



# Antimalarial and antituberculosis substances from *Streptomyces* sp. BCC26924

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## ABSTRACT

Two new carbazomycin dimers (**6** and **7**) and 3-hydroxy-1,2-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-carbazol-4-one (**9**) together with six known compounds, carbazomycins A–D, cyclomarin C, and pimprinine have been isolated from *Streptomyces* sp. BCC26924. Carbazomycins B, C, and cyclomarin C exhibited antimalarial activity (against *Plasmodium falciparum*, K1 multi-drug resistant strain) with IC<sub>50</sub> in a range of 0.24–2.37 μg/mL. Cyclomarin C exhibited anti-TB activity with a minimum inhibitory concentration value of 0.10 μg/mL, while carbazomycin D, compound **7**, and pimprinine displayed MIC values in a range of 12.5–25.0 μg/mL. In addition, compounds **2**, **5**, **6**, and **7** showed weak cytotoxicity against cancerous (MCF-7, KB, NCI-H187) and non-cancerous (Vero) cells.

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## 1. Introduction

*Streptomyces*, a common genus in Actinomycetes, has long been of interest due to its diversity of chemical constituents and biological activities. Several well-known antibiotics have been isolated from this genus, for example, chloramphenicol, streptomycin, lincomycin, tetracycline, to name just a few. Recently, researchers at BIOTEC have collected and identified many genera of Actinomycetes from various habitats in Thailand. These specimens have been deposited at BIOTEC Culture Collection (BCC). As part of our continuing search for bioactive compounds from microorganisms, we noted that the genus *Streptomyces* has shown a broad spectrum of both biological activities and chemical diversity. One of the crude extracts from *Streptomyces*, registered as BCC26924, showed a productive HPLC profile and also exhibited antimalarial and antifungal activity (*Candida albicans*) with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.77 and 13.8 μg/mL, respectively. It also showed antituberculosis activity with MIC value of <1.56 μg/mL. Therefore, we decided to investigate the chemical ingredients of the specimen BCC26924.

## 2. Results and discussion

Compounds **1**–**5** and **8** were identical to those reported as cyclic heptapeptide cyclomarin C (**1**),<sup>1</sup> carbazomycins A–D (**2**–**5**),<sup>2,3</sup> and pimprinine (**8**).<sup>4</sup>

Compound **6**, obtained as a brown solid, had the molecular formula C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>4</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Na with the mass peak at 503.1949 in HRESIMS. There are thirty carbons consisting of five methyl, one methylene, seven methine, and seventeen quaternary carbons. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showed the disappearance of four protons at δ<sub>H</sub> 8.90, 9.24, 10.65, and 11.07 after addition of D<sub>2</sub>O. Seven aromatic protons resonated between 7 and 8 ppm, whose HMQC correlations with <sup>13</sup>C are shown in Table 1. Four of these protons at positions 5, 6, 7, and 8 showed HMBC correlations as follows; the doublet proton at δ<sub>H</sub> 7.39 (8-H) showed correlations to the carbons at δ<sub>C</sub> 123.4 (4b-C) and 118.5 (6-CH); the triplet methine at δ<sub>H</sub> 7.26 (7-H) to the carbons at δ<sub>C</sub> 122.3 (5-CH) and 140.1 (8a-C); the triplet at δ<sub>H</sub> 7.08 (6-H) to the carbons at δ<sub>C</sub> 110.8 (8-CH) and 123.4 (4b-C); the doublet proton at δ<sub>H</sub> 8.13 (5-H) to the methine at δ<sub>C</sub> 124.4 (7-CH) and two quaternary carbons at δ<sub>C</sub> 110.3 (4a-C) and 140.1 (8a-C). The hydroxyl proton at δ<sub>H</sub> 9.24 (4-OH) showed HMBC correlations to δ<sub>C</sub> 110.3 (4a-C), 138.9 (3-C), and 143.7 (4-C), respectively. The methoxyl signal at δ<sub>H</sub> 3.66 displayed HMBC correlations to the quaternary carbon at δ<sub>C</sub> 138.9 (3-C) and the methyl at δ<sub>H</sub> 2.25 also correlated to three quaternary carbons at δ<sub>C</sub> 113.4 (2-C), 128.3 (1-C), and 138.9 (3-C). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the described moiety is similar to that of carbazomycin B. In addition, the double doublet proton at δ<sub>H</sub> 7.08 (7'-H), bearing a carbon at δ<sub>C</sub> 124.9 in HMQC, correlated in HMBC spectrum to the methylene at δ<sub>C</sub> 33.7 (10-CH<sub>2</sub>), to the methine at δ<sub>C</sub> 121.4 (5'-CH), and to the quaternary carbon at δ<sub>C</sub> 138.5 (8'a-C). The doublet methine at δ<sub>H</sub> 7.26 (8'-H) showed HMBC correlations to two quaternary carbons at 123.5 (4'b-C) and 130.4 (6'-C). The singlet methine at δ<sub>H</sub> 7.83 (5'-H) correlated to the methylene carbon at δ<sub>C</sub> 33.7 (10-CH<sub>2</sub>), to methine carbon at δ<sub>C</sub> 124.9

