$ 19)abeolupane (**2**), and 29,30-dinor-3 $\beta$ -acetoxy-18,19-dioxo-18,19-secolupane (**3**), and the known **4**, **5a**, and **5b** were isolated from the aerial roots of *Ficus microcarpa*. Their structures were elucidated on the basis of 2D NMR and X-ray diffraction experiments. Compound **1**, derived from the oleanane skeleton, has an unusual five-membered C ring. Compounds **2** and **3**, derived from the lupane skeleton, have unique skeletons that may arise from the same biogenetic pathway.

## Introduction

*Ficus microcarpa* L. f. (Moraceae) is a popular ornamental plant in Taiwan. Phytochemical studies of this plant have led to the identification of triterpenoids from the leaves,<sup>1</sup> fruits,<sup>2</sup> bark,<sup>3</sup> and aerial roots.<sup>4</sup> In the present study, three novel triterpenoids **1–3**, which have unique skeletons, were isolated from the aerial roots. The structural elucidation and proposed biogenetic pathways of these compounds are reported here.



## Results and Discussion

Compound **1** was isolated as a colorless solid. The molecular formula  $C_{32}H_{52}O_4$  was established by its  $^{13}C$  NMR and HREIMS data, representing seven indices of hydrogen deficiency (IHD). The IR spectrum of **1** showed absorptions for hydroxyl ( $3520\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and acetoxy ( $1734$ ,  $1248\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) functionalities. The  $^1H$  NMR (Table 1) spectrum in  $CDCl_3$  exhibited signals for eight singlet methyl groups [ $\delta_H$  0.74, 0.83, 0.85, 0.91, 0.95, 1.02, 1.04, 1.06], one acetoxy group [ $\delta_H$  2.02 (s)], one methine proton attached with the acetoxy group [ $\delta_H$  4.49 (dd,  $J = 8.4$ , 8.0 Hz, H-3)], one carbonyl proton [ $\delta_H$  3.81 (td,  $J = 12.0$ , 1.6 Hz, H-11)], an exchangeable hydroxyl proton [ $\delta_H$  4.00 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz)], and one aldehyde [ $\delta_H$  9.81 (d,  $J = 1.6$  Hz, H-12)].  $^{13}C$  NMR (Table 1) and DEPT spectra of **1** indicated nine  $CH_3$ , nine  $CH_2$ , six  $CH$ , and eight  $C$ , including one acetoxy ( $\delta_C$  21.3, 170.9), one aldehyde ( $\delta_C$  209.3), and two carbons to which oxygen was attached ( $\delta_C$  80.7, 82.2). Because the IHD of **1** was seven including one acetoxy and one aldehyde functionality, the number of rings in **1** should be five. The structure of **1** was proposed as an oleanane derivative on the basis of  $^{13}C$  NMR data similar to that of the oleanane derivatives isolated from the same source.<sup>4b</sup> Besides eight singlet methyl groups, an additional aldehyde gave a suggestion that one of the six-membered rings was constricted to form a five-membered ring and an aldehyde. Comparison of the  $^{13}C$  NMR data between **1** and **4**<sup>4b</sup> revealed that the obvious difference was in ring C. 12-Oleanene derivatives with C-11 $\alpha$  OH, OMe, or OEt will have H-1 $\beta$  shifted downfield to about  $\delta_H$  2.<sup>4b</sup> Compound **1** showed H-1 $\beta$  at  $\delta_H$  2.28 (dt,  $J = 14.0$ , 3.6 Hz), suggesting the C-11 $\alpha$  position for the hydroxyl group. An HMBC experiment confirmed the assigned structure (Table 1). NOESY correlations of the aldehydic proton (H-12) with H-19 $\alpha$ , H<sub>3</sub>-27, and H<sub>3</sub>-29 indicated that the aldehyde was  $\alpha$ -oriented. The hydroxyl proton absorbed at  $\delta_H$  4.00 (d,  $J = 12.0$  Hz), indicating a hydrogen bond to the aldehyde and proving the relative stereochemistry of H-11 $\alpha$  and CHO-12 (Figure 1). This rigid conformation gave the  $\angle HOCH$  close to  $180^\circ$ , consistent with the 12.0 Hz coupling constant, and causing the W form coupling between H-11

