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## Liver X Receptor and Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor Agonist from *Cornus alternifolia*

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### Abstract

**Background**—Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (PPARs) belong to the nuclear receptors superfamily and are transcription factors activated by specific ligands. Liver X receptors (LXR) belong to the nuclear hormone receptors and have been shown to play an important role in cholesterol homeostasis. From the previous screening of several medicinal plants for potential partial PPAR $\gamma$  agonists, the extracts of *Cornus alternifolia* were found to exhibit promising bioactivity. In this paper, we report the isolation and structural elucidation of four new compounds and their potential as ligands for PPAR.

**Methods**—The new compounds were extracted from the leaves of *Cornus alternifolia* and fractionated by high-performance liquid chromatography. Their structures were elucidated on the basis of spectroscopic evidence and analysis of their hydrolysis products.

**Results**—Three new iridoid glycosides including an iridolactone, alternosides A-C (**1–3**), a new megastigmane glycoside, cornalternoside (**4**) and 10 known compounds, were obtained from the leaves of *Cornus alternifolia*. Kaempferol-3-*O*- $\beta$ -glucopyranoside (**5**) exhibited potent agonistic activities for PPAR $\alpha$ , PPAR $\gamma$  and LXR with EC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.62, 3.0 and 1.8  $\mu$  M, respectively.

**Conclusions**—We isolated four new and ten known compounds from *Cornus alternifolia*, and one known compound showed agonistic activities for PPAR $\alpha$ , PPAR $\gamma$  and LXR.

**General significance**—Compound **1** is the first example of a naturally occurring iridoid glycoside containing a  $\beta$ -glucopyranoside moiety at C-6.

### Keywords

Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors; Liver X receptors; *Cornus alternifolia*; Iridoid glycosides

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## 1. Introduction

Type II diabetes is a complex, metabolic disorder characterized by hyperglycemia and subsequent chronic complications leading to renal failure, blindness and coronary artery disease. Hyperglycemia in type II diabetes is caused by increased insulin resistance and impaired insulin secretion from the pancreas [1]. The conventional approach to treat type II diabetes focuses on the control of blood glucose levels in order to reduce the incidence of the microvascular and macrovascular complications associated with high levels of blood glucose. Liver X receptors (LXRs) are members of a superfamily of nuclear hormone receptors represented by two subtypes, LXR $\alpha$  and LXR $\beta$ . These receptors are differentially expressed and have been shown to play a role in cholesterol homeostasis [2]. Activation of LXRs induces reverse cholesterol transport and increases high-density lipoprotein cholesterol [3]. On the other hand, the peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (PPARs) are members of the nuclear receptor superfamily of ligand-dependent transcription factors with three isoforms named  $\alpha$ ,  $\gamma$  and  $\delta$ . These receptors play a pivotal role in regulating the expression of a large number of genes involved in lipid metabolism and energy balance. PPAR $\alpha$  is highly expressed in metabolically active tissues such as the liver, heart and muscle. Activation of PPAR $\alpha$  decreases the serum triglyceride level and increases the HDL-c level. PPAR $\gamma$  is expressed predominantly in adipose tissue. Activation of PPAR $\gamma$  increases the insulin sensitivity, promotes the differentiation of lipocytes and retards the occurrence of complications [4,5]. The currently available PPAR agonists aimed at diabetes are known as thiazolidinediones or “glitazones”. These include pioglitazone (brand name Actos) and rosiglitazone (Avandia). These drugs are known to increase the sensitivity of the body’s tissues to the action of insulin. Researchers now recognize that the thiazolidinediones exert this effect by binding to and activating PPAR $\gamma$ . Furthermore, these drugs may inhibit certain proteins in the blood vessel walls called chemokines, which attract inflammatory cells and thus promote atherosclerosis. Researchers have also come to realize that certain drugs called fibrates may work to lower levels of triglycerides (a blood fat) and raise levels of high-density lipoprotein (HDL, or “good”) cholesterol in part by activating PPAR-alpha [6].

*Cornus alternifolia* L. f. (Cornaceae) is a tree widely distributed in the northern hemisphere including eastern Asia and eastern and northern parts of the United States [7]. *C. alternifolia* is widely grown as an ornamental plant throughout the United States for its characteristic brilliant, colorful, and attractive flowers and fruits. Extracts of the plant have been used traditionally in Chinese herbal medicine as tonics, analgesic and diuretic drugs [8]. Previous phytochemical investigations have revealed that the major chemical constituents of this plant are anthocyanins [8,9] which impart bright colors to fruits and vegetables and are responsible for antioxidant, anti-inflammatory [10], anti-cancer [11] and anti-diabetic activities [12]. An investigation of natural products for discovery of nuclear receptor activators we found that an extract of *C. alternifolia* acted as an agonistic towards PPAR and LXR receptors. The aim of the present study was to explore the structurally unique and biologically active compounds from this plant. Here we report the isolation and structure elucidation of new iridoid glycosides (**1–3**), named alternosides A-C, and a new megastigmane glycoside (**4**), named cornalternoside (Fig. 1). Alternoside A (**1**) represents the first example of naturally occurring iridoid glycoside with a  $\beta$ -glucopyranoside moiety at C-6. The LXR and PPAR agonistic activities of these compounds are evaluated using a cell-based reporter gene assay.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Materials

Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO DIP-370 digital polarimeter equipped with a halogen lamp (589 nm) and a 10 mm microcell. IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet Magna-IR 750 spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were acquired with a Bruker Avance 400 spectrometer using solvent signals (Methanol- $d_4$ ;  $\delta_H$  4.78/ $\delta_C$  49.15) as references. The ESI-HRMS data were obtained using an Agilent 1100 series TOF MS with electrospray ionization. Preparative HPLC was carried out using Agilent 1100 Series with Shim-park RP-C18 column (20 × 200 mm) and 1100 Series Multiple Wavelength detector.

The leaves of *Cornus alternifolia* were collected in Oxford, Mississippi, in September 2008 and voucher specimens (UM-2008008) were deposited at the Pullen Herbarium.

### 2.2. Extraction and isolation

The dried leaves of *C. alternifolia* (6.0 kg) were extracted with 90% methanol and dried in vacuo to provide a crude extract. The crude extract (200 g) was sequentially separated on silica gel eluted by a step gradient of hexanes-ethyl acetate (100:0, 80:20, 50:50 and 0:100) and ethyl acetate-methanol mixtures (80:20, 50:50 and 0:100) to afford seven fractions (A–G). Fractions E and F exhibited moderate PPAR $\alpha/\gamma$  and LXR agonistic activities. Fr. E (16 g) was chromatographed on reversed-phase C<sub>18</sub> silica gel eluting successively with a gradient of H<sub>2</sub>O/methanol (1:0 to 0:1) to give five sub-fractions (Fr. E<sub>1</sub>–E<sub>5</sub>). E<sub>2</sub> was further chromatographed on a silica gel eluted with chloroform/methanol in gradient (1:0 to 1:1) to obtain five sub-fractions (Fr. E<sub>2a</sub>–E<sub>2e</sub>), then Fr. E<sub>2c</sub> was separated by reversed-phase HPLC [Shim-park RP-C18 column; 5  $\mu$  m; 20 × 250 mm; step gradient from 35% methanol in H<sub>2</sub>O (0.02% HCOOH) to 50% methanol in H<sub>2</sub>O (0.02% HCOOH) for 90 min, 9 mL/min] to give **2** (4 mg,  $t_R$  49.6 min), **3** (2 mg,  $t_R$  61.7 min) and **4** (5 mg,  $t_R$  30.5 min). Fr. F (65 g) was chromatographed over a silica gel column by eluting with chloroform/methanol (5:1 to 1:2) to give eight sub-fractions (Fr. F<sub>1</sub>–F<sub>8</sub>). Fr. F<sub>6</sub> was separated on preparative RP HPLC from 20% methanol in H<sub>2</sub>O to 35% methanol in H<sub>2</sub>O for 40 min, and followed by 35–65% methanol in H<sub>2</sub>O for 20 min, 12 mL/min) to afford nine sub-fractions (Fr. F<sub>6a</sub>–F<sub>6i</sub>), then Fr. F<sub>6g</sub> was purified by RP HPLC (Polar-C8; 5  $\mu$  m; 10 × 250 mm; 20–35% methanol in H<sub>2</sub>O for 90 min, 3 mL/min) to give **1** (10 mg).

**Alternoside A (1)**—white amorphous powder; mp 96–98 °C;

$[\alpha]_D^{28} +57.1$  ( $c$  0.028, acetone); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 3389, 2914, 1720, 1160, 1072, 1039  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; NMR data (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ , 25 °C, TMS): see Table 1; ESI-HRMS  $m/z$  413.1432 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>10</sub>Na, 413.1418).

**Alternoside B (2)**—colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{28} +196.0$  ( $c$  0.097, MeOH); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 3340, 1631, 1170, 1076, 760  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; NMR data (400 MHz, MeOD- $d_4$ , 25 °C, TMS): see Table 1; ESI-HRMS  $m/z$  557.1650 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>12</sub>Na, 557.1630).

**Alternoside C (3)**—colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{28} +190.0$  ( $c$  0.097, MeOH); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 3337, 1631, 1173, 1075, 764  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; NMR data (400 MHz, MeOD- $d_4$ , 25 °C, TMS): see Table 2; ESI-HRMS  $m/z$  557.1623 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>12</sub>Na, 557.1630).

