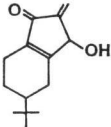
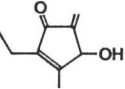

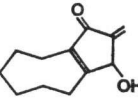
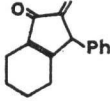
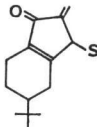
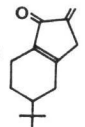
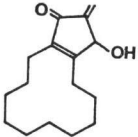

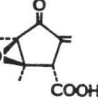







Table 2. Cytotoxicity in the KB assay of methylenomycin analogs.

						
	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	
Minimum dose for >50% reduction in growth ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	>10	0.5	10	0.1	10	
						
	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>		
Minimum dose for >50% reduction in growth ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	>10	>10	>10	10	10	1

tivity of the natural products with that of the synthetic cyclopentenones, was unavailable from the natural source\*, so that nearly a gram of the natural product was prepared according to Chart 2.

#### Biological Properties

The *in vitro* antimicrobial activities of nine synthetic products and of methylenomycins A and B toward representative bacteria, yeasts, and filamentous fungi have been listed in Table 1. Cyclopentenone **12** was the least active of the synthetics whereas **5**, **6**, and **7** were the most active. The antibacterial activity of these compounds compares favorably with that of the naturally occurring methylenomycins. The attenuation of antimicrobial activity noted for **11** may well be a result of diminished water solubility and thus reduced availability compared to the other compounds listed.

None of the compounds tested had any appreciable antimycotic activity.

Cytotoxicity of the cyclopentenones was determined in cultures of human nasopharyngeal carcinoma (KB) cells (Table 2). The progressive increase in cytotoxicity of compounds **6**, **5**, and **7**, in which activity increases with an increase in the length of the carbon chain of the aliphatic groups, was suggestive of a solubility effect, possibly involving intercalation into cellular membranes. In contrast, HANEISHI *et al.*,<sup>23)</sup> in assessing structure activity relationships in modified methylenomycins, found antifungal activity to decrease with an increase in aliphatic carbon chain length, which suggests that cytotoxicity and antifungal activity are the results of different cellular effects.

Methylenomycins A and B have little cytotoxicity and low *in vivo* toxicity, as with the related cyclopentane antibiotic sarkomycin, which has both antimicrobial and antitumor activity.<sup>24-26)</sup> Sarkomycin, which acts by inhibition of DNase, typically requires doses in excess of 100  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  to obtain observable cytological effects.<sup>27)</sup>

\* A sample of methylenomycin A was made available to us through the generosity of Dr. MAMORU ARAI of the Sankyo Company.

### Experimental

$^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded at 300 MHz on a Nicolet spectrometer equipped with an Oxford magnet.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra were recorded on the same instrument at 75 MHz. IR spectra were recorded on a Beckmann IR 10 or on a Nicolet SMX FT spectrometer. Electron impact mass spectra were recorded on a Varian MAT-311 spectrometer.

#### 2,3-Dimethyl-3-hydroxy-4-methoxymethyl-1,4,5-hexatriene (3)

A solution of 4 mmol of *n*-butyllithium in 10 ml of a 1:1 mixture of ether and THF was treated at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  with 500 mg (5 mmol) of methoxymethyl allenyl ether. After 30 minutes a solution of 84 mg (1 mmol) of 3-methyl-3-buten-2-one in 10 ml of ether-THF, 1:1 was added *via* cannula to the rapidly stirring solution of the anion. After 5 minutes the reaction was quenched by addition of 5 ml of water. The mixture was partitioned between ether and water. The ethereal layer was washed with water and brine and was dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ). Evaporation of the solvent followed by silica gel chromatography of the crude product (33% EtOAc/hexane) produced 162 mg of **3** (88% yield) as an oil.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.36 (3H, d,  $J=0.48$  Hz), 1.75 (3H, m), 2.54 (1H, d,  $J=0.46$  Hz), 3.39 (3H, s), 4.82 (2H, d,  $J=0.55$  Hz), 4.92 (1H, t,  $J=1.40$  Hz), 5.16 (1H, t,  $J=0.59$  Hz), 5.53 (2H, s). IR (neat) 3495, 2926, 1958, 1655, 1454  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS ( $m/z$ ) 185 ( $M+1$ , weak), 184 ( $M$ , weak), 166 ( $M-\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), 123 ( $M-\text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_2\text{O}$ ), 85 ( $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{10}\text{O}$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ )  $\delta$  18.47, 24.44, 55.34, 74.63, 90.97, 93.84, 110.07, 133.08, 148.65, 196.49.

