



Antifouling briarane type diterpenoids from South China Sea gorgonians *Dichotella gemmacea*



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ABSTRACT

Our continued investigation on the South China Sea gorgonian *Dichotella gemmacea* led to the isolation of 16 new briarane-type diterpenoids, dichotellides F–U (**1–16**), along with 18 known analogues (**17–34**). Their structures were determined by MS, 1D and 2D NMR spectra analyses and by comparison with those reported in literature. The absolute configuration of **15** was confirmed by single-crystal X-ray diffraction data. The antifouling test showed that compounds **3**, **4**, **6–11**, **16**, and **23** had potent antifouling activities at nontoxic concentrations with EC₅₀ values of 4.1, 1.82, 6.3, 7.6, 4.6, 1.2, 5.6, 0.79, 2.0, and 0.2 µg/mL, respectively.

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1. Introduction

Biofouling, the undesirable build-up of sessile marine organisms (such as barnacles, mussels, tubeworms, and seaweeds) onto man-made surfaces, is one of the most serious problems currently facing worldwide maritime domains,^{1,2} and can cause substantial technical and economical problems for many marine-related operations. Due to new prohibition on toxic antifouling paints, such as tributyltin (TBT)-based compounds, alternative agents that are effective against biofouling and are environmentally benign are urgently needed.^{3,4}

Gorgonians, as well as some other marine invertebrates, such as sponges, soft corals, ascidians, and seaweeds, are relatively free from fouling organisms because they produce a diverse array of secondary metabolites with the antifouling activity, which could be explored for potential sources of antifouling agents and development of antifouling paints.^{5–8} The interest in the antifouling natural substances from marine organisms prompted us to

investigate gorgonians *Dichotella gemmacea* and *Junceella fragilis*. Previously, five iodine-containing briarane type diterpenoids and other thirteen analogues were isolated from *D. gemmacea*.^{9–11} Our continued studies on this species led to the isolation of sixteen new briarane type diterpenoids, dichotellides F–U (**1–16**), along with eighteen known analogues (**17–34**). The structures of these diterpenoids were determined by extensive spectroscopic analysis (¹H and ¹³C NMR, DEPT, HSQC, HMBC, NOESY, and HRESIMS) and by comparison of the spectroscopic data with those of the related compounds known in the literature. A natural product library of total thirty four briarane type diterpenoids was evaluated against the larval settlement of barnacle *Balanus amphitrite* with the aim of discovering new potential natural antifoulants. Herein we report the isolation, structure elucidation, and biological activities of these compounds, and the structure–activity relationship of these compounds was discussed.

2. Results and discussion

The EtOH and CHCl₃/MeOH (1:1) extract of fresh gorgonian *D. gemmacea* was separated into an EtOAc-soluble fraction and *n*-BuOH fraction. The EtOAc-soluble fraction were subjected to

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normal phase Si gel column, Sephadex LH-20 column followed by reversed-phase HPLC to afford 16 new briarane-type diterpenoids, dichotellides F–U (**1–16**), along with eighteen known analogues (**17–34**).

Dichotellide F (**1**) was obtained as white, amorphous powder. The molecular formula was established as C₃₆H₄₈O₁₇ on the basis of positive HRESIMS (*m/z*, 775.2805 [M+Na]⁺, calcd for 775.2789) and NMR data. Its IR and UV spectra indicated the presence of hydroxyl (3433 cm⁻¹), γ -lactone (1793 cm⁻¹), ester carbonyls (1745, 1730 cm⁻¹), and a conjugated diene system (274 nm). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra (Tables 1 and 2) presented signals for four acetates

and a 2-(3-methylbutanoyloxy) acetate moiety (δ_C 166.5, s; 60.8, t; 172.3, s; 42.7, t; 25.6, d; 22.3, q; 22.3, q), a tertiary methyl (δ_H 1.12, s), a secondary methyl (δ_H 1.14, d, *J*=7.0 Hz), an oxygenated methyl (δ_C 58.4, q; δ_H 3.43, s), a γ -lactone (δ_C 175.3, s), an exocyclic C-11/C-20 epoxide (δ_H 3.58, 2.90, each br s; δ_C 58.1, s, 49.0, t), a conjugated diene (δ_C 130.4, d; 129.4, d; 141.5, s; 122.5, d δ_H 5.58, t, *J*=10.0 Hz; 6.32, d, *J*=10.5 Hz; 5.87, d, *J*=8.5 Hz), an oxymethylene (δ_C 71.9, t; δ_H 4.53, 4.13, each d, *J*=16.0 Hz), an oxygenated quaternary carbon, and six oxygenated methines. These data showed that **1** was a briarane type diterpenoid with a 3, 5 (6)-conjugated diene and an exocyclic C-11/C-20 epoxide. As the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral pat-

Table 1
¹H NMR (500 MHz) data of compounds **1–8** (*J* in Hz within parentheses)

Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	5.62 d (9.5)	5.63 d (9.5)	5.58 d (10.0)	5.68 d (10.0)	5.61 d (9.0)	5.61 d (9.0)	5.59 d (10.0)	5.58 d (8.5)
3	5.58 t (10.0)	5.58 t (10.0)	5.64 t (10.0)	5.61 t (10.0)	5.57 t (9.0)	5.60 t (9.0)	5.55 t (10.0)	5.56 t (8.5)
4	6.32 d (10.5)	6.32 d (10.0)	6.40 d (10.0)	6.33 d (10.0)	6.30 d (8.5)	6.28 d (8.5)	6.28 d (10.0)	6.27 d (7.5)
6	5.87 d (8.5)	5.88 d (8.5)	6.06 d (9.0)	5.66 d (9.0)	5.71 d (9.0)	5.70 d (9.0)	5.72 d (8.5)	5.87 d (8.5)
7	4.98 d (8.5)	4.98 d (8.5)	4.95 d (9.0)	4.96 d (9.0)	4.97 d (9.0)	4.97 d (9.0)	4.97 d (8.5)	4.99 d (8.5)
9	4.74 d (4.5)	4.75 d (4.5)	4.74 d (5.0)	4.72 d (4.5)	4.74 d (5.0)	4.73 d (5.0)	4.73 d (4.5)	4.74 d (4.5)
10	3.61 d (4.5)	3.61 d (4.5)	3.59 d (5.0)	3.61 d (4.5)	3.61 d (5.0)	3.60 d (5.0)	3.60 d (4.5)	3.58 d (4.5)
12	4.86 d (2.0)	4.88 d (3.5)	4.91 d (3.0)	4.84 d (3.0)	4.85 d (2.0)	4.87 d (2.5)	4.87 d (2.5)	4.91 d (2.5)
13	5.06 t (2.0)	5.08 t (3.5)	5.07 t (3.0)	5.05 t (3.0)	5.06 t (3.0)	5.08 t (3.0)	5.08 t (3.0)	5.10 t (3.0)
14	5.16 d (2.0)	5.16 d (3.0)	5.17 d (2.5)	5.18 d (3.0)	5.21 d (2.5)	5.21 d (2.5)	5.26 d (2.5)	5.20 d (2.5)
15	1.12 s	1.12 s	1.12 s	1.12 s	1.13 s	1.13 s	1.13 s	1.13 s
16	4.53 d (16.0)	4.53 d (15.0)	4.68 d (14.5)	5.45 d (16.0)	5.39 d (15.5)	5.45 d (16.0)	5.40 d (16.0)	4.48 d (15.0)
	4.13 d (16.0)	4.10 d (15.0)	4.45 d (14.5)	4.55 d (16.0)	4.64 d (15.5)	4.60 d (16.0)	4.63 d (16.0)	4.22 d (15.0)
17	2.27 q (7.0)	2.29 q (7.0)	2.29 q (7.0)	2.28 q (7.0)	2.30 q (7.0)	2.28 q (7.0)	2.29 q (7.0)	2.29 q (7.0)
18	1.14 d (7.0)	1.14 d (7.0)	1.13 d (7.0)	1.13 d (7.0)	1.14 d (7.0)	1.14 d (7.0)	1.14 d (7.0)	1.12 d (7.0)
20	3.58 br s	3.58 d (2.5)	3.58 d (3.0)	3.59 d (2.0)	3.59 d (2.0)	3.60 d (2.0)	3.60 br s	3.58 d (2.5)
	2.90 br s	2.91 d (2.5)	2.93 d (3.0)	2.91 d (2.0)	2.91 d (2.0)	2.93 d (2.0)	2.92 br s	2.92 d (2.5)
Acetate methyls	2.17 s	2.17 s	2.18 s	2.17 s	2.17 s	2.18 s	2.18 s	2.17 s
	2.12 s	2.14 s	2.07 s	2.16 s	2.16 s	2.15 s	2.16 s	2.06 s
	2.05 s	2.05 s	1.94 s	2.10 s	2.13 s	2.09 s	1.95 s	1.94 s
	1.93 s			1.94 s	2.09 s	1.94 s	1.94 s	
					1.95 s			
					1.94 s			
Isovalerate								
a		2.22 m (2H)	2.14 m (2H)	2.13 m (2H)		2.12 m (2H)	2.31 m (2H)	2.32 m (2H)
		2.01 m (1H)	1.99 m (1H)	1.97 m (1H)		1.98 m (1H)	1.99 m (1H)	1.99 m (1H)
		0.92 d (3H, 6.5)	0.97 d (3H, 6.5)	0.97 d (3H, 6.5)		0.97 d (3H, 6.5)	0.99 d (3H, 6.5)	0.99 d (3H, 7.0)
		0.90 d (3H, 6.5)	0.98 d (3H, 6.5)	0.98 d (3H, 6.5)		0.98 d (3H, 6.5)	0.98 d (3H, 6.5)	0.98 d (3H, 7.0)
b						2.14 m (2H)	2.14 m (2H)	2.14 m (2H)
						1.96 m (1H)	1.96 m (1H)	1.96 m (1H)
						0.91 d (3H, 6.5)	0.97 d (3H, 6.5)	0.90 d (3H, 6.5)
						0.90 d (3H, 6.5)	0.96 d (3H, 6.5)	0.89 d (3H, 6.5)
c								
2'	4.51 d (16.0)	4.53 d (16.0)	4.53 d (16.0)	4.52 d (16.0)				
	4.43 d (16.0)	4.44 d (16.0)	4.44 d (16.0)	4.42 d (16.0)				
4'	2.29 m (2H)	2.30 m (2H)	2.30 m (2H)	2.30 m (2H)				
5'	2.12 m (1H)	2.18 m (1H)	2.18 m (1H)	2.18 m (1H)				
6'	0.98 d (3H, 6.5)	0.98 d (3H, 6.5)	0.99 d (3H, 6.5)	0.98 d (3H, 6.5)				
7'	0.96 d (3H, 6.5)	0.97 d (3H, 6.5)	0.98 d (3H, 6.5)	0.96 d (3H, 6.5)				
OCH ₃	3.43 s (3H)	3.43 s (3H)						3.44 s (3H)

