Abstract: Seven new xanthones, diaporthones A–G (1–7), together with 13 known analogues, including five mono- (8–14) and six dimeric xanthones (15–20), were obtained from the ascidian-derived fungus *Diaporthe* sp. SYSU-MS4722. Their planar structures were established by extensive spectroscopic analyses, including 1D and 2D NMR and high-resolution mass spectrometry (HR-ESIMS). The absolute configurations of 1–7 were clearly identified by X-ray crystallographic analysis and calculation of the ECD Spectra. Compounds 15–20 showed significant anti-inflammatory activity with IC$_{50}$ values between 6.3 and 8.0 µM. In addition, dimeric xanthones (15–20) showed selective cytotoxicity against T98G cell lines with IC$_{50}$ values ranging from 19.5 to 78.0 µM.

Keywords: xanthones; ascidian-derived fungus; *Diaporthe* sp.; anti-glioma activity

1. Introduction

Glioma is a fatal disease of the central nervous system having an incidence rate of 3.20 per 100,000 people [1–3]. Due to limitations of the blood–brain barrier, only four drugs, including lomustine, carmustine, temozolomide, and bevacizumab, have been approved by FDA to treat glioma in the past four decades [4,5]. Temozolomide (TMZ) as the first-line therapy drug is used for the treatment of glioma; however, at least 50% of TMZ-treated patients and more than 90% of recurrent gliomas show no response to TMZ [6,7]. Thus, it is an urgent need to find more anti-glioma agents for the treatment of glioma. In recent years, anti-glioma molecules of marine origin have attracted many scientific research institutes or pharmaceutical companies’ attention. For example, marizomib (salinosporamide A) received orphan drug designation for glioblastoma in the United States [8,9], which was discovered from the marine actinomycete *Salinispora tropica* [10] and *Salinispora Arenicola* [11] and is an irreversible proteasome inhibitor with a nanomolar range IC$_{50}$ value [11]. Depatuxizumab vedotin was an antibody–drug conjugate (ADC) in phase 3 trials to treat newly diagnosed glioblastoma with EGFR amplification [8], which was developed from pentapeptide dolastatin 10 that was produced from the sea hare *Dolabella Auricularia* [12].

In the past five years, our research group has focused on the bioactive secondary metabolites of ascidian-derived fungi collected from the South China Sea [5,13–16]. A marine-derived fungus *Diaporthe* sp. SYSU-MS4722 was isolated from the South China Sea, whose EtOAc extract of a fermentation broth showed moderate anti-glioma activity. A subsequent chemical investigation led to the isolation of seven new polyketides, diaporthones A–G (1–7), together with 13 known analogues, including five mono- (8–14) and...
six dimeric xanthones (15–20) (Figure 1). Dimeric xanthones (15–20) revealed selective cytotoxicity against T98G cell lines with IC\textsubscript{50} values ranging from 19.5 to 78.0 \(\mu\)M.

2. Results and Discussion

The EtOAc extract of marine-derived fungus \textit{Diaporthe} sp. SYSU-MS4722 was performed on the repeated silica gel and Sephadex LH-20 column chromatography, followed by semipreparative HPLC to afford seven new xanthones, diaporthones A–H (1–7) along with 13 known analogues including seven mono- (8–14) and six dimeric xanthones (15–20).

![Figure 1. Chemical structures of compounds 1–20.](image-url)
Diaporthone A (1) was obtained as yellow crystal, and its molecular formula was established as C_{15}H_{16}O_{6} by the negative HRESIMS ions at m/z 291.0869 [M − H]− (calculated for C_{15}H_{16}O_{6}, 291.0874) (Figure S1), indicating eight degrees of unsaturation. The 1H NMR (Table 1) displayed three aromatic protons (δ_{H} 6.40 (1H, d, J = 8.3 Hz); 6.43 (H, f = 8.3 Hz); 7.38 (1H, t, J = 8.3 Hz)) owing to a 1,2,3-trisubstituted benzene ring, two methines (δ_{H} 4.39 (1H, d, J = 4.2 Hz); 2.85 (H, m)), two methylenes (δ_{H} 2.22 (1H, dd, J = 8.9, 21.6 Hz), 2.86 (1H, m); 3.76 (2H, s), δ_{H} 2.98 (2H, br s)), and one methyl (δ_{H} 1.20 (3H, d, J = 6.6 Hz)). The 13C NMR showed the presence of 15 carbons, which were assigned with the help of an HMBC experiment. Except for signals (δ_{C} 161.4, 159.4, 138.1, 108.7, 107.2, 106.9) attributed to one aromatic ring, the other carbons were identified as one conjugated carbonyl (δ_{C} 196.8), one ester carbonyl (δ_{C} 177.3), and remaining six sp3 hybridized carbons. 1H and 13C NMR data (Table 1) suggested that 1 belonged to a chromone derivative containing a γ-lactone moiety.

**Table 1.** 1H (600 MHz) and 13C (150 MHz) NMR spectroscopic data of 1 in CD_{3}OD.

| No. | δ_{C}, Type | δ_{H}, Mult (J in Hz) | No. | δ_{C}, Type | δ_{H}, Mult (J in Hz) |
|-----|-------------|------------------------|-----|-------------|------------------------|
| 2   | 83.2, C     |                        | 8a  | 159.4, C    |                        |
| 3   | 36.7, CH_{2} | 2.98, br s             | 9   | 87.1, CH    | 4.39, d (4.2)          |
| 4   | 196.8, C    |                        | 10  | 29.6, CH    | 2.85, m                |
| 4a  | 107.2, C    |                        | 11  | 35.9, CH_{2} | 2.22, dd (21.6, 8.9)   |
| 5   | 161.4, C    |                        |     | 2.85, m     |                        |
| 6   | 106.9,CH    | 6.40, d (8.3)          | 12  | 177.3, C    |                        |
| 7   | 138.1, CH   | 7.36, t (8.3)          | 13  | 61.5, CH_{2} | 3.76, s                |
| 8   | 108.7, CH   | 6.43, d (8.3)          | 14  | 19.4, CH_{3} | 1.21, d (6.6)          |

