



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

PREPARATION OF BETULINIC ACID DERIVATIVES

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PREPARATION OF BETULINIC ACID DERIVATIVES

By

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**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

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fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

PREPARATIONS OF BETULINIC ACID DERIVATIVES

By

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February 2004

Chairman : Associate Professor Faujan Bin Hj Ahmad, Ph.D.

Faculty : Science and Environmental Studies

Betulinic acid, 3β -hydroxy-lup-20(29)-ene-28-oic acid is a pentacyclic triterpene. Esterification reactions of betulinic acid were investigated. Betulinic acid esters such as 3-*O*-succinyl-betulinic acid, 3-*O*-(2',2'-dimethylsuccinyl)-betulinic acid, 3-*O*-(3',3'-dimethylsuccinyl)-betulinic acid and 3-*O*-glutaryl-betulinic acid were prepared. Their structures were determined by spectroscopic methods.

Optimization studies on the esterification reactions were carried out for betulinic acid with succinic anhydride and with 2',2'-dimethylsuccinic acid only. The effects of varying parameters such as the mole ratio, temperature, time course and mole of catalyst were investigated.

Generally, the optimal conditions for preparing 3-*O*-succinyl-betulinic acid was obtained by mixing betulinic acid with succinic anhydride in a 1:8 ratio and refluxing in 0.124 mole of pyridine for 24 hours at a temperature of 115°C ; the optimal conditions for the preparation of 3-*O*-(2',2'-dimethylsuccinyl)-betulinic



acid was obtained by refluxing betulinic acid and 2',2'-dimethylsuccinic acid in a 1:6 ratio with the presence of 0.124 mole of pyridine for 24 hours at a temperature of 85°C. The percentage conversions as detected by gas chromatography analysis were 53.5 and 56.2%, respectively.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai Memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

PENYEDIAAN TERBITAN ASID BETULINIK

Oleh

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Asid betulnik, asid 3β -hidroksi-lup-20(29)-ene-28-oik adalah terpena daripada kumpulan pentasiklik triterpena. Dalam kajian ini, tindakbalas pengesteran asid betulnik telah dikaji. Ester bagi asid betulnik seperti 3-*O*-suksinil-asid betulnik, 3-*O*-(2',2'-dimetilsuksinil)-asid betulnik, 3-*O*-(3',3'-dimetilsuksinil)-asid betulnik dan 3-*O*-glutaril-asid betulnik telah disediakan melalui tindakbalas pengesteran. Struktur bagi ester tersebut ditentukan melalui kaedah spektroskopi.

Kajian pengoptimuman bagi tindakbalas pengesteran telah dijalankan hanya bagi tindakbalas antara asid betulnik dengan suksinik anhidrida dan asid 2',2'-dimetilsuksinik sahaja. Beberapa parameter seperti nisbah bahan tindakbalas, suhu, masa, dan jumlah mol pemangkin telah dikaji.

Secara umumnya, penyediaan 3-*O*-suksinil-asid betulnik diperolehi melalui kaedah refluks bagi campuran asid betulnik dan suksinik anhidrida dengan nisbah 1:8 di dalam piridina sebanyak 0.124 mol, selama 24 jam dan pada suhu 115°C, manakala



115°C, manakala ester 3-*O*-(2',2'-dimetilsuksinil)-asid betulitik disediakan melalui kaedah yang sama dengan nisbah bahan tindakbalas antara asid betulitik dan asid 2',2'-dimetilsuksinik adalah 1:6 di dalam piridina sebanyak 0.124 mol, selama 24 jam dan pada suhu 85°C. Peratus penghasilan ester masing-masing melalui analisis kromatografi gas adalah 53.5% and 56.2%.

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I certify that an Examination Committee met on 17th February 2004 to conduct the final examination of Mohd Tajudin bin Mohd Ali on his Master of Science thesis entitled “Preparation of Betulinic Acid Derivatives” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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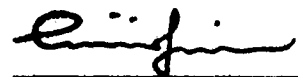
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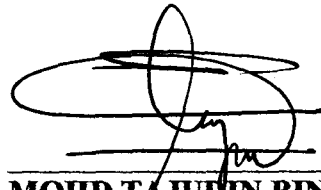
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.



