20-Nor-Isopimarane Epimers Produced by \textit{Aspergillus wentii} SD-310, a Fungal Strain Obtained from Deep Sea Sediment

Xiao-Dong Li \(^1\), Xin Li \(^{1,2,3}\), Xiao-Ming Li \(^{1,2,3}\), Gang-Ming Xu \(^{1,3}\), Yang Liu \(^1\) and Bin-Gui Wang \(^{1,2,3,*}\)

\(^1\) Key Laboratory of Experimental Marine Biology, Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanhai Road 7, Qingdao 266071, China; imnli@163.com (X.-D.L.); lixin871014@163.com (X.L.); lixmqdio@126.com (X.-M.L.); aericxu@gmail.com (G.-M.X.); buckuper@163.com (Y.L.)

\(^2\) Laboratory of Marine Biology and Biotechnology, Qingdao National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology, Wenhai Road 1, Qingdao 266237, China

\(^3\) Center for Ocean Mega-Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nanhai Road 7, Qingdao 266071, China

* Correspondence: wangbg@ms.qdio.ac.cn; Tel.: +86-532-8289-8553

Received: 9 October 2018; Accepted: 5 November 2018; Published: 9 November 2018

**Abstract:** Four new uncommon 20-nor-isopimarane diterpenoid epimers, aspewentins I−L (1−4), together with a new methylated derivative of 3, aspewentin M (5), were isolated from the deep sea sediment-derived fungus \textit{Aspergillus wentii} SD-310. The very similar structures of these epimers made the separation and purification procedures difficult. The structures of compounds 1−5 were illustrated based on spectroscopic analysis, and the absolute configurations of compounds 1−5 were unambiguously determined by the combination of NOESY, time-dependent density functional (TDDFT)-ECD calculations, and X-ray crystallographic analysis. These metabolites represented the rare examples of 20-nor-isopimarane analogues possessing a cyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-one moiety. These compounds were tested for antimicrobial activities against human and aquatic pathogenic bacteria, as well as plant-pathogenic fungi. While compounds 1 and 2 exhibited inhibitory activities against zoonotic pathogenic bacteria such as \textit{Escherichia coli}, \textit{Edwardsiella tarda}, \textit{Vibrio harveyi}, and \textit{V. parahaemolyticus}, compound 5 showed potent activity against the plant pathogen \textit{Fusarium graminearum}.

**Keywords:** sediment-derived fungus; \textit{Aspergillus wentii}; 20-nor-isopimarane epimers; antimicrobial activity

1. Introduction

\textit{Aspergillus wentii} is a biosynthetically talented fungal species with great potential to produce a wide range of structurally diversified secondary metabolites such as glucans \cite{1}, polyketides \cite{2,3}, and terpenoids \cite{4–6}. Some of these metabolites exhibit intriguing biological properties including antimicrobial properties \cite{2,6}, antioxidant properties \cite{3}, cytotoxicity against human cancer cell lines \cite{5}, and plant growth-inhibiting activities \cite{4}.

In the process of our excavation to identify new bioactive compounds from marine-derived fungi \cite{7–11}, the fungus \textit{A. wentii} SD-310, which was isolated from a deep sea sediment sample and which produces a series of 20-nor-isopimarane diterpenoids \cite{12–14}, was selected for further study. As a result, five new 20-nor-isopimarane diterpenoids—including a set of diastereoisomers, namely aspewentins I−L (1−4), and aspewentin M (5), a methylated derivative of 3 (Figure 1)—were isolated and characterized from the dynamical culture extract. The very similar structures of these epimers made the separation and purification procedures difficult. The mixture of compounds 1 and 2 as well as 3 and 4 displayed one dot on thin-layer chromatography (TLC) but was proven...
to contain two compounds by $^1$H and $^{13}$C NMR spectra. Compounds 1–4 were finally purified by semipreparative HPLC after many attempts at gradient optimization. The structures of the isolated compounds were established through detailed interpretation of the NMR and mass spectrometric data, and the absolute configurations were determined by the combination of NOESY, quantum chemical ECD calculations, and X-ray crystallographic analysis. Notably, compounds 1–5 represented the rare examples of 20-nor-isopimarane analogues possessing a cyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-one moiety at ring B. All of these compounds were examined for antimicrobial activities against human and aquatic pathogenic bacteria as well as plant-pathogenic fungi. Herein, details of the isolation, structure elucidation, and biological activities of compounds 1–5 are described.

