

Natural Taxanes: Developments Since 1828

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1. INTRODUCTION

Yews (*Taxus* spp., Taxaceae) are slow-growing evergreen, nonresinous gymnospermous shrubs commonly used for ornamental landscaping or as construction material to build arbors (Figures 1–3). Their seeds are surrounded by a unique red fleshy cuplike aril when mature, which plays a key role in attracting birds and mammals that disperse the seeds. The most common horticultural varieties are English yew (*T. baccata*), Pacific or Western yew (*T. brevifolia*), American yew (*T. canadensis*), and Japanese yew (*T. cuspidata*). Species in the genus of *Taxus* contain an impressive array of taxanes, a group of diterpenoids with a taxane skeleton as their characteristic constituents. By far, no plant has been reported to contain taxane except these in *Taxus* and *Austrotaxus* of Taxaceae, while *Austrotaxus* was represented by only one species, *Austrotaxus spicata*, distributed in New Caledonia, Oceania, with limited chemical investigations.^{1,2} Chemical studies of the yew trees were initiated because of yew poisoning. In ancient times, there were fetal cases that yew extracts were used for various reasons especially for submit to or surrendered by enemies. Long time ago, Native Americans used the bark of *T. brevifolia* as a disinfectant, an abortifacient, and a medicine for healing skin cancer. In various regions of the Himalayas, the Himalayan yew, distributed widely across Southeast and Central Asia and China have been using for headaches, calming nerves, and snakebites by local residents.

In 1856, a white alkaloidal noncrystalline powder, named taxine, was isolated in a yield of 1% from needles of *T. baccata* L. by Lucas.³ This ill-defined constituent was thought to account for the toxicity of the plant.^{4,5} For availability of technology at that time and instability of the compounds, there was no further purification or structure elucidation about that toxic component.⁶ Until 1960s, there was not much progress on the chemical studies on yew trees, which was summarized in the cited literature.^{7,8}

A turning point came with the supporting of a program in the United States in the early 1950s, when the National Cancer Institute (NCI) started a screening program of plant extracts using tumor system models in vivo and tumor cell lines in vitro. In 1964, the activity of an extract from the bark of *T. brevifolia* Nutt. was confirmed by the KB cytotoxicity assay. Chemical



Figure 1. (a) Japanese yew, *T. cuspidata* and (b) the Pacific yew, *T. brevifolia* (taken by H. Kiyota).

investigation resulted in a highly active agent, isolated by Wall and Wani in a yield of 0.014% using bioassay-guided scheme, and named it as Taxol (paclitaxel) in 1966 (Figure 4). Its structure was elucidated by NMR techniques as a complex diterpenoid with an unusual oxetane ring and a β -phenylisoserine side chain esterifying at the C-13 position in 1971.⁹ Methanolysis of paclitaxel led to the formation of 10-deacetylbaaccatin III and methyl ester of (2R,3S)-*N*-benzoyl-3-phenylisoserine. Wall assumed that no rearrangement had occurred during this reaction and confirmed the structure including the stereochemistry of paclitaxel by the X-ray analysis of both derivatives of 10-deacetylbaaccatin III and *N*-benzoyl-3-phenylisoserine methyl ester.⁹ However, the antitumor activity of paclitaxel was not remarkable in comparison to vinblastin, colchicine and vincristine.¹⁰ In addition, because of its poor solubility, ambiguous mechanism, modest yield, and purification difficulty, study on paclitaxel was not pursued further. Full clinical potential of paclitaxel was recognized when the antitumor models changed to B16 melanoma against rapidly growing tumors and L1210 leukemia against solid tumors in 1974.¹⁰



Figure 2. Fruits of (a) *T. baccata* and (b) *T. cuspidata*. Photograph by Q. W. Shi

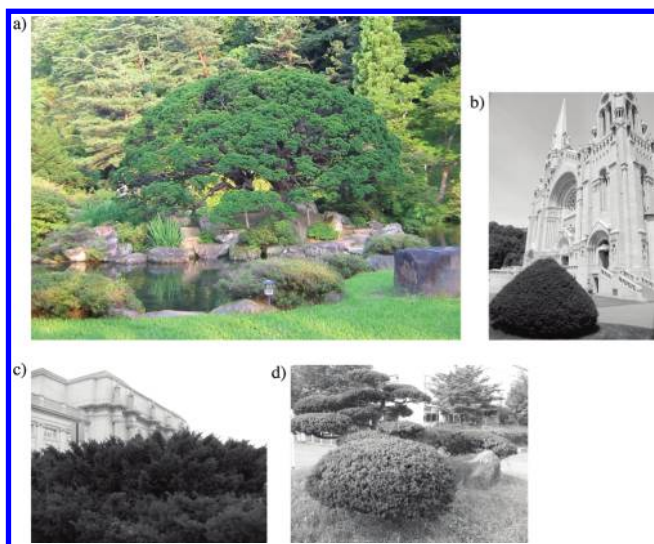


Figure 3. Yews were ornamental trees taken from (a) a Japanese garden, (b) a Quebec Church, (c) Washington Railway Station, and (d) Tohoku University of Japan. (a) Photograph by H. Kiyota. (b–d) Photograph by Q. W. Shi.

Studies on paclitaxel received particular renewed interest right after the discovery of its mechanism of action, a historic step in the development of paclitaxel. In 1978, Fuchs and Johnson reported that paclitaxel acted as an antimetabolic agent.¹¹ Horwitz at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York under requirement of National Cancer Institute studied the mechanism

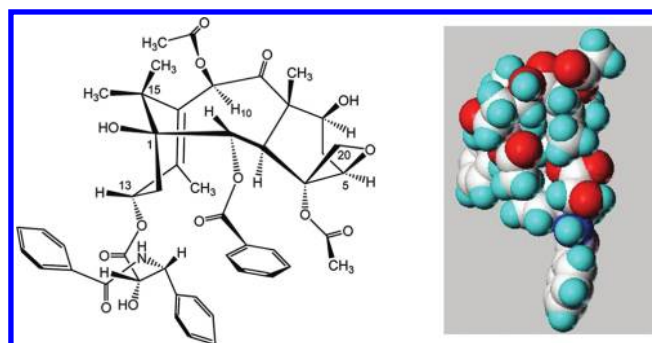


Figure 4. Stereoview of paclitaxel.

Table 1. Distribution of the Different *Taxus* Species

<i>Taxus</i> species	trivial name	distribution
<i>T. baccata</i> L.	European or English yew	Europe and Asia
<i>T. brevifolia</i> Nutt.	Pacific or Western yew	Northwest Pacific
<i>T. canadensis</i> Marsh.	Canadian yew	Canada
<i>T. celebica</i> (Warburg) Li	Chinese yew	China
<i>T. cuspidata</i> Sieb. et Zucc.	Japanese yew	Japan
<i>T. floridana</i> Nutt.	Florida yew	Northwest Florida
<i>T. globosa</i> Schlecht.	Mexican yew	Mexico/El Salvador
<i>T. wallichiana</i> Zucc.	Himalayan yew	Himalayas
<i>T. fuana</i> Nan Li and R.R. Mill	West Himalayan yew	Western Himalayas

of action of paclitaxel in the spring of 1977.¹² In 1979, Horwitz and Schiff¹³ reported that paclitaxel could promote the irreversible assembly of tubulin into microtubules and thus disrupted mitosis,¹⁴ while all natural substances in that period such as vinblastine, colchicine, and maytansine, were known to interact with tubulin by preventing the assembly of tubulin into microtubules. The effect of paclitaxel on microtubules in vitro was well-known,¹⁵ and it was the first compound known to act as a promoter of microtubule assembly. This new mode of action led to the selection of paclitaxel as a new lead structure for further pharmacological exploration and in 80s of the last century paclitaxel was promoted to clinical study. Since then, huge amount of efforts and resources have been put in an extensively investigation on the potency of paclitaxel and its derivatives. Between the 1960s and 1970s, Japanese and American chemists isolated more than 20 taxanes from Japanese and European yews and most of them are derivatives of taxinine and baccatin.^{16,17} The taxane-type structures of taxanes were established in 1963 with taxinine as the first example of this special group of natural products.^{18,19} In 1980, Miller classified the 30 taxanes isolated before 1975 and discussed the naming system.²⁰ Ten years later, in 1990, the number of compounds was almost doubled with 55 in three structural types.²¹ In 1993, Kingston added another 46 new taxanes to the list, and the structure classes remained unchanged. Of the 101 compounds identified, 96 have a 6/8/6 membered ring system.²² In Appendino's review covered from March of 1992 to September of 1994, 122 compounds were reported and the structure categories claimed to 5.²³ In 1995, Zhang claimed that 170 compounds were available until 1994,²⁴ while Parmar and Kingston's review included 270 compounds of 6 types in 1999.^{25,26} An updated review by Shi et al. reported 215 new compounds isolated between 1999 and 2005 with skeletons

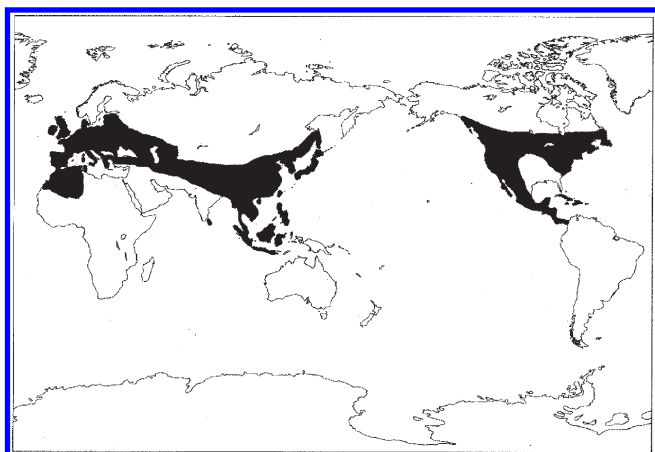


Figure 5. Distribution of *Taxus* species in the world shown in black.

