Novel Sesquiterpenes from the Mycelial Cultures of Dichomitus squalens

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Four novel sesquiterpenes, 5-hydroxydichomitol (1), dichomilludol (2), 3β ,13-dihydroxyledol (3), and 2β , 3β ,13-trihydroxyledol (4), were isolated along with 2β ,13-dihydroxyledol (5) from the AcOEt-soluble fraction of the mycelial solid cultures of *Dichomitus squalens*. Their structures were determined on the basis of spectroscopic analyses. The previously assigned structure of dichomitol was revised.

Introduction. – Dichomitus squalens is a commonly found white-rot Basidiomycetous fungus with the capability to degrade both natural and synthetic lignins and lignin derivatives [1][2]. In search for bioactive natural compounds from Basidiomycetes growing in South China, the EtOH extract of the mycelial cultures of this fungus was found to be nematicidal against a catastrophic pine wilt nematode (Bursaphelenchus xylophilus). Subsequent screening of the petroleum ether-, CHCl₃-, and AcOEtsoluble fractions from this extract showed that the CHCl₃-soluble fraction was more potent than the others. Our previous investigation on the CHCl₃-soluble fraction led to the isolation of three new sesquiterpenes, dichomitol, 2β ,13-dihydroxyledol, and dichomitone, of which the second one was found to be nematicidal [3]. In continuation of our studies on this fungus, the AcOEt-soluble fraction was investigated, and four new sesquiterpenes, 5-hydroxydichomitol (1), dichomilludol (2), 3β , 13-dihydroxyledol (3), and 2β , 3β , 13-trihydroxyledol (4), were isolated along with a previously isolated sesquiterpene, 2β , 13-dihydroxyledol (5). Furthermore, the previously assigned structure of dichomitol was revised. Here, we describe the isolation and structure elucidation of these compounds and the structure revision of dichomitol.



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Results and Discussion. – The AcOEt-soluble fraction, previously obtained from the EtOH extract of the mycelial solid cultures of *D. squalens* by liquid-liquid partition [3], was separated by silica-gel and *Develosil ODS* column chromatography and preparative HPLC to give compounds 1-5 (see *Exper. Part*).

Compound 1 was isolated as colorless oil. It had a molecular formula of C₁₅H₂₄O₄ as determined by its HR-ESI-MS and NMR data. In the ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra (Table 1), signals for 20 H-atoms and 15 C-atoms were observed. With the aid of ¹³C,¹H-COSY spectrum, these signals were assigned to two tertiary Me groups ($\delta(H)$) 1.19 (s, Me(12)) and 1.48 (s, Me(14)), and $\delta(C)$ 23.3 (C(12)) and 22.1 (C(14))), five CH₂ groups (two O-bearing; $\delta(H)$ 3.74 (s, CH₂(13)), 4.92 and 4.86 (each d, J=13.0, $CH_2(15)$), and $\delta(C)$ 71.4 (C(13)) and 59.5 (C(15))), four CH groups (two O-bearing; $(\delta(H) 5.37 (br. d, J = 6.4, H-C(5)) and 4.68 (d, J = 8.8, H-C(8)), and \delta(C) 68.3 (C(5))$ and 74.0 (C(8))), and four quaternary C-atoms including two olefinic C-atoms (δ (C) 146.9 (C(6)) and 137.2 (C(7))). Analysis of the ${}^{1}H$ -COSY spectrum showed connectivities of H-C(1) with H-C(2), H-C(2) with H-C(9), H-C(9) with both H-C(8) and CH₂(10), H-C(8) with H-C(5) via a C=C bond, and H-C(5) with $CH_2(4)$. In the HMBC spectrum, long-range correlations were observed from both Me(12) and CH₂(13) to C(1) and C(10), from CH₂(13) to C(12) and C(11), and from Me(12) to CH₂(13), indicating that C(12) and C(13) were at C(11), which was further connected to both C(1) and C(10). Further HMBCs from Me(14) to C(2), C(3), C(4), and C(6), from $CH_2(4)$ to C(2), C(3), and C(6), and from $CH_2(15)$ to C(6), C(7), and C(8) were also observed, revealing the attachments of C(15) to C(7), C(14) to C(3), and of C(3) to C(2), C(4), and C(6). These findings indicated a planar structure of protoillud-6-ene-5,8,13,15-tetrol [4]. In the NOESY spectrum, mutual correlations $H-C(2)/Me(12), H-C(9)/Me(12), H-C(9)/H_{\beta}-C(1), H-C(8)/Me(14), H-C(8)/Me(14),$ H_{a} -C(10), and Me(14)/CH₂(13) were observed, while the correlation H-C(5)/ Me(14) was not observed, indicating that H-C(2), H-C(5), H-C(9), HO-C(8), and Me(12) were at the same side and β -oriented, while Me(14), HO–C(5), and CH₂(13) were all in α -orientation. Thus, compound **1** was determined as protoillud-6-ene- $5\alpha, 8\beta, 13, 15$ -tetrol.

