



AREPTINS A AND B TWO NEW NEO-CLERODANE DITERPENOIDS FROM *AJUGA REPTANS*

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Key Word Index—*Ajuga reptans*; Labiatae; neo-clerodane diterpenoids; areptins A and B.

Abstract—Two new neo-clerodane derivatives, areptins A and B, have been isolated from the acetone extract of the aerial parts of *Ajuga reptans*, in addition to the previously known diterpenes, ajugareptansin, ajugorientin, ajugachin A and iridoid glucosides, 8-acetylharpagide and harpagide. The structures of the new compounds were established by chemical and spectroscopic means as: (11*S*,13*R*,16*S*)-2*α*,6*α*,19-triacetoxy-3*β*-(2-methylbutyryloxy)-4*α*, 18:11, 16:15, 16-triepoxy-neo-clerodan-1*β*-ol (areptin A); (11*S*,13*S*,16*S*), 6*α*,19-diacetoxy-1*β* [(*E*)-2-methyl-2-butenoyloxy]-4*α*, 18:11, 16:15, 16-triepoxy-neo-clerodan-14-en-3*β*-ol (areptin B). © 1998 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved

INTRODUCTION

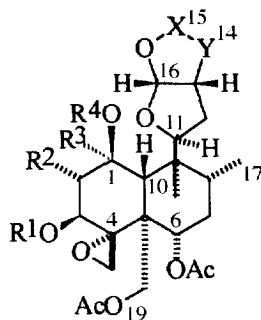
In continuation of our studies on the diterpenes from *Ajuga* species [1–5], we have now investigated the aerial parts of *A. reptans*. From the acetone extract of this plant we have isolated two new neo-clerodane diterpenes, areptins A (**1**) and B (**2**), besides the already known diterpenes ajugareptansin [6], ajugachin A [1], ajugorientin (**5**) [7] and iridoid glucosides, 8-acetylharpagide and harpagide [8–10]. The structures of **1** and **2** were established by chemical and spectroscopic means and by comparison with those of closely related compounds [1–3, 7, 11, 12].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Areptin A (**1**) had a molecular formula $C_{31}H_{46}O_{12}$ and its IR spectrum was consistent with the presence of hydroxyl (3454 cm^{-1}) and ester groups (1746 br , 1234 br cm^{-1}). The ^1H NMR spectrum (Table 1) showed signals for three acetate groups (δ 1.94 *s*, 2.05 *s* and 2.15 *s*), a 2-methylbutyric ester function (δ 2.18 *m*, 1.40 *m*, 1.06 *d*, $J = 6.6\text{ Hz}$; 0.85 *t*, $J = 7.5\text{ Hz}$) [2, 6], together with characteristic signals of a neo-clerodane structure (Me-17 at δ 0.99 *d*, $J = 6.3\text{ Hz}$; Me-20 at δ 1.08 *s*) possessing a 4*α*,18-oxirane (δ 2.73 *d* and 2.83 *d*, $J = 4.0\text{ Hz}$) and hexahydrofurofuran moiety (see the H-11, H-13, H₂-15 and H-16 proton resonances

