

Phytochemical and Biological Properties of Sesquiterpene Constituents From the Marine Red Seaweed *Laurencia*: A Review

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Abstract

Laurencia is an important marine red algal genus comprising of approximately 130 taxonomically accepted species. Compounds isolated from *Laurencia* species display a variety of biological activities, viz., antiviral, antibacterial, antifouling, antifungal, antioxidant, antifeedant, antimalarial, anthelmintic, antiasthmatic and cytotoxic activities. Sesquiterpenoids with various classes and skeletons, are the main constituents of this genus. This review article has surveyed the relevant literature on *Laurencia* genus from January 2000 to May 2014 from the phytochemical and pharmacological viewpoints. All sesquiterpene compounds reported from this genus, during the mentioned period, are categorized according to their chemical class and general structural type. More than 200 sesquiterpenes isolated from *Laurencia* red algae are discussed in term of their structural type, occurrence and reported pharmacological activity.

Keywords: *Laurencia*; Sesquiterpenes; Marine algae; Seaweed

Introduction

The genus *Laurencia*, commonly known as red seaweeds, is a marine alga belonging to family Rhodomelaceae [1]. *Laurencia* has been established by JV Lamouroux in 1813, with only 8 species originally recognized. At present ~430 described species are identified, of which 134 are, taxonomically, accepted [2]. Seaweeds of the *Laurencia* genus have a wide geographical distribution and occur in all oceans and seas at all attitudes particularly in temperate to tropical shores constituting a considerable part of the flora [3]. It is estimated that over 60 species throughout the world have been investigated and more than 700 compounds possessing unique structural features have already been isolated from red algae of genus *Laurencia* [4]. In particular, species of *Laurencia* are known to be the richest producers of halogenated secondary metabolites with diverse and unique structural features depending on species, localities and season [5]. *Laurencia* species produce bromine-containing compounds in much larger numbers than either chlorine- or iodine-containing ones whereas, the Cl-containing compounds usually also possess Br atom(s) [6]. A large number of these compounds have been obtained from *Laurencia* species having an intracellular, membrane-bound vesicles known as "corps en cerise" (cherry bodies) in the outer cell layer (the cortical layer) where, these inclusions are considered as a synthesis and/or storage sites of halogenated secondary metabolites [7]. On the other hand, *Laurencia* species without "corps en cerise" does not produce any halometabolites [8].

Laurencia chemistry is dominated by the presence of sesquiterpenes which are the most abundant members in the terpenoid groups isolated from this genus, with relatively fewer reports of diterpenoids, triterpenoids, steroids, alkaloids and C15 acetogenins [9]. Many of these compounds which exhibit significant ecological role as anti-epibiosis [10] are also reported to possess a variety of biological effects, such as cytotoxic activity against various cancer cell lines [11,12], antiviral, antibacterial, antifouling, antifungal, antioxidant, antimalarial, anthelmintic, antiasthmatic, antifeedant and other activities [13-19].

More than 200 sesquiterpenoidal metabolites, isolated from *Laurencia*, will be discussed, in term of their occurrence, structural type and reported pharmacological activity and presented in an order based on their general structural type. Table 1 summarizes the taxonomical position of genus *Laurencia*. On the other hand, alphabetical listing of all cited species with the corresponding compounds isolated from each and the related references is presented in Table 2.

Sesquiterpene Constituents of Genus *Laurencia*

The genus *Laurencia* is the most attractive source of sesquiterpenes among all marine macroalgae. It has a remarkable capacity to biosynthesize a huge variety of structurally diverse sesquiterpenes, with varied skeletons including chamigrane, bisabolane, laurane, snyderane brasilane along with some unique rearranged derivatives occurring prevalently [20,21] (Table 1).

Chamigrane Skeleton Sesquiterpenes

Spirane type sesquiterpenes –chamigranes– are the most widespread sesquiterpenes from the genus *Laurencia*. Over the last twenty years, large number of structurally novel chamigrane metabolites has been isolated from *Laurencia* [21]. In 1970, a brominated ketone spirolaurenone (1), was the first reported chamigrane sesquiterpene; obtained from the neutral essential oil of *Laurencia glandulifera* (Japan) [22]. The Chinese *L. okamurai*, collected from the coast of Rongcheng, China, was the source of laurokamin A (2), laurokamin B (3), laurokamin C (4), 10-bromo- α -chamigrane (5), 10-bromo- β -chamigrane (6), 2,10-dibromo-3-chloro- β -chamigrane (7), and obtusane (8) [23]. Compounds 6, 7 (named as nidificene) and 8 were earlier described from *L. mariannensis*, in addition to (-)-(10R)-

Domain	Eukaryota
Kingdom	plantae
Subkingdom	Biliphyta
Phylum	Rhodophyta
Subphylum	Rhodophytina
Class	Floriideophyceae
Order	Ceramiales
Family	Rhodomelaceae
Genus	<i>Laurencia</i>

Table 1: Taxonomical Position of *Laurencia*.

