

Tetranortriterpenoids from *Chisocheton paniculatus*

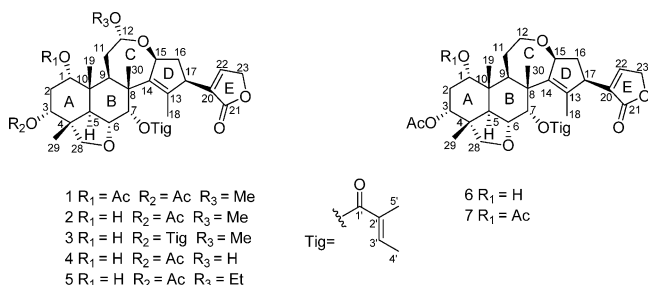
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Seven new tetranortriterpenoids (**1–7**), named chisonimbolinins A–G, were isolated from twigs of *Chisocheton paniculatus*. Their structures were elucidated on the basis of extensive spectroscopic analyses, and the structure of **1** was confirmed by a single-crystal X-ray diffraction study. Cytotoxic activity of compounds **1–7** was evaluated using HeLa and SMMC-7721 tumor cell lines.

Limonoids isolated from species of the family Meliaceae have been of interest due to their diverse structures and reported antifeedant, antimicrobial, antimalarial, and cytotoxic activities.¹ The genus *Chisocheton* contains about 50 species distributed mainly in India and Malaysia. *Chisocheton paniculatus* Hiern (Meliaceae) is the only species growing in southern China. Previous investigations revealed that *C. paniculatus* is a rich source of protolimonoids and ordinary limonoids,² some of which have antifungal activity.³ In the current work, seven new C-*seco*-type tetranortriterpenoids (**1–7**), named chisonimbolinins A–G, and six known triterpenoids were isolated from twigs of *C. paniculatus*. Compounds **6** and **7** are the first C-*seco*-type tetranortriterpenoids having a C-12,15-ether linkage rather than a C-12,15-hemiacetal or -lactone linkage.^{4,5} To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of C-*seco*-type tetranortriterpenoids from the genus *Chisocheton*. Since cytotoxic activities of C-*seco*-type tetranortriterpenoids have been reported,⁶ and the characteristic unsaturated five-membered lactone ring E is essential to activities of cardenolides,⁷ we evaluated cytotoxic activity of these compounds using HeLa and SMMC-7721 tumor cell lines.



Results and Discussion

Chisonimbolinin A (**1**) was isolated as colorless crystals (MeOH/CHCl₃). Its molecular formula, C₃₆H₄₈O₁₁, was established from the quasi-molecular ion peak at *m/z* 679.3086 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₆H₄₈O₁₁Na, 679.3089) in the HRESIMS. IR peaks at 1755 and 1740 cm⁻¹ revealed the presence of ester carbonyl groups. Its ¹H NMR spectrum (Table 1) indicated one methoxy group (δ_H 3.39, 3H, s), two acetyl groups (δ_H 2.07 and 2.00, each 3H, s), and one tigloyl group [δ_H 6.92 (1H, qd, 7.1, 1.2), 1.79 (3H, d, 7.1), and 1.90 (3H, s)]. In addition to the above substituents, its ¹³C NMR spectrum (Table 2) exhibited 26 signals, indicating four methyl, five methylene (two oxygenated), 10 methine (one olefinic, one hemiacetal, and five oxygenated), and seven quaternary (four olefinic) carbons, consistent with a ring C-*seco*-nimbolinin skeleton.⁴ Comparison of the NMR data of **1** with 12-*O*-methylnim-

bolin B⁸ indicated that the A, B, C, and D rings were similar, but differed in ring E. The furan ring signals were absent and, instead, signals of an α,β-unsaturated-γ-lactone ring system were present⁹ [δ_H 4.77 (2H, s) and 7.13 (1H, s); δ_C 137.7, 145.5, 174.4, and 70.3] in **1**, which was confirmed by the HMBC correlations (Figure 1). Locations of the substituents were also determined by HMBC experiments. HMBC cross-peaks were observed from H-1 (δ_H 4.72, 1H, s) and H-3 (δ_H 4.93, 1H, s) to the two acetyl carbonyl signals (δ_C 169.7), from H-7 (δ_H 5.77, 1H, d, 2.4) to the tigloyl carbonyl signal (δ_C 166.1), and from the methoxy proton signal (δ_H 3.39, 3H, s) to C-12 (δ_C 98.3).