in Table 1), which was also confirmed by the significant peaks at m/z 113, 111, 83 and 69 in the mass spectrum of **1** like other neo-clerodane derivatives previously isolated from *Ajuga* plants [1–7]. The attachment of the above mentioned functions was revealed by the following signals due to six protons on carbon atoms bearing oxygen atoms: δ 5.06 *dd* (1H, $J_1 = 10.4\text{ Hz}$; $J_2 = 8.4\text{ Hz}$), 5.53 *d* (1H, $J = 10.5\text{ Hz}$), 4.33 *d* and 4.79 *d*, $J_{\text{gem}} = 12.6\text{ Hz}$), 4.67 *dd* (1H, $J_1 = 11.5$; $J_2 = 4.7\text{ Hz}$) and 4.18 *m* (2H, overlapped signals with H-11*α*). In addition the ^1H NMR spectrum of **1** showed an one-proton doublet at δ 1.81 ($J = 10.5\text{ Hz}$), which collapsed into a singlet when the multiplet at δ 4.18 was irradiated. This result clearly established that the hydroxyl group of areptin A (**1**) was at C-1*β* (equatorial position) like in ajugavensin C a neo-clerodane diterpene isolated from *A. genevensis* [2, 3]. The chemical shifts and the behaviour of the signals at δ 4.67 *dd*, 4.73 *d* br. and 4.79 *d* were the same as these at H-6*β* and H₂-19, respectively [1–4, 6, 7]. Moreover the signals at δ 5.06 *t* and 5.33 *d* are reciprocally coupled ($J_{2\beta 3\alpha} = J_{2\beta 1\alpha} = 10.4\text{ Hz}$), *trans*-diaxial coupling), which was revealed by double resonance experiments, and they must be assigned to a neo-clerodane possessing two ester groups at the C-2*α* and C-3*β* equatorial positions. On the other hand the multiplet at δ 4.18 and the doublet at δ 1.81 clearly showed that **1** possessed a $\text{CH-CHOH-CHOR-CHOR-C}\equiv$ structural part in the ring A, which was also confirmed by the ^{13}C NMR data (Table 2), δ 66.8 *d*(C-1), 70.2 *d*(C-2) and 76.8

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	R ¹	R ²	R ³	R ⁴	X-Y
1		OAc	H	H	CH ₂ —CH ₂
2	H	H	H		CH=CH
3		OAc		O	CH ₂ —CH ₂
4	Ac	H	H		CH=CH
5	H	H	H		CH ₂ —CH ₂

$d(C-3)$. According to the coupling constants of above structural part (10.4 Hz) the ring A should be in a chair conformation [2, 3].

In agreement with above conclusion areptin A (1) was treated with CrO_3 -pyridine and derivative 3 was obtained, in which 1H NMR spectra (Table 1) the signal of the proton of hydroxyl group at δ 5.45 had disappeared. The signals for $H-10\beta$ and $H-2\beta$ were paramagnetically shifted to δ 2.87 and δ 5.20 and transformed into a singlet and doublet, respectively. Moreover the signals for $H-3\alpha$ (δ 5.53), H_A-18 (δ 2.73) and H_B-18 (δ 2.83) were also paramagnetically shifted to δ 5.75, 2.94 and 3.13, respectively, whereas the multiplet for $2H-15$ was diamagnetically shifted and split at δ 3.68 *ddd* and 3.80 *ddd*. The location of the 2-methylbutyryl group in areptin A(1) was established from the hetero-nuclear multiple bond connectivity (HMBC) spectrum, which showed

correlation between the carbonyl carbon of the 2-methylbutyryl moiety (δ_C 175.0) and the $H-3\alpha$ (δ 5.53 *d*) proton, whereas the carbonyl carbons of the three acetoxyl groups (δ_C 170.6 *s*, 170.2 *s* and 170.0 *s*) were connected with the 2β H (δ 5.06), 6β H (δ 4.67) and $2H-19$ (δ 4.33 and 4.79) protons, thus establishing the positions of the 2-methylbutyryl group (C-3 equatorial) and the three acetoxyl (C-2, C-6 equatorial and C-19) groups. The relative configuration of 1 was deduced from a NOESY experiment. The axial $H-6\beta$ showed NOE's with $H-10\beta$, H_B-18 and $H-8\beta$. Moreover, the $H-10\beta$ showed NOE's with H_A-18 , $H-2\beta$ and $1\beta-OH$. The $H-3\alpha$ showed cross-peaks with H_A-19 and the acetoxyl group at C-2 α . The Me-20 group showed NOE's with $H-11\alpha$ and H_B-19 , whereas $H-16\beta$ showed cross-peaks with $H-13\beta$ and $1\beta-OH$, consequently areptin A (1) possessed the same stereochemistry as ajugavensin C [2, 3].

