NATURAL PRODUCTS

Nitrogen-Containing Dihydro- β -agarofuran Derivatives from *Tripterygium wilfordii*

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Thunder god vine, the dried roots of *Tripterygium wilfordii*, is a widely used traditional Chinese medicine. More than 200 bioactive complex natural products have been isolated from this herb. Inspired by the diversity of chemical structures and bioactivities of the components of this herb, the investigation to mine new chemical entities as potential drug leads led to the identification of 36 nitrogen-containing compounds. Among them, 18 new dihydro- β -agarofuran alkaloids (tripterygiumines A–L (1–12), M–Q (22–26), and R (33)) were identified from the spectroscopic data and chemical degradation studies. Tripterygiumine Q (26) exhibited immunosuppressive activity against human peripheral mononuclear cells with an IC₅₀ value of 8.67 μ M and showed no cytotoxicity, even at 100 μ M, indicating that 26 may represent a novel scaffold for the development of new immunosuppressants.



he air-dried root of *Tripterygium wilfordii* (Celastraceae), 上 known as thunder god vine, is a traditional Chinese medicine that has been widely used for more than 400 years to treat inflammation, cancers, and autoimmune diseases, including rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, and lupus. A number of sesqui-, di-, and triterpenoids, steroids, and sesquiterpenoid pyridine alkaloids exhibiting beneficial and/or adverse effects have been isolated from this plant.² The sesquiterpenoid pyridine alkaloids possess a characteristic macrocyclic dilactone skeleton consisting of a dicarboxylic acid moiety, 2-(carboxyalkyl)nicotinic acid, and a polyoxygenated dihydro- β -agarofuran sesquiterpenoid. The hydroxy groups of the latter are usually esterified by various organic acids including acetic, benzoic, furanoic, nicotinic, and cinnamic acids. The 2-(carboxyalkyl)nicotinic acid moiety originates from evoninic acid, wilfordic acid, hydroxywilfordic acid, or their congeners.²

Our previous phytochemical investigation of aqueous EtOH extracts of the dried roots of *T. wilfordii* yielded five new and 13 known alkaloids.³ Some of these alkaloids exhibited moderate inhibition against herpes simplex virus type II.³ As a continuation of the chemical studies of *Tripterygium* alkaloids to mine new chemical entities with drug potential, 36 sesquiterpenoid alkaloids, of which 18 are new nitrogencontaining derivatives, were identified. Herein, the isolation and structure elucidation of the 18 new alkaloids are reported. The immunosuppressive activities of these alkaloids were evaluated for their therapeutic potential.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The $CHCl_3$ -soluble extract of *T. wilfordii* was separated by repeated column chromatography on silica gel. Semipreparative HPLC of the subfractions afforded 36 compounds. The detailed extraction and isolation procedures of each compound are presented in the Supporting Information.

Compound 1 was isolated as a white powder. The molecular formula of C₅₀H₅₇NO₂₁ was determined by ¹³C NMR (Table 1) and HRESIMS data $[m/z \ 1030.3320 \ ([M + Na]^+)]$ and revealed 23 indices of hydrogen deficiency. The IR spectrum indicated the presence of hydroxy (3437 cm⁻¹), carbonyl (1740 cm⁻¹), and pyridine (1631 cm⁻¹) groups, and the UV spectrum suggested the presence of aromatic groups (244 and 262 nm). The NMR spectroscopic data (Table 1) indicated the presence of three acetyls, two oxygenated methylenes, three aliphatic methylenes, five aliphatic methines, six oxygenated methines, five methyls, one methoxy, one 2,3-disubstituted pyridine, and one benzoyl group. In addition to the resonances of the aforementioned groups, resonances for a ketocarbonyl, five ester carbonyls, three oxygenated quaternary carbons, and one aliphatic quaternary carbon were observed in the ¹³C NMR spectrum of 1. A polyoxygenated dihydro- β -agarofuran skeleton was established from the ¹H-¹H COSY cross signals for the H-1/H-2/H-3 and H-5/H-6/H-7/H-8 coupling systems and the following HMBC correlations: H-1/C-9; H-2/C-9; H-3/C-4,

Received: March 28, 2014 Published: June 25, 2014



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C-10; H-5/C-7, C-10, C-13; H-6/C-7; H-7/C-9; H-8/C-1, C-9, C-11; H-11/C-8, C-9; H-12/C-3, C-4, C-10; H-14/C-6, C-13, C-15; and H-15/C-13, C-14 (Figure 1A). A 2-(3-carboxybutan-2-yl)nicotinic acid moiety was established based on the 2,3disubstituted pyridine and the -CH(CH₃)-CH(CH₃)moieties corresponding to the HMBC correlations of H-4'/ C-2', C-6', C-12'; H-5'/C-3'; H-6'/C-4'; H-7'/C-2', C-8', C-9', C-11'; H-8'/C-2', C-11'; H-9'/C-2', C-7', C-8'; and H-10'/ C-7', C-8', C-11' (Figure 1A). A monoterpene tricarboxylic acid moiety (C-1"-C-10") was established from the ¹H-¹H COSY cross signals for the H-10"/H-2"/H-3"/H-4" coupling systems and the following HMBC correlations: H-10"/C-1", C-3"; H-4"/C-2", C-5"; H-6"/C-5", C-7", C-8", C-9"; and H-7"/ C-5", C-6", C-8", C-9" (Figure 1A). These data suggested that compound 1 was a dimacrocyclic sesquiterpenoid pyridine alkaloid. The HMBC cross signals of H-3/C-11' and H-15/C-12' confirmed the C-3-O-C-11' and C-15-O-C-12' linkages, respectively, for the first macrocyclic system between the polyoxygenated dihydro- β -agarofuran and the substituted nicotinic acid moieties (Figure 1A). The linkages of the second macrocyle were between the dihydro- β -agarofuran and the monoterpene tricarboxylic acid moiety at C-7-O-C-1" and C-11-O-C-9" and were established from the HMBC cross signals of H-7/C-1" and H-11/C-9", respectively (Figure 1A). The third carboxy group of the tricarboxylic acid moiety was a methyl ester, as confirmed by the HMBC correlation of OCH₃/ C-8" (Figure 1A). The 1-OAc, 5-OAc, 8-OAc, and 2-OBz substituents were determined from the corresponding HMBC correlations of H-1/C-2_{1-OAC} H-5/C-2_{5-OAC} H-8/C-2_{8-OAC} and

