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# Five new limonoids isolated from *Walsura robusta*

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## Abstract

Five new toosendanin limonoids with highly oxidative furan ring walsurobustones A–D (**1–4**), and one new furan ring degraded limonoid walsurobustone E (**5**) together with one known compound toonapubescic acid B (**6**) were isolated from the leaves of *Walsura robusta*. Their structures were elucidated by NMR and MS data. Especially, the absolute configuration of toonapubescic acid B (**6**) was confirmed by X-ray diffraction study. Compounds **1–6** exhibited good cytotoxicity against the cancer cell lines HL-60, SMMC-7721, A-549, MCF-7, and SW480.

**Keywords** Limonoids, Tetranortriterpenoids, *Walsura robusta*, Cytotoxicity

## 1 Introduction

Limonoids, well known as tetranortriterpenoids, were widely found in the families of Meliaceae and Rutaceae, which have attracted great interests from the chemical and biological research communities [1, 2]. The genus *Walsura* (Meliaceae), comprising about 16

species, distributes in subtropical regions such as Southern China, India, and Indonesia [3]. In previous literature, kinds of natural products such as triterpenoids, phenols, and steroids have been identified in this genus. Some triterpenoids and phenols exhibited cell protection, antioxidation and antimalarial activities [4–14]. However, the chemical constituents from *Walsura robusta* and their activities study are few. We reported herein the isolation, characterization as well as cytotoxic activity of these highly oxidized limonoids and a plausible biosynthesis pathway of **5** and **6**.

## 2 Results and discussion

The MeOH extract of *Walsura yunnanensis* was filtered and concentrated in *vacuo* to afford a residue, which was then defatted by petroleum ether and extracted with EtOAc. The EtOAc fraction was subjected to column chromatography on silica gel, ODS, HPLC, and Sephadex LH-20 to yield compounds **1–6** (detailed procedures see Extraction and Isolation part).

Walsurobustone A (**1**) was isolated as a white amorphous powder. Its molecular formula was determined to be  $C_{28}H_{38}O_9$  by the  $[M + Na]^+$  ion peak at  $m/z$  541.2418 (calcd 541.2413 for  $C_{28}H_{38}O_9Na$ ) in the HRESIMS, with 16 mass units less than that of the known compound yunnanol A, isolated from the congener plant

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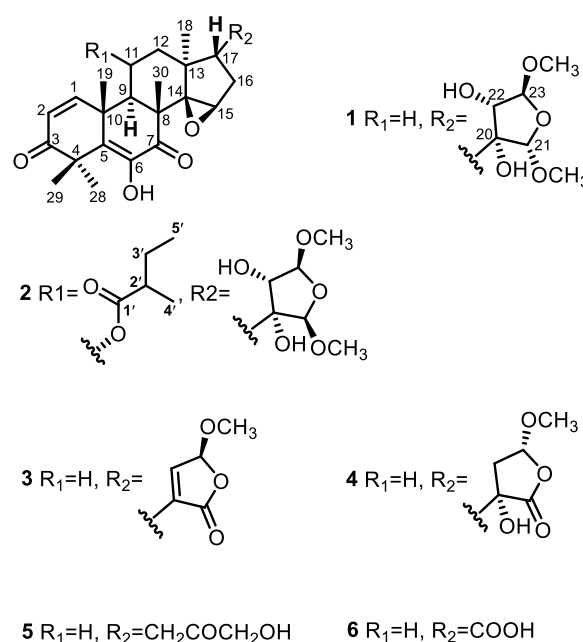
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*W. yunnanensis* [15]. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data (Table 2) of **1** showed high similarity to those reported for yunnanol A, with the main difference is the absence of signals for the hydroxyl at C-11 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.81, 1H, m and 1.56, 1H, m;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  19.2) in **1**, while  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.03 (1H, m) and  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  67.0 in yunnanol A. The proton at H-22 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.79), coupled with the proton at H-23 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.77) in the COSY, indicated the two hemiacetal carbons at C-21 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  109.5) and C-23 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  110.4). A combined analysis of HSQC and HMBC data showing 21-OCH<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.22, 3H, s), 22-OH ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.33, s) and 23-OCH<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.30, 3H, s) attached to C-21 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  109.5), C-22 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  77.5) and C-23 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  110.5) respectively revealed identical substituted furan ring when compared to yunnanol A. The HMBC correlations networks of 20-OH ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.35, s) to C-20 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  80.4), C-21 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  109.5), C-17 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  46.8), and C-22 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  77.5) confirmed the furan ring attached at C-17. According to the above information, the planar structure of **1** was elucidated as shown.