MOHD TAJUDIN BIN MOHD ALI

Date: 19/04/04

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	ii
ABSTRAK	iv
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vi
APPROVAL	vii
DECLARATION	ix
LIST OF TABLE	xii
LIST OF FIGURE	xiii
LIST OF SCHEME	xv
LIST OF ABBREVIATION	xvi
 CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	1
II LITERATURE REVIEW	3
New Potential Natural Product	3
Betulinic Acid : An Introduction	6
Synthesis of Betulinic Acid	10
Some Derivatives of Betulinic Acid and It's Bioactivities	11
Objectives of this Project	20
III MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY	21
Chemical and Materials	21
Preparation of Betulinic Acid Esters	22
Preparation of 3- O -(2',2' -Dimethylsuccinyl)- Betulinic acid by Reaction Betulinic Acid with 2',2'-Dimethyl Succinic Acid	22
Preparation of 3-O-(3',3' -Dimethylsuccinyl)- Betulinic acid by Reaction Betulinic Acid with 2',2'-Dimethylsuccinic Anhydride	24
Preparation of 3-O-Succinyl Betulinic Acid	27
Preparation of 3-O- Glutaryl -Betulinic Acid	30
Optimization Study	32
Effect Mole Ratio on the Esterification of Betulinic Acid	32



	Effect Time on the Esterification of Betulinic Acid	32
	Effect Temperature on the Esterification of Betulinic Acid	33
	Effect Mole of Pyridine on the Esterification of Betulinic Acid	33
	Optimization Reaction	33
IV	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	34
	Spectroscopic Data of Betulinic Acid	34
	Preparation of 3- <i>O</i> -(2',2' –Dimethylsuccinyl)- Betulinic Acid by Reaction Betulinic Acid with 2',2'-Dimethylsuccinic Acid	41
	Preparation of 3- <i>O</i> -(3',3' –Dimethylsuccinyl)- Betulinic Acid by Reaction Betulinic Acid with 2',2'--Dimethylsuccinic Anhydride	54
	Preparation of 3- <i>O</i> -Succinyl Betulinic Acid	66
	Preparation of 3- <i>O</i> - Glutaryl Betulinic Acid	80
	Optimization Study	85
	Effect Mole Ratio on the Esterification Reaction	85
	Effect Time on the Esterification Reaction	88
	Effect Temperature on the Esterification Reaction	90
	Effect Mole of Pyridine on the Esterification Reaction	92
	Optimization Reaction	93
V	CONCLUSION	97
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	99
	BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	103



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	An Example of Betulinic Acid Derivatives	19
2	The IR Data of Betulinic Acid	34
3	The ^{13}C -NMR Data of Betulinic Acid	39
4	^1H -NMR Chemical Shift of 3- <i>O</i> -(2',2'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	46
5	^{13}C -NMR Data of 3- <i>O</i> -(2',2'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	48
6	^1H -NMR Chemical Shift of Betulinic Acid and 3- <i>O</i> -(3',3'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	63
7	The ^{13}C -NMR Data of 3- <i>O</i> -(3',3'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	65
8	^1H -NMR Chemical Shift of 3- <i>O</i> -Succinyl-Betulinic Acid	74
9	^{13}C -NMR Chemical Shift of 3- <i>O</i> -Succinyl-Betulinic Acid	76
10	Percentage Conversion of Effect Mole Ratio Used on the Esterification of Betulinic Acid	86
11	Percentage Conversion of Effect Reaction Time on the Esterification of Betulinic Acid	88
12	Percentage Conversion of Effect Temperature on the Esterification of Betulinic Acid	90
13	Percentage Conversion of Effect Mole of Pyridine on the Esterification of Betulinic Acid	93
14	Parameters at the Optimization Reaction of Betulinic Acid with Succinic Anhydride and 2',2'-Dimethylsuccinic Acid	94



LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1	IR Spectrum for Betulinic Acid	35
2	^1H NMR Spectrum for Betulinic Acid	37
3	^{13}C NMR Spectrum for Betulinic Acid	38
4	IR Spectrum for 3- <i>O</i> -(2',2'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	43
5	^1H NMR Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -(2',2'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	45
6	^{13}C NMR Chemical Shifts of 3- <i>O</i> -(2',2'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	47
7	Mass Spectroscopy Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -(2',2'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	50
8	Gas Chromatography Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -(2',2'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	53
9	Gas Chromatography Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -(3',3'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	55
10	IR Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -(3',3'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	58
11	Mass Spectroscopy Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -(3',3'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	59
12	^1H NMR Chemical Shifts of 3- <i>O</i> -(3',3'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	62
13	^{13}C NMR Chemical Shifts of 3- <i>O</i> -(3',3'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	64
14	HPLC Chromatogram for 3- <i>O</i> -Succinyl-Betulinic Acid	68
15	Gas Chromatography Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -Succinyl-Betulinic Acid	70
16	IR Spectrum for 3- <i>O</i> -Succinyl-Betulinic Acid	71



