

Antimicrobial and cytotoxic agents from *Calophyllum inophyllum*

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Abstract

The study of the chemical constituents of the root bark and the nut of *Calophyllum inophyllum* has resulted in the isolation and characterization of a xanthone derivative, named inoxanthone, **3**, together with 12 known compounds: caloxanthones A, **4** and B, **5**, macluraxanthone, **6**, 1,5-dihydroxyxanthone, **7**, calophynic acid, **8**, brasiliensic acid, **9** inophylloidic acid, **10**, friedelan-3-one, **11**, calaustralin, **12**, calophyllolide, **13**, inophyllums C, **14** and E, **15**. Their structures were established on the basis of spectral evidence. Their in vitro cytotoxicity against the KB cell line and their antibacterial activity and potency against a wide range of micro organisms were evaluated.

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1. Introduction

The dipyrancoumarins, a group of natural products isolated from several tropical plants of the genus *Calophyllum*, Clusiaceae, are characterized by chromane and chromene ring systems assembled around a phloroglucinol core (Polonsky, 1957; Kawazu et al., 1968; Gunasekera et al., 1977; Patil et al., 1993; Ishikawa, 2000). In 1992, the research group of the National Cancer Institute reported that (+)-calanolide A, **1** and inophyllum B, **2**, isolated from *Calophyllum lanigerum* Miq. and *C. inophyllum* L., respectively, showed strong activity against human immunodeficiency virus type 1

(HIV-1) (Kashman et al., 1992; Patil et al., 1993). Since then, the chemical constituents of several *Calophyllum* species have been extensively studied (Goh and Jantan, 1991; Chenera et al., 1993; Iinuma et al., 1994, 1995; Kijjoa et al., 2000; Ito et al., 2002, 2003). These studies have revealed that, besides pyranocoumarins, the genus *Calophyllum* is also a rich source of xanthones (Iinuma et al., 1994, 1995), triterpenes (Gunatilaka et al., 1984), steroids (Gunasekera and Sultanbawa, 1975), and biflavonoids (Cao et al., 1997). As part of a continuing search for bioactive metabolites from the plant family Clusiaceae, the chemical constituents of the root bark and fruit of *C. inophyllum* L., which is the only species of *Calophyllum* genus found in Cameroon, has been investigated. In this country, the aqueous extracts of the root bark and leaves are used as a cicatrissant, whereas those of the nut had analgesic properties and are also used in the treatment of wounds and herpes

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Table 1

¹H (400 MHz) and ¹³C (100 MHz) NMR (CDCl₃) spectral data of inoxanthone (3) and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) spectral data of calaustalin (12)

Carbon no.	$^3\delta_{\text{C}}$	δ_{H}	Carbon no.	$^{12}\delta_{\text{C}}$
1	156.7		1	
2	105.5		2	160.17
3	159.4		3	113.33
4	113.1		4	156.6
5	153.9		5	160.82
6	120.5	7.22 (1H, <i>dd</i> , <i>J</i> = 2.2, 7.2) ^a	5a	102.68
7	124.2	7.19 (1H, <i>t</i> , <i>J</i> = 7.2)	5b	159.43
8	116.03	7.67 (1H, <i>dd</i> , <i>J</i> = 2.2, 7.2)	6	200.5
9	181.3		7	46.28
4a	144.1		8	79.45
8a	119.6		9	
9a	103.6		10	109.11
8b	145.3		10a	160.98
1'	41.3		10b	103.92
2'	155.8	6.72 (1H, <i>dd</i> , <i>J</i> = 10, 17)	11	139.28
3'	104.0	5.18 (1H, <i>dd</i> , <i>J</i> = 1, 17)	12	127.71
	5.06 (1H, <i>dd</i> , <i>J</i> = 1, 10)	13	128.07	
4'	28.2	1.64 (3H, <i>s</i>)	14	128.7
5'	28.2	1.64 (3H, <i>it s</i>)	15	128.07
2''	78.4		16	127.71
3''	127.3	5.60 (1H, <i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 10)	17	21.93
4''	116.01	6.75 (1H, <i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 10)	18	121.55
7''	27.9	1.51 (3H, <i>s</i>)	19	133.07
8''	27.9	1.51 (3H, <i>s</i>)	20	18.00
1-OH	13.41 (1H, <i>s</i>) ^b		21	26.00
5-OH	6.38 (1H, <i>s</i>) ^b		22	10.53
			23	19.98

^a Coupling constants (*j* in Hz) given in parentheses.^b Exchangeable with D₂O.

