Cytotoxic, anti-biofilm and antimicrobial polyketides from the plant associated fungus Chaetosphaeronema achilleae

Abolfazl Narmani\textsuperscript{a,b}, Rémy Bertrand Teponno\textsuperscript{a,c}, Soleiman E. Helaly\textsuperscript{a,d}, Mahdi Arzanlou\textsuperscript{b}, Marc Stadler\textsuperscript{a,*}

\textsuperscript{a} Department of Microbial Drugs, Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research and German Centre for Infection Research (DZIF), partner site Hannover/Braunschweig, Inhoffenstrasse 7, 38124 Braunschweig, Germany

\textsuperscript{b} Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran

\textsuperscript{c} Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Dschang, P.O. Box 67, Dschang, Cameroon

\textsuperscript{d} Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Aswan University, 81528 Aswan, Egypt

* Correspondence: marc.stadler@helmholtz-hzi.de ; Tel.: +49 531 6181-4240; Fax: +49 531 6181 9499

Abstract

From extracts of the plant associated fungus Chaetosphaeronema achilleae collected in Iran, a previously unreported isoindolinone named chaetosisoindolinone (1) and a previously undescribed indanone named chaetosindanone (2) were isolated in addition to five known metabolites, 2-(2-acetyl-3,5-dihydroxyphenyl) acetic acid (3), vulculic acid (4), 2-(2-acetyl-3-hydroxy-5-methoxyphenyl)acetic acid (5), curvulin (6), and curvulol (7). Their structures were elucidated on the basis of extensive spectroscopic analysis and high-resolution mass spectrometry. The isolated compounds were tested for their antimicrobial, anti-biofilm, and nematicidal activities. Compound 2 exhibited cytotoxicity against the human breast adenocarcinoma MCF-7 cells with an IC\textsubscript{50} value of 1.5 µg/mL. Furthermore, compounds 4 and 7 almost completely inhibited biofilm formation in Staphylococcus aureus at 256 µg/mL. Weak antimicrobial activities were also observed for some of the isolated compounds against Mucor hiemalis, Rhodoturula glutinis, Chromobacterium violaceum, and Staphylococcus aureus.

Keywords: Antibiotics; fungi; polyketides; Secondary metabolites
Introduction

In the last decades, the emergence of multidrug resistance in many pathogens, drug-resistant cancer cells and emergence of life-threatening viral diseases, is a problem of medical concern. Nowadays, the need for new and efficient pharmaceutical compounds for developing novel antimicrobial drugs, especially those from natural origin and without side effects is felt more than ever. In this regard, endophytic fungi in symptomless plants have been shown to be a promising source of antimicrobial compounds. Fungal endophytes represent a large reservoir of biological resources including bioactive compounds with potential applications in medicine, industry and agriculture, including pathogen control (Bills and Gloer, 2016). To explore the diversity of endophytic fungi inhabiting forest trees in Iran, a foray was conducted in September 2016, and symptomless, apparently healthy shoots were collected from English Yew (*Taxus baccata*) in northwestern Iran, and fungal endophytes were obtained by using a classical methodology based on surface sterilization from the plant material. Subsequently the cultures were studied for production of bioactive compounds. One of the isolated strains showed interesting antimicrobial activities in a preliminary screening, and was selected for taxonomic identification, as well as for characterization of its active principles. The present paper is dedicated to the presentation of these results.

