

1 Article

2 Protective effect of Pyrogallol-phloroglucinol-6,6- 3 bieckol from *Ecklonia cava* on monocyte-associated 4 vascular dysfunction

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16 **Abstract:** *Ecklonia cava* (*E.cava*) can alleviate vascular dysfunction in diseases associated with poor
17 circulation. *E. cava* contains various polyphenols with different functions, but few studies have
18 compared the effects of these polyphenols. Here, we comparatively investigated four major
19 compounds present in an ethanoic extract of *E. cava*. These four major compounds were isolated
20 and their effects were examined on monocyte-associated vascular inflammation and dysfunctions.
21 Pyrogallol-phloroglucinol-6,6-bieckol (PPB) significantly inhibited monocyte migration *in vitro* by
22 reducing levels of inflammatory macrophage differentiation and of its related molecular factors. In
23 addition, PPB protected against monocyte-associated endothelial cell death by increasing the
24 phosphorylations of PI3K-AKT and AMPK, decreasing caspase levels, and reducing monocyte-
25 associated vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation and migration by decreasing the
26 phosphorylations of ERK and AKT. The results of this study show that four compounds were
27 effective for reduction of monocyte-associated vascular inflammation and dysfunctions, but PPB
28 might be more useful for the treatment of vascular dysfunction in diseases associated with poor
29 circulation.

30 **Keywords:** Poor blood circulation; *Ecklonia cava*; phlorotannins; Pyrogallol-phloroglucinol-6,6-
31 bieckol; Functional ingredients; Endothelial cell death; Vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation
32 and migration; Inflammation
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34 1. Introduction

35 Weight gain has been intimately associated with diseases associated with poor circulation, such
36 as, stroke, atherosclerosis and high blood pressure [1, 2]. Most obese individuals have elevated blood
37 levels of glucose, low-density lipoprotein (LDL) or free fatty acids (FFA) and these changes can alter
38 blood functions and blood vessel construction.

39 In blood vessel walls, endothelial cells (ECs) and vascular smooth muscle cells (VSMCs)
40 influence vessel tone. ECs form vessel barriers, regulating blood flow and inflammatory response,
41 whereas VSMCs have proliferative, contractile and biosynthetic roles in vessel walls. Alterations in
42 the differentiated states of these cells play critical roles in the pathogenesis disease associated with
43 poor circulation. Saturated free fatty acids (FFA), elevated glucose or LDL lead to ECs and VSMCs
44 dysfunction. Furthermore, these abnormal changes induce bioavailable nitric oxide (NO) deficiency,

45 reduce vascular relaxation, induce the overproductions of growth factors, increase adhesion and
46 inflammatory molecule expressions, induce the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in ECs
47 [3-5], adversely influence glucose metabolism, and promote the abnormal proliferation and migration
48 of VSMCs [6, 7].

49 High glucose, LDL and FFA can also indirectly affect ECs and VSMCs via the inflammation
50 induction of monocytes. Obesity affects the activations of circulating monocytes. In particular, high
51 glucose levels increase monocyte adhesion and trans-endothelial migration by activating the AKT-
52 GSK axis [8], which leads to the inductions of inflammatory factors, such as, tumor necrosis factor-
53 alpha (TNF- α), monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1), interleukin-beta (IL-1 β) and Toll-like
54 receptors (TLRs) via oxidant stress [9-11].

55 Edible marine plants have emerged as a potential resource of bioactive compounds for the
56 developments of cosmeceutical ingredients [12]. *Ecklonia Cava* (*E. Cava*) is an edible marine brown
57 alga, and it is one of nature's richest sources of phlorotannins, and phlorotannin derivatives which
58 do not exist on land originating plants. The phlorotannins are a sub-classification of polyphenolic
59 compounds that are confirmed by dibenzo-1,4-dioxin backbone which is this backbone linkage can
60 make the structure tight and strongly interact with various biological molecules [13, 14]. *E. Cava*
61 extracts have been shown to suppress the production of inflammatory cytokines and the activation
62 of NF- κ B in lipopolysaccharide (LPS) challenged human ECs and to reduce vascular inflammation
63 by preventing oxidation [15, 16].