H-2/C-7_{2-OBz} (Figure 1A). A free hydroxy group was assigned to C-4 by comparing the ¹³C NMR chemical shift of C-4 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 70.50) with the reported value^{3,4} and was confirmed by the HMBC cross signals of 4-OH/C-12 and H-12/C-3, C-4, C-10 (Figure 1A).

The relative configuration of the polyoxygenated dihydroagarofuran moiety of 1 was established by the NOESY correlations of H-8/H-1, H-14; H-5/H-11, H-12; and H-11/ H-12 (Figure 1B). Owing to the flexibility of the macrocyclic rings, the relative configurations of the substituted pyridine and the monoterpene tricarboxylic acid moieties could not be determined by NOESY experiments. However, J-based configuration analysis is a powerful tool for the stereochemical determination of macrocyclic structures.⁵ Coupling constants were calculated using HETLOC⁶ and HSQC-HECADE⁷ techniques. The C-7'-C-10' and C-2''-C-4'' moieties are characteristic of the 2,3-dimethyl- and 2-methylbutane systems, respectively. The ${}^{3}J_{H,H}$ and ${}^{2,3}J_{C,H}$ coupling constants of the C-7'-C-10' moiety are summarized in Figure 1C. Comparison of the reported ${}^{3}J_{H,H}$ and ${}^{2,3}J_{C,H}$ values for the 2,3-disubstituted and 2-substituted butane systems with methyl/hydroxy, alkyloxy, or acyloxy groups permitted the deduction of the relative configurations of the C-7'-C-10' and C-2"-C-4" moieties, which were consistent with those of triptonine A. The relative configuration of triptonine A had been previously established by X-ray crystallography analysis.^{8a} Thus, compound 1 was identified as 2-de-O-acetyl-2-O-benzoyltriptonine A and was named tripterygiumine A. Besides triptonines A and B_{1}^{8} 1 is the third reported dimacrocyclic structure in which the

Table 1. NMR Spectroscopic Data for Tripterygiumine A $(1)^a$

position	$\delta_{ m H}~(J~{ m in}~{ m Hz})$	$\delta_{ m C'}$, type	position	$\delta_{ m H}~(J~{ m in}~{ m Hz})$	$\delta_{\mathrm{C}'}$ type
1	5.68, d (4.6)	73.82, CH	10'	1.20, d (7.2)	9.69, CH ₃
2	5.53, m	69.83, CH	11'		173.87, C
3	4.85, d (2.4)	75.78, CH	12'		168.53, C
4		70.50, C	1″		175.67, C
5	7.14, s	73.41, CH	2″	2.62, m	37.32, CH
6	2.51, d (3.6)	50.22, CH	3″	1.98, m	28.06, CH ₂
				1.83, m	
7	5.52, m	69.18, CH	4″	3.47, m	42.12, CH ₂
				2.97, m	
8	5.37, d (6.1)	70.86, CH	5″		204.19, C
9		52.01, C	6″	4.82, t (7.3)	51.92, CH
10		94.07, C	7″	3.07, d (7.4)	32.64, CH ₂
11	5.67, d (13.6)	62.13, CH ₂	8″		171.82, C
	4.36, d (13.6)				
12	1.63, s	22.71, CH ₃	9″		167.84, C
13		84.50, C	10″	1.19, d (7.0)	18.00, CH ₃
14	1.72, s	18.54, CH ₃	4-OH	4.61, s	
15	6.04, d (11.7)	69.65, CH ₂	8″-OMe	3.70, s	52.0, CH ₃
	3.74, d (11.6)				
2'		165.43, C	1-OAc	1.79, s	20.34, CH ₃ ; 168.94, C
3'		124.97, C	5-OAc	2.26, s	21.67, CH ₃ ; 170.15, C
4′	8.09, dd (7.7, 1.4)	137.76,CH	8-OAc	1.92, s	20.36, CH ₃ ; 168.66, C
5'	7.28, dd (7.7, 4.8)	121.09, CH	2-OBz-1		124.97, C
6'	8.70, dd (4.8, 1.5)	151.53, CH	2-OBz-2,6	8.12, d (7.5)	130.10, CH
7′	4.68, q (6.8)	36.41, CH	2-OBz-3,5	7.50, t (7.7)	128.70, CH
8'	2.58, q (7.4)	45.03, CH	2-OBz-4	7.62, t (7.5)	133.72, CH
9′	1.40, d (7.0)	11.74, CH ₃	2-OBz-7		164.73, C

^{*a*}Recorded in CDCl₃ at 600 MHz for ¹H and 150 MHz for ¹³C NMR spectra. Chemical shifts and coupling constants (in parentheses) are given in ppm and Hz, respectively.

polyoxygenated sesquiterpene is esterified with a monoterpene carboxylic acid.

