

## Iridoid and Phenylethanoid Glycosides from *Verbascum lasianthum*

Zeliha Ş. AKDEMİR<sup>1</sup>, İ. İrem TATLI<sup>1</sup>, Erdal BEDİR<sup>2</sup>, Ikhlas A. KHAN<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Hacettepe University, Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacognosy,  
TR-06100, Ankara-TURKEY*

*e-mail: zakdemir@hacettepe.edu.tr*

<sup>2</sup>*The University of Mississippi, School of Pharmacy, National  
Center for Natural Products Research, Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences,  
University MS 38677 USA*

Received 10.07.2003

Three iridoid glucosides, 8-*O*-acetylharpagide (**1**), harpagoside (**2**), and 6-*O*-vanilloylajugol (**3**), were isolated from the roots of *Verbascum lasianthum* Boiss. ex Benth. In addition, 2 phenylethanoid glycosides, verbascoside {=acteoside, [ $\beta$ -(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-ethyl]-(3'-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl)-(4'-*O*-caffeoyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside} (**4**) and poliumoside {= [ $\beta$ -(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-ethyl]-(3',6'-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-dirhamnopyranosyl)-(4'-*O*-caffeoyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside} (**5**), were also isolated. The structures of all compounds were established by spectroscopic evidence (UV, IR, 1D and 2D NMR, LC-ESIMS). Compounds **2-5** demonstrated scavenging properties toward the 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical in TLC autographic assays.

**Key Words:** *Verbascum lasianthum*, Scrophulariaceae, iridoid glucosides, 8-*O*-acetylharpagide, harpagoside, 6-*O*-vanilloylajugol, phenylethanoid glycosides, verbascoside (= acteoside), poliumoside, radical scavenging activity.

### Introduction

The genus *Verbascum* L., known as “Mullein”, is represented by 228 species in the Flora of Turkey, including 185 species that are endemic to this area<sup>1</sup>. Some *Verbascum* species are used as an expectorant and mucolytic in folk medicine<sup>2</sup>. These species are also used externally for desiccating wounds, anal fistula and pruritic conditions in the urogenital organs<sup>3</sup>. Although the taxonomic and morphological aspects of the genus *Verbascum* appear more or less complex, the frequent occurrence of the iridoid and phenylethanoid glycosides in the Scrophulariaceae has been used in chemotaxonomic studies<sup>4</sup>. As part of our ongoing project, the chemical characterization of *Verbascum* species growing in Turkey<sup>1</sup>, we have isolated 6 iridoid glycosides, 6-*O*-( $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl)-catalpol, verbascoside A, pulverulentoside I, buddlejoside A<sub>5</sub>, aucubin and unduloside III from *Verbascum lasianthum*<sup>5</sup>. Further investigation into the roots of this plant yielded 3 iridoid glucosides, 8-*O*-acetylharpagide (**1**), harpagoside (**2**), and 6-*O*-vanilloylajugol (**3**), along

with 2 phenylethanoid glycosides, verbascoside (= acteoside) (**4**) and poliumoside (**5**). The current study describes the structure elucidation of the isolated compounds. Radical scavenging activity of compounds **1-5** was also examined.

## Experimental

**General Experimental Procedures:** The UV spectra ( $\lambda_{max}$ ) were recorded on a Hitachi HP 8452 A spectrophotometer. The IR spectra ( $\nu_{max}$ ) were determined on an ATI Mattson Genesis Series FT-IR spectrophotometer. The 1D and 2D NMR spectra were obtained on a Bruker Avance DRX 500, 400 and 300 FT spectrometer operating at 500, 400 and 300 MHz for  $^1\text{H}$  NMR, and at 125 and 75 MHz for  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR. The chemical shift values are reported as parts per million (ppm) relative to tetramethylsilane (TMS), and the coupling constants are in hertz (Hz, in parentheses). For the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra, multiplicities were determined by a distortionless enhancement by a polarization transfer (DEPT) experiment. LC-ESIMS data were obtained using a Bruker BioApex FT-MS instrument in the ESI mode. Polyamide (ICN) and Si gel (230-400 mesh) (Merck) were used for column chromatography (CC). Reverse-phase material (C-18, Sepralyte 40  $\mu\text{m}$ ) was used for vacuum liquid chromatography (VLC). Medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC) separations were performed on a Labomatic glass column packed with LiChroprep RP-18 (Merck), using a Lewa M5 peristaltic pump. Pre-coated silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> aluminum sheets (Merck) were used for TLC; developing system,  $\text{CHCl}_3\text{-MeOH-H}_2\text{O}$  (61:32:7). Plates were examined by UV fluorescence and sprayed with %1 vanillin in conc.  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , followed by heating at 105 °C for 1-2 min.

