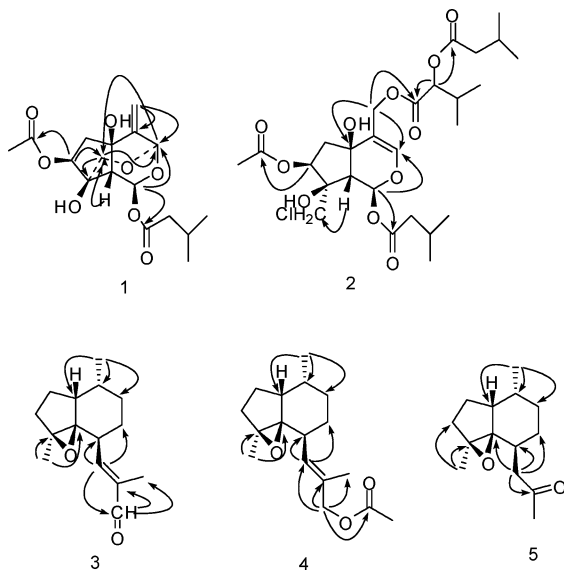




**Table 1.** NMR Data<sup>a</sup> for Volvatrate A (**1**) and Volvatrate B (**2**) in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

position	vovatrate A ( <b>1</b> )		vovatrate B ( <b>2</b> )	
	$\delta_C$ , mult	$\delta_H$ (J in Hz)	$\delta_C$ , mult	$\delta_H$ (J in Hz)
1	91.2, CH	6.56, d (2.2)	89.3, CH	6.56, s
3	96.3, CH	5.41, s	144.7, CH	6.60, s
4	149.9, qC		112.8, qC	
5	74.4, qC		70.1, qC	
6a ( $\beta$ -H)	47.1, CH <sub>2</sub>	2.28, d (16.0)	40.7, CH <sub>2</sub>	2.07, m
6b ( $\alpha$ -H)		2.60, dd (16.0, 6.6)		2.60, dd (13.6, 6.1)
7	79.0, CH	4.95, t (6.4)	79.7, CH	4.97, t (7.0)
8	79.4, qC		70.1, qC	
9	57.3, CH	2.67, s	54.1, CH	2.71, s
10a	66.7, CH <sub>2</sub>	3.67, 1H, AB, (12.3)	49.7, CH <sub>2</sub>	3.67, 1H, AB (11.5)
10b		4.00, 1H, AB, (12.3)		3.73, 1H, AB (11.5)
11a	110.5, CH <sub>2</sub>	5.15, s	61.9, CH <sub>2</sub>	4.67, 1H, AB (12.4)
11b		5.39, s		4.90, 1H, AB (12.4)
1'			169.9, qC	
2'			76.7, CH	4.77, d (4.8)
3'			29.8, CH	2.22, m
4'			17.3, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.00, d (6.6)
5'			18.6, CH <sub>3</sub>	0.99, d (6.6)
1''			173.2, qC	
2''			43.0, <sup>e</sup> CH <sub>2</sub>	2.24, <sup>i</sup> m
3''			25.6, <sup>h</sup> CH	2.07, <sup>j</sup> m
4''			22.3, <sup>f</sup> CH <sub>3</sub>	0.96, <sup>k</sup> d, (6.6)
5''			22.3, <sup>f</sup> CH <sub>3</sub>	0.96, <sup>k</sup> s, (6.6)
1'''	170.9, <sup>b-k</sup> qC		170.7, <sup>g</sup> qC	
2'''	43.3, CH <sub>2</sub>	2.19, m	43.0, <sup>e</sup> CH <sub>2</sub>	2.24, <sup>i</sup> m
3'''	25.7, CH	2.05, m	25.7, <sup>h</sup> CH	2.07, <sup>j</sup> m
4'''	22.3, <sup>c</sup> CH <sub>3</sub>	0.96, <sup>d</sup> d (6.5)	22.4, <sup>f</sup> CH <sub>3</sub>	0.95, <sup>k</sup> d, (6.6)
5'''	22.3, <sup>c</sup> CH <sub>3</sub>	0.94, <sup>d</sup> d (6.5)	22.4, <sup>f</sup> CH <sub>3</sub>	0.95, <sup>k</sup> d, (6.6)
1''''	170.9, <sup>b-k</sup> qC		170.6, <sup>g</sup> qC	
2''''	21.1, CH <sub>3</sub>	2.17, s	20.8, CH <sub>3</sub>	2.09, s

