

Communication

New Sesquiterpenoids from the Fermented Broth of *Termitomyces albuminosus* and their Anti-Acetylcholinesterase Activity

Wei Li ^{1,2}, Qian Liu ^{1,2}, Shimian Cheng ^{1,2}, Shanren Li ^{1,2} and Yongbiao Zheng ^{1,2,3,*}

¹ Engineering Research Centre of Industrial Microbiology, Ministry of Education, College of Life Sciences, Fujian Normal University, Fuzhou 350117, China

² Provincial University Key Laboratory of Cellular Stress Response and Metabolic Regulation, College of Life Sciences, Fujian Normal University, Fuzhou 350117, China

³ Fujian Provincial University Engineering Research Center of Industrial Biocatalysis, College of Chemistry and Material Sciences, Fujian Normal University, Fuzhou 350117, China

* Correspondence: yongbiaozheng@fjnu.edu.cn

Received: 08 July 2019; Accepted: 15 August 2019; Published: 16 August 2019

Abstract: *Termitomyces albuminosus* is the symbiotic edible mushroom of termites and cannot be artificially cultivated at present. In the project of exploring its pharmaceutical metabolites by microbial fermentation, four new selinane type sesquiterpenoids—teucdiol C (1), D (2), E (3), and F (4), together with two known sesquiterpenoids teucdiol B (5) and epi-guaidiol A (6)—were obtained from its fermented broth of *T. albuminosus*. Their structures were elucidated by the analysis of NMR data, HR Q-TOF MS spectral data, CD, IR, UV, and single crystal X-ray diffraction. Epi-guaidiol A showed obvious anti-acetylcholinesterase activity in a dose-dependent manner. The experimental results displayed that *T. albuminosus* possess the pharmaceutical potential for Alzheimer's disease, and it was an effective way to dig new pharmaceutical agent of *T. albuminosus* with the microbial fermentation technique.

Keywords: *Termitomyces albuminosus*; selinane; sesquiterpenoids; anti-acetylcholinesterase; microbial fermentation

1. Introduction

Termitomyces albuminosus (Berk.) Heim is the symbiotic edible mushroom of termites [1]. The fruiting bodies of *T. albuminosus* are rich in nutritional and medicinal constituents. Many compounds with medicinal potentials have been obtained from its dried fruiting bodies, such as novel cerebrosides termitomycesphins A–H with significant neuritogenic activity [2–4] and cerebroside A with the potent neuroprotection activity [5]. *T. albuminosus* has also displayed antioxidant capacity and high content phenolic ingredients [6]. However, *T. albuminosus* must grow at a termitarium and cannot be cultivated artificially at present. In previous reports, the microbial fermentation technology has been proven to be an effective method to utilize the natural resources of *T. albuminosus*. It has been reported that the mycelia of *T. albuminosus* obtained by microbial fermentation contained an extraordinarily high amount of α -aminobutyric acid (2.56 g/kg [7]), possessed a highly intense umami taste [8], and had antioxidant properties [9]. Saponins and polysaccharides from the dry matter of culture broth of *T. albuminosus* possessed the analgesic and anti-inflammatory activities [10]. In this paper, we mainly focus on investigating the pharmaceutical metabolites of *T. albuminosus* by the method of microbial fermentation and describe the structure elucidation and bioactivities of these compounds.

2. Results

2.1. Purification and Characterization of Sesquiterpenoids

The edible mushroom *T. albuminosus* was cultured in flasks each containing 100 mL of potato dextrose media with a total volume of 25.9 L. These flasks were incubated for 30 days at 28 °C with a shaking speed of 210 rpm. The fermented broth whose mycelia were removed by filtration were extracted with ethyl acetate. Then ethyl acetate phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated under reduced pressure to afford 3.28 g of a crude organic extract. The crude extract was successively subject to column chromatography over reverse phase-18 silica gel, Sephadex LH-20, and silica gel to afford six compounds (1–6).

Based upon the detailed analysis of NMR data, including ^1H , ^{13}C , DEPT (Distortionless Enhancement by Polarization Transfer), HSQC, HMBC and ^1H - ^1H COSY spectra (Tables 1–2 and Figures S1–14), compounds 1–6 were identified as selinane type sesquiterpenoids (Figure 1). These sesquiterpenoids contain a similar decahydronaphthalene carbon skeleton. The major difference of these compounds is the isopropyl groups linked at C-7.

