Cite this: RSC Adv., 2017, 7, 22735

Received 23rd February 2017
Accepted 17th April 2017
DOI: 10.1039/c7ra02260c
rsc.li/rsc-advances

# Myrtucomvalones A-C, three unusual triketonesesquiterpene adducts from the leaves of Myrtus communis 'Variegata' $\dagger$ 

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#### Abstract

Three new triketone-sesquiterpene adducts, myrtucomvalones $A-C(1-3)$, along with four known compounds (4-7) were isolated from the leaves of Myrtus communis 'Variegata'. Compounds 1 and 2 are the first examples of triketone-cubebane hybrids with an unusual carbon skeleton. Their structures with absolute configurations were determined by spectroscopic data, single crystal X-ray diffraction and electronic circular dichroism (ECD) analyses. Compounds 1-7 displayed inhibitory activities against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).


## Introduction

Triketone-terpene adducts are widely present in the family Myrtaceae as important secondary metabolites, which have diverse carbon skeletons and possess antimicrobial, antitumor, and anti-inflammatory activities. ${ }^{1-5}$ The plant Myrtus communis 'Variegata' (Myrtaceae), a colored-leafed evergreen shrub, is native to the Mediterranean region and has been traditionally used as a disinfectant and antiseptic agent. ${ }^{6}$ Previous phytochemical investigations on some plants of the genus Myrtus had led to the isolation of terpenoids, flavonoids, and meroterpenoid derivatives including triketone-terpene adducts. ${ }^{7-11}$ However, the chemical constituents of Myrtus communis 'Variegata' have not been reported. As part of our search for structurally unique and biologically active constituents from Myrtaceae plants, ${ }^{11-16}$ three new sesquiterpene-based meroterpenoids, myrtucomvalones A-C (1-3), together with four known analogs (4-7) were isolated from the leaves of the title plant (Fig. 1). Compounds 1 and 2 represent the first examples of cubebane-based triketone-terpene adducts with an unusual skeleton. The structures and absolute configurations of these

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Fig. 1 Chemical structures of 1-7.
new compounds were elucidated by spectroscopic analysis, Xray diffraction, and electronic circular dichroism (ECD) calculations. Moreover, compounds 1-7 exhibited inhibitory activities against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) with $\mathrm{IC}_{50}$ values ranging from $11.67 \pm 0.95$ to $46.33 \pm 3.75 \mu \mathrm{M}$. In this paper, we describe the isolation, structural elucidation, and anti-RSV activities of 1-7.

## Results and discussion

Compound 1 was obtained as colorless blocks. The HR-ESI-MS of 1 showed a quasimolecular ion peak at $m / z 441.3369[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$ (calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{45} \mathrm{O}_{3}, 441.3363$ ), consistent with the molecular formula $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ with 8 degrees of unsaturation. The UV spectrum of 1 displayed absorption maximum at 268 nm . The IR spectrum revealed characteristic absorptions for conjugated carbonyl ( $1651 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ) and olefinic bond ( $1620 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ ). The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR spectrum of 1 suggested the presence of four tertiary
methyls [ $\delta_{\mathrm{H}} 1.29$ ( $3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{H}-11^{\prime}$ ), 1.40 ( $3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{H}-12^{\prime}$ ), 1.32 ( $3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{H}-$ $\left.13^{\prime}\right)$, and $\left.1.32\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{H}-14^{\prime}\right)\right]$, a secondary methyl [ $\delta_{\mathrm{H}} 1.04(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}$, $J=6.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{H}-14)]$, and two isopropyl moieties $\left[\delta_{\mathrm{H}} 2.56(1 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{m}\right.$, H-8'), $0.68\left(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=6.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{H}-9^{\prime}\right), 0.93(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=6.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{H}-$ $\left.10^{\prime}\right), 1.59(1 \mathrm{H}$, overlapped, $\mathrm{H}-11), 0.95(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=5.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{H}-12)$, and $0.91(3 \mathrm{H}, \mathrm{d}, J=5.5 \mathrm{~Hz}, \mathrm{H}-13)]$. The ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR and DEPT spectra of 1 exhibited 29 carbon signals including those for an olefinic bond, two carbonyls and 25 aliphatic carbons. With the aid of ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}^{-1} \mathrm{H}$ COSY, HSQC, HMBC, and NOESY experiments, the NMR signals of 1 could be assigned as shown in Table 1. A comparison of the NMR data of $\mathbf{1}$ with those of the known compounds viminadiones A and $B^{17}$ suggested the presence of an isobutyl syncarpic acid unit (a) (Fig. 1). The remaining 15 aliphatic carbon atoms could be attributable to a sesquiterpene moiety. ${ }^{11,18}$ The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ COSY spectrum of 1 demonstrated the presence of three spin systems ( $\mathrm{H}-15$ to $\mathrm{H}-9^{\prime} / \mathrm{H}-10^{\prime}, \mathrm{H}-2$ to $\mathrm{H}-3$ and $\mathrm{H}-5$ to $\mathrm{H}-14$ ) (Fig. 2). In addition, the HMBC correlations between $\mathrm{Me}-14$ and $\mathrm{C}-1 / \mathrm{C}-9$, between $\mathrm{H}_{2}-3$ and $\mathrm{C}-1 / \mathrm{C}-4 / \mathrm{C}-5$,

