

Article

Polyketide-Derived Secondary Metabolites from a Dothideomycetes Fungus, *Pseudopalawania siamensis* gen. et sp. nov., (Muyocopronales) with Antimicrobial and Cytotoxic Activities

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Abstract: *Pseudopalawania siamensis* gen. et sp. nov., from northern Thailand, is introduced based on multi-gene analyses and morphological comparison. An isolate was fermented in yeast malt culture broth and explored for its secondary metabolite production. Chromatographic purification of the crude ethyl acetate (broth) extract yielded four tetrahydroxanthones comprised of a new heterodimeric bistetrahydroxanthone, pseudopalawanone (**1**), two known dimeric derivatives, 4,4'-secalonic acid D (**2**) and penicillixanthone A (**3**), the corresponding monomeric tetrahydroxanthone paecilin B (**4**), and the known benzophenone, cephalanone F (**5**). Compounds **1–3** showed potent inhibitory activity against Gram-positive bacteria. Compounds **2** and **3** were inhibitory against *Bacillus subtilis* with minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of 1.0 and 4.2 µg/mL, respectively. Only compound **2** showed activity against *Mycobacterium smegmatis*. In addition, the dimeric compounds **1–3** also showed moderate cytotoxic effects on HeLa and mouse fibroblast cell lines, which makes them less attractive as candidates for development of selectively acting antibiotics.

Keywords: ascomycota; biological activity; multi-gene phylogenetic; new genus; new species; taxonomy; structure elucidation

1. Introduction

Fungi are potentially known as a promising source of bioactive compounds for drug discovery [1]. Mushrooms and other Basidiomycota, in particular, are widely used in traditional Chinese medicines and have been shown to provide beneficial activities against cancer and other ailments [2,3], but even the microfungi have various other potential benefits [4]. Dothideomycetes (Ascomycota) is a large and diverse class comprising of mostly microfungi. New species are constantly being discovered from this group and could be promising sources of novel bioactive compounds [5–7]. A few contemporary studies in Thailand have been focusing on saprobic fungi in

Dothideomycetes as a source for finding novel bioactive compounds. For example, a novel Thai Dothideomycete, *Pseudobambusicola thailandica*, has yielded six new compounds with nematocidal and antimicrobial activity [8]. A new abscisic acid derivative with anti-biofilm activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* was isolated from cultures of a *Rousoella* sp. inhabiting *Clematis subumbellata* in northern Thailand [9], while *Sparticola junci*, another new Thai dothideomycete, yielded seven new spirodioxynaphthalenes with antimicrobial and cytotoxic activities [10]. Recently some phenalenones from another new Thai *Pseudolophiostoma* species were found to selectively inhibit α -glucosidase and lipase [11]. In spite of these recent discoveries, the study of bioactive compounds from Thai and other tropical Dothideomycetes is still in the initial stages of research.

In this study, we provide morphological descriptions and illustrations of a new Dothideomycetes fungus *Pseudopalawania siamensis*, collected from *Caryota* sp. (Arecaceae) in northern Thailand, based on multi-gene analyses and morphological comparison to confirm the current taxonomic placement of the fungus. In addition, we studied the new fungus for the production of bioactive compounds because its extracts showed significant antimicrobial activities in a preliminary screening. Thus, we here report the first secondary metabolites from this species, including their isolation, structure elucidation, and biological activity.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Sample Collection, Specimen Examination and Isolation of Fungi

Fresh material was collected from Nan Province, Thailand, in 2016. Fungal micromorphology was examined using a Motic, (Hongkong, China) SMZ 168 Series microscope. The appearance of ascomata on substrate was captured using a (stereo microscope fitted with an AxioCam ERC 5S camera (Carl Zeiss GmbH, Jena, Germany). Sections of ascomata were made by free hand. Fungal material was mounted in water and photographed with a Nikon (Bangkok, Thailand) ECLIPSE Ni compound microscope fitted with a Canon (Singapore) EOS 600D digital camera. Fungal photoplate was processed with Adobe Photoshop CS6 version 13.1.2 (Adobe Systems, CA, USA). All microscopic characters were measured using Tarosoft Image Frame Work program (IFW) version 0.97 (Nonthaburi, Thailand). Single spore isolations were obtained using the methods of Chomnunti et al. [12]. Germinating ascospores were transferred to a new malt extract agar (MEA) media and incubated at room temperature (25 °C) in the dark. Fungal cultures were used for molecular study and secondary metabolite production. The specimens and living cultures are deposited in the Herbarium of Mae Fah Luang University (Herb. MFLU) and Culture collection Mae Fah Luang University (MFLUCC), Chiang Rai, Thailand. Nomenclature and taxonomic information were deposited in MycoBank [13].

2.2. DNA Extraction, PCR Amplification and Sequencing

The genomic DNA from the fungal mycelium was extracted by using the ZR Soil Microbe DNA MiniPrep kit (Zymo Research, Irvine, CA, USA) following the manufacturer's instructions. DNA amplifications were performed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The partial large subunit nuclear rDNA (LSU) was amplified with primer pairs LROR and LR5 [14]. The internal transcribed spacer (ITS) was amplified by using primer pairs ITS5 and ITS4 [15]. The partial small subunit nuclear rDNA (SSU) was amplified with primer pairs NS1 and NS4 [15]. The translation elongation factor 1-alpha gene (TEF1) was amplified by using primers EF1-983F and EF1-2218R [16]. The partial gene encoding for the second largest RNA polymerase subunit (RPB2) was amplified by using primers fRPB2-5F and fRPB2-7cR [17]. Methods for PCR amplification and sequencing were carried out according to previously described procedures [18,19].

2.3. Phylogenetic Analysis

The closest matched taxa were determined through nucleotide BLAST searches online in GenBank (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>). Combined LSU: 28S large subunit of the nrRNA gene; ITS: internal transcribed spacer regions 1 and 2 including 5.8S nrRNA gene; SSU: 18S small subunit of the

nrRNA gene; TEF1: partial translation elongation factor 1- α gene; and RPB2: partial RNA polymerase II second largest subunit gene sequence data from representative closest relatives to our strains were selected following Hongsanan et al. [20], Crous et al. [21], Hernández-Restrepo et al. [22], and Mapook et al. [23,24], to confirm the phylogenetic placement of our new strains. The phylogenetic analysis based on maximum likelihood (ML) and Bayesian inference (BI) were following the methodology as described in Mapook et al. [23,24]. The sequences used for analyses with accession numbers are given in Table 1. Phylogram generated from ML analysis was drawn using FigTree v. 1.4.2 [25] and edited by Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2013. The new nucleotide sequence data are deposited in GenBank.

Table 1. Taxa used in this study and their GenBank accession numbers. New sequences generated in the present study are in bold.

Taxa	Strain No. ¹	GenBank Accession Numbers ²					References
		LSU	SSU	RPB2	ITS	TEF	
<i>Acrospermum adeanum</i>	M133	EU940104	EU940031	EU940320	EU940180	-	Stenroos et al. [26]
<i>Acrospermum compressum</i>	M151	EU94084	EU940012	EU940301	EU940161	-	Stenroos et al. [26]
<i>Acrospermum gramineum</i>	M152	EU94085	EU940013	EU940302	EU940162	-	Stenroos et al. [26]
<i>Alternaria alternata</i>	KFRD-18	KX609781	KX609769	-	KX346897	KY094931	Li et al. [27]
<i>Alternariaster bidentis</i>	CBS 134021	KC609341	-	KC609347	KC609333	-	Alves et al. [28]
<i>Antemariella placitae</i>	CBS:124785	GQ303299	-	-	MH863403	-	Cheewangkon et al. [29]
<i>Arxiella dolichandrae</i>	CBS 138853	KP004477	-	-	KP004449	-	Crous et al. [30]
<i>Arxiella terrestris</i>	CBS 268.65	MH870201	-	-	MH858565	-	Vu et al. [31]
<i>Asterina fuchsiae</i>	TH590	GU586216	GU586210	-	-	-	Hofmann et al. [32]
<i>Asterina phenacis</i>	TH589	GU586217	GU586211	-	-	-	Hofmann et al. [32]
<i>Bambusicola massarinia</i>	MFLUCC 11-0389	JX442037	JX442041	KU940169	JX442033	-	Dai et al. [33]
<i>Bambusicola splendida</i>	MFLUCC 11-0439	JX442038	JX442042	-	JX442034	-	Dai et al. [33]
<i>Botryosphaeria agaves</i>	MFLUCC 11-0125	JX646808	JX646825	-	JX646791	JX646856	Liu et al. [34]
<i>Botryosphaeria tsugae</i>	AFTOL-ID 1586	DQ76655	-	DQ767644	-	DQ677914	Schoch et al. [35]
<i>Calicium salicinum</i>	CBS 100898	KF157982	KF157970	KF157998	-	-	Beimforde et al. [36]
<i>Calicium viride</i>	10-VII-1997 (DUKE)	AF356670	AF356669	AY641031	-	-	Lutzoni et al. [37]
<i>Camarosporium quaternatum</i>	CBS 483.95	GU301806	GU296141	GU357761	KY929149	GU349044	Schoch et al. [38]
<i>Capmodium salicinum</i>	AFTOL-ID 937	DQ678050	DQ677997	-	-	DQ677889	Schoch et al. [37]
<i>Caryospora minima</i>	-	EU196550	EU196551	-	-	-	Cai and Hyde [39]
<i>Chaetothyriothecium elegans</i>	CPC 21375	KF268420	-	-	-	-	Hongsanan et al. [40]
<i>Corynespora cassiicola</i>	CBS 100822	GU301808	GU296144	GU371742	-	GU349052	Schoch et al. [38]
<i>Corynespora smithii</i>	CABI 5649b	GU323201	-	GU371783	-	GU349018	Schoch et al. [38]
<i>Cucurbitaria berberidis</i>	MFLUCC 11-0387	KC506796	KC506800	-	-	-	Hyde et al. [41]

