

NOTE:**Cytotoxic Sesquiterpenoids from the Stem Bark of *Aglaia harmsiana* (Meliaceae)****Hersa Milawati¹, Winda Sukmawati¹, Desi Harneti¹, Rani Maharani^{1,2}, Nurlelasari¹, Ace Tatang Hidayat^{1,2}, Darwati¹, Unang Supratman^{1,2,*}, and Yoshihito Shiono³**¹Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Padjadjaran, Jl. Raya Bandung-Sumedang Km. 21, Jatinangor, Sumedang 45363, Indonesia²Central Laboratory of Universitas Padjadjaran, Jl. Raya Bandung-Sumedang Km. 21, Jatinangor, Sumedang 45363, Indonesia³Department of Food, Life, and Environmental Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Yamagata University, Tsuruoka, Yamagata 997-8555, Japan*** Corresponding author:**

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Abstract: Three aromadendrane-type sesquiterpenoids, spathulenol (**1**), 4 β ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (**2**), and 4 α ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (**3**) were isolated from the stem bark of *Aglaia harmsiana* (Meliaceae). Compound **3** was isolated for the first time from *Aglaia* genus. The chemical structures of isolated compounds were elucidated by various spectroscopic methods, including one and two-dimensional NMR, as well as mass spectroscopy analyses. These sesquiterpenoids **1-3** were evaluated for their cytotoxic activity against MCF-7 breast cancer cell lines. The IC₅₀ value of compound **1-3** were 31.65 \pm 0.1, 8.41 \pm 0.04 and 2.80 \pm 0.02 μ M, respectively. Among the aromadendrane-type sesquiterpenoids, compounds **2** and **3**, which do not have a double bond, showed higher activity than compound **1**. Whereas, compound **3** showed the strongest activity indicate that α configuration of hydroxyl group increases the cytotoxic activity.

Keywords: *Aglaia harmsiana*; cytotoxic activity; aromadendrane-type sesquiterpenoid; MCF-7 cell lines

■ INTRODUCTION

Sesquiterpenoids are derived from three isoprene units and exist in a wide variety of forms, including linear, monocyclic, bicyclic, and tricyclic frameworks. Sesquiterpenoids are the most diverse group of terpenoids. Most of the sesquiterpenoids (especially hydrocarbons) are considered as essential oil components. They are the principal constituents of cedarwood (98%), vetiver (97%), spikenard (93%), sandalwood (90%), patchouli (71%), myrrh (62%), and ginger (59%) [1].

Sesquiterpenoids can be found in many living system, particularly in higher plants. They arise from common precursor, farnesyl pyrophosphate, by various cyclization reactions [2].

Aromadendrane sesquiterpenoids are the most abundant group of compounds containing gem-

dimethylcyclopropane rings fused to a hydroazulene skeleton (bicycle [5.3.0]decapentane) [3] and derived from the large group of guaiane sesquiterpenoids with cyclic formation between C-6 and C-11; thus aromadendrane sesquiterpenoids are commonly called 6,11-cycloguaiane [2]. The biological activities of aromadendrane-type sesquiterpenoids have been investigated, including antifeedant, antifouling, antimicrobial, antiviral, insect repellent, and cytotoxic activity [4-5].

Aglaia is the largest genus of the family Meliaceae comprises more than 100 species which are highly distributed throughout the Western Pacific, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India. The bark of these plants has been used as traditional Indonesian herbal medicine for fever treatment, diarrhea, cough, and skin disease for a long time [6-10]. *A. harmsiana* is one of *Aglaia* plants that has

been phytochemically investigated before and it has been proven to contain cycloartane triterpenoids [11-12] and rocaglamide derivative with insecticidal activity [13]. In total, less than ten aromadendrane-type sesquiterpenoids were investigated separately from the *Aglaia* species [14-15], and this type of compound did not attract considerable attention [16].

In order to observe the cytotoxic constituents of Indonesian *Aglaia* plants against MCF-7 breast cancer cell lines, we report the isolation, the structure elucidation, as well as cytotoxic evaluation of three aromadendrane-type sesquiterpenoids **1-3** from *A. harmsiana*.

■ EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Materials

The stem bark of *A. harmsiana* was collected from Bogor Botanical Garden, Bogor, West Java Province, Indonesia, in July 2017. The plant was identified by Mr. Ismail, the staff of Bogoriense Herbarium, Research Center for Biology, Indonesian Institute of Science, Bogor, Indonesia and the voucher specimen has been deposited at the herbarium.

