NOTE

A New Macrocyclic Diterpene Derived from the Seed of *Euphorbia lathyris*

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A new macrocyclic diterpene, along with two known macrocyclic diterpenes, was isolated from the seed of *Euphorbia lathyris* L. The new macrocyclic diterpene, designated as *Euphorbia lathyris* A (**1**), the structure was elucidated on the basis of the spectroscopic data interpretation. In addition, two known macrocyclic diterpenes were also isolated and identified as *Euphorbia* Factor L₁ (**2**) and *Euphorbia* Factor L₂ (**3**).

Key Words: *Euphorbia lathyris*, *Euphorbia lathyris* A, Spectroscopic methods.

Euphorbia lathyris L. has received worldwide attention as a renewable source of industrial raw materials (hydrocarbons and oleic acid) and mass cultivation has been attempted in western Europe and the United States¹. Owing to therapeutic effect of the plant on the clinic including wart, scabies, hydrosy, boils *etc.*², the seed of *Euphorbia lathyris* L. has been received a large amount of attentions³⁻⁵.

Present investigation on the seed of *Euphorbia lathyris* L. led to a new macrocyclic diterpene, designated as *Euphorbia lathyris* A (**1**), together with two additional known macrocyclic diterpene, designated as *Euphorbia* Factor L₁ (**2**)^{5,6} and *Euphorbia* Factor L₂ (**3**)^{5,6}. These known compounds were identified by comparing of the respective spectroscopic data with those reported in the literature. We described herein the separation and structure elucidation of the new macrocyclic diterpene.

Euphorbia lathyris L. was collected in Chengdu Chinese herbal medicine market, Sichuan province of China in April 2007 and authenticated by Plant Systematics and Molecular Evolution lab of Sichuan University. A voucher specimen was deposited at Leshan Normal University.

Optical rotations were measured using a Perkin-Elmer model 241 polarimeter. ¹D and ²D NMR spectra were measured by a Bruker DRX-400 instrument with TMS as internal standard. Mass spectra were obtained by a VG Auto Spec-3000 spectrometer or on a Finnigan MAT 90 instrument. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200-300 mesh; Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc.).

Extraction and isolation: Dry seed of *Euphorbia lathyris* L. (5.0 kg) were extracted with ethanol (3 × 7 L) at room

temperature overnight. The extract was suspended in water (2000 mL) to form a suspension and then partitioned with petroleum ether and EtOAc successively to afford petroleum ether extract (980 g) and EtOAc extract (160 g), respectively. The EtOAc extract was chromatographed on a silica gel column employing cyclohexane-acetone (10:1→2:1) as eluent to provided compound **1** (8 mg), compound **2** (61 mg) and compound **3** (73 mg).

Thin-layer chromatography was carried out on silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ on glass plates (Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc.) using various solvent systems.

Euphorbia lathyris A (**1**, Fig. 1), amorphous power; m.p. 196-198 °C. [α]_D²⁰ 103 (c 1.0, CH₂Cl₂); IR (KBr, $\nu_{\max}$, cm⁻¹) 1740, 1712, 1648, 1662 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) and ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) data (Table-1); ESIMS *m/z* 645 [M+H]⁺; HRESIMS *m/z* 645.2967 [M+H]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₈H₄₄O₉, 644.2985).

The HRESIMS at *m/z* 645.2967 corresponded to the protonated molecular ion [M + H]⁺ (C₃₈H₄₄O₉). The NMR spectra of **1** showed that the presence of four methyl groups (δ_H 1.21, 1.25, each 3H, s; δ_H 0.96, 1.09, each 3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz), two acetyl groups (δ_H 2.12, 2.25, each 3H), two benzoyl groups (δ_H 7.37-7.96, 10H, m) (Table-1), an exocyclic double bond [δ_H 5.76, 5.75, each 1H, s; δ_C 140.7 (s), 120.6 (t)]. In addition, the close resemblance of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of *Euphorbia* Factor (L₂) (**3**)⁴ and **1** except for absence of an double bond, which suggest that compound **1** is very similar to the *Euphorbia* Factor (L₂) except for absence of an double bond. The difference of **2** mass units in their molecular weights

Fig. 1. Structures of compounds 1-3

also supports the above-mentioned difference. Consequently, the group assignments were achieved from the HMBC for **1** (Fig. 2). Therefore, the structure of compound **1** was assigned as *Euphorbia lathyris* A.

TABLE-1
¹H NMR AND ¹³C NMR DATA OF COMPOUND
1 (CDCl₃), δ IN ppm, J IN Hz

Position	δ _H	δ _C
1	3.30 (1H, m), 1.64 (1H, m)	44.3
2	2.30 (1H, m)	37.8
3	5.81 (1H, m)	78.4
4	2.90 (1H, m)	51.1
5	6.09 (1H, d, J=8.8)	71.0
6	-	147.0
7	5.58 (1H, dd, J=8.8, 4.0)	78.4
8	2.34 (1H, m) 2.18 (1H, m)	29.6
9	1.30 (1H, m)	30.3
10	-	25.6
11	1.46 (1H, m)	28.7
12	1.50 (1H, m), 1.88 (1H, m)	38.3
13	1.90 (1H, m)	37.8
14	-	211.1
15	-	91.8
16	0.96 (3H, d, J=6.8)	13.2
17	5.76 (1H, m), 5.75 (1H, s)	120.6
18	1.21 (3H, s)	28.7
19	1.25 (3H, s)	15.2
20	1.09 (3H, s)	19.2

5-OAc: δ_C 169.0, 20.8; δ_H 2.25 (3H, s);
 15-OAc: δ_C 169.7, 21.5; δ_H 2.25 (3H, s);
 3-OBz: δ_C 165.7, 130.3, 129.6, 129.6, 128.3, 128.3, 133.0;
 7-OBz: δ_C 165.0, 130.0, 129.6, 129.6, 128.3, 128.3, 132.9;
 3-OBz and 7-OBz: δ_H 7.37-7.96 (m, 10H)

Fig. 2. Key HMBC (↘) correlations of compound **1**

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