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Total synthesis and antimicrobial evaluation of (+)-hygrophorone B¹² and its analogues

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This paper describes the synthesis and evaluation of lead compounds with a new chemical skeleton that is not found in conventional antimicrobial agents. The biologically attractive cyclopentenoid (+)-hygrophorone B¹², isolated from the fruiting bodies of *Hygrophorus abieticola*, and its analogues were synthesized in a longer linear sequence of twelve steps, starting from a cyclopentenone derivative. This synthesis involved the following crucial steps: (i) oximation of a ketone to stabilize the requisite aldehyde to install a side chain and (ii) coupling of an aldehyde with a side chain to assemble the desired hygrophorone. Then, the antimicrobial activity of these hygrophorones towards clinically relevant bacterial pathogens was evaluated. The results showed that hygrophorone B¹² and its analogues are especially effective in preventing the proliferation of gram-positive bacteria. In addition, it was found that some structural features such as the presence of the enone moiety as well as the carbon–carbon triple bond on the hydrocarbon chain were pivotal to increase the antimicrobial activity of hygrophorone B. This study is expected to support the development of novel antimicrobial agents by flexibly synthesizing hygrophorone B analogues with a carbon five-membered ring skeleton from the common intermediate.

Various antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents have been developed and they have saved uncountable numbers of lives. However, the threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has recently arisen and must be addressed urgently^{1,2}. Even though the problem of morbidity and mortality associated with AMR is not new, AMR has recently been increasing at a significant rate due to bacteria that have acquired resistance to multiple groups of antimicrobial agents². Moreover, the decline in the development and marketing of new antimicrobial agents worsens the situation. O'Neill's report predicts that with the current increasing trend of AMR, an estimated 10 million lives per year may be lost to AMR-related disease by 2050³. To avoid this worst-case scenario, it is necessary to develop new kinds of antimicrobial agents with chemical skeletons and/or antimicrobial mechanisms different from those of conventional drugs.

Molecules with a cyclopentenone framework are Michael acceptors for various cellular nucleophiles due to their highly reactive α,β -unsaturated carbonyl moiety^{4,5}. Thus, the five-membered carbon ring framework of cyclopentenone is often used as the core of building blocks to synthesize natural products and related compounds^{6,7}. Additionally, highly oxygenated cyclopentenoids are known to be effective as promising antimicrobials⁵. Recently, we have reported the synthesis of pentenomycin I (1; Fig. 1), which was isolated from a cultured strain of *Streptomyces eurythermus*⁸, and its analogues⁹. In addition, we tested their antimicrobial activity and determined some of the structural factors that are important for antimicrobial activity. According to the results of this evaluation, their antimicrobial activity was moderate and unsuitable for pharmaceutical lead compounds. Therefore, advancing investigations into highly effective antimicrobial cyclopentenoids would undoubtedly be valuable for pharmaceutical development. Between 2004 and 2017, the group of Arnold has reported the isolation and structural elucidation of new cyclopentenoids, which they named hygrophorones, derived from various *Hygrophorus* species^{10–14}. Isolated natural products are highly substituted 2-cyclopentenones with two hydroxy groups at asymmetric centers C-4 and C-5 and a hydrocarbon chain that contains an

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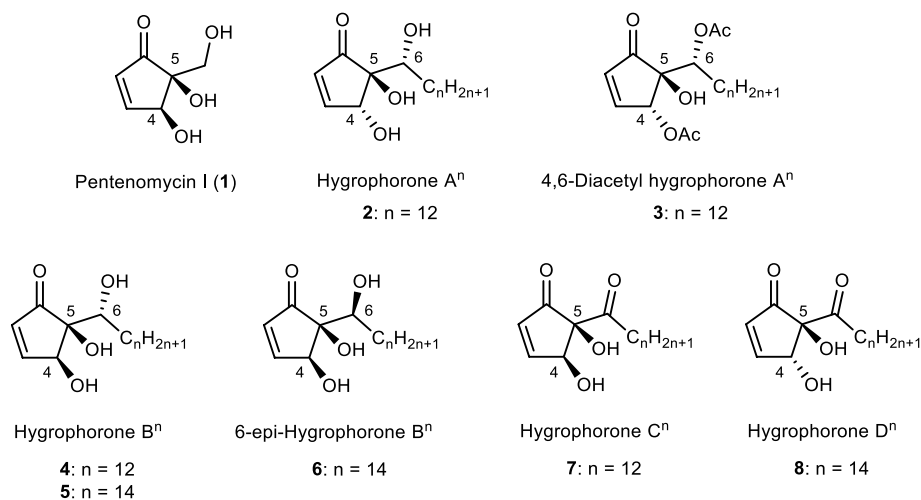


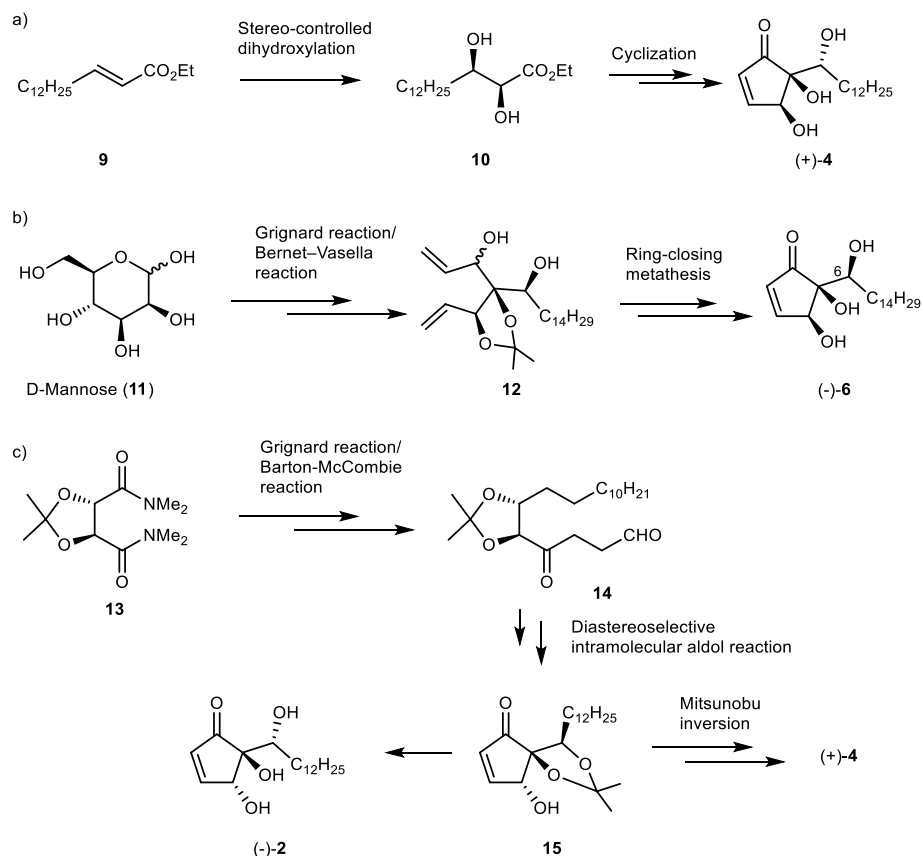
Figure 1. Chemical structures of pentenomycin I and representative hygrophorones.

