

SODWANONES A-F, NEW TRITERPENOIDS FROM
THE MARINE SPONGE *AXINELLA WELTNERI*

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ABSTRACT.—Six triterpenoids, sodwanones A-F (1-3, 7-9), having three different skeletons, have been isolated from the Indo-Pacific sponge *Axinella weltneri*. The complete spectral data of the previously reported sodwanones A-C [1-3], together with the structure determination of the new sodwanones D-F [7-9], based mainly on 1D and 2D nmr spectroscopy, are the subject of this report.

The structures of three new triterpenoids, sodwanones A-C [1-3], from the Indo-Pacific fan sponge *Axinella weltneri* (Axinellidae), were recently reported (1). Compounds 1-3 are closely related to the previously reported sipholenols (e.g., 4, sipholenol B) (2), siphonellinol [5] (3) and neviotine A (4) isolated from the Red Sea sponge *Siphonochalina siphonella*, as well as the recently reported raspacionins (e.g., 6, raspacionin A) isolated from the Mediterranean red sponge *Raspaciona aculeata* (5-7). Interestingly, the latter sponge, like *A. weltneri*, is an Axinellidae sponge, whereas *S. siphonella* belongs to the order Haplosclerida.

All of the above triterpenoids comprise two separate cyclic systems assumed to be obtained from di- or trioxidosqualenes in two separate acid-catalyzed cyclizations (2-4). Each cyclization is suggested to be initiated by a carbonium ion obtained from protonation of either an epoxide or one of the squalene double bonds. Compounds 1-9 possess at least one perhydrobenzoxepine system derived from one half of the squalene precursor and a variety of other systems obtained from the second half of the squalene. In the previously reported sodwanones A-C [1-3], the second cyclic system is a substituted decalin.

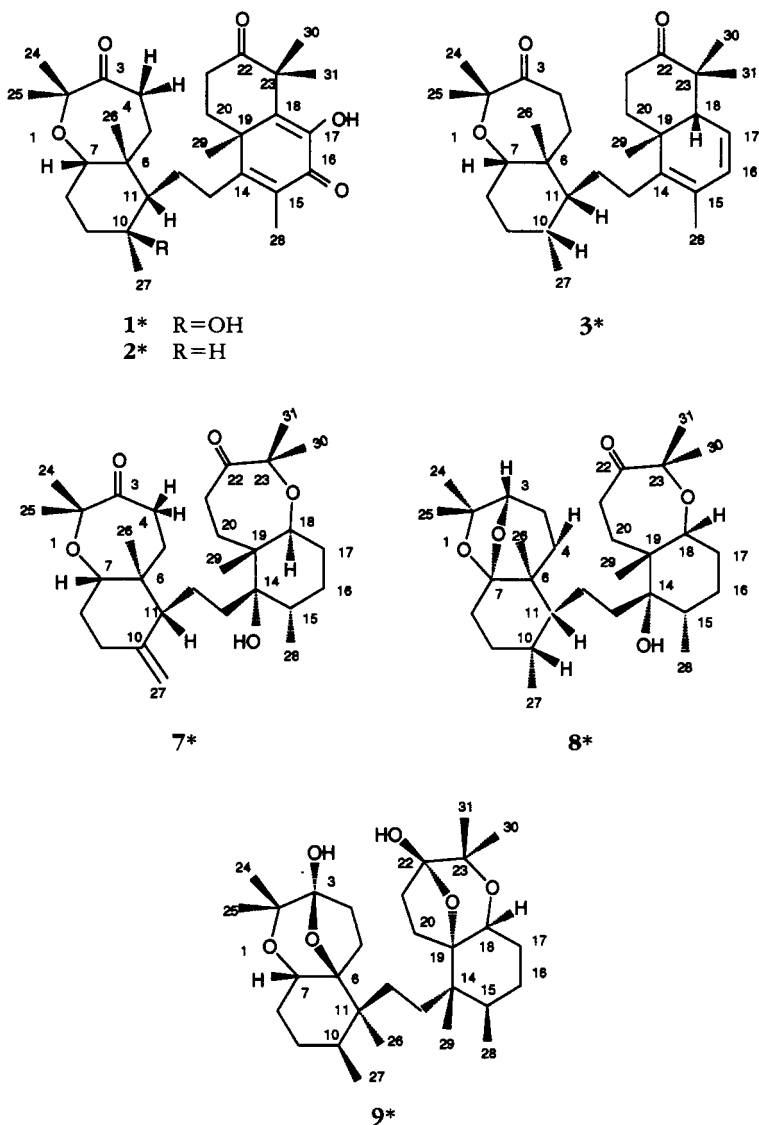
In this paper, the structure determination of three new compounds [7-9], designated sodwanones D, E, and F from *A. weltneri*, together with the complete spectral data and stereochemistry of both these new compounds and sodwanones A-C [1-3] are presented.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The EtOAc extract of *A. weltneri* was found to contain six triterpenoids having three different carbon skeletons. Of the six, only sodwanone A [1] appears in a somewhat higher concentration (0.1% dry wt) relative to the others, which exist in the sponge in minute amounts (0.01%-0.005%).

