

HHS Public Access

Author manuscript Phytochemistry. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2016 May 27.

Published in final edited form as:

Phytochemistry. 2015 September ; 117: 194–199. doi:10.1016/j.phytochem.2015.04.007.

Minor oxygenated cannabinoids from high potency Cannabis sativa L

 S afwat A. Ahmed^{a,b}, Samir A. Ross^{a,c,*}, Desmond Slade^a, Mohamed M. Radwan^{a,d}, Ikhlas A. **Khan**a,c, and **Mahmoud A. ElSohly**a,e,*

aNational Center for Natural Products Research, School of Pharmacy, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677, United States

^bDepartment of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Suez Canal University, Ismailia, Egypt

^cDepartment of Pharmacognosy, School of Pharmacy, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677, United States

^dDepartment of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy, Alexandria University, Alexendria, Egypt

^eDepartment of Pharmaceutics, School of Pharmacy, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677, United States

Abstract

Nine oxygenated cannabinoids were isolated from a high potency *Cannabis sativa* L. variety. Structure elucidation was achieved using spectroscopic techniques, including 1D and 2D NMR, HRMS and GC–MS. These minor compounds include four hexahydrocannabinols, four tetrahydrocannabinols, and one hydroxylated cannabinol, namely 9αhydroxyhexahydrocannabinol, 7-oxo-9α-hydroxyhexa-hydrocannabinol, 10αhydroxyhexahydrocannabinol, 10aR-hydroxyhexahydrocannabinol, ⁹-THC aldehyde A, 8-oxo-

⁹-THC, 10aα-hydroxy-10-oxo-⁸-THC, 9α-hydroxy-10-oxo-^{6a,10a}-THC, and 1'Shydroxycannabinol, respectively. The latter compound showed moderate anti-MRSa $(IC_{50} 10.0 \mu g$ / mL), moderate antileishmanial (IC_{50} 14.0 μ g/mL) and mild antimalarial activity against *Plasmodium falciparum* (D6 clone) and *P. falciparum* (W2 clone) with IC_{50} values of 3.4 and 2.3 μg/mL, respectively.

Keywords

Cananbis; Cannabis sativa; Cannabaceae; High potency; Oxygenated cannabinoids; Anti-bacterial; Anti-leishmanial; Anti-malarial

1. Introduction

Cannabinoids are the most distinctive and specific class of compounds known to exist only in the cannabis plant, which are responsible for the majority of the biological activities of the

^{*}Corresponding authors at: National Center for Natural Products Research, School of Pharmacy, The University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677, United States. Tel.: +1 662 915 1031; fax: +1 662 915 7989 (S.A. Ross). Tel.: +1 662 915 5928; fax: +1 662 915 5587 (M.A. ElSohly). ; Email: sross@olemiss.edu (S.A. Ross), ; Email: melsohly@olemiss.edu (M.A. ElSohly)

cannabis plant. The best-known and the most specific class of cannabis constituents is the C21 terpenophenolic cannabinoids, with $(-)$ - ⁹-trans- $(6aR, 10aR)$ -tetrahydrocannabinol $(9-THC)$ being the most psychologically active constituent (Mechoulam and Gaoni, 1967a,b). Although several subclasses of cannabinoids have been identified, the skeletons of these subclasses do not differ greatly from one another. Modification of the structures are limited to changes in the side-chain and the terpenoid portion of the molecule (ElSohly and Slade, 2005). The total number of natural cannabinoids identified in C. sativa L. was 66 in 1995, 70 in 2005 and 105 in 2014 (Ahmed et al., 2008a,b; Appendino et al., 2008; Radwan et al., 2008a,b, 2009; ElSohly and Slade, 2005; ElSohly and Gul, 2014; Ross and ElSohly, 1995).

In efforts to study the chemistry of high potency cannabis, a variety of new constituents were isolated (Radwan et al., 2008a,b, 2009; Ahmed et al., 2008a,b). Herein reported are the isolation and structure elucidation of nine new oxygenated cannabinoids (**1**–**9**) namely, 9αhydroxyhexahydrocannabinol (**1**), 7-oxo-9α-hydroxy-hexahydrocannabinol (**2**), 10αhydroxyhexa-hydrocannabinol (3), 10aR-hydroxyhexa-hydrocannabinol (4), ⁹-THC aldehyde A (5), 8-oxo-⁹-THC (6), 10aR-hydroxy-10-oxo-⁸-THC (7), 9α-hydroxy-10oxo-Δ6a,10a-THC (**8**), and 1′S-hydroxycannabinol (**9**) along with other previously identified constituents.

