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# Verruculides A and B, two new protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B inhibitors from an Indonesian ascidian-derived *Penicillium* verruculosum



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### ABSTRACT

Two new merosesquiterpenes, verruculides A (1) and B (2), were isolated from a culture broth of the Indonesian ascidian-derived *Penicillium verruculosum* TPU1311, together with three known congeners, chrodrimanins A (3), B (4), and H (5). The structures of 1 and 2 were assigned on the basis of their spectroscopic data (1D and 2D NMR, HRMS, UV, CD, and IR). Compound 2 had a linear sesquiterpene moiety and was conside at to be the derivative of the biosynthetic precursor for 1 and 3-4 Compounds 1, 3, and 5 inhibited the activity of protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B (PTP1B) with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 8.4, 8.5, and 14.9 μM, respectively. Compound 2 showed 40% inhibition at 23.1 μM, w 31-4 was not active at 20.7 μM. © 2015 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Protein tyrosine phos 12 tase 1B (PTP1B) dephosphorylates the insulin receptors (IRs), insulin receptor substrate-1 (IRS-1) and in 4 in receptor substrate-2 (IRS-2) and, thus, is crucially involved in the negative regulation of the insulin signaling pathway. Recent 4 udies have also implicated PTP1B in the inhibition of the leptin signaling pathway. PTP1B is now considered to be a promising therapeutic target for insulin-resistant type 2 diabetes mellitus and obesity. Although a number of studies have been conducted on natural and synthetic PTP1B inhibitors in the last decade, a clinical application has not yet been achieved because of their low selectivities and activities against PTP1B. Therefore, the search for a new type of PTP1B inhibitor with more prominent properties is an important and interesting subject in natural product cheep try.

organisms such as ascidians, sponges, and microorganisms, we found that polybromodiphenyl ethers, dehydroeuryspongin, hyattellactones, and trichoketides markedly inhibited PTP1B.<sup>3</sup> Further investigations on the culture broth of the Indonesian

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2 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bmcl.2015.06.026 0960-894X/© 2015 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. ascidian-derived *Penicillium verruculosum* strain [25] 311, which exhibited strong inhibitory activity against PTP1B, led to the isolation of two new merosesquiterpenes, named verruculides A (1) and B (2) (Fig. 1), together with three known analog prodrimanins A (3), B (4), and H (5). We herein described fermentation, isolation, structure elucidation including absolute configurations, and biological properties of compounds 1 and 2.

The fungal strain TPU1311 was isolated from an ascidian *Polycarpa aurata* collected in Indonesia.<sup>5</sup> The 233 bp of the ITS1 rDNA sequence were identical with those of *Penicillium verruculosum*.

The strain TPU1311 was cultured in a seawater-based medium under agitation for 30 ays. The culture broth was treated with acetone and filtered. The filtrate was evaporated to remove acetone 23. the aqueous residue was extracted with EtOAc. The EtOAc ext 29 was subjected to ODS column chromatography followed by preparative HPLC to give compounds 1–5. Compounds 3–5 were identified as chrodrimanins A (3), B (4), and H (5), respectively, by comparing their spectroscopic data those of the 36 ported values.

The molecular formula of compound  $\mathbf{1}^{11}$  was deduced as  $C_{25}H_{30}O_5$  from HREIMS  $(m/z\ 410.2087\ [M]^*,\ \Delta=0.6\ mmu)$  and

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Figure 1. Structures of compounds 1-5 produced by Penicillium verruculosum

NMR data (Table 1). The  $^1$ H NMR and UV spectra of 1 resembled those of chrodrimanin A (3). The difference in the molecular formulae of 1 and 3 was  $O_2$  (32 34). Two oxygenated sp³ methine signals at  $\delta$  4.64 and 4.19 in the  $^1$ H NMR spectrum of 3 were not detected in that of 1. Therefore, we \$17 ulated that compound 1 was a dideoxy derivative of 3. The  $^1$ H- $^1$ H COSY spectrum of 1 revealed the presence of four partial structures, as indicated by the bold blue lines in Figure 2a. These partial structures and missing links were connected by an analysis of the HMBC data for 1, as

Table 1  $^{13}$ C (100 MHz) and  $^{1}$ H (400 MHz) NMR data for 1 and 2 (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)

