Meroditerpenoids and Derivatives from the Brown Alga *Cystoseira baccata* and Their Antifouling Properties

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The brown alga *Cystoseira baccata* harvested along the Atlantic coasts of Morocco yielded seven new meroditerpenoids (1-4) and derivatives (5-7), whose chemical structures were elucidated mainly by 2D NMR and mass spectrometry. Surprisingly, for all these compounds, which possess a bicyclo[4.3.0]nonane ring system, a *trans* fusion of the bicyclic system was deduced by stereochemical studies even though such compounds isolated from *Cystoseira* species are known to have a typical *cis* orientation for the bridgehead methyls. The antifouling and antibacterial activities of compounds 1-5 and 7 were evaluated, as well as their toxicity toward nontarget species. Compounds 4, 5, and 7 showed antifouling activities against growth of microalgae, macroalgal settlement, and mussel phenoloxidase activity, while being nontoxic to larvae of sea urchins and oysters.

Marine brown algae of the genus *Cystoseira* (family Sargassaceae, order Fucales) are widely distributed through the subtropics with a prevalent center of speciation in the Mediterranean Sea.¹ Previous chemical investigations have demonstrated that species of this genus are prolific producers of diterpenoids, meroditerpenoids, and phlorotannins.²

As a part of our project focused on searching for new antifouling compounds from seaweeds, we have investigated specimens of *Cystoseira baccata* collected off the Atlantic coast of Morocco. This species is commonly found along the NE Atlantic shores from Ireland to Mauritania, and to date only a few studies have been published on the chemical composition of *C. baccata*.^{3–6}

In this paper, further investigation of this species led to the isolation of compound 1, which has the same planar structure as cyclo-1'-demethylcystalgerone (8a), a meroditerpenoid with a bicyclic diterpenoid side chain first isolated from a related Mediterranean species (Cystoseira algeriensis),⁷ but also described from C. baccata.⁶ However, further exploration of the stereostructure of 1 revealed a trans orientation of the two bridgehead methyls of the hydrindane system instead of a cis orientation in the case of 8a and all the cyclic meroditerpenes previously described from species of the Cystoseira genus.^{2,8,9} In addition to 1, we report on the isolation and structural characterization by spectroscopic analysis (HRMS, UV, IR, 1D and 2D NMR) of six other novel C. baccata metabolites (2-7) that possess the same bicyclic system with a characteristic trans fusion. Relative configurations were determined by 2D NOE experiments, while absolute configurations were attributed with the help of CD measurements or using the modified Mosher ester method.^{10,11} Compounds 1–5 and 7, together with the crude extract of C. baccata, were screened for their potential antifouling activities toward model species representative of microfouling (marine and terrestrial bacteria; microalgae) and macrofouling species (macroalgae and invertebrates). Because the goal was to find new environmentally friendly compounds for formula-

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tion of antifouling paints, toxicity tests were also run toward two crucial indicator species (sea urchins and oysters).



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Table 1. ¹³C NMR Data for Compounds 1–7 (100 MHz, CDCl₃)

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|----------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| position | $\delta_{\rm C}$, mult. ^{<i>a</i>} | $\delta_{\rm C}$, mult. |
| 1 | 29.7 CH ₂ | 30.2 CH ₂ | 123.6 CH | 123.3 CH | | | |
| 2 | 125.2 CH | 127.7 CH | 129.4 CH | 130.2 CH | | 30.7 CH ₃ | 31.7 CH ₃ |
| 3 | 134.0 qC | 135.2 qC | 78.9 qC | 78.6 qC | | 205.5 qC | 197.6 qC |
| 4 | 45.1 ĈH ₂ | 47.5 ĈH ₂ | 46.1 ĈH ₂ | 46.2 ĈH ₂ | 22.3 CH ₃ | 50.2 CH_2 | 114.9 ĈH |
| 5 | 154.2 qC | 80.2 qC | 153.4 qC | 153.3 qC | 153.6 qC | 149.0 qC | 107.3 qC |
| 6 | 41.4 CH ₂ | 42.3 CH ₂ | 43.4 CH ₂ | 44.3 CH ₂ | 44.4 CH ₂ | 43.1 CH ₂ | 36.7 CH ₂ |
| 7 | 44.5 qC | 45.7 qC | 44.8 qC | 44.8 qC | 44.5 qC | 44.8 qC | 46.7 qC |
| 8 | 34.9 CH ₂ | 35.5 CH ₂ | 35.0 CH ₂ | 35.0 CH ₂ | 34.8 CH ₂ | 35.0 CH ₂ | 33.5 CH ₂ |
| 9 | 18.8 CH ₂ | 19.3 CH ₂ | 18.8 CH ₂ | 18.8 CH ₂ | 18.8 CH ₂ | 18.8 CH ₂ | 19.9 CH ₂ |
| 10 | 29.3 CH ₂ | 28.7 CH ₂ | 29.3 CH ₂ | 29.4 CH ₂ | 29.2 CH ₂ | 29.2 CH ₂ | 28.9 CH ₂ |
| 11 | 54.9 qC | 58.2 qC | 54.8 qC | 54.9 qC | 54.8 qC | 55.0 qC | 45.9 qC |
| 12 | 208.3 qC | 213.2 qC | 208.5 qC | 208.7 qC | 208.4 qC | 206.5 qC | 173.1 qC |
| 13 | 132.1 qC | 54.4 CH | 133.0 qC | 133.2 qC | 130.6 qC | 133.2 qC | 153.5 qC |
| 14 | 39.0 CH ₂ | 34.7 CH ₂ | 39.4 CH ₂ | 39.6 CH ₂ | 39.3 CH ₂ | 38.7 CH ₂ | 41.7 CH ₂ |
| 15 | 71.2 qC | 70.9 qC | 71.1 qC | 70.8 qC | 71.2 qC | 71.3 qC | 88.8 qC |
| 16 | 29.6 CH ₃ | 28.9 CH ₃ | 29.5 CH ₃ | 28.8 CH ₃ | 29.2 CH ₃ | 29.5 CH ₃ | 28.7 CH ₃ |
| 17 | 30.3 CH ₃ | 30.9 CH ₃ | 30.7 CH ₃ | 31.4 CH ₃ | 30.7 CH ₃ | 30.5 CH ₃ | 28.3 CH ₃ |
| 18 | 21.0 CH ₃ | 22.4 CH ₃ | 20.9 CH ₃ | 20.9 CH ₃ | 21.1 CH ₃ | 21.1 CH ₃ | 23.1 CH ₃ |
| 19 | 22.5 CH ₃ | 23.2 CH ₃ | 22.4 CH ₃ | 22.5 CH ₃ | 22.6 CH ₃ | 22.5 CH ₃ | 23.6 CH ₃ |
| 20 | 16.3 CH ₃ | 18.3 CH ₃ | 27.6 CH ₃ | 27.0 CH ₃ | | | |
| 1' | 146.1 qC | 146.3 qC | 144.2 qC | 144.1 qC | | | |
| 2' | 127.1 qC | 127.2 qC | 120.4 qC | 120.5 qC | | | |
| 3' | 112.9 CH | 113.0 CH | 109.0 CH | 109.1 CH | | | |
| 4' | 153.1 qC | 153.1 qC | 153.2 qC | 152.9 qC | | | |
| 5' | 113.9 CH | 114.0 CH | 116.5 CH | 116.6 CH | | | |
| 6' | 124.7 qC | 125.0 qC | 126.2 qC | 126.0 qC | | | |
| 7' | 16.3 CH ₃ | 16.3 CH ₃ | 15.8 CH ₃ | 16.0 CH ₃ | | | |
| 4'-OMe | 55.6 CH ₃ | 55.6 CH ₃ | 55.7 CH ₃ | 55.7 CH ₃ | | | |

