

Two New Saccharide Fatty Acid Esters from the Fruit of *Morinda citrifolia* L. and Their ABTS Radical Scavenging Activities

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Abstract: Two new saccharide fatty acid esters (1) and (2), and six other compounds were isolated from the fruit of *Morinda citrifolia* L. (Rubiaceae). The structures were established as (2E)-oct-2-enoate-2-O-β-D-glucopyranosyl-β-D-glucopyranoside(1), (2E)-2,6-dimethyl-6-hydroxyl-oct-2,7-dienoate-2-O-β-D-glucopyranosyl-β-D-glucopyranoside(2), saccharumoside C(3), O-β-D-apiofuranosyl-(1→6)-O-β-D-glucopyranosides of 3-methyl-2-butenol(4), 3-methyl-but-2-en-1-yl β-D-glucopyranosyl (1→6)-β-D-glucopyranoside(5), benzyl-glucopyranoside(6), Hexyl-O-β-D-glucopyranoside(7), and caproic acid(8). Compound 1 and 2 showed moderate activity against ABTS (2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonate)) radical in concentration of 0.1-3.2 mg/mL.

Keywords: *Morinda citrifolia* L.; saccharide fatty acid ester; ABTS radical scavenging activity.

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1. Introduction

Morinda citrifolia L. (Rubiaceae) is a popular traditional edible and medicinal plant in a wide range of tropical areas such as India, southern Asia, the Caribbean, and Polynesia. All parts of this plant including fruit, flower, leaf, bark, stem, and root have been used as food and medicine for more than 2000 years by Polynesian people [1]. *M. citrifolia* was used to treat many diseases including arthritis, infections, cancers, diabetes, inflammation and pains, etc [2, 3]. In tropical regions, its fruit (Noni) was used as food before the twentieth century. The first record was that Captain James Cook of the British Navy noted in the late 1700's that this fruit was eaten in Tahiti [4]. In the United States, 19 patents of the plant had been registered by the US Patent and Trademark Office since 1976 [5]. Noni juice had been accepted in the European Union as a kind of novel food. Recent researches confirmed that *M. citrifolia* displayed antibacterial, anticancer, analgesic, hypotensive, anti-inflammatory, and immune-enhancing activities[6-10].

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To date, about 200 compounds have been isolated and identified from the *M. citrifolia*, including anthraquinones, flavonoids, coumarins, sterols, glycosides, iridoids, lignans, and triterpenoids [11]. Compounds such as scopoletin, rutin, ursolic acid, and damnacanthol were considered as the effective components of *M. citrifolia* [12, 13]. In our previous study, two new glycosides had been identified from the fruit of *M. citrifolia* [14]. Upon continuation, two new saccharide fatty acid esters together with 6 known compounds were isolated from *M. citrifolia* fruits. This paper presented herein the isolation, structural elucidation, and ABTS radical scavenging activities of these compounds.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. General

IR and NMR spectra were recorded on SHIMADZU FTIR-8400S and Bruker DPX 500 (500 MHz for $^1\text{H-NMR}$ and 125 MHz for $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$), respectively. Chemical shifts are given as δ values with reference to tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard, and coupling constants are given in Hz. The HR-ESI-MS analyses were conducted on Waters LCT Premier XE TOF-MS. A Diamonsil C_{18} (5 μm , 4.6 mm \times 25 cm, Dikma, America) was employed for analytical HPLC (Waters, 2695-2998). A ZORBAX SB- C_{18} (5 μm , 9.4 mm \times 25 cm, Agilent, America) was employed for Agilent 1100 preparative HPLC (G1315B UV-vis detector). Open column chromatography was carried out using silica gel (200-300 mesh, Qingdao Marine Chemical Co., Qingdao, China) and octadecyl silica gel (ODS, 50 μm , Fuji, Japan) as stationary phases. TLC employed precoated Silica gel plates (5-7 μm , Qingdao Marine). TLC Silica gel60 Rp-18 F $_{254\text{s}}$ (Merck, Germany). 2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) diammonium salt (Sigma, America). All the other reagents used in this study were of the highest available purity and were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

