

Isolation of Two Highly Methylated Polyketide Derivatives from a Yew-Associated *Penicillium* Species

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Two selective antifungal agents were produced by a *Penicillium* sp. isolated from the inner bark of the Pacific yew tree, *Taxus brevifolia*. The structures of these highly methylated polyketide derivatives were deduced by detailed analysis of both 1D and 2D NMR and difference NOE spectra. Both compounds were active against the plant pathogen, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* in the standard disk assay.

Fungi and bacteria are a prolific source of metabolites with significant biological activities. Many important anticancer, antifungal, and antibacterial chemotherapeutics are either microbial metabolites or semisynthetic derivatives. But existing drugs do not adequately meet our pharmaceutical demands. The increasing incidence of drug resistance in pathogenic microbes as well as the increasing frequency of infectious diseases in immunocompromised individuals necessitate the discovery of new anti-infective agents. Investigating the secondary metabolites of microorganisms isolated from unusual or specialized ecological niches may increase the chance of finding novel compounds. For the past seven years we have been investigating the endosymbiotic microorganisms of medicinal plants, particularly plants used by North American indigenous peoples. Plant endosymbionts are usually nonpathogenic in nature, but generally produce bioactive compounds that enable them to survive in the competitive world of interstitial space.

The first plant targeted in our study was the Pacific yew tree, *Taxus brevifolia*.^{1,2} Specimens sampled in Montana, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho harbored many different fungi and bacteria in their inner bark tissues (phloem) and needles. One of these, a *Penicillium* sp. isolated from the root tip of a healthy yew tree growing in Hungry Horse, Montana, has yielded several interesting bioactive metabolites, including the two novel polyketides described here.

The organic extracts of both the medium and the mycelial mat of *Penicillium* sp. isolate H1RE (Medium A) showed potent antibiotic activity against the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Vibrio harveyi* and against the plant-pathogenic fungus *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* in a standard disk assay. Bioassay-guided fractionation of the organic broth extract using antibacterial activity as the guide, yielded furanone and a variety of phomopsolides, which have been described previously.³ These compounds were responsible for all of the *S. aureus* and *V. harveyi* activities observed. Antifungal bioassay-guided fractionation yielded two new polyketide derivatives, **1** and **5**, that were responsible for the inhibition of *Sclerotinia* growth.

The molecular formula C₂₅H₃₄O₅ was established for **1** by HREIMS, requiring nine units of unsaturation. The UV absorption at 296 nm ($\epsilon = 23\,800$) suggested an extended chromophore system. Compound **1** readily formed a methyl ester when treated with diazomethane, and a diacetate when treated with acetic anhydride–pyridine. This estab-

lished the presence of a carboxylic acid and two alcohol moieties. The ¹³C NMR spectrum showed two carbonyl absorptions: a ketone carbon at 200.3 ppm and the carboxylic acid carbon at 169.8 ppm. ¹³C NMR also indicated the presence of six olefinic methines and four quaternary olefinic carbons. Seven double-bond equivalents were exhausted by sp² carbons, suggesting the presence of two rings.

NMR correlation spectroscopy, especially ¹H–¹H COSY, HMBC, and HMQC, were instrumental in establishing the structure of **1**. The doublet centered at δ 5.84 ($J = 15.5$ Hz) in the ¹H NMR spectrum was coupled to a doublet at δ 7.32 (see Table 1). The large vicinal coupling constant indicated a trans-disubstituted double bond. These two protons were attached to carbons at δ 116.6 and 151.1, respectively, indicating an unsaturated carbonyl system. The HMBC spectrum established the correlation of these two protons to the δ 169.8 acid resonance, indicating an α,β -unsaturated acid moiety. The COSY spectrum established a correlation between the two olefinic protons at δ 7.32 and 6.29, which appeared as a broad singlet. The δ 6.29 signal was, in turn, long-range coupled to a broadened methyl singlet at δ 1.91 and to another broad doublet at δ 5.41. The δ 5.41 doublet ($J = 8.5$ Hz) was also coupled to a broadened methyl singlet at δ 2.05 and a broad doublet at δ 5.34 ($J = 8.5$ Hz). These data strongly suggested the presence of fragment A shown in Figure 1.

