

Chemical and Microbial Cohabitant Profiling of the Sponge Penares nux

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#### ABSTRACT

The objective of this dissertation is to investigate the chemical profile among each part of the sponge *Penares nux*, and to study the impact of such profiling on the surrounding biota, namely the bacterial population on the sponge surface. The sponge *Penares nux* has a unique structural feature of protruding gorgonian-like capitums randomly developing from the rock-attached bases. The sponge is also found to develop an appendage extending from its base. Previous work showed the specific allocation of toxic kabiramides towards its capitum. In this study, the contents of three kabiramides (kabiramides B, C, and G) in the three parts (capitum, appendage, and base) as well as the sponge surface-attached bacteria were examined. Using LC-ESI-MS, P. nux was found to allocate kabiramides B, C, and G primarily towards the capitum and appendage. The plate counts of the cohabiting bacteria swabbed directly from the sponge's surfaces showed that the bacteria aggregated more densely on the surfaces of the bases. The specific allocation of the toxic macrolides significantly correlated in a reverse manner, i.e., the denser populations of the bacteria on the sponge surfaces, the lower the content of kabiramides. Twenty-two distinct bacterial isolates were subjected to phylogenetic analysis. The sponge P. nux yielded a diverse microbial community, including Alphaproteabacteria, Gammaproteobacteria, Actinobacteria and Flavobacteria.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

br	broad (for IR and NMR signals)
CFU	colony forming unit
COSY	correlation spectroscopy
d	doublet (for NMR signals)
ESI	electrospray ionization
HMBC	heteronuclear multiple bond multiple-quantum coherence
HMQC	heteronuclear multiple-quantum coherence
HRESIMS	high-resolution electrospray ionization mass spectroscopy
IC <sub>50</sub>	inhibitory concentration at 50% of test subject
IC <sub>99</sub>	inhibitory concentration at 99% of test subject
LC <sub>50</sub>	lethal concentration at 50% of test subject
m	multiplet (for NMR signals)
q	quartet (for NMR signals)
S	singlet (for NMR signals)
t	Triplet (for NMR signals)

#### **CHAPTER 1**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 General introduction**

Nature has yielded an extensive range of rich structurally diverse and biologically active compounds that serve as highly effective drug leads to combat a multitude of diseases. Traditionally, terrestrial organisms, plants and microorganisms alike, have represented the richest sources of drugs leads. Some outstanding examples include Pacific yew (Taxus brevifolia), which is the source of the most recently approved anticancer drug, paclitaxel (Wani et al., 1971). Paclitaxel (Taxol<sup>®</sup>) is well known for its use as one of the most recently approved anticancer drugs as well as its unique mode of action by stabilizing microtubules, thus promoting their polymerization, interrupting cell division, and resulting in cell death. This compound was subsequently found to be produced by the endophytic fungus *Taxomyces andreanae* (Stierle et al., 1993). Currently, paclitaxel (Taxol<sup>®</sup>) is approved to be used for the treatments of ovarian, breast, and small-cell lung cancers (Rowinsky et al., 1992). Also recently, becoming highly attended drug leads were topotecan and irinotecan, a synthetic analogs of the camptothecin derivatives, from *Camptotheca acuminata*. The drugs have been approved for the treatment of ovarian, small-cell lung, and colorectal cancers (Wall et al., 1966; Creemers et al., 1996; Bertino, 1997). The vinca alkaloids, vincristine and vinblastine, isolated from *Catharanthus roseus*, have been approved for the treatments of leukemia, lymphoma, advanced testicular cancer, breast cancer, and Kaposi's sarcoma (Johnson et al., 1963; Cragg and Newman, 2005). Etoposide, a synthetic derivative of epipodophyllotoxin from *Podophyllum peltatum* was another anticancer drug, recently approved for the treatment of lymphoma, bronchial, and testicular cancers (Williams et al., 1987; Cragg and Newman, 2005; Harvey, 1999).

Not until the past four decades have marine natural products emerged as an alternative and promising sources of compounds with unique chemical entities and novel pharmacological properties (Newman et al., 2000). This is due to the extreme and harsh environments, in which marine organisms inhabit. These include high salinity, high pressure,

variable temperatures, low light intensity, and low nutrient availability. Such physical and chemical conditions are distinctively different from those of the terrestrial environment, thus leading to different chemicals produced by its inhabitants (Cragg et al., 1997; Wallace, 1997; Capon, 2001).

The first marine natural products were isolated from the sponge *Cryptotethya crypta* in the 1950's (Bergmann and Feeney, 1950; Bergmann and Feeney, 1951). The discovery of the nucleosides spongothymidine and spongouridine led to the development of chemical derivatives ara-C, the first marine-derived anticancer agent, and the antiviral drug ara-A (Proksch et al., 2002). Ara-C is currently used in the routine treatment of patients with leukemia and lymphoma.



Currently, several marine-derived natural products and their derivatives are available in the market as effective drugs. These included ziconotide (Prialt<sup>®</sup>), which is synthetic form of  $\omega$ -conotoxin isolated from the venom of cone snail *Conus magus*. Ziconotide is now available in the market as a potent intrathecal analgesic for severe chronic pain (Myers et al., 1993; Mayer et al., 2010).



ziconotide Another example is trabectedin (Yondelis<sup>®</sup>), the first anticancer drug from the sea, originally isolated from a tropical sea squirt *Ecteinascidia turbinata* (Rinehart et al., 1990).

European Union approved the drug for the treatment of advanced soft tissue sarcoma (Molinski et al., 2009). Other example includes eribulin mesylate (Halaven<sup>®</sup>), a synthetic macrocyclic ketone analogue of the marine natural product halichondrin B, isolated from the marine sponge *Halichondria okadai* (Hirata and Uemura, 1986). Eribulin interferes with microtubule dynamics, which is a protein component of the cytoskeleton needed to support the rapid growth of cancer cells. The US Food and Drug Administration and European Medicines Agency approved the drug in November 2010 for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer (Mayer et al., 2010; Huyck et al., 2011).







eribulin mesylate

Brentuximab vedotin (Adcetris<sup>®</sup>) is the latest marine drug to enter into the market. It is based on a fully synthetic analog of dolastatin 10 linked to an anti-CD30 antibody. Dolastatin 10 was first isolated in 1972, from the sea hare *Dolabella auricularia* (Pettit et al., 1987; Pettit et al., 1993). Brentuximab vedotin was approved for the treatment of Hodgkin's and systemic anaplastic large cell lymphoma (Katz et al., 2011; Younes et al., 2012).



brentuximab vedotin

In addition to the currently approved drugs listed above, several other marinederived natural products are in different stages of clinical trials and are listed in Table 1.

Table1. The marine pharmaceutical clinical pipeline

Compound name	Source	Disease area
Approved		
cytarabine, Ara-C	Cryptotethia crypta (sponge; synthetic	antileukemic
(Cytosar-U <sup>®</sup> )	derivative of spongothymidine)	
vidarabine, Ara-A	Cryptotethia crypta (sponge; synthetic	antiviral
(Vira-A <sup>®</sup> )	derivative of spongouridine)	
Ziconotide	Conus magus (cone snail; synthetic	chronic pain
(Prialt <sup>®</sup> )	derivative of $\omega$ -conotoxin)	
trabectedin	Ecteinascidia turbinata (tunicate)	soft tissue
(Yondelis <sup>®</sup> )		sarcoma
eribulin mesylate	Halichondria okadai (sponge; synthetic	metastatic breast
(Halaven <sup>®</sup> )	derivative of halichondrin B)	cancer
brentuximab vedotin	Dolabella auricularia (sea hare; synthetic	Hodgkin's
(Adcetris <sup>®</sup> )	derivative of dolastatin 10)	lymphoma
Phase III		
plitidepsin (Aplidine <sup>®</sup> )	Aplidium albicans (tunicate; analog of	multiple myeloma
	didemnin B)	
Phase II		
TZT 1027 (Soblidotin)	Dolabella auricularia (sea hare; synthetic	soft tissue
	derivative of dolastatin 10)	sarcoma
PM1004 (Zalypsis <sup>®</sup> )	Jorunna funebris (nudibranch; analog of	cervical cancer
	jorumycin)	

Compound name	Source	Disease area
elisidepsin (Irvalec <sup>®</sup> )	Elysia rufescens (sea slug; synthetic	advanced gastric
	derivative of kahalalide F )	cancer
plinabulin	Halimeda lacrimosa (green algae; analog	non-small cell
	of halimide)	lung cancer
Phase I		
bryostatin 1	Bugula neritina (bryozoan)	metastatic solid
		tumors
hemiasterlin	Hemiasterella minor (sponge)	malignant tumors
marizomib (salinosporamide A)	Salinispora tropica (marine bacteria)	multiple myeloma
pseudopterosins	Pseudopterogorgia elisabethae	wound healing
	(soft coral)	

\*Adapted from Gerwick and Moore (2012), Yonghong, L (2012) and Martin et al (2014).

Although many marine natural products have been studied to yield crucial information about their biological activities and mechanism of action, much less is known about their ecological functions in the marine environments. This brought about marine chemical ecology, the study of chemical interactions between marine organisms and their environments (Hay, 1996). Examples of ecological roles of marine natural products include unpalatability that deters predators, antisettlement cues for larvae, and preventing fouling by epiphytes. Marine chemical ecology depends on chemical and ecological experiments to determine the individual component or suite of compounds responsible for the observed interactions. The research allows a better understanding of the diverse role of secondary metabolites produced by marine organisms and their ecological interactions.

An example of marine chemical ecology research is the study of the sponge *Crambe crambe* (Becerro et al., 1995; Turon et al., 1996; Becerro et al., 1997). The study explores an extensive array of parameters, which includes size, age, habitat, reproductive cycle, competitive pressures, and degree of physical protection, and correlated them to the chemical bioactivity of the sponge extracts. The surface of the sponge was found to be without bacteria,

and an extract of the sponge was found to impede growth of bacteria isolated from neighboring seawater. *C. crambe* extract significantly inhibit rejuvenation of damage tissue in coexisting sponge *Scopalina lophyropoda*. Bioactive secondary metabolites from sponge *C. crambe* were found to be in a higher concentration in the outer sponge tissues, especially in sphericulous cells. Marine chemical ecology indicates that secondary metabolites can have numerous roles in a specific organism, and that these metabolites may be crucial for effective adjustment to environmental changes induced by the presence of competitors

#### 1.2 Chemical profiling of natural products

Chemical profiling is one of the useful methods for assessing the distribution of secondary metabolites and chemical variations. It is an approach of profiling a natural product sample to determine its chemical composition, thus allowing detection of chemically diverse metabolites. In plants, chemical profiling among closely related species has proved useful for quality control and taxonomic purposes. Described below are selected examples in which chemical profiling was employed in certain medicinal plants that had been long known among the most adulterated herbal products by related yet not medically potent species.

An example is the study of *Strychnos*. Three different species: *Strychnos nux-vomica, S. ignatii*, and *S. icaja*, were discriminated based on different parts of the plants (seeds, roots, leaves, and barks). An NMR-based analytical technique integrated with multivariate analysis was used to discriminate all the three species based on their metabolites such as strychnine, loganin, and brucine (Frédérich et al., 2004).

Another example is the study of *Ephedra*. *Ephedra* is one of the oldest medicinal plants known to humankind. However, three different species, namely *E. sinica*, *E. intermedia*, and *E. equisetina*, are broadly and frequently used as medicinal plant without differentiation as long as there is certain amount of ephedrine alkaloids are found varying from 0.02 to 3.4%. By means of NMR-based chemical profiling, it was possible to discriminate the three species using the benzoic acid analogs apart from ephedrine alkaloids as chemotaxonomic markers (Kim et al., 2005).

Profiling in 11 species of *Ilex* was carried out and based on their metabolites, and each species could be discriminated from its adulterants. Combination of the NMR technique and multivariate analysis showed that the contributing metabolites were arbutin, caffeine and theobromine (Choi et al., 2005).



Similar to the investigation in plants, chemical profiling in various marine organisms have been studied. In order to figure out the locations and the ecological roles of these secondary metabolites, there are numerous reports of variation of secondary metabolites in various marine species i.e., seaweeds (Gerwick et al., 1985; Paul and Van Alstyne, 1988; Meyer and Paul, 1992), algae (Paul and Fenical, 1986; Amade and Lemée, 1998), gorgonians (Harvell and Fenical, 1989; Harvell et al., 1993; Dube et al., 2002), nudibranches (Thompson et al., 1982; Kernan et al., 1988; Van Alstyne and Paul, 1990; De Nys et al., 1996), soft corals (Maida et al., 1993; Kelman et al., 2000), brachiopods (Mahon et al., 2003), bryozoans (Peters et al., 2004), and ascidians (López-Legantil et al., 2005; López-Legantil et al., 2006). This variability in the production of secondary metabolites has been reported at both inter-specimen and intra-specimen levels (Turon et al., 1996; Bencerro et al., 1997, Bencerro et al., 1998; Bentancourt-Lozano et al., 1998; Schupp et al., 1999). The inter-specimen variation has been attributed to genetic or environmental factors such as light intensity, location, temperature, depth, and salinity (Becerro et al., 2005).

al., 1995; Uriz et al., 1996b; Turon et al., 1996) whereas intra-specimen variations were caused by symbiosis or chemical allocation. Chemical defense is one of allocation purpose and becomes an important strategy to defend against threats from their environment with respect to resources investment and chemical defense allocation, which brings synergistic effect between chemical and structural defense (Thoms and Schupp, 2007).

An example of intra-specimen variation is the allocations of kuanoniamines C and D in the different parts of the sponge *Oceanapia* sp. The sponge has an unusual growth form having two different morphs in the same colony. It consists of a turnip-shaped base buried in the sand and a small capitum attached to a fistules. Kuanoniamines C and D showed a sharp increase from the basal (0.4 and 0.1% dry mass respectively) to the capitum (1.2 and 0.4% dry mass). The distribution of kuanoniamines C and D between the different parts supports the optimal defense theory, as the higher content of the two toxic alkaloids are primarily found in the protruding part vulnerable to the attack (Schupp et al., 1999). Another example of intracolonial variation of secondary metabolites was found in the sponge *Cacospongia* sp. The tips and bases showed different level in the amounts of scalaradial and desacetylscalaradial. The tip showed doubled concentration of desacetylscalaradial more than the base. A similar trend was also found for scalaradial (Becerro et al., 1998).