2. Experimental section

2.1. General experimental procedures

HPLC-DAD-MS analysis was performed using an amaZon speed ETD ion trap mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics) in positive and negative ionization modes. The mass spectrometer was coupled to an DIONEX UltiMate 3000 Diode Array Detector [column 2.1 × 50 mm, 1.7 μm, C18 Acquity UPLC BEH (Waters), solvent A: H₂O + 0.1% formic acid; solvent B: acetonitrile (ACN) + 0.1% formic acid, gradient: 5% B for 0.5 min, increasing to 100% B in 20 min, maintaining isocratic conditions at 100% B for 10 min, flow = 0.6 mL/min, UV–vis detection 200–600 nm]. HRESIMS mass spectra were obtained with a maXis ESI TOF mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics) [scan range m/z 100–2500, rate 2 Hz, capillary voltage 4500 V, dry temperature 200 °C], coupled to an Agilent 1200 series HPLC-UV system [column 2.1 × 50 mm, 1.7 μm, C₁₈ Acquity UPLC BEH (Waters), solvent A: H₂O + 0.1% formic acid; solvent B: ACN + 0.1% formic acid, gradient: 5% B for 0.5 min, increasing to 100% B in 19.5 min, maintaining 100% B for 5 min, R⁺ = 0.6 mLmin⁻¹, UV–vis detection 200–600 nm]. The molecular formulas were calculated including the isotopic pattern (Smart Formula algorithm). The separation was performed at room temperature on an
Agilent 1100 series preparative HPLC system [ChemStation software (Rev. B.04.03 SP1); binary pump system; column: Kinetex 5u RP C18, dimensions 250 × mm; mobile phase: ACN + 0.05% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and water + 0.05% TFA; flow rate 20 mL/min; diode-array UV detector; 226 fraction collector]. 1D and 2D NMR spectra were recorded at 24.8 °C on a Bruker 500 MHz Avance III spectrometer with a BBFO (plus) SmartProbe (1H 500 MHz, 13C 125 MHz). Chemical shifts are given in parts per million (ppm), and coupling constants in hertz (Hz). Spectra were referenced to residual solvent signals with resonances at δH/C 3.31/49.15 for MeOH-d4. Optical rotations were determined using an Anton Paar MCP 150 polarimeter (sodium D line, a Nickel alloy sample cell 100 mm/3 mm, 0.7 mL volume), UV spectra were recorded using a Shimadzu UV–vis spectrophotometer UV-2450. CD spectra were recorded on a JASCO spectropolarimeter, model J-815 using 0.5 mm quartz cuvette and MeOH as solvent.

### 2.2 Fungal material and morphological analysis

During a survey on endophytic fungi of forest trees, in September 2016, symptomless shoots and healthy 2-3 years old shoots were collected from English Yew (Taxus baccata) in Arasbaran region, northwestern zone of Iran. For the isolation of endophytes, 15-20 cm length shoots were sterilized for 45-60 seconds in 70% ethanol, then 10 min in 3% sodium hypochloride (NaClO) and 30 seconds in 70% ethanol. They were then dried on sterile filter paper under clean bench. Small segments were cut and transferred on Malt Extract Agar (MEA) plate supplemented with 100 mg/L streptomycin sulphate and 100 mg/L ampicillin. Purification was conducted by hyphal tip technique. Cultures were preserved on MEA (malt extract agar) in 2 ml microtube slants at 4°C in the University of Tabriz Culture Collection (CCTU). Cultural characteristics of Chaetosphaeronia achilleae including colony characters and pigments production, shape, and growth rate and microscopic characteristics including dimensions of conidiomata, conidiophores, conidiogenous cells and conidia were recorded on PDA, OA and MEA, according to previously reported conditions (Hyde et al., 2016).

### 2.3 Molecular analysis, sequencing and phylogenetic analysis

Genomic DNA was extracted from 7 days old culture grown on MEA. Fresh fungal mycelia were harvested and subjected to DNA extraction using the EZ-10 Spin Column Genomic DNA Miniprep kit (Bio Basic Canada Inc., Markham, Ontario, Canada) following the manufacturer’s protocol. Molecular analysis was carried out using sequence data of internal
transcribed spacer (ITS) regions and partial large nuclear ribosomal RNA subunit (nrLSU) region. ITS-rDNA fragment was amplified using ITS1F/ITS4 primer (White et al., 1990). The partial large nuclear ribosomal RNA subunit (nrLSU) region was amplified using primers LROR/LR5 (Vilgalys and Hester, 1990). The amplicons were sequenced in both directions using the same primer set. Sequence files were edited using SeqMan software in the Lasergene package (DNASTAR Inc., Madison, WI, USA) and consensus sequence was computed using the forward and reverse sequences. The consensus sequence was compared with sequences in the GenBank using the basic local alignment search tool (BLAST). Sequences were deposited in GenBank with the accession numbers MN422624 and MN422698 for ITS and LSU, respectively. ITS-rDNA and LSU gene sequence data for reference strain sequences were downloaded from GenBank and included in alignment files. Bayesian analyses were accomplished according to previously published procedure (Narmani et al. 2018).

