Mooloolabenes A–E, Norsesterterpenes from the Australian Sponge Hyattella intestinalis

Michael J. Somerville,[†] John N. A. Hooper,[‡] and Mary J. Garson*,[†]

School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences, The University of Queensland, Brisbane QLD 4072, Australia, and Queensland Museum, P.O. Box 3300, South Brisbane QLD 4101, Australia

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Five new norsesterterpenes, mooloolabenes A–E (1–5), and the new sesterterpene mooloolaldehyde (6), related to the scalarane family of compounds, were isolated from an acetone extract of the Australian sponge *Hyattella intestinalis*. Structural elucidation, including relative stereochemical assignment, was based on spectroscopic analysis. All compounds tested showed cytotoxic activity against the P388 cell line.

Sponges of the order Dictyoceratida have proven to be a bountiful source of chemical variants based on the scalarane skeleton,¹⁻³ with new examples being isolated nearly every year since the discovery of scalarin from the methanol extract of Cacospongia scalaris in 1972.⁴ The scalarane family of compounds shows wide-ranging biological activities, with perhaps the most important being their anti-inflammatory⁵ and cytotoxic⁶⁻¹⁴ properties. Scalaranes can show varied patterns of alkylation, giving rise to C26 and C27 homoand bishomo compounds in which methylation typically occurs at carbons 20 and 21.14,15 While these alkylated scalaranes are commonly encountered, there are relatively few reported instances of norscalaranes. A study of Hyrtios erecta revealed the first example of a norsester terpene scalar hyrtial $(7)^{16}$ that lacks the C-19 aldehyde functionality commonly observed among the tetracyclic dialdehyde scalaranes such as scalaradial.¹⁷ Since then, multiple examples of norscalaranes have been reported including 19-norscalaranes,^{10,18} 20-methyl-19-norscalaranes,¹⁹ and 20,22dimethyl-19-norscalaranes.^{15,19,20} A single report describes the isolation of scalarane sesterterpenes oxidatively modified at the C-24 methyl position from a sponge named by these authors as Hyatella intestinalis.²¹ In this paper we report the isolation of mooloolabenes A-E(1-5), the first examples of norscalarane metabolites lacking a methyl substituent at C-8, together with the oxidatively modified C_{25} scalarane 6, which may be their biosynthetic precursor, and describe the biological activities of these compounds.

Results and Discussion

Sponge samples were collected from the Inner Gneering shoals off Mooloolaba, South-East Queensland, at a depth of 10-15 m in July 2005 and again in January 2006. The sponge acetone extract was subjected to flash column chromatography to afford fractions that were purified by Si HPLC, giving compounds 1-6.

Mooloolabene A (1) was isolated as a white, amorphous solid and was revealed to have the molecular formula C₂₄H₃₄O₂ from the HRESIMS sodiated ion at *m*/*z* 377.2451. ¹³C NMR and HSQC data showed the presence of four methyls, seven methylenes, eight methines, and five quaternary carbons. Characteristic ¹H and ¹³C NMR signals (Tables 1 and 2) indicating the presence of an α , β unsaturated aldehyde [$\delta_{\rm H}$ 9.49 (1H, s, H-20), 7.12 (1H, m, H-16); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 193.4 (C-20), 153.1 (C-16), and 137.9 (C-17)] were supported by HMBC correlations from H-20 to C-16 and C-17. A second aldehyde [$\delta_{\rm H}$ 9.51 (1H, d, *J* = 4.3 Hz, H-19); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 201.4 (C-19)] was also present together with an isolated double bond [$\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.47 (1H, ddd, H-7); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 121.4 (C-7) and 136.2 (C-8)]. These structural features were strongly reminiscent of the scalarane dialdehyde 12-

