

Ganolearic Acid A, a Hexanorlanostane Triterpenoid with a 3/5/6/5-Fused Tetracyclic Skeleton from *Ganoderma cochlear*

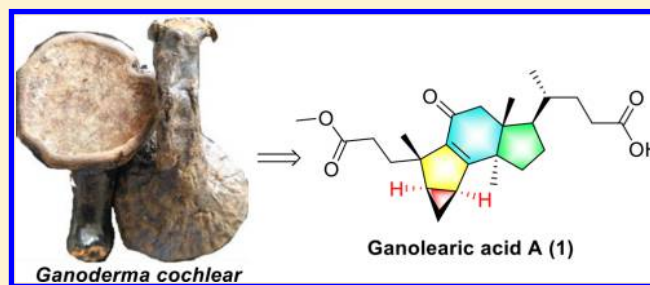
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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Ganolearic acid A (**1**), a 3,4-*seco*-hexanortriterpenoid featuring a rare 3/5/6/5 tetracyclic system, was obtained in trace amounts from *Ganoderma cochlear* by a LC-UV/MS-guided method. Meanwhile, a new 3,4-*seco*-nortriterpenoid, fornicatin M (**2**), as well as its biogenetic precursor, fornicatin D (**3**), was isolated. The stereochemical structure of **1** was completely established by 1D, 2D NMR, IR, and HRMS spectra, as well as ¹³C NMR and electronic circular dichroism calculations. The plausible biogenetic pathway of **1** and **2** was proposed. Furthermore, their anti-inflammatory activities were evaluated.



INTRODUCTION

Since the first *Ganoderma* triterpenoids (GTs) were isolated from *Ganoderma lucidum* in 1982,¹ GTs have been a research focus. GTs are a class of structurally diverse lanostane-type triterpenoids with a wide range of bioactivities.^{2–6} On the basis of the number of carbon atoms, GTs can be divided into six subtypes, including C31, C30, C29, C27, C25, and C24.⁷ Because of the diverse enzyme system in *Ganoderma*, many novel rearranged triterpenoids have been discovered, such as ganorbiformin A with a 15-methyl fragment,⁸ cochlates A and B having a 3,4-*seco*-9,10-*seco*-9,19-cyclo skeleton,⁹ and ganosinensic acid A possessing a 1,11-cyclo four-membered carbon ring motif.¹⁰

To simply, rapidly, and directly isolate new GTs from the genus *Ganoderma*, a structure-guided isolation approach was used on the basis of our long-established GTs library. By using this approach, we rapidly gained a series of new GTs from *G. cochlear*, including a hexanorlanostane triterpenoid with a five-membered carbon ring connecting to a γ -lactone ring through a carbon bond, three 3,4-*seco*-nortriterpenoids, and eight new lanostane triterpenoids.¹¹ Analysis of the GT library indicated that the molecular weight ranged from 350 to 600.⁷ Meanwhile, the HPLC profile of the GTs showed most of the peaks with a maximum UV absorption band at 210–270 nm, indicating the existence of the double bond and α,β -unsaturated carbonyl or conjugated double bonds. Therefore, if the different maximum UV absorption wavelength is detected, it allows us to assume that the structure may have changed. It is worth mentioning that a minor GT (2.5 mg) featuring a 3/5/6/5 tetracyclic system with a λ_{\max} at 285 nm, named ganolearic acid A (**1**), was isolated from *G. cochlear* using a LC-UV/MS screening approach. Meanwhile, its

biogenetic analogue, fornicatin M (**2**), and a known compound, fornicatin D (**3**) (Figure 1), were gained. Herein, we reported their isolation, structural elucidation, and anti-inflammatory activity.