On the other hand, an example of inter-specimen variation in chemical profile can be seen in the production of salicylihalamide A by the sponge *Haliclona* sp. Two morphs of the sponge, green and brown, were collected from the same sites. Salicylihalamide A, the major cytotoxic metabolite, was detected in the green morphs but not in the brown ones (Abdo et al., 2007).



salicylihalamide A

To extend the examples of ecologically important secondary metabolites specifically distributed and employed by sponges, the secondary metabolites from sponges that have been reported intra- and/or inter-specimen variation of contents is compiled in Table 2.

#### 1.3 Sponges and their associated microbes

Sponges are among the oldest of the marine benthic communities. They are sessile, filter feeding organisms, and they possess several tiny pores on their surface, which enable water to penetrate and flow through a series of canals where microorganisms and organic particles are filtered out and ingested (Lee et al., 2001). Sponges have been the focal point of current research interest due to two major reasons: (i) they form a close relationship with a broad range of microorganisms, and (ii) they are the source of biologically active compounds (Taylor et al., 2007).

The abundance and array of microbial assemblage in sponges were first described in the 1970's (Reiswig, 1975; Vacelet and Donadey, 1977; Wilkinson and Fay, 1979). Through the use of electron microscopy, sponges were shown to contain a variety of microorganisms, which account up to 40% of the biomass. There are two different sponge types in respect to their association with bacteria, high microbial abundance and low microbial abundance sponges (Hentschel et al., 2006). High microbial abundance are those sponge specimens with high number of bacteria with densities of  $10^8$  to  $10^{10}$  bacterial cells counts per gram of sponge body weight. Low microbial abundance sponges have bacterial densities of  $10^5$  to  $10^6$  bacterial cells per gram sponge tissue.

Structure/Name	Source	Types of variation	References
$(H_3C)_3SiO$ $NH_2$ $H_3C(H_2C)_{13}$ $O$ cerebroside	Chondrilla nucula	tissue-specific and geographical variation	Schmitz and McDonald, 1974; Swearingen and Pawlik, 1998
$Br \rightarrow Br \qquad Br \rightarrow OCH_3 \\ HO O' \rightarrow N = N \\ O \\$	Aplysina fistularis (= Verongia thiona)	cellular localization and seasonal variation	Thompson et al., 1983; Betancourt-Lozano et al., 1998
areothionine; $n = 4$ homoaerothionin; $n = 5$			

# **Table 2.** Sponge secondary metabolites that have been reported in variation of contents















Structure/Name	Source	Types of variation	References
$H_{2}$ $H_{1}$ $H_{1}$ $H_{1}$ $H_{2}$ $H_{1}$ $H_{1}$ $H_{2}$ $(CH_{2})_{9}CH_{3}$ $H_{2}$	C. crambe	cell localization, size, structure and geographical variation	Turon et al., 1996
crambine C1; n = 2 crambine C2; n = 1			
H $H$ $H$ $H$ $H$ $H$ $H$ $H$ $H$ $H$	C. crambe	cellular localization, size, structure and geographical variation	Turon et al., 1996
crambescidin 816; OH OH $n = 13$ crambescidin 830; OH OH $n = 14$ crambescidin 844; OH OH $n = 15$			





Table 2. (c	cont.)
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Agelas wiedenmayeri geographical variation Assman et al., 2000

4,5-dibromopyrrole-2-carboxylic acid

Table 2.	. (cont.)
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Structure/Name	Source	Types of variation	References
	Neogombata magnifica	cellular localization	Gillor et al., 2000
HN = S			
$\begin{array}{c} O \\ O $	Clathrina clathrus	cellular localization	Roué et al., 2010
R <sub>1</sub>			
clathridimine; —NH			
clathridine; —O			

# Table 2 (cont.)









Structure/Name	Source	Types of variation	References
OCH <sub>3</sub> Br. J. Br	Aplysina aerophoba	cellular localization,	Turon et al., 2000; Martí
		symbiosis, and	et al., 2003; Ebel et al.,
HO		activated defense	2007; Sacristán- Soriano
			et al., 2011; Sacristán-
Ö <sup>L</sup> N			Soriano et al.,2012
aerophobin 1			
$OCH_3$ Br. $\downarrow$ Br	A. aerophoba	cellular localization,	Turon et al., 2000; Martí
		symbiosis, and	et al., 2003; Ebel et al.,
HO O H Br		activated defense	2007; Sacristán- Soriano
			et al., 2011; Sacristán-
Ö Br OH H OH			Soriano et al.,2012
Br Br			
OCH <sub>3</sub> isofistularin 3			



Structure/Name	Source	Types of variation	References
	Aplysina aerophoba	cellular localization,	Turon et al., 2000; Martí
		symbiosis, and	et al., 2003; Ebel et al.,
		activated defense	2007; Sacristán- Soriano
			et al., 2011; Sacristán-
Ö			Soriano et al.,2012
aerophobin 2			
OCH3	4 aeronkoha	cellular localization	Turon et al. 2000: Martí
Br	л. исторнови	symbiosis and	at al. 2003: Ebal at al
		symolosis, and	et al., 2005, Eber et al.,
		activated defense	2007; Sacristan- Soriano
NH			et al., 2011; Sacristán-
aplysinimine			Soriano et al.,2012
OCH <sub>3</sub>	A aerophoba	cellular localization	Turon et al. 2000: Martí
Br	n. ueropnoou		
HO		symbiosis, and	et al., 2003; Ebel et al.,
HOŇ		activated defense	2007; Sacristán- Soriano
aeroplysinin 1			et al., 2012





The recent developments in molecular cultivation-independent techniques such as 16S rRNA gene sequencing, fluorescent in situ hybridization, and denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis have given better knowledge into the diversity of symbionts in sponges. Sponge associated microbes composed of 31 bacterial phyla; *Acidobacteria, Actinobacteria, Aquifaciae, Bacteroidetes, Chlamydiae, Chlorobi, Chloroflexi, Cyanobacteria, Deinococcus-Thermus, Firmicutes, Gemmatimonadetes, Lentisphaerae, Nitrospira, Poribacteria, Proteobacteria, Spirochaetes*, and *Verrucomicrobia*, two archaeal phyla (*Crenarchaeota* and *Euryarchaeota*), and some eukaryotic microbes (Taylor et al., 2007; Abdelmohsen et al., 2010; Sipkema et al., 2011; Montalvo and Hill, 2011; Lee et al., 2011 ). Hentschel et al. (2006) reported that the internal mesohyl layer of sponges is mainly composed of heterotrophic and autotrophic bacteria, whereas the external layer of the sponge that is exposed to sunlight is generally predominated by photosynthetic bacteria such as cyanobacteria (Kennedy et al., 2007). Despite the fact that sponges carry out phagocytosis on bacterial cells in the mesohyl, it was found that sponge-specific microbial communities are abundant in the mesohyl.

Marine sponges acquire their microbial associates in two ways. The first approach is by filter feeding and selective retention of bacteria. Sponges can engulf bacteria in the surrounding seawater when they filter the food particles out of the water column. This process is known as horizontal transmission (Taylor et al., 2007). The second is vertical transmission of bacterial associates from adult sponges to their offspring, i.e., progeny (Sharp et al., 2007; Usher et al., 2001). This transmission is typical among marine sponges, which use such method to maintain stable microbial associations to each sponge generation (Schmitt et al., 2008). Sponge-associated bacteria are assumed to provide their host sponge with a variety of advantages nutrient procurement (Wilkinson and Fay, 1979; Hoffman et al., 2009), stabilization of the sponge skeleton (Wilkinson et al., 1981), processing of metabolic waste (Beer and Ilan, 1998), shielding from UV light (Shick and Dunlap, 2002), and chemical defense (Schmidt et al., 2000).

Previous studies showed that associated bacterial communities in certain species of sponges were highly similar and consistently different from the bacterial communities in the surrounding seawater. Hentschel et al. (2002) confirmed that there were uniform microbial communities in three taxonomically distant marine sponges *Aplysina aerophoba*, *Rhopaloeides*  odorabile, and Theonella swinhoei from different geographic regions that were unique from those in the water column or in the surrounding water. In addition, Friedrich et al. (2001) established that the composition of sponge-associated bacterial communities was unaffected by environmental disturbance resulting from transplantation to different habitats. These studies suggest that there is a stable, distinct, and mutualistic association between the two types of organisms (Taylor et al., 2007). However, some sponge-associated bacteria do not appear to be uniform. For example, Wichels et al. (2006) determined that the bacterial communities associated with the sponge *Halichondria panicea* varied greatly over time and space. Lee et al. (2007) showed that *Callyspongia* and *Mycale* sponges from different biogeographical regions had different bacterial associates. These studies have given awareness into the diversity of the bacterial communities associated with different sponges and the numerous bacterial groups that have so far been found only in marine sponges. In order to determine whether any sponge is associated with a particular microbial community, the bacterial community must be comprehensively analyzed using molecular techniques. These help in elucidating the exact relationships between sponges and their associated microbial communities.

Recently, sponge associated microorganisms have received attention due to their ability to produce bioactive secondary metabolites (Faulkner et al., 2000). There is cumulative evidence that bacteria associated with sponges are the true producers of these compounds. These metabolites provide the chemical defense system to their hosts, since sponges lack the complex immune system of higher animals (Kennedy et al., 2007). Compilation of sponge associated bacteria and their bioactive compounds are given in Table 3.

Sponges	Microorganisms	Compounds	Biological activity	References
Acanthella acuta	Bacillus pumilus	GG11	antitumor activity	Ramm et
	AAS3		(inhibits HM02 and	al., 2004
	(firmicutes)		HepG2 cell lines at	
			50% inhibition)	
Acantho-	Micromonospora	manzamine A	antimalarial	Dunlap et
strongylophora	sp.		activity (inhibits the	al., 2007;
sp.	(actinobacteria)		growth of malaria	Ang et al.,
			parasite Plasmodium	2000
			<i>berghei</i> at 90%)	
			antitumor (IC $_{50}$ s 0.07,	
			0.05 and 0.15 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	
			against P388, KB and	
			LoVo cell lines,	
			respectively)	
Aplysina	Bacillus subtilis	surfactin	antitumor activity	Pabel et al.,
aerophoba	A184 (firmicutes)		(IC $_{50}\!\mathrm{s}$ 26 and 30 $\mu\mathrm{M}$	2003
	Bacillus subtilis	surfactin	against LoVo and	
	A190 (firmicutes)		Hep2 cell lines,	
	Bacillus subtilis	surfactin	respectively)	
	A202 (firmicutes)			
	Bacillus pumilus	pumilacidin	antiviral activity ( $IC_{50s}$	Pabel et al.,
	A586 (firmicutes)	containing $\beta$ -	5.2 and 6.7 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	2003
		hydroxy fatty	against HSV-1 strain)	
		acid		

Table 3. Sponge-associated bacteria and their bioactive compounds

Sponges	Microorganisms	Compounds	Biological activity	References
Axinella	Streptomyces	tetromycin 1	antiparasitic activity	Pimentel-
polypoides	axinellae Po1001		$(IC_{50} 32 \ \mu M \ against$	Elardo et al.,
	(actinobacteria)		Trypanosoma brucei	2009, 2011
			brucei)	
Chondrilla	Verrucosispora sp.	22'-deoxythio-	cytotoxic activity	Wyche et al.,
caribensis f	WMMA107	coraline,	$(EC_{50} 0.13, 2.86 and$	2011
	(actinobacteria)	thiochon-	1.26 µM against	
		drilline A-C,	A549 cell lines,	
		12'-	respectively)	
		sulfoxythio-		
		coraline		
<i>Cinachyra</i> sp.	Streptomyces sp.	JBIR-46, JBIR-	antiproliferative	Khan et al.,
	SpC080624SC-11	48	$(IC_{50}s \ 189 \ and \ 96$	2010
	(actinobacteria)		µM against HL-60	
			cell lines,	
			respectively)	
Cinachyrella	Micromonospora sp.	cyclo-(L-Pro-	antifungal activity	Gao et al.,
australiensis	SpC080624GE-05	D-Phe)	(7-mm zone of	2010
	(actinobacteria)		Candida albicans)	
Craniella	Streptomyces sp.	chitinase	antifungal activity	Han et al.,
australiensis	DA11		(clear zones 11 mm	2009
	(actinobacteria)		and 10 mm against	
			Aspergillus niger	
			and Candida	
			albicans,	
			respectively)	

Table3. (cont.)