**Plant Material.** *Verbascum lasianthum* Boiss. ex Bentham was collected from İzmir, Urla (W. Anatolia, Turkey), Üçahırlar in August 1999. A voucher specimen has been deposited in the Herbarium of the Pharmacognosy Department, Faculty of Pharmacy, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey (HUEF 99139).

**Extraction and Isolation.** Air-dried and powdered roots of the plant (333.9 g) were extracted with MeOH (2 x 2 L) at 40 °C. After evaporation the extract was suspended in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (400 mL), and then extracted with  $\text{CHCl}_3$ . The water phase was concentrated to dryness and freeze-dried. The aqueous extract (16.0 g) was fractionated over polyamide (100 g) employing  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and MeOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  mixtures (0-100%) to yield 5 main fractions (A-E). Fr. A (4.3 g) was subjected to vacuum liquid chromatography (VLC) using reversed-phase material (Sepralyte 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , 350 g), employing MeOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  mixtures (0-100%) to give 8-*O*-acetylharpagide (**1**) (13.0 mg). Fr. B (1.5 g) was chromatographed (MPLC= medium-pressure liquid chromatography) on a Sepralyte C18 reversed-phase column eluted with MeOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  mixtures (2.5-90%) to yield 5 fractions (Frs. B<sub>1</sub>-B<sub>5</sub>). Fr. B<sub>1</sub> (112.8 mg) was applied to VLC using reversed-phase material (Sepralyte 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , 25 g), employing MeOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  mixtures (0-25%) to give 6-*O*-vanilloylajugol (**3**) (59.6 mg). Fr. B<sub>4</sub> (72.7 mg) was also subjected to VLC using reversed-phase material (Sepralyte 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , 20 g), employing MeOH/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  mixtures (20-35%) to give harpagoside (**2**) (67.8 mg). Fr. C (1.0 g) was chromatographed on a Si gel column (150 g) eluted with  $\text{CHCl}_3\text{-MeOH}$  mixtures (95:5, 90:10, 85:15, 80:20) and  $\text{CHCl}_3\text{-MeOH-H}_2\text{O}$  mixtures (80:20:2, 70:30:3) to yield 2 fractions (Frs. C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>). Fr. C<sub>2</sub> (26.3 mg) was further purified on a Si gel column (40 g) using  $\text{CHCl}_3\text{-MeOH}$  mixtures (95:5, 90:10, 85:15, 80:20, 75:25) to give poliumoside (**5**) (3 mg). Fr. E (1.2 g) was subjected to VLC using reversed-phase material (Sepralyte 40  $\mu\text{m}$ , 100 g), eluted

with MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O mixtures (10-100%) to give verbascoside (**4**) (100.1 mg).

## Reduction of DPPH Radical

Methanolic solutions (0.1%) of compounds **1-5** were chromatographed on a Si gel TLC plate using CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (61:32:7). After drying, TLC plates were sprayed with a 0.2% DPPH (Sigma) solution in MeOH. Compounds showing a yellow-on-purple spot were regarded as antioxidants<sup>6,7</sup>.

## Results

**8-O-acetylharpagide (1):** UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  210 nm, IR (KBr)  $\nu_{max}$  3600 (OH), 1708 (C=O), 1670 (C=C) cm<sup>-1</sup>, LC-ESIMS  $m/z$  429 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calc. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>11</sub>), <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) data (Table 1).