The planar structure of 1 was identified based on the extensive 2D NMR (1H–1H COSY, HSQC, and HMBC) (Figures S2–S7) spectroscopic data (Figure 2). The HMBC correlations from H-7 to C-5 and C-8a, from H-8 to C-4a, from H-13 to C-2 and C-3, and 1H–1H COSY of H-6/H-7/H-8, as well as the NMR chemical shifts, complete a 4-hydroxylchromone skeleton with a hydroxymethyl group at C-2. The γ-lactone moiety with a methyl group was assigned by HMBC correlations from H-9 to ester carbonyl C-12, from H-11 to C-9 and C-12, from H-14 to C-9, C-10 and C-11, and the 1H–1H COSY correlations of H-9/H-10/H-11 and H-10/H-14. The γ-lactone moiety was finally linked to C-2 of the chromone skeleton, supported by HMBC correlations from H-13 to C-9 and H-9 to C-2.

![Figure 2](https://example.com/figure2.png)

**Figure 2.** Key 1H–1H COSY (red line) and HMBC (blue arrow) correlations of compounds 1–7.

The NOESY spectrum of 1 showed a correlation from H-9 to H-14, indicating that H-9 and H-14 were on the same side of the γ-lactone (Figure 3). The X-ray structure (Figure 4)
showed that the protons H-13 and H-9 were located on the close position of the axis of rotation C2–C9, indicating that the relative configuration of 1 was 2S*, 9S*, and 10S*. In addition, the ECD spectrum of (2S, 9S, 10S)-1 calculated by a quantum chemical method at the [B3LYP/6-311 + G(2d,p)] was in good agreement with that of the experimental one (Figure 5). Thus, the absolute configuration of 1 was identified as 2S, 9S, and 10S.

Figure 3. Key NOE (blue dash arrow) correlations of compounds 1, 3, and 4 (3D structures were generated by minimizing the energy using a molecular mechanics (MM2) computation by Chem3D).

Figure 4. X-ray crystallographic analysis of 1 and 2.

Figure 5. Experimental and predicted ECD spectra of 1 (a) and 3 (b) in MeOH.

It can be seen that the proton H₂-3 of 1 was the α-H atom of ketone with weak acid, whose α-hydrogen exchange (α-deuterodeprotonation reaction) could be found in CD₃OD. The signal of H₂-3 was observed as a weak and small peak, and the integrals were
much less than two in the $^1$H NMR spectrum. The natural product with the $\alpha$-H atom of ketone moiety would be better for acquiring the NMR data under the deuterated solvents without exchangeable deuterium.

Diaporthone B (2) was obtained as yellow crystal, and its molecular formula was established as C$_{15}$H$_{15}$O$_7$ by the negative HRESIMS ions at $m/z$ 309.0976 [M − H]$^-$ (calculated for C$_{15}$H$_{15}$O$_7$, 309.0980), indicating eight degrees of unsaturation. The $^1$H NMR (Figure S10) displayed three aromatic protons ($\delta_1$ 6.44 (1H, dd, $J = 8.2, 0.9$ Hz); 6.55 (H, d, $J = 8.2$ Hz); 7.39 (1H, t, $J = 8.3$ Hz)), three methines ($\delta_2$ 4.44 (1H, t, $J = 4.2$ Hz); 4.29 (1H, m); 2.34 (1H, m)), two methylenes ($\delta_3$ 1.57 (1H, dd, $J = 14.5, 2.8$ Hz); 2.43 (1H, m); 3.83 (1H, d, $J = 13.5$ Hz), 4.28 (1H, s), and one methyl ($\delta_4$ 1.32 (3H, d, $J = 7.8$ Hz)). The $^{13}$C NMR showed the presence of 15 carbons corresponding to seven sp$^2$ hybrid carbons including one ketone carbonyl ($\delta_C$ 196.4) for xanthone characteristic and eight sp$^3$ hybrid carbons. The planar structure of 2 was identified by $^1$H−$^1$H COSY, HSQC, and HMBC spectroscopic data (Figure 2). The HMBC correlations from H-10 to C-5a and C-8a, from H-3 to C-1 and C-4a, and $^1$H−$^1$H COSY of H-2/H-3/H-4, as well as the NMR chemical shifts, suggested the presence of a hydroxylchromene skeleton with a hydroxymethyl group at C-5a and a hydroxyl at C-8a. The remaining ring was assigned to be 4-hydroxyl-5-methyl cyclohexenol on the basis of $^3$J$\text{H}^\text{H}$ constant value of 4. The gross structure of 2 was confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analysis (Figure 4). The predicted ECD curve of 2 matched well with the experimental one (Figure 5). Hence, the absolute configuration of 2 was determined as C$_{15}$H$_{15}$O$_7$ (8aR, 8S).

Diaporthone C (3) was obtained as a colorless oil, whose molecular formula was determined as C$_{15}$H$_{16}$O$_7$ on the basis of negative-ion HRESIMS ($m/z$ 307.0820 [M − H]$^-$, calculated for C$_{15}$H$_{15}$O$_7$, 307.0823). Detailed analysis of its NMR spectroscopic data (Table 1) suggested that 3 was similar to 2 belonging to the xanthone class, except for the presence of an additional double bond ($\delta_1$ 140.1 and 122.1; $\delta_2$ 5.60) in 3. The key HMBC correlations from methyl protons H-11 to olefinic carbons C-6 and C-7 were allowed to assign the location of the double bond in 3. The gross structure of 3 was identified by the 2D NMR spectroscopy (Figure 2). NOE correlations of H-5 with H-10 and H-10 with H-8 were not observed, and the relative configuration of compound 3 should be 5R*, 5aS*, 8aR*, and 8S* (Figure 3). The predicted ECD curve of 3 matched well with the experimental one (Figure 5). Hence, the absolute configuration of 3 was determined as 5R, 5aS, 8aR, and 8S.