9a), 105.5 (C-2), and 156.7 (C-1). The latter resonance at $\delta = 156.7$ also gave cross peaks with one of the *cis*-olefinic protons of the chromene ring (at $\delta = 6.75$), while the other *cis*-olefinic protons at $\delta = 5.60$ was correlated with the quaternary carbon at $\delta = 105.5$ (C-2). These results demonstrated clearly that the *gem*-dimethylchromene moiety was fused in a linear manner to the aromatic ring A of xanthone skeleton bearing the chelated hydroxyl group. The positions of the α,α -*gem*-dimethylallyl group and the remaining phenolic hydroxyl group were established as follows.

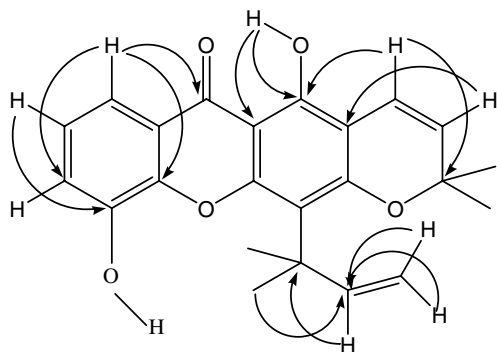


Fig. 1. HMBC correlations of 3.

In the HMBC spectrum (Fig. 1), one of the ABC spin protons ($\delta = 7.67$) displayed cross-peaks with the carbonyl carbon [$\delta = 181.3$ (C-9)], indicating its *peri* position (H-8) whereas the two other protons belonging to the same ABC spin system [H-7 ($\delta = 7.19$, *t*, *J* = 7.2 Hz) and H-6 ($\delta = 7.22$, *dd*, *J* = 2.2, 7.2 Hz)] gave each cross peaks with an oxygenated sp^2 carbon at $\delta = 153.9$. This finding clearly indicated that the free hydroxyl group was located at C-5 position. Thus, the α,α -*gem*-dimethylallyl group was assigned to be at the C-4 position. This was further confirmed by the NOESY spectrum which showed correlated peaks between H-6 proton ($\delta = 7.22$) and free hydroxyl signal at $\delta = 6.38$. On the basis of the above results, the structure of inoxanthone, (3) was assigned to be 1,5-dihydroxy-4(3-dimethylpropenyl)-2'',2''-dimethylpyrano[5'',6'':2,3] xanthone.

Some of the isolated compounds were evaluated, for their cytotoxicity against human epidermoid carcinoma of the nasopharynx cell (KB) and for their antimicrobial and potency against representative Gram-(+), *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC6538), *Vibrio anguillarum* (ATCC19264), Gram-(−), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC8739) bacteria, and yeast, *Candida tropicalis* (ATCC 66029) organisms, in agar well diffusion assays. The results are summarized in Table 2. At the dose of 20 μ g per disc, caloxanthone A, 4, calophynic acid, 8, brasiliensis

Table 2
Antimicrobial and cytotoxic activities of compounds **3–4**, **6**, **8–10** and **12–15**

Compounds	Diameter of inhibition (mm) at 20 µg/disk				KB cell IC ₅₀ µg/ml
	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>V. anguillarum</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>C. tropicalis</i>	
Caloxanthone A (4)	9.0	–ve	–ve	–ve	7.4
Calophynic acid (8)	10.0	–ve	–ve	–ve	10.5
Brasiliensic acid (9)	11.0	–ve	–ve	–ve	11.0
Inophylloidic acid (10)	9.0	–ve	–ve	–ve	9.7
Calaustralin (12)	11.0	–ve	–ve	–ve	42.0
Calophyllolide (13)	16.0	–ve	–ve	–ve	3.5
Inophyllum C (14)	10.0	–ve	–ve	–ve	n.t. ^a
Inophyllum E (15)	13.0	–ve	–ve	–ve	36.1
Crude extract of root bark	13.0	–ve	–ve	–ve	n.t
Crude extract of nut	14.0	–ve	–ve	–ve	n.t
Oxacillin	30	–ve	–ve	–ve	n.t
Inoxanthone (3)	–ve	–ve	–ve	–ve	n.t
Macluraxanthone (6)	–ve	–ve	–ve	–ve	n.t