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**Table 1**  
<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR assignments of compounds **6** and **7** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>

Position	<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>	
	<sup>1</sup> H NMR, ppm	<sup>13</sup> C NMR, ppm	<sup>1</sup> H NMR, ppm	<sup>13</sup> C NMR, ppm
1	—	128.3	—	128.2
2	—	113.4	—	113.4
3	—	138.9	—	138.6
4	—	143.7	—	143.5
4a	—	110.3	—	110.4
4b	—	123.4	—	123.7
5	8.13 (1H, d, <i>J</i> 7.75 Hz)	122.3	7.66 (1H, d, <i>J</i> 2.49 Hz)	105.4
6	7.08 (1H, t, <i>J</i> 7.69 Hz) <sup>a</sup>	118.5	—	153.0
7	7.26 (1H, t, <i>J</i> 7.70 Hz) <sup>a</sup>	124.4	6.92 (1H, dd, <i>J</i> 8.67, 2.49 Hz)	113.4
8	7.39 (1H, d, <i>J</i> 8.04 Hz)	110.8	7.29 (1H, d, <i>J</i> 8.67 Hz)	111.3
8a	—	140.1	—	135.0
9	11.07 (1H, s, NH)	—	10.85 (1H, s, NH)	—
9a	—	137.9	—	138.4
10	4.36 (2H, s)	33.7	4.33 (2H, s)	33.7
1'	—	127.2	—	127.2
2'	—	108.8	—	108.9
3'	—	138.5	—	138.5
4'	—	142.9	—	142.9
4'a	—	109.9	—	109.9
4'b	—	123.5	—	123.5
5'	7.83 (1H, s)	121.4	7.83 (1H, s)	121.4
6'	—	130.4	—	130.3
7'	7.08 (1H, dd, <i>J</i> 8.10, 1.43 Hz) <sup>a</sup>	124.9	7.08 (1H, dd, <i>J</i> 8.27, 1.39 Hz)	124.9
8'	7.26 (1H, d, <i>J</i> 8.10 Hz) <sup>a</sup>	110.3	7.26 (1H, d, <i>J</i> 8.27 Hz)	110.3
8'a	—	138.5	—	138.5
9'	10.65 (1H, s, NH)	—	10.65 (1H, s)	—
9'a	—	137.6	—	137.6
2-CH <sub>3</sub>	2.25 (3H, s)	13.0	2.24 (3H, s)	13.0
3-OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.66 (3H, s)	61.1	3.67 (3H, s)	61.1
4-OH	9.24 (1H, s, OH)	—	9.23 (1H, s, OH)	—
6-OCH <sub>3</sub>	—	—	3.82 (3H, s)	56.0
1'-CH <sub>3</sub>	2.30 (3H, s)	13.8	2.29 (3H, s)	13.8
2'-CH <sub>3</sub>	2.23 (3H, s)	13.0	2.23 (3H, s)	13.0
3'-OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.57 (3H, s)	61.0	3.57 (3H, s)	61.0
4'-OH	8.90 (1H, s, OH)	—	8.91 (1H, s, OH)	—

<sup>a</sup> Coupling constants are observed in acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub> due to signals overlapping in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.