The HMBC experiment established long-range correlations between the ketone carbon at δ 200.3 and both the isolated methylene moiety at δ 4.29 and 4.23 ($J = 18.0$ Hz) and a broadened olefinic signal at δ 6.32. This olefinic proton was attached to a trisubstituted double bond that was directly attached to a carbon at δ 116.9. This olefinic proton showed COSY correlations to a broadened methyl signal at δ 1.93 and to another olefinic signal at δ 6.00. This indicated the part structure B (Figure 1).

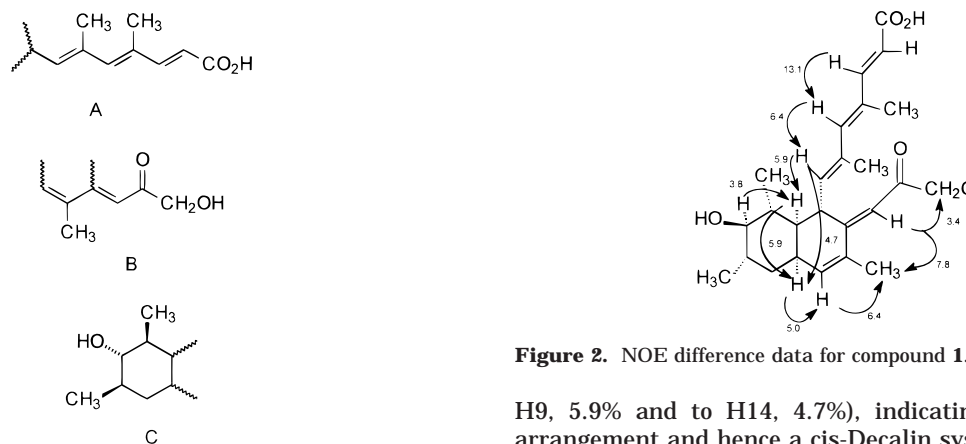
The final part structure for **1** was deduced directly from the HMQC and HMBC experiments. The proton triplet at δ 2.62 ($J = 9.5$ Hz) was attached to a carbon at δ 80.5, which showed long-range correlations to the two methyl doublets at δ 1.11 and 1.00. The coupling in this system indicated a trans-diaxial arrangement of the alcoholic methine and the two adjacent methyl bearing methines in a six-membered ring. This gave the arrangement found in fragment C (Figure 1). We were a little concerned about the assignment of the alcoholic methine to the relatively upfield δ 2.62 proton resonance, but this compared quite nicely to the shift of the alcoholic methine in *trans-2-trans-6-dimethylcyclohexanol* at δ 2.52.⁴

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Table 1. Compound **1**, NMR Data [500 MHz, CD₃OD]

carbon	ppm (m)	proton (m, <i>J</i> in Hz)	COSY	HMBC (H to C)
1	169.8 (s)			
2	116.6 (d)	5.84 (d, 15.5)	H-3, H-5	C-1, C-4
3	151.1 (d)	7.32 (d, 15.5)	H-2, H-5	C-1, C-2, C-4, C-5, C-21
4	132.4 (s)			
5	143.6 (d)	6.29 (br s)	H-2, H-3, H-7, H-21	C-3, C-6, C-21
6	134.7 (s)			
7	134.4 (d)	5.41 (br d, 8.5)	H-5, H-8, H-22	C-5, C-8, C-17, C-22
8	38.1 (d)	5.34 (dd, 8.5, 2.5)	H-7, H-9	C-6, C-9, C-14, C-17
9	47.7 (d)	1.51 (br d, 11.0)	H-8, H-10, H-14, H-15	C-15, C-17
10	37.8 (d)	1.2 ^a	H-9, H-11, H-23	C-9, C-11
11	80.5 (d)	2.62 (t, 9.5)	H-10, H-12	C-12, C-23, C-24
12	35.4 (d)	1.4 ^a	H-11, H-13, H-24	
13	38.5 (t)	1.82 1.3 ^a	H-12, H-13, H-14 H-12, H-13, H-14	C-9, C-11, C-14 C-9
14	33.9 (d)	2.72 (br s)	H-9, H-13, H-15, H-25	C-12, C-16
15	142.0 (d)	6.00 (br s)	H-9, H-14, H-18, H-25	C-9, C-13, C-14, C-17, C-18, C-25
16	131.9 (s)			
17	155.2 (s)			
18	116.9 (d)	6.32 (br s)	H-15	C-8, C-16, C-17, C-19
19	200.3 (s)			
20	69.1 (t)	4.29 (d, 18.0) 4.23 (d, 18.0)	H-20 H-20	C-19 C-19
21	13.0 (q)	1.91 (br s)	H-5	C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6
22	16.2 (q)	2.05 (br s)	H-7	C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7
23	15.0 (q)	1.11 (d, 6.5)	H-10	C-9, C-11
24	18.3 (q)	1.00 (d, 6.0)	H-12	C-11, C-12, C-13
25	18.9 (q)	1.93 (br s)	H-15	C-15, C-17

