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Communication

Three New Compounds from *Aspergillus terreus* PT06-2 Grown in a High Salt Medium

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Abstract: To investigate the structurally novel and bioactive natural compounds from marine-derived microorganisms under high salinity, the fungus *Aspergillus terreus* PT06-2 was isolated from the sediment of the Putian Sea Saltern, Fujian, China. Three new compounds, terremides A (1) and B (2) and terrelactone A (3), along with twelve known compounds (4–15) were isolated and identified from the fermentation broth of *A. terreus* PT06-2 at 10% salinity. Among these metabolites, compounds 4 and 15 only produced in the 10% salinity culture, were identified as methyl 3,4,5-trimethoxy-2-(2-(nicotinamido) benzamido) benzoate, and (+)-terrein, respectively. The new compounds 1 and 2 exhibited antibacterial activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Enterobacter aerogenes* with MIC values of 63.9 and 33.5 μ M, respectively. Compounds 5 showed moderate anti-H1N1 activity and lower cytotoxicity with IC₅₀ and CC₅₀ values of and 143.1 and 976.4 μ M, respectively.

Keywords: Aspergillus terreus; high salinity metabolites; terremides A and B; terrelactone A

1. Introduction

Solar salterns matured a surprisingly rich diversity and abundance of halophilic and halotolerant fungi [1]. Furthermore, some genes could be activated at high salt concentrations; some new secondary

metabolites were probably produced by halotolerant fungi. During pursing the halotolerant microbes from hypersaline ecological niches [2–6], *Aspergillus terreus* PT06-2 was isolated and identified from the sediment collected in the Putian Salterns, Fujian, China. *A. terreus* is commonly isolated from cultivated or non-cultivated soils with worldwide distribution and was first published in 1918 [7]. The famous statins drug lovastatin, an inhibitor of 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A reductase (HMG-CoA reductase), for lowering cholesterol to prevent cardiovascular disease, is mainly produced by *A. terreus* [8,9]. A series of compounds such as terreineol [10], terreulactone A [11], terrain [12], terreic acid [13] and aspulvinones [14] were also isolated from this fungus. Chemical screening for *A. terreus* PT06-2 showed that the chemical diversity of the secondary metabolites is the richest at 10% salinity compared with those at 0% and 3% salt. Chemical investigation in 10% salinity resulted in isolation and identification of three new compounds, terremides A and B (1, 2), terrelactone (3), along with twelve known compounds (4–15) [15–26]. Antibacterial activity of the new compound 2 against *Enterobacter aerogenes*, and the new compound 1 and 4 against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* were observed. Compound **5** showed moderate anti-H1N1 activity and lower cytotoxicity.

2. Results and Discussion

2.1. The Identification of New Metabolites from Aspergillus terreus PT06-2 at 10% Salinity

Fungus *A. terreus* PT06-2 was incubated in a high-salt medium containing 10% salt and extracted with EtOAc to afford a crude extract. The crude extract (31.2 g) was separated by extensive chromatography using silica gel, Sephadex LH-20 and HPLC to give compounds **1–15** (Figure 1), including three new compounds: terremides A and B (**1**, **2**), terrelactone (**3**), and twelve known ones: methyl 3,4,5-trimethoxy-2-(2-(nicotinamido)benzamido)benzoate (**4**) [15], (+)-butyrolactones I–III (**5–7**) [16–19], 3-hydroxy-5-[[4-hydroxy-3-(3-methyl-2-buten-1-yl)phenyl]methyl]-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2(5*H*)-furanone (**8**) [20], aspernolide A (**9**) [16], 5-[(3,4-dihydro-2,2-dimethyl-2*H*-1-benzopyran-6-yl)-methyl]-3-hydroxy-4-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2(5*H*)-furanone (**10**) [18], territrem B (**11**) [22], (-)-(1*R*,4*R*)-1,4-(2,3)-indomethane-1-methyl-2,4-dihydro-1*H*-pyrazino[2,1-*b*]quinazoline-3,6-dione (**12**) [23], *R*(-)-6-hydroxymellein (**13**) [24], *trans*-4,6-dihydroxymellein (**14**) [25], and (+)-terrein (**15**) [26].

