

## SESQUITERPENES FROM *ORTHOSPHENIA MEXICANA*

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**Key Word Index**—*Orthosphenia mexicana*, Celastraceae, sesquiterpene esters of the dihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran type.

**Abstract**—The new sesquiterpenes 1 $\alpha$ -benzoyloxy-9 $\beta$ -acetoxo-4 $\beta$ ,6 $\beta$ -dihydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran, 1 $\alpha$ -benzoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,9 $\beta$ -diacetoxo-4 $\beta$ -hydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran, 1 $\alpha$ -benzoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,9 $\beta$ ,15-triacetoxo-4 $\beta$ -hydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran, 1 $\alpha$ -benzoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,8 $\beta$ ,9 $\alpha$ -triacetoxo-4 $\beta$ -hydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran, 1 $\alpha$ -benzoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,9 $\alpha$ -diacetoxo-4 $\beta$ ,8 $\beta$ -dihydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran and 1 $\alpha$ -cinnamoyloxy-2 $\beta$ ,6 $\beta$ ,9 $\beta$ -triacetoxo-4 $\beta$ -hydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran were isolated from the aerial part of *Orthosphenia mexicana* and their structures determined by spectroscopic and chemical studies.

### INTRODUCTION

In our continuing studies on the constituents of the plants of the Celastraceae family, six new esters of sesquiterpenes often found in this botanical family [1] were isolated from *Orthosphenia mexicana* Standley [2]. This is a plant endemic to north-eastern Mexico, which had already yielded, among other products, three new triterpenes [3–5] and alkaloids [6].

### RESULTS

Compound 2 was assigned the structure 1 $\alpha$ -benzoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,9 $\beta$ -diacetoxo-4 $\beta$ -hydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran. It was isolated as a crystalline solid, mp 202°, molecular formula C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>8</sub>. The IR spectrum showed hydroxyl and ester group bands; the alcohol grouping was tertiary since it could not be acetylated under normal conditions. The mass spectrum suggested the presence of a benzoate with a fragment at  $m/z$  105 and an acetate fragment at  $m/z$  42. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showed signals corresponding to the protons of two acetate methyl groups as singlets at  $\delta$  1.63 and 2.13 with the geminal protons centred at 5.05 (1H, *d*, *J* = 6 Hz) and 5.50 (1H, *s*). Two multiplets corresponding to a benzoate grouping were found centred at 7.52 and 8.06 with the geminal proton centred at 5.31 (*dd*, *J* = 4, 12 Hz). The above data characterizes a polyester dihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran sesquiterpene. Comparison of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR data of 2 with that of celorbicol ester A (3) [7], which had its structure established by X-ray analysis, sited a benzoate at C-1 $\alpha$ , an acetate at C-9 $\beta$  and the remaining acetate at C-6 $\beta$ . The assignments were confirmed by double resonance experiments and chemical reactions. Thus, hydrolysis of 2 with sodium bicarbonate under reflux [8] produced a deacetyl derivative with physical constants and spectral properties identical to those of the natural product (1). Total hydrolysis of 2 with potassium carbonate under reflux afforded the tetraol (4). When compound 2 was dehydrated with thionyl chloride in pyridine it yielded a product (5) with an exocyclic

