

Natural hydroperoxides as potential terapeutical agents

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Abstract

Peroxy-containing metabolites are an interesting group among biological active natural compounds. These metabolites contain a peroxide group (-O-O-) in which each oxygen atom is bonded to the other oxygen and to another atom. β -Oxygen in hydroperoxide group is considered as more reactive. Present review describes research on more than 100 natural hydroperoxides and rare acyclic peroxides isolated from plants, algae, and fungi. Intensive searches for new classes of biologically active metabolites produced by terrestrial and marine origin have resulted in the discovery of dozens of compounds possessing high antimalarial, antibacterial, cytotoxic, and other pharmacological activities as an important source of leads for drug discovery.

Introduction

More than 1,000 peroxides (hydro-, acyclic and endo-) have been isolated and structurally characterized from natural sources, mainly as constituents of fungi, fungal endophytes, and plants; they also were found in freshwater and marine algae, invertebrates, and other organisms [1-5].

Among naturally occurring hydro- and endoperoxides represented a large group of compounds which are shown to possess antimalarial, antibacterial, cytotoxic, and many other activities. In the past several decades, natural peroxides have been isolated from a wide variety of fungi, plants, and marine organisms. Extensive pharmacological screening performed on aquatic and/or terrestrial species resulted in the discovery of novel anti-tumor, antibacterial, and mainly antimalarial agents [6-9]. The purpose of this review is to summarize bioactive metabolites of more than 100 natural hydroperoxides, belonging to diverse structural classes: terpenes, steroids, alkaloids, fatty acids, and other compounds.

This paper reviewed more than one hundred of new and active peroxy natural metabolites produced by plants, algae, fungi, and described their structures, chemistry, and pharmacological activities.

Fungal hydroperoxides

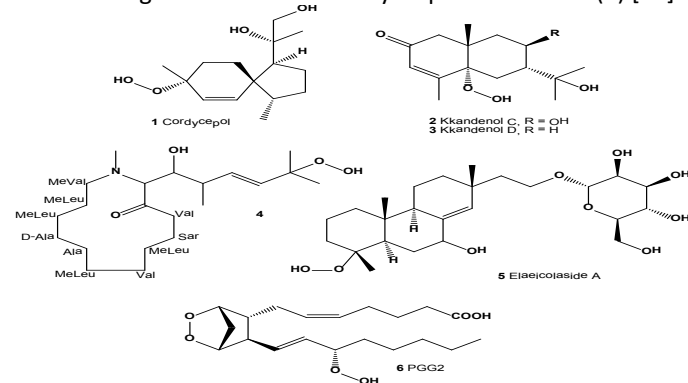
Unusual spiro[4.5]decane sesquiterpenes, cordycepol A, B and C (1), were isolated from the cultured mycelia of parasitic fungus *Cordyceps ophioglossoides* (family Ophiocordycipitaceae). Isolated compounds showed the cytotoxic activities (IC₅₀ values in the range of 12-33 μ g/mL) against HeLa and HepG2 [10].

Eudesmene-type sesquiterpenes, kandenols C (2) and D (3), have been isolated from *Streptomyces* sp. HKI0595 derived from the mangrove plant *Kandelia candelas* weak to moderate inhibitors of *B. subtilis* and *Mycobacterium vaccae* growth [11]. Entomopathogenic species belonging to the genus *Tolypocladium*, *T. terricola*, are known as producers of secondary metabolites and possession of relatively strong mosquitocidal activity [12].

Cyclosporins are produced by certain species of the filamentous fungi, belonging to the genus *Tolypocladium* [2].

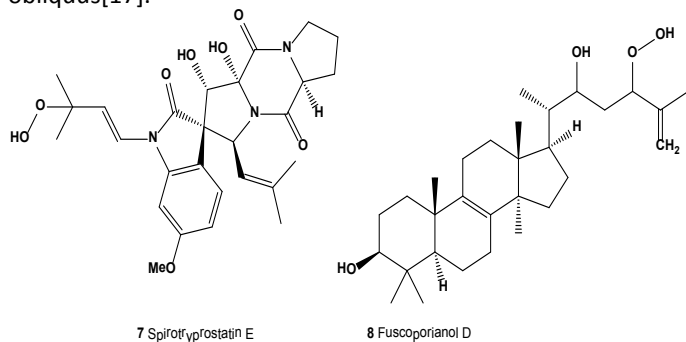
Some cyclic peptides and depsipeptides are synthesized in microorganisms by large multienzymes called nonribosomal peptide synthetases. Proven cytotoxic, anti-inflammatory, anticancer, and immunosuppressive activities of some cyclic peptides indicate that these molecules may contribute to the synergistic array of fungal virulence factors and support microbial invasion during fungal infection. Cyclosporin D hydroperoxide (4), was isolated from this cultivated fungus *Tolypocladium terricola* [13]. Several isopimarane-type diterpene glycosides, along with an eremophilane-type sesquiterpene, i.e., elaeicolasides A (5), B and C were isolated from the AcOEt extract of the fermented broth of the ascomycete *Stilbohoxylon elaeicola* YMJ173. All these compounds inhibited NO production, detected as nitrite in the culture medium, in activated macrophages without any cytotoxicity at a concentration of 100 μ M [14].