^a Multiplicities inferred from DEPT and HSQC experiments.

Results and Discussion

The lipophilic fraction derived from the crude extract of dried and powdered *C. baccata* was purified by a combination of Si gel column chromatography and reversed-phase semipreparative HPLC to yield compounds 1-7.

Compound 1 was obtained as an optically active pale yellow oil $([\alpha]^{25}_{D} + 83)$ and displayed absorption bands for hydroxyl (3415 cm⁻¹) and conjugated carbonyl functionalities (1658 and 1604 cm^{-1}) in the IR spectrum. It gave an $[M + Na]^+$ ion by HRESIMS at m/z 463.2812, which suggested a molecular formula of C₂₈H₄₀O₄ and, therefore, possessed nine degrees of unsaturation. The ¹H NMR data (recorded in CDCl₃) indicated the presence of two metacoupled aromatic protons ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.56 and 6.51), an olefinic triplet ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.37, J = 7.0 Hz), two D₂O exchangeable singlets ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.71 and 3.63), one methoxy group ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.73), and six singlet methyls ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.22, 1.69, 1.21, 1.12, 1.03, and 0.80). The ¹³C NMR and DEPT spectra revealed the occurrence of 11 quaternary carbons ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 208.3, 154.2, 153.1, 146.1, 134.0, 132.1, 127.1, 124.7, 71.2, 54.9, and 44.5), three methines ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 125.2, 113.9, and 112.9), seven methylenes $(\delta_{\rm C} 45.1, 41.4, 39.0, 34.9, 29.7, 29.3, and 18.8)$, and, again, seven methyl groups ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 55.6, 30.3, 29.6, 22.5, 21.0, 16.3, and 16.3). With nine degrees of unsaturation, 1 apparently contained two rings besides the carbonyl, the two double-bond groups (one trisubstituted and one tetrasubstituted), and the aromatic ring. The proton and protonated carbon signals in the NMR spectra of 1 were unequivocally assigned by the HSQC experiments (Tables 1 and 2), and ¹H⁻¹H COSY was then used to deduce extensive coupling systems. Homonuclear coupling correlations from H₃-7' through H-5', H-3', H₂-1, and H-2 to H₃-20 and H_{a,b}-4 allowed formulation of fragment a (Figure 1), commonly found in Cystoseira-type metabolites. Fragment **b** was delineated by sequential couplings between H_b- $6/H_3$ -19/H_a-8 and H₂-9/H_{a,b}-10/H₃-18 as well as by HMBC correlations from C-8 to H-9, C-9 to H_b -8, and C-10 to H_b -8 and H_2 -9. HMBC correlations between H₃-19 and C-7, C-8, and C-11, on one hand, and between H₃-18 and C-7, C-10, and C-11, on the other, revealed the presence of a cyclopentane moiety in fragment b. Further heteronuclear couplings between H₃-18 and C-12 and between Hab-6 and C-5, C-7, C-11, C-13, and C-19 allowed not only the localization of the ketone and the second trisusbtituted double bond but also the completion of the carbon skeleton of substructure **b** as a bicyclo[4.3.0]nonane ring. Fragment **c** was deduced by HMBC cross-peaks between H_{a,b}-14 and C-15, C-16, and C-17, H₃-16 and C-14, C-15, and C-17, and H₃-17 and C-13, C-15, and C-16. The planar structure of 1 was completed by the linkage of these three fragments using additional HMBC crosspeaks between H_{a,b}-14 and C-5, C-12, and C-13, H_{a,b}-4 and C-5, C-6, and C-13, and H_{a,b}-6 and C-4. A detailed comparison of the NMR data of 1 with those reported for cyclo-1'-demethylcystalgerone $(8a)^{6,7}$ revealed the similarity of these molecules. However, the NOESY spectrum distinguished these two compounds based on spatial correlations of the bridgehead methyls (Figure 2), which were found to have a *trans* orientation in 1 instead of *cis* in the case of 8a. To our knowledge this is the first report of such a structural feature in the Sargassaceae family. Finally, the geometry of the double bond at C-2 was assigned to be E on the basis of (i) the upfield ¹³C NMR chemical shift of the vinyl methyl carbon at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 16.3 (C-20)^{12,13} and (ii) the NOE correlations observed between H-2 and H₂-4 as well as between H₂-1 and H₃-20.

