

Article

Isoprenoids from the Soft Coral *Sarcophyton glaucum*

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Received: 06 June 2017; Accepted: 22 June 2017; Published: 27 June 2017

Abstract: Five new isoprenoids, 3,4,8,16-tetra-*epi*-lobocrasol (**1**), 1,15 β -epoxy-deoxysarcophine (**2**), 3,4-dihydro-4 α ,7 β ,8 α -trihydroxy- Δ^2 -sarcophine (**3**), *ent*-sarcophylide E (**4**), and 16-deacetyl-halocrasterol B (**5**) and ten known compounds **6–15**, were characterized from the marine soft coral *Sarcophyton glaucum*, collected off Taitung coastline. Their structures were defined by analyzing spectra data, especially 2D NMR and electronic circular dichroism (ECD). The structure of the known compound lobocrasol (**7**) was revised. Cytotoxicity potential of the isolated compounds was reported, too.

Keywords: *sarcophyton glaucum*; lobocrasol; *ent*-sarcophylide E; sarcophine

1. Introduction

Soft corals classified in the genus *Sarcophyton* are the predominant species in many coral reefs. They are endowed with diverse secondary metabolites, including cembranoids [1,2], biscembranoids [3] and steroids [4]. For pharmacological research, some of the metabolites are reported to possess cytotoxic [5,6], antimicrobial [7], and neuroprotective [8] activities. Ecologically, sarcophytoxide, usually found in sarcophyton species, is an allelopathic chemical used in competition for space with scleractinian corals [9]; while another well-known metabolite, sarcophine, is known to have a toxic effect on fishes [10]. In our previous work, we had isolated novel biscembranoids with cytotoxic activity and anti-inflammatory properties from the cultured soft coral *S. glaucum* [3]. Our present investigation disclosed the purification and structural

elucidation of five new and ten known isoprenoid-derived compounds from the same wild-type species, collected off the coastline of Taitung County. The structure of **7** was also revised. Cytotoxic activity of the isolates was assayed by the inhibition of cancer cell proliferation.

2. Results and Discussion

The EtOAc extract of *Sarcophyton glaucum* was repeatedly separated by column chromatography and HPLC to obtain five new isoprenoids **1–5** and ten known compounds **6–15** (Figure 1). By comparing with data in the literature, the known compounds were identified as sarcophine (**6**) [11], lobocrasol (**7**) [12], 3,4-dihydro-4 α -hydroxy- Δ^2 -sarcophine (**8**) [11,13], 3,4-dihydro-4 β -hydroxy- Δ^2 -sarcophine (**9**) [11,13], crassumol A (**10**) [14], klyflaccicembranol F (**11**) [15], sarcomilasterol (**12**) [16], sarcoaldestero B (**13**) [17], sarglaucsterol (**14**) [18], loliolide (**15**) [19].

