




Four new polyprenylated acylphloroglucinol derivatives from *Hypericum beanii*

Xin-Yue Suo^{a*}, Xiao-Yu Liu^{a*}, Xiao-Wei Liu^b, Xiao-Xiu Li^c, Ting-Ting Zhu^a, Teng-Fei Ji^a and Bo Liu^c 

^aState Key Laboratory of Bioactive Substance and Function of Natural Medicines, Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100050, China; ^bBeijing Lianxin Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd, Beijing 102600, China; ^cSchool of Pharmacy, Shenyang Medical College, Shenyang 110034, China

ABSTRACT

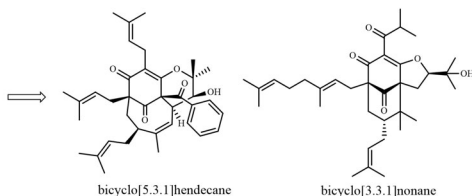
Two new polycyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinols (PPAPs), hyperbeanins P-Q (**1–2**), and two new biosynthetic precursors, hyperbeanins R-S (**3–4**), were isolated from *Hypericum beanii*, together with three known analogs (**5–7**). Compound **1** was one of type A PPAPs featured with unusual bicyclo[5.3.1]hendecane core. The structures of isolates were established by NMR spectroscopic methods, experimental electronic circular dichroism (ECD) spectra and comparisons with known compounds. Compounds **5** and **6** showed obvious hepatoprotective activity at 10 μ M against paracetamol-induced HepG2 cell damage.

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KEYWORDS

Hypericum beanii; PPAPs; ECD; hepatoprotective activity




1. Introduction

Polycyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinols (PPAPs), prominent secondary metabolites of the genus *Hypericum*, are a group of structurally fascinating natural products, which feature a phloroglucinol core decorated with prenyl, geranyl, or more substituted side chains [1, 2]. Up to now, more than 900 natural PPAPs with diverse carbon skeletons have been isolated. Apart from their structures, these compounds exhibit a broad range of biological activities, such as anti-tumor, antioxidant,

CONTACT Bo Liu  liubopaul@163.com  School of Pharmacy, Shenyang Medical College, Shenyang 110034, China; Teng-Fei Ji  jtft@imm.ac.cn  State Key Laboratory of Bioactive Substance and Function of Natural Medicines, Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100050, China.

*X. S. and X. L. contributed equally.

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antidepressant, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and anti-neurodegenerative effects [3–8], which have attracted extensive attention from the phytochemical, organic synthetic, and pharmacological communities [9–15].

Hypericum beanii, is mainly distributed in Guangxi, Yunnan, and Guizhou provinces in China. As a kind of traditional chinese medicine, it has been used to treat hepatitis, burns, diarrhea, and snake bites [16, 17]. Former studies on the components of *H. beanii* merely resolved some xanthones, triterpenoids, and acylphloroglucinol derivatives [18–21].

2. Results and discussion

In our present study, two new polycyclic polyprenylated acylphloroglucinols (PPAPs), hyperbeanins P-Q (1-2), and two new biosynthetic precursors of PPAPs, hyperbeanins R-S (3-4) were isolated from *Hypericum beanii*, together with three known analogs (5-7). Compound 1 possessed a bicyclo[5.3.1]hendecane core, which was unusual in Type A PPAPs. Additionally, compounds 5 and 6 showed obvious hepatoprotective activity at 10 μ M against paracetamol-induced HepG2 cell damage.

Hyperbeanin P (1) was obtained as colorless oil. Its molecular formula $C_{38}H_{48}O_5$ was established by HRESIMS (m/z 585.3563 $[M+H]^+$), indicating 15 degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum showed obvious absorption bands for hydroxyl (3498 cm^{-1}), carbonyl (1715 cm^{-1}), and olefinic groups (1616 cm^{-1}). Its 1D NMR spectra revealed characteristic resonances of a typical bicyclic PPAP, including an enolized 2,4-diketone moiety [δ_C 166.1 (C-2), 125.0 (C-3), 199.7 (C-4)], a nonconjugated ketone [δ_C 204.7 (C-9)], and three olefinic protons of isoprenyl moieties [δ_H 5.11 (1H, t, $J=7.6$ Hz), 4.90 (1H, t, $J=6.4$ Hz), 4.73 (1H, t, $J=7.6$ Hz)]. Moreover, the ^1H NMR signals [δ_H 7.78 (2H, d, $J=7.6$ Hz), 7.44 (1H, t, $J=7.6$ Hz), 7.31 (2H, t, $J=7.6$ Hz)] (Table 1) and the HMBC correlations from H-12/H-16 (δ_H 7.78) to C-10 suggested the presence of an unsubstituted benzoyl moiety (Figure 1).

