

1 *Type of the Paper (Article, Review, Communication, etc.)*

## 2 **Stereepinic acids A–C, new carboxylic acids produced 3 by a marine alga-derived fungus**

4 **Takeshi Yamada<sup>1,\*</sup>, Miwa Matsuda<sup>1</sup>, Mayuko Seki<sup>1</sup>, Megumi Hirose<sup>1</sup>, and Takashi Kikuchi<sup>1</sup>**

5 <sup>1</sup> Osaka University of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 4-20-1, Nasahara, Takatsuki, Osaka 569-1094, Japan; E-Mails:  
6 e12643@gap.oups.ac.jp (M.M); e10118@gap.oups.ac.jp (M.S); e11729@gap.oups.ac.jp (M.H);  
7 t.kikuchi@gly.oups.ac.jp (T.K).

8 \* Correspondence: yamada@gly.oups.ac.jp; Tel.: + 81-726-90-1085 /FAX (direct line): + 81-726-90-1085

9

10 **Abstract:** Stereepinic acids A–C (**1–3**), new carboxylic acids with two primary alcohols, have been  
11 isolated from a fungal strain of *Stereum* sp. OUPS-124D-1 attached to the marine alga *Undaria*  
12 *pinnatifida*. Dihydro-1,5-secovibralactone (**4**), a new vibralactone derivative, was isolated from the  
13 same fungal metabolites together with known vibralactone A (**5**), and 1,5-secovibralactone (**6**). The  
14 planar structures of these compounds have been elucidated by spectroscopic analyses using IR,  
15 HRFABMS, and NMR spectra. To determine the absolute configuration of the compounds, we used  
16 the phenylglycine methyl ester (PGME) method. These compounds exhibited less activity in the  
17 cytotoxicity assay against cancer cell lines.

18 **Keywords:** terepinic acids; *Stereum* sp.; marine microorganism; *Undaria pinnatifida*; vibralactones;  
19 phenylglycine methyl ester method.

