

# Steroidal and pregnane glycosides from *Ypsilandra thibetica*

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**Abstract:** The whole plants of *Ypsilandra thibetica* have been analyzed as part of a systematic study on saponin constituents of medicinal plants. This has resulted in the isolation of two new bisdesmosidic furostanol saponins, named ypsilandroside P (**1**) and ypsilandroside Q (**2**), and one new pregnane glycoside, named ypsilandroside R (**3**), together with nine known steroidal glycosides. Their structures were elucidated on the basis of extensive spectroscopic analysis, including that of 2D NMR data, and the results of acidic hydrolysis. Ypsilandroside P (**1**) was cytotoxicity against two human tumor cell lines.

**Keywords:** *Ypsilandra thibetica*, Liliaceae, furostanol glycoside, pregnane glycoside, ypsilandroside

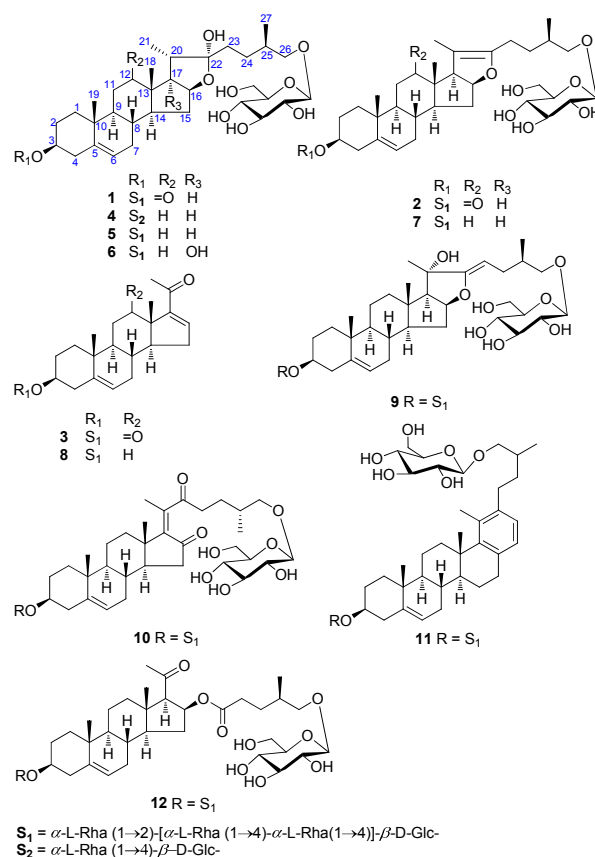
## Introduction

In a continuation of our study on saponin constituents of medicinal plants, we have examined the saponin riched fraction prepared from the EtOH extract of the air-dried whole plants of *Ypsilandra thibetica* (Liliaceae). This perennial plant distributes in southwestern China and has been used as hemostatic agent in Chinese folk medicine.<sup>1,2</sup> In our recent study, we found that this species was a rich source of steroidal saponins. Two sapogenin, 22 spirostanol saponins, and two C-22 steroidal lactone glycosides were obtained from the title plants.<sup>3–6</sup> Further phytochemical investigation has been carried out on this species, with particular attention to the steroidal glycoside constituents, and has resulted in the isolation of two new bisdesmosidic furostanol saponins (**1** and **2**) and one new pregnane glycoside (**3**), together with nine known steroidal glycosides: protoprogenin II (**4**),<sup>7</sup> proto-Pb (**5**),<sup>8</sup> saponin Th (**6**),<sup>9</sup> pseudoprotopb (**7**),<sup>10</sup> pregnane 5,16-dien-3 $\beta$ -ol-20-oxo 3-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (**8**),<sup>11</sup> smilaxchinoside B (**9**),<sup>12</sup> parispsseudoside C (**10**),<sup>13</sup> parispsseudoside A (**11**),<sup>13</sup> and 26-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-3 $\beta$ ,26-dihydroxy-20,22-*seco*-25(*R*)-furost-5-en-20,22-dione 3-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside (**12**).<sup>14</sup> This paper reports the isolation, structural determination, and cytotoxic activity of these glycosides.

