

Terreulactones A, B, C, and D: Novel Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitors

Produced by *Aspergillus terreus*

II. Physico-chemical Properties and Structure Determination

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Terreulactones A, B, C, and D, new meroterpenoid compounds with potent anti-acetylcholinesterase activity, were determined to be mixed polyketides-terpenoid structures by spectroscopic studies.

In the course of our screening for selective inhibitors of acetylcholinesterase from microbial metabolites, we isolated four new meroterpenoid compounds named terreulactones A (**1**), B (**2**), C (**3**), and D (**4**) from the solid state fermentation of *Aspergillus terreus* Fb000501 (Fig. 1)^{1,2}. Terreulactones A (**1**), B (**2**), C (**3**), and D (**4**) are structurally related to arisugacins^{3~6} and territrems^{7,8} which were reported as acetylcholinesterase inhibitors and tremorgenic mycotoxins from *Penicillium* sp. and *Aspergillus terreus*, respectively. Arisugacins and territrems, however, were not detected in this study. Terreulactones showed a potent and selective inhibitory activity on acetylcholinesterase compared with butyrylcholinesterase. In the proceeding paper we described the taxonomy of the producing strain, fermentation, isolation, and biological activities of these compounds. And, the structure of terreulactones A (**1**) was previously reported⁹. We report here physico-chemical properties and structure determination of terreulactones B (**2**), C (**3**), and D (**4**).

Physico-chemical Properties of Terreulactones B (**2**), C (**3**), and D (**4**)

The compounds were obtained as white powders as

shown in Table 1. They are soluble in methanol, dimethylsulfoxide and CHCl₃, and insoluble in water, ether and *n*-hexane. Their UV absorption spectra showed the absorption maxima at 208~213, 247~252, and 330~331 which are similar to those of terreulactone A. Also, their IR spectra revealed similar absorption bands to those of terreulactone A which were attributable to a γ -lactone (1671~1702 cm⁻¹) and a hydroxyl (3403~3432 cm⁻¹) moiety. Chemical shifts in the ¹H and ¹³C NMR of **2~4** are shown together with those of terreulactone A in Table 2 and 3, respectively.

Structure of Terreulactone B (**2**)

The molecular formula of **2** was determined to be C₂₇H₃₀O₇ on the basis of high resolution ESI-MS [(M+H)⁺, 467.2070 *m/z* (+0.1 mmu error)] in combination with ¹H and ¹³C NMR data. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data (Tables 2 and 3) of **2** with ¹H-¹H COSY, HMQC and DEPT spectral data revealed the presence of an 1,4-disubstituted benzene ring, a *cis*-disubstituted ethene, an isolated olefinic methine (δ_{H} 6.12, 1H, s; δ_{C} 96.4), an methoxy (δ_{H} 3.87, 3H, s; δ_{C} 55.4), -CH₂-CH₂-, an isolated methylene (δ_{H} 2.78, 1H, d, *J*=16.6; δ_{H} 2.86, 1H, d, *J*=16.6; δ_{C} 25.8), four isolated methyls, one carbonyl

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Fig. 1. Relative structures of terreulactones A (1), B (2), C (3) and D (4).