Table 1. ¹³C NMR Assignments for Compounds $1-6^a$

| С | 1^{b} | 2^b | 3 ^c | 4 ^c | 5^{b} | 6 ^c |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 39.8 | 39.8 | 39.7 | 41.9 | 39.9 | 39.1 |
| 2 | 18.7 | 18.8 | 18.4 | 18.7 | 18.9 | 18.7 |
| 3 | 42.0 | 42.1 | 36.0 | 44.7 | 42.2 | 41.8 |
| 4 | 32.7 | 32.7 | 36.3 | 33.6 | 32.7 | 33.2 |
| 5 | 49.6 | 49.7 | 50.7 | 52.4 | 49.7 | 56.0 |
| 6 | 23.7 | 23.7 | 23.4 | 67.8 | 23.7 | 19.2 |
| 7 | 121.4 | 120.8 | 121.2 | 119.1 | 120.4 | 35.6 |
| 8 | 136.2 | 136.5 | 136.4 | 142.5 | 137.3 | 53.7 |
| 9 | 52.7 | 52.9 | 52.9 | 53.4 | 53.1 | 60.0 |
| 10 | 35.6 | 35.7 | 35.5 | 35.7 | 35.7 | 37.9 |
| 11 | 19.7 | 20.2 | 19.9 | 20.6 | 20.3 | 16.5 |
| 12 | 38.2 | 36.6 | 38.2 | 38.7 | 39.0 | 40.1 |
| 13 | 36.5 | 37.5 | 36.6 | 34.4 | 34.2 | 37.0 |
| 14 | 44.6 | 40.2 | 44.6 | 45.0 | 45.1 | 58.5 |
| 15 | 27.2 | 27.7 | 27.2 | 25.9 | 26.0 | 21.8 |
| 16 | 153.1 | 152.5 | 152.9 | 117.6 | 117.8 | 22.8 |
| 17 | 137.9 | 137.3 | 137.9 | 134.9 | 135.0 | 113.7 |
| 18 | 57.7 | 56.0 | 57.8 | 56.7 | 56.7 | 63.4 |
| 19 | 201.4 | 202.1 | 201.3 | 98.3 | 98.5 | 98.3 |
| 20 | 193.4 | 192.9 | 193.4 | 70.4 | 70.5 | 134.8 |
| 21 | 33.5 | 33.5 | 27.3 | 33.1 | 33.6 | 33.3 |
| 22 | 22.3 | 22.3 | 66.8 | 24.5 | 22.3 | 21.3 |
| 23 | 15.0 | 15.0 | 16.2 | 17.3 | 15.0 | 15.3 |
| 24 | 13.6 | 19.2 | 13.7 | 12.8 | 12.5 | 205.4 |
| 25 | | | | | | 16.0 |
| 6-0COCH3 | | | | 170.6 | | |
| 6-OCO <i>C</i> H ₃ | | | | 21.9 | | |
| 19-OCOCH3 | | | | 170.3 | 170.5 | 170.0 |
| 19-OCOCH ₃ | | | | 21.4 | 21.4 | 21.3 |
| 22-OCOCH ₃ | | | 171.3 | | | |
| 22-OCOCH3 | | | 21.0 | | | |

 a Chemical shifts (ppm) referenced to CDCl₃ ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 77.0). b At 500 MHz. c At 750 MHz.

deacetoxyscalaradial (8),¹¹ the main observable difference being the absence of one methyl in exchange for a second double bond. Assignment of the new double bond to C-7/C-8 was based on HMBC correlations from H-7 to C-5, C-6, C-9, and C-14 (δ_{C} 49.6, 23.7, 52.7, and 44.6) and from H₂-6 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.93 m) to C-8 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 136.2), while COSY correlations from H₂-6 to H-7 further confirmed this assignment. HMBC correlations from H₃-24 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.70 s) to C-12, C-13, C-14, and C-18 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 38.2, 36.5, 44.6, and 57.7) positioned this methyl group at the C/D ring junction, while correlations from methyls H₃-21 and H₃-22 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.87 and 0.91) to C-4 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 32.7) established the presence of geminal methyl substitution at C-4. Long-range correlation of H₃-23 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.81) to C-1 and C-10 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 39.8 and 35.6) placed the final methyl signal at the A/B ring junction. The upfield shifts of H₃-23, H₃-24, and their associated carbons are consistent with the loss of a γ -methyl substituent, as reported by Crews and Bescansa in a stereochemical study on scalaranes.²² Dialdehydes of the scalaradial and 18-epi-scalaradial series can be distinguished by the downfield shifts of H-18 and

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^{*} Corresponding author. Tel: +61-7-3365-3605. Fax: +61-7-3365 4273. E-mail: m.garson@uq.edu.au.

[†] The University of Queensland.