Compound 1 was obtained as an amorphous colorless substance with an optical value of $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} -10.3$ (c 0.1, methanol) and a maximum UV absorption of 210 nm in methanol. The molecular formula of compound 1 was determined to be $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_2$ based on the high-resolution quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometry (HR Q-TOF MS) peak at m/z : 261.1823 (calculated for $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_2\text{Na}$, 261.1830) and ^1H and ^{13}C -NMR data (Tables 1–2 and Figures S1–2). In the IR spectra, the prominent absorption indicated the presence of a $-\text{OH}$ group (3386 cm^{-1}). NMR data (^1H , ^{13}C , DEPT) revealed resonances for three methyls, seven methylenes (including one $-\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$ group (δC 63.4)), one methine (δC 56.5), and four quaternary carbons, including one oxygenated carbon (δC 73.1) and two sp^2 carbons (δC 125.9; δC 138.2). Thus, compound 1 must be a bicyclic sesquiterpenoid containing one double bond for three degrees of unsaturation based upon its molecular formula and NMR data. The obvious HMBC correlations from H_3 -14 to C-3/C-4/C-5 and from H_3 -15 to C-1/C-5/C-9/C-10, as well as ^1H - ^1H COSY cross-peaks between both H-1 and H-2 and H-2 and H-3 allowed for the establishment of one cyclic moiety of compound 1. Another cyclic moiety of 1 was deduced from HMBC correlations from H_3 -13 to C-11/C-12/C-7, from H_2 -12 to C-11/C-13/C-7, from H_2 -6 to C-4/C-7/C-8/C-10/C-11, and from H_2 -9 to C-1/C-5/C-7/C-8/C-10/C-15, as well as ^1H - ^1H COSY cross-peaks between H-5 and H-6, H-8 and H-9. Thus, the basic structure of compound 1 could be established (Figure 1). The configuration of compound 1 was deduced by the Nuclear Overhauser Effect Spectrometry (NOESY) experiments. The cross-peaks between H-8 α and H_3 -15, H-2 α and H_3 -15, H-9 α and H_3 -15, H-2 α and H_3 -14, and H-6 α and H-8 α in the NOESY spectrum indicated the α -orientation of these protons. The other NOEs between H-5 and H-1 β , H-5 and H-3 β , and H-5 and H-6 β allowed for the assignment of the β -orientation of these protons. The stereochemistry structure of compound 1 was confirmed by X-ray diffraction of the single crystal obtained from the aqueous methanol (Figure 2). Crystallographic data (CCDC 1938575) for compound 1: $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_2$, white crystal, triclinic, space group P1, $a = 7.9272(10)\text{ \AA}$, $b = 9.0784(12)\text{ \AA}$, $c = 11.0248(16)\text{ \AA}$, $\alpha = 83.510(11)^\circ$, $\beta = 71.243(12)^\circ$, $\gamma = 68.555(12)^\circ$, $V = 699.26(18)\text{ \AA}^3$, $Z = 3$, $D_c = 1.227\text{ g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-3}$, $F(000) = 273$, and Flack parameter = $-0.3(3)$. According to the above data, the stereochemistry structure of compound 1 was deduced, and it was named teucdiol C (Figure 1).

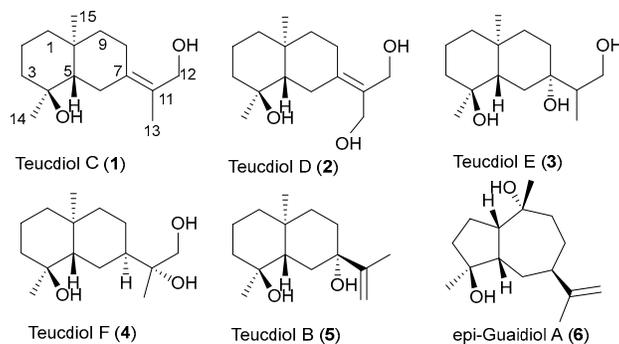


Figure 1. The chemistry structures of compounds 1–6.

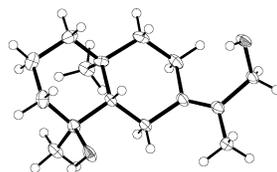


Figure 2. The crystal form of compound 1.

Compound **2** was obtained as an amorphous colorless substance with an optical value of $[\alpha]_D^{25} -18.4$ (c 0.1, methanol) and a maximum UV absorption of 216 nm in methanol. The molecular formula of compound **2** was determined to be $C_{15}H_{26}O_3$ based on the HR Q-TOF MS peak at m/z : 277.1776 (calculated for $C_{15}H_{26}O_3Na$, 277.1780) and 1H and ^{13}C NMR data (Tables 1–2 and Figures S3–4). In the IR spectra, the prominent absorption indicated the presence of a $-OH$ group (3385 cm^{-1}). NMR data (1H , ^{13}C , DEPT) revealed resonances for two methyls, eight methylenes (including two $-CH_2OH$ groups (δ_C 60.29 and δ_C 60.31)), one methine (δ_C 56.7), and four quaternary carbons, including one oxygenated carbon (δ_C 73.2) and two sp^2 carbons (δ_C 130.3; δ_C 144.1). The analysis of 1D- and 2D-NMR spectral data (1H , ^{13}C , DEPT, HSQC, HMBC, 1H - 1H COSY) displayed that compound **2** as a hydroxyl derivative of compound **1** at the position of C-13. Besides, compounds **1** and **2** have the same configuration based upon the same negative optical value and the same positive cotton effect showed in the circular dichroism spectra (Figures S5–6). The protons' orientation of compound **2** was further confirmed by the NOESY experiments. NOEs between H_{3-15} and $H_{8\alpha}$, $H_{3\alpha}$ and H_{3-15} , $H_{2\alpha}$ and H_{3-15} , $H_{3\alpha}$ and H_{3-14} , and $H_{6\alpha}$ and H_{3-14} in the NOESY spectrum indicated the α -orientation of these protons. The other NOEs between H_5 and $H_{1\beta}$ as well as H_5 and $H_{6\beta}$ allowed for the establishment of the β -orientation of these protons. Thus, the stereochemistry of compound **2** was established, and it was named teucdiol D (Figure 1). Compound **2** showed weak activity against *Escherichia coli* at the concentration of 0.98 mM in our filed patent [11].

