

Further Guaianolides from *Amphoricarpos neumayeri* ssp. *murbeckii* from Montenegro

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Dedicated to Daniel Vinček, Botanic Garden Dulovine, Kolašin, Montenegro on the occasion of his 80th birthday

The aerial parts of *Amphoricarpos neumayeri* ssp. *murbeckii* afforded eleven guaianolides with the same relative (1 α H,4 β H,5 α H,7 α H) configuration of the basic skeleton. All of them contained a CH₂OX (X = H, acetyl or isovaleroyl) group in 4 α -position, typical for amphoricarpolides. Four compounds (**1**–**4**) were isolated before from the same species, originating from different localities. Guaianolides **5**–**11** are new compounds. Compounds **7** and **8** were epoxidized at the 10 α (14)-position. Instead of the $\Delta^{11(13)}$ -double bond, observed in all previously isolated guaianolides from the same species, the four lactones contained 11 α ,13-diol (**8**–**10**) or 11 α -OH,13-chloro (**11**) moieties respectively.

Key words: *Amphoricarpos neumayeri* ssp. *murbeckii*, Sesquiterpene Lactones, Guaianolides

Introduction

The classification of the genus *Amphoricarpos*, an endemic species of the western part of the Balkan Peninsula, is somewhat vague. Blečić and Mayer [1] reported two endemic species: *A. neumayeri* Vis. and *A. autariatus* Blečić et. Mayer, the latter comprising two subspecies, ssp. *autariatus* and ssp. *bertisceus* Blečić et. Mayer. On the other hand, Webb [2] recognized only a single species, *A. neumayeri* Vis., divided in two subspecies, ssp. *neumayeri* and ssp. *murbeckii* Bošnjak.

In our previous phytochemical study of the aerial parts of *A. neumayeri* ssp. *neumayeri* and ssp. *murbeckii* Bošnjak [3] originating from the Orjen and Visitor mountains, respectively, eleven sesquiterpene γ -lactones with the guaianolide skeleton (named amphoricarpolides) have been isolated. All of them exhibited a 11(13)-double bond and an α -positioned C(15)H₂OX group (X = H, acetyl or *i*-valeroyl). The majority of these lactones were oxygenated at the 3 β position (OH or OAc) and most of them exhibited a

third oxygen functionality (OH or OAc, in one case) at the 2 α - or 9 β -position. All of them were new compounds. Continuing our chemotaxonomic examination of the members of the *Amphoricarpos* complex, we now report the investigation of *A. neumayeri* ssp. *murbeckii* [2], collected at the Karanfili mountain (belonging to the mountain chains of Prokletije, North Albanian Alps). According to Blečić and Mayer [1] this taxon, mostly inhabiting Prokletije (covering the boundary areas of Montenegro, Kosovo and Albania) and the mountains of north Greece was denoted as *A. autariatus* ssp. *bertisceus*.

Experimental Section

General

Dry-column flash chromatography and column chromatography: silica gel 60 (Merck), under 0.063 mm. TLC: Kieselgel 60 G₂₅₄, layer thickness 0.25 mm. IR: transparent dry films (Perkin-Elmer FT IR spectrometer 1725X). ¹³C and ¹H NMR: at 50 and 200 MHz, respectively (Varian Gemini 2000) and 125/500 MHz (Bruker DMX 500). MS (EI and

DCI): double focusing mass spectrometer (Finnigan MAT 8230). MS (ESI): double focusing mass spectrometer + electro spray interface (Finnigan MAT 900). LC/ESI MS (positive mode): Agilent 1100 Series LC/MSD G 1946D, LiChrospher 100 RP-18 (250 × 4 mm, 5 μm), flow rate, 1 mL/min, mobile phase, A (H₂O) + B (MeCN), elution, combination of gradient and isocratic modes: 90% A, 0–5 min, 90–65% A, 5–20 min, 65% A, 20–30 min, 65–50% A, 30–40 min, 50% A, 40–60 min. Optical rotations: Rudolph Research Analytical Autopol IV Automatic Polarimeter. Elemental analyses: Vario EL III C, H, N, S, O elemental analyzer (Elementar).

Plant material

Aerial parts of *A. neumayeri* ssp. *murbeckii* were collected during the flowering period (July) 2002 at the Karanfili mountain (Prokletije, Montenegro). A voucher specimen (BEOU AN 07072002) was deposited in the herbarium of the Botanical Garden “Jevremovac”, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade.

