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# Knecorticosanones C–H from the fruits of *Knema globularia* (Lam.) warb†

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Six undescribed polyketides, **1**–**6**, were discovered from the fruits of *Knema globularia* (Lam.) warb. Two known polyketides and three known lignans were also isolated. Cytotoxicities against HepG2 and KKU-M156 cells of all polyketides were evaluated. Compound **1** displayed the most cytotoxic activity against HepG2 and KKU-M156 cell lines with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 1.57 ± 0.37 and 1.78 ± 0.14 μg mL<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The structure of all isolates was identified using spectroscopic methods including NMR, IR, MS and ECD.

## 1. Introduction

The plant *Knema* genus (Myristicaceae) comprises over 60 species, and they are located in tropical Asia, Africa and Australia.<sup>1</sup> At least 12 species have been found distributed throughout Thailand.<sup>2</sup> Some *Knema* plants have been used to treat sore mouths and throats, pimples and skin diseases.<sup>3</sup> There are many reports on biological activities of *Knema* species such as antimicrobial,<sup>4</sup> antioxidant,<sup>5,6</sup> anticancer,<sup>7–10</sup> antidiabetic,<sup>11</sup> and antimalarial<sup>12</sup> activities.

*Knema globularia* or Lueat Raet in Thai, is a traditional medicine. An ingredient of external preparation for skin diseases and scabies is made from the oil of the seeds of this plant<sup>2,13</sup> while the bark is used as a blood tonic. The chemical components of this plant are flavonoids, polyketides and steroids.<sup>8,10,14,15</sup> Herein, the chemical constituents from the fruits of this plant are reported, as well as their cytotoxicity against cholangiocarcinoma, KKU-156, and liver cancer cells, HepG2, evaluated using the SRB assay.

## 2. Discussion

Chemical investigation of the fruits of *Knema globularia* (Lam.) warb using a chromatographic method led to the isolation of eight polyketides (**1**–**8**) and three lignans (**9**–**11**). Six new compounds, knecorticosanones C–H (**1**–**6**) were discovered, and

in addition, five known compounds including, knecorticosanones A and B (**7** and **8**),<sup>10</sup> 8,8'-*cis*-cubebin (**9**),<sup>16</sup> (–)- $\alpha$ -cubebin (**10**)<sup>17</sup> and (–)- $\beta$ -cubebin (**11**)<sup>18</sup> were also found (Fig. 1).

Compound **1** showed a molecular ion at  $m/z$  393.3013 [M + H]<sup>+</sup> corresponding to the molecular formula C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>40</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. The IR spectrum showed absorption bands of a hydroxyl group (3466 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and carbonyl groups (1664 cm<sup>-1</sup>). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum displayed three carbonyl carbons at  $\delta_C$  195.6 (C-1), 197.9 (C-3) and 206.1 (C-1') of a 2-acylcyclohex-2-en-1-one moiety. The low field signal at  $\delta_H$  18.2 indicated an intramolecular hydrogen bonding (Table 1). The doublet of doublet signal at  $\delta_H$  4.03 ( $J = 13.0, 5.3$  Hz) was assigned as H-6, located on the oxygenated carbon at  $\delta_C$  71.3. The large coupling constant ( $J = 13.0$  Hz) indicates the axial orientation of this proton, and the hydroxyl group was located at the equatorial position (Fig. 3). The multiplet signals of methylene protons H-5 showed at  $\delta_H$  2.32 and  $\delta_H$  1.77, while that of H-4 showed at  $\delta_H$  2.74, while these protons were located on the carbons at  $\delta_C$  26.9 and  $\delta_H$  31.3, respectively (Table 2). Cross peaks between H-4 and C-2 ( $\delta_C$  110.3), C-3 ( $\delta_C$  197.9) and C-6 ( $\delta_C$  71.3) were evident (Fig. 2). Long range coupling between H-6 and C-1 (195.6), C-4 (31.3) and C-5 (26.9) were observed. The <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H COSY spectrum showed the connection of H-4/H-5/H-6. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum displayed two olefinic protons at  $\delta_H$  5.29 ( $t, J = 5.0$  Hz, H-13' and H-14'). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR data exhibited fourteen methylene carbons around  $\delta_C \sim 40.3$ – $22.4$  (C-2' to C-12' and C-15' to C-17'). Long range correlations between a terminal methyl proton ( $\delta_H$  0.84,  $t, J = 7.0$  Hz, H-18') and C-16' ( $\delta_C$  32.0) and C-17' ( $\delta_C$  22.4) were evident. Correlations of H-17' (1.28) to C-15' ( $\delta_C$  27.2), of H-14' to C-15' ( $\delta_C$  27.2) and C-16' ( $\delta_C$  32.0), and of H-13' to C-12' ( $\delta_C$  27.2) indicated the assignment of a double bond at the C-13'/C-14' position. *Cis* geometry of double bond was confirmed on the basis of the typical shielded signals of  $\alpha$ -olefinic carbons at  $\delta_C \sim 26$ – $27$  while *trans* geometry showed around  $\delta_C \sim 32$ – $33$ .<sup>19</sup> The multiplet signal at  $\delta_H$  2.96 (H-2')