Compound **3** was obtained as an amorphous colorless substance with an optical value of $[\alpha]_D^{25} +13.6$ (c 0.1, methanol) and a maximum UV absorption of 201 nm in methanol. The molecular formula of compound **3** was determined to be $C_{15}H_{28}O_3$ based on the HR Q-TOF MS peak at m/z : 279.1926 (calculated for $C_{15}H_{28}O_3Na$, 279.1936) and 1H and ^{13}C -NMR data (Tables 1–2 and Figures S7–8). In the IR spectra, the prominent absorption indicated the presence of a hydroxyl group (3420 cm^{-1}). NMR data (1H , ^{13}C , DEPT) revealed resonances for three methyls, seven methylenes (including one $-CH_2OH$ group (δ_C 65.3)), two methines (δ_C 51.9; δ_C 37.1), and three quaternary carbons, including two oxygenated carbon (δ_C 72.8 and δ_C 76.7). Compound **3** must be bicyclic sesquiterpenoid for the two degrees of unsaturation required by the molecular formula and the decahydronaphthalene skeleton. The isopropyl group (C11–C12–C13) linked at C-7 was hydroxyl in the position of C-12. Thus, the planar structure of **3** was established. The configuration of compound **3** was further confirmed by the NOESY experiment. These NOEs of $H_{3-15\alpha}$ with $H_{2\alpha}$, $H_{3-15\alpha}$ with

H-9 α , H₃-15 α with H-8 α , H₃-15 α with H-1 α , H₃-15 α with H-6 α , H₃-14 α with H-3 α , and H₃-14 α with H-2 α indicated the α -orientation of these protons in compound **3**. The other NOEs between H-5 and H-8 β , H-5 and H-11, H-1 β and H-9 β , and H-11 and H-9 β , allowed for the β -orientation of these protons in compound **3**. Then, the stereochemistry of compound **3** was deduced, and it was named teucdiol E (Figure 1).

Compound **4** was obtained as an amorphous colorless substance with an optical value of $[\alpha]_D^{25} +8.7$ (c 0.1, methanol) and a maximum UV absorption of 200 nm in methanol. In the IR spectra, the prominent absorption indicated the presence of a –OH group (3416 cm⁻¹). The molecular formula of compound **4** was determined to be C₁₅H₂₈O₃ based on the HR Q-TOF MS peak at *m/z*: 279.1930 (calculated for C₁₅H₂₈O₃Na, 279.1936) and ¹H and ¹³C-NMR data (Tables 1–2 and Figures S9–10). The above data indicated that compounds **3** and **4** were isomers with similar carbon chemical shifts. However, a detailed analysis revealed that the OH group, which was linked at C-7 in compound **3**, was connected at C-11 in compound **4**, based upon these evidences of the singlet peak of H₃-13, the downfield chemical shift of C-13 (δ 23.6), the obvious cross-peak between H-6 and H-7, and HMBC correlations from H-7 to C-11/C-9/C-5/C-6/C-13. Thus, the basic structure of compound **4** was yielded. NOEs of H₃-15 α with H-8 α , H₃-15 α with H-9 α , H₃-15 α with H-2 α , H₃-15 α with H-1 α , H₃-14 α with H-3 α , H₃-14 α with H-9 α , H₃-14 α with H-2 α , H-7 with H-6 α , and H-7 with H-8 α indicated the α -orientation of these protons in compound **4**. The other NOEs between H-5 and H-1 β , H-5 and H-9 β , H-5 and H-2 β , H-5 and H-8 β , and H-5 and H-3 β allowed for the β -orientation of these protons in compound **4**. Moreover, the obvious cross-peaks of H₃-13 and H-5, H₃-13 and H-6 β , H₂-12 and H-6 β , and H₂-12 and H-8 β indicated the β -orientation of the methyl and the hydroxymethyl groups. According to the above data, compound **4** was shown to possess the same basic structure of (–)-(11*R*)-eudesm-4 α ,11,12-triol which was a reduction product by LiAlH₄ of α -epoxykudtdiol isolated from *Jasonia glutinosa* [12]. However, with compare to the sinistral optical value of (–)-(11*R*)-eudesm-4 α ,11,12-triol, compound **4** had the dextral optical value. So, the configuration of compound **4** was deduced from these data. Compound **4** was isolated as a natural product for the first time, and it was named teucdiol F (Figure 1).

Table 1. ¹H-NMR spectral data of 1–6.

