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Isolation and Characterization of 7, 4' di-O-methyl kaempferol-3-O-rhamnoside from *Bauhinia tomentosa* flowers

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ABSTRACT

Flavonol glycoside 7,4'-di-O-methyl kaempferol-3-O-rhamnoside was isolated from the flowers of *Bauhinia tomentosa*. The structures of the isolated compound was elucidated through their physical and chemical methods. The isolated compound was characterized using various spectroscopic data such as UV, ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, MS.

Keywords: *Bauhinia tomentosa*, UV, NMR (¹H, ¹³C) and MS, 7,4'-di-O-methyl kaempferol-3-O-rhamnoside.

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1. Introduction

Plants and plant based drugs have been used to treat various diseases from time immemorial which is proved to be less toxic and free from side effects. The genus *Bauhinia* belongs to Leguminosae family, subfamily Caesalpiniaceae which comprises about 300 species distributed in tropical and sub tropical regions. Several therapeutic properties are

attributed to *Bauhinia* species, which includes anti-ameboic, anti-diabetic, analgesic, anti-rheumatic, hypocholesteromic activities¹. *Bauhinia tomentosa* is a shrub prevalent among south India and is widely used in ayurvedic preparations. This plant has been reported to possess antioxidant [2], gastroprotective [3], hepatoprotective [4] and antimicrobial

effect [5]. Aderogba and his colleagues [6] reported that the ethanolic extract of *B. tomentosa* leaves contain kaempferol-7-O-rhamnoside, kaempferol-3-O-glucoside, quercetin-3-O-glucoside and quercetin-3-O-rutinoside. It was previously reported that *B. tomentosa* could stimulate the immune system and could act as a potential anti-inflammatory agent [7]. In plants, flavonoids aglycones (i.e., flavonoids without attached sugar) occur in a variety of structural forms. All contain fifteen carbon atoms in their basic nucleus two six-membered rings linked with a three carbon unit which may or may not be a part of a third ring [8].

2. Materials and Methods

Collection of Flowers

Fresh flowers of *Bauhinia tomentosa* were collected from Jail Corner, Trichy district, Tamil Nadu, India, during the month of January and identified by Dr. S. John Britto, Director, The rapinat Herbarium and Centre for Molecular Systematics (Authentication No. SS003 dated: 08/01/2016). St. Joseph's College (Campus), Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India.

Extraction and fractionation

Fresh flowers (1kg) of *Bauhinia tomentosa* collected at Jail corner, Trichy district, Tamil Nadu, India were extracted with 90% ethanol (5x500ml). The combined alcoholic extract was concentrated in vacuo and the aqueous extract was successively fractionated with petroleum ether (60-80°C) (3x250ml), peroxide free diethyl ether (3x250ml) and ethyl acetate (8x250ml). Ethyl acetate fraction alone was taken for further study.

Ethyl acetate fraction: (Flavonol glycoside -7, 4'-di-O-methyl kaempferol-3-O-rhamnoside): The EtOAc fraction was concentrated in vacuo. The residue from EtOAc fraction was taken up in acetone and left in an ice chest for two hours. A yellow solid (m.p. 184-186°C) (yield 0.2%) separated was recrystallized from methanol. It gave greenish brown colour with alc. FeCl₃, an intense yellow colour with NaOH, deep pink colour with Mg-HCl. It responded to Wilson's boric acid test (Flavones and flavonols having free 5-OH give yellow colour with borocitric acid), Gibb's test (Flavones and flavonols having no substitution at C-8 will give blue or green colour with 2,6-dichlorobenzoquinonechlorimide) and Molish's test [9] (2 drops of 20% alcoholic solution of -naphthol is added to about 2ml of dilute aqueous solution of glycoside followed by the addition of 2ml of Conc. H₂SO₄ through the sides of the test tube. Deep violet colour is produced). But did not respond to Horhammer-Hansel test [10] (when Zirconium oxychloride dissolved in acetic acid is sprayed in paper flavonol with free 3-OH group will give yellow colour) [11]. It had R_f values as depicted in table (1.1).