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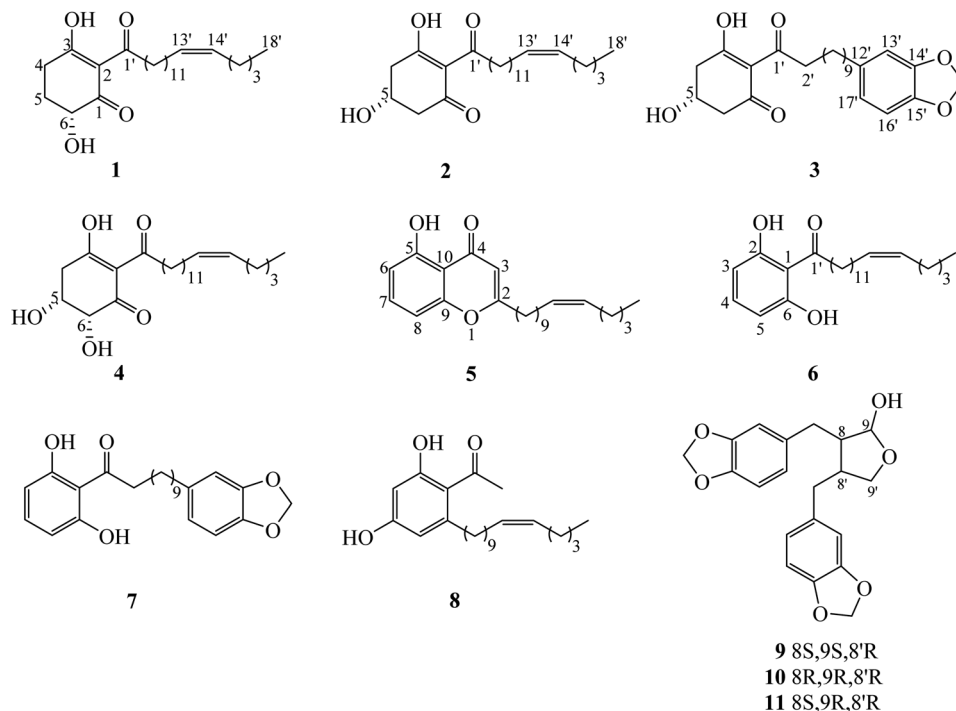


Fig. 1 The structures of all isolated compounds 1–11.

correlated to the carbonyl carbon at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  206.1 (C-1') in the HMBC experiment. The specific rotation of this compound was  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{20.8} = +37.1$  ( $c$  0.1, MeOH) with the same sign as

(+)-trineurone E.<sup>19</sup> The experimental ECD spectrum displayed a negative Cotton effect at 220 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon - 41.33$ ) and positive Cotton effect at 237 ( $\Delta\epsilon + 7.13$ ) and 288 ( $\Delta\epsilon + 11.00$ ) which

Table 1 <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopic data of compounds 1–6 (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>,  $\delta$  in ppm)<sup>a</sup>