## Results and Discussion

Compound **1**, obtained as a white amorphous powder, gave

a pseudo-molecular ion peak  $[M - H]^-$  at  $m/z$  1207.5736 (calcd. 1207.5747) in its HRESIMS. Combined with <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopic data (Table 2), its molecular formula was



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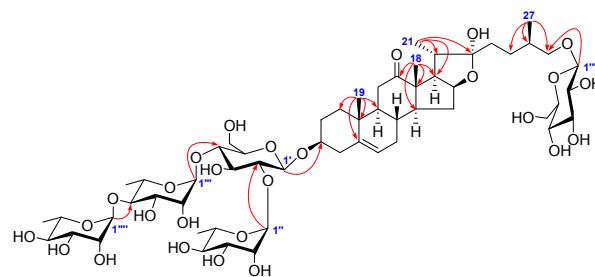
**Table 1.**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectral data for compounds 1–3 ( $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz,  $\text{C}_5\text{D}_5\text{N}$ )<sup>a</sup>

| Pos. | 1 <sup>b</sup>       | 2 <sup>c</sup>       | 3 <sup>c</sup>       | Pos.       | 1 <sup>b</sup>    | 2 <sup>c</sup>      | 3 <sup>c</sup> |
|------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1a   | 1.96, m              | 1.53, m              | 1.47, m              | Glc-1'     | 4.93, d (7.2)     | 4.91, d (7.9)       | 4.93, d (7.4)  |
| 1b   | 0.89, m              | 0.89, m              | 0.87, m              | 2'         | 4.18, m           | 4.20, m             | 4.21, m        |
| 2a   | 2.00, m              | 2.00, m              | 1.63, m              | 3'         | 4.20, m           | 4.23, m             | 4.20, m        |
| 2b   | 1.78, m              | 1.88, m              | 1.41, m              | 4'         | 4.39, m           | 4.41, m             | 4.40, m        |
| 3    | 3.81, m              | 3.82, m              | 3.81, m              | 5'         | 3.60, br. d (9.1) | 3.61, m             | 3.59, br. s    |
| 4a   | 2.80, m              | 2.81, dd (11.0, 2.4) | 2.82, dd (13.3, 1.8) | 6'a        | 4.17, d (14.2)    | 4.17, d (12.3)      | 4.18, m        |
| 4b   | 2.68, m              | 2.68, t (11.0)       | 2.68, dd (12.3, 5.9) | 6'b        | 4.02, m           | 4.04, m             | 4.03, d (11.1) |
| 6    | 5.22, br. s          | 5.28, br. s          | 5.30, br. s          | Rha-1''    | 6.41, br. s       | 6.41, br. s         | 6.41, br. s    |
| 7a   | 1.87, m              | 1.89, m (2H)         | 1.90, m              | 2''        | 4.86, m           | 4.85, m             | 4.85, m        |
| 7b   | 1.43, m              |                      | 1.52, m              | 3''        | 4.62, m           | 4.63, m             | 4.63, m        |
| 8    | 1.85, m              | 1.79, m              | 1.86, m              | 4''        | 4.35, m           | 4.37, m             | 4.36, m        |
| 9    | 1.30, m              | 1.32, m              | 1.38, m              | 5''        | 4.93, m           | 4.95, m             | 4.94, m        |
| 11a  | 2.56, t (13.5)       | 2.53, t (14.0)       | 2.64, t (13.5)       | 6''        | 1.58, d (5.2)     | 1.59, d (5.9)       | 1.59, d (5.6)  |
