

## RUMPELLOLIDE K, A NOVEL C-3/8 ETHER LINKAGE CARYOPHYLLANE FROM *RUMPELLA ANTIPATHES*

Hsu-Ming Chung,<sup>a,†</sup> Yu-Ming Chang,<sup>b,†</sup> Wei-Hsien Wang,<sup>c</sup> Jih-Jung Chen,<sup>d</sup>  
Tsong-Long Hwang,<sup>e,f,g,h,\*</sup> and Ping-Jyun Sung<sup>c,i,j,k,l,\*</sup>

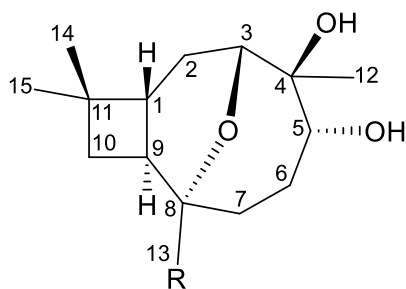
Department of Applied Chemistry, National Pingtung University, Pingtung 900393, Taiwan. <sup>b</sup> Department of Neurosurgery, Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital and Chang Gung University College of Medicine, Kaohsiung 833401, Taiwan. <sup>c</sup> Department of Marine Biotechnology and Resources, National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung 804201, Taiwan. <sup>d</sup> Faculty of Pharmacy, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, National Yang-Ming University, 112304, Taipei, Taiwan. <sup>e</sup> Research Center for Chinese Herbal Medicine, Research Center for Food and Cosmetic Safety, Graduate Institute of Healthy Industry Technology, College of Human Ecology, Chang Gung University of Science and Technology, Taoyuan 333324, Taiwan. <sup>f</sup> Graduate Institute of Natural Products, College of Medicine, Chang Gung University, Taoyuan 333323, Taiwan. <sup>g</sup> Chinese Herbal Medicine Research Team, Healthy Aging Research Center, Chang Gung University, Taoyuan 333323, Taiwan. <sup>h</sup> Department of Anaesthesiology, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taoyuan 333423, Taiwan. <sup>i</sup> National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, Pingtung 944401, Taiwan. <sup>j</sup> Graduate Institute of Marine Biology, National Dong Hwa University, Pingtung 944401, Taiwan. <sup>k</sup> Chinese Medicine Research and Development Center, China Medical University Hospital, Taichung 404394, Taiwan. <sup>l</sup> Graduate Institute of Natural Products, Kaohsiung Medical University, Kaohsiung 807378, Taiwan.

E-mail: htl@mail.cgu.edu.tw, pjsung@nmmba.gov.tw

<sup>†</sup> These authors contributed equally to this work.

**Abstract** – Chemical examination of *RumPELLa antipathes*, collected in the waters of Taiwan, led to the isolation of a novel caryophyllane sesquiterpenoid, rumpellolide K (**1**), with a C-3/8 ether linkage. The structure of **1** was established by spectroscopic analysis and this compound displayed inhibitory effects on the generation of superoxide anions and the release of elastase by human neutrophils.

The octocorals belonging to the genus *Rumphella* (family Gorgoniidae)<sup>1</sup> were found to be a rich source of caryophyllane sesquiterpenoids<sup>2-6</sup> and steroids,<sup>7</sup> and the compounds of these two types from *Rumphella* were found to exhibit antibacterial activity,<sup>2,3</sup> anti-inflammatory activity,<sup>4,5</sup> and cytotoxicity.<sup>7</sup> In our continuing studies of *R. antipathes*, a new caryophyllane sesquiterpenoid, rumphellolide K (**1**), was isolated (Chart 1). Herein, we described the isolation, structural characterization, and bioactivity of **1**.