Position	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	—	—	—	—	6.00, s	6.38, d (8.2)
4	2.74, m	2.94, dd (18.0, 3.8)	2.94, dd (18.0, 4.0)	3.05, dd (10.0, 2.7)	—	7.21, t (8.2)
		2.78, dd (18.0, 6.0)	2.76, dd (18.0, 3.5)	2.97, dd (10.0, 2.7)		
5	2.32, m	4.39, m	4.40, m	4.43, q (2.8)	—	6.38, d (8.2)
	1.77, m					
6	4.03, dd (13.0, 5.3)	2.76, dd (16.5, 4.0)	2.79, dd (16.2, 5.4)	4.17, d (2.8)	6.75, d (8.4)	—
		2.63, dd (16.5, 6.7)	2.63, dd (16.2, 6.5)			
7	—	—	—	—	7.38, t (8.4)	—
8	—	—	—	—	6.65, d (8.4)	—
1'	—	—	—	—	2.50, t (8.0)	—
2'	2.96, m	3.01, t (7.6)	3.01, t (7.0)	2.99, m	1.63, p (7.0)	3.12, t (7.3)
3'	1.57, m	1.60, p (7.0)	1.26, m	1.62, m	1.20, m	1.69, p
4'–8'	1.25, m	1.30, m	1.26, m	1.29, m	1.20, m	1.29, m
9'	1.25, m	1.30, m	1.26, m	1.29, m	1.92, m	1.29, m
10'	1.25, m	1.30, m	1.26, m	1.29, m	5.25, t (5.4)	1.29, m
11'	1.25, m	1.30, m	2.50, t (7.6)	1.29, m	5.25, t (5.4)	1.29, m
12'	1.97, m	2.01, m	—	2.01, m	1.92, m	2.01, m
13'	5.29, t (5.0)	5.34, t (4.6)	6.66, s	5.34, t (4.7)	1.20, m <sup>a</sup>	5.34, t (4.6)
14'	5.29, t (5.0)	5.34, t (4.6)	—	5.34, t (4.7)	1.20, m <sup>a</sup>	5.34, t (4.6)
15'	1.97, m	2.01, m	—	2.01, m	0.80, t (6.5)	2.01, m
16'	1.28, m <sup>a</sup>	1.31, m <sup>a</sup>	6.71, d (7.5)	1.30, m <sup>a</sup>	—	1.30, m <sup>a</sup>
17'	1.28, m <sup>a</sup>	1.31, m <sup>a</sup>	6.61, d (7.5)	1.30, m <sup>a</sup>	—	1.30, m <sup>a</sup>
18'	0.84, t (7.0)	0.89, t (7.0)	—	0.89, t (7.0)	—	0.89, t (7.0)
OH	18.2, s	18.2, s	18.2, s	18.3, s	12.4, br s	9.62, br s
OCH <sub>2</sub> O	—	—	5.90, s	—	—	—

<sup>a</sup> Overlapping signals.



Table 2  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopic data of compounds 1–6 (100 MHz,  $\text{CDCl}_3$ ,  $\delta$  in ppm)

Position	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	195.6	193.2	192.6	193.8	—	110.1
2	110.3	113.3	112.7	110.7	171.3	161.2
3	197.9	196.5	195.8	196.3	108.4	108.4
4	31.3	42.0	41.4	38.4	183.6	135.6
5	26.9	63.9	63.3	67.0	160.8	108.4
6	71.3	47.7	47.0	74.7	111.1	161.2
7	—	—	—	—	135.0	—
8	—	—	—	—	106.9	—
9	—	—	—	—	156.8	—
10	—	—	—	—	110.6	—
1'	206.1	206.1	205.4	205.4	34.4	208.0
2'	40.3	40.8	40.1	40.2	26.8	44.8
3'	24.6	25.1	31.6–29.2	25.1	29.8–29.0	24.4
4'–8'	29.8–29.3	30.2–29.8	31.6–29.2	30.2–29.8	29.8–29.0	29.8–29.3
9'	29.8–29.3	30.2–29.8	31.6–29.2	30.2–29.8	27.2	29.8–29.3
10'	29.8–29.3	30.2–29.8	31.6–29.2	30.2–29.8	129.9	29.8–29.3
11'	29.8–29.3	30.2–29.8	35.5	30.2–29.8	129.9	29.8–29.3
12'	27.2	27.7	136.7	27.7	27.2	27.2
13'	129.9	130.4	108.7	130.4	32.0	129.9
14'	129.9	130.4	147.2	130.4	22.4	129.9
15'	27.2	27.4	145.2	27.4	14.1	26.9
16'	32.0	32.4	107.8	32.4	—	32.0
17'	22.4	22.8	120.8	22.8	—	22.4
18'	14.0	14.5	—	14.5	—	14.0
$\text{OCH}_2\text{O}$	—	—	100.5	—	—	—

appropriately matched the calculated spectrum for the (6*R*) configuration. Thus the structure of **1** was identified as 3,6-dihydroxy-2-(octadec-13'*Z*-enyl)cyclohex-2-en-1-one which was named knecorticosanone C.

Compound **2**, a yellowish oil, had the molecular formula  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{40}\text{O}_4$ , determined from  $m/z$  393.2988  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  in the

HRESIMS data. The low field singlet signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  18.2 (1H, s, OH) indicated intramolecular H-bonding of the enone part. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra showed three carbonyl carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  193.2 (C-1), 196.5 (C-3) and 206.1 (C-1') of the 2-acylcyclohex-2-en-1-one part. A multiplet signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.39 (H-5) showed correlation with carbon at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  63.9 in the HMQC spectrum, indicating the