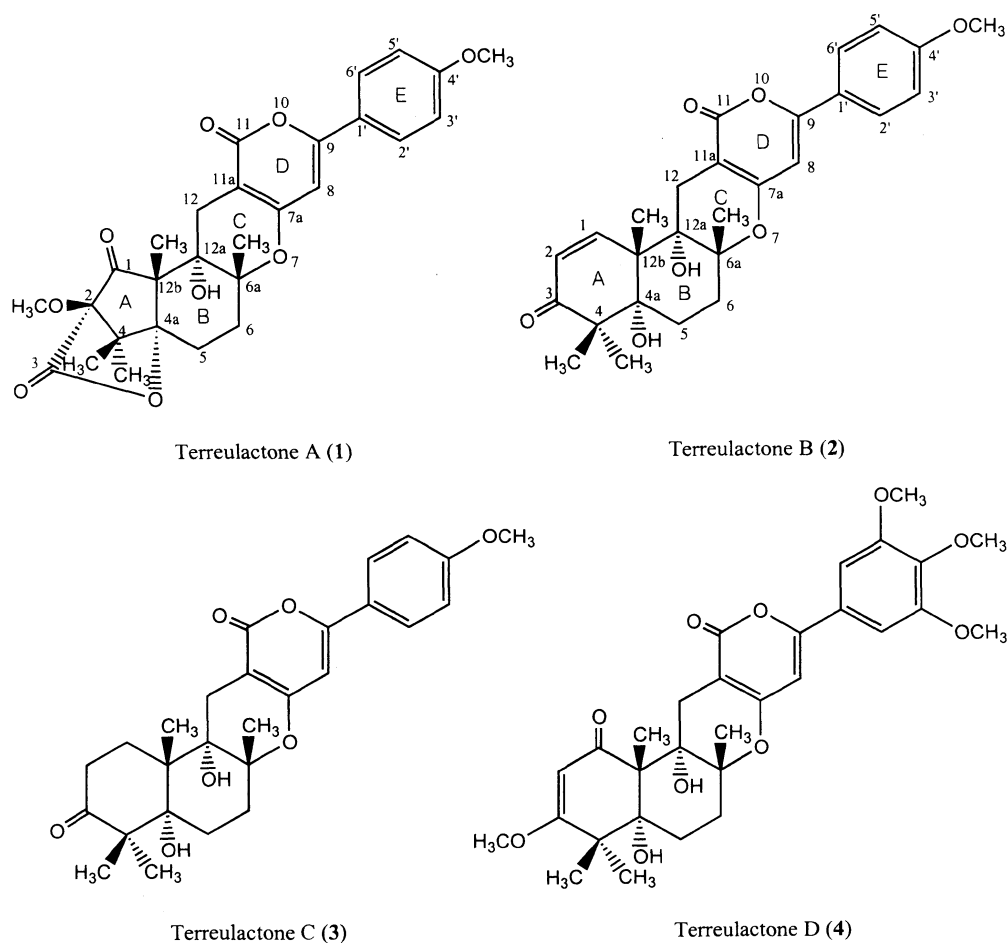


Table 1. Physico-chemical property of terreulactones A (1), B (2), C (3) and D (4).

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Appearance | white powder | white powder | white powder | white powder |
| $[\alpha]_D$ | +60 (c 0.1, CHCl ₃) | +110 (c 0.1, MeOH) | +132.5 (c 0.023, MeOH) | +111.0 (c 0.073, CHCl ₃) |
| ESI-MS (<i>m/z</i>) | 511 (M+H) ⁺ | 465 (M-H) ⁻ | 469 (M+H) ⁺ | 579 (M+Na) ⁺ |
| HRESI-MS (<i>m/z</i>) | | | | |
| found | 511.1964 (M+H) ⁺ | 467.2070 (M+H) ⁺ | 469.2220 (M+H) ⁺ | 557.2387 (M+H) ⁺ |
| calcd. | 511.1968 | 467.2069 | 469.2226 | 557.2386 |
| Molecular formula | C ₂₈ H ₃₀ O ₉ | C ₂₇ H ₃₀ O ₇ | C ₂₇ H ₃₂ O ₇ | C ₃₀ H ₃₆ O ₁₀ |
| UV 1 _{max} nm (ε)(MeOH) | 214 (85,459), 253 (10969), 331(11275) | 208 (41365), 247 (21234), 331(22884) | 210 (29700), 252 (14400) 330 (18800) | 213 (39300), 252 (17000) 331 (15200) |
| IR (KBr) γ cm ⁻¹ | 3437, 2924, 1800, 1754, 1704, 1572, 1259, 1178 | 3432, 2926, 1671, 1569, 1514, 1260, 1180 | 3403, 2938, 1702, 1673, 1569, 1514, 1260, 1182 | 3430, 2944, 1688, 1610, 1583, 1505, 1199, 1126 |
| HPLC (R _t) ^a (minute) | 7.6 | 5.4 | 6.6 | 9.0 |

^a Column, Cosmosil C₁₈ (4.6 x 150 mm); solvent, CH₃CN-H₂O (50:50); flow rate, 0.9 ml/min; UV absorbance at 330 nm.