Table 2
¹³C NMR (125 MHz) spectral data of compounds **1–8** in CDCl₃

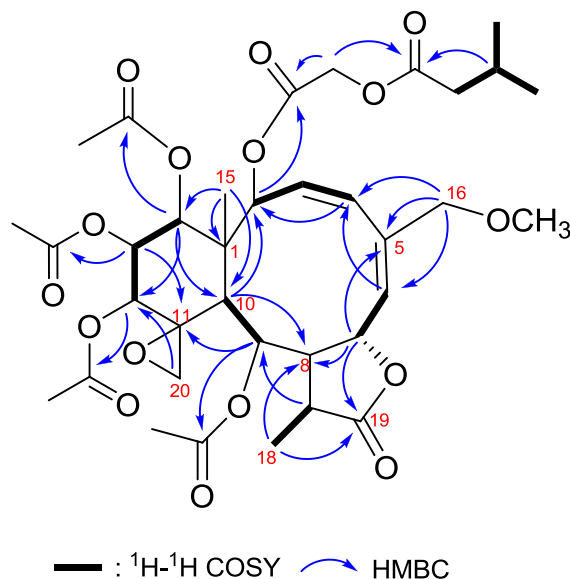
Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	46.4, C	46.5, C	46.4, C	46.3, C	46.4, C	46.4, C	46.4, C	46.5, C
2	74.3, CH	75.3, CH	75.2, CH	75.5, CH	74.1, CH	74.2, CH	74.1, CH	74.1, CH
3	130.4, CH	130.5, CH	131.0, CH	131.3, CH	132.1, CH	132.1, CH	132.1, CH	131.3, CH
4	129.4, CH	129.4, CH	129.0, CH	128.5, CH	127.8, CH	127.8, CH	127.8, CH	128.6, CH
5	141.5, C	141.5, C	139.9, C	139.6, C	139.7, C	139.8, C	139.9, C	141.5, C
6	122.5, CH	122.5, CH	125.9, CH	122.3, CH	122.6, CH	122.4, CH	122.3, CH	122.7, CH
7	79.0, CH	79.0, CH	78.5, CH	78.7, CH	78.7, CH	78.7, CH	78.8, CH	78.9, CH
8	81.0, C	81.0, CH	80.9, C	81.0, C	81.1, C	81.1, C	81.1, C	80.9, C
9	63.7, CH	63.8, CH	63.6, CH	63.7, CH	63.7, CH	63.8, CH	63.8, CH	63.8, CH
10	32.6, CH	32.6, CH	32.6, CH	32.6, CH	32.7, CH	32.6, CH	32.6, CH	32.7, CH
11	58.1, C	58.1, C	58.2, C	58.4, C	58.4, C	58.4, C	58.4, C	58.4, C
12	73.2, CH	73.2, CH	72.7, CH	73.1, CH	73.3, CH	73.3, CH	73.3, CH	72.8, CH
13	66.4, CH	66.2, CH	66.3, CH	66.5, CH	66.6, CH	66.4, CH	66.6, CH	66.2, CH
14	73.8, CH	73.8, CH	73.6, CH	73.3, CH	73.7, CH	73.8, CH	73.3, CH	73.8, CH

Table 2 (continued)

Position	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	14.3, CH ₃	14.3, CH ₃	14.4, CH ₃	14.5, CH ₃	14.4, CH ₃	14.4, CH ₃	14.5, CH ₃	14.4, CH ₃
16	71.9, CH ₂	71.9, CH ₂	44.2, CH ₂	62.8, CH ₂	63.1, CH ₂	62.8, CH ₂	62.7, CH ₂	72.1, CH ₂
17	44.1, CH	44.1, CH	44.0, CH	4.1, CH	44.1, CH	44.1, CH	44.1, CH	44.1, CH
18	6.30, CH ₃	6.34, CH ₃	6.26, CH ₃	6.35, CH ₃	6.30, CH ₃	6.33, CH ₃	6.33, CH ₃	6.29, CH ₃
19	175.3, C	175.3, C	175.0, C	175.2, C	175.2, C	175.2, C	175.3, C	175.4, CH
20	49.0, CH ₂	48.9, CH ₂	49.0, CH ₂	48.9, CH ₂	48.8, CH ₂	48.8, CH ₂	49.0, CH ₂	49.0, CH ₂
Acetate methyls	21.5, CH ₃	21.5, CH ₃	21.5, CH ₃	21.5, CH ₃	21.5, CH ₃	21.5, CH ₃	21.5, CH ₃	21.5, CH ₃
	20.9, CH ₃	20.9, CH ₃	20.8, CH ₃	20.7, CH ₃	1.3, CH ₃	21.3, CH ₃	21.3, CH ₃	21.4, CH ₃
	20.7, CH ₃	20.8, CH ₃	20.5, CH ₃	20.6, CH ₃	20.8, CH ₃	20.8, CH ₃	20.9, CH ₃	20.9, CH ₃
	20.5, CH ₃			20.5, CH ₃	20.8, CH ₃	20.7, CH ₃	20.6, CH ₃	
					20.7, CH ₃			
					20.5, CH ₃			
Acetate carbonyls	170.2, C	170.2, C	170.2, C	170.6, C	170.5, C	170.4, C	170.2, C	170.2, C
	170.1, C	170.0, C	170.1, C	170.2, C	170.2, C	170.2, C	69.9, C	170.0, C
	169.9, C	169.6, C	169.6, C	169.7, C	170.1, C	169.7, C	169.8, C	169.6, C
	169.6, C			169.6, C	169.8, C	169.6, C	169.4, C	
					169.8, C			
					169.6, C			
Isovalerate								
a		171.7, C	171.7, C	172.0, C		172.1, C	172.6, C	171.7, C
		42.6, CH ₂	42.7, CH ₂	42.7, CH ₂		43.2, CH ₂	43.3, CH ₂	43.5, CH ₂
		25.0, CH	25.6, CH	25.6, CH		25.7, CH	25.7, CH	25.7, CH
		22.3, CH ₃	22.3, CH ₃	22.3, CH ₃		22.3, CH ₃	22.4, CH ₃	22.4, CH ₃
		22.4, CH ₃	22.4, CH ₃	22.4, CH ₃		22.4, CH ₃	22.5, CH ₃	22.3, CH ₃
b						171.8, C	172.0, C	171.7, C
						42.6, CH ₂	43.0, CH ₂	42.6, CH ₂
						25.0, CH	25.1, CH	25.0, CH
						22.3, CH ₃	22.3, CH ₃	22.3, CH ₃
						22.4, CH ₃	22.4, CH ₃	22.4, CH ₃
1'	166.5, C	166.6, C	167.0, C	166.6, C				
2'	60.8, CH ₂	60.8, CH ₂	60.8, CH ₂	60.8, CH ₂				
3'	172.3, C	172.4, C	172.4, C	172.4, C				
4'	42.7, CH ₂	42.7, CH ₂	43.6, CH ₂	43.0, CH ₂				
5'	25.6, CH	25.6, CH	25.7, CH	25.6, CH				
6'	22.3, CH ₃	22.3, CH ₃	22.3, CH ₃	22.3, CH ₃				
7'	22.3, CH ₃	22.3, CH ₃	22.3, CH ₃	22.3, CH ₃				
OCH ₃	58.4, CH ₃	58.5, CH ₃						58.4, CH ₃