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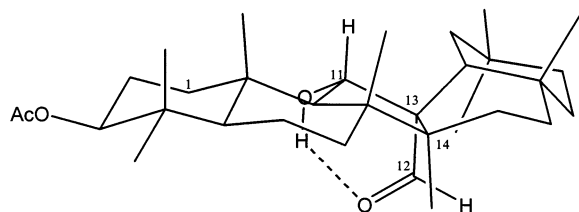
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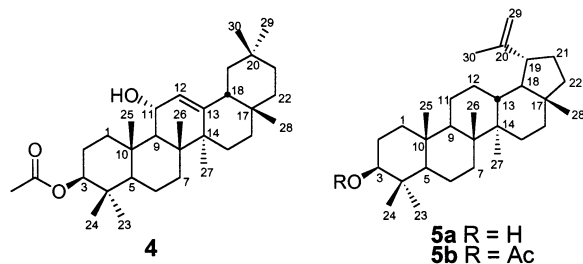
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**TABLE 1.** NMR Data for Compound **1** (100 and 400 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, *J* in Hz)

position	$\delta_C$ , mult	$\delta_H$	HMBC	COSY	NOESY
1	39.1 t	2.28 dt (14.0, 3.6, $H_\beta$ ), 1.25 <sup>a</sup> ( $H_\alpha$ )	H <sub>3</sub> -25	H1 $\alpha$ , H <sub>2</sub> -2 H1 $\alpha$ , H <sub>2</sub> -2	H1 $\alpha$ , H <sub>2</sub> -2, OH H1 $\beta$ , H <sub>3</sub> , OH
2	23.4 t	1.63 <sup>a</sup>		H3	H1 $\beta$ , H <sub>3</sub>
3	80.7 d	4.49 dd (8.4, 8.0)	H <sub>3</sub> -23, H <sub>3</sub> -24	H <sub>2</sub> -2	H1 $\alpha$ , H <sub>2</sub> -2, H <sub>5</sub> , H <sub>3</sub> -23
4	37.4 s		H <sub>3</sub> -23, H <sub>3</sub> -24		
5	56.2 d	0.83 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>3</sub> -23, H <sub>3</sub> -24, H <sub>3</sub> -25		H <sub>3</sub>
6	18.5 t	1.55 <sup>a</sup> , 1.40 <sup>a</sup>			
7	35.9 t	1.30–1.50 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>3</sub> -26		
8	44.4 s		H <sub>9</sub> , H <sub>3</sub> -26, H <sub>3</sub> -27		
9	58.6 d	1.48 d (12.0)	H11, H <sub>3</sub> -25, H <sub>3</sub> -26	H11	OH
10	37.9 s		H <sub>3</sub> -25		
11	82.2 d	3.81 td (12.0, 1.6)	H <sub>9</sub> , H12	H <sub>9</sub> , H12, OH	H18, H19 $\beta$ , H <sub>3</sub> -25, H <sub>3</sub> -26
12	209.3 d	9.81 d (1.6)	H11, H18	H11	H19 $\alpha$ , H <sub>3</sub> -27, H <sub>3</sub> -29
13	62.2 s		H11, H12, H18, H <sub>3</sub> -27		
14	51.2 s		H <sub>3</sub> -26, H <sub>3</sub> -27		
15	26.0 t	1.98 <sup>a</sup> , 0.95 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>3</sub> -27	H <sub>2</sub> -16	H <sub>2</sub> -16
16	34.4 t	1.60 <sup>a</sup> , 1.20 <sup>a</sup>	H18, H <sub>3</sub> -28	H <sub>2</sub> -15	H <sub>2</sub> -15
17	32.9 s		H <sub>3</sub> -28		
18	47.1 d	1.64 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> -19, H <sub>3</sub> -28	H <sub>2</sub> -19	H11, H19 $\beta$
19	33.7 t	1.93 <sup>a</sup> ( $H_\beta$ ), 1.40 <sup>a</sup> ( $H_\alpha$ )	H <sub>3</sub> -29, H <sub>3</sub> -30	H18, H19 $\alpha$ H18, H19 $\beta$	H11, H18, H <sub>3</sub> -30 H12
20	29.0 s		H <sub>3</sub> -29, H <sub>3</sub> -30		
21	35.4 t	1.30–1.50 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>3</sub> -29, H <sub>3</sub> -30		
22	36.4 t	1.30–1.50 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>3</sub> -28		
23	28.2 q	0.83 s	H <sub>3</sub> , H <sub>3</sub> -24		H <sub>3</sub>
24	16.5 q	0.85 s	H <sub>3</sub> , H <sub>3</sub> -23		H <sub>3</sub> -25
25	16.8 q	1.02 s			H11, H <sub>3</sub> -24
26	20.7 q	1.04 s			H11
27	23.4 q	0.95 s			H12
28	27.9 q	1.06 s			
29	28.3 q	0.74 s	H <sub>3</sub> -30		H12
30	34.8 q	0.91 s	H <sub>3</sub> -29		H19 $\beta$
CH <sub>3</sub> CO	170.9 s		CH <sub>3</sub> CO		
CH <sub>3</sub> CO	21.3 q	2.02 s			
OH		4.00 d (12.0)			H <sub>2</sub> -1, H <sub>9</sub>

<sup>a</sup> Data obtained from HMQC spectrum.**FIGURE 1.** Hydrogen bonding conformation of **1**.

