华麻花头根中的神经酰胺成分

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Ceramides from the Roots of Serratula chinensis

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Abstract: A mixture of five ceramides was isolated from the roots of *Serratula chinensis* (Compositae). The structures of these compounds were elucidated as (2S, 3S, 4R, 8E)-2-amino-8-octadecene-1, 3, 4-triol with five 2-hydroxy fatty acids of varying chain lengths (C_{16} , C_{22-25}) linked to the amino group (1a-1e, respectively). Ceramide 1a was a new compound. The structures were established by spectroscopic and chemical means. The KMnO₄ oxidation method was applied to locate the double bond position in monounsaturated long chain bases.

Key words: Serratula chinensis; Serratula; Compositae; Ceramides; KMnO₄ oxidation

Serratula chinensis S. Moore (Compositae) is a perennial herbaceous plant growing mainly in south China^[1]. Its roots have long been used as a folk medicine for treatment of pharyngitis and morbilli in China^[2]. Our previous paper had reported the isolation of seven ecdysteroids^[3]. In continuation of our investigation of bioactive natural products from the roots of this plant, a group of ceramides were isolated and characterized. This paper deals with the isolation and structure elucidation of these compounds.

1 Results and Discussion

The 95% EtOH extract of the powdered dry roots of S. chinensis was successively fractionated with petroleum ether $(60-90^{\circ}\text{C})$, CHCl₃ and n-BuOH. The petroleum ether fraction was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (CC) to give compound 1 (Fig. 1).

The positive ESI-MS of 1 displayed a series of $[M + Na]^+$ peaks at m/z 592, 676, 690, 704, and 718, in

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Fig. 1 The structures of compound 1

accordance with the molecular formula C₃₄H₆₇NO₅, $C_{40}H_{79}NO_5$, $C_{41}H_{81}NO_5$, $C_{42}H_{83}NO_5$, and $C_{43}H_{85}NO_5$, respectively. The IR spectrum of 1 showed absorption bands for hydroxyl, amide and (CH₂)n functionalities. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of 1 (Table 1) indicated the presence of a secondary amide linkage (δ_H 8.58, 1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz; δ_C 175.3) and two long chain aliphatic moieties, suggesting the structural nature of ceramides. Methanolysis of 1 yielded a fraction of fatty acid methyl esters (FAMEs) and a long chain base (LCB). The fraction of FAMEs was determined to be a mixture of methyl 2-hydroxypalmitate (1.2%), methyl 2-hydroxybehenate (14.3%), methyl 2-hydroxytricosanoate (20.5%), methyl 2-hydroxytetracosanoate (55.3%), methyl 2-hydroxypentacosanoate (8.7%) by GC-MS analysis. After having excluded the signals due to the fatty acid moieties, the remaining 1H and 13C signals were indicative of a monounsaturated phytosphingosine moiety because of the presence of an oxymethylene (δ_H 4.50 and 4.40, δ_C 62.0), an amidomethine (δ_H 5.11, δ_C 53.0), two oxymethines (δ_H 4.33 and 4.28, δ_C 76.8 and 72.9), and two olefinic methines (δ_H 5.51 and 5.49, δ_C 130.9 and In the ¹H - ¹H COSY spectrum of 1, 130.7). amidomethine proton gave cross peaks with the amido proton at δ 8.58, the oxymethylene protons, and the oxymethine proton at δ 4.33. The latter correlated with the oxymethine proton at δ 4.28. The EI-MS and the positive ESI-MS of the LCB obtained from the methanolysis of 1 gave a [M]+ ion at m/z 315 and a [M + H] peak at m/z 316, respectively. These findings indicated that the phytosphingosine moiety was 2-amino-octadecene-1, 3, 4-triol. In order to determine position of the double bond the phytosphingosine moiety, the KMnO₄ oxidation was performed on the LCB. The oxidation afforded n-decanoic acid which was determined by GC-MS analysis. This allowed the location of the double bond at C-8. The trans (E) configuration of the double bond was evidenced by the coupling constant (J = 16.0 Hz)between H-8 and H-9 in the 'H NMR spectrum, and the chemical shifts of the carbons next to the double bond at δ 33.4 and 33.1 (C-7 and C-10) in the ¹³C NMR spectrum^[4-6]. The 2'R, 2S, 3S, 4R configuration of the ceramide was also indicated by the 13C NMR chemical shifts of C-1' (\delta 175.3), C-2' (\delta 72.5), C-1 $(\delta 62.0)$, C-2 $(\delta 53.0)$, C-3 $(\delta 76.8)$, and C-4 $(\delta 72.9)^{[7-9]}$. Based on the above evidence, 1 was deduced to be comprised of a common long chain base linked to varying chain lengths of 2-hydroxy fatty acid residue. Therefore, 1 was established as a mixture of (2S, 3S, 4R, 8E)-2- [(2R)-2-hydroxypalmitoylamino] -8octadecene-1, 3, 4-triol (1a), (2S, 3S, 4R, 8E)-2-[(2R)-2-hydroxybehenoylamino]-8-octadecene - 1, 3, 4- triol (1b)^[10], (2S, 3S, 4R, 8E)-2-[(2R)-2-hydroxytricosanoylamino]-8-octadecene-1, 3, 4-triol (1c)[10], (2S, 3S, 4R, 8E) - 2 -[(2R)- 2 -hydroxytetracosanoylamino]-8octadecene-1, 3, 4-triol (1d)[10], and (2S, 3S, 4R, 8E)-2-[(2R)-2-hydroxypentacosanoylamino]-8-octadecene-1, 3, 4-triol (1e)[10]. Among them, ceramide 1a was found to be a new compound.