Instrumentation

The IR spectra were recorded on Perkin Elmer Spectrum 100 FT-IR spectrometer using NaCl plate. The mass spectra were determined with Waters Q-TOF Xevo mass spectrometer instrument. The NMR spectrum of compound **1** were recorded on JEOL JNM-ECX500 spectrometer at 500 MHz for ^1H and 125 MHz for ^{13}C , and spectra of compound **2-3** were recorded on JEOL JNM-ECX500R/S1 spectrometer at 500 MHz for ^1H and 125 MHz for ^{13}C with TMS as an internal standard. The column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60 (Merck, 70–230 and 230–400 mesh). The TLC analyses were carried out with silica GF₂₅₄ (Merck, 0.25 mm) using various solvent systems and spot detection was achieved by spraying with 10% H₂SO₄ in EtOH, followed by heating and irradiating under ultraviolet-visible light (254 and 365 nm).

Procedure

Extraction and Isolation

Dried bark *A. harmsiana* (1.7 kg) was extracted with

n-hexane (12 L) at room temperature. The extract was evaporated by rotary evaporator at 40 °C under reduce pressure to dryness to obtain 43.25 g of concentrated *n*-hexane extract. Then, the dried bark residue was once again extracted with ethyl acetate at room temperature to obtain 43.97 g concentrated ethyl acetate extract. The *n*-hexane extract (43.25 g) was fractionated by vacuum liquid chromatography on silica gel using gradient elution of *n*-hexane:EtOAc:MeOH to afford four subfractions. Fraction B (11.4 g) was further fractionated by vacuum liquid chromatography using gradient elution of *n*-hexane:CH₂Cl₂ to afford nine fractions. Fraction B8 (892 mg) was separated using column chromatography on silica gel eluted with *n*-hexane:EtOAc (4.8:0.2) to give compound **1** (65.4 mg).

The ethyl acetate extract (43.97 g) was fractionated by vacuum liquid chromatography on silica gel using gradient elution of *n*-hexane:EtOAc:MeOH to afford ten subfractions. Fraction F (2.8 g) was further separated using column chromatography on silica gel using gradient elution of *n*-hexane:EtOAc. Fraction F1 (562.3 mg) was separated using column chromatography on silica gel which eluted with a gradient of *n*-hexane:CHCl₃ to give compound **2** (11.3 mg). Fraction F3 (407.3 mg) was separated on silica gel using column chromatography using gradient elution of *n*-hexane:CHCl₃ to afford fraction F3C. Then, fraction F3C (115.3 mg) was separated by RP-18 silica gel column chromatography using gradient elution with MeOH:H₂O to give compound **3** (10.5 mg).

Spathulenol (1). Colorless oil, IR (NaCl) ν_{max} 3434; 3065; 2970; 1671; 1385; 1365; 1163 cm⁻¹. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl₃, 500 MHz), $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) see Table 1. HR-TOFMS m/z found 221.1813 [M+H]⁺, (calculated for C₁₅H₂₅O, m/z 221.1905).

4 β ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (2). Colorless oil, IR (NaCl) ν_{max} 3301; 2872; 1457; 1381; 1360; 968 cm⁻¹. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl₃, 500 MHz), $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl₃, 125 MHz) see Table 1. HR-TOFMS m/z found 237.1823 [M-H]⁻, (calculated for C₁₅H₂₅O₂, m/z 237.1855).

4 α ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (3). Colorless oil, IR (NaCl) ν_{max} 3428; 2868; 1465; 1382; 1379; 1051 cm⁻¹. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (CDCl₃, 500 MHz), $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (CDCl₃, 125

MHz) see Table 1. HR-TOFMS m/z found 261.1857 $[M+Na]^+$, (calculated for $C_{15}H_{25}O_2Na$, m/z 261.1831).