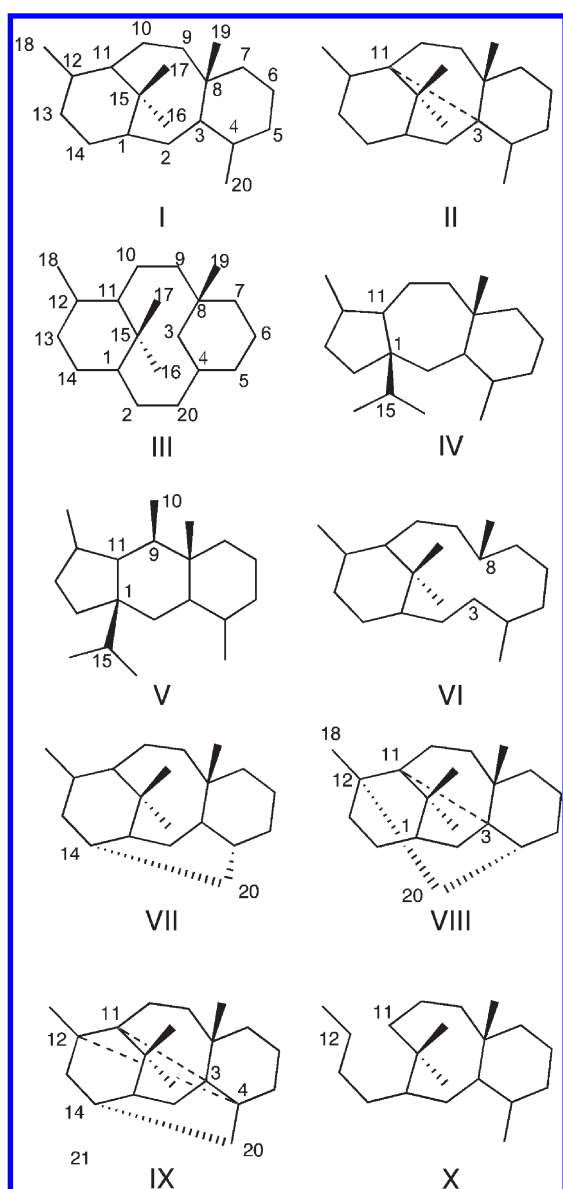


Figure 6. Taxane skeletons.

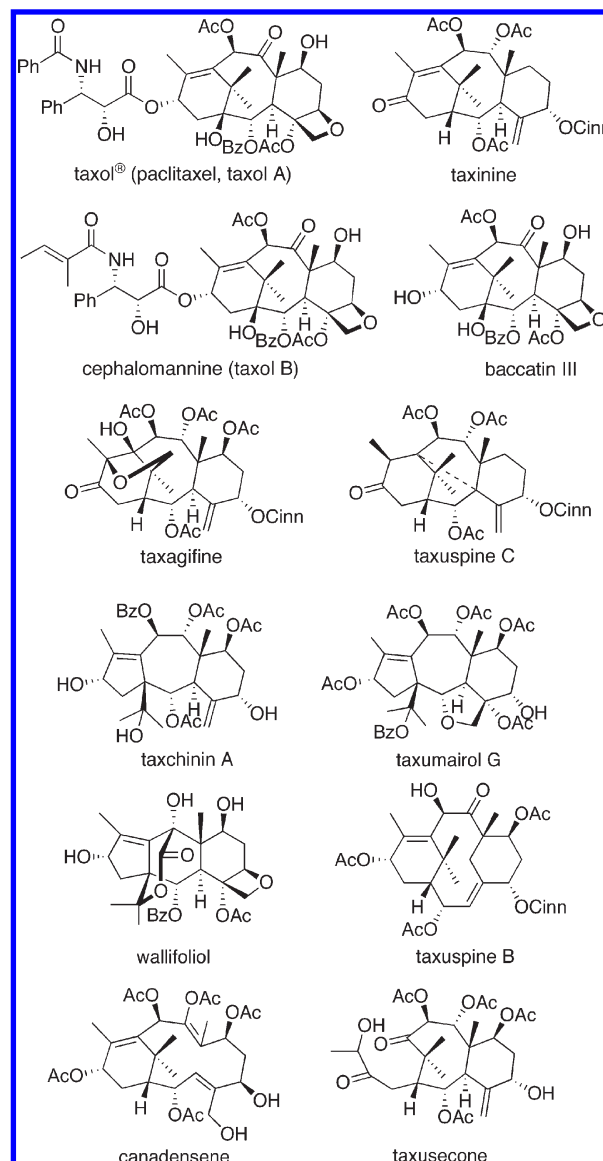


Figure 7. Structures of representative taxanes (Cinn = cinnamoyl = 3-phenylprop-2-enyl).

increased to 9.²⁷ This review aim to systematically outline the secondary metabolites (taxane diterpenoids) from *Taxus* spp. up to the end of 2009, covering the recent progress on their phytochemistry, NMR and MS features, mode of action, and structure–activity relationships.

2. EARLY INVESTIGATIONS

The early phytochemical studies of taxanes dated back to 1828 when Peretti reported that the leaves of English yew (*T. baccata* L.) contained “bitter” volatile oil, oxalic acid lime, chlorophyll, and resin, while his methodology was not cited. Lucas³ analyzed its alkaloid content in yew foliage (*T. baccata* L.). Twenty years later, Marme obtained crystalline taxine for the first time using an extraction method similar to Lucas’ method.²⁸ Hilger and Brande gave the molecular formula for taxine, $C_{37}H_{52}NO_{10}$, based on elemental combustion analysis. In 1921, Winterstein and colleagues made some constructive investigation using acid hydrolysis to study the degradation products of amorphous taxine²⁹ and recovered a

