

Lignans from *Lonicerae caulis*

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Abstract – A new 2,7'-cycloignan named lonicerinol (**1**) along with eight known lignans, (–)-epipinoresinol (**2**), (–)-pinoresinol (**3**), 9 α -hydroxypinoresinol (**4**), 7*R*,8*S*-dihydrodehydrodiconiferyl alcohol (**5**), (±)-neo-olivil (**6**), (+)-isolariciresinol (**7**), 3-methoxy-8,4'-oxyneoligna-3',4,7,9,9'-pentol (**8**), and (–)-pinoresinol 4-*O*-glucoside (**9**), were isolated from the caulis of *Lonicera japonica* THUNB. (Caprifoliaceae). All of these constituents except for (–)-pinoresinol (**3**) and 9 α -hydroxypinoresinol (**4**) are reported for the first time from the genus *Lonicera*. The structures and absolute configurations of these compounds were determined on the basis of spectroscopic analysis, including CD and 1D- and 2D-NMR techniques and chemical methods.

Keywords - *Lonicera japonica*; Caprifoliaceae; caulis; lignan

Introduction

Lonicera (Caprifoliaceae) is a genus of about 200 species of erect climbing or scrambling shrub distributed chiefly in the sub-tropical and temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere (Evans, 2002). The caulis of *Lonicera japonica* Thunb., Japanese honeysuckle, has been used to treat urinary disorders, fever and headache. It has been well known as an anti-inflammatory and antiviral agent in Korea from ancient times and is used widely for upper respiratory tract infections, diabetes mellitus and rheumatoid arthritis (Kwak *et al.*, 2003; Lee *et al.*, 1998; Son *et al.*, 1992). Previous investigations of *L. japonica* have yielded flavonoids, iridoids, triterpenoid saponins and other compounds (Kawai *et al.*, 1988; Kawai *et al.*, 1998; Kumar *et al.*, 2005; Kwak *et al.*, 2003; Lee *et al.*, 1998; Machida *et al.*, 2002; Shoji *et al.*, 1990; Son *et al.*, 1992; Son *et al.*, 1994a,b). However, no chemical investigation on lignans from *L. japonica* has been reported so far.

As part of our efforts to isolate the chemical constituents of *Lonicerae caulis* to evaluate *L. japonica* qualitatively, we isolated a number of major and minor constituents from the caulis of *L. japonica* (Kim *et al.*, 2009a,b,c). This paper describes the structural elucidation of a new aryltetraline lignan, lonicerinol (**1**), together with the isolation of eight known lignans.

Experimental

Analytical methods – The following instruments were used to obtain physical data: Optical rotation, Jasco P-1020 polarimeter ($l = 1$ cm); CD spectra, Jasco J-715 spectrometer; UV spectra, Hitachi U-3010 spectrometer; IR spectra, Jasco FT/IR 300E spectrometer; EI-MS, Jeol JMS-700 mass spectrometer; ¹H-NMR spectra, Bruker/Avance-500 (500 MHz) spectrometer; ¹³C-NMR spectra, Bruker/Avance-500 (125 MHz) spectrometer (The chemical shifts (δ) are reported in part per million (ppm) and J values in Hz, using CD₃OD). TLC were performed using Kiesel gel 60 F₂₅₄ (precoated, Merck, art. 5715) and RP-18_{254s} (Merck, art. 5685) plates, and detection was achieved by spraying with 10% H₂SO₄ followed by heating. Column chromatography was carried out on Kiesel gel 60 (70 – 230 mesh, Merck, art. 7734), Kiesel gel 60 (230 – 400 mesh, Merck, art. 9385), Kiesel gel 60 (finer than 230 mesh, Merck, art. 7729), Lichroprep RP-18 (particle size 40 – 63 μ m, Merck) and Sephadex LH-20 (Pharmacia Biotech AB).

Plant material – The caulis of *Lonicera japonica* was collected in Bonghwa mountain, Gyeongsangbuk-do province, South Korea, in March 2007, and authenticated by Dr. J.-H. Lee (College of Oriental Medicine, Dongguk University). A voucher specimen was deposited in the herbarium of the College of Oriental Medicine, Dongguk University.