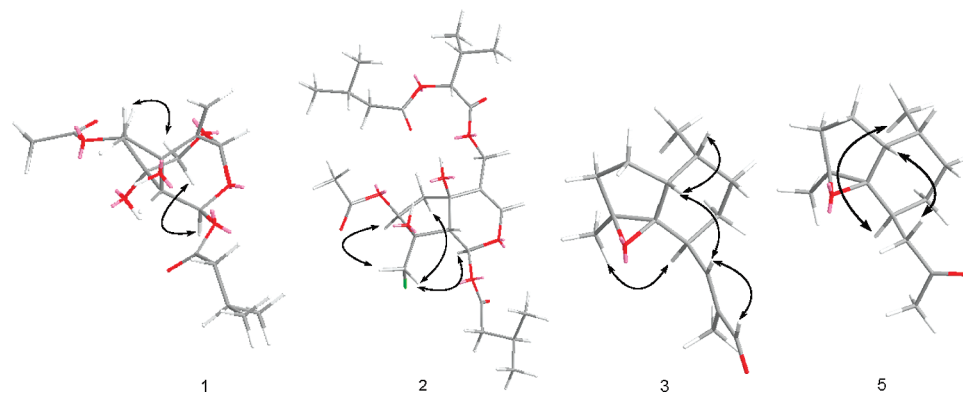
<sup>a</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR at 500 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C NMR at 125 MHz, and multiplicities inferred from DEPT and HSQC experiments. <sup>b-k</sup> Assignments bearing the same superscript may be interchanged in each column.

**Figure 1.** Key HMBC correlations for **1**–**5**.

substituents to the iridoid nucleus were assigned by the HMBC correlations as shown in Figure 1. The isovalerate group was attached to C-1 by the HMBC correlation from H-1 ( $\delta_H$  6.56) to C-1''' ( $\delta_C$  170.7). The acetate group linked to C-7 and the isovaleroyloxyisovaleryl moiety to C-11 were established by the HMBC correlations from H-7 ( $\delta_H$  4.97) to C-1''' ( $\delta_C$  170.6) and from H-11 ( $\delta_H$  4.90, 4.67) to C-1' ( $\delta_C$  169.9), respectively. The relative configurations of **2** at C-1, C-5, C-7, C-8, and C-9 were the same as those in compound **1**, which were determined by the key ROESY correlations of H-1/H-10 and H-10/H-7 as shown in Figure 2. Thus, the structure of compound **2** was established, and it was named volvatrate B.

Compounds **3**, **4**, and **5** were obtained as colorless oils from the petroleum ether extract. The molecular formula of **3** was deduced as C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>2</sub> by HRESIMS ( $m/z$  257.1524 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR and DEPT spectra of **3** (Table 2) showed a total of 15 carbon signals, including three methyl, four methylene, five methine, and three quaternary carbons, indicating a valerenane sesquiterpenoid skeleton, often reported in this plant.<sup>4</sup> The IR spectrum revealed the presence of a conjugated group consisting of an aldehyde function (1688 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and a double bond (1640 cm<sup>-1</sup>), which was confirmed by the HMBC correlation from H-14 ( $\delta_H$  9.45) to C-11 ( $\delta_C$  153.7) and C-12 ( $\delta_C$  140.2). Comparison of the NMR spectroscopic data with those reported for valerenal<sup>4</sup> indicated that **3** had a structure similar to that of valerenal, except for upfield shifts of C-3 ( $\delta_C$  70.4) and C-4 ( $\delta_C$  71.2) in **3**. This suggested that the double bond between C-3 and C-4 in valerenal was a 3,4-epoxy analogue in **3**, similar to that in (–)-3 $\beta$ ,4 $\beta$ -epoxyvalerenic acid.<sup>21</sup> HMBC correlations (Figure 1) from H-10 ( $\delta_H$  1.43) to C-3 and C-4 confirmed the 3,4-epoxy group in **3**. The HMBC correlations from H-11 ( $\delta_H$  6.87) to C-4, C-5 ( $\delta_C$  34.7), C-6 ( $\delta_C$  24.3), and C-14 ( $\delta_C$  195.4) and correlations from H-5 ( $\delta_H$  2.76) to C-11 and C-12 indicated that the  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehyde function was attached to C-5 as in valerenal. The relative configuration of **3** was elucidated by the ROESY experiment and comparison with other naturally occurring valerenane sesquiterpenoids possessing a  $\beta$ -orientation of H-9 and H-8 and an  $\alpha$ -orientation of H-5.<sup>4,21</sup> The orientations were further confirmed by ROESY correlations of H-8/H-9 and H-9/H-11 (Figure 2). The ROESY correlations of H-5 with H-10 established the  $\alpha$ -orientation of 10-CH<sub>3</sub>, and H-11 with H-14 ( $\delta_H$  9.45) indicated the *E* configuration of the double bond between C-11 and C-12. The specific rotation was negative ( $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –83.3, *c* 0.25, MeOH). Therefore, compound **3** was determined to be *E*-(–)-3 $\beta$ ,4 $\beta$ -epoxyvalerenal.