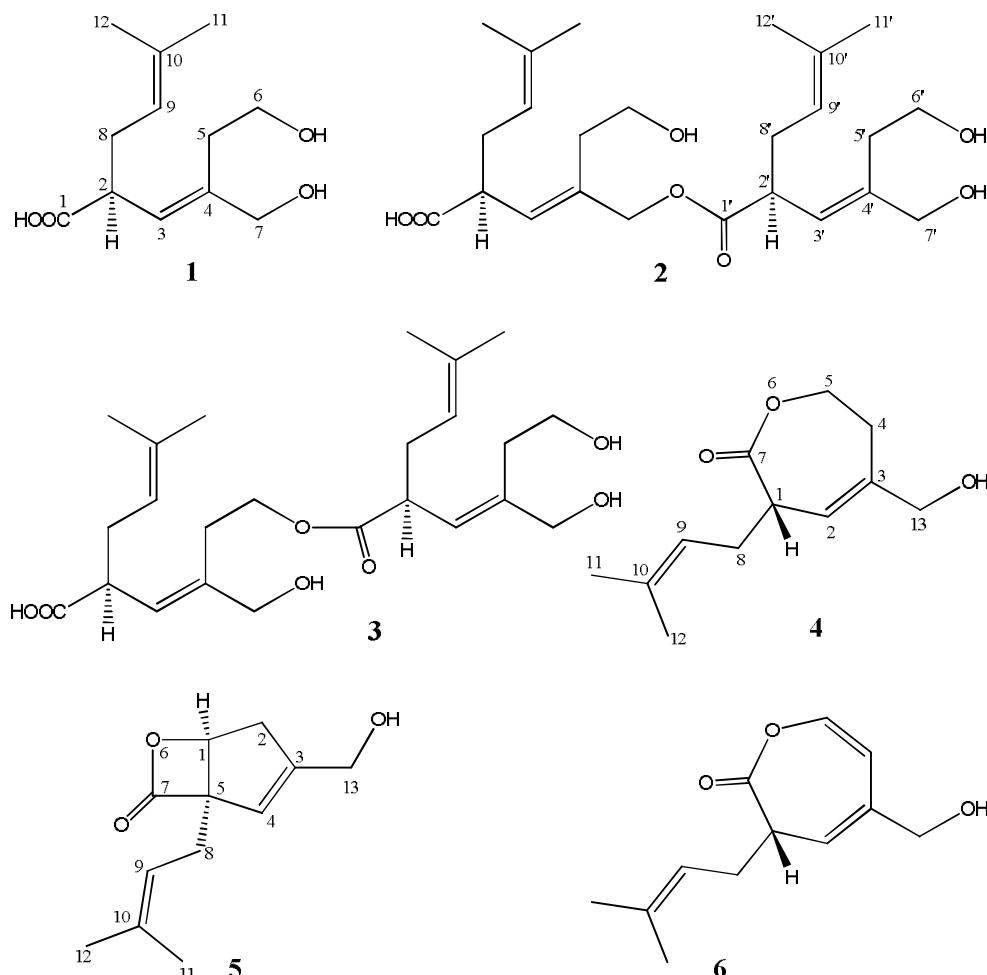
20

### 21 **1. Introduction**

22 Our ongoing search for seeds of antitumor chemotherapy agents from marine microorganisms  
23 has led to the isolation of several antitumor and/or cytotoxic compounds [1–8]. In particular, we  
24 focused on the bioactive compounds with small molecular weight due to their advantages, such as  
25 easy synthesis and modification for increasing the activity. In addition, the synthesis of small  
26 bioactive compounds establishes a hypothetical biosynthesis mechanism of larger bioactive  
27 compounds. In this study, we isolated four new carboxylic acids with two primary alcohols,  
28 designated as stereepinic acids A–C (**1–3**) and dihydro-1,5-secovibralactone (**4**) together with the  
29 known vibralactone A (**5**) and 1,5-secovibralactone (**6**), from a strain of *Stereum* sp. OUPS-124D-1  
30 derived from the marine alga *Undaria pinnatifida*. **5** was reported by Liu et al.,[9], and many studies  
31 then followed this work, isolating the derivatives of **5** including **6** [10–15]. We report the  
32 determination of the absolute configurations of **1–4** by applying the phenylglycine methyl ester  
33 (PGME) method [16]. In addition, we report on the investigation of the cytotoxicity of these  
34 compounds against several cancer cell lines.

### 35 **2. Results**

36 *Stereum* sp., a microorganism from *U. pinnatifida*, was cultured at 27°C for 5 weeks in a medium  
37 (50 L) containing 1% glucose, 1% malt extract, and 0.05% pepton in artificial seawater adjusted to pH  
38 7.6. After the incubation, the culture was filtrated through DIAION HP-20, and its MeOH elution was  
39 purified employing a stepwise combination of silica gel column chromatography and reverse phase  
40 HPLC to afford stereepinic acids, A (**1**) (64.8 mg); B (**2**) (13.3 mg); C (**3**) (16.8 mg); and dihydro-1,5-  
41 secovibralactone (**4**) (12.4 mg), as a pale yellow oil, respectively (Figure 1).

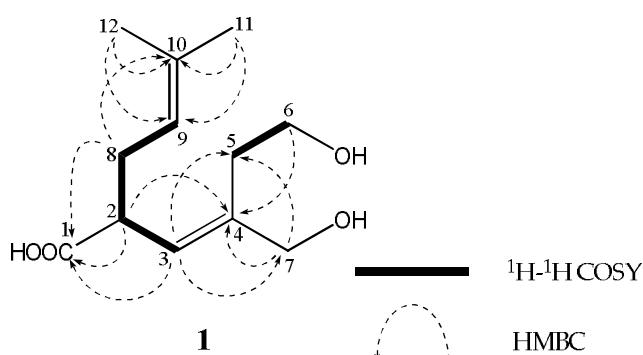


**Figure 1.** Structures of stereopinic acids A–C (1–3), dihydro-1,5-secovibralactone (4), and known compounds 5 and 6

The molecular formula of stereopinic acid A (1) has been determined as  $C_{12}H_{20}O_4$  from its molecular weight of 229.1443  $[M+H]^+$  in HRFABMS. Its IR spectrum exhibited bands at 3330 and 1710  $cm^{-1}$  that are characteristics of hydroxy and carbonyl groups, respectively. An analysis of the  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR spectra of 1 (Tables 1 and S1), using DEPT and  $^1H$ - $^{13}C$  heteronuclear multiple quantum coherence spectroscopy (HMQC), showed the presence of two olefin methyls (C-11 and C-12); four  $sp^3$ -hybridized methylenes (C-5, C-6, C-7, and C-8), including two oxygen-bearing  $sp^3$ -methylenes (C-6 and C-7); one  $sp^3$ -methine (C-2); two  $sp^2$ -methines (C-3 and C-9); two quaternary  $sp^2$ -carbons (C-4 and C-10); and one carbonyl group (C-1). In the  $^1H$ - $^1H$  correlation spectroscopy (COSY) analysis, correlations were observed between H-5 and H-6; H-2 and H-3; and H-2 and H-8, as shown by the bold lines in Figure 2. In the HMBC spectrum (Figure 2), the correlations from H-11 and H-12 to C-9 and C-10; from H-2 to C-1 and C-4; from H-3 to C-1, C-5, and C-7; from H-5 to C-3; from H-6 to C-4; from H-7 to C-3, C-4, and C-5; from H-8 to C-1 and C-10; from H-6 to C-4; and from H-7 to C-4, and C-5 elucidated the planar structure of 1 as 6-hydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)-2-(3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)hex-3-enoic acid. The elucidation of the absolute stereostructure of 1 is described below together with those of 2–4.

67 **Table 1.**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data for metabolites (1–3) in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ 