(7'-CH) and to the carbons at  $\delta_C$  109.9 (4'a-C) and 138.5 (8'a-C), respectively. The hydroxyl proton at  $\delta_H$  8.90 (4'-OH) correlated to three quaternary carbons at  $\delta_C$  109.9 (4'a-C), 138.5 (3'-C), and 142.9 (4'-C). The methoxyl at  $\delta_H$  3.57 (3'-OCH<sub>3</sub>) showed HMBC correlation to the quaternary carbon at 138.5 (3'-C). Two methyls at  $\delta_H$  2.23 and 2.30 correlated to three quaternary carbons at 1'-C, 2'-C, 3'-C and 1'-C, 2'-C, 9'a-C, respectively. Two protons at  $\delta_H$  10.65 and 11.07, thought to be amine protons due to connections to the quaternary carbons between 137 and 140 ppm, displayed HMBC correlations to the carbons at 4'a, 4'b, 8'a, 9'a and 4a, 4b, 8a, 9a, respectively. The methylene proton at  $\delta_H$  4.36 (10-CH<sub>2</sub>) showed HMBC correlations to the carbons at 128.3 (1-C), 137.9 (9a-C), 113.4 (2-C), 121.4 (5'-CH), 130.4 (6'-C), and 124.9 (7'-CH). The latter correlations led to the linking of the methylene group with two units of carbazomycins at positions 1 and 6'. The above evidence suggested that compound **6** should be depicted as shown in Fig. 1.

Compound **7** was obtained as a brown solid. Its molecular formula of C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>5</sub>N<sub>2</sub>Na was determined by HRESIMS analysis with a mass peak at 533.2042. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound **7** is similar to that of compound **6**. The main differences are the additional methoxyl proton at  $\delta_H$  3.82, the methine proton at  $\delta_H$  7.66 (5-H) with a *meta* coupling (*J*=2.49 Hz), and a double doublet methine at  $\delta_H$  6.92 (7-H, *J*=8.67, 2.49 Hz). The changing of their coupling patterns at 5-H and 7-H and the higher field shifts of both carbons (5-C and 7-C), compared with compound **6** in Table 1, suggested an additional methoxyl substituent at position 6. The HMBC spectrum showed correlations from the 6-methoxy group to the carbon at  $\delta_C$  153.0 (6-C); the doublet methine proton at  $\delta_H$  7.29 (8-H) to carbons

at 6-C, 4b-C; the doublet methine at  $\delta_H$  7.66 (5-H) to 7-C and 8a-C; the double doublet methine at  $\delta_H$  6.92 (7-H) to 5-C and 8a-C. Therefore, the compound **7** can be depicted as shown in Fig. 1.

3-Hydroxy-1,2-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-carbazol-4-one (**9**) was obtained as brown gum. HRESIMS revealed the molecular formula of C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na with a mass peak of 252.0999. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum revealed the presence of two methyl, seven methine, and five quaternary carbons. The COSY spectrum showed connectivities from 1-H to 3-H and from 5-H to 8-H. The HMBC spectrum displayed correlations from the doublet methyl at  $\delta_H$  1.00 (2-CH<sub>3</sub>) to the carbons at 1-CH, 2-CH, and 3-CH; the doublet methyl at  $\delta_H$  1.43 (1-CH<sub>3</sub>) to the carbons at 1-CH, 2-CH, and 9a-C; the doublet methine at  $\delta_H$  7.91 (5-H) to the carbons at 7-CH and 4b-C; from the amine proton at  $\delta_H$  11.88 (9-H) to the carbons at 4a-C and 4b-C. The NOESY spectrum, showed cross-peaks correlations from the methyl at  $\delta_H$  1.00 (2-CH<sub>3</sub>) to the protons at 1-H, 1-CH<sub>3</sub>, 3-H, and 3-OH; from the methyl at  $\delta_H$  1.43 (1-CH<sub>3</sub>) to the protons at 2-H, 2-CH<sub>3</sub>, and 3-H. The observation in the NOESY spectrum of two methyl groups suggesting these two methyl groups are in *pseudo*-equatorial positions. The disappearance of correlation between protons at 1-H and 3-H indicated the opposite orientation of these two protons. The spectroscopic information, therefore, led to the chemical structure of compound **9** with the relative configuration as depicted in Fig. 1.