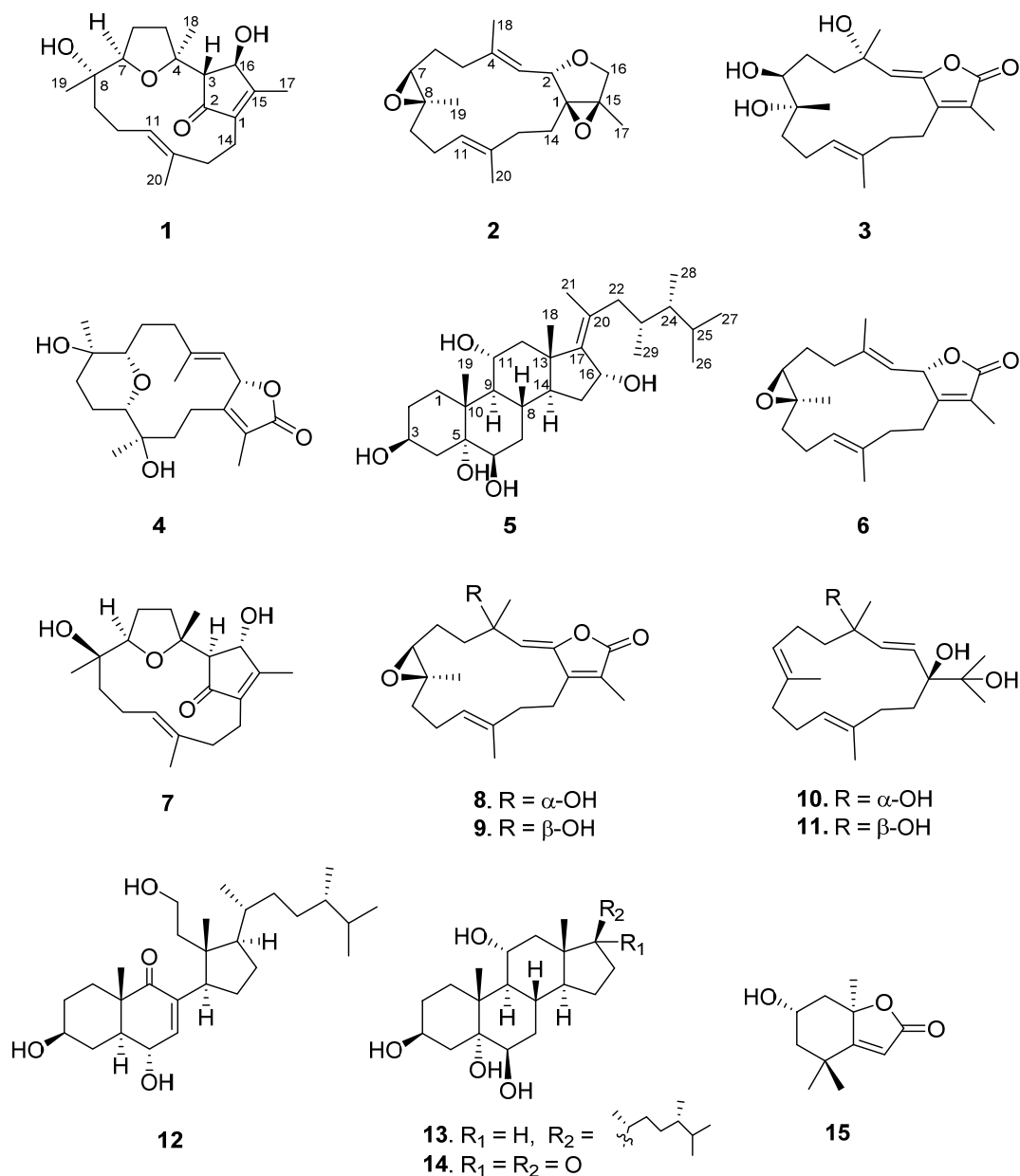


Figure 1. Structures of compounds **1–15**.

The molecular formula of 3,4,8,16-tetra-*epi*-lobocrasol (**1**), a colorless oil, was determined as $C_{20}H_{30}O_4$ based on the $[M + Na]^+$ ion peak obtained by (+)-HRESIMS. The ^{13}C NMR data showed 20 carbon signals, including evidence of an α,β -unsaturated enone (δ_c 204.3, 167.0, and 142.8), an additional double bond (δ_c 133.3 and 128.4), and four oxygenated carbons (δ_c 83.8, 83.2, 75.9, and 73.6) (Table 1). The 1H NMR, in conjunction with the HSQC spectra, revealed that the structure of **1** possessed four methyl groups [δ_H 2.08 (3H, s), 1.69 (3H, s), 1.35 (3H, s), 1.03 (3H, s)], an olefinic methine [δ_H 5.15 (1H, t, $J = 7.6$ Hz)], and two oxygenated methines [δ_H 4.90 (1H, s); 3.80 (1H, dd, $J = 9.2, 5.6$ Hz)] (Table 2). The above spectral data were similar to those of lobocrasol (**7**) [12], suggesting that **1** might be an epimer of **7**.

Table 1. ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic data of compounds **1–3** (100 MHz, $CDCl_3$) and **4** (100 MHz, $DMSO-d_6$).

No.	1	2	3	4
1	142.8 (C)	71.9 (C)	152.2 (C)	165.3 (C)
2	204.3 (C)	76.6 (CH)	148.2 (C)	79.6 (CH)
3	59.4 (CH)	122.4 (CH)	116.5 (CH)	119.5 (CH)
4	83.2 (C)	140.0 (C)	74.2 (C)	143.8 (C)
5	32.4 (CH ₂)	37.9 (CH ₂)	38.8 (CH ₂)	35.7 (CH ₂)
6	25.0 (CH ₂)	25.4 (CH ₂)	26.9 (CH ₂)	24.2 (CH ₂)
7	83.8 (CH)	61.9 (CH)	74.6 (CH)	83.4 (CH)
8	73.6 (C)	59.8 (C)	74.9 (C)	68.3 (C)
9	34.0 (CH ₂)	40.2 (CH ₂)	38.0 (CH ₂)	40.3 (CH ₂)
10	21.5 (CH ₂)	23.7 (CH ₂)	22.1 (CH ₂)	23.0 (CH ₂)
11	128.4 (CH)	123.9 (CH)	128.5 (CH)	80.0 (CH)
12	133.3 (C)	136.1 (C)	131.4 (C)	71.3 (C)
13	39.1 (CH ₂)	35.2 (CH ₂)	38.3 (CH ₂)	36.8 (CH ₂)
14	20.0 (CH ₂)	27.5 (CH ₂)	22.3 (CH ₂)	20.1 (CH ₂)
15	167.0 (C)	67.4 (C)	123.7 (C)	121.2 (C)
16	75.9 (CH)	69.4 (CH ₂)	170.3 (C)	174.5 (C)
17	13.2 (CH ₃)	12.1 (CH ₃)	8.8 (CH ₃)	8.5 (CH ₃)
18	25.2 (CH ₃)	15.6 (CH ₃)	29.5 (CH ₃)	16.2 (CH ₃)
19	25.8 (CH ₃)	16.7 (CH ₃)	25.5 (CH ₃)	20.0 (CH ₃)
20	15.3 (CH ₃)	14.9 (CH ₃)	15.9 (CH ₃)	23.4 (CH ₃)

Table 2. 1H NMR spectroscopic data of compounds **1–3** (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) and **4** (400 MHz, $DMSO-d_6$).