terns appeared to be similar to those of juncenolide D (**17**), it was evident that both **1** and **17** shared the same carbon framework. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of **1** showed signals for four acetate groups assigned to C-9, C-12, C-13, and C-14 because their carbonyl carbons were correlated with the corresponding oxymethine protons in the HMBC spectrum of **1**. A minor difference between them lies on the appearance of an additional ester signal in **1**. The additional signals were assigned to be an $-\text{OCOCH}_2\text{OCOCH}_2\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ unit, which was supported by the HMBC correlations of $\delta_{\text{H}} 4.51, 4.43$ (each d, $J=16.0$ Hz, H-2') with $\delta_{\text{C}} 166.5$ (s, C-1') and 172.3 (s, C-3'), of $\delta_{\text{H}} 2.29$ (2H, m, H-4') and 2.12 (1H, m, H-5') with 172.3 (s, C-3'), and ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum show correlations of H-4'/H-5'/H-6'(H-7'). The additional ester was assigned to C-2 because of HMBC correlation of H-2 with $\delta_{\text{C}} 166.5$ (s, C-1'). Accordingly, the planar structure of **1** was assigned and further supported by the ¹H-¹H COSY and HMBC spectra (Fig. 1).

According to the literature data on briarane diterpenoids,¹² when the chemical shifts of C-11 and C-20 of exocyclic C-11/C-20-epoxy groups resonated at $\delta_{\text{C}} 55-61$ and $47-52$, respectively, in briarane derivatives, the epoxy group is α -oriented (11*R*), thus leading to a chair conformation for the cyclohexane ring. Based on the carbon chemical shifts of C-11 and C-20 in **1**, we assigned the configuration of C-11/C-20 epoxide ($\delta_{\text{C}} 58.1$, s, C-11; 49.0 , t, C-20) in **1** as α -oriented. The *Z* configuration of the disubstituted double bond at C-3 was determined by the proton coupling constant ($J=10.5$ Hz) between the olefinic protons H-3 and H-4. The *E* configuration of the trisubstituted double bond at C-5 was demonstrated by the NOE correlation between H-6 and H-16 (Fig. 2). In the NOESY spectrum of **1**, NOE correlations between Me-15 with H-13/14/20, and H-20 with H-12 indicated that H-20, H-13, H-12, H-14, and Me-15 were all in the β -orientation; meanwhile, correlations of

Fig. 1. The ¹H-¹H COSY and selective HMBC correlations of dichotellide F (**1**).

H-2 with H-10, H-9 with H-10, and Me-18 with H-9 and H-10 suggested that H-2, H-9, H-10, and Me-18 were all in the α -orientation, and the correlation of H-17 with H-7 showed the β -orientation of the H-17 and H-7 (Fig. 2). Taken together, these data led us to assign the relative configuration of dichotellide F (**1**) as 1*R**, 2*R**, 3*Z*, 5*E*, 7*S**, 8*R**, 9*S**, 10*S**, 11*R**, 12*R**, 13*R**, 14*R**, and 17*R**.

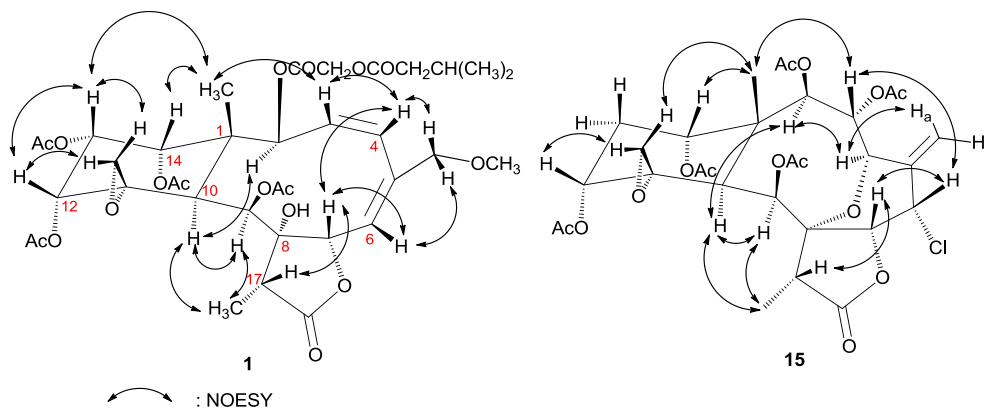


Fig. 2. Key NOESY correlations of dichotellides F (**1**) and T (**15**).

Dichotellides G–U (**2**–**14**) were analogues of dichotellide F (**1**). Close inspection of their NMR data revealed a general similarity: a 3, 5 (6)-conjugated diene and an exocyclic C-11/C-20 epoxide. All of them contained similar oxygenation patterns and they all had the same relative configuration based on the NOESY spectroscopic data. Their configurational assignments were made by comparison of their spectroscopic data with those of **1** and other known briarane type diterpenoids. Detailed NMR studies (including HSQC, HMBC, ^1H – ^1H COSY, and NOESY spectra) on these new compounds were performed in order to unambiguously determine their structures and to assign all the proton and carbon resonances, and some of these data are described below.

Dichotellide G (**2**) possessed a molecular formula $\text{C}_{39}\text{H}_{54}\text{O}_{17}$ as determined from its positive HRESIMS at m/z , 817.3297 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ (calcd for 817.3259). Its IR and UV spectra indicated hydroxyl (3450 cm^{-1}), γ -lactone (1783 cm^{-1}), ester carbonyls (1743 , 1730 cm^{-1}), and a conjugated diene system (274 nm) in the structure. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic data (Tables 1 and 2) were similar to those of **1**, with the only difference being the presence of an isovalerate at C-13 in **2** instead of an acetate in **1**, which was supported by the HMBC correlations of H-13/2'/3' with C-1' (δ_{C} 171.7, s). The relative configuration of **2** was assigned to be the same as that of **1** by comparison of NMR data and analysis of the NOESY spectrum.

Dichotellide H (**3**) had a molecular formula of $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{51}\text{ClO}_{16}$ by positive HRESIMS at m/z , 821.2786 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ (calcd for 821.2673). The ESIMS spectrum of **3** showed a cluster of isotopic $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ ion peaks at m/z 821/823 in approximate ratio of 3:1, indicating the presence of a chlorine atom. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data (Tables 1 and 2) were similar to those of **1**. The only difference between them was the replacement of an oxygenated C-16 methylene (δ_{C} 71.9, t; δ_{H} 4.53, 4.13, each d, $J=16.0\text{ Hz}$) and an acetate at C-12 in **1** by a chlorinated methylene (δ_{C} 44.2, t; δ_{H} 4.68, 4.45, each d, $J=14.5\text{ Hz}$) and an isovalerate at C-12, respectively, which were proved by the HMBC correlations of H-16 with C-4/C-5/C-6, and H-12/2'/3' with the carbonyl (δ_{C} 171.7, C-1') of isovalerate group.

Dichotellide I (**4**) possessed a molecular formula of $\text{C}_{40}\text{H}_{54}\text{O}_{18}$ by its HRESIMS at m/z , 845.3189 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ (calcd for 845.3208), and it exhibited ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data (Tables 1 and 2) very similar to those of **1** except that the methoxyl at C-16 was replaced by an isovalerate, which was supported by the HMBC correlations of H-16/2'/3' with the carbonyl (δ_{C} 172.0, C-1') of isovalerate group.

Dichotellide J (**5**) showed a molecular ion peak at m/z 703.2201 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ (calcd for 703.2214) in its positive HRESIMS, corresponding to the molecular formula of $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{40}\text{O}_{16}$. Its ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic data (Tables 1 and 2) matched with those of **17** with the only difference of an acetate group at C-16 in **5** instead of a methoxy group. This was confirmed by the HMBC spectrum with

correlations of δ_{H} 5.39, 4.64 (each d, $J=15.5\text{ Hz}$) and 2.13 (3H, s) with δ_{C} 170.1 (s).

