

A New Flavonol Glycoside Derivative from Leaves of *Moldenhawera nutans*

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The ethyl acetate extract of leaves of *Moldenhawera nutans* Queiroz & Alkin (Leguminosae) furnished, besides methyl gallate and gallic acid, the flavonols named laricetrin, laricetrin 3-glucoside and laricetrin 3-galactoside as well as the new one named laricetrin 5-galloyl-3- β -D-xylopyranoside. It also was isolated from the hexane extract: β -sitosterol, lupenone, β -amyrinone, α -amyrinone, lupeol, β -amyrin, α -amyrin and α -tocopherol. The antioxidant activities of flavonoids were measured through DPPH radical scavenging and inhibition of auto-oxidation of β -carotene methods. The structures of the compounds were determined by analyses of spectral data. This is the first report dealing with phytochemical studies of leaves of *M. nutans*. In addition this current work describes the unequivocal attribution of ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR data of laricetrin.

Key words: *Moldenhawera nutans*, Antioxidant Activities, Flavonol Glycosides

Introduction

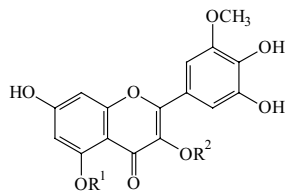
Moldenhawera is a neotropical genera and it is distributed almost exclusively at the north coast of Brazil with significant taxa concentration in Bahia State. It is represented by approximately ten species (Queiroz *et al.*, 1999). The taxonomy of this genus is confusing, making the classification of the species difficult.

Moldenhawera nutans Queiroz & Alkin (Leguminosae) is a shrub apparently endemic of the coastal dunes of Salvador, Bahia. In a former phytochemical study with the stems of this species we reported the isolation and identification of labdanic diterpenes and a new dimeric diterpene (David *et al.*, 1999). There are no more studies dealing with species of this genus. The present paper reports the isolation and identification of β -sitosterol, lupenone, β -amyrinone, α -amyrinone, lupeol, β -amyrin, α -amyrin and α -tocopherol from the hexane extract of leaves of *M. nutans*. Furthermore it describes the isolation of methyl gallate, gallic acid and of the flavonols laricetrin, laricetrin 3-glucoside, laricetrin 3-galactoside and the new compound laricetrin 5-galloyl-3- β -D-xylopyranoside from the ethyl acetate extract.

Results and Discussion

All the substances were identified on the basis of chemical and spectral data. The ¹H NMR spectrum

of compounds **1–4** (Fig. 1) presented characteristic signals of the flavonol skeleton. Two doublets observed at δ 6.18 and δ 6.39 indicated a 5,7-disubstituted flavonol. The doublets at δ 7.42 and δ 7.46 were attributed to the hydrogen of ring B of the AB system of the flavonol proving to place the methoxyl group (*ca.* δ 3.9) at C-3'. These observations allowed to identify the flavonol's aglycone in compounds **1–4** as laricetrin. The ¹³C NMR spectra confirmed the previous statements by evidencing seven peaks for oxygenated carbons (see Experimental) and one carboxyl group (*ca.* δ 177.8). Detailed analysis of these spectra confirmed the substitution pattern of the rings A and



- 1** R¹ = R² = H
2 R¹ = Galloyl, R² = Xylopyranosyl
3 R¹ = H, R² = Glucosyl
4 R¹ = R² = Galactosyl

Fig. 1. Compounds isolated from leaves of *M. nutans*: laricetrin (**1**), laricetrin 5-galloyl-3- β -D-xylopyranoside (**2**), laricetrin 3- β -glucoside (**3**), laricetrin 3- β -galactoside (**4**).

B of laricetrin (**1**) and its glycoside derivatives (**2**–**4**). The signals concerning the methine carbons registered between δ 95.1 and *ca.* δ 110.5 corroborated this observation. The chemical shifts observed in both ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra for the signals of ring B also established the localization of the methoxyl group at C-3'. The molecular ion peak of **1** registered in the mass spectrum at m/z 332 corroborated the molecular formula $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_8$ and confirmed compound **1** being laricetrin.