Table 2. 6/8/6-Taxanes 1: Neutral Taxa-4(20),11-dienes

compound	no.	source	part	ref.
5 α ,13 α -diacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-9 α ,10 β -diol	1	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	323
2 α ,10 β ,13 α -triacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,7 β ,9 α -triol	2	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	323
		<i>T. canadensis</i>		324
2 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-5 α -ol (decinamoyltaxinine E)	3	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	325
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	sd	184
2 α ,10 β ,13 α -triacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,9 α -diol	4	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	326
2 α ,9 α ,13 α -triacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,10 β -diol	5	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	326
5 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene (taxusin)	6	<i>T. baccata</i>	hw	204, 327
		<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	328, 329
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	hw	330
2 α ,5 α ,7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -hexaacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene taxuyunnanine D	7	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	14
	8	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	330
10 β ,13 α -diacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-2 α ,5 α ,9 α -triol	9	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv	332
9 α ,10 β ,13 α -triacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-5 α -ol	10	<i>T. mairei</i>	tw	333
2-deacetyldecinamoyltaxinine E	11	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	334
5 α ,10 β ,13 α -triacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-1 β ,7 β ,9 α -triol (taxawallin G)	12	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	335
2-deacetoxy-5-decinamoyltaxinine J	13	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	197
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	bk	336
		<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	334
2 α ,5 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -pentaacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene	14	<i>T. baccata</i>	hw	204
5 α ,7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -pentaacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene	15	<i>T. baccata</i>	hw	204
		<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	337
2 α ,7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-5 α -ol decinamoyl-1-hydroxytaxinine J	16	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	338
	17	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	334
13-acetylbrevifoliol	18	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	201
2 α -benzoyloxy-9 α ,10 β ,13 α -triacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-1 β ,5 α -diol	19	<i>T. chinensis</i>	st, lv	339
1-hydroxy-2-deacetoxy-5-decinamoyltaxinine j	20	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	340
2 α ,9 α -diacetoxy-5 α ,10 β -dihydroxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-13-one	21	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	326
2 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-5 α ,9 α -dihydroxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-13-one	22	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	326
10 β -acetoxy-2 α ,5 α ,7 β ,9 α -tetrahydroxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-13-one	23	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	341
2 α ,9 α ,10 β -triacetoxy-5 α -(β -D-glucopyranosyloxy)taxa-4(20),11-dien-13-one	24	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	342
taxezopidine C	25	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st, sd	343
taxezopidine D	26	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st, sd	343
taxuspine G (2-deacetyltaxinine A)	27	<i>T. cuspidate</i>	st, lv	344
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv, st	345
2,10-di-O-acetyl-5-decinamoyltaxinine I	28	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	334
13-dehydro-5,13-deacetyl-2-deacetoxy-decinamoyltaxinine (taxuspinanane K)	29	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	57
taxinine A	30	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	16
		<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	346
		<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	347
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv	348
triacetyl-5-decinamoyltaxinin I (1-hydroxytaxinine A)	31	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	334
				349
taxinine H	32	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	16
taxuspine F	33	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st, lv	344
9 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-5 α -(β -D-glucopyranosyloxy)taxa-4(20),11-dien-13 α -ol	34	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	53
2 α ,9 α ,10 β -triacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,13 α -diol	35	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	350
9 α ,10 β -diacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,13 α -diol	36	<i>T. baccata</i>	hw	204
		<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	328
taxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraol	37	<i>T. baccata</i>	hw	351
taxa-4(20),11-diene-1 β ,2 α ,5 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -hexaol	38	<i>T. chinensis</i>	st, lv	339
7-debenzoyloxy-10-deacetylbrevifoliol	39	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	201
2 α ,9 α -diacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-1 β ,5 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraol	40	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	114
taxezopidine F	41	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd, st	343

Table 2. Continued

compound	no.	source	part	ref.
2 α -benzoyloxy-9 α ,10 β -diacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-1 β ,5 α ,13 α -triol	42	<i>T. chinensis</i>	st, lv	339
brevifolol	43	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	lv	98
2 α -acetoxybrevifolol	44	<i>T. baccata</i>	sd	64
10 β -acetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-2 α ,5 α ,7 β ,9 α ,13 α -pentaol	45	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	113
5 α ,7 β ,10 β -triacetoxy-2 α -(α -methylbutyryloxy)taxa-4(20),11-diene	46	<i>T. baccata</i>	hw	204
		<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	337
2 α -(α -methylbutyryloxy)-7 β ,9 α ,10 β -triacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-5 α -ol	47	<i>T. baccata</i>	hw	204
2 α -(α -methylbutyryloxy)-5 α ,7 β ,9 α ,10 β -tetraacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene	48	<i>T. baccata</i>	hw	204
2 α ,5 α ,9 α ,10 β -tetraacetoxy-13 α -(<i>Z</i>)-cinnamoyloxytaxa-4(20),11-diene	49	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	rt	182
5 α ,9 α ,10 β -triacetoxy-13 α -(<i>Z</i>)-cinnamoyloxytaxa-4(20),11-diene	50	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	182
1 β ,7 β ,9 α ,10 β -tetraacetoxytaxa-4(20)-dien-5 α -ol	51	<i>T. baccata</i>	rt	189

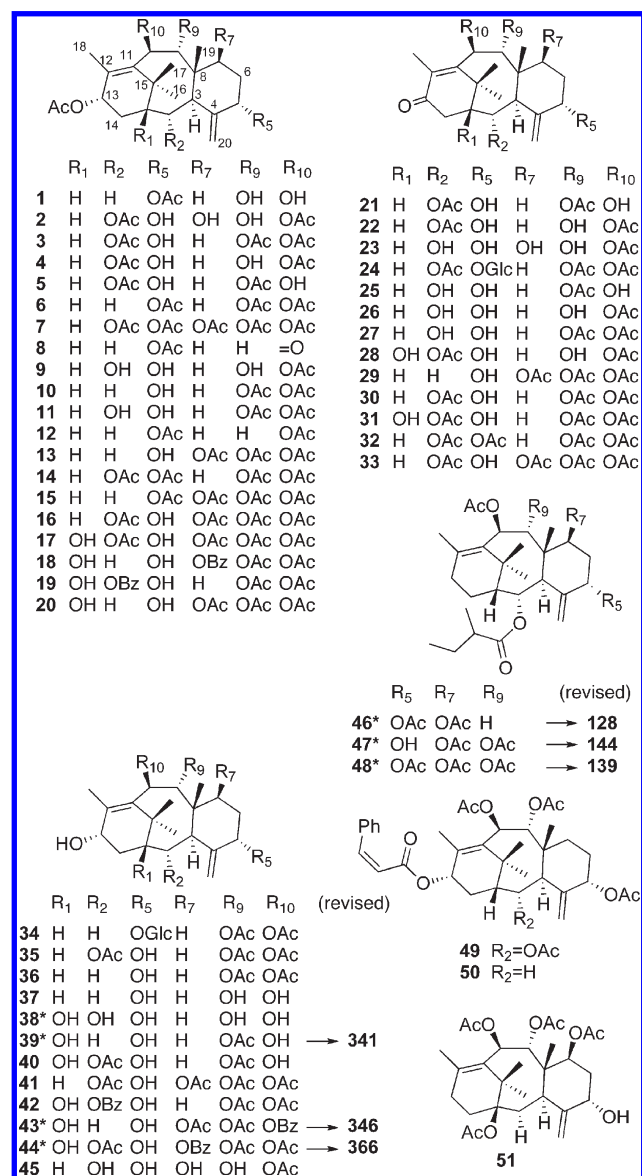


Figure 8. Neutral taxa-4(20),11-dienes. Asterisk (*) indicates structures that were revised later.

crystalline degradation product identified as β -dimethylamino- β -phenylpropionic acid (Winterstein's acid). Several decades later,

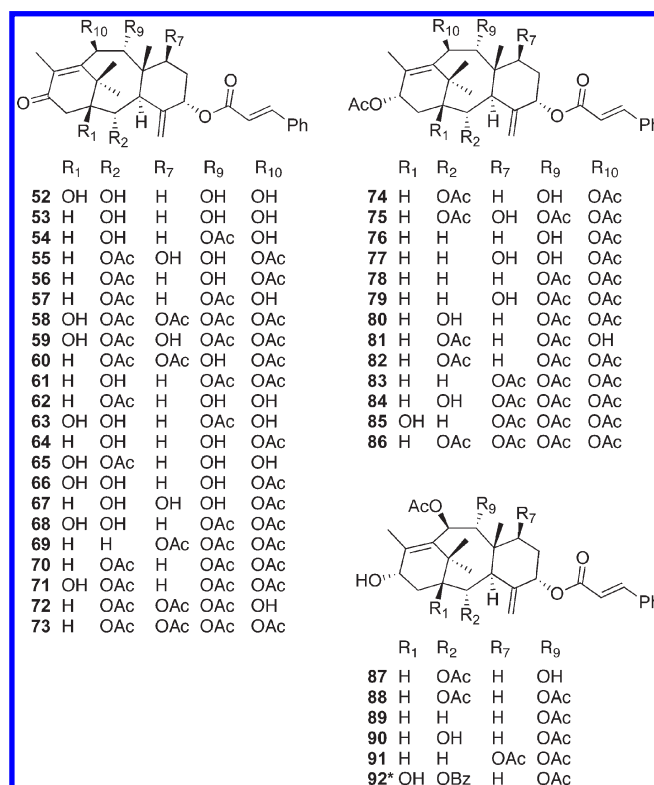


Figure 9. Neutral Taxa-4(20),11-dienes with a C-5-cinnamoyloxy group.

Graf and Boeddeker claimed that taxine was a mixture of heterogeneous compounds.³⁰ Cleavage of the compound resulted in hydrocinnamic acid (determined spectrophotometrically) and dimethylamine (determined by alkaline hydrolysis). On the basis of this result, Graf demonstrated that taxine is a mixture of unstable alkaloids. Spectrophotometry, chromatography, and infrared (IR) analysis in further investigation made it possible to recognize two major types of taxine alkaloids: taxine A and taxine B. In fact, taxine contained several alkaloidal compounds and was easy to get with acid. In 1960s, great progress has been made with the development of NMR and MS techniques. Yet, as evidenced by the references cited in the following sections, detailed structural analysis of the compounds isolated from *Taxus* species only became achievable in recent several decades, probably because of recent advances in modern spectroscopic and spectrometric techniques.