Dichotellide K (**6**) was assigned the molecular formula $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{52}\text{O}_{16}$ by its HRESIMS at m/z 787.3145 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$. Its NMR spectroscopic data (Tables 1 and 2) were similar to those of **5** with the exception that the two acetate groups instead of two isovalerate groups. Careful inspection of the ^{13}C NMR data of **6** revealed the difference from those of **5**: the oxygenated methine at C-13 and C-16 position in **6** was shifted upfield by 0.4 ppm and 0.6 ppm, respectively, which supported the replacement of two acetates with two isovalerate groups. This assignment was confirmed by the HMBC correlations of H-13/H-16 to the corresponding carbonyl group (δ_{C} 172.1, 171.8) of the isovalerate group, respectively.

The HRESIMS and NMR data of dichotellide (**7**) suggested the same molecular formula $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{52}\text{O}_{16}$ as **6**. In addition, the two compounds exhibited virtually the same IR, ^1H , and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic data. However, detailed comparison of the HMBC spectrum of **7** with that of **6** revealed that the subtle difference between them were the substituent positions of an isovalerate group and an acetate group. In compound **7**, an isovalerate group was at C-14 instead of at C-13, and an acetate group was at C-13 rather than C-14. These were deduced from HMBC correlations of δ_{H} 5.26 (d, $J=2.5\text{ Hz}$, H-14), 2.31 (2H, m, H-2'), 2.99 (1H, m, H-3') with δ_{C} 172.6 (s, C-1'), and correlations of δ_{H} 5.08 (t, $J=3.0\text{ Hz}$, H-13) with δ_{C} 170.2 (s). Based on these data, the structure of dichotellide L (**7**) was established.

Dichotellide M (**8**) had a molecular formula of $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{52}\text{O}_{15}$ as suggested by its positive HRESIMS at m/z , 759.3213 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$ (calcd for 759.3204). Its ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data (Tables 1 and 2) showed high similarity to those of **17**, except that two acetate groups at C-12 and C-13 in **17** were replaced by two isovalerate groups in **8**, respectively. This can be deduced by an upfield shift of 0.5 ppm for C-12 and 0.3 ppm for C-13 in the ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **8** relative to **17** (δ_{C} 73.3, C-12; 66.5, C-13), and confirmed by the HMBC correlations of H-12/H-13 to the corresponding carbonyl group of the isovalerate group, respectively.

Dichotellide N (**9**) was isolated as a white amorphous powder with the molecular formula $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{44}\text{O}_{13}$ as deduced by its HRESIMS at m/z 659.2691 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data (Tables 3 and 4) of **9** were nearly identical with those of **18** with the only difference due to the presence of an isovalerate group at C-14, instead of an acetate group found in **18**. This assignment was confirmed by the HMBC correlations of H-14/H-2'/H-3' to the carbonyl group of the isovalerate.

Dichotellide O (**10**) showed the same molecular formula of $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{44}\text{O}_{13}$ as **9**, which indicated by its positive HRESIMS. In addition, the two compounds shared almost the same IR, ^1H , and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic data. However, close comparison of the overall

Table 3
¹H NMR (500 MHz) data of compounds **9–16** (*J* in Hz within parentheses)

Position	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2	5.64 d (9.5)	5.70 d (9.5)	5.66 d (10.0)	5.88 d (10.0)	5.96 d (10.0)	5.95 d (10.0)	5.51 d (7.0)	4.82 d (4.5)
3	5.57 t (10.0)	5.59 t (10.0)	5.61 t (10.0)	5.71 t (10.0)	5.72 t (10.0)	5.68 t (10.0)	6.21 dd (10.5, 7.0)	2.79 t (14.0) 1.73 m
4	6.26 d (10.0)	6.27 d (10.0)	6.27 d (10.0)	6.39 d (10.0)	6.27 d (10.0)	6.27 d (10.0)	4.98 d (10.5)	5.13 dd (13.0, 5.5)
6	5.88 d (9.5)	5.89 d (8.5)	5.74 d (9.0)	5.93 d (8.0)	5.75 d (8.5)	5.75 d (8.5)	4.95 d (2.5)	5.77 d (10.0)
7	5.01 d (9.5)	5.01 d (8.5)	4.98 d (9.0)	4.96 d (8.5)	4.97 d (8.5)	4.97 d (8.5)	4.41 d (2.5)	5.62 d (10.0)
9	4.80 d (4.5)	4.80 d (4.5)	4.80 d (5.0)	4.79 d (5.0)	4.79 d (4.5)	4.80 d (4.5)	5.63 s	5.22 d (5.5)
10	3.66 d (4.5)	3.67 d (4.5)	3.61 d (5.0)	3.55 d (5.0)	3.59 d (4.5)	3.57 d (4.5)	3.32 s	3.23 d (5.5)
12	4.54 br s	4.57 br s	4.52 br s	3.62 br s	3.59 br s	3.58 br s	4.53 s	2.26 m 1.75 m
13	2.24 m	2.24 m	2.26 m	4.84 t (3.0)	4.83 t (2.5)	4.82 t (3.0)	2.28 m	2.04 m
	2.05 m	2.05 m	1.96 m				1.99 m	1.72 m
14	4.94 t (3.0)	4.89 t (3.0)	4.97 d (3.0)	3.77 d (2.5)	3.75 d (2.5)	3.77 br s	4.97 s	4.74 d (5.0)
15	1.04 s	1.04 s	1.04 s	1.25 s	1.28 s	1.25 s	1.26 s	1.11 s
16	4.48 d (15.0)	4.48 d (15.0)	5.36 d (16.0)	4.62 d (12.0)	5.05 d (15.0)	5.05 d (15.0)	5.57 s	5.35 dd (16.0, 2.0)
	4.23 d (15.0)	4.25 d (15.0)	4.65 d (16.0)	4.38 d (12.0)	4.73 d (15.0)	4.74 d (15.0)	5.36 s	4.75 dd (16.0, 2.0)
17	2.32 q (7.0)	2.32 q (7.0)	2.28 q (7.0)	2.31 q (7.0)	2.30 q (7.0)	2.30 q (7.0)	2.79 q (7.0)	2.46 q (7.0)
18	1.14 d (7.0)	1.14 d (7.0)	1.14 d (7.0)	1.16 d (7.0)	1.15 d (7.0)	1.16 d (7.0)	1.39 d (7.0)	1.12 d (7.0)
20	3.53 d (2.5)	3.54 d (3.0)	3.52 d (2.0)	3.53 d (2.5)	3.50 d (2.5)	3.49 d (2.0)	2.82 d (3.0)	4.98 s
	2.79 d (2.5)	2.79 d (3.0)	2.79 d (2.0)	2.78 d (2.5)	2.77 d (2.5)	2.76 d (2.0)	2.52 d (3.0)	4.86 s
Acetate methyls	2.18 s	2.19 s	2.18 s	2.19 s	2.18 s	2.18 s	2.32 s	2.25 s
	2.09 s	2.02 s	2.11 s	2.06 s	2.06 s	2.16 s	2.05 s	2.05 s
	1.95 s	1.96 s	1.94 s			2.05 s	2.03 s	1.98 s
							2.00 s	1.95 s
Isovalerate								
a	2.24 m (2H)	2.25 m (2H)	2.23 m (2H)	2.31 m (2H)	2.28 m (2H)	2.26 m (2H)		2.27 m (2H)
	2.11 m (1H)	2.12 m (1H)	2.11 m (1H)	2.11 m (1H)	2.10 m (1H)	2.11 m (1H)		2.12 m (1H)
	0.97 d (3H, 6.5)	0.98 d (3H, 6.5)	0.98 d (3H, 6.5)	0.98 d (3H, 6.5)	0.97 d (3H, 6.5)	0.98 d (3H, 6.5)		0.98 d (3H, 7.0)
	0.94 d (3H, 6.5)	0.96 d (3H, 6.5)	0.96 d (3H, 6.5)	0.96 d (3H, 6.5)	0.96 d (3H, 6.5)	0.96 d (3H, 6.5)		0.97 d (3H, 7.0)
b			2.15 m (2H)		2.29 m (2H)			
			2.10 m (1H)		2.11 m (1H)			
			0.90 d (3H, 6.5)		0.97 d (3H, 6.5)			
			0.88 d (3H, 6.5)		0.96 d (3H, 6.5)			
OCH ₃	3.45 s (3H)	3.45 s (3H)						