Table 1. ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR spectral data for compounds 1–2.^a

No	1 δ_C	δ_H (J in Hz)	2 δ_C	δ_H (J in Hz)	No	1 δ_C	δ_H (J in Hz)	2 δ_C	δ_H (J in Hz)
1	74.6		71.8		20	26.1	1.73 s	119.5	5.08 t (7.2)
2	166.1		173.3		21	18.1	1.66 s	138.2	
3	125.0		120.3		22	40.0	2.70 dd (13.2, 8.4); 2.37 dd (13.2, 8.4)	40.2	1.91-2.02 m
4	199.7		191.3		23	118.2	4.73 t (7.6)	16.5	1.67 s
5	62.8		62.5		24	136.1		26.9	1.99-2.02 m
6a	43.4	2.37 d (7.2);	38.9	2.13 dd (14.4, 7.2);	25	26.2	1.54 s	124.5	5.05 t (7.2)
6b		1.43 t (12.8)		1.91-2.02 m					
7	39.0	2.56-2.63 m	48.3	1.41-1.43 m	26	17.7	1.38 s	131.4	
8	145.8		47.1		27	32.9	1.95-2.14 m	17.8	1.57 s
9	204.7		206.7		28	122.0	4.90 t (6.4)	26.0	1.64 s
10	195.5		27.4	3.01 dd (14.8, 10.4); 2.87 dd (14.8, 10.4)	29	133.6		29.6	2.17-2.25 m; 1.91-2.02 m
11	136.8		94.1	4.80 t (10.4)	30	25.9	1.70 s	124.7	4.89 t (7.6)
12	128.4	7.78 d (7.6)	71.3		31	18.3	1.59 s	132.9	
13	128.6	7.31 t (7.6)	23.4	1.38 s	32	19.3	1.65 s	25.9	1.66 s
14	132.8	7.44 t (7.6)	25.4	1.25 s	33	134.6	5.94 d (9.6)	18.0	1.55 s
15	128.6	7.31 t (7.6)	208.7		34	51.5	3.66 t (10.4)	23.4	1.36 s
16	128.4	7.78 d (7.6)	40.0	2.50 sept (6.8)	35	73.2	4.42 d (10.8)	26.9	1.28 s
17	22.6	3.19-3.25 m	21.1	1.15 d (6.8)	36	90.8			
18	120.7	5.11 t (7.6)	21.1	1.11 d (6.8)	37	28.5	1.34 s		
19	133.2		29.5	2.46 d (7.2)	38	19.9	1.31 s		

^aRecorded in CDCl_3 (^1H NMR 400 MHz, ^{13}C NMR 125 MHz).

Comprehensive interpretation of its 2D NMR data disclosed the planar structure of **1**. The bicyclo[5.3.1]hendecane core of **1** was resolved by HMBC correlations (Figure 2) from H-6 (δ_{H} 1.43/2.37) to C-4/C-5/C-7/C-8/C-9, from H-7 (δ_{H} 2.60) to C-5/C-6/C-8/C-32/C-33, from H-32 (δ_{H} 1.65) to C-7/C-8/C-33, from H-33 (δ_{H} 5.94) to C-7/C-32/C-34, and from H-34 (δ_{H} 3.66) to C-1/C-2/C-8/C-33, together with the ^1H - ^1H COSY cross-peaks of H-6/H-7 and H-33/H-34. In addition, The HMBC correlations (Figure 2) from H-35 (δ_{H} 4.42) to C-1/C-33/C-34/C-36, from Me-37/Me-38 to C-35/C-36, and from Me-37 (δ_{H} 1.34) to C-2 defined the remaining *gem*-dimethyl tetrahydropyran moiety in **1**. The locations of three isoprenyl groups at C-3, C-5, and C-7 were assigned by HMBC spectrum as well. These observations suggested that compound **1** and hypercohin A shared the same planar structure [22].

