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Synthesis of Novel Betulin-Triazole Conjugates and Exploration of Their Biological Activity

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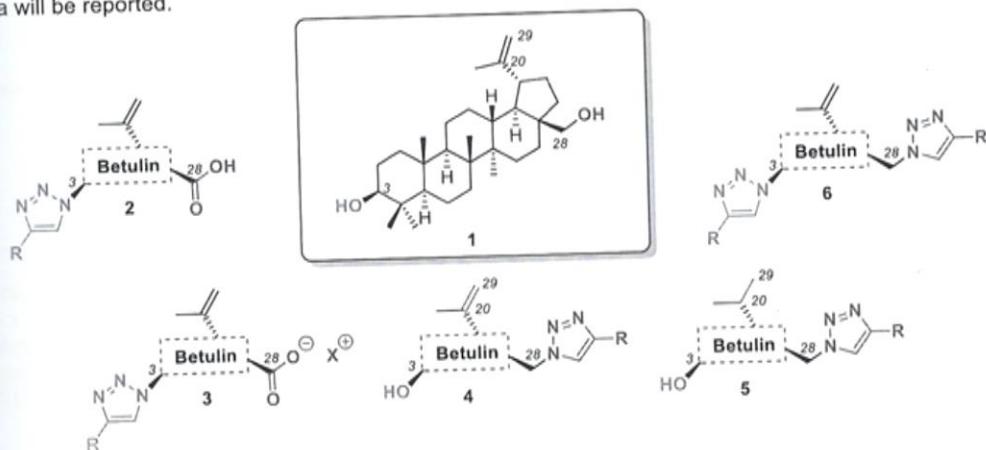
Betulin (**1**) is an abundant naturally occurring triterpene that is most commonly found in birch bark. Research shows, that betulin and its derivatives possess wide spectrum of biological activity – antiinflammatory, anti-HIV and anticancer properties.¹ To improve the latter, structural modifications with new biological activity are being made.²

The synthesis of triterpenoid-triazole monoconjugates at C(3) position (**2**) was initiated by Jones oxidation. Obtained ketocarboxylic acid was used in reductive amination followed by diazotransfer reaction. In CuAAC reaction from azido derivative 1,2,3-triazoles were synthesised and converted to corresponding salts (**3**) with ammonia, choline and some amino acids.

The synthesis of triterpenoid-triazole monoconjugates at C(28) position (**4** and **5**) was initiated by selective primary alcohol oxidation. The latter were treated with hydroxylamine hydrochloride followed by catalytic hydrogenation. By differentiating reaction conditions we were able to obtain products with or without reduced double bond at C(20)-C(29) position. Obtained amines were used in diazotransfer reaction to obtain corresponding azides. The latter were used in CuAAC reaction to obtain sets of 1,2,3-triazole conjugates.

The synthesis of triterpenoid-triazole diconjugates at positions C(3) and C(28) was initiated by employing betulin in Swern oxidation conditions. Obtained ketoaldehyde was treated with hydroxylamine hydrochloride followed by reductive amination. From the obtained diamine respective diazide and following bistriazoles were easily synthesised similarly to monoconjugate synthesis.

Novel triterpene-1,2,3-triazole conjugates were tested on rare cancer cell lines and obtained cytotoxicity data will be reported.



Scheme or Figure 1: Novel betulin-1,2,3-triazole conjugates.

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A			
Aav, Riina	F4, P23	Bergander, Klaus	F35, P192
Abrams, Roman	F33, P17	Bernardo, B.	P167
Adamski, Ariel	P114	Berta, Máté	P134
Adamson, Jasper	F4, P23	Bertrand, Sophie	P87
Adenot, Aurélien	F17	Berzina, Laima	P101
Afanasyev, Oleg	F44	Betz, Kerry N.	F21, P16
Afonso, Carlos A. M.	F32	Bieszczad, Bartosz	P158
Agrofoglio, Luigi. A.	F11, P173	Bihel, Frédéric	F10
Ahmad, Anees	P62	Biteau, Nicolas. G.	F11, P173
Ahr, M.	F3	Bizdina, Erika	P56, P59, P98
Aispure, Klaudija	P106	Blackburn, R.S.	P48
Akahira, Shiori	OC7	Blacker, A.J.	P48
Albalat, Muriel	P171	Blondin, G.	F3, P169
Albrecht, Anna	F24	Bognar, Sabine	P26
Albrecht, Łukasz	F9	Boiaryna, Liliana	P163
Alemán, José	P44	Boichenko, M. A.	P41
Alkan-Zambada, Murat	F37, P6	Bojanowski, Jan	F24
Alves, Américo J. S.	P71	Böldl, Marlene	F56, P20
Alves, Cláudia C.	P105	Bolm, Carsten	P55, P61
Alves, Luís G.	P154	Bolsakova, Jekaterina	P39
Amer, Mostafa M.	F16, P155	Bonfield, Holly E.	P37
Amorim, Catarina	P182	Bonifazi, Davide	P49
Amos, S. G. E.	P53	Borbinha, L.	P176
Andreev, Ivan A.	P41, P42	Borisov, O. V.	OC4
Angolinie, Célio F.F	P115, P116	Bormann, Carl Thomas	P27
Anjos, Janaína Versiani dos	P130	Bose, Sritama	F12
Ansari, L.	P166	Bouakher, Abderrahman El	P163
Antal, R.	P103, P104, P108	Bourke, Eoin	P158
Antunes, C. M.	P184	Bourriquen, Florian	F13
Antunes, Margarida M.	P66	Bower, John F.	P87
Antunes, R.	P109	Boyd, Olivia A.	P87
Aoki, Takuma	P40	Boyer, Alistair	F57, P175
Aroso, Rafael T.	F26	Božek, B.	P82
Asano, Kaori	P74	Bradley, E.	P14
Ascough, D. M. H.	OC14	Branco, Luis C.	F31, P156
Atodiresei, Iuliana	OC25, P50	Branco, P. S.	P109
Audran, Gerard	P117	Brandão, Pedro	P183
Azizi, Mohamed Salah	P163	Bricard, Jacques	F10
B		Brosge, Felix	P55
Bagnoli, Luana	F45	Brown, J. M.	OC14
Bakos, Mária	P135	Bruneau-Voisine, Antoine	F13
Banach, Łukasz	OC24	Bruno, Ana Sofia M.	F30
Baradzenka, Aliona G.	P1	Brůža, Z.	P103, P104, P108
Barone, V.	P92	Buono, Gérard	P171
Bartens, Christian	P34	Burcevs, Aleksejs	P88
Barysevich, Maryia V.	F15, P3		P105, P179,
Bastin, Stéphanie	P122	Burke, Anthony J.	P181, P182,
Batista, Vasco F.	P191		P183, P184,
Baumert, Marcel Emir	P10		P186, P187
Becker, Hubert	F11, P173	Burtoloso, Antonio C. B.	P62
Bekish, Y.	P188	Buzs, Agris	P101
Belaj, Ferdinand	OC18	Byrne, Liam	F22, P45
Belaunieks, Rūdolfs	P107	C	
Benaglia, Maurizio	OC8	Cabral, Rafaela	P110
Benohoud, M.	P48	Cabrera, Silvia	P44