Tripterygiumine B (2) was shown to have the molecular formula C43H49NO18 by ¹³C NMR (Table 2) and HRESIMS data $[m/z 890.2819 ([M + Na]^+)]$, revealing 20 indices of hydrogen deficiency. The IR, UV, and NMR spectroscopic data (Table 2) of 2 were similar to those of 1 and the alkaloids reported previously.³ The same polyoxygenated dihydro- β agarofuran and 2-(3-carboxybutan-2-yl)nicotinic acid moieties as those in 1 were established on the basis of spectroscopic data analysis (Figure 1D). The HMBC cross signals of H-3/C-11' and H-15/C-12' confirmed the C-3-O-C-11' and C-15-O-C-12' linkages between the dihydro- β -agarofuran and the substituted nicotinic acid moieties, respectively. A free hydroxy group was assigned to C-4 by comparison of the ¹³C NMR chemical shift of C-4 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 70.68) with the reported value^{3,4} and was confirmed by the HMBC cross signals of 4-OH/C-12 and H-12/C-3, C-4, C-10 (Figure 1D). The presence of 1-OAc, 2-OAc, 5-OAc, 8-OAc, and 7-OBz substituents was determined on the basis of the corresponding HMBC correlations of H-1/ C-21-OAct H-2/C-22-OAct H-5/C-25-OAct H-8/C-28-OAct and H-7/ C-77-OBz (Figure 1D). The relative configuration of the polyoxygenated dihydroagarofuran moiety of 2 was established by the NOESY correlations of H-8/H-1, H-14; H-5/H-11, H-12; and H-11/H-12 (Figure 1E). The relative configuration of the C-7'-C-10' moiety was determined by J-based configuration analysis (Figure 1F).

Compound 3, tripterygiumine C, was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{48}H_{51}NO_{18}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S2) and HRESIMS data [m/z 952.2998 ([M + Na]⁺)], revealing 24

indices of hydrogen deficiency. The IR and UV data of **3** were similar to those of **2**. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of **3** (Tables S1 and S2) with those of **2** suggested that two acetyl groups and one benzoyl group in **2** were replaced by two benzoyl groups and one acetyl group, respectively, in **3**. 2D NMR experiments established the planar structure of **3** (Figure S1A). The relative configuration of the polyoxygenated dihydroagarofuran moiety of **3** was established by the NOESY correlations of H-8/H-1, H-14; H-5/H-11, H-12; and H-11/H-12 (Figure S1B). The relative configuration of the 2-(3-carboxybutan-2-yl)nicotinic acid was determined by comparison of the NMR data of **3** with those of **1** and **2** based on their similar biosynthetic origins.

Compound 4 (tripterygiumine D) was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{33}H_{39}NO_{13}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S2) and HRESIMS data [m/z 680.2293 ([M + Na]⁺)]. The IR and UV data of 4 were similar to those of 2. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of 4 (Tables S1 and S2) with those of 2 and 3 revealed that only the 5-OH group was benzoylated in 4. The planar structure and relative configuration of 4 were established by the methods similar to those used for 3 (Figure S1).

Alkaloid 5 (tripterygiumine E) was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{39}H_{45}NO_{18}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S2) and HRESIMS data [m/z 838.2553 ([M + Na]⁺)]. The IR and UV data of 5 were similar to those of 2. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of 5 (Tables S1 and S2) with those of 2 suggested that the 5-OH group was free. The 2-OAc and 8-OBz groups in 2 were replaced with 2-OFu and 8-OAc groups, respectively, in 5. The planar structure and relative config-



Figure 1. Key HMBC (curved arrows), ${}^{1}H-{}^{1}H$ COSY (bold bonds), and NOESY (curved double arrows) correlations and *J*-based configuration analysis (Newman projection) of alkaloids 1, 2, and 22.

uration of **5** were established by the methods described above (Figure S1).

Alkaloid **6** (tripterygiumine F) was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{46}H_{49}NO_{19}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S2) and HRESIMS data [m/z 942.2797 ([M + Na]⁺)]. The IR and UV data of **6** were similar to those of **3**. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of **6** (Tables S1 and S2) with those of **3** suggested that the C-5 benzoyl group in **3** was replaced by a furanoyl group in **6**. The planar structure and relative configuration of **6** were established by the method described above (Figure S1).

Alkaloid 7 (tripterygiumine G) was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{46}H_{49}NO_{19}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S2) and HRESIMS data $[m/z \ 942.2783 \ ([M + Na]^+)]$. The spectroscopic data (Tables S1 and S2) suggested that 7 was isomeric with alkaloid 6. The spectroscopic data revealed that alkaloid 7 possessed 2-OFu and 5-OBz substituents instead of the 2-OBz and 5-OFu groups in 6 (Figure S1).