**1**: R = Me, **2**: R = H



*R. antipathes*

**Chart 1.** Structures of rumphellolides K (**1**) and G (**2**), and a picture of *Rumphella antipathes*

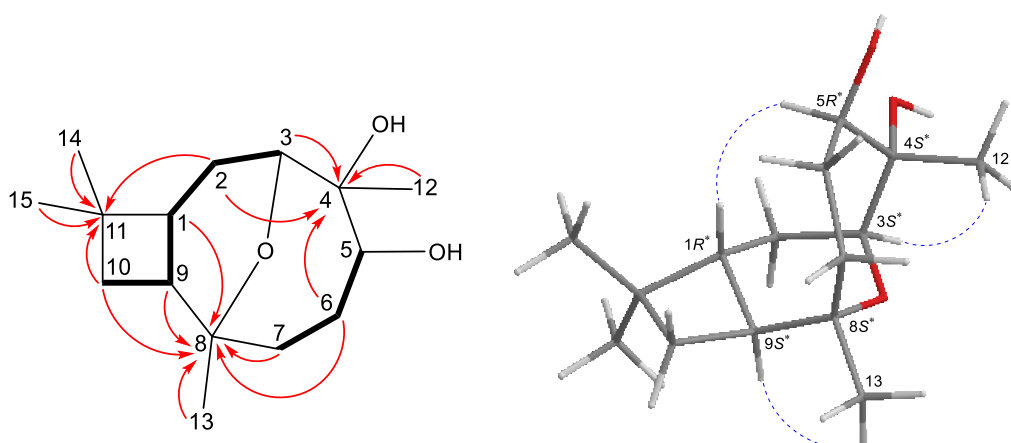
Rumphellolide K (**1**) was isolated as a colorless oil that showed a sodiated adduct ion peak in its HRESIMS at  $m/z$  277.1779 ( $M + Na$ )<sup>+</sup>, accounted for the molecular formula, C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + Na, 277.1780) (unsaturation degrees = 3). Comparison of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR and DEPT data (Table 1) with the molecular formula indicated that there must be two exchangeable protons, requiring the presence of two hydroxy groups and this deduction was supported by a broad absorption in the IR spectrum at  $\nu_{max}$  3397 cm<sup>-1</sup>. From the <sup>13</sup>C NMR data of **1** (Table 1), there are no olefinic carbon and carbonyl group were observed. Thus, **1** must be a tricyclic compound.

**Table 1.** <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data for caryophyllane **1**

Position	$\delta_H$ (J in Hz) <sup>a</sup>	$\delta_C$ <sup>b</sup> type
1	2.05 m	40.7, CH <sup>c</sup>
2/2'	2.06 m; 1.53 m	34.6, CH <sub>2</sub>
3	3.86 dd (7.6, 1.2)	78.6, CH
4		81.4, C
5	4.12 dd (10.0, 4.8)	69.4, CH
6	1.69 m	25.0, CH <sub>2</sub>
7/7'	1.82 m; 1.56 m	28.4, CH <sub>2</sub>
8		74.0, C
9	1.88 ddd (10.8, 10.8, 8.0)	48.2, CH
10/10'	1.48 dd (10.0, 8.0); 1.16 dd (10.8, 10.0)	35.3, CH <sub>2</sub>
11		35.7, C
12	1.28 s	23.3, Me
13	1.06 s	29.7, Me
14	1.03 s	30.2, Me
15	1.01 s	21.2, Me

<sup>a</sup> Spectra recorded at 400 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C. <sup>b</sup> Spectra recorded at 100 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C. <sup>c</sup> Multiplicity deduced by DEPT spectra.

The COSY spectrum of **1** enabled the determination of structural units, H-1/H<sub>2</sub>-2/H-3, H-5/H<sub>2</sub>-6/H<sub>2</sub>-7, H-9/H-1, and H-9/H<sub>2</sub>-10, which were assembled with the assistance of an HMBC experiment (Figure 1). The HMBC between protons and quaternary carbons, permitted elucidation of the main carbon skeleton of **1**. However, no correlation was observed between H-3 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.86) and C-8 oxygenated quaternary carbon at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  74.0 in the HMBC experiment, so the cyclic ether ring between C-3/8 or C-4/8 cannot be determined by this method. Previous study showed that the NMR values of CH<sub>2</sub>-2, CH-3, C-4, CH-5, and Me-12 resonating in a caryophyllane analogue, rumphellolide G (**2**) (Chart 1),<sup>3</sup> with a C-3/8 ether bridge moiety, are similar with those of **1**, suggested that the position of ether bridge in **1** should be assigned between C-3 and C-8 by chemical shift changes for deuterium-induced <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (Table 2). Thus, the remaining hydroxy groups were attached at C-4 (an oxygenated quaternary carbon resonating at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  81.4) and C-5 (an oxymethine resonating at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  69.4), respectively, as indicated by the key COSY correlations and characteristic NMR signals analysis, although the hydroxy protons for OH-4 and OH-5 were not observed in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1**.



