

## Menverins H–L, New Highly Oxygenated Guaiane Lactones from the Gorgonian Coral *Menella kanisa*

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By further chemical investigation of South China Sea gorgonian *Menella kanisa*, five new highly oxygenated guaiane lactones, menverins H–L (**1–5**, resp.), were obtained. Their structures were established by employing spectroscopic methods, computer modeling, and comparison of their data with those of related metabolites.

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**Introduction.** – Previous chemical investigations of gorgonian corals of the genus *Menella* (family Plexauridae) have yielded several interesting natural products, including steroids, guaiane lactones, and briarane diterpenoids [1–10], some of which were shown to possess antitumor and anti-inflammatory activities. To date, there are only a few reports on the bioactive secondary metabolites isolated from *Menella kanisa*. In our study of bioactive compounds from *M. kanisa*, we have reported some diketopiperazines [11]. Further search for bioactive metabolites from this specimen has led to the isolation of five new highly oxygenated guaiane lactones, menverins H–L (**1–5**, resp.; *Fig. 1*). Herein, we describe the isolation and structure elucidation of **1–5**.

**Results and Discussion.** – Menverin H (**1**) was isolated as white solid. Its molecular formula was deduced as C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>7</sub> on the basis of its HR-ESI-MS (*m/z* 413.1605 ([*M* + H]<sup>+</sup>, C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>25</sub>O<sub>7</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 413.1600)) and NMR data, implying twelve degrees of unsaturation. Analysis of the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR data (*Table 1*) revealed the presence of a 1,4-disubstituted aromatic ring ( $\delta$ (H) 7.39 (*d*, *J* = 7.5, H–C(2',6')), 5.61 (*d*, *J* = 7.5, H–C(3',5')), an olefinic H-atom ( $\delta$ (H) 6.55 (*s*, H–C(6))), a MeO group ( $\delta$ (H) 3.08 (*s*, MeO–C(8))), three Me groups ( $\delta$ (H) 1.88 (*s*, Me(13)), 1.51 (*s*, Me(14)), and 1.08 (*d*, *J* = 6.8, Me(15))). The <sup>13</sup>C-NMR data of **1** indicated the presence of four Me, two sp<sup>3</sup> CH<sub>2</sub>, two sp<sup>3</sup> CH, and five sp<sup>2</sup> CH groups, and three quaternary sp<sup>3</sup> and seven quaternary sp<sup>2</sup> C-atoms (*Table 1*). A COOH group at C(1') was evidenced by the

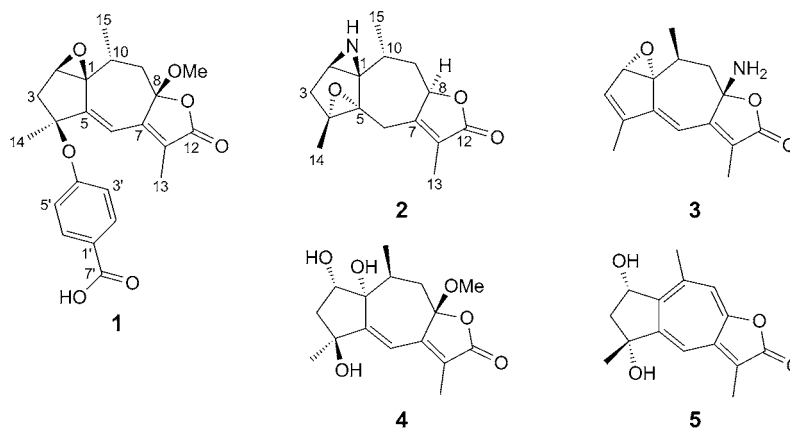


Fig. 1. Structures of compounds 1–5

$^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR resonance at  $\delta(\text{C})$  167.8 (C(7')). The presence of an  $\alpha$ -methyl- $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated  $\gamma$ -lactone moiety was indicated by the C-atom resonances at  $\delta(\text{C})$  173.9 (C(12)), 155.1 (C(7)), 126.8 (C(11)), 109.0 (C(8)), and 8.6 (Me(13)) [11]. An additional unsaturated functionality was evidenced by the resonances at  $\delta(\text{C})$  165.8 (C(5)) and 115.8 (C(6)), indicating the presence of a trisubstituted olefinic C=C bond. Moreover, an ether bridge between C(1) and C(2) was revealed by the downfield shifted  $\delta$  values of C(1) and C(2) and the C=C equivalents of this molecule. The above information, in combination with the molecular formula, indicated a pentacyclic molecule.

