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Nigerian red propolis.

**Chemical Characterisation of Nigerian Red Propolis and its Biological Activity Against *Trypanosoma brucei*.**

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**ABSTRACT:**

Introduction - A previous study showed the unique character of Nigerian red propolis from Rivers State, Nigeria (RSN), with regards to chemical composition and activity against *Trypanosoma brucei* in comparison with other African propolis.

Objective - To carry out fractionation and biological testing of Nigerian propolis in order to isolate compounds with anti-trypanosomal activity. To compare the composition of the RSN propolis with the composition of Brazilian red propolis. Methodology - Profiling was carried out using HPLC-UV-ELSD and HPLC-Orbitrap-FTMS on extracts of two samples collected from RSN with data extraction using MZmine software. Isolation was carried out by normal phase and reversed phase MPLC. Elucidation of the compounds with a purity > 95% was performed by 1D/2D NMR HRMS and HRLC-MS.

Results - Ten phenolic compounds were isolated or in the case of liquiritigenin partially purified. Data for 9 of these correlated with literature reports of known compounds i.e., one isoflavanone, calycosin (1); two flavanones, liquiritigenen (2) and pinocembrin (5); an isoflavan, vestitol (3); a pterocarpan, medicarpin (4); two prenylflavanones, 8-prenylnaringenin (7) and 6-prenylnaringenin(8); and two geranyl flavonoids, propolin D (9) and macarangin (10). The 10th was elucidated as a previously undescribed dihydrobenzofuran (6). The isolated compounds were tested against *Trypanosoma brucei* and displayed moderate to high activity. Some of the compounds tested had similar activity against wild type *T. brucei* and two strains displaying pentamidine resistance.

Conclusion - Nigerian propolis from RSN has some similarities with Brazilian red propolis. The propolis displayed anti-trypanosomal activity at a potentially useful level.

**Keywords:** Prenylated flavonoids, benzofuran, pentamidine resistance, Nigerian Red Propolis.
Introduction

Propolis is produced by honeybees from natural resinous substances collected from plant exudates and different parts of plants, and possesses various biological activities which vary with the phytogeographic characteristics of the collection site and the season of collection (Bankova, 2005). It is used to seal gaps in the hives and to coat the surfaces onto which the honeycomb is laid. Propolis is broadly characterized into two distinct types: temperate zone propolis (poplar type), containing mainly phenolic flavonoid aglycones (flavones and flavanones), phenolic acids and their esters; and tropical propolis, rich in prenylated derivatives of \( p \)-coumaric acids, diterpenes and lignans, prenylated benzophenones and prenylated flavonoids (Bankova et al., 2002).

The growing use of propolis as a component of pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and food supplements with antimicrobial (Seidel et al., 2008), anti-inflammatory, antiviral, anticarcinogenic and immunomodulatory (Burdock., 1998) activities has increased interest in its composition with the aim of identifying the components responsible for its activity. Propolis has been well-studied worldwide except, according to our own survey of the literature, in Africa. Previously, 22 different samples of propolis collected from nine different sub-Saharan countries were profiled using a combination of high resolution LC-MS, GC-MS and HPLC with evaporative light scattering detection and they were found to present a high diversity in chemical composition but no clear geographic delineation was found for the classification of these samples (Zhang et al., 2014). However, a sample from Rivers State in South Nigeria stood out as being chemically different and demonstrated relatively high activity against *Trypanosoma brucie*. In the current study this propolis type was re-collected from Rivers State Nigeria in order to provide enough material for isolation of individual compounds from the mixture. Its ethanolic extract was chemically compared to the previously collected sample. The samples were also tested against three strains of *T.brucie* including two resistant lines and the
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compositions of the propolis samples were compared against the literature data for Brazilian red propolis.

**EXPERIMENTAL**

**Chemicals and materials**

Absolute ethanol, HPLC grade acetonitrile, hexane, methanol and formic acid were obtained from Fisher Scientific (Loughborough, UK). Deuterated chloroform (CDCl₃), deuterated dimethyl sulphoxide (DMSO-d₆), Silica Davisil® grade 633, pore size 60 Å, mesh 200-425 µm and Wilmad nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) tubes were obtained from Sigma Aldrich (Dorset, UK). AnalAr grade formic acid (98%) was obtained from BDH-Merck (Dorset, UK). HPLC grade water was produced in-house by a Milli Q system (Millipore, UK). An ACE C18 column (3 mm × 150 mm, 3 µm) was purchased from Hichrom (Reading, UK).

**Propolis sample collection and preparation**

The propolis sample coded RSN was collected in 2003 (exact location of collection unknown) in Rivers State, Nigeria and was supplied by BeeVital (Whitby, UK), while the second, coded BRN, was collected by Dr. John Igoli from Bonny, a riverine town in Rivers State, Nigeria in July 2013. Both samples were reddish and had a very sticky texture. The propolis samples RSN (3.3 g) and BRN (140.0 g) were extracted three times with fresh ethanol (50 mL and 500 mL respectively) by sonication at 40 °C for 3 h each, and the final residue was macerated overnight with ethanol (50 mL and 500 mL respectively). Each of the 4 extracts per sample was filtered through filter paper, combined and the solvent evaporated in vacuo to yield the ethanolic extracts of RSN (600 mg, of a red gum) and BRN (15.5 g of a red gum). These ethanolic crude extracts of each sample were prepared at the same time and stored at -20 °C until required.

