



SESQUITERPENE LACTONES AND A SECO-CARYOPHYLLENE DERIVATIVE FROM *MONTANOA KARWINSKII*

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Key Word Index—*Montanoa karwinskii*; Asteraceae; Heliantheae; sesquiterpene lactones; germacrolides; seco-caryophyllene derivative.

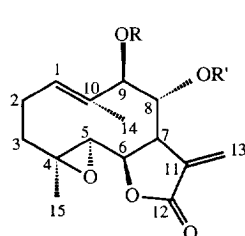
Abstract—Leaves of *Montanoa karwinskii* afforded in addition to known sterols, triterpenes and kaurane derivatives, four germacra-12,6 β -olides. Three were new compounds, karwinsinolides A, B and C. Their structures were established by spectral methods, mainly NMR. A new seco-caryophyllene derivative was also isolated.

INTRODUCTION

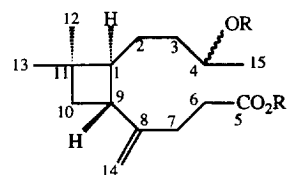
Montanoa karwinskii A.P. de Candolle is most closely related to *M. atriplicifolia* and *M. pteropoda* and placed by V. Funk in the series Hibiscifoliae, together with *M. hibiscifolia*, *M. hexagona* and *M. leucantha* [1]. In continuation of our studies on the chemistry of *Montanoa* species, we have analysed the herbaceous parts of *M. karwinskii*, which resulted in the isolation of 12,6-cis-lactonized germacrolides which seem to be characteristic of the genus. In addition, a new seco-caryophyllene derivative was isolated as well as common terpenoids. We now report the structures of the new lactones which we named karwinsinolides A (1), B (2) and C (3) and the new acid 4-hydroxy-4,5-seco-caryophyllen-5-oic acid (6). Their structures and stereochemistry were established by spectroscopic methods, mainly ^1H NMR. The molecular structure of karwinsinolide A (1), was confirmed by single crystal X-ray diffraction.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

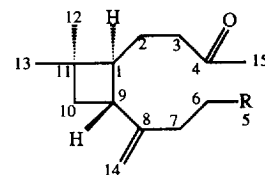
The petrol and dichloromethane extracts of the leaves of *Montanoa karwinskii* afforded caryophyllene oxide, β -carotene, the ubiquitous sitosterol and stigmasterol; common pentacyclic triterpenes β -amirin, taraxasterol, taraxasteryl acetate and taraxasteryl fatty esters (mainly palmitate); the kaurane diterpenes ent-kaurenic acid, angeloyl and senecieryl grandifloric acids. In addition, four 12,6 β -germacrolides were obtained, the known 9 β -seneciocyloxy-4 β ,5 α -epoxy-*trans*-germacra-1(10)-en-12,6 β -olide (5), previously isolated from *M. mollissima* [2], and three new closely related ones, karwinsinolides A (1), B (2) and C (3). A new sesquiterpenic acid characterized as 4-



R	R'
1) Ac	Ang
2) Ang	H
3) H	Ang
4) Ang	Ac
5) Sen	H



- 6) R = R' = H
 7) R = H, R' = Me
 8) R = Ac, R' = H



- 9) R = COOMe
 10) R = CH₂-OH

hydroxy-4,5-seco-caryophyllen-5-oic acid (6) was also isolated. This is the third compound of this type isolated from a natural source.

Karwinsinolide A (1), C₂₂H₂₈O₇ (CIMS: [M + 1]⁺ at m/z 405), was isolated as a crystalline compound, mp 204–206°, and characterized as an α,β -unsaturated γ -lactone containing a saturated ester and an α,β -unsaturated one (IR absorption bands at 1777, 1737 and 1720 cm⁻¹). The ester substituents were assigned to an acetate and an angelate group based on the typical ^1H NMR signals (Table 1), together with the characteristic mass spectral peaks at m/z 43 for the acetate and 83 and 55 for the angelate moieties. Other peaks at m/z 344

Table 1. ^1H NMR spectral data for 1–4 (200 MHz, TMS as int. standard)

