

Lynngbyastatin 2 and Norlynngbyastatin 2, Analogues of Dolastatin G and Nordolastatin G from the Marine Cyanobacterium *Lynngbya majuscula*

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Lynngbyastatin 2 (**1**) and norlynngbyastatin 2 (**2**), new cytotoxic analogues of dolastatin G (**3**) and nordolastatin G (**4**), respectively, have been isolated as constituents from a Guamanian variety of the marine cyanobacterium *Lynngbya majuscula*. Structure elucidation of these cyclic depsipeptides relied on extensive application of 2D NMR techniques. The finding of these new metabolites further supports the proposal that many compounds originally isolated from the sea hare *Dolabella auricularia* are most likely of cyanobacterial origin.

The dolastatins are remarkable cytotoxic compounds isolated from the Indian Ocean sea hare *Dolabella auricularia*¹ and Japanese specimens of this mollusk.² The exceedingly low yields of dolastatins suggested that *D. auricularia* is not the true producer of these compounds. Our previous findings of epimeric mixtures of dolastatin 12 and of lynngbyastatin 1 (a dolastatin 11 analogue) from certain strains of *Lynngbya majuscula* and also from assemblages of *L. majuscula* and *Schizothrix calcicola*³ implied already that at least some metabolites isolated from *D. auricularia* (a known generalist herbivore)⁴ are of cyanobacterial origin. The more recent discovery of the dolastatin 10 and dolastatin 13 analogues, symplostatin 1⁵ and symplostatin 2,⁶ respectively, from a Guamanian variety of the cyanobacterium *Symploca hydroides* strongly supported the idea. Our ongoing investigations of cyanobacteria as sources of novel anticancer drugs have now led to more dolastatin analogues. Lynngbyastatin 2 (**1**) and norlynngbyastatin 2 (**2**), structurally highly similar to dolastatin G (**3**) and nordolastatin G (**4**),^{2d} have been isolated from collections of *Lynngbya majuscula* Harvey ex Gomont (UOG strains VP417 and VP503) found on Finger's Reef, Guam.

Lipophilic extracts of VP417 and VP503 were cytotoxic, and the latter showed human (but not murine) solid tumor selective cytotoxicity ($Z_{H116} - Z_{L1210} = 350$) and tumor selective cytotoxicity in the Corbett assay.⁷ Solvent partition of these extracts followed by Si gel chromatography and reversed-phase HPLC, afforded **1** and **2** as colorless oils. Compounds **1** and **2** exhibited cytotoxicity against KB cells (a human nasopharyngeal carcinoma cell line) with IC_{50} values of 20 ng/mL and 930 ng/mL, and against LoVo cells (a human colon adenocarcinoma cell line) with IC_{50} values of 14 ng/mL and 475 ng/mL, respectively.

NMR analysis was first carried out for **1** in $CDCl_3$. COSY and HMBC experiments enabled the identification of six amino acid units (2 × proline; 2 × *N*-methylvaline; *N*-methylisoleucine; *N,O*-dimethylserine) and two polyketide-type hydroxy acid units [3-methoxy-8-hydroxy-4,7-dimethylnon-2,4-dienoic acid (Nena) and 3,7-dihydroxy-2-methylnonanoic acid (Nana)]. The chemical shifts of C-42 (δ 74.1), C-49 (δ 73.7), and C-53 (δ 76.1) clearly demon-

strated that these carbons are oxygenated. The lowfield shift for protons H-42 (δ 4.86) and H-53 (δ 4.84) suggested that acyloxy groups are at these positions, while the 1H - 1H COSY correlation of H-49 (δ 3.65) to an exchangeable proton (δ 3.84) indicated the presence of a hydroxyl group. One of the nine carbon signals in the ester and amide region (δ 169.7) was ascribed to the oxygenated carbon in an enol ether functionality (C-37), unambiguously identified by observed HMBC correlation of C-37 with H-36, H-39 as well as with H-44. HMBC experiments, optimized for different ^{13}C - 1H long-range coupling constants ($^nJ_{CH} = 5, 7$ Hz), allowed sequencing of the identified units only in part. The following sequence (see Table 1) could be established: (*N*-Me-Val-2)-(N-Me-Ile)-Nena-Nana.

