

Characterisation of 3-Methylorcinaldehyde Synthase (MOS) in *Acremonium strictum*: First Observation of a Reductive Release Mechanism During Polyketide Biosynthesis.

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Electronic Supplementary Information

1. Experimental Procedures.

1.1 PCR Primer Sequences.

KHKS2 and KHKS3c degenerate oligonucleotide PCR primers were designed using multiple alignments of non-reducing clade III KS domain sequences obtained from public databases (see section 3 below).

KHKS2 : 5' -GCIGAYGGITAYTGYMGIGG-3'
KHKS3c : 5' -GTICCI GTICCRTGIGCYTC-3'

Y = T or C; M = A or C; R = A or G; I = inosine.

1.2 gDNA preparation and library construction.

Acremonium strictum gDNA was prepared using a method for producing library quality DNA which avoids the use of a caesium chloride density gradient. The resulting gDNA was used to construct a genomic library. The commercially available Lambda phage vector system (λ BlueSTAR; Novagen) was chosen for this purpose. Thus, the prepared genomic DNA was partially digested using *Sau3AI* and ligated into *XhoI* arms supplied with the λ Bluestar kit. The phage library was packaged using the Ready-to-Go Lambda Packaging Kit (Amersham Biosciences) and assayed by plating with KW251 *E. coli* cells. Once successful small-scale ligation and packaging conditions had been achieved, the reactions were scaled up to yield ~10,000 phage clones which were plated out (23 x 23 cm plates). The plaques were visible after incubation (37°C, 16 hours) and transferred to two sequential Zeta-Probe® GT membranes (BioRad).

1.3 PCR Conditions, Library-Probing and Sequencing.

Oligonucleotide-specified sections of DNA were amplified by PCR using Thermoprime Plus DNA polymerase (ABgene®), giving 3'A overhung products such that PCR products can be ligated directly into pGEM-T Easy (Promega) or pCR®2.1-TOPO® (Invitrogen) cloning vectors, in a final volume of 25 μ l. 2 x Reddy Mix™ PCR Master Mix (ABgene®) which contains Thermoprime Plus DNA polymerase (0.625 units), Tris-HCl pH 8.8 (75 mM), (NH₄)₂SO₄ (20 mM), MgCl₂ (1.5 mM), Tween 20 (0.01% v/v), dATP, dGTP, dTTP, dCTP (0.2 mM each) and precipitant plus red dye for electrophoresis. Primers at 0.1-1.0 μ M, additional MgCl₂ (0-5 mM; Sigma) and 10-100 ng genomic DNA template were also added.

Samples were centrifuged and amplified in a Programmable Thermal Controller (Hybaid Ltd, PCR Sprint). The following thermal cycling profile was run: Initial denaturation at 94 °C for 3 minutes; 10 cycles of denaturation at 94 °C (15 seconds), primer annealing at 45-55 °C (30 seconds), extension at 72 °C (1 minute per kb of DNA to be amplified - usually 45 seconds); Denaturation at 94 °C (15 seconds), primer annealing at 45-55 °C (30 seconds), extension at 72 °C (48 seconds for the first round

and an additional 3 seconds for every additional round, for a total of 20 rounds; Final extension at 72 °C (6 minutes); Cooling to 4 °C.

The PCR product was radio-labelled and used to probe the genomic DNA library. Two independent clones were isolated from the *Acetmonium strictum* genomic DNA library (KHIII4A2 and KHIII4B1) and these were sequenced outwards in both directions from the region relating to the location of the PCR product obtained with our degenerate primers (Lark Technologies). Sequencing was continued until entire PKS had been sequenced. The results of the sequencing reactions were aligned to form a contig assembly which contained at least a 500 bp overlap between fragments.

The sequence has been deposited with the EMBL database, Accession#: AM745350.