The structure of sodwanone A [1], C₃₀H₄₄O₆, suggested by analysis of the nmr and other spectral data, was secured by single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis (1).

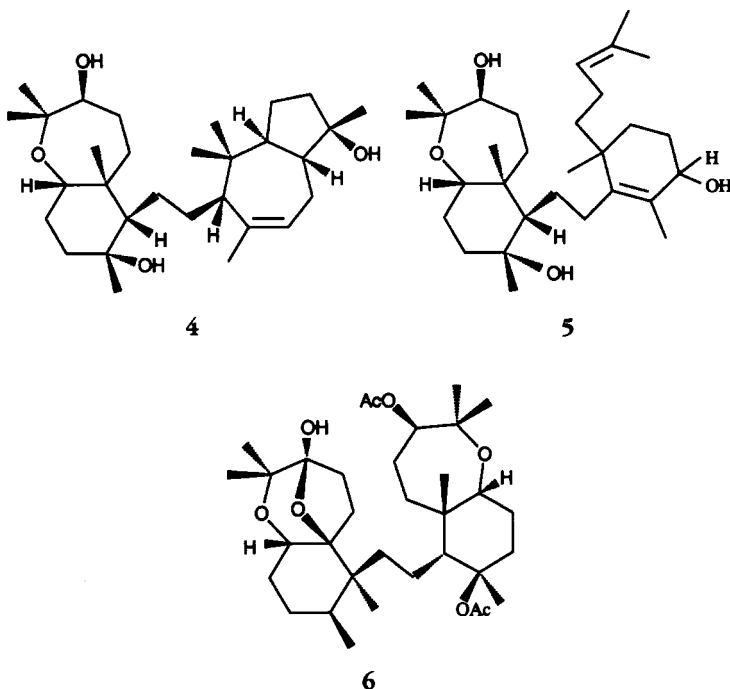
Half of the sodwanone A molecule [1] has the same *trans*-perhydrobenzoxepine system as compounds 4-6 but they have different substituents. The rest of the molecule of 1, however, differs. Mono-, bi-, and tricarbo-cyclic systems have already been found in the second half of the molecule of the *S. siphonella* metabolites (2-4). Sodwanone A [1]



*relative stereochemistry

contains a different bicyclic system from that of the sipholanols, namely, a substituted decalin moiety which embodies a rare α -hydroxy cross-conjugated dienone system.

The second compound, sodwanone B [**2**], $C_{30}H_{44}O_5$, m/z 484, has the same decalin moiety as **1** and a very similar perhydrobenzoxepine system. The major difference in the 1H -nmr spectrum of **2**, when compared to that of **1**, was that the Me-27, α - to the 10-OH group in **1**, is replaced by a doublet methyl resonating at δ_H 1.06. At the same time the tertiary C-10 OH singlet resonance (δ_C 73.5) was replaced by a new methine doublet resonance at δ 28.2, suggesting that sodwanone B [**2**] is the 10-deoxy derivative of **1**. As for the relative stereochemistry of C-6, C-7, C-10, and C-11, the 1H - 1H coupling pattern of H-7 (δ 2.90 dd, $J=10.7$ and 5.1 Hz) and the chemical shifts of the oxepane C-atoms suggest that the C-6 methyl group (Me-26) and H-7 in **2** are trans diaxial as in **1**. Furthermore, nOe cross-peaks between the axial H-4 (δ_H 3.16) and methyls 25 and



26 on one side of the ring system (the α -side), and between H-7 and methyl 24 and H-11 (δ_{H} 1.25 m) on the other (β) side of the system, are in good agreement with a C-6, -7 trans configuration. This also determines the α -equatorial configuration of the C-12, -13 ethylene bridge. Additionally, an nOe cross-peak between H-11 (β axial) and H-10 (δ_{H} 1.93 m) requires H-10 also to be β (equatorial), thus determining the configuration of Me-27 to be α , and on the same side as methyls 25 and 26.

The nmr line assignments of **2** (Table 1) were based on homo-COSY, HMQC, and HMBC experiments. The structure and stereochemistry of the perhydrobenzoxepine system of **2** was further supported by comparing its nmr data with those of siphonolol B [**4**] (**2**). Based on biogenetic considerations it is tentatively suggested that the relative stereochemistry of the two halves of **2**, as well as those of **3**, are the same as in **1** (having the same C-6 and C-19 configurations) where it was assured by X-ray diffraction analysis. No nOes could be measured between the two separate (by the C-12, C-13 bridge), conformationally labile, bicyclic halves of molecules **1–3**.