![Figure 1](image1.png)

**Figure 1.** Structures of compounds 1–5.

### 2. Results and Discussion

#### 2.1. Structure Elucidation of the New Compounds

Compound 1, named as aspewentin I, was isolated as white amorphous powder. The molecular formula was determined to be C$_{19}$H$_{26}$O$_3$ by HRESIMS (Figure S1), requiring seven degrees of unsaturation. In the $^1$H NMR spectrum (Table 1), the signals for two doublets at $\delta_{H}$ 4.91 (d, $J = 10.9$ Hz, H$_{a}$-16) and 4.97 (d, $J = 17.6$ Hz, H$_{b}$-16) and one double doublet at $\delta_{H}$ 5.75 (dd, $J = 17.6$, 10.9 Hz, H-15) were indicative of a terminal vinyl moiety. Two doublets at $\delta_{H}$ 4.15 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, H-14) and 4.67 (d, $J = 4.8$ Hz, 14-OH) were attributable to a hydroxylated methine group. Meanwhile, three singlet methyls resonating at $\delta_{H}$ 0.99 (s, H-17), 1.34 (s, H-18), and 1.13 (s, H-19); one singlet for olefinic methine ($\delta_{H}$ 5.95, s, H-6); and a broad singlet for exchangeable protons ($\delta_{H}$ 5.24, brs, 10-OH) were also observed. The $^{13}$C NMR data (Table 2) revealed the presence of 19 carbon signals, and were classified into three methyls, six methylenes (with one olefinic), three methines (with one oxygenated and two olefinic), and seven quaternary carbons by DEPT and HSQC experiments. A detailed analysis of the 1D NMR data revealed that 1 might be a 14-hydroxylated derivative of aspewentin C, a 20-nor-isopimarane diterpenoid identified from the algicolicous strain *A. wentii* na-3 [6]. The observed HMBC correlations (Figure 2) from H-14 to C-7, C-9, and C-12 supported this conduction. On the basis of the above analysis, the planar structure of 1 was determined as shown in Figure 1.

![Figure 2](image2.png)

**Figure 2.** Key COSY (bold lines) and HMBC (red arrows) correlations for compounds 1–5.

The relative configuration of aspewentin I (1) was proposed through analysis of its NOESY data (Figure 3). The observed NOEs from the proton of 10-OH to H-11$\alpha$, from H-15 to H-11$\alpha$ and H-12$\alpha$, and from 12$\alpha$ to H-14 assigned them on the same face of the molecule, whereas NOEs from the proton of 14-OH to H-12$\beta$ and H3-17 located them on the other face (Figure 3). The absolute configuration of 1 was established by the time-dependent density functional (TDDFT)-ECD calculation in Gaussian 09 [15]. We obtained the minimum energy conformers by geometry optimization of each possible
isomer of 1, and then employed the TDDFT method at three different levels to get calculated ECD spectra of 1. The experimental ECD spectrum of 1 displayed excellent accordance with that calculated for (10R, 13R, 14R)-1 at all of the three levels, which allowed unambiguous assignment of its absolute configuration (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Key NOESY correlations (blue lines: β-orientation; red lines: α-orientation) for 1–5.

Figure 4. Experimental and calculated ECD spectra of compounds 1–5.

Table 1. 1H data of compounds 1–5 (500 MHz, J in Hz, measured in DMSO-d6).