A total synthesis of the previously reported dichomitol [3] had been accomplished by Mehta and Pallavi [5]. It became clear that the compound isolated in our studies was different from the authentic synthetic product. The actual structure of dichomitol had not been assigned until this new protoilludene 1 was isolated and characterized. Then, dichomitol was found to be closely related to this new compound by comparison of its ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra with those of **1**, except that in the 5-position there was a CH₂ group (δ (H) 2.74–2.81 and 2.61–2.66 (each 1 H, m), and δ (C) 25.1) instead of an O-bearing CH group ($\delta(H)$ 5.37 (br d, J=6.4) and $\delta(C)$ 68.3) in **1**. This, in combination with its molecular formula, indicated a structure of protoillud-6ene- 8β ,13,15-triol (6), a new protoilludene sesquiterpene. Re-examination of the ¹H,¹H-COSY, ¹³C,¹H-COSY, HMBC, and NOESY spectra led to the re-assignment of the ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR data as compiled in *Table 1* and supported the structure. Thus, the structure of dichomitol (6) was corrected to be as depicted. The error had resulted from misinterpretation of the HMBCs, *i.e.*, a ${}^{4}J$ correlation from CH₂(4) at $\delta(H)$ 1.81 – 1.89 to C(7) at $\delta(C)$ 145.8 had been misinterpreted as ³J correlations, and a ³J correlation from CH₂(15) to C(8) at δ (C) 74.3 had been erroneously explained by a

Position	1	2			
	δ(H)	$\delta(C) \delta(H)$	δ(C))(H)	δ(C)
$H_a-C(1)$	$1.84 \ (dd, J = 12.4, 10.6)$	$36.3 2.09 \ (dd, J = 13.6, 12.0)$	39.2	$.44 \ (dd, J = 12.0, 11.0)$	36.0
$H_{b-C(1)}$	$1.49 \ (ddd, J = 12.4, 8.4, 1.6)$	$1.32 \ (dd, J = 12.0, 6.4)$.35 (ddd, J = 12.0, 8.0, 1.5)	
H-C(2)	$2.48 \ (ddd, J = 11.8, 10.5, 8.4)$	$46.6 2.64 \ (ddd, J = 13.6, 8.9, 6.4)$	54.5	$2.40 \ (td, J = 11.0, 8.0)$	45.5
C(3)		44.0	82.8		45.9
$H_a - C(4)$	$2.14 \ (dd, J = 11.9, 2.1)$	$47.3 0.54 \ (ddd, J = 10.1, 4.2, 2.5)$	0.1	(m) = (m) = (m)	36.1
$H_{B}-C(4)$	$2.28 \ (dd, J = 11.9, 6.4)$	$1.03 - 1.08 \ (m)$		(m) = (m) = (m)	
$H_a - C(5)$		$(68.3 0.71 \ (ddd, J = 9.4, 4.3, 3.4)$	4.5	2.74 - 2.81 (m)	25.1
$H_{b}-C(5)$	5.37 (br. $d, J = 6.4$)	$1.03 - 1.08 \ (m)$		2.61 - 2.66 (m)	
C(6)		146.9	31.9		145.8
C(7)		137.2	78.3		129.1
H-C(8)	$4.68 \ (d, J = 8.8)$	74.0 4.18 (d, J = 8.9)	78.1	1.13 (br. $d, J = 7.5$)	74.3
H-C(9)	2.80-2.89 (m)	52.7 2.79 $(dq, J = 8.9, 2.5)$	45.1	2.29 - 2.36 (m)	50.5
$H_a-C(10)$	1.77 (t, J = 11.8)	$42.6 2.39 \ (dd, J = 13.8, 2.5)$	40.9	(.27 (t, J = 11.0))	40.8
$H_{b}-C(11)$	2.15 (ddd, J = 11.8, 6.5, 1.8)	$1.93 \ (dd, J = 13.8, 8.9)$.73 (br. dd, $J = 11.0, 7.5$)	
C(11)		46.1	45.5		45.1
Me(12)	1.19(s)	23.3 1.16 (s)	26.5	(3) 66 (22.7
$CH_{2}(13)$	3.74(s)	71.4 3.69 (s)	71.7	3.48 (d, J = 11.0), 3.46 (d, J = 11.0)	72.1
Me(14)	1.48(s)	22.1 1.11 (s)	20.7	.07 (s)	20.3
$CH_{2}(15)$	4.92 (d, J = 13.0), 4.86 (d, J = 13.0)	59.5 3.94 (dd, $J = 7.2, 1.4$), 4.59 (br. $d, J = 7.2$)	70.5	1.22 (br. $d, J = 12.5$), 4.20 (br. $d, J = 12.5$)	59.0
^a) Solvent	s: C_5D_5N for 1 and 2, CDCl ₃ for 6.				

