

Two Iridoid Structures from *Eremostachys macrophylla* Montbr. & Auch. Rhizomes

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ABSTRACT

The air-dried and ground rhizomes of *Eremostachys macrophylla* Montbr. & Auch., as wild-growing plant in East Azerbaijan province, of Iran, were extracted with n-hexane, dichloromethane (DCM) and methanol (MeOH) solvents using a soxhlet apparatus. The 10% MeOH in water Sep-Pak fractions of the MeOH extract was subjected to preparative reversed-phase high performance liquid chromatography (RP-HPLC) and the isolated pure compounds were identified by one-dimensional nuclear magnetic resonance (1D-NMR) spectroscopic technique. The obtained results showed the presence of two pure components, 6-Hydroxyl Loganin, (1) and Lamalbide (2) with iridoid structures. The results demonstrated the rhizomes of *E. macrophylla* could be a good source of iridoids.

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Introduction

Eremostachys macrophylla Montbr. & Auch. is one of the 15 distributed species of *Eremostachys* genus in Iran. This wild-growing plant have some medicinal uses in folk medicine, including wound healing, snake bites, rheumatism and joint pains [1, 2]. Moreover, our previous studies proposed *in vitro* antimalarial, antioxidant and antiproliferative effects of this species [3, 4].

Phytochemical evaluations on the extracts of a number of species of genus *Eremostachys* showed the presence of different chemical structures. Iridoid glycosides, flavonoids, phenylethanoid glycosides and phytostrols were reported from *E. laciniata* [5, 6]. Ferulic acid derivatives, furanolabdane-type diterpenoids, and phenylethanoid glycosides were identified from *E. glabra* [7- 9]. Additionally, iridoid glycoside, flavonoid, phenylethanoid, fatty acid and steroid structures from *E. azerbaijanica* [10- 13], iridoids and flavonoids from *E. loasifolia* [14- 16], iridoid glycosides from *E. moluccelloides* [17] and different flavonoid structures from *E. vicaryi* [18] were isolated previously.

According to earlier phytochemical studies on some essential oils of *Eremostachys* species, the presence of terpenoids, linear hydrocarbons and derivatives as main constituents in different stages of growth were revealed [19-22].

There are several studies about *E. macrophylla* essential oil GCMS analysis. According to Javidnia and et al. report spathulenol, hexadecanoic acid and caryophyllene oxide were the main compounds of this species [19]. Also in the other study by Nori-shargh and et al. the oil of *E. macrophylla* aerial parts consisted mainly of germacrene-D, germacrene-B and γ -elemene [23]. Rustaiyan and et al. evaluated different parts of *E. macrophylla* separately and according their reports the major structures in the flower oil were 1,8-cineol and germacrene D-4-ol, while the leaf oil contained α -pinene, 1,10-di-epi cubenol, elemol and bornyl acetate. The oil of the stem was dominated also by 1, 10-di-epi cubenol and elemol [20]. However, there is a little scientific research about phytochemicals of *E. macrophylla* extracts. The objective of this study is extraction, purification and identification of natural

compounds from the rhizomes of *E. macrophylla* growing East Azerbaijan province, Iran.

Material and Methods

Plant material

The rhizomes of *E. macrophylla* Montbr. & Auch. were collected during July 2012 from Sahand mountains in East Azarbaijan province in Iran 37.759 (37° 45' 32.4" N) latitude 45.9783 (45° 58' 41.9" E) longitude and altitude 1950 m above sea level.

The identity of the plant was confirmed by anatomical examination in comparison with the herbarium specimens (voucher Nos. TBZ-fph-739) deposited in the Faculty of Pharmacy, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Tabriz, Iran.

Extraction, separation and identification of compounds

The air-dried and ground rhizomes of *E. macrophylla* (50 g) were extracted with n-hexane, dichloromethane (DCM) and MeOH (solvents were from Caledon, Canada), successively with a soxhlet apparatus (500 mL each).