Table 1. ^1H NMR data of compounds **1** and **3** (250 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS as int. standard, chem. shifts in ppm, J in Hz)*

H	1	3	$J_{\text{H,H}}$	1	3
1 α	4.18 m^\dagger	—	1 α , 10 β	10.5	—
2 β	5.06 t	5.20 t			
3 β	5.53 d	5.75 d	2 β , 10 β	—	<1
6 β	4.67 dd	4.86 dd			
7 α	$\sim 1.50^\ddagger$	—	2 β , 1 α	10.4	10.1
7 β	$\sim 1.58^\ddagger$	—	3 α , 2 β	10.4	10.1
8 β	$\sim 1.55^\ddagger$	—	6 β , 7 α	11.5	11.4
10 β	1.81 d	2.87 s	6 β , 7 β	4.7	4.9
11 α	4.16 m^\ddagger	4.27 dd	11 α , 12A	—	10.0
12A	$\sim 1.53^\ddagger$	—	11 α , 12B	—	6.0
12B	$\sim 2.28^\ddagger$	—	15A, 15B	—	8.7
13 β	2.95 §	2.75 §	15A, 14B	—	6.5
14A	$\sim 1.68^\ddagger$	—	15A, 14A	—	3.4
14B	$\sim 2.20^\ddagger$	—	15B, 14A	—	6.6
15 (2H)	3.89 ‡	15A 3.68 ddd 15B 3.80 ddd	15B, 14B	—	3.3
16 β	5.63 d	5.62 d	16 β , 13 β	5.2	5.0
Me-17	0.99 d	0.80 d	17, 8 β	6.3	6.6
			18A, 18B	4.0	3.8
18 A	2.73 d	2.94 d	19A, 19B	12.6	12.9
18 B	2.83 d	3.13 d	4', 3'	7.5	7.4
19 A	4.33 $br\ d$	4.27 d	2', 5'	6.6	7.2
19 B	4.79 d	4.62 d			
Me-20	1.08 s	1.02 s			
OA c	1.94 s	1.91 s			
	2.05 s	1.96 s			
	2.15 s	2.0 s			
OH	5.45 $br\ s$	—			
2'	2.18 m^\ddagger	2.27 $sept$			
3'	1.40 m^\ddagger	1.42 m			
4'	0.85 t	0.81 t			
5'	1.06 d	1.03 d			

*Spectral parameters were obtained by first-order approximation. All assignments were confirmed by double resonance experiments.

† Overlapped signals.

$^\ddagger W_{1/2} = 17\text{ Hz}$.

$^\S W_{1/2} = 17.2\text{ Hz}$.

The second diterpenoid areptin B (**2**), had a molecular formula of $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{40}\text{O}_{10}$ from elemental analysis and mass spectroscopy. Its IR spectrum was consistent with the presence of hydroxyl group (3473 cm^{-1}), ester groups (1738 , 1707 , 1256 cm^{-1}), a tigloyloxy moiety (1651 cm^{-1}), a vinyl ether function (1620 and 734 cm^{-1}) and an oxirane ring (3078 cm^{-1}). The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra (Tables 1 and 2) were almost identical with those of ajugorientin (**5**) [4]. In fact the observed differences between these spectra were consistent with the presence in compound **2** of a double bond between C-14–C-15 in the furofuran moiety, [(δ 4.70 t , $J = 2.1\text{ Hz}$, 6.36 dd , $J_1 = 2.5$; $J_2 = 2.1\text{ Hz}$); carbon atoms resonances at δ_{C} 102.0 d and 146.2 d [1]] instead of the hexahydrofurofuran part. Moreover, the signals of H-13 β (δ 3.31 m) and H-16 β (δ 5.87 d , $J = 6.2\text{ Hz}$) were paramagnetically shifted ($\Delta + 0.66\text{ ppm}$ and $\Delta + 0.31\text{ ppm}$, respectively), in comparison with those of the compound **5** [7]. The identical chemical shifts of the H-1 α , H-6 β and C-19 methylene protons of **2** in comparison with **5** [2, 3, 7] supported the same arrangement of the ester substituents in both compounds.

