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ALKANE DIOLS FROM FLOWER PETALS OF CARTHAMUS TINCTORIUS

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Abstract—Eleven novel secondary alkane-1,3-diols were isolated from a methanol extract of dried flower petals of *Carthamus tinctorius*. Their structures were determined to be syn (R,S and/or S,R)- C_{36} -alkane-6,8-diol, syn- C_{28} -, C_{30} -, C_{32} , C_{34} - and C_{36} -alkane-7,9-diols, and syn- C_{27} , C_{29} -, C_{31} -, C_{33} - and C_{35} -alkane-8,10-diols by spectral methods. © 1997 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved

INTRODUCTION

Carthami Flos, the dried flower petals of Carthamus tinctorius, is a Chinese crude drug used for the treatment of disease in women [1]. A methanol extract of this species was found to inhibit the 12-O-tetradecanoylphorbol-13-acetate (TPA)-induced inflammation and tumour promotion in two-stage carcinogenesis in mice [2], in which sterols [2] and alkanediols [3, 4] were the most active compounds. The alkanediol fraction contained 12 syn-alkane-6,8-diols with carbon numbers of C₂₁, C₂₃, C₂₅ and C₂₇-C₃₅ (1–12) [5]. The present paper describes further investigations on this alkanediol fraction, which led us to isolate and characterize a further 11 novel compounds (13–23).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The methanol extract of Carthami Flos was partitioned between *n*-hexane-methanol-water (19:19:2). The *n*-hexane fraction was subjected to silica gel column chromatography, which yielded a mixture of sterols and alkanediols. Further chromatography of the mixture enabled the separation of the alkanediol fraction [5]. Preparative HPLC of the fraction yielded 12 syn-alkane-6,8-diols 1-12 [5] and 11 further alkanediols 13-23.

The EI-mass spectrum of 13 displayed the highest-mass ion at m/z 520 $(C_{36}H_{72}O)$ $[M-H_2O]^+$, accompanied by diagnostic fragmentation ions at m/z 467 $[M-C_5H_{11}]^+$ (fragment i), 423 $[M-C_7H_{15}O]^+$ (ii),

145 $[C_8H_{17}O_2]^+$ (iii) and 101 $[C_6H_{13}O]^+$ (iv), formed by α -cleavage of hydroxyl groups [6]. The fragmentation pattern and ¹H NMR spectral data (see Experimental) of 13 were essentially the same as those of *syn*-alkane-6,8-diols [5] and, hence, 13 was thought to possess a *syn*-alkane-6,8-diol structure, C_{36} i.e. (6R, 8S and/or 6S, 8R)-syn-hexatriacontane-6,8-diol.

The alkanediol 15 showed a $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 455 (C₃₀H₆₃O₂) in its CI-mass spectrum, accompanied by diagnostic ions at m/z 437 [M+H-H₂O]⁺ and 419 $[M+H-2H_2O]^+$. An absorption band due to a hydroxyl group at 3308 cm⁻¹ in the IR spectrum suggested that 15 was dihydroxy C₃₀ alkane. The EI-mass spectrum of 15, which displayed the highest-mass ion at m/z 436 (C₃₀H₆₀O) [M-H₂O]⁺, gave prominent fragmentation ions at m/z 369 [M – C₆H₁₃]⁺ (fragment i), 325 $[M - C_8H_{17}O]^+$ (ii), 159 $[C_9H_{19}O_2]^+$ (iii) and 115 $[C_7H_{15}O]^+$ (iv), formed by α -cleavage of hydroxyl groups. This suggested that the two hydroxyl groups are located at C-7 and C-9, and 15 was, thus, considered to have the structure, triacontane-7,9-diol. The ¹H NMR spectrum of 15 exhibited signals due to two terminal methyls [δ 0.88 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz) and 0.90 (3H, t, J = 6.9 Hz)], two hydroxyl-bearing methines $[\delta \ 2.77 \ (2H, m)]$, one methine adjacent to two hydroxyl-bearing methines [-CH(OH)-CH₂-CH(OH)-] [δ 1.45 (1H, ddd, J = 10.0, 11.1, 14.6 Hz) and 1.61 (1H, ddd, J = 2.2, 2.2, 14.6 Hz)] and methylenes (δ 1.25, br s), which were consistent with the proposed structure of 15. The coupling patterns of the methylene proton signals at δ 1.45 and 1.61 of 15 were in good agreement with those observed for syn-pentane726 T. Akihisa et al.

