

**TRIACYLATED ANTHOCYANIDIN 3-ARABINOSYLGLUCOSIDE-7,3'-
DIGLUCOSIDES ISOLATED FROM THE BLuish FLOWERS OF
TRADESCANTIA VIRGINIANA CULTIVARS AND THEIR
DISTRIBUTION IN THE TRADESCANTIEAE**

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Abstract – Two triacylated anthocyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucosides were isolated from the purple-violet – violet-blue flowers of *Tradescantia virginiana* cultivars. The structures were determined to be 3-*O*-[6-*O*-(2-*O*-(*trans*-caffeoyl)- α -arabinofuranosyl)- β -glucopyranoside]-7,3'-*O*-di-[6-*O*-(*trans*-caffeoyl)- β -glucopyranoside]s of delphinidin and cyanidin. The former is a new anthocyanin in plants, whereas the latter, a rare anthocyanin has been recognized to be present in *Zebrina pendula*. Both anthocyanins exhibited typical three λ_{max} in the visible region at 537, 574 and 620 nm for the delphinidin glycoside and at 510, 545 and 580 nm for the cyanidin glycoside in a 5.6 pH solution. These spectroscopic characteristics might be responsible for forming the intramolecular co-pigmentation between anthocyanidin and caffeic acid residues in these pigments. By HPLC analysis of nine species of the tribe Tradescantieae it was revealed that polyacylated anthocyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucosides were commonly found in all these plants as their major anthocyanins.

INTRODUCTION

In the family of Commelinaceae, there are two subfamilies, such as the Cartonematoideae and Commelinoideae. The latter subfamily is further classified into two tribes, has divided into the tribe

Commelineae and the tribe Tradescantieae.¹ From the chemotaxonomic point of view of anthocyanin components in this family, two distinctive patterns have been recognized, such as anthocyanidin 3,5-diglucosides in the Commelineae and anthocyanidin 3,7,3'-glycosides in the Tradescantieae.² Regarding the Tradescantieae, Yoshitama (1978) firstly reported the occurrence of cyanidin and delphinidin 3,7,3'-triglucosides acylated with caffeic and ferulic acids, in the flowers of *Tradescantia reflexa*.³ Stirton and Harbone (1980) also reported the presence of anthocyanidin 3,7,3'-glycosides by investigation of 28 species of 10 genera in this tribe. Thereafter, five polyacylated cyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucosides were found in this tribe; such as Zebrinin and monodecafferylzebrinin from *Zebrina pendula* by Idaka et al. (1987),⁴ Tradescantin from *T. pallida* by Shi et al. (1992, 1993),^{5,6} and Baublis and Berber-Jimenez (1995),⁷ Rhoenin from *Rhoeo spathacea*, and Setcreasin from *Setcreasea purpurea* by Idaka et al. (1987).⁸

In our continuing works on flower color variation due to acylated anthocyanins of the ornamental plants,⁹ we were interested in anthocyanin pigments of the blue-violet flowers of *Tradescantia virginiana* cultivars and decided to elucidate their anthocyanin structures, which were anticipated to be heavily acylated with a number of hydroxycinnamic acids.

In this paper, we wish to report the structure elucidation of triacylated delphinidin and cyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucosides, in which the former is a new anthocyanin, and the later is not new but a rare anthocyanin. For the sake of convenience, this new anthocyanin is named as "Virginianin". Furthermore, the distribution of these polyacylated anthocyanins was surveyed for nine species in the Tradescantoideae.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Four anthocyanin pigments (**1** - **4**) were extracted from the violet – violet-blue flowers of *Tradescantia virginiana* cultivars with 5% HOAc, and purified using Diaion HP-20 resin column chromatography (CC), preparative paper chromatography (PC), and preparative HPLC according to the procedure described previously.¹⁰ Chromatographic and spectroscopic properties of these pigments are indicated in Table 1 and EXPERIMENTAL. Upon acid hydrolysis, all four pigments **1** – **4** gave glucose, arabinose, and caffeic acid. Delphinidin was found in the hydrolysates of pigments **1** and **3**, and cyanidin also was found in the hydrolysated of pigments **2** and **4**. Moreover, ferulic acid was found in the hydrolysates of pigments **3** and **4**. Upon alkaline hydrolysis, pigments **1** and **3** resulted the same delphinidin glycoside, and pigments **2** and **4** resulted in the same cyanidin glycoside as their deacyl anthocyanins. The cyanidin glycoside was identified as cyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside in comparison with the authentic cyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside, obtained from zebrinin on alkaline hydrolysis, by the analysis of TLC and HPLC (See in EXPERIMENTAL). On the other hand, the delphinidin

glycoside was presumed to be delphinidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside by the analytical results (See in EXPERIMENTAL).

