

# The Interleukin-18 Inhibitory Activities of Echinocystic Acid and its Saponins from *Impatiens pritzellii* var. *hupehensis*

Xue-Feng Zhou<sup>a,b</sup>, Lan Tang<sup>c</sup>, Peng Zhang<sup>b,\*</sup>, Xiao-Ya Zhao<sup>d</sup>, Hui-Fang Pi<sup>b</sup>, Yong-Hui Zhang<sup>b</sup>, Han-Li Ruan<sup>b</sup>, Yonghong Liu<sup>a</sup>, and Ji-Zhou Wu<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Key Laboratory of Marine Bio-resources Sustainable Utilization, South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou 510301, China

<sup>b</sup> Hubei Key Laboratory of Natural Medicinal Chemistry and Evaluation of Resources, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Tongji Medical College of Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan 430030, China. Fax: +86-27-83 69 27 39.  
E-mail: zpeng\_1979@163.com

<sup>c</sup> School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Southern Medical University, Guangzhou 510515, China

<sup>d</sup> Hubei Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, Wuhan 430022, China

\* Author for correspondence and reprint requests

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Echinocystic acid (**1**), an echinocystic acid saponin, **2**, and four of its ester saponins, **3–6**, obtained from the active fraction of *Impatiens pritzellii* var. *hupehensis*, an traditional Chinese medicine for rheumatoid arthritis, were investigated for their effects on lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced interleukin (IL)-18 in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells. Three of them, **1**, **2** and **6**, showed obvious activity to inhibit the production of IL-18, especially the ester saponins with a sugar chain at C-28, **6**. Structure-activity relationships are discussed in brief.

*Key words:* Echinocystic Acid, *Impatiens pritzellii* var. *hupehensis*, Interleukin-18