The O₃ oxidation^[11, 12], NaIO₄-AgNO₃ oxidation^[11], KMnO₄ - NaIO₄ oxidation^[13], and DMDS/GC - MS detection^[14] have been previously applied to locate the

double bond position in monounsaturated phytosphingosines and dihydrosphingosines. In our present study, the KMnO₄ oxidation reaction was used and achieved the same satisfying results. This method is more convenient and easier to operate, and under less harsh reaction condition in comparison with the previous ones.

2 Experimental

2.1 General

Optical rotations were measured with a Perkin Elmer 343 spectropolarimeter. The IR spectra were taken in KBr on a WQF-410 FT-IR spectrophotometer. The ¹H NMR (400 MHz), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz), and 2D NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX-400 instrument. Chemical shifts were expressed in ppm (δ) with TMS as an internal standard. The positive ESI-MS data were obtained with a MDS SCIEX API 2000 LC/MS/MS system by direct inlet using MeOH as solvent. The GC-MS analyses were performed with a Shimazu QP-5000 instrument [GC conditions: DB-1 capillary column (30 m × 0.25 mm); column temperature, 60→260°C;

rate of temperature increase, 10°C min⁻¹; injector temperature, 270°C; He at 15 ml min⁻¹]. Silica gel 60 (200 –300 mesh, Qingdao Marine Chemical Ltd., Qingdao, China), Develosil ODS (5 μm, Nomura Chemical Co. Ltd., Japan) and Sephadex LH-20 (Amersham Biosciences, Sweden) were used for column chromatography. TLC was performed on precoated plates (Kieselgel 60GF₂₅₄, Merck) with detection effected by exposure to iodine vapor.

2.2 Plant material

The roots of *S. chinensis* were collected in Lechang County, Guangdong Province, China, in Autumn 2001, and identified by Prof. Zexian Li, South China Botanical Garden, the Chinese Academy of Sciences. A voucher sample (No. 621633) is deposited at the Herbarium of South China Botanical Garden, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IBSC).