Compound 2 was isolated as an optically active, yellowish oil, $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +28, and had a molecular formula of C₂₈H₄₂O₅ (*m*/z 458, ESIMS), which was suggested by the HRESIMS of the M + Naadduct. Its IR spectrum showed absorption bands at 3432 and 1694 cm⁻¹, indicating the presence of both hydroxyl and nonconjugated carbonyl groups. Overall, the ¹³C NMR features of 2 showed similarity to those of **1** except the replacement of two quaternary sp²-hybridized carbons by two sp³ carbons (a methine at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 54.4 and a hydroxyl-bearing quaternary carbon at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 80.2). On the basis of the assignments of the NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) by the ${}^{1}H^{-1}H$ COSY, HSQC, and HMBC experiments, the ¹H NMR spectrum of 2 showed, by comparison with those of 1, that the chemical shift values of Hab-4, Hab-6, and Hab-14 were shifted significantly upfield and an additional methine triplet signal ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.32, J = 5.5 Hz, H-13) was observed. These data suggested that the $\Delta^{5,13}$ double bond of 1 was replaced, in the case of 2, by its hydrated counterpart. This

Table 2. ¹H NMR Data of Compounds 1–7 (400 MHz, CDCl₃, J in Hz)

| position | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|----------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1a | 3.35 (d, 7.0) | 3.39 (dd, 16.0, 7.5) | 6.28 (d, 10.0) | 6.32 (d, 10.0) | | | |
| 1b | | 3.31 (dd, 16.0, 7.5) | | | | | |
| 2 | 5.37 (t, 7.0) | 5.32 (t, 7.5) | 5.53 (d, 10.0) | 5.61 (d, 10.0) | | 2.22 (s) | 2.16 (s) |
| 4a | 3.05 (d, 14.5) | 2.52 (d, 14.5) | 2.78 (d, 14.0) | 2.97 (d, 14.0) | 1.92 (s) | 3.62 (d, 17.0) | 5.62 (br s) |
| 4b | 2.98 (d, 14.5) | 2.14 (d, 14.5) | 2.71 (d, 14.0) | 2.53 (d, 14.0) | | 3.42 (d, 17.0) | |
| 6a | 2.44 (d, 18.5) | 2.12 (d, 14.0) | 2.63 (d, 18.5) | 2.94 (d, 18.5) | 2.57 (d, 18.0) | 2.65 (d, 18.5) | 3.40 (d, 18.0) |
| 6b | 2.21 (d, 18.5) | 2.06 (d, 14.0) | 2.51 (d, 18.5) | 2.24 (d, 18.5) | 2.21 (d, 18.0) | 2.10 (d, 18.5) | 2.57 (d, 18.0) |
| 8a | 1.73 (m) | 1.62 (m) | 1.67 (m) | 1.73 (m) | 1.74 (m) | 1.76 (m) | 1.70 (m) |
| 8b | 1.50 (m) | 1.43 (m) | 1.47 (m) | 1.50 (m) | 1.53 (m) | 1.53 (m) | 1.52 (m) |
| 9 | 1.74 (m) | 1.75 (m) | 1.70 (m) | 1.72 (m) | 1.75 (m) | 1.76 (m) | 1.81 (m) |
| 10a | 1.97 (m) | 1.98 (m) | 1.95 (m) | 1.96 (m) | 1.97 (m) | 2.00 (m) | 1.81 (m) |
| 10b | 1.46 (m) | 1.27 (m) | 1.43 (m) | 1.44 (m) | 1.46 (m) | 1.48 (m) | 1.50 (m) |
| 13 | | 3.32 (t, 5.5) | | | | | |
| 14a | 2.73 (d, 14.0) | 2.20 (dd, 15.0, 5.5) | 2.67 (d, 14.5) | 2.71 (d, 14.0) | 2.60 (d, 14.0) | 2.72 (d, 14.5) | 2.50 (br d, 2.0) |
| 14b | 2.46 (d, 14.0) | 1.75 (dd, 15.0, 5.5) | 2.53 (d, 14.5) | 2.49 (d, 14.0) | 2.43 (d, 14.0) | 2.33 (d, 14.5) | |
| 16 | 1.12 (s | 1.17 (s) | 1.13 (s) | 1.08 (s) | 1.12 (s) | 1.10 (s) | 1.44 (s) |
| 17 | 1.21 (s) | 1.27 (s) | 1.23 (s) | 1.29 (s) | 1.24 (s) | 1.22 (s) | 1.41 (s) |
| 18 | 1.03 (s) | 1.29 (s) | 0.97 (s) | 0.99 (s) | 1.05 (s) | 1.13 (s) | 1.04 (s) |
| 19 | 0.80 (s) | 0.68 (s) | 0.82 (s) | 0.81 (s) | 0.86 (s) | 0.87 (s) | 0.82 (s) |
| 20 | 1.69 (s) | 1.88 (s) | 1.42 (s) | 1.40 (s) | | | |
| 3' | 6.51 (d, 3.0) | 6.52 (d, 3.0) | 6.38 (d, 3.0) | 6.39 (d, 3.0) | | | |
| 5' | 6.56 (d, 3.0) | 6.56 (d, 3.0) | 6.58 (d, 3.0) | 6.57 (d, 3.0) | | | |
| 7' | 2.22 (s) | 2.21 (s) | 2.15 (s) | 2.15 (s) | | | |
| 4'-OMe | 3.73 (s) | 3.73 (s) | 3.73 (s) | 3.74 (s) | | | |
| OH | 4.71 (s) 3.63 (s) | 4.76 (s) | 3.58 (s) | 4.02 (s) | 3.85 (br s) | | |