The absolute stereochemistry of the C-17 was inferred by biosynthetic path as **1** was the homolog with compound **6** whose absolute configuration was determined by X-ray diffraction study. The relative stereochemistry of the tetrahydrofuran ring of **1** was achieved with the aid of ROESY experiment, in which, the correlations of H-21/OMe-23, and H-21/H-22 suggested these protons and the methoxy were homolateral of the tetrahydrofuran ring. The ROESY cross-peaks of H-23/OH-20 indicated that they are on the other face of the tetrahydrofuran ring. The structure of **1** was elucidated as shown in Fig. 1.

Walsurobustone B (**2**), a white amorphous powder, showed a molecular ion peak at  $m/z$  641.2938  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  in the HRESIMS (calcd for  $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_{11}\text{Na}$  641.2937), consistent with the molecular formula  $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{46}\text{O}_{11}$ , which revealed that **2** possessed five more carbon and two more oxygen than compound **1**. The difference part was identified as a 2-methylbutyric ester moiety by analysis of  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data (Tables 1 and 2). The correlations of  $\text{H}_3\text{-5'}/\text{H}_2\text{-3'}$ ;  $\text{H}_2\text{-3'}/\text{H-2'}$ ;  $\text{H}_3\text{-4'}/\text{H-2'}$  in  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY spectra confirmed the presence of 2-methylbutanoate moiety. The location of 2-methylbutyric ester moiety at C-11 was proved by COSY correlation of H-11 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.16, m)/H-9 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.06, d, 11.5 Hz), as well as HMBC correlation from H-11 to C-1' ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  174.9). The relative configuration of **2** was established by NOESY experiment. The NOESY correlations H-17/H-21, H-17/H-22, OH-22/H-23, and H-23/OH-20 indicated the former three protons were on the same side of the tetrahydrofuran ring, while the latter three protons were on another side. The strong cross-peaks of H-11/Me-19 and H-11/Me-30 demonstrated that H-11 was  $\beta$ -configuration. Accordingly, the structure of **2** was assigned as depicted in Fig. 1.

Walsurobustone C (**3**), a white amorphous powder, had the molecular formula of  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_7$  as established by the



**Fig. 1** The chemical structures of **1–6**

HRESIMS at  $m/z$  491.2048  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  (calcd. 491.2045). The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) suggested that the compound **3** was structurally related to walsunoid B [16] as the NMR data of both the compounds are almost similar. The main difference between **3** and walsunoid B is the absence of signals for the hydroxyl at C-11 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.84, 2H, m;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  19.6) in **3**, while C-11 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.05, 1H, d, 6.2 Hz;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  66.5) in walsunoid B. Particularly, 23-OMe in **3** was assigned to be  $\alpha$ -oriented by comparing the relevant NMR data with a reported compound walsunoid D [16] ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.72 (1H, m) and  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  102.4 of CH-23 in **3**;  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.73 (1H, brs) and  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  102.5 of CH-23 in walsunoid D). Thus compound **3** was deduced as walsurobustone C (Fig. 1).

Walsurobustone D (**4**) also exhibited a molecular formula ion peak at  $m/z$  509.2141  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  (calcd for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_8\text{Na}$  509.2151) in its HRESIMS. The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data of **4** is similar to that of isowalsuranolide [4] except for additional NMR signals ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  56.5 and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.40) due to a methoxy group and the hydrated double bond in the E ring. The location of the methoxy group was established by the HMBC correlation of methoxy methyl protons to the hemiacetal carbon signal at C-21 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  109.8). Furthermore, the HMBC correlations from  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.29 (s, -OH) to C-20 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  77.3), C-21 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  109.8), C-17 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  46.1) and C-22 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  38.6) indicated that the hydroxyl group  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.29 attached to the characteristic quaternary carbon C-20 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  77.3). The relative configuration of the tetrahydrofuran ring of **4** was established by analysis of the ROESY spectrum. ROESY correlation between H-17 and H-23 indicated that they were co-facial and arbitrarily assigned