**Alternoside D (4)**—colorless amorphous powder; mp 113–115 °C;

$[\alpha]_D^{28} -60$  ( $c$  0.097, MeOH); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ : 3337, 1631, 1173, 1075, 764  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; NMR data (400 MHz, MeOD- $d_4$ , 25 °C, TMS): see Table 2; ESI-HRMS  $m/z$  395.2078 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na, 395.2077).

### 2.3. Acid Hydrolysis and Determination of the Sugar Configuration

Alternoside A (**1**) (2 mg) was hydrolyzed by heating in 1 M HCl (0.4 mL) at 100 °C for 2 h under an Ar atmosphere and neutralized with amberlite IR 400. After drying in vacuo, the residue was dissolved in pyridine (0.4 mL) containing L-cysteine ethyl ester hydrochloride (2 mg) and heated at 60 °C for 1 h. A 0.4 ml solution of 3, 5-dichlorophenyl isothiocyanate (2 mg) in pyridine was added to the mixture, which was heated at 60 °C for 1 h. The reaction mixture was directly analyzed by analytical HPLC (Shim-park RP-C18 column; 5  $\mu$  m; 4.6  $\times$  250 mm) column by eluting with a gradient of 30–80% acetonitrile in H<sub>2</sub>O + 0.02% HCOOH for 40 min and subsequent washing of the column with 100% acetonitrile at a flow rate 0.8 mL/min. In the acid hydrolysate of **1**, D-glucose was confirmed by comparison of the retention times of their derivatives with those of D-glucose and L-glucose derivatives prepared in the same way which showed retention times of 34.8 and 34.0 min, respectively. Sugars in **2–4** were also identified by the same method.

### 2.4 Determination of PPAR $\alpha$ / $\gamma$ and LXR agonistic activities

Cell-based luciferase reporter gene assays were used to evaluate PPAR $\alpha$ / $\gamma$  and LXR agonistic activities of compounds as described previously [13–15]. Human hepatoma (HepG2) cells and Chinese hamster ovary cells (CHO) cells were cultured in DMEM/Ham's F12 medium supplemented with FBS (10%) and antibiotics (penicillin G sodium 100 U/mL and streptomycin 100  $\mu$ g/mL) at 37 °C in an atmosphere of 95% humidity and 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. At about 75% confluence, cells were harvested by trypsinization and transfected with firefly luciferase reporter gene constructs containing PPAR $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$ , and peroxisome proliferator response element (PPARE) in HepG2 cells and CHO cells, respectively. Briefly, 25  $\mu$ g of DNA plasmids was added to 500  $\mu$ L cell suspension ( $5 \times 10^6$  cells) and incubated for 5 min at room temperature in BTX disposable cuvettes (4 mm gap). The cells were electroporated at 150 V (HepG2 cells) or 155 V (CHO cells) and a single 70 ms pulse in a BTX Electro Square Porator T 820 (BTX I, San Diego, CA). Transfected cells were plated in 96-well plate at a density of  $5 \times 10^4$  cells/well and grown for 24 h. The cells were treated with different concentrations of test compounds for 24 h followed by addition of 40  $\mu$ L 1:1 mixture of Luc-Lite reagent and PBS containing 1 mmol calcium and magnesium. Luciferase activity was determined in terms of light output measured on a TopCount microplate reader (Packard Instrument Co. Meriden, CT) in a single photon counting mode. The pSV- $\beta$ -galactosidase control plasmid (Promega, USA) was used to normalize the transfection efficiencies.

For LXR agonistic activity,  $5 \times 10^6$  of CHO cells were harvested and transiently transfected with the reporter gene constructs LXR and LXRE using electroporation (155 V, 70 mV, 1 pulse). After transfection, cells were transferred into 96 well microtiter plates and cultured for 24 h. Cells were washed once with Ham's F12 basic medium and were cultured in Ham's F12 medium with 5% newborn calf lipoprotein deficient serum (NCLDS) and 20  $\mu$ g/mL of LDL. Drug treatment and luciferase assays were identical to PPAR assay. EC<sub>50</sub> values were calculated using Microsoft Excel software. The ciprofibrate, ciglitazone and 25-hydroxyl-cholesterol were used as positive control for PPAR $\alpha$ , PPAR $\gamma$  and LXR respectively.

## 3. Results and discussion

A 90% methanol extract of the dried leaves of *C. alternifolia* (6 kg) was sequentially separated on silica gel eluted by a gradient of hexanes-ethyl acetate (100:0, 80:20, 50:50 and 0:100) and ethyl acetate-methanol mixtures (80:20, 50:50 and 0:100) to afford seven fractions (A-G). Bioassay-guided fractionation of fractions D and E were further

chromatographed over a silica gel and then a series of HPLC separations on C-18 and C-8 silica gel to yield compounds (**1–4**).