2.4 Fermentation and extraction

A 500 mL Erlenmeyer flask containing 200 mL of YMG medium consisting of 1.0% malt extract, 0.4% glucose, 0.4% yeast extract, pH 6.3 was inoculated with five 7 mm agar disks of a well-grown agar culture of C. achilleae and incubated at 23 °C. Well-grown mycelial mass was homogenized using a Heidolph Silent Crusher, then 30 other flasks containing the same medium composition were inoculated using 2 mL of homogenized culture. The flasks were incubated at 23 °C under constant shaking at 140 rpm on a rotary shaker. Six days after the sugar was used up, fungal mycelia was harvested by filtration, and the supernatant was treated with 3% adsorber resin Amberlite XAD-16N over 4 h on magnetic stirrers for stirring at room temperature. Then, XAD was extracted using acetone and after evaporation, the residual aqueous phase was extracted three times using ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate fraction was dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under vacuum to yield 2242 mg of crude extract. The wet mycelia were extracted three times with acetone, and further extracted with methanol in an ultrasonic bath at 40°C for 30 min. The resulting solution was evaporated to yield an aqueous phase, which was extracted three times with ethyl acetate. After drying over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, the ethyl acetate fraction was concentrated under vacuum to yield 671 mg of crude extract.

2.5 Isolation of compounds 1-7
Separation of crude supernatant extract (500 mg) was achieved by preparative HPLC (5 runs using a linear gradient of solvent B from 7% to 25% solvent B in 45 min, 30 to 100% B in 5 min, followed by 100% B for 10 min at a flow rate of 20 mL/min. Solvent B was constituted of acetonitrile (ACN) + 0.05% trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) while solvent A was constituted of H$_2$O + 0.05% TFA. The fractions were combined according to UV absorption at 220, 280, and 350 nm and concurrent HPLC-MS analyses. The fractionation yielded seven pure compounds: 2 (2.97 mg) at a retention time ($t_R$) = 8.5 min, 1 (6.71 mg) at $t_R$ = 12.75 min, 3 (10.64 mg) at $t_R$ = 15.71 min, 4 (54.97 mg) at $t_R$ = 17.01 min, 7 (4.15 mg) at $t_R$ = 23.82 min, 5 (47.42 mg) at $t_R$ = 28.2 min, and 6 (209.95 mg) at $t_R$ = 35.52 min.

**Chaetosisoindolinone (1):** White gum; [$\alpha$]$^D_{20}$ –30.0 (c 0.35, MeOH); UV (MeOH, c 0.1 mg/mL) $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (log e) 270 (3.73), 228 (3.90) nm; CD (c 1 mg/mL, MeOH), $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ nm (CD) 200 (+21); HR-ESIMS m/z 210.0757 [M + H]$^+$ (Calcd for C$_{10}$H$_{12}$NO$_4^+$, 210.0755), m/z 232.0574 [M + Na]$^+$ (Calcd for C$_{10}$H$_{11}$NO$_4$Na$: 232.0580); $^1$H NMR (Methanol $d_4$, 500 MHz) and $^{13}$C NMR (Methanol $d_4$, 125 MHz) data, see Table 1.

**Chaetosindanone (2):** White gum; [$\alpha$]$^D_{20}$ + 4.0 (c 0.1, MeOH); UV (MeOH, c 0.1 mg/mL) $\lambda_{\text{max}}$ (log e) 270 (3.61), 221 (3.73), 203 (3.67) nm; HR-ESIMS m/z 211.0599 [M+H]$^+$ (Calcd for C$_{10}$H$_{11}$O$_5^+$: 211.0601), m/z 233.0417 [M+Na]$^+$ (Calcd for C$_{10}$H$_{10}$O$_5$Na$: 233.0420); $^1$H NMR (Methanol $d_4$, 500 MHz) and $^{13}$C NMR (Methanol $d_4$, 125 MHz) data, see Table 1.