**HPLC-UV-ELSD and HPLC-ESIMS and MS/MS analysis of extracts**

An aliquot (2 mg) of crude extract was reconstituted in methanol (1 mL) and injected (10 µL) onto an ACE C18 column (150 x 3 mm, 3 µm particle size) (HiChrom, Reading UK). The mobile phases used
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were 0.1% v/v formic acid in water (A) and 0.1% v/v formic acid in acetonitrile (B) at a flow rate of 0.3 mL/min. The formic acid was omitted from A and B when the evaporative light scattering detector (ELSD) was used in order to reduce the background noise. The gradient elution was programmed as follows: 0–15 min linear gradient from 30% to 50% of B, 15–25 min at 50% of B, 25–40 min linear gradient from 50% to 80% of B, 40–50 min at 80% of B, 50–51 min increasing to 100% of B, 51–59 min at 100% of B with the flow rate increasing to 0.5 mL/min for cleaning the column and 60–70 min back to 30% of B. The HPLC–UV–ELSD analysis was performed using an Agilent 1100 system (Agilent Technologies, Germany) consisting of a quaternary pump, an autosampler, a degasser and a UV detector with two channels (290 and 320 nm), coupled with an evaporative light scattering detector (ELSD) (model: SEDEX75, SEDERe France) set at at 30° C. The HPLC-ESI-HRMS analysis was perfomed using an Accela 600 HPLC system combined with an Exactive (Orbitrap) mass spectrometer from Thermo Fisher Scientific (Bremen, Germany). The MS detection range was from m/z 100 to 1500 and the scanning was performed under polarity switching mode. The data obtained were split into positive and negative ion files and then processed using MZMine 2.10 (Pluskal et al., 2010). The extracted masses were then searched against the Dictionary of Natural Products (DNP, Buckingham, 1993) electronic database in order to match them against exact masses for known metabolites. In addition Xcalibur 2.2 from Thermo Fisher Scientific was used to check the raw LC–HRMS data manually. Since the Exactive instrument was not capable of isolating individual ions for fragmentation, a HPLC-MS<sup>n</sup> data-dependent fragmentation of the purified compounds was accomplished using collision-induced dissociation (CID) at 35 V on an LTQ-Orbitrap Classic mass spectrometer in negative ion mode, since this instrument model does not have positive negative ion switching capability, downstream of a Surveyor HPLC system from Thermo Fisher Scientific (Bremen, Germany). The mass axis of the both MS instruments were externally calibrated according to the manufacturer’s instructions just before commencing the experiments.
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**Preparative scale chromatography**

For reversed phase chromatography, the ethanolic extract of RSN (500 mg) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (5 mL) and was mixed with celite (1 g), dried in a fume cupboard and the sample was packed into an empty “dryloader” cartridge (Alltech, Carnforth, Lancs. UK) allowing it to be transferred onto to a Grace Davison Reveleris® flash chromatography system (Alltech, Carnforth, Lancs, UK) by the mobile phase. The system was equipped with a dual-UV wavelength detector that was set at 290 and 320 nm, an ELSD detector, and an automatic fraction collector which collected peaks according to the threshold set for the ELSD which was set to medium. The gradient elution method used was the same as in the analytical profiling but with a flow rate of 12 mL/min and a C18 (12g) cartridge (Grace Davison, Columbia, USA). Fractions were monitored using HPLC-UV-ELSD to yield compounds 7 (17.1 mg pale yellow powder), 9 (6.6 mg brown powder), 10 (8.3 mg red brown powder) and a mixture of 1 and 2 (10.6 mg, white powder).

For normal phase chromatography, the EEP of RSN (800 mg) was redissolved in ethyl acetate (5 mL) and mixed with celite (1.6 g), blown dry and the sample was packed into an empty “dryloader” cartridge allowing it to be eluted onto the Revelris MPLC system which was fitted with a pre-packed 24 g silica column (Alltech, Carnforth, Lancs.). The detection threshold was set at medium and by using hexane:ethyl acetate ranging from 0-100% over a 57 min linear gradient , 26 fractions of varying volumes were collected according to threshold setting. Fraction GRP11 (188.3 mg) was the largest in weight and was collected at around 60:40 hexane:ethyl acetate. This fraction was rechromatographed using a Reveleris® flash chromatography system fitted with a Grace C18 cartridge (12 g) (Alltech, Carnforth, Lancs.). Compounds were eluted with acetonitrile:water (40:60) at 9mL/min over 30 min followed by linearly increasing acetonitrile to 100% over 30 min. This resulted in the separation of compounds 3 (6.5 mg, white needles), 6 (5 mg, reddish brown powder) and 8 (4 mg, pale yellow solid).
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The ethanolic extract of sample BRN (7 g) was reconstituted in ethyl acetate (10 mL) mixed with coarse silica (5 g), blown dry and was packed onto a silica gel bed (50 g) in an open glass column (55 x 3cm). Compounds were eluted using 200 mL of mobile phase at each step starting with 100% hexane then stepwise increments of ethyl acetate as follows: 90:10-80:20-60:40-40:60-20:80-100% ethyl acetate and then continuing with increasing amounts of MeOH in presence of ethyl acetate as follows: 90:10-70:30-60:40-50:50-100% MeOH). Fractions (50 mL) were collected and were pooled, based on HPLC-UV-ELSD analysis, to yield 14 fractions. Fraction BRN5 (163 mg), which was eluted with ethyl acetate:hexane (60:40) and fraction BRN9, which was eluted from the open column with 100% ethyl acetate were rechromatographed isocratically with acetonitrile:water (1:1) and acetonitrile:water (3:7) respectively at 12 mL/min over 30 min using the Grace Revelris system fitted with a Grace C18 cartridge (12g). Fraction BRN5 yielded compounds 4 (22.4 mg, colourless needles), 5 (8.6 mg, dark orange powder) and 7 (8 mg, pale yellow solid) and fraction BRN9 yielded compound 1 (17.6 mg, white powder).

Structure elucidation experiments

After testing the purity of the fractions with HPLC-UV-ELSD, the fractions with a purity >90% were characterised by LC-MS, and by NMR. The $^1$H, $^{13}$C and DEPT 135, and 2D $^1$H,$^1$H-COSY, and $^{13}$C-$^1$H HSQC and HMBC NMR spectra were obtained by using a Bruker Avance 600 and JEOL-LA 400 FT-NMR spectrometer system using CDCl$_3$ and d6-DMSO as solvents. MestReNova 8.1.2 was used for processing the NMR spectroscopic data. The melting point of riverinol was measured using a Stuart Scientific melting point apparatus (Bibby, UK).