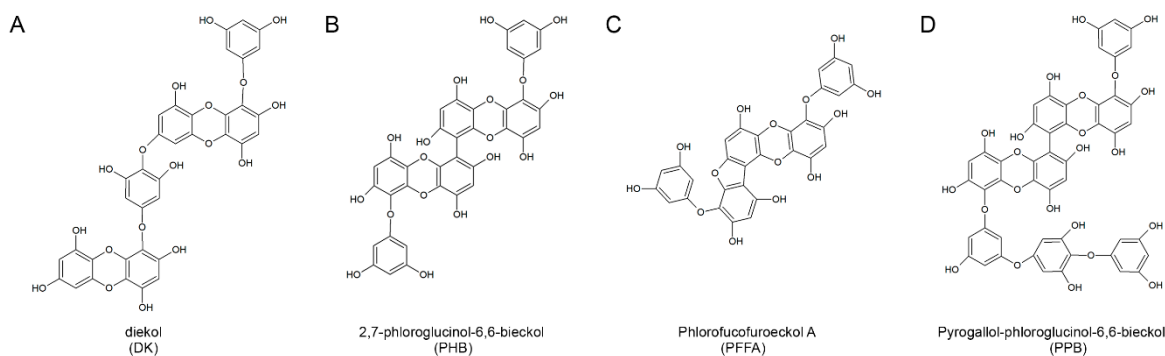
64 Some studies have shown these compounds have different beneficial effects of various *E. cava*
65 phlorotannins, but the efficacies of these compounds have not been previously compared. In a
66 previous study [17], we successfully isolated four phlorotannins from an ethanoic extract of *E. cava*,
67 that is, dieckol, 2,7-phloroglucinol-6,6-bieckol (PHB), phlorofucofuroeckol-A (PFFA), and pyrogallol-
68 phloroglucinol-6,6-bieckol (PPB), by centrifugal partition chromatography. In the present study, we
69 sought to determine which compound most effectively inhibits monocyte migration and
70 differentiation to inflammatory macrophages and monocyte-associated vascular cell dysfunction *in*
71 *vitro*.

72 2. Results and Discussion

73 2.1. Structures of the four compounds isolated from *E. cava*

74 The four compounds were isolated and purified using centrifugal partition chromatography in
75 one-step [17]. The peaks a-d on the high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) shown in
76 supple figure 1 were assigned to DK, PHB, PFFA and PPB, respectively by mass spectrometry
77 analysis (supple figure 2). They show single peak in HPLC chromatogram and had a purity of 90%
78 or more. Our previous study shown the 4 compounds identified using ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR and
79 HPLC-DAD-ESI/MS (negative ion mode) analyses [17] and each chemical structure shown in figure
80 1. Previous studies on various biological properties of phlorotannins including anti-oxidant [18], anti-
81 inflammation [19], anti-neurodegeneration [20], anti-cancer [21,22], and anti-cardiovascular diseases
82 [23] of *E. cava* extract have shown. Among numerous properties, anti-oxidant activities of *E. cava*
83 phlorotannins extract on reactive oxygen species (ROS) have shown it exhibits radical scavenging
84 activity against oxidized low-density lipoprotein (ox-LDL), 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH)
85 radicals, and peroxynitrite [14, 17, 18].] and these anti-oxidant activities closely related with other
86 beneficial effects of *E. cava*.

87 Interestingly, the difference in anti-oxidant effect between various *E. cava* phlorotannins is
88 related to the number of hydroxyl groups present. According to a study by Li and colleagues, dieckol
89 and 6,6'-bieckol (more than 10 OH groups) had higher anti-oxidant efficacy than phloroglucinol and
90 eckol (less than 10 OH groups) [14]. The PPB used in this study is also expected to have anti-
91 inflammatory effects including monocyte migration and macrophage polarization because of the
92 presence of 15 OH groups.



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Figure 1. The chemical structures of the four major compounds isolated from *E. cava*. (A-D)
Chemical structures of DK, PHB, PFFA and PPB.

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2.2. Analysis of the effects of 4 compounds on monocyte migration and macrophage polarization