2. Results and discussions

Compound **1** was obtained as a yellow oil and its molecular formula was determined to be $C_{21}H_{32}O_3$ from GC–MS (m/z 332 at Rt 12.23 min) and HRESIMS (m/z 333.2495 [M+H]⁺), representing six degrees of unsaturation The 13 C NMR spectrum showed signals indicating four methyl, seven methylene, four methine and six quaternary carbons [two oxyaryl (C-1, C-4a), two oxygenated sp³ (C-6, C-9) and two aryl sp² (C-3, C-10b) carbons]. Comparing the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data of **1** (Tables 1 and 2) with ⁹-THC indicated that **1** is a hexahydrocannabinol derivative. Significant differences between 1 and ⁹-THC were observed in the NMR spectra. This included the absence of the olefinic carbon resonances at δ_C 134.6 (C-9), and δ_C 123.6 (C-10) in the carbon spectrum, the lack of a broad olefinic resonance at δ_H 6.41 (1H, s, H-10) in the proton spectrum, and the appearance of an oxygenated sp³ carbon at δ_C 71.2 (C-9) and a methylene carbon at δ_C 42.3 (C-10) in the carbon spectrum of 1. Oxygenation of C-9 led to changes in the chemical shifts of the nearest methyl protons of carbon C-11 from δ_H 1.67 (3H, s) to δ_H 1.28 s (3H, s). This assumption was supported by the ${}^{1}H-{}^{1}H$ COSY correlations of H-9 with H-10 and H-10 with H-10a and HMBC correlations of H-10a with C-9 and H_3 -11 with C-9 (Fig. 1). The molecular formula, degrees of unsaturation and 2D NMR spectroscopic analysis (Fig. 1), pointed towards a presence of free hydroxyl group at C-9, which was supported by the presence of hydroxyl absorption band in IR spectrum at v_{max} 3460 cm⁻¹. The 9αhydroxyhexahydrocannabinol configuration assignment was supported by ROESY correlations of H_3 -13, H-6a and H_3 -11 (Fig. 1).

Compound **2** was obtained as a yellow oil and its molecular formula was determined to be $C_{21}H_{30}O_4$ by HRESIMS (m/z 347.2235 [M+H]⁺), representing seven degrees of unsaturation. The ${}^{13}C$ NMR spectrum showed signals for four methyl, six methylene, four

methine and seven quaternary carbons [two oxyaryl (C-1, C-4a), two oxygenated sp^3 (C-6, C-9) and two aryl sp2 (C-3, C-10b) and one carbonyl (C-7)]. Comparison of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data (Tables 1 and 2) with 1 and ⁹-THC indicated that compound 2 belongs to the hexahydrocannabinol series. Significant differences between **2** and **1** were observed in the NMR spectra in which a carbonyl carbon appears at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 213.7 in the spectrum of 2 instead of a methylene carbon in 1. HMBC correlations of H_2 -8/C-7 ($^2J_{CH}$), H-10a/C-7 (${}^{3}J_{CH}$), H-12/C-6a (${}^{3}J_{CH}$) and H-13/C-6a (${}^{3}J_{CH}$) support that the oxo substitution existed on C-7 (Fig. 1). The 9α-hydroxyhexahydrocannabinol configuration assignment was supported by the ROESY correlations of H_3 -13, H-6a and H_3 -11 (Fig. 1).

Compound **3** was obtained as a yellow oil and its molecular formula was determined to be $C_{21}H_{30}O_3$ by GC–MS (m/z 332 at Rt 13.46 min) and HRESIMS (m/z 333.2413 [M+H]⁺), representing six degrees of unsaturation. The NMR spectra was similar to those of $9-$ THC except for the disappearance of olefin carbon resonances at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 134.6 (C-9) and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 123.6 (C-10), as well as a broad olefinic resonance at δ_C 6.41 (1H, s, H-10) and the appearance of a sp3 methine and oxygenated methane at δ_C 28.3 (C-9) and δ_C 78.5 (C-10) respectively. This indicated the structure of **3** belongs to the hexahydrocannabinol series. The ${}^{1}H$ - and ${}^{13}C$ NMR, DEPT and HMQC data of 3 indicate the presence of a hydroxy group (CHOH) $[\delta_{\rm H}]$ 3.42 (dd, $J = 3.6$, 10.8); δ_C 78.5 (C-10)] The hydroxy group position on C-10 was determined by the HMBC correlations of H_3 -11, H_2 -8 and H-6a with C-10 and H-10 with C-11, C-8 and C-6a (Fig. 1). The absolute configuration of **3** at the chiral centers (C-9 and $C-10$) was assigned by comparing its specific rotation and ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) with the analogs as reported in the literature; the optical rotation $[-55.6$ (c 0.05, CH₃Cl)] and the chemical shifts of H-10 δ _H 3.42 were in good agreement with C(10^β) proton at δ _H 3.57 which appears relatively upfield compared to the C(10 α) proton which appears at δ_H 4.98 in known synthetic canabinoids.11 Further support for the α orientation of 10-OH was established via the Mosher ester analysis protocol (Dale and Mosher, 1973; Sullivan et al., 1973; Hoye et al., 2007; Seco et al., 2004). ROESY correlations of H-10 and H3-11 indicated that both the C-10 proton and C-11 methyl were in the same direction (Fig. 1). This is the first report of **3** from a natural source with full NMR spectroscopic data; however, it was previously prepared synthetically (Theodor et al., 1976).