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Species	Sesquiterpene constituents	Reference
<i>L. aldingensis</i>	aldingenins A–D (75-78)	[63,64]
<i>L. cartilaginea</i>	isorigidol (46), ma'ilione (49)	[50]
<i>L. composita</i>	laurecomins A-D (16-19), 2,10-dibromo-3-chloro-7-chamigren-9-ol acetate (20), deoxyprepacifenol (21), 2-bromospironipol (22), laurencoposidiene (23), (8 β)-10-bromo-3-chloro-2,7-epoxychamigr-9-en-8-ol (24), 2-bromo-3-chlorobisabola-7(14),11-diene-6,10-diol (72), 1-bromoselin-4(14),11-diene (150) and 9-bromoselin-4(14),11-diene (151)	[29-32]
<i>L. dendroidea</i>	dendroidone (51), dendroidiol (52), (205)	[53,110]
<i>L. glandulifera</i>	spirolaurenone (1), laurene (90)	[22,70]
<i>L. gracilis</i>	isolaurenisol, (132) reported from	[85]
<i>L. elata</i>	Elatol (25), cycloelatanene A (27) and B (28)	[33,40]
<i>L. filiformis</i>	Prepacifenol (41), 5-acetoxy-2,10-dibromo-3-chloro-7,8-epoxy- α -chamigrene (42), cycloisoallolaurinterol (125) isoallolaurinterol (126), filiformin (127), filiforminol (128), allolaurinterol (129), 10-bromolaurenisol (130)	[48,82]
<i>L. luzonensis</i>	luzonensin (157), luzonenone (158), luzofuran (159), 3,4-epoxypalisadin B (160), 1,2-dehydro-3,4-epoxypalisadin B (161) and 15-hydroxypalisadin A (162), 3R*, 4S*-luzonolone (165), 3S*, 4R*-luzonolone (166), luzondiol (167), luzonenone 168, 169, aplylistatin (170), palisadin B (172), palisadin A (173), aplylistatin (170), (3Z,6E)-1-bromo-2-hydroxy-3,7,11-trimethyldodeca-3,6,10-triene (200), isopalisol (201), luzonensol (202), luzonensol acetate (203)	[95,96,98]
<i>L. microcladia</i>	Elatol (25), hydroxy- β -bisabolene, (66), compounds 84–86 laurokamurenes A (87) and B (88), (134-137), 8-cycloeudesmane (148), calenzanol (176), debromoisocalenzanol (177), (178)	[34,60,67,68] [91,102,103]
<i>L. majuscula</i>	Elatol (25), Isoobtusal (26), 8-bromochamigren-1-en (29), (6R,9R,10S)-10-bromo-9-hydroxychamigra-2,7(14)-diene (30), majapolene B (197), majapolene A (198)	[8,41,108]
<i>L. mariannensis</i>	10-bromo- β -chamigrene (6), 2,10-dibromo-3-chloro- β -chamigrene (7), and obtusane (8), (-)-(10R)-bromo- α -chamigrene (9), 9-deoxyelatalol (34), deschloroelatalol (35), 36, 37, isoafrikanol (189), isodactyloxene A (190)	[24,105]
<i>L. nipponica</i>	laurene (90)	[70]
<i>L. obtusa</i>	Isoobtusal (26), chamigrenelactone (31), oxachamigrene (32) and 5-acetoxyoxachamigrene (33), 12-hydroxy isolaurene (93), isolaurelaldehyde (94), 8,11-dihydro-12-hydroxy isolaurene (95), 3,7-dihydroxydihydro-laurene (138), (139), (141–143), brasilenol (144), epibrasilenol (145), (146), β -snyderol (152), (8R*)-8-bromo-10-epi- β -snyderol (154) (8S*)-8-bromo- β -snyderol (155), (179-182), perforonone D (183), perforatone (184), perforonol B (185), bromocyclococanol (186), 5-bromo-3-(3'-hydroxy-3'-methylpent-4'-enylidene)-2,4,4-trimethylcyclohexanone (187), (188)	[16,35,42,43] [72,86,87,93] [104]
<i>L. okamurai</i>	laurokamin A (2), laurokamin B (3), laurokamin C (4), 10-bromo- α -chamigrene (5), 10-bromo- β -chamigrene (6), 2,10-dibromo-3-chloro- β -chamigrene (7), and obtusane (8), 10-bromo-7 α ,8 α -epoxychamigr-1-en-3-ol (10) and 10-bromo- β -chamigren-8-ol (11), Okamurene E (12), (13) and (14), laurenokamurin (15), (5S)-5-acetoxy- β -bisabolene (67), okamurenes A–D (79-82), 10-bromo-3-chlorocupar-5-en-2-ol (83), laurokamurene D (89), laurene (90), 7-hydroxy-laurene (92), laureperoxide (96), 10-bromoisoplysin (97), isodebromolaurinterol (98) 10-hydroxyisolaurene (99) aplysinol (100), isoplysin (101), debromolaurinterol (102), debromolaurinterol acetate (103), laurinterol acetate (104), debromoisolaurinterol acetate (105) and isolaurinterol acetate (106), laurentistich-4-ol (112), laurepoxyene (121), 3 β -hydroperoxyaplysin (122), 3 α -hydroperoxy-3-epiaplysin (123), 8,10-dibromoisoplysin (124), allolaurinterol acetate (131), 3 β -hydroxyaplysin (133), seco-laurokamurone (199)	[23,25, 26,28,61] [68,71,73-75] [78,84,88]
<i>L. pannosa</i>	pannosanol (43), pannosane (44)	[49]
<i>L. perforata</i>	4-hydroxy-1,8-epi-isotenerone (191), 9-hydroxy-3-epi-perforenone A (192), 3-epi-perforenone (193)	[106]
<i>L. rigida</i>	9-deoxyelatalol (34), deschloroelatalol (35)	[13]
<i>L. saitoi</i>	10-bromo-3-chloro-2,7-epoxychamigr-9-en-8 α -ol (38), 2,10 β -dibromochamigra-2,7-dien-9 α -ol (39), 2,10-dibromo-3-chlorochamigr-7-en-9 α -ol (40), (9S)-2-bromo-3-chloro-6,9-epoxybisabola-7(14),10-diene (73) and (9R)-2-bromo-3-chloro-6,9-epoxybisabola-7(14),10-diene (74), isolaurenisol, (132), 2-hydroxyluzofuranone A (163), 2-hydroxyluzofuranone B (164), acetoxypalisadin B (174), 4-hydroxypalisadin C (175), 2-bromo- γ -ionone (204)	[45, 46,97,101]
<i>L. scoparia</i>	Scopariol (45), isorigidol (46) (+)-3-(Z)-bromomethylidene-10 β -bromo- β -chamigrene, (-)-3-(E)-bromomethylidene-10 β -bromo- β -chamigrene (47, 48) (69–71)	[17,62]
<i>L. similis</i>	aristolane (53), aristolan-10-ol-9-one (54), aristolan-8-en-1-one (55), aristol-1(10)-en-9-one (56), (9 β)-aristol-1(10)-en-9-ol (57), aristol-1(10),8-diene (58) aristol-1,9-diene (59) aristolan-1 α -bromo-9 β ,10 β -epoxide (60), aristol-9(10)-en-8-one (aristolone) (61), ent-1(10)-aristolen-9 β -ol (62), (+)-aristolone (63), axinysonone B (64) and 9-aristolen-1 β -ol (65), (4E)-1-bromo-5-[(1'S*,3'R*)-3'-bromo-2',2'-dimethyl-6'-methylene-cyclohexyl]-3-methylpent-4-ene-2,3-diol (156)	[55,56,58] [94]
<i>L. subopposita</i>	7-hydroxy-laurene (92)	[71]
<i>L. snackeyi</i>	Aplylistatin (170), 5 β -hydroxypalisadin B (171)	[99,100]
<i>L. snyderae</i>	β -snyderol (153)	[93]
<i>L. tristicha</i>	ar-bisabol-9-en-7,11-diol (68), laur-11-en-2,10-diol (107), laur-11-en-10-ol (108), laur-11-en-1,10-diol (109), 4-bromo-1,10-epoxylaur-11-ene (110), cyclolauren-2-ol (111) and laurentistich-4-ol (112), aplysin (113), aplysinol (100), laurebiphenyl (114), aplysin-9-ene (115), epiaplysinol (116), debromoepiaplysinol (117), -bromolaur-11-en-1,10 β -diol (118), 4-bromolaur-11-en-1,10 α -diol (119), laur-11-en-1,10 α -diol (120)	[12,77,79,81]
<i>Laurencia sp.</i>	Ma'iliohydriin (50), 8, 10-dibromo-3, 7-epoxy- laur-13-ol (140), Tiomanene (194), acetylmajapolene B (195), acetylmajapolene A (196)	[52,57,107]

Table 2: Sesquiterpene constituents isolated from the species of genus *Laurencia*.

bromo- α -chamigrene (9) [24]. Furthermore, 10-bromo-7 α ,8 α -epoxychamigr-1-en-3-ol (10) and 10-bromo- β -chamigren-8-ol (11) were isolated from another collection of the Chinese *L. okamurai* [25].

L. okamurai, collected along Weihai coastline in Shandong Province, China yielded okamurene E (12) [26]. On the other hand, compounds (13) and (14) were isolated as a 1:1 diastereoisomeric mixture from *L.*