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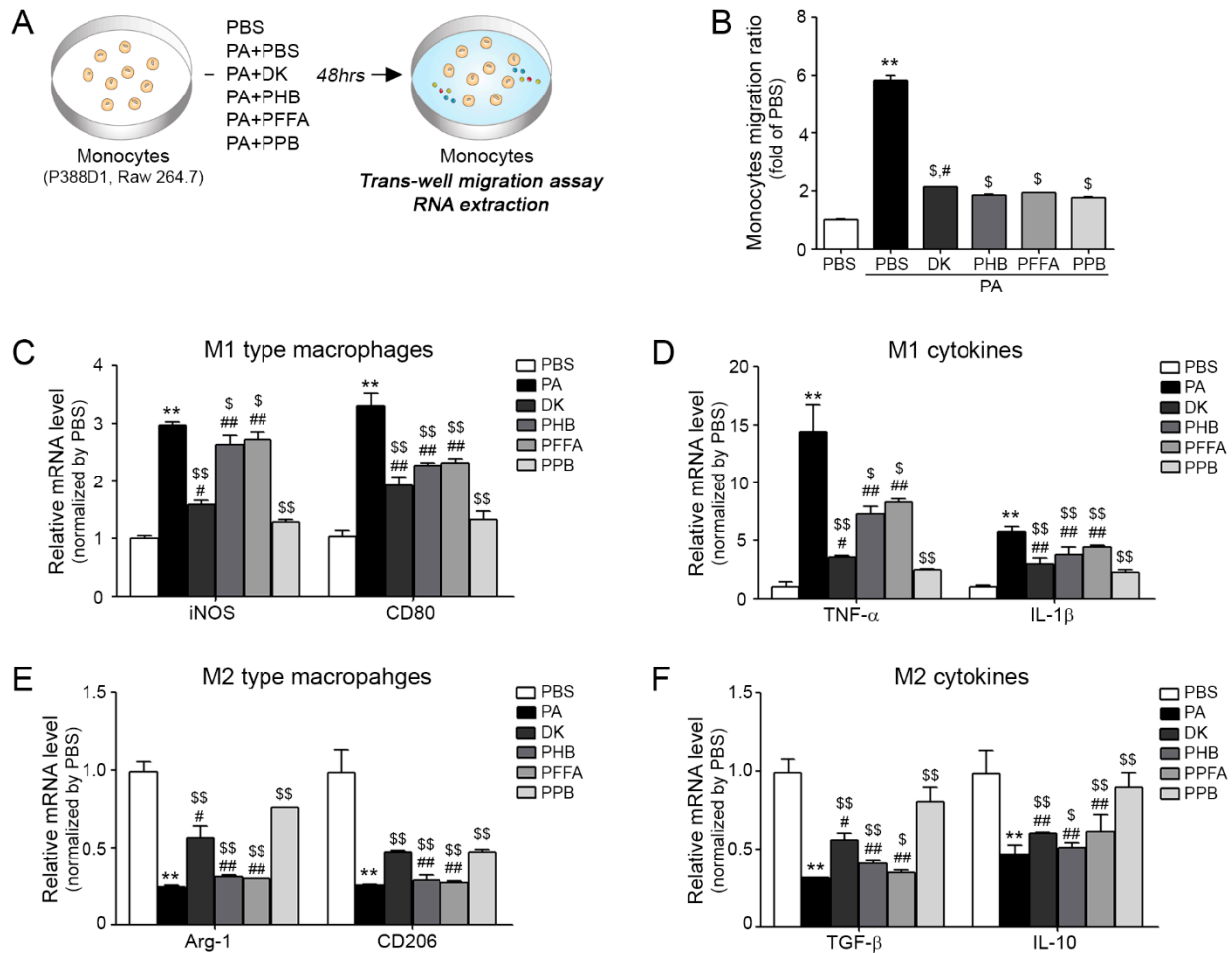
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In diseases associated with inadequacy of blood flow in organs [24], monocyte migration is important and closely related to vascular inflammation. Figure 2A provides a schematic of the inhibitory effects of these four compounds on palmitic acid conjugated bovine serum albumin (PA-BSA) induced monocyte trans-migration and macrophage polarization (Figure 2A). Experiments were performed on two monocyte cell lines (P388D1 and Raw 264.7). Numbers of trans-migrating monocytes were greatest for PA-BSA treated monocytes and all four compounds significantly reduced numbers of migrating cells (Figure 2B) and the results were similar in Raw 264.7 (sFigure 3A). Trans-migrating monocytes differentiated to macrophages of the pro-inflammatory (M1 type macrophages) or anti-inflammatory (M2 type macrophages) types (Figures 2C-F). Furthermore, PA-BSA treated monocytes had contained elevated levels of inflammatory factors, such as, including inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS), CD80, TNF- α and interleukin-1 β (IL-1 β) (Figures 2C and D) and low levels of anti-inflammatory like arginase-1 (Arg-1), CD206, transforming growth factor beta 1 (TGF- β) and interleukin-10 (IL-10) (Figures 2E and F) and the results were similar in Raw 264.7 (sFigure 3B-E). Interestingly, when monocytes were treated with four compounds with PA-BSA and these inductions were reduced and PPB had the greatest effect. As well as its anti-oxidant effects, *E. cava* extract have anti-inflammatory effects. For example, an ethanoic extract of *E. cava* was found to contain large amounts of phlorotannins and to inhibit the productions of prostaglandin-E2 (PGE2) and nitric oxide (NO) and suppress cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) and iNOS expressions in LPS-stimulated RAW 264.7 cells [25]. In inflammatory lung diseases, *E. cava* extract was found to significantly reduce inflammatory reactions, such as, eosinophil migration to lungs, inflammatory cell and cytokine increases, and to reduce airway epithelial hyperplasia, lung fibrosis and smooth muscle cell thickness [14, 16, 18, 26].