Table 3. 6/8/6-Taxanes 2: Neutral Taxa-4(20),11-dienes with a C-5-Cinnamoyloxy Group

compound	no.	source	part	ref
5 α -cinnamoyloxy-1 β ,2 α ,9 α ,10 β -tetrahydroxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-13-one	52	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	352
5 α -cinnamoyloxy-2 α ,9 α ,10 β -trihydroxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-13-one	53	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	352
9 α -acetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxytaxa-2 α ,10 β -dihydroxy-4(20),11-dien-13-one	54	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	352
7,9-dideacetyltaxinine B	55	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	353
9-deacetyltaxinine	56	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv, st	354
		<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	346
10-deacetyltaxinine	57	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	325
		<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	187
1 β -hydroxy-7 β -acetoxytaxinine	58	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	355
1 β ,7 β -dihydroxytaxinine	59	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	355
9-deacetyltaxinine B	60	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	350
2-deacetyltaxinine	61	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	196, 346
9,10-deacetyltaxinine	62	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	356
O-cinnamoyltaxicin I	63	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	183
5-cinnamoyl-10-acetyltaxicin II	64	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	36
2-O-acetyl-5-O-cinnamoyltaxicin I	65	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	114
5-cinnamoyl-10-acetyltaxicin I	66	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	36
taxezopidine E	67	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd, st	343
5-cinnamoyl-9,10-diacetyltaxicin I	68	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	112
2-deacetoxytaxinine B	69	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv, tw	357
taxinine (O-cinnamoyltaxicin II triacetate)	70	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	12, 183, 358
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv	348
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	10, 16
		<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	328
O-cinnamoyltaxicin I triacetate	71	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	183
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	16
10-deacetyltaxinine B	72	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv, tw	37, 359
taxinine B (7 β -acetate-O-taxinine A)	73	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	10
		<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	337
9-deacetyltaxinine E	74	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	105
		<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	346
dantaxusin D	75	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	205
dantaxusin B	76	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk, lv, tw	360
2-deacetoxy-7,9-dideacetyltaxinine J	77	<i>T. chinensis</i>	bk	361
5 α -cinnamoyloxy-9 α ,10 β ,13 α -triaceoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene	78	<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	362
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	363
9 α ,10 β ,13 α -triaceoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-7 β -ol	79	<i>T. mairei</i>	tw	333
taxezopidine G	80	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd, st	296
		<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	346
		<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	347
2 α ,9 α ,13 α -triaceoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-10 β -ol	81	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	363
2 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraaceoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxytaxa-4(20),11-diene (taxinine E)	82	<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	337
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	10
2-deacetoxytaxinine J	83	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	364
		<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	346
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st, bk	365
2 α -deacetyltaxinine J (taxuspinanane G)	84	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	366
1-hydroxy-2-deacetoxytaxinine J (taxawallin A)	85	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	bk	367
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	335
taxinine J	86	<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	368
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	364
		<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	364
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	bk	369

Table 3. Continued

compound	no.	source	part	ref
2 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-9 α ,13 α -diol	87	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	370
13-deacetyltaxinine E	88	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	181
9 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-13 α -ol	89	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	214
9 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-2 α ,13 α -diol	90	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	363
taxezopidine H	91	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd, st	343
9 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-2 α -benzoyloxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-1 β ,13 α -diol	92	<i>T. chinensis</i>	st, lv	339, 371, 372

Table 4. 6/8/6-Taxanes 3: Basic Taxa-4(20),11-dienes

compound	no.	source	part	ref
2-deacetyltaxinine II	93	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	373
1-deoxy-2 α -acetoxytaxinine B	94	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	373
1-deoxy-2 α ,9 α -diacetoxy-10-deacetyltaxinine B	95	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	373
2 α ,7 β ,9 α ,10 β -tetraacetoxy-5 α -[(2'R,3'S)-N,N-dimethyl-3'-phenylisoseroyloxy]taxa-4(20),11-dien-13-one	96	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	181
2-deacetoxy-9-acetoxytaxinine B	97	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	6
2-deacetoxy-10-acetyltaxinine B	98	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	6
taxinine B	99	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	374–376
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	sd	184
10-acetoxytaxinine B	100	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	6
9-acetoxytaxinine B	101	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	6
2'-hydroxytaxinine II	102	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	377
7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxy-5 α -[(2'R,3'S)-N,N-dimethyl-3'-phenylisoseroyloxy]taxa-4(20),11-dien-2 α -ol	103	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	234
2 α ,9 α ,13 α -triaceoxy-5 α -[(R)-3'-dimethylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]taxa-4(20),11-dien-10 β -ol	104	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	53
2 α ,10 β ,13 α -triaceoxy-5 α -[(R)-3'-dimethylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]taxa-4(20),11-dien-9 α -ol	105	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	53
9 α ,13 α -diacetoxy-5 α -[(R)-3'-dimethylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]taxa-4(20),11-diene-1 β ,10 β -diol	106	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	378
13-deoxo-13 α -acetyloxy-1-deoxytaxinine B	107	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	186
13-deoxo-13 α -acetyloxytaxinine B	108	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	186
7,2'-didesacetoxyaustrospicatine	109	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	bk	367, 379
		<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	347
taxuspine Z	110	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	380
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	sd	184
2 α -acetoxy-2',7-dideacetoxyaustrospicatine	111	<i>T. chinensis</i>	sd	184
2' β -deacetoxyaustrospicatine	112	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	bk, lv	381
		<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	382
(+)-2 α -acetoxy-2',7-dideacetoxy-1-hydroxyaustrospicatine	113	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	383
2 α -acetoxy-2' β -deacetyl-austrospicatine	114	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	384
2 α -acetoxy-2'-deacetyl-1-hydroxyaustrospicatine	115	<i>T. baccata</i>		334
10 β ,13 α -diacetoxy-5 α -[(R)-3'-methylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]taxa-4(20),11-diene-2 α ,9 α -diol (13-deoxo-13 α -acetyloxy-1-deoxynortaxinine B)	116	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	234
		<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	186
2 α ,10 β ,13 α -triaceoxy-5 α -[(R)-3'-methylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]taxa-4(20),11-dien-9 α -ol	117	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	326
9 α ,10 β ,13 α -triaceoxy-5 α -[(R)-3'-methylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]taxa-4(20),11-diene	118	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	385
2 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxy-5 α -[(R)-3'-methylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]taxa-4(20),11-diene	119	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	185
7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxy-5 α -[(R)-3'-methylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]taxa-4(20),11-diene	120	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	185
taxezopidine O	121	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	386
9 α ,10 β ,13 α -triaceoxy-5 α -[(R)-3'-dimethylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]taxa-4(20),11-diene-2 α ,17-diol	122	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	234
taxinine NA-13	123	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	387
7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxy-5 α -[3'-(N-formyl-N-methylamino)-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]taxa-4(20),12-diene	124	<i>T. canadensis</i>	rt	186

3. TAXONOMY AND DISTRIBUTION OF YEW

Taxonomy of *Taxus* is always a point of discussion for the distinction between the species is difficult even the circumscription of the family is doubtful. Most authors placed Taxaceae in a

separate family but sometimes fused with Podocarpaceae and Cephalotaxaceae, while in most cases, Cephalotaxaceae was placed separate despite the close relationships between the three members. However, position of *Taxus* within the Taxaceae is not