The opportunistic fungal pathogen *Cryptococcus neoformans* was used for production of several species of prostaglandins (PGE₂, PGH₂ and 15-keto-PGE₂) from arachidonic acid, and including unusual endo- and hydroperoxide PGG₂ (6) [15].



Prenylated indole diketopiperazine alkaloids, spirotryprostatin E (7) has been obtained from the fermentation of *Aspergillus fumigatus* from a holothurian, *Stichopus japonicus* (Lingshan Island, Qingdao, China) [16].

Sterols are one of the active classes of compounds in *Inonotus obliquus* (known as chaga mushroom) for their effective therapy of many diseases. The results indicated that field-grown mycelia contained lanosterol and inotodiol (45.47% and 25.36% of the total sterols, respectively) and other 10 sterols (comprising the remaining 30.17%) including ergosterol biosynthetic intermediates such as 24-methylene dihydrolanosterol, 4,4-dimethylfecosterol, 4-Me fecosterol, fecosterol and episterol. Column chromatography also led to the isolation of lanosterol, inotodiol, trametenolic acid, fuscoporianol B and a triterpenoid fuscoporianol D (8) in field-grown mycelia of *Inonotus obliquus*[17].

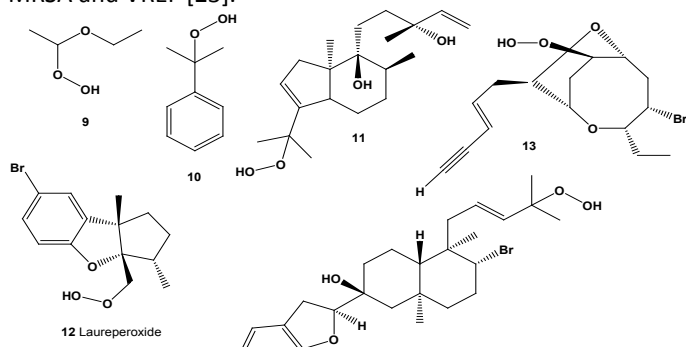


Hydroperoxides from algal species

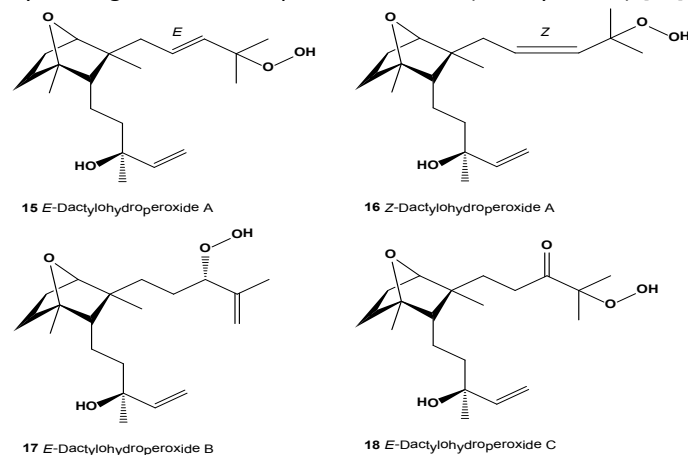
The (1-ethoxyethyl)hydroperoxide (9) was recovered from several algal species: two brown algae *Cladosiphon okamuranus*, *Analipus japonicus*, and red alga *Gracilariopsis chorda* (Gracilariaceae, Rhodophyta) [18]. Cumene hydroperoxide (10) was detected in green alga *Chlorella pyrenoidosa*[19].

The diterpenoid neoconcinndiol hydroperoxide (11) was found as a constituent of red alga *Laurencia snyderiae*. The suggestion was made that (12) arises from the brominated natural product concinndiol, also from *L.snyderiae*, by solvolytic ring contraction and oxygenation to yield the rearranged allylic hydroperoxide [20]. Laureperoxide (13), cuparene-derived sesquiterpene isolated from the red alga *Laurencia okamurai* (Nanji Island, China) [21]. Halogenated nonterpenoid C15-acetogenin, laurendecumenyne A (13) has been reported from the marine red alga *Laurencia decumbens*. Cytotoxicity against adenocarcinomic human alveolar basal epithelial cells A549 cells was shown [22].

Bioassay-guided fractionation of extracts from a Fijian red alga in the genus *Callophycus* sp. resulted in the isolation of five new compounds of the diterpene-benzoate class. Isolated bromophytoic acids A, B, C (14), D and E display a range of activities against human tumor cell lines, malarial parasites, and bacterial pathogens including low micromolar suppression of MRSA and VREF [23].

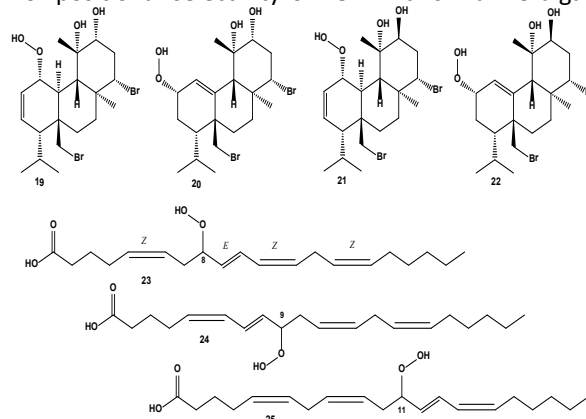


Hydroperoxides have been found in the Russian population of brown alga, *Dictyota dichotoma* (Troitsa Bay, Sea of Japan, Russia), for example, dictyohydroperoxides A (E-15), A (Z-16), B (17) and C (18) [24]. Some isolated compounds showed moderate cytotoxicity against human cancer cell lines. Also, unstable hydroperoxide, dictyohydroperoxide C (18) produced by red alga *Laurencia* sp. from Tenefire (Canary Island) [25].