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120 **Figure 2. Inhibitory effects of PPB on monocyte polarization and related cytokines and EC**
 121 **dysfunction.** (A) Illustration showing the PA-BSA treated monocyte trans-migration model. (B)
 122 Migrating monocytes levels in 4 compounds with PA-BSA as determined by the trans-well migration
 123 assay. (C, D) mRNA expression levels of M1 type macrophages (*iNOS* and *Cd80*) and M2 type
 124 macrophages (*Arg-1* and *Cd206*) as determined by qRT-PCR. (E, F) mRNA expression levels of M1
 125 related cytokines (*TNF- α* and *IL-1 β*) and M2 related cytokines (*TGF- β* and *IL-10*) by qRT-PCR. **, $P <$
 126 0.01 , ***, $P < 0.001$, vs. PBS; \$, $P < 0.05$, \$\$, $P < 0.01$, vs. PA-BSA; #, $P < 0.05$, ##, $P < 0.01$, vs. PA-BSA with
 127 PPB, DK; dieckol, PHB; 2,7-phloroglucinol-6,6-bieckol, PFFA; phlorofucofuroeckol-A, PPB;
 128 pyrogallol-phloroglucinol-6,6-bieckol.

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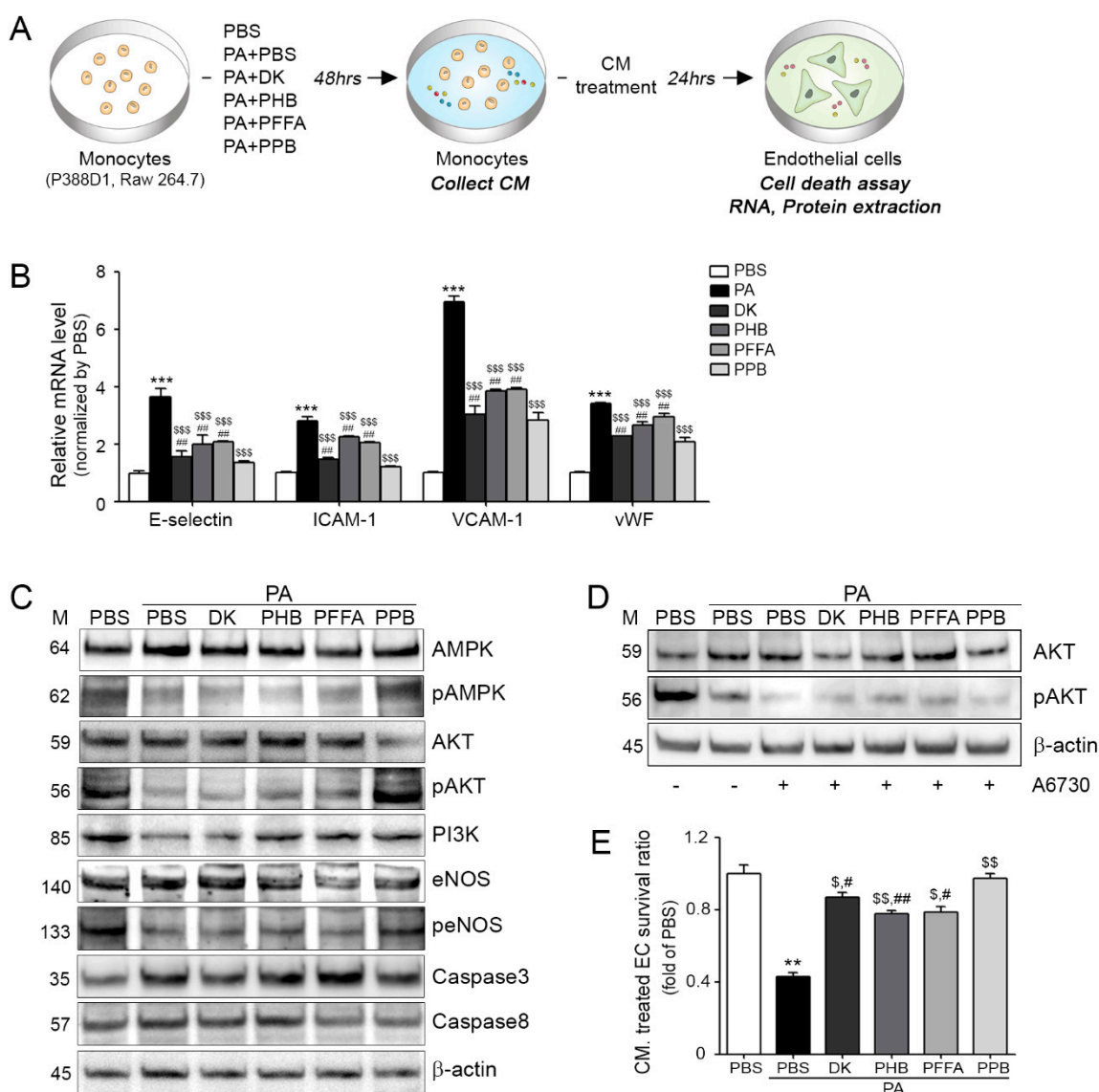