| 11b  | 2.30, dd (14.4, 5.6) | 2.31, dd (14.5, 5.7) | 2.25, dd (13.5, 6.3) | Rha-1'''   | 5.84, br. s       | 5.84, br. s         | 5.83, br. s    |
| 14   | 1.41, m              | 1.23, m              | 1.58, m              | 2'''       | 4.51, m           | 4.51, m             | 4.53, m        |
| 15a  | 2.09, m              | 2.20, m              | 2.25, m              | 3'''       | 4.55, m           | 4.56, m             | 4.55, m        |
| 15b  | 1.64, m              | 1.67, m              | 2.07, m              | 4'''       | 4.44, m           | 4.45, m             | 4.43, m        |
| 16   | 4.88, m              | 4.84, m              | 6.54, s              | 5'''       | 4.92, m           | 4.93, m             | 4.93, m        |
| 17   | 2.94, t (7.5)        | 3.45, d (10.2)       |                      | 6'''       | 1.58, d (5.2)     | 1.59, d (5.9)       | 1.59, d (5.6)  |
| 18   | 1.15, s              | 0.95, s              | 1.33, s              | Rha-1''''  | 6.29, br. s       | 6.30, br. s         | 6.29, br. s    |
| 19   | 1.06, s              | 1.07, s              | 1.07, s              | 2''''      | 4.90, m           | 4.90, m             | 4.90, m        |
| 20   | 2.20, dd (13.2, 6.5) |                      |                      | 3''''      | 4.52, m           | 4.53, m             | 4.53, m        |
| 21   | 1.53, d (6.7)        | 1.74, s              | 2.32, s              | 4''''      | 4.30, m           | 4.31, m             | 4.31, m        |
| 23a  | 2.05, m              | 2.20, m (2H)         |                      | 5''''      | 4.36, m           | 4.38, m             | 4.36, m        |
| 23b  | 1.52, m              |                      |                      | 6''''      | 1.75, d (6.1)     | 1.76, d (6.2)       | 1.76, d (6.2)  |
| 24a  | 2.04, m              | 1.89, m              |                      | Glc-1''''' | 4.80, d (7.7)     | 4.84, d (7.8)       |                |
| 24b  | 1.66, m              | 1.45, m              |                      | 2'''''     | 3.60, br. d (9.1) | 3.60, dd (9.4, 5.4) |                |
| 25   | 1.92, m              | 1.93, m              |                      | 3'''''     | 4.24, m           | 4.26, m             |                |
| 26a  | 3.94, dd (9.1, 7.1)  | 3.95, dd (9.4, 7.1)  |                      | 4'''''     | 4.21, m           | 4.25, m             |                |
| 26b  | 3.60, dd (9.1, 5.8)  | 3.59, dd (9.4, 5.4)  |                      | 5'''''     | 3.94, m           | 3.96, m             |                |
| 27   | 0.97, d (6.5)        | 1.01, d (6.6)        |                      | 6'''''a    | 4.54, m           | 4.58, m             |                |
|      |                      |                      |                      | 6'''''b    | 4.38, m           | 4.40, m             |                |