Terremide A (1) gave an HRESIMS peak at m/z 392.1257 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₁₈N₃O₅, 392.1246), corresponding to the molecular formula C₂₁H₁₇N₃O₅. The UV spectrum displayed absorption at λ_{max} 205 and 262 nm, similar to that of compound **4** [15]. The 1D NMR spectra were also similar to those of **4**, indicating the same molecular skeleton [15]. The differences were a 1,2,3-trisubstituted benzene nucleus instead of the 1,2,3,4,5-pentasubstituted one, and the corresponding signals of three methoxy groups did not display in the 1D NMR spectra of **1**. Besides, the downfield shifts for C-1"–C-3" were observed, suggesting **1** as the derivative of **4** by demethoxylation at C-4" and C-5", and demethylation at 3"-MeO. This deduction was further supported by the key ¹H-¹H COSY correlations of H-4"/H-5"/H-6", and the key HMBC correlations (Figure 2) form HO-3" ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 12.22) to C-3" ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 149.8), from H-4" ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.70) and H-6" ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.36) to C-2" ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 128.2), and from CH₃O- ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.95) to carbonyl carbon ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 169.2). Thus, structure of **1** was determined to be methyl 3-hydroxy-2-(2-(nicotinamido)benzamido)benzamido)benzamido)

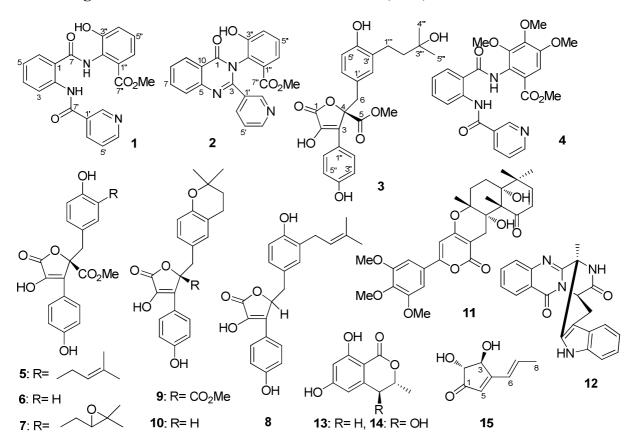


Figure 1. Chemical structures of the metabolites (1–15) from A. terreus PT06-2.

Terremide B (2) gave an HRESIMS peak at m/z 374.1160 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₁₆N₃O₄, 374.1141), corresponding to the molecular formula C₂₁H₁₅N₃O₄ that required 16 degrees of unsaturation. Compared with compound 1, the molecular formula of 2 is one H₂O less and one more degree of unsaturation than that of 1. Both 1 and 2 showed similar ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, except for the disappearance of two exchangeable proton signals at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 11.96/9.08, and the replacement of the amido carbon signal at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 163.7 by a quaternary carbon signal at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 147.2. Furthermore, another amido carbon signal shifted upfield from 169.1 ppm to 160.7 ppm, revealing existence of a quinazolinone nucleus [27]. Thus, compound 2 was deduced as the dehydrated and cyclized product of 1. When reacted in MeOH, compound 1 formed 2 in 96% yields. Therefore, the structure of terremide B (2) was assigned as methyl 3-hydroxy-2-(4-oxo-2-(pyridin-3-yl)quinazolin-3(4*H*)-yl)benzoate that was further determined by X-ray single-crystal diffraction analysis (Figure 2).

Terrelactone (3) gave an HRESI-MS peak at m/z 465.1529 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₂₄H₂₆O₈Na, 465.1525), corresponding to the molecular formula C₂₄H₂₆O₈. Its UV spectrum showed characteristic absorption of butyrolactones at 231 and 310 nm [21]. 1D NMR showed signals of a 1,2-disubstituted benzene nucleus at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.62 (2H, d, 8.2)/6.97 (2H, d, 8.2), a 1,2,4-trisubstituted benzene nucleus at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.55 (d, 8.2)/6.51 (brs)/6.52 (d, 8.2), a carbomethoxy at $\delta_{\rm H/C}$ 3.78/53.7/170.9, and an unsaturated butyrolactone at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 86.0/132.6/139.0/168.7, suggesting the same skeleton as butyrolactone I (5) [18,19]. The NMR differences between **3** and **5** were that the signals belonging to the CH=C double band at $\delta_{\rm H/C}$ 5.06/122.4/131.4 in **5** were replaced by a methylene signal at $\delta_{\rm H/C}$ 1.55/44.4 and a quaternary carbon signal at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 70.2 (Table 1). These data suggested that compound **3** was the hydrated derivative of **5** at CH=C double band. This assignment was further supported by ¹H-¹H COSY correlation between