**Figure 1.** Key COSY (—), HMBC (↷), and protons with NOESY (⋯) correlations of **1**

**Table 2.** Key NMR data for caryophyllanes **1** and **2**

Position	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	
	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ ( $J$ in Hz) <sup>a</sup>	$\delta_{\text{C}}$ , <sup>b</sup> type	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ <sup>a</sup>	$\delta_{\text{C}}$ , <sup>b</sup> type
2/2'	2.06 m; 1.53 m	34.6, CH <sub>2</sub> <sup>c</sup>	2.10 m; 1.56 m	34.9, CH <sub>2</sub>
3	3.86 dd (7.6, 1.2)	78.6, CH	3.90 m	79.0, CH
4		81.4, C		81.9, C
5	4.12 dd (10.0, 4.8)	69.4, CH	4.17 m	69.8, CH
12	1.28 s	23.3, Me	1.29 s	23.0, Me

<sup>a</sup> Spectra recorded at 400 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C. <sup>b</sup> Spectra recorded at 100 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. <sup>c</sup> Multiplicity deduced by DEPT spectra.

The stereochemistry of **1** was determined by correlations observed in a NOESY experiment (Figure 1) and by vicinal proton coupling constants. The *trans* geometry of H-9 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.88) and H-1 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.05) is indicated by a 10.8 Hz coupling constant between these two ring juncture protons, and H-9 and H-1 were

assigned as  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -oriented protons, respectively, in **1**. In the NOESY experiment, H-9 showed a NOE correlation with H<sub>3</sub>-13, indicating that C-13 methyl having an equatorial direction in the tetrahydropyran ring by molecular modeling analysis. H-1 exhibited a strong NOE interaction with H-5, suggesting that the hydroxy group at C-5 was placed on the  $\alpha$ -orientation. Moreover, H-3 showed an NOE correlation with H<sub>3</sub>-12, but not with H-1, suggesting that these protons were in  $\alpha$ -orientation at C-3 and C-4, respectively. Therefore, the configurations of stereogenic centers of **1** were elucidated as 1*R*\*,3*S*\*,4*S*\*,5*R*\*,8*S*\*, and 9*S*\*. As caryophyllane **1** was isolated along with rumphellaone A, a novel 4,5-*seco*-caryophyllane sesquiterpenoid from the same target organism, *R. antipathes*,<sup>8</sup> and the structure, including the absolute configuration, of rumphellaone A, was further confirmed by synthetic methods.<sup>9-11</sup> Therefore, it is reasonable on biogenetic grounds to conclude that caryophyllane **1** has the same absolute configuration as that of rumphellaone A,<sup>9-11</sup> and the configurations of the stereogenic carbons of **1** should be elucidated as 1*R*,3*S*,4*S*,5*R*,8*S*, and 9*S*.

Rumphellolide K (**1**) represents the first caryophyllane-related sesquiterpenoid possessing a C-3/C-8 ether bridge moiety and this compound was found to exhibit 10.36 and 10.91% inhibitory effects on human neutrophils superoxide anions generation and elastase release, respectively, at a concentration of 10  $\mu$ g/mL.