$^1\text{H}$ ,  $^1\text{H}$ -COSY and HMB correlations (Fig. 2) were used to establish the molecular skeleton of **1**. Spin systems were revealed by analysis of COSY correlations H–C(2)/CH<sub>2</sub>(3) and CH<sub>2</sub>(9)/H–C(10)/Me(15). These data, together with the key HMBs from Me(14) to C(3), C(4), and C(5); from H–C(6) to C(1), C(4), C(5), C(7), C(8), and C(11); from Me(13) to C(7), C(8), and C(12); from CH<sub>2</sub>(9) to C(1) and C(8); and from Me(15) to C(1) and C(9), in combination with the  $\delta$  values of C(8) and C(12), evidenced the presence of a guaianes sesquiterpenoid skeleton with a furan lactone [12] and a C(5)=C(6) bond. Moreover, the MeO group at C(8) was secured by the HMBC MeO–C(8)/C(8). Further, the COSY correlations H–C(2')/H–C(3') and H–C(5')/H–C(6'), together with the HMBs from H–C(2') and H–C(6') to C(7') and C(4'), and analysis of the molecular formula, indicated the presence of a 4-hydroxybenzoic acid. As there is no further HMBC from outside the benzene with C(4'), it must be attached to a quaternary center, and it must be in a position where  $\text{sp}^2$  atoms are close to influence the chemical shifts of H–C(3') and H–C(5'). C(4) is a suitable candidate which was supported by the downfield shifted  $\delta$  value of C(4) in accord with those of zedoalactones A and B [12][13]. Therefore, the 4-hydroxybenzoic acid moiety was connected to C(4) *via* an O-bridge.

The relative configuration of **1** was proposed on the basis of key NOESY correlations (Fig. 3). The observation of NOESY correlation the Me(15)/H–C(2)

Table 1.  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR Data (600 and 150 MHz, resp.; in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ) of **1–3**.  $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz. Arbitrary atom numbering as indicated in Fig. 1.

Position	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>	
	$\delta(\text{H})$	$\delta(\text{C})$	$\delta(\text{H})$	$\delta(\text{C})$	$\delta(\text{H})$	$\delta(\text{C})$
1		85.0				69.1
2	3.96 ( <i>d</i> , $J=4.5$ )	76.9	3.59 ( <i>d</i> , $J=3.0$ )			62.8
3	2.29 ( <i>dd</i> , $J=13.8, 4.5$ ), 1.95 ( <i>d</i> , $J=15$ )	47.0	2.20 ( <i>dd</i> , $J=12, 6.5$ ), 1.27 ( <i>d</i> , $J=12$ )			33.0
4		80.7				68.0
5	6.55 ( <i>s</i> )	165.8				77.0
6		115.8	3.16 ( <i>d</i> , $J=15.5, \text{H}_a$ ), 2.67 ( <i>d</i> , $J=15.5, \text{H}_\beta$ )			27.3
7		155.1				153.2
8	2.13 ( <i>dd</i> , $J=14.3, 2.3, \text{H}_a$ ), 1.92 ( <i>d</i> , $J=15, \text{H}_\beta$ )	109.0	4.15 ( <i>dd</i> , $J=11.1, 3.5$ )			61.7
9	2.67–2.62 ( <i>m</i> )	40.1	1.96–1.94 ( <i>m, H}_a</i> ), 1.67–1.64 ( <i>m, H}_\beta</i> )			40.5
10		33.0	2.64–2.60 ( <i>m</i> )			29.5
11		126.8				130.7
12		173.9				175.9
13	1.88 ( <i>s</i> )	8.6	1.79 ( <i>s</i> )			8.9
14	1.51 ( <i>s</i> )	32.6	1.41 ( <i>s</i> )			17.3
15	1.08 ( <i>d</i> , $J=6.8$ )	17.5	0.88 ( <i>d</i> , $J=7.0$ )			17.2
MeO	3.08 ( <i>s</i> )	51.0				
1'		135.5				
2', 6'	7.39 ( <i>d</i> , $J=7.5$ )	143.7				
4'		153.7				
3', 5'	5.61 ( <i>d</i> , $J=7.5$ )	101.8				
7'		167.8				