Sponges	Microorganisms	Compounds	Biological activity	References
Demospongi	Streptomyces sp.	JBIR-58	cytotoxic activity	Ueda et al.,
ae sponge			$(IC_{50} 28 \ \mu M \ against$	2010
			HeLa cell lines)	
Dysidea	Unidentified	2-methylthio-	antiangiogenic	Thakur and
avara	bacterium	1,4-	activity (100%	Müller,
		naphthoquinone	embryo elimination	2005
			at 1 ng/disc),	
			antimicrobial	
			activity (>2-mm	
			zone of inhibition	
			against Bacillus	
			subtilis)	
Dysidea	Bacillus vallismortis	bacillamide A	algicidal activity	Yu et al.,
avara	(firmicutes)		$(LC_{50} 3.2 \ \mu g/mL$	2009
			against	
			Cochlodinium	
			polykrikoides)	
Dysidea sp.	Vibrio sp. (Gamma-	tetrabromo-	antibacterial activity	Elyakov et
	proteobacteria)	diphenylethers	(MIC 0.1 µg/mL	al., 1991
			against Klebsiella	
			pneumonia)	
Fascaplysino	Pseudoalteromonas	bromo-	cytotoxic on	Speitling et
psis	maricaloris	alterochromide A	developing eggs of	al., 2007
reticulata	KMM636T (Gamma-		sea urchin (MIC 40	
	proteobacteria)		μg/mL)	

Halichondria japonica	<i>Bacillus cereus</i> QN03323 (firmicutes)	YM-266183	antibacterial activity (MIC 0.025 µg/mL against	Nagai et al., 2003
japonica	QN03323 (firmicutes)		activity (MIC 0.025 µg/mL against	2003
	(firmicutes)		0.025 μg/mL against	
			against	
			Staphylococcus	
			aureus)	
Halichondria	Alteromonas sp.	alteramide A	cytotoxic activity	Shigemori et
okadai	(Gamma-		$(IC_{50}s \ 0.1 \text{ and } 1.7)$	al., 1992
	proteobacteria)		µg/mL against	
			P388 and L1210	
			cell lines,	
			respectively)	
Halichondria	Rubritalea	Dia-	oxygen	Shindo et al.,
okadai	squalenifasciens	polycopenedioic	suppression	1992
	HOact23 <sup>T</sup>	acid xylosyl	activity (IC $_{50}$ 5.1	
	(Verrucomicrobiae)	esters A	μΜ)	
Halichondria	Microbacterium sp.	1-O-acyl-3-[R-	antitumor activity	Wicke et al.,
panacea	(actinobacteria)	glucopyranosyl-	(50% inhibition	2000
		(1-3)-(6- <i>O</i> -acyl-	HM02 and Hep G2	
		R-	cell lines at $0.4 - 3$	
		mannopyranosyl)	μg/mL)	
		]glycerol		
Halichondria	Norcadiopsis sp.	norcapyrones A-	cytotoxic activity	Scheeman et
panacea	(actinobacteria)	D	(IC <sub>50</sub> s 8.7 – 22.2	al., 2010a
			µM against MCF-	
			7 cell)	

Sponges	Microorganisms	Compounds	Biological activity	References
Halichondria	Streptomyces sp.	mayamycin	cytotoxic activity	Scheeman
panacea	(actinobacteria)		(IC <sub>50</sub> s 0.2, 0.3, 0.2,	et al., 2010b
			and 0.22 $\mu M$ against	
			Hep G2, HT-29,	
			GXF25IL and NIH-	
			3TS cell lines;	
			respectively)	
			antibacterial activity	
			$(IC_{50} 8.0 \ \mu M \ against$	
			Bacillus subtilis)	
<i>Haliclona</i> sp.	Streptomyces sp.	JBIR-34, JBIR-	DPPH antioxidant	Motohashi
	(actinobacteria)	35	activity (IC $_{50}$ 1.0 and	et al., 2010
			2.5 mM,	
			respectively)	
Homophymia	Pseudomonas sp.	2-undecyl-4-	antimalarial activity	Bultel-
sp.	(Gamma-	quinolone	(IC <sub>50</sub> 0.001 µg/mL	Poncé et al.,
	proteobacteria)		against Plasmodium	1999
			falciparum)	
		2-undecen-1'-yl-	cytotoxic activity	Bultel-
		4-quinolone	$(IC_{50} 5 \mu g/mL$	Poncé et al.,
			against KB cell)	1999
		2-nonyl-4-	antimicrobial	Bultel-
		hydroxy-	activity (10-mm	Poncé et al.,
		quinoline N-	zone of inhibition	1999
		oxide	against	
			Staphylococcus	
			aureus)	

Sponges	Microorganisms	Compounds	Biological activity	References
<i>Hyatella</i> sp.	Vibrio sp. M22-1	andrimid	antibacterial	Oclarit et al.,
	(Gamma-		activity (MICs	1994
	proteobacteria)		0.06 and 1 $\mu\text{g/mL}$	
			against Bacillus	
			subtilis and	
			Staphylococcus	
			aureus MRSA,	
			respectively)	
Hymeniacidon	Pseudo-	norhaman	cytotoxic activity	Zheng et al.,
perlevis	alteromonas		$(IC_{50} 5 \ \mu g/mL$	2005
	piscicida NJ6-3-1		against HeLa cell	
	(Gamma-		lines)	
	proteobacteria)			
Hymeniacidon	Streptomyces	lobophorin C	cytotoxic activity	Wie et al.,
sp	carnosus AZS17		$(IC_{50}~0.6~\mu\text{g/mL}$	2011
	(actinobacteria)		against BEL-7402	
			cell lines)	
		lobophorin D	cytotoxic activity	
			$(IC_{50} 7.5 \ \mu M)$	Wie et al.,
			against MDA-MB	2011
			435 cell lines)	
Hyrtios altum	Vibrio sp.	trisindoline	cytotoxic activity	Kobayashi
	(Gamma-		$(IC_{50}s \ 3.51 \text{ and}$	and
	proteobacteria)		6.63 µM against	Kitagawa,
			MES-SA and HCT	1994;
			15 cell lines,	Kobayashi et
			respectively)	al., 1994

Sponges	Microorganisms	Compounds	Biological activity	References
Lamellodyside	Oscillatoria	2-(2'-4'-dibromo-	antibacterial	Hinde et al.,
a herbacea	spongeliae	phenyl)-4,6-	activity (MIC 4	1994
	(cyanobacteria)	dibromophenol	and 6.3 $\mu g/mL$	
			against	
			Staphylococcus	
			aureus and	
			Bacillus subtilis,	
			respectively)	
Leucetta	Unidentified	leucamide A	antitumor activity	König et al.,
microraphis	bacterium		(GI <sub>50</sub> s 5.2, 5.9, 5.1	2005
			µg/mL against	
			HM02, HepG2,	
			and Huh 7 cell	
			lines, respectively)	
Mediterranean	Streptomyces sp. 11	staurosporine	antiparasitic	Pimentel-
sponges	(actinobacteria)		activity (IC $_{50}$ 5.3	Elardo et
			µM against	al., 2010
			Leishmania major;	
			$IC_{50} 0.022\; \mu M$	
			against	
			Trypanosoma	
			brucei brucei)	
Mediterranean	Streptomyces sp.	butenolide	antiparasitic	Pimentel-
sponge	T03 (actinobacteria)		activity (IC <sub>50</sub> 31.77	Elardo et
			μM against <i>T</i> .	al., 2010
			brucei brucei)	

Table3. (cont.)

Sponges	Microorganisms	Compounds	Biological activity	References
Mycale	Saccharopolyspora	metacyclo-	cytotoxic activity	Liu et al.,
plumose	sp. nov.	prodigiosin	(IC <sub>50</sub> s 0.007,	2005
	(actinobacteria)		0.022, and 0.11	
			µM against P388,	
			HL-60, and A549	
			cell lines,	
			respectively)	
Ptilocaulis	Lyngbya majuscule	majusculamide C	antifungal activity	Williams et
trachys	(cyanobacteria)		(27-mm zone of	al., 1993;
			inhibition against	Dunlap et
			Rhizoctonia	al., 2007
			solani)	
Stelleta	Alcaligenes faecalis	cyclo-(L-Pro-L-	antimicrobial	Li, 2009
tenuis	A72 (Beta-	Phe)	activity (MIC 50	
	proteobacteria)		µg/mL against S.	
			aureus)	
Subrea	Salinospora sp.	rifamycin	antimicrobial	Kim et al.,
clavata	(actinobacteria)		activity (MIC <	2006
			0.2 µg/mL against	
			S. aureus; MIC	
			0.01 µg/mL	
			against	
			Mycobacterium	
			tuberculosis)	

	<u></u>			
Sponges	Microorganisms	Compounds	Biological activity	References
Theonella	Unidentified	swinholide A	cytotoxic activity	Bewley et
swinhoei	bacterium		$(IC_{50}s \ 0.03 \ and$	al., 1996
			0.04 µg/mL	
			against L1210 and	
			KB cell lines,	
			respectively)	
	Entotheonella	theonegramide	antifungal activity	Bewley and
	palauensis		(MIC 6.3 µg/mL	Faulkner,
			against C.	1994
			albicans)	
	Uncultured bacterium	onnamide A	cytotoxic activity	Piel et al.,
			(IC <sub>50</sub> s 2.4 and 25	2004
			nM against P388	
			and HL-60 cell	
			lines, respectively)	
Xestospongia	Micrococcus luteus	triclosan	antimicrobial	Bultel-
sp.	R-1588-10		activity (MICs	Poncé et al.,
	(actinobacteria)		0.001, 0.03 and	1998
			0.001 against	
			Staphylococcus	
			aureus,	
			Escherichia coli	
			and Vibrio	
			anguillarum,	
			respectively)	

Sponges	Microorganisms	Compounds	Biological activity	References
Unidentified	Actinomadura sp.	JBIR-65	neuroprotective	Takagi et
sponge	(actinobacteria)		activity (EC $_{50}$ 31	al., 2010
			μM against L-	
			glutamate toxicity)	

#### 1.1 Trisoxazole macrolides

Trisoxazole macrolides are among unique classes of exclusively marine secondary metabolites found in the sponges of the genena *Halichondria*, *Mycale*, *Jaspis*, *Chondrosia*, and *Pachastrissa* (now referred to as *Penares*), as well as certain species of the sponge-feeding nudibranchs such as *Hexabranchus sanguineus*. These metabolites were transferred from the producing sponge to nudibranch and passed to accumulate in their mantle and egg masses to be used as defensive chemicals (Pawlik et al., 1988), thus, showing the distribution and ecological role of trisoxazole macrolides.

Trisoxazole macrolides are characterized by 25-membered lactone ring containing three consecutive oxazole moieties connected to an 11-carbon panhandle side chain with an *N*-formyl terminal. The differences between the structures are mostly in the oxygenation patterns and alkyl group substitution of the aliphatic chain of the structures. To date, 46 congeners have been reported (vide infra).

The biological activities of trisoxazole macrolides have been studied. The activities include antifungal activity, cytotoxicity, inhibition of cell division in the fertilized sea urchin eggs, ichthyotoxicity, and inhibition of actin filament dynamics (Roesener and Scheuer, 1986; Matsunaga et al., 1986; Kernan and Faulkner, 1987; Kernan et al., 1988; Matsunaga et al., 1989; Fusetani et al., 1989; Pawlik, 1993; Phuwapraisirisan et al., 2002; Mizushina et al., 2002; Tanaka et al., 2003; Shin et al., 2004). Trisoxazole macrolides can be divided into six major classes; ulapualides, kabiramides, halichondramides, mycalolides, jaspisamides and

halishigamides. The classification is based on oxygenation patterns as well as substitution on C-4 - C-7 and on C-30 -C-33.

## 1.4.1 Ulapualides

Ulapualides A and B were the first members of trisoxazole macrolides isolated from the egg masses of the nudibranch *Hexabranchus sanguineus* collected from Pupukea, Hawaii in 1986 (Roesener et al., 1986; Matsunaga et al., 1989). They inhibit L1210 leukemia cell proliferation at IC<sub>50</sub>s of 0.01-0.03  $\mu$ g/mL and potent antifungal activity (11-mm zone of *Candida albicans* inhibition at 0.4 nmol/disc of ulapualide B).



#### 1.4.2 Kabiramides

Kabiramides A-E were isolated from the nudibranch *Hexabranchus* eggmasses (Matsunaga et al., 1986; Matsunaga et al., 1989). Kabiramides B and C were also isolated from the sponge *Halichondria* sp. and *Pachastrissa nux* (Kernan and Faulkner, 1987; Petchprayoon et al., 2006; Sirirak et al., 2011b). Kabiramides showed strong antifertilization activity of sea urchin eggs (IC<sub>99</sub>s 0.2-1.0  $\mu$ g/mL), as well as cytotoxic activity (IC<sub>50</sub>s 0.01-0.18  $\mu$ g/mL) against L1210 cell lines (Matsunaga et al., 1989). Biological activities of kabiramides will be discussed in section 1.5.



#### 1.4.3 Halichondramides

Halichondramide, halichondramide acid, dihydrohalichondramide, isohalichondramide, halichondramide imide, and halichondramide ester were isolated from the sponge *Halichondria* sp. They showed antifungal activity against *Candida albicans* at IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.2-0.5 µg/mL (Kernan et al., 1988b; Pawlik et al., 1988) as well as antifertilization activity against sea urchin eggs (IC<sub>99</sub> 0.5-4.0 µg/mL). 33-Methyldihydrohalichondramide and tetrahydrohalichondramide were isolated from the nudibranch *Hexabranchus sanguineus*. They displayed strong cytotoxic activity against L-1210 cell lines at IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.03 and 0.05 µg/mL (Matsunaga et al., 1989).

Shin et al. (2004) reported the isolation of neohalichondramide, 19Z-halichondramide and secohalichondramide from the sponge *Chondrosia corticata*. They all exhibited cytotoxic activity against K562 cell lines with IC<sub>50</sub>s of 0.38-0.9 µg/mL. They also showed antifungal activity against *Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus niger* (clear zone of inhibition 10-20 mm and 10-15 mm, respectively at concentration of 2 µg/disc). 33-Methyltetrahydrohalichondramide was isolated from the nudibranch *Hexabranchus sanguineus* and showed antifungal activity at MIC values of 0.250, 0.125, and 0.500 µg/mL against *C. albicans*, *C. glabrata*, and *C. neoforman*, respectively (Dalisay et al., 2009).











## 1.4.4 Mycalolides

Mycalolides A-C and thiomycalolides A and B were isolated from the sponge *Mycale* sp. Mycalolides A-C showed potent cytotoxic activity against B-16 melanoma cells at  $IC_{50}$  values of 0.5-1.0 ng/mL and  $LC_{50}$  2.5  $\mu$ M against NCI's 60-human tumor cell lines for mycalolide C. They inhibited proteasome activity at  $IC_{50}$  value of 30  $\mu$ g/mL (Fusetani et al., 1989; Fusetani et al., 1991; Saito et al., 1994; Matsunaga et al., 1998a; Matsunaga et al., 1998b; Phuwapraisirisan et al., 2002; Tsukamoto et al., 2005). Thiomycalolides A and B exhibited cytotoxic activity against

P388 cell lines with  $IC_{50}$  value of 18 ng/mL (Matsunaga et al., 1998a). 30-Hydroxymycalolide A, 32-hydroxymycalolide A, and 38-hydroxymycalolide B were isolated from the sponge *Mycale magellanica* and showed cytotoxic activity against L12110 cell lines with  $IC_{50}$  values of 19, 13, and 15 ng/mL, respectively (Matsunaga et al., 1998b). 30,32-Dihydroxymycalolide A was obtained from the sponge *Mycale izuensis*. It exhibited cytotoxicity against Hela cell lines with  $IC_{50}$  value of 2.6 ng/mL (Phuwapraisirisan et al., 2002).