Position	1		2		3	
	$\delta\text{H}^a$	$\delta\text{C}$	$\delta\text{H}^a$	$\delta\text{C}$	$\delta\text{H}^a$	$\delta\text{C}$
1		177.5 (s)		173.5 (s)		174.3 (s)
2	3.27 m	44.9 (d)	3.28 m	45.4 (d)	3.28 m	44.9 (d)
3	5.50 d (10.2)	127.0 (d)	5.49 d (10.8)	129.3 (d)	5.55 d (9.6)	129.3 (d)
4		138.7 (s)		133.9 (s)		137.9 (s)
5A	2.25 m	31.9 (t)	2.18 m	32.3 (t)	2.30 ddd (14.4, 5.4, 5.4)	27.7 (t)
5B	2.49 m		2.54 m		2.54 ddd (14.4, 5.4, 5.4)	
6A	3.68 br s	61.0 (t)	3.65 br s	61.4 (t)	4.20 m	63.5 (t)
6B		66.8 (t)	3.72 br s			
7A	4.03 br s		4.05 d (13.2)	67.9 (t)	4.07 m	66.5 (t)
7B			d (13.2)			
8A	2.20 m	30.9 (t)	2.20 m	30.8 <sup>b5</sup> (t)	2.20 m	31.4 (t)
8B	2.44 m		2.46 m		2.44 m	
9	5.04 dd	120.2 (d)	5.03 m	120.2 <sup>b6</sup> (d)	5.02 <sup>b1</sup> dd (7.2, 7.2)	120.2 <sup>b2</sup> (d)
10		134.1 (s)		134.2 <sup>b7</sup> (s)		134.3 (s)
11	1.67 s	25.7 (q)	1.67 s	25.7 (q)	1.67 s	25.7 (q)
12	1.60 s	17.8 (q)	1.60 s	17.8 (q)	1.59 <sup>b3</sup> s	17.8 <sup>b4</sup> (q)
1'				173.5 (s)		174.3 (s)
2'		3.28 m		45.4 (d)	3.28 m	44.9 (d)
3'		5.52 d (10.8)		127.2 (d)	5.51 d (9.6)	127.2 (d)
4'				139.6 (s)		138.7 (s)
5'A		2.29 m		32.3 (t)	2.25 m	32.2 (t)
5'B		2.54 m			2.51 m	
6'A		3.72 br s		60.5 (t)	3.65 br s	61.1 (t)
6'B					3.71 br s	
7'		4.05 br s		67.5 (t)	4.02 m	67.4 (t)
8'A		2.20 m		30.6 <sup>b5</sup> (t)	2.20 m	31.4 (t)
8'B		2.46 m			2.44 m	
9'		5.03 m		120.3 <sup>b6</sup> (d)	5.06 <sup>b1</sup> dd (7.2, 7.2)	120.3 <sup>b2</sup> (d)
10'				134.3 <sup>b7</sup> (s)		134.3 (s)
11'		1.67 s		25.7 (q)	1.67 s	25.7 (q)
12'		1.60 s		17.8 (q)	1.61 <sup>b3</sup> s	17.9 <sup>b4</sup> (q)

68 <sup>a</sup>  $^1\text{H}$  chemical shift values ( $\delta$  ppm from SiMe<sub>4</sub>) followed by multiplicity. <sup>b</sup> 1–b 7 interchangeable

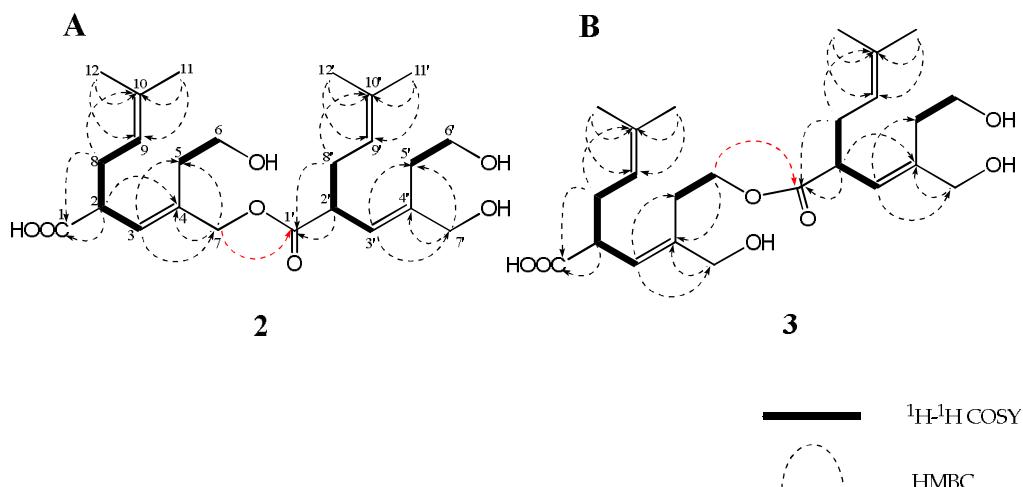
69

70 **Figure 2.** Selected  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY and HMBC correlations of **1**

71

72 Sterepinic acids, B (2) and C (3), were assigned the molecular formula of  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{38}\text{O}_7$ , with both  
 73 compounds showing molecular weight almost twice as large as that of **1**. While the general features  
 74 of NMR spectra (Tables 1, S2 and S3) closely resembled those of **1**, the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  signals of **2** and **3**  
 75 were observed in pairs or with the overlapping of two signals for each functional group (*vide info.*),  
 76 except for the proton signal of the oxygen-bearing methylenes [C-7 ( $\delta\text{H}$  4.48 d, and  $\delta\text{H}$  4.62 d) in **2**] and  
 77 C-6 ( $\delta\text{H}$  4.20 m) in **3**]. This phenomenon suggested that **2** and **3** were the dimers of **1**. As expected, for  
 78 the HMBC spectrum of **2** (Table S2), the correlations shown in Figure 3A were used to construct two  
 79 carboxylic acids, both of which are identical to the planar structure of **1**. In addition, the correlation

80 from C-7 in one carboxylic acid to C-1' in another carboxylic acid revealed that the two carboxylic  
 81 acids were condensed to a dimer esterified between C-7 and C-1' (Figure 3A and Table S2). In contrast,  
 82 the HMBC correlation from H-6 to C-1' observed in **3** demonstrated that the chemical structure of **3**  
 83 was similar to that of the dimer esterified between C-6 and C-1' (Figure 3B and Table S3).



