

Xanthine Oxidase Inhibitory Activity of Xanthoness from *Calophyllum pseudomole* P. F. Stevens

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Calophyllum* (Calophyllaceae) is a plant proven to produce various xanthoness, chromanoic acids, and 4-phenyl coumarins. This study aims to determine the xanthine oxidase inhibitory activity of xanthoness from *Calophyllum pseudomole* P.F. Stevens. Two xanthoness, ananixanthone (**1**) and caloxanthone L (**2**), were isolated from *Calophyllum pseudomole* stem barks. The structures of both xanthoness were determined based on UV, HRESI-MS, 1D, and 2D NMR spectral data. Compounds 1-2 showed xanthine oxidase inhibitory activity with an IC₅₀ of 15.05 and 17.7 μM, respectively, and were categorized as potent.

Keywords: *Calophyllum pseudomole*, xanthone, ananixanthone, caloxanthone L, xanthine oxidase.

Introduction

Gout is one of the most degenerative diseases in the world. Symptoms of this disease in sufferers are characterized by arthritis due to a buildup of uric acid, which is caused by consuming foods that contain purines derived from protein.¹⁻³ The formation of uric acid is the final product of DNA and RNA metabolism, which contains adenosine and guanosine, which play a vital role in producing hypoxanthine. Xanthine oxidase (XO) is an enzyme that oxidizes hypoxanthine into xanthine and is then oxidized to produce uric acid. Inhibition of XO in uric acid formation is an alternative for sufferers.⁴ Allopurinol is a drug commonly consumed by sufferers in Indonesia. The ethanol extract of *C. inophyllum* shows as an XO inhibitory *in vivo* against albino mice, and 1,3,6,7-tetrahydroxyxanthone showed more activity than allopurinol.⁵⁻⁶ The *Calophyllum* genus belongs to the Calophyllaceae family, and this plant is commonly found in forest areas in Southern and Southeastern Asia. This genus has been shown to produce benzofurans, chromanone acids, 4-phenyl coumarins, and xanthoness containing terpenyl chains in the aromatic rings. The secondary metabolites of *Calophyllum* were reported to possess anti-corona virus, anticancer, antimalarial, and antioxidant.⁷⁻¹⁶ *Calophyllum pseudomole* is one of the endemic plants of the Borneo Islands and is locally known as Bintangor. This research aims to explore the potential of xanthoness from *C. pseudomole* as xanthine oxidase inhibitory activity has not been reported. Two known xanthoness, ananixanthone (**1**) and caloxanthone L (**2**), were obtained from *Calophyllum pseudomole* stem barks. The XO inhibitory of xanthoness 1-2 was reported.

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Materials and Methods

General experimental procedures

Column chromatography gravity used silica gel G₆₀ and Sephadex LH-20 as the stationary phases, and silica gel 60 PF254 (Merck) was used for radial chromatography. Determining the structure of xanthoness using a Shimadzu 1800 UV-Vis spectrophotometer, high-resolution ESIMS using Merck Waters LCT, 1D, and 2D NMR using NMR machine (JEOL ECA_JNM operating 400 MHz). Visualization of xanthoness using Kieselgel 60 GF254 0.25 mm TLC plates (Merck) and cerium sulfate reagent. The XO inhibitory of compounds 1-2 using the Owen and Duong method with a UV spectrophotometer.

Plant material

The plant material (stem bark) of *C. pseudomole* bark originates from Panaen Village, Muara Teweh, Central Kalimantan (GPS coordinates: 0.9349° S, 114.8985° E, altitude: 400 m), in Dec 2022. The voucher specimens (No. 20221312) were deposited in the Herbarium Bogoriense, National Research and Innovation Agency, Bogor, Indonesia. The specimen was identified by Dr Ismail Rachman, botanist National Research and Innovation Agency.