Two bioactive brominated diterpenes, cytotoxic bromoditerpene (19) and antibacterial bromoditerpene 2S-hydroperoxy-12R-hydroxy-isobromosphaerol (20) have been isolated from the marine red alga *Sphaerococcus coronopifolius* (also known as *Hematocelis fissurata*). The structure of the previously reported 12S-hydroxy-bromosphaerodiol (21) and 2S,12S-dihydroxyisobromo-sphaerol (22) were revised [26 and 27, respectively].

Several hydroperoxides as derivatives of the arachidonic metabolites with the lipoxygenase in marine algae have been detected. It was reported that eicosanoids, 12(S)- and 15(S)-hydroperoxyeicosatetraenoic acid were the intermediate product of major aldehyde flavor formation [3(Z)- and 2(E)-nonenal and n-hexanal] in an edible brown alga, *Laminaria angustata* via lipoxygenase (LOX) and hydroperoxide lyase pathway. Three eicosanoids have been found after enzymic formation and identified as 8-, 9-, and 11-hydroperoxy-eicosa-tetraenoic acids (23-25, respectively) by HPLC. These represented the mechanism of positional selectivity of LOX in this marine alga [28].

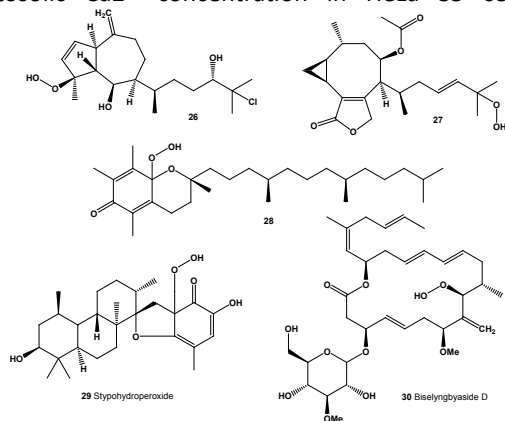


When long-chain saturated and unsaturated fatty acids were incubated with crude enzyme of marine green alga *Ulva pertusa* (sea lettuce), the corresponding (R)-2-hydroper-

oxy acids: 2-hydroperoxy-hexadecanoic, 2-hydroperoxy-9(Z)-octadecenoic, 2-hydroperoxy-9(Z),12(Z)-octadecadienoic acids, respectively) were found to have high enantiomeric excess (>99%). In a similar administration except, the (R)-2-hydroperoxy-acid was obtained from the incubation of palmitic acid with crude enzymes of a variety of marine algae. Thus, authors found that not only green algae but also brown and red algae are capable of enantio-selective 2-hydroperoxylation of palmitic acid [29]. Two bioactive compounds, dictyohydroperoxide (26) and hydroperoxy-acetoxycrenulide (27), containing hydroperoxyl groups rarely found in algal terpenoids were isolated from the Russian population of brown alga *Dictyota dichotoma*. Isolated compounds showed moderate cytotoxicity against human cancer cell lines [24]. 8 α -hydroperoxy- α -tocopherone (28), the primary oxidation product of α -tocopherol by singlet oxygen, it was isolated from *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* cultures during high light stress under variety of conditions (presence of inhibitors, an uncoupler, heavy water) [30].

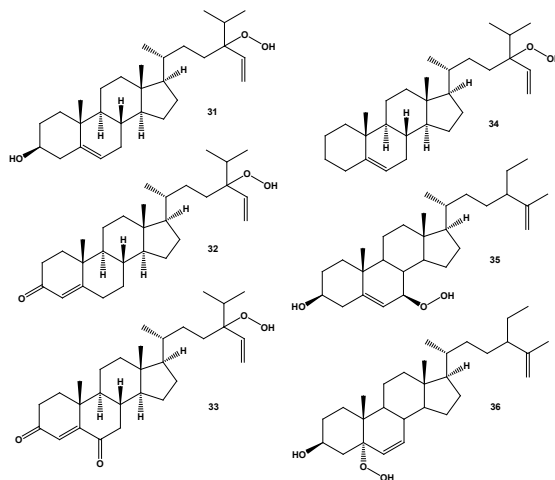
Several biological active meroditerpenoids styphodroperoxide (29), 2 β ,3 α -epitaondiol, flabellinol, flabellinone, styptriolaldehyde, along with known compounds from the marine brown alga *Styopodium flabelliforme* collected in Papua New Guinea. All of the new metabolites were moderately toxic to murine neuro-2a cells (LC50 2-25 μ M), and 2 β ,3 α -epitaondiol, flabellinol, and flabellinone possessed potent sodium channel blocking activity [31].