17	¹ H-NMR Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -Succinyl-Betulinic Acid	73
18	¹³ C-NMR Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -Succinyl-Betulinic Acid	75
19	Mass Spectroscopy Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -Succinyl-Betulinic Acid	77
20	IR Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -Glutaryl-Betulinic Acid	81
21	Mass Spectroscopy Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -Glutaryl-Betulinic	82
22	Gas Chromatography Spectrum of 3- <i>O</i> -Glutaryl-Betulinic Acid	84
23	Effect Mole Ratio on Esterification of Betulinic Acid	87
24	Effect Time Reaction on Esterification Betulinic Acid	89
25	Effect Temperature on Esterification Betulinic Acid	91
26	Effect Mole of Pyridine on Esterification Betulinic Acid	95



LIST OF SCHEMES

Scheme	Page
1 An Arrangement of Squalene Epoxide of Pentacyclic Triterpene	4
2 Conversion of Betulin to β -Betulinic acid	12
3 Preparation of 3- β -Olei-lup 20(29)-en-oat	13
4 Preparation of 3- <i>O</i> -(2',2'-Dimethylsuccinyl)- Betulinic Acid	17
5 Preparation of 3- <i>O</i> -(2',2'-Dimethylsuccinyl)- Betulinic Acid By Reaction with 2',2'-Dimethylsuccinic Acid	23
6 Preparation of 3- <i>O</i> -(3',3'-Dimethylsuccinyl)- Betulinic Acid	26
7 Preparation of 3- <i>O</i> -Succinyl –Betulinic Acid	28
8 Preparation of 3- <i>O</i> -Glutaryl –Betulinic Acid	31
9 Fragmentation of Betulinic Acid	40
10 Fragmentation of 3- <i>O</i> -(2',2'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	51
11 Fragmentation of 3- <i>O</i> -(3',3'-Dimethylsuccinyl)-Betulinic Acid	60
12 Fragmentation of 3- <i>O</i> -Succinyl-Betulinic Acid	78
13 Fragmentation of 3- <i>O</i> -Glutaryl –Betulinic Acid	83



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

TLC	thin layer chromatography
FT-IR	fourier transform infra red
GC	gas chromatography
NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance
HPLC	high performance liquid chromatography
TI	therapeutic index
R _f	retention time



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The lupane type pentacyclic triterpene betulinic acid (1), 3- β -hydroxy-lup-20(29)-ene-28-oic, was isolated from higher plants. It has a molecular formula $C_{30}H_{48}O_3$ with three active sites at C-3, C-20 and C-28. This natural product can be chemically derived from betulin (2), a substance found in abundance in the white birch (*Betula alba*) (Pisha *et al.*, 1995).

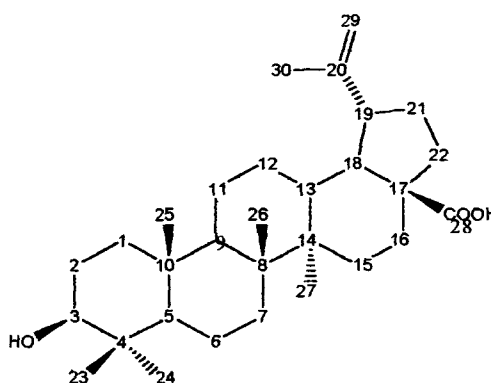
Betulinic acid has been reported to possess antitumor activity toward cultured human melanoma cell in vitro and vivo model. (Kim, *et al.*, 1998). Other biological activities reported for betulinic acid include anti-inflammatory activity (Recio *et al.*, 1995), inhibition of phorbol ester-induced epidermal ornithine decarboxylase accumulation in the mouse-ear with subsequent inhibition of the carcinogenic response in the two-stage mouse-skin model (Yasukawa *et al.*, 1991), allelopathic activity on monocotyledon species *Hordeum vulgare* and *Triticum aestivum* and dicotyledon species *Lactuca sativa* and *Lepidium sativum* (Macias *et al.*, 1994). It also has a potential to block the function of DNA polymerase β selectively, so is able to act as an antitumor agent. (Ma *et al.*, 1999).

