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Antifeedant Activity of Benzopyrans from *Melicope latifolia*

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Abstract. *Melicope latifolia* is one species that belongs to the family Rutaceae. The aim of the research is the isolation of benzopyrans from the stem bark of *M. latifolia* and their antifeedant activity against *Plutella xylostella*. Two benzopyrans, evodionol (**1**), and evodion (**2**) were isolated from the stem bark of *Melicope latifolia*. The structure of both compounds was identified based on 1D and 2D NMR, UV, and IR spectroscopy. Antifeedant activity of compounds **1-2**, and ethyl acetate extract, showing inhibition value of 28.9; 31.3, and 46.8%, respectively, which were categorized as moderate.

Introduction

Melicope latifolia is a plant species that belongs to the family Rutaceae. This plant is found throughout the Indonesian archipelago (Hartley *et al.*, 2001). In Indonesia, the *Melicope* plant is known by the local name 'Ki Sampang'. *Melicope* plants produce various secondary metabolites such as alkaloids (Chen *et al.*, 2001; Nakashima *et al.*, 2012; Tanjung *et al.*, 2017; Tjahjandarie *et al.*, 2018), flavonoids (Saputri *et al.*, 2018), benzopyrans (Kamperdick *et al.*, 1997), coumarins (Kassim *et al.*, 2013), and terpenoids (Chandramu *et al.*, 2013). Alkaloid, benzopyrans, coumarins, and flavonoid *Melicope*, showing isoprenyl (C₅) or geranyl (C₁₀) (Kamperdick *et al.*, 1999; Saputri *et al.*, 20019). The purpose of the research is the isolation of benzopyrans from the stem bark of *M. latifolia* and their antifeedant activity. Two benzopyran derivatives, evodionol (**1**) and evodion (**2**), were isolated from the stem bark of *M. latifolia*. The antifeedant activity of compounds **1-2**, and ethyl acetate extract against *Plutella xylostella* also reported.

Experimental

Material and Methods

The stem bark of *M. latifolia* was obtained from Werekopa Village, South Fakfak District, Fakfak Regency, Papua.

Plant identification was carried out at the Bogoriensis Herbarium, Botany Garden, Cibinong, Bogor. Thin-layer chromatography (TLC) analysis using TLC silica gel 60 GF₂₅₄ 0.25 mm. Gravity column chromatography uses silica gel 60 (Merck), radial chromatography using 60 PF₂₅₄ silica gel (Merck). The UV spectrum was determined with a Shimadzu 1800 UV-Vis spectrophotometer. The IR spectrum was determined with the Shimadzu IR spectrophotometer. The NMR spectrum was determined by the NMR JEOL ECA 400, which operates at 400 MHz (¹H-NMR) and 100 MHz (¹³C-NMR). Test the antifeedant activity of the *Plutella xylostella* caterpillar by using the leaf disc method of choice.

Extraction and Isolation

The extraction of the stem bark of *M. latifolia* (2.1 kg) by maceration using methanol at room temperature. The methanol solvent is then evaporated with a rotary vacuum evaporator to produce a thick methanol extract. Separation of nonpolar compounds contained in viscous methanol extract was carried out by liquid-liquid extraction using n-hexane solvent. The methanol extract that is free of nonpolar compounds is then repartitioned with ethyl acetate to produce 20 grams of ethyl acetate extract. Separation of ethyl acetate extract (20 g) by gravity column chromatography with a mixture n-hexane : ethyl acetate (9: 1 to 4: 1) as eluent to get two fractions A and B. Separation of fraction A (6.8 g) using gravity column chromatography using Sephadex LH-20 with methanol eluent produces A₁, A₂,

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and A₃ subfractions. Separation of A₁ subfraction by gravity chromatography column using Sephadex LH-20 produces two subfractions, A₁₁ and A₁₂. Separation of A₁₁ subfractions (4.4 grams) by radial chromatography using n-hexane: ethyl acetate (9: 1 and 4: 1) as eluent produced four subfractions namely, A₁₁₁, A₁₁₂, A₁₁₃, and A₁₁₄. Purification of A₁₁₃ subfraction using radial chromatography with n-hexane: diisopropyl ether (1:38) eluent to get evodion (**2**) as a yellow oil as much as 26.6 mg.

Separation of subfraction A₂ (1.8 gram) by gravity column chromatography using Sephadex LH-20 produced three subfractions, namely A₂₁, A₂₂, and A₂₃. Separation of subfraction A₂₂ (1.2 gram) using radial chromatography with a mixture n-hexane: diisopropyl ether (9: 1, 4: 1, and 7: 3) as eluent produces three subfractions, namely, subfraction A₂₂₁, A₂₂₂, and A₂₂₃. Purification of the subfraction A₂₂₁ by radial chromatography using n-hexane: chloroform as eluent (1:38) to get evodionol (**1**) as a yellow solid as much as 25 mg.