| No. | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1α  | 1.14, m| 1.07, m| 1.04, m| 0.97, m| 1.10, m|
| 1β  | 2.17, d (4.8)| 2.15, m| 2.18, m| 2.08, m| 2.20, m|
| 2α  | 1.45, m| 1.45, m| 1.46, m| 1.42, m| 1.46, m|
| 2β  | 1.98, m| 1.99, m| 1.99, m| 1.97, m| 2.00, m|
| 3α  | 1.26, m| 1.24, m| 1.22, m| 1.24, m| 1.28, m|
| 3β  | 1.62, m| 1.60, m| 1.64, m| 1.60, m| 1.63, m|
| 6   | 5.95, s| 5.94, s| 5.96, s| 5.93, s| 5.99, s|
| 11α | 2.31, m| 2.20, m| 2.37, m| 2.13, m| 2.40, m|
| 11β | 2.40, m| 2.66, m| 2.39, m| 2.55, m| 2.42, m|
| 12α | 1.37, m| 1.38, m| 1.26, m| 1.40, m| 1.33, m|
| 12β | 1.69, m| 1.81, m| 1.83, m| 1.70, m| 1.82, m|
| 14  | 4.15, d (4.8)| 4.09, br s| 4.11, d (4.7)| 4.20, br s| 3.82, s|
Aspewentin J (2) was obtained as white amorphous powder. The molecular formula was also determined as C_{19}H_{26}O_{3}, the same as that of 1, based on HRESIMS data (Figure S9). The $^1$H, $^{13}$C, and DEPT NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) of 2 showed almost identical patterns to those of 1, with some minor variations for the chemical shifts of C-8, C-9, C-12, C-15, C-16, and C-17. Inspection of the NMR data suggested that 2 is a diastereomer of 1, epimeric at C-14. This was supported by the observed NOEs from the proton of 10-OH to H-11α and H$_3$-18, from H-12α to H-15, from H$_3$-17 to H-11β and H-14, and from H-12β to H-14 (Figure 3). The absolute configuration of 2 was also confirmed by ECD calculation, in which the experimental ECD spectrum of 2 matched well with that calculated for (10$^R$, 13$^R$, 14$^S$)-2.

The molecular formula of aspewentin K (3) was also determined to be C_{19}H_{26}O_{3}, the same as 1 and 2, on the basis of HRESIMS (Figure S17). Detailed analysis of the spectroscopic data (Tables 1 and 2) indicated that compound 3 was a diastereomer of 1 and 2. Some minor variations for the chemical shifts of C-1, C-5, and C-9, as in 2, suggested the epimeric at C-10. This was supported by the NOE correlations from H-14 to H-12β and H$_3$-17, from H$_3$-17 to H-11β, and from H-12α to H-15. The absolute configuration of 3 was also verified by TDDFT-ECD calculation. The experimental ECD spectrum of 3 was opposite to that of 1 and matched well with that calculated for (10$^S$, 13$^R$, 14$^S$)-3 (Figure 4).

Aspewentin L (4) was isolated as white amorphous powder. HRESIMS data (Figure S25) gave the molecular formula C_{19}H_{26}O_{3}, same as that of compounds 1–3. The general features of the $^1$H and $^{13}$C NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) resembled compound 1, and a minor difference was found in the chemical shifts of C-9, C-10, C-12, C-14, and C-17, suggesting that 4 was a diastereomer of 1. The relative configuration of 4 was assigned through analysis of NOESY data (Figure 3). The key NOE correlations from the proton of 10-OH to H-11β and H-12β indicated that these groups were on the same side of the molecule, while the NOEs from H-11α to H-15 and from H-14 to H-12α suggested they were on the other face. On the basis of the above evidence, the relative configuration of 4 was determined. The experimental ECD spectrum for 4 was in accordance with that calculated for (10$^S$, 13$^R$, 14$^R$)-4 (Figure 4).