## EXPERIMENTAL

**General Experimental Procedures.** Optical rotations were measured using a Jasco P-1010 digital polarimeter. IR spectra were measured on a Thermo Scientific Nicolet iS5 FT-IR spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were taken on a Varian NMR Mercury Plus spectrometer operating at 400 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and 100 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C in CDCl<sub>3</sub> using the residual CHCl<sub>3</sub> signal ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.26 ppm) and CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  77.1 ppm) as the internal standard for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR, respectively; coupling constants (*J*) are given in Hz. ESIMS and HRESIMS were recorded using a Bruker APEX II FTMS system. Column chromatography was carried out with silica gel (230–400 mesh, Merck). TLC was performed on plates precoated with Kieselgel 60 F<sub>254</sub> (0.25-mm-thick, Merck), then sprayed with 10% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> solution followed by heating to visualize the spots. Normal-phase HPLC (NP-HPLC) was performed using a system comprised of a Hitachi L-7100 pump, a Hitachi L-7455 photodiode array detector, a Rheodyne 7725i injection port, and a semi-preparative normal-phase column (Supelco Ascentis Si, Cat #:581514-U, 25 cm  $\times$  10 mm, 5  $\mu$ m; Sigma-Aldrich).

**Animal Material.** Specimens of *R. antipathes* were collected in May 2004 by hand with SCUBA divers off the coast of Southern Taiwan. A voucher specimen was deposited in the National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, Taiwan (NMMBA-TWGC-010).

**Extraction and Isolation.** *R. antipathes* (wet/dry weight = 402/144 g) were sliced and then extracted with a solvent mixture of MeOH and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1:1). The extract was partitioned between EtOAc and H<sub>2</sub>O. The EtOAc layer (1.23 g) was then applied on silica gel column and eluted with gradients of *n*-hexane/EtOAc (from 25:1 to 100% EtOAc) to furnish 29 subfractions. Among them, fraction 22 was further purified by NP-HPLC, using a solvent mixture of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/EtOAc (10:1) to yield 13 fractions 22A–22M. Fraction 22M was further purified by semi-preparative NP-HPLC using a solvent mixture of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and acetone to give **1** (2.3 mg, 10:1).

**Rumphelloide K (1):** colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{26}$  -14 (*c* 0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR  $\nu_{\max}$  3397, 2948, 1457, 1037 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) NMR data, see Table 1; ESIMS *m/z* 277 (M + Na)<sup>+</sup>; HRESIMS *m/z* 277.1779 (Calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + Na, 277.1780).

**Anti-inflammatory Test.** Human neutrophils were obtained from healthy human volunteers and were isolated by Ficoll centrifugation and dextran sedimentation. Purified neutrophils were re-suspended in calcium (Ca<sup>2+</sup>)-free Hank's balanced salt solution (HBSS) buffer at pH 7.4, and were maintained at 4 °C before use. For superoxide anion generation assay, neutrophils (6 × 10<sup>5</sup> cell/mL) were equilibrated in ferricytochrome c (0.6 mg/mL) and Ca<sup>2+</sup> (1 mM) at 37 °C for 5 min and incubated with DMSO (0.1%) or tested compounds for another 5 min.<sup>12</sup> Cells were activated with fMLF (0.1 μM) for 10 min after the priming with CB (1 μg/mL) for 3 min. The change in absorbance was monitored continuously at 550 nm with a spectrophotometer (Hitachi U-3010). For elastase release assay, neutrophils (6 × 10<sup>5</sup> cell/mL) were equilibrated in MeO-Suc-Ala-Ala-Pro-Val-p-nitroanilide (100 μM) and Ca<sup>2+</sup> (1 mM) at 37 °C for 5 min and incubated with DMSO (0.1 %) or test compounds for another 5 min. Cells were activated with fMLF (0.1 μM) for 10 min after the priming with CB (0.5 μg/mL) for 3 min. The change in absorbance was monitored continuously at 405 nm with a spectrophotometer.<sup>12</sup> The results are recorded as the mean ± SEM of three measurements. The inhibition % was measured at 10 μM concentration of each compound and IC<sub>50</sub> values were estimated from dose-response curves. Statistical analysis using Student's t-tests with SigmaPlot (Systat Software).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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