Diaporthone D (4) was obtained as a colorless oil, and its molecular formula C$_{15}$H$_{19}$O$_8$ was identified by the positive HRESIMS ion at HRESIMS $m/z$ 295.1169 [M + H]$^+$ (calculated for C$_{15}$H$_{19}$O$_{6}$, 295.1176). Comparison of the $^1$H and $^{13}$C NMR data (Table 1) of 4 with those of 2 suggested that 4 possessed the same xanthone framework, except for one of the hydroxyl groups (8a-OH) in 2 being replaced by a proton in 4. The $^1$H−$^1$H COSY of H-8 and H-8a and HMBC correlations from H-8a to C-9 and C-10 assigned the position of the proton H-8, in accordance with the proton having double peaks at 2.48 ppm (Figures S26–S31). The gross structure of 4 was identified by the 2D NMR spectroscopy (Figure 2). The coupling constant value of $J_{8,8a} = 4.5$ Hz and NOE correlation of H-8a with H-8 indicated that the orientation of H-8 and H-8a was the same face of cyclohexane (Figure 3). The coupling constant value of $J_{5,6} = 2.1$ Hz and NOE correlation of H-5 with H-6 and H-10 suggested that H-5, H-6, and H-10 were on the same side. The relative configuration of compound 4 was assigned as 5R*, 5aR*, 6R*, 8aR*, and 8R*. The absolute configuration of 4 was assigned by comparing the experimental and calculated ECD spectra, and the calculated ECD spectrum was agreed with that of the experimental one (Figure 6). Therefore, the absolute configuration of 4 was assigned as 5R, 5aR, 6R, 8aR, and 8R.
Table 2. $^1$H (400 MHz) and $^{13}$C (100 MHz) NMR spectroscopic data of 2–4.

| No. | $\delta_{C}$, Type | $\delta_{H}$, Mult (J in Hz) | $\delta_{C}$, Type | $\delta_{H}$, Mult (J in Hz) | $\delta_{C}$, Type | $\delta_{H}$, Mult (J in Hz) |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1   | 163.4, C           |                             | 163.1, C           |                             | 162.5, C           |                             |
| 2   | 109.7, CH          | 6.44, dd (8.2, 0.9)         | 108.8, CH          | 6.36, d (8.7)               | 109.2, CH          | 6.41, dd (8.3, 1.0)         |
| 3   | 139.0, CH          | 7.39, t (8.3)               | 138.6, CH          | 7.36, t (8.3)               | 138.8, CH          | 7.34, t (8.3)               |
| 4   | 109.6, CH          | 6.55, d (8.2)               | 108.2, CH          | 6.39, d (8.8)               | 109.2, CH          | 6.41, dd (8.3, 1.0)         |
| 4a  | 159.8, C           |                             | 160.9, C           |                             | 161.1, C           |                             |
| 5   | 75.3, CH           | 4.29, m                     | 73.9, CH           | 4.74, d (6.3)               | 71.6, CH           | 3.90, d (2.1)               |
| 5a  | 76.2, C            |                             | 74.3, C            |                             | 83.5, C            |                             |
| 6   | 36.2, CH           | 2.34, m                     | 140.1, C           |                             | 26.4,              | 2.43, m                     |
| 7   | 29.9, CH$_2$       | 1.57, dt (14.8, 2.8)        | 122.1, CH          | 5.60, dt (4.6, 1.8)         | 34.9, CH$_2$       | 1.53, m                     |
| 8   | 69.6, CH           | 4.44, t (3.6)               | 68.0, CH           | 4.61, t (5.0)               | 69.4, CH           | 4.23, dt (4.7, 2.6)         |
| 8a  | 85.0, C            |                             | 86.9, C            |                             | 48.5, C            | 2.48, d (4.5)               |
| 9   | 196.4, C           |                             | 197.3, C           |                             | 202.4, C           |                             |
| 9a  | 108.6, C           |                             | 108.3, C           |                             | 111.3, C           |                             |
| 10  | 60.5, CH$_2$       | 3.83, d (13.5)              | 64.3, CH$_2$       | 4.09, m                     | 63.2, CH$_2$       | 3.72, d (12.0)              |
| 11  | 20.7, CH$_3$       | 1.32, d (7.8)               | 19.3, CH$_3$       | 1.84, d (1.4)               | 18.0, CH$_3$       | 1.06, d (7.0)               |

1-OH | 4.84, d (6.6) | 4.69, d (5.1) | 5.43, s | 3.80, d (5.1) |

$^a$ Spectra were recorded in CD$_2$OD; $^b$ Spectra were recorded in acetone-$_d_6$.

Figure 6. Experimental and predicted ECD spectra of 4 (a) and 5 (b) in MeOH.

Diaporthone E (5) was obtained as a colorless oil. The negative HRESIMS $m/z$ 333.0975 [M − H]$^-$ (calculated for C$_{17}$H$_{18}$O$_7$, 333.0980) suggested the molecular formula of 5 was C$_{17}$H$_{18}$O$_7$ with four degrees of unsaturation. The 1D and 2D NMR data (Figures S34–S39) indicated that compound 5 shared the same xanthone skeleton as penexanthone B (9). The only difference between them was the absence of an additional acetyl group (10-Ac) compared to 6. Compound 5 was a precursor of biosynthesis of 12-deacetylphomoxanthone A (15), and there is reason to believe that they share the same absolute configuration of 5S, 5aS, and 6S. The predicted ECD spectrum of (5S, 5aS, 6S)-5
showed well fit with that of the experimental one (Figure 6). Thus, compound 5 was identified as de-10-acetylpexanthone B.