Position		1	2	
	$\delta_{C}$	δ <sub>H</sub> (J in Hz)	$\delta_{C}$	δ <sub>H</sub> (J in Hz)
1	155.4	7.21 d (10.5)	24.4	3.22 d (6.3)
2	127.7	5.98 d (10.5)	122.8	4.98 t (6.3)
3	204.3		135.9	
4	44.9		38.9	2.07 m
5	44.5	2.09 m	25.2	2.13 m
6	17.1	1.79 m	124.4	5.11 t (6.4)
7	35.9	2.11 m	134.8	28
8	78.0		36.4	2.03 m, 2.21 m
9	47.8	1.93 dd (14.0, 5.1)	29.2	1.42 m, 1.64 m
10	38.7		78.1	3.39 d (10.1)
11	22.2	(a) 2.51 dd (15.0, 14.0) (b) 2.61 dd (15.0, 5,1)	73.7	
12	23.4	1.27 s	23.5	1.20 s
13	21.2	1.15 s	26.5	1.24 s
14	27.5	1.17 s	16.1	1.58 s
15	28.1	1.30 s	15.9	1.71 s
1'	110.7		117.3	
2'	139.1		138.6	
3'	101.8		101.9	
4'	162.5		162.8	
5'	103.4	6.30 s	101.9	6.31 s
6'	160.0		161.9	
7'	31.9	(a) 2.89 dd (16.0, 3.4)	32.1	(a) 2.72 dd (16.5, 11.3)
		(b) 2.75 dd (16.0, 14.0)		(b) 2.97 dd (16.5, 3.1)
8'	74.6	4.65 m	74.8	4.61 m
9'	21.0	1.57 d (6.3)	20.9	1.52 d (6.4)
10'	170.0		170.4	
4'-OH		11.1 s		11.3 s

shown in Figure 2a. Thus, verruculide A (1) was assigned as the 7,7'-dideoxy derivative of chrodrimani(16)(3).

The absolute configurations at the C-5, C-8 (C-12), C-9, C-10 (C-15), and C-8' (C-9') positions of **1** may be identical to those of chrodrimanins<sup>4</sup> because compounds **1–5** were produced by the strain TPU1311 via the same biosynthetic pathway and compounds **1** and **4** had very similar Circular Dichroism (CD) spectra. Secondary 11 The configurations of the sesquiterpene moiety (C-1–C-15) were confirmed by the 1D NOE difference experiments. Irradiation at  $\delta$  1.27 (H<sub>3</sub>-12), 1.15 (H<sub>3</sub>-13), 1.30 (H<sub>3</sub>-15), 1.93 (H-9), 2.51 (H-11a), and 2.61 (H-11 33 ave NOE enhancements to H-5 ( $\delta$  2.09)/H-11a, H<sub>3</sub>-15, H-9/H<sub>3</sub>-13, H-11b/H<sub>3</sub>-15, H<sub>3</sub>-12, and H-9, respectively (Fig. 2b). A systematic conformational analysis was performed with an MMFF94 force field utilizing Spartan'14<sup>12</sup> based on the NOE data for **1** (Fig. 2b). 13

Thus, the stereostructure of verruculide A (1) was assigned as shown in Figures 1 and (22).