1.31 DNA Sequence of *ASpks1*

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1    ATGGCAGCTC ATGGGCAAACT CTCAAAACGG GGTAAACAACA CCCTGCTGCT CTTGCGGGCC CTCGTTCAAT CACACGATGT GTCCACGTGT AGGAGTATGC
101  GTGAGTCCAT TGTAGTACAA CATGGGGAAAC ACAGCTGGTGT GGTGGACTCA ATCAAGGCCCC TACCCCAGGA CTTTGAAGCA GCCTCCACAT ATCTACCATT
201  TTTCTGACAA GCAACAACAA CGACAATTCA TCAAGTTGCT TCGATAGTCG TGTCARAGTT CTTGACCCGGA TCCTTCCGAAA GCTCTGCTCT GCCCTTGCCT
301  GCTGCCCTGC TGATTCCCTT GGGCCGTTGCC ACACAGCTCG CGCATATGT  CGAGTATTCA CGCCAGTCTC CAACTGGTFTT GGGCCGAGGGC AAAGAGGCAC
65  401  TCGGGTTTTG CACAGGCATC TTGAGTGCCT TTGCTGTGGC CAGTTTCTAT GATGTCTGTG ATTTGGCCAA GTACGGTGGC GCTGCCATGC GTCTAGGTAT
501  GCTCTGGTGG TGTGCTGGTG ACTGCGAGGA TGCAGCAGCT GCAACAGGGA GATACCGGAT TGTGAGCGCC GCGTGGGATT GCGGAGAGAA ACATGCTGCG
601  ATGCTCAAGA TTGTTCAAAG CTTTGAAGAG GTGAGCATCA TATGTCATG TCTACCTGAG TCAAAATGCA GACGACTAAT CGCATCATTT ATCTACAGGC
701  ATACGTCTCG GTGCACTTTG ACAAGAACC CGCCAACATC ACAACCAGCC CAGGGACCAT ATCCAACCTG ACCCGCCAAC TGCAAAAGA AATGCTCGTA
801  GCCTCGGACA TGGTCTCTCT CGGCCGCTTC CACTTTGGCC GAAAGCAAAA GCGCCCGCAA GTCCAGTGGG ACAGCTCTGT TAGCTTTTGC AACTCGCCAG
901  CTGGCGCACT GTTCCGACTC CCAGATGCAG ACTCACTCCG TCTGCAACAG CGTATCAATG ACAGGGATGG CCGGCTTATC ACTCAGGGTT GCTTACATGA
1001 ACACGCGCTG CAATCCATCC TGGTCAAAC TGGCGCATGG TTTGAGACCT TCTCATCCGC CACGACAACA CRAGCCAACA CGGGGGCACA GAATGGTCTGA
1101 GCTCGACCTC AAATTTGCA  CTTTGGTCCC AAAACAGCCG TTCGCACTC CCTGGCCCTC ACAGTTGACA TCAATTGAGG CAATGGCAAG ACTAGGCGAG
1201 TCAAAGCCAG AGACGCCAGC TTCTTCTGTA ATCCACCCCA TACCGCCCCC TGCTCGACA CTGATATTTC CATAGTAGGC CATAGTCCGA ATGTCTCGTA AGCTCCCTGG
1301 AGCCGAGAAC CTTGAGGAGT TCTGGGATT  GCTGTCTCT  GGCAAGTAC  AGCACAAGA  AATCTCAGGG  CAAGAAGGGG  GAGCCTTCGA  CTTGCTGTGC
1401 ACAGCTTTCC GCACTGGCCG CGACCAACGA CGTGATGGT TCGCCAACCT GGTCTCAAC  CATGATCAGT TCGATCACCG TCGATCACCG CGGCTACTTC AACAACTCCT CTCCTCAAC
1501 GTGAGAGCCG GTCCATGGAC CCTCAACAGC GGCACATACT CCAGTAGGTT TACCAGGCTG TAGAAGGAAG CCGGCTACTTC AACAACTCCT CTCCTCAAC
1601 GTCCAGCAAC GCAACAATFG GGTGTACTGT GGGGCTCTGC CACTGAGATT ACCAGTCCA GTGTGGCTTCG CATGCCGCGA CCGCTTTTAC AGCAACCGGA
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1801 TGCACCTAGC CTGCCAGGCT ATCTTGTGCG GGGAGTGCGA GGCTGCGCTG GCTGGAGGTT CGCACATCAT GACGTCCGCA ACCTGGTTC  AGAACCTCCG
1901 AGGAGGGTGC TTCTGAGCC CTACAGGGGC CTGCAAGCCG TTCGACTCCA AAGCTGATGG GTACTGCCGC GTACTGCCGA GGTGAGGGTG TGGGAGCTGT TCTCTTAAAG
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2101 ACGCACCTTC ATTTGGAAAC TTGTTTAGCC  GCGTCACTGC  CAAAGCACCT  GTTAAGCCAG  CAGACATCTC  GGTGTGTGAG  GGTGTGTGAG  GATCTGAGCT
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3301 TGATTGAAGA ACTCCTTGAT  GAAGCGAA  AGAACCCAGA  CGACAAGCCC  GCGACAATCG  CCGTACAAA  TGGCCCGAG  AGCTTACAC  TTGCTGGATC
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3501 TCGGTTTCTG TTGACCTTTG GCTCGAGGAG CTGCGCAAAA TTCTGGAGTA  AGTTCGCGA  AACCATAAT  AACCATAAT  TCCTGTCCAG  TCTGACCACT
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130  7001 ATTTGAATCA AGTTGGCGTG  GAGAACAAG  CCCGAGAAT  TATGGTTGCC  GACTACGCT  CAACATTGAC  CAAGGAGTT  AACAAAGCA  TGACTCAGTA
7101 CACAGATCG  GGACTCTCCC  TTTCTAGCTG  CACACTCTAG  ACACCTATGA  ATGAGCTGATC  GTACTGATC  CTCATCAGG  GAGGCACGG  GCGCTTAGT
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7301 TATCCCTGGA AAAGAAAGCA  CTAATCTTGA  GTCCAGAGG  TCTGGCCAG  ATTACCCTGT  TCGAAAACG  CTTTCCAG  CCAAGTAGT  TCGTCTCTC
135  7401 GGATGACAAG TATAACCTCC  TGAGAGGTAA  GTGACGCGCA  ATCCCTGGCT  GATGCACTCC  AAATGGCCGT  TCGAAGCTCC  CCAAGGCTTT  CGAACCCGAG
    