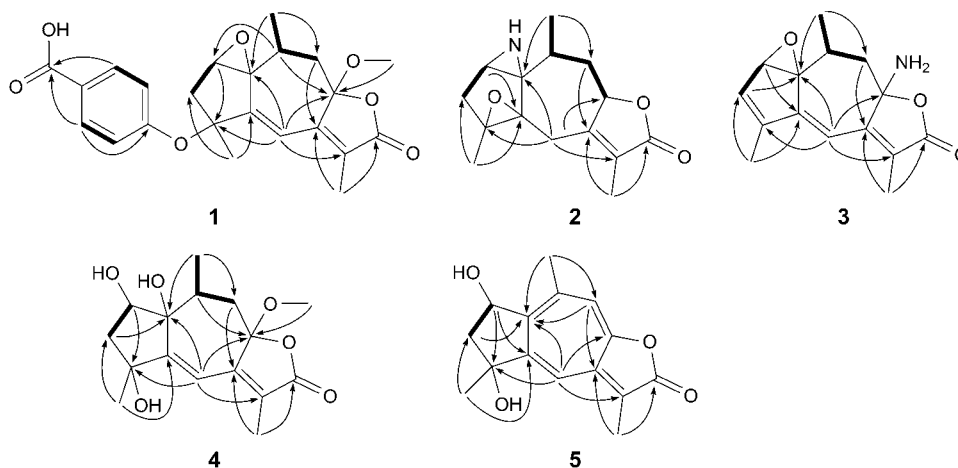


Fig. 2. Key  $^1\text{H},^1\text{H}$ -COSY ( $\rightarrow$ ) correlations and HMBCs ( $\text{H} \rightarrow \text{C}$ ) of **1–5**

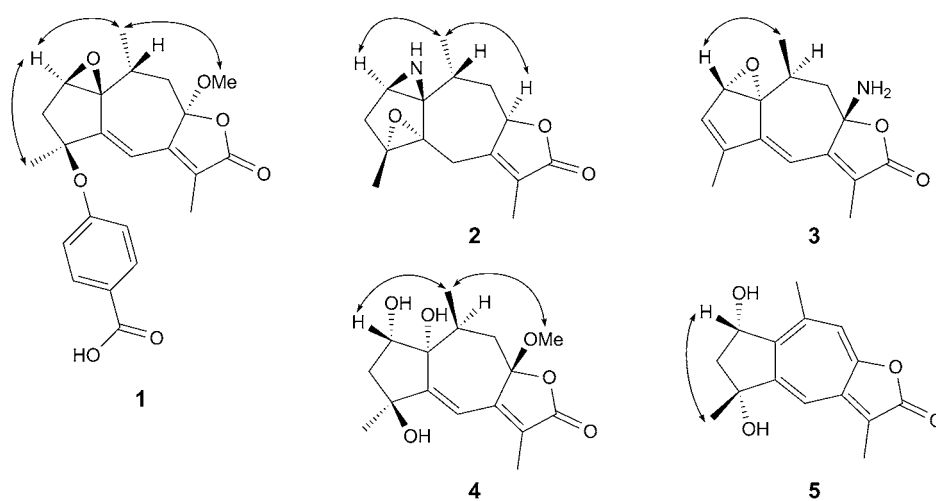


Fig. 3. The key NOESY ( $\text{H} \leftrightarrow \text{H}$ ) correlations of **1–5**

allowed assignment of the relative configuration at C(2)/C(10) with the Me group at C(10) and H–C(2) in  $\alpha$ -orientation, and H–C(10) in  $\beta$ -orientation. A NOESY correlation between  $\text{H}_\beta\text{–C}(9)$  and Me(15) was also observed. The coupling constants between H–C(9) and H–C(10) ( $J(9\alpha,10) = 14.3$ ,  $J(9\beta,10) \leq 1$ ) required a dihedral angle close to  $90^\circ$  between H–C(10) and  $\text{H}_\beta\text{–C}(9)$  and of almost  $180^\circ$  between H–C(10) and  $\text{H}_\alpha\text{–C}(9)$ . The MeO group at C(8) was predicted to be on the same molecular face as H–C(10), based on the large coupling constant between H–C(10) and  $\text{H}_\alpha\text{–C}(9)$ , and combined with the lack of the NOESY correlation between H–C(10) and  $\text{H}_{\alpha\beta}\text{–C}(9)$ . In addition, NOESY correlation H–C(2)/ $\text{H}_\alpha\text{–C}(3)$ , as well as Me(14)/ $\text{H}_\alpha\text{–C}(3)$ , were also

observed. All these geometric constraints dictated by the observed NOESY correlations and coupling constants are compatible with a MeO group at C(8) in the  $\beta$ -orientation.