Anti-trypanosomal testing

Preliminary testing against T. brucei in in vitro anti-trypanosomal tests was carried out by using an AlamarBlue™ cell proliferation assay according to a modification of the protocol describe by Raz et al., 1997 (Igoli et al., 2011). MIC values for three compounds were determined using this assay as described previously (Igoli et al., 2011). The rest of the compounds were screened using a variant of
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this assay (Rodenko et al., 2007; Wallace et al., 2002). In this screen testing was carried out against a standard drug-sensitive T. b. brucei clone and two derived drug resistant lines, in order to assess the potential for cross-resistance with existing drugs. In this case the results were expressed as EC\textsubscript{50} values based on three replicates at each concentration. The assay is based on viable cells metabolizing the blue non-fluorescent dye resazurin to resorufin, which is pink and fluorescent. The assays were performed using serial dilutions in white opaque plastic 96-well plates (F Cell Star, Greiner Bio-one GmbH, Frickenhausen, Germany), with each compound or mixture doubling diluted over 2 rows of the plate (i.e. 23 doubling dilutions and a no-drug control well), facilitating an optimally-defined EC\textsubscript{50} value after plotting of the reading to a sigmoid curve with variable slope (GraphPad Prism 5.0). Bloodstream forms of the following clonal strains of T. b. brucei were utilized: Lister strain 427 (s427) (De Koning et al., 2000), the standard drug-sensitive control strain; the B48 clone that was derived by in vitro adaptation to pentamidine (Bridges et al., 2007); and the aqp2/aqp3 null strain (Baker et al., 2012), from which the gene encoding the High Affinity Pentamidine Transporter (HAPT1) has been deleted. For each strain, the seeding density at the start of the assay was 2×10\textsuperscript{4} cells/well, and the cells were exposed for 48 h to the test compounds, at 37 °C/5% CO\textsubscript{2}, before the addition of the resazurin dye and a further incubation of 24 h under the same conditions. Fluorescence was determined in a FLUOstar Optima (BMG Labtech) at wavelengths of 544 nm and 620 nm for excitation and emission, respectively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Structure Elucidation of Compounds Isolated From Nigerian Red Propolis

Nine compounds (Figs. 1 and 2) were isolated from the Nigerian red propolis and their structures were determined by NMR. In addition the structure of liquiritigenin (2) was determined although it was part of a mixture containing calycosin (1) (also isolated in pure form) in approximately equal amounts. The NMR spectra of nine of the compounds were consistent with the literature data for known compounds (full NMR details are given in Supplementary Information S1).
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For the compounds derived from flavanoids the typical fragmentations across the C ring giving the substitutions in rings A and B (Fig. 3) proposed previously were useful for structure elucidation (Hughes et al., 2001). The mass spectrometry and retention time data for the isolated compounds is summarised briefly below.

**Calycosin (1)** Rt 8.0 min. Ratio BRN/RSN 0.976. $^1$H, $^{13}$C NMR data in d$_6$DMSO, were consistent with those previously reported (Du et al., 2006), ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] $m/z$ 283.0614 (C$_{16}$H$_{10}$O$_5$, Δ -0.024 ppm). MS$^2$ $m/z$ 268.0378 (100) (C$_{15}$H$_{11}$O$_5$, Δ -0.454 ppm), MS$^3$(100) $m/z$ 240.0430 (C$_{14}$H$_8$O$_4$, Δ 0.096 ppm ), $m/z$ 239.0352(50), $m/z$ 224.0482(50), $m/z$ 211.0403(60), $m/z$ 195.0454(30) none of these fragments were indicative of structure. However, in addition there was a small A ring fragment at $m/z$ 135.0090 (4) (C$_8$H$_3$O, Δ 1.5 ppm) indicating one hydroxyl group in ring A.

**Liquiritigenin (2)** Rt 8.0 min. Ratio BRN/RSN 0.807 $^1$H, $^{13}$C NMR data in d$_6$DMSO were consistent with those previously reported (Ma et al., 2005) , ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] $m/z$ 255.0665 (C$_{15}$H$_{11}$O$_4$, Δ 1.67 ppm); MS$^2$, $m/z$ 235.0599(20) $m/z$ 153.0194(30) , $m/z$ 135.0087 (100) (C$_7$H$_3$O, Δ -0.424 ppm) $m/z$ 119.0502 (20) (C$_8$H$_7$O, Δ 0.706 ppm). The ion at $m/z$ 135.0087 indicates a single hydroxyl in ring A and there is a corresponding ion at $m/z$ 119.0502 which contains the B ring and indicates a single oxygen in the B ring.

**Pinocembrin (3)** Rt 11.5 min. Ratio BRN/RSN 0.724. $^1$H, $^{13}$C NMR data were consistent with those previously reported (Jung et al., 1990), ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] $m/z$ 255.0665 (C$_{15}$H$_{11}$O$_4$, Δ 1.24 ppm) MS$^2$ $m/z$ 213.0560(80), $m/z$ 211.0767 (30), $m/z$ 187.0786 (11), $m/z$ 151.0038 (30) (C$_7$H$_3$O, Δ 0.583 ppm), $m/z$ 169.0661(10). The fragment ion at $m/z$ 151.0038 indicates the presence of two hydroxyl groups in ring A.

**Vestitol (4)** Rt 13.3 min. Ratio BRN/RSN 0.741 $^1$H, $^{13}$C NMR data were consistent with those previously reported (Piccinelli et al., 2005), ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H], $m/z$ 271.0977 (C$_{16}$H$_{15}$O$_4$, Δ -0.082 ppm). MS$^2$ $m/z$ 109.0295(70) (C$_6$H$_4$O$_2$, Δ -0.117) $m/z$ 135.0451 (100) (C$_6$H$_4$O$_2$, Δ 0.646 ppm),
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\[ m/z \ 147.0452(70) \ (C_9H_7O_2, \ \Delta 1.55 \text{ ppm}) \] The fragment at \( m/z \ 135.0451 \) is consistent with a fragment containing the B ring while the fragment at \( m/z \ 109.0295 \) derives from the A ring.

**Medicarpin** (5) Rt 14.0 min. Ratio BRN/RSN 0.325. \(^1\text{H},^\text{13}C\) NMR data were consistent with those previously reported (Piccinelli et al., 2005), ESI-MS (negative mode), \([\text{M - H}^-] \ m/z \ 269.0822 \ (C_{16}H_{13}O_4, \ \Delta 1.51 \text{ ppm}) \] MS\(^2\) \( m/z \ 254.0587 \ (C_{15}H_{13}O_4, \ \Delta 0.602 \text{ ppm}), \ m/z \ 237.0560 \ (C_{15}H_{12}O_3, \ \Delta 1.40 \text{ ppm}) \)

**6-prenylnaringenin** (7) Rt 23.9 min. Ratio BRN/RSN 0.208. \(^1\text{H},^\text{13}C\) NMR data were consistent with those previously reported (Stevens et al., 1997, Nakahara et al., 2003), ESI-MS (negative mode), \([\text{M - H}^-] \ m/z \ 339.1236, \ \text{MS}^3 \ m/z \ 219.0663 \ (C_{12}H_{11}O_4, \ \Delta 0.127 \text{ ppm}) \) (100), \( m/z \ 119.0503 \ (C_9H_5O_2, \ \Delta 0.435 \text{ ppm}), \ m/z \ 133.0659(85) \ (C_9H_7O, \ \Delta 0.238 \text{ ppm}). \) The fragment at \( m/z \ 219.0663 \) is consistent with a prenyl group in ring A along with two hydroxyl groups and the small fragment at \( m/z \ 119.0503 \) contains the B ring indicating one hydroxyl group in the B ring. A longer retention time in reversed phase mode in comparison with 8-prenylnaringenin is probably due its higher surface area (298.3 Å\(^2\) for 8-prenylnaringenin compared to 311.2 Å\(^2\) for 6-prenylnaringenin as computed by Chem 3D, CambridgeSoft, Boston, USA).