Diaporthone F (6) was obtained as a yellow crystal and had the same molecular formula (C_{15}H_{16}O_{7}) as 8 established by the HR-ESIMS ions at m/z 307.0828 [M − H]− (calculated for C_{15}H_{15}O_{7}, 307.0823). Compound 6 shared the same planar structure as phomoxanthone G (8), which was further identified by 1H−1H COSY, HSQC, and HMBC spectroscopies (Figures S42–S47). Detailed analysis of their NMR (Table 3), diaporthone F (6) and phomoxanthone G should be a pair of epimers. The structure of 6 (Figure 7) and configuration (5R, 5aR, 6S, 8aS, 8R) were identified by X-ray crystallographic analysis from Cu Kα data with a Flack parameter of -0.13(15) [17] and a Hooft parameter of 0.16(9).

Table 3. 1H (400 MHz) and 13C (100 MHz) NMR spectroscopic data of 5–7.

| No. | δC, Type | δH, Mult (J in Hz) | δC, Type | δH, Mult (J in Hz) | δC, Type | δH, Mult (J in Hz) |
|-----|----------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 1   | 162.0, C | 6.42, d (8.2)      | 164.4, C | 6.52, d (8.2)      | 163.4, C | 6.48, dd, (8.3, 0.9) |
| 2   | 108.1, CH| 7.31, t (8.3)      | 108.5, CH| 7.45, t (8.3)      | 109.7, CH| 7.43, t (8.3)       |
| 3   | 110.5, CH| 6.52, d (8.3)      | 110.9, CH| 6.54, d (8.2)      | 109.7, CH| 6.59, dd, (8.3, 0.9) |
| 4a  | 157.6, C | 7.03, d (5.5)      | 157.9, C | 7.12, d (5.5)      | 158.0, C | 7.14, d (5.5)       |
| 5   | 70.3, CH | 5.72, s            | 70.5, CH | 5.82, s            | 71.2, CH | 5.88, s             |
| 5a  | 82.4, C  | 7.84, t (8.3)      | 82.6, C  | 7.94, t (8.3)      | 83.3, C  | 7.98, t (8.3)       |
| 6   | 27.8, CH | 2.39, m            | 27.9, C  | 2.40, m            | 29.2, CH | 2.50, m             |
| 7   | 33.5, CH2| 4.03, s            | 33.6, CH2| 4.04, s            | 34.9, CH2| 4.10, s             |
| 8   | 178.1, C | 71.1, CH           | 178.2, C | 71.2, CH           | 178.3, C | 71.3, CH            |
| 8a  | 101.0, C | 81.9, C            | 101.2, C | 82.1, C            | 101.4, C | 82.3, C             |
| 9   | 187.7, C | 195.6, C           | 187.8, C | 195.7, C           | 187.9, C | 195.8, C            |
| 9a  | 106.7, C | 107.5, C           | 106.8, C | 107.6, C           | 106.9, C | 107.7, C            |
| 10  | 65.6, CH2| 4.03, s            | 65.7, CH2| 4.04, s            | 66.0, CH2| 4.06, s             |
| 11  | 17.7, CH3| 1.06, d (5.5)      | 17.9, CH3| 1.08, d (5.5)      | 18.1, CH3| 1.10, d (5.5)       |
| 12  | 170.8, C | 2.09, s            | 171.0, C | 2.11, s            | 171.2, C | 2.13, s             |
| 13  | 21.0, CH3| 1.06, d (5.5)      | 21.2, CH3| 1.08, d (5.5)      | 21.4, CH3| 1.10, d (5.5)       |
| 14  | 162.0, C | 2.09, s            | 162.2, C | 2.11, s            | 162.4, C | 2.13, s             |

\(^{a}\) Spectra were recorded in CDCl\textsubscript{3}; \(^{b}\) Spectra were recorded in CD\textsubscript{3}OD.

Figure 7. X-ray crystallographic analysis of 6 and 7.

Compounds 7 was obtained as a yellow crystal and had the molecular formula C_{15}H_{16}O_{7}, which was established by the HR-ESIMS ions at m/z 309.0978 [M − H]− (calculated for C_{15}H_{15}O_{7}, 309.0979). The structure of 7 was clearly identified by X-ray crystallographic analysis (Figure 6), whose relative and planar structure was the same as
that of phaseolorin D [19]. In detail, the X-ray structure was the monoclinic space group \( P2_1/c \) (Figure 7), which was different from that of phaseolorin D ((+)\(-7\)) with the triclinic space group. It suggested that compound 7 should be an enantiomer in the solid crystals (Figure 8), which showed an excellent fit with the result of no signal of CD spectrum and no optical activity sign in methanol. Subsequently, the chiral HPLC was used for purification of (±)-7, and the two enantiomers, (+)-7 (\( t_R = 28.7 \text{ min} \)) and (−)-7 (\( t_R = 31.5 \text{ min} \)) were purified, respectively, and showed opposite Cotton effects in their CD spectra and opposite optical rotations (Figure 9). The calculated ECD curve of (5\( R \), 5\( aR \), 6\( R \), 8\( aS \), 8\( R \))-7 was comparable to the experimental one of (−)-7, resulting in that the absolute configuration of (−)-7 was 5\( R \), 5\( aR \), 6\( R \), 8\( aS \), 8\( R \). Compounds 2 and (±)-7 were epimers derived from the same precursor, chrysophanol, and a possible biogenetic pathway for 2 and (±)-7 was proposed, as shown in Figure S62 (supplementary material). Compounds 2, 3, and (+)-7 showed a very similar ECD spectrum with a strong and negative Cotton effect (CE) at 209 nm and two negative CEs at approximately 281 and 326 nm (Figure S63, Supplementary Material), while (−)-7 revealed opposite Cotton effects. The negative Cotton effect (CE) at 209 nm should be derived from the n–\( \pi^* \) transition of the chromone chromophore with the absolute configuration of 5\( aS \) and 8\( R \).