2.2. ABTS scavenging assay

The radical cation 2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonate ($\text{ABTS}^{\bullet+}$) was produced by oxidation of ABTS according to the literature procedure [15]. The $\text{ABTS}^{\bullet+}$ radical cation was pregenerated by mixing 7 mM ABTS stock solution with 2.45 mM potassium persulfate and incubating for 16 h in the dark at room temperature until the reaction was complete and the absorbance was stable. The absorbance of the $\text{ABTS}^{\bullet+}$ solution was equilibrated to 0.70 (± 0.02) by diluting with water at room temperature, then 1 ml was mixed with 10 μl of the test sample (0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.8, 1.6 and 3.2 mg/ml) and the absorbance was measured at 734 nm after 6 min. All experiments were repeated three times. The percentage inhibition of absorbance was calculated and plotted as a function of the concentration of samples. Vitamin C (ascorbic acid) was used as positive control.

2.3. Plant material

The fresh fruits of *Morinda citrifolia* L. were collected from Hainan Province of China, in July 2010. The voucher specimen (20100720) was deposited in Heilongjiang University of Chinese Medicine, Harbin, China.

2.4. Extraction and Isolation

The fresh fruits of *M. citrifolia* L (24.0kg) were extracted with 95% EtOH (4 \times 10 L) to afford the EtOH extract (12.6kg) which was suspended in water (25 L) then and extracted with petroleum ether, CHCl_3 , EtOAc and *n*-butanol (3 \times 25L), respectively. Solvent was removed to obtained petroleum ether fraction (19.3g), CHCl_3 fraction (5.6g), EtOAc fraction (5.1g) and *n*-butanol fraction (140.8g). The *n*-butanol fraction (140.8g) was subjected to silica gel column with a stepwise gradient CHCl_3 -MeOH (30:1; 20:1; 15:1; 10:1; 7:1; 5:1; 3:1, v/v), gave seven fractions (I-VII). Fraction IV (15.6g) was subjected to silica gel column with CHCl_3 -MeOH (20:1, 15:1, v/v) to afford two sub-fractions, IV $_1$ -IV $_2$. Sub-fraction IV $_2$ (12.4g) was subjected to ODS column chromatography with

MeOH/H₂O (1:9→1:0) and finally purified by preparative HPLC on a ZORBAX SB-C₁₈ column with MeOH/H₂O (35:65) to afford **8** (8.9mg, *t_R*=27min), **3** (16.3mg, *t_R*=39 min). Fraction V (11.4g) was subjected to silica gel column with CHCl₃-MeOH (10:1, 7:1, v/v) to afford three sub-fractions, V₁-V₃. Sub-fraction V₃ (4.8g) afforded was subjected to ODS column chromatography with MeOH/H₂O (1:9→1:0) and finally purified by preparative HPLC on a ZORBAX SB-C₁₈ column with MeOH/H₂O (30:70) to afford **7** (17.2mg, *t_R* =27min), **4** (13.6mg, *t_R*=31 min), **1** (15.1mg, *t_R* =37min). Fraction VI (23.3 g) was subjected to silica gel column which was eluted with CHCl₃-MeOH (7:1, 5:1, v/v) to afford three sub-fractions, VI₁-VI₃. Sub-fraction VI₂ (12.7g) afforded was subjected to ODS column chromatography with MeOH/H₂O (1:9→1:0) and finally purified by preparative HPLC on a ZORBAX SB-C₁₈ column with MeOH/H₂O (25:75) to afford **5** (8.7mg, *t_R*=34 min), **2** (14.8mg, *t_R* =41min), **6** (19.5mg, *t_R* =45min).

(2E)-oct-2-enoate-2-*O*-β-D-glucopyranosyl-β-D-glucopyranoside (**1**). White amorphous powder, mp. 141–143°C. IR (KBr): 3400.1, 1700.5, 1472.1, 980.3 cm⁻¹. HR-ESI-MS *m/z* 481.2300 [M-H]⁻ (calc. C₂₂H₃₄O₁₃, 481.2291); ¹H and ¹³C-NMR (CD₃OD) data are showed in Table 1.

(2E)-2,6-dimethyl-6-hydroxyl-oct-2,7-dienoate-2-*O*-β-D-glucopyranosyl-β-D-glucopyranoside (**2**). White amorphous powder, mp. 79–82°C. IR (KBr): 3401.2, 2950.3, 1751.4, 1057.8 cm⁻¹. HR-ESI-MS *m/z* 523.2082 [M-H]⁻ (calc. C₁₆H₃₀O₁₀, 523.2096); ¹H and ¹³C-NMR (CD₃OD) data are showed in Table 1.