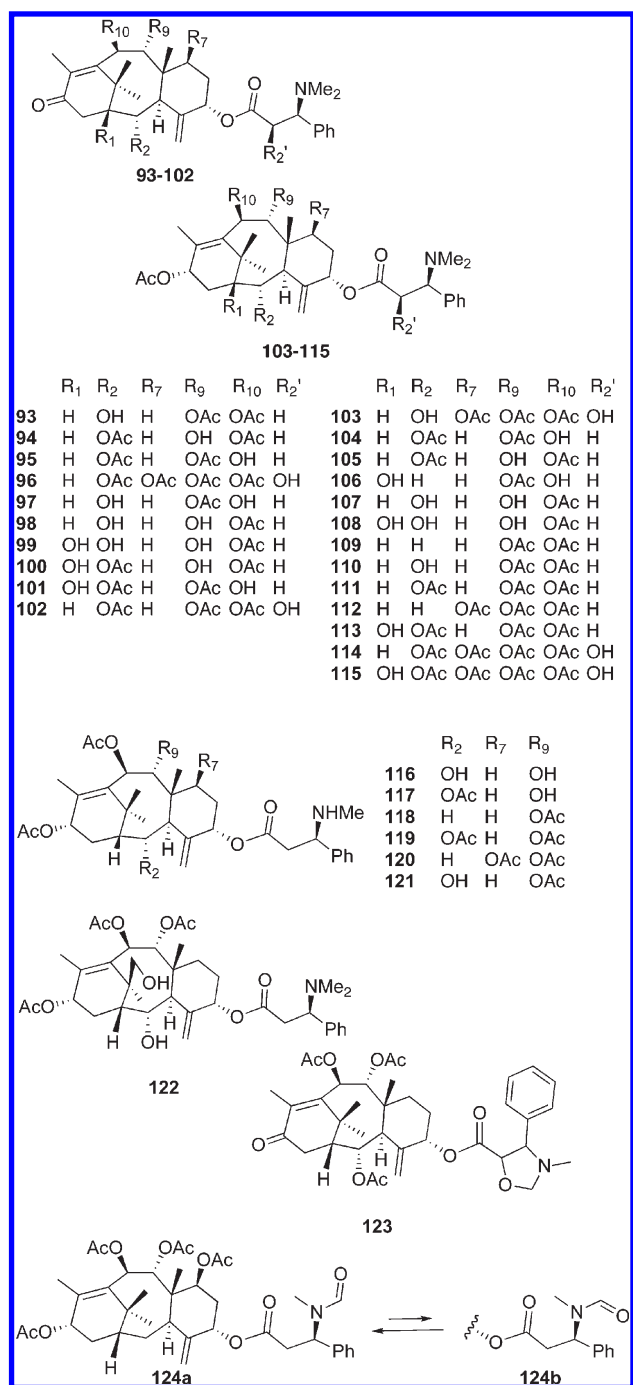


Figure 10. Basic taxa-4(20),11-dienes.

problematic. Most authors consider *Taxus* to contain nine species: *T. baccata* L., *T. cuspidata* Sieb. and Zucc., *T. canadensis* Marshall, *T. brevifolia* Nutt., *T. floridana* Chapm., *T. globosa* Schltdl., *T. wallichiana* Zucc., *T. fuana* Nan Li and R.R. Mill, and *T. chinensis* (Pilger) Rehder. Furthermore, two hybrids species exist: *T. media* Rehder is a cross between *T. baccata* and *T. cuspidata* and *T. hunnewelliana* Rehder is a cross between *T. cuspidata* and *T. canadensis*.

As pointed out by Appendino,²³ the taxonomy of the genus *Taxus* is difficult because yews are morphologically variable and similar phenotype exists in different species. Krussmann tried to give essential distinguished characteristics, but all are debatable

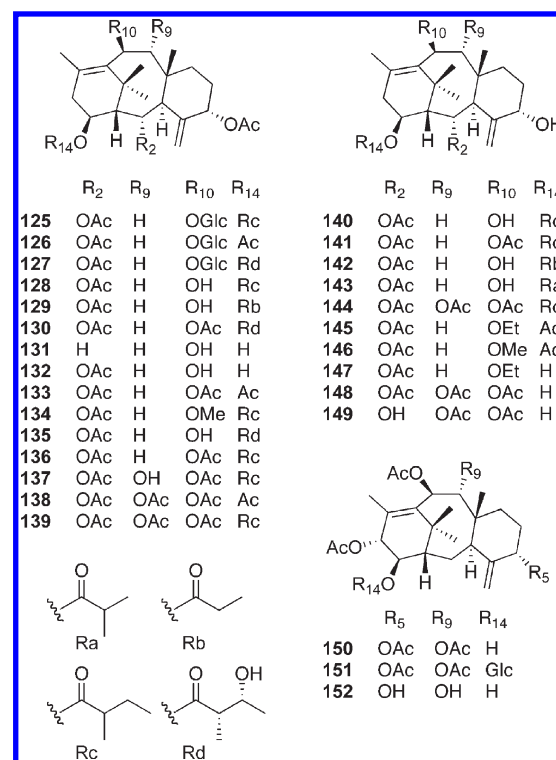


Figure 11. Taxanes with a C-14 oxygen functional group.

and depend on the development stage of the plant.³¹ Rozendaal et al. gave a detail description of the yews based on the taxanes isolated from them.³² For the taxonomic ambiguity there is some confusion in the literature over the names of certain yews. In particular the Himalayan yew, *T. wallichiana* Zucc., was sometimes referred to as *T. baccata* L., while the Chinese yew, *T. celebica* (Warburg) Li is often considered as *T. chinensis* Rehd., *T. yunnanensis* Cheng et L. K. Fu, or *T. mairei* (Lemee and Lev.) Hu ex Liu. The taxonomic independency of *T. fuana*, *T. wallichiana*, and *T. brevifolia* were clarified by principal component analysis on morphological data and by molecular sequence data.³³ *T. mairei* was considered as a variety species of *T. chinensis* in most Chinese taxonomic books except in Taiwan. Japanese yew, *T. cuspidata* Sieb. et Zucc., also has a variety species *T. cuspidata* Sieb. et Zucc. var. *nann* Rehder, which often used as a garden tree in Japan. Both of them were called Japanese yew in literature. The botanical summary provided by Appendino²³ was shown in Table 1.

Most *Taxus* species are distributed in the Northern hemisphere (Figure 5). European yew, *T. baccata*, is available in Europe and north region of Middle East. Pacific yew, *T. brevifolia*, as a tall arbor mainly distribute in the northwest coast region of America. Canadian yew, *T. canadensis*, endemic to Canada, is a low trailing shrub ubiquitous to the Quebec region, and its chemical composition has been shown to be very different from other species. Japanese yew, *T. cuspidata*, is distributed in the Japanese islands, North Korea, Northeast region of China, and far east region of Russia and also used as a ornamental tree in Washington Railway Station, U.S.A., the Quebec parliaments, and many churches and yards in North America. The Himalaya yew, *T. wallichiana*, is mainly distributed over multiple regions in Himalaya Mountains including China, India, Pakistan, and Nepal. *T. yunnanensis* is endemic

Table 5. 6/8/6-Taxanes 4: Taxanes with a C-14-Oxygen Functional Group

compound	no.	source	part	ref
2 α ,5 α -diacetoxy-10 β -(β -D-glucopyranosyloxy)-14 β -[(S)-2'-methylbutanoyloxy]taxa-4(20),11-diene	125	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	53
2 α ,5 α ,14 β -triacetoxy-10 β -(β -D-glucopyranosyloxy)taxa-4(20),11-diene	126	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	53
10-deacetyl-10 β -(β -D-glucopyranosyloxy)yunnanxane	127	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	106
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	rt	187
		<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	53
hongdoushan A	128	<i>T. mairei</i>	st, tw	55
hongdoushan B	129	<i>T. mairei</i>	st, tw	55
yunnanxane	130	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	106
taxuyunnanine J	131	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	388
taxuyunnanine G	132	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	388
taxuyunnanine C	133	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	331
2 α ,5 α -diacetoxy-10 β -methoxy-14 β -(2-methylbutanoyloxy)taxa-4(20),11-diene	134	<i>T. baccata</i>	rt	189
10-deacetylyunnanxane	135	<i>T. media</i>	rt	35
2 α ,5 α ,10 β -triacetoxy-14 β -(2-methylbutanoyloxy)taxa-4(20),11-diene	136	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	st, tw	55
		<i>T. baccata</i>	hw	389
		<i>T. baccata</i>	rt	189
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	hw	188
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	hw	390
2 α ,5 α ,10 β -triacetoxy-14 β -(2-methylbutanoyloxy)taxa-4(20),11-dien-9 α -ol	137	<i>T. mairei</i>	tw	333
2 α ,5 α ,9 α ,10 β ,14 β -pentaacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene	138	<i>T. mairei</i>	tw	333
taxuyunnanine B	139	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	331
hongdoushan C	140	<i>T. mairei</i>	st, tw	55
tasumatrol K	141	<i>T. sumatrata</i>	lv, tw	54
taxuyunnanine H	142	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	388
taxuyunnanine I	143	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	388
taiwanxan	144	<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	391, 392
2 α ,14 β -diacetoxy-10 β -ethoxytaxa-11,4(20)-dien-5 α -ol	145	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	hw	56
2 α ,14 β -diacetoxy-10 β -methoxytaxa-11,4(20)-dien-5 α -ol	146	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	hw	56
2 α -acetoxy-10 β -ethoxytaxa-11,4(20)-dien-5 α ,14 β -diol	147	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	hw	56
2 α ,9 α ,10 β -triacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,14 β -diol	148	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	393
9 α ,10 β -diacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-2 α ,5 α ,14 β -triol	149	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	393
14 β -hydroxytaxusin (5 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-14 β -ol)	150	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	190
5 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxy-14 β -(β -D-glucopyranosyloxy)taxa-4(20),11-diene	151	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	352
10 β ,13 α -diacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,9 α ,14 β -triol	152	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	191

to China and is mainly distribute in the Yunnan Province of China. Another two species endemic to China are *T. chinensis* and *T. mairei*, which are distributed in middle region of China and South East region of China, respectively. All of these yew trees contain taxane diterpenoids, but they showed some differences in chemical profiles.