The ROESY spectrum provided the missing sequencing information. Cross-peaks between H-21 and H-23 enabled the expansion of the established sequence by the *N,O*-dimethylserine residue. Due to correlation between H-2 and H-7 as well as between H-11 and H-13, the other *N*-methylvaline unit was connected to proline units on both carboxy and amino termini: (Pro-1)-(N-Me-Val-1)-(Pro-2). A weak cross-peak between H-16 and H-18 established the linkage of these two partial structures. Because all NMR signals were accounted for and an acyloxy group should be located at C-53 (as mentioned above), the Nana unit had to be connected to Pro-1 via this oxygenated carbon, therefore leading to the cyclic gross structure as shown for **1**. The ROESY experiment also revealed that the configuration of both olefinic bonds in the Nena unit was *E* because it disclosed correlation between H-36 and H-44, H-40 and H-45, but not between H-39 and H-45.

Compound **1** differs from dolastatin G (**3**) only in bearing an ethyl instead of an isopropyl group on C-53. HRFABMS analysis established the molecular formula for **1** to be $C_{56}H_{94}N_6O_{13}$, one methylene unit smaller than the one for **3**. IR absorptions at 1734 and 1639 cm^{-1} support the depsipeptide nature of **1**, and UV data correspond closely to the data for dolastatin G (**3**) as well.

The relative stereochemistry for **1** was determined by comparison of its 1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data in C_6D_6 (see Table 2) with the ones reported for dolastatin G (**3**),^{2d} to which the correct stereochemistry was assigned, as clearly confirmed by total synthesis.⁸ Matching proton and carbon chemical shifts as well as 1H - 1H coupling constants indicated that both compounds have the same relative stereochemistry. The fact that C-52 is downfield-shifted in

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Table 1. NMR Spectral Data for Lyngbyastatin 2 (**1**) in CDCl₃

unit, C/H no. ^a	δ_{H} (J in Hz)	δ_{C} ^b	¹ H– ¹ H COSY	HMBC ^{c,d}	ROESY ^e	
Pro-1	1		H-2 ^f			
	2	4.78, dd (7.8, 1.1)	H-3		H-7	
	3	2.15, m, 2.19, m	H-2, H-4			
	4	1.75, m, 1.95, m	H-3, H-5			
	5	3.57, m, 3.61, m	H-4			
N-Me-Val-1	6			H-7		
	7	4.99, d (10.9)	H-8	H-9, H-10, H-11	H-2	
	8	2.31, m	H-7, H-9, H-10	H-7, H-9, H-10		
	9	0.84, d (6.7)	H-8	H-7, H-10		
	10	0.88, d (6.7)	H-8	H-7, H-9		
	11	3.11, s	29.7, q		H-7	H-13
Pro-2	12			H-7, H-11		
	13	4.71, dd (8.4, 1.7)	H-14		H-11	
	14	2.00, m, 2.07, m	H-13, H-15			
	15	1.85, m, 2.16, m	H-14, H-16			
	16	3.13, m, 3.54, m	H-15		H-18	
N,O-diMe-Ser	17			H-18		
	18	5.70, dd (10.6, 4.6)	H-19	H-19, H-21	H-16	
	19	3.64, dd (11.3, 4.6), 3.78, dd (11.3, 10.6)	H-18	H-20		
	20	3.28, s	58.7, q	H-19		
	21	2.82, s	29.9, q	H-18		H-23
N-Me-Val-2	22			H-21		
	23	5.14, d (10.5)	H-24	H-25, H-26, H-27	H-21	
	24	2.27, m	H-23, H-25, H-26	H-23, H-25, H-26		
	25	0.70, d (6.9)	H-24	H-26		
	26	0.83, d (6.5)	H-24	H-23, H-25		
	27	2.93, s	30.4, q	H-23		
	N-Me-Ile	28			H-23, H-27, H-29	
29		5.27, d (10.9)	H-30	H-33, H-34		
30		2.12, m	H-29, H-31, H-33	H-29, H-32, H-33		
31		1.02, m, 1.30, m	H-30, H-32	H-32, H-33		
32		0.89, t (7.3)	H-31			
33		0.79, d (6.5)	H-30	H-29		
34		2.93, s	31.1, q	H-29		H-36
Nena		35			H-29, H-34, H-36 ^f	
	36	5.07, s	93.0, d		H-34, H-44, H-45	
	37		169.7, s		H-36, H-44, H-45	
	38		132.8, s		H-36, H-45	
	39	5.45, m	130.3, d	H-40	H-45	
	40	1.83, m, 2.11, m	31.0, t	H-39, H-41	H-46	H-45
	41	1.64, m	37.9, d	H-40, H-46	H-43, H-46	
	42	4.86, qd (6.2, 4.5)	74.1, d	H-43	H-43, H-46	
	43	1.15, d (6.2)	14.8, q	H-42		
	44	3.64, s	55.4, q			H-36, H-45
	45	1.83, br s	14.5, q			H-40, H-44
	46	0.93, d (6.7)	13.5, q	H-41		
	Nana	47			H-42, ^f H-48, H-56	
48		2.50, dq (10.0, 7.1)	47.8, d	H-49, H-56	H-56	
49		3.65, m	73.7, d	H-48, H-50, OH	H-56	
50		1.55, m, 1.67, m	35.0, t	H-49, H-50		
51		1.28, m, 1.68, m	23.2, t	H-50, H-52		
52		1.68, m, 1.90, m	33.9, t	H-51, H-53		
53		4.84, m	76.1, d	H-52, H-54	H-55	
54		1.44, m, 1.73, m	26.2, t	H-53, H-55	H-55	
55		0.84, t (7.4)	8.9, q	H-54		
56		1.06, d (7.1)	15.2, q			
OH		3.84, d (11.1)		H-49		