The coupling constants of H-1 (δ_H 4.72, s), H-3 (δ_H 4.93, s), H-5 (δ_H 2.81, d, 12.7), H-6 (δ_H 4.09, dd, 12.7, 2.7), H-7 (δ_H 5.77, d, 2.4), and H-9 (δ_H 3.13, d, 9.9) suggested that H-1, H-3, and H-7 were equatorial and that H-5, H-6, and H-9 were axial. Strong NOESY cross-peaks (Figure 2a) of the H₃-29 signal at δ_H 1.16 with protons at δ_H 0.97 (H₃-19), δ_H 4.93 (H-3), and δ_H 4.09 (H-6), of H-7 at δ_H 5.77 with δ_H 4.09 (H-6) and δ_H 1.47 (H₃-30), and of H₃-19 with δ_H 4.72 (H-1) indicated a β-orientation for these protons and confirmed the chair form of the A and B rings. NOESY correlations from H-9 to H-5 and H-15, and from H-16b to H-15 and H-17, revealed the α-orientation of the protons at these positions. The only uncertainty for the relative configuration of **1** was H-12 since it correlated with both H-11α and H-11β in the NOESY spectrum. A single-crystal X-ray diffraction study of **1** (Figure 2b) demonstrated β-orientation of H-12 and confirmed the structure of **1** as indicated.

Chisonimbolinin B (**2**), a white, amorphous powder, had the molecular formula C₃₄H₄₆O₁₀, as established by HRESIMS. Its IR spectrum displayed OH (3464 cm⁻¹) and carbonyl (1755, 1728 cm⁻¹) absorptions. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data of **2** (Tables 1 and 2) resembled those of **1** except for the absence of an acetyl group in **2**. In comparison with **1**, the H-1 signal was shifted upfield by Δδ_H 1.13, suggesting that **2** had a free OH group at C-1.^{5b} The acetyl group at C-3 and the tigloyl group at C-7 were evidenced by HMBC cross-peaks from H-3 to the acetyl carbonyl at δ_C 170.7 and from H-7 to the tigloyl carbonyl at δ_C 166.4, respectively. NOESY experiments indicated that the relative configuration of **2** was the same as that of **1**.

Chisonimbolinin C (**3**) was obtained as a white, amorphous powder. The pseudomolecular ion peak at *m/z* 677.3287 [M + Na]⁺ indicated a molecular formula of C₃₇H₅₀O₁₀. The NMR data of **3** were closely related to those of **2**, except for the presence of an additional tigloyl group. The tigloyl group was present at C-3 instead of the acetyl group in **2**, which was confirmed by the HMBC correlation between H-3 and the tigloyl carbonyl at δ_C 166.3. The relative configuration of **3** was established to be identical to that of **1** on the basis of a ROESY experiment. Therefore, the structure of chisonimbolinin C (**3**) was established as shown.

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Table 1. ¹H NMR Data of Compounds **1–5** in CDCl₃ at 500 MHz