2.3 Extraction and isolation

The ground dry roots (8 kg) of *S. chinensis* were extracted with 95% EtOH by percolation at room temperature. The EtOH percolate was concentrated to syrup (500 g) *in vacou*. This syrup was suspended in

Position	$\delta_{\rm II}$ (J in Hz)	$oldsymbol{\delta}_{ ext{c}}$	Position	$\delta_{\rm H}$ (J in Hz)	$oldsymbol{\delta}_{\mathbb{C}}$
la	4.50 dd (10.4, 4.4)	70.4	16	1.23 - 1.30	32.2
1b	4.40 dd (10.4, 4.4)		17	1.23 - 1.30	23.0
2	5.11 m	54.6	18	0.85 t (7.2)	14.4
3	4.33 m	71.3	NH	8.58 d (8.8)	
4	4.28 m	34.9	1′		175.3
5	2.19 m, 1.93 m	25.9	2′	4.61 dd (7.2, 3.6)	72.5
6	1.78 m	29.7 - 30.5	3′	2.19 m, 2.00 m	35.7
7 and 10	2.19 m	33.4	4′	2.00 m, 1.78 m	26.8
	2.00 m	33.1	5' - (n?3)'	1.23 - 1.30	29.7 – 30.
8 and 9	5.51 dt (16.0, 5.6)	130.9	(n?2)'	1.23 - 1.30	32.2
	5.49 dt (16.0, 5.6)	130.7	(n?1)'	1.23 - 1.30	23.0
11-15	1.23 - 1.30	29.7 - 30.1	n′	0.85 t (7.2)	14.4

Table 1 ¹H (400 MHz) and ¹³C (100 MHz) NMR data of 1 (in pyridine-d₃)

n = 16, 22 - 25

H₂O and the aqueous suspension was successively extracted three times each with petroleum ether, CHCl₃, and *n*-BuOH. The petroleum ether extract, upon concentration under lower pressure, afforded a dark syrup (25 g). This syrup was subjected to a silica gel CC using CHCl₃-MeOH (98:2) as the eluant, yielding compound 1 (600 mg).

2.4 Ceramide 1

White amorphous powder. $\left[\alpha\right]_{D}^{25} + 9.20$ (c 0.174, pyridine). IR (KBr) cm⁻¹: 3430 (OH), 1633 (C=O), 1509, 1428, 1369, 1261, 721. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data: see Table 1. Positive ESI-MS m/z: 592 $\left[C_{34}H_{67}NO_5 + Na\right]^+$, 676 $\left[C_{40}H_{79}NO_5 + Na\right]^+$, 690 $\left[C_{41}H_{81}NO_5 + Na\right]^+$, 704 $\left[C_{42}H_{83}NO_5 + Na\right]^+$, 718 $\left[C_{43}H_{85}NO_5 + Na\right]^+$.