Extraction and Isolation – The caulis of *L. japonica* (15.6 kg) were chopped into small pieces and refluxed

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with 70% EtOH for 3 h at 70 – 80 °C. The 70% EtOH extract was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure and then partitioned successively between H₂O and hexane (81.3 g), CH₂Cl₂ (97.8 g), EtOAc (127.2 g), and then BuOH (491.5 g). The CH₂Cl₂ fraction (97.8 g) was fractionated by column chromatography (CC) over silica gel (7734) with hexane, hexane/CH₂Cl₂ (1 : 1), CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (gradient) to yield 35 subfractions (Fr. C-01 – Fr. C-35). Fraction C-11 (6.0 g) was purified on a CC (silica gel; 7729, hexane/EtOAc; gradient). Subfraction C-11-7577 (150 mg) was further purified by CC (silica gel; 7729, CH₂Cl₂, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH; 100 : 0.5), among which subfraction C-11-7577-69 (25 mg) was rechromatographed on an RP-18 column with 60% MeOH to afford **2** {(–)-epipinoresinol, 7 mg}. Subfraction C-11-7980 (150 mg) was further purified by CC (silica gel; 7729, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/H₂O; 7 : 0.1 : 0.5) to yield subfraction C-11-7980-208 (100 mg) and rechromatographed on an RP-18 column with 50% MeOH afforded **3** {(–)-pinoresinol, 30 mg}. EtOAc fraction (126.2 g) was fractionated by CC over silica gel (7734) with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (gradient) to yield 20 subfractions (Fr. E-01 – Fr. E-20). Fr. E-7 (6.05 g) was purified on a CC (silica gel; 7734, hexane/EtOAc; gradient). Subfraction E-7-49 (1.3 mg) was fractionated

by CC (silica gel; 9385, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/H₂O; 7 : 0.1 : 0.5 → 7 : 2 : 0.5) to give Fr. E-7-49-13 (58 mg) and rechromatographed on a Sephadex LH-20 column with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (5 : 5) afforded Fr. E-7-49-13-1116 (50 mg). Fr. E-7-49-13-1116 (50 mg) was further purified by silica gel (7729) with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/H₂O (7 : 0.5 : 0.5) to afford **5** (7*R*,8*S*-dihydrodehydrodiconiferyl alcohol, 13 mg), **6** {(±)-neo-olivil, 3 mg}, **7** {(+)-isolariciresinol, 1.5 mg}. **4** (9*α*-hydroxypinoresinol, 5 mg) was obtained from Fr. E-7-50 by recrystallization. Fr. E-12 (7.0 g) was further purified on a silica gel column (hexane/EtOAc; gradient). Subfraction E-12-911 (800 mg) was fractionated by CC (silica gel; 7734, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/H₂O; 7 : 0.1 : 0.5 → 7 : 2 : 0.5). Fr. E-12-911-1526 (48 mg) was purified by silica gel (7729) with EtOAc saturated with H₂O/MeOH (gradient) to afford **8** (3-methoxy-8,4'-oxyneoligna-3',4,7,9,9'-pentol, 2 mg). Subfraction E-12-911-2740 (34 mg) was rechromatographed on an RP-18 column with 60% MeOH to afford **1** (2 mg). Subfraction E-12-1731 (1.59 g) was fractionated by CC (silica gel; 7734, CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/H₂O; 7 : 1 : 0.5 → 7 : 3 : 1). Subfraction Fr. E-12-1731-711 (124 mg) was purified by silica gel (9385) with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/H₂O (7 : 0.5 : 0.5 → 7 : 3 : 1) to afford **9** {(–)-pinoresinol 4-*O*-glucoside, 105 mg}. The

Table 1. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR data and key HMBC correlations of **1**

Position	δ _H	δ _C	HMBC
1	–	130.5 (C)	
2	–	124.8 (C)	
3	–	148.2 (C)	
4	–	145.9 (C)	
5	–	137.8 (C)	
6	6.44 (br s)	111.3 (CH)	C-2, 4, 5, 7
7	2.46 (dd, 11.7, 14.8) 2.59 (dd, 4.8, 14.8)	33.3 (CH ₂)	C-1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 8'
8	1.58 (m, W _{1/2} ≥ 26 Hz)	41.1 (CH)	C-7, 9, 8', 9'
9	3.42 (dd, 6.9, 10.8) 3.54 (dd, 5.2, 10.8)	67.0 (CH ₂)	C-7, 8, 8'
3-OCH ₃	3.36 (s)	60.3 (CH ₃)	C-3
1'	–	140.1 (C)	
2'	6.68 (d, 1.8)	113.3 (CH)	C-1', 3', 4', 6', 7'
3'	–	148.7 (C)	
4'	–	145.3 (C)	
5'	6.64 (d, 8.2)	115.7 (CH)	C-1', 3', 4', 6'
6'	6.48 (dd, 1.8, 8.2)	121.7 (CH)	C-2', 4', 5', 7'
7'	4.28 (d, 5.2)	41.7 (CH)	C-1, 2, 3, 8, 1', 2', 6', 8', 9'
8'	1.94 (m, W _{1/2} ≥ 15 Hz)	49.1 (CH)	C-2, 7, 8, 9, 1', 9'
9'	3.46 (2H, d, 5.5)	64.5 (CH ₂)	C-8, 7', 8'
3'-OCH ₃	3.74 (s)	56.4 (CH ₃)	C-3'