2,4-diol [δ 1.48 (1H, *ddd*, J = 9.8, 9.8, 14.2 Hz); δ 1.51 (1H, ddd, J = 2.7, 2.7, 14.2 Hz)] but different from those for the anti-isomer $[\delta \ 1.54 \ (2H), \ ddd, \ J = 3.0,$ 8.5, 14.2 Hz] [7], which suggested that 15 has a (7R, 9S and/or 7S, 9R)-syn-configuration with respect to the diol system. The syn-configuration of 15 was supported from the 'H NMR data of its cyclic acetal derivative (24), prepared by treatment with acetaldehyde in the presence of p-toluenesulphonic acid [5, 8]. The acetal 24, which occurred in the most stable chair form with an equatorially oriented methyl group at C-1' [8], displayed the C-8 methylene (H_A and H_B) signals as an ABXY-system in the ¹H NMR spectrum at δ 1.20 [H_A, ddd, $J_{AB} = 13.3$ Hz, J_{AX} (ax.-ax.) = J_{AY} (ax.-ax.) = 11.3 Hz and 1.50 [H_B, ddd, $J_{AB} = 13.3 \text{ Hz}$, $J_{\rm BX}$ (eq.-ax.) = $J_{\rm BY}$ (eq.-ax.) = 2.3 Hz]. The coupling constants of the ABXY-spin system were in agreement with those observed for syn-hentriacontane-6,8-diol acetal [5] and the syn-form of 5,7-dialkyl-1,3-dioxane derivatives [9] but different from those observed for the anti-isomer of the dioxane derivatives [9].

The other four alkanediols were characterized as C_{28} (14), C_{32} (16), C_{34} (17) and C_{36} (18) syn-alkane-7,9-diols based on their EI-mass spectral data $([M-H_2O]^+$ and diagnostic fragmentation ions i-iv) and ¹H NMR spectral similarities with those of 15.

The alkanediol 20 showed a $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 441 $(C_{29}H_{61}O_2)$, accompanied by fragment ions at m/z 423 $[M+H-H_2O]^+$ and 405 $[M+H-2H_2O]^+$ in the CImass spectrum, and hydroxyl absorption in the IR spectrum (3310 cm⁻¹), suggesting that it was a dihydroxy C29 alkane. The EI-mass spectrum of 20 displayed the highest-mass ion at m/z 422 ($C_{29}H_{58}O$) [M-H₂O]⁺ accompanied by diagnostic fragment ions at 341 $[M-C_7H_{15}]^+$ (fragment i), 297 $[M-C_9H_{19}O]^+$ (ii), 173 $[C_{10}H_{21}O_2]^+$ (iii) and 129 $[C_8H_{17}O]^+$ (iv) due to α-cleavage of hydroxyl groups. This indicated that the two hydroxyl groups are located at C-8 and C-10 and, hence, 20 was considered to be nonacosane-8,10diol. The 'H NMR spectra of 20 and its cyclic acetal 25 (see Experimental) were essentially the same as those of 15 and 24, respectively, which enabled the assignment of the syn-configuration with respect to the diol system of 20. Thus, 20 was (8R, 10S and/or 8S, 10R)-syn-nonacosane-8,10-diol. The other four alkanediols were characterised as C_{27} (19), C_{31} (21), C_{33} (22) and C_{35} (23) syn-alkane-8,10-diols based on their EI-mass spectral data ([M-H₂O]⁺ and diagnostic fragmentation ions i-iv) and ¹H NMR spectral similarities with those of 20.