### 2.6. Biological activities

Antimicrobial activities (Minimum inhibitory concentrations; MICs) of the isolated metabolites were determined using a serial dilution assay against *Bacillus subtilis* DSM 10, *Chromobacterium violaceum* DSM 30191, *Escherichia coli* DSM 1116, *Micrococcus luteus* DSM 1790, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* DSM PA14, *Staphylococcus aureus* DSM 346, *Candida albicans* DSM 1665, *Mucor hiemalis* DSM 2656, *Pichia anomala* DSM 6766, *Rhodoturula glutinis* DSM 10134, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* DSM 70572 and *Mycobacterium smegmatis* DSM ATCC700084 according to previously described protocols (Richter et al., 2016). The in vitro cytotoxicity assay was performed with some cancer cells including the mouse fibroblast cell line L929, cervix carcinoma cell line KB-3-1, human breast adenocarcinoma MCF-7, human prostate cancer PC-3, squamous carcinoma A431, human lung carcinoma A549 and ovarian carcinoma SKOV-3 as previously described (Sandargo et al., 2018). The inhibition of biofilm formation against *Staphylococcus aureus* DSM 1104 was tested in 96-well tissue microtiter plates (TPP, Trasadingen, Switzerland).
following the protocol of Yuyama et al. (2017). The compounds were tested in concentrations of up to 256 µg/mL. MeOH and cytochalasin B were used as negative and positive control, respectively (Phukhamsakda et al., 2018; Yuyama et al., 2018).

3. Results and discussion

Preparative RP-HPLC purification of extracts from the culture of the plant associated fungus *Chaetosphaeronema achilleae* led to the isolation and structure elucidation of 7 secondary metabolites including a previously unreported isoindolinone and a previously undescribed indanone derivative.