Sodwanone C [**3**], $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_3$, m/z 454, has the same substituted perhydrobenzoxepine system as compound **2** (according to the δ_{C} values, Table 1), but differs in the decalin moiety. The latter moiety still has the same cyclohexanone ring, with its characteristic α -gem-dimethyl ketone, but instead of the conjugated dienone it has a 1,3-diene group ($>\text{CH}(18)\text{CH}(17)=\text{CH}(16)-\text{C}(15)\text{Me}=\text{C}(14)\text{CH}_2(13)-$; δ_{H} 5.90 dd ($J=9.3$ and 3.2 Hz) and 5.62 dd ($J=9.3$ and 2.7 Hz); δ_{C} 142.5 s, 131.0 d, 125.2 s, and 124.2 d). Based on the CH-correlations (HMBC) from CH_3 s -29, -30, -31 to C-18 (δ_{C} 53.4 d); CH_3 s-28, -29 to C-14 (δ_{C} 142.5 s); also from CH_3 -28 to C-15, C-16, and C-17, and, as in all the series, from CH_3 s -30, -31 to CO-22, the $\Delta^{14,16}$ (rather than $\Delta^{15,17}$) position was proposed. A trans geometry was determined for the decalin system of **3** based on nOe correlations between the axial 21-proton (δ_{H} 2.82) and methyls -29 and -30 (δ_{C} 22.8, δ_{H} 1.19) on the α -side of the decalin (the latter effect distinguishes between methyls 30 and 31), and between H-18 (δ_{H} 2.48) and Me-31 (δ_{H} 1.12) on the β -side of the ring system.

The structure of sodwanone D [**7**], $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_5$, m/z 488, is proposed to comprise two

TABLE 1. Nmr Data (125 and 500 MHz) Including CH-Correlations of Sodwanones A-C [1-3].^{a-c}

| Position | Compound | | | | | | |
|----------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------------------------|
| | 1 | | | 2 | 3 | | |
| | δ_c^b | δ_H^b | | HMBC (C to H) | δ_c | δ_c | HMBC (C to H) |
| 2 | 82.0 s | | | H-4a, -7, Me-24, Me-25 | 82.4 s | 82.3 s | Me-24, -25 |
| 3 | 218.0 s | | | H-4a, -5a, Me-24, Me-25 | 218.0 s | 218.1 s | H-4a, Me-24, -25 |
| 4a | 35.0 t | 3.25 ddd | 13.5, 11.1, 2.6 | H-5a, -5b | 35.1 t | 35.2 t | |
| 4b | | 2.19 m | | | | | |
| 5a | 40.6 t | 1.95 ddd | 11.0, 6.3, 2.2 | H-7, Me-26 | 40.5 t | 40.4 t | |
| 5b | | 1.38 m | | | | | |
| 6 | 42.0 s | | | H-5a, -5b, Me-26 | 41.5 s | 41.3 s | H-7, Me-26 |
| 7 | 80.9 d | 2.97 dd | 10.7, 5.1 | H-5a, -9a, Me-26 | 81.9 d | 82.2 d | Me-24, -25, -26 |
| 8a | 24.8 t | 1.62 m | | H-5b | 25.5 t | 26.3 t | |
| 8b | | 1.58 m | | | | | |
| 9a | 41.5 t | 1.76 ddd | 13.5, 6.5, 3.5 | H-8a, -8b, -11, Me-27 | 29.9 t | 31.2 t | |
| 9b | | 1.48 m | | | | | |
| 10 | 73.5 s | | | H-8a, -9a, -11, Me-27 | 28.2 d | 28.3 d | |
| 11 | 57.5 d | 1.13 dd | 5.5, 3.4 | H-9a, -9b, Me-26, Me-27 | 51.3 d | 51.3 d | Me-26, -27 |
| 12a | 28.7 t | 1.55 m | | H-7 | 28.4 t | 27.1 t | |
| 12b | | 1.45 m | | | | | |
| 13a | 33.9 t | 2.64 dd | 13.0, 3.5 | H-12a, -12b | 31.1 t | 34.3 t | |
| 13b | | 2.38 dt | 13.0, 5.4 | | | | |
| 14 | 164.7 s | | | H-13a, -13b, -20a, Me-28 | 164.5 s | 142.5 s | H-16, Me-28, -29 |
| 15 | 128.8 s | | | H-13a, -13b, Me-28 | 129.1 s | 125.2 s | H-16, -17, Me-28 |
| 16 | 181.5 s | | | OH (17), Me-28 | 181.5 s | 124.2 d | Me-28 |
| 17 | 141.8 s | | | OH (17), -20a | 141.9 s | 131.0 d | Me-28 |
| 18 | 137.6 s | | | OH (17), -20a, Me-29, Me-30, -31 | 137.2 s | 53.4 d | H-16, -17, Me-29, Me-30, -31 |
| 19 | 42.9 s | | | H-20a, -20b, -21a, -21b, Me-29 | 42.7 s | 40.6 s | Me-29 |
| 20a | 27.6 t | 2.48 dd | 13.4, 6.6 | H-21a, -21b, Me-29 | 25.8 t | 26.4 t | |
| 20b | | 1.75 m | | | | | |
| 21a | 32.6 t | 2.74 dd | 18.5, 8.9 | H-20a | 32.5 t | 34.5 t | |
| 21b | | 2.60 dd | 18.5, 2.5 | | | | |
| 22 | 216.0 s | | | H-21a, -21b, Me-30, -31 | 215.0 s | 215.8 s | H-21a, Me-30, -31 |
| 23 | 49.0 s | | | H-20b, -21a, -21b, Me-30, Me-31 | 48.0 s | 47.2 s | Me-30, -31 |
| 24 | 20.4 q | 1.31 s | | | 20.5 q | 20.5 q | |
| 25 | 26.3 q | 1.25 s | | Me-24 | 26.4 q | 26.4 q | |
| 26 | 12.1 q | 0.95 s | | H-5b, -7 | 13.4 q | 13.4 q | |
| 27 | 23.6 q | 1.21 s | | | 14.7 q | 14.5 q | |
| 28 | 12.0 q | 2.02 s | | | 11.9 q | 17.7 q | |
| 29 | 21.6 q | 1.09 s | | | 21.6 q | 15.0 q | |
| 30 | 20.8 q | 1.56 s | | | 20.8 q | 22.8 q | |
| 31 | 24.3 q | 1.46 s | | Me-30 | 24.4 q | 24.8 q | |

