



## Triterpenoids from *Tripterygium wilfordii*

Hongquan Duan<sup>a</sup>, Yoshihisa Takaishi<sup>a,\*</sup>, Hiroshi Momota<sup>b</sup>, Yasukazu Ohmoto<sup>b</sup>,  
Takao Taki<sup>b</sup>, Yongfeng Jia<sup>c</sup>, Duan Li<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Tokushima, Shomachi 1-78, Tokushima 770-8505, Japan

<sup>b</sup>Cellular Technology Institute, Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Kagasuno, Tokushima 771-01, Japan

<sup>c</sup>School of Pharmacy, Shanghai Medical University, 138 Yi Xue Yuan Road, Shanghai 200032, People's Republic of China

Received 15 September 1999; received in revised form 15 November 1999

### Abstract

The extract (T<sub>II</sub>) of *Tripterygium wilfordii* Hook f. afforded four triterpenoids: wilforic acid D (3 $\beta$ ,24-epoxy-2 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-24R\*-ethoxy-29-friedelanoic acid); (E) 3 $\beta$ ,24-epoxy-2-oxo-3 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-29-friedelanoic acid; (F) 2 $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-oxo-friedelan-29-oic acid; 29-hydroxy-3-oxo-olean-12-en-28-oic acid and 17 known triterpenoids. Their structures were established on the basis of spectroscopic studies. In a bioactivity analysis, only the known dulcioic acid compound showed a significant inhibitory effect on cytokine production. © 2000 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

**Keywords:** *Tripterygium wilfordii*; Triterpenoids; Immunosuppressive activity

### 1. Introduction

The genus *Tripterygium* has been used as a source of traditional Chinese drugs for the treatment of cancer, and as an insecticide, for 100s of years. In the course of our studies on the bioactive metabolites of this genus, we have described several interleukin-1 inhibitors: the diterpene quinoids, tingenone and celastrol from *Tripterygium wilfordii* var. *regelii* (Shishido et al., 1994; Takaishi et al., 1997), and have reported on the isolation and structure determination of wilforic acids A, B and C from *T. wilfordii* Hook f. (Li, Duan, Kawazoe & Takaishi, 1997). Recently, the extract derived from a water/chloroform extract of the roots of *T. wilfordii* Hook f. (the so-called total multi-glycoside or T<sub>II</sub> fraction) was used in the clinical treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, skin disorders, in male-fertility control and for other inflammatory and autoimmune diseases (Qian, 1987; Matlin et al., 1993; Qian, Xu &

Zhang, 1995). The precise mechanism of the therapeutic effect of T<sub>II</sub>, however, has not been completely delineated. In order to determine which of the components present in the extract T<sub>II</sub> are responsible for such diverse activities, studies were initiated on the isolation of the active principles of the extract of *T. wilfordii* (T<sub>II</sub> fraction). We report here the isolation and structure elucidation of four new triterpenoids, named wilforic acids D (1), E (2), and F (3), and 29-hydroxy-3-oxo-olean-12-en-28-oic acid (4), and 17 known triterpenoids (5–21) from the extract of *T. wilfordii* (T<sub>II</sub> fraction), along with the immunosuppressive activity of these compounds.

### 2. Results and discussion

The powdered extract T<sub>II</sub> of *T. wilfordii* Hook f. was subjected to repeated chromatography to afford wilforic acids D (1), E (2), and F (3), 29-hydroxy-3-oxo-olean-12-en-28-oic acid (4), and the known compounds 5–21.

Compound 1 (wilforic acid D) revealed hydroxy and

\* Corresponding author. Tel.: +81-88-633-7275; fax: +81-88-633-9501.

E-mail address: takaishi@ph.tokushima-u.ac.jp (Y. Takaishi).

carbonyl bands in its IR spectrum (3423 and 1702  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showed three methine proton signals [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.02 (1H, *s*), 4.04 (1H, *br t*,  $J = 4.4$  Hz) and 3.88 (1H, *d*,  $J = 4.9$  Hz)], one ethoxy group [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.79, 3.42 (each 1H, *dt*,  $J = 16.6, 7.3$  Hz), 1.20 (3H, *t*,  $J = 7.3$  Hz)], five methyl groups [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.25, 1.08, 0.96, 0.92 and 0.86 (each 3H, *s*)], and one doublet methyl group [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.05 (3H, *d*,  $J = 6.8$  Hz)]. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum of **1** showed a carboxylic acid carbon at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  184.6, three methine carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  103.4, 83.6 and 69.1, considered to be attached to oxygen functionalities, an oxygenated methylene carbon at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  64.6, seven methyl groups, four methine carbon signals, nine methylene carbon signals, and six quaternary carbon signals. These observations agreed with a molecular formula  $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{52}\text{O}_5$ , which was supported by HR FABMS. Except for the ethoxy group, the C-skeleton containing 30 carbons, including five tertiary methyl and one secondary methyl groups, and was deduced to be a friedelane-type triterpene. Comparison of the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data indicated that compound **1** was very similar to orthosphenic acid (**9**) (Gonzalez et al.,