In vitro cytotoxic activity assay

Cell viability was assessed by PrestoBlue reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Uppsala, Sweden) based on the reduction of resazurin (blue), which works as a cell viability indicator, to resofurin (purple). PrestoBlue can be evaluated quantitatively visually using absorbance or utilizing the fluorescent outputs of the reduced resofurin. The conversion is proportional to the number of metabolically active cells. The MCF-7 cells were used for *in vitro* breast cancer studies because they retained several particular properties to mammary epithelium, such as the processing of estrogen, in the form of estradiol, via estrogen receptors (ER) in the cell cytoplasm [17]. Briefly, MCF-7 cell lines were grown in 70% confluent were harvested and counted, then diluted with complete culture RPMI medium (Gibco Thermo, Uppsala, Sweden). The cells were then transferred into 96 well-plates with a total of 17×10^3 cells/well. After overnight growth, the cells were treated with increasing concentrations of compounds 1-3 (7.8, 15.6, 31.25, 62.5, 125, 250, 500, 1000 ppm) with co-solvent with various percentages of DMSO (0.5–2.5%) in PBS (Uppsala, Sweden). Cisplatin (Sigma Aldrich, USA) was used as the positive control. All samples were incubated at 37 °C in a 5% CO₂ incubator for 24 h. After incubation, the medium was immediately replaced by 10 μ L PrestoBlue reagent in 90 μ L RPMI medium. The plates were incubated for 1–2 h until resofurin was formed (color changes from blue to purple). The absorbance was measured at 570 nm using a microplate reader. The IC₅₀ value is the required concentration for 50% growth inhibition. The percentage of cytotoxicity compared to untreated cells was determined with the equation given below. A plot of %

cytotoxicity versus sample concentrations was used to calculate the concentration which showed 50% cytotoxicity (IC₅₀) [18-19]. All assay and analyses were each run in duplicate and all were averaged.

$$\text{Cytotoxicity (\%)} = \frac{[(A_1 - A_2) \times 100]}{A_1}$$

A_1 = Absorbance of untreated group

A_2 = Absorbance of treated group

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The *n*-hexane and ethyl acetate extract of the stem bark of *A. harmsiana* was subjected to repeated column chromatography to afford three aromadendrane-type sesquiterpenoids. The isolated compounds were elucidated as known compounds namely spathulenol (1), 4 β ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (2), and 4 α ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (3) (Fig. 1), by interpreting spectral data and making comparisons with literature values. All these three compounds were reported from *A. harmsiana* for the first time while 4 α ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (3) itself was isolated from genus *Aglaia* for the first time.

Compound 1 was obtained as a colorless oil. The molecular formula was established by HR-TOF-MS as $C_{15}H_{24}O$ from the molecular ion peak of 221.1813 ($[M+H]^+$ calculated $C_{15}H_{25}O$ 221.1905) in the HR-TOF-MS (Fig. S8), indicating four degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum (Fig. S9), showed the absorption bands of hydroxyl group (3434 cm^{-1}) and olefinic bond (1671 cm^{-1}). The ¹H-NMR spectrum (Fig. S1), showed the presence of three tertiary methyls at δ_H 1.03 (CH₃-12), 1.28 (CH₃-15) and 1.05 (CH₃-13), and two olefinic protons at δ_H 4.65 (H-14) and 4.67 (H-14). The DEPT and HMQC experiments (Fig. S2-S4), could differentiate

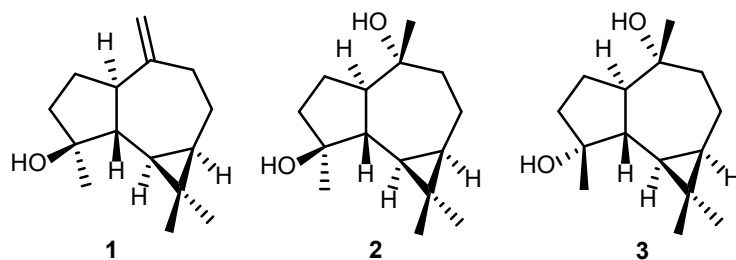


Fig 1. Structures of compound 1-3

the 15 carbon in the ^{13}C -NMR into three methyls, five methylenes (including one olefinic methylene), four methines, and three quaternary carbons (including one olefinic quaternary and one oxygenated quaternary carbon). The structural units of C-3, C-2, C-1, C-5, C-6, C-7, C-8, and C-9 were undoubtedly determined from the ^1H - ^1H -COSY spectrum (Fig. S5 and Fig. 2) which suggested that all aliphatic methine and methylene protons were part of a contiguous spin system comprising H-3, H-2, H-1, H-5, H-6, H-7, H-8, H-9 in the molecules.