Table 1. NMR data of **1** and **2** in CD₃OD (δ in ppm, *J* in Hz, recorded at 500 MHz and 125 MHz, respectively).

No.	1		2	
	δ_C (DEPT)	δ_H (<i>J</i> , Hz)	δ_C (DEPT)	δ_H (<i>J</i> , Hz)
1	166.5 (C)		167.8 (C)	
2	121.8 (CH)	5.80 d (15.7)	128.2 (C)	
3	153.1 (CH)	7.02 dt (15.7,7.0)	145.9 (CH)	6.84 dd (8.7,1.1)
4	33.3 (CH ₂)	2.15 brdd (13.9,7.0)	24.7 (CH ₂)	2.16 m
5	28.8 (CH ₂)	1.25 m	41.6 (CH ₂)	1.52 m
6	32.5 (CH ₂)	1.25 m	73.6 (C)	
7	23.5 (CH ₂)	1.40 brt (7.4)	145.9 (CH)	5.82 dd (17.4,10.8)
8	14.3 (CH ₃)	0.83 t (6.9)	112.5 (CH ₂)	5.13 dd (17.4,1.4)
				4.96 dd (10.8,1.4)
9			12.4 (CH ₃)	1.75 s
10			27.9 (CH ₃)	1.18 s
1'	94.3 (CH)	5.52 d (6.3)	94.5 (CH)	5.54 d (7.7)
2'	82.7 (CH)		82.5 (CH)	
3'	77.7 (CH)		77.7 (CH)	
4'	71.2 (CH)		71.2 (CH)	
5'	77.9 (CH)		77.8 (CH)	
6'	62.4 (CH ₂)		62.4 (CH ₂)	
1''	105.6 (CH)	4.45 d (7.8)	105.5 (CH)	4.46 d (7.8)
2''	75.9 (CH)		76.0 (CH)	
3''	78.7 (CH)		78.0 (CH)	
4''	70.8 (CH)		70.8 (CH)	
5''	77.8 (CH ₂)		78.6 (CH)	
6''	62.3 (CH ₂)		62.4 (CH ₂)	

3. Results and Discussion

By repeated silica gel column chromatography, ODS column chromatography, and preparative HPLC, we achieved: (2E)-oct-2-enoate-2-*O*-β-D-glucopyranosyl-β-D-glucopyranoside (**1**); (2E)-2,6-dimethyl-6-hydroxyl-oct-2,7-dienoate-2-*O*-β-D-glucopyranosyl-β-D-glucopyranoside (**2**); saccharoside C(3) [16]; *O*-β-D-apiofuranosyl-(1→6)-*O*-β-D-glucopyranosides of 3-methyl-2-butenol (**4**) [17]; 3-methyl-but-2-en-1-yl β-D-gluco-pyranosyl (1→6)-β-D-glucopyranoside(**5**) [18]; benzyl-glucopyranoside(**6**) [19]; Hexyl-*O*-β-D-glucopyranoside (**7**) [20]; and caproic acid(**8**). The structures of all compounds are showed in Fig.1.