additional hydroxylated asymmetric center bonded at C-5. The structures of representative hygrophorones are shown in Fig. 1. Hygrophorones A–D (2–8) consist of a 2-cyclopenten-1-one skeleton substituted with hydroxy or acetoxy groups at the C-4 and C-5 positions and an oxidized long hydrocarbon chain attached to C-5. The structures and the stereochemistry of hygrophorones have been determined via extensive spectroscopic studies, including 2D NMR spectroscopy experiments. Furthermore, 4,6-diacetylhygrophorone A¹² (3) showed potent antimicrobial activity against several bacterial species in the sub- to low-micromolar range (MIC = 0.25–8 µg/mL)¹⁵. Interestingly, 3, which contains a long hydrocarbon chain, showed significantly higher antimicrobial activity than 1^{8,9}, which possesses an enone structure without an alkyl chain. Therefore, we hypothesize that other hygrophorones such as B type show high antibacterial activity. According to our survey of the literature, antimicrobial susceptibility tests of other hygrophorones toward bacterial-pathogen-caused human infectious diseases have not yet been reported, albeit in 2021 Westermann's group disclosed the fungicidal activity of hygrophorone B¹² (4) and its 6-deoxy analogue against plant pathogens¹⁶. Consequently, the development of efficient and flexible methods for the synthesis of the hygrophorone family, and the elucidation of their structure–activity relationship are desirable and useful from the viewpoint of medicinal/pharmaceutical chemistry.

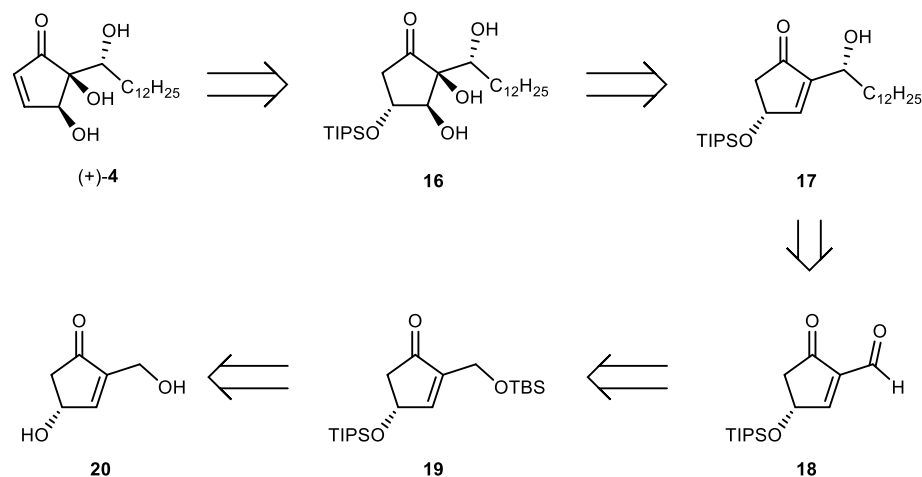
Due to their unique structural features, hygrophorones have been drawing increasing attention and become a target for total synthesis. Numerous efforts have been devoted to the total synthesis of this class of natural products, and so far, three methods have been reported for the total synthesis of hygrophorone-B-type compounds and hygrophorone A¹² (2)^{17–19}. Westermann et al. reported the asymmetric total synthesis of hygrophorone A¹² (2) and B¹² (4) using a biomimetic strategy, in which the stereo-controlled dihydroxylation of fatty acid ester 9 is the key step (9 → 10). (+)-2 and (-)-4 were obtained using AD-mix-alpha, and the enantiomers (-)-2 and (+)-4 using AD-mix-beta (Scheme 1a)¹⁷. Rao et al. achieved the stereoselective synthesis of (-)-6-*epi*-hygrophorone B¹⁴ (6) from D-mannose (11) using a stereoselective Grignard reaction for the insertion of the hydrocarbon chain, the Bernet–Vasella protocol (11 → 12), and a ring-closing metathesis (Scheme 1b)¹⁸. More recently, the enantioselective syntheses of (-)-Hygrophorone A¹² (2) and (+)-Hygrophorone B¹² (4) from 13 has been achieved by Gholap et al. (Scheme 1c)¹⁹. The common intermediate 15 was prepared starting from 13 by a Grignard reaction for the insertion of the carbon chain, followed by a Barton–McCombie reaction (13 → 14), and finally a diastereoselective intramolecular aldol reaction (14 → 15). The deprotection of acetonide in 15 produced (-)-Hygrophorone A¹² (2). In addition, Hygrophorone B¹² (4) was obtained by epimerization at C-4 via the Mitsunobu inversion. All strategies are excellent methods for the stereoselective synthesis of the targeted hygrophorones. However, in order to synthesize hygrophorone analogues, an arbitrary carbon chain needs to be present from the beginning, or needs to be inserted at the earliest stage of the synthetic plan. In addition, there are so far no reports on the evaluation of the antimicrobial activity of such B-type hygrophorones with side chains of different length. Therefore, a new modular synthetic strategy for the preparation of a variety of hygrophorone analogues starting from a common intermediate would be useful to investigate the structure–activity relationship for hygrophorones. In this study, we focus on hygrophorone B¹² (4) and we describe the enantioselective total synthesis of 4 and its analogues from cyclopentenone, as well as the evaluation of their antimicrobial activity.

