

Polycyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinols from *Hypericum beanii* and their hepatoprotective activity

Yonghui Ma^{a,b,1}, Xinyue Suo^{a,1}, Xiaoxi Li^c, Tingting Zhu^a, Jin Li^{b,***}, Tengfei Ji^{a,d,**}, Bo Liu^{c,*}

^a State Key Laboratory of Bioactive Substance and Function of Natural Medicines, Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, 100050, People's Republic of China

^b The Key Laboratory of Plant Stress Biology in Arid Land, College of Life Sciences, Xinjiang Normal University, Ürümqi, Xinjiang, 830054, People's Republic of China

^c School of Pharmacy, Shenyang Medical College, Shenyang, Liaoning, 110034, People's Republic of China

^d Key Laboratory of Tibetan Medicine Research, Northwest Institute of Plateau Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xining, Qinghai, 810008, People's Republic of China

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ABSTRACT

Twenty-seven polycyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinols (PPAPs) with diverse skeletons, including seven previously undescribed ones (hyperbeanins A-G), were isolated from the aerial parts of *Hypericum beanii*. Their structures were established by comprehensive analysis of NMR, HRESIMS, and experimental electronic circular dichroism (ECD) spectra. Hyperbeanin A was a monocyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinols (MPAPs) with an unusual spiro-fused cyclopropane ring. Four of the isolated compounds showed obvious hepatoprotective activity against paracetamol-induced HepG2 cell damage at 10 μ M. The present results suggested that these compounds would be potential hepatoprotective agents. In addition, the plausible biogenetic pathways of hyperbeanins A-G were proposed, which gave an insight for future biomimetic synthesis of them.

1. Introduction

As a genus of the Hypericaceae family, *Hypericum* is well-known for its extensive medicinal and horticultural exploitation. Almost 500 species of *Hypericum* distributed all over the world (Nürk et al., 2013), many of which are used in folk medicine as remedies for wound healing, burns, and gastrointestinal tract inflammation (Silva et al., 2005). The best-known and extensively studied member of this genus is *H. perforatum* L. (St John's wort), which is applied for treating mild and moderate depression (Whiskey et al., 2001). Polycyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinols (PPAPs), as the main specialised metabolites of *Hypericum*, possess highly oxygenated acylphloroglucinol-derived cores decorated with prenyl or geranyl side chains. Moreover, these metabolites exhibit a broad range of biological activities, such as antidepressant, anti-inflammatory, anticancer, antioxidant, antibacterial, antiulcer, antimalarial, and antineurodegenerative (Raso et al., 2002;

Verotta, 2002; Saddiqe et al., 2010; Richard et al., 2012; Tian et al., 2016; Guo et al., 2017).

Hypericum beanii N. Robson is a perennial herbaceous shrub of this genus and mainly cultivated in Guizhou and Yunnan Provinces of China. In addition to its ornamental value, *H. beanii* is used for the treatment of hepatitis, burns, diarrhea, and snake bites as a traditional medicine (Editorial Committee of the Administration Bureau of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 1999). Previous chemical investigation on this plant revealed that a series of complex phloroglucinols have been isolated, which showed diverse pharmacological activities (Shiu and Gibbons, 2006; Chen et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2019; Li et al., 2019, 2021; Suo et al., 2021). In present study, seven new PPAPs (hyperbeanins A-G, 1–7) with twenty known ones (8–27) were obtained from this plant (Fig. 1). The isolates were classified into four categories: monocyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinols (MPAPs) (1–2, 8–10), spirocyclic PPAPs (3, 11), bicyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinols (BPAPs) (4–5, 12–20), and

* Corresponding author.

** Corresponding author. State Key Laboratory of Bioactive Substance and Function of Natural Medicines, Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing, 100050, People's Republic of China.

*** Corresponding author.

E-mail addresses: xjcjlj4@xjnu.edu.cn (J. Li), jitf@imm.ac.cn (T. Ji), liubopaul@163.com (B. Liu).

¹ These authors contributed equally to this work.