H-1^{'''} and H-2^{'''}, and HMBC correlations from H-1^{'''} to C-2', C-4' and C-3^{'''}, from H-4^{'''/5'''} to C-2^{'''} and C-3^{'''} (Figure 2). The dextral specific rotation ($[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +71) indicated *R*-configuration at C-4 [17]. Thus, the structure of terrelactone (**3**) was determined as (*R*)-methyl 4-hydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-(3-hydroxy-3-methylbutyl)benzyl)-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-5-oxo-2,5-dihydrofuran-2-carboxylate.

Figure 2. The key COSY and HMBC correlations for compounds **1** and **3**, and the final X-ray drawing of compound **2**.

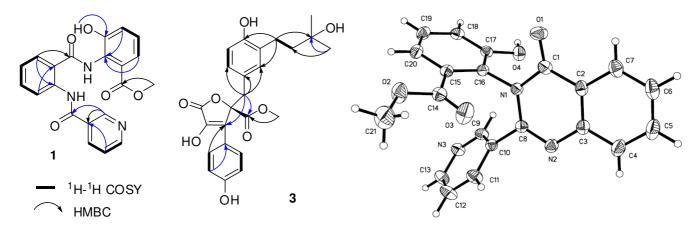


Table 1. ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR (600 and 150 MHz) data for compounds 1–3 in CDCl₃.

Position	1 ^a		2		3 ^b	
	δ _C	$\delta_{\rm H} \left(J \text{ in Hz} \right)$	δ _C	$\delta_{\rm H} \left(J \text{ in Hz} \right)$	δ _C	$\delta_{\rm H} \left(J \text{ in Hz} \right)$
1	119.1, qC		160.7, qC		168.7, qC	
2	140.3, qC		153.4, qC		139.0, qC	
3	122.0, CH	8.87, d (8.3)	147.2, qC		132.6, qC	
4	134.2, CH	7.67, t (7.8)	127.4, CH		86.0, qC	
5	124.0, CH	7.32, t (7.8)	134.8, CH		170.9, qC	
6	128.1, CH	7.99, d (7.8)	127.3, CH	7.79, d (7.9)	39.1, CH ₂	3.44, s
7	169.1, qC		126.4, CH	7.92, t (7.9)		
8			120.6, qC	7.61, t (7.9)		
9			131.3, qC	8.16, d (7.9)		
10			147.9, CH			
1′	130.3, qC		150.1, CH		124.8, qC	
2'	148.8, CH	9.26, s	122.5, CH	8.57, s	132.6, CH	6.51, br s
3'					128.2, qC	
4′	152.6, CH	8.78, d (4.2)	135.0, CH	8.48, d (4.5)	154.8, qC	
5'	123.6, CH	7.45, t "like" (6.0)	160.7, qC	7.29, dd (4.5, 7.9)	115.1, CH	6.52, br d (8.2)
6'	134.9, CH	8.27, d (6.0)	153.4, qC	7.75, d (7.9)	129.4, CH	6.55, d (8.2)
7′	163.7, qC					
1″	120.1, qC		124.4, qC		122.8, qC	
2″	128.2, qC		128.7, qC		130.1, CH	7.62, br d (8.2)
3″	149.8, qC		153.5, qC		116.5, CH	6.97, br d (8.2)
4″	123.5, CH	7.70, d (7.8)	121.2, CH	7.03, d (7.8)	158.7, qC	
5″	126.7, CH	7.26, t (7.7)	130.0, CH	7.28, t (7.8)	116.5, CH	6.97, br d (8.2)
6″	126.3, CH	7.36, d (8.2)	120.0, CH	7.33, d (7.8)	130.1, CH	7.62, br d (8.2)
7″	169.2, qC		165.2, qC			