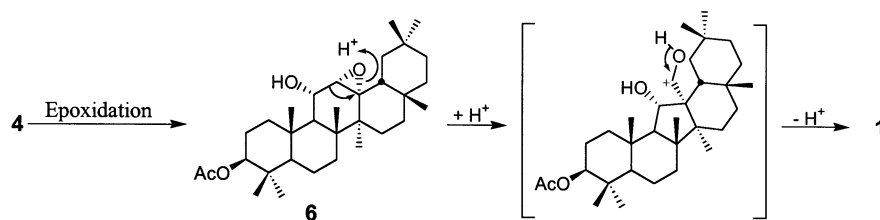
and H-12 (–CHO) of 1.6 Hz. After the addition of D<sub>2</sub>O in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution, the signal at  $\delta_H$  4.00 disappeared and the signal of H-11 ( $\delta_H$  3.81) become a double doublet ( $J$  = 12.0, 1.6 Hz). Therefore, compound **1** was unambiguously assigned as 3 $\beta$ -acetoxy-11 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-11(12–13)-abeooleanan-12-al. The biosynthesis of this new skeleton may occur from compound **4**, which is oxidized with monooxygenase to give **6**. Opening the epoxide with ring contraction gives compound **1** (Scheme 1).



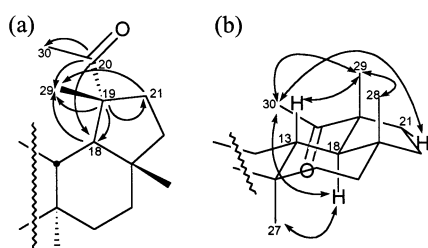
Compound **2**, a colorless solid, analyzed for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>50</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, which required IHD six on the basis of its combined HREIMS and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra. Its IR spectrum showed hydroxyl (3442 cm<sup>–1</sup>) and ketone (1705 cm<sup>–1</sup>) functionalities. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (Table 2) of **2** exhibited signals for seven singlet methyl groups [ $\delta_H$  0.74, 0.80, 0.94, 0.94, 0.97, 1.01, 1.20], one acetyl group [ $\delta_H$  2.12], a methine proton [ $\delta_H$  1.95 (d,  $J$  = 12.0 Hz, H-18)], and one carbonyl proton [ $\delta_H$  3.16 (dd,  $J$  = 11.2, 4.8 Hz, H-3)]. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum exhibited 30 signals (eight CH<sub>3</sub>, ten CH<sub>2</sub>, five CH, and seven C) including one acetyl ketone ( $\delta_C$  213.9, C-20) and one oxygenated carbon ( $\delta_C$  78.9, C-3). Lupenol (**5a**),<sup>5</sup> isolated from the same source, has similar <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data (Table 2) for the A, B, and C rings. Thus, structure **2** may be derived from a lupane-type triterpene. In the HMBC spectrum (Table 2), the long-range <sup>13</sup>C–<sup>1</sup>H correlations C-18/H<sub>3</sub>-29; C-19/H-18, H-21 $\beta$ , H<sub>3</sub>-29; C-20/H-18, H<sub>3</sub>-29, H<sub>3</sub>-30; and C-21/H<sub>3</sub>-29 established the partial structure on the E ring (Figure 2a). NOESY correlations for H<sub>3</sub>-27/H-18; H<sub>3</sub>-28/H<sub>3</sub>-29; and H<sub>3</sub>-30/H-18, H-21 $\alpha$ , H<sub>3</sub>-29 suggested that CH<sub>3</sub>-29 should be on the same face as H-13 and CH<sub>3</sub>-28 (Figure 2b). This novel structure was confirmed by a single-crystal X-ray diffraction study (Figure 3). The absolute configuration of **2** was determined by the modified Mosher's method.<sup>6</sup>

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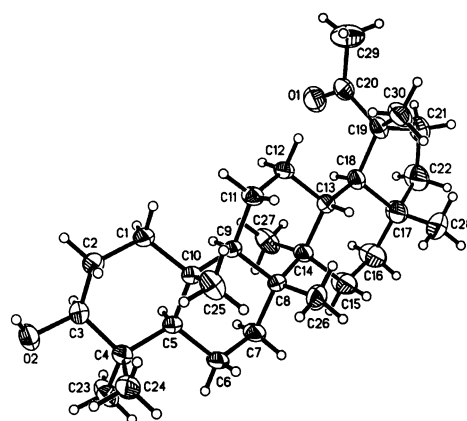
SCHEME 1. Proposed Mechanism for Biosynthesis of **1** from **4**TABLE 2. NMR Data for Compound **2** (100 and 400 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, *J* in Hz)