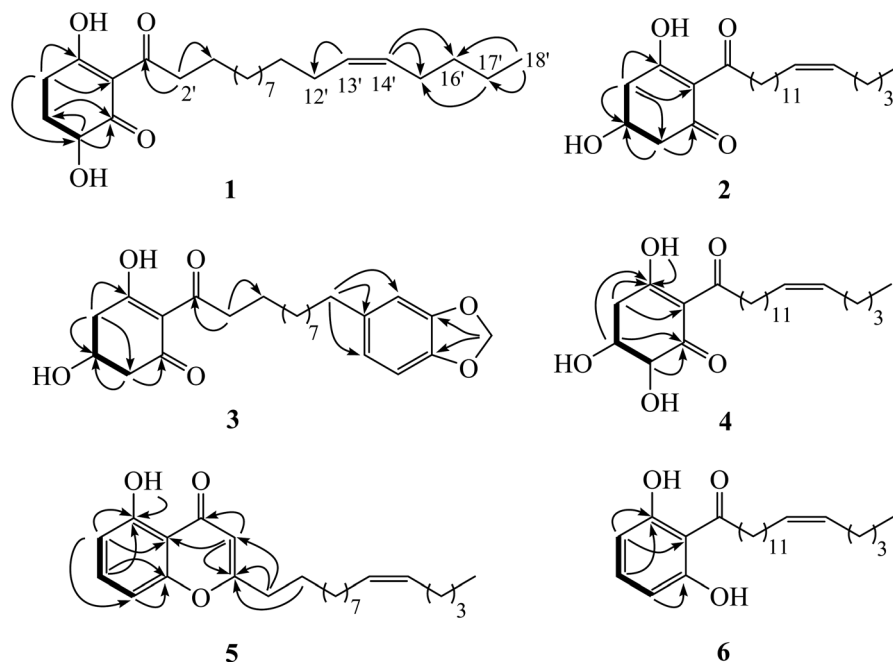


Fig. 2 Key HMBC correlations of compounds 1–6.



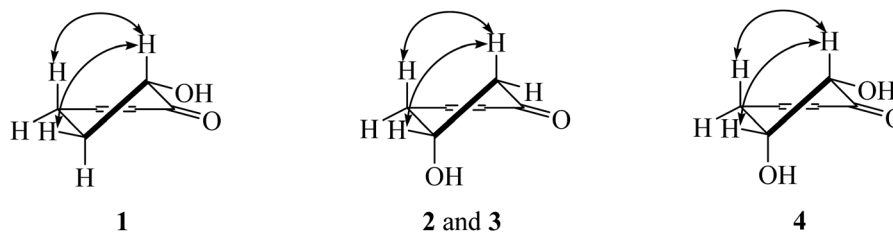


Fig. 3 NOESY correlations of compounds 1–4.

presence of the hydroxyl group in this position. Two methylene protons displayed at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.94 (1H, dd,  $J = 18.0, 3.8$  Hz, H-4a), 2.78 (1H, dd,  $J = 18.0, 6.0$  Hz, H-4b), 2.76 (1H, dd,  $J = 16.5, 4.0$  Hz, H-6a) and 2.63 (1H, dd,  $J = 16.5, 6.7$  Hz, H-6b). The HMBC experiment displayed correlations between H-4 and C-3 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  195.8), C-5 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  63.9) and C-6 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  47.0), in addition, between H-6 and C-1 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  192.6), C-4 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  41.4) and C-5 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  63.3). The rest of the  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR signals also showed ten methylene carbons around  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  40.1 to 29.2. The signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  40.1 and 35.5 were assigned as C-2' and C-11', respectively. Cross peaks in the HMBC spectrum showed correlations of H-2' and C-1', C-3' and C-4' while those of H-11' were C-12', C-13' and C-17'. The specific rotation of this compound was  $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{18.5} = -52.1$  ( $c$  0.1, MeOH). The experimental ECD spectrum displayed a positive Cotton effect at 210 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon + 11.48$ ) and negative Cotton effect at 218 nm ( $\Delta\epsilon - 1.97$ ). Thus, the structure of compound 3 was 3,5-dihydroxy-2-(11'-phenyl-14'-methylenedioxy-undecanoyl)cyclohex-2-en-1-one, named knecorticosanone E, established as shown.