**Table 1**  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectroscopic data for **1–6**

Position	1 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	3 <sup>b</sup>	4 <sup>b</sup>	5 <sup>b</sup>	6 <sup>b</sup>
1	7.13, d (10.0)	7.51, d (10.0)	6.89, d (10.0)	7.13, d (10.0)	6.90, d (10.0)	6.91, d (10.0)
2	6.06, d (10.0)	6.10, d (10.0)	6.11, d (10.0)	6.08, d (10.0)	6.11, d (10.0)	6.11, d (10.0)
9	2.59, d (12.0)	3.06, d (11.5)	2.62, m	2.59, d (12.0)	2.63, m	2.60, d (10.6)
11	1.81, m 1.56, m	5.16, m	1.84, m	1.85, m 1.58, m	1.81, m	1.83, m
12	1.74, m 1.89, m	2.19, dd (13.4, 6.8) 1.71, m	2.39, m 1.67, m	1.73, m 1.66, m	1.85, m 1.54, m	2.15, m 1.83, m
15	3.56, s	3.64, s	3.77, s	3.62, s	3.69, s	3.73, s
16	1.94, m 1.76, m	1.94, m 1.77, m	2.25, dd (13.2, 6.0) 1.97, dd (13.6, 11.2)	1.91, m 1.82, m	2.23, t (6.4) 1.46, m	2.25, dd (14.1, 6.9) 2.11, m
17	1.77, m	1.79, m	2.67, m	1.82, m	2.06, m	2.54, dd (10.1, 7.1)
18	1.04, s	1.09, s	0.80, s	0.97, s	0.88, s	0.99, s
19	1.14, s	1.18, s	1.28, s	1.14, s	1.27, s	1.27, s
20					2.36, dd (10.0, 5.5) 2.27, t (10.0)	
21	4.48, s	4.49, s				
22	3.79, dd (7.2, 4.0)	3.72, dd (8.0, 4.4)	6.74, m	2.32, d (17.0) 2.65, d (17.0)		
23	4.77, d (4.0)	4.77, d (4.4)	5.72, d (1.7)	4.96, s	4.23, s	
28	1.45, s	1.45, s	1.57, s	1.45, s	1.48, s	1.56, s
29	1.37, s	1.37, s	1.48, s	1.37, s	1.57, s	1.48, s
30	0.93, s	1.00, s	1.10, s	0.94, s	1.07, s	1.08, s
21-OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.22, s	3.23, s				
23-OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.30, s	3.30, s	3.55, s	3.40, s		
6-OH	8.35, s	8.55, s	6.41, s	8.38, s	6.44, s	
20-OH	4.35, s	4.62, d (3.8)		5.29, s		
22-OH	5.33, d (8.0)	5.43, d (8.0)				
2'		2.39, m				
3'		1.60, m 1.44, m				
4'		1.09, d (1.5)				
5'		0.83, t (7.4)				

<sup>a</sup> Measured in DMSO, <sup>b</sup> measured in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are in ppm from TMS

as  $\beta$ -oriented. The correlations of Me-18 with OH-20, OH-20 with OMe-23 supported the  $\alpha$ -orientation of OH-20 and OMe-23. Thus, the structure of **4** has been determined as showed in Fig. 1.

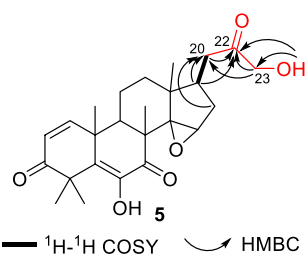
Walsurobustone E (**5**) was isolated as a white amorphous powder, and the molecular formula C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>6</sub> was assigned through its HRESIMS, at  $m/z$  451.2096 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na, 451.2091). The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra showed signals for five methyls ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.88, 1.07, 1.27, 1.48, and 1.57, each 3H), five methylenes, five methines, four high-field quaternary carbons ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  48.7, 46.8, 40.4 and 41.4), two double bonds ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  152.5, 141.3, 127.4, and 134.0) and three carbonyl carbons ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  208.9, 203.8, and 198.0). These data indicated that **5** has the same core structure as cedrelone [17], except the absence of furan ring signal feature in compound **5**.