^a Estimated from the HMQC experiment.

**Figure 1.** Fragment structures for **1**.

These three fragments were assembled by considering a few key resonances. The proton resonating at δ 5.34 was, surprisingly, directly attached to a carbon at δ 38.1. This proton showed COSY correlations to the olefinic proton at δ 5.41 and a methine proton at δ 1.51. The δ 1.51 resonance, in turn, correlated to a methine at δ 1.20, which was attached to the downfield methyl doublet (δ 1.11), to another broad methine singlet at δ 2.72, and to the broad methine singlet at δ 6.00. The broad singlet at δ 2.72 also showed correlations to the δ 6.00 methine and to two methylene protons at δ 1.82 and 1.30. These two methylene protons were coupled to the methine at δ 1.40, that is, in turn, coupled to the methyl doublet at δ 1.00. This gave the proposed bicyclic Decalin system for compound **1**.

Difference NOE experiments corroborated the proposed structure for **1** and established the relative stereochemistry. Large enhancements for H3 and H5 (13.1%) and H5 and H7 (6.4%) in the NOE experiments (See Figure 2) indicated C4–C5 and C6–C7 stereochemistry was *E,E*, respectively. This established the stereochemistry of the trienyl system as *E,E,E*. Irradiation of the proton at C7 induced enhancement of the two bridgehead methines (to

Figure 2. NOE difference data for compound **1**.

H9, 5.9% and to H14, 4.7%), indicating a general *cis* arrangement and hence a *cis*-Decalin system. The rest of the pertinent enhancements are shown in Figure 2.

Extensive molecular modeling studies of compound **1** not only supported the relative conformation but also explained some of the anomalous spectral data. Molecular modeling using HyperChem and AM1 optimization gave a low energy conformation that was consistent with the NOE data. Energy minimization of **1** indicated that the conjugated trienyl system was not planar, apparently due to the H21–H22 methyl–methyl interaction. This explained the hypsochromic shift and low molar absorptivity observed in the UV spectrum for this system. If the trienyl moiety were planar, the λ_{\max} should be 319 nm (296 nm observed) with a more intense ϵ value.⁵

The HMQC experiment indicated another spectral anomaly. The chemical shift of H8 (δ 5.34) seemed unusually low field for a proton attached to a carbon at δ 38.1. Molecular modeling studies showed a close interaction of the ketone oxygen and H8. It was likely that H8 was in the anisotropic deshielding zone of the ketone oxygen. Reduction of the methyl ester diacetate, **2**, with NaBH₄ gave selective reduction of the ketone to give a mixture of two diastereomeric alcohols. In one of the diastereomers (**3**), the olefinic protons H7, H15, and H18 appeared as an overlapping multiplet. In the other diastereomer (**4**), the

and **5** were undetectable in the CHCl₃ extracts of this fermentation. The mycelial mat of this growth was air-dried and extracted with 1:1 CHCl₃-MeOH (3 × with 1 L), the solvents removed, and the extract partitioned between CHCl₃ and H₂O (1 L of each). This CHCl₃ extract was purified as above with CCCC and HPLC to give 20 mg (1.7 mg/L) of **1** and 2.0 mg (0.2 mg/L) of **5**.

Compound 1: isolated as a colorless oil; [α]_D²⁰ +7.2° (c 0.0014, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ) 296 (4.38), 202 (4.06); IR (film) ν_{\max} 2902, 1670, 1607, 1576, 1270, 1050, 900 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR, see Table 1; EIMS (70 eV) m/z [M⁺] 414 (27), 399 (3), 396 (12), 355 (21), 337 (81), 291 (21), 267 (52), 145 (41), 105 (61), 55 (100); HREIMS m/z 414.2399 (calcd for C₂₅H₃₄O₅, 414.2406).

