

Germacrane-Type Sesquiterpenes from *Curcuma wenyujin*

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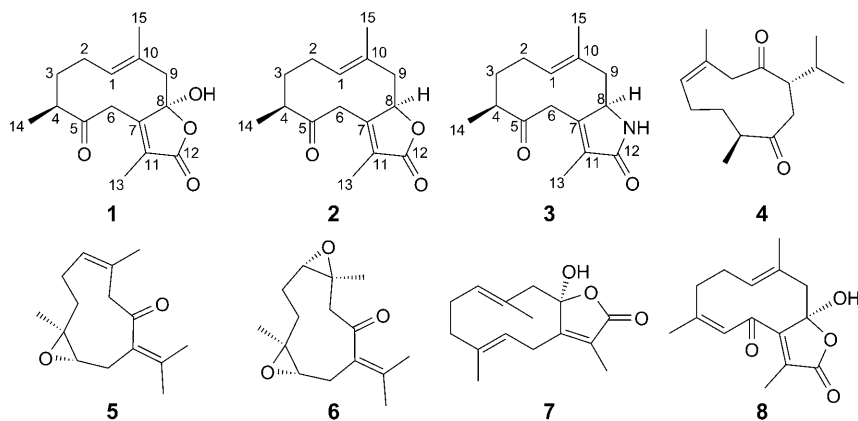
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Two new germacrane-type sesquiterpene lactones, curdionolides A and B (**1** and **2**, resp.), and a novel germacrane-type sesquiterpene lactam, curdionolide C (**3**), were isolated from *Curcuma wenyujin*. Y. H. CHEN ET C. LING together with five known germacrane-type sesquiterpenes, **4–8**. The structures of the new compounds were elucidated by spectroscopic methods. The inhibitory effects of compounds **1–8** on nitric oxide (NO) production in lipopolysaccharide-activated macrophages were evaluated.

Introduction. – There are many reports on the pharmacological effects of the genus *Curcuma* such as their antitumor [1], anti-inflammatory [2], and immunological activities [3]. In traditional Chinese and Japanese medicine, *Curcuma* plants are generally used to treat the *Oketsu* syndromes (various syndromes caused by the obstruction of blood circulation such as arthralgia, psychataxia, and dysmenorrhea) [4]. The essential oil of *Curcuma wenyujin* is currently embodied in the Pharmacopoeia of the P. R. China (2005), as an anticancer and antiviral remedy [5]. Previous chemical investigations on the genus *Curcuma* have led to the isolation of sesquiterpenoids [6] and diarylheptanoids [7], some of these compounds possess significant vasorelaxant [6c][8] and hepatoprotective activities [9]. Investigation of bioactive constituents from the dried rhizomes of *Curcuma wenyujin*, has resulted in the isolation of three new germacrane-type sesquiterpenes **1–3**, together with five known compounds **4–8**. This article mainly describes the isolation and characterization of these compounds and their inhibitory effects on nitric oxide (NO) production in lipopolysaccharide-(LPS) activated macrophages.

Results and Discussion. – The dried rhizomes of *Curcuma wenyujin* (cultivated in Zhejiang Province, P. R. China) were extracted successively with cyclohexane and 50% EtOH. The 50% EtOH extract was partitioned successively with cyclohexane, AcOEt, and BuOH. These fractions were purified by repeated column chromatography, including silica gel, *Sephadex LH-20* column, *ODS* column, HPLC, and preparative TLC to afford three new and five known compounds.