okamura (Qingdao, China) [27]. The same species, *L. okamurai*, was also the source of the rearranged chamigrane laurenokamurin (15) [28]. *L. composita* collected from Pingtan Island, China yielded laurecomins A-D (16-19), 2,10-dibromo-3-chloro-7-chamigran-9-ol acetate (20) and the known compound, deoxyrepacifenol (21) [29]. Compounds 16 and 17 displayed potent brine shrimp toxicity with LC₅₀ values of 51.1 and 37.0, µg/mL, respectively. Additionally, compound 17 was active against the plant-pathogenic fungus *Colletotrichum lagenarium* with an inhibitory diameter of 10 mm [30]. Another Chinese *L. composita* sample (Nanji Is.) afforded 2-bromospironippol (22) and laurencomposidiene (23) (named as laurencomposene elsewhere in the same paper). The authors suggested that the occurrence of rearranged chamigranes in *L. composita* but not in *L. okamurai* could provide a useful chemotaxonomic marker to distinguish these two similar species [31]. However, several rearranged chamigranes were reported, later, from *L. okamurai* [26]. In 2010, a *L. composita* sample collected from the same area contained (8β)-10-bromo-3-chloro-2,7-epoxychamigr-9-en-8-ol (24) [32]. Elatol (25), isolated for the first time from *L. elata* in 1974 [33], was obtained in high yield of ca. 10% (w/w) from the ethanolic extract of *L. microcladia* [34]. Isoobtusol (26), described originally from *L. obtusa* [35], was isolated together with elatol (25) from *L. majuscula* in waters of Sabah, Malaysia and both compounds 25 and 26 were found to be active against some marine bacteria [8]. Vairappan et al. reported significant antibacterial activity for compound 25 against *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Klebsiella pneumonia* and *Salmonella* sp, whereas, isoobtusol was significantly active against *K. pneumonia* and *Salmonella* sp. Further tests indicated that both compounds were bacteriostatic rather than bactericidal [36]. Elatol showed potent antiproliferative activity against promastigote and intracellular amastigote forms of *Leishmania amazonensis*, with an IC₅₀ of 4.0 µM and 0.45 µM, respectively [37]. Recently, Desoti et al. reported the effective trypanocidal activity of (-)-elatol, extracted from *L. dendroidea*, against *Trypanosoma cruzi*. The mechanism of action was also investigated and discussed thoroughly [38]. Moreover, *in-vitro* and *in-vivo* experiments suggested that elatol acted as anti-tumor agent, against HeLa and Hep-2 human carcinoma cell lines, by activating the apoptotic process [39]. The Australian *L. elata* yielded two C16 chamigranes, named cycloelatanene A (27) and B (28) [40]. *L. majuscula* collected from the South China Sea was the source of 8-bromo-chamigran-1-en (29) [41], while *L. majuscula* from Okinawa was the source of (6R,9R,10S)-10-bromo-9-hydroxychamigran-2,7(14)-diene (30) in a first report of this compound from a natural source. Compound 30 showed activity against *Alcaligenes aqua-marinus*, *Azomonas agilis*, *Erwinia amylovora*, and *Escherichia coli* with MIC values in the range of 20–30 µg/disk [8]. A biogenetically interesting halogen-devoid metabolite chamigranelactone (31), with a high oxygen-content, has been isolated from *L. obtusa* from Isla Grande (Caribbean Panama) [42]. Two sesquiterpenes with an oxacyclic chamigrane skeleton, oxachamigrane (32) and 5-acetoxyoxachamigrane (33), were isolated from a Cuban *L. obtusa* sample [43]. In 2007, Ji et al. reported the isolation of 9-deoxyelatol (34), deschloroelatol (35); and compounds 36 and 37 from *L. mariannensis* [24]. Compounds 34 and 35 were obtained, previously, from *L. rigida* (Hainan and Weizhou Islands, China) [13], while compounds 36 and 37 were reported in 1982 as intermediates in a biomimetic synthetic study of rhodolauriol and rhodolauradiol [44].

In 2009, *L. saitoi* (Shandong Province, China) yielded 10-bromo-3-chloro-2,7-epoxychamigr-9-en-8α-ol (38) and 2,10β-dibromo-chamigran-2,7-dien-9α-ol (39), in addition to the known compound 2,10-dibromo-3-chlorochamigr-7-en-9α-ol (40) [45,46]. Repacifenol (41), originally described from a *Laurencia* sp. [47], and

its acetate derivative, 5-acetoxy-2,10-dibromo-3-chloro-7,8-epoxy-α-chamigrane (42), were isolated from *L. filiformis* collected from Taroona, Tasmania. An X-ray analysis was reported for Prepacifenol and its NMR spectra were fully assigned for the first time. Both compounds exhibited moderate activity in the brine shrimp bioassay [48]. *L. pannosa* from Malaysia was the source of two halogenated chamigranes with unusual rearranged framework named pannosanol (43) and pannosane (44). Both compounds showed antibacterial activities [49]. The rearranged chamigrane Scopariol (45), the β-chamigrane isorigidol (46) and the geometric isomers (+)-3-(Z)-bromomethylidene-10 β -bromo- β -chamigrane and (-)-3-(E)-bromomethylidene-10 β -bromo- β -chamigrane (47, 48) were reported from *L. scoparia* collected in Brazilian waters. Compound 46 and ma'ilione (49), previously isolated from *L. cartilaginea* [50] exhibited moderate *in vitro* anthelmintic activity against the parasitic stage of *Nippostrongylus brasiliensis* [17]. From *L. scoparia* and in a separate report, Suescun et al. isolated and established the absolute stereochemistry of isorigidol (46) and ma'ilione (49) by an X-ray crystal as (3R,6S,9S,10S) and (6S,9R,10S) respectively [51]. Ma'iliohydrin (50), a cytotoxic tribrominated chamigrane with dibromohydrin functionality from a *Laurencia* sp. (Philippines) exhibited cytotoxicity in the NCI 60-cell line human tumour screen and potent activity against the NCI/ADR-RES breast cancer cell line [52]. Recently, dendroidone (51) and dendroidiol (52) were isolated from the Brazilian species *L. dendroidea* collected at Biscaia Inlet, Rio de Janeiro [53] (Figure 1).

Aristolane Skeleton Sesquiterpenes

The aristolane sesquiterpenes, derivatives of 6,11-cycloeremophilanes, are mainly reported from the species *L. similis*. A Chinese sample of *L. similis* (Hainan Is., China) yielded aristolane (53), formerly known as a synthetic compound [54], from a natural source for the first time. In addition, aristolan-10-ol-9-one (54), aristolan-8-en-1-one (55), aristol-1(10)-en-9-one (56), 9 β -aristol-1(10)-en-9-ol (57), aristol-1(10),8-diene (58) and aristol-1,9-diene (59) were also isolated and identified [55]. In 2010, Li et al. obtained aristolan-1α-bromo-9β, 10β-epoxide (60) and aristol-9(10)-en-8-one (aristolone) (61) from the same species [56]. A former report published in the same year, 2010, established the isolation of 61 from *Laurencia* for the first time [57]. Recently, a Bornean *L. similis* population yielded *ent*-1(10)-aristolen-9 β -ol (62) as a new optical isomer of compound 57, in addition to (+)-aristolone (63), axinysonone B (64) and 9-aristolen-1 β -ol (65) [58] (Figure 2).

Bisabolane Skeleton Sesquiterpenes

The bisabolane skeleton develops from the cyclization of the geranyl cation and results in the formation of a monocyclic ring structure [59]. In 2007, *L. microcladia* (Chios Is., North Aegean Sea) afforded the hydroxyl derivative of β-bisabolene, (66) [60], while, (5S)-5-acetoxy-β-bisabolene (67), was isolated, recently, from *L. okamurai* Yamada [61]. *L. tristicha* (Naozhou Island, China) yielded *ar*-bisabol-9-en-7,11-diol (68) [12]. On the other hand, *L. scoparia* (São Paulo, Brazil) was the source of compounds (69–71). The confirmation of the structure and the absolute configuration of all stereo centers of 69 were proved by single-crystal X-ray crystallography. Compound 69 exhibited weak *in vitro* anthelmintic activity against *Nippostrongylus brasiliensis* [62]. *L. composita* from Nanji Is., China contained 2-bromo-3-chlorobisabola-7(14),11-diene-6,10-diol (72) [32], while, *L. saitoi* (Shandong Province, China) yielded (9S)-2-bromo-3-chloro-6,9-epoxybisabola-7(14),10-diene (73) and (9R)-2-bromo-3-chloro-6,9-epoxybisabola-7(14),10-diene (74) as an inseparable 1 : 1 mixture [46]. Biogenetic considerations were useful to assign the novel oxacyclic