Table 2. The ^1H NMR data of terreulactones A (**1**), B (**2**), C (**3**) and D (**4**).

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | | 7.29 (1H, d, 10.2) | 1.70 (1H, m) 2.82 (1H, m) | |
| 2 | | 6.10 (1H, d, 10.2) | 2.53 (1H, m) 2.93 (1H, m) | 5.22 (1H, s) |
| 2-OMe | 3.73 (3H, s) | | | |
| 3-OMe | | | | 3.73 (3H, s) |
| 4 α -Me | 1.21 (3H, s) | 1.26 (3H, s) | 1.18 (3H, s) | 1.27 (3H, s) |
| 4 β -Me | 1.23 (3H, s) | 1.33 (3H, s) | 1.22 (3H, s) | 1.34 (3H, s) |
| 4 α -OH | | 6.40 (1H, brs) ^b | 6.46 (1H, brs) | 5.98 (1H, brs) |
| 5-H α | 1.96 (1H, d, 14.0) ^a | 1.93 (1H, ddd, 3.6, 4.1, 13.9) | 1.88 (1H, ddd, 2.8, 3.4, 14.2) | 1.96 (1H, ddd, 3.1, 3.2, 13.9) |
| -H β | 2.23 (1H, ddd, 14.0, 13.6, 3.7) | 2.00 (1H, ddd, 3.5, 13.8, 13.9) | 1.91 (1H, ddd, 3.3, 14.0, 14.2) | 1.88 (1H, ddd, 3.3, 13.7, 13.9) |
| 6-H α | 1.75 (1H, d, 12.8) | 1.84 (1H, ddd, 3.5, 3.6, 13.4) | 1.78 (1H, ddd, 2.8, 3.3, 12.8) | 1.82 (1H, ddd, 3.2, 3.3, 13.1) |
| -H β | 2.45 (1H, ddd, 13.6, 12.8, 3.7) | 2.56 (1H, ddd, 4.1, 13.4, 13.8) | 2.60 (1H, ddd, 3.4, 12.8, 14.0) | 2.48 (1H, ddd, 3.1, 13.1, 13.7) |
| 6a-Me | 1.42 (3H, s) | 1.49 (3H, s) | 1.42 (3H, s) | 1.47 (3H, s) |
| 8 | 6.73 (1H, s) | 6.12 (1H, s) | 5.75 (1H, s) | 6.40 (1H, s) |
| 12-H α | 2.53 (1H, d, 17.0) | 2.78 (1H, d, 16.6) | 2.64 (1H, d, 16.9) | 3.51 (1H, d, 17.8) |
| -H β | 2.97 (1H, d, 17.0) | 2.86 (1H, d, 16.6) | 2.70 (1H, d, 16.9) | 2.87 (1H, d, 17.8) |
| 12a-OH | 4.80 (1H, brs) | 6.78 (1H, brs) ^b | 5.51 (1H, brs) | 4.20 (1H, brs) |
| 12b-Me | 1.38 (3H, s) | 1.44 (3H, s) | 1.19 (3H, s) | 1.52 (3H, s) |
| 2' | 7.81 (1H, d, 8.9) | 7.60 (1H, d, 8.8) | 7.44 (1H, d, 8.6) | 7.00 (1H, s) |
| 3' | 7.03 (1H, d, 8.9) | 6.91 (1H, d, 8.8) | 6.87 (1H, d, 8.6) | |
| 3'-OMe | | | | 3.91 (3H, s) |
| 4'-OMe | 3.81 (3H, s) | 3.87 (3H, s) | 3.88 (3H, s) | 3.90 (3H, s) |
| 5' | 7.03 (1H, d, 8.9) | 6.91 (1H, d, 8.8) | 6.87 (1H, d, 8.6) | |
| 5'-OMe | | | | 3.91 (3H, s) |
| 6' | 7.81 (1H, d, 8.9) | 7.60 (1H, d, 8.8) | 7.44 (1H, d, 8.6) | 7.00 (1H, s) |

The ^1H NMR spectra of **1** and **2-4** were recorded at 600 MHz in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ and CD_3Cl , respectively. ^aProton resonance multiplicity and coupling constant ($J = \text{Hz}$) are in parenthesis. ^bThe signals were detected in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$. The assignments were aided by $^1\text{H-}^1\text{H}$ COSY, DEPT, NOESY, HMQC, and HMBC.