Betulinic acid derivatives can be prepared by simple modifications of the betulinic acid structure to produce a number of derivatives. The use of chemical catalyst such as mineral acid, acid chloride, anhydride, acetate,

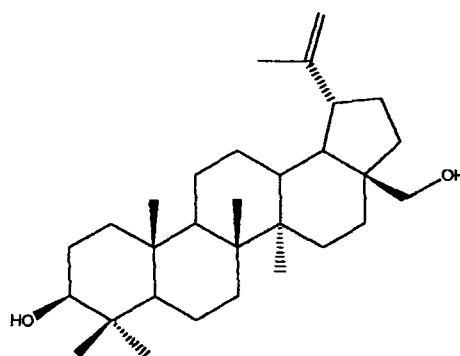


amine or inorganic catalysts for the preparation of betulinic acid derivatives was reported (Hashimoto, *et al.*,1997 , Fujioka, *et al.*,1994). They use pyridine as the solvent, since betulinic acid is soluble in pyridine. However the reaction temperature is usually maintained at a high temperature (115°C).

The products could be isolated either by washing with water, acidifying, washing with alkali or filtration and further purified through chromatography using silica gel column or semi-preparative scale HPLC to afford the pure product (Hashimoto *et al.*, 1997).



(1)



(2)

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

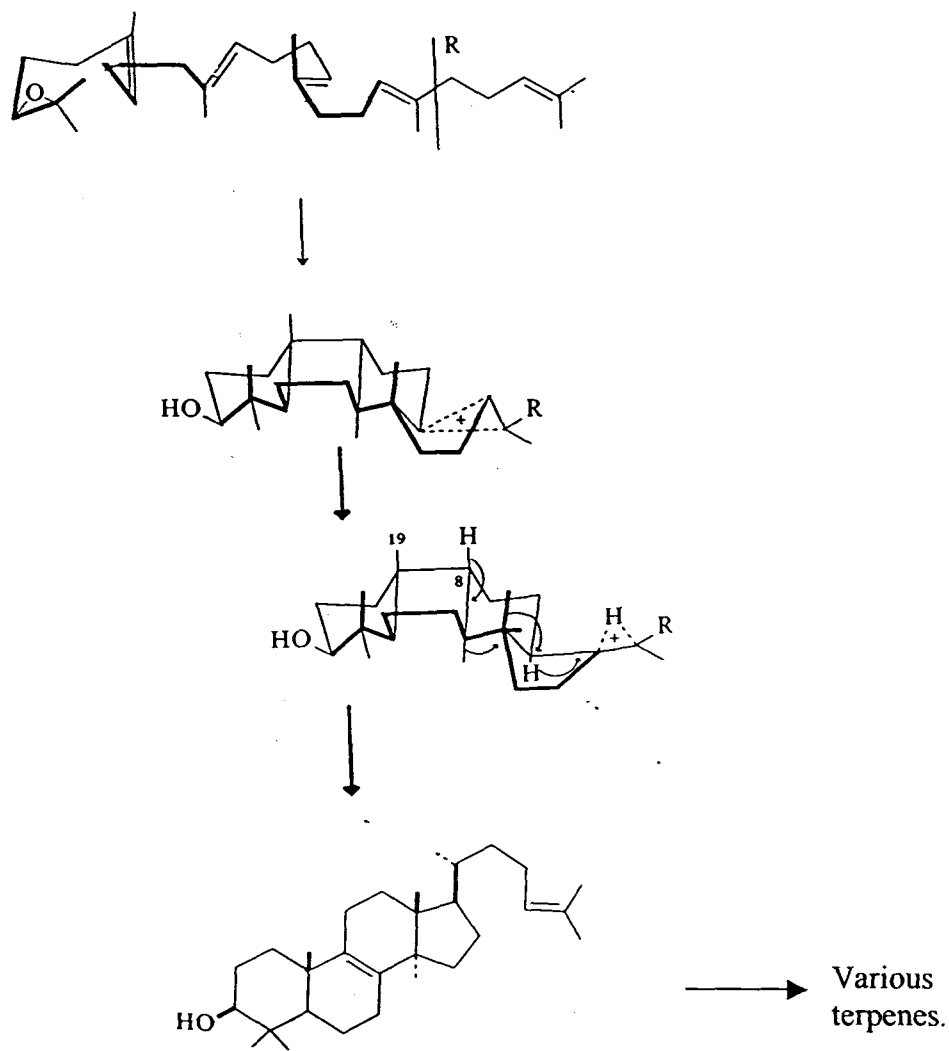
New Potential Natural Product

In the recent years, a considerable number of studies has been conducted to the discovery of clinically useful drugs. One of the natural product sources that has become the focus of interest in these studies is pentacyclic triterpenes (Sun *et al.*,1998).