H	1		2		3		4
	CDCl_3	C_6D_6	CDCl_3	C_6D_6	CDCl_3	C_6D_6	CDCl_3
1	5.75 <i>br d</i>	5.21	5.60 <i>br d</i>	5.57	5.82 <i>br d</i>	5.20	5.68 <i>obs</i>
5	3.16 <i>br d</i>	2.96	3.00 <i>br d</i>	3.06	3.19 <i>br d</i>	2.94	3.14 <i>br d</i>
6	4.06 <i>dd</i>	3.68	4.05 <i>dd</i>	3.69	4.05 <i>dd</i>	3.62	4.07 <i>dd</i>
7	3.14 <i>br t</i>	2.63	3.11 <i>br t</i>	2.67	3.07 <i>br t</i>	2.42	3.18 <i>br t</i>
8	5.43 <i>dd</i>	5.50	4.32 <i>br t*</i>	4.44	5.20 <i>dd</i>	5.20	5.42 <i>dd</i>
9	5.02 <i>br d</i>	5.02	4.71 <i>br d*</i>	4.90	4.08 <i>br d</i>	3.60	4.98 <i>br d</i>
13a	5.64 <i>d</i>	5.09	5.75 <i>d</i>	5.39	5.61 <i>d</i>	5.02	5.71 <i>br s</i>
13b	6.31 <i>d</i>	6.19	6.39 <i>d</i>	6.33	6.29 <i>br s</i>	6.16	6.39 <i>br s</i>
14	2.00 <i>br s</i>	1.58	2.01 <i>br s</i>	1.68	1.95 <i>br s</i>	1.77	2.04 <i>br s</i>
15	1.31 <i>s</i>	0.77	1.30 <i>s</i>	0.80	1.31 <i>s</i>	0.74	1.32 <i>s</i>
3'	6.10 <i>qq</i>	5.71	6.11 <i>qq</i>	5.70	6.13 <i>qq</i>	5.71	6.11 <i>br q</i>
4'	1.93 <i>dq</i>	1.96	1.99 <i>dq</i>	2.02	1.97 <i>dq</i>	2.00	1.96 <i>br d</i>
5'	1.79 <i>qq</i>	1.80	1.90 <i>dq</i>	1.90	1.86 <i>qq</i>	2.00	1.84 <i>br s</i>
OAc	2.00 <i>s</i>	1.67	—	—	—	—	1.95 <i>s</i>

$J(\text{Hz})$: 1,2 *ca* 12.0; 5,6 = 9.6; 6,7 = 5.5; 7,8 = 7.0; 7,13a = 7,13b = 1.1; 8,9 = 10.0; 3',4' = 7.0; 3',5' = 4',5' = 1.5.

*Broadening owing to presence of conformational equilibria.

$[\text{M} - 60]^+$, $304 [\text{M} - 100]^+$ and $244 [\text{M} - 160]^+$ corresponded to the loss of the side-chain acids. The ^1H NMR spectrum of 1 (C_6D_6 , Table 1) displayed the typical signals owing to the exomethylene protons conjugated with the γ -lactone as a pair of downfield finely split doublets at δ 5.09 (H-13a) and 6.19 (H-13b) and an upfield broadened doublet of doublets (apparent broad triplet) at δ 2.63 ($J = 7.0$, 5.5 Hz) owing to H-7. 2D COSY experiments indicated that the last signal was coupled with the exomethylene signals, as well as to a doublet of doublets at δ 3.68 ($J = 9.6$, 5.5 Hz) and a downfield doublet of doublets at δ 5.50 ($J = 10.0$, 7.0 Hz) assigning these signals to H-6 and H-8, respectively. The signal at δ 3.68 (H-6) was in turn coupled with a broadened doublet at δ 2.96 ($J = 9.6$ Hz), and the signal at δ 5.50 with a broad doublet at δ 5.02 ($J = 10.0$ Hz). Therefore, the signals at δ 2.96 and 5.02 must be assigned to H-5 and H-9, respectively. H-1 was located as a broadened doublet at δ 5.21 ($J = \text{ca } 12.0$ Hz) coupled with a broad singlet at δ 1.58 (H-14). The sharp singlet at δ 0.77 must be from the methyl group at C-4 (H-15) bearing a 4,5-epoxy group. The small $J_{7,13}$ (1.1 Hz, CDCl_3) and the large $J_{5,6}$ (9.6 Hz) and $J_{6,7}$ (5.5 Hz) values are typical of 6,12 β -germacrolides [2]. Furthermore, the large coupling $J_{7,8}$ (7.0 Hz) and $J_{8,9}$ (10.0 Hz) suggested a *trans-trans* relationship of H-7, H-8 and H-9. The ^{13}C NMR (Table 2) spectrum of karwinsinide A (1) clearly showed 22 carbon resonances. Multi-pulse APT experiments indicated the presence of five methyl groups, three methylenes, seven CH groups and seven non-protonated carbons. The relative position of the esters was established by NMR correlation with the acetate of 3 (see below).