Alkaloid 8 was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{28}H_{37}NO_{13}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S2) and HRESIMS data $[m/z \ 618.2165 \ ([M + Na]^+)]$. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of 8 (Tables S1 and S2) with those of 4 suggested that the benzoyl group in 4 was replaced by an acetyl group in 8. The planar structure and relative configuration of 8 were established by the methods described above (Figure S1). The structure of 8 was identical to the methanolysis product of cathedulin K2.^{9a} However, only the ¹H NMR data in methanol- d_4 were reported for the methanolysis product of cathedulin K2. Herein, 8 is reported as a naturally occurring sesquiterpenoid pyridine alkaloid and was named tripterygiumine H.

Alkaloid 9 (tripterygiumine I) was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{41}H_{47}NO_{17}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S2) and HRESIMS data [m/z 848.2772 ([M + Na]⁺)]. The IR and UV data of 9 were similar to those of 5. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of 9 (Tables S1 and S2) with those of 5

Table 2. NMR Spectroscopic Data for Tripterygiumine B $(2)^a$

position	$\delta_{ m H}~(J~{ m in}~{ m Hz})$	$\delta_{\scriptscriptstyle C'}$ type	position	$\delta_{ m H}~(J~{ m in}~{ m Hz})$	$\delta_{\mathrm{C'}}$ type
1	5.69, d (4.0)	73.22, CH	6'	8.70, dd (4.8, 1.7)	151.50, CH
2	5.52, m	69.28, CH	7′	4.66, q (6.9)	36.48, CH
3	4.86, d (2.3)	75.73, CH	8'	2.60, q (7.2)	44.92, CH
4		70.68, C	9'	1.39, d (7.0)	11.90, CH ₃
5	7.03, s	73.74, CH	10'	1.22, d (7.1)	9.70, CH ₃
6	2.36, d (3.9)	50.58, CH	11'		173.88, C
7	5.54, m	68.95, CH	12'		168.47, C
8	5.40, d (6.0)	70.46, CH	4-OH	4.53, s	
9		52.13, C	1-OAc	1.81, s	20.41, CH ₃ ; 169.10, C
10		94.04, C	2-OAc	2.16, s	20.98, CH ₃ ; 169.86, C
11	5.45, d (13.4)	60.47, CH ₂	5-OAc	2.22, s	21.60, CH ₃ ; 170.01, C
	4.39, d (13.4)				
12	1.66, s	23.26, CH ₃	8-OAc	1.94, s	20.41, CH ₃ ; 168.92, C
13		84.17, C	11-OAc	2.28, s	21.18, CH ₃ ; 170.33, C
14	1.70, s	18.52, CH ₃	7-OBz-1		128.90, C
15	5.97, d (11.6)	69.87, CH ₂	7-OBz-2,6	8.10, d (7.3)	129.98, CH
	3.71, d (11.6)				
2'		165.36, C	7-OBz-3,5	7.51, t (7.7)	128.72, CH
3'		125.07, C	7-OBz-4	7.62, t (7.4)	133.65, CH
4'	8.07, dd (7.8, 1.7)	137.71, CH	7-OBz-7		164.81, C
5'	7.27, dd (7.8, 4.8)	121.06, CH			

"Recorded in CDCl₃ at 600 MHz for ¹H and 150 MHz for ¹³C NMR spectra. Chemical shifts and coupling constants (in parentheses) are given in ppm and Hz, respectively.

osition	$\delta_{ m H}~(J~{ m in}~{ m Hz})$	$\delta_{ m C'}$ type	position	$\delta_{ m H}~(J~{ m in}~{ m Hz})$	$\delta_{ m C}$, type
1	5.89, d (3.4)	71.77, CH	5'	7.29, dd (7.9, 4.7)	121.26, CH
2	5.42, t (3.1)	69.85, CH	6'	8.77, dd (4.7, 1.7)	153.68, CH
3	5.21, d (3.0)	74.31, CH	7′	4.12, m	33.00, CH ₂
				2.89, m	
4		71.96, C	8'	2.39, m	33.44, CH ₂
				1.90, m	
5	5.37, brs	75.90, CH	9'	2.38, m	38.17, CH
6	3.18, brs	64.52, CH	10'	1.22, d (6.4)	18.92, CH ₃
7		197.61, C	11'		174.99, C
8	5.63, s	78.70, CH	12'		167.14, C
9		52.5, C	4-OH	6.59, s	
10		94.10, C	5-OH	6.22, s	
11	4.91, d (12.8)	60.69, CH ₂	1-OAc	1.90, s	20.11, CH ₃ ; 169.30,
	4.69, d (12.8)				
12	1.98, s	23.94, CH ₃	8-OAc	1.99, s	20.48, CH ₃ ; 169.64,
13		86.37, C	11-OAc	1.99, s	20.54, CH ₃ ; 169.33,
14	1.63, s	19.33, CH ₃	2-OBz-1		128.56, C
15	5.92, d (12.4)	71.33, CH ₂	2-OBz-2,6	8.02, d (7.3)	129.73, CH
	3.78, d (12.4)				
2'		164.97, C	2-OBz-3,5	7.64, t (7.4)	128.94, CH
3'		123.63, C	2-OBz-4	7.52, t (7.8)	133.94, CH
4′	8.37, dd (7.9, 1.7)	138.65, CH	2-OBz-7		165.32, C

^{*a*}Recorded in CDCl₃ at 600 MHz for ¹H and 150 MHz for ¹³C NMR spectra. Chemical shifts and coupling constants (in parentheses) are given in ppm and Hz, respectively.

suggested that the furanoyl group in 5 was replaced by a benzoyl group in 9. The planar structure and relative configuration of 9 were established using the methods described above (Figure S1).

those of **9** suggested that the benzoyl group in **9** was replaced by an acetyl group in **10**, with free 5-OH and 7-OH groups. The planar structure and relative configuration of **10** were established by the methods described above (Figure S1).

