

## 6th International Electronic Conference on Medicinal Chemistry

1-30 November 2020 sciforum.net/conference/ECMC2020



# Chemical Composition and Biological Activity of Diterpenoids from *Plectranthus mutabilis* codd.

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#### Abstract:

Despite the great development in Human medicine, cancer is still a serious threat to public health and consequently, research on new anticancer agents should be continued. Natural products from medicinal plants (e.g., *Plectranthus* species) continue to be a substantial resource to treat different diseases, particularly in developing countries [1, 2]. *Plectranthus* species are rich in diterpenoids, which are reported to be responsible for various pharmacological activities such as cytotoxic activity [1]. *P. mutabilis* Codd. is a perennial succulent herb containing Nepetoidins A and Nepetoidins B in its essential oils and have limited information available in the literature [3].

In this study, we performed an ultrasound-assisted acetone extraction of air-dried *P. mutabilis* whole plant followed by a bio-guided fractionation using the *Artemia* salina general toxicity assay that resulted in the identification of four compounds: Coleon U quinone (**1**), 8α,9α-Epoxycoleon U quinone (**2**), Coleon U (**3**) and 7-hydro,14-deoxycoleon U (**4**) [4]. The cytotoxicity of the isolated compounds and *P. mutabilis* extract was evaluated using a model system of sensitive (NCI-H460) and MDR (NCI-H460/R) cells, along with normal human embryonal bronchial epithelial cells (MRC-5). Studies of modulation of P-gp activity are ongoing to unveil the interaction of these compounds and extract with P-gp. **Keywords:** *Plectranthus*, Coleon, Cytotoxicity, P-gP

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### Introduction

- Cancer is still a serious threat to public health
- Cancer –2nd leading cause of death worldwide
- 18.1 million new cases and
- 1 in 6 deaths is due to cancer in 2018

Top cancer per country, estimated age-standardized incidence rates (World) in 2018, both sexes, all ages



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 Need to develop new reversal MDR agents

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#### Introduction

#### Plectranthus genus



- Natural products: source of bioactive compounds
- *Plectranthus* genus (Lamiaceae) uses:
- Treatment of different types of cancer
- Source of bioactive compounds:
- abietane-type diterpenoids
- antibacterial, antifungal and antitumoral

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#### Introduction

#### Plectranthus mutabilis



Limited phytochemical literature information

- Chemical constituents in essential oils only reveals:
- Nepetoidins A and Nepetoidins B



Grayer et al, Phytochemistry ,(2003), 519–528



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#### Bio-guided Isolation of Four Abietane diterpenoids from P. mutabilis



#### **Characterization of isolated compounds**





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#### Results and discussion Diterpenoids from isolated *P. mutabilis*





1

Coleon U quinone MM=344  $[M+H]^+ m/z = 345$ HRMS m/z 345.1711  $[M]^+$ (calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 345.1697

#### 8α,9α-Epoxycoleon U quinone MM=360 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> m/z = 361 [M-H]<sup>-</sup> m/z = 359 HRMS m/z 361.1658 [M]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, 359.1502)

2

![](_page_9_Figure_6.jpeg)

3

![](_page_9_Figure_7.jpeg)

Coleon U MM=346  $[M-H]^{-} m/z = 345$ HRMS m/z 345.1708  $[M]^{-}$  (calcd. C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 345.1707). 7-hydroxy,14deoxycoleon U MM=332 [M-H]<sup>-</sup> m/z = 331

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![](_page_9_Picture_10.jpeg)

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#### LC/MS analysis of 4 compounds from *P. mutabilis*

Chromatographic profiles of *P. mutabilis* extract and identification of 4 isolated compounds

![](_page_10_Figure_2.jpeg)

- All the compounds were found to be present in the extract
- Coleon U quinone (1) and Coleon U (3) seem to be the major compounds in extract

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![](_page_10_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### Cytotoxicity study: MTT assay, $IC_{50}$ values in $\mu M$

Compounds	NCI-H460	NCI-H460/R	MRC-5	
Coleon U Quinone (1)	22.96±0.56	20.37±0.43	44.13±1.19	
8α,9α-Epoxycoleon U quinone (2)	20.23±0.59	17.26±0.26	40.22±0.44	
Coleon U (3)	14.11±0.19	14.50±0.18	35.47±0.56	
Mutabilol (4)	112.58±2.05	81.14±1.13	120.25±4.69	_
P. mutabilis extract	15.30±0.37	15.66±0.47	16.68±0.69	

![](_page_11_Figure_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_11_Figure_3.jpeg)

- Compounds 1, 2 and 3 are selective towards cancer cells
- Compound 4 is not cytotoxic in a given range of concentrations (2 to 50 μM)

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• All compounds are not substrates for P-gp

![](_page_11_Picture_7.jpeg)

# Conclusions

- P. mutabilis extract contains: Coleon U quinone, 8α,9α-Epoxycoleon U quinone, Coleon U and 7-hydro,14-deoxycoleon U.
- Coleon U quinone is one of the major compounds in extract
- Compounds 1, 2 and 3 are selective towards cancer cells due to lower  $IC_{50}$  in cancer cells than in normal bronchial fibroblasts
- Compound 4 is not cytotoxic in a given range of concentrations (2 to 50  $\mu M$ ).

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• All compounds are not substrates for P-gp

![](_page_12_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_0.jpeg)

This project is funded by the -UIDB/04567/2020, UIDP/04567/2020 -PADDIC 2019 (ALIES-COFAC) -Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) of the COST ACTION: CA17104

![](_page_13_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_4.jpeg)

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![](_page_13_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_8.jpeg)