The other known compounds were identified as phaseolorin D (+)-7 [19], Phomoxanthone G (8) [20], penexanthone B (9) [21], phaseolorin E (10) [19], phomoxanthone F (11) [20], penimethavone A (12) [22], monodictyxanthone (13) [23], methyl 6,8-dihydroxy-3-methyl-9-oxo-9\( H \)-xanthene-1-carboxylate (14) [24], 12-deacetylphomoxanthone A (15) [25], phomoxanthone A (16) [26], dicerandrol B (17) [27], dicerandrol C (18) [27], phomoxanthone B (19) [26] and deacetylphomoxanthone B (20) [28] by comparing their spectroscopic data with those reported in the literature.

Figure 8. Molecular packing properties of 7.

Figure 9. Experimental and predicted ECD spectra of (+)- and (−)-7 (in MeOH).
The other known compounds were identified as phaseolorin D (+)- (7) [19], Phomoxanthone G (8) [20], penexanthone B (9) [21], phaseolorin E (10) [19], phomoxanthone F (11) [20], penimethavone A (12) [22], monodictyxanthone (13) [23], methyl 6,8-dihydroxy-3-methyl-9-oxo-9H-xanthene-1-carboxylate (14) [24], 12-deacetylphomoxanthone A (15) [25], phomoxanthone A (16) [26], dicerandrol B (17) [27], dicerandrol C (18) [27], phomoxanthone B (19) [26] and deacetylphomoxanthone B (20) [28] by comparing their spectroscopic data with those reported in the literature.

All isolates were evaluated for anti-glioma using T98G, U87MG, and U251 human cell lines with temozolomide as the positive control. Only dimeric xanthones (15–20) exhibited promising growth-inhibitory effects on the T98G cell line with IC$_{50}$ values between 19.5 to 78.0 µM (Table 4). Additionally, all monomeric xanthones (1–14) displayed weak or no cytotoxicity against T98G, U87MG, and U251 human cell lines. The result suggested that the dimeric skeleton of xanthones played an important role in anti-glioma activity.

**Table 4.** Anti-glioma activity against T98G, U87MG, and U251 human cell lines and inhibition of NO production in LPS-induced RAW264.7 cells of compounds 11 and 14–20.

| Compounds | T98G (IC$_{50}$, µM) | U87MG (IC$_{50}$, µM) | U251 (IC$_{50}$, µM) | Inhibition of NO Production, IC$_{50}$ (µM) |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 11        | >100                 | >100                 | >100                 | 41.4                                     |
| 14        | >100                 | >100                 | >100                 | 32.2                                     |
| 15        | 23.8                 | >100                 | >100                 | 6.3                                      |
| 16        | 19.5                 | >100                 | >100                 | 7.5                                      |
| 17        | 57.6                 | >100                 | >100                 | 6.3                                      |
| 18        | 34.6                 | >100                 | >100                 | 7.6                                      |
| 19        | 74.1                 | >100                 | >100                 | 8.0                                      |
| 20        | 78.2                 | >100                 | >100                 | 7.8                                      |
| Temozolomide | 151                 | 203                  | 189                  | -                                        |
| Indomethacin | -                   | -                    | -                    | 35.8                                     |

All compounds (1–20) were also tested for the inhibition of nitric oxide (NO) production in RAW264.7 cells activated by lipopolysaccharide. Compounds 15–20 showed strong inhibition of NO with IC$_{50}$ values between 6.3 and 8.0 µM, compared to the positive control indomethacin, whose IC$_{50}$ value was 35.8 µM (Table 4). Compounds 11 and 14 exhibited considerable anti-inflammatory activity with IC$_{50}$ values of 41.4 and 32.2 µM, respectively. However, the other compounds do not have effects on anti-inflammatory activity (IC$_{50}$ > 50 µM).
3. Materials and Methods

3.1. General Experimental Procedures

Optical rotations were recorded on an MCP-200 polarimeter (Anton Paar, Graz, Austria) with MeOH as solvent at 25 °C. UV spectra were measured on a Blue Star A spectrophotometer. IR data were carried out on a Fourier transformation infrared spectrometer coupled with an EQUINOX 55 infrared microscope (Bruker, Rheinstetten, Germany). A Bruker Avance 400 MHz spectrometer (Bruker, Karlsruhe, Germany) was used for 1D and 2D NMR spectra test with TMS as an internal standard. ESIMS and HRESIMS data were measured on an ACQUITY QDA (Waters Corporation, Milford, MA, USA) and an LTQ-Orbitrap LC-MS spectrometer (Thermo Corporation, Waltham, MA, USA), respectively. A Shimadzu Essentia LC-16 was used for HPLC preparative separations by a Welch-Ultimate XB-C18 column (250 × 21.2 mm, 5 µM, 12 nm, Welch Materials, Inc., Shanghai, China) and an ACE-5-C18-AR, ACE-5-CN-ES and ACE-C18-PFP column (250 × 10 mm, 5 µM, 12 nm, FLM Advanced Chromatography Technologies Ltd., Guangzhou, China). Column chromatography (CC) was performed on silica gel (200–300 mesh, Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc., Qingdao, China) and Sephadex LH-20 (Amersham Biosciences, Uppsala, Sweden).

3.2. Fungal Material

The experimental strain SYSU-MS4722 was isolated from the ascidian *Styela plicata* that was obtained by Professor Lan Liu from the Bay of Da’ao, Shenzhen City, Guangdong, Province, China, in April 2016. The standard protocol [29] was used for the isolation of fungus. The molecular biological protocol that included DNA amplification and sequencing of the ITS region was used for fungal identification. The sequence data of the fungal strain have been deposited at GenBank with accession no. OK623372. A BLAST search result suggested that the sequence was most similar (100%) to the sequence of *Diaporthe* sp. NFIF-2-6 (compared to MW202988.1).