### Table 2. $^{13}$C NMR data of compounds 1–5 (125 MHz, measured in DMSO-d$_6$).

| No. | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     |
|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1   | 38.9, CH$_2$ | 38.5, CH$_2$ | 38.9, CH$_2$ | 38.5, CH$_2$ | 39.1, CH$_2$ |
| 2   | 17.9, CH$_2$ | 17.9, CH$_2$ | 17.9, CH$_2$ | 17.8, CH$_2$ | 18.0, CH$_2$ |
| 3   | 42.4, CH$_2$ | 42.2, CH$_2$ | 42.4, CH$_2$ | 42.2, CH$_2$ | 42.3, CH$_2$ |
| 4   | 38.1, qC | 38.0, qC | 38.1, qC | 38.0, qC | 38.2, qC |
| 5   | 169.2, qC | 168.9, qC | 169.2, qC | 168.9, qC | 169.5, qC |
| 6   | 122.9, CH | 122.6, CH | 122.8, CH | 122.5, CH | 122.6, CH |
| 7   | 185.6, qC | 185.2, qC | 185.4, qC | 185.1, qC | 185.4, qC |
| 8   | 131.6, qC | 130.7, qC | 131.4, qC | 131.3, qC | 130.0, qC |
Aspewentin M (5) was obtained as a colorless crystal, and was found to have the molecular formula C20H28O3 on the basis of HRESIMS data (Figure S33), with a CH2 unit more than those of 1-4. The 1H and 13C NMR data for 5 (Tables 1 and 2) matched well with the data for 3. However, one of the two exchangeable protons at δH 4.55 (14-OMe) in 3 was not detected in 5, whereas the additional resonances for a methoxy group at δH 3.23 (s)/δC 59.4 (14-OMe) were shown in the NMR spectra of 5. Compared to compound 3, an upfield shift for H-14 and downfield shift for C-14 in 5 was detected. The above observation suggested that compound 5 was a 14-methoxylated derivative of 3. These inferences were further supported by the HMBC correlations from protons of 14-OMe to C-14 (Figure 2). The NOEs for 5 were consistent with the relative configuration as described for 3 (Figure 3). To confirm the absolute configuration of compound 5, we tried to crystallize it for an X-ray single crystallographic analysis. After many attempts, single crystals that were suitable for X-ray analysis were obtained through slow evaporation of a solution of 5 in MeOH. Once the X-ray crystallographic experiment was conducted, the absolute configuration of 5 was unambiguously assigned as (10S, 13R, 14S)-5 (Figure 5). The absolute configuration of 5 was further studied with the TDDFT-ECD calculation. The ECD spectrum of 5 exhibited positive Cotton Effect (CE) at 240 nm and weak negative CE at 355 nm, which was the same as with 3 (Figure 4). The experimental ECD spectrum of 5 also matched well with that of (10S, 13R, 14S)-5 (Figure 4), in accordance with the result of the X-ray.

![Figure 5. X-ray structure of compound 5.](Image)

2.2. Biological Activities of the Isolated Compounds

The obtained compounds 1-5 were tested for antimicrobial activities against seven zoonotic pathogenic bacteria and one plant-pathogenic fungus (Table 3). Compound 1 displayed activity against *E. coli* with MIC 32 μg/mL, while compounds 1 and 2 exhibited inhibitory activities against *E. tarda*, *V. harveyi*, and *V. parahaemolyticus*, each with an MIC value of 8.0 μg/mL. Compounds 1 and 2 were more active toward bacteria than compounds 3-5 were, suggesting that compounds with R absolute configuration at C-10 were more active than those that were S-configured. Moreover, compound
5 exhibited activity against the plant pathogen *F. graminearum* with an MIC value of 4.0 µg/mL, which was comparable to the positive control amphotericin B (MIC 4.0 µg/mL). These data indicated that the methoxylation at C-14 increased the activity against *F. graminearum* (5 vs. 1–4). Aspewentins I–M (1–5) were also evaluated for lethal activity against brine shrimp *Artemia salina*, but none of these compounds showed obvious activity (LD<sub>50</sub> > 20 µg/mL).

| Table 3. Antimicrobial activities of compounds 1–5 (MIC, µg/mL) <sup>a</sup>. |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Strains**                        | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | **Positive Control** |
| *Escherichia coli*                  |   | 32 | –  | –  | –  | 4.0          |
| *Aeromonas hydrophilia*             |   | –  | 16 | –  | –  | 4.0          |
| *Edwardsiella tarda*                |   | 8.0| 8.0| 32 | –  | 4.0          |
| *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*            |   | 32 | –  | –  | –  | 4.0          |
| *Vibrio anguillarum*                |   | –  | –  | 32 | –  | 4.0          |
| *Vibrio harveyi*                    |   | 8.0| 8.0| 32 | 32 | 0.5          |
| *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*           |   | 8.0| 8.0| –  | –  | 1.0          |
| *Fusarium graminearum*              |   | –  | –  | –  | –  | 1.0          |

<sup>a</sup> (–) = MIC > 32 µg/mL; <sup>b</sup> chloramphenicol as a positive control; <sup>c</sup> amphotericin B as a positive control.

