NEW CYTOTOXIC TRITERPENEQUINONE DERIVATIVES

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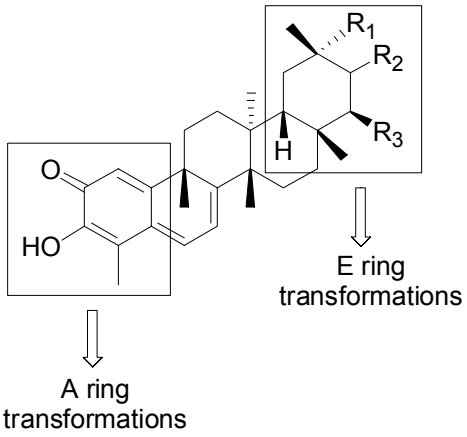
Driven by on interest in bioactive metabolites present in *Celastraceae* species used in South American folk medicine [1], we carried out the phytochemical study of *Cheiloclinium hippocratioides*. We isolated a set of nine novel sesquiterpene-triterpene hetero Diels-Alder adducts together with several triterpenequinones which turned out to be the main secondary metabolites [2].
Because of the cytotoxic activity of the triterpenequinones, we decided to evaluate the influence on the antitumor activity of some modifications on the triterpenemethide skeleton. We carried out transformations on the A and E hydrophilic rings, modifying the type and number of hydrogen bond donors and acceptors present in these rings.
The results achieved and the structure-activity relationships that can be inferred from the available data will be discussed in this communication.



[1] Ravelo, A. G.; Estévez-Braun, A.; Chávez, H.; Pérez-Sacau, E.; Mesa-Siverio, D. *Curr. Top. Med. Chem.* **2004**, *4*, 241-265.
[2] Mesa-Siverio, D; Chávez, H.; Estévez-Braun, A.; Ravelo, A. G. *Tetrahedron*. **2005**, *61*, 429-436.