^aCDCl₃; Bruker ARX 500 instrument, chemical shifts refer to TMS ($\delta_H=0$) and CDCl₃ ($\delta_C=77.0$).^bAssignments aided by HMQC, HMBC, homo-COSY, TOCSY, and NOESY experiments.^cHa the lower field proton in a geminal pair, and Hb the higher field proton in a geminal pair.

perhydrobenzoxepine systems based on its 1D and 2D nmr data. The 3-oxo-2,2,6- and 22-oxo-19,23,23-trimethylated oxepanes are characteristic of these two systems. These were in full agreement with the proton and carbon chemical shifts of **1-6** (Tables 1 and 2), and exhibited the expected 2D nmr COSY, HMQC, and HMBC correlations. HMQC and HMBC correlations between the various methyl protons and their neighboring C atoms (Table 2) were of special importance. Two other functionalities in **7** were an exocyclic methylene (δ_C 145.3 s, 103.3 t) and a tertiary hydroxyl group (δ_C 78.0 s). The existence of an exo methylene group explained the presence of only seven rather than the expected eight methyl groups in **7**, and accounts, with the other functionalities, for the seven degrees of unsaturation within the molecule. The locations of the $\Delta^{10(27)}$ double bond in one half of **7** and the C-14 position of the hydroxyl group in the second half were proposed in part on the basis of a COSY experiment which showed correlations between H-4a, H-4b and H-5a, H-5b and between H-7, H-8a, H-8b, H-9a and H-9b for one half

TABLE 2. Nmr Data (125 and 500 MHz) Including CH-Correlations of Sodwanones D-F [7-9].^{a,b}