Based on the HSQC and HMBC data analysis, a hydroxyl acetone moiety was revealed by a hydroxylmethyl group C-23 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  68.5,  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.23, and hydroxyl  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.31) attached to carbonyl C-22 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  208.7) (Fig. 2). The carbonyl C-22 linked to C-17 via C-20 was established by the HMBC correlations from H-17 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.06) to C-20 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  37.7) and C-22 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  208.7), and H-16a ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.46) to C-20. Accordingly, the structure of **7** was assigned as depicted in Fig. 1.

Toonapubescic acid B [18] (**6**) was obtained as a colorless crystal (recrystallized in MeOH/CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>) and the molecular formula C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>6</sub> was assigned through its HRESIMS, at  $m/z$  423.1777 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na, 423.1783), suggesting 10 degrees of unsaturation. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum (Table 2) of **6** were very close to those for **5**, except that the furan ring was oxidized to a carboxylic acid in compound **6**. The inferred

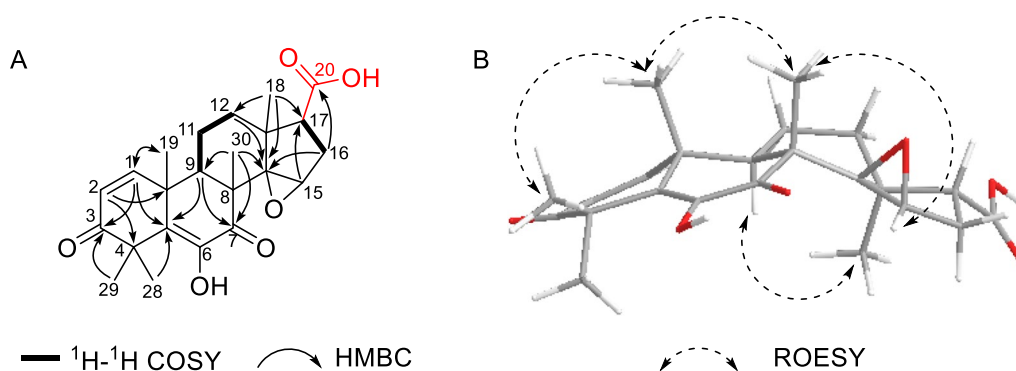
**Table 2**  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopic data for **1–6**

Position	<b>1</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>2</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>3</b> <sup>b</sup>	<b>4</b> <sup>b</sup>	<b>5</b> <sup>b</sup>	<b>6</b> <sup>b</sup>
1	154.0	155.9	152.5	154.0	152.5	152.4
2	126.2	125.6	127.5	126.3	127.4	127.5
3	203.3	203.3	203.7	203.4	203.8	203.8
4	47.9	48.5	48.7	47.9	48.7	48.7
5	132.7	131.9	134.3	132.8	134.0	134.2
6	142.1	141.8	141.2	142.2	141.3	141.2
7	197.2	195.8	198.1	197.1	198.0	197.8
8	46.7	46.2	46.9	46.7	46.8	46.7
9	42.3	44.3	43.3	42.1	43.5	43.2
10	39.6	40.1	40.4	39.5	40.4	40.4
11	19.2	69.3	19.6	19.2	19.5	19.5
12	35.0	43.1	35.2	35.5	34.9	35.3
13	41.6	40.9	42.2	41.6	41.4	42.5
14	69.1	68.7	69.9	68.8	69.4	69.1
15	54.0	55.2	54.8	54.3	55.1	55.0
16	28.2	27.8	31.9	27.4	33.5	29.6
17	46.8	46.9	42.3	46.1	40.9	51.0
18	22.8	22.5	23.3	23.1	22.4	22.9
19	23.6	24.2	24.1	23.7	24.0	24.0
20	80.4	80.2	138.1	77.3	37.7	178.8
21	109.5	109.3	171.0	175.6		
22	77.5	77.6	144.8	38.6	208.9	
23	110.5	110.3	102.4	109.8	68.5	
28	26.5	26.9	26.9	26.5	26.9	26.9
29	20.8	20.7	21.3	20.9	21.3	21.3
30	19.8	20.9	20.3	19.7	20.4	20.3
21-OCH <sub>3</sub>	54.5	54.5				
23-OCH <sub>3</sub>	55.4	55.6	57.1	56.5		
1'		174.9				
2'		41.0				
3'		26.0				
4'		16.6				
5'		11.5				