The fragments of C-1, C-10 (C-14), C-9 and C-3, C-4 (C-15), C-5 were determined by the HMBC strong correlations (Fig. S6) from H-14 to C-1/C-10/C-9 and H-15 to C-3/C-4/C-5, respectively. Additionally, the HMBC correlations from H-5 to C-1/C-6 and the support data from ^1H - ^1H -COSY allowed the definition of the cycloheptane unit. The HMBC correlations from H-12/H-13 to C-11/C-6/C-7 indicated the existence of an isopropyl group located at cyclopropane ring. The NOESY correlations (Fig. S7) of H-1 (α -oriented) with

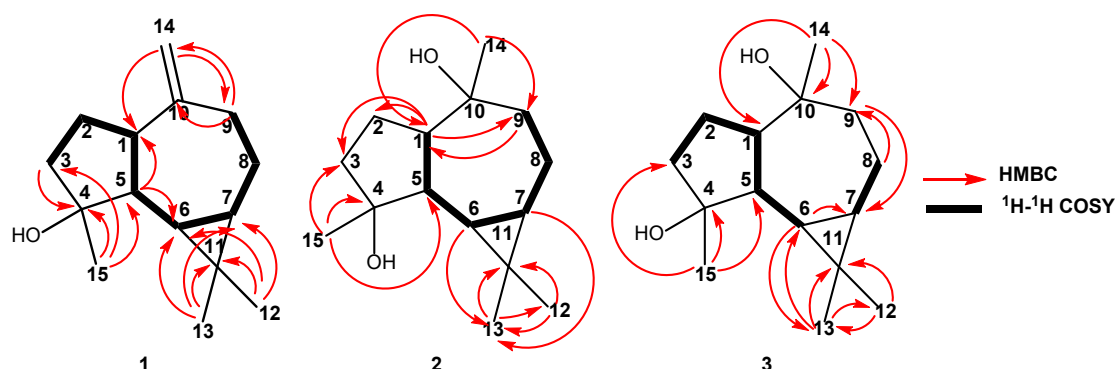


Fig 2. Selected HMBC and ^1H - ^1H -COSY correlations of compound 1-3

Table 1. NMR data of compound 1-3 (measured in CDCl_3 at 500 MHz and 125 MHz)

Pos.	Compound 1		Compound 2		Compound 3	
	δ_{C} (mult.)	δ_{H} (ΣH , mult., $J = \text{Hz}$)	δ_{C} (mult.)	δ_{H} (ΣH , mult., $J = \text{Hz}$)	δ_{C} (mult.)	δ_{H} (ΣH , mult., $J = \text{Hz}$)
1	53.5 (d)	1.30 (1H, m)	56.4 (d)	1.84 (1H, m)	54.7 (d)	2.14 (1H, m)
2	26.8 (t)	1.89 (1H, dd, 6, 12)	23.8 (t)	1.56 (2H, m)	23.8 (t)	1.90 (1H, m)
		1.62 (1H, dd, 6, 12)				1.63 (1H, m)
3	41.8 (t)	1.75 (1H, m)	41.2 (t)	1.67 (2H, m)	40.4 (t)	1.44 (1H, m)
		1.55 (1H, m)				1.67 (1H, m)
4	81.1 (s)	-	80.4 (s)	-	80.4 (s)	-
5	54.5 (d)	1.30 (1H, m)	48.5 (d)	1.19 (1H, m)	47.6 (d)	0.91 (1H, m)
6	29.9 (d)	0.45 (1H, dd, 9.0, 10.8)	28.3 (d)	0.41 (1H, t, 10.2)	25.1 (d)	0.63 (1H, m)
7	27.5 (d)	0.70 (1H, m)	26.6 (d)	0.63 (1H, m)	26.2 (d)	0.67 (1H, m)
8	24.8 (t)	1.96 (2H, m)	20.2 (t)	0.89 (1H, m)	20.5 (t)	1.83 (2H, m)
				2.05 (1H, m)		
9	38.9 (t)	2.41 (1H, dd, 6, 13.8)	44.5 (t)	1.5 (1H, m)	44.3 (t)	1.5 (1H, m)
		2.04 (1H, dd, 6, 13.8)		1.7 (1H, m)		1.72 (1H, m)
10	153.5 (s)	-	75.1 (s)	-	75.7 (s)	-
11	20.4 (s)	-	19.6 (s)	-	19.1 (s)	-
12	16.4 (q)	1.02 (3H, s)	16.5 (q)	1.02 (3H, s)	16.5 (q)	0.95 (3H, s)
13	28.7 (q)	1.04 (3H, s)	28.7 (q)	1.02 (3H, s)	29.0 (q)	1.03 (3H, s)
14	106.4 (t)	4.65 (1H, s)	20.4 (q)	1.15 (3H, s)	19.8 (q)	1.07 (3H, s)
		4.67 (1H, s)				
15	26.2 (q)	1.27 (3H, s)	24.5 (q)	1.23 (3H, s)	25.8 (q)	1.22 (3H, s)