### 3. Experimental Section

#### 3.1. General Experimental Procedures

Optical rotations were acquired on an Optical Activity AA-55 polarimeter (Optical Activity Ltd., Cambridgeshire, UK). UV spectra were measured on a PuXi TU-1810 UV–visible spectrophotometer (Shanghai Lengguang Technology Co. Ltd., Shanghai, China). ECD spectra were measured on a JASCO J-715 spectropolarimeter (JASCO, Tokyo, Japan), and 1D and 2D NMR spectra were obtained at 500 and 125 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C, respectively, on a Bruker Avance 500 MHz spectrometer (Bruker Biospin Group, Karlsruhe, Germany) with tetramethyl silane (TMS) as an internal standard. Mass spectra were generated on a VG Autospec 3000 (VG Instruments, London, UK) or an API QSTAR Pulsar 1 mass spectrometer (Applied Biosystems, Foster, Waltham, MA, USA). Analytical and semipreparative HPLC were performed using a Dionex HPLC system equipped with a P680 pump, an ASI-100 automated sample injector, and a UVD340U multiple wavelength detector controlled by Chromeleon software (version 6.80) (Dionex, Sunnyvale, CA, USA). Commercially available Si gel (200–300 mesh, Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co., Qingdao, China), Lobar LiChroprep RP-18 (40–63 µm, Merck, Darmstadt, Germany), and Sephadex LH-20 (Pharmacia, Pittsburgh, PA, USA) were used for open column chromatography. All solvents were distilled prior to use.

#### 3.2. Fungal Material

The isolation and identification of the fungal material were the same as those reported in our previous publications [12–14]. The strain was preserved at the Key Laboratory of Experimental Marine Biology, Institute of Oceanology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, with accession number SD-310.

#### 3.3. Fermentation

For the secondary metabolites study, the fungal strain was dynamically fermented in a 500 L fermentor preloaded with 300 L of sterilized liquid medium containing 50% (v/v) sea water collected from Hui Quan Bay (20% potato, 2% glucose, 0.5% peptone, and 0.3% yeast extract, pH 6.0) for 7 days at room temperature.
3.4. Extraction and Isolation

The whole fermented cultures were filtered to separate the broth from the mycelia. The former was extracted three times with EtOAc, while the latter was extracted three times with a mixture of acetone and H₂O (80:20, v/v). The acetone solution was evaporated under reduced pressure to afford an aqueous solution, which was then extracted with EtOAc three times. Because the TLC and HPLC profiles of the two EtOAc solutions from the broth and mycelia were almost identical, they were combined and concentrated under reduced pressure to give an extract (34.7 g) for further separation.

The organic extract was fractionated by vacuum liquid chromatography (VLC) on silica gel eluting with different solvents of increasing polarity from petroleum ether (PE) to MeOH to yield 10 fractions (Frs. 1–10) that were pooled based on TLC analysis. Fr. 3 (5.1 g), eluted with PE–EtOAc (5:1), was further purified by column chromatography (CC) on Sephadex LH-20 (MeOH), and by semipreparative HPLC (90% MeOH–H₂O, 3 mL/min) to afford 5 (10.8 mg, tR 23.5 min). Fr. 4 (4.5 g), eluted with CHCl₃–MeOH (20:1), was further purified by CC on silica gel, eluting with a PE-acetone gradient (from 10:1 to 1:1), to afford two subfractions (Fr. 4-1 and Fr. 4-2). Fr. 4-1 was further purified by semipreparative HPLC (90% MeOH–H₂O, 3 mL/min) to afford 2 (6.7 mg, tR 22.1 min). Fr. 4-2 was further purified by CC on Sephadex LH-20 (MeOH) and then purified by semipreparative HPLC (78% MeOH–H₂O, 3 mL/min) to obtain compounds 3 (5.9 mg, tR 20.1 min) and 4 (9.1 mg, tR 21.3 min).

Aspewentin I (1): Amorphous powder; [α]D³⁰ +51.4 (c 0.70, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λmax (log ε) 242 (3.55) nm; ECD (0.15 mg/mL, MeOH) λmax (Δε) 242 (−3.30), 349 (+0.17) nm; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Tables 1 and 2); ESIMS m/z 303 [M + H]⁺, 325 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 303.1953 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₁₉H₂₇O₅, 303.1955, ∆ 0.5 ppm), 325.1771 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₁₉H₂₆O₅Na, 325.1774, ∆ 0.9 ppm).

Aspewentin J (2): Amorphous powder; [α]D³⁰ −28.0 (c 0.50, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λmax (log ε) 248 (3.34) nm; ECD (0.33 mg/mL, MeOH) λmax (Δε) 248 (−1.05), 279 (+0.28), 351 (−0.18) nm; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Tables 1 and 2); ESIMS m/z 303 [M + H]⁺, 325 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 303.1955 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₁₉H₂₇O₅, 303.1955, Δ 0 ppm), 325.1773 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₁₉H₂₆O₅Na, 325.1774, Δ 0.3 ppm).