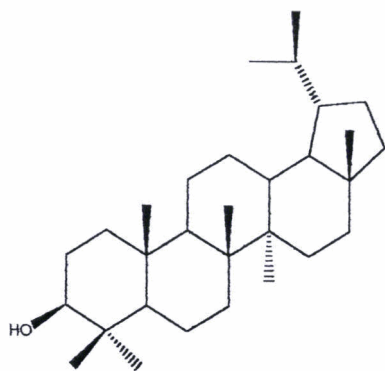
Pentacyclic triterpenes are produced by rearrangement of squalene epoxide (Scheme 1) (Newman .,1972). These compounds are common and are found in most plants. There are at least 4000 known triterpenes. Many triterpenes occur freely but others in special combined forms. Pentacyclic triterpenes have a wide spectrum of biological activities and many of them are very useful in medicine. Several examples of compound which have been categorized in pentacyclic triterpenes groups are betulinic acid (1), betulin (2), lupeol (3), lupane (4), hopane (5), ursane (6) and platanic acid (7) (Patocka 2003).

Betulin is a valuable component of cosmetic powders and hair conditioners, additive in shampoo and lacquers; first-rate protective coatings from water, chemical and biological resistance, plasticizer for poly vinyl chloride (PVC) and production of polyurethane compounds (Patocka, 2003).

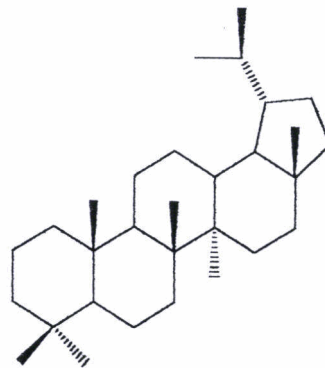




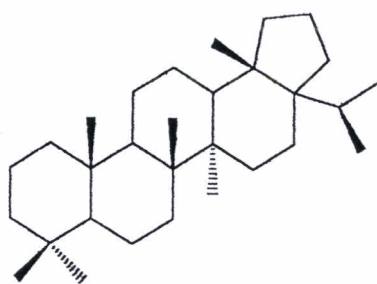
Scheme 1 : An Arrangement of Squalene Epoxide of Pentacyclic Triterpene



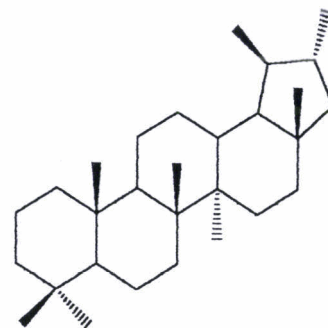
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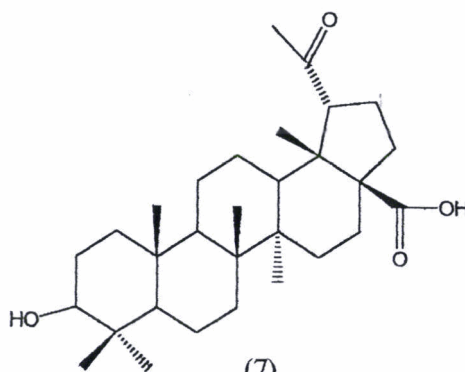
(4)



(5)



(6)



(7)

The antiphlogistic properties of betulin was studied by Recio *et al.*, (1995). Their study revealed a marked inhibition of the carrageenin and serotonin-induced rat paw edema, which was comparable to that of the standard anti-inflammatory agents phenylbutazone and dexamethazone.

Lupeol administered orally or intraperitoneally in a dose of 25-200 mg/kg showed anti-inflammatory activity in rats and mice (Geetha *et al.*, 1998). Lupeol significantly reduced the exudates volume and total leukocyte count in mice (Subhadhirasakul *et al.*, 2000). This compound is also a competitive inhibitor of both trypsin and chymotrypsin (Rajic *et al.*, 2000) and interestingly lupeol does not inhibit cyclooxygenase activity and the synthesis of prostaglandins (Kweifio-okai *et al.*, 1993).

