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## Enantiomeric Lignans and Neolignans from *Phyllanthus glaucus*: Enantioseparation and Their Absolute Configurations

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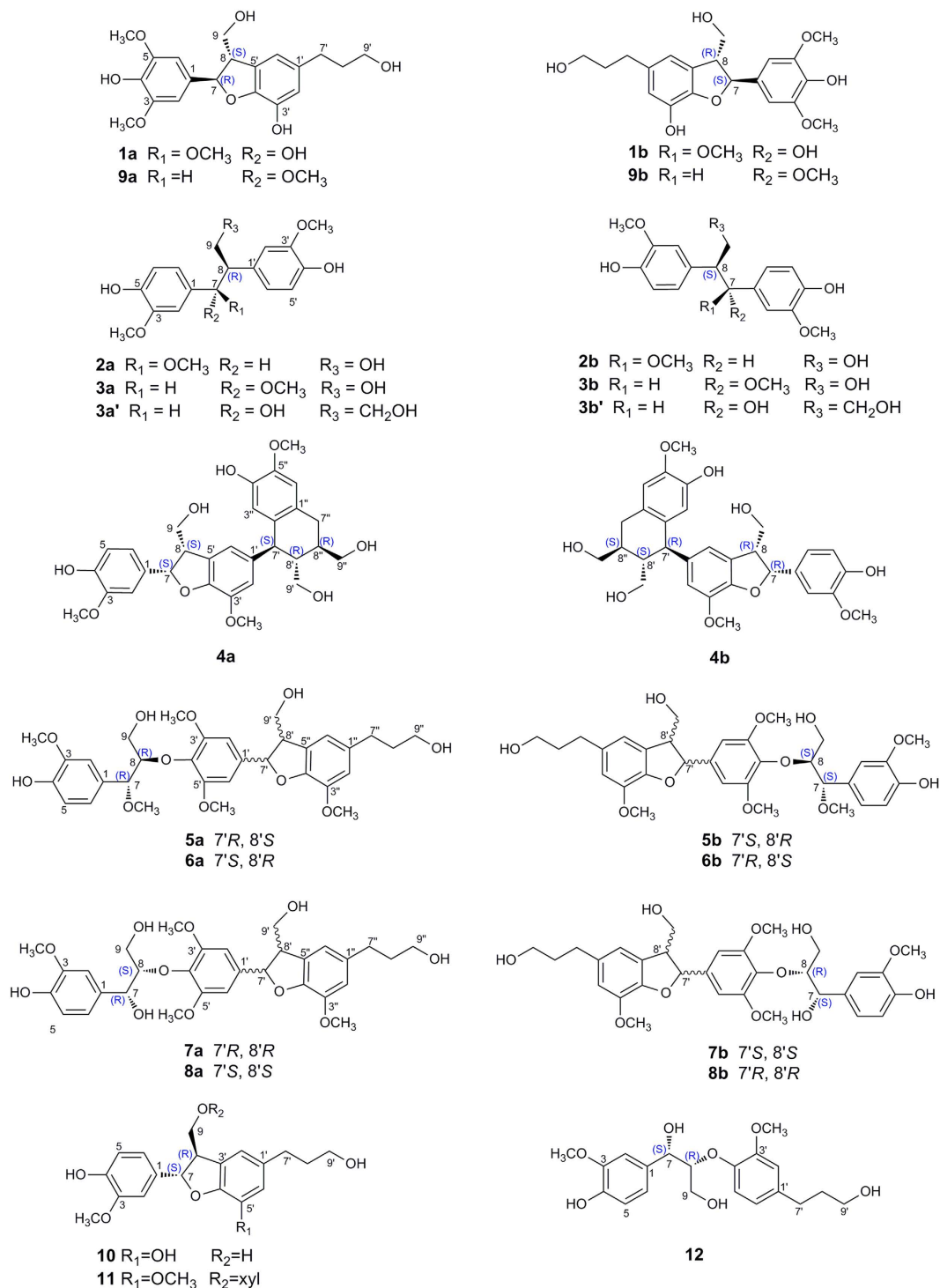
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Eight pairs of enantiomeric neolignans, norlignans, and sesqueneolignans (1a/1b–8a/8b), together with five known neolignans (9a/9b and 10–12), have been isolated from 70% acetone extract of the whole plants of *Phyllanthus glaucus* Wall. (Euphorbiaceae). The racemic or partial racemic mixtures were successfully separated by chiral HPLC using different types of chiral columns with various mobile phases. Their structures were elucidated on the basis of extensive spectroscopic data. The absolute configurations of 2a/2b were determined by computational analysis of their electronic circular dichroism (ECD) spectrum, and the absolute configurations of other isolates were ascertained by comparing their experimental ECD spectra and optical rotation values with those of structure-relevant compounds reported in literatures. Compounds 4a/4b featured unique sesqueneolignan skeletons with a novel 7-4'-epoxy-8'-8''/7'-2'' scaffold, consisting of an aryltetrahydronaphthalene and a dihydrobenzofuran moiety. The planar structures of compounds 2, 3, 7, and 8 were documented previously; however, their absolute configurations were established for the first time in this study. The antioxidant activities of 1a/1b–8a/8b were evaluated using DPPH free radical scavenging assay, and the results demonstrated that compounds 1b and 3b showed potent DPPH radical scavenging activities with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 5.987 ± 1.212 and 9.641 ± 0.865 µg/mL, respectively.

Lignans and neolignans are biosynthetically generated from phenylpropanoids, depending on the ways they are linked<sup>1</sup>, which present a conspicuous chemical diversity and have multifarious clinical pharmacology activities<sup>2</sup>. In nature, lignans with chiral carbon atoms are usually composed of one enantiomer or of several stereoisomers with different amount, so they present optical activities in general<sup>3,4</sup>. In the past decades, the enantioseparation and absolute configurations of natural enantiomeric lignans and neolignans have attracted the attention of researchers around the world, with the aid of application of chromatographic enantioseparation, single-crystal X-ray diffraction, electronic circular dichroism (ECD) techniques<sup>5–8</sup>.

Plants of the genus *Phyllanthus* (Euphorbiaceae) are widely distributed in most tropical and subtropical areas, which have been used in folk medicine for a long time to treat kidney and urinary bladder disturbances, intestinal infections, diabetes, and hepatitis B<sup>9</sup>. Previous phytochemical investigations on plants of this genus led to the isolation of terpenoids<sup>10–13</sup>, lignans<sup>14</sup>, flavonoids<sup>15</sup>, alkaloids<sup>16</sup>, and tannins<sup>17</sup>. In the course of searching for bioactive natural products from the traditional Chinese medicine plants<sup>18–20</sup>, our attention was drawn to *P. glaucus*, a kind of deciduous shrub widely distributed in south China. The roots of the plant are commonly used to treat rheumatic arthritis and infantile malnutrition by the local people<sup>21</sup>. To the best of our knowledge, phytochemical study of *P. glaucus* had resulted in the isolation of 33 compounds including two new lignan glucosides

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**Figure 1.** Structures of the co-isolated compounds.

by Yu and co-workers<sup>21</sup>. In our present study, eight pairs of enantiomers (**1a/1b–8a/8b**, Fig. 1), including a pair of enantiomeric neolignans (**1a/1b**), two pairs of norlignans (**2a/2b** and **3a/3b**), and five pairs of sesquigignans (**4a/4b–8a/8b**), along with five known compounds (**9a/9b**, **10**, **11**, and **12**) were isolated from the acetone extract of the whole plants of *P. glaucus*. The enantioseparations of these compounds were achieved using chiral HPLC approaches, and their structures including absolute configurations were elucidated by extensive spectroscopic analyses and ECD calculations. It is notable that compounds **4a/4b** possess unique sesquieolignan architecture with 7-4'-epoxy-8'-8''/7'-2'' scaffolds, consisting of an aryltetrahydronaphthalene and a dihydrobenzofuran moiety. In addition, the antioxidant activities of compounds **1a/1b–8a/8b** were evaluated by DPPH assay.