3.3. Extraction and Isolation

The strain *Diaporthe* sp. SYSU-MS4722 was fermented on a solid medium in a 1 L culture flask (containing 50 g of rice and 50 mL of H₂O with 3% sea salt) with a total of 120 flasks incubating at room temperature for 30 days. The solid fermentation was extracted with MeOH four times to afford a crude extract, and then the crude was dissolved in H₂O and continuously was extracted four times with EtOAc. The EtOAc extract (42 g) was subjected to a silica gel column eluting with gradient petroleum ether/EtOAc (from 8:2 to 0:1) to obtain six fractions (A–F).

Fr.A was fractionated on a Sephadex LH-20 column with MeOH/CH₂Cl₂ (50:50) to afford three fractions (Fr.A.1 to Fr.A.3). Fr.A.3 was further purified by RP-HPLC (MeOH/H₂O, 80:20 flow rate 2 mL/min, ACE-C18-PFP column 10 × 250 mm, 5 µM) to give 5 (5.0 mg) and 9 (11.0 mg). Fr.B was fractionated on a Sephadex LH-20 column with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH to provide four subfractions (Fr.B.1 to Fr.B.4). Fr.B.1 was further subjected to silica gel chromatography eluting with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (99:1) to afford 11 (2.0 mg). Fr.B.2 was further purified by silica gel chromatography and RP-HPLC (MeOH/H₂O, 75:25 flow rate 2 mL/min, ACE-C18-PFP column 10 × 250 mm, 5 µM) to obtain 13 (6.0 mg), 16 (2.0 mg), and 19 (3.0 mg). Fr.B.3 was further fractionated on a silica gel column and RP-HPLC to give 18 (14.0 mg) and 20 (12.0 mg). Fr.B.4 was subjected to a silica gel column with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (98:2) and then purified by RP-HPLC with MeOH/H₂O (70:30) to give 1 (2 mg), 15 (5.0 mg), and 17 (7.0 mg). Fr.C was applied to a silica gel column eluting with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (97:3) to afford five fractions (Fr.C.1 to Fr.C.4.5). Fr.C.4.2 was further purified by silica gel column to give 4 (8.0 mg). Fr.C.4.4 was subjected to silica gel chromatography to afford 8 (9.1 mg) and subfraction (Fr.C.4.4.2). Fr.C.4.4.2 was further purified by RP-HPLC (MeOH/H₂O, 65:35 flow rate 2 mL/min, ACE-C18-PFP column 10 × 250 mm, 5 µM) to give 2 (5.0 mg, tᵣ = 11.2 min), 7 (2.0 mg, tᵣ = 12.1 min), and 10 (11.0 mg, tᵣ = 14.0). Fr.C.4.5 was further fractionated on a silica gel column and RP-HPLC to afford 3 (4.0 mg), mboxtextbf12 (10.0 mg), and 14 (9.0 mg).
Compound 1: C_{15}H_{16}O_{6}: Yellow crystal; [α]_{D}^{20} (c 0.01, MeOH) +41.2; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log e) 270 (3.91) nm; CD (MeOH) λ_{max} (Δε) 212 (–2.66), 243 (+1.49) nm; IR (neat) ν_{max} 3458, 2976, 1786, 1653, 1468, 1234, 1065 cm\(^{-1}\); HR-ESIMS m/z 291.0869 [M – H]\(^-\) (calculated for C_{15}H_{16}O_{6}, 291.0874).

Compound 2: C_{15}H_{18}O_{7}: Colorless crystal; [α]_{D}^{20} (c 0.01, MeOH) +38.6; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log e) 208 (4.10), 277 (3.85) nm; CD (MeOH) λ_{max} (Δε) 209 (–28.85), 281 (+10.75), 326 (+6.41) nm; IR (neat) ν_{max} 3446, 2952, 1633, 1610, 1456, 1225, 1028 cm\(^{-1}\); HR-ESIMS m/z 309.0976 [M – H]\(^-\) (calculated for C_{15}H_{17}O_{7}, 309.0980).

Compound 3: C_{15}H_{16}O_{7}: Colorless crystal; [α]_{D}^{20} (c 0.02, MeOH) +32.4; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log e) 205 (4.03), 278 (3.87) nm; CD (MeOH) λ_{max} (Δε) 212 (–17.55), 282 (+9.36), 323 (+2.89) nm; IR (neat) ν_{max} 3402, 2962, 1641, 1583, 1468, 1213, 1043 cm\(^{-1}\); HR-ESIMS m/z 307.0820 [M – H]\(^-\) (calculated for C_{15}H_{17}O_{7}, 307.0823).

Compound 4: C_{15}H_{16}O_{6}: Colorless powder; [α]_{D}^{20} (c 0.02, MeOH) +13.4; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log e) 207 (4.20), 276 (3.52) nm; CD (MeOH) λ_{max} (Δε) 202 (+24.71), 219 (+12.97) nm; IR (neat) ν_{max} 3454, 2970, 1722, 1643, 1456, 1363, 1232, 1045 cm\(^{-1}\); HR-ESIMS m/z 295.1169 [M + H]\(^+\) (calculated for C_{15}H_{16}O_{6}, 295.1176).

Compound 5: C_{15}H_{18}O_{7}: Colorless powder; [α]_{D}^{20} (c 0.01, MeOH) +9.2; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log e) 224 (3.75), 254 (3.50) nm; CD (MeOH) λ_{max} (Δε) 243 (+0.44), 235 (+1.32) nm; IR (neat) ν_{max} 3438, 2935, 2871, 1745, 1616, 1468, 1238, 1055 cm\(^{-1}\); HR-ESIMS m/z 333.0975 [M-H]\(^-\) (calculated for C_{17}H_{17}O_{7}, 333.0980).