2.5 Methanolysis of 1

Mixture 1 (24 mg) was refluxed with 0.9 mol/L HCl in 82% aqueous MeOH (15 ml) for 18 h^[15]. The resulting solution was extracted three times with n-hexane. The n-hexane solution was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄ and then concentrated to yield a fraction of FAMEs (14.5 mg). The H₂O layer, after evaporation of MeOH, was basified to pH 9 with ammonia liquor and extracted with Et₂O. The Et₂O layer was dried over anhydrous Na2SO4 and evaporated to yield a LCB (8.0 mg). The fraction of FAMEs, white amorphous powder, $\left[\alpha\right]_{n}^{25}$ -5.0 (c 0.1, CHCl₃), was analyzed by GC-MS. Peak 1 (t_R 14.28 min, 1.2%, 2-hydroxypalmitic acid methyl ester), EI-MS m/z: 286 [M]⁺ (2), 268 [M – H₂O]⁺ (0.5), 227 [M - CH₃OCO]⁺ (8), 208 (1), 182 [M-CH₃OCO - CH_2OHCH_2]+ (0.5), 159 (1), 145 (2), 127 [C_9H_{19}]+ (3), 125 (4), 111 (6), 97 (20), 90 [CH₃OC(OH)=CHOH]⁺ (21), 83 (27), 69 (30), 57 (81). Peak 2 (t_R 21.94 min, 14.3%, 2-hydroxybehenic acid methyl ester), EI-MS m/z: 370 [M]⁺ (5), 352 [M - H₂O]⁺ (0.5), 311 [M -CH₃OCO]⁺ (7), 292 (1), 266 [M - CH₃OCO - CH_2OHCH_2]⁺ (0.5), 250 (0.2), 236 (0.4), 224 (0.4), 197 $[C_{14}H_{29}]^+$ (0.5), 127 (4), 111 (10), 97 (21), 90 $[CH_3OC(OH)=CHOH]^+(22)$, 83 (27), 69 (33), 57 (86). Peak 3 (t_R 24.67 min, 20.5%, 2-hydroxytricosanoic acid methyl ester), EI-MS m/z: 384 [M]⁺ (6), 366 [M – $H_2O_1^+(0.5)$, 325 [M-CH₃OCO]⁺(6), 306 (1), 280 [M -CH₃OCO - CH₂OHCH₂]⁺ (0.5), 263 (0.6), 238 (0.5), 183 $[C_{13}H_{27}]^+$ (0.1), 159 (1), 145 (2), 125 (5), 111 (10), 97 (24), 90 [CH₃OC (OH)=CHOH]⁺ (25), 83 (29), 69 (36), 57 (89). Peak 4 (t_R 28.56 min, 55.3%, 2-hydroxytetracosanoic acid methyl ester), EI-MS m/z: 398 [M]⁺ (10), 380 [M - H₂O]⁺ (0.2), 339 [M -CH₃OCO]⁺ (8), 320 (1), 294 [M - CH₃OCO - CH_2OHCH_2]⁺ (0.5), 278 (0.6), 252 (0.2), 238 (0.1), 183 $[C_{13}H_{27}]^+$ (0.5), 159 (2), 145 (3), 127 $[C_9H_{19}]^+$ (7), 111 (15), 97 (35), 90 [CH₃OC(OH)=CHOH]⁺ (35), 83 (40), 69 (45), 57 (90). Peak 5 (t_R 32.16 min, 8.7%, 2-hydroxypentacosanoic acid methyl ester), EI-MS m/z: 412 [M]⁺ (3), 353 [M – CH₃OCO]⁺ (2), 334 (1), 308 [M - CH₃OCO - CH₂OHCH₂]⁺ (0.2), 252 (0.4),226(0.6), 207 (0.5), 183 $[C_{13}H_{27}]^+$ (0.4), 159 (1), 145 (2), 127 (5), 111 (10), 97 (21), 90 [CH₃OC (OH) =CHOH]⁺ (20), 83 (24), 69 (30), 57 (89). The LCB, 2-amino-octadec-8-ene-1, 3, 4-triol: EI-MS m/z: 315 $[M]^+$ (0.1), 279 $[M - 2H_2O]^+$ (13), 261 $[M - 3H_2O]^+$ (0.5), 223 (5), 167 $[C_{12}H_{23}]^+$ (29), 149 (100), 113 (9), 104 (10), 71 (13), 57 (31). Positive ESI-MS m/z: 316 $[M + H]^+$, 298 $[M - H_2O + H]^+$, 280 $[M - 2H_2O + H]^+$, $262 [M - 3H_2O + H]^+$.

2.6 Oxidation of the LCB from 1

The LCB (2.0 mg) from methanolysis of 1 was dissolved in 10% H_2SO_4 and acetone (5 ml each). KMnO₄ (100 mg) was added and stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction was then quenched with aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ (5%). The reaction mixture, after removal of acetone, was extracted with Et₂O. The Et₂O layer was dried over Na₂SO₄, and concentrated, to give *n*-decanoic acid, GC-MS: GC t_R 12.07 min, EI-MS m/z 172 [M]⁺ (4), 155 [M – OH]⁺ (3), 143 (5), 129 (28), 87 (11), 73 (70), 60 [CO₃H₃]⁺ (100).

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