position	1	2	3	4	5
1	4.72, s	3.59, t (3.0)	3.85, s	3.64 br s	3.59, s
2α	2.15, m	2.16, m	2.00, td (2.9, 16.3)	2.14, m	2.15, m
2β	2.23, m	2.18, m	2.31, td (2.9, 16.3)	2.23, m	2.22, m
3	4.93, s	4.88, t (3.0)	5.00, s	4.96, s	4.87, s
5	2.81, d (12.7)	2.81, d (12.8)	2.67, d (12.6)	2.75, d (12.7)	2.83, d (12.7)
6	4.09, dd (12.7, 2.4)	4.10, dd (12.8, 2.8)	4.02, dd (12.6, 2.9)	4.11, dd (12.7, 2.7)	4.09, dd (12.7, 2.4)
7	5.77, d (2.4)	5.73, d (2.8)	5.85, d (2.9)	5.73, d (2.7)	5.70, d (2.4)
9	3.13, d (9.9)	3.03, dd (7.5, 1.5)	3.05, d (10.0)	3.10, t (5.8)	3.05, d (6.0)
11α	1.57, br d (14.4)	1.55, m	1.57, br d (14.6)	1.77, m	1.66, m
11β	1.74, m	1.74, m	1.74, m	1.77, m	1.66, m
12	4.55, s	4.71, t (2.3)	4.55, s	5.25, s	4.82, s
15	4.89, d (7.5)	4.91, d (7.5)	4.85, d (7.5)	5.14, d (7.5)	4.93, d (7.5)
16α	2.20, m	2.21, m	1.48, br d (17.4)	1.48, br d (13.7)	2.18, m
16β	1.48, br d (13.2)	1.54, br d (14.1)	2.20, m	1.48, br d (13.7)	1.50, br d (12.0)
17	3.25, d (9.3)	3.27, d (9.5)	3.25, d (9.3)	3.24, d (9.2)	3.25, d (9.0)
18	1.86, s	1.89, s	1.86, s	1.87, s	1.87, s
19	0.97, s	0.92, s	0.99, s	0.92, s	0.91, s
21	7.13, s	7.13, d (1.05)	7.13, s	7.14, s	7.12, s
23	4.77, s	4.78, s	4.77, d (1.1)	4.76, s	4.78, s
28α	3.51, d (7.5)	3.57, d (7.5)	3.92, d (7.3)	3.50, d (7.5)	3.66, d (7.5)
28β	3.44, d (7.5)	3.50, d (7.5)	3.54, d (7.3)	3.47, d (7.5)	3.48, d (7.5)
29	1.16, s	1.15, s	1.11, s	1.15, s	1.13, s
30	1.47, s	1.49, s	1.46, s	1.49, s	1.48, s
12-OMe	3.39, s	3.39, s	3.39, s		
12-OEt					3.70, m 3.52, m 1.22, t (7.2)
1-OAc	2.07, s				
3-OAc	2.00, s	2.05, s		2.05, s	2.03, s
7-OTig 3'	6.92, qd (7.1, 1.2)	6.91, qd (7.1, 1.0)	6.84, qd (7.1, 1.2)	6.88, qd (7.1, 1.2)	6.93, qd (7.1, 1.2)
4'	1.79, d (7.1)	1.80, dd (7.1, 1.0)	1.79, d (7.1)	1.79, d (7.1)	1.80, d (7.1)
5'	1.90, s	1.89, s	1.86, s	1.87, s	1.87, s
3-OTig 3''			6.96, qd (7.1, 1.2)		
4''			1.84, d (7.1)		
5''			1.94, s		

Chisonimbolin D (**4**) had the molecular formula C₃₃H₄₄O₁₀, as established by HRESIMS. The NMR spectra of **4** were similar to those of **2** except for signals indicating an OH at C-12 rather than an OCH₃.¹⁰ Extensive analysis of its HMBC spectrum was consistent with the structure of **4** as shown. The relative configuration of **4** was supported by the ROESY experiment.

Chisonimbolin E (**5**) had a molecular formula of C₃₅H₄₈O₁₀ (HRESIMS). Comparison of its NMR data with **2** revealed that they shared the same carbon skeleton with the same acetyl and tigloyl groups. The differences were the appearance of ethoxyl signals [δ_H 1.22 (3H, t, 7.2), 3.70 and 3.52 (each 1H, m); δ_C 62.4, 15.0]¹¹ in the spectra of **5**, rather than a methoxy group. The ethoxy group was located at C-12, as demonstrated by the HMBC correlation between its methylene (δ_C 62.4) and H-12 (δ_H 4.82, 1H, s). The HMBC spectrum also placed the acetyl group at C-3, the tigloyl group at C-7, and the OH at C-1. The ROESY experiment indicated that the relative configuration of **5** was the same as that of **1**.