Table $1{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR data of $1-3$


Fig. 2 Key ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ COSY and HMBC correlations of 1-3.
between $\mathrm{H}_{2}-2$ and $\mathrm{C}-1$, and between $\mathrm{H}-15$ and $\mathrm{C}-4$ suggested the presence of a cubebane moiety (b) in 1 (Fig. 2). Furthermore, the HMBC cross-peaks between $\mathrm{H}-\mathrm{7}^{\prime}$ and $\mathrm{C}-\mathbf{1}^{\prime}$, and between $\mathrm{H}-15$ and $\mathrm{C}-1^{\prime}$ indicated the connection of the cubebane and triketone units via a $\mathrm{C}-7^{\prime}$ and $\mathrm{C}-15$ bond. Based on the molecular

| No. | $1^{a}$ |  | $2^{\text {a }}$ |  | $3^{a}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\delta_{\mathrm{H}}{ }^{\text {b }}(J$ in Hz$)$ | $\delta_{\text {C }}$ | $\delta_{\mathrm{H}}{ }^{\text {b }}(\mathrm{J}$ in Hz) | $\delta_{\text {C }}$ | $\delta_{\mathrm{H}}{ }^{\text {b }}(\mathrm{J}$ in Hz$)$ | $\delta_{\text {C }}$ |
| 1 | - | 34.7 | - | 33.3 | 1.92 m | 37.4 |
| 2 | $\alpha 2.01$ ddd (12.5, 11.5, 8.5) | 29.7 | ~ 1.58 | 29.4 | 1.45 | 33.4 |
|  | $\beta 1.51$ dd (12.5, 8.5) |  | $\beta 1.89$ ddd (12.5, 11.5, 8.5) |  |  |  |
| 3 | $\alpha 1.60$ | 31.8 | $\alpha 1.13$ ddd (12.5, 11.5, 8.5) | 30.3 | 2.15 | 40.7 |
|  | $\beta 1.14$ ddd (14.5, 11.5, 8.5) |  | $\beta 1.75$ |  |  |  |
| 4 | - | 90.5 | - | 88.9 | - | 136.8 |
| 5 | 1.05 | 37.0 | 0.95 | 37.2 | 5.01 d (8.5) | 121.5 |
| 6 | 0.52 t (3.0) | 24.4 | 1.01 | 23.3 | 1.28 | 24.9 |
| 7 | 1.06 | 44.4 | 1.00 | 44.7 | 0.66 ddd (12.5, 9.0, 3.5) | 27.0 |
| 8 | $\alpha 1.43 \mathrm{~m}$ | 26.9 | $\alpha 0.85 \mathrm{~m}$ | 27.7 | ~ 1.67 | 19.3 |
|  | $\beta 0.86 \mathrm{~m}$ |  | $\beta 1.45$ |  | $\beta 0.91$ |  |
| 9 | $\alpha 0.58 \mathrm{dt}(12.5,2.0)$ | 31.8 | $\alpha 1.65$ | 32.0 | $\alpha 1.22$ | 35.5 |
|  | $\beta 1.66$ |  | $\beta 0.54$ ddd (15.0, 13.0, 2.0) |  | $\beta 1.68$ |  |
| 10 | 1.81 m | 30.3 | 1.70 | 30.7 | - | 84.0 |
| 11 | 1.59 | 33.8 | 1.59 | 34.0 | - | 20.3 |
| 12 | 0.95 d (5.5) | 20.1 | 0.96 d (6.5) | 20.7 | 1.06 s | 28.9 |
| 13 | 0.91 d (5.5) | 20.0 | 1.02 d (6.5) | 19.9 | 1.12 s | 15.1 |
| 14 | 1.04 d (6.5) | 19.1 | 0.96 d (7.0) | 19.0 | 1.01 s | 21.1 |
| 15 | $\alpha 1.72$ dd (14.0, 7.0) | 29.4 | $\alpha 1.70$ | 30.0 | 1.71 s | 17.2 |
|  | $\beta 1.87$ dd (14.0, 7.0) |  | $\beta 1.72$ |  |  |  |
| $1^{\prime}$ | - | 112.4 | - | 112.1 | - | 114.1 |
| $2^{\prime}$ | - | 198.2 | - | 198.0 | - | 197.8 |
| $3^{\prime}$ | - | 55.6 | - | 55.6 | - | 55.4 |
| $4^{\prime}$ | - | 213.9 | - | 213.9 | - | 214.0 |
| $5^{\prime}$ | - | 48.2 | - | 48.2 | - | 47.8 |
| $6^{\prime}$ | - | 170.7 | - | 172.3 | - | 170.0 |
| $7{ }^{\prime}$ | 2.64 ddd (11.5, 7.0, 5.0) | 34.5 | 2.75 td (9.0, 4.0) | 33.6 | 2.61 dd (9.0, 2.0) | 43.5 |
| $8{ }^{\prime}$ | 2.56 m | 26.9 | 2.60 m | 26.5 | 2.08 m | 30.9 |
| $9^{\prime}$ | 0.68 d (6.5) | 16.3 | 0.64 d (6.5) | 15.7 | 0.85 d (7.0) | 19.7 |
| $10^{\prime}$ | 0.93 d (6.5) | 20.8 | 0.96 d (6.5) | 20.8 | 0.98 d (7.0) | 20.4 |
| $11^{\prime}$ | 1.29 s | 26.1 | 1.30 s | 25.8 | 1.29 s | 24.5 |
| $12^{\prime}$ | 1.40 s | 24.5 | 1.40 s | 24.6 | 1.32 s | 24.3 |
| $13^{\prime}$ | 1.32 s | 26.4 | 1.31 s | 25.7 | 1.26 s | 25.4 |
| $14^{\prime}$ | 1.32 s | 23.1 | 1.31 s | 23.5 | 1.34 s | 24.3 |