1983), except for ring A (Table 1). In the HMBC spectrum of **1**, the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.04 (H-2) was correlated with the carbon signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  27.0 (C-1) and 83.6 (C-3), the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.88 (H-3) with the carbon signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  49.6 (C-5), 14.2 (C-23) and 103.4 (C-24), and the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.02 (H-24) with the carbon signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  52.8 (C-10), 83.6 (C-3), 44.1 (C-4) and 64.6 (ethoxy group). Therefore, compound **1** was considered to be 3-dehydroxy-24-ethoxy-ortho-sphenic acid. The coupling constant of H-2 (*br t*,  $J = 4.4$  Hz) indicated that H-2 was coupled to H-3 (*d*,  $J = 4.9$  Hz) and only one proton of  $\text{H}_{\text{a}}-1$  ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.73, *dt*,  $J = 4.1, 14.1$  Hz). By studying the molecular model of **1**, H-2 was assigned as an equatorial proton with the hydroxy group having a  $2\alpha$  orientation. On the other hand, the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.02 (H-24) was correlated with the signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.92 (H<sub>3</sub>-25) in the NOESY spectrum, thus a  $24\text{R}^*$  configuration of the ethoxy group was proposed. Assignments of the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data were made on the basis of the 2D NMR spectra (see Section 3 and Table 1). Since ethanol solvent had not used in the extraction and isolation of **T<sub>II</sub>**, we believe that compound **1** is a natural product.

Wilforic acid E (**2**) exhibited a molecular ion peak at  $m/z$  486.3352 from HR EIMS. It showed IR absorption bands at 3436, 1736, and 1702  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , suggesting the presence of a hydroxy group, carboxylic acid, and carbonyl group. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data of **2** were very similar to those of orthosphenic acid (**9**), except for C-1, C-2, C-3 and C-4. It was concluded that compound **2** is 2-dehydroxy-2-oxo-orthosphenic acid. In the HMBC spectrum of **2**, the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.53 ( $\text{H}_{\alpha}-1$ ) was correlated with the carbon signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  207.4 (C-2), 103.1 (C-3), 57.2 (C-10) and 47.5 (C-5), and the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.51 (H-4) was correlated with the ketone carbon signal at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  207.4 (C-2). Moreover, the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.09 (H<sub>3</sub>-23) was correlated with the signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  103.1 (C-3), 51.2 (C-4) and 47.5 (C-5). Thus, the ketone group was located at position C-2.

Wilforic acid F (**3**),  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_4$ , showed the presence of a hydroxy group, a carboxylic acid and a ketone group in the IR spectrum (3436, 1719 and 1703  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3** revealed six tertiary methyl groups [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.27, 1.10, 1.00, 0.70 (each 3H, *s*) and 0.88 (6H, *s*)], a secondary methyl group [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.95 (3H, *d*,  $J = 6.7$  Hz)], and a methine proton [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.08 (1H, *br d*,  $J = 10.5$  Hz)] attached to the oxygen function. Its  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum revealed a ketonic carbonyl carbon ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  212.4), a carboxylic carbon ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  184.4), a methine carbon ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  75.0) attached to the oxygen function, and seven methyl carbons ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  31.9, 31.4, 18.5, 18.1, 16.4, 14.7 and 6.6). In addition, it also showed ten methylenes, four methines, and six quaternary carbons. It is also a friedelane triterpene, pos-

Table 1

 $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR chemical shift for compounds **1–4**, **9** and **16**<sup>a</sup>