hypothesis was confirmed in particular by the HMBC correlations from H-13 to C-4, C-5, C-6, C-12, C-14, and C-15. The MS data (an extra H₂O and eight degrees of unsaturation) together with the IR and the NMR spectra were consistent with the occurrence of fragment **d** in the chemical structure of **2** instead of **b** in the case of **1**. The relative stereochemistry of **2** was determined from NOE enhancements observed in a NOESY experiment. NOE correlations from H₃-18 to H_b-6, H_a-8, H_a-10, and H-13 together with correla-



Figure 1. Partial structures a-e for compounds 1-5 and 7 as deduced by 2D NMR data.



Figure 2. Computer-generated model for compound **1** using MM2 force field calculations and key NOE correlations.

tions from H₃-19 to H_b-4b, H_a-6, H_b-8, and H_b-10 suggested not only the *trans*-fused nature of the hydrindane moiety but also the relative stereochemistry at C-5 and C-13 by the fact that H-13, H₃-18, and the hydroxyl group at C-5 were all cofacial.

Compound **3** was obtained as a clear yellow oil, with $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ -6, and showed IR absorption bands for hydroxyl (3421 cm⁻¹) and conjugated carbonyl (1657 and 1601 cm⁻¹) groups. It showed an HRESIMS $[M + Na]^+$ ion at m/z 479.2767, suggesting a molecular formula of C₂₈H₃₈O₄ (10 degrees of unsaturation). ¹³C NMR analysis revealed the presence of 10 olefinic carbons in addition to the carbonyl, and hence, 3 possessed four rings. The 2D NMR experiments including 1H-1H COSY, HSQC, and HMBC displayed, by comparison of their ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Tables 1 and 2), that 3 and 1 shared the same fragments b and c. Moreover, as typical NMR signals were observed for the O-methyltoluquinol moiety, features differing from 1 were easily localized in the first isoprenoid unit using the HMBC spectrum. The main differences were, in the ¹H NMR data, the two signals of a pair of *cis*-coupled olefinic protons at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.28 (d, J = 10 Hz, H-1) and 5.53 (d, J = 10Hz, H-2) and, in the ¹³C NMR spectrum, the occurrence of two sp² methine carbons at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 123.6 (C-1) and 129.4 (C-2) and the quaternary oxygenated carbon at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 78.9 (C-3). Thus, the planar structure of 3 was completed by the chromenol fragment e. Furthermore, the NOESY spectrum showed characteristic crosspeaks indicating, as for 1 and 2, a trans fusion of the bicyclic system in fragment b. On the basis of the above observations, the structure of compound 3 was established and assigned as the chromene derivative of 1. Moreover, the CD data (negative Cotton effect around 260-290 nm) established, by application of Crabbé's rule,^{14,15} that the absolute configuration at C-3 was R.

Compound 4 (clear yellow oil, $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +65) showed IR and NMR spectral features very similar to those of **3**, indicating that **4** was an isomer of **3**. This was further confirmed by HRESIMS (*m*/*z* 479.2735 [M + Na]⁺ for C₂₈H₃₈O₄). A complete analysis of the 2D NMR data revealed that **4** possessed a planar structure identical with those of **3**. From a biosynthetic point of view, it seemed more likely that the stereochemical variation occurred for the oxygenbearing quaternary carbon (C-3) rather than for asymmetric carbons (C-7 and C-11) of the bicyclo[4.3.0]nonane ring system. This was supported by NOE correlations, identical to those of **1**–**3** for the bridgehead methyls of the hydrindane part, implying a *trans* junction for **4**. Finally, these data allowed the description of compound **4**

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as the C-3 epimer of **3**. The *S* configuration of the chromene moiety was corroborated by CD measurement (positive Cotton effect around 260-290 nm), which was opposite that of **3**. These two compounds are probably artifacts formed from **1** during the extraction or the isolation procedures.

The molecular formula $C_{16}H_{26}O_2$ of compound 5, which was deduced by HRESIMS on the sodiated molecular ion at m/z 273, suggested a smaller chemical structure than the four compounds previously described. The IR spectrum indicated the presence of hydroxyl (3428 cm⁻¹) and conjugated carbonyl (1652 and 1612 cm⁻¹) groups. From the point of view of NMR data, the absence of aromatic and olefinic signals in the ¹H spectrum, together with the occurrence of the signals at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 208.4, 153.6, and 130.6, allowed the attribution of the four degrees of unsaturation to one carbonyl, one tetrasubstituted double bond, and two rings in the molecule. A comparison of overall ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectroscopic data (Tables 1 and 2) established that differences between 5 and 1, 3, and 4 lie only in the lack of signals corresponding to the O-methyltoluquinol moiety and the first isoprenoid unit (fragment a). Thus, the chemical structure of 5 was constructed of fragments b and c and completed by a methyl group ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 22.3, C-4; $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.92, s, H₃-4). This hypothesis was supported by the long-range heteronuclear correlations of both H₃-4 with C-5, C-6, and C-13 and H_{a,b}-6 with C-4 in the HMBC spectrum, thus establishing the structure of compound 5. Analysis of the 2D NOESY data for 5 and similar optical rotation values gave the relative configuration of the bridgehead quaternary carbons as being consistent with those of 1.

