

Rotenoids, Flavonoids, and Chalcones from the Root Bark of *Millettia usaramensis*

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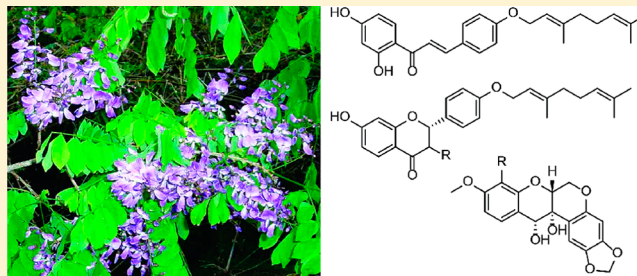
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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Five new compounds, 4-*O*-geranylisoliquiritigenin (1), 12-dihydrousarotenoid B (2), 12-dihydrousarotenoid C (3), 4'-*O*-geranyl-7-hydroxyflavanone (4), and 4'-*O*-geranyl-7-hydroxydihydroflavanol (5), along with 12 known natural products (6–17) were isolated from the CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (1:1) extract of the root bark of *Millettia usaramensis* ssp. *usaramensis* by chromatographic separation. The purified metabolites were identified by NMR spectroscopic and mass spectrometric analyses, whereas their absolute configurations were established on the basis of chiroptical data and in some cases also by X-ray crystallography. The crude extract was moderately active (IC₅₀ = 11.63 μg/mL) against the ER-negative MDB-MB-231 human breast cancer cell line, and accordingly compounds 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 16 also showed moderate to low cytotoxic activities (IC₅₀ 25.7–207.2 μM). The new natural product 1 exhibited antiplasmodial activity with IC₅₀ values of 3.7 and 5.3 μM against the chloroquine-sensitive 3D7 and the chloroquine-resistant Dd2 *Plasmodium falciparum* strains, respectively, and was also cytotoxic to the HEK293 cell line.



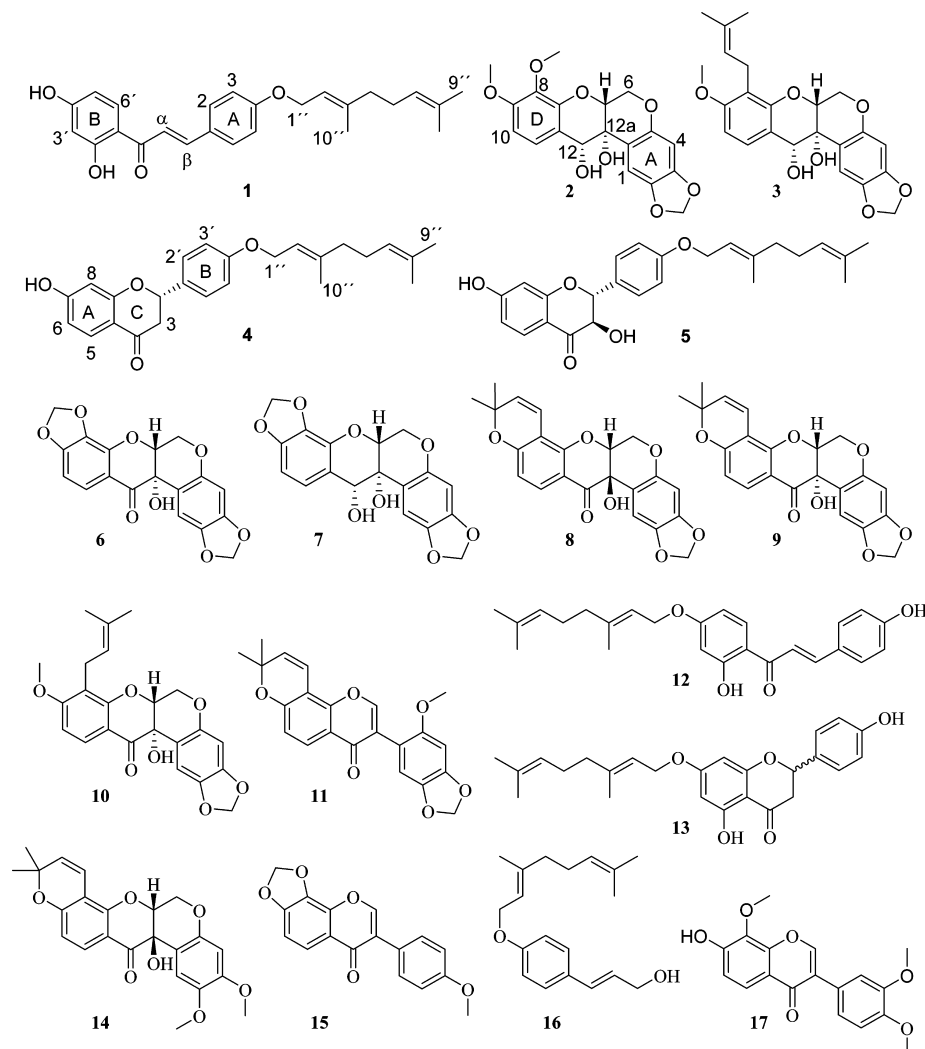
The genus *Millettia* (Leguminosae, subfamily: Papilionoideae) consists of more than 200 species that are native in the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Asia, and Australia.^{1,2} Of these, 139 species are endemic to Africa. *Millettia usaramensis* ssp. *usaramensis*, a shrub or tree that can grow up to 10 m high, is one of the six *Millettia* species that are found in Kenya.³ In traditional medicine, its roots are used as antidote against snake bite.⁴ Whereas the roots of this plant have not yet been phytochemically analyzed, previous investigations of its stem bark yielded unique 12a-hydroxyrotenoids with the unusual *trans*-B/C ring junction as well as chalcones and isoflavones.^{5,6} These compound groups have lately been recognized as emerging leads for antimalarial^{7,8} and anticancer^{9,10} therapy. Herein, the isolation and identification of a new chalcone (1), two new 12-dihydrototenoids (2, 3), a new flavanone (4), a new dihydroflavanol (5), and 12 known secondary metabolites (6–17) are reported. The antiplasmodial activity of compound 1 and the cytotoxic activities of some of the compounds are also presented.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Column chromatographic separation of the CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (1:1) extract of the dried and ground root bark of *M. usaramensis* ssp. *usaramensis*, followed by gel filtration over Sephadex LH-20, and further purification by MPLC and RP-HPLC afforded five new secondary metabolites (1–5) and the 12 known compounds usarotenoid A (6),⁵ 12-dihydrousarotenoid A (7),⁵ millettosin (8),¹¹ 12a-epimillettosin (9),⁵ usarotenoid C (10),⁶ jamaicin (11),¹² 4'-*O*-geranylisoliquiritigenin (12),¹³ 7-*O*-geranyl-5-hydroxyflavanone (13),¹⁴ tephrosin (14),¹⁵ maximaisoflavone H (15),¹⁶ colenemol (16),¹⁷ and 7-hydroxy-8,3',4'-trimethoxyisoflavone (17).¹⁸ Compounds 6–17 were previously reported from the stem bark of the plant,^{5,6} from the seeds of *Millettia dura*,¹¹ and from the roots of *Tephrosia villosa*.¹⁴ The identities of 6–17 were confirmed by comparison of their spectroscopic and physical data to those previously published.

