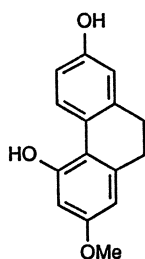


28.1 Introduction

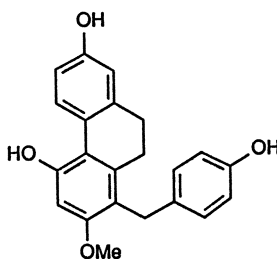
Baiji, Rhizoma Bletillae, is the dry tuber of *Bletilla striata* (Thunb.) Reich. f. (Orchidaceae) dug in summer and fall and dried after cooking or steaming. It is listed officially in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia and can be used in treatment of hemorrhagic and especially gastric and pulmonary diseases.

28.2 Chemical Constituents

The methanol extract from sliced tubers of *B. striata* exhibited antimicrobial activity in vitro. Subsequent fractionation of the extract revealed that the bioactivity was restricted to the phenolic part, from which five active principles were isolated. The structures of these five substances were determined by various spectroscopic methods. Two of them were identified as the dihydrophenanthrenes 4,7-dihydroxy-2-methoxy-9,10-dihydrophenanthrene (28-1) and its 1-*p*-hydroxybenzyl derivative (28-2). The other three compounds were the bibenzyl derivatives 3,3'-dihydroxy-5-methoxy- (28-3) and 3-hydroxy-3',5-dimethoxy-2,6-bis(*p*-hydroxybenzyl)bibenzyl (28-4) and 3,3'-dihydroxy-5-methoxy-2,5',6-tris-(*p*-hydroxybenzyl)bibenzyl (28-5) [1].



4,7-Dihydroxy-2-methoxy-9,10-dihydrophenanthrene (28-1)



4,7-Dihydroxy-2-methoxy-1-*p*-hydroxybenzyl-9,10-dihydrophenanthrene (28-2)