carbon (δ 203.1), one carboxylic carbon (δ 165.2), five sp^2 quaternary carbons and five sp^3 quaternary carbons. These ^1H and ^{13}C spectral data indicated the presence of the rings B, C, D and E which are the same as those of terreulactone A. The structure of the ring A was determined by HMBC experiments. The ^1H and ^{13}C chemical shift of the *cis*-disubstituted ethene (δ_{H} 6.10, 1H, d, $J=10.2$; δ_{C} 128.0; δ_{H} 7.29, 1H, d, $J=10.2$; δ_{C} 151.5) suggested the presence of α,β -unsaturated carbonyl in the ring A. In the HMBC spectrum (Fig. 2), one olefinic proton at δ 7.29 (H-1) of the *cis*-disubstituted ethene was long-range coupled to the carbonyl carbon at δ 203.1 (C-3) and three sp^3 quaternary carbons at δ 79.6 (C-4a), δ 75.9 (C-12a), and δ 48.0 (C-12b). The other olefinic proton at δ 6.10 (H-2) was long-range coupled to two sp^3 quaternary carbons at δ 51.7 (C-4) and δ 48.0 (C-12b) and a methyl carbon at δ 26.7 (12b-Me). Also, long-range couplings were observed between

methyl protons at δ 1.26 (4 α -Me) and δ 1.33 (4 β -Me) and the carbons at C-3, C-4, and C-4a and between methyl protons at δ 1.44 (12b-Me) and the carbons at C-1, C-4a, C-12b and C-12a. These HMBC data indicated that the ring A should be 6-membered containing α,β -unsaturated carbonyl as shown in Fig. 1. Thus, the planar structure of **1** was determined as shown in Fig. 2.

The relative stereochemistry of **2** was examined by NOESY spectrum in $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ in which two exchangeable protons at δ 6.40 (4a-OH) and δ 6.78 (12a-OH) were detected. As shown in Fig. 2, NOEs were observed among the protons at δ 1.10 (4 α -Me), δ 6.40 (4a-OH), δ 6.78 (12a-OH) and δ 2.32 (6-H β). Also NOEs among the protons at δ 1.17 (4 β -Me), δ 2.1 (5-H β), δ 1.44 (6a-Me), δ 2.76 (12-H β), and δ 1.36 (12b-Me) were observed. Thus, the relative stereochemistry of C-4a, C-6a, C-12a, and C-12b was determined to be R^* , R^* , S^* , S^* , respectively.

Table 3. The ^{13}C NMR data of terreulactones A (1), B (2), C (3) and D (4).