**Table 1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) Data of Compounds **1-3**.

Position	C <sub>Atom</sub>	<b>1*</b>			<b>2</b>			<b>3**</b>		
		$\delta_C$ (ppm)	$\delta_H$ (ppm)	<i>J</i> (Hz)	$\delta_C$ (ppm)	$\delta_H$ (ppm)	<i>J</i> (Hz) (Hz)	$\delta_C$ (ppm)	$\delta_H$ (ppm)	<i>J</i> (Hz)
Aglycone										
1	CH	93.5	6.06 brs	-	92.4	5.91 s	-	92.4	5.42 d	1.7
3	CH	142.7	6.40 d	6.3	141.2	6.32 d	6.3	140.0	6.13 dd	1.5/6.0
4	CH	106.3	4.93 d	6.3	107.4	4.84 d	6.3	103.8	4.91 m	-
5	CH (C) $\xi$	72.3	-	-	71.3	-	-	38.4	2.88 m	-
6	CH	76.1	3.71 d	3.9	77.1	3.74 d	7.5	79.4	4.98 m	-
7a	CH <sub>2</sub>	45.1	1.95 dd	4.4/15.2	44.6	1.79 dd	4.5/14.7	46.9	1.97 dd	3.7/14.0
7b	-	-	2.17 dd	6.5/15.1	-	2.13 dd	6.0/14.8	-	2.19 dd	6.3/14.0
8	C	87.6	-	-	86.8	-	-	78.2	-	-
9	CH	54.6	2.84 m	-	54.4	2.67 m	-	50.6	2.51 dd (t)	9.4
10	CH <sub>3</sub>	21.7	1.45 s	-	22.2	1.39 s	-	25.2	1.31 s	-
$\beta$ - D-Glucose										
1'	CH	98.8	4.58 d	7.9	97.2	4.36 d	7.9	98.4	4.57 d	7.9
2'	CH	73.6	3.21 d	8.2	73.1	2.96 t	8.5	73.8	3.13 t	8.4
3'	CH	77.3	3.44-3.50 $\dagger$	-	76.2	3.13 t	8.8	77.0	3.30 t	8.9
4'	CH	70.7	3.38 d	9.1	70.1	3.05 d	9.0	70.7	3.21 t	8.9
5'	CH	76.1	3.45 m	-	75.7	3.30 m	-	77.2	3.30 m	-
6'a	CH <sub>2</sub>	61.9	3.72 dd	5.1/15.0	61.1	3.45 dd	5.6/11.2	61.9	3.57 dd	6.2/11.3
6'b	-	-	3.89 d	12.2	-	3.68 d	11.6	-	3.90 m	-
Acyl moiety										
1''	C	-	-	-	134.1	-	-	119.2	-	-
2''	CH	-	-	-	129.0	7.62 s	-	112.4	6.86 d	8.5
3''	C (CH) $\aleph$	-	-	-	128.3	7.35 s	-	152.0	-	-
4''	C (CH) $\aleph$	-	-	-	130.4	7.34 s	-	148.7	-	-
5''	CH	-	-	-	128.3	7.35 s	-	115.8	6.66 d	8.2
6''	CH	-	-	-	129.0	7.62 s	-	124.6	7.45 d	8.4
$\alpha$	CH	-	-	-	119.5	6.47 d	16.0	-	-	-
$\beta$	CH	-	-	-	144.1	7.53 d	16.0	-	-	-
C=O	C	-	-	-	165.9	-	-	167.4	-	-
OCH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	-	-	-	-	-	-	55.3	3.73 s	-
OCOCH <sub>3</sub>	C	172.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OCOCH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	21.4	2.02 s	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

$\dagger$  unclear due to overlapping

$\xi$  C for compounds **1** and **3**

$\aleph$  CH for compound **3**

\* 300 and 75 MHz

\*\* 400 and 125 MHz

**Harpagoside (2):** UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  228 nm, IR (KBr)  $\nu_{max}$  3600 (OH), 1705 (C=O), 1637 (C=C), 1604, 1363 (aromatic ring)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , LC-ESIMS  $m/z$  517 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calc. for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>11</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) data (Table 1) superimposable with those reported in the literature<sup>8</sup>.