^a Not tested.

acid, **9**, inophylloidic acid, **10**, calophyllolide, **13**, and inophyllum C, **14** and E, **15** were found to exhibit significant inhibitory activity against *S. aureus*, but not against other microorganisms. The activity of the seven compounds was less than that of the control, oxacillin, as shown in Table 2. It also appears, on the other hand, and as summarized in Table 2, that calophyllolide **13** displayed the most significant cytotoxic activity against KB cells with an IC₅₀ value of 3.5 µg/ml. Other compounds, such as caloxanthone A, **4**, calophynic acid, **8**, brasiliensic acid, **9**, and inophylloidic acid **10**, which showed IC₅₀ value of 7.4, 10.5, 11.0 and 9.7 µg/ml, respectively, were considered, in addition to calaustralin, **12**, and inophyllum E, **15**, as inactive. Inoxanthone, **3**, and macluraxanthone, **6**, were also found to be devoid of both cytotoxic and antimicrobial activities in vitro.

3. Experimental

3.1. General experimental procedures

Melting points were determined on a Büchi apparatus and are uncorrected. Silica gel 230–400 mesh (Merck) and silica gel 70–230 mesh (Merck) were used for flash and column chromatography, respectively, while precoated aluminium sheets silica gel 60 *F*₂₅₄ nm (Merck) were used for TLC. Spots were visualized by UV (λ_{254} nm) and 10% CeII–H₂SO₄. IR spectra were measured on a JASCO FT-IR-300 spectrometer in a KBr pellet. UV spectra were recorded on a Kontron Uvikon 932 spectrophotometer. Optical rotations were determined on a Perkin–Elmer polarimeter. One- and two-dimensional NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker instrument equipped with a 5 mm ¹H and ¹³C NMR probe operating at 400 and 100 MHz, respectively, with TMS as internal standard. Chemical shifts are reported

in δ value in ppm using the solvent as reference. Mass spectra were performed on a APCI Qstar pulsar mass spectrometer.

3.2. Plant material

Fruits and root bark of *C. inophyllum* were collected near the beach at Kribi, South Province of Cameroon, in December 2002 and April 2003, respectively, by M. Nana, botanist at the National Herbarium, Yaounde, Cameroon, where voucher specimens documenting the collections are deposited under No. 32189/SRF/Cam.

3.3. Extraction and isolation

Fruits were slightly crushed to obtain the shell and nuts. The pulverized, air-dried nuts (850 g) were extracted by maceration at room temperature in a mixture of CH₂Cl₂–MeOH (1:1) for 24 h, yielding, after evaporation under reduced pressure an oily yellow extract (250 g). A portion of this oil (200 g) was subjected to column chromatography over silica gel packed in *n*-hexanes and eluted with *n*-hexanes–EtOAc mixtures of increasing polarity. A total of 117 fractions of ca. 400 ml each were collected and regrouped on the basis of TLC analysis to afford six major fractions (S₁–S₆): S₁ (F_{1–10}); S₂ (F_{11–18}); S₃ (F_{19–37}); S₄ (F_{38–55}); S₅ (F_{56–79}) and S₆ (F_{80–117}). Fraction S₂ (43.4 g), eluted with *n*-hexanes–EtOAc (19:1) was chromatographed on a silica gel column packed in *n*-hexanes. Gradient elution was effected with *n*-hexanes–EtOAc mixtures. A total of 110 fractions of ca. 150 ml each were collected and combined on the basis of TLC. Fractions 19–29, eluted with *n*-hexanes–EtOAc (19:1) showed one spot on TLC. They were combined and evaporated to yield a solid which was further recrystallised in MeOH to give callophyllolide,

13, as white platelets (800 mg). From fractions 65–76, eluted with *n*-hexanes–EtOAc (9:1), a solid precipitated which was further recrystallised from *n*-hexanes–EtOAc to afford calaustralin, **12**, as white crystals (300 mg). From fractions 77–87, eluted with *n*-hexanes–EtOAc (17:3), were obtained inophyllum C, **14** (25 mg) and inophyllum E, **15** (300 mg) as colourless crystals, respectively.