Our recent [5] and present study has thus revealed that Carthami Flos contains 23 syn-alkane-1,3-diols: 13 syn-alkane-6,8-diols [1 (2.5%) of alkanediol fraction), 2 (1.3%), 3 (0.9%), 4 (8.3%), 5 (5.4%), 6 (7.3%), 7 (2.8%), 8 (28.6%), 9 (4.3%), 10 (14.5%), 11 (2.0%), 12 (2.4%) and 13 (0.5%)], five syn-alkane-7,9-diols [14 (0.1%), 15 (0.1%), 16 (0.8%), 17 (0.6%) and 19 (0.1%)] and five syn-alkane-8,10-diols [19 (0.1%), 20 (0.2%), 21 (0.6%), 22 (1.1%) and 23 (0.3%)], amongst which, eleven (13-23) were isolated and characterized

for the first time from a natural source. Major components were alkane-6,8-diols with an odd carbon number should be noted that only even carbon numbered alkane-7,9-diols and odd carbon numbered alkane-8,10-diols were detected.

EXPERIMENTAL

Recrystallizations: Me₂CO-MeOH. Mp: uncorr. HPLC: C₁₈ silica column (Superiorex ODS S-5 μm column, 25 cm × 10 mm i.d.; Shiseido), MeOH as mobile phase (flow rate 4 ml min-1). GC: DB-17 fused-silica capillary column (30 m × 0.3 mm i.d.), column temp. 275°. RR, on HPLC and GC expressed relative to cholesterol (cholest-5-en-3 β -ol). IR spectra were recorded in KBr discs. EI-MS (70 eV) and CI-MS (100 eV, isobutane): probe. H NMR spectra (400 MHz) were determined in CDCl₃ with TMS as int. standard. 'H NMR signal assignments were performed by comparison of the spectral data with those of related compounds [5]. Acetalization of 15 and 20 was carried out as described previously [5, 8]. The source and extraction of Carthami Flos (366 g) and separation of the alkanediol fr. (312 mg; 0.45% of MeOH extract) were as described in our previous paper [5]. Isolation of individual alkanediols from this fr. was achieved by HPLC. Composition of the alkanediol fr. was determined from HPLC and GC data.

Hexatriacontane-6,8-diol (13). Mp 88–90°. RR; 3.70 (HPLC), 4.73 (GC). MS m/z (rel. int.): 520 (1), 502 (2), 467 (2), 449 (2), 431 (2), 423 (2), 405 (1), 145 (11), 127 (10), 109 (17), 101 (7), 83 (53), 55 (100); HR-EI-MS m/z: 520.5545 ($C_{36}H_{72}O$ [M $- H_2O$] $^+$, requires 520.5579), 502.5481 ($C_{36}H_{70}$ [M $- 2H_2O$] $^+$), 467.4771 ($C_{31}H_{63}O_2$, fragment i), 423.4522 ($C_{29}H_{59}O$, ii), 145.1195 ($C_8H_{17}O_2$, iii), 101.0962 ($C_6H_{13}O$, iv). 1H NMR: δ 0.88 (3H, t, J = 6.9 Hz, H_{3} -36), 0.90 (3H, t, J = 6.9 Hz, H_{3} -1), 1.25 (br s), 1.45 (1H, ddd, J = 11.1, 11.1, 13.6 Hz, H-7), 1.61 (1H, ddd, J = 2.2, 2.2, 13.6 Hz, H-7), 2.77 (2H, m, 6-OH, 8-OH), 3.85 (2H, m, $W_{1/2}$ = 20 Hz, H-6, H-8).

Triacontane-7,9-diol (15). Mp 59-61°. RR;: 1.22 (HPLC), 1.24 (GC). IR v_{max} cm⁻¹. 3308 (OH), 2916, 2848, 1471, 1135, 1087, 840, 718. MS m/z (rel. int.): 436 (2), 418 (3), 369 (3), 351 (13), 333 (3), 325 (8), 159 (40), 141 (27), 123 (37), 115 (20), 112 (41), 97 (56), 43 HR-EI-MS m/z: 436.4639 $[M-H₂O]^+$, requires 436.3840), 418.4506 (C₃₀H₅₈ $[M-2H_2O]^+$), 369.3680 (C₂₄H₄₉O₂, fragment i), 325.3472 ($C_{22}H_{45}O$, ii), 159.1375 ($C_9H_{19}O_2$, iii), 115.1123 ($C_7H_{15}O$, iv). HR-Cl-MS m/z: 455.4824 $(C_{30}H_{63}O_2 [M+H]^+$ requires 455.4824), 437.4656 419.4540 $[M + H - H_2O]^+$, $[M+H-2H_2O]^+$). ¹H NMR: δ 0.88 (3H, t, J=7.1Hz, H₃-30), 0.90 (3H, t, J = 6.9 Hz, H₃-1), 1.25 (br s), 1.45 (1H, ddd, J = 10.0, 11.1, 14.6 Hz, H-8), 1.61 (1H, ddd, J = 2.2, 2.2, 14.6 Hz, H-8), 2.77 (2H, <math>m, 7-OH, 9-OH), 3.85 (2H, m, $W_{1/2} = 20$ Hz, H-7, H-9). ¹H NMR spectra of other alkane-7,9-diols described below (14, 16–18) were essentially the same as that of 15.

