Recent updates on the bioactive compounds of the marine-derived genus *Aspergillus*†

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The genus *Aspergillus* is widely distributed in terrestrial and marine environments. In the marine environment, several *Aspergillus* species have proved their potential to produce a plethora of secondary metabolites including polyketides, sterols, fatty acids, peptides, terpenoids, and miscellaneous compounds, displaying a variety of pharmacological activities such as antimicrobial, cytotoxicity, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activity. From the beginning of 2015 until December 2020, about 361 secondary metabolites were identified from different marine *Aspergillus* species. In our review, we highlight secondary metabolites from various marine-derived *Aspergillus* species reported between January 2015 and December 2020 along with their biological potential and structural aspects whenever applicable.

Introduction

Of all marine-derived fungi, the genus *Aspergillus* has gained the most awareness since it accounted for about 31 percent of natural marine fungal products from 2010 to 2013.1 Marine *Aspergillus* strains produce metabolites of different chemical structures, including fatty acids, polyketides, sterols, alkaloids, terpenoids, peptides, butenolides, and others, with a range of bioactivities, including antimicrobial, cytotoxicity, insecticidal, neuroprotective, and antioxidant activity. Plinabulin, a dehydrodiketopiperazine halimide analog, was terminated in phase II trials and also obtained a phase III review in 2015 for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer (advanced metastatic) and now has become FDA-approved.1−3 Reviewing the available literature concerning the genus *Aspergillus* marine-derived metabolites, a study was found demonstrating the bioactivities and chemical structures of 512 marine metabolites of *Aspergillus* origins between January 1992 and December 2014.4 Herein, the present study surveys most of the bioactive principles isolated from the marine-derived genus *Aspergillus* from 2015 till December 2020 and their abundance along with pharmacological potential.

Pharmacological activities

Over 5000 bioactive compounds have been identified from marine sources over the last few decades, showing various biological activities, including antibacterial, antitumor, anticoagulant, antifungal, anti-inflammatory and antiviral activities.4,5 Many of these metabolites are documented for their exceptional potencies that could be due to the need to resolve dilution of allelochemicals in seawater.6,7 Natural products extracted from marine *Aspergillus* spp. have been primarily linked to antimicrobial and cytotoxic bioactivities.8

Anticancer activity

Violaceimides A−B (1 and 2), two methylsuccinimide-based sulfur-bearing compounds, were isolated from *Aspergillus violaceus* WZXY-m64-17, a sponge-associated fungal strain. Both compounds exerted selective inhibition against the human leukemia U937 growth with IC_{50} values of 5.3 ± 0.4 and 1.8 ± 0.6 μM, respectively and also against human colorectal cancer cell HCT-8 with IC_{50} values of 1.5 ± 0.28 and 2.51 ± 0.51 μM, respectively.8

An enzyme with anticancer potential named L-asparaginase (LA) was purified and characterized from the marine-derived *Aspergillus niger*. This enzyme displayed impressive...
antiproliferative activity against different lines of cancer cells, including U87MG, A549, HepG2, bone marrow-derived chronic myeloid leukemia cells and JURKAT E6 with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 0.399, 0.375, 0.204, 0.2 and 0.22 U mL\textsuperscript{−1}, respectively.\textsuperscript{10} Aspergillus terreus A (3), a dihydrobenzofuran derivative, was purified from Aspergillus terreus [CFCC 81836], a marine-derived fungus. This benzofuran metabolite was investigated for its cytotoxic activities against diverse human cancer cell lines (SW-480 HLE-60, A-549, SMCC-7721, and MCF-7). It showed cytotoxicity against SW-480 and HL-60 cancer cell lines with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 25.7 and 15.3 \textmu M, respectively.\textsuperscript{11}

Highly oxygenated meroterpenoids namely, terreustoxin A (4) and terretonin [4], were isolated from the Antarctic fungus Aspergillus terreus.\textsuperscript{12} These meroterpenoids displayed a proliferation inhibition of Con A-induced murine T cells at the concentration of 10 \textmu M.\textsuperscript{13} A meroterpenoid, terretonin C (6), a halogenated furanone, rubrolide S (7) and a butenolide derivative, 5-[3,4-dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-2H-1-benzopyranyl-6-yl]-methyl]-3-hydroxy-4(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2(5H)-furanone (8), were isolated from the Aspergillus terreus OUMCDZ-2739, after chemical-epigenetic culture with 10 mM trichostatin A (TSA). For rubrolide S (7) against K562 cells, butenolide derivative (8) against K562 and MCF-7 cells and terretonin C (6) against MCF-7 cancer cell line with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 9.5, 13.0, 10.1 and 8.5 \textmu M, respectively, cytotoxicity was observed.\textsuperscript{14}

A crypt 3,4-dihyronaphthalen-(2H)-1-one (1-tetralone) derivative, aspvanicin B (9) and a xanthone, namely sterigmatocystin (10) were obtained from the marine-derived Aspergillus versicolor KU258497 co-cultured with the bacterium Bacillus subtilis 168 trpC2. Both metabolites were assessed for their cytotoxic activities, showing moderate (IC\textsubscript{50} = 22.8 \textmu M) for aspvanicin B (9) to strong cytotoxic activity (IC\textsubscript{50} = of 2.2 \textmu M) for xanthone derivative (10) against the mouse lymphoma cell line L5178.\textsuperscript{14}

Marine-derived fungus Aspergillus terreus extract was subjected to a chemical study yielding two butenolide derivatives, named (+)-3′,3′-di-(dimethylallyl)-butyrolactone II (11) and versicoloractone B (12). The two butenolides were evaluated against HCC1806, PANC-1, HepG2, HT-29 and BEAS-2B cancer cell lines, exhibiting potent cytotoxic activity against PANC-1 cancer cell line, with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 5.3 and 9.4 \textmu M, respectively. Morphological features of apoptosis were observed in 11 and 12-treated PANC-1 cells, including membrane blebbing, apoptotic body formation, nuclear condensation and cell shrinkage. Analysis of the cell cycle using propidium iodide staining showed that (+)-3′,3′-di-(dimethylallyl)-butyrolactone II (11) inhibits the proliferation of PANC-1 cells through the S phase and G2/M arrest induction, while versicoloractone B (12) could inhibit the induction of PANC-1 cells through the S phase arrest. Treatment with both metabolites substantially induced apoptosis of PANC-1 cells indicated by flow cytometric study.\textsuperscript{15}

Fermentation of the mangrove-derived fungus Aspergillus sp. AV-2 on solid rice medium followed by chemical investigation led to the purification of prenylated benzaldehyde derivatives, named tetrahydroauroglaucin (13), isotetrahydroauroglaucin (14), isodihydroauroglaucin (15), flavogluacnin (16) and 2′-(2′,3′-epoxy-1′,3′,5′-heptatrienyl)-6-hydroxy-5-(3-methyl-2-butenyl) benzaldehyde (17). All of them were assessed for their antiproliferative activity against Caco-2 cell lines, exhibiting strong inhibition, where flavogluacnin (16) revealed the most potent cytotoxicity with IC\textsubscript{50} of 2.87 \textmu M.\textsuperscript{16} A biphenyl derivative, dirocinol (18) and an anthraquinone, versicolorin B (19) were isolated from a marine-derived fungus Aspergillus versicolor ZZ761. These compounds had anti-proliferative activity against human U251 and glioma U87MG cells with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 6.2 and 4.4 \textmu M and 30.5 and 11.3 \textmu M, respectively.\textsuperscript{17}

From the deep-sea-derived fungus Aspergillus candidus, p-terphenyl derivatives were isolated, namely terphenyllin (20) and prenylterphenyllin (21). The two metabolites were tested for in vitro antitumor activities, showing potent anti-proliferative effect against four cancer cells of Eca-109, Hela, Panc-1 and Bel-7402, with IC\textsubscript{50} Values varying between 5.5 \textmu M and 9.4 \textmu M.\textsuperscript{18} 3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl x-\textomega-ribofuranoside (22), a phenolic glycoside, together with four indole-diketopiperazine alkaloids, namely echinulin (23), tardioxopiperazine B (24), neocholinulin D (25) and variecolorin O (26) and nucleotides named uracil (27) and adene (28), were isolated from the marine-derived endophytic fungus Aspergillus amstelodami (white beans culture). The antimelanogenic activity of the compounds isolated has been investigated. In B16 melanoma cancer cells, these compounds selectively repressed melanin output (arbutin was used as a positive control). Their IC\textsubscript{50} values were 30.8 ± 5.57 (22), 38.5 ± 6.08 (23), 52.6 ± 6.64 (24), 98.0 ± 1.16 (25), 100.4 ± 3.05 (26), 112.0 ± 0.22 (27) and 144.7 ± 2.35 \textmu M (28), respectively, compared to 151.7 ± 1.27 \textmu M for arbutin.\textsuperscript{19}

Epicoecocides A, B (29, 30) and NC3B (31), three polyyxigenated polyketides, were purified from Aspergillus microsensinis, a marine-derived fungus via combined chromatographic methods. The three compounds were evaluated for their cytotoxic activity against Lu-1, Hep-G2 and Vero cells, displaying significant cytotoxic bioactivities with IC\textsubscript{50} values ranging between 3.97 and 4.71 \textmu g mL\textsuperscript{−1} (the IC\textsubscript{50} values of the positive control, ellipticine = 0.29–0.31 \textmu g mL\textsuperscript{−1}). A diphenyl derivative, geodin (32) was isolated from Aspergillus sp. derived from the soft coral Sinularia sp. This metabolite has been tested for its cytotoxic activity against different lines of human cancer cells, including NCI-H460 large cell lung cancer cells, BT474 breast cancer cells, K562 chronic myelogenous leukemia cells, H-1975 non-small cell lung cancer cells, A549 lung cancer cells and DU1455 prostate cancer cells. Geodin (32) displayed substantial cytotoxic activity with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 9.22, 8.88, 11.14, 9.96, 11.05 and 14.44 \textmu M, respectively, against all cancer cells (positive control was staurosporine).\textsuperscript{20} A xanthone named AGI-B4 (33) was obtained from a deep sea-derived fungus Aspergillus sydowii C1-S01-A7. This xanthone remarkably exhibited selectively cytotoxic activity against A549 cell line with low IC\textsubscript{50} value (<10 \textmu M) and the strongest cytotoxic activities for both HepG2 and A549 with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 30.7 ± 0.9 and 8.1 ± 1.3, respectively.\textsuperscript{20} Seco-anthraquinone, chlorotryptacinid (34), was isolated from Aspergillus versicolor, a gorgonian-derived fungus, the South China Sea. Chlorotryptacinid (34) displayed cytotoxic activity against various tumor cell lines HL-60, HCT-116 and HepG2, with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 18.5, 17.6 and 15.2 \textmu M, respectively.\textsuperscript{20}

