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Azaphilone and isocoumarin derivatives from the sponge-derived fungus *Eupenicillium* sp. 6A-9



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Introduction

In recent years, marine-derived fungi have gained ever-increasing attention as a promising reservoir for biologically and pharmaceutically active marine natural products (MNPs) and have become the third-largest MNP-source [1–5]. Sponge-derived fungi, as fungi with unique habitat, have also received increasing attention for novel bioactive MNPs [1,6,2-4]. As part of our efforts for bioactive fungal metabolites, chemical investigations of fungi isolated from several marine sponges collected from Yongxing Island were initiated [7–10]. Prior investigation of the fungus *Eupenicillium* sp. 6A-9 (KM582643) isolated from the marine sponge Plakortis simplex in our group has resulted in the isolation of several immuno-alleviating meroterpenoids [10]. Continuing investigation of the remaining subfractions of its EtOAc extract yielded four new compounds, eupenicilazaphilones A-C (1-3) and eupenicillin A (4), together with five known azaphilones, geumsanol F(5) [11], hypocrellone A (6) [11], WB (7) [12], geumsanol G (8) [11], isochromophilone VI (9) [13] (Fig. 1). The structures and absolute configurations of these compounds were resolved by virtue of detailed spectroscopic analysis, comparison with literature data, and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts and TDDFT/ECD calculations. Herein, we reported the isolation, structure elucidation, and biological activities of these compounds.

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ABSTRACT

Three new azaphilones, eupenicilazaphilones A–C (1–3), and one new isocoumarin, eupenicillin A (4), as well as five known azaphilones were isolated from the sponge-derived fungus *Eupenicillium* sp. 6A-9. Their structures were elucidated by detailed spectroscopic analysis, comparison with literature data, and ¹³C NMR chemical shifts and TDDFT/ECD calculations. The antibacterial activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC25923, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC4330, and *Acinetobacter baumanii* ATCC19606 as well as the cytotoxic activity towards human cancer lines MCF-7 and A549 were examined.

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Results and discussion

Eupenicilazaphilone A (1) has a molecular formula of $C_{19}H_{27}O_6$ -Cl with 6 degrees of unsaturation, based on its [M+H]⁺ molecular ion at m/z 387.1566 in its HR-ESI-MS (calcd. for C₁₉H₂₈O₆Cl, 387.1574). Positive ESI-MS spectrum revealed pseudomolecular ion peaks at m/z 387 and 389 [M+H]⁺ with a ratio of 3:1, indicating the presence of one chlorine atom in 1. Its UV spectrum exhibited a maximum absorption at 363 nm, suggesting an extended conjugated chromophore. Analysis of ¹H and HSQC NMR spectroscopic data of **1** (Table S1) revealed the presence of four methyls ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.33, 1.33, 0.89, 0.89), two *trans*-coupled olefinic protons ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.31, 6.63, J = 15.5 Hz), five methines (δ_{H} 6.10, 4.04, 3.41, 3.20, 1.56), and two methylenes ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.15, 4.55; 1.27, 1.43). Its ¹³C and DEPT spectra (Table S1) exhibited a total of 19 carbon resonances divided into 7 sp² carbons [1 carbonyl carbon ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 195.4) and 6 olefinic carbons (δ_c 163.0, 146.3, 144.3, 122.9, 118.1, 102.9)] and 12 sp³ carbons [2 oxygenated quaternary carbons ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 79.2, 77.0), 4 methine (δ_{C} 79.8, 75.9, 38.7, 37.7), 2 methylene (δ_{C} 69.7, 30.1), and 4 methyl (δ_{C} 26.1, 23.6, 14.2, 12.2) carbon atoms]. As one carbonyl and six olefinic carbons require 4 degrees of unsaturation, **1** was further evidenced to be a bicyclic compound.

A consecutive ¹H–¹H COSY correlation, H₂-1/H-8a/H-8, along with HMBC correlations from H-1 α ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.55) to C-3 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 163.0), C-4a ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 146.3) and C-8a ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 38.7), from H-8a ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.20) to C-4a, and from H-4 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.10) to C-3 and C-8a were sufficient to generate the 3,4-dihydro-2*H*-pyran ring and its exocyclic oxygenated



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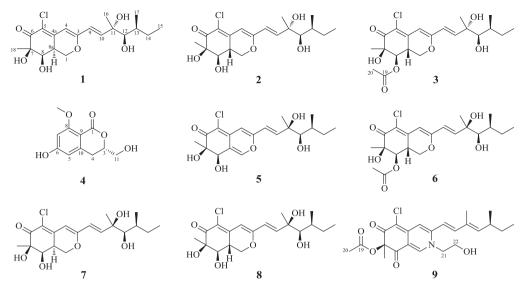


Fig. 1. Structures of compounds 1–9.

methine carbon C-8 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 75.9) (Fig. 2). Besides, H-4 and H-8a showed three-bond connectivities to C-5 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 118.1). H-8 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.04) showed two-bond correlation to C-7 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 79.2) and three-bond cor-

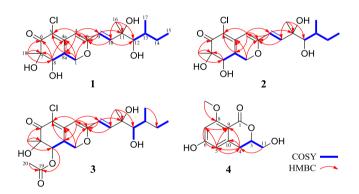


Fig. 2. Key COSY and HMBC correlations of 1-4.

relations to C-4a and C-6 (δ_C 195.4). Me-18 (δ_H 1.33) exhibited three-bond couplings to C-6 and C-8 and two-bond coupling to C-7. These data together could establish a bicyclic core moiety, indicating the presence of an azaphilone skeleton [11,14]. The ¹H-¹H COSY cross-peaks [H-12/H-13(Me-17)/H₂-14/Me-15 and H-9/H-10] and HMBC correlations [Me-16 (δ_H 1.33)/C-10 (δ_C 144.3), C-11 (δ_C 77.0), and C-12 (δ_C 79.8)] established the 3,5-dimethylhept-1-ene-3,4-diol side chain. This chain was connected to C-3 by HMBC connectivities of H-9 (δ_H 6.31) and H-10 (δ_H 6.63) to C-3, thereby completing the structure of eupenicilazaphilone A (1) as shown, which has the same planar structure as that of the previously reported azaphilones, WB (7) [12] and geumsanol G (8) [11]. All these assignments were supported by the other NMR spectroscopic data shown (Fig. 2).

Detailed comparison of its NMR data with those of **7** and **8** (Tables S1 and S9–S11) indicated that the western azaphilone core moieties of compounds **1** and **7** are completely identical (with same relative configurations at C-7, C-8, and C-8a), which can be verified from its NOESY spectrum (Fig. 3), whereas the relative

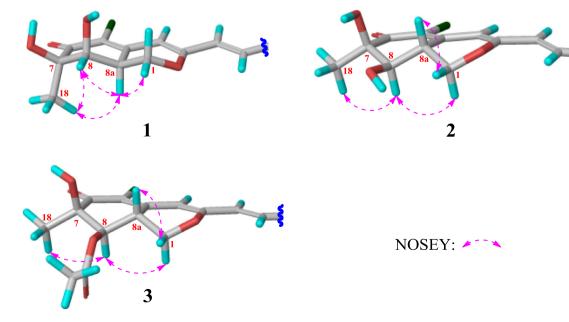


Fig. 3. Key NOESY correlations of 1-3.

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