Compound 6 was obtained as an optically active, clear yellow oil ($[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +7). The molecular formula was determined to be $C_{18}H_{28}O_3$ by high-resolution ESIMS (*m*/*z* 315.1919, [M + Na]⁺), suggesting five degrees of unsaturation. Comparison of the NMR data of 6 with those of 1, 3, 4, and 5 showed the occurrence, for all of these compounds, of the same bicyclo[4.3.0]nonane ring system (fragment **b**) and the same fragment **c**. Additional signals at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 30.7 (CH₃, C-2), 50.2 (CH₂, C-4), and 205.5 (qC, C-3) in the ¹³C NMR spectrum of **6**, together with appropriate HMBC correlations between H₃-2 and C-3 and C-4 and between H_{a,b}-4 and C-3, were consistent with the presence of a 2-ketopropyl group. This structural feature was corroborated by an absorption band for a nonconjugated carbonyl (1718 cm^{-1}) in the IR spectrum of **6**. The connectivity between this moiety and the rest of the structure was fully established by HMBC correlations of H_{a,b}-4 with C-5, C-6, and C-13 and H_{a,b}-6 with C-4, and thus, all of these data supported the proposed planar structure for 6. In fact, compound 6 was probably a product obtained during the treatment of the algal material, or the extraction procedure, by oxidation of 1 at the level of the Δ^2 double bond. This hypothesis was in agreement with that reported by Amico et al.,16 who obtained an equivalent byproduct after ozonolysis of cystalgerone (8b).

Compound 7 showed an HRESIMS $[M + Na]^+$ ion at m/z297.1807 for a molecular formula of C₁₈H₂₆O₂ (six degrees of unsaturation). With one ketone carbonyl ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 197.6) and four other sp² carbons ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 173.1, 153.5, 114.9, and 107.3), the ¹³C NMR data accounted for three of the six double-bond equivalents, leaving a structure that contained three rings. In comparison with the NMR data of 6, the main difference in the ¹H NMR spectrum of 7 was the replacement of a pair of doublets of nonequivalent methylene protons ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.62 and 3.42, H_{a,b}-4) by an olefinic singlet signal at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.62. This information was corroborated, in the ¹³C and the HSQC spectra of 7, by the occurrence of the corresponding signal for a sp² methine at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 114.9, and it implied a Δ^4 double bond instead of a Δ^5 double bond in the case of **6**. In the NOESY spectrum, the occurrence of a correlation between H-4 and H₂-14, together with the absence of cross-peaks between H-4 and $H_{a,b}$ -6, defined the absolute configuration of this double bond as E. Finally, the molecular formula (loss of 18 amu with respect to 6) suggested the presence of an additional ring. The loss of a ketone resonance

Table 3. Results of the Antimacroalgal and Anti-invertebrateAssays for Compounds 4, 5, and 7

| | IC ₅₀ (µg/mL) | | | | | |
|----------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------|--|--|--|
| compound | Sargassum muticum | Ulva intestinalis | phenoloxydase | | | |
| 4 | 2.5 | >100 | 1 | | | |
| 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | |
| 7 | >100 | 2.5 | 2.5 | | | |

in the ¹³C NMR spectrum taken along with all observed ¹H and ¹³C chemical shifts allowed for the assignment of **7** as a highly conjugated derivative of **6** resulting from an intramolecular cyclization between C-15 and C-12 with loss of water.

Finally, in order to determine the absolute configuration of the bridgehead carbons (C-7 and C-11) of the hydrindane moiety, compound 1 was reduced with NaBH₄ to give the alcohol 1a in 42% yield. The effectiveness of the reduction was checked by NMR. The ¹H NMR spectrum showed an additional signal at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.81 (s, H-12) due to the oxymethine proton at C-12, while the ketone signal at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 208.3 was replaced in the ¹³C NMR spectrum by an oxygenbearing methine carbon at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 78.0. The absolute configuration of this newly appearing asymmetric center at C-12 was assigned as R by application of modified Mosher's method^{10,11} (see experimental data on $\delta_{\rm S} - \delta_{\rm R}$). The S configuration was then suggested for the neighboring C-11 on the basis of NOESY cross-peaks between H-12 and H-18, while the presence of a trans fusion of the bicyclic system allowed us to attribute an R configuration to C-7. The same methodology was employed with 5, and its absolute configuration was assumed to be 7 R, 11 S. The absolute stereochemistry of compounds 2-4, 6, and 7 was not determined due to a limited quantity of the isolated natural products. However, in consideration of the similar biogenetic origin of 1-7, the absolute configurations at C-7 and C-11 of 2-4, 6, and 7 are proposed as R and S, respectively. In the case of 2, NOE correlations suggested that the two other stereocenters at C-5 and C-13 are S and R, respectively.

To date, only two papers have been published describing chemical investigations of terpenoids from *C. baccata*, leading to isolation of a total of three metabolites: cyclo-1'-demethylcystal-gerone (**8a**)⁶ and its two chromanol derivatives (**9a** and **9b**).³ For these compounds, primarily described by spectroscopic comparison with cystalgerone (**8b**) and similar metabolites, the hypothesis of a *cis*-fused bicyclic moiety has not been fully demonstrated. It seems more likely that compounds **8a**, **9a**, and **9b** possess the same absolute configurations at C-7 and C-11 as found in **1–7**. Comparison of $[\alpha]_D$ and NMR data of **1** with those of **8a** (isolated from *C. baccata*)⁶ had identical values, thus supporting this hypothesis.