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8001 TGAGAACCCC GTCAGGCAAC CCTGGGACGA GCGCTGGCC GTTCTAGCCG ACCGAGATGGG GATATCCTCA GAGGCGCTTC CGTTCAGGA GTGGGTGCAA
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8301 TAGAAGCTGG AAGGAGTGG GTTTCTTGTG GTGA

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1.32 Peptide Sequence of MOS.

1 MAAHGQTSKR GNNTLLLFGA LVQSHDVSTL RSMRESIVVQ HGEHSWLVDV
51 IKALPQDFEA ALPHLPFFDQ ATTTTIHQLL VDAVSSFLTG SFETLVSPPLP
101 AALLIPLAVA TQLAHYVEYS RQSPTGLAEG KEALGFCTGI LSAFAVASSH
150 151 DVCDLAKYGA AAMRLGMLVG LVVDCEDAAA GQGRYRSVSA GWDSEEKHAH
201 MLKIVQSFEI AYSVSHFDKN RATITTSPTG ISNLTRQLQK EGLVASDMGL
251 LGRFHFAGST KPFEVTVQDL VSF CNSPAGA LFRLPDADSL RLATRINDRD
301 GGLITQGS LH EHALQSILVK LAWFETFSS ATTTQANTGA QNGRARPQIV
351 DFGPQNSVPH SLASTVDINS GNGKTRRVKP ADAQSSANST HTRPWLDTDI
155 401 AIVGMSCKVP GAENLEEFWD LLVSGKSQHQ EISGQEGGRF DFGDTAFRTA
451 ADQRRRWFAN LVSNHQDFH RFFKKSARES ASMDPQQRHI LQVAYQAVEG
501 SGYFNKSSSS TPTNANIGCY VGLCLGDYES NVASHPATAF TATGNLQGFV
551 SGKVSHYFGW TGPAVTVNTA CSSSLVAVHL ACQAILS GEC EAALAGGSHI
601 MTSATWFQNL AGGSFSLPTG ACKPFDKAD GYCRGEGVGA VFLKRMSQAM
160 651 ADGDMVLGVV AATGVQQNQ N CTPIFVNPAP SLENLFSRVM TKARVKNPADI
701 SVVEGHGTGT AVGDPAEYDA IRKALGGTTH RSADKPLMLS SVKGLVGHME
751 CTSGVIGMIK LLLMMNK GAL PPQASFQ SIN PALGATPADH MFIPTRPQPW
801 VVPAGGFRAA LLNRYGASG NASAVLVQSP SMSFRPEITV GSRPAAGIKF
851 PFWLAADF KK SLSRYVKALR KWLCLDGDQ SLASLSFNLA RQSNRTMQAN
165 901 LVL TARSIEA LDQSLADFEN GNDGSFIERT PASSQPTVIL CFGGQVSCFV
951 GLDKQVYQDM ALVRYLDRV DAVIQCGGR SIFPGIFNRS PPSKVDIVHL
1001 HTMLFAMQYA SARCWIDSGV KPAALVGH SF GTLTALCISG ILSLEDTIKA
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1101 NGTSTFTLAG STTAMDAVA QLNKNGAKYSK GMKSRIYVT HAFHSVLVDP
170 1151 LLEELTQRVA DSGVFRKPI IPVELSTEQH MSESELTSEF MANHMRQPVY
1201 FHHAVERLAR RYAGGSSPCV FLEAGTNS SV CNMASRALGS TEFVTKSSSL