The second more polar crystalline lactone was karwinsinide B (2), $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_6$, $[\text{M}]^+ 362$, mp 108–110°. The IR spectrum indicated in addition to the unsaturated γ -

Table 2. ^{13}C NMR spectral data for 1–4 (50 MHz, CDCl_3 , chemical shifts referred to CDCl_3)

C	1	2	3	4	Multiplicity*
1	132.0	130.4	131.1	131.6	CH
2	24.7	24.6	24.7	24.7	CH_2
3	37.1	37.1	37.1	37.0	CH_2
4	60.3	60.5	60.3	60.3	C
5	61.3	61.5	61.4	61.3	CH
6	68.8	67.7	72.4	68.7	CH
7	44.1	46.3	44.2	44.0	CH
8	78.5	80.8	78.5	78.6	CH
9	77.2	80.1		77.2	CH
10	135.1	134.8	135.4	135.2	C
11	130.6	131.8	132.0	130.3	C
12	169.9	169.6		169.6	C
13	126.1	126.0	125.4	126.0	CH_2
14	19.8	19.9	20.2	19.8	CH_3
15	16.8	16.8	16.8	16.8	CH_3
1'	166.6	167.3		166.8	C
2'	126.7	127.3	126.5	127.1	C
3'	140.0	139.0	140.9	139.1	CH
4'	15.6	15.9	15.8	15.8	CH_3
5'	20.1	20.6	20.2	20.5	CH_3
1''	168.3			166.8	C
2''	20.9			20.7	CH_3

*The number of attached protons were determined from APT and/or DEPT experiments.

lactone and the ester carbonyl, the presence of a hydroxyl group (absorption at 3506 cm^{-1}). The ^1H NMR spectrum of 2 (Table 1) showed that an angelate was again present. As the H-8 signal (δ 4.32) in the spectrum of 2 was shifted upfield the hydroxyl group can be placed at C-8.

Table 3. ^1H NMR spectral data for **6**–**8** (200 MHz) and **9** (500 MHz) (CDCl_3 , TMS as int. standard)

H	6	7	8	9 (CDCl_3)	9 (C_6D_6)
1	1.88 <i>m</i>	1.87 <i>m</i>	1.88 <i>m</i>	1.87 <i>dt</i>	1.82 <i>dt</i>
2	1.39 <i>m</i>	1.40 <i>m</i>	1.40 <i>m</i>	1.63 <i>dt</i>	1.56 <i>m</i>
3	1.39 <i>m</i>	1.40 <i>m</i>	1.40 <i>m</i>	2.34 <i>br t</i>	1.95
4	3.75 <i>br sex</i>	3.75 <i>br sex</i>	4.85 <i>br sex</i>		
6	2.49 <i>br t*</i>	2.46 <i>m*</i>	2.50 <i>m*</i>	2.45 <i>br t*</i>	2.30 <i>m*</i>
7	2.30 <i>br t*</i>	2.28 <i>br t*</i>	2.30 <i>br t*</i>	2.28 <i>br t*</i>	2.30 <i>m*</i>
9	2.38 <i>br q</i>	2.37	2.36	2.39	2.24
10	1.80 <i>dd</i>	1.79 <i>dd</i>	1.79 <i>dd</i>	1.80 <i>dd</i>	1.66 <i>dd</i>
10'	1.46 <i>dd</i>	1.45 <i>dd</i>	1.45 <i>dd</i>	1.44 <i>dd</i>	1.38 <i>dd</i>
12	1.04 <i>s</i>	1.05 <i>s</i>	1.03 <i>s</i>	1.04 <i>s</i>	0.94 <i>s</i>
13	1.05 <i>s</i>	1.05 <i>s</i>	1.05 <i>s</i>	1.05 <i>s</i>	0.89 <i>s</i>
14	4.78 <i>br s</i>	4.76 <i>br s</i>	4.78	4.76	4.81
14'	4.71 <i>br s</i>	4.68 <i>br s</i>	4.71	4.69	4.71
15	1.18 <i>d</i>	1.17 <i>d</i>	1.19 <i>d</i>	2.11 <i>s</i>	1.66 <i>s</i>
OAc	—	—	2.03 <i>s</i>	—	—
COOMe	—	3.67 <i>s</i>	—	3.67 <i>s</i>	3.34 <i>s</i>

J (Hz): 1,9 = 9,10' = 10,10' = 10.0; 9,10 = 8.5; 1,2 = 2,3 = 6,7 = 7.0; 4,5 = 6.2.