| Position | Compound | | | | | | | | |
|----------|------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | 7 | | | 8 | | | 9 | | |
| | δ_C | δ_H | HMBC (C to H) | δ_C | δ_H | HMBC (C to H) | δ_C | δ_H | HMBC (C to H) |
| 2 | 81.8 s | | H-7, Me-24, -25 | 78.9 s | | Me-24, -25 | 76.7 s | | Me-24, -25 |
| 3 | 218.0 s | | H-4a, -5a, -5b, Me-24, -25 | 80.6 d | 3.97 d | Me-24, -25 | 105.7 s | | H-5b, Me-24, -25 |
| 4 | 35.8 t | 3.18 dt 2.14 m | | 29.9 t | 1.95 m 1.58 m | | 24.2 t | 1.85 m 1.85 m | |
| 5 | 39.3 t | 1.95 m 1.30 m | Me-26 | 32.1 t | 1.55 m 1.40 m | H-3, Me-26 | 32.3 t | 2.30 m 1.12 m | |
| 6 | 42.5 s | | Me-26 | 41.3 s | | H-5a, -5b, Me-26 | 89.3 s | | H-5a, H-7, Me-26 |
| 7 | 80.3 d | 3.05 dd | | 110.1 s | | H-3, H-5a, -5b, Me-26 | 70.6 d | 4.20 dd | |
| 8 | 32.5 t | 1.70 m 1.50 m | | 22.7 t | 2.02 m 1.62 m | | 26.7 t | 1.78 m 1.38 m | |
| 9 | 35.3 t | 2.28 dd 1.88 m | H-27a, -27b | 28.0 t | 2.05 m 1.35 m | | 28.5 t | 1.32 m 1.32 m | Me-27 |
| 10 | 145.3 s | | | 29.7 d | 1.92 m | Me-26 | 39.2 d | 1.13 m | Me-26, -27 |
| 11 | 54.2 d | 1.45 m | | 48.1 d | 1.46 m | H-5a, -5b, Me-26, Me-27 | 40.9 s | | Me-26, -27 |
| 12 | 20.1 t | 1.42 m 1.42 m | | 20.5 t | 1.22 m 1.22 m | | 29.7 t | 1.88 m 1.18 m | H-13a |
| 13 | 36.0 t | 1.88 m 1.08 m | | 35.1 t | 1.75 m 1.26 m | | 29.9 t | 2.60 m 1.88 m | Me-29 |
| 14 | 78.0 s | | Me-28, -29 | 77.6 s | | Me-28, -29 | 42.0 s | | H-13a, Me-28, -29 |
| 15 | 33.6 d | 1.82 m | | 33.3 d | 1.89 m | Me-28 | 33.5 d | 1.75 m | Me-28, -29 |
| 16 | 28.2 t | 1.35 m 1.35 m | Me-28 | 28.7 t | 1.40 m 1.40 m | Me-28 | 26.5 t | 1.35 m 1.12 m | H-18, Me-28 |
| 17 | 30.0 t | 1.53 m 1.53 m | | 30.5 t | 1.58 m 1.58 m | H-18 | 27.9 t | 1.65 m 1.55 m | |
| 18 | 76.1 d | 3.52 dd | Me-29 | 76.1 d | 3.52 dd | H-17a, -17b, Me-29 | 71.2 d | 4.36 dd | |
| 19 | 45.3 s | | Me-29 | 45.4 s | | H-21a, -22b, Me-29 | 88.4 s | | H-18, H-20a, Me-29 |
| 20 | 32.7 t | 2.00 m 1.52 m | H-18, Me-29 | 32.9 t | 2.08 m 1.65 m | | 33.5 t | 2.30 m 1.12 m | |
| 21 | 35.2 t | 3.12 m 2.15 m | | 35.4 t | 3.20 dt 2.25 dd | | 24.4 t | 1.88 m 1.60 m | |
| 22 | 217.6 s | | Me-30, -31 | 215.8 s | | Me-30, -31 | 104.4 s | | H-20b, Me-30, -31 |
| 23 | 82.2 s | | H-18, Me-30, -31 | 81.6 s | | H-21a, Me-30, -31 | 77.1 s | | H-20a, Me-30, -31 |
| 24 | 20.3 q | 1.28 s | | 20.7 q | 1.39 s | | 19.2 q | 1.65 s | |
| 25 | 26.9 q | 1.22 s | Me-24 | 28.2 q | 1.29 s | | 24.6 q | 1.38 s | Me-24 |
| 26 | 11.2 q | 0.83 s | | 18.6 q | 1.04 s | | 18.9 q | 1.15 s | |
| 27 | 108.3 t | 4.94 s 4.57 s | | 14.7 q | 0.97 d | | 15.4 q | 0.80 d | |
| 28 | 15.3 q | 0.80 d | | 15.5 q | 0.86 d | | 15.8 q | 0.86 d | |
| 29 | 14.0 q | 1.04 s | H-18 | 14.4 q | 1.15 s | H-18 | 17.2 q | 1.18 s | |
| 30 | 20.4 q | 1.31 s | Me-31 | 20.4 q | 1.34 s | | 18.9 q | 1.57 s | |
| 31 | 26.6 q | 1.23 s | | 26.7 q | 1.27 s | | 24.6 q | 1.37 s | Me-30 |

^aCDCl₃ for 7 and 8 and C₆D₆ for 9; Bruker ARX 500 instrument, chemical shifts refer to TMS ($\delta_H=0$) and CDCl₃ ($\delta_C=77.0$).

^bAssignments aided by HMQC, HMBC, homo-COSY, TOCSY, and NOESY experiments.

