Boesenbergia pandurata.



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Anti-HIV-1 protease activity of compounds from Boesenbergia pandurata

Sarot Cheenpracha, a Chatchanok Karalai, a Chanita Ponglimanont, a Sanan Subhadhirasakul and Supinya Tewtrakul **.*

^aDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Sciences, Prince of Songkla University, Hat-Yai, Songkhla 90112, Thailand

^bDepartment of Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Botany, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences,

Prince of Songkla University, Hat-Yai, Songkhla 90112, Thailand

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Abstract—Searching for anti-HIV-1 protease (PR) inhibitors of Thai medicinal plants led to the isolation of a new cyclohexenyl chalcone named panduratin C (1) and chalcone derivatives (2–6) from the methanol extract of *Boesenbergia pandurata* rhizomes. The known compounds were identified to be panduratin A (2), hydroxypanduratin A (3), helichrysetin (4), 2',4',6'-trihydroxyhydrochalcone (5), and uvangoletin (6). The structures of all compounds were elucidated on the basis of chemical and spectroscopic methods. It was found that 3 possessed the most potent anti-HIV-1 PR activity with an IC₅₀ value of 5.6 μM, followed by 2 (IC₅₀ = 18.7 μM), whereas other compounds exhibited only mild activity. Structure–activity relationships of these compounds on anti-HIV-1 PR activity are summarized as follows: (1) hydroxyl moiety at position 4 conferred higher activity than methoxyl group; (2) prenylation of dihydrochalcone was essential for activity; (3) hydroxylation at position 4" reduced activity; and (4) introduction of double bond at C1' and C6' of chalcone gave higher activity. As regards active constituents contained in *B. pandurata* rhizomes, hydroxypanduratin A (3) and panduratin A (2) are active principles against HIV-1 PR.

1. Introduction

Boesenbergia pandurata Holtt., locally known in Thai as Kra-chai, is a perennial herb belonging to the Zingiberaceae family. The fresh rhizomes have a characteristic aroma and a slightly pungent taste. It is commonly used in Southeast Asia as a food ingredient, a folk medicine for the treatment of several diseases such as aphthous ulcer, dry mouth, stomach discomfort, leukorrhea, and dysentery. The rhizomes contain essential oil, pinostrobin, cardamonin, boesenbergin, 5,7-dimethoxyflavone, 1,8-cineole, and panduratin. In the primary health care project of Thailand, the rhizomes of this plant are used for treatment of dyspepsia. Moreover, it has also been used as self-medication by AIDS patients in Thailand. As regards its biological activities, B. pandurata exhibits antibacterial, antifungal, antiinflammatory, analgesic, antipyretic, antispasmodic, antitumor, and insecticidal activities.

Keywords: HIV-1 protease; Cyclohexenyl chalcone derivatives; Boesenbergia pandurata.

The human immunodeficiency virus type-1 (HIV-1), a member of retrovirus family, has been a causative organism in an acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). One of the important enzymes necessary for the replication of this virus is HIV-1 protease (HIV-1 PR). HIV-1 PR belongs to the aspartyl protease class and functions as a dimer of 99 amino acids each. This enzyme plays a crucial role in the process of viral maturation and infectivity. Thus, searching for HIV-1 PR inhibitors from natural sources has become a promising approach.

In the previous study, we reported the activity of some compounds isolated from *B. pandurata* on anti-HIV-1 PR activity.¹³ Herein, we report the isolation, structure elucidation of a new compound, and the activity against HIV-1 PR of chalcone derivatives from this plant.

2. Results and discussion

The MeOH extract of rhizomes of *B. pandurata* was fractionated by silica gel column chromatography and preparative TLC to obtain one new cyclohexenyl

^{*}Corresponding author. Tel./fax: +66 74 428220; e-mail: supinya.t@psu.ac.th

chalcone (panduratin C, 1) together with five known chalcones, panduratin A (2),¹⁴ hydroxypanduratin A (3),¹⁵ helichrysetin (4),¹⁶ 2',4',6'-trihydroxydihydrochalcone (5),¹⁷ and uvangoletin (6).¹⁸ The structures of isolated compounds are shown in Figure 1.

