Gallotannins Having a 1,5-Anhydro-D-glucitol Core and Some Ellagitannins from *Acer* Species

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Tannins of two *Acer* species were investigated. Besides acertannin (1), gallotannins 2 and 3, having three and four galloyl groups on their 1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol cores, were obtained from the leaves of *Acer gymnala*. The estimation of their tanning activity by the *RMBG* (relative affinity to methylene blue based on the affinity of geraniin) determination method revealed that the tanning activities of 2 and 3 are high, while that of 1, which has only two galloyl groups, is low. Two isomers (2a and 2b) of 2, and three isomers (3a, 3b and 3c) of 3 were respectively separated from each other after methylation. Their structures, in which all of the acyl groups (galloyl group, digalloyl group and/or trigalloyl group) are linked exclusively to O-2 and O-6 of the 1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol core, were assigned. Fractionation of the constituents of leaves of *A. saccharum* afforded two ellagitannins, geraniin (10) and davidin (11), and also chlorogenic acid and quercitrin.

Keywords: tannin; gallotannin; acertannin; 1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol; ellagitannin; geraniin; davidin; *Acer gymnala*; *Acer saccharum*; tanning activity

Isolation of a polyphenolic component of a rather small molecule, named acertannin (1), from *Acer gymnala* was reported in 1922,2) and its structure, 2,6-di-O-galloyl-1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol, was established recently.3,4) The presence of 1,5-anhydro-D-glucitols having three galloyl groups (2) in this plant was also reported5) although the two isomers, 6-O-digalloyl-2-O-galloyl-1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol (2a) and 2-O-digalloyl-6-O-galloyl-1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol (2b), were not separated.

We have been investigating tannins of some *Acer* species, and previously reported on ellagitannins of *Acer nikoense*.5) Upon further studies on the tannins of these species, 2a and 2b from *A. gymnala* have been separated from each other after methylation. The methylation also facilitated elucidation of their structures, since the equilibration, which is caused by the migration6) of depsidically linked galloyl groups between meta- and para-hydroxyl groups of the galloyl groups attached directly to the sugar core (Chart 1), was absent in the methylated derivatives.

Besides the above compounds, 1,5-anhydroglucitols having four galloyl groups (3) have been newly obtained from *A. gymnala*, and three isomers, 2-O-galloyl-6-O-trigalloyl-1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol (3a), 2,6-bis-O-digalloyl-1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol (3b) and 6-O-galloyl-2-O-trigalloyl-1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol (3c), were separated from each other in an analogous way.

We report here on these galloylated 1,5-anhydro-D-glucitols from *A. gymnala*, and also on ellagitannins from *A. saccharum*.

Results and Discussion

**Gallotannins of *A. gymnala***: Acertannin (1) was crystallized out from the concentrated filtrate obtained from a homogenate of leaves of *A. gymnala*. The aqueous mother liquor of 1 was extracted with diethyl ether and ethyl acetate successively, and the ethyl acetate extract was subjected to column chromatography on Sephadex LH-20, to afford 2 and 3. Methanalysis of 2 and 3 in a manner inducing preferential cleavage of the depside linkage7) afforded 1 and methyl gallate (4) in molar ratios of 1:1 and 1:2, respectively. Therefore, 2 and 3 have the structures in which one or two additional galloyl groups are depsidically linked to galloyl groups of 1 (Chart 2). Upon estimation of their tanning activity by the *RMBG* (relative affinity to methylene blue based on the affinity of geraniin) determination method,8) 2 and 3 showed high *RMBG* values (2, 0.84; 3, 0.90), while 1, having only two galloyl groups, showed a low value (0.08). Therefore, 2 and 3 are genuine tannin components in the leaves of this plant, while 1 is not, in spite of its name, acertannin.9)

Methylation of 2 afforded a mixture containing two octamethyl derivatives 5 and 6. These two were separated from each other by preparative thin layer chromatography (PTLC) on silica gel. As described below, this methylation occurred preferentially on the para-hydroxyl groups of the galloyl groups attached directly to the anhydroglucitol core, in a manner similar to the methylation of methyl gallate.6a) Methylation of 3, followed by PTLC of the reaction mixture, afforded the decamethyl derivatives 7, 8 and 9.