84

85

**Figure 3.** Selected  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY and HMBC correlations of **2** (A) and **3** (B)

86

87

Dihydro-1,5-secovibralactone (**4**) exhibited the molecular formula  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_4$ , containing two  
 88 fewer hydrogen atoms, and one less oxygen atom than **1**. Compared with the NMR spectra of **4**  
 89 (Tables 2, and S4), those of **1** showed large differences in the proton signals of H-1 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.68 m) and H-  
 90 5 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.68 ddd and 4.33 ddd), corresponding to H-2 and H-6 in **1**, respectively, and the carbon signals  
 91 of C-1 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  40.2), C-2 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  121.2), and C-7 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  174.3), corresponding to C-2, C-3, and C-1, respectively, in  
 92 **1**. The numbering of the carbon positions followed the numbering mentioned in a previous report [6].  
 93 **4** was observed to be the monomer with the same carboxylic acid unit as **1**. In addition, HMBC  
 94 correlations from H-6 to C-1 (Table S4 and Figure 4) elucidated the planar structure of **4** as a dihydro-  
 95 isomer of 1,5-secovibralactone (**6**) [10].

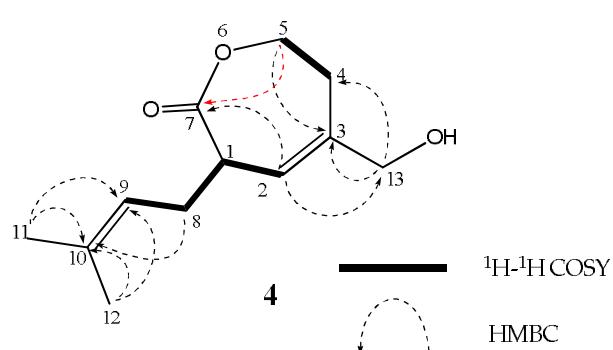
96

97

**Table 2.**  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectral data for metabolites **4** in  $\text{CDCl}_3$

Position	<b>4</b>	
	$\delta_{\text{H}}^a$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$
1	3.68 m	40.2 (d)
2	5.36 br s	121.2 (d)
3		139.2 (s)
4A	2.45 br d (19.2)	30.3 (t)
4B	2.59 m	
5 $\alpha$	4.68 ddd (12.6, 12.6, 1.8)	64.4 (t)
5 $\beta$	4.33 ddd (12.6, 4.8, 2.4)	
6		
7		174.3 (s)
8A	2.33 ddd (14.4, 6.6, 6.6)	30.1 (t)
8B	2.52 ddd (14.4, 6.6, 6.6)	
9	5.14 dd (6.6, 6.6)	120.9 (d)
10		134.6 (s)
11	1.72 s	25.8 (q)
12	1.67 s	18.0 (q)
13A	3.99 d (13.8)	67.4 (t)
13B	4.01 d (13.8)	

<sup>a</sup> As in Table 1

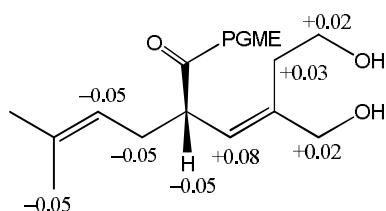


**Figure 4.** Selected  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY and HMBC correlations of **4**

98

99

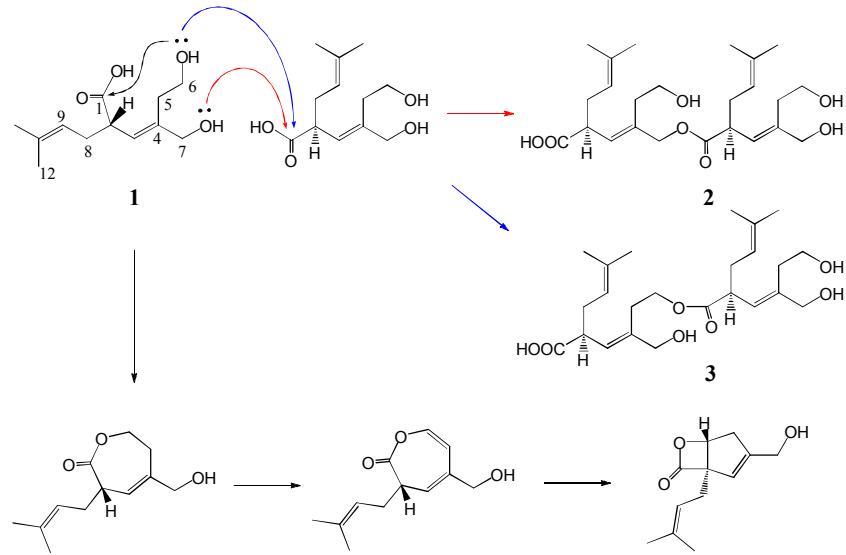
100 For the determination of the absolute stereostructures of metabolites isolated in this study, we  
 101 first examined the absolute configuration of **1**, which is the common unit in all compounds of this  
 102 study. **1** showed the presence of a secondary carboxy group at C-2, and we therefore used the PGME  
 103 method [16]. The <sup>1</sup>H chemical-shift differences between the (S)- and (R)-PGME amides **1a** and **1b**  
 104 revealed the *S* configuration at C-2 (Figure 5).