Seven prenylated p-terphenyls, prenylterphenyllins F-J (35-39) and prenylcandidusins E and G (40, 41) were isolated from...
a mangrove endophytic fungus, *Aspergillus candidus* LDJ-5. All these compounds are cytotoxic against SH-SY5Y, MGC-803, HCT-116, BEL-7402, A549, L-02, HeLa and U87 cells, with values in the IC₅₀ range between 0.4 and 24.4 μM.²⁴ A bis-indolyl benzienoid, petromurin C (42), was purified from the *Aspergillus candidus* KUFA0062 marine fungus [culture extract] derived from the marine sponge *Epiophalos* sp. Petromurin C (42) caused premature autophagy followed by apoptosis via mitochondrial stress concomitant with the intrinsic cell death activation pathway and McI-1 downregulation in FLT3-ITD mutated MV4-11 cells. Beside, petromurin C (42) was synergized with gilteritinib (FLT3 inhibitor clinically used) at subtoxic concentrations.²⁵

Prenylxanthones, A (43), C (44) and F (45), aspergixanthones, were isolated from the marine fungus *Aspergillus sp.* ZA-01. These prenylxanthones were evaluated for their cytotoxic activity. Aspergixanthones A (43) and F (45) demonstrated cytotoxicity against the neural cell line A-549 with IC₅₀ values of 1.8 and 1.1 μM respectively. Aspergixanthones C (44) and F (45) showed broad-spectrum cytotoxicities against five tumor cell lines, MDA-MB-231, MCF-7, MGC-803 and HeLa-A-549, with values (IC₅₀) ranging from 1.1 to 9.8 μM.²⁶ Five prenylated indole alkaloids, 17-O-ethylnoatomiic A (46), (−)-notoamide B (47), notoamides C (48) and M (49), and sclerotiadime (50), were isolated from of marine-derived fungi *Aspergillus sulphureus* KMM 4640 after co-culturing with *Isaria felina* KMM 4639. Notoamidic M (49) caused the most inhibition against human prostate cancer cells 22Rv1 (colony formation) at a non-cytotoxic concentration of 10 μM, whilst other alkaloids caused inhibition at 100 μM.²⁷

An indole alkaloid, misszrtine A (51), was isolated from marine sponge-derived fungus *Aspergillus sp.* SCSIO XWS03F03. It demonstrated a strong antagonistic action on the cancer cell lines of the HL60 leukemia (IC₅₀ = 3.1 μM) and LNCaP prostate (IC₅₀ = 4.9 μM), implying that the functional group on misszrtine A (51) indole nitrogen has a significant impact on its cytotoxicity, which offers a means of understanding the structure–activity relationship.²⁸

A diketopiperazine alkaloid, mahtanamide (52), was isolated from the marine sponge *Stylissa sp.*-derived fungus *Aspergillus flocculosus* collected in Vietnam. The isolated compound was evaluated for anti-proliferation activity, and a powerful effect of non-cytotoxic suppression on osteoclast differentiation was shown. Such suppression effects were demonstrated by osteoclast differentiation-induced receptor activation of the nuclear factor-κB ligand (RANKL).²⁹ Chrysophanic acid anthraquinone (53), together with four bis-indolyl benzenoids, asterrinquinol D dimethyl ether (54), kumbicin A (55), D (56) and (3S,6S)-3,6-dibenzytopiperazine-2,5-dione (57), were isolated from the cultures of *Aspergillus candidus* KUFA 0062, a marine sponge-associated fungus. These compounds were tested against several cancer cell lines for cytotoxicity: T98G, U-251, HCT116, A549, A 375, MCF-7, HT29 and HepG2, demonstrating cytotoxicity against all cancer cell lines tested.³⁰

Versianxanthones N-O (58, 59), two tetrahydroxanthone dimers, were isolated from *Aspergillus versicolor* HDN1009 (mangrove-derived fungus). These dimers exhibited extensive cytotoxicities against different cancer cell lines (K562, HL-60, HO-8910, MGC803 and H1975), with IC₅₀ values ranging between 1.7 μM and 16.1 μM.³¹

An asposcalasin, trichohalasin D (60) has been isolated from the *Aspergillus* sp. found in the gut of *Ligia oceanica*, a marine isopod. It was evaluated for cytotoxic effect against prostate cancer cell line (PC3), showing strong activity with IC₅₀ value of 11.14 μM.³²

Cordyol C-3-O-a-α-ribofuranoside (61), 7-ethyldiacrinol (62), 3-hydroxydiacrinol (63), glyceryl dioricinolic acid (64), cordyol C (65), and aspergile E (66), are six diphenyl ethers, which were purified from the marine-derived *Aspergillus sydowii* (ethyl acetate extract). These diphenyl derivatives were assayed for their cytotoxic effects against different cancer cell lines, including U937, 4T1, HT-29, PC3, HL-60, K562, A549 and NCI-H460, exhibiting selective cytotoxicity with IC₅₀ values varying between 3.36 ± 0.68 and 23.03 ± 1.345 against multiple cancer cell lines.³³ The initial fermentation of the fungus *Aspergillus ochraceus* cultivated from the Mediterranean sponge *Agelas oroides* on solid rice medium yielded a naphthoquinone derivative named viomellein (67) and phenylalanine derivative, namely ochratoxin B (68). These derivatives demonstrated a significant cytotoxic impact against human ovarian carcinoma (A2780) cells with IC₅₀ values of 3.0 and 3.0 μM, respectively.³⁴

Nine sesterterpenes, 14,15-dehydro-6-epi-ophiobolin K (69), 14,15-dehydro-ophiobolin K (70), 14,15-dehydro-6-epi-ophiobolin G (71), 14,15-dehydro-ophiobolin G (72), 14,15-dehydro-(2Z)-14,15- dehydro-14,15-dioibolin G (73), 6-epi-ophiobolin C (74), ophiobolin C (75), 6-epi-ophiobolin N (76), and ophiobolin N (77), were isolated from *Aspergillus flocculosus*, a marine fungus originating from the seaweed *Padina* sp., Vietnam. For cytotoxic effect against various cancer cell lines, NUGC-3, HCT-15, NCI-H23, ACHN, MDA-MB-231 and PC-3, all isolated ophiobolins were investigated, showing potent cytotoxicities with GI₅₀ values varying between 0.14 and 2.01 μM.³⁵ Ochrazepines A–D (78–81), four circumdatin–aspryne conjugates, were isolated from the coral-associated *Aspergillus ochraceus* strain LC11-102. Ochrazepine A (78) exhibited cytotoxic activity against numerous human cancer cell lines while ochrazepines B (79) and D (81) selectively inhibited the human glioblastoma U251 cell line and ochrazepines C (80) was active against the cell lines of human rhabdomyoma A673, human glioblastoma U87, and human liver cancer Hep3B, with IC₅₀ values of 2.5–11.3 μM.³⁶

A hydroxy pyrrolidine derivative, preussin (82), was isolated from *Aspergillus candidus* KUFA 0062, a marine sponge-associated fungus. This pyrrolidine derivative was evaluated for its antiproliferative and cytotoxic effects in breast cancer cells (SKBR3, MCF7, and MDA-MB-231), and in MCF12A, a non-tumor cell line. Analysis of cell morphology for ki67 and caspase-3 was performed as well as 3D (multicellular aggregates) and 2D (monolayer) cultures tests, using various assays. This metabolite affected cell proliferation and viability in cultures of both 3D and 2D in all cell lines tested. 3D cultured cells were less responsive and preussin-exposed cells morphological study revealed apoptosis, which was confirmed by caspase-3 immunohistochemistry.³⁷ In the course of chemical characterization of the marine-derived fungus *Aspergillus flavus*.
CF13-11, asperienes A–D (83–86), four C-6’/C-7’ epimeric drimane sesquiterpenes, were isolated. These sesquiterpene esters displayed potent bioactivities towards various cell lines (MCF-7, HeLa, A549 and MGC-803) with the IC50 values ranging between 1.4 and 8.3 μM. Moreover, compounds A (83) and D (86) demonstrated lower toxicity towards normal GES-1 cells than B (84) and C (85), indicating greater potential for discovery as an antitumor candidate in the future.38

A prenylated diphenyl derivative named dihydrobenzofuran diphenyl ether (87) was isolated from Aspergillus tennesseensis, a marine algae-endophytic fungus. It was examined for cytotoxic activities, displaying considerable in vitro inhibitory activity.

Fig. 1 Chemical structure of compounds 1–21.
against the THP-1 leukemia cell line, with an IC\textsubscript{50} value of 7.0 μg mL\textsuperscript{-1}.\textsuperscript{29} Nitrobenzoyl sesquiterpenes are rare from natural sources. 14-O-Acetylinsulicolide A (88), 6β,9α-dihydroxy-14-\textit{p}-nitrobenzoylcinnamolide (89) and insulicolide A (90), three nitrobenzoyl sesquiterpenoids, were isolated from the marine-derived fungus \textit{(Aspergillus ochraceus Jcma1F17)}. These sesquiterpenoidal metabolites were evaluated for their cytotoxic effects against three various carcinoma cell lines, 786-O, ACHN and OS-RC-2, cells, displaying activities with IC\textsubscript{50} values ranging between 0.89 and 8.2 μM. In addition, 14-O-acetylinsulicolide A (88) induced late programmed 786-O cells death at

Fig. 2 Chemical structure of compounds 22–39.
a concentration of 2 μM (72 h treatment) and arrested the cell cycle at the G0/G1 phase at a concentration of 1 μM.