Betulinic Acid : An Introduction

Natural products herbs are alternative pharmacologically active agents apart from modern medicinal drug products. Betulinic acid is one of the natural compound, found in *Ziziphus* species (O'Connell *et al.*, 1988). Methanol extract from the seed of *M.cajipruti* (Ahmad *et al.*, 1997 and Malaysian *Callistemon speciosus* D.E (Ahmad *et al.*, 1999) were also reported to contain betulinic acid and ursolic acid .

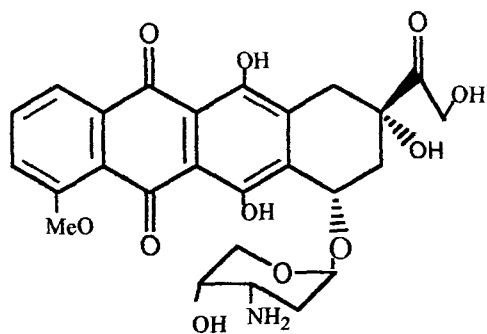
Betulinic acid was potentiated to inhibit the growth of tumor cell. It was observed that concentration of betulinic acid in tumor cell was nearly

twice the level observed in liver, compared to the distribution of betulinic acid in mouse blood, liver, lung and kidney. The HPLC-electro spray MS analysis of betulinic acid is useful for preclinical or clinical evaluations of this potential antitumor agent (Shin *et al.*, 1999). In contrast, various drugs derived from natural product sources, such as adriamycin (8), etoposide (9), and vincristine (10), and their derivatives have been tested for efficiency against melanoma. However, these compounds exhibited low response rates, transient complete responses and high toxicity (Thompson *et al.*, 1992).

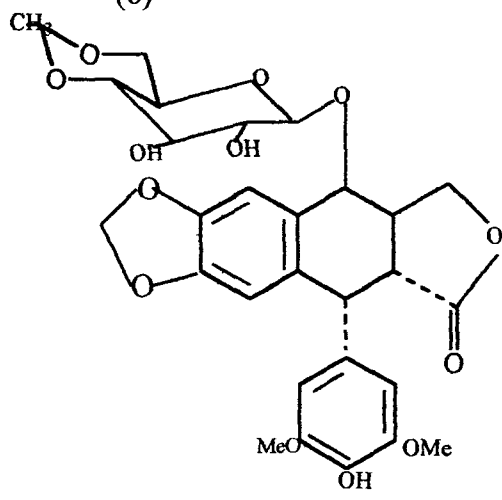
Several betulinic acid derivatives were prepared by Kim *et al.*, (1998) and tested against human melanoma cell line (MeL-2) to determine the structural requirements of betulinic acid for the biological effect. They reported that the free carboxylic acid group at position C-28 has an important role to increase the melanoma selective cytotoxicity activities or toxic effect. They also make efforts to modify betulinic acid as an initial lead compound especially at the C-3 hydroxyl group in order to develop therapeutic agents to arrest the replication of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Betulinic acid was reported to inhibit DNA polymerase β with IC_{50} value of 14. DNA polymerase β , is the most accurate enzyme that create an exact copy of DNA .

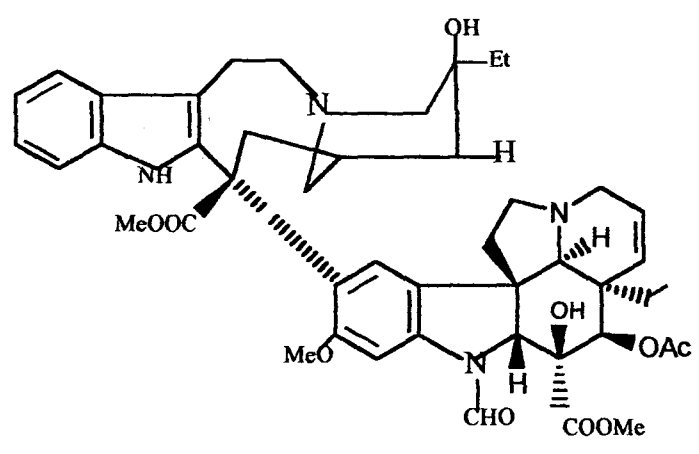




(8)



(9)



(10)