Aspewentin K (3): Amorphous powder; [α]D³⁰ +17.5 (c 0.57, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λmax (log ε) 244 (3.33) nm; ECD (0.28 mg/mL, MeOH) λmax (Δε) 244 (+1.79), 354 (−0.09) nm; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Tables 1 and 2); ESIMS m/z 303 [M + H]⁺, 325 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 303.1962 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₁₉H₂₇O₅, 303.1955, Δ 2.4 ppm), 325.1777 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₁₉H₂₆O₅Na, 325.1774, Δ 0.9 ppm).

Aspewentin L (4): Amorphous powder; [α]D³⁰ −38.0 (c 1.58, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λmax (log ε) 243 (3.49) nm; ECD (0.25 mg/mL, MeOH) λmax (Δε) 243 (+1.83), 281 (−0.59), 350 (+0.26) nm; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Tables 1 and 2); ESIMS m/z 303 [M + H]⁺, 325 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 303.1953 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₁₉H₂₇O₅, 303.1955, Δ 0.7 ppm), 325.1771 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₁₉H₂₆O₅Na, 325.1774, Δ 1.0 ppm).

Aspewentin M (5): Colorless single crystal (MeOH); mp 210–212 °C; [α]D³⁰ +11.1 (c 0.27, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λmax (log ε) 242 (2.05) nm; ECD (0.40 mg/mL, MeOH) λmax (Δε) 242 (+0.23), 268 (−0.03) nm; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Tables 1 and 2); ESIMS m/z 317 [M + H]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 317.2118 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₀H₂₀O₅, 317.2111, Δ 1.9 ppm).

3.5. Antimicrobial and Brine Shrimp Lethality Assays

Antimicrobial evaluation against seven zoonotic pathogenic bacteria between human and aquatic animals (E. coli QDIO-1, Aeromonas hydrophilia QDIO-3, E. tarda QDIO-4, Pseudomonas aeruginosa QDIO-6, V. anguillarum QDIO-8, V. harveyi QDIO-9, and V. parahaemolyticus QDIO-10), as well as one plant-pathogenic fungus (F. graminearum QDIO-13), were carried out with a microplate assay with three repetitions [16]. The pathogenic bacteria and aquatic pathogen strains were provided by the Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, while the plant pathogenic fungi strains were provided by Qingdao Agricultural University. Chloramphenicol and amphotericin B were used as...
positive controls against the bacteria and fungi, respectively. Evaluation of brine shrimp lethality against A. salina was performed as previously reported [17].

3.6. X-ray Crystallographic Analysis

A colorless crystal of compound 5 was obtained from a solution of MeOH. Crystallographic data were collected on an Agilent Xcalibur Eos Gemini CCD plate diffractometer (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA), equipped with graphite-monochromatic Cu Kα radiation (λ = 1.54178 Å) at 293(2) K [18]. The data were corrected for absorption by using the program SADABS [19]. The structure was solved through direct methods and subsequent difference Fourier synthesis and refined by full-matrix least-squares techniques with the SHELXTL software package (Version 6.10, Sheldrick G.M., University of Göttingen, Germany) [20]. All nonhydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. The H atoms belonging to C atoms were calculated theoretically, and those belonging to O atoms were determined by difference Fourier maps [21].

Crystal data of 5: C20H28O3; fw = 316.42; triclinic space group P1; unit cell dimensions a = 6.3265(8) Å; b = 7.5133(10) Å; c = 10.2029(14) Å; V = 447.63(10) Å3; α = 81.395(11); β = 72.765(12); γ = 75.880(11); Z = 1; d(calcd) = 1.174 mg·m−3; crystal dimensions 0.21 × 0.12 × 0.05 mm; μ = 0.610 mm−1; F(000) = 172. The 1769 measurements yielded 1317 independent reflections after equivalent data were averaged, and Lorentz and polarization corrections were applied. The final refinement gave R1 = 0.0432 and wR2 = 0.0926 [I > 2σ(I)]. The Flack parameter was 0.0(6) in the final refinement for all 1769 reflections, with 1317 Friedel pairs.