Marine cyanobacterium *Lyngbya* sp. led to the isolation of biselyngbyasides A, B, endo-peroxide biselyngbyaside C, and hydrobiselyngbyaside D (30), collected on Tokunoshima Island (Japan) [32,33]. Isolated biselyngbyasides showed growth-inhibitory activity and apoptosis-inducing activity against both HeLa S3 cells and HL60 cells. The fura-2 method revealed that biselyngbyasides increased the cytosolic Ca²⁺ concentration in HeLa S3 cells [33].



Cytotoxic steroids (31, 32 and 33) have been recovered from the brown alga *Turbinaria conoides*. The cytotoxicity in HeLa cells was expressed in terms of 50% cytotoxic concentration (CC50). These oxygenated steroids exhibited cytotoxicity against HeLa cells with CC50 values ranging from 60.9 μ g/mL to >100 μ g/mL [34]. Sterol, 24(R)-hydroxy-24-vinylcholesterol (31) has been isolated from *Sargassum oligocystum* (Heterokontophyta), which it is one of the most abundant algae distributed in the Persian Gulf [35], and in *Sargassum fusiforme* [36]. This compound (31) was also found in red alga *Ceratodictyon spongiosum* (Rhodophyta) [37].

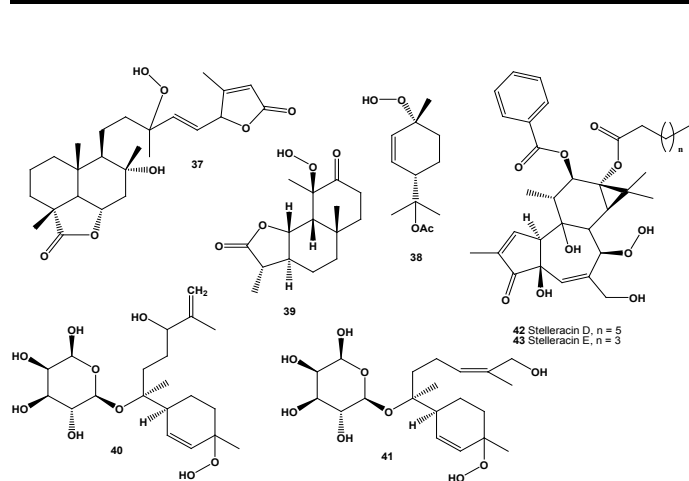
Several unusual glycerolipids, including at 24-ethylcholest-4,24(28)-dien-3 β -ol, 24-vinylcholest-5-en-24 ζ -hydroperoxy (34) were isolated from marine brown alga *Sargassum parvivesiculosum* [38]. Genus *Codium* contains a lot of different lipophilic metabolites [39], and sterols [40]. The two hydroperoxy sterols (35 and 36) were isolated from the Indo-Pacific marine green alga *Codium arabicum* [41]. The compounds displayed significant cytotoxicity toward various cancer cell lines.



Hydroperoxides from plant species

Bioactive metabolite (37) was isolated from the aerial parts of *Salvia sahendica* (family Lamiaceae; it is known that *Salvia* genus showed antibacterial effects on *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*), together with several known compounds, comprising a sesterterpene, a sesquiterpene, a diterpene, triterpenes, steroidal compounds, and flavonoids [42]. A p-menthane hydroperoxide, (1R,4S)-1-hydroperoxy-p-menth-2-en-8-ol acetate (38), a trypanocidal agent against epimastigotes of *Trypanosoma cruzi*, was isolated from dried leaves of an aromatic evergreen tree *Laurus nobilis* (family Lauraceae) [43]. Plant metabolite (39) exhibited antitrypanosomal activity against *Trypanosoma brucei* [44].

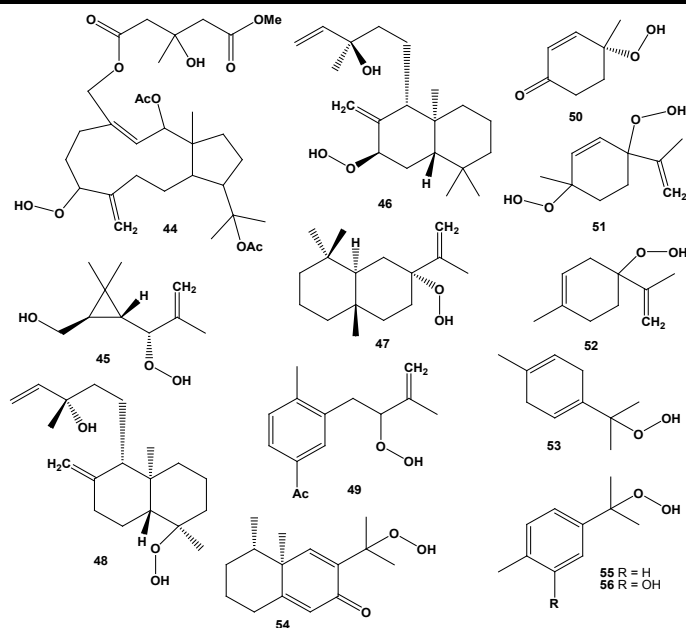
The aerial parts of the Mediterranean weed *Carthamus glaucus* (family Compositae) afforded an unusual triglyceride (E-2-crotonyl-sn-1,3-distearoylglycerol), and a series of bisabolane fucopyranosides variously acylated on the sugar moiety, and its peroxy derivatives, such as (40) and (41). Isolated fucopyranosides are a potential anti-inflammatory cosmetic ingredient in current short supply in its natural form. A comparative investigation of the activity of isolated metabolites involved in inflammation and cancer pathways (NF- κ B and STAT-3) showed only marginal activity on NF- κ B inhibition for all compounds [45]. Interesting tigliane-type diterpenes, stelleracins A, B, C, D (42) and E (43), were isolated from the roots of a perennial herbaceous plant *Stellera chamaejasme* (Thymelaeaceae), from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and in adjacent regions. The isolated compounds showed potent anti-HIV activity (EC₉₀ 0.00056-0.0068 μ M) and relatively low or no cytotoxicity (IC₅₀ 4.4-17.2 μ M). These compounds represent promising new leads for development into anti-AIDS clinical trial candidates [46].



