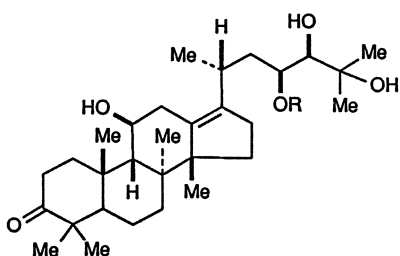


10.1 Introduction

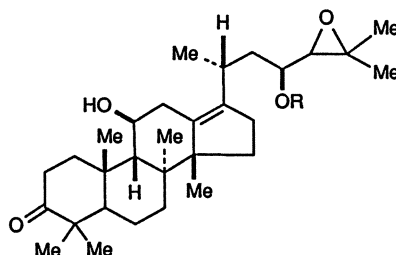
Zexie, Rhizoma Alismatis, is the dry rhizome of *Alisma orientalis* (Sam.) Juzep. (Alismataceae). This official herbal drug is used in traditional Chinese medicine as a diuretic in the treatment of oliguresis and edema. It is also used to treat hyperlipidemia.

10.2 Chemical Constituents

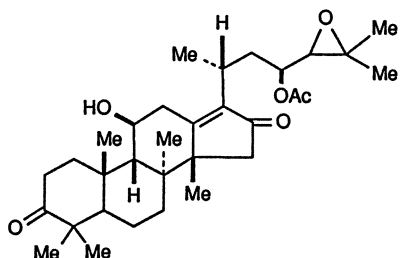
Six triterpenes were isolated from the rhizome of *A. orientalis*: alisol A (10-1), alisol A monoacetate (10-2) [1–3], alisol B (10-3), alisol B monoacetate (10-4) [1, 2, 4], alisol C monoacetate (10-5) [4], and *epi*-alisol A (10-6) [1]. All have a dammarane (10-7) as a structural feature. The structure of alisol A was established by X-ray crystallography of crystalline alisol A triacetate; the structure of other alisols was determined by chemical and spectral analysis using alisol as a reference.



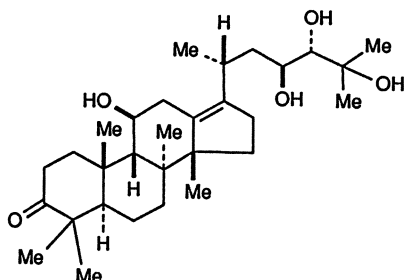
Alisol A (10-1): R=H
Alisol A monoacetate (10-2): R=Ac



Alisol B (10-3): R=H
Alisol B monoacetate (10-4): R=Ac



Alisol C monoacetate (10-5)



epi-Alisol A (10-6)