Extraction and isolation

Air dried aerial parts (380 g) were powdered and successively extracted twice with freshly distilled solvents (4.0 L): Et₂O-petroleum ether-MeOH (1 : 1 : 1) at r. t., followed by MeOH treatment to remove long chain saturated hydrocarbons, according to the usual procedure [4].

The crude extract (10 g) was divided into 28 fractions (Frs. 1–28) by dry-column flash chromatography, starting elution with petroleum ether and gradually increasing the polarity of the solvent, first by addition of Et₂O (up to 100%) and then MeOH (up to 30%).

From Fr. 13 (petroleum ether-Et₂O, 3 : 7), after CC (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH, 9.8 : 0.2), 4 mg of the lactone **6** was isolated. Preparative TLC (toluene-EtOAc-MeOH, 7.5 : 2 : 0.5) of Fr. 14 (petroleum ether-Et₂O, 2 : 8) yielded **11** (6 mg). The lactone **1** (24 mg) was isolated from Fr. 15 by silica gel CC (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH, 9.5 : 0.5). After preparative TLC (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH, 9.5 : 0.5) of Fr. 16 (petroleum ether-Et₂O, 0.5 : 9.5), 3 mg of **10** were obtained. The lactones **2** (4 mg) and **7** (3 mg) were isolated from the combined Frs. 17 and 18 (Et₂O-MeOH, 9 : 1), after preparative TLC (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH, 9.5 : 0.5). The lactones **5** (45 mg) and **9** (11 mg) were isolated from Fr. 25 (Et₂O-MeOH, 8 : 2), after silica gel CC (elution started with CH₂Cl₂-MeOH, 9.5 : 0.5 and polarity was gradually increased by addition of MeOH). Fr. 26 (Et₂O-MeOH, 8 : 2) was subjected to CC (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH, 9.5 : 0.5) yielding **3** (31 mg) and an additional fraction which, after further purification by two preparative TLCs (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH, 9.5 : 0.5 and 9.4 : 0.6, two developments in both cases) afforded 2 mg of **8**. The dominant lactone **4** (78 mg) was isolated from the combined Fr. 27 (Et₂O-MeOH, 8 : 2) and 28 (Et₂O-MeOH, 7 : 3).

15-O-acetyl-9β-hydroxyamphoricarpolide (5)

Colourless gum. – $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ – 7.1 (*c*, 0.38, CHCl₃). – IR (film): ν = 3457 (OH), 1670, 1650 (C=CH), 1768 (C=O, conjugated γ -lactone) cm⁻¹. – ¹H and ¹³C NMR: Tables 1 and 2, respectively. – MS (ESI, MeOH-H₂O, 1 : 1 + 1% AcOH): m/z (%) = 667.3 (70), [2M+Na⁺], 645 (60) [2M+H⁺], 345 (100) [M+Na⁺], 323 (55) [M+H⁺], 305 (75) [M+H⁺-18]. – C₁₇H₂₂O₆ (322.36): calcd. C 63.34, H 6.88; found: C 63.50, H 6.72.

15-O-acetyl-3-deoxyamphoricarpolide (6)

Colourless oil. – IR (film): ν = 1768 (C=O, conjugated γ -lactone), 1736, 1245 (OAc) cm⁻¹. – ¹H NMR: Table 1. – MS (ESI, MeOH-H₂O, 1 : 1 + 1% NH₄OAc): m/z (%) = 603 (2) [2M+Na⁺], 329 (38.5) [M+K⁺], 313 (34.5) [M+Na⁺], 308 (100), [M+NH₄⁺], 291 (7) [M+H⁺]. – HRMS (CI, 150 eV, *iso*-butane): [M+H⁺] m/z = 291.1586 (calcd. for C₁₇H₂₃O₄: 291.1596).

3-Deoxy-10α(14)-epoxyamphoricarpolide (7)

Colourless gum. – IR (film): ν = 3428 (OH), 1761 (C=O, conjugated γ -lactone), 1666 (C=C) cm⁻¹. – ¹H and ¹³C NMR: Tables 1 and 2, respectively. – MS (ESI, MeOH-H₂O, 1 : 1 + 1% NH₄OAc): m/z (%) = 551 (2) [2M+Na⁺], 303 (24) [M+K⁺], 287 (100) [M+Na⁺], 282 (16) [M+NH₄⁺], 265 (16) [M+H⁺]. – HRMS (CI, 150 eV, *iso*-butane): [M+H⁺] m/z = 265.1437 (calcd. for C₁₅H₂₁O₄: 265.1440).