^cMay be interchangeable.

of 7 and between H-20a, H-20b, H-21a, and H-21b, and between Me-28, H-15, H-16a, H-16b, H-17a, H-17b, and H-18 for the second half of 7. In addition, HMBC correlations (CH_3 -26 to C-7 and C-11; H-27a, H-27b to C-9 and C-11; CH_3 s -28 and -29 to C-14 (δ_C 78.0); and CH_3 -29 to C-18) supported this assignment. An nOe cross-peak between the axial H-7 and H-11 showed that H-11 is also axial and is on the same side as H-7; H-7 also showed an nOe correlation with CH_3 -24. Hence, C-11 in 7 has the same relative stereochemistry as in sodwanones A-C [1-3]. Further support for the trans C-6, -7 ring junction, as in 1-3, came from the multiplicity of H-7 (Experimental) and nOe correlations between the axial H-4 (δ_H 3.18 dt, $J=3.0$ and 11.3 Hz) and methyls -25 and -26, and between H-11 and H-5 on the other side of the ring system. The pattern

of H-18, the C-atom resonances of C-14–C-23 (Table 2) as well as an nOe between H-18 and Me-30 (δ_C 20.4, δ_H 1.31), established the C-18, -19 trans configuration for the second ring system of **7**. The latter trans ring junction was further supported by nOe correlations between the axial H-21 (δ_H 3.12) and methyls -29 (δ_C 14.0, δ_H 1.04) and -31 (δ_C 26.6, 1.23). Two other nOe correlations between Me-29 and H-15 (δ_H 1.82) and between Me-29 and H₂-12 (δ_H 1.42) determined the H-15 β -configuration as well as the β -orientation (towards C-14) of the ethylene bridge (i.e., 14 α -OH).

Another compound that was obtained in small amounts (2.5 mg, 0.005% dry wt) was sodwanone E [**8**], C₃₀H₅₀O₅, *m/z* 490. Comparison of the nmr data of **8** with those of the above compounds suggested that one half of the molecule (C-14–C-23) had the same 14-hydroxy-22-oxo-perhydrobenzoxepine as sodwanone D [**7**] (Table 2). The absence of sp² carbon resonances for the second half of **8** indicated it to be tricyclic. A single carbon resonating at δ_C 110.1 s, which most likely bears two oxygen atoms, together with two additional C-atoms bearing a single oxygen each (δ_C 78.9 s and 80.6 d), could be best explained by the presence of an internal ketal group.

The observation of CH-correlations (HMBC experiment) between the protons of methyls -24 and -25 (δ_H 1.39 and 1.29, α to an oxygen atom) and C-2 and C-3; between H-3 and C-7, and between CH₃-26 and C-7, established the position of the proposed ketal as being between the single oxygen-bearing C-2 and C-3 to the doubly oxygenated C-7. NOe cross-peaks between Me-26 and Me-27, H-8 (axial) (δ_H 2.02) and H-5 (axial) (δ_H 1.55), and between Me-24 and H-5, suggested the relative stereochemistry shown for **8**. Furthermore, the appearance of H-3 as a doublet at δ_H 3.97 ppm suggested either a twisted conformation of the oxepane ring, or a strong influence of the oxygen atoms on one of the H-3 coupling constants which becomes close to zero.

Both sodwanones D and E [**7** and **8**] have the same carbon skeleton as the siphonellinols (e.g., siphonellinol, **5**) (3) and raspacionin A [**6**] (5–7).

Sodwanone F [**9**], C₃₀H₅₀O₆, *m/z* 506 (six degrees of unsaturation), contains only sp³ hybridized carbon atoms and hence must be hexacyclic. In **9**, as in the other sodwanones, two geminal pairs of methyls were observable. According to CH-correlations (Table 2) both pairs were positioned between an oxygen and a proposed hemiketal group. For better resolution, the nmr data of **9** were taken in C₆D₆ and for comparison with raspacionin A [**6**] (5–7) in CDCl₃ (see below). HMBC correlations between C-6 and H-7 and CH₃-26, and between CH₃-26, and C-10 and C-11 suggested that one perhydrooxepine-hemiketal system of sodwanone F [**9**] was identical to that in raspacionin A [**6**] (6,7). Indeed, comparison of the nmr data of **9** with those of **6** (6,7) [δ 4.05 (dd, *J* = 11.2 and 5.2 Hz, H-7), 1.32 (s, Me-24) and 1.25 (s, Me-25) for **9** against δ 4.05 (dd, *J* = 10.8 and 5.2 Hz), 1.31 s and 1.25 s, respectively, for **6**, and very similar ¹³C-nmr chemical shifts, even in C₆D₆] clearly pointed to the identification of half of **9** (C-2–C-11) as the same as that of the corresponding half in raspacionin A [**6**] (6). The second half of **9** (C-14–C-23) is proposed to consist of a very similar tricyclic system to that of **6** based on similar δ_C values, except for the resonance of C-15, which is shifted about 7 ppm upfield in comparison to C-10. We conclude that the two halves differ in the stereochemistry at C-14 and/or C-15. Extensive overlap in the ¹H-nmr spectra made nOe measurements very difficult.