Taxa	Strain No. ¹	GenBank Accession Numbers ²					References
		LSU	SSU	RPB2	ITS	TEF	
<i>Cyphelium inquinans</i>	Tibell 22283 (UPS)	AY453 639	U866 95	-	AY45 0584	-	Tibell [42]
<i>Cyphelium tigillare</i>	Tibell 22343 (UPS)	AY453 641	AF24 1545	-	AY45 2497	-	Tibell [42]
<i>Cystocolleus ebeneus</i>	L161	EU048 578	EU04 8571	-	-	-	Muggia et al. [43]
<i>Didymella exigua</i>	CBS 183.55	JX6810 89	EU75 4056	GU37 1764	MH8 57436	KR18 4187	Verkley et al. [44]
<i>Didymosphaeria rubi- ulmifolii</i>	MFLUCC 14-0023	KJ4365 86	KJ436 588	-	-	-	Ariyawansa et al. [45]
<i>Dothiora cannabinae</i>	AFTOL ID 1359	DQ470 984	DQ47 9933	DQ47 0936	-	DQ47 1107	Spatafora et al. [46]
<i>Dyfrulomyces phetchaburiensis</i>	MFLUCC 15-0951	MF615 402	MF61 5403	-	-	-	Hyde et al. [47]
<i>Dyfrulomyces rhizophorae</i>	BCC15481	-	KF16 0009	-	-	-	Pang et al. [48]
<i>Dyfrulomyces rhizophorae</i>	JK 5456A	GU479 799	-	-	-	GU47 9860	Suetrong et al. [49]
<i>Dyfrulomyces thailandica</i>	MFLU 16- 1173	KX611 366	KX61 1367	-	-	-	Hyde et al. [50]
<i>Dyfrulomyces thamplaensis</i>	MFLUCC 15-0635	KX925 435	KX92 5436	-	-	KY81 4763	Zhang et al. [51]
<i>Dyfrulomyces tiomanensis</i>	NTOU363 6	KC692 156	KC69 2155	-	-	KC69 2157	Pang et al. [48]
<i>Elsinoe fawcettii</i>	CPC 18535	JN940 382	JN940 559	-	KX88 7207	KX88 6853	Schoch et al. [52]
<i>Elsinoe verbenae</i>	CPC 18561	JN940 391	JN940 562	-	KX88 7298	KX88 6942	Schoch et al. [53]
<i>Extremus antarcticus</i>	CCFEE 5312	KF310 020	-	KF31 0086	KF30 9979	-	Egidi et al. [54]
<i>Gonatophragmium triuniaie</i>	CBS 138901	KP004 479	-	-	KP00 4451	-	Crous et al. [30]
<i>Helicascus nypae</i>	BCC 36751	GU479 788	GU47 9754	GU47 9826	-	GU47 9854	Suetrong et al. [49]
<i>Julella avicenniae</i>	BCC 20173	GU371 822	GU37 1830	GU37 1786	-	GU37 1815	Schoch et al. [38]
<i>Karschia cezannei</i>	Cezanne- Eichler B26	KP456 152	-	-	-	-	Ertz and Diederich [55]
<i>Katumotoa bambusicola</i>	KT 1517a	AB524 595	AB52 4454	AB53 9095	NR_1 54103	AB53 9108	Tanaka et al. [56]
<i>Labrocarpon canariense</i>	Ertz 16907 (BR)	KP456 157	-	-	-	-	Ertz and Diederich [55]
<i>Lentithecium fluviatile</i>	CBS 123090	FJ7954 50	FJ795 492	FJ795 467	-	-	Zhang et al. [57]
<i>Leptodiscella africana</i>	CBS 400.65	MH87 0275	-	-	MH8 58635	-	Vu et al. [31]
<i>Leptodiscella brevicatenata</i>	FMR 10885	FR821 311	-	-	FR82 1312	-	Madrid et al. [58]
<i>Leptodiscella chlamydospora</i>	MUCL 28859	FN869 567	-	-	FR74 5398	-	Madrid et al. [58]
<i>Leptodiscella rintelii</i>	CBS 144927	LR025 181	-	-	LR02 5180	-	Papendorf [52]
<i>Leptosphaeria doliolum</i>	MFLUCC 15-1875	KT454 719	KT45 4734	-	KT45 4727	-	Ariyawansa et al. [59]
<i>Leptosphaerulina australis</i>	CBS 317.83	EU754 166	GU29 6160	GU37 1790	MH8 61604	GU34 9070	de Gruyter et al. [60]
<i>Leptoxyphium cacuminum</i>	MFLUCC1 0-0049	JN832 602	JN832 587	-	-	-	Chomnunti et al. [61]

Taxa	Strain No. ¹	GenBank Accession Numbers ²					References
		LSU	SSU	RPB2	ITS	TEF	
<i>Lophiotrema nucula</i>	CBS 627 86	GU301 837	GU29 6167	GU37 1792	LC19 4497	GU34 9073	Schoch et al. [38]
<i>Lophium mytilinum</i>	AFTOL-ID 1609	DQ678 081	DQ67 8030	DQ67 7979	-	DQ67 7926	Schoch et al. [35]
<i>Massarina bambusina</i>	H 4321	AB807 536	AB79 7246	-	LC01 4578	AB80 8511	Tanaka et al. [56]
<i>Massarina eburnea</i>	CBS 473.64	GU301 840	GU29 6170	GU37 1732	-	GU34 9040	Schoch et al. [38]
<i>Melanomma pulvis-pyrius</i>	CBS 371 75	GU301 845	FJ201 989	GU37 1798	-	GU34 9019	Schoch et al. [38]
<i>Melaspileopsis cf. diplasiospora</i>	Ertz 16247 (BR)	KP456 164	-	-	-	-	Ertz and Diederich [55]
<i>Melomastia maolanensis</i>	GZCC 16- 0102	KY111 905	KY11 1906	-	-	KY81 4762	Zhang et al. [51]
<i>Microsphaeropsis olivacea</i>	CBS 233 77	GU237 988	-	KT38 9643	MH8 61055	-	Aveskamp et al. [62]
<i>Microthyrium buxicola</i>	MFLUCC 15-0213	KT306 552	KT30 6550	-	-	-	Ariyawansa et al. [63]
<i>Microthyrium microscopicum</i>	CBS 115976	GU301 846	GU29 6175	GU37 1734	-	GU34 9042	Schoch et al. [44]
<i>Multiseptospora thailandica</i>	MFLUCC 11-0183	KP744 490	KP75 3955	-	KP74 4447	KU70 5657	Liu et al. [64]
<i>Murispora rubicunda</i>	IFRD 2017	FJ7955 07	GU45 6308	-	-	GU45 6289	Zhang et al. [57]
<i>Muyocopron alcornii</i>	BRIP 43897	MK48 7708	-	MK49 2712	MK48 7735	MK49 5956	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron atromaculans</i>	MUCL 34983	MK48 7709	-	MK49 2713	MK48 7736	MK49 5957	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron castanopsis</i>	MFLUCC 10-0042	-	JQ036 225	-	-	-	Mapook et al. [23]
<i>Muyocopron castanopsis</i>	MFLUCC 14-1108	KU726 965	KU72 6968	KY22 5778	MT13 7784	MT13 6753	Mapook et al. [23]
<i>Muyocopron chromolaenae</i>	MFLUCC 17-1513	MT137 876	MT13 7881	MT13 6761	MT13 7777	MT13 6756	Mapook et al. [24]
<i>Muyocopron chromolaenicola</i>	MFLUCC 17-1470	MT137 877	MT13 7882	-	MT13 7778	MT13 6757	Mapook et al. [24]
<i>Muyocopron coloratum</i>	CBS 720.95	MK48 7710	-	MK49 2714	NR_1 60197	MK49 5958	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron dipterocarpi</i>	MFLUCC 14-1103	KU726 966	KU72 6969	KY22 5779	MT13 7785	MT13 6754	Mapook et al. [23]
<i>Muyocopron dipterocarpi</i>	MFLUCC 17-0075	MH98 6833	MH9 86829	-	MH9 86837	-	Senwana et al. [65]
<i>Muyocopron dipterocarpi</i>	MFLUCC 17-0354	MH98 6834	MH9 86830	-	MH9 86838	-	Senwana et al. [65]
<i>Muyocopron dipterocarpi</i>	MFLUCC 17-0356	MH98 6835	MH9 86831	-	MH9 86839	-	Senwana et al. [66]
<i>Muyocopron dipterocarpi</i>	MFLUCC 18-0470	MK34 8001	MK34 7890	-	MK34 7783	-	Jayasiri et al. [67]
<i>Muyocopron garethjonesii</i>	MFLU 16- 2664	KY070 274	KY07 0275	-	-	-	Tibpromma et al. [68]
<i>Muyocopron geniculatum</i>	CBS 721.95	MK48 7711	-	MK49 2715	MK48 7737	MK49 5959	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron heveae</i>	MFLUCC 17-0066	MH98 6832	MH9 86828	-	MH9 86836	-	Senwana et al. [66]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	CBS 141029	MK48 7712	-	MK49 2716	MK48 7738	MK49 5960	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]