The  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  value of compound **1** was +14.7 (MeOH), whereas the reported values for americanolides A–C were negative [14][15]. Although we do not have an explanation for the difference in the absolute values of the optical rotations, the configuration at C(8) was assigned to be (*S*) by the aid of NMR assignments and optical rotations compared with the relevant signals of americanolides A–C, whose configurations have been established by a combination of NOE and coupling constant data, supported by distance calculations using the QUANTA/CHARMM molecular-mechanics program as having the same partial substructure as **1** [14][15]. The configuration at C(4) was assigned to be (*S*), because a positive  $[\alpha]_D$  was observed, which was in accordance with those observed in zedoalactone A, and analysis of the  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR chemical shift of C(4) in **1** indicated that it was very similar to that of C(4) in zedoalactone A whose configuration has been established by a synthetic method [16]. From the aforementioned analyses, the configuration of **1** was assumed to be (1*S*,2*R*,4*S*,8*S*,10*R*). On the basis of this cumulative analysis, the structure of **1** was thus established as depicted in Fig. 1.

Menverin I (**2**) was obtained as white solid. Its molecular formula of  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_3$  was deduced from its HR-ESI-MS ( $m/z$  262.1432 ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_3^+$ ; calc. 262.1443) and NMR data, indicating seven degrees of unsaturation. Analysis of the NMR data (Table 1) indicated the presence of three Me, three  $\text{sp}^3$   $\text{CH}_2$ , and three  $\text{sp}^3$  CH groups, and three quaternary  $\text{sp}^3$  and three quaternary  $\text{sp}^2$  C-atoms. The presence of an  $\alpha$ -methyl- $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated  $\gamma$ -lactone moiety in **2** was revealed by the C-atom signals at  $\delta(\text{C})$  175.9 (C(12)), 153.2 (C(7)), 130.7 (C(11)), 61.7 (C(8)), and 8.9 (Me(13)) [12]. Analysis of the NMR data indicated that **2** had a guaiane sesquiterpene skeleton with great similarity to that of americanolide A [14]. Careful comparison of the  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR data of **2** and its molecular formula with those of americanolide A, revealed that an amide bridge was located between C(1) ( $\delta(\text{C})$  69.1) and C(2) ( $\delta(\text{C})$  62.8). Hence, **2** possessed seven degrees of unsaturation, two of which were due to an ester  $\text{C}=\text{O}$  C-atom and a tetrasubstituted  $\text{C}=\text{C}$  bond, and five due to the rings. The above information, consistent with its molecular formula, displayed the molecule to be pentacyclic.

Spin systems H–C(2)/ $\text{CH}_2$ (3) and H–C(8)/ $\text{CH}_2$ (9)/H–C(10)/Me(15) present in **2**, as the analysis of the  $^1\text{H},^1\text{H}$ -COSY correlations revealed, were assembled with the assistance of the HMBC correlations (Fig. 2). From the  $^1\text{H},^1\text{H}$ -COSY and HMB correlation spectra, the partial structure of **2** contained a cyclopentane skeleton with an epoxide and an amide bridge (at C(4)/(5) and C(1)/(2), respectively) adjacent to the same  $\text{CH}_2$  group. Next to this  $\text{CH}_2$  was a deshielded quaternary C-atom on one side, which was shown by HMBC to bear a Me group and a deshielded CH on the opposite side, which was adjacent to N-bearing quaternary C-atom. The Me groups at C(4), C(10), and C(11) were confirmed by the HMBCs from Me(14) to C(3) and C(5); from Me(15) to C(1) and C(9); and from Me(13) to C(7) and C(12). The HMBCs of H–C(2) to C(5); of H–C(6) to C(1), C(4), C(8), and C(11); and of  $\text{CH}_2$ (9) to C(7) further supported the proposed structure for **2**.