<sup>a</sup>Assignments based on 2D NMR spectra; <sup>b</sup>Recorded at 400 MHz; <sup>c</sup>Recorded at 500 MHz.

determined as  $\text{C}_{57}\text{H}_{92}\text{O}_{27}$ . The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1** (Table 1) showed signals of four steroid methyl groups at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.97 (3H, d,  $J = 6.5$  Hz, Me-27), 1.06 (3H, s, Me-19), 1.15 (3H, s, Me-18), and 1.53 (3H, d,  $J = 6.7$  Hz, Me-21), an olefinic proton at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.22 (1H, br. s), as well as signals for five anomeric proton signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.80 (1H, d,  $J = 7.7$  Hz, H-1'''''), 4.93 (1H, d,  $J = 7.2$  Hz, H-1'), 5.84 (1H, br. s, H-1'''), 6.29 (1H, br. s, H-1'''), and 6.41 (1H, br. s, H-1''). The three methyl carbon signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  18.7, 18.9, and 18.5 and their corresponding proton signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.58 (3H, d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, H-6'''), 1.58 (3H, d,  $J = 5.2$  Hz, H-6'''), and 1.75 (3H, d,  $J = 6.1$  Hz, H-6''') indicated that **1** had three deoxy sugars. The monosaccharides of the acidic hydrolysate of **1** were identified as D-glucose and L-rhamnose on the basis of GC analysis and comparison with authentic standards. The above  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and chemical data, together with an acetalic carbon signal at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  110.9 in the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum<sup>15</sup> and a positive coloration with Ehrlich reagent,<sup>16,17</sup> indicated **1** to be a furostanol saponin with up to five monosaccharides. A comparison of the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectroscopic signals of the aglycone moiety of **1** with Proto-Pb (**5**)<sup>8</sup> indicated that the signals were similar except for the presence of a carbonyl group ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  213.1). In the HMBC spectrum (Figure 1), the long-range correlations from  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.15 (Me-18, s) to  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  213.1 (C-12, s), 55.4 (C-13, s), 56.0 (C-14, d), and 54.9 (C-17, d) indicated that the carbonyl group was attached at C-12 of the aglycone of **1**. The configuration of the methyl group at C-25 is *R* on the basis of the proton signals of C-26 at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.94 (1H, 26-H<sub>a</sub>) and 3.60 (1H, 26-H<sub>b</sub>), and the difference ( $\Delta_{\text{ab}}$ ) of the proton signals at C-26 was 0.34.<sup>18,19</sup> From the above evidence, the aglycone of **1** was identified as (25*R*)-furost-5-en-3 $\beta$ ,22 $\alpha$ ,26-triol-12-one.

Comparison of the carbon chemical shift thus assigned with



**Figure 1.** Selected HMBC correlations of compound **1**.

those of the reference methyl glycosides,<sup>15,19</sup> taking into account the known effects of *O*-glycosylation, indicated that **1** contained a terminal  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl unit, two terminal  $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl unit, a C-4 substituted  $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl unit, and a C-2 and C-4 disubstituted  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl unit. The  $\beta$ -configuration of the anomeric protons of the glucopyranosyl residue were assigned based on its  $J_{\text{H-2H}}$  value ( $J = 7.2\text{--}7.7$  Hz), while the anomeric configuration of the three rhamnopyranosyls were determined as  $\alpha$ -oriented on the ground the chemical shift values of the C-3'', C-5'', C-3''', C-5''', C-3''', and C-5'''' with those of the corresponding carbons of methyl  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -rhamnopyranoside.<sup>20,21</sup> In the HMBC spectrum, a correlation peak between the signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.80 (H-1 of terminal glucosyl) and  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  75.4 (C-26 of aglycon) implied that one glucose unit was attached at C-26 of the aglycon, which is a structural feature most frequently encountered in the plant furostanol saponins.<sup>15</sup> Consequently, a tetraglycoside was assumed to be located at C-3 of the aglycon. The sequence of the tetrasaccharide, which was the same as the known compounds **5–12**, was established from the further HMBC correlations: H-1' ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.93) of Glc with C-3 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  77.8) of the aglycone, H-1'' ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.41) of 2'-Rha

**Table 2.**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data for compounds 1–3 ( $\text{C}_5\text{D}_5\text{N}$ )

