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Immunosuppressive Decalin Derivatives from Red Yeast Rice

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Five new decalin derivatives (1-5), together with two known compounds (6 and 7), were isolated from the ethyl acetate extract of red yeast rice. Their structures were elucidated by means of NMR and mass spectroscopic analyses. Monascusic lactone A (1) is the first reported naturally occurring decalin derivative possessing a spiro lactone at the C-1 position. The immunosuppressive effects of all these isolates (1-7) on human T cell proliferation were investigated, and all, especially monascusic acids B (2), C (3), D (4), and A (6) and heptaketide (7), suppressed human T cell proliferation in a dose-dependent manner from 10 to 100 μ M. This is the first report on the immunosuppressive activity of decalin derivatives.

COOH Red yeast rice, produced from the fermentation of steamed rice using the fungus *Monascus purpureus*, has been applied as traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) for improving food digestion and blood circulation in China.¹ It also has been widely used as a food preservative for maintaining color and taste, as well as to make rice wine.² It has been reported that 2 Monascus can produce several kinds of secondary metabolites including pigments, monacolins, γ -aminobutyric acid (GABA), and unsaturated fatty acids.³⁻⁷ Monascus pigments, called соон azaphilones, are derived from esterification of polyketide chromophores and β -keto acids; they include monascin and ankaflavin (yellow), monascorubrin and rubropunctatin (orange), and monascorubramine and rubropunctamine (redpurple).² Fourteen monacolin compounds including monacolins K, J, L, M, and X and their deriavtives have been found in



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Seven decalin derivatives (1-7) were isolated from the ethyl acetate extract of red yeast rice by repeated column chromatographies; **6** and 7 were identified as the known compounds monascusic acid A¹³ and heptaketide,¹⁴ respectively, by comparison of their NMR and HRESIMS data with those published.

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Detailed chemical analysis of red yeast rice in our laboratory led to the discovery of a series of new decalin derivatives, whose immunosuppressive effects on human T cell proliferation were further investigated. Herein we report the isolation, structural determination, and biological activity of these decalin derivatives.

red yeast rice.⁸ Monacolin K, which is also known as mevinolin or lovastatin, is a potent HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor and

now used clinically as a cholesterol-lowering drug. Other red yeast rice constituents such as unsaturated fatty acids and sterols are reported to have a synergistic effect on the hypolipidemic activity.^{9,10} Flavonoids, phytosterols, and pyrrolonic compounds formed in red yeast rice possess the

potential to reduce blood sugar and triglyceride levels while

raising HDL-C.¹¹ GABA was reported to possess antihypertensive effects in humans.¹² Monascusic acid A (6) and

heptaketide (7) are the only two decalin derivatives previously

reported from red yeast rice, but no biological activity has been

reported.¹³ Additional metabolites from red yeast rice remained

unidentified, and their biological activities are unknown.



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Table 1. ¹H and ¹³C NMR Data of Compounds 1–5 (δ in ppm)^{*a*}