Mycalolides D and E were isolated from the the stony coral *Turbastrea faulkeneri*, along with mycalolide C. Mycalolide D showed cytotoxic activity against NCI's 60human tumor cell lines at  $LC_{50}$  av value of 0.6  $\mu$ M (Rachid et al., 1995). Secomycalolide A was isolated from the sponge *Mycale* sp. It exhibited proteasome inhibitory activity at IC<sub>50</sub> value of 11  $\mu$ g/mL (Tsukamoto et al., 2005).









## 1.4.5 Jaspisamides

Jaspisamides A-C were isolated from the sponge *Jaspis* sp. Jaspisamide A exhibited cytotoxic activity against L1210 and KB cell lines at IC<sub>50</sub> values of < 0.001 and 0.015  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively, while jaspisamide B and C displayed cytotoxic activity against L1210 and KB cell lines at IC<sub>50</sub> range < 0.001 -0.013  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Kobayashi et al., 1993).



## 1.4.6 Halishigamides

Halishigamides A-D were isolated from the sponge *Halichondria* sp. Halishigamide A showed potent cytotoxic activity against L1210 and KB cell lines at IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.0036 and 0.012 µg/mL, respectively as well as antifungal activity against *Trichophyton metagrophytes* at MIC value of 0.1 µg/mL (Kobayashi et al., 1997). Halishigamides B-D had weak cytotoxic activity against L1210 and KB cell lines (IC<sub>50</sub> values of 1.1-5.2 µg/mL and 1.8-7.5 µg/mL, respectively). They also showed moderate antifungal activity against *Trichophyton metagrophytes* at MIC values of 6.5-25 µg/mL (Kobayashi et al., 1997).





#### 1.2 Chemical constituents from the sponge Penares nux

The sponge *Penares nux* (formerly described as *Pachastrissa nux*; Van Soest et al.; 2010) belongs to the family Geodiidae (order Astrophorida). The sponge is massive with thick encrusting form. It is black in color, with a rubbery texture, sticky and easily torn. *P. nux* appears as a grayish-black colony under water with a protruding, gorgonian-like appearance known as the capitum and an irregular shaped base part, which is buried by sediments.

Presuming all the reports regarding the chemical constituents from the sponge *Pachastrissa nux*, which has already been transferred to *Penares nux* as stated, to date, there have been only one major class of chemical constituents ever been reported from the sponges of the

genus *Penares*. The trisoxazole macrolides specifically of the kabiramide family. This included kabiramides B-D, and F-L from *P. nux* collected from Sichang Island, Chonburi, and Koh Tao, Surat-Thani Provinces (Petchprayoon et al., 2006; Sirirak et al., 2011b; Sirirak et al., 2013). All kabiramide analogs were reported to be biologically active.

Kabiramides B-F exhibited strong cytotoxic activity against A-549 human lung carcinoma, KB oral human epidermal carcinoma, BC breast cancer, NCI-H187 human small cell lung cancer and HT-29 human colon adenocarcinoma cell lines with  $IC_{50}$  values of 0.01-0.18 µg/mL, as well as antimalarial activity against Plasmodium falciparum K1 strain with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 1.67-4.79 µM (Sirirak et al., 2011b; Petchprayoon et al., 2006). Kabiramide G showed cytotoxic activity against A-549 human lung carcinoma and HT-29 human colon adenocarcinoma cell lines with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.05 and 0.1 µg/mL, respectively (Petchprayoon et al., 2006; Sirirak et al., 2011b). Kabiramide I displayed cytotoxicity against A-549 human lung carcinoma and HT-29 human colon adenocarcinoma cell lines with  $IC_{50}$  values of 2 and 0.4 µg/mL, respectively (Petchprayoon et al., 2006) as well as antimalarial activity against *Plasmodium falciparum* K1 strain with IC<sub>50</sub> value of 4.5 µM (Sirirak et al., 2013). Kabiramide J and K showed potent cytotoxic activity against MCF-7 breast adenocarcinoma cell line with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.02 and 0.07 µM respectively. They also displayed strong antimalarial activity against *Plasmodium* falciparum K1 strain with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.31 and 0.39 µM (Sirirak et al., 2011b). Kabiramide L showed antiplasmodial activity against Plasmodium falciparum K1 strain with IC50 value of 2.6 μM (Sirirak et al., 2013).





#### 1.3 Rationale and objectives

The sponge *Penares nux* is among the abundant sponge species found in various locations throughout the Gulf of Thailand. From the previous work by at Marine Natural Products Research Unit, Department of Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Botany, Prince of Songkla University, a series of trisoxazole macrolides were isolated and reported (Sirirak et al., 2011b; Sirirak et al., 2013). In addition, intracolonial allocation of the macrolides between the two differentiated growth forms has been observed and reported. It was found that separate extraction of the two parts yielded two different extracts with significantly different activities; the capitum extract showed greater activity than the base extract. Further investigation on the allocation of kabiramide derivatives, using kabiramides C and G as chemical markers showed significant difference in the accumulation profiles of the two markers between the capitum and the base (Sirirak et al., 2011a).

It is of interest to carry on the results from the previous studies described above and to investigate if the sponge produces this metabolite as a form of chemical defense or involvement of epibiotic and/or symbiotic microbes, or even fouling bacteria casting an impact on the chemical production and allocations in the *P. nux* sponge. It is important to analyze the specific association of bacteria with sponges in the search for new pharmaceutical drugs and also it gives an insight into sponge specific bacteria as a form of epibacterial defense. The objectives of this dissertation include

- i) the determination, both quantitatively and qualitatively, the chemical profiles in the sponge *Penares nux*.
- ii) the evaluation of the microbial profiling i.e. culturable bacteria associated with the sponge *Penares nux*.
- iii) the correlation of accumulating toxic macrolides and the associated microorganisms in the sponge tissue.
# **CHAPTER 2**

# **EXPERIMENTAL**

## 2.1 General experimental procedures

Unless stated otherwise, all chromatographic packing materials were used as purchased. Solvents for chromatographic and general purposes were commercial grade and were re-distilled prior to use. All HPLC solvents were HPLC grade, and were filtered through a 0.45- $\mu$ m membrane filter and degassed in an ultrasonic bath. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on silica gel 60 F 254 on aluminum supports (0.02 mm layer thickness; Merck<sup>®</sup>). Visualization was done under UV light (254 nm), and with iodine vapor. Vacuum and flash chromatographies were performed on SiO<sub>2</sub> 60 (particle size 0.04-0.06 mm; Scharlau<sup>®</sup>). Size exclusion chromatography was conducted on Sephadex<sup>TM</sup> LH-20 (GE Healthcare<sup>®</sup>), which was saturated in eluting solvents for 24 hours before using. Semi-preparative HPLC was performed either on a Waters 600E System Controller equipped with a Rheodyne 7125 injector port, a Waters 484 tunable absorbance detector, and a Jasco 807-IT integrator, or on a Thermo Finigan Spectra System Controller 1000 equipped with P 4000 quaternary pump, Rheodyne 7725i injector port, and UV 6000 LP diode array detector, operated under ChromQuest 4.2.34 version 3.1.6 software.

IR spectra were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer<sup>®</sup> Spectrum One FT-IR spectrophotometer (Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prince of Songkla University). UV spectra were obtained from a Hewlett Packard 8452A diode array spectrophotometer (Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prince of Songkla University). NMR spectra were operated on a Varian Unity Inova 500 MHz NMR spectrometer (500 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H; 125 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C; Scientific Equipment Center, Prince of Songkla University). The operating solvents were benzene- $d_6$  (7.15 ppm of residual C<sub>6</sub>HD<sub>5</sub> for <sup>1</sup>H NMR and 128.0 ppm for <sup>13</sup>C NMR). The chemical shifts were referenced the solvent signals as stated for internal standards.

The LC-MS based quantitative analysis was performed on an Agilent 1260 infinity HPLC system (Agilent, USA) equipped with a binary pump (G1312B), an auto sampler (G1367E), a column compartment (G1316A), and a degasser (G4225A). This is coupled to an API  $3200^{\text{TM}}$  triple quadrupole mass analyzer system, equipped with an electrospray ionization source (AB Sciex, USA). The ESI interface was operated in positive mode scanning from m/z 300-1200. The ion spray voltage was set to 5500V, and the turbo spray temperature was kept at 500°C. Ion source gas 1 and ion source gas 2 pressures were set at 60 psi. The full scan chromatograms and peak area integration were performed using Analyst<sup>®</sup>1.6 software.

## 2.2 Animal material

The sponge specimens were collected using SCUBA at the depth of 15-20 m, from Koh Tao, in May 2012. The second collection was from another location Saiburi, Pattani Province, in October 2013. The specimens were preserved in an ice chest (0°C) upon surfacing, and at -20°C once arriving at the lab until the time of extraction. The sponge was identified as *Penares nux* (family Geodiidae) by Dr. Sumaitt Putchakarn, Institute of Marine Science, Burapha University. Recently, reallocation of *Pachastrissa nux* to the genus *Penares* was published. The sponge appears as a grayish-black colony under water with a protruding, gorgonian-like appearance known as the capitum and an irregular shaped base part, which is buried in the sediments (Figure 1). The collection was performed per capitum and appendage basis, i.e., for any capitum and appendage collected an associated and attached mass of the base was sampled. A voucher specimen (AP13-011-10) was deposited at Department of Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Botany, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prince of Songkla University.

#### 2.3 Isolation of standard kabiramide markers from the sponge Penares nux

The freeze-dried sponge (312 g) was chopped and macerated exhaustively (500 mL  $\times$  5) in CH<sub>3</sub>OH. The dried CH<sub>3</sub>OH-extract was partitioned with a series of solvents to yield hexane-, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-, and *n*-BuOH-extracts (3.2, 9.4, and 2.1 g, respectively). The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-extract was selected for further purification because it is the fraction that contains the trisoxazole

macrolides. The  $CH_2Cl_2$ -extract was fractionated over a SiO<sub>2</sub> column (5%  $CH_3OH$  in  $CH_2Cl_2$ ), and fractions with similar chromatographic patterns were combined to yield two major fractions.



Figure 1. The sponge *Penares nux:* underwater (a) surface (b)

The first fraction (434.3 mg) was chromatographed over Sephadex<sup>TM</sup> LH-20 (CH<sub>3</sub>OH), then with RP-C18 HPLC (VertiSep<sup>TM</sup>, 10  $\mu$ m, 250 × 10 mm; H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN 55:45, flow rate 3.5 mL/min) to yield kabiramide B (82.8 mg), kabiramide C (190.0 mg), and kabiramide G (60.2 mg). The second fraction (217.1 mg) was purified using Sephadex<sup>TM</sup> LH-20 (CH<sub>3</sub>OH), then RP-C18 HPLC (VertiSep<sup>TM</sup>, 10  $\mu$ m, 250 × 10 mm; H<sub>2</sub>O/CH<sub>3</sub>CN 55:45, flow rate 3.5 mL/min) to yield additional kabiramide C (30.3 mg) and kabiramide G (15.1 mg).

**Kabiramide B**; pale yellow amorphous solid; UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{max}$  (log  $\varepsilon$ ) 249 (4.73) nm; IR (neat)  $\nu_{max}$  3367, 2945, 2832, 2595, 2228, 2044, 1654, 1449, 1423, 1293, 1115, 1030, 667 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  7.91 (7.57) (1H, s, 35-NC*H*O), 7.56 (1H, ddd, *J* = 15.5, 10.0, 5.0 Hz, H-20), 7.26 (1H, s, H-14), 7.15 (1H, s, H-17), 7.12 (1H, s, H-11), 6.02 (1H, d, *J* = 16.5 Hz, H-19), 5.82 (7.36) (1H, d, *J* = 14.1 Hz, H-35), 5.74 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.0, 10.0, 4.5 Hz, H-24), 5.31 (1H, br dd, *J* = 12.0, 6.0 Hz, H-3), 4.94 (1H, br s, H-9), 4.87 (5.0) (1H, dd, *J* = 14.1, 9.5 Hz, H-34), 4.50 (1H, br d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, H-22), 3.89 (1H, d, *J* = 5.5 Hz, H-7), 3.42 (3H, s, 26-OC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 3.28 (3H, s, 32-OC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 3.31 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.0, 3.0 Hz, H-32), 3.30 (1H, dd, *J* = 6.0, 3.0 Hz, H-26), 3.02 (3H, s, 9-OC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 2.73 (2H, dd, *J* = 6.0, 2.0 Hz, H-2), 2.67 (1H, dd, *J* = 9.0, 7.0 Hz, H-31), 2.64 (3H, s, 35-NC*H*<sub>3</sub>), 2.50 (2H, m, H-29), 2.45 (2H, ddd, *J* = 6.5, 6.0, 2.5 Hz, H-21), 2.18 (1H, dd, 6.5, 6.0)

Hz, H-8), 2.11 (2H, m, H-28), 2.07 (2H, m, H-4), 2.04 (1H, m, H-33), 2.00 (2H, ddd, J = 9.5, 2.5, 2.5 Hz, H-25), 1.92 (1H, m, H-5), 1.80 (1H, m, H-27), 1.70 (2H, m, H-6), 1.50 (1H, m, H-23), 1.05 (3H, d, J = 7.1 Hz, 23-CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.01 (3H, d, J = 6.8 Hz, 33-CH<sub>2</sub>), 0.97 (3H, d, J = 7.1 Hz, 8- $CH_{2}$ ), 0.91 (3H, d, J = 6.5 Hz, 27- $CH_{2}$ ), 0.78 (0.75) (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz, 31- $CH_{2}$ ), 0.71 (3H, d, J =6.0 Hz, 5-CH<sub>2</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 125 MHz) δ 212.6 (C, C-30), 171.6 (C, C-1), 164.1 (C, C-18), 161.5 (160.5) (CH, C-35-NCHO), 158.4 (C, C-3-OCONH<sub>2</sub>), 156.5 (C, C-15), 155.7 (C, C-12), 149.9 (CH, C-20), 142.8 (C, C-10), 136.9 (CH, C-14), 136.6 (CH, C-17), 135.6 (CH, C-11), 131.4 (C, C-13), 129.9 (C, C-16), 129.1 (125.3) (CH, C-35), 114.9 (CH, C-19), 110.2 (112.4) (CH, C-34), 87.6 (CH, C-32), 82.4 (CH, C-26), 78.3 (CH, C-9), 74.3 (CH, C-24), 73.3 (CH, C-7), 71.3 (CH, C-3), 68.3 (CH, C-22), 61.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-32-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 57.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-26-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 57.4 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-9-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 49.2 (49.3) (C, C-31), 45.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-4), 43.5 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-2), 43.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-6), 43.3 (CH, C-23), 42.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-29), 38.5 (CH, C-8), 38.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-21), 37.7 (38.0) (CH, C-33), 35.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-25), 35.3 (CH, C-27), 26.9 (31.9) (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-35-NCH<sub>3</sub>), 25.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-28), 25.6 (CH, C-5), 19.7 (19.8) (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-33-CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-5-CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.8 (15.7) (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-27-CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-31-CH<sub>3</sub>), 10.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-8-CH<sub>3</sub>), 9.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-23-CH<sub>3</sub>); HRESI-MS *m/z*: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 950.4589 (calcd. for C<sub>47</sub>H<sub>69</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>14</sub>Na, 950.4841).

