

New Neolignans from *Krameria tomentosa* A. St.-Hil

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A investigação fitoquímica das raízes de *Krameria tomentosa* A. St.-Hil. levou ao isolamento de cinco neolignanas, duas delas com estruturas inéditas [1,1'-(*E*)-propenil-4-metóxi-3,4'-oxineolignana (ottomentosa) e ácido 2-(2'-hidróxi-4',6'-dimetoxifenil)benzofurano-5-carboxílico (sobralina)], além de três compostos conhecidos [eupomatenóide 6, di-hidrocarinatidina e 2-(2',4'-di-hidroxifenil)-5-(*E*)-propenilbenzofurano]. A caracterização estrutural dos compostos isolados foi estabelecida com base na espectroscopia no infravermelho, espectrometria de massas, ressonância magnética nuclear uni e bidimensional, além de comparação com dados espectrais descritos na literatura.

A phytochemical investigation of the roots of *Krameria tomentosa* A. St.-Hil. led to the isolation of five neolignans, two of them with novel structures [1,1'-(*E*)-propenyl-4-methoxy-3,4'-oxyneolignan (ottomentosa) and 2-(2'-hydroxy-4',6'-dimethoxyphenyl)benzofuran-5-carboxylic acid (sobraline)] and three known compounds [eupomatenoid 6, dihydrocarinatidin and 2-(2',4'-dihydroxyphenyl)-5-(*E*)-propenylbenzofuran]. The structural characterization of the compounds isolated was established based on infrared spectroscopy, mass spectrometry, one- and two-dimensional nuclear magnetic resonance, along with comparison with spectral data described in the literature.

**Keywords:** *Krameria tomentosa*, Krameriaceae, neolignans, ottomentosa, sobraline

## Introduction

The genus *Krameria* is the only member of the family Krameriaceae, and includes 18 herbaceous or shrub species that are predominantly represented in neotropical and ecologically restricted regions and arid or seasonally dry regions of the Americas.<sup>1-3</sup> The presence of neolignans and norneolignans is well documented for this genus.<sup>4-9</sup> *Krameria tomentosa* A. St.-Hil. (synonymy of *Krameria ovata* O. Berg) is popularly known as “rhatany” and as with other species of *Krameria*, its roots have been long used in popular medicine in the treatment of dysentery, stomatitis, diarrhea, vaginal discharges and afflictions of the mouth.<sup>10-12</sup> The alcoholic extract from *K. tomentosa* (root) showed toxicity to

mice and fish.<sup>13</sup> Earlier studies have demonstrated that neolignans, norneolignans and steroids,<sup>14,15</sup> as well as the norlignan 2-(2'-hydroxy-4',6'-dimethoxyphenyl)-5-[(*E*)-propenyl]benzofuran, inhibit acetylcholine-induced relaxation in the aorta of rats.<sup>16</sup> In the present work, it is described the isolation and structural determination of two new neolignans, ottomentosa and sobraline (**1** and **2**), besides three known neolignans: eupomatenoid 6 (**3**), dihydrocarinatidin (**4**) and 2-(2',4'-dihydroxyphenyl)-5-(*E*)-propenylbenzofuran (**5**) (Figure 1).

## Results and Discussion

Compound **1** was isolated in the form of a colorless oil. The high resolution mass spectrum (HS-ESI-MS) utilizing the ESI+ ionization mode showed the peak of the cationized molecule at  $m/z$  303.1372 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, compatible with the

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**Table 1.** Data of one- and two-dimensional  $^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  (125 MHz) NMR of compound **1** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  ( $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz)