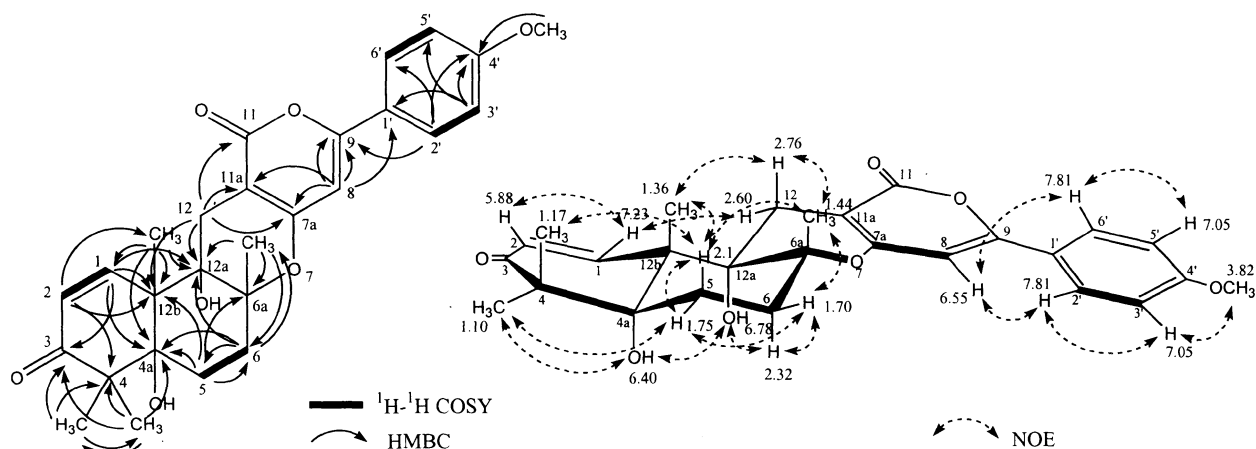
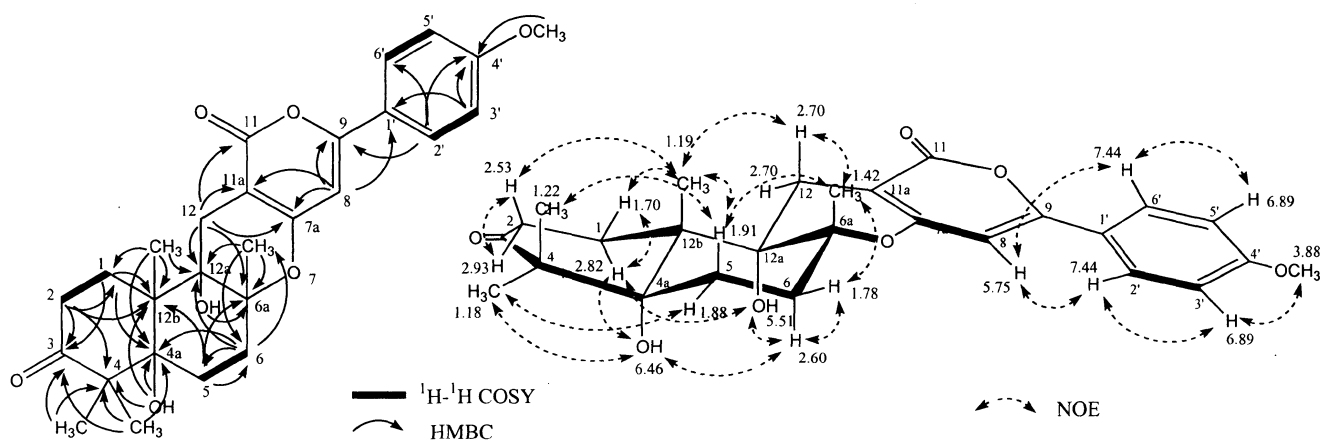
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| C-1 | 208.4 C | 151.5 CH | 27.6 CH ₂ | 203.9 C |
| C-2 | 98.4 C | 128.0 CH | 33.5 CH ₂ | 97.2 CH |
| 2-OMe | 54.8 CH ₃ | | | |
| C-3 | 166.9 C | 203.1 C | 216.7 C | 177.9 C |
| 3-OMe | | | | 56.1 CH ₃ |
| C-4 | 56.8 C | 51.7 C | 52.9 C | 45.9 C |
| 4 α -Me | 18.9 CH ₃ | 25.0 CH ₃ | 23.6 CH ₃ | 22.7 CH ₃ |
| 4 β -Me | 21.3 CH ₃ | 23.2 CH ₃ | 22.5 CH ₃ | 23.2 CH ₃ |
| C-4a | 92.2 C | 79.6 C | 79.9 C | 78.3 C |
| C-5 | 19.9 CH ₂ | 25.4 CH ₂ | 26.9 CH ₂ | 25.1 CH ₂ |
| C-6 | 29.6 CH ₂ | 28.9 CH ₂ | 28.9 CH ₂ | 28.5 CH ₂ |
| C-6a | 80.8 C | 81.4 C | 82.0 C | 80.0 C |
| 6a-Me | 24.5 CH ₃ | 24.4 CH ₃ | 23.7 CH ₃ | 23.9 CH ₃ |
| C-7a | 162.8 C | 164.0 C | 164.3 C | 162.8 C |
| C-8 | 96.7 CH | 96.4 CH | 96.3 CH | 97.5 CH |
| C-9 | 157.1 C | 158.8 C | 158.5 C | 158.5 C |
| C-11 | 163.5 C | 165.2 C | 165.6 C | 164.4 C |
| C-11a | 97.3 C | 96.2 C | 95.6 C | 97.6 C |
| C-12 | 27.8 CH ₂ | 25.8 CH ₂ | 24.7 CH ₂ | 28.1 CH ₂ |
| C-12a | 74.0 C | 75.9 C | 76.4 C | 76.3 CH ₃ |
| C-12b | 51.9 C | 48.0 C | 43.7 C | 56.0 C |
| 12b-Me | 21.1 CH ₃ | 26.7 CH ₃ | 21.8 CH ₃ | 22.8 CH ₃ |
| C-1' | 123.4 C | 123.5 C | 123.1 C | 126.8 C |
| C-2' | 126.8 CH | 127.2 CH | 127.0 CH | 102.8 CH |
| C-3' | 114.5 CH | 114.2 CH | 113.9 CH | 153.5 C |
| 3'-OMe | | | | 56.3 CH ₃ |
| C-4' | 161.1 C | 161.7 C | 161.7 C | 140.3 C |
| 4'-OMe | 55.4 CH ₃ | 55.4 CH ₃ | 55.4 CH ₃ | 61.0 CH ₃ |
| C-5' | 114.5 CH | 114.2 CH | 113.9 CH | 153.5 C |
| 5'-OMe | | | | 56.3 CH ₃ |
| C-6' | 123.4 CH | 127.2 CH | 127.0 CH | 102.8 CH |