[‡] Queensland Museum.

Table 2. ¹H NMR Assignments for Compounds $1-3^{a}$

| С | 1^{b} | 2^b | 3 ^c |
|--------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1a | 0.98, m | 0.97, m | 1.04, m |
| 1b | 1.81, ddd (13.0, | 1.80, ddd (12.9, | 1.87, dddd (12.9, |
| | 5.2, 2.8) | 3.0, 3.0, 3.0) | 3.0, 3.0, 3.0) |
| 2 | 1.44, m | 1.47, m | 1.46, m |
| 3a | 1.15, m | 1.16, m | 0.99, m |
| 3b | 1.42, m | 1.42, m | 1.79, m |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | 1.07, dd (4.4, 12.1) | 1.08, dd (4.5, 12.1) | 1.27, m |
| 6a | 1.93, m | 1.93, dm (13.4) | 1.95, m |
| 6b | | | 2.10, m |
| 7 | 5.47, dddd (6.0, | 5.46, dddd (6.0, | 5.48, dddd (6.0, |
| | 2.0, 2.0, 2.0) | 2.0, 2.0, 2.0) | 2.0, 2.0, 2.0) |
| 8 | | | |
| 9 | 1.70, m | 1.66, m | 1.75, m |
| 10 | | | |
| 11a | 1.28, m | 1.42, m | 1.54, m |
| 11b | 1.52, m | 1.61, m | 1.64, m |
| 12a | 1.43, m | 1.54, m | 1.44, m |
| 12b | 1.96, m | 1.85, m | 1.98, m |
| 13 | | | |
| 14 | 1.94, m | 2.22, m | 1.94, m |
| 15a | 2.30, m | 2.24, m | 2.31, |
| 15b | 2.55, m | 2.64, m | 2.55, |
| 16 | 7.12, m | 7.10, m | 7.13,m |
| 17 | | | |
| 18 | 2.90, sept (2.0) | 3.38, brs | 2.90, sept (1.9) |
| 19 | 9.51, d (4.3) | 9.85, d (2.7) | 9.51, d (4.3) |
| 20 | 9.49, s | 9.43, s | 9.49, s |
| 21 | 0.87, s | 0.86, s | 0.96, s |
| 22a | 0.91, s | 0.91, s | 3.98, brd (10.9) |
| 22b | | | 4.33, d (10.9) |
| 23 | 0.81, s | 0.82, s | 0.83, s |
| 24 | 0.70, s | 0.74, s | 0.71, s |
| 22-OAc | | | 2.05, s |

 a Chemical shifts (ppm) referenced to CHCl₃ ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.25). b At 500 MHz. c At 750 MHz.



H-19 in the 18-*epi* metabolites.²³ For mooloolabene A, the orientation of H-18 was axial on the basis of 1D NOEs from H-18

to H-12*ax* and H-14 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.43 and 1.94), with the evidence for this stereochemistry also strengthened by the observed *J* value of 4.3 Hz for H-19.^{17,23}

Mooloolabene B (2) crystallized as white needles and had an HRESIMS parent ion of 354.2556, giving a molecular formula of $C_{24}H_{34}O_2$. The 1D and 2D NMR data for 2 were nearly identical to those for compound 1; however the appearance of the H-19 aldehyde ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 9.85, J = 2.7 Hz) in 2 compared to this signal in 1 suggested that the C-19 aldehyde group was axially disposed. Furthermore H-18 resonated downfield at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.38 compared to $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.90 in 1. Irradiation of H-19 gave 1D NOEs onto H-12ax and H-14. Hence 2 was the C-18 epimer of 1.²³ Other major NMR differences observed for 2 were a 6 ppm downfield shift of the methyl C-24 signal ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 19.2) with a 4 ppm upfield shift of C-14 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 40.2). These carbon chemical shift changes fit the model by Crews and Bescansa, for a change in stereochemistry of the substituent at C-18 from beta to alpha.²²

