

AperTO - Archivio Istituzionale Open Access dell'Università di Torino

**The antimicrobial potential of algicolous marine fungi for counteracting multidrug-resistant bacteria: Phylogenetic diversity and chemical profiling**

**This is the author's manuscript**

*Original Citation:*

*Availability:*

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1572944> since 2016-06-29T16:39:28Z

*Published version:*

DOI:10.1016/j.resmic.2016.04.009

*Terms of use:*

Open Access

Anyone can freely access the full text of works made available as "Open Access". Works made available under a Creative Commons license can be used according to the terms and conditions of said license. Use of all other works requires consent of the right holder (author or publisher) if not exempted from copyright protection by the applicable law.

(Article begins on next page)

This Accepted Author Manuscript (AAM) is copyrighted and published by Elsevier. It is posted here by agreement between Elsevier and the University of Turin. Changes resulting from the publishing process - such as editing, corrections, structural formatting, and other quality control mechanisms - may not be reflected in this version of the text. The definitive version of the text was subsequently published in RESEARCH IN MICROBIOLOGY, 167 (6), 2016, 10.1016/j.resmic.2016.04.009.

You may download, copy and otherwise use the AAM for non-commercial purposes provided that your license is limited by the following restrictions:

- (1) You may use this AAM for non-commercial purposes only under the terms of the CC-BY-NC-ND license.
- (2) The integrity of the work and identification of the author, copyright owner, and publisher must be preserved in any copy.
- (3) You must attribute this AAM in the following format: Creative Commons BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/deed.en>), 10.1016/j.resmic.2016.04.009

The publisher's version is available at:

<http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0923250816300110>

When citing, please refer to the published version.

Link to this full text:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1572944>

1   **The antimicrobial potential of algicolous marine fungi for**  
2   **counteracting multidrug resistant bacteria: phylogenetic diversity and**  
3   **chemical profiling**

4   Giorgio Gnavi<sup>a</sup>, Fortunato Palma Esposito<sup>b</sup>, Carmen Festa<sup>c</sup>, Anna Poli<sup>a</sup>, Pietro Tedesco<sup>b</sup>, Renato  
5   Fani<sup>d</sup>, Maria Chiara Monti<sup>e</sup>, Donatella de Pascale<sup>b</sup>, Maria Valeria D'Auria<sup>c</sup> Giovanna Cristina  
6   Varese<sup>a\*</sup>

7  
8       <sup>a</sup>Mycotheca UniversitatisTaurinensis (MUT), Department of Life Sciences and Systems  
9   Biology, University of Turin,I-10125 Turin, Italy.

10       <sup>b</sup>Institute of Protein Biochemistry, National Research Council, I-80131 Naples, Italy.

11       <sup>c</sup>Department of Pharmacy, University of Naples “Federico II”, I-80131, Naples, Italy.

12       <sup>d</sup>Laboratory of Microbial and Molecular Evolution, Department of Biology, University of  
13   Florence, I-50019 Sesto Fiorentino (Florence), Italy.

14       <sup>e</sup>Department of Pharmacy, University of Salerno, Fisciano (SA) I-84084, Italy.

15       \*Correspondence and reprints

16       e-mail: cristina.varese@unito.it; Tel.: +39-011-6705984; Fax: +39-011-6705962.

17

18       e-mail addresses:

19       <sup>a</sup> giorgio.gnavi@unito.it; anna.poli@unito.it; cristina.varese@unito.it

20       <sup>b</sup> f.palma@ibp.cnr.it; p.tedesco@ibp.cnr.it; d.depascale@ibp.cnr.it

21       <sup>c</sup> carmen.festa@unina.it; madauria@unina.it

22       <sup>d</sup> renato.fani@unifi.it

23       <sup>e</sup> mcmonti@unisa.it

24

25

## Abstract

Marine fungi represent an important but still largely unexplored source of novel and potentially bioactive secondary metabolites. The antimicrobial activity of nine sterile mycelia isolated from the green alga *Flabellia petiolata* collected from the Mediterranean Sea was tested on four antibiotic resistant bacterial strains using extracellular and intracellular extracts obtained from each fungal strain. The isolated fungi were identified at the molecular level and assigned to one of the Dothideomycetes, Sordariomycetes or Eurotiomycetes classes. Following assessment of the inhibition of bacterial growth (IC<sub>50</sub>), all crude extracts were subjected to preliminary <sup>1</sup>H NMR and TLC analysis. According to the preliminary pharmacologic, spectroscopic/chromatographic results, extracts of the fungal strains MUT 4865, classified as *Beauveria bassiana*, and MUT 4861, classified as *Microascacea* sp.2, were selected for LC-HRMS analysis. Chemical profiling of antibacterial extracts from MUT 4861 and MUT 4865 by LC HRMS allowed the identification of the main components of the crude extracts. Several sphingosine bases were identified, including a compound previously unreported from natural sources, which gave a rationale to the broad spectrum of antibacterial activity exhibited.

## Keywords

Antimicrobial compounds; bioactive fungal compounds; marine fungi; marine natural products; multidrug resistant bacteria; sphingosine bases.

## 52    **Introduction**

53            The worldwide diffusion of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms requires the development of  
54    new, efficient antimicrobial molecules. For more than half a century, the main strategy for obtaining  
55    new antimicrobial agents has consisted of semisynthetic remodeling of natural products. However,  
56    drugs obtained in this way are only temporarily effective against pathogenic microorganisms, which  
57    develop antibiotic resistance [1]. The problem regarding microbial resistance to antibiotics may be  
58    overcome by the discovery of new natural products, which, due to their chemical novelty, could  
59    inhibit unknown single or multiple microbial targets.

60            The search for natural products of pharmaceutical interest in the marine environment has  
61    been progressing at an unprecedented rate, resulting in the discovery of a number of molecules,  
62    many of which have new carbon skeletons and interesting biological activities [2, 3].

63            Among marine microorganisms, fungi play a crucial role, being a reservoir of biologically  
64    active secondary metabolites [4-6]. Recently, several new metabolites from marine fungi have been  
65    reported to display notable antibacterial activities [7-9]. Despite their proven biosynthetic potential,  
66    scientific research has not intensively focused on marine fungi for seeking new drugs [10].  
67    However, promising fungi are equipped with gene clusters potentially involved in the biosynthesis  
68    of secondary metabolites [11]. Therefore, research into the isolation, identification and  
69    characterization of new fungal strains, capable of producing useful bioactive natural compounds,  
70    should be carried out.

71            Hence, the aim of this work was to assess the antibacterial potential of nine sterile mycelia isolated  
72    from the green alga *Flabellia petiolata* collected from the Mediterranean Sea, against some  
73    representative multidrug resistant (MDR) bacteria, relevant in Cystic Fibrosis and nosocomial  
74    infections, and to analyze the chemical profiles of the most active fungal crude extracts

## Materials and Methods

### Fungal strains

Fungi were isolated and roughly identified from the green alga *F. petiolata* collected in March 2010 near to Elba Island in the Mediterranean Sea [12], and are preserved at the *Mycotheca Universitatis Taurinensis* - MUT (DBIOS - University of Turin). All the selected fungi were revealed to be sterile mycelia and were identified by molecular analysis (**Table 1**).

### Molecular, Bioinformatics and Phylogenetic analyses

Genomic DNA was extracted using Cetyl Trimethyl Ammonium Bromide (CTAB, Sigma-Aldrich St. Louis, USA) according to the protocol of Graham et al. [13].

The nrDNA Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS) and Large ribosomal SubUnit (LSU) partial regions were amplified using the universal primers ITS1F/ITS4 (Sigma-Aldrich St. Louis, USA) and LR0R/LR7, as previously described [14].

Amplification products were sequenced at Macrogen Europe (The Netherlands). Sequences were checked and assembled using Sequencher 4.9 software and compared to those available in the GenBank database using the BLASTn option of the BLAST program ([www.blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)) and CBS Mycobank Pairwise Sequence Alignment ([www.mycobank.org](http://www.mycobank.org)). Newly generated sequences were deposited in the GenBank database and were assigned the accession numbers reported in **Table 1**.

Phylogenetic analysis was only performed on LSU sequences, as comparable ITS sequences of fungi studied in this article are rarely found in public databases and/or poorly informative. LSU sequences were selected for phylogenetic analysis on the basis of BLASTn and CBS results. Two sequences datasets were composed, following reference [14] for Pleosporales and reference [15] for Sordariomycetes.

Alignments were generated using MEGA 5.10 [16] and manually refined. Phylogenetic analyses were performed using both Bayesian Inference (BI; MrBayes3.2.2)

[17] and Maximum Likelihood (ML; RAxML v.7.3.2) [18] approaches, as previously described [14]. Bayesian Posterior Probability (BPP) values over 0.6 (with MLB over 50%) are reported in the resulting trees.

#### **Fungal growth conditions**

Preliminary growth condition tests were performed in order to define the most effective and appropriate medium to induce the production of bioactive secondary metabolites in the selected fungal strains. Each fungal strain was inoculated in duplicate by 10 agar plugs of 5 mm diameter cut from the edge of actively growing culture onto malt extract agar in 150 ml flasks containing 100 ml of three different media: PCB (10 g of crushed potatoes and 10 g of crushed carrots in 1 L of ddH<sub>2</sub>O), MeCl (20 g malt extract, 17 g NaCl in 1 L of ddH<sub>2</sub>O) and WST30 (10 g glucose monohydrate, 5 g soya peptone, 3 g malt extract, 3 g yeast extract, 30 g NaCl). Flasks were incubated in the dark at 24°C and rotated at 150 rpm. The broth and mycelium of each strain were collected after 2 and 4 weeks and submitted to an extraction procedure for the preliminary bio-chemical analysis (see below). The MeCl medium and 4 week-incubation were selected as the best conditions (24°C in the dark). Hence, each fungus was inoculated (100 agar plugs of 5 mm diameter) in 2 L flasks containing 1.5 L of MeCl, which was incubated in the dark at 24°C, at 180 rpm for 4 weeks.

#### **Extract preparation**

Samples were centrifuged at 11,200 x rcf for 30 min at 4 °C and filtrated in order to separate the mycelium from the culture broth. Supernatants were extracted with ethyl acetate (EtOAc) and the resulting extracts were dried-out by using a Rotavapor, weighed, solubilized in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO, 100%) at a final concentration of 100 mg/mL and stored at -20°C. The presence of antimicrobial compounds in the mycelia was also evaluated. In order to efficiently lyse the cells, different mechanical disruption methods were used in a sequential

manner. The first step consisted of homogenization with Ultra Turrax T25 (IKA-Werke, Staufen, Germany). The homogenate was then washed twice with 20 mL of EtOAc to recover the intracellular extract; in addition, to improve the fungal lysis, mycelia were treated with liquid nitrogen (15 mL N<sub>2</sub>/g mycelium). Samples were transferred into a pre-cooled mortar and minced under liquid nitrogen with a pestle and washed twice with 20 mL of EtOAc. At the last step, to completely destroy the membrane, all the mycelium was transferred and processed in a Potter-Elvehjem homogenizer (Sigma-Aldrich, Saint Louis, MO) in the presence of EtOAc. Subsequently, the powdered mycelium was transferred into a separator funnel and mixed five times with two volumes of EtOAc. In order to increase the yield of some extracts, mycelia were further soaked in acetone for 18 hours under agitation. The whole EtOAc and acetone fractions were collected and dried-out by using a Rotavapor. Final extracts were weighed, solubilized in DMSO (100%) at a final concentration of 100 mg/mL and stored at -20°C.

#### **Antimicrobial assay**

The extracts produced as such were checked for the ability to inhibit the growth of a selected panel of human pathogens. An IC<sub>50</sub> assay was used to evaluate the concentration of the extracts at which bacterial target growth was inhibited by 50%. The following multidrug resistant bacteria were used for the antimicrobial screening: *Burkholderia metallica* LMG 24068 [19], *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PA01 [20], *Klebsiella pneumoniae* DF12SA [21] and *Staphylococcus aureus* 6538P [22]. All bacteria were routinely grown at 37°C in Lysogeny broth (5 g yeast extract, 10 g sodium chloride, 10 g tryptone in 1 L of ddH<sub>2</sub>O), with the exception of *S. aureus*, which was grown in Mueller Hinton Broth (Applichem, Darmstadt, Germany).