Compound 4 was found as brown oil and showed the molecular formula of  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{40}\text{O}_5$  determined from the molecular ion peak  $m/z$  409.2947  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ . The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showed a low field shift signal the same as compounds 1–3 at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  18.3. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data displayed carbonyl carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  205.4 (C-1'), 193.8 (C-1) and 196.3 (C-3) and olefinic carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  110.7 (C-2). This information indicates the 3-hydroxycyclohex-2-en-1-one moiety and acyl side chain. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR experiment displayed methine oxygenated protons at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.43 (q,  $J = 2.8$  Hz) and 4.17 (d,  $J = 2.8$  Hz) which were assigned as H-5 and H-6, respectively. The small coupling constant ( $J = 2.8$  Hz) of H-6 indicated the axial-equatorial coupling of H-6 and H-5. The quartet signal of H-5 ( $J = 2.8$  Hz) was observed in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum and indicated the equatorial axis of H-5. The HMQC data insisted that these two protons were located on oxygenated carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  67.0 (C-5) and 74.7 (C-6). The doublet of doublet signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.97 and 3.05 (each 1H,  $J = 10.0, 2.7$  Hz) of H-4 attached to a carbon at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  38.4. The  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY showed the connection of the H-4/H-5/H-6 system. Cross peaks between H-4 and C-2 (110.7) and C-3 (196.3), between H-5 and C-1 (193.8) and C-3 (196.3), and between H-6 and C-1 (193.8) were evident. The rest of  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR signals showed an alkenoyl side chain which was the same as compounds 1 and 2. Thus, the structure of 4 was determined as 3,5,6-trihydroxy-2-(octadec-13'*Z*-enoyl)cyclohex-2-en-1-one, named knecorticosanone F, as shown in Fig. 1.

The HRESIMS data of compound 5 indicated a molecular formula of  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_3$  ( $m/z$  371.2578  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ ). An intramolecular hydrogen bond of a hydroxyl proton displayed low field shift at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  12.4. The HMBC experiment displayed correlation between

Compound 1 was obtained as a yellowish oil and showed the molecular ion peak at  $m/z$  439.2124  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  in HRESIMS, consistent with the molecular formula  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_6$ . The IR spectrum displayed absorption bands of a hydroxyl group ( $3360\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and carbonyl groups ( $1716$  and  $1633\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). The low field singlet signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  18.2 (1H, s, OH) indicated intramolecular H-bonding of the enone part. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra showed carbonyl carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  192.6 (C-1), 195.8 (C-3) and 205.4 (C-1') of the 2-acylcyclohex-2-en-1-one moiety. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showed the ABX pattern of 1,3,4-trisubstituted benzene at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.66 (1H, s, H-13'), 6.71 (1H, d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, H-16') and 6.61 (1H, d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, H-17') and these protons were attached to carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  108.7 (C-13'), 107.8 (C-16') and 120.8 (C-17'), respectively. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR experiment showed signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  147.2 and 145.2 of C-14' and C-15', respectively. The signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}/\delta_{\text{C}}$  5.90/100.5 was assigned as a methylenedioxy group. The correlations between methylenedioxy protons and carbons C-14' and C-15' were evident in the HMBC experiment. The multiplet signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.40 was assigned as an oxymethine proton at C-5 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  63.3). The doublet of doublet signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.94 (1H,  $J = 18.0, 4.0$  Hz) and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.76 (1H,  $J = 18.0, 3.5$  Hz) belonged to H-4 and was located on the carbon at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  41.4. The methylene protons at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.79 (1H,  $J = 16.2, 5.4$  Hz) and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.63 (1H,  $J = 16.2, 6.5$  Hz) were assigned as H-6 and attached to the carbon at

Compound 2 was obtained as a yellowish oil and showed the molecular ion peak at  $m/z$  439.2124  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$  in HRESIMS, consistent with the molecular formula  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_6$ . The IR spectrum displayed absorption bands of a hydroxyl group ( $3360\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ) and carbonyl groups ( $1716$  and  $1633\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ). The low field singlet signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  18.2 (1H, s, OH) indicated intramolecular H-bonding of the enone part. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra showed carbonyl carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  192.6 (C-1), 195.8 (C-3) and 205.4 (C-1') of the 2-acylcyclohex-2-en-1-one moiety. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum showed the ABX pattern of 1,3,4-trisubstituted benzene at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.66 (1H, s, H-13'), 6.71 (1H, d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, H-16') and 6.61 (1H, d,  $J = 7.5$  Hz, H-17') and these protons were attached to carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  108.7 (C-13'), 107.8 (C-16') and 120.8 (C-17'), respectively. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR experiment showed signals at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  147.2 and 145.2 of C-14' and C-15', respectively. The signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}/\delta_{\text{C}}$  5.90/100.5 was assigned as a methylenedioxy group. The correlations between methylenedioxy protons and carbons C-14' and C-15' were evident in the HMBC experiment. The multiplet signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.40 was assigned as an oxymethine proton at C-5 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  63.3). The doublet of doublet signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.94 (1H,  $J = 18.0, 4.0$  Hz) and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.76 (1H,  $J = 18.0, 3.5$  Hz) belonged to H-4 and was located on the carbon at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  41.4. The methylene protons at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.79 (1H,  $J = 16.2, 5.4$  Hz) and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.63 (1H,  $J = 16.2, 6.5$  Hz) were assigned as H-6 and attached to the carbon at