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Chart 1



As part of the structural work, the X-ray structures of usarotenoid A⁵ (6, Figure 1), 12-dihydrousarotenoid A¹¹

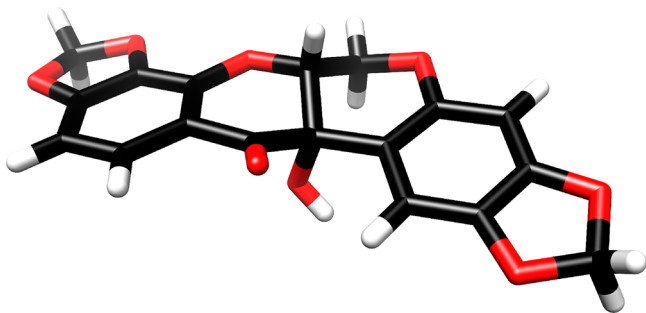


Figure 1. X-ray crystal structure of usarotenoid A (6).

(7, Figure 2), and 12a-epimillettosin⁵ (9, Figure 3) were obtained. The latter solid-state structure was accomplished for the first time, confirming the 6a*R*,12a*S* absolute configuration of the B/C ring junction of 9, which was previously proposed based on an $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ value of +230.4 and the positive and negative Cotton effects at 348 and 324 nm, respectively, in the electronic circular dichroism (ECD) spectrum.

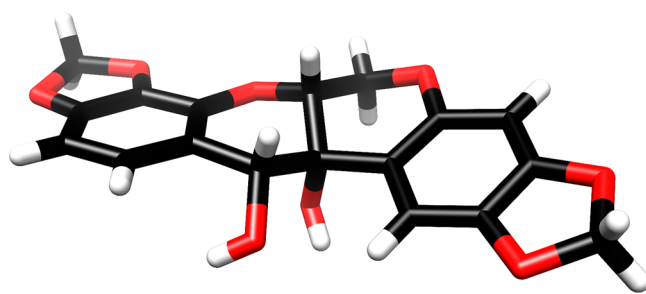


Figure 2. X-ray crystal structure of 12-dihydrousarotenoid A (7).

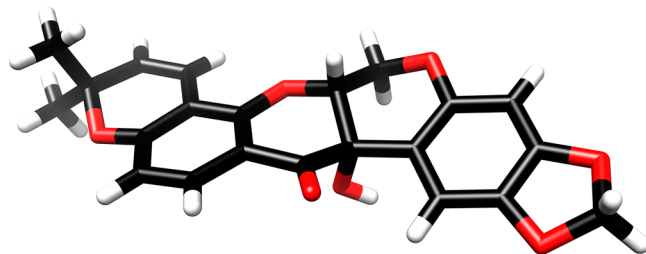


Figure 3. X-ray crystal structure of 12a-epimillettosin (9).

Compound **1** was isolated as a yellow solid. Its HREIMS molecular ion at m/z 392.1968 and ^{13}C NMR data are consistent with the molecular formula $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_4$ (calcd 392.1988). Its UV absorbance at λ_{max} 299 and 370 nm along with the characteristic *trans*-olefinic doublets H- α (δ_{H} 7.39) and H- β (δ_{H} 7.80) with $^3J = 15.4$ Hz, carbonyl (δ_{C} 192.2), C- α (δ_{C} 118.9), and C- β (δ_{C} 144.7) observed by NMR spectroscopy (Table 1) is indicative of a chalcone core skeleton.^{19,20} A broad

Table 1. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectroscopic Data for 4-*O*-Geranylisoliquiritigenin (**1**) Acquired in CD_2Cl_2 (δ_{H} , Multiplicity (J in Hz))

position	δ_{C} , type	δ_{H} , m (J in Hz)	HMBC (H \rightarrow C)
1	127.4, C		
2/6	130.5, CH	7.54, AA'	β , 4, 6
3/5	115.3, CH	6.91, XX'	1, 4
4	161.3, C		
C=O	192.2, C		
C- α	118.9, CH	7.39, d (15.4)	1, β
C- β	144.7, CH	7.80, d (15.4)	2, 6
1'	114.2, C		
2'	163.6, C		
OH-2'		13.64, br s	1', 3', 4'
3'	103.7, CH	6.45, m	1', 2', 4', 5'
4'	166.2, C		
5'	108.3, CH	6.47, m	1', 3'
6'	132.0, CH	7.82, d (8.0)	2', 4', C=O
1''	65.2, CH_2	4.60, d (7.2)	4, 2'', 3''
2''	117.6, CH	5.50, t (7.2)	
3''	142.0, C		
4''	39.6, CH_2	2.10–2.17, m	2'', 3''
5''	25.8, CH_2	2.10–2.17, m	3'', 6''
6''	123.8, CH	5.12, t (7.2)	5'', 8'', 9''
7''	131.9, C		
8''	26.3, CH_3	1.71, s	6'', 7'', 9''
9''	17.8, CH_3	1.63, s	6'', 7'', 9''
10''	16.8, CH_3	1.77, s	2'', 3'', 4''