no.	1 <sup>a</sup>		2 <sup>b</sup>		3 <sup>b</sup>	
	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ (J, Hz)	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ (J, Hz)	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ (J, Hz)	$\delta_{\text{C}}$
1		129.7		131.9		131.4
2	6.71 s	104.0	6.53 s	109.5	6.58 d (1.8)	109.6
3		149.3		146.4		146.6
4		136.3		144.5		144.7
5		149.3	6.72 d (8.5)	113.9	6.85 d (8.1)	113.9
6	6.71 s	104.0	6.52 overlap	120.7	6.69 dd (8.1, 1.8)	120.9
7	5.51 d (6.0)	88.8	4.31 d (9.3)	89.7	4.39 d (6.6)	85.4
8	3.45 ddd (7.7, 6.0, 5.3)	55.9	3.01 m	55.0	3.07 m	54.6
9a	3.85 dd (10.9, 5.3)	65.2	4.16 dd (11.1, 8.0)	66.9	3.76 overlap	
	64.4					
9b	3.76 dd (10.9, 7.7)	65.2	3.85 dd (11.1, 4.3)	66.9	3.68 m	64.4
1'		136.8		131.3		131.1
2'	6.57 s	117.0	6.31 d (1.9)	111.7	6.57 d (1.8)	112.0
3'		141.9		146.3		146.4
4'		146.5		145.2		145.4
5'		134.4	6.73 d (8.2)	114.3	6.85 d (8.1)	114.3
6'	6.60 s	116.6	6.50 dd (8.2, 1.9)	120.8	6.67 dd (8.1, 1.8)	121.6
7'	2.56 t (7.6)	32.7				
8'	1.79 m	35.8				
9'	3.56 t (6.5)	62.3				
CH <sub>3</sub> O-3	3.81 s	56.7	3.75 s	56.1	3.77 s	56.0
CH <sub>3</sub> O-5	3.81 s	56.7				
CH <sub>3</sub> O-7			3.24 s	56.8	3.16 s	57.1
CH <sub>3</sub> O-3'			3.69 s	56.0	3.81 s	56.0

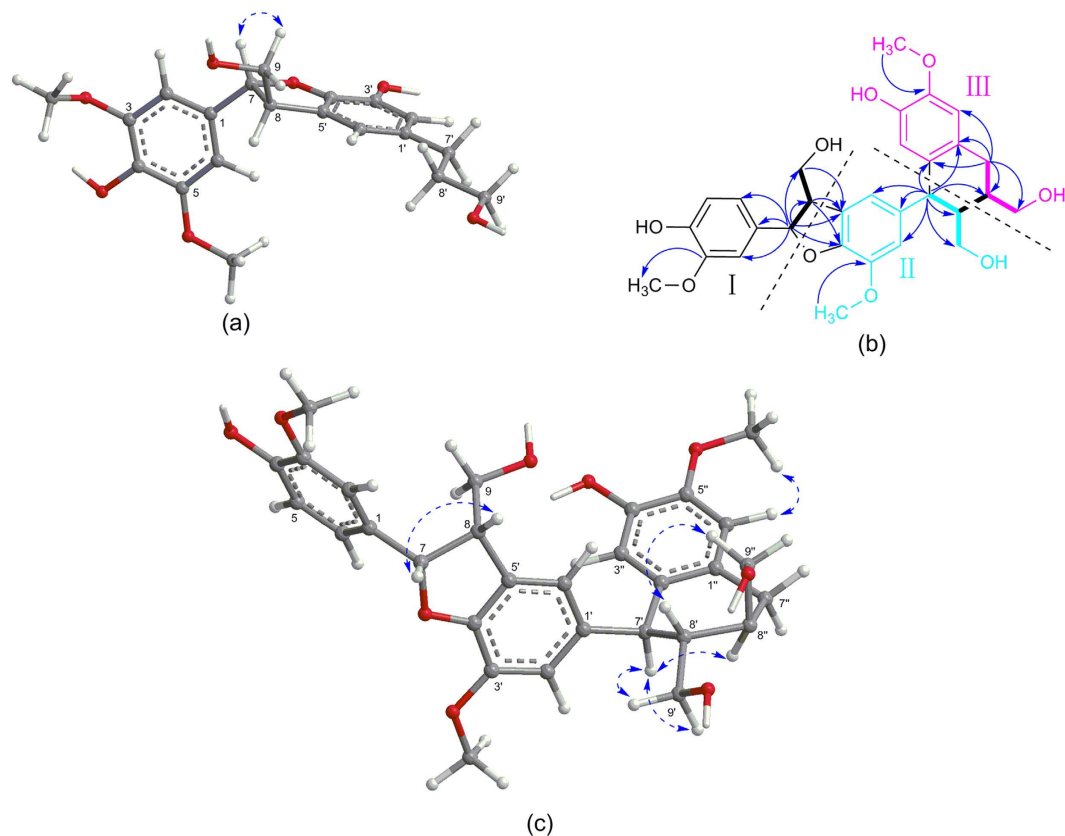
**Table 1.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR [400 MHz,  $\delta$  in ppm, Mult. (J in Hz)] and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz,  $\delta$  in ppm) Data for 1–3. <sup>a</sup>In CD<sub>3</sub>OD; <sup>b</sup>In CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

## Results and Discussion

**Structural Elucidation of Compounds 1a/1b–8a/8b.** Compound **1** was isolated as a colorless gum, and its molecular formula was determined to be C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>7</sub>, as elucidated by HRESIMS ( $m/z$  399.1407, calcd for [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 399.1420) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data (Table 1), requiring nine degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum of **1** showed the presence of hydroxyl (3418 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and aromatic functionalities (1614, 1518, and 1461 cm<sup>-1</sup>). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum revealed the co-existence of a symmetrical 1,3,4,5-tetrasubstituted aromatic ring at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.71 (2H, s), an asymmetrical 1,3,4,5-tetrasubstituted aromatic ring at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.60 (1H, s) and 6.57 (1H, s), and two methoxyl groups at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.81 (6H, s, each). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra (Table 1) of **1** displayed 20 carbons including two methoxyl groups, four sp<sup>3</sup> methylenes, two sp<sup>3</sup> methines, and two aromatic rings. The above mentioned data, together with the <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H COSY correlations of H-8 [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.45 (1H, ddd,  $J = 7.7, 6.0, 5.3$  Hz)] with H-9 [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.85 (1H, dd,  $J = 10.9, 5.3$  Hz, H-9a), and 3.76 (1H, dd,  $J = 10.9, 7.7$  Hz, H-9b)] and H-7 [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.51 (1H, d,  $J = 6.0$  Hz)], and of H-8' [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.79 (2H, m)] with H-9' [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.56 (2H, t,  $J = 6.5$  Hz)] and H-7' [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.56 (2H, t,  $J = 7.6$  Hz)], suggested that compound **1** was a lignan resembled cedrusin<sup>22</sup>. This prediction was further confirmed by the HMBC correlations from H-7 to C-9, C-4', and C-5', from H-8 to C-1, C-4', and C-5', and from H-7' to C-1', C-2', C-6', and C-9'. In addition, the two methoxyl groups were located at C-3 and C-5 by the HMBC interactions from protons at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.81 (6H, s) to carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  149.3 (C-3 and C-5). Thus, the planar structure of **1** was established and named phyllanglaucin A.

The coupling constant between H-7 and H-8 ( $J_{7,8} = 6.0$  Hz) of **1** suggested that the preferred conformation of the two protons was *trans*<sup>23</sup>, which was further supported by the NOESY correlations of H-7 with H-9b (Fig. 2a). Interestingly, we found that **1** was a racemic mixture for the presence of two peaks on the chiral HPLC. In order to define their absolute configurations, ECD, a powerful and effective method in determining the absolute configuration of natural products, was applied. Performing the enantioseparation of **1** by HPLC using a chiral-pak IA column provided the enantiomers **1a** and **1b** with a ratio about 1:3. Given the reversed helicity rule of the <sup>1</sup>L<sub>b</sub> band ECD for the 7-hydroxy-2,3-dihydrobenzo[*b*]furan chromophore<sup>24</sup>, the negative <sup>1</sup>L<sub>b</sub> Cotton effect (CE) of **1a** around 293 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon - 0.45$ ) (Fig. 3) suggested a 7*R* configuration, and accordingly, the positive CE of **1b** at 292 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon + 0.57$ ) (Fig. 3) indicated a 7*S* configuration. Thus, compounds **1a** and **1b** were determined as (+)-(7*R*,8*S*)-phyllanglaucin A and (–)-(7*S*,8*R*)-phyllanglaucin A (Fig. 1), respectively.

