

Research Article



A New Naphthalene Derivative with Unusual Furanose Sugar from the Leaves of *Diospyros soubreana* (Ebenaceae)

Boué Guy Blanchard¹, Kabran Aka Faustine¹, Tomi Félix², Tonzibo Zanahi Félix^{1*}.

¹ Laboratoire de Chimie Organique Biologique, UFR Sciences des Structures de la Matière et Technologie, Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, 22 BP 582 Abidjan 22, Côte d'Ivoire.

² Laboratoire Sciences pour l'Environnement, UMR CNRS 6134 SPE, Equipe Chimie et Biomasse, Université de Corse, Route des Sanguinaires, 20000 Ajaccio, France.

*Corresponding author's E-mail: tonzibz@yahoo.fr

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ABSTRACT

A new naphthalene derivative, 7-methyl-1-methoxy, 4,5-dihydroxy-naphthalene-4-O-[(5''-O-galloyl-β-D-apiofuranosyl-(1'→6'))]-β-D-glucopyranoside (1) was isolated from the leaves ethyl acetate extract of *Diospyros soubreana*. The chemical structure of this compound was elucidated by detailed spectral analysis including MS, UV, IR, 1D and 2D-NMR spectroscopy.

Keywords: Ebenaceae; *Diospyros soubreana*; naphthalene derivative; NMR spectroscopy.

INTRODUCTION

Diospyros species, used in traditional medicine for the treatment of many diseases since olden times¹⁻⁴, are rich sources of natural bioactive compounds such as triterpenoids⁵⁻⁸, naphthoquinones⁹⁻¹², coumarin derivatives^{13, 14}, flavonoids^{4, 15, 16} and naphthalene derivatives¹⁷⁻²⁰. This last group of compounds possess interesting biological activities mainly antioxidant²¹⁻²⁴, anti-inflammatory²⁵, antiprotozoal²⁶⁻²⁹, antimicrobial²⁹ and cytotoxic^{24, 28-30}. In our ongoing research on bioactive molecules from *Diospyros* species, we investigated the chemical constituents of the leaves of *Diospyros soubreana*, used in Ivory Coast as wound healing^{31, 32}. Very little data exists on this species, hence the choice for our study. In the present study, a new naphthalene derivative was isolated from the leaves of this species and the chemical structure elucidated by spectroscopic evidences.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

General

Optical rotations were measured at 20°C on a Perkin Elmer polarimeter type 341 equipped with a sodium lamp (589 nm). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR, as well as 2D spectra (COSY, HSQC, HMBC and NOESY), were recorded on a Bruker Avance III spectrometer operating at 500 MHz for ¹H spectra and 125 MHz for ¹³C using CD₃OD as deuterated solvent. The chemical shift was expressed in ppm from TMS (internal standard). UV spectrum was recorded with a UV-visible spectrophotometer, Shimadzu UV-2450. IR spectrum was recorded with a Nicolet Avatar 320 FT-IR spectrometer. Mass spectra were acquired in electrospray on an ESI-Q-TOF micro mass apparatus, micro (Manchester, UK). The chromatography columns were performed on silica gel (Merck, 60-200 μm). HPLC analyzes were performed using a Dionex Ultimate 3000

chain equipped with a degasser, an injector, a UVD detector and an oven. Thin-layer chromatographies were carried out on aluminium plates coated with silica gel 60-F₂₅₄ (Merck), and visualized with UV light (254 and 366 nm) then sprayed with vanillin-H₂SO₄ and FeCl₃.

Plant material

Leaves of *D. soubreana* were collected in July 2014 in « Petit Yapo » forest, Agboville Department, south-east of Côte d'Ivoire. The plant samples were identified by a botanist of Centre National de Floristique (CNF), University Félix Houphouët-Boigny of Cocody-Abidjan, where voucher specimens are deposited. The samples were dried at room temperature, then ground.

Extraction and isolation

Powdered leaves (100 g) were extracted in a Soxhlet apparatus, firstly with petroleum ether and then with ethyl acetate, followed by maceration in methanol at room temperature. Extracts were filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to give 2.7 g of petroleum ether (DSFPE), 6 g of ethyl acetate (DSFA) and 15.9 g of methanol (DSFM) extracts.

2 g of the ethyl acetate extract (DSFA) was subjected to a silica gel column chromatography (60-200 μm) using a gradient of petroleum ether/ethyl acetate (100: 0 to 0: 100) then ethyl acetate/methanol (80: 20) to give five fractions: F1 (4.4 mg), F2 (56.4 mg), F3 (121.9 mg), F4 (112.9 mg) and F5 (833.3 mg) according to their TLC profiles. 350 mg of fraction F5 were subjected to a preparative HPLC separation with the gradient water/acetonitrile (95: 5 to 0: 100) as mobile phase to give 19 mg of compound 1.