| Pos. | 1 <sup>a</sup>        | 2 <sup>b</sup>        | 3 <sup>b</sup>        | Pos.      | 1 <sup>a</sup>        | 2 <sup>b</sup>        | 3 <sup>b</sup>        |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1    | 37.2, CH <sub>2</sub> | 37.1, CH <sub>2</sub> | 37.0, CH <sub>2</sub> | Glc-1'    | 100.4, CH             | 100.4, CH             | 100.4, CH             |
| 2    | 30.0, CH <sub>2</sub> | 30.0, CH <sub>2</sub> | 29.9, CH <sub>2</sub> | 2'        | 78.0, CH              | 77.9, CH              | 78.0, CH              |
| 3    | 77.8, CH              | 77.9, CH              | 77.9, CH              | 3'        | 77.7, CH              | 77.7, CH              | 77.8, CH              |
| 4    | 38.8, CH <sub>2</sub> | 38.8, CH <sub>2</sub> | 38.8, CH <sub>2</sub> | 4'        | 77.8, CH              | 77.8, CH              | 77.9, CH              |
| 5    | 140.6, C              | 140.7, C              | 141.1, C              | 5'        | 77.1, CH              | 77.1, CH              | 77.1, CH              |
| 6    | 121.7, CH             | 121.6, CH             | 121.5, CH             | 6'        | 61.2, CH <sub>2</sub> | 61.3, CH <sub>2</sub> | 61.3, CH <sub>2</sub> |
| 7    | 31.9, CH <sub>2</sub> | 31.9, CH <sub>2</sub> | 31.4, CH <sub>2</sub> | Rha-1''   | 102.3, CH             | 102.2, CH             | 102.2, CH             |
| 8    | 31.0, CH              | 30.8, CH              | 30.2, CH              | 2''       | 72.6, CH              | 72.5, CH              | 72.5, CH              |
| 9    | 52.4, CH              | 52.4, CH              | 53.8, CH              | 3''       | 72.7, CH              | 72.6, CH              | 72.7, CH              |
| 10   | 37.7, C               | 37.8, C               | 38.0, C               | 4''       | 74.2, CH              | 74.1, CH              | 74.2, CH              |
| 11   | 37.6, CH <sub>2</sub> | 37.7, CH <sub>2</sub> | 37.8, CH <sub>2</sub> | 5''       | 69.5, CH              | 69.6, CH              | 69.6, CH              |
| 12   | 213.1, C              | 212.8, C              | 209.2, C              | 6''       | 18.7, CH <sub>3</sub> | 18.7, CH <sub>3</sub> | 18.7, CH <sub>3</sub> |
| 13   | 55.4, C               | 57.2, C               | 61.3, C               | Rha-1'''  | 102.3, CH             | 102.3, CH             | 102.3, CH             |
| 14   | 56.0, CH              | 54.4, CH              | 56.2, CH              | 2'''      | 72.9, CH              | 72.9, CH              | 72.9, CH              |
| 15   | 31.9, CH <sub>2</sub> | 34.0, CH <sub>2</sub> | 31.8, CH <sub>2</sub> | 3'''      | 73.4, CH              | 73.3, CH              | 73.3, CH              |
| 16   | 79.8, CH              | 83.1, CH              | 142.8, CH             | 4'''      | 80.5, CH              | 80.4, CH              | 80.4, CH              |
| 17   | 54.9, CH              | 56.1, CH              | 150.7, C              | 5'''      | 68.4, CH              | 68.4, CH              | 68.4, CH              |
| 18   | 16.1, CH <sub>3</sub> | 14.0, CH <sub>3</sub> | 16.4, CH <sub>3</sub> | 6'''      | 18.9, CH <sub>3</sub> | 18.9, CH <sub>3</sub> | 18.8, CH <sub>3</sub> |
| 19   | 19.0, CH <sub>3</sub> | 18.9, CH <sub>3</sub> | 18.9, CH <sub>3</sub> | Rha-1'''' | 103.4, CH             | 103.3, CH             | 103.3, CH             |
| 20   | 41.4, CH              | 103.1, C              | 196.0, C              | 2''''     | 72.7, CH              | 72.6, CH              | 72.5, CH              |
| 21   | 15.3, CH <sub>3</sub> | 11.6, CH <sub>3</sub> | 27.7, CH <sub>3</sub> | 3''''     | 72.9, CH              | 72.9, CH              | 72.9, CH              |
| 22   | 110.9, C              | 153.2, C              |                       | 4''''     | 74.0, CH              | 74.0, CH              | 74.1, CH              |
| 23   | 37.1, CH <sub>2</sub> | 23.8, CH <sub>2</sub> |                       | 5''''     | 70.5, CH              | 70.4, CH              | 70.5, CH              |
| 24   | 28.4, CH <sub>2</sub> | 31.4, CH <sub>2</sub> |                       | 6''''     | 18.5, CH <sub>3</sub> | 18.5, CH <sub>3</sub> | 18.5, CH <sub>3</sub> |
| 25   | 34.3, CH              | 33.6, CH              |                       | Glc-1'''' | 105.0, CH             | 105.0, CH             |                       |
| 26   | 75.4, CH <sub>2</sub> | 75.2, CH <sub>2</sub> |                       | 2''''     | 75.3, CH              | 75.0, CH              |                       |
| 27   | 17.5, CH <sub>3</sub> | 17.3, CH <sub>3</sub> |                       | 3''''     | 78.7, CH              | 78.6, CH              |                       |
|      |                       |                       |                       | 4''''     | 71.7, CH              | 71.7, CH              |                       |
|      |                       |                       |                       | 5''''     | 78.6, CH              | 78.5, CH              |                       |
|      |                       |                       |                       | 6''''     | 62.9, CH <sub>2</sub> | 62.9, CH <sub>2</sub> |                       |