Based on the characteristics of the dimeric xanthone structures, three dimeric xanthones, versixanthones G (91), H (92) and K (93) were isolated from the mangrove-derived Aspergillus versicolor fungus. These compounds showed the effects of Topo I inhibition and the most potent versixanthone G (91), a versixanthone H atropisomer (92), was assured of inhibiting Topo I-
mediated DNA relaxation by targeting Topo I and thus stopping the cell cycle process and causing necrosis in cancer cells. Studies of molecular docking showed that versixanthone G (91) could bind DNA through $\pi-\pi$ interaction and DNA Topo I via hydrogen bonds, forming a ternary complex. Ophiobolins, namely ophiobolins Z (94), K (95), O-Q (96–98), 21-epi-ophiobolin Z (99), 6-epi-ophiobolin K (100), ophiobolin G (101), 21,21-O-dihydro-6-epi-ophiobolin G (102), were isolated from the mangrove fungus Aspergillus ustus 094102. These compounds displayed cytotoxicities against the HL-60, MCF-7, MD-MBA-231, MCF/Adr, A549 and G3K human cancer cells with the IC$_{50}$ values ranging between 0.6 and 9.5 $\mu$M.
Chromatographic separation of the bioactive extract (anti-cancer) of the fungus *Aspergillus europaeus* WZXY-SX-4-1 derived from the marine sponge *Xestospongia testudinaria* has led to the isolation of various polyketide derivatives named eurobenzophenone B (103), euroxanthone A (104), 3-de-O-methylsulochrin (105), yicathin B (106), dermolutein (107), and methylemodin (108). These polyketides were tested for the inhibitory effects toward the NF-κB activation in SW480 human
colon carcinoma cell line, displaying remarkable repression of NF-κB expression in LPS-induced SW480 cells. Two naphtho-c-pyrones, rubrofusarine B (109) and fansecinone A (110), were purified from the marine-derived fungus *Aspergillus foetidus* KMM 4694. The effect of the substances on colony formation and viability of human drug-resistant prostate cancer cells
(22Rv1) was evaluated, leading to induction of ROS production in these cells in cytotoxic concentrations (10.53% at 100 μM and 12.53% at 10 μM, respectively). A naphthopyrone, namely fonscedine C (111), was also isolated from the fungal strain Aspergillus niger 2HL-M-8 isolated from the mud sample, China (the intertidal zone, Huludao coastline). Fonscedine C (111)
demonstrated potent in vitro antiproliferative activity against cell lines A549, HL-60 and MGC-803.44

The fungal strain Aspergillus fumigatus YK-7, which was cultivated from an intertidal zone collected from sea mud sample, China, yielded a terpenoid named pyripyropene E (112). This terpenoidal metabolite showed potent antiproliferative activity against U937, the human leukemic monocyte lymphoma cancer cells, with an IC50 value of 4.2 μM.46 Chemical investigation of the fungal strain Aspergillus wentii SD-310, isolated from the South China Sea (a deep sea sediment sample), yielded a tetratorlabdane diterpenoid named asperolide E (113). Cytotoxicity of asperolides E (113) was tested against a number of various cell lines, exhibiting cytotoxic activity against cell lines of human carcinoma of the cervix (HeLa), human breast carcinoma (MCF-7) and NCI-H466, with IC50 values of 10.0, 16.0 and 11.0 μM, respectively.47 A cytotoxic ester furan derivative (114) was isolated from the fungus Aspergillus niger obtained from the Northeast coast of Brazil (sediments). Cytotoxicity against HCT-116 (colon adenocarcinoma cell line) with IC50 was demonstrated by the compound at 2.9 μg mL⁻¹.48

For investigating the River Nile habitat, isolation of Di-[2-ethyl-hexyl] Phthalate (DEHP; 115) from fungus Aspergillus awamori had been performed. DEHP showed cytotoxic activity against MCF7, HEPG2, HCT 116 and HELA cell lines with IC50 values of 6.25, 26.73, 66.607 and 42.2958 respectively, concluding that the River Nile might be a tremendous resource for invention of bioactive metabolites.49 All anticancer marine-derived Aspergillus metabolites are depicted in Fig. 1–7.

Antibacterial activity

Two anthraquinone dimers, namely 6',6'-oxybis(1,3,8-trihydroxy-2-[(S)-1-methoxyhexyl]anthracene-9,10-dione) (116) and 6,6'-oxybis(1,3,8-trihydroxy-2-[(S)-1-hydroxyhexyl] anthracene-9,10-dione) (117) were isolated from the marine-derived fungus Aspergillus versicolor. Both compounds displayed selective antibacterial activity against Gram-positive Staphylococcus aureus (30 μg per well).50 Sponge-associated Aspergillus strain LS116 yielded a C23 steroid with bicyclo[4.4.1]A/B ring, namely aspergillsterol A (118). This compound displayed significant anti-bacterial activity against V. harveyi with a MIC value of 16 μg mL⁻¹, demonstrating that aspergillsterol A (118) could be considered one of promising agents for the aquatic disease control in the future.51

Chitosan polysaccharide was produced from unconventional sources, the marine-derived fungus Aspergillus griseaeaurantiacus KX010988 by solid state fermentation of potato shells. Chitosan showed good antibacterial activity against S. aureus, Bacillus subtilis, and Lactobacillus cereus with inhibition zone diameter = 21 ± 0.81, 19 ± 0.80 and 20 ± 0.71, respectively by 40 μg per well.52

Three analogues of citrinin, namely penicitrinin F (119), penicitrinol A (120) and citrinin (121), were isolated from the co-culture extracts of Penicillium citrinum EN-535 and Aspergillus sydowii EN-5344, two marine algal-derived endophytic fungal strains. The antimicrobial activity of the three compounds against V. parahaemolyticus, M. luteus, Ed. ictaluri, V. alginolyticus and E. coli was evaluated, showing strong inhibition with IC50 values varying from 4 to 64 μg mL⁻¹.53 A meroterpenoid, teretorin G (122) was isolated from the Aspergillus terreus EN-539, marine algal-derived endophytic fungus. This meroterpenoidal metabolite showed inhibitory activity against S. aureus and Micrococcus luteus, with MIC values of 8 and 32 μg mL⁻¹, respectively.54 Two aminobenzoic peptides, seco-clavatustide B (123) and clavatustide B (124) and a clavatoic acid derivative, 5-acetyl-2,4-dihydroxy-3-methylbenzoic acid (125), were characterized from the ascidian-derived endophytic fungus Aspergillus clavatus AS-107 (EtOAc extracts). The isolates were evaluated for various antimicrobial activities against aquatic and human pathogenic bacteria. Seco-clavatustide B (123) and clavatustide B (124) showed potent activity against Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Aeromonas hydrophila (aquatic pathogens) with MIC values of 8.8 and 8.2 μM, respectively. The clavatoic acid derivative (125) exhibited definite bacterial inhibitory activity against M. luteus with an MIC value of 38.1 μM.55 An indololitipene, (3R,9S,12R,13S,17S,18S)-2-carbonyl-3-hydroxylmenievoel (126) was isolated from a marine-derived fungus Aspergillus versicolor ZZ761. This indololitipene showed antimicrobial activities against Escherichia coli with a MIC value of 20.6 μM.56

Five aromatic bisabolene-type sesquiterpenoid, named (7R,11S)-12 methyl hydroxylated sydowic acid (127), aspergoterpenin C (128), (7S,11S)(+)-12-hydroxyxydroic acid (129), (7S)(+)-11-dehydroxyxydroic acid (130), and engyodontiumone I (131) were isolated and characterized from the Aspergillus versicolor SD-330 fungus originated from deep-sea sediments. These compounds were tested for antimicrobial activities against aquatic and human pathogenic bacteria. Selective inhibitory activity against E. coli, Aeromonas hydrophilia, Vibrio harveyi and Edwardsiella tarda zoonotic pathogenic bacteria was observed, in particular (7R,11S)-12 methyl hydroxylated sydowic acid (127), aspergoterpenin C (128) and engyodontiumone I (131), with MIC values ranging between 1.0 and 8.0 μg mL⁻¹.57 A promising polyextremophiles marine fungus strain 8Na, known as Aspergillus protuberus MUT 3638, with the potential to produce antimicrobial metabolites, was isolated during the bioassay-guided method. Bisvertinolone (132), a sorbicillonoid, which was found to exhibit a major antibacterial activity against S. aureus, was identified as the active principle with a MIC 30 μg mL⁻¹.57

Anthraquinone questin (133) from marine Aspergillus flavipes HN4-13 against V. harveyi (aquatic pathogenic) was investigated, in the basis of searching for the mechanistic pathway of its antibacterial activity. It exhibited favorable antibacterial and bactericidal activity against V. harveyi via disrupting the cell membrane and wall, which caused the destruction of integrity and permeability of cell membrane and wall, resulting in the intracellular biological components leakage and cell morphology change with MIC value of 31.25 μg mL⁻¹.58 Anti-bacterial activities against various Gram-positive bacteria were seen in the Aspergillus flavipes DL-11 strain extract. Ten biphenyl ethers, namely 4'-chloroasterric acid (134), chloroasterrate (135), penicillither (136), izuzine A (137), asterric acid (138), monomethylsoic acid (139), butyl 2,4-dichloroasterrate (140),
2,4-dichloroasterric acid (141), methyl dichloroasterric acid (142) and geodin hydrate (143), two benzophenones, named mono-chlorosulochrin (144) and dihydrogeodin (145) together with two xanthones, methyl[2-chloro-1,6-dihydroxy-3-methylxanthone]-8-carboxylate (146) and methyl[4-chloro-1,6-dihydroxy-3-methylxanthone]-8-carboxylate (147), were isolated by bioassay-guided separation. All metabolites demonstrated moderate to strong antibacterial activity with MIC values ranging from 3.13 to 50 μg mL⁻¹ on six Gram-positive bacteria. In particular, the MICs of certain isolates are at the level of positive control.²⁹