Carbon	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>
1	27.0	34.2 <sup>c</sup>	32.5	39.2	28.7	38.6
2	69.1	207.4	75.0	34.2	74.2	34.4
3	83.6	103.1	212.4	217.8	108.1	220.7
4	44.1	51.2	55.6	47.5	46.8	50.9
5	49.6	47.5	43.0	55.3	47.5	55.7
6	29.6	33.3	41.2	19.6	34.0	19.2
7	19.2	19.1	18.2	32.2	19.7	32.4
8	50.4	50.3	50.8	39.3	50.4	39.2
9	37.2	37.8	37.4	47.0	37.5	46.5
10	52.8	57.2	56.8	36.9	53.3	36.6
11	34.2	34.1 <sup>c</sup>	35.3	23.0	34.7	22.9
12	29.1	29.0	29.5	122.8	29.5	122.2
13	39.1 <sup>b</sup>	39.2 <sup>d</sup>	39.3	143.4	39.6	143.7
14	39.0 <sup>b</sup>	39.0 <sup>d</sup>	39.3	41.8	39.3	41.7
15	29.6	29.5	29.4	27.7	29.7	27.7
16	36.1	36.0	36.1	23.6	36.7	23.7
17	30.1	30.1	30.1	46.9	30.5	46.5
18	44.2	44.0	44.2	40.3	44.8	41.2
19	30.3	30.3	30.3	40.1	30.9	45.9
20	40.4	40.4	40.4	35.8	40.7	30.7
21	29.5	29.4	29.7	28.3	30.5	33.8
22	36.6	36.7	36.7	31.6	37.4	32.3
23	14.2	7.2	6.6	21.5	8.4	22.1
24	103.4	72.7	14.7	26.5	72.1	65.7
25	16.9	16.8	18.5	15.1	16.9	16.0
26	16.6	16.7	16.4	17.0	16.8	16.8
27	18.1	17.9	18.1	26.0	18.1	25.8
28	31.9	31.8	31.9	183.1	32.1	182.8
29	184.6	184.4	184.4	74.3	181.3	33.1
30	31.5	31.4	31.4	19.0	32.3	23.6

<sup>a</sup> **1**: OEt, 64.6 (*t*), 15.4 (*q*); solvents **1–4** and **16**:  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ; **9**:  $\text{C}_5\text{D}_5\text{N}$ , TMS as int. standard.

<sup>b,c,d</sup> Assignments may be interchangeable in each column.

sessing a hydroxy, a ketone and a carboxylic acid group (Sousa, Silva, Pedersoli & Alves, 1990). Moreover, the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data were very similar to those of **2**, except for ring A (Table 1). In the HMBC spectrum, the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.44 ( $\text{H}_{\text{a}}-1$ ) was correlated with the carbon signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  75.0 (C-2), 212.4 (C-3) and 43.0 (C-5), and the methyl proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.95 ( $\text{H}_3-23$ ) was correlated with the signal at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  212.4 (C-3), 55.6 (C-4) and 43.0 (C-5), while the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.25 (H-4) was correlated with the carbon signal at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  75.0 (C-2). From these observations, it was concluded that the hydroxy and ketone groups were assigned at positions C-2 and C-3, respectively. Furthermore, the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.08 (H-2) was correlated with the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.25 (H-4) in the NOESY spectrum, indicating that the relative stereochemistry of the hydroxy group was 2 $\beta$ .

Compound **4**,  $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_4$ , possessed hydroxy, carboxylic and ketone groups from the IR spectrum (3443, 1720 and  $1703\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **4** showed a methine proton [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.28 (1H, *br s*)] attached to a double bond, methylene groups [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.25 (2H, *s*)] attached to an oxygen functionality, and six methyl groups [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.11, 1.04, 1.00, 0.99, 0.92 and 0.77 (each 3H, *s*)]. Its  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum was similar to that of compound **16** (Hart, Lamberton, Sioumis & Soares, 1976), with the assignments of the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data being aided by examination of 2D NMR spectra. In this way, it was found that the difference between compounds **4** and **16** was the position of the hydroxy methylene group (Table 1). In the HMBC spectrum of **4**, the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.25 ( $\text{H}_2-29$ ) was correlated with the carbon signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  35.8 (C-20), 28.3 (C-21) and 19.0 (C-30). On the other hand, the proton signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.84 (H-18 $\beta$ ) showed NOESY correlations with the signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.92 ( $\text{H}_3-30$ ) and 5.28 (H-12). Based on the above observations and the conformation of the oleanene skeleton, a C-29 assignment of hydroxy methylene group is proposed. Thus, compound **4** is formulated as 29-hydroxy-3-oxo-olean-12-en-28-oic acid.