The ^{13}C NMR spectra of **1** and **2** - **4** were recorded at 125 MHz in DMSO- d_6 and CD₃Cl, respectively. The assignments were aided by ^1H - ^1H COSY, DEPT, NOESY, HMQC, and HMBC.

Structure of Terreulactone C (3)

The molecular formula of **3** was determined to be C₂₇H₃₂O₇ on the basis of high resolution ESI-MS [(M+H)⁺, 469.2220 *m/z* (-0.6 mmu error)] in combination with ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data (Table 2) of **3** were similar to those of **2**. The major differences between **2** and **3** in ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra with ^1H - ^1H COSY and HMQC data were that the signals (δ_{H} 1.70, 1H, m; δ_{H} 2.82, 1H, m; δ_{C} 27.6; δ_{H} 2.53, 1H, m; δ_{H} 2.93, 1H, m; δ_{C} 33.5) corresponding to -CH₂-CH₂- were newly observed in **3** instead of disappearance of the *cis*-disubstituted ethene signals of **2**. In addition, the sp^3

quaternary carbon of C-12b was upfield-shifted from δ 48.0 to δ 43.7 and the carbonyl carbon of C-3 was downfield-shifted from δ 203.1 to δ 216.7 in **3**. These spectral data suggested that the *cis*-disubstituted ethene of **2** could be hydrogenated in **3**. The hydrogenation of the ethene group of **2** in **3** was determined by HMBC experiments (Fig. 3). The methylene protons at δ 1.70 (H β -1) and δ 2.82 (H α -1) were long-range coupled to the carbonyl carbon at δ 216.7 (C-3) and two sp^3 quaternary carbons at δ 79.9 (C-4a) and δ 43.7 (C-12b). The other methylene protons at δ 2.53 (H β -2) and δ 2.93 (H α -2) were long-range coupled to two sp^3 quaternary carbons at δ 52.9 (C-4) and δ 43.7 (C-12b). Also, long-range couplings were observed from the methyl protons at δ 1.19 (12b-Me)

Fig. 2. ^1H - ^1H COSY, HMBC and NOE data of **2**.Fig. 3. ^1H - ^1H COSY, HMBC and NOE data of **3**.