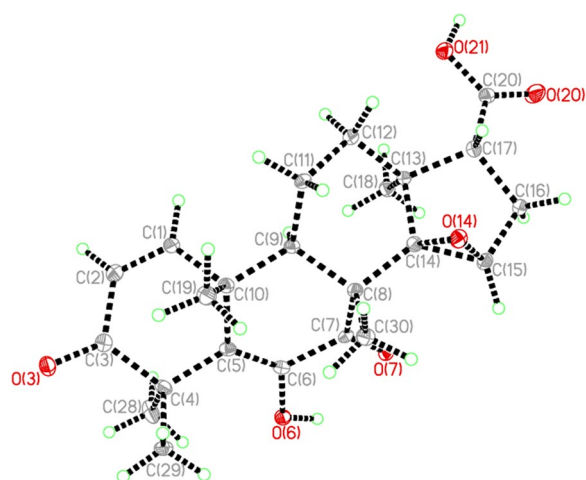
<sup>a</sup> Measured in DMSO, <sup>b</sup> measured in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. Chemical shifts ( $\delta$ ) are in ppm from TMS**Fig. 2** Key  $^1\text{H}$ – $^1\text{H}$  COSY and HMBC ( $\text{H} \rightarrow \text{C}$ ) correlations of **5**

structure was further established through analysis of its MS and HMBC data. In the HMBC spectrum, H-17 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.54) and H-16 $\beta$  ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.11) were correlated with the carbon resonance at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  178.8, which was assigned to the C-20 carboxyl group. According to the above information, the planar structure of **6** was elucidated as shown (Fig. 3A).

The relative configuration of **6** was determined by ROESY spectrum (Fig. 3B). As shown in ROESY data, the correlations of H<sub>3</sub>-18/H-9, H<sub>3</sub>-18/H-16 $\alpha$ , and H<sub>3</sub>-18/H-11 $\alpha$  indicated that they were co-facial, arbitrarily assigned as  $\alpha$ -orientated. The ROESY correlations of H<sub>3</sub>-30/H<sub>3</sub>-19, H<sub>3</sub>-19/H<sub>3</sub>-29 revealed that H<sub>3</sub>-30, H<sub>3</sub>-19,



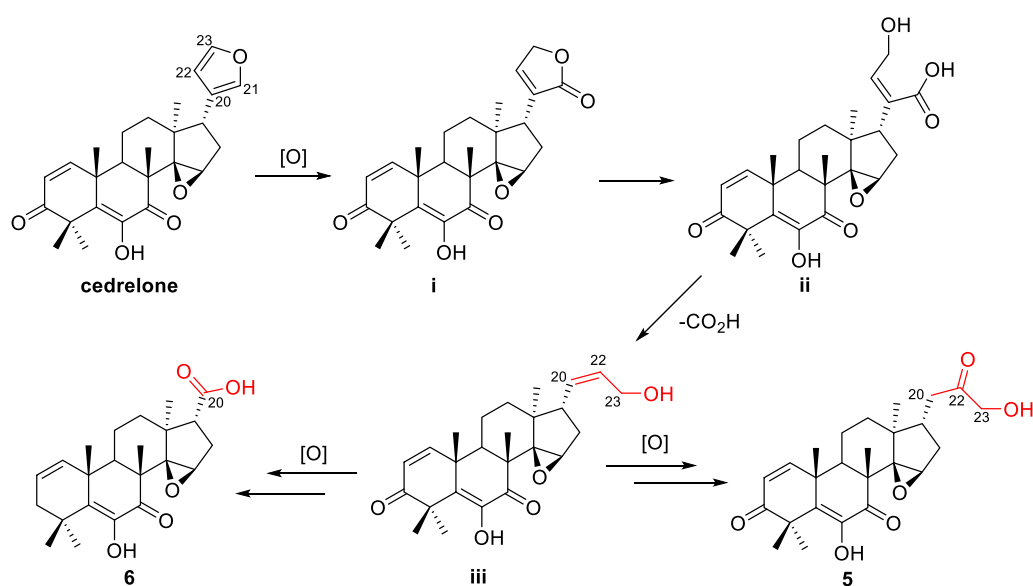
**Fig. 3** Key  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY and HMBC (H  $\rightarrow$  C) correlations (A), and selective ROESY correlations (B) of **6**