105 **1a** R = (S)-PGME amide  
**1b** R = (R)-PGME amide

106 **Figure 5.** <sup>1</sup>H chemical-shift differences ( $\Delta\delta$  ppm) between the (S)- and (R)- PGME amides **1a** and **1b**

107  
 108 Next, for the elucidation of the stereochemistry of **2–4**, we attempted to perform hydrolysis to  
 109 derive **1** from **2–4**; however, due to the small volume of reaction, the carboxylic acid was not produced.  
 110 We therefore tried methanolysis to facilitate the purification of the product resulting from the reaction.  
 111 The treatment with conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> of MeOH solution of **2** only gave a methyl carboxylate, the spectral  
 112 data (<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum and the optical rotation) for which were identical to those of the methyl ester  
 113 of **1**; i.e., **2** is found to be in the 2*S*, 2*'S* absolute configuration. The same procedure applied to **3** and  
 114 **4** revealed the *S* configuration at C-2 and C-2' in **3**, and the *S* configuration at C-2 in **4**, respectively.  
 115 This evidence confirmed that **2–4** were composed of **1**. A lone pair on the alcohol oxygen atom attacks  
 116 a carboxy carbon atom by an intra- or inter-molecular nucleophilic reaction, as shown by the arrows  
 117 coded using three different colors (Scheme 1). The routes shown in red and blue, which are the  
 118 dimerization routes, produce **2** and **3**, respectively. On the other hand, the route shown in black leads  
 119 to **4** followed by a dehydrogenation to **6**. Meanwhile, Zhao et al., used an *in vitro* enzymatic  
 120 conversion and showed that **5** is derived from **6** using a ring rearrangement [17].



121  
 122 **Scheme 1.** Plausible mechanism for the formation of **2–6** from **1**

123      Cancer cell growth-inhibitory properties of sterepinic acids A–C (**1–3**) and dihydro-1,5-secovibralactone  
124      (**4**) were examined using murine P388 leukemia, human HL-60 leukemia, and murine L1210 leukemia cell  
125      lines; however, these metabolites did not exhibit significant activity against these cancer cells. We therefore  
126      continue to investigate related compounds with more potent cytotoxicity from this fungal metabolite and  
127      examine another assay.

128      **3. Materials and Methods**

129      *3.1. General Experimental Procedures*

130      NMR spectra were recorded on an Agilent-NMR-vnmrs 600 MHz and 400 MHz with  
131      tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal reference. FABMS was recorded using a JEOL JMS-7000 mass  
132      spectrometer. IR spectra was recorded on a JASCO FT/IR-680 Plus. Optical rotations were measured using  
133      a JASCO DIP-1000 digital polarimeter. DIAION HP20 (Mitsubishi Chemical), and Silica gel 60 (230—  
134      400 mesh, *Nacalai Tesque, Inc.*) was used for column chromatography with medium pressure. ODS HPLC  
135      was run on a JASCO PU-1586 equipped with a differential refractometer (RI-1531) and Cosmosil  
136      Packed Column 5C<sub>18</sub>-MSII (25 cm x 20 mm i. d.). Analytical TLC was performed on precoated Merck  
137      aluminium sheets (DC-Alufolien Kieselgel 60 F254, 0.2 mm) with the solvent system CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH  
138      (19 : 1), and compounds were viewed under a UV lamp and sprayed with 10% H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> followed by  
139      heating.

140      *3.2. Fungal Material*

141      A strain of *Stereum* sp. was initially isolated from a piece of the marine alga *Undaria pinnatifida*  
142      collected at collected in Osaka bay, Japan in May 2015. The fungal strain were identified by Techno  
143      Suruga Laboratory Co., Ltd. The surface of the marine alga was wiped with EtOH and its snip applied  
144      to the surface of nutrient agar layered in a Petri dish. Serial transfers of one of the resulting colonies  
145      provided a pure strain of *Stereum* sp..

146      *3.3. Culturing and isolation of metabolites*

147      The fungal strain was cultured at 27 °C for 4 weeks in a liquid medium (50 L) containing 1% malt  
148      extract, 0.05% pepton, and 1% D-glucose in artificial seawater adjusted to pH 7.5. The culture was  
149      filtered under suction, and the culture filtrate was passed through to DIAION HP20, washed with  
150      water to remove water-soluble component. The fraction eluted with MeOH were evaporated *in*  
151      *vacuo* to afford a mixture of crude metabolites (10.2 g) that exhibited cytotoxicity against the P388 cell  
152      line (IC<sub>50</sub> < 10 µg/mL). The mixture was chromatographed on a silica gel column with a CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-  
153      MeOH gradient as the eluent to afford Fr. 1 (2% MeOH in CHCl<sub>3</sub> eluate, 270.5 mg) and Fr.2 (10%  
154      MeOH in CHCl<sub>3</sub> eluate, 840.3 g). Fr. 1 was purified by ODS HPLC using MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (50 : 50) as the  
155      eluent to afford **4** (12.4 mg). Fr. 2 was purified by HPLC using MeOH-H<sub>2</sub>O (60 : 40) as the eluent to  
156      afford **2** (13.3 mg), **3** (16.8 mg), and Fr.3 (102.3 mg). Fr. 3 was purified by ODS HPLC using MeOH-  
157      H<sub>2</sub>O (40 : 60) as the eluent to afford **1** (64.8 mg).

158      Sterepinic acids A (**1**): Pale yellow oil; [α]<sub>D</sub><sup>22</sup> +58.0 (c 0.34, MeCN); IR (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  / cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3330, 1710.  
159      FABMS *m/z* (rel. int.): 229 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 71.4%), 211 (87.4%), 143 (34.2%), 69 (100%). HRFABMS *m/z*  
160      229.1443 [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>21</sub>O<sub>4</sub> : 229.1440). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data are listed in Table 1 and Table  
161      S1 (SI).