Table 1. ¹*H*- and ¹³*C*-*NMR Data* (at 400 and 100 MHz, resp.) of **1**, **2**, and 6^{a}). δ in ppm, *J* in Hz.

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⁴*J* correlation. The author, *X. Wei*, apologizes for any inconveniences caused by this error.

Compound 2 was also isolated as colorless oil, and its molecular formula was deduced as C₁₅H₂₄O₄ from its HR-ESI-MS and NMR data. The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra (Table 1), in combination with the ¹³C,¹H-COSY experiment, indicated the presence of two tertiary Me groups ($\delta(H)$ 1.16 (s, Me(12)) and 1.11 (s, Me(14)), and $\delta(C)$ 26.5 (C(12)) and 20.7 (C(14))), six CH₂ groups, of which two displayed extremely upfield H-atom signals (δ (H) 0.54 (H_a-C(4)), 1.03 – 1.08 (H_b-C(4)), 0.71 (H_a-C(5)), and 1.03 - 1.08 (H₆-C(5)), and C-atom signals at δ (C) 0.1 (C(4)) and 4.5 (C(5)), and two were O-bearing at $\delta(H)$ 3.69 (CH₂(13)), 3.94 and 4.59 (CH₂(15), each 1 H), and $\delta(C)$ 71.7 (C(13)) and 70.5 (C(15))), three CH groups including an O-bearing CH $(\delta(H) 4.18 (H-C(8)))$ and $\delta(C) 78.1 (C(8)))$, and four quaternary C-atoms including two O-bearing ones ((δ (C) 82.8 (C(3)) and 78.3 (C(7))). Interpretation of the ¹H,¹H-COSY spectrum revealed partial structures as shown by bold lines in the Figure. Further connectivities were deduced from the HMBC spectrum (Fig.), in which correlations from both $CH_2(13)$ and Me(12) to C(1), C(11), and C(10) revealed the connectivity of C(11) to both C(1) and C(10), with C(12) and C(13) attached to C(11). Further, correlations from both $CH_2(4)$ and $CH_2(5)$ to C(3), C(6), and C(7), from Me(14) to C(2), C(3), and C(6), and from $CH_2(15)$ to C(6), C(7), and C(8) indicated a cyclopropane ring composed of C(4), C(5), and C(6), and a six-membered ring formed by C(2), C(3), C(6), C(7), C(8), and C(9), with C(14) attached to C(3), and C(15) attached to C(7) [6]. In addition, a correlation from $CH_2(15)$ to C(3) was also observed, revealing the connectivity between C(15) and C(3) via an O-bridge. Thus, a 3,15-O-bridged illudane structure was assigned as shown. In the NOESY spectrum, correlations were observed between H-C(2) and Me(12), H-C(9) and Me(12), Me(12) and H_{β} -C(10), H-C(8) and H_{α} -C(10), CH₂(13) and H_{α} -C(1), CH₂(13) and $H_a - C(10)$, and H - C(9) and $H_b - C(15)$, indicating that H - C(2), H - C(9), Me(12), HO–C(8), and 3,15-O-bridge were at the same side and β -oriented, while H–C(8), $CH_2(13)$, Me(14), and HO–C(7) were at the opposite side and in α -orientation. The presence of NOE correlations $H_a - C(5)/H_a - C(1)$, $H - C(8)/H_a - C(1)$, and $H - C(8)/H_a - C(1)$ $CH_2(13)$ indicated a chair (${}^{6}C_9$) form of the six-membered ring. Therefore, the structure of 2 was determined as shown and trivially named dichomilludol.