Table 4
¹³C NMR (125 MHz) spectral data of compounds **9–16** in CDCl₃

Position	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	47.2, C	47.2, C	47.1, C	47.3, C	47.5, C	47.4, C	46.7, C	47.4, C
2	74.4, CH	74.3, CH	74.5, CH	75.1, CH	75.1, CH	75.2, CH	72.6, CH	72.0, CH
3	131.7, CH	131.7, CH	132.5, CH	131.8, CH	132.4, CH	132.4, CH	63.7, CH	38.2, C
4	128.2, CH	128.3, CH	127.5, CH	127.8, CH	127.2, CH	127.2, CH	78.9, CH	69.2, CH
5	141.6, C	141.5, C	140.0, C	139.9, C	139.4, C	139.4, C	134.1, C	142.0, C
6	122.7, CH	122.8, CH	122.5, CH	126.7, CH	123.2, CH	122.3, CH	53.8, CH	121.9, CH
7	79.1, CH	79.0, CH	78.7, CH	78.8, CH	78.9, CH	79.0, CH	79.0, CH	76.4, CH
8	81.2, C	81.0, C	81.2, C	81.3, C	81.2, C	81.2, C	82.9, C	83.2, C
9	64.1, CH	64.1, CH	64.1, CH	64.0, CH	64.2, CH	64.2, CH	70.7, CH	70.9, CH
10	32.9, CH	32.9, CH	32.8, CH	30.7, CH	30.6, CH	30.6, CH	36.3, CH	42.3, CH
11	59.1, C	59.1, C	59.2, C	60.4, C	60.4, C	60.4, C	56.4, C	151.0, C
12	73.0, CH	72.5, CH	73.0, CH	76.0, CH	75.9, CH	75.9, CH	73.6, CH	25.6, CH ₂
13	29.0, CH ₂	28.8, CH ₂	29.0, CH ₂	67.8, CH	67.9, CH	68.2, CH	28.8, CH ₂	27.6, CH ₂
14	73.2, CH	73.7, CH	73.1, CH	77.1, CH	76.9, CH	77.1, CH	73.2, CH	73.2, CH
15	14.3, CH ₃	14.1, CH ₃	14.1, CH ₃	13.7, CH ₃	13.7, CH ₃	13.7, CH ₃	15.2, CH ₃	15.2, CH ₃
16	72.3, CH ₂	72.4, CH ₂	62.9, CH ₂	46.1, CH ₂	63.5, CH ₂	63.5, CH ₂	119.7, CH ₂	65.5, CH ₂
17	44.2, CH	44.2, CH	44.2, CH	44.2, CH	44.2, CH	44.3, CH	49.5, CH	42.3, CH
18	6.38, CH ₃	6.33, CH ₃	6.30, CH ₃	6.36, CH ₃	6.36, CH ₃	6.36, CH ₃	7.01, CH ₃	6.48, CH ₃
19	175.6, C	175.5, C	175.4, C	175.2, C	175.5, C	175.5, C	174.1, C	175.8, C
20	49.2, CH ₂	49.1, CH ₂	49.0, CH ₂	48.6, CH ₂	48.5, CH ₂	48.4, CH ₂	50.1, CH ₂	112.9, CH ₂
Acetate methyls	21.6, CH ₃	21.6, CH ₃	21.5, CH ₃	21.5, CH ₃	21.5, CH ₃	21.5, CH ₃	21.1, CH ₃	21.9, CH ₃
	21.3, CH ₃	21.2, CH ₃	21.2, CH ₃	21.3, CH ₃	21.3, CH ₃	21.4, CH ₃	21.0, CH ₃	21.1, CH ₃
	21.2, CH ₃	21.1, CH ₃	21.1, CH ₃			21.2, CH ₃	20.9, CH ₃	21.0, CH ₃
							20.4, CH ₃	20.8, CH ₃
							20.3, CH ₃	
Acetate carbonyls	170.3, C	170.3, C	170.2, C	170.2, C	170.5, C	170.5, C	170.2, C	171.0, C
	170.0, C	170.0, C	170.1, C	170.2, C	170.2, C	170.3, C	169.9, C	170.8, C
	169.1, C	169.3, C	169.1, C			170.2, C	169.7, C	170.1, C
							169.4, C	169.4, C
							169.4, C	

(continued on next page)

Table 4 (continued)

Position	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Isovalerate									
a	172.0, C 43.1, CH ₂ 24.8, CH 22.6, CH ₃ 22.4, CH ₃	172.0, C 43.6, CH ₂ 25.6, CH 22.5, CH ₃ 22.4, CH ₃	172.3, C 43.3, CH ₂ 25.6, CH 22.3, CH ₃ 22.4, CH ₃	172.5, C 43.2, CH ₂ 25.7, CH 22.3, CH ₃ 22.2, CH ₃	172.6, C 43.3, CH ₂ 25.8, CH 22.3, CH ₃ 22.4, CH ₃	172.5, C 43.3, CH ₂ 25.7, CH 22.5, CH ₃ 22.4, CH ₃			171.9, C 43.1, CH ₂ 25.6, CH 22.5, CH ₃ 22.4, CH ₃
b			172.0, C 42.9, CH ₂ 24.8, CH 22.3, CH ₃ 22.4, CH ₃		172.5, C 43.2, CH ₂ 25.7, CH 22.3, CH ₃ 22.4, CH ₃				
OCH ₃	58.4, CH ₃	58.4, CH ₃							

NMR data indicated that **9** and **10** were isomers and exhibited significant variations in the ¹³C NMR chemical shifts for C-12 and C-14. Compared to **9**, C-12 was shifted upfield 0.5 ppm, while C-14 was shifted downfield 0.5 ppm, which supported that the isovalerate group at C-14 in **9** was located to C-12 in **10**. This assignment was confirmed by the HMBC correlations of H-12/H-2'/H-3' with the carbonyl group of the isovalerate, and correlation of H-20 with the C-12 (δ_C 72.4, d).

Dichotellide P (**11**) was obtained as a white amorphous powder, its molecular formula was C₃₆H₅₀O₁₄ based on its HRESIMS coupled with the NMR spectroscopic data. The NMR features of **11** were analogous to those of **9** with the exception that the methoxy group at C-16 in **9** was replaced by an isovalerate group, which was supported by the HMBC correlations of H-16 with the corresponding carbonyl group.

The molecular formula of dichotellide Q (**12**), C₂₉H₃₉ClO₁₂, was determined by its HRESIMS at m/z , 637.2035 [M+Na]⁺. The structure of **12** was closely related to **19** due to the close similarity of the NMR data. The distinction was ascribed to the substitutions of C-13 and C-16, namely, the replacement of a hydroxyl at C-16 and an acetate at C-13 in **19** by a chlorine atom and an isovalerate at C-13, respectively. This assignment was proved by the HMBC correlations of H-6/H-4 with C-16 (δ_C 46.1, t), and H-13/2'/3' with the carbonyl (δ_C 172.5, C-1') of an isovalerate group.

The HRESIMS and NMR data gave the molecular formula of dichotellide R (**13**) as C₃₄H₄₈O₁₄. A comparison of the NMR, UV, and IR data revealed that **13** differed from **12** only in the substitution at C-16, where an isovalerate group of **13** replaced a chlorine atom of the latter, which was supported by the additional signals for an isovalerate group and the HMBC correlations of H-16/2'/3' with the corresponding carbonyl carbon.

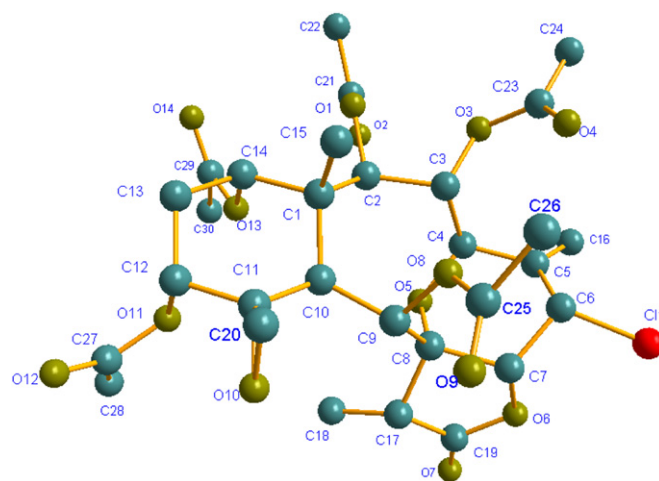
Dichotellide S (**14**) showed a molecular ion peak at m/z , 661.2430 [M+Na]⁺ in its HRESIMS, corresponding to the molecular formula of C₃₁H₄₂O₁₄. Its ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data (Tables 3 and 4) were resembled those of **19** with the only difference of an additional isovalerate group at C-16 because of the HMBC correlation of δ_H 5.05, 4.74 (each d, $J=15.0$ Hz, H-16) with the carbonyl group (δ_C 172.5, s).