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Fig. 3 Key NOESY correlations of 1-3
formula information as well as the upfield shift at $\mathrm{C}-6^{\prime}\left(\delta_{\mathrm{C}} 170.7\right)$ and downfield shift at C-4 ( $\delta_{\mathrm{C}} 90.5$ ), the oxygen atom leftover was deduced to bridge $\mathrm{C}-4$ and $\mathrm{C}-6^{\prime}$ to form a dihydropyran ring (Fig. 1).

In the NOESY spectrum, the correlations between $\mathrm{H}-5$ and $\mathrm{H}-7 /$ $\mathrm{H}-9 \alpha$, between $\mathrm{H}-6$ and $\mathrm{H}-2 \beta / \mathrm{H}-3 \beta / \mathrm{H}-11 / \mathrm{Me}-12$, as well as between $\mathrm{H}-15 \beta$ and $\mathrm{H}-3 \beta / \mathrm{H}-7^{\prime}$ established the relative configuration of 1 (Fig. 3). The complete structure and stereochemistry of $\mathbf{1}$ were further confirmed by an X-ray diffraction analysis. The final refinement of the $\mathrm{Cu} \mathrm{K} \alpha$ data resulted in a small Flack parameter of -0.05 (11), allowing an unambiguous assignment of the absolute configurations of 1 as $1 R, 4 S, 5 R, 6 R, 7 S, 10 R, 7^{\prime} R$ (Fig. 4).