Results and discussion

The outline of our synthetic plan is shown in Scheme 2. The most important component of our plan is the use of a key intermediate, i.e., formyl enone 18, which is suitably functionalized and oxidized. The production of a wide variety of hygrophorone analogues from 18 could theoretically be achieved via a convenient and general method. It is assumed that a simple sequence could be proposed to insert any hydrocarbon chains and aromatic groups using organometallic reagents (18 → 17). After the insertion of the hydrocarbon chain, conversion into the hygrophorone skeleton would be accomplished by a stereoselective dihydroxylation followed by the formation



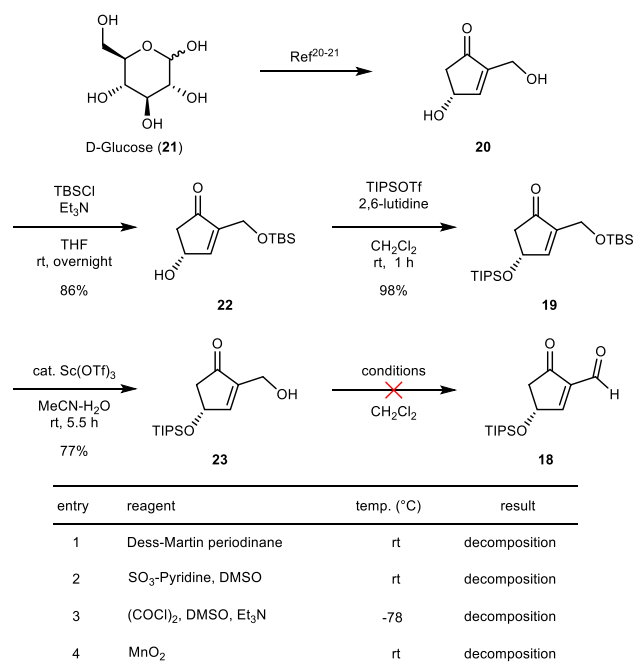
Scheme 1. a: Key step in the synthesis of (+)-hygrophorone B¹² (4) by Westermann et al. b: Key step in the synthesis of (-)-6-*epi*-hygrophorone B¹⁴ (6) by Rao et al. c: Key step in the synthesis of (-)-hygrophorone A¹² (2) and (+)-4 by Gholap et al.



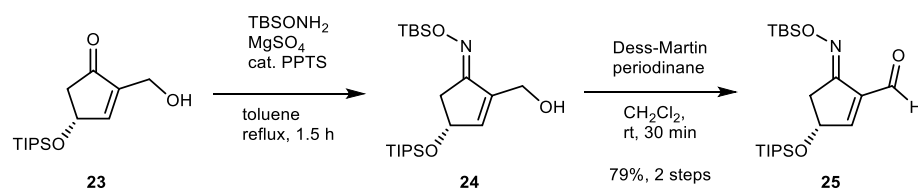
Scheme 2. Retrosynthesis of (+)-hygrophorone B¹² (4). TBS = *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl; TIPS = triisopropylsilyl.

of an enone moiety (17 → 16 → 4). The key intermediate 18 would be obtained from optically active cyclopentenone 20 via 19.

The synthesis of key intermediate 18 is shown in Scheme 3. The starting material, cyclopentenone 20, was obtained from D-glucose (21) according to published procedures^{20,21}. First, 22 was synthesized from 20 by the selective protection of hydroxyl group by catalyst-free method using *tert*-butyldimethylsilylchloride (TBSCl) and triethylamine⁹, and then 19 was obtained by treatment with triisopropylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (TIPSOTf) and 2,6-lutidine, followed by the regioselective desilylation of primary TBS under mild conditions

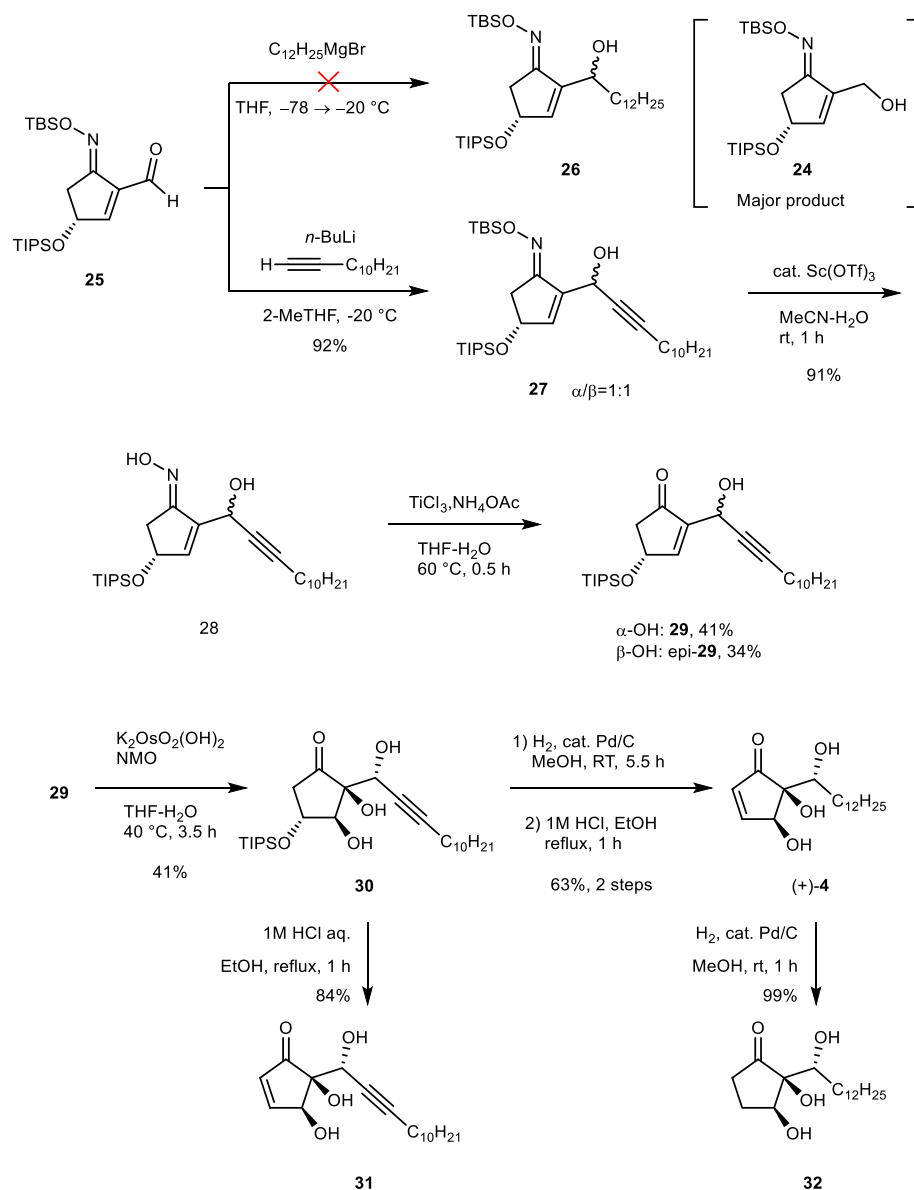


Scheme 3. Toward the synthesis of aldehyde **18**. THF = tetrahydrofuran; TBS = *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl; TIPS = triisopropylsilyl; DMSO = dimethyl sulfoxide; rt: room temperature; temp. = temperature; for details, see the Supporting Information.