A dolabellane diterpene derivative with the naturally rare peroxy function was identified as Me ester of 2,18-O-diacetyl-16-O-(3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl)-7-hydroperoxy-dolabella-3,8(17)diene-2,16,18-triol (42) was isolated from the aerial parts of the herb *Cleome droserifolia* (syn. *Roridula droserifolia*) [47]. A trans-chrysanthemic monoterpene hydroperoxide (43) has been isolated from the aerial parts of *Santolina insularis*, a bush endemic to Sardinia. *S. insularis* is a medicinal plant whose essential oil showed antiviral and anti-bacterial activities and potent and selective cytotoxic activity against the human colon carcinoma cell line. The occurrence of several chemotypes makes the taxonomic identification of *S. insularis* hard to achieve [48]. The biological activity of *S. insularis* was also demonstrated against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Candida albicans*, *Candida tropicalis* and *Cryptococcus neoformans* [49].

Three sesquiterpene hydroperoxides (44-46), together with known compounds, germacrone, ent-germacra-4(15),5,10(14)-trien-1 α -ol and teuclidol A were isolated from the aerial parts of *Aster spathulifolius* (family Compositae). The isolated compounds were tested for their cytotoxicity against five human tumor cell lines in vitro using a SRB method. The two hydroperoxides (44) and (45), showed moderate cytotoxicity against human cancer cells with ED50 values ranging from 0.24 to 13.27 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ [50].

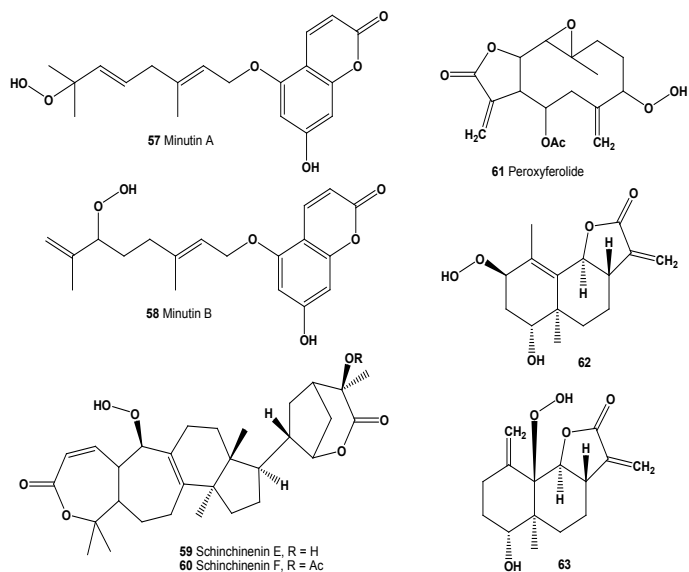
Hydroperoxy terpene (47) was isolated from *Juniperus przewalskii* (family Cupressaceae; a dominant tree species endemic to the northeast Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau), together with several known terpenes, including, 3 α -hinokiol and 3 α -hydroxymannol which exhibited effective anti-tumor activities to cervical carcinoma (HeLa) and human ovarian carcinoma (HO-8910) cell lines [51]. The lipophilic extract of the fresh water liverwort *Riella helicophylla* yielded several monoterpenes and diterpenes [52]. Several monoterpenes were hydroperoxides (48-53, 55 and 56) [53]. The 11-hydroperoxy-6,9-eremophiladien-8-one (54), along with oleanolic acid, β -amyrin, β -amyrin acetate and (+)-lupeol, were isolated from the EtOH extracts of *Ligularia kanaitzensis* (family Compositae) [54].



Monoterpene coumarins, minutin A (57) and B (58) were purified from the citrus plant *Micromelum minutum* (family Rutaceae) leaves. Isolated compounds had some inhibitory activity against one or more lung adenocarcinoma (SBC3 and A549) and leukemia (K562 and K562/ADM) cell lines in vitro. Minutin B (57) had the strongest cytotoxic activity against SBC3, A549, K562, and K562/ADM cell lines, with respectively 9.6, 17.5, 8.7, and 6.7 μM [55]. Schinchenins E and F (59 and 60) are highly oxygenated triterpenoids that contain a hydroperoxy moiety, which is rare in compound from the *Schisandra* genus. Some compounds showed activities against HSV-2 and adenovirus [56].