**Table 2.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) data of compounds **4** and **5**.

Position	<b>4</b>				<b>5</b>		
	C <sub>Atom</sub>	$\delta_C$ (ppm)	$\delta_H$ (ppm)	<i>J</i> (Hz)	$\delta_C$ (ppm)	$\delta_H$ (ppm)	<i>J</i> (Hz)
Aglycone							
1	C	131.0	-	-	130.0	-	-
2	CH	116.7	6.66 s	-	117.1	6.63 s	-
3	C	145.0	-	-	144.4	-	-
4	C	144.0	-	-	144.4	-	-
5	CH	116.4	6.66 d	7.6	116.4	6.49 d	8.0
6	CH	120.5	6.52 s	-	120.4	6.64 d	8.0
$\alpha_a$	CH <sub>2</sub>	71.0	3.67 brt	7.7	71.2	3.70 †	-
$\alpha_b$	-	-	3.91 brt	7.7	-	3.88 †	-
$\beta$	CH <sub>2</sub>	35.9	2.73 m	-	35.9	2.70 m	-
$\beta$ - D-Glucose							
1'	CH	103.3	4.37 d	7.7	103.2	4.38 d	7.8
2'	CH	75.4	3.26 t	8.2	75.2	3.32 m	-
3'	CH	80.1	3.68 †	-	79.7	3.83 m	7.9
4'	CH	69.6	4.75 t	9.5	69.7	4.74 t	9.6
5'	CH	75.4	3.45 m	-	73.8	3.69 m	-
6'a	CH <sub>2</sub>	61.7	3.45-3.70 †	-	66.8	3.36 m	10.0
6'b	-	-	3.45-3.70 †	-	-	3.60 †	-
$\alpha$ - L-Rhamnose							
1''	CH	102.0	5.08 brs	-	101.3	5.03 brs	-
2''	CH	71.5	3.72 †	-	71.2	3.60 d	1.6
3''	CH	70.1	3.35-3.50 †	-	71.1	3.29 dd	2.8/9.4
4''	CH	72.7	3.15 t	9.2	72.5	3.14 t	9.0
5''	CH	69.6	3.35-3.50 †	-	69.6	3.51 m	-
6''	CH <sub>3</sub>	19.0	1.00 d	5.8	19.0	0.96 d	6.1
$\alpha$ - L-Rhamnose							
1'''	CH	-	-	-	102.1	4.50 brs	-
2'''	CH	-	-	-	71.4	3.60 d	1.6
3'''	CH	-	-	-	71.3	3.40 dd	3.1/9.4
4'''	CH	-	-	-	72.7	3.22 t	9.0
5'''	CH	-	-	-	69.3	3.51 m	-
6'''	CH <sub>3</sub>	-	-	-	18.6	1.04 d	6.1
Acyl moiety							
1''''	C	127.0	-	-	126.0	-	-
2''''	CH	115.6	7.04 s	-	115.3	7.02 s	-
3''''	C	146.0	-	-	145.8	-	-
4''''	C	149.0	-	-	146.6	-	-
5''''	CH	114.7	6.79 d	7.7	113.8	6.75 d	8.0
6''''	CH	122.2	6.97 d	7.5	122.5	6.97 d	7.7
$\alpha'$	CH	117.2	6.20 d	15.8	116.6	6.20 d	15.8
$\beta'$	CH	146.3	7.48 d	15.8	146.7	7.48 d	15.8
C=O	C	169.0	-	-	166.6	-	-