known lignans were identified as (–)-epipinoresinol (**2**), (–)-pinoresinol (**3**), 9 α -hydroxypinoresinol (**4**), 7*R*,8*S*-dihydrodehydrodiconiferyl alcohol (**5**), (\pm)-neo-olivil (**6**), (+)-isolariciresinol (**7**), (7*R*,8*R*)-*threo*-4,7,9,3',9'-pentahydroxy-3-methoxy-8-*O*-4'-neolignan (= 3-methoxy-8,4'-oxyneoligna-3',4,7,9,9'-pentol) (**8**), and (–)-pinoresinol 4-*O*-glucoside (**9**), based on detailed NMR, CD, and MS analyses and comparison with the literature data.

Physical properties of lonicerinol (1): Lonicerinol (**1**), amorphous powder. $[\alpha]_D^{25} +20.5^\circ$ ($c = 0.04$, MeOH). IR (KBr) cm^{-1} : 3370 (OH), 1609, 1514, 1462 (aromatic C=C), 1275, 1228, 1048, 938. UV λ_{max} (MeOH) nm (log ϵ): 282 (3.92). HREIMS m/z : 376.1513. Calcd for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_7$: 376.1522. EIMS m/z : 376 $[\text{M}]^+$, 358 $[\text{M} - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$, 327, 313, 295, 281, 263, 234, 203, 191, 159, 153 $[\text{CH}_3\text{O}(\text{OH})_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_2\text{CH}_2]^+$, 137. ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR data (CD_3OD): Table 1. CD (MeOH, $c = 1.0 \times 10^{-4}$ M) $\Delta\epsilon$ (nm): –1.80 (293), 8.19 (277), 19.04 (241).

Results and Discussion

The dried caulis of *L. japonica* was chopped, extracted with 70% EtOH and partitioned successively with H_2O and hexane, CH_2Cl_2 , EtOAc and then *n*-BuOH. The CH_2Cl_2 and EtOAc soluble fractions were subjected to sequential column chromatography over silica gel, Sephadex LH-20 and RP-18 gel to yield a new minor lignan, lonicerinol (**1**), along with eight known lignans (**2** – **9**). The known lignans were identified as (–)-epipinoresinol (**2**) (Casabuono and Pomilio, 1994; Schöttner *et al.*, 1997), (–)-pinoresinol (**3**) (Casabuono and Pomilio, 1994; Schöttner *et al.*, 1997), 9 α -hydroxypinoresinol (**4**) (Abe and Yamauchi, 1988; Khan and Shoeb, 1985), 7*R*,8*S*-dihydrodehydrodiconiferyl alcohol (**5**) (Matsuda *et al.*, 1996; Takeda *et al.*, 1998), (\pm)-neo-olivil (**6**) (Hanawa *et al.*, 1997; Kikuchi and Kikuchi, 2005; Schöttner *et al.*, 1997), (+)-isolariciresinol (**7**) (Jutiviboonsuk *et al.*, 2005; Okuyama *et al.*, 1995; Wang *et al.*, 2008), (7*R*,8*R*)-*threo*-4,7,9,3',9'-pentahydroxy-3-methoxy-8-*O*-4'-neolignan (= 3-methoxy-8,4'-oxyneoligna-3',4,7,9,9'-pentol) (**8**) (Hou *et al.*, 2008; Matsuda and Kikuchi, 1996a), and (–)-pinoresinol 4-*O*-glucoside (**9**) (Casabuono and Pomilio, 1994; Kudo *et al.*, 1980), based on detailed NMR, circular dichroism (CD), and MS analyses and comparison with the literature data.