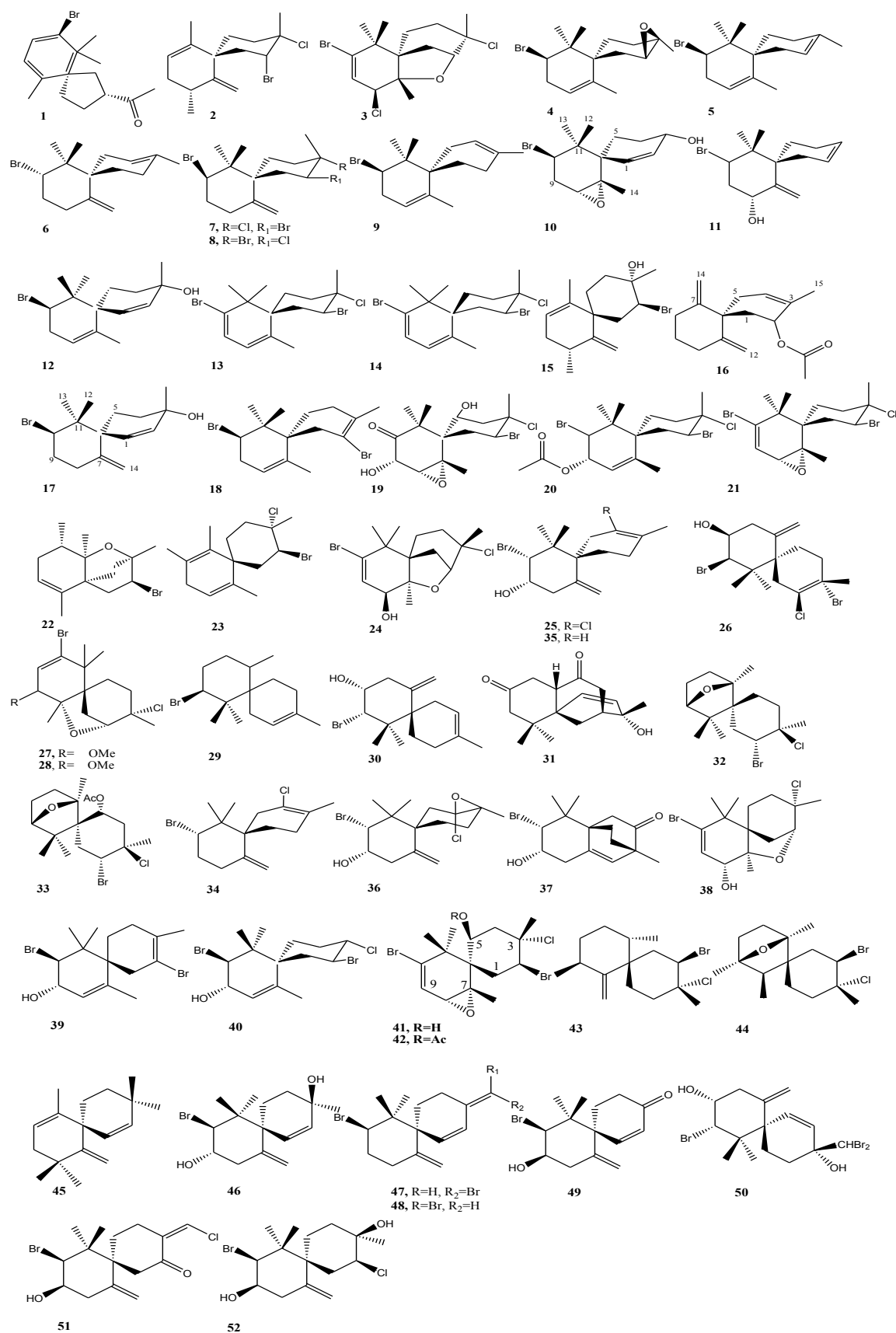


Figure 1: Chamigrane sesquiterpenes from *Laurencia*.

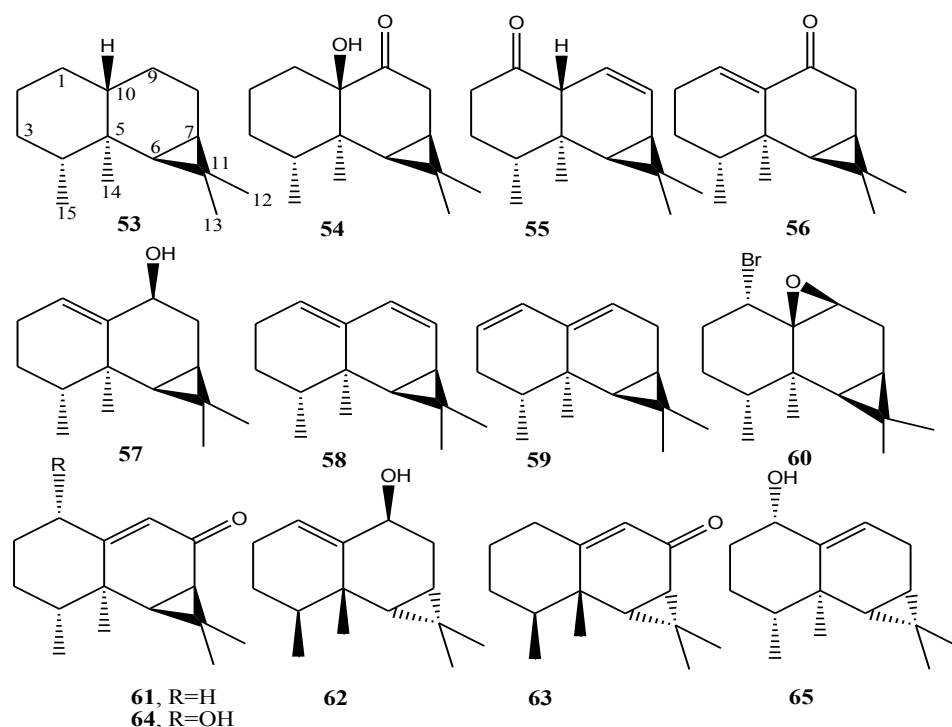


Figure 2: Aristolane sesquiterpenes from *t*

bisabolene-type structures of aldingenins A–D (75–78), isolated from *L. aldingensis* (Castelhanos, Brazil) [63,64]. The okamurenes A–D (79–82) were isolated from *L. okamurai*, whereas, okamurenes A (79) and B (80) were the first examples of bromobisabolanes possessing a phenyl moiety among sesquiterpenes derived from *Laurencia* as claimed by the authors. The isolated compounds displayed potent cytotoxicity when evaluated in the brine shrimp lethal assay [26] (Figure 3).