Dichotellide T (**15**) was assigned the molecular formula of C₃₀H₃₇ClO₁₄ on the basis of its HRESIMS (m/z , 679.1877 [M+Na]⁺). The ESIMS spectrum of **15** showed a pair of peaks at m/z , 679/681 [M+Na]⁺ in approximate ratio of 3:1, indicating the presence of a chlorine atom in the molecule. The IR spectrum suggested the presence of hydroxyl (3480 cm⁻¹), a γ -lactone (1782 cm⁻¹), ester carbonyls (1744 cm⁻¹). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data (Tables 3 and 4) of **15** were similar to those of **20**, indicating that both bearing identical substituent, such as C4/8 ether bridge, exocyclic methylene at C-5, secondary acetates (C-2, C-3, C-9, and C-14), the same 6-chlorinated methine, and the same C-11/C-20 exocyclic epoxy. A minor difference between them lies on the appearance of an additional signal for an acetate group attached at C-

12 in **15**, which was supported by the HMBC correlations from H-12 (δ_H 4.57, s) to the carbonyl carbon (δ_C 169.9, s), C-10 (δ_C 36.3, d), C-11 (δ_C 56.4, s), and C-14 (δ_C 73.2, d), from H-20 to C-12 and C-11. Thus, the planar structure of **15** was established.

Comparison of ¹³C NMR chemical shifts of C-11 and C-20 of **15** with those of **1** (δ_C 58.1, s, C-11; 49.0, t, C-20) showed that the stereochemistry of C-11/C-20 exocyclic epoxy in **15** should be α -oriented, leading to the configuration of cyclohexane ring in a chair form. The relative configuration of the 13 chiral centers of **15** was deduced from its NOESY spectrum (Fig. 2). In the NOESY spectrum, NOE correlations between H-2 with H-10, H-9 with H-10, and Me-18 with H-9 and H-10 suggested α -configuration of H-2, H-9, H-10, and Me-18, while correlations of Me-15 with H-14/H-20/H-3, H-20 with H-12, and H-3 with H-6 indicated the β -orientation of H-6, H-20, H-12, H-14, and Me-15, with a corresponding correlation of H-17 with H-7 suggesting the β -orientation of the H-17 and H-7. Moreover, H-4 showed correlations with H-2 and one proton of C-16 methylene (δ_H 5.36, s, Ha-16), and a large coupling constant was found between H-4 and H-3 ($J=10.5$ Hz), implying that the dihedral angle between H-3 and H-4 is approximately 180° and H-4 has an α -orientation at C-4.

The absolute configuration of **15** was deduced by a single-crystal X-ray diffraction analysis (Fig. 3). The absolute configuration of C-6 was assigned as 6S, and all other chiral centers were unambiguously determined.

Fig. 3. Perspective drawing of the X-ray structure of dichotellide T (**15**).

Dichotellide U (**16**) was obtained as a colorless powder with the molecular formula of C₃₃H₄₆O₁₃ as determined by its positive HRESIMS (m/z , 673.2820 [M+Na]⁺). The IR spectrum suggested hydroxyl (3460 cm⁻¹), a γ -lactone (1776 cm⁻¹), ester carbonyls (1726 cm⁻¹) in the structure. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic

data (Tables 3 and 4) of **16** were closely related to those of **21**, and both bearing identical substituents, such as exocyclic methylene at C-11, secondary acetates (C-2, 4, 9, 14), and the same trisubstituted double bond at C-5/C-6. A small distinction was ascribed to the

of **16** was assigned as $1R^*$, $2S^*$, $4R^*$, $5E$, $7S^*$, $8R^*$, $9S^*$, $10S^*$, $14S^*$, and $17R^*$, and its structure was elucidated as shown in Fig. 4.

The structure of eighteen known compounds were determined to be juncenolide D (**17**),¹³ gemmacolide N (**18**),¹¹ juncin Q (**19**),¹⁴

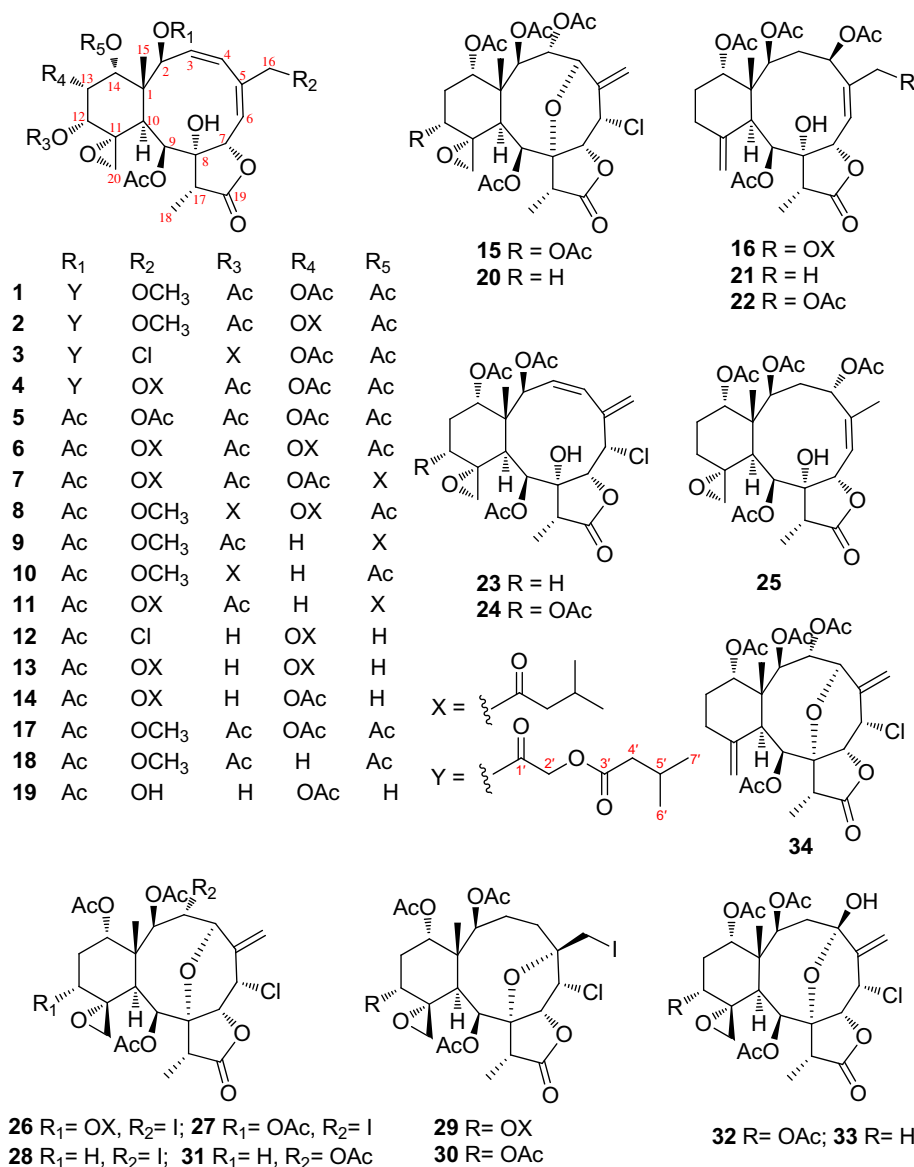


Fig. 4. The chemical structures of compounds 1–34.

presence of an additional signal for an isovalerate group attached at C-16 in **16**, as indicated by the ¹³C NMR resonance at δ_c 171.9 (s), 43.1 (t), 25.6 (d), 22.5 (q), 22.4 (q). This assignment was confirmed by the HMBC correlations from H-16 (δ_H 5.35, 4.75, each dd, $J=16.0$, 2.0 Hz) to the carbonyl carbon (δ_c 171.9, s), C-4 (δ_c 69.2, d), and C-6 (δ_c 121.9, d).

The relative stereochemistry of **16** was assigned by NOESY spectrum, in which NOE correlation between H-6 and H-16 led the assignment of *E* configuration of the trisubstituted double bond at C-5. The NOE correlations of H-2 with H-10/H-4, H-9 with H-10, and Me-18 with H-9 and H-10 indicated that H-2, H-4, H-9, H-10, and Me-18 were all in the α -configuration, while, correlations of Me-15 with H-14/H-17, and H-17 with H-7 suggested the β -orientation of H-7, H-14, and Me-15. Based on these data, the relative configuration

praeolide (**20**),¹⁵ juncellolide D (**21**),¹⁶ juncin Y (**22**),¹⁷ juncello-
 lide C (**23**),¹⁶ juncin D (**24**),¹⁸ (+)-11 α , 20 α -epoxyjuncellolide D
 (**25**),¹⁹ dichotellides A–E (**26–30**),⁹ praelolide (**31**),¹⁵ juncin P
 (**32**),¹⁴ juncin ZI (**33**),¹⁷ and juncellin A (**34**)¹⁹ by a comparison of
 the NMR spectroscopic data with those reported in the literature.

