



Article New Steroidal Saponins Isolated from the Rhizomes of Paris mairei

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Abstract: The genus *Paris* is an excellent source of steroidal saponins that exhibit various bioactivities. *Paris mairei* is a unique species and has been widely used as folk medicine in Southwest China for a long time. With the help of chemical methods and modern spectra analysis, five new steroidal saponins, pamaiosides A–E (1–5), along with five known steroidal saponins **6–10**, were isolated from the rhizomes of *Paris mairei*. The cytotoxicity of all the new saponins was evaluated against human pancreatic adenocarcinoma PANC-1 and BxPC3 cell lines.

Keywords: Paris mairei; steroidal saponins; spirostane saponin; 15-oxo-18-nor-spirost; cytotoxicity

1. Introduction

The genus Paris (Liliaceae) includes 33 species around the world, and 27 species and more than 15 varieties have been discovered in China [1]. It has been used as a traditional Chinese medicine for traumatic injuries, heat-clearing and detoxifying, and relief of swelling and long-term pain [2]. Under the development of phytochemistry, steroidal saponins have been proved to be the main chemicals in the genus *Paris* and present a wide range of pharmacological activities such as anti-tumor [3–5], anti-inflammatory [6], anti-fungal [7], hemostasis [8], and immunomodulatory [9]. Moreover, Rhizoma Paridis, documented as rhizomes of Paris polyphylla var. yannanensis and Paris polyphylla var. Chinensis in the 2020 edition of the Chinese Pharmacopoeia, is usually used as adjuvant drugs for postoperative treatment of cancer to improve symptoms and therapeutic effect. However, Paris polyphylla var. yannanensis and Paris polyphylla var. Chinensis as perennial plants need at least 5 years to mature, and the increasing market demand makes wild sources of *Rhizoma Paridis* seriously scarce [10]. Hence, it is necessary to investigate other species of Paris in order to relieve resource pressure. Paris mairei is mainly distributed in the Guizhou, Sichuan, and Yunnan provinces of China and used as folk medicine for a long time. Herein, this paper reports the isolation and structural identification of five new (1–5) and five known (6–10) saponins (Figure 1) as well as the cytotoxicity against human pancreatic adenocarcinoma PANC-1 and BxPC3 cell lines.



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Compound	Aglycone	\mathbf{R}_1	R 2	R ₃	R4
1	Ι	S ₁	CH ₃	Н	Н
2	II	S_2	CH ₂ OH	OH	OH
3	III	S ₃	CH ₂ OH	Н	-
4	III	S_4	CH ₂ OCOCH ₃	Н	-
5	IV	S 5	CH ₃	COCH ₃	-
6	Ι	S_6	CH ₂ OH	OH	OH
7	II	S7	CH ₂ OH	Н	-
8	II	S ₇	CH ₃	COCH ₃	-
9	II	S ₆	CH ₂ OH	Н	-
10	Ι	S_8	CH ₂ OH	OH	OH

Figure 1. Structures of compounds 1–10.

2. Results and Discussion

Compound 1, named Pamaiosides A, a white amorphous solid, was positive to Liebermann Burchard and Molisch chemical reactions, which indicates that it might be a steroidal glycoside. The pseudomolecular ion peak was detected in the HR-ESI-MS spectrum at m/z 995.4824 [M + Na]⁺ (calculated for C₄₈H₇₆O₂₀Na, 995.4828), corresponding to the molecular formula C₄₈H₇₆O₂₀. Four methyl groups were tested in the ¹H-NMR

spectrum at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.82 (3H, s, H-18), 1.12 (3H, s, H-19), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.80 (3H, d, J = 6.35 Hz, H-27), and 0.96 (3H, d, J = 6.90 Hz, H-21). Meanwhile, one olefinic methine proton signal was observed at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.56 (1H, br s, H-6). The hydrogen signals above suggest a steroid skeleton [11,12]. Correspondingly, in the ¹³C-NMR spectrum of 1, four carbon signals of methyl groups were revealed at δ_{C} 17.65 (C-18), 15.52 (C-19), 17.29 (C-27), and 15.07 (C-21) as well as one trisubstituted double bonds at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 139.71 (C-5) and 126.17 (C-6). A characteristic hemiacetal signal of spirostanol aglycone was discovered at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 111.74 (C-22) [11]. In the HMBC spectrum, the cross-peaks between H-4 (δ_H 1.90) and C-5 (δ_C 139.71), H-19 (δ_H 1.12) and C-5 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 139.71), and H-6($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.56) and C-8 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 34.26)/C-10 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 43.58) inferred that the double bond was located at C-5/C-6 (Figure 2). In the NOESY spectrum, the correlation between H-1 (δ_H 3.37) and H-9 (δ_H 1.25) and H-3 (δ_H 3.34) and H-9 (δ_H 1.25) suggested that the configurations of H-1 and H-3 were an α -orientation, so that the hydroxyl substituent at C-1 and C-3 were both β configuration. The correlation between H-3 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.34) and H-16 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.38)/H-17 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.72), between H-16 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.38) and H-17 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.72), between H-8 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.56) and H-18 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.82), between H-19 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.12) and H-11 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.42), and between H-9 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.25) and H-14 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.15) elucidate the usual *trans* junction for the B/C and C/D rings. The correlations between H-8 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.56) and H-20 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.90) infer that C-20 was an S configuration. In the spirostanol saponins, when the resonance of the proton H-20 was observed at a lower field than approximately $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.48, the orientation relationship between the proton of H-20 and the oxygen atom included in the F ring was thought to be located at the *cis* position. On the other hand, when the proton shifts of H-20 were detected at a higher field than $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.20, the orientation relationship is thought to be *trans* [13,14]. In this way, the orientation relationship of the F ring was considered to be *trans*, and the configuration of C-22 was confirmed as R. The 25R configuration was determined by the chemical shift difference between H-26a and H-26b ($\Delta = \delta_{Ha} - \delta_{Hb} = 3.43 - 3.30 = 0.13 < 0.48$) [15,16]. By combining the data and consulting the literature [17], the aglycone of compound 1 was identified as (20S, 22R, 25R)-spirost-5-en-1 β , 3 β -diol.