The detailed analysis of ^{13}C NMR spectra of **2** allowed to recognize besides the laricetrin moiety signals for a xylose and galloyl groups, suggesting that the substance was a flavonol glycoside esterifying gallic acid. The molecular ion peak $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ observed at m/z 639 in the mass spectrum (ESI) confirmed this statement and simultaneously with ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data pointed out the molecular formula $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_{16}$ for the isolate **2**. In comparison with compound **1** two significant differences were observed in aglycone peak displacements for C-3 ($\Delta\delta$ – 3 ppm) and for C-5 ($\Delta\delta$ – 3.1 ppm). The signals of C-3 were similar to the observed for flavonols bearing a glycosyl group at this position (Markham and Geiger, 1994; Markham *et al.*, 1978). The signal observed in the ^1H NMR spectrum for anomeric H-1'' at δ 5.7 as well as its coupling constant ($J = 6.4$ Hz) indicated that the sugar unit possessed the β -configuration (Markham and Geiger, 1994; Agrawal, 1992). The location of the xylopyranosyl group at C-3 and consequently the galloyl esterification at OH-5 were confirmed through a HMBC spectrum (Fig. 2) especially the correlation observed between H-1' (δ 5.7) and C-3 (δ 135.2). On the other hand, the cor-

relations observed between the oxymethylene hydrogen H-5'' (δ 3.5) and the anomer carbon atom (δ 100.1) made possible to confirm the pyranose form to xylose. Additional HMBC and HMQC data allowed to confirm the structure of compound **2** as being the new flavonol laricetrin 5-galloyl-3- β -D-xylopyranoside and all correlations observed were illustrated in Fig. 2.

The NMR spectral data of compounds **3** and **4** besides the signals regarding the laricetrin unit showed some differences especially in the region δ 60–80. Comparison with literature data (Markham and Geiger, 1994; Markham *et al.*, 1978) permitted to identify the glucosyl and galactosyl units of compounds **3** and **4**, respectively. The UV spectra recorded in the presence of shift diagnostic reagents (AlCl_3 and $\text{AlCl}_3 + \text{HCl}$) indicated the glycosylation in OH-3 even though the absence of a signal of the bonded hydrogen hydroxyl group in the ^1H NMR spectrum (Exarchou *et al.*, 2002). So, the compounds were identified as laricetrin 3-*O*- β -glucoside (**3**) and 3- β -galactoside (**4**). The mass spectra (ESIMS) of them showed the *quasi* molecular ion peak at m/z 493 $[\text{M}-1]^+$ in agreement with the proposed structures. These flavonol glycosides were previously isolated from *Picea abies* (Slimestad *et al.*, 1995) and from species of genera *Chondropetalum* (Harbone *et al.*, 1985), however this is their first occurrence in Leguminosae.

Although the exhibited ^1H NMR spectral data of compounds **1**, **3** and **4** have been compared with laricetrin and laricetrin-glycosides previously published (Niemann, 1973; Khetwal *et al.*, 1988), in this present paper their structures were confirmed by both HMBC and HMQC spectra. The chemical shifts observed in the ^1H NMR spectrum and attributed to H-2' and H-6' of laricetrin by Niemann (1973) and Khetwal *et al.* (1988) are inconsistent with the AB pattern expected for ring B for the laricetrin aglycone. So, the ^1H NMR spectral data proposed (Khetwal *et al.*, 1988) for the laricetrin aglycone is being reviewed.

In spite of the antioxidant ability of the flavonols to be plenty known (Pietta, 2000) this is the first report about the antioxidant ability of laricetrin (**1**) and its derivatives **2**–**4**. Even though compound **1** showed a high activity in the DPPH radicals scavenging test (Fig. 3), these compounds showed no significant activities in comparison with propyl gallate ($\text{IC}_{50} = 0.26 \mu\text{M}$) as well as with the commercially available antioxidants BHT and α -

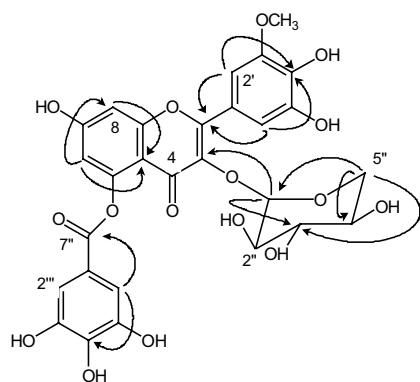


Fig. 2. Correlations observed for compound **2** in the HMBC spectrum.

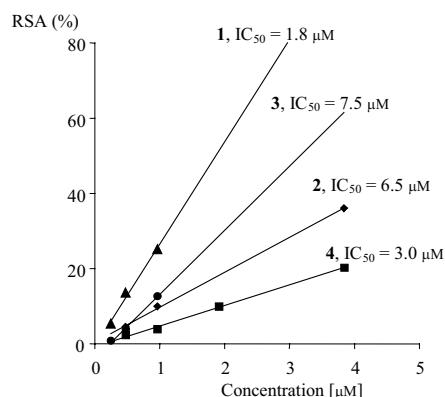


Fig. 3. IC₅₀ values (μM) of the isolates in the DPPH radical scavenging activity (RSA) assay.