Table 2. ^{13}C NMR spectral data of compounds **1**, **2** and **4** (62.9 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS as int. standard)*

C	1	2	4
1	66.8 d	70.2 d^\dagger	69.4 d^\dagger
2	70.2 d	34.0 t^\dagger	34.9 t^\dagger
3	76.8 d	66.7 d	66.4 d
4	62.4 s	64.0 s	64.1 s
5	44.8 s	44.7 s	44.7 s
6	69.3 d	71.3 d^\dagger	70.9 d^\dagger
7	31.7 t	33.7 t^\dagger	33.5 t^\dagger
8	36.6 d	34.3 d	35.1 d
9	42.3 s	41.0 s	40.8 s
10	49.9 d	52.2 d	52.1 d
11	84.9 d	83.9 d	84.4 d
12	33.0 t	32.6 t	31.9 t
13	41.3 d	45.7 d	45.6 d
14	32.5 t	102.0 d	102.4 d
15	69.3 t	146.2 d	146.4 d
16	107.8 d	107.1 d	108.2 d
17	16.5 q	17.3 q	16.8 q
18	42.7 t	43.6 t	44.4 t
19	61.7 t	61.6 t	62.2 t
20	17.3 q	14.8 q	15.5 q
OA c	170.0 s	170.2 s	170.2 s
	170.2 s	169.8 s	169.4 s
	170.6 s	20.0 q	169.6 s
	21.0 q	21.0 q	20.8 q
	21.0 q	—	+ 21.0 q
	21.1 q	—	+ 21.1 q
1'	175.0 s	166.3 s	166.3 s
2'	41.9 d	128.8 s	128.7 s
3'	26.5 t	137.4 d	137.2 d
4'	11.4 q	14.4 q	14.4 q
5'	14.1 q	12.1 q	12.0 q

*Multiplicities were determined by DEPT pulse sequence.

† Assignments may be reversed.

The presence of the hydroxyl group was confirmed by the acetylation of **2** yielding the derivative **4**, the IR spectrum of which was devoid of hydroxyl absorption (see Experimental) and whose ^1H NMR spectrum (Table 3) showed a paramagnetically shifted signal of H-3 α (5.53 dd , $J_{3\alpha,2\beta} = 7.3\text{ Hz}$; $J_{3\alpha,2\alpha} = 4.2\text{ Hz}$).

Important information about the conformation of the ring A of compound **2** was obtained from the vicinal coupling constants at δ 5.78 for H-1 α (ddd , $J_{1\alpha,10\beta} = 8.0\text{ Hz}$, $J_{1\alpha,2\alpha} = 4.0\text{ Hz}$, $J_{1\alpha,2\beta} = 4.8\text{ Hz}$) and δ 4.32 for H-3 α (dd , $J_{3\alpha,2\beta} = 7.2$; $J_{3\alpha,2\alpha} = 4.2\text{ Hz}$). Such behaviour of the above mentioned protons in the ^1H NMR spectra of the decaline part in **2** can be explained with distorted boat conformation of the ring A like other *neo*-clerodane diterpenoids [3, 6, 7]. All the above data were in complete agreement with structure such as **2** for areptin B. The absolute configurations of **1** and **2** were not ascertained. However, on biogenetic grounds, one could suppose that **1** and **2** belong to the *neo*-clerodane series like the other diterpenoids isolated from *Ajuga* species [1–7, 11, 12].