Compound 2 gave the same molecular formula $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ as $\mathbf{1}$ by its HR-ESI-MS data at $m / z 441.3364[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$(calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{45} \mathrm{O}_{3}, 441.3363$ ). Detailed examination of 1D and 2D NMR spectra of 2 and comparison with those of 1 revealed they have the same planar structure. Their different relative configurations were displayed by the different chemical shifts at $\mathrm{C}-4, \mathrm{C}-7^{\prime}$, and $\mathrm{H}-7^{\prime}$ between 1 and 2 . The chiral centers of $\mathrm{C}-4$ and $\mathrm{C}-7^{\prime}$ in 2 were established to have the opposite configurations to those of 1 through the NOESY correlations between $\mathrm{H}-5$ and $\mathrm{H}-7 / \mathrm{H}-9 \beta$, between $\mathrm{H}-6$ and $\mathrm{H}-3 \alpha$, between $\mathrm{H}-10$ and $\mathrm{H}-8 \alpha$, as well as between $\mathrm{H}-7^{\prime}$ and $\mathrm{H}-3 \beta$ (Fig. 3). The structure and relative configuration of 2 were further confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analysis (Fig. 4). To determine the absolute configurations of 2 , a comparison between the experimental and calculated circular dichroism (CD) spectra using the time-dependent DFT method was performed. The measured CD spectrum of 2 showed a positive Cotton effect at $304.5(\Delta \varepsilon+4.8) \mathrm{nm}$ as well as a negative one at $260.7(\Delta \varepsilon-24.1) \mathrm{nm}$, which were consistent with those of the calculated CD spectrum for $1 R, 4 R, 5 R, 6 R, 7 S, 10 R$, and $7^{\prime} S$ isomer (Fig. 5). Hence, the absolute configurations of 2 were elucidated as $1 R, 4 R, 5 R, 6 R, 7 S, 10 R$, and $7^{\prime} S$.

The molecular formula of 3 was determined to be $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ by its HR-ESI-MS data at $m / z 441.3370[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$(calcd for


1


2
Fig. $4 \quad$ X-ray ORTEP drawings of 1 and 2 .
$\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{45} \mathrm{O}_{3}, 441.3363$ ). Comparison of the NMR data of 3 with those of 1 and 2 (Table 1) suggested that they had the same substructure of an isobutyl syncarpic acid unit (a) (Fig. 2). The remaining 15 carbons was assigned to a sesquiterpene moiety. The ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}-{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ COSY spectrum showed the presence of two spin systems ( $\mathrm{H}-3$ to $\mathrm{H}-9^{\prime} / \mathrm{H}-10^{\prime}$, and $\mathrm{H}-5$ to $\mathrm{H}-9$ ) (Fig. 2). Furthermore, the HMBC correlations between $\mathrm{H}-6 / \mathrm{H}-7 / \mathrm{H}-12 / \mathrm{H}-13$ and $\mathrm{C}-11$, between $\mathrm{H}-3$ and $\mathrm{C}-4 / \mathrm{C}-5$, between $\mathrm{H}-15$ and $\mathrm{C}-4$, between $\mathrm{H}-9$ and $\mathrm{C}-1 / \mathrm{C}-10$, as well as between $\mathrm{H}-14$ and $\mathrm{C}-10$ established the construction of a bicyclogermacrene unit (b) (Fig. 2). Moreover, the HMBC correlations between $\mathrm{H}-7^{\prime}$ and $\mathrm{C}-10 / \mathrm{C}-1^{\prime}$ / $\mathrm{C}-2^{\prime} / \mathrm{C}-6^{\prime}$ indicated the connection of parts (a) and (b) via a C-1 and $\mathrm{C}-7^{\prime}$ bond. Finally, the closure mode of dihydropyran ring connecting the two fragments could be deduced on the basis of the molecular formula information as well as the upfield shift at C-6 ${ }^{\prime}\left(\delta_{\mathrm{C}} 170.0\right)$ and downfield shift at $\mathrm{C}-10\left(\delta_{\mathrm{C}} 84.0\right)$.

In the NOESY spectrum of 3 , the correlations between $\mathrm{H}-8 \beta$ and $\mathrm{H}-1$, between $\mathrm{Me}-13$ and $\mathrm{H}-1 / \mathrm{Me}-15$, between $\mathrm{H}-6 / \mathrm{H}-7$ and Me-12, as well as between $\mathrm{H}-8^{\prime} / \mathrm{H}-9 \alpha$ and $\mathrm{Me}-14$ confirmed the relative configurations of C-1, C-6, C-7, C-10, and C-7' (Fig. 3). To determine the absolute configuration of 3 , the ECD curves for the two possible enantiomers $\left(1 R, 6 S, 7 R, 10 S, 7^{\prime} S-3\right.$, and $1 S, 6 R$, $\left.7 S, 10 R, 7^{\prime} R-3\right)$ were respectively calculated using the timedependent DFT method. The experimental CD spectrum of 3 exhibited positive Cotton effects at $294.2(\Delta \varepsilon+6.7)$ and $203.1(\Delta \varepsilon$


Fig. 5 Calculated and experimental CD spectra of 2 and 3 .
$+10.5) \mathrm{nm}$ as well as a negative one at $253.4(\Delta \varepsilon-31.0) \mathrm{nm}$, which were similar to the calculated curves of $1 R, 6 S, 7 R, 10 S$, $7^{\prime} S-3$ (Fig. 5). Thus, the structure of 3 was determined.