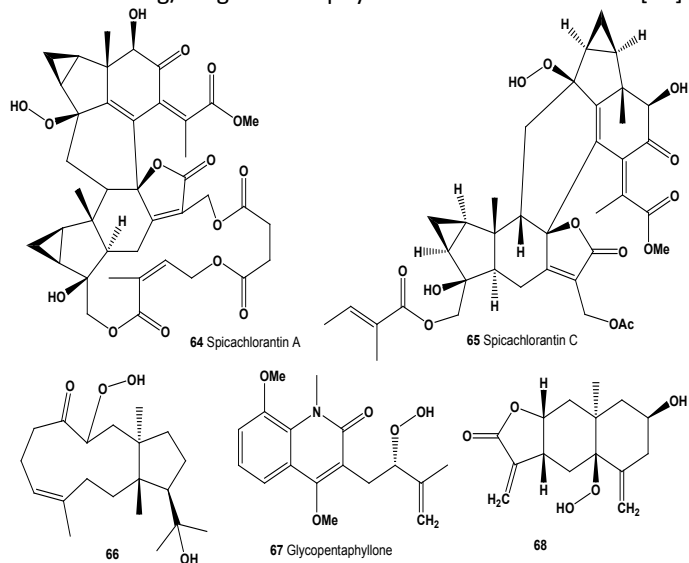
The active constituents of bark and leaves of the traditionally used antimalarial plant *Liriodendron tulipifera* (known as the tulip tree, American tulip tree) by antiplasmodial assay guided fractionation. Leaves yielded two known sesquiterpene lactones, peroxyferolide (61) and lipiferolide with antiplasmodial activity. The antiplasmodial activity of compound (61) (IC50 = 6.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) was reported. This work supports the historical use of *Liriodendron tulipifera* as an antimalarial remedy of the United States and characterizes its antiplasmodial constituents [57].

Several sesquiterpenes, together with compounds (62) and (63) were isolated from leaves of an aromatic evergreen tree *Laurus nobilis* (also known as Bay leaf). Most of these compounds exhibited moderate to significant cytotoxicity toward K562 leukemia cells [58]. Lindenane sesquiterpenes, spicachlorantins A (64) and C (65) were isolated from the whole dicotyledonous plant of *Chloranthus serratus* (family Chloranthaceae). These isolates were evaluated for their inhibitory effects on lipopolysaccharide-induced nitric oxide production in RAW264.7 cells. Spicachlorantin A and two known compounds, shizukaols B and D, showed significant anti-inflammatory activities, with IC50 values of 0.22, 0.15, and 7.22 μM , respectively [59].



Several bioactive compounds, including (1R,3S,7E,11S,12R)-3-hydroperoxy-dolabella-4(16),7-dien-18-ol (66), was found in leaves extract of the oriental medicinal plant *Aglaia odorata* (family Meliaceae, known as Chinese perfume plant). All isolated compounds possessed potent nitric oxide inhibitory activity with IC₅₀ values ranging from 2.1 to 14.2 μM, these being better than that of the positive control, indomethacin (IC₅₀ = 14.5 μM) [60].

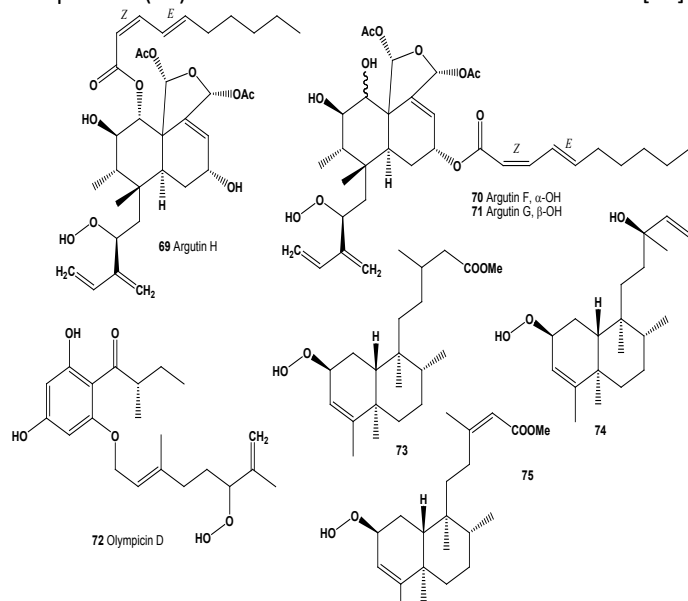
A new hydroperoxyquinolone alkaloid, glycopentaphyllone (67) was isolated from the fruits of lowering plant *Glycosmis pentaphylla* (family Rutaceae), known commonly as orangeberry and gin berry. Compound showed antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli* TISTR 780, *Salmonella typhimurium* TISTR 292, *Staphylococcus aureus* TISTR 1466, and Methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* SK1 [61]. Antibacterial acylphloroglucinols, named olympicins A, B, C, D (68), and (E) were isolated and characterized from the aerial parts of the flowering plant *Hypericum olympicum* cf. *uniflorum* (family Hypericaceae). Isolated compounds exhibited min inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of 1 to 120 μg/L against *Staphylococcus aureus* strains [62].