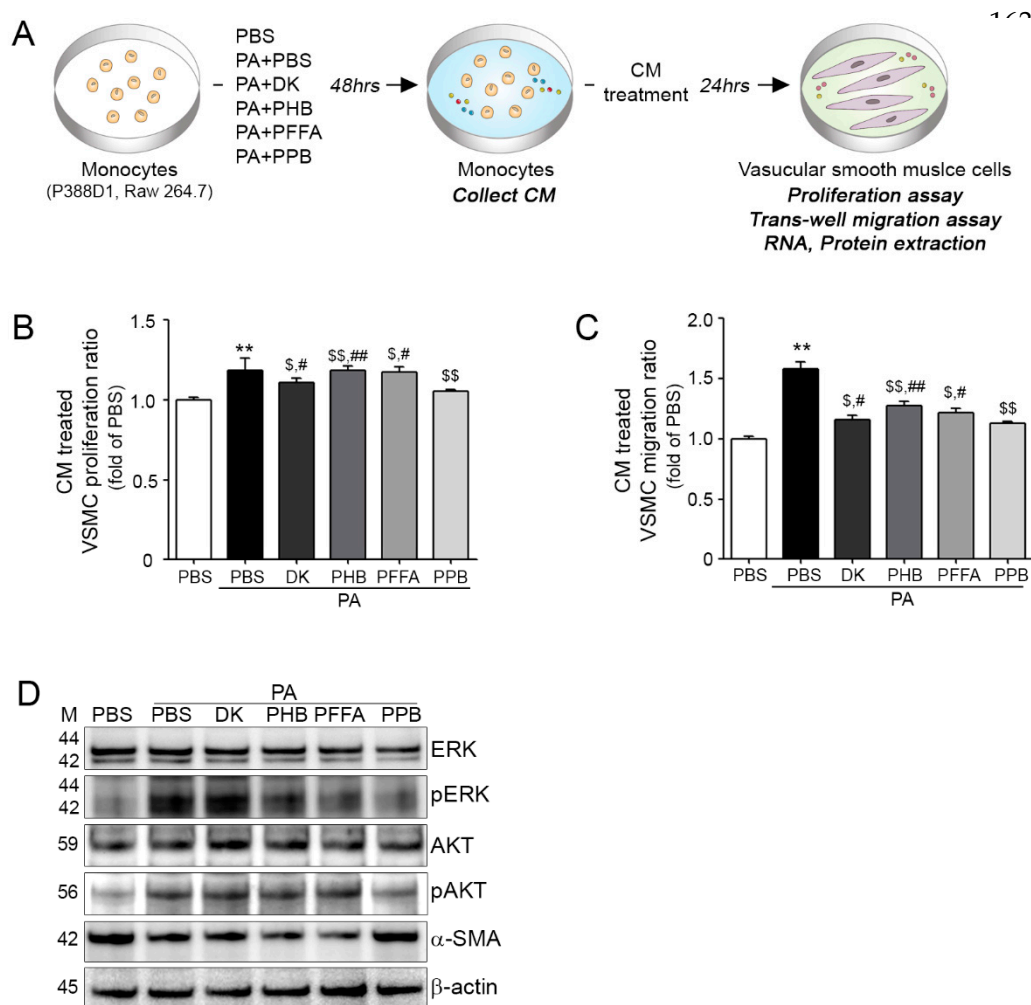
Figure 3. Prevention of monocyte-induced endothelial cell death by DK, PHB, PFFA or PPB. (A) ECs were treated with conditioned medium (CM) collected from PA-BSA induced transmigrating monocytes. (B) mRNA expression levels of adhesion molecules (*E-selectin*, *ICAM-1*, *VCAM-1* and *vWF*) in CM treated ECs were measured by qRT-PCR. (C) Protein levels of cell-death related molecules, that is, AMPK, pAMPK, AKT, pAKT, PI3K, eNOS, peNOS, Caspase 3, and Caspase 8 in CM treated endothelial cells were determined by western blotting. (D) The AKT inhibitor (A6370) was treated to monocyte and collected CM was treated EC. The ECs determined by western blotting. (E) Survival levels of CM treated ECs were measured using a cell survival assay. *, $P < 0.05$, **, $P < 0.01$, ***, $P < 0.001$, vs. PBS; \$, $P < 0.05$, \$\$, $P < 0.01$, \$\$\$, $P < 0.001$, vs. PA-BSA; #, $P < 0.05$, ##, $P < 0.01$, ###, $P < 0.001$ vs. PA-BSA with PPB, DK; dieckol, PHB; 2,7-phloroglucinol-6,6-bieckol, PFFA; phlorofucofuroeckol-A, PPB; pyrogallol-phloroglucinol-6,6-bieckol.