Compound 5: isolated as a colorless oil; [α]_D²⁰ +20.5° (c 0.0073, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ) 291 (4.74), 205 (4.63); ¹H NMR (CD₃OD) δ 7.73 (d, 1H, J = 15.9, H-3), 6.25 (br s, 1H, H-18), 6.19 (br s, 1H, H-5), 5.94 (br s, 1H, H-15), 5.78 (d, 1H, J = 15.9, H-2), 5.32 (d, 1H, J = 9.0, H-8), 5.13 (br d, 1H, J = 9.0, H-7), 4.24 (s, 2H, H-20), 2.82 (br s, 1H, H-14), 2.60 (t, 1H, J = 9.3, H-11), 1.93 (br s, 3H, H-22), 1.85 (br s, 6H, H-21 and H-25), 1.77 (m, 1H, H-13), 1.53 (br d, 1H, J = 11.4, H-9), 1.3 (m, 2H, H-12 and H-13), 1.2 (m, 1H, H-10), 1.07 (d, 3H, J = 6.4, H-23), 0.96 (d, 3H, J = 6.0, H-24); ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD) δ 200.1 (s, C-19), 169.8 (s, C-1), 154.3 (s, C-17), 144.0 (d, C-3), 142.9 (d, C-5), 141.1 (d, C-15), 140.5 (d, C-7), 134.1 (s, C-6), 132.7 (s, C-16), 130.5 (s, C-4), 117.1 (d, C-18), 115.9 (d, C-2), 79.5 (d, C-11), 68.1 (t, C-20), 47.0 (d, C-9), 37.6 (t, C-13), 37.2 (d, C-8), 37.0 (d, C-14), 34.4 (d, C-12), 32.7 (d, C-10), 18.2 (q, C-25), 17.9 (q, C-24), 17.3 (q, C-22), 15.1 (q, C-23), 14.0 (q, C-21); EIMS (70 eV) m/z [M⁺] 414 (5), 396 (2), 366 (6), 337 (17), 281 (11), 275 (31), 187 (20), 150 (68), 105 (100), 91 (94), 55 (56); HREIMS m/z 414.2409 (calcd for C₂₅H₃₄O₅, 414.2406).

Methylation and Acetylation of 1 (2). Compound **1** (10 mg) was dissolved in Et₂O (3 mL), and a solution of CH₂N₂ in Et₂O was added dropwise until the yellow color persisted. After stirring for 3 min at room temperature, the solvent was removed under a stream of nitrogen. The crude methyl ester was then dissolved in 500 μ L of pyridine and 500 μ L of Ac₂O and stirred at room temperature for 24 h. After that time the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The methyl ester, diacetate was purified by HPLC on Si gel using hexane with increasing amounts of isopropyl alcohol to give **2** as an oil (7.7 mg); ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.31 (d, 1H, J = 16.0, H-3), 6.24 (br s, 1H, H-5), 6.12 (br s, 1H, H-18), 5.92 (br s, 1H, H-15), 5.83 (d, 1H, J = 16.0, H-2), 5.34 (br d, J = 9.0, H-7), 5.19 (br d, 1H, J = 9.0, H-8), 4.80 (d, 1H, J = 16.5, H-20), 4.68 (d, 1H, J = 16.5, H-20), 4.33 (t, 1H, J = 10.5, H-11), 3.75 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.73 (br s, 1H, H-14), 2.19 (s, 3H, OAc), 2.06 (s, 3H, OAc), 2.01 (s, 3H, H-22), 1.88 (br s, 6H, H-21 and H-25), 1.79 (m, 1H, H-13), 1.58 (br d, 1H, J = 16.0, H-9), 1.54 (m, 1H, H-12), 1.41 (m, 2H, H-10 and H-13), 0.90 (d, 3H, J = 6.5, H-23), 0.84 (d, 3H, J = 6.5, H-24); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 192.7 (s, C-19), 171.0 (s, OAc), 170.0 (s, OAc), 168.6 (s, C-1), 155.4 (s, C-17), 150.8 (d, C-3), 143.5 (d, C-5), 141.8 (d, C-15), 135.3 (s, C-6), 133.4 (d, C-7), 132.1 (s, C-4), 131.6 (s, C-16), 116.4 (d, C-18), 116.0 (d, C-2), 81.7 (d, C-11), 69.1 (t, C-20), 51.4 (q, OCH₃), 46.8 (d, C-9), 38.0 (t, C-13), 37.2 (d, C-8), 35.5 (d, C-12), 33.3 (d, C-14), 33.2 (d, C-10), 20.9 (q, OAc), 20.6 (q, OAc), 19.7 (q, C-25), 18.3 (q, C-24), 16.8 (q, C-22), 15.0 (q, C-23), 13.8 (q, C-21); EIMS (70 eV) m/z [M⁺] 512 (1.1), 452 (1.9), 359 (52), 351 (15), 299 (13), 169 (12), 101 (11), 93 (11), 91 (12), 55 (15), 43 (100).