Extraction and Isolation

The dried powder of *C. pseudomole* stem barks (1.9 kg) was extracted twice with 5 L of 90% methanol by the maceration method for 24 h. Evaporation of the solvent using a low-pressure evaporator produces a thick methanol extract.¹⁷⁻¹⁹ The methanol extract was successively partitioned with *n*-hexane and ethyl acetate, and after evaporation, it produced *n*-hexane extract (30 g) and ethyl acetate extract (20 g). The ethyl acetate extract (19 g) was separated on silica gel G₆₀ CC using solvents of *n*-hexane-ethyl acetate (with a gradient of 9:1 to 7:3 v/v) and collected in 100 mL to yield two fractions A-B. The separation of fraction A (900 mg) with radial chromatography (chromatotron, plate thickness 2 mm) using a mixture of *n*-hexane: chloroform (7:3, 1:1, 3:7 v/v) as mobile phase and collected in 20 mL to obtain two xanthoness; 1 (87 mg) and 2 (13 mg).

Xanthine oxidase inhibitory assay

The XO inhibitory assay of xanthenes 1-2 was evaluated by UV-vis spectrophotometry using the Owen and Duong method.^{1,2} The parameters for determining XO inhibitory of compounds 1-2 consist of test solution, blank (negative control), xanthine oxidation by XO to uric acid without the test solution, and allopurinol (positive control). The XO inhibitory assay of compounds 1-2 was carried out at 1, 5, 10, 30, and 100 µg/mL. 1 mL of xanthine solution was added to 2.9 mL of 50 mM phosphate buffer solution (pH 7.5), 2 mL of substrate solution (0.20 mM xanthine in phosphate buffer pH 7.5) was incubated at 25 °C for 15 minutes, and then the addition of 0.1 mL XO (0.3 U/mL in phosphate buffer, pH 7.5). The test solution was incubated at 25 °C for 30 minutes, and 1 mL HCl 1N was added. The absorbance was measured by UV-Vis spectrophotometry. The maximum absorption of uric acid from xanthine oxidation by XO was measured at λ_{\max} 286 nm.

Result and Discussion

Ananixanthone (1) was obtained as a yellow solid with melting point 159-160 °C and showed a positive quasi-molecular ion $[M+H]^+$ at m/z 379.1550 (calculated mass 379.1545), corresponding to the molecular formula $C_{23}H_{23}O_5^+$ based on HRESIMS spectrum. The UV absorption of ananixanthone (1) in methanol shows maximum absorption (λ_{\max} (log ϵ) nm: 253 (4.53); 270 (4.47); 332 (4.08); and 378 (3.47), which is characteristic of the chromophore of xanthone.⁸⁻⁹ The ¹H-NMR of 1, showing three protons of the benzene 1,2,3-trisubstituted at δ_H 7.64 (1H, *dd*, $J = 7.9$; 1.3 Hz, H-8), δ_H 7.34 (1H, *dd*, $J = 7.9$ and 1.3 Hz, H-6), and δ_H 7.24 (1H, *t*, $J = 7.9$ Hz, H-7). Compound 1 also showed a chelate proton of the hydroxy group at δ_H 13.38 (1-OH), four protons of a 3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl chain consists of two methyl protons [δ_H 1.82 (3H, *s*, H-5'), δ_H 1.63 (3H, *s*, H-4'), one methylene proton [δ_H 3.30 (2H, *d*, $J = 7.2$ Hz, H-1'), a vinylic proton [δ_H 5.21 (1H, *t*, $J = 7.4$ Hz, H-2'), and three protons of a 2,2-dimethylpyrano ring consists of a pair of ortho coupling ($J = 10.0$ Hz) of *cis* vinylic protons [δ_H 7.01 (1H, *d*, $J = 10.0$ Hz, H-4''), δ_H 5.73 (1H, *d*, $J = 10.0$ Hz, H-3''), and a *gem*-dimethyl proton at δ_H 1.47 (6H, *s*, H-5''/6'') were confirmed by 2D NMR. The ¹³C-NMR spectrum of ananixanthone (1) shows 22 separate carbon signals representing 23 carbon signals. HMBC correlations (Figure 1), the hydroxy proton at δ_H 13.38 (1-OH) shows a correlation with an oxyaryl carbon at δ_C 160.8 (C-1), and two quaternary carbons [δ_C 112.0 (C-2), δ_C 103.6 (C-9a)]. The methylene proton of a part of 3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl chain at δ_H 3.30 (H-1') correlated to C-1, C-2, an oxyaryl carbon at δ_C 159.2 (C-3), and a double bond [δ_C 122.9 (C-2'), δ_C 131.6 (C-3')], confirming that the 3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl chain is bound at C-2. A proton of *cis* vinylic at δ_H 7.01 (H-4'') correlated to C-3, a quaternary carbon at δ_C 101.8 (C-4), an oxyaryl carbon at δ_C 150.6 (C-4a), and an oxy-carbon at δ_C 79.0 (C-2'') showing that the 2,2-dimethylpyrano ring is connected at C-3 and C-4. The positioning of the 2,2-dimethylpyrano ring at C-3 and C-4 is supported by a proton of the other *cis* vinylic at δ_H 5.73 (H-3'') correlated to C-4, C-2'', and a *gem*-dimethyl proton at δ_H