Chisonimbolin F (**6**) was obtained as a white, amorphous powder. Its HRESIMS displayed a quasi-molecular ion at *m/z* 607.2881 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₃H₄₄O₉Na, 607.2878). Comparison of the NMR data (Table 3) of **6** with those of **2** indicated that they shared the same A, B, D, and E ring system, the same acetyl and tigloyl groups, and the same positions of these groups. They differed markedly in ring C: the absence of a C-12 hemiacetal methine (δ_H 4.71; δ_C 98.5) and, instead, the appearance of a C-12 methylene (δ_H 3.88 and 3.57; δ_C 70.0) in **6**, which was confirmed by the ¹H–¹H COSY correlations (H-12–H-11 and H-11–H-9) and HMBC correlations (H-12/C-9 and H-12/C-15) (Figure 3). Compared with **2**, the H-15 doublet of **6** was shifted upfield by Δδ_H 0.38, and the carbon signal of C-15 was shifted downfield by Δδ_H 9.8, which could be explained by the absence of a methoxy group at C-12. The relative configuration of **6** was deduced from

a ROESY experiment (Figure 4). Cross-peaks from H-9 to H-5 and H-12b indicated the α-orientation of H-12b.

Chisonimbolin G (**7**) had the molecular formula C₃₅H₄₆O₁₀. The NMR data of **7** resembled those of **6** including the same C-12 methylene signals (δ_H 3.88, 3.13; δ_C 70.0), with the marked difference being the severely downfield shifted signal of H-1, suggesting acylation of the C-1 OH group. The structure of **7** was confirmed by HMBC and HSQC experiments, and its relative configuration was the same as that of **6** as established by the ROESY spectrum.

The known compounds phellochin,¹² piscidinol A,¹³ paniculatin C,¹⁴ hispidol A,¹⁵ agladupol A, and 21-*O*-methyltoosendanpentol¹⁴ were identified by comparison of their spectroscopic data with those reported.

Compounds **1–7** were tested for in vitro cytotoxic activity. Compounds **3** and **4** showed moderate cytotoxic activity against the HeLa cell line, with IC₅₀ = 13 and 32 μM, respectively. Compounds **2**, **3**, and **4** showed weak cytotoxic activity against the SMMC-7721 cell line in the range IC₅₀ 50–65 μM. The other compounds were noncytotoxic (IC₅₀ greater than 100 μM).

Experimental Section

General Experimental Procedures. Melting points were obtained on an XT-4 micromelting point apparatus and are uncorrected. Optical rotations were measured with a JASCO P-1020 polarimeter. IR spectra were measured on a Bruker Tensor-27 spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker DRX-500 instrument. ESIMS and HRESIMS experiments were performed on Agilent 1100 Series LC/MSD Trap and Agilent TOF MSD 1946D mass spectrometers, respectively. Absorbents for column chromatography were silica gel (200–300 μm, Qingdao Marine Chemical Co. Ltd.), C₁₈ reversed-phase silica gel (150–200 μm, Merck), and MCI gel (CHP20P, 75–150 μm, Mitsubishi Chemical Industries Ltd.). Preparative HPLC was performed using an Agilent 1100 series

