# Photo-Oxygenated Derivatives from Eugenol

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Abstract: Photo-oxygenation reaction was performed on eugenol (1) (2- methoxy-4-(2'-propenyl) phenol) in chloroform as a solvent and tetraphenyl porphrine (TPP) as singlet oxygen sensitizer. Irradiation of the reaction mixture was carried out by sodium lamp at -20 °C for six hrs., during which dry oxygen was allowed to pass through the reaction mixture. Two hydroperoxides (3) and (4) were formed. Eugenol methyl ether (2) was also photo-oxygenated under the same conditions of eugenol, where only the side chain was photo-oxygenated at position C-1' to give product (5). In addition to the epoxide derivative of eugenol methyl ester (8) was prepared and its reaction with aminoantipyrine was carried out to give product (9). Product (8) could be considered as a DNA- alkylating agent.

Keywords: Eugenol, Photo-oxygenation, Eugenol hydroperoxide, Eugenol methyl ether, Antipyrine, DNA-alkylating agent.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Eugenol, [2-methoxy-4-(2'-propenyl) phenol], a pale yellow liquid is the major constituents of clove essential oil (80-87 %) obtained from the buds of Eugenia caryophyllata (family Myrtaceae) [1]. Eugenol was subjected to extensive biological, medicinal and chemical studies. For example it was reported as antimicrobial [2], antioxidant [3], anticancer [4] and anti-inflammatory agent [5]. Eugenol was also used as a dental medicament due to its analgesic effect [6]. Moreover, it inhibits glulathione-δ-transferase (GST) and cause protection against background damage of liver [7]. Eugenol was converted into 2-methoxy-4-(prop-2en-1-yl) phenyl hydroperoxide by oxidation with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> under irradiation [1]. Thermal oxidation of eugenol with 3-ClC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>H at room temperature produced 2-methoxy-4-(oxiran-2-ylmethyl) phenol, while sensitized photochemical oxygenation (using Rose Bengal or chlorophyll) gave 4-hydroperoxy-2methoxy-4-(prop-2-en-1-yl)cyclohexa-2,5-dien-1one [1].

The major photochemical product from eugenol found to be 4-cyclopropy-2-methoxyphenol in addition to 2-(3-methoxy-4 hydroxybenzene)-1methylethyl iso-propyl ether were obtained [8]. On the other hand, when eugenol was exposed to sunlight in iso-propanol for 10 days under atmospheric oxygen, numerous compounds were produced including those produced by irradiation with a mercury lamp [8].

Eugenol was irradiated in a methanol solution for various periods. The main photochemical product was 4-cyclopropyl-2-methoxyphenol (12-28%). In addition to the cyclopropyl derivative, three methanol solvent addition products, 2-methoxy-4propylphenol (4-7%),2-methoxy-4-(2methoxypropyl)phenol (3-7%), and 2-methoxy-4-(1-methoxypropyl) phenol, were formed. The solvent addition products were not obtained when MeCN was used as a solvent. The eugenol-related produced compounds, methyleugenol also cyclopropyl derivatives. 1-cyclopropyl-3,4dimethoxyeugenol upon photochemical irradiation. The photochemical reaction mechanisms of eugenol are postulated to be  $di-\pi$ -methane rearrangement, disproportionation reaction, and addition reaction. The cyclopropyl derivatives possessed an interesting floral, spicy odor [9].

Due to the versatile medicinal and pharmaceutical applications of eugenol, we wish to report here our obtained results of eugenol photo-oxygenation reaction in addition to its methyl ether.

# 2. EXPERIMENTAL

# 2.1 General

Ultraviolet spectra were recorded on a Unicam UV 2100 ultraviolet spectrophotometer. Infrared Spectra were performed on a Unicam Sp 2000 infrared spectrophotometer. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR Spectra were obtained in CDCl<sub>3</sub> on Brucker 250 MHz apparatus. The photolysis apparatus used are a sodium lamp (phillips G/5812 SON) and a tungsten-halogen lamp (Lohuis R75). Thin layer chromatography (TLC): polygram SIL G/UV 254 nm, Macherey-Nagel. Column chromatography: silca gel 60 (0.063-0.200 mm), Merck. For the removal of the solvent a rotatory evaporator (at 20 °C /15 torr) was used.

# 2.2 Isolation of eugenol

The volatile clove oil was extracted from clove (*Eugenia caryophyllusi*) by steam distillation. Eugenol was isolated by treatment of the extracted oil with an aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (3-5%). The non-phenolic constituents were extracted with chloroform. The aqueous alkaline solution was acidified with dilute hydrochloric acid to give eugenol (1) (80-87 %), which was extracted by chloroform.