Taxa	Strain No. ¹	GenBank Accession Numbers ²					References
		LSU	SSU	RPB2	ITS	TEF	
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	IMI 324533	MK48 7713	-	MK49 2717	MK48 7739	MK49 5961	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	CBS 719.95	MK48 7714	-	MK49 2718	MK48 7740	MK49 5962	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	CBS 141033	MK48 7715	-	MK49 2719	MK48 7741	MK49 5963	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	URM 7802	MK48 7716	-	MK49 2720	MK48 7742	MK49 5964	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	URM 7801	MK48 7717	-	MK49 2721	MK48 7743	-	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	CBS 127677	MK48 7718	-	MK49 2722	MK48 7744	MK49 5965	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	CBS 145310	MK48 7719	-	MK49 2723	MK48 7745	MK49 5966	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	CBS 145315	MK48 7720	-	MK49 2724	MK48 7746	MK49 5967	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	CBS 145313	MK48 7721	-	MK49 2725	MK48 7747	MK49 5968	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	CBS 145309	MK48 7722	-	MK49 2726	MK48 7748	MK49 5969	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	CBS 145314	MK48 7723	-	MK49 2727	MK48 7749	MK49 5970	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	CBS 145311	MK48 7724	-	MK49 2728	MK48 7750	-	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	CBS 145312	MK48 7725	-	MK49 2729	MK48 7751	MK49 5971	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	CBS 145316	MK48 7726	-	MK49 2730	MK48 7752	MK49 5972	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron laterale</i>	FMR13797	MK87 4616	-	MK87 5802	MK87 4615	MK87 5803	Hernández- Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Muyocopron lithocarpi</i>	MFLUCC 10-0041	JQ036 230	JQ036 226	-	-	-	Mapook et al. [23]
<i>Muyocopron lithocarpi</i>	MFLUCC 14-1106	KU726 967	KU72 6970	KY22 5780	MT13 7786	MT13 6755	Mapook et al. [23]
<i>Muyocopron lithocarpi</i>	MFLU 18- 2087	MK34 7930	MK34 7821	-	MK34 7716	-	Jayasiri et al. [66]
<i>Muyocopron lithocarpi</i>	MFLU 18- 2088	MK34 7931	MK34 7822	-	MK34 7717	-	Jayasiri et al. [66]
<i>Muyocopron lithocarpi</i>	MFLUCC 16-0962	MK34 8034	MK34 7923	-	-	-	Jayasiri et al. [66]
<i>Muyocopron lithocarpi</i>	MFLUCC 17-1465	MT137 878	MT13 7883	-	MT13 7779	MT13 6758	Mapook et al. [24]
<i>Muyocopron lithocarpi</i>	MFLUCC 17-1466	MT137 879	MT13 7884	-	MT13 7780	MT13 6759	Mapook et al. [24]

Taxa	Strain No. ¹	GenBank Accession Numbers ²					References
		LSU	SSU	RPB2	ITS	TEF	
<i>Muyocopron lithocarpi</i>	MFLUCC 17-1500	MT137 880	MT13 7885	MT13 6762	MT13 7781	MT13 6760	Mapook et al. [24]
<i>Muyocopron zamiae</i>	CBS 203.71	MK48 7727	-	MK49 2731	-	MK49 5973	Hernández-Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Mycocleptodiscus endophytica</i>	MFLUCC 17-0545	MG64 6946	MG6 46978	-	MG6 46961	MG6 46985	Tibpromma et al. [69]
<i>Mycocleptodiscus suttonii</i>	CBS 276.72	MK48 7728	-	MK49 2732	MK48 7753	MK49 5974	Hernández-Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Mycocleptodiscus suttonii</i>	CBS 141030	MK48 7729	-	MK49 2733	-	MK49 5975	Hernández-Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Mycocleptodiscus terrestris</i>	CBS 231.53	MK48 7730	-	MK49 2734	MK48 7754	MK49 5976	Hernández-Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Mycocleptodiscus terrestris</i>	IMI 159038	MK48 7731	-	MK49 2735	MK48 7755	MK49 5977	Hernández-Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Myriangium duriae</i>	CBS 260.36	NG_0 27579	AF24 2266	KT21 6528	MH8 55793	-	Schoch et al. [35]
<i>Myriangium hispanicum</i>	CBS 247.33	GU301 854	GU29 6180	GU37 1744	MH8 55426	GU34 9055	Schoch et al. [38]
<i>Mytilinidion rhenanum</i>	CBS 135.34	FJ1611 75	FJ161 136	FJ161 115	-	FJ161 092	Boehm et al. [70]
<i>Natipusilla decorospora</i>	AF236 1a	HM19 6369	HM1 96376	-	-	-	Ferrer et al. [71]
<i>Natipusilla naponensis</i>	AF217 1a	HM19 6371	HM1 96378	-	-	-	Ferrer et al. [71]
<i>Neocochlearomyces chromolaenae</i>	BCC 68250	MK04 7514	MK04 7552	-	MK04 7464	MK04 7573	Crous et al. [21]
<i>Neocochlearomyces chromolaenae</i>	BCC 68251	MK04 7515	MK04 7553	-	MK04 7465	MK04 7574	Crous et al. [21]
<i>Neocochlearomyces chromolaenae</i>	BCC 68252	MK04 7516	MK04 7554	-	MK04 7466	MK04 7575	Crous et al. [21]
<i>Neocylindroseptoria pistaciae</i>	CBS 471.69	KF251 656	-	KF25 2161	KF25 1152	KF25 3112	Quaedvlieg et al. [65]
<i>Neomycoleptodiscus venezuelense</i>	CBS 100519	MK48 7732	-	MK49 2736	MK48 7756	MK49 5978	Hernández-Restrepo et al. [22]
<i>Palawania thailandensis</i>	MFLUCC 14-1121	KY086 493	KY08 6495	KY08 6496	MT13 7787	-	Mapook et al. [24]
<i>Palawania thailandensis</i>	MFLU 16-1871	KY086 494	-	-	MT13 7788	-	Mapook et al. [24]
<i>Paramycoleptodiscus albizziae</i>	CPC 27552	MH87 8220	-	-	-	-	Vu et al. [31]
<i>Paramycoleptodiscus albizziae</i>	CBS 141320	KX228 330	-	MK49 2737	KX22 8279	MK49 5979	Crous et al. [72]
<i>Phaeodimeriella cissampeli</i>	MFLU 16-0558	KU746 806	KU74 6808	KU74 6810	-	KU74 6812	Mapook et al. [73]
<i>Phaeodimeriella dilleniae</i>	MFLU 14-0013	KU746 805	KU74 6807	KU74 6809	-	KU74 6811	Mapook et al. [73]
<i>Phaeotrichum benjaminii</i>	CBS 541.72	AY004 340	AY01 6348	GU35 7788	MH8 60561	DQ67 7892	Lumbsch et al. [74]
<i>Physcia aipolia</i>	AFTOL-ID 84	DQ782 904.1	DQ78 2876	DQ78 2862	DQ78 2836	DQ78 2892	James et al. [75]
<i>Piedraia hortae</i>	CBS 480.64	GU214 466	-	KF90 2289	GU21 4647	-	Crous et al. [76]
<i>Platystomum crataegi</i>	MFLUCC 14-0925	KT026 109	KT02 6113	-	NG_0 63580	KT02 6121	Thambugala et al. [77]