Table 2. ^{13}C NMR Data of Compounds **1–5** in CDCl_3 at 125 MHz

position	1	2	3	4	5
1	71.2	70.9	70.8	71.2	71.0
2	27.8	29.0	30.5	29.3	28.8
3	71.6	72.2	72.5	72.5	72.2
4	42.5	42.4	43.9	42.4	42.4
5	40.1	38.9	39.8	39.3	39.0
6	72.2	72.5	72.1	72.4	72.6
7	74.2	74.4	74.2	74.2	74.4
8	45.4	45.3	45.6	45.3	45.4
9	36.0	36.4	37.2	36.1	36.4
10	40.5	41.2	40.8	40.9	41.2
11	31.5	30.6	31.4	31.1	30.8
12	98.3	98.5	97.9	91.7	96.8
13	139.1	141.0	137.8	141.1	140.8
14	145.0	144.8	145.1	144.6	144.9
15	77.6	77.6	76.5	77.6	77.9
16	36.9	36.9	36.9	37.3	36.9
17	46.3	46.5	46.4	46.4	46.4
18	15.9	16.3	16.3 ^a	16.3	16.4
19	16.3	16.4	16.3 ^a	16.4	16.5
20	137.7	137.7	137.7	137.6	137.7
21	174.4	174.3	174.4	174.3	174.3
22	145.5	144.8	145.5	145.4	145.3
23	70.3	70.2	70.3	70.2	70.2
28	77.9	77.9	78.0	77.8	77.9
29	19.3	18.9	19.3	18.7	18.9
30	20.8	20.7	21.2	20.8	20.6
12-OMe	55.0	54.7	54.0		
12-OEt					62.4, 15.0
1-OAc	169.7 ^a , 20.9				
3-OAc	169.7 ^a , 21.3	170.7, 21.2		170.0, 21.0	170.8, 21.2
7-OTig 1'	166.1	166.4	166.9	166.3	166.3
2'	128.7	128.7	128.7	128.7	128.7
3'	136.8	136.9	137.5	136.9	137.0
4'	12.1	12.1	12.3 ^b	12.2	12.0
5'	14.4	14.4	14.4 ^c	14.4	14.4
3-OTig 1''			166.3		
2''			128.9		
3''			137.8		
4''			12.3 ^b		
5''			14.4 ^c		

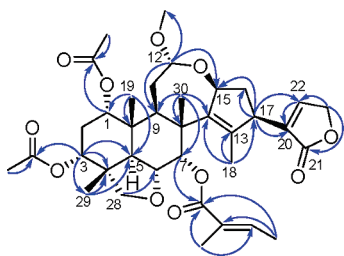
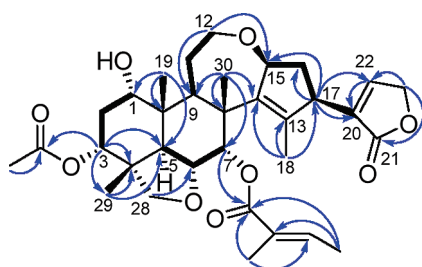
^a Overlapped. ^b Overlapped. ^c Overlapped.

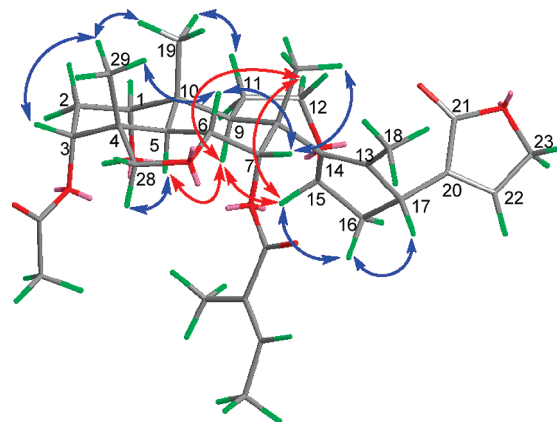
Table 3. ^1H (500 MHz) and ^{13}C (125 MHz) NMR Data of Compounds **6** and **7** in CDCl_3