**Kabiramide** C; pale yellow amorphous solid; UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{max}$  (log  $\varepsilon$ ) 234 (4.81) nm; IR (neat)  $\nu_{max}$  3435, 2090, 1651, 1645, 1497, 1463, 1423, 1319, 1292, 1016, 667, 500 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 500 MHz)  $\delta$  8.01 (1H, ddd, J = 16.0, 9.1, 5.1 Hz, H-20), 7.91 (7.58) (1H, s, 35-NCHO), 7.26 (1H, s, H-14), 7.15 (1H, s, H-17), 7.12 (1H, s, H-11), 5.96 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H-19), 5.85 (7.36) (1H, m, H-24), 5.80 (7.34) (1H, d, J = 14.5 Hz, H-35), 5.46 (1H, dd, J = 10.0, 10.0 Hz, H-3), 4.90 (1H, br s, H-9), 4.87 (5.0) (1H, dd, J = 14.5, 10.0 Hz, H-34), 4.18 (1H, ddd, J = 9.6, 4.9, 2.9 Hz, H-22), 3.93 (1H, dt, J = 7.5, 3.5 Hz, H-7), 3.50 (3H, s, 22-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.39 (3.38) (3H, s, 26-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.26 (3H, s, 32-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.24 (1H, dd, J = 9.1, 2.4 Hz, H-32), 3.20 (1H, ddd, J = 9.0, 6.0, 2.5 Hz, H-26), 3.07 (3.08) (3H, s, 9-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.71 (2H, dddd, J = 15.9, 5.1, 4.9, 2.4 Hz, H-21), 2.64 (2.17) (3H, s, 35-NCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.63 (2H, overlapped, H-2), 2.62 (1H, m, H-31), 2.50 (2H, ddd, J = 19.3, 9.3, 2.9 Hz, H-29), 2.32 (1H, overlapped, H-8), 2.11 (1H, m, H-5), 2.10 (1H, overlapped, H-23), 2.02 (1H, m, H-33), 2.00 (2H, m, H-28), 1.99 (2H, dd, J = 11.7, 10.0 Hz, H-4), 1.91 (2H, ddd, J = 12.5, 9.3, 1.0 Hz, H-25), 1.77 (1H, m, H-27), 1.72 (2H, m, H-6), 1.01 (3H, d, J = 7.6 Hz, 33-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.00 (3H, d,

*J* = 6.8 Hz, CH<sub>3</sub>-8), 0.99 (3H, d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 23-CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.86 (0.87) (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 27-CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.78 (0.73) (3H, d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 31-CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.77 (3H, d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 5-CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  212.5 (212.6) (C, C-30), 171.6 (C, C-1), 163.5 (C, C-18), 161.6 (160.5) (CH, C-35-NCHO), 160.4 (C, C-3-OCONH<sub>2</sub>), 157.9 (C, C-15), 156.4 (C, C-12), 144.2 (CH, C-20), 142.8 (C, C-10), 136.9 (CH, C-14), 136.5 (CH, C-17), 135.6 (CH, C-11), 131.4 (C, C-13), 130.1 (C, C-16), 129.0 (125.2) (CH, C-35), 114.8 (CH, C-19), 110.2 (112.4) (CH, C-34), 87.6 (87.5) (CH, C-32), 82.3 (CH, C-26), 78.7 (CH, C-22), 78.5 (CH, C-9), 74.1 (CH, C-24), 73.2 (CH, C-7), 70.0 (CH, C-3), 61.1 (61.2) (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-32-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 57.8 (57.9) (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-26-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 57.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-9-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 57.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-22-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 49.1 (C, C-31), 45.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-4), 43.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-2), 43.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-6), 42.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-29), 41.5 (CH, C-23), 37.9 (CH, C-8), 37.7 (38.0) (CH, C-33), 35.2 (CH, C-27), 34.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-21), 33.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-25), 26.9 (32.0) (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-35-NCH<sub>3</sub>), 25.8 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-28), 25.3 (CH, C-5), 19.6 (19.8) (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-33-CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-5C-H<sub>3</sub>), 15.8 (15.7) (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-27-CH<sub>3</sub>), 13.6 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-31-CH<sub>3</sub>), 10.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-8-CH<sub>3</sub>), 8.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-23-CH<sub>3</sub>); HRESI-MS *m*/*z*: [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 964.5458 (calcd. for C<sub>44</sub>H<sub>27</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>14</sub>Na, 964.4998).

**Kabiramide G**; pale yellow amorphous solid; UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{max}$  (log ε) 247 (4.60) nm; IR (neat)  $v_{max}$  3367, 2945, 2833, 2595, 2227, 2044, 1651, 1449, 1417, 1115, 1031, 667 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 500 MHz) δ 8.01 (1H, dddd, *J* = 16.0, 9.2, 5.1, 2.3 Hz, H-20), 7.89 (7.56) (1H, s, 35-NCHO), 7.26 (1H, s, H-14), 7.15 (1H, s, H-17), 7.12 (1H,s, H-11), 6.30 (6.33) (1H, dq, *J* = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, H-32), 5.99 (1H, br d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, H-19), 5.83 (7.39) (1H, d, *J* =14.4 Hz, H-35), 5.82 (1H, ddd, *J* =9.4, 4.8, 1.8 Hz, H-24), 5.46 (1H, br dd, *J* = 9.6, 9.6 Hz, H-3), 4.87 (4.90) (1H, d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, H-9), 4.46 (4.60) (1H, dd, *J* = 14.4, 7.2 Hz, H-34), 4.16 (1H, ddd, *J* = 10.1, 4.6, 2.8 Hz, H-22), 3.92 (1H, ddd, *J* = 12.4, 4.6, 4.6 Hz, H-7), 3.49 (3H, s, 22-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.34 (3H, s, 26-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.19 (1H, m, H-26), 3.06 (3.07) (3H, s, 9-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 2.90 (2.93) (1H, ddq, *J* = 8.1, 7.2, 6.6 Hz, H-33), 2.70 (2H, ddd, *J* = 15.3, 5.5, 1.8 Hz, H-21), 2.65 (2H, dd, *J* = 8.0, 7.3 Hz, H-29), 2.62 (2H, br d, *J* = 14.0 Hz, H-2), 2.60 (1H, br d, *J* = 7.0, 1.5 Hz, H-5), 2.02 (1H, br d, *J* = 7.3, 3.0 Hz, H-23), 2.00 (2H, br d, *J* = 12.8 Hz, H-4), 1.89 (2H, ddd, *J* = 15.3, 9.4, 1.8 Hz, H-25), 1.86 (1.79) (3H, d, *J* = 1.4 Hz, 31-CH<sub>3</sub>), 1.81 (2H, m, H-28), 1.71 (2H, br d, *J* = 8.7, 4.6 Hz, H-6), 0.99 (3H, d, *J* = 6.2 Hz, 8-CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.98 (3H, d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 23-CH<sub>4</sub>), 0.91 (0.95) (3H, d, *J* = 6.6 Hz, 33-CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.87

(0.86) (3H, d, J = 7.0 Hz, 27-CH<sub>3</sub>), 0.76 (0.77) (3H, d, J = 6.7 Hz, 5-CH<sub>3</sub>); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>, 125 MHz)  $\delta$  200.9 (C, C-30), 172.6 (C, C-1), 163.5 (C, C-18), 161.6 (160.5) (CH, C-35-NCHO), 157.9 (C, C-3-OCONH<sub>2</sub>), 156.4 (C, C-15), 155.7 (C, C-12), 144.1 (CH, C-20), 143.9 (CH, C-20), 142.8 (C, C-10), 136.9 (CH, C-17), 136.6 (CH, C-14), 135.9 (C, C-31), 135.6 (CH, C-11), 131.4 (C, C-13), 130.1 (C, C-16), 128.6 (124.7) (CH, C-35), 114.8 (CH, C-19), 111.7 (113.9) (CH, C-34), 82.4 (CH, C-26), 78.7 (CH, C-22), 78.6 (CH, C-9), 74.1 (CH, C-24), 73.2 (CH, C-7), 70.0 (CH, C-3), 57.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-26-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 57.7 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-9-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 57.3 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-22-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 49.1 (C, C-31), 45.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-4), 43.9 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-6), 43.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-2), 41.5 (CH, C-23), 38.5 (CH, C-8), 35.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-29), 35.0 (CH, C-27), 34.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-21), 34.5 (34.6) (CH, C-33), 33.7 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-25), 27.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-28), 26.9 (33.7) (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-35-NCH<sub>3</sub>), 25.3 (CH, C-5), 20.9 (20.6) (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-33-CH<sub>3</sub>), 19.1 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-5-CH<sub>3</sub>), 15.9 (15.6) (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-27-CH<sub>3</sub>), 11.8 (11.7) (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-31-CH<sub>3</sub>), 10.8 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-8-CH<sub>3</sub>), 8.9 (CH<sub>3</sub>, C-23-CH<sub>3</sub>); HRESI-MS m/z:  $[M+Na]^+$  932.5438 (calcd. for C<sub>47</sub>H<sub>68</sub>N<sub>5</sub>O<sub>13</sub>Na, 932.4735).

Note: Chemical shifts of the minor conformers are represented in parentheses.

# 2.4 Chemical profiling in *Penares nux*

## 2.4.1 Sample preparations

Each sponge colony was cut into different parts (Figure 2) and all covering organisms on the surface were removed before freeze-drying. Each part from each colony was extracted and quantified independently and separately. The dry sponge tissues were refluxed with 15 mL of THF for 1 hour and rinsed with  $3 \times 5$  mL THF. The extract was evaporated and stored at -20°C until determination of the major chemical markers. Each dry extract was dissolved in CH<sub>3</sub>CN and diluted to get a concentration of 500 µg/mL. This was filtered through a 0.45-µm membrane filter, and subjected to the quantification without further pre-chromatographic treatment.



Figure 2. Upon surfacing appearance of sponge *Penares nux* showing capitum, appendage and base parts.

#### 2.4.2 Standard preparations

Kabiramides B, C, and G were selected as chemical markers throughout this investigation due to the abundance, structural variation, and resolution within an appropriate chromatographic condition. The standards were obtained in-house according to the isolation protocol described in 2.3. The purity of each chemical marker was referred to spectroscopic authentication from which the signals of possible impurities are unable to be observed. The stock solution of reference standard was prepared by accurately weighed and dissolved in 1% (v/v) aqueous AcOH/CH<sub>3</sub>CN to give a concentration of 100  $\mu$ g/mL. Stock solutions were further diluted with 1% (v/v) aqueous AcOH/CH<sub>3</sub>CN to prepare different concentrations of kabiramide standard solutions. 30 – 0.01  $\mu$ g/mL for kabiramide C, and 5 – 0.03  $\mu$ g/mL for kabiramides B and G, respectively. LOQ for kabiramides B, C and G were 0.03, 0.01, and 0.03  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively.

## 2.4.3 LC-MS based quantification of kabiramide contents

The LC-ESI-MS/MS based quantification was performed on an RP-C18 column (Vertical VertiSep<sup>TM</sup>UPS, 5 µm, 150 × 2.1 mm). The chromatographic conditions were as followed; 1% aqueous AcOH/CH<sub>3</sub>CN 45:55, flow rate 0.8 mL/min, 45 °C, 20-µL injection, and ESI detection. Determination of kabiramides B, C, and G content was referred to the peak area ( $t_{\rm R} = 5.3$ , 6.8, 8.3 min, respectively) obtained directly from each total ion chromatograms and MS base peaks at m/z (928.6, 942.7, 899.6) respectively. Each sample was subjected to the devised

chromatographic condition (all triplicates). The concentration was determined from a calibration curve plotted between peak area and concentration. The contents were calculated on sponge dry weight basis (mg/g).

# 2.4.4 Validation of analytical method

Prior to the quantification, the devised analytical method was examined and validated for the linearity, precision, accuracy, limit of detection (LOD), and limit of quantification (LOQ) according to the guideline by the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH, 2005).