Alternoside A (**1**) was isolated as a white amorphous powder. Its molecular formula was deduced to be C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>10</sub>, with five degrees of unsaturation, from an ion *m/z* 413.1432 (ESI-HRMS). The IR spectrum exhibited broad absorption for multiple OH groups (3388 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and a lactone carbonyl (1720 cm<sup>-1</sup>) functionality. Analysis of the <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopic data (see Table 1) indicated signals for one glucose moiety, a carbomethoxy group, an oxymethine, four other methines, an oxymethylene, a methylene and a methyl. The signals at δ<sub>C</sub> 104.6, 76.9, 76.2, 73.7, 70.0 and 61.0 were characteristic for a β-glucopyranosyl moiety [16].

These data and a lactone carbonyl (δ<sub>C</sub> 171.0) led to the preliminary conclusion that the molecular skeleton of compound **1** was similar to jataminin G [17]. Analysis of the <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY spectrum of **1** showed the presence of two spin systems involving the protons at C-9, C-5, C-6, C-7, C-10 and C-5, C-4, and C-3. Further analysis of HMQC and HMBC NMR data (see Figure S29 in the supporting information) allowed assignment of all proton and carbon signals. Key HMBC correlations from Me-8 to C-8, C-7, and C-9, and from both H-5 and H-3a to C-1 established the planar structure of **1**. Furthermore, HMBC correlation from H-1' to C-6 confirmed the glucosylation at C-6.

The relative configuration of compound **1** was determined by comparison of chemical shifts and coupling constants to the literature data and by analysis of NOESY correlations (Figure S30 in the supporting information). The relationship of H-5 to H-9 was determined to be *cis* from the coupling constant (10.4 Hz), which is larger in *trans*-fused iridoids (~ 12–13 Hz). Assuming the usual iridoid glucoside, the configuration of H-5 and H-9 is β [18]. The quasi-equatorial positions of both H-4 and H-6 were confirmed by the small coupling constants of *J*<sub>H4,H3ax</sub> 5.5 Hz, and *J*<sub>H4,H3ex</sub> 8.4 Hz, *J*<sub>H7,H7ax</sub> 5.5 Hz and *J*<sub>H6,H7ex</sub> 12.5 Hz [17], respectively. This assignment was also supported by NOESY correlations from the H-5 to H-4 and H-6, H-6 to H<sub>β</sub>-7 and H-9, and H<sub>β</sub>-7 to Me-10. Thus, the structure of **1** was characterized as (4*S*,5*R*,6*S*,8*S*,9*R*)-nepetalactone-6-*O*-β-D-glucopyranoside.

6-Glucosyl-substituted iridolactones are rare. A few iridolactones have been reported from species of the genera *Valeriana* [17] and *Patrinia* [19]. However, they typically lack a glucosyl moiety or have a glucosyl moiety at position 7 or 8. Thus, **1** is the first reported iridoid glucoside with a 6-*O*-β-D-glucopyranosyl moiety.

Alternoside B (**2**) was isolated as colorless oil with the molecular formula C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>12</sub>, as determined by ESI-HRMS. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data (Table 1) of **2** were similar to those of cormin [20] except for the presence of new signals in the aromatic region consistent with a *p*-substituted phenylpropanoid. In the HMBC spectrum of **2**, the correlation between the methyl proton at δ<sub>H</sub> 3.48 (MeO-11) and the carbonyl carbon at δ<sub>C</sub> 168.6 (C-11) confirmed that the methyl group was part of a methyl ester at C-4 (δ<sub>C</sub> 106.4). Thus, the phenylpropanoid moiety was shown to be a *p*-coumaroyl ester and not a *p*-methoxycinnamoyl ester. The coupling constant (12.8 Hz) between H-α and H-β indicated that it was the *Z* isomer of the *p*-coumaroyl ester. The ester was located at C-2' of the glucosyl moiety on the basis of the downfield signal of H-2' (δ<sub>H</sub> 4.72 ppm) in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and a clear <sup>3</sup>JHMBC correlations of H-2' to carbonyl carbon of the *p*-coumaroyl. The glucosyl moiety at C-1 (δ<sub>C</sub> 95.6) was confirmed by the HMBC correlation from H-1' to C-1. The relative configuration of **2** was confirmed as described for **1**. Furthermore, correlations from H-1 to H-8 and H-8 to H<sub>α</sub>-7 revealed that those protons adopted α orientation. Thus, alternoside B (**2**) was determined to be 2'-*O*-*Z*-*p*-coumaroyl-cornin.



Alternoside C (**3**) was shown to have the same molecular formula as **2**, C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>12</sub>, by the ESI-HRMS. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data (see Table 2) of **3** coincided well with those of **2** except for the coupling constant (17.0 Hz) of H- $\alpha$  and H- $\beta$  of *p*-coumaryl, indicated the *E* isomer of the *p*-coumaryl group. Hence, compound **3** was identified as 2'-*O-E-p*-coumaryl-cornin.