3.7. Computational Section

Conformational searches were performed via molecular mechanics using the MM+ method in HyperChem software (Version 8.0, Hypercube, Inc., Gainesville, FL, USA), and the geometries were further optimized at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) PCM/MeCN level via Gaussian 09 software (Version D.01; Gaussian, Inc.: Wallingford, CT, USA) [15] to give the energy-minimized conformers. Then, the optimized conformers were subjected to the calculations of ECD spectra using TDDFT at PBE0/TZVP, CAM-B3LYP/TZVP, and BH&HLYP/TZVP. Solvent effects of the MeCN solution were evaluated at the same DFT level using the SCRF/PCM method.

4. Conclusions

In summary, we have isolated and characterized five new compounds, aspewentins I–M (1–5), which are new members of 20-nor-isopimarane diterpenoids. These compounds contained the rare examples of 20-nor-isopimarane analogues possessing a cyclohexa-2,5-dien-1-one moiety. Compound 1, which may prove useful as an antifungal agent, exhibited potent antimicrobial activities against some plant pathogenic fungi. Compounds 1 and 2 showed inhibitions against zoonotic pathogenic bacteria between human and aquatic animals.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at http://www.mdpi.com/1660-3397/16/11/440/s1: HRESIMS, 1D and 2D NMR spectra, UVs, and ECDs of compounds 1–5, and the abbreviation list.

Author Contributions: X.-D.L. performed the experiments for the isolation, structure elucidation, and antimicrobial evaluation, and prepared the manuscript; X.L. contributed to the structure determination and ECD calculations; X.-M.L. performed the 1D and 2D NMR experiments; G.-M.X. performed the isolation and fermentation of A. wentii SD-310; Y.L. performed the fermentation of A. wentii SD-310; B.-G.W. supervised the research work and revised the manuscript.

Funding: This research was funded by the National Key R&D Program of China (2018YFC0310800), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (31700043), and the Aoshan Scientific and Technological Innovation Project of Qingdao National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology (No. 2016ASKJ14).

Acknowledgments: X.-D. Li and X. Li appreciate the China Postdoctoral Science Foundation (2016LH00033, 2017M612358, and 2017M612360) for project supporting. B.-G. Wang acknowledges the support of the Research Vessel KEXUE of the National Major Science and Technology Infrastructure from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (KEXUE2018G28) and the Taishan Scholar Project from Shandong Province.
Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

References and Note

1. Choma, A.; Wiater, A.; Komaniecka, I.; Paduch, R.; Pleszczyńska, M.; Szczodrak, J. Chemical characterization of a water insoluble (1→3)-α-D-glucan from an alkaline extract of Aspergillus wentii. Carbohydr. Polym. 2013, 91, 603–608. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

2. Sun, R.-R.; Miao, F.-P.; Zhang, J.; Wang, G.; Yin, X.-L.; Ji, N.-Y. Three new xanthone derivatives from an algicolous isolate of Aspergillus wentii. Magn. Reson. Chem. 2013, 51, 65–68. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

3. Li, X.; Li, X.-M.; Xu, G.-M.; Li, C.-S.; Wang, B.-G. Antioxidant metabolites from marine alga-derived fungus Aspergillus wentii EN-48. Phytochem. Lett. 2014, 7, 120–123. [CrossRef]

4. Dorner, J.W.; Cole, R.J.; Springer, J.P.; Cox, R.H.; Cutler, H.; Wicklow, D.T. Isolation and identification of two new bioactively active norditerpene di lactones from Aspergillus wentii. Phytochemistry 1980, 19, 1157–1161. [CrossRef]

5. Sun, H.-F.; Li, X.-M.; Meng, L.; Cui, C.-M.; Gao, S.-S.; Li, C.-S.; Huang, C.-G.; Wang, B.-G. Asperolides A–C, tetranorlabdane diterpenoids from the marine alga-derived endophytic fungus Aspergillus wentii EN-48. J. Nat. Prod. 2012, 75, 148–152. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

6. Miao, F.-P.; Liang, X.-R.; Liu, X.-H.; Ji, N.-Y. Aspewentins A–C, norditerpenes from a cryptic pathway in an algicolous strain of Aspergillus wentii. J. Nat. Prod. 2014, 77, 429–432. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

7. Li, X.-D.; Li, X.-M.; Xu, G.-M.; Zhang, P.; Wang, B.-G. Antimicrobial phenolic bisabolanes and related derivatives from Penicillium aculeatum SD-321, a deep sea sediment-derived fungus. J. Nat. Prod. 2015, 78, 844–849. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