4. TAXANES ISOLATED FROM YEW TREES

Structures of taxane diterpenoids isolated and identified could be classified into 11 types based on their carbon ring systems: 6/8/6, 6/5/5/6, 6/10/6, 5/7/6, 5/6/6, 6/12, 6/8/6/6, 6/5/5/5/6, 5/5/4/6/6/6, and 8/6. According to the order that discovered, 10 representative structures were given below (Figure 6): normal 6/8/6-ring taxanes **I**; 3,11-cyclotaxanes **II**; 2(3 \rightarrow 20)abeotaxanes **III**; 11(15 \rightarrow 1)abeotaxanes **IV**; 11(15 \rightarrow 1),11(10 \rightarrow 9)diabeotaxanes **V**; 3,8-secotaxanes (bicyclic taxanes) **VI**; 14,20-cyclotaxane **VII**; 3,11:12,20-dicyclotaxane **VIII**; 3,11:4,12,14:20-tricyclotaxane **IX**; and 11,12-secotaxane **X**. Among them, only one compound was found in each of the **VII**, **IX**, and **X** groups.

By the end of 2009, more than 550 taxanes have been isolated from leaves (lv), stems (st), roots (tr), barks (bk), seeds (sd), twigs (tw), and branches (br) of various yews. These diterpenoids were sorted in to the following subgroups based on their skeleton/substitution patterns. Representative taxanes are shown in Figure 7.

4.1. 6/8/6-Taxanes 1: Neutral Taxa-4(20),11-dienes (Taxinine A Type, Table 2 and Figure 8)

A number of the most common taxanes, taxa-4(20),11-dienes, 6/8/6-(membered)taxanes, are assorted by C-5-substituents including hydroxy, acetoxy, and glucosyloxy groups.

The C-1 in compounds of this group normally present with H or OH group except 1,7,9,10-tetraacetoxytaxa-4(20),11-dien-5-ol (**51**), the only compound that has a 1-OAc group. Compounds **49** and **50** are exceptional with a rare *cis*-cinnamoyloxy group at C-13. Compound **34** is the first example of a taxane glycoside with a glucose unit at C-5. Taxanes **51**, **46**, **47**, and **48** were characterized by the absence of moiety at both C-13 and C-14. Structures of **46**, **47**, and **48** were revised to the corresponding

Table 6. 6/8/6-Taxanes 5: Taxoids with a C-12,17-Ether Ring

compound	no.	source	part	ref
taxumairol R (5-O-acetyltaxinine M)	153	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt, bk	394
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	195
5 α -[(R)-3'-dimethylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]taxinine M	154	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	384
taxezopidine N	155	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	59
2 α -deacetyl-5 α -decinnamoyltaxagifine	156	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	363, 395
5 α -decinnamoyltaxagifine	157	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	192
5 α -acetyl-5 α -decinnamoyltaxagifine	158	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	192
5-decinnamoyl-11-acetyl-19-hydroxytaxagifine	159	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	197
19-debenzoyl-19-acetyltaxinine M	160	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	396
taxinine M	161	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	397
		<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	347
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	384
tasumatrol L	162	<i>T. sumatrata</i>	lv, tw	54
taxagifine	163	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	193
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	192
		<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	81, 398
taxuspine S	164	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	399
taxuspine T	165	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	399
19-acetoxytaxagifine (taxezopidine L)	166	<i>T. chinensis</i>	bk, tw, lv	400
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	401
taxacin	167	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	193
taxagifine III	168	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	363, 395
4-deacetyltaxagifine III	169	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	363

2 α -acetoxy-7 β -deacetoxy-14 β -(2-methylbutanoyl)oxy-taxane (128, 144, and 139, respectively) in which ^{13}C NMR resonance of C-1 (δ 60 ppm) provided remarkable clues.^{34,35}

4.2. 6/8/6-Taxanes 2: Neutral Taxa-4(20),11-dienes with a C-5-Cinnamoyloxy Group (Taxinine Type, Table 3 and Figure 9)

The cinnamoyloxy group is one of the common substituents on taxanes especially at C-5-position. Taxinine (70), the most abundant component (*ca.* 0.1%) in needles,^{36,37} fruits,³⁸ seeds³⁹ in various *Taxus* species, was isolated initially from the needles of the Japanese yew in 1925.⁴⁰ It was the first natural taxane obtained in a pure state, and its structure was elucidated in the 1960s.^{41,42} Taxinine could be obtained by thermal elimination of the dimethylamine from C-5 ester moiety of a taxane alkaloid (taxine II), and can be used as a starting material to prepare paclitaxel.⁴³ 2-Deacetoxytaxinine J (83), a nonalkaloidal taxane diterpene, showed significant cytotoxicity on most cell lines and equipotent effective against both parental and β -tubulin mutant tumor cell lines.⁴⁴ Taxinine NN-7 (61) exhibited moderate activity as a modulator for multidrug-resistant tumor cells.⁴⁵ Recently, it was reported that taxinine together with another six tricyclic diterpenoids suppress superoxide generation mainly via suppressing tyrosine or serine/threonine phosphorylation, and the translocation of cytosolic compounds to the cell membrane in human neutrophils. In addition, when concentration reached to the dosage suppressing superoxide generation needed, these compounds showed no effect of hemolysis.⁴⁶

4.3. 6/8/6-Taxanes 3: Basic Taxa-4(20),11-dienes (Table 4 and Figure 10)

Compounds in this group were characterized by the presence of a C-4(20)-double bond and esterification at C-5 with

β -aminophenylpropanoic acids (β -dimethylaminophenylpropanoic acid = Winterstein's acid).⁴⁷ 122 is a rare example of taxane with a C-17-hydroxy group. No benzoyl group has been found so far in taxine B (99) and taxicin-type derivatives. Taxine, a powerful heart poison as described before, was isolated in 1856.³ Actually it was a mixture of diterpene alkaloids but did not arouse enough attention at that time. With the advances of chromatographic techniques, at least eleven compounds established their presence. Taxines A (489), B (99), and C (487) were obtained as pure compounds in 1956.²⁹ However, structural elucidation of the major component (taxine B) was not achieved until 1991.⁴⁸ Taxine B could also be used as a precursor for the synthesis of paclitaxel and its analogs.^{49,50} It was reported that taxine B reduced cardiac contractility and the maximum rate of depolarization of the action potential in the isolated papillary muscle, acting as a class I antiarrhythmic drug.⁵¹ Eliminating dimethylamine of taxine B type taxanes could lead to taxinine type taxanes³⁶ and they generally coexist in nature. But it is still not clear whether the relationships between these two types of compounds is enzymatic, degradative or both. The presence of an ester of nor-Winterstein acid is interesting, since taxanes of this type might be the intermediates in the biosynthesis of phenylisoserinic side-chain of paclitaxel.¹ Taxane 124 is an exception with an *N*-formyl group composed of *cis*- and *trans*-rotamers for these basic taxanes. It showed moderate growth inhibitory activity against HMV-1, KT, T-98 and MMI-CB while inactive against HeLa, HEC-1, SHIN3, HOC-21 and HAC-2, U251-SP cell.⁵² 123 is another rare basic taxane reported recently bearing a heterocycle at C-5 side chain.

4.4. 6/8/6-Taxanes 4: Taxanes with a C-14-Oxygen Functional Group (Taiwanxan Type, Table 5 and Figure 11)

Taxanes with a C-4(20)-double bond and an oxygen function group at C-14 were only discovered recently, and most of

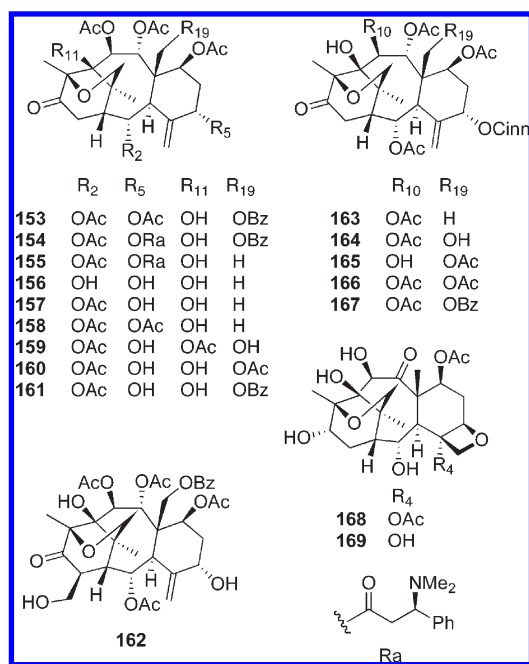


Figure 12. Taxanes with a C-12,17-ether ring.