No.	1	2	3	4
2	-	4.87 d (11.2)	-	5.53 d (10.4)
3	2.16 br s	5.26 dd (10.8, 0.8)	5.21 s	4.99 d (10.4)
5	3.04 q (10.8)	2.34 m	2.09 m	2.18 m
	1.67 m	-	1.78 m	-
6	2.00 dd (9.6, 2.4)	1.92 m	1.54 m	1.97 m
	1.54 m	1.63 m	1.51 m	1.42 m
7	3.80 dd (9.2, 5.6)	2.65 t (4.0)	3.52 dd (9.2, 3.2)	3.01 dd (10.0, 2.8)
9	1.50 m	2.13 m	1.64 m	1.73 m
	1.25 m	0.93 m	1.47 m	1.49 m
10	2.05 m	2.27 m	2.17 m	1.62 m
	1.90 m	1.87 m	1.86 m	1.34 m
11	5.15 t (7.6)	5.11 dd (9.6, 5.6)	4.99 t (6.8)	3.13 d (10.4)
13	2.28 br d (13.2)	2.22 m	2.28 m	1.70 m
	1.84 m	1.95 m	-	1.49 m
14	2.61 td (13.2, 2.1)	1.69 m	2.56 m	2.45 m

	2.12 m	-	-	1.91 m
16	4.90 br s	3.89 d (10.4)	-	-
	-	3.75 d (10.4)	-	-
17	2.08 s	1.43 s	1.94 s	1.73 s
18	1.35 s	1.84 s	1.40 s	1.77 s
19	1.03 s	1.27 s	1.61 s	0.98 s
20	1.69 s	1.57 s	1.67 s	0.98 s

Analysis of COSY spectra established four proton spin systems: H-3/H-16, H-2-5/H-2-6/H-7, H-2-9/H-2-10/H-11, and H-2-13/H-2-14 (Figure 2). The HMBC correlations from H₃-18 to C-3, C-4, and C-5 made the connection of the tetrahydrofuran ring and the 4-hydroxy-3-methylcyclopent-2-enone moiety. The HMBC correlations from H₃-19 to C-7, C-8, and C-9; from H₃-20 to C-11, C-12, and C-13; and from H₃-17 to C-1, C-15, and C-16 combined with correlations from H-14 to C-1, C-2, and C-15 constructed the remaining fragments. Consequently, the planar structures of **1** and **7** were found to be the same. The relative configurations of all the chiral centers in **1** were deduced by interpretation of nuclear Overhauser effect (NOE) data, analysis of $^3J_{\text{H-H}}$ values, and comparison of carbon chemical shifts. As depicted in Figure 3, the NOE cross-peaks of H₃-18/H-7 supported that they oriented on the same face, and casually assigned these protons to be α -oriented. The downfield-shifted proton H-5a (δ_{H} 3.04), deshielded by the C-2 carbonyl group, showed an NOE correlation with H-9b (δ_{H} 1.25), while H₃-19 showed correlations with both H-7 and H-9a (δ_{H} 1.50), suggesting that H-7 and C-9 were located in anti-orientation, thus suggesting a β -orientation for H₃-19. The strong NOE cross-peaks of H₃-18/H-16 suggested the α -orientation of H-16. A weak NOE correlation was observed between H-16 and H-3, while H-3 also showed a correlation with H₃-18, and suggested H-3 should be located anti to H-16. This was confirmed by comparing the small $^3J_{\text{H-H}}$ values with those of cyclopent-2-enone analogues, in which adjacent protons with a *trans* configuration showed small coupling constants [20,21]. The *E* geometry for Δ^{11} double bond was deduced by NOE cross-peaks of H-11/H-13b (δ_{H} 1.84), as well as by comparing carbon chemical shift for the C-20 at δ_{C} 15.3 (<20 ppm) [22]. Thus, the chemical shift for C-20 of **7** (δ_{C} 14.8) revealed the Δ^{11} double bond should possess the *E*, not *Z* geometry, as assigned in the literature [12]. This was further confirmed by our observation of NOE correlation between H-11 and H-13 (δ_{H} 2.48) (Supplementary Materials, Figure S6-3). The absolute configuration at C-16 of **7** was determined by Lin et al. using Mosher's method [12]. The electronic circular dichroism (ECD) spectrum of **1** showed Cotton effects with approximately opposite signs compared to that of **7** (Figure 4a), suggesting different configurations at C-3 and C-16 for both **1** and **7**. Thus, the absolute configuration of **1** was determined as shown in Figure 1.