2.3. Effects of four compounds on monocyte-induced endothelial cell death

The inhibiting effects of four compounds on PA-BSA treated ECs and VSMCs dysfunctions induced by monocytes are summarized in Figures 3 and 4. Monocytes were treated four compounds with PA-BSA respectively, and then each conditioned medium (CM) from the four compounds treated monocytes was incubated with ECs or VSMCs for 24 hrs (Figures 3A and 4B). Adhesion molecule expressions (*E-selectin*, intercellular adhesion molecule 1; *ICAM-1*, vascular cell adhesion

147 molecule 1; VCAM-1 and von Willebrand factor; vWF) in ECs were significantly higher when they
 148 were treated with PA-BSA CM than BSA CM, but the expression was significantly lowest when ECs
 149 were treated with PPB CM (Figure 3B). The various adhesion molecules are related to vascular
 150 inflammation, and these molecules are regulated by mast cells, macrophages, and neutrophils, which
 151 also secrete pro-inflammatory cytokines, such as, TNF- α , interferon gamma (IFN- γ), and IL-6. These
 152 pro-inflammatory cytokines induce the expressions of adhesion molecules in ECs and recruit

153 leukocytes, which are important components of the pathogenesis of vascular inflammation [27,
 154 28]. Adhesion molecules are also related to EC survival [22]. In addition, to the above-mentioned
 155 adhesion molecule changes, all four compounds improved the survival ratios of PA-BSA CM treated
 156 ECs, and PPB CM treated cells had the lowest levels of caspases 3 and 8 and it was related with the
 157 phosphorylated PI3K-AKT-eNOS and AMPK signaling pathways (Figures 3C, E and sFigure 4). In
 158 addition, although the AKT inhibitor A6730 was treated, the expression of pAKT was increased in
 159 the single compounds treated group (Figures 3D). In ECs, the PI3K-AKT pathway is essential for
 160 mediating cell survival, migration, proliferation, and angiogenesis [30]. In particular, high glucose-
 161 induced EC apoptosis depends on Akt de-phosphorylation and activation of the PI3K/AKT/eNOS
 162 signaling pathway protects ECs from apoptosis [31].



164 **Figure 4. DK, PHB, PFFA or PPB inhibited monocytes migration and prevented monocyte-**
 165 **associated vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation and migration.** (A) Illustration of the CM-
 166 induced VSMC proliferation and trans-migration model. (B) VSMC proliferation after CM treatments
 167 were measured using a proliferation assay. (C) Trans-migrating VSMC numbers were measured
 168 using a trans-migration assay. (D) Protein levels of proliferation and migration related molecules, that

169 is, Erk, pERK, AKT, pAKT, α -SMA in CM treated VSMCs were determined by western blotting. **,
170 $P < 0.01$, ***, $P < 0.001$, vs. PBS; \$, $P < 0.05$, \$\$, $P < 0.01$, vs. PA-BSA; #, $P < 0.05$, ##, $P < 0.01$, vs. PA-BSA
171 with PPB, DK; Dieckol, PHB; 2,7-phloroglucinol-6,6-bieckol, PFFA; phlorofucofuroeckol-A, PPB;
172 pyrogallol-phloroglucinol-6,6-bieckol.

173 2.4. Effects of all four compounds on monocyte-induced VSMC proliferation and migration

174 DK, PHB, PFFA and PPB CM treated VSMCs proliferated and migrated significantly less than
175 PA-BSA CM treated VSMCs, and PPB CM was related with phosphorylations of the AKT and ERK
176 pathways (Figures 4B-D), and the results were similar in Raw 264.7 (sFigure 5). In addition, PA-BSA
177 CM treated VSMCs had the highest α -SMA levels, and PPB CM had greatest effect, suggesting
178 VSMCs would be closer to the contractile phenotype (Figure 4D and sFigure 5C). Phenotype
179 switching of VSMCs is important for the maintenance of vascular tone and alpha-smooth muscle
180 actin (α -SMA) is promotes the synthetic phenotype. In previous studies, higher expression of α -SMA
181 in PA-BSA than in BSA treated VSMCs was found to reduce the contractile phenotype and increase
182 proliferation and migration rates via the AKT and ERK pathways [32-34]. VSMCs can perform both
183 contractile and synthetic functions, which are associated with the maintenance of vascular tone. The
184 synthetic VSMCs phenotype has characteristics that include increased proliferation and migration
185 rates, extensive ECM degradation/synthesis abilities, and an increased cell size, which is closely
186 related with neo-intima hyperplasia formation [32-35].

187 3. Materials and methods

188 3.1. Materials

189 *E. cava* extraction

190 *E. cava* powder (2.5 g) was soaked in 50% ethanol (100 ml) and stirred at 130 rpm for 1 hr at room
191 temperature. The mixture was then centrifuged at $\sim 3,667 \times g$ for 10 mins, and the supernatant was
192 filtered through 3M paper and concentrated under vacuum. The crude extract was stored at -20°C
193 until required.