According to the ¹³C-NMR spectrum, except for the 27 signals of aglycone, the remaining 21 belonged to the oligosaccharide's moiety. After acid hydrolysis and derivatization with N-(trimethylsilyl) imidazole, the derivates were compared with retention times to the corresponding authentic samples by GC analysis; thus, the monosaccharide residues were identified as L-Ara, L-Rha, D-Xyl, and D-Api in a ratio of 1:1:1:1. In the ¹H-NMR spectrum, four anomeric proton signals were obvious at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.34 (*d*, *J* = 7.35 Hz, H-1 of Ara), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.31 (*b*r *s*, H-1 of Rha), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.41 (br d, J = 7.1 Hz, H-1 of Xyl), and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.19 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, H-1 of Api). The corresponding carbon signals were successfully searched at δ_C 101.16, δ_C 101.60, δ_C 106.47, and δ_C 112.17 in the HSQC spectrum, respectively. By analyzing the ¹H-NMR, TOCSY, and HSQC spectra, the sequence and location of protons and carbons were determined in each monosaccharide (Tables 1-4). The sequence of a tetrasaccharide chain was confirmed by the HMBC spectrum, which acted as the correlations from Rha H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.31) to Ara C-3 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 80.45), Api H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.19) to Xyl C-4 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 70.54), Xyl H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.41) to Ara C-4 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 85.29), and the crosspeak between Ara H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.34) and C-1 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 84.79) demonstrated the location of a sugar linkage. The anomeric proton coupling constants of D-xylopyranose (J = 7.1 Hz > 7.0 Hz) and L-arabopyranose (J = 7.35 Hz > 7.0 Hz) suggested that the configurations had a β -orientation and an α -orientation, respectively [18,19]. The β configuration of D-apiose was determined by the chemical shifts of $\delta_{\rm C}$ 112.17 (C-1), $\delta_{\rm C}$ 78.23(C-2), $\delta_{\rm C}$ 80.49(C-3), $\delta_{\rm C}$ 75.18 (C-4), and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 65.56 (C-5) [20]; the α anomeric configuration of L-rhamnopyranosyl was confirmed by the chemical shifts of Rha C-5 at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 69.84 [21]. Thus, the structure of Pamaiosides A (1) was characterized as (20S,22R,25R)-spirost-5-en-1 β ,3 β -diol-1-O- β -D-apiofuranosyl- $(1 \rightarrow 4)$ - β -Dxylopyranosyl- $(1\rightarrow 4)$ - $[\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl- $(1\rightarrow 3)$]-*a*-L-arabinopyranoside.

	Compounds ($\delta_{\rm C}$)					
Number	1 ^a	2 ^a	3 ^b	4 ^b	5 ^a	
1	84.79	84.80	85.28	85.33	85.57	
2	37.45	37.46	37.88	37.66	37.55	
3	69.37	69.33	69.19	69.37	69.34	
4	43.52	43.52	42.80	42.91	43.04	
5	139.71	139.79	139.82	139.69	139.70	
6	126.17	126.12	126.42	126.19	126.15	
7	33.04	32.86	30.32	30.27	30.27	
8	34.26	34.27	32.88	32.93	32.79	
9	51.54	51.53	48.91	48.86	48.76	
10	43.58	43.61	43.36	43.30	43.31	
11	24.95	24.84	26.24	26.27	21.27	
12	41.40	41.24	29.17	29.09	29.28	
13	41.29	41.80	179.23	178.36	179.36	
14	58.11	58.26	139.51	140.38	139.58	
15	32.85	33.13	207.09	206.45	207.11	
16	82.38	84.65	82.38	82.19	82.92	
17	64.14	58.63	49.66	49.84	52.38	
18	17.65	17.30	-	-	-	
19	15.52	15.53	14.35	14.31	14.38	
20	43.05	46.04	49.54	46.32	43.66	
21	15.07	62.95	61.99	64.53	14.08	
22	110.74	112.72	114.60	114.25	113.48	
23	32.59	71.20	74.51	74.48	67.53	
24	30.04	74.01	76.27	76.10	73.87	
25	31.59	36.57	39.33	39.47	35.39	
26	67.97	61.39	65.81	65.90	62.38	
27	17.29	12.97	13.29	13.25	12.52	
				21-O-acetyl	24-O-acetyl	
1	-	-	-	172.90	173.78	
2	-	-	-	21.12	21.27	

 Table 1. ¹³C-NMR data of aglycone moieties for compounds 1–5 in CD₃OD.

^a Tested in ¹³C-NMR (125 Hz); ^b tested in ¹³C-NMR (201 Hz).

 Table 2. ¹H-NMR data of aglycone moieties for compounds 1–5 in CD₃OD.

	Compounds [δ_{H} mult.(<i>J</i> in Hz)]						
Number	1 ^a	2 ^a	3 ^b	4 ^b	5 ^a		
1	3.37 m	3.40 m	3.44 m	3.40 m	3.40 m		
r	1.70 m, 2.11	1.72 m, 2.14	1.78 m, 2.17	1.78 m, 2.12	1.80 m, 2.11		
2	m	m	m	m	m		
3	3.34 m	3.38 m	3.43 m	3.38 m	3.39 m		
4	1.90 m	2.22 m, 2.27 m	2.22 m, 2.27 m	2.24 m	2.25 m		
5	-	-	-	-	-		
6	5.56 br s	5.58 br s	5.63 br s	5.61 br s	5.62 br s		
7	1.30 m	1.53 m, 1.97	1.48 m, 2.87	1.46 m, 2.87	1.47 m, 2.84		
		m	m	m	m		
8	1.56 m	1.58 m	2.26 m	2.25 m	2.24 m		
9	1.25 m	1.25 m	1.47 m	1.46 m	1.47 m		
10	-	-	-	-	-		
11	1.42 m, 2.54	1.44 m, 2.55	1.19 m, 2.94	1.19 m, 2.98	2.16 m		
11	m	m	m	m	2.10 11		
10	1.22 m, 1.65	1.19 m, 1.72	2.36 m, 2.60	2.38 m, 2.59	2 45 br s		
12	m	m	m	m	2.45 01 5		
13	-	-	-	-	-		
14	1.15 m	1.78 m	-	-	-		