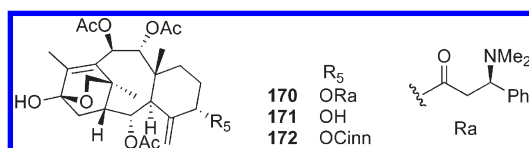


Figure 13. Taxanes with a C-13,17-ether ring.

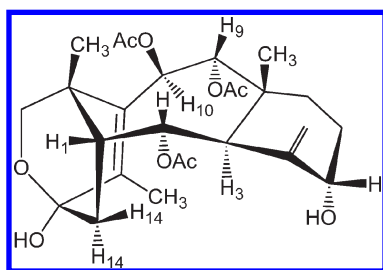


Figure 14. Stereostructure of taxezopidine A (171).

them have been found in the heartwood of the Chinese yew, *T. yunnanensis* or *T. chinensis* var. *mairi*, and the Japanese yew, *T. cuspidata*. Taiwanxan (144) was the first example of this type taxanes, whose structure was confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analysis. All the groups at C-14 were in β -orientation. Compounds 125–127 isolated from *T. canadensis* were the first reported examples of taxanes with a glucose unit on the ring B. Their NMR features will be discussed in the following section.⁵³ 141 showed strong activity against human liver carcinoma (Hepa 59T/VGH), human large cell carcinoma of the lung, human cervical epitheloid carcinoma (HeLa), human colon adenocarcinoma (DLD-1) and human medulloblastoma (Med) cell lines.⁵⁴ Hongdoushans A (128) and C (140) exhibited weak antiproliferative activity toward murine colon 26-L5 carcinoma and human HT-1080 fibrosarcoma cell lines, while hongdoushans B (129) demonstrated moderate activity toward the colon 26-L5

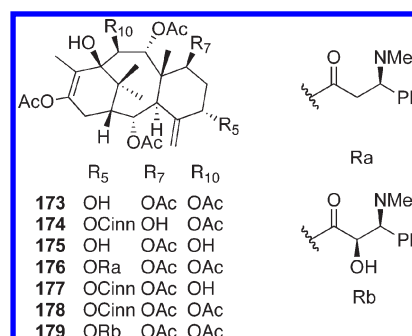


Figure 15. Taxa-4(20),12-dienes.

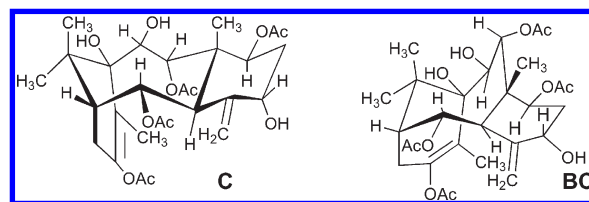


Figure 16. Crown (C) and boat-chair (BC) conformations of 175.

Table 7. 6/8/6-Taxanes 6: Taxanes with a C-13,17-Ether Ring

compound	no.	source	part	ref
taxezopidine M	170	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	59
taxezopidine A	171	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	194
taxezopidine J	172	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	181, 401

carcinoma cell line with an EC_{50} value of $3.8 \mu\text{g/mL}$.⁵⁵ 134 and 145–147 are very rare group of taxanes with an alkoxy moiety on the skeleton.^{56,57}

These taxanes mentioned above contain fused three-ring system A/B/C with transfused B/C junction because of the trans-axial dispositions of C-19 at C-8 and H-3 at C-3, the ring A being in a syn conformation with respect to ring C. The molecule as a whole adopts folded cage-type conformation. The eight-membered B ring is puckered to form sofa like conformation while the six-membered ring A is in a twist conformation.

4.5. 6/8/6-Taxanes 5: Taxanes with a C-12,17-Ether Ring (Taxagifine Type, Table 6 and Figure 12)

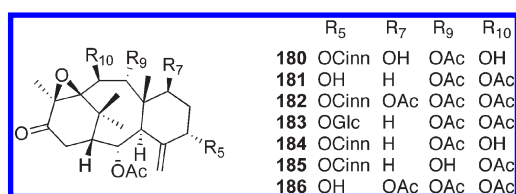
Taxanes of this group were oxygenated at C-17, with the oxygen presenting as an oxygen bridge with C-12 and a hydroxy group at C-11. Taxanes 154 and 155 were the only two examples with an alkaloidal side chain (Winstenstein's acid) at C-5 while tasmatrol L (162) was the taxane with a C-21-homotaxane cage conformation isolated from any natural source and the most highly oxygenated taxinine M analog with twelve carbons oxidized. Taxagifine (163) was the first member of this group, isolated from *T. baccata* in 1982 and its structure was established by single X-ray diffraction analysis. Compound 166 showed weak cytotoxicity against most cell lines such as human KB, A-549 lung carcinoma, HCT-8 colon tumor, CAKI-1 renal, 1A9 ovarian, and 1A9PTX10 β -tubulin mutant cell lines. It indicated that the presence of ether linkage (C-12,17), C-19-acetoxy group, and C-13-carbonyl group reduced cytotoxicity of 166.⁴⁴ However

Table 8. 6/8/6-Taxanes 7: Taxa-4(20),12-dienes

compound	no.	source	part	ref
5-decinnamoyltaxuspine D	173	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	324
7-deacetoxytaxuspine D	174	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	326
2 α ,9 α ,7 β ,13-tetraacetoxytaxa-4(20),12-diene-5 α ,10 β ,11 β -triol taxuspine P	175	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	63
taxezopidine K	176	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	229
taxuspine D	177	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	401
	178	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	60
			sd	181
2 α ,7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,13-pentaacetoxy-5 α -(2'-hydroxy-3'- <i>N,N</i> -dimethylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy)taxa-4(20),12-dien-11 β -ol	179	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	66

Table 9. 6/8/6-Taxanes 8: Taxanes with a C-11,12-Epoxy Ring

compound	no.	source	part	ref
10-deacetyldantaxusin C	180	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	370
taxinine A 11,12-epoxide	181	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	402
dantaxusin C	182	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	205
2 α ,9 α ,10 β -triacetoxy-11,12-epoxy-5 α -(β -D-glucopyranosyloxy)tax-4(20)-en-13-one	183	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	403
2 α ,9 α -diacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-11,12-epoxy-10 β -hydroxytax-4(20)-en-13-one	184	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	404
2 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-11,12-epoxy-9 α -hydroxytax-4(20)-en-13-one	185	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	404
decinnamoyltaxinine B 11,12-oxide	186	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	405

**Figure 17.** Taxanes with a C-11,12-epoxy ring.

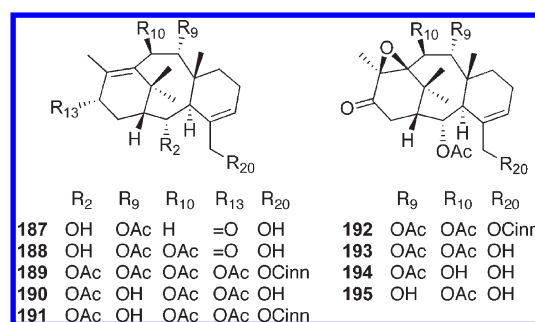
both taxezopidine L (166) and taxagifine (163) reduced the CaCl₂-induced depolymerization of microtubules remarkably in a manner similar to that of paclitaxel.⁵⁸ 168 and 169 are taxanes with C-5,20-oxetane and C-12,17-ether bridges, also belonging to section 4.12.

4.6. 6/8/6-Taxanes 6: Taxanes with a C-13,17-Ether Ring (Table 7 and Figure 13)

Taxezopidines M (170), A (171), and J (172) were three taxanes isolated from the Japanese yew with a hemiacetal ring involving C-11-C-12-C-13-C-15-C-17. Though containing an oxabicyclo[2.2.2]octane moiety, they still have a cage-like backbone conformation similar to the taxanes consisting of 6/8/6-membered ring system. The eight-membered ring (C-1-C-3, C-8-C-11, and C-15) adopts a boat-chair conformation (Figure 14). Taxezopidine M (170) slowed down the process of tubulin depolymerization at higher concentration (50 μ M), but did not show cytotoxicity against murine lymphoma L1210 and human epidermoid carcinoma KB cells at 10 μ g/mL.⁵⁹

4.7. 6/8/6-Taxanes 7: Taxa-4(20),12-dienes (Table 8 and Figure 15)

Taxanes of this class were characterized by the C-11-hydroxy group and C-12,13-enol acetate moiety as represented by taxuspine D (178),^{60,61} which was the first taxane reported containing an enol acetate moiety in ring A.⁶² An example of confor-

**Figure 18.** Tax-4-enes.

mational exchange (Figure 16) in a natural 6/8/6-membered taxane enolate (175) was found.⁶³ The structures of two stable conformers were established using a combination of 1D and 2D NMR techniques including gs-HMQC, gs-HMBC, NOESY, and T-ROESY. However, little attention was paid to the conformation flexibility of the highly folded taxane skeleton although this phenomenon has been detected in the normal 6/8/6-membered taxane.⁶⁴