7"-OMe	53.0, CH ₃	3.95, s	52.2, CH ₃	3.65, s	
2-NH		11.96, s			
2"-NH		9.08, s			
3″-ОН		12.22, s			

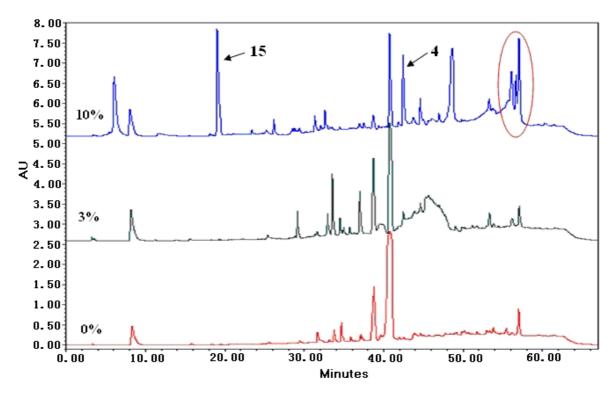
Table 1. Cont.

^a The NMR data for 2-NH, 2"-NH and 3"-OH are $\delta_{\rm H}$ 11.96 (s), 9.08 (s) and 12.22 (s), respectively; ^b Recorded in acetone- d_6 . The NMR data for isoprenyl moiety and 5-OCH₃ are $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.55 (m)/2.45 (m), 1.55 (2H, m), 1.18 (6H, s), and 3.78 (3H, s), and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 25.3 (CH₂), 44.4 (CH₂), 70.2 (CH), 29.8 × 2 (CH₃), and 53.7 (CH₃), respectively.

2.2. The Effects of Salt Stress on Production of Secondary Metabolites from Aspergillus terreus PT06-2

Salt-tolerant fungi belong to extremophiles which can survive under the conditions of zero to high salinity. However, using salt-tolerant fungi to produce new secondary metabolites at high salinity was rarely reported [2–6]. In order to investigate the effect of high salt stress on fungal secondary metabolites, *A. terreus* PT06-2 was cultured at 0%, 3% and 10% salt. The amount of EtOAc extracts of metabolites in 10% salinity was the largest (222 mg *vs.* 165 and 200 mg of 0% and 3% salinity). The chemical diversities of the metabolites in 10% salinity were increased (Figure 3). Compounds **4** and **15** were not produced by *A. terreus* PT06-2 when cultivated in 0% and 3% salinity media. The other sole secondary metabolites were a kind of red pigments (Figure 3) whose structures were not identified.

Figure 3. HPLC profiles of secondary metabolites from *A. terreus* PT06-2 cultured in different salt conditions (0%, 3% and 10%, respectively). Peaks circled were red pigments (HPLC eluent: 0–60 min, 5–100% CH₃OH; flow rate: 1 mL/min).



The new compounds (1–3), sole metabolites (4, 15) produced at 10% salinity, and typical butyrolactones (5–10) of *A. terreus* were evaluated for their cytotoxicity against HL-60 and BEL-7402 cell lines, antimicrobial activity against *Enterobacter aerogenes*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Candida albicans* (Table 2), and antiviral activity against influenza virus (H1N1) by MTT [28], agar dilution method [29], and CPE inhibition assay [30,31], respectively. Compound **5** showed weak cytotoxicity against HL-60 with an IC₅₀ (half maximal inhibitory concentration) value of 57.5 μ M. Compounds **1**, **4** and **2** showed weak antibacterial activity against *S. aureus* and *E. aerogenes* with MIC (minimum inhibitory concentration) of 63.9, 52.4 and 33.5 μ M, respectively (Table 2). Other compounds did not show cytotoxicity and antibacterial activity (IC₅₀ or MIC > 100 μ M). Butyrolactone I (**5**) showed anti-H1N1 activity with IC₅₀ and CC₅₀ (50% cytotoxicity concentration) values of 143.1 and 976.4 μ M, respectively (positive control: ribavirin, IC₅₀ 100.8 μ M). In addition, it was reported that butyrolactone I (**5**) showed kinase inhibition with high selectivity towards CDK1 and CDK2 [32].