NT 1	Compounds [δ_{H} mult.(J in Hz)]						
Number	1 ^a	2 ^a	3 ^b	4 ^b	5 ^a		
15	1.91 m, 1.97	1.45 m, 2.02	-	-	-		
10	m	m					
16	4.38 m	4.53 q (7.50)	4.38 d (6.24)	4.40 d (6.24)	4.43 m		
17	1.72 m	1.78 m	2.34 dd (6.64,14.48)	3.15 dd (6.56,7.84)	3.03 m		
18	0.82 s	0.94 s	-	-	-		
19	1.12 s	1.13 s	1.09 s	1.09 s	1.10 s		
20	1.90 m	2.78 q (7.00)	3.14 m	2.50 m	2.08 m		
21	0.96 d (6.90)	3.55 m, 3.69 m	3.74 m, 3.79 m	4.19 m, 4.33 m	1.16 d (6.9)		
22	-	-	-	-	-		
23	1.44 m, 1.73 m	3.52 m	3.87 m	3.33 m	3.56 m		
24	1.62 m	3.76 m	3.33 m	3.34 m	5.31 t (2.9)		
25	1.59 m	1.91 m	1.69 m	1.67 m	2.05 m		
26	3.30 m, 3.43	3.32 m, 3.54	3.49 m, 3.52	3.50 m, 3.53	3.35 m, 3.73		
07		m	m	m	m		
27	0.80 d (6.35)	0.90 d (6.9)	0.93 d (6.56)	0.94 d (6.56)	0.79 d (6.90)		
				21-O-acetyl	24-O-acetyl		
1	-	-	-	-	-		
2	-	-	-	2.08 s	2.16 s		

Table 2. Cont.

^a Tested in ¹H-NMR (500 Hz); ^b tested in ¹H-NMR (800 Hz).

D.
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<u>Constant</u>	Compounds ($\delta_{\rm C}$)					
Sugars	1 ^a	2 ^a	3 ^b	4 ^b	5 ^a	
Ara(p)						
1	101.16	101.13	101.32	101.37	101.62	
2	74.58	74.56	71.22	71.11	74.40	
3	80.45	85.25	74.60	75.98	70.67	
4	85.29	70.52	76.16	75.62	85.51	
5	67.04	67.03	67.93	67.75	67.21	
Xyl						
1	106.47	106.44			106.44	
2	74.91	74.89			74.88	
3	78.04	78.01			78.07	
4	70.54	70.78			71.19	
5	67.04	67.03			67.02	
Rha						
1	101.60	101.58	98.43	98.99	101.78	
2	71.99	71.98	73.46	73.87	72.39	
3	74.58	80.45	75.74	77.91	72.17	
4	73.05	73.04	74.65	73.46	74.29	
5	69.84	69.86	67.34	69.81	69.83	
6	18.72	18.71	18.25	18.58	18.65	
2-acetyl						
1	-	-	171.96	172.11		
2	-	-	21.02	21.09		
4-acetyl						
1	-	-	172.29	-		
2	-	-	21.15	-		
Api						
1	112.17	112.15	112.54	112.37		
2	78.23	78.28	78.49	78.34		
3	80.49	80.48	80.68	80.71		
4	75.18	75.17	75.41	75.35		
5	65.56	65.58	65.56	65.77		

^a Tested in ¹³C-NMR (125 Hz); ^b tested in ¹³C-NMR (201 Hz).

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C		Compo	ounds [$\delta_{ m H}$ mult.(J	in Hz)]	
Sugars	1 ^a	2 ^a	3 ^b	4 ^b	5 ^a
Ara(p)					
1	4.34 d (7.35)	4.34 d (7.35)	4.52 d (7.60)	4.30 d (7.44)	4.31 d (7.55)
2	3.83 m	3.83 m	3.74 m	3.73 m	3.86 m
3	3.70 m	3.76 m	3.76 m	3.69 m	4.00 m
4	3.76 m	3.99 m	3.72 m	3.73 m	3.76 m
5	3.22 m, 3.49 m	3.51 m, 3.86 m	3.52 m, 3.83 m	3.52 m, 3.83 m	3.54 m, 3.85 m
Xyl					
1	4.41 br d (7.10)	4.43 d (7.15)			4.44 d (7.16)
2	3.27 m	3.30 m			3.31 m
3	3.30 m	3.33 m			3.34 m
4	3.96 m	3.71 m			3.53 m
5	3.49 m, 3.84 m	3.51 m, 3.86 m			3.24 m, 3.88 m
Rha					
1	5.31 br s	5.33 br s	5.37 br s	5.28 m	5.35 br s
2	4.06 m	4.09 m	5.29 dd (1.76, 3.36)	5.28 m	3.93 br s
3	3.83 m	3.71 m	4.08 m	3.86 m	3.69 m
4	3.49 m	3.52 m	4.95 t (9.92)	3.46 m	3.41 m
5	4.11 m	4.14 dd (6.20, 9.55)	4.46 m	4.21 m	4.14 m
6	1.25 d (6.15)	1.27 d(6.15)	1.14 d (6.24)	1.26 d (6.16)	1.26 d (6.15)
2-acetyl					
1	-	-	—	-	—
2	-	-	2.02 s	2.08 s	—
4-acetyl					
1	-	-	-	—	-
2	-	-	2.12 s	-	-
Api					
1	5.19 d (2.90)	5.21 d (3.60)	5.04 d (2.24)	5.18 d (2.0)	
2	4.02 m	4.02 m	3.81 m	3.93 m	
3	-	-	-	-	
4	3.76 m, 4.07 m	3.79 m, 4.09 m	3.72 m, 3.93 m	3.72 m, 3.92 m	
5	3.62 m, 3.86 m	3.64 m	3.56 m, 3.65 m	3.55 m	

Table 4. ¹H-NMR data of the sugar portion of compounds **1–5** in CD₃OD.