*Not first-order pattern, with tendency to an A_2B_2 system.

The third crystalline lactone, karwinsinolide **3**, $\text{C}_{20}\text{C}_{26}\text{O}_6$ (CIMS $[\text{M} + 1]^+$, 363) mp 210–213°, also contained an angelate ester and a hydroxyl group (IR and ^1H NMR spectra). The ^1H NMR spectrum indicated that **3** had a 9 β -hydroxy group at C-9, as followed from the upfield shift of the H-9 doublet (δ 4.08) in the spectrum of **3** compared with those of **1** and **2**.

Acetylation of **2** furnished a monoacetate **4** whose ^1H NMR was very similar to, though not identical with, the NMR spectrum of **1**. However, the monoacetate obtained from **3** was identical to **1**, indicating that the acetate ester in karwinsinolide **A** (**1**) must be at C-9.

The results of a single crystal X-ray analysis (to be published elsewhere) confirmed the relative position of the ester groups, the *E*-configuration of the 1(10) double bond and the synclinal relationship of methyl groups C-4 and C-10 typical of *trans*, *trans*-germacrolides *cis*-lactonized to C-6.

The seco-caryophyllene-derivative **6** was isolated as a gummy material from the more polar chromatography fractions. The ^1H NMR spectrum of **6** (Table 3) clearly indicated the presence of two tertiary methyl singlets at δ 1.04 and 1.05 and a secondary methyl doublet at δ 1.18 (*J* = 6.2 Hz). Two one-proton broad singlets at 4.71 and 4.78 suggested the presence of an exomethylene group. A very flat signal at δ 4.3–5.1 in addition to IR absorptions at 2500–3500 (broad) and 1711 cm^{-1} indicated the presence of a carboxylic acid which was confirmed by esterification of **6** with diazomethane, giving the methyl ester **7**. A multiplet at δ 3.75 (pseudo-sextuplet) was assigned to a proton on a carbon bearing a hydroxyl group. Acetylation of **6** confirmed the above assumption since this signal moved downfield to δ 4.85 in the ^1H NMR spectrum of **8** (Table 3).

Table 4. ^{13}C NMR spectral data for **6**–**9** (50 MHz, CDCl_3 , chemical shifts referred to CDCl_3)

C	6	7	8	9
1	48.9	48.8	48.6	47.8
2	27.0	27.0	26.5	24.6
3	37.7	37.7	34.2	42.0
4	68.6	68.4	71.2	208.8
5	178.3	173.8	178.9	173.7
6	32.5	32.6	32.4	23.6
7	29.2	29.4	29.1	29.4
8	150.8	151.1	150.7	151.0
9	41.8	41.7	41.6	41.6
10	39.6	39.6	39.6	39.8
11	33.7	33.7	33.7	33.6
12	22.3	22.3	22.2	22.4
13	31.2	31.2	31.2	31.0
14	107.4	107.1	107.3	107.2
15	23.3	23.3	19.8	29.9
OAc	—	—	170.8	—
			21.4	
CO ₂ Me	—	51.5	—	51.6

2D COSY studies of **6** and derivatives **7** and **8** indicated that the signal at δ 3.75 in **6** was coupled with the methyl doublet. Therefore, the hydroxyl group must be placed α to the secondary methyl.

The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR (Table 4) spectral data of **6** suggested a sesquiterpenoid with a basic skeleton containing four methyl groups (one of them as an exomethylene) and a carboxylic acid. All these NMR spectral

features resembled those of a 4,5-seco-caryophyllene derivative, similar to compounds **9** and **10** isolated from *Helichrysum diosmitolium* (Inuleae) [3] and *Monactis macbridei* (Heliantheae) [4].

Pyridinium-dichromate oxidation of **7** produced the methyl-ketone **9** confirming the relative position of the secondary methyl group and the hydroxy group. Comparison of the ^1H NMR spectral data with values reported for compound **9** [3] revealed their structural identity. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR (Table 4) assignments were confirmed by 2D COSY, 2D ^1H – ^{13}C correlation, inverse long-range ^1H – ^{13}C correlation and APT NMR methods.