Identification of isolated compound

7-methyl-1-methoxy, 4,5-dihydroxy-naphthalene-4-O-[(5''-O-galloyl-6-D-apiofuranosyl-(1'→6'')]-6-D-glucopyranoside (1)

Brown amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 61$ (C 0.003, MeOH); UV λ_{\max} (MeOH) nm : 226, 282, 340; IR ν_{\max} (cm^{-1}) : 3386, 2934, 1694, 1615, 1452, 1382, 1244, 1056, 765; ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data, see Table 1; ESIMS m/z : 673.2 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$; MS/MS m/z (%) : 673 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ (98), 469 (98), 453 (100), 381 (62), 325 (94), 279 (85), 261 (53), 192 (73), 169 (27), 153 (17).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The leaves ethyl acetate extract of *Diospyros soubreana* was subjected to repeated chromatography using silica gel and C_{18} grafted silica to furnish a new naphthalene derivative (1).

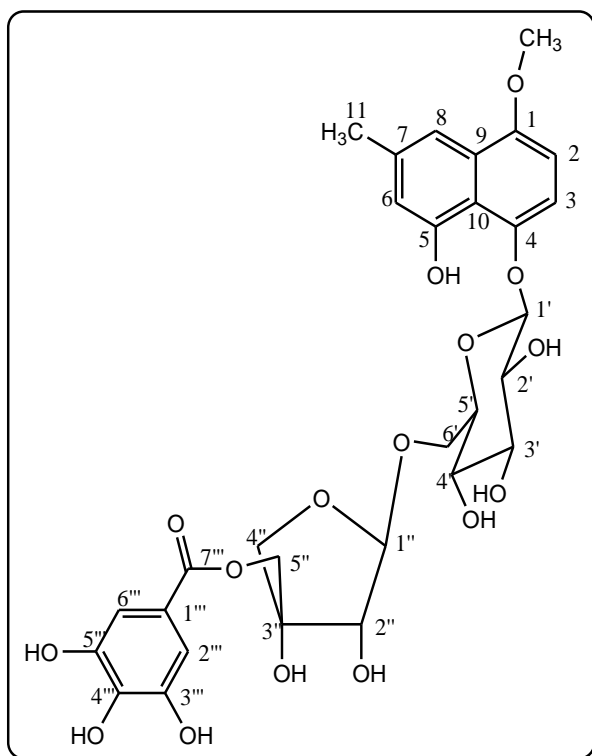


Figure 1: Structure of compound 1.

Compound 1, was obtained as a brown amorphous powder, $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 61$ (C 0.003, MeOH). The IR spectrum showed typical bands at ν_{\max} 3386 cm^{-1} (OH), 1694 (C=O) and 1615 (C=C). The UV spectrum of this compound showed absorption maxima at 226, 282 and 340 nm characteristic of a naphthalene chromophore^{19, 33, 34}. Its ESI mass spectrum showed a pseudo-molecular ion at m/z 673.2 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ in agreement with the molecular formula $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_{16}$ (corresponding to a double-bond equivalent value of 14).

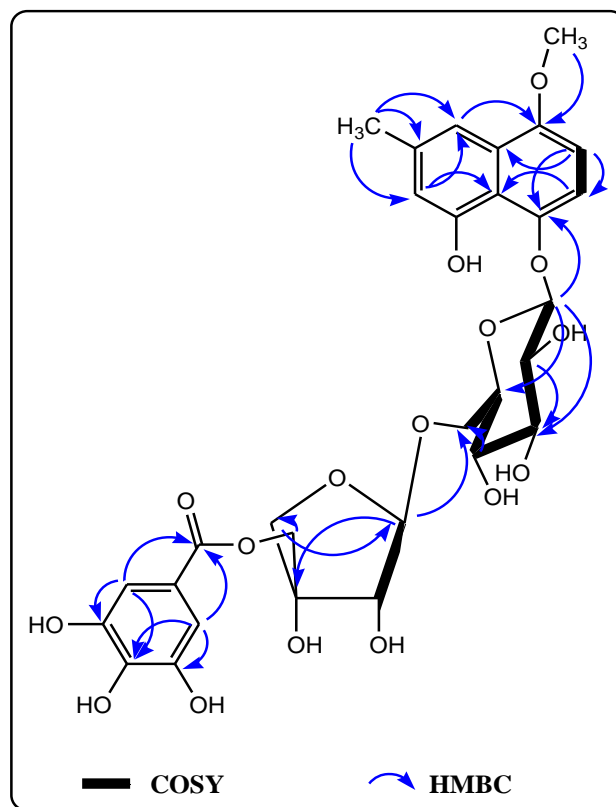


Figure 2: Important COSY and HMBC correlations of compound 1.