## 2.4.4.1 Linearity

Standard kabiramide C was diluted with 1% aqueous AcOH/CH<sub>3</sub>CN to a range of concentrations  $30 - LOQ \mu g/mL$ . Standard kabiramides B and G were performed at a concentration range of  $5 - LOQ \mu g/mL$  (all in triplicate). The standard curve was analyzed using the linear least-squares regression equation derived from the peak area.

# 2.4.4.2 Precision

Intra-day precision was performed by injecting in triplicates, on the same day, three different concentrations of kabiramide C (0.5, 10, and 30  $\mu$ g/mL) and kabiramides B and G (0.06, 1, and 5  $\mu$ g/mL). Inter-day was determined by analyzing in triplicate, the same solutions employed in intra-day precision on three consecutive days. Precision was expressed as relative standard deviation (RSD) of retention times and peaks areas for kabiramides B, C and G.

#### 2.4.4.3 Accuracy

Kabiramide C at the concentrations of 0.5, 10, and 30  $\mu$ g/mL, and kabiramides B and G at the concentrations of 0.06, 1, and 5  $\mu$ g/mL were spiked into sample solutions. Prior to analysis, the background levels of kabiramides B, C and G in the extract were determined in order to calculate actual recoveries. The amount of each analyte was determined in triplicate.

# 2.4.4.4 Limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ)

LOD and LOQ were determined by means of signal to noise ratio of 3:1 and 10.1 respectively. All calculated LOD and LOQ concentrations were confirmed by subjecting prepared standard solution to devised method.

## 2.5 Microbial profiling in *P. nux*

# 2.5.1 Animal material

The specimens of the sponge *P. nux* were separately collected on a single colony basis from Koh Tao, Surat-Thani Province, in May 2012. The sponge was identified and authenticated as described in 2.2. The same specimens used for chemical profiling was also used for the microbial profiling. The specimens are preserved in an ice chest (0°C) upon surfacing, and immediately processed in the laboratory for bacterial isolation.

# 2.5.2 Isolation, enumeration, and culture of sponge associated bacteria

Prior to analysis, each sponge specimen was thoroughly rinsed with sterile seawater to remove loosely attached bacteria. Swabbed surface method was used for the isolation and enumeration of marine bacteria. The surface of each sponge specimen was swabbed with a sterile cotton swab by way of placing a sterile plastic film having a hole of  $1 \times 1$  cm<sup>2</sup> on the sponge surface. The cotton swab was then soaked in 2 mL of sterile seawater, and vortexed. Ten-fold serial dilutions of each solution were prepared and an aliquots of 100 µL from each dilution was plated on marine agar 2216 (Difco) (triplicate). Plates were incubated for 7 days at 25°C. Colony-forming units (CFU) were counted and the average number of bacteria referred to the swabbed area (CFU/cm<sup>2</sup>).

All colonies with different pigmentation and morphology were picked out. Single colony of each isolate were inoculated on marine agar slant and glycerol stocks and stored at 4°C and -80°C, respectively, as stock cultures (Chelossi et al., 2004). The purpose of this experiment is to cultivate surface microbial community from the sponge.

# 2.5.3 DNA extraction

Pure colonies were picked using sterilized inoculating loop and suspended in 50  $\mu$ L sterile distilled water. The suspension was heated for 20 min at 110°C, followed by centrifugation at 4000 g for 2 min. The DNA in the resulting lysate was purified by extracting with 600  $\mu$ L chloroform-isoamyl alcohol (24:1). The aqueous phase was precipitated with 0.6 volume of isopropyl alcohol and centrifuged at 15,000 g for 10 min. The pellet was washed with 70% ethanol, air dried and resuspended in 30  $\mu$ L ultrapure DNase/RNase-free distilled water. DNA integrity was assessed by agarose gel electrophoresis (Lee et al., 2002; Dupont et al., 2013).

## 2.5.4 PCR amplification

The PCR was performed in a total volume of 100  $\mu$ L containing 2  $\mu$ L of DNA mixture, 5  $\mu$ L of 10  $\mu$ M forward (20F) and reverse (1540R) primers, 8  $\mu$ L of 25 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 10  $\mu$ L of 10mM dNTP, 0.5  $\mu$ L 5 unit Taq polymerase, 10  $\mu$ L of 10mM PCR buffer, and 64.5  $\mu$ L of MilliQ water. A DNA Thermal cycler (Biometra) was used with a temperature profile of 3 min at 94°C followed by 30 cycles of 1 min at 94°C (denaturing of DNA), 1 min at 50°C (primer annealing), and 2 min at 72°C (polymerization) and a final extention for 3 min at 72°C. The PCR amplified products were analyzed by running 5  $\mu$ L of the reaction mixture on a 0.8% agarose gel electrophoresis in Tris-borate EDTA buffer. Agarose gel was stained with SYBR<sup>®</sup> safe DNA gel stain and examined under UV-transilluminator (Syngene bio-imaging) to visualize the amplified 16S rDNA band. The PCR mixtures were purified using favor Prep<sup>TM</sup> PCR kit (Favorgen Biotech Corp). The expected base pair was 1500bp.

# 2.5.5 16S rRNA sequencing and phylogenetic analysis

The purified 16S rDNA was used as the template for sequencing with big dye terminator sequencing ready reaction kit (Applied Biosystem) and analysed by ABI 377 automated DNA sequencer (Perkin Elmer). The sequencing reaction for each sample was performed in a DNA Thermal cycler followed by 25 cycles of 10 secs at  $96^{\circ}$ C (denaturing of DNA), 5 sec at  $50^{\circ}$ C (primer annealing) and 4 min at  $60^{\circ}$ C (polymerization). Sequencing for each

sample was carried out in both forward and reverse direction with the following primers: 27F (5'AGAGTTTGATCCTGGCTCAG 3') and 1492R (5' GGTTACCTTGTTACGACTT 3').

The values for sequence similarity to all recognized species were first defined using Ez Taxon-e database (Chun et al., 2007) and was performed using the standard BLAST sequence similarity program version 2.2.1 against previously reported sequences at the Genbank/EMBL databases (Thompson et al., 2011). The sequence was then aligned with the selected sequences obtained from the databases using CLUSTAL W version 1.81. The alignment was manually verified and adjusted prior to the construction of a phylogenetic tree. The phylogenetic tree was constructed by using the neighbor-joining (Saitou and Nei, 1987) and maximum parsimony methods in the MEGA 5 software (Taimura et al., 2011). The confidence values of branches of the phylogenetic tree were determined using the boost strap analyses which are based on 1000 resamplings.

## 2.5.6 Preparation of the bacteria crude extracts

The isolated surfaced-attached bacteria were randomly selected and eight of the isolates were cultured in 300 mL marine broth (Difco) using 500 mL Erlenmeyer flasks. Flasks were incubated on a rotatory shaker at 220 rpm for 7 days at 25°C. The broth was first centrifuged at 5000 g for 30 min to remove the cells, and then extracted 3 times with 100 mL EtOAc. After solvent removal under vacuum by using a rotary evaporator, the extracts were used as the crude samples for antimicrobial activity.

#### 2.5.7 Screening of antimicrobial activity of isolated bacteria crude extracts

Eight of the isolated marine bacteria (PR03, PR04, PR07, PR08, PR09, PR10, PR16, and PR17) were screened for antimicrobial activity, using four pathogenic microorganisms such as *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 25923, *Staphylococcus epidermidis* TISTR 517, *Escherichia coli* ATCC 35218, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 10145. These strains were kindly provided by Dr. Sukanya Dej-adisai, Department of Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Botany, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prince of Songkla University. Antimicrobial activity was assayed in triplicate using agar disc diffusion method. The discs (6 mm in diameter) were

prepared using 10  $\mu$ L of crude extract diluted in EtOAc to a concentration of 50 mg/mL; thus each disc contained 0.5 mg of crude extract (500  $\mu$ g/disc). The discs were placed onto the Mueller Hinton agar (MHA) surface containing the test microorganisms, and incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. Oxacillin (1  $\mu$ g/disc), vancomycin (30  $\mu$ g/disc), norfloxacin (10  $\mu$ g/disc), and tetracycline (30  $\mu$ g/disc) were used as positive control. The diameters of any inhibition zones formed around the paper discs were then measured using vernier caliper.

#### 2.6 Statistics

The comparison of the trisoxazole macrolide content (mg/g sponge dry weight) among the different parts of the sponge colony was determined using Kruskal-Wallis test (SPSS16.0 software). Kruskal-Wallis test was also used to compare the bacteria populations between the different parts of the sponge. In order to establish if there is any qualitative relationship between the trisoxazole macrolides and the microbial populations, Spearman's rank correlation coefficient was employed to test correlations between the concentrations of kabiramides and the bacterial CFU counts.

# **CHAPTER 3**

# RESULTS

The sponge *Penares nux* has two growth forms, a protruding gorgonian-like capitum and an irregular-shaped base buried in sediment. Occasionally, the sponge is also found to grow an appendage extending from its base part. Previous studies revealed the significant differences in the accumulation profiles of the toxic kabiramides between the capitum and the base parts (Sirirak et al., 2011a). In this study, the relationship between the microbial population and the production and allocation of trisoxazole macrolides in the sponge *P. nux* using LC-MS-MS and swabbed-surface CFU counts was investigated. In this chapter, the results are divided into two parts. The first part involves the chemical profiling of the toxic trisoxazole macrolides between two geographical sites using the LC-MS-MS analytical protocol. The second one consists of the microbial profiling in *P. nux*, the relationship between the microbial population and the chemical profiles of the macrolides in the sponge *P. nux*, and the microbial population and the chemical profiles of the macrolides in the sponge *P. nux*, and the microbial population and the chemical profiles of the macrolides in the sponge *P. nux*, and the microbial diversity on the sponge surface.

## 3.1 Isolation of chemical markers from the sponge Penares nux

The sponge *Penares nux* was collected in May 2012 from Koh-Tao, Surat-Thani Province. The freeze-dried sponge (312 g) was macerated exhaustively (500 mL  $\times$  5) in CH<sub>3</sub>OH. The dried CH<sub>3</sub>OH extract was partitioned in hexane, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and *n*-BuOH to yield extract from each solvent weighing 3.2, 9.4, and 2.1 g, respectively. The CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-extract was fractionated using a protocol reported by Sirirak et al (2011b) to yield kabiramides B, C, and G (83, 220, and 75 mg, respectively). The purities of the isolated compounds were confirmed and referred to the NMR spectra, in which no remarkable impurity was observed and the authenticity of the isolated markers was compared with the published data (Figures 3-8; Matsunaga et al., 1986; Matsunaga et al., 1989; Petchprayoon et al., 2006).













Figure 6.  $^{13}$ C NMR spectrum of kabiramide C (125 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ ).



Figure 7. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of kabiramide G (500 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ ).



**Figure 8.**<sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of kabiramide G (125 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ ).

#### 3.2 Quantification of kabiramides contents in the sponge P. nux

An LC-MS-MS method was modified from a protocol by Sirirak et al (2011a) for the quantification of kabiramides B, C, and G in *P. nux* crude extract. The chromatographic conditions were as followed; 1% aq. AcOH/CH<sub>3</sub>CN 45:55, flow rate 0.8 mL/min, 45°C, ESI positive mode detection. Determination of kabiramides B, C and G content was referred to the peak area ( $t_{\rm R} = 5.3$ , 6.8, and 8.3 min, respectively) obtained directly from each total ion chromatograms and MS base peaks at m/z 928.6 [MH]<sup>+</sup>, 942.7 [MH]<sup>+</sup>, and m/z 899.6 [M + Na – CH<sub>4</sub>O]<sup>+</sup> for kabiramide B, C and G, respectively. Notice that, for kabiramide G, the pseudomolecular peaks either at m/z 910 [MH]<sup>+</sup> or 932 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> were not pronounced, and the mass of 899.6 was chosen as base peak instead. The modified analytical protocol gave a satisfactory resolution and chromatographic clarity with reasonable retention times and well separated peaks (Figure 9a).

Upon achieving the newly modified quantification protocol, it was validated for linearity, precision, accuracy, LOD and LOQ according to the ICH guidelines.



**Figure 9.** (a) LC-MS-MS chromatograms of *P. nux* crude extracts at a concentration of 500  $\mu$ g/mL (b) mass spectrum of kabiramide B, (c) mass spectrum of kabiramide C, (d) mass spectrum of kabiramide G.

## 3.2.1 Linearity

The linearity of the three chemical markers was evaluated over a range of  $0.01 - 30 \ \mu\text{g/mL}$  (kabiramide C), and  $0.03 - 5 \ \mu\text{g/mL}$  (kabiramides B and G). The lower limits of linearity as shown were referencing the calculated LOQ (*vide infra*). Good linearity was met for all compounds over the evaluated ranges. The regression plots were expressed as  $A = (2.6 \times 10^6)c + 48743 \ (r^2 = 0.9999), A = (3.88 \times 10^6)c + 72636 \ (r^2 = 0.9999), and A = (7.27 \times 10^6)c + 19003 \ (r^2 = 0.9998)$  for kabiramides B, C and G, (where A = peak area and c = concentration in  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ), respectively.

## 3.2.2 Precision

The precision was assessed at three concentration levels that cover the linearity range of the devised analytical protocol. An excellent reproducibility for retention time and peak area was met for all the three kabiramides (Table 4). The intra-day and inter-day % RSD values were less than 5%. The results met the acceptance criterion for % RSD specified by the ICH (ICH, 2005).

	concentration	% RSD		% RSD	
Compounds	$(\mu g/mL)$	intra-day (n=3)		inter-day (n=9)	
		t <sub>R</sub>	peak area	t <sub>R</sub>	peak area
	0.06	0.30	0.95	1.04	4.03
kabiramide B	1	0.37	2.00	1.94	3.40
	5	2.38	1.49	2.72	1.73
kabiramide C	0.5	1.55	0.04	0.75	3.60
	10	1.80	0.07	0.77	2.08
	30	0.98	0.13	0.68	3.44
kabiramide G	0.06	0.04	0.65	2.26	0.79
	1	0.01	1.85	1.91	1.48
	5	0.12	1.03	2.63	0.89

Table 4. Intra-day and inter-day precision data

Note:  $t_{R}$ s= 5.3, 6.8, and 8.3 min, for kabiramides B, C, and G, respectively.