For the biological activities, cyclomarin C (**1**), carbazomycins B (**3**), and C (**4**) exhibited antimalarial activity with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.24, 2.37, and 2.10  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively. Cyclomarin C also showed anti-TB at MIC 0.10  $\mu$ g/mL but was inactive against cancerous cells (KB, MCF-7, and

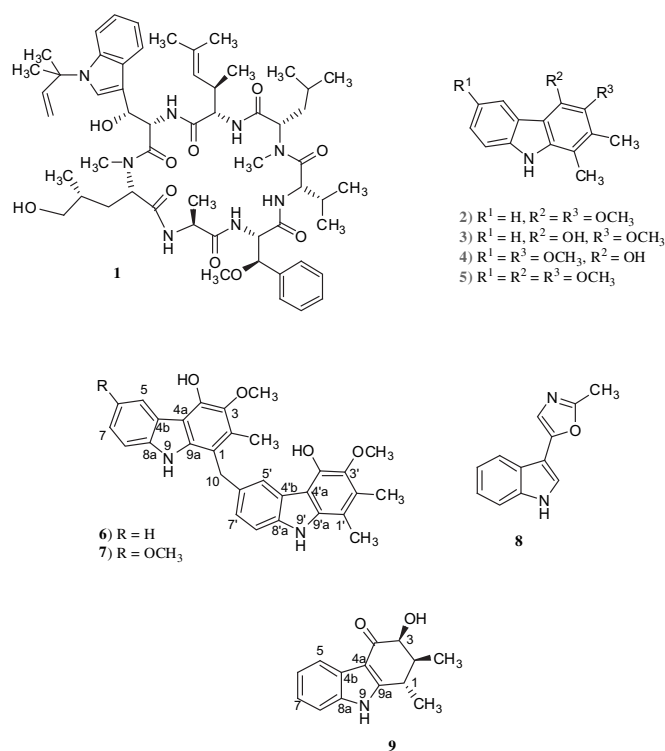


Fig. 1. Chemical structures of compounds 1–9.

NCI-H187) and Vero cells at concentration of 50  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . This constitutes the first report on antimalarial and antituberculosis activities for cyclomarane C. Carbazomycin D (5), compound 7, and pimprinine (8) also displayed anti-TB with MIC in a range of 12.5–25.0  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Only carbazomycin B exhibited antifungal, *C. albicans*, with IC<sub>50</sub> value of 19.6  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Compounds 2–7 exhibited cytotoxicity against KB (IC<sub>50</sub> in a range of 8.6–40.1  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), NCI-H187 (IC<sub>50</sub> in a range of 4.2–25.3  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), and MCF-7 (IC<sub>50</sub> in a range of 8.4–36.3  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ) (also see Table 2).

Cyclomarane C (1) was first isolated from the culture broth of the marine bacterium *Streptomyces* sp. CNB982 as a minor component. Its biological activity has not yet been reported due to the limited amount. However, its derivative, cyclomarane A, displayed a potent

anti-inflammatory activity.<sup>5</sup> Carbazomycins A–D (2–5) were isolated from *Streptovercillium ehimense* (strain H1051 MY10).<sup>6</sup> They exhibited a broad range of antimicrobial activity (MIC 12.5–>200  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ) against various organisms including yeast and bacteria, such as *Candida* spp., *Staphylococcus* spp., *Bacillus* spp., etc.<sup>2,7</sup> They also inhibited growth of phytopathogenic fungi (MIC 3.1–>200  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), such as *Alternaria kikuchiana*, *Aspergillus niger*, etc.<sup>7</sup> In addition, carbazomycins B and C showed 5-lipoxygenase (5-LPO) inhibitory at IC<sub>50</sub> 1.5 and 1.9  $\mu\text{M}$ , respectively.<sup>8</sup> Pimprinine showed weak antimicrobial activity against *Bacillus subtilis* (MIC 100  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), *Sarcina lutea* (MIC 2.5  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (MIC 100  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), and *Paecilomyces varioti* (MIC 1  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ).<sup>9</sup>