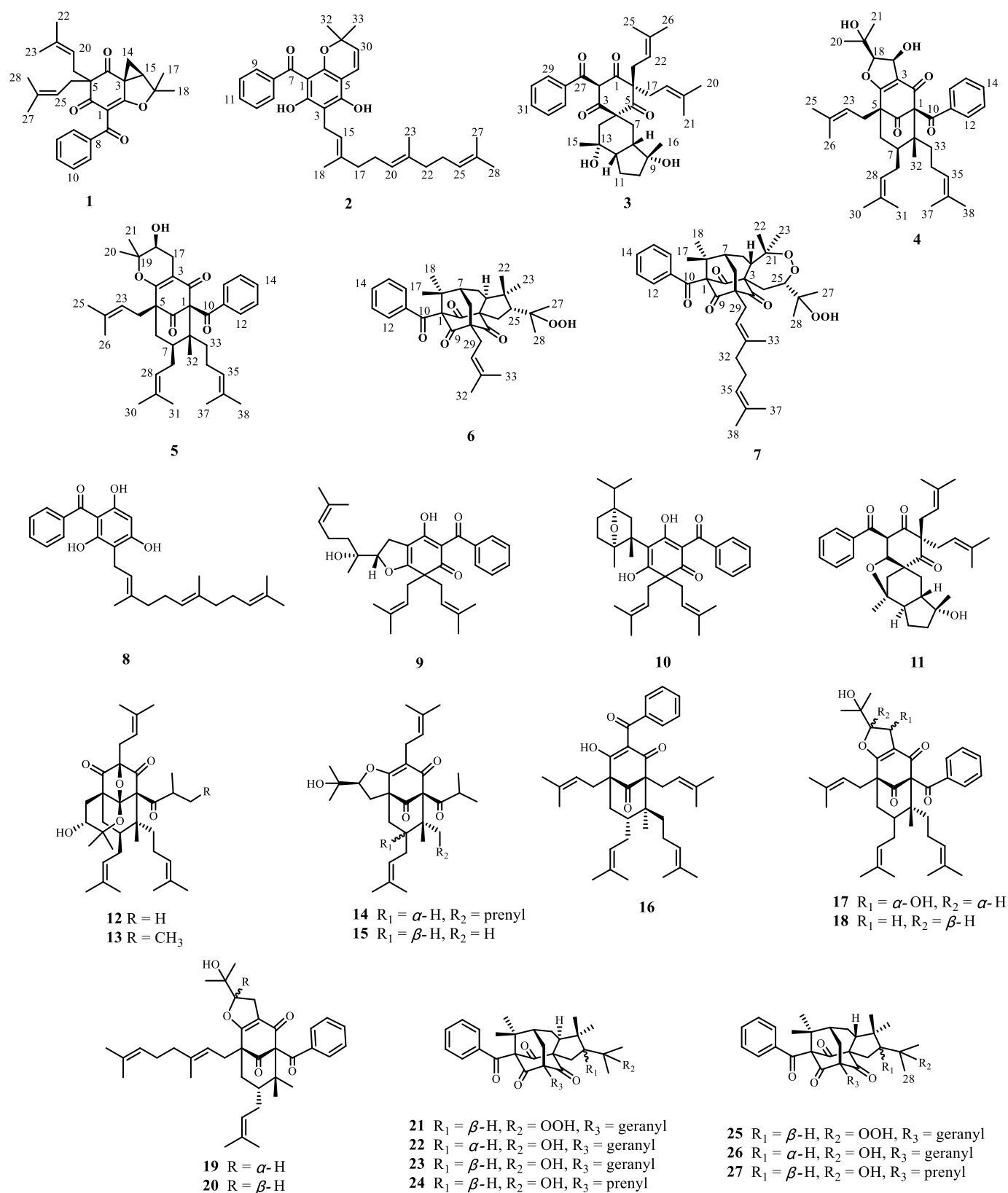


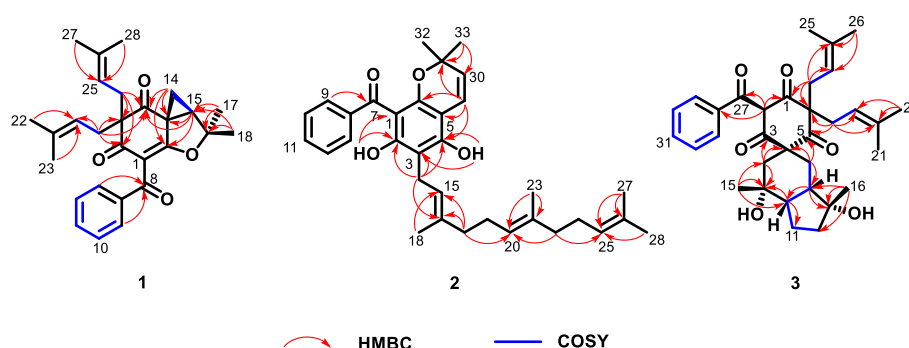
Fig. 1. Chemical structures of 1–27.

homoadamantane-type PPAPs (6–7, 21–27). It is notable that compound 1 possesses an unusual spiro-fused cyclopropane ring. In addition, compounds 8, 16–18 showed obvious hepatoprotective activity against paracetamol-induced HepG2 cell damage at 10 μ M. The processes of

isolation, purification, elucidation of structures, and bioactivity of these compounds are reported herein.

Table 1¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR data for compounds 1, 3, 6^a, and 2^b.

No	1		2		3		6	
	δ_{H}	δ_{C}	δ_{H}	δ_{C}	δ_{H}	δ_{C}	δ_{H}	δ_{C}
1		117.2		105.4		199.8		80.9
2		173.2		162.2	6.16 s	96.0		203.9
3		41.8		105.2		174.8		73.4
4		207.1		158.3		62.1		206.6
5		65.3		102.0		204.2		69.1
6		196.9		154.7		66.7	1.89 d (14.4); 2.52 m	42.5
7		192.1		200.7	1.65 m; 2.31 m	30.9	2.13 m	43.9
8		137.6		143.0	1.25 m	49.9		51.0
9	7.80 d (5.6)	129.4	7.47 d (7.5)	127.2		77.4		204.9
10	7.41 t (5.6)	128.4	7.38 t (7.5)	127.7	1.70 m; 1.83 m	40.0		192.7
11	7.53 t (5.6)	133.3	7.44 t (7.5)	130.1	1.27 m; 1.68 m	22.4		135.0
12	7.41 t (5.6)	128.4	7.38 t (7.5)	127.7	1.93 m	48.6	7.10 d (7.6)	129.1
13	7.80 d (5.6)	129.4	7.47 d (7.5)	127.2		83.5	7.28 t (7.6)	128.2
14	1.69 m; 1.56 m	27.6	3.45 d (7.0)	21.8	1.95 m; 2.63 m	48.1	7.40 t (7.6)	132.3
15	2.91 dd (6.0, 4.4)	38.1	5.33 t (7.0)	121.8	1.39 s	22.2	7.28 t (7.6)	128.2
16		91.4		140.6	1.30 s	26.9	7.10 d (7.6)	129.1
17	1.37 s	28.2	2.13 m	39.8	2.65 m; 2.88 m	30.6	1.46 s	25.3
18	1.40 s	23.4	1.85 s	16.3	4.87 m	117.7	1.40 s	23.0
19	2.65 m	36.8	2.00 m; 2.06 m	26.8		135.7	2.06 dd (10.8, 8.8)	57.9
20	5.00 t (6.4)	119.0	5.08 m	123.4	1.67 s	26.2	1.64 m; 2.28 m	28.8
21		135.7		136.0	1.58 s	18.2		44.7
22	1.71 s	26.2	1.98 m; 2.05 m	39.9	2.63 m	30.8	0.93 s	28.2
23	1.55 s	18.0	1.61 s	16.4	4.89 m	117.8	1.17 s	27.7
24	2.49 m; 2.68 m	38.8	2.12 m; 2.16 m	26.3		135.7	2.16 dd (12.8, 7.6); 2.49 t (12.4)	33.3
25	5.05 t (6.4)	118.4	5.09 m	124.5	1.66 m	26.2	2.86 dd (12.4, 8.0)	54.5
26		135.6		131.5	1.55 m	18.2		85.9
27	1.68 s	26.2	1.67 s	25.9		179.7	1.36 s	24.8
28	1.55 s	18.0	1.59 s	17.9		133.7	1.40 s	23.1
29			6.47 d (10.0)	116.1	7.86 d (7.0)	127.2	2.55 d (6.8)	29.6
30			5.27 d (10.0)	125.2	7.45 t (7.0)	128.7	5.08 t (7.2)	119.2
31				77.5	7.52 t (7.0)	132.7		135.0
32			0.97 s	27.5	7.45 t (7.0)	128.7	1.68 s	26.3
33			0.97 s	27.5	7.86 d (7.0)	127.2	1.65 s	18.2
2-OH			12.83s					
4-OH			6.40 s					

^a Recorded in CDCl₃ (¹H NMR 400 MHz, ¹³C NMR 125 MHz).^b Recorded in CDCl₃ (¹H NMR 500 MHz, ¹³C NMR 125 MHz).**Fig. 2.** Key HMBC and ¹H–¹H COSY correlations of 1–3.

2. Results and discussion

Hyperbeanin A (1) was obtained as colorless oil, and its molecular formula was established as C₂₈H₃₂O₄ according to the hydrogen adduct ion peak at *m/z* 433.2368 [M+H]⁺ (calcd 433.2373), indicating 13 degrees of unsaturation. Absorption bands of carbonyl groups (1710 and 1678 cm⁻¹) and aromatic ring (1450 cm⁻¹) were observed in the IR spectrum. The ¹H NMR spectrum (Table 1) exhibited a monosubstituted phenyl [δ_{H} 7.80 (2H, d, *J* = 5.6 Hz), 7.53 (1H, t, *J* = 5.6 Hz), and 7.41 (2H, t, *J* = 5.6 Hz)], two olefinic protons [δ_{H} 5.00 (1H, t, *J* = 6.4 Hz) and 5.05 (1H, t, *J* = 6.4 Hz)], and six singlet methyls (δ_{H} 1.37–1.71). The ¹³C NMR (Table 1) and HSQC spectra showed 28 carbon signals due to

seven quaternary carbons (δ_{C} 41.8 and 65.3; a non-conjugated ketone at δ_{C} 207.1; a 1,3-diketone group at δ_{C} 117.2, 173.2, and 196.9; and an oxygenated carbon at δ_{C} 91.4), one methine (δ_{C} 38.1), one methylene (δ_{C} 27.6), two methyls (δ_{C} 28.2 and 23.4), and 17 other signals assignable to a benzoyl and two prenyl groups. The aforementioned data showed that 1 is a monocyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinol (MPAP) derivative and shares a similar carbon core with that of hypercohin K (Yang et al., 2015). The only difference was the geranyl group at C-5 in hypercohin K was replaced by a prenyl group in 1. The linkage of the C₅ unit (C-14~C-18) was confirmed by the ¹H–¹H COSY correlation of H₂-14 (δ_{H} 1.56 and 1.69) with H-15 (δ_{H} 2.91) and the HMBC correlations from Me-17 (δ_{H} 1.37)/M-18 (δ_{H} 1.40) to C-15 (δ_{C} 38.1) and C-16 (δ_{C} 91.4)

(Fig. 2). The HMBC correlations from H₂-14 (δ_{H} 1.69 and 1.56)/H-15 (δ_{H} 2.91) to C-2 (δ_{C} 173.2), C-3 (δ_{C} 41.8), and C-4 (δ_{C} 207.1) indicated that C-14 and C-15 were directly attached to C-3 to form a cyclopropane moiety. Furthermore, a five-membered ether ring was proposed by the downfield chemical shifts of C-2 (δ_{C} 173.2) and C-16 (δ_{C} 91.4). The locations of two prenyl groups were assigned to C-5 by the HMBC cross-peaks from H₂-19 (δ_{H} 2.65) and H₂-24 (δ_{H} 2.49 and 2.68) to C-4 (δ_{C} 207.1), C-5 (δ_{C} 65.3), and C-6 (δ_{C} 196.9) (Fig. 2).