hydroxy proton and carbon at  $\delta_C$  160.8 (C-5). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR showed two doublet signals ( $J = 8.4$  Hz) at  $\delta_H$  6.75 and  $\delta_H$  6.65 which were assigned as H-6 and H-8, respectively. These protons correlated with aromatic carbons at  $\delta_C$  111.1 (C-6) and  $\delta_C$  106.9 (C-8), respectively, in the HMQC experiment. The proton H-7 exhibited a triplet signal at  $\delta_H$  7.38 and was located on an aromatic carbon at  $\delta_C$  135.0. Cross peaks between H-6 and C-5 ( $\delta_C$  160.8), C-10 ( $\delta_C$  110.6) and C-8 ( $\delta_C$  106.9), between H-7 and C-5 ( $\delta_C$  160.8) and C-9 ( $\delta_C$  156.8) and between H-8 and C-6 ( $\delta_C$  111.1), C-9 ( $\delta_C$  156.8) and C-10 ( $\delta_C$  110.6) were observed in the HMBC spectrum. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR signals of C-2 and C-4 appeared at  $\delta_C$  171.3 and  $\delta_C$  183.6, respectively. The signals at  $\delta_H/\delta_C$  6.00/108.4 of methine proton H-3 showed long range coupling with C-2 ( $\delta_C$  171.3), C-4 ( $\delta_C$  183.6) and C-10 ( $\delta_C$  110.6). The long chain hydrocarbon at the C-2 position was confirmed by the correlation of H-1' ( $\delta_H/\delta_C$  2.50/34.4) and C-2 ( $\delta_C$  171.3) and C-3 ( $\delta_C$  108.4), in addition, correlation between H-2' ( $\delta_H/\delta_C$  1.63/26.8) and C-2 was observed. The *cis* double bond was confirmed by the typical shielded signals of carbon C-9' and C-12' at  $\delta_C$  27.2. All data confirmed the structure of **5** was 5-hydroxy-2-(10'*Z*-pentadecenyl)-4*H*-chromen-4-one, named knecorticosanone G, as shown.

The molecular formula of compound **6**,  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{38}\text{O}_3$ , was confirmed on the basis of the molecular ion peak  $m/z$  397.2710  $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$ . The broad singlet signal at  $\delta_H$  9.62 was assigned to the intramolecular hydrogen bond of a hydroxyl group. Three aromatic protons at  $\delta_H$  7.21 (1H, t,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, H-4) and  $\delta_H$  6.38 (2H, d,  $J = 8.2$  Hz, H-3 and H-5) were observed in the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum. Correlations between H-3 and C-1 ( $\delta_C$  110.1) and C-2 ( $\delta_C$  161.2), between H-4 and C-2 ( $\delta_C$  161.2) were evident. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum displayed an acylalkenyl side chain by showing a carbonyl ketone at  $\delta_C$  208.0 and *cis* double bond (C-13' and C-14') at  $\delta_C$  129.9, in addition,  $\alpha$ -olefinic C-12' and C-15' showed at  $\delta_C$  27.2 and 26.9, respectively. Correlations in the HMBC spectrum of protons and carbons at C-14' to C-18' were the same as compound **1**. Thus, the structure of compound **6** was 1,3-dihydroxy-2-(octadec-13'*Z*-enyl)benzene, named knecorticosanone H, established as shown.

### Biological activity

Compounds **1–8** were evaluated for cytotoxicity against HepG2 and KKU-M156 cells by using the sulforhodamine B assay and the results are shown in Table 3. Compound **1** exhibited the most cytotoxic activity against HepG2 and KKU-M156 cell lines with  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values of  $1.57 \pm 0.37$  and  $1.78 \pm 0.14$   $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ , respectively. Compound **2** showed an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  value around 50  $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  against these two cell lines. Comparing the activity between compounds **2** and **1**, it seems that the hydroxyl group at the C-6 position is important for the cytotoxic activity. Compound **3** exhibited cytotoxicity with  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values of  $6.81 \pm 1.15$  and  $8.83 \pm 1.76$   $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$  against HepG2 and KKU-M156 cell lines, respectively, which was stronger than compound **2**. These results indicate that the aryl moiety is necessary for the cytotoxicity. In the case of compound **6**, it showed stronger activity than **2**. Hence, it was concluded that the 1,3-dihydroxybenzene moiety was important for the activity. In the case of compounds **6** and **7**, the results support that the aryl moiety