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 α	1.44 (o, 1H) ¹	1.45 (o, 1H)	1.42 (o, 1H)	1.37 (o, 1H)	1.74(o,1H)	2.04 (m, 1H)
1 β	1.11 (o, 1H)	1.10 (o, 1H)	1.10 (o, 1H)	1.13 (dd, <i>J</i> = 12.7, 4.7 Hz, 1H)	1.35–1.29(o,1H)	
2 α	1.60 (o, 1H)	1.56 (o, 1H)	1.58 (o, 1H)	1.53 (o, 1H)	2.31 (dt, <i>J</i> = 12.9, 2.5 Hz, 1H)	1.67–1.69 (o, 2H)
2 β	1.65 (o, 1H)	1.63 (o, 1H)	1.62 (o, 1H)	1.40 (o, 1H)	1.40 (o, 1H)	
3 α	1.79 (o, 1H)	1.77 (o, 1H)	1.77 (m, 1H)	1.76 (o, 1H)	1.74 (o, 1H)	1.93 (m, 1H)
3 β	1.40 (o, 1H)	1.42 (m, 1H)	1.38 (m, 1H)	1.44 (o, 1H)	1.35–1.29 (o, 1H)	1.64 (o, 1H)
5	1.26 (dd, <i>J</i> = 13.0, 2.8 Hz, 1H)	1.27 (o, 1H)	1.30 (o, 1H)	1.62 (o, 1H)	1.23 (dd, <i>J</i> = 13.1, 2.2 Hz, 1H)	2.58 (m, 1H)
6 α	1.71 (o, 1H)	1.80 (o, 1H)	1.34 (o, 1H)	1.46 (o, 1H)	1.60–1.54 (o, 2H)	1.76 (o, 1H)
6 β	2.91 (d, <i>J</i> = 13.0 Hz, 1H)	2.99 (m, 1H)	2.24 (dd, <i>J</i> = 11.7, 2.8 Hz, 1H)	1.97 (m, 1H)		1.51 (o, 1H)
7				1.91 (m, 1H)		2.15 (td, <i>J</i> = 10.9, 4.1 Hz, 1H)
8 α	2.04 (m, 1H)	2.09 (m, 1H)	1.47 (m, 1H)	1.65 (o, 1H)	1.67 (m, 1H)	1.63 (o, 1H)
8 β	2.67 (m, 1H)	2.68 (m, 1H)	1.84 (m, 1H)	1.81 (o, 1H)		1.40 (o, 1H)
9 α	1.49 (o, 1H)	1.52 (o, 1H)	1.26 (o, 1H)	1.56 (o, 1H)	1.04 (dd, <i>J</i> = 12.9, 4.8 Hz, 1H)	1.83 (o, 1H)
9 β	1.20 (m, 1H)	1.24 (o, 1H)	1.21 (td, <i>J</i> = 13.8, 3.4 Hz, 1H)	1.20 (m, 1H)		1.56 (o, 1H)
11			2.02 (m, 1H)			
12	4.10 (s, 2H)	4.20 (s, 2H)	3.76 (m, 2H)	3.48 (d, <i>J</i> = 3.9 Hz, 2H)	5.10 (s, 1H)	4.66 (m, 1H)
					5.01 (s, 1H)	4.59 (m, 1H)
13	1.80 (s, 3H)	4.24 (s, 2H)	1.04 (d, <i>J</i> = 7.0 Hz, 3H)	1.22 (s, 3H)	1.82 (s, 3H)	1.71 (s, 3H)
14 α	1.14 (s, 1H)	1.12 (s, 3H)	1.09 (s, 3H)	1.08 (s, 3H)	1.09 (s, 3H)	1.14 (s, 3H)

15 α	1.04 (s, 1H)	1.04 (s, 3H)	0.98 (s, 3H)	0.94 (s, 3H)	0.99 (s, 3H)	1.21 (s, 3H)
-------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

¹ Recorded at 500 MHz in MeOD; λ in ppm, J in Hz.

Table 2. ¹³C-NMR spectral data of 1–6.

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	42.3t ¹	42.2t	42.0t	43.3t	43.7t	53.6d
2	21.2t	21.3t	21.3t	21.4t	32.3t	40.7t
3	44.0t	44.2t	44.0t	44.5t	43.7t	42.7t
4	73.1s	73.20s	72.8s	73.5s	72.8s	75.7s
5	56.5d	56.7d	51.9d	50.5d	52.2d	52.9d
6	26.4t	26.2t	32.9t	22.1t	21.2t	31.7t
7	138.2s	130.3s	76.7s	38.7d	76.0s	48.6d
8	26.5t	27.0t	33.3t	21.7t	33.3t	33.0t
9	47.1t	46.9t	42.7t	43.5t	42.2t	26.47t
10	36.1s	36.2s	35.9s	35.5s	36.0s	82.0s
11	125.9s	144.1s	37.1d	77.4s	148.1s	153.7s
12	63.4t	60.29t	65.3t	69.8t	114.0t	108.5t
13	16.7q	60.31t	12.1q	23.6q	19.2q	20.5q
14	22.3q	22.3q	22.5q	22.2q	22.7q	24.0q
15	18.8q	18.9q	19.3q	19.7q	19.5q	26.52q

¹ Recorded at 500 MHz in MeOD; λ in ppm, J in Hz.

Compound **5** was obtained as an amorphous colorless substance with an optical value of $[\alpha]_D^{25} +0.06$ (c 0.1, methanol) and a maximum UV absorption of 201 nm in methanol. The molecular formula of compound **5** was determined to be C₁₅H₂₆O₂ based on the HR Q-TOF MS peak at m/z : 261.1831 (calculated for C₁₅H₂₆O₂Na, 261.1830) and ¹H and ¹³C-NMR data (Tables 1–2 and Figures S11–12). Through comparison of their NMR data of compound **5** and the known configurational isomers teucdiol A and B [13,14], compound **5** could be identified as teucdiol B with the α -orientation of the hydroxyl group at C-7, based upon the evidence of the downfield chemical shift at C-5 (δ C 52.2 for compound **5**, δ C 51.1 for teucdiol B, and δ C 48.8 for teucdiol A) (Figure 1).