Cuparane Skeleton Sesquiterpenes

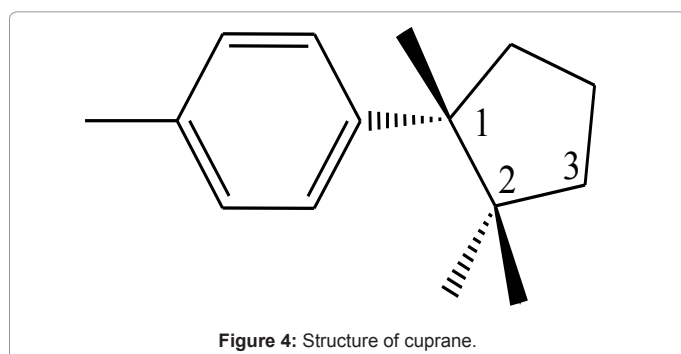
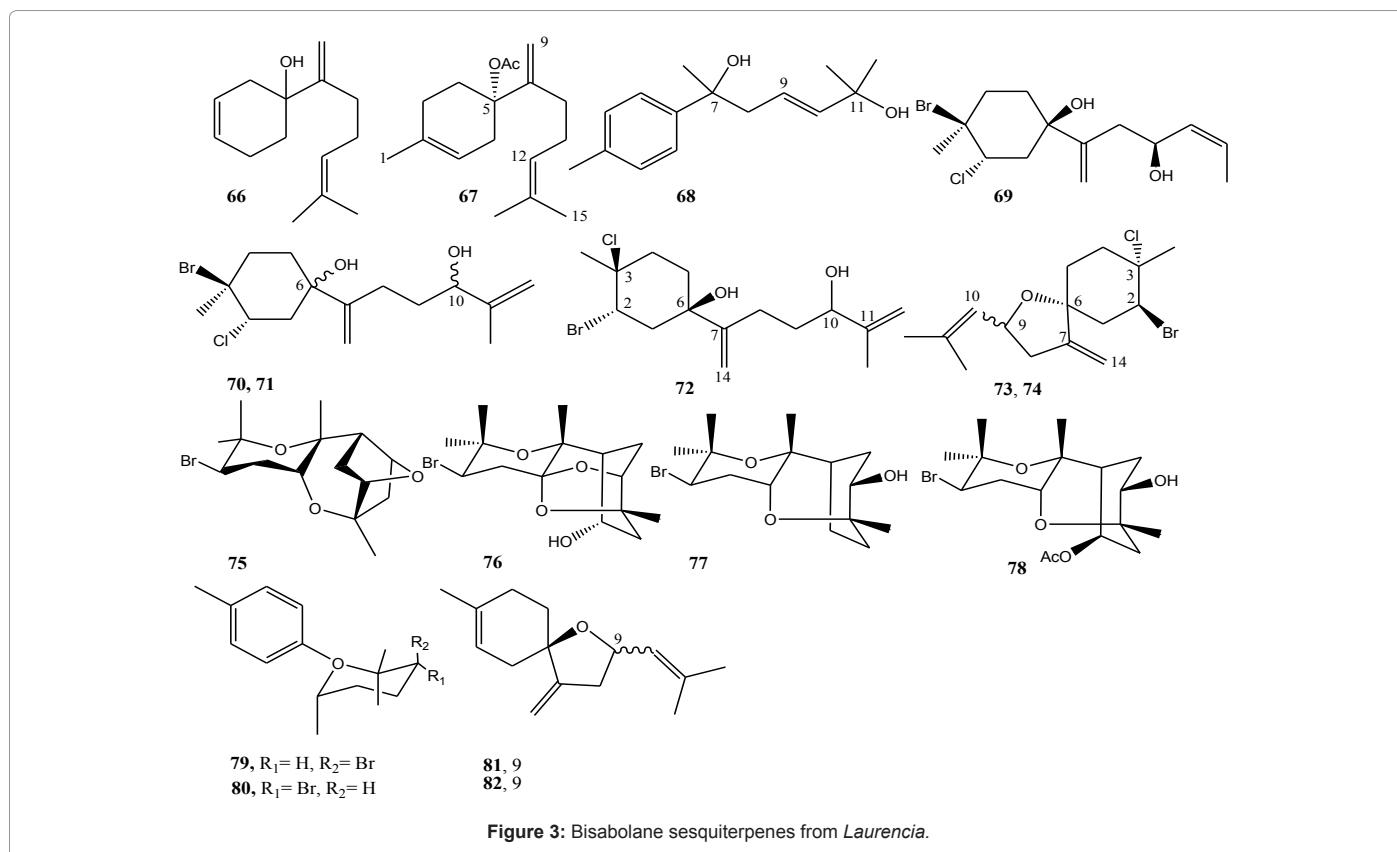
Cuparane skeleton is formed by cyclisation between carbons 6 and 11 of the bisabolane skeleton. In cuparane-type compounds, the three methyls in the aliphatic portion are located at positions 1, 2 and 2 [65]. In addition to marine organisms, cuparanes are found in liverworts and higher plants [66] (Figure 4).

L. okamurai, collected from the coast of Rongcheng, China, yielded 10-bromo-3-chlorocupar-5-en-2-ol (83) [25]. It is notable that most of the cuparane sesquiterpenes isolated from seaweeds have an aromatic ring such as compounds 84–86, isolated from the Greek *L. microcladia*, collected at Chios Island in the North Aegean Sea. A strong cytotoxic activity was recognized for compounds 84–86 against NSCLC-N6 and A-549 lung cancer cell lines. Compound 85 showed a unique (for the cuparane class of sesquiterpenes) migration of the C-1 methyl group. The authors speculated that the aromatic hydroxyl group increased the cytotoxicity observed in compounds 85 and 86 [67]. Later on, laurokamurenes A (87) and B (88), were isolated from *L. okamurai* (Nanji Is., China) [68]. In 2007, total synthesis of the (±)-laurokamurene B (88) was completed, employing a combination of the Ireland–Claisen rearrangement and ring-closing metathesis reactions [69]. Lately, laurokamurene D (89) was isolated from *L. okamurai* Yamada [61] (Figure 5).

Laurane Skeleton Sesquiterpenes

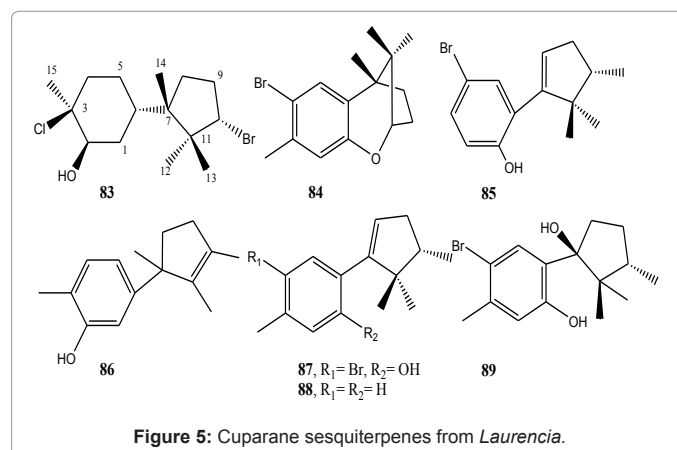
In Laurane-type compounds, contrary to the cuparanes, the three methyls in the aliphatic portion are located at positions 1, 2 and 3. *Laurencia* is considered the main producer of laurane-type sesquiterpenes among marine organisms in general [65]. The Chinese *L. okamurai* collected from the coast of Rongcheng, yielded laurene (90), originally isolated from *L. glandulifera* and *L. nipponica* [70], and 7-hydroxylaurane acetate (91). Compound 90 exhibited potent antibacterial activity and lethal toxicity to brine shrimp [25]. However, 7-hydroxylaurane (92) was reported in 1977 as novel compound from *L. subopposita* and *L. okamurai* [71]. The compounds 12-hydroxy isolaurane (93), isolauraldehyde (94) and 8,11-dihydro-12-hydroxy isolaurane (95), isolated from *L. obtusa*, exhibited potent activity against the gram-positive *Bacillus subtilis* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, with 94 being the most active (MIC of 35 and 27 µg/mL, respectively). Compound 94 showed, also, significant activity against *Candida albicans* (MIC of 70 µg/mL) and promising *in vitro* activity against Ehrlich ascites carcinoma [72].

In 2005, the Chinese *L. okamurai* (Nanji Island) yielded laureperoxide (96), 10-bromoisoaplysin (97), isodebromolaurinterol (98) and 10-hydroxyisolaurane (99) as new compounds together with seven previously reported and related sesquiterpenes; aplysinol (100), isoaplysin (101), debromolaurinterol (102), debromolaurinterol acetate (103), laurinterol acetate (104), debromoisolaurinterol acetate (105) and isolaurinterol acetate (106) [73–75]. In the same year, 2005, *L. tristicha* (Naozhou Island, China) was the source of laur-11-en-2,10-diol (107), laur-11-en-10-ol (108), laur-11-en-1,10-diol (109), 4-bromo-1,10-epoxylaur-11-ene (110), previously reported as a synthetic racemate [76], cyclolauren-2-ol (111) and laurentristich-4-ol (112), along with the formerly known compounds aplysin (113), aplysinol (100), and the dimeric cyclolaurane sesquiterpene laurebiphenyl (114)



[77,12]. Compound **112**, having a novel rearranged cyclolaurane skeleton was also reported recently from *L. okamurai* [78]. Compound **114** exhibited moderate cytotoxicity against several human cancer cell lines, while all other compounds were inactive [12]. The Chinese species *L. tristicha* produced aplysin-9-ene (**115**), epiaplysinol (**116**) and debromoepiaplysinol (**117**). Compound **117** displayed selective cytotoxicity to the HeLa cell line [79]. Another collection of *L. tristicha* (Shanwei, Guangdong Province, China) yielded the stereoisomers 4-bromolaur-11-en-1,10 β -diol (**118**) and 4-bromolaur-11-en-1,10 β -diol (**119**), along with the known laur-11-en-1,10 β -diol (**120**), but reported for the first time as a natural product [80,81].