Table 3 Cytotoxicity of isolated compounds from *Knema globularia* ( $\text{IC}_{50}$   $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ )<sup>a</sup>

Compound	HepG2	KKU-M156
<b>1</b>	$1.57 \pm 0.37$	$1.78 \pm 0.14$
<b>3</b>	$6.81 \pm 1.15$	$8.83 \pm 1.76$
<b>5</b>	$8.17 \pm 2.47$	$15.92 \pm 3.68$
<b>6</b>	$25.26 \pm 7.37$	$23.14 \pm 3.79$
<b>7</b>	$10.50 \pm 3.48$	$18.66 \pm 4.36$
<b>8</b>	$18.39 \pm 6.31$	$34.19 \pm 12.53$
The other	Inactive	Inactive
Cisplatin	$4.67 \pm 1.63$	$30.09 \pm 15.11$

<sup>a</sup> Inactive at  $\text{IC}_{50} > 50$   $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ .

appeared to increase the activity. Chromone **5** displayed cytotoxicity against these two cell lines with  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values of  $8.17 \pm 2.47$  and  $15.92 \pm 3.68$   $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ . These results suggest that compound **5** was selective to the HepG2 cell line.

## 3. Experimental section

### General experimental procedures

Melting points were detected by a Sanyo Gallenkamp melting point apparatus. A JASCO P-1020 digital polarimeter was used to determine optical rotations. The UV spectra were obtained using an Agilent 8453 UV-visible spectrophotometer. A PerkinElmer Spectrum One FT-IR spectrophotometer was used to acquire the IR spectra. A Varian Mercury Plus spectrometer (400 MHz) was used to measure the NMR spectra. HRESIMS was performed on a Micromass Q-TOF 2 hybrid quadrupole time-of-flight (Q-TOF) mass spectrometer. Flash column chromatography (FCC) was performed by using silica gel less than 0.063 mm. Analytical thin-layer chromatography (TLC) was accomplished on Merck Si gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> plates.

### Plant material

The fruits of *K. globularia* were collected from Ban Thawat Buri, Thawat Buri District, Roi-Et Province, Thailand ( $16^\circ 06' 00.8''\text{N}$ ,  $103^\circ 49' 06.2''\text{E}$ ) in April 2019. The plant was identified by Asst. Prof. Dr Suppachai Tiyanoranant, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Khon Kaen University. A voucher sample (KKU022019) was deposited in the Natural Product Research Unit, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen.

### Extraction and isolation

The dried powdered fruits of *K. globularia* (1.25 kg) were soaked in hexane (3 L  $\times$  3), EtOAc (3 L  $\times$  3), and MeOH (3 L  $\times$  3). Solvent removal was done *in vacuo* to produce crude hexane (126 g), EtOAc (89 g), and MeOH (73 g) extracts. The crude hexane extract (126 g) was subjected to column chromatography, eluted with a gradient system of hexane, hexane–EtOAc and EtOAc–MeOH. On the basis of their TLC characteristics, the fractions which contained the same major compounds were combined to give eight fractions (H1–H8). Fraction H3 was subjected to silica gel column chromatography and eluted with a gradient system of hexane, hexane–EtOAc and EtOAc–MeOH to give 9



subfractions. Subfraction H3.3 was purified by RP-C18 column chromatography and eluted with MeOH to give **5** (38.0 mg, 0.0302%). Gel filtration (sephadex LH-20) was carried out on subfraction H3.8 eluting with MeOH and afforded **6** (52.6 mg, 0.0418%). Subfraction H3.9 was further purified by column chromatography, eluting with 100% CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and afforded **3** (10.3 mg, 0.0082%). Moreover, fraction 4 was purified by silica gel CC using 20% EtOAc/hexane to yield 10 subfractions. Further purification of subfraction H4.4 (silica gel CC, 20% EtOAc/hexane) gave 8 subfractions. Subfraction H4.4.4 was purified by silica gel FCC and eluted with 50% CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane to yield **8** (16.0 mg, 0.0127%). Compound **7** (8.8 mg, 0.0070%) was obtained from fraction H5 (silica gel CC, 20% EtOAc/hexane).

The crude EtOAc extract (89 g) was subjected to column chromatography and afforded 10 fractions. Fraction E3 was purified by silica gel FCC and eluted with 50% CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/hexane to give 6 subfractions. Subfraction E3.4 was further purified by preparative TLC using pure CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to yield **9** (5.2 mg, 0.0058%). Moreover, fraction E6 was further purified by column chromatography, eluting with 100% CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> and afforded 8 subfractions. Subfraction E6.2 was further purified by sephadex LH-20 to give 4 subfractions. A mixture of compounds **10** and **11** (10.1 mg, 0.0114%) was obtained from the recrystallization of subfraction E6.2.3.