Compound **1**, obtained as a colorless oil, possesses the molecular formula C₁₅H₂₀O₄ as determined on the basis of HR-ESI-MS data, which was compatible with the NMR



data. The IR spectrum of **1** indicated the presence of an α,β -unsaturated γ -lactone ring (1741 cm^{-1}) and a ketone (1715 cm^{-1}). The UV spectrum showed an absorption maximum at 224 nm . The ^{13}C -NMR spectrum (recorded in CD_3OD ; *Table 1*) displayed 15 C-atom resonances comprising three Me, four CH_2 , and two CH groups (thereof one olefinic CH), as well as six quaternary C-atoms (one O-bearing, three olefinic C-atoms, one ketone CO, and one ester CO group). These functionalities accounted for four degrees of unsaturation. Considering the degrees of unsaturation and molecular formula, compound **1** must be bicyclic. The aforementioned spectroscopic features implied that compound **1** might be a germacrane-type sesquiterpene [10]. This assumption was corroborated by an HMBC experiment. The HMBC correlations of Me(14) to C(3), C(4), and C(5); Me(15) to C(2), C(3), C(9), C(10), C(1), and C(8); and CH_2 (6) to C(5), C(7), and C(8) supported a germacrane skeleton for **1**. The HMBC correlations of Me(13) to C(7), C(11), C(12), C(8), C(5), and C(6) confirmed that an α,β -unsaturated γ -lactone ring ($\delta(\text{C})$ 156.7, 108.3, 130.5, and 173.7) was located at C(7), C(8), C(11), and C(12) with a Me group ($\delta(\text{H})$ 1.83; $\delta(\text{C})$ 9.4) attached to C(11). The location of the OH group at C(8) was confirmed by the ketol C-atom signal ($\delta(\text{C})$ 108.3, C(8)). Thus, the constitutional formula of **1** was established. The C(1)=C(10) bond was assigned an (*E*)-configuration owing to the chemical shift of C(15) ($\delta(\text{C})$ 16.8), which appears at $\delta(\text{C})$ ca. 15 [11]. The NOE correlation between Me(14) and Me(15) indicated they had a same orientation in the molecule, while correlations between $\text{H}-\text{C}(4)/\text{H}_\alpha-\text{C}(9)$, and $\text{H}_\alpha-\text{C}(9)/\text{HO}-\text{C}(8)$ (measured in $\text{C}_5\text{D}_5\text{N}$) suggested them to be on the same orientation of the ring but opposite to that of Me(14). The ten-membered ring is conformationally flexible [12], while the H-atom signals in the ^1H -NMR of **1** (*Table 2*) are not broadened, which indicated the positioning of the ketone CO at C(5) and the OH group on C(8) in **1** favor formation of an $\text{O}-\text{H}\cdots\text{O}$ intramolecular H-bond [13]. This hypothesis was confirmed by IR ((CCl_4) : 3365 cm^{-1}) and molecular modeling of **1**. Accordingly, the structure of **1** was determined, and it was named as curdionolide A.

Compound **2**, obtained as a colorless oil, had the molecular formula $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_3$ as determined by means of HR-ESI-MS. The IR spectrum exhibited CO absorptions at

Table 1. ^{13}C -NMR Data for Compounds **1**–**3**. δ in ppm.

	1 ^{a)} ^{b)}	1 ^{b)} ^{c)}	2 ^{a)} ^{b)}	3 ^{a)} ^{d)}	3 ^{d)} ^{e)}
H–C(1)	134.8	133.9	134.4	133.7	132.9
CH ₂ (2)	28.2	27.8	28.2	28.3	27.3
CH ₂ (3)	37.4	36.7	37.1	37.3	36.1
H–C(4)	48.8	48.1	49.4	48.2	47.8
C(5)	211.9	209.8	211.6	209.7	210.0
CH ₂ (6)	41.3	41.0	42.4 ^{f)}	42.9 ^{f)}	42.6 ^{f)}
C(7)	156.7	156.1	159.3	151.9	151.5
C(8) or H–C(8)	108.3	107.8	81.7	58.6	58.6
CH ₂ (9)	50.9	51.0	47.4	47.3	46.4
C(10)	132.1	129.8	131.0	132.1	130.2
C(11)	130.5	131.9	129.0	133.6	132.8
C(12)	173.7	172.2	176.1	175.9	174.1
Me(13)	9.4	9.8	9.2	8.9	8.9
Me(14)	18.8	18.5	18.8	18.9	18.6
Me(15)	16.8	17.1	16.0	15.8	15.7

^{a)} In CD₃OD. ^{b)} Recorded at 75 MHz. ^{c)} In C₃D₅N. ^{d)} Recorded at 150 MHz. ^{e)} In CDCl₃. ^{f)} Low and broad.