The C-7 chemical shift (δ_{C} 39.0) and the chemical shift difference between H-6a and H-6b ($\Delta\delta$ ca. 0.94) were in accordance with the classical reported rules [2], and it implied that the C-7 substituent was *exo*. Moreover, the ROESY correlations (Figure 3) of H-7 (δ_{H} 2.60)/H-34 (δ_{H} 3.66), and H-34 (δ_{H} 3.66)/H-35 (δ_{H} 4.42) indicated that H-7, H-34, and H-35 were α -oriented as shown in Figure 1, suggesting

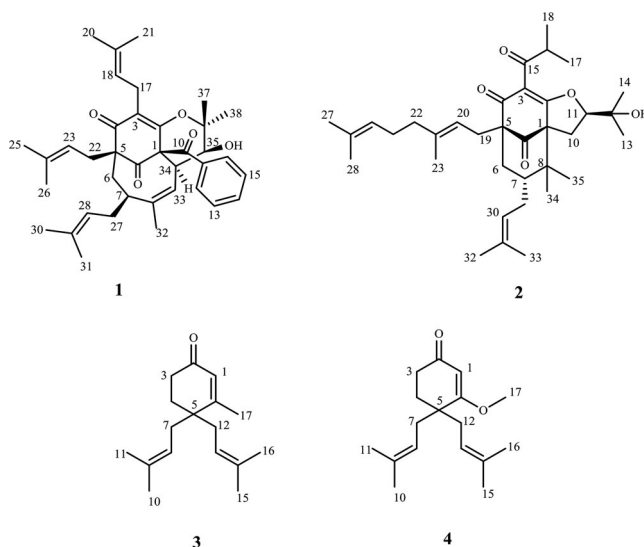


Figure 1. Structures of compounds **1**–**4**.

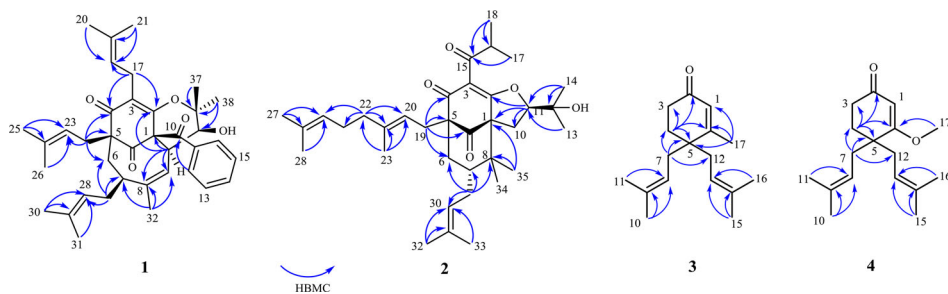


Figure 2. Key HMBC correlations for **1**–**4**.

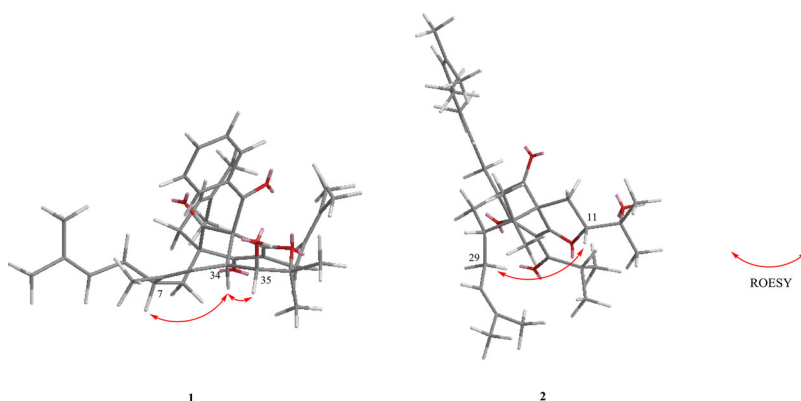


Figure 3. Key ROESY correlations for 1–2.