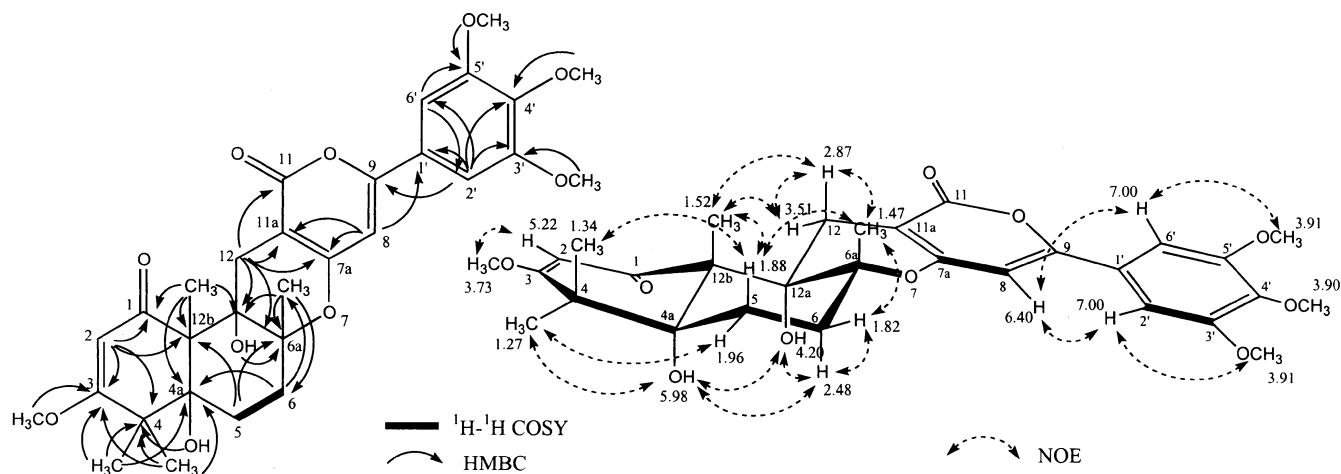
to the methylene carbon at δ 27.6 (C-1) and three sp^3 quaternary carbons at C-4a, C-12b and C-12a. These HMBC data indicated that the *cis*-disubstituted ethene of **2** should be hydrogenated in **3**. The remaining structure was also confirmed by HMBC and ^1H - ^1H COSY spectral data in Fig. 3. Thus, the planar structure of **3** was determined as shown in Fig. 1.

The relative stereochemistry of **2** was examined by NOESY spectrum in CDCl_3 . As shown in Fig. 3, NOEs were observed among the protons at δ 1.18 (4 α -Me), δ 6.46 (4a-OH), δ 5.51 (12a-OH) and δ 2.60 (6-H β). Also, NOEs among the protons at 4 β -Me (δ 1.22), 5-H β (δ 1.91), 6a-Me (δ 1.42), 12-H β (δ 2.70), and 12b-Me (δ 1.19) were

observed. Thus, the relative stereochemistry of C-4a, C-6a, C-12a, and C-12b was determined to be R^* , R^* , S^* , S^* , respectively.

Structure of Terreulactone D (**4**)

The molecular formula of **4** was determined to be $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_{10}$ on the basis of high resolution ESI-MS [(M+H) $^+$, 557.2387 m/z (+0.1 mmu error)] in combination with ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data (Tables 2 and 3) of **4** were quite different in two major parts from those of **3**. The first different part between **3** and **4** in ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra with ^1H - ^1H COSY and

Fig. 4. ^1H - ^1H COSY, HMBC and NOE data of **4**.