The molecular formula of compound **4** was determined as C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>3</sub> by HRESIMS. The IR spectrum indicated the presence of a carbonyl (1740 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and a double bond (1628 cm<sup>-1</sup>). The

**Figure 2.** Key ROESY correlations for **1–3** and **5**.**Table 2.** NMR Data<sup>a</sup> for Compounds **3–5** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

position	compound <b>3</b>		compound <b>4</b>		compound <b>5</b>	
	$\delta_C$ , mult	$\delta_H$ (J in Hz)	$\delta_C$ , mult	$\delta_H$ (J in Hz)	$\delta_C$ , mult	$\delta_H$ (J in Hz)
1a	23.9, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.35, m	23.9, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.27, m	23.9, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.49, m
1b		1.60, m		1.59, m		1.76, m
2a	32.7, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.63, m	32.9, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.62, m	32.8, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.60, m
2b		1.86, m		1.84, m		1.82, m
3	70.4, qC		70.3, qC		71.8, qC	
4	71.2, qC		72.1, qC		72.0, qC	
5	34.7, CH	2.76, m	33.3, CH	2.50, m	30.4, CH	1.25, m
6a	24.3, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.64, m	24.9, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.53, m	23.6, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.27, m
6b		1.96, m		1.83, m		1.53, m
7a	27.5, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.45, m	27.1, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.36, m	26.6, CH <sub>2</sub>	1.33, m
7b		1.80, m		1.79, m		1.68, m
8	32.7, CH	2.09, m	32.9, CH	2.06, m	32.7, CH	1.99, m
9	41.0, CH	2.45, t, (7.5)	40.9, CH	2.36, t, (7.4)	40.9, CH	2.25, m
10	15.2, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.43, s	5.2, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.40, s	15.0, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.38, s
11	153.7, CH	6.87, d (9.4)	129.2, CH	5.89, d (9.2)	43.7, CH <sub>2</sub>	2.70, d, (7.0)
12	140.2, qC		131.3, qC		208.3, qC	
13	9.5, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.77, s	14.3, CH <sub>3</sub>	1.67, s	30.1, CH <sub>3</sub>	2.16, s
14	195.4, CH	9.45, s	70.3, CH <sub>2</sub>	4.49, dd (15.6, 12.2)	13.8, CH <sub>3</sub>	0.81, d, (7.3)
15	13.8, CH <sub>3</sub>	0.89, d (7.3)	14.0, CH <sub>3</sub>	0.85, d, (7.2)		
16			171.0, qC			
17			21.0, CH <sub>3</sub>	2.07, s		

<sup>a</sup> <sup>1</sup>H NMR at 400 MHz, <sup>13</sup>C NMR at 100 MHz, and multiplicities inferred from DEPT and HSQC experiments.

<sup>13</sup>C NMR and DEPT spectra of **4** (Table 2) indicated that the molecule contained four methyl, five methylene, four methine, and four quaternary carbons. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum showed four methyl groups ( $\delta_H$  1.40, 1.67, 0.85, 2.07) and an olefinic methine ( $\delta_H$  5.89). The <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **4** were similar to those of **3** except that the aldehydic function ( $\delta_C$  195.4) in **3** was replaced by a  $-\text{CH}_2\text{OOCCH}_3$  ( $\delta_C$  70.3, 171.0, 21.0) group in **4**, which was confirmed by the HMBC correlations from H-14 ( $\delta_H$  4.49) to C-16 ( $\delta_C$  171.0), C-11 ( $\delta_C$  129.2), C-12 ( $\delta_C$  131.3), and C-13 ( $\delta_C$  14.3). The relative configuration of **4** was consistent with that of **3**. ROESY correlation of H-11 ( $\delta_H$  5.89) with H-14 ( $\delta_H$  4.49) established the *E* configuration of the double bond at C-11 and C-12. The optical activity of **4** was negative; thus, compound **4** was identified as *E*-(-)-3 $\beta$ ,4 $\beta$ -epoxyvalerenyl acetate.