As regards the novelty of this *trans*-fused hydrindane carbon skeleton in the Sargassaceae family, actual studies held in our laboratory, on Mediterranean species of *Cystoseira*, are inclined to favor the existence of several biosynthetic pathways. Indeed, both *cis* and *trans* junctions of the cyclopentane ring have been recently observed in cyclized meroditerpenoids isolated from a same sample (M. El Hattab, A. Ortalo-Magné, and G. Culioli, unpublished data).

Compounds 1–5 and 7 and the crude extract of *C. baccata* were assayed for antifouling and antibacterial activities and in toxicity tests. No activity, at the concentrations tested (MICs > 100 μ g/ mL), were recorded on marine (*Pseudoalteromonas elyakovii*, *Vibrio aestuarianus*, and *Polaribacter irgensii*) or terrestrial bacteria (*Salmonella typhimurium, Escherichia coli*, and *Bacillus subtilis*). Among the three microalgae studied (*Exanthemachrysis gayraliae*, *Cylindrotheca closterium*, and *Pleurochrysis roscoffensis*), only *E. gayraliae* growth was inhibited by 5 with a MIC value of 1 μ g/ mL. Results on antimacroalgal and anti-invertebrate activities were promising for 4, 5, and 7 (see Table 3). None of the compounds tested showed significant toxicity toward larvae of sea urchin (*Echinus esculentus*) or oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) (LC₅₀ > 100 μ g/mL).

Experimental Section

General Experimental Procedures. Optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 343 polarimeter, using a 10 cm microcell. CD spectra were obtained on a Jasco J-810 spectrophotometer. IR spectra were recorded with a Jasco model J-410 FT-IR spectrometer as KBr plates (films). 1D and 2D NMR spectra were obtained at 400 and 100 MHz for ¹H and ¹³C, respectively, on a Bruker Avance 400 MHz NMR spectrometer in CDCl₃. All chemical shifts were referenced to the residual solvent peak observed at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.26 and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 77.0. High-resolution mass spectra were carried out on an electrospray QTOF spectrometer (Applied Biosystems, Model QStar). HPLC isolations were performed using a Varian model Prostar 210 pump with RI monitoring (Varian RI-4).

Plant Material. The marine brown alga *Cystoseira baccata* was collected by hand at Sidi Bouzid near El Jadida on the Moroccan Atlantic coast in December 2005 and was identified by two of the authors (M.B.M. and M.D.). A voucher specimen is available from G.C. as collection number CB-EJ-12/05.

Extraction and Purification. The shade-dried material (268 g dry wt) was ground and extracted with mixtures of CHCl₃/MeOH (2:1 then 1:1 and finally 1:2, v/v) at room temperature. The concentrated extracts were combined and partitioned in a mixture of MeOH/CHCl₃/H2O (4: 3:1, v/v/v) to yield, after solvent removal, 6.7 g of a dark brown lipophilic extract. This extract was subjected to CC on silica gel (Si60, $40-63 \ \mu\text{m}$, Merck) with a solvent gradient from *n*-hexane to EtOAc and then from EtOAc to MeOH. The fraction eluting with 50% EtOAc in *n*-hexane was further purified by repeated semipreparative HPLC (Merck Purospher Star RP-18e 5 μ m; 10 × 250 mm; 3 mL/min) using H₂O/MeCN (15:85, v/v) to afford five new compounds, **1** (9.8 mg), **3** (3.1 mg), **4** (3.7 mg), **5** (9.1 mg), and **7** (3.4 mg). From the fraction eluted with EtOAC/*n*-hexane (60:40, v/v), two new metabolites, **2** (4.6 mg) and **6** (1.2 mg), were also purified by reversed-phase HPLC with H₂O/MeCN (20:80, v/v) as eluent.

Compound 1: clear yellow oil; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +83 (*c* 0.1, MeOH); UV (EtOH) λ_{max} 300 nm (ε 2030), 330 nm (ε 520); IR (film) ν_{max} 3415, 2968, 2931, 2881, 1658, 1604, 1484, 1460, 1379, 1354, 1199, 1144, 1060, 1010 cm⁻¹; ¹³C and ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃), see Tables 1·2; HRESIMS *m/z* 463.2812 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₂₈H₄₀O₄Na, 463.2824).

Compound 2: clear yellow oil; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +28 (*c* 0.1, MeOH); UV (EtOH) λ_{max} 300 nm (ϵ 2290); IR (Film) ν_{max} 3432, 3203, 2950, 2877, 1694, 1482, 1453, 1380, 1331, 1224, 1186, 1139, 1054 cm⁻¹; ¹³C and ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 481.2904 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₂₈H₄₂O₅Na, 481.2930).

Compound 3: clear yellow oil; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ -6 (*c* 0.1, MeOH); CD (MeOH) $\lambda_{max} \Delta \varepsilon_{274}$ -34.55; UV (EtOH) λ_{max} 290 nm (ε 3070), 330 nm (ε 2240); IR (film) ν_{max} 3421, 2966, 2927, 1657, 1601, 1469, 1377, 1193, 1143, 1059 cm⁻¹; ¹³C and ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 479.2767 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₂₈H₄₀O₅Na, 479.2773).

Compound 4: clear yellow oil; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D}$ +65 (*c* 0.1, MeOH); CD (MeOH) $\lambda_{max} \Delta \varepsilon_{274}$ +2.50; UV (EtOH) λ_{max} 275 nm (ε 1740), 330 nm (ε 970); IR (film) ν_{max} 3439, 2965, 2926, 1656, 1602, 1468, 1376, 1196, 1146, 1060 cm⁻¹; ¹³C and ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 479.2735 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₂₈H₄₀O₅Na, 479.2773).

Compound 5: clear yellow oil; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D} + 53$ (*c* 0.1, MeOH); UV (EtOH) λ_{max} 280 nm (ϵ 1070); IR (film) ν_{max} 3428, 2966, 2930, 2879, 1652, 1612, 1450, 1378, 1150 cm⁻¹; ¹³C and ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 273.1822 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₁₆H₂₆O₂Na, 273.1830).