Compound 6: C_{15}H_{16}O_{7}: Colorless crystal; [α]_{D}^{20} (c 0.02, MeOH) –175; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log e) 208 (4.05), 278 (3.78), 356 (3.30) nm; IR (neat) ν_{max} 3367, 1630, 1459, 1222, 1033, 813 cm\(^{-1}\); HR-ESIMS m/z 307.08278 [M – H]\(^-\) (calculated for C_{15}H_{17}O_{7}, 307.08233).

Compound 7: C_{15}H_{18}O_{7}: Colorless crystal; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log e) 209 (4.15), 279 (3.78), 353 (3.30) nm; IR (neat) ν_{max} 3499, 3289, 2936, 1648, 1629, 1461, 1224, 1022, 811, 694 cm\(^{-1}\); HR-ESIMS m/z 309.0978 [M – H]\(^-\) (calculated for C_{15}H_{19}O_{7}, 309.0979).

(+)-(7): [α]_{D}^{20} (c 0.0035, MeOH) +73.4; ECD (MeOH) λ_{max} (Δε): 209 (–16.8), 279 (+5.6), 327 (+2.8) nm.

(−)-(7): [α]_{D}^{20} (c 0.0011, MeOH) −79.2; ECD (MeOH) λ_{max} (Δε): 209 (+15.4), 279 (−5.1), 327 (+2.5) nm.

3.4. X-ray Crystallographic Analysis

The crystals of compounds 1, 2, 6, and 7 were obtained on the base of the vapor diffusion method. All single-crystal X-ray diffraction data were collected on a Rigaku Oxford Diffractometer with Cu-Kα radiation (λ = 1.54178 Å). The structures were solved by direct methods using SHELXS-97 and refined full-matrix least-squares difference Fourier techniques using Olex2-1.2. All hydrogen atoms bonded to carbons were added at the geometrically ideal positions by the “ride on” method. All crystallographic data of 1, 2, 6, and 7 have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre. Copies of the data can be obtained, free of charge, on application to the Director, CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (fax: 44-(0)1223-336033, or e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

Compound 1: C_{15}H_{16}O_{6} (Mr = 291.09 g/mol), orthorhombic, space group P2_2_1, a = 5.4585(4) Å, b = 11.5804(10) Å, c = 22.0666(14) Å, α = 90°, β = 90°, γ = 90°, V = 1391.07(18) Å\(^3\), Z = 4, T = 249.99(10) K, μ(Cu Kα) = 0.915 mm\(^{-1}\), D\(_{calc}\) = 1.3955 g/cm\(^3\), 5334 reflections measured, 2742 unique (R\(_{int}\) = 0.0538, R\(_{sigma}\) = 0.0628), which were used in all calculations. The final R\(_{1}\) was 0.0557 (I > 2σ(I)) and wR\(_{2}\) was 0.1503. The Flack parameter was 0.0(3), and the Hooft parameter was -0.3. Goodness of fit on F\(^2\) was 1.048. CCDC 2116967.

Compound 2: C_{15}H_{18}O_{7} (Mr = 310.31 g/mol), monoclinic, space group P2_1, a = 10.1547(4) Å, b = 7.1459(2) Å, c = 10.3653(4) Å, α = 90°, β = 116.414(4)°, γ = 90°, V = 673.63(5) Å\(^3\), Z = 2, Crystal size 0.35 × 0.3 × 0.25 mm\(^3\), T = 150.00(10) K, μ(Cu Kα) = 1.036 mm\(^{-1}\), D\(_{calc}\) = 1.530 g/cm\(^3\), 4665 reflections measured, 2621 unique (R\(_{int}\) = 0.0268, R\(_{sigma}\) = 0.0298), which were used in all calculations. The final R\(_{1}\) was 0.0359 (I > 2σ(I)) and wR\(_{2}\) was 0.0986. The Flack parameter was -0.01(4), and the Hooft parameter was 0.06(7). Goodness of fit on F\(^2\) was 1.044. CCDC 2116970.
**Compound 6:** C$_{15}$H$_{16}$O$_7$ ($Mr = 308.29$ g/mol): monoclinic, space group P2$_1$, $a = 8.0807(2)$ Å, $b = 10.5548(2)$ Å, $c = 8.3669(2)$ Å, $\alpha = 90^\circ$, $\beta = 93.743(2)^\circ$, $\gamma = 90^\circ$, $V = 712.09(3)$ Å$^3$, $Z = 2$, Crystal size $0.25 \times 0.2 \times 0.02$ mm$^3$, $T = 149.98(10)$ K, $\mu$(Cu K$_\alpha$) = 0.055 mm$^{-1}$, $D_{calc} = 0.068$ g/cm$^3$, 6306 reflections measured, 2765 unique ($R_{int} = 0.0384$, $R_{sigma} = 0.0323$), which were used in all calculations. The final $R_1$ was 0.0402 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$) and $wR_2$ was 0.1178. The Flack parameter was 0.13(15), and the Hooft parameter was 0.16(9). Goodness of fit on $F^2$ was 1.069. CCDC 2116974.

**Compound 7:** C$_{15}$H$_{18}$O$_7$ ($Mr = 310.30$ g/mol): monoclinic, space group P2$_1$/c, $a = 11.3702(3)$ Å, $b = 7.30602(17)$ Å, $c = 16.9135(5)$ Å, $\alpha = 90^\circ$, $\beta = 108.413(3)^\circ$, $\gamma = 90^\circ$, $V = 1333.09(7)$ Å$^3$, $Z = 4$, Crystal size $0.3 \times 0.25 \times 0.08$ mm$^3$, $T = 150.00(10)$ K, $\mu$(Cu K$_\alpha$) = 1.047 mm$^{-1}$, $D_{calc} = 1.5460$ g/cm$^3$, 3935 reflections measured, 2546 unique ($R_{int} = 0.0295$, $R_{sigma} = 0.0370$), which were used in all calculations. The final $R_1$ was 0.0520 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$) and $wR_2$ was 0.1591. Goodness of fit on $F^2$ was 1.058. CCDC 2116976.