194 Isolation of compounds from *E. cava* extract

195 Compounds were isolated, as previously described [17]. Briefly, centrifugal partition
196 chromatography (CPC) was performed using a two-phase solvent system comprised of n-
197 hexane/ethyl acetate/methanol/water (2:7:3:7, v/v/v/v). The CPC column was first filled with the
198 organic stationary phase and the mobile phase was pumped into the column in descending mode at
199 the same flow rate used for separation (2 ml/min).

200 Experimental cell models

201 To prepare PA-BSA, 2.267 g of fatty acid-free BSA (Sigma-Aldrich; MO, USA) was thawed in
202 pre-warmed 100 ml of 150 mM NaCl. The mixture was stirred at 37°C (no higher than 40°C) in a
203 water bath until completely dissolved. The BSA solution was filtered new bottle and it was stirred at
204 37°C . While the BSA was being stirred in the water bath, 30.6 mg of Sodium palmitate was thawed
205 in 150 mM NaCl 50 ml in a water bath at 70°C .

206 The PA-BSA was divided into 5 ml portions and transferred to the BSA solution, stirred at 37°C
207 for 1 hr, and adjusted to a final volume of 100 ml with 150 mM NaCl and pH 7.4 with 1N NaOH. The
208 solution was stored -20°C until required and thawed in a 37°C water bath for 10 mins prior to use.

209 3.2. Cell culture and treatment

210 Monocytes

211 Monocytes (P388D1 cells) were purchased from ATCC (Washington, DC, USA). RPMI 1640
212 (Gibco; NY, USA), 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 25 mM hydroxyethyl-piperazineethane-sulfonic
213 acid buffer (HEPES) buffer and 1% penicillin-streptomycin were used as growth medium. To
214 investigate the inhibitory effects of DK, PHB, PFFA and PPB in 0.25 mM PA-BSA treated monocytes,
215 we used the same concentration (2.5 ug/ml) for a treatment time of 48 hrs. To collect conditioned
216 medium (CM), monocytes were treated with PA-BSA with or without DK, PHB, PFFA or PPB for 48
217 hrs.

218 Vascular endothelial cells (ECs)

219 ECs (SVEC 4-10 cells) were also purchased from ATCC. Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's medium
220 (DMEM; Gibco) and 1% penicillin-streptomycin (Gibco) were used as growth medium.

221 Vascular aortic smooth muscle cells (VSMCs)

222 VSMCs (MOVAS cells) were also obtained from ATCC. DMEM, 10% FBS and antibiotics G-418
223 were used as growth medium.

224 3.3. Extraction and isolation

225 RNA extraction and cDNA synthesis

226 The cells were homogenized in ice using a disposable pestle in 1 ml of RNisol (TAKARA, Japan),
227 and homogenates were added to 0.2 ml of chloroform, mixed, and centrifuged at 12,000 x g for 15
228 mins at 4 °C. Aqueous phases were collected, placed in cleaned tubes, mixed with 0.5 ml of
229 isopropanol, and centrifuged using the same conditions. Isolated RNA was then washed with 70%
230 ethanol and dissolved in 50 µl of diethyl pyrocarbonate (DEPC) treated water. To perform
231 quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR), cDNA was synthesized from 1 µg of
232 total RNA using a Prime Script 1st strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (TAKARA, Japan).

233 Protein isolation

234 Cell proteins were extracted using the EzRIPA lysis kit (ATTO; Japan). Initially, tissues were
235 homogenized with lysis buffer containing proteinase and phosphatase inhibitors and briefly
236 sonicated for 10 seconds in a cold bath sonicator. After centrifuging at 14,000 x g for 20 mins at 4 °C,
237 supernatants were collected and protein concentrations were determined using a Bicinchoninic acid
238 assay kit (BCA kit; Thermo Fisher Scientific, MA, USA)

239 3.4. Monocyte trans-well migration assay

240 Monocytes were seeded at a density of 10⁶ per well onto 8-µm Transwell inserts (Thermo Fisher
241 Scientific). The lower chamber was filled with 500 µl low serum medium containing DK, PHB, PFFA
242 or PPB and 0.25 mM PA-BSA and incubated for 48 hrs at 5% CO₂ incubator. Migration activities were
243 evaluated using water-soluble tetrazolium salts (WST; Daeil Lab Service, Republic of Korea) and
244 optical densities were measured.