**8-prenylnaringenin** (8) Rt 16.1 min. Ratio BRN/RSN 0.086. \(^1\text{H},^\text{13}C\) NMR data were consistent with those previously reported (Stevens et al., 1997), ESI-MS (negative mode), \([\text{M - H}^-] \ m/z \ 339.1236 \ (C_{20}H_{19}O_5, \ \Delta 1.39 \text{ ppm}) \), MS\(^2\) \( m/z \ 219.0663 \ (100) \ (C_{12}H_{11}O_4, \ \Delta 0.335 \text{ ppm}) \) \( m/z \ 119.0503 \ (3) \ (C_9H_5O_2, \ \Delta 0.351 \text{ ppm}) \), MS\(^3\) \( m/z \ 175.07669(100) \ (C_{12}H_{11}O_2, \ \Delta 0.897 \text{ ppm}), \ m/z \ 151.07656(50) \ (C_9H_7O_2, \ \Delta 0.444), \ m/z \ 133.0659(90) \ (C_9H_7O, \ \Delta 1.37 \text{ ppm}). \) The fragment at \( m/z \ 219.0663 \) is consistent with a prenyl group in ring A along with two hydroxyl groups and the small fragment at \( m/z \ 119.0503 \) contains the B ring indicating one hydroxyl group in the B ring.

**Propolin D** (9) Rt 28.6 min. Ratio BRN/RSN 0.293. \(^1\text{H},^\text{13}C\) NMR data were consistent with those previously reported (Chen et al., 2004), ESI-MS (negative mode), \([\text{M - H}^-] \ m/z \ 423.1819 \ (C_{25}H_{27}O_6, \ \Delta
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0.208 ppm, MS^2 151.0035 (100) (C_{18}H_{23}O_{4}, \Delta 0.762 ppm), m/z 297.1496 (10) (C_{19}H_{23}O_{3}, \Delta -1.60 ppm). The ion at m/z 151.0035 indicates two hydroxyl groups in ring A and the ion at m/z 271.1703 indicates that the geranyl chain is in the B ring.

**Macarangin (10)** Rt 35.4 min. Ratio BRN/RSN 0.371 \(^{1}H, ^{13}C\) NMR data were consistent with those previously reported (Hnawia et al., 1990), ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H]^- m/z 421.1654 (C_{25}H_{25}O_{6}, \Delta -1.05 ppm) MS^2 m/z 352.09533 (80) (C_{20}H_{16}O_{6}, \Delta -1.35 ppm), m/z 335.09236 (28) (C_{20}H_{15}O_{5}, \Delta 1.18 ppm) m/z 309.0404 (100) (C_{17}H_{9}O_{6}, \Delta -1.26 ppm), m/z 297.0405 (70) (C_{16}H_{9}O_{6}, \Delta -0.913 ppm). In this case the MS^2 fragments result from losses of portions on the geranyl chain.

**Structure elucidation of riverinol (6)** Rt 20.9 min.

Of the 9 compounds chromatographically isolated from Nigerian red propolis in this study (Figs. 1 and 2), compound 6 (mp. 137 – 142 °C, did not correspond to previously described compounds. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H]^- m/z 285.1134 (C_{17}H_{17}O_{4}, \Delta = 0.6 ppm) indicating a molecular formula C_{17}H_{18}O_{4}.

The \(^{1}H\) and \(^{13}C\) NMR data for 6 (Table 1 and Supplementary file S2) indicated two similar aromatic systems each containing three protons with two protons ortho to each other and one meta-coupled proton. The DEPT 135 spectrum showed 17 carbons; six quaternary aromatic carbons, four of which were attached to oxygens; six aromatic methine carbons; and five aliphatic carbons, two of which corresponded to methoxy groups, two methylene carbons bearing and one methine carbon. A careful analysis of the 1D and 2D NMR spectroscopy data allowed elucidation of 6 as a previously undescribed dihydrobenzofuran herein given the trivial name riverinol. For ease of structure elucidation, an idiosyncratic numbering system was used (Fig. 4). In the HMBC spectrum, the most useful carbons for connecting the structure were the 4 and 4' carbons which showed couplings to the aromatic protons within their rings and to the aliphatic protons (i.e., C4 to H6, H8, H10\_u, H10\_d and C-
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4’ to H10α, H10β, H3, H2’, 3’-OH, H6’). It was possible to assign the position of the hydroxyl group to the 3’ position on the basis of a weak four bond coupling of C3’ to the C3 proton, this would not be possible for the alternative C1’ position for this substituent. Thus the data are consistent with riverinol being 3-(2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzyl)-6-methoxy-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran (6). A literature search revealed a closely related dihydrobenzofuran isolated from *Campylotropis hirtella* (Franch.) Schindl. (Han et al., 2008) that presented very similar and supporting NMR data. Further support for the structure was derived from the MS data. MS² m/z 270.0902 (C₁₆H₁₄O₄, Δ 1.56 ppm), m/z 255.0667 (C₁₅H₁₂O₄, Δ 1.56 ppm), m/z 149.0609 (34) (C₇H₆O₂, Δ 0.853 ppm), m/z 123.0452 (100) (C₇H₇O₂, Δ 0.384 ppm) m/z 108.0217 (13) (C₇H₆O₂, Δ 0.577 ppm). The ion at m/z 149.0609 corresponds to cleavage between C10 and C3 with retention of charge on the dihydrobenzofuran portion of the molecule, the ion at m/z 123.0452 corresponds to cleavage across the furan ring between the oxygen and C3 and C2 and the aromatic ring and the ion at m/z 108.0217 corresponds to loss of methyl from the fragment at m/z 123.0452.