	$^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$ HMQC		$^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$ HMBC		$^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$ COSY	$^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$ NOESY
	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$^2J$	$^3J$		
C						
1	131.7		H-2	H-5		
3	145.2		H-2	H-5		
4	150.3		H-5	H-2; H-6; OMe		
1'	132.6			H-3'/H-5'		
4'	156.8		H-3'/H-5'	H-2'/H-6'		
CH						
2	117.9	6.95 (d, 1H, $J$ 2.5)			H-6	
5	112.8	6.89 (d, 1H, $J$ 8.5)			H-6	
6	122.2	7.04 (dd, 1H, $J$ 2.5 and 8.5)	H-5	H-2		
7	129.9	6.25 (dd, 1H, $J$ 1.5 and 16.0)		H-2; H-9	H-8	
8	124.3	6.00 (qd, 1H, $J$ 6.5 and 16.0)	H-9		H-9	
2'/6'	126.9	7.23 (d, 1H, $J$ 9.0)		H-7'		H-8'
3'/5'	117.3	6.85 (d, 1H, $J$ 9.0)			H-2'/H-6'	
7'	130.3	6.33 (dd, 1H, $J$ 1.5 and 16.0)		H-9'	H-8'	
8'	124.5	6.10 (qd, 1H, $J$ 6.5 and 16.0)	H-9'		H-9'	
$\text{CH}_3$						
9	18.3	1.80 (dd, 3H, $J$ 1.5 and 6.5)				
9'	18.4	1.84 (dd, 3H, $J$ 1.5 and 6.5)				
OMe	56.1	3.80 (s, 1H)				H-3'/H-5'

stretching of an aromatic ring and between 1312-1107  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  of C–O stretching. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  APT NMR spectrum showed the presence of 17 signals, corresponding to 17 carbons. From these, 9 were assigned to non-hydrogenated carbons, 6 to methine carbons and 2 to methoxyl carbons. Based on comparison with  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data of the neolignans 2-(2'-hydroxy-4'-6'-dimethoxyphenyl)-5-(*E*)-propenylbenzofuran and krametosan, also isolated from *K. tomentosa*,<sup>14</sup> it was possible to make the following considerations: (i) the signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  153.5, 107.5, 130.1 and 157.5 were assigned to carbons C-2, C-3, C-3a and C-7a, respectively, of the benzofuran ring; (ii) the signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  100.6, 158.6, 95.1, 163.4, 91.6 and 160.8 were assigned to carbons C-1', C-2', C-3', C-4', C-5' and C-6', respectively; (iii) the absence of signals at approximately  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  131.0, 124.6 and 18.5 suggestive of a propenyl unit plus the presence of the signal at 168.0 (referring to a carbonyl) and the information obtained from the IR spectrum indicate that compound **2** is possibly the trinor-neolignan 2-(2'-hydroxy-4',6'-dimethoxyphenyl)benzofuran-5-carboxylic acid. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of this compound indicated the presence of a signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.03 (d,  $J$  0.5 Hz) characteristic of H-3, as well as signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  8.31 (d,  $J$  1.7 Hz), 7.97 (dd,  $J$  1.7 and 8.5 Hz) and 7.57 (d,  $J$  8.5 Hz), assigned to the

hydrogens H-4, H-6 and H-7, respectively, and signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.23 (d,  $J$  2.5) and 6.24 (d,  $J$  2.5), corresponding to the hydrogens H-3' and H-5', respectively. It was also observed two singlets at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.81 and 3.83, the first referring to the methoxyl at C-4' and the second to the methoxyl at C-6'. These assignments were confirmed by the direct correlations observed in the HMQC spectrum. The HMBC spectrum showed correlations between the hydrogens at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  8.31 (H-4) and 7.97 (H-6) with the signal at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  168.1, assigned to the carbon of the carbonyl, confirming its insertion at C-5. Correlations were observed between the hydrogen at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  8.31 (H-4) and the signal at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  107.5, assigned to C-3, and between the hydrogens at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.03 (H-3), 8.31 (H-4) and 7.97 (H-6) and the signal at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  157.4, assigned to C-7a. Table 2 gives a compilation of the chemical shifts and the correlations found in the spectra of one- and two-dimensional  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR for this compound, which is reported here for the first time. This compound was given the trivial name sobraline.

Compound **3** (2-(2',4'-dihydroxyphenyl)-5-(*E*)-propenylbenzofuran) was isolated in the form of colorless crystals, showing a melting point of 181-184  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This substance has already been isolated from other species of the genus *Krameria*,<sup>4,8</sup> but this is the first report

**Table 2.** Data of one- and two-dimensional  $^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  (125 MHz) NMR of compound **2** in  $\text{CD}_3\text{COCD}_3$  ( $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz)