Hydrolysis of the glycoside

50 mg of the glycoside was dissolved in hot aqueous methanol (5 ml, 50%). To this, an equal volume of H₂SO₄ (7%) was added and the mixture was refluxed at 100°C for 2 hrs. The aqueous hydrolysate was extracted with Et₂O. The residue from Et₂O was studied further.

Identification of the aglycone

(7, 4'-di-O-methyl Kaempferol)

The aglycone that separated from the Et₂O layer, on crystallization gave a yellow solid (m.p 278- 280°C) yield

(0.04%). It was soluble in organic solvents and sparingly soluble in hot water. It developed a reddish orange colour with Mg-HCl and intense yellow colour with NaOH. It responded to Horhammer-hansel test [10], Gibb's test and Wilson-boric test [9]. But did not answer Molisch's test. It had R_f values as depicted in table 1.1. It had λ_{max} MeOH 266, 382; + NaOMe 275, 393; + AlCl₃ 269, 303, 348, 422; + AlCl₃-HCl 268, 303, 347, 422; + NaOAc 268, 305, 317, 352; + NaOAc-H₃BO₃ 265, 302 sh, 351 nm [12].

Identification of sugar: (Rhamnose)

The aqueous solution from the above hydrolysate was neutralized with BaCO₃ and filtered. The concentrated filtrate on chromatographic examination (PC) gave a single spot and its R_f values are depicted in table 1-2 and the values are agreed with those of rhamnose. The identity of the sugar was confirmed by Co-chromatography with an authentic sample of rhamnose [13].

3. Results and Discussion

The fresh flowers of *Bauhinia tomentosa* have been found to contain 7,4'-di-O-methyl Kaempferol-3-O-rhamnoside. The UV spectrum of the glycoside showed two major peaks at 358 nm (band I) and 258 nm (band II), showing the presence of a flavonoid [14]. A bathochromic shift of 24 nm found in the MeOH spectrum of aglycone compared to the glycoside, suggests that the site of glycosylation could be at C-3. This is supported by the fact that the glycoside is not responded to Horhammer – Hansel test but the aglycone responded¹⁵. The presence of free -OH at C-5 in the glycoside and in the aglycone is evident from their positive response to Wilson boric acid test. This is also supported by the fact that a bathochromic shift of 41 and 40 nm observed in the glycoside and in the aglycone respectively in the AlCl₃-HCl spectra¹⁶.

A comparison of NaOAc spectrum¹⁸ (band II) of the glycoside and its aglycone with their respective MeOH spectrum suggests the absence of 7-OH. The absence of any characteristic shift in (band I) NaOAc-H₃BO₃, suggests the absence of catechol type of substitution in B ring¹⁸.

In the ¹H NMR spectrum (DMSO-d₆; TMS) (fig 1.1) of the glycoside, the signal appearing at δ 12.59 ppm corresponds to the -OH at C-5. The C-6 proton appears as a doublet at 6.2 ppm due to meta coupling with C-8 protons and the C-8 protons appears as a doublet at 6.4 ppm due to meta coupling with C-6 proton. Protons at C-2', C-3', 5' and 6' appear as two pairs of ortho coupled doublets. The proton at C-3' and C-5' occur at δ 6.8 ppm as a doublet.