Triacontane-7,9-diol acetal (24). Mp 67–69°. RR; 4.36 (HPLC), 0.73 (GC). Ms m/z (rel. int.): 480 (2), 465 (29), 418 (3), 395 (3), 351 (12), 333 (3), 325 (6), 322 (10), 185 (30), 141 (31), 123 (26), 43 (100); HR-EI-MS m/z: 480.4885 ($C_{32}H_{64}O_2[M]^+$, requires 480.4902), 465.4662 ($C_{31}H_{61}O_2[M-Me]^+$), 418.4495 ($C_{30}H_{58}[M-C_2H_6O_2$ {62, acetal}]+), 395.3876 ($C_{26}H_{51}O_2$, fragment i), 333.3518 ($C_{24}H_{45}$, i–62), 185.1555 ($C_{11}H_{21}O_2$, iii), 123.1183 ($C_{9}H_{15}$, iii –62). ¹H NMR: δ 0.88 (6H, t, J = 7.1 Hz, H_3 -1, H_3 -30), 1.20 (1H, ddd, J = 11.3, 11.3, 13.3 Hz, ax. H_A -8), 1.25 (br s), 1.33 (3H, d, d) = 5.2 Hz, d), 1.50 (1H, ddd, d) = 2.3, 2.3, 13.3 Hz, eq. d), 4.67 (1H, d), d = 5.2 Hz, d), 4.67 (1H, d), d = 5.2 Hz, d).

Octacosane-7,9-diol (14). Mp 56–58°. RR_i : 0.84 (HPLC), 0.78 (GC). MS m/z (rel. int.): 408 (1), 390 (2), 341 (2), 323 (10), 305 (2), 297 (6), 279 (2), 159 (30), 141 (24), 123 (35), 115 (18), 112 (33), 97 (48), 43 (100).; HR-EI-MS m/z: 408.4310 ($C_{28}H_{56}O$ [M $-H_2O$]⁺, requires 408.4327), 390.4071 ($C_{28}H_{54}$ [M $-2H_2O$]⁺), 341.3557 ($C_{22}H_{45}O_2$, fragment i), 297.3140 ($C_{20}H_{41}O$, ii), 159.1362 ($C_{9}H_{19}O_2$, iii), 115.1118 ($C_{7}H_{15}O$, iv).

Dotriacontane-7,9-diol (16). Mp 77-80°. RR_i : 1.76 (HPLC), 1.95 (GC). MS m/z (rel. int.): 464 (1), 446 (2), 397 (2), 379 (10), 361 (2), 353 (5), 159 (34), 141 (23), 123 (29), 115 (19), 112 (33), 97 (51), 43 (100),; HR-EI-MS m/z: 464.4942 ($C_{32}H_{64}O$ [M $-H_2O$] $^+$, requires 464.4953), 446.4836 ($C_{32}H_{628}$ [M $-2H_2O$] $^+$), 397.4079 ($C_{26}H_{53}O_2$, fragment i), 353.3807 ($C_{24}H_{49}O$, ii), 159.1386 ($C_{9}H_{19}O_2$, iii), 115.1102 ($C_{7}H_{15}O$, iv).