Compound **5** had the molecular formula C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, by HRESIMS, with 4 degrees of unsaturation. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR and DEPT spectra (Table 2) showed only 14 carbon signals in accordance with the HRESIMS, including three methyl, five methylene, three methine, and three quaternary carbons. The NMR spectra of **5** were similar to those of **3** and **4** except that the side chain at C-5 only had three carbons in **5**. The five methylene signals were assigned to C-1, C-2, C-6, C-7, and C-11, respectively, and the two quaternary carbon signals were assigned to C-3 and C-4 by comparison of the 1D NMR and 2D NMR spectra with those of **3** and **4**. The appearance of a quaternary carbon at  $\delta_C$  208.3 (C-12) revealed the presence of a ketonic carbonyl in the molecule, which was confirmed by the IR absorption at 1714 cm<sup>-1</sup>. HMBC correlations

from H-13 ( $\delta_H$  2.16) to C-12 and C-11 ( $\delta_C$  43.7) and from H-11 ( $\delta_H$  2.70) to C-12, C-4 ( $\delta_C$  72.0), C-5 ( $\delta_C$  30.4), and C-6 ( $\delta_C$  22.6) indicated that there was a  $-\text{CH}_2\text{COCH}_3$  group attached to C-5. The two methyl groups were attached to C-3 and C-8, respectively, which was established by the HMBC correlations from H-10 ( $\delta_H$  1.38) to C-3 and C-2 ( $\delta_C$  32.8) and from H-14 ( $\delta_H$  0.81) to C-7 ( $\delta_C$  26.6), C-8 ( $\delta_C$  32.7), and C-9 ( $\delta_C$  40.9). H-H COSY correlations of H-1/H-2, H-6/H-7, H-8/H-9, H-9/H-1, and H-8/H-14 confirmed the carbon linkages in the molecule. The relative configuration of **5** was also consistent with **3** and **4**, which was supported by a ROESY experiment. The ROESY correlations of H-9/H-11 and H-5/H-14 verified the  $\alpha$ -orientation of H-5 and  $\beta$ -orientation of H-8 as shown in Figure 2. The 10-CH<sub>3</sub> was determined to be  $\alpha$ -oriented by comparison of the NMR data with compounds **3**, **4**, and (-)-3 $\beta$ ,4 $\beta$ -epoxyvalerenic acid.<sup>21</sup> Thus, the structure of **5** was assigned, and it was named mononorvalerenone.

## Experimental Section

**General Experimental Procedures.** Optical rotations were taken on a Horiba SEAP-300 polarimeter. UV spectra were obtained on a Hitachi UV 210A spectrophotometer. IR spectra were measured with a Bio-Rad FTS-135 spectrometer with KBr pellets. Mass spectra were obtained on a VG Auto Spec-3000 mass spectrometer (VG, Manchester, England). 1D and 2D NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM-400 or a DRX-500 NMR spectrometer (Karlsruhe, Germany). Semi-preparative HPLC were performed on an Agilent 1100 liquid chromatograph with a Zorbax SB-C18 (9.4 mm  $\times$  25 cm) column. Column chromatography was performed either on silica gel (200–300 mesh,

Qindao Marine Chemical Inc., Qingdao, People's Republic of China) or RP-18 gel (LiChroprep, 40–63  $\mu$ m, Merck, Darmstadt, Germany). Sephadex LH-20 for chromatography was purchased from Amersham Biosciences. Fractions were monitored by TLC, and spots were visualized by heating silica gel plates sprayed with 10% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in EtOH.

**Plant Material.** The plant, cultivated from the seeds of *V. officinalis* (purchased from Germany) at Songhuaba in Kunming, Yunnan Province, P. R. China, in March 2007, was collected in January 2008 and identified as *V. officinalis* Linn. by Prof. Hu-Biao Chen, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Peking University, P. R. China. A voucher specimen (KIB-XC0701) was preserved at the State Key Laboratory of Phytochemistry and Plant Resources in West China, Kunming Institute of Botany, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, P. R. China.