All the isolated briarane type diterpenoids (1–34) were evaluated for antifouling activity against the larval settlement of barnacle *B. amphitrite* according to literature procedures.²⁰ Ten of the thirty-four compounds tested completely inhibited the larval settlement of *B. amphitrite* at a concentration of 25.0 μ g/mL (nontoxic concentration). Compound **23** showed a significant inhibitory effect on larval settlement even at a concentration of 5.0 μ g/mL (none of the larvae settled). Further investigation revealed that compound **3**, **4**, **6–11**, **16**, and **23** had potent antifouling activities at nontoxic

concentrations with EC₅₀ values of 4.1, 1.82, 6.3, 7.6, 4.6, 1.2, 5.6, 0.79, 2.0, and 0.2 µg/mL, respectively (Table 5), which were lower than the standard requirement of an EC₅₀ of 25 µg/mL established by the U.S. Navy program as an efficacy level for natural antifoulants, indicating that these compounds are potential natural nontoxic antifouling agents.

Table 5
Antifouling activity

Compounds	EC ₅₀ (µg/mL)	LC ₅₀ /EC ₅₀
3	4.1	>24
4	1.82	>54.9
6	6.3	>16
7	7.6	>13
8	4.6	>11
9	1.2	>88
10	5.6	>18
11	0.79	>126.6
16	2.0	>48
23	0.2	>500

The above results indicated that compound **4**, **9**, **11**, **16**, and **23** showed better potent antifouling activity against the larval settlement of barnacle *B. amphitrite* with EC₅₀ values equal to or less than 2.0 µg/mL, especially for compound **23**, which was the most potent molecule, with small EC₅₀ values of 0.2 µg/mL, and present in relatively high amounts in the crude extract. Furthermore, the therapeutic ratio (LC₅₀/EC₅₀) is a way of expressing the effectiveness of the compound in relation to its toxicity, and the desired target ratio should be much greater than 15 for use in an antifouling coating. Compounds **4**, **9**, **11**, **16**, and **23** all have high therapeutic ratios (Table 5), suggesting that they might be useful as environmentally benign antifouling agents.

We also evaluated the newly isolated briaranes (**1–34**) in the cytotoxicity studies against four tumor cell lines. Only **28** showed marginal activity against SW1990 cells (IC₅₀=45.0 µM), while the rest of briaranes were not cytotoxic toward MCF-7, SW1990, HepG2, and H460 cells.

To the best of our knowledge, there have been only three reports on the briarane type analogues with potent antifouling activity against larval settlement: renillafoulin A–C (EC₅₀: 0.02–0.2 µg/mL),²¹ juncins R–Zl (EC₅₀: 0.004, 0.34, 2.65, 1.61, 3.77, 21.06, 0.004, 0.14, 1.47, and 0.51 µg/mL),¹⁷ juncin Zll, gemmacolide B, gemmacolide A, and juncellolide D (EC₅₀: 0.004, 0.005, 2.82, and 0.447 µg/mL).²² So far no clear structure–activity relationships have been established.³ This report describes additional briarane type diterpenoids with significant activity against barnacle *B. amphitrite* larvae (Table 5) and preliminary structure–activity relationship findings. In general, the derivatives with the diene moiety (**3**, **4**, **6–11**, and **23**) appear to be more potent than those with one double bond. There are some exceptions as the olefin function may not be the only factor to determine the activity. Based on our studies, we tentatively conclude the following structure–activity relationships: (1) lactone and diene are essential for the activity (one double bond derivative can also be potent, is diene essential for activity?). (2) The activity also depends on the number of the substitutes on the ten-membered ring. (3) Both the number and the location of double bonds on the lactone ring affect the potency. For example, exocyclic double bond increases the activity. (4) Esterification of the hydroxy on the cyclohexane ring enhances the activity, and the number of the substitutes of on the cyclohexane ring also influences the activity. (5) The iodinated and chlorinated derivatives have little impact on the activity. These observations should be valuable in the discovery of novel briarane derivatives with potent antifouling activity.

3. Experimental

3.1. General procedures

Optical rotation values were measured with a Perkin–Elmer 341 polarimeter. UV spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-2401PC spectrometer with KBr pellets. IR spectra were measured on JASCO FT/IR-480 plus spectrometers. NMR spectra were collected using Bruker 500 MHz NMR spectrometers with TMS as an internal standard at room temperature (δ in parts per million, J in Hertz). HRESIMS (including ESIMS) spectra were recorded on an Applied Biosystems Mariner 5140 spectrometer. The column chromatography was applied on the Büchi Sepacore (C-615/605) system. All solvents used were of analytical grade (Tianjin Fuyu Chemical and Industry Factory). Silica gel and preparative TLC plates (20×20×0.04 cm) (Qingdao Mar. Chem. Ind. Co. Ltd.), Sephadex LH-20 gel (Pharmacia), and C₁₈ reverse-phased silica gel (150–200 mesh, Merck) were used for chromatography.

3.2. Animal material

The gorgonians *D. gemmacea* and *J. fragilis* were collected from Meishan Island, Hainan province of China in April 2009 (7–10 m depth) and identified by Professor Hui Huang, South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Voucher specimen (No. M090405 and M090408) have been deposited in the Key Laboratory of Marine Bio-resources Sustainable Utilization, South China Sea Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guangzhou, China.

3.3. Extraction and isolation

The fresh gorgonian *D. gemmacea* (ca. 4.0 kg) was exhaustively extracted with 95% EtOH twice, and CHCl₃/MeOH (1:1) for one time at room temperature. After evaporation of the solvent in vacuum, the combined residue was suspended in H₂O and partitioned with EtOAc and *n*-BuOH to provide the EtOAc extract (18.0 g) and the *n*-BuOH extract (5.0 g). The EtOAc extract was chromatographed by silica gel column (CC) (300–400 mesh), eluting with a gradient of petroleum ether (PE)/Me₂CO (50:1–0:100), to obtain 15 fractions (F₁–F₁₅). Fraction F₈ (1.4 g) was divided into six subfractions (F₈₋₁–F₈₋₆) by medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC) eluting with PE/EtOAc (90:10–0:100). Compounds **5** (4.6 mg), **16** (6.0 mg), and **18** (13.0 mg) were obtained after CC over LH-20 (CHCl₃/MeOH, 1:1) followed by repeated Pre. TLC using CHCl₃/Me₂CO (10:1) or *n*-hexane/EtOAc (2:1) from subfractions F₈₋₂, F₈₋₅, and F₈₋₆, respectively. From fraction F₉ (1.0 g), **21** (16.0 mg), **25** (13.0 mg), and **15** (5.6 mg) were isolated after CC over LH-20 (CHCl₃/MeOH, 1:1) and Pre. TLC using CHCl₃/Me₂CO (9:1) or PE/EtOAc (3:2). Fraction F₁₀ (1.3 g) was subjected to CC over ODS (MeOH/H₂O, 30:70–100:0) and LH-20 (CHCl₃/MeOH, 1:1), followed by repeated Pre. TLC using CHCl₃/MeOH (20:1) and/or *n*-hexane/EtOAc (1:1) led to the isolation of **10** (7.0 mg), **4** (6.4 mg), **23** (49.0 mg), and **24** (11.0 mg). Fraction F₁₁ (1.6 g) was subjected to CC on silica, eluted with CHCl₃/Me₂CO (15:1–9:1) to give three subfractions (F₁₁₋₁–F₁₁₋₃), subfractions F₁₁₋₁ was subjected to CC on silica gel, eluting with *n*-hexane–EtOAc (2:1) to give **6** (7.5 mg); subfractions F₁₁₋₂ and F₁₁₋₃ were chromatographed over LH-20 eluted with CHCl₃/MeOH (1:1) then purified with semi-preparative reversed-phase HPLC using MeOH/H₂O (65:35) as a mobile phase to obtain **9** (6.7 mg), **12** (3.8 mg), and **3** (7.2 mg), and using MeOH/H₂O (60:40) as eluent to yield **1** (14.0 mg), **7** (5.6 mg), and **8** (6.0 mg). Similarly, **2** (5.5 mg), and **13** (3.8 mg) were isolated from Fraction F₁₂. Fraction F₁₃ (1.8 g) was subjected on LH-20 (MeOH), followed by silica gel CC and eluted with PE/EtOAc (5:3–1:1) to get five