245 3.5. Monocyte-associated EC viability assay

246 To analyze monocyte-associated EC viability, 5,000 ECs were seeded in the wells of a 96-well
247 culture plate (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and incubated for 24 hrs in a 5% CO₂ humidified incubator at
248 37°C. The WST was mixed with serum free DMEM (1:9, v/v, 200 µl/well) and the mixture was
249 incubated for 4 hrs in ECs. Optical densities were measured using a plate reader at 450 nm (Spectra
250 max plus, Molecular devices).

251 3.6. Monocyte-associated VSMC proliferation assay

252 To analyze monocyte-associated VSMC proliferation, VSMCs were seeded in a 96-well culture
253 plate (Thermo Fisher Scientific) at 5,000 per well and incubated for 24 hrs in 5% CO₂ humidified
254 incubator at 37°C. VSMC proliferations were determined using the WST assay as described above.

255 3.7. Monocyte-associated VSMC trans-well migration assay

256 VSMCs were seeded at 5×10^4 per well onto 8- μ m Transwell inserts (Corning, NY, USA). Lower
257 chambers were filled with 500 μ l of containing each CM and incubated for 48 hrs in a 5% CO₂
258 atmosphere. Migration activities were evaluated using the WST assay as described above.

259 3.8. Western blotting

260 Inhibitory effects of DK, PHB, PFFA and PPB on monocyte-associated EC survival and VSMC
261 proliferation and migration were investigated by western blotting. Cell lysates were prepared as
262 described above. Equal amounts of proteins were separated by 8–12% sodium dodecyl sulfate
263 polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) and then transferred to polyvinylidene fluoride
264 (PVDF) membranes, which were incubated with appropriate diluted primary antibodies at 4 °C
265 overnight. Membranes were then washed with tris buffered saline containing 1% Tween 20 (TTBS)
266 three times and incubated with secondary antibodies for 1 hr at room temperature. Primary and
267 secondary antibodies are listed in Supplementary Table 1. Membranes were developed by enhanced
268 chemiluminescence (ECL) on LAS-4000s (GE Healthcare, Chicago, USA).

269 3.8.1. AKT inhibition study

270 EC were seeded at a density of 10^5 per well in 100mm culture dish (SPL Life Science, Republic
271 of Korea) and incubated for 24 hrs in 5% CO₂ humidified incubator at 37°C. Then ECs were treated
272 with A6730 (sigma) 40 μ M for 1 hr. 1 hr later, the supernatant of monocyte was treated for 48 hrs.
273 Then EC were isolated EzRIPA lysis kit (ATTO).

274 3.9. Quantitative real time polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR)

275 qRT-PCR was performed by using the CFX384 Touch™ Real-Time PCR detection system and
276 reaction efficiencies and threshold cycle numbers were determined using CFX Manager™ Software.
277 Primers are detailed in Supplementary Table 2.

278 3.10. Statistical analysis.

279 Non-parametric analysis was used given the small samples available. Comparisons were made
280 using the Mann-Whitney U test. Significant differences are indicated as follows; by an asterisk (*)
281 versus PBS, \$ versus PA-BSA, and # versus PA-BSA with PPB. Results are presented as means \pm SDs
282 and experiments were performed in triplicate. The analysis was conducted using SPSS version 22
283 (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY).

284 4. Conclusions

285 Four major phlorotannins, that is, DK, PHB, PFFA and PPB, were isolated for reasons of the
286 ethanoic extract of *E. cava*. Monocyte trans-migration and inflammatory macrophage differentiation
287 by monocytes were effectively reduced by PPB, which also modulated vascular tone by protecting
288 monocyte-associated EC death by increasing phosphorylations of PI3K-AKT and AMPK and
289 reducing monocyte-induced VSMC proliferation and migration via the phosphorylations of ERK and
290 AKT in PPB treated the cells. The study suggests PPB be considered as a component in healthy
291 functional foods to ameliorate vascular dysfunction in diseases associated with poor circulation.

292 **Supplementary Materials:** Materials and methods: High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC)
293 chromatogram, Raw 264.7 cell cultivation and quantification of Western blotting; sFigure 1: HPLC
294 chromatograms and purity of four compounds from *E. cava* extract; sFigure 2: Mass spectrometry analysis of
295 four compounds from *E. cava* extract; sFigure 3: Inhibitory effects of PPB in monocyte polarization and related
296 cytokines; sFigure 4: Inhibitory effects of PPB in Raw 264.7 cell-associated endothelial cell death; sFigure 5:

297 Inhibitory effects of PPB in Raw 264.7-associated VSMC proliferation and migration

298 Table S1: List of antibodies for western blotting ; Table S2: List of primer for qRT-PCR

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302 **Author Contributions:** K.B and Y.J were responsible for study conceptualization and methodology. Formal
303 analysis and data collection were implemented by S.O. and M.S; Data analysis and interpretation by H.S.L; Draft
304 preparation by S.O and M.S.; and supervision and provision of funding acquisition K.B and Y.J.

305 **Conflict of Interest:** The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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