Table I. Antioxidant activity (AA)* observed in auto-oxidation of β-carotene assay of standards and compounds 1–4.

Compound	AA
BHT	68.7 ± 5.9
α-Tocopherol	96.4 ± 9.1
1	15.5 ± 1.8
2	55.3 ± 1.1
3	17.8 ± 1.8
4	25.9 ± 2.8

* Values obtained at a concentration of 0.45 μM.

tocopherol in auto-oxidation of β-carotene assay (Table I).

Experimental

General procedures

¹H NMR (300 MHz); ¹³C NMR and DEPT experiments (75 MHz); ¹H-¹H COSY and ¹H-¹³C COSY: CD₃OD as internal standard; ESIMS (Quattro, Micromass, UK); UV spectra in MeOH. Silica gel (70–230 mesh; Merck); Sephadex LH-20 (Sigma); TLC: pre-coated sheets of silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ (Merck); *n*-propyl gallate (Merck); DPPH (Sigma); β-carotene (Merck); linolenic acid (Aldrich); BHT (Merck); pyrogallol (Merck) and α-tocopherol previously isolated and characterized in our laboratory from *M. nutans*.

Plant material

The leaves of *Moldenhawera nutans* were collected in the “Reserva do Parque da Lagoa do

Abaeté”, Salvador (Bahia) and identified by Prof. Maria Lenise S. Guedes. A voucher is deposited at “Herbarium Alexandre Leal Costa” of Institute of Biology of Federal University of Bahia, under number 0290571.

Extraction and isolation

The dried leaves were powdered (358.32 g) and the powdered material was submitted for maceration in methanol. The methanol extract obtained (18.13 g) was partitioned among hexane/MeOH/H₂O (9:1), CHCl₃/MeOH/H₂O (6:4) and AcOEt/H₂O. The ethyl acetate extract (7.76 g) was fractionated by column chromatography (CC) using silica gel as adsorbent and mixtures of CHCl₃/EtOAc and EtOAc/MeOH with increasing polarity as eluent. The methyl gallate (2.65 g) was obtained from main CC in the fraction eluted with CHCl₃/EtOAc (1:1 v/v) and the gallic acid (1.95 g) was obtained in the fraction eluted with EtOAc followed by subsequent purification through CC on silica gel using CHCl₃/MeOH/EtOAc (90:9:1) as eluent. The pure laricetrin (1; 19.5 mg) was obtained from main CC in the fraction eluted with EtOAc followed by new CC on silica gel eluted with CHCl₃/EtOAc (8:2), and the fractions obtained were purified on Sephadex LH-20 gel permeation using CHCl₃/MeOH (1:4) as eluent. From the main CC fraction eluted with EtOAc/MeOH (9:1) laricetrin 5-galloyl-3-β-D-xylopyranoside (2; 9.0 mg) was also obtained after CC eluted with CHCl₃/MeOH (8:2) followed by gel permeation on Sephadex LH-20 using as mobile phase 20% CHCl₃ in MeOH. The substances laricetrin 3-glucoside (3; 11.1 mg) and laricetrin 3-galactoside (4; 9.8 mg) were purified from main CC using the fraction eluted with EtOAc/MeOH (1:1), after CC on polyamide using MeOH/H₂O (1:1) followed by CC on silica gel and Sephadex LH-20 both eluted with CHCl₃/MeOH (1:1) and (1:4), respectively.

Scavenging DPPH radical test

The test to evaluate the ability scavenging to radicals was adapted of that proposed by Malterud *et al.* (1993). This method evaluated the ability of the substance to scavenge the 1,2-diphenyl-2-picryl-hydrazyl (DPPH) free radicals and was carried out according to an established protocol. Briefly the DPPH methanolic solution (45 μg/ml) was mixed with samples in four concentrations and compared with the reference compound (pyrogallol-

lol, 5 mg/ml in CH₃OH), which is able to scavenge 100% of DPPH radicals. For each concentration the compounds were evaluated in triplicate. The antioxidant capacity was compared with that observed for standard *n*-propyl gallate and concentration decreasing of DPPH radicals was monitored by a spectrophotometer (λ_{\max} = 517 nm) after 15 min and the percentage of inhibition by sample treatment was calculated. The diagram (Fig. 3) of the activity (%) *versus* concentration was plotted and the linear regression was applied to determine the line equation. The extrapolation of the line for 50% of scavenging allowed to determine the concentration of the sample necessary to scavenge 50% (IC₅₀) of DPPH radicals (μ M).