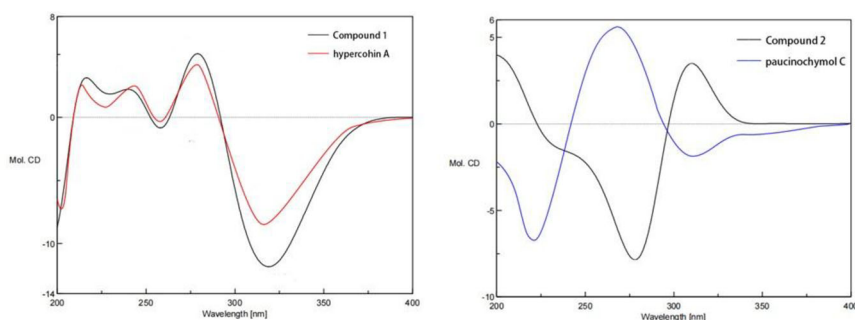


Figure 4. The experimental ECD spectra of 1 and 2.

that **1** was the C-35 epimer of hypercohin A. The absolute configurations of **1** were elucidated by comparison of ECD spectrum with that of hypercohin A (Figure 4), whose absolute configurations had been unambiguously determined by X-ray diffraction analysis [22]. Therefore, the absolute configurations of **1** was defined as 1S, 5R, 7S, 34S, and 35S.

The molecular formula of hyperbeanin Q (**2**) was established as $C_{35}H_{52}O_5$ according to its HRESIMS data (m/z 553.3884 $[M + H]^+$), indicating 10 degrees of unsaturation. The 1H NMR spectrum (Table 1) displayed signals for three olefinic protons [δ_H 5.08 (1H, t, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 5.05 (1H, t, $J = 7.2$ Hz), 4.89 (1H, t, $J = 7.6$ Hz)], an isopropyl group [δ_H 2.50 (1H, sept, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 1.15 (1H, d, $J = 6.8$ Hz), 1.11 (1H, d, $J = 6.8$ Hz)], and nine methyl groups [δ_H 1.67, 1.66, 1.64, 1.56, 1.55, 1.38, 1.36, 1.28, 1.25]. The characteristic ^{13}C NMR resonances of enolized 2,4,15-triketone moiety [δ_C 173.3 (C-2), 120.3 (C-3), 191.3 (C-4), 208.7 (C-15)], suggested a type B PPAP skeleton of **2**. The HMBC correlations from H-11 (δ_H 4.80) to C-1/C-2/C-10 indicated that a dihydrofuran ring was formed between C-1 and C-2. The geranyl and isoprenyl groups were located at C-5 and C-7 respectively, suggested by the HMBC correlations from H_2 -19 (δ_H 2.46) to C-4/C-5/C-6/C-9, and from H_2 -29 (δ_H 2.21/1.95) to C-6/C-7/C-8. These observations revealed the structure of **2** closely resembled that of paucinochymol C, differing in the isopropyl group at C-3 instead of 3,4-dihydroxybenzoyl

group [23]. On the basis of C-7 chemical shift (δ_C 48.3) and the small difference in chemical shifts of the two H-6 atoms ($\Delta\delta$ ca. 0.20) [2], as well as the ROESY correlation (Figure 3) of H-11 (δ_H 4.80)/H₂-29 (δ_H 2.21/1.95), the relative configurations of **2** were established to be the same as paucinochymol C. Contrary to paucinochymol C, the ECD spectrum of **2** exhibited negative excitation chirality at round 240–280 nm (Figure 4). This observation indicated that the absolute configurations of C-1 and C-5 in **2** were 1*S* and 5*S*, respectively. Thus, the absolute configurations of **2** were defined as 1*S*, 5*S*, 7*R*, and 11*R*.

Hyperbeanin R (**3**) was obtained as colorless oil. Its molecular formula C₁₇H₂₆O was established by the HRESIMS (m/z 247.2060 [M + H]⁺), indicating 5 degrees of unsaturation. The ¹H NMR spectrum (Table 1) exhibited three olefinic protons [δ_H 5.89 (1H, s), 5.06 (2H, t, J = 4.8 Hz)] and five methyl groups [δ_H 1.92, 1.71 \times 2, 1.62 \times 2]. The ¹³C NMR spectrum displayed 17 carbon signals, including a carbonyl carbon [δ_C 199.8 (C-2)] and six olefinic carbons [δ_C 128.9 (C-1), 168.0 (C-6), 119.8 (C-8 and C-13), 134.7 (C-9 and C-14)]. The structure of **3** was deduced due to the key HMBC correlations from H₃-10 (δ_H 1.62)/H₃-11 (δ_H 1.71) to C-8/C-9, from H₂-7 (δ_H 2.22) to C-4/C-5/C-6/C-8/C-9, from H₃-17 (δ_H 1.92) to C-1/C-5/C-6, from H-1 (δ_H 5.89) to C-2/C-3/C-5/C-6, and from H₂-4 (δ_H 1.85) to C-2/C-3/C-5/C-6/C-7 as shown in Figure 2.