Compound **4** was obtained as a yellow oil and its molecular formula was determined to be $C_{21}H_{32}O_3$ by GC–MS (m/z 332 at Rt 12.04) and HRESIMS (m/z 333.2495 [M+H]⁺), representing six degrees of unsaturation. The NMR spectra of **5** were indicative of an oxygenated hexahydrocannabinol structure. The 1 H- and 13 C NMR, DEPT and HMQC data of 4 supported the presence of a hydroxy group on a quaternary carbon (δ_C 74.3). The placement of the hydroxyl group on C-10a was determined by HMBC correlations of H-9 with C-10a and H_3 -11 with C-10 (Fig. 1). The configuration assignment at C-9 was supported by the ROESY correlations, where H_3 -13, H-6a and H-9 showed a good correlation with each other, while H_3 -12 showed a good correlation with H_3 -11 (Fig. 1). The 6aR, 10aR configuration was provisionally established for 9 -THC (Mechoulam and Gaoni, 1967a,b; ElSohly and Slade, 2005). Based on the fact that all 9 -THC compounds have a 10a R configuration or its equivalent, the configuration of hydroxyl group at C -10a is suggested to be biosynthetically in the R configuration.

Compound **5** was obtained as a yellow oil and its molecular formula was determined to be $C_{22}H_{30}O_3$ by GC–MS (m/z 342 at Rt 39.66) and HRESIMS (m/z 343.2240 [M+H]⁺), representing eight degrees of unsaturation. The spectroscopic data of **5** were similar to those of 9 -tetrahydrocannabinolic acid A (9 -THCAA). It has four characteristic methyls resonating at δ 1.67 (3H, s, H-11), 1.43 (3H, s, H-13), 1.10 (3H, s, H-12) and 0.87 (3H, t, J= 6.4 Hz, H-5'), and an aromatic proton at δ 6.18 (1H, s, H-4) shifted upfield from δ 108.6 to δ_C 102.6 (Table 2). The differences between compound **5** and ⁹-THCAA were observed in the NMR spectra where the carbonyl resonance was shifted downfield from δ 176.4 to δ 193.0 These data point to the presence of an aldehyde group in C-2 instead of a carboxylic acid group. This was further confirmed by the disappearance of the carboxylic acid proton at δ_H 12.18 and the appearance of an aldehydic proton at δ_H 10.01 ppm. Full assignment of the 1H and 13C NMR resonances were completed via analysis of the COSY, HMQC, HMBC and ROESY spectra (Tables 1 and 2, 5 Fig. 1) confirming as 9 -THC aldehyde A.

Compound **6** was obtained as a yellow oil and its molecular formula was determined to be $C_{21}H_{28}O_3$ by GC–MS (m/z 328 at Rt 40.44 min) and HRESIMS (m/z 329.2145 [M+H]⁺), representing eight degrees of unsaturation. The 13 C NMR spectrum showed signals indicating four methyl, five methylene, five methine and seven quaternary carbons [two oxyaryl (C-1, C-4a), one oxygenated sp^3 (C-6), two aryl sp^2 (C-3, C-10b), one olefinic sp^2 $(C-9)$ and one carbonyl $(C-8)$]. Comparison of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data (Tables 1 and 2) with ⁹-THC indicated that **7** belongs to the tetrahydrocannabinol series. Significant difference between 6 and ⁹-THC was observed in the NMR spectra where a carbonyl carbon appears at δ_C 199.9 instead of a methylene carbon. HMBC correlations of H₂-7/C-8 (²J_{CH}), H-6a/C-8 (³J_{CH} H-10/C-8 (³J_{CH})) and H-11/C-8 (³J_{CH}) support the interpretation that the roxo substitution existed on C-8 (δ C 199.9) (Fig. 1). Full assignment of the 1H and 13C NMR resonances were completed via analysis of the COSY, HMQC, HMBC and ROESY spectra (Tables 1 and 2, 6 Fig. 1) confirming as 8-oxo- 9 -THC. This is the first report of **6** from a natural source; however, it was previously prepared synthetically (Gurny et al., 1972**)**.