Cornoside E (**4**) was obtained as colorless amorphous powder. Its molecular formula of C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>7</sub> was determined by the ESI-HRMS. The IR absorption band at 3327.0 and 1637.7 cm<sup>-1</sup> suggested the presence of hydroxyl and ketone group. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (see Table 2) of **4** showed signals for a  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl unit. The chemical shifts of the remaining 13 peaks in <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum indicated a megastigmane aglucone, and the presence of a carbonyl signal at  $\delta_C$  214.1 suggested a structure similar to that of (5*S*,6*R*)-9-hydroxymegastigm-7-en-3-one [21] except for the coupling constant between H-7 and H-8 changed from 15.4 Hz to 5.1 Hz for compound **4**, which indicated the aglycone of **4** to be a 9-hydroxymegastigm-7-*Z*-en-3-one. The relative configuration of **4** was assigned using the NOESY experiment. Correlations from H-5 to CH<sub>3</sub>-11 suggested that both H-5 and CH<sub>3</sub>-11 had axial orientation, while the cross-peaks between H-7 and CH<sub>3</sub>-11, H-5 indicated the side chain must be in the equatorial orientation [22]. Configuration at C-9 was assigned to be *S* on the basis of the <sup>13</sup>C NMR signal at  $\delta_C$  75.1 ( $\delta_C$  77.0 for C-9 in *R*-form and  $\delta_C$  74.7 for C-9 in *S*-form) [23]. The absolute configuration of C-5, 6 was not determined. This finding suggested that **4** was (5*\*R*,6*S\**,9*S*,7*Z*)-megastigmane-3-one-7-en-9-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside.

The monosaccharides for compounds **1–4**, were obtained after acid hydrolysis of each compound and identified as glucose by LC-MS comparison with an authentic sample. The D absolute configuration of glucose was confirmed by LC-MS analysis of chiral derivatives from the hydrolysate (see Experimental Section). The relatively large coupling constants (6.0–8.0 Hz) for the anomeric protons in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (in Tables 1 and 2) of these compounds suggested that the glucopyranosyl moieties have a  $\beta$ -configuration.

The new compound **1** and the known compounds 8-epihastatoside [16], olean-12-en-28-oic acid [24], arjungenin [25], kaempferol-3-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside [26], and ellagic acid-4-*O*- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranoside-3,3'-dimethyl ether [27] were evaluated for agonistic activity for PPAR- $\alpha/\gamma$  and LXR (Fig. 2). The results indicated that kaempferol-3-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside showed significant activity for PPAR $\alpha$ , PPAR $\gamma$  and LXR with the EC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.62, 3.0 and 1.8  $\mu$ M respectively. Compounds olean-12-en-28-oic acid, and ellagic acid-4-*O*- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranoside-3,3'-dimethyl ether showed moderate agonistic activity for PPAR $\alpha$  and LXR. Arjungenin showed moderate selective activity for PPAR $\alpha$ ; however, compound **1** and 8-epihastatoside showed only weak activity on LXR and no activity for PPAR- $\alpha/\gamma$ . The other compounds revealed no activity for PPAR- $\alpha/\gamma$  nor LXR at the maximum concentration of 30  $\mu$ M. A luciferase construct with binding sites for Sp-1 was used as a control. The above compounds showed no activation or inhibiting activity on Sp-1 (data not shown). These results suggest that kaempferol-3-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside has potential for the treatment of diabetes and further investigations are warranted.

Kaempferol-3-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside is an important chemotaxonomic marker and occurs widely in food plants such as blank beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.; yield of 0.185%), which are widely consumed throughout the world [28]. *Jussiaea repens* L. [29] and other edible medicinal herbs, such as *Eucommia ulmoides* [30], *Rubus ulmifolius* [31], *Pistacia integerrioma* [32], and *Rosa canina* [33] provide much lower yields of 0.00193%, 0.00045%, 0.00044%, 0.00193% and 0.00089%, respectively. Kaempferol-3-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside has also been found to have a mild inhibiting effect on the proliferation of HepG2 cells with an EC<sub>50</sub> value of 306.4  $\pm$  131.3  $\mu$ M [28] and significant glycation inhibitory activity of bovine serum albumin (BSA) with an IC<sub>50</sub> value of 0.32  $\mu$ M [30], DPPH radical scavenging

activity ( $IC_{50} = 86.10 \mu M$ ) and xanthine oxidase inhibitory activity ( $IC_{50} = 21.20 \mu M$ ) [32] potential effects to reduce the gain of body weight and visceral fat [33] the ONOO<sup>-</sup> scavenging activity (inhibitory activity of authentic peroxynitrite) with  $IC_{50}$  values of  $6.98 \pm 0.37 \mu M$  [34]. Furthermore, kaempferol-3-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside moiety has been found to be essential for the bioactivity and effect of the flavonol glycosides on the inhibition of tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ) production, decreased sensitivity of hepatocytes to TNF- $\alpha$ , and on the protection of hepatocytes against D-galactosamine (D-GalN) [35].

## Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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### Highlights

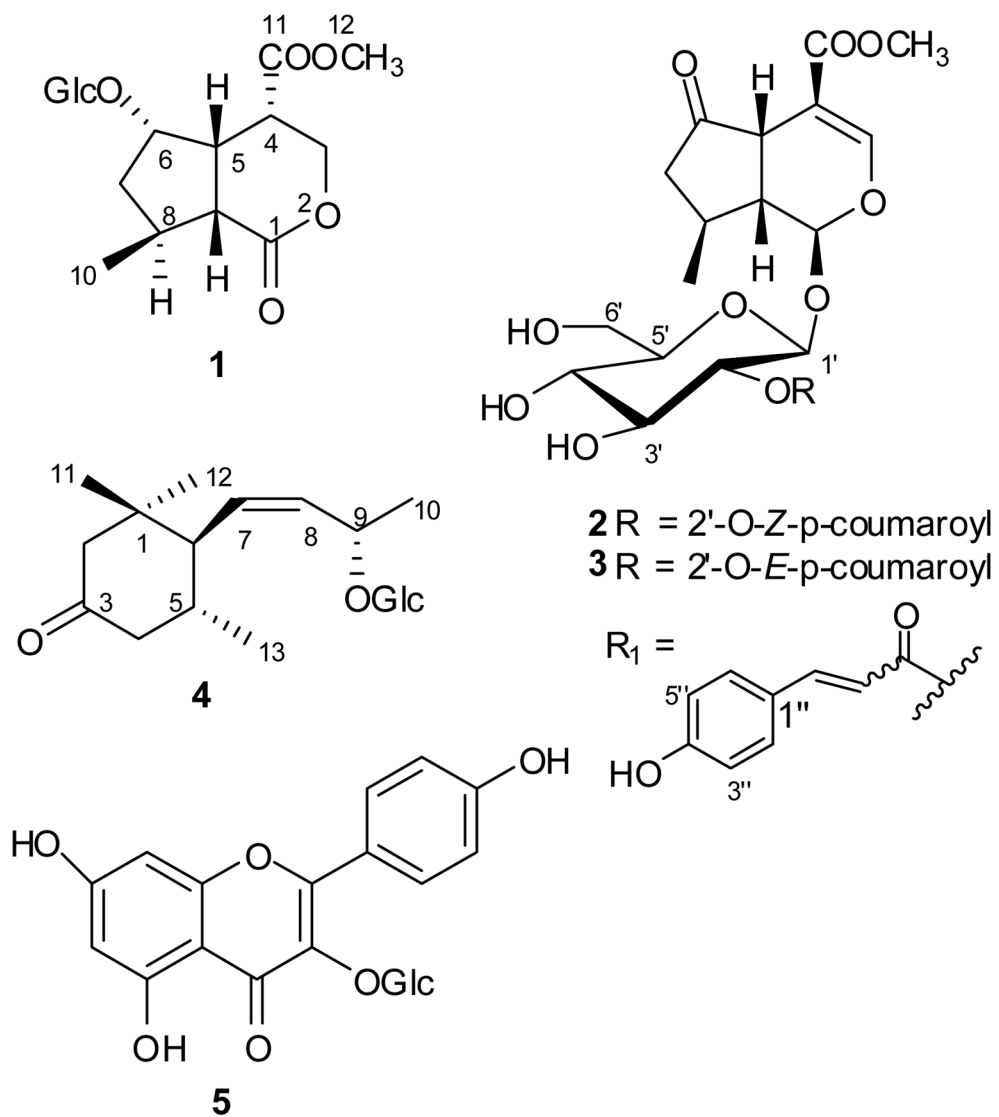
The metabolites isolated show potential active agonists for PPAR and LXR receptors.

Four new natural products **1–4** were isolated from the leaves of *Cornus alternifolia*.