Three pyrazin-2(1H)-one derivatives, ochramide B (148), ochrulate A (149), as well as aluminiummeaspergillins (150), were isolated from of the marine coral-derived halotolerant Aspergillus ochraceus LCJ11-102 (fermentation broth in a nutrient-limited medium containing 10% sodium iodide). The isolated derivatives exerted antimicrobial effects with MIC values of 40.0, 18.9 and 20.1 μM, respectively, against Enterobacter aerogenes.⁴⁰ Five polyketides were isolated from the marine-derived fungus Aspergillus sp. ZF-79, named asperochins A (151), D (152) and F (153), (3R,4R)-4,7-dihydroxy-3-methylxynellein (154), and asteltoxin (155). All the isolates were tested for quorum sensing inhibitory activity (QSI), exhibiting QSI activity against Chromobacterium violaceum CV026 with MIC values of 50, 100, 50, 50, and 6.25 μM, respectively.⁴¹ A diphenyl derivative, dichloroasterric acid (141) was isolated from the fungus Aspergillus sp. derived from the soft coral Sinularia sp., the South China Sea. Furthermore, five pathogenic bacterial strains, S. aureus (ATCC 25923), Escherichia coli (ATCC 35401), Pseudomonas aeruginosa (ATCC 9027), Vibrio parahaemolyticus (ATCC 19019) and Vibrio anguillarum (ATCC 17802), were used to investigate the antibacterial activity of this diphenyl derivative (positive control was ciprofloxacin), displaying selective inhibition against S. aureus with the MIC value of 12.5 μM.²¹

In the course of investigation on potent nontoxic antibacterial agents from coral-derived fungi in the South China Sea, two biphenyl derivatives with cytotoxic and antimicrobial activities, sulochrin (156) and (-)-bis-dechlorogeodin (157) were isolated from a soft coral-derived fungus Aspergillus sp. These biphenyls were tested on the basis of chemical ecology for their antimicrobial activities against different pathogenic microorganisms, including the bacteria E. coli, P. aeruginosa and S. aureus, exhibiting strong antibacterial activity against P. aeruginosa with MICs of 7.53 and 3.78 μM (ciprofloxacin, MIC = 1.88 μM), respectively.⁴²

Investigation of EtOAc extract of a gorgonian-derived fungus, Aspergillus versicolor led to the isolation of two seco-anthrachinones, namely (+)-geodin (32) and chlorotryptacin (34). The antibacterial effects of both compounds were tested, showing antibacterial activity against Vibrio anguillarum, Staphylococcus albus and S. aureus, with a standardized MIC value of 25.0 μM.²³ Prenylated p-terphenyls, prenylphenyllins H-J (37–39), were isolated from the Aspergillus candidus LDIJ-5 (a marine-endophytic fungus). The three compounds were active as antimicrobials against Proteus species, P. aeruginosa and B. subtilis with IC₅₀ values varying from 22 to 90 μg mL⁻¹.²⁴ The fungal strain Aspergillus alabamensis EN-547 was derived from the Ceramium japonicum, one of marine red alga species (fresh inner tissue), leading to the isolation of 3 diketomorpholine derivatives, namely 4-epi-sec-sephi-shornephrine A methyl ester (158), 4-epi-sec-sephi-shornephrine A carboxylic acid (159) and shornephrine A (160) together with a highly conjugated ergostane-type steroid, 28-acetoxy-12b,15a,25-trihydroxyergosta-4,6,8(14),22-tetraena-3-one (161). These metabolites were assayed for antimicrobial activities against E. coli and Micrococcus luteus (two human pathogens) and five marine bacteria (Vibrio alginolyticus, Edwardsiella ictaluri, V. anguillarum, V. vulnificus and V. parahaemolyticus), showing inhibitions against aquatic bacteria (Ed. ictaluri and V. alginolyticus) and human pathogens (E. coli and M. luteus), with MIC values ranging between 16 and 64 μg mL⁻¹.⁴³

A hydroxyperylidine alkaloid, preussin (81), a bis-indolyl benzenoid, petromurin C (42) and chrysophanic acid (53) anthraquinones, were isolated from the Aspergillus candidus KUFA 0062, one of marine sponge-associated fungi. For their antibacterial activity against Gram-negative and Gram-positive reference and other environmental multidrug resistant strains, all metabolites were evaluated. Preussin (81) exhibited an inhibitory effect against E. faecalis ATCC29212 and S. aureus ATCC 29213 as well as both vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE) and methicillin-resistant S. aureus (MRSA) strains. Both preussin (81) and chrysophanic acid (53) caused significant reduction of biofilm production in E. coli ATCC 25922. Moreover, petromurin C (42) and preussin revealed a synergistic effect with oxacillin towards MRSA S. aureus 66/1 while preussin (81) exhibited a strong synergistic inhibition with the colistin antibiotic against E. coli 1410/1.²⁹ From the fungus Aspergillus sp. ZA-01, seven prenylxanthone derivatives, aspergixanthones A (43) and 1–K (162–164), and other analogues, 15-acetyl tajxanthone hydrate (165), tajxanthone hydrate (166), and 16-chlorotajxanthone (167) were obtained. All the isolates were tested for their anti-Vibrio activities. Aspergixanthone I (162) displayed the strongest anti-Vibrio activity, in particular against V. parahaemolyticus (MIC = 1.56 μM), V. anguillarum (MIC = 1.56 μM), and V. alginolyticus (MIC = 3.12 μM), whilst other isolates showed inhibition with IC₅₀ ranging between 1.56 and 25.0 μM.⁴⁴

A tetrahydroxanthone dimer, 5-epi-asperdichrome (168), was isolated from the Aspergillus versicolor HDN1009, a mangrove-derived fungus. This compound is a type of tetrahydroxanthone dimers. This dimer showed promising antibacterial activities against B. subtilis, P. aeruginosa and V. parahaemolyticus with MIC values ranging between 100 μM and 200 μM.²³ A sterol; ergosta-5,7,22-triene-3β-ol (169), a norsterol; volemolide (170), an indole alkaloid; oxaline (171), an indolyl diketopiperazine alkaloid; fumitremorgin B (172), a tricyclic triterpene; helvolic acid (173), and (E)-4-oxonon-2-enoic acid (174), were purified from the fermentation broth of a bivalve mollusk, Sanguinolaria chinensis associated with Aspergillus sp. SCS-KFD66, China. The growth inhibitory activity of these metabolites against four pathogenic bacterial strains (S. aureus ATCC 6538, E. coli ATCC 25922, Bacillus subtilis ATCC 6633 and Listeria monocytogenes ATCC 1911), were assessed. Inhibitory effect with MIC values ranging from 2 to 128 μg mL⁻¹ was
observed in all compounds.\textsuperscript{65} Two biphenyl derivatives, diorcinol J (175) and 4-methoxycarbonyldiorcinol (176), were isolated from the \textit{Aspergillus versicolor} OUCMDZ-2738. These compounds showed selective antibacterial effects against \textit{P. aeruginosa} with a MIC of 17.4 and 13.9 \textmu M, respectively.\textsuperscript{66}

Three helvolic acid derivatives, namely 16-O-propionyl-16-O-deacetylhelvolic acid (177), 6-O-propionyl-6-O-deacetylhelvolic acid (178) and helvolic acid (173), were isolated from the marine-derived fungus \textit{Aspergillus fumigatus} CUGBMF17018. The antibacterial activities against both MRSA and \textit{S. aureus}...
were shown by these compounds, with MIC values of between 0.78 and 12.5 µg mL⁻¹. Nine prenylated diphenyl ether compounds, diorcinols C–E (179–181), and J (175), (R)-diorcinol B (182), (S)-diorcinol B (183), 9-acetyldiorcinol B (184), and a dihydrobenzofuran derivative (87), were isolated from one of the marine algal-derived endophytic fungi, *Aspergillus tennesseensis* (87). These isolates were examined for antimicrobial effects, exhibiting antimicrobial activities against some plant...
and human pathogenic microbes (MIC values varying between 2–64 \mu g mL^{-1}).^{19}

An indole alkaloid, fumigatoside F (185) and an indole alkaloid, fumiquinazoline G (186), were purified from the fungus Aspergillus fumigatus SCOSIO 41012 (deep-sea derived). Moreover, all compounds were assayed for antibacterial activities. Fumiquinazoline G (186) exhibited the most significant activities against \textit{S. aureus} (29 213 and 16 339) with MIC values of 0.78 and 1.56 \mu g mL^{-1}, respectively, and an important inhibitory activity against \textit{A. baumannii} ATCC 19606 was seen with fumigatoside F (185), with a 6.25 \mu g mL^{-1} MIC value.\textsuperscript{46} Chemical investigation of the \textit{Aspergillus sydowii} SW9 (sea water-derived fungus) led to the purification of two quinazolinone alkaloids, 2-(4-hydroxybenzyl)-4-(3-acyetyl)quinazolin-one (187) and 2-(4-hydroxybenzoyl)-4-(3H)-quinazolinone (188), and one aromatic bisabolene-type sesquiterpenoid (189). These metabolites displayed selective inhibitory effects on the human pathogenic bacteria \textit{S. aureus}, \textit{E. coli}, \textit{S. epidermidis} and \textit{Streptococcus pneumoniae}, with MIC values varying between 2.0 and 16 \mu g mL^{-1}.\textsuperscript{48}