EXPERIMENTAL

Mps: uncorr. Plant materials was collected in August 1995, at Pirin Mountains near chalet rest-

Table 3. ^1H NMR data of compounds **2** and **4** (250 MHz, CDCl_3 , TMS as int. standard, chem. shifts in ppm, J in Hz)*

H	2	4	$J_{\text{H,H}}$	2	4
1 α	5.78 ddd	5.85 m^{\dagger}	1 α , 2 α	4.0	4.0
2 α	$\sim 1.67^{\ddagger}$	$\sim 1.69^{\ddagger}$	1 α , 2 β	4.8	4.4
2 β	2.45 ddd	2.52 ddd	1 α , 10 β	8.0	5.3
3 α	4.32 dd	5.53 dd	2 α , 2 β	10.2	8.4
6 β	4.79 dd	4.79 dd	2 β , 3 α	7.2	7.3
7 α	$\sim 1.72^{\ddagger}$	$\sim 1.74^{\ddagger}$	3 α , 2 α	4.1	4.2
7 β	2.01 t	2.03 t	6 β , 7 β	4.8	4.9
8 β	$\sim 1.52^{\ddagger}$	$\sim 1.55^{\ddagger}$	6 β , 7 α	12.4	12.6
10 β	2.21 d	2.23 d	8 β , 17	6.1	6.0
11 α	4.28 ddd	4.17 dd	11 α , 12A	11.7	11.7
13 β	3.31 §	3.26 ‡	11 α , 12B	5.0	4.9
14	4.70 t	4.72 t	13 β , 14	2.5	2.5
15	6.36 dd	6.37 dd	13 β , 15	2.1	2.3
16 β	5.87 d	5.85 d^{\ddagger}	13 β , 16 β	6.2	6.2
Me-17	0.89 d	0.86 d	14, 15	2.5	2.5
18A	2.91 d	2.93 d	18A, 18B	4.4	4.3
18B	3.02 d	2.99 d	19A, 19B	12.3	12.7
19A	4.17 br d	4.13 d	19A, 6 β	<0.3	<0.2
19B	5.02 d	5.06 d	3', 4'	6.9	6.8
Me-20	0.94 s	0.99 s	3', 5'	1.3	1.2
OAc	2.11 s	2.13 s	4', 5'	0.9	0.8
	1.95 s	1.94 s			
	—	1.92 s			
3'	6.77 qq	6.80 qq			
4'	1.81 m	1.80 m			
5'	1.84 m	1.83 m			

*Spectral parameters were obtained by first-order approximation. All assignments were confirmed by double resonance experiments.

† Partially overlapped signals.

$^{\ddagger}W_{1,2} = 18$ Hz.

$^{\S}W_{1,2} = 21$ Hz.

house—"Banderitza" at 1998 msl (Bulgaria) and voucher specimens (No. 32723) are deposited in the Herbarium of the Department of the Botanica at the Higher Institute of Agriculture at Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

Extraction and isolation of the compounds

Dried and powdered *Ajuga reptans*, aerial parts (1.1 kg) were extracted with Me_2CO (7 l) at room temp. for 7 days. After removal of the solvent, the residue (48 g) was dissolved in 800 ml 60% aq Me_2CO then cooled at 2–4° for 24 h and filtered. This process was repeated 3 \times . The combined filtrates were extracted first with CHCl_3 (100 ml \times 4) and the extract was washed with H_2O , dried (Na_2SO_4) and evapd. *in vacuo* giving a residue (5 g). This residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (Merck, No. 7734, deactivated with 10% H_2O , 110 g), eluted with CHCl_3 –petrol (9:1) yielded areptin A (**1**, 41 mg) and with CHCl_3 –areptin B (**2**, 28 mg), ajugareptansin (500 mg). Further elution with CHCl_3 –MeOH (9.5:0.5) yielded ajugachin A (31 mg) and ajugorientin (**5**, 47 mg). Second, the combined extracts were extracted with *n*-BuOH (5 \times 100 ml). The *n*-BuOH-extract (4.8 g) was chromatographed (CC. Merck, No. 7734, 10% H_2O , 115 g). Elution with CHCl_3 –MeOH mixtures yielded crude 8-acetylharpagide (78 mg) and harpagide (43 mg). The previously known compounds

were identified by their spectroscopic (IR, ^1H and ^{13}C NMR) data and by comparison (mmp, TLC) with authentic samples.