Scheme 4. Synthesis of oxime **25**. TBS = *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl; TIPS = triisopropylsilyl; PPTS = pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate; rt: room temperature; for details, see the Supporting Information.

using scandium (III) triflate as a catalyst (**19** → **23**). We next investigated the oxidation to obtain the desired formyl enone **18** (see the Table in Scheme 3). We examined oxidation methods to transform the primary hydroxyl group into a formyl group; however, **18** was not obtained under any of the attempted conditions. When the direct oxidation of the C2-hydroxymethyl group of **23** into a formyl group was attempted, the substrate decomposed, maybe due to the instability of the resulting enone with a formyl group at the C-2 position, which is highly electron-deficient. Therefore, it was crucial to control the electron density of the enone moiety by conversion of the ketone into an oxime. The electron-donating features of the oxime are able to reduce the electron deficiency of the enone moiety. *O*-(*tert*-butyldimethylsilyl)hydroxylamine (TBSONH₂), which enabled easy access to oxime, “from the resulting *O*-silyl oxime” was used. The cleavage of oxime has been reported under a wide variety of conditions, and we expected that it would enable the conversion of the relatively hard enone–oxime into a ketone^{22–27}. So, **23** was converted to **24** using TBSONH₂, which was prepared from TBSCl and hydroxylamine²⁸, with an acidic catalyst in the presence of anhydrous magnesium sulfate as water scavenger²⁹. The resulting compound **24** was selectively obtained as *E* stereoisomer avoiding the steric hindrance between the TBSO group and the hydroxymethyl group at the C-2 position of the enone. In the subsequent step, the Dess–Martin oxidation of the crude product **24** gave aldehyde **25** in 79% yield over two steps (Scheme 4). With key intermediate **25** in hand, we proceeded with the synthesis of (+)-**4** through the insertion of the hydrocarbon chain followed by the suitable ring modifications to obtain hygrophorone skeleton (Scheme 5). The coupling reaction of **25** with the hydrocarbon chain to construct the desired carbon skeleton of (+)-**4** was investigated intensively. Initial attempts with commercially available dodecylmagnesium bromide (C₁₂H₂₅MgBr) in tetrahydrofuran (THF) at –78 to –20 °C³⁰ resulted in the formation of **24** as the major product, while compound **26** was barely produced. We assumed that this result is due to the reduction of the β-hydride via a six-membered-ring transition state between the formyl group of **25** and C₁₂H₂₅MgBr as a hydride source, similar to the Meerwein–Ponndorf–Verley (MPV) protocol (for details, see the Supporting Information, Scheme S1)^{31–35}. To test this hypothesis, we used an unsaturated hydrocarbon chain, 1-dodecyne, without a hydride in the beta position. The organolithium obtained in situ from the treatment of 1-dodecyne with *n*-BuLi was allowed to react with intermediate **25** at –40 °C to



Scheme 5. Synthesis of (+)-hygrophorone B¹² (4) and analogues 31/32. THF = tetrahydrofuran; TBS = tert-butyltrimethylsilyl; TIPS = triisopropylsilyl; NMO = *N*-methylmorpholine oxide; rt: room temperature; for details, see the Supporting Information.

give **27** in moderate yield (57%) without forming **24**. Moreover, **27** was obtained in satisfactory yield (92%) as an inseparable diastereomeric mixture ($\alpha/\beta = 1:1$) with regard to the C-6 position by using 2-methyl-THF, a less hygroscopic solvent than THF (for details, see the Supporting Information, Table S1). The scandium-catalyzed treatment of **27** under mild reaction conditions removed the TBS group to produce the oxime **28**, and a subsequent reductive deoxygenation by titanium (III) chloride in the presence of ammonium acetate³⁶ gave **29** and *epi*-**29** as a mixture separable via column chromatography on silica gel. Compound **30** was prepared as a single stereoisomer from **29** by treatment with an osmium catalyst and *N*-methylmorpholine oxide at 70 °C; the formation of the osmate ester intermediate was stereoselective due to the steric hindrance of the TIPS group at the C-4 position. The catalytic hydrogenation of **30** over 10% Pd/C was performed in methanol at room temperature. Finally, the desilylation of the resulting intermediate and the subsequent elimination of the hydroxyl group to construct the enone moiety were efficiently achieved through treatment with 1 M aqueous HCl in ethanol at 90 °C³⁷, affording the targeted (+)-hygrophorone B¹² (**4**). The experimental evidences (¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra and high-resolution mass spectrum) of synthetic (+)-**4** were identical to those of natural hygrophorone B¹² (**4**). The optical rotation of synthetic (+)-**4** ($[\alpha]_D^{25} = +23.0$; $c = 0.10$ in MeOH) matched that reported for natural **4** ($[\alpha]_D^{27} = +20.7$; $c = 0.135$, MeOH)¹⁷. Furthermore, we prepared two analogues of **4** starting from key intermediate **30**. Alkyne **31** was synthesized through direct treatment of **30** with 1 M aqueous HCl in ethanol at 90 °C, while the reduced analogue **32** was obtained by the Pd catalyzed hydrogenation of the endocyclic double bond of (+)-**4**.

Organism ^[a]	MIC (µg/mL) ^[b]			
	(+)-4	31	32	Gem ^[c]
<i>S. aureus</i> ATCC 6358P	1	1	> 256	0.25
<i>E. faecium</i> ATCC 35,667	1	0.5	64	4
<i>E. coli</i> DH5 α	256	32	> 256	0.5
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> ATCC 10,031	32	8	> 256	0.5
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> PAO1	> 256	256	> 256	0.5
<i>A. baumannii</i> ATCC 17,978	32	16	> 256	16

Table 1. Antimicrobial evaluation of the synthesized hydroporphorones (+)-4, **31**, and **32** using clinically relevant bacterial pathogens. Determined by CLSI broth microdilution methods. ^[a]Measured concentration (0.125–256 µg/mL); *S. aureus*: *Staphylococcus aureus*; *E. faecium*: *Enterococcus faecium*; *E. coli*: *Escherichia coli*; *K. pneumoniae*: *Klebsiella pneumoniae*; *P. aeruginosa*: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; *A. baumannii*: *Acinetobacter baumannii*. ^[b]MIC: Minimum inhibitory concentration. ^[c]Gem: gentamicin. Measured concentration (0.125–16 µg/mL).

Organism ^[a]	MIC (µg/mL) ^[b]		
	(+)-4	31	Gem ^[c]
MRSA MRY04-1385	1	1	> 16
VRE MRY05-0006	1	1	4
CRE (<i>E. coli</i>) MRY13-0331	> 256	> 256	> 16
CRE (<i>K. pneumoniae</i>) MRY12-0017	> 256	> 256	> 16
MDRP MRY09-1249	> 256	256	> 16
MDRA MRY12-0277	128	16	> 16

Table 2. Antimicrobial evaluation of synthesized (+)-4 and **31** against antimicrobial-resistant (AMR) bacterial isolates. Determined by CLSI broth microdilution methods. ^[a]Measured concentration (0.125–256 µg/mL). *MRSA*: methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*; *VRE*: vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium*; *CRE*: carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (*Escherichia coli* or *Klebsiella pneumoniae*); *MDRP*: multidrug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; *MDRA*: multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*. ^[b]MIC: Minimum inhibitory concentration. ^[c]Gem: gentamicin. Measured concentration (0.125–16 µg/mL).