Lonicerinol (**1**) was obtained from EtOAc soluble fraction as an amorphous white powder. High-resolution (HR)-EI-MS exhibited an ion peak for $[\text{M}]^+$ at m/z 376.1513, which is compatible with molecular formula $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_7$ (Calcd 376.1522). The IR and UV spectra of **1**

showed similar absorption patterns to those of isolariciresinol (Okuyama *et al.*, 1995). The ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR spectra of **1** exhibited signals characteristic of an aryltetralin type lignan (Agrawal and Thakur, 1985; Eklund *et al.*, 2002; Ward *et al.*, 1979; Yang *et al.*, 2005). The ^{13}C -NMR and Distorsionless Enhancement by Polarization Transfer (DEPT) spectroscopic data showed signals for eight aromatic quaternary carbons, five of which are oxygenated quaternary, seven methines including four aromatic methines, one methylene, two oxygenated methylenes, and two methoxy carbons. In the ^1H -NMR spectrum, signals were at δ 3.36 (3H, s) and 3.74 (3H, s), one aromatic proton signal at δ 6.44 (1H, s) and a set of ABX-system of the aromatic ring at δ 6.48 (1H, dd, $J = 1.8, 8.2$ Hz), 6.64 (1H, d, $J = 8.2$ Hz), and 6.68 (1H, d, $J = 1.8$ Hz). The proton signal of methoxy at δ 3.36 (3H, s) was shielded by the aromatic ring (Ouyang *et al.*, 2007; Raju and Pillai, 1989). ^1H - ^1H Correlation Spectroscopy (COSY) spectrum showed the presence of a structural fragment $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2\text{OH})-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_2\text{OH})-\text{CH}-$. The Heteronuclear Multiple-Bond Correlation (HMBC) experiment showed the linkages between H-6 and C-2, 4, and 7, between H-7' and C-3, 8, 1' and 9', and between H-7 and C-2, 6, 9 and 8', respectively. The methoxyl groups at δ 3.36 and 3.74 were linked to C-3 and C-3', as determined by their correlations with C-3 and C-3', respectively. The relative configurations at C-8, 8' and 7' were determined by Nuclear Overhauser Enhancement and Exchange Spectroscopy (NOESY) experiments, and corroborated by inspection of coupling constant (3J) and the width of the multiplet at half height ($W_{1/2}$). The Nuclear Overhauser Enhancement (NOE) correlations between H-8 and H-7', H-8 and H-7 α , H-7' and CH_2 -9', H-8' and CH_2 -9, and H-8' and H-7 β revealed that H-7 β , CH_2 -9, H-8' and aryl group at C-7' were co-facial and arbitrarily defined as β -oriented. The vicinal two protons (H-7', 8') gave the coupling constant ($J = 5.2$ Hz), and the vicinal two protons (H-8, 8') showed the $W_{1/2} \geq 15$ Hz, indicating both were axial position. Thus, the three protons (H-7', 8', 8) were trans form each (Ouyang *et al.*, 2007). Therefore, the relative configurations at C-7', C-8' and C-8 were decided as *rel*-(7'*S*,8'*R*,8*R*). Compound **1** exhibited the positive optical rotatory activity ($[\alpha]_D +20.5^\circ$) compared with (+)-isolariciresinol ($[\alpha]_D +65^\circ$) (Eklund *et al.*, 2002), it is suggested (+)-isolariciresinol derivative. The absolute configuration of **1** was determined by examination of the CD spectrum of **1**, which showed the negative B-absorption. The sign of its CD spectrum indicated that the absolute configuration of the aryl substituent at C-7' is 7'*S* for **1**, since the sign of

