SECONDARY METABOLITES FROM MICROMONOSPORA SP. (G044)

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ABSTRACT

In the course of our screening program, the EtOAc extract of a *Micromonospora* sp. (strain G044) from sponge *Tethya aurantium* of the sea of Côtô - Thanh Lân exhibited antimicrobial activity against *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Bacillus cereus* and *Candida albicans*. In this paper, we reported the isolation and structural elucidation of six secondary metabolites Cyclo-(Pro-Trp) (1), Cyclo-(Pro-Met) (2), Cyclo-(Pro-Val) (4), N-acetyltryptamine (3), uridine (5), and 2-phenylacetic acid (6) from the cultures broth of *Micromonospora* sp. (strain G044). The structures of 1 - 6 were determined by analyses of MS and 2D NMR data. All compounds were evaluated for their antimicrobial activity against a panel of clinically significant microorganisms. Compound 1 inhibited *Escherichia coli* with a MIC value of $128 \mu g/ml$.

Keywords: Micromonospora sp., marine microorganisms, antimicrobial activity, Cyclo-(Pro-Trp), Cyclo-(Pro-Val).

1. INTRODUCTION

Sponges have been the focus of many studies as they have proved to be a rich source of biologically active secondary metabolites. Since the discovery of spongothymidine and spongouridine in the early 50's [1], a large number of biologically active compounds were isolated from marine sponges and their associated microorganisms [2]. The chemical diversity of sponge-derived products is remarkable and their biological activity ranges from anti-inflammatory, antitumour, immuno- or neurosuppressive, antiviral, antimalarial, antibiotic to antifouling [3]. However, many of the bioactive compounds found in sponges are, in fact, produced by their associated microbial communities [4 - 5]. In the course of our screening program, the EtOAc extract of a *Micromonospora* sp. (strain G044) from sponge of the sea of Côtô -Thanh Lân exhibited an inhibition activity against *Enterococcus faecalis, Bacillus cereus* and *Candida albicans*. In this paper, we reported the isolation and structural elucidation of six

secondary metabolites Cyclo-(Pro-Trp) (1), Cyclo-(Pro-Met) (2), Cyclo-(Pro-Val) (4), N-acetyltryptamine (3), uridine (5), and 2-phenylacetic acid (6) from the cultures broth of *Micromonospora* sp. (strain G044) (Figure 1). Compound 1 inhibited *Escherichia coli* with a MIC value of $128 \mu g/ml$.



Figure 1. Compounds (1-6) isolated from the culture broth of Micromonospora sp (G044 strain).

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. General Experimental procedures

ESIMS were recorded on an Agilent 1100 LC-MSD Trap spectrometer. NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker 500.13 MHz spectrometer operating at 125.76 MHz for ¹³C NMR, and at 500.13 MHz for ¹H NMR. ¹H chemical shifts were referenced to CDCl₃, DMSO- d_6 and CD₃OD at δ 7.27, 2.50 and 3.31 ppm, respectively, while the ¹³C chemical shifts were referenced to the central peak of at δ 77.1 (CDCl₃), 39.5 (DMSO- d_6), and 49.0 (CD₃OD). For HMBC experiments the delay (1/2J) was 70 ms. TLC silica gel Merk 60 F₂₅₄ was used as Thin-layer chromatography. Column chromatography (CC) was carried out using silica gel 40 - 63 µm or Sephadex LH-20.

2.2. Marine Materials

The samples of sponge *Tethya aurantium* (Pallas, 1767) were collected in Côtô - Thanh Lân in April 2014, and were identified by Prof. Do Cong Thung. Voucher specimens were deposited at the Institute of Marine Biochemistry and Institute of Marine Environment and Resources of the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, Hanoi, Vietnam.