Compound **7** was obtained as a yellow oil and its molecular formula was determined to be $C_{21}H_{28}O_4$ by HRESIMS (m/z 345.2096 [M+H]⁺), representing eight degrees of unsaturation. GC–MS analysis of the trimethylsilyl-derivative of 8 yielded a molecular ion at m/z 488 at Rt 38.68 min, indicating the presence of two hydroxyl groups. The ¹³C NMR spectrum showed signals indicating four methyl, five methylene, four methine and eight quaternary carbons [two oxyaryl (C-1, C-4a), two oxygenated sp^3 (C-6, C-10a), two aryl sp^2 $(C-3, C-10b)$, one olefinic sp² (C-9) and one carbonyl (C-10)] indicating that the structure of **7** is a substituted tetrahydrocannabinol with one oxo and one hydroxyl groups. Analysis of the 1H–1H COSY, HMQC and HMBC spectra led to the assignment of proton and carbon resonances for **8**. The position of the δ_0 146.2 (C-8) and broad olefinic resonance at δ 6.89 (1H, bs, H-8), carbonyl carbon δ_C 199.3 (C-10) and oxygenated sp³ carbon δ_C 72.2 (C-10a) were confirmed by ${}^{1}H-{}^{1}H$ COSY spectrum between H_{2} -7/H-6a and H_{2} -7/H-8 and also from HMBC of H-8/C-10 (³ $J_{\rm CH}$), H-8/C-6a (³ $J_{\rm CH}$), H-8/C-11 (³ $J_{\rm CH}$), H₂-7/C-10a (³ $J_{\rm CH}$), H-6a/ C-10 (${}^{3}J_{CH}$), H₃-11/C-8 (${}^{3}J_{CH}$) and H₃-11/C-10 (${}^{3}J_{CH}$). Full assignment of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR resonances were completed via analysis of the COSY, HMQC, HMBC and ROESY

spectra (Tables 1 and 2, 7Fig. 1) confirming as $10a$ -hydroxy-10-oxo- 8 -THC. Based on the fact that all 8 -THC have the 10a R configuration or its equivalent (ElSohly and Slade, 2005), the configuration of hydroxyl group at C-10a is suggested to be biosynthetically in the R configuration.

Compound **8** was obtained as a yellow oil and its molecular formula was determined to be $C_{21}H_{28}O_4$ by GC–MS (m/z 344 at Rt 39.50) and HRESIMS (m/z 345.2033 [M+H]⁺), representing eight degrees of unsaturation. The ${}^{13}C$ NMR spectrum showed signals indicating four methyl, six methylene, two methine and nine quaternary carbons [two oxyaryl (C-1, C-4a), two oxygenated sp^3 (C-6, C-10), two aryl sp^2 (C-3, C-10b), two olefinic sp^2 (C-6a, C-10a) and one carbonyl (C-10)]. This indicates that the structure of **8** belongs to the tetrahydrocannabinol series with oxo and hydroxyl groups. The 13 C NMR spectrum showed resonances at δ _C 163.3 and 124.6 corresponding to the C6a–C10a double bond, a carbonyl carbon at δ_C 206.0 (C-10) and an oxygenated sp3 carbon at δ_C 73.4 (C-9). The position of the double bond, carbonyl carbon and the oxygenated $sp³$ carbon were confirmed by ¹H–¹H COSY spectrum between H_2 -7/ H_2 -8 and also from HMBC of H_2 -8/ C-10 (³ J_{CH}), H₂-8/C-6a (³ J_{CH}), H₂-8/C-11 (³ J_{CH}), H₂-7/C-10a (³ J_{CH}), H₂-7/C-9 (³ J_{CH}), H₃-11/C-8 (${}^{3}J_{\text{CH}}$) and H₃-11/C-10 (${}^{3}J_{\text{CH}}$). The additional hydroxyl group in compound **8** generates a stereogenic center at C-9. Through the use of a ROESY experiment, the stereochemistry was assigned as 9S-hydroxy-10-oxo-^{6a,10a}-THC through space correlations between the C-9 methyl protons and the C-13 methyl protons. Comparison of the 13C NMR spectrum of the oxidation product 9α-hydroxy-10-oxo-hexahydrocannabinol resulting from selective oxidation reaction of 9S,10S-dihydroxy-hexahydrocannabinol (Cannabiripsol) with pyridinium chlorochromate (PCC), further supported the S configuration of C-9 where both have δ_C at 73 (Fig. 2) (Fan et al., 2006). Thus compound 8 was established as $9a$ -hydroxy-10-oxo-^{6a,10a}-THC.