The antimicrobial activity of the synthesized (+)-hydroporphorone B¹² (**4**) and its analogues **31** and **32** were evaluated to gauge their potency. Antimicrobial susceptibility testing was performed with the broth dilution method according to the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) 2020 guidelines^{9,38}. Initially, the compounds were tested with six bacterial species (*Staphylococcus aureus*, *Enterococcus faecium*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Acinetobacter baumannii*) that represent the most common pathogens in clinical settings. Gentamicin was used as a positive control in this assay, and the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values are summarized in Table 1. (+)-4 and **31** showed antimicrobial activity toward five of the bacterial species, excluding *P. aeruginosa*. In particular, they were significantly more effective against *E. faecium* than gentamicin, while the antimicrobial activity of **32** was remarkably lower against many species. These results indicate that the expression of antimicrobial activity depends on the α,β-unsaturated carbonyl framework in the hydroporphorone B class of compounds. Moreover, the antimicrobial activities of (+)-4 and **31** were investigated against six antimicrobial-resistant (AMR) bacteria isolates (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus faecium*, carbapenem-resistant *Escherichia coli*, carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales, multidrug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and multidrug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*) (Table 2). Intriguingly, (+)-4 and **31** were notably effective in suppressing the growth of methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) and vancomycin-resistant *E. faecium* (VRE). Moreover, **31** with a carbon–carbon triple bond in its hydrocarbon chain suppressed the growth of multidrug-resistant *A. baumannii* (MDRA) compared to (+)-4. However, these compounds were not effective against carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (*E. coli* or *K. pneumoniae*) (CRE) or multidrug-resistant *P. aeruginosa* (MDRP). The aforementioned results show that hydroporphorone-B-type compounds including **4** and **31** can be expected to exhibit higher antimicrobial activity against specific bacterial species, especially gram-positive bacteria. Detailed antimicrobial activity data, including

MIC values for hygrophorone B¹² (**4**) and its analogues **31/32** against bacterial pathogens causing human infectious diseases, have not been reported previously in the literature, while the MIC value of hygrophorone-A-type compound (**3**) has been reported elsewhere¹⁵. The results of our evaluation suggest that their chemical structure (e.g., the presence of triple bonds or enone moiety) have a substantial influence on the microbial activity of hygrophorones. Therefore, our strategy for a new synthesis of hygrophorone-B-type compounds from key intermediate **25** with a suitable side chain is useful. These findings demonstrated that hygrophorone B is an accessible lead compound for designing novel antimicrobial drugs.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we have achieved the enantioselective total synthesis of (+)-hygrophorone B¹² (**4**) and its analogues **31** and **32** in 4.5–4.8% overall yield over a linear sequence of 10–12 steps starting from cyclopentenone **20**, which can be obtained from D-glucose (**21**). The main advantage of our synthetic method is expected to contribute the provision of a wide variety of hygrophorone B analogues starting from the common key intermediate **25** via the insertion of various hydrocarbon chains or aryl groups. As ongoing research, we are investigating other side chains including aryl groups that can be introduced, and studying toward the synthesis of other analogues. The antimicrobial evaluation of (+)-**4** and its analogues revealed their potency, and the structure–activity relationship of hygrophorone-B-type compounds was disclosed. Moreover, the synthesized hygrophorones are highly effective in preventing the proliferation of chemical-sensitive bacteria and AMR bacteria (MRSA, VRE, and MDRA), especially gram-positive bacteria. These results can be expected to be useful for the design and development of new antimicrobial agents. Further studies concerning the synthesis of other hygrophorone B analogues and the evaluation of their antimicrobial activity, as well as an investigation of their side effects on human normal cells, are currently in progress in our group. In the near future, the bacterial intracellular target(s) that interact with hygrophorones will be revealed in detail, and we will provide accurate information on the mechanism of the expression of their activity.

Methods

Instruments. Optical rotations were recorded on an Anton Paar MCP-100. Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a Bruker AVANCE-400 III and AVANCE-600 III spectrometer and calibrated using residual undeuterated solvent as an internal reference (CDCl₃ at δ 7.26 ppm for ¹H, δ 77.16 for ¹³C NMR). High-resolution mass spectrometry (HR-MS) was performed using a Bruker MicrOTOF-Q II-S1 using electrospray ionization (ESI) technique.

General organic synthetic methods. Reactions were monitored by analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) carried out on 0.25 mm E. Merck silica gel plates (60 F₂₅₄). Visualization of the developed chromatogram was performed by UV absorbance and aqueous cerium ammonium molybdate. Flash chromatography was performed on Kanto Chemical silica gel 60 N (spherical, neutral, 40–50 μm) with the indicated solvent systems.

Materials. Compound **20** (>99% ee) and pyridinium *p*-toluenesulfonate (PPTS) stored in the freezer were used. trimethylamine (Et₃N), 2,6-lutidine, anhydrous magnesium sulfate (MgSO₄), ethylenediamine, ammonium acetate (NH₄OAc), titanium(III) chloride (20% aqueous solution), potassium osmate(VI) dihydrate (K₂OsO₂(OH)₂), palladium on carbon (10%, Pd/C), ethanol (EtOH), methanol (MeOH) and anhydrous solvents for organic synthesis, including CH₂Cl₂, tetrahydrofuran (THF) and acetonitrile (MeCN) were purchased from FUJIFILM Wako Pure Chemical Co. Triisopropylsilyl trifluoromethanesulfonate (TIPSOTf), scandium(III) trifluoromethanesulfonate (Sc(OTf)₃) and 1-dodecyne were purchased from Tokyo Chemical Industry Co. *n*-butyllithium solution and methyllithium solution were purchased Kanto Chemical Co. *tert*-Butyldimethylsilyl chloride (TBSCl), dodecylmagnesium bromide solution (C₁₂H₂₅MgBr), *N*-methylmorpholine oxide (NMO), Gentamicin sulfate, anhydrous 2-methyl-THF for organic synthesis and phenylmagnesium bromide solution (PhMgBr) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co. Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacterial reference strains, including *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 29,213, *Enterococcus faecium* ATCC 35,667, *Escherichia coli* DH5 α, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* ATCC 10,031, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1, and *Acinetobacter baumannii* ATCC 17,978, *S. aureus* MRY04-1385, *E. faecium* MRY05-0006, *E. coli* MRY13-0331, *K. pneumoniae* MRY12-0017, *P. aeruginosa* MRY09-1249, *A. baumannii* MRY12-0277 were purchased from the American Type Culture Collection. Silica gel plates (60F–254) for thin layer chromatography were purchased from Merck. Silica gel 60 N (230–400 mesh) for flash chromatography was purchased from Kanto Chemical. All reagents were used without further purification. All reactions were carried out in flame-dried glassware under a nitrogen atmosphere with dry solvents. Unless stated otherwise, commercial grade reagents were used without further purification.