The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra (Table 1) allowed the identification in the aromatic region of a galloyl group and a tetrasubstituted naphthalene nucleus along with a glucosyl and a apiofuranosyl moieties. Indeed, the galloyl group was observable at $[\delta_{\text{H}} 7.11$ (2H, s, galloyl-2''', 6''')] and $[\delta_{\text{C}} 168.1$ (C-7'''), 146.5 (C-3''', 5'''), 139.9 (C-4'''), 121.2 (C-1'''), 110.2 (C-2''', 6''')] ^{35,36}, the naphthalene nucleus at $[\delta_{\text{H}} 7.43$ (1H, d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, H-8), 7.10 (1H, d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, H-3), 6.67 (1H, d, $J = 1.4$ Hz, H-6), 6.53 (1H, d, $J = 8.6$ Hz, H-2)] and $[\delta_{\text{C}} 152.3$ (C-1), 104.5 (C-2), 111.1 (C-3), 149.4 (C-4), 154.6 (C-5), 114.2 (C-6), 137.8 (C-7), 113.6 (C-8), 129.4 (C-9), 115.7 (C-10)] ¹⁷, the glucosyl moiety at $[\delta_{\text{H}} 5.00$ (1H, d, $J = 7.8$ Hz, H-1'), 3.49 (1H, t, $J = 9.1$ Hz, H-2'), 3.54 (1H, t, $J = 9.1$ Hz, H-3'), 3.37 (1H, t, $J = 9.1$ Hz, H-4'), 3.79 (1H, m, H-5'), 3.63/4.12 (2H, dd, $J = 10.9, 5.2, 1.6$ Hz, H-6')] and $[\delta_{\text{C}} 105.0$ (C-1'), 75.1 (C-2'), 78.1 (C-3'), 71.8 (C-4'), 77.2 (C-5'), 68.8 (C-6')] ³⁷, and the apiofuranosyl unit at $[\delta_{\text{H}} 5.05$ (1H, d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, H-1''), 4.06 (1H, d, $J = 2.2$ Hz, H-2''), 3.90/4.12 (2H, d, $J = 9.8$ Hz, H-4''), 4.31/4.36 (2H, d, $J = 12.4$ Hz)] and $[\delta_{\text{C}} 110.8$ (C-1''), 78.7 (C-2''), 79.0 (C-3''), 75.0 (C-4''), 67.2 (C-5'')] ³⁸⁻⁴⁰. In addition, a methyl group $[\delta_{\text{H}} 2.36$ (3H, s, H-11) and $\delta_{\text{C}} 21.9$ (C-11)] and a methoxyl group $[\delta_{\text{H}} 3.80$ (3H, s, OCH₃) and $\delta_{\text{C}} 56.0$ (OCH₃)] were visible.

On the HMBC spectrum, the correlations between the protons at $\delta_{\text{H}} 2.36$ (3H, s, H-11) and C-6 ($\delta_{\text{C}} 114.2$), C-7 ($\delta_{\text{C}} 137.8$) and C-8 ($\delta_{\text{C}} 113.6$) on one hand, and the correlation between the protons at $\delta_{\text{H}} 3.80$ (3H, s, OCH₃) and C-1 ($\delta_{\text{C}} 152.3$) on the other hand, indicated the

attachment of the methyl group to carbon C-7 and the methoxyl one to carbon C-1, on the naphthalene nucleus (Fig. 2). *Meta*-coupled protons H-6 and H-8 ($J = 1.4$ Hz) and *ortho*-coupled ones H-2 and H-3 ($J = 8.6$ Hz) corroborated the above substitutions. Likewise, the oxygenated carbon C-5 was substituted by an hydroxyl group (OH) in agreement with the MS/MS spectrum. These data suggested the presence of 7-methyl-1-methoxy-5-hydroxy-naphthalene structure, similar to that of the aglycone of rossoliside^{17,41}. Further analysis of the HMBC spectrum allowed us to establish the linkage between the different nuclei previously described. Indeed, it showed important correlations between H-1' and C-4, H-1'' and C-6' and between H-5'' and C-7'''. Therefore, it has been established that the naphthalene nucleus was bonded to the glucosyl moiety (C4-O-C1'), the latter was linked to the apiofuranosyl unit (C6'-O-C1'') which was linked to the galloyl group (C5''-O-C7'''). This was attested by the MS/MS spectrum which showed loss of the tetrasubstituted naphthalene nucleus, and this nucleus along with the glucosyl unit through the fragment ions peak at m/z 470 $[M+Na-C_{12}H_{11}O_3]^+$ and m/z 325 $[M+H+Na-C_{18}H_{21}O_7]^+$ respectively (Fig. 3). Moreover, the major fragment ion peak at m/z 169 $[C_7H_5O_5]^+$ corresponded to the galloyl group. Other important fragments which made it possible to elucidate the structure of 1 are presented in Figure 3. In addition, the configuration of the anomeric carbons of glucose^{38,42} and apiose^{40, 43-45} moieties were concluded to be β -D from the J values (7.8 Hz for H-1' and 2.2 Hz for H-1'') in 1H NMR spectrum and typical 1H and ^{13}C NMR shifts.