The relative configuration of 1 was established by analysis of the ROESY spectrum. The correlation of H-14a (δ_{H} 1.56)/Me-18 (δ_{H} 1.40) and H-15 (δ_{H} 2.91)/Me-17 (δ_{H} 1.37) defined that CH₂-14 was β -orientated while H-15 was α -orientated (Fig. 5). The electronic circular dichroism (ECD) spectrum of 1 was in good agreement with hypercohin K, whose absolute configurations had been determined as 3R, 5S, 15R by experimental and calculated ECD. Thus, the absolute configurations of 1 were elucidated as 3R, 15R. (Fig. 7).

Hyperbeanin B (2) gave a molecular formula of C₃₃H₄₀O₄ with 14 degrees of unsaturation, as deduced from the HRESIMS ion signal at m/z 523.2812 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd 523.2819). The ¹H NMR spectrum (Table 1) showed a monosubstituted benzene [δ_{H} 7.47 (2H, d, J = 7.5 Hz), 7.44 (2H, t, J = 7.5 Hz), and 7.38 (1H, t, J = 7.5 Hz)], five olefinic protons [δ_{H} 6.47 (1H, d, J = 9.9 Hz), 5.33 (1H, t, J = 7.1 Hz), 5.27 (1H, d, J = 10.1 Hz), 5.09 (1H, m), and 5.08 (1H, m)], two hydroxy protons (δ_{H} 12.83 and 6.40), six singlet methyls (δ_{H} 0.97–1.85). The ¹³C NMR (Table 1) and HSQC spectra revealed 33 carbon signals, including a carbonyl carbons (δ_{C} 200.7), two groups of aromatic carbons (δ_{C} 143.0, 130.1, 127.7 $\times$ 2, 127.2 $\times$ 2; 162.2, 158.3, 154.7, 105.4, 105.2, 102.0), four pairs of olefinic carbons (δ_{C} 140.6, 121.8; 136.0, 123.4; 131.5, 124.5; 125.2, 116.1). The aforementioned data indicated 2 is also a MPAP derivative. The HMBC correlations from 2-OH (δ_{H} 12.83) to C-1 (δ_{C} 105.4), C-2 (δ_{C} 162.2), and C-3 (δ_{C} 105.2), and from 4-OH (δ_{H} 6.40) to C-3 (δ_{C} 105.2), C-4 (δ_{C} 158.3), and C-5 (δ_{C} 102.0) suggested two hydroxyls were located at C-2 and C-4, respectively (Fig. 2). Combined with the chemical shifts of C-6 (δ_{C} 154.7) and C-31 (δ_{C} 77.5), as well as the HMBC correlations from H₃-32 (δ_{H} 0.97)/H₃-33 (δ_{H} 0.97) to C-30 (δ_{C} 125.2) and C-31 (δ_{C} 77.5), from H-30 (δ_{H} 5.27) to C-5 (δ_{C} 102.0), C-31 (δ_{C} 77.5), C-32 (δ_{C} 27.5), and C-33 (δ_{C} 27.5), and from H-29 (δ_{H} 6.47) to C-4 (δ_{C} 158.3), C-5 (δ_{C} 102.0), C-6 (δ_{C} 154.7), and C-31 (δ_{C} 77.5) revealed the existence of the unsaturated pyran ring. The assignment of the unsaturated carbon chain at C-3 was further accomplished by the HMBC cross-peaks from H₂-14 (δ_{H} 3.45) to C-2 (δ_{C} 162.2), C-3 (δ_{C} 105.2), C-4 (δ_{C} 158.3), C-15 (δ_{C} 121.8), and C-16 (δ_{C} 140.6).

The HRESIMS data of hyperbeanin C (3) exhibited a positive ion at m/z 535.3055 [M+H]⁺ (calcd 535.3054), suggesting a molecular formula of C₃₃H₄₂O₆ with 13 indices of hydrogen deficiency. The ¹H NMR spectrum (Table 1) revealed the presence of one monosubstituted benzene [δ_{H} 7.86 (2H, d, J = 7.0 Hz), 7.52 (1H, t, J = 7.0 Hz), 7.45 (2H, t, J = 7.0 Hz)], one low field proton [δ_{H} 6.16 (1H, s)], two olefinic protons [δ_{H} 4.88 (1H, m), 4.86 (1H, m)], and six singlet methyls (δ_{H} 1.67, 1.66, 1.58, 1.55, 1.39, 1.30). The ¹³C NMR spectrum (Table 1) combined with HSQC and HMBC indicated 3 is a spirocyclic PPAP with octahydrospiro [cyclohexan-1,5'-indene] core, whose structure is similar to hyperpatulol A (Liu et al., 2019), except that the signals of enolized 1,3-diketone group was absent. The HMBC correlation of H-2 (δ_{H} 6.16) to C-1 (δ_{C} 199.8), C-27 (δ_{C} 179.7), and C-28 (δ_{C} 133.7) indicated benzoyl group was located at C-2 (Fig. 2). In the ROESY spectrum of 3, the correlations of Me-15 (δ_{H} 1.39)/H-12 (δ_{H} 1.93), Me-15 (δ_{H} 1.39)/H-14b (δ_{H} 2.63), H-8 (δ_{H} 1.25)/H-7b (δ_{H} 2.31), Me-16 (δ_{H} 1.30)/H-7b (δ_{H} 2.31), and H-14b (δ_{H} 2.63)/H-7b (δ_{H} 2.31) suggested that H-8, H-12, Me-15, and Me-16 were β -orientated (Fig. 5). Moreover, the ROESY interactions of H-2 (δ_{H} 6.16)/H-14b (δ_{H} 2.63) revealed that the benzoyl group was at the upper side of the cyclohexane moiety, and H-2 was α -orientated. The ECD spectrum of 3 showed positive cotton effect at 219 nm and negative cotton effects at 252 and 283 nm comparable to those of hyperbeanol F (Fig. 7) (Li et al., 2019). Hence, the absolute configuration of 3 was established as 2R, 4R, 8S, 9R, 12S, and 13R.

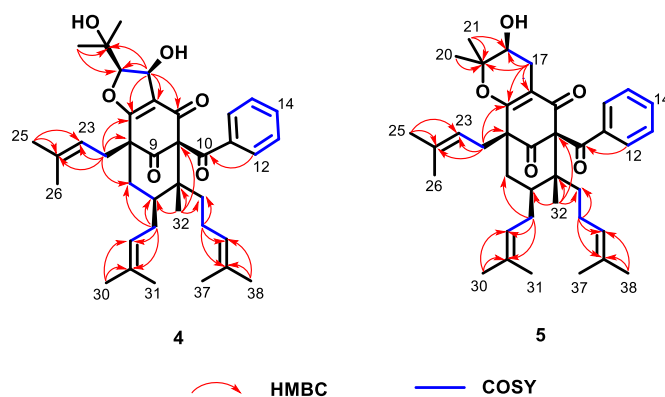


Fig. 3. Key HMBC and ¹H-¹H COSY correlations of 4–5.