**Fig. 4** Single-crystal X-ray structure of **6**

and H<sub>3</sub>-29 were  $\beta$ -oriented, thus H<sub>3</sub>-28 was  $\alpha$ -orientated. The configuration of five methyls was the same as other reported limonoids [4]. In order to fix the orientation of the epoxide, **6** was recrystallized in methanol: acetone=1: 1 mixture solvent and been structurally determined by X-ray diffraction analysis (Fig. 4). The X-ray diffraction data were collected by using CuK $\alpha$  radiation and its absolute configuration has been determined as 8*R*, 9*R*, 10*R*, 13*S*, 14*R*, 15*R*, and 17*R*. Although the structure of toonapubescic acid B (**6**) was reported in literature [18], while its NMR data was not available. Here we report the X-ray structure of toonapubescic acid B and its NMR data together to facilitate the community.

Hypothetic biosynthesis of *seco*-E ring derivatives **5** and **6** was proposed based on the common structural characteristics of discovered intermediates (Scheme 1).



**Scheme 1** Hypothesis route of **5** and **6**

The furan ring of cedrelone was oxidized to form butenolactone, which was hydrolyzed to give free carboxyl and hydroxyl groups subsequently. After decarboxylation and a few steps oxidation, **5** and **6** formed respectively.

The similar patterns of Cotton Effects in the CD spectra of walsurobustones A-E (**1–5**) and toonapubescic acid B (**6**) (Fig. 5) indicated that the former's chiral centers in rings A, B, C and D have absolute configurations identical to the latter.

The cytotoxicity of **1–6** against the cancer cell lines (HL-60, SMMC-7721, A-549, MCF-7, and SW480) were evaluated by using the MTT method with taxol and cisplatin as the positive control. While compound **6** only showed moderate effects for all cell lines, other five compounds all showed obvious activity, especially to SMMC-7721, A-549 and MCF-7 (Table 3).

