

# Oxidative Metabolism of Ambrox and Sclareolide by *Botrytis cinerea*

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Ambrox (**1**), a perfumery diterpene, was oxidatively metabolised by a plant pathogenic fungus *Botrytis cinerea* in a *xenobiotic* fashion to afford a major product, i.e., 1 $\beta$ -hydroxy-8-epiambrox (**13**) (60%) along with three minor metabolites 3 $\beta$ -hydroxyambrox (**2**), sclareolide (**5**) and 3 $\beta$ -hydroxysclareolide (**7**). Sclareolide (**5**), a cytotoxic diterpenoidal lactone was fermented with the same fungus to yield 3 $\beta$ -hydroxysclareolide (**7**) (59%) as a major metabolite together with two minor metabolites characterised as 1-ketosclareolide (**15**), and 3 $\beta$ ,14-dihydroxysclareolide (**16**).