Compound 2<sup>14</sup> was assigned the molecular formula, C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, from HRFABMS 32 /z 431.2443 [M-H]<sup>-</sup>,  $\Delta$  + 1.0 mmu] and NMR data (Table 1). The 39 and 13C NMR spectra (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of 2 showed 33 proton and 25 carbon signals, which were classified into five methyl, six sp<sup>3</sup> methylene, two sp<sup>3</sup> oxygenated methine, one sp<sup>3</sup> oxygenated quaternary, three sp2 methine, five sp2 quaternary, two sp<sup>2</sup> oxygenated quaternary, and one car 27 yl carbons by the analysis of HMQC and DEPT spectra. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR signals due to the 3,4-dihydroisocoumarin moieties (C-1'-C-10') in 1 and 2 were very similar to each other (Table 1). The presence of this moiety in 2 was corrmed by <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY data (C-7'-C-9') and HMBC correlations from H-5' ( $\delta$  6.31) to C-1' ( $\delta$  117.3), C-3' ( $\delta$ 101.9), C-4' ( $\delta$  162.8), and C-6' ( $\delta$  161.9), H<sub>2</sub>-7' ( $\delta$  2.72, 2.97) to C-1', C-2' ( $\delta$  138.6), and C-3', and from 4'-OH (15)11.3) to C-3', C-4', and C-5' ( $\delta$  101.9), as shown in Figure 3. 3,4-Dihydro-6,8dihydroxy-3-methylisocoumarin is known as 6-hydroxymelein and was isolated from fungi, 15 and CD data ascribed to the isocoumarin moiety in 2 ( $\Delta \varepsilon$  +0.73 at 308 nm and  $\Delta \varepsilon$  -3.46 at 270 nm) were very similar to those for (R)-6-hydroxymellein.<sup>15</sup> Therefore, the absolute configuration at the C-8' position in 2 was assigned as R. The planar struct 21 of the sesquiterpene moiety in 2 was revealed from <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY and HMBC data, as shown in Figure 3. The NOESY correlations between H-1 ( $\delta$ 3.22)/H<sub>3</sub>-15 (1.71), H-2 (4.98)/H<sub>2</sub>-4 (2.07), H-5 (2.13)/H<sub>3</sub>-14 (1.58), and H-6 (5.11)/H<sub>2</sub>-8 (2.03 and 2.21) assigned the orientations of the two double bonds as 2E and 6E. The connection betw 381 the sesquiterpene and isocoumarin moiet 43 was established by the HMBC correlations from  $H_2$ -1 ( $\delta$  3.22) to C-1', C-2', and C-6' and from H-2 to C-1'.

The absolute configuration at the substitution of the modified method  $^{16}$  has not yet been successful. The reactions of with (R)-(-)- and (S)-(+)- $\alpha$ -methoxy- $\alpha$ -(trifluoromethyl)phenylacetyl (MTPA) chlorides only gave di-MTPA es  $^{6}$ s at C- $^{4}$ ′ and C- $^{6}$ ′. More chemical transformations are needed to elucidate the absolute configuration at the C- $^{10}$  position in  $^{2}$ s.

Verruculide B (2) possessed a linear sesquiterpene moiety, and, therefore, compounds 1 and 3–5 would be biosynthesized via the 10,11-epoxy derivative of compound 2.

PTP1B has received a lot of attention as a target molecule for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity because of its negative later and leptin signaling cascades. Compounds 1–5 were evaluated for their inhibitory activities against PTP1B by the bioassay method described previously. Compounds 1, 3, and 5 inhibited PTP1B activity with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 8.4, 8.5, and 14.9 μM, respectively. On the other hand, compound 2 showed 40% inhibition at 23.1 μM, while 4 did not show apparent activity at 20.7 μM. The IC<sub>50</sub> value of oleanolic acid. To positive control, was 0.7 μM in the same experiment. A comparison

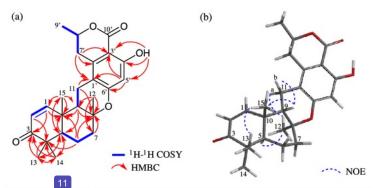
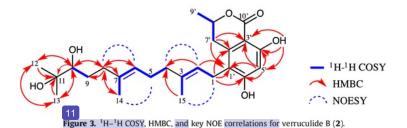


Figure 2. (a)  $^{1}H^{-1}H$  COSY and HMBC correlations and (b) Key NOE correlations for vertuculide A (1).



of their activities revealed that two OH groups at the C-7 and C-7' positions did not affect PTP1B activity, whereas the acetylation of the 4'-OH group significantly reduced it.

This is the first study to demonstrate that compounds in the chrodrimanin family exhibited inhibitory activities against PTP1B. Therefore, this study added a new type of compound to PTP1B inhibitors. The mechanism of action and effect to animal models will be the interesting future studies.