1741 (α,β -unsaturated γ -lactone) and 1711 cm⁻¹ (ketone). The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR data of **2** were similar to those of **1** (measured in CD₃OD; *Table 2* and *1*, resp.), except for the appearance of an O-bearing CH group ($\delta(\text{C})$ 81.7, $\delta(\text{H})$ 5.21), and the disappearance of the hemiketal C-atom ($\delta(\text{C})$ 108.3). Considering the difference of the respective molecular weights, the hemiketal C-atom C(8) of **1** was replaced by a O-bearing CH group in **2**. This assumption was confirmed by HMBC correlations of CH₂(6) and Me(13) with C(8). Compound **2** is conformationally flexible, as evidenced by the broadened NMR signals (*Tables 1* and *2*). This indicated that several conformers are present at room temperature [12]. The C(1)=C(10) bond was assigned an (*E*)-configuration due to the chemical shift of C(15) ($\delta(\text{C})$ 16.0) [11]. In the NOESY spectrum of **2**, the correlation between H–C(8)/H _{α} –C(9) suggested that both H–C(8) and H _{α} –C(9) had α -orientation. The β -orientation was assigned to the Me(14) on the basis of the correlation between H _{β} –C(9) and Me(14). Accordingly, the structure of **2** was determined, and the compound was named curdionolide B.

The HR-ESI-MS of compound **3** indicated its molecular formula to be C₁₅H₂₁NO₂ with six degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum exhibited absorption at 1652 cm⁻¹ typical for an unsaturated lactam CO group. The ¹³C-NMR and DEPT spectra displayed three Me, four CH₂, and three CH groups (thereof one olefinic CH group), together with signals for five quaternary C-atoms (two CO groups and three olefinic C-atoms). The NMR data (*Tables 1* and *2*) exhibited broadened lines indicative of equilibrating conformers [12]. The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra were similar to those of **2**, the main difference between **3** and **2** was that **3** contains an extra NH H-atom which resonates at $\delta(\text{H})$ 6.70 (measured in CDCl₃). Comparison of the ¹H-NMR data (measured in CD₃OD) of **3** with those of **2** revealed that the H–C(8) signal of **3** was shifted upfield to $\delta(\text{H})$ 4.24 from $\delta(\text{H})$ 5.21, and that the CH₂(9) signals of **3** were shifted upfield to $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.82–1.84/2.79 compared to $\delta(\text{H})$ 1.98–2.01/3.02 for compound

Table 2. ¹H-NMR Data for Compounds **1**–**3**. δ in ppm, *J* in Hz.