Tetratriacontane-7,9-diol (17). Mp 74–78°. RR,: 2.52 (HPLC), 3.06 (GC). MS m/z (rel. int.): 492 (1), 474 (3), 425 (1), 407 (9), 389 (2), 381 (5), 159 (36), 141 (24), 123 (30), 115 (21), 112 (35), 97 (52), 43 (100); HR-EI-MS m/z: 492.5239 ($C_{34}H_{68}O$ [M $-H_2O$] $^+$, requires 492.5212), 474.5179 ($C_{34}H_{66}$ [M $-2H_2O$] $^+$), 425.4344 ($C_{28}H_{57}O_2$, fragment i), 381.4143 ($C_{26}H_{53}O$, ii), 159.1362 ($C_9H_{19}O_2$, iii), 115.1106 ($C_7H_{15}O$, iv).

Hexatriacontane-7,9-diol (18). Mp 81-84°. RR_i : 3.54 (HPLC), 4.73 (GC). MS m/z (rel. int.): 520 (1), 502 (1), 453 (2), 435 (3), 417 (1), 409 (2), 391 (2), 159 (11), 141 (8), 123 (17), 115 (11), 112 (20), 97 (36), 43 (100); HR-EI-MS m/z: 520.5542 ($C_{36}H_{72}O$ [M- H_2O]+, requires 520.5578), 502.5541 ($C_{36}H_{70}$ [M- $2H_2O$]+), 453.3754 ($C_{31}H_{59}O_2$, fragment i), 409.4431 ($C_{28}H_{57}O$, ii), 159.1356 ($C_{9}H_{19}O_2$, iii), 115.1125 ($C_{7}H_{15}O$, iv).

Nonacosane-8,10-diol (20). Mp 52–55°C. RR_i : 0.99 (HPLC), 0.98 (GC). IR v_{max} cm⁻¹3310 (OH), 2913, 2849, 1471, 1136, 1092, 842, 719. MS m/z (rel. int.): 422 (7), 404 (12), 341 (21), 323 (18), 305 (3), 297 (11), 295 (7), 294 (8), 279 (1), 173 (43), 155 (32), 137 (28), 129 (25), 126 (43), 111 (26), 43 (100); HR-El-MS m/z: 422.4503 ($C_{29}H_{58}O$ [M – H_2O]+, requires 422.4485), 404.4400 ($C_{29}H_{56}$ [M – $2H_2O$]+), 341.3423 ($C_{22}H_{45}O_2$, fragment i), 297.3184 ($C_{20}H_{41}O$, ii), 173.1559 ($C_{10}H_{21}O_2$, iii), 129.1267 ($C_8H_{17}O$, iv). HR-Cl-MS m/z: 441.4652 ($C_{29}H_{61}O_2$ [M + H]+, requires 441.4668),

423.4542 ($C_{29}H_{59}O$ [M+H-H₂O]⁺), 405.4444 ($C_{29}H_{57}$ [M+H-2H₂O]⁺). ¹H NMR: δ 0.88 (6H, t, J = 6.0 Hz, H₃-1, H₃-29), 1.25 (br s), 1.45 (1H, ddd, J = 10.4, 11.3, 14.6 Hz, H-9), 1.61 (1H, ddd, J = 2.2, 2.2, 14.6 Hz, H-9), 2.75 (2H, m, 8-OH, 10-OH), 3.84 (2H, m, $W_{1/2}$ = 23 Hz, H-8, H-10). ¹H NMR spectra of other alkane-8,10-diols described below (19, 21–23) were essentially the same as that of 20.