The MeOH extract (2 g) was subjected to solid phase extraction (SPE) using a C₁₈ Sep-Pak cartridge (Waters, USA), eluting with a step gradient of MeOH/water mixture (10:90, 20:80, 40:60, 60:40, 80:20 and 100:0). All these extracts and fractions were separately concentrated using a rotary evaporator at a maximum temperature of 45 °C [5]. The obtained fractions were analyzed by reversed-phase HPLC (analytic-HPLC, Adept, Cecil) with a C₁₈ column (250 mm length, 4.6 mm i.d, 10 μ m particle sizes, Dr. Maisch, Germany) system and the best analyzed fraction (10% faction) was selected for preparative reversed-phase HPLC (prep-HPLC) conducted on a Knauer HPLC (preparative pump 1800) fitted with a C₁₈ column (250 mm length, 20mm i.d, 10 μ m particle sizes, Dr. Maisch, Germany) system. The mobile phase which consisted of 0%-36% MeOH in water at a flow rate of 8 ml/min, in 75 min run time and a detector set at 220 nm was used. The isolated pure compounds were identified by a Bruker

Spectrospin 400 MHz NMR-spectrometer. The spectroscopic data of the known compounds were also compared with the respective published data [5, 10].

Results

Reversed-phase preparative HPLC analysis of 10% fraction of the MeOH extract of *E. macrophylla* rhizomes afforded two iridoid

glycoside structures, which were identified unequivocally as 6-Hydroxyl Loganin (8 mg, Rt: 39.83 min) and Lamalbidin (5 mg, Rt: 43.00 min) on the extensive 1D ^1H -NMR and ^{13}C -NMR data analyses (Table.1). The spectroscopic data of the known compounds were also compared with the respective published data [24].

Table 1. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic data for compounds 1 and 2. *Overlapped peaks; Spectra obtained in D_2O ; 400 MHz

POSITION	CHEMICAL SHIFT δ IN PPM (1) UV λ_{MAX} (MEOH): 237 NM		CHEMICAL SHIFT δ IN PPM (2) UV λ_{MAX} (MEOH): 235 NM	
	δ_{H}	δ_{C}	δ_{H}	δ_{C}
1	5.40, d, 1H, J: 2.48 Hz	94.65	5.55, bs, 1H	92.28
2	-	-	-	-
3	7.36, s, 3H	151.23	7.37, s, 1H	150.16
4	-	109.38	-	108.76
5	2.69, dd, 1H, J: 8.45, 3.69 Hz	38.56	2.86, dd, 1H, J: 10.92, 2.66 Hz	33.67
6	3.83, 1H*	81.99	3.97, t, 1H, J: 3.84 Hz	73.70
7	3.47, dd, 1H, J: 8.8, 6.1 Hz	83.46	3.57, d, 1H, J: 4.33 Hz	75.97
8	1.64, m, 1H	36.40	-	76.07
9	2.07, m, 1H	41.91	2.75, bd, 1H, J: 10.96 Hz	45.57
10	1.04, d, 3H, J: 6.51 Hz	14.82	1.11, s, 3H	19.06
11	-	169.24	-	167.80
OCH3	3.65, s, 3H	51.35	3.66, s, 3H	50.34
1'	4.67, 1H *	97.98	4.66, 1H*	96.59
2'	3.17, t, J: 8.7 Hz	72.04	3.17, t, J: 8.4 Hz	70.96
3'	3.25-3.40 *	75.04	3.24—3.41 *	74.29
4'	3.25-3.40 *	68.98	3.24—3.41 *	67.97
5'	3.25-3.40 *	75.75	3.24—3.41 *	74.70
6'(a)	3.83, bd, 1H*, J: 12.28 Hz	51.35	3.84, bd, 1H: 12.26 Hz	59.10
6'(b)	3.63, dd, 1H, J: 11.8, 5.6 Hz		3.64, dd, 1H, 12.53, 6.26 Hz	

Discussion

Analysis of the MeOH extract of *E. macrophylla* rhizomes using reversed phase preparative HPLC, afforded two iridoid glycoside structures, which were identified as 6-Hydroxyl Loganin (1), Lamalbite (2) on the basis of comparison of $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ data with previous published data.

Both compounds (1) and (2) showed UV, $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ signals in agreement with iridoid glycoside skeletons [24].