Panduratin C (1), $[\alpha]_D^{27}$: -24.0° (c 0.13, MeOH), was obtained as a yellow viscous oil and analyzed as $C_{26}H_{30}O_5$ ([M]⁺ m/z 422.2044). The IR spectrum displayed absorption bands at 3438 (hydroxyl) and 1624 (conjugated carbonyl) cm⁻¹, and UV absorption bands at λ_{max} 220 and 292 nm supporting the presence of a conjugated carbonyl in the structure. The ¹³C NMR and DEPT spectrum indicated the presence of 26 carbons as 12 aliphatic carbons (3Me, 2CH₂, 3CH, and 2C=CH-), 12 aromatic carbons (6CH, 2C, and 4C-O), one carbonyl, and one methoxyl carbon. The tH NMR spectral data displayed a downfield resonance at δ 13.90, attributable to chelated hydroxyl group, while two doublets in the aromatic region (at δ 7.04 and 6.68, each 2H, J = 8.1 Hz) suggested the presence of a para-disubstituted aromatic ring. Two aromatic protons as two doublets at δ 5.89 and 5.92 (each J = 2.4 Hz) and one singlet at δ 3.90 were assigned to H-3, H-5, and OMe, respectively. The proton signals at δ 4.85 (1H, t, J = 6.6 Hz), 2.47 (1H, m), 2.26 (1H, m), and 1.50 (6H, s) indicated the presence of an isoprenyl moiety. Additionally, four methine proton signals at δ 5.42 (1H, br s, H-4'), 4.41 (1H, dd, J = 11.4, 4.5 Hz, H-1'), 3.35 (1H, td, J = 11.4, 6.6 Hz, H-6'), and 2.47 (1H, m, H-2'), and a vinylic methyl proton at δ 1.78 (3H, s) indicated that 1 had a cyclohexenyl chalcone skeleton. 14,15 The connectivity of H-4'/H-5', H-5'/H-6', H-6'/H-1', H-1'/H-2', H-2'/H-1", and H-1"/H-2" in COSY spectrum confirmed that isoprenyl group was connected to C-2'. In the HMBC spectrum, the methine proton at δ 4.41 (H-1') correlated with carbons at δ 206.5 (C=O), 42.5 (C-2'), 35.8 (C-5'), 36.3 (C-6'), and 28.9 (C-1"), a methine proton at δ 2.47 (H-2') with carbons at δ 124.2 (C-2"), 121.0 (C-4'), and 36.3 (C-6'), a methine proton at δ 3.35 (H-6') with carbons at δ 139.2 (C-1"'), 128.1 (C-2"'/6"'), and 54.5 (C-1'), and methyl protons at δ 1.78 (3'-Me) with carbons at δ 137.2 (C-3'), 121.0 (C-4'), and 42.5 (C-2'). These evidences confirmed that the para-disubstituted aromatic ring, isoprenyl moiety, and vinylic methyl were attached to carbons C-6', C-2', and C-3', respectively. The chelated hydroxyl group at δ 13.90 correlated with carbons at δ 167.5 (C-2), 106.8 (C-1), and 96.7 (C-3). The methoxyl proton at δ 3.90 was assigned at C-6 from its HMBC correlation (Fig. 2) with carbon at δ 162.8 (C-6) and a NOESY cross-peak with H-5 (δ 5.92). The relative stereochemistry of 1 was identified on the basis of coupling constants and NOESY experiments. The large J value of proton H-1' (J = 11.4 Hz) indicated that H-1' should be α-axial oriented.¹⁴ In the NOESY, a methine proton at δ 4.41 (H-1') showed cross-peaks with protons δ 2.47 (H-2') and 7.04 (H-2"'/H-6"') but none with proton at δ 3.35 (H-6'), suggesting that H-2' and H-6' should be α-equatorial and β-axial oriented, respectively. Thus, panduratin C was determined to be (2, 4-dihydroxy-6-methoxyphenyl)[3'-methyl-2'-(3"-methylbut-2"-enyl)-6'-(4"'-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohex-3'-enyl]methanone (1).