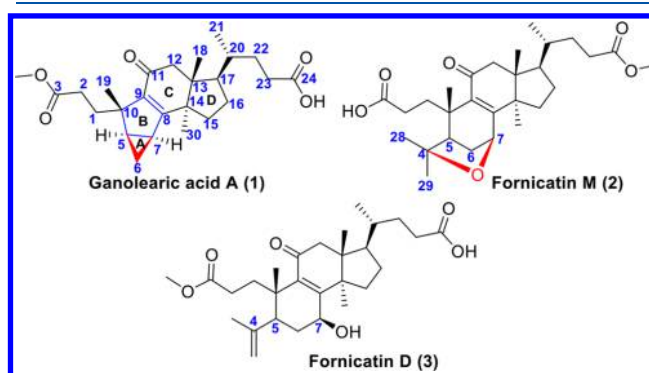


Figure 1. Structures of compounds 1–3 from *G. cochlear*.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Ganoderma cochlear (32 kg) was extracted with 95% EtOH under reflux. Then the residue was suspended in H₂O and extracted with EtOAc, which was treated by a series of column chromatographic methods. Different polar fractions were analyzed by UPLC-MS-IT-TOF (Figure S1). Finally, ganolearic acid A (**1**, 2.5 mg, $t_R = 21.5$ min) with a λ_{\max} at 285 nm was purified by HPLC on a RP-18 column (CH₃CN/H₂O + 0.1%

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Table 1. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR Spectroscopic Data (δ in ppm) of Compounds 1 and 2

position	1^a		1^b		2^a	
	^1H (J)	^{13}C	^1H (J)	^{13}C	δ_{H} (J in Hz)	δ_{C}
1	1.45, m; 1.96, m	36.0 CH ₂	1.73, m; 2.15, m	36.7 CH ₂	3.02, m; 2.19, m	37.7 CH ₂
2	2.25, m; 2.45, m	29.6 CH ₂	2.09, m; 2.34, m	30.3 CH ₂	2.63, m	29.9 CH ₂
3		174.2 C		176.3 C		174.4 C
4						84.4 C
5	1.47, m	27.8 CH	1.57, m	29.1 CH	2.03, m	51.9 CH
6	0.20, m; 0.87, m	14.5 CH ₂	0.28, m; 1.05, m	15.3 CH ₂	2.15, m; 1.27, m	32.4 CH ₂
7	1.79, m	22.9 CH	1.98, m	24.1 CH	4.22, d (2.8)	73.1 CH
8		175.9 C		180.3 C		161.0 C
9		132.8 C		133.8 C		134.5 C
10		48.6 C		49.7 C		41.3 C
11		196.3 C		199.5 C		199.5 C
12	2.45, d (16.0); 2.61, d (16.0)	49.7 CH ₂	2.60, d (17.6); 2.29, d (17.6)	50.6 CH ₂	2.63, d (17.8); 2.54, d (17.8)	50.6 CH ₂
13		48.0 C		48.8 C		45.1 C
14		50.1 C		51.5 C		50.6 C
15	1.38, m; 1.70, m	29.6 CH ₂	1.59, m; 1.87, m	30.5 CH ₂	1.91, m; 1.30, m	29.3 CH ₂
16	2.00, m	27.5 CH ₂	1.54, m; 2.14, m	28.4 CH ₂	1.87, m	26.8 CH ₂
17	1.71, m	49.5 CH	1.84, m	50.5 CH	1.58, m	49.8 CH
18	0.70, s	17.3 CH ₃	0.79, s	17.8 CH ₃	0.95, s	17.7 CH ₃
19	1.40, s	23.0 CH ₃	1.25, s	23.3 CH ₃	1.58, s	25.3 CH ₃
20	1.44, m	35.9 CH	1.49, m	37.0 CH	1.33, m	35.8 CH
21	0.82, d (5.8)	17.9 CH ₃	0.91, d (6.5)	18.4 CH ₃	0.76, d (6.1)	17.6 CH ₃
22	1.45, m; 2.01, m	31.5 CH ₂	2.24, m; 2.36, m	32.2 CH ₂	2.36, m; 2.23, m	31.0 CH ₂
23	2.43, m; 2.57, m	31.7 CH ₂	1.84, m; 1.33, m	32.0 CH ₂	2.16, m; 1.80, m	31.0 CH ₂
24		176.2 C		177.9 C		174.0 C
28					1.46, s	29.0 CH ₃
29					1.27, s	33.2 CH ₃
30	1.10, s	24.5 CH ₃	1.21, s	25.0 CH ₃	0.85, s	24.3 CH ₃
OCH ₃	3.59, s	51.1 CH ₃	3.61, s	52.0 CH ₃	3.63, s	51.3 CH ₃

^aMeasured in C₅D₅N (600/150 MHz). ^bMeasured in CD₃OD (800/200 MHz).

trifluoroacetic acid = 48:52, flow rate = 3 mL/min) (Figure S1).