1251 SFHGVNIANC DAGWNKLTDT TVNLWETGVR VHHWAHHGVQ QMHQTDIKPL
1301 LVPPYQFDPD SRHWIDLKVP RKALMETDEA DAGGKKQSDA EKL PETILTF
1351 HSSDAVGAQK QARFRVNTML EYKQLLRGH MTLETAPILS ATLQINLVIE
175 1401 AISSTQPEYK SSKSQPQIQD VVYQSPVCFN SANTLWVEVT NVSGQW MFQV
1451 FSTTTQELSP KSTRVHTKG TVAFKNPGDA EIRRLMSYE RLF SHGRATD
1501 LLQNSNASTA PIDEMLGNQS IYRIFSEIVS YGPEFRGLQK MVS RGNETAG
1551 HVVHLKHQDS ASTEAE PWF PHLADTFCQL GGLWVNCMMP ERERGNH VY
1601 LANGIDQWIR GYPAASTDRP EAFNVFAVNK QASEQLTLTD VVFVNAADGA
180 1651 LVEVILGIAY VKIARPSMEK LLARL TEP SW VAGGKTPQT ATKPAAAPVV
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1751 DMIARVKAVM ADISGLDISE IKDDSNLADL GIDSLVGMEM THEIESTLKV
1801 ELPESEIMSV DMEGLLQCV AGALGLSMTG ASSDTLTASS DSGINS AKSS
1851 ILSGTSTSTS TGT TDTGSDV GQSMKEPSLM LDTVKKAF AQ TKEATDARIK
185 1901 AASNQVSYCS TSLPQQNELS VLLTITALEA LGAGFSTARP GSQ LTRISHA
1951 PGHEQFVTHL YKEIETATQI IKIDGHGAQA VITRTAVPLP DVESRQVALC
2001 EQMLRGDPEQ VGTMELIKHA GENLHRVLSG ETDGAKVIFG SKTGSKLV SQ
2051 WYAQWPLNRS LIAQMGDFLT AVVAGIQADE DMPFSEINPL RIMETGAGTG
2101 GTTKQIVPLL ARLGLPVVYT FTDLAPS FVA AARKTWGKEY PWMQFRTLDM
190 2151 EKT PPSVEDG LPLQH FIVSA NAVHATK SIS ATTGNLRKAL RTDGFLLMME
2201 MTRTPFWVDL IFGLFEGWWL FEDGRKHALT HEALWDQELS KVGFGYVDWT
2251 EGMTAESEIQ KIILASADAN TR*WLERVRL PASHTDYHLN QVGVENEARE
2301 LMVADYVSTL TKEFNKTMTQ YTDAGLSLSS RTSQTPMSSQ KRCILITGGT
2351 GGLGAHLVAE AALLPDVNMV ICLNRPNRKQ EARERQLVSL EKKGLILSPE
195 2401 ALAKITVFET DLSQPGSLGL SDDKYNLLRG NVTHIHN AW LMHSKWPVRR
2451 FEPQLRIMAH MNLADIAT CQRTQGQRQP GPPV SFV FVS SIATVGYHPV
2501 VTNPGNPAVP ETRNPISSVL PTGYGEAKYI CERMLDATH QYPAQFRASA
2551 VRLGQIAGSE INGHWNSAEH ISFLVKSSQS IGALPALPGP MGWTPADYVA
2601 RGLVEIATQP DNIELYPIYH IENPVRQPWD EALAVLADEM GISSEALPFQ
200 2651 EWWQTVRDWP RQGDNTAAGA NPAYLLVDFL EDHFLRMSCG GLLLG TAKAR
2701 EHSPSLAGMG PVSDELLRLF VRSWKEVGFL L