Compound **2** was purified as an amorphous white powder, which showed IR absorptions for hydroxyl (3366 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and aromatic rings (1606 and 1518 cm<sup>-1</sup>). The molecular formula, C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, was determined by HRESIMS ( $m/z$  357.1321, calcd for [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> 357.1314) and the <sup>13</sup>C NMR data. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2** displayed typical protons including six aromatic protons, two methines, one oxygenated methylene, and three methoxyls, and the <sup>13</sup>C NMR and DEPT spectra resolved 18 carbon signals. The 1D NMR data (Table 1) suggested that **2** had the same planar structure as *threo*-2,3-*bis*-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-3-methoxypropanol, a norlignan isolated from *Aralia bipinnata*<sup>25</sup>, which was further supported by detailed analyses of the 2D NMR



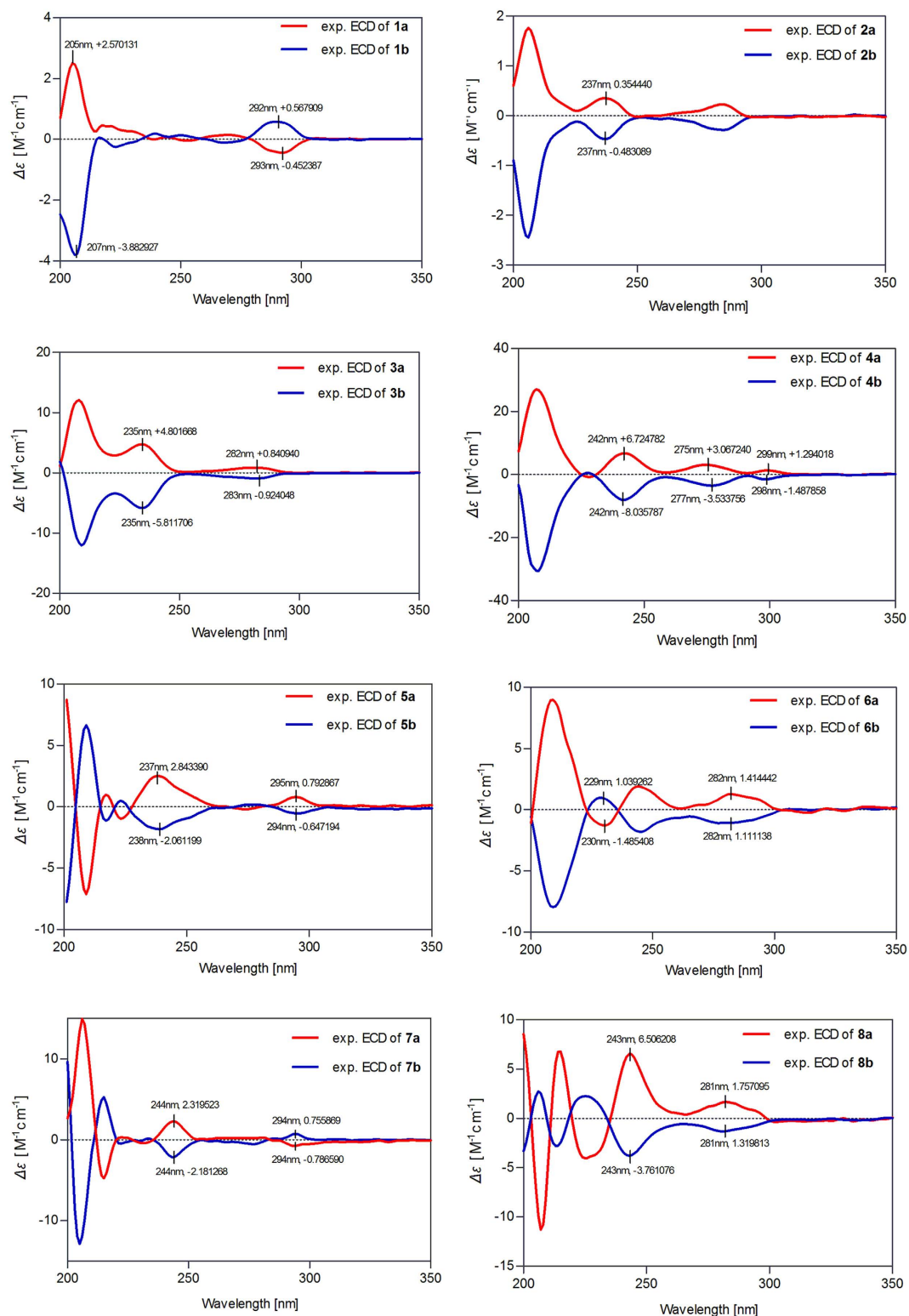
**Figure 2.** (a) Key NOESY correlations of compound **1**; (b)  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY and key HMBC correlations of compound **4**; (c) Key NOESY correlations of compound **4**.

spectra. In consequence, the structure of **2** was assigned as 4,4'-dihydroxy-3,7,3'-trimethoxy-7',8',9'-trior-8,1'-neolignan-9-ol. The relative configuration of **2** was subsequently determined to be 7,8-*threo* due to the large coupling constant between H-7 and H-8 ( $J_{7,8} = 9.3$  Hz). However, due to the lack of optical rotation and CE, compound **2** was proposed to be a racemic mixture. With the help chiral HPLC, the enantiomers of **2a** (5.3 mg) and **2b** (5.3 mg) were obtained with a ratio of 1:1, which showed the mirror image-like ECD curves (Fig. 3) and owned the opposite specific rotations (**2a**:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} + 30.0$ ; **2b**:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} - 30.8$ ).

Although the planar structures of **2a/2b** were reported in several literatures<sup>25–29</sup>, their absolute configurations remain to be determined. Our efforts to obtain fine crystals to determine the absolute configuration directly by X-ray crystallography failed. Therefore, quantum chemical ECD calculations were applied<sup>5,6</sup>, which were carried out for compound 7*R*,8*R*-**2** at the level of LC-wPBE/6-311++G(2d,p)//B3LYP/6-311++G(2d,p) in MeOH with IEFPCM solvation model. The theoretical ECD curve of 7*R*,8*R*-**2** matched well with the experimental ECD curve of compound **2a** (Fig. 4). The result was further validated by our additional ECD calculations employing two other different functionals, i.e., CAM-B3LYP and WB97XD, in which consistent results of ECD were obtained (given in supplementary information). Thus, the absolute configuration of **2a** was unambiguously assigned as 7*R*,8*R*. Finally, compound **2a** was determined as (7*R*,8*R*)-4,4'-dihydroxy-3,7,3'-trimethoxy-8,1'-7',8',9'-trior-neolignan-9-ol, and **2b** was determined as (7*S*,8*S*)-4,4'-dihydroxy-3,7,3'-trimethoxy-8,1'-7',8',9'-trior-neolignan-9-ol.

Compound **3**, a white amorphous powder, had the same molecular formula ( $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_6$ ) as that of **2**, deducing from  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR and DEPT and the positive HRESIMS experiment ( $m/z$  357.1323  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ , calcd 357.1314). A comparison of NMR data of **3** with that of **2** indicated that the significant difference was the coupling constant between H-7 and H-8 ( $J_{7,8} = 9.3$  Hz of **2** and  $J_{7,8} = 6.6$  Hz of **3**) (Table 1). These findings suggested that **3** was a stereoisomer of **2**, and it was determined to be *erythro* form in comparison with structurally related compounds reported in literatures<sup>27,30</sup>. Interestingly, compound **3** was also found to be a racemic mixture, and was further resolved to yield **3a** (4.5 mg) and **3b** (4.1 mg) over HPLC using a chiral column. **3a** and **3b** exhibited mirror image-like ECD curves (Fig. 3) and opposite specific rotations (**3a**:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} + 79.5$ ; **3b**:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} - 76.9$ ).

The absolute configurations of **3a** and **3b** were determined by comparing their optical rotations (**3a**:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} + 79.5$ ; **3b**:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} - 76.9$ ) with those of two similar compounds (1*S*,2*R*)-1,2-*bis*-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-propanediol (**3a'**) and (1*R*,2*S*)-1,2-*bis*-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-1,3-propanediol (**3b'**) (Fig. 1), whose absolute configurations were established by the glycosylation shift rule<sup>31</sup> (**3a'**:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} + 41.0$  (c 0.7, MeOH); **3b'**:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} - 40.5$  (c 1.2, MeOH)). This conclusion was also supported by comparing the optical rotations with other analogues, such as carayensins B and C reported from *Carya cathayensis*<sup>32</sup>. Finally, **3a** was

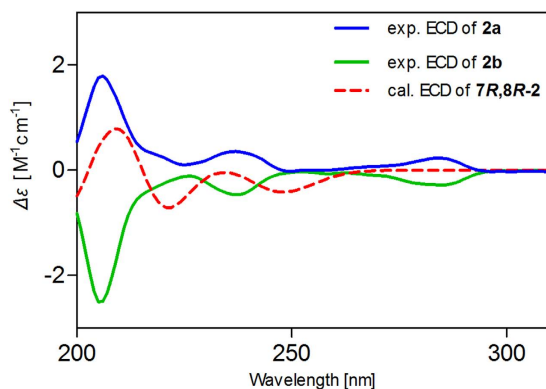


**Figure 3.** Experimental ECD spectra of 1a/1b–8a/8b (5b and 6a/6b recorded in MeCN; the others in MeOH).

determined as (7*S*,8*R*)-4,4'-dihydroxy-3,7,3'-trimethoxy-8,1'-7',8',9'-trior-neolignan-9-ol, and **3b** was determined as (7*R*,8*S*)-4,4'-dihydroxy-3,7,3'-trimethoxy-8,1'-7',8',9'-trior-neolignan-9-ol.