The molecular formula of ganolearic acid A (**1**) was assigned as C₂₅H₃₆O₅ by HRESIMS ([M - H]⁻, *m/z* 415.2491; calcd 415.2490) with eight indices of hydrogen deficiency. The presence of hydroxyl, α,β -unsaturated carbonyl, and ester carbonyl groups was proven by its IR absorption bands at 3433, 1683, and 1638 cm⁻¹. The ^1H NMR spectrum (Table 1) of **1** displayed three singlet methyls (δ_{H} 1.40, H₃-19; δ_{H} 1.10, H₃-30; δ_{H} 0.70, H₃-18), one doublet methyl (δ_{H} 0.82, d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, H₃-21), one methoxy (δ_{H} 3.59, s), eight methylenes, and four methines. In the ^{13}C NMR spectrum of **1**, one carboxyl signal at δ_{C} 176.2 (C-24), one ester carbonyl signal at δ_{C} 174.2 (C-3), and the characteristic signals at δ_{C} 175.9 (C-8), δ_{C} 132.8 (C-9) and δ_{C} 196.3 (C-11) for an α,β -unsaturated ketone carbonyl fraction were observed. Except for the above functionalities, four rings were present in **1** due to the remaining four degrees of unsaturation, which hinted that **1** was highly degraded lanostane-type triterpenoids. By analyzing HMBC, HSQC, and ^1H - ^1H COSY correlations (Figure 2), we found the C and D rings (Figure 1) and side chain of **1** were the same as those of fornicatin D (**3**).¹¹

Furthermore, the HMBC spectrum of **1** showed long-range correlations (Figure 2) of H₃-19 to C-9, C-1, C-10, and C-5; of H₂-1 to C-2, C-3 (δ_{C} 174.2), C-9, C-10, and C-5; of H₂-2 to C-1, C-3, and C-10; of OCH₃ to C-3, suggesting that compound **1** was a 3,4-*seco*-nortriterpenoid and the methoxyl was located at C-3. Detailed analysis of the HMBC spectrum showed that both H-5 and H-7 correlated with C-8, C-9, and C-10.

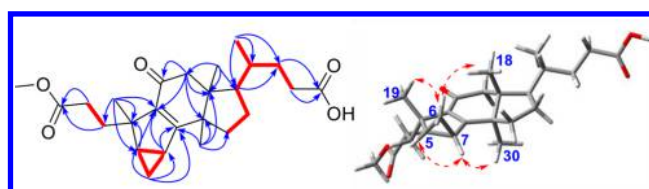


Figure 2. Selected HMBC (H \rightarrow C), ^1H - ^1H COSY (—), and ROESY (---) correlations of **1**.

Together, the ^1H - ^1H COSY correlation between H-5 and H-7 indicated the presence of a five-membered carbon ring (B ring, Figure 1), which also led to the low field chemical shift of C-8 (δ_{C} 175.9). Interestingly, H-5 and H-7 also showed ^1H - ^1H COSY correlations with H-6. Additionally, H-6 correlated with C-5, C-10, C-7, and C-8 in the HMBC spectrum of **1**. This information allowed us to unambiguously deduce the presence of a three-membered carbon ring (A ring, Figure 1), which corresponded well with the diagnostic hydrogen signals of H₂-6 (δ_{H} 0.20, m; δ_{H} 0.87, m).¹²⁻¹⁴

Considering biogenesis of GTs, the absolute configurations of C-13, C-14, C-17, and C-20 are *R*, *R*, *R*, and *R*, respectively, which are characteristics of all lanostane-type triterpenoid derivatives isolated to date.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ The ROESY correlations of H-5/H-7/H₃-30 and H₃-19/H-6 (δ_{H} 0.20)/H₃-18 indicated that H-5, H-7, and H₃-30 were cofacial, whereas H-6 (δ_{H} 0.20), H₃-18, and H₃-19 were on the same side. Thus, the absolute configurations of C-5, C-7, and C-10 could be *R*, *S*, *S* or *S*, *R*,