Compound 6: clear yellow oil; $[\alpha]^{25}_{D} + 7$ (*c* 0.1, MeOH); IR (film) ν_{max} 3402, 2970, 2923, 1718, 1680, 1608, 1456, 1378, 1314, 1126, 1038 cm⁻¹; ¹³C and ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 315.1919 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₁₈H₂₈O₃Na, 315.1936).

Compound 7: clear yellow oil; $[\alpha]^{25}{}_{D} -11$ (*c* 0.1, MeOH); UV (EtOH) λ_{max} 350 nm (ε 920), 270 nm (ε 350); IR (film) ν_{max} 3433, 2966, 2931, 2879, 1715, 1684, 1607, 1547, 1449, 1376, 1332, 1277, 1258, 1181, 1130 cm⁻¹; ¹³C and ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃), see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m*/*z* 297.1807 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd for C₁₈H₂₆O₂Na, 297.1830).

Reduction of Compound 1 into the Corresponding Alcohol 1a. Reduction of **1** (5 mg) was conducted in MeOH (10 mL) with an excess of NaBH₄ (10 mg), and the solution was then allowed to stand overnight at room temperature. The reaction was quenched with H₂O, and then the mixture was extracted with Et₂O (3 × 25 mL). The combined ether extracts were dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. The products were purified using reversed-phase HPLC (Merck Purospher Star RP-18e 5 μ m; 4.6 × 250 mm; 1 mL/min), with H₂O/MeCN (20:80, v/v) as eluent, to yield the pure alcohol **1a** (2.1 mg).

Alcohol 1a: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.56 (1H, d, J = 3.0 Hz, H-5'), 6.52 (1H, d, J = 3.0 Hz, H-3'), 5.33 (1H, t, J = 7.0 Hz, H-2), 3.81 (1H, s, H-12), 3.73 (3H, s, H-4'OMe), 3.33 (2H, brd, J = 7.0 Hz, H-1), 3.12 (1H, d, J = 14.5 Hz, H-4a), 2.92 (1H, d, J = 14.5 Hz, H-14a), 2.54 (1H, d, J = 14.5 Hz, H-4b), 2.22 (3H, s, H-6'Me), 2.12 (1H, d, J = 14.5 Hz, H-14b), 2.05 (1H, m, H-10a), 1.95 (1H, d, J = 17.0 Hz, H-6a), 1.83 (1H, d, J = 17.0 Hz, H-6b), 1.74(2H, m, H-9), 1.64 (3H, s, H-20), 1.54 (1H, m, H-8a), 1.39 (1H, m, H 8b), 1.30 (3H, s, H-17), 1.24 (1H, m, H-10b), 1.19 (3H, s, H-16), 0.97 (3H, s, H-19), 0.72 (3H, s, H-18); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 153.1 (C, C-4'), 146.3 (C, C-1'), 135.9 (C, C-3), 135.4 (C, C-5), 129.3 (C, C-13), 127.3 (C, C-2'), 125.0 (C, C-6'), 123.6 (CH, C-2), 114.0 (CH, C-5'), 112.8 (CH, C-3'), 78.0 (CH, C-12), 71.5 (C, C-15), 55.6 (CH₃, C-OMe), 47.1 (CH₂, C-14), 46.7 (C, C-11), 44.9 (CH₂, C-4), 41.1 (CH₂, C-6), 40.8 (C, C-7), 36.7 (CH₂, C-8), 31.5 (CH₃, C-17), 30.0 (CH₂, C-10), 29.9 (CH₂, C-1), 28.7 (CH₃, C-16), 24.8 (CH₃, C-19), 22.4 (CH₃, C-18), 19.1 (CH₂, C-9), 16.2 (CH₃, C-6'Me), 15.9 (CH₃, C-20).

Preparation of S- and R-MTPA Ester Derivatives of Compound 1a. Both (S)- and (R)-MTPA esters of **1a** (**1aS**, **1aR**) were obtained by treatment of **1a** (1.0 mg) with (R)- and (S)-MTPA chlorides (10 μ L) in dry pyridine (0.5 mL) catalyzed with DMAP and stirred at room temperature overnight. The MTPA esters were purified using analytical HPLC (Merck Purospher Star RP-18e 5 μ m; 4.6 × 250 mm; 1 mL/ min), with H₂O/MeCN (10:90, v/v) as eluent.

Selected signals of **1aS**: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.591 (H-17), 1.373 (H-16), 0.614 (H-19), 0.462 (H-18). Selected signals of **1aR**: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.510 (H-17), 1.340 (H-16), 0.720 (H-19), 0.628 (H-18). $\Delta \delta_{\rm H}$ (**1aS** - **1aR**): H-17, +0.081 ppm; H-16, +0.033 ppm; H-19, -0.106 ppm; H-18, -0.166 ppm.

Reduction of Compound 5 into the Corresponding Alcohol 5a. A sample of **5** (5 mg) was treated as described above for compound **1**. Usual workup followed by reversed-phase HPLC afforded **5a** (2.3 mg).