Compound **4** was obtained as a colorless gum. The IR spectrum displayed absorption bands for hydroxyls (3339 cm<sup>-1</sup>), and aromatic rings (1654, 1603, 1515, 1496, and 1464 cm<sup>-1</sup>), and the molecular formula C<sub>30</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>9</sub> was deduced by the HRESIMS ion peak at *m/z* 561.2089 [M + Na<sup>+</sup>] (calcd 561.2101), corresponding to fourteen degrees of unsaturation. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum revealed the presence of an ABX system [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.59 (1H, d,





**Figure 4.** Assignment of the absolute configurations of **2** by comparison of the calculated ECD spectrum for (7R,8R)-**2** with the experimental CD spectra for **2a/2b** using TDDFT methods.

$J = 8.2$  Hz, H-5), 6.57 (1H, d,  $J = 1.8$  Hz, H-2), and 6.42 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.2, 1.8$  Hz, H-6)], four aromatic protons [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.68 (1H, s, H-6''), 6.62 (1H, s, H-3''), 6.62 (1H, br s, overlapped, H-6'), and 6.38 (1H, br s, H-2'')], three methoxyl groups [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.85 (3H, s), 3.72 (3H, s), and 3.46 (3H, s)], one oxymethine [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.46 (1H, d,  $J = 2.1$  Hz, H-7)], three oxygenated methylenes [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.83 (1H, m, H-9a), 3.46 (1H, overlapped, H-9b), 3.67 (1H, m, H-9'a)], 3.51 (1H, dd,  $J = 11.2, 3.3$  Hz, H-9'b), 3.70 (1H, m, H-9'a), and 3.67 (1H, m, H-9'b)] (Table 2). The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR and DEPT spectra displayed 30 carbon resonances attributable to three benzene rings, four methylenes (three oxygenated), five methines (one oxygenated), and three methoxyl groups. Three benzene rings accounted for twelve degrees of unsaturation, and the remaining two degrees of unsaturation revealed the presence of two additional rings.

Expansion of the formula to  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{25}\text{O}_6(\text{OMe})_3$  suggested that compound **4** was a sesquilignan. Moreover, three typical C6–C3 substructures (I: C1–C9, II: C1'–C9', and III: C1''–C9'') were elucidated directly on the basis of COSY, HSQC, and HMBC spectra (Fig. 2). The connectivity of substructures I and II were established by the linkages of C7–O–C4' and C8–C5' to form a dihydrobenzofuran neolignan segment by the HMBC correlations from H-7 to C-4', and C-5', from H-8 to C-1, C-4', and C-5', and from H-9 to C-5'. The connectivity of substructures II and III were furnished by the direct linkages of C7'–C2'' and C8'–C8'' to construct an aryltetrahydronaphthalene neolignan moiety based on HMBC correlations from H-7' to C-1'', C-2'', and C-8'', and COSY correlations between H-8' and H-8''. In addition, HMBC correlations for  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}-3/\text{C}-3$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}-3'/\text{C}-3'$ , and  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}-5''/\text{C}-5''$  revealed that these methoxyl groups were located at C-3, C-3' and C-5'', respectively. Thus, the planar structure of compound **4** was established as 3,3',5''-trimethoxy-4,4''-dihydroxy-7,4'-epoxy-8,5'-7',2''-8',8''-sesquieolignan-9,9',9''-triol with an unprecedented sesquieolignan architecture, and was named phyllanglaucin B.

The relative configuration of **4** was determined by analyses of  $^1\text{H}-^1\text{H}$  coupling constants and NOESY experiment. The small coupling constant of H-7/H-8 ( $J_{7,8} = 2.1$  Hz) and the large coupling constant of H-7'/H-8' ( $J_{7',8'} = 8.8$  Hz) suggested a *cis* configuration of H-7 and H-8 and a *trans* configuration of H-7' and H-8', respectively. The strong NOESY interactions from H-7' to H-9'a and H-9'b confirmed the *trans* configuration of H-7' and H-8'. Additional, NOESY correlation from H-7' to H-8'' revealed that H-7' and H-8'' was *cis*-oriented. Thus, the relative configuration of **4** was established as 7R\*,8R\* of the dihydrobenzofuran segment and 7'R\*,8'S\*,8''S\* of the aryltetrahydronaphthalene moiety.

Subsequent chiral HPLC resolution of **4** afforded the anticipated enantiomers **4a** (1.5 mg) and **4b** (7.5 mg), which showed mirror image-like ECD curves (Fig. 3) and specific rotations (**4a**:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} + 62.6$ ; **4b**:  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20} - 64.8$ ). The absolute configurations of **4a** and **4b** were deduced by inspection of their ECD spectra. Generally, aryltetrahydronaphthalene lignans give two CEs in the ECD spectra at 280–290 nm and 230–245 nm, and the symbols of the two CEs are opposite<sup>33</sup>. On the basis of the published data<sup>33</sup>, CEs around 240 (+), 270 (+), and 290 (–) nm indicated the 7'S, 8'R, 8''R configuration, in the case of **4a**, it exhibited CEs around 242 ( $\Delta\varepsilon + 6.72$ ), 275 ( $\Delta\varepsilon + 3.07$ ), and 299 ( $\Delta\varepsilon + 1.29$ ) nm, the positive CE at 299 nm in the ECD spectrum of **4a** was caused by S configuration at C-7, which produced a positive CE between 260–300 nm on the basis of the reversed helicity rule of the  $^1\text{L}_b$  band ECD for the 7-methoxy-2,3-dihydrobenzo[*b*]furan chromophore<sup>24</sup>. Namely, the positive rather than negative CE near 299 nm of **4a** was ascribed to the superposition of the Cotton effects produced by 7S and 7'S. Therefore, the absolute configuration of **4a** was established as 7S, 8S, 7'S, 8'R, 8''R, and that of **4b** was 7R, 8R, 7'R, 8'S, 8''S, which were given the trival names (+)-phyllanglaucin B and (–)-phyllanglaucin B, respectively.

Compounds **5** and **6** were obtained as a mixture of amorphous powder and displayed only one peak on the reversed-phase HPLC. However, the carbon signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  145.2, 135.7, 131.0, 127.7, 103.4, 86.1 and 54.0 were all split in the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum. In particular, there should have been a doublet signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.60 (H-7) in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum of the proposed structure (Fig. 1), but it actually exhibited a de-doublet signals with the coupling constants  $J = 2.8, 6.0$  Hz. To understand this distinctive discord, we elaborately conducted a series of chiral HPLC separations. To our delight, the results revealed that the isolated substance was a mixture of stereoisomers, which yielded two pairs of enantiomers **5a/5b** and **6a/6b**, corresponding to the four peaks observed from the chiral HPLC.