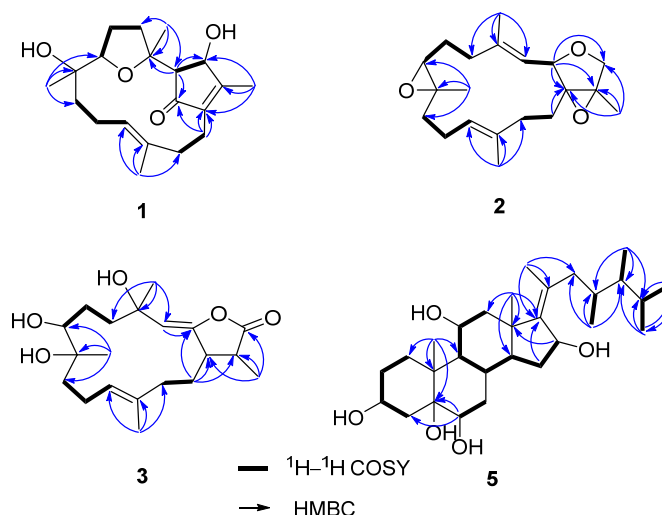


Figure 2. Selected ^1H - ^1H COSY and HMBC correlations of **1**–**3** and **5**.

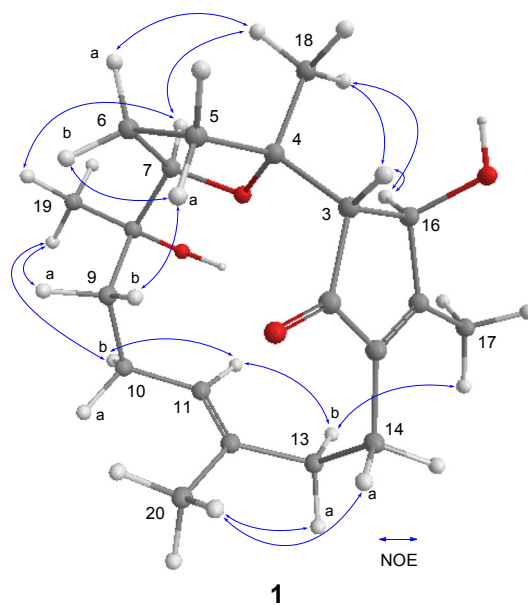


Figure 3. Selected NOE correlations of compound **1**.

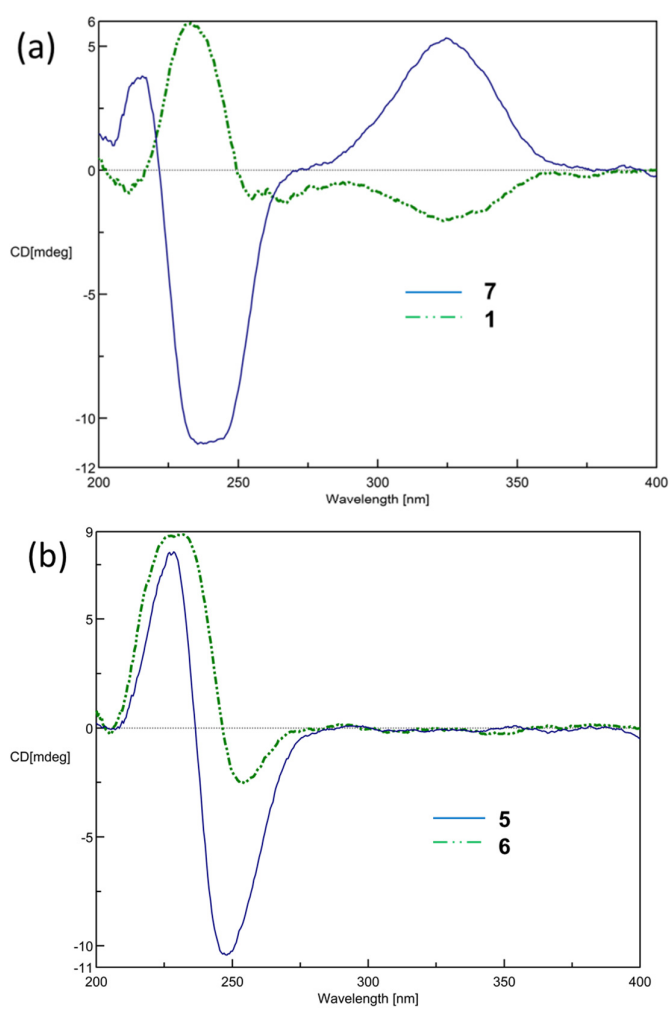


Figure 4. Electronic circular dichroism (ECD) curves of (a) compounds **1** and **7**; (b) compounds **5** and **6**.

The 1,15 β -Epoxy-deoxysarcophine (**2**) was isolated as a colorless oil and had a molecular formula of $C_{20}H_{30}O_3$, determined by HRESIMS analysis. The NMR spectra were quite similar to those of 1,15 β -epoxy-2-*epi*-deoxysarcophine [23] with the exception of the signals around the tetrahydrofuran (THF) ring. The 1H - 1H COSY and HMBC correlations, as depicted in Figure 2, confirmed that **2** and 1,15 β -epoxy-2-*epi*-deoxysarcophine shared the same planar structure. The 14-membered ring of **2** is suggested to be identical to that of sarcophine (**6**), of which the C-7 to C-11 fragment adopted a half-chair conformation [24], due to the fact that both compounds possessed similar key NOE correlation data: H-3/H-7 and H-7/H-11 (Figure 5). The NOE cross-peaks of H-3/H₂-14, H₂-14/H₃-17, as well as H-2/H₃-18, implied that both the 1,15-epoxy group and H-2 were β -oriented.