^a In order to allow direct comparison with the data presented by Mutou et al.,^{2d} their numbering system has been adopted. ^b Multiplicity deduced by DEPT spectroscopy. ^c Protons showing long-range correlation with indicated carbon. ^d If not indicated otherwise, correlations were observed after optimization for $^nJ_{\text{CH}} = 7$ Hz. ^e Only key cross-peaks are listed. ^f Correlation observed after optimization for $^nJ_{\text{CH}} = 5$ Hz.

1 (by 2.1 ppm) and C-53 is upfield-shifted (by 2.3 ppm) compared with **3** can be rationalized due to the lack of the γ - and β -effect, respectively, exhibited by the extra methyl group in the Nana unit of **3**. The absolute configurations of all amino acid units in **1** were determined to be L (as in **3**) by chiral HPLC analysis of the mixture resulting from acid hydrolysis (6 N HCl at 110 °C, 24 h).⁹ Furthermore, the nearly equal optical rotation proved that the absolute

stereochemistry of **1** and dolastatin G (**3**) is identical for both compounds.¹⁰

Compound **2** showed the same NMR spectral features as **1** (see Table 2), except that its ¹H NMR spectrum lacked the singlets at δ 5.07 for H-36 and at δ 3.64 for H-44, and instead, an AB spin system for a methylene group (δ 3.75 and 3.79, $^2J_{\text{CH}} = 14.2$ Hz) has been observed. Distinctive in the ¹³C NMR spectrum was the resonance at δ 194.5,

Table 2. NMR Spectral Data for Lyngbyastatin 2 (**1**) in C₆D₆ and Norlyngbyastatin 2 (**2**) in CDCl₃