Extracts were placed into each well of a 96-well microtiter plate at an initial concentration of 2 mg/mL and serially 2-fold diluted using the appropriate medium. Wells



containing only DMSO (2% v/v) were used as a control to determine the effect of this solvent on bacterial growth.

Cells were prepared as follows: a single colony of each pathogenic strain was used to inoculate 3 mL of liquid medium in a sterile bacteriological tube. After 5-8 h of incubation, growth was measured by monitoring the absorbance at 600 nm and about 40,000 colony-forming units were dispensed into each well of the prepared plate. Plates were incubated at 37°C for 20 h and growth was measured using a VICTOR X Multilabel Plate Reader (PerkinElmer, Waltham, MA) by monitoring the absorbance at 600 nm.

#### **Metabolic profiling of crude extracts**

All crude extracts were subjected to Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) analysis and <sup>1</sup>H Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR). TLC analysis was carried out on Alugram silica gel G/UV254 plates with solvent mixture of different polarity using vanillin reagent as revelation system; <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis were performed with Varian INOVA 400 MHz instrument, in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solvent, at room temperature with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as internal reference.

Selected extracts were analyzed using a LTQ XL Liquid Chromatography-High Resolution Mass Spectrometry system (LC-HRMS) (ThermoScientific) equipped with the Accelerator 600 Pump and Accelerator Auto Sampler system. A volume of 10 µl of sample was injected at a concentration of 10 mg/mL in methanol. The mixture was separated on a Phenomenex LUNA C8 (150 X 2.1 mm, 5 µm particle size) column at a flow rate of 200 µL/min, using an acetonitrile-water gradient. Mobile phase A was 90% H<sub>2</sub>O 10% acetonitrile (ACN) 0.1% formic acid (FA) and mobile phase B was 10% H<sub>2</sub>O 90% ACN 0.1% FA; the gradient started at 10% B up to 90% B in 70 min, was kept at 90% of B for 10 min before the re-equilibration step. The mass spectrometer operated in positive electrospray ionization (ESI) mode, at 4 kV capillary voltage and 280°C. The calibration procedure was carried out using ThermoScientific positive calibration solution composed of caffeine, MRFA and Ultramark.

All spectra were acquired in the  $m/z$  range from 280 to 700 u.m.a., setting resolution at 30,000; MSMS spectra were acquired in an opportune  $m/z$  range using 35 of collision energy. Thermo Scientific software Xcalibur was used to obtain molecular formulas. The Molecular Formulas (MF) deduced by High-Resolution Electrospray Ionization Mass Spectrometry (HRESIMS) were checked by available data banks [23-25] and, in the case of alternative structures, they were discriminated by MS<sup>n</sup> analysis using the data available in the literature [26] or *ex-novo* analysis, and then by checking diagnostic signals in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of the crude extracts.

## Results

### Phylogeny and taxonomic identification of the fungal isolates

The molecular and phylogenetic analysis revealed that strains MUT 4859, MUT 4860, MUT 4883, MUT 4886, and MUT 4966 belong to the order Pleosporales (Dothideomycetes class). In particular, MUT 4860 was identified as *Massarina* sp. and MUT 4883 as *Biatriospora* sp., both clustering in the Biatriosporaceae family, while MUT 4859, MUT 4886 and MUT 4966 were identified at the family level (Roussoellaceae, Supplementary materials **Fig. S1**) [27].

MUT 4861, MUT 4865, and MUT 4885 belonged to the Sordariomycetes class; specifically, MUT 4865 belonged to *Beauveria bassiana*, while MUT 4861 and MUT 4885 clustered within the Microascaceae family (Supplementary materials **Fig. S2**).

Finally, MUT 4979 was identified as *Knufia petricola* (syn. *Sarcinomyces petricola*, *Incertae sedis*, Chaetothyriales, Eurotiomycetes) by both ITS and LSU sequences (homology percentage = 99%).

### Antimicrobial activity

In order to select the best growth medium for producing the antimicrobial compounds, preliminary extractions and antimicrobial assays were performed on small-scale cultures of

fungi grown in MeCl, PCB and WST30. These analyses demonstrated that fungi grown in MeCl exhibited the highest degree of antimicrobial activity (Supplementary materials **Table S1**). This medium was therefore selected for further experiments. Moreover, the antimicrobial potentials of the extracellular and intracellular extracts were compared; results revealed that the latter exhibited the highest yield and activity (Supplementary materials **Table S2**).

Starting from these preliminary results, extracts obtained from mycelium lysates were used for the antimicrobial screening, targeting a panel of MDR human pathogens. The antimicrobial activity displayed by the different fungal strains against the four MDR bacteria is reported in **Table 2** as IC<sub>50</sub> values. The resistance of each strain to Ampicillin, Chloramphenicol, Kanamycin, Tetracycline and Trimethoprim was confirmed and IC<sub>50</sub> values are reported in **Table S3** (Supplementary materials).

Extracts produced from strains MUT 4861, MUT 4865, and MUT 4979 resulted as being the most active and promising ones. In particular, MUT 4861 was able to strongly inhibit *B. metallica* (IC<sub>50</sub> 0.5-0.25 mg/mL) and *S. aureus*, and was the only one to show, by both EtOAc and acetone extracts, an inhibitory effect against *P. aeruginosa*. Both extracts from MUT 4865 were able to inhibit *B. metallica* and *S. aureus* (IC<sub>50</sub> 0.5-0.25) and the EtOAc extracts also showed inhibition against *K. pneumoniae*. No effects were observed against *P. aeruginosa*. The extract from MUT 4979 showed antimicrobial activity against three out of the four pathogens (IC<sub>50</sub> 1.0-0.25), with the exception of *K. pneumoniae*. Extracts of MUT 4859, 4860, and 4966 only showed a significant activity against *B. metallica* and *S. aureus*, which were the most sensitive bacterial strains to the fungal extracts. MUT 4883, 4885 and 4886 extracts were the weakest strains showing no significant effects against the target bacteria. Acetone extracts showed similar antimicrobial activity compared to EtOAc extracts. The only exception was MUT 4861, of which the acetone extract was more active than the EtOAc extract.

Overall, the most promising strains were MUT 4865, 4979 and 4861, which exhibited the highest degree of antibacterial activity.

### Secondary Metabolite Analyses

Based on the results of the preliminary pharmacologic, spectroscopic and chromatographic screening, the extracts of MUT 4865 and MUT4861 were selected for the chemical profiling and were analyzed by LC-HRMS. Other strains did not produce detectable amounts of secondary metabolites under cultivation conditions and, therefore, revealing their potential of secondary metabolite production will require further investigation.

*Beauveria bassiana* MUT 4865: both acetone and EtOAc extracts were subjected to HRESIMS analysis (**Fig. 1A**). Compound **1** analyzed for  $C_{22}H_{43}O_2N$  by HRMS analysis (calculated for  $C_{22}H_{43}NO_2Na$ : 376.3192, found  $[M + Na]^+$ : 376.3195). In the  $MS^2$  spectrum (Supplementary materials **Fig. S3**), the sequential loss of one ammonia and two neutral water molecules indicated the presence of one amino and two hydroxyl groups. The planar structure of this compound was deduced from the analysis of the  $MS^3$  spectrum, which showed a fragmentation pattern compatible with the localization of the two double bonds at the unusual positions of 6 and 17, revealing that it corresponded to the long chain sphingadienine (**Fig. 2**). Therefore a 1,3-dihydroxy-2-amino-6,17-docosadiene structure was tentatively proposed. Assignment of the relative configuration of the two contiguous stereogenic centers, as well as of the two double bonds would require isolation of the compound from a large-scale cultivation batch of the fungal strain.

As shown in **Fig. 1B**, the acetone extract did not contain a detectable amount of compound **1**, whereas some sphingosine compounds were detected, such as phytosphingosine (**2**), dihydrosphingosine (**3**) and phytoceramide C2 (**4**). The  $MS^2$  pattern analysis (**Table 3** and Supplementary materials **Fig. S4-S6**) leads to a straightforward assignment of a planar structure to these compounds.

Compound **5**, which was present in both EtOAc and acetone extracts, was tentatively identified as aphidicolin; compound **6** was tentatively identified as fusoxysporone and compound **7**, a minor component of the EtOAc extract, was identified as bis (2-ethylhexyl) hexanedioic acid.

*Microascacea* sp.2 MUT 4861: the EtOAc extract contained a very complex mixture of lipid and polysaccharide components, evidenced by <sup>1</sup>H NMR analysis, which, however, did not allow its de-replication by HRESIMS. Conversely, the main components of the acetone extract were identified. For this fungal strain, two polar components were revealed to be sphingoid bases.

In addition to phytosphingosine (**2**), an "unusual" sphingoid base with a molecular formula C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>39</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> was detected. The MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum (Supplementary materials **Fig. S10**) showed fragmentation peaks resulting in the sequential loss of three water molecules, whereas no ammonia elimination was measured. This finding could suggest the involvement of a nitrogen atom in an azetidine ring, as in isomeric penaresidins A and B.

Although the fragmentation pattern observed in the MS<sup>3</sup> spectrum (Supplementary materials **Fig. S11**) is compatible with these structures, no ambiguous information relative to the position of the hydroxyl groups, of the methyl branching, or even on the nature of unsaturation, can be drawn.

Finally, Scopularide A (**8**) [28] was identified by MF analysis and by diagnostic MS<sup>2</sup> fragmentations (**Table 4** and Supplementary materials **Fig. S9**).

## Discussion

In this study, the green marine alga *F. petiolata* was chosen as a source of promising marine fungi since it has been previously demonstrated that fungi isolated from marine algae showed strong antimicrobial activity against several human pathogenic bacteria [29], probably deriving from the ability to protect their algal host from external threats [30].

Identifying new fungal strains could lead to the discovery of new and unusual compounds, which can be utilized for biotechnological and pharmaceutical applications.

The first step of this work was the phylogenetic affiliation of fungal strains, which was carried out according to molecular and phylogenetic analysis. *Massarina* sp. (MUT 4860) and *Biatriospora* sp. (MUT 4883) clustered in the Biatriosporaceae family, which accommodate genera that have often been collected from a range of both terrestrial and aquatic hosts, and are commonly found in decaying submerged intertidal mangrove wood [27]. Recently, it has been demonstrated that a strain identified as *Biatriospora* sp. is an efficient producer of secondary metabolites, in particular naphthoquinone derivatives [31].

MUT 4859, MUT 4886 and MUT 4966 clustered in the Roussoellaceae family, which includes species of saprobic fungi isolated from decaying bamboo culms or palm fronds [32].

*Beauveria bassiana* (MUT 4865) is a marine isolate of well-known entomopathogenic fungus, commonly isolated from decaying arthropods or from plant tissue as an endophyte [33].

On the basis of molecular and phylogenetic data, MUT 4861 and MUT 4885 could be considered as putative new species and even new genera of the Microascales, a small order of primarily saprobic fungi in soil, rotting vegetation and dung. Some species of this order are responsible for plant diseases, while other members cause human diseases [34].

*Knufia petricola* (MUT 4979) is an algicolous strain of microcolonial fungus with a meristematic-black yeast morphology, which has only been previously found on stone substrates, such as unlichenized fungus with its natural ecological niche [35]. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of the presence of this species in a marine environment.

As the antimicrobial activity of these algicolous fungi on MDR bacteria (according to the results of the bioassay tests) were in agreement with the known antimicrobial potential of marine fungi, further investigations are certainly recommended, also considering the value of

producing antimicrobial compounds from new taxonomic entities that have never been previously explored.

The most promising fungal strains were MUT 4865, 4979 and 4861, which exhibited the highest degree of antibacterial activity. MUT 4865, identified as *B. bassiana*, representatives of which are well-known producers of insecticidal and antimicrobials [36], showed a strong activity against all the pathogens tested. For *K. petricola* (MUT 4979), this is the first report of an antimicrobial activity exhibited by the fungal extracts from this species. Further studies are necessary, considering that the class this organism belongs to (Eurotiomycetes) includes several species (e.g. *Aspergillus* spp., *Paecilomyces* spp., *Penicillium* spp.) that have been reported to be a source of many antimicrobial metabolites [37, 38].