<sup>a</sup>Recorded at 100 MHz; <sup>b</sup>Recorded at 125 MHz.

with C-2' ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  78.0) of Glc, H-1'''' ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.84) of 4'-Rha with C-4' ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  77.8) of Glc, and H-1'''' ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.29) of 4''-Rha with C-4'' ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  80.5) of 4'-Rha. Therefore, **1** was determined to be 26-*O*- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(25*R*)-3 $\beta$ ,22 $\alpha$ ,26-trihydroxyfurost-5-en-12-one 3-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside, and named ypsilandroside P.

Compound **2** displayed a  $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^-$  ion at  $m/z$  1189.5645 (calcd. for  $\text{C}_{57}\text{H}_{89}\text{O}_{26}$ , 1189.5642) in the HRESIMS and gave a red color with Ehrlich's reagent. The NMR spectral data suggested **2** is a furostanol saponin closely related to **1**. It differed from **1** in the presence of one more olefinic functionality [ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  153.2 (s) and 103.1 (s)] in addition to the 5(6)-en group. Furthermore, the Me-21 methyl doublet signal observed at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.53 ( $J = 6.7$  Hz) in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **1** was absent from **2**, but was replaced by a methyl singlet at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.74. These data were suggestive of **2** being the corresponding  $\Delta^{20(22)}$ -furostanol saponin of **1**, which was confirmed by the mass difference of  $m/z = 18$  and HMBC correlations. In the HMBC spectrum of **2**, the correlations of Me-21 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.74) with C-17 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  56.1), C-20 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  103.1), and C-22 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  153.2) were observed. Thus, the structure of **2** was established as 26-*O*- $\beta$ -D- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl-(25*R*)-3 $\beta$ ,26-dihydroxyfurost-5,20(22)-diene-12-one 3-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside, and named ypsilandroside Q.

Compound **3** had a molecular formula of  $\text{C}_{45}\text{H}_{68}\text{O}_{20}$ , established by analysis of HRESIMS ( $m/z$  963.3953 [ $\text{M} + \text{Cl}]^-$ , calcd. 963.3992) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (45 signals). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of **3** displayed two three-proton singlet signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.07 (s) and 1.33 (s), indicating the presence of two angular methyl groups, and a methyl singlet at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.32 (s) attached to a deshielding moiety, as well as four anomeric

proton signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.93 (1H, d,  $J = 7.4$  Hz), 5.83 (1H, br. s), 6.29 (1H, br. s), and 6.41 (1H, br. s). The existence of an  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated carbonyl group was verified by the IR (1657  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ), UV [227 nm ( $\log \epsilon$  2.8)], and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR [ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  196.0 (C=O), 150.7 (C), and 142.8 (CH)] spectra. These spectral data and comparison with those of the known compound **8**<sup>11</sup> indicated that **3** differed from **8** by the presence of a carbonyl group ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  209.2) instead of a methylene moiety at C-12 in the latter. The HMBC correlations of  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.33 (Me-18) with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  209.2 (C-12, s), 61.3 (C-13, s), 56.2 (C-14, d), 150.7 (C-17, s) indicated that the location of the carbonyl group at C-12. Thus, the aglycone of **3** was identified as 3 $\alpha$ -hydroxypregna-5,16-dien-12,20-dione. The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR shifts of the tetraglycoside moiety linked to C-3 of the pregnane were superimposable on those of **1**, **2**, and **5–12**. On the basis of all the information above, the structure of **3** was characterized as pregnane 5,16-dien-3 $\beta$ -ol-12,20-dione 3-*O*- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 4)-[ $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 2)]- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranoside, and named ypsilandroside R.