Areptin A (**1**)

Mp 169–172° (EtOAc–*n*-hexane); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ 0° (CHCl_3 , c 0.225); IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 3454, 3078, 2973, 2880, 1746 br, 1448, 1463, 1372, 1234 br, 1180, 1149, 1078, 1046, 1027, 984, 621. ^1H NMR (Table 1), ^{13}C NMR (Table 2). EIMS (70 eV, direct inlet) m/z (rel. int): $[\text{M}]^+$ absent, 592 $[\text{M} - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (0.01), 509(0.1), 506(0.6), 420(0.3), 395(0.8), 318(0.5), 312(1), 225(4), 187(6), 185(4), 113(100), 111(28), 102(18), 101(15), 83(21), 69(19), 43(28). (Found: C 61.12; H 7.73. $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_{12}$ requires: C 60.98; H 7.54%).

Oxidation of **1** to **3**

CrO_3 –pyridine oxidation of **1** (22 mg) in the usual manner yielded **3** (16 mg) as an amorphous solid, mp. 89–92°, $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ -3.7° (CHCl_3 , c 0.227), IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 3072, 2977, 2882, 1744 br, 1721, 1446, 1460, 1362, 1247, 1172, 1127, 1067, 1028, 981, 603. ^1H NMR (Table 1). EIMS (70 eV, direct inlet) m/z (rel. int): 608 $[\text{M}]^+$ (0.01), 529(0.03), 507(0.4), 506(0.3), 497(0.7), 495(0.8), 404(0.6), 393(1), 314(2), 236(6), 185(7), 113(60), 111(21), 102(16), 101(14), 83(28), 69(27), 43(100). (Found: C 61.47; H 7.58. $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{44}\text{O}_{12}$ requires: C 61.18; H 7.23%).

Areptin B (**2**)

An amorphous solid mp. 91–95°, $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ -21.2° (CHCl_3 , c 0.211); IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 3473 (OH), 3078, 1707, 1651 (tigloyloxy), 1620, 734 (vinyl ether), 1738, 1256 (OAc and tigloyloxy), 2967, 2938, 2878, 1462, 1373, 1187, 1150, 1110, 1068, 1034, 905, 804. ^1H NMR (Table 3), ^{13}C NMR (Table 2). EIMS (70 eV, direct inlet) m/z (rel. int): 548 $[\text{M}]^+$ (0.01), 489(0.02), 449 $[\text{M} - \text{OTig}]^+$ (0.06), 448 $[\text{M} - \text{HOTig}]^+$ (0.1), 437(0.7), 338(0.5), 332(0.9), 278(1), 216(3), 198(4), 111(85), 83(50), 69(70), 55(40), 43(100). (Found: C 63.02; H 7.11. $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{40}\text{O}_{10}$ requires: C 63.50; H 7.30%).

Acetylation of **2** to **4**

Compound **2** (25 mg) was treated with a mixt. of Ac_2O (0.8 ml) and pyridine (1 ml) at room temp. for 48 h. Work-up in the usual manner gave **4** (22 mg). Amorphous solid, mp. 86–89°, $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ -18.09° (CHCl_3 , c 0.257); IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{KBr}}$ cm^{-1} : 3061, 2971, 2934, 1741, 1707, 1652, 1618, 1445, 1369, 1250, 1143, 1093, 1071, 1037, 1011, 949, 899, 735. ^1H NMR (Table 3), ^{13}C NMR (Table 2). EIMS (70 eV, direct inlet) m/z (rel. int): 548 $[\text{M}]^+$ absent, 499 $[\text{M} - \text{OTig}]^+$ (0.02), 498(0.01), 489 $[\text{M} - \text{C}_6\text{H}_7\text{O}_2]^+$ (0.01), 390(0.2), 387(0.3), 314(0.3), 258(2), 111(70), 83(58), 69(40), 55(38), 43(100). (Found: C 63.27; H 7.41. $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{42}\text{O}_{11}$ requires: C 63.05; H 7.12%).

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