Finally, MUT 4861 is of special interest due to the fact that it is presumed to belong to a new species of Microascaceae, a family that includes a number of fungi capable of producing several antimicrobial secondary metabolites [37, 38].

The chemical profiling of the most active crude extracts have highlighted the presence of chemically diverse metabolites. In particular, both strains were found to contain sphingoid bases. Diverse variants of the long chain bases sphingosine and phytosphingosine have been reported from marine organisms, especially sponges and tunicates [39, 40], but to the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of sphingosine-free bases from marine fungi.

In particular, the long chain sphingadienine 2-aminodocosa-6,17-dien-1,3-diol has never been described as a free base or as a component of polar lipids from natural sources. The related docosa-4,15-sphingadienine and 4-hydroxy-docosa-15-sphingenine have been reported as components in sphingophosphonolipids from the marine gastropod *Turbo cornutus* [41]. Noteworthy, recent years have witnessed an ever-increasing interest towards the so-called “sphingoid bases” for their role in the regulation of physiological and

pathological conditions [42]. In particular, a recent study [43] revealed that sphingoid long-chain bases displayed antibacterial activity against a broad spectrum of pathogenic bacteria, including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Moraxella catarrhalis* and even *Burkholderia cepacia*, at nanomolar-to-low micromolar concentrations. Therefore, even though we cannot exclude, *a priori*, the possibility that the antimicrobial activity could rely on the combination of different molecules, compound **1**, and co-occurring sphingosines **2**, **3** and **4**, previously reported as common components of fungal membrane sphingolipids [44], may be responsible for the antimicrobial effects exhibited by MUT 4865 crude extracts towards the pathogenic bacteria investigated so far. However, tests with the purified compound will be necessary to validate this hypothesis.

Regarding the other tentatively identified components of MUT 4865 extracts, aphidilcolin is a tetracyclic diterpene with known antiviral and antimitotic properties, first isolated from the fungus *Cephalosporum aphidicola* [45]. Fusoxysporone, is a viscidane-type diterpene first isolated from *Fusarium oxysporum* [46], and is also found as a component of the cytotoxic extracts of a *Penicillium* strain isolated from bivalve mollusks [47]. To the best of our knowledge, no biological activities have been described for this compound, so far.

Compound **7**, identified as bis (2-ethylhexyl) hexanedioic acid, is known as plasticizer [48] and described as a component of cyanobacteria, Antarctic [49] and terrestrial [50] strains of *Streptomyces*, and of a tropical plant [51].

Sphingosine-related compounds were also detected in the EtOAc extract of *Microascacea* sp.2 MUT 4861, which also contains a member of the class of so-called anhydrophytosphingosines, in particular the detected compound is isomeric with azetidine-derived penaresidins A and B, which were first isolated from the marine sponge *Penares* sp. [52].

Conversely, compound **8** is a cyclodepsipeptide scopularide A, a molecule with



antiproliferative activity, previously isolated from a marine strain of the fungus *Scopulariopsis brevicaulis* [28], belonging to the same Microascaceae family assigned to MUT 4861.

In conclusion, nine selected strains isolated from the green alga *F. petiolata* were chosen as a promising source of antimicrobial compounds. All fungal strains demonstrated interesting antimicrobial activity against four human pathogenic MDR bacteria. Crude extracts of three of the selected fungal strains, preserved at the MUT collection as MUT 4865, MUT 4979 and MUT 4861, were able to strongly inhibit the entire panel of pathogens. The chemical profiling of the antibacterial extracts from *B. bassiana*, MUT 4865, and Microascacea sp.2, MUT 4861, by LC HRMS allowed identification of the main components of the crude extracts. No detectable amounts of peptide mycotoxins, such as beauvericin or enniatins, known for their antimicrobial and anti-tumor activities [53], were detected. Isolation of several sphingosine bases, including compound **1**, previously unreported from natural sources, gave a rationale to the broad spectrum of antibacterial activity exhibited by the crude extract of this fungal strain. Further experiments aimed at the isolation of pure compounds and determination of their biological activity are currently underway.

### Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

### Acknowledgments

The authors are grateful to the EU KBBE Project PharmaSea 2012–2016, Grant Agreement No. 312184, the Fondazione CRT, the UIF through the PHC Galileo project 2014 and the Regione Campania under POR Campania FESR 2007-2013 - O.O. 2.1 (FarmaBioNet), which supported this research work.

## References

- [1] Abad MJ, Bedoya LM, Bermejo P, Marine Compounds and their Antimicrobial Activities In: Science Against Microbial Pathogens: Communicating Current Research and Technological Advances, AM Vilas Ed, Formatex Research Centre, Badajoz, 2011.
- [2] Molinski T, Antifungal compounds from marine organisms. Curr Med Chem: Anti-Infect Agents 2004;3:197-220.
- [3] Imhoff JF, Labes A, Wiese J, Bio-mining the microbial treasures of the ocean: new natural products. Biotechnol Adv 2001;29:468-82.
- [4] Punyasloke B, Balsam TM, Phillip C, The current status of natural products from marine fungi and their potential as anti-infective agents. J Ind Microbiol Biotechnol 2006;33: 325-37.
- [5] Amira MGE, Ahmed AL, Tatsufumi O, Modulation of carcinogen metabolizing enzymes by chromanone A; a new chromone derivative from algicolous marine fungus *Penicillium* sp. Environ Toxicol Pharm 2009;28:317-22
- [6] Swathi J, Narendra K, Sowjanya KM, Satya AK, (2013) Marine fungal metabolites as a rich source of bioactive compounds. Afr J Biochem Res 2013;10: 184-196.
- [7] Silber J, Ohlendorf B, Labes A, Storjohann AW, Näther C, Imhoff JF, Malettin E, an antibacterial and antifungal tropolone produced by a marine *Cladosporium* strain. Frontiers in Mar Sci 2014;1: 35
- [8] Wu B, Oesker V, Wiese W, Malien S, Schmaljohann R, Imhoff JF, Spirocyclic drimanes from the marine fungus *Stachybotrys* sp. strain MF347. Mar Drugs 2014;12:1924-38.

- 395 [9] Wu B, Oesker V, Wiese W, Schmaljohann R, Imhoff JF, Two new antibiotic pyridones  
396 produced by a marine fungus, *Trichoderma* sp. strain MF106. Mar Drugs 2014;12:1208-19.
- 397 [10] Cragg GM, Newman DJ, Natural products: A continuing source of novel drug leads.  
398 Biochim Biophys Acta 2013;1830: 3670-95
- 399 [11] Redou V, Navarri M, Meslet-Cladiere L, Barbier G, Burgaud G, Marine fungi from deep  
400 subseafloor sediments: species richness and adaptation. Appl Environ Microb  
401 2015;AEM04064-14.
- 402 [12] Panno L, Diversity and Biotechnological potential of marine fungi associated with  
403 Mediterranean seagrasses and algae, PhD Thesis, University of Turin, Turin, 2014.
- 404 [13] Graham GC, Mayers P, Henry RJ, (1994) A simplified method for the preparation of  
405 fungal genomic DNA for PCR and RAPD analysis. Biotechniques 1994;16:48-50.
- 406 [14] Gnani G, Ercole E, Panno L, Vizzini A, Varese C, Dothideomycetes and Leotiomyces  
407 sterile mycelia isolated from the Italian seagrass *Posidonia oceanica* based on rDNA data.  
408 SpringerPlus 2014;3:508.
- 409 [15] Tang AMC, Jeewon R, Hyde KD, Phylogenetic utility of protein (RPB2, beta-tubulin)  
410 and ribosomal (LSU, SSU) gene sequences in the systematics  
411 of Sordariomycetes (Ascomycota, Fungi). Ant Van Leeuw J Microb 2007;91:327-49.
- 412 [16] Tamura K, Peterson D, Peterson N, Stecher G, Nei M, Kumar S, MEGA 5: molecular  
413 evolutionary genetics analysis using maximum likelihood, evolutionary distance, and  
414 maximum parsimony methods Mol Biol Evol 2011;28:273-9.

- 415 [17] Huelsenbeck JP, Ronquist F, Mr Bayes: Bayesian inference of phylogeny.  
416 Bioinformatics 2001;17:754-5.
- 417 [18] Stamatakis, A, RAxML - VI - HPC: maximum likelihood - based phylogenetic analyses  
418 with thousands of taxa and mixed models. Bioinformatics 2006;22:2688-90.
- 419 [19] Soriano F, Huelves L, Naves P, Rodríguez-Cerrato V, del Prado G, Ruiz V, et al. In vitro  
420 activity of ciprofloxacin, moxifloxacin, vancomycin and erythromycin against planktonic and  
421 biofilm forms of *Corynebacterium urealyticum*. J Antimicrob Chemother 2009;17:801-9.
- 422 [20] Alonso A, Campanario E, Martínez JL, Emergence of multidrug-resistant mutants is  
423 increased under antibiotic selective pressure in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Microbiology  
424 199;145:2857-62.
- 425 [21] Shahi SK, Singh VK, Kumar A, Gupta SK, Singh SK, Interaction of  
426 dihydrofolatereductase and aminoglycoside adenylyltransferase enzyme from *Klebsiella*  
427 *pneumoniae* multidrug resistant strain DF12SA with clindamycin: a molecular modelling and  
428 docking study. J Mol Model 2013;19: 973-8
- 429 [22] Lima DB, Torres AF, Mello CP, de Menezes RR, Sampaio TL, Canuto JA, et al.  
430 Antimicrobial effect of *Dinoponera quadriceps* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) venom against  
431 *Staphylococcus aureus* strains. J Appl Microbiol 2014;117:390-6.
- 432 [23] Blunt JW, Munro MH, Laatsch H, AntiMarin Database. University of Canterbury,  
433 Christchurch, 2006.
- 434 [24] Buckingham J, Dictionary of Natural Products, Version 191, CRC Press, London, 2010.
- 435 [25] SciFinder®, <http://www.cas.org/products/scifindr/indexhtml>, 2015.

- 436 [26] El-Elimat T, Figueroa M, Ehrmann BM, Cech NB, Pearce CJ, Oberlies NH, High-  
437 Resolution MS, MS/MS, and UV database of fungal secondary metabolites as a dereplication  
438 protocol for bioactive natural products. *J. Nat Prod* 2013;76:1709-16.
- 439 [27] Hyde KD, Jones EBG, Liu JK, Ariyawansa H, Boehm E, Boonmee S, et al. Families of  
440 Dothideomycetes. *Fungal Divers* 2013;63:1-313.
- 441 [28] Yu Z, Lang G, Kajahn I, Schmaljohann R, Imhoff JF, Scopularides A and B,  
442 cyclodepsipeptides from a marine sponge-derived fungus, *Scopulariopsis brevicaulis*. *J Nat*  
443 *Prod* 2008;71:1052-4.
- 444 [29] Qiao M-F, Ji NY, Liu XH, Li K, Zhu QM, Xue QZ, Indolo diterpenes from an algicolous  
445 isolate of *Aspergillus oryzae*. *Bioorgan Med Chem* 2010;20:5677-80.
- 446 [30] Mathan S, Subramanian V, Nagamony S, Optimization and antimicrobial metabolite  
447 production from endophytic fungi *Aspergillus terreus* KC 582297. *Eur J Exp Bio* 2013;3:138-  
448 44.
- 449 [31] Stodůlková E, Man P, Kuzma M, Černý J, Císařová I, Kubátová A, et al. A highly  
450 diverse spectrum of naphthoquinone derivatives produced by the endophytic fungus  
451 *Biatriospora* sp. CCF 4378. *Folia microbiol* 2014;1-9.
- 452 [32] Liu JK, Phookamsak R, Dai DQ, Tanaka K, Jones EBG, Xu J-C, et al. Roussoellaceae, a  
453 new pleosporalean family to accommodate the genera *Neoroussoella* gen nov, *Roussoella* and  
454 *Roussoellopsis*. *Phytotaxa* 2014;181:1-33.
- 455 [33] Behie SW, Jones SJ, Bidochka MJ, Plant tissue localization of the endophytic insect  
456 pathogenic fungi *Metarhizium* and *Beauveria*. *Fungal Ecol* 2015;13:112-9.