Compound **6** was obtained as an amorphous colorless substance with a sinistral optical value of $[\alpha]_D^{25} -0.005$ (c 0.1, methanol) and a maximum UV absorption of 201 nm in methanol. The molecular formula of compound **6** was determined to be C₁₅H₂₆O₂ based on the HR Q-TOF MS peak at m/z : 261.1834 (calculated for C₁₅H₂₆O₂Na, 261.1752) and ¹H and ¹³C-NMR data (Tables 1–2 and Figures S13–14). Compound **6** could be identified as *epi*-guaidiol A [15–17] compared with the dextral optical value of guaidiol [18] (Figure 1).

2.2. Anti-Acetylcholinesterase Activities of Sesquiterpenoids

Ellman's assay was used to measure the anti-acetylcholinesterase activity of these sesquiterpenoids [19,20]. Except for compounds 1–5, the experimental data displayed that *epi*-guaidiol A (compound **6**) showed obvious anti-acetylcholinesterase activity in a dose-dependent manner (Table 3). Recently, some sesquiterpenoids from food were reported to possess anti-acetylcholinesterase activity. A new seco-illudoid sesquiterpene—pterisinone from *Pteridium aquilinum*—showed mild acetylcholinesterase and butyrylcholinesterase inhibitory activity with IC₅₀ value (Half inhibition concentration) of 87.7 and 72.9 mM respectively [21]. α -Isocubebenol isolated from *Schisandra chinensis* fruit could repress acetylcholinesterase activity and alleviate scopolamine-induced cognitive impairment [22]. The sesquiterpenes in *Vernonia oligocephala* extracts showed acetylcholinesterase inhibitory potential [23]. The major chemical constituent of essential oil from *Lavandula pedunculata* are monoterpenes, and sesquiterpenes and showed the most active against acetylcholinesterase [24]. As mentioned above, sesquiterpenoids with anti-acetylcholinesterase activity could be a potential natural therapeutic agent for Alzheimer's disease. However, the inhibition mechanistic and action model of the above inhibitors, which were screened by the limited methods, were unclear [25]. More data including the dissociation constant

and kinetics parameters are needed for unveiling their reaction mechanism [26]. The isolated compound (**6**, *epi*-guaidiol A) in this paper is also awaited in unveiling its inhibition mechanism against acetylcholinesterase before the application of the pharmaceutical function of mushroom *T. albuminosus* in the future.

Table 3. The inhibition rate of compound **6** against acetylcholinesterase activity.

Concentration of compound 6 (mM)	Inhibition rate (%)
2.10	56.2 ± 0.8 ¹
1.57	53.4 ± 4.0
1.05	44.5 ± 3.6
0.52	33.6 ± 3.8
Positive control	94.6 ± 1.5
Vehicle	6.40 ± 1.9

¹ The value is the average for three replicate and standard deviation.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1. General Experimental Procedures

NMR spectra were recorded in Bruker ARX 500 spectrometer (Bruker BioSpin Group, Zurich, Switzerland) operating at 500/125 MHz, in ppm relative to Me₄Si as internal reference; J in Hz. UV spectra were measured on a Shimadzu UV-2600 spectrophotometer (Tokyo, Japan) in nm(λ max). IR spectra were recorded on a Bruker Tensor-27 FT-IR spectrophotometer (Ettlingen, Germany) with KBr cells in cm⁻¹. Optical rotations were obtained on a Jasco P-1020 automatic polarimeter (Tokyo, Japan). HR Q-TOF MS spectra were recorded on an Agilent 6520 mass spectrometer (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) in m/z . Circular dichroism (CD) spectra were measured on a Chirascan Plus spectroscope (Applied photophysics, Leatherhead, Surrey, UK). X-ray single diffraction was performed on an Oxford Gemini S Ultra diffractometer (Rigaku, Oxford, UK). Column chromatography was performed with silica gel (Qingdao Marine Chemical Company, Qingdao, China), reverse phase octadecyl-silica (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany), and Sephadex LH20 (Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ, USA). Thin layer chromatography was performed on the precoated silica gel plates (GF254, Qingdao Marine Chemical Company, Qingdao, China). Organic solvents used were from Sino-pharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd (Shanghai, China).

3.2. Fungus Material

The strain *T. albuminosus* was supplied by Xie Bao-gui (Fungal Research Centre, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, Fuzhou, China). The strain was deposited in College of Life Sciences, Fujian Normal University and was deposited in the China Centre for Type Culture Collection (CCTCC M 2016262).

3.3. Fermentation and Preparation of Extracts

T. albuminosus was cultured in flasks, each containing 100 mL of potato dextrose media with a total volume of 25.9 L. These flasks were incubated for 30 days at 28 °C with a shaking speed of 210 rpm. The fermented broth, whose mycelia were removed by filtration, was extracted with ethyl acetate. The ethyl acetate phase was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated under a reduced pressure to afford 3.28 g of a crude organic extract.