### 3. Conclusion

The crude extract of *Streptomyces* sp. BCC26924 exhibited antimicrobial, anti *C. albicans*, antituberculosis activities with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.77, 13.8, and MIC value of <1.56  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , respectively. The investigation led to the isolation of nine compounds, three of which, compounds 6, 7, and 9, are new. Cyclomarane C (1), carbazomycin B (3), and C (4) showed antimalarial activity with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.24–2.37  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Cyclomarane C (1), carbazomycin D (5), carbazomycin dimer 7, and pimprinine (8) exhibited antituberculosis activity with MIC values of 0.1–25.0  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Carbazomycin B displayed antifungal activity against *C. albicans* with IC<sub>50</sub> value of 19.6  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Carbazomycin A was active against cancer (KB, MCF-7, NCI-H187) and non-cancer (Vero) cells.

### 4. Experimental section

#### 4.1. General experimental procedures

Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO P-1030 polarimeter in MeOH. UV spectra were recorded on a Cary 1E UV–Vis spectrophotometer in MeOH. IR spectra were taken on either a Bruker VECTOR 22 or Bruker ALPHA FT-IR spectrometer. NMR spectra, including COSY, NOESY, DEPT, HMQC, and HMBC experiments, were recorded on either a Bruker DRX400 (<sup>1</sup>H at 400 MHz and <sup>13</sup>C at 100 MHz) or AV500D (<sup>1</sup>H at 500 MHz and <sup>13</sup>C at 125 MHz) NMR spectrometer. ESIMS and HRESIMS data were determined on a Bruker MicroTOF mass spectrometer. Semipreparative HPLC was performed using DIONEX, model UltiMate 3000, equipped with

Table 2  
Biological activities of compounds 1–8

Compound	Antimalaria	Anti-TB	Cytotoxicity (IC <sub>50</sub> , $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )				Anti- <i>Candida albicans</i>
	IC <sub>50</sub> , $\mu\text{g/mL}$	MIC, $\mu\text{g/mL}$	MCF-7	KB	NCI-H187	Vero	IC <sub>50</sub> , $\mu\text{g/mL}$
1	0.24	0.10	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50
2	>10	>50	26.2	30.1	18.4	32.6	>50
3	2.37	>50	8.4	8.6	4.2	48.9	19.6
4	2.10	>50	9.8	21.4	8.2	>50	>50
5	>10	25.0	21.3	33.2	12.9	34.3	>50
6	>10	>50	36.3	36.8	25.3	26.8	>50
7	>10	12.5	30.3	40.1	19.2	26.3	>50
8	>10	25.0	>50	>50	>50	>50	>50
Ellipticine	—	—	—	0.44	0.44	—	—
Doxorubicin	—	—	9.2	0.61	0.09	—	—
Tomoxifen	—	—	4.9	—	—	—	—
AmphotericinB	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.08
Dihydroartemisinin	4.29 × 10 <sup>-4</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mefloquine	0.011	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rifampicin	—	0.00312–0.0250	—	—	—	—	—
Streptomycin	—	0.156–0.313	—	—	—	—	—
Isoniazid	—	0.0234–0.0468	—	—	—	—	—
Ofloxacin	—	0.391–0.781	—	—	—	—	—
Ethambutol	—	0.234–0.469	—	—	—	—	—

binary semipreparative system and Sunfire C18 column from Waters.

## 4.2. Biological material

*Streptomyces* sp. was collected from soil at Chat Trakan Waterfall National Park, Phitsanulok province, Thailand, and deposited at BIOTEC Culture Collection (BCC) with registration number BCC26924.