**HPLC-UV-ELSD and HPLC MS Profiling of RSN and BRN**

HPLC-UV-ELSD and HPLC-MS analysis of RSN and BRN showed rich chromatographic responses with the combination of the ELSD and the UV detector (290 and 320 nm), suggesting the absence of ELSD-only responsive compounds such as terpenes and fats. Many compounds were common between the two samples but with different relative abundances which are listed along with the elucidated (above) or partially elucidated structures (discussed below). Like Brazilian red propolis, the Nigerian red propolis contained medicarpin (5), liquiritigenin (2) and vestitol (4) which are probably collected from *Dalbergia ecastophyllum* (Piccinelli et al., 2011) The Nigerian sample also contains retusapurpurins (S3 shows the ESI spectra and an extracted ion trace corresponding to two retusapurpurin isomers which are abundant in RSN and BRN) which are responsible for the red colour of the propolis and have only been recorded in *Dalbergia* species. There are a number of *Dalbergia* species found in West Africa (Saha et al., 2013). Thus there is a degree of similarity
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between Nigerian red and Brazilian red propolis based on the compounds found in *Dalbergia* species discussed above. However, there were also compounds, either isolated and fully characterised or putatively identified by mass spectrometry, in the Nigerian samples which have not been reported to be present in Brazilian red propolis and these included: the fully characterised compounds propolin D (9), 6- and 8-prenylnarigenin (7, 8) and macarangin (10). In addition there were many other abundant compounds in many cases related to the compounds isolated and characterised by NMR. The high resolution mass spectra were generally accurate to within 2 ppm of the proposed formula which means that it is possible to be confident of the elemental composition assigned and indeed the hits in DNP database are all isomers of the proposed compositions. Supplementary file S4 summarises the elemental compositions for the top 200 compounds by mean abundance in the samples. For many of the listed elemental compositions > 100 isomers can be found in the DNP database. The mass spectra of some of the characteristic compounds are discussed in detail below. and are referred to as Unknowns 1-18. Where MS³ data are reported these are for the base peak in the MS² spectrum.

**Unknown 1** Rt 9.3 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] m/z 331.0822 (composition C₁₇H₁₅O₇, Δ -0.139 ppm, 184 matches in DNP). BRN/RSN 1.047. MS² m/z 316.0589 (100) (C₁₆H₁₂O₇, Δ -0.155 ppm), m/z 301.0357 (7) (C₁₅H₁₀O₇, Δ 1.11 ppm), m/z 151.0039 (1.5) (C₇H₃O₄, Δ 1.37 ppm). MS³ m/z 301.0354 (100) (C₁₅H₇O₆, Δ -0.180 ppm). Possibly dimethyl quercetin with methylation of the hydroxyl groups in ring B since the small ion at m/z 151.0039 indicates a dihydroxylated A ring.

**Unknown 2** Rt 10.3 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] m/z 285.0765 (composition C₁₆H₁₃O₅, Δ 0.537 ppm, 225 matches in DNP). Not in RSN. MS² m/z 270.0356 (5) (C₁₅H₁₀O₅, Δ 0.81 ppm), m/z 267.0664 (61) (C₁₆H₁₂O₄, Δ 0.37 ppm), m/z 257.0819 (100) (C₁₅H₁₃O₄, Δ 0.03 ppm). MS³ m/z 242.0583 (100) (C₁₅H₁₀O₄, Δ -0.44 ppm), m/z 239.0716 (21) (C₁₆H₁₂O₃, Δ 1.14 ppm). Consistent with a methylated pterocarpin but fragmentation pattern does not match data reported previously (Piccinelli et al., 2011) for pterocarpsins in Brazilian red propolis.
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**Unknown 3** Rt 9.9 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] m/z 285.0765 (composition C_{16}H_{13}O_{5}, Δ - 0.024 ppm, 225 matches in DNP). BRN/RSN (0.623). MS² m/z 270.0357 (9) (C_{15}H_{10}O_{4}, Δ 1.03 ppm), m/z 257.0821 (18) (C_{15}H_{13}O_{4}, Δ 0.964 ppm), m/z 241.0871 (100) (C_{15}H_{13}O_{3}, Δ 0.26 ppm), m/z 226.0638 (25) (C_{14}H_{10}O_{3}, Δ 1.27 ppm), m/z 163.0044 (19) (C_{8}H_{5}O_{2}, Δ 0.79 ppm), m/z 109.0295 (12) (C_{6}H_{5}O_{2}, Δ 0.25 ppm). MS³ m/z 226.0637 (100) (C_{14}H_{10}O_{3}, Δ 0.87 ppm). Consistent with a methylated pterocarpin but fragmentation pattern does not match data reported previously (Piccinelli et al., 2011) for pterocarpins in Brazilian red propolis.

**Unknown 4** Rt 23.7 min ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] m/z 423.1817 (composition C_{25}H_{27}O_{6}, Δ - 2.84 ppm, 137 matches in DNP). Ratio BRN/RSN 0.158. Putative identification geranylated or diprenylated flavanoid. MS² m/z 287.1285 (100) (C_{17}H_{19}O_{4}, Δ -1.192 ppm). The fragment at m/z 287.1285 indicates the presence of a geranyl or two prenyl groups in the A ring; the base peak in the MS³ spectrum for this ion was at m/z 243.1391 has the formula C_{16}H_{19}O_{2} (Δ -0.234 ppm) corresponding to a loss of CO₂.

**Unknown 5** Rt 32.9 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] m/z 423.1817 (Composition C_{25}H_{27}O_{6}, Δ -0.17 ppm 137 matches in DNP). BRN/RSN 0.461. Unknown 5 is an isomer of propolin D but does not give any diagnostic MS² fragments since it loses CO to give a base peak at m/z 395.1861 (C_{24}H_{27}O_{5}, Δ -0.679 ppm). The MS³ spectrum of this base peak is more informative yielding a peak at m/z 351.1961 due to loss of CO₂ and and this ion appears to undergo another loss of C7H6 (approximating to benzyl) to give the base peak at m/z 261.1493 (C_{15}H_{21}O_{3}, Δ -1.08 ppm). There is also a a fragment at m/z 287.1286 (C_{17}H_{19}O_{4}, Δ -1.08 ppm) suggesting that unknown 8 also has a geranyl or two prenyl groups in ring A.

**Unknown 6** Rt 29.6 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] m/z 407.1868 (composition C_{25}H_{27}O_{5}, Δ - 2.5 ppm, 135 matches in DNP). BRN/RSN 0.289. MS² m/z 287.1282 (100) (C_{17}H_{19}O_{4}, Δ -1.3 ppm). The fragment m/z 287.1282 indicates the presence of the geranyl/prenyl groups in the A ring; m/z
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119.0502 (0.8) (C₈H₇O₆, Δ -0.657 ppm) indicates one hydroxyl group in ring B. Putative identification geranylated flavanoid.