Table 1. Chromatographic and spectral properties of acylated anthocyanins in the flowers of *Tradescantia virginiana* cultivars

Anthocyanins	Rf values (x 100)				HPLC			Based on FAB-MS						
	BAW	BuHCl	1%HCl	AHW	λ max(nm)	E acyl/E max(%)	E 440/E max(%)	Rt(min)	[M] ⁺	Anth	Glc	Ar	Caf	Fer
1	26	4	8	33	292, 328, 548	136	19	21.7	1407	Dp	3	1	3	
2	29	6	12	41	292, 328, 535	138	25	22.5	1391	Cy	3	1	3	
3	31	9	21	50	290, 329, 548	166	15	24.4	1421	Dp	3	1	2	1
4	38	11	28	70	290, 328, 537	142	22	25.2	1405	Cy	3	1	2	1
Zebrinin	33	6	3	19	291, 324, 538	170	34	28.4	1553	Cy	3	1	4	
Tradescantianin	45	14	6	42	289, 325, 539	185	44	40.0	1609	Cy	3	1		4
Rhoeonin	40	9	22	58	290, 328, 537	152	24	30.3	1433	Cy	3	1		3

Pigment 1: delphinidin 3-*O*-[6-*O*-(2-*O*-(caffeoyl)-arabinosyl)-glucoside]-7,3'-di-*O*-[6-*O*-(caffeoyl)-glucoside] = virginianin.

Pigment 2: cyanidin 3-*O*-[6-*O*-(2-*O*-(caffeoyl)-arabinosyl)-glucoside]-7,3'-di-*O*-[6-*O*-(caffeoyl)-glucoside] = monodecaffeoylzebrinin.⁴

Pigment 3: feruloylcaffeoylcaffeoyl delphinidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside.

Pigment 4: feruloylcaffeoylcaffeoyl cyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside.

Zebrinin: cyanidin 3-*O*-[6-*O*-(2,5-di-*O*-(caffeoyl)-arabinosyl)-glucoside]-7,3'-di-*O*-[6-*O*-(caffeoyl)-glucoside].⁴

Tradescantianin: cyanidin 3-*O*-[6-*O*-(2,4-di-*O*-(feruloyl)-arabinosyl)-glucoside]-7,3'-di-*O*-[6-*O*-(feruloyl)-glucoside].⁷

Rhoeonin: cyanidin 3-*O*-[6-*O*-(2-*O*-(feruloyl)-arabinosyl)-glucoside]-7,3'-di-*O*-[6-*O*-(feruloyl)-glucoside].⁸

FAB mass measurement of pigments **1** - **4** gave their molecular ions [M]⁺ (*m/z*) at 1407 (pigment **1**), 1391 (pigment **2**), 1421 (pigment **3**) and 1405 (pigment **4**), respectively. Their chemical compositions based on FAB MS were determined as shown in Table 1. On the basis of above results, the structures of pigments **1** - **4** were presumed to be tricaffeoylcyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside as pigment **1**, dicaffeoylmonoferuloylcyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside as pigment **3**, tricaffeoyldelphinidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside as pigment **2**, and dicaffeoylmonoferuloyldelphinidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside as pigment **4**. The structures of pigments **1** and **2** were further elucidated based on the analyses on their ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra [500 MHz for ¹H and 125.78 MHz for ¹³C spectra in CF₃CO₂D-CD₃OD (1:9) or DCl-CD₃OD (1:9), including 2D COSY, 2D NOESY, HMQC and HMBC spectra]. However, the further structural elucidations of pigments **3** and **4** could not be performed, unfortunately, due to its small amount available.

Pigment 1

The chemical shifts of 13 aromatic protons of delphinidin and caffeic acid moieties with their coupling constants were assigned by the analysis of 2D COSY spectrum of pigment **1** as shown in Table 2. The proton NMR spectrum of pigment **1** exhibited six olefin proton signals of caffeic acid moieties with large coupling constants (*J*=15.9, 15.6, and 15.9) suggesting to be *trans* configurations. The proton chemical shifts of the sugar moieties were observed in the region of δ 5.33 – 3.36, where the three anomeric protons of glucoses (A, B, and C) resonated at δ 5.33 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, Glc B-H1), δ 5.08 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, Glc C-H1), and δ 5.04 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, Glc A-H1) (Table 2). Based on the observed coupling

constants (Table 2), three glucoses were assumed to have β -pyranose form. Another anomeric proton of arabinose moiety was observed at δ 5.12 as a singlet. By the observed coupling constants ($J_{2,3}=3.1$ Hz, $J_{3,4}=6.7$ Hz, and $J_{4,5}=11.9$ Hz), the arabinose moiety was confirmed to have α -furanose form.