3-Deoxy-10α(14)-epoxy-11α,13-dihydroxy-11,13-dihydroamphoricarpolide (8)

Colourless oil. – IR (film): ν = 3317 (OH), 1761 (C=O, lactone) cm⁻¹. – ¹H and ¹³C NMR: Tables 1 and 2, respectively. – MS (ESI, MeOH-H₂O, 1 : 1 + 1% NH₄OAc): m/z (%) = 635 (2) [2M+K⁺], 619 (13) [2M+Na⁺], 337 (100) [M+K⁺], 321 (49) [M+Na⁺], 316 (61) [M+NH₄⁺], 299 (9) [M+H⁺]. – HRMS (CI, 150 eV, *iso*-butane): [M+H⁺] m/z = 299.1499 (calcd. for C₁₅H₂₃O₆: 299.1495).

3-Deoxy-11α,13-dihydroxy-11,13-dihydroamphoricarpolide (9)

Colourless gum. – IR (film): ν = 3433 (OH), 1766 (C=O, γ -lactone), 1638 (C=C) cm⁻¹. – ¹H and ¹³C NMR: Tables 1 and 2, respectively. – MS (EI, 70 eV): m/z (%) = 282 (20) [M⁺], 264 (8) [M⁺-18], 251 (6.5) [M⁺-31], 177 (100), 159 (58). – C₁₅H₂₂O₅ (282.34): calcd. C 63.81, H 7.85; found: C 63.70, H 7.93.

15-O-acetyl-3-deoxy-11α,13-dihydroxy-11,13-dihydroamphoricarpolide (10)

Colourless oil. – $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ + 5.3 (*c*, 0.4, CHCl₃). – IR (film): ν = 3393 (OH), 1768 (C=O, lactone), 1760, 1251 (OAc),

Table 1. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) chemical shifts, multiplicities and coupling constants (in parentheses) of compounds **5**–**11**.

H	5 (500 MHz)	6 (200 MHz)	7 (200 MHz)	8 (500 MHz)	9 (500 MHz)	10 (200 MHz)	11 (500 MHz)
1	2.84 brq	2.83 brq	2.49 brq (~ 6)	2.68 brq (~ 9)	2.77 brq (~ 10)	2.79 brq (~ 10)	2.77 brq (~ 10)
2 α	2.27 dt (7.5, 12.5)	~ 1.90 ^a	~ 1.91 m	1.73 dddd (2, 7, 7.5, 12.5)	1.93 m	~ 1.90 ^a	1.92 m
2 β	1.93 dt (9.5, 13)	~ 1.72 ^a	~ 1.71 m	1.22 m	1.66 dq (6.5, ~ 11.5)	1.66	1.64 dt (6, 11)
3	3.99 q (~ 8.5)	1.92 1.47	~ 1.96 ~ 1.48	1.37 m 1.84 dddd (2, 12.5, 6.5, 7)	1.96 m 1.41 dq (6.5, ~ 11.5)	~ 1.90 ^a 1.36 ^a	1.97 m 1.37 dt (6.5, 11.5)
4	2.16 ^a	2.25 m	~ 2.22 m	~ 2.1 ^a	2.22 m	2.39 ^a	2.39 ^a
5	2.18 ^a	2.17	2.15	~ 2.1 ^a	2.07 ^a m	2.13 ^a	2.09 ^a
6	3.94 t (~ 10)	3.89 dd (9.0, 10.5)	4.08 dd (9, 10)	4.22 t (~ 10)	4.06 t (10)	4.0 t (10)	4.06 t (11)
7	2.74 m	2.73 m	2.85 m	2.41 ddd (3, 10, 12.5)	2.28 ddd (3, 10, 13)	2.34 ^a	2.39 ^a
8 α	2.59 dt (12.5, 3.5)	~ 2.30 ^a	2.29 m	~ 2.1 ^a	1.89 m	1.90 ^a	2.09 ^a
8 β	1.46 q (~ 12.5)	~ 1.36 ^a	~ 1.40	~ 1.5 ^a	1.50 dq (3.5, 12.5)	1.45	1.50 dt (6.5, 11.5)
9 α	4.19 ^a	2.05 m	~ 2.40	1.97 ddd (1.5, 11, 14)	2.07 ^a	2.13 ^a	1.89
9 β		2.57 ddd (4.8, 4.8, 13.0)	~ 1.80	1.63 ddd (4.5, 4.5, 14)	2.61 dt (13, 4)	2.61 dt (4, 13)	2.62 dt (13, 4)
13	6.25 d (3.5) 5.54 d (3)	6.17 d (3.4) 5.46 d (3.0)	6.24 d (4.4) 5.53 d (3.2)	3.81 ABq (11) 3.77 ABq (11)	3.68 brs (2H)	~ 3.74 m ^b (2H)	3.56 s (2H)
14	5.57 brs 5.24 d (~ 1)	4.93 brs 4.91 brs	2.72 dd (1.4, 4.4) 2.58 d (4.4)	2.77 dd (1.5, 4) 2.56 d (4)	4.90 brs 4.86 brs	4.91 brs 4.88 brs	4.92 brs 4.88 brs
15	4.67 dd (3.5, 11.5) 4.19 ^a	4.28 dd (5.0, 11.0) 4.08 dd (7.2, 11.0)	3.75 dd (5.4, 11) 3.66 dd (5.4, 11)	3.75 dd (5, 11) 3.66 dd (5, 11)	3.70 dd (5, 11) 3.59 dd (6, 11)	4.26 dd (4.6, 11) 4.07 dd (6.8, 11)	4.22 dd (5, 11) 4.07 dd (7, 11)
OAc	2.13 s	2.07 s	–	–	–	2.07 s	2.06 s