position	6		7	
	δ_{H} (mult, J)	δ_{C}	δ_{H} (mult, J)	δ_{C}
1	3.60, s	71.7	4.82, t (2.7)	71.9
2 α	1.88, m	30.3	2.18, m	27.8
2 β	2.35, dt (16.3, 2.9)		2.26, m	
3	5.09, t (2.5)	73.4	4.94, t (2.5)	71.5
4		42.6		40.6
5	2.52, d (12.5)	39.4	2.76, d (12.7)	40.3
6	4.11, dd (12.5, 2.5)	72.3	4.10, dd (12.7, 2.7)	72.2
7	5.78, d (2.5)	74.3	5.78, d (2.7)	74.2
8		45.3		45.5
9	2.98, d (9.0)	42.8	2.75, d (9.5)	42.5
10		41.4		42.3
11 α	1.57, br d (18.8)	27.5	1.39, br d (14.5)	27.5
11 β	1.66, m		1.66, m	
12 α	3.57, m	70.0	3.13, td (9.5, 2.0)	70.0
12 β	3.88, dt (8.4, 3.5)		3.88, dt (8.4, 3.5)	
13		139.2		139.5
14		145.4		144.8
15	4.53, d (7.4)	87.4	4.41, d (7.5)	87.8
16 α	1.52, br d (17.4)	37.8	1.52, br d (16.4)	37.8
16 β	2.21, m		2.20, m	
17	3.22, d (9.2)	46.0	3.22, d (8.9)	45.8
18	1.86, s	16.4	1.87, s	16.5
19	0.96, s	16.3	1.03, s	16.3
20		137.7		137.5
21	7.17, s	174.4	7.14, s	174.2
22		145.5		145.5
23	4.76, s	70.3	4.76, s	70.3
28 α	3.51, d (7.5)	77.8	3.52, d (7.5)	77.8
28 β	3.31, d (7.5)		3.48, d (7.5)	
29	1.16, s	18.6	1.18, s	19.0
30	1.50, s	21.3	1.50, s	21.1
1-OAc				169.4
		2.01		20.9
3-OAc		169.1		169.7
	2.06, s	20.9	2.15, s	21.3
7-OTig 1'		166.2		166.0
2'		128.6		128.5
3'	6.84, qd (7.0, 1.2)	136.7	6.84, qd (7.0, 1.2)	136.9
4'	1.79, d (7.0)	12.3	1.81, d (7.0)	12.0
5'	1.86, s	14.5	1.90, s	14.4

**Figure 3.** Key HMBC ($\text{H} \rightarrow \text{C}$) and ^1H – ^1H COSY (—) correlations of **6**.

X-ray Crystallographic Data for 1. formula $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_{11}$; $M_r = 656.74$; orthorhombic crystalline system; space group $P2_12_12_1$; $a = 10.1106(12) \text{ \AA}$, $b = 20.172(2) \text{ \AA}$, $c = 33.768(3) \text{ \AA}$; $V = 6887.1(12) \text{ \AA}^3$; $Z = 8$; $d = 1.267 \text{ mg/m}^3$; crystal dimensions $0.49 \times 0.40 \times 0.33 \text{ mm}^3$; the final indices were $R_1 = 0.0456$ $wR_2 = 0.1052$.

Colorless crystals of **1** were obtained in a mixed solvent of MeOH/ CHCl_3 . Crystal data were obtained on a Bruker Smart-1000 CCD with a graphite monochromator with Mo $\text{K}\alpha$ radiation at ($\lambda = 0.71073 \text{ \AA}$) 298(2) K. The structure was solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97¹⁷ and expanded using difference Fourier techniques, refined by SHELXL-97.¹⁸ Crystallographic data for **1** have been deposited at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (deposition number CCDC-743108). Copies of the data can be obtained free of charge via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data

**Figure 4.** Key ROESY ($\text{H} \leftrightarrow \text{H}$) correlations of **6**.

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Cytotoxicity Bioassays. Compounds **1**–**7** were evaluated for cytotoxic activity against HeLa (human cervical cancer) and SMMC-7721 (human hepatoma cancer) cells by a MTT assay as described in the literature.¹⁹ The cells were obtained from the Cell Bank of the Shanghai Institute of Cell Biology. Fluorouracil was used as a positive control, and the experiments were conducted for three independent replicates.

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Supporting Information Available: X-ray crystallographic data for chisonimbolinin A (**1**); ESIMS, 1D, 2D NMR spectra for chisonimbolinins A–G (**1**–**7**). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

References and Notes

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