Air-dried powdered root bark (3 kg) of *C. inophyllum* was extracted at room temperature with a mixture of MeOH–CH₂Cl₂ (1:1) and evaporated under reduced pressure to afford brown viscous residue (500 g). A portion of this crude extract (300 g) was fractionated by flash column chromatography over silica gel (230–400 mesh), eluted successively with cyclohexane–EtOAc (9:1), cyclohexane–EtOAc (4:1), cyclohexane–EtOAc (1:1), and EtOAc to yield four main fractions labelled B₁, B₂, B₃ and B₄, respectively. Fraction B₁ (6.0 g), eluted with cyclohexane–EtOAc (9:1), was repeatedly subjected to silica gel column chromatography using increasing concentrations of EtOAc in cyclohexane as eluent to give inoxanthone, **3** (500 mg), and friedelan-3-one, **11** (80 mg). Fraction B₂ (15 g), eluted with cyclohexane–EtOAc (4:1), was rechromatographed over silica gel column chromatography eluted with cyclohexane containing increasing amounts of EtOAc. Fractions of ca. 150 ml, each were collected and monitored by TLC. Fractions containing a single compound were pooled appropriately, while fractions containing mixtures were further subjected to repeated CC followed by preparative TLC using a solvent system of cyclohexane–acetone (7:3). The pure major compounds macluraxanthone, **6** (400 mg), brasiliensis acid, **9** (16 g), inophylloidy acid, **10** (14 g), 1,5-dihydroxyxanthone, **7** (150 mg) were obtained directly from the column, while compounds **4** (30 mg) and **5** (20 mg) were isolated after preparative TLC.

3.4. Bioassays

3.4.1. Antimicrobial assay

The extracts and purified active principles from *C. inophyllum* were tested against the microorganisms, *S. aureus* (ATCC6538), *V. angillarum* (ATCC19264), *E. coli* (ATCC8739), and *C. tropicalis* (ATCC66029). The qualitative antimicrobial assay employed was the classic agar disc dilution procedure using Mueller Hinton agar (Wilkins and Chalgren, 1976). Paper discs were impregnated with 20 µl of a DMSO solution of each sample (1 mg/ml) and allowed to evaporate at room temperature. Oxacillin (20 µl of 1 mg/ml solution) was used as the positive control. The plates were incubated at 37 °C for 18 h and the diameter of the zone of inhibition around the disc measured and recorded at the end of the incubation period.

3.4.2. Cytotoxicity assay

Cytotoxicity of the crude extracts, fractions, and purified compounds against human epidermoid carcinoma of the nasopharynx cancer cell line (KB) was evaluated using the protocol described in the literature (Likhitwitayawuid et al., 1993).

3.5. Inoxanthone, **3**

Yellow needles (cyclohexane–EtOAc), m.p. 217 °C. HRESI–TOFMS *m/z* [M + H]⁺ 379.1553 (calcd. 379.1544 for C₂₃H₂₃O₅). IR ν(cm^{−1}, KBr): 3458, 3293, 2960, 2920, 1646, 1620, 1585. UV λ (nm, MeOH) (log_e): 237 (4.35), 249sh, 280sh, 292 (5.65), 310sh, 340sh, 376 (3.63). ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃), see Table 1.

3.6. Caloxanthone A, **4**

Yellow needles (cyclohexane–EtOAc), m.p. 240 °C [lit. 238–240 °C (Iinuma et al., 1994)]. HRESI–TOFMS *m/z* [M + H]⁺ 395.1491 (calcd. 395.1493 for C₂₃H₂₃O₆). The IR, UV, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data matched well with the literature data (Iinuma et al., 1994).

