

Ex Chiral Pool Synthesis from a Highly Methyl-branched Wax Ester and Biological Properties of (+)-Capensifuranone

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Dedicated to Professor Gerhard Maas on the occasion of his 60th birthday

Unnatural (+)-capensifuranone (+)-**2** and its epimer (–)-5-*epi*-capensifuranone **6** were prepared from enantiopure methyl-branched aldehyde **4**, employing cyclisation with 3-bromomethacrylic acid to 4-bromofuranones **5a,b** followed by Negishi cross coupling. Compound **4** was obtained from the preen-gland wax-derived ester **3** after ozonolysis and reductive work-up. The configuration of **6** was determined *via* the X-ray crystal structure analysis of a derivative **10**. Compounds (+)-**2**, **5a,b** and **6** showed cytotoxic activity against L-929 mouse fibroblasts, and KB-3-1 HeLa and U-937 lymphoma cells.

Key words: Cytotoxic Activity, Ex Chiral Pool Synthesis, Genus *Siphonaria*, Polypropionates, Preen-gland Wax Ester