The known compounds callistiviminene J (4), ${ }^{19}$ callistiviminene $\mathrm{K}(5),{ }^{19}$ callistiviminene $\mathrm{M}(6),{ }^{19}$ and callistiviminene $\mathrm{N}(7)^{19}$ were identified by comparison of their physical and spectroscopic data with those reported in the literature.

The antiviral activities of phloroglucinol-terpene adducts from family Myrtaceae had been reported. ${ }^{20,21}$ Thus, the antiviral effects of compounds 1-7 against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) were evaluated in HEp-2 cells using the cytopathic effect (CPE) reduction assay. Compounds 3, 5, and 7 exhibited moderate inhibitory activities against RSV A2 strain with $\mathrm{IC}_{50}$ values ranging from $11.67 \pm 0.95$ to $15.85 \pm 3.02 \mu \mathrm{M}$, while the $\mathrm{IC}_{50}$ value of the positive control ribavirin was $10.20 \pm 0.90 \mu \mathrm{M}$. Cytotoxicity evaluation using the MTT (3-[4,5-dimethyl-thiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide) assay showed that all compounds 1-7 were weak toxic to HEp-2 cells. Therefore, compound 5 showed the best antiviral selective induce (SI) (Table 2).
$\mathrm{IC}_{50}$ was detected by plaque reduction assay after the screening with CPE reduction assay; data are expressed as mean $\pm \mathrm{SD} ; \mathrm{CC}_{50}$ was tested by MTT assay; data were expressed as mean $\pm \mathrm{SD}$; SI value equals to $\mathrm{CC}_{50} / \mathrm{IC}_{50}$.

In summary, three novel triketone-sesquiterpene adducts (1-3) along with four known ones (4-7) were isolated from the leaves of Myrtus communis 'Variegata'. Compounds $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{2}$ are a new type of meroterpenoids combined by $\beta$-triketone and

Table 2 In vitro anti-RSV A2 strain activities

| Compounds | $\mathrm{CC}_{50}(\mu \mathrm{M})$ | $\mathrm{IC}_{50}(\mu \mathrm{M})$ | SI |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\mathbf{1}$ | $>100$ | $23.92 \pm 1.46$ | $>4.18$ |
| $\mathbf{2}$ | $>100$ | $31.04 \pm 5.43$ | $>3.22$ |
| $\mathbf{3}$ | $77.87 \pm 12.27$ | $15.85 \pm 3.02$ | 4.91 |
| $\mathbf{4}$ | $>100$ | $46.33 \pm 3.75$ | $>2.16$ |
| $\mathbf{5}$ | $>100$ | $11.67 \pm 0.95$ | $>8.57$ |
| $\mathbf{6}$ | $95.55 \pm 3.86$ | $22.50 \pm 2.50$ | 4.25 |
| 7 | $58.03 \pm 8.36$ | $12.92 \pm 1.91$ | 4.49 |
| Ribavirin | $252.5 \pm 6.8$ | $10.20 \pm 0.90$ | 24.8 |

cubebane units. The anti-RSV activities of compounds 1-7 are reported for the first time.