Compounds 5 and 6 showed their molecular ions at *m/z* 732 in the electron-impact mass spectra (EI-MS). The proton nuclear magnetic resonance (*1H-NMR*) spectrum of 5 showed six aromatic protons assignable to a tri-O-methylgalloyl (TMG) group [δ 7.33 (2H, s)] and a penta-O-methyl-α-digalloyl group (PMDG) [δ 7.62, 7.54 (each d, *J* = 8 Hz) and 7.65 (2H, s)], along with protons of a 1,5-anhydroglucitol core and of eight methoxyl groups (see Experimental). The H-2 and two H-6 protons of the anhydroglucitol core appeared at lower field (H-2, δ 4.94; H-6, δ 4.69 and 4.48), relative to the other anhydroglucitol.
protons, indicating that these two acyl groups (TMG and PMDG groups) in 5 are at O-2 and O-6 on the anhydroglucitol core. The 1H-NMR spectrum of 6 also showed the presence of a TMG group [δ 7.34 (2H, s)], a PMDG group [δ 7.63, 7.54 (each d, J = 2 Hz) and 7.49 (2H, s)], and a 1,5-anhydroglucitol core (see Experimental) in the molecule of 6. The chemical shifts of the H-2 and two H-6 protons (H-2, δ 4.96; H-6, δ 4.67 and 4.46) of the anhydroglucitol core indicated that the two acyl groups in 6 are also on O-2 and O-6. Therefore, 5 and 6 are octamethyl derivatives of 2a (or 2b) and 2b (or 2a).

The 13C-nuclear magnetic resonance (13C-NMR) spectrum of 6 showed a downfield shift of the C-2 signal (δ 73.64) among the anhydroglucitol carbon signals, relative to the C-2 signal of 5 (δ 73.41). The signal of C-6 of the anhydroglucitol core of 5 (δ 65.35) also showed a downfield shift, relative to the corresponding signal of 6 (δ 65.17). These downfield shifts, which are analogous to those induced by the substitution of digalloyl groups for galloyl groups in some gallatannins, indicate that the PMDG group in 6 is at O-2 on its anhydroglucitol core, and this group in 5 is at O-6. Therefore, compounds 5 and 6 were assigned to be octamethyl derivatives of 2a and 2b, respectively.

Among the anhydroglucitol protons in the 1H-NMR spectrum of 6, the H-2 signal of its anhydroglucitol core showed a slight downfield shift, relative to the corresponding signal of 5 (δ 4.94 - 4.96), and the H-6 signals of 5 showed analogous downfield shifts (δ 4.67 - 4.69, δ 4.46 - 4.48), relative to those of 6. The hydroxyl proton at C-3 of the anhydroglucitol core is also susceptible to the substitution of PMDG group for TMG group at O-2 [δ 4.77 (5) - 4.85 (6)]. On the other hand, the chemical shift of OH at C-4 of the anhydroglucitol core is less influenced by the substitution at O-6. These differences in the chemical shifts, therefore, can be utilized for discrimination of the location of the acyl group having a depside linkage from that of the TMG group.

