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## 11-GORGIACEROL, A NEW PSEUDOPTERANOID FROM *PSEUDOPTEROGORGIA ACEROSA*

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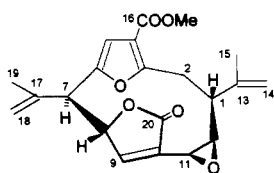
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**ABSTRACT.**—A new pseudopteranol, 11-gorgiacerol (**2**), has been isolated, along with previously described pseudopteranol, from *Pseudopterogorgia acerosa*. The structure of **2** was established by 2D nmr spectroscopy.

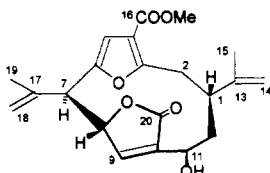
The gorgonian coral *Pseudopterogorgia acerosa* Pallas (Gorgoniidae) provided the first pseudopteranol, pseudopterolide, **1** (**1**), which stimulated considerable interest because of its chemical complexity and biological activity. When we subsequently studied collections of *P. acerosa* made at several locations off the coast of Tobago, we isolated and established the structures of a considerable number of novel diterpenoids. The array of metabolites isolated was found to vary markedly with season and location, but never included **1** (**2,3**). In order to study this variation further, we collected *P. acerosa* at a new location, Buccoo Reef, Tobago, in March 1994. The major diterpenoid isolated from this collection (86 g) was **1** (61 mg) along with smaller amounts of a new diterpene, **2** (2 mg), to which we have assigned the name 11-gorgiacerol, as well as gorgiacerodiol, **3** (4 mg), and isogorgiacerodiol (6 mg) (**3**).

11-Gorgiacerol, **2**, was isolated as a pale yellow glass,  $C_{21}H_{24}O_6$  (hrms),  $[\alpha]_D$

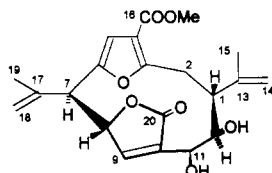
$+22^\circ$ ,  $\nu$  max 3400, 1760, 1730  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{uv } \lambda$  max 215 nm ( $\epsilon$  3900). These data suggested that this new diterpene was a hydroxylated pseudopteranol with a C-9,C-10 double bond (butenolide) (**3**). This proposal was confirmed by nmr spectroscopy: the  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -nmr spectra showed a strong similarity to the data recorded for gorgiacerodiol (**3**), and the differences observed were associated with the C-11,C-12 diol component of **3**. The 2D nmr spectra showing  $^{13}\text{C}$ - $^1\text{H}$  one-bond (HMBC) and  $n$ -bond ( $n=2$  or  $3$ ) (HMBC) shift correlations confirmed these proposals and unequivocally placed the single OH group at C-11. The  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  coupling constants, derived from the multiplets observed in the standard  $^1\text{H}$ -nmr spectrum, for the protons at C-11, C-12, C-1, and C-2, provided evidence that the stereochemistry at C-11 in **2** is the same as that in **3**. Molecular models showed that there is a conformation in which all of the dihedral angles are compatible with the coupling constants obtained,



**1**



**2**



**3**

but it was not possible to find a reasonable conformation having an acceptable set of dihedral angles when the configuration at C-11 was inverted.

The nmr characteristics of **2** are reported in condensed form in Table 1. Because **1** is a key reference compound, we have used the procedures described for **2** to assign unambiguously all  $^{13}\text{C}$ - and  $^1\text{H}$ -nmr chemical shifts for **1**, and these assignments are also shown in Table 1.

## EXPERIMENTAL

GENERAL EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES.—A Cary 14 uv spectrometer (MeOH solution), a Nicolet 3DX Ft-ir spectrometer (thin film), a VG 70-250S mass spectrometer, a Perkin-Elmer 243B polarimeter, and a Varian Unity 500 nmr spectrometer equipped with a 5-mm inverse-detection probe were used. Solutions in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  containing

TMS as internal standard were used to obtain nmr measurements.

ANIMAL MATERIAL.—*Pseudopterogorgia acerosa* (86 g, dry wt) was collected at Buccoo Reef, Tobago, in March 1994 at a depth of 7 m. A voucher specimen is deposited at the Institute of Marine Affairs, Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago.