3.4. Isolation and Purification of Sesquiterpenoids 1–6

The crude extract was subjected to medium pressure liquid chromatography (MPLC) over RP-18 silica gel (170 g) using a stepwise gradient of 30%, 50%, 70%, and 100% (*v/v*) MeOH in water and to afford Fr.1 (68.3 mg), Fr.2 (100.4 mg), and Fr.3 (101.0 mg) obtained from 50% MeOH in water and Fr. 4 (289.4 mg) obtained from 70% MeOH in water. Then fractions Fr.1–4 were subjected to a

Sephadex LH-20 column (100 g) eluted with MeOH to afford Fr.11 (44.0 mg), Fr.21 (53.7 mg), Fr.31 (21.1 mg), and Fr.41 (206.8 mg). Fr.11 was further subjected to the Sephadex LH-20 column (130 g) eluted with acetone to afford Fr.111 (3.9 mg) and Fr.112 (7.8 mg). Fr.111 and Fr.112 were subjected to silica gel (1.0 g) chromatography using a CHCl₃–MeOH solvent gradient to yield compound 2 (2.8 mg). Fr.21 (53.7 mg) was further subjected to MPLC over RP-18 silica gel (30 g) using a stepwise gradient of 40%, 42%, and 44% (*v/v*) MeOH in water to afford Fr.211 (13.9 mg) obtained from 44% MeOH in water. Then, Fr.211 was subjected to silica gel (1.3 g) chromatography using a CHCl₃–MeOH solvent gradient to yield compound 3 (11.9 mg). Fr.31 was subjected to silica gel (2 g) chromatography using a CHCl₃–MeOH solvent gradient to yield compound 4 (16.2 mg). Fr.41 (206.8 mg) was further subjected to the Sephadex LH-20 column (130 g) eluted with acetone to afford Fr.411 (11.0 mg), Fr.412 (12.0 mg), and Fr.413 (6.6 mg). Then sub-fractions Fr.411, Fr.412, and Fr.413 were subjected to silica gel (1.3, 1.4, and 0.8 g, respectively) chromatography using a CHCl₃–MeOH solvent gradient to yield compound 1 (6.3 mg), compound 5 (6.4 mg), and compound 6 (2.2 mg) respectively.

3.5. Colorimetric Determination of Acetylcholinesterase Activities

Ellman's assay was used to measure acetylcholinesterase activity in 96-well microtiter plates in a final reaction volume of 200 μ L. First, 50 μ L of a 0.05 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH = 7.0) and 20 μ L of 5 mg/mL compounds dissolved in 25% ethanol were added in each well. Then, 10 μ L of 1 μ g/mL EelAChE (Sigma-Aldrich, Inc, product number C2888) dissolved in a 0.02 M phosphate buffer (pH = 7.0) containing BSA (Beijing Dingguo Changsheng Biotechnology Company, FA016-5G, Beijing, China) was added in each well and put at 4 °C for 20 min. Secondly, 20 μ L of 1.05 mM acetylthiocholine (Sigma-Aldrich, Inc, product number BCBR6567V) and 100 μ L of 1.5 mM 5,5'-dithio-bis-nitrobenzoic acid (Shanghai Aladdin Bio-Chem Technology Company, J1530009, Shanghai, China) were added to each well before being mixed and reacted at 37 °C for 20 min. Thirdly, each well was subjected to colorimetric determination at 412 nm by a microtiter plate reader (Synergy HT, BioTek Instruments, Winooski, VT, USA). 20 μ L of 0.11 mg/mL huperzine A (Aladdin, F1517037) was set as the positive control group. 20 μ L of 25% ethanol in water was set the negative control. Percentage inhibition was calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Inhibition rate (\%)} = ((A_0 - A_1)/A_0) \times 100$$

where A_0 was the absorbance of the negative control and A_1 was the absorbance of the samples. Tests were carried out in triplicate

3.6. X-Ray Single Crystal Diffraction for Compound 1

X-ray single diffraction was performed on an Oxford Gemini S Ultra single crystal diffractor (Rigaku, Oxford, UK). A suitable crystal was selected and subjected to $\lambda(\text{Cu-K}\alpha) = 1.54184 \text{ \AA}$ at 273.15 K. The structure was determined using the direct method and refined with full-matrix least squares calculations on F^2 using olex2, and 8570 reflections were measured ($8.4702 \leq 2\theta \leq 132.4376$); of these, 4398 unique reflections ($R_{int} = 0.0572$) were used in all calculations. The final wR_2 was 0.1646 (all data) and R_1 was 0.0536 ($I \geq 2\sigma(I)$). Crystallographic data for compound 1 was deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center (CCDC 1938575 for compound 1). Crystallographic data (CCDC 1938575) for compound 1: C₁₅H₂₆O₂, white crystal, triclinic, space group P1, $a = 7.9272(10) \text{ \AA}$, $b = 9.0784(12) \text{ \AA}$, $c = 11.0248(16) \text{ \AA}$, $\alpha = 83.510(11)^\circ$, $\beta = 71.243(12)^\circ$, $\gamma = 68.555(12)^\circ$, $V = 699.26(18) \text{ \AA}^3$, $Z = 3$, $D_c = 1.227 \text{ g}\cdot\text{cm}^{-3}$, $F(000) = 273$, and Flack parameter = $-0.3(3)$.

4. Conclusions

In our lab, microbial fermentation was used to explore the metabolites of some edible and medicinal mushroom. Many new pharmaceutical agents have been discovered by this culture method [27–31]. It was concluded that this is also an effective way to dig for new pharmaceutical agents of *T. albuminosus* with the microbial fermentation technique. We also revealed that mushroom *T. albuminosus* possesses pharmaceutical potential for Alzheimer's disease.

Supplementary Materials: Supplementary data associated with this article are available online. ¹H and ¹³C-NMR spectra for all compounds, circular dichroism spectroscopy for compounds **1** and **2**, and X-ray crystallographic data for compound **1** are presented.