^a Tested in ¹H-NMR (500 Hz); ^b tested in ¹H-NMR (800 Hz).



Figure 2. Key ¹H-¹H COSY, HMBC, and NOESY correlations of compound **1**.

Compound **2**, named Pamaiosides B, a white amorphous solid, was positive to Liebermann Burchard and Molisch chemical reactions. The pseudomolecular ion peak was measured in the HR-ESI-MS spectrum at m/z 1043.4677 [M + Na]⁺ (calculated for C₄₈H₇₆O₂₃Na, 1043.4675), corresponding to the molecular formula C₄₈H₇₆O₂₃. Com-

pared to 1, one angular methyl at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 15.07 (C-21) and two methylenes at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 32.59 (C-23) and 30.04 (C-24) were absent, and the chemical shifts were all markedly up-field at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 62.95 (C-21, $\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ + 47.88 ppm), $\delta_{\rm C}$ 71.20 (C-23, $\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ + 38.61 ppm), and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 74.01 (C-24, $\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ + 43.97 ppm), respectively, which indicates that a hydroxyl group substituted at the primary carbon atom (Tables 1–4). In the HMBC spectra, the cross-peaks between $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.78 (H-20) and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 62.95 (C-21) and between $\delta_{\rm Ha}$ 3.55, $\delta_{\rm Hb}$ 3.69 (H-21) and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 46.04 (C-20)/ $\delta_{\rm C}$ 112.72 (C-22) authenticated the hydroxyl substituted at C-21, and it was further confirmed by the correlations for δ_{Ha} 3.55, δ_{Hb} 3.69 (H-21) to δ_{H} 2.78 (H-20) in the ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum (Figure 3). Meanwhile, the correlations for $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.91 (H-25) to $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.76 (H-24) and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.76 (H-24) to $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.52 (H-23) in the ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum and the signal of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.90 (H-27) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 74.01 (C-24) derived from the HMBC spectrum illustrated that the hydroxyl displaced at C-23 and C-24. In the NOESY spectra, the configurations of C-1, C-3, C-23, and C-24 were successively evidenced as β , β , α , and β orientations derived from correlations for H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.40) to H-9 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.25), H-3 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.38) to H-9 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.25), H-20 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.78) to H-23 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.52), and H-24 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.76) to H-27 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.90), respectively. Using the same method as for 1, C-20, C-22, and C-25 were determined as R configuration. By summarizing the data and comparing it to the literature [22], the aglycone of compound 2 was established as (20R, 22R, 25R)-spirost-5-en-1 β , 3 β , 21, 23 α , 24 β -pentol.

Acid hydrolysis, derivatization, and GC analysis revealed that compound **2** possessed the same monosaccharide residues as **1**, but different linkages emerged between the sugars. In the HMBC spectra, the sugar sequencing linkages were testified by the correlations between Api H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.21) and Rha C-3 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 80.45), Rha H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.33) and Xyl C-2 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 74.89), Xyl H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.43) and Ara C-3 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 85.25), and Ara H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.34) and C-1 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 84.80). Thus, compound **2** was elucidated as (20*R*,22*R*,25*R*)-spirost-5-en-1 β ,3 β ,21,23 α ,24 β -pentol-1-*O*- β -D-apiofuranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)- β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)- α -L-raabinopyranoside.



Figure 3. Key ¹H-¹H COSY, HMBC, and NOESY correlations of compound 2.

Compound **3**, named Pamaiosides C, a white amorphous solid, was positive to Liebermann Burchard and Molisch chemical reactions. The pseudomolecular ion peak was measured in the HR-ESI-MS spectrum at m/z 993.3932 [M + Na]⁺ (calculated for C₄₆H₆₆O₂₂Na, 993.3943), corresponding to the molecular formula C₄₆H₆₆O₂₂. Compared to **2**, one angular methyl $\delta_{\rm C}$ 17.30 (C-18) was missing and two quaternary carbons, $\delta_{\rm C}$ 179.23 (C-13) and 139.51 (C-14), and one ketone $\delta_{\rm C}$ 207.09 (C-15) signal were detected (Tables 1–4). In the HMBC spectra, the cross-peaks between $\delta_{\rm Ha}$ 1.19, $\delta_{\rm Hb}$ 2.94 (H-11)/ $\delta_{\rm Ha}$ 2.36, $\delta_{\rm Hb}$ 2.60 (H-12)/ $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.34 (H-17)/ $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.38 (H-16) and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 179.23 (C-13), between $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.26 (H-8)/ $\delta_{\rm Ha}$ 1.48, $\delta_{\rm Hb}$ 2.87 (H-7), and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 139.51 (C-14) allowed to deduce that one double bond was located at C-13/C-14. Moreover, the location of $\delta_{\rm C}$ 207.09 (C-15) was affirmed by correlation of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.34 (H-17) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 207.09 (C-15) (Figure 4). As a result, the aglycone of **3** was determined as 15-oxo-18-nor-(20*R*,22*R*,25*R*)-spirost-5,13-diene-1 β ,3 β ,21,23 α ,24 β -pentol [23].