- 457 [34] Zhang N, Castlebury LA, Miller AN, Huhndorf SM, Schoch CL, Seifert KA, et al. An  
458 overview of the systematics of the Sordariomycetes based on a four-gene phylogeny.  
459 Mycologia 2006;98:1076-87.
- 460 [35] Wollenzien U, de Hoog GS, Krumbein W, Uijthof JM (1997) *Sarcinomyces petricola*, a  
461 new microcolonial fungus from marble in the Mediterranean basin. Ant Van Leeuw J Microb  
462 1997;71:281-8.
- 463 [36] Sahab AF, Antimicrobial efficacy of secondary metabolites of *Beauveria bassiana*  
464 against selected bacteria and phytopathogenic fungi. J Appl Sci Res 2012;8:1441-4.
- 465 [37] Blunt JW, Copp BR, Keyzers RA, Munro MHG, Pinsep MR, Marine natural products.  
466 Nat Prod Rep 2015;32:116-211.
- 467 [38] Ebada SS, Proksch P, Marine-derived fungal metabolites, Hb25 Springer handbook of  
468 marine biotechnology, Springer Berlin Heidelberg, Berlin, 2015.
- 469 [39] Molinski TF, Dalisay DS, Lievens SL, Saludes JP, Drug development from marine  
470 natural products. Nat Rev Drug Discov 2009;8:69-85.
- 471 [40] Biegelmeyer R, Schröder R, Rambo DF, Dresch RR, Carraro JLF, Mothes B, et al.  
472 Sphingosines derived from marine sponge as potential multi-target drug related to disorders in  
473 cancer development. Mar. Drugs 2015;13:5552-63.
- 474 [41] Hayashk A, Matsubara T, Matsuura F, Characterization of docosa-4,15-sphingadienine  
475 and 4-hydroxy-docosa-15-sphingenine in sphingophosphonolipids from *Turbo cornutus* by  
476 gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. Chem Phys Lipids 1975;14: 102-5.
- 477 [42] Pruett ST, Bushnev A, Hagedorn K, Adiga M, Haynes CA, Sullards MC, et al. Thematic

- 478 Review Series: Sphingolipids biodiversity of sphingoid bases (“sphingosines”) and related  
479 amino alcohols. J Lipid Res 2008;49:1621-39.
- 480 [43] Pewzner-Jung Y, Tavakoli Tabazavareh S, Grassmé H, Becker KA, Japtok L, Steinmann  
481 J, et al. Sphingoid long chain bases prevent lung infection by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*  
482 EMBO. Mol Med 2014;6:1205-14.
- 483 [44] Dickson RC, Sphingolipid functions in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*: comparison to  
484 mammals Annu Rev Biochem 1998;67:27-48.
- 485 [45] Bucknall RA, Moores H, Simms R, Hesp B, Antiviral effects of aphidicolin, a new  
486 antibiotic produced by *Cephalosporium aphidicola*. Antim Agents Chemother 1973;4:294-  
487 298
- 488 [46] Abraham WR, Hanssen HP, Fusoxysporone a new type of diterpene from *Fusarium*  
489 *oxysporum*. Tetrahedron 1992;48:10559-62.
- 490 [47] Geiger M, Guitton Y, Vansteelandt M, Kerzaon I, Blanchet E, Robiou du Pont T, et al.  
491 Cytotoxicity and mycotoxin production of shellfish-derived *Penicillium* spp., a risk for  
492 shellfish consumers. Lett Appl Microbiol 2013;57:385-92.
- 493 [48] Zygoura PD, Goulas AE, Riganakos KA, Kontominas MG, Migration of di-(2-  
494 ethylhexyl) adipate and acetyltributyl citrate plasticizers from food-grade PVC film into  
495 isooctane: effect of gamma radiation. J Food Eng 2007;78:870-7.
- 496 [49] Ivanova V, Oriol M, Montes M-J, Garcia A, Guinea J, Secondary metabolites from a  
497 *Streptomyces* strain isolated from Livingston Island. J Biosciences 2001;56:1-5.

[50] Elleuch L, Shaaban M, Smaoui S, Mellouli L, Karray-Rebai I, Fourati-Ben Fguira L, et al. Bioactive secondary metabolites from a new terrestrial *Streptomyces* sp. TN262. Appl Biochem Biotechnol 2010;162:579-93.

[51] Oyugi DA, Ayorinde FO, Gugssa A, Allen A, Izevbigie EB, Eribo B, et al. Biological activity and mass spectrometric analysis of *Vernonia amygdalina* fractions. J Biosci Tech 2011;2:287-304.

[52] Kobayashi J, Cheng J, Ishibashi M, Walchli MR, Yamamura S, Ohizumi Y, Penaresidin A and B, two novel azetidine alkaloids with potent actomyosin ATPase-activating activity from the Okinawan marine sponge *Penares* sp. J Chem Soc 1991;1135-7.

[53] Wang Q, Xu L, Beauvericin, a bioactive compound produced by fungi: a short review Molecules 2012;17: 2367-7.



## Legends to figures

**Fig. 1.** ESI positive mode base peak chromatograms of the active samples MUT 4865 EtOAc extract (panel **A**), Acetone extract (panel **B**) and MUT 4861 Acetone extract (panel **C**). Numbers above the peaks identify the metabolites listed in **Tables 2** and **3**.

**Fig. 2.** MS<sup>3</sup> ESI positive mode spectrum of the precursor ion at  $m/z$  359.30 derived from MSMS at  $m/z$  376.31 and its proposed fragmentation.

**Fig. 3.** Chemical structures of secondary metabolites (**1-8**) identified by LC-HRMS in the bioactive extracts of *Beauveria bassiana* MUT 4865 and MUT 4861.

550 **Table 1.** MUT code, taxonomic assessment of sterile mycelia isolated from *F. petiolata* and  
 551 GenBank accession numbers.

552

MUT Code	Fungal taxa	GenBank accession number ITS and LSU
4883	<i>Biatriospora</i> sp.	KR014352 KP671728
4865	<i>Beauveria bassiana</i> (Bals.-Criv.) Vuill.	KR014380 KP671729
4860	<i>Massarina</i> sp.	KR014362 KP671730
4885	Microascacea sp. 1	KR014356 KP671717
4861	Microascacea sp. 2	KR014360 KP671746
4859	Roussoellacea sp. 1	KR014355 KP671716
4886	Roussoellacea sp. 2	KR014358 KP671720
4966	Roussoellacea sp. 3	KR014366 KP671740
4979	<i>Knufia petricola</i> (U. Wollenzien & de Hoog) Gorbushina & Gueidan	KR014376 KP671749

553

554

555

556

557

558

559

560

561

562

563

564

565

566

567

568

**Table 2.** Antimicrobial activity of the fungal intracellular extracts vs four bacterial strains belonging to different species. The data are reported as capacity to inhibit the microorganisms growth in more than 50% (IC<sub>50</sub>). Growth in the presence of 2% DMSO was considered as 100% growth. ND: Not detected.

Fungi MUT CODE	IC <sub>50</sub> (mg/mL)							
	<i>B. metallica</i> LMG 24068		<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PA01		<i>K. Pneumoniae</i> DF12SA		<i>S. aureus</i> 6538P	
	Ethyl acetate	Acetone	Ethyl acetate	Acetone	Ethyl acetate	Acetone	Ethyl acetate	Acetone
4859	0.5 - 0.25	> 2.0	> 2.0	> 2.0	> 2.0	> 2.0	1.0 - 0.5	> 2.0
4860	0.5 - 0.25	0.5 - 0.25	> 2.0	> 2.0	> 2.0	> 2.0	2.0 - 1.0	> 2.0
4861	0.5 - 0.25	0.5 - 0.25	2.0 - 1.0	1.0 - 0.5	> 2.0	2.0 - 1.0	1.0 - 0.5	ND
4865	0.5 - 0.25	0.5 - 0.25	> 2.0	> 2.0	1.0 - 0.5	> 2.0	0.5 - 0.25	0.5 - 0.25
4979	1.0 - 0.5	ND	1.0 - 0.5	ND	> 2.0	ND	0.5 - 0.25	ND
4966	1.0 - 0.5	ND	> 2.0	ND	> 2.0	ND	1.0 - 0.5	ND
4885	2.0 - 1.0	ND	> 2.0	ND	> 2.0	ND	2.0 - 1.0	ND
4886	2.0 - 1.0	ND	> 2.0	ND	> 2.0	ND	2.0 - 1.0	ND
4883	2.0 - 1.0	ND	2.0 - 1.0	ND	> 2.0	ND	2.0 - 1.0	ND

**Table 3.** Annotated peaks observed in the chromatograms of the EtOAc and Acetone extracts of *Beauveria bassiana* MUT 4865

RT (min)	MS and MS/MS	Suggested MF	Proposed structure
23.20	376.3195 [M+Na] <sup>+</sup> (Δppm: 1.049) MS <sup>2</sup> (Fig. S3): 359.29, 341.28; MS <sup>3</sup> see Fig. 2	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>43</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	2-aminodocosa-6,17-dien-1,3-diol (1)
28.32	318.30015 (Δppm: -0.379) MS <sup>2</sup> (Fig. S4): 300.29, 282.29, 265.33	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>39</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	2-aminooctadecan-1,3,4-triol (4-hydroxysphiganine or phytosphingosine) (2)
29.11	302.30543 (Δppm: 0.245) MS <sup>2</sup> (Fig. S5): 284.29, 266.31, 249.26	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>39</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	2-aminooctadecan-1,3-diol (dihydrosphingosine) (3)
30.03	360.31079 (Δppm: -0.126) MS <sup>2</sup> (Fig. S6): 342.31, 324.32, 300.31, 264.30, 212.19	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>41</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>	N-[1,3,4-trihydroxyoctadecan-2-yl]acetamide (phytoceramide C2) (4)
45.65	339.25320 (Δppm: - 0.876)	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	Aphidicolin (5)
54.04	287.23634 (Δppm: 0.584) MS <sup>2</sup> (Fig. S7): 269.23, 203.14, 175.11	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O	Fusoxysporone (6)
60.38	395.3309 (Δppm: 0.145)	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>42</sub> O	Ergosta-5,7,22-trien-3-β-ol (ergosterol)
62.89	393.3153 (Δppm: 0.401)	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>40</sub> O	Ergostane derivative
66.49	371.31453 (Δppm: -1.056) MS <sup>2</sup> (Fig. S8): 259.01, 240.70, 146.9, 128.9, 110.99	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>42</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	Bis(2-ethylhexyl) hexanedioic acid (7)

**Table 4.** Annotated peaks observed in the chromatograms of the Acetone extract of *Microascacea* sp.2 MUT 4861.

RT (min)	MS and MS <sup>n</sup>	Suggested MF	Proposed structure
31.52	318.30002 (Δppm - 0.756) MS <sup>2</sup> (Fig. S4): 300.29, 282.29, 265.33	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>39</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	2-amino-octadecane- 1,3,4- triol (4-hydroxysphiganine or phytosphingosine) (2)
34.29	330.30024 (Δppm - 0.031) MS <sup>2</sup> (Fig. S10): 312.26, 294.33, 282.32, 256.32 [MS <sup>3</sup> (@ 294.33)] (Fig. S11): 266.33, 168.18, 154.07, 140.11, 133.01, 126.0, 111.96, 97.94)	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>39</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	
49.05	672.43291 (Δppm- 0.166) MS <sup>2</sup> (Fig. S9) 654.5, 525.3, 507.2, 454.2, 436.2, 323.1	C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>57</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	Scopularide A (8)
58.14	409.3101 (Δppm 0)	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>40</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Ergostane derivative
59.94	393.3154 (Δppm 0)	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>40</sub> O	Ergostane derivative
65.6	395.3307 (Δppm 0)	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>42</sub> O	Ergosterol
73.06	371.31576 (Δppm 0) MS <sup>2</sup> (Fig. S8): 259.01, 240.70, 146.9, 128.9, 110.99	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>42</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	Bis(2-ethylhexyl) hexanedioic acid (7)
77.20	377.32019 (Δppm 0)	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>40</sub>	Ergosta-3,5,7,9(11),22-pentaene

## Supporting Information

### **The antimicrobial potential of algicolous marine fungi for counteracting multidrug resistant bacteria: phylogenetic diversity and chemical profiling**

Giorgio Gnani, Fortunato Palma Esposito, Carmen Festa, Anna Poli, Pietro Tedesco, Renato Fani, Maria Chiara Monti, Donatella de Pascale, Maria Valeria D'Auria, Giovanna Cristina Varese

#### **Legend to Supplementary figures**

**Fig. S1. Bayesian phylogram of Pleosporales (Dothideomycetes) taxa including the five fungal isolates (indicated as MUT) based on rDNA large subunit (LSU).** Clades designation and sequences were retrieved from Gnani et al. [14] and from GenBank. Node numbers indicate BPP over 0.60; ML bootstrap values are greater than 50%. <sup>+</sup> = strains isolated from terrestrial sources; \* strains isolated from fresh water environments, mangrove swamp and salt flats; arrow indicates strains isolated from marine sources.