# 2.3 Methylation of eugenol

A solution of eugenol (1) (2 gm) in acetone (8 ml) and in the presence of sodium hydroxide (20 ml, 56%) was stirred on an ice bath. During the stirring, dimethyl sulphate (2 ml) was added dropwise to the reaction mixture which was stirred for 6 hours, then poured on ice cold water. Methyl eugenol ether (2) was extracted with chloroform (3x20 ml), washed with water (3x20 ml) and dried over anhydrous sodium sulphate. The solvent (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) was evaporated under reduced pressure to give methyl eugenol ether (2) as a pale yellow oil (1.604 gm, 80% yield).

# 2.4 Photo-oxygenation of eugenol (1)

A solution of 1(1 gm) and 2 mg tetraphenyl porphrine (TPP) in CHCl3 (20 ml) was irradiated externally by means of a sodium lamp (Phillips G/5812 SON) at -20 °C for 6 hours. During the irradiation a continuous steam of dry oxygen gas was allowed to pass through the reaction mixture at a slow rate to avoid the solvent evaporation (TLC, peroxide test by KI, 10%). The solvent was removed at 20°C/ 0.1 Torr to give gummy material. The crude products were purified by column chromatography on silica gel by elution with a solvent mixture of petroleum ether 60-80°C and ethyl acetate (4:1) to give eugenol hydroperoxide derivative (3) (150 mg, 15% yield) and eugenol dihydroperoxide derivative (4) (80 mg 8% yield), both were obtained as pale yellow oils.

# 2.5 Photo-oxygenation of methyl eugenol ether (2)

A solution of 2 (1 gm) was photooxygenated as in the case of 1. The crude product was purified by column chromatography as above to give the methyl eugenol hydroperoxide derivative (5) as the sole oily product.

# **2.6 Photo-irradiation of eugenol** dihydroperoxide derivatives (4)

A solution of (4) (0.5 gm) in benzene (20 ml) was irradiated externally by means of tungsten-halogen lamp at room temperature for 10 hours. Ferric chloride test of the reaction mixture showed phenol was formed. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure to give a gummy material, which was purified by column chromatography, on silica gel adsorbent. Elution of the column with the solvent mixture of petroleum ether 60-80 °C and ethyl acetate (4:1) yielded eugenol dihydroxide derivative (6) as a viscous oil.

# 2.7 Photo-irradiation of methyl eugenol hydroperoxide derivative (5)

A solution of **5** (0.5 gm) in benzene (20 ml) was irradiated as in the case of **4**. Ferric chloride test of the reaction mixture showed phenol formation. The purification of the crude photo- product (**6**) was carried out as in the case of **6** where it gave methyl eugenol hydroxide derivative (**7**) as viscous oil.

# **2.8 Epoxidation of methyl eugenol** ether (2)

A solution of **2** (0.8 g, 5 mmol) in CHCl<sub>3</sub> (25 ml) was added portionwise to *m*-chloroperbenzoic acid (CPBA) (10 mmol, 80%) at 0 °C. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature (TLC, peroxide test by KI, 10%). It was washed with a saturated aqueous solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (3x10 ml), then with distilled water (3x1 0 ml). The organic layer was separated, dried over anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated under reduced pressure at room temperature. The crude residue product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel adsorbent. Elution of the column with the solvent mixture petroleum ether 60-80 °C and ether (9:2) gave eugenol epoxide (**8**) as viscous oil.

# **2.9** Treatment of epoxide derivative (8) with antipyrine

A mixture of epoxide (8) and antipyrine (0.168 g 1.2 mmol) was fused at 120 °C for 20 min. The crude product was recrystallized from ethanol to give the adduct (9) as gummy brown material (0.0293 g, 60 % yield).

# Spectral data of compound (1):

UV (Ethanol),  $\lambda$  max: 232, 289 and 342 nm IR (Thin Film), v: 3543, 3019, 2938, 2847, 1609, 1513 and 1145 cm<sup>-1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ ppm: 6.92 (d, 1H, J=10 Hz, H-9), 6.92 (m, 2H, H-5,8), 6.0 (m, 1H, H-2), 5.80 (s, 1H, OH), 5.20 (m, 1H, H-la), 5.10 (s, 1H, H-1b), 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub> and 3.40 (m, 2H, H-3).

#### Spectral data of compound (2):

UV (Ethanol), λ max: 233, 280 and 349 nm IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>), ν: 3076, 3017, 2937, 2836, 1620, 1592, 1514, and 1146 cm<sup>-1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ ppm: 6.70 (d, 1H, J=10 Hz, H-9), 6.65 (m, 2H, H-5,8), 5.9 (m, 1H, H-2), 5.05 (m, 1H, H-1a), 5.00 (s, 1H, H-1b), 3.78 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.76 (s, 3H, OCH<sub>3</sub>) and 3.30 (m, 2H, H-3).