An anthraquinone, 2-(dimethoxymethyl)-1-hydroxyanthracene-9,10-dione (190), was isolated from the deep sea sediment fungus \textit{Aspergillus versicolor}. It showed strong inhibitory activities against MRSA CGMCC 1.12409 and MRSA ATCC 43300 (MIC values of 7.8 and 3.9 \mu g mL^{-1}, respectively). Molecular docking tests were added to this metabolite to suppress the enzymes AmpC \beta-lactamase and topoisomerase IV, signaling its utility as an antimicrobial agent.\textsuperscript{79} Three diphenyl ethers, diorcinols K (191), D (192) and I (193), were isolated from the marine fungus \textit{Aspergillus} sp. CUGB-F046, the Bohai Sea (a sediment sample), China. Such metabolites displayed considerable antibacterial activities towards methicillin-resistant \textit{S. aureus} with MIC values of 3.125, 6.25 and 6.25 \mu g mL^{-1}, respectively.\textsuperscript{73} Circumdatin F (194), a benzodiazepine alkaloid was purified from the deep sea fungus \textit{Aspergillus westerdijkiae} SCOSIO 05233 that was isolated from a sediment sample collected at the depth of 4593 m from the South China Sea. This alkaloid was examined for antifouling activity, displaying remarkable antifouling activity with \textit{EC}_{50} value of 8.81 \mu g mL^{-1}.\textsuperscript{72} A study of the fungal strain \textit{A. wentii} SD-310 described the isolation of five 20-nor-isopimarane diterpenoids, namely aspenwetins A (195), D (196), F–H (197–199). All the isolates were evaluated for their antimicrobial effects against seven aquatic pathogens and two human pathogenic bacteria, showing inhibitory activity against various aquatic pathogens \textit{Micrococcus luteus}, \textit{Edwardsiella tarda}, \textit{Pseudomonas aeruginosa}, \textit{Vibrio parahaemolyticus} and \textit{V. harveyi}, each with MIC values of 4.0 \mu g mL^{-1}.\textsuperscript{73}

An antibacterial anthraquinone, 2-(dimethoxymethyl)-1-hydroxyanthracene-9,10-dione (200), was separated from a marine deep sea-derived \textit{A. versicolor}, recovered from sediments collected at a depth of 2869 m in the West Pacific Ocean. The anthraquinone displayed strong antibacterial activities against MRSA CGMCC 1.12409 and MRSA ATCC 43300 (MIC values of 7.8 and 3.9 \mu g mL^{-1}, respectively). Molecular docking studies of the anthraquinone with AmpC \beta-lactamase and topoisomerase IV showed low binding energy.\textsuperscript{74}

Highly conjugated steroid, (22E)-ergosta-4,6,8(14),22,24(28)-pentaen-3-one (201), together with two steroid derivatives, (4S,17R)-4-hydroxy-17-methylincisterol (202) and chaxine C (203), in addition to five butyro lactone derivatives, 2-O-methylbutyro lactone I (204) and II (205), demethoxy carbonylbutyro lactone II (206), butyro lactones I (207) and III (208), were isolated from the marine-derived fungus \textit{Aspergillus} sp. XS-20090B15 recovered from the fresh gorgonian \textit{Muricella abnormalis}, The South China Sea (the Xisha Islands coral reef). The 2-O-methylbutyro lactone I (204) and II (205) butyro lactone derivatives demonstrated significant antibacterial activities against \textit{S. aureus} with a MIC value of 1.56 \mu M. On the other hand, the steroid derivatives, (22E)-Ergosta-4,6,8(14),22,24(28)-pentaen-3-one (201), (4S,17R)-4-hydroxy-17-methylincisterol (202), chaxine C (203) in addition to the butyro lactone derivatives, 2-O-methylbutyro lactone II (205), demethoxy carbonyl butyro lactone II (206), butyro lactone I (207) and III (208) displayed potent antifouling activities against \textit{Balanus amphitrite} with \textit{EC}_{50} values ranging between 0.63 and 18.4 \mu g mL^{-1}.\textsuperscript{75} Di-(2-ethyl-hexyl) phthalate (DEHP; 115) compound from fungus \textit{Aspergillus awamori} also exhibited activity against Gram positive bacteria \textit{Sarcina lutea} with inhibition diameter zone of 23 mm.\textsuperscript{76} All antibacterial marine-derived \textit{Aspergillus} metabolites are depicted in Fig. 2, 3, 5 and 7–12.

### Anti-inflammatory

An ochratoxin derivative named ochratoxin A\textsubscript{1} (209) was obtained from the \textit{Aspergillus ochraceopetaliformis}, a sponge-derived fungus. Ochratoxin A\textsubscript{1} (209) exhibited anti-inflammatory activity against IL-6 of the LPS-induced THP-1 cells and against TNF-\alpha expression with inhibitory rates of 67.7% and 74.4 at concentration of 10 \mu M, respectively.\textsuperscript{76} Two Diels–Alder additive steroids, ergosteradioids \textit{A} (210) and \textit{B} (211), were obtained from the \textit{Aspergillus} sp. DM29 (mangrove-derived fungus strain). These steroids displayed strong \textit{in vitro} anti-inflammatory effects \textit{via} the NO production suppression at 4.5 and 3.6 \mu M, respectively.\textsuperscript{77} Aromatic butenolides, asperimides \textit{C} (212) and \textit{D} (213) were isolated from a tropical endophytic fungus \textit{Aspergillus terreus} SC1550 (solid cultures). The inhibitory effects of these butenolides on nitric oxide (NO) production were studied in lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-mediated RAW 264.7 cells, exhibiting a powerful anti-inflammatory effect with \textit{IC}_{50} values of 0.78 \pm 0.06 and 1.26 \pm 0.11 \mu M.\textsuperscript{78} Deoxy-7,14-didehydroxysonol (214), a sesquiterpene derivative was obtained from \textit{Aspergillus versicolor} SYSU-SKS025, a mangrove endophytic fungus. This metabolite exerted inhibition of NO production in RAW 264.7 macrophages with \textit{IC}_{50} value of 12.5 \mu M.\textsuperscript{79}

A fungal metabolite, 6,8,1\textsuperscript{t}-O-methylverelanatin, an anthraquinone (215) was isolated from the \textit{Aspergillus} sp. SF-6796, a marine-derived fungal strain. This anthraquinone induces heme oxygenase (HO)-1 protein up-regulation, which is present in microglial BV2 cells. HO-1 protein induction was mediated by the activation of Nrf2 (nuclear transcription factor erythroid-2 associated factor 2), and additionally was regulated by phospha tidylinositol 3-kinase/protein kinase B and the p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase signaling pathways. In addition, 6,8,1\textsuperscript{t}-O-methylverelanatin (215) caused overproduction suppression of prostaglandin E2 and NO (pro-inflammatory mediators), such as, with \textit{IC}_{50} values of 2.59 \pm 0.39 and 5.62
± 0.18 mM, respectively, inducible cyclooxygenase-2 and nitric oxide synthase, in lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-stimulated BV2 microglial cells. The anti-neuroinflammatory effects were mediated via the down-regulation of the nuclear factor kappa B (NFKB) mechanistic pathway, suppressing translocation into the nucleus of p65/p50 heterodimer, the degradation and phosphorylation of inhibitor kappa B-a and p65 subunit DNA-binding activity. A selective HO-1 inhibitor has partly repressed the anti-neuroinflammatory activity of 6,8,1'-tri-O-methylaverantin (215), indicating that its anti-neuroinflammatory effect is relatively mediated by induction of HO-1. HO-1 protein expression in primary microglial cells is also up-regulated by 6,8,1'-tri-O-methylaverantin (215), which

Fig. 10 Chemical structure of compounds 160–173.
may be associated with anti-neuroinflammatory effects found in LPS-stimulated primary microglial cells.68

Butyrolactone-1 (ZB5-1; 216) from the Aspergillus terreus (coral-derived fungus) was explored for its anti-neuroinflammatory activity on lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced BV-2 microglia cells. ZB5-1 (216) in tested concentrations significantly reduced the production of NO, and interleukin-1 beta (IL-1β). The dose-dependent expression of inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) was also down-regulated by ZB5-1 (216). Moreover, the effect of ZB5-1 (216) on the signaling pathway of nuclear factor-kB (NF-kB) that was studied through evaluation of the expression of phosphorylation of inhibitor of NF-kB and (1κB) NF-kB p65, and the nuclear translocation of NF-kB p65, respectively. Moreover, molecular docking study proposed that ZB5-1 (216) bound at the NF-kB active sites, preventing its translocation to the nucleus.69 Three derivatives of ochratoxin, called ochratoxin A1 (209), ochratoxin B (68) and ochratoxin B methyl ester (217) were isolated from the Aspergillus ochraceoverticolor, a marine-derived fungus. The anti-inflammatory activities of these alkaloids were all tested, exhibiting potential iNOS inhibitory activities and inhibited the release of NO in LPS-induced RAW 264.7 with IC50 values, ranged between 5.39 and 9.95 μM (iNOS) and between 17.24 ± 1.32 and 25.09 ± 2.21 μM (NO release).67 All anti-inflammatory marine-derived Aspergillus methylides are metabolites depicted in Fig. 3, 7–9.