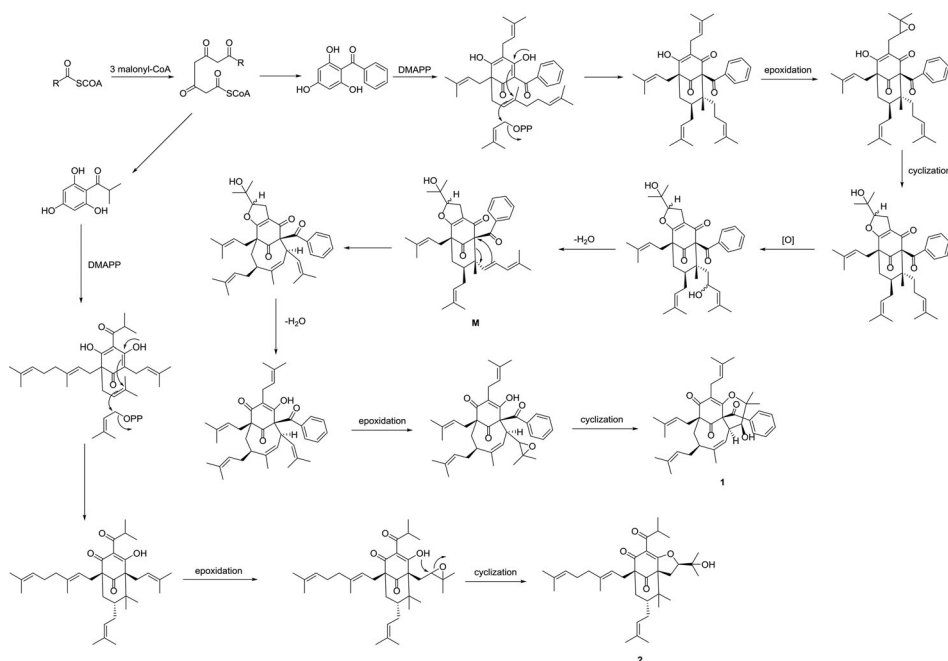
Hyperbeanin S (**4**) was obtained as colorless oil. Its molecular formula C₁₇H₂₆O₂ was established by the HRESIMS (m/z 263.2010 [M + H]⁺), indicating 5 degrees of unsaturation. By analysis of 1D and 2D NMR data (Table 2), compound **4** was shown to possess the same backbone as **3**. The difference of **4** was the presence of a methoxyl group at C-3 rather than a methyl group in **3**.

Additionally, another three isolates were identified to be known compounds such as uralodin A (**5**) [24], 13,14-didehydroxyguttiferone A (**6**) [19], and 3-methyl-4-(3-methyl-2-buten-1-yl)-2-cyclohexen-1-one (**7**) [25] by comparing their spectroscopic data with those reported in the literature.

Table 2. ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectral data for compounds **3–4**^a.

No	3 δ_C	δ_H (J in Hz)	4 δ_C	δ_H (J in Hz)
1	128.9	5.89 s	101.8	5.29 s
2	199.8		203.5	
3	34.4	2.40 t (5.6)	25.9	2.40 t (6.0)
4	30.6	1.85 t (5.6)	28.9	1.83 t (6.4)
5	43.2		48.0	
6	168.0		176.7	
7	36.0	2.22 d (5.6)	33.8	2.27 dd (14.4, 7.2); 2.15 dd (14.4, 7.2)
8	119.8	5.06 t (4.8)	120.0	5.07 t (7.2)
9	134.7		134.1	
10	26.2	1.62 s	26.2	1.58 s
11	18.2	1.71 s	18.1	1.68 s
12	36.0	2.22 d (5.6)	33.8	2.27 dd (14.4, 7.2); 2.15 dd (14.4, 7.2)
13	119.8	5.06 t (4.8)	120.0	5.07 t (7.2)
14	134.7		134.1	
15	26.2	1.62 s	26.2	1.58 s
16	18.2	1.71 s	18.1	1.68 s
17	20.6	1.92 s	55.7	3.67 s

^aRecorded in CDCl₃ (¹H NMR 400 MHz, ¹³C NMR 125 MHz).