164 Sterepinic acids B (**2**): Pale yellow oil;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{22} +141.7$  (*c* 0.27, MeCN); IR (neat)  $\nu_{max}$  / cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3362,  
165 1730. FABMS *m/z* (rel. int.): 439 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 40.9%), 211 (93.5%), 69 (100%). HRFABMS *m/z* 439.2694  
166 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>39</sub>O<sub>7</sub> : 439.2695). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data are listed in Table 1 and Table S2 (SI).

167 Sterepinic acids C (**3**): Pale yellow oil;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{22} +53.5$  (*c* 0.16, MeCN); IR (neat)  $\nu_{max}$  / cm<sup>-1</sup>: 3383, 1710.  
168 FABMS *m/z* (rel. int.): 439 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 15.9%), 211 (54.0%), 69 (96.1%). HRFABMS *m/z* 439.2694 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>  
169 (calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>39</sub>O<sub>7</sub> : 439.2695). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data are listed in Table 1 and Table S3 (SI).

170 Dihydro-1,5-secovibralactone (**4**): Pale yellow oil;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{22} +7.9$  (*c* 0.32, MeCN); IR (neat)  $\nu_{max}$  / cm<sup>-1</sup>:  
171 3396, 1736. FABMS *m/z* (rel. int.): 211 ([M+H]<sup>+</sup>, 100%) 142 (37.7%), 69 (54.1%). HRFABMS *m/z* 211.1342  
172 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>19</sub>O<sub>3</sub> : 211.1334). <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data are listed in Table 1 and Table S3 (SI).

173

#### 174 3.4. Chemical transformation

##### 175 3.4.1. Formation of the (*S*)- and (*R*)-PGME amides

176 To a solution of **1** (5.8 mg, 0.025 mmol) and (*S*)-PGME (0.054 mmol) in dry DMF (1 mL) was  
177 added EDC-HCl (0.050 mmol), HOBr (0.050 mmol), and DMAP (catalysis volume). The reaction  
178 mixture was stirred at room temperature 2 hours. The reaction mixture was added water (1.0 mL),  
179 and extracted using CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. The organic layer was evaporated under reduced pressure, and the  
180 residue was purified by HPLC using MeOH – H<sub>2</sub>O (50 : 50) as the eluent to afford (*S*)-PGME amide  
181 **1a** (0.9 mg, 0.0024 mmol) as a pale yellow oil.

182 **1** (6.7 mg, 0.030 mmol) and (*R*)-PGME (0.052 mmol) were treated with the same procedure to  
183 afford (*R*)-PGME amide **2a** (3.1 mg, 0.0083 mmol) as a pale yellow oil.

184 PGME amide **1a**: Pale yellow oil; HRFABMS *m/z* 376.2126 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> :  
185 376.2124). <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  ppm (400 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.61 (3H, s, H-11), 2.16 (1H, ddd, *J* 17.2, 7.6, 7.6 Hz,  
186 H-8A), 2.25 (1H, ddd, *J* 14.8, 6.0, 6.0 Hz, H-5A), 2.47 (1H, ddd, *J* 17.2, 7.6, 7.6 Hz, H-8B), 2.60 (1H, ddd,  
187 *J* 14.8, 7.6, 7.6 Hz, H-5B), 3.22 (1H, ddd, *J* 10.4, 7.6, 7.6 Hz, H-2), 3.68 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.79 (2H, m, H-6),  
188 4.07 (1H, d, *J* 17.6 Hz, H-7A), 4.11 (1H, d, *J* 17.6 Hz, H-7B), 4.99 (1H, dd, *J* 7.6, 7.6 Hz, H-9), 5.54, (1H,  
189 d, *J* 8.0 Hz, Gly-CH), 5.60 (1H, d, *J* 10.4 Hz, H-3), 7.24-7.34 (5H, m, Ar.H).

190 PGME amide **1b**: Pale yellow oil; HRFABMS *m/z* 376.2126 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>30</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> :  
191 376.2124). <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  ppm (400 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.58 (3H, s, H-12), 1.64 (3H, s, H-11), 2.21 (1H, ddd, *J*  
192 17.2, 7.6, 7.6 Hz, H-8A), 2.30 (1H, ddd, *J* 10.8, 5.6, 4.0 Hz, H-5A), 2.51 (1H, ddd, *J* 17.2, 7.6, 7.6 Hz, H-  
193 8B), 2.57 (1H, ddd, *J* 10.8, 8.0, 4.0 Hz, H-5B), 3.27 (1H, ddd, *J* 9.6, 7.6, 7.6 Hz, H-2), 3.69 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>),  
194 3.77 (2H, m, H-6), 4.05 (1H, m, H-7A), 4.09 (1H, m, H-7B), 5.03 (1H, dd, *J* 7.6, 7.6 Hz, H-9), 5.54, (1H,  
195 d, *J* 8.0 Hz, Gly-CH), 5.52 (1H, d, *J* 9.6 Hz, H-3), 7.21-7.35 (5H, m, Ar.H).

196

##### 197 3.4.2. Formation of methyl ester of **1**

198 **1** (8.8 mg) was added trimethylsilyldiazomethane (10% in hexane) 2mL, and the reaction mixture  
199 was stirred at room temperature over-night. The reaction mixture was evaporated under reduced  
200 pressure, and the residue was purified by HPLC using MeOH – H<sub>2</sub>O (60 : 40) as the eluent to afford  
201 methyl ester (6.5 mg) as a pale yellow oil.