**Unknown 7** Rt 33.7 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H]⁻ m/z 491.2445 (Composition C₃₅H₃₆O₆, Δ -1.83 ppm, 36 matches in DNP). BRN/RSN 0.340. Unknown 7 is related to propolin D but carries an additional prenyl group. The base peak in the MS² spectrum of unknown is at m/z 219.0663 (100) (C₁₂H₁₀O₆, Δ 0.447 ppm) indicating substitution in ring A with two hydroxyl groups and a prenyl group and the additional geranyl group is in ring B as indicated by a fragment at m/z 271.1706 (15) (C₁₈H₂₃O₂, Δ 0.762 ppm).

**Unknown 8** Rt 24.1 min ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H]⁻ m/z 353.1025 (Composition C₂₀H₁₇O₆, Δ -1.562 ppm, 160 matches in DNP). BRN/RSN 0.246. MS² m/z 335.0926 (68) (C₂₀H₁₅O₆, Δ 0.397 ppm), m/z 298.0584 (77) (C₁₆H₁₀O₆, Δ -0.549 ppm), m/z 269.0457 (100) (C₁₅H₉O₅, Δ 0.644 ppm). Possibly prenylated flavanoid where loss of C₄H₇⁻ might indicate loss of part of a prenyl chain.

**Unknown 9** Rt 12.2 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H]⁻ m/z 267.0666 (Composition C₁₆H₁₁O₄, Δ 1.26 ppm, 96 matches in DNP). BRN/RSN 0.893. MS² m/z 252.0429 (100) (C₁₅H₉O₄, Δ 0.21 ppm). MS³ m/z 223.0403 (100) (C₁₄H₇O₃, Δ 0.903 ppm), m/z 208.0532 (83) (C₁₄H₈O₂, Δ 0.972 ppm) m/z 135.009 (2) (C₇H₃O₃, Δ 0.761 ppm). Isomer of methylchrysin with single hydroxy in ring A and methoxy in ring B.

**Unknown 10** Rt 7.9 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H]⁻ m/z 315.0875 (C₁₇H₁₃O₆, Δ 0.294 ppm, 176 matches in DNP). BRN/RSN 1.269. MS² m/z 297.0766 (100) (C₁₇H₁₅O₄, Δ 0.249 ppm), m/z 287.0926 (88) (C₁₆H₁₃O₆, Δ 0.324 ppm). MS³ m/z 282.0553 (100) (C₁₆H₁₀O₅, Δ 0.324 ppm). Possibly dimethyl flavonoid.

**Unknown 11** Rt 18.9 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H]⁻ m/z 539.1702 (C₃₂H₂₂O₈, Δ -1.81 ppm, 5 matches in DNP) Ratio BRN/RSN 1.22. MS² 283.0977 (100) (C₁₇H₁₃O₄, Δ 0.699 ppm), m/z 255.0664 (75) (C₁₅H₁₁O₄, Δ 0.501 ppm), m/z 240.0431 (32) (C₁₄H₈O₄, Δ 1.262 ppm). MS³ m/z 268.0742 (100) (C₁₆H₁₂O₄, Δ 0.421 ppm). The molecule fragments into two halves of similar molecular weight
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suggesting an isoflavonoid dimer such related to the daljanelins which are found in Dalbergia species (Saha et al., 2013).

**Unknown 12** Rt 11.4 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] m/z 273.0773 (C$_{15}$H$_{13}$O$_{5}$, Δ 1.76 ppm, 217 matches in DNP) Ratio BRN/RSN 1.23. MS$^2$ m/z 163.0400 (100) (C$_{9}$H$_{7}$O$_{3}$, Δ -0.475 ppm), m/z 109.0294 (56) (C$_{6}$H$_{4}$O$_{2}$, Δ -0.94 ppm). The molecule forms two main fragments suggesting a dihydroxybenzene bonded to caffeic acid.

**Unknown 13** Rt 10.5 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] m/z 283.0632 (C$_{16}$H$_{11}$O$_{5}$, Δ 0.61 ppm, 165 matches in DNP) Ratio BRN/RSN 0.99. MS$^2$ m/z 268.0337 (100) (C$_{15}$H$_{9}$O$_{3}$, Δ -0.006 ppm). MS$^3$ m/z 224.0480 (100) (C$_{14}$H$_{9}$O$_{3}$, Δ 0.57 ppm), m/z 135.0089 (3) (C$_{7}$H$_{3}$O$_{2}$, Δ 1.29 ppm). Isomer of methyl galangin with one hydroxyl group in ring A.

**Unknown 14** Rt 49.7 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] m/z 601.3528 (C$_{38}$H$_{49}$O$_{6}$, Δ 1.035 ppm, 41 matches in DNP). Ratio BRN/RSN 14.1. Putative identification polyisoprenylated benzophenone isomer of guttiferone A. The fragments in the MS$^2$ spectra were consistent with those observed previously although shifted by ca 2 amu since the previous data were obtained in positive ion mode (Piccinelli et al., 2011). MS$^2$ m/z 465.3363 (100) (C$_{31}$H$_{43}$O$_{3}$, Δ -2.04 ppm) which is consistent with loss of the dihydroxybenzoyl group from this molecule. Piccinelli et al., 2011, observed this ion in positive ion mode at m/z 467 and attributed it to the loss of a geranyl chain which has the same mass as the dihydroxy benzophenone moiety, in the current case it is clear from the accurate mass data that the loss is due to loss of dihydroxy benzophenone as described previously (Yang et al., 2010). An ion at m/z 423.3258 (C$_{29}$H$_{43}$O$_{2}$, Δ -2.39 ppm) is consistent with cracking across the ring bearing the dihydroxy benzophenone moiety. An ion at m/z 409.1657 (observed by Piccinelli et al. 2011, at m/z 411 but not interpreted) (C$_{24}$H$_{25}$O$_{6}$, Δ 0.116) would be consistent with a structure such as oblongifolin A where a geranyl group is substituted onto the bicyclononane ring. These proposed fragmentations are illustrated in figure 5 using oblongifolin A as the example.
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**Unknown 15** Rt 50.8 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] \( m/z \) 601.3544 \( (\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{49}\text{O}_6, \Delta -2.45 \text{ ppm}, 41 \text{ matches in DNP}) \). Not found in RSN. The MS\(^2\) spectrum has the same fragment at \( m/z \) 465.3362 as Unknown 14 but does not have an ion at \( m/z \) 409.16. However, a corresponding loss occurs from the ion at \( m/z \) 465.3362 in the MS\(^3\) spectrum of unknown 15 resulting in an ion at \( m/z \) 273.1491 \( (100) \) \( (\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_3, \Delta -1.74 \text{ ppm}) \) suggesting that this molecule also has a geranyl tail attached. Loss of the geranyl tail itself from the ion at \( m/z \) 465.3362 is also observed giving rise an ion at \( m/z \) 327.1960 \( (20) \) \( (\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_3, \Delta -1.8 \text{ ppm}) \).