position	$\delta_C$ , mult	$\delta_H$	HMBC	COSY	NOESY
1	38.6 t	1.63 <sup>a</sup> , 0.88 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>3</sub> -25		
2	27.4 t	1.58 <sup>a</sup>		H3	H3
3	78.9 d	3.16 dd (11.2, 4.8)	H <sub>3</sub> -23, H <sub>3</sub> -24	H <sub>2</sub> -2	H <sub>2</sub> -2, H5, H <sub>3</sub> -23
4	38.9 s		H <sub>3</sub> -23, H <sub>3</sub> -24		
5	55.3 d	0.67 br d (9.6)	H <sub>3</sub> -23, H <sub>3</sub> -24, H <sub>3</sub> -25	H <sub>2</sub> -6	H3, H9
6	18.3 t	1.52 <sup>a</sup> , 1.36 <sup>a</sup>		H5	
7	34.2 t	1.37 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>3</sub> -26		
8	40.9 s		H <sub>3</sub> -26, H <sub>3</sub> -27		
9	50.6 d	1.30 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>3</sub> -25, H <sub>3</sub> -26		H5
10	37.2 s		H <sub>3</sub> -25		
11	20.8 t	1.41 <sup>a</sup>			
12	25.4 t	1.58 <sup>a</sup> , 1.21 <sup>a</sup>			
13	34.7 d	1.71 td (12.0, 2.8)	H18, H <sub>3</sub> -27	H18	H <sub>3</sub> -26, H <sub>3</sub> -29
14	43.2 s		H <sub>3</sub> -25, H <sub>3</sub> -26		
15	27.5 t	1.02 <sup>a</sup>			
16	37.8 t	1.47 <sup>a</sup> , 1.43 <sup>a</sup>			
17	43.4 s		H18, H <sub>3</sub> -28		
18	50.8 d	1.95 d (12.0)	H <sub>3</sub> -28, H <sub>3</sub> -29	H13	H <sub>3</sub> -27, H <sub>3</sub> -30
19	54.9 s		H18, H21 $\beta$ , H <sub>3</sub> -29		
20	213.9 s		H18, H <sub>3</sub> -29, H <sub>3</sub> -30		
21	37.8 t	1.86 ddd (12.8, 8.8, 4.0, H $\alpha$ ), 1.58 <sup>a</sup> (H $\beta$ )	H <sub>3</sub> -29	H <sub>2</sub> -22	H <sub>2</sub> -22, H <sub>3</sub> -30
22	40.5 t	1.56 <sup>a</sup> , 1.30 <sup>a</sup>			H <sub>2</sub> -22
23	28.0 q	0.94 s	H <sub>3</sub> -28	H <sub>2</sub> -21	H <sub>2</sub> -21
24	15.3 q	0.74 s	H <sub>3</sub> -24		H3
25	16.1 q	0.80 s	H <sub>3</sub> -23		
26	16.0 q	1.01 s			H <sub>3</sub> -26
27	15.3 q	0.97 s			H13, H <sub>3</sub> -25
28	20.1 q	0.94 s			H18
29	20.2 q	1.20 s	H18		H <sub>3</sub> -29
30	25.4 q	2.12 s	H18		H13, H <sub>3</sub> -28, H <sub>3</sub> -30
					H18, H21 $\alpha$ , H <sub>3</sub> -29

<sup>a</sup> Data obtained from HMQC spectrum.FIGURE 2. (a) Selected HMBC correlations and (b) selected NOESY correlations of **2**.

Treatment of **2** with (*R*)- and (*S*)-2-methoxy-2-trifluoromethyl-2-phenylacetyl chloride (MTPACl) afforded the (*S*)- and (*R*)-MTPA esters (**2a** and **2b**, respectively).  $\Delta\delta$  values ( $\delta_S - \delta_R$ ) of H<sub>3</sub>-23 (+32.0) and H<sub>3</sub>-24 (+6.4) showed positive values, while H<sub>3</sub>-25 (−7.6) was negative (Figure 4), thus indicating a 3*S*-configuration. Therefore, Compound **2** was assigned as (3*S*)-3 $\beta$ -hydroxy-20-oxo-29-(20 $\rightarrow$ 19)abeolupane.

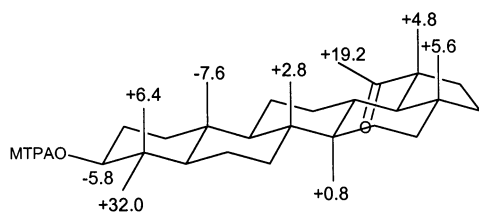
Triterpene **3** had HREIMS and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data consistent with the molecular formula C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>48</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. The IR spectrum of **3** showed the presence of an acetoxyl group (1735

FIGURE 3. ORTEP drawing of **2**.