Antidiabetic activity

Two new lumazine-containing peptides, terrelumamidines A (238) and B (239), were obtained from Aspergillus terreus FA009 fungal strain cultivated from marine sediments, Jeju Island, Korea. These peptides improved insulin sensitivity that was tested in an adipogenesis model using stem cells of human bone marrow mesenchymal. Moreover, the peptides showed fluorescence changes from binding to DNA, indicating their possible applications for DNA sequence recognition.60 Flavipesolides A-C (240–242), three butenolide derivatives, in addition to 7 compounds; 5-[3,4-dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-2H-1-benzopyran-6-yl]methyl-3-hydroxy-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2(SH)furanone (243), aspernolide A (244), emodin (245), geodin hydrate (143), methylidichloroasterrate (246), monomethylsinoic acid (139), epicoccolide B (30), were isolated from the Aspergillus flavipes HN4-13 fungus grown from a sediment sample in the coastal region of Lianyang, China. The noncompetitive alpha-glucosidase inhibitors (K/iC50 values = 0.43/34, 21/37, 0.79/19, and 2.8/90 μM, respectively) were 5-[3,4-dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-2H-1-benzopyran-6-yl]methyl-3-hydroxy-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2(SH)furanone (243), aspernolide A (244), emodin (245) and methylidichloroasterrate (246). Mixed alpha-glucosidase inhibitors with K/iC50 values of (2.5, 19)/44, (3.4, 14)/57, (9.2, 4.7)/95, (6.3, 5.5)/55, (1.4, 0.6)/9.9, and (2.5, 7.2)/33 μM, respectively (iC50 79 μM for acarbose and 101 μM for 1-deoxyxojirimycin) are the compounds flavipesolides A-C (240–242), geodin hydrate (143), monomethylsinoic acid (139), and epicoccolide B (30).69

A bisabolone sesquiterpene, deoxy-7,14-didehydroxydonol (214) was also evaluated for its x-glucosidase inhibitory activity. This sesquiterpene displayed strong inhibitory activity against x-glucosidase with IC50 value of 7.5 μM.67 Diketopiperazine dimer alkaloids, SF5280-415 (247) and SF5280-451 (248) were isolated from the marine-derived fungus Aspergillus sp. SF-5280 (EtOAc extract) by various chromatographic methods. These alkaloids showed inhibitory effects towards PTP1B activity (for diabetes and obesity) with IC50 = 12.9 ± 0.7 μM.68 (+)-tylopiolin D (249), a racemate of a diphenolic derivative, a phalenolone, funalenone (250), four polyketide naphthopyrones, rubrofusarin B (109), TMC-256A1 (251), aurasperone F (252), and fusicoccin (253), together with malformin A1 (254), were isolated from Aspergillus sp. SF-5929, a marine-derived fungal strain. These isolates were evaluated for their inhibitory effects against protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B (PTP1B) activity, resulting in inhibition of PTP1B activity with IC50 values ranging between 3.3 and 8.1 μM.69

Butenolide derivatives (+)asperteretal D (255), asperteretal E (256), flavipesolides B-C (241–242), butyrolactones I (207), II
and 5-[(3,4-dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-2H-1-benzopyran-6-yl)methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2(5H)-furanone (258), were obtained from the marine-derived sponge *Phakellia fusca* fungus *Aspergillus terreus*. Those butenolides exhibited significant inhibitory activities against α-glucosidase with IC₅₀ values of 8.65 ± 0.4–9.98 ± 0.8, 13.36 ± 1.1, 10.3 ± 0.6, 7.63 ± 0.4, 14.18 ± 1.03, and 11.65 ± 0.7 μM, respectively (acarbose, positive control with an IC₅₀ value of 320 μM). A butenolide derivative,
versicolactone G (222), was isolated from a coral-associated *Aspergillus terreus* fungus. An inhibitory potential with an IC₅₀ value of 104.8 ± 9.5 μM (positive control acarbose IC₅₀ = 154.7 ± 8.1 μM) was tested for alpha-glucosidase inhibitory activity of this isolate. A meroterpenoid identified as (R,E)-3-(2,2-dimethylchroman-6-yl)-4-hydroxy-5-[(2-(2-hydroxypropan-2-yl)-2,3-
dihydrobenzofuran-5-yl)methylene)furan-2(5H)-one (259), a halogenated furanone, rubrolide S (7) and a butenolide derivative, butyrolactone I (207), were isolated from *Aspergillus terreus* OUCMDZ-2739 upon chemical-epigenetic culture with 10 mM trichostatin A (TSA). These compounds demonstrated greater inhibition of alpha-glucosidase than acarbose and 1-

Fig. 13  Chemical structure of compounds 214–231.
deoxynojirimycin (positive controls) with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 24.8, 1.2, 61.6, 555.1 and 191.7 \textmu M, respectively. Furthermore, the enzyme kinetics analysis suggested that rubrolide S (7) was an anticompetitive inhibitor (1.42 \textmu M \textit{K}_i value).\textsuperscript{13} Versicolactone G (222) was also tested for alpha-glucosidase inhibitory activity. This isolate demonstrated high inhibitory potency (IC\textsubscript{50} value = 104.8 \pm 9.5 \textmu M), whilst (IC\textsubscript{50} of acarbose positive control = 154.7 \pm 8.1 \textmu M).\textsuperscript{93} Two phenolic bisabolane sesquiterpenoids (E)-3-(3-hydroxy-4(6-}
methylhept-2-en-2-yl)benzyl)-2,5-dimethylphenol (260) and peniciaculin B (261) and derivatives containing phenolic bisabolane sesquiterpenoid and diphenyl ether units namely, peniciaculin A (262) and expansol D (263), were isolated from the Kandelia obovata-endophytic fungus Aspergillus flavus QQSG-3. All metabolites were tested for their alpha-glucosidase inhibitory action, showing potent inhibitory effects with IC$ _{50} $ values of 4.5, 3.1, 1.5, and 2.3 $ \mu $M, respectively.\(^\text{24}\)
The biphynyl derivatives diocinol E (181), diocinol J (175) and diocinol (18), were isolated from the marine Aspergillus versicolor OUCMD2-2738 fungus in chemical-epigenetic 10 μM vorinostat cultures (SAHA). These biphynyls displayed alpha-glucosidase inhibitory activity with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 117.3, 275.3 and 117.3 μM, respectively. Both diocinols E (181) and J (175) displayed better α-glucosidase inhibitory effect than the positive control acarbose (IC\textsubscript{50} = 255.3 μM). All antidiabetic marine-derived Aspergillus metabolites are depicted in Fig. 2, 4, 7–9 and 11–15.

**Antiviral activity**

A number of phenolic compounds including two anthraquinones, aspergilois H–I (264–265), in addition to an anthraquinone compound, coccoquinoine A (266), were identified from the fungus A. versicolor SCSIO 41502 (=DFFCS010), a deep-sea-derived strain that had been recovered from the South China Sea (marine sediment sample). Compounds aspergiloil H (264), I (265) and coccoquinoine A (266) displayed strong antiviral activity against herpes simplex virus types 1 (HSV-1) with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 4.68, 6.25, and 3.12 μM, respectively.\textsuperscript{95}

Asteltoxins E (267) and F (268) polyketides were obtained from Aspergillus sp. SCSIO XWS02F40, a marine sponge-derived fungus. Asteltoxin E (267) and F (268) demonstrated potent antiviral activity against influenza virus A subtype H3N2 (A/ H3N2) with the very low IC\textsubscript{50} values of 6.2 ± 0.08 and 8.9 ± 0.3 μM, respectively. Furthermore, asteltoxin A also revealed inhibitory activity against influenza virus A subtype H1N1 (A/H1N1) with an IC\textsubscript{50} value of 3.5 ± 1.3 μM.\textsuperscript{96} A meroterpenoid, named nastulайдe U (269) was isolated from the sponge-derived Aspergillus aureolatus HDN14-107 fungus. Nastulайдe U (269) revealed antiviral activity against A/H1N1, with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 90 μM.\textsuperscript{97} Two prenylated benzaldehyde derivatives, namely isodihydroauroglucin (15) and flavoglaucin (16) were isolated from the fungus Aspergillus ruber collected from the Xisha Islands. The two benzaldehyde derivatives showed significant antiviral activity against HSV-1 virus.\textsuperscript{98} Three xanthones, namely methyl-(2-chloro-1,6-dihydroxy-3-methylxanthone)-8-carboxylate (270), methyl-(4-chloro-1,6-dihydroxy-3-methylxanthone)-8-carboxylate (271) and methyl-[(1,6-dihydroxy-3-methylxanthone)-8-carboxylate (272), were isolated from Aspergillus ituzake (coastal saline soil-derived). These xanthones were evaluated for their antiviral activity, and methyl-(4-chloro-1,6-dihydroxy-3-methylxanthone)-8-carboxylate (271) exhibited definitely strong activity towards herpes simplex virus types 1 (HSV-1), 2 (HSV-2) and A/H1N1 with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 21.4, 76.7 and 44.6 μM, respectively, which suggested that it was worth to further study this xanthone as a potential lead compound.\textsuperscript{99}

Two xanthones, 2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)-8-methoxy-3-methyl-9H-xanthene-9-one (273) and 2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)-7,8-dimethoxy-3-methyl-9H-xanthene-9-one (274), two anthraquinones, quetin (133) and emodic acid (275) and a dibenzofurane, 3,7-dihydroxy-1,9-dimethyl dibenzofuran (276), were isolated from the fungus Aspergillus sydowii SCSIO 41,301 collected from the sponge Phakellia fusca. All metabolites were tested for their antiviral activity. They displayed prominent selective inhibitory activities against two subtypes of influenza A virus, including A/ FM-1/1/47 (H1N1) and A/Puerto Rico/8/34 (H1N1), with IC\textsubscript{50} values varying between 2.17 ± 1.39 and 4.70 ± 1.11 μM. The dibenzofurane compound also displayed obvious selective inhibitory activities against A/Indom/2/68 (H3N2) with IC\textsubscript{50} value of 1.24 ± 0.14 μM.\textsuperscript{100} A meroterpenoid, apertepene N (277), was isolated and identified from Aspergillus terreus EN-339, one of marine algal-derived endophytic fungi. This meroterpenoid showed inhibitory activity against influenza neuraminidase (IC\textsubscript{50} = 18.0 nM).\textsuperscript{101} All antiviral marine-derived Aspergillus metabolites are depicted in Fig. 1, 8, 15 and 16.