^a Overlapped (partly or completely); ^b partly resolved AB portion of an ABX spectrum, due to the additional coupling with OH.

C	5 (125 MHz)	7 (50 MHz)	8 (125 MHz)	9 (125 MHz)	10 (50 MHz)	11 (125 MHz)
1	39.9	48.8	45.1	47.6	47.4	47.5
2	37.1	26.7	26.3	30.4	29.7	29.6
3	73.5	29.1	29.0	29.5	30.3	30.3
4	50.8	47.8	48.7 ^a	47.1	43.8	44.0
5	45.2	46.1	47.8 ^a	48.9	48.7	48.8
6	84.8	85.5	84.5	84.4	83.8	83.8
7	44.2	45.9	52.2	54.1	53.4	54.1
8	38.6	26.6	22.3	27.2	27.2	27.0
9	74.3	34.5	36.5	36.7	36.4	36.0
10	152.8	58.1	58.9	150.1	149.6	149.2
11	138.5	139.4	~ 78.0 ^d	77.6	^b	79.2
12	169.4	169.4	178.8	179.1	^c	^c
13	120.6	120.9	63.3	63.1	63.3	43.7
14	110.9	50.5	49.3	112.3	112.7	112.9
15	64.4	65.6	65.2	65.9	67.5	67.5
OAc	171.6 20.9			–	^c 21.0	20.9

Table 2. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) chemical shifts of compounds **5**, **7**–**11**.

^a The assignments can be interchanged; ^b overlapped with CDCl₃ signals; ^c not detected because of the small concentration; ^d detected in HMBC.

1638 (C=C) cm^{-1} . – ^1H and ^{13}C NMR: Tables 1 and 2, respectively. – MS (EI, 70 eV), m/z (%) = 282 (1) [$\text{M}^+ - 42$], 264 (13) [$\text{M}^+ - 60$], 246 (8) [$\text{M}^+ - 60 - 18$], 159 (100), 43 (41). – HRMS (CI, 150 eV, *iso*-butane): [$\text{M} + \text{H}^+$] m/z = 325.1645 (calcd. for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_6$: 325.1651).

15-O-acetyl-3-deoxy-11 α -hydroxy-13-chloro-11,13-di-hydroamphoricarpolide (11)

Colourless gum. – $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} + 2.3$ (c, 0.22, CHCl_3). – IR (film): $\nu = 3444$ (OH), 1781 (C=O, lactone), 1734, 1248 (OAc), 1639 (C=C) cm^{-1} . – ^1H and ^{13}C NMR: Tables 1 and 2, respectively. MS (CI, 150 eV, *iso*-butane), m/z (%) = 345 (34) [$\text{M} + 2 + \text{H}^+$] 343 (100) [$\text{M} + \text{H}^+$], 307 (90). – $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{23}\text{ClO}_5$ (342.82): calcd. C 59.56, H 6.76; found: C 59.37, H 6.59.