Taxa	Strain No. ¹	GenBank Accession Numbers ²					References
		LSU	SSU	RPB2	ITS	TEF	
<i>Pleomassaria siparia</i>	AFTOL-ID 1600	DQ678 078	DQ67 8027	DQ67 7976	-	DQ67 7923	Schoch et al. [35]
<i>Pleospora herbarum</i>	IT 956	KP334 709	KP33 4729	KP33 4733	KP33 4719	KP33 4731	Ariyawansa et al. [78]
<i>Preussia funiculata</i>	CBS 659.74	GU301 864	GU29 6187	GU37 1799	-	GU34 9032	Schoch et al. [38]
<i>Pseudomassariosphaeria bromicola</i>	IT-1333	KT305 994	KT30 5996	-	KT30 5998	KT30 5999	Ariyawansa et al. [63]
<i>Pseudopalawania siamensis</i>	MFLUCC 17-1476a	-	MT13 7789	-	MT13 7782	MT13 6752	This study
<i>Pseudopalawania siamensis</i>	MFLUCC 17-1476b	-	MT13 7790	-	MT13 7783	-	This study
<i>Pseudostrickeria muriformis</i>	MFLUCC 13-0764	KT934 254	KT93 4258	-	-	KT93 4262	Tian et al. [79]
<i>Pseudovirgaria grisea</i>	CPC 19134	JF9576 14	-	-	JF957 609	-	Braun et al. [80]
<i>Pseudovirgaria hyperparasitica</i>	CPC 10753	EU041 824	-	-	EU04 1767	-	Arzanlou et al. [81]
<i>Ramularia endophylla</i>	CBS 113265	KF251 833	-	KP89 4673	KF25 1220	-	Verkley et al. [82]
<i>Rasutoria pseudotsugae</i>	rapssd	EF114 704	EF114 729	-	EF114 687	-	Winton et al. [83]
<i>Rasutoria tsugae</i>	ratstk	EF114 705	EF114 730	GU37 1809	EF114 688	-	Winton et al. [83]
<i>Salsuginea ramicola</i>	KT 2597.1	GU479 800	GU47 9768	GU47 9833	-	GU47 9861	Suetrong et al. [49]
<i>Schizothyrium pomi</i>	CBS 406.61	EF134 949	-	KF90 2384	-	-	Batzer et al. [84]
<i>Setoapiospora thailandica</i>	MFLUCC 17-1426	MN63 8847	MN6 38851	-	MN6 38862	MN6 48731	Hyde et al. [85]
<i>Stictographa lentiginosa</i>	Ertz 17570 (BR)	KP456 170	-	-	-	-	Ertz and Diederich [55]
<i>Symptoventuria capensis</i>	CBS 120136	KF156 104	KF15 6094	-	KF15 6039	-	Samerpitak et al. [86]
<i>Teratosphaeria fibrillosa</i>	CBS 121707	GU323 213	GU29 6199	GU35 7767	MH8 63138	KF90 3305	Schoch et al. [38]
<i>Trichodelitschia munkii</i>	Kruys 201 (UPS)	DQ384 096	DQ38 4070	-	-	-	Kruys et al. [87]
<i>Tumidispora shoreae</i>	MFLUCC 14-0574	KT314 074	KT31 4076	-	-	-	Ariyawansa et al. [63]
<i>Uwebraunia commune</i>	NC132C1d	-	-	KT21 6546	-	-	Ismail et al. [88]
<i>Venturia inaequalis</i>	CBS 594.70	GU301 879	GU29 6205	GU35 7757	KF15 6040	GU34 9022	Schoch et al. [38]
<i>Xenolophium applanatum</i>	CBS 123127	GU456 330	GU45 6313	GU45 6355	-	GU45 6270	Zhang et al. [89]
<i>Zeloasperisporium hyphodioides</i>	CBS 218.95	EU035 442	-	-	-	-	Crous et al. [90]
<i>Zeloasperisporium siamense</i>	IFRDCC 2194	JQ036 228	JQ036 223	-	-	-	Mapook et al. [73]
<i>Zeloasperisporium wrightiae</i>	MFLUCC 15-0225	KT387 737	KT38 7738	-	-	-	Hongsanan et al. [91]

¹ AFTOL-ID: Assembling the Fungal Tree of Life; BCC: BIOTEC Culture Collection; BRIP: Biosecurity Queensland Plant Pathology Herbarium, Brisbane, Australia; CBS: Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute, Utrecht, The Netherlands; CCFEE: Culture Collection of Fungi from Extreme Environments, The University of Tuscia; CPC: Culture collection of Pedro Crous, the Netherlands; FMR: Facultad de Medicina, Reus, Tarragona, Spain; GZCC: Guizhou Culture Collection; IFRDCC = International Fungal Research and Development Centre Culture Collection, China; IMI: The International Mycological Institute Culture Collections; JK: J. Kohlmeyer; MFLU: the Herbarium of Mae Fah Luang University; MFLUCC: Mae Fah Luang University Culture Collection, Chiang Rai, Thailand; MUCL:

Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms; URM: Universidade Federal de Pernambuco. ² LSU: 28S large subunit of the nrRNA gene; SSU: 18S small subunit of the nrRNA gene; RPB2: partial RNA polymerase II second largest subunit gene; ITS: internal transcribed spacer regions 1 and 2 including 5.8S nrRNA gene; TEF1: partial translation elongation factor 1- α gene.

2.4. General Information of Chromatography and Spectral Methods

Specific optical rotations ($[\alpha]_D$) were measured using a Perkin-Elmer (Überlingen, Germany) 241 polarimeter in a 100 × 2 mm cell at 22 °C. ECD spectra were recorded on a J-815 spectropolarimeter (JASCO, Pfungstadt, Germany). UV spectra were obtained on a Shimadzu (Duisburg, Germany) UV-Vis spectrophotometer UV-2450 with 1 cm quartz cells. IR spectra were measured with a Nicolet Spectrum 100 FT-IR spectrometer (Perkin-Elmer, Waltham, MA, USA). Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker 700 MHz Avance III spectrometer with a 5 mm TXI cryoprobe (¹H 700 MHz, ¹³C 175 MHz) and a Bruker 500 MHz Avance III spectrometer with a BBFO (plus) SmartProbe (¹H 500 MHz, ¹³C 125 MHz). In all cases, spectra were acquired at 25 °C (unless otherwise specified) in solvents as specified in the text, with referencing to residual ¹H or ¹³C signals in the deuterated solvents (CDCl₃ or MeOH-*d*₄). HPLC-DAD/MS analysis was conducted using an amaZon Speed ETD ion trap mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics, Bremen, Germany). HR-ESI mass spectra was measured using an Agilent 1200 series HPLC-UV system (column 2.1 × 50 mm, 1.7 μ m, C18 Waters Acquity UPLC BEH) combined with an maXis (Bruker) ESI-TOF-MS instrument. The mobile phase was composed of H₂O + 0.1% formic acid (solvent A) and acetonitrile + 0.1% formic acid (solvent B), with the following gradient: 5% solvent B for 0.5 min with a flow rate of 0.6 mL/min, increasing to 100% solvent B in 19.5 min and then maintaining 100% solvent B for 5 min. UV/Vis detection at 200–600 nm. Chemicals and solvents were obtained from AppliChem GmbH, Avantor Performance Materials, Carl Roth GmbH & Co. KG (Karlsruhe, Germany) and Merck KGaA (Darmstadt, Germany) in analytical and HPLC grade.

2.5. Fermentation and Extraction

Five mycelial plugs from actively growing colonies on malt extract agar (MEA) media (malt extract 20 g/L, D-glucose 20 g/L, peptone 6 g/L, pH 6.3) were cut using a sterile cork borer (0.7 × 0.7 cm²) and placed into a sterilized 500 mL Erlenmeyer flask containing 200 mL of liquid yeast malt (YM) medium (malt extract 10 g/L, D-glucose 4 g/L, yeast extract 4 g/L, pH 6.3). These seed cultures were incubated on a rotary shaker (140 rpm) at 23 °C in the dark for nine days. Ten milliliters of the seed culture were added into 25 × 500 mL sterile Erlenmeyer flasks with 200 mL of YM medium and incubated on a rotary shaker for 14 days. The extraction was conducted 3 days after glucose depletion as monitored by the glucose strip test using Bayer Harnzuckerstreifen, (Bayer, Leverkusen, Germany). Fungal mycelium and supernatant were separated by using vacuum filtration. The supernatant was mixed with 3% Amberlite XAD-16N adsorber resin (Sigma-Aldrich, Deisenhofen, Germany) and stirred for 1 h and filtrated to remove the culture broth. The XAD resin was eluted three times with an equal volume of ethyl acetate. The mycelia were extracted twice with an equal volume of acetone in an ultrasonic bath for 30 min and the combined extracts were passed through a filter, then dissolved in water/ethyl acetate. The aqueous phase (lower) was discarded while the organic phase (upper) was filtered through anhydrous sodium sulfate (Na₂SO₄) for water removal and then evaporated to dryness. This procedure yielded 1580 mg mycelial crude extract and 769 mg of supernatant crude extract. The mycelial extract contained mainly fatty acids and ergosterol derivatives and showed only weak bioactivity. It was therefore not further processed. The supernatant extract contained the majority of the active components and was therefore subjected to preparative isolation of its active ingredients.

2.6. Isolation of Compounds 1–5

The supernatant crude extract was dissolved in methanol and initially fractionated on preparative HPLC manufactured by Gilson (Middleton, WI, USA), comprised of a GX-271 Liquid Handler, a 172 DAD, a 305 and 306 pump, with 50SC Piston Pump Head. A Phenomenex (Torrance,

Ca., USA) Gemini 10u C₁₈ 110Å column (250 × 21.20 mm, 10 μm) was used as a stationary phase. The mobile phase was composed of deionised water (Milli-Q, Millipore, Schwalbach, Germany) with 0.05% of trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) as a solvent A and acetonitrile (ACN) HPLC grade with 0.05% TFA as a solvent B. The fractionation proceeded with the following gradient: linear gradient of 10% solvent B for 5 min with a flow rate of 35 mL/min, followed by 10% to 100 % solvent B for 30 min, and 100% solvent B for 10 min. The UV detection was carried out at 210, 254 and 350 nm. Final five compounds were purified from initially 16 fractions (Figure 1). Compound 1 (pseudopalawanone; 5.51 mg) eluted at t_R = 7.8 min from fraction 12, compound 2 (4,4'-secalonic acid D; 5.48 mg) eluted at t_R = 10.5 min from fraction 15, compound 4 (paecilin B; 1.08 mg) eluted at t_R = 6.9 min from fraction 4, and compound 5 (cephalanone F; 1.52 mg) eluted at t_R = 3.0 min from fraction 3, while compound 3 (penicillixanthone A; 0.86 mg) eluted at t_R = 11.3 min was resulted from the purification of fraction 16 (4.12 mg) on a VarioPrep Nucleodur 100-10 C₁₈ ec column (150 × 40 mm, 7 μm; Macherey-Nagel, Düren, Germany) using the following gradients: linear gradient of 30% solvent B for 5 min with a flow rate of 15 mL/min, followed by 30% to 100 % solvent B for 20 min, and 100% solvent B for 10 min.