The monosaccharide residues were identified as L-Ara, L-Rha, and D-Api in a ratio of 1:1:1 by acid hydrolysis, derivatization, and GC analysis. In addition, two ketomethyls at δ_C 21.15 (3H, s, δ_H 2.12) and 21.02 (3H, s, δ_H 2.02) and two carbonyl at δ_C 172.29 and 171.96 carbons signals were observed, which infers that two acetyl groups existed in the sugar chain. In the HMBC spectrum, one proton of keto-methyl at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.12 was correlated with one carbonyl carbon signal at δ_C 172.29 and δ_C 74.65 (C-4, Rha); moreover, H-4 of Rha ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.95) was correlated with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 172.29, suggesting that one acetyl was connected at C-4 of Rha. In the same way, another acetyl was substituted at C-2 of Rha, elaborated by the cross-peaks between $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.02 and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 171.96/ $\delta_{\rm C}$ 73.46 (C-2, Rha) and between $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.29 (H-2, Rha) and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 171.96. Compared to 2, it was further confirmed by the up-field shifts of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.29 (H-2 of Rha, $\Delta \delta_{\rm C}$ + 1.2 ppm) and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.95 (H-4 of Rha, $\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ + 1.43 ppm). The β configuration of D-apiose affirmed the chemical shifts of $\delta_{\rm C}$ 112.54 (C-1), 78.49(C-2), 80.68(C-3), 75.41 (C-4), and 65.56 (C-5) [20]. The *a* configuration of L-rhamnopyranosyl was confirmed by the chemical shifts of Rha C-5 at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 67.34 [21]. The anomeric proton coupling constants of L-arabopyranose (J = 7.6 Hz > 7.0 Hz) suggests that the configuration was an α orientation [19]. Thus, compound 3 was determined as 15-oxo-18-nor-(20R,22R,25R)-spirost-5,13-diene-1 β , 3β ,21, 23α , 24β -pentol-1-O- β -Dapiofuranosyl- $(1\rightarrow 3)$ -2,4-diacetyl- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl- $(1\rightarrow 3)$ -a-L-arabinopyranoside.



Figure 4. Key ¹H-¹H COSY, HMBC, and NOESY correlations of compound 3.

Compound 4, named Pamaiosides D, a white amorphous solid, was positive to Liebermann Burchard and Molisch chemical reactions. The pseudomolecular ion peak was measured in the HR-ESI-MS spectrum at m/z 993.3969 [M + Na]⁺ (calculated for C₄₆H₆₆O₂₂Na, 993.3943), corresponding to the molecular formula C₄₆H₆₆O₂₂. Compared with **3**, only two distinctions, the position of one acetyl group and the sugar linkages, were detected (Tables 1–4). The acetyl group replaced at C-21, which was evidenced by the altered proton chemical shifts at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.46 (H-4 of Rha, $\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ -1.49 ppm), $\delta_{\rm Ha}$ 4.19 (Ha-21, $\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ + 0.45 ppm), and $\delta_{\rm Hb}$ 4.33 (Hb-21, $\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ + 0.54 ppm). It was further acknowledged by the cross-peaks between $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.08 (3H, *s*, CH₃CO-)/ $\delta_{\rm Ha}$ 4.19, $\delta_{\rm Hb}$ 4.33 (H-21), and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 172.90 (CH₃CO-) in the HMBC spectrum (Figure 5). In addition, the correlations for Api H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.18) to Rha C-3 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 77.91), Rha H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.28) to Ara C-4 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 75.62), and Ara H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.30) to C-1 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 85.33) in the HMBC spectra clarified the linkages. Thus, compound 4 was characterized as 15-oxo-18-nor-(20*R*,22*R*,25*R*)-spirost-5,13-diene-21-O-acetyl-1 β ,3 β ,21,23 α ,24 β -pentol-1-O- β -D-apiofuranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)-2-acetyl- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 4)-a-L-arabinopyranoside.



Figure 5. Key ¹H-¹H COSY, HMBC, and NOESY correlations of compound 4.

Compound **5**, named Pamaiosides E, a white amorphous solid, was positive to Liebermann Burchard and Molisch chemical reactions. The pseudomolecular ion peak was measured in the HR-ESI-MS spectrum at m/z 935.3892 [M + Na]⁺ (calculated for C₄₄H₆₄O₂₀Na, 935.3889), corresponding to the molecular formula C₄₄H₆₄O₂₀. Compared to **3**, the proton signals at H-21 were replaced by one angular methyl, $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.16 (3H, d), in an aglycone moiety. Moreover, one keto-methyl at 21.27 (3H, s, $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.16) and one carbonyl at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 173.78 signals were observed in the ¹³C-NMR spectra (Tables 1–4). By analyzing the HMBC spectrum, the cross-peaks between $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.16 (CH₃CO-)/ $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.31 (H-24) and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 173.78 (CH₃<u>C</u>O) conjectured that one acetyl was substituted at C-24, and the up-field chemical shifts at H-24 (Δ ppm + 1.98) proved the hypothesis (Figure 6). According to the methodology, C-1, C-3, C-23, and C-24 possessed the same configuration as compound **3**, and the configurations of C-20, C-22, and C-25 were decided as *S*, *S*, and *R*, respectively. Therefore, the aglycone of **5** was determined as 15-oxo-18-nor-(20*S*,22*S*,25*R*)-spirost-5,13-diene-24-acetyl-1 β ,3 β ,23 α ,24 β -tetrol.

Acid hydrolysis and GC analysis of **5** exhibited L-Ara, L-Rha, and D-Xyl residues in a ratio of 1:1:1. The configuration of each monosaccharide was deduced by the same approach employed in compound **1**, which was α -L-Ara, α -L-Rha, and β -D-Xyl, respectively. The sequence was derived from the correlations from Xyl H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.44) to Ara C-4 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 85.51), Rha H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.35) to Ara C-2 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 74.40), and Ara H-1 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.31) to C-1 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 85.57). Thus, compound **5** was identified as 15-oxo-18-nor-(20*S*,22*S*,25*R*)-spirost-5,13-diene-24-acetyl-1 β ,3 β ,23 α ,24 β -tetrol-1-*O*- β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 4)-[α -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)]-a-L-arabinopyranoside.



Figure 6. Key ¹H-¹H COSY, HMBC, and NOESY correlations of compound 5.

