

## Rumphellolide G, a New Caryophyllane-type Tetrahydropyran Norsesquiterpenoid from the Gorgonian Coral *Rumphella antipathies* (Gorgoniidae)

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A new caryophyllane-type tetrahydropyran norsesquiterpenoid, rumphellolide G (**1**), has been isolated from the gorgonian coral *Rumphella antipathies*, collected off southern Taiwan coast. The structure of caryophyllane **1** was elucidated by the interpretation of spectral data.

We recently reported several interesting caryophyllane-type natural products featuring with a bicyclo[2.7.0] carbon skeleton, including kobusone,<sup>1</sup> rumphellatin A,<sup>2</sup> and rumphellolides A–F,<sup>3</sup> from the gorgonian coral *Rumphella antipathies* (phylum Cnidaria, order Gorgonacea, family Gorgoniidae).<sup>4</sup> In continuation of our search to exploit structural diversity of Taiwanese marine invertebrates, we have discovered a series of terpenoid derivatives from the octocorals, including *Briareum* sp.,<sup>5</sup> *B. excavatum*,<sup>6</sup> *Elisella robusta*,<sup>7</sup> *Junceella fragilis*,<sup>8</sup> and *J. juncea*.<sup>8c,9</sup> In this paper, we wish to report the isolation and structure determination of a new caryophyllane-type norsesquiterpenoid with a tetrahydropyran moiety, rumphellolide G (**1**) (Chart 1), from *R. antipathies*. The structure, including the relative configuration for this compound, was elucidated by spectroscopic methods.

Specimens of the gorgonian coral *R. antipathies* (wet weight 402 g), collected off southern Taiwan coast, were minced and extracted with a mixture of MeOH and CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (1:1). The extract was further partitioned between hexane and 9:1 MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O; the MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O layer was diluted to 1:1 MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O and partitioned against CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> layer was separated on silica gel and purified by HPLC to afford norsesquiterpenoid **1** (hexane–acetone, 6:1).

Caryophyllane **1** was obtained as a colorless oil, 2.1 mg, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> – 38 (*c* = 0.03, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). The molecular formula for metabolite **1** was determined to be C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (three degrees of unsaturation) by analysis of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data (Table 1) in conjunction with DEPT results, and this conclusion was

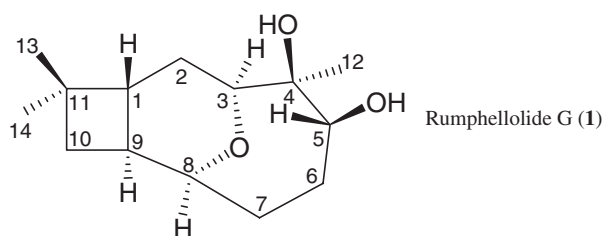


Chart 1.

Table 1. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Data and HMBC Correlations for **1**

C/H	<sup>1</sup> H <sup>a</sup>	<sup>13</sup> C <sup>b</sup>	HMBC (H→C)
1	2.08 ddd (10.8, 10.8, 7.6) <sup>c</sup>	39.6 (d) <sup>d</sup>	C-3, 11
2 $\alpha$ / $\beta$	1.56 m; 2.10 m	34.9 (t)	C-1, 3, 4
3	3.90 m	79.0 (d)	C-1, 4, 5, 8, 12
4		81.9 (s)	
5	4.17 m	69.8 (d)	C-3, 7, 12
6 $\alpha$ / $\beta$	1.65 m; 1.71 m	24.2 (t)	C-4, 5, 7, 8
7 $\alpha$ / $\beta$	1.95 m; 1.62 m	21.7 (t)	C-5, 6, 8, 9
8	4.00 ddd (10.4, 4.4, 4.4)	70.6 (d)	C-6, 7
9	2.21 dddd (10.8, 10.4, 7.6, 4.4)	43.0 (d)	C-1
10 $\alpha$	1.49 dd (10.4, 7.6)	35.0 (t)	C-8, 9, 11, 13, 14
$\beta$	1.22 dd (10.4, 10.4)		
11		36.4 (s)	
12	1.29 s	23.0 (q)	C-3, 4, 5
13	1.04 s	30.2 (q)	C-1, 10, 11, 14
14	1.03 s	21.1 (q)	C-1, 10, 11, 13

Spectra recorded at <sup>a</sup>400 and <sup>b</sup>100 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C, respectively. <sup>c</sup>*J* values (in Hz) in parentheses. <sup>d</sup>Multiplicity deduced by DEPT and indicated by usual symbols.

further confirmed by HRESIMS (C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + Na: *m/z* found, 263.1625; calcd.: 263.1623). Comparison of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR and DEPT data 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 3404 cm<sup>-1</sup>. From the <sup>13</sup>C NMR data of **1**, there are no olefinic carbon and carbonyl groups were observed. Thus, from above observations, rumphellolide G (**1**) must be tricyclic. In the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **1**, the signals for an oxygen-bearing quaternary carbon ( $\delta$  81.9, s, C-4) and three oxymethines ( $\delta$  79.0, d, CH-3; 69.8, d, CH-5; 70.6, d, CH-8) were observed, along with ten additional sp<sup>3</sup> signals (a quaternary carbon, two methines, four methylenes, and three methyl groups) in the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showed that all three methyl groups are isolated ( $\delta$  1.29, 3H, s, H<sub>3</sub>-12; 1.04, 3H, s, H<sub>3</sub>-13; 1.03, 3H, s, H<sub>3</sub>-14). In addition, four pairs of aliphatic methylene protons ( $\delta$  1.56, 1H, m, H-2 $\alpha$ ; 2.10, 1H, m, H-2 $\beta$ ; 1.65, 1H, m, H-6 $\alpha$ ; 1.71, 1H, m, H-6 $\beta$ ; 1.95, 1H, m, H-7 $\alpha$ ; 1.62, 1H, m, H-7 $\beta$ ; 1.49, 1H, dd, *J* = 10.4, 7.6 Hz, H-10 $\alpha$ ; 1.22, 1H, dd, *J* = 10.4, 10.4 Hz, H-10 $\beta$ ), two aliphatic methine protons ( $\delta$  2.08, 1H, ddd, *J* = 10.8, 10.8, 7.6 Hz, H-1; 2.21, 1H, dddd, *J* = 10.8, 10.4, 7.6, 4.4 Hz, H-9), three oxygenated methine protons ( $\delta$  3.90, 1H, m, H-3; 4.17, 1H, m, H-5; 4.00, 1H, ddd, *J* = 10.4, 4.4, 4.4 Hz, H-8) were observed in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1**.