	$1^{b,d}$		$2^{c,d}$		3 ^{<i>c</i>,<i>e</i>}		$4^{c,d}$		5 ^{<i>c</i>,<i>d</i>}	
position	$\delta_{\rm C}$	$\delta_{\mathrm{H}} \left(J \text{ in Hz} \right)$	$\delta_{\rm C}$	$\delta_{ m H}~(J~{ m in~Hz})$	$\delta_{\rm C}$	$\delta_{ m H} \left(J \text{ in Hz} \right)$	$\delta_{\rm C}$	$\delta_{ m H} \left(J \text{ in Hz} \right)$	$\delta_{\rm C}$	$\delta_{ m H}~(J~{ m in}~{ m Hz})$
1	89.1, C		45.6, CH	2.35, td (11.0, 6.0)	145.3, C		46.1 <i>,</i> CH	2.18	143.2, C	
2	41.7, CH	2.37	34.9, CH	2.20, m	32.6, CH	3.00	35.0, CH	2.25	32.4, CH	3.19
3	128.6, CH	5.63, dd (10.0, 5.2)	131.9, CH	5.57, ddd (10.0, 4.5, 3.0)	131.2, CH	5.51, dt (9.5, 3.0)	132.4, CH	5.72, dd (9.6, 5.6)	131.2, CH	5.64, dd (10.0, 5.6)
4	128.3, CH	6.00, d (9.6)	130.8, CH	5.32, d (10.0)	131.0, CH	5.33, d (9.5)	127.8, CH	5.91, d (9.6)	127.7, CH	5.92, d (9.6)
4a	132.5, C		35.5, CH	1.90, t (11.0)	36.6, CH	1.83, t (11.5)	134.9, C		135.4, C	
5α	133.6, CH	5.61	31.4, CH ₂	1.50	38.7, CH ₂	1.29, td (13.0, 4.5)	130.6, CH	5.45, d (4.0)	129.5, CH	5.42, m
5β						1.53				
6	28.9, CH	2.36	26.9, CH	2.00, m	26.7, CH	2.00, m	28.4, CH	2.32	28.4, CH	2.33, m
7α	29.0, CH ₂	1.64	38.0, CH ₂	1.25	31.2, CH ₂	1.59	28.6, CH ₂	1.47	28.5, CH ₂	1.58
7β		1.79, m		1.47				1.70, m		1.79, m
8α	18.0, CH ₂	1.44, m	24.7, CH_2	1.03	21.9, CH ₂	1.41	23.4, CH ₂	1.03, m	20.3, CH ₂	1.56
8β		1.61		1.27		1.50		1.46		1.70, m
8a	39.4, CH	2.47, m	38.3, CH	1.17	41.7, CH	1.68, t (11.0)	32.7, CH	2.20	36.0, CH	2.92, m
9	17.1, CH ₃	1.07, d (7.0)	16.0, CH ₃	0.89, d (7.0)	20.9, CH ₃	1.00, d (7.0)	15.0, CH ₃	0.93, d (7.0)	20.2, CH ₃	1.07, d (7.0)
10	21.0, CH ₃	1.01, d (7.0)	17.9, CH ₃	0.96, d (7.0)	17.6, CH ₃	0.95, d (7.0)	21.1, CH ₃	0.94, d (7.0)	20.7, CH_3	0.97, d (7.0)
11	28.8, CH ₂	2.18, m	149.9, CH	6.71, dd (15.5, 10.5)	112.0, CH	5.19, brs	148.5, CH	6.70, dd (15.5, 9.2)	112.2, CH	5.30, td (7.6, 2.0)
12	29.8, CH ₂	2.61, m	123.3, CH	5.79, d (15.5)	32.7, CH ₂	2.99	124.8, CH	5.83, d (15.5)	32.5, CH ₂	3.01, m
13	176.7, C		167.0, C		173.4, C		167.6, C		172.9, C	
^a Overlap	ped signals a	re reported wit	hout designa	ting multiplicity.	^b Measured in	CDCl ₃ . ^c Mea	sured in DM	SO- d_6 . d_1 H NI	MR spectra w	vere recorded

at 400 MHz and ¹³C NMR spectra at 100 MHz. ^{e1}H NMR spectra were recorded at 500 MHz and ¹³C NMR spectra at 125 MHz.

Compound 1 was obtained as a white powder with a molecular formula of C15H20O2 by HRESIMS, bearing six degrees of unsaturation. Two were attributed to two conjugated double bonds based on the UV absorptions at λ_{max} 230 (2.14), 236 (2.13), and 245 (1.93) nm, as well as four olefin carbon signals ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 128.6, 128.3, 132.5, and 133.6) in the ¹³C NMR spectrum (Table 1). The IR absorption at 1762 cm⁻¹ and the carbonyl signal at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 176.7 in the ¹³C NMR spectrum revealed an ester carbonyl in 1. The remaining three unsaturation degrees indicated a tricyclic structure of 1 since no more unsaturated carbon signals were observed in the ¹³C NMR spectrum.

Fifteen carbon singals were displayed in the ¹³C NMR and DEPT spectra of 1 (Table 1), including two methyls, four methylenes, six methines, and three quaternary carbons. Detailed analyses of the ¹H-¹H COSY and HSQC spectra disclosed three partial structure units as shown by heavy lines in Figure 1. The HMBC correlations (Figure 1) between H-2 ($\delta_{\rm H}$



Figure 1. ¹H–¹H COSY and key HMBC correlations (from H to C) of monascusic lactone A (1).