The five known steroidal saponins, **6–10**, were defined as 25(*R*)-spirost-5-en-1 β ,3 β ,21,23 α ,24 β -pentol-1-*O*- β -D-apiofuranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)-[β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 4)]-a-L-arabinopyranoside (6) [21]; 15-oxo-18-nor-25(*R*)-spirost-5,13-diene-1 β ,3 β ,21,23 α ,24 β -pentol-1-*O*- β -D-apiofuranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)-[β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)]-a-L-arabinopyranosi de (7) [24]; 15-oxo-18-nor-25(*R*)-spirost-5,13-diene-24-acetyl-1 β ,3 β ,23 α ,24 β -tetrol-1-*O*- β -D-apiofuranos yl-(1 \rightarrow 3)- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)-[β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)]-a-L-arabinopyranoside (8) [25]; 15-oxo-18-nor-25(*R*)-spirost-5,13-diene-1 β ,3 β ,21,23 α ,24 β -pentol-1-*O*- β -D-apiofuranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)]-a-L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)-[β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)]-a-L-arabinopyranoside (8) [25]; 15-oxo-18-nor-25(*R*)-spirost-5,13-diene-1 β ,3 β ,21,23 α ,24 β -pentol-1-*O*- β -D-apiofuranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)]-a-L-arabinopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)-[β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)-[β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)]-a-L-arabinopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)-[β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)-[β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)]-a-L-arabinopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)-[β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)-[β -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)]- $(\beta$ -D-xylopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)]-a-L-arabinopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)]-a-L-arabinopyranoside (10) [27] (Tables 5 and 6) by comparison of the physical and spectroscopic data available in the literature.

Table 5. ¹³C-NMR data of the aglycone moieties of compounds 6–10.

	Compounds					
Number	6 ^b	7 ^a	8 ^a	9 ^a	10 ^a	
1	84.74	85.37	85.42	85.37	84.98	
2	38.18	37.56	37.62	37.56	37.45	
3	68.87	69.35	69.40	69.38	69.28	
4	44.38	42.94	42.96	42.95	43.59	
5	140.08	139.73	139.72	139.72	139.80	
6	125.40	126.16	126.16	126.22	126.10	
7	32.58	30.26	30.29	30.31	32.86	
8	33.75	32.82	32.82	32.88	34.25	
9	50.94	48.77	48.74	48.80	51.56	
10	43.51	43.33	43.34	43.36	43.59	
11	24.60	26.26	26.38	26.25	24.80	
12	40.99	29.28	29.29	29.21	41.24	
13	41.46	179.29	179.38	179.31	41.79	
14	57.61	139.89	139.60	139.85	58.26	
15	33.05	207.37	208.15	207.08	33.14	
16	84.11	83.15	82.96	82.36	84.63	

	Compounds				
Number -	6 ^b	7 ^a	8 ^a	9 ^a	10 ^a
17	58.37	48.77	52.40	49.37	58.61
18	17.58	_	_	_	17.32
19	15.69	14.41	14.40	14.41	15.50
20	46.25	50.13	43.69	49.49	46.03
21	62.99	62.03	14.06	61.98	62.94
22	113.19	114.18	113.50	114.84	112.71
23	70.99	70.64	67.56	74.51	71.19
24	73.65	73.32	73.89	76.25	73.96
25	36.61	36.38	35.42	39.30	36.55
26	61.31	61.97	62.40	65.80	61.39
27	13.63	12.97	12.52	13.29	12.98
24-O-acetyl					
1	_	_	173.78		
2	_	_	21.25		

Table 5. Cont.

^a Tested in CD₃OD; ^b tested in C₅D₅N.

Table 6. ¹³ C-NMR	data of the sugar	portion of con	npounds 6–10 .
	•	*	*

Sugars			Compounds		
Ara(p)	6 ^b	7 ^a	8 ^a	9 ^a	10 ^a
1	101.31	101.61	101.53	101.64	101.26
2	74.21	74.46	74.58	74.51	74.28
3	85.32	85.37	85.42	71.21	85.32
4	70.24	69.96	70.65	85.37	70.54
5	67.58	67.18	67.17	67.04	67.08
Rha					
1	102.02	101.47	101.69	101.47	101.71
2	72.39	71.96	72.00	71.98	72.38
3	80.40	80.46	80.48	80.46	72.12
4	73.17	73.01	73.06	73.03	74.42
5	70.13	69.80	69.84	69.81	69.87
6	19.63	18.73	18.72	18.73	18.64
Xyl					
1	107.16	106.50	106.54	106.52	106.49
2	75.23	74.88	74.92	74.90	74.90
3	78.95	78.05	78.09	78.05	77.99
4	71.59	71.19	71.23	70.65	70.73
5	67.58	67.02	67.04	68.18	67.02
Api					
ĺ	112.31	112.13	112.18	112.16	101.26
2	78.36	78.24	78.27	78.25	74.28
3	80.83	80.48	80.48	80.48	85.32
4	75.73	75.16	75.18	75.18	70.54
5	66.17	65.56	65.59	65.59	67.08

^a Tested in CD₃OD; ^b tested in C₅D₅N.

The discovery of the new compounds **1–5** extend the diversity and complexity of the spirostane saponin family. The cytotoxicity of **1–5** was evaluated against human pancreatic adenocarcinoma PANC-1 and BxPC3 cell lines using the CCK8 method. Regrettably, none of compounds showed significant cytotoxicity (Table 7).

Commound	Cytotoxic Activity (IC ₅₀ , μ M; Mean \pm SD, n = 3)			
Compound	PANC-1	BxPC-3		
1	>80	>80		
2	>80	>80		
3	>80	>80		
4	>80	>80		
5	>80	>80		
Gemcitabine ^a	0.0927 ± 0.0057	0.0376 ± 0.0031		

Table 7. Cytotoxic activity of compounds 1–5 against human pancreatic cancer cells in vitro (IC_{50} , μ M).