	MIC (µM)					
Compound	Enterobacter aerogenes	Pseudomonas aeruginosa	Staphylococcus aureus	Candida albicans		
1	>100	>100	63.9	>100		
2	33.5	>100	>100	>100		
3	>100	>100	>100	>100		
4	>100	>100	52.4	>100		
15	>100	>100	>100	>100		
Ciprofloxacin lactate	1	30	1	_		
Ketoconazole	_	_	_	5		

Table 2. Antimicrobial activities of compounds 1–4 ("–" indicates not measured).

3. Experimental Section

3.1. General Experimental Procedures

Optical rotations were obtained on a JASCO P-1020 digital polarimeter. UV spectra were recorded on a Beckman DU 640 spectrophotometer. IR spectra were obtained on a Nicolet NEXUS 470 spectrophotometer as KBr disks. ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and DEPT spectra and 2D-NMR were recorded on a JEOL JNMECP 600 spectrometer using TMS as internal standard, and chemical shifts were recorded as δ values. ESIMS was measured on a Q-TOF Ultima Global GAA076 LC mass spectrometer. Semipreparative HPLC was performed using an ODS column (YMC-pack ODS-A, 10 × 250 mm, 5 µm, 4 mL/min). HPLC was performed using an ODS column (YMC-pack C18, 4.6 × 250 mm, 5 µm, 2 mL/min). TLC and column chromatography (CC) were performed on plates precoated with silica gel GF254 (10–40 µm) and over silica gel (200–300 mesh, Qingdao Marine Chemical Factory, Qingdao, China) and Sephadex LH-20 (Amersham Biosciences, Sweden), respectively. All the materials for the culture medium of *A. terreus* PT06-2 was purchased from Qingdao Marine Chemical Factory, Qingdao, China.

3.2. Fungal Material

The fungus *A. terreus* PT06-2 was isolated from sediment (saline 20%), Putian Saltern of Fujian Province of China. It was identified according to its morphological characteristics and analyses of its 18S rRNA sequence (Genbank JN006059) by Prof. C. X. Fang, China Center for Type Culture Collection. A voucher specimen is deposited in our laboratory at -80 °C. The working strain was prepared on potato dextrose agar slants and stored at 4 °C.

3.3. Fermentation and Extraction

The fungus *A. terreus* PT06-2 was grown under static conditions at 28 °C for 35 days in 100 1000-mL conical flasks containing liquid medium (300 mL/flask, pH 7.0) composed of glucose (10 g/L), maltose (20 g/L), mannitol (20 g/L), monosodium glutamate (10 g/L), yeast extract (3 g/L), corn steep liquor (1 g/L), and 10% salt (NaCl 8%, MgSO₄ 0.5%, KH₂PO₄ 0.5%, NH₄Cl 0.5% and KCl 0.5%). The fermented whole broth (30 L) was filtered through cheesecloth to separate the supernatant from the mycelia. The supernatant was concentrated under reduced pressure to about 5 L and then extracted three times with EtOAc to give an EtOAc solution, while the mycelia were extracted three times with acetone. The acetone was removed under reduced pressure to afford a residual aqueous solution. This aqueous solution was extracted three times with EtOAc to give a further EtOAc crude extract. Both EtOAc solutions were combined and concentrated under reduced pressure to give an extract (31.2 g).

The fungus *A. terreus* PT06-2 was incubated under the same conditions in 0%, 3% and 10% salt. The chemical diversities of the secondary metabolites of EtOAc extract were investigated with HPLC.