Compound **9** was obtained as a yellow oil and its molecular formula was determined to be $C_{21}H_{26}O_3$ by GC–MS (m/z 326 at Rt 13.39) and HRESIMS (327.1931 [M+H]⁺), representing eight degrees of unsaturation. The trimethylsilyl derivative of **9** had a molecular ion at m/z 470 in the GCMS, confirming the HRESIMS result and the presence of two hydroxyl groups. The 1 H NMR spectroscopic data showed four methyl singlets, five aromatic protons and three methylene protons (Table 1). The ^{13}C and DEPT NMR data indicated that **9** contains 21 carbons [four methyls, three methylenes, five methines (four aryl sp² and one oxygenated methine) and nine quaternary carbons]. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, as well as the GC–MS data of **9**, suggested a close similarity to cannabinol (Ahmed et al., 2008a) with an additional hydroxyl group δ_C 74.7 and δ_H 4.59 (1H, t, J = 6.8). The location of this hydroxyl group at C-1' was determined by $1H-¹H COSY spectrum between$ H-1'/H₂-2', H₂-2'/H₂-3', H₂-3'/H₂-4' and H₂-4'/H₃-5' and also from HMBC of H-1'/C-2 (³J_{CH}), H-1′/C-4 (³J_{CH}), H-1′/C-3 (²J_{CH}), H-1′/C-3′ (³J_{CH}), H-2/C-1′ (³J_{CH}), H-4/C-1′ $(^3J_{CH})$ and H₂-3'/C-1' (³J_{CH}). The absolute configuration of C-1' was determined as S via the Mosher ester analysis protocol (Fig. 3) (Dale and Mosher, 1973; Sullivan et al., 1973; Hoye et al., 2007; Seco et al., 2004). Thus, compound 9 was established as 1'Shydroxycannabinol.

The antimicrobial, antileishmanial, and antimalarial of the isolated compounds were tested. Compound 9 showed moderate anti-MRSa $(IC_{50} 10.0 \mu g/mL)$, moderate antileishmanial $(IC₅₀ 14.0 \mu g/mL)$ and mild antimalarial activity against *Plasmodium falciparum* (D6 clone) and P. falciparum (W2 clone) with IC_{50} values of 3.4 and 2.3 μg/mL, respectively.

3. Conclusion

Nine new oxygenated cannabinoids (**1**–**9**) were isolated from a high potency Cannabis sativa L. variety. Compound **9** showed moderate activity against methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus, Leishmania donovani, P. falciparum (D6 clone) and P. falciparum (W2 clone).

4. Experimental

4.1. General experimental procedures

1D and 2D NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ on a Varian AS 400 spectrometer, whereas IR spectra were obtained using a Bruker Tensor 27 spectrophotometer. UV spectra were acquired on a Varian Cary 50 Bio UV–Visible spectrophotometer. Optical rotations were measured at ambient temperature using a Rudolph Research Analytical Autopol IV automatic polarimeter. HRESIMS was obtained using a Bruker Bioapex FTMS in ESI mode. TLC was carried out on aluminum-backed plates precoated with silica gel F254 (20×20) cm, 200 μm, 60 Å, Merck) and on glass-backed plates precoated with C18 silica gel F254 (10×10 cm, 200μ m, 60 Å , 11% carbon loading, Silicycle). Visualization was accomplished by spraying with Fast blue B salt $(0.5\%$ w/w in H₂O) or p-anisaldehyde [0.5 mL in glacial AcOH (50 mL) and H_2SO_4 (97%, 1 mL)] spray reagent followed by heating. Flash silica gel $(40-63 \mu m, 60 \text{ Å}, \text{Silicycle})$ and SiliaBond C18 silica gel $(40-63 \mu m, 60 \text{ Å}, 17\%$ carbon loading, Silicycle) were used for column chromatography (CC). Analytical HPLC was performed on a Waters 2695 Separations Module [Empower Pro 2 Software (Build 2154)] connected to a Waters 2996 photodiode array (PDA) detector (190–500 nm) and a Sedere Sedex 75 evaporative light scattering detector (ELSD) (3.5 psi N2, 50 °C) using a Phenomenex Luna C18(2) column (150 \times 4.6 mm, 5 µm, 100 Å) [MeCN (100%), 1.0 mL/ min] and a Phenomenex Luna Silica (2) column (150 \times 4.6 mm, 5 µm, 100 Å) [*n*-hexane/ EtOH (99:1), 1.0 mL/min]. Semi-preparative HPLC was performed on a Waters Delta Prep 4000 Preparative Chromatography System [Empower Pro Software (Build 1154)] connected to a Waters 486 Tunable Absorbance detector (206 nm) using a Phenomenex Luna C18(2) column (250×21.2 mm, 5 µm, 100 Å) [MeCN (100%), 35.4 mL/min] and a Phenomenex Luna Silica (2) column (250 × 21.2 mm, 5 µm, 100 Å) [*n*-hexane/EtOH (99:1), 35.4 mL/ min]. GCMS analyses were carried out on a ThermoQuest Trace 2000 GC, equipped with a single split/splitless capillary injector, a ThermoQuest AS2000 autosampler and a Phenomenex ZB-5 column (30 m \times 0.25 mm \times 0.25 µm), interfaced to a ThermoQuest-Finnigan Trace MS quadrupole ion trap detector. The injector temperature was 250 °C and 1 μL injections were performed in splitless mode, with the splitless time set at 60 s, the split flow set at 50 mL/min and the septum purge valve set to close 60 s after the injection occurred. The oven temperature was raised from 70 to 270 °C (hold 20 min) at a rate of 5 °C/min, for a total run time of 60 min; the transfer line temperature was 250 °C. Helium