8. Meng, L.-H.; Wang, C.-Y.; Mándi, A.; Li, X.-M.; Hu, X.-Y.; Kassack, M.-U.; Kurtán, T.; Wang, B.-G. Three diketopiperazine alkaloids with spirocyclic skeletons and one bisthiodiketopiperazine derivative from the mangrove-derived endophytic fungus Penicillium brocae MA-231. Org. Lett. 2016, 18, 5304–5307. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

9. Li, H.-L.; Li, X.-M.; Liu, H.; Meng, L.-H.; Wang, B.-G. Two new diphenylketones and a new xanthone from Talarnomyces islandicus EN-501, an endophytic fungus derived from the marine red alga Laurencia okamurai. Mar. Drugs 2016, 14, 223. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

10. Li, H.-L.; Xu, R.; Li, X.-M.; Yang, S.-Q.; Meng, L.-H.; Wang, B.-G. Simpterpenoid A, a meroterpenoid with a highly functionalized cyclohexadiene moiety featuring gem-propane-1,2-dione and methylformate groups, from the mangrove-derived Penicillium simplicissimum MA-332. Org. Lett. 2018, 20, 1465–1468. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

11. Yang, S.-Q.; Li, X.-M.; Li, X.; Chi, L.-P.; Wang, B.-G. Two new diketomorpholine derivatives and a new highly conjugated ergostane-type steroid from the marine algal-derived endophytic fungus Aspergillus alabamensis EN-547. Mar. Drugs 2018, 16, 114. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

12. Li, X.-D.; Li, X.-M.; Li, X.; Xu, G.-M.; Liu, Y.; Wang, B.-G. Aspewentins D–H, 20-nor-isopimarane derivatives from the deep sea sediment-derived fungus Aspergillus wentii SD-310. J. Nat. Prod. 2016, 79, 1347–1353. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

13. Li, X.; Li, X.-M.; Li, X.-D.; Xu, G.-M.; Liu, Y.; Wang, B.-G. 20-nor-isopimarane cycloethers from the deep-sea sediment-derived fungus Aspergillus wentii SD-310. RSC Adv. 2016, 6, 75981–75987. [CrossRef]

14. Li, X.; Li, X.-D.; Li, X.-M.; Xu, G.-M.; Liu, Y.; Wang, B.-G. Wentinoids A–F, six new isopimarane diterpenoids from Aspergillus wentii SD-310, a deep-sea sediment derived fungus. RSC Adv. 2017, 7, 4387–4394. [CrossRef]

15. Frisch, M.J.; Trucks, G.W.; Schlegel, H.B.; Scuseria, G.E.; Robb, M.A.; Cheeseman, J.R.; Scalmani, G.; Barone, V.; Mennucci, B.; Petersson, G.A.; et al. Gaussian 09; Revision D.01; Gaussian, Inc.: Wallingford, CT, USA, 2013.

16. Pierce, C.G.; Uppuluri, P.; Tristan, A.-R.; Wormley, F.-L., Jr.; Mowat, E.; Ramage, G.; Lopez-Ribot, J.-L. A simple and reproducible 96-well plate-based method for the formation of fungal biofilms and its application to antifungal susceptibility testing. Nat. Protoc. 2008, 3, 1494–1500. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

17. Du, F.-Y.; Zhang, P.; Li, X.-M.; Li, C.-S.; Cui, C.-M.; Wang, B.-G. Cyclohexadepsipeptides of the isaridin class from the marine-derived fungus Beauveria felnia EN-135. J. Nat. Prod. 2014, 77, 1164–1169. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
18. Crystallographic data of compound 5 have been deposited in the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as CCDC 1835494. These data can be obtained free of charge via http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/data/request/cif (or from the CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB21EZ, U.K.; fax: + 44-1223-336-033; e-mail: Deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

19. Sheldrick, G.M. SADABS, Software for Empirical Absorption Correction; University of Göttingen: Göttingen, Germany, 1996.

20. Sheldrick, G.M. SHELXTL, Structure Determination Software Programs; Bruker Analytical X-ray System Inc.: Madison, WI, USA, 1997.

21. Sheldrick, G.M. SHELXL-97 and SHELXS-97, Program for X-ray Crystal Structure Solution and Refinement; University of Göttingen: Göttingen, Germany, 1997.

© 2018 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).