	1 ^{a)} ^{b)}	1 ^{b)} ^{c)}	2 ^{a)} ^{d)}	3 ^{a)} ^{d)}	3 ^{c)} ^{e)}
H–C(1)	4.82–4.90 (<i>m</i>) ^{f)}	4.90–4.96 (<i>m</i>) ^{f)}	5.00 (<i>br. s</i>)	4.84 (<i>br. s</i>) ^{f)}	4.91 (<i>br. s</i>)
CH ₂ (2)	1.96–2.00 (<i>m</i> , H _α), 2.28–2.33 (<i>m</i> , H _β)	1.86–1.90 (<i>m</i> , H _α), 2.11–2.16 (<i>m</i> , H _β)	2.04–2.06 (<i>m</i>), 2.31–2.39 (<i>m</i>)	2.01–2.03 (<i>m</i>), 2.28–2.37 (<i>m</i>)	1.79–1.80 (<i>m</i>) ^{f)} , 2.00–2.02 (<i>m</i>)
CH ₂ (3)	2.01–2.04 (<i>m</i> , H _α), 1.71–1.74 (<i>m</i> , H _β)	2.19–2.20 (<i>m</i> , H _α), 1.53–1.57 (<i>m</i> , H _β)	2.02–2.04 (<i>m</i> , H _α), 1.80–1.82 (<i>m</i> , H _β) ^{f)}	1.97–2.01 (<i>m</i> , H _α), 1.78–1.80 (<i>m</i> , H _β) ^{f)}	1.93–1.96 (<i>m</i> , H _α), 1.79–1.80 (<i>m</i> , H _β) ^{f)}
H–C(4)	2.49–2.53 (<i>m</i> , H _α)	2.40–2.47 (<i>m</i> , H _α) ^{f)}	2.65 (<i>br. s</i> , H _α)	2.57 (<i>br. s</i> , H _α)	2.39 (<i>br. s</i> , H _α)
CH ₂ (6)	3.59 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 15.8, H _α), 3.46 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 15.8, H _β)	3.83 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 15.5, H _α), 3.60 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 15.5, H _β)	3.56 (<i>br. s</i>), 1.80–1.82 (<i>m</i>) ^{f)}	3.49 (<i>br. s</i>), 1.78–1.80 (<i>m</i>) ^{f)}	3.85 (<i>br. s</i>), 1.70–1.75 (<i>m</i>)
H–C(8)			5.21 (<i>br. s</i> , H _α)	4.24 (<i>br. s</i> , H _α)	4.10 (<i>br. s</i> , H _α)
CH ₂ (9)	2.85 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 13.1, H _α), 2.21 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 13.1, H _β)	3.15 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 13.0, H _α), 2.40–2.47 (<i>m</i> , H _β) ^{f)}	3.02 (<i>br. s</i> , H _α), 1.98–2.01 (<i>m</i> , H _β)	2.79 (<i>br. s</i> , H _α), 1.82–1.84 (<i>m</i> , H _β)	2.6 (<i>br. s</i> , H _α), 1.82–1.84 (<i>m</i> , H _β)
Me(13)	1.83 (<i>s</i>)	1.98 (<i>s</i>)	1.87 (<i>s</i>)	1.81 (<i>s</i>)	1.80 (<i>s</i>) ^{f)}
Me(14)	1.04 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 6.8)	1.00 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 6.8)	1.12 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 6.4)	1.08 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 6.8)	1.04 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 6.8)
Me(15)	1.93 (<i>s</i>)	2.10 (<i>s</i>)	1.94 (<i>br. s</i>)	1.90 (<i>br. s</i>)	1.89 (<i>br. s</i>)
HO–C(8)		9.64 (<i>br. s</i>)			
NH					6.70 (<i>br. s</i>)

^{a)} In CD₃OD. ^{b)} In C₂D₅N. ^{c)} Recorded at 300 MHz. ^{d)} Recorded at 600 MHz. ^{e)} In CD₃Cl₃. ^{f)} Overlapping signals.

2, respectively. Furthermore, the ^{13}C -NMR spectrum of **3** showed a strong shielding for C(8) ($\Delta\delta(\text{C}) = -23.1$) and smaller, but significant effects on other C-atoms were also observed. This appearance could be explained if C(8) is attached to a less electro-negative atom than an O-atom, for instance, a N-atom. The *quasi*-molecular ions supported the presence of one N-atom in the structure: 248 ($[M + \text{H}]^+$), 495 ($[2M + \text{H}]^+$), 270 ($[M + \text{Na}]^+$), and 517 ($[2M + \text{Na}]^+$). On the basis of the above evidence, **3** should have a lactam ring instead of the lactone ring present in **2**. According to these data, the constitutional formula of compound **3** was established.

The relative configuration of **3** was elucidated through NOESY correlations, namely, between Me(14) and $\text{H}_\beta\text{-C}(2)$, suggesting both to be on the same side of the 10-membered ring. NOE Correlation between $\text{H-C}(8)$ and $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(9)$ indicated that $\text{H-C}(8)$ and $\text{H}_\alpha\text{-C}(9)$ are cofacial. The $\text{C}(1)=\text{C}(10)$ bond was assigned an (*E*)-configuration based on the chemical shift of C(15) ($\delta(\text{C})$ 15.8) [11]. Compound **3** was thus identified and named as curdionolide C. To the best of our knowledge, curdionolide C, a novel N-containing germacrane-type sesquiterpene, has been isolated from natural sources for the first time.