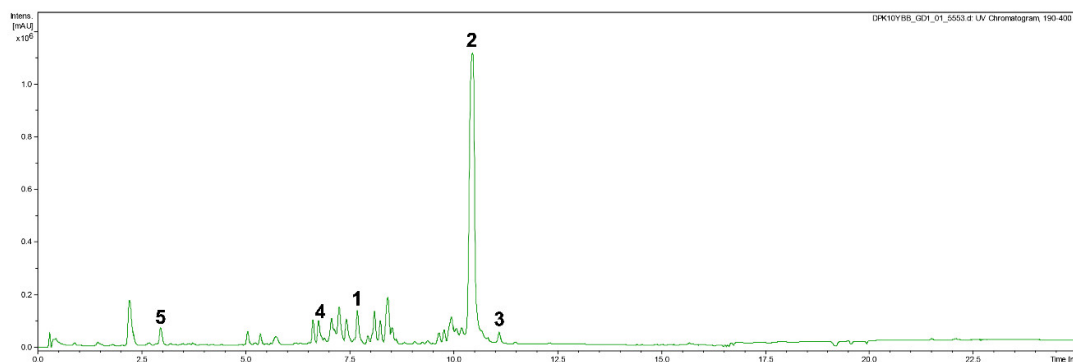


Figure 1. HPLC-(DAD)-UV chromatogram of the crude ethyl acetate extract of the culture filtrate of *Pseudopalawania siamensis* (MFLUCC 17-1476).

2.7. Spectral Data

2.7.1. Pseudopalawanone (1)

Pale yellowish gum. $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +30.0$ (c 1.0, MeOH). ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl₃): see Table 2; ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl₃): see Table 2. HR-ESIMS m/z 641.1492 ($[M + H]^+$), calcd for C₃₁H₂₉O₁₅, 641.1501).

Table 2. NMR spectroscopic data for pseudopalawanone (1).

No.	δ_H , m, J (Hz)	δ_C , m	No.	δ_H , m, J (Hz)	δ_C , m
1	-	160.1, C	1'	-	161.8, C
2	-	117.6, C	2'	6.66, d (8.7)	110.4, CH
3	7.82, d (8.6)	143.8, CH	3'	7.54, d (8.7)	141.2, CH
4	6.77, d (8.6)	108.3, CH	4'	-	114.0, C
4a	-	158.3, C	4a'	-	155.6, C
5	4.44, d (4.0)	74.1, CH	5'	4.38, d (2.5)	88.1, CH
6	2.13, m	30.4, CH	6'	2.65, m	29.9, CH
7a	2.36, dd (15.9, 13.6)	33.8, CH ₂	7a'	2.18, m	35.8, CH ₂
b	2.12, m		b	1.99, dd (18.3, 3.1)	
8	-	108.9, C	8'	-	176.5, C
8a	-	73.6, C	8a'a	3.14, d (16.9)	39.6, CH ₂
			b	2.98, d (16.9)	
9	-	194.9, C	9'	-	193.6, C
9a	-	106.8, C	9a'	-	107.6, C
10a	-	84.7, C	10a'	-	84.8, C
11	1.20, d (6.5)	14.9, CH ₃	11'	1.16, d (7.2)	20.9, CH ₃
12	-	176.6, C	12'	-	168.5, C
13	-	-	13'	3.80, s	53.7, CH ₃
1-OH	11.35, s	-	1'-OH	11.51, s	-

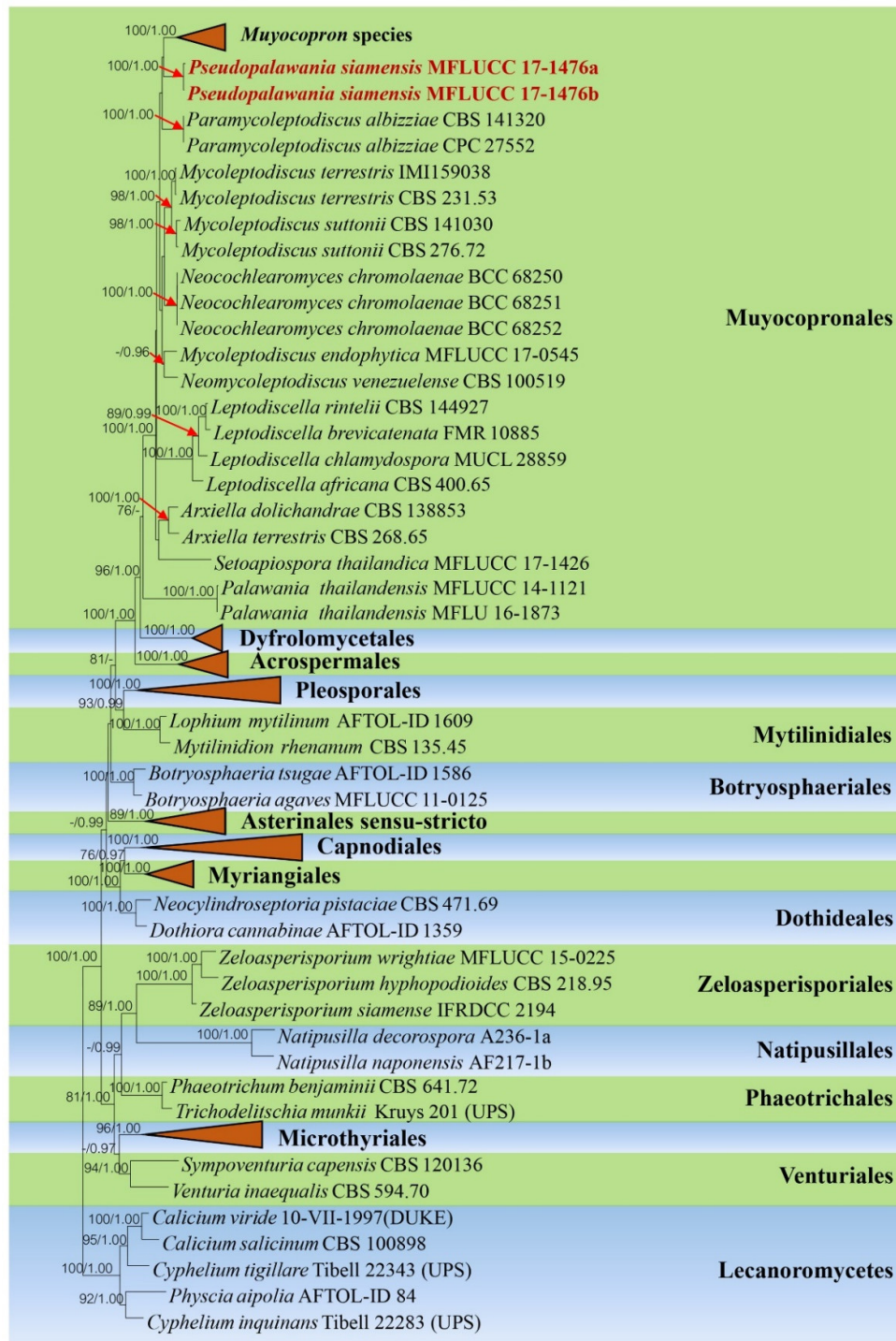
2.8. Antimicrobial Activity and Cytotoxicity Assays

Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of compounds 1–5 were determined against various fungal and bacterial strains by using a 96-well serial dilution technique according to previously described procedures [92,93]. The tested organisms with results are given in Tables 3 and 4. Gentamicin, kanamycin, nystatin, and oxytetracycline were used as positive controls against tested organisms. In vitro cytotoxicity (IC₅₀) of compounds 1–5 were determined using the MTT assay according to previously described procedures [26, 27] against the mouse fibroblast cell line (L929) and the human HeLa (KB-3-1) cell line. Epothilone B and methanol were used as positive and negative control, respectively.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Phylogenetic Analysis

The combined dataset of LSU, SSU, RPB2, ITS and TEF sequence data including our new strains were analyzed by maximum likelihood (ML) and Bayesian analyses. The combined sequence alignment is comprised of 155 taxa (6131 characters with gaps), which include representative strains from Lecanoromycetes as outgroup taxa. A best scoring RAxML tree with a final likelihood value of -91669.392085 is presented in Figure 2. The matrix had 3930 distinct alignment patterns, with 59.36% of undetermined characters or gaps. Estimated base frequencies were as follows: A = 0.242975, C = 0.253394, G = 0.277569, T = 0.226061; substitution rates: AC = 1.292278, AG = 3.020191, AT = 1.589713, CG = 1.197479, CT = 6.661698, GT = 1.000000; gamma distribution shape parameter α = 0.357175. In a BLASTn search of NCBI GenBank, the closest matches of the ITS sequence of *Pseudopalawania siamensis* (MFLUCC 17-1476, ex-holotype) is *Muyocopron geniculatum* with 81.40% (MK487737) similarity, respectively, was strain CBS. 721.95, the closest matches of the SSU sequence with 98.90% similarity, was *Neocochlearomyces chromolaenae* (strain BCC 68250, NG_065766), the closest matches of the TEF sequence with 95.17% similarity, was *Neomycoleptodiscus venezuelense* (strain CBS 100519, MK495978). The phylogram generated from maximum likelihood analysis (Figure 2) shows that our new strains clustered within Dothideomycetes and form a distinct lineage in the Muyocopronales, even though the clade is lacking bootstrap support.



0.2

Figure 2. Phylogram generated from maximum likelihood analysis based on combined dataset of LSU, SSU, RPB2, ITS and TEF sequence data. Bootstrap support values for maximum likelihood (ML) equal to or greater than 60% and Bayesian posterior probabilities (PP) equal to or greater than 0.90 are given above the nodes. Newly generated sequences are in dark red bold. The tree is rooted with Lecanoromycetes. Small red arrows point towards the bootstrap values of the clades representing genera of the order Muyocoprionales, while some other monophyletic clades that represent monophyletic clades have been collapsed (indicated by red triangles).