2.37) and C-8a ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 39.4), H-3 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.63) and C-4a ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 132.5), H-4 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.00) and C-8a ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 39.4), H-4 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.00) and C-5 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 133.6), H-5 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.61) and C-8a ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 39.4), and H-6 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.36) and C-4a ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 132.5) connected these partial structural units, demonstrating that compound 1 possesses a skeleton of 3,4a(5)-diene decalin. Furthermore, the HMBC correlations between H₃-9 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.07) and C-1 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 89.1) and C-3 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 128.6), as well as between H₃-10 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.01) and C-5 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 133.6) and C-7 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 29.0), indicated that two methyl groups were located at C-2 and C-6 of the decalin skeleton, respectively. The third ring unit was deduced to be a five-membered lactone structure based on the molecular formula, C-13 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 176.7), and IR absorption at 1762 cm⁻¹. This five-membered lactone was shown to be attached to C-1, which was further clarified by the HMBC correlations (Figure 1) between H-3 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.63) and C-1 $(\delta_{\rm C}$ 89.1), H₃-9 $(\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.07) and C-1 $(\delta_{\rm C}$ 89.1), and H-12 $(\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.61) and C-1 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 89.1). Therefore, compound 1 was characterized as a decalin derivative having a spiro lactone at C-1.

The relative configuration of compound 1 was determined on the basis of the NOE correlations in its NOESY spectrum (Figure 2). The NOE correlations between H-7 β and H-8a, H- 8β and H-8a, H-8a and H₃-9, and H₃-9 and both H-11 α and H-11 β indicated the β -orientation for H-8a, H₃-9, and C-11. Similarly, the NOE correlations between H-8 α and H₂-10 suggested that C-10 should be α -oriented. Therefore, the relative stereochemistry of compound 1 was established as shown in Figure 2. Compound 1, named monascusic lactone A, is the first example of a decalin derivative in nature possessing a spiro lactone at the C-1 position.

Compound 2 was obtained as a white powder, with a molecular formula of C15H22O2 by HRESIMS. Comparison of the $^1\!H$ and $^{13}\!C$ NMR (Table 1) data revealed large similarities



Figure 2. Key NOESY correlations of monascusic lactone A (1).

between 2 and heptaketide (7),14 indicating that they shared the same decalin skeleton with only one double bond, at C₃-C4; the only difference between 2 and 7 were signals derived from the propionic acid moiety attached to C-1. Because two more olefinic signals ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.71, 5.79; $\delta_{\rm C}$ 149.9, 123.3) were observed in the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of 2, one double bond was deduced to be at C-11 and C-12 of the propionic acid moiety. This was supported by the molecular formula that was two hydrogen atoms less than that of 7, as well as the ${}^{1}H-{}^{1}H$ COSY correlations of H-1/H-11/H-12 and HMBC correlations from H-11 to C-2, C-8a, and C-13. The *E* geometry of the Δ^{11} was elucidated from the large coupling constant of H-11 (J =15.5 Hz). The NOE correlations of H-1/H-4a/H₃-10 and H-8a/H₃-9 observed in the NOESY spectrum were in agreement with the α -orientation of H-1, H-4a, and H₃-10 and the β orientation of H-8a and H₃-9. On the basis of the data above, compound 2 was concluded to be 3-(2,6-dimethyl-1,2,4a,5,6,7,8,8a-octahydronaphthalen-1-yl)propenoic acid and named monascusic acid B.