N-Containing sesquiterpenes are quite rarely found in nature, however, **3**, the novel sesquiterpene compound, is very interesting with a view to its biosynthesis; we assume that the lactol O-atom of **1** may rather easily be replaced by a N-atom in plant tissue [14].

In addition to three new sesquiterpenes **1–3**, five known compounds, curdione (**4**) [15], (+)-(4*S*,5*S*)-germacrone-4,5-epoxide (**5**) [16], (+)-(1*S*,4*S*,5*S*,10*S*)-germacrone-1(10)-4-diepoxide (**6**) [17], (1*E*,4*E*,8*R*)-8-hydroxygermacra-1(10),4,7(11)-trieno-12,8-lactone (**7**) [10b], and (1*E*,4*Z*)-8-hydroxy-6-oxogermacra-1(10),4,7(11)-trieno-12,8-lactone [10a] (**8**) were also isolated and identified by comparison of their spectroscopic data with those reported in the literature.

Compounds **1–8** were examined for their inhibitory effects on NO production induced by LPS in macrophages (see Table 3). Cell viability in the present experiment

Table 3. *Inhibitory Effects of Compounds 1–8 on the NO production in RAW 264.7 Cells^a*

Compound	Inhibitory rate on the NO production				IC_{50}^b [μM]
	Concentration [μM]				
	100	30	10	3	
1	2.8 ± 1.8	-1.5 ± 2.0	3.2 ± 1.4	2.2 ± 0.8	> 100
2	17.2 ± 3.3	10.0 ± 1.7	8.6 ± 0.9	2.8 ± 3.5	> 100
3	30.9 ± 2.1	24.3 ± 2.1	15.7 ± 4.5	13.4 ± 2.6	> 100
4	75.5 ± 2.7	35.9 ± 2.0	21.8 ± 4.9	20.4 ± 1.2	54.9
5	14.9 ± 3.1	11.3 ± 1.2	7.6 ± 0.8	2.3 ± 1.5	> 100
6	81.3 ± 1.3	46.3 ± 4.4	34.9 ± 2.1	23.6 ± 3.7	37.4
7	83.6 ± 2.6	35.2 ± 3.7	35.8 ± 2.7	23.7 ± 2.9	51.4
8	50.7 ± 3.0	30.8 ± 3.6	23.7 ± 2.5	14.0 ± 3.0	98.7
Hydrocortisone	88.7 ± 4.4	32.9 ± 2.7	25.4 ± 3.6	18.7 ± 3.7	53.8

^a) NO concentration of control group: $2.6 \pm 0.6 \mu\text{M}$, NO concentration of LPS-treated group: $27.6 \pm 1.2 \mu\text{M}$. ^b) Values are means of three experiments.

was determined by the 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide (MTT) method to find out whether inhibition of NO production was due to cytotoxicity of test compounds (data not shown). As shown in *Table 3*, hydrocortisone (IC_{50} $53.8 \pm 4.84 \mu\text{M}$) was used as a positive control. Compound **6** showed strong inhibition of NO production induced by LPS. Compounds **4** and **7** exhibited moderate activities, which were close to that of hydrocortisone. Compound **8** showed very weak activity.

Since NO is the relaxation factor of vascular smooth muscle and also an inhibitor of platelet aggregation in blood vessels [4], the inhibitory activity of these compounds against NO production may be important evidence substantiating the traditional effects of this herbal medicine for the treatment of the *Oketsu* syndrome caused by blood stagnation with inflammation.