Hyperbeanin D (4) was obtained as colorless oil, and its molecular formula was assigned as C₃₈H₅₀O₆ according to the quasi-molecular ion signal at m/z 603.3688 [M+H]⁺ (calcd 603.3680). The 1D and 2D NMR data of 4 were similar to those of hypercohin J with a bicyclo[3.3.1] nonane core (Liu et al., 2013), indicating these two compounds share the same planar structure. This deduction was supported by the HMBC correlations from H₂-22 (δ_{H} 2.49 and 2.61) to C-4 (δ_{C} 178.8), C-5 (δ_{C} 56.0), C-9 (δ_{C} 205.8), C-23 (δ_{C} 118.1), and C-24 (δ_{C} 135.8); from H-17 (δ_{H} 5.36) to C-2 (δ_{C} 189.4), C-3 (δ_{C} 121.0), C-4 (δ_{C} 178.8), C-18 (δ_{C} 99.6) and C-19 (δ_{C} 71.4); and from H-18 (δ_{H} 4.51) to C-3 (δ_{C} 121.0), C-4 (δ_{C} 178.8), C-17 (δ_{C} 70.8), C-20 (δ_{C} 25.2), and C-21 (δ_{C} 24.7) (Fig. 3). Moreover, the chemical shift of C-7 (δ_{C} 43.1) and the chemical shift difference between H-6a and H-6b ($\Delta\delta$ ca. 0.39) were in accordance with the classical reported rules (Ciochina and Grossman, 2006), implying that the C-7 substituent was exo. The ROESY correlations of Me-20 (δ_{H} 1.34)/H-28 (δ_{H} 4.94) and H-17 (δ_{H} 5.36)/H-7 (δ_{H} 1.80), combined with the absence of the correlation on between H-17 (δ_{H} 5.36) and H-12/H-16 (δ_{H} 7.55), revealed that H-17 and H-18 were both α -orientated (Fig. 5). Finally, the absolute configuration of 4 was confirmed as 1S, 5R, 7S, 8R, 17S, 18R by comparison of the ECD spectrum with hyperascyrin C (Hu et al., 2018) (Fig. 7).

Hyperbeanin E (5) gave a molecular formula of C₃₈H₅₀O₅ with 14 degrees of unsaturation, as deduced from the HRESIMS ion signal at m/z 587.3726 [M+H]⁺ (calcd 587.3731). Comparison of the NMR data of 5 with those of hyperascyrin J indicated that they are structurally similar, except that the signal for the methyl at C-5 in hyperascyrin J was replaced by a prenyl group (Hu et al., 2018). These deductions were confirmed by the HMBC correlation from H₂-22 (δ_{H} 2.52) to C-4 (δ_{C} 175.8), C-5 (δ_{C} 55.5), C-6 (δ_{C} 39.4), and C-9 (δ_{C} 206.7); from H-17 (δ_{H} 2.99) to C-3 (δ_{C} 118.5), C-4 (δ_{C} 175.8), C-18 (δ_{C} 93.2), and C-19 (δ_{C} 71.9); and from H₃-20 (δ_{H} 1.33)/H₃-21 (δ_{H} 1.22) to C-18 (δ_{C} 93.2) and C-19 (δ_{C} 71.9) (Fig. 3). Likely, the α -orientation of H-7 was elucidated by the chemical shift of C-7 (δ_{C} 42.8) and the chemical shift difference between H-6a and H-6b ($\Delta\delta$ ca. 0.51). Moreover, the ROESY correlations of H-17a (δ_{H} 2.97)/H-12 (δ_{H} 7.51) and H-18 (δ_{H} 4.87)/H-17b (δ_{H} 3.02) revealed H-18 was α -orientated (Fig. 6). The ECD spectrum of 5 resembled that of hyperascyrin J, indicating the absolute configuration of 5 was 1R, 5R, 7S, 8R, 18S (Fig. 8).

Hyperbeanin F (6) was obtained as colorless oil. Its molecular formula, C₃₃H₄₂O₆, was established by quasi-molecular ion signal at m/z 535.3047 [M+H]⁺ (calcd 535.3054), indicative of 13 indices of hydrogen deficiency. The IR spectrum showed absorption bands for hydroxy (3377 cm⁻¹) and carbonyl groups (1734 and 1695 cm⁻¹). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra (Table 1) of 6 showed high similarity to those of hypersampson F (Zhang et al., 2016), a homoadamantane type PPAP with a tricyclo[4.3.1.1]undecane core. Further analysis of the 2D NMR spectra of 6 revealed that the only difference of their planar structures arose from the chain at C-5, where the geranyl group in hypersampson F was replaced by a prenyl group in 6. The chemical shifts of C-25 (δ_{C}

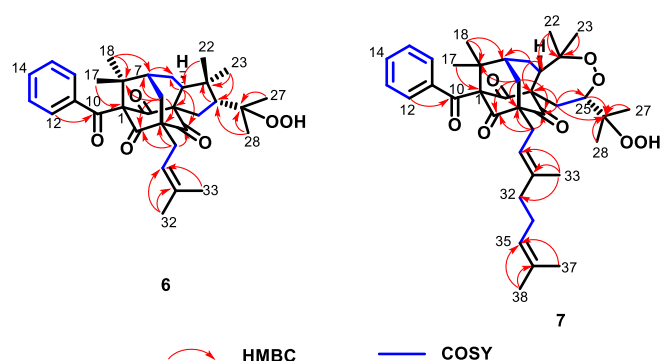


Fig. 4. Key HMBC and ^1H - ^1H COSY correlations of 6–7.

54.5), C-26 (δ_{C} 85.9), C-27 (δ_{C} 24.8), and C-28 (δ_{C} 23.1), along with the HRESIMS data of 6, implied the presence of a peroxide group at C-26. Molecular models indicated that the tetracyclic system established the relative configuration of the chiral centers of C-1, C-3, C-5, and C-7. The ROESY cross-peaks of Me-22 (δ_{H} 0.93)/H-6a (δ_{H} 1.89), H-25 (δ_{H} 2.86)/Me-22 (δ_{H} 0.93), Me-17 (δ_{H} 1.46)/H-6b (δ_{H} 2.52), and H-20 (δ_{H} 2.06)/Me-18 (δ_{H} 1.40) were observed, suggesting that H-20 and H-25 were α -oriented and β -oriented, respectively (Fig. 6). The absolute configuration of 6 was determined to be 1*R*, 3*R*, 5*S*, 7*S*, 20*R*, 25*S* by comparing the experimental ECD spectrum of 6 with that of hypersampsonone F (Fig. 8).

The molecular formula of hyperbeanin G (7) was established as $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{50}\text{O}_8$ by the signal at m/z 635.3578 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ (calcd 635.3578) in HRESIMS experiment. Careful analysis of the 2D NMR spectra of 7 indicated the same planar structure as that of hyperisampsin O (Zhu et al., 2016), which possesses a peroxide group and an 1,2-dioxepane functionality (Fig. 4). The relative configuration of 7 was determined by conducting ROESY experiment. The β -orientation of H-20 and H-25 were established by the ROESY correlations of Me-17 (δ_{H} 1.39)/H-6b (δ_{H} 2.62), H-20 (δ_{H} 2.60)/H-6a (δ_{H} 2.15), H-20 (δ_{H} 2.60)/Me-22 (δ_{H} 1.29), and H-25 (δ_{H} 5.33)/Me-22 (δ_{H} 1.29) (Fig. 6). In addition, the experimental ECD spectrum of 7 was in good agreement with that of hyperisampsin N (Fig. 8) (Zhu et al., 2016), which suggested that the absolute configuration of 7 was 1*R*, 3*R*, 5*S*, 7*S*, 20*R*, 25*R*.