Author Contributions: Funding acquisition, Z.Y.-B; investigation, Z.Y.-B, L.W., L.Q., C.S.M., and L.S.-R; methodology, Z.Y.-B, L.W., L.Q. and C.S.M.; project administration, Z.Y.-B; writing—original draft, Z.Y.-B.; writing—review & editing, Z.Y.-B.

Funding: This work was funded by the Key Program of Science and Technology Plan of Fujian Province (2016Y0030), the Major Research Plan of Xiamen Southern Ocean Research Center (14GYY74NF38), Science Fund of National Health and Family Planning Commission of China (WKJ-FJ-20), and Innovative Research Teams Program II of Fujian Normal University in China (IRTL1703).

Acknowledgments: The authors thank Testing Center of Fuzhou University for the NMR and mass data and State Key Laboratory of Physical Chemistry of Solid Surface at Xiamen University for single crystal X-ray diffraction data. The authors thank Baogui Xie of Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University for his supply of the strain *T. albuminosus*.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

1. Xiong, Y.; Chen, Q.; Huang, Q.M.; Li, M.J. Biological aspects of *Termitomyces albuminosus* strain PXT-1 isolated from Panzhihua. *Adv. Mater. Res.* **2011**, *183*, 151–154.
2. Qu, Y.; Sun, K.Y.; Gao, L.J.; Sakagami, Y.; Kawagishi, H.; Ojika, M.; Qi, J.H. Termitomycesphins G and H, additional cerebrosides from the edible Chinese mushroom *Termitomyces albuminosus*. *Biosci. Biotechnol. Biochem.* **2012**, *76*, 791–793.
3. Qi, J.; Ojika, M.; Sakagami, Y. Neuritogenic cerebrosides from an edible Chinese mushroom. Part 2: Structures of two additional termitomycesphins and activity enhancement of an inactive cerebroside by hydroxylation. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2001**, *9*, 2171–2177.
4. Qi, J.H.; Ojika, M.; Sakagami, Y. Termitomycesphins A–D, novel neuritogenic cerebrosides from the edible Chinese mushroom *Termitomyces albuminosus*. *Tetrahedron* **2000**, *56*, 5835–5841.
5. Li, L.; Yang, R.; Sun, K.; Bai, Y.; Zhang, Z.; Zhou, L.; Qi, Z.; Qi, J.; Chen, L. Cerebroside-A provides potent neuroprotection after cerebral ischaemia through reducing glutamate release and Ca²⁺ influx of NMDA receptors. *Int. J. Neuropsychopharmacol.* **2012**, *15*, 497–507.
6. Guo, Y.J.; Deng, G.F.; Xu, X.R.; Wu, S.; Li, S.; Xia, E.Q.; Li, F.; Chen, F.; Ling, W.H.; Li, H.-B. Antioxidant capacities, phenolic compounds and polysaccharide contents of 49 edible macro-fungi. *Food Funct.* **2012**, *3*, 1195–1205.
7. Lo, Y.C.; Lin, S.Y.; Ulzijjargal, E.; Chen, S.Y.; Chien, R.C.; Tzou, Y.J.; Mau, J.L. Comparative study of contents of several bioactive components in fruiting bodies and mycelia of culinary-medicinal mushrooms. *Int. J. Med. Mushrooms* **2012**, *14*, 357–363.
8. Tsai, S.Y.; Weng, C.C.; Huang, S.J.; Chen, C.C.; Mau, J.L. Nonvolatile taste components of *Grifola frondosa*, *Morchella esculenta* and *Termitomyces albuminosus* mycelia. *LWT* **2006**, *39*, 1066–1071.
9. Mau, J.L.; Chang, C.N.; Huang, S.J.; Chen, C.C. Antioxidant properties of methanolic extracts from *Grifola frondosa*, *Morchella esculenta* and *Termitomyces albuminosus* mycelia. *Food Chem.* **2004**, *87*, 111–118.
10. Lu, Y.Y.; Ao, Z.H.; Lu, Z.M.; Xu, H.Y.; Zhang, X.M.; Dou, W.F.; Xu, Z.H. Analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects of the dry matter of culture broth of *Termitomyces albuminosus* and its extracts. *J. Ethnopharmacol.* **2008**, *120*, 432–436.
11. Zheng, Y.B.; Wu, Y.B.; Liu, X.R.; Xie, B.G.; Zou, X.W. *One Sesquiterpenoid with Antibacterial Activity and Its Preparation Method*; Compiler: China, 201610325008.4 [P]. National Intellectual Property Administration, Beijing, China: 2018.01.11
12. Teresa, J.P.; Barrero, A.F.; Feliciano, A.S.; Medarde, M. Eudesmane alcohols from *Jasonia glutinosa*. *Phytochemistry* **1980**, *19*, 2155–2157.
13. Lee, S.O.; Sang, Z.C.; Sang, U.C.; Kim, G.H.; Kim, Y.C.; Kang, R.L. Cytotoxic terpene hydroperoxides from the aerial parts of *Aster spathulifolius*. *Arch. Pharm. Res.* **2006**, *29*, 845–848.
14. Fraga, B.M.; Hernández, M.G.; Mestres, T.; Arteaga, J.M.; Perales, A. Eudesmane sesquiterpenes from *Teucrium heterophyllum*. The X-ray structure of Teucdiol, A. *Phytochemistry* **1993**, *34*, 1083–1086.