† unclear due to overlapping

(''') for compound **5**

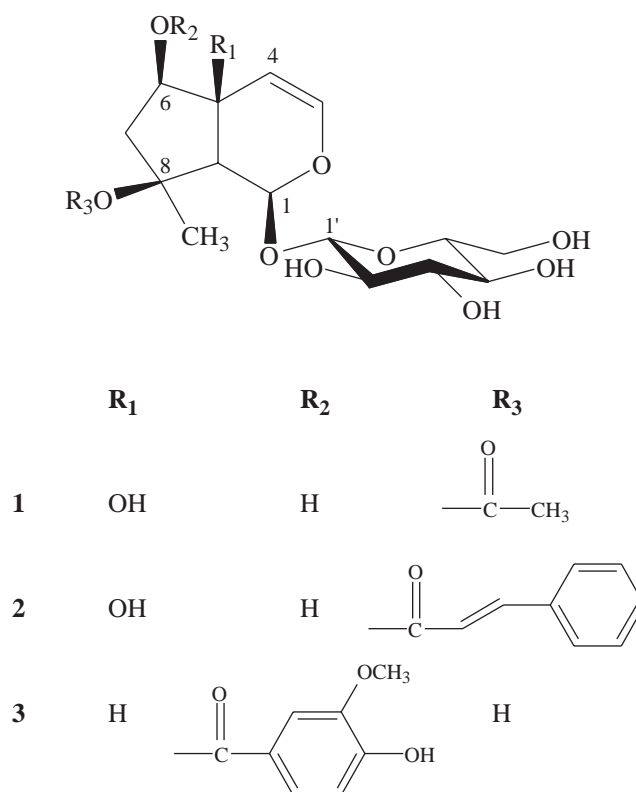
**6-*O*-vanilloylajugol (3)**: UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  208, 264 nm, IR (KBr)  $\nu_{max}$  3600 (OH), 1708 (C=O), 1654 (C=C), 1604, 1546, 1363 (aromatic ring)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , LC-ESIMS  $m/z$  521 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calc. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>12</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) data (Table 1).

**Verbascoside** {=acteoside, [ $\beta$ -(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-ethyl]-(3'-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl)-(4'-*O*-caffeoyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside} (**4**): UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  212, 332 nm, IR (KBr)  $\nu_{max}$  3689 (OH), 1708 (C=O), 1634 (C=C), 1604, 1515, 1385 (aromatic ring)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , LC-ESIMS  $m/z$  647 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calc. for C<sub>29</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>15</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) data (Table 2) superimposable with those reported in the literature<sup>9</sup>.

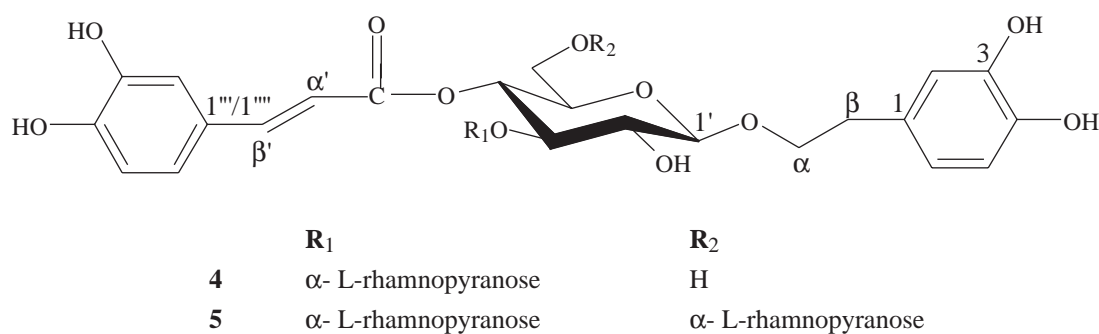
**Poliumoside** {= [ $\beta$ -(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-ethyl]-(3',6'-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-dirhamnopyranosyl)-(4'-*O*-caffeoyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside} (**5**): UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  206, 330 nm, IR (KBr)  $\nu_{max}$  3600 (OH), 1708 (C=O), 1640 (C=C), 1607, 1521, 1361 (aromatic ring)  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , LC-ESIMS  $m/z$  793 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calc. for C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>46</sub>O<sub>19</sub>). <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) data (Table 2).

## Discussion

From the roots of *Verbascum lasianthum* Boiss. ex Bentham, 3 iridoid glucosides, 8-*O*-acethylharpagide (**1**), harpagoside (**2**) and 6-*O*-vanilloylajugol (**3**) (Figure 1) together with 2 phenylethanoid glycosides, verbascoside (=acteoside) (**4**) and poliumoside (**5**) (Figure 2), were isolated by fractionation of the methanolic extract through a polyamide column, followed by VLC, MPLC and silica gel CC. Compounds **1-5** were identified based on the evidence below.