2.3. Bacteria isolation, fermentation and identification

The sponge sample (1 g) was added to the 10 mL of sterile sea water in a conical flask. The flask was agitated for about one hour. The sponge was filtered and the filtrate was serially diluted to obtain 10^{-1} to 10^{-7} dilutions using the sterilized sea water. An aliquot of 100 µL of each dilution was spread on the media. Different media like starch, yeast extract, peptone agar (A1), glycerol asparagine agar (GA Agar), humic acid-B vitamin agar (HV Agar) and glucose yeast malt extract agar (GYM) were used for isolation of actinomycetes. The media containing 50 % of sterile sea water were supplemented with rifampicin (5 µg/mL) and nystatin (25 µg/mL) (Himedia Mumbai) to inhibit bacterial and fungal contamination, respectively. The petriplates were incubated upto 3 weeks at 28 °C. The isolated discrete colonies were observed and used for identification. The fermentation of *Micromonospora* sp (strain G044) was cultured in high-nutrient medium (30 g of instant ocean, 10 g of starch, 4 g of yeast, 2 g of peptone, 1 g of

calcium carbonate, 40 mg of iron sulfate, and 100 mg of potassium bromate) for 7 days at 28°C while shaking at 200 rpm. Sequencing 16S rRNA method was used for identification of strain G044. The 16S rRNA gene sequencing was carried by DNA Analyzer (ABI PRISM 3100, Applied Bioscience). Gene sequences were handled by BioEdit v.2.7.5. and compared with bacterial 16S rRNA sequences in GeneBank database by NBCI Blast program.

2.4. Extraction and isolation

The culture broth (30 L) of Micromonospora sp. (strain G044) was filtered, and then extracted with ethyl acetate (15 L x 5 times). The extract was concentrated in vacuo to give 2.0 g of ethyl acetate extract. The EtOAc residue was chromatographed on silica gel column, eluted with a solvent gradient of CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (0 to 80 % MeOH in CH₂Cl₂) to yield 18 fractions. Fraction 7 (0.16 g) was chromatographed on a silica gel CC, eluted with mixtures of CH₂Cl₂/acetone (0 to 50 % acetone in CH₂Cl₂), to give five subfractions. Subfraction 7.5 was subjected to CC on silica gel, eluted with the mixture of CH_2Cl_2 /acetone (95/5) to obtain 6 (6 mg). Fraction 11 (0.13 g) was subjected to Sephadex LH-20 CC (MeOH) to afford five subfractions. Subfraction 11.3 was purified by CC on silica gel, eluted with mixtures of CH_2Cl_2 (sectore (95/5) to afford 2 (5 mg). Subfraction 11.5 was purified by CC on silica gel, eluted with the mixture of CH₂Cl₂/EtOAc (6/4) to afford 3 (4 mg) and 1 (8 mg). Fraction 15 was subjected to Sephadex LH-20 CC (MeOH) to afford four subfractions, subfraction 15.2 was purified by CC on silica gel, eluted with mixtures of CH_2Cl_2 acetone (9/1) to afford 4 (6 mg). Fraction 18 was subjected to Sephadex LH-20 CC (MeOH) to afford seven subfractions. Subfraction 18.6 was purified by TLC preparative using mixtures of CH₂Cl₂/acetone/MeOH (9/1/0.1) to afford 5 (3 mg).

Cyclo-(Pro-Tryp) (1): White solid; ESI-MS: m/z 284.1409 [M-H]⁺; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (ppm) 1.00 (1H, m, H_a-5), 1.52 (1H, m, H_a-4), 1.72 (1H, m, H_b-4), 1.99 (1H, m, H_b-5); 3.27 (1H, m, H_a-3), 3.33 (1H, m, H-10), 3.48 (2H, m, H_b-3), 4.03 (1H, m, H-6), 4.43 (1H, m, H-9), 7.03 (1H, t, J= 8.0 Hz, H-5'), 7.11 (1H, t, J= 8.0 Hz, H-6'), 7.12 (1H, s, H-2'), 7.35 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-7'), 7.59 (1H, d, J = 8,0 Hz, H-4'); ¹³C-NMR (150 MHz, CD₃OD): $\delta_{\rm C}$ (ppm) 22.6 (C-4), 29.1 (C-10), 29.1 (C-5), 45.9 (C-3), 57.2 (C-9), 60.1 (C-6), 109.6 (C-3'), 112.3 (C-7'), 119.8 (C-4'), 120.0 (C-5'), 122.6 (C-6'), 125.6 (C-2'), 128.7 (C-3'a), 138.0 (C-7'a), 167.5 (C=O); 170.8 (C=O).