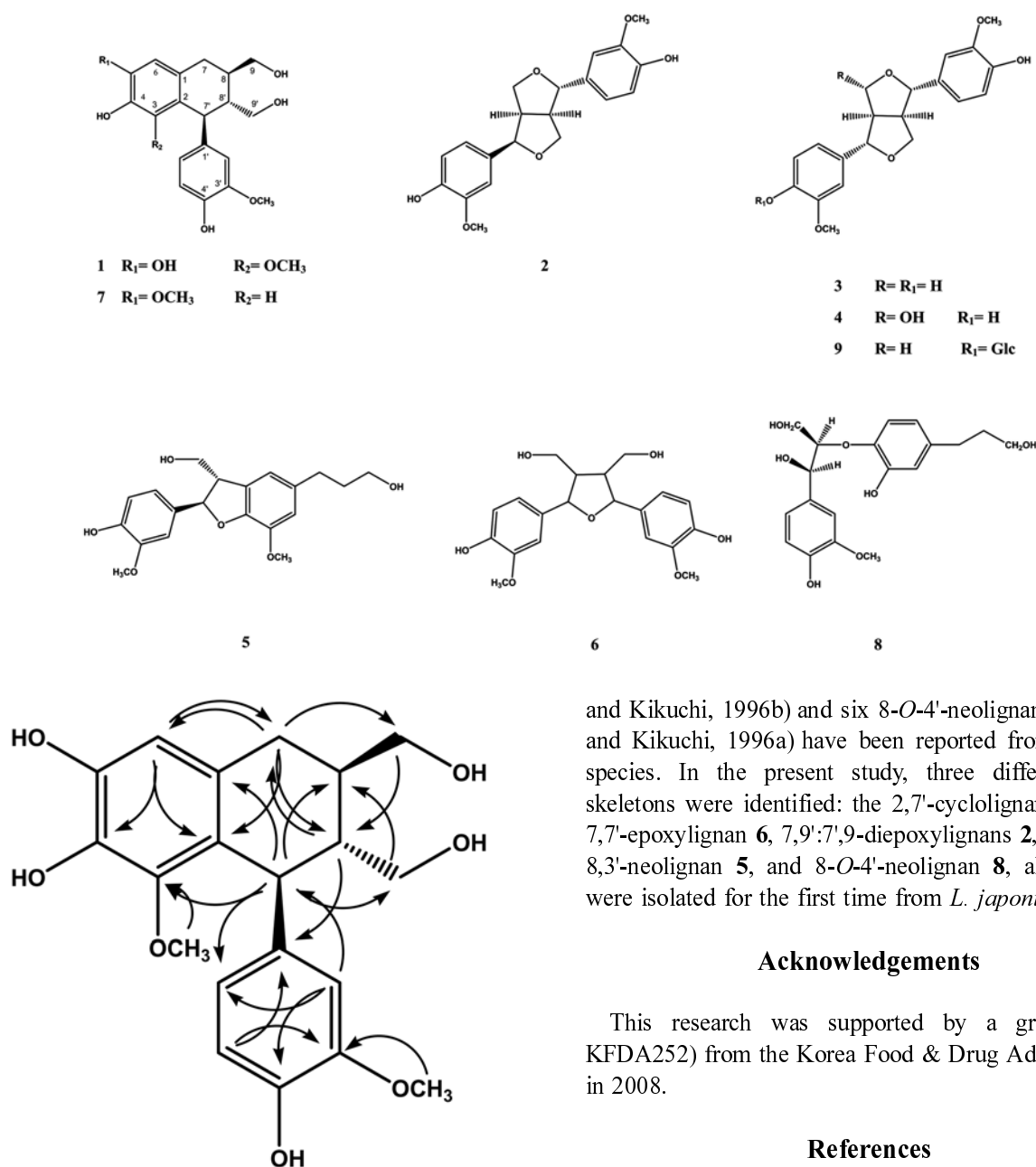


Fig. 1. Key HMBC correlations of **1**.

the first couplet reflects the aryl substituent at C-7', namely negative for 7'*S* and positive for 7'*R* (Ohashi *et al.*, 1994; Sakakibara *et al.*, 1974). Based on the above evidence, the structure of **1** was definitely determined to be (7'*S*,8'*R*,8*R*)-4,4',5,9,9'-pentahydroxy-3,3'-dimethoxy-2,7'-cyclo lignan and designated by the name lonicerinol.

The other isolated lignans **2**–**9** were structurally elucidated by spectroscopic analysis and comparison with literature data. In previous studies, only three furofuran lignans (Khan and Shoeb, 1985; Lee *et al.*, 2001; Matsuda

and Kikuchi, 1996b) and six 8-*O*-4'-neolignans (Matsuda and Kikuchi, 1996a) have been reported from *Lonicera* species. In the present study, three different lignan skeletons were identified: the 2,7'-cyclo lignans **1** and **7**, 7,7'-epoxy lignan **6**, 7,9':7,9-diepoxy lignans **2**, **3**, **4** and **9**, 8,3'-neolignan **5**, and 8-*O*-4'-neolignan **8**, all of which were isolated for the first time from *L. japonica*.

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