singlet at δ_{H} 13.64 suggests a hydrogen-bonded hydroxy group (OH-2'), whereas three mutually coupled aromatic protons, H-3' (δ_{H} 6.45), H-5' (δ_{H} 6.47), and H-6' (δ_{H} 7.82), indicate a trisubstituted, dioxygenated B ring. The exclusive *ortho*-coupling ($J = 8.0$ Hz) of H-6' (δ_{H} 7.82) is compatible with a 2',4'-dioxygenation of this trisubstituted ring, which is corroborated by the NOESY and the HMBC cross-peak pattern of **1** (Table 1, Figures S5 and S7, Supporting Information). The AA'XX' spin system (δ_{H} 6.91, 7.54) of the A ring indicates 1,4-disubstitution, whereas the chemical shift of C-4 (δ_{C} 161.3) reveals oxygenation at this position. Connection of ring A to C- β of the olefinic moiety is revealed by the HMBC cross-peaks between H-2/6 (δ_{H} 7.54) and C- β (δ_{C} 144.7) as well as between H- β (δ_{H} 7.80) and C-2/6 (δ_{C} 130.5). Three methyl (δ_{H} 1.63, 1.71, and 1.77), one oxymethylene (δ_{H} 4.60, d, $J = 7.2$ Hz), two methylene (δ_{H} 2.10–2.17, m), and two methine olefinic protons (δ_{H} 5.12, t, $J = 7.2$ Hz and δ_{H} 5.50, t, $J = 7.2$ Hz) connected by COSY and TOCSY cross-peaks (Figures S3 and S4, Supporting Information) suggest the presence of a geranyloxy or a neryloxy substituent. The chemical shifts of C-4'' (δ_{C} 39.6) and C-10'' (δ_{C} 16.8) are in better agreement with a geranyloxy rather than a neryloxy group, whose corresponding carbons would be expected to give rise to signals at approximately δ_{C} 32 and δ_{C} 23, respectively.²¹

This conclusion is further corroborated by the NOE between H-1'' and CH_3 -10''. The NOE between the oxymethylene H-1'' (δ_{H} 4.60) of the geranyloxy side chain and the H-3/5 (δ_{H} 6.91) of ring A reveals the position of geranyloxy substitution at C-4, which was further supported by the HMBC correlation of H-1'' (δ_{H} 4.60) and C-4 (δ_{C} 161.3). The *E*-configuration of the 2''-double bond was confirmed by the observation of an NOE between H-2'' (δ_{H} 5.50) and H-4'' (δ_{H} 2.10–2.17) and the absence of an NOE between H-2'' (δ_{H} 5.50) and CH_3 -10'' (δ_{H} 1.77, Supporting Information). On the basis of the above spectroscopic data **1** was characterized as (*E*)-1-(2,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-3-(4-[(*E*)-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-yl]oxy)-phenyl)prop-2-en-1-one and was assigned the trivial name 4-*O*-geranylisoliquiritigenin.

Compound **2** was obtained as a colorless, amorphous solid and was assigned the molecular formula $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_8$ based on HREIMS analysis (M^+ obs m/z 374.0999, calcd 374.1002) and ^{13}C NMR data (Table 2). Its ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data are compatible with a 12-dihydro-12a-hydroxyrotenoid derivative.⁵ The ABC spin system of H-6a (δ_{H} 4.28, Table 2), H-6 α (δ_{H} 4.34), and H-6 β (δ_{H} 4.39) supports that **2** is a 12a-hydroxyrotenoid derivative.⁵ In contrast to common rotenoids possessing a C-12 carbonyl group, C-12 of **2** is an oxymethine functionality, as revealed by its chemical shift of δ_{C} 70.6. The C-12 hydroxylation is indicated by the coupling (d, $J = 11.4$ Hz) of H-12 (δ_{H} 4.89) and OH-12 (δ_{H} 2.78); upon addition of D_2O to the solution, the signal of OH-12 disappeared and the doublet of H-12 collapsed into a singlet. In ring D, the locations of CH_3O -8 (δ_{H} 3.79) and CH_3O -9 (δ_{H} 3.84) are revealed by their HMBC cross-peaks to C-8 (δ_{C} 136.5) and C-9 (δ_{H} 153.3), respectively, and by the HMBC cross-peaks of the *ortho*-coupled ($J = 9.0$ Hz) H-10 (δ_{C} 6.68) to C-8 and H-11 (δ_{C} 7.27) to C-9, indicating that ring D of **2** is *ortho*-dioxygenated. The proposed di-*ortho*-substitution is corroborated by the deshielding of OCH_3 -8 (δ_{C} 60.9).²² Ring A possesses two isolated aromatic protons, i.e., H-1 (δ_{H} 7.77) and H-4 (δ_{H} 6.39), and a methylenedioxy substituent (δ_{H} 5.92, δ_{C} 101.9), whose substitution pattern has been previously reported for the rotenoids of this plant.⁵ The *trans*-orientation of the B/C ring junction is indicated by a deshielding of H-1.^{6,23–25} Moreover, the NOE of H-6a and H-12 indicates their 1,3-diaxial relationship and, hence, their β -orientations. H-6a and H-6 α are in a 1,2-*trans*-diaxial orientation, as revealed by their large scalar coupling ($J = 10.8$ Hz). The similar chemical shifts of rings A–C and the coupling constants of the H-6 α , H-6 β , and H-6a ABX spin system of **2** (Table 2) to those of 12-dihydroasarotenoid A (7, $J_{\text{H}6\alpha,6a} = 9.9$ Hz, $J_{\text{H}6\beta,6a} = 4.6$ Hz), whose configuration⁵ was previously established by X-ray crystallography⁶ and confirmed in this investigation (Figure 2), further support its proposed relative configuration. Compound **2** gave a high positive specific rotation, $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} +134$, and a positive ECD Cotton effect at ca. 295 nm, similar to **7**, indicating that their absolute configurations should be the same. On the basis of the above spectroscopic evidence, compound **2** was characterized as (6aR,12R,12aR)-8,9-dimethoxy-6,6a-dihydrochromeno[2,3-*c*][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-*g*]chromene-12,12a-(12*H*)-diol and was given the trivial name 12-dihydroasarotenoid B.