no.	4		5			6		7		8		acernikol
	CD <sub>3</sub> OD	CDCl <sub>3</sub>	Me <sub>2</sub> CO- <i>d</i> <sub>6</sub>	CDCl <sub>3</sub>	Me <sub>2</sub> CO- <i>d</i> <sub>6</sub>	CDCl <sub>3</sub>	Me <sub>2</sub> CO- <i>d</i> <sub>6</sub>	CD <sub>3</sub> OD	Me <sub>2</sub> CO- <i>d</i> <sub>6</sub>	CD <sub>3</sub> OD	Me <sub>2</sub> CO- <i>d</i> <sub>6</sub>	CD <sub>3</sub> OD
2	6.57 d (1.8)	6.88 d (1.5)	6.97 d (1.2)	6.88 d (1.4)	6.97 d (1.2)	6.97 d (1.7)	7.03 d (1.5)	6.96 d (1.7)	7.03 d (1.6)	6.96 d (2.0)		
5	6.59 d (8.2)	6.86 d (8.1)	6.86 d (8.1)	6.86 d (8.2)	6.86 d (8.1)	6.74 d (8.2)	6.77 d (8.1)	6.74 d (8.2)	6.76 d (8.1)	6.74 d (8.0)		
6	6.42 dd (8.2,1.8)	6.84 dd (8.1,1.5)	6.81 dd (8.2,1.2)	6.84 dd (8.2,1.4)	6.81 dd (8.2,1.2)	6.78 dd (8.2,1.7)	6.83 dd (8.1,1.5)	6.78 dd (8.2,1.7)	6.83 dd (8.1,1.6)	6.77 dd (8.0,2.0)		
7	5.46 d (2.1)	4.60 d (6.1)	4.57 d (6.3)	4.61 d (6.1)	4.57 d (6.3)	4.90 d (5.1)	4.43 d (4.2)	4.90 overlap	4.38 d (4.2)	4.89 d (4.9)		
8	2.66 m	4.05 m	4.14 m	4.05 m	4.14 m	4.24 m	4.17 m	4.24 m	4.17 m	4.23 m		
9a	3.83 m	3.97 m	3.89 m	3.97 m	3.89 m	3.90 overlap	3.91 m	3.90 dd (6.9,5.4)	3.91 m	3.90 m		
9b	3.46 overlap	3.62 m	3.46 m	3.62 m	3.46 m	3.59 overlap	3.55 m	3.60 overlap	3.54 m	3.58 m		
2'	6.38 brs	6.61 s	6.73 s	6.61 s	6.73 s	6.71 s	6.74 s	6.71 s	6.74 s	6.70 d (2.0)		
6'	6.62 brs	6.61 s	6.73 s	6.61 s	6.73 s	6.71 s	6.74 s	6.71 s	6.74 s	6.70 d (2.0)		
7'	4.05 d (8.8)	5.52 d (7.4)	5.55 d (6.6)	5.53 d (7.3)	5.55 d (6.6)	5.55 d (6.0)	5.59 d (6.5)	5.55 d (5.8)	5.58 d (6.5)	5.54 d (6.1)		
8'	1.72 m	3.57 m	3.46 m	3.57 m	3.46 m	3.46 m	3.47 m	3.46 m	3.43 m	3.45 m		
9'a	3.67 m	3.94 m	3.81 m	3.95 m	3.81 m	3.90 overlap	3.86 overlap	3.86 overlap	3.86 overlap	3.81 m		
9'b	3.51 dd (11.2,3.3)	3.91 m	3.57 m	3.92 m	3.57 m	3.76 m	3.79 m	3.75 m	3.79 m	3.75 m		
2''		6.67 d (2.3)	6.77 s	6.67 brd (2.8)	6.77 s	6.75 brs	6.84 s	6.75 brs	6.83 s	6.75 d (2.0)		
3''	6.62 s											
6''	6.68 s	6.67 d (2.3)	6.77 s	6.67 brd (2.8)	6.77 s	6.72 brs	6.84 s	6.72 brs	6.83 s	6.73 d (2.0)		
7''	2.77 m	2.67 t (7.6)	2.61 t (7.5)	2.67 t (7.6)	2.61 t (7.5)	2.63 t (7.5)	2.61 m	2.63 t (7.6)	2.62 m	2.62 t (7.3)		
8''	1.88 m	1.88 m	1.78 m	1.88 m	1.78 m	1.82 m	1.79 m	1.82 m	1.78 m	1.81 m		
9''	3.67 m	3.69 t (6.3)	3.54 m	3.69 t (6.3)	3.54 m	3.57 t (6.5)	3.55 m	3.57 t (6.5)	3.54 m	3.56 m		
CH <sub>3</sub> O-3	3.72 s	3.88 s	3.84 s	3.88 s	3.84 s	3.82 s	3.82 s	3.80 s	3.82 s	3.80 s		
CH <sub>3</sub> O-7		3.32 s	3.23 s	3.32 s	3.24 s							
CH <sub>3</sub> O-3'	3.46 s	3.73 s	3.77 s	3.73 s	3.77 s	3.79 s	3.84 s	3.79 s	3.84 s	3.77 s		
CH <sub>3</sub> O-5'		3.73 s	3.77 s	3.73 s	3.77 s	3.79 s	3.84 s	3.79 s	3.84 s	3.77 s		
CH <sub>3</sub> O-3''		3.88 s	3.84 s	3.88 s	3.84 s	3.87 s	3.86 s	3.88 s	3.86 s	3.87 s		
CH <sub>3</sub> O-5''	3.85 s											

**Table 2.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR Data for 4–8 and acernikol. [400 MHz, δ in ppm, Mult. (J in Hz)].

The elemental composition of **5** (**5a/5b**) was determined as C<sub>32</sub>H<sub>40</sub>O<sub>11</sub> by HRESIMS [*m/z* 623.2456 [M + Na<sup>+</sup>] (calcd 623.2468)]. The IR spectrum exhibited absorption bands of hydroxyl (3367 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and aromatic functionalities (1677, 1598, and 1460 cm<sup>-1</sup>). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showed the presence of a 1,3,4-trisubstituted benzene ring, a symmetrical 1,3,4,5-tetrasubstituted aromatic ring, an asymmetrical 1,3,4,5-tetrasubstituted aromatic ring, three oxymethines, two methylenes, and five methoxyl groups (Table 2). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR of **5** showed 32 carbon resonances attributable to three benzene rings, five methylenes (three oxygenated), four methines (three oxygenated), and five methoxyl groups (Table 3). The NMR data implied that **5** (**5a/5b**) was a sesquieolignan, as a methoxylated derivative of dihydrobuddleol B<sup>34</sup>. This conclusion was further confirmed by 2D NMR spectra, especially the key HMBC correlations from H-7 to C-1, C-2, and C-6, from H-8 to C-4', from H-7' to C-1', C-2', C-6', C-4'', and C-5'', and from H-7'' to C-1'', C-2'', and C-6''. Thus, compound **5** (**5a/5b**) was assigned as 3,7,3',5',3''-pentamethoxy-4-hydroxy-8,4'-oxy-7',4''-epoxy-8',5''-sesquieolignan-9,9',9''-triol and was named phyllanglaucin C.

The relative configuration of **5** (**5a/5b**) was deduced from analyses of the coupling constants and NOESY experiment, as well as by comparison of its chemical shifts with that of dihydrobuddleol B<sup>34</sup>. The *threo* form geometry of H-7/H-8 was elucidated by the large coupling constant between H-7 and H-8 (*J*<sub>7,8</sub> = 6.1 Hz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, and *J*<sub>7,8</sub> = 6.3 Hz in acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (Table 2)<sup>35</sup>. The NOESY correlation of H-7'/H-9', along with the large coupling constant of H-7'/H-8' (*J*<sub>7',8'</sub> = 7.4 Hz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, and *J*<sub>7',8'</sub> = 6.6 Hz in acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) indicated a *trans* configuration of H-7'/H-8' (Table 2). The absolute configurations of **5a** and **5b** were defined by their ECD spectra (Fig. 3), a negative CE at 238 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon - 2.06$ ) of **5a** suggested the 8*R* configuration<sup>35</sup>, and the negative <sup>1</sup>L<sub>b</sub> band CE at 294 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon - 0.65$ ) indicated the 7'*R* configuration<sup>24</sup>. Therefore, the absolute configuration of **5a** was assigned as 7*R*, 8*R*, 7'*R*, 8'*S*. Since compounds **5a** and **5b** showed opposite ECD curves (Fig. 3) and optical rotations (**5a**: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> + 7.5; **5b**: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> - 7.4), the absolute configuration of **5b** was determined to be 7*S*, 8*S*, 7'*S*, 8'*R*. Finally, compound **5a** was named (+)-phyllanglaucin C and **5b** was named (-)-phyllanglaucin C, respectively.

Compound **6** (**6a/6b**) had the same molecular formula as **5**. The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data of **6** were very close to those of **5** (Tables 2 and 3), assisted by the 2D NMR spectra of **6**, compounds **5** and **6** elucidated to have the same planar structure and relative configurations. The 8*R* and 7'*S* configurations of **6a** was established on the basis of a negative CE at 230 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon - 1.48$ ) and a positive <sup>1</sup>L<sub>b</sub> CE at 282 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon + 1.41$ ) (Fig. 3)<sup>35</sup>. Therefore, **6a** ([ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> + 14.4) was elucidated as (7*R*,8*R*,7'*S*,8'*R*)-3,7,3',5',3''-pentamethoxy-4-hydroxy-8,4'-oxy-7',4''-epoxy-8',5''-sesquieolignan-9,9',9''-triol and named (+)-phyllanglaucin D. Accordingly, **6b** ([ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> - 13.0) was elucidated to be (7*S*,8*S*,7'*R*,8'*S*)-3,7,3',5',3''-pentamethoxy-4-hydroxy-8,4'-oxy-7',4''-epoxy-8',5''-sesquieolignan-9,9',9''-triol and named (-)-phyllanglaucin D.