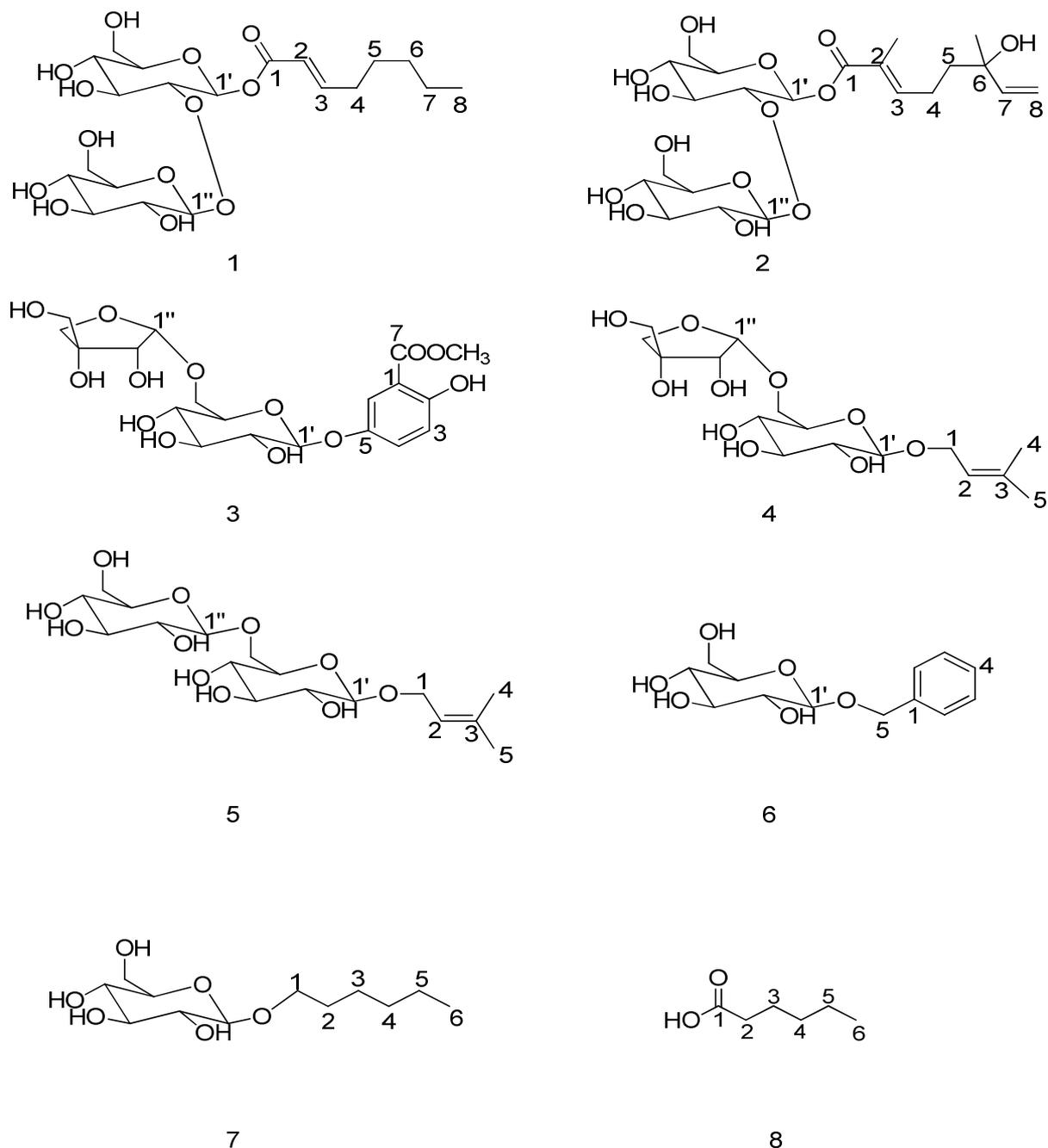


Figure 1. Structures of compounds 1-8

3.1 Structure determination of two new saccharide fatty acid esters

Compound **1** was obtained as a white powder (15.1mg). The molecular formula was determined to be $C_{20}H_{34}O_{13}$ by the HR-FAB-MS 481.2300 $[M-H]^-$. The configuration of the sugar unit was assigned after hydrolysis with 1 N HCl. The hydrolysate was trimethylsilylated, and GC retention times of sugar were compared with those of authentic sugar samples prepared in the same manner[21]. The result of GC showed that Acid hydrolysis of **1** only gave D-glucose. The 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of **1** demonstrated a alkenoic acid ester moiety and two glucose groups. The alkenoic acid ester moiety was supported by 1H NMR signals at δ_H 7.02 (1H, dt, $J=15.7, 7.0$ Hz), 5.80 (1H, d, $J=15.7$ Hz), 2.15 (2H, brdd, $J=13.9, 7.0$ Hz), 1.40 (1H, brt, $J=7.4$ Hz), 1.25(4H, m) and 0.83 (3H, t, $J=6.9$ Hz) and by ^{13}C NMR signals at δ_C 166.5(s), 121.8(d), 153.1(d), 33.3(t), 28.8(t), 32.5(t), 23.5(t), and 14.3(q). A combination of the COSY, HSQC, and HMBC data allowed assignment of the ^{13}C NMR signals from

