# Terrein and Butyrolacton VII, Antibiotically Active Compounds from Symbiotic Fungus Aspergillus Terreus Isolated from Ascidian Didemnum Molle

Robert A Bara¹, Calvyn Sondak¹, Fitje Losung¹, Remmy E Mangindaan¹, Jimmy Posangi², Stefan Kehraus³, Alexander Bogdanov³, Ekaterina Egorova³ and Gabrielle Koenig³

¹Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Sam Ratulangi University, Indonesia
²Faculty of Medicine, Sam Ratulangi University Jl. Kampus Bahu, Indonesia
³Institute for Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Bonn, Germany

Received: September 17, 2018; Published: October 05, 2018

*Corresponding author: Robert A Bara, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Sam Ratulangi University, Indonesia

## Abstract

We performed the study of secondary metabolites from endophytic fungus Aspergillus terreus. The fungus was isolated from the ascidian Didemnum molle which grow in the Malalayang waters, North Sulawesi. Chemical investigation of extracts from Biomaltagar found compounds from lactone groups namely Terrein and Butyrolacton VII. The structure of the above compounds was characterized based on spectroscopic data including NMR, UV, IR and MS. Terrein and Butyrolacton VII showed a narrow spectrum antibacterial activity against Gram positive bacteria Bacillus megaterium DSM32T. So far there was no reports about the antibacterial activity of Butyrolacton VII.

## Introduction

The problem in controlling microorganism is increased spread of drug-resistant microorganisms. The resistance can be due to routinely use of certain antibiotics. The discovery of newly antibiotic is the essential step in order to keep the sustainability of effective antimicrobial medicine. Secondary metabolites proved to be interesting for drug development. In their natural habitat, these compounds are important for the marine organism itself. They play a crucial ecological role, shielding against potential invaders, predators, other competitors or prevent diseases caused by microorganisms. Accumulation of toxic secondary metabolites is the best strategy to fight against potential predators. These compounds show pronounced pharmacological activities and are interesting candidates for new drugs primarily in the area of cancer treatment and antibiotics.

Several natural products from the marine organisms show striking structural similarities to known metabolites of microbial origin, suggesting that microorganisms are at least involved in their biosynthesis or are in fact the true sources of these respective metabolites or host-symbiont modification Proksch et al. [1]. For example, arenastatin compound derived from Dysidea sponge share similarity structure to chryptophycin-1 which is a cyanobacterial metabolite Kobayashi et al. [2,3]. Recently, several new bioactive products were isolated and identified with unique core structures and potent biological activities Bara et al. [4-9]. As a part of our ongoing search for new bioactive secondary metabolites from terrestrial to marine endosymbiotic fungi, we investigated Aspergillus terreus that isolated from ascidians Didemnum molle growing in Bunaken National Park, Manado, Indonesia. The present study represents the first investigation of natural products produced by Aspergillus terreus isolated from marine ascidians D. molle.

## Experimental Sections

### Material

The Ascidians Didemnum molle (Figure 1) was collected from Pangalisang Water at Bunaken National Park Manado, Indonesia (1°35’58.11”N; 124°46’59.56”E) (Figure 2). The symbiotic fungus was isolated from inner tissue of related organism following the procedure describes below. A section of a part of D. molle was immersed in 70% of ethanol for 30 seconds and sliced under sterile condition. The section then was positioned on the surface of maltagar in a petridish. Chloramphenicol 200mg/L was added to the medium to avoid bacterial contamination. Negative control was applied to cross check the growth of epibiont fungi from external parts of the slices. The fungus started to grow from the section after 3-14 days of incubation at room temperature (Figure 3).

DNA Extraction

A piece of fungal mycelium (0.5 cm²) slashed from the agar dish and lyophilized in an Eppendorf (2 mL) followed by storing in thermafrost freezer (-80°C) and freeze dryer for 2 hours and overnight respectively. Total DNA extracted with the Mo Bio Ultraclean DNA extraction kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) from the samples. Briefly, 0.5 ml of sodium pyrophosphate solution was added to the sample and tungsten carbide beads (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) were added to the microtubes and cells were lysed by beating for 60 s in a cell disrupter (Hybaid Ribolyser, Hybaid, Middlesex, United Kingdom). DNA was purified according to the protocol provided by manufacturer (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany).

DNA Amplification and Sequencing

DNA amplification by PCR was then performed using Hot Star Taq Master Mix Taq polymerase (Qiagen) and the primer pair ITS1(F) and ITS4(R) ordered from Invitrogen White [10] in an iCycler thermocycler. In general, thermal condition followed by 15 mins at 95°C, followed by 30 cycles of 95°C for 1 min, 30 s at the annealing temperature (56°C) and 72°C for 1 min followed with final extension (72°C; 10 min). The specificity of amplicons was confirmed by running the samples on 1.2% agarose gel. The length of the amplicon was confirmed by reported articles and followed by purification of particular band. DNA sequencing is performed in order to identify the fungus strain based on its genomic content. The purified amplicon was submitted for sequencing to pt. Genetika, Jakarta, followed by BLAST search against EMBL database.