Table 2. NMR data of acylated anthocyanins isolated from the blue-violet flowers of *Tradescantia virginiana*

	1		2			1		2	
	δ C	δ H	δ C	δ H		δ C	δ H	δ C	δ H
Anthocyanidin					Caffeic acid (III)				
2	162.8		126.7		1	127.4		130.1	
3	146.2		146.1		2	146.2	6.87 d(2.1)	115.1	6.27 d(2.3)
4	133.4	8.30 s	132.9	8.36 s	3	146.6		146.4	
5	155.1		157.4		4	149.6		149.5	
6	105.1	6.77 d(1.7)	105.1	6.78 d(2.1)	5	115.7	6.66 d(8.5)	116.7	6.55 d(8.2)
7	167.1		167.2		6	116.6	6.72 dd(2.1, 8.5)	123.1	6.08 dd(2.3, 8.2)
8	95.0	6.66 d(1.7)	94.9	6.69 d(2.1)	α	115.3	5.76 d(15.9)	115.3	6.05 d(15.9)
9	158.0		158.2		β	147.2	6.93 d(15.9)	147.3	7.05 d(15.9)
10	114.4		108.1		COOH	168.6		168.2	
1'	119.6		120.6		Glucose (3)				
2'	117.4	7.97 brs	115.5	7.46 d(2.1)	1	102.1	5.04 d(7.6)	101.6	5.03 d(7.7)
3'	147.2		146.3		2	74.4	3.82 t*(9.2)	74.4	3.69 m
4'	146.4		155.1		3	77.1	3.68 m	77.4	3.67 m
5'	147.2		118.3	7.01 d(8.9)	4	71.7	3.48 t*(9.5)	71.7	3.46 t*(9.2)
6'	127.6	7.97 brs	132.9	8.40 dd(2.1, 8.9)	5	76.2	3.81 m	77.7	3.83 m
Caffeic acid (I)					6a	68.0	3.72 d(11.2)	68.0	3.74 m
1	126.5		127.3		6b		4.20 d(11.2)		4.19 br(10.4)
2	114.4	6.15 brs	114.3	6.14 d(1.9)	Glucose (7)				
3	146.4		146.3		1	101.6	5.33 d(7.7)	101.3	5.36 d(7.7)
4	149.4		149.4		2	74.4	3.66 m	74.4	3.66 m
5	116.6	6.30 d(7.9)	116.5	6.26 d(8.3)	3	77.7	3.70 m	77.9	3.69 m
6	122.3	5.95 brd(9.8)	122.3	5.93 brd(8.0)	4	73.0	3.43 t*(8.9)	73.0	3.41 t*(8.9)
α	115.0	5.76 d(15.9)	114.4	5.73 d(15.9)	5	75.1	3.92 m	74.6	3.94 m
β	146.1	6.93 d(15.9)	146.1	6.29 d(15.9)	6a	65.2	3.93 d(10.4)	65.2	3.94 m
COOH	168.2		168.1		6b		4.90 d(10.4)		4.93 m
Caffeic acid (II)					Glucose (3')				
1	126.9		126.4		1	101.2	5.08 d(7.0)	101.1	5.09 d(7.3)
2	114.4	6.29 brs	114.0	6.87 d(1.8)	2	74.4	3.66 m	74.2	3.66 m
3	146.5		146.4		3	77.7	3.68 m	76.2	3.70 m
4	149.5		149.6		4	-	3.36 t*(9.2)	72.8	3.35 t*(9.2)
5	116.8	6.59 d(7.9)	116.6	6.67 d(8.0)	5	-	3.76 m	75.2	3.80 m
6	123.1	6.09 brd(8.0)	123.2	6.73 dd(1.8, 8.0)	6a	65.0	3.96 d(10.7)	65.1	3.94 m
α	114.0	5.95 d(15.6)	114.1	5.96 d(15.9)	6b		5.10 m		5.11 m
β	147.8	7.30 d(15.6)	147.0	7.23 d(15.9)	Arabinose				
COOH	168.3		168.4		1	107.9	5.12 s	108.3	5.12 s
					2	86.0	5.14 d(3.1)	86.0	5.15 d(2.2)
					3	77.5	4.00 dd(3.7, 6.7)	77.0	4.00 dd(2.8, 6.8)
					4	85.4	4.08 dd(6.7, 11.9)	85.4	4.06 m
					5a	62.6	3.64 m	62.6	3.65 m
					5b		3.77 dd(3.4, 11.9)		3.77 dd(3.1, 12.2)