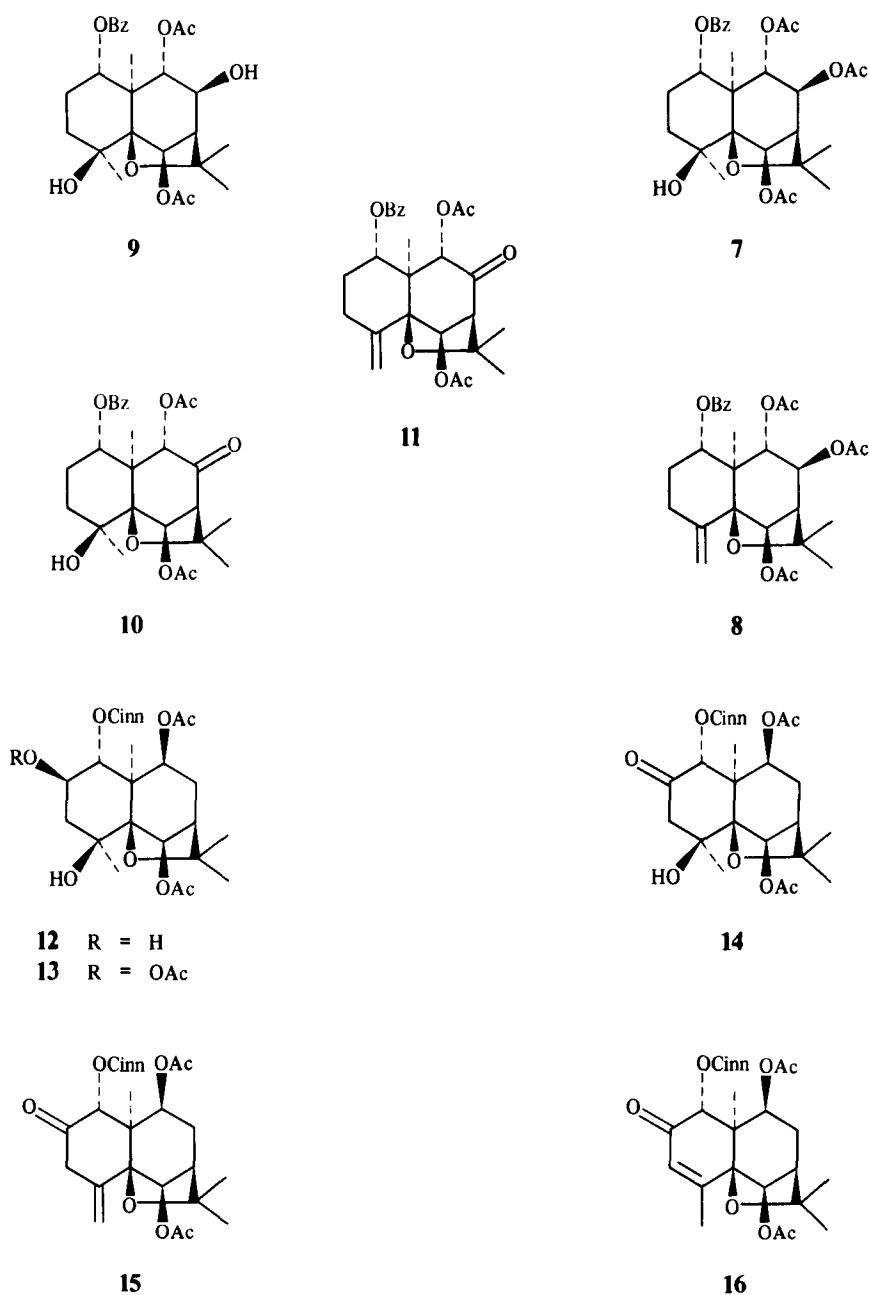
methylene, only possible in this skeleton if the tertiary hydroxyl is on C-4 $\beta$ . These data were all confirmed by <sup>13</sup>C NMR and two-dimensional <sup>13</sup>C–<sup>1</sup>H, (Tables 1 and 2).

The natural product (6) had one more acetate grouping than 2, assigned to C-15 since two AB protons of an acetoxymethylene system were shown in <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum as a double doublet centred at  $\delta$  4.53. The chemical shift of the axial proton H-6 moved from 5.50 in the spectrum of 2 to 6.07 in the spectrum of 6 and the equatorial proton H-9 moved from 5.05 in 2 to 5.40. These data, and the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum established the structure of 6 as 1 $\alpha$ -benzoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,9 $\beta$ ,15-triacetoxo-4 $\beta$ -hydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran, (Tables 1 and 2).