Compound **3** was isolated as a colorless, amorphous solid and was assigned the molecular formula $\text{C}_{23}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_7$ based on HREIMS analysis ($[M]^+$ obs m/z 412.1520, calcd 412.1522) and ^{13}C NMR data (Table 2). Its NMR spectra showed similarities to those of **2**, suggesting a close structural

Table 2. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectroscopic Data for 12-Dihydrousarotenoid B (2) and 12-Dihydrousarotenoid C (3) Acquired in CD_2Cl_2 and Acetone- d_6 , Respectively (δ_{H} , Multiplicity (J in Hz))

position	2			3		
	δ_{C} , type	δ_{H} , m (J in Hz)	HMBC(H→C)	δ_{C} , type	δ_{H} , m (J in Hz)	HMBC (H→C)
1	107.2, CH	7.77, s	2, 3, 4a, 12a, 12b	107.2, CH	7.81, s	2, 3, 4, 4a, 12b
2	142.7, C			142.5, C		
3	147.4, C			149.1, C		
4	98.4, CH	6.39, s	2, 4a, 12b	98.3, CH	6.45, s	1, 2, 3, 4a
4a	149.4, C			149.6, C		
6 α	62.6, CH ₂	4.34, dd (10.8, 9.6)	12, 12a	62.3, CH ₂	4.34, dd (13.8, 10.2)	4a, 12, 12a
6 β		4.39, dd (9.6, 4.8)			4.37, dd (10.2, 3.6)	
6a	73.4, CH	4.28, dd (10.8, 4.8)	12a	70.7, CH	4.26, dd (10.8, 4.8)	4a, 12a
7a	149.9, C			151.2, C		
8	136.5, C			118.0, C		
9	153.3, C			157.8, C		
10	106.6, CH	6.68, d (9.0)	8, 9, 11a	105.3, CH	6.67, d (9.0)	7a, 8, 9, 11a
11	123.6, CH	7.27, d (9.0)	9, 12	126.9, CH	7.42, d (9.0)	7a, 9, 10, 11a
11a	119.7, C			117.0, C		
12	70.6, CH	4.89, d (11.4)	11, 11a, 12b	73.0, CH	4.91, d (10.8)	7a, 11a, 12b
12a	64.6, C			64.4, CH	2.78, d (10.8)	
12b	115.7, C			115.1, C		
1'				22.3, CH ₂	3.36, m	7a, 8, 9, 2', 3'
2'				122.2, CH	5.25, t (7.2)	1', 4', 5'
3'				131.5, C		
4'				17.8, CH ₃	1.68, s	2', 3'
5'				25.8, CH ₃	1.78, s	2', 3'
OMe-8	60.9, CH ₃	3.79, s	8			
OMe-9	56.3, CH ₃	3.84, s	9	55.8, CH ₃	3.85, s	9
–OCH ₂ O-10/11	101.9, CH ₂	5.92, d (1.2)	2, 3	101.4, CH ₂	5.93, d (1.2)	2', 3'
		5.93, d (1.2)			5.95, d (1.2)	
OH-12		2.78, d (11.4)	12, 12a		2.78, d (10.8)	
OH-12a		2.50, s	6a, 12, 12a, 12b			

resemblance. Hence, for ring A of 3, two aromatic singlets H-1 (δ_{H} 7.81) and H-4 (δ_{H} 6.45) and a C-2/C-3 methylenedioxy group (δ_{H} 5.94, δ_{C} 101.4) were evident. Its B ring possesses an ABC spin system, H-6a (δ_{H} 4.26), H-6 α (δ_{H} 4.34), and H-6 β (δ_{H} 4.37), typical for 12a-hydroxyrotenoids.⁵ Similar to 2, compound 3 is also a 12-dihydrototenoid derivative, evidenced by the presence of the signals of a C-12 (δ_{C} 73.0) oxymethine carrying a hydroxy group (δ_{H} 2.78). The latter proton couples ($J = 10.8$ Hz) to H-12 (δ_{H} 4.91), and its signal along with its coupling to H-12 disappears upon addition of D_2O , confirming its exchangeable nature. Further similarities of 2 and 3 are confirmed by observation of a methylenedioxy at C-2/C-3 on ring A, which has a pair of *ortho*-coupled aromatic protons, H-10 (δ_{H} 6.67, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz) and H-11 (δ_{H} 7.42, d, $J = 9.0$ Hz), and a methoxy functionality (δ_{H} 3.85, δ_{C} 55.8) at C-9 (δ_{C} 157.8) of ring A, whose placement is confirmed by the H-10 (δ_{H} 6.67) to CH_3O -9 (δ_{H} 3.85) NOE. However, the C-8 methoxy of 2 is replaced with a C-prenyl unit in 3, as revealed by the signals H-1' (δ_{H} 3.36, m), H-2' (δ_{H} 5.25, t, $J = 7.2$ Hz), H-4' (δ_{H} 1.68, s), and H-5' (1.78, s), showing the corresponding COSY, NOESY, and HMBC cross-peak patterns (Table 2, Figures S19–S22, Supporting Information). The placement of the 3,3-dimethylallyl group at C-8 is confirmed by the NOEs observed between CH_3O -9 (δ_{H} 3.85) and H-1' (δ_{H} 3.36) as well as H-2' (δ_{H} 5.25, Figure S20, Supporting Information) and by the HMBC cross-peaks of H-1' (δ_{H} 3.36) to C-7a (δ_{C} 151.2), C-8 (δ_{C} 118.0), and C-9 (δ_{C} 157.8, Table 2). Similar to 2, the *trans*-geometry of the B/C ring junction of 3 was derived from the strong deshielding of H-1 (δ_{H} 7.81) and

the NOEs and J -couplings corresponding to that explained above for 2. Moreover, its comparable chemical shifts and coupling constants to those of 7, whose configuration was confirmed by X-ray crystallography,⁶ support the proposed relative configuration at C-6a, C-12a, and C-12. Once again the high positive specific rotation [α_{D}^{20} +96 and positive ECD Cotton effect at ca. 295 nm are consistent with the identical configurations of the 12-dihydrototenoids (2 and 7) of this plant. On the basis of the above spectroscopic evidence, this new compound (3) was characterized as (6a*R*,12*R*,12a*R*)-9-methoxy-8-(3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)-6,6a-dihydrochromeno-[2,3-*c*][1,3]dioxolo[4,5-*g*]chromene-12,12a(12*H*)-diol and was given the trivial name 12-dihydrousarotenoid C.