Cyclo-(Pro-Met) (2): White solid; ESI-MS: m/z 229.10 [M+H]⁺; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (ppm) 1.90 (1H, m, H_a-4), 2.10 (2H, m, CH₂-5), 2.11 (1H, m, H_b-4), 2.12 (3H, s, SC<u>H₃</u>), 2.37 (2H, m, CH₂-10), 2.68 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz, CH₂-11), 3.54 (1H, m, H_a-3), 3.61 (1H, m, H_b-3), 4.10 (1H, m, H-6), 4.42 (1H, m, H-9); ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta_{\rm C}$ (ppm) 15.3 (SCH₃); 22.7 (C-4), 28.2 (C-5), 28.9 (C-11), 30.3 (C-10), 45.5 (C-3), 54.6 (C-9), 59.0 (C-6), 165.4 (C=O), 170.3 (C=O).

2-(3-indolyl) ethylamine acetate (3): White solid; ESI-MS: m/z 203 [M+H]⁺; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (ppm) 1.93 (3H, s, CO<u>CH₃</u>), 2.98 (2H, t, J = 6.5 Hz, CH₂-1'), 3.60 (2H, q, J = 6.5 Hz, CH₂-2'), 7.04 (1H, d, J = 2.0 Hz, H-2), 7.13 (1H, td, J = 1.0, 8.0 Hz, H-5), 7.21 (1H, td, J = 1.0, 8.0 Hz, H-6), 7.38 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-7), 7.60 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-4), 8.16 (1H, br s, NH); ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta_{\rm C}$ (ppm) 23.4 (CO<u>C</u>H₃), 25.3 (C-1'), 39.8 (C-2'), 111.3 (C7), 113.0 (C-3), 118.7 (C-4), 119.5 (C-5), 122.0 (C-6), 122.3 (C-2), 127.4 (C-3a), 136.4 (C-7a), 170.2 (C=O).

Cyclo-(Pro-Val) (4): White solid; ESI-MS: m/z 197.1[M+H]⁺; ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (ppm) 0.95 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz, CH₃-11), 1.11 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz, CH₃-12), 1.94 - 2.05 (3H, m,

CH₂-4, H_a-5), 2.33 (1H, m, H_b-5), 2.50 (1H, m, H-10), 3.54 (2H, m, H-3), 4.05 (1H, m, H-6), 4.22 (1H, m, H-9); 13 C-NMR (125 MHz, CD₃OD): δ_{C} (ppm) 15.2 (C-11), 17.4 (C-12), 21.8 (C-4), 28.1 (C-5), 28.5 (C-10), 44.8 (C-3), 58.6 (C-9), 60.1 (C-6), 166.2 (C=O), 171.2 (C=O).

Uridine (5): White solid; ESI-MS (m/z): 245.1 [M+H]⁺. ¹H-NMR (500MHz, CD₃OD) δ (ppm) 3.75 (1H, dd, J = 3.0, 12.5 Hz, H_a-5), 3.86 (1H, dd, J = 2.5, 12.5 Hz, H- H_b-5); 4.03 (1H, m, H-4), 4.17 (1H, m, H-3), 4.20 (1H, m, H-2), 5.72 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-5), 5.92 (1H, d, J = 4.5 Hz, H-1), 8.02 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-6).

2-phenylacetic acid (6): White solid. ESI-MS: m/z 136 $[M]^+$. ¹H-NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta_{\rm H}$ (ppm) 3.69 (2H, s, CH₂-7); 7.30 - 7.39 (5H, m, Ph-H). ¹³C-NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): $\delta_{\rm C}$ (ppm) 41.4 (C-7), 127.2 (C-4), 128.6 (C-2 and C-6), 129.4 (C-3 and C-5), 133.8 (C-1), 175.2 (COOH).