Product 9 was obtained as a crystalline solid, mp 194–198°, molecular formula C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>9</sub>, suggesting that it would have one more hydroxyl group than 2. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showed data indicating the 8 $\beta$ -9 $\alpha$  diacetoxo stereochemistry like that of isoeunymiol [9] and this was confirmed by an NOE experiment [10]. Thus when H-6 was irradiated, the signal of the proton geminal to the substituent on C-8 increased by 51%. The *J*<sub>9–8</sub> = 9.6 Hz indicates a *trans*-diaxial position. Acetylation of compound 9 afforded an acetyl derivative identical to natural product 7 and the preparation of derivatives 8, 10 and 11 confirmed the structures proposed (Tables 1 and 2).

The mass spectrum of compound (12) showed the presence of fragments indicative of acetate and cinnamate at  $m/z$  131. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra showed the clear relation of 12 with the products described above, the most marked differences being a cinnamate grouping at C-1 $\alpha$  with its vinyl protons as two doublets at  $\delta$  6.42 and 7.74 and the geminal proton at 5.36, just as in isocelorbicol ester B [7] and a secondary hydroxyl group at C-2 $\beta$  with the geminal proton as a multiplet at 3.64. The 2 $\beta$ -position was confirmed when 12 was oxidized to yield 14 which, when dehydrated, gave the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated ketone 16 as the principal product together with 15 which has an exocyclic methylene. Also, the acetate 13 was prepared (see Tables 1 and 2).





$\delta$  1.32 (3H, s), 1.43 (3H, s), 1.48 (3H, s), 1.52 (3H, s), 7.51 (3H, m), 8.02 (2H, m), other values see Table 1. EIMS  $m/z$  (rel. int.): 517 [ $M - 15$ ] $^+$  (1), 472 (7), 430 (6), 412 (1), 248 (7), 202 (13), 166 (16), 148 (10), 131 (23), 105 (100).

1 $\alpha$ -Benzoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,8 $\beta$ ,9 $\alpha$ -triacetoxy-4(14)-dehydro-dihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran (**8**). A soln of **7** (124 mg, 0.233 mmol) in dry pyridine (1 ml) was treated with SOCl<sub>2</sub> for 25 min at 0°. After work-up, the resulting residue was chromatographed yielding **8** (70 mg). [ $M$ ] $^+$  at  $m/z$  514.2208 (calc. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>9</sub> 514.2202). IR  $\nu_{\max}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3010, 2970, 1725, 1595, 1445, 1380, 1080, 910. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (60 MHz):  $\delta$  1.23 (3H, s), 1.43 (3H, s), 1.56 (3H, s), 7.55 (3H, m), 8.04 (2H, m), other values see Table 1. EIMS  $m/z$  (rel. int.): 514 [ $M$ ] $^+$  (0.5), 499 (2), 498 (2), 472 (7), 412 (34), 272 (15), 230 (7), 202 (13), 131 (15), 105 (100).

1 $\alpha$ -Benzoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,9 $\alpha$ -diacetoxy-4 $\beta$ ,8 $\beta$ -dihydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran (**9**). Mp 194–198°. [ $M - 15$ ] $^+$   $m/z$  at 475.1962 (calc. for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>31</sub>O<sub>9</sub> 475.1968). IR  $\nu_{\max}^{\text{KBr}}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3590, 3550, 3000, 1722,

1705, 1450, 1095, 950. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz):  $\delta$  1.30 (3H, s), 1.39 (3H, s), 1.48 (3H, s), 2.77 (1H, s), 7.49 (3H, m), 8.04 (2H, m), other values see Table 1. EIMS  $m/z$  (rel. int.): 475 [ $M - 15$ ] $^+$  (2), 472 (3), 430 (3), 248 (5), 202 (10), 105 (100). NOE difference experiments show H-8, 51.4% enhancements for H-6 irradiation.