1.4 Cloning of *ASpks1* into pTAex3 and transformation into *A. oryzae*.

205 **1.41 Cloning of PKS.**

An expression plasmid vector was constructed for *ASpks1* based upon pTAex3 and transformed into *A. oryzae* protoplasts. There were no suitable restriction sites before the start codon for *ASpks1* in the KHIII4A2 clone so the 5' end of the gene was amplified by PCR first and cloned into an entry vector. The forward primer contained the sequence CACC followed by the start codon ATG to allow cloning
210 into pENTR-SD-D-TOPO. The reverse primer had an *EcoRI* site introduced at the 5' end to create this restriction site into the 3' end of the PCR product which resulted from its use. An *XcmI* site was located 684 bp downstream from the start of the gene, and an *EcoRI* site after the stop codon. These two restriction sites allowed the bulk of the gene (8 471 bp) to be obtained by a restriction digest with *XcmI* and *EcoRI*. This fragment was then inserted into a similarly digested vector. The gene, intact and
215 present in the pENTR-SD-D-TOPO vector, was then recombined with a vector containing the selectable marker, promoter and terminator sequences to allow heterologous expression of the AsPKS1 sequence.

1.42 Transformation into *A. oryzae*.

220 A spore suspension (100-200 μ l) of the appropriate fungal strain was spread onto an agar plate of the appropriate rich medium. The plate was incubated at 25°C for 3-5 days. Tween 80 (0.01 %; 10 ml) was added to the agar plate and the spores scraped off with a loop. The liquid was collected and centrifuged (10 000 \times g, 5 minutes), the supernatant removed and the crude spore preparation resuspended in water (1 ml). This spore suspension was used to inoculate the appropriate rich growth medium (100 ml)
225 which was then incubated at 25 °C with shaking (240 rpm, 24-48 hours).

Mycelia were collected by filtration through sterile Miracloth, washed twice with 0.8 M sodium chloride (20 ml), centrifuged (10 000 \times g, 10 minutes) and the supernatant was discarded. Filter-sterilised protoplasting solution (20 ml, 20 mg/ml Glucanase, 10 mg/ml Driselase; Interspex Products in 0.8 M NaCl) was added to the pellet and resuspended thoroughly by vortexing. The tube was
230 incubated at room temperature, with gentle mixing on a rotator. After one hour, a small sample was analysed microscopically for protoplast formation, if the cells had not formed protoplasts yet, the incubation was continued and the cells checked again at 30 minute intervals until a sufficient proportion of protoplasts had formed.

The protoplasts were released from hyphal strands by gentle pipetting with a large wide-bore
235 pipette (5 ml). The protoplasts were filtered through sterile Miracloth to remove the hyphae. The filtrate was centrifuged (maximum 2 000 \times g, 5 minutes) just fast enough to pellet all of the protoplasts, if after centrifugation the solution was cloudy the tube was centrifuged faster and/ or longer. The protoplasts were washed twice with 0.8 M NaCl (20 ml) and once with Solution I (0.8 M NaCl, 10 mM CaCl₂, 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5; 20ml), each time the pellet was resuspended by using a
240 wide-bore pipette and centrifuged (2 000 \times g, 5 minutes) to remove the supernatant. The concentration of protoplasts was determined by using a haematocytometer (Fisher) and the protoplasts resuspended in Solution I to give a concentration in the range 1-9 \times 10⁷ protoplasts/ ml. The protoplasts were stored on ice.