EXPERIMENTAL

Montanoa karwinskii DC. was collected on 29 November 1990 on the Cuernavaca–Tepoztlán road, 14 km E of Cuernavaca in the state of Morelos, México. Voucher specimen No. 550 412 is deposited at the Herbarium of the Instituto de Biología, UNAM (MEXU). Air-dried leaves (285 g) were extracted at room temp. first, with petrol and then with CH_2Cl_2 . Separation of the petrol extract residue (10 g) by CC on silica gel (200 g) using petrol and petrol–EtOAc mixtures of increasing polarity provided 136 frs of ca 200 ml each. Known compounds were identified by comparison of spectral data with those of authentic material and/or those reported in the literature. The less polar frs (8–20) gave β -carotene, and mixtures of triterpene esters containing lupeyl, tarasteryl and β -amirin fatty esters (palmitates mainly) and acetates. Frs 2–28 eluted with petrol–EtOAc (19:1) afforded caryophyllene oxide, *ent*-kaurenic acid, β -amirin, sitosterol and stigmasterol. Frs 37–40 eluted with petrol–EtOAc (9:1) contained a mixt. of angeloyl and senecieryl grandifloric acids. Frs 81–85 eluted with petrol–EtOAc (4:1) after prep. TLC (CH_2Cl_2 – Me_2CO , 19:1) gave 25 mg of karwinsinolide A (**1**). Successive TLC purifications (CH_2Cl_2 – Me_2CO , 19:1, 4 \times), (petrol– Me_2CO , 7:3, 8 \times) of frs 96–100 eluted from the CC with petrol–EtOAc (7:3), gave 32 mg karwinsinolide B (**2**) and 12 mg of **5**. Frs 104–110 eluted with petrol–EtOAc (3:2), gave after successive TLC purifications (petrol–EtOAc, 3:2, 5 \times and CH_2Cl_2 – Me_2CO , 19:1, 4 \times), 15 mg of **2** and 19 mg of karwinsinolide C (**3**) as gummy materials.

The CH_2Cl_2 extract residue (8.3 g) was sepd by CC over silica gel (80 g) using mixts of petrol–EtOAc of increasing polarity, 93 fr. of ca 200 ml being collected. Upon further prep. TLC of the various combined frs, the lactones **1**–**3** were obtained as crystalline compounds. Prep. TLC (CH_2Cl_2 – Me_2CO , 19:1) of frs 34–37 gave karwinsinolide A (**1**) (35 mg), mp 204–206° (CH_2Cl_2 – Et_2O). Frs 57–60 provided 26 mg of karwinsinolide B (**2**), mp 108–110°. Frs 61–63 gave 38 mg of karwinsinolide C (**3**), mp 210–213°. Frs 64–87 (1.2 g) eluted with petrol–EtOAc (3:2 and 2:3) from the CC were combined and rechromatographed on silica gel providing 136 mg of the seco-caryophyllene derivative **6**. The same sesquiterpene **6** (25 mg) was obtained from the more polar frs of the petrol extract.

Karwinsinolide A (1). $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_7$, crystals, mp 204–206°. IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 1777, 1737, 1720, 1646, 1601. EIMS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 404 $[\text{M}]^+$ (not observed), 344 $[\text{M} - \text{HOAc}]^+$ (1), 304 $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2]^+$ (1), 244 $[\text{M} - \text{HOAc} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2]^+$ (1), 83 $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}]^+$ (100), 55 $[\text{C}_4\text{H}_7]^+$ (88), 43 $[\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}]^+$ (75). CIMS (*i*-Bu) m/z (rel. int.): 405 $[\text{M} + 1]^+$ (6), 345 $[\text{M} + 1 - \text{HOAc}]^+$ (24), 305 $[\text{M} + 1 - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2]^+$ (7), 245 $[\text{M} + 1 - \text{HOAc} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2]^+$ (39), 227 $[\text{M} + 1 - \text{HOAc} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2 - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (17), 83 (100).

Karwinsinolide B (2). $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_6$, crystals, mp 108–110°. IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 3600, 3506, 1773, 1713, 1646. EIMS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 362 $[\text{M}]^+$ (2), 279 $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}]^+$ (6), 262 $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2]^+$ (7), 245 $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}_2 - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (6), 244 $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2 - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (6), 228 $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2 - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{O}]^+$ (4), 226 $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2 - 2\text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (3), 217 $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}_2 - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{CO}]^+$ (5), 83 $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}]^+$ (100), 55 $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_7]^+$ (26).