The crude MeOH extract (73 g) was subjected to column chromatography and afforded 5 fractions. Fraction M2 was purified by silica gel CC and eluted with 10% EtOAc/hexane to give **1** (35.6 mg, 0.0488%). Fraction M3 was purified by RP-C18 column chromatography eluted with MeOH to yield 4 subfractions. Moreover, subfraction M3.2 was purified by preparative TLC with 100% CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to yield **2** (30.2 mg, 0.0414%). Fraction 4 was further purified by sephadex LH-20 to give 4 subfractions. Subfraction M4.3 was purified by RP-C18 column chromatography eluted with MeOH to give 5 subfractions. Subfraction 4.3.3 was further purified by preparative TLC using pure CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> to yield **4** (10.8 mg, 0.0302%).

Compound (**1**): yellowish oil; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20.8</sup> + 37.1 (*c* 0.1, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 234 (4.11), 272 (4.27) nm; IR (neat)  $\nu_{\max}$  3466, 2922, 2853, 1664, 1553, 1457 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) data, see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 393.3013 [M + H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>41</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, 393.3005).

Compound (**2**): yellowish oil; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>18.5</sup> - 50.7 (*c* 0.1, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 237 (4.07), 269 (4.34) nm; IR (neat)  $\nu_{\max}$  3494, 2923, 2854, 1659, 1555, 1452 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) data, see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 393.2988 [M + H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>41</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, 393.3005).

Compound (**3**): yellowish oil; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>18.5</sup> - 52.1 (*c* 0.1, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 226 (4.26), 274 (4.14) nm; IR (neat)  $\nu_{\max}$  3360, 2924, 2853, 1633, 1578, 1445 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) data, see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 439.2124 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na, 439.2097).

Compound (**4**): brown oil; [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>20.8</sup> + 122.2 (*c* 0.1, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 232 (3.97), 273 (4.07) nm; IR (neat)  $\nu_{\max}$  3433, 2921, 2853, 1725, 1661, 1543, 1462 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) data, see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 409.2947 [M + H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>41</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, 409.2954).

Compound (**5**): orange oil; UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 234 (4.28), 326 (3.58) nm; IR (neat)  $\nu_{\max}$  3290, 2922, 2853, 1650,

1615, 1467, 1411, 1236 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) data, see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 371.2578 [M + H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>35</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 371.2586).

Compound (**6**): yellowish oil; UV (CH<sub>3</sub>OH)  $\lambda_{\max}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 224 (3.86), 269 (3.78), 344 (3.19) nm; IR (neat)  $\nu_{\max}$  3328, 2923, 2853, 1628, 1590, 1509, 1451 cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) data, see Tables 1 and 2; HRESIMS *m/z* 397.2710 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>38</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na, 397.2719).

### Cytotoxicity assays

A sulforhodamine B assay was performed as formerly described.<sup>20</sup> KKU-M156 and HepG2 cells were placed into 96-well culture plates. The isolated compounds were added into cultured cells and incubated for 24 h. The cytotoxicity was calculated as the percentage absorbance of controls. The IC<sub>50</sub> value was calculated by a non-linear curve-fitting program from triplicate assay of three separate experiments.<sup>21</sup> The positive control was a cisplatin standard and showed IC<sub>50</sub> values of 10.0 ± 4.8 and 2.2 ± 0.7  $\mu$ M against KKU-M156 and HepG2 cell lines, respectively.

### ECD calculations

Preliminary conformational analyses were carried out using HyperChem software. These dominant conformers were developed at the B3LYP/6-311g(d,p) basis set by density functional theory.<sup>22</sup> The Gaussian 09 program was used to calculate ECD spectra.<sup>23</sup> The single point energy calculations were computed using time-dependent density functional theory (TD-DFT)<sup>24</sup> at the CAM-B3LYP/6-311++g(d,p) level of theory.<sup>25</sup> The bulk solvent effects were examined using the CPCM polarizable conductor calculation model.<sup>26</sup>

## 4. Conclusions

Chemical investigation of the fruits of *Knema globularia* (Lam.) warb led to the isolation of six new compounds, knecorticosanones C-H (**1–6**), in addition, three known lignans were also isolated. All isolated polyketides were evaluated for cytotoxicity against HepG2 and KKU-M156 cell lines. Compound **1** exhibited the most cytotoxicity against these two cell lines with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 1.57 ± 0.37 and 1.78 ± 0.14  $\mu$ g mL<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Cytotoxicity results of compounds **1** and **2** indicate that the hydroxyl group at the C-6 position are important for the activity.

## Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts to declare.

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