Mooloolabene C (3) was obtained as a white, amorphous solid with an HRESIMS sodiated ion at m/z 435.2511, corresponding to a molecular formula of C₂₆H₃₆O₄, suggestive of an acetoxysubstituted C_{24} structure. The proton data for **3** differed from the previous two compounds in containing only three methyl signals, while an acetoxymethyl singlet appeared at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.05 together with an AB system at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.98 and 4.33. The $^{13}{\rm C}$ data confirmed the presence of an oxygenated carbon at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 66.8 and an ester carbonyl ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 171.3). Positioning of the acetoxy-substituted methyl at the quarternary carbon C-4 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 36.3) relied on HMBC correlations from both H-22a and H-22b ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.98 and 4.33) to C-3 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 36.0), C-4 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 36.3), and C-5 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 50.7), and these protons also correlated to C-21 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 27.3). Further HMBC evidence for this arrangement was the presence of correlations from H₃-21 to C-22 at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 66.8. ¹H and ¹³C data again showed two double bonds, one adjacent to the C-20 aldehyde and the other placed at C-7/C-8 by HMBC and DQF-COSY. The aldehyde at C-18 was equatorially orientated since H-19 presented as a doublet with J = 4.3 Hz at $\delta_{\rm H} 9.51$.²³ Assignment of the C-22 acetoxymethyl group as axial was based on the ¹³C chemical shift value of $\delta_{\rm C}$ 27.3 for the C-21 methyl.²⁴

Mooloolabene D (4) was isolated as a white, amorphous solid, the molecular formula of which was established to be $C_{28}H_{40}O_5$ from the sodiated HRESIMS parent ion of 479.2769. ¹³C and ¹H data revealed that the major difference between 4 and compounds 1-3 was the absence of aldehyde signals. Instead, the ¹³C data in combination with DEPT-135 information revealed a diacetoxysubstituted norscalarane with four methyl groups, four double-bond carbons, two oxygenated carbons ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 67.8 and 70.4), and one acetal carbon ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 98.3). Key features from the ¹H spectrum (Table 3) of 4 included an oxymethine proton ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.54, m), an acetal proton $(\delta_{\rm H} 6.14, d, J = 4.3 \text{ Hz})$, two olefinic methine protons $(\delta_{\rm H} 5.58, m)$ and 5.60, brs), an AB system ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.26, d, J = 11 Hz; 4.45, brd, J = 11 Hz), and four methyl singlets. The NMR signals for C-1 to C-5 for compound 4 matched those observed for mooloolabenes A-C, with confirmation of these assignments from HMBC and COSY data. The oxymethine proton at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.54, m, assigned to H-6, correlated with C-5 at δ_{C} 52.4, C-7 at δ_{C} 119.1, and an ester carbonyl ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 170.6), thus positioning an acetoxyl substituent adjacent to the ring B double bond. The remaining signals seen for 4 corresponded closely to that seen for the pentacyclic scalaranes such as deoxoscalarin (9).^{21,25} Assignment of the D and E ring carbons was based on correlations from protons H₃-24 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.69, s) to C-13, C-14, and C-18 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 34.4, 45.0, and 56.7), from H-18 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.51, brs) to C-17 and C-19 (δ_{C} 134.9 and 98.3), and from H₂-20 $(\delta_{\rm H} 4.26, d, J = 11 \text{ Hz and } 4.45, \text{ bd}, J = 11 \text{ Hz})$ to C-16, C-17, C-18, and C-19 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 117.6, 134.9, 56.7, and 98.3). The relative stereochemistry at C-6 was established using NOESY data, which showed dipolar coupling from H-6 to the axially oriented H-5 and H₃-21, indicating that H-6 was equatorially oriented on the lower face of the molecule. H-18 was axially oriented since it showed a