1 $\alpha$ -Benzoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,9 $\alpha$ -diacetoxy-8-oxo-4 $\beta$ -hydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran (**10**). A soln of **9** (103 mg, 0.210 mmol) in Me<sub>2</sub>CO (25 ml) was treated with freshly prepared Jones reagent (10 drops) at room temp. The reaction was halted by adding 3 drops of *i*-PrOH and, after usual work-up and chromatography, the mixture yielded **10** (100 mg). [ $M$ ] $^+$  at  $m/z$  448.1986 (calc. for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>9</sub> 448.2046): IR  $\nu_{\max}^{\text{KBr}}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3460, 2945, 1725, 1365, 1170, 1095. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (90 MHz):  $\delta$  1.38 (6H, s), 1.53 (6H, s), 7.04 (3H, m), 8.08 (2H, m), other values see Table 1. EIMS  $m/z$  (rel. int.): 488 [ $M$ ] $^+$  (1), 446 (3), 428 (2), 386 (3).

1 $\alpha$ -Benzoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,9 $\alpha$ -diacetoxy-8-oxo-4(14)-dehydrodihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran (**11**). A soln of **10** (130 mg, 0.266 mmol) in dry

Table 1.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra of compounds 1, 2, 4–16

H	H-1	H-6	H-7	H-8	H-9	H-14
1†	5.31 <i>dd</i> $J=4$ , 12 Hz	4.43 <i>s</i>			4.97 <i>d</i> $J=6$ Hz	Ac-9 1.57 <i>s</i>
2	5.31 <i>dd</i> $J=4$ , 12 Hz	5.50 <i>s</i>	2.47 <i>m</i>		5.05 <i>d</i> $J=6$ Hz	Ac-6 2.13 <i>s</i> Ac-9 1.63 <i>s</i>
4‡	4.21 <i>dd</i> $J=4$ , 12 Hz	4.31 <i>s</i>			3.50 <i>d</i> $J=6$ Hz	
5*	5.59 <i>dd</i> $J=5$ , 11 Hz	5.37 <i>s</i>			5.18 <i>d</i> $J=6.6$ Hz	4.79 <i>s</i> Ac-6 5.04 <i>s</i> Ac-9 2.08 <i>s</i> Ac-9 1.53 <i>s</i>
6‡	5.37, <i>dd</i> $J=4$ , 12 Hz	6.07 <i>s</i>			5.40 <i>d</i> $J=6$ Hz	Ac-6 2.09 <i>s</i> Ac-9 1.55 <i>s</i> Ac-15 2.24 <i>s</i>
7†	5.13 <i>dd</i> $J=3.5$ , 11.7 Hz	5.69 <i>s</i>	2.47 <i>d</i> $J=3.5$ Hz	5.30 <i>dd</i> $J=3$ , 10 Hz	5.96 <i>d</i> $J=10$ Hz	Ac-6 2.12 <i>s</i> Ac-9 1.67 <i>s</i> Ac-8 1.86 <i>s</i>
8*	5.44 <i>m</i>	5.52 <i>s</i>	2.54 <i>d</i> $J=3$ Hz	5.44 <i>m</i>	6.03 <i>d</i> $J=10$ Hz	4.73 <i>s</i> Ac-6 5.10 <i>s</i> Ac-9 2.11 <i>s</i> Ac-8 1.68 <i>s</i> Ac-8 1.89 <i>s</i>
9‡	5.09 <i>dd</i> $J=4$ , 12 Hz	5.44 <i>s</i>	2.37 <i>d</i> $J=3$ Hz	4.13 <i>d</i> $J=3$ , 9.6 Hz	5.76 <i>d</i> $J=9.6$ Hz	Ac-6 2.11 <i>s</i> Ac-9 1.69 <i>s</i>
10†	5.31 <i>dd</i> $J=4$ , 10.8 Hz	5.67 <i>s</i>	2.99 <i>s</i>		5.78 <i>s</i>	Ac-6 2.15 <i>s</i> Ac-9 1.61 <i>s</i>
11‡	5.52 <i>dd</i>	5.51 <i>s</i>	3.04 <i>s</i>		5.83 <i>s</i>	4.74 <i>s</i> Ac-6 5.14 <i>s</i> Ac-9 2.11 <i>s</i> Ac-9 1.57 <i>s</i>
12§	5.36 <i>d</i> $J=10.5$ Hz	5.45 <i>s</i>			4.82 <i>dd</i> $J=1$ , 6.6 Hz	Ac-6 2.13 <i>s</i> Ac-9 1.93 <i>s</i>
13*	5.65 <i>d</i> $J=10.6$ Hz	5.50 <i>s</i>			4.81 <i>dd</i> $J=1.8$ , 5.4 Hz	Ac-6 2.10 <i>s</i> Ac-9 1.95 <i>s</i> Ac-2 1.83 <i>s</i>
14*	5.90 <i>s</i>	5.59 <i>s</i>	2.63 <i>s</i>		4.96 <i>dd</i> $J=5$ Hz	Ac-6 2.14 <i>s</i> Ac-9 1.95 <i>s</i>
15†	6.04 <i>s</i>	5.42 <i>s</i>			5.05 <i>d</i> $J=7$ Hz	4.95 <i>s</i> Ac-6 5.17 <i>s</i> Ac-9 2.14 <i>s</i> Ac-9 1.93 <i>s</i>
16‡	5.98 <i>s</i>	5.60 <i>s</i>			4.92 <i>d</i> $J=6$ Hz	2.15 <i>d</i> Ac-6 $J=1.3$ Hz 2.13 <i>s</i> Ac-9 1.95 <i>s</i>