**Fig. S2. Bayesian phylogram of Sordariomycetes taxa including the three fungal isolates (indicated as MUT) based on rDNA large subunit (LSU).** Clades designation and sequences were retrieved from Gnani et al. [14] and Tang et al.[15] and from GenBank. Node numbers indicate BPP over 0.60; ML bootstrap values are greater than 50%. <sup>+</sup> = strains isolated from terrestrial sources; \* strains isolated from fresh water environments, mangrove and salt flats; arrow indicates strains isolated from marine sources.

**Fig. S3.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound 1.

**Fig. S4.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound 2.

**Fig. S5.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound 3.

**Fig. S6.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound 4.

**Fig. S7.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound 6.

**Fig. S8.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound 7.

**Fig. S9.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound 8.

**Fig. S10.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound with molecular formula C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>39</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>

**Fig. S11.** MS<sup>3</sup> data of compound with molecular formula C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>39</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> on the daughter ions of *m/z* 330.30.

**Table S1. Selection of the best fungi growth media antimicrobial compounds production.**

Table reports the antimicrobial activity as the percentage of inhibition of a selected target bacterium (*Burkholderia metallica* LMG 24068) in presence of the fungal extracellular extracts from the three different growth media. MeCl medium showed the best antimicrobial activity. ND: Not detected.

MUT Code	Growth media		
	MeCl	WST30	PCB
4859	55 ± 2.4	38 ± 1.2	ND
4860	50 ± 1.7	48 ± 2.4	ND
4861	65 ± 3.5	38 ± 4.5	10 ± 0.6
4865	60 ± 1.0	60 ± 5.7	ND
4883	25 ± 0.7	ND	20 ± 1.2
4885	35 ± 1.4	33 ± 3.2	25 ± 0.3
4886	30 ± 0.4	40 ± 4.3	40 ± 0.9
4966	50 ± 0.8	10 ± 0.2	ND
4979	62 ± 1.4	45 ± 3.5	38 ± 0.9

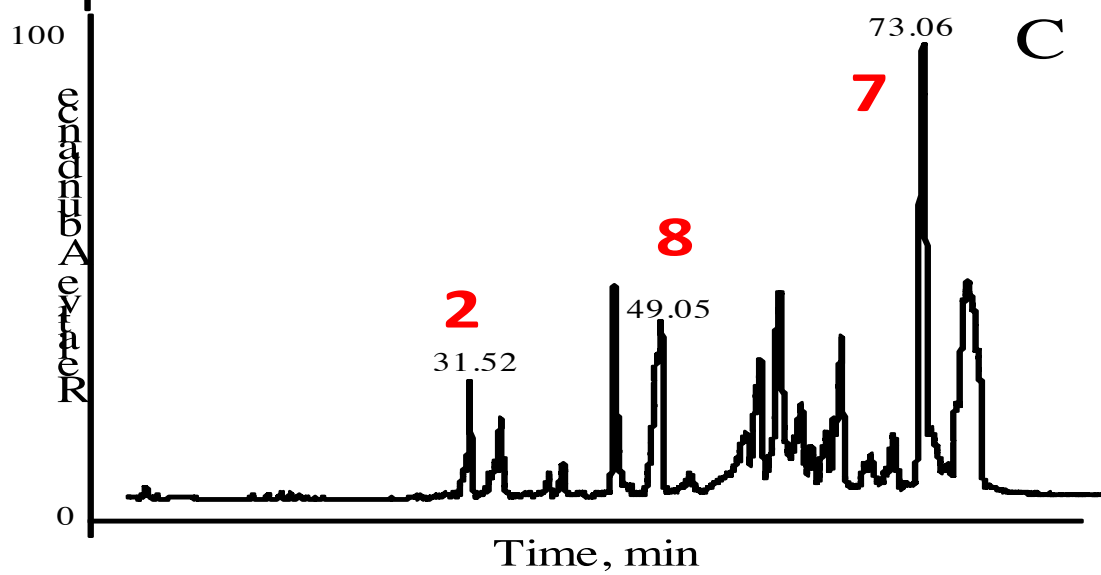
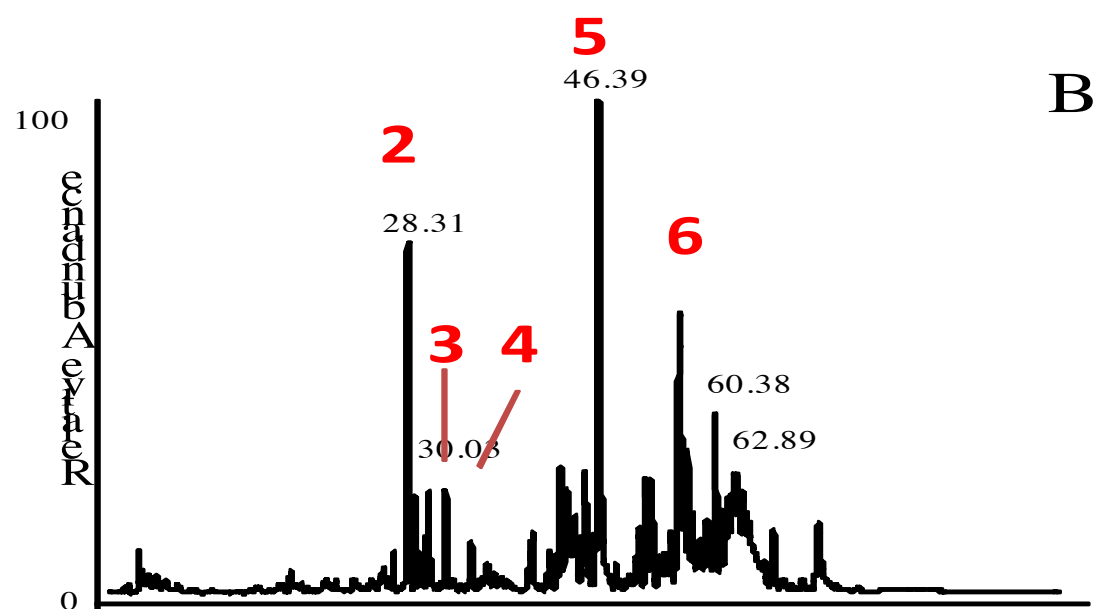
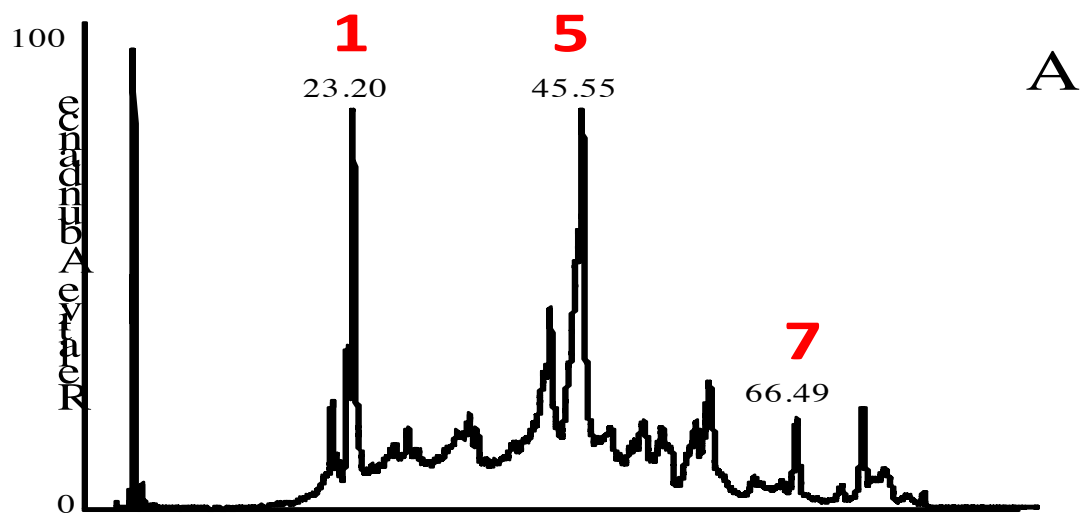
**Table S2. Comparison of the antimicrobial activity between intracellular and extracellular extracts.** Antimicrobial activity is reported as the percentage of inhibition of the selected target bacterium (*Burkholderia metallica* LMG 24068) in presence of intracellular and extracellular fungal extracts. Intracellular extracts resulted to be the most active.

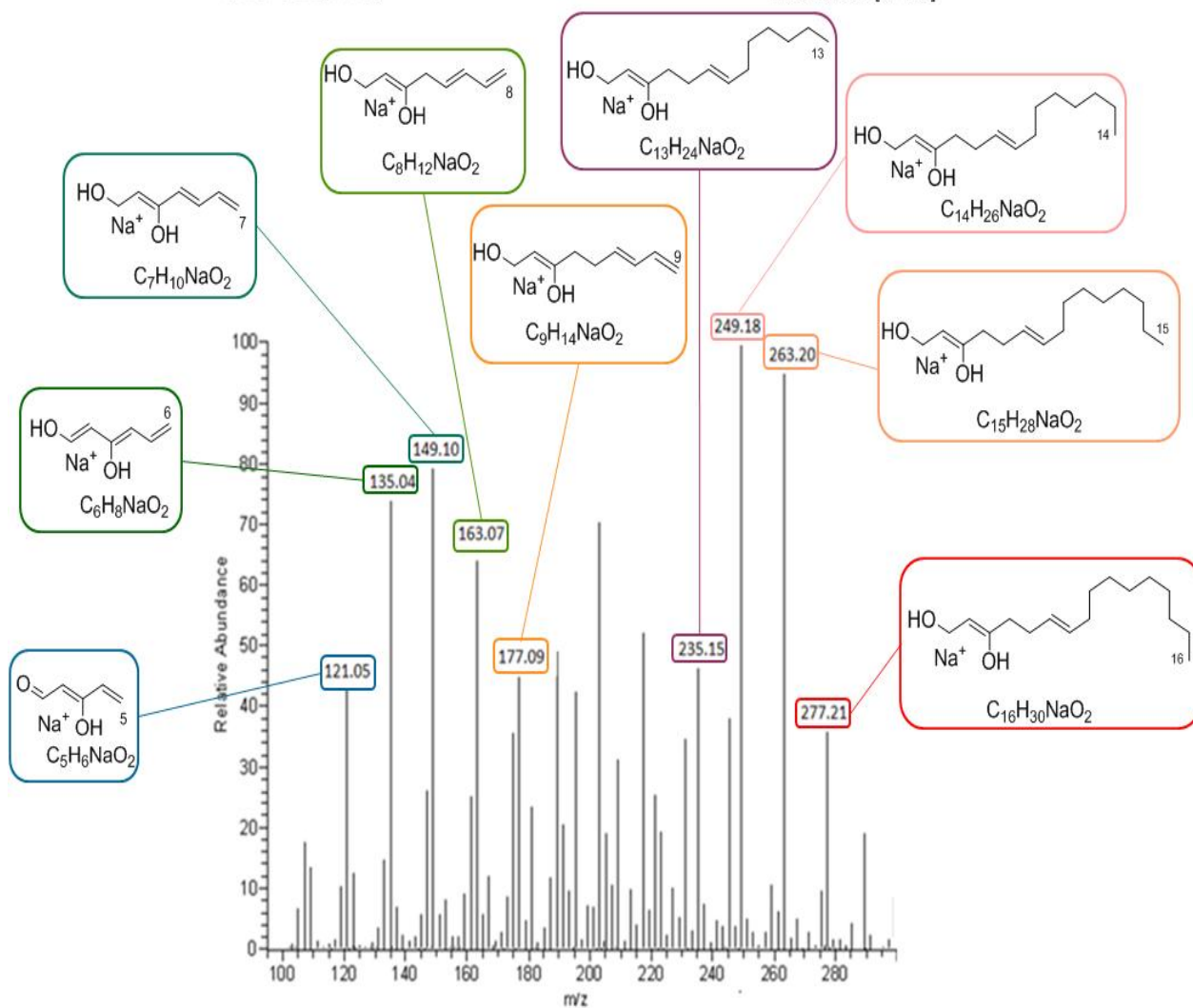
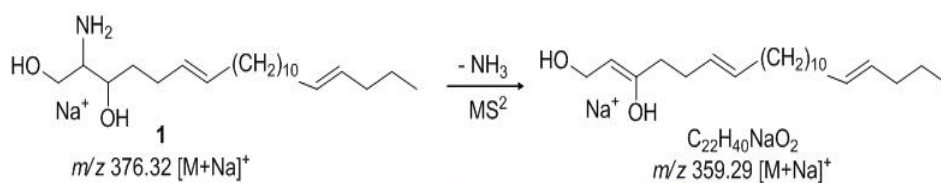
MUT Code	Intracellular extract	Extracellular extract
4859	70 ± 3.4	40 ± 3.2
4860	67 ± 2.1	33 ± 1.3
4861	56 ± 0.9	30 ± 0.5
4865	60 ± 2.5	32 ± 0.7
4883	54 ± 3.1	25 ± 0.8
4885	76 ± 4.3	33 ± 1.2
4886	60 ± 3.8	10 ± 0.6
4966	60 ± 2.1	15 ± 1.3
4979	60 ± 6.5	30 ± 2.1