**Anti-oxidant activity**

A number of phenolic compounds including compounds, 6-methylbenzene-1,2,4-triol (278), violaceol-II (279), cordyloc C (64) and sydowiols B (280), E (281) and D (282) were separated from the deep-sea-derived fungus A. versicolor SCSIO 41502 (=DFFCS010) that had been recovered from a marine sediment sample, the South China Sea. With IC\textsubscript{50} values of 18.92–52.27 μM against DPPH radicals, the phenolic isolates exhibited antioxidant activity greater than 1-ascorbic acid.\textsuperscript{95} Application of the OSMAC approach through adding bromide containing salts (CaBr\textsubscript{2} and NaBr) during fermentation of Aspergillus niger (marine-mudflats-derived fungus) resulted in the development of a brominated napthopyranone, named 6,9-dibromo-flavasperone and three compounds; TMC-256A1 (251), fonsecin (253) and auraphorene B (283). The marine mudflat (from which the fungus Aspergillus niger, was cultivated) had been collected at Suncheon Bay, Jeonnam Province, Korea. All the isolated compounds exhibited potent radical scavenging activity against DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl), with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 21, 25, 0.3, 0.02, and 0.01 μM, respectively. Compounds TMC-256A1 (251), fonsecin (253) and auraphorene B (283) were more potent than ascorbic acid (the positive control, IC\textsubscript{50} = 20.0 μM).\textsuperscript{101}

Seven phenolic compounds were purified from the marine-derived fungus Aspergillus versicolor; cordyloc C (64), methylgerflerin (284), violaceol II (279), 10-O-methylavermatrin (285), lecanoric acid (286), 1-methylpyrogallol (287), and fumalic acid (288). The fungus A. versicolor (A-21-2-7) was cultured from the deep-sea sediments, Southern China Sea. The isolates were investigated for their TEAC (trolox equivalent antioxidant capacity). Cordyloc C (64), lecanoric acid, 1-methylpyrogallol (287), and fumalic acid (288) were proved to possess stronger free-radical scavenging effects, about five folds than trolox (positive control). Furthermore, the Nrf2-regulated gene expression, as found in the Nrf2-dependent luciferase reporter gene assay, was potentially activated by cordyloc C (64), methylgerflerin (284), violaceol II (279), 10-O-methylvermatrin (285) and lecanoric acid (286).\textsuperscript{102} 2-Pyrene derivatives, sydowiones A-B (289–290), were isolated from Aspergillus sydowii SCSIO 00305, a marine-derived fungus. They showed antioxidant activity against 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radicals with IC\textsubscript{50} values of 46.0 and 46.6 μM, respectively.\textsuperscript{103} The cultured fungus Aspergillus europaeus WZXY-SX-4-1 (EtOAc extract) isolated from the marine-derived sponge Xestospongia testudinaria, was
evaluated, displaying radical scavenging activity (RSA). Therefore, polyketide derivatives, namely eurobenzophenone C (291), 3-de-O-methylsulochrin (105) and 14-de-O-methyl-5-methoxysulochrin (292), were isolated from the mentioned bioactive fraction. These polyketides showed strong RSA against DPPH with IC$_{50}$ values of 1.7 ± 0.2, 2.3 ± 0.1 and 5.4 ± 0.1 µg mL$^{-1}$, respectively.$^{41}$

![Chemical structure of compounds 265–282.](image)
Butenolide derivatives, asperteretal E (256), butyrolactone III (208) and aspernomide A (244), B (293), were isolated from the fungus Aspergillus terreus. SCSIO FZQ028, South China Sea deep-sea sediment. All the derivatives were evaluated for their antioxidative activities against DPPH, showing potent activities against DPPH (IC_{50} ranging between 5.89 and 10.07 µg mL^{-1}). Azacoccones C (294) and E (295), aza-epicoccone derivatives, were isolated from the marine-derived Aspergillus flavipes.
culture. These derivatives demonstrated substantial free radical scavenging effects that were greater than positive control trolox (IC_{50} values of 4.0, 2.4 and 4.55 μg mL^{-1} respectively).^{105} EtOAc extract of Aspergillus versicolor fungus derived from deep-sea sediments leading to the isolation of four anthraquinones, UCT1072M1 (296), averantin (297), averythrin (298) and
nidurufin (299). These isolates potentially triggered the expression of Nrf2 (the nuclear factor E2-related factor 2), a transcription factor that consistent with oxidative stress by binding to ARE (the antioxidant response element) in the genes promoter coding for antioxidant proteins and enzymes for glutathione synthesis with $1.49 \pm 0.28$, $1.58 \pm 0.11$, $1.46 \pm 0.08$, \ldots
and 1.41 ± 0.05 folds, respectively compared to control. All anti-oxidant marine-derived *Aspergillus* metabolites are depicted in Fig. 3, 12, 14, 15 and 16–18.

**Antifungal activity**

DEHP (115) also exhibited activity against *Candida albicans* fungus with inhibition diameter zone of 20 mm. Reporting the bioassay-guided purification of bioactive fatty acid derivatives, a butenolide, namely sinulolide I (300) together with three common metabolites, (9Z,12Z)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl) octadec-9,12-dienamide (301), dodecanoic acid (302) and decanoic acid (303), were isolated from *Aspergillus terreus* SCSIO 41202 from the deep-sea sediment. These compounds displayed significant antifungal activity against *Penicillium italicum* (citrus postharvest pathogen) with MIC values around 0.125, 0.062, 0.031 and 0.062 mg mL⁻¹, respectively. A 20-nor-isopimarane diterpenoid epimer, aspewentin M (304), was isolated from *Aspergillus wentii* SD-310 fungus from the deep sea sediment. This compound was tested for plant-pathogenic fungi, showing potent activity against *Fusarium graminearum*. An indole alkaloid, namely fumigatoside E (305) was purified from deep-sea fungal *Aspergillus fumigatus* SCSIO 41012. In addition, it was evaluated for its antifungal inhibitory activities, showing potent antifungal effect towards *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *momordicae*, with MIC of 1.56 μg mL⁻¹.

On the course of anti-saprolegniasis metabolites from numerous cultured broths of various deep-sea fungal strains, three diphenyl ethers, diorcinol (18), violaceol-I (306) and violaceol-II (279), were isolated from the deep-sea-derived fungus *Aspergillus* sp. YK-76 originated from an *Oseax* sp. annelid. These compounds showed anti-*S. parasitica* activity, suggesting that diorcinol (18) and violaceol analogs could have their potential to be used as saprolegniasis preventing candidates. Chitinase enzyme (307) was produced from unconventional sources, the marine-derived fungus *Aspergillus griseoaurantiacus* KX010988 by solid state fermentation of potato shells. Chitinase enzyme (307) showed good antifungal activity against *F. solani* with inhibition zone diameter = 23 ± 1.20. An indoloditerpene, (3R,9S,12R,13S,17S,18S)-2-carbonyl-3-hydroxylemeniveol (126) was isolated from a marine-derived fungus *Aspergillus versicolor* ZZ761. This indoloditerpene showed antimicrobial activities with MIC value of 22.8 μM against *Candida albicans*. Prenylated p-terphenyls, prenylterphenyllins H–J (37–39), were isolated from the marine-derived endophytic fungus *Aspergillus candidus* LDJ-5. The

![Fig. 20](image-url) (A) Natural products isolated from marine-derived genus *Aspergillus* according to the year of publication, (B) bioactivities of natural products derived from marine-derived genus *Aspergillus*, (C) secondary metabolites classes derived from marine-derived genus *Aspergillus*.
three compounds are active as antimicrobials against Monilia albicans with IC$_{50}$ values varying from 22 to 90 µg mL$^{-1}$. A study of the fungal strain described the isolation of a rare class of fungal metabolites, 20-nor-isopimarane diterpenoids, upon implementation of different fungal cultivation conditions. Aspewentins D (196), H (199), were obtained from the A. wentii SD-310 EtOAc extract. These compounds were tested against four plant pathogenic fungi for their antifungal activity and showed activity against F. graminearum, with MIC values of 2.0 and 4.0 µg mL$^{-1}$, which are smaller than that of the positive control amphotericin B (MIC = 8.0 µg mL$^{-1}$), respectively.$^{73}$ All antifungal marine-derived Aspergillus metabolites are depicted in Fig. 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 16 and 18.

**Neuroprotective activity**

An auroglaucin-derived compound, niveoglaucin A (308) and a prenylated benzaldehyde derivative, flavoglaucin (16), were isolated from the extract of Aspergillus niveoglaucus (a marine sediment-derived strain). The neuroprotective activity in 6-OHDA-induced Parkinson’s disease cell model was shown for both compounds, resulting in increased viability of 6-OHDA-treated cells by 20–25%.$^{10}$ The neuroprotective activities of diketopiperazine macnamamide (51) from Aspergillus flocculosus and prenylated p-terphenyls, candidusin A (309) and 4′′-dehydroxycandidusin A (310) from Aspergillus sp. KMM 4676, were evaluated in the paraquat (PQ)-induced Parkinson’s disease (PD) and 6-hydroxydopamine (6-OHDA)- cell models. These metabolites protected Neuro2a cells against the 6-OHDA damaging influence to varying degrees, which might be realized via ROS scavenging pathway. Dehydroxylation at C-4′′ and C-3′′ remarkably increased neuroprotective activity and ROS scavenging of candidusin-related p-terphenyls in both the PQ-induced PD and 6-OHDA-models.$^{111}$ Four echinulin-related indole diketopiperazine alkaloids, namely (+)-Cryptoechinulin B (311), neoechinulin (312), and neoechinulins B–C (313–314), were isolated from the fungus Aspergillus niveoglaucus (Vietnamese sediment-derived). (+)-Cryptoechinulin B (311) displayed neuroprotective activity in rotenone, paraquat- and 6-OHDA-induced in vitro Parkinson’s disease models. (+)-Cryptoechinulin B (311) and neoechinulin C (314) have shown substantial neuronal cell defense against paraquat-induced damage. In the 6-OHDA-induced model, neoechinulin (312) showed activity and neoechinulin B (313) exhibited cytotoxic activity in a rotenone-induced model.$^{312}$ All neuroprotective marine-derived Aspergillus metabolites are depicted in Fig. 1, 3 and 18.