Known compounds **5–21** were identified from their spectral data upon comparison with values reported in the literature as 3-hydroxy-2-oxo-D:A-friedoolean-3-en-29-oic acid (**5**) (Morota et al., 1995a, 1995b), 3 $\beta$ -hydroxy-2-oxofriedelan-29 $\alpha$ -carboxylic acid (**6**) (Sousa et al., 1990), polpunoic acid (**7**) and cangoronine (**8**) (Itokawa, Shirota, Ikuta, Morita, Takeya & Iitaka, 1991), orthosphenic acid (**9**) (Gonzalez et al., 1983), wilforic acid B (**10**) (Li et al., 1997), celastrol (**11**) (Morota et al., 1995a, 1995b), triptocallic acid D (**12**) (Nakano, Oose & Takaishi, 1997), 22 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-3-oxo-olean-12-en-29-oic acid (**13**) and 22 $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-oxo-olean-12-en-29-oic acid (**14**) (Kutney, Hewitt, Lee, Piotrowska, Roberts & Rettig, 1992), 3-epikatonic acid (**15**) (Coxon & Wells, 1980), 24-hydroxy-3-oxo-olean-

12-en-28-oic acid (**16**) (Hart et al., 1976), 23-hydroxy-3-oxo-olean-12-en-28-oic acid (**17**) (Verma, Singh & Nath, 1997), abruslactone A (**18**) (Chang, Chiang & Mak, 1982; Takaishi et al., 1997), dulcioic acid (**19**) (Takaishi et al., 1997), regelindiol A (**20**) (Pang, Zhao, Hori & Inayama, 1989), and hypodiol (**21**) (Duan, Kawazoe, Bando, Kido & Takaishi, 1997).

In a continuing study of immunosuppressive active principles, we have reported previously on the activity of celastrol (**11**) and 22 $\beta$ -hydroxy-tingenone (Takaishi et al., 1997). As a part of our work in search for immunosuppressive active principles, the inhibitory effect on cytokine (TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-2, 4, 8, and IFN- $\gamma$ ) production of compounds **1**, **5**, **7–10**, **12–15** and **18–20** were examined. The data for the isolated compounds which demonstrated an inhibitory effect are shown in Table 2. Compounds **7** and **13** showed an inhibitory effect on IL-2 release, compounds **10** and **15** inhibited IL-2, 4, 8 and THF- $\gamma$  release, and dulcioic acid **19** showed a inhibitory effect on all of the cytokines produced by lipopolysaccharide-stimulated human peripheral mononuclear cells compared to the reference compound (prednisolone).

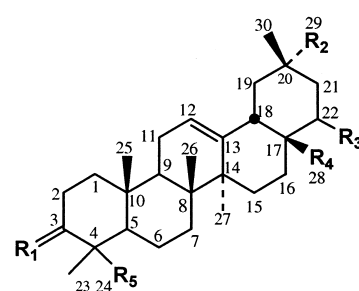
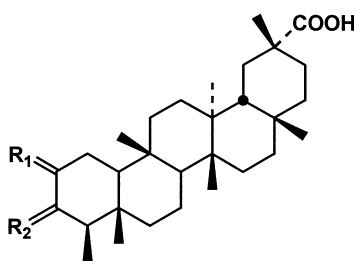
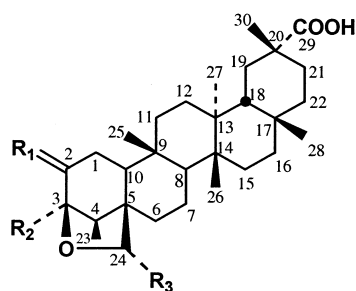
### 3. Experimental

NMR spectra were acquired on a Bruker ARX-400 instrument.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR: 400 MHz,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR: 100 MHz, using TMS as int. standard and MS were obtained on a JEOL JMSD-300 instrument. Chromatography column: silica gel 60 (Merck) and Sephadex LH-20 (Pharmacia); HPLC: GPC (Asahipak, GS-310 2G, MeOH), silica gel HPLC (YMC-Pack SIL-06 SH-043-5-06,  $250 \times 20\text{ mm}$ ). IR spectra were recorded on a 1720 Infrared Fourier Transform Spectrometer (Perkin-Elmer), where UV spectra were obtained on a UV 2100 UV-Vis recording spectrometer (Shimadzu). Optical rotations were measured using a JASCO DIP-370 digital polarimeter.