The multiplicity of H-18 and the carbon resonances of C-18–23 and C-30 and C-31 unequivocally confirmed the dioxabicyclo[3.2.1]octane system. Furthermore, an nOe correlation between Me-29 and one of the C-20 methylene protons determined the methyl group to be in the β - configuration (opposite to the oxygen bridge and H-18), and in the same equatorial configuration as Me-26. These differences in the chemical shifts of the two halves of **9** (Table 2) would require the inversion of C-15 (in comparison to C-10, i.e., Me-28 must be axial). Indeed, a 1D-TOCSY nmr experiment confirmed the

equatorial configuration of H-15 (all J values around 5 Hz). A Dreiding model of this molecule suggests that the cyclohexane ring, C-14–19, is in a twisted chair conformation.

EXPERIMENTAL

GENERAL EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES.—Ir spectra were recorded on a Nicolet 205 Ft-ir spectrophotometer. Low-resolution mass spectra were recorded on a Finnigan-4021 mass spectrometer and high-resolution mass spectra (hrms) were obtained on a VG70 VSEQ instrument. ^1H - and ^{13}C -nmr spectra were recorded on Bruker AMX-360 and ARX-500 spectrometers. All chemical shifts are reported with respect to TMS ($\delta_{\text{H}}=0$). Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer Model 141 polarimeter using a 1-cm microcell.

COLLECTION AND ISOLATION PROCEDURES.—*Axinella weltneri* (Von Lendenfeld) (class Demospongiae, order Halichondria, family Axinellidae) (No. TASA-92) was collected in Sodwana Bay, South Africa by scuba during the summer of 1992. A voucher sample is deposited in the Zoological Department at Tel Aviv University. The freshly collected sponge was immediately frozen at -25° . The freeze-dried sponge (50 g) was then extracted with EtOAc to give a brown gum (2 g). The latter gum was chromatographed first on a Sephadex LH-20 column, eluted with MeOH- CHCl_3 -hexane (1:1:2) and then several times on Si gel columns eluted with hexane/EtOAc mixtures to afford: **1** (50 mg, 0.1%), **2** (0.01%), **3** (0.01%), **7** (0.01%), **8** (0.005%), and **9** (0.005%). R_f values (EtOAc-hexane, 1:1) are **1** 0.25, **9** 0.80 and all others approximately 1.0; (EtOAc-hexane, 2:8), **2** 0.18, **3** 0.22, **7** 0.25, **8** 0.35, **9** 0.05.

Sodwanone A [1].—Mp 253° (Me₂CO); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}} -9^\circ$ ($c=0.1$, CHCl_3); ir ν max (neat) 3520, 3400, 2975, 1715, 1613 cm^{-1} ; ^1H and ^{13}C nmr, see Table 1; COSY, H-4a/-4b, -5a, -5b; H-4b/-5a, -5b, Me-24; H-7/-8a, -9a, Me-24; H-8a/-9a, -9b; H-9a/-9b; H-11/-12a, -12b, Me-27; H-12a/-13a, -13b; H-13a/Me-28, -29; H-20a/-20b, -21a, -21b, Me-29; H-20b/21a, -21b, Me-29; Me-24/-25; Me-30/-31; eims m/z 500 (M^+ , 40), 482 ($\text{M}-\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 15), 260 ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3$, decalin part, 15), 246 ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$, decalin moiety, 100), 234 (m/z 246- H_2O , 62).

Sodwanone B [2].—Glass; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}} -6^\circ$ ($c=0.1$, CHCl_3); ir ν max (neat) 3400, 2950, 1713, 1625 cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C nmr, see Table 1; ^1H nmr δ_{H} 3.16 ddd ($J=13.5$, 11.1, and 2.6 Hz, H-4a), 2.90 dd ($J=10.7$ and 5.1 Hz, H-7), 2.77 dd ($J=18.5$ and 8.9 Hz, H-21a), 2.62 dt ($J=18.5$ and 9.4 Hz, H-21b), 2.01 (Me-28), 1.93 m (H-10), 1.55 s (Me-30), 1.52 s (Me-31), 1.35 s (Me-24), 1.30 s (Me-25), 1.25 m (H-11), 1.15 s (Me-29), 1.06 d ($J=7.5$ Hz, Me-27), 1.04 s (Me-26); COSY, same correlations as for **1**; eims m/z 484 (M^+ , 91), 248 ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3$, decalin moiety, 50), 234 ($\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{18}\text{O}_3$, decalin part, m/z 248- CH_2 , 100), 188 (80); hreims m/z 484.3188 (calcd m/z 484.3177 for $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{44}\text{O}_3$).