A Chinese collection of *L. okamurai* (Nanji island) yielded laurepoxylene (**121**), 3 β -hydroperoxyaplysin (**122**), 3 β -hydroperoxy-3-epiaplysin (**123**) and 8,10-dibromoisoaplysin (**124**) [61]. The Australian *L. filiformis* (St. Paul's Beach, Australia) produced cycloisallolaurinterol (**125**) and isallolaurinterol (**126**) as new compounds, along with the previously reported filiformin (**127**),



filiforminol (**128**), allolaurinterol (**129**) and 10-bromolaurenisol (**130**) [82]. The authors suggested that both **125** and **126** are formed as artefacts from compound **129** [83]. The previously reported allolaurinterol acetate (**131**) [84] was isolated again in 2012 from *L. okamurai* [25], while, isolaurenisol, (**132**) previously reported from *L. gracilis* [85] was obtained in 2009 from *L. saitoi* [46]. 3 β -hydroxyaplysin (**133**) was isolated from *L. okamurai* (Nanji Is., China) [68] while, *L. microcladia* (Chios Is., North Aegean Sea) provided the aromatic sesquiterpenes (**134-136**) and the dimeric brominated sesquiterpene **137** [60]. The organic extract of *L. obtusa*, collected from Serifos in the Aegean Sea afforded 3,7-dihydroxydihydrolaurene (**138**) and (**139**). Both compounds showed weak cytotoxic activity against five human tumour cell lines [86]. On the other hand, a *Laurencia* sp. collected from South

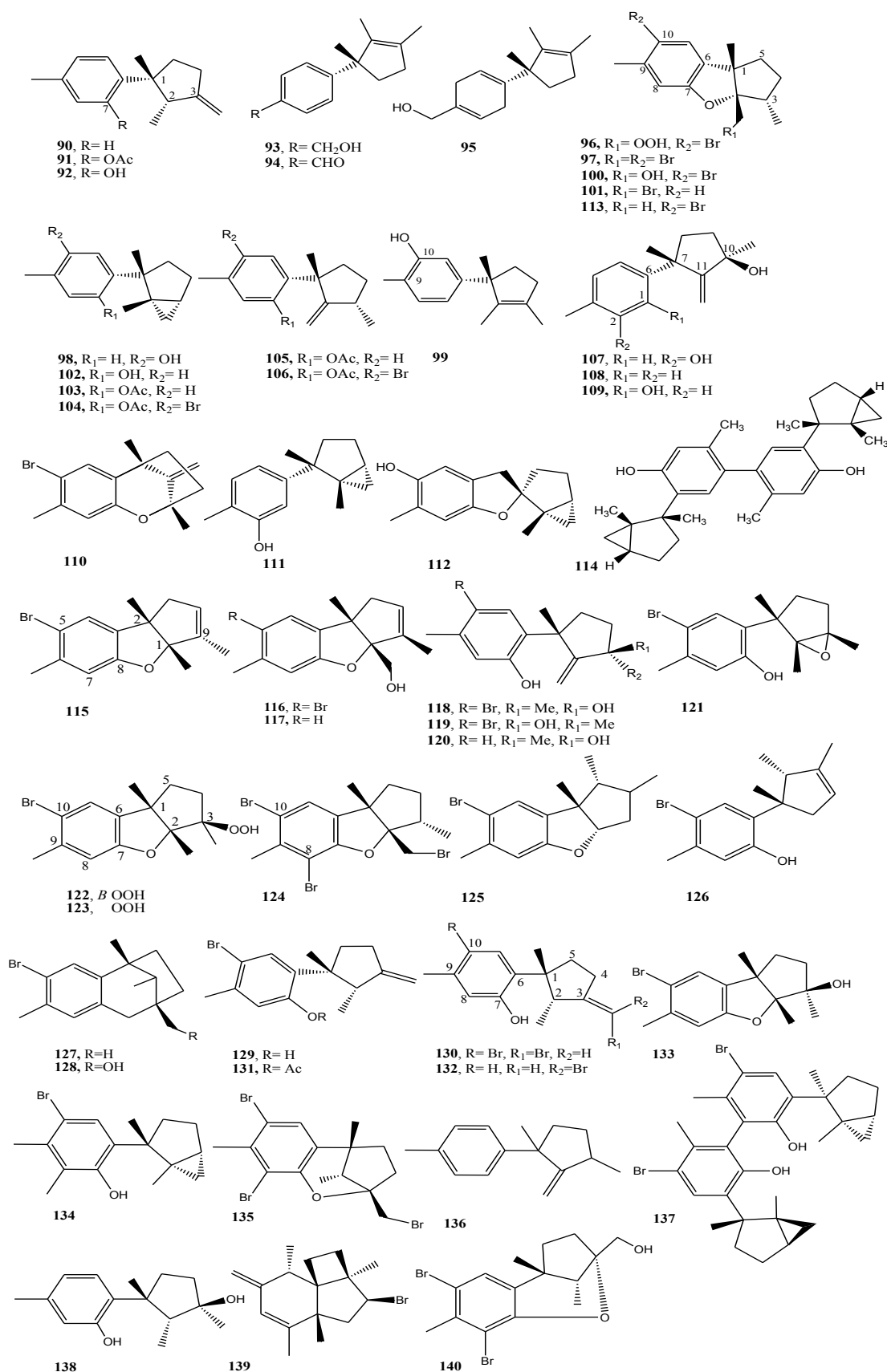


Figure 6: Laurane sesquiterpenes from *Laurencia*.

China Sea was the source of 8, 10-dibromo-3, 7-epoxy- laur-13-ol (**140**) [57] (Figure 6).

Brasilane Skeleton Sesquiterpenes

Brasilane skeleton has the basic structure of octahydro-1,6,6-trimethyl-4-(1-methyl)-1*H*-indene [65]. The rearranged halogenated compounds, with the unique 1,6-epoxy brasilane moiety (**141–143**) had been isolated; along with the known compounds brasilenol (**144**) and epibrasilenol (**145**) from *L. obtusa* collected off Syri Island in the Aegean Sea, Greece. Relative stereochemistries of all compounds were determined by molecular modeling [87]. *L. obtusa* (Tekirova, Turkey) produced also new brasilane-type sesquiterpene with the systemic name 2-Chloro-4-isopropyl-1,6,6-trimethylhexahydro-1*H*-indene-1,3 β ,7 β -triol (**146**) [88] (Figure 7).

Eudesmane (selinane) Skeleton Sesquiterpenes

Eudesmane-type sesquiterpenes, formerly referred to as selinanes, have been recognized from several terrestrial and marine organisms and occasionally encountered from *Laurencia* [89]. Heterocladol (**147**) was the first example of a sesquiterpene with a selinane skeleton reported from *Laurencia* species and its structure was rationalized in terms of a trans-annular ring closure of a germacradiene [90]. *L. microcladia*, collected in the Baia di Calenzana, Elba Island, was the source of 8-cycloeudesmane (**148**), the first eudesmane sesquiterpene to be isolated from a marine origin [90]. In the same year, 2002, itomanol (**149**), was isolated from *L. intricata* collected in Okinawan waters [91]. In 2012, the brominated selinanes, 1-bromoselin-4(14),11-diene (**150**) and 9-bromoselin-4(14),11-diene (**151**), isolated from