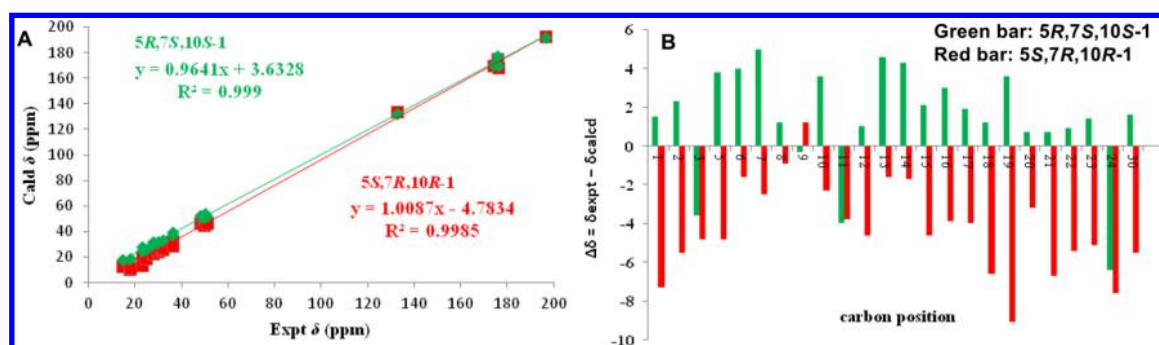


Figure 3. (A) Regression analysis of experimental versus calculated ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts of 5R,7S,10S-1 and 5S,7R,10R-1, with linear fitting shown as a line. (B) Relative chemical shift errors between calculated and experimental ^{13}C NMR data for 5R,7S,10S-1 and 5S,7R,10R-1 (δ_{corr} obtained by linear fit δ_{expt} versus δ_{calcd}).

R. The computational methods were carried out to confirm the absolute configuration of **1**.

The selected conformations were optimized using the B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) method.¹⁸ The calculated ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts were analyzed by subtracting the isotopic shifts for TMS calculated with the same methods.¹⁸ Different conformers for 5R,7S,10S-1 and 5S,7R,10R-1 were considered. In the different conformers, the average values of the same atoms were calculated.¹⁹ Differences ($\Delta\delta$) were determined according to the formula $\Delta\delta = \delta_{\text{calcd}} - \delta_{\text{expt}}$, and the results are shown in Tables S3 and S6. The correlation coefficient (R^2) obtained by linear regression analysis, the mean absolute deviation (MAD), and largest absolute deviation (LAD) for 5R,7S,10S-1 were 0.999 (Figure 3A), 2.59, and 6.4 (Figure 3B), whereas R^2 , MAD, and LAD values for 5S,7R,10R-1 were 0.9985, 9.1, and 4.37, respectively, which supported C-5, C-7, and C-10 to be R, S, and S configurations, respectively.

Subsequently, the theoretical calculation of ECD was performed,²⁰ and the calculated ECD curve of 5R,7S,10S-1 was identical to the experimental ECD curve (Figure 4). Hence, the ECD calculation further confirmed the stereochemistry of **1** and ensured the rationality of the carbon skeleton of **1**.

Fornicatin M (**2**) was isolated as a white powder, and its molecular formula was determined to be $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{42}\text{O}_6$ on the basis of the HRESIMS and ^{13}C -DEPT NMR spectra of **2**, indicating eight indices of hydrogen deficiency. Meanwhile, its UV, IR, and 1D NMR spectra showed similarities with those of

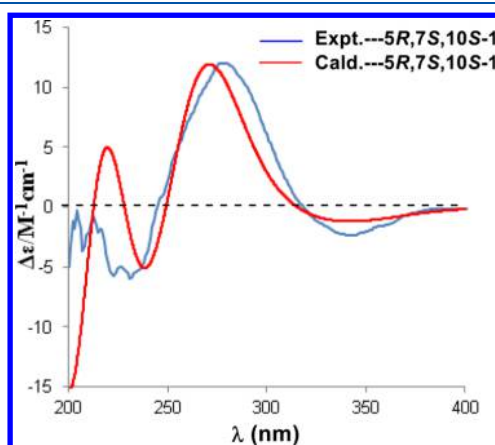


Figure 4. Experimental and calculated ECD curves of 5R,7S,10S-1 in CH_3OH .