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Experimental Part

General. All reagents were purchased from *Shenyang Chemical Company* (Shenyang, P. R. China). Column chromatography (CC): silica gel (SiO_2 ; 200–300 mesh, *Qingdao Marine Chemical Company*, Qingdao, P. R. China); *Sephadex LH-20* (*Amersham Co.*); *RP-18* gel (10–75 μm , *Merck Chemical Ltd.*). TLC: silica gel *GF₂₅₄* (SiO_2 ; 200–300 mesh, *Qingdao Marine Chemical Company*, Qingdao, P. R. China). Prep. HPLC (*Waters 600*, *ODS* column (C-18, 250×20 mm, *Inertsil Pak*)). Optical rotations: *Perkin-Elmer 241* polarimeter. UV Spectra: *Shimadzu UV2201* spectrophotometer, in MeOH. IR Spectra: *Bruker IFS 55* spectrometer. NMR Experiments: *Bruker ARX-300* and *600* spectrometers. ESI-MS: *Agilent 1100-LC/MSD TrapSL* mass spectrometer. HR-ESI-MS: *Bruker APEX II* mass spectrometer.

Plant Material. The dried rhizomes *C. wenyujin* (9 kg) were collected from Wenzhou, P. R. China in 2004. A voucher specimen was identified by Prof. *Qi-Shi Sun* (collection No. 20040919) and deposited with the Department of Natural Products Chemistry, *Shenyang Pharmaceutical University*, P. R. China.

Extraction and Isolation. The dried rhizomes of *C. wenyujin* (9 kg) were extracted with cyclohexane ($3 \times 201 \times 2$ h) and filtered. The residue was then extracted with 50% EtOH ($3 \times 351 \times 2$ h). The filtrate was partitioned successively with cyclohexane, AcOEt, and BuOH. The combined cyclohexane extract (55.0 g) was chromatographed on CC (SiO_2 , 200–300 mesh, 500 g, 10×100 cm), using a gradient solvent system of cyclohexane/acetone 100:1 to 0:100 to yield twelve fractions (*Fr. 1–12*). *Fr. 5* (2.0 g) was subjected to *Sephadex LH-20* with $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$ 1:1 to give four major sub-fractions (*Fr. 5.1–5.4*). *Fr. 5.2* (740.0 mg) was separated on an *ODS* column with $\text{MeOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 1:9 to 10:0 to yield four fractions (*Fr. 5.2.1–5.2.4*). *Fr. 5.2.3* was purified by prep. HPLC with $\text{MeOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 45:55 to yield compounds **1** (10.0 mg), **5** (23.0 mg), and **6** (15.0 mg). *Fr. 8* (2.5 g) was applied to *Sephadex LH-20* eluted with $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$ 1:1 to afford three fractions (*Fr. 8.1–8.3*). *Fr. 8.1* (260 mg) was purified by HPLC ($\text{MeOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 55:45) to give compounds **3** (63.2 mg) and **4** (56.9 mg). The AcOEt fraction (78.0 g) was chromatographed on CC (SiO_2 ; 200–300 mesh, 550 g, 10×110 cm), using a gradient solvent system of $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$ (100:1 to 0:100), which yielded 19 fractions (*Fr. 1–19*). *Fr. 3* (3.8 g) was submitted to SiO_2 using $\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$ (100:1 to 0:100) to afford ten subfractions (*Fr. 3.1–3.10*). *Fr. 3.2* (370.0 mg) was subjected to a *Sephadex LH-20* ($\text{CHCl}_3/\text{MeOH}$ 1:1) to yield three fractions (*Fr. 3.2.1–3.2.3*). *Fr. 3.2.2* (180.0 mg) was separated by HPLC with $\text{MeOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (35:65) to afford compounds **7** (12.3 mg) and **8** (10.0 mg). The BuOH fraction (25.0 g) was chromatographed on *DA-201* eluted with a gradient of $\text{EtOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (10:90 to 0:100) to yield five fractions (*Fr. 1–5*). *Fr. 4* (3.4 g) was applied to a *Sephadex LH-20* column eluted with $\text{MeOH}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (1:1) to yield compound **2** (23.0 mg).