202 Methyl ester of **1**: Pale yellow oil;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{22} -7.9$  (*c* 0.25, MeCN); HRFABMS *m/z* 243.1597 [M+H]<sup>+</sup>  
203 (calcd for C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>23</sub>O<sub>4</sub> : 243.1597). <sup>1</sup>H NMR  $\delta$  ppm (600 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub>): 1.61 (3H, s, H-12), 1.68 (3H, s, H-  
204 11), 2.19 (1H, ddd, *J* 14.4, 7.2, 7.2 Hz, H-8A), 2.42 (1H, m, H-5A), 2.45 (1H, m, H-8B), 2.47 (1H, m, H-  
205 5B), 3.32 (1H, ddd, *J* 9.6, 7.8, 7.8 Hz, H-2), 3.64 (3H, s, OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.73 (2H, m, H-6), 4.08 (1H, d, *J* 17.6 Hz,  
206 H-7A), 4.10 (1H, d, *J* 17.6 Hz, H-7B), 5.04 (1H, dd, *J* 7.2, 7.2 Hz, H-9), 5.56, (1H, d, *J* 10.2 Hz, H-3).

207

208 3.4.2. Methanolysis of **2–4**

209 To a solution of **2** (3.2 mg) in MeOH (0.5 mL) was added conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (0.01 mL), and the  
210 reaction mixture was left at room temperature for 1 hr. The mixture was diluted with water and  
211 extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, and the extract was evaporated under reduced pressure, and then the residue  
212 was purified by HPLC using MeOH – H<sub>2</sub>O (60 : 40) as the eluent to afford methyl ester (0.8 mg) as a  
213 pale yellow oil.

214 Using the same procedure as above with **2**, a solution of **3** (3.3 mg) in MeOH (0.5 mL) was treated  
215 with conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (0.01 mL) and purified by HPLC using MeOH – H<sub>2</sub>O (60 : 40) as the eluent to afford  
216 methyl ester (0.8 mg).

217 Using the same procedure as above with **2**, a solution of **4** (2.4 mg) in MeOH (0.5 mL) was treated  
218 with conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (0.01 mL) and purified by HPLC using MeOH – H<sub>2</sub>O (60 : 40) as the eluent to afford  
219 methyl ester (0.7 mg).

220 **4. Conclusions**

221 In this study, new carboxylic acids designated as stereopinic acids **A–C** (**1–3**) and dihydro-1,5-  
222 secovibralactone (**4**), have been isolated from a strain of *Stereum* sp. derived from marine sponge.  
223 Their absolute configurations were established by the application of the PGME method to **1** and the  
224 chemical transformation of **2–4**.

225 In the screening for the search of the seeds of antitumor agents, these compounds did not exhibit  
226 significant cytotoxic activity against three cancer cell lines.

227 **Supplementary Materials:** The following are available online at [www.mdpi.com/link](http://www.mdpi.com/link), Table S1: Spectral data  
228 including 2D NMR data for **1**, Table S2: Spectral data including 2D NMR data for **2**, Table S3: Spectral data  
229 including 2D NMR data for **3**, Table S4: Spectral data including 2D NMR data for **4**, Figure S1: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra  
230 of **1** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, Figure S2: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of **1** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, Figure S3: <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY of **1**, Figure S4: NOESY of **1**,  
231 Figure S5: HMQC of **1**, Figure S6: HMBC of **1**, Figure S7: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **2** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, Figure S8: <sup>13</sup>C NMR  
232 spectrum of **2** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, Figure S9: <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY of **2**, Figure S10: NOESY of **2**, Figure S11: HMQC of **2**, Figure  
233 HMBC of **2**, Figure S13: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **3** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, Figure S14: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **3** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  
234 Figure S15: <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY of **3**, Figure S16: NOESY of **3**, Figure S17: HMQC of **3**, Figure S18: HMBC of **3**, Figure  
235 S19: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **4** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, Figure S20: <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **4** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, Figure S21: <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY of  
236 **4**, Figure S22: NOESY of **4**, Figure S25: HMQC of **4**, Figure S24: HMBC of **4**, Figure S25: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **1a** in  
237 CDCl<sub>3</sub>, Figure S26: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of **1b** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>, Figure S27: <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of methyl ester of **1** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

238 **Author Contributions:** Conceived and designed the experiments: Takeshi Yamada, Miwa Matsuda, Mayuko  
239 Seki, Megumi Hirose, Takashi Kikuchi, Reiko Tanaka; Performed the experiments: Takeshi Yamada, Miwa  
240 Matsuda, Mayuko Seki, Megumi Hirose; Analyzed the data: Takeshi Yamada; Wrote the paper: Takeshi Yamada.

241 **Funding:** This research received no external funding.

242 **Acknowledgments:** We thank Dr. Endo (Kanazawa University) for supply of the cancer cells. We are grateful to  
243 Dr. M. Fujitake and Dr. K. Minoura of this university for MS and NMR measurements, respectively.

244 **Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

245

246 **References**

1. Muroga, Y.; Yamada, T.; Numata, A.; Tanaka, R. Chaetomugilins I–O, new potent cytotoxic metabolites from a marine-fish-derived *Chaetomium* species. Stereochemistry and biological activities. *Tetrahedron* **2009**, *65*, 7580–7586, DOI: 10.1016/j.tet.2009.06.125.
2. Yamada, T.; Kitada, H.; Kajimoto, T.; Numata, A.; Tanaka, R. The relationship between the CD Cotton effect and the absolute configuration of FD-838 and its seven stereoisomers. *J. Org. Chem.* **2010**, *75*, 4146–4153, DOI: 10.1021/jo100496f.
3. Yamada T.; Kikuchi T.; Tanaka R.; Numata A. Halichoblelides B and C, potent cytotoxic macrolides from a

254      *Streptomyces* species separated from a marine fish. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2012**, *53*, 2842–2846, DOI:  
255      10.1016/j.tetlet.2012.03.114.

