

**P-104: CYTOTOXIC BUTENOLIDES OF A *MONANTHOTAXIS* SP. FROM THE MADAGASCAR RAINFOREST**

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In our continuing search for biologically active natural products from tropical rainforests as part of an International Cooperative Biodiversity Group (ICBG) program, we obtained an extract from a *Monanthes* sp. of the family Annonaceae. Bioassay-guided fractionation of an ethanol extract led to the isolation of the cyclohexene **1** and several butenolides, two of which have been reported to have potent cytotoxicity (0.08-2.0 µg/mL) against a variety of tumor cell lines. Structure elucidation was determined on the basis of one and two-dimensional NMR spectrometry, and absolute configuration was verified by analysis of optical rotation data. Two of the isolates, melodorinol (**2**) and acetomelodorinol (**3**), were found to display cytotoxicity against the A2780 human ovarian cancer cell line with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 3.2 and 2.1 µg/mL, respectively.