\*60 MHz, †90 MHz, ‡200 MHz, §360 MHz, || may be interchanged.

Table 2.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of compounds 1, 2, 5–9, 11, 12 and 16

C	1	2	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	16
1	72.55	72.59	71.31	9.37*	73.43	73.95	73.72	75.10	72.64	70.53*
2	23.35	23.32	27.66	23.70	24.01	28.02	24.23	28.68	67.81	192.88
3	37.18	38.50	32.73	38.21	38.12	31.50	38.33	31.84	48.67	129.19
4	73.03	70.33	143.11	70.24	70.38	142.11	70.51	141.81	70.96	153.59
5	91.53	91.49	88.76	91.35	92.59	90.26	92.52	91.23	91.10	87.85
6	79.68	79.71	79.40	78.19	78.07	78.09	78.19	77.38*	79.56	81.65
7	50.23	49.02	48.47	49.05	52.05	52.20	54.20	65.58	49.04	49.28
8	31.99	31.80	31.84	34.51	77.23*	72.22*	7.28*	199.26	31.61	31.98
9	73.27	72.94	73.01	72.39*	76.45*	75.91*	80.19*	81.20*	76.32	74.93*
10	50.32	51.40	51.55	54.09	47.85	48.82	48.07	50.29	51.56	51.48
11	84.58	84.30	82.69	84.34	84.11	82.36	84.33	82.70	84.67	84.97
12	30.22	29.56	31.19	29.40	29.65	31.32	29.96	31.04	29.72	29.91
13	26.65	25.74	26.24	25.72	25.47	26.30	25.72	25.73	25.74	25.65
14	23.86	24.00	112.26	23.80	23.70	112.76	23.92	113.59	24.85	21.98
15	19.93	19.61	19.31	65.08	13.31	13.30	13.61	13.06	20.16	20.18

\*May be interchanged.

pyridine (1 ml) was treated with  $\text{SOCl}_2$  (10 drops) for 15 min. After usual work-up and chromatography 11 (20 mg) was obtained.  $[\text{M}]^+$  at  $m/z$  470.1923 (calc. for  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_8$  470.1941). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3020, 3000, 1735, 1600, 1365, 865.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (200 MHz):  $\delta$  1.18 (3H, s), 1.50 (3H, s), 1.53 (3H, s), 7.54 (3H, m),

8.04 (2H, m), other values see Table 1. EIMS  $m/z$  (rel. int.): 470  $[\text{M}]^+$ , 428, 410, 368, 348, 337.