Compound 4 was obtained as a white solid. Its molecular formula was determined to be $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_4$ on the basis of HRMS (EI: $[\text{M}]^+$ obs m/z 392.1968, calcd 392.1987; ESI: $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ obs m/z 393.2068, calcd 393.2066) and ^{13}C NMR (Table 3). Analysis of its NMR data identified four $^1\text{H}/^1\text{H}$ spin systems: the aromatic ABX system of ring A with H-5 (δ_{H} 7.79, Table 3), H-6 (δ_{H} 6.57), and H-8 (δ_{H} 6.48), the aliphatic ABX spin system of ring C with H-3a (δ_{H} 2.78), H-3b (δ_{H} 3.06), and H-2 (δ_{H} 5.40), the AA'XX' system of ring B [(H-2' (δ_{H} 7.37) and H-3' (δ_{H} 6.93)], and the spin system of the H-1'–H-10'' geranyloxy moiety¹³ (Table 3). The above data along with the observation of the ^{13}C NMR resonances 4-C=O (δ_{C} 191.9), C-2 (δ_{C} 79.9), and C-3 (δ_{C} 44.1) indicated a flavanone core skeleton. Ring A is expected to be oxygenated at C-7 (δ_{C} 164.2), based on biogenetic considerations,²³ while oxygenation at C-4' of ring B is revealed by its high chemical shift (δ_{C}

Table 3. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectroscopic Data for (2*S*)-4'-*O*-Geranyl-7-hydroxyflavanone (**4**) and (2*R*,3*R*)-4'-*O*-Geranyl-7-hydroxyflavanol (**5**) Acquired in CD_2Cl_2 and $\text{DMSO}-d_6$, Respectively (δ_{H} , Multiplicity (*J* in Hz))

position	4			5		
	δ_{C} , type	δ_{H} , m (<i>J</i> in Hz)	HMBC (H→C)	δ_{C} , type	δ_{H} , m (<i>J</i> in Hz)	HMBC (H→C)
2	79.9, CH	5.40, dd (2.4, 13.2)	3, 1', 2', 6'	83.1, CH	5.09, d (11.6)	3, 4, 8a, 2'/6'
3	44.1, CH ₂	2.78, dd (2.4, 16.8) 3.06, dd (13.2, 16.8)	2, 1'	72.5, CH	4.50, dd (2.5, 11.6)	2, 4, 1'
3-OH					5.52, d (2.5)	
4	191.9, C=O			192.3, C=O		
4a	114.9, C			111.9, C		
5	129.4, CH	7.79, d (8.4)	7, 8a	128.6, CH	7.63, d (8.7)	4, 7, 8a
6	110.9, CH	6.57, dd (2.4, 8.4)	7, 8, 4a	111.0, CH	6.52, dd (2.2, 8.7)	4a, 8
7	164.2, C			165.2, C		
8	103.6, CH	6.48, d (2.4)	6, 7, 4a, 8a	102.4, CH	6.28, d (2.2)	4a, 6, 7, 8a
8a	164.0, C			162.8, C		
1'	130.9, C			129.5, C		
2'	128.0, CH	7.37, m	2, 3', 4', 6'	129.3, CH	7.42, d (8.6)	2, 1', 4'
3'	115.7, CH	6.93, m	1', 4', 5'	114.2, CH	6.95, d (8.6)	1', 4', 3'/5'
4'	159.5, C			158.6, C		
1''	65.3, CH ₂	4.56, d (6.6)	4', 2'', 3''	64.4, CH ₂	4.56, d (6.6)	4', 2'', 3''
2''	119.6, CH	5.46, t (6.0)	4'', 10''	119.7, CH	5.43, t (6.6)	4'', 10''
3''	141.6, C			140.2, CH		
4''	39.8, CH ₂	2.11, m	2'', 6''	39.0, CH ₂	2.06, m	2'', 3'', 5'', 10''
5''	26.5, CH ₂	2.11, m	4'', 6'', 7''	25.8, CH ₂	2.08, m	3'', 4'', 6'', 7''
6''	124.0, CH	5.10, m	8'', 9''	123.8, CH	5.08, m	8'', 9''
7''	132.0, C			131.0, C		
8''	17.7, CH ₃	1.60, s		25.5, CH ₃	1.64, s	6'', 7'', C9''
9''	25.7, CH ₃	1.67, s		17.6, CH ₃	1.57, s	6'', 7'', 8''
10''	16.6, CH ₃	1.73, s		16.3, CH ₃	1.71, s	2'', 3'', 4''

159.5). The HMBC correlation of CH_2 -1'' to C-4' indicates the connection of the geranyloxy group to C-4' of ring B through an ether linkage, which conclusion is corroborated by the NOE correlation observed between CH_2 -1'' and H-3'/H-5'. The *E*-configuration of the 2''-double bond was confirmed by the observation of an NOE between H-2'' (δ_{H} 5.46) and H-4'' (δ_{H} 2.11) and the absence of an NOE between H-2'' (δ_{H} 5.46) and CH_3 -10'' (δ_{H} 1.73, Supporting Information). The ECD spectrum of **4** displayed positive and negative Cotton effects at 332 and 302 nm, respectively, consistent with a 2*S*-configuration.²⁵ This new compound was identified as (*S*)-*E*-2-(4-[[3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-yl]oxy]phenyl)-7-hydroxychroman-4-one and was given the semisystematic name (*S*)-4'-*O*-geranyl-7-hydroxyflavanone.

The molecular formula of compound **5**, isolated as a white, amorphous solid, was determined to be $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_5$ on the basis of HRESIMS ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ obs *m/z* 409.2020, calcd 409.2015) and ^{13}C NMR. Its NMR spectroscopic features were similar to those of compound **4** except that those of **5** were typical of a dihydroflavanol. Thus, ring A of **5** exhibits an AMX spin system (Table 3), i.e., H-5 (δ_{H} 7.63, d, *J* = 8.7 Hz), H-6 (δ_{H} 6.52, dd, *J* = 8.7, 2.2 Hz), and H-8 (δ_{H} 6.28, d, *J* = 2.2 Hz), compatible with C-7 (δ_{C} 165.2) oxygenation, similar to **4**. The large scalar coupling constant (*J* = 11.6 Hz) of H-2 (δ_{H} 5.09) and H-3 (δ_{H} 4.50) of ring C, which is hydroxylated (δ_{H} 5.52) at C-3 (δ_{C} 72.5), indicates the diaxial orientation of these protons. The 4'-*O*-geranyl substitution of ring B of **5** corresponds to that of **4**, as revealed by their similar NMR data. Accordingly, the *E*-configuration of the 2''-double bond was confirmed by the observation of an NOE between H-2'' (δ_{H} 5.43) and H-4'' (δ_{H} 2.06), whereas no NOE was observed between H-2'' (δ_{H} 5.43) and CH_3 -10'' (δ_{H} 1.71, Supporting Information). The

sequential positive and negative Cotton effects at 334 and 300 nm are consistent with the 2*R*,3*R* absolute configuration.²⁵ On the basis of the above data, the structure of the new compound was characterized as (2*R*,3*R*)-2-(4-[[*E*]-3,7-dimethylocta-2,6-dien-1-yl]oxy]phenyl)-3,7-dihydroxychroman-4-one and was given the trivial name (2*R*,3*R*)-4'-*O*-geranyl-7-hydroxydihydroflavanol.