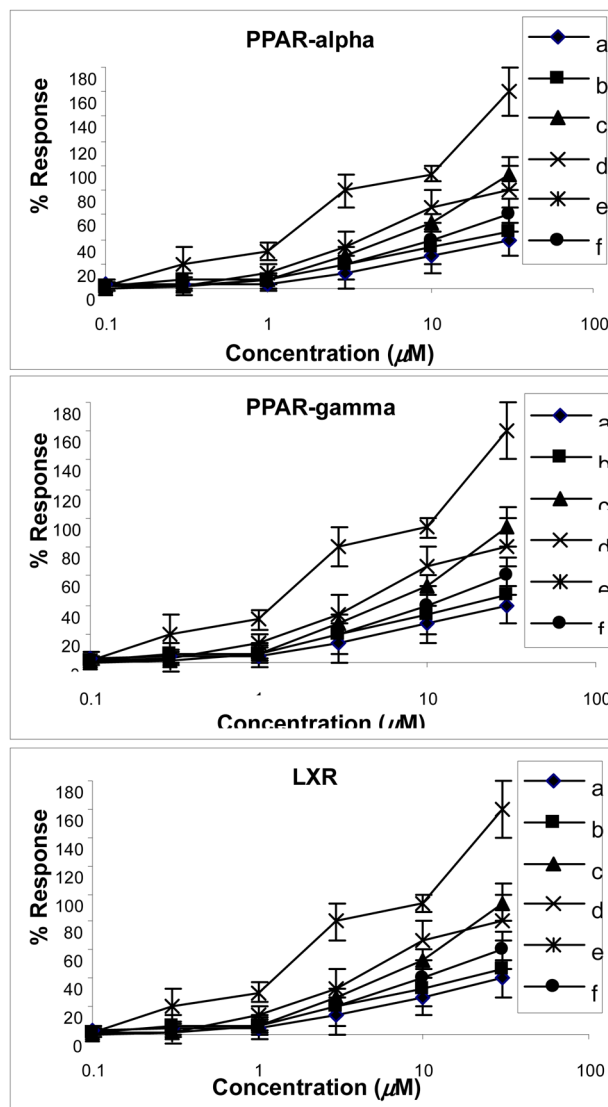
Metabolite **1** is the first iridoid glycoside containing a  $\beta$ -glucopyranoside at C-6.

Metabolite **5** showed potent agonistic activities for PPAR $\alpha$ , PPAR $\gamma$  and LXR.

The results presented can be used for further synthetic and pharmacological studies.



**Fig. 1.**  
Structures of compounds 1–5 isolated from *Cornus alternifolia*.



**Fig. 2.** Effects of iridoid and megastigmane glycosides from *Cornus alternifolia* on PPAR $\alpha$ , PPAR $\gamma$  and LXR. Results were expressed as percent response of ciprofibrate (30  $\mu\text{M}$ ), ciglitazone (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and 25-hydroxyl-cholesterol (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ), respectively, with respect to luciferase activity assessed by light production. Data were obtained from 3 experiments in duplicate. a: alternoside A, b: 8-epihastatoside, c: olean-12-en-oic acid, d: arjungenin, e: kaempferol-3-O- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside, f: 4-O- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranoside-3,3'-dimethyl ether.

Table 1

NMR Data of **1** (DMSO- $d_6$ ) and **2** (MeOD- $d_4$ ), Measured at 400 MHz ( $^1\text{H}$ ) and 100 MHz ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ),  $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz..

no.	1				2			
	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	HMBC	NOESY	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	HMBC	NOESY
1		171.0	H9, H3 $\beta$		5.31 d (4.8)	96.5	H1', H3, H9	H8
3a	4.28 dd (10.4, 5.5)	69.5		H4, H5, H3 $\alpha$	7.28 s	153.1	H1, H5	
3b	4.07 dd (10.4, 8.4)			H3 $\beta$				
4	1.95 m	43.3	H3 $\alpha$ , H3 $\beta$	H5, H3 $\beta$		106.3	H3, H5	
5	2.89 ddd (5.1, 10.8, 15.6)	42.9	H9	H4, H6, H9	3.29 d (7.2)	43.8	H1, H3	H7 $\beta$ , H9, H10
6	3.99 m	81.5	H1', H9	H5, H7 $\beta$ , H9		215.9		
7a	2.16 dd (5.5, 12.5)	42.7	H10	H6	2.42 dd (8.4, 18.7)	44.6	H10	H8
7b	1.36 ddd (3.1, 12.5, 14.9)			H6	1.89 dd (7.7, 18.7)			H8, H10
8	1.86 m	33.7	H10	H12, H7 $\alpha$	2.23 m	30.7	H1, H5, H7 $\alpha$ , $\beta$ , H-10	H1, H7 $\alpha$ , H10
9	4.23 dd (3.9, 10.4)	45.1	H5	H5	2.14 ddd (4.8, 7.0, 11.9)	46.6	H5, H7 $\alpha$ , $\beta$ , H8, H10	H5, H7 $\alpha$
10	1.02 d (6.4)	18.6		H7 $\beta$ , H8	1.14 d (6.7)	20.0	H7 $\alpha$ , $\beta$ , H8, H9	H5, H7 $\alpha$ , $\beta$ , H8
11		169.1	H12			168.6	H3, H12	
1'	3.97 d (7.5)	104.6	H2'	H2'	4.78 d (8.5)	98.6	H1, H2'	
2'	2.95 dd (8.4, 16.2)	73.7		H1', H3'	4.72 m	74.4	H3'	
3'	3.09 dd (8.2, 16.9)	76.2	H2'	H2'	3.48 dd (4.8, 17.8)	76.0	H2'	
4'	3.01 dd (9.4, 16.9)	70.0	H3'	H6'	3.30 dd (1.5, 5.5)	71.8	H3'	
5'	3.03 dd (8.7, 16.9)	76.9	H4'	H6', H1'	3.30 dd (1.5, 5.5)	78.7	H1', H6' $\alpha$ , H4'	
6a'	3.63 d (12.0)	61.0			3.87 d (11.8)	62.8	H5'	
6b'	3.41 dd (5.0, 11.6)				3.61 dd (4.3, 10.4)			
$\alpha$					5.65 d (12.8)	116.4		H $\beta$
$\beta$					6.79 d (12.8)	145.8	H2'', H $\alpha$	H $\alpha$
1''					7.61 d (8.7)	127.7	H3'', H5'', H $\alpha$	
2''					6.68 d (8.7)	134.2	H6'', H $\beta$	H3''
3''						115.9	H2'', H5''	H2''
4''						160.3	H2'', H3'', H6''	
5''					6.68 d (8.7)	115.9	H3'', H6''	H6''
6''					7.61 d (8.7)	134.2	H3'', H $\beta$	H5''