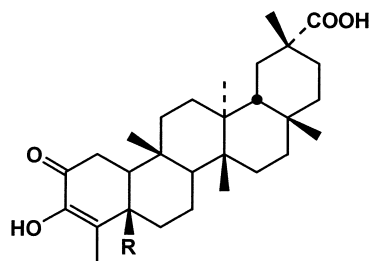
Table 2  
The inhibition effect on cytokines of compounds **7**, **10**, **13**, **15** and **19**<sup>a</sup>

Compounds	Inhibition (%)					
	TNF- $\alpha$	IL-8	IL-1 $\beta$	IL-4	IL-2	IFN- $\gamma$
<b>7</b>	–67.1	–15.1	–27.5	40.6	77.1	–1.4
<b>10</b>	38.1	60.4	42.9	79.7	88.8	81.4
<b>13</b>	–9.4	–5.7	–15.3	27.0	66.7	11.2
<b>15</b>	19.1	66.2	18.8	72.9	85.3	65.9
<b>19</b>	77.5	97.9	82.3	98.5	100.0	99.3
Prednisolone	88.5	90.3	88.5	96.1	93.9	95.4

<sup>a</sup> Concentration: compounds **7**, **10**, **13**, **15** and **19**, 10  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ; prednisolone, 0.3  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ .

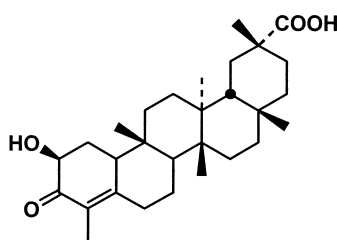


	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>		R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>		R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>
1	α-OH, β-H	H	OEt	3	α-H, β-OH	O	4	O	CH <sub>2</sub> OH	H	COOH	Me
2	O	OH	H	6	O	α-H, β-OH	12	α-OH, β-H	COOH	α-OH	Me	Me
9	α-OH, β-H	OH	H	7	2H	O	13	O	COOH	α-OH	Me	Me
							14	O	COOH	β-OH	Me	Me
							15	α-OH, β-H	COOH	H	Me	Me
							16	O	Me	H	COOH	βCH <sub>2</sub> OH
							17	O	Me	H	COOH	αCH <sub>2</sub> OH

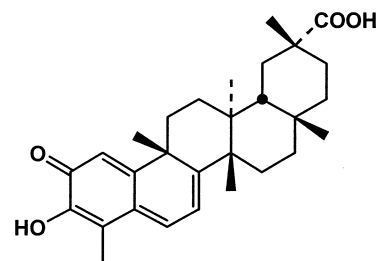


5 R=Me

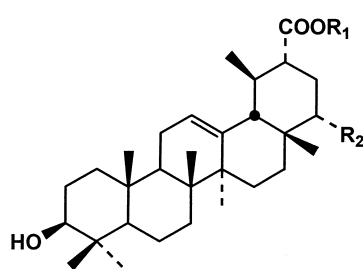
8 R=CHO



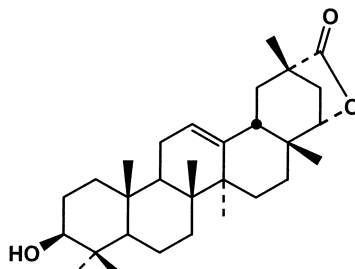
10



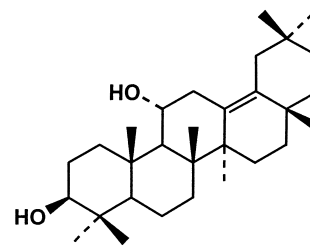
11



	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>
19	H	H
20	Me	OH



18



21

### 3.1. Isolation of compounds 1–21

The powdered extract T<sub>II</sub> of *Tripterygium wilfordii* was purchased in 1997 from the School of Pharmacy, Shanghai Medical University, People's Republic of China. It was extracted from the root xylem with

water, then with chloroform and separated by column chromatography (silica gel, eluted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH, 95:5). Samples of T<sub>II</sub> and the original plant (*T. wilfordii*) are deposited in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Tokushima, Japan.