no.	4 <sup>a</sup>	5 <sup>b</sup>	6 <sup>b</sup>	7 <sup>a</sup>	8 <sup>a</sup>	acernikol <sup>a</sup>
1	134.9	131.1	131.1	133.8	133.8	133.8
2	110.2	109.9	109.9	111.4	111.4	111.5
3	148.8	146.6	146.6	148.7	148.6	148.7
4	146.9	145.2	145.2	146.8	146.7	146.7
5	115.7	114.0	114.0	115.7	115.7	115.7
6	118.9	120.9	120.9	120.7	120.7	120.7
7	87.5	82.6	82.6	74.1	74.0	74.1
8	54.2	86.2	86.2	87.4	87.2	87.4
9	63.3	60.3	60.3	61.6	61.6	61.7
1'	138.2	137.4	137.4	139.7	139.6	139.8
2'	112.8	103.4	103.4	104.0	103.8	104.0
3'	149.0	153.4	153.4	154.6	154.5	154.7
4'	147.9	135.5	135.5	136.3	136.2	136.3
5'	128.3	153.4	153.4	154.6	154.5	154.7
6'	122.9	103.4	103.4	104.0	103.8	104.0
7'	45.5	87.8	87.8	88.6	88.6	88.6
8'	49.3	54.1	54.1	55.7	55.7	55.8
9'	61.4	64.0	64.0	65.1	65.0	65.1
1''	131.9	135.8	135.8	137.2	137.2	137.2
2''	130.4	112.6	112.6	114.2	114.1	114.3
3''	115.6	144.4	144.4	145.3	145.2	145.3
4''	145.8	146.5	146.5	147.5	147.3	147.5
5''	144.2	127.6	127.6	129.5	129.4	129.6
6''	113.6	116.1	116.1	118.0	118.0	118.0
7''	34.5	32.2	32.2	32.9	32.8	32.9
8''	39.6	34.7	34.7	35.8	35.7	35.8
9''	65.9	62.4	62.4	62.2	62.2	62.3
CH <sub>3</sub> O-3	56.4	56.1	56.1	56.4	56.4	56.4
CH <sub>3</sub> O-7		57.4	57.4			
CH <sub>3</sub> O-3'	56.0	56.2	56.2	56.6	56.6	56.7
CH <sub>3</sub> O-5'		56.2	56.2	56.6	56.6	56.7
CH <sub>3</sub> O-3''		56.1	56.1	56.8	56.8	56.9
CH <sub>3</sub> O-5''	56.6					

**Table 3.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR Data for compounds **4–8** and **acernikol**. (100 MHz,  $\delta$  in ppm). <sup>a</sup>In CD<sub>3</sub>OD; <sup>b</sup>In CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

Given the same state as **5** and **6**, chiral HPLC resolution of the mixture of **7** and **8** were performed, and afforded two pairs of sesquignane enantiomers **7a/7b** and **8a/8b**.

Compound **7** (**7a/7b**) was isolated as a white powder, the IR spectrum of **7** showed absorption bands at 3366, 1599 and 1460 cm<sup>-1</sup> assignable to hydroxyl and aromatic functionalities. The molecular formula was concluded to be C<sub>31</sub>H<sub>38</sub>O<sub>11</sub> by HRESIMS [ $m/z$  609.2294 [M + Na<sup>+</sup>] (calcd 609.2312)]. The NMR data of **7** was superimposable on those of **acernikol** (Tables 2 and 3), whose absolute configuration was ambiguous<sup>36</sup>. The *7,8-erythro* configuration of **7** was determined by the small coupling constant of H-7 and H-8 ( $J_{7,8} = 5.1$  Hz in CD<sub>3</sub>OD, and  $J_{7,8} = 4.8$  Hz in acetone-*d*<sub>6</sub>) (Table 2)<sup>37</sup>. The strong NOESY correlation of H-7'/H-8', and the absence of correlation between H-7' and H-9' indicated a *cis* configuration for H-7' and H-8'.

The ECD spectrum of **7a** showed a positive CE at 244 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon + 2.32$ ) indicating an *8S* configuration<sup>38</sup>, and a negative <sup>1</sup>L<sub>b</sub> CE at 294 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon - 0.79$ ) suggesting a *7'R* configuration (Fig. 3)<sup>24</sup>, **7b** owned the opposite ECD curves (Fig. 3) and optical rotations with **7a** (**7a**: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> + 22.4; **7b**: [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> - 20.0). Thus, **7a** was elucidated to be (*7R,8S,7'R,8'R*)-**acernikol**, and **7b** was elucidated to be (*7S,8R,7'S,8'S*)-**acernikol**.

Compound **8** (**8a/8b**) had the same planar structure and relative configurations as **7** deducing from their closely related 1D and 2D NMR (Tables 2 and 3). **8a** exhibited a positive CE at 243 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon + 6.51$ ) and a positive CE at 281 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon + 1.76$ ), suggestive an *8S* configuration<sup>38</sup> and a *7'S* configuration<sup>24</sup>. Therefore, **8a** was elucidated as (*7R,8S,7'S,8'S*)-**acernikol**, and **8b** was determined to be (*7S,8R,7'R,8'R*)-**acernikol**.

The structures of known compounds **9a/9b** and **10–12** were characterized as (*7R,8S*)-dihydrodehydroconiferyl alcohol (**9a**)<sup>39</sup>, (*7S,8R*)-dihydrodehydrodiconiferyl alcohol (**9b**)<sup>40</sup>, (*7S,8R*)-cedrusin (**10**)<sup>21</sup>, (*7S,8R*)-dihydrodehydrodiconiferyl alcohol 9-*O*- $\beta$ -D-xylopyranoside (**11**)<sup>41</sup>, and (*7S,8R*)-4,7,9,9'-tetrahydroxy-3,3'-dimethoxy-8-*O*-4'-neolignan (**12**)<sup>42</sup>, respectively, by comparing their <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data and optical rotations with the reported literature values.

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) plays an important role in the normal physiological processes<sup>43</sup>. Oxidative stress, referring to the imbalance of pro-oxidants and antioxidant defenses, involves a wide variety of pathological



Compounds	Removal effect (%) <sup>a</sup>	IC <sub>50</sub> (μg/mL)	Compounds	Removal effect (%) <sup>a</sup>	IC <sub>50</sub> (μg/mL)
<b>1a</b>	81.149	(–) <sup>b</sup>	<b>5a</b>	34.069	(–) <sup>b</sup>
<b>1b</b>	86.989	5.987 ± 1.212	<b>5b</b>	34.299	(–) <sup>b</sup>
<b>2a</b>	81.747	16.622 ± 0.797	<b>6a</b>	33.103	(–) <sup>b</sup>
<b>2b</b>	78.069	17.941 ± 1.994	<b>6b</b>	37.471	(–) <sup>b</sup>
<b>3a</b>	77.287	13.306 ± 0.907	<b>7a</b>	49.563	(–) <sup>b</sup>
<b>3b</b>	81.609	9.641 ± 0.865	<b>7b</b>	56.736	(–) <sup>b</sup>
<b>4a</b>	57.609	(–) <sup>b</sup>	<b>8a</b>	51.540	(–) <sup>b</sup>
<b>4b</b>	66.943	26.784 ± 0.812	<b>8b</b>	48.598	(–) <sup>b</sup>
			<b>Trolox</b>	95.494 <sup>c</sup>	4.485 ± 0.157

**Table 4. Antioxidant Activities of compounds 1–8 (DPPH Test).** <sup>a</sup>Concentration of removal effect: 50 μg/mL; <sup>b</sup>IC<sub>50</sub> value not determined; <sup>c</sup>Concentration of removal effect: 25 μg/mL.

processes, including cardiovascular disease<sup>44</sup>, rheumatic disease<sup>45,46</sup>, neurodegeneration<sup>47</sup>, tumor<sup>48</sup>, and so on. In addition, it was reported that the same type of lignans showed strong antioxidant activities<sup>49</sup>. In this case, compounds **1a/1b**–**8a/8b** were evaluated for their antioxidant activities by the DPPH free radical scavenging assay<sup>50</sup>. As showed in Table 4, compound **1b** showed strong activity against DPPH radical with the IC<sub>50</sub> value of 5.987 ± 1.212 μg/mL, which was comparable with the IC<sub>50</sub> value of the positive control (IC<sub>50</sub> = 4.485 ± 0.157 μg/mL) (Table 4). Compounds **2a/2b**, **3a/3b**, and **4b** also showed moderate antioxidant activity. A comparison of the structures of **7** and **8** with those of **5** and **6** showed that the antioxidant potency of the co-isolated was declined when a hydroxyl group at C-7 was replaced by a methoxy group. This fact implied that the presence of hydroxyl groups were crucial for the antioxidant activity. Comparison of the biological activities of the stereoisomers indicated that the variety of the stereochemistry had little effect on the antioxidant activity.

## Methods

**General experimental procedures.** Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer PE-341 polarimeter (Perkin-Elmer, Waltham, MA, USA). ECD spectra were measured on a Jasco J-810 spectrometer (Jasco, Easton, MD, USA). UV spectra were taken in a Varian Cary 50 UV/VIS spectrophotometer (Varian, Salt Lake City, UT, USA). IR spectra were recorded with a Bruker Vertex 70 FT-IR spectrophotometer (Bruker, Karlsruhe, Germany). HRESIMS data were obtained on a Thermo Fisher LTQ XL LC/MS (Thermo Fisher, Palo Alto, CA, USA). NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker AM-400 spectrometers and Bruker AM-600 spectrometers (Bruker, Karlsruhe, Germany). Chemical shifts were given in ppm with reference to the residual CD<sub>3</sub>OD ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.31/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  49.0), CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.26/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  77.16), and CD<sub>3</sub>COCD<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.05) signals. Silica gel (100–200 mesh and 200–300 mesh) was used for column chromatography, Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc., Qingdao, China), ODS (50 μm, YMC, Japan), and Sephadex LH-20 (Pharmacia Biotech AB, Uppsala, Sweden) were used for column chromatography. Semipreparative HPLC was performed on a Dionex Ultimate 3000 HPLC (Dionex, Sunnyvale, CA, USA) with UV detector and an Ultimate XB-C<sub>18</sub> (10 × 250 mm, 5 μm) column. The chiral HPLC isolation was accomplished on Daicel Chiralpak IA, IC, and ASH columns (4.6 × 250 mm, 5 μm; Daicel Chemical Ltd, Tokyo, Japan). TLC was carried out with glass precoated with silica gel GF<sub>254</sub> (Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc. China). Solvents were distilled prior to use, and spectroscopic grade solvents were used.