	$^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$ HMQC		$^1\text{H}$ - $^{13}\text{C}$ HMBC		$^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$ COSY	$^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$ NOESY
	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$^2J$	$^3J$		
C						
2	153.5		H-3			
3a	130.1		H-3	H-7		
5	126.3					
7a	157.5			H-3/H4/H-6		
8	168.1			H4/H-6		
1'	100.6			H-3'/H-5'		
2'	158.6		H-3'			
4'	163.4		H-3'/H-5'			
6'	160.8		H-5'			
CH						
3	107.5	7.03 (d, 1H, $J$ 0.5)		H-4		H-4
4	123.6	8.31 (d, 1H, $J$ 1.7)		H-6	H-6	
6	126.1	7.97 (dd, 1H, $J$ 1.7 and 8.5)	H-7	H-4	H-7	H-7
7	111.4	7.57 (d, 1H, $J$ 8.5)				
3'	95.1	6.23 (d, 1H, $J$ 2.5)		H-5'		
5'	91.6	6.24 (d, 1H, $J$ 2.5)		H-3'		H-3'/H-5'
OMe-4'	55.7	3.81 (s, 3H)				
OMe-6'	56.2	3.83 (s, 3H)				

for the species *Krameria tomentosa*, besides being the first time that two-dimensional NMR data are described for compound **3**, confirming the values provided in the literature for carbons C-3, C-3', C-7 and C-1'. The HMQC spectrum demonstrated the direct correlation between the hydrogen at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.39 and the carbon at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  111.1, assigning this shift to C-7, differentiating it from C-1' at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  110.6, which indicates a non-hydrogenated carbon. In the HMBC spectrum, correlations were observed between the hydrogens at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.52 (H-4) and at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.50 (H-5') and the carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  104.0 and  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  103.9 assigned to C-3 and C-3', respectively.

Compounds **4** (eupomatenoïd **6**) and **5** (dihydrocarinatidin) were identified based on direct comparison with NMR data described in the literature.<sup>4,19</sup>

## Conclusions

Considering the wealth of neolignans in the species of the family Krameriaceae, this study comes to confirm the predominance of this class of secondary metabolites in the family and contributes to the expansion of their chemical knowledge with the isolation of two new neolignans.

## Experimental

### General experimental procedures

Melting points were obtained by the digital apparatus, model MQAPF-302 from Microchemical and were not corrected. IR spectra were recorded on a BOMEM-MB 100 spectrophotometer. One-dimensional ( $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$ ) and two-dimensional (gHMQC, gHMBC, gCOSY and gNOESY) NMR analyses were performed on a VARIAN-System spectrometer operating at 500 MHz ( $^1\text{H}$ ) and 125 MHz ( $^{13}\text{C}$ ).  $\text{CDCl}_3$  or  $\text{CD}_3\text{COCD}_3$  was used as the solvent with TMS as an internal standard. HR-ESI-MS was obtained using the microTOF-II system from Bruker. Conventional chromatographic methods were used for column chromatography (CC) (silica gel 60, Merck, 0.063-0.20 and 0.04-0.063 mm). Medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC) was performed using the Buchi system of binary gradient flash separation, in which the chromatograph was equipped with two pump modules (C-601 and C-605), controller module (C-615), Knauer UV detector and columns packed with silica gel (Merck, 0.063-0.20 and 0.04-0.063 mm).

Silica gel TLC (thin layer chromatographic) plates PF<sub>254</sub> 7749 (Merck) stained with iodine and viewed under UV light (254/366 nm) were used to monitor chromatographic purification procedures.

#### Plant material

The botanical material utilized was collected in the municipality of Santa Rita, Paraíba State, Brazil, in June 2010. Its botanical identification was carried out by Prof. Dr. Maria de Fátima Agra and a dried specimen is deposited in the Herbário Professor Lauro Pires Xavier of UFPB under No. 3271.

#### Extraction and isolation

The roots of *K. tomentosa* (3.5 kg), dried and pulverized, were extracted with 95% EtOH at ambient temperature. The extract obtained was concentrated in a rotary evaporator under reduced pressure at 40 °C, yielding 685.0 g ethanolic extract. A portion (100.0 g) was suspended in MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (7:3) and partitioned with hexane, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and EtOAc to obtain the hexane (2.5 g), dichloromethane (5.4 g) and ethyl acetate (6.5 g) extracts. The hexane extract (2.5 g) was separated by CC, utilizing silica gel 60 (0.063-0.200 mm) and the eluents hexane and EtOAc and MeOH, pure or in binary mixtures, in increasing order of polarity, resulting in 67 fractions of 100 mL each, which were analyzed by analytical TLC. Fraction 14 yielded compound **4** (16.6 mg). Fractions 1-2 (168.3 mg) were submitted to another CC utilizing similar conditions as before, providing 25 subfractions of 10 mL each. Subfractions 10-15 gave the neolignan **1** (35.4 mg). Fractions 27-35 (99.3 mg) were rechromatographed as before, from which 55 subfractions of 10 mL each were collected. Subfractions 33-37 yielded compound **5** (26.2 mg).