Table 3. ¹H NMR Assignments for Compounds $4-6^{a}$

| С | 4^{b} | 5 ^c | 6 ^b |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1a | 1.05, m | 0.97, m | 0.85, m |
| 1b | 1.85, dd (1.5, | 1.82, ddd (3.0, | 1.72, d (12.7) |
| | 12.9) | 5.1, 12.7) | |
| 2a | 1.45, m | 1.41, m | 1.45, m |
| 2b | 1.62, m | 1.50, m | 1.57, m |
| 3a | 1.20, m | 1.16, m | 1.12, m |
| 3b | 1.39, m | 1.42, m | 1.37, m |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | 1.27, m | 1.09, dd (4.4, 11.9) | 0.83, m |
| ба | 5.54, m | 1.92, m | 1.08, m |
| 6b | | | 1.51, m |
| 7a | 5.58, m | 5.41, m | 0.75, m |
| 7b | | | 2.67, dt (3.3, 12.7) |
| 8 | | | , |
| 9 | 1.70, dd | 1.70, m | 1.23, m |
| | (11.9, 4.3) | | |
| 10 | | | |
| 11a | 1.46, m | 1.33, m | 1.80, m |
| 11b | 1.61, m | 1.57, m | 1.34, m |
| 12a | 1.32, m | 1.29, m | 1.94. m |
| 12b | 1.74. td (3.3. | 1.71. m | |
| | 12.8) | | |
| 13 | | | |
| 14 | 1.95, m | 1.93. m | 1.27. m |
| 15a | 1.95, m | 1.93. m | 0.95, m |
| 15b | 2.20, brd | 2.19, m | 1.80, m |
| 16a | 5.60, brs | 5.60, brd (1.4) | 1.91. m |
| 16b | , | | 2.44. ddd (1.4. |
| | | | 5.1. 13.9) |
| 17 | | | |
| 18 | 2.51, brs | 2.49, brs | 2.31, brs |
| 19 | 6.14. d (4.3) | 6.13, d (4.4) | 6.30, d (2.0) |
| 20a | 4.26, d (11.0) | 4.25, brd (11.0) | 6.02, t (2.0) |
| 20b | 4.45, brd (11.0) | 4.46. m | |
| 21 | 0.97. s | 0.86. s | 0.82. s |
| 22 | 1.11. s | 0.91. s | 0.74. s |
| 23 | 1.09. s | 0.82. s | 0.78.8 |
| 24 | 0.69. s | 0.64. s | 10.14, brd (1.3) |
| 25 | | , | 0.71. s |
| 6-OAc | 2.03. s | | |
| 19-OAc | 2.08, s | 2.07, s | 2.07, s |
| 14 15a 15b 16a 16b 17 18 19 20a 20b 21 22 23 24 25 6-OAc 19-OAc | 1.95, m 1.95, m 2.20, brd 5.60, brs 2.51, brs 6.14, d (4.3) 4.26, d (11.0) 4.45, brd (11.0) 0.97, s 1.11, s 1.09, s 0.69, s 2.03, s 2.08, s | 1.93, m 1.93, m 2.19, m 5.60, brd (1.4) 2.49, brs 6.13, d (4.4) 4.25, brd (11.0) 4.46, m 0.86, s 0.91, s 0.82, s 0.64, s 2.07, s | 1.27, m 0.95, m 1.80, m 1.91, m 2.44, ddd (1.4, 5.1, 13.9) 2.31, brs 6.30, d (2.0) 6.02, t (2.0) 0.82, s 0.74, s 0.74, s 0.78, s 10.14, brd (1.3) 0.71, s 2.07, s |

 a Chemical shifts (ppm) referenced to CHCl3 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.25). $^b{\rm At}$ 750 MHz. $^c{\rm At}$ 500 MHz.

NOESY coupling to H-14. The relative stereochemistry of the acetoxyl at C-19 was established as α based on the *J* value of 4.3 Hz between H-18 and H-19, indicating a *trans* relationship,^{21,26} together with the observation of an NOE from H-19 to H₃-24.²¹

Mooloolabene E (**5**) was isolated as a white, amorphous solid and exhibited a HRESIMS of 421.2728, representing a molecular formula of C₂₆H₃₈O₃. Again, the pattern of signals seen for **5** matched that seen for the pentacyclic scalaranes such as deoxoscalarin (**9**),^{21,25} except for the presence of only four methyl groups and a second double bond. Assignment of the D and E ring carbons was based on correlations from protons H₃-24 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.64, s) to C-13, C-14, and C-18 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 34.2, 45.1, and 56.7), from H-18 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.49, brs) to C-17 and C-19 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 135.0 and 98.5), and from H₂-20 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.25, d, *J* = 11 Hz and 4.46, d, m) to C-16, C-17, C-18, and C-19 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 117.8, 135.0, 56.7, and 98.5). The relative stereochemistry at C-18 and C-19 was the same as in **4** on the basis of the near identical proton, carbon, and *J* values for the two compounds, shown in Tables 1 and 3.