## 3.2.3 Accuracy

The accuracy of the analytical method was assessed by spiking technique over three different concentration levels covering the target range. Kabiramides B, C, and G were spiked into *P. nux* crude extract sample to evaluate recoveries of the standard compounds. The recovery data obtained showed a good accuracy with the recovery percentages in the ranges of 99.3-100.3, 98.7-100.6, and 98.7-101.8% for kabiramides B, C, and G, respectively (Table 5).

compounds	spiked concentration ( $\mu$ g/mL)	% recovery (n=3)	
	0.06	100.31±0.61	
kabiramide B	1	99.36±1.01	
	5	99.46±1.08	
	0.5	98.70±1.3	
kabiramide C	10	99.62±2.2	
	30	100.65±1.2	
	0.06	98.75±1.79	
kabiramide G	1	$100.95 \pm 0.79$	
	5	101.87±0.92	

# Table 5. Recovery of kabiramides B, C and G

## 3.2.4 LOD and LOQ

LOD and LOQ were determined by means of signal-to-noise ratios of 3:1 and 10:1 respectively. In this study, the LOD values were 0.008, 0.004, and 0.01  $\mu$ g/mL for kabiramides B, C and G respectively, whereas the LOQ values were 0.03, 0.01, and 0.03  $\mu$ g/mL for kabiramides B, C and G, respectively.

## 3.3 The extraction and quantification of kabiramides in the sponge P. nux

As stated previously, the sponge specimens investigated in this study were collected from two collecting locations, Koh-Tao, Surat-Thani Province, and Saiburi District, Pattani Province. The specimens from both locations can be divided according to the growth forms into capitum, appendage, and base parts. The dry weights and extraction yields of the sponge specimens in each part from each location are summarized in Table 6.

the sponge P. nux collected from Koh-Tao and Saiburi				
	dry weight range	extraction yield range		
	(mean±SD; mg)	(mean±SD; mg/g dry sponge)		
# Koh-Tao				
capitums	22 - 365	0.03 - 0.20		
(N = 27)	(148.7±103.39)	$(0.08\pm0.04)$		
appendages	274 - 645	0.01 - 0.07		
(N = 26)	(400.06±97.41)	$(0.04 \pm 0.01)$		
bases	453 - 2,011	0.01 - 0.03		
(N = 42)	(1049.84±374.11)	(0.013±0.005)		
# Saiburi				
capitums	379 - 755	0.01 - 0.22		
(N = 15)	(567±95.16)	(0.02±0.002)		
appendages	423 - 693	0.01 - 0.03		
(N = 5)	(511.56±149.73)	(0.02±0.004)		
bases	837 - 1,506	0.006 - 0.01		
(N = 20)	(1173.41±202.16)	(0.008±0.001)		

 Table 6. Specimen dry weights and extraction yields of the capitum, appendage, and base parts of

It must be noted here that the sponge specimens studied in this investigation do not necessarily have all the three growth forms developed in each individual colony. For the sponges collected from Koh-Tao, 16 colonies have only capitum and base parts, 15 have appendage and base, and 11 colonies have all the three parts. As for the samples from Saiburi, 15 specimens have capitum and base, and five have appendage and base. The colonies that developed all three parts were scarce in this location and the collection failed to yield such colonies. The sizes of sponge parts from all the collected specimens range widely on the borderline of being non-parametric distribution. However, the extraction yields from each part, calculated per location basis, were consistent, and were not different statistically (p = 0.106, 0.264, 0.124 for capitum, appendage and base parts, respectively). Upon obtaining the extracts from each part of the sponge P. nux, the quantification of the three markers, kabiramides B, C, and G, in each part of the sponge were carried out (Table 7). Note that, due to the non-parametric nature of the data, range and median were used to present the kabiramide contents, and Kruskal-Wallis H analysis was used to determine the differences within the data sets.

sponge specimens	ranges and medians of kabiramide contents (mg/g dry sponge)		
	kabiramide B	kabiramide C	kabiramide G
# Koh-Tao			
capitums	0.06 - 1.93	0.04 - 4.26	0.07 - 2.50
(N = 27)	(0.48)	(0.97)	(0.23)
appendages	0.04 - 1.24	0.07 - 1.87	0.02 - 0.49
(N = 26)	(0.16)	(0.29)	(0.08)
bases	0.001 - 0.18	0.001 - 0.28	0.001 - 0.12
(N = 42)	(0.02)	(0.04)	(0.01)
Kruskal-Wallis H	62.645	65.298	63.671
	( <i>P</i> < 0.001)	( <i>P</i> < 0.001)	( <i>P</i> < 0.001)
# Saiburi			
capitums	0.04 - 0.39	0.02 - 0.51	0.03 - 0.26
(N = 15)	(0.15)	(0.21)	(0.04)
appendages	0.06 - 0.17	0.03 - 0.13	0.01 - 0.06
(N = 5)	(0.09)	(0.1)	(0.04)
bases	0.008 - 0.04	0.002 - 0.07	0.002 - 0.04
(N = 20)	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.001)
Kruskal-Wallis H	28.768	23.099	24.502
	( <i>P</i> < 0.001)	( <i>P</i> < 0.001)	( <i>P</i> < 0.001)

Table 7. Kabiramide contents in the sponge P. nux.

Throughout the investigated specimens, the contents of each kabiramide marker among the three parts of the sponge are significantly different. Specifically, the capitum part accumulates the highest amount of each kabiramide analog, followed by the appendage and base parts, respectively. The trend that kabiramide contents are highest in the capital part, then appendage and base, is consistent and parallel among the specimens from both collecting locations. However, when the contents of each kabiramide from two locations are compared, certain variation exists. With an exception of the contents of kabiramide B in the appendage and base parts, the sponge specimens collected from Koh-Tao have the higher contents of most kabiramide markers in each part (Table 8).

	capitum		appendage		base	
Compounds	Н	P value	Н	P value	Н	P value
kabiramide B	11.915	0.001	3.141	0.076	0.018	0.892
kabiramide C	22.202	< 0.001	8.103	0.004	5.206	0.023
kabiramide G	20.982	< 0.001	6.104	0.013	4.042	0.044

**Table 8.** Site comparison of the kabiramide contents (Kruskal-Wallis test *H*)

# 3.4 Microbial profiling

This part of investigation consists of the bacterial enumeration based on the CFU count of the surface-attached bacteria from each part of the sponge *P. nux*, and the diversity of the culturable bacteria associated with the sponge. Due to the logistic limitation, the specimens from Saiburi location were preserved in such a way that the integrity and viability of the sponge-associated bacteria from this location were unable to be maintained. Only the enumeration and diversity of bacteria associated with the specimens from Koh-Tao (N = 95) are reported here.

# 3.4.1 Enumeration of sponge attached bacteria from *P. nux*

All the 95 specimens of the sponge *P. nux* from Koh-Tao expedition were first subjected to the bacterial enumeration experiment prior to transferring to the kabiramide content determination reported in section 3.2. The bacterial enumeration was done using swabbed-surface CFU counts (Chelossi et al., 2004). The results were also categorized based on the parts of the sponge colonies parallel to those reported in section 3.3 (Table 6). Also similar to the results on kabiramide contents, the bacterial counts on the surfaces of the sponge specimens were non-parametric, and Kruskal-Wallis test H statistics was used here. A significant difference among the

bacterial counts from the surfaces of the three parts of the sponge was observed. The bacterial counts from the surfaces of base part were higher than those from the appendage and capitum. **Table 9.** CFU counts from the three parts of the sponge *P.nux*.

sponge specimens	ranges and medians of CFU counts		
	$(CFU/cm^2) \times 10^6$		
capitums	6.67 – 115.33		
(N = 27)	(9.93)		
appendages	6.60 - 23.83		
(N = 26)	(9.03)		
bases	10.17 - 161.67		
(N = 42)	(24.85)		
Kruskal-Wallis H	52.584		
	( <i>P</i> < 0.001)		

#### 3.4.2 Phylogenetic analysis of bacteria isolated from the surfaces of P. nux

Upon achieving the enumeration of sponge surface-associated bacteria, 22 bacterial isolates were selected based on the distinctive colonial morphology. All were subjected to 16S rRNA sequencing and phylogenetic analysis (Figure 10). The 16S rRNA gene sequence of all the 22 isolates were deposited to GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ under accession numbers LC020211-LC020232. The identification of all the isolates (Table 10) indicated that they fall into 13 distinctive bacterial species. Among these, two are of the division Actinobacteria, belonging to the families Micrococcaceae and Dermacoccaceae; seven are Gammaproteobacteria, belonging to the families Halomonadaceae, Idiomarinaceae, Pseuldoalteromonadaceae, Alcanivoracaceae, and Moraxellaceae; three are Alphaproteobacteria, belonging to the families of Sphingomonadaceae, Rhodobacteraceae, and Aurantimonadaceae; and one is Flavobacteria, belonging to the family Flavobacteriaceae.

Icolater	Deposited	Closest relative in	%	Division
Isolates	accession number	database	Identity	(Family)
PR01	LC020212	Salinicola salarius M27	99.5	Gammaproteobacteri
				(Halomonadaceae)
PR02	LC020213	Erythrobacter citreus	99.1	Alphaproteobacteria
		RE35F/1		(Sphingomonadaceae
PR03	LC020214	Erythrobacter citreus	100	Alphaproteobacteria
		RE35F/1		(Sphingomonadaceae
PR04	LC020211	Paracoccus	98.2	Alphaproteobacteria
		zeaxanthinifaciens ATCC		(Rhodobacteraceae)
		21588		
PR05	LC020215	Idiomarina donghaiensis	99.7	Gammaproteobacteri
		908033		(Idiomarinaceae)
PR06	LC020216	Psychrobacter pacificensis	98.7	Gammaproteobacteri
		NIBH P2K6		(Moraxellaceae)
PR07	LC020217	Halomonas aquamarina	100	Gammaproteobacteri
		DSM30161		(Halomonadaceae)
PR08	LC020218	Pseudoalteromonas	100	Gammaproteobacteri
		paragorgicola KMM3548		(Pseudo-
				alteromonadaceae)
PR09	LC020219	Kocuria palustris DSM	100	Actinobacteria
		11925		(Micrococcaceae)
PR10	LC020220	Vitellibacter	99.7	Flavobacteria
		vladivostokensis KMM		(Flavobacteriaceae)
		3516		
PR11	LC020221	Alcanivorax dieselolei B-5	99.8	Gammaproteobacteri
				(Alcanivoracaceae)

 Table 10. 16S rRNA gene sequence analysis of sponge surface-attached bacteria from P. nux

Table 10. (cont.)

Igolatag	Deposited	Closest relative in	%	Division
isolates	accession number	database	Identity	(Family)
PR12	LC020222	Kytococcus sedentarius	99.6	Actinobacteria
		DSM 20547		(Dermacoccaceae)
PR13	LC020223	Aurantimonas coralicida	100	Alphaproteobacteria
		DSM 14790		(Aurantimonadaceae)
PR14	LC020224	Salinicola salarius M27	99.5	Gammaproteobacteria
				(Halomonadaceae)
PR15	LC020225	Salinicola salarius M27	100	Gammaproteobacteria
				(Halomonadaceae)
PR16	LC020226	Idiomarina donghaiensis	100	Gammaproteobacteria
		908033		(Idiomarinaceae)
PR17	LC020227	Halomonas taeanensis BH	98.2	Gammaproteobacteria
		539		(Halomonadaceae)
PR18	LC020228	Psychrobacter pacificensis	99.8	Gammaproteobacteria
		NIBH P2K6		(Moraxellaceae)
PR19	LC020229	Erythrobacter citreus	99.1	Alphaproteobacteria
		RE35F/1		(Sphingomonadaceae)
PR20	LC020230	Pseudoalteromonas	100	Gammaproteobacteria
		paragorgicola KMM3548		(Pseudo-
				alteromonadaceae)
PR21	LC020231	Salinicola salarius M27	99.6	Gammaproteobacteria
				(Halomonadaceae)
PR22	LC020232	Salinicola salarius M27	99.8	Gammaproteobacteria
				(Halomonadaceae)



Figure 10. Phylogenetic tree of all the 22 isolated bacteria from the sponge P. nux

# 3.4.3 The antibacterial activities of selected sponge surface-attached bacterial isolates

Eight isolates obtained from the previously described experiments (PR03, PR04, PR07, PR08, PR09, PR10, PR16, and PR17) were selected and subjected to a larger scale fermentation and extraction. The crude EtOAc extract from each isolate was examined for the antimicrobial activity against pathogenic organisms. However, only two isolates (PR04 and PR17) yielded the extracts that show a weak activity. Isolate PR04 showed the inhibition zones of 9.1 mm and 8.8 mm wide against *S. aureus* and *S. epidermidis*, respectively, whereas isolate PR17 had the inhibition zones of 9.4 mm and 10.1 mm wide against those two targeted bacteria. The positive control antibiotics oxacillin showed the inhibition zones of 22.8 mm and 28.9 mm against *S. aureus* and *S. epidermidis*, respectively and the inhibition zones of 16.2 mm and 20.8 mm wide against those two pathogenic bacteria.

# **CHAPTER 4**

## DISCUSSION

The sponge *Penares nux* is one of the common reef-dwelling sponge widely abundant throughout the Gulf of Thailand. The distribution of P. mux ranges from the inner part of the Gulf, as in Chonburi Province, all the way down to the lower part as in Pattani and Narathiwat Provinces. The sponge has a distinctive feature of differentiating into a gorgonian-like capitum, which is a rare characteristic among most sponge species. Also the sponge is found to develop a finger-like appendage extending from the core colony. The aim of this research is to investigate the chemical profile among each part of the sponge, and to study the impact of such profiling on the surrounding biota, namely the bacterial population on the sponge surface. The sponge P. nux was collected from two collecting sites, Koh-Tao and Saiburi, and was individually subjected to the determination for the contents of three kabiramide markers, kabiramides B, C, and G. The specimens were categorized morphologically into three groups, capitum, appendage, and base growth forms. Enumeration and taxonomic identification of the sponge surface-associated bacteria were performed. Specifically, the bacterial enumeration was carried out in parallel with the kabiramide content analysis to determine the correlation within each specimen. The following discussion is focused first on the quantitation of the kabiramide, followed by the allocation of the kabiramide content in the sponge, and the assessment of bacterial association to the sponge.