was used as the carrier gas at a constant pressure of 20 psi. The mass spectrometer was operated in the electron impact mode (EI+) and scanned from 40 to 800 amu at 1 scan/s, with an ionizing voltage of 70 eV and an emission current of 350 μA. Data was recorded using an IBM Netfinity 3000 Workstation with Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 operating system (Build 1381, Service pack 6) and Xcalibur data acquisition and analysis software (Version 1.2). The NIST Mass Spectral Search Program (Version 1.7, Build 11/05/1999) for the NIST/EPA/NIH.

4.2. Plant material

Plants were grown from high potency Mexican seeds (variety code CHPF-01). The seeds and plants were authenticated by Dr. Suman Chandra, The University of Mississippi, and a specimen (S1310V1) is deposited at the Coy Waller Complex, The University of Mississippi. Whole buds of mature female plants were harvested, air-dried, packed in barrels and stored at low temperature (−24 °C).

4.3. Extraction and isolation

Dried buds and small leaves of C. sativa (9.0 kg) was sequentially extracted with hexanes (2) \times 60 L), CH₂Cl₂ (48 L), EtOAc (40 L), EtOH (37.5 L), EtOH/H₂O (36 L, 1:1) and H₂O (40 L) at room temperature. The extracts were evaporated under reduced pressure at 40 °C to afford hexanes (1.48 kg), CH₂Cl₂ (0.15 kg), EtOAc (0.13 kg), EtOH (0.09 kg), EtOH/H₂O (0.77 kg) and H_2O (0.54 kg) extracts, respectively. The hexanes extract (0.96 kg) was subjected to VLC on flash silica gel eluting with hexanes, EtOAc and MeOH gradient to afford 32 fractions. Fractions (f1–f3) eluted with hexanes were combined according to TLC profiles to afford a reddish green residue (35 g). This fraction was subsequently subjected to flash silica gel CC eluting with hexanes to afford large quantities of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (⁹-THC), delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinolic acid A (⁹-THCAA), delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol (**⁸ -THC)** and cannabinol (**CBN)**. Fractions with an ^R^f higher than THC according to TLC (hexanes/EtOAc, 9:1) were combined and purified by semipreparative reversed-phase HPLC ($CH₃CN$ as eluent) to afford compound **5** (4 mg).

Fractions (f24–f25) were combined according to TLC profiles to afford a reddish green residue (26 g). This fraction was subsequently applied to a flash silica gel column, with the eluent further subjected to a C18 SPE CC followed by final purification by semi-preparative reversed-phase HPLC (H₂O:CH₃CN 25:75, v/v as eluent) to afford compounds $1(5 \text{ mg})$, 3 (10 mg), **4** (8 mg), **6** (9 mg) and **9** (10 mg) while, using semi-preparative reversed-phase HPLC (H2O:CH3CN 40:60, v/v as eluent) afforded compounds **2** (3 mg), **7** (15 mg), **8** (4 mg) and cannabiripsol (**10**) (150 mg).

4.4. Selective oxidation of cannabiripsol (10) using (PCC) (Fan et al., 2006)

Cannabiripsol (10) (10.2 mg, 15 mmol) was dissolved in dry CH₂Cl₂ (10 mL), and PCC (6.4 mg, 15 mmol) was added at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature and after completion it was filtered through Celite. The filtrate was concentrated and the residue was purified by silica gel CC to give 9S-hydroxy-10-oxo-hexahydrocannabinol (**8**). The reaction was carried out under anhydrous conditions, monitored by TLC.

4.5. Antimicrobial, antileishmanial and antimalarial assay

Isolated compounds were evaluated for antimicrobial (Candida albicans ATCC 90028, Escherichia coli ATCC 35218, Pseudomonas aeruginosa ATCC 27853, Mycobacterium intracellulare ATCC 23068, Aspergillus fumigatus ATCC 90906, Methicillin Resistant S. aureus ATCC 43300), antileishmanial and antimalarial activity $[P$ *falciparum* (D6 clone) and P. falciparum (W2 clone)] (Radwan et al., 2008a,b), respectively.