**Plant materials.** The whole plants of *P. glaucus* were collected at Lin'an, Zhejiang Province, People's Republic of China, in August 2012, and identified by Prof. Yunhe He of Zhejiang A&F University. A voucher specimen (No. 20120805A) was deposited in the herbarium of Hubei Key Laboratory of Natural Medicinal Chemistry and Resource Evaluation, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Technology and Science.

**Extraction and isolation.** Part I: Air dried whole plant (25.0 kg) of *Phyllanthus glaucus* was chopped and soaked in 70% aqueous acetone at room temperature (3 × 7 d). The acetone extract was evaporated under reduced pressure, the residue was suspended in H<sub>2</sub>O and extracted successively with petroleum ether (60–90 °C), EtOAc, and *n*-BuOH. The EtOAc fraction (250.0 g) was subjected to silica gel CC using a stepwise gradient elution of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH (1:0–0:1) to afford four subfractions (A–D). Fraction B (35.0 g) was subjected to MCI gel CC (eluted with MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O) to remove chlorophyll, and the residue (19.0 g) was partitioned by a RP-C<sub>18</sub> CC (gradient elution of MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O, 10:90–100:0) to eight subfractions (B1–B8). Fr. B4 (eluted with MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O, 40:60) was chromatographed on a Sephadex LH-20 column (MeOH) to afford six subfractions B4-1–B4-6, B4-4 (421 mg) was subjected to silica gel CC (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH, from 30:1 to 5:1) to give B4-4-1 to B4-4-3. B4-4-2 was purified by semipreparative HPLC thrice (MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O, 40:60, MeCN–H<sub>2</sub>O, 32:68, MeCN–H<sub>2</sub>O, 26:74, respectively) to afford **1** (6.7 mg). Fr. B5 (eluted with MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O, 50:50) was separated by Sephadex LH-20 column (MeOH) to give six subfractions B5-1–B5-6. B5-3 was further separated by silica gel CC (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH, from 30:1 to 5:1) to give five subfractions (B5-3-1 to B5-3-5), B5-3-1 (100.8 mg) was subjected to silica gel CC (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH, from 40:1 to 5:1) to give B5-3-1-1 to B5-3-1-4, B5-3-1-1 (35 mg) was purified by YMC ODS and normal phase semipreparative column to afford **2** (12.0 mg) and **3** (12.0 mg). Fr. B6 (eluted with MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O, 60:40) was chromatographed on a Sephadex LH-20 column (MeOH) to give three subfractions B6-1–B6-3. B6-2 was separated by silica gel CC (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH, from 40:1 to 5:1) to give six portion (B6-2-1–B6-2-6), B6-2-4 (485 mg) was further purified by silica gel CC (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH, 30:1) to afford **7/8** (26 mg). Fr. B7 (a mixture eluted with MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O 70:30

and 80:20) was chromatographed on a Sephadex LH-20 column (MeOH) to give four subfractions (B7-1–B7-4). B7-2 was chromatographed on silica gel column eluting with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH (from 40:1 to 3:1) to afford six portions (B7-2-1–B7-2-6). B7-2-3 (217 mg) was purified by semipreparative HPLC twice (MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O, 56:44, and MeCN–H<sub>2</sub>O, 40:60) to furnish **5/6** (25 mg). Fraction C was subjected to MCI gel CC (eluted with MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O) to remove chlorophyll, and the residue (19.0 g) was partitioned by RP-C<sub>18</sub> CC (gradient elution of MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O, 15:85–80:20) to 9 subfractions (C1–C9). Fr. C5 was chromatographed on a Sephadex LH-20 column (MeOH) to give four subfractions (C5-1–C5-4). C5-2 was separated on silica gel CC (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH, from 25:1 to 3:1) to give C5-2-1 to C5-2-4. C5-2-4 (530 mg) was further eluted by silica gel CC (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH, from 20:1 to 2:1) to give seven subfractions (C5-2-4-1–C5-2-4-7). C5-2-4-2 (88 mg) was purified by semipreparative HPLC (MeCN–H<sub>2</sub>O, 30:70) to yield **4** (9.5 mg).

Part II: Chiral resolution of **1** (6.7 mg) was performed on Daicel chiral-pak IA column (eluted with *n*-hexane–EtOH–HCOOH, v/v/v, 70:30:0.1; flow rate 1.0 mL/min, column temperature 27 °C) to give **1a** (1.7 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 8.3 min) and **1b** (4.8 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 11.4 min). **2** (12 mg) was separated by Daicel chiral-pak ASH column (eluted with *n*-hexane–EtOH–HCOOH, v/v/v, 80:20:0.05; flow rate 1.0 mL/min, column temperature 25 °C) to give **2a** (5.3 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 12.2 min) and **2b** (5.3 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 22.3 min). **3** (12 mg) was also purified by Daicel chiral-pak ASH column (eluted with *n*-hexane–EtOH–HCOOH, v/v/v, 110:10:0.05; flow rate 1.0 mL/min, column temperature 25 °C) to give **3a** (4.5 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 17.8 min) and **3b** (4.1 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 19.4 min). **4** (9.5 mg) was eluted by Daicel chiral-pak ASH column (*n*-hexane–EtOH–HCOOH, v/v/v, 100:20:0.05; flow rate 1.0 mL/min, column temperature 26 °C) to give **4a** (1.5 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 8.5 min) and **4b** (7.5 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 15.1 min). **5** and **6** were gained together from one peak on the semipreparative HPLC, and had been divided into four peaks on Daicel chiral-pak ASH column (eluted with *n*-hexane–EtOH–HCOOH, v/v/v, 80:20:0.05, flow rate 1.0 mL/min, column temperature 26 °C). As a result, we got **5a** (4.0 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 35.9 min), **5b** (6.6 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 13.3 min), **6a** (8.5 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 18.4 min), **6b** (4.6 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 31.5 min). **7** and **8** were obtained together from one peak on the semipreparative HPLC as a mixture named A, A was partitioned to A1 (5.0 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 17 min) and A2 (6.5 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 20 min) by Daicel chiral-pak IC column (eluted with *n*-hexane–EtOH–HCOOH, v/v/v, 60:40:0.1; flow rate 1.0 mL/min, column temperature 27 °C), A1 then purified by Daicel chiral-pak ASH column (eluted with *n*-hexane–EtOH–HCOOH, v/v/v, 60:40:0.05; flow rate 1.0 mL/min, column temperature 26 °C) and gave **7a** (2.5 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 7.7 min) and **8a** (2.0 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 12.8 min), A2 was further purified on Daicel chiral-pak IA column (eluted with *n*-hexane–EtOH–HCOOH, v/v/v, 70:30:0.05; flow rate 1.0 mL/min, column temperature 27 °C) to furnish **7b** (2.7 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 12.6 min) and **8b** (2.4 mg, *t<sub>R</sub>* 15.6 min).

*Phyllanglaucin A (1)*. colorless gum,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 6.9$  (*c* 0.28, MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 211.0 (4.65), 230.5 (4.24), 282.5 (3.62) nm; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  3418, 2938, 1614, 1518, 1461, 1380, 1338, 1218, 1115, 1037, 958 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data see Table 1; HRESIMS: *m/z* 399.1407 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na, 399.1414).

(+)-*Phyllanglaucin A (1a)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 12.8$  (*c* 0.065, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 205 (+2.57), 293 (−0.45) nm.

(−)-*Phyllanglaucin A (1b)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 14.1$  (*c* 0.19, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 207 (−3.88), 292 (+0.57) nm.

*4,4′-dihydroxy-3,7,3′-trimethoxy-8,1′-7′,8′,9′-trinox-ol (2)*. colorless gum,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} 0$  (*c* 0.40, MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 206.0 (4.47), 228.5 (4.02), 280.5 (3.69) nm; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  3366, 2937, 2840, 1606, 1518, 1458, 1432, 1372, 1274, 1220, 1154, 1125, 1096, 1073, 1031 956, 856, 819 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data see Table 1; HRESIMS: *m/z* 357.1321 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>9</sub>Na, 357.1309).