1.47 (H-5''/6'') correlated to C-2'', and a methine carbon at δ_C 127.9 (C-3''). An aromatic proton at δ_H 7.64 (H-8) correlates with the carbonyl carbon at δ_C 181.9 (C-9), an oxyaryl carbon at δ_C 146.1 (C-10a), and a methine carbon at δ_C 121.6 (C-6), confirming that the position of a hydroxy group attached at C-5. The aromatic proton at δ_H 7.24 (H-7) correlates with the oxyaryl carbon at δ_C 147.1 (C-5) and a methine carbon at δ_C 116.1 (C-8). An aromatic proton at δ_H 7.34 (H-6) correlated to C-5 and a quaternary carbon at δ_C 122.1 (C-8a). Compound 1 was elucidated as 6,11-dihydroxy-3,3-dimethyl-5-(3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)-3H,7H-pyrano[2,3-*c*]xanthen-7-one and named as ananixanthone.⁸

Caloxanthone L (2) was obtained as a yellow solid, and the UV spectrum showed the UV absorption [λ_{\max} (log ϵ) nm: 243 (4.17); 262 (4.15); and 326 (3.63)], typical of the xanthone chromophore. The ¹H-NMR spectrum of caloxanthone L (2), showing the same pattern with compound 1, including the proton signal of a benzene 1,2,3-trisubstituted benzene [δ_H 7.23 (1H, *t*, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H-7), δ_H 7.35 (1H, *dd*, $J = 8.0$; 1.6 Hz, H-6), δ_H 7.68 (1H, *dd*, $J = 8.0$; 1.6 Hz, H-8)], a chelate proton of the hydroxy group at δ_H 13.49 (1-OH), and four protons of 3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl chain [δ_H 5.27 (1H, *t*, $J = 7.4$ Hz, H-2'), δ_H 3.28 (2H, *d*, $J = 7.3$ Hz, H-1'), δ_H 1.76 (3H, *s*, H-4'), δ_H 1.65 (3H, *s*, H-5')]. The main difference compound 2 shows the presence of four protons of the 2,3,3-trimethylfurano ring consisting of one oxy-methine proton at δ_H 4.60 (1H, *q*, $J = 6.6$ Hz, H-1''), three methyl proton protons at δ_H 1.63 (3H, *s*, H-3''), δ_H 1.42 (3H, *d*, $J = 6.6$ Hz, H-5''), and δ_H 1.34 (3H, *s*, H-4''). The ¹³C-NMR spectrum of compound 2 shows 23 completely separated carbon signals (Table 1). HMBC correlation of 1,2,3-trisubstituted benzene protons [δ_H 7.23 (H-7), δ_H 7.35 (H-6), δ_H 7.68 (H-8)]. The proton of the hydroxy group at δ_H 13.49 (1-OH), and the proton signal of the 3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl chain [δ_H 5.27 (H-2'), δ_H 3.28 (H-1'), δ_H 1.76 (H-4'), δ_H 1.65 (H-5')] shows two-bond and three-bond correlations identical with compound 1. Two methyl protons at δ_H 1.34 (H-4'') and δ_H 1.63 (H-3''), respectively correlated with two quaternary carbons [δ_C 113.3 (C-4), δ_C 44.9 (C-2'')], an oxy-methine carbon at δ_C 91.6 (C-1''). Another methyl proton at δ_H 1.42 (H-6'') correlated to C-1'' and C-2'', and an oxy-methine proton δ_H 4.60 (H-1'') correlates with two methyl carbons at δ_C 25.9 (C-3'') and δ_C 21.4 (C-4''), supporting that a 2,3,3-trimethylfurano ring attached at C-3 and C-4. Compound 2 was determined as 5,10-dihydroxy-1,1,2-trimethyl-4-(3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)-1,2-dihydro-6H-furo[2,3-*c*]xanthen-6-one and named as caloxanthone L.¹⁶