In the NOESY spectrum (Fig. 3), the correlations H–C(2)/Me(15) and Me(15)/H–C(8) revealed their  $\alpha$ -orientations. The configuration at C(8) was assigned to be

(*R*), because a negative *Cotton* effect at 220 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon - 12.28$ ), in accordance with those of menverin F, 1-deoxymenverin F, and menverin G [3], and also by aid of NMR assignments compared with the corresponding signals assigned for americanolides A–D [14]. These findings suggested that **2** had the absolute configuration (1*R*,2*R*,4*R*,5*S*,8*R*,10*R*). Thus, the structure of **2** was elucidated as shown in *Fig. 1*.

Menverin J (**3**) was isolated as white solid. Its molecular formula of  $C_{15}H_{17}NO_3$  was assigned through its HR-ESI-MS ( $m/z$  260.1278 ( $[M+H]^+$ ,  $C_{15}H_{18}NO_3^+$ ; calc. 260.1287)) and NMR data, requiring eight degrees of unsaturation. The NMR data for **3** confirmed the presence of three Me groups, one  $sp^3$   $CH_2$  group, two  $sp^3$  CH and two  $sp^2$  CH groups, and two quaternary  $sp^3$  and five quaternary  $sp^2$  C-atoms (*Table 1*). An  $\alpha$ -methyl- $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated  $\gamma$ -lactone moiety in **3** was supported by the resonances at  $\delta(C)$  176.8 (C(12)), 155.6 (C(7)), 122.4 (C(11)), 93.5 (C(8)), and 7.7 (Me(13)) [12]. Apart from four degrees of unsaturation due to a lactone C=O C-atom and three C=C bonds, a tetracyclic structure was required for **3** to fulfill the unsaturation requirement.

The molecular framework was established by  $^1H,^1H$ -COSY and HMB correlations (*Fig. 2*). Comprehensive analysis of  $^1H,^1H$ -COSY correlations of **3** established spin systems of H–C(2)/H–C(3) and  $CH_2(9)$ /H–C(10)/Me(15). The Me groups at C(4), C(10), and C(11) were confirmed by the HMBs from Me(14) to C(3) and C(5); from Me(15) to C(1) and C(9); and from Me(13) to C(7) and C(12). The planar structure of **3** was further confirmed by HMBs from H–C(2) to C(5); from H–C(3) to C(1); from H–C(6) to C(1), C(4), C(8), and C(11); and from  $CH_2(9)$  to C(7). Analysis of its molecular formula and  $^{13}C$ -NMR data, an ether bridge between C(1) and C(4) was supported by the downfield shifted  $\delta$  values of C(1) and C(2), and the  $NH_2$  group at C(8) was indicated by the downfield shifted  $\delta$  value of C(8).

The relative configuration of **3** was deduced from the NOESY spectrum as shown in *Fig. 3*. The NOESY correlation H–C(2)/Me(15) indicated  $\beta$ -orientation of H–C(2) and Me(15). The configuration at C(8) was assigned as (*S*), based on a positive *Cotton* effect at 218 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon + 6.22$ ), in line with those of menverin F, 1-deoxymenverin F, and menverin G [3]. On the basis of these analyses, the configuration of **3** was assigned as (1*R*,2*S*,8*S*,10*S*). Therefore, the structure of compound **3** was established as shown in *Fig. 1*.

Menverin K (**4**) was isolated as colorless oil. Its molecular formula of  $C_{16}H_{22}O_6$  was provided by its HR-ESI-MS ( $m/z$  333.1315 ( $[M+Na]^+$ ,  $C_{16}H_{22}NaO_6^+$ ; calc. 333.1314)) and NMR data, revealing six degrees of unsaturation. The NMR data of **4** and its molecular formula revealed the presence of four Me, two  $sp^3$   $CH_2$ , and two  $sp^3$  CH, a  $sp^2$  CH group, and three quaternary  $sp^3$  and four quaternary  $sp^2$  C-atoms, and finally three OH groups (*Table 2*). The characteristic signals of an  $\alpha$ -methyl- $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated  $\gamma$ -lactone moiety ( $\delta(C)$  171.5 (C(12)), 153.4 (C(7)), 128.3 (C(11)), 108.0 (C(8)), and 9.0 (Me(13))) were detected in the  $^{13}C$ -NMR specimen of **4** [12]. An additional unsaturated functionality was indicated by resonances at  $\delta(C)$  160.4 (C(5)) and 115.8 (C(6)), revealing the presence of a trisubstituted olefinic C=C bond. Given that the molecular formula implied six degrees of unsaturation and the molecule contained a lactone C=O C-atom and two C=C bonds, the remaining unsaturations were due to a tricyclic skeleton.