Antibacterial Assays

For antibacterial assays, all isolated compounds were tested their antibiotic property towards Bacillus megaterium DSM 32T and Escherichia coli DSM 498. Both isolates were originally from Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen (DSMZ), Braunschweig, Germany. The strains were refreshed in 10 ml slope nutrient agar in tube at 37°C temperature for overnight. The cultures were harvested and measured their density. The initial OD600 was set to 1 to reach concentration of 8 x 10⁸ cells/ml. The cultures were diluted until 8 x 10⁶ cells/ml prior used, 1 ml of the bacterial culture was subjected and seeded into the Luria Betani Agar (LB Agar) and after solidification, 20 μl of the ethanolic extracts of each sample were spotted onto the plates. Chloramphenicol (1 mg/ml) and 96% ethanol served as positive and negative controls, respectively. Plates were incubated at 37°C for 18 h and checked for inhibition zones.

Result and Discussion

Figure 5: Large scale cultures of Aspergillus terreus.

The fungus (strain designation N.18 Rhi) is kept in the authors' laboratory (G.K.). Furthermore, fungal culture was identified according to a molecular biological protocol by DNA amplification and sequencing of the ITS region as described previously. BLAST search revealed 98% similarity to Aspergillus terreus (MG669192.1). The sequence data has been submitted to GenBank with accession number MH910675. The related fungus was static cultivated in large scale following method described previously (Figure 4). Mycelia in rice and malt agar cultures of A. terreus were homogenized using an automatic shaker blender and exhaustively extracted with EtOAc. The crude extract of A. terreus was subjected to liquid-liquid fractionation using n-hexane: methanol and water to obtain n-hexane, methanol and water fractions. The methanol fractions were further injected into column chromatography using RP Grace instrumenttm chromatography system and continued by injected into HPLC to obtain compounds Terrein (1) and Butyrolacton VII (2) and furthermore the two non-
Compounds (1) and (2) were identified on the basis of the MS and NMR data as Terrein, Butyrolacton VII [11-13] tetradec-4-enoic acid and octadec-4-enoic acid were previously isolated from A. terreus The positive optical rotations of 1\(\alpha\)D 27 +54 (c_0.08, MeOH) was consistent with the literature data.1H NMR of Compound (1) (300 MHz, MeOD d-4), showed a doublet which integrated to three protons at \(\delta 1.89\) (d, \(J = 6.4\), 3H), evidenced the presence of a methyl group. Appearance of one broad singlet at \(\delta 4.64\) (s, 1H) and one doublet at \(\delta 6.05\) (d, \(J = 2.4\), 1H) integrated to one proton each showed the presence of two hydroxyl hydrogens. The isolated strain A. terreus itself is commonly endophytic in nature and frequently isolated from terrestrial sources (He et al. 2004) and marine environments Damare et al. [15]. In addition, the compound (1) that has been isolated from various strains of fungi such as Microspora Grove Pencillium phoma Dunn. A. terreus produces a variety of natural products, most notably the medically important HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor lovastatin Alberts et al. [16]. Additionally, a range of metabolites has been extracted from A. terreus cultures, among them terrein, citreoveridin, and butyrolactones [17,12,13]. 1H NMR (300 MHz, MeOD) of Compound (2) showed a triplet resonating at \(\delta 1.20\) ppm (t, \(J = 7.1\), 3H), two singlets resonating at \(\delta 1.56\) (s, 3H) and \(\delta 1.65\) (s, 3H) ppm which integrated to three protons, evidenced the presence of three methyl groups. Appearance of one aliphatic methine resonating at \(\delta 5.05\) ppm (t, \(J = 7.3\), 1H) and seven aromatic with six overlapping methines resonating at \(\delta 6.40\) (d, \(J = 1.6\), 1H), \(\delta 6.51\) (dt, \(J = 14.0, 5.0\), 2H; overlapping), \(\delta 6.86\) (d, \(J = 8.8\), 2H; overlapping), and \(\delta 7.59\) ppm (d, \(J = 8.8\), 2H; overlapping).

Comparison of 13C NMR shows perfectly match with available literature [11,13,14]. IR(KBr) \(\alpha\)max: 3,390; 3,194; 2,854; 1,686 (C=O); 1,631; 1,561; 1,441; 1,331; 1,115; 1,016 cm\(^{-1}\). Compound (1) was identified as 4, 5-Dihydroxy-3-(1-propenyl)-2-cyclopenten-1-one and the trade name of this compound is Terrein.

Analyzing of the coupling constant shows that methyl group resonating at \(\delta 1.20\) ppm is adjacent to methylene group resonating at \(\delta 4.24\) ppm that binds to ester group. The aliphatic methine resonating at \(\delta 3.06\) ppm is adjacent to methylene group resonating at \(\delta 5.05\) ppm (Figure 7A). 13C NMR (75 MHz, Acetone) shows compound (2) has 23 atom carbons resonating at \(\delta 171.2, 170.5, 159.4, 155.2, 139.7, 133.1, 132.5, 130.5, 129.9, 129.4, 128.5, 125.2, 123.7, 123.3, 116.7, 115.1, 87.0, 63.7, 39.7, 28.8, 26.1, 17.9, 14.3 ppm (Figure 7B). Comparison of 13C NMR shows perfectly match with available literatures of Butyrolacton VII [15,12]. DEPT data confirm that the Compound (2) has three methyles, three methylene's and eight methines (Figure 7C). The IR (KBr) \(\alpha\)max: 3,323; 2,977; 2,363; 1,702; 1,609 (C=O); 1,586; 1,518; 1,438; 1,383 (C-
References