The compounds (1-6) isolated from the rhizomes of *B. pandurata* were investigated for anti-HIV-1 PR activity. Cardamonin (7) used in this study was previously isolated from this plant by our group. 12 Among the isolated compounds tested, hydroxypanduratin A (3) exhibited the most potent HIV-1 PR inhibitory activity with an IC₅₀ value of 5.6 μ M, followed by panduratin A (2, IC₅₀ = 18.7 μ M), whereas other compounds possessed weak activity (Table 1 and Fig. 3). Structure-activity relationships of these class of compounds for anti-HIV-1 PR activity are summarized as follows: (1) hydroxyl moiety at position 4 conferred higher activity than the methoxyl group as observed in 3

Figure 1. Chemical structures of compounds isolated from the rhizomes of Boesenbergia pandurata.

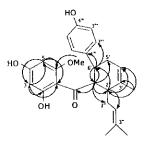


Figure 2. Selected HMBC correlations of panduratin C (1).

Table 1. HIV-1 PR inhibitory activity of compounds 1-7 of Boesenbergia pandurata^a, () = % inhibition at $100 \mu M$

| Compound | IC ₅₀ (μ M) |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Panduratin C (1) | >100 (43.1%) |
| Panduratin A (2) | 18.7 ± 0.8 |
| Hydroxypanduratin A (3) | 5.6 ± 0.7 |
| Helichrysetin (4) | >100 (14.1%) |
| 2', 4', 6'-Trihydroxyhydrochalcone (5) | >100 (7.5%) |
| Uvangoletin (6) | >100 (2.7%) |
| Cardamonin (7) | >100 (47.6%) |
| Acetyl pepstatin, positive control | 3.4 ± 0.2 |

^a Each value represents the mean ± SD of the three determinations.

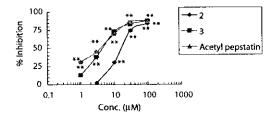


Figure 3. Dose-response curve of compounds 2 and 3 against HIV-1 PR comparing with acetyl pepstatin. Each value represents the mean \pm SD of the three determinations. Significantly different from control: *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01.

 $(IC_{50} = 5.6 \,\mu\text{M})$ versus 2 $(IC_{50} = 18.7 \,\mu\text{M})$; (2) prenylation of dihydrochalcone (3, $IC_{50} = 5.6 \mu M$) produced $IC_{50} > 100 \,\mu\text{M}$); (3) hydroxylation at position 4" reduced activity as observed in 7 (47) reduced activity, as observed in 7 (47.6%) versus 4 (14.1%); and (4) introduction of a double bond at C1' and C6' of chalcone gave higher activity as shown in 7 (47.6% inhibition) versus 6 (2.7% inhibition). In 1998, Ma and co-workers reported potent non-peptide HIV-1 PR inhibitors, ursolic acid and its glutaryl hemiester derivative, whose IC₅₀ values are 8.0 and $4.0 \mu M$, respectively.¹⁹ These two compounds possessed compahydroxypanduratin activity to $IC_{50} = 5.6 \,\mu\text{M}$). The potency of 3 against HIV-1 PR was also comparable to that of acetyl pepstatin, a positive control (IC₅₀ = $3.4 \mu M$). Regarding bioactivities of constituents in B. pandurata, panduratin A (2) exhibited strong antibacterial activity against Porphyromonas gingivalis, a bacteria causing periodontitis.20 This compound also possessed anti-inflammatory activity through inhibition of nitric oxide production induced by lipopolysaccharide (LPS) in RAW 264.7 cell line.²¹ Moreover, Tuchinda and co-workers also reported a topical anti-inflammatory activity of hydroxypanduratin A (3) and panduratin A (2) on TPA-induced ear edema in rats.¹⁵

In conclusion, hydroxypanduratin A (3) and panduratin A (2) isolated from *B. pandurata* rhizomes are responsible for potent anti-HIV-1 PR activity. The structure-activity relationships of these compounds require the hydroxylation at position 4 and the prenylation of chalcone. This study also supports the use of *B. pandurata* by AIDS patients of Thailand.