3.1. Structure elucidation

The molecular formula of compound 1, isolated as white gum, was deduced to be C_{10}H_{11}NO_{4} on the basis of the HRESIMS which exhibited ion clusters at m/z 210.0757 [M + H]^+ (Calcd for C_{10}H_{12}NO_{4}: 210.0755), 232.0574 [M + Na]^+ (Calcd for C_{10}H_{11}NO_{4}Na+: 232.0580) and 441.1265 [2M + Na]^+. The 1H NMR spectrum (Table 1) showed signals for an aromatic proton at δ_H 6.89 (s, H-7), a methine proton at δ_H 4.61 (q, J = 6.6 Hz, H-3), a methoxy group at δ_H 3.90 (s, 6-OCH$_3$) as well as a methyl doublet at δ_H 1.47 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, H-8). The 13C NMR spectrum of 1 (Table 1) showed 10 signals including those of an amide carbonyl at δ_C 173.6 (C-1) and a pentasubstituted benzene ring. The remaining signals were due to a methine carbon at δ_C 52.7 (C-3), a methyl at δ_C 19.2 (C-8) and a methoxy group at δ_C 56.9 (6-OCH$_3$). Careful analysis of 1H and 13C NMR, 1H–1H COSY, HSQC and HMBC spectra revealed that compound 1 was related to isoindolinones (Wittstein et al., 2016). This was confirmed by HMBC correlations (Table 1) from the proton H-7 to C-1, C-3a, C-5, C-6, and C-7a; and from the proton H-3 to C-1, C-3a, C-4, and C-8. The location of the methoxy group was evidenced by the HMBC correlation from the protons at δ_H 3.90 (s, 6-OCH$_3$) to the carbon at δ_C 150.6 (C-6). The configuration at C-3 was proposed to be R based on the comparison of the positive optical rotation of 1 ([α]$_{D}^{20}$ –30.0 (c 0.35, MeOH) with those of its congeners (3R)-5,7-dihydroxy-3-methylisoindolin-1-one ([α]$_{D}^{20}$ +18.1 (c 0.1, MeOH)) (El Amrani et al., 2012) and (3S)-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindolin-1-one ([α]$_{D}^{20}$ –34.0 (c 0.26, Dichloromethane)) (Comins et al., 2005). Furthermore, the positive Cotton effect observed in at 200 nm region of the electronic circular dichroism (ECD) curves of compound 1 (Fig. S10) were related to the ECD spectra of mariline A$_2$ (S-configuration at C-3) and opposite to those of mariline A$_1$ (R-configuration at C-3) and thus confirmed the R configuration (cf. Almeida et al., 2012). The structure of metabolite 1 was thus elucidated as (3S)-4,5-dihydroxy-3-methyl-6-methoxyisoindolin-1-one to which the trivial name chaetosisoindolinone was given.
The HRESIMS of compound 2 also isolated as a white gum showed ion clusters at \( m/z \) 211.0599 [M+H]\(^+\) and 233.0417 [M+Na]\(^+\) consistent with the molecular formula \( \text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_{5} \) (Calcd for \( \text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_{5}: 211.0601; \) Calcd for \( \text{C}_{10}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_{5}\text{Na}: 233.0420 \)). Its \(^1\text{H}\) NMR spectrum showed in addition to the aromatic proton resonance at \( \delta_H 6.82 \) (s, H-4) signals attributed an oxymethine proton at \( \delta_H 5.22 \) (dd, \( J = 6.3, 2.3 \) Hz, H-3), a methoxy group at \( \delta_H 3.97 \) (s, 5-OCH\(_3\)) and a methylene group at \( \delta_H 2.46 \) (brd, \( J = 18.0 \) Hz, H-2a) and 3.02 (dd, \( J = 18.0, 6.3 \) Hz, H-2b). The \(^{13}\text{C}\) NMR spectrum displayed 10 carbon signals (Table 1) including a carbonyl at \( \delta_C 205.5 \) (C-1), six aromatic carbons at at \( \delta_C 135.1 \) (C-3a), 101.2 (C-4), 157.2 (C-5), 144.8 (C-6), 149.8 (C-7), and 118.4 (C-7a). The remaining signals were attributed to a methylene at \( \delta_C 48.4 \) (C-2), a hydroxymethine at \( \delta_C 69.1 \) (C-3) and a methoxy group at \( \delta_C 57.0 \) (5-OCH\(_3\)). These spectral data suggested 2 to be an indanone derivative (Okpekcon et al., 2009; Rukachaisirikul et al., 2013). Assignment of all the proton and carbon signals was achieved by careful examination of the \(^1\text{H}-^1\text{H}\) COSY, HSQC and HMBC spectra. In the HMBC spectrum, some important correlations were depicted from the proton at H-3 to C-1, C-3a, and C-4, as well as from the proton at H-4 to C-3a, C-5, C-6, and C-7a (Fig. 2). The location of the methoxyl group was evidenced by the correlation observed between its protons at \( \delta_H 3.97 \) (s, 5-OCH\(_3\)) and the carbon at \( \delta_C 157.2 \) (C-5). The configuration at C-3 was proposed to be \( S \) based on the positive optical rotation of compound 2 (\( [\alpha]^{20}_D + 4.0 \) (c 0.1, MeOH)) in comparison to that of the related compound claulansine E (\( [\alpha]^{20}_D + 3.6 \) (c 0.1, MeOH)) (Liu et al., 2012). The structure of 2 was finally concluded as (3\( S \))-3,6,7-trihydroxy-5-methoxy-1-indanone trivially named chaetosindanone.

The isolated known compounds were identified based on comparison of their spectral data with literature as follow: 2-(2-acetyl-3,5-dihydroxyphenyl)acetic acid (3), previously isolated from \textit{Mucor} sp (Feng et al., 2014); vulculic acid (4), previously obtained from \textit{Penicillium} sp (Kimura et al., 1991); 2-(2-acetyl-3-hydroxy-5-methoxyphenyl)acetic acid (5) also produced by \textit{Mucor} sp (Feng et al., 2014); curvulin (6) was previously reported from a \textit{Paraphoma} sp. isolated from \textit{Cirsium arvense} (Poluektova et al., 2018), and curvulol (7), a metabolite of \textit{Curvularia siddiqui} (Kamal et al., 1963).