The signals of compound (1) presented a methyl group at C₈ ($\delta_{\text{H}10}$: 1.04 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}10}$: 14.82 ppm), a methoxy group ($\delta_{\text{H(OCH}_3)}$: 3.65 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C(OCH}_3)}$: 51.35 ppm), an olefinic methine at C₃ ($\delta_{\text{H}3}$: 7.36 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}3}$: 151.23 ppm), oxymethines at C₁ ($\delta_{\text{H}1}$: 5.40 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}1}$: 94.65 ppm), C₆ ($\delta_{\text{H}6}$: 3.83 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}6}$: 81.99

ppm) and C₇ ($\delta_{\text{H}7}$: 3.47 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}7}$: 83.46 ppm), two methine at C₅ ($\delta_{\text{H}5}$: 2.69 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}5}$: 38.56 ppm) and C₉ ($\delta_{\text{H}9}$: 2.07 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}9}$: 41.91 ppm), a carbonyl group ($\delta_{\text{C}11}$: 169.24 ppm) and a β -glucose unit ($\delta_{\text{H}1}$: 4.67 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}1}$: 97.98 ppm). Moreover, The $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ data of compound (2) showed the presence of a methyl group at C₈ ($\delta_{\text{H}10}$: 1.11 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}10}$: 19.06 ppm), a methoxy group ($\delta_{\text{H(OCH}_3)}$: 3.66 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C(OCH}_3)}$: 50.34 ppm), an olefinic methine at C₃ ($\delta_{\text{H}3}$: 7.37 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}3}$: 150.16 ppm), oxymethines at C₁ ($\delta_{\text{H}1}$: 5.55 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}1}$: 92.28 ppm), C₆ ($\delta_{\text{H}6}$: 3.97 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}6}$: 73.70 ppm) and C₇ ($\delta_{\text{H}7}$: 3.57 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}7}$: 75.97 ppm), two methine at C₅ ($\delta_{\text{H}5}$: 2.86 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}5}$: 33.67 ppm) and C₉ ($\delta_{\text{H}9}$: 2.75 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}9}$: 45.57 ppm), a carbonyl group ($\delta_{\text{C}11}$: 167.80 ppm) and a β -glucose unit ($\delta_{\text{H}1}$: 4.66 ppm, $\delta_{\text{C}1}$: 96.59 ppm).

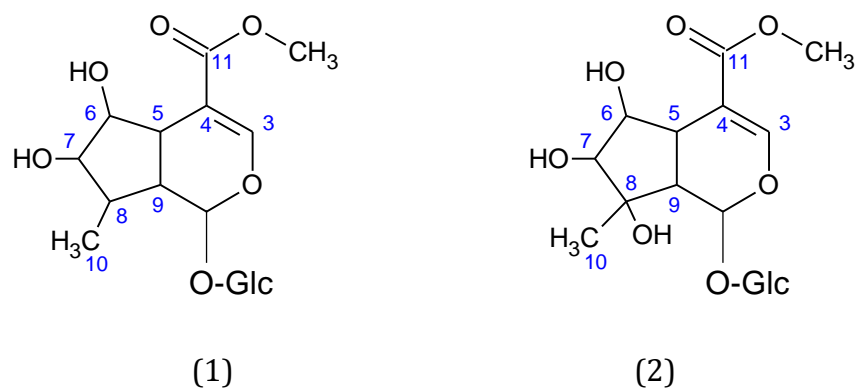


Fig. 1. Two suggested structures: 6-Hydroxyl Loganin (1) and Lamalbite (2).

Data were consistent with previously published data and the results identified the both structures (1) and (2) as two iridoid glycoside structures, 6-Hydroxyl Loganin (1), Lamalbite (2) [25, 26]. The two compounds have been isolated previously from *E. laciniata* and *E. moluccelloides* aerial parts as the other species of genus *Eremostachys* [17, 27]. Iridoid glycosides as a class of natural structures, which isolated from different species of plants exhibit a wide range of pharmacological and biological effects. According to previous literatures, they are used in the preparation of anti-inflammatory, anti-rheumatic, anti-ulcer, bitter tonics, febrifuges, cough medicines, sedatives, hypo and hypertensive drug

formulations. Other pharmacological and biological effects of these structures are anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, anti-protozoal, anti-viral, anti-oxidative, anti-cancer, anti-coagulant, anti-diabetic, anti-hyperlipidaemic, anti-nociceptive, anti-osteoporosis, human neutrophil elastase inhibitory, immunomodulatory, melanogenesis inhibitory, hepatoprotective, neuroprotective and neuritogenic activities [28-30]

The presence of common phytochemicals in the plants can be a reason for their similar pharmacological and biological effects.

Conclusion

The present study has shown that the rhizomes of *E. macrophylla* are a source of iridoid glycosides. Since the several biological activities such as analgesic, anti-inflammatory and anti-arthritis properties of iridoid glycosides have previously been confirmed by several in vitro studies [28], thus it is reasonable to conclude that *E. macrophylla* can be useful in managing of some inflammation diseases.

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Conflict of Interests

Authors certify that there is no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this article.

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