The extract (T<sub>II</sub>, 54 g) was subjected to chromatog-

raphy on a silica gel column (1.0 kg, 11 × 90 cm) and eluted with solvents of increasing polarity [CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH (99:1, 95:5, 9:1, MeOH)] to give 10 frs (fr. 1–10). Fr. 2 was crystallized from MeOH to obtain **18** (52 mg). Fr. 5 (16.5 g) was chromatographed on a silica gel column (6 × 80 cm) and eluted with hexane–EtOAc (1:1, 1:2, 1:4) to give 12 frs (fr. 5.1–5.12). Combined fr. 5.2 + 5.3 (1.7 g) was chromatographed on Sephadex LH-20 to give three frs (fr. 5.2.1–5.2.3). Fr. 5.2.1 was separated by medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC, CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH, 99:1) and GPC (MeOH) to give **17** (14 mg) and **20** (37 mg). Fr. 5.2.2 was separated by MPLC (CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH, 99:1) and Si HPLC (hexane–EtOAc, 3:2) to give **2** (4.5 mg) and **5** (19 mg). Fr. 5.2.3 was separated by GPC (MeOH) and preparative TLC (CHCl<sub>3</sub>–acetone) to give **8** (16 mg). Combined fr. 5.4 + 5.5 (1.7 g) was subjected to Sephadex LH-20 chromatography and medium-pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC, silica gel, CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH, 97:3) to give **15** (110 mg) and other six frs (fr. 5.4.1–5.4.6). Fr. 5.4.2 was separated by GPC (MeOH) and Si HPLC (hexane–EtOAc, 2:3) to give **6** (14 mg), **13** (11 mg) and **14** (4 mg). Fr. 5.4.5 was separated by GPC (MeOH) and Si HPLC (hexane–EtOAc–MeOH, 6.5:3:0.5) to give **4** (4.5 mg) and **10** (6 mg). Combined fr. 5.6 + 5.7 (2.7 g) was subjected to Sephadex LH-20 chromatography to obtain six frs (fr. 5.6.1–5.6.6). Fr. 5.6.2 was separated by GPC (MeOH) to give **1** (16 mg) and **9** (44 mg). Fr. 5.6.3 was separated by PTLC (CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH, 9:1) and Si HPLC (hexane–EtOAc, 1:3) to give **16** (4 mg), **19** (17 mg) and **21** (1.5 mg). Fr. 5.6.4 was separated by GPC (MeOH) and preparative TLC (CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH, 9:1) to give **3** (6 mg) and **7** (12 mg). Fr. 5.6.5 was separated by GPC (MeOH) to give **11** (40 mg) and **12** (31 mg).

### 3.2. Wilforic acid D (**1**)

Amorphous powder,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 15.7^\circ$  (MeOH, *c* 1.2). IR  $\nu_{\max}^{\text{KBr}}$  cm<sup>−1</sup>: 3570, 3423, 2938, 2372, 1736, 1719, 1702, 1678, 1656, 1460, 1381, 1264, 1216, 1116, 1052, 1036, 963, 705. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.86 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-26), 0.92 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-25), 0.96 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-27), 1.05 (3H, *d*, *J* = 6.8 Hz, H<sub>3</sub>-23), 1.08 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-28), 1.20 (3H, *t*, *J* = 7.3 Hz, OEt), 1.25 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-30), 1.73 (1H, *dt*, *J* = 4.1, 14.1 Hz, H<sub>a</sub>-1), 1.97 (1H, *q*, *J* = 6.8 Hz, H-4), 2.15 (1H, *br d*, *J* = 14.2 Hz, H-6), 2.23 (1H, *br d*, *J* = 13.2 Hz, H-21), 2.32 (1H, *br d*, *J* = 14.2 Hz, H-19), 3.42 (1H, *dt*, *J* = 16.6, 7.3 Hz, OEt), 3.79 (1H, *dt*, *J* = 16.6, 7.3 Hz, OEt), 3.88 (1H, *d*, *J* = 4.9 Hz, H-3), 4.04 (1H, *br t*, *J* = 4.4 Hz, H-2), 5.02 (1H, *s*, H-24). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), see Table 1. EI MS: *m/z* (rel. int.) 442 [M – OEt]<sup>+</sup> (100), 424 (50), 409 (13), 372 (14), 317 (24), 304 (20), 259 (14), 248 (25), 235 (35), 221 (20), 189 (30), 175 (32), 147 (41), 135 (25), 121 (42), 109 (56), 95 (54), 81 (38), 69 (29), 44 (50). FAB MS:

*m/z* 515 [M – H]<sup>+</sup>, HR FAB MS: *m/z* 515.3748 [M – H]<sup>+</sup>, C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>51</sub>O<sub>5</sub> requires 515.3737.