The cytotoxic activities of saponins **1**, **2**, and **12** against the growth of human tumor cell lines (A549 and HL-60) were evaluated. The results indicated that only compound **1** showed 86.4% inhibition to A549 cell lines and 75.9% inhibition to HL-60 cell lines at the tested concentration (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ).

## Experimental Section

**General Experimental Procedures.** Optical rotations were measured on a Jasco P-1020 automatic digital polarimeter. UV spectra were measured using a Shimadzu UV-2401PC spectrophotometer. IR spectra were measured on a Bio-Rad FTS-135 spectrometer with KBr pellets. NMR spectra were run on Bruker AM-400 and DRX-500 instruments with TMS as

internal standard. FAB-MS spectra were recorded on a VG Auto Spec-300 spectrometer, HRESIMS spectra were recorded on an API Qstar Pulsar instrument. Column chromatography (CC) was performed over silica gel (200–300 mesh, 10–40  $\mu\text{m}$ , Qingdao Marine Chemical Co., China), Rp-18 (40–63  $\mu\text{m}$ , Merck), and Sephadex LH-20 (GE Healthcare, Sweden). TLC was performed on HSGF254 (0.2 mm, Qingdao Marine Chemical Co., China) or Rp-18 F<sub>254</sub> (0.25 mm, Merck). Semi-preparative HPLC was run on Agilent 1100 liquid chromatograph with diode array detector (DAD) setting at 200nm and 254 nm, ZORBAX SB-C18 (5  $\mu\text{m}$ ) column (25 cm  $\times$  9.4 mm i.d.). GC analysis was performed on a Shimadzu GC-2010 gas chromatograph equipped with an H<sub>2</sub> flame ionization detector.

**Plant Material.** The plant material of *Y. thibetica* was collected in November 2006 from Luding County, Sichuan Province, China, and identified by Prof. Xin-Qi Chen, Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing. A voucher specimen (No. HY0002) was deposited at the State Key Laboratory of Phytochemistry and Plant Resources in West China.

**Extraction and Isolation.** The air-dried whole plants of *Y. thibetica* (10 kg) were extracted three times with 70% EtOH (50 L  $\times$  3) under reflux for a total of 6 h and the combined extract was concentrated under reduced pressure. Then the concentrated extract was loaded onto a macroporous resin column (YWD-3F) and eluted successively with H<sub>2</sub>O, 40% EtOH (F1 fraction), 70% EtOH (F2 fraction), and 95% EtOH (F3 fraction), respectively. The 40% EtOH elutes were evaporated to dryness. Fraction F1 (33 g) was fractionated by silica gel column and eluted with a gradient of CHCl<sub>3</sub>-MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (8:2:0.2  $\rightarrow$  7:3:0.5, v/v) to get two subfractions (F11 and F12). Fraction F11 was subjected to column chromatography on Rp-18 gel (MPLC, MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O 4:6  $\rightarrow$  6.5:3.5) and semi-preparative HPLC (MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O 38:62 v/v; flow rate: 3 mL.min<sup>-1</sup>) to obtain **3** (14 mg), **4** (28 mg), and **8** (19 mg). Fraction F12 was chromatographed over Rp-18 gel (MPLC, MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O 3:7  $\rightarrow$  7:3) and semi-preparative HPLC (MeCN-H<sub>2</sub>O 20:80  $\rightarrow$  35:65 v/v; flow rate: 3 mL.min<sup>-1</sup>) to yield **1** (17 mg), **2** (8 mg), **5** (43 mg), **6** (80 mg), **7** (23 mg), **9** (20 mg), **10** (17 mg), **11** (18 mg), and **12** (24 mg).