HMBC data was that two equivalent methoxys (δ_{H} 3.91, 6H, s; δ_{C} 56.3), two equivalent olefinic methines (δ_{H} 7.00, 2H, s; δ_{C} 102.8), and two equivalent sp^2 quaternary carbons (δ 153.5) newly appeared in **4** instead of disappearance of the aromatic methines of **3**, suggesting that the two equivalent methoxys could be substituted to C-2'/C-6' or C-3'/C-5' of the benzene ring of **3** in **4**. The substitution position of the two methoxys was determined by HMBC experiments (Fig. 4). The two equivalent olefinic methine protons (δ_{H} 7.00, 2H, s, 2'-H/6'-H) were long-range coupled to their own carbons at δ 102.8 (C-2'/C-6') and four sp^2 quaternary carbons at δ 158.5 (C-9), δ 126.8 (C-1'), δ 153.5 (C-3'/C-5'), and δ 140.3 (C-4'). Also, the two equivalent methoxy protons (δ_{H} 3.91, 6H, s, 3'-OMe/5'-OMe) were long-range coupled to sp^2 quaternary carbons at δ 153.5 (C-3'/C-5'). These HMBC data indicated that the two methoxys should be substituted to C-2' and C-6', which was confirmed by NOEs effect between the protons at δ 7.00 (2'-H) and δ 6.40 (H-8) (Fig. 4). The second different part between **3** and **4** in ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra was that a methoxy (δ_{H} 3.73, 3H, s; δ_{C} 56.1), an isolated olefinic methine (δ_{H} 5.22, 1H, s; δ_{C} 97.2), and an sp^2 quaternary carbon (δ 177.9) were newly observed in **4** instead of disappearance of $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$ of **3**, suggesting that $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$ group of **3** could be replaced with $-\text{CH}=\text{C}(\text{OCH}_3)-$ in **4**. In the HMBC spectrum (Fig. 4), the isolated olefinic methine proton at δ 5.22 (H-2) was long-range coupled to a carbonyl carbon at δ 203.9 (C-1), the sp^2 quaternary carbon at δ 177.9 (C-3), and two sp^3 quaternary carbons at δ 45.9 (C-4) and δ 56.0 (C-12b). Long-range couplings were observed from a methyl protons at δ 1.52

(12b-Me) to the carbonyl carbon at δ 203.9 and three sp^3 quaternary carbons at C-4a, C-12b and C-12a. These data indicated that the carbonyl carbon should be located at C-1 in the ring A. Also, the methoxy protons at δ 3.73 (3-OMe) were long-range coupled to the sp^2 quaternary carbon at δ 177.9 (C-3) which was in turn long-range coupled with methyl protons at δ 1.27 (4 α -Me) and δ 1.34 (4 β -Me). These spectral data indicated that the olefinic methine of $-\text{CH}=\text{C}(\text{OCH}_3)-$ should be connected to the carbonyl carbon of C-1. The remaining rings of B, C and D were also confirmed by HMBC and ^1H - ^1H COSY spectral data in Fig. 4. Thus, the planar structure of **4** was determined as shown in Fig. 1.

The relative stereochemistry of **4** was examined by NOESY spectrum in CDCl_3 . As shown in Fig. 4, NOEs were observed among the protons at δ 1.27 (4 α -Me), δ 5.98 (4a-OH), δ 4.20 (12a-OH) and δ 2.48 (6-H β). Also NOEs among the protons at δ 1.34 (4 β -Me), δ 1.88 (5-H β), δ 1.47 (6a-Me), δ 2.87 (12-H β), and δ 1.52 (12b-Me) were observed. Thus, the relative stereochemistry of C-4a, C-6a, C-12a, and C-12b was determined to be R^* , R^* , S^* , S^* , respectively.

Discussion

Like terreulactones A, terreulactones B, C and D are meroterpenoid type compounds that have mixed polyketide-terpenoid structures, which are not common in microbial metabolites. Terreulactones B and C were structurally related to arisugacin C which were isolated

from the mutant strain *Penicillium* sp. FO-4259-11 selected from UV-light treatment of the spores suspension of the parent *Penicillium* sp. FO-4259, an arisugacins A and B producing strain⁶⁾. Terreulactone B was new 1,2-dehydro-12_a-hydroxy derivative of arisugacin C. Terreulactone C was new 12_a-hydroxy derivative of arisugacin C. Terreulactone D was new 3-methoxy derivative of territrems B which was isolated from *Aspergillus terreus*, a territrems A~C producing strain⁸⁾. Interestingly, arisugacins and territrems compounds were not detected in this study. So far a few meroterpenoid such as arisugacins A~H^{3~6)}, territrems A~C^{7,8)}, pyripyropene¹⁰⁾ and oxalicine¹¹⁾ were isolated from microbial metabolites. The absolute stereochemistry of arisugacin F and territrems B has been reported¹²⁾. The biosynthetic origin of pyripyropene A and territrems B has been studied^{13,14)}. The benzene ring of territrems B is biosynthesized from shikimate and the nonaromatic moiety is derived *via* the mevalonate pathway. Since the structures of terreulactones A~D including stereochemistry are similar to those of arisugacins and territrems, terreulactones compounds seems to be biogenetically related to arisugacins.

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