The Owen and Duong method evaluated the xanthine oxidase inhibitory of xanthenes 1-2.^{1,2} The positive and negative controls for assay use allopurinol and blank. Ananixanthone (1) and caloxanthone L (2) showed xanthine oxidase inhibitory with an IC₅₀ of 15.05 and 17.7 µM, respectively, and were categorized as potent activity.^{1,2} Ananixanthone (1) showed slightly more activity than caloxanthone L (2). The presence of the 2,2-dimethylpyrano ring in compound 1 can increase the xanthine oxidase inhibition compared to the 2,3,3-trimethylfurano ring in compound 2.

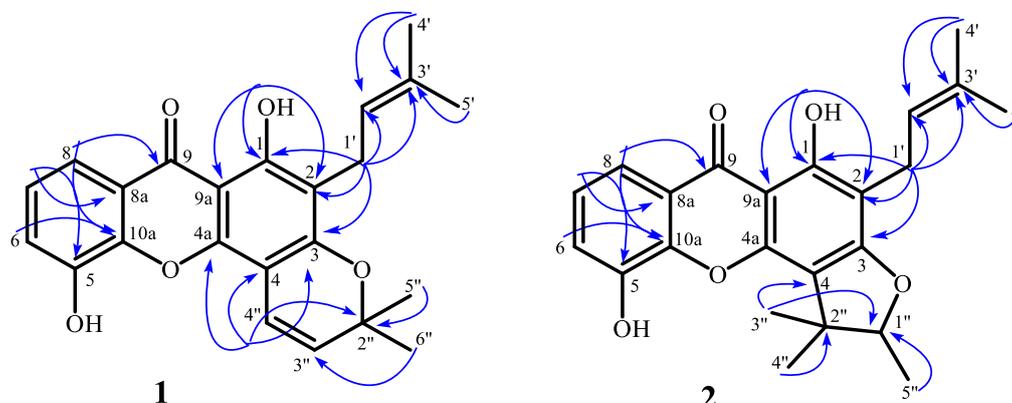


Figure 1: HMBC correlations of 1-2

Table 1: ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of xanthenes 1-2

No.C	Ananixanthone (1)		Caloxanthone L (2)	
	δ_H (mult, J in Hz)	δ_C	δ_H (mult, in J Hz)	δ_C
1	-	160.8	-	161.8
2	-	112.0	-	107.2
3	-	159.2	-	166.0
4	-	101.8	-	113.3
4a	-	150.6	-	151.7
5	-	147.1	-	147.1
6	7.34 (dd, 7.9; 1.2)	121.6	7.35 (dd, 1.6; 8.0)	121.1
7	7.24 (t, 8.0)	124.8	7.23 (t, 8.0)	124.5
8	7.64 (dd, 8.0; 1.3)	116.1	7.68 (dd, 1.6; 8.0)	116.4
8a	-	122.1	-	122.4
9	-	181.9	-	181.2
9a	-	103.6	-	104.1
10a	-	146.1	-	146.1
1'	3.30 (d, 7.2)	21.6	3.28 (d, 7.3)	22.3
2'	5.21 (t, 7.4)	122.9	5.27 (t, 7.4)	122.6
3'	-	131.6	-	132.1
4'	1.63 (s)	25.8	1.76 (s)	17.8
5'	1.78 (s)	18.0	1.65 (s)	25.8
1''	-	-	4.60 (q, 6.6)	91.6
2''	-	79.0	-	44.9
3''	5.73 (d, 10.0)	127.9	1.63 (s)	25.9
4''	7.01 (d, 10.0)	116.0	1.34 (s)	21.4
5''	1.47 (s)	28.3	1.42 (d, 6.6)	14.7
6''	1.47 (s)	28.3	-	-
1-OH	13.38 (s)	-	13.49 (s)	-

Conclusion

Two known xanthenes, ananixanthone (1) and caloxanthone L (2), were isolated from *Calophyllum pseudomole* stem barks. Compounds 1-2 showed high activity to xanthine oxidase inhibitory and had the prospect of being assayed in vivo.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Authors' Declaration

The authors hereby declare that the work presented in this article is original and that any liability for claims relating to the content of this article will be borne by them.

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