fornicatin A possessing a 3,4-*seco*-triterpenoid skeleton.²¹ However, the presence of a methyl and the absence of an oxymethylene indicated that a methyl at C-28 in **2** replaced the oxymethylene in fornicatin A, which was confirmed by the HMBC correlations (Figure 5) of H_3 -28 (δ_{H} 1.46, s) and H_3 -

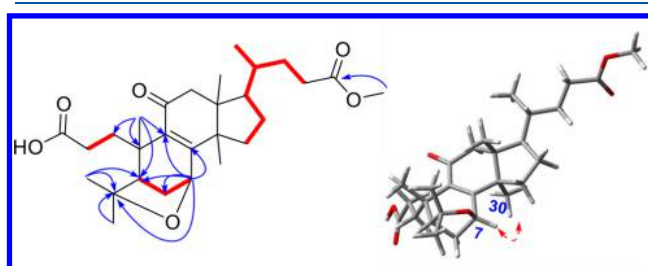


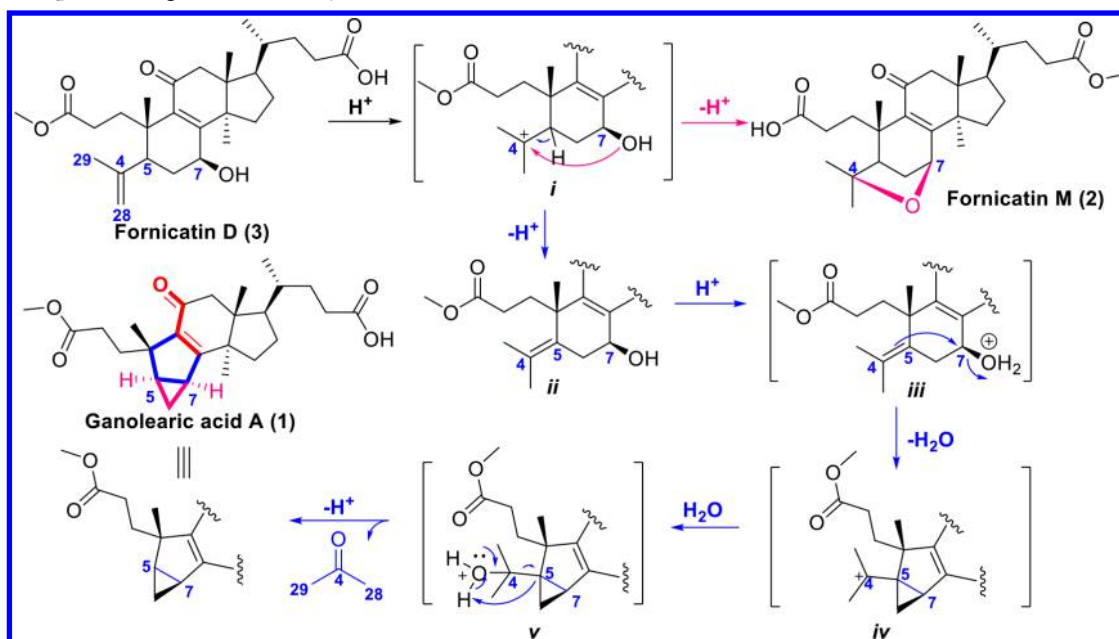
Figure 5. Selected HMBC (H \rightarrow C), ^1H - ^1H COSY (—), and ROESY (\leftrightarrow) correlations of **2**.

29 (δ_{H} 1.27, s) with C-4 (δ_{C} 84.4) and C-5 (δ_{C} 51.9); of H_3 -19 (δ_{H} 1.58, s) with C-1, C-5, C-9 (δ_{C} 134.5), and C-10 (δ_{C} 41.3); of H-5 (δ_{H} 2.03, s) with C-4, C-6, C-7 (δ_{C} 73.1), C-10, and C-9; of H-7 with C-4. Moreover, the ^1H - ^1H COSY correlations of H-5/H-6/H-7 also proved the deduction described above. In the HMBC spectrum, the methoxyl (δ_{H} 3.63, s) showed correlation with C-24 (δ_{C} 174.0), suggesting that OCH_3 was connected to C-24. Furthermore, the ROESY correlation of H_3 -30/H-7 (Figure 5) suggested that the oxygen bridge between C-4 and C-7 was β -oriented. Thus, the structure of **2** was finally established.