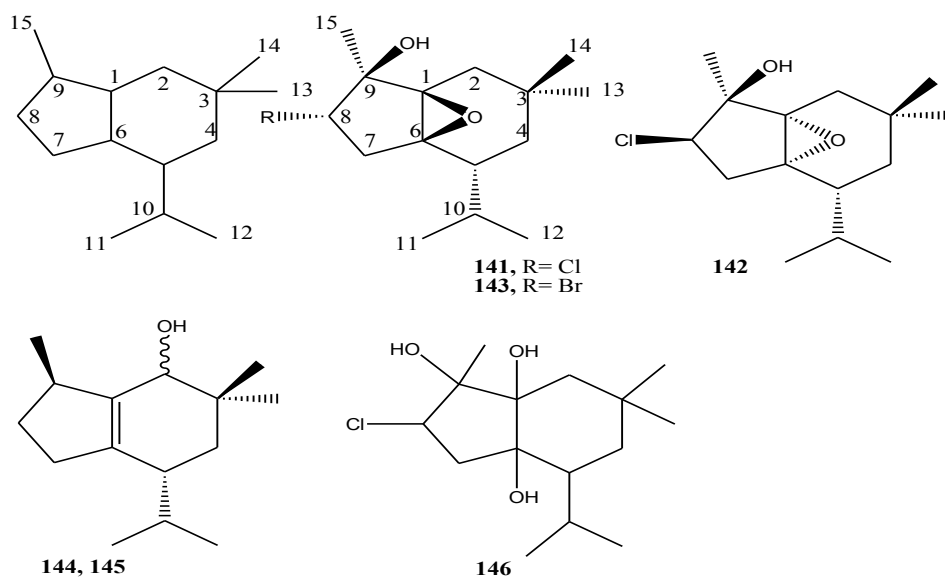


Figure 7: Brasilane sesquiterpenes from *Laurencia*.

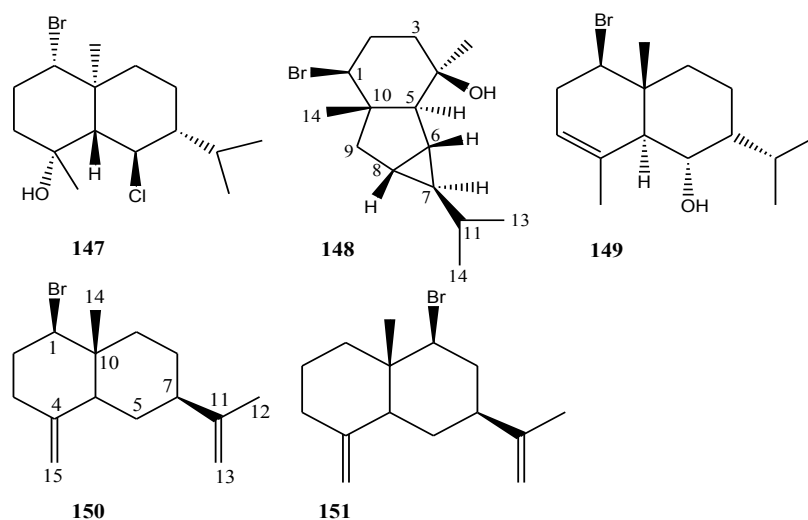


Figure 8: Eudesmane sesquiterpenes from *Laurencia*.

L. composita (Pingtan Island, China) displayed potent brine shrimp toxicity with LC_{50} of 15.2 and 78.7 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively [30] (Figure 8).

Snyderane Skeleton Sesquiterpenes

The snyderane sesquiterpenes are bromo monocyclo-nerolidol derivatives. β -snyderol (**152**) and β -snyderol (**153**) were the first reported compounds having this skeleton from collections of *L. obtusa* and *L. snyderae*, respectively [92]. (8*R*^{*})-8-bromo-10-*epi*- β -snyderol (**154**) and (8*S*^{*})-8-bromo- β -snyderol (**155**) were isolated from *L. obtusa* collected from Bademli, Turkey. Compound **154** was active against D6 and W2 clones of the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum* [16].

(4*E*)-1-bromo-5-[(1*S*^{*},3*R*^{*})-3'-bromo-2',2'-dimethyl-6'-methylene-cyclohexyl]-3-methylpent-4-ene-2,3-diol (**156**) was isolated from *L. similis* (Sanya Bay, China) [93], while luzonensin (**157**) [94], luzonenone (**158**), luzofuran (**159**), 3,4-epoxypalisadin B (**160**), 1,2-dehydro-3,4-epoxypalisadin B (**161**) and 15-hydroxypalisadin

(**162**) were obtained from *L. luzonensis*, from Okinawan waters [95]. The ethanolic extract of the Chinese *L. saitoi* (Hainan coastline) yielded 2-hydroxyluzofuranone A (**163**) and 2-hydroxyluzofuranone B (**164**) [96]. Another collection of the Okinawan *L. luzonensis*, a rich source of snyderane sesquiterpenes, afforded 3*R*^{*}, 4*S*^{*}-luzonolone (**165**), 3*S*^{*}, 4*R*^{*}-luzonolone (**166**), luzondiol (**167**), luzonenone (**158**) and the two isomeric compounds **168** and **169**, beside the known compound, alyssistatin (**170**). The authors suggested that compounds **168** and **169** were the first non-halogenated compounds, from the *Laurencia* genus, with a rearranged snyderane skeleton, as a result of a 1,2 methyl migration [97]. Alyssistatin (**170**), obtained from *L. snackeyi* in a bioassay-guided isolation, significantly inhibited NO and prostaglandin-E2 (PGE2) production. Activity was attributed to the modulation of anti-inflammatory agents *via* the inhibition of nitric oxide synthase (NOS) and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) expressions in LPS-stimulated RAW 264.7 cells [98]. On the other hand, 5 β -hydroxypalisadin B (**171**), isolated also from *L. snackeyi*,

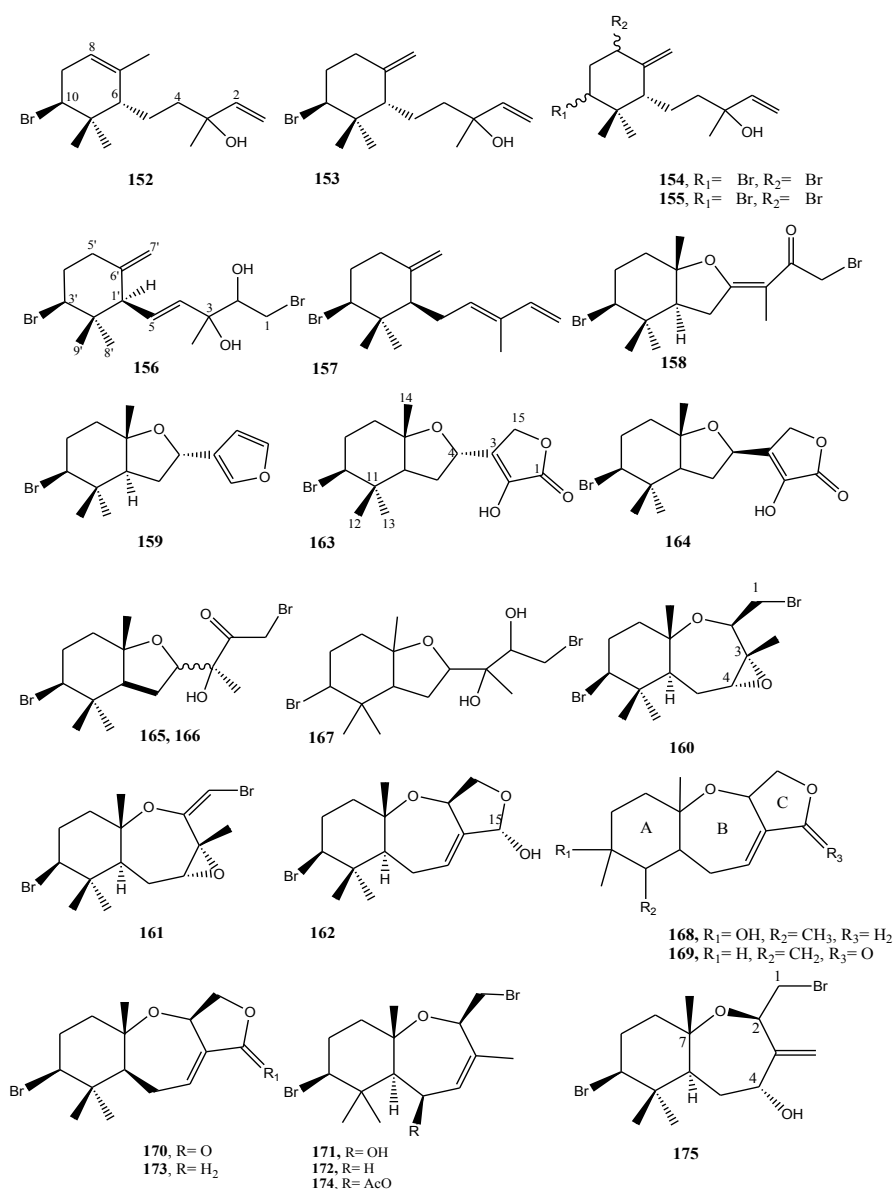


Figure 9: Snyderane sesquiterpenes from *Laurencia*.