3.4. Purification

The extract (31.2 g) from A. terreus PT06-2 was separated into ten fractions (Fraction 1 to 10) on a silica gel column using a step gradient elution with CHCl₃-petroleum ether (0-100%) and then with MeOH-CHCl₃ (0-100%). Fraction 4 was separated on Sephadex LH-20 with MeOH-CHCl₃ (1:1) and 100% MeOH to obtain Fraction 4-2 and 4-3. Fraction 4-2 was further purified on semipreparative HPLC (60% MeOH) to give compound 15 (106 mg, $t_{\rm R}$ 12 min); Fraction 4-3 was separated on a silica gel column using a step gradient elution with Me₂CO-petroleum (0-100%) to obtain Fraction 4-3-1 and 4-3-2. Fraction 4-3-1 was purified on semipreparative HPLC (60% MeOH) to give compound 13 (7 mg, $t_{\rm R}$ 8 min). Fraction 5 was separated on silica gel column using a step gradient elution with Me₂CO-petroleum (0-100%) to obtain fraction 5-1 and fraction 5-5. Fraction 5-1 was rechromatographed on silica gel column (MeOH-CHCl₃, 1:50), Sephadex LH-20 (MeOH-CHCl₃, 1:1), and then semipreparative HPLC (70% MeOH) to give compound 4 (87 mg, t_R 8 min), 11 (21 mg, t_R 12 min) and 12 (7 mg, t_R 14 min). Fraction 5-5 was chromatographed on Sephadex LH-20 (MeOH-CHCl₃, 1:1), and then semipreparative HPLC (40% MeOH) to give compound 14 (2 mg, t_R 9 min). Fraction 8 was separated on Sephadex LH-20 (MeOH-CHCl₃, 1:1) twice to obtain Fraction 8-2 and 8-4. Fraction 8-2 was chromatographed on Sephadex LH-20 (100% MeOH), and then semipreparative HPLC (60% MeOH) to give compound 5 (200 mg, t_R 23 min), 7 (10 mg, t_R 12 min), and 8 (5 mg, t_R 18 min). Fraction 9 was separated on silica gel column (MeOH-CHCl₃, 1:10) to obtain Fraction 9-1-9-4. Fraction 9-1 was further purified on semipreparative HPLC (70% MeOH) to give compound 1 (6 mg,

 $t_{\rm R}$ 10 min), **9** (70 mg, $t_{\rm R}$ 12 min), and **10** (4 mg, $t_{\rm R}$ 10 min). Fraction 9-3 was chromatographed on ODS column (50% MeOH), and then semipreparative HPLC (60% MeOH) to give compound **2** (3 mg, $t_{\rm R}$ 6 min), **6** (3 mg, $t_{\rm R}$ 15 min). Fraction 9-5 was chromatographed on ODS column (40% MeOH), and then semipreparative HPLC (60% MeOH) to give compound **3** (45 mg, $t_{\rm R}$ 10 min).

Terremide A (1): white amorphous powder; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log \in) 205 (4.4), 262 (3.2) nm; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table 1; HRESIMS *m/z* 392.1257 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₁₈N₃O₅, 392.1246).

Terremide B (2): colorless crystal; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log \in) 212 (4.4), 283 (3.3) nm; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table 1; HRESIMS *m/z* 374.1160 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₁H₁₆N₃O₄, 374.1174).

Terrelactone (**3**): pale yellow oil; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +71 (*c* 0.5, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log \in) 231 (4.0), 310 (4.4) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3275, 2932, 1744, 1703, 1604, 1527, 1433, 1380, 1225, 1146, 839 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table 1; HRESIMS *m/z* 465.1529 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₂₄H₂₆O₈Na, 465.1525).

3.5. Chemical Transformation of 1 into 2

Compound 1 (2 mg, 5 μ mol) was dissolved in MeOH (0.5 mL) and stirred for 24 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was purified by semi-preparative HPLC eluting with 70% CH₃OH to give compound 2 (1.8 mg, 96% yield) as colorless crystals.