The molecular formula of 3,4-dihydro-4 α ,7 β ,8 α -trihydroxy- Δ^2 -sarcophine (**3**), $C_{20}H_{30}O_5$, was established by HRESIMS, exceeding that of **8** or **9** by 18 mass units. A series of characteristic absorption bands due to hydroxy (3444 cm^{-1}) and carbonyl (1747 cm^{-1}) groups were assigned from the IR spectrum of **3**. The NMR data of **3** resembled those of **8** and **9**, with significant differences in carbon chemical shifts at C-7 (δ_c 74.6) and C-8 (δ_c 74.9), suggesting that **3** is a 7,8-dihydroxy analogue of **8** or **9**. The Δ^2 and Δ^{11} double bonds were both determined as *E* geometry according to NOE cross-peaks of H-3/H₂-14 and H-10/H₃-20, respectively (Figure 5). Moreover, the correlations of H-7/H₃-19, H-7/H₃-20, and H-3/H₃-20 disclosed that these protons located on the same face and subjectively designated as α protons. The above correlations, as well as that of H-6a/H-11, restricted the envelop conformation for the C-7 to C-11 segment (Figure 5). Accordingly, H₃-18 was correlated with H-3, but not with H-7, suggesting that this methyl group is likely β -oriented.

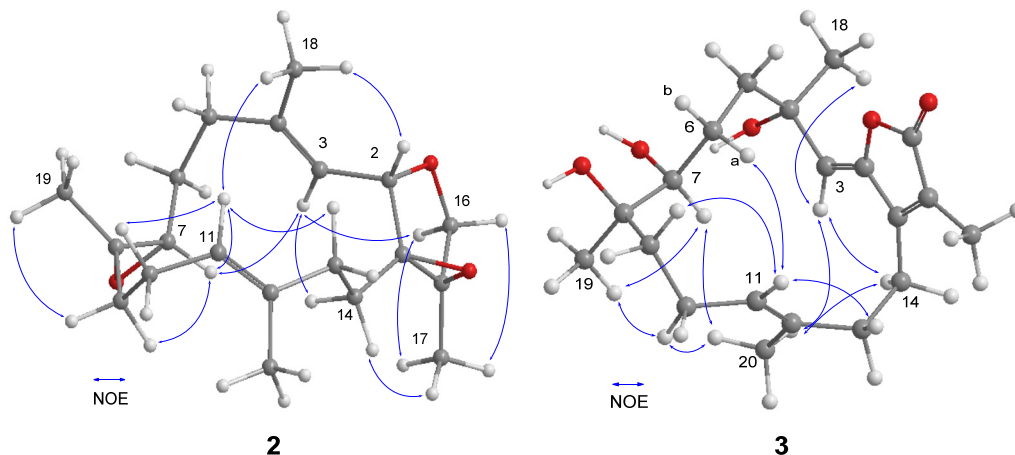


Figure 5. Selected NOE correlations of compounds **2** and **3**.

ent-Sarcophylide E (**4**), a colorless oil, was found to have a molecular formula of $C_{20}H_{30}O_5$, based on its HRESIMS. Its NMR spectroscopic data (Tables 1 and 2) were superimposed to that of sarcophylide E [11]. The ECD spectra of **4** showed a negative Cotton effect for $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ (254 nm) and positive $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$ (230 nm) transitions, which are quite the same as those of the co-isolated sarcophine (**6**) (Figure 4b), but are in opposite signs to those reported for sarcophylide E [11]. Accordingly, **4** was elucidated as an enantiomer of sarcophylide E. Surprisingly, the specific optical rotation of sarcophylide E was reported as $[\alpha]_D +4$, that has the same positive sign as the specific optical rotation value of **4** ($[\alpha]_D +14$). The $[\alpha]_D$ of **4** was repeatedly measured and the positive sign was always obtained. The reason for this discrepancy with literature might need to be studied further.

The HRESIMS of 16-deacetyl-halicraesterol B (**5**) showed a sodiated adduct ion peak at m/z 501.3552, implying a molecular formula of $C_{29}H_{50}O_5$. Its 1H NMR spectrum disclosed three methyl singlets (one assignable to be olefinic methyl), four methyl doublets, four oxygenated-methine protons [4.00 (m, H-3); 3.47 (br s, H-6); 3.88 (td, $J = 10.4, 5.2$ Hz); 4.62 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, H-16)], as well as a complex array of aliphatic methine and methylene protons (Table 3). The ^{13}C NMR spectrum showed a tetra-substituted double bond at δ_c 148.2 (C-17) and 134.2 (C-20) and five oxygenated

carbons at δ_c 68.2 (C-3), 77.4 (C-5), 76.6 (C-6), 69.6 (C-11), and 73.0 (C-16). The above spectroscopic data were very similar to those of a $\Delta^{17(20)}$ sterol, halicasterol B, with the acetyl signals disappeared in **5**, suggesting that **5** is a deacetyl derivative of halicasterol B. This was secured by analyzing the ^1H – ^1H COSY correlations and the HMBC experiments (Figure 2). Compound **5** and halicasterol B were found to share the same configurations at the side chain segment based on their identical ^{13}C NMR data. Accordingly, the structure of **5** was characterized as depicted in Figure 1.