Each isolated compound, 7, 8, and 9, derived from 3, showed a molecular ion at m/z 912 in the ESI-MS. The 1H-NMR spectrum of 7 showed eight aromatic protons assignable to a TMG group [δ 7.34 (2H, s)] and a hepta-O-methyl-m-trigalloyl (HMTG) group [δ 7.77, 7.71, 7.63, 7.58 (each d, J = 2 Hz) and 7.51 (2H, s)], along with protons of a 1,5-anhydroglucitol core and of ten methoxyl groups (see Experimental). Two H-6 protons and H-2 of the anhydroglucitol core of 7 appeared at lower field [δ 4.68, 4.48 (H-6); 4.93 (H-2)], relative to the other anhydroglucitol protons, indicating that the two acyl groups (TMG and HMDG groups) in 7 are at O-2 and O-6 on its anhydroglucitol core. The 1H-NMR spectrum of 9 also showed signals of a TMG group [δ 7.34 (2H, s)] and an HMDG group [δ 7.76, 7.71, 7.63, 7.57 (each d, J = 2 Hz) and 7.51 (2H, s)]. The chemical shifts of the two H-6 protons and H-2 [δ 4.67, 4.46 (H-6); δ 4.95 (H-2)] of the anhydroglucitol core in 9 indicate that the two acyl groups are on O-2 and O-6 of its 1,5-anhydroglucitol core. The H-2 signal of the anhydroglucitol core of 9 showed a slight
downfield shift, relative to the corresponding signal of 7 (δ 4.93 → 4.95), and the H-6 signals of 7 showed analogous downfield shifts (δ 4.67 → 4.68, δ 4.46 → 4.48) relative to those of 9. The hydroxyl proton at C-3 also showed a downfield shift attributable to substitution of an HMTG group for a TMG group [δ 4.76 (7) → 4.90 (9)]. Therefore, 7 and 9 are decamethyl derivatives of 3a and 3c, respectively. The remaining decamethyl derivative 8 showed 1H signals due to two PMDG groups [δ 7.62, 7.61, 7.54, 7.52 (1H each, d, J = 2 Hz), 7.49, 7.48 (2H each, s)] along with the signals of its 1,5-anhydro-α-D-glucitol core. The chemical shifts of H-2 (δ 4.95) and two H-6 (δ 4.68, 4.47) signals, which appeared at lower field, relative to the other anhydroglucitol protons, indicate that the two PMDG groups are at O-2 and O-6 on the anhydroglucitol core. Therefore, 8 is the decamethyl derivative of 3b.

Ellagitannins of A. saccharum The ethyl acetate extract of a homogenate of leaves of A. saccharum was chromatographed on Sephadex LH-20, to give two ellagitanins, geraniol (10) and davidii (11), along with chlorogenic acid and quercitin.

Although geraniol has been reported to be distributed widely in dicotyledonous plants including those of Aceraceae, 48,5.12 davidii has previously been found only in Davidia involucrata, 12a which is a rare species, and is the sole species belonging to Davidiaceae. The occurrence of davidii in an Aceraceae plant, as found in the present study, may be suggestive of some correlation between these two families in the plant systematics.

Experimental

Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO DIP-4 polarimeter. Ultraviolet (UV) and infrared (IR) spectra were respectively recorded on a Hitachi 200-10 spectrophotometer and a JASCO A-102 spectrometer. 1H-NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker AM-400 spectrometer (400 MHz), and 13C-NMR spectra were recorded with JOEL FX-200 spectrometer (50.1 MHz). A Hitachi R22-FTS spectrometer (90 MHz for 1H-NMR and 22.6 MHz for 13C-NMR) and a Varian VXR-300 instrument (500 MHz for 1H-NMR and 125.7 MHz for 13C-NMR) were also used for measurements. 1H- and 13C-NMR spectra. Chemical shifts are given in δ values (ppm) from tetramethylsilane. El-MS were recorded on a Shimadzu LKB-9000 instrument. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Kieselgel PF254 (Merck) using solvent systems (a) light petroleum (refers to the fraction boiling in the range of 85–120°C), chloroform-acetone (4:6:3; v/v), (b) benzene-acetone (4:1), (c) hexane-tetrahydrofuran-acetic acid (100:100:1) and (d) benzene-acetone (3:1). High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was performed on a YMC A312 (ODS) column (6 × 150 mm), Yamamura Chemical Laboratories with solvent A [0.1 M H3PO4 0.1 M KH2PO4 0.1M ethyl acetate (10:10:2:1)] or solvent B [0.05 M H3PO4 0.05 M KH2PO4 0.1M ethyl acetate (17:17:4:2)], in an oven at 40°C, with monitoring at 254 nm.