Figure. ¹H,¹H-COSY (bold lines) and key HMBC (arrows) correlations of **2**

Compound **3**, obtained as colorless oil, had a molecular formula of $C_{15}H_{26}O_3$ as deduced from its HR-ESI-MS and NMR data. The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR (*Table 2*), and DEPT spectra revealed the presence of two tertiary Me groups, a secondary Me group, four CH₂ groups, six CH groups, and two quaternary C-atoms, of which a CH₂ group, a CH group, and a quaternary C-atom were O-bearing. Combined analysis of the ¹H,¹H-

COSY, ¹³C,¹H-COSY, and HMBC spectra led to full assignment of the ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR data as compiled in *Table 2*, indicating a structure closely similar to 2β ,13-dihydroxyledol (5) [3], a known aromadendrane sesquiterpene occurring in this fungus and re-isolated in the present study, except that HO at C(2) in **5** migrated to C(3) in **3**. The β -orientation of HO–C(3) was deduced from the NOE correlations of H–C(3) with both H–C(6) and Me(15) observed in the NOESY spectrum. Thus, compound **3** was determined as 3β ,13-dihydroxyledol.

	3		4	
	$\overline{\delta(\mathrm{H})}$	$\delta(C)$	$\overline{\delta(\mathrm{H})}$	$\delta(C)$
H–C(1)	2.72 (ddd, J = 13.4, 7.2, 4.4)	56.1	2.53 (dd, J = 9.2, 4.8)	63.2
$H_a - C(2)$	2.25 - 2.34(m)	37.9	4.49 (dd, J = 9.2, 8.0)	72.0
$H_{\beta}-C(2)$	2.00-2.05(m)			
H-C(3)	4.35 (br. $t, J = 7.2$)	77.7	4.17 (t, J = 8.0)	76.5
H-C(4)	2.25 - 2.34(m)	50.0	2.19 - 2.28(m)	46.0
H-C(5)	2.45 (dt, J = 9.6, 4.4)	40.4	2.39 (dt, J = 10.0, 4.8)	35.9
H-C(6)	0.53 (t, J = 9.6)	20.8	0.51 (t, J = 10.0)	21.9
H-C(7)	1.09 (ddd, J = 11.4, 9.6, 6.1)	26.2	1.02 - 1.09(m)	25.7
$H_a - C(8)$	1.73 - 1.79 (m)	19.1	1.73 - 1.80 (m)	19.2
$H_{\beta}-C(8)$	2.00-2.05(m)		2.00-2.05(m)	
$H_a - C(9)$	1.80 - 1.83 (m)	38.3	2.00-2.05(m)	40.1
$H_{\beta}-C(9)$	1.80 - 1.83 (m)		1.95 - 2.03 (m)	
C(10)		72.9		73.3
C(11)		26.2		26.7
Me(12)	1.36 (s)	12.5	1.34 (s)	12.2
$CH_{2}(13)$	3.55 (d, J = 10.4), 3.85 (d, J = 10.4)	72.0	3.52 (d, J = 10.8), 3.81 (d, J = 10.8)	71.9
Me(14)	1.36 (s)	32.7	1.84 (s)	33.0
Me(15)	1.33 $(d, J = 6.8)$	14.8	1.32 (d, J = 7.2)	14.9

Table 2. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR Data (400 and 100 MHz, resp.; C_5D_5N) of **3** and **4**. δ in ppm, J in Hz.