Alkaloid **10** (tripterygiumine J) was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{34}H_{43}NO_{16}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S2) and HRESIMS data [m/z 744.2480 ([M + Na]⁺)]. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of **10** (Tables S1 and S2) with

Alkaloid **11** (tripterygiumine K) was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{39}H_{45}NO_{16}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S2) and HRESIMS data [m/z 806.2638 ([M + Na]⁺)]. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of **11** (Tables S1 and S2) with

those of **9** suggested that the 11-OAc group was replaced by a benzoyl group in **11**, as well as free hydroxy groups at C-2 and C-5. The planar structure and relative configuration of **11** were established by the methods described above (Figure S1).

Alkaloid 12 (tripterygiumine L) was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{40}H_{46}N_2O_{17}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S2) and HRESIMS data [m/z 849.2725 ([M + Na]⁺)]. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of 12 (Tables S1 and S2) with those of 9 revealed that the 1-OAc and 2-OBz groups of 9 were replaced by nicotinoyl and acetyl groups, respectively, in 12. The planar structure and relative configuration of 12 were established using the methods described above (Figure S1).

Tripterygiumines A–L (1-12) contain the same 2-(3carboxybutan-2-yl)nicotinic acid moiety; the relative configuration of this moiety was determined from the NOESY data, *J*based configuration analysis, and analysis of the biosynthetic pathway. Owing to the limited amounts of these new alkaloids, we performed only chemical degradation of alkaloid 4 (Supporting Information), using a reported procedure.⁹ The 2-(3-carboxybutan-2-yl)nicotinic acid moiety of 4 was defined as (1'S,2'S)-evoninic acid. These results were consistent with the NMR spectroscopic data.

Compound 22 was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{39}H_{43}NO_{16}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table 3) and HRESIMS data [m/z $804.2511 ([M + Na]^+)]$, revealing 19 indices of hydrogen deficiency. The IR, UV, and NMR spectroscopic data (Table 3) of 22 were similar to those of the alkaloids reported previously. A polyoxygenated dihydroagarofuran-7-one skeleton and a 2-(3-carboxybutan-1-yl)nicotinic acid moiety were evident from the ¹H-¹H COSY, HSQC, and HMBC correlations (Figure 1G). The HMBC cross signals of H-3/C-11' and H-15/C-12' confirmed the C-3-O-C-11' and C-15-O-C-12' linkages between the dihydroagarofuran and the substituted nicotinic acid moieties, respectively (Figure 1G). The 1-OAc, 8-OAc, 11-OAc, and 2-OBz substituents were established from the corresponding HMBC correlations of H-1/C-21-OAct H-8/C-28-OA& H-11/C-211-OA& and H-2/C-72-OBz (Figure 1G). The presence of a free C-4 hydroxy group was determined by comparison of the ¹³C NMR chemical shift of C-4 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 71.96) with reported chemical shifts^{3,4} and confirmed by the HMBC cross signals of 4-OH/C-12 and H-12/C-3, C-4, C-10 (Figure 1G). A free C-5 hydroxy group was evident by comparison of the ¹³C NMR chemical shift of C-5 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 75.90) with the reported values and the molecular composition of 22.

The relative configuration of the polyoxygenated dihydroagarofuran moiety of **22** was established by the NOESY correlations of H-8/H-1, H-14; H-5/H-11, H-12; and H-12/ H-11, H-3 (Figure 1H). The relative configuration of the C-7'-C-10' moiety was determined by comparing the chemical shifts and coupling constants of the H-7'/H-8'/H-9'/H-10' spin system with those of ebenifolin W-I. The configuration of ebenifolin W-I had been previously determined by NMR spectroscopic analysis and confirmed by X-ray crystallography analysis.¹⁰ Thus, compound **22** was named tripterygiumine M.

Alkaloid 23 (tripterygiumine N) was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{44}H_{45}NO_{19}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S4) and HRESIMS data [m/z 914.2503 ([M + Na]⁺)]. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of 23 (Tables S3 and S4) with those of 22 suggested the presence of an additional furanoyl group in 23. The 2D NMR experiments established the planar structure of 23 (Figure S1A). The relative configuration of the polyoxygenated dihydroagarofuran moiety of 23 was established by the NOESY correlations of H-8/H-1, H-14; H-5/H-

11, H-12; and H-11/H-12 (Figure S1B). The relative configuration of the 2-(3-carboxybutan-1-yl)nicotinic acid moiety was established by comparing the NMR spectroscopic data of 23 with those of 22 and 7-*epi*-mekongensine, the configuration of which had been previously confirmed by X-ray crystallography analysis,^{4c} and based on their similar biosynthetic origins.

Alkaloid **24** (tripterygiumine O) was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{46}H_{49}NO_{20}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S4) and HRESIMS data [m/z 958.2772 ([M + Na]⁺)]. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of **24** (Tables S3 and S4) with those of **23** suggested that the C-7 carbonyl group in **23** had been reduced and acetylated to a 7-OAc group. In addition, the 2-OBz and 9'-OFu substituents in **23** were replaced with 2-OFu and 9'-OBz groups in **24**. The planar structure and relative configuration of **24** were established using the methods described above (Figure S1).