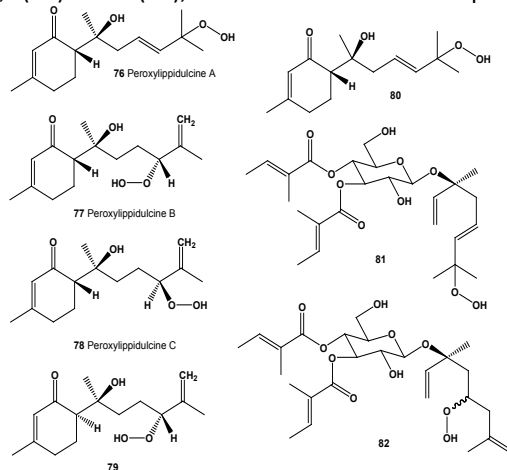
Argutins A, B, C, D, E, F (69), G (70), and H (71) highly oxygenated clerodane diterpenes, were isolated from the plant-

Casearia arguta (family Salicaceae) collected in Guatemala. Each of the argutins showed varying levels of synergy with tumor necrosis factor-α-related apoptosis-inducing ligand sensitizers [63]. Antibacterial acylphloroglucinols, named olympicins A, B, C, D (72), and (E) were isolated and characterized from the aerial parts of the plant *Hypericum olympicum* cf. *uniflorum*. All compounds exhibited min inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of 0.5 to 128 μg/L against *Staphylococcus aureus* strains [62].

The genus *Aristolochia* (known as birthwort, pipevine or Dutchman's pipe) is an important source of physiologically active compounds that belong to different chemical classes, and it is the subject of research in numerous pharmacological and chemical studies [64]. Thus, clerodane diterpenoids isolated from *Aristolochia* species, compounds (73 and 74, Fig. 20) were isolated from *A. esperanzae* [65], and compound (75) was identified from *A. chamissonis* [66].



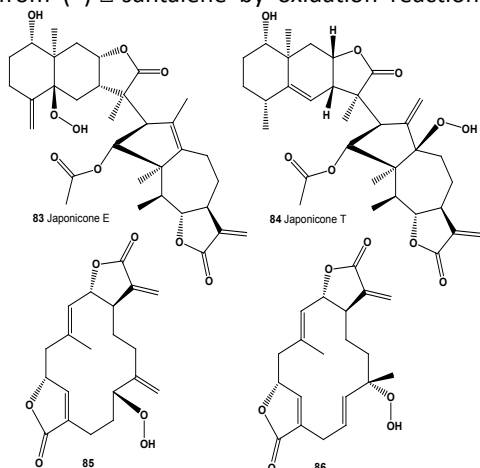
Six new bisabolane-type sesquiterpenes, peroxylipidulcines A-C (76-78), peroxyepilipidulcine B, and others (79,80), have been isolated from the aerial parts of *Lippia dulcis* (perennial herb; native to southern Mexico), along with two known bisabolane-type sesquiterpenes, seven known flavonoids, and a known triterpenoid [67]. The aerial part of *Aster scaber* (known as edible Korean chamchwi; family Compositae) yielded two new monoterpene peroxide glycosides, (81) and (82), and other known compounds [68].



Several dimeric sesquiterpene lactones (japonicones E-L), including a novel sesquiterpene dimer bearing a rare hydroperoxide group (japonicone E, 83), were isolated from the aerial part of flowering plant *Inula japonica* (family Asteraceae). Compound (83) displayed strong inhibitory activity against LPS-induced NO production in RAW264.7 macrophages [26]. From the same species additional related dimeric sesquiterpene, japonicone T (84) [27]. Cembrane-type diterpenoids with a trans-fused β -methylene- β -lactone, including two cembrane hydroperoxides 4-methylene-5 β -hydroperoxy-ovato-diolide (85) and 4 α -hydroperoxy-5-enoatodiolide (86) were isolated from a methanol extract of Indian Catmint *Anisomeles indica* (syn: *Nepeta indica*, *Anisomeles ovata*). Compound (86) exhibited cytotoxicity against a small panel of human cancer cell lines, and showed inhibitory effects on antiplatelet aggregation induced by thrombin [69].

Seven-membered vibsane-type diterpene hydroperoxides named 5-epi-vibsanin K (87), 18-O-methyl-5-epi-vibsanin K (88) as well as their corresponding C-5 epimers (89) and (90) have been isolated from the leaves of *Viburnum awabuki* (syn: *Viburnum odoratissimum* var. *arboricola*; family Adoxaceae, Caprifoliaceae). The occurrence of these seven-membered vibsane-type diterpenes with a cis relationship on the C-5 and C-10 positions in nature have been predicted by conformational analysis of vibsanin B, an eleven-membered vibsane-type diterpene. Some compounds exhibited moderate cytotoxic activities on KB cells [70,71].

