Phenolic Compounds from *Arundina graminifolia* and Their Anti-Tobacco Mosaic Virus Activities

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A new phenolic compounds, gramphenol A, together with three known phenols (**2-4**), were isolated from the whole plant of *Arundina graminifolia*. The structure of compounds **1-4** was elucidated by spectroscopic methods including extensive ¹D and ²D NMR techniques. The anti-tobacco mosaic virus (anti-TMV) activities were evaluated for compounds **1-4**. The results reveal that compound **1** exhibits modest anti-tobacco mosaic virus activities.

Key Words: *Arundina graminifolia*, Phenolic compounds, Anti-tobacco mosaic virus activity.

INTRODUCTION

Arundina graminifolia belongs to Orchidaceae genus. It is a terrestrial plant extends from India, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, South China to Indonesia and across the Pacific Islands. The genus is considered to possess activities of detoxification, antiarthritis and abirritation and is used as antidote and demulcent¹. In recent years, several papers have described phytochemistry investigations of *A. graminifolia* and was found to be rich in stilbenoids and triterpenes²⁻⁵. Motivated by a search for bioactive compounds from this plant, further chemical investigation were carried out. As a result, a new phenolic compounds (**1**), together with three known phenols (**2-4**), were isolated from this plant. In addition, the anti-tobacco mosaic virus activities of compounds **1-4** were evaluated. This article deals with the isolation, structural elucidation and biological activities of the isolated compounds.

EXPERIMENTAL

Optical rotations were measured with a Horiba SEPA-300 polarimeter. UV spectra were obtained using a Shimadzu UV-2401A spectrophotometer. A Tenor 27 spectrophotometer was used for scanning IR spectroscopy with KBr pellets. ¹D and ²D NMR spectra were recorded on DRX-500 spectrometers with TMS as internal standard. Unless otherwise specified, chemical shifts (δ) were expressed in ppm with reference to the solvent signals. HRESIMS was performed on an API QSTAR time-of-flight spectrometer and a VG autospec-3000 spectrometer, respectively. Preparative HPLC was performed

on a Shimadzu LC-8A preparative liquid chromatograph with a ZORBAX PrepHT GF (21.2 mm $\times$ 25 cm, 7 mm) column or a Venusil MP C₁₈ (20 mm $\times$ 25 cm, 5 mm) column. Column chromatography was performed with Si gel (200-300 mesh, Qing-dao Marine Chemical, Inc., Qingdao, China), Lichroprep RP-18 gel (40-63 μ m, Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) and MCI gel (75-150 μ m, Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, Tokyo, Japan). The fractions were monitored by TLC and spots were visualized by heating Si gel plates sprayed with 5 % H₂SO₄ in EtOH.

The whole plant of *A. graminifolia* was collected in Dehong prefecture of Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, in September 2010. The identification of plant material was verified by Prof. Ning Yuan. A voucher specimen (Ynni-10-09-28) has been deposited in our Laboratory.

Extraction and isolation: The air-dried and powdered of whole plant of *A. graminifolia* (2 kg) were extracted three times with 70 % aqueous MeOH (3 $\times$ 3.5 L) at room temperature and filtered to yield a filtrate, which was successively evaporated under reduced pressure to obtained a crude extract (115 g). This crude extract was applied to Si gel (200-300 mesh) column chromatography eluting with a CHCl₃-MeOH gradient system (20:1, 9:1, 8:2, 7:3, 6:4, 5:5) to give six fractions A-F. The separation of fraction A (11.8 g) by Si gel column chromatography eluted with CHCl₃-acetone (1:0-1:2) yielded mixtures A1-A6. Fraction A1 (pure CHCl₃, 3.89 g) was subjected to Si gel column chromatography using petroleum ether-acetone and preparative HPLC (80 % MeOH-H₂O, flow rate 12 mL/min) to give compounds **1** (19.2 mg). Fraction

A₃ (8:2, 3.86 g) was subjected to Si gel column chromatography eluting with petroleum ether-acetone and then run on preparative HPLC (65 % MeOH-H₂O, flow rate 12 mL/min) to yield compounds **4** (63.6 mg). The separation of fraction B (18.5 g) by Si gel column chromatography eluted with CHCl₃-acetone (9:1-1:2) yielded mixtures B1-B6. Fraction B2 (7:3, 3.89 g) was subjected to Si gel column chromatography using petroleum ether-acetone and preparative HPLC (50 % MeOH-H₂O, flow rate 12 mL/min) to give compound **3** (19.2 mg). Fraction B3 (6:4, 3.86 g) was subjected to Si gel column chromatography eluting with petroleum ether-acetone and then run on preparative HPLC (45 % MeOH-H₂O, flow rate 12 mL/min) to yield compounds **2** (28.8 mg).

Anti-tobacco mosaic virus assays: The anti-tobacco mosaic virus activity was tested using the half-leaf method¹². The inhibitory activities of the compounds against tobacco mosaic virus replication were tested using two approaches. First, the half-leaf method was used to test the antiviral activity in the local lesion host *N. glutinosa* *in vivo*. Then, the leaf-disk method was used to evaluate the antiviral activity of the compounds in the systemic infection host *N. tabacum* cv. K326. Ningnanmycin (20 μM), a commercial product for plant disease in China, was used as a positive control.