subfractions (F₁₃₋₁–F₁₃₋₅). F₁₃₋₂ was further applied on silica gel CC and eluted using hexane/EtOAc (2:1) to afford **20** (21 mg) and **11** (5.0 mg). F₁₃₋₄ was subjected to silica gel CC, eluting with CHCl₃/Me₂CO (12:1) afforded **17** (8.0 mg). A further isolation of F₁₃₋₅ yielded **22** (10.5 mg) by Pre. TLC with CHCl₃/Me₂CO (10:1) as developer. Fraction F₁₄ (900 mg) was fractionalized into three subfractions (F₁₄₋₁–F₁₄₋₃), by silica gel CC, and eluted with a solvent system of CHCl₃/Me₂CO (10:1–8:1). F₁₄₋₁ was subjected to silica gel CC and eluted with *n*-hexane/EtOAc (3:2), to yield **14** (9.0 mg). F₁₄₋₃ was subjected to silica gel CC, eluted with PE/EtOAc (3:1), followed by Pre. TLC (CHCl₃/MeOH (20:1)) provided **19** (8.6 mg). Fr.₁₅ (1.2 g) was subjected on Sephadex LH-20 (MeOH), followed by silica gel CC, eluting with PE/EtOAc (5:3), to get five subfractions (Frs._{15a}–_{15e}). Fr. Db was further applied on silica gel CC, eluted using hexane/EtOAc, to afford compounds **26** (9.6 mg, 3:1) and **28** (4.0 mg, 2:1). Fr. Dc was subjected to silica gel CC, eluting with CHCl₃/Me₂CO (10:1), to afford **29** (5.6 mg). A further isolation of Fr. De yielded **30** (6.3 mg) by preparative thin layer chromatography (Pre. TLC, one plate, 20×20×0.05 cm) with PE/EtOAc (1:1, R_f 0.6) as developer. Fr. E (900 mg) was subjected to silica gel CC, eluting with CHCl₃/Me₂CO (from 10:1 to 8:1), to give four subfractions (E₁–E₄), Frs. E₂ and E₄ were chromatographed over Sephadex LH-20, eluting with CHCl₃/MeOH (1:1), respectively, followed by silica gel CC and eluted with *n*-hexane/EtOAc (2:1), to yield **31** (25 mg), **32** (11 mg) and **33** (7.8 mg), respectively. Fr. E₃ (83 mg) was subjected to silica gel CC, eluted with PE/EtOAc (3:2), followed by Pre. TLC (*n*-hexane/EtOAc 5:4, two plate, R_f 0.5) provided **27** (5.8 mg) and **34** (7.2 mg).

3.4. Characteristics of compounds

3.4.1. Dichotellide F (1). Colorless crystals (in acetone); $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –20.0 (c 0.6, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3433, 1793, 1745, 1730, 1595 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 1 and 2; ESIMS *m/z* 775 [M+Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m/z* 775.2805 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₆H₄₈O₁₇Na, 775.2789).

3.4.2. Dichotellide G (2). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –18.9 (c 0.56, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3453, 1790, 1753, 1736, 1457 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 1 and 2; ESIMS *m/z* 817 [M+Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m/z* 817.3297 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₉H₅₄O₁₇Na, 817.3259).

3.4.3. Dichotellide H (3). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –15.7 (c 0.6, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3538, 1771, 1743, 1377 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 1 and 2; ESIMS *m/z* 821.3 [M+Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m/z* 821.2786 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₈H₅₁ClO₁₆Na, 821.2673).

3.4.4. Dichotellide I (4). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –13.8 (c 0.7, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3446, 1784, 1739, 1377 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 845.3189 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₄₀H₅₄O₁₈Na, 845.3208).

3.4.5. Dichotellide J (5). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –22.5 (c 0.8, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3378, 1792, 1746, 1456 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 703.2201 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₂H₄₀O₁₆Na, 703.2214).

3.4.6. Dichotellide K (6). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –68.0 (c 0.5, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3339, 1782, 1738, 1375 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 787.3145 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₈H₅₂O₁₆Na, 787.3153).

3.4.7. Dichotellide L (7). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –68.0 (c 0.5, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3339, 1782, 1738, 1375 cm⁻¹; ¹H

and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 764.3263 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₈H₅₂O₁₆Na, 764.3255).

3.4.8. Dichotellide M (8). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –19.8 (c 0.9, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3358, 1775, 1738, 1256 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 759.3213 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₇H₅₂O₁₅Na, 759.3204).

3.4.9. Dichotellide N (9). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –10.0 (c 0.5, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3418, 1780, 1734, 1252 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 3 and 4; ESIMS *m/z* 659.4 [M+Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m/z* 659.2691 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₂H₄₄O₁₃Na, 659.2680).

3.4.10. Dichotellide O (10). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –20.5 (c 0.6, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3452, 1783, 1740, 1720 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 3 and 4; ESIMS *m/z* 659.4 [M+Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m/z* 659.2693 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₂H₄₄O₁₃Na, 659.2680).

3.4.11. Dichotellide P (11). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –32.6 (c 0.8, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3564, 1779, 1748, 1738, 1252 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 3 and 4; HRESIMS *m/z* 729.3118 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₆H₅₀O₁₄Na, 729.3098).

3.4.12. Dichotellide Q (12). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –9.3 (c 1.2, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3533, 1788, 1736, 1252 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 3 and 4; ESIMS *m/z* 637 [M+Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m/z* 637.2035 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₂₉H₃₉ClO₁₂Na, 637.2028).

3.4.13. Dichotellide R (13). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –22.4 (c 0.9, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3530, 1789, 1748, 1718, 1231 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 3 and 4; HRESIMS *m/z* 703.3041 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₄H₄₈O₁₄Na, 703.2942).

3.4.14. Dichotellide S (14). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –38.9 (c 0.35, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3447, 1785, 1766, 1728, 1225 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 3 and 4; HRESIMS *m/z* 661.2430 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₁H₄₂O₁₄Na, 661.2472).

3.4.15. Dichotellide T (15). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –31.3 (c 0.76, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3480, 1782, 1744, 1738, 1214 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 3 and 4; HRESIMS *m/z* 679.1877 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₀H₃₇ClO₁₄Na, 679.1770).

3.4.16. Dichotellide U (16). White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –16.0 (c 0.2, acetone); IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3460, 1776, 1726, 1216 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 500/125 MHz), see Tables 3 and 4; HRESIMS *m/z* 673.2820 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd for C₃₃H₄₆O₁₃Na, 673.2836).

3.5. X-ray crystallographic analysis of dichotellide T (15·(0.5-C₂H₅OH))

Colorless crystal of C₃₀H₃₇ClO₁₄·(0.5 C₂H₅OH) with the Flack parameter of –0.11 (7), *M* = 680.08. *P*212121, *a* = 12.2117(7) Å, *b* = 12.3115(7) Å, *c* = 22.5748(12) Å, *V* = 3394.0(3) Å³, *Z* = 4; crystal size 0.45×0.18×0.15 mm³. A total of 17,169 unique reflections (θ = 1.80–27.14°) were collected using graphite monochromated Mo *K* α radiation (λ = 0.71073 Å) on a Bruker Smart 1000 CCD diffractometer at –110 °C. Absorption corrections were done by semi-empirical from equivalents. The structure was solved using direct methods (SHELXL-97) and refined with Full-matrix least-squares on 5406 data, 0 restraints and 441 variable parameters. Final *R* indicates *R*₁ = 0.0475, *wR*₂ = 0.1020 [*I* > 2σ(*I*)]. Crystallographic data for the structure of **7** in this paper have been deposited in the Cambridge

Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication numbers CCDC 821961. Copies of the data can be obtained, free of charge, on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB21EZ, UK [fax: +44(0) 1223 336033 or e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk].

3.6. Antifouling bioassay

The antilarval-attachment activity was determined using cyprids of the barnacle *B. amphitrite* Darwin. Adults of *B. amphitrite* were collected from the intertidal zone in Hong Kong. After 12 h of exposure to air, hundreds of adults were placed in a container filled with 0.22 µm of filtered seawater (FSW) to induce the release of nauplii. The collected nauplii were reared to cyprid stage according to the method described by Thiagarajan et al.²⁰ When kept at 26–28 °C and fed with *Chaetoceros gracilis*, larvae developed to cyprids on the fourth day. Fresh cyprids were used in the tests. Larval settlement assays were performed using 24-well polystyrene plates. The tested samples were first dissolved in a small amount of DMSO and then diluted with filtered FSW to achieve final concentrations at 25, 10, 5, 2.5, 1.25, 0.625, 0.31, 0.15 µg/mL. About 15–20 competent larvae were added to each well with 1 mL of testing solution in three replicates, and wells containing larvae in FSW with DMSO only served as a positive control. Then the plates were incubated for 24–48 h at 25 °C. The effects of the test samples against biofouling were determined by examining the plates under a dissecting microscope to check for (1) attached larvae and (2) unattached larvae, and (3) any possible toxic effects of the treatments, such as death or paralysis of larvae, which were also recorded. The number of settled or metamorphosed larvae was expressed as a percentage of the total number of larvae added into each well. The EC₅₀ (inhibits 50% of settlement of *B. amphitrite* larvae in comparison with the control) was calculated by using the Probit software program with the mean of three repeated experiments using different batches of larvae.

3.7. Cytotoxicity

The inhibition effects of test compounds on proliferation of MCF-7 (human breast carcinoma), SW1990 (human pancreatic cancer), HepG2 (human hepatocellular carcinoma), and H460 (human nonsmall lung cancer) cells were determined by MTT method as described previously.⁹

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Supplementary data

This data include the ¹H and ¹³C NMR data of compounds **1–16**. Supplementary data related to this article can be found online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tet.2012.10.102>.

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