Based on the comparison of their NMR and MS data with the literature values, twenty known PPAPs were identified as 3-farnesyl-2,4,6-trihydroxybenzophenone (8) (Wang and Lee, 2011), hyperbeanal P (9) (Li et al., 2019), hyperbeanal K (10) (Li et al., 2019), hypercohone G (11) (Zhang et al., 2014), hyphenrone T (12) (Liao et al., 2016), hyphenrone V (13) (Liao et al., 2016), furohyperforin (14) (Verotta et al., 1999), sampsonione L (15) (Hu and Sim, 2000), 13,14-didehydroxyguttiferone A (16) (Xu et al., 2019), hypercohin J (17) (Liu et al., 2013), uralodin C (18) (Chen et al., 2010), hyperattenin C (19) (Li et al., 2015), otogirin D (20) (Ishida et al., 2010), hypersampsonone F (21) (Zhang et al., 2016), hypersampsonone G (22) (Zhang et al., 2016), sampsonione C (23) (Hu and Sim, 1999), plukenetione B (24) (Henry et al., 1999), hyperattenin I (25) (Li et al., 2015), sampsonione F (26) (Hu and Sim, 1999), attenuatumione A (27) (Zhou et al., 2014),

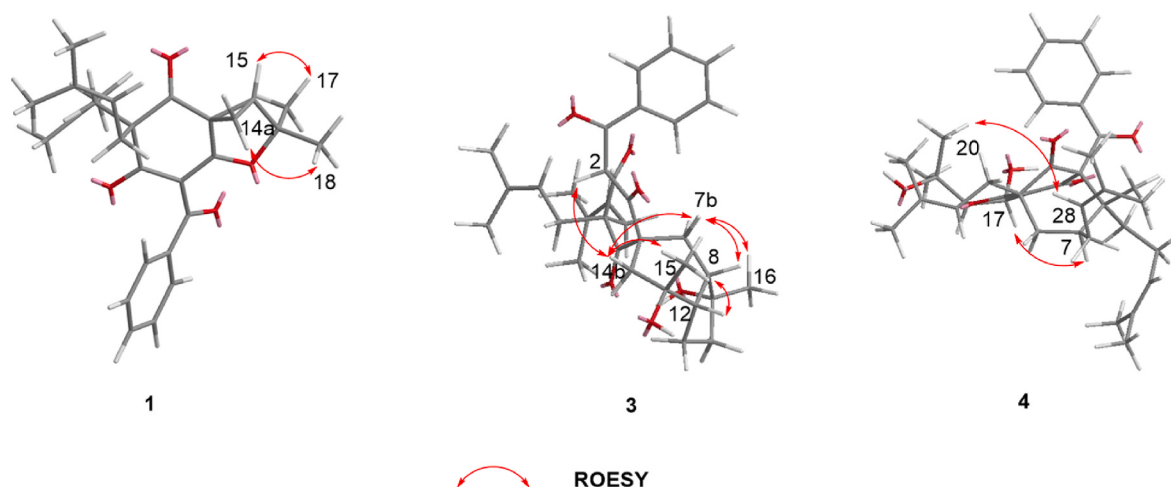


Fig. 5. Key ROESY correlations of 1, 3–4.

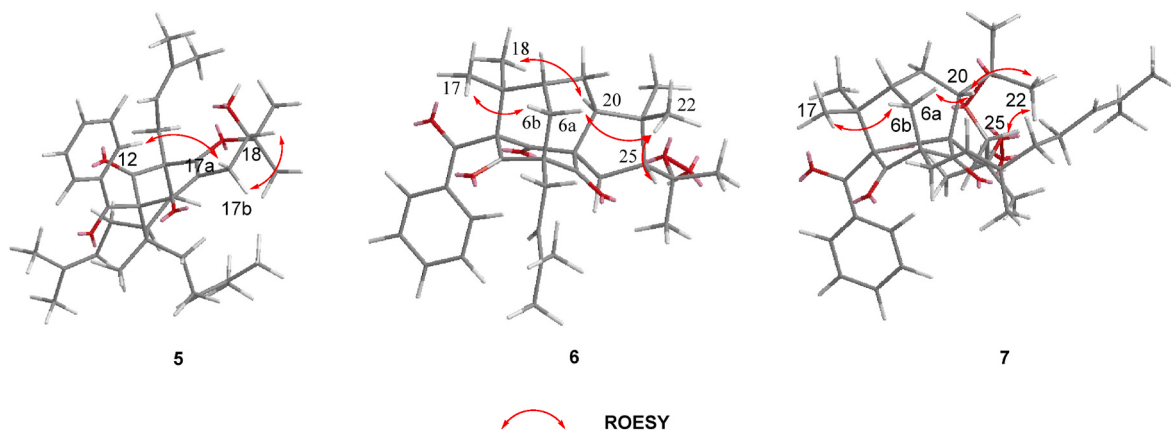


Fig. 6. Key ROESY correlations of 5–7.

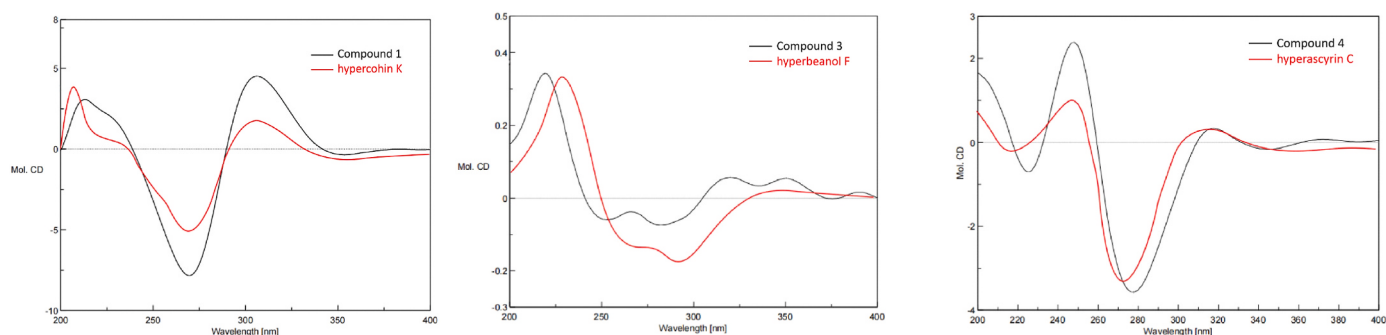


Fig. 7. Experimental ECD spectra of 1, 3–4.

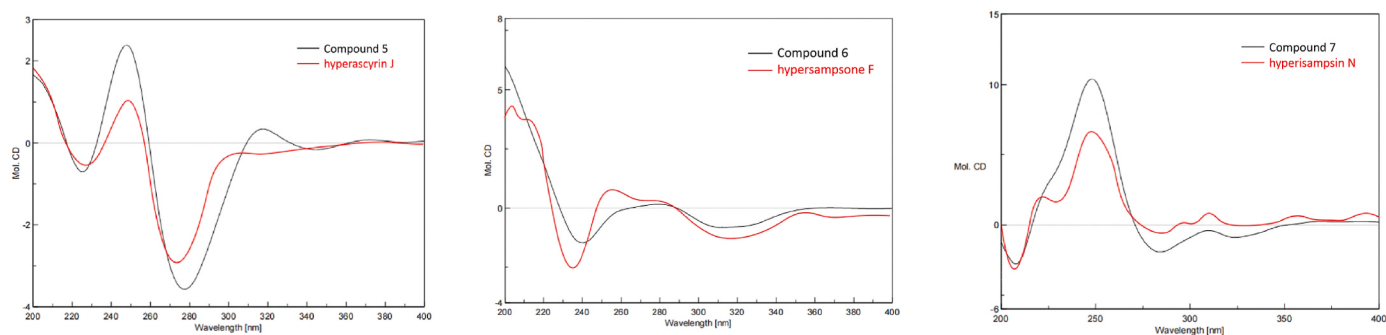


Fig. 8. Experimental ECD spectra of 5–7.