Experimental procedures. Synthesis of **22**. TBSCl (5.24 g, 23.2 mmol) and Et₃N (6.5 mL, 46.2 mmol) were added to a solution of cyclopentenone **20**^{20,21} (2.97 g, 23.2 mmol) in THF (77 mL). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature. After 24 h, the resulting mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl. The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 100 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine then dried with MgSO₄. Concentration in vacuo afforded a residue, which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 3:1 → 1:1) to give **22** (4.86 g, 86%) as a colorless-pale yellow oil. TLC (Hexane:EtOAc, 1:3 v/v): R_f = 0.73; [α]_D²⁰ = +11.2 (c = 1.0 in CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 0.080 (s, 3H), 0.085 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 9H), 1.91 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1H), 2.37 (dd, *J* = 2.0, 18.8 Hz, 1H), 2.86 (dd, *J* = 6.0, 18.8 Hz, 1H), 4.37–4.38 (m, 2H), 4.99 (brs, 1H), 7.37–7.38 (m, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –5.35, –5.32, 18.4, 26.0 (3C), 45.8, 58.0, 68.9, 148.4, 155.9, 204.8 ppm; HR-MS (ESI-TOF): *m/z* calcd. for C₁₂H₂₃O₃Si ([M + H]⁺), 243.1411; found, 243.1415.

Synthesis of **19**. TIPSOTf (1.80 mL, 6.72 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of **22** (1.36 g, 5.61 mmol) and 2,6-lutidine (0.97 mL, 8.42 mmol) in CH₂Cl₂ (19 mL) at room temperature under argon atmosphere. After 1.5 h, the resulting mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl. The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 100 mL), and the extracts were washed with brine then dried with MgSO₄. Concentration under vacuum afforded a residue, which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 25:1 → 15:1) to give **19** (2.23 g, 99%) as a colorless oil. TLC (Hexane:EtOAc, 2:1 v/v): R_f = 0.90; [α]_D²⁰ = +17.5 (c = 1.0 in CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.078 (s, 3H), 0.085 (s, 3H), 0.92 (s, 9H), 1.06–1.12 (m, 21H), 2.39 (dd, J = 2.0, 18.2 Hz, 1H), 2.81 (dd, J = 5.8, 18.2 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (t, J = 2.0 Hz, 2H), 4.99–5.03 (m, 2H), 7.32 (q, J = 2.2, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –5.31, –5.30, 12.2 (3C), 18.04 (4C), 18.05 (3C), 18.4 (2C), 25.9, 46.8, 58.0, 69.2, 147.2, 157.2, 205.1 ppm; HR–MS (ESI–TOF) : m/z C₂₁H₄₃O₃Si₂ ([M + H]⁺) calcd. for 399.2745, found 399.2741.

Synthesis of **23**. Sc(OTf)₃ (173 mg, 0.352 mmol) and H₂O (2.5 mL, 140 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of **19** (2.80 g, 7.04 mmol) in MeCN (70 mL) at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred at same temperature. After 5.5 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 100 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine then dried with MgSO₄. Concentration under vacuum afforded a residue, which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:1 → 2:1) to give **23** (1.53 g, 77%) as a colorless oil. TLC (Hexane:EtOAc, 4:1 v/v): R_f = 0.30; [α]_D²⁰ = +29.7 (c = 1.0 in CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.05–1.16 (m, 21H), 2.11–2.15 (m, 1H), 2.39 (dd, J = 2.1, 18.3 Hz, 1H), 2.83 (dd, J = 6.0, 18.6 Hz, 1H), 4.34–4.45 (m, 2H), 5.02–5.05 (m, 1H), 7.31–7.32 (m, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.2 (3C), 18.03 (4C), 18.06 (2C), 46.5, 57.6, 69.3, 145.5, 157.7, 206.1 ppm; HR–MS (ESI–TOF) : m/z C₁₅H₂₈O₃SiNa ([M + Na]⁺) calcd. for 307.1700, found 307.1697.

Synthesis of **25**. TBSONH₂²⁸ (775 mg, 5.26 mmol) and MgSO₄ (169 mg, 1.40 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of **23** (1.0 g, 3.51 mmol) and PPTS (88 mg, 0.351 mmol) in toluene (3.5 mL) at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred at 100 °C. After 1.5 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 15 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine then dried with MgSO₄. Concentration under vacuum afforded a crude residue **24** (1.98 g), which was immediately used without any purification. crude residue **24**: ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.15 (d, J = 13.5 Hz, 3H), 0.18 (d, J = 12.9 Hz, 3H), 0.93 (s, 9H), 1.07–1.14 (m, 21H), 2.51 (dd, J = 2.2, 18.4 Hz, 1H), 2.73 (brs, 1H), 3.15 (dd, J = 6.5, 18.4 Hz, 1H), 4.37 (dd, J = 6.5, 12.7 Hz, 1H), 4.45 (dd, J = 5.2, 14.2 Hz, 1H), 4.95–4.98 (1H, m), 6.30–6.31 (m, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –5.1 (2C), 12.2 (3C), 18.1 (2C), 18.4 (4C), 26.2 (4C), 37.4, 59.2, 72.6, 141.8, 141.9, 167.3 ppm.

Dess–Martin periodinane (DMP) (1.78 g, 4.21 mmol) was added to a solution of a crude residue **24** in CH₂Cl₂ (18 mL) at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred at same temperature. After 0.5 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with aqueous NaHCO₃ and Na₂S₂O₃. The resulting mixture was extracted with CHCl₃ (2 × 30 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine then dried with MgSO₄. Concentration under vacuum afforded a residue, which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 30:1) to give **25** (1.14 g, 79%, 2 steps) as a pale-yellow oil. TLC (Hexane:EtOAc, 6:1 v/v): R_f = 0.65; [α]_D²⁰ = +113.1 (c = 0.51 in CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.190 (s, 3H), 0.195 (s, 3H), 0.95 (s, 9H), 1.05–1.17 (m, 21H), 2.64 (dd, J = 2.9, 18.3 Hz, 1H), 3.26 (dd, J = 6.9, 18.5 Hz, 1H), 5.04–5.07 (m, 1H), 7.12–7.13 (d, J = 2.9 Hz, 1H), 10.0 (s, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –5.1 (2C), 12.2 (3C), 18.1 (4C), 18.4 (2C), 26.2 (4C), 37.6, 72.3, 138.9, 152.1, 163.8, 188.0 ppm; HR–MS (ESI–TOF) : m/z C₂₁H₄₂O₃NSi₂ ([M + H]⁺) calcd. for 412.2698, found 412.2703.