The cytotoxicity of the isolates **1**–**15** against HepG2 (human hepatocellular liver carcinoma), MDA-MB-231 (human breast adenocarcinoma), and A-549 (human lung epithelial cells) cancer cells were assayed. Furthermore, compounds **6**, **8**, **9**, and **12** were also assayed for cytotoxicity against MOLT-4 (human acute lymphoblastic leukemia), SUP-T1 (human T-cell lymphoblastic lymphoma), and U-937 (human histiocytic lymphoma) cell lines. The results showed that compound **12** exhibited cytotoxicity effect against MDA-MB-231, MOLT-4, SUP-T, and U-937 cell lines with IC_{50} values of 13.8, 6.7, 10.5, and 17.7 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively, while compound **13** was found to possess cytotoxicity against HepG2, MDA-MB-231, and A-549 cell lines with IC_{50} values of 9.7, 14.0, and 15.8 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. The remaining compounds were found to be not cytotoxic against the above cancer cell lines, with IC_{50} values higher than 20 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.

Table 3. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectroscopic data of compound **5**.

No.	δ_{H} (J in Hz) ^a	δ_{C} (mult.) ^b	No.	δ_{H} (J in Hz) ^a	δ_{C} (mult.) ^b
1	1.99 m	35.2 (CH ₂)	15	1.62 m	36.5 (CH ₂)
	1.54 m	-		1.45 m	-
2	1.75 m	32.0 (CH ₂)	16	4.62 d (5.2)	73.0 (CH)
	1.51 m	-	17	-	148.2 (C)
3	4.00 m	68.2 (CH)	18	0.91 s	18.8 (CH ₃)
4	2.09 dd (13.2, 11.6)	42.0 (CH ₂)	19	1.28 s	17.5 (CH ₃)
	1.54 m	-	20	-	134.2 (C)
5	-	77.4 (C)	21	1.77 s	17.5 (CH ₃)
6	3.47 br s	76.6 (CH)	22	2.41 dd (13.2, 10.8)	43.0 (CH ₂)
7	1.84 m	35.3 (CH ₂)	-	1.91 m	-
8	1.88 m	29.1 (CH)	23	1.86 m	34.0 (CH)
9	1.57 m	53.3 (CH)	24	1.09 m	45.9 (CH)
10	-	41.1 (C)	25	1.64 m	31.3 (CH)
11	3.88 td (10.4, 5.2)	69.6 (CH)	26	0.87 d (6.8)	19.6 (CH ₃)
12	2.62 dd (12.0, 5.2)	50.2 (CH ₂)	27	0.93 d (6.8)	22.0 (CH ₃)
	1.58 m	-	28	0.82 d (6.8)	11.9 (CH ₃)
13	-	46.0 (C)	29	0.72 d (6.8)	13.9 (CH ₃)
14	1.78 m	52.5 (CH)	-	-	-

^a Spectra recorded at 400 MHz in CD₃OD; ^b spectra recorded at 100 MHz in CD₃OD.

3. Experimental Section

3.1. General Experimental Procedures

The optical rotation values and IR spectra were recorded on a JASCO P-1020 digital polarimeter (JASCO Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) and JASCO J-815 spectrophotometer (JASCO Corporation), respectively. A Varian 400 NMR instrument was used to record the ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectra with the chemical shifts shown as ppm referenced to the solvent residue of CDCl₃ (δ_{H} 7.26 ppm and δ_{C} 77.0 ppm), DMSO-*d*₆ (δ_{H} 2.50 ppm and δ_{C} 39.5 ppm), and CD₃OD (δ_{H} 3.31 ppm and δ_{C} 49.0 ppm). A Bruker APEX II mass spectrometer equipped with an ESI ionization source (Bruker, Bremen, Germany) was used for acquiring high-resolution mass data. The HPLC system was composed of a Shimadzu LC-10AT_{VP} series pump, a UV detector (Shimadzu, Milan, Italy), and an ODS column (5 μm , 250 \times 10 mm, Inertsil ODS-3, GL Science Inc., Tokyo, Japan).

3.2. Animal Material

The collection of *S. glaucum* was performed off the coast of Jihui Fishing Port, Taitung county, Taiwan, in March 2013. A $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ freezer was used for specimen storage until extraction. Prof. Chang-Feng Dai performed the species identification, and a voucher specimen (JiH-201304) of this soft coral has been deposited in National Sun Yat-sen University.