## Experimental

## General experimental procedures

Melting points were obtained on an X-5 micro melting point apparatus and are uncorrected (Fukai Instrument, Beijing, P. R. China). Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO P-2000 digital polarimeter (Jasco, Tokyo, Japan) at room temperature. UV spectra were determined on a JASCO V-550 UV/vis spectrophotometer (Jasco, Tokyo, Japan). IR spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT/IR4600 plus Fourier transform infrared spectrometer (Jasco, Tokyo, Japan) using KBr pellets. ECD spectra were obtained on a JASCO J810 spectropolarimeter (Jasco, Tokyo, Japan) at room temperature. HR-ESI-MS spectra were acquired on an Agilent 6210 LC/MSD TOF mass spectrometer (Agilent Technologies, CA, USA). NMR spectra were measured on Bruker AV-500 spectrometer (Bruker, Fällanden, Switzerland). Single-crystal data were performed using an Agilent Gemini S Ultra diffractometer and $\mathrm{Cu} \mathrm{K} \alpha$ radiation. Silica gel (200-300 mesh; Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc., Qingdao, P. R. China), Sephadex LH-20 (Pharmacia Biotech AB, Uppsala, Sweden), and reversed-phase $\mathrm{C}_{18}$ silica gel (YMC, Kyoto, Japan) were used for column chromatography (CC). Preparative HPLC was carried out on an Agilent 1260 Chromatograph equipped with a G1311C pump and a G1315D photodiode array detector (Agilent Technologies, CA, USA) with a $\mathrm{C}_{18}$ reversed-phase column (Cosmosil, $10 \times 250 \mathrm{~mm}, 5 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ ). All solvents used in CC and HPLC were of analytical grade (Shanghai Chemical Plant, Shanghai, P. R. China) and chromatographic grade (Fisher Scientific, New Jersey, USA), respectively.

## Plant material

The leaves of $M$. communis 'Variegata' were collected from Shanghai city of P. R. China in November 2015 and authenticated by Prof. Guang-Xiong Zhou, Jinan University, Guangzhou, P. R. China. A voucher specimen (no. 2015110701) was deposited in the Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Natural Products, Jinan University, Guangzhou, P. R. China.

## Extraction and isolation

The air-dried leaves of $M$. communis 'Variegata' ( 12 kg ) were pulverized and extracted with $95 \% \mathrm{EtOH}(\mathrm{V} / \mathrm{V}, 50 \mathrm{~L})$ for 4 times at room temperature. The alcoholic extract was evaporated under
reduced pressure to give 2.1 kg crude extract, which was then suspended in water and extracted with petroleum ether (PE, b.p. $60-90{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ). The PE extract ( 412.5 g ) was subjected to silica gel column chromatography eluted with a gradient mixture of cyclohexane/EtOAc (100:0 $0: 100$ ) to afford twelve fractions (Fr. A-L). Fr. E ( 42.7 g ) was separated by silica gel column chromatography with PE/EtOAc (100:0 $0: 100$ ) as eluent to yield nine subfractions (Fr. E1-E9). Then, Fr. E3 (8.2 g) was subjected to ODS column chromatography using $\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}(50: 50 \rightarrow$ $100: 0)$ as eluent and further purified by reversed-phase semipreparative $\mathrm{HPLC}\left(\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 90: 10,3 \mathrm{~mL} \mathrm{~min}{ }^{-1}\right)$ to afford compounds $\mathbf{5}\left(14.5 \mathrm{mg}, t_{\mathrm{R}} 16.4 \mathrm{~min}\right), \mathbf{1}\left(11.2 \mathrm{mg}, t_{\mathrm{R}} 35.8 \mathrm{~min}\right)$ and $2\left(8.7 \mathrm{mg}, t_{\mathrm{R}} 38.7 \mathrm{~min}\right)$. Fr. E4 ( 2.3 g ) was chromatographed on Sephadex LH-20 $\left(\mathrm{CHCl}_{3} / \mathrm{MeOH}, 1: 1\right)$ and purified by reversedphase semi-preparative $\mathrm{HPLC}\left(\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 85: 15,3 \mathrm{~mL} \mathrm{~min}{ }^{-1}\right)$ to obtain compounds $4\left(6.2 \mathrm{mg}, t_{\mathrm{R}} 18.1 \mathrm{~min}\right)$ and $3\left(10.3 \mathrm{mg}, t_{\mathrm{R}}\right.$ $41.2 \mathrm{~min})$. Fr. E5 ( 1.7 g ) was also purified by reversed-phase semipreparative HPLC $\left(\mathrm{MeOH} / \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}, 80: 20,3 \mathrm{~mL} \mathrm{~min}{ }^{-1}\right)$ to obtain compounds $6\left(7.1 \mathrm{mg}, t_{\mathrm{R}} 18.7 \mathrm{~min}\right)$ and $7\left(8.5 \mathrm{mg}, t_{\mathrm{R}} 20.5 \mathrm{~min}\right)$.