The basic skeleton of **4** was confirmed by analysis of the COSY and HMB correlations. The  $^1H,^1H$ -COSY correlations H–C(2)/ $CH_2(3)$ , and  $CH_2(9)$ /H–C(10)/

Table 2.  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR Data (600 and 150 MHz, resp.; in  $\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$ ) of **4** and **5**.  $\delta$  in ppm,  $J$  in Hz. Arbitrary atom numbering as indicated in Fig. 1.

Position	<b>4</b>		<b>5</b>	
	$\delta(\text{H})$	$\delta(\text{C})$	$\delta(\text{H})$	$\delta(\text{C})$
1		82.1		141.4
2	4.07 ( <i>t</i> , $J=6.8$ )	72.6	5.15 ( <i>d</i> , $J=6.0$ )	72.4
3	2.19 ( <i>dd</i> , $J=15.9, 3.0, \text{H}_\alpha$ ), 2.11 ( <i>d</i> , $J=15.9, \text{H}_\beta$ )	45.7	2.22 ( <i>dd</i> , $J=16.2, 3.0, \text{H}_\alpha$ ), 2.20 ( <i>d</i> , $J=16.2, \text{H}_\beta$ )	49.2
4		77.0		81.7
5		160.4		156.5
6	6.53 ( <i>s</i> )	115.8	7.16 ( <i>s</i> )	118.7
7		153.4		146.1
8		108.0		156.4
9	2.29 ( <i>dd</i> , $J=14.3, 3.8, \text{H}_\alpha$ ), 2.02 ( <i>dd</i> , $J=12.9, 7.5, \text{H}_\beta$ )	38.2	6.73 ( <i>s</i> )	116.5
10	2.64 ( <i>dd</i> , $J=14.3, 4.1$ )	37.1		141.0
11		128.3		106.7
12		171.5		170.3
13	1.90 ( <i>s</i> )	9.0	2.00 ( <i>s</i> )	8.0
14	1.39 ( <i>s</i> )	27.7	1.69 ( <i>s</i> )	32.1
15	1.09 ( <i>d</i> , $J=7.4$ )	16.1	2.44 ( <i>s</i> )	23.5
MeO–C(8)	3.05 ( <i>s</i> )	50.2		

Me(15), coupled with the HMBCs H–C(2)/C(4); CH<sub>2</sub>(3)/C(1); Me(14)/C(3) and C(5); H–C(6)/C(1), C(4), C(8), and C(11); Me(13)/C(7) and C(12); CH<sub>2</sub>(9)/C(7); H–C(10)/C(8); and Me(15)/C(1) and C(9) of **4** indicated a guaiane sesquiterpene skeleton [12]. Moreover, the MeO group at C(8) was secured by the HMBC of MeO–C(8) to C(8). Comparison of **4** with **1** revealed that **4** differed from **1** by the presence of three OH groups attached at C(1), C(2), and C(4).

The relative configuration of **4** was mainly established by a NOESY spectrum (Fig. 3). Two cross-peaks H–C(2)/Me(15) and Me(15)/MeO–C(8) revealed that they were  $\beta$ -oriented. The Me(14) group at C(4) was  $\alpha$ -oriented based on the missing NOESY correlation between Me(14) and H–C(2). The configuration at C(8) was assigned as (*S*), on the basis of a positive Cotton effect at 220 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon +6.42$ ) in accordance with those observed in menverin F, 1-deoxymenverin F, menverin G [3], and **1**. These findings allowed the assignment of the (1*R*,2*S*,4*S*,8*S*,10*S*)-configuration. The structure of compound **4** was thus determined as shown in Fig. 1.

