

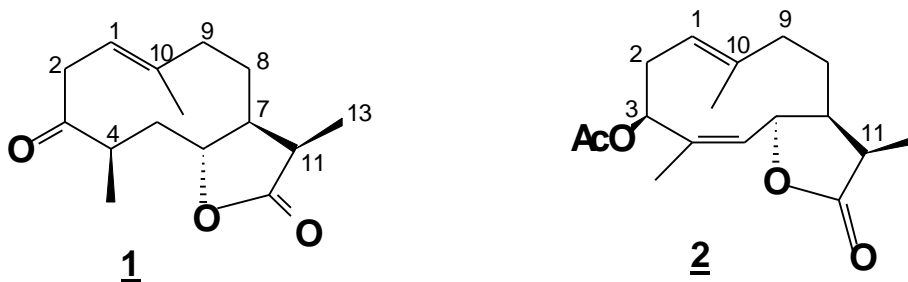
Stereochemistry of Ketopelenolide B

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Known sesquiterpene lactone ketopelenolide **B** (**1**) has been isolated from aerial part of *Ajania fruticulosa* (Ldb.) Poljak (yield 0.001% on dry weight). The stereochemistry of asymmetric center at C-11 only proposed on chemical data and now we established it as R by X-ray diffraction analysis.



Lactone (**1**) forms two crystallographic independent molecules (**1a** and **1b**) in crystal state. Torsional angles C2C1C10C9 and C3C4C5C6 are 16.2° and -56.8° for **1a**; 165.2° and -54.6° for **1b**. Conformation of carbon cycle may be characterized as boat-chair of ¹⁴D₁, ⁵D₁₅-type. The conformation of lactone cycle is almost ideal 7β-envelope in both **1a** and **1b** ($\Delta C_s^7 = 1.6^\circ$ and 1.9° accordingly).

It is interesting that configuration asymmetric center at C(11) of ketopelenolide **B** is the same as in parent germacrane lactone ajanolide **A** (**2**), discovered by authors in the same plant.