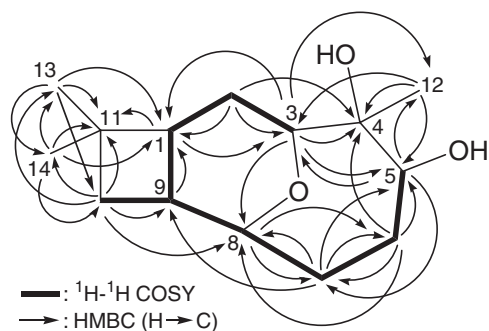


Figure 1. The  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY and HMBC correlations of **1**.

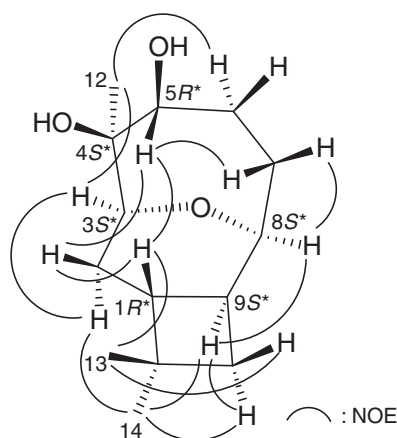


Figure 2. The selective NOESY correlations of **1**.

The gross structure of **1** and all of the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data associated with the molecule was determined by 2D NMR studies, including  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY, HMQC, and HMBC experiments. From the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR coupling information in the  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectrum of **1** enabled identification of the C1–C2–C3, C5–C6–C7–C8–C9–C10, and C9–C1 units (Figure 1). These data, together with the HMBC correlations between H-1/C-3; H<sub>2</sub>-2/C-1, C-3, C-4; H-3/C-1, C-4, C-5; H-5/C-3, C-7; H<sub>2</sub>-6/C-4, C-5, C-7, C-8; H<sub>2</sub>-7/C-5, C-6, C-8, C-9; H-8/C-6, C-7; and H-9/C-1 (Table 1 and Figure 1), established the connectivity from C-1 to C-9 within the nine-membered ring. A methyl attached at C-4 was confirmed by the HMBC correlations between H<sub>3</sub>-12/C-3, C-4, C-5, H-3/C-12, and H-5/C-12. The cyclobutane ring, which is fused to the nine-membered ring at C-1 and C-9, was elucidated by the key HMBC correlations between H-1/C-11; and H<sub>2</sub>-10/C-8, C-9. The cyclic ether ring between C-3 and C-8 was established by a strong HMBC correlation between the proton of C-3 oxymethine ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.90) and the C-8 oxymethine carbon ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  70.6). Thus, the remaining hydroxy groups should be positioned at C-4 and C-5, as indicated by the key  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY correlations and characteristic NMR signals analysis, although the hydroxy protons for OH-4 and OH-5 were not observed in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1**.

The stereochemistry of **1** was elucidated from the NOE interactions observed in an NOESY experiment (Figure 2) and by the vicinal  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  coupling constants. The trans geometry of H-9 ( $\delta$  2.21, dddd,  $J = 10.8, 10.4, 7.6, 4.4$  Hz) and H-1 ( $\delta$  2.08, ddd,  $J = 10.8, 10.8, 7.6$  Hz) 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 the structure of **1**. In the NOESY experiment, H-9 exhibited strong NOE correlations with H-8 ( $\delta$  4.00), H-10 $\alpha$  ( $\delta$  1.49), and H<sub>3</sub>-14 ( $\delta$  1.03), indicating that these protons (H-8, H-9, H-10 $\alpha$ , and H<sub>3</sub>-14) are located on the same face and assigned as  $\alpha$  protons, since H-1 is  $\beta$ -oriented and H-9 did not show correlation with H-1. Furthermore, H-3 showed NOE interactions with one proton of C-2 methylene ( $\delta$  1.56, H-2 $\alpha$ ) and H<sub>3</sub>-12 ( $\delta$  1.29), but not with H-1; and H-1 exhibited strong NOE response with H-5 ( $\delta$  4.17), suggesting the hydroxy groups attached at C-4 and C-5 were placed on the  $\beta$ - and  $\alpha$ -orientation of **1**, respectively. On the basis of above findings, the structure including the relative stereochemistry of **1** was established and the configurations of all chiral centers of **1** were assigned as 1R\*, 3S\*, 4S\*, 5R\*, 8S\*, 9S\*.

It is noteworthy to mention that rumphellolide G (**1**) represents the first example of caryophyllane-type natural products possessing a cyclic ether bridge between C-3 and C-8 (a tetrahydropyran ring). The antibacterial activity of **1** toward the Gram-positive bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus* and the Gram-negative bacteria *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, was assayed. It was found that **1** was inactive toward the above bacteria. The other biological activities of **1** will be assayed in the future.

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