To confirm the purity of the samples for biological test, all compounds were analyzed by HPLC equipped with a diode array detector. The purities of compounds 1-7 calculated by area normalization method were between $96.22 \%$ and $99.99 \%$ (see ESI $\dagger$ ).

## X-ray crystallographic analysis of 1 and 2

The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by fullmatrix least-squares on $F^{2}$ using SHELXL-97 package software. Crystallographic data for the structures have been deposited in the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre with the deposition number of CCDC 1529330 for 1 and CCDC 1529333 for 2 (see ESI $\dagger$ ).

Crystal data of 1. $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{O}_{3}(\mathrm{fw}=440.64)$; orthorhombic, space group $P 2_{1} 2_{1} 2_{1} ; a=6.0056(10) \AA, b=18.0532(4) \AA, c=23.3138(5)$ $\AA, \alpha=90^{\circ}, \beta=90^{\circ}, \gamma=90^{\circ} ; V=2527.69(9) \AA^{3}, T=293(2) \mathrm{K}, Z=4$, $D_{\mathrm{c}}=1.158 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~cm}^{-3}, F(000)=968$. A total of 20350 reflections were collected in the range $3.79 \leq \theta \leq 62.85$, of which 3815 unique reflections with $I>2 \sigma(I)$ were collected for the analysis. The final refinement gave $R=0.0299, R_{\mathrm{w}}=0.0779, S=1.063$ and Flack parameter $=-0.05(11)$. Crystal data of 1 were deposited in the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC 1529330).

Crystal data of 2. $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{44} \mathrm{O}_{3}(\mathrm{fw}=440.64)$; triclinic, space group $P \overline{1}$; $a=9.7468(7) \AA, b=10.0413(9) \AA, c=14.7257(9) \AA, \alpha=$ 107.318(7) ${ }^{\circ}, \beta=95.676(6)^{\circ}, \gamma=104.090(7)^{\circ} ; V=1311.43(18) \AA^{3}$, $T=100.01(10) \mathrm{K}, Z=2, D_{\mathrm{c}}=1.116 \mathrm{~g} \mathrm{~cm}^{-3}, F(000)=484$. A total of 8553 reflections were collected in the range $4.76 \leq \theta \leq 73.61$, of which 3977 unique reflections with $I>2 \sigma(I)$ were collected for the analysis. The final refinement gave $R=0.0774, R_{\mathrm{w}}=0.2426$, $S=1.032$. Crystal data of 2 were deposited in the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC 1529333).

## Structure characterization

Myrtucomvalones A (1). Colorless blocks (MeOH); m.p. 182$183{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C} ;[\alpha]=+52(c 0.22, \mathrm{MeOH}) ; \mathrm{UV}(\mathrm{MeOH}) \lambda_{\max }(\log \varepsilon): 204$ (3.51), 268 (3.66) nm; IR (KBr) $\nu_{\text {max }}$ : 2957, 2925, 2854, 1714, 1651, 1620, 1466, 1381, 1333, 1171, 1154, 1038, 958, $896 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$;

HR-ESI-MS $m / z 441.3369[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$(calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{45} \mathrm{O}_{3}$ : 441.3363); ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR data, see Table 1.

Myrtucomvalones B (2). Colorless blocks (MeOH); m.p. 193$195{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$; $[\alpha]=+69(c 0.24, \mathrm{MeOH}) ; \mathrm{UV}(\mathrm{MeOH}) \lambda_{\text {max }}(\log \varepsilon): 204$ (3.58), $268(3.78) \mathrm{nm} ; \mathrm{CD}\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}\right) \lambda_{\max }(\Delta \varepsilon): 211(0), 261(-24.1)$, 286 (0), 305 ( +4.8 ) nm; IR (KBr) $\nu_{\text {max }}$ 2924, 2851, 1717, 1654, 1612, 1464, 1381, 1316, 1170, 1134, 1039, $721 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HR-ESI-MS $m / z 441.3364[\mathrm{M}+\mathrm{H}]^{+}$(calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{45} \mathrm{O}_{3}: 441.3363$ ); ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR data, see Table 1.