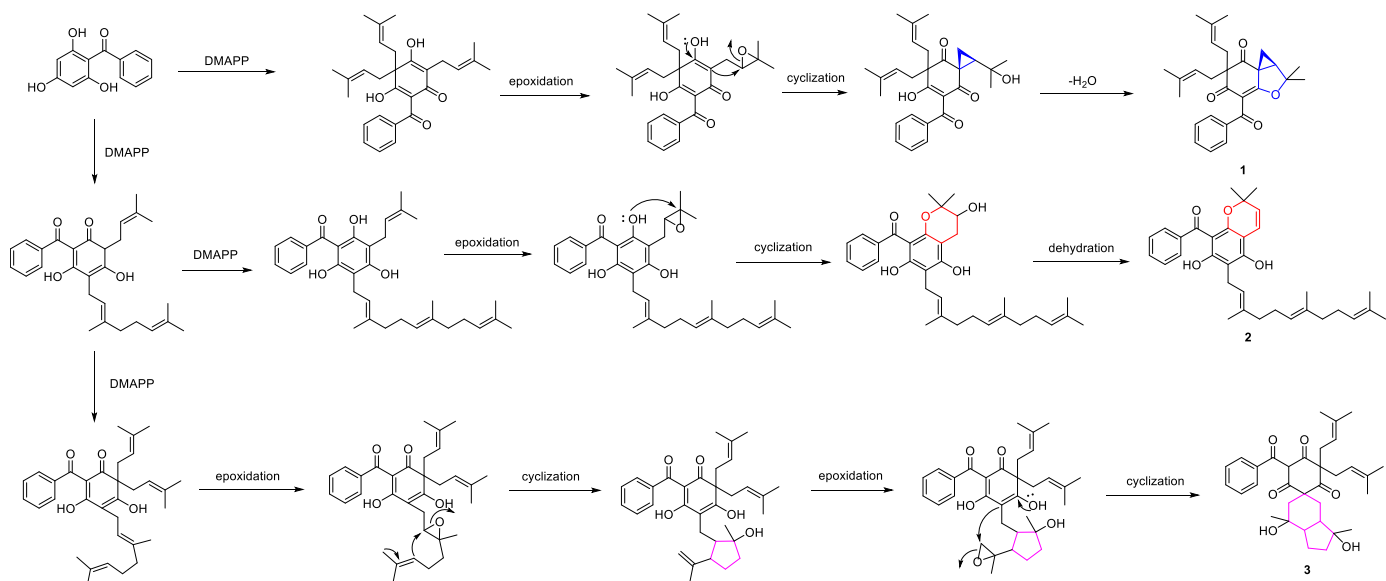


Fig. 9. Plausible biosynthetic pathways of 1–3.

respectively. Some of isolated compounds were evaluated for their hepatoprotective activity against paracetamol-induced HepG2 cell damage. Compared with the positive control bicyclol, compounds 8, 16–18 showed obvious cytoprotection with improving cell viability ranging from 16.70% to 24.41% at 10 μ M (Table 3).

Biogenetically, the acylphloroglucinol cores of PPAPs are produced by a characteristic polyketide-type biosynthesis involving the condensation of one acyl-CoA and three malonyl-CoA units. Prenylation of this core moiety affords monocyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinols (MPAPs), which may be further cyclized to PPAP-type metabolites with diverse carbon skeletons (Yang et al., 2018). Compound 1 presumably

was derived from MPAPs via the cyclization of the C-3 prenyl group to C-3 itself to form a spiro[2.5]octane skeleton, while the spirocyclic core of compound 3 was formed via epoxidation and cyclization of the geranyl group. In addition, compounds 4–7 were probably biosynthesized from the precursors (i–iii) by epoxidation and intramolecular cyclization. The plausible biogenetic pathway for compounds 1–7 is proposed as shown in Fig. 9 and Fig. 10.

3. Conclusions

In conclusion, twenty-seven PPAPs with diverse carbon skeletons

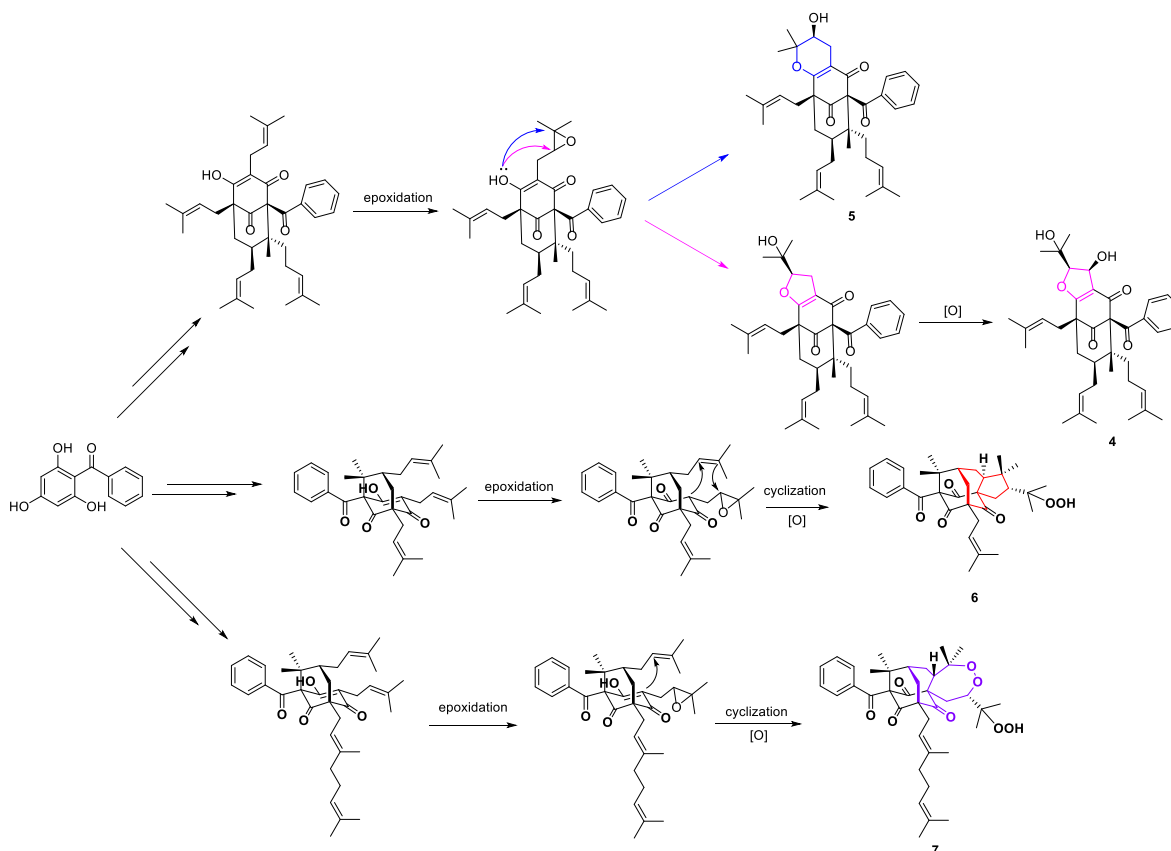


Fig. 10. Plausible biosynthetic pathways of 4–7.

(1–27) were isolated from the ethanol extract of *H. beanii*, including seven new PPAPs hyperbeanin A–G (1–7). Hyperbeanin A (1) is a monocyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinols (MPAPs) with an unusual spiro-fused cyclopropane ring. At a concentration of 10 μ M, compounds 8, 16–18 showed obvious hepatoprotective activity against paracetamol-induced HepG2 cell damage. This research could provide support for the medical application of *H. beanii* as herbal remedies.