Tripterygiumine P (25) was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{35}H_{41}NO_{15}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S4) and HRESIMS data [m/z 738.2348 ([M + Na]⁺)]. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of 25 (Tables S3 and S4) with those of 24 revealed that only the 5-OH and 9'-OH groups were esterified by acetyl and benzoyl groups, respectively, in 25. The planar structure and relative configuration of 25 were established using the methods described above (Figure S1).

Compound 26, tripterygiumine Q, was shown to have the molecular formula $C_{33}H_{39}NO_{16}$ by ¹³C NMR (Table S4) and HRESIMS data [m/z 728.2185 ([M + Na]⁺)]. Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data of 26 (Tables S3 and S4) with those of 25 suggested that the benzoyl group in 25 was replaced by a furanoyl group in 26. The planar structure and relative configuration of 26 were established using the methods described above (Figure S1).

Compound 33 was isolated as a white powder. A molecular formula of $C_{28}H_{33}NO_7$ was determined by ^{13}C NMR and HRESIMS data $[m/z 496.2324 ([M + H]^+)]$ and revealed 13 indices of hydrogen deficiency. The IR spectrum showed absorption bands at 3437, 1723, and 1630 cm⁻¹, corresponding to hydroxy, carbonyl, and aromatic groups, respectively. The NMR spectroscopic data were similar to those for wilforcidine (35),¹¹ suggesting that 33 was a nitrogen-containing sesquiterpenoid ester derivative. The planar structure of 33 was determined from the ¹H–¹H COSY, HSQC, and HMBC correlations (Figure S1A). The relative configuration of 33 was established by the NOESY correlations of H-1/H-3 and H-5/H-7, H-11, H-12 (Figure S1B). Compound 33 was named tripterygiumine R.

By comparing the spectroscopic and physicochemical data with the reported data, the 18 known nitrogen-containing dihydroagarofuran derivatives were identified as hyponine D (13),¹² 2-O-benzoyl-2-deacetylmayteine (14),^{4c} hexadesacetyleuomynine (15),¹³ euojaponine A (16),¹⁴ neoeuonymine (17),¹³ hyponine C (18),¹⁵ 7-(acetyloxy)-O¹¹-benzoyl-O^{2,11}deacetyl-7-deoxoevonine (19),¹⁶ 4-hydroxy-7-*epi*-chuchuhuanine E-V (20),¹⁷ wilfornine F (21),¹⁸ triptonine B (9'-O-(3furoyl)wilfortrine, 27),¹⁹ 1-desacetylwilforgine (28),^{4b} alatamine (29),²⁰ alatusinine (30),²¹ wilforzine (31),²² wilforjine (32),²³ 1 β ,5 α ,11-triacetoxy-7 β -benzoyl-4 α -hydroxy-8 β nicotinoyldihydroagarofuran (34),²⁴ wilforcidine (35),¹¹ and 5 α -benzoyl-4 α -hydroxy-1 β ,8 α -dinicotinoyldihydroagarofuran (36).²⁴

The immunosuppressive activities of compounds 1-36 were evaluated against human peripheral mononuclear cells, as

previously described.²⁵ Tripterygiumine I (9), alatusinine (30), and wilforcidine (35) exhibited weak immunosuppressive activity and cytotoxicity (Table S5). Triptonine B (9'-O-(3furoyl)wilfortrine, 27) exhibited immunosuppressive activity with an IC₅₀ value of 4.95 μ M but also showed cytotoxicity with an IC₅₀ value of 26.41 μ M (Table S5). Tripterygiumine Q (26) exhibited immunosuppressive activity with an IC₅₀ value of 8.67 μ M, and no cytotoxicity was observed even at a dose of 100 μ M, indicating that 26 is an ideal lead for the development of novel immunosuppressive drugs (Table S5). This work thus validates chemical mining as an efficient strategy for the discovery of new chemical entities with therapeutic potential.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Experimental Procedures and Plant Material. See ref 3.

Extraction and Isolation. See the Supporting Information.

Tripterygiumine A (1): white powder; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} -20$ (*c* 0.2, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 204 (4.23), 244 (3.59), and 262 (3.25) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3437, 1740, 1631, 1384, 1319, 1268, 1232, 1164, and 1094 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table 1; ESIMS *m/z* 1030 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m/z* 1030.3320 (calcd for C₅₀H₅₇NO₂₁+Na⁺, 1030.3315), error -0.5 ppm.

Tripterygiumine B (2): white powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 6$ (*c* 0.3, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 204 (4.27), 243 (3.59), and 262 (3.17) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3453, 1746, 1633, 1432, 1371, 1314, 1231, 1171, 1095, 1070, and 901 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table 2; ESIMS *m*/*z* 890 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 890.2819 (calcd for C₄₃H₄₉NO₁₈+Na⁺, 890.2842), error -2.6 ppm.

Tripterygiumine C (3): yellow powder; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} + 2$ (*c* 0.2, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 205 (4.38), 244 (3.56), and 262 (3.05) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3438, 1745, 1632, 1452, 1433, 1372, 1314, 1253, 1170, 1116, 1071, 895, and 713 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S1 and S2, respectively; ESIMS *m*/*z* 952 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 952.2998 (calcd for C₄₈H₅₁NO₁₈+Na⁺, 952.2998), error 0.0 ppm.