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- 5. The strain TPU1311 was isolated from an ascidian Polycarpa aurata collected in Manado, Indonesia, in December 2013. A small piece of the ascidian was minced with a mortar and pestle in approximately 1 mL of sterilized seawater, and the liquid was spread on an agar plate [PDA (BD, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA) containing 0.005% rose bengal and 0.01% kanamycin]. The plate was incubated at 25 °C for a week, and the strain TPU1311 grown on the plate was isolated and inoculated on a PDA plate. The strain TPU1311 was identified as Penicillium verruculosum by a comparison of the 233-bp ITS1 rDNA sequence (100% match).
- 6. The strain TPU1311 was inoculated into a 100-mL Erlenmeyer flask containing 50 mL of the seed medium (2.0% glucose, 0.50% polypeptone, 0.050% MgSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.20% yeast extract, 0.10% KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> and 0.10% agar in natural seawater; adjusted to pH 6.0 before sterilization). The flask was shaken reciprocally for 3 days at 25 °C and then transferred to the production medium (3.0% sucrose, 3.0% soluble starch, 1.0% malt extract, 0.30% Ebios (Asahi Food & Healthcare Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan), 0.50% KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, and 0.050% MgSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O in natural seawater; adjusted to pH 6.0 before sterilization). The production culture was carried out at 25 °C for 7 days under agitation.
- 7. The culture broth (2.4 L) was treated with 2.4 L of acetone after 7 days and filtered. The filtrate, after the evaporation of acetone, was extracted with EtOAc, and the extract was concentrated to yield a red brown oil (1.37 g). The extract was suspended in 30% CH<sub>3</sub>OH and adsorbed on an ODS column (100 g), and the column was eluted stepwise with 400 mL each of 30, 50, 70, 85, and 100% CH<sub>3</sub>OH in water into five fractions (Fr. 1–Fr. 5). A portion (140 mg) of the active Fr. 4 (85% CH<sub>3</sub>OH eluate, 366.3 mg) was separated by preparative HPLC [column; PEGASIL ODS SP100 (Senshu Scientific. Co. Ltd. Tokyo, Japan), 10 × 250 mm; solvent, 60% CH<sub>3</sub>CN; detection, UV at 210 nm; flow rate, 2.0 mL/min] to give compounds 1 (1.0 mg) and Fr. 4-1 (36.1 mg), which was purified by preparative HPLC [column; PEGASIL ODS SP100, 10 × 250 mm; solvent, 40% CH<sub>3</sub>CN; detection, UV at 210 nm; flow rate, 2.0 mL/min] to yield compounds 2 (2.2 mg) 3 (0.8 mg) 4 (6.1 mg) and 5 (0.7 mg).
- compounds **2** (2.2 mg), **3** (0.8 mg), **4** (6.1 mg), and **5** (0.7 mg).

  8. Chrodrimanin A (**3**): a colorless oil;  $[a]_0^8$  +3.9 (c 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> = 1:1); UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  m (log  $\varepsilon$ ) 220 (4.60), 271 (4.22), 313 (3.92); EIMS m/z 442 [M] $^+$ ; H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  11.1 (s, 1H), 7.38 (d, 1H, J = 10.2), 6.28 (s, 1H), 5.89 (d, 1H, J = 10.2), 5.67 (d, 1H, J = 6.3), 5.06 (d, 1H, J = 2.9), 4.63 (m, 2H), 4.02 (m, 1H), 3.13 (dd, 1H, J = 15.0, 5.1), 2.57 (t, 1H, J = 15.0), 2.16 (m, 3H), 1.67 (m, 1H), 1.43 (d, 3H, J = 6.3), 1.34 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H), 1.03 (s, 3H); 1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.1 (s, 1H), 7.22 (d, 1H, J = 10.2), 6.47 (s, 1H), 5.98 (d, 1H, J = 10.2), 4.64 (s, 1H), 4.62 (dq, 1H, J = 6.8, 1.8), 4.19 (dd, 1H, J = 9.0, 3.0), 3.16 (dd, 1H, J = 15.0, 5.0), 2.63 (t, 1H, J = 14.0, 3.0), 1.64 (d, 3H, J = 6.8), 1.42 (s, 3H), 1.17 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H);  $^{13}$ C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO- $d_6$ )  $\delta$  203.0, 169, 4, 160.7, 159.8, 157.9, 141.7, 125.9, 112.1, 103.4, 100.6, 79.38, 79.38, 77.6,
- 61.7, 44.0, 41.9, 41.7, 38.2, 27.5, 26.89, 26.89, 21.1, 21.0, 20.5, 16.0. 9. Chrodrimanin B (4): a colorless oil:  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  -45.2 (c 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> = 1:1); UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  nm (log  $\varepsilon$ ) 221 (4.38), 272 (3.99), 314 (3.67); CD (CH<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\lambda_{\text{externum}}$  nm 309 ( $\Delta\varepsilon$  +1.00), 271 ( $\Delta\varepsilon$  -12.7), 227 ( $\Delta\varepsilon$  +23.9), 212 ( $\Delta\varepsilon$  -22.2); EIMS m/Z 484 [M]\*;  $^1$ H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.1 (s, 1H), 7.15 (d, 1H, J = 10.2), 6.50