Reduction of 2. Compound **2** (5.0 mg) was dissolved in MeOH (2.0 mL), the solution cooled to 0 °C, and NaBH₄ (10.0

mg) was added. After stirring for 10 m, Me₂CO (2 mL) was added to destroy the excess reducing agent and the solvents removed under reduced pressure. The residue was partitioned between CH₂Cl₂ and H₂O. The organic layer was separated and the solvent removed. The reduced products were purified by HPLC on Si gel using hexane with increasing amounts of isopropyl alcohol to give two major diastereomeric products, **3** and **4**, as oils.

Compound 3: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.28 (d, 1H, J = 15.4, H-3), 6.19 (br s, 1H, H-5), 5.81 (d, 1H, J = 15.4, H-2), 5.45 (m, 3H, H-7, H-15 and H-18), 4.63 (dt, 1H, J = 8.3, 3.2, H-19), 4.32 (t, 1H, J = 10.2, H-11), 4.16 (dd, 1H, J = 11.3, 3.2, H-20), 3.97 (dd, 1H, J = 11.3, 8.3, H-20), 3.82 (br d, 1H, J = 8.8, H-8), 3.73 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.59 (br s, 1H, H-14), 2.10 (s, 3H, OAc), 2.04 (s, 3H, OAc), 1.91 (br s, 3H, H-22), 1.88 (br s, 3H, H-21), 1.82 (br s, 3H, H-25), 1.74 (dm, 1H, J = 13.3, H-13), 1.6 (m, 1H, H-12), 1.5 (m, 2H, H-9 and H-10), 1.33 (dt, 1H, J = 13.3, 4.9, H-13), 0.93 (d, 3H, J = 6.3, H-23), 0.81 (d, 3H, J = 6.3, H-24); EIMS (70 eV) m/z [M⁺ - H₂O] 496 (1), 454 (2), 436 (3), 363 (3), 307 (8), 281 (9), 228 (10), 199 (20), 169 (20), 91 (20), 43 (100).

Compound 4: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.29 (d, 1H, J = 15.6, H-3), 6.20 (br s, 1H, H-5), 5.82 (d, 1H, J = 15.6, H-2), 5.46 (br s, 1H, H-15), 5.45 (d, 1H, J = 8.4, H-18), 5.39 (d, 1H, J = 9.0, H-7), 4.63 (dt, 1H, J = 8.2, 3.4, H-19), 4.31 (t, 1H, J = 10.3, H-11), 4.02 (dd, 1H, J = 11.2, 3.4, H-20), 3.95 (dd, 1H, J = 11.2, 8.1, H-20), 3.86 (br d, 1H, J = 9.0, H-8), 3.72 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 2.59 (br s, 1H, H-14), 2.07 (s, 3H, OAc), 2.04 (s, 3H, OAc), 1.89 (br s, 3H, H-22), 1.87 (br s, 3H, H-21), 1.81 (br s, 3H, H-25), 1.74 (dt, 1H, J = 13.4, 3.4, H-13), 1.5 (m, 2H, H-9 and H-10), 1.6 (m, 1H, H-12), 1.33 (dt, 1H, J = 13.4, 5.3, H-13), 0.93 (d, 3H, J = 6.3, H-23), 0.81 (d, 3H, J = 6.3, H-24); EIMS (70 eV) m/z [M⁺ - H₂O] 496 (0.3), 436 (1), 376 (2), 351 (3), 281 (6), 228 (7), 213 (16), 169 (16), 91 (18), 43 (100).

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