In the NOESY spectrum of pigment **1**, strong NOEs were observed between H-4 of delphinidin and H-1 of Glc A, H-6 of delphinidin and H-1 of Glc B, H-2' of delphinidin and H-1 of Glc C, and also H-6 of Glc A and H-1 of arabinose, indicating that delphinidin was glycosylated with Glc A at OH-3, Glc B at OH-7, and Glc C at OH-3', respectively (Figure 1), and that the OH-6 of Glc A was glycosylated with arabinose to form vicianose [α -arabinosyl(1 \rightarrow 6)glucose]. By the analysis of its 2D COSY spectrum, five characteristic proton signals shifted to lower magnetic fields were assigned to four methylene protons at δ 3.93 and 4.90 (Glc B, H-6a and H-6b), δ 3.96 and 5.10 (Glc C, H-6a and H-6b), and a methine proton at δ 5.14 (arabinose H-2). Thus, three hydroxyl groups of the three sugars, OH-6 of Glc B, OH-6 of Glc

C and OH-2 of arabinose were determined to be acylated with caffeic acid, respectively. Therefore, pigment **1** was determined to be delphinidin 3-*O*-[6-*O*-(2-*O*-(*trans*-caffeoyl)- α -arabinofuranosyl)- β -glucopyranoside]-7,3'-*O*-di-[6-*O*-(*trans*-caffeoyl)- β -glucopyranoside], which is a new anthocyanin in plants.^{11,12} This structure was confirmed by the analysis of HMQC and HMBC spectra (Table 2 and Figure 1).

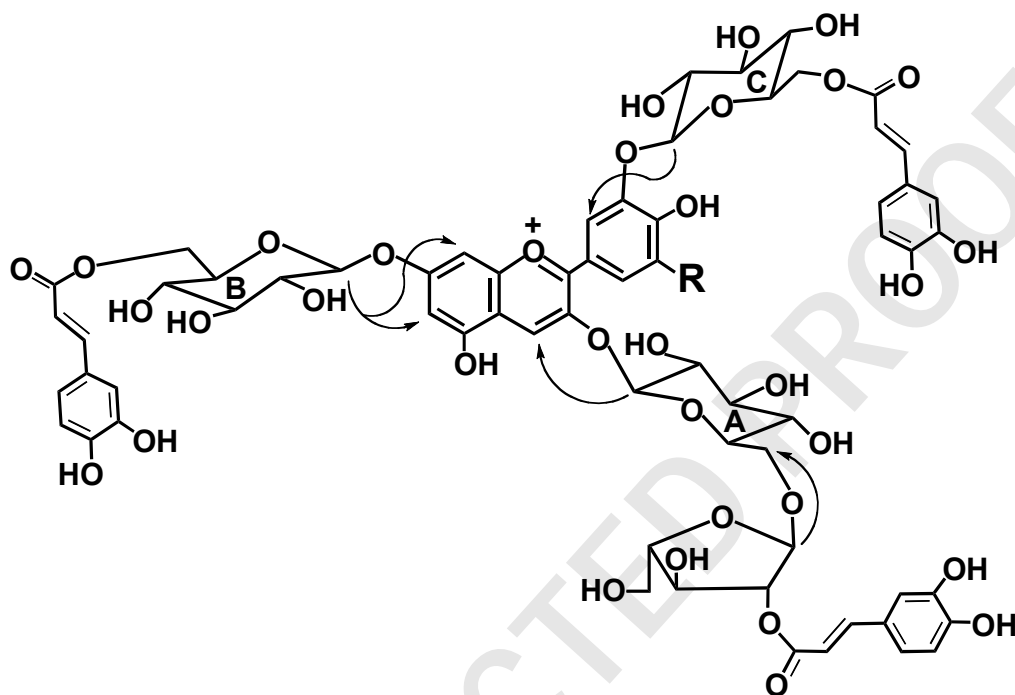


Figure 1. Acylated anthocyanins isolated from the blue-violet flowers of *Tradescantia virginiana* cultivars
Pigment 1: R=OH (Virginianin), **Pigment 2:** R=H (Monodecaffeoylzebrinin)