**Figure 1.** Iridoid glycosides isolated from *Verbascum lasianthum*.



**Figure 2.** Phenylethanoid glycosides isolated from *Verbascum lasianthum*.

Compounds **1-3** were obtained as amorphous powders whose UV spectra indicated their non-conjugated enol-ether functional group. Their IR spectra showed absorption bands typical of conjugated carbonyl groups (see Results section).

The LC-ESIMS of compound **1** exhibited a pseudomolecular ion  $[M+Na]^+$  at  $m/z$  429, compatible with the molecular formula  $C_{17}H_{26}O_{11}$ , and in good agreement with the observation of 2 methyl, 2 methylene, 10 methine, and 3 quaternary carbon resonances in its  $^{13}C$  NMR spectrum (Table 1). In addition, analysis of the  $^1H$  NMR spectrum of **1** (Table 1) revealed the feature of an iridoid glucoside with an acetyl moiety. The signal at  $\delta_H$  4.58 (*d*,  $J = 7.9$  Hz), which was attributed to an anomeric proton, as well as the  $^1H$  NMR signal in the region of  $\delta_H$  3.21-3.89, suggested the presence of a  $\beta$ -glucopyranose unit. On the other hand the  $^1H$  NMR spectrum of **1** exhibited the signals arising from an oxymethine ( $\delta_H$  3.71, *d*,  $J = 3.9$  Hz) and a tertiary methyl group ( $\delta_H$  1.45, *s*). The complete assignments of all proton and carbon resonances were based on the  $^1H, ^1H$  COSY, HMQC and HMBC experiments. An HMBC correlation between H-1' and C-1 showed the attachment of the glucose unit at the C-1 position of the iridoid aglycone. Thus, the vicinally coupled olefinic protons at  $\delta_H$  6.40 (*d*,  $J = 6.3$  Hz) and 4.93 (*d*,  $J = 6.3$  Hz) were ascribed to H-3 and H-4, respectively, indicating the presence of an iridoid moiety with a non-conjugated enol-ether system. The chemical shift values and the multiplicities of H-3, H-4 and H-9 ( $\delta_H$  2.84, *m*) indicated an oxygen substitution at C-5. Therefore, the carbon resonance at  $\delta_C$  72.3, which showed heteronuclear long-range correlations with H-1 and H-9, was attributed to C-5. The geminally coupled C-7 methylene protons  $\delta_H$  1.95 (*dd*,  $J = 15.2/4.4$  Hz) and 2.17 (*dd*,  $J = 15.1/6.5$  Hz) were mutually coupled to an oxymethine proton at  $\delta_H$  3.71 (*d*,  $J = 3.9$  Hz) consistent with the hydroxyl group being affixed to C-6 ( $\delta_C$  76.1, *d*). The HMBC cross-peak observed from H<sub>3</sub>-10 ( $\delta_H$  1.45, *s*) to C-8 ( $\delta_C$  87.6, *s*) showed the attachment of the methyl group at C-8. On the other hand, the proton and the carbon signals at  $\delta_H$  2.02 (*s*) and  $\delta_C$  21.4 (*q*), 172.2 (*s*) suggested the presence of an acetyl group. Furthermore, the chemical shift values of both C-8 and H<sub>3</sub>-10 indicated the attachment of the acetyl function at C-8. Based on the above results and comparison with the published data compound **1** was identified as 8-*O*-acetylharpagide<sup>10</sup>.

The molecular formula of compound **2** was determined by LC-ESIMS, which exhibited a pseudomolecular ion at  $m/z$  517  $[M+Na]^+$ , and  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR data (Table 1) as  $C_{24}H_{30}O_{11}$ . The  $^1H$  NMR spectrum of **2** revealed the resonances of 2 olefinic protons, observed as an AX system, at  $\delta_H$  6.47 and 7.53 (*d*,  $J_{AX} = 16.0$  Hz) and 5 aromatic protons at  $\delta_H$  7.34 (1H), 7.35 (2H) and 7.62 (2H), consistent with the presence of a *trans*-cinnamoyl moiety. The chemical shift values of both C-8 and H<sub>3</sub>-10 indicated that the acyl group was attached at C-8. From the above findings and comparison with the published data, compound **2** was

considered identical to harpagoside<sup>8</sup>.