Compound 1 is an isoindolinone, a rare class of secondary metabolites characterized by a bicyclic nucleus derived from fusion of a benzene ring and a \( \gamma \)-lactam. One of its congeners namely (3\( S \))-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1H-isoindolin-1-one was recently isolated from an unidentified endophytic fungus obtained from the inner tissues of healthy leaves of the mangrove plant \textit{Avicennia marina} from Oman (El Amrani et al., 2012). Metabolite 2 bearing
a hydroxycyclopentenone ring is related to the polyketides cyclomarinone produced by the marine sponge-derived fungus _Stachylidium_ sp (Almeida et al., 2012), 3-methoxyindanone isolated from the marine cyanobacterium _Lyngbya majuscula_ (Nagle et al., 2000), the dichlorinated indanone tripartin obtained from the culture broth of the _Streptomyces_ sp. associated with a larva of the dung beetle _Copris tripartitus_ Waterhouse (Kim et al., 2013) and to the carbazole alkaloid claulansine E from the stems of _Clausena lansium_ (Liu et al., 2012). Biosynthetically, the structures of the isolated polyketides are related and may have arisen from 6-ethyl-2,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid (8) resulting from the condensation of one propionyl-CoA unit with three acetyl-CoA units followed by cyclisation (Almeida et al., 2012; El Maddah et al., 2019) (Scheme 1). The oxidation of this intermediate followed by incorporation of a methyl group would lead to 2-(2-acetyl-3,5-dihydroxyphenyl) acetic acid (3). The O-methylation of metabolite 3 could afford 2-(2-acetyl-3-hydroxy-5-methoxyphenyl)acetic acid (5) while its acetylation yields curvulin (6). Vulculic acid (4) could be obtained by the hydroxylation of compound 5. Oxidative scission of vulculic acid (4) could afford the reactive intermediate 9 from which chaetosindanone (2) could be obtained by an aldol reaction. Reduction of the two carbonyl groups present in compound 9 followed by the etherification reaction could yield curvulol (7). Reduction of the ketone group present in 9 gives the reactive intermediate 10 which could undergo lactamization through the amino acid metabolism to form the phthalimidine core present in compound 1 (Yunus et al., 2016; El Maddah et al., 2019).

**Biological activities**

Compounds 2, 4 and 7 showed moderate to weak antifungal activity against _Mucor hiemalis_ DSM 2656 and antibacterial activity against _Staphylococcus aureus_ DSM 346 and _Bacillus subtilis_ DSM 10, respectively, with a MIC value of 33.33 µg/mL (Table 2). Compounds 1, 2, 4 and 7 showed significant cytotoxicity against the mouse fibroblast cell line L929 and the cervix carcinoma cell line KB-3-1, with IC_{50} values ranging from 4.3 to 23 µg/mL while in the case of compounds 3, 5 and 6, no significant effects were observed. Compound 2 showed the strongest cytotoxicity among the metabolites tested against human breast adenocarcinoma MCF-7 cells with IC_{50} value of 1.5 µg/mL (Table 3). In the _Staphylococcus aureus_ biofilm inhibition assay, Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) values of 256, 64 and 64 µg/mL were observed for metabolites 2, 4 and 7, respectively. Moreover, compound 4 showed a strong inhibition of biofilm formation of 96.82 % and 91.95 % at 256 and 128 µg/mL,
respectively. Compound 7 also exhibited a strong inhibition of biofilm formation of 96.18 % at 256 µg/mL. In the case of compound 1, 3, 5 and 6 MIC values were not obtained. This means that these compounds were not toxic against planktonic cells at the tested concentrations, but they were able to prevent biofilm formation even at lower concentrations (8 and 4 µg/mL) (Table 4). Biofilm formation is an important factor associated with drug resistance, which made it difficult to eradicate microbial infection. To overcome this problem, the need for new and efficient anti-biofilm agents is felt more than ever, as they could be used in combination therapy with classical antibiotics (Estrela and Abraham, 2016; Hyde et al., 2019). Notably, compounds with biofilms dispersing feature are rare. Recently, we reported two new heptanedioic acid derivatives, four prenylated p-terphenyl quinones and microporenic acids A-G with strong activities on both biofilm formation and dispersion in Staphylococcus aureus (Narmani et al., 2019; Chepkirui et al., 2018).