Pigment 2

The FAB mass spectrum gave a molecular ion $[M]^+$ at 1391 m/z indicating that pigment **2** was composed to be cyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside with three molecules of caffeic acid. By the analysis TLC and HPLC, pigment **2** was identical with monodecaffeoylzebrinin⁴ in comparison with the authentic monodecaffeoylzebrinin obtained from leaves of *Zebrina pendula* (Table 1). This structure was confirmed by the analysis of its NMR spectra as follows. The ^1H NMR spectrum of pigment **2** was identical with that of pigment **1** except for the signals of cyanidin moiety (Table 2). The resonances of the aromatic protons of cyanidin appeared at δ 8.40 (dd, $J=2.1$ and 8.9 Hz, H-6'), 8.36 (s, H-4), 7.46 (brs, H-2'), 7.01 (d, $J=8.9$ Hz, H-5'), 6.78 (d, $J=2.1$ Hz, H-6), and 6.69 (d, $J=2.1$ Hz, H-8), and also nine aromatic protons of caffeic acid moieties were assigned as shown in Table 2. The olefinic proton signals of three caffeic acids exhibited large coupling constants ($J=15.9$ Hz; caffeic acid I, $J=15.9$ Hz; caffeic acid II, and $J=15.9$ Hz; caffeic acid III), supporting the presence of *trans* configurations for three

caffeic acids. The three anomeric protons of glucose moieties were assigned at δ 5.03 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, Glc A), δ 5.36 (d, $J=7.7$ Hz, Glc B), and δ 5.09 (d, $J=7.3$ Hz, Glc C), and these glucose moieties were determined to be β -pyranose forms based on their observed J values. The anomeric protons of arabinose moiety were observed at δ 5.12 as a singlet. Since the vicinal coupling constants of arabinose moiety exhibited $J=2.2 - 12.2$ Hz, pigment **2** was supported to have α -arabinofuranose form. The linkages and positions between its anthocyanidin and sugars or sugars and acids were determined to be identical with those of pigment **1** by the analysis of its NOESY and COSY spectra (Table 2 and Figure 1). Therefore, the structure of pigment **2** was determined to be cyanidin 3-*O*-[6-*O*-(2-*O*-(*trans*-caffeoyl)- α -arabinofuranosyl)- β -glucopyranoside]-7,3'-*O*-di-[6-*O*-(*trans*-caffeoyl)- β -glucopyranoside], which has already been reported in the plant of *Zebrina pendula*.⁴ However, its distribution is very rare and this report is second one in plants.

The flower colors of *T. virginiana* cultivars

There are three different flower color types in the flowers of *T. virginiana* cultivars; such as a violet-blue flower (Violet-Blue 94A) of 'True Blue', a purple-violet flower (Purple-Violet 82C) of cultivar 2, and their intermediary color flowers of 'Purple Dome' (Violet 86B) and cultivar 1 (Violet 88B). By the analysis of HPLC, acylated delphinidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucosides were found in its violet-blue flower of 'True Blue' as dominant pigments, and acylated cyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucosides were found in the purple-violet flower of cultivar 2 as its major anthocyanins (Table 3). On the other hand, the intermediate color flowers of 'Purple Dome' and cultivar 1 contained both acylated 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucosides of cyanidin and delphinidin at considerable amounts (Table 3). On the light absorption responsible for flower colors, the absorption maxima of pigment **2** exhibit at 510, 542, and 580 nm in the pH 5.6 buffer solution, and are identical with those of the purple-violet flower of cultivar 2 (Figure 2-a). Moreover, the absorption maxima of pigment **1** observed at 537, 574, and 620 nm in the same pH 5.6 buffer solution, and are similar to those of the fresh flower of 'True Blue' (Figure 2-b). These absorption maxima of pigment **1** and **2** are comparable to the values of zebrinin (510, 542, and 583 nm) and cinerarin (537, 574, and 620 nm) in the buffer solution.⁹ Both these light absorption spectra of zebrinin and cinerarin are produced on basis of the intramolecular co-pigmentation between anthocyanidins and aromatic acid residues in their molecules.⁹ Therefore, it may be considered that these flower colors of *T. virginiana* cultivars are responsible for the intramolecular co-pigmentation of polyacylated anthocyanins between their anthocyanidins and aromatic acid residues.

The distribution of polyacylated anthocyanins in the plants of the Tradescantieae

Four polyacylated cyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside have been recognized in the

Tradescantieae up to date, such as zebrinin and monodecaffeoylzebrinin from *Zebrina pendula*,⁴ tradescantin from the *Tradescantia pallida*,⁵⁻⁷ and rhoenin from *Rhoeo spathacea*.⁸ In this paper, it was proved that anthocyanins of *T. virginiana* cultivars are constituted of polyacylated anthocyanins. Those anthocyanins can be classified into the group of acylated anthocyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside.