^a Positive control.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. General

Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 241 MC digital polarimeter (German PerkinElmer Corporation, Boelingen, Germany). 1D and 2D-NMR spectral experiments were measured in CD3OD on a Bruker AVANCE-500 and a Bruksmer AVANCE-800 spectrometer (Bruker Corporation, Karlsruhe, Germany) with TMS as an internal standard. The IR spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu IRPrestige-21 spectrophotometer (Shimadzu Corporation, Tokyo, Japan). The ESI-MS and HR-ESI-MS spectra were carried out on a Waters Micromass Quattro mass spectrometer (Waters, Shanghai, China). Column chromatographies (CC) were operated on a Sephadex LH-20 (GE-Healthcare, Uppsala, Sweden), ODS silica gel (Lichroprep RP-18, 40–63 µm, Merck Inc., Darmstadt, Germany), and silica gel H (10–40 µm, Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc., Qingdao, China). The GC analysis was performed on an Agilent 6890N apparatus using an HP-5 capillary column (30 m \times 0.32 mm, 0.5 μ m) and an FID detector with an initial temperature of 120 °C for 2 min and then temperature programming to 280 °C at the rate of 10 °C/min. Standards for Dxylopyranose (D-Xyl), L-arabopyranose (L-Ara), and L-rhamnose (L-Rha) were purchased from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO, USA), and D-apiose (D-Api) was purchased from Herbest Bio-Tech Co. (St. Baoguo, Baoji, China).

3.2. Plant Material

The rhizomes of *Paris mairei* were collected from Lijiang, Yunnan Province, China, in September 2018 and identified by the corresponding author Haifeng Tang. The voucher sample (No. 20180903) was deposited in the Department of Chinese Materia Medica and Natural Medicines, School of Pharmacy, Air Force Medical University, Xi'an, China.

3.3. Extraction and Isolation

The dried rhizomes of *Paris mairei* (1.0 kg) were chopped and refluxed with 70% ethanol (10.0 L) thrice (each 2 h). The ethanol solution was mixed and condensed with a vacuum rotary evaporator to receive a syrupy residue (584.0 g). The extraction was suspended in water (3.0 L) and extracted with same volume of petroleum ether and water saturated n-BuOH 3 times, successively. The water saturated in the n-BuOH layer was vacuum evaporated to give a gummy residue (132.0 g). The crude extraction was separated by silica gel column chromatography and eluted by gradient eluent of CH₂Cl₂-MeOH-H₂O (100:0:0, 50:1:0, 20:1:0, 8:1:0.1, 6:1:0.1, 8:2:0.2, 7:2.5:0.1, and 6.5:3.5:0.1) to offer 13 fractions (Fr.1–13) based on the TLC analysis. Fr.13 was separated by silica gel column chromatography and eluted by a gradient eluent of CH₂Cl₂-MeOH-H₂O (8:1:0.1, 8:2:0.2, 7:2.5:0.1, and 6:3:0.1) to get Fr.13-1 (1.1 g) and Fr.13-2 (830 mg). Fr.13-1 was eluted by MeOH on a Sephadex LH-20 to get rid of pigmentum and separated to Fr.13-1-1 (64 mg), Fr.13-1-2 (57 mg), and Fr-13-1-3 (145 mg) on ODS silica gel. Then, Fr.13-1-1 and Fr.13-1-3 were isolated by semi-preparative HPLC using MeCN-H₂O (35:65, 40:60) as the mobile phase at a flow rate of 8.0 mL/min to afford compound 1 (9.1 mg, $t_R = 24.3$ min) and 4 (8.8 mg, t_R = 48.6 min), respectively. Fr.11 was eluted by MeOH on a Sephadex LH-20 to remove pigmentum to receive Fr.11-1 (4.2 g), Fr.11-2 (5.0 g), and Fr.11-3 (430 mg). Fr.11-2 was

subjected to ODS silica gel and purified by a semi-preparative HPLC using MeCN-H₂O (50:50) as the mobile phase at a flow rate of 8.0 mL/min to afford compound 3 (5.7 mg, t_R = 44.1 min) and compound 7 (7.6 mg, t_R = 40.2 min). Fr.12 was eluted by CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (20:80) on a Sephadex LH-20 to remove pigmentum and subjected to ODS silica gel to obtain Fr.12-1 (125 mg) and Fr.12-2 (670 mg). Then, compound 2 (26.7 mg, $t_R = 21.0$ min) was offered by semi-preparative HPLC using MeCN-H₂O (60:40) as the mobile phase at a flow rate of 8.0 mL/min. Fr.9 was purified by MeOH on a Sephadex LH-20 and separated on ODS silica gel to obtain Fr.9-1 (231 mg), Fr.9-2 (102 mg), and Fr.9-3 (193 mg). The three collections were successively purified by semi-preparative HPLC using MeCN-H₂O (50:50, 40:60, 40:60) as the mobile phase at a flow rate of 8.0 mL/min to obtain compounds 5 (11.5 mg, $t_R = 35.3$ min), 8 (5.5 mg, $t_R = 38.4$ min), and 9 (4.6 mg, $t_R = 28.7$ min). Fr.10 was eluted by CH_2Cl_2 -MeOH (50:50) on a Sephadex LH-20 to remove pigmentum and subjected to ODS silica gel to obtain Fr.10-1 (75 mg) and Fr.10-2 (100 mg). Fr.10-1 and Fr.10-2 were isolated by semi-preparative HPLC using MeCN-H₂O (75:25) as the mobile phase at a flow rate of 8.0 mL/min to afford compounds 10 (7.5 mg, $t_R = 18.3$ min) and 6 (24.4 mg, $t_R = 21.6$ min), respectively. The purity of all compounds was assessed by HPLC as being more than 95%.

3.4. Compound Characterization Data

Pamaiosides A (1): white amorphous solid, $[\alpha]_{22D} - 95.0$ (c 0.05, MeOH); IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹): 3420, 2930, 1080, 990, and 840; positive ESI-MS *m/z* 995.13 [M + Na]⁺, negative ESI-MS m/z 971.28 [M - H]⁻; positive HR-ESI-MS *m/z* 995.4824 [M + Na]⁺ (calculated for C₄₈H₇₆O₂₀Na, 995.4828); ¹H-NMR (800 MHz, CD₃OD) and ¹³C-NMR (201 MHz, CD₃OD) data, see Table 1.

