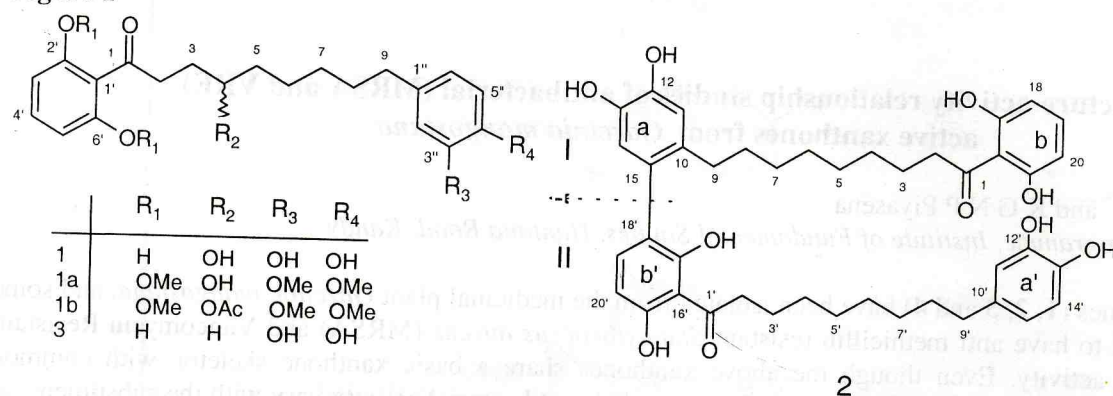


A new arylalkanone and a dimeric acylphenol from *Myristica ceylanica* (*Myristicaceae*)

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The *Myristicaceae* family is an archaic group, consisting of 19 genera and nearly 440 species, found in the lowland rain forests in the Asian tropics, tropical America, Africa and Madagascar. *Myristica ceylanica* (Malaboda (S)) is the only endemic species among the three *Myristica* species found in Sri Lanka. Bark of this plant is used as a gargle for throat ailment in Ayurvedic medicine and in the treatment of wounds in cattle. The plant material was collected at Adikarigama (Hanguranketta, Nuwara Eliya) in the central province of Sri Lanka. Air-dried, powdered seed mace was extracted successively for two day periods with hexane, dichloromethane and methanol at room temperature. Crude methanol extract, upon silicagel chromatography, yielded a new arylalkanone **1** and a dimeric acylphenol **2** (Giganteone A) together with malabaricone C (**3**). **1a** and **1b** are methylated and acetylated products of **1** respectively. (Figure 1)

Figure 1



- 1-(2',6'-dihydroxyphenyl)-4-hydroxy-9-(3'',4''-dihydroxyphenyl)nonan-1-one (**1**)
 1-(2',6'-dimethoxyphenyl)-4-hydroxy-9-(3'',4''-dimethoxyphenyl)nonan-1-one (**1a**)
 4-acetyloxy-1-(2',6'-dimethoxyphenyl)-9-(3'',4''-dimethoxyphenyl)nonan-1-one (**1b**)
 1-(2,6-dihydroxyphenyl)-9-(2-{3-[9-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-nonanoyl]-2,4-dihydroxyphenyl}-
 4,5-dihydroxyphenyl)-1-nonanone (giganteone A, **2**).
 1-(2',6'-dihydroxyphenyl)-9-(3'',4''-dihydroxyphenyl)nonan-1-one [Malabaricone C] (**3**)

These structures were established by comparison with spectroscopic and previously reported physical data.

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