Compound **4**, also obtained as colorless oil, had a molecular formula of $C_{15}H_{26}O_4$, containing one O-atom more than compound **3**. The ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR spectra (*Table 2*) were similar to those of **3** except that the signals for one of the CH₂ groups were absent. Instead, the H- and C-atom resonances for an additional O-bearing CH group at $\delta(H)$ 4.49 (H–C(2)) and $\delta(C)$ 72.0 (C(2)) were observed. Analysis of the ¹H,¹H-COSY, ¹³C,¹H-COSY, and HMBC spectra revealed a planar structure of aromadendrane-2,3,10,13-tetrol. The presence of NOE correlations H–C(1)/H–C(4), H–C(1)/Me(14), H–C(2)/H–C(6), H–C(3)/H–C(6), H–C(3)/Me(15), H–C(5)/Me(12), and H–C(6)/CH₂(13) in the NOESY spectrum, as well as the coupling constants, J(1,5) = 4.8, J(1,2) = 9.2, J(2,3) = 8.0, and J(5,6) = 10.0 Hz in the ¹H-NMR spectrum (*Table 2*) indicated that **4** had the same relative configuration as that of ledol [7], and both HO–C(2) and HO–C(3) were β -oriented [8]. Consequently, compound **4** was established as $2\beta,3\beta,13$ -trihydroxyledol.

Compounds 1–4 were evaluated for the cytotoxicity and nematicidal activity according to the previously described methods [3][9]. However, they were all found to be relatively non-cytotoxic ($IC_{50} > 35 \mu M$) against the test cancer cell lines, including human breast cancer (MCF-7 and MDA-MB-231/ATCC), leukemia (K-562), and non-

small lung cancer (NCI-H460) cells, and inactive against the test nematode *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* ($LC_{50} > 1000 \,\mu\text{g/ml}$).

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Experimental Part

General. Column chromatography (CC) and TLC: silica gel 60 (SiO₂; 100–200 mesh; Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co., Ltd., Qingdao, P. R. China), Develosil ODS (S-75 µm; Nomura Chemical Co., Ltd., Seto, Japan), silica gel HSGF₂₅₄ plates (Yantai Jiangyou Silica Gel Development Co., Ltd., Yantai, P. R. China), and RP-18 F_{2545} plates (Merck Japan Ltd., Tokyo, Japan). Prep. HPLC: Shimadzu LC-6A pump and Shimadzu RID-10A refractive index detector; YMC-Pack ODS-A column (S-5 µm, 12 nm; 250 mm × 20 mm i.d.). Optical rotations: Perkin-Elmer 341 polarimeter. 1D- and 2D-NMR spectra: Bruker DRX-400 instrument; the residual peaks of C₅D₅N at δ (H) 8.71 and δ (C) 149.9 ppm as internal references. ESI-MS: MDS SCIEX API 2000 LC/MS/MS apparatus. HR-ESI-MS: API QSTAR TOF IIIQ mass spectrometer.

Producing Fungus and Fermentation. Fruiting bodies of *D. squalens* were collected in Dinghu Mountain, Guangdong, P. R. China, and authenticated by Prof. *T. Li*, Guangdong Institute of Microbiology, Guangdong, P. R. China. Mycelia were isolated from tissue plugs of a young fruiting body. The mycelia grown on MEA (membrane electrode assembly) plates were used to inoculate ten 500-ml *Erlenmeyer* flasks containing 100 ml of YMG medium (glucose 0.4%, malt extract 1.0%, yeast extract 0.4%, and pH 5.5). The flasks were incubated on a rotary shaker for 5 d at 28° with shaking at 120 rpm. The cultures were transferred into ten 5,000 ml flasks containing 1,000 ml of YMG medium and 500 g of wheat grains, and the cultivation was carried out in the stationary phase at 28° for 13 d [3].