Synthesis of **27**. *n*-BuLi (1.59 M in *n*-hexane, 1.14 mL, 1.82 mmol) was dropwise to a solution of 1-dodecyne (0.39 mL, 1.82 mmol) in 2-methyl-THF (6 mL) at –20 °C under argon atmosphere, and the mixture was stirred at same temperature. After 0.5 h, a solution of aldehyde **25** (500 mg, 1.21 mmol) in 2-methyl-THF (4 mL) was added to the resulting solution, and the mixture was stirred further an hour at same temperature. The reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NH₄Cl. The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 20 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine then dried with MgSO₄. Concentration under vacuum afforded a residue, which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 40:1) to give **27** (644 mg, 92%) as a pale-yellow syrup. TLC (Hexane:EtOAc, 6:1 v/v): R_f = 0.65; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.168–0.17 (6H), 0.195 (s, 3H), 0.87 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 0.93–0.94 (9H), 1.05–1.14 (m, 21H), 1.26–1.43 (m, 14H), 1.48–1.51 (m, 2H), 2.21–2.28 (m, 2H), 2.54 (dd, J = 2.2, 18.4 Hz, 1H), 3.15–3.22 (m, 1H), 3.63 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 0.5H), 3.82 (d, J = 5.3 Hz, 0.5H), 4.94–4.98 (m, 1H), 5.19–5.20 (m, 0.5H), 5.28–5.29 (m, 0.5H), 6.45–6.46 (m, 0.5H), 6.49–6.50 (m, 0.5H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ –5.2, 12.1, 12.2, 14.3, 18.1, 18.4, 18.89, 18.9, 22.8, 26.18, 22.19, 28.7, 29.1, 29.3, 29.5, 29.7, 29.8, 32.0, 37.7, 37.8, 59.5, 59.6, 72.21, 72.24, 77.7, 77.9, 86.9, 87.0, 141.7, 141.8, 143.2, 143.6, 166.2, 166.5 ppm; HR–MS (ESI–TOF) : m/z C₃₃H₆₄O₃NSi₂ ([M + H]⁺) calcd. for 578.4419, found 578.4416.

Synthesis of **28**. Sc(OTf)₃ (12.8 mg, 0.0259 mmol) and H₂O (0.19 mL, 10.4 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of **27** (300 mg, 0.519 mmol) in MeCN (5.2 mL) at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred at same temperature. After an hour, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The resulting mixture was extracted with CHCl₃ (2 × 20 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine then dried with MgSO₄. Concentration under vacuum afforded a residue, which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 6:1 → 4:1) to give **28** (217 mg, 91%) as a pale-yellow syrup. TLC (Hexane:EtOAc, 4:1 v/v): R_f = 0.45; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.05–1.17 (m, 21H), 1.22–1.39 (m, 14H), 1.49–1.54 (m, 2H), 2.23–2.28 (m, 2H), 2.59 (dd, J = 2.3, 18.3 Hz, 1H), 3.15 (brs, 0.5H), 3.18–3.25 (m, 1H), 3.36 (brs, 0.5H), 4.34–4.45 (m, 2H), 4.97–5.02 (m, 1H), 5.20 (s, 0.5H), 5.27 (s, 0.5H), 6.53–6.54 (m, 0.5H), 6.55–6.56 (m, 0.5H), 7.18 (brs, 0.5H), 7.22 (brs, 0.5H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.2, 14.3, 18.1, 18.9, 19.0, 22.8, 28.7, 29.1, 29.3, 29.5, 29.7, 29.8, 32.0, 37.3, 58.7, 58.9, 72.2, 72.3, 77.7, 77.9, 87.3, 141.5, 141.6, 162.6, 162.9 ppm; HR–MS (ESI–TOF) : m/z C₂₇H₅₀O₃NSi ([M + H]⁺) calcd. for 464.3554, found 464.3547.

Synthesis of **29/epi-29**. A solution of NH₄OAc (830 mg, 10.8 mmol) in H₂O (1.5 mL) and TiCl₃ (20% aq., 2.66 mL, 3.45 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of **28** (200 mg, 0.431 mmol) in THF (5.1 mL) at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred at 60 °C. After 30 min, the reaction mixture was quenched with H₂O.

The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 20 mL). The combined extracts were washed with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃ and brine then dried with MgSO₄. Concentration under vacuum afforded a residue, which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 13:1 → 10:1) to give **29** (39.9 mg, 41%) and **epi-29** (32.8 mg, 34%) as a pale-yellow viscous oil.

29; TLC (Hexane:EtOAc, 3:1 v/v): R_f = 0.55; [α]_D²⁰ = +12.0 (c = 1.0 in CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.89 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.05–1.19 (m, 21H), 1.27–1.40 (m, 14H), 1.50–1.57 (m, 2H), 2.26 (td, J = 2.0, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.46 (dd, J = 2.1, 18.3, 1H), 2.85–2.91 (m, 2H), 3.36 (brs, 0.5H), 5.03–5.06 (m, 1H), 5.21–5.22 (m, 1H), 7.43 (q, J = 3.4 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.2, 14.3, 18.02, 18.05, 18.9, 22.8, 28.6, 29.0, 29.3, 29.4, 29.6, 29.7, 32.0, 46.8, 57.8, 68.8, 87.7, 145.4, 168.6, 204.9 ppm; HR-MS (ESI-TOF) : m/z C₂₇H₄₉O₃Si ([M + H]⁺) calcd. for 449.3445, found 449.3441.

epi-29; TLC (Hexane:EtOAc, 3:1 v/v): R_f = 0.45; [α]_D²⁰ = +25.6 (c = 1.0 in CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.87 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.05–1.18 (m, 21H), 1.26–1.39 (m, 14H), 1.48–1.54 (m, 2H), 2.25 (dt, J = 2.0, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.43 (dd, J = 2.1, 18.3 Hz, 1H), 2.80 (dd, J = 5.8, 18.3 Hz, 1H), 3.05 (d, J = 4.3 Hz, 1H), 5.02–5.05 (m, 1H), 5.26 (brs, 1H), 7.43 (q, J = 3.5 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.1, 14.3, 18.02, 18.04, 18.9, 22.8, 28.6, 29.0, 29.3, 29.5, 29.7, 29.8, 32.0, 46.8, 58.1, 68.9, 87.7, 145.1, 168.9, 205.4 ppm; HR-MS (ESI-TOF) : m/z C₂₇H₄₈O₃SiNa ([M + Na]⁺) calcd. for 471.3265, found 471.3251.