⁸α-hydroxyhexahydrocannabinol **(1)**: yellow oil; UV (MeOH) λmax 280, 227 nm;

 $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ +120.6 (c 0.05, CH₃OH); IR (neat) v_{max} 3460, 2820, 1624, 1457, 1057 cm⁻¹; For ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Tables 1 and 2; GCMS m/z 332 [M]⁺, 299 (100%); HRESIMS m/z 333.2495 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₃₃O₃, 333.2430).

7-oxo-8α-hydroxyhexahydrocannabinol **(2)**: yellow oil; UV (MeOH) λmax 220, 267, 330 nm; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ +153 (c 0.05, CH₃OH); IR (neat) v_{max} 3460, 2877, 1732, 1624, 1457 cm⁻¹; For ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS m/z 347.2235 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for $C_{21}H_{31}O_4$, 345.2222).

10-α-hydroxyhexahydrocannabinol **(3)**: yellow oil; UV (MeOH) λmax 280, 227 nm;

 $[\alpha]_p^{25}$ – 55.6 (c 0.05, CH₃Cl); IR (neat) v_{max} 3460, 2820, 1624, 1457, 1057 cm⁻¹; For ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Tables 1 and 2; GCMS m/z 332 [M]⁺, 193 (100%); HRESIMS m/z 333.2413 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₃₃O₃, 333.2430).

10a-hydroxyhexahydrocannabinol (4): yellow oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 14.3$ (c 0.05, CH₃OH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} 275, 225 nm; IR (neat) v_{max} 3460, 2930, 1624, 1457 cm⁻¹; For ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Tables 1 and 2; GCMS m/z 332 [M]⁺, 231 (100%); HRESIMS m/z 333.2495 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₃₃O₃, 333.2430).

⁹-THC aldehyde A (5): yellow oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 91.4$ (c 0.03, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} 310, 255, 215 nm; IR (neat) v_{max} 3455, 2929, 1722, 1624, 1457 cm⁻¹; For ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Tables 1 and 2; GCMS m/z 342 [M]⁺, 327 (100%); HRESIMS m/z 343.2240 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₂H₃₁O₃, 343.2273).

8-oxo-⁹-THC (6): yellow oil; $\left[\alpha\right]_D^{25}$ – 40.5 (c 0.5, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} 280, 270, 225 nm; IR (neat) v_{max} 3361, 2929, 1740, 1655, 1428, 1048 cm⁻¹; For ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Tables 1 and 2; GCMS m/z 328 [M]⁺, 271 (100%); HRESIMS m/z 329.2145 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₂₉O₃, 329.2117).

 $10aa$ -hydroxy-10-oxo- 8 -THC(7): yellow oil; $[\alpha]_{D}^{25} - 139.9$ (c 0.03, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} 310, 255, 215 nm; IR (neat) v_{max} 3464, 2929, 1732, 1624, 1457 cm⁻¹; For ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Tables 1 and 2; GCMS-TMS m/z 488 [M]⁺, 391 (100%);

HRESIMS m/z 345.2119 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₂₉O₄, 345.2066). *9a-hydroxy-10-oxo-*6a,10a -THC **(8)**: yellow oil; UV (MeOH) λmax 315, 255, 215 nm;

 $[\alpha]_n^{25} + 330$ (c 0.01, CH₃OH); IR (neat) v_{max} 3468, 2929, 2857, 1732, 1624, 1457 cm⁻¹; For ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Tables 1 and 2; GCMS m/z 444 [M]⁺, 301 (100%); HRESIMS m/z 345.2033 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₂₉O₄, 345.2066).

(S)-1′-hydroxycannabinol **(9)**: yellow oil; UV (MeOH) λmax 260, 225, 205 nm; ..; IR (neat) v_{max} 3446, 2920, 2825, 1718, 1636, 1541, 1457, 1418, 1467, 1057 cm⁻¹; For ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data, see Tables 1 and 2; GCMS m/z 326 [M]⁺, 311 (100%); GCMS-TMS m/z 470 [M]+, 455 (100%); HRESIMS m/z 327.1931 [M+H]+ (calcd for $C_{21}H_{25}O_3$, 327.1960).

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

Acknowledgments

The project described was supported by Grant Number 5P20RR021929 from the National Center for Research Resources and in part by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, contract # N01DA-10-7773. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Center for Research Resources or the National Institutes of Health. The Authors are grateful to Drs. Melissa Jacob, Shabana Khan and Babu Tekwani for conducting the biological testing and to Dr. Baharthi Avula for assistance with HRESIMS.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at [http://](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.phytochem.2015.04.007) dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.phytochem.2015.04.007.