3. Experimental

3.1. General experimental procedures

The optical rotation $[\alpha]_D$ values were determined with a JASCO P-1020 polarimeter. UV spectra were measured with a SPECORD S 100 (Analytikjena). The IR spectra were measured with a Perkin-Elmer FTS FT-IR spectro-photometer. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded using a 300 MHz Bruker FT NMR Ultra Shield TM spectrometer. Chemical shifts were recorded in parts per million (δ) in CDCl₃ or CD₃OD with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal reference. The EI-MS was obtained from a MAT 95 XL mass spectrometer. Quick column chromatography (QCC) and column chromatography (CC) were carried out on silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ (Merck) and silica gel 100 (Merck), respectively. Precoated plates of silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ and reversed phase (RP-18 F_{254S}) were used for analytical purposes.

3.2. Plant material

The fresh rhizomes of *B. pandurata* Holtt. were bought from Hat Yai Market, Hat Yai, Thailand. The voucher specimen (number: SN 4412015) was identified by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sanan Subhadhirasakul and kept at the Herbarium of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand.

3.3. Extraction and isolation

Briefly, chopped-dried rhizomes (10.0 kg) of B. pandurata were extracted with CHCl₃ and MeOH (301×3, 7 days each) at room temperature and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to afford the CHCl₃ (608.40 g) and MeOH (211.70 g) extracts, respectively. A part of the MeOH extract (140 g) was further subjected to QCC on silica gel (200 g) eluting with hexane/ CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (9:1:0, 1:1:0, 0:100:0, 0:19:1, 0:17:1, 0:1:1, and 0:0:100, each 1500 ml) to yield seven fractions (F1-F7). Fraction F2 (hexane/CH₂Cl₂, 1:1, 18.7 g) was chromatographed by QCC on silica gel (180 g) eluting with hexane/CH₂Cl₂ (1:1, 2000 ml) to give three subfractions (F2a-F2c). Subfraction F2c (1.03 g) was recrystallized from CH₂Cl₂ to give 2 (715.2 mg). Fraction F3 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 19:1, 300 mg) was separated by CC on silica gel (18 g) with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (19:1, 1000 ml) to afford four subfractions (F3a-F3d). Subfraction F3b (10.3 mg) was purified by preparative TLC with hexane/EtOAc (3:2) to obtain 4 (8.3 mg). Subfraction F3c (130.0 mg) was separated by CC on silica gel (8 g) with hexane/EtOAc (13:7, 400 ml) to give 3 (36.6 mg) and 1 (6.2 mg). Fraction F4 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 17:1, 1.2 g) was purified by CC on silica gel (60 g) and eluted with hexane/EtOAc (13:7, 1500 ml) to give four subfractions (F4a-F4d). Subfraction F4c (49.3 mg) was purified by reversed-phase preparative TLC with MeOH/H₂O (3:1) to afford 5 (25.2 mg). Subfraction F4d (898.0 mg) was subjected to CC on silica gel (60 g) with hexane/ EtOAc (13:7, 1000 ml) to give 6 (21.0 mg).