**Unknown 16** Rt 52.7 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] \( m/z \) 669.4147 \( (\text{C}_{43}\text{H}_{57}\text{O}_6, \Delta -2.08 \text{ ppm} 11 \text{ matches in DNP}) \). Ratio BRN/RSN 11.1. The MS\(^2\) spectrum gives a base peak at \( m/z \) 533.3981 \( (\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{53}\text{O}_3, \Delta -1.48 \text{ ppm}) \) showing the same loss of dihydroxybenzophenone as was seen for unknowns 11 and 12. The spectrum also has a small ion at \( m/z \) 477.2266 \( (\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{33}\text{O}_6, -3.44 \text{ ppm}) \) which indicates the loss of a fragment containing the geranyl tail as was observed for unknowns 10 and 11.

**Unknown 17** Rt 38.4 min. \( m/z \) 515.3158 ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] \( (\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{43}\text{O}_4 \Delta -1.71 \text{ ppm} 3 \text{ matches in DNP}) \) Ratio BRN/RSN 0.1. Only one of the DNP matches is naturally occurring since two of the matches are polyrenylated benzophenones which were methylated during isolation. Thus the unique match is to schweinfurthin C which is a digeranylated stilbene isolated from *Macaranga schweinfurthii* (Beutler et al., 1998). However, more recently further isomers of this formula, denticulatains A and B, not listed in DNP, have been isolated from *Macaranga denticulata* which are diterpene/stilbenes (Yang et al., 2015). The MS\(^2\) spectrum for unknown 13 gave the following major ions:

\[ m/z 445.2390 \ (3) \ (\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{33}\text{O}_4, \Delta -2.05 \text{ ppm}) \], \[ m/z 405.2791 \ (95) \ (\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{37}\text{O}_2, \Delta -2.4 \text{ ppm}) \], \[ m/z 379.1915 \ (4) \ (\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{35}\text{O}_4, \Delta -0.31 \text{ ppm}) \], \[ m/z 309.1131 \ (11) \ (\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{17}\text{O}_4, -0.43 \text{ ppm}) \], \[ m/z 255.0660 \ (91) \ (\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{13}\text{O}_4, -1.4 \text{ ppm}) \], \[ m/z 253.0504 \ (66) \ (\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_9\text{O}_4, -0.84 \text{ ppm}) \], \[ m/z 241.0503 \ (100) \ (\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_9\text{O}_4, -1.295 \text{ ppm}) \]. From the fragmentation pattern it seems likely that unknown 13 is one of the denticulatains. The diterpene moiety is attached to one of the rings making it possible to lose an unmodified dihydroxybenzene ring.
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to give the fragment at \( m/z \) 405.2791. A proposed fragmentation pattern accounting for the major fragments is shown in figure 6 using denticulatain A as an example. Figure 6 also shows the major fragments derived from the \( m/z \) 241.0503 ion in the MS\(^3\) spectrum. Macarangin (10) which was isolated in pure form from the BRN propolis was also isolated from \( M.\) vedeliana (Hnawia et al. 1990) thus it seems likely that the diterpene stilbene was obtained from a \( Macaranga \) species. There are several minor isomers of unknown 13 present in the extract and one of these has a spectrum which fits more with the digeranylated structure of schweinfurthin C since the ion at \( m/z \) 405.2791 is absent from the MS\(^2\) spectrum and ions at \( m/z \) 377.1754 (100) (\( C_{24}H_{25}O_4 \), \( \Delta -1.014 \) ppm) and \( m/z \) 241.0506 (\( C_{14}H_9O_4 \), \( \Delta -0.261 \) ppm) result from successive losses of geranyl chains.

**Unknown 18** Rt 34.6 min. ESI-MS (negative mode), [M - H] \( m/z \) 447.2536 (\( C_{29}H_{35}O_4 \), \( \Delta -1.031 \) ppm, 9 matches in DNP). BRN/RSN 0.366. MS\(^2\) \( m/z \) 391.19220 (30) (\( C_{5}H_{27}O_4 \), \( \Delta 1.83 \) ppm ), \( m/z \) 377.1765 (100) (\( C_{24}H_{25}O_4 \), \( \Delta 1.63 \) ppm), \( m/z \) 309.1137 (70) (\( C_{19}H_{17}O_4 \), \( \Delta 1.44 \) ppm), \( m/z \) 241.0511 (18) (\( C_{14}H_9O_4 \), \( \Delta 2.07 \) ppm). The compound has fragments in common with unknown 17, suggesting a sesquiterpene stilbene adduct.

As can be seen from table S2 there are many other abundant compounds in the propolis samples which have yet to be characterised.

**Anti-trypanosomal activity**

The activities of the crude extracts of RSN and BRN and the isolated compounds were tested against *T. brucei*. The crude extracts were more active than the isolated compounds suggesting either that the most active compounds had not been isolated or that mixtures of components together were acting in an additive manner. Preliminary tests were carried out against a wild type strain and MIC values were obtained for: medicarpin (3.12 \( \mu g/ml \)), pinocembrin (12.5 \( \mu g/ml \)) and propolin D (3.12 \( \mu g/ml \)). Testing was carried out for the other isolated compounds against a wild type strain and against two resistant strains (Table 2) of *T.bruceni*o. The compounds showed strong anti-trypanosomal activity with EC\(_{50}\) values against a standardized strain ranging from 4.2 \( \mu g/mL \) for the crude RSN
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fraction to 16.6 µg/mL for riverinol (6), confirming the previously observed high activity of the crude extract when compared with other African propolis samples (Zhang et al., 2014). Of the purified compounds, 8-prenylnarigenin (8) was the most active against the wild type strain at 6.1 ± 0.1 µg/ml but macarangin (10) and vestitol (4) displayed very similar activities. In order to assess the potential for cross-resistance with current drugs of the diamidine and melaminophenylarsenical classes (Baker et al., 2013), the compounds were tested on the multi-drug resistant (MDR) strains B48 (Bridges et al., 2007) and aqp2/aqp3 null (Baker et al., 2012) in parallel. Pentamidine, used as a control drug, was 31-fold (P=5.3 x 10^{-6}) and 224-fold (P=0.00028) less active against B48 and aqp2/aqp3 null, respectively. In contrast, none of the fractions or compounds tested displayed a substantially reduced activity towards the MDR strains, with the resistance factors not exceeding 1.5-fold, establishing that the activity of these phytochemicals is not dependent on the same drug transporters that mediate uptake of the currently used drugs (De Koning, 2008).