The final compound, mooloolaldehyde (6), was isolated as a white, amorphous solid and exhibited a $[M + Na]^+$ ion of 451.2835, corresponding to a molecular formula of $C_{27}H_{40}O_4$. The presence of 27 carbons implicated an acetoxy-substituted scalarane. ¹³C, DEPT-135, and ¹H NMR data for **6** revealed one aldehyde group $[\delta_H 10.14 (1H, bd, J = 1.3 Hz, H-24); \delta_C 205.4 (C-24)]$, one acetal carbon (δ_C 98.3), an alkene group $[\delta_H 6.02 (1H, t, J = 2 Hz); \delta_C 113.7 (C-17) and 134.8 (C-20)]$, and four methyl groups ($\delta_H 0.71$, 0.74, 0.78, and 0.82, all s), while comparison to the previously

isolated compounds indicated a pentacyclic skeleton. Unlike mooloolabenes D and E, the double bond in 6 was positioned between C-17 and C-20, analogous to heteronemin,27 evident from the HMBC correlations from protons H₂-16, H-18, and H-19 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.91 and 2.44, 2.31, brs, and 6.30, d, J = 2 Hz) to C-20 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 134.8) and from H-18 to C-17, C-19, and C-20 (δ_{C} 113.7, 98.3, and 134.8). The configuration of the E ring was established from NOESY data, which showed dipolar couplings from H-19 to H₃-25 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.71, s) and from H-14 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.27, m) to H-18, corroborated by a ³J value of 2 Hz between H-18 and H-19.12 HMBC correlations from the aldehyde proton ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 10.14, brd, J = 1.3 Hz) to C-7 and C-8 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 35.6 and 53.7) together with the NOESY interactions between the aldehyde proton and axial methyl groups H₃-23 and H₃-25 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.78, s; 0.71, s) placed this moiety at C-24. The axial proton at C-7 shows a W interaction with the aldehyde proton, while H-7eq is deshielded by the adjacent carbonyl group.

Aldehyde **6** is only the second example of C-24 substitution seen in the scalarane family of metabolites, the first being 24-acetoxy-12-deacetyl-12-*epi*-deoxoscalarin (**10**) isolated from a Northern Australian specimen of *H. intestinalis* by Karuso et al.²¹ Scalaranes oxidized at C-24 are plausible biosynthetic intermediates to the suite of mooloolabene metabolites isolated from the same sponge samples. Metabolites **1**–**6** also lack the hydroxyl or acetoxyl functionality at C-12 typically seen among the scalarane and scalarane-like compounds. The first example of a scalarane lacking such functionality at C-12 was 12-deacetoxyscalaradial isolated from *Cacospongia mollior*.¹¹

The absolute stereochemistry of (-)-12-deacetoxydeoxoscalarin (**11**) has been established by total synthesis.²⁸ The negative $[\alpha]_D$ value exhibited by mooloolabenes A–D and by aldehyde **6** could suggest the absolute stereochemistry shown.

Previous studies have reported significant biological activity associated with the scalarane skeleton, with various members of the series displaying significant anti-inflammatory,^{5,29} cytotoxic,⁶⁻¹⁴ or antifeedant¹¹ activity, as well as inhibition of platelet aggregation. $^{\rm 30,31}$ When screened, none of the metabolites $1{-}6$ displayed useful antimicrobial activity; however metabolites 3-6 were all cytotoxic toward the P388 mouse leukemia cell line, with IC₅₀ values in the range $3-10 \ \mu g/mL$. Mooloolabenes A and B were the most potent, showing IC₅₀ values of 0.8 and 1.2 μ g/mL, respectively, comparable to the level of activity shown by the norscalarals.¹⁰ The potent biological effects of sesterterpene dialdehydes such as scalaradial and 18-epi-scalaradial are well documented, with the scalaradial (18β) series reported as showing more potent anti-inflammatory activity than the 18-epi series.²⁹ Members of both the $18\alpha^{10}$ and $18\beta^{11,12}$ dialdehyde series both show cytotoxic activity, while scalaradial and 12-deacetylscalaradial are both ichthyotoxic to the mosquito fish Gambusia affinis.³²

In conclusion, this study describes the isolation and characterization of six new bioactive terpenoids and extends the range of scalarane-like frameworks found in marine sponges.