Sodwanone C [3].—Amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}} -35^\circ$ ($c=0.15$, CHCl_3); ir ν max (neat) 2950, 1715 cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C nmr, see Table 1; ^1H nmr δ_{H} 5.90 dd ($J=9.3$ and 3.2 Hz, H-16), 5.62 dd ($J=9.3$ and 2.7 Hz, H-17), 3.17 dt ($J=3.0$ and 11.3 Hz, H-4a), 2.97 dd ($J=4.3$ and 11.6 Hz, H-7), 2.82 dt ($J=5.7$ and 14.2 Hz), 1.78 s (Me-28), 1.30 s (Me-24), 1.25 s (Me-25), 1.19 s (Me-30), 1.12 s (Me-31), 1.03 s (Me-29), 0.99 s (Me-26), 0.96 d ($J=7.5$ Hz, Me-27); COSY, in addition to the correlations of the perhydrobenzoxepine and oxepane moieties, as in **1**, the following correlations were observed: H-16/Me-28; H-17/Me-30, -31; eims m/z 454 (M^+ , 32), 306 (32), 217 ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{21}\text{O}$, decalin moiety, 24), 203 ($\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{19}\text{O}$, decalin part, m/z 217- CH_2 , 100), 147 (m/z 217-70, 10), 133 (m/z 203-70, 26); hreims m/z 454.3425 (calcd 454.3435).

Sodwanone D [7].—Oil; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}} +19^\circ$ ($c=0.30$, CHCl_3); ir ν max (neat) 2960, 1715, 980 cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C nmr, see Table 2; ^1H nmr δ_{H} 4.94 s (H-27a), 4.57 s (H-27b), 3.25 dd ($J=10.5$ and 5.1 Hz, H-18), 3.18 dt ($J=3.0$ and 11.3 Hz, H-4a), 3.12 m (H-21a), 3.05 dd ($J=11.2$ and 4.7 Hz, H-7a), 2.28 dd ($J=12.7$ and 2.2 Hz, H-9a), 1.31 s (Me-30), 1.28 s (Me-24), 1.23 s (Me-31), 1.22 s (Me-25), 1.04 s (Me-29), 0.83 s (Me-26), 0.80 d ($J=6.6$ Hz, Me-28); eims m/z 488 (M^+ , 8), 306 ($\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{24}\text{O}_2$, $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{23}\text{O}_2$ left part or right part after water elimination, + C_3H_8 , 100); hreims m/z 488.3497 (calcd 488.3489).

Sodwanone E [8].—Oil; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}} +3^\circ$ ($c=0.1$, CHCl_3); ^{13}C nmr, see Table 2; ^1H nmr, δ_{H} 3.97 d ($J=3.2$ Hz, H-3), 3.52 dd ($J=10.5$ and 5.1 Hz, H-18), 3.20 dt ($J=11.3$ and 3.0 Hz, H-21a), 2.25 dd ($J=11.3$ and 2.2 Hz, H-21b), 1.95 m (H-4a), 1.92 m (H-10), 1.89 m (H-15), 1.39 s (Me-24), 1.34 s (Me-30), 1.29 s (Me-25), 1.27 s (Me-31), 1.15 s (Me-29), 1.04 s (Me-26), 0.97 d ($J=7.5$, Me-27), 0.86 d ($J=7.5$ Hz, Me-28); COSY, H-3/-4a, -4b, Me-24; H-21a/-21b, -20a, -20b; cims (CH_4) m/z 491 (MH^+ , 100), 473 ($\text{M}-\text{OH}$, 55), 455 ($\text{M}-\text{OH}-\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 20); eims m/z 490 (5), 404 ($\text{M}-86$, 60), 308 (100); hreims m/z 490.3632 (calcd 490.3645).

Sodwanone F [9].—Oil; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}} -4^\circ$ ($c=0.1$, CHCl_3); ^{13}C nmr, see Table 2; ^1H nmr (C_6D_6) δ_{H} 4.16 dd ($J=12.0$ and 4.9 Hz, H-18), 4.06 dd ($J=11.2$ and 5.2 Hz, H-7), 1.75 m (H-15), 1.65 s (Me-24), 1.57 s (Me-30), 1.38 s (Me-25), 1.37 s (Me-31), 1.18 s (Me-29), 1.15 s (Me-26), 0.86 d ($J=7.5$ Hz, Me-28), 0.80

d ($J=7.5$ Hz, Me-27); cims (CH_4) m/z 507 (MH^+ , 10), 489 (M-OH, 90), 471 (M-OH-H₂O, 100); hreims m/z 506.3585 (calcd 506.3594).

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