3.2. Taxonomy

3.2.1. *Pseudopalawania* Mapook and K.D. Hyde, gen. nov.

Mycobank number: MB834934.

Etymology: The generic epithet refers to the similarity to *Palawania*.

Saprobic on dead rachis of Areaceae. **Sexual morph**: *Ascomata* superficial, solitary or scattered, sub-carbonaceous to carbonaceous, appearing as circular, flattened, dark brown to black spots, covering the host, without a subiculum, with a poorly developed basal layer and an irregular margin. *Ostioles* central. *Peridium* comprising dark brown or black to reddish-brown cells of *textura epidermoidea* to *textura angularis*. *Hamathecium* cylindrical to filiform, septate, hyaline, branching pseudoparaphyses. *Asci* eight-spored, bitunicate, fissitunicate, cylindric-clavate, straight or slightly curved, with an ocular chamber observed clearly when immature. *Ascospores* overlapping, 2–3-seriate, broadly fusiform to inequilateral, pointed ends, hyaline, 1-septate, constricted at the septum, guttulate when immature, surrounded by hyaline and thin layers of gelatinous sheath, observed clearly when mounted in Indian ink. **Asexual morph**: Undetermined.

Type species: *Pseudopalawania siamensis* Mapook and K.D. Hyde

3.2.2. *Pseudopalawania siamensis* Mapook and K.D. Hyde, sp. nov.

Mycobank number: MB834935; Figure 3

Etymology: Named after the country from where the fungus was collected, using the former name of Siam.

Saprobic on dead rachis of *Caryota* sp. **Sexual morph**: *Ascomata* 29–40 μm high \times 270–290(–315) μm diam. (\bar{x} = 32.5 \times 292 μm , n = 5), superficial, solitary or scattered, sub-carbonaceous to carbonaceous, appearing as circular, flattened, dark brown to black spots, covering the host, without a subiculum, with a poorly developed basal layer and an irregular margin. *Ostioles* central. *Peridium* 10–20 μm wide, comprising dark brown or black to reddish-brown cells of *textura epidermoidea* to *textura angularis*. *Hamathecium* comprising 1–2.5 μm wide, cylindrical to filiform, septate, hyaline, branching pseudoparaphyses. *Asci* 65–85 \times 15–21 μm (\bar{x} = 75 \times 18 μm , n = 10), eight-spored, bitunicate, fissitunicate, cylindric-clavate, straight or slightly curved, with an ocular chamber observed clearly when immature. *Ascospores* 25–37 \times 5–11 μm (\bar{x} = 29 \times 7 μm , n = 20), overlapping, 2–3-seriate, broadly fusiform to inequilateral, pointed ends, hyaline, 1-septate, constricted at the septum, guttulate when immature, surrounded by hyaline and thin layers of gelatinous sheath, observed clearly when mounted in Indian ink. **Asexual morph**: Undetermined.

Culture characteristics: Ascospores germinating on MEA within 24 hrs. at room temperature and germ tubes produced from the apex. Colonies on MEA circular, slightly raised, filamentous, mycelium white at the surface and initially creamy-white to pale brown in reverse, becoming dark brown from the centre of the colony with creamy-white at the margin.

Pre-screening for antimicrobial activity: *Pseudopalawania siamensis* (MFLUCC 17-1476) showed antimicrobial activity against *B. subtilis* with a 16 mm inhibition zone and against *M. plumbeus* with a 17 mm inhibition zone, observable as full inhibition, when compared to the positive control (26 mm and 17 mm, respectively), but no inhibition of *E. coli*.

Material examined: THAILAND, Nan Province, on dead rachis of *Caryota* sp. (Areaceae), 23 September 2016, A. Mapook (MFLU 20-0353, **holotype**); ex-type culture MFLUCC 17-1476.

Notes: *Pseudopalawania* is similar to *Palawania* in its superficial and flattened ascomata, with hyaline, 1-septate ascospores, but differs in its peridium wall patterns, shape of asci (cylindric-clavate vs. inequilateral to ovoid) with an ocular chamber and shape of ascospores (broadly fusiform to inequilateral vs. oblong to broadly fusiform) with a thin layer of gelatinous sheath. The gelatinous sheath in *Palawania* is thicker [24]. *Pseudopalawania* is also similar to *Muyocopron* in its superficial, flattened ascomata with similar peridium wall patterns, and asci with an ocular chamber; but differs in its sub-carbonaceous to carbonaceous ascomata, shape of asci and ascospores with surrounded by hyaline gelatinous sheath, 1-septate, while *Muyocopron* have coriaceous ascomata, aseptate ascospores with granular appearance and without gelatinous sheath [23]. In addition, the genus was

compared with genera in Microthyriaceae of which no DNA sequence data are available, but the holotype specimens were re-examined in previous studies with morphological descriptions and illustrations [94–99], and neither of them matched our new fungus. Therefore, we introduce *Pseudopalawania* as a new genus with a new species *P. siamensis* from Thailand. The fungus is placed in Muyocopronaceae (Muyocopronales) with evidence from morphology and phylogeny.

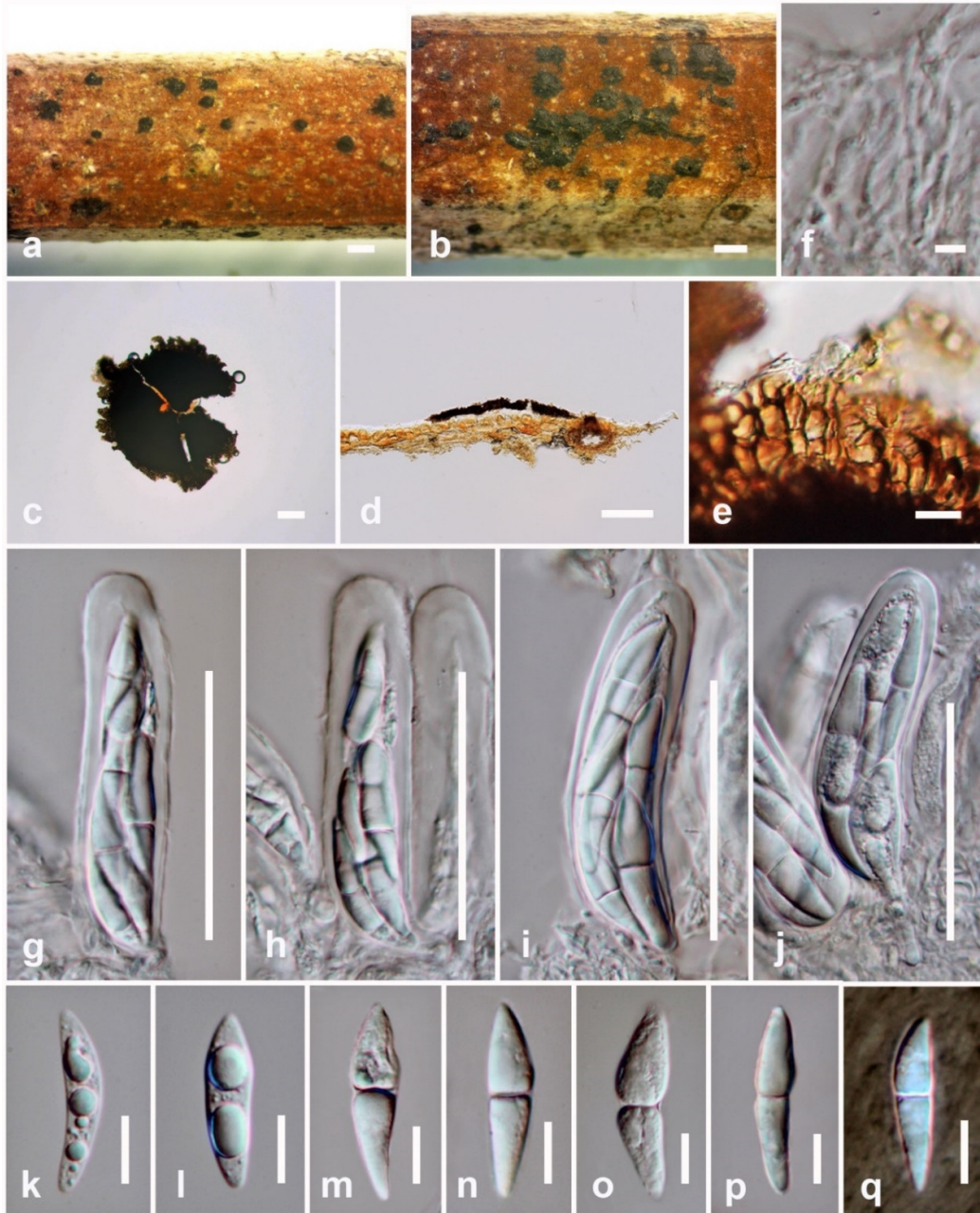


Figure 3. *Pseudopalawania siamensis* (holotype) (a,b) Appearance of ascomata on substrate. (c) Squash mounts showing ascomata. (d) Section of ascoma. (e) Peridium. (f) Pseudoparaphyses. (g–j) asci. (k–p) Ascospores. (q) Ascospores in Indian ink. **Scale bars:** a, b = 500 μm , c, d = 100 μm , g–j = 50 μm , e, k–q = 10 μm , f = 5 μm .