### 3 Experimental section

#### 3.1 General experimental procedure

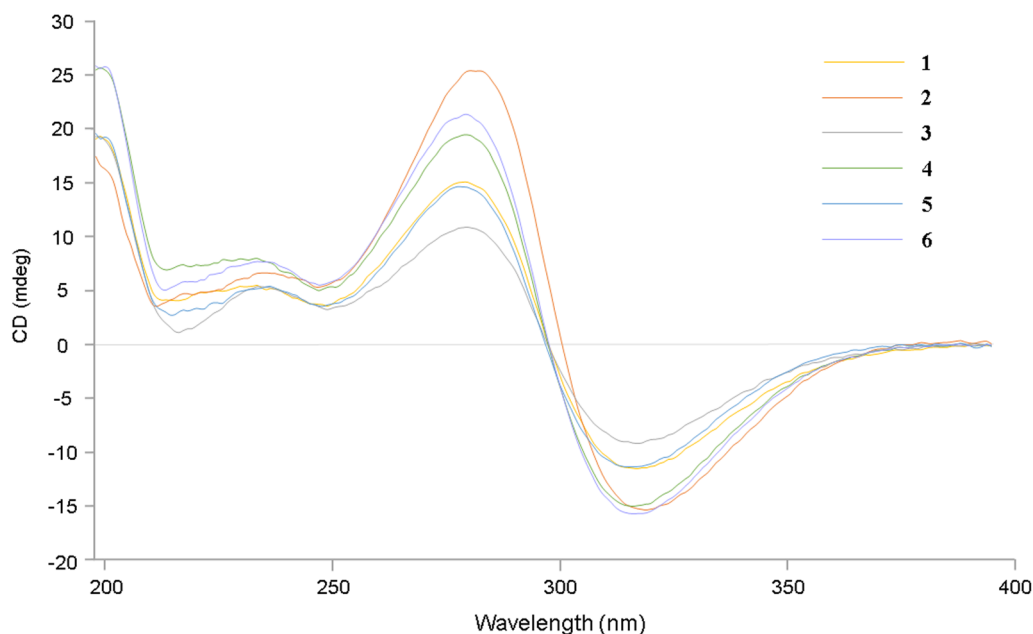
Optical rotations were measured with a Horiba SEPA-300 polarimeter. UV spectra were detected on a Shimadzu UV-2401 spectrophotometer. IR spectra were determined on a Tenor 27 spectrophotometer with KBr pellets, whereas CD spectra were recorded with an Applied Photophysics Chirascan spectrometer. ESIMS and HRESIMS were measured on a Finnigan MAT 90 instrument and VG Auto Spec-3000 spectrometer, respectively. 1D and 2D NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AM-400, Bruker DRX-500 and Bruker Avance III 600 spectrometers with TMS as internal standard.

**Table 3** Cytotoxicity Data for Compounds **1–6** against the cancer cell lines<sup>a</sup>

Compounds	HL-60	SMMC-7721	A-549	MCF-7	SW480
Walsurobustone A ( <b>1</b> )	16.10	3.51	5.86	3.59	4.70
Walsurobustone B ( <b>2</b> )	5.12	6.10	4.56	2.76	6.95
Walsurobustone C ( <b>3</b> )	2.58	0.44	2.11	2.09	3.78
Walsurobustone D ( <b>4</b> )	17.54	5.81	5.68	9.67	13.10
Walsurobustone E ( <b>5</b> )	5.62	4.09	3.63	5.70	11.48
Toonapubescic acid B ( <b>6</b> )	20.31	10.24	13.41	13.81	15.00
Cisplatin	1.81	8.86	11.68	15.92	16.65
Taxol	<0.008	<0.008	<0.008	<0.008	<0.008

<sup>a</sup> Results are expressed as IC<sub>50</sub> values in  $\mu$ M. HL-60 leukemia cancer; SMMC-7721 liver cancer; A-549 lung cancer; MCF-7 breast cancer; SW480 colon cancer. All the compounds exhibited potential cytotoxicity

Semipreparative HPLC was performed on an Agilent 1100 liquid chromatographer with a Zorbax SB-C18 (9.4 mm 25 cm) column. Column chromatography was performed with silica gel (300–400 mesh, Qingdao Marine Chemical, Inc., Qingdao, People's Republic of China), and MCI gel (75–150  $\mu$ M, Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation, Tokyo, Japan). Fractions were monitored by TLC, and spots were visualized by heating silica gel plates sprayed with 10% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in EtOH.



**Fig. 5** CD spectra for walsurobustones A-E (**1–5**) and Toonapubescic acid B (**6**) (in MeOH)



### 3.2 Plant material

The leaves of *W. robusta* collected in Hainan Province, People's Republic of China in December 2010. The plant was authenticated by Dr. Guangwan Hu, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences. A voucher specimen (No. H20101202) was deposited in the State Key Laboratory of Photochemistry and Plant Resources in West China, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