The protons at C-2' and C-6' appear at 7.56 ppm as a doublet, due to deshielding effect of oxygen substituent at C-4'. The presence of -OCH₃ group is evidenced by the presence of a signal at δ 3.8 ppm [17]. The H-1'' signal of rhamnose appears at 5.33 ppm. The rhamnosyl -CH₃ protons appear at δ 1 ppm as a doublet. Other rhamnosyl protons appear between 3 to 4 ppm [18]. Supporting evidence for the structure of the glycoside was provided by the analysis of ¹³C-NMR (DMSO-d₆-TMS) (Fig 1-2) data. The signal positions and their complete assignments to

different carbons are given in table 1-3. Due to glycosylation, the C-3 carbon shows an up field shift and the two ortho carbons C-2 and C-4 show downfield shift [13]. Presence of $-OCH_3$ group is evidenced by the downfield shift found at C-4' and at C-7. Methyl carbon of this $-OCH_3$ group resonates at δ 59.5 ppm. Methyl carbon of rhamnose resonated at δ 17.6 ppm [19]. The structure of

the glycoside is further evidenced by the mass spectrum of the aglycone obtained from the glycoside. The mass spectrum is shown in the fig 1-3. The spectrum of the aglycone had a peak at m/z 314 for M^+ ion. The fragmentation pattern (fig 1-4) following RDA (Retro Diels Alder) and other common fragmentation pattern is, in favour of the structure of the compound [11].

Table 1.1: $R_f \times 100$ Values of G_1 from the flowers of *Bauhinia tomentosa* (Whatman No.1, Ascending, $30 \pm 2^\circ C$)

Compound	*Developing solvents								
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
Glycoside G_1	12	39	42	68	78	70	70	52	71
Aglycone from G_1	-	-	5	-	49	92	66	86	63

*** Solvent Key**

a = H_2O

b = 5% aq. HOAc

c = 15% aq. HOAc

d = 30 % aq. HOAc

e = 60 % aq. HOAc

f = n. BuOH: HOAc: H_2O = 4:1:5 (Upper phase)

g = Phenol saturated with water

h = HOAc: Conc. HCl: H_2O = 30:3:10

i = t BuOH : HOAc : H_2O = 3:1:1

It had λ_{max} MeOH 258, 358 ; + NaOMe 273, 396; + $AlCl_3$ 275, 304, 353, 399 ; + $AlCl_3 - HCl$ 274, 304, 352, 399; + NaOAc 259, 305, 317 sh, 353; + NaOAc- H_3BO_3 265, 301 sh, 351 nm. The 1H and ^{13}C - NMR spectra of the glycoside are appended in Fig. 1.1 and 1.2

Table 1.2: $R_f (X100)$ Values of the sugar from the glycoside G_1 from the flowers of *Bauhinia tomentosa* (Whatman No.1 Ascending, $30 \pm 2^\circ C$)

Compound	* Developing solvents				
	e	f	g	h	i
Sugar from G_1	76	30	61	92	78
Rhamnose (authentic)	75	30	60	92	79

J = n BuOH: Benzene: Pyridine: H_2O = 5:1:3:3 Spray reagent: Aniline hydrogen phthalate

Table 1-3: ^{13}C -NMR spectral data and their assignments for the aglycone and glycoside G_1 from the flowers of *Bauhinia tomentosa*

Compound	C-2	C-3	C-4	C-5	C-6	C-7	C-8	C-9	C-10
Kaempferol from literature	146.8	135.6	175.9	160.7	98.2	163.9	93.5	156.2	103.1
Glycoside G_1	156.3	133.1	177.2	161.07	97.7	164.3	92.6	156.3	103.7

Compound	C-1'	C-2'	C-3'	C-4'	C-5'	C-6'
Kaempferol from literature	121.7	129.5	115.4	159.2	115.4	129.5
Glycoside G_1	121.04	130.7	115.1	168	115.1	130.7

Compound	C-1''	C-2''	C-3''	C-4''	C-5''	C-6''
Kaempferol from literature	101.9	70.4	70.6	71.5	70.1	17.3
Glycoside G_1	101.88	70.45	70.8	71.7	69.97	17.6