Myrtucomvalones C (3). Yellow oil; $[\alpha]=+116$ (c 0.27 , $\mathrm{MeOH}) ; \mathrm{UV}(\mathrm{MeOH}) \lambda_{\text {max }}(\log \varepsilon): 210$ (3.53), 267.5 (3.69) nm; CD $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}\right) \lambda_{\max }(\Delta \varepsilon): 203(+10.5), 218(0), 253(-31.0), 278(0), 294$ ( +6.7 ) nm; IR (KBr) $\nu_{\text {max }}$ : 2975, 2871, 1716, 1651, 1622, 1459, 1383, 1178, 1117, 1050, $891 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$; HR-ESI-MS $m / z 441.3370[\mathrm{M}+$ $\mathrm{H}]^{+}$(calcd for $\mathrm{C}_{29} \mathrm{H}_{45} \mathrm{O}_{3}: 441.3363$ ); ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR data, see Table 1.

## Cell and virus

Human larynx epidermoid carcinoma cells (HEp-2 cells, ATCC CCL-23) and human respiratory syncytial virus (RSV A2 strains, ATCC VR-1540) were obtained from Medicinal Virology Institute of Wuhan University in China. HEp-2 cells were grown in Dulbecco's modified eagle medium (DMEM, Gibco) containing $10 \%$ fetal bovine serum (FBS, Biological Industries) and $1 \%$ penicillin-streptomycin solution. The maintenance medium used for 3-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide (MTT) and antiviral effect assay contained 2\% FBS instead of $10 \%$. Virus propagated on HEp- 2 cells and were gathered when the lesion degree could be observed in the vast majority of cells. Viral titer expressed by $50 \%$ tissue culture infective dose ( $\mathrm{TCID}_{50}$ ) was tested by cytopathic effect (CPE) assay and the virus was stored at $-80^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

## Cytotoxicity assay

The cytotoxicity of compounds was estimated by MTT assay. ${ }^{22}$ $1.5 \times 10^{4}$ cells per well were plated into 96 -well plates and cultured at $37^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in a $5 \% \mathrm{CO}_{2}$ incubator for 18 h . Then, growth medium was replaced by prepared compounds at concentrations of $3.125,6.25,12.5,25,50$ or $100 \mu \mathrm{M}$ in triplicate. After incubation for 48 h , the cells were treated with MTT solution for another 4 h . Subsequently, the supernatant was removed and dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) was added to dissolve the formazan. The absorbance was measured with a conventional microplate reader at 570 nm . Cell viability (\%) was calculated as a percentage of absorbance of the medication administration team compared with the blank team. The $50 \%$ cytotoxic concentration $\left(\mathrm{CC}_{50}\right)$ was obtained by regression analysis of dose-response curves according to cell viability.

## Antiviral effect assay

The antiviral effect of compounds was determined using a CPE reduction assay. ${ }^{23}$ The antiviral activity of each compound was tested by using the maximal noncytotoxic concentration (MNCC) as the first concentration. Briefly, cell suspensions (1.5 $\times 10^{4}$ cells per well) were seeded to each well in 96 -well plates. After 18 h , monolayer of HEp-2 cells were treated with a mixture
of RSV (100 TCID ${ }_{50}$ ) and different concentrations of compounds for 72 h . The development of CPE was monitored via formation of the syncytium. The antiviral effect of compounds could be manifested by observing the lesion degree of each well through microscope. The concentration inhibiting half of CPE was assessed from observations and was considered as the half maximal inhibitory concentration ( $\mathrm{IC}_{50}$ ).

## Quantum chemical ECD calculation

The systematic random conformational analysis of compounds 2 and 3 were performed in Sybyl 8.1 program by using MMFF94 s molecular force field. All the obtained conformers were further optimized at B3LYP/6-31+G(d) level using the Gaussian 09 software. ${ }^{24}$ The ECD calculation of each single conformer was carried out by means of time-dependent DFT (TDDFT) methods at the B3LYP/6-31+G(d) level, as available in Gaussian 09. The overall calculated ECD curves were obtained by means of Bolthzmann weighting of single ECD spectra. The calculated ECD spectra of 2 and 3 were subsequently compared with the experimental ones. The ECD spectra were produced by SpecDis 1.6 software.

## Acknowledgements

This work was supported by Program for National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. U1401225, 81573307), the Science and Technology Planning Project of Guangdong Province (No. 2016B0-30301004), and the Guangdong Natural Science Foundation for Distinguished Young Scholar (No. 2015A030306022).

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[^1]:    ${ }^{a}$ Data were recorded in $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}$ at 500 MHz for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR and 125 MHz for ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR. ${ }^{b}$ Overlapped signals are reported without designating multiplicity.