unit, C/H no. ^a	1		2		
	δ_{H} (J in Hz)	δ_{C}	δ_{H} (J in Hz)	δ_{C}	
Pro-1	1			170.7, s	
	2	4.66, br d (~8.5)		60.1, d	
	3	1.53, m, 1.85, m	31.62, t	2.15, m, 2.19, m	
	4	1.22, m, 1.45, m	21.9, t	1.75, m, 1.93, m	
	5	3.46, br dt (12.2, 8.5) 3.68, ddd (12.2, 8.8, 2.1)	46.1, t	3.57, m, 3.61, m	
N-Me-Val-1	6			169.0, s	
	7	5.18, d (11.3)	58.2, d	4.99, d (10.9)	
	8	2.42, m	27.9, d	2.30, m	
	9	0.76, d (6.6)	19.0, q	0.84, d (6.5)	
	10	1.02, d (6.6)	18.8, q	0.88, d (6.7)	
	11	3.05, s	29.6, q	3.10, s	
Pro-2	12			170.8, s	
	13	4.66, br d (~8.5)	58.4, d	4.71, dd (8.6, 1.6)	
	14	1.52, m, 1.85, m	27.7, t	1.99, m, 2.06, m	
	15	1.64, m, 2.32, m	24.3, t	1.84, m, 2.16, m	
	16	3.13, m 3.77, br t (8.8)	47.2, t	3.13, m, 3.53, m	
	N,O-diMe-Ser	17			166.7, s
18		5.93, dd (10.8, 4.7)	54.8, d	5.69, dd (10.7, 4.4)	
19		3.63, dd (11.3, 4.7) 3.91, dd (11.3, 10.8)	68.7, t	3.64, dd (11.4, 4.4) 3.76, dd (11.4, 10.7)	
20		2.90, s	58.3, q	3.28, s	
21		2.89, s	29.8, q	2.81, s	
N-Me-Val-2		22			170.1, s
	23	5.41, d (10.4)	59.0, d	5.10, d (11.2)	
	24	2.66, m	27.4, d	2.18, m	
	25	0.92, d (6.6)	17.8, q	0.59, d (6.7)	
	26	1.00, d (6.6)	20.4, q	0.82, d (6.3)	
	27	3.29, s	30.8, q	2.82, s	
	N-Me-Ile	28			169.4, s
29		5.60, d (10.8)	57.0, d	5.25, d (10.9)	
30		2.38, m	33.3, d	2.12, m	
31		1.15, m, 1.41, m	24.5, t	1.02, m, 1.30, m	
32		0.89, t (7.5)	11.1, q	0.89, t (6.7)	
33		0.83, d (6.6)	15.9, q	0.79, d (6.3)	
34		2.84, s	30.9, q	2.84, s	
Nena		35			168.2, s
	36	4.88, s	93.4, d	3.75, d (14.2) 3.79, d (14.2)	
	37			170.2, s	
	38			133.2, s	
	39	5.73, m	130.3, d	6.87, m	
	40	1.84, m, 2.00, m	31.6, t	2.02, m, 2.33, m	
	41	1.72, m	38.5, d	1.75, m	
	42	4.99, qd (6.1, 4.5)	74.2, d	4.80, m	
	43	1.10, d (6.1)	14.7, q	1.17, d (6.1)	
	44	3.07, s	54.9, q		
	45	1.95, br s	14.9, q	1.75, br s	
	46	1.11, d (7.0)	13.5, q	0.90, d (7.0)	
	Nana	47			175.7, s
		48	2.74, dq (9.7, 7.1)	48.5, d	2.44, m
49		4.12, m	74.0, d	3.68, m	
50		1.69, m, 1.78, m	35.6, t	1.55, m, 1.63, m	
51		1.40, m, 2.02, m	23.8, t	1.28, m, 1.68, m	
52		1.76, m, 2.27, m	34.2, t	1.65, m, 1.88, m	
53		5.06, m	76.2, d	4.83, m	
54		1.30, m, 1.57, m	26.6, t	1.45, m, 1.72, m	
55		0.79, t (7.3)	9.1, q	0.845, t (7.3)	
56		1.05, d (7.1)	15.2, q	1.06, d (7.0)	
OH		4.22, d (10.8)		3.88, d (10.2)	