Synthesis of **30**. K₂O₂(OH)₄ (2.3 mg, 6.13 μmol) and NMO (42.8 mg, 0.306 mmol) were added to a stirred solution of **29** (55 mg, 0.122 mmol) in THF–H₂O (2.5 mL, 10:1) at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred at 40 °C. After 3.5 h, the reaction mixture was quenched with aqueous Na₂S₂O₃ (10%). The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 15 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine (20 mL) then dried with MgSO₄. Concentration under vacuum afforded a residue, which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:1) to give **30** (24.3 mg, 41%) as a pale-yellow oil. TLC (Hexane:EtOAc, 2:1 v/v): R_f = 0.40; [α]_D²⁰ = –39.0 (c = 0.10 in CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (t, J = 7.1 Hz, 3H), 1.04–1.20 (m, 21H), 1.22–1.37 (m, 14H), 1.46–1.52 (m, 2H), 2.21 (dt, J = 2.0, 7.1 Hz, 2H), 2.44 (ddd, J = 1.0, 3.7, 20.6 Hz, 1H), 2.58 (brs, 1H), 2.85 (dd, J = 7.4, 19.6 Hz, 1H), 3.34 (brs, 1H), 3.72 (d, J = 10.6 Hz, 1H), 4.35 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 4.45–4.48 (m, 1H), 4.55 (d, J = 9.8 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 12.0, 14.3, 179, 18.9, 22.8, 28.6, 29.0, 29.3, 29.5, 29.6, 29.7, 32.0, 44.5, 65.0, 71.5, 81.5, 89.3, 214.2 ppm; HR-MS (ESI-TOF) : m/z C₂₇H₄₉O₅Si[–] ([M–H][–]) calcd. for 481.3355, found 481.3346.

Synthesis of (+)-Hydrophorone B¹² (**4**). 10% Pd/C (1.7 mg, 10 w/w%) were added to a solution of **30** (16.8 mg, 0.0348 mmol) in MeOH (1.7 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred under hydrogen atmosphere (balloon). After 5.5 h, the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of celite and concentrated under reduced pressure. An obtained crude product (16.7 mg) which was used without any purification was dissolved in EtOH (1.2 mL). 1 M HCl (0.6 mL) was added to the stirred solution at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred at 90 °C. After 30 min, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 15 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine (20 mL) then dried with MgSO₄. Concentration under vacuum afforded a residue, which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1) to give (+)-hydrophorone B¹² (**4**) (6.7 mg, 63%, 2 steps) as a white solid. TLC (Hexane:EtOAc, 1:1 v/v): R_f = 0.30; [α]_D²⁵ = +23.0 (c = 0.10 in MeOH), {ref.¹⁷ [α]_D²⁷ = +20.7 (c = 0.135, MeOH)}, ¹H and ¹³C NMR, and MS spectra were identical to those of natural (+)-hydrophorone B¹²; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (t, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H), 1.25–1.36 (m, 20H), 1.52–1.62 (m, 2H), 2.07 (d, J = 8.3, 1H), 2.94 (d, J = 7.3, 1H), 3.58 (s, 1H), 3.77 (t, J = 9.6 Hz, 1H), 4.72 (ddd, J = 1.4, 2.2, 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.30 (dd, J = 1.3, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, J = 2.3, 6.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.3, 22.8, 26.3, 29.5, 29.6, 29.67, 29.7, 29.77, 29.8, 31.4, 32.1, 71.6, 73.5, 76.0, 133.7, 163.7, 207.5 ppm; HR-MS (ESI-TOF) : m/z C₁₈H₃₁O₄[–] ([M–H][–]) calcd. for 311.2228, found 311.2219.

Synthesis of **31**. 1 M aqueous HCl (0.75 mL) was added to a stirred solution of **30** (11.4 mg, 0.0236 mmol) in ethanol (1.5 mL) at room temperature, and the mixture was stirred at 90 °C. After 30 min, the reaction mixture was quenched with saturated aqueous NaHCO₃. The resulting mixture was extracted with EtOAc (2 × 15 mL). The combined extracts were washed with brine (20 mL) then dried with MgSO₄. Concentration under vacuum afforded a residue, which was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 4:3) to give **31** (6.1 mg, 84%) as a colorless amorphous. TLC (Hexane:EtOAc, 1:1 v/v): R_f = 0.2; [α]_D²⁵ = –13.0 (c = 0.10 in CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (t, J = 7.0 Hz, 3H), 1.25–1.31 (m, 15H), 1.41–1.46 (m, 2H), 2.16 (dt, J = 2.0, 7.1 Hz, 1H), 2.88 (d, J = 7.9, 1H), 2.91 (d, J = 8.8, 1H), 3.83 (s, 1H), 4.55 (dt, J = 1.9, 8.8 Hz, 1H), 4.85 (dt, J = 1.7, 7.6 Hz, 1H), 6.31 (dd, J = 1.5, 6.1 Hz, 1H), 7.64 (dd, J = 2.2, 6.1 Hz, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.3, 18.7, 22.8, 28.5, 28.9, 29.2, 29.5, 29.6, 29.7, 32.0, 64.9, 71.9, 75.0, 76.0, 89.5, 133.4, 163.9, 206.1 ppm; HR-MS (ESI-TOF) : m/z C₁₈H₂₇O₄[–] ([M–H][–]) calcd. for 307.1914, found 307.1915.

Synthesis of **32**. 10% Pd/C (0.27 mg, 10 w/w%) were added to a solution of (+)-**4** (2.7 mg, 8.64 μmol) in MeOH (1.0 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred under hydrogen atmosphere (balloon). After an hour, the reaction mixture was filtered through a pad of celite and concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was purified by column chromatography (hexane/EtOAc 1:1) to give to **32** (2.7 mg, 99%) as a white solid. TLC (Hexane:EtOAc, 1:3 v/v): R_f = 0.6; [α]_D²⁵ = –26.0 (c = 0.10 in CHCl₃); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.88 (t, J = 6.8 Hz, 3H), 1.25–1.42 (m, 21H), 1.51–1.53 (m, 1H), 1.87 (d, J = 9.7 Hz, 1H), 2.04–2.12 (m, 1H), 2.23–2.54 (m, 4H), 3.13 (s, 1H), 3.60–3.65 (m, 1H), 4.40–4.41 (m, 1H) ppm; ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 14.3, 22.8, 25.4, 26.0, 29.5, 29.56, 29.66, 29.71, 29.77 (2C), 29.8, 31.8, 32.1, 32.7, 71.3, 72.0, 83.4, 217.3 ppm; HR-MS (ESI-TOF) : m/z C₁₈H₃₃O₄[–] ([M–H][–]) calcd. for 313.2384, found 313.2354.

Data availability

The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

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Author contributions

T. K. and H. K. directed the research. T. K., T. N., H. N. and H. H. conceived the idea and designed the experiments. T. K. and K. N. synthesized compounds. T. K. and Y. K. analyzed NMR and MASS data. M. S. tested antimicrobial evaluation. T. K. wrote the main manuscript and supporting information with comments from all authors.

Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

Additional information

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