Monascusic acid C (3) has the same molecular formula, C15H22O2, as 2. ¹H and ¹³C (Table 1) NMR data of 3 are similar to those of 2, except for those of the double bond ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.19; $\delta_{\rm C}$ 145.3, 112.0) at the propionic acid moiety. The position of this double bond was determined to be located between C-1 and C-11, based on the HMBC correlations from H-11 to C-8a/C-2 and H-3/H₃-9 to C-1, as well as the ${}^{1}H{-}^{1}H$ COSY correlations of H-11/H-12. The NOE correlations between H-4a and H₃-10, as well as between H-8a and H₃-9, indicated an α -orientation of H-4a and H₃-10 and the β orientation of H-8a and Ho-10. Compound 3 was therefore determined to be 3-(2,6-dimethyl-2,4a,5,6,7,8,8a-septahydronaphthalen-1-ylidene)propanoic acid.

Monascusic acid D (4) was obtained as a white powder, with a molecular formula of C₁₅H₂₀O₂ by HRESIMS. Its ¹H and ¹³C (Table 1) NMR data closely resembled those of monascusic acid A (6),¹³ which indicated that they share the same decalin skeleton. The only difference between 4 and 6 was found in the propionic acid moiety. A pair of additional olefinic signals ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.70, 5.83, J = 15.5 Hz; $\delta_{\rm C}$ 148.5, 124.8) of one double bond were observed in the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of 4, which was deduced to be at C-11 and C-12 of the propionic acid moiety. The location of the olefin at the propionic acid moiety of 4 was also supported by the connectivities of H-1/H-11/H-12 in the ¹H–¹H COSY spectrum. Furthermore, comparison of its NMR data with those of 2 revealed that compound 2 is a hydrogenation product of compound 4, sharing the same propionic acid moiety as 2. Thus compound 4 was shown to be 3-(2,6-dimethyl-1,2,6,7,8,8a-hexahydronaphthalen-1-yl)propenoic acid.

Monascusic acid E (5) has the same molecular formula, $C_{15}H_{20}O_2$, as 4. ¹H and ¹³C (Table 1) NMR data of 5 are similar to those of 4, except for those of the double bond ($\delta_{
m H}$ 5.30; $\delta_{\rm C}$ 143.2, 112.2) at the propionic acid moiety. The position of this double bond was determined to be between C-1



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and C-11, based on the correlations from H_3 -9 to C-1 in the HMBC spectrum and ${}^{1}H^{-1}H$ COSY correlation between H-11 and H-12. Moreover, comparison of its ${}^{1}H$ and ${}^{13}C$ (Table 1) NMR data with those of 3 revealed that the propionic acid moiety was the same as that of 3. Therefore, compound 5 was determined to be 3-(2,6-dimethyl-2,6,7,8,8a-pentahydronaph-thalen-1-ylidene)propanoic acid.

From these results, the biogenesis of these decalin derivatives could be proposed. Compound 1 is biosynthetically related to monacolin L. First, cascades of β -oxidation of monacolin L yield monascusic acid A (6). This is followed by dehydrogenation to produce monascusic acid E (5) and then terminated by cyclization to produce 1 (Scheme 1). Monacolin L is one of the monacolins produced during the fermentation of red yeast rice,⁸ which is also considered to be an intermediate in the biosynthesis of monacolin K.¹⁴ The ubiquitous occurrence of β -oxidation in fungi^{15,16} and coexistence of 5 and 6 in red yeast rice further support the proposed biogenetic pathway (Scheme 1). Likewise, other decalin derivatives (2, 3, 4, and 7) were also presumed to be formed by β -oxidation and dehydrogenation from monacolin L analogues.

The immunosuppressive effects of these decalin derivatives (1-7) on human T cell proliferation were investigated, mediated by PMA-ionomycin (P/I). Lovastatin and simvastatin, which were reported to be capable of inhibiting T cell proliferation and autoimmunity,¹⁷⁻¹⁹ were used as positive controls in the bioassay. The results (Figure 3) demonstrated



Figure 3. Inhibition effects of decalin derivatives (1–7) on human T cell proliferation (n = 3; Ctrl: T cells, P/I: T cells stimulated by PMA–ionomycin; positive controls: lovastatin and simvastatin; significance of differences shown as *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001).