4. Experimental procedures

4.1. General experimental procedures

Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO P-2000 polarimeter (JASCO Inc. Tokyo, Japan). UV spectra were measured on a JASCO V650 spectrophotometer (JASCO Inc.). The ECD spectra were measured on a JASCO J-815 CD spectrometer (JASCO Inc.). IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet 5700 FT-IR spectrometer (Thermo Nicolet, Waltham, MA, USA). The NMR spectra were acquired with VNS-400 spectrometers and VNS-500 spectrometers (Varian Inc. Palo Alto, CA, USA). HRESI-MS were collected on an Agilent 1100 series LC/MSD ion trap mass spectrometer (Agilent Technologies Ltd, Santa Clara, CA, USA). Preparative HPLC was performed on a Shimadzu LC-6AD instrument with a SPD-20A detector, using an YMC-Pack ODS-A column (250 $\times$ 20 mm, 5 μ m; YMC, Tokyo, Japan). Column chromatography was performed with silica gel (200–300 mesh, Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc., Qingdao, China) and ODS (50 μ m, YMC, Japan). TLC was carried out on plates precoated silica gel GF₂₅₄ (Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc.). Spots were visualized under UV light or by spraying with 10% sulfuric acid in EtOH followed by heating.

4.2. Plant material

The air-dried aerial parts of *Hypericum beanii* N. Robson (Hypericaceae) were purchased from Kunming, Yunnan Province, China (103°3'21" E, 25°18'43" N), in August 2017. Prof. Lin Ma was responsible for the identification of the plant. A voucher specimen (No. ID-24237) was deposited in the Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences.

4.3. Extraction and isolation

The air-dried aerial parts of *H. beanii* (30 kg) were extracted by 95% ethanol (150 L $\times$ 3 times) under reflux. The crude extract was suspended in H₂O and partitioned with petroleum ether (PE). The PE extract (998.7 g) was subjected to silica gel CC and eluted with PE/EtOAc (100:0 to 0:100) to gain nine fractions (Fr.1–9). Fr.1 (250.0 g) was fractionated by using diol CC, eluting with PE/EtOAc (100:0 to 0:100) to yield thirteen fractions (Fr.1.1–Fr.1.13). Fr.1.2 (40.0 g) was separated via Sephadex LH-20 CC, eluted with PE/CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (5:5:1) to afford twelve fractions (Fr.1.2.1–Fr.1.2.12). Fr.1.2.1 (2.62 g) was treated with silica gel CC, eluted with PE/EtOAc (20:1 to 4:1), and further purified by preparative HPLC (MeCN/H₂O, 90:10 to 100:0) to yield 24 (5 mg) and 27 (6 mg). Fr.1.2.12 (28.4 g) was subjected to ODS CC, eluted with MeOH/H₂O (80:20 to 100:0), and further purified by preparative HPLC (MeCN/H₂O, 90:10 to 100:0) to yield 20 (12 mg), 23 (9 mg), and 26 (6 mg). Fr.1.5 (14.0 g) was separated via Sephadex LH-20 CC, eluted with PE/CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (5:5:1) to afford six fractions (Fr.1.5.1–Fr.1.5.6). Fr.1.5.4 (489 mg) was purified by preparative TLC with PE/CH₂Cl₂ (2:1) to yield 16 (10.0 mg). Fr.1.6 (5.0 g) was separated via Sephadex LH-20 CC, eluted with PE/CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (5:5:1) to afford three fractions (Fr.1.6.1–Fr.1.6.3). Fr.1.6.3 (760 mg) was further purified by preparative HPLC (MeCN/H₂O, 97:3) to yield 2 (34 mg). Fr.1.7 (14.1 g) was

Table 2¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR data for compounds 4–5^a, and 7^b.

No	4	5	7
	δ_H	δ_C	δ_H
1		80.1	79.8
2		189.4	188.0
3		121.0	118.5
4		178.8	175.8
5		56.0	55.5
6	1.58 m; 1.96 m	39.1	1.51 m; 2.02 m
7	1.80 m	43.1	1.86 m
8		50.3	49.9
9		205.8	206.7
10		193.6	193.7
11		136.6	136.9
12	7.55 d (7.2)	128.6	7.51 d (8.4)
13	7.29 t (7.2)	128.1	7.26 t (8.4)
14	7.40 t (7.2)	132.4	7.39 t (8.4)
15	7.29 t (7.2)	128.1	7.26 t (8.4)
16	7.55 d (7.2)	128.6	7.51 d (8.4)
17	5.36 d (3.6)	70.8	2.97 d (11.2); 3.02 d (8.0)
18	4.51 d (4.0)	99.6	4.87 dd (10.4, 7.6)
19		71.4	71.9
20	1.34 s	25.2	1.33 s
21	1.31 s	24.7	1.22 s
22	2.49 m; 2.61 m	28.6	2.52 d (8.0)
23	5.09 t (8.8)	118.1	5.02 m
24		135.8	
25	1.65 s	25.8	1.69 s
26	1.69 s	18.2	1.69 s
27	1.77 m; 2.13 m	27.4	1.25 m; 1.30 m
28	4.94 t (7.2)	122.4	5.00 m
29		134.1	
30	1.67 s	26.2	1.73 s
31	1.57 s	17.9	1.59 s
32	1.13 s	14.1	1.12 s
33	1.59 m; 2.04 m	36.9	1.67 m; 2.07 m
34	1.94 m; 2.19 m	25.2	1.96 m; 2.18 m
35	5.07 t (7.2)	124.5	5.08 t (6.8)
36		131.6	
37	1.65 s	26.0	1.64 s
38	1.61 s	18.0	1.62 s

^a Recorded in CDCl₃ (¹H NMR 400 MHz, ¹³C NMR 125 MHz).^b Recorded in CD₃OD (¹H NMR 400 MHz, ¹³C NMR 125 MHz).

separated via Sephadex LH-20 CC, eluted with PE/CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (5:5:1) to afford eight fractions (Fr.1.7.1–Fr.1.7.8). Fr.1.7.5 (596 mg) was further purified by preparative HPLC (MeCN/H₂O, 90:10 to 95:5) to yield 10 (62 mg). Fr.1.9 (16.7 g) was subjected to ODS CC, eluted with MeOH/H₂O (80:20 to 100:0), and further purified by preparative HPLC (MeCN/H₂O, 90:10 to 100:0) to yield 18 (3 mg). Fr.3 (150.3 g) was fractionated by using MCI CC, eluting with MeOH/H₂O (80:20 to 95:5) to yield nine fractions (Fr.3.1–Fr.3.9). Fr.3.4 (7.2 g) were subjected to ODS CC, eluted with MeOH/H₂O (70:30 to 100:0), and further purified by preparative HPLC (MeOH/H₂O, 92:8 to 96:4) to yield 5 (3 mg) and 9 (10 mg). Fr.3.6 (5.1 g) were subjected to ODS CC, eluted with MeOH/H₂O (70:30 to 100:0), and further purified by preparative HPLC (MeOH/H₂O, 92:8 to 98:2) to yield 14 (9 mg) and 19 (6 mg). Fr.3.8 (18.6 g) were subjected to ODS CC, eluted with MeOH/H₂O (80:20 to 100:0), and further purified by preparative HPLC (MeOH/H₂O, 90:10 to 98:2) to

Table 3Hepatoprotective effects of selected compounds (10 μ M) against paracetamol-induced HepG2 cell.^a