3.6. X-ray Crystal Structure of 2

Compound **2** was obtained as colorless monoclinic crystals with molecular formula $C_{21}H_{15}N_{3}O_{4}$. Space group C2/c, a = 27.130 (3) Å, b = 8.9484 (13) Å, c = 14.6147 (17) Å, $\alpha = 90.00^{\circ}$, $\beta = 91.248$ (2)°, $\gamma = 90.00^{\circ}$, V = 3547.2 (8) Å³, Z = 8, crystal size $0.45 \times 0.40 \times 0.29$ mm³. A total of 3131 unique reflections (2 $\theta < 50^{\circ}$) were collected on a CCD area detector diffractometer with graphite monochromated MoKa radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). The structure was solved by direct methods (SHELXS-97) and expanded using Fourier techniques (SHELXL-97). The final cycle of full-matrix least squares refinement was based on 3131 unique reflections (2 $\theta < 50^{\circ}$) and 254 variable parameters and converged with unweighted and weighted agreement factors of $R_1 = 0.0679$, $R_w = 0.1074$ and R = 0.0366 for I > 2sigma(I) data. Crystallographic data (excluding structure factors) for structure **2** in this paper have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre as supplementary publication number CCDC 819714. Copies of the data can be obtained, free of charge, on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK (Fax: +44-(0)-1223-336033 or E-Mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

3.7. Bioassay

Antimicrobial activity against *E. aerogenes*, *P. aeruginosa*, *S. aureus* and *C. albicans* was evaluated using an agar dilution method [29]. The tested strains were cultivated in LB agar plates for bacteria and in YPD agar plates for *C. albicans*, at 37 °C. Compounds and positive controls were dissolved in 5% DMSO-H₂O at different concentrations from 1000 to 62.5 μ g/mL and then from 50 to 0.78 μ g/mL, using continuous 2-fold dilution. The test solutions (5 μ L) were absorbed onto paper disks (5 mm diameter) and placed on the assay plates. After 24 h incubation, zones of inhibition (mm in diameter)

were recorded. The minimum inhibitory concentrations were defined as the lowest concentration at which an inhibition zone could be observed.

Cytotoxicity against HL-60 and BEL-7402 cancer cell lines and confluent MDCK cells was assayed by the MTT method [28]. Cell lines were grown in RPMI-1640 supplemented with 10% FBS under a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO₂ and 95% air at 37 °C. Cell suspensions, 200 µL, at a density of 5×10^4 cell mL⁻¹ were plated in 96-well microtiter plates and incubated for 24 h. Then, 2 µL of the test solutions (in MeOH) were added to each well and further incubated for 72 h. The MTT solution (20 µL, 5 mg/mL in IPMI-1640 medium) was then added to each well and incubated for 4 h. Old medium containing MTT (150 µL) was then gently replaced by DMSO and pipetted to dissolve any formazan crystals formed. Absorbance was then determined on a SPECTRA MAX PLUS plate reader at 540 nm. The CC₅₀ was calculated as the compound concentration necessary to reduce cell viability by 50%. Vp-16 (Etoposide) was used as the positive control with IC₅₀ values of 0.042 and 0.83 µM, respectively.

The antiviral activity against H1N1 was evaluated by the CPE inhibition assay [30,31]. Confluent MDCK cell monolayers were firstly incubated with influenza virus (A/Puerto Rico/8/34 (H1N1), PR/8) at 37 °C for 1 h. After removing the virus dilution, cells were maintained in infecting media (RPMI 1640, 4 μ g/mL of trypsin) containing different concentrations of test compounds at 37 °C. After 48 h incubation at 37 °C, cells were fixed with 100 μ L of 4% formaldehyde for 20 min at room temperature. After removal of the formaldehyde, the cells were stained with 0.1% crystal violet for 30 min. The plates were washed and dried, and the intensity of crystal violet staining for each well was measured in a microplate reader (Bio-Rad, USA) at 570 nm. The IC₅₀ was calculated as the compound concentration required inhibiting influenza virus yield at 48 h post-infection by 50%. Ribavirin was used as the positive control with the IC₅₀ values of 100.8 μ M.

4. Conclusions

In summary, fifteen metabolites including three new compounds were isolated and identified from the fermentation broth of *A. terreus* PT06-2 under 10% salinity conditions. High salt stress affected the quantity and profile of secondary metabolites. The new compounds 1 and 2, and the sole metabolite 4 produced under high salt stress conditions showed antibacterial activity. The typical metabolite of *A. terreus*, butyrolactone I (5), showed anti-H1N1 activity with low cytotoxicity, indicating that 5 might be a promising drug candidate for anti-influenza virus.

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