Cytotoxic Activities of Endophytic Fungi Isolated from the Endangered, Chinese Endemic Species *Dysosma pleiantha*

Yin Lu[a,b,*], Shaoyuan Chen[b], and Ben Wang[b]

[a] College of Biological and Environmental Engineering, Zhejiang Shuren University, Hangzhou, P. R. China. Fax: +86-5 71-88 29 70 97. E-mail: luyin@yahoo.cn
[b] China Institute of Biotechnology, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, P. R. China

* Author for correspondence and reprint requests

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Eleven strains of endophytic fungi which habitat in an endangered, Chinese endemic medicinal plant, *Dysosma pleiantha* (Hance) Woodson, were isolated and tested for their cytotoxic activity using the brine shrimp lethality bioassay. Six isolates were found to exhibit some cytotoxic activity. Extracts of F1273, F1276, and F1280, which were identified as *Trichoderma citrinoviride*, *Chaetomium globosum* and *Ascomycete* sp., in particular, showed most potent activity with LC_{50} values of 4.86, 7.71, and 14.88 μg/ml, respectively. These results indicate that endophytic fungi of *Dysosma pleiantha* could be a promising source for antitumour agents.

Key words: Dysosma pleiantha, Endophytic Fungi, Brine Shrimp, Cytotoxicity