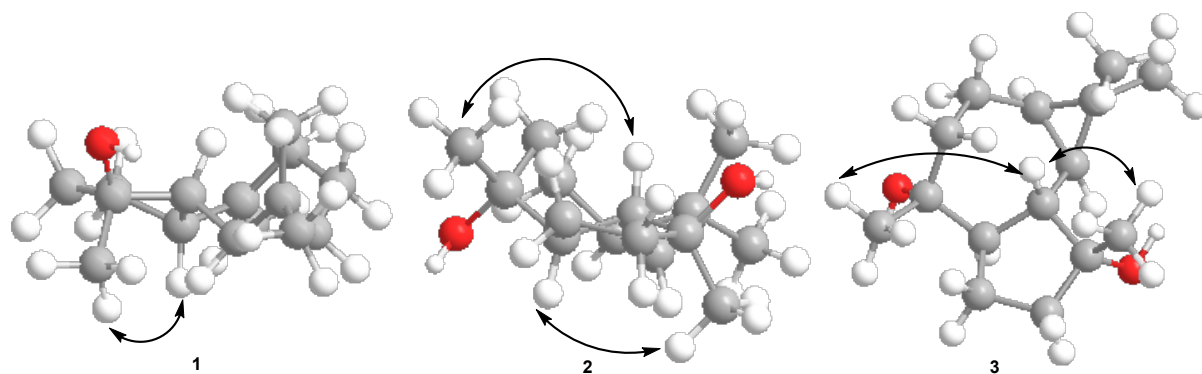


Fig 3. NOE correlations of compound 1-3

H₃-15 suggested CH₃-15 was α -oriented (Fig. 3). The detailed examination of the NMR data and comparison with those reported for spathulenol [4-5] showed that the structures of these two compounds are very similar. Therefore, the structure of compound 1 was determined to be spathulenol.

Compound 2 was obtained as a colorless oil. The molecular formula was established by HR-TOF-MS (Fig. S17) as C₁₅H₂₆O₂ from a molecular ion peak of 237.1823 ([M-H]⁺ calculated C₁₅H₂₅O₂ 237.1855) in the HR-TOF-MS, indicating three degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum (Fig. S18), showed absorption band of hydroxyl groups at 3301 cm⁻¹.

The ¹H-NMR spectrum of 2 (Fig. S10), showed signals assignable for four tertiary methyls at δ_{H} 1.02 ($\Sigma\text{H} = 6\text{H}$, CH₃-12/CH₃-13), 1.15 (CH₃-14) and 1.23 (CH₃-15). The DEPT and HMQC experiments (Fig. S12-S13) of the 15 carbon resonances in the ¹³C-NMR (Fig. S11) into four methyls, four methylenes, four methines, and three quaternary carbons (including two oxygenated quaternary carbons). The structural units of C-1, C-5, C-6, C-7, C-8, and C-9 were undoubtedly determined from the ¹H-¹H-COSY spectrum (Fig. 2 and Fig. S14) which suggested that aliphatic methine and methylene protons were part of a contiguous spin system comprising H-1, H-5, H-6, H-7, H-8, and H-9. Then the fragments of C-1, C-10 (C-14), C-9 were determined by the HMBC strong correlations (Fig. S15) from H-14 to C-1/C-10/C-9 allowed the definition of the cycloheptane unit in the molecules. The other methyl group was determined by the strong correlation between H-15 to C-3/C-4/C-5. The cyclopentane ring was supported by the HMBC correlations from H-1 to C-2/C-

3. The last two methyl groups were determined by the strong correlation from H-12 to C-13/C-11, H-13 to C-12/C-11, and H-6/H-7 to C-13, which indicated the existence of an isopropyl group located at C-11 to form cyclopropane ring which bound to cycloheptane ring. The NOESY correlations (Fig. S16) of H-1 (α -oriented) with H₃-14 and H-5 (β -oriented) with H₃-15 suggested CH₃-14 was α -oriented while CH₃-15 was β -oriented (Fig. 3). The detailed examination of the NMR spectral data and comparison with those reported for 4 β ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane [14,16] showed that the structures of these two compounds are very similar. Therefore, the structure of compound 2 was determined to be 4 β ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane.