## 4.3. Fermentation, extraction, and isolation

*Streptomyces* sp. BCC26924 was developed at 28 °C for 5 days in 2×1 L Erlenmeyer flasks, each contained 250 mL of the seed medium consisting of 2% (w/v) glucose, 0.5% (w/v) peptone, 0.3% (w/v) yeast, 0.5% (w/v) meat extract, 0.5% (w/v) NaCl, 0.3% (w/v) CaCO<sub>3</sub>, 0.1% (w/v) vitamin B complex (Blackmore, Australia). It was then transferred into the fermentor, which contained 7 L of the liquid medium, and cultured for 8 days at 28 °C. The production medium comprised 2% (w/v) mannitol, 2% (w/v) soy meal, 0.025% (v/v) mixed trace elements [0.4% (w/v) CaCl<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.2% (w/v) ZnSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.01% (w/v) Na<sub>2</sub>B<sub>4</sub>O<sub>7</sub>·10H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.5% (w/v) FeSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.005% (w/v) KI, 0.05% (w/v) CoCl<sub>2</sub>·6H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.02% (w/v) CuSO<sub>4</sub>·5H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.2% (w/v) MnCl<sub>2</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.005% (w/v) Na<sub>2</sub>MoO<sub>4</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.1% (v/v) H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (95–97% p.a.)].

Broth and cell were together extracted three times with equal volume EtOAc. The EtOAc solution was dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and then evaporated to dryness to obtain a brown gum (4.02 g). The crude gum was passed through a Sephadex LH20 column, eluted with 80% MeOH in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, to obtain 5 fractions. The first fraction (0.15 g) was purified by semipreparative HPLC (column diam. 19×250 mm, 10 μm) using a linear gradient of 65–80% aqueous CH<sub>3</sub>CN over 20 min at a flow rate of 20 mL/min to afford compounds **3** (11.3 mg) and **1** (77.6 mg), respectively. The second fraction (0.56 g) was purified by Sephadex LH20 column (eluted with 80% MeOH in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) to give two subfractions A (0.33 g) and B (0.14 g). Subfraction A was again purified by Sephadex LH20 column (eluted with 100% MeOH) to wash off diketopiperazines, followed by semipreparative HPLC (column diam. 19×150 mm, 5 μm) at a flow rate of 10 mL/min with a linear gradient of 5–45% aqueous CH<sub>3</sub>CN over 20 min to yield compound **9** (2 mg). Subfraction B was further purified by semipreparative HPLC (column diam. 19×150 mm, 5 μm) using a linear gradient system of 10–75% aqueous CH<sub>3</sub>CN over 20 min at a flow rate of 10 mL/min to afford compounds **8** (17.5 mg), **5** (11.0 mg), and **2** (23.5 mg), respectively. The third fraction (0.24 g) was purified by semipreparative HPLC (column diam. 19×150 mm, 5 μm) using a linear gradient system of 15–70% aqueous CH<sub>3</sub>CN over 20 min at a flow rate 10 mL/min to give compounds **8** (9.6 mg), **4** (24.2 mg), **3** (0.11 g), **5** (8.1 mg), and **2** (23.6 mg), respectively. The fourth fraction was purified by semipreparative HPLC (column diam. 19×150 mm, 5 μm) using a linear gradient system of 25–65% aqueous CH<sub>3</sub>CN over 20 min at a flow rate 10 mL/min to yield compounds **4** (30 mg), **3** (0.45 g), **7** (1.1 mg), and **6** (1.98 mg), respectively. The fifth fraction was purified by semipreparative HPLC (column diam. 19×150 mm, 5 μm) using a linear gradient system of 40–70% aqueous CH<sub>3</sub>CN over 20 min at a flow rate 10 mL/min to afford compounds **7** (3.4 mg) and **6** (8.7 mg), respectively.