Auto-oxidation of β -carotene method

The methodology used in the test of antioxidant activity (AA) was adapted from that previously described by Hidalgo *et al.* (1994). This method of evaluation of the antioxidant activity is based on the inhibition of the auto-oxidation reaction of β -carotene in a linolenic acid solution. The auto-oxidation reaction was recorded by a spectrophotometer at λ_{\max} = 470 nm and the activity was compared with 0.45 μ M solutions of compounds **1–4** and the commercially available antioxidants BHT and α -tocopherol (Table I). The antioxidant percentage was calculated by the equation $AA = 100 [1 - (A_{60} - A_0) / (A^{\circ}_{60} - A^{\circ}_0)]$, where A and A° are the measured intensities in the presence and absence of the additive, respectively, and the subindices mean the measured intensities at initial and final (60 min) incubation times.

Methyl gallate (C₇H₈O₅): Yellow amorphous powder. – MS: m/z (rel. int.) = 184 (50), 153 (100), 125 (25), 79 (12). – ¹H NMR [300 MHz, CD₃OD, δ (ppm), multiplicity, J (Hz)]: δ = 3.80 (s, CO₂CH₃), 7.05 (s, H-2 and H-6). – ¹³C NMR [75 MHz, CD₃OD, δ (ppm)]: δ = 110.1 (C-2, C-6), 121.4 (C-1), 139.7 (C-4), 146.4 (C-3, C-5), 169.1 (CO₂CH₃), 52.3 (CO₂CH₃). NMR data are in accordance with the literature (Haddock *et al.*, 1982).

Gallic acid (C₆H₆O₅): White amorphous powder. – ¹H NMR [300 MHz, CD₃OD, δ (ppm), multiplicity, J (Hz)]: δ = 7.06 (s, H-2 and H-6). – ¹³C NMR [75 MHz, CD₃OD, δ (ppm)]: δ = 110.9 (C-2, C-6), 122.7 (C-1), 140.1 (C-4), 146.9 (C-3, C-5), 171.0 (CO₂H). NMR data are in accordance

with the literature (Sun *et al.*, 1988; Nawwar *et al.*, 1982).

Laricetrin (1; C₁₆H₁₂O₈): Yellow amorphous powder. – UV (CH₃OH): λ_{\max} = 260.6, 270, 358 nm. – MS: m/z (rel. int.) = 332 (100), 317 (7), 303 (9), 289 (5), 262 (14), 205 (7), 136 (14), 107 (14), 97 (10), 69 (40), 55 (35). – ¹H NMR [300 MHz, CD₃OD, δ (ppm), multiplicity, J (Hz)]: δ = 6.18 (d, J = 2.0, H-6), 6.39 (d, J = 2.0, H-8), 7.42 (d, J = 1.8, H-6'), 7.46 (d, J = 2.1, H-2'), 3.90 (s, OCH₃). – ¹³C NMR [75 MHz, CD₃OD, δ (ppm)]: δ = 57.4 (OCH₃), 95.1 (C-8), 99.9 (C-6), 104.9 (C-10), 105.5 (C-2'), 110.5 (C-6'), 123.6 (C-1'), 138.2 (C-3), 138.4 (C-4'), 148.5 (C-5'), 149.9 (C-3'), 158.4 (C-2), 162.8 (C-9), 165.9 (C-5), 169.7 (C-7), 177.9 (C-4).

Laricetrin 5-galloyl-3- β -D-xylopyranoside (2; C₂₈H₂₄O₁₆): Yellow amorphous powder. – $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ – 120° (c 1.0 \times 10^{–4}, CH₃OH). – UV (CH₃OH): λ_{\max} = 269.0, 359.0 nm; (AlCl₃): λ_{\max} = 269.0, 419.0 nm; (AlCl₃ + HCl): λ_{\max} = 270.1, 272.0, 363.1, 419.9 nm. – ESIMS: m/z (rel. int.) = 639 [M+Na]⁺ (100). – ¹H NMR [300 MHz, CD₃OD, δ (ppm), multiplicity, J (Hz)]: δ = 6.2 (d, J = 2.2, H-6), 6.4 (d, J = 1.9, H-8), 7.13 (s, H-2''' and H-6'''), 7.22 (d, J = 1.9, H-6'), 7.55 (d, J = 1.9, H-2'), 5.7 (d, J = 6.4, H-1''), 5.54 (dd, J = 6.4, 1.4, H-2''), 3.99 (s, OCH₃), 3.91 (indt., H-3''), 3.89 (indt., H-4''), 3.54 (dd, J = 10.0, 1.0, H-5''). – ¹³C NMR [75 MHz, CD₃OD, δ (ppm)]: δ = 57.7 (OCH₃), 66.7 (C-5''), 69.2 (C-4''), 72.1 (C-3''), 74.0 (C-2''), 94.6 (C-8), 99.8 (C-6), 100.1 (C-1''), 105.9 (C-10), 106.9 (C-2'), 110.4 (C-2''' and C-6'''), 110.8 (C-6'), 121.8 (C-1'''), 121.9 (C-1'), 135.2 (C-3), 138.8 (C-4'), 139.0 (C-4''), 146.0 (C-3''' and C-5'''), 146.3 (C-5'), 149.2 (C-3'), 158.3 (C-2), 158.5 (C-9), 162.9 (C-5), 163.7 (C-7), 168.9 (C-7''), 179.1 (C-4).