Bioassay for NO Production. Mouse monocyte-macrophage RAW 264.7 cells (*ATCC TIB-71*) were purchased from the *Chinese Academy of Sciences*. *RPMI 1640* Medium, penicillin, streptomycin, and fetal bovine serum were purchased from *Invitrogen* (New York). Lipopolysaccharide (LPS),

dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), 3-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium hydrobromide (MTT), and hydrocortisone were obtained from *Sigma Co. RAW 264.7* Cells were suspended in *RPMI 1640* medium supplemented with penicillin (100 U/ml), streptomycin (100 µg/ml), and 10% heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum. The cells were harvested with trypsin and diluted to a suspension in fresh medium. The cells were seeded in 96-well plates with 1×10^5 cells/well and allowed to adhere for 2 h at 37° in 5% CO₂ in air. Then, the cells were treated with 1 µg/ml of LPS for 24 h with or without various concentrations of test compounds. DMSO was used as a solvent for the test compounds, which were applied at a final concentration of 0.2% (v/v) in cell culture supernatants. NO Production was determined by measuring the accumulation of nitrite in the culture supernatant using the *Griess* reagent [18]. Briefly, 100 µl of the supernatant from the incubates was mixed with an equal volume of *Griess* reagent (0.1% *N*-(naphthalene-1-yl)ethane-1,2-diamine and 1% 4-aminobenzenesulfonamide in 5% H₃PO₄). Cytotoxicity was determined by the MTT colorimetric assay, after 24 h incubation with test compounds. The concentration of NO₂⁻ was calculated by a working line from 0, 3, 30, and 100 µM NaNO₂ solns., and the inhibitory rate on NO production induced by LPS was calculated by the NO₂⁻ levels as follows:

$$\text{Inhibitory rate [\%]} = 100 \times \frac{[\text{NO}_2^-]_{\text{LPS}} - [\text{NO}_2^-]_{\text{LPS+sample}}}{[\text{NO}_2^-]_{\text{LPS}} - [\text{NO}_2^-]_{\text{untreated}}}$$

Experiments were performed in triplicate, and data are expressed as the mean ± SD of three independent experiments.

Curdionolide A (= (6S,9E,11aR)-7,8,11,11a-Tetrahydro-11a-hydroxy-3,6,10-trimethylcyclodeca[b]furan-2,5(4H,6H)-dione; **1**). Colorless oil (MeOH). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = +76.0$ ($c = 0.25$, MeOH). UV (MeOH): 224 (4.01). IR (CCl₄): 3365 (OH), 1741 (C=O), 1715 (C=O), 1672, 1105 (α,β -unsaturated γ -lactone). ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR: *Tables 2 and 1*, resp. HR-ESI-MS: 265.1431 ($[M + H]^+$, C₁₅H₂₁O₄⁺; calc. 265.1440).

Curdionolide B (= (6S,9E,11aR)-7,8,11,11a-Tetrahydro-3,6,10-trimethylcyclodeca[b]furan-2,5(4H,6H)-dione; **2**). Colorless oil (MeOH). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = +15.0$ ($c = 0.3$, MeOH). UV (MeOH): 224 (3.87). IR (KBr): 1741, 1675, 1105 (α,β -unsaturated γ -lactone), 1711 (C=O). ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR: *Tables 2 and 1*, resp. HR-ESI-MS: 271.1303 ($[M + Na]^+$, C₁₅H₂₀NaO₄⁺; calc. 271.1310).

Curdionolide C (= (6S,9E,11aR)-7,8,11,11a-Tetrahydro-3,6,10-trimethyl-1H-cyclodeca[b]pyrrole-2,5(4H,6H)-dione; **3**). Colorless oil (MeOH). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} = -52.0$ ($c = 0.05$, MeOH). UV (MeOH): 224 (3.95). IR (KBr): 3162 (NH), 1732 (C=O), 1652 (C=O), 1452 (C–H). ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR: *Tables 2 and 1*, resp. HR-ESI-MS: 270.1472 ($[M + Na]^+$, C₁₅H₂₁NNaO₄⁺; calc. 270.1470).

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