Table 3. Distribution of acylated anthocyanins in the plants of the Tradescantieae

Plant and organ*	Anthocyanin**								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Cyanotis kewensis</i>	L	3		1					
<i>Dichorisandra thyrsoiflora</i>	F	3	1	2	1				
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i> 'Laeomeusis'	F		2		3	2	2	1	
<i>T. pallida</i> 'Purple Heart'	L							2	3
<i>T. paludosa</i> (= <i>T. ohioensis</i>)	F	3	1	1	2				
<i>T. sillamontana</i>	F								3
<i>T. spathacea</i> (= <i>Rhoeo spathacea</i>)	L							3	
<i>T. virginiana</i> 'Purple Dome'	F	2	3		1				
<i>T. virginiana</i> 'True Blue'	F	3	2	2	2				
<i>T. virginiana</i> cv.(1)	F	2	3		2				
<i>T. virginiana</i> cv.(2)	F		3		1				
<i>T. zebrina</i> (= <i>Zebrina pendula</i>) 'Purpsii'	L		1					3	
<i>T. zebrina</i> (= <i>Zebrina pendula</i>) 'Purpsii'	F	1	3			2		2	
<i>T. zebrina</i> (= <i>Zebrina pendula</i>) 'Quadricolor'	L		1					3	

*L=leaf, F=flower.

**Anthocyanin: 1=pigment 1(virginianin), 2=pigment 2(monodecaffeoylzebrinin), 3=pigment 3(dicafeoylmonoferuloyldelphinidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside), 4=pigment 4(dicafeoylmonoferuloylcyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside, 5 and 6=unknown pigments, 7=zebrinin,⁴ 8=rhoenin,⁸ 9=tradescantin,⁷ see Table 1.

Anthocyanins in concentration on HPLC. 1=presence of a small amount, 2=regular presence, and 3=presence of a large amount. Grades of anthocyanin amounts roughly correspond to the value (%) of HPLC analysis as follows: 1=5 - 10%, 2=10 - 20%, and 3=20 - 70%.

As mentioned above, Yoshitama (1987) reported the occurrence of acylated cyanidin and delphinidin 3,7,3'-triglucosides in the flowers of *T. reflexa*,³ and Stirton and Harborne (1980), also, reported that acylated cyanidin 3,7,3'-triglucosides were detected in 18 species of the tribe Tradescantieae.² However, both reports became rather classical type of research on anthocyanins. Thus, we attempted to reinvestigated the detailed structures and the distributions in these plants.

As shown in Table 3, nine species in the Tradescantieae were investigated on their distributions of anthocyanin components by the analysis of HPLC, and the presence of nine acylated anthocyanins (pigments 1 – 9) were recognized in them. Pigments 1 – 4 were isolated from the flowers of *T. virginiana* cultivars and structures were elucidated in this study. Pigments 9, 8 and 7 were identified to be

tradescantin, rhoenonin, and zebrinin in comparison with the authentic specimens isolated from *T. pallida*,⁷ *Rhoeo spathacea*,⁸ and *Zebrina pendula*.⁴ These pigments were further confirmed by the measurements of their FAB masses (Table 1). However, the structures of pigments **5** and **6** could not be elucidated due to their small amounts of available. From the results of these analyses, it was revealed that the distribution of acylated anthocyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside is very common in the plants of the Tradescantieae. Particularly, the occurrence of monodecaffeoylzebrinin is widely observed in this tribe. Thus, acylated anthocyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucosides were useful to be a chemotaxonomic marker for the classification of plants in the Tradescantieae.