3.3. Extraction and Isolation

The lyophilized samples of *S. glaucum* (195 g) were chopped and soaked ($4 \times 24\text{ h}$) with EtOAc ($4 \times 2\text{ L}$). After the solvent was evaporated, a residue (17.35 g) was obtained. The residue of the EtOAc layer was chromatographed by a silica gel column, using a stepwise gradient system composed of EtOAc/*n*-hexane (0:100 to 100:0, each four column volumes) and acetone/EtOAc (0:100 to 100:0, each four column volumes), and eventually washed by MeOH to afford 25 fractions according to TLC analysis. Fraction 19 was subjected to repeated column chromatography (CC) by Sephadex LH-20 (isocratic, acetone), C18 gel (MeOH- H_2O , 75%), and silica gel (acetone-*n*-hexane, 10%) to obtain subfractions (SFr.) 19-1 and 19-2. In turn, SFr.19-1 was subjected to semipreparative HPLC (MeOH- H_2O , 73%) to give compound **6** (23.4 mg), while compound **2** (1.3 mg) was obtained from SFr.19-2 using a CH_3CN - H_2O (53%) solvent system. Fraction 20 was subjected to an open column chromatography using Sephadex LH-20 (isocratic, acetone) and subsequently purified by C18 column chromatography (MeOH- H_2O , 90%) to yield two subfractions (SFr. 20-1 and 20-2). Compounds **11** (2.7 mg) and **10** (2.0 mg) were purified from SFr. 20-1 using HPLC (MeOH- H_2O , 79%). SFr.20-2 was fractionated into two subfractions (SFr. 20-2-1 and SFr. 20-2-2) using C18 CC (MeOH- H_2O , 64%). Compounds **8** (1.7 mg) and **9** (6.9 mg) were yielded from SFr. 20-2-1 using HPLC (MeOH- H_2O , 65%), and compounds **3** (2.7 mg) and **15** (2.1 mg) were obtained from SFr. 20-2-2 using eluent of CH_3CN - H_2O (33%). Four subfractions (SFr. 22-1–SFr.22-4) were obtained from fraction 22 by C18 CC (MeOH- H_2O , 80%). Compounds **4** (4.9 mg) and **7** (4.7 mg) were purified from SFr.22-1 using HPLC (MeOH- H_2O , 64%). Compounds **1** (2.2 mg), **12** (33.6 mg), and **13** (4.8 mg) were isolated from SFr. 22-2, SFr. 22-3, and SFr.22-4, respectively, using HPLC (MeOH- H_2O : 71% for SFr. 22-2, 79% for SFr. 22-3, and 85% for SFr. 22-4). Fraction 23 was subjected to CC using a C18 column (MeOH- H_2O , 80%) and subsequently by HPLC (MeOH- H_2O , 66%) to give compounds **14** (3.6 mg) and **5** (1.4 mg).

3,4,8,16-Tetra-*epi*-lobocrasol (**1**): colorless oil; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} -98$ (*c* 1.00, CHCl_3); ECD (MeOH) λ_{max} ($\Delta\epsilon$) 211 (-0.62), 233 ($+1.79$), 324 (-0.62); IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3419, 2925, 2855, 1698, 1651, 1455, 1380, 1332, 1246, 1080, and 1049 cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C and ^1H NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; ESIMS m/z 357 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$; HRESIMS m/z 357.2034 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ (calculated (calcd.) for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_4\text{Na}$, 357.2036).

1,15-Epoxy-deoxysarcophine (**2**): colorless oil; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} -154$ (*c* 0.63, CHCl_3); IR (KBr) ν_{max} 2926, 2855, 1653, 1514, 1455, 1381, 1239, 1164, and 1039 cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C and ^1H NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; ESIMS m/z 341 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$; HRESIMS m/z 341.2085 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ (calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_3\text{Na}$, 341.2087).

3,4-Dihydro-4 α ,7 β ,8 α -trihydroxy- Δ^2 -sarcophine (**3**): colorless oil; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} -84$ (*c* 1.28, CHCl_3); IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3444, 2965, 2929, 2857, 1747, 1668, 1638, 1455, 1373, 1317, 1260, 1127, 1062, and 1018 cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C and ^1H NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; ESIMS m/z 373 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$; HRESIMS m/z 373.1986 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ (calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_5\text{Na}$, 373.1986).

ent-Sarcophylide E (**4**): colorless oil; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} +14$ (*c* 1.70, CHCl_3); ECD (MeOH) λ_{max} ($\Delta\epsilon$) 230 ($+1.41$), 254 (-0.40); ^{13}C and ^1H NMR data, see Tables 1 and 2; ESIMS m/z 373 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$; HRESIMS m/z 373.1984 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ (calcd. for $\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_5\text{Na}$, 373.1986).

16-Deacetyl-halicrasterol B (**5**): white powder; $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} -111$ (*c* 0.78, CHCl_3); IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3330, 2922, 2854, 1652, 1598, 1455, 1374, and 1023 cm^{-1} ; ^{13}C and ^1H NMR data, see Table 3; ESIMS m/z 501 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$; HRESIMS m/z 501.3552 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ (calcd. for $\text{C}_{29}\text{H}_{50}\text{O}_5\text{Na}$, 501.3551).