The crude extract of the root bark of *M. usaramensis* ssp. *usaramensis* and some of its constituents were tested for cytotoxicity against the MDB-MB-231 human breast cancer and against the HEK293 human embryonic kidney cell lines (Table 4). The cytotoxicity of the crude extract (IC_{50} 11.63 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) on MDB-MB-231 cells is comparable to that of **10**, whereas all other tested constituents show lower toxicities. The antiplasmodial activity of 4'-*O*-geranylisoliquiritigenin (**12**) against chloroquine-sensitive (D6) and chloroquine-resistant (W2) *Plasmodium falciparum* has been previously reported (IC_{50} 10.6 and 8.7 μM , respectively).⁶ Its isomer, the new geranylated chalcone **1**, shows moderate antiplasmodial activity against the chloroquine-sensitive 3D7 (IC_{50} 3.7 μM) and the chloroquine-resistant Dd2 (IC_{50} 5.3 μM) *P. falciparum* strains. Compound **1** also shows toxicity against HEK-293 cells (100% inhibition at 40 μM ; see the Experimental Section for details), demonstrating no selectivity for the malaria parasite and limiting its development as an antimalarial lead compound. The major rotenoids of this plant (Table 4) were also tested for antiplasmodial activities against the two strains but were only moderately active.

In conclusion, a new chalcone (**1**), two new 12-dihydrorotenoids (**2** and **3**), a new flavanone (**4**), a new dihydroflavanol (**5**), and 12 known natural products (**6**–**17**) were isolated from the root bark of *M. usaramensis* ssp.

Table 4. Cytotoxic Activities of the *M. usaramensis* ssp. *usaramensis* Crude Root Extract and of Some of Its Isolated Constituents against MDB-MB-231 Cells

sample	IC ₅₀ ^{a,b}		
	MDB-MB-231	3D7	Dd2
<i>M. usaramensis</i> crude root extract ^a	11.63		
4- <i>O</i> -geranylisoliquiritigenin (1)		3.67	6.97
usarotenoid A (6)	87.3	99% ^c	90% ^c
12-dihydrousarotenoid A (7)	>279.3		
millettosin (8)	61.7		
12a-epimillettosin (9)	100.7	28% ^c	29% ^c
usarotenoid C (10)	25.7		
jamaicin (11)		94% ^c	81% ^c
4'- <i>O</i> -geranylisoliquiritigenin (12)	125.5		
tephrosin (14)		13.27	12.05
colenemol (16)	207.2		

^aIC₅₀ is given in µg/mL for crude and in µM for pure compounds; 95% confidence intervals are given in the Supporting Information (S74). ^bAs positive controls pyrimethamine (IC₅₀ = 6.1 ± 5.1 nM (3D7), 62% at 40 µM (Dd2), 75% at 40 µM (HEK293)), chloroquine (IC₅₀ = 4.3 ± 0.3 nM (3D7), IC₅₀ = 69.9 ± 34.5 nM (Dd2), 51% at 40 µM (HEK293)), pyronaridine (IC₅₀ = 10.7 ± 10.0 nM (3D7), IC₅₀ = 12.6 ± 7.2 nM (Dd2), IC₅₀ = 2.71 ± 1.3 µM (HEK293)), pumomycin (IC₅₀ = 43.7 ± 29.7 nM (3D7), IC₅₀ = 54.3 ± 12.8 nM (Dd2), IC₅₀ = 0.46 ± 1.41 µM (HEK293)), artesunate (IC₅₀ = 1.6 ± 1.5 nM (3D7), IC₅₀ = 0.8 ± 0.5 nM (Dd2), 73% at 20 µM (HEK293)), and dihydroartemisinin (IC₅₀ = 0.4 ± 0.5 nM (3D7), IC₅₀ = 0.4 ± 0.3 nM (Dd2), 54% at 40 µM (HEK293)) were used. Details are given in the Supporting Information. ^cThe largest percentage inhibition observed at 100 µM concentration is given, where IC₅₀ could not be accurately determined. The inhibitory activities are given as the mean value of at least two independent measurements.

usaramensis. Among the compounds tested for cytotoxicity, usarotenoid C (10) showed the highest activity. 4-*O*-Geranylisoliquiritigenin (1) showed moderate antiparasitoid activity with marginal selectivity index.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Experimental Procedures. Melting points were obtained on a B-545 Switzerland Büchi melting point apparatus, optical rotations were measured on a PerkinElmer 341-LC polarimeter, whereas ECD experiments were run on a Jasco J-715 spectropolarimeter. UV spectra were recorded on a Specord S600 (Analytik Jena AG) spectrophotometer. NMR spectra were acquired at 400, 500, 600, and 800 MHz (¹H NMR) on Varian MR-400, Varian VNMR-S 500, Bruker Avance 600, and Bruker Avance III HD 800 spectrometers, using the residual solvent peaks as reference. The spectra were processed using MestReNova 10.0. EIMS spectra were obtained on a Micromass GC-TOFmicro mass spectrometer (Micromass, Wythenshawe, Waters Inc., UK), using direct inlet and 70 eV ionization voltage. LC-ESIMS were acquired on a PerkinElmer PE SCIEX API 150EX instrument equipped with a Turbolon spray ion source connected to a Gemini 5 mm RPC₁₈ 110 Å column and applying a H₂O/MeCN (80:20–20:80) gradient with a separation time of 8 min. TLC was carried out on Merck precoated silica gel 60 F254 plates. Column chromatography and MPLC were run on silica gel 60 (70–230 mesh). Gel filtration was done on Sephadex LH-20. Preparative HPLC was carried out on a Waters 600E instrument using the Chromulan (Pikron Ltd.) software and an RP C₈ Kromasil (250 mm × 55 mm) column with a H₂O/MeOH solvent system. X-ray data were obtained using an Agilent SuperNova Dual diffractometer with Atlas detector at *T* = 123.0(1) K using mirror-monochromatized Cu Kα radiation (λ = 1.541 84 Å).