Experimental Section

General Experimental Procedures. Optical rotations were obtained using a JASCO-P1010 polarimeter. One- and two-dimensional NMR spectra were acquired using Bruker AMX-400, Bruker DRX-500, or Bruker DMX-750 instruments. NMR spectra were obtained in deuterochloroform at room temperature. Samples were internally referenced to either CHCl₃ at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.25 or CDCl₃ at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 77.0. High- and lowresolution mass measurements were obtained from a Finnigan MAT 900 XL-Trap electrospray (ESI) mass spectrometer with a Finnigan API III electrospray source.

Animal Material. Specimens of *Hyattella intestinalis* were collected from the Inner Gneerings, a group of shoals off Mooloolaba (Australia), using scuba at a depth of 10-15 m on July 31, 2005 and on January 16, 2006. Samples were taken back to the laboratory, where they were stored at -20 °C until extraction. The sponge was globular and approximately 2-3 cm thick. The sponge was dark gray on the upper

surface with buff coloring on the underside and interior. A voucher specimen (QM G327440) is lodged at the Queensland Museum. Photographs of the sponge material are available in the Supporting Information.

Extraction and Isolation. Two specimens of H. intestinalis (combined wet weight 105 g) were cut into small pieces and extracted exhaustively with a minimum of acetone. The extract was removed, filtered through cotton, then evaporated under reduced pressure to give an aqueous residue, which was partitioned with Et₂O. The organic layer was removed, dried with anhydrous Na2SO4, and concentrated under reduced pressure to give 450 mg of a brown, oily product, which was analyzed by TLC and ¹H NMR. The extract was subjected to gradient elution Si flash chromatography (hexanes \rightarrow chloroform \rightarrow ethyl acetate MeOH). The fractions that eluted in hexanes/CHCl₃ (1:9) were combined and analyzed by TLC and ¹H NMR. This fraction was then divided into two samples based on solubility in EtOAc/hexanes (3:7). The soluble fraction was purified using semipreparative NP-HPLC (Waters 515; Gilson 132 series RI detector; Waters 10µ µPorasil 7.8 × 300 mm column; flow rate 3 mL/min) with EtOAc/hexanes (1:10) as solvent to afford 4, 6, and 5, while the insoluble fraction was purified using EtOAc/hexanes (4:6), giving 2, 1, and 3. A second sample of H. intestinalis (wet weight 61 g) was extracted and purified following the same methods as described for the purpose of obtaining more of compounds 2, 3, and 5 for further 2D NMR and HRMS analysis.

Mooloolabene A (1): (2.3 mg) white amorphous solid; $[\alpha]_D - 81.4$ (*c* 0.23, CHCl₃); ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 377.2451, calcd for C₂₄H₃₄O₂Na 377.2457.

Mooloolabene B (2): (2.0 mg) needles: $[\alpha]_D - 193.9$ (*c* 0.098, CHCl₃); ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz), see Table 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 354.2556, calcd for C₂₄H₃₄O₂ 354.2559.

Mooloolabene C (3): (1.8 mg) white, amorphous solid: $[\alpha]_D - 90.4$ (*c* 0.088, CHCl₃); ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 750 MHz), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 435.2511, calcd for C₂₆H₃₆O₄Na 435.2511.

Mooloolabene D (4): (0.3 mg) white, amorphous solid: $[\alpha]_D - 86.0$ (*c* 0.015, CHCl₃); ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 750 MHz), see Tables 1 and 3; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 479.2769, calcd for C₂₈H₄₀O₅Na 479.2773.

Mooloolabene E (5): (1.0 mg) white, amorphous solid: sample decomposed before an $[\alpha]_D$ value could be measured; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz), see Tables 1 and 3; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 421.2728, calcd for C₂₆H₃₈O₃Na 421.2719.

Mooloolaldehyde (6): (1.3 mg) white, amorphous solid: $[\alpha]_D - 39.2$ (*c* 0.052, CHCl₃); ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 750 MHz), see Tables 1 and 3; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 451.2835, calcd for C₂₇H₄₀O₄Na 451.2824.

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Supporting Information Available: ¹H NMR data for compounds 1-6 and photographs of *Hyattella intestinalis*. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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