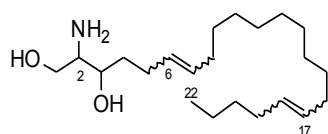


**Table S3. Re-assessment of the antibiotic resistance of the four MDR bacterial strains belonging to different species.** The data are reported as capacity to inhibit the microorganism growth in more than 50% (IC<sub>50</sub>).

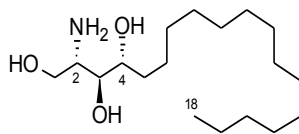
Antibiotic	IC <sub>50</sub> (mg/mL)			
	<i>B. metallica</i> LMG 24068	<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PA01	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> DF12SA	<i>S. aureus</i> 6538P
<b>Ampicillin</b>	> 0.2	0.025 - 0.012	< 0.003	< 0.003
<b>Chloramphenicol</b>	0.006 - 0.003	0.006 - 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
<b>Kanamycin</b>	0.006 - 0.003	0.006 - 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
<b>Tetracycline</b>	0.025 - 0.012	< 0.003	0.006 - 0.003	< 0.003
<b>Trimethoprim</b>	< 0.003	0.006 - 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003



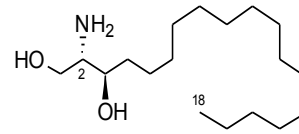




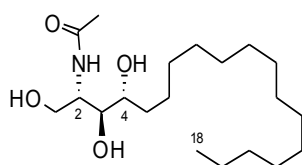
1,3-dihydroxy-2-amino-6,17-docosadiene (1)



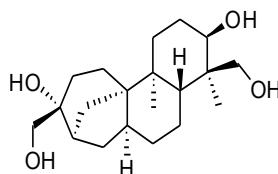
1,3,4-trihydroxy-2-aminooctadecane (2)



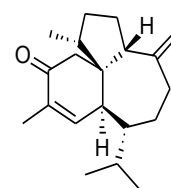
1,3-dihydroxy-2-aminooctadecane (3)



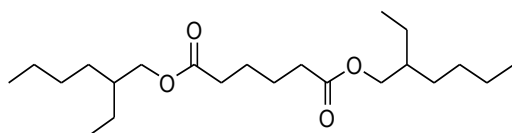
N-Acetyl-1,3,4-trihydroxy-2-aminooctadecane (4)



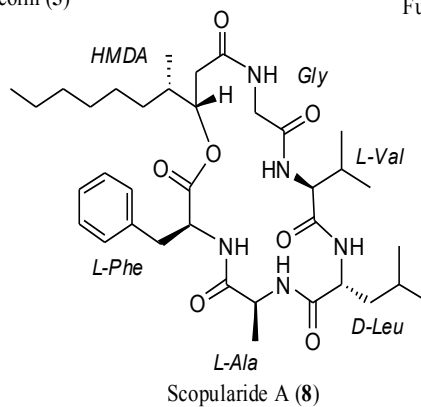
Aphidicolin (5)



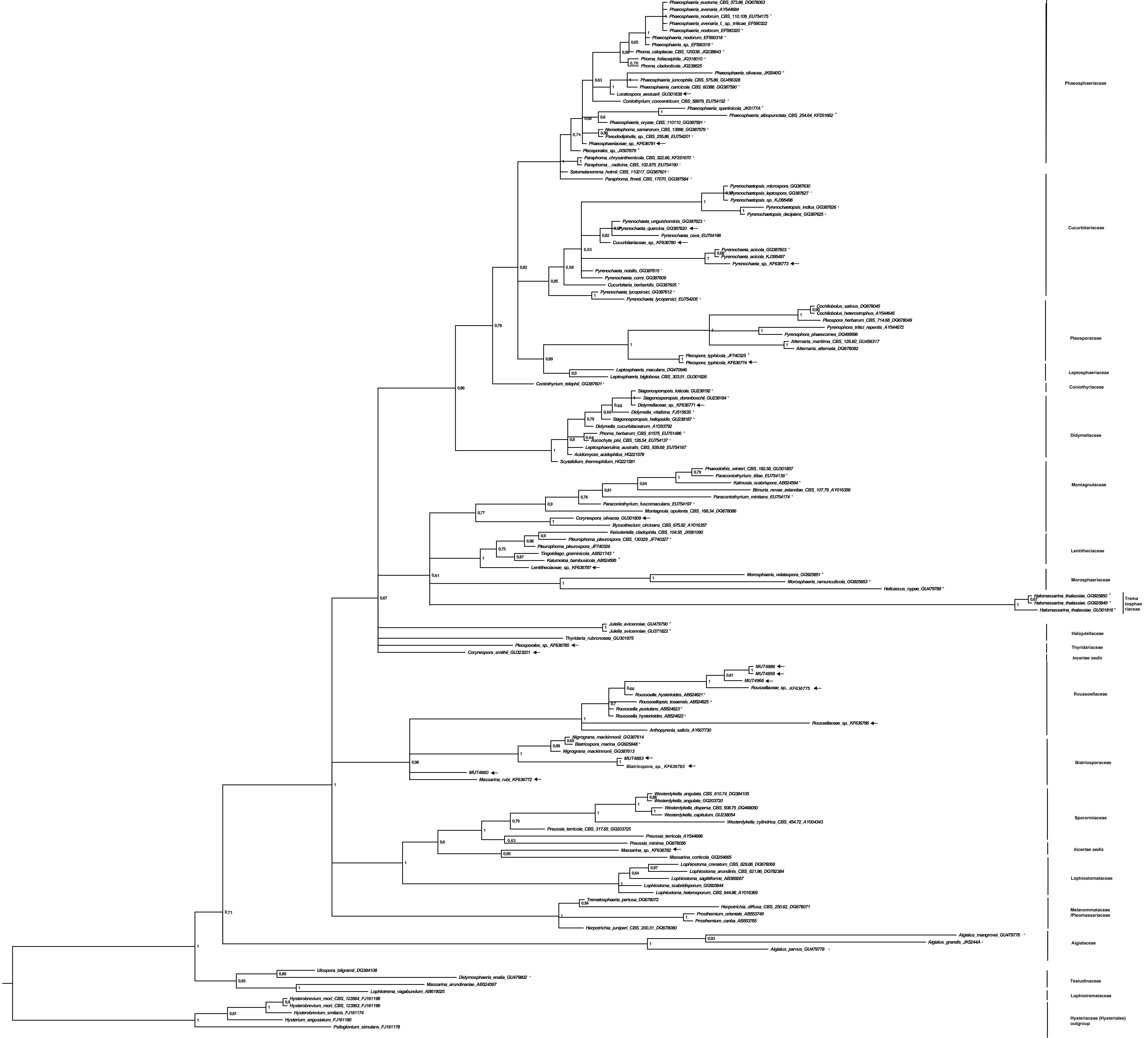
Fusoxysporone (6)

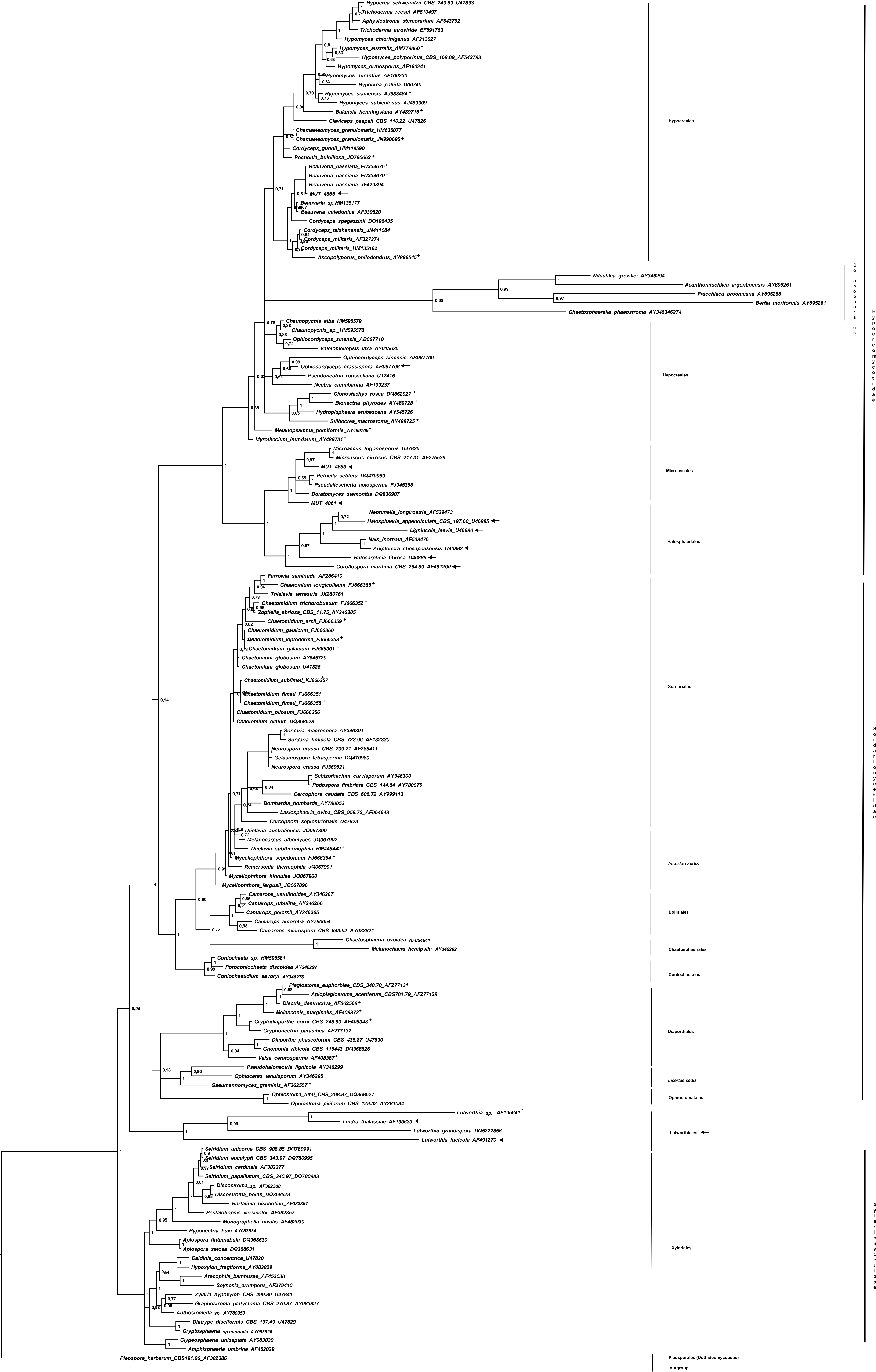


Bis-(2-ethylhexyl)-hexanedioic acid (7)