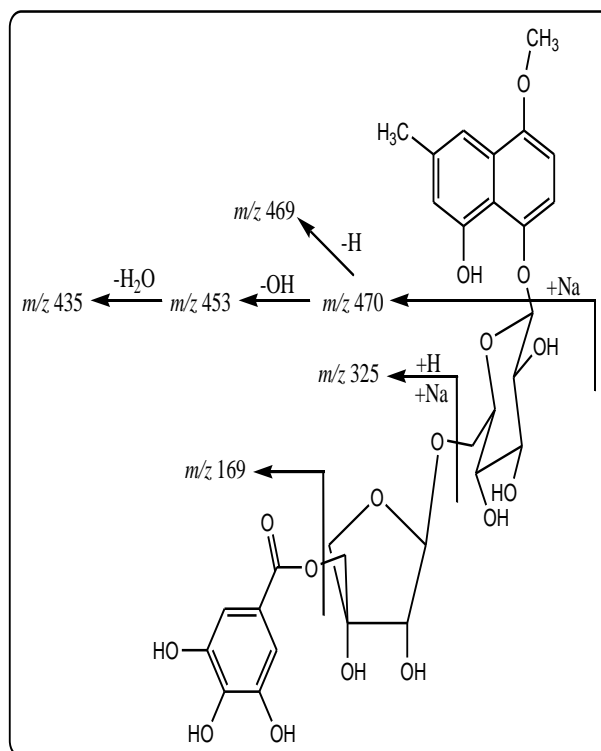


Figure 3: Important MS/MS fragments for compound 1.

From these spectral data, the structure of compound 1 was elucidated as 7-methyl-1-methoxy, 4,5-dihydroxy-naphthalene-4-*O*-[(5''-*O*-galloyl- β -D-apiofuranosyl-(1'→6'))]- β -D-glucopyranoside, which is a new compound.

To the best of our knowledge, this compound was isolated from the *Diospyros* genus for the first time.

Table 1: 1H and ^{13}C NMR data for compound 1 (run in CD_3OD).

Position	δ_H	δ_C	COSY	HMBC
1	-	152.3	-	-
2	6.53 (d, 8.6)	104.5	H3	C1, C4, C9
3	7.10 (d, 8.6)	111.1	H2	C1, C4, C10
4	-	149.4	-	-
5	-	154.6	-	-
6	6.67 (d, 1.4)	114.2	-	C5, C8, C10, C11
7	-	137.8	-	-
8	7.43 (d, 1.4)	113.6	-	C1, C6, C10, C11
9	-	129.4	-	-
10	-	115.7	-	-
11	2.36 (s)	21.9	-	C6, C7, C8
1'	5.00 (d, 7.8)	105.0	H2'	C4, C3', C5'
2'	3.49 (t, 9.1)	75.1	H1', H3'	C3', C4'
3'	3.54 (t, 9.1)	78.1	H2', H4'	-
4'	3.37 (t, 9.1)	71.8	H3', H5'	C3', C5', C6'
5'	3.79 (m)	77.2	H4', H6'	-
6'	3.63 (dd, 10.9, 5.2) /4.12	68.8	H5'	C5', C1''

	(dd, 10.9, 1.6)			
1"	5.05 (d, 2.2)	110.8	H2''	C6', C3'', C4''
2"	4.06 (d, 2.2)	78.7	H1''	C5''
3"	-	79.0	-	-
4"	3.9/4.12 (d, 9.8)	75.0	-	C1'', C3'', C5''
5"	4.31/4.36 (d, 12.4)	67.2	-	C3'', C4'', C7'''
1'''	-	121.2	-	-
2''', 6'''	7.11 (s)	110.2	-	C1''', C3'''/C5''', C4''', C7'''
3''', 5'''	-	146.5	-	-
4'''	-	139.9	-	-
7'''	-	168.1	-	-
OCH ₃	3.80 (s)	56.0	-	C1

CONCLUSION

This phytochemical study on the leaves of *Diospyros soubreana* led to the isolation and structural determination of a new naphthalene derivative with unusual apiofuranosyl moiety. This compound was isolated for the first time from the genus *Diospyros*. Naphthalene derivatives are endowed with many biological activities, which encourages us to continue this study with the aim of isolating other potentially active structures in order to validate the use of this organ of the plant in traditional medicine. In addition, biological assessments will be conducted to evaluate the pharmacological potential of the extracts of the plant and the isolated compound.

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