#### Methylenomycin B

To a solution of 162 mg (1 mmol, 0.5 equiv) of anhydrous ferric chloride in 100 ml of dichloromethane at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  was added 400 mg (2 mmol, 1.0 equiv) of 2,3-dimethyl-3-hydroxy-4-methoxymethyl-1,4,5-hexatriene (**3**) in 10 ml of dichloromethane. The reaction is rapid. After 5 minutes the reaction was quenched with satd aqueous sodium bicarbonate and the mixture was allowed to warm to room temperature. The reaction mixture was partitioned between dichloromethane and water. The organic layer was washed with satd aqueous sodium bicarbonate followed by water and brine. Drying ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) followed by evaporation of the solvent produced the crude product as an oil. Silica gel chromatography (25% EtOAc/hexane) produced 117 mg methylenomycin B (48% yield).

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  1.78 (3H, m,  $J=1$  Hz), 2.04 (3H, m,  $J=1$  Hz), 3.05 (2H, br s), 5.32 (1H, m,  $J=1.5$  Hz), 6.02 (1H, m,  $J=1$  Hz). IR (neat) 1690, 1660, 1625  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . MS ( $m/z$ ) 122 ( $M$ ), 107 ( $M-\text{CH}_3$ ), 93, 86, 84, 79. Calcd for  $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{10}\text{O}$  122.0723, found 122.0732.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR ( $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ )  $\delta$  8.28, 15.90, 36.59, 114.11, 138.18, 142.35, 162.30, 194.79.

#### General Procedure for the Synthesis of 4~12

**Nucleophilic Addition of  $\alpha$ -Lithio- $\alpha$ -methoxymethylallene:** A solution of a 4 mmol of *n*-butyllithium in 6 ml of a 1:1 mixture of ether and THF was treated at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  with 5 mmol of methoxymethylallenyl ether. Anion formation was presumed to be complete after 30~45 minutes. A solution of 1 mmol of the unsaturated ketone substrate\* in 10 ml of ether/THF was added *via* cannula to the rapidly stirring lithioallene solution at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$ . The progress of the reaction was monitored by thin-layer chromatography. After *ca.* 30 minutes the reaction was quenched by addition of 3 ml of water. Upon warming to room temperature the reaction mixture was partitioned between ether and water. The ethereal layer was washed with water and brine and was dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and was concentrated to produce the adducts in 65~95% yield. Although the products of this reaction were stable to chromatography on silica gel, purification prior to cyclization was unnecessary.

**Cationic Cyclization:** To a solution of 1 mmol of allene adduct in 10~15 ml of dichloromethane

\* The preparation of *O*-trimethylsilyl hydroxymethylene ketones which were used to prepare **4**, **5**, **6**, **7** and **11** has been described.<sup>31)</sup>

Addition of thiophenol to  $\alpha$ -hydroxymethylene-4-*tert*-butylcyclohexanone produced the substrate for **9**. The aldol condensation product of benzaldehyde with cyclohexanone produced the substrate for **8**. The  $\alpha$ -methylene ketones which were used for the synthesis of **10** and **12** were prepared from Eschenmoser's salt.<sup>32,33)</sup>

at 0°C was added boron trifluoride etherate (1  $\mu$ l/5 mg) dropwise with rapid stirring. The progress of the reaction was monitored by thin layer chromatography. Upon completion (<10 minutes) the reaction was quenched with 5% aqueous NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and was allowed to warm to room temperature. Partitioning between dichloromethane and water followed by drying (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) and concentration produced the crude products which were purified by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate - hexane). Yields varied from 60~92%.

#### Spectroscopic Data of 4~12

**4** (mp 160~161°C, 76% yield): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.10 (1H, d,  $J=1.5$  Hz), 5.62 (1H, br s), 4.93 (1H, br s), 0.91 (9H, s). IR (neat) 3400, 1700, 1640 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS ( $m/z$ ) 220 (M), 202 (M-H<sub>2</sub>O), 163 (M-tBu), 136. Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 220.1463, found 220.1467.

**5** (66~72% yield): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) 6.11 (1H, br s), 5.62 (1H, br s), 4.85 (1H, br s), 2.28 (2H, q,  $J=7.6$  Hz), 2.11 (3H, s), 1.03 (3H, t,  $J=7.6$  Hz). IR (neat) 3450, 2950, 1710, 1650 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS ( $m/z$ ) 152 (M), 137, 134 (M-H<sub>2</sub>O), 123, 109, 95. Calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 152.0837, found 152.0822.