To our knowledge, ganolearic acid A (**1**) represents the first example of lanostane-type triterpenoids with a 3/5/6/5-fused carbon skeleton. Fornicatin M (**2**) is a 3,4-*seco*-triterpenoid possessing an oxygen bridge at C-4 and C-7. Analysis of their structures indicates that ganolearic acid A (**1**) and fornicatin M (**2**) might be derived from fornicatin D (**3**) (Scheme 1). The key carboncation intermediate (*i*) is formed from **3** under acidic conditions. When the long pair electrons of 7-OH attack C-4, fornicatin M (**2**) is generated by removal of Hydron. Additionally, a double bond between C-4 and C-5 is also produced by the deprotonation of C-5 (*ii*). Then, further protonation (*iii*), dehydration (*iv*), and an intermolecular proton transfer (*v*) lead to the formation of ganolearic acid A (**1**), with the loss of one molecule of acetone.

Furthermore, their anti-inflammatory activities were evaluated (positive control: L-NMMA), and the result showed that the inhibitory rate of compound **2** was $14.2 \pm 2.0\%$ for NO

Scheme 1. Proposed Biogenetic Pathway of 1 and 2



production induced by lipopolysacchrides (LPS) at a concentration of 50 μM .

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, a hexanorlanostane triterpenoid with a rare 3/5/6/5-fused tetracyclic skeleton, ganolearic acid A (**1**), was isolated from *G. cochlear* by a LC-UV/MS-guided method. A three-membered carbon motif of **1** is a unique structural change in lanostane-type triterpenoids. Our findings not only expand the chemical library of GMs but also provide plentiful structure models for bioactive study. *G. cochlear* showed various pharmacological effects, such as antitumor, liver protection, anti-diabetes, and antihypertension activities. Our previous phytochemical investigation led to the isolation of a hexanorlanostane triterpenoid and a series of 3,4-*sec*-nortriterpenoid, as well as highly oxygenated lanostane triterpenoids from *G. cochlear* using a structure-guided method. Meanwhile, some of them showed hepatoprotective and cytotoxic activities,^{9,11} which indicates that GTs act an important role in explaining the effect of *G. cochlear* and it is worth discovering additional novel GTs from *G. cochlear*.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Experimental Procedures. UV spectra were recorded on a Shimadzu UV-2401PC spectrometer. Optical rotations were recorded on a Horiba SEPA-300 polarimeter. CD spectra were measured on a Chirascan instrument. Bruker AVIII-400 MHz and AVIII-800 MHz spectrometers (Bruker, Zurich, Switzerland) were used to determine NMR spectra. Chemical shifts (δ) were expressed in parts per million (ppm) with reference to the TMS resonance. The IR spectrum was recorded on a Bruker Tensor-27 instrument (KBr pellets). An API QSTAR Pulsar spectrometer was used to measure ESIMS, HRTOF-ESIMS, and UPLC-MS. An agilent 1100 and 1200 series instrument was used for high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) analysis. The specifications of the Agilent ZORBAX SB-C18 column were 5 μm , 9.6 mm \times 250 mm.

Fungal Material. The fruiting bodies of *G. cochlear* (32 kg) were collected from Laos in July 2013. The specimen was identified by Prof. Liu Peigui and deposited at Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Science (voucher no. 13071501).

Extraction and Isolation. *Ganoderma cochlear* was extracted with EtOH (95%) under reflux three times (3 h per time). The ethanol extracts were concentrated, and the residue was suspended in H₂O. Then the H₂O layer was extracted with EtOAc. The EtOAc extracts were fractionated by macroporous resin (D-101; MeOH–H₂O, 50:50, 70:30, and 90:10, v/v) to obtain three fractions (fractions I–III). Fraction I (50 g) was further fractionated by an Rp-18 column with MeOH–H₂O as the mobile phase and gave 16 subfractions (Fr. I-1–Fr. I-16). Fr. I-2 was analyzed by HPLC to afford a chromatographic peak A (Figure S1A) with a λ_{max} at 285 nm. Furthermore, the UPLC-MS-IT-TOF method was used to analyze Fr. I-2 and determined the molecular formula of peak A to be C₂₅H₃₆O₅Na and C₂₅H₃₅O₅ on the basis of the $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ ion (m/z 439.2453) in positive mode and the $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^-$ ion (m/z 415.2490) in negative mode (Figures S1), respectively. Consequently, Fr. I-2 (132 mg) was treated by HPLC on an Rp-18 column (CH₃CN/H₂O + 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid = 48%) to yield ganolearic acid A (Figure S1) (**1**, 2.5 mg, t_{R} = 21.5 min), fornicatin M (**2**, 12 mg, t_{R} = 22.7 min), and fornicatin D (**3**, 28 mg, t_{R} = 24.4 min).