15. Wei, H.; Xu, Y.M.; Espinosa-Artiles, P.; Liu, M.X.; Luo, J.G.; U'Ren, J.M.; Elizabeth Arnold, A.; Leslie Gunatilaka, A.A. Sesquiterpenes and other constituents of *Xylaria* sp. NC1214, a fungal endophyte of the moss *Hypnum* sp. *Phytochemistry* **2015**, *118*, 102–108.
16. Chang, C.W.; Chang, H.S.; Cheng, M.J.; Liu, T.W.; Hsieh, S.Y.; Yuan, G.F.; Chen, I.S. Inhibitory effects of constituents of an endophytic fungus *Hypoxylon investiens* on nitric oxide and interleukin-6 production in RAW264.7 macrophages. *Chem. Biodivers.* **2014**, *11*, 949–961.
17. Xu, Y.; Zhang, H.W.; Wan, X.C.; Zou, Z.M. Complete assignments of ¹H and ¹³C-NMR data for two new sesquiterpenes from *Cyperus rotundus* L. *Magn. Reson. Chem.* **2009**, *47*, 527–531.
18. Syu, W., Jr.; Shen, C.C.; Don, M.J.; Ou, J.C.; Lee, G.H.; Sun, C.M. Cytotoxicity of curcuminoids and some novel compounds from *Curcuma zedoaria*. *J. Nat. Product.* **1998**, *61*, 1531–1534.
19. Ellman, G.L.; Courtney, K.D.; Jr, V.A.; Featherstone, R.M. A new and rapid colorimetric determination of acetylcholinesterase activity. *Biochem. Pharmacol.* **1961**, *7*, 88.
20. Dingova, D.; Leroy, J.; Check, A.; Garaj, V.; Krejci, E.; Hrabovska, A. Optimal detection of cholinesterase activity in biological samples: Modifications to the standard Ellman's assay. *Anal. Biochem.* **2014**, *462*, 67–75.
21. Choi, Y.H.; Choi, C.W.; Kim, J.K.; Jeong, W.; Park, G.H.; Hong, S.S. (-)-Pteroside N and pterosinone, new BACE1 and cholinesterase inhibitors from *Pteridium aquilinum*. *Phytochem. Lett.* **2018**, *27*, 63–68.
22. Song, S.H.; Choi, S.M.; Kim, J.E.; Sung, J.E.; Lee, H.A.; Choi, Y.H.; Bae, C.J.; Choi, Y.W.; Hwang, D.Y. α -Isocubebenol alleviates scopolamine-induced cognitive impairment by repressing acetylcholinesterase activity. *Neurosci. Lett.* **2017**, *638*, 121–128.
23. Mahmood, W.; Saleem, H.; Ahmad, I.; Ashraf, M.; Shoaib, M.; Gill, A.; Ahsan, H.M.; Kashif-ur-Rehman Khan, S.C.; Abbas, S.; Mubashar, A. In-vitro studies on acetylcholinesterase and butyrylcholinesterase inhibitory potentials of aerial parts of *Vernonia oligocephala* (Asteraceae). *Trop. J. Pharm. Res.* **2018**, *17*, 2445–2448.
24. Costa, P.; Gonçalves, S.; Valentão, P.; Andrade, P.B.; Almeida, C.; Nogueira, J.M.; Romano, A. Metabolic profile and biological activities of *Lavandula pedunculata* subsp. lusitanica (Chaytor) Franco: Studies on the essential oil and polar extracts. *Food Chem.* **2013**, *141*, 2501–2506.
25. Stojan, J. Rapid mechanistic evaluation and parameter estimation of putative inhibitors in a single-step progress-curve analysis: The case of horse butyrylcholinesterase. *Molecules* **2017**, *22*, 1248–1256.
26. Bevc, S.; Konc, J.; Stojan, J.; Hodošček, M.; Penca, M.; Praprotnik, M.; Janežič, D. ENZO: A web tool for derivation and evaluation of kinetic models of enzyme catalyzed reactions. *PLoS ONE* **2011**, *6*, e22265.
27. Zheng, Y.; Zhang, J.; Wei, L.; Shi, M.; Wang, J.; Huang, J. Gunnilactams A–C, Macrocylic tetralactams from the mycelial culture of the entomogenous fungus *Paecilomyces gunnii*. *J. Nat. Product.* **2017**, *80*, 1935–1938.
28. Zheng, Y.; Pang, H.; Wang, J.; Shi, G.; Huang, J. New apoptosis-inducing sesquiterpenoids from the mycelial culture of Chinese edible fungus *Pleurotus cystidiosus*. *J. Agric. Food Chem.* **2015**, *63*, 545–551.
29. Zheng, Y.; Shen, Y. Clavicololides A and B, sesquiterpenoids from the fermentation products of edible fungus *Clavicornia pyxidata*. *Org. Lett.* **2008**, *11*, 109–112.
30. Zheng, Y.; Zhao, B.; Lu, C.; Lin, X.; Zheng, Z.; Su, W. Isolation, structure elucidation and apoptosis-inducing activity of new compounds from the edible fungus *Lentinus striguellus*. *Nat. Product Commun.* **2009**, *4*, 501–506.
31. Zheng, Y.; Lu, C.; Zheng, Z.; Lin, X.; Su, W.; Shen, Y. New sesquiterpenes from edible fungus *Clavicornia pyxidata*. *Helv. Chim. Acta* **2008**, *91*, 2174–2180.

Sample Availability: Samples of the compounds 3–4 are available from the authors.



© 2019 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).