Acknowledgements

The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology (MSRT) of Iran, the Iranian Mycological Society (PhD stipend to A.N.) and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (postdoc stipends to R.B.T. and S.E.H.) are gratefully acknowledged for their financial support. We are grateful to Christel Kakoschke, Sabrina Karwehl, Cácilia Bergmann, Vanessa Stiller and Wera Collisi for recording NMR spectra and for expert technical assistance, respectively.

Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found in the online version at ……….

References


Fig. 1. Structures of compounds 1-7 isolated from *Chaetosphaeronema achilleae*.

Fig. 2. Selected HMBC correlations for compounds 1 and 2.
Scheme 1. Proposed biosynthetic origins of polyketides isolated from *Chaetosphaeronema achilleae*
Table 1
$^{13}$C and $^1$H NMR spectroscopic data of compounds 1 and 2 in Methanol $d_4$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>1 $\delta_C$</th>
<th>$\delta_H$ ($J$ in Hz)</th>
<th>2 $\delta_C$</th>
<th>$\delta_H$ ($J$ in Hz)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>173.6</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>205.5</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>48.4</td>
<td>2.46 (brd, 18.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.02 (dd, 18.0, 6.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>52.7</td>
<td>4.61 (q, 6.6)</td>
<td>69.1</td>
<td>5.22 (dd, 6.3, 2.3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a</td>
<td>131.1</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>135.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>142.0</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>101.2</td>
<td>6.82 (s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>139.7</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>157.2</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>150.6</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>144.8</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>6.89 (s)</td>
<td>149.8</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7a</td>
<td>123.2</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>118.4</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>1.47 (d, 6.6)</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCH$_3$</td>
<td>56.9</td>
<td>3.90 (s)</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>3.97 (s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2
MIC values (µg/mL) of the isolated compounds against the tested microorganisms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organism</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Candida albicans</em> DSM 1665</td>
<td>n.i</td>
<td>n.i</td>
<td>n.i</td>
<td>n.i</td>
<td>n.i</td>
<td>n.i</td>
<td>n.i</td>
<td>33.33 N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell line</td>
<td>IC₅₀ µg/mL</td>
<td>IC₅₀ (ng/mL)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouse fibroblast cell line L929</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>n.a*</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cervix carcinoma cell line KB-3-1</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human breast adenocarcinoma MCF-7</td>
<td>n.t**</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human prostate cancer PC-3</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squamous carcinoma A431</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Conc. (µg/mL)</th>
<th>Biofilm and Pre-biofilm inhibition %</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIC</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>31.00</td>
<td>96.82</td>
<td>24.28</td>
<td>64.00</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>n.t</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human lung carcinoma A549</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>30.56</td>
<td>17.15</td>
<td>26.16</td>
<td>91.95</td>
<td>21.68</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>96.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>128</td>
<td>24.96</td>
<td>15.32</td>
<td>25.56</td>
<td>91.95</td>
<td>21.68</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>15.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>64</td>
<td>24.94</td>
<td>15.32</td>
<td>25.56</td>
<td>91.95</td>
<td>21.68</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>14.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
<td>23.59</td>
<td>10.98</td>
<td>22.15</td>
<td>20.45</td>
<td>17.35</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>9.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>21.19</td>
<td>10.12</td>
<td>17.28</td>
<td>18.01</td>
<td>11.16</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>8.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>19.42</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>11.34</td>
<td>11.12</td>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>4.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16.09</td>
<td>8.50</td>
<td>10.35</td>
<td>10.17</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*no: not obtained, **na: not active