EXTRACTION AND ISOLATION.—The ground material was extracted with  $\text{Me}_2\text{CO}$  (3 liters), and evaporation of the solvent provided a dark-red gum (4.9 g). The gum was dissolved in 100 ml of  $\text{MeOH-H}_2\text{O}$  (9:1) and extracted with hexane (3×40 ml). The aqueous layer was diluted with 50 ml  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and then extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (3×40 ml); evaporation of the  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  left a dark-red gum (2.1 g), which was flash chromatographed on Si gel with elution by hexane-EtOAc (4:1), and five major fractions were collected. These fractions were subjected to prep. tlc with hexane/EtOAc elution: the third fraction provided **1** as a pale yellow gum (61 mg); the fourth fraction yielded **2**

TABLE 1. Nmr Characteristics of **1** and **2**.<sup>a</sup>

| Position                | <b>1</b>            |                     | <b>2</b>            |   |                            |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|----------------------------|
|                         | $\delta_{\text{C}}$ | $\delta_{\text{H}}$ | $\delta_{\text{C}}$ | $\delta_{\text{H}}$ ( $J_{\text{HH}}$ ) | Observed connectivity      |
| 1 .....                 | 42.47               | 3.14                | 38.38               | 2.80 (12.8, 7.6, 4.2)                   | C-2, C-11, C-13            |
| 2 .....                 | 28.20               | 3.71                | 31.13               | 3.40 (15.2, 12.8)                       | C-1, C-3, C-13             |
|                         |                     | 2.80                |                     | 2.69 (15.2, 4.2)                        | C-1, C-3, C-4, C-12, C-13  |
| 3 .....                 | 160.63              | —                   | 161.25              | —                                       | —                          |
| 4 .....                 | 114.67              | —                   | 115.73              | —                                       | —                          |
| 5 .....                 | 111.32              | 6.42                | 110.00              | 6.38 (br s)                             | C-3, C-4, C-6              |
| 6 .....                 | 150.10              | —                   | 150.32              | —                                       | —                          |
| 7 .....                 | 49.32               | 3.85                | 48.54               | 3.85 (4.7)                              | C-17, C-18                 |
| 8 .....                 | 79.29               | 5.42                | 81.18               | 5.47 (4.4, 1.5, 1.5)                    | C-6                        |
| 9 .....                 | 149.53              | 6.95                | 146.54              | 7.02 (1.6, 1.0)                         | C-8, C-11, C-20            |
| 10 .....                | 129.97              | —                   | 140.56              | —                                       | —                          |
| 11 .....                | 52.05               | 3.62                | 65.42               | 4.64 (8.0, 1.0)                         | C-9, C-10                  |
| 12 .....                | 60.07               | 2.99                | 43.73               | 1.99 (11.6, 8.0)                        | —                          |
|                         |                     |                     |                     | 1.01 (12.9, 11.6, 1.1)                  | C-1, C-2, C-10, C-11, C-13 |
| 13 .....                | 145.01              | —                   | 146.81              | —                                       | —                          |
| 14 .....                | 112.71              | 5.05                | 111.82              | 5.04 (1.6, 0.8)                         | C-1, C-15                  |
|                         |                     | 5.01                |                     | 4.82 (3.2, 1.5)                         | C-1                        |
| 15 .....                | 20.98               | 1.96 (3H)           | 19.16               | 1.81 (3H, 1.4, 0.8)                     | C-1, C-12, C-13            |
| 16 .....                | 163.93              | —                   | 163.93              | —                                       | —                          |
| 17 .....                | 140.04              | —                   | 141.05              | —                                       | —                          |
| 18 .....                | 115.41              | 5.07                | 115.10              | 5.05 (2.5, 1.1)                         | C-7, C-19                  |
|                         |                     | 4.86                |                     | 4.83 (1.6, 0.9)                         | C-7, C-19                  |
| 19 .....                | 21.52               | 1.98 (3H)           | 21.59               | 1.98 (3H, 0.7, 0.7)                     | C-7, C-17, C-18            |
| 20 .....                | 170.50              | —                   | 174.14              | —                                       | —                          |
| -OCH <sub>3</sub> ..... | 51.58               | 3.83 (3H)           | 51.42               | 3.81 (3H, s)                            | —                          |

<sup>a</sup>The  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  ( $J_{\text{HH}}$ ) data were provided by spectra obtained at 500 MHz and 125.8 MHz, respectively;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  values are for individual protons, except in the case of  $\text{CH}_3$  groups. The connectivities between the  $^{13}\text{C}$  identified in column 4 and the directly attached protons in column 5 were established by HMQC. Two- and three-bond connectivities between the protons in column 5 and the carbons identified in column 4 were established by HMBC. Connectivities observed for **1** are not listed, but were similar to those for **2**.

(2.0 mg) and **3** (4.2 mg); the fifth fraction gave isogorgiacerodiol (6.1 mg) (**3**).

**11-Gorgiacerol** [**2**].—Pale-yellow gum,  $[\alpha]_D^{+22}$  ( $c=0.1$ ,  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ); ir ( $\text{CHCl}_3$ )  $\nu$  max 3400, 1760, 1730  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; uv ( $\text{MeOH}$ )  $\lambda$  max 215 ( $\epsilon$  3900) nm; ms  $m/z$  372 (15), 354 (5), 340 (16), 322 (24), 294 (12), 245 (240), 213 (25), 191 (100), 133 (93), 105 (49); hrms  $m/z$  372.1590 (calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_6$ , 372.1573).

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