Scheme 1. Plausible biosynthetic pathways of 1–2.

The plausible biogenetic pathway for compounds 1–2 is proposed as shown in Scheme 1. Compound 1 was considered to be generated from the representative [3.3.1]-type PPAPs via C[1,3] σ migration rearrangement, followed by dehydration, keto-enol tautomerization, and intramolecular cyclization successively [22]. Similarly, compound 2 could be formed from [3.3.1]-type PPAPs through epoxidation and cyclization.

Compounds 1–7 were evaluated for their hepatoprotective activities against paracetamol-induced HepG2 cell damage, and bicyclol was used as the positive control. As shown in Table 2, compounds 5 and 6 exhibited obvious hepatoprotective activities at 10 μ M.

3. Experimental

3.1. General experiment procedures

Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO P-2000 polarimeter (JASCO Inc. Tokyo, Japan). UV spectra were measured on a JASCO V650 spectrophotometer (JASCO Inc.). The ECD spectra were measured on a JASCO J-815 CD spectrometer (JASCO Inc.). IR spectra were recorded on a Nicolet 5700 FT-IR spectrometer (Thermo Nicolet, Waltham, MA, USA). The NMR spectra were acquired with VNS-400 spectrometers and VNS-500 spectrometers (Varian Inc. Palo Alto, CA, USA). HRESI-MS were collected on an Agilent 1100 series LC/MSD ion trap mass spectrometer (Agilent Technologies Ltd, Santa Clara, CA, USA). Preparative HPLC was performed on a Shimadzu LC-6AD instrument with a SPD-20A detector, using an

YMC-Pack ODS-A column (250 × 20 mm, 5 μm; YMC, Tokyo, Japan). Column chromatography was performed with silica gel (200–300 mesh, Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc., Qingdao, China) and ODS (50 μm, YMC, Japan). TLC was carried out on plates precoated silica gel GF₂₅₄ (Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc.). Spots were visualized under UV light or by spraying with 10% sulfuric acid in EtOH followed by heating.

3.2. Plant material

The air-dried aerial parts of *Hypericum beanii* were purchased from Kunming, Yunnan Province, China, in August 2017. Prof. Lin Ma was responsible for the identification of the plant. A voucher specimen (No. ID-24237) was deposited in the Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences.

3.3. Extraction and isolation

The air-dried aerial parts of *H. beanni* (30 kg) were extracted by 95% ethanol (150 L × 3 times) under reflux. The crude extract was suspended in H₂O and partitioned with petroleum ether (PE). The PE extract (998.7 g) was separated on a silica gel column (PE/EtOAc, 100:0 to 0:100) to gain 9 fractions (Fr.1-9). Fr.1 (250.0 g) was further purified by chromatography on a diol column, eluting with PE/EtOAc (100:0 to 0:100) to yield 13 fractions (Fr.1.1-Fr.1.13). Fr.1.5 (14.0 g) was fractionated using a Sephadex LH-20 column with PE/CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (5:5:1) as eluent to give 6 fractions (Fr.1.5.1-Fr.1.5.6), Fr.1.5.4 was purified by preparative TLC with PE/CH₂Cl₂ (2:1) to yield **6** (10.0 mg). Fr.1.9 (16.7 g) was fractionated using an ODS column with MeOH/H₂O (80:20 to 100:0) as eluent to give 4 fractions (Fr.1.9.1-Fr.1.9.4), Fr.1.9.4 (9.9 g) was purified by semi-preparative HPLC (MeCN/H₂O, 84:16 to 86:14) to yield **3** (23 mg, *t_R* = 35.3 min), **4** (4 mg, *t_R* = 38.1 min), and **7** (16 mg, *t_R* = 36.8 min). Fr.3 (150.3 g) was purified over MCI column (EtOH/H₂O, 80:20 to 95:5) to yield 9 fractions (Fr.3.1-Fr.3.9). Fr.3.4 (7.2 g) was fractionated using an ODS column with MeOH/H₂O (70:30 to 100:0) as eluent to give 6 fractions (Fr.3.4.1-Fr.3.4.6). Then Fr.3.4.4 (1.5 g) was purified by semi-preparative HPLC (MeOH/H₂O, 92:8 to 96:4) to yield **1** (23 mg, *t_R* = 30.2 min), **2** (16 mg, *t_R* = 32.7 min), **5** (10 mg, *t_R* = 36.4 min).