3.7. Caloxanthone B, **5**

Yellow needles (cyclohexane–EtOAc), m.p. 162 °C [lit. 160.5 °C (Iinuma et al., 1994)]. HRESI–TOFMS *m/z* [M + H]⁺ 411.1799 (calcd. 411.1805 for C₂₄H₂₇O₆). The IR, UV ¹H and ¹³C NMR data matched well with the literature data (Iinuma et al., 1994).

3.8. Macluraxanthone, **6**

Yellow needles (cyclohexane–EtOAc), m.p. 171 °C [lit. 170–172 °C (Iinuma et al., 1994)]. HRESI–TOFMS *m/z* [M + H]⁺ 395.1492 (calcd. 395.1493 for C₂₃H₂₃O₆). The IR, UV ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data identical to the literature values (Iinuma et al., 1994).

3.9. Dihydroxyxanthone, **7**

Yellow amorphous solid (cyclohexane–EtOAc), HRESI–TOFMS *m/z* [M + H]⁺ 229.0496 (calcd. 229.0500 for C₁₃H₉O₄). The IR, UV ¹H and ¹³C NMR data matched well with the literature data (Iinuma et al., 1994).

3.10. Calophynic acid, **8**

Yellow sticky oil (cyclohexane–EtOAc), [α]_D²⁰ = −266° (c 0.1, CHCl₃). (HRESI–TOFMS) *m/z* [M + H]⁺ 561.3210 (calcd. 561.3213 for C₃₅H₄₄O₆). The IR, UV, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (100 MHz, CDCl₃) matched well with the literature data (Polonsky et al., 1972).

3.11. *Brasiliensic acid*, 9

Greenish gum (cyclohexane–EtOAc), HRESI–TOFMS m/z $[M + H]^+$ 527.3361 (calcd. 527.3369 for $C_{32}H_{47}O_6$). The IR, UV, 1H and ^{13}C NMR data matched well with the literature data (Stout et al., 1968).

3.12. *Inophylloidic acid*, 10

Yellow gum (cyclohexane–EtOAc), HRESI–TOFMS m/z $[M + H]^+$ 527.3361 (calcd. 527.3369 for $C_{32}H_{47}O_6$). The IR, UV, 1H and ^{13}C NMR data matched well with the literature data (Stout et al., 1968).

3.13. *Calaustralin*, 12

White, crystals (*n*-hexane–EtOAc), m.p. 193–195 °C [lit. 190 °C (Breck and Stout, 1969)]. HRESI–TOFMS m/z $[M + H]^+$ 405.1698 (calcd. 405.1700 for $C_{25}H_{25}O_5$). The IR, UV, and 1H NMR data matched well with the literature data (Stout et al., 1968). For the ^{13}C NMR spectral data, see Table 1.

3.14. *Calophyllolide*, 13

White crystals (*n*-hexane–EtOAc), m.p. 155 °C [lit. 158 °C (Polonsky, 1957)]. HRESI–TOFMS m/z $[M + H]^+$ 417.1697 (calcd. 417.1700 for $C_{26}H_{25}O_5$). The IR, UV, 1H and ^{13}C NMR data matched well with the literature data (Polonsky, 1957; Patil et al., 1993).

3.15. *Inophyllum C*, 14

Colourless crystals (*n*-hexane–EtOAc), m.p. 190 °C [lit. 188–191 °C (Kawazu et al., 1968)], $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +13^\circ$ (*c* 1.1, $CHCl_3$). HRESI–TOFMS m/z $[M + H]^+$ 403.1541 (calcd. 403.1544 for $C_{25}H_{23}O_5$). The IR, UV, 1H and ^{13}C NMR data matched well with the literature data (Kawazu et al., 1968; Patil et al., 1993).

3.16. *Inophyllum E*, 15

Colourless crystals (*n*-hexane–EtOAc), m.p. 150 °C [lit. 149–151 °C (Kawazu et al., 1968)], $[\alpha]_D^{20} = +70^\circ$ (*c* 1.2, $CHCl_3$). HRESI–TOFMS m/z $[M + H]^+$ 403.1541 (calcd. 403.1544 for $C_{25}H_{23}O_5$). The IR, UV, 1H and ^{13}C NMR data matched well with the literature data (Kawazu et al., 1968; Patil et al., 1993).

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