exhibited profound anti-inflammatory activity in lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced nitric oxide (NO) production in zebrafish embryo. The protective effect was comparable to the anti-inflammatory agent dexamethasone with effective concentrations of the compound between 0.25- 1 μ g/mL [99]. On the other hand, *L. luzonensis* was the source of palisadin B (172), palisadin A (173) and its oxidized product aplysisstatin (170) [94]. *L. saitoi* (Hainan coastline, China) was the source of 5-acetoxypalisadin B (174) [100] and 4-hydroxypalisadin C (175) [96] (Figure 9).

Other Skeletons Sesquiterpenes

In addition to the skeletons mentioned above, there are some other sesquiterpenes, reported from different species of *Laurencia* that do not fit easily into the above categories.

L. microcladia, from Elba Island, provided a novel calenzanane sesquiterpene named calenzanol (176) [101]. Later, debromoisocalenzanol (177) and an indene-type sesquiterpene (178) were, also, obtained from *L. microcladia*, [102]. *L. obtusa* collected at Milos Island in the Aegean Sea Greece yielded four undecane-3-one sesquiterpenes (179-182) and perforenone D (183). The relative stereochemistry of the known compound perforatone (184)

was revised [87]. On the other hand, perforenone B (185), which was also, isolated from *L. obtusa*, exhibited strong cytotoxic activity [86]. Moreover, *L. obtusa* from Cayo Coco, Cuba was the source of bromocyclococanol (186), possessing a novel carbon skeleton of fused cyclopropane-cyclopentane rings [103]. The Turkish *L. obtusa* collected from Bademli, yielded 5-bromo-3-(3'-hydroxy-3'-methylpent-4'-enylidene)-2,4,4-trimethylcyclohexanone (187), and the epoxide (188) [16]. The previously known as a synthetic compound, isoafrikanol (189) [104] was reported from *L. mariannensis* (Hainan and Weizhou Islands, China) as a natural product, together with a chromene type sesquiterpene, isodactyloxene A (190) [24]. 4-hydroxy-1,8-*epi*-isotenerone (191), 9-hydroxy-3-*epi*-perforenone A (192) and 3-*epi*-perforenone (193) were isolated from the lipophilic extract of *L. perforata*, collected from the Great Barrier Reef, Australia [105]. Tiomanene (194), acetylmajapolene B (195) and acetylmajapolene A (196) were isolated from an unrecorded *Laurencia* species collected at Pulau Tioman, Pahang (Malaysia) [106] along with the known majapolene B (197) and majapolene A (198), originally isolated from *L. majuscula* [107]. The use of vibrational circular dichroism (VCD) allowed the determination of the absolute configuration of 195 and 198 as 7*S*, 10*S* for both [108].

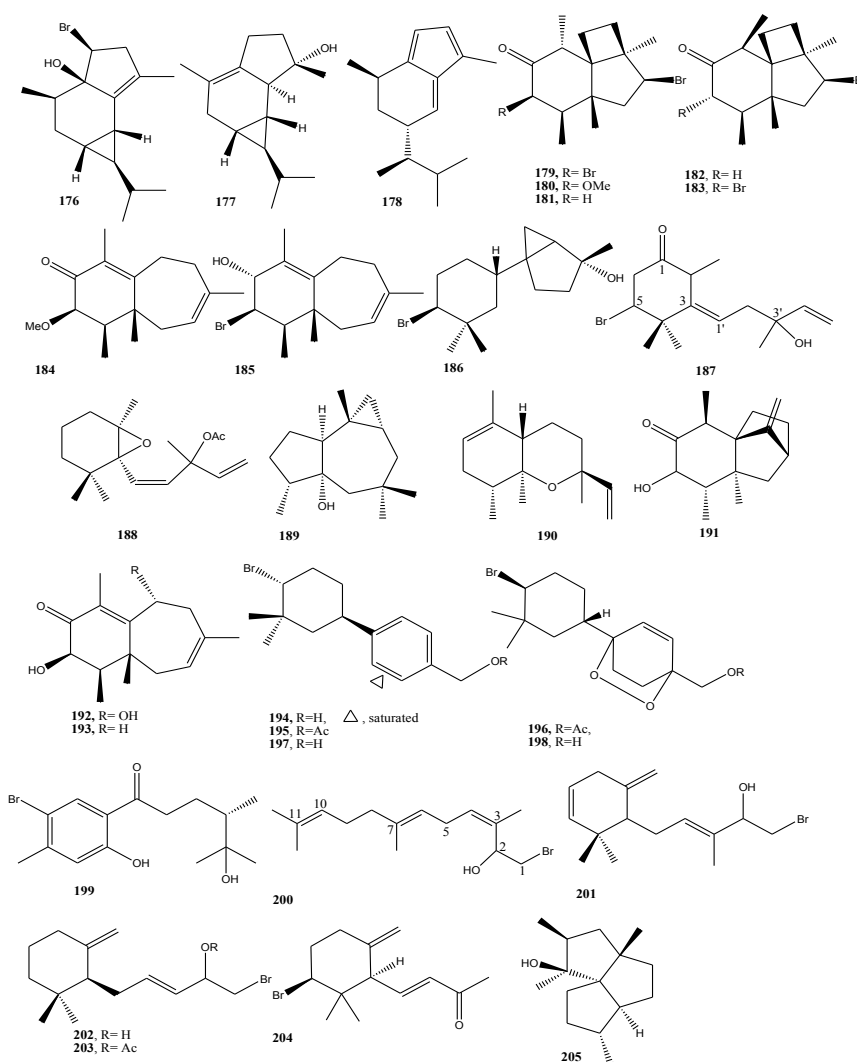


Figure 10: Other skeletons sesquiterpenes from *Laurencia*.

A ring-cleaved sesquiterpene, reported as having a novel skeleton, was isolated from *L. okamurai* Yamada and named seco-laurokamurone (**199**) [61]. *L. luzonensis* from Okinawan waters yielded (3*Z*,6*E*)-1-bromo-2-hydroxy-3,7,11-trimethyldodeca-3,6,10-triene (**200**), isopalisol (**201**), luzonensol (**202**) and luzonensol acetate (**203**) [95], while, the norsesquiterpene derivative, 2-bromo- β -ionone (**204**) was isolated from *L. saitoi* (Hainan coastline, China) [97]. A triquinane derivative (**205**) was identified from *L. dendroidea*, in the Brazilian coast, and was found to be moderately active against *Leishmania amazonensis* (IC₅₀ 43.8 μ g/mL) [109] (Table 2 and Figure 10).

Conclusion

Among the red algae, genus *Laurencia* is known to be one of the most important resources to produce unique natural metabolites with novel structures. A large number of sesquiterpene compounds with unprecedented structural features have been described from different *Laurencia* species during the past years. In the present review, an attempt to congregate the phytochemical and biological information on *Laurencia* sesquiterpenes was conducted. Survey of literature revealed the presence of over 200 sesquiterpenoids isolated from different species, over the last 14 years, and reported either as novel or known compounds. The numerous chemical diversity and biological activities of genus *Laurencia* keep attracting the attentions of phytochemists and pharmacologists to further explore different species of this interesting red weed distributed in the oceans and seas around the world.

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