the disaccharide. The characteristic features of the two glucose moieties appeared in the ^{13}C NMR spectra, which exhibited at $\delta_{\text{C}}94.3(\text{d})$, $82.7(\text{d})$, $77.7(\text{d})$, $71.2(\text{d})$, $77.9(\text{d})$, and $62.4(\text{t})$ for the first glucose and signals at $\delta_{\text{C}}105.6(\text{d})$, $75.9(\text{d})$, $78.7(\text{d})$, $70.8(\text{d})$, $77.8(\text{d})$, and $62.3(\text{t})$ for the second glucose [22]. ^{13}C NMR spectrum revealed corresponding signals for anomeric protons signals ($\delta_{\text{H}}5.52$ (1H, d, $J = 6.3$ Hz) and 4.45 (1H, d, $J = 7.8$ Hz)) and carbons signals ($\delta_{\text{C}}94.3(\text{d})$ and $105.6(\text{d})$), it inferred that the β configuration was exist in the disaccharide moiety. From the HMBC studies, anomeric proton $\delta_{\text{H}}4.45$ (H-1'') was found to be linked to C-2' ($\delta_{\text{C}}82.7$), that is, terminal glucose was connected to the inner glucose. The linkage between the fatty acid ester moiety and the disaccharide was also confirmed by the HMBC data (anomeric proton $\delta_{\text{H}}5.52$ (H-1') and $\delta_{\text{C}}166.5$ (C-1)). Important HMBC interactions of compound **1** are shown in Fig. 2. On the basis of the above data, the structure of **1** was deduced to be (2E)-oct-2-enoate-2-O- β -D-glucopyranosyl- β -D-glucopyranoside, a new saccharide fatty acid esters.

Compound **2** was obtained as a white powder (14.8mg). The molecular formula was deduced from the HR-FAB-MS 523.2082 [M-H] $^{-}$ and the ^{13}C NMR data to be $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_{14}$. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of **2** demonstrated a aglycon was (2E)-2,6-dimethyl-6-hydroxyl-2,7-octadienoic acid and two glucose groups. The alkenoic acid ester moiety was supported by ^1H NMR signals at $\delta_{\text{H}}6.84$ (1H, dd, $J=8.7$, 1.1Hz), 5.82 (1H, dd, $J=17.4$, 10.8Hz), 5.54 (1H, d, $J=7.7\text{Hz}$), 5.13 (1H, dd, $J=17.4$, 1.4Hz), 4.96 (2H, dd, $J=10.8$, 1.4Hz), 4.46 (1H, d, $J=7.8\text{Hz}$), 2.16 (2H, m), 1.75 (3H, s), 1.52 (2H, m), 1.18 (3H, s) and by ^{13}C NMR signals at $\delta_{\text{C}}167.8$ (s), $145.9(\times 2)(\text{d})$, $128.2(\text{s})$, $112.5(\text{t})$, $73.6(\text{s})$, $41.6(\text{t})$, $27.9(\text{q})$, $24.7(\text{t})$, and $12.4(\text{q})$. A combination of the COSY, HSQC, and HMBC data allowed assignment of the ^{13}C NMR signals from the disaccharide. The characteristic features of the two glucose moieties appeared in the ^{13}C NMR spectra, which exhibited at $\delta_{\text{C}}94.5(\text{d})$, $82.7(\text{d})$, $77.7(\text{d})$, $71.2(\text{d})$, $77.8(\text{d})$, and $62.4(\text{t})$ for the first glucose and signals at $\delta_{\text{C}}105.5(\text{d})$, $76.0(\text{d})$, $78.0(\text{d})$, $70.8(\text{d})$, $78.6(\text{d})$, and $62.4(\text{t})$ for the second glucose [23]. The ^1H NMR signals at $\delta_{\text{H}}5.54$ (1H, d, $J = 7.7$ Hz) and 4.46 (1H, d, $J = 7.8$ Hz), and the ^{13}C NMR signals at $\delta_{\text{C}}94.5(\text{d})$ and $105.5(\text{d})$ indicated the presence of anomeric protons and carbons in the disaccharide moiety that had a β configuration according to the coupling constant. The HMBC correlation between anomeric proton $\delta_{\text{H}}4.46$ (H-1'') and $\delta_{\text{C}}82.5$ (C-2') connected the terminal glucose to the inner glucose. The linkage between the fatty acid ester moiety and the disaccharide was also established by the HMBC correlation between anomeric proton $\delta_{\text{H}}5.54$ (H-1') and $\delta_{\text{C}}167.8$ (C-1). Important HMBC interactions of compound **2** are shown in Fig. 2. On the basis of the above data, the structure of **2** was deduced to be (2E)-2,6-dimethyl-6-hydroxyl-oct-2,7-dienoate-2-O- β -D-glucopyranosyl- β -D-glucopyranoside, a new saccharide fatty acid esters.