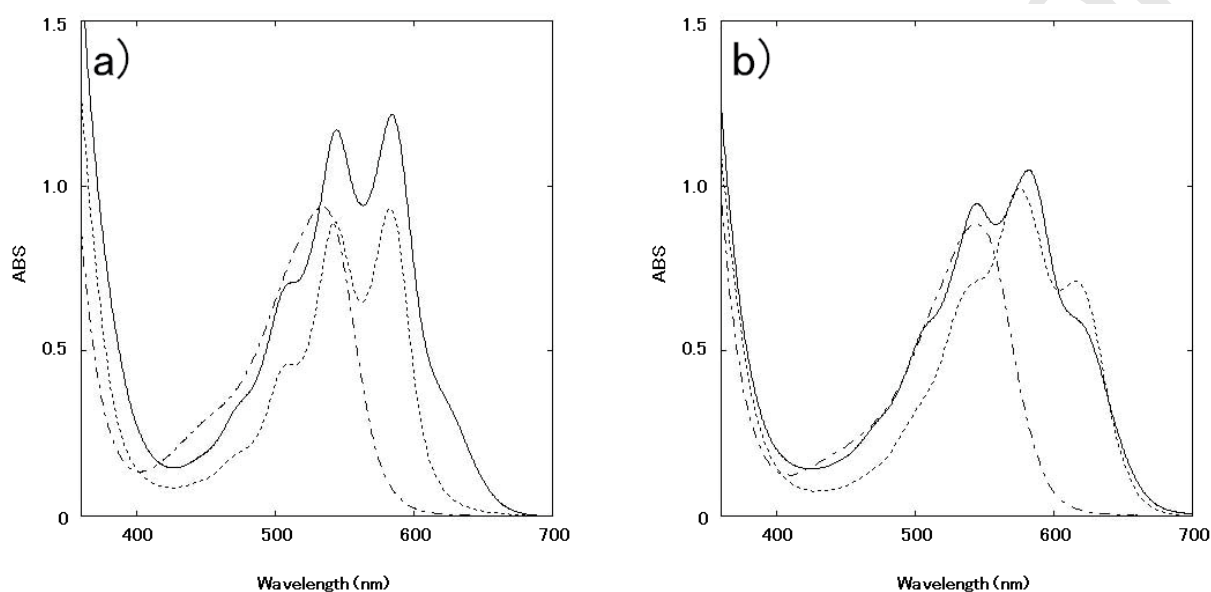


Figure 2. Visible absorption spectra of pigments 1 and 2, and purple-violet and violet-blue petal-tissues of *T. virginiana*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>a)</p> <p>— Fresh petal [purple-violet, 510, 542, 580, (620) nm]</p> <p>..... Pigment 2 in buffer solution [phosphate-citrate buffer (MacIlvaine), pH 5.6] [510, 542, 580 nm]</p> <p>- · - · - Pigment 2 in 0.1% HCl-MeOH [535 nm]</p> | <p>b)</p> <p>— Fresh petal [violet-blue, 540, 578, 620 nm]</p> <p>..... Pigment 1 in buffer solution [phosphate-citrate buffer (MacIlvaine), pH 5.6] [537, 574, 620 nm]</p> <p>- · - · - Pigment 1 in 0.1% HCl-MeOH [548 nm]</p> |
|---|--|

EXPERIMENTAL

General procedures

Thin layer chromatography (TLC) and paper chromatography (PC) were carried out on cellulose-coated plastic sheets (Merck) using eight mobile phases: BAW (*n*-BuOH/HOAc/H₂O, 4:1:2, v/v/v), BuHCl (*n*-BuOH/2N HCl, 1:1, v/v, upper layer), AHW (HOAc/HCl/H₂O, 15:3:82, v/v/v), 1% HCl, and Forestal (HOAc/HCl/H₂O, 30:3:10, v/v/v) for anthocyanins, and BAW, APW (EtOAc/pyridine/H₂O, 15:7:5, v/v/v), EFW (Et₂O/HCO₂H/H₂O, 5:2:1, v/v/v), and 15% HOAc-H₂O for sugars and organic acid with UV light and aniline hydrogen phthalate spray reagent.¹³

Analytical HPLC was performed LC 10A system (Shimadzu) equipped with PDA-detector (Shimadzu

SPD-M10Avp), using a Waters C18 (4.6 ϕ x 250 mm) column at 40 °C with a flow rate of 1 mL/min and monitoring at 530 nm. The eluant was applied as a linear gradient elution for 40 min from 20 to 85 % solvent B (1.5% H₃PO₄, 20% HOAc, 25% MeCN in H₂O) in solvent A (1.5% H₃PO₄ in H₂O). UV-Vis spectra of pigments were recorded on a MPS-2450 (Shimadzu) in 0.1% HCl-MeOH and pH5.6 buffer (from 360 to 700 nm). Spectral absorption of the flowers was directly measured on the intact petals using a recording spectrophotometer operated as double-beam instrument (Type MPS-2450 Shimadzu).¹³ FAB mass spectra were obtained in the positive ion mode using the magic bullet (5:1 mixture of dithiothreitol and dithioerythritol) as a matrix.

NMR spectra were recorded at 500 MHz for ¹H spectra and at 125.78 MHz for ¹³C spectra in CD₃OD-DCl (9:1) and DMSO-*d*₆-CF₃CO₂D (9:1). Chemical shifts are reported relative to a tetramethylsilane (TMS) internal standard (δ), and coupling constants (*J*) are in Hz.