References

- Ahmed SA, Ross SA, Slade D, Radwan MM, Zulfiqar F, ElSohly MA. Cannabinoid ester constituents from high-potency Cannabis sativa. J Nat Prod. 2008a; 71:536–542. [PubMed: 18303850]
- Ahmed SA, Ross SA, Slade D, Radwan MM, Ikhlas AK, ElSohly MA. Structure determination and absolute configuration of cannabichromanone derivatives from high potency Cannabis sativa. Tetrahedron Lett. 2008b; 49:6050–6053. [PubMed: 19844597]
- Appendino G, Giana A, Gibbons S, Maffei M, Gnavi G, Grassi G, Sterner O. A polar cannabinoid from Cannabis sativa var Carma. Nat Prod Commun. 2008; 3:1977–1980.
- Dale JA, Mosher HSJ. Nuclear magnetic resonance enantiomer regents. Configurational correlations via nuclear magnetic resonance chemical shifts of diastereomeric mandelate, O-methylmandelate, and .alpha.-methoxy-.alpha.-trifluoromethylphenylacetate (MTPA) esters. J Am Chem Soc. 1973; 95:512.
- ElSohly, MA.; Gul, W. Constituents of Cannabis Sativa. In: Pertwee, RG., editor. Handbook of Cannabis. Oxford University Press; 2014. p. 3-22.
- ElSohly MA, Slade D. Chemical constituents of marijuana: the complex mixture of natural cannabinoids. Life Sci. 2005; 78:539–548. [PubMed: 16199061]
- Fan Q, Ni N, Li Q, Zhang L, Ye Xin-Shan. New one-carbon degradative transformation of β-alkyl-βazido alcohols. Org Lett. 2006; 8:1007–1009. [PubMed: 16494496]
- Gurny O, Maynard DE, Pitcher RG, Kieerstead RW. Metabolism of (−)-DELTA.9- and (−)-.DELTA.8 tetrahydrocannabinol by monkey liver. J Am Chem Soc. 1972; 94(22):7928–7935. [PubMed: 4627739]
- Hoye TR, Jeffrey CS, Shao F. Mosher ester analysis for the determination of absolute configuration of stereogenic (a.k.a Chiral) carbinol carbons. Nat Protoc. 2007; 2:2451–2458. [PubMed: 17947986]

- Mechoulam R, Gaoni Y. Recent advances in the chemistry of hashish. Fortschr Chem Org Naturst. 1967a; 25:175–213. [PubMed: 4879547]
- Mechoulam R, Gaoni Y. The absolute configuration of 1 -tetrahydrocannabinol, the major active constituent of hashish. Tetrahedron Lett. 1967b; 8(12):1109–1111. [PubMed: 6039537]
- Radwan MM, ElSohly MA, Slade D, Ahmed SA, Wilson L, El-Alfy AT, Khan IA, Ross SA. Noncannabinoid constituents from a high potency Cannabis sativa variety. Phytochemistry. 2008a; 69:2627. [PubMed: 18774146]
- Radwan MM, Ross SA, Ahmed SA, Slade D, Zulfiqar F, ElSohly MA. Isolation and characterization of new cannabis constituents from a high potency variety. Planta Med. 2008b; 74:267–272. [PubMed: 18283614]
- Radwan MM, ElSohly MA, Slade D, Ahmed SA, Khan IA, Ross SA. Biologically active cannabinoids from high-potency Cannabis sativa. J Nat Prod. 2009; 72(5):906–911. [PubMed: 19344127]
- Ross SA, ElSohly MA. Constituents of Cannabis sativa L. XXVII. A review of the natural constituents: 1980–1994. Zagazig J Pharm Sci. 1995; 4:1–10.
- Seco JM, Quinoa E, Riguera R. The assignment of absolute configuration by NMR. Chem Rev. 2004; 104:17–117.
- Sullivan GR, Dale JA, Mosher HSJ. Selectivity, strategy, and efficiency in modem organic chemistry. J Org Chem. 1973; 38:2143.
- Theodor P, Kapa K, Gerard S. Transformations of 9α,10α-epoxyhexahydrocannabinol acetate helv. Chim Acta. 1976; 59(6):1963.

Ahmed et al. Page 11

Important HMBC (blue), COSY (red) and ROESY (violet) correlations for **1**–**9**. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

Fig. 2. Selective oxidation of cannabiripsol (PCC).

J

Table 1

Author Manuscript

Ahmed et al. Page 14

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Author Manuscript

Table 2

¹³C NMR spectroscopic data (400 MHz, CDCl₃) for compounds (1-9). 13C NMR spectroscopic data (400 MHz, CDCl3) for compounds (**1**–**9**).