that all these decalin derivatives could inhibit human T cell proliferation, especially compounds **2**, **3**, **4**, **6**, and **7**. To confirm the effects of these compounds on human T lymphocyte proliferation are not derived from their cytotoxic effects, 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide (MTT) assays were conducted to examine their cytotoxicity on human T lymphocytes. The results clearly demonstrated that these compounds showed no cytotoxicity on human T lymphocytes, suggesting that compounds 1-7 suppressed the proliferation of T lymphocytes through inhibiting cell reproduction rather than reducing the viability of the cells. This is the first report on the immunosuppressive activity of decalin derivatives.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Experimantal Procedures. Optical rotations were measured with a JASCO P-1010 polarimeter. UV spectra were recorded on a JASCO V-530 UV/vis spectrophotometer. IR spectra were obtained on a PerkinElmer Spectrum One Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometer (KBr). NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Avance-III NMR spectrometer with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. Chemical shifts (δ) are expressed in ppm, and coupling constants (J) in Hz. HRESIMS spectra were measured with a Bruker MicrOTOFQ mass spectrometer. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (40–63 μ m, Grace, USA) and Bondapak C₁₈ (37–55 μ m, Waters, USA). Semipreparative HPLC was performed on an Alltima C₁₈ (250 × 22 mm, 10 μ m) semipreparative column. Precoated Kieselgel 60 F₂₅₄ plates (0.2 mm thick, Merck KGaA) were used for thin-layer chromatography (TLC).

Material. Red yeast rice powder was purchased from Zhejiang Sanhe Bio-Tech Co. Ltd. (Quzhou, China) in March 2010. This commercial product was made by fermenting the fungus *Monascus purpureus* on steamed rice. A voucher specimen was deposited in School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University.

Extraction and Isolation. Red yeast rice powder (2.0 kg) was extracted with EtOAc (20 L \times 3) at room temperature with sonication. The extract was combined and evaporated under reduced pressure to afford a brownish residue (ca. 150 g). The residue was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (CC) eluted with petroleum ether-CHCl₃ (100:0 \rightarrow 0:100) and then CHCl₃-MeOH (100:0 \rightarrow 65:35) to obtain 16 major fractions (Fr.1-Fr.16). Fr.6 (42 g) was chromatographed on silica gel eluted with petroleum ether-EtOAc $(100:0 \rightarrow 0.100)$ to give 13 fractions (Fr.6-1–6-13). Fr.6-4 (6 g) was recrystallized by EtOAc to give a colorless powder (2 g). The material was loaded on an ODS column eluting with CH₃CN-0.1% formic acid in H₂O (50:50 \rightarrow 70:30) and purified by semipreparative HPLC using CH₃CN-0.1% formic acid in H₂O (65:35) to give compounds 6 (58 mg), 7 (550 mg), 3 (19 mg), and 2 (42 mg). The rest of Fr.6-4 (4 g) after recrystallization was subjected to silica gel CC eluted with nhexane-EtOAc (95:5 \rightarrow 80:20) and an ODS column eluted with CH₃CN-0.1% formic acid in H₂O (50:50 \rightarrow 65:35) and finally purified by semipreparative HPLC using CH₃CN-0.1% formic acid in H_2O (65:35) to give compound 4 (14 mg). Fr.6-7 (4 g) was chromatographed on silica gel eluted with petroleum ether-EtOAc $(95:5 \rightarrow 50:50)$ and then purified on semipreparative HPLC using CH₃CN-0.1% formic acid in H₂O (50:50) to give compound 5 (2 mg). Fr.6-8 (300 mg) was subjected to CC on ODS eluted with MeOH-H₂O (50:50 \rightarrow 70:30) to give compound 1 (6 mg).

Cell Culture. Human peripheral blood T lymphocytes were isolated from buffy coat blood, based on the method described previously.²⁰ In brief, the buffy coat blood obtained from the Red Cross Association of Hong Kong was mixed with normal saline and then transferred to Ficoll-Pague (Amersham Biosciences) in 50 mL tubes. The mixture was centrifuged at 400g for 35 min to separate the blood into layers. The layer of the nonadherent mononuclear cells was collected, from which the macrophages were removed by adherence to obtain T lymphocytes. The nonadherent cells containing predominantly T lymphocytes were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum.