Plant materials

Nursery plants of *T. virginiana* cultivars, *T. sillamontana*, and *T. spathacea* were purchased from Takii Co. Ltd (Kyoto), and Sakata Co. Ltd (Yokohama) and grown in greenhouses and fields at Iwate and Chiba Universities. The flowers of *T. virginiana* cultivars exhibited from purple-violet to violet-blue colors; cultivar 'Purple Dome' = Violet 86B by Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart and its intact petal λ_{\max} (510), 542, 580, (620) nm; 'True Blue' = Violet-Blue 94A and λ_{\max} 540, 578, 620 nm; cultivar 1 = Violet 88B and λ_{\max} (510), 541, 580, (623) nm; cultivar 2 = Purple-Violet 82C and λ_{\max} 510, 542, 580 nm. Flowers and leaves were collected in June and July in 2003 - 2009, dried overnight at 40°C, and kept refrigerator at 4°C until needed. *Cyanotis kewensis*, *Dichorisandra thyrsiflora*, *Tradescantia fluminensis* 'Laeomensis', *T. paludosa*, *T. purpsii*, *T. pallida* 'Purple Heart', *T. zebrina* (= *Zebrina pendula*) 'Purpsii' and 'Quadricolor', and *T. spathacea* (= *Rhoeo spathacea*) were kindly gotten from the Minami-Bousou Plant Garden (Minami-Bousou City, Chiba), and were confirmed by Dr. M. Yokoi.

Isolation and purification of anthocyanins

Pigments 1 – 4 from *T. virginiana* cultivars

Dried flower (*ca.* 200 g) of *T. virginiana* cultivars were immersed in 5% HOAc (5 L) for 5 h at rt and extracted. The extract was passed through a Diaion HP-20 resin (Mitsubishi Chemical's Ion Exchange Resins) column (90 x 150 mm), on which anthocyanins were absorbed. The column was thoroughly washed with H₂O (10 L) and eluted 5% HOAc-MeOH (1L) to recover anthocyanins. After concentration, the eluates were separated and purified with paper chromatography using BAW. The separated pigments 1 – 4 were further purified with preparative HPLC. Preparative HPLC was performed on a Waters C18 (19 x 150 mm) column at 40°C with a flow rate of 4 ml/min⁻¹ and monitoring at 530 nm.

The solvent used was as follows; a linear gradient elution for 15 min from 50 to 70% solvent B (1.5% H₃PO₄, 20% HOAc, 25% MeCN in H₂O) in solvent A (1.5% H₃PO₄ in H₂O). Finally, four anthocyanins were obtained as follows; pigment **1** (ca. 150 mg), pigment **2** (ca. 60 mg), pigment **3** (ca. 5 mg), and pigment **4** (ca. 4 mg), respectively.

Pigments 1 – 4; Characterization of pigments **1 – 4** were carried out as follows. All anthocyanins are dark purple-violet powders; for UV-Vis, TLC, HPLC, and FAB-MS, see Table 1. Pigment **1**; HR-FAB MS calc. 1407.3463 (C₆₅H₆₇O₃₅). Found 1407.3485. Pigment **2**; HR-FAB MS calc. 1391.3514 (C₆₅H₆₇O₃₄). Found 1391.3516.

Authentic pigments

Tradescantin was obtained from *T. pallida* ‘Purple Heart’,⁷ zebrinin was obtained from *T. zebrina* (= *Z. pendula*),⁴ and rhoenin was obtained from *T. spathacea* (= *R. spathacea*).⁸ The structures of these anthocyanins were confirmed by the analysis of chemical and spectroscopic methods (see Table 1).

Deacyl pigment 1 (delphinidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside); Dark purple-violet powder; UV-Vis λ_{max} (PDA of HPLC): 274, 513 nm, R_f values of TLC (x 100): BAW 4, BuHCl 1, 1%HCl 18, AHW 48, HPLC: R_t (min): 5.5.

Deacyl pigment 2 (cyanidin 3-arabinosylglucoside-7,3'-diglucoside); Dark purple-violet powder; UV-Vis λ_{max} (PDA of HPLC): 278, 502 nm, R_f values of TLC (x 100): BAW 10, BuHCl 2, 1%HCl 33, AHW 61, HPLC: R_t (min): 7.1.

Distribution survey of anthocyanins in the plants of *Tradescantia* and its relatives

Dried petal (ca. 50 mg) or fresh petal (ca. 0.5 g) and fresh leaves (ca. 0.5 g) were extracted with MAW (MeOH/HOAc/H₂O, 4:1:5, v/v/v). Quantitative analysis of anthocyanins was performed by HPLC on a Waters C18 (4.6 x 250 mm) column at 40°C with a flow rate of 1 ml/min and monitoring at 530 nm. Solvent system was used: a linear gradient elution for 40 min from 20 to 85% solvent B in solvent A.

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