Compound **3** proved to have the molecular formula C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>12</sub>, as seen from the positive-ion ESIMS ( $m/z$  521 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>) combined with <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data (Table 1). The UV and IR data of compound **3** showed that **3** consists of a non-conjugated enol-ether system. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR (Table 1) signals at  $\delta_H$  6.13 (*dd*,  $J = 1.5/6.0$  Hz), 4.91 (*m*) were attributed to H-3 and H-4, respectively, whose chemical shift values and multiplicities indicated that C-5 was non-substituted. This assumption was also supported by the H-9 signal ( $\delta_H$  2.51, *dd* (*t*),  $J = 9.4$  Hz). On the other hand, the multiplet signal at  $\delta_H$  4.98 was attributed to an oxymethine proton at C-6 ( $\delta_C$  79.4), which was coupled to H<sub>2</sub>-7 ( $\delta_H$  1.97, *dd*,  $J = 3.7/14.0$  and 2.19, *dd*,  $J = 6.3/14.0$  Hz) methylene protons. In the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **3**, an aromatic ABX signal pattern ( $\delta_H$  6.66, *d*,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, 6.86, *d*,  $J = 8.5$  Hz and 7.45, *d*,  $J = 8.4$  Hz) together with a *O*-methyl signal ( $\delta_H$  3.73, *s*) implied the presence of a vanilloyl group<sup>11</sup>. The vanilloyl group could be placed at C-6 based on the fact that the H-6 methine signal was shifted downfield ca. 1.08 ppm when compared with that of ajugol ( $\delta_H$  3.9)<sup>8</sup>. The final proof for this assumption came from the downfield shifted C-6 ( $\Delta\delta$  2.2) resonance comparing with that of ajugol ( $\delta_C$  77.2)<sup>8</sup>. Accordingly, the structure of **3** was determined to be 6-*O*-vanilloylajugol<sup>12</sup>.

Compounds **4** and **5** were obtained as amorphous powders. The UV and IR spectra indicated their polyphenolic nature. Their IR spectra showed absorption bands typical of hydroxyls:  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ -unsaturated esters, olefinic double bonds, and aromatic rings (see Results section).

Compound **4** was identified as {[ $\beta$ -(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-ethyl]-(3'-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl)-(4'-*O*-caffeoyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside} = verbascoside (= acteoside)<sup>9</sup> by comparing its <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C (Table 2) and 2D NMR data with previously published data and by direct comparison with the authentic sample on a TLC plate.

Compound **5** was isolated as an amorphous powder, with the molecular formula C<sub>35</sub>H<sub>46</sub>O<sub>19</sub> as determined by LC-ESIMS and <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data (Table 2). The LC-ESIMS of **5** exhibited a pseudomolecular ion at  $m/z$  793 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data indicated that **5** had most of the structural features of verbascoside (**4**). However, in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **5**, in addition to the anomeric proton resonances attributed to a  $\beta$ -glucose and a  $\alpha$ -rhamnose moieties, an additional anomeric proton resonance was observed at  $\delta_H$  4.50 (*br s*). The corresponding carbon resonance at  $\delta_C$  102.1 suggested the presence of a second  $\alpha$ -rhamnose moiety in the structure. Therefore, compound **5** was assumed to have a trisaccharide structure. In the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **5**, the C-6' resonance of the glucose moiety ( $\delta_C$  66.8) showed a marked downfield shift of ca. 5.0 ppm, suggesting the rhamnose moiety was attached to C-6' of the glucose unit. This suggestion was further verified by the heteronuclear long-range correlation observed from H-1''' of the rhamnose unit to C-6' of glucose moiety in the HMBC spectrum. Thus compound **5** was characterized as poliumoside {= [ $\beta$ -(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-ethyl]-(3',6'-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-dirhamnopyranosyl)-(4'-*O*-caffeoyl)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside}<sup>13</sup>.