#### Spectral data of compound (3):

UV (Ethanol),  $\lambda$  max: 236, 278 and 414 nm IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>), v: 3540, 3469, 3074, 3014, 2939, 2847, 1640, and 1608 cm<sup>-1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ ppm: 7.30 (s, 1H, OOH), 6.63 (d, 1H, H-9), 6.15 (d, 1H, H-8), 5.60 (m, 1H, H-2), 5.50 (s, 1H, H-5), 5.14 (s, 1H, H-1a), 5.07 (m, 1H, H-1b), 3.80 (s, 3H, -OCH<sub>3</sub>) and 2.60 (m, 2H, H-3).

#### **Spectral data of compound (4):**

UV (Ethanol),  $\lambda$  max: 236, 278, 348, and 414 nm IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>), v: 3540, 3433, 3014, 2939, 2847, 1640, 1608 and 1512 cm<sup>-1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ ppm: 8.6 (s, 1H, OOH), 7.70 (m, 1H, H-2), 7.5 (d, 1H, H-3), 6.80 (d, 1H, H-9), 6.40 (d, 1H, H-8), 6.70 (s, 1H, -OOH), 5.00 (s, 1H, H-5), 4.20 (d, 2H, H-1) and 3 .85 (s, 3H, -OCH<sub>3</sub>).

## Spectral data of compound (5):

UV (Ethanol),  $\lambda$  max: 272, 291, 314, 336, 414, 480, 512, 546, 590 and 654 nm

IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>), v: 3540, 3027, 2938, 1600, 1514 cm<sup>-1</sup> <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$  ppm: 7.71 (m, 1H, H-2), 7.53 (d, 1H, H-3), 6.85 (d, 1H, H-9), 6.70 (m, 2H, H-5, 8), 6.35 (s, 1H, -OOH), 4.30 (m, 2H, H-1), 3.87 (s, 3H, -OCH<sub>3</sub>) and 3.86 (s, 3H, -OCH<sub>3</sub>).

#### **Spectral data of compound (6):**

UV (Ethanol),  $\lambda$  max: 274, 299, 311 and 415 nm IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>), v: 3500, 3100, 2980, 1720, 1600 and 1500 cm<sup>-1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>),  $\delta$  ppm: 7.70 (m, 1H, H-2), 7.50 (d, 1H, H-3), 6.85 (d, 1H, H-9), 6.40 (d, 1H, H-8), 5.90 (s, 1H, OH), 5.00 (s, 1H, H-5), 4.30 (s, 1H, OH), 4.1 (d, 2H, H-1) and 3.8 (s, 3H, -OCH<sub>3</sub>).

## Spectral data of compound (7):

UV (Ethanol),  $\lambda$  max: 271, 314, 330, 348 and 409 nm

IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>), v: 3500, 3150, 2960, 1600 and 1500  $\mbox{cm}^{-1}$ 

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ ppm: 7.70 (m, 1H, H-2), 7.50 (d, 1H, H-3), 6.80 (d, 1 H, H-9), 6.70 (m, 2H, H- 8, 5), 3.90 (m, 2H, H-l), 3.85 (s, 3H, -OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.83 (s, 3H, -OCH<sub>3</sub>) and 3.55 (s, 1H, OH).

## Spectral data of compound (8):

UV (Ethanol), λ max: 234, 274, 284, and 376 nm

IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>), v: 3017, 2939, 2915, 2838, 1593 and 1514  $\rm cm^{-1}$ 

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>): δ ppm = 6.8 (m, 3H, H-5, 8, 9.), 3.88 (s, 3H, -OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.86 (s, 3H, -OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.13 (m, 1H, H-2), 2.80 (d, 2H, H-3), 2.76 (dd, 1H, H-1 a) and 2.53 (dd, 1H, H-1 b).

### **Spectral data of compound (9):**

UV (Ethanol),  $\lambda$  max: 271, 300, 314 and 367 nm IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>), v: 3408, 3060, 2983, 2873, 1642, 2592 and 1495 cm<sup>-1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), δ ppm: 7.4 (m, 3H), 7.2 (m, 2H, arom.), 6.75 (m, 3H, H-5,8,9), 3.80 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.77 (s, 3H, -OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.1 (m, 1H, H-2), 2.76 (s, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.87 (s, 1H, OH), 2.73 (d, 2H, H-3), 2.65 (d, 2H, H-1), 2.1 (s, 1H, NH) and 2.06 (s, 3H, N-CH<sub>3</sub>).

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Schunk and his group in 1988 reported that irradiation of eugenol by low pressure mercury lamp using isopropanol as a solvent produced two photolytic products that were identified as cyclopropyl-2-methylphenol and 2-(3-methoxy-4hyderoxybenzene)-1-methylethyl isopropyl ether [8]. In our work, eugenol was isolated from clove buds (c.f. experimental part) and subjected for photo-oxygenation reaction in chloroform and in presence of (TPP) as a singlet oxygen sensitizer. It was irradiated externally by a sodium lamp at -20 °C for six hrs. Eugenol hydroperoxide (3) and eugenol dihydroperoxide (4) were formed in the reaction mixture. These products were further purified using CC and their structures were proved using IR and <sup>1</sup>H- NMR spectroscopy.

