

# Bioactivity of Lignans from *Taxus baccata*

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Three lignan derivatives, (–)-taxiresinol (**1**), (–)-3'-demethylsolariciresinol-9'-hydroxyisopropylether (**2**) and (–)-3-demethylsolariciresinol (**3**), previously isolated from the heartwood of *Taxus baccata* L. (Taxaceae) were investigated for cytotoxicity against the Oncology Cell Line Panel (breast, colon, ovary, prostate, lung and a normal adult bovine aortic endothelial cell line) as well as for antimicrobial activities. Besides, a chloroform-soluble portion of the ethanol extract from the heartwood of *T. baccata* was also tested for antimicrobial activities. Compounds **1** – **3** did not demonstrate much cytotoxic potency according to the reference drug etoposide. With the exception of compound **2**, the other two lignans (**1** and **3**) and the chloroform extract were shown to possess antifungal activity, whereas only the chloroform extract exhibited antibacterial activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

*Key words:* *Taxus baccata*, Lignans, Antimicrobial Activity, Cytotoxicity