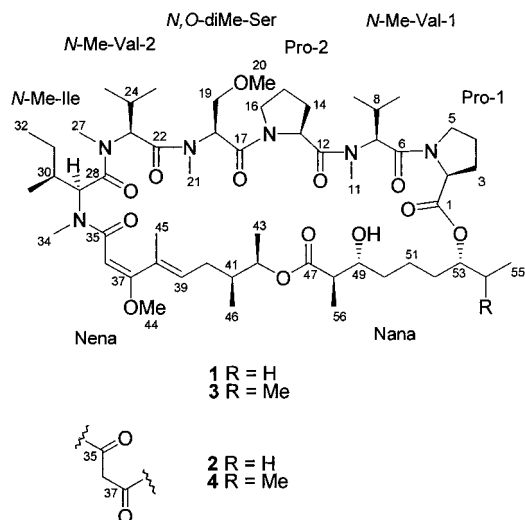
^a In order to allow direct comparison with the data presented by Mutou et al.^{2d} their numbering system has been adopted.

characteristic for a conjugated ketocarbonyl group carbon (C-37). The olefinic proton at 6.87 for H-39, indicative of a β -proton in an α,β -unsaturated carbonyl system, is further evidence for the carbonyl group. Therefore, **1** was the enol ether of **2**, consistent with the HRFABMS. Conversion of **1** into **2** upon treatment with acidic CDCl₃ verified that

the absolute stereochemistry of both compounds is the same.¹¹

Cytotoxins **1** and **2** have been assigned the trivial names lyngbyastatin 2 and norlyngbyastatin 2 based on their structural analogy to dolastatin G (**3**) and nordolastatin G (**4**). The considerably lower IC₅₀ values for lyngbyastatin

2 (**1**) compared with the ones for norlyngbyastatin 2 (**2**) suggest that the enol ether functionality plays a role in the cytotoxicity. The isolation of these two secondary metabolites from a cyanobacterium contributes further to the accumulating evidence that cyanobacteria, which are known to be prolific sources of numerous bioactive agents,¹² are also the actual producers of the dolastatins originally isolated from the (herbivorous) sea hare *D. auricularia*.



Lyngbyastatin 2 (**1**) is toxic to mice at 3 mg/kg (LD₁₀₀). At sublethal doses (i.e., 1.8 mg/kg or lower) **1** was inactive *in vivo* against C38, a murine colon adenocarcinoma. The mode of action of **1** and **2** is unknown, but the two compounds are not inhibitors of microtubule or microfilament assembly, nor are they inhibitors of topoisomerase I.

Experimental Section

General Experimental Procedures. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ or C₆D₆ on a GE Omega 500 spectrometer operating at 500 and 125 MHz, respectively, using residual solvent signals as internal references. The 2D NMR experiments were performed on the same spectrometer. The HMQC experiments were optimized for ¹J_{CH} = 140 Hz, and the HMBC experiments for ⁿJ_{CH} = 7 or 5 Hz. HRFABMS were recorded on a VG ZAB2SE mass spectrometer in the positive mode. IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 1600 Series FT-IR. UV spectra were obtained on a Hewlett-Packard 8453 spectrometer. Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO DIP-370 polarimeter.

Biological Material. Cyanobacterium VP417 was a *L. majuscula* strain collected at Finger's Reef, Apra Harbor, Guam, August 4, 1997 (specimen preserved in formalin and deposited at UH). Organism VP417 was recollected at the same site on November 14, 1997. An earlier collection of the same species of cyanobacterium from Finger's Reef, carried out in November 1993, was also investigated (VP503).

Extraction and Isolation. The freeze-dried organism VP417 was extracted with CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (1:1) to afford a lipophilic extract VP417L (1.06 g). VP417L was partitioned between hexanes and 80% aqueous MeOH. The bioactive MeOH fraction was chromatographed on Si gel (200–425 mesh) eluting with CH₂Cl₂ followed by CH₂Cl₂ solutions containing progressively increasing amounts of *i*-PrOH, and finally with MeOH. The mixture eluting with 6% *i*-PrOH in CH₂Cl₂ (23.2 mg) was subjected to semipreparative reversed-phase HPLC (Ultracarb, 5 ODS 30, 250 × 10 mm, 3 mL/min; UV detection at 220 nm) using an isocratic system of 80% aqueous MeCN to afford norlyngbyastatin 2 (**2**) (0.6 mg, *t*_R 24.2 min) and lyngbyastatin 2 (**1**) (1.2 mg, *t*_R 33.8 min).¹³