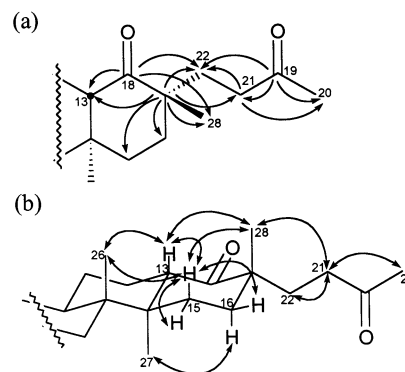
and 1248 cm<sup>−1</sup>) and two ketone carbonyl groups (1718 and 1706 cm<sup>−1</sup>) that were confirmed by <sup>13</sup>C NMR and DEPT experiments. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (Table 3) of **3** exhibited signals for six singlet methyl groups [ $\delta_H$  0.75, 0.82, 0.83, 0.88, 1.10, 1.13], one acetyl group [ $\delta_H$  2.13 (s, H<sub>3</sub>-20)], one acetoxyl group [ $\delta_H$  2.02 (3H, s)], a methylene

**TABLE 3.** NMR Data for Compound **3** (100 and 400 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, *J* in Hz)

position	$\delta_C$ , mult	$\delta_H$	HMBC	COSY	NOESY
1	38.6 t	1.71 <sup>a</sup> (H <sub>β</sub> ), 1.05 td (12.4, 4.8, H <sub>α</sub> )		H1 $\alpha$ , H <sub>2</sub> -2 H1 $\beta$ , H <sub>2</sub> -2 H <sub>2</sub> -1, H3	H1 $\alpha$ H1 $\beta$ H3
2	23.6 t	1.62 <sup>a</sup>		H <sub>2</sub> -1, H3	
3	80.7 d	4.45 dd (11.2, 5.6)	H <sub>3</sub> -23, H <sub>3</sub> -24	H <sub>2</sub> -2	H <sub>2</sub> -2, H5, H <sub>3</sub> -23
4	37.8 s		H3, H <sub>3</sub> -23, H <sub>3</sub> -24		
5	55.5 d	0.80 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>3</sub> -23, H <sub>3</sub> -24, H <sub>3</sub> -25	H <sub>2</sub> -6	H3
6	18.1 t	1.54 <sup>a</sup> , 1.30 <sup>a</sup>		H5	
7	34.0 t	1.71 <sup>a</sup> , 1.51 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>3</sub> -26		H <sub>3</sub> -27
8	40.9 s		H <sub>3</sub> -26, H <sub>3</sub> -27		
9	50.8 d	1.21 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>3</sub> -25, H <sub>3</sub> -26	H <sub>2</sub> -11	
10	37.2 s		H <sub>3</sub> -25		
11	20.0 t	1.54 <sup>a</sup>		H9	H <sub>3</sub> -25
12	22.1 t	1.62 <sup>a</sup> , 1.28 <sup>a</sup>	H13	H13	
13	47.9 d	2.67 dd (11.6, 4.0)	H <sub>3</sub> -27	H <sub>2</sub> -12	H15 $\beta$ , H <sub>3</sub> -26, H <sub>3</sub> -28
14	46.5 s		H <sub>2</sub> -12, H <sub>3</sub> -25, H <sub>3</sub> -26		
15	26.8 t	2.02 <sup>a</sup> (H <sub>β</sub> ), 1.28 (H <sub>α</sub> )	H <sub>3</sub> -27	H <sub>2</sub> -16 H <sub>2</sub> -16 H <sub>2</sub> -15 H <sub>2</sub> -15	H13, H15 $\alpha$ , H16 $\beta$ , H <sub>3</sub> -26, H <sub>3</sub> -28 H15 $\beta$ H <sub>3</sub> -27 H15 $\beta$
16	34.0 t	1.71 <sup>a</sup> (H <sub>α</sub> ), 1.51 <sup>a</sup> (H <sub>β</sub> )	H <sub>3</sub> -28		
17	46.3 s		H13, H <sub>2</sub> -15, H <sub>2</sub> -16, H <sub>2</sub> -21, H <sub>2</sub> -22, H <sub>3</sub> -28		
18	217.6 s		H13, H <sub>2</sub> -22, H <sub>3</sub> -28		
19	209.4 s		H <sub>3</sub> -20, H <sub>2</sub> -21, H <sub>2</sub> -22		
20	29.9 q	2.13 s			H <sub>2</sub> -21
21	38.9 t	2.49 dt (16.8, 6.4, H <sub>a</sub> ) 2.42 dt (16.8, 6.4, H <sub>b</sub> )	H <sub>3</sub> -20, H <sub>2</sub> -22	H <sub>2</sub> -22 H <sub>2</sub> -22	H <sub>3</sub> -20, H <sub>2</sub> -22, H <sub>3</sub> -28 H <sub>3</sub> -20, H <sub>2</sub> -22, H <sub>3</sub> -28
22	32.2 t	1.65 <sup>a</sup>	H <sub>2</sub> -21, H <sub>3</sub> -28	H <sub>2</sub> -21	H <sub>2</sub> -21
23	27.9 q	0.83 s	H <sub>3</sub> -24		H3
24	16.5 q	0.82 s	H <sub>3</sub> -23		
25	16.7 q	0.88 s			H <sub>2</sub> -11, H <sub>3</sub> -26
26	16.0 q	1.10 s			H13, H15 $\beta$ , H <sub>3</sub> -25
27	16.0 q	0.75 s			H <sub>2</sub> -7, H16 $\alpha$
28	24.3 q	1.13 s	H <sub>2</sub> -22		H13, H15 $\beta$ , H <sub>2</sub> -21
CH <sub>3</sub> CO	171.0 s		H3, CH <sub>3</sub> CO		
CH <sub>3</sub> CO	21.3 q	2.02 s			