**Ypsilandroside P (1):** white amorphous powder;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{24}$   $-65.0$  (*c* 0.26, MeOH); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3431, 2934, 1706, 1640, 1453, 1381, 1130, 1044, 985, 911, 839, 804 cm<sup>-1</sup> (intensity: 839 > 911); <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data see Tables 1 and 2; negative FABMS *m/z* 1208 [M]<sup>-</sup>, 1062 [M - 146]<sup>-</sup>, 915 [M - H - 2  $\times$  146]<sup>-</sup>, 769 [M - H - 3  $\times$  146]<sup>-</sup>; negative ion HRESIMS *m/z* 1207.5736 (calcd. for C<sub>57</sub>H<sub>91</sub>O<sub>27</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup>, 1207.5747).

**Ypsilandroside Q (2):** white amorphous powder;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{24}$   $-66.8$  (*c* 0.47, MeOH); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3426, 2933, 1707, 1640, 1453, 1382, 1131, 1043, 984, 911, 841, 804 cm<sup>-1</sup> (intensity: 841 > 911); <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data see Tables 1 and 2; negative FABMS *m/z* 1190 [M]<sup>-</sup>, 1043 [M - H - 146]<sup>-</sup>, 897 [M - H - 2  $\times$  146]<sup>-</sup>; negative ion HRESIMS *m/z* 1189.5645 (calcd. for C<sub>57</sub>H<sub>89</sub>O<sub>26</sub> [M - H]<sup>-</sup>, 1189.5642).

**Ypsilandroside R (3):** white amorphous powder;  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{22}$   $-58.3$  (*c* 0.12, MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 227 (2.8) nm; IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3418, 2934, 1713, 1657, 1376, 1132, 1053, 983 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data see Tables 1 and 2; negative FABMS *m/z* 927 [M - H]<sup>-</sup>, 781 [M - H - 146]<sup>-</sup>, 635 [M - H - 2  $\times$  146]<sup>-</sup>; negative ion HRESIMS *m/z* 963.3953 (calcd. for C<sub>45</sub>H<sub>68</sub>O<sub>20</sub>Cl [M + Cl]<sup>-</sup>, 963.3992).

#### Acid Hydrolysis of Compounds 1–3 and GC Analysis.

Compounds **1–3** (4 mg each) were refluxed with 4 M TFA-dioxane (1:1 v/v, 2 mL) on water bath for 4h. The reaction mixture was neutralized with 1 M NaOH and filtered. The filtrate was extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O. The H<sub>2</sub>O-soluble fraction was evaporated to dryness. The dried sugar residues was diluted in 1 mL pyridine without water and treated with 0.5 mL trimethyl-chlorsilan (TMCS) and stirred at 60°C for 5 min. After drying the solution with a stream of N<sub>2</sub>, the residue was extracted with ether (1 mL). The ether layer was analyzed by GC under the following conditions: column, SGE AC-10 quartz capillary column (30 m  $\times$  0.32 mm  $\times$  0.25  $\mu\text{m}$ ); column temperature 180–280°C; programmed increase, 3 °C/min; carrier gas, N<sub>2</sub> (2 ml/min); injector and detector temperature, 250°C; injection volume, 2  $\mu\text{L}$ ; split ratio, 1/50. Peaks of the hydrolysate were detected by comparison with retention times of authentic samples of glucose and rhamnose after treatment with trimethyl-chlorsilan (TMCS) in pyridine. The absolute configurations of the sugar residues were determined to be L-rhamnose (*t<sub>R</sub>* 7.67 min) and D-glucose (*t<sub>R</sub>* 14.22 min).

**Cell-Growth Inhibition Assay.** Growth inhibition of compounds on tumor cells was determined by microculture 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium hydrobromide (MTT) assay.<sup>22</sup>

#### Electronic Supplementary Material

Supplementary material is available in the online version of this article at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s13659-011-0039-z> and is accessible for authorized users.

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