## 4.4. Characteristics of the new compounds

**4.4.1. Compound 6.** Brown solid; UV (MeOH) λ<sub>max</sub> (log ε) nm: 226 (4.40), 244 (4.44), 288 (4.12), 340 (3.73); IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) ν<sub>max</sub> cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3267 (br), 2934, 1633, 1614, 1503, 1456, 1412, 1320, 1302, 1250, 1146, 1047, 1022, 1002, 750; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 500/125 MHz), see

**Table 1**; HRESIMS *m/z* 503.1949 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>Na: 503.1941).

**4.4.2. Compound 7.** Brown solid; UV (MeOH) λ<sub>max</sub> (log ε) nm: 237 (4.34), 292 (4.07), 341 (3.70); IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) ν<sub>max</sub> cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3384 (br), 1639, 1637, 1460, 1409, 1321, 1294, 1269, 1216, 1137, 1106, 1024, 1003, 808, 764; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 500/125 MHz), see **Table 1**; HRESIMS: *m/z* 533.2042 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>30</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>Na: 533.2047).

**4.4.3. 3-Hydroxy-1,2-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-carbazol-4-one (9).** Brown gum, [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>23</sup> -3.44 (c 0.1000, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ<sub>max</sub> (log ε) nm: 217 (3.95), 241 (3.94), 265 (3.84), 299 (3.75); IR (ATR) ν<sub>max</sub> cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3255 (br), 1630, 1585, 1474, 1454, 1401, 1385, 1090, 1035, 979, 894, 751; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 500 MHz): δ 1.00 (d, *J*=6.76 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>-2, 3H), 1.43 (d, *J*=7.17 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>-1, 3H), 2.15–2.18 (m, H-2, 1H), 3.03 (dq, *J*=5.13, 7.17 Hz, H-1, 1H), 4.18 (t, *J*=3.83 Hz, H-3, 1H), 5.20 (d, *J*=4.20 Hz, OH-3, 1H), 7.13 (td, *J*=7.38, 1.42 Hz, H-6, 1H), 7.15 (td, *J*=7.29 Hz, 1.50, H-7, 1H), 7.39 (dd, *J*=7.10, 1.42 Hz, H-8, 1H), 7.91 (dd, *J*=6.78, 1.50 Hz, H-5, 1H), 11.88 (s, H-9, 1H); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>, 125 MHz): δ 14.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>-2), 18.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>-1), 33.7 (C-1), 43.0 (C-2), 73.8 (C-3), 109.1 (C-4a), 112.2 (C-8), 120.6 (C-5), 122.1 (C-7), 123.0 (C-6), 125.1 (C-4b), 137.3 (C-8a), 155.1 (C-9a), 193.1 (C-4); HRESIMS: *m/z* 252.0999 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>15</sub>NO<sub>2</sub>Na: 252.0995).

## 4.5. Biological tests

Antimalarial assay against *Plasmodium falciparum* (K1, multi-drug resistant strain) was performed as described by Desjardins et al.<sup>10</sup> Dihydroartemisinin and mefloquine were used as standard references. Anti-TB against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* strain H37Ra, and cytotoxicity against Vero cells (African green monkey kidney fibroblasts; ATCC CCL-81) assays were evaluated by the green fluorescent protein microplate assay (GFPMA).<sup>11</sup> Isoniazid, ofloxacin, rifampicin, streptomycin, and ethambutol were used as references for antituberculosis assay and ellipticine was used as a reference for the cytotoxicity test, respectively. Antifungal assay against *C. albicans* and cytotoxicity against KB (human oral epidermoid carcinoma, ATCC CCL-17), MCF-7 (human breast cancer, ATCC HTB-22), and NCI-H187 cells (human small-cell lung cancer, ATCC CRL-5804) were performed by using the resazurin microplate assay (REMA).<sup>12</sup> Ellipticine was used as a reference for cytotoxicity tests against KB and NCI-H187 and doxorubicin was used as a reference for cytotoxicity tests against KB, MCF-7, and NCI-H187. In addition, tamoxifen and amphotericin B were used references for cytotoxicity against MCF-7 and for antifungal tests, respectively.

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## Supplementary data

Supplementary data includes NMR data of compounds **1–9** obtained. Supplementary data related to this article can be found online at doi:10.1016/j.tet.2011.07.053.

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