**Extraction and Isolation.** Dried root powder of *V. officinalis* (5 kg) was extracted with 95% EtOH at room temperature to give a residue (1 kg) after removal of solvent under reduced pressure. The EtOH extract was suspended in H<sub>2</sub>O (3 L) and then partitioned successively with petroleum ether (3  $\times$  2 L), EtOAc (3  $\times$  2 L), and *n*-BuOH (3  $\times$  2 L). The petroleum ether extract (106 g) was subjected to silica gel column chromatography (CC) eluted with petroleum ether–acetone (from 100:1 to 1:1) to afford fractions A–H. Fraction B (15 g) was subjected to CC over silica gel (200–300 mesh) eluted with petroleum ether–EtOAc (from 50:1 to 1:1) to give four fractions, Ba–Bd. Valeric acid (387 mg) was crystallized from a Me<sub>2</sub>CO solution of fraction Ba. Fraction Bb was chromatographed over a Sephadex LH-20 column, using CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH (1:1) as solvent, and then purified by semipreparative HPLC (CH<sub>3</sub>CN–H<sub>2</sub>O, 40:60) to yield **3** (5 mg), **4** (8 mg), and **5** (5 mg). Fraction C (5 g) was subjected to CC over silica gel eluted with petroleum ether–EtOAc (10:1 to 1:1) to afford three fractions, Ca–Cc. Fraction Ca was chromatographed over an RP-18 column eluted with a MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O gradient system (60%–100%) to afford acetoxyvaleric acid (50 mg). The EtOAc extract (80 g) was subjected to CC over silica gel eluted with petroleum ether–EtOAc (from 50:1 to 1:1) to give six fractions, Fr1–Fr6. Fraction 3 was chromatographed over silica gel eluted with petroleum ether–EtOAc (from 10:1 to 1:1) to afford four fractions, Fr3a–Fr3d. Fr3a was purified over a Sephadex LH-20 column eluted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH (1:1) to obtain IVHD-valtrate (180 mg). Fr3b was purified by a RP-18 column eluted with a MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O gradient system (50%–100%) and repeated chromatography over silica gel using petroleum ether–EtOAc (5:1 to 1:1) and then chromatographed over a Sephadex LH-20 column eluted with CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH (1:1) and purified by semipreparative HPLC (CH<sub>3</sub>CN–H<sub>2</sub>O, 35:65) to afford **1** (3 mg), **2** (7 mg), 1,5-dihydroxy-3,8-epoxyvalchlorine (38 mg), valeteriotriate B (8 mg), jatamanvaltrate B (6 mg), and jatamanvaltrate C (12 mg).

**Voltrate A (1):** colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –34.9 (c 0.18, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$  3448, 2961, 2874, 1737, 1626, 1374, 1248, 1104 cm<sup>–1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz) data, see Table 1; ESIMS *m/z* 379 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRESIMS *m/z* 379.1362 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>24</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Na, 379.1368).

**Voltrate B (2):** colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –72.3 (c 0.30, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$  3447, 2965, 2926, 1742, 1638, 1374, 1242 cm<sup>–1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz) data, see Table 1; positive ESIMS *m/z* 599 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRESIMS *m/z* 599.2243 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>41</sub>O<sub>11</sub>ClNa, 599.2235).

**E-(–)-3 $\beta$ ,4 $\beta$ -Epoxyvalerenal (3):** colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –83.3 (c 0.25, MeOH); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$  2931, 1688, 1640, 1422, 1107 cm<sup>–1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) data, see Table 2; positive ESIMS *m/z* 257 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRESIMS *m/z* 257.1524 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>22</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, 257.1517).

**E-(–)-3 $\beta$ ,4 $\beta$ -Epoxyvalerenyl acetate (4):** colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –52.63 (c 0.19, MeOH); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$  3070, 2929, 1740, 1628, 1456,

1379, 1290, 1235, 1047, 1024, 959 cm<sup>–1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 400 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz) data, see Table 2; positive ESIMS *m/z* 301 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRESIMS *m/z* 301.1773 (calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 301.1779).

**Mononorvalerenone (5):** colorless oil;  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  –39.29 (c 0.28, MeOH); IR (KBr)  $\nu_{\max}$  2926, 2861, 1714, 1454, 1385, 1284, 1084 cm<sup>–1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 500 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 125 MHz) data, see Table 2; positive ESIMS *m/z* 245 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup>; HRESIMS *m/z* 245.1511 (calcd for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na 245.1517).

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**Supporting Information Available:** 1D and 2D NMR spectra of compounds **1**–**5**. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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