2.5. Antimicrobial assay

Antimicrobial assays were carried out using *E. coli* (ATCC25922), *P. aeruginosa* (ATCC27853), *S. enterica* (ATCC12228), *E. faecalis* (ATCC13124), *S. aureus* (ATCC25923), *B. cereus* (ATCC13245), and *C. albicans* (ATCC1023). Stock solutions of samples were prepared in DMSO, and the antimicrobial assays were carried out in 96-well microtiter plates against the microbial strains (5×10^5 CFU/mL) using a modification of the published method [6]. After incubation for 24 h at 37 °C, the absorbance at 650 nm was measured using a microplate reader. Streptomycin and nystatin were used as reference compounds.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Compound 1 was isolated as a white solid. In its positive HRESI mass spectrum, the pseudomolecular ion was observed at m/z 284.1409 [M+H]⁺, suggesting a molecular formula of $C_{16}H_{19}N_3O_2$. Analyses of the ¹³C-NMR and DEPT spectra with the aid of the HSQC of 1 indicated the presence of 16 carbons, including four sp³ methylenes at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 22.6 (C-4), 29.1 (C-10), 29.1 (C-5), 45.9 (C-3), two sp³ methines at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 57.2 (C-9), 60.1 (C-6), eight aromatic carbons (five methines and three quaternary carbons) and two carbonyl carbons at δ_C 167.4 and 170.3. The ¹H-NMR spectrum of **1** indicated the presence of a 1,2-disubstituted benzene ring [$\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.03 (1H, t, J= 8.0 Hz, H-5'), 7.11 (1H, t, J= 8.0 Hz, H-6'), 7.35 (1H, d, J= 8.0 Hz, H-7'), 7.59 (1H, d, J= 8,0 Hz, H-4')], a singlet aromatic proton at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.12 (1H, s, H-2'), and ten protons in the aliphatic region. The chemical shifts of CH-6 (δ_C 60.7, δ_H 4.03), CH-9 (δ_C 57.2, δ_H 4.42), and CH₂-3 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 45.9, $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.27, 3.48) suggested their linkage to nitrogen. Analysis of COSY spectrum revealed the presence of three spin – spin coupling systems: CH_2 -3/ CH_2 -4/ CH_2 -5/CH-6; CH_2 -9/CH₂-10 and H-4'/H-5'/H-6'/H-7' (Figure 2). These observed data revealed that compound 1 was a cyclodipeptide compound, forming from a proline and tryptophan units. In the HMBC spectrum, the correlation of H-10 with C-2, C-3', C-9, C3a' and C-1 suggested that the indole ring was attached to C-10 (Figure 2). Detailed analysis of 2D NMR spectra, especially HMBC spectrum allowed determining the structure of 1 as Cyclo-(Pro-Trp). This cyclodipeptide was previously described [5, 7].



Figure 2. Selected COSY (—) and HMBC (^) correlations of **1**.

Compound **2** was obtained as a white amorphous solid. The ESI-MS indicated the pseudomolecular ion peak at m/z 229.10 [M+H]⁺. The ¹H-NMR spectrum of **2** displayed signals of a methyl groups at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.12 (3H, s, SCH₃) and signals of 12 aliphatic protons ranging from 1.90 to 4.42 ppm. Analysis of the ¹³C NMR and DEPT spectra of **2** revealed the presence of 10 carbons, including one methyl groups at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 15.3 (SCH₃), two methines at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 54.6 (C-9), 59.0 (C-6), five methylenes at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 22.7 (C-4), 28.2 (C-5), 28.9 (C-11), 30.3 (C-10), 45.5 (C-3), and two carbonyl at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 165.4 (C=O) and 170.3 (C=O). The chemical shifts of CH-6 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 59.0, $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.10), CH-9 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 54.6, $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.42) and CH₂-3 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 45.5, $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.54 and 3.61) suggested their linkage to nitrogen atoms. Detailed analysis of the NMR suggested the structure of **2** which was a cyclodipeptide compound, forming from a proline and methionine units. Complete analysis of the NMR spectra and comparison with reported NMR data indicated that compound **2** was Cyclo-(Pro-Met) [8].

Compound **3** was isolated as a white solid. In its positive ESI mass spectrum, the pseudomolecular ion was observed at m/z 203 [M+H]⁺. In the ¹H-NMR spectrum, the presence of a 1,2disubstituted benzene ring [$\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.13 (1H, td, J = 1.0, 8.0 Hz, H-5), 7.21 (1H, td, J = 1.0, 8.0 Hz, H-6), 7.38 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-7), 7.60 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-4)], and a singlet aromatic proton at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.04 (1H, d, J = 2.0 Hz, H-2) were noted. However, at the aliphatic region of in the ¹H-NMR of **3**, the signals of an acetyl at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.93, a triplet methylene group at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.98 and a quartet methylene group bonded with nitrogen at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.60 were observed. The ¹³C-NMR and DEPT spectra of **3** showed signals of the groups observed above with additional signals of a caboxyl amide group at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 170.2 and three quaternany carbone. Complete analysis of the NMR spectra and comparison with reported NMR data indicated that compound **3** was 2-(3-indolyl) ethylamine acetate [9].