**Source and relative activities of various propolis constituents**

It would seem that Nigerian red propolis is very similar to Brazilian red propolis and that bees are collecting from similar plants although the two regions are geographically far apart. Isoflavonoids have a very restricted distribution in the plant kingdom and occur almost exclusively in legumes (Leguminosae family) (Silva et al., 2008), along with isoflavans such as liquiritigenin (2) and medicarpin (5) which been previously isolated from Cuban and northern Brazilian red propolis, which originates largely from *Dalbergia ecastophyllum* resin (Piccinelli et al., 2005). The Nigerian red propolis, according to LC-MS profiling, also contains polyprenylated benzophenones (unknowns 14-16) that are typically found in Brazilian and Cuban propolis and originate from Clusiaceae species (Yang et al., 2010; Yuliar et al., 2014). However, in Nigeria a likely source would be the African mangosteen (*Garcinia livingstonei*) (Yang et al. 2010). A polyprenylated benzophenone has previously been isolated from Cameroonian propolis (Almutairi et al., 2014). Geranylated flavonoids have been isolated before from Japanese propolis collected from Okinawa and also from Pacific propolis.
Nigerian red propolis. collected from the Solomon Islands (Kumazawa et al., 2007; Raghukumar et al., 2008). Macarangin (10) has previously been isolated from Kenyan propolis and was reported to originate from Asian Macaranga denticulata and New Caledonian M. vedeliana (Petrova et al., 2010). M. barteri has been reported to occur in mangrove forests in Delta State in Nigeria (Ebigwai and Akomaye, 2014). Prenyl naringenins have not been reported before in propolis and have only been reported to occur in hops (Jung et al., 1990). The strong anti-protozoal activity of propolis appears to be an almost constant feature of the material and strongly suggests that bees collect the material to protect themselves against protozoal attack by chemically treating the surfaces in the hive. The best known protozoal parasite of bees is Crithidia bombi which infects bumble bees (Schlüns et al., 2010) and this flagellated kinetoplastid is a quite close relative of the human pathogen T. brucei. It has been proposed that Crithidia mellificae is responsible for significant winter mortality in Western European beehives (Ravoet et al., 2013). Quite small alterations in structure appear to produce a marked difference in anti-trypanosomal activity with 8-prenyl naringenin (8) being more active than its isomer 6-prenyl naringenin (7). Propolis can be collected in large quantities and thus has good potential for treating protozoal infections if in vivo efficacy can be proved.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge the government of Libyan for funding (studentship to RMKO). We are indebted to BeeVital and to Dr. John Igoli for providing the propolis samples. We further acknowledge a TETFund award from the government of Nigeria to G.U.E.

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Table 1 NMR data for riverinol. Carbon numbering refers to figure 4.

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Nigerian red propolis.

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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2'</td>
<td>101.8</td>
<td>6.43</td>
<td>(H2')d J₃₂ = 2.7</td>
<td>no*</td>
<td>H6'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3'</td>
<td>156.35</td>
<td>OH 9.6s</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>H5', H2', H3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4'</td>
<td>120.03</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>H10u, H10d, H3, H2', 3'-OH, H6'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5'</td>
<td>130.64</td>
<td>6.99,(H5')d, J₅₆ = 8.5.</td>
<td>H5'H6'</td>
<td>H10u, H10d</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6'</td>
<td>104.85</td>
<td>6.37, (H6')dd, J₅₆ = 8.5, J₂₆ = 2.7</td>
<td>H5'H6'</td>
<td>H6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* all protonated carbon assignments confirmed using a gradient-enhanced ¹³C – ¹H HSQC NMR experiment

b d = downfield and u = upfield partner of geminal proton pair

c s=singlet, d=doublet, t=triplet, m=multiplet

d J: coupling constant (Hz)

* not applicable

f none observed

* Not possible to observe because of overlaid signal for the correlation between 8 and 9.
Table 2 EC50 values (n=3) values (µg/ml) for some of the compounds isolated from Nigerian red propolis. The strains of T.brucie tested were Lister 427 wild-type (standard drug-sensitive control), AQP2-KO (same strain as WT, but with the TbAQP2 gene, coding for the important drug transporter HAPT1, deleted by targeted gene deletion; resistant to pentamidine and melarsoprol), and B48 (adapted from Lister 427WT by in vitro exposure to pentamidine; lost both main drug transporters, HAPT1 and TbAT1, and is highly resistant to pentamidine).

Averages and SEM are given for n=3. Resistance factor (RF) is the ratio of EC50 for resistant strain over WT. Unpaired ttest compared EC50 values of each resistant strain versus WT. Units are in µg/ml except for pentamidine, where the EC50 value is given in µM. NA = naringenin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fraction No.</th>
<th>TbS427WT AVG</th>
<th>SEM</th>
<th>B48 AVG</th>
<th>SEM</th>
<th>RF</th>
<th>ttest</th>
<th>aqp2/aqp3 null AVG</th>
<th>SEM</th>
<th>RF</th>
<th>ttest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RSN</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.92</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverinol(6)</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calycosin/liquiritigenin (1/2)</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>1.61</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestitol (4)</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-prenyl NA (8)</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-Prenyl NA (7)</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macarangin (10)</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRN</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentamidine</td>
<td>0.0023</td>
<td>0.0002</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>224.78</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
<td>0.071</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>31.08</td>
<td>&lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nigerian red propolis.

**Figure 1** Structures of the flavonoids, isoflavonoids and benzofuran isolated from Nigerian red propolis.
Nigerian red propolis.

Figure 2 Structures of the prenylated flavonoids isolated from Nigerian red propolis.
Nigerian red propolis.

**Figure 3** MS fragmentations across the C ring of a flavanoid.

**Figure 4** Numbered structure of riverinol (6) for structure elucidation purposes, and a closely related dihydrobenzofuran previously isolated (Han et al., 2008).
Nigerian red propolis.

**Figure 5** MS² fragmentation of a polyrenylated benzophenone illustrated for oblongifolin A.
Nigerian red propolis.

**Figure 6** Proposed MS$^2$ and MS$^3$ fragmentation of denticulatain A.
Nigerian red propolis.