Laricetrin 3- β -glucoside (3; C₂₂H₂₂O₁₃): Yellow amorphous powder. – $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ + 187.5° (c 1.6 \times 10^{–4}, CH₃OH). – UV (CH₃OH): λ_{\max} = 257.0, 264.1, 361 nm; (AlCl₃): λ_{\max} = 270.1, 272.0, 435.9 nm; (AlCl₃ + HCl): λ_{\max} = 270.0, 272.0, 361.0.1, 402.0 nm. – ESIMS: m/z (rel. int.) = 493 [M–H]⁺ (100). – ¹H NMR [300 MHz, CD₃OD, δ (ppm), multiplicity, J (Hz)]: δ = 6.14 (d, J = 2.0, H-6), 6.32 (d, J = 2.0, H-8), 7.28 (d, J = 1.8, H-6'), 7.50 (d, J = 1.8, H-2'), 3.91 (s, OCH₃), 5.34 (d, J = 6.0, H-1'), 3.55–3.63 (m, H-2'', H-3'', H-5''), 3.52 (t, J = 6.0, H-4''), 3.58 (dd, J = 12.3, indt., H-6''), 3.62 (dd, J = 12.3, indt., H-6''). – ¹³C NMR [75 MHz, CD₃OD, δ (ppm)]: δ = 57.0 (OCH₃), 94.8 (C-8), 99.9 (C-6), 105.6 (C-10), 106.8 (C-2'), 111.1 (C-6'), 121.8 (C-1'),

135.6 (C-3), 138.7 (C-4'), 146.0 (C-5'), 148.9 (C-3'), 158.2 (C-2), 158.6 (C-9), 162.8 (C-5), 165.8 (C-7), 179.2 (C-4), 62.5 (C-6''), 71.3 (C-5''), 75.8 (C-2''), 78.0 (C-3''), 78.3 (C-4''), 103.9 (C-1'').

Laricetrin 3-β-galactoside (**4**; C₂₂H₂₂O₁₃): Yellow amorphous powder. – $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ – 10.0° (*c* 2.0 × 10^{–4}, CH₃OH). – UV (CH₃OH): λ_{\max} = 257.9, 260.0, 362.0 nm; (AlCl₃): λ_{\max} = 270.1, 274.0, 419.1 nm; (AlCl₃ + HCl): λ_{\max} = 270.1, 274.0, 363.1, 409.0 nm. – ESIMS: *m/z* (rel. int.) = 493 [M–H]⁺ (100). – ¹H NMR [300 MHz, CD₃OD, δ (ppm), multiplicity, *J* (Hz)]: δ = 6.14 (d, *J* = 2.0, H-6), 6.32 (d, *J* = 2.0, H-8), 7.34 (d, *J* = 1.8, H-6'), 7.54 (d, *J* = 1.8, H-2'), 3.91 (s, OCH₃), 5.24 (d, *J* = 7.5, H-1''), 3.55–3.63 (m, H-2'', H-3'', H-5''), 3.83 (dd, *J* = 4.2, 2.1, H-4''), 3.73 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 5.4, H-6_a''), 3.77 (dd, *J* = 10.0, 2.4, H-6_b''). – ¹³C NMR [75 MHz, CD₃OD, δ (ppm)]: δ = 57.1 (OCH₃), 94.8 (C-8), 99.9 (C-6),

105.6 (C-10), 106.8 (C-2'), 111.1 (C-6'), 121.7 (C-1'), 135.7 (C-3), 138.7 (C-4'), 145.9 (C-5'), 148.8 (C-3'), 158.1 (C-2), 158.5 (C-9), 162.8 (C-5), 165.8 (C-7), 179.2 (C-4), 61.8 (C-6''), 69.7 (C-4''), 72.9 (C-2''), 74.7 (C-3''), 76.8 (C-5''), 104.8 (C-1'').

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