Menverin L (**5**) was obtained as yellow solid, and its molecular formula, C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, was deduced from its HR-ESI-MS ( $m/z$  261.1122 ( $[M+H]^+$ , C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 261.1127)) and NMR data, implying eight degrees of unsaturation. The NMR data of **5** and its molecular formula indicated the presence of three Me groups, one sp<sup>3</sup> CH<sub>2</sub>, and one sp<sup>3</sup> CH group, two sp<sup>2</sup> CH<sub>2</sub> groups, one quaternary sp<sup>3</sup> and seven quaternary sp<sup>2</sup> C-atoms, and two OH groups (Table 2). The characteristic chemical shifts of an  $\alpha$ -methyl- $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated  $\gamma$ -lactone ( $\delta(\text{C})$  170.3 (C(12)), 156.4 (C(8)), 146.1 (C(7)), 106.7 (C(11)), and 8.0 (Me(13))) were observed in the <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum. In addition, the <sup>13</sup>C-NMR data indicated the presence of three trisubstituted olefinic C=C bonds

( $\delta(\text{C})$  156.5 (C(5)), 156.4 (C(8)), 141.4 (C(1)), 141.0 (C(10)), 118.7 (C(6)), and 116.5 (C(9))), accounting for three degrees of unsaturation. From these findings, compound **5** was proposed to be tricyclic.

The  $^1\text{H}, ^1\text{H}$ -COSY correlation H–C(2)/CH<sub>2</sub>(3), combined with HMBCs from H–C(2) to C(4) and C(5); from CH<sub>2</sub>(3) to C(1); from H–C(6) to C(1), C(4), C(8), and C(11); and from H–C(9) to C(1) and C(7) (Fig. 2) permitted elucidation of the C-skeleton of **5**. The Me groups at C(4), C(10), and C(11) were confirmed by the HMBCs from Me(14) to C(3) and C(5); from Me(15) to C(1) and C(9); and from Me(13) to C(7) and C(12). The NMR data of **5** displayed similarities with those of zedoalactone F [17], and **5** differed from zedoalactone F by the presence of two additional olefinic C-atoms ( $\delta(\text{C})$  156.5 (C(5)) and 118.7 (C(6))) and one OH group at C(2).

The relative configuration of **5** was ascertained mainly on the basis of a NOESY spectrum (Fig. 3). The NOESY correlation H–C(2)/Me(14) indicated that they were  $\beta$ -oriented. The relative configuration at C(4) was confirmed to be (*R*\*) by comparison of the chemical shifts at  $\delta(\text{C})$  81.7 (C(4)) in **5** with those at  $\delta(\text{C})$  77.0 (C(4)) in **4**, and at  $\delta(\text{C})$  80.9 (C(4)) in zedoalactone E [17]. On the basis of these evidences, the configuration of **5** was elucidated as (2*S*\*,4*R*\*).

**Conclusions.** – In conclusion, our investigation on the chemical constituents of gorgonian *M. kanisa* led to the identification of new highly oxygenated guaiane lactones, menverins H–L (**1–5**, resp.).

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### Experimental Part

*General.* TLC: Silica gel *GF*<sub>254</sub> (Qingdao Marine Chemical Factory, Qingdao, China); visualization under UV light or by heating after spraying with 5% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in EtOH. HPLC: *Waters-2695* system, using a *Sunfire*<sup>TM</sup> *C*<sub>18</sub> column (250 × 10 mm i.d., 10  $\mu\text{m}$ ) coupled to a *Waters 2998* photodiode-array detector. Optical rotations: *Perkin–Elmer Model 341* polarimeter. NMR Spectra: *Bruker AC 500* spectrometer;  $\delta$  in ppm rel. to Me<sub>4</sub>Si as internal standard; *J* in Hz. HR-ESI-MS: *Bruker Maxis* mass spectrometer; in *m/z*.