**Antimycobacterial activity**

Ergosteridiacids A (210) and B (211) were obtained from Aspergillus sp. DM29, one of mangrove-derived fungi (see Anti-
inflammatory section). In the bioactivity assays, these steroids exhibited potential in vitro inhibition effect against MtpPB (Mycobacterium tuberculosis protein tyrosine phosphatase B) with an IC\(_{50}\) value of 15.1 and 30.1 \(\mu\)M, respectively. The experimentations concerning inhibitory kinetic indicated that both steroids acted via a noncompetitive inhibition mechanistic pathway.\textsuperscript{77} Butyrolactone I (207), a polyketide was obtained from Aspergillus terreus SCSIO 41008 (a marine sponge-derived fungus). It showed significant inhibitory effects against MtpPB, with the IC\(_{50}\) of 5.11 \(\mu\)mol L\(^{-1}\), respectively. This butyrolactone acted via a noncompetitive inhibition based on kinetic analysis.\textsuperscript{113} Prenylterphenyllin I (38), a prenylated \(p\)-terphenyl was isolated from the marine-derived endophytic fungus, Aspergillus candidus LDJ-5. This compounds was found to be antimicrobial against Mycobacterium phlei with IC\(_{50}\) value of 45 \(\mu\)g mL\(^{-1}\).\textsuperscript{44} All antimycobacterial marine-derived Aspergillus metabolites are depicted in Fig. 2 and 12.

Miscellaneous activities

A number of phenolic compounds including 4-carb glyceryl-3,3'\textsuperscript{-}dihydroxy-5,5'\textsuperscript{-}dimethyl diphenyl ether (315), sydowiols B (280), E (281) and D (282), and 2,4-dihydroxy-6-(4S-hydroxy-2-oxopentyl)-3-methylbenzaldehyde (316), were separated from the A. versicolor SCSIO 41502 (=DFFSCS010), one of deep-sea-derived fungal strains that had been recovered from a marine sediment sample, the South China Sea. These phenolic compounds exhibited significant antifouling activity towards a larval settlement Bugula neritina with EC\(_{50}\) values of 1.28, 2.61, 5.48, 1.59, and 3.40 \(\mu\)g mL\(^{-1}\), respectively.\textsuperscript{95}

Epigenetic modification of the marine-derived fungus Aspergillus sp. SCSIOW3 obtained from a deep marine sediment sample collected in the South China Sea, elicited the isolation of two compounds; diorcinal (317) and corydol (318). The biomembrane defensive role of erythrocytes has been shown by these compounds. Algicidal action against Chattonella marina, an alga causing large-scale fish kills, was also seen with diorcinal (317).\textsuperscript{114}

Versiquinazolines A (319), B (320) and G (321), fumiquinazoline-type alkaloids, were separated from the gorgonian (Pseudopterogorgia sp.)-derived Aspergillus versicolor LZD-14-1 fungus, the South China Sea. These metabolites exhibited inhibitory activities towards thioredoxin reductase, with IC\(_{50}\) values of 20, 12 and 13 \(\mu\)M, respectively.\textsuperscript{115} An artifact drimane derivative, 11,12-O-isopropylidene-6-epi-albrassitriol ester of (E,E)-6,7-dihydroxy-2,4-octadienoic acid (322) was isolated from Aspergillus ustus KMM 4664, a marine-derived fungus. This drimane exhibited significant inhibition effect of spermatozoa, fertilizing egg-cells of the Strongylocentrotus intermedius (sea urchin) with IC\(_{50}\) value of 21 \(\mu\)M.\textsuperscript{116} A \(\gamma\)-lactone, aspergilactone A (323) and pericoterpenoid A (324), a naphthalene carboxylic acid derivative, were purified from the sponge-associated fungus Aspergillus sp. LS45. These metabolites were investigated in a variety of bioassays, and both metabolites showed strong inhibitory activity against the
Arabidopsis thaliana Columbia-0 lateral root growth at a concentration of 100 μM. Depsidone derivatives, namely nor nidulin (325), nidulin (326) and aspergillusidones A (327) and F (328), were isolated from the marine-derived fungus Aspergillus unguis. Nornidulin (325), nidulin (326) and aspergillusidones F (328) displayed potent larvicidal activity against brine shrimp with IC₅₀ values of 12.8, 4.5 and 12.8 μM, respectively, indicating that plasma mutagenesis and chemical induction could be utilized as tools to the chemodiversity of fungi and to purify useful natural products. In addition, aspergillusidone A (327) inhibited acetylcholinesterase (AChE), with IC₅₀ of 56.75 μM.118

Peptides, namely cyclo-(L-Leu-L-Pro) (329), cyclo-(L-Val-L-Pro) (330) and cyclo-(L-Phe-L-Val) (331), were isolated from A. sydowii very active extract (84.5 ± 2.2% of acetylcholinesterase inhibition), through using three different media (peptone (12 g L⁻¹) and sucrose (150 g L⁻¹) as sources of nitrogen and carbon, respectively). The three peptides were active as AChE inhibitors with a uniform IC₅₀ value of 0.36 ± 0.17 μmol mL⁻¹ for cyclo-(L-Leu-L-Pro) (329) and cyclo-(L-Val-L-Pro) (330), which was approximately similar to the IC₅₀ of galanthamine (0.38 ± 0.15 μmol mL⁻¹) and IC₅₀ value of 1.13 ± 0.32 for cyclo-(L-Phe-L-Val) (331), showing how some changes in culturing conditions can modify the production of bioactive metabolites, which are silent in other conditions of cultivation.119

In vitro UVB protection studies emphasizes DHICA (5,6-dihydroxyindole-2-carboxylic acid) (332) isolated from the marine-derived fungus Aspergillus nidulans, significantly protected HaCaT cells from the action of UVB exposure through reducing cell apoptosis, maintaining the cellular integrity, scavenging the generated ROS, and consecutively down-regulating the lipid peroxidation (LPO) and up-regulating the antioxidant enzyme catalase, SOD (superoxide dismutase) and GPx (glutathione peroxidase), respectively. Furthermore, experiments on gelatin zymography, cell cycle arrest analysis, and western blot analysis on TNF-alpha and COX-2, IHC (Immunohistochemistry) on Bax and Bcl2 (apoptotic markers) verify the protective role of DHICA (332). In addition, in vivo evaluations on BALB/c mice were carried out and reproached with the sunscreen cream with SPF (sun protective factor) of 20. Skin sections analysis of experimental samples discovered an appreciable decline in the thickness of epidermis concerning the mice skin samples DHICA (332) pre-exposed followed by UVB exposure that was compared to control (UVB exposure alone). RT-PCR results on different inflammatory apoptotic markers also proposed that DHICA (332) possess UVB protective potential, suggesting to explore the possible application of DHICA (332), individually as a sun-protective principle for skin care.120 All miscellaneous biological activities concerning marine-derived Aspergillus metabolites are depicted in Fig. 16, 18 and 19.

Conclusion and future directions
Natural products originating from the marine genus Aspergillus exhibited a large chemical diversity and important medicinal values, providing an untapped potential for medications and drug candidates. This marine-inspired genus has been a strong model since its discovery almost 50 years ago as a treasure trove of naturally derived drug candidates. The accumulation of hundreds of marine-derived Aspergillus strains worldwide, together with nearly 30 years of research power in both industry and academia, has created a resource enabling the biosynthesis of natural metabolites to be distinguished between closely related ecological strains. This rapprochement has already exposed the dynamics of microbial gene production and will go on to afford insights into the pathways for creating new structural diversity. The idea that novel microbial taxa inhabiting aquatic environments represent a promising origin for natural product exploration has been supported by detailed biochemical studies of the marine-derived genus Aspergillus. In aquatic environments, marine-derived Aspergillus strains have typically been isolated mainly from marine animals, such as sponges, ascidians and soft corals and sediments. In comparison, there were few samples of talented marine-derived species living in drastic areas. Subsequently, the interest in marine-derived Aspergillus species was growing, and became an essential...
source of chemical diversity particularly in the 2018 and 2019 (Fig. 20A).

In accordance with chemical diversity, no unique chemical class could be recognized from marine-derived Aspergillus spp., predominantly anthracene derivatives, biphenyl derivatives, alkaloids, isoprenoids and butyrolactones (Fig. 20C). Of the about 2000 typical bioactive metabolites from marine-derived Aspergillus, 332 have been reported to exhibit different activities (Fig. 1–19, 20B). Most metabolites of marine Aspergillus have demonstrated excellent anti-cancer, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory effects (Fig. 20B), mainly ophiopolinones, biphenyl derivatives, and alkaloids, respectively (Fig. 21 A–C). Moreover, other bioactivities have also been exhibited by diverse metabolites such as anti-diabetic, antiviral, anti-oxidant, antifungal, neuroprotective, antymycobacterial activities, in particular, those belong to the butenolides, xanthones, biphenyl derivatives, diterpenes, echinulin-related indole-diketo piperazine alkaloids, steroids class of compounds, respectively as predominant bioactive classes (Fig. 21D and Fig. 22 and 23).

The potentially major and most prevalent pathway to drug development from the marine-derived Aspergillus is the based cultivation in which the given strains are fermented and the metabolites produced are then recovered. Because of special requirements, which are needed not only for fungal growth but also for the production of secondary metabolites, comprehensive effort is concerned with this approach. Moreover, this cultivation-dependent approach is not capable of unlocking the full biosynthetic ability of certain fungi.

In conclusion, the endless need for new bioactive principles is of substantial importance. Marine-derived Aspergillus species have a worthy agenda for novel biologically active compounds discovery, and for this reason, these species are recognized as a productive source of pharmacologically valuable new metabolites. A limitless scope for the discovery of new therapeutic lead scaffolds is thus strongly advocated in the future for the continuous study of marine-derived Aspergillus from underexplored environments.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare there is no conflict of interest.

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