Karwinsinolide C (3). $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_6$, crystals, mp 210–213°. IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 3540, 1775, 1715, 1640. EIMS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 362 $[\text{M}]^+$ (not observed), 262 $[\text{M} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2]^+$ (0.2), 83 $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}]^+$ (59), 55 $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_7]^+$ (100). CIMS (*i*-Bu) m/z (rel. int.): 363 $[\text{M} + 1]^+$ (9), 345 $[\text{M} + 1 - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (5), 263 $[\text{M} + 1 - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2]^+$ (12), 245 $[\text{M} + 1 - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2]^+$ (37), 217 $[\text{M} + 1 - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2 - \text{CO}]^+$ (14), 101 (23), 83 (100).

Karwinsinolide B acetate (4). Sample of **2** (18 mg) was acetylated with Ac_2O –pyridine as usual. TLC (petrol–EtOAc, 7:3, 4 \times) afforded 12 mg **4**, as oil. IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 1776, 1743, 1713, 1646. EIMS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 404 $[\text{M}]^+$ (not observed), 344 $[\text{M} - \text{HOAc}]^+$ (0.6), 244 $[\text{M} - \text{HOAc} - \text{C}_5\text{H}_8\text{O}_2]^+$ (0.4), 83 $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_7\text{O}]^+$ (100), 55 $[\text{C}_5\text{H}_7]^+$ (42), 43 $[\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}]^+$ (46). ^1H NMR see Table 1.

4-Hydroxy-4,5-seco-caryophyllen-5-oic acid (6). Gum. IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 3165 (broad), 1711, 1642. EIMS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 254 $[\text{M}]^+$ (not observed), 239 $[\text{M} - \text{Me}]^+$ (0.3), 236 $[\text{M} - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (0.3), 221 $[\text{M} - \text{Me} - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (3), 209 $[\text{M} - \text{CO}_2\text{H}]^+$ (0.3), 194 $[\text{M} - \text{CO}_2\text{H} - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{Me}]^+$ (3), 191 $[\text{M} - \text{CO}_2\text{H} - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (0.3), 176 $[\text{M} - \text{CO}_2\text{H} - \text{H}_2\text{O} - \text{Me}]^+$ (3), 110 (39), 95 (100), 81 (30), 55 (31).

Methyl-4-hydroxy-4,5-seco-caryophyllen-5-oate (7). Methylation of **6** (55 mg) with excess of CH_2N_2 in Et_2O provided 48 mg of the ester **7**, after TLC (CH_2Cl_2 – Me_2CO , 19:1, 3 \times) purification, as an oil. IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 3400, 1740, 1640. EIMS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 288 $[\text{M}]^+$ (not observed), 253 $[\text{M} - \text{Me}]^+$ (0.1), 250 $[\text{M} - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (0.1), 235 $[\text{M} - \text{Me} - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (1), 126 (29), 110 (49), 95 (100), 79 (46), 55 (39), 45 (82), 41 (90).

4-Acetoxy-4,5-seco-caryophyllen-5-oic acid (8). Acetylation of 45 mg of **6** with Ac_2O –pyridine gave after TLC (petrol–EtOAc, 7:3, 3 \times) purification 40 mg of the acetate **8** as an oil. IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 2500–3500 (br), 1715, 1642. EIMS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 269 $[\text{M}]^+$ (not observed), 236 $[\text{M} - \text{HOAc}]^+$ (2), 221 $[\text{M} - \text{HOAc} - \text{Me}]^+$ (2), 110 (28), 95 (39), 55 (26), 43 (100).

Methyl-4-oxo-4,5-seco-caryophyllen-5-oate (9). Oxidation of **7** (22 mg) with pyridinium dichromate in CH_2Cl_2 afforded the methyl-ketone **9** as an oil. IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} :

1731, 1716, 1642. EIMS (probe) 70 eV m/z (rel. int.): 266 $[M]^+$ (0.3), 251 $[M - Me]^+$ (3), 223 $[M - MeCO]^+$ (3), 208 $[M - MeCO - Me]^+$ (20), 135 (28), 108 (56), 93 (55), 79 (30), 43 (100).

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