1 $\alpha$ -Cinnamoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,9 $\beta$ -diacetoxo-2 $\beta$ ,4 $\beta$ -dihydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran (12). IR  $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ : 3300, 2950, 1725, 1590, 1368, 1240, 1090.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (360 MHz):  $\delta$  1.37 (6H, s), 1.50 (3H, s), 1.53

(3H, s), 6.40 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16 Hz), 7.40 (3H, *m*), 7.56 (2H, *m*), 7.69 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16 Hz) other values see Table 1. EIMS *m/z* (rel. int.): 501 [*M* - 15]<sup>+</sup> (0.2), 483 (4), 441 (2), 48 (12), 381 (0.4), 290 (11), 228 (12), 168 (21), 131 (100), 121 (10), 103 (47).

1 $\alpha$ -Cinnamoyloxy-2 $\beta$ ,6 $\beta$ ,9 $\beta$ -triacetox-4 $\beta$ -hydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran (13). A soln of 12 (55 mg, 0.106 mmol) was treated with Ac<sub>2</sub>O in pyridine at room temp. After usual work-up and chromatography 13 (35 mg) was obtained. [*M*]<sup>+</sup> at *m/z* 558.2493 (calc. for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>38</sub>O<sub>10</sub> 558.2465). IR  $\nu_{\max}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3332, 3000, 1735, 1595. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (60 MHz):  $\delta$  1.39 (6H, s), 1.49 (6H, s), 3.01 (1H, s, H-OH), 4.97 (1H, *m*), 6.44 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16 Hz), 7.45 (5H, *m*), 7.72 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16 Hz), other values see Table 1. EIMS *m/z* (rel. int.): 558 [*M*]<sup>+</sup> (3), 516 (10), 498 (14), 395 (38), 308 (23), 290 (29), 248 (20), 230 (23), 209 (20), 168 (25), 149 (20), 131 (100), 103 (91).

1 $\alpha$ -Cinnamoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,9 $\beta$ -diacetox-2-oxo-4 $\beta$ -hydroxydihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran (14). A soln of 12 (122 mg, 0.236 mmol) in Me<sub>2</sub>CO (25 ml) was treated with Jones reagent (9 drops) at room temp. while stirring. The reaction was halted by the addition of *i*-PrOH and, after work-up and chromatography, 14 (114 mg) was obtained. [*M*]<sup>+</sup> at *m/z* 514.2202 (calc. for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>9</sub> 514.2251). IR  $\nu_{\max}^{\text{KBr}}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3500, 2920, 1750, 1730, 1630. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (60 MHz):  $\delta$  1.28 (6H, s), 1.60 (6H, s), 6.38 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16 Hz), 7.45 (5H, *m*), 7.74 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16 Hz) other values see Table 1. EIMS *m/z* (rel. int.): [*M*]<sup>+</sup> 514 (1), 472 (11), 324 (6).

Products 15 and 16. A soln of 14 (92 mg, 0.179 mmol) in dry pyridine (1 ml) was treated with SOCl<sub>2</sub> (10 drops) at 0°. After 15 min, the reaction mixture was extracted and chromatographed, yielding 15 (25 mg) and 16 (50 mg). Compound 15 was identified as 1 $\alpha$ -cinnamoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,9 $\beta$ -diacetox-2-oxo-4(14)dehydro-dihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (90 MHz):  $\delta$  1.13 (3H, s), 1.52 (3H, s), 1.59 (3H, s), 6.35 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16 Hz), 7.44 (5H, *m*), 7.70 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16 Hz) (other values see Table 1). Compound 16 was identified as 1 $\alpha$ -cinnamoyloxy-6 $\beta$ ,9 $\beta$ -diacetox-2-oxo-3-ene-dihydro- $\beta$ -agarofuran. [*M*]<sup>+</sup> at *m/z* 496.2062 (calc. for

C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>8</sub> 496.2097). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (200 MHz):  $\delta$  1.26 (3H, s), 1.51 (3H, s), 1.55 (3H, s), 5.96 (1H, *d*, *J* = 1.4 Hz), 6.31 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16 Hz), 7.35 (3H, *m*), 7.49 (2H, *m*), 7.66 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16 Hz) other values see Table 1. EIMS *m/z* (rel. int.): [*M*]<sup>+</sup> 454 (3), 436 (5), 349 (28), 307 (8), 289 (45).

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