Nonacosane-8,10-diol acetal (25). Mp 65–67°. RR: 3.63 (HPLC), 0.57 (GC). MS m/z (rel. int.): 466 (1), 451 (24), 404 (2), 367 (3), 323 (10), 305 (1), 294 (7), 199 (19), 155 (23), 137 (12), 129 (8), 126 (37), 43 (100); HR-EI-MS m/z: 466.4709 ($C_{31}H_{62}O_2$ [M]⁺, requires 466.4745), 451.4470 ($C_{30}H_{59}O_2$ [M – Me]⁺), 404.4374 ($C_{29}H_{56}$ [M – $C_2H_6O_2$ {62, acetal}]⁺), 367.3588 ($C_{24}H_{47}O_2$, fragment i), 305.3189 ($C_{22}H_{41}$, i – 62), 199.1686 ($C_{12}H_{23}O_2$, iii), 137.1301 ($C_{10}H_{17}$, iii – 62). ¹H NMR: δ 0.88 (6H, t, t = 7.1 Hz, t +3-1, t +3-29), 1.19 (1H, t +3 dd, t = 11.3, 11.3, 13.2 Hz, ax. t +4, -9), 1.25 (t -8), 1.33 (3H, t +4, 9 Hz, t +3-2'), 1.50 (1H, t +4 dd, t = 2.2, 2.2, 13.2 Hz, eq. t +8, 9), 3.54 (2H, t +8, t +10), 4.67 (1H, t +9, t = 5.2 Hz, H-1').

Heptacosane-8,10-diol (19). Mp 54–56°. RR_i : 0.68 (HPLC), 0.67 (GC). MS m/z (rel. int.): 394 (1), 376 (2), 313 (3), 295 (12), 277 (3), 269 (8), 173 (30), 155 (24), 137 (25), 129 (20), 126 (31), 111 (23), 43 (100); HR-EI-MS m/z: 394.4104 ($C_{27}H_{54}O$ [M $-H_2O$]⁺, requires 394.4171), 376.4084 ($C_{27}H_{52}$ [M $-2H_2O$]⁺), 313.2998 ($C_{20}H_{41}O_2$, fragment i), 269.2819 ($C_{18}H_{37}O$, ii), 173.1517 ($C_{10}H_{21}O_2$, iii), 129.1233 ($C_{8}H_{17}O$, iv).

Hentriacontane-8,10-diol (21). Mp 64-66°. RR;: 1.43 (HPLC), 1.55 (GC). MS m/z (rel. int.): 450 (1), 432 (1), 369 (2), 351 (10), 333 (2), 325 (5), 173 (27), 155 (21), 137 (21), 129 (16), 126 (27), 111 (23), 43 (100); HR-EI-MS m/z: 450.4761 ($C_{31}H_{62}O$ [M $-H_2O$] $^+$, requires 450.4797), 432.4664 ($C_{31}H_{60}$ [M $-2H_2O$] $^+$), 369.3745 ($C_{24}H_{49}O_2$, fragment i), 325.3451 ($C_{22}H_{45}O$, ii), 173.1539 ($C_{10}H_{21}O_2$, iii), 129.1265 ($C_{8}H_{17}O$, iv).

Tritriacontane-8,10-diol (22). Mp 79–82°. RR_i : 2.06 (HPLC), 2.44 (GC). MS m/z (rel. int.): 478 (1), 460 (3), 397 (10), 379 (11), 361 (2), 353 (7), 335 (1), 173 (33), 155 (26), 137 (25), 129 (20), 111 (29), 43 (100); HR-EI-MS m/z: 478.5076 ($C_{33}H_{66}O$ [M $-H_2O$] $^+$, requires 478.5110), 460. 4953 ($C_{33}H_{64}$ [M $-2H_2O$] $^+$), 397.4049 ($C_{26}H_{66}O_2$, fragment i), 353.3800 ($C_{24}H_{49}O$, ii), 173.1528 ($C_{10}H_{21}O_2$, iii), 129.1261 ($C_8H_{17}O$, iv).

Pentatriacontane-8,10-diol (23). Mp 75–78°C. RR_i : 2.95 (HPLC), 3.83 (GC). MS m/z (rel. int.): 506 (1), 488 (2) 425 (1), 407 (3), 389 (1), 381 (1), 173 (33), 155 (25), 137 (23), 129 (19), 126 (33), 111 (25), 43 (100); HR-EI-MS m/z: 506.5490 ($C_{35}H_{70}O$ [M $-H_2O$] $^+$, requires 506.5423), 488.5356 ($C_{35}H_{68}$ [M $-2H_2O$] $^+$), 425.4346 ($C_{28}H_{57}O_2$, fragment i), 381.4133 ($C_{26}H_{53}O$, ii), 173.1530 ($C_{10}H_{21}O_2$, iii), 129.1267 ($C_{8}H_{17}O$, iv).

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