### 3.3. Wilforic acid E (**2**)

Amorphous powder,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 32.5^\circ$  (MeOH, *c* 0.5). IR  $\nu_{\max}^{\text{KBr}}$  cm<sup>−1</sup>: 3469, 3436, 3369, 3307, 2930, 2873, 1736, 1702, 1678, 1656, 1630, 1459, 1451, 1389, 1191, 1121, 1005, 897, 700. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.88 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-26), 0.95 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-27), 1.04 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-25), 1.09 (3H, *d*, *J* = 7.5 Hz, H<sub>3</sub>-23), 1.10 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-28), 1.26 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-30), 1.51 (1H, *q*, *J* = 7.5 Hz, H-4), 1.89 (1H, *br d*, *J* = 14.8 Hz, H-6), 1.98 (1H, *dt*, *J* = 14.0, 3.9 Hz, H-22), 2.15 (1H, *br d*, *J* = 14.6 Hz, H-21), 2.31 (1H, *br d*, *J* = 13.7 Hz, H-19), 2.53 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 16.4, 6.1 Hz, H<sub>α</sub>-1), 2.74 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 16.4, 13.1 Hz, H<sub>β</sub>-1), 3.87 (1H, *d*, *J* = 8.7 Hz, H'-24), 4.36 (1H, *d*, *J* = 8.7 Hz, H''-24). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), see Table 1. EI MS: *m/z* (rel. int.) 486 [M]<sup>+</sup> (15), 458 (11), 332 (11), 304 (20), 289 (11), 235 (17), 221 (12), 189 (15), 175 (13), 163 (26), 155 (28), 147 (24), 135 (33), 125 (100), 121 (60), 109 (92), 95 (80), 81 (75), 67 (57), 55 (77), 41 (50). HR EIMS: *m/z* 486.3352 [M]<sup>+</sup>, C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>46</sub>O<sub>5</sub> requires 486.3345.

### 3.4. Wilforic acid F (**3**)

Amorphous powder,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 20.6^\circ$  (MeOH, *c* 0.6). IR  $\nu_{\max}^{\text{KBr}}$  cm<sup>−1</sup>: 3570, 3436, 2930, 1719, 1703, 1656, 1639, 1619, 1562, 1459, 1451, 1390, 1246, 1125, 1085, 981. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.70 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-24), 0.88 (6H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-25, 26), 0.95 (3H, *d*, *J* = 6.7 Hz, H<sub>3</sub>-23), 1.00 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-27), 1.10 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-28), 1.27 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-30), 1.99 (1H, *dt*, *J* = 14.1, 4.0 Hz, H-22), 2.16 (1H, *br d*, *J* = 14.4 Hz, H-21), 2.25 (1H, *q*, *J* = 6.7 Hz, H-4), 2.34 (1H, *br d*, *J* = 13.4 Hz, H-19), 2.44 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 10.6, 7.0 Hz, H-1), 4.08 (1H, *br d*, *J* = 10.5 Hz, H-2). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), see Table 1. EI MS: *m/z* (rel. int.) 472 [M]<sup>+</sup> (43), 454 [M – H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>+</sup> (19), 318 (15), 289 (54), 264 (29), 250 (26), 235 (31), 209 (23), 189 (23), 163 (34), 155 (85), 147 (23), 135 (31), 121 (42), 109 (100), 95 (61), 81 (47), 69 (36), 55 (41), 43 (31). HR EIMS: *m/z* 472.3542 [M]<sup>+</sup>, C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>48</sub>O<sub>4</sub> requires 472.3553.

### 3.5. 29-Hydroxy-3-oxo-olean-12-en-28-oic acid (**4**)

Amorphous powder,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 66.0^\circ$  (MeOH, *c* 0.4). IR  $\nu_{\max}^{\text{KBr}}$  cm<sup>−1</sup>: 3652, 3570, 3530, 3443, 3327, 2944, 2376, 1720, 1703, 1667, 1664, 1656, 1639, 1619, 1562, 1389, 1032, 707, 605. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  0.77 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-26), 0.92 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-30), 0.99 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-23), 1.00 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-25), 1.04 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-24), 1.11 (3H, *s*, H<sub>3</sub>-27), 2.33 (1H, *m*, H<sub>α</sub>-2), 2.50 (1H, *m*, H<sub>β</sub>-2), 2.84 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 13.8, 3.9 Hz, H-18), 3.25 (2H, *s*, H<sub>2</sub>-29), 5.28 (1H, *br s*, H-12). <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), see Table 1. EI MS: *m/z* (rel. int.) 470 [M]<sup>+</sup> (14), 439 [M – CH<sub>2</sub>OH]<sup>+</sup> (11),

424 (4), 251 (12), 233 (100), 219 (17), 201 (59), 187 (16), 159 (11), 145 (10), 119 (13), 105 (14), 95 (14), 81 (19), 69 (15), 55 (21), 41 (17). HR EIMS:  $m/z$  470.3374  $[M]^+$ ,  $C_{30}H_{46}O_4$  requires 470.3396.