#### 4.1 Quantification of the kabiramide analogs

The analytical protocol devised in this investigation was adopted and modified from those described in Sirirak et al (2011a). The MS-MS in positive ESI mode was chosen as detecting device, hence allowing the detection of each kabiramide marker individually within one single chromatographic run without additional pre-chromatographic purification. Upon validation, the recovery percentage and relative standard deviation indicate an excellent precision and accuracy of the devised protocol. This permits the quantification of the three kabiramide analogs to be performed in a routine, high throughput manner.

#### 4.2 Allocation of kabiramides in the sponge P. nux

The contents of kabiramides B, C, and G in three parts; capitums, appendages, and bases of the sponge *P. nux*, were examined on an individual part, individual colony basis. The results showed that the sponge was able to allocate the toxic kabiramide analogs to deposit predominantly in the protruding capitum parts, followed by the extending appendages, and bases, respectively. The results on the predominant accumulation of kabiramides in the capitum over the bases are consistent to those reported by Sirirak et al (2011a), hence suggesting such a specific allocation of the toxic macrolides not be a single isolated incidence, but consistent over a span of time. The investigation was extended to examine the kabiramide contents in the appendage part, which could be described as a stretching part of the colony from the core base, and showed that, although not as high as in the capitums, the contents of kabiramide analogs in the appendages were significantly higher than that in the bases. To demonstrate the differences in the contents of each kabiramide markers pictorially, the contents of each kabiramide analog in the different parts of the sponge are shown in Figure 11-15.

On a separated note, it could be argued whether such a variation in kabiramide contents is resulted from fluctuations in extraction process. However, the extraction yields of the crude extracts from each part of the sponge (calculated per sponge dried weight basis) was uniform, and indicated that the chemical allocation of the kabiramides are caused by an inherent influence genuine within each sponge colony, and not from the experimental errors. On the other hand, within each part of the sponge, the level of each kabiramide are not statistically different (p = 0.53, 0.42, 0.43 for the capitum, appendage, and base, respectively). That is, within each part of the sponge, the contents of kabiramides B, C, and G are independent and non-proportionate to each other. The sponge allocates each kabiramide in an independent manner without any specific influences on other analogs.

Location-wise, the predominant allocation of the kabiramides towards the capitums over the appendages and bases is parallel between the specimens from Koh-Tao and Saiburi. This indicates a consistent and universal trend of such specific allocation of the toxic macrolides toward the protruding capitum, and extending appendage parts. However, for each



**Figure 11.** Kabiramide contents in capitum and base parts (a) kabiramide B contents (mg/g), (b) kabiramide C contents (mg/g), (c) kabiramide G contents (mg/g) for Koh Tao location



**Figure 12.** Kabiramide contents in capitum, appendage, and base parts (a) kabiramide B contents (mg/g), (b) kabiramide C contents (mg/g), (c) kabiramide G contents (mg/g) for Koh Tao location



Figure 13. Kabiramide contents in appendage and base parts (a) kabiramide B contents (mg/g),(b) kabiramide C contents (mg/g), (c) kabiramide G contents (mg/g) for Koh Tao location



Figure 14. Kabiramide contents in capitum and base parts (a) kabiramide B contents (mg/g),(b) kabiramide C contents (mg/g), (c) kabiramide G contents (mg/g) for Saiburi location


Figure 15. Kabiramide contents in appendage and base parts (a) kabiramide B contents (mg/g),(b) kabiramide C contents (mg/g), (c) kabiramide G contents (mg/g) for Saiburi location

kabiramide analog that is accumulated in each part, with the exception of kabiramide B from the appendage part, the contents of the macrolide are significantly higher in the specimens from Koh-Tao than in those from Saiburi (Table 8, page 85).

Although the impacts from the physical and biological environments have not been investigated in this study, it can be clearly seen that there are geographical influences on the producing and/or accumulating levels of kabiramides in the sponge *P. nux*. Such geographical impact on the metabolites has been observed in various sponge species. For example, the sponge *Alplysina aerophoba* showed significant differences in the concentration of brominated compounds from different locations (Sacristán-Soriano et al., 2011a). Similarly, the sponge *Spongia lamella* showed remarkable variation in the contents of terpenes and ergosterol derivatives from different geographical locations (Noyer et al., 2011). Another example is the sponge *Haliclona* sp. which showed variation in the concentration of salicylihalamide A from different locations (Abdo et al., 2007).

In the previous study on the allocation of the kabiramides in the sponge *P. mux* (Sirirak et al., 2011a), the phenomenon was compared to that in the sponge *Oceanapia* sp. (Schupp et al., 1999), in which both species are able to allocate their toxic components specifically in the more protuding and vulnerable parts. The accumulation of the kabiramides in the appendage, which is an extension from the central core of the sponge colony, can also be comparable to the incidences in the sponge *Cacospongia* sp. (Becerro et al., 1998), in which the sponge can concentrate scalaradial and desacetylscalaradial metabolites highly in the tip of the colony.

Although the ecological impacts of the kabiramides have not been specifically studied, other trisoxazole macrolides, namely halichondramide, dihydrohalichondramide, and tetrahydrohalichondramide, have been reported to have a fish feeding deterrent effects, and have been proposed to act as chemical defense in their accumulating organisms (Pawlik et al., 1988). Such defensive roles could therefore reasonably be extended to account for the role of kabiramides in the sponge *P. mux*.

## 4.3 Microbiota on the surfaces of the sponge P. nux

The antipredatory effects of trisoxazole macrolides as described above (Pawlik et al., 1988) are well known and widely perceived. Although a fish feeding repellent activity of the kabiramides has never been reported, the similarity in the structures and other biological activities may allow the antipredatory effects to be extended for the kabiramides. To avoid the redundancy, the determinations of such activity have therefore not been conducted here. Instead, the attention has been paid on the microbiota, particularly on the bacterial community attached to the sponge's surface. This is conducted in the light of the studies on sponge-microbe interaction, which have highly gained attention over the past decade (Becerro et al., 1994; Wahl et al., 1994; Slattery et al., 1995; Newbold et al., 1999; Kelly et al., 2003; Becerro et al., 2008),

The enumeration of sponge surface-associated bacteria was investigated by mean of swabbed-surface CFU count technique (Chelossi et al., 2004). All the 95 sponge specimens from Koh-Tao expedition, the same as those that were investigated for the kabiramide contents, were subjected to the bacterial enumeration. The results were found in an inverse manner to those of the kabiramide contents; i.e., the base parts of the sponge have a higher population density than the appendages and capitums. The results from the different parts that were previously depicted in section 4.2 are shown here to demonstrate the opposite trends between the contents of the kabiramides and the CFU counts of the bacteria on each part of the sponge (Figure 16).

Primary examination on the correlation between the content of each kabiramide analog and the CFU counts of the bacteria throughout the investigated specimens showed a very weak correlation between each compound and the bacterial population. However, a close observation of the correlation plots (Figure 17) revealed certain severe outliers. Upon dismissal of CFU counts outliers (75% percentile, using the upper quartile of  $3.6 \times 10^7$  CFU/cm<sup>2</sup> as the outlier threshold; i.e., any values greater than these were dismissed), the Spearman's correlation  $r_s$  of each pair of data improved significantly. A negative correlation was observed between CFU counts vs the kabiramide contents ( $r_s = -0.594$ , p = < 0.001;  $r_s = -0.614$ , p = < 0.001;  $r_s = -0.517$ , p= < 0.001, for kabiramides B, C, and G, respectively). Although such correlations still fell in a range of moderate correlation, they all were significant, and indicated negative correlation between the CFU counts of sponge-surface associated bacteria and the contents of each kabiramide marker, all in a parallel manner.



**Figure 16.** Swabbed-surface CFU counts for the different parts of the sponge (a) capitum and base parts (b) capitum, appendage and base (c) appendage and base parts



**Figure 17.** Correlation plots showing the outliers (a) CFU vs kabiramide B, (b) CFU vs kabiramide C, (c) CFU vs kabiramide G (Empty circles are the outliers from CFU counts, dark circles are the non-outliers).

Whereas it is clear that the contents of kabiramides on the sponge surface have an impact on the density of the bacterial population associating to the sponge (or vice versa), it must be pointed out that this might not be correlated directly to the antibacterial activities. In fact, despite being reported to be toxic against a vast range of cells and organisms, trisoxazole macrolides are void of antibacterial activities (Matsunaga et al., 1986). On one hand, this may suggest the impact of kabiramides as the compounds might not cast a direct effect to fend off the bacteria on the surface, but rather influence the microhabitat on the sponge surface in such a way that the sponge may use the compounds to defend itself from other types of pathogens and foulers. On the other, it could be possible to consider the reverse influences from the bacteria on the production/accumulation of the macrolides to be allocated specifically as seen.

Upon achieving the plate count experiment with all the culturable bacteria in hand, 22 morphologically distinct colonies were selected and subjected to the taxonomic identification using 16S rRNA sequencing and phylogenetic analysis. The identification indicated the closest relatives of all the 22 isolates to fall into 13 bacterial species. Among these, three species are halotolerant; namely Salinicola salarius, Halomonas taeanensis, and Halomonas aquamarina (Lee et al., 2005; Kim et al., 2007; Guzman et al., 2010), and the rest are obligate halophiles (Maruyama et al., 2000; Denner at al., 2002; Ivanova et al., 2002; Denner et al., 2003; Berry et al., 2003; Liu Chenli and Shao Zongze, 2005; Wu et al., 2009). All have been previously reported from various submerged substrates, from inorganic substrate (Kovács et al., 1999; Maruyama et al., 2000; Denner at al., 2002; Berry et al., 2003; Liu Chenli and Shao Zongze, 2005; Wu et al., 2009), to various marine organisms (Ivanova et al., 2002; Denner et al., 2003; Nedashkovskaya et al., 2003). However, no specific association with the sponge P. nux or any taxonomically related sponges has been documented. Some of the identified bacteria have been reported to have potentials for commercialized applications. For examples, Paracoccus zeaxanthinifaciens contains zeaxanthin a yellow carotenoid used in poultry pigmentation and in the prevention of age-related macular degeneration (Berry et al., 2003). Another example is Alcanivorax dieselolei, which is useful as a bioremediative intervention in polluted marine and coastal system (Liu Chenli and Shao Zongze, 2005). Nonetheless, none has been reported as potential sources of biologically active secondary metabolites.

The investigation toward possible biological activities in any of the bacterial isolates obtained here has also been attempted. Eight bacterial isolates were selected for the antibacterial activity screening. However only two isolates (PR04 and PR17), show a weak activity.

## **CHAPTER 5**

## CONCLUSION

This dissertation is focusing on the chemical allocations in the different parts of the sponge *P. nux*, and the impacts of accumulation of trisoxazole macrolides on the microbial community. The newly modified method gave an excellent selectivity, sensitivity, and reproducibility, and allowed a routine analysis to be accomplished. The concentration of the kabiramide derivatives varied greatly among the capitum, appendage, and base parts, and showed that the capitum part has the highest amount of the kabiramides. This study encourages evaluation of the prediction of optimal defense theory. With the defenses in the sponge *P. nux* may be assumed strongest in capitum and appendage parts, and associate closely with the higher accumulating amounts of the toxic kabiramides. This thesis also provided evidence that, although the trisoxazole macrolides contents may vary among different geographical locations, the trends in the macrolide allocation are consistent.

The sponge *P. nux* yielded a diverse microbial community, including Alphaproteabacteria, Gammaproteobacteria, Actinobacteria and Flavobacteria. The microbial community density of surface-attached bacteria on the capitum and appendage part was significantly less than on the base part. The roles of kabiramide and how they influence the sponge to adjusted in its distinct environment and how it interacts with the microbial cohabitants are still the topic to be debated. Chemical compositions of each bacteria isolate showed that none is potential to be either a producer or inducer of the kabiramides. A further study of bacteria associated with the sponge *P. nux* using modern molecular techniques is needed to improve the understanding of the nature of the sponge bacterial association. Such efforts will contribute to the exploration of unique secondary metabolites of sponge-derived microorganisms and to ecology of sponge microbial symbionts.

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APPENDIX



ESI mass kabiramide B



IR spectrum of kabiramide B (neat)



UV spectrum of kabiramide B



 $^{1}$ H- $^{1}$ H COSY spectrum of kabiramide B (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>)


HMBC spectrum of kabiramide B (500 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ )



HMQC spectrum of kabiramide B (500 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ )



ESI mass spectrum of kabiramide C



IR spectrum of kabiramide C (neat)



UV spectrum of kabiramide C





HMBC spectrum of kabiramide C (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>)







IR spectrum of kabiramide G (neat)



UV spectrum of kabiramide G



 $^{1}$ H- $^{1}$ H COSY kabiramide G (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>)



HMBC spectrum of kabiramide G (500 MHz, C<sub>6</sub>D<sub>6</sub>)



HMQC spectrum of kabiramide G (500 MHz,  $C_6D_6$ )

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## List of Publication and Proceeding

Oyenike O. Olatunji and Anuchit Plubrukarn. Localization of kabiramides in the sponge *Pachastrissa nux* and sponge surface-attached bacteria. In proceeding of Annual meeting of American Society of Pharmacognosy. Copper Mountain, USA, 25-29 July, 2015.

Oyenike O. Olatunji; Chitti, Thawai; Anuchit, Plubrukarn. Chemical and microbial cohabitant profiling of the sponge *Pachastrissa nux*. In proceeding of the International Bioscience Conference 2014. Phuket, Thailand, 29-30 September, 2014.