The dichloromethane extract (5.0 g) was submitted to MPLC, with the column packed with silica gel 60 (0.063-0.200 mm), utilizing a flow rate of 30 mL min<sup>-1</sup> and mobile phase of the solvents hexane and EtOAc and MeOH, pure or in binary mixtures, in increasing order of polarity. A total of 81 fractions of 100 mL each was collected, which were concentrated in rotary evaporator and combined, after analysis by analytical TLC, to form 24 groups. Fractions 42-45 provided compound **3** (22.7 mg). Fractions 67-81 (675.3 mg) were submitted to another MPLC, utilizing a column packed with silica gel 60 (0.04-0.063 mm) and flow rate of 30 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. From this column, 53 subfractions of 100 mL each were collected, which were analyzed by analytical TLC and combined into 10 groups. Subfractions 5-6 yielded compound **2** (8.5 mg).

#### Characterization

1,1'-(*E*)-Propenyl-4-methoxy-3,4'-oxyneolignan (ottomentosa) (**1**)

Colorless oil; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 1603, 1505, 1441, 1269, 1227, 982; HR-ESI-MS at  $m/z$  303.1372 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>, calcd. for C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>2</sub>Na, 303.1356; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz and 125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>), see Table 1.

2-(2'-Hydroxy-4',6'-dimethoxyphenyl)benzofuran-5-carboxylic acid (sobraline) (**2**)

Colorless crystals; mp 262-264 °C; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3472, 2650, 1690, 1624, 1589, 1458, 1312, 1207, 1107; HR-ESI-MS  $m/z$  313.0708 [M - H]<sup>-</sup>, calculated for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>13</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, 313.0706; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (500 MHz and 125 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>COCD<sub>3</sub>), see Table 2.

2-(2',4'-Dihydroxyphenyl)-5-(*E*)-propenylbenzofuran (**3**)

Colorless crystals; mp 181-184 °C; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$ /cm<sup>-1</sup> 3537, 3281, 1605, 1508, 1321, 1173; <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>COCD<sub>3</sub>) 110.6 (C-1'), 156.8 (C-2'), 103.9 (C-3'), 159.8 (C-4'), 108.4 (C-5'), 128.6 (C-6'), 154.8 (C-2), 104.0 (C-3), 131.3 (C-3a), 118.5 (C-4), 133.9 (C-5), 122.5 (C-6), 111.1 (C-7), 153.7 (C-7a), 132.3 (C-8), 124.4 (C-9), 18.5 (C-10); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>COCD<sub>3</sub>) 6.57 (d, *J* 2.0, H-3'), 6.50 (dd, *J* 2.0 and 8.5, H-5'), 7.76 (d, *J* 8.5, H-6'), 7.20 (d, *J* 1.0, H-3), 7.52 (d, *J* 1.0, H-4), 7.26 (dd, *J* 1.0 and 8.5, H-6), 7.39 (d, *J* 8.5, H-7), 6.47 (d, *J* 1.5 and 13.0, H-8), 6.23 (dq, *J* 6.5 and 13.0, H-9), 1.84 (dd, *J* 1.5 and 6.5, H-10), 8.88 (s, OH).

#### Supplementary Information

Supplementary data associated with this work are available free of charge at <http://jbcbs.s bq.org.br> as PDF file.

#### Acknowledgments

The authors thank CNPq (Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico), CAPES (Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior) and FAPESQ-PB (Fundação de Apoio à Pesquisa do Estado da Paraíba) for financial support and LMCA-Central Analítica of UFPB for providing the spectra. Dr. A. Leyva helped with the translation and editing of the manuscript.

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Submitted: June 13, 2012

Published online: November 30, 2012