### 3.5. Calculation of the ECD Spectra

Merck molecular force field (MMFF) and DFT/TD-DFT calculations were carried out with the Spartan’14 software package (Wavefunction Inc., Irvine, CA, USA) and the Gaussian 09 program, respectively. MMFF conformational search generated low-energy conformers within a 10 kcal-mol$^{-1}$ energy window and optimized using PM6 semi-empirical optimizations. Then, each conformer was optimized with HF/6-31G(d) method in Gaussian09. Further optimization was performed at the b3lyp/6-311g** level. The frequency optimizations. Then, each conformer was optimized with HF/6-31G(d) method in Gaussian 09 program, respectively. MMFF conformational search generated low-energy conformers within a 10 kcal-mol$^{-1}$ energy window and optimized using PM6 semi-empirical optimizations. Then, each conformer was optimized with HF/6-31G(d) method in Gaussian09. Further optimization was performed at the b3lyp/6-311g** level. The frequency calculations were performed by Tianhe-2 of the National Super Computer Center in Guangzhou.

### 3.6. Anti-Glioma Activity

The human glioma cell lines, T98G, U87MG, and U251, were purchased from the Cell Bank of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Cells were cultured in Dulbecco’s Modified Eagle’s Medium (DMEM, Gibco, Carlsbad, CA, USA), containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 100 IU/mL penicillin, 100 µg/mL streptomycin (all from Gibco, Carlsbad, CA, USA) in a cell incubator with 5% CO$_2$ at 37°C.

Cell proliferation was analyzed by MTT according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Briefly, T98G, U87MG, and U251 were digested and seeded at $1 \times 10^3$ cells/well in 96-well plates and cultured in 100 µL medium overnight. The cells were treated by tested compounds with gradient concentrations for 48 h. At each indicated time point, MTT solution (10 µL/well) was added and then incubated at 37 °C for 2 h. The optical density (OD) at 450 nm was recorded by a microplate reader (Multiskan GO, Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). Each experiment was performed three times.

### 3.7. Anti-Inflammatory Activity

RAW 264.7 cells were seeded in 96-well plates at a density of $5 \times 10^5$ cells/mL. After 12 h, the cells were treated with 1 µg/mL of LPS and tested samples, followed by additional incubation for 24 h at 37 °C. MTT stock solution (2 mg/mL) was added to wells for a total reaction volume of 100 µL. After 4 h incubation, the supernatants were aspirated. The formazan crystals in each well were dissolved in DMSO (100 µL), and the absorbance was measured with the wavelength of 490 nm by a microplate reader (Multiskan GO, Thermo Scientific). The data were expressed as mean percentages of the viable cells compared to the respective control. After pre-incubation of RAW 264.7 cells ($1.5 \times 10^5$ cells/mL)
with 1 μg/mL LPS and samples at 37 °C for 24 h, the quantity of nitrite accumulated in the culture medium was measured as an indicator of NO production. Briefly, cell culture medium (50 μL) was added with Griess reagent (100 μL) and incubated at room temperature for 10 min. The absorbance was measured by a microplate reader (Multiskan GO, Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) at 540 nm wavelength.

4. Conclusions

The chemical investigation of the ascidian-derived fungus *Diaporthe* sp. SYSU-MS4722 afforded seven new polyketides, diaporthones A−G (1−7), together with 13 known analogues, including five mono- (8−14) and six dimeric xanthones (15−20). The absolute configurations of 1−7 were identified by X-ray crystallographic analysis and Calculation of the ECD Spectra. Compounds 11 and 15−20 showed significant anti-inflammatory activity with inhibition of nitric oxide (NO) production in RAW264.7 cells activated by lipopolysaccharide with IC_{50} values between 6.3 and 8.0 μM. At the same time, dimeric xanthones (15−20) exhibited selectively growth-inhibitory effects on T98G cell lines with IC_{50} values ranging from 19.5 to 78.0 μM.

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at https://www.mdpi.com/article/10.3390/md20010051/s1, Figure S1: The HRESIMS spectrum of compound 1, Figures S2−S7: The 1D and 2D NMR (600 MHz) spectra of compound 1 in CD_{3}OD, Figure S8: The IR spectrum of compound 1, Figure S9: The HRESIMS spectrum of compound 2, Figures S10−S15: The 1D and 2D NMR (400 MHz) spectra of compound 2 in CD_{3}OD, Figure S16: The IR spectrum of compound 2, Figure S17: The HRESIMS spectrum of compound 3, Figures S18−S23: The 1D and 2D NMR (400 MHz) spectra of compound 3 in acetone-d_{6}, Figure S24: The IR spectrum of compound 3, Figure S25: The HRESIMS spectrum of compound 4, Figures S26−S31: The 1D and 2D NMR (400MHz) spectra of compound 4 in CD_{3}OD, Figure S32: The IR spectrum of compound 4, Figure S33: The HRESIMS spectrum of compound 5, Figures S34−S39: The 1D and 2D NMR (400 MHz) spectra of compound 5 in CD_{3}OD, Figure S40: The IR spectrum of compound 5, Figure S41: The HRESIMS spectrum of compound 6, Figures S42−S47: The 1D and 2D NMR (400 MHz) spectra of compound 6 in CDCl_{3}, Figure S48: The IR spectrum of compound 6, Figure S49: The HRESIMS spectrum of compound 7, Figures S50−S55: The 1D and 2D NMR (400MHz) spectra of compound 7 in CD_{3}OD, Figure S56: The IR spectrum of compound 7.

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