Compound **4** was isolated as a white solid. The ESI mass spectrum of **1** presented a base peak at m/z 197.1 [M+H]⁺. In the ¹³C-NMR spectrum, the some signals of protons at the aliphatic region of **4** was close of **1**, including one methylene group attached to nitrogen at δ_C 44.8 (C-3), 2 methine sp³ groups bonded with nitrogen at δ_C 58.6 (C-9) and δ_C 60.1 (C- 6), two carbonyl amide groups at δ_C 166.2 (C=O); 171.2 (C=O) and two methylen groups at δ_C 21.8 (C-4), 28.1 (C-5). The difference between two compounds was the presence of a -CH(CH₃)₂ moiety of **4** instead of a indole ring of compound **1**, this observation was based on ¹H-NMR spectra, the signals of two doublet methyl groups at 0.95 (3H, d, *J*=6.8 Hz, CH₃-11), 1.11 (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, CH₃-12) and a methine group at 2.50 (1H, m, H-10) instead of the indol ring signals of **1**. These results suggested **4** belonging to a diketopiperazine compound. NMR-data comparison with those previously reported defined compound **4** to be identical with Cyclo-(Pro-Val) [10-11]. Compound **5** was obtained as a white solid. The ESI mass spectrum of **5** showed a base peak at m/z 245.1 [M+H]⁺. In the ¹H-NMR, compound **5** displayed signals of two olefin protons at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.72 (1H, d, J= 8.0 Hz, H-5), 8.02 (1H, d, J= 8.0 Hz, H-6) and a set of the protons of arabionoside sugar moiety at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.75 (1H, dd, J=3.0, 12.5 Hz, H_a-**5**], 3.86 (1H, dd, J = 2.5, 12.5 Hz, H_b-**5**]; 4.03 (1H, m, H-4]; 4.17 (1H, m, H-3]; 4.20 (1H, m, H-2]; 5.92 (1H, d, J = 4.5 Hz, H-1]). Comparison of the ¹H-NMR spectrum and TLC of **5** with uridine which was available in our laboratory revealed their similarity. Thus, **5** was determined as uridine [12].

Compound **6** was isolated as a white solid. The ESI mass spectrum of **6** presented a base peak at m/z 138 $[M+H]^+$. In the ¹H-NMR, compound **6** displayed signals of 5 aromatic protons at δ_H 7.30-7.39 (5H, m, Ph-H), one singlet methylene at δ_H 3.59 (CH₂-7'). The ¹³C-NMR and DEPT spectra of **2** indicated the presence of a phenyl ring at δ_C 127.2-133.8, one methylene group at δ_C 41.4 (C-7) and a carbonyl group at δ_C 175.2. Complete analysis of NMR spectra and comparison with the data reported in the literature allowed determining the structure of **6** to be 2-phenylacetic acid [13].

All the isolates were evaluated for their antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli* (ATCC25922), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC27853), *Salmonella enterica* (ATCC12228), *Enterococcus faecalis* (ATCC13124), *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC25923), *Bacillus cereus* (ATCC13245), and antifungal activity against *Candida albicans* (ATCC1023). Compounds **1** selectively inhibited *E. coli* with MIC value of 128 μ g/mL, in comparison with the reference compound, streptomycin (MIC: 32 μ g/mL).

4. CONCLUSION

Six secondary metabolites Cyclo-(Pro-Trp) (1), Cyclo-(Pro-Met) (2), Cyclo-(Pro-Val) (4), N-acetyltryptamine (3), uridine (5), and 2-phenylacetic acid (6) were isolated from the cultures broth of *Micromonospora* sp. (strain G044). Compound 1 inhibited *Escherichia coli* with a MIC value of 128 μg/ml.

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