## References

- Chang, H. M., Chiang, T. C., & Mak, T. C. W. (1982). Isolation and structure elucidation of abrusiacetone A: a new oleanene-type triterpene from the roots and vines of *Abrus precatorius* L. *Journal of Chemical Society, Chemical Communications*, 1197–1198.
- Coxon, D. T., & Wells, J. W. (1980). 3-Epikatonin acid from guar meal, *Cyamopsis tetragonoloba*. *Phytochemistry*, 19, 1247–1248.
- Duan, H., Kawazoe, K., Bando, M., Kido, M., & Takaishi, Y. (1997). Di- and triterpenoids from *Tripterygium hypoglauca*. *Phytochemistry*, 46, 535–543.
- Gonzalez, A. G., Fraga, B. M., Gonzalez, P., Gonzalez, C. M., Ravelo, A. G., Ferro, E., Dominguez, X. A., Martinez, M. A., Perales, A., & Fayos, J. (1983). Crystal structure of orthosphenic acid. *Journal of Organic Chemistry*, 48, 3759–3761.
- Hart, N. K., Lamberton, J. A., Sioumis, A. A., & Soares, H. (1976). New triterpenes of *Lantana camara*. A comparative study of the constituents of several taxa. *Australian Journal of Chemistry*, 29, 655–671.
- Itokawa, H., Shiota, O., Ikuta, H., Morita, H., Takeya, K., & Iitaka, Y. (1991). Triterpenes from *Maytenus ilicifolia*. *Phytochemistry*, 30, 3713–3716.
- Kutney, J. P., Hewitt, G. M., Lee, G., Piotrowska, K., Roberts, M., & Rettig, S. J. (1992). Studies with tissue cultures of the Chinese herbal plant, *Tripterygium wilfordii*. Isolation of metabolites of interest in rheumatoid arthritis, immunosuppression, and male contraceptive activity. *Canadian Journal of Chemistry*, 70, 1455–1480.
- Li, K., Duan, H., Kawazoe, K., & Takaishi, Y. (1997). Terpenoids from *Tripterygium wilfordii*. *Phytochemistry*, 45, 791–796.
- Matlin, S. A., Belenguer, A., Stacey, V. E., Qian, S. Z., Xu, Y., Zhang, J. W., Sanders, J. K. M., Amor, S. R., & Pearce, C. M. (1993). Male antifertility compounds from *Tripterygium wilfordii* Hook f. *Contraception*, 47, 387–400.
- Morota, T., Yang, C. X., Sasaki, H., Qin, W. Z., Sugama, K., Miao, K. L., Yoshino, T., Xu, L. H., Maruno, M., & Yang, B. H. (1995a). Triterpenes from *Tripterygium wilfordii*. *Phytochemistry*, 39, 1153–1157.
- Morota, T., Yang, C. X., Ogino, T., Qin, W. Z., Katsuhara, T., Xu, L. H., Komatsu, Y., Miao, K. L., Mruno, M., & Yang, B. H. (1995b). D: A-friedo-24-noroleanane triterpenoids from *Tripterygium wilfordii*. *Phytochemistry*, 39, 1159–1163.
- Nakano, K., Oose, Y., & Takaishi, Y. (1997). A novel epoxy-triterpene and nor triterpene from callus cultures of *Tripterygium wilfordii*. *Phytochemistry*, 46, 1179–1182.
- Pang, G. M., Zhao, C. J., Hori, H., & Inayama, S. (1989). = New triterpenoids of *Tripterygium regelii*. *Yaoxue Xuebao*, 24, 75–79.
- Qian, S. Z. (1987). *Tripterygium wilfordii*, a Chinese herb effective in male fertility regulation. *Contraception*, 36, 335–345.
- Qian, S. Z., Xu, Y., & Zhang, J. W. (1995). Recent progress in research on *Tripterygium*: a male antifertility plant. *Contraception*, 51, 121–129.
- Shishido, K., Nakano, K., Wariishi, N., Tateishi, H., Omodani, T., Shibata, M., Goto, K., Ono, Y., & Takaishi, Y. (1994). Diterpene quinoids from *Tripterygium wilfordii* var. *regelii* which are interleukin-1 inhibitors. *Phytochemistry*, 35, 731–737.
- Sousa, J. R. D., Silva, G. D. F., Pedersoli, J. L., & Alves, R. J. (1990). Friedelane and oleanane triterpenoids from the bark wood of *Austroplenckia populnea*. *Phytochemistry*, 29, 3259–3261.
- Takaishi, Y., Wariishi, N., Tateishi, H., Kawazoe, K., Nakano, K., Ono, Y., Tokuda, H., Nishino, H., & Iwashima, A. (1997). Triterpenoid inhibitors of interleukin-1 secretion and tumor-promotion from *Tripterygium wilfordii* var. *regelii*. *Phytochemistry*, 45, 969–974.
- Verma, D. K., Singh, S. K., & Nath, G. (1997). Antimicrobial active triterpenoids from *Lantana* species. *Indian Drugs*, 34, 390–392.