Pamaiosides B (2): white amorphous solid, $[\alpha]_{22D} - 98.2$ (c 0.06, MeOH); IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹): 3422, 2932, 1078, 988, and 840; positive ESI-MS *m/z* 1043.49 [M + Na]⁺; positive HR-ESI-MS *m/z* 1043.4677 [M + Na]⁺ (calculated for 1043.4675 C₄₈H₇₆O₂₃Na); ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) and ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CD₃OD) data, see Table 2.

Pamaiosides C (3): White amorphous solid, $[\alpha]_{22D} - 105.2$ (c 0.10, MeOH; IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹): 3420, 2930, 1668, 1078, 989, and 842; positive ESI-MS *m/z* 993.48 [M + Na]⁺; negative ESI-MS *m/z* 969.28 [M - H]⁻; positive HR-ESI-MS *m/z* 993.3932 [M + Na]⁺ (calculated for 993.3943 C₄₆H₆₆O₂₂Na); ¹H-NMR (800 MHz, CD₃OD) and ¹³C-NMR (201 MHz, CD₃OD) data, see Table 3.

Pamaiosides D (4): White amorphous solid, $[\alpha]_{22D} - 110.0$ (c 0.10, MeOH); IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹): 3432, 2922, 1664, 1080, 990, 837; Positive ESI-MS *m/z* 993.18 [M + Na]⁺; Negative ESI-MS *m/z* 969.36 [M - H]⁻; Positive HR-ESI-MS *m/z* 993.3969 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₄₆H₆₆O₂₂Na, 993.3943); ¹H-NMR (800 MHz, CD₃OD) and ¹³C-NMR (201 MHz, CD₃OD) data, see Table 4.

Pamaiosides E (5): White amorphous solid, $[\alpha]_{22D} - 109.0$ (c 0.15, MeOH); IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹): 3430, 2925, 1080, 990, and 840; positive ESI-MS *m/z* 935.39 [M + Na]⁺; positive HR-ESI-MS *m/z* 935.3892 [M + Na]⁺ (calculated for C₄₄H₆₄O₂₀Na, 935.3889); ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD) and ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CD3OD) data, see Table 5.

All the NMR (1D and 2D) and MS spectra of compounds 1–5 could be found in Supplementary Materials (Figures S1–S55).

3.5. Acid Hydrolysis and GC Analysis of the Sugar Moieties in Compounds 1–5

The assay was performed according to the procedure of Qiang F., et al. [28] with slight modifications, using N-(trimethylsilyl)imidazole as derivatization substrate. Compounds **1–5** (each 2 mg) were mixed with 2 mol/L CF₃COOH (2 mL) and heated in a sealed tube at 110 °C for 8 h. Distilled water (20 mL) was added when the reaction was over and extracted with EtOAc (20 mL) three times. The aqueous layer was concentrated in vacuo by repeated mixing with methanol until the solvent was completely evaporated. The residue was dissolved in a 1 mL pyridine solution of 2 mg/L of L-cysteine methyl ester hydrochloride. After warming at 60 °C for 1 h, the solvent was evaporated under

 N_2 protection. The reaction products were dissolved in the mixed solution of 0.2 mL N-(trimethylsilyl)imidazole and 2 mL anhydrous pyridine, and the mixture was warmed at 60 °C for another 1 h. Then, the solvent was evaporated under N_2 protection. The residue was suspended in cyclohexane and water, the cyclohexane layer was the trimethylsilyl ether derivatives of monosaccharide. The mixture was filtered through a 0.45 µm membrane to remove the precipitate and analyzed by GC. Separations were carried out on an HP-5 capillary column (30 m × 0.32 mm, 0.5 µm). Highly pure N_2 was used as a carrier gas (1.0 mL/min flow rate), and the FID detector operated at 250 °C (column temperature 250 °C). The carbohydrates were determined by comparing the retention times with standard trimethylsilyl ether derivatives prepared from authentic sugars using the same procedure performed for the sample. Retention times for authentic sugars after being derivatized were 11.23 min (D-Api), 12.20 min (L-Ara), 13.34 min (D-Xyl), and 14.48 min (L-Rha), respectively.

3.6. Cytotoxicity Assay for Compounds 1–5

The human pancreatic adenocarcinoma PANC-1 and BxPC3 cell lines were purchased from the Cell Bank of the Chinese Academy of Science (Shanghai, China) and cultured in DMEM (Corning, Beijing, China) supplemented with 10% FBS (Sigma, Shanghai, China) and 1% Penicillin–Streptomycin (Sigma, Shanghai, China) at 37 °C with 5% CO₂. In the exponential phase of the growth, cells were plated onto 96-well plates at a concentration of 8000 cells/well for 24 h. Compounds 1–5 were prepared to various concentrations (80, 40, 20, 10, 5, 2.5, 1.25, and 0.625 μ M in medium containing less than 0.1% DMSO) and incubated in 96-well plates (each concentration in six-fold wells) for 72 h. Gemcitabine (Gem, Meilunbio, ≥98%, Dalian, China) was offered as the positive control. Cell viability was determined according to reported assay methods using the commercial CCK8 kit (Elabscience, Wuhan, China) [29]. The optical density (OD) of each well was measured with an AMR-100 microplate reader at 450 nm (Allsheng Corporation, Hangzhou, China). Cytotoxicity emerged as the value of the drug concentration at the inhibition of cell growth by 50% (IC₅₀).

4. Conclusions

This study afforded 10 compounds from the rhizomes of *Paris mairei*, including five new spirostane saponins. None of the new compounds exhibited cytotoxicity against PANC-1 and BxPC3 pancreatic cell lines, implying that the polyglucosides at 1-hydroxy in spirostane saponins may significantly decreased the activities of antitumor.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online, Figures S1–S55: NMR (1D and 2D) and MS spectra of compounds 1–5.

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