Examination of the Effects of Compounds 1–7 on Human T Cell Proliferation. T lymphocyte proliferation was assessed by 5bromo-2'-deoxyuridine (BrdU, Roche) assay as described previously.²¹ In brief, the isolated human T lymphocytes (10^5 cells/well) were cultured in triplicate in a 96-well flat-bottomed plate (Costar, Corning Incorporated, Corning, NY, USA) in 100 μ L of RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% FBS and then co-stimulated with PMA– ionomycin in the presence or absence of these compounds (10-100 μ M) for 72 h. BrdU was added to the cells 14 h before the end of stimulation at a final concentration of 10 μ M. BrdU can be incorporated into DNA of growing cells during the labeling period; the amount of BrdU incorporated into the DNA can be quantified as an indicator of cell proliferation. In this experiment, BrdU was determined by ELISA according to the manufacturer's instructions. Lovastatin and simvastatin were used as positive controls. Results are expressed as means \pm SEM. One-way ANOVA was used to determine the significance of difference.

Cytotoxity of Compounds 1–7 on Human T Lymphocytes. Cytotoxicity of 1–7 was examined by MTT assay, as described previously.²² Briefly, the isolated human T lymphocytes $(1 \times 10^5/$ well), cultured in 100 μ L of RPMI 1640 medium plus 10% FBS in a 96-well plate (n = 3), were treated by 1–7 from 10 to 100 μ M for 72 h. MTT (5 mg/mL) was added for 4 h incubation, and then a solvent (10% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 50% *N*,*N*-dimethyl formamide, pH 7.2) was added to dissolve the purple precipitate. The absorbance from each well was determined at 570 nm. The percentage of cell viability was calculated using the following formula: Cell viability (%) = $A_{treated}/A_{control} \times 100$.

Monascusic lactone A (1): white powder; $[\alpha]^{22}{}_{\rm D}$ = +164.7 (c 0.10, MeOH); UV (MeOH) $\lambda_{\rm max}$ (log ε) 230 (2.14), 236 (2.13), 245 (1.93) nm; IR (KBr) $\gamma_{\rm max}$ 2960, 2927, 1762, 1456, 1384, 1281, 1212, 1045, 995, 955, 927, 875, 760, 651 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR, see Table 1; HRESIMS 233.1535 ([M + H]⁺, C₁₅H₂₁O₂, calcd 233.1536).

Monascusic acid B (2): white powder; $[\alpha]^{22}_{D} = +110.5$ (c 0.05, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) end absorption. IR (KBr) γ_{max} 3421, 2961, 2917, 1693, 1647, 1426, 1309, 1288, 996, 876, 725, 601 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR, see Table 1; HRESIMS 235.1688 ([M + H]⁺, C₁₅H₂₃O₂, calcd 235.1692).

Monascusic acid C (3): white powder; $[\alpha]^{22}_{D} = +55.6$ (c 0.05, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) end absorption; IR (KBr) γ_{max} 3421, 2960, 2914, 1701, 1409, 1378, 1291, 943, 841, 718, 621 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR, see Table 1; HRESIMS 235.1693 ([M + H]⁺, C₁₅H₂₃O₂, calcd 235.1692).

Monascusic acid D (4): white powder; $[α]^{22}{}_D = +284.0$ (c 0.05, MeOH); UV (MeOH) $λ_{max}$ (log ε) 233 (4.27); IR (KBr) $γ_{max}$ 3385, 2959, 2926, 1700, 1638, 1413, 1304, 1275, 993, 862, 755, 626 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR, see Table 1; HRESIMS 233.1531 ([M + H]⁺, C₁₅H₂₁O₂, calcd 233.1536).

Monascusic acid E (5): white powder; $[\alpha]^{22}{}_{\rm D}$ = +6.8 (c 0.15, MeOH); UV (MeOH) $\lambda_{\rm max}$ (log ε) 230 (3.25), 238 (3.16), 246 (3.11) nm; ¹H and ¹³C NMR, Table 1; HRESIMS 233.1535 ([M + H]⁺, C₁₅H₂₁O₂, calcd 233.1536).

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

1D and 2D NMR spectra of compounds 1-5. Results of cytotoxicity assays of compounds 1-7 on human T lymphocytes. These materials are available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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