Compound	OD value	Cell viability (% of normal)	Inhibition (% of control)
Normal ^b	1.035 $\pm$ 0.067	100.0	
Control ^c	0.568 $\pm$ 0.046 ^d	54.9	
1	0.493 $\pm$ 0.012	47.6	−16.06
2	0.558 $\pm$ 0.070	53.9	−2.14
4	0.482 $\pm$ 0.012	46.6	−18.42
8	0.659 $\pm$ 0.014 ^e	63.7	19.49
16	0.682 $\pm$ 0.055 ^e	65.8	24.41
17	0.674 $\pm$ 0.015 ^e	65.1	22.70
18	0.646 $\pm$ 0.052 ^f	62.4	16.70
Bicyclol ^g	0.685 $\pm$ 0.097 ^e	66.1	25.05

^a Results are expressed as the means $\pm$ SD (n = 3; for normal and control, n = 6).^b Normal HepG2 cell.^c Paracetamol-induced HepG2 cell.^d P < 0.01 vs normal.^e P < 0.01 vs control.^f P < 0.05 vs control.^g Positive control (10 μ M).

yield 1 (4 mg), 6 (5 mg), 21 (20 mg), and 22 (3 mg). Fr.5 (161.1 g) was fractionated by using MCI CC, eluting with MeOH/H₂O (80:20 to 95:5) to yield ten fractions (Fr.5.1–Fr.5.10). Fr.5.3 (5.6 g) was subjected to ODS CC, eluted with MeOH/H₂O (70:30 to 100:0), and further purified by preparative HPLC (MeOH/H₂O, 90:10 to 95:5) to yield 12 (30 mg), 13 (10 mg), 15 (42 mg), and 25 (4 mg). Fr.5.5 (26.0 g) was subjected to ODS CC, eluted with MeOH/H₂O (70:30 to 100:0), and further purified by preparative HPLC (MeOH/H₂O, 92:8 to 96:4) to yield 8 (794 mg) and 11 (3 mg). Fr.5.7 (10.0 g) was treated with silica gel CC, eluted with PE/EtOAc (9:1 to 1:1), and further purified by preparative HPLC (MeCN/H₂O, 94:10 to 98:2) to yield 4 (5 mg), 7 (2 mg), and 17 (5 mg). Fr.5.9 (10.6 g) was subjected to ODS CC, eluted with MeOH/H₂O (70:30 to 100:0), and further purified by preparative HPLC (MeOH/H₂O, 95:5 to 98:2) to yield 3 (10 mg).

4.3.1. Hyperbeanin A (1)

Colorless oil; [α] −63.6 (c 0.11, MeOH); UV (MeOH) $\lambda_{\max}$ (log ϵ) 203 (4.36) nm, 254 (4.21) nm; ECD (MeOH) $\lambda_{\max}$ ($\Delta\epsilon$) 213 (+3.05), 269 (−7.85), 306 (+4.49), 353 (−0.37) nm; IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$ 2962, 2924, 1710, 1678, 1630, 1450, 1401 cm^{−1}; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (CDCl₃) see Table 1; HRESIMS m/z 433.2368 [M+H]⁺ (calcd. for C₂₈H₃₃O₄, 433.2373).

4.3.2. Hyperbeanin B (2)

Colorless oil; [α] 0 (c 0.20, MeOH); UV (MeOH) $\lambda_{\max}$ (log ϵ) 205 (4.16) nm, 294 (3.71) nm, 306 (3.73) nm; IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$ 3372, 2972, 2945, 1640, 1602, 1447 cm^{−1}; ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (CDCl₃) see Table 1; HRESIMS m/z 523.2812 [M+Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₃H₄₀O₄Na, 523.2819).

4.3.3. Hyperbeanin C (3)

Colorless oil; [α] +34.5 (c 0.12, MeOH); UV (MeOH) $\lambda_{\max}$ (log ϵ) 203 (3.92) nm, 246 (3.48) nm, 288 (3.41) nm, 322 (3.38) nm; ECD (MeOH) $\lambda_{\max}$ ($\Delta\epsilon$) 219 (+0.34), 251 (−0.06), 282 (−0.07), 320 (+0.05), 350 (+0.05) nm; IR (KBr) $\nu_{\max}$ 3486, 2928, 1769, 1605, 1455 cm^{−1}; ¹H and

^{13}C NMR data (CDCl_3) see Table 1; HRESIMS m/z 535.3055 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ (calcd. for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{43}\text{O}_6$, 535.3054).

4.3.4. Hyperbeanin D (4)

Colorless oil; $[\alpha] +0.9$ (c 0.11, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 203 (7.07) nm, 245 (4.08) nm, 275 (3.96) nm; ECD (MeOH) λ_{max} ($\Delta\epsilon$) 247 (+6.27), 272 (−5.90), 307 (+1.03) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3395, 2924, 1725, 1623, 1448, 1381 cm^{-1} ; ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data (CDCl_3) see Table 2. HRESIMS m/z 603.3688 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ (calcd. for $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{51}\text{O}_6$, 603.3680).

4.3.5. Hyperbeanin E (5)

Colorless oil; $[\alpha] -30.0$ (c 0.10, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 203 (4.22) nm, 245 (3.88), 284 (3.71) nm; ECD (MeOH) λ_{max} ($\Delta\epsilon$) 225 (−0.71), 248 (+2.38), 277 (−3.57), 317 (+0.33), 344 (−0.17) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3370, 2926, 1723, 1621, 1449, 1380 cm^{-1} ; ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data (CDCl_3) see Table 2; HRESIMS m/z 587.3726 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ (calcd. for $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{51}\text{O}_5$, 587.3731).

4.3.6. Hyperbeanin F (6)

Colorless oil; $[\alpha] +10.0$ (c 0.11, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 203 (4.09) nm, 254 (3.74) nm; ECD (MeOH) λ_{max} ($\Delta\epsilon$) 240 (−1.49), 312 (−0.83) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3377, 2924, 2854, 1734, 1695, 1449, 1225 cm^{-1} ; ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data (CDCl_3) see Table 1; HRESIMS m/z 535.3047 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ (calcd. for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{43}\text{O}_6$, 535.3054).

4.3.7. Hyperbeanin G (7)

Colorless oil; $[\alpha] -40.0$ (c 0.08, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 203 (4.68) nm, 254 (4.31) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3382, 2925, 1700, 1449, 1260 cm^{-1} ; ECD (MeOH) λ_{max} ($\Delta\epsilon$) 207 (−2.80), 248 (+10.38), 284 (−1.95), 323 (−0.90) nm; ^1H and ^{13}C NMR data (CD_3OD) see Table 2; HRESIMS m/z 635.3578 $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ (calcd. for $\text{C}_{38}\text{H}_{51}\text{O}_8$, 635.3578).

4.4. Hepatoprotective activity assay

The hepatoprotective effects of the isolated compounds were evaluated by a (MTT) colorimetric assay in HepG2 cells. Each cell suspension of 2×10^4 cells in 200 μL of RPMI 1640 containing fetal calf serum (10%), penicillin (100 U/mL), and streptomycin (100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) was placed in a 96-well microplate and pre-cultured for 24 h at 37 °C under 5% CO_2 atmosphere. Fresh medium (100 μL) containing bicyclol and test samples was added respectively, and the cells were cultured for 1 h. The cultured cells were exposed to 8 mM paracetamol for 24 h. Then, 100 μL of 0.5 mg/mL MTT was added to each well after the withdrawal of the culture medium and incubated for additional 4 h. The resulting formazan was dissolved in 150 μL DMSO after aspiration of the culture medium. The optical density (OD) of the formazan solution was measured on a microplate reader at 570 nm. Inhibition (%) was obtained by the following formula: Inhibition (%) = $[\text{OD}(\text{sample}) - \text{OD}(\text{control})] / [\text{OD}(\text{normal}) - \text{OD}(\text{control})] \times 100$.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Data availability

No data was used for the research described in the article.

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Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.phytochem.2022.113413>.

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