*Extraction and Isolation.* The *M. kanisa* (3 kg, wet weight) was extracted with EtOH (95%). EtOH was evaporated *in vacuo* to afford a syrupy residue, which was suspended in dist. H<sub>2</sub>O and fractionated successively with petroleum ether (PE), AcOEt, and BuOH. The AcOEt-soluble portion (7.21 g) was subjected to column chromatography (CC; SiO<sub>2</sub>; CHCl<sub>3</sub>/Me<sub>2</sub>CO 10:0, 9:1, 8:2, 7:3, and CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH 10:1, 10:2, 10:3, 0:10), to give eleven fractions, *Fr. A–K*. *Fr. E* was subjected to CC to afford two subfractions, *Fr. E1* and *Fr. E2*. *Fr. E1* was separated by HPLC (MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O 15:85) to yield **5** (2.8 mg). *Fr. E2* was separated by HPLC (MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O 5:95) to furnish **2** (4.8 mg) and **3** (4.2 mg). *Fr. G* was subjected to CC to yield two subfractions, *Fr. G1* and *Fr. G4*. *Fr. G4* was separated by HPLC (MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O 35:65) to give **4** (3.1 mg). The BuOH-soluble portion (5.01 g) was subjected to CC (SiO<sub>2</sub>; CHCl<sub>3</sub>/



MeOH 10:0, 10:1, 10:2, 10:3.5, 0:10) to provide four fractions, *Frs. L1–L4*. *Fr. L3* was separated by HPLC (MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O 5:95) to yield **1** (4.1 mg).

*Menverin H* (= 4-[(1*aR*,3*S*,7*aS*,9*R*,9*aS*)-2,3,6,7*a*,8,9-Hexahydro-7*a*-methoxy-3,5,9-trimethyl-6-oxo-1*aH*-oxireno[1,8*a*]azuleno[6,5-*b*]furan-3-yl]oxy]benzoic Acid; **1**). White solid. M.p. 284–286°.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = +14.7$  ( $c = 0.21$ , MeOH). CD (MeOH):  $\Delta\epsilon_{220} = -2.28$ . <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see *Table 1*. HR-ESI-MS: 413.1605 ( $[M + H]^+$ , C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>25</sub>O<sub>7</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 413.1600).

*Menverin I* (= (2*aR*,3*aR*,4*R*,5*aR*,9*aS*)-1*a*,2,2*a*,3,5,5*a*-Hexahydro-1*a*,4,8-trimethyl-4*H*-furo[3',2':5,6]-oxireno[3,3*a*]azuleno[1,8*a*-*b*]azirine-7(9*H*)-one; **2**). White solid. M.p. 291–295°.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -28.1$  ( $c = 0.24$ , MeOH). CD (MeOH):  $\Delta\epsilon_{220} = -12.28$ . <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see *Table 1*. HR-ESI-MS: 262.1432 ( $[M + H]^+$ , C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>20</sub>NO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 262.1443).

*Menverin J* (= (1*aS*,7*aS*,9*S*,9*aR*)-7*a*-Amino-7*a*,8-dihydro-3,5,9-trimethyl-9*H*-oxireno[1,8*a*]azuleno[6,5-*b*]furan-6(1*aH*)-one; **3**). White solid. M.p. 305–307°.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -12.1$  ( $c = 0.15$ , MeOH). CD (MeOH):  $\Delta\epsilon_{220} = +6.22$ . <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see *Table 1*. HR-ESI-MS: 260.1278 ( $[M + H]^+$ , C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>18</sub>NO<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 260.1287).

*Menverin K* (= (5*S*,7*S*,7*aR*,8*S*,9*aS*)-6,7,7*a*,8,9,9*a*-hexahydro-5,7,7*a*-trihydroxy-9*a*-methoxy-3,5,8-trimethylazuleno[6,5-*b*]furan-2(5*H*)-one; **4**). Colorless oil.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = -14.5$  ( $c = 0.16$ , MeOH). CD (MeOH):  $\Delta\epsilon_{220} = +6.42$ . <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see *Table 2*. HR-ESI-MS: 333.1315 ( $[M + Na]^+$ , C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>22</sub>NaO<sub>6</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 333.1314).

*Menverin L* (= (5*R*\*,7*S*\*)-6,7-Dihydro-5,7-dihydroxy-3,5,8-trimethylazuleno[6,5-*b*]furan-2(5*H*)-one; **5**). Yellow solid. M.p. 285–287°.  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} = +13.3$  ( $c = 0.14$ , MeOH). CD (MeOH):  $\Delta\epsilon_{218} = -2.15$ . <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see *Table 2*. HR-ESI-MS: 261.1122 ( $[M + H]^+$ , C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>17</sub>O<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>; calc. 261.1127).

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