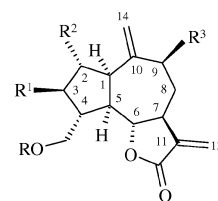
Results and Discussion

Using the same extraction procedure as before [4], in combination with silica gel CC and preparative TLC, eleven guaianolides (**1**–**11**) have been isolated. 3-Deoxyamphoricarpolide (**1**), 15-*O*-acetyl-amphoricarpolide (**2**), 3,15-di-*O*-acetyl-9 β -hydroxy-amphoricarpolide (**3**) and 15-*O*-isovaleroyl-3-*O*-acetyl-9 β -hydroxyamphoricarpolide (**4**) were also obtained in our previous investigation of the *Amphoricarpos* complex [3].

The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of the new guaianolides, assigned by comparison with those of known closely related compounds, or using 2D NMR methods (COSY, NOESY, HSQC, HMBC), are listed in Tables 1 and 2.

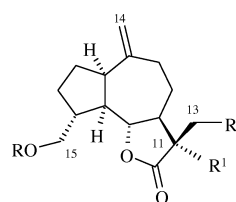
Lactone **5** showed an [$\text{M} + \text{H}^+$] ion in the ESIMS at $m/z = 323$, corresponding to the molecular formula $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_6$. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of **5** were similar to those of **3** and **4** [3], thus indicating the same basic structure. The major difference was an upfield shift of H-3 ($\Delta\delta = 1.06$ ppm) in **5** in comparison with H-3 in **3** and **4**, indicating 3 β -OH substitution in **5**. This indicated the structure of 15-*O*-acetyl-9 β -hydroxyamphoricarpolide for this lactone.

The ^1H NMR data of **6** ($\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_4$) were similar to those of **1**, the only guaianolide isolated from the *Amphoricarpos* complex lacking a 3-oxygen functionality so far. The similarity of most of the NMR data of **6** (Table 1) to those of the co-occurring **1** indicated close structural and stereochemical relationships. Lactone **6** exhibited an acetoxy group ($\nu_{\text{OAc}} = 1736, 1245$ cm^{-1} ; $\delta = 2.07$ s, 3H) attached to C-15, as evidenced from downfield shifts of H₂-15 ($\delta = 4.28$ and 4.05) in **6**,



	R	R ¹	R ²	R ³
1	H	H	H	H
2	Ac	OH	H	H
3	Ac	OAc	H	OH
4	i-Val	OAc	H	OH
5	Ac	OH	H	OH
6	Ac	H	H	H
7*	H	H	H	H

* 10 α (14)-Epoxy.



	R	R ¹	R ²
8*	H	OH	OH
9	H	OH	OH
10	Ac	OH	OH
11	Ac	OH	Cl

* 10 α (14)-Epoxy.

compared with **1** ($\delta = 3.74$ and 3.68). Accordingly, **6** was assigned as a 15-*O*-acetyl derivative of **1**.

The overall appearance of the ^1H NMR spectrum of **7** ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$) was also rather close to that of **1**. The major difference was the occurrence of two mutually coupled one-proton signals ($\delta = 2.72$ and 2.58, $J = 4.4$ Hz) instead of broad one-proton singlets of the exocyclic $\Delta^{10(14)}$ double bond in the olefinic region observed in most of the co-occurring compounds. The same pattern with the rather similar chemical shifts and couplings was also observed in the co-occurring lactone **8**, assigned as an 10 α (14)-epoxide, according to NOESY analysis (*vide infra*). This indicated the structure of a 3-deoxy-10 α (14)-epoxyamphoricarpolide for this lactone.

One of the common features of **8**–**11** was the lack of the characteristic ^1H and ^{13}C NMR resonances in the olefinic region ($\delta_{\text{H}} > 5.5$ and $\delta_{\text{C}} > 120$) of the exomethylene ($\Delta^{11(13)}$) group (observed in **1**–**7**). Instead of this, two-proton signals (AB quartets or broad

singlets), typical for the isolated C(13)H₂X (X = OH or Cl) group, were observed in the spectral region $\delta = 3.56\text{--}3.81$ (Table 1). Whereas the chemical shifts of C-13 in **8–10** ($\delta = 63.1\text{--}63.3$) indicated 13-OH substitution (X = OH), its chemical shift ($\delta = 43.7$) in **11** was in accordance with the attachment of a chlorine atom (X = Cl, “heavy atom effect”). The presence of the chlorine atom was also deduced from the MS data of **11** (*vide infra*). The almost identical chemical shift of C-11 ($\delta \sim 79\text{--}78$) in **8–11** indicated the same 11-OH pattern.