3.3.1. Panduratin C (1). Yellow viscous oil; $[\alpha]_D^{27}$: -24.0° (c 0.13, MeOH); IR (neat): 3438, 1624 cm⁻¹; UV (MeOH): λ_{max} (log ε) = 292 (3.71), 220 (3.95) nm; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 300 MHz): δ 13.90 (1H, s, 2-OH), 7.04 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, H-2'''/H-6'''), 6.68 (2H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, H-3'''/H-5'''), 5.92 (1H, d, J = 2.4 Hz, H-5),5.89 (1H, d, J = 2.4 Hz, H-3), 5.42 (1H, br s, H-4'), 4.85 (1H, t, J = 6.6 Hz, H-2"), 4.41 (1H, dd, J = 11.4, 4.5 Hz, H-1'), 3.90 (3H, s, OMe), 3.35 (1H, td, J = 11.4, 6.6 Hz, H-6'), 2.47 (2H, m, H-2', H-1"), 2.45 (1H, m, H-5'), 2.40 (1H, m, H-5'), 2.26 (1H, m, H-1"), 1.78 (3H, s, 3'-Me), 1.50 (6H, s, Me-4"/Me-5"); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 75 MHz): δ 206.5 (C=O), 167.5 (C-2), 162.8 (C-6), 162.1 (C-4), 153.3 (C-4"), 139.2 (C-1"), 137.2 (C-3'), 131.8 (C-3"), 128.1 (C-2"'/C-6"'), 124.2 (C-2"), 121.0 (C-4'), 115.2 (C-3"/C-5"), 106.8 (C-1), 96.7 (C-3), 90.8 (C-5), 55.8 (OMe), 54.4 (C-1'), 42.5 (C-2'), 36.3 (C-6'), 35.8 (C-5'), 28.9 (C-1"), 25.6 (C-5"), 22.9 (3'-Me), 17.9 (C-4"), EI-MS: m/z = 422 [M⁺] (2), 421 $[M^+-1]$ (5), 406 (6), 286 (11), 166 (100), 106 (9); HR-MS: m/z = 422.2044 (calcd for $C_{26}H_{30}O_5$: 422.2088). Copies of original spectra are available from the author of correspondence.

3.4. Enzymes and chemicals

Recombinant HIV-1 PR, substrate peptides, and acetyl pepstatin were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, USA.

3.5. Assay of HIV-1 protease inhibitory activity

This assay was modified from the previously reported method.22 Briefly, the recombinant HIV-1 PR solution was diluted with a buffer composed of a solution containing 50 mM sodium acetate (pH 5.0), 1 mM ethylenediamine disodium (EDTA-2Na), and 2 mM 2-mercaptoethanol (2-ME), and mixed with glycerol in the ratio of 3:1. The substrate peptide, Arg-Val-Nle-(pNO₂-Phe)-Glu-Ala-Nle-NH₂, was diluted with a buffer solution of 50 mM sodium acetate (pH 5.0). Two microliters of plant extract and 4 µl of HIV-1 PR solution (0.025 mg/ml) were added to a solution containing 2 μl of 50 mM buffer solution (pH 5.0) and 2 μl of substrate solution (2 mg/ml), and the reaction mixture 10 µl was incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. A control reaction was performed under the same condition but without the plant extract. The reaction was stopped by heating the reaction mixture at 90 °C for 1 min. Subsequently, 20 µl of sterile water was added and an aliquot of 10 µl was analyzed by HPLC using RP-18 column $(4.6 \times 150 \text{ mm ID}, \text{ Supelco } 516 \text{ C-}18\text{-}DB 5 \mu\text{m}, \text{ USA}).$

Ten microliters of the reaction mixture was injected to the column and gradiently eluted with acetonitrile (15–40%) and 0.2% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) in water, at a flow rate of 1.0 ml/min. The elution profile was monitored at 280 nm. The retention times of the substrate and p-NO₂-Phe-bearing hydrolysate were 11.356 and 9.457 min, respectively. The inhibitory activity on HIV-1 PR was calculated as follows: % inhibition = $(A_{\text{control}} - A_{\text{sample}}) \times 100/A_{\text{control}}$; whereas A is a relative peak area of the product hydrolysate. Acetyl pepstatin was used as a positive control.

3.6. Statistical analysis

For statistical analysis, the results of anti-HIV-1 PR activity were expressed as means ± SD of three determinations. The IC₅₀ values were calculated using the Microsoft Excel program. Statistical significance was calculated by Dunnett's test.

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