Plant Material. The root bark of *M. usaramensis* ssp. *usaramensis* was collected from the Jadini forest, at the Coast Province, Kenya, in

February 2008. The plant material was identified by Mr. S. G. Mathenge of the Herbarium, School of Biological Sciences, University of Nairobi, where the voucher specimen (Mathenge 2008/374) was deposited.

Extraction and Isolation. The dried and ground root bark of *M. usaramensis* ssp. *usaramensis* (1 kg) was extracted using 3 × 3 L of CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (1:1), for 24 h in each case, yielding 110 g of a brown-orange crude extract following concentration using a rotary evaporator. Approximately 100 g of the crude extract was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel (500 g) eluting with *n*-hexane containing increasing percentages of EtOAc. The fractions eluting with 2% EtOAc in *n*-hexane gave colenemol (16, 110 mg) and millettosin (8, 12.1 mg). The fractions eluted with 3% EtOAc in *n*-hexane were purified by crystallization from MeOH to yield 12a-epimillettosin (9, 140.4 mg). The mother liquid of the crystallization was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel eluting with *n*-hexane and increasing amounts of EtOAc and subsequently on Sephadex LH-20 using CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (1:1) eluent, yielding 12-dihydrousarotenoid C (3, 19 mg). The fractions eluting with 4% EtOAc in *n*-hexane were further purified by crystallization from MeOH, giving usarotenoid A (6, 86.0 mg). The mother liquid of this fraction was further separated by MPLC with *n*-hexane and increasing amounts of CH₂Cl₂ to give 4'-*O*-geranylisoliquiritigenin (12, 95.0 mg), 4-*O*-geranylisoliquiritigenin (1, 94.7 mg), and an additional mixture of two compounds. The latter mixture was separated by preparative HPLC, using the MeOH/H₂O gradient elution in decreasing polarity to give usarotenoid C (10, 9.4 mg) and 12a-epimillettosin (9, 6.0 mg). Another portion of this fraction (4% EtOAc in *n*-hexane) was purified on Sephadex, using CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (1:1) as an eluent, and gave maximaisoflavone H (15, 4.0 mg) and an additional 7 mg of usarotenoid A (6). The fractions eluted by 5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane were combined and subjected to column chromatography, using CH₂Cl₂/*n*-hexane (8:2), to afford three subfractions. One of these was purified by preparative HPLC to give 7-*O*-geranyl-5-hydroxyflavanone (13, 2.6 mg). Tephrosin (14, 2.5 mg) was obtained from the fractions eluted with 6% EtOAc in *n*-hexane, by purification on Sephadex with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (1:1) and subsequently by preparative RP-HPLC, using MeOH/H₂O gradient elution. The fraction eluted with 7% EtOAc in *n*-hexane was subjected to column chromatography over silica gel using a 0–70% CH₂Cl₂ in *n*-hexane eluent mixture to afford jamaicin (11, 27.6 mg), 4'-*O*-geranyl-7-hydroxydihydroflavonol (5, 2.8 mg), and 4'-*O*-geranyl-7-hydroxyflavanone (4, 207.4 mg). 12-Dihydrousarotenoid B (2, 15.0 mg) was isolated from the fraction eluted with 8% EtOAc in *n*-hexane by purification on Sephadex with a CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (1:1) eluent mixture. The fractions eluted with 11–15% EtOAc in *n*-hexane were combined, concentrated, and crystallized from MeOH to give 12-dihydrousarotenoid A (7, 157.8 mg). Following crystallization, the mother liquid was subjected to preparative TLC (eluted with 4% acetone in CH₂Cl₂), yielding 7-hydroxy-8,3',4'-trimethoxyisoflavone (17, 2.1 mg).

4-*O*-Geranylisoliquiritigenin (1): yellow solid; mp 95–97 °C; UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ) 299 (4.2), 370 (3.5) nm; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table 1 and Figures S1–S7; HREIMS *m/z* 392.1968 (calcd for C₂₅H₂₈O₄ 392.1988).

12-Dihydrousarotenoid B (2): colorless, amorphous solid; [α]_D²⁰ +134 (c 0.0001, CH₂Cl₂); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ) 301 (4.2) nm; ECD (MeOH) 295 (+2.1); ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table 2 and Figures S9–S14; HREIMS *m/z* 374.0999 (calcd for C₁₉H₁₈O₈ 374.1002).

12-Dihydrousarotenoid C (3): colorless, amorphous solid; [α]_D²⁰ +96 (c 0.0001, CH₂Cl₂); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ) 299 (4.3) nm; ECD (MeOH) 295 (+2.4); ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table 2 and Figures S17–S22; EIMS *m/z* 412 [M]⁺ (18), 389 (34), 256 (40), 192 (26), 163 (25), 150 (27), 137 (42), 107 (43), 81 (37), 69 (100); HREIMS *m/z* 412.1520 (calcd for C₂₃H₂₄O₇ 412.1522).

(5)-4'-*O*-Geranyl-7-hydroxyflavanone (4): colorless, sticky oil; [α]_D²⁰ –28 (c 0.0002, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ) 275 (4.2), 310 (3.7) nm; ECD (MeOH) 332 (+4.3), 302 (–8.7); ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table 3 and Figures S25–S29; HREIMS *m/z* 392.1968 (calcd for C₂₅H₂₈O₄ 392.1988).

(2*R*,3*R*)-4'-*O*-Geranyl-7-hydroxydihydroflavonol (5): colorless, amorphous solid; UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} 279, 305 nm; ECD (MeOH) 334 (+0.8), 300 (-3.3); ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data, see Table 3 and Figures S31–S36; HRESIMS m/z 409.2020 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ (calcd for $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_5$, 409.1937).