In addition to the above mentioned 11,13-diol group, the lactone **8** (C₁₅H₂₂O₆) contained the 10(14)-epoxide unit identified according to a pair of mutually coupled one-proton doublets ($\delta = 2.77$ and 2.56 , $J = 4$ Hz) occurring instead of $\Delta^{10(14)}$ exocyclic vinyl protons. The occurrence of an AB quartet at $\delta = 3.83$ (A) and $\delta = 3.74$ (B) ($J_{AB} = 11$ Hz), indicated an isolated C(13)H₂OH group, which was confirmed in HSQC and HMBC spectra. The ¹³C NMR signals of the epoxide ($\delta = 58.9$ and 49.3 , C-10 and C-14, respectively) and a diol moiety ($\delta = 63.3$ and $\delta \sim 78$, C-13 and C-11, respectively) also supported this assignment. A NOE between one of the H₂-14 protons ($\delta = 2.77$) and β -positioned H-6 revealed a 10 α (14)-epoxy configuration. Similarly, the NOE between H-6 and H₂-13 indicated a β -orientation of the C(13)H₂OH moiety. This, together with the remaining NOEs, such as H-6/H-4 and H-3 α /H₂-15 were fully in accordance with the structure of 3-deoxy-10 α (14)-epoxy-11 α ,13-dihydroxy-11,13-dihydroamphoricarpolide for this compound.

Lactone **9** (C₁₅H₂₂O₅) exhibited a broad two-proton singlet ($\delta = 3.68$), typical for the isolated C(13)H₂OH group (already observed in **8**). In addition, the occurrence of ¹³C NMR resonances at $\delta = 77.6$ and 63.1 of C-11 and C-13, assigned according to HMBC, indicated the 11,13-diol structure analogous to that in **8**. An additional common feature between **8** and **9** was the C(15)H₂OH group exhibiting the same multiplicities and almost the same chemical shifts in these lactones (see Table 1). The NOEs between H-6 and H₂-13, as well as with H-4

were in accordance with the same relative configurations at C-4 and C-11 (*i. e.* 4 β H,11 α OH) in **8** and **9** and the structure of 3-deoxy-11 α ,13-dihydroxy-11,13-dihydroamphoricarpolide for **9**.

The lactone **10** (C₁₇H₂₄O₆) exhibited rather similar spectral data to those of **9** (Tables 1 and 2). The main difference was the presence of an OAc group (3H s, $\delta = 2.07$), as well as a downfield shift of H₂-15 ($\delta = 4.26$ and 4.07), compared with **9**, indicating C-15 as the acetylation site. This indicated that this compound was the 15-*O*-acetyl derivative of **9**.

According to [M+H⁺] and [M+2+H⁺] ions, $m/z = 343$ and 345 (3:1), observed in DCIMS, lactone **11** exhibits the molecular formula C₁₇H₂₃ClO₅. The attachment of the chlorine atom to C-13 as well as the hydroxyl group to C-11 was deduced by the above mentioned ¹³C NMR chemical shifts of these carbon atoms. The chemical shift of H₂-15, almost identical to that in **9**, and the occurrence of a singlet of an acetoxy methyl group ($\delta = 2.06$) revealed acetylation of OH-15. The 4 β H- (based on the NOE between H-4 and H-6) and 11 α OH-configuration (according to the NOEs between H-6 β and H₂-13, and also H-8 β), the same as in **8–11**, was also evident. 11 α ,13-Diol (**8–10**) and 11-chloro-13-hydroxy groups (**11**) were most probably formed by nucleophilic opening of the corresponding 11 α ,13-epoxide. Such chlorohydrins might be artefacts formed during the isolation procedure, where chlorinated solvents might serve as the source of Cl⁻ [5, 6] as in the case of **11**, involving CH₂Cl₂ for the extraction of the sample after TLC purification. However, HPLC/ESI MS analysis of the crude extract prepared using the usual procedure with exclusion of the chlorinated solvents [4], also revealed the presence of **11**, thus indicating that this compound was not an artefact.

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