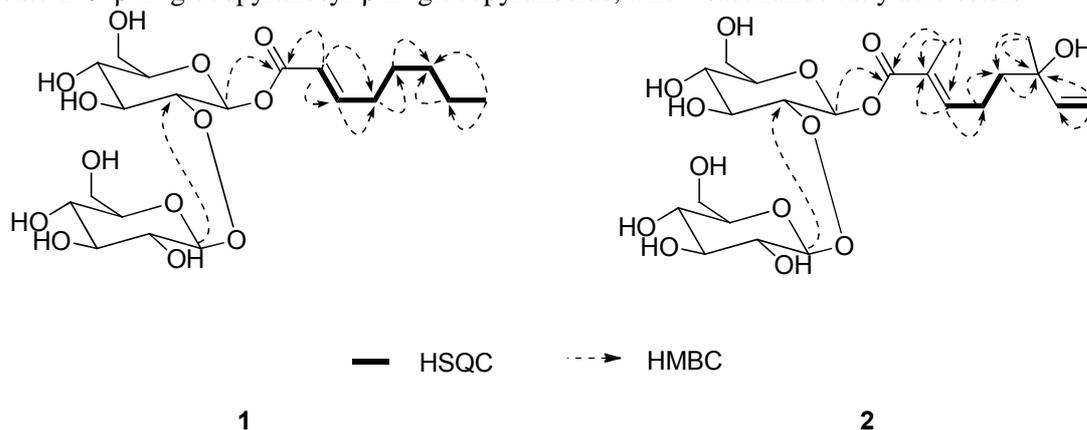


Figure 2. Key ^1H - ^1H HSQC and HMBC correlations of compounds **1** and **2**

3.2 ABTS radical scavenging activity

The clearance compound **1** and **2** showed the dependency of concentration in 0.1-3.2mg/ml. The ABTS radical scavenging activity is showed in Fig.3.

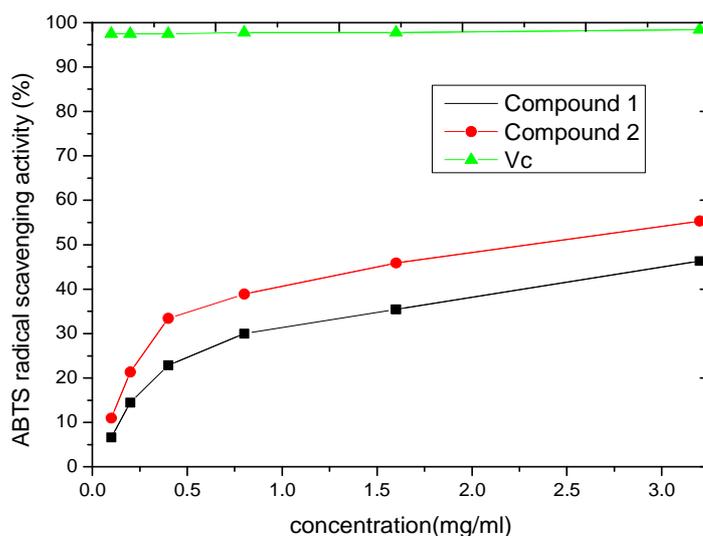


Figure 3. ABTS radical scavenging activity of compound 1, 2 and vitamin C

4. Conclusion

In this study, eight compounds were isolated and identified, of which compound 1 and 2 were new compounds. Compound 1 and 2 were evaluated for their ability of ABTS radical scavenging, and compound 2 showed stronger ability than that of compound 1. According to previous literature, the mechanism of radical scavenging is additional reaction between radicals and double bonds of compound [24]. So we surmised that the feasible mechanism of radical scavenging of compound 1 and 2 was also the additional reaction between radicals and double bonds. Some of remaining compounds also had the double bonds, so they could be potential effective antioxidant constituents of *M. citrifolia*. Separating and identifying of all these compounds provided a theoretical basis for the exploitation of the *M. citrifolia* antioxidants.

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