- (s, 1H), 6.16 (d, 1H, J = 2.0), 5.99 (d, 1H, J = 10.2), 4.71 (dq, 1H, J = 6.7, 2.0), 4.17 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.5, 2.8), 2.95 (dd, 1H, *J* = 15.6, 5.0), 2.60 (dd, 1H, *J* = 15.6, 15.0), 2.26 (dd, 1H, *J* = 15.0, 5.0), 2.26 (dd, 1H, *J* = 15.0, 5.0), 2.24 (m, 1H), 2.17 (dd, 1H, *J* = 14.0, 4.4), 2.16 (s, 3H), 1.85 (td, 1H, *J* = 14.0, 2.8), 1.48 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.7), 1.35 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 1.16 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.15 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 3H), 1.26 (s, 3H), 1.27 (s, 3 27.5, 26.6, 21.50, 21.45, 21.3, 20.7, 16.4.
- 10. Chrodrimanin H (5): a colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} 6.0$  (c 0.10, CH<sub>2</sub>0H/CHCl<sub>3</sub> = 1:1); UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{max}$  nm (log  $\varepsilon$ ) 220 (4.68), 273 (4.39), 311 (4.03); EIMS m/z 428 [M]\*; 

  <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  11.1 (s, 1H), 6.35 (s, 1H), 4.64 (m, 1H), 4.03 (t, 1H, 1 - 7.6), 2.85 (dd, 1H, *J* = 16.3, 3.2), 2.71 (dd, 1H, *J* = 16.3, 12.0), 2.65 (m, 1H), 2.40-2.50 (m, 3H), 2.17 (m, 1H), 2.03 (m, 2H), 1.95 (dd, 1H, *J* = 14.1, 2.4), 1.71 (m, 1H), 1.59 (m, 1H), 1.56 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.3), 1.37 (s, 3H), 1.12 (s, 3H), 1.11 (s, 3H), 1.05 (s, 3H); 1.3° C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) & 217.2, 170.0, 162.4, 158.7, 139.1, 109.9, 103.2, 1 102.3, 78.3, 74.7, 73.1, 46.9, 43.7, 40.9, 35.8, 33.6, 32.2, 31.8, 28.6, 28.2, 23.1, 22.8, 33.6, 33.21.0, 20.0, 19.6.
- 21.0, 20.0, 19.6. 1. Verruculide A (1): a colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_0^{20}$  -86.0 (c 0.12, CH<sub>3</sub>OH/CHCl<sub>3</sub> = 1:1); IR (KBr)  $v_{max}$  3437, 1668, 1651, 1475, 1384, 1260 cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{max}$  nm (log  $\varepsilon$ ) 219 (4.41), 273 (4.08), 309 (3.64); CD (CH<sub>3</sub>CN)  $\lambda_{extermum}$  nm 308 ( $\Delta\varepsilon$  +0.78), 272 ( $\Delta\varepsilon$  -4.26), 228 ( $\Delta\varepsilon$  +9.72), 210 ( $\Delta\varepsilon$  -17.4); EIMS m/z 410 [M]\*; HREIMS m/z

- 410.2087 ([M] $^+$ ; calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 410.2093);  $^1$ H and  $^{13}$ C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), see
- 12. Spartan'14: Wavefunction Inc: Irvine, CA, USA, 2014.
- The most stable conformer of verruculide A (1) was predicted using Spartan'14 by a preliminary conformational analysis with the MMFF94 force field followed by geometry optimization using the density functional theory (DFT) with the B3LYP functional and 6-31G(d) basis set.
- With the BSF1 trictional and G-51000 pass set with the BSF1 trictio NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>), see Table 1.
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