3.3. Structure Elucidation of the New Compound

HPLC chromatographic fractionation of the crude ethyl acetate extract from the yeast malt (YM 6.3) broth of *Pseudopalawania siamensis* resulted in the isolation of a new heterodimeric

bistetrahydroxanthone, pseudopalawanone (**1**) together with three known tetrahydroxanthones, 4,4'-secalonic acid D (**2**) [100], penicillixanthone A (**3**) [101], paecilin B (**4**) [102] and the benzophenone, cephalanone F (**5**) [103] (Figure 4).

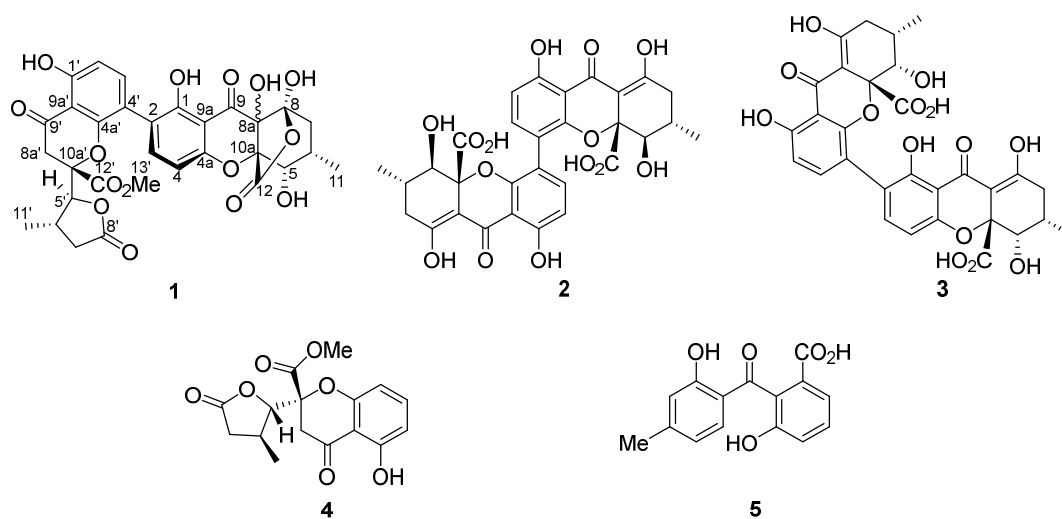


Figure 4. Secondary metabolites from *Pseudopalawania siamensis*.

Pseudopalawanone (**1**) was obtained as optically active, pale yellow gum. The IR spectrum showed the presence of hydroxyl groups (3387 cm^{-1}), carbonyl functionalities ($1787, 1741\text{ cm}^{-1}$) and aromatic residues ($1648, 1622\text{ cm}^{-1}$) while the UV spectrum was indicative of absorptions due to chromanone units [102,104]. The molecular formula $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{28}\text{O}_{15}$, indicating eighteen double bond equivalents, was established by HR-ESIMS based on its protonated pseudomolecular ion peak ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$) at m/z 641.1492. Observation of two sets of signals in the NMR spectra (Figure S1 and S2) and careful comparison of the ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic data of **1** (Table 2) with those of **2–4** immediately revealed **1** to be an asymmetric dimer of an unfamiliar highly oxygenated tetrahydroxanthone subunit and 7-deoxyblennolide D [102]. Thus, the gross structure of the latter fragment along with its connection to 7-deoxyblennolide D was established through analysis of 1D and 2D NMR spectroscopic data and will be the subject of the following discussions. The ^{13}C and HSQC-DEPT edited spectra (Figure S3) showed the presence of fifteen resonances comprised of a ketone ($\delta_{\text{C}} 194.9$), a carboxyl group of an ester functionality ($\delta_{\text{C}} 176.6$), a hemiacetal carbon ($\delta_{\text{C}} 108.9$), four quaternary aromatic carbons ($\delta_{\text{C}} 106.8, 117.6, 158.3, 160.1$), two aromatic methine carbons ($\delta_{\text{C}} 108.3, 143.8$), two aliphatic quaternary carbons ($\delta_{\text{C}} 73.6, 84.7$), two methine carbons ($\delta_{\text{C}} 30.4, 74.1$), a methylene carbon ($\delta_{\text{C}} 33.8$) and a methyl group ($\delta_{\text{C}} 14.9$). The ^1H and COSY NMR spectrum (Figure S4) revealed two ortho-coupled aromatic protons ($^3J = 8.6\text{ Hz}$) for H-3 ($\delta_{\text{H}} 7.82$) and H-4 ($\delta_{\text{H}} 6.77$), and a seven-proton spin system comprised of H-5 ($\delta_{\text{H}} 4.44$) – H-6 ($\delta_{\text{H}} 2.23$) (H₃-11) ($\delta_{\text{H}} 1.20$) – H₂-7 ($\delta_{\text{H}} 2.12, 2.36$). A C-2 substituted 1-hydroxychromanone unit was elucidated on the basis of HMBC correlations of chelated 1-OH ($\delta_{\text{H}} 11.35$) with C-1 ($\delta_{\text{C}} 160.1$), C-2 ($\delta_{\text{C}} 117.6$) and C-9a ($\delta_{\text{C}} 106.8$) and of H-4 ($\delta_{\text{H}} 6.77$) with C-2 and C-4a ($\delta_{\text{C}} 158.3$). The remaining portion of the molecule was constructed through HMBC correlations of H-6 ($\delta_{\text{H}} 2.13$) and H-11 ($\delta_{\text{H}} 1.20$) with C-8 ($\delta_{\text{C}} 108.9$), of H-5 ($\delta_{\text{H}} 4.44$) with C-8a ($\delta_{\text{C}} 73.6$), C-10a ($\delta_{\text{C}} 84.7$) and C-12 ($\delta_{\text{C}} 176.6$), and of H₂-7 ($\delta_{\text{H}} 2.12, 2.36$) with C-8 and C-8a. The chemical shifts assigned for C-8 and C-12 were ascribed to hemiacetal and γ -lactone moieties, respectively, by using a combination of 2D NMR experiments (Figure 5). The lactone ester was plausibly attached to C-8 forming a γ -hydroxylactone subunit of a [3.2.1] bicyclic structure. The remaining 17 mass units was attributed to a hydroxyl group attached to the ζ -carbon (C-8a) of the chromanone substructure. This unusual tetrahydroxanthone motif could putatively originate presumably from α -hydroxylation of the keto form of blennolide A, followed by nucleophilic attack of the hydrolyzed C-12 methyl ester (Figure 6). The relative configurations of C-5 and C-6 were readily established to be similar with blennolide A by the coupling constant ($^3J_{5,6} = 4.0\text{ Hz}$) and the

chemical shifts as $5S^*$, $6S^*$ while that of C-10a was assigned R^* based on the observed positive $n-\pi^*$ CD transition at around 331 nm [104]. The chirality of C-8a cannot be established using available methods due to its remoteness to most protons in the molecule.

The linkage between the chromanone subunit and the α -lactone in the 7-deoxyblennolide D monomer was indicated by the HMBC correlation of H-5' (δ_H 4.38) with C-10a' (δ_C 84.8) and C-12' (δ_C 168.5). The C-5'S* and C-6'S* relative configurations in the lactone moiety were established by coupling constant analysis ($^3J_{5,6} = 2.5$ Hz) depicting a pseudodiaxial orientation for H-5'/H-6' and the NOE (Figure S6 and S7) noted between H-5' and H-8a'a (δ_H 3.14), H-8a'b (δ_H 2.98) and H-6' (δ_H 2.65), and that of H-6' and H₃-13 (δ_H 3.80) [102]. The spatial arrangements in ring C were similar to 7-deoxyblennolide D corroborated by NOE correlations between H-5', H₃-11' (δ_H 1.16) and H-7'b (δ_H 1.99). Finally, the relative configuration of C-10a' may be tentatively assigned as S^* on the basis of negative $\pi^*-\pi^*$ transitions below 330 nm and positive $n-\pi^*$ transitions at 346 nm in the ECD spectrum (Figure S9) of **1** [104]. The overall relative configuration of the blennolide-type tetrahydroxanthone substructure is $5S^*$, $6S^*$, and $10aS^*$ thus, structurally similar to 7-deoxyblennolide D.

The planar structure of **1** was established by connecting the two monomers through the linkage of C-2 ($\delta_C = 117.6$) of the oxidized secalonic acid subunit and C-4' (δ_C 114.0) of 7-deoxyblennolide D evidenced by the diagnostic HMBC correlations of H-3 (δ_H 7.82) to C-4' and H-3' (δ_H 7.54) to C-2. The axial configuration of C-2/C-4' was assigned as P based on the CD spectrum of **1** which showed a positive first Cotton effect (225 nm, $De = -6.41$) and a negative second cotton effect (250 nm, $De = +3.15$). Thus, compound **1** was given the trivial name pseudopalawanone. To establish unambiguously its relative and absolute configurations especially C-8a in the blennolide A substructure and C-10a' in the 7-deoxyblennolide D substructure, we suggest additional experiments such as asymmetric total synthesis, derivatization with heavy atom/s followed by single crystal x-ray diffraction and/or further ECD-TDDFT measurements and calculations.