no.	1				2			
	$\delta_H$	$\delta_C$	HMBC	NOESY	$\delta_H$	$\delta_C$	HMBC	NOESY
O	3.62 s				3.48 s	52.0		
Me-CO						167.0	H2', Ho, $\beta$	

Table 2

NMR Data of **3** and **4**. Both measured at 400 MHz ( $^1\text{H}$ ) and 100 MHz ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ) in MeOD- $d_4$ .  $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz..

no.	3				4			
	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	HMBC	NOESY	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	HMBC	NOESY
1	5.43 d (3.4)	95.6	H1', H3	H8		39.4	H2 $\alpha$ , $\beta$ , H11, H12	
2a					2.37 d (20.9)	56.7	H11, H12	H11
2b					1.98 d (2.3)			H11, H12
3	7.24 s	152.7	H1, H5			214.1	H2 $\alpha$ , $\beta$	
4a		106.4	H3, H5		2.27 m	50.1	H13	H5, H13
4b					2.10 m			H13
5	3.20 d (7.2)	43.8	H1, H3		1.92 m	34.8	H4 $\alpha$ , H13	H4 $\beta$ , H11
6		214.8	H5, H7 $\alpha$ , $\beta$		1.91 m	58.1	H5, H7	H12, H13
7a	2.42 dd (8.3, 18.5)	45.0	H10	H8	5.45 dd (3.2, 6.4)	134.1		H6, H10, H11
7b	1.89 dd (8.1, 17.6)			H8, H10				
8	2.16 m	30.9	H1, H5, H10	H1, H7 $\alpha$ , H10	5.44 dd (3.2, 6.4)	136.8	H10	H1', H9
9	2.12 m	47.1	H7 $\beta$		4.43 m	75.1	H1', H8, H10	H8, H10
10	1.13 d (6.3)	19.6	H7 $\alpha$ , $\beta$ , H8, H9	H5, H7 $\alpha$ , $\beta$ , H8	1.23 d (6.3)	22.6		H8, H11
11		168.1	H3, H12		0.91 s	31.1		H2 $\alpha$ , $\beta$ , H5, H7, H10
12					0.74 s	21.6		H6, H7, H13
13					0.94 d (6.4)	22.3		H6
1'	4.81 m	98.4	H1, H2'		4.32 d (7.7)	101.0	H2'	
2'	4.75 m	74.4	H3'		3.14 m	75.1	H1'	
3'	3.55 dd (9.5, 17.9)	76.0	H2'		3.23 m	78.3	H2'	
4'	3.32 m	71.8	H3'		3.22 m	71.8		
5'	3.34 m	78.8	H4'		3.13 m	78.4	H1'	
6a'	3.88 d (10.4)	62.8	H5'		3.80 dd (2.1, 11.9)	63.0		
6b'	3.63 dd (6.1, 11.8)				3.58 dd (6.0, 11.9)			
$\alpha$	6.21 d (17.0)	115.0	H $\beta$	H $\beta$				
$\beta$	7.53 d (17.0)	146.9	H2'', H6''	H $\alpha$				
1''		127.4	H3'', H5'', H $\alpha$					
2''	7.40 d (8.6)	131.5	H6'', H $\beta$	H3''				

no.	3				4			
	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	HMBC	NOESY	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	HMBC	NOESY
3''	6.75 d (8.6)	117.0	H5''	H2''				
4''		161.5	H2'', H6''					
5''	6.75 d (8.6)	117.0	H3''	H6''				
6''	7.40 d (8.6)	131.5	H2'', H $\beta$	H5''				
O	3.19 s	51.9						
Me-CO		168.0	H2', H $\alpha$ , $\beta$					