<sup>a</sup> Data obtained from HMQC spectrum.**FIGURE 4.**  $\Delta\delta$  values [ $\Delta\delta$  (in Hz) =  $\delta_S - \delta_R$ ] obtained for the (*S*)- and (*R*)-MTPA esters (**2a** and **2b**, respectively).

flanked by a ketone and a secondary carbon [ $\delta_H$  2.42, 2.49 (both 1H, dt,  $J$  = 16.8, 6.4 Hz, H<sub>2</sub>-21)], a methine proton next to a ketone [ $\delta_H$  2.67 (dd,  $J$  = 11.6, 4.0 Hz, H-13)], and a methine proton attached to an acetoxyl group [ $\delta_H$  4.45 (dd,  $J$  = 11.2, 5.6 Hz, H-3)]. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR and DEPT spectra (Table 3) exhibited 30 signals (eight CH<sub>3</sub>, ten CH<sub>2</sub>, four CH, and eight C), with chemical shift values suggesting the presence of three carbonyl groups [ $\delta_C$  171.0, OAc; 209.4, C-19; 217.6, C-18]. The presence of these features suggested that **3** was a dinortriterpenoid that contained four carbocyclic rings. Lupenol acetate (**5b**),<sup>5</sup> isolated from the same source, has similar <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data for the A and B rings. HMQC and HMBC measurements (Table 3) allowed ring D and the side chain to be fully constructed (Figure 5a). In the MS,  $\gamma$ -H McLafferty rearrangements (Figure 6) confirmed the side chain moiety. NOESY correlations for H-13/H-15 $\beta$ , H<sub>3</sub>-26, H<sub>3</sub>-28; H-15 $\beta$ /H-13, H-15 $\alpha$ , H-16 $\beta$ , H<sub>3</sub>-26, H<sub>3</sub>-28; H-16 $\alpha$ /H<sub>3</sub>-27; and H<sub>2</sub>-21/H<sub>3</sub>-20, H<sub>2</sub>-22, H<sub>3</sub>-28 suggested

**FIGURE 5.** (a) Selected HMBC correlations and (b) selected NOESY correlations of **3**.

that CH<sub>3</sub>-28 should be on the same face as H-13, H-15 $\beta$ , and H<sub>3</sub>-26 (Figure 5b). Therefore, compound **3** was assigned as 29,30-dinor-3 $\beta$ -acetoxyl-18,19-dioxo-18,19-secolupane, with a novel skeleton.

Compounds **2** and **3** may be derived from the lupenyl cation (Scheme 2). Deprotonation of the lupenyl cation yields **7**, which is converted to intermediate **8** by epoxidation and then acidic rearrangement. After deprotonation, compound **2** is produced. Acetylation and then Baeyer–Villiger-type oxidation of **2** yields **9**. After elimination of one molecular of acetic acid, compound **10** is produced. Further oxidation catalyzed by dioxygenase gives compound **3**.