12*a*-Epimillettosin (9): needles (MeOH); mp 256–258 °C; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20}$ +230 (*c* 0.0013, CH_2Cl_2); ECD (MeOH): 324 (-10.2), 348 (+31.9); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ) 235 (4.54), 240 (2.38), 276 (4.38), 312 (3.99); ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data, see Figures S67–S75; ESIMS m/z 395.0 $[\text{M} + \text{H} - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$, 377.3 $[\text{M}]^+$.

Cytotoxicity Assays. MDB-MB-231 human breast cancer cells were cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM), supplemented with 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum, 2 mM L-glutamine, 100 units/mL penicillin, and 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ streptomycin at 37 °C in humidified 5% CO_2 . For cytotoxicity assays, cells were seeded in 96-well plates at optimal cell density (10 000 cells per well) to ensure exponential growth for the duration of the assay. After a 24 h preincubation growth, the medium was replaced with experimental medium containing the appropriate drug concentrations or vehicle controls (0.1% or 1.0% v/v DMSO). After 72 h incubation, cell viability was measured using Alamar Blue reagent (Invitrogen Ab, Lidingö, Sweden) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Absorbance was measured at 570 nm with 600 nm as a reference wavelength. Results were expressed as the mean \pm standard error for six replicates as a percentage of vehicle control (taken as 100%). Experiments were performed independently at least six times. Statistical analyses were performed using a two-tailed Student's *t* test. $P < 0.05$ was considered to be statistically significant (Supporting Information, S74).

To assess the cytotoxicity of compounds on HEK-293 cells in dose response, a resazurin-based viability assay was used. In brief, HEK293 cells were grown in DMEM medium (Life Technologies), containing 10% fetal calf serum (FCS; Gibco), trypsinised, counted, and seeded at 2000 cells per well in 45 μL of media into TC-treated 384-well plates (Greiner) and left to adhere overnight at 37 °C, 5% CO_2 , and 60% humidity. Test compounds were prepared by diluting compounds 1 in 25 in sterile H_2O and then another 1 in 10 dilution, to give a final test concentration of 40 μM , 0.4% DMSO. Plates were incubated for 72 h at 37 °C, 5% CO_2 , and 95% humidity, and then the media was removed and replaced by 35 μL of 44 μM resazurin in DMEM without FCS. The plates were incubated for another 4–6 h at 37 °C, 5% CO_2 , and 95% humidity, before reading on an EnVision plate reader (PerkinElmer) using fluorescence excitation/emission settings of 530 nm/595 nm. The percent growth was standardized to controls (5 μM puromycin as positive and 0.4% DMSO as negative control) using Microsoft Excel 2013. A statistical analysis including IC_{50} determination and graphical output was performed in GraphPad Prism 6 using nonlinear regression variable slope curve fitting.

***P. falciparum* Culture.** In vitro parasite cultures of the *P. falciparum* strains 3D7 and Dd2 were maintained in RPMI with 10 mM Hepes (Life Technologies), 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ hypoxanthine (Sigma), and 5% human serum from male AB plasma and 2.5 mg/mL AlbuMAX II (Life Technologies). Human 0+ erythrocytes were obtained from the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (Agreement No. 13-04QLD-09). The parasites were maintained at 2–8% parasitemia (% P) at 5% hematocrit (% H) and incubated at 37 °C, 5% CO_2 , 5% O_2 , 90% N_2 , and 95% humidity.

***P. falciparum* Growth Inhibition Assay.** A well-established asexual *P. falciparum* imaging assay was used to determine parasite growth inhibition.²⁶ In brief, sorbitol (5% w/v) synchronization was performed twice, approximately 8 h apart, on each synchronization day for two consecutive ring cycles, i.e., on days 1 and 3 of assay preparation. On day 2, the culture was split to approximately 2% trophozoite parasitemia. On day 4, the culture was split to 1–1.5% trophozoite parasitemia, which yielded approximately an 8% ring parasitemia after 48 h on day 5, the day of the assay. Compound stocks (10 mM in 100% DMSO) were diluted 1 in 25 in H_2O , just prior to use. An additional 1 in 10 dilution was performed, resulting in a 1:250 overall compound dilution and a final DMSO concentration of 0.4%. For dose–response curves, a three-step logarithmic serial dilution was

prepared at 40 μM top concentration for test compounds for the asexual assay and 2 μM for the positive control artemisinin. A 5 μL portion of the diluted test compound or control solutions (2 μM artemisinin as positive and 0.4% DMSO as negative control) was added to 384-well CellCarrier imaging plates (PerkinElmer). Parasite cultures were added to a final concentration of 2% parasitemia and 0.3% hematocrit. Plates were incubated for 72 h at 37 °C, 5% CO_2 , and 95% humidity. On day 8, the permeabilization and nuclear staining buffer was prepared in PBS containing 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ saponin, 0.01% Triton X, 5 mM EDTA (all Sigma), and 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI; Life Technologies).²⁶

Prior to imaging on an Opera Confocal Imager (PerkinElmer) at 405 nm excitation with a 20 \times water, objective plates were incubated overnight at room temperature. An automated primary image analysis was performed concurrent with image acquisition, utilizing an Acapella software (PerkinElmer) script to determine the number of parasites based on object size and fluorescence intensity.²⁶ Determination of the percent growth compared to controls (2 μM artemisinin as positive and 0.4% DMSO as negative control) was performed in Microsoft Excel 2013. Statistical analysis including IC_{50} determination and graphical output was performed in GraphPad Prism 6 using nonlinear regression variable slope curve fitting. As positive controls pyrimethamine (3D7: 2.5 nM, Dd2: 50% at 40 μM , HEK270: 4.22 nM), chloroquine (3D7: 4.5 nM, Dd2: 45.5 nM, HEK270: 60% at 40 μM), pyronaridine (3D7: 3.6 nM, Dd2: 7.51 nM, HEK270: 1.79 nM), puromycin (3D7: 22.7 nM, Dd2: 45.2 nM, HEK270: 361 nM), artesunate (3D7: 0.5 nM, Dd2: 0.443 nM, HEK270: 75% at 20 μM), and DHA (3D7: 0.1 nM, Dd2: 0.146 nM, HEK270: 50% at 20 μM) were used. Statistical data are given in the Supporting Information.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.jnatprod.5b00581.

1D and 2D NMR, MS, UV, and CD spectra and data for X-ray crystallography, cytotoxicity, and antiplasmodial assays (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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