## Cytotoxic Abietane Diterpenes from Hyptis martiusii Benth.

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From roots of *Hyptis martiusii* Benth. two tanshinone diterpenes were isolated, the new  $7\beta$ -hydroxy-11,14-dioxoabieta-8,12-diene (1) in addition to the known  $7\alpha$ -acetoxy-12-hydroxy-11,14-dioxoabieta-8,12-diene ( $7\alpha$ -acetoxyroyleanone) (2). Structures of 1 and 2 were established by spectroscopic means. The cytotoxic activity against five cancer cell lines was evaluated. Compounds 1 and 2 displayed considerable cytotoxic activity against several cancer cell lines with IC<sub>50</sub> values in the range of 3.1 to 11.5  $\mu$ g/ml and 0.9 to 7.6  $\mu$ g/ml, respectively. The cytotoxic activity seemed to be related to inhibition of DNA synthesis, as revealed by the reduction of 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine incorporation and induction of apoptosis, as indicated by the acridine orange/ethidium bromide assay and morphological changes after 24 h of incubation in leukemic cells.

Key words: Hyptis martiusii, Labiatae, Abietane Diterpenes, Cytotoxic Activity