The freeze-dried recollection of VP417 was extracted consecutively with CH₂Cl₂, CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (1:1), and EtOH. All

fractions were cytotoxic. They were combined and partitioned between hexanes and 80% aqueous MeOH. The latter phase was dried and partitioned between H₂O and *sec*-BuOH. The bioactive *sec*-BuOH portion (1.67 g) was fractionated by Si gel chromatography using the step gradient described above. The most cytotoxic portion eluting with 6% *i*-PrOH in CH₂Cl₂ (51.0 mg) was subjected to semipreparative reversed-phase HPLC as aforementioned to give further quantities of **1** (0.7 mg) and **2** (0.8 mg).¹⁴

Extraction of the freeze-dried organism VP503 with CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (1:1) afforded 588 mg of lipophilic extract (VP503L). This material was partitioned between hexanes and 80% aqueous MeOH, and the alcoholic phase was dried and partitioned between H₂O and *n*-BuOH. Si gel chromatography of the *n*-BuOH portion, using the conditions described above, yielded a cytotoxic fraction that eluted with 8% *i*-PrOH in CH₂Cl₂ and gave 61.1 mg after evaporation of the solvent mixture. The residue was further purified by semipreparative reversed-phase HPLC similarly as described earlier (flow rate: 2 mL/min) to yield **2** (1.8 mg, *t*_R 35.3 min) and **1** (7.7 mg, *t*_R 49.5 min).

Lyngbyastatin 2 (1): colorless oil, [α]_D²⁷ -218° (c 0.04, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 202 (4.61), 225 (sh) (4.28), 250 (sh) (3.94) nm; IR (film) ν_{max} 3455 (br), 1734, 1639, 1453, 1196, 1094 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, ¹H-¹H COSY, and HMBC data (CDCl₃), see Table 1; ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR (C₆D₆), see Table 2; HRFABMS *m/z* [M + H]⁺ 1059.6977 (calcd for C₅₆H₉₅N₆O₁₃, 1059.6957).

Norlyngbyastatin 2 (2): colorless oil; [α]_D²⁷ -179° (c 0.05, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 202 (4.58), 227 (sh) (4.28), 290 (2.95) nm; IR (film) ν_{max} 3452 (br), 1736, 1638, 1450, 1195, 1103 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR data, see Table 2; HRFABMS *m/z* [M + H]⁺ 1045.6757 (calcd for C₅₅H₉₃N₆O₁₃, 1045.6801).

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- (9) Conditions for the chiral HPLC analysis: column, Chirex phase 3126 (D) (4.6 × 250 mm), Phenomenex; solvent, 2 mM CuSO₄–MeCN (95:5); flow rate, 0.8 mL/min; detection at 254 nm. The retention times (*t_R*, min) of the authentic amino acids were: L-Pro (11.5); D-Pro (22.2); N-Me-L-Val (13.0); N-Me-D-Val (17.5); N,O-diMe-L-Ser (14.9); N,O-diMe-D-Ser (14.0); N-Me-L-Ile (26.7); N-Me-D-Ile (40.4); N-Me-L-*allo*-Ile (25.3); and N-Me-D-*allo*-Ile (39.1). The retention times of the amino acid components in the acid hydrolyzate were 11.5, 13.0, 14.9, and 26.7 min, indicating the presence of L-Pro; N-Me-L-Val; N,O-diMe-L-Ser; and N-Me-L-Ile, respectively.
- (10) The contribution of the additional methyl group in **3** to the magnitude of the optical rotation is negligible, as expected. Reported^{2d} for **3**, $[\alpha]_{25}^D -211^\circ$ (*c* 0.40, MeOH), and for **4**, $[\alpha]_{25}^D -183^\circ$ (*c* 0.11, MeOH).
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- (14) The activity of the extract was also due to other cytotoxins, and their structure elucidation is in progress.

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