## Conclusion

In our continuing work on *Verbascum lasianthum*<sup>5</sup>, we now report the isolation and characterization of 8-*O*-acetylharpagide (**1**), harpagoside (**2**) and 6-*O*-vanilloylajugol (**3**), verbascoside (=acteoside) (**4**) and poliumoside (**5**) from the title plant. To our knowledge, 6-*O*-vanilloylajugol was for the first time reported from *Verbascum thapsus*<sup>14</sup>. To date, poliumoside has been reported from 6 different *Verbascum* species<sup>15</sup>.

Although 8-*O*-acetylharpagide has only previously been detected by TLC and paper chromatography in *V. phlomoides*<sup>10</sup> and *V. thapsiforme*<sup>10</sup>, this study is the first report the isolation and structure elucidation of 8-*O*-acetylharpagide from *V. species*. In addition, this study is the first report of the isolation and characterization of phenylethanoid glycosides from *Verbascum lasianthum*.

Compounds **2-5** were found to have significant antioxidant properties, based on the experiments with 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), which indicated their ability to efficiently scavenge free radicals<sup>6,7</sup>.

## Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to Prof. Dr. Hayri Duman (Gazi University, Faculty of Science, Etiler, Ankara, Turkey) for the authentication of the plant specimen and to Dr. Chuck Dunbar for conducting the LC-ESIMS analysis. We also thank Mr. Frank Wiggers for his assistance in obtaining the 2D NMR spectra of compounds **1** and **4-5**. This work was supported by the Research Fund of Hacettepe University (Project no: 00 01 301 003). This work was also supported in part by the United States Department of Agriculture, ARS Specific Cooperative Research Agreement no. 58-6408-7-012.

## References

1. A. Huber-Morath, "*Verbascum*" in: Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands Vol. 6, ed. P.H. Davis, pp. 461-603, University Press, Edinburgh (1978).
2. T. Baytop, "Therapy with Medicinal Plants in Turkey (Past and Present)", 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. pp. 334-335, Nobel Tıp Kitabevleri Ltd., İstanbul (1999).
3. E. Sezik, E. Yeşilada, G. Honda, Y. Takaishi, Y. Takeda and T. Tanaka, **J. of Ethnopharm.**, **75**, 95-115 (2001).
4. C. Jiménez and R. Riguera, **Nat. Prod. Reports**, 591-606 (1994).
5. Z.Ş. Akdemir, İ.İ. Tatlı, E. Bedir and I. A. Khan, **Turk. J. Chem.**, **28**, 101-109 (2004).
6. M. Cuendet, K. Hostettman, O. Potterat and W. Dyatmiko, **Helv. Chim. Acta**, **80**, 1144- 1152 (1997).
7. T. Takao, F. Kitatani, N. Watanabe, A. Yagi and K. Sakata, **Biosci. Biotech. Biochem.**, **58**, 1780-1783 (1994).
8. F. Pardo, F. Perich, R. Torres and F. Delle Monache, **J. Chem. Ecol.**, **24**, 645-653 (1998).
9. O. Sticher and M.F. Lahloub, **Planta Med.**, **46**, 145-148 (1982).
10. L. Swiatek, S. Luczak and B. Grabias, **Farm. Pol.**, **40**, 415-418 (1984).
11. M. Özipek, İ. Saracoğlu, İ. Çalış, K. Kojima and Y. Ogihara, **Hacettepe University, Journal of Faculty of Pharmacy**, **20**, 1-6 (2000).
12. H. Lichti and A. Von Wartburg, **Helv. Chim. Acta**, **49**, 1552 (1966).
13. E. Bedir and İ. Çalış, **Hacettepe University, Journal of Faculty of Pharmacy**, **17**, 9-16 (1997).
14. T. Warashina, T. Miyase and A. Ueno, **Chem. Pharm. Bull.**, **39**, 3261-3264 (1991).
15. H. Abou Gazar, "**Phytochemical Studies on *Verbascum wiedenmannianum* Fisch. & Mey.**", PhD Thesis, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey, 2001.