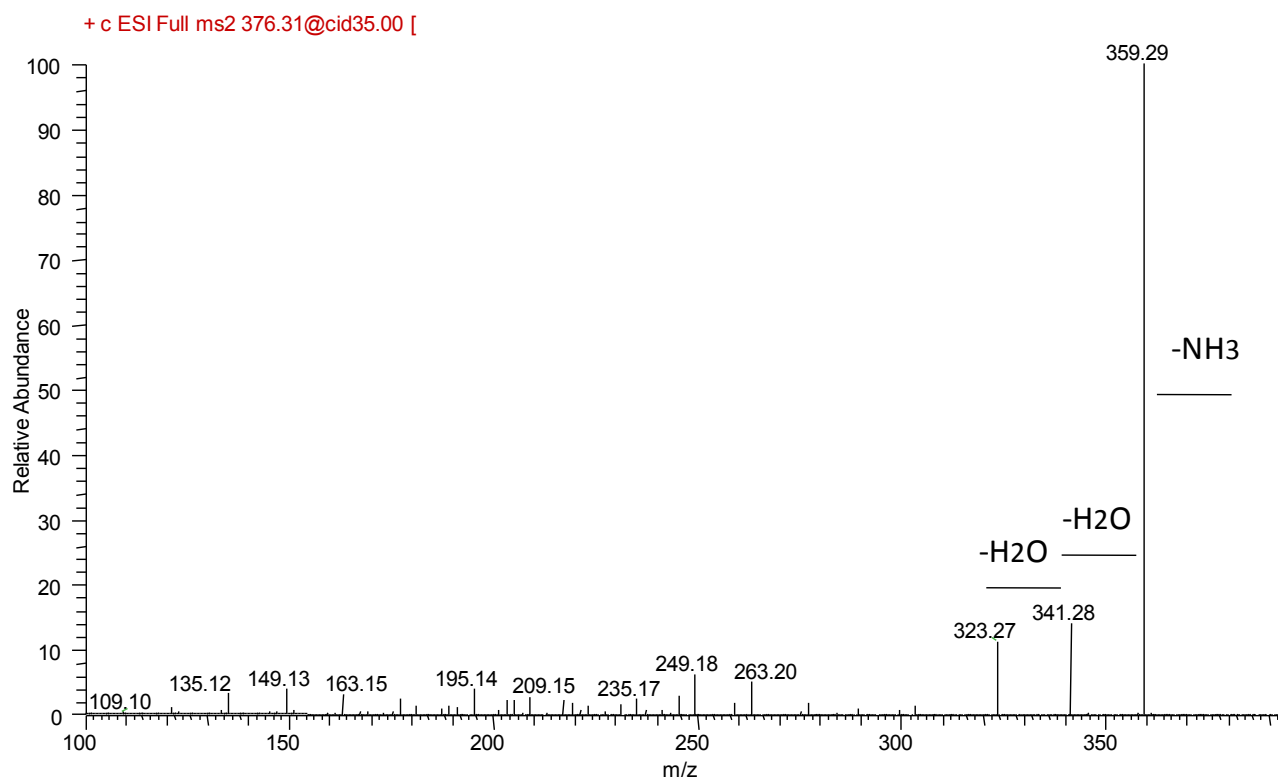


Scopularide A (8)

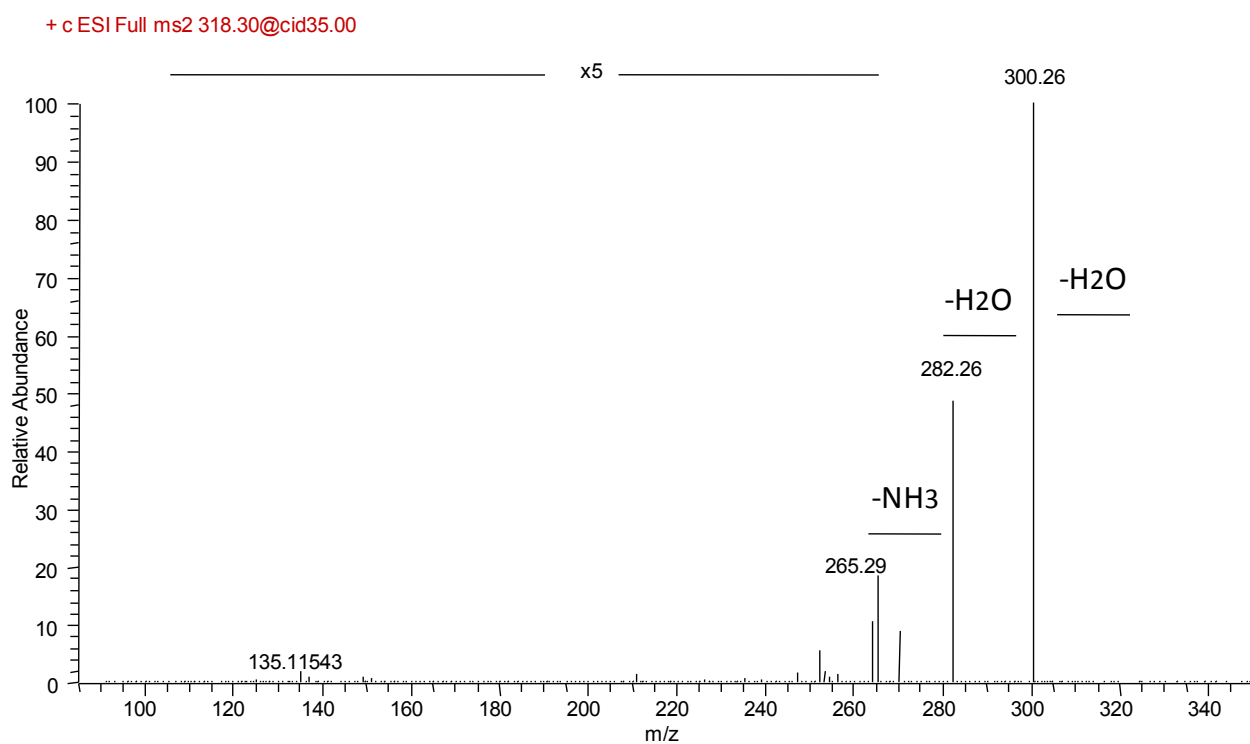




**Figure S3.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound **1**

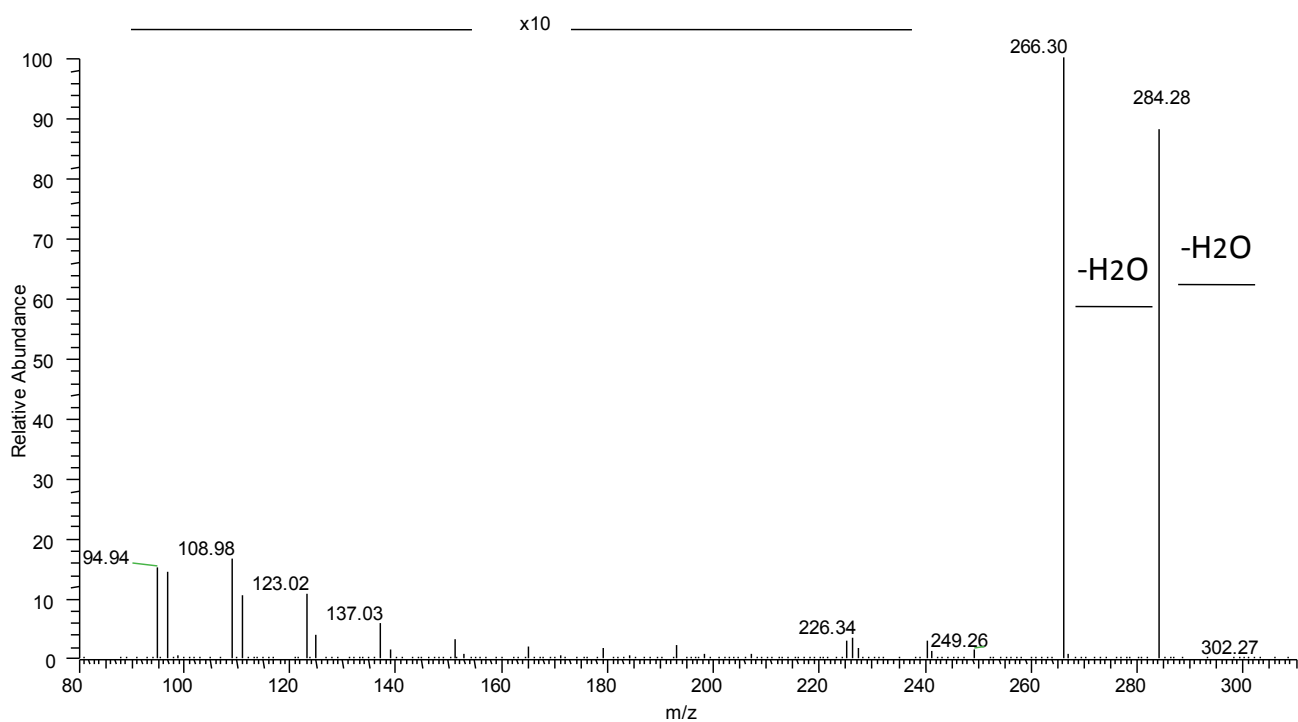


**Figure S4.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound **2**



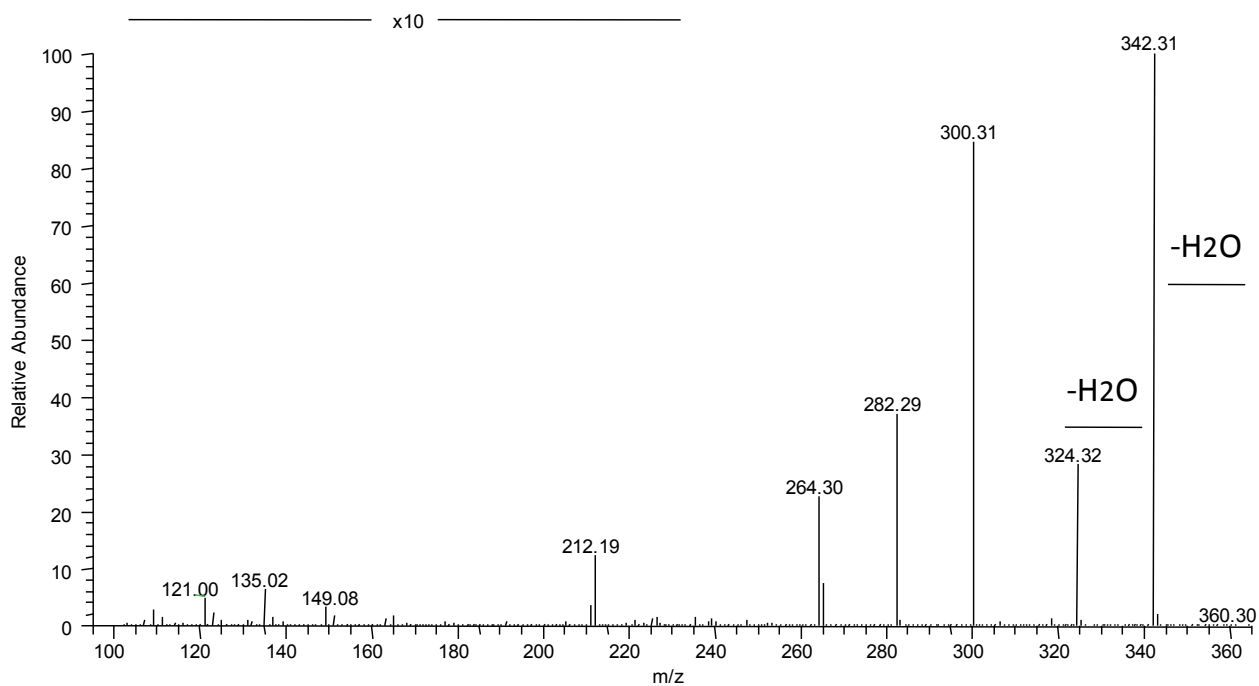
**Figure S5.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound **3**