## SCHEME 2. Proposed Mechanism for Biosynthesis of 2 and 3 from Lupenyl Cation

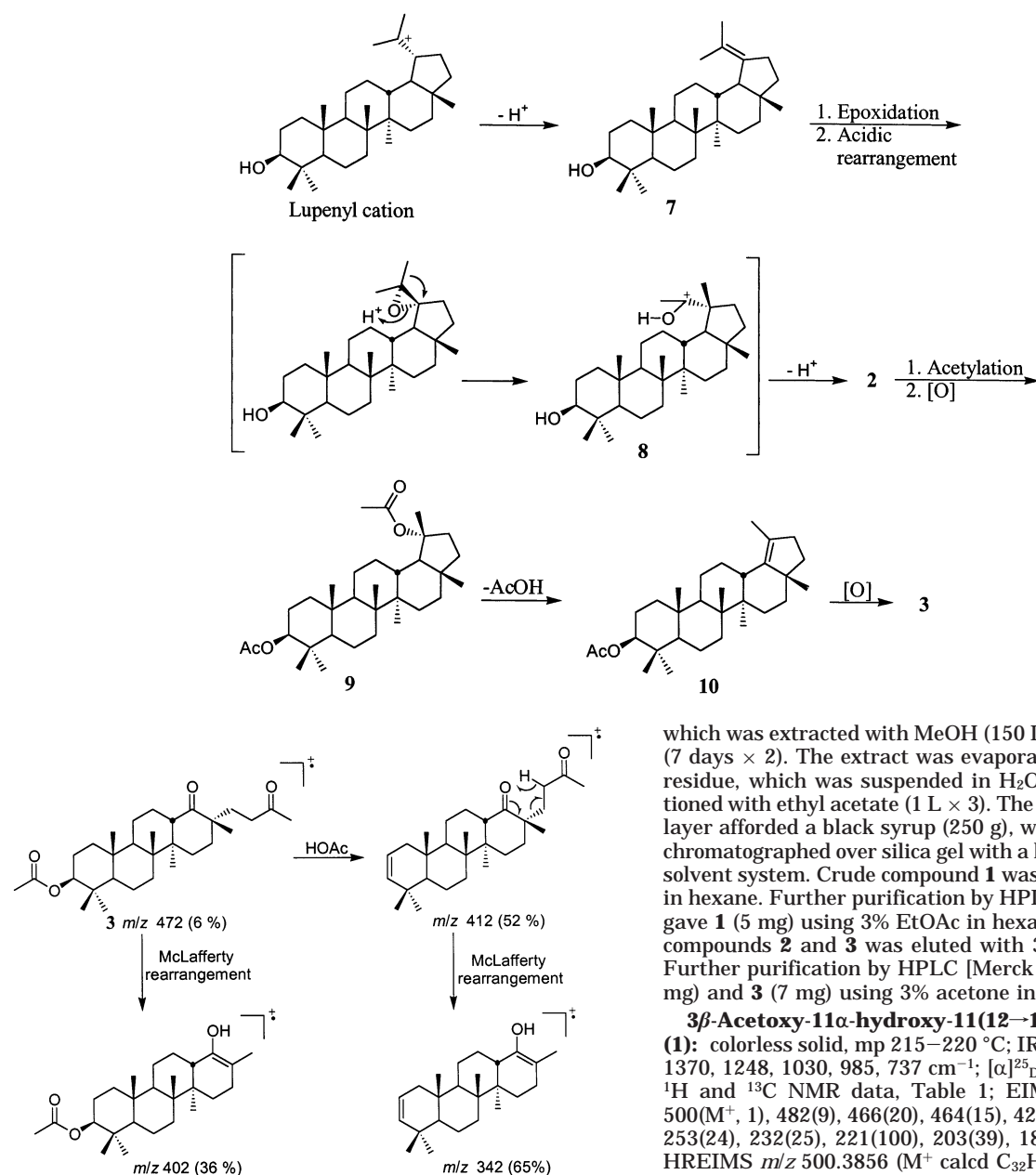


FIGURE 6. MS fragments from McLafferty rearrangement of 3.

## Experimental Section

**General Methods.** Melting points were determined with a micromelting point apparatus and are uncorrected. The X-ray crystallographic data were collected using graphic-monochromated Mo K $\alpha$  radiation. Extracts were chromatographed over silica gel (Merck 70–230 mesh, 230–400 mesh, ASTM).

**Plant Material.** The aerial roots of *Ficus microcarpa* L. f. were collected on the campus of National Taiwan University, Taiwan, in 1996. The plant was identified by Mr. Muh-Tsuen Gun, formerly a technician of the Department of Botany, National Taiwan University. A voucher specimen (no. 038671) has been deposited at the Herbarium of the Department of Botany, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan.

**Extraction and Isolation.** The dried aerial roots of *Ficus microcarpa* L. f. were crushed to give 18 kg of raw material,

which was extracted with MeOH (150 L) at room temperature (7 days  $\times$  2). The extract was evaporated in vacuo to yield a residue, which was suspended in H<sub>2</sub>O (1 L) and then partitioned with ethyl acetate (1 L  $\times$  3). The combined ethyl acetate layer afforded a black syrup (250 g), which was subsequently chromatographed over silica gel with a hexane/EtOAc gradient solvent system. Crude compound 1 was eluted with 2% EtOAc in hexane. Further purification by HPLC [Merck Si 60 (7 $\mu$ m)] gave 1 (5 mg) using 3% EtOAc in hexane. A crude mixture of compounds 2 and 3 was eluted with 30% EtOAc in hexane. Further purification by HPLC [Merck Si 60 (7 $\mu$ m)] gave 2 (8 mg) and 3 (7 mg) using 3% acetone in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>.

**3 $\beta$ -Acetoxy-11 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-11(12 $\rightarrow$ 13)abeooleanan-12-al (1):** colorless solid, mp 215–220 °C; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  3520, 1734, 1386, 1370, 1248, 1030, 985, 737 cm<sup>-1</sup>; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +0.76° (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 0.4); <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, Table 1; EIMS *m/z* (rel intensity) 500(M<sup>+</sup>, 1), 482(9), 466(20), 464(15), 422(24), 407(30), 271(24), 253(24), 232(25), 221(100), 203(39), 189(88), 175(50), 95(69); HREIMS *m/z* 500.3856 (M<sup>+</sup> calcd C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>52</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, 1.2 mmu).