Sarcophine (**6**): colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25} +139$ (c 4.98, CHCl₃); lit. $[\alpha]_D^{25} +97$ (c 0.01, CHCl₃); ECD (MeOH) λ_{\max} ($\Delta\epsilon$) 229 (+1.22), 248 (−1.58); MS, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were found to be in full agreement with literature data [11].

Lobocrasol (**7**): colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25} -212$ (c 0.05, CHCl₃); lit. $[\alpha]_D^{25} -186$ (c 0.10, CHCl₃); ECD (MeOH) λ_{\max} ($\Delta\epsilon$) 215 (+0.57), 240 (−1.66), 325 (+0.81); MS, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were found to be in full agreement with literature data [12].

3,4-Dihydro-4 α -hydroxy- Δ^2 -sarcophine (**8**): colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25} -17$ (c 0.50, CHCl₃); lit. $[\alpha]_D^{25} -5$ (c 0.10, CHCl₃); MS, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were found to be in full agreement with literature data [11,13].

3,4-Dihydro-4 β -hydroxy- Δ^2 -sarcophine (**9**): colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25} -1$ (c 1.53, CHCl₃); lit. $[\alpha]_D^{25} -1$ (c 0.10, CHCl₃); MS, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were found to be in full agreement with literature data [11,13].

Srassumol A (**10**): colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25} -30$ (c 0.49, CHCl₃); lit. $[\alpha]_D^{25} -20$ (c 0.10, CHCl₃); MS, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were found to be in full agreement with literature data [14].

Klyflaccicembranol F (**11**): colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25} -76$ (c 1.28, CHCl₃); lit. $[\alpha]_D^{25} -32$ (c 0.60, CHCl₃); MS, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were found to be in full agreement with literature data [15].

Sarcomilasterol (**12**): amorphous solid; $[\alpha]_D^{25} +30$ (c 0.67, CHCl₃); lit. $[\alpha]_D^{20} +5$ (c 0.08, CHCl₃); MS, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were found to be in full agreement with literature data [16].

Sarcoaldestero B (**13**): amorphous solid; $[\alpha]_D^{25} -21$ (c 1.50, MeOH); lit. $[\alpha]_D^{25} -20$ (c 0.23, MeOH); MS, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were found to be in full agreement with literature data [17].

Sarglaucsterol (**14**): amorphous solid; $[\alpha]_D^{25} -15$ (c 0.45, MeOH); lit. $[\alpha]_D^{20} -25$ (c 0.11, MeOH); MS, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were found to be in full agreement with literature data [18].

Loliolide (**15**): colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25} -11$ (c 0.73, CHCl₃); lit. $[\alpha]_D -92$ (c 1.10, CHCl₃); MS, ¹H and ¹³C NMR data were found to be in full agreement with literature data [19].

3.4. Cytotoxicity Assay

HepG2, MDA-MB-231, A-549, MOLT-4, SUP-T1, and U-937 cells were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC; Manassas, VA, USA). The MTT assays were performed as previously reported [25]. After a 15 h culture for the above cancer cell lines, the isolated compounds prepared in different concentrations of DMSO were added for an additional 72 h culture [25]. The cytotoxic potential of the isolated compounds was evaluated by means of a MTT [3-(4,5-dimethylthiazole-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide] cell proliferation assay and the absorbance was measured using an ELISA reader and monitored at 570 and 620 nm, which allowed the calculation of IC₅₀ values.

4. Conclusions

Our present study discovered four new diterpenoids **1–4** and a new steroid **5** as well as ten known compounds **6–15**. The 3,4,8,16-tetra-*epi*-lobocrasol (**1**) represents the second example of lobocrasol-type diterpenoid, while the Δ^{11} double in lobocrasol (**7**) was revised as *E* geometry in this study. It is interesting that, similar to sarcophine and *ent*-sarcophine [26], sarcophylide E and *ent*-sarcophylide E (**4**) were also isolated from the same genus.

Supplementary Materials: The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of compounds **1–5** and **7** (Figures S1–S6), and partial NOESY spectrum of **7** (Figure S6-3) are available online at <http://www.mdpi.com/1660-3397/15/7/202/s1>.

Acknowledgments: This work was supported by grants from Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST104-2113-M-110-006, and 105-2113-M-110-002), NSYSU-KMU Joint Research Project (NSYSUKMU 06C0301709) and Aim for the TOP University Program (05C030205) from Ministry of Education of Taiwan awarded to J.-H. S.

Author Contributions: Jyh-Horng Sheu designed the whole experiment. Chih-Hua Chao contributed to structural elucidation and manuscript preparation. Wen-Liang Li performed purification, structural elucidation, and data acquisition. Chiung-Yao Huang, Atallah F. Ahmed and Chih-Chuang Liaw also performed data acquisition. Yang-Chang Wu and Mei-Chin Lu performed the cytotoxicity assay. Chang-Feng Dai contributed to the collection of soft coral and species identification.

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

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