Extraction and Isolation. The AcOEt-soluble fraction (15.65 g), previously obtained from the EtOH extract of the mycelial cultures of *D. squalens* [3], was subjected to CC (SiO₂ (313 g); CHCl₃/MeOH $9:1 \rightarrow 6:4$): *Frs.* 1-9. *Fr.* 4 (0.37 g) was further subjected to CC (*Develosil ODS* (11 g); MeOH/H₂O $10:90 \rightarrow 60:40$): *Frs.* 4-1-4-6. *Fr.* 4-3 (17.9 mg) was purified by HPLC (45% MeOH/H₂O; 5 ml/min): **3** (t_R 22.1 min; 3.7 mg) and **5** (t_R 25.0 min; 11.0 mg). *Fr.* 5 (1.29 g) was further subjected to CC (*Develosil ODS* (20 g)), MeOH/H₂O $10:90 \rightarrow 60:40$): *Frs.* 5-1-5-9. *Fr.* 5-5 (94 mg) was purified by HPLC (20% MeOH/H₂O; 5 ml/min): **4** (t_R 21.1 min; 14.9 mg). *Fr.* 5-6 (87 mg) was purified by HPLC (25% MeOH/H₂O; 5 ml/min): **2** (t_R 47.4 min; 5.8 mg). *Fr.* 7 (0.97 g) was further subjected to CC (*Develosil ODS* (29 g); MeOH/H₂O $10:90 \rightarrow 55:45$): *Frs.* 7-1-7-4. *Fr.* 7-3 (125 mg) was purified by HPLC (40% MeOH/H₂O; 5 ml/min): **1** (t_R 29.0 min; 10.2 mg).

5-Hydroxydichomitol (=(2S,4S,4aR,6R,7aS,7bR)-2,4,4a,5,6,7,7a,7b-Octahydro-3,6-bis(hydroxymethyl)-6,7b-dimethyl-1H-cyclobuta[e]indene-2,4-diol; **1**). Colorless oil. $[a]_{20}^{20} = -42.5$ (c = 1.00, MeOH). ¹H- (400 MHz) and ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz): see *Table 1*. ESI-MS: 291 ($[M + Na]^+$), 303 ($[M + Cl]^-$). HR-ESI-MS (pos.): 291.1558 ($C_{15}H_{24}NaO_4^+$; calc. 291.1572).

Dichomilludol (= (5'S,5a'R,7'S,8a'S)-Hexahydro-7'-(hydroxymethyl)-1',7'-dimethyl-1'H-spiro[cyclopropane-1,9'-[2]oxa[1,4]methanocyclopenta[c]oxepine]-4',5'(3'H)-diol; **2**). Colorless oil. [a]₂₀^D = +10.2 (c = 0.58, MeOH). ¹H- (400 MHz) and ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz): see *Table 1*. ESI-MS: 291 ([M + Na]⁺), 267 ([M - H]⁻), 303 ([M + Cl]⁻). HR-ESI-MS (pos.): 291.1559 ($C_{15}H_{24}NaO_4^+$; calc. 291.1572).

 3β ,13-Dihydroxyledol (=(1S,1aR,4R,4aS,6S,7S,7aR,7bS)-Decahydro-1-(hydroxymethyl)-1,4,7-trimethyl-1H-cyclopropa[e]azulene-4,6-diol; **3**). Colorless oil. [a]_D²⁰ = -44.3 (c = 0.37, MeOH). ¹H-(400 MHz) and ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz): see *Table* 2. ESI-MS: 277 ([M + Na]⁺), 253 ([M – H]⁻). HR-ESI-MS (neg.): 253.1812 (C₁₅H₂₅O₃; calc. 253.1804).

 2β , 3β ,13-Trihydroxyledol (=(1S,1aR,4R,4aR,5S,6R,7S,7aR,7bS)-Decahydro-1-(hydroxymethyl)-1,4,7-trimethyl-1H-cyclopropa[e]azulene-4,5,6-triol; **4**). Colorless oil. $[a]_{D}^{2D} = -16.4$ (c = 1.00, MeOH). ¹H- (400 MHz) and ¹³C-NMR (100 MHz): see *Table 2*. ESI-MS: 293 ($[M + Na]^+$), 305 ($[M + Cl]^-$). HR-ESI-MS (pos.): 293.1725 ($C_{15}H_{26}NaO_4^+$; calc. 293.1729).

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