Ganolearic Acid A (1): white powder (MeOH); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{21}$ +49.4 (c 0.86, MeOH); UV (MeOH); λ_{max} (log ϵ) 279 (3.65), 217 (3.54), and 201 (3.73); IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3433, 2963, 2931, 1683, 1638, 1453, 1384, 1209, and 1142 cm^{-1} ; for 1D NMR data, see Table 1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z 415.2491 $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^-$ (calcd for C₂₅H₃₅O₅, 415.2490).

Fornicatin M (2): white powder (MeOH); $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{22}$ +46.6 (c 0.15, MeOH); UV (MeOH); λ_{max} (log ϵ) 265 (3.76), and 202 (3.47); IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3435, 2957, 1736, 1656, 1450, 1383, and 1207 cm^{-1} ; for 1D NMR data, see Table 1; HRMS (ESI-TOF) m/z 473.2906 $[\text{M} - \text{H}]^-$ (calcd for C₂₈H₄₁O₆, 473.2909).

¹³C NMR and ECD Calculations for 1. First, the selected conformations were optimized using the B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) method. Vibrational spectra of all optimized structures were calculated. Then ¹³C NMR calculations were carried out at the levels of mPW1PW91/6-31G(d,p) with the gauge-independent atomic orbital method.¹⁹ Meanwhile, considering the solvent effect, pyridine was used in the calculations process.²⁰ By subtracting the isotopic shifts for TMS calculated with the same methods,¹⁹ the calculated ¹³C NMR chemical shifts were obtained. Finally, on the basis of the Boltzmann distributions and the relative Gibbs free energies as weighting factors,²² the ¹³C NMR chemical shifts of each compound were expressed as the average values of the same atoms in the different conformers. Using the calculated chemical shifts δ_{calcd} to subtract the

experimental chemical shifts δ_{exptl} , the difference ($\Delta\delta$) values were obtained.

The theoretical ECD calculations of compound **1** were performed using Gaussian 09.²⁰ Conformational analysis was carried out by providing the optimized conformation geometries and thermodynamic parameters of all conformations. Furthermore, time-dependent density functional theory at B3LYP/6-31G(d,p) level in MeOH with the polarized continuum model was used for the theoretical calculation of ECD. Meanwhile, the ECD spectra of compound **1** were obtained by weighing the Boltzmann distribution rate of each geometric conformation.

Anti-inflammatory Activity Assay.²³ Macrophage RAW264.7 cells were cultured in DMEM, which contained 10% FBS, 100 units/mL penicillin, and 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ of streptomycin. Then 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ LPS was added to stimulate RAW264.7 cells for NO production. Meanwhile, tested compounds were added to 96-well plates and were incubated overnight. At the same time, another two groups including a blank control group without tested compounds and positive control group (L-NMMA) were carried out. Then, the absorption values were determined at 570 nm. Cytotoxicity was tested by adding MTS in the remaining medium. The inhibition of NO production was calculated with the following formula: inhibition of NO production (%) = $(\text{OD}_{570 \text{ nm blank}} - \text{OD}_{570 \text{ nm compounds}}) / \text{OD}_{570 \text{ nm blank}} \times 100\%$. IC_{50} (50% concentration of inhibition) values were determined based on the Reed & Muench method. All experiments were performed in triplicate.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

● Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge on the ACS Publications website at DOI: 10.1021/acs.joc.8b01906.

1D NMR assignment of compounds **1** and **2**, NMR, MS spectra of **1** and **2**, CD and UV spectra, and computational data of compound **1**, together with experimental details (PDF)

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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