Tripterygiumine D (4): yellowish powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 36$ (*c* 0.3, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 202 (4.25), 243 (4.19), and 262 (3.12) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3436, 1718, 1632, 1358, 1278, 1118, 1063, 895, 714, and 619 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S1 and S2, respectively; ESIMS m/z 680 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 680.2293 (calcd for C₃₃H₃₀NO₁₃+Na⁺, 680.2314), error 3.0 ppm.

Tripterygiumine E (5): white powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 3$ (c 0.2, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 202 (4.25), 243 (4.19), and 262 (3.12) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3436, 1748, 1633, 1497, 1456, 1433, 1373, 1307, 1253, 1230, 1160, 1116, 1079, 1060, 785, 751, and 605 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S1 and S2, respectively; ESIMS m/z 838 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 838.2553 (calcd for C₃₉H₄₅NO₁₈+Na⁺, 838.2529), error -2.8 ppm.

Tripterygiumine F (6): white powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 4$ (*c* 0.4, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 205 (4.31), 242 (4.12), and 262 (3.08) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3436, 1744, 1632, 1384, 1313, 1268, 1248, 1227, 1160, 1118, and 627 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S1 and S2, respectively; ESIMS *m*/*z* 942 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 942.2797 (calcd for C₄₆H₄₉NO₁₉+Na⁺, 942.2791), error -0.7 ppm.

Tripterygiumine G (7): white powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 10$ (c 0.2, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 205 (4.35), 244 (4.13), and 262 (3.02) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3437, 1744, 1631, 1384, 1305, 1254, 1228, 1117, 912, 714, and 618 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S1 and S2, respectively; ESIMS m/z 942 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 942.2783 (calcd for C₄₆H₄₉NO₁₉+Na⁺, 942.2791), error 0.9 ppm.

Tripterygiumine H (8): white powder; $[\alpha]_{D}^{2D} - 24$ (*c* 0.2, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 242 (3.46), and 261 (2.96) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3437, 1722, 1632, 1384, 1319, 1279, 1200, 1120, 1060, 881, 786, and 577 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S1 and S2, respectively; ESIMS *m*/*z* 618 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 618.2165 (calcd for C₂₈H₃₇NO₁₃+Na⁺, 618.2157), error -1.2 ppm.

Tripterygiumine l (9): white powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +20 (c 0.2, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 220 (3.91) and 246 (3.50) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max}

3437, 1748, 1631, 1371, 1270, 1251, 1228, 1168, 1114, 1061, 713, 618, and 510 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S1 and S2, respectively; ESIMS m/z 848 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 848.2772 (calcd for C₄₁H₄₇NO₁₇+Na⁺, 848.2736), error –4.3 ppm.

Tripterygiumine J (10): white powder; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} -20$ (c 0.2, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 220 (3.64) and 245 (3.51) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3422, 1748, 1434, 1371, 1235, 1171, 1116, 911, and 871 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S1 and S2, respectively; ESIMS m/z744 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 744.2480 (calcd for C₃₄H₄₃NO₁₆+Na⁺, 744.2474), error -0.8 ppm.

Tripterygiumine K (11): white powder; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ +16 (*c* 0.3, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 205 (4.21), 243 (4.03), and 262 (3.03) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3436, 1744, 1632, 1373, 1274, 1251, 1200, 1117, 1072, and 715 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S1 and S2, respectively; ESIMS *m/z* 806 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m/z* 806.2638 (calcd for C₃₉H₄₅NO₁₆+Na⁺, 806.2631), error -0.9 ppm.

Tripterygiumine L (12): white powder; $[\alpha]_{20}^{20} + 9$ (c 0.1, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 201 (4.12) and 242 (3.88) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3437, 1745, 1631, 1456, 1433, 1372, 1276, 1252, 1229, 1170, 1114, 1060, 738, and 617 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S1 and S2, respectively; ESIMS m/z 849 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 849.2725 (calcd for C₄₀H₄₆N₂O₁₇+Na⁺, 849.2689), error -4.2 ppm.

Tripterygiumine M (22): white powder; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20}$ +35 (*c* 0.2, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 204 (4.17) and 250 (3.50) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3436, 1739, 1632, 1451, 1384, 1264, 1241, 1153, 1131, 1092, 862, 712, and 624 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Table 3; ESIMS *m/z* 804 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m/z* 804.2511 (calcd for C₃₉H₄₃NO₁₆+Na⁺, 804.2474), error -4.6 ppm.

Tripterygiumine N (23): yellowish powder; $[α]_{20}^{20} - 29$ (c 0.4, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 205 (4.37) and 252 (3.62) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3437, 1741, 1632, 1384, 1306, 1227, 1129, 713, and 618 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S3 and S4, respectively; ESIMS m/z 914 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 914.2503 (calcd for C₄₄H₄₅NO₁₉+Na⁺, 914.2478), error -2.7 ppm.

Tripterygiumine O (24): yellowish powder; $[\alpha]_{20}^{20}$ -41 (*c* 0.2, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 206 (4.18) and 252 (3.49) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3436, 1742, 1632, 1440, 1373, 1289, 1256, 1230, 1130, 1055, 1003, 715, and 604 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S3 and S4, respectively; ESIMS m/z 958 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 958.2772 (calcd for C₄₆H₄₉NO₂₀+Na⁺, 958.2740), error -3.4 ppm.