**6** (68% yield): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.05 (1H, br s), 5.60 (1H, br s), 4.85 (1H, br s), 3.38 (1H, br s), 2.08 (3H, s), 1.76 (3H, s). IR (neat) 3450, 2950, 1700, 1645 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS ( $m/z$ ) 138 (M), 124, 123, 122, 120 (M-H<sub>2</sub>O), 111, 110, 95. Calcd for C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>10</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 138.0681, found 138.0669.

**7** (80% yield): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  5.95 (1H, br s), 5.52 (1H, br s), 4.84 (1H, br s), 3.56 (1H, br s), 1.39 (8H, m). IR (neat) 3450, 2900, 1710, 1645 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS ( $m/z$ ) 192 (M), 177, 175, 164, 149, 135. Calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 192.1150, found 192.1142.

**8** (75~78% yield): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.28 (5H, m), 6.05 (1H, d,  $J=0.5$  Hz), 5.09 (1H, br s), 4.20 (1H, br s), 1.68 (4H, m). IR (neat) 2960, 1710, 1645 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS ( $m/z$ ) 224 (M), 196 (M-CO), 187, 181, 167, 147 (M-Ph), 135, 77. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>16</sub>O 224.1201, found 224.1198.

**9** (82% yield): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.24 (5H, m), 6.14 and 6.12 (1H, d,  $J=1.6$  Hz), 5.59 (1H, br s), 5.54 (1H, br s), 4.43 (1H, br s), 0.90 and 0.88 (9H, s). IR (neat) 2980, 1710, 1590 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS ( $m/z$ ) 312 (M), 255 (M-tBu), 204, 203 (M-SPh), 202, 176, 137. Calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>OS 312.1548, found 312.1559.

**10** (56% yield): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.03 (1H, d,  $J=1.4$  Hz), 5.32 (1H, d,  $J=1.6$  Hz), 3.08 (2H, br s), 0.90 (9H, s). IR (neat) 2950, 1710, 1645 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS ( $m/z$ ) 204 (M), 176 (M-CO), 148, 147 (M-tBu), 117. Calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>20</sub>O 204.1514, found 204.1507.

**11** (82% yield): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.10 (1H, br s), 5.60 (1H, br s), 5.05 (1H, br s), 2.4~1.0 (20H, m). IR (neat) 3455, 2950, 1710, 1648 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS ( $m/z$ ) 249 (M+1), 248 (M), 230 (M-H<sub>2</sub>O), 205, 191, 177. Calcd for C<sub>16</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>2</sub> 248.1776, found 248.1769.

**12** (48% yield): <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  6.04 (1H, dd,  $J_1=1.3$  Hz,  $J_2<1$  Hz), 5.33 (1H, dd,  $J_1=1.2$  Hz,  $J_2<1$  Hz), 3.05 (2H, br s), 3.02 (1H, m), 1.76 (3H, t,  $J=2.1$  Hz), 1.1 (6H, d,  $J=7.0$  Hz). IR (neat) 1690, 1662, 1628 cm<sup>-1</sup>. MS ( $m/z$ ) 151 (M+1), 150 (M), 136, 135 (M-CH<sub>3</sub>), 122 (M-CO), 107, 105. Calcd for C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O 150.1048, found 150.1045.

#### Test Organisms

*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, strain M-25, was provided by Dr. B. ADAMS, Department of Microbiology, University of Hawaii. All other microorganisms were obtained from the teaching collections maintained by the departments of microbiology and botany. The KB cell line was provided by Dr. E. FURUSAWA, of the J. A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawaii.

#### Antimicrobial Activity

Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values were determined by the broth dilution technique.<sup>28)</sup> MIC's were determined visually after incubation at 37°C for 24 hours. The medium used for bacteria was heart infusion broth (Difco), pH 7.4, except in the case of *Mycobacterium*, which was tested using an identical medium supplemented with 6% glycerol. Yeasts were assayed using yeast nitrogen base (Difco), supplemented with 5% dextrose (pH 7). The susceptibility of filamentous fungi was determined by the broth dilution method of SHADOMY & ESPINEL-INGROFF,<sup>29)</sup> using potato dextrose broth (Difco) adjusted to pH 7.

#### Antitumor Activity In Vitro

Human epidermoid carcinoma (KB) cells were cultured in the presence of various concentrations

of antibiotic in Eagle's minimal essential medium supplemented with 10% calf serum and 50  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  gentamicin sulfate. Cells were added to tubes to give an initial density of  $2.5 \times 10^4$  cells/ml.<sup>30)</sup> Cultures were incubated at 37°C in an atmosphere of 5% carbon dioxide in air. Cell cultures were observed daily for 3 days following inoculation. MIC values were determined by the criteria of morphology and density of cells relative to control cultures.

#### Acknowledgment

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