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Apoptotic agents from the endolichenic fungi against chemoresistant cancers

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Introduction

Cancer is a major cause of death worldwide, with breast, lung and colon cancers being the most common. Chemoresistance is also a major obstacle in the treatment of cancer. Hence the importance of researching new treatments to diversify the therapeutic arsenal. Endolichenic fungi located in the thallus of lichens, represent a niche for molecules with diverse biological activities, including antiproliferative activity^{1,2,3}. This work is focused on the search for new bioactive compounds against colorectal cancer (HT-29) and triple-negative breast cancer (MDA-MB-231).



3 and cleavage of poly-(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) (Fig.4), confirmed the induction of apoptosis by the MeOH extract (PA08GM).



NMR (¹H, ¹³C, HSQC, HMBC) UV, IR



Conclusion

The antiproliferative activity of the PA08GSM and XC04 GP extract was evaluated on HT-29 and MDA-MB-231 cell lines, where the involvement of PA08 GM is clear in the induction of an apoptotic process on HT-29 cells. Furthermore, the XC04 extracts' LC/MS-MS analysis enables the identification of specific compounds, their purification, and subsequently the assessment of their biological activity on HT-29 cell lines. Here, we report on the separation of 4 known compounds from the endolichenic fungus XC04 and 5 known molecules from the endolichenic fungus PA08 for the first time, with echinulin as the most active with an induction of the apoptotic process on HT-29 cell lines. This study demonstrates that endolichenic fungi are a fascinating source of molecules with therapeutic potential.

¹Kellogg et al., «Endolichenic fungi: new source of rich bioactive secondary metabolites on the horizon », Phytochem Rev, 2017, (16), 271-293. References

² Lagarde et al., « Antiproliferative and antibiofilm potentials of endolichenic fungi associated with the lichen Nephroma laevigatum », J. Appl. Micro, 2019 (126) 1044-1058.

³LI et al., "Tetramic Acids and pyridone alkaloids from the endolichenic fungus Tolypocladium cylindrosporum », J. Nat. Prod, 2015, (9), 2155–2160.

⁴ Prosperini *et al.* « A review of the mycotoxin enniatin B », *Front.Public.Health*, 2017, (3), 304.

⁵ Park et al. « Phytosphingosine induces apoptotic cell dearth via caspase 8 activation and bax translocation in human cancer cells », Clin. Cancer. Res, 2003, (9), 878-885.