256      4. Kitano, M.; Yamada, T.; Amagata, T.; Minoura, K.; Tanaka, R.; Numata, A. Novel pyridinopyrone sesquiterpene  
257      type pileotin produced by a sea urchin-derived *Aspergillus* sp. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2012**, *53*, 4192–4194, DOI:  
258      10.1016/j.tetlet.2012.05.144.

259      5. Yamada T.; Mizutani Y.; Umebayashi Y.; Inno N.; Kawashima M.; Kikuchi T.; Tanaka R. A novel  
260      ketoaldehyde decalin derivative, produced by a marine sponge-derived *Trichoderma harzianum*. *Tetrahedron*  
261      *Lett.* **2014**, *55*, 662–664, DOI: 10.1016/j.tetlet.2013.11.107.

262      6. Yamada T.; Umebayashi Y.; Kawashima M.; Sugiura, Y.; Kikuchi T.; Tanaka R. Determination of the chemical  
263      structures of tandyukisins B–D, isolated from a marine sponge-derived fungus. *Marine Drugs*, **2015**, *13*, 3231–  
264      3240, DOI: 10.3390/md13053231.

265      7. Suzue, M.; Kikuchi, T.; Tanaka R.; Yamada T. Tandyukisins E and F, novel cytotoxic decalin derivatives  
266      isolated from a marine sponge-derived fungus. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2016**, *57*, 5070–5073, DOI:  
267      10.1016/j.tetlet.2016.10.004.

268      8. Yamada, T.; Suzue, M.; Arai, T.; Kikuchi T.; Tanaka R. Trichodermanins C–E, new diterpenes with a fused 6-  
269      5-6-6 ring system produced by a marine sponge-derived fungus. *Marine Drugs*, **2017**, *15*, 169,  
270      DOI:10.3390/md15060169.

271      9. Liu, D.Z.; Wang, F.; Liao, T.G.; Tang, J.G.; Steglich, W.; Zhu, H.J.; Liu, J.K. Vibralactone: a lipase inhibitor  
272      with an unusual fused  $\beta$ -lactone produced by cultures of the basidiomycete *Boreostereum vibrans*. *Org. Lett.*  
273      **2006**, *8*, 5749–5752, DOI:10.1021/o1062307u.

274      10. Jiang, M.Y.; Wang, F.; Yang, X.L.; Fang, L.Z.; Dong, Z.J.; Zhu, H.J.; Liu, J.K. Derivatives of vibralactone from  
275      cultures of the basidiomycete *Boreostereum vibrans*. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **2008**, *56*, 1286–1288, DOI:  
276      10.1248/cpb.56.1282.

277      11. Jiang, M.Y.; Zhang, L.; Dong, Z.J.; Yang, Z.L.; Leng, Y.; Liu, J.K. Vibralactones D–F from cultures of the  
278      basidiomycete *Boreostereum vibrans*. *Chem. Pharm. Bull.* **2010**, *58*, 113–116, DOI:10.1248/cpb.58.113.

279      12. Ding, J.H.; Feng, T.; Li, Z.H.; Li, L.; Liu, J.K. Twelve new compounds from the basidiomycete *Boreostereum*  
280      *vibrans*. *Nat. Prod. Bioprospect.* **2012**, *2*, 200–205, DOI:10.1007/s13659-012-0060-x.

281      13. Wang, G.Q.; Wei, K.; Feng, T.; Li, Z.H.; Zhang, L.; Wang, Q.A.; Liu, J.K. Vibralactones G–J from cultures of  
282      the basidiomycete *Boreostereum vibrans*. *J. Asian Nat. Prod. Res.* **2012**, *14*, 115–120, DOI:  
283      10.1080/10286020.2011.636037.

284      14. Wang, G.Q.; Wei, K.; Li, Z.H.; Feng, T.; Ding, J.H.; Wang, Q.A.; Liu, J.K. Three new compounds from the  
285      cultures of basidiomycete *Boreostereum vibrans*. *J. Asian Nat. Prod. Res.* **2013**, *15*, 950–955, DOI:  
286      10.1080/10286020.2013.824429.

287      15. Chen, H.P.; Zhao, Z.Z.; Yin, R.H.; Yin, X.; Feng, T.; Li, Z.H.; Wei, K.; Liu, J.K. Six new vibralactone derivatives  
288      from cultures of the fungus *Boreostereum vibrans*. *Nat. Prod. Bioprospect.* **2014**, *4*, 271–276, DOI:10.1007/s13659-  
289      014-0029-z.

290      16. Yabuuchi, T.; Kusumi, T. Phenylglycine Methyl Ester, a Useful Tool for Absolute Configuration  
291      Determination of various chiral carboxylic acids. *J. Org. Chem.* **2000**, *65*, 397–404, DOI:10.1021/jo991218a.

292      17. Zhao, P.J.; Yang, Y.L.; Du, L.; Liu, J.-K.; Zeng Y. Elucidating the biosynthetic pathway for vibralactone: a  
293      pancreatic lipase inhibitor with a fused bicyclic  $\beta$ -lactone. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, **2013**, *52*, 2298–2302, DOI:  
294      10.1002/anie.201208182.

295      **Sample Availability:** Samples of the compounds are available from the authors.