Gramniphénol A (1): Obtain as brown oil; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε): 210 (4.36), 282 (3.75), 340 (2.76) nm; IR (KBr, ν_{max}, cm⁻¹): 3452, 2968, 2920, 2885, 1623, 1448, 1375, 1358, 1172, 1065. Positive ESIMS *m/z* 365 [M+Na]⁺; HRESIMS: *m/z* 365.2450 [M+Na]⁺, (calcd. C₂₃H₃₄O₂Na for 365.2457).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The air-dried and powdered whole plant of *A. gramnifolia* (2.0 kg) was extracted with 70 % aqueous methanol (3 × 3.5 L) at room temperature and filtered to yield a filtrate, which was successively evaporated under reduced pressure to obtained a crude extract (115 g). This crude extract was subjected repeatedly to column chromatography on Si gel, Sephadex LH-20, RP-18 and preparative HPLC to afford compounds **1-4** (Fig. 1), including a new phenolic compound, gramphenol A(**1**), together with three known phenols, cucapitoside (**2**)⁶, curcapital (**3**)⁷, (+)-licarin A (**4**)⁸. The structures of the compounds **1-4** were as shown in Fig. 1 and the NMR data of **1** were listed in Table-1.

Fig. 1. Structure of compounds **1-4**

TABLE-1
¹H AND ¹³C NMR DATA OF COMPOUND **1**
(δ IN ppm, DATA OBTAINED IN C₅D₅N)

No.	δ _c (mult)	δ _H (mult, J, Hz)
1	155.6 s	
2	110.3 s	
3	152.8 s	
4	118.6 s	
5	135.8 s	
6	107.2 d	6.31 s
7	19.8 q	2.23 s
1'	25.4 t	3.26, d, J = 6.6
2'	122.0 d	5.15 t, J = 6.7
3'	137.2 s	
4'	39.1 t	2.02 m
5'	26.0 t	2.11 m
6'	123.5 d	5.52 m
7'	131.3 s	
8'	25.2 q	1.64 s
9'	15.8 q	1.77, d, J = 1.1
10'	17.4 q	1.57 s
1''	22.3 t	3.35, d, J = 7.0
2''	123.8 d	5.21, t, J = 7.1
3''	134.1 s	
4''	17.1 q	1.79 s
5''	25.0 q	1.72, s,
-OMe	55.8 q	3.87 s
Ar-OH		11.2 s

Compound **1** was isolated as a brown oil with the molecular formula C₂₃H₃₆O₂ as indicated by the quasi-molecular ion at *m/z* 365.2450 [M+Na]⁺ in its HRESIMS. Its IR spectrum showed absorption bands at 3452, 2968-2855, 1623 and 1448 cm⁻¹ indicative of hydroxyl, methine, methylene, methyl and aromatic groups, respectively. The ¹H NMR displayed two signals at δ_H 6.31 (s) and 2.23 (s) assigned to aromatic hydrogen and to an aromatic methyl group, respectively. The spectrum also showed a set of characteristic signals of a prenyl group: two hydrogen at δ_H 3.26 (d, J = 6.6 Hz) coupled with hydrogen at δ_H 5.15 (t, J = 6.7 Hz) and additionally, two methyl groups at δ_H 1.79 and 1.72 (s). A second set of signals was observed in this spectrum: two hydrogens at δ_H 3.35 (d, J = 7.0 Hz) coupled with hydrogen at δ_H 5.21 (t, J = 7.1 Hz), in addition to two multiplets at δ_H 2.02 and 2.11 (2H each) and three methyl groups at δ_H 1.77, 1.57 and 1.64 (s), characteristic of a geranyl group, was also observed. The assignment of the prenyl and geranyl groups was supported either by coupling constants or by HMBC data and the ¹H NMR data as a whole indicated that **1** has a similar structure to that of arifoliaphenol⁹. The obvious chemical shift differences resulted from the substituent group variations in the aromatic rings, an aromatic hydroxyl group in arifoliaphenol was substituted by a methoxyl group in **1**. In order to clarify this aspect, the HMBC experiment was carried out and the correlations observed from H-1' to C-3, C-4 and C-2', from H-1' to C-2, C-3, C-2'' and C-3'' and from H-7 to C-4, C-5 and C-6 allowed the placement of methyl, prenyl and geranyl groups at C-5, C-2 and C-4, respectively (Fig. 2). Additional correlations from H-6 to C-1, C-2, C-4 and C-7, from Ar-OH to C-2, C-3, C-4 and from-OMe to C-1 supported the placement of the aromatic hydrogen at C-3 and

of the -OMe at C-1. Further confirmation for this substitution pattern on the aromatic ring was made using the NOESY experiment (Fig. 3). The compound **1** was thus deduced as shown and given the name as gramphenol A.

Fig. 2. Selected HMBC ($\curvearrowright$) correlations of compound **1**

Fig. 3. Key ROESY ($\curvearrowright$) correlations of **1**

Since some of the phenolic compounds exhibited anti virus activities^{10,11} compounds **1-4** were tested for the anti-tobacco mosaic virus activity using the half-leaf method according to literature¹².

In anti-tobacco mosaic virus activity test, the antiviral inhibition rates of the compounds at the concentration of 20 μ M were tested by the half-leaf method. Ningnanmycin (20 μ M), a commercial product for plant disease in China with inhibition rate of 33 % was used as positive control. The results showed that compounds **1-4** exhibit inhibition rates of 32.8,

5.26, 16.7 and 14.8 %, respectively. Compound **1** exhibited high anti-tobacco mosaic virus activity; its inhibition rate is close to that of positive control. Compounds **2-4** also exhibited weak anti-tobacco mosaic virus activity.

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