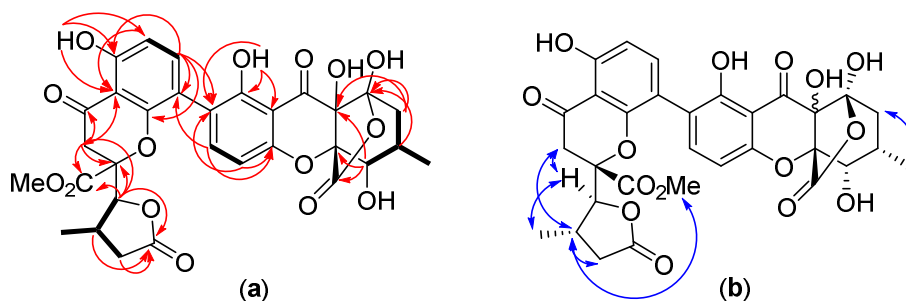


Figure 5. COSY (bold bonds), HMBC (red arrows) (a), and ROESY (blue arrows) (b) correlations in pseudopalawanone (**1**).

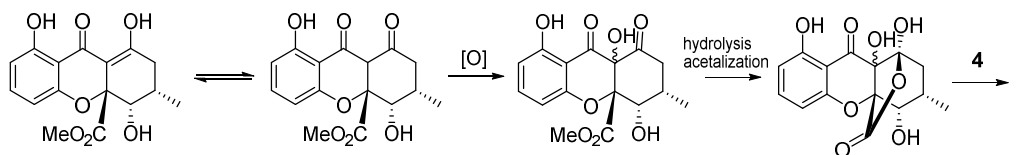


Figure 6. Plausible biogenetic pathway towards pseudopalawanone (**1**).

3.4. Biological Activity of Compounds 1–5

The polyketides **1–5** were evaluated for their antimicrobial activity against selected microorganisms (Table 3) and cytotoxicity against two mammalian cell lines, HeLa cells KB3.1 and mouse fibroblast cell line L929 (Table 4). The starting concentration for antimicrobial assay and cytotoxicity assay were 66.7 and 300 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively and the substances were dissolved in MeOH (1 mg/mL). MeOH was used as the negative control and showed no activity against the tested organisms and mammalian cell lines. Results were expressed as MIC or minimum inhibitory concentration ($\mu\text{g/mL}$) and IC_{50} or half maximal inhibitory concentration (μM) (Tables 3 and 4). The

known compounds **4** and **5** showed neither antimicrobial nor cytotoxic activities. The dimeric tetrahydroxanthone 4,4'-secalonic acid D (**2**) showed inhibition against the pathogenic fungus *Candida albicans* while penicillixanthone A (**3**) inhibited *Mucor hiemalis* with activities comparable to the positive drug control nystatin. Prominent activities were observed for compounds **2** and **3** against *Bacillus subtilis* with MIC values of 1.0 and 4.2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively. Compound **2** also showed inhibitory activity against all Gram-positive bacteria (*Bacillus subtilis*, *Micrococcus luteus*, *Mycobacterium smegmatis*, and *Staphylococcus aureus*), while compounds **1** and **3** also showed inhibitory activity against the Gram-positive bacterium, *Mycobacterium smegmatis*. In general, only the dimeric tetrahydroxanthones **1–3** exhibited activity against fungi and bacteria with the secalonic acid-bearing derivatives **2** and **3** exhibiting better antimicrobial profile. However, the dimeric compounds **1–3** also showed moderate cytotoxic activities against two mammalian cell lines (Table 4). These inhibitory concentrations for cytotoxic activities are given traditionally in molar concentrations, but if they are calculated in $\mu\text{g/mL}$, the IC_{50} values would be equivalent to a range of 2–25 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (i.e., the same or only slightly higher activity range as compared to the MIC). This observation precludes the potential use of these metabolites as candidates for the development of antibiotics, because their selectivity indices are far too low. In addition, the fact that they are broadly active against both, prokaryotic and eukaryotic test organisms suggests that they may address multiple targets and are therefore less suitable for development of any drug.

Some information on these and chemically related compounds is even available from the literature. Compound **2** (4,4'-secalonic acid D; 4,4'-SAD) is a regioisomeric structure to SAD with 2,2'-biarylic connectivity, belonging to the secalonic acid family. This compound class has long been known to have non-selective antimicrobial and other biological activities [100–106]. The compound 4,4'-SAD (**2**) itself was recently reported to have low toxicity with “potent” antitumor activity against several cancer cell lines through cell proliferation inhibition and apoptosis induction [100]. However, when compared to the precursor for a marketed drug, epothilone, which we used as a positive control in our standard cytotoxicity assays (Table 4), the activities of all the metabolites from *Pseudopalawania siamensis* are much weaker. Promising candidate compounds for anticancer therapy should have at least activities in the 100 nM range such assays. Penicillixanthone A (**3**) was also already shown to possess moderate antibacterial activity against four tested bacterial strains (*M. luteus*, *Pseudoalteromonas nigrifaciens*, *E. coli* and *B. subtilis* [100], and its moderate cytotoxic effects on MDA-MB-435 human melanoma cells and SW620 human colorectal adenocarcinoma cell lines had been previously reported [101]. Furthermore, compound **3** was previously isolated from the marine-derived fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus*, and was reported to exhibit anti-HIV-1 activities by inhibiting CCR5-tropic HIV-1 and CXCR4-tropic HIV-1 infection [103]. These data also point toward non-selective effects of this metabolite in biological systems.

Table 3. Antimicrobial activity of compounds 1–5.

Tested organisms	Strain No.	Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) [$\mu\text{g/mL}$]					Positive control*
		Compounds					
		1	2	3	4	5	
Fungi							
<i>Candida albicans</i>	DSM 1665	-	66.7	-	-	-	66.7 (20 μL N)
<i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i>	DSM 15466	-	-	-	-	-	66.7 (20 μL N)
<i>Mucor hiemalis</i>	DSM 6766	-	-	66.7	-	-	66.7 (20 μL N)
<i>Pichia anomala</i>	DSM 6766	-	-	-	-	-	66.7 (20 μL N)
<i>Rhodoturula glutinis</i>	DSM 10134	-	-	-	-	-	16.7 (20 μL N)
<i>Schizosaccharomyces pombe</i>	DSM 70572	-	-	-	-	-	33.3 (20 μL N)
Bacteria							
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	DSM 10	66.7	1.0	4.2	-	-	8.3 (20 μL O)
<i>Chromobacterium violaceum</i>	DSM 30191	-	-	-	-	-	1.7 (2 μL O)
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	DSM 1116	-	-	-	-	-	3.3 (2 μL O)
<i>Micrococcus luteus</i>	DSM 1790	66.7	8.3	33.3	-	-	0.4 (2 μL O)
<i>Mycobacterium smegmatis</i>	ATCC 700084	-	66.7	-	-	-	3.3 (2 μL K)
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	PA14	-	-	-	-	-	0.8 (2 μL G)
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	DSM 346	66.7	4.2	33.3	-	-	0.2 (2 μL O)

* Positive drug controls: K = kanamycin, N = nystatin, O = oxytetracycline hydrochloride. (-): no inhibition. The starting concentration was 66.7 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.

Table 4. Cytotoxic activity of compounds 1–5.

Cell Lines	IC ₅₀ (μM)					Epothilone B
	Compounds					
	1	2	3	4	5	
<i>HeLa cells KB3.1</i>	29.7	3.9	17.2	-	-	8.9×10^{-5}
<i>Mouse fibroblast L929</i>	50.0	14.1	-	-	-	1.8×10^{-3}

The *in vitro* cytotoxicity test of polyketides 1–5 was conducted against two mammalian cell lines, with epothilone B as positive control. Starting concentration for cytotoxicity assay was 66 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, substances were dissolved in MeOH (1 mg/mL). MeOH was used as negative control and showed no activity against the tested mammalian cell lines. Results were expressed as IC₅₀: half maximal inhibitory concentration (μM). (-): no inhibition.

4. Conclusion

The current study showed that new genera and species of tropical fungi can still yield numerous new and interesting secondary metabolites. Even though the preliminary characterization of the metabolites 1–5 indicates that they act non-selectively in biological systems, their further evaluation could result in the discovery of additional, more specific biological effects. In any case, it is worthwhile to further explore tropical fungi whose cultures result from taxonomic and biodiversity studies for the production of secondary metabolites and other potentially beneficial properties [107].

Supplementary Materials: The following are available online at www.mdpi.com/xxx/s1, Figure S1: ¹H NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 700 MHz) of pseudopalawanone (1). Figure S2: ¹³C NMR spectrum (CDCl₃, 175 MHz) of pseudopalawanone (1). Figure S3: HSQC-DEPT spectrum of pseudopalawanone (1). Figure S4: COSY spectrum of pseudopalawanone (1). Figure S5: HMBC spectrum of pseudopalawanone (1). Figure S6: ROESY spectrum of pseudopalawanone (1). Figure S7: NOESY spectrum of pseudopalawanone (1). Figure S8: LC-HRESIMS spectrum of pseudopalawanone (1). Figure S9: ECD spectrum of pseudopalawanone (1).

Author Contributions: All the authors listed made substantial contributions to the manuscript. A.M.: contributed in fungal specimen collection and isolation, fungal identification, fermentation, isolation of the compounds, and manuscript writing; A.P.G.M.: contributed in the experimental guidance, isolation of compounds, structure elucidation, and manuscript writing; B.T.: contributed in determination of biological activities, analyses of the spectral data; K.D.H. and M.S.: contributed to project organization, materials, facilities, experiment guidance and contributed in the revision of the manuscript. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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