### 3.3 Extraction and isolation

The dried and powdered leaves (12 kg) of *W. robusta* were extracted with MeOH three times under reflux, and the solvent was evaporated in *vacuo*. The residue was partitioned in H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted successively with petroleum ether and EtOAc. The EtOAc fraction (200 g) was separated by silica gel column chromatography (CC) eluted with a gradient of petroleum ether/Me<sub>2</sub>CO (50:1 to 1:1) and CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH in a gradient (15:1 to 3:1), eight fractions (Fr. A-H) were obtained according to TLC monitor. Fr. C (17 g) was subjected to MCI-gel column (MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O, 6:4 to 9:1) to give sixteen sub-fractions (C1–C16). C7 (4.1 g) was then chromatographed on a column of reversed-phase C18 silica gel eluted with MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (5:5 to 9:1) to get eight parts (C7a–C7h). C7h was purified by CC over silica gel and then applied to a Sephadex LH-20 column using a solvent system acetone to provide **1** (5 mg), **3** (5 mg), **4** (11 mg), **5** (15 mg). C8 was further purified by preparative RP-8 HPLC using a solvent system 60% aqueous MeOH to provide compounds **2** (11 mg). Fr. D (60 g) was subjected to MCI-gel column (MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O, 4:6 to 9:1) to give twenty fractions (D1–D20), D15 (1 g) was subjected to silica gel column chromatography eluting sequentially with petroleum ether/EtOAc to afford 11 fractions, the second portion was purified by Sephadex LH-20 column to obtain **6** (11 mg).

Walsurobustone A (**1**), a white amorphous powder;  $[\alpha] - 30.6275$  ( $c$  0.17, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); UV (CHCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log $\epsilon$ ) 283 (3.10) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO) (see Tables 1 and 2). IR  $\nu_{\max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3430, 1630 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRESIMS at  $m/z$  509.2141 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Na, 509.2151).

Walsurobustone B (**2**), a white amorphous powder,  $[\alpha] - 20.25$  ( $c$  0.16, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); UV (CHCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log $\epsilon$ ) 283 (3.10) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (DMSO) (see Tables 1 and 2). IR  $\nu_{\max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3426, 1682, 1630, 1030, 998 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRESIMS at  $m/z$  641.2938 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> in the HRESIMS (calcd for C<sub>33</sub>H<sub>46</sub>O<sub>11</sub>Na, 641.2937).

Walsurobustone C (**3**), a white amorphous powder;  $[\alpha] - 21.1905$  ( $c$  0.14, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); UV (CHCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log $\epsilon$ ) 281 (3.30) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (see Tables 1 and 2). IR  $\nu_{\max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3406, 2957, 2923, 1764,

1676, 1034 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRESIMS at  $m/z$  491.2048 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na, 491.2045).

Walsurobustone D (**4**), a white amorphous powder;  $[\alpha] - 68.6111$  ( $c$  0.12, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); UV (CHCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log $\epsilon$ ) 283 (3.12) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (see Tables 1 and 2). IR  $\nu_{\max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3431, 1630 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRESIMS at  $m/z$  509.2141 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Na, 509.2151).

Walsurobustone E (**5**), a white amorphous powder;  $[\alpha] - 54.5641$  ( $c$  0.14, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); UV (CHCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log $\epsilon$ ) 281 (3.28) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (see Tables 1 and 2). IR  $\nu_{\max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3482, 3406, 2924, 2854, 1718, 1680, 1356, 1249, 1031 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRESIMS  $m/z$  451.2103 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na, 451.2096).

Toonapubescic acid B (**6**), a colorless crystal, deposited to CCDC with No. 2235264;  $[\alpha] - 79.4872$  ( $c$  0.13, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); UV (CHCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log $\epsilon$ ) 280 (3.26) nm; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) (see Tables 1 and 2). IR  $\nu_{\max}$  cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3418, 2926, 1713, 1686, 1240, 1031 cm<sup>-1</sup>; HRESIMS  $m/z$  423.1777 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>28</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na, 423.1783).

## Supplementary Information

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Supplementary file 1

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## Author contributions

Li Hou carried out the isolation and data curation at leading degree. Cui-Xuan Mei conducted the writing of original draft. Chun-Mao Yuan contributed to investigation, and validation at supporting degree. Gui-Hua Tang contributed to investigation, and validation at supporting degree. Duo-Zhi Chen contributed to data curation and analysis at supporting degree. Qing Zhao contributed to project administration at supporting degree. Hong-Ping He contributed to project administration at leading degree. Mingming Cao contributed to guiding of the writing and data proof reading. Xiao-Jiang Hao contributed to funding acquisition and project administration at leading degree. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Declarations

### Competing interests

The authors declare there is no competing interests.

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