+ c ESI Full ms2 302.30@cid35.00



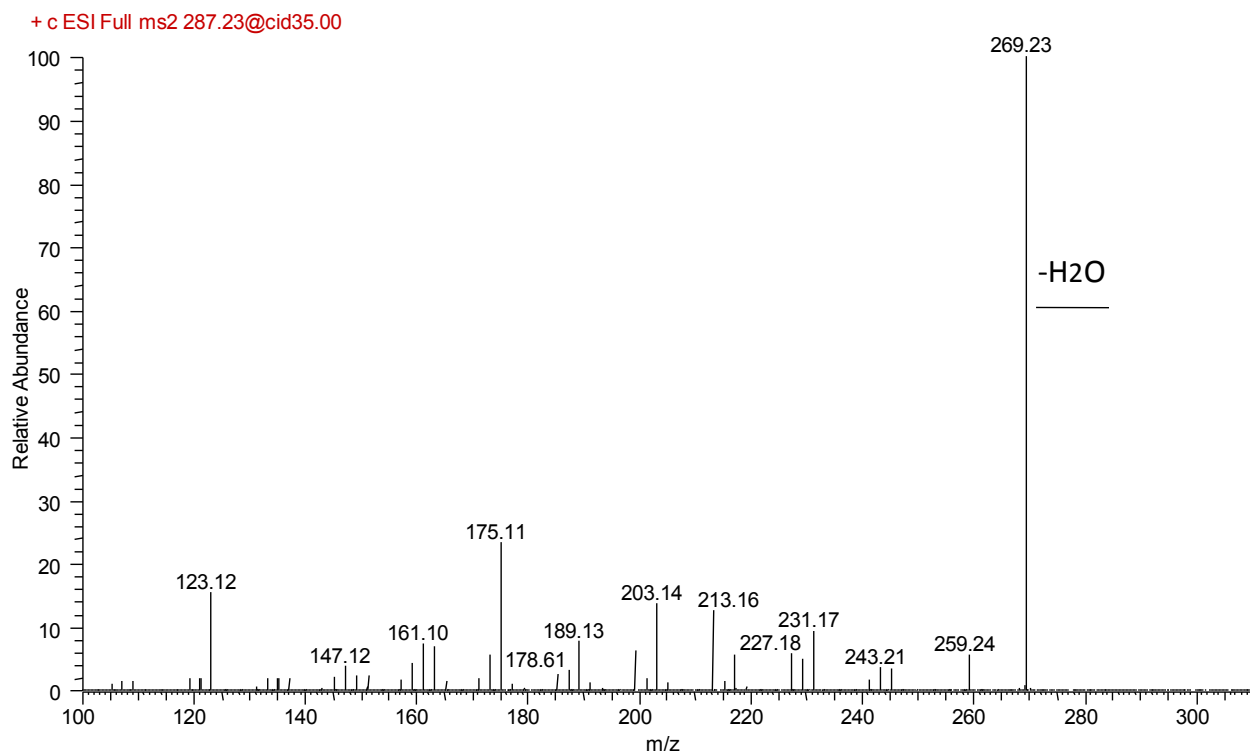
**Figure S6.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound **4**

+ c ESI Full ms2 360.30@cid35.00

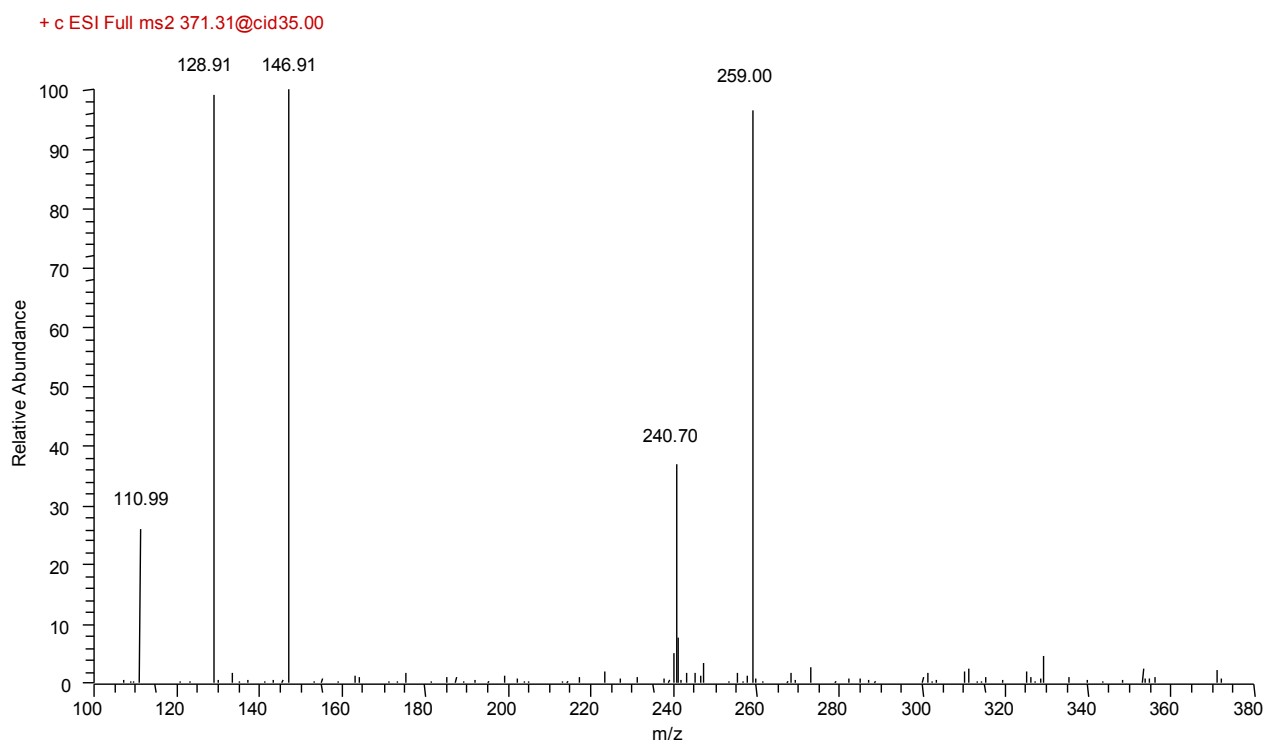




**Figure S7.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound **6**

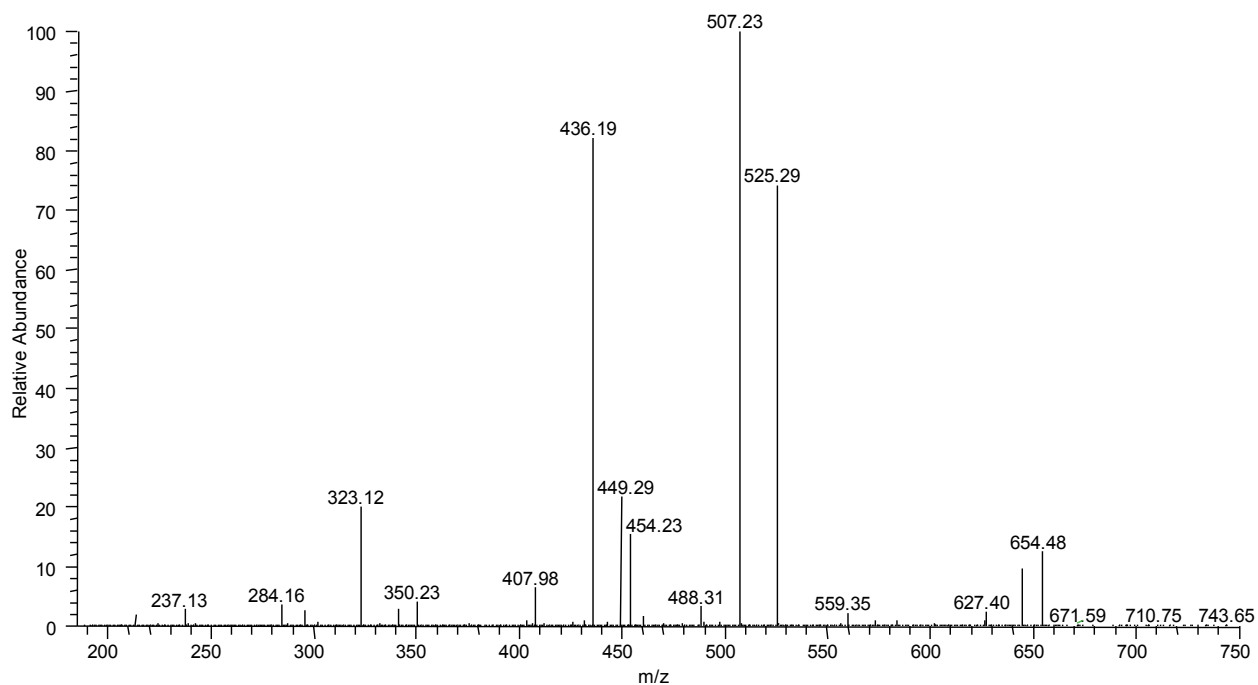


**Figure S8.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound **7**



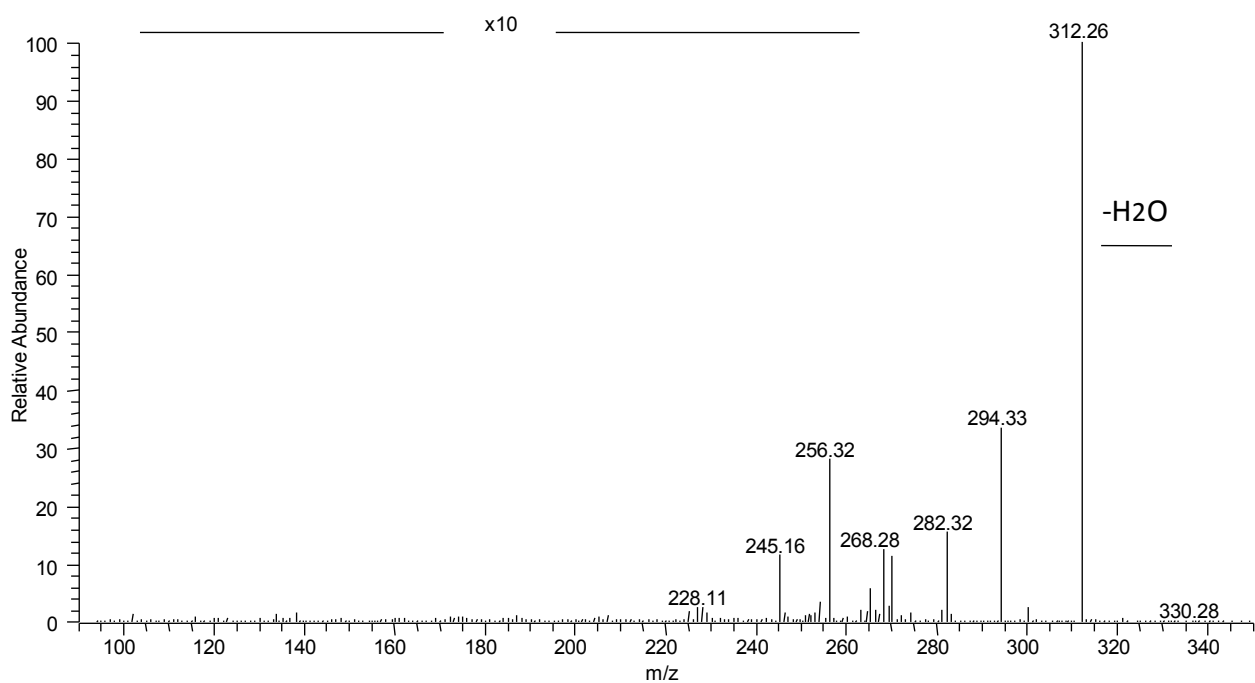
**Figure S9.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound **8**

+ c ESI Full ms2 672.40@cid35.00



**Figure S10.** MS<sup>2</sup> spectrum of compound with molecular formula C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>39</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>

+ c ESI Full ms2 330.30@cid35.00



**Figure S11.** MS<sup>3</sup> data on the daughter ion of  $m/z$  330.30