Tripterygiumine P (25): white powder; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} - 42$ (*c* 0.1, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 200 (4.28) and 244 (3.66) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3437, 1717, 1637, 1384, 1293, 1250, 1172, 1136, 1110, 1061, 987, 884, 761, 719, and 618 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S3 and S4, respectively; ESIMS *m*/*z* 738 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 738.2348 (calcd for C₃₅H₄₁NO₁₅+Na⁺, 738.2368), error 2.7 ppm.

Tripterygiumine Q (26): yellowish powder; $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} - 15$ (*c* 0.2, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 250 (3.60) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3437, 1731, 1631, 1374, 1243, 1115, 720, and 618 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data, see Tables S3 and S4, respectively; ESIMS *m*/*z* 728 [M + Na]⁺; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 728.2185 (calcd for C₃₃H₃₉NO₁₆+Na⁺, 728.2161), error -3.3 ppm.

Tripterygiumine R (33): white powder; $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +48 (c 0.1, CHCl₃); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 202 (4.04) and 241 (3.57) nm; IR (KBr) $\nu_{\rm max}$ 3437, 1723, 1630, 1384, 1290, 1119, and 618 cm $^{-1};~^1{\rm H}$ NMR $(CDCl_3) \delta 5.63 (dd, J = 12.0, 4.2 Hz, H-1), 2.16 (m, H-2a), 1.61 (m, H-2a),$ H-2b), 2.02 (m, H-3a), 1.76 (dt, J = 13.3, 3.2 Hz, H-3b), 4.50 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, H-5), 2.23 (brs, H-6), 2.33 (ddd, J = 11.1, 7.5, 3.6 Hz, H-7a), 2.16 (dd, J = 11.1, 3.0 Hz, H-7b), 5.09 (d, J = 7.3 Hz, H-8), 1.55 (s, H-14), 1.60 (s, H-15), 1.65 (s, H-12), 1.51 (s, H-11), 3.27 (s, OH-4), 5.12 (d, J = 5.5 Hz, OH-5), 8.64 (brs, H-1_{Nic}), 7.75 (d, J = 5.0 Hz, H- $4_{\rm Nic}),\,7.19$ (dd, J = 7.5, 5.0 Hz, H-5_{\rm Nic}), 8.68 (brs, H-6_{\rm Nic}), 7.76 (d, J = 7.4 Hz, H-2_{Bz}, 6_{Bz}), 7.32 (t, J = 7.7 Hz, H-3_{Nic}, 5_{Nic}), and 7.50 (t, J = 7.5 Hz, H-4_{Nic}); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 73.96 (C-1), 23.47 (C-2), 37.22 (C-3), 73.03 (C-4), 91.55 (C-10), 79.71 (C-5), 50.17 (C-6), 32.05 (C-7), 73.40 (C-8), 50.63 (C-9), 84.68 (C-13), 26.62 (C-14), 30.13 (C-15), 23.80 (C-12), 20.24 (C-11), 153.10 (C-2 $_{\rm Nic})$, 125.59 (C-3 $_{\rm Nic})$, 136.32 (C-4_{Nic}), 122.87 (C-5_{Nic}), 150.41 (C-6_{Nic}), 164.23 (C-7_{Nic}), 129.20 (C-1_{Bz}), 129.74 (C-2_{Bz}, 6_{Bz}), 128.10 (C-3_{Bz}, 5_{Bz}), 133.13 (C-

 4_{Bz}), and 165.17 (C- 7_{Bz}); ESIMS m/z 496 [M + H]⁺; HRESIMS m/z 496.2324 (calcd for $C_{28}H_{33}NO_7$ +H⁺, 496.2330), error 1.1 ppm.

Immunosuppressive Activity Assay. The immunosuppressive activity assays were performed according to a published procedure²⁵ with minor modifications. Briefly, human peripheral mononuclear cells (PBMCs) were isolated from healthy donors by density-gradient centrifugation with Lymphoprep and resuspended in complete medium. To evaluate the proliferative activity of the isolated compounds, PBMCs (10⁶ cells/mL) were stimulated by plate-bound anti-CD3 (2 μ g/mL) and soluble anti-CD28 (1 μ g/mL) monoclonal antibodies and incubated for 96 h in the presence of varying concentrations of the isolated compound dissolved in DMSO (less than 0.025%) or vehicle alone. PBMC proliferation was analyzed by flow cytometry on an Accuri C6 system (Becton Dickinson). To evaluate the cytotoxicity of the isolated compounds, PBMCs (106 cells/mL) were incubated in the presence of different concentrations of compound or vehicle alone for 96 h. Cell survival was evaluated by flow cytometry on an Accuri C6 system.

ASSOCIATED CONTENT

S Supporting Information

Extraction and isolation, methanolysis/hydrolysis of tripterygiumine D (4), supplementary references, Figure S1, Tables S1–S5, and spectroscopic data, including ¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, ¹H–¹H COSY, HSQC, HMBC, NOESY, and HRESIMS data for all new compounds. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http://pubs.acs.org.

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful for financial support from the National Basic Research Program of China (973 Program, 2009CB522804), the National New Drug Innovation Major Project of China (2011ZX09307-002-02), and the Applied and Basic Research Program of Sichuan Province (2013JY0049).

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NOTE ADDED AFTER ASAP PUBLICATION

This paper was published on the Web on June 25, 2014, with a structure graphic inadvertently omitted. The corrected version reposted on June 26, 2014.