Alcohol 5a: colorless oil; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.77 (1H, brs, H-12), 2.83 (1H, d, J = 14.5 Hz, H-14a), 2.08 (1H, d, J = 14.5 Hz, H-14b), 2.05 (1H, d, J = 17.5 Hz, H-6a), 2.04 (1H, m, H-10a), 1.91 (1H, d, J = 17.5 Hz, H-6b), 1.76 (2H, m, H-9), 1.57 (1H, m, H-8a), 1.42 (1H, m, H 8b), 1.66 (3H, s, H-4), 1.32 (3H, s, H-17), 1.27 (1H, m, H-10b), 1.20 (3H, s, H-16), 1.00 (3H, s, H-19), 0.75 (3H, s, H-18); ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 100 MHz) $\delta_{\rm C}$ 134.5 (C, C-5), 126.9 (C, C-13), 78.5 (CH, C-12), 71.7 (C, C-15), 47.6 (CH₂, C-14), 47.0 (C, C-11), 43.9 (CH₂, C-6), 41.2 (C, C-7), 36.8 (CH₂, C-8), 31.8 (CH₃, C-17), 30.1 (CH₂, C-10), 28.7 (CH₃, C-16), 25.0 (CH₃, C-19), 22.5 (CH₃, C-18), 21.4 (CH₃, C-4), 19.3 (CH₂, C-9).

Preparation of S- and R-MTPA Ester Derivatives of Compound 5a. A solution of pure compound (2.3 mg) was divided into two parts, then transferred into clean NMR tubes and dried under the stream of N₂ gas. Deuterated pyridine (0.6 mL) and (*S*)-(-)-MTPACl (4 μ L) or (*R*)-(+)-MTPACl (4 μ L) were added successively to the NMR tube under a N₂ gas stream, and the tube was carefully shaken to mix the sample and MTPA chloride evenly. The reaction in the NMR tubes was monitored by ¹H NMR and was completed in approximately 6 h for the (*S*)-MTPA ester **5aS** and 48 h for the (*R*)-MTPA ester **5aR**.

Selected signals of **5a**S: ¹H NMR (C₅D₅N, 400 MHz) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.711 (H-4), 1.694 (H-17), 1.670 (H-16), 1.206 (H-19), 0.715 (H-18). Selected signals of **5a**R: ¹H NMR (C₅D₅N, 400 MHz) $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.706 (H-2), 1.496 (H-17), 1.423 (H-16), 1.279 (H-19), 0.812 (H-18). $\Delta \delta_{\rm H}$ (**5a**S - **5a**R): H-4, +0.005 ppm; H-17, +0.198 ppm; H-16, +0.247 ppm; H-19, -0.073 ppm; H-18, -0.097 ppm.

Biological Assays. Biological assays of the compounds were performed toward bacteria (marine and terrestrial), microalgae, macroalgae, and marine invertebrates. Toxicity was checked against larvae of sea urchins and oysters. All the compounds were tested on a range of concentrations from 0.5 to 100 μ g/mL (0.5, 1, 2.5, 5, 10, 25, 50, and 100 μ g/mL). Each experiment and controls were run in six replicates and using two batches of organisms.

Antibacterial Assays. The compounds were tested for inhibitory activities against three strains of marine bacteria [*Pseudoalteromonas*

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elyakovii (ATCC 700519), *Vibrio aestuarianus* (ATCC 35048), and *Polaribacter irgensii* (ATCC 700398)] and three strains of terrestrial bacteria [*Salmonella typhimurium* (ATCC 35986), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 35049), and *Bacillus subtilis* (ATCC 55572)]. The experiments were performed as previously described by Maréchal et al.¹⁷ Compounds were incubated at 25 °C for 48 h with the bacteria (2×10^8 cells/mL) in 96-well plates (Merck) in MHB medium (Mueller Hinton broth, Sigma), supplemented with NaCl (15 g/L) for marine bacteria and in TSM medium (trypsic soy broth, Sigma) for terrestrial bacteria. Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs), compared to the control (culture media), were determined by the microtiter broth dilution method.¹⁸

Antimicroalgal Assays. The compounds were screened for antimicroalgal activities against three microalgae: *Exanthemachrysis gayraliae* (AC 15), *Cylindrotheca closterium* (AC 170), and *Pleurochrysis roscoffensis* (AC 238). Compounds were incubated (at 18 °C, for 48 h under a light regime of 15:9 light:dark using 54 μ mol photons/m² ·s cool-white fluorescent lamp) with the algae (0.4 μ g/mL of chlorophyll A) in F/2 medium¹⁹ as outlined by Plouguerne et al.²⁰ After 48 h, the relative optical density of the sample suspension was determined at 600 nm. Minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) compared to the seawater control were determined by the method of Tsoukatou et al.²¹

Antimacroalgal Assays. The compounds were screened for antimacroalgal activities against two species: *Sargassum muticum* and *Ulva intestinalis*. Compounds were incubated (at 18 °C, for 48 h under a light regime of 15:9 light:dark using 54 μ mol photons/m² · s cool-white fluorescent lamp) with the algae (3000 spores/mL) in F/2 medium¹⁹ as outlined by Hellio et al.²² After 48 h, the germination and attachment rates were determined as stated by Hellio et al.²²

Anti-invertebrate Assays. Compounds were tested for their inhibitory activity of the phenoloxidase (PO) purified from *Mytilus edulis* following the method of Hellio et al.²³ Aliquots of pure enzyme were incubated for 2 h with the test compounds. Then, the PO activity was followed by monitoring the increase of absorbance at 475 nm using L-Dopa (10 mM) as substrate. In comparison with the control, percentages of inhibition of PO activity were determined for the test compounds.²⁴

Toxicity Tests. In order to determine the toxicity, larvae of sea urchins (*Echinus esculentus*) and oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) were incubated with the compounds according to the procedures of Hellio et al.²⁵ Ten to fifteen larvae were added to 2 mL of solution in the wells of a 24-well (Iwaki) plate. After 48 h exposure, the number of viable larvae was recorded. The data are expressed as a 24 h LC₅₀ (= concentration of extract that produces 50% mortality in comparison with the control), which was determined using Sigma Plot 8.0.

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Supporting Information Available: Tables T1-T7 with complete NMR data together with all 1D and 2D NMR spectra of compounds 1-7. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at http:// pubs.acs.org.

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