IR spectrum of eugenol monohydropreoxide (3) revealed the presence of absorption bands at 3540, 1640 and 1608 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponding to hydroperoxide (-OOH), carbonyl (CO) and (C=C) groups respectively. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum indicated the presence of doublet signals at  $\delta$  6.63 and 6.15 ppm for cyclic AB system at C-8 and C-9. A singlet signal at 7.3 ppm was assigned for the hydroperoxide group (-OOH).

The IR spectrum of eugenol dihydropreoxide (4) was identical with that of eugenol monohydropreoxide (3). In the  $^{1}$ H-NMR spectrum two signals as singlet at 8.6 and 6.7 ppm were assigned for two hydroperoxide groups. It is interesting to consider the bifunctionality of eugenol towards the reaction with singlet oxygen. From the previous photo-oxygenation reaction, we have seen that the singlet oxygen may either react at the phenolic site to produce the dienone hydroperoxide [10] or at the allylic site to afforded the corresponding allylic hydroperoxides through the ene reaction [11]. The observed mode of selectivity is however, exclusive formation of (3). Subsequent photo-oxygenation of (3) led to the formation of bishydroperoxyde (4), in which now the ene reactivity manifests itself (Scheme 1). Such mode of selectivity between phenolic site reactions versus allylic ene site reaction appears unprecedented. A possible rational for this mode of selectivity might be due to the higher nucleophilicity of the phenloic versus the allylic site in eugenol. It was believed that the singlet oxygen in the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) was combined with the diene group in the benzene ring in the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) as [4+2] cycloaddition through suprafacial - antraficial approach. Whereas, the ene mechanism happened through the formation of peroxirane transition state.

On the other hand, the phenolic site of eugenol was blocked by replacing the phenolic OH group by methoxy group (methyl eugenol ether (2). The eugenol methyl ether was subjected to photooxygenation reaction with the same conditions for eugenol. The expected methyl eugenol ether hydroperoxide (5) was obtained as a sole product (Scheme 2). The IR spectrum showed absorption band at 3540 cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponding to hydroperoxide group (-OOH), which was in agreement with the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR singlet at  $\delta$  6.36 ppm.

The hydroxyl radical (OH) sources that almost have been applied as DNA cleavage reagents are synthetic ones. Adam and his co-workers were the first to use the natural hydroperoxide derivatives (imperatorine hydroperoxid) for damage DNA photochemically [10]. To explore the search for natural hydroxyl radical sources for DNA-cleavage, the eugenol hydroperoxide derivative (4) was photolysized in benzene as a radical trap in the absence of singlet oxygen sensitizer. This afforded eugenol dihydroxide derivative (6) in addition to phenol. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of the photolytic product (6) revealed the presence of two singlets peaks at  $\delta$  5.90 and 4.30 ppm for two hydroxyl groups. Similarly, photolysis of methyl eugenol hydroperoxide derivative (5) was carried out under the same

conditions used for compound (4), where it afforded the corresponding hydroxyl derivative (7) and phenol. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of product (7) indicated a signal at 3.55 ppm as singlet for one proton assigned for the hydroxylic function group.

In this work, it has been proven that the new eugenol hydroperoxide (3), dihydroperoxide (4) and eugenol methyl ether hydroperoxide derivatives (5) affording the corresponding hydroxyl products (6, 7) upon the photolysis under the conditions stated. Therefore, the photolytic products (6), and (7) are expected to be hydroxyl radical generators in skin when these are treated with DNA under the known irradiation conditions.

The efficiency of the epoxides as DNA- alkylating agents is well known [11]. Thus, methyl eugenol epoxide (8) which was prepared from compound (2) using *m*-chlorobenzoic acid (CPBA) was proven from its <sup>1</sup>H- NMR spectrum (c.f experimental part). It is believed that an epoxide such as compound (8) features a new type of alkylating agent for DNA. The aminoantipyrine derivative (9) was prepared by fusion of compound (8) with aminoantipyrine. The IR spectrum of (9) showed the presence of an  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ unsaturated carbonyl group at 1642 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Its <sup>1</sup>H-NMR showed signals at 3.80 ppm and 3.77 ppm as singlets which were assigned for the two methoxy groups, in addition to signals for the olefinic methyl and CH<sub>3</sub>-N appeared at 2.76 and 2.06 ppm respectively.

From the present work, it has been shown that a DNA- alkylating agent was prepared from the natural product eugenol and made available for application and investigation of its genotoxic potentiality.



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#### 4. REFERENCES

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