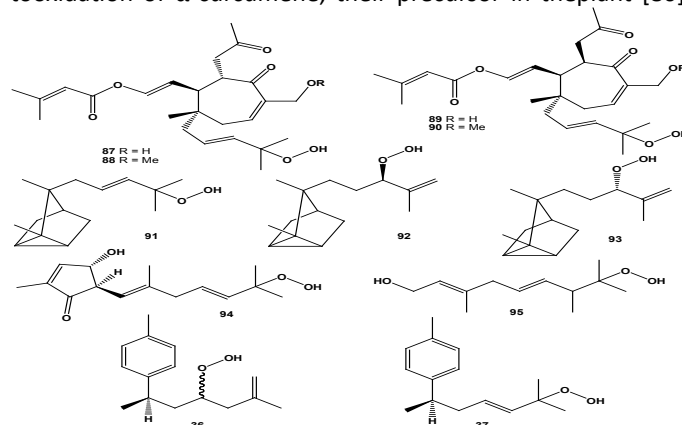
Several santalane and isocampherenane sesquiterpenes, including three isomeric sesquiterpene hydroperoxides (91-93) have been isolated from *Illicium tsangii* (family Illiciaceae; a poisonous shrub from southern China used in traditional medicine for treating pain). The santalanes may be derived from (-)- β -santalene by oxidation reactions [72,73].



Anti-HIV and cytotoxic activities of litseaverticillol A isolated from the twigs and leaves of shrub *Litsea verticillata* (Lun Ye Mu Jiang Zi in Chinese; the roots and leaves are used medicinally for treating rheumatism and relieving menstrual cramping and soreness) are known [74]. Synthesis of litseaverticillols B, E (94), I, and J as well as the structural reassignment of litseaverticillol E (94) have been achieved by means of a biomimetic sequence of transformations during which a [4 + 2]-initiated reaction cascade and an ene reaction, both involving singlet oxygen ($[1O(2)]$), formed key steps. The reassignment of the structure of litseaverticillol E to include an allylic hydroperoxide provides

strong support for biogenetic hypothesis was reported [75].

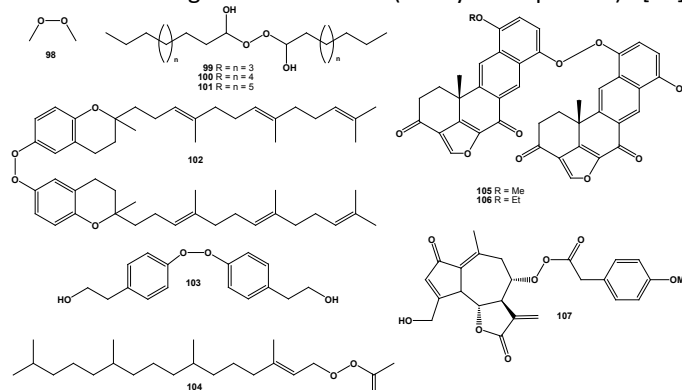
Compound (95) was isolated from a multi-branched shrub *Heterothalamus alienus* (family Asteraceae; it used in Brazilian and Argentinean folk medicine) [76]. *Senecio* species are used for therapeutic purposes, including the treatment of fungal skin infections [77], antiseptic [78], and pneumonia [79]. The fresh aerial parts of *Senecio seloi* (family Asteraceae) contains two hydroperoxides (96 and 97), which were identified indirectly by isolation, identification and posterior photooxidation of α -curcumene, their precursor in the plant [80].



Rare acyclic peroxides

Acyclic peroxides differ from the other two types of peroxides: a) hydroperoxides and b) endoperoxides by the presence of the peroxy (-O-O-) linkage between the fragments of the same and/or other molecular structure. This bridge on the chemical structures is marked in green. Several compounds were found in nature. Dimethyl peroxide (98) was detected among the volatile components of *Basella rubra* (family Basellaceae) [81], and three other acyclic bis(1-hydroxyalkyl)peroxides (99-101) in the essential oil of Japanese citrus fruit, *Citrus iyo* (iyokan, also known as anadomikan) [82,83]. Extract of the Brazilian medicinal plant *Kielmeyera coriacea* (family Clusiaceae) afforded a δ -tocotrienol peroxy-dimer (102) [84], other peroxide dimer named bungein A (103) was found in the aerial parts of the medicinal plant *Clerodendrum bungei* (also known as Mexicali Rose, Mexican Hydrangea and/or Cashmere Bouquet) [85]. Leucoperoxyterpene (104) with good antibacterial activity has been isolated from extract of aerial parts of the medicinal plant *Leucosceptrum canum* (family Lamiaceae) [86].

Dimeric dihalenaquinolides A (105) and B (106), from marine origin, have a peroxide linkage between two meroterpenoid units [87]. Lactucin-8-O-p-methoxyphenyl acetate (107), a cytotoxic sesquiterpene lactone, has been detected in *Mulgedium tataricum* (family Compositae) [88].



Conclusion

During the last 40 years, there has been an unprecedented growth in the chemistry of natural as well as synthetic peroxides. Currently, the rapid progress in chemistry of organic peroxides to a large degree determined by their high biological activity. In medicinal chemistry of peroxides, particular emphasis is given to the design of compounds having activity against causative agents of malaria and human helminth infections. In medicinal chemistry of peroxides, for example, ascaridole and artemisinin a natural peroxides exhibiting high antimalarial activity, is the most important drug in use for approximately 40 years [1-5,8,9,89-93]. This review also emphasizes the role of hydroperoxides from fungi, fungal endophytes, algae, plants, lichens, and bryophytes as an important source of leads for drug discovery.

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