**3 $\beta$ -Hydroxy-20-oxo-29(20 $\rightarrow$ 19)abeolupane (2):** colorless solid, mp 275–277 °C; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  3442, 1705, 1385, 1362, 1257, 1047, 1029, 990, 736 cm<sup>-1</sup>; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>21</sup> +16.3° (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 0.2); <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, Table 2; EIMS *m/z* (rel intensity) 442(M<sup>+</sup>, 6), 425(17), 424(49), 409(23), 381(79), 355(17), 313(20), 245(26), 203(42), 189(100), 175(52), 161(61), 121(82), 107(81), 95(73); HREIMS *m/z* 442.3807 (M<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>50</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, 0.6 mmu).

**29,30-Dinor-3 $\beta$ -acetoxy-18,19-dioxo-18,19-secolupane (3):** colorless solid, mp 183–186 °C; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  1735, 1718, 1706, 1382, 1372, 1248, 1030, 1010, 982, 736 cm<sup>-1</sup>; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>21</sup> +24.0° (CHCl<sub>3</sub>, *c* 0.3); <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data, Table 3; EIMS *m/z* (rel intensity) 472(M<sup>+</sup>, 6), 412(52), 402(36), 397(48), 369(100), 342(65), 301((30), 209(73), 191(84), 189(96), 161(52), 119(63), 109(67), 93(67); HREIMS *m/z* 472.3560 (M<sup>+</sup> calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>48</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, 0.6 mmu).

**(S)-MTPA Ester (2a) from 2.** To a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> solution (100  $\mu$ L) of compound 2 (1.2 mg) were added 4-(dimethylamino)-pyridine (25  $\mu$ g), triethylamine (10  $\mu$ L), and (*R*)-MTPACl (5  $\mu$ L) at room temperature, and stirring was continued for 3 h. After addition of triethylamine (10  $\mu$ L) and evaporation of solvent, the residue was passed through a silica gel column



(hexane/EtOAc, 20:1) to afford the (S)-MTPA ester (**2a**, 0.7 mg) of **2**. **2a**: colorless solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.76 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-24}$ ), 0.82 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-25}$ ), 0.86 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-23}$ ), 0.96 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-28}$ ), 0.98 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-27}$ ), 1.02 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-26}$ ), 1.21 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-29}$ ), 2.18 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-30}$ ), 4.68 (dd,  $J = 11.6, 4.4$  Hz, H-3); EIMS (70 eV)  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 658 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 5), 615 (5), 425 (52), 424 (46), 381 (42), 189 (100).

**(R)-MTPA Ester (2b) from 2.** Compound **2** (1.1 mg) was treated with (S)-MTPACl (5  $\mu\text{L}$ ) by the above procedure to afford the (R)-MTPA ester (**2b**, 0.5 mg) of **2**. **2b**: colorless solid;  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  0.76 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-24}$ ), 0.78 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-23}$ ), 0.84 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-25}$ ), 0.95 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-28}$ ), 0.98 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-27}$ ), 1.01 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-26}$ ), 1.20 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-29}$ ), 2.13 (s,  $\text{H}_{3-30}$ ), 4.68 (dd,  $J = 11.6, 4.4$  Hz, H-3); EIMS (70 eV)  $m/z$  (rel intensity) 658 ( $\text{M}^+$ , 3), 615 (3), 425 (31), 424 (25), 381 (23), 189 (100).

**X-ray Crystal Structure Analysis of 2.** A colorless crystal of **2** with dimensions  $0.35 \times 0.20 \times 0.20$  mm<sup>3</sup> was selected for X-ray analysis. Structure analysis was performed using the SHELXTL program on PC.<sup>7</sup> Data were collected over a hemisphere of reciprocal space, by a combination of three sets of exposures. The compound crystallized in the monoclinic space group  $P2_1$ , with  $a = 12.662$  (3) Å,  $b = 6.8170$  (14) Å,  $c = 15.405$  (3) Å,  $\beta = 94.87$  (3)°,  $V = 1324.9$  (5) Å<sup>3</sup>,  $Z = 2$ ,  $D_{\text{calc}} =$

$1.110$  g/cm<sup>3</sup>,  $\lambda = 0.71073$  Å,  $\mu(\text{Mo K}\alpha) = 0.067$  mm<sup>-1</sup>,  $F(000) = 492$ , and  $T = 295$  (2) K. The SMART program was used to make data corrections. A total of 24606 reflections, collected in the range  $2.17^\circ \leq \theta \leq 27.49^\circ$ , yielded 5869 unique reflections. The structure was solved using direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares on  $F^2$  values for 5595 reflections with  $I > 2\sigma(I)$ . Non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. Hydrogen atoms were fixed at calculated positions and refined using riding mode. The final indices were  $R = 0.0523$ ,  $R_w = 0.1493$  with goodness-of-fit = 1.123. Scattering factors were taken from the *International Tables for X-ray Crystallography*.<sup>8</sup>

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**Supporting Information Available:**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, HMQC, HMBC, COSY, NOESY, IR, and MS spectral data for compounds **1–3** and X-ray crystal structure data of **2**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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