Compound 3 was obtained as a colorless oil. The molecular formula was established by HR-TOF-MS (Fig. S26) as C₁₅H₂₆O₂ from a molecular ion peak of 261.1857 ([M+Na]⁺ calculated C₁₅H₂₆O₂Na 261.1831, indicating three degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum showed (Fig. S27) absorption band of hydroxyl groups at 3428 cm⁻¹. The ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectra of compound 3 (Fig. S19-S20) have a very similar pattern to those of compound 2, suggested that compounds 2 and 3 have the same functional group and skeleton yet different relative configuration. The ¹H-NMR spectrum compound 3 showed signals assignable for four tertiary methyls at δ_{H} 0.95 (CH₃-12), 1.03 (CH₃-13), 1.07 (CH₃-14) and 1.22 (CH₃-15). The DEPT and HMQC experiments (Fig. S21-S22) of the 15 carbon resonances in the ¹³C-NMR into four methyls, four methylenes, four methines, and three quaternary carbons (including two oxygenated quaternary carbons). The structural units of C-3, C-2,

C-1, C-5, C-6 along with C-7 and C-8 were undoubtedly determined from the ^1H - ^1H -COSY spectrum (Fig. 2 and Fig. S23) which suggested that aliphatic methine and methylene protons were part of a contiguous spin system comprising H-3, H-2, H-1, H-5, H-6, H-7 and H-8. Then the fragments of C-1, C-10 (C-14), C-9 were determined by the HMBC strong correlations (Fig. S24) from H-14 to C-1/C-10/C-9, and the correlations between H-8 to C-9 and H-9 to C-7 allowed the definition of the cycloheptane unit in the molecules. The other methyl group was determined by the strong correlation between H-15 to C-3/C-4/C-5, which allowed the cyclopentane ring among C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, and C-5. The last two methyl groups were determined by the strong correlations from H-12 to C-13/C-11, H-13 to C-12/C-11/C-6, and H-6 to C-13/C-7, which indicated the existence of an isopropyl group located at C-11 to form cyclopropane ring which bound to cycloheptane ring. The NOESY correlations (Fig. S25) of H-5 (β -oriented) with H₃-14 and H₃-15 suggested CH₃-14 and CH₃-15 was β -oriented (Fig. 3). The detailed examination of the NMR spectral data and comparison with those reported for 4 α ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane [14,16] showed that the structures of these two compounds are very similar. Therefore, the structure of compound 3 was determined to be 4 α ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane.

The cytotoxic activity of the isolated compounds 1-3 were evaluated against the MCF-7 breast cancer cell lines according to a method described in Xu et al. [20]. Cisplatin (IC₅₀ = 53 μM , the authors performed the experiments by themselves) was used as a positive control. The results are shown in Table 2. Among all aromadendrane-type sesquiterpenoid compounds, 4 α ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (3) showed the highest cytotoxic activity while spathulenol (1) showed the lowest activity. These IC₅₀ values indicated that the presence of

Table 2. Cytotoxic activity of compound 1-3 against MCF-7 breast cancer cell lines

Compounds	IC ₅₀ (μM)
Spathulenol (1)	31.65 \pm 0.1
4 β ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (2)	8.41 \pm 0.04
4 α ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (3)	2.80 \pm 0.02
Cisplatin	53

an olefinic group significantly decreasing the cytotoxic activity, while compared to compound 2, the α -oriented hydroxyl group increasing the cytotoxic activity. These results suggested that the relative configuration of hydroxyl group and olefinic group played some important structural features for cytotoxic activity in aromadendrane-type sesquiterpenoid.

CONCLUSION

Three aromadendrane-type sesquiterpenoid compounds, spathulenol (1), 4 β ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (2), and 4 α ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (3) were isolated from *n*-hexane and ethyl acetate extract of the stem bark of *A. harmsiana*. All these three compounds were reported from *A. harmsiana* for the first time while 4 α ,10 α -dihydroxyaromadendrane (3) itself was isolated from genus *Aglaiia* for the first time. Compound 1-3 were evaluated for their cytotoxic activity against MCF-7 breast cancer cell lines. Among the aromadendrane-type sesquiterpenoids, compound 3 showed the highest activity because the α -oriented hydroxyl group and compound 1 showed the lowest activity because of the presence of an olefinic group, indicated that the relative configuration of the hydroxyl group and the olefinic group played some important structural features for cytotoxic activity in aromadendrane-type sesquiterpenoid.

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