(7*R*,8*R*)-*4,4′-dihydroxy-3,7,3′-trimethoxy-8,1′-7′,8′,9′-trinox-ol (2a)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 30.0$  (*c* 0.18, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 206 (+1.77), 237 (+0.35), 285 (+0.23) nm.

(7*S*,8*S*)-*4,4′-dihydroxy-3,7,3′-trimethoxy-8,1′-7′,8′,9′-trinox-ol (2b)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 30.8$  (*c* 0.22, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 206 (−2.57), 237 (−0.48), 287 (−0.28) nm.

*4,4′-dihydroxy-3,7,3′-trimethoxy-8,1′-7′,8′,9′-trinox-ol (3)*. colorless gum,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} 0$  (*c* 0.40, MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 207.5 (4.47), 230.0 (4.09), 280.5 (3.72) nm; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  3353, 2934, 2848, 1605, 1518, 1458, 1432, 1371, 1274, 1218, 1154, 1126, 1099, 1073, 1031 953, 860, 820 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data see Table 1; HRESIMS: *m/z* 357.1323 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>9</sub>Na, 357.1309).

(7*S*,8*R*)-*4,4′-dihydroxy-3,7,3′-trimethoxy-8,1′-7′,8′,9′-trinox-ol (3a)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 79.5$  (*c* 0.13, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 208 (+12.52), 235 (+4.80), 282 (+0.84) nm.

(7*R*,8*S*)-*4,4′-dihydroxy-3,7,3′-trimethoxy-8,1′-7′,8′,9′-trinox-ol (3b)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 76.9$  (*c* 0.11, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 209 (−12.97), 235 (−5.81), 283 (−0.92) nm.

*Phyllanglaucin B (4)*. colorless gum,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 42.1$  (*c* 0.34, MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 206.5 (4.76), 231.5 (4.30), 283.0 (3.92) nm; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  3339, 2932, 1654, 1603, 1515, 1496, 1464, 1374, 1271, 1207, 1123, 1066, 1033, 951, 853 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data see Table 2 and 3. HRESIMS: *m/z* 561.2089 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>9</sub>Na, 561.2101).

(+)-*Phyllanglaucin B (4a)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 62.6$  (*c* 0.06, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 207 (+27.09), 242 (+6.72), 275 (+3.07), 299(+1.29) nm.

(-)-*Phyllanglaucin B (4b)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 64.8$  (*c* 0.25, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 208 (-30.83), 242 (-8.04), 277 (-3.53), 298 (-1.49) nm.

*Phyllanglaucin C (5)*. colorless gum, UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\log \epsilon$ ) 210.0 (4.70), 230.0 (4.27), 280.5 (3.69) nm; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  3367, 2939, 2877, 2838, 1677, 1598, 1502, 1460, 1425, 1329, 1277, 1235, 1215, 1125, 1091, 1032, 955, 830  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data see Table 2 and 3; HRESIMS:  $m/z$  623.2456  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  (calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_9\text{Na}$ , 623.2468).

(+)-*Phyllanglaucin C (5a)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 7.5$  (*c* 0.13, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 209 (+8.91), 238 (-2.06), 294 (-0.65) nm.

(-)-*Phyllanglaucin C (5b)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 7.4$  (*c* 0.24, MeOH); ECD (MeCN)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 207 (-8.40), 237 (+2.84), 295 (+0.79) nm.

*Phyllanglaucin D (6)*. colorless gum, UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\log \epsilon$ ) 211.0 (4.60), 230.0 (4.22), 280.5 (3.64) nm; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  3348, 2937, 2874, 2838, 1598, 1502, 1460, 1424, 1329, 1277, 1235, 1215, 1125, 1090, 1033, 955, 830  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data see Table 2 and 3; HRESIMS:  $m/z$  623.2461  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  (calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_9\text{Na}$ , 623.2468).

(+)-*Phyllanglaucin D (6a)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 14.4$  (*c* 0.24, MeOH); ECD (MeCN)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 207 (+11.80), 230 (-1.48), 282 (+1.41) nm.

(-)-*Phyllanglaucin D (6b)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 13.0$  (*c* 0.18, MeOH); ECD (MeCN)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 209 (-8.66), 229 (+1.04), 285 (-1.11) nm.

*acernikol (7)*. colorless gum, UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\log \epsilon$ ) 211.0 (4.71), 230.0 (4.28), 280.5 (3.72) nm; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  3366, 2937, 2873, 1599, 1501, 1460, 1424, 1382, 1328, 1277, 1236, 1214, 1124, 1031, 953, 831  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data see Table 2 and 3; HRESIMS:  $m/z$  609.2294  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  (calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_9\text{Na}$ , 609.2312).

(+)-*(7R,8S,7'R,8'R)-acernikol (7a)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 22.4$  (*c* 0.11, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 206 (+15.48), 244 (+2.32), 294 (-0.79) nm.

(-)-*(7S,8R,7'S,8'S)-acernikol (7b)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 20.0$  (*c* 0.12, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 207 (-11.94), 244 (-2.18), 294 (+0.76) nm.

*acernikol (8)*. colorless gum, UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\log \epsilon$ ) 211.5 (4.72), 230.0 (4.33), 281.0 (3.74) nm; IR  $\nu_{\max}$  3356, 2923, 2852, 1599, 1501, 1462, 1425, 1382, 1328, 1277, 1236, 1214, 1124, 1030, 954, 830  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data see Table 1; HRESIMS:  $m/z$  609.2297  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  (calcd for  $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{26}\text{O}_9\text{Na}$ , 609.2312).

(-)-*(7R,8S,7'S,8'S)-acernikol (8a)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 10.2$  (*c* 0.13, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 207 (-11.60), 243 (+6.51), 281 (+1.76) nm.

(+)-*(7S,8R,7'R,8'R)-acernikol (8b)*.  $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 10.7$  (*c* 0.11, MeOH); ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 206 (+2.98), 243 (-3.76), 281 (-1.32) nm.

**ECD Calculations.** Conformational search using molecular mechanics calculations was performed in Discovery Studio 3.5 Client with MMFF force field with 20 kcal/mol upper energy limit<sup>51</sup>, and nine low energy conformations were chosen as predominant conformers from all the conformations produced by the change of dihedral of the middle four carbons C1-C7-C8-C1' of 7R,8R-2. The nine predominant conformers were optimized at the B3LYP/6-311++G(2d,p) level in MeOH using the IEFPCM solvation model. The optimized geometries and thermodynamic parameters of all conformations were provided in supplementary information. The calculations were performed using Gaussian 09<sup>52</sup>, and figured using GaussView 5.0<sup>53</sup>.

The theoretical calculation of ECD was performed using time dependent Density Functional Theory (TDDFT) at LC-wPBE/6-311++G(2d,p)//B3LYP/6-311++G(2d,p) level in MeOH with IEFPCM solvation model. The ECD spectra of compound 2a were obtained by weighting the Boltzmann distribution ratio of each geometric conformation<sup>54</sup>. The ECD spectra were simulated by overlapping Gaussian functions for each transition according to:

$$\Delta\epsilon(E) = \frac{1}{2.297 \times 10^{-39}} \times \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \sum_i^A \Delta E_i R_i e^{-[(E-E_i)/(2\sigma)]^2} \quad (1)$$

The  $\sigma$  represented the width of the band at 1/e height, and  $\Delta E_i$  and  $R_i$  were the excitation energies and rotational strengths for transition  $i$ , respectively.

Additional ECD calculations were performed with two other functionals, i.e., CAM-B3LYP and WB97XD, to further confirm our calculated results.

**DPPH Radical Scavenging Activity.** The DPPH radical assay was carried out as previously described with minor modifications<sup>50</sup>. Each sample (final concentrations of 3.125, 6.25, 12.5, 25, and 50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) was mixed

with DPPH (final concentration of 100  $\mu$ M) EtOH (with 5% DMSO) solution in 96-well microplate. The mixtures were deposited in the dark at room temperature for 1 h, and then the absorbance was measured at 515 nm using a microplate reader. An EtOH (with 5% DMSO) was used as negative control, and the positive control was Trolox (10 mM, sigma). All tests were performed triplicate, and the results were averaged. The final results were reported as IC<sub>50</sub>, a concentration of a sample that scavenged 50% DPPH free radicals in the reaction solution.

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## Author Contributions

Z.W. and Y.L. contributed equally to this work. They conducted the main experiments, data analyzes, and wrote the manuscript; L.Z. and Y.W. assisted the chiral HPLC experiments; J.Y. performed the ECD calculations; H.Z. and J.Z. analyzed the spectroscopic data; Z.H., Z.L. and J.W. revised and polished this manuscript; Y.Z. and Y.X. designed the experiments and commented the manuscript. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

## Additional Information

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