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Aromatic substances from the lichen *Parmotrema sp.*

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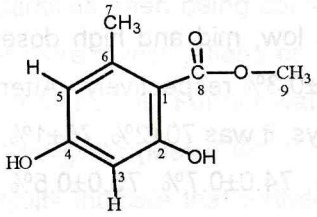
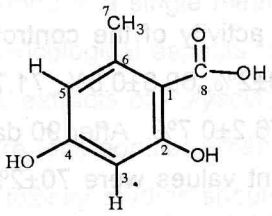
The lichen symbiosis typically involves a close physiological integration. Lichens accumulate large concentration of products, particularly aromatic phenolic compounds, sometimes exceeding 20% of dry weight. The majority of these compounds originate from the mycobiont.

Parmotrema sp. described in this study belongs to family Physciaceae. The lichens were collected from a stem bark of the palm tree *Roystonea regia* from University of Peradeniya. As part of a program to isolate natural products from novel sources, we report herein the isolation of two simple aromatic compounds, methylorsellenate (**1**), and orsellenic acid (**2**) and the depsidone (**3**).

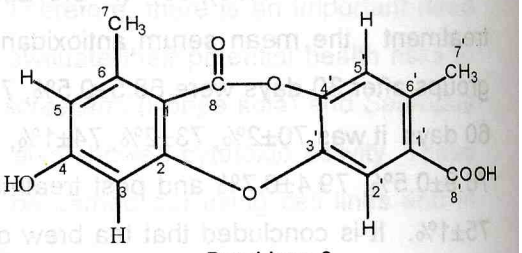
Cleaned and dried lichen was sequentially extracted with CH_2Cl_2 followed by MeOH. The crude MeOH extract when fractionated via MPLC (step gradient from Hexane → 50% CH_2Cl_2/MeOH): fractions 8 to11 were pooled and crystallized using CH_2Cl_2 /hexane and re-crystallized using 90% CH_2Cl_2 /hexane to obtain yellow crystals of methyl orsellenate (**1**). The MeOH extract further was fractionated via MPLC (step gradient from hexane → 50% CH_2Cl_2/ MeOH) and re-fractionated using silica gel MPLC (gradient eluent 100% hexane→100% ethyl acetate) and further chromatographed using gravity column (gradient eluent 100% hexane → 100% ethyl acetate) to obtain orsellenic acid (**2**). Depsidone (**3**) was isolated by fractionating the MeOH extract *via* MPLC (step gradient from Hexane → 50%CH_2Cl_2 / MeOH) and re-fractionated using silica gel MPLC (gradient eluent 100% hexane → 100% ethylacetate) and recrystalizing using 50% ethylacetate/ hexane. These compounds were fully characterized using ^1H, ^{13}C, COSY, HMQC and HMBC data. To the best of our knowledge compound (**3**) is a new natural product.



Methylorsellenate 1.



Orsellenic acid 2



Depsidone 3.

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