3.3.1. Hyperbeanin P (**1**)

Colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ −254 (*c* 0.2, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ) 204 (4.52), 248 (4.27) nm; ECD (MeOH) $\Delta\epsilon_{216\text{ nm}} + 3.13$, $\Delta\epsilon_{240\text{ nm}} + 2.22$, $\Delta\epsilon_{258\text{ nm}} - 0.85$, $\Delta\epsilon_{279\text{ nm}} + 5.04$, $\Delta\epsilon_{319\text{ nm}} - 11.86$; IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3498, 2969, 2920, 1715, 1616, 1445, 1376 cm^{−1}; ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data, see Table 1; HRESIMS: *m/z* 585.3563 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₃₈H₄₉O₅, 585.3575).

3.3.2. Hyperbeanin Q (**2**)

Colorless oil; $[\alpha]_D^{25}$ −19.5 (*c* 0.4, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ_{\max} (log ϵ) 204 (3.93), 283 (3.55) nm; ECD (MeOH) $\Delta\epsilon_{278\text{ nm}} - 7.86$, $\Delta\epsilon_{310\text{ nm}} + 3.74$; IR (KBr) ν_{\max} 3347,

Table 3. Hepatoprotective effects of compounds 1–7 (10 μ M) against paracetamol-induced HepG2 cell damage.^a

compound	cell viability (% normal)	Inhibition rate (% of control)
normal	100.0	
control	54.9	
bicyclol	66.1	20.2
1	47.2	–14.0
2	53.4	–2.7
3	57.8	5.3
4	55.1	0.3
5	61.3 ^b	11.7
6	65.8 ^c	19.9
7	55.1	0.3

^aResults are expressed as the means \pm SD ($n = 3$, for normal and control, $n = 6$); bicyclol was used as positive control (10 μ M). ^b $p < 0.05$. ^c $p < 0.01$.

2925, 1615, 1447, 1379 cm^{-1} ; ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data, see Table 1; HRESIMS: m/z 553.3884 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ (calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{53}\text{O}_5$, 553.3888).

3.3.3. Hyperbeanin R (3)

Colorless oil; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 202 (3.91), 251 (4.09) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 2926, 1653, 1614, 1380, 1196 cm^{-1} ; ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data, see Table 1; HRESIMS: m/z 247.2060 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ (calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}$, 247.2056).

3.3.4. Hyperbeanin S (4)

Colorless oil; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 202 (4.01), 251 (4.17) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 3416, 2926, 1724, 1622, 1447, 1223 cm^{-1} ; ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectral data, see Table 1; HRESIMS: m/z 263.2010 $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ (calcd for $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{27}\text{O}_2$, 263.2006).

3.4. Hepatoprotection bioassays (in vitro)

The hepatoprotective effects of compounds 1–7 were determined by a (MTT) colorimetric assay in HepG2 cells. Each cell suspension of 2×10^4 cells in 200 μl of RPMI 1640 containing fetal calf serum (10%), penicillin (100 U/ml), and streptomycin (100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) was placed in a 96-well microplate and pre-cultured for 24 h at 37 $^\circ\text{C}$ under 5% CO_2 atmosphere. Fresh medium (100 μl) containing bicyclol and test samples was added respectively, and the cells were cultured for 1 h. The cultured cells were exposed to 8 mM paracetamol for 24 h. Then, 100 μl of 0.5 mg/ml MTT was added to each well after the withdrawal of the culture medium and incubated for additional 4 h. The resulting formazan was dissolved in 150 μl DMSO after aspiration of the culture medium. The optical density (OD) of the formazan solution was measured on a microplate reader at 570 nm. Percent inhibition was calculated as: Inhibition (%) = $[\text{OD} (\text{sample}) - \text{OD} (\text{control})] / [\text{OD} (\text{normal}) - \text{OD} (\text{control})] \times 100\%$ (Table 3).

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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ORCID

Bo Liu  <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-4755-3828>

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