Purification of 1,5-Anhydro-α-D-glucitol Derivatives from A. ginnala Leaves (960g) of A. ginnala were homogenized in 70% acetone (7.5 l), immediately after collection from the trees grown at Hanadayama Botanical Garden, Okayama. Concentrated filtrate obtained from the homogenate was kept in a refrigerator, and crystallized acertannin (63g) was filtered off. The mother liquor was extracted successively with diethyl ether and ethyl acetate. A portion (4g) of the ethyl acetate extract (46g) was chromatographed over Sephadex LH-20 (2.2 × 60 cm) with 70% EtOH, to give 1 (536mg), 2 (879mg) and 3 (170mg).

Estimation of Tanning Activity Tanning activity of each sample was determined by the reported method based on the binding activity to melycene blue, 18 and was expressed as RMGB value.

Acerantin (19) Colorless needles, mp 165°C, δ 2154 (c = 1, acetone). Anal. Calcd for C22H22O19, 32H2O: C, 49.8; H, 4.55. Found: C, 49.02; H, 4.47. UV λmax nm (log ε): 221 (4.68), 275 (4.35). IR (KBr cm−1): 1690 (ester carbonyl), 1615. 1H-NMR (500 MHz, aceton-d6) δ: 7.13, 7.11 (2H each, s, vinyl), 3.47 (dt, J = 5.5, 10.5 Hz, H-2 of 1,5-anhydro-α-D-glucitol (AHG) core), 4.56 (d, J = 12 Hz, AHG H-6), 4.35 (dd, J = 5, 12 Hz, AHG H-6), 4.05 (dd, J = 5.5, 10.5 Hz, AHG H-1), 3.79 (t, J = 9 Hz, AHG H-3), 3.59–3.54 (m, AHG H-4 and H-5), 3.34 (t, J = 10.5 Hz, AHG H-1). 13C-NMR (125.7 MHz, aceton-d6) δ: 166.83, 166.46 (galloyl C-7), 145.95, 145.90 (2C each, galloyl C-3-x, C-5-x), 138.90, 138.77 (galloyl C-4-x, 2C), 121.50, 121.22 (galloyl C-1, 2C), 109.93, 109.77 (2C each, galloyl C-2-x, C-6-x), 79.42 (AHG C-5), 76.39 (AHG C-2), 74.82 (AHG C-5), 71.49 (AHG C-4), 67.35 (AHG C-1), 64.56 (AHG C-6).

Methodology of 2 and 3 A solution (2.0ml) of 2 (2.4mg) in a 4:1 (v/v) mixture of MeOH and 0.5 M acetic acid-sodium acetate buffer (pH 6) was incubated at 37°C for 7 h. HPLC analysis (using solvent A) of the reaction mixture showed the presence of acertannin (1) and methyl gallocate (4) in a molar ratio of 1:1. Upon treatment of 3 in an analogous way, 1 and 4 were produced in a molar ratio of 1:2.

Separation after Methylation of the Isomers of 2 and 3 A mixture of 2 (200mg), dimethyl sulfate (0.48ml) and K2CO3 (1g) in acetone (12ml) was stirred for 24 h at room temperature, and then refluxed for 1 h. After insoluble material in the reaction mixture was filtered off, the filtrate was evaporated, and the residue thus obtained was separated by TLC using solvent systems (a) and (b), to give the decamethyl derivatives 5 (71mg) and 6 (68mg). Methylation of 3 in a similar way, followed by separation of the constituent isomers by TLC using solvent systems (c), (d) and (e), gave the decamethyl derivatives 7, 8 and 9.