DNA (5-10 μ g, 10 μ l maximum) to be transformed into the fungus was added to the protoplast
245 suspension (100 μ l) and incubated on ice (2 minutes). Solution II (60 % PEG 3350 (Sigma), 10 mM CaCl₂, 50 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5; 1 ml) was added dropwise over 15 minutes, then incubated at room temperature (20 minutes). Plates were poured with Czapek-Dox agar in sorbitol (1 M; 5 ml). Czapek-Dox agar in sorbitol (1 M; 5 ml) was added to the transformation mixture and overlaid onto the prepared plates. The plates were incubated at 25 °C.

250 In the case of the *Aspergillus oryzae* transformations, where selection occurs on arginine-deficient media, the plates were pre-poured with 10 ml agar and the transformed protoplasts plated in

10 ml agar. As the growth was on arginine-deficient media, any transformants were now able to grow. A positive control was made by the addition of 2 % arginine solution (200 µl per 20 ml plate) to untransformed protoplasts and agar, which was mixed and plated; the negative control consisted of untransformed protoplasts on minimal media.

1.5 Fermentation and extraction of 3-methylorcinaldehyde.

200µL of the spore suspensions obtained from transformants was inoculated into 100mL starch medium (Starch (20g/L) and polypeptone (10g/L) were added to 900mL of distilled water. To this solution A (50mL; sodium nitrate (40g/L), potassium chloride (40g/L), magnesium sulfate heptahydrate (10g/L), iron sulfate heptahydrate (0.2g/L)) and solution B (50ml; potassium phosphate (20g/l)) were added). The flasks were incubated at 25°C with shaking at 150rpm for 6 days.

The culture broth was acidified using 2M hydrochloric acid until the solution reached approx. pH 3.0 and was put back on the shaker for 30mins. The mycelia were ground using a hand blender and then removed by suction filtration through the filter paper and washed with distilled water. The filtrate was washed twice with ethyl acetate. The organic layer was separated from the aqueous phase in a separation funnel and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The ethyl acetate was evaporated at a reduced pressure by the rotary evaporator. The residue of this crude extract was dissolved in methanol and analysed by LC/MS.

1.6 Purification and characterisation of 3-methylorcinaldehyde.

Samples were analysed by HPLC-MS using a Luna 5µm C₁₈(2) column (Phenomex, 250 × 4.6mm, 5µm). The program was: 0-5 min (10% B); 5-35 min (gradient to 75% B); 35-37 min (gradient to 90% B); 37-45 min (90% B); 45-50 min (gradient to 10% B). Solvent A: H₂O + 0.1% TFA, solvent B: MeCN + 0.09% TFA. Flow rate 1mL/min, UV 280 nm. Mass data was collected using a Waters Platform II mass spectrometer with an electrospray source operating in positive ionisation mode. 3-Methylorcinaldehyde eluted at 32.36 min, with [M]H⁺ 167 m/e.

3-Methylorcinaldehyde was purified from the crude extract using flash chromatography (30/70 ethylacetate/hexane to 100% ethylacetate). The following physiochemical data identified the *ASpksI* expression product to be 3-methylorcinaldehyde: m.p. 142-152°C (lit.,ⁱ 137-140°C). δ_H (400 MHz, CDCl₃) 12.65 (1H, s, 2-OH), 10.07 (1H, s, CHO), 6.20 (1H, s, 5-H), 2.50 (3H, s, 6-CH₃), 2.08 (3H, s, CH₃). δ_C (100 MHz, CDCl₃) 193.0 (CHO), 164.1 (4-C-OH), 161.0 (2-C-OH), 141.4 (1-C-CH₃), 113.3 (6-C-CH₃), 109.9 (4-CH), 108.9 (3-C-CH₃), 17.9 (6-CH₃), 6.8 (3-CH₃). HRMS EI calculated ([M⁺] for C₉H₁₀O₃) 166.0630, found 166.0630