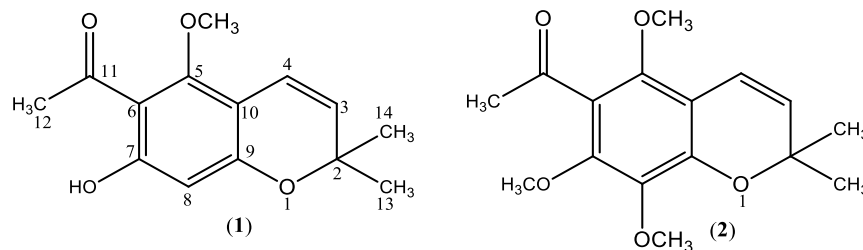


Figure 1. Benzopyrans of *M. latifolia*

Antifeedant Activity

The antifeedant activity screening of compound **1** and **2** as well as ethyl acetate extract was tested against the *P. xylostella* caterpillar by the chosen leaf disc method. Compound **1** and **2** as well as ethyl acetate extract were each made to various concentrations of 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, and 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ in 1% acetone (each of the two applications). Cabbage leaf discs of 2 cm are divided into two parts, namely for the control section and the test compound section. Water is used as a control and is dripped on leaves with the same volume as the test compound (Chandramu *et al.*, 2003).

Results And Discussion

Evodionol (**1**) was isolated as a light yellow solid with a melting point of 66-67 $^{\circ}\text{C}$. The UV spectrum (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ): 221 (3.93), 278 (4.24), and 283 nm (4.21), which is a characteristic for benzopyran moiety (Kamperdick *et al.*, 1997). The IR spectrum showed absorption bands at 3500

cm^{-1} for a hydroxy group (-OH), 1707 cm^{-1} for conjugated carbonyl (C=O), and 1639-1491 cm^{-1} from a C=C aromatic, respectively. The ^1H NMR spectrum showed the resonances of 2,2-dimethyl-pyrano ring consist of a pair of a *cis* vinylic proton at δ_{H} 6.54 (1H, d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, H-4), δ_{H} 5.41 (1H, d, $J = 10.0$ Hz, H-3), a gem-dimethyl proton at δ_{H} 1.48 (6H, s, H-13/H-14)]. One singlet aromatic proton signal at δ_{H} 5.99 and the resonances of the 2,2-dimethyl-pyrano ring is a characteristic of benzopyran moiety (Kamperdick *et al.*, 1997). Other proton signals bound to the benzopyran in an aromatic nucleus are one acetyl proton singlet signal at δ_{H} 2.66, one methoxy proton singlet signal at δ_{H} 3.83, and one hydroxy proton singlet signal at δ_{H} 13.83. The ^{13}C -NMR spectrum of **1**, shows 13 carbon signals, representing seven quaternary carbons, three methine carbons, and four methyl carbons. The HMBC spectrum determined the placement of the methoxy, hydroxy, and acetyl substituents in compound **1**. Based on the HMBC spectrum analysis, it was concluded that compound **1** was evodionol (Table 1 and Figure 2).

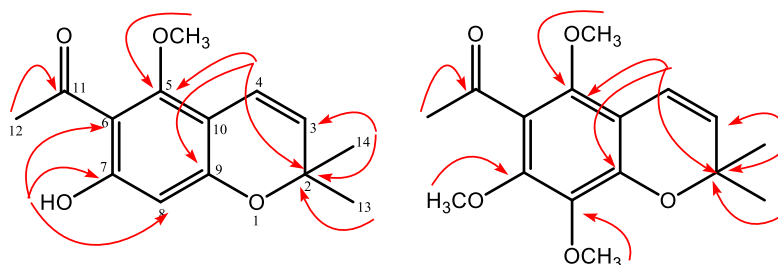


Figure 2. Selected HMBC correlations for **1-2**

Table 1. NMR data of compounds **1-2** in CDCl₃

No	Evodionol (1)			Evodion (2)		
	δ_H (mult, in Hz)	δ_C	HMBC	δ_H (mult, in Hz)	δ_C	HMBC
2	-	77.8	-	-	76.9	-
3	5.41 (d, 10,0)	124.6	C-2; C-10	5.60 (d, 10.0)	129.4	C-2; C-10
4	6.54 (d, 10,0)	116.6	C-2; C-9	6.48 (d, 10.0)	116.6	C-2; C-5; C-9
5	-	161.0	-	-	148.4	-
6	-	106.0	-	-	122.8	-
7	-	166.4	-	-	150.5	-
8	5.99 (s)	92.3	C-7; C-10	-	138.1	-
9	-	156.3	-	-	148.4	-
10	-	102.8	-	-	111.9	-
11	-	203.4	-	-	201.4	-
12	2.66 (s)	33.2	C-11	2.49 (s)	32.7	C-11
13	1.48 (s)	27.9	C-2, C-3; C-14	1.47 (s)	27.9	C-2, C-3; C-14
14	1.48 (s)	27.9	C-2, C-3; C-13	1.47 (s)	27.9	C-2, C-3; C-13
5-OCH ₃	3.83 (s)	55.8	C-5	3.71 (s)	63.8	C-5
7-OCH ₃	-	-	-	3.89 (s)	62.0	C-7
8-OCH ₃	-	-	-	3.83 (s)	61.1	C-8
7-OH	13.83 (s)	-	C-6; C-7; C-8	-	-	-

The antifeedant activity of **1-2** and ethyl acetate extract against *P. xylostella* by the selected leaf disk method. The antifeedant activity of **1-2** and ethyl acetate extract showed a percentage inhibition of 28.9, 31.3, and 46.8%, categorized as moderate.

Conclusion

Two benzopyrans, evodionol (**1**) and evodion (**2**), have been isolated from the stem bark of *M. latifolia*. The antifeedant activity of compounds **1** and **2**, and ethyl acetate extract against *P. xylostella* caterpillars categorized as moderate activity.

Conflict of Interest

The authors proclaim no potential conflict of interest.

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