Coryzatannin Derivatives (2) of 6-O-Digalloyl-2-O-galloyl-1,5-anhydro-α-D- glucitol (2a) White powder, δ215 (c = 0.1, acetone). El-MS m/z: 732 (M+). IR (KBr cm−1): 1730 (ester carbonyl), 1595. 1H-NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d6) δ: 7.62 (d, J = 2 Hz, PMDG H-6), 7.54 (d, J = 2 Hz, PMDG H-2), 7.49 (2H, s, PMDG H-2, H-6), 7.33 (2H, THM G-2, H-6), 4.94 (dd, J = 5.5, 9.5, 11 Hz, AHG H-2), 4.27 (dd, J = 5.5, 11 Hz, AHG OH at C-3), 4.72 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, AHG OH at C-4), 4.69 (dd, J = 2, 12 Hz, AHG H-6), 4.48 (dd, J = 5.5, 12 Hz, AHG H-6), 4.10 (dd, J = 5.5, 11 Hz, AHG H-1), 4.00 (3H, s, MeO), 3.94 (6H, s, MeO×2), 3.88 (3H, s, MeO), 3.88 (6H,
Octamethyl Derivative (6) of 2-O-Digalloyl-6-O-galloyl-1,5-anhydro-t-glucitol (2b) White powder, [α]D +28° (c = 0.1, acetone). EI-MS m/z: 732 ([M]+). IR νmax cm⁻¹: 1730 (ester carbonyl), 1595. 1H-NMR (400 MHz, acetone-d₆): δ: 7.63 (d, J = 2 Hz, PMD H-6, 6), 7.54 (d, J = 2 Hz, PMD H-2), 7.49 (2H, s, PMD H-2, 6-H), 7.34 (2H, THM H-2, 6-H), 9.46 (4H, s), 8.45 (d, J = 5 Hz, AHG C-3), 4.70 (d, J = 4.5 Hz, AHG OH at C-4), 4.67 (dd, J = 2, 12 Hz, AHG H-6), 4.46 (dd, J = 5.5, 11.5 Hz, AHG H-1), 3.94 (3H, s), 3.87 (3H, each, s, MeO x 2), 3.85 (dd, J = 5.5, 9.5, 11.5 Hz, AHG H-3), 3.80 (3H, s), 3.82 (3H, MeO), 3.79 (3H, s), 1.75 (3H, MeO), 1.43 (t, J = 11 Hz, AHG H-1).

Davidin (11) A light brown amorphous powder, [α]D +37° (c = 0.7, MeOH). 1H-NMR (90 MHz, acetone-d₆): δ: 7.17–7.16 (4H, galloyl x 2), 7.11 (2H, s, galloyl), 6.87–6.96 (2H, hexahydroxydiphenyl (HHDP)), 6.12 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, glu (glucose) H-1), 5.79 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, H-3), 5.52 (dd, J = 2.5, 7.5 Hz, H-2), 5.21 (brd, J = 7.7 Hz, H-4), 5.0–5.43 (3H, Me, H-6 x 2, H-5). Treatment of 11 with acetate and pyridine afforded pentaadecaneacetae, 1H-NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ: 7.75 (4H, s, 3,4,5-triaceptoxybenzoyl x 2), 7.72 (2H, s, 3,4,5-triaceptoxybenzoyl), 7.70, 7.45 (1H each, s, hexa-O-acetyl derivative of HHDP), 6.23 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, glu H-1), 5.85 (t, J = 6.5 Hz, glu H-3), 5.43 (dd, J = 2.5, 6.5 Hz, glu H-2), 5.07 (dd, J = 2, 6 Hz, glu H-4), 4.79 (t, J = 11.5 Hz, glu H-6), 4.64 (brd, J = 5, 12 Hz, glu H-6), 4.51 (dd, J = 5, 11 Hz, glu H-6), 2.3–2.0 (AcO x 15).

Acknowledgements We thank the staff of Kyoto Herbal Garden of Tekeda Chemical Industries for the kind gift of the leaves of A. saccharum, and the staff of Handayama Botanical Garden for permission to collect the leaves of A. ginnala. We also thank Assoc. Prof. Y. Takeda and Mr. K. Kida, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Tokushima University, for the 50.1 MHz 13C-NMR spectra. The Varian VXR-500 instrument used in this study was the property of the SC-NMR Laboratory of Okayama University.

References
1) Part II of “Tannins of Acacearous Plants.” For Part I, see ref. 5.