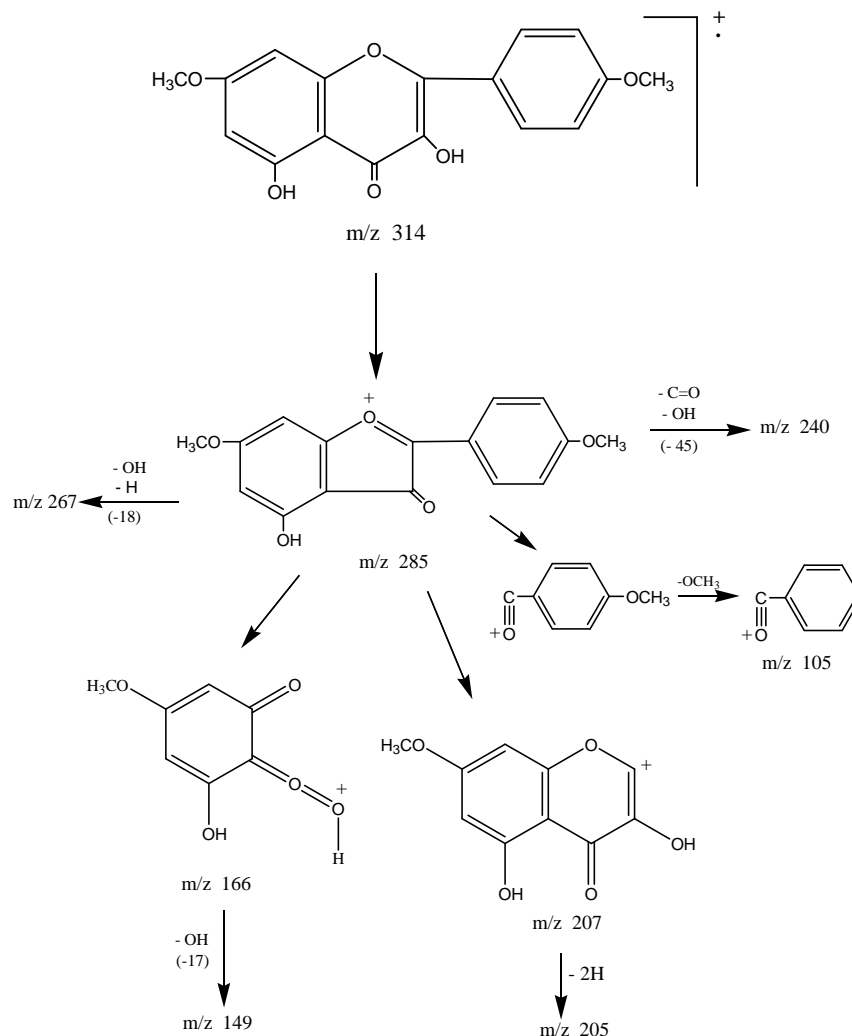


Figure 1: Mass fragmentation Pattern

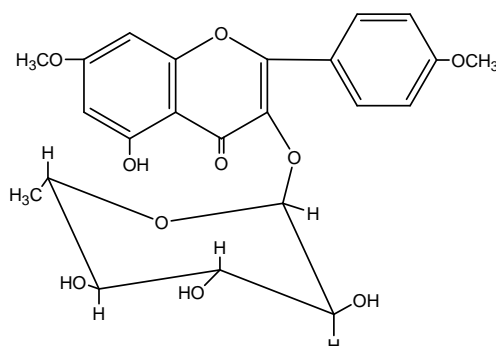


Figure 2: 7,4'-di-O-methyl Kaempferol-3-O-rhamnoside

Based on the above evidences the glycoside has been characterized as 7,4'-di-O-methyl Kaempferol-3-O-rhamnoside¹⁸.

4. Conclusion

The plant *Bauhinia tomentosa* is a known for its traditional medicine. Isolation of the new compound 7, 4'-di-O-methyl kaempferol-3-O-rhamnoside *Bauhinia tomentosa* will definitely be useful in medicinal field.

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