Taxuspine D (178) and taxezopidine K (177) reduced CaCl₂-induced depolymerization of microtubules significantly with a potency corresponding to half of the activity of paclitaxel. This result was surprising since taxuspine D (178) lacks all the key features essential for the bioactivity. Molecular modeling studies indicated that the C-12(13)-double bond caused a substantial change in the conformation of the core skeleton, and the C-5-cinnamoyloxy group in taxuspine D was found to be a mimic part of the C-13 side chain of paclitaxel.⁶⁵ Compound 179 is the first example of an alkenyl acetate taxane with a β -*N,N*-dimethylamino- β -phenylisoseroyloxy substituent at C-5.⁶⁶ More interestingly, all the seven taxanes of this group were isolated from Japanese yew and Canadian yew, and both yew trees grow in the cold regions of the northern hemisphere.⁶⁶

Table 10. 6/8/6-Taxanes 9: Taxa-4,11-dienes

compound	no.	source	part	ref
9 α -acetoxy-2 α ,20-dihydroxytaxa-4,11-dien-13-one	187	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	195
9 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-2 α ,20-dihydroxytaxa-4,11-dien-13-one	188	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	196
2 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxy-20-cinnamoyloxytaxa-4,11-diene	189	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	105
		<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	406
2 α ,9 α ,13 α -triacetoxytaxa-4,11-diene-9 α ,20-diol	190	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	326
2 α ,10 β ,13 α -triacetoxy-20-cinnamoyloxytaxa-4,11-dien-9 α -ol	191	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	370

Table 11. 6/8/6-Taxanes 10: 11,12-Epoxytax-4-enes

compound	no.	source	part	ref
2 α ,9 α ,10 β -triacetoxy-20-cinnamoyloxy-11 β ,12 β -epoxytaxa-4,11-dien-13-one	192	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	326
2 α ,9 α ,10 β -triacetoxy-11 β ,12 β -epoxy-20-hydroxytaxa-4,11-dien-13-one	193	<i>T. canadensis</i>	rt	103
2 α ,9 α -diacetoxy-11 β ,12 β -epoxy-10 β ,20-dihydroxytaxa-4,11-dien-13-one	194	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	404
2 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-11 β ,12 β -epoxy-9 α ,20-dihydroxytaxa-4,11-dien-13-one	195	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	404

Table 12. 6/8/6-Taxanes 11: Tax-11-enes with an Opened Oxetane Ring

compound	no.	source	part	ref
7-deacetyltaxuspine L	196	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	407
7,9-deacetyltaxuspine L	197	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	324
taxumairol N	198	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	408
taxumairol O	199	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	408
taxumairol L	200	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	409
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	410
taxumairol E	201	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	411
taxuspine L	202	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	412
taxchin A	203	<i>T. chinensis</i>		207
2,20-O-diacetyltaxumairol N	204	<i>T. chinensis</i>	st, lv	47
taxuspine R	205	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	398
5 α ,7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -pentaacetoxy-2 α -benzoyloxytax-11-ene-4 α ,20-diol	206	<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	413
(2 α ,5 α ,7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α)-5,10,13,20-tetraacetoxytax-11-ene-2,7,9-triol	207	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv, tw	414
7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -pentaacetoxy-2 α -benzoyloxytax-11-ene-4 α ,5 α -diol	208	<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	413
taxumairol A	209	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	415
taxchin B	210	<i>T. chinensis</i>	st, lv	416

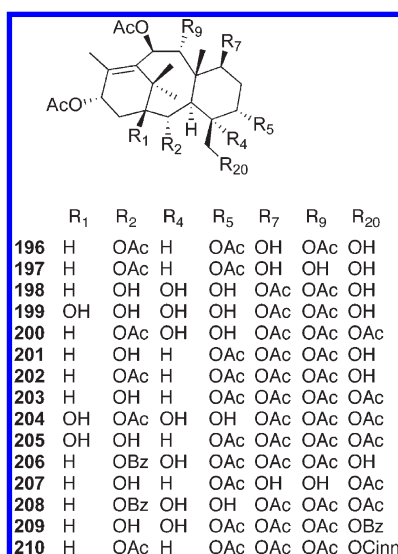


Figure 19. Tax-11-enes with an opened oxetane ring.

4.8. 6/8/6-Taxanes 8: Taxanes with a C-11,12-Epoxy Ring (Table 9 and Figure 17)

The presence of a C-13-oxo group, an epoxy ring at C-11,12, and oxygenated substitutions at C-2, C-5, C-9, and C-10 were the key features of these taxanes. The first one of this group was 186 reported from *T. yunnanensis* in 1996, followed by 181 obtained from Japanese yew in 1999.

4.9. 6/8/6-Taxanes 9: Taxa-4,11-dienes, and 6/8/6-Taxanes 10: 11,12-Epoxytax-4-enes (Tables 10, 11 and Figure 18)

Taxanes 187–191 are characterized by the migration of C-4(20)-double bond to C-4(5). 192–195 are a smaller group of taxanes with C-11,12-epoxy bridge, C-4(5)-double bond, and 192 bears a rare cinnamoyl moiety at C-20. Metabolites of this group were mainly obtained from *T. canadensis* and *T. cuspidata*. However, rare information has been reported on their activity or biosynthesis.

4.10. 6/8/6-Taxanes 11: Tax-11-enes with an Opened Oxetane Ring (Table 12 and Figure 19)

A number of taxanes have been isolated in recent years which could be derived by opening the oxetane ring of taxanes related to

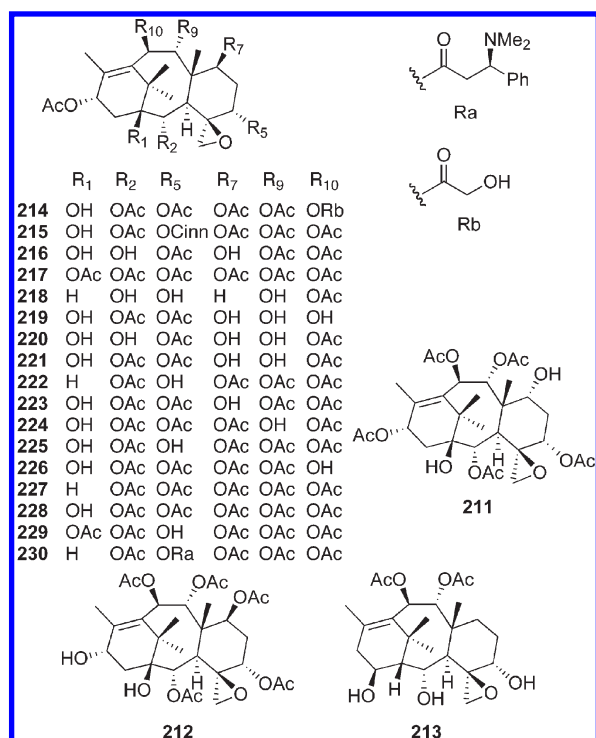


Figure 20. Taxanes with a C-4,20-epoxy ring.

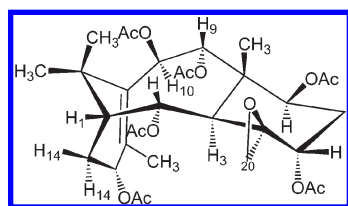
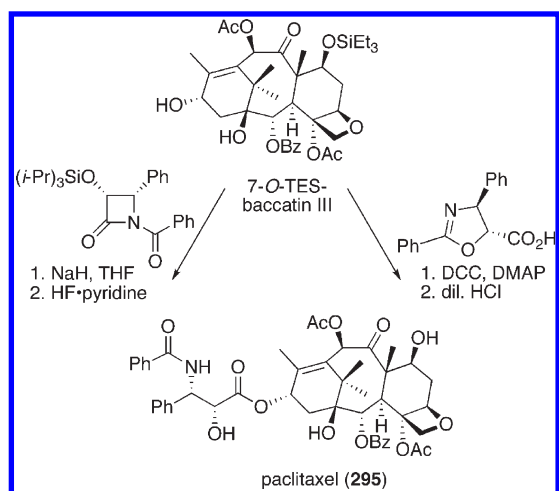


Figure 21. Stereostructure of baccatin I (227).

Scheme 1. Alternative Method of Semisynthesis of Paclitaxel from 7-O-TES-baccatin III



baccatin III (237) or the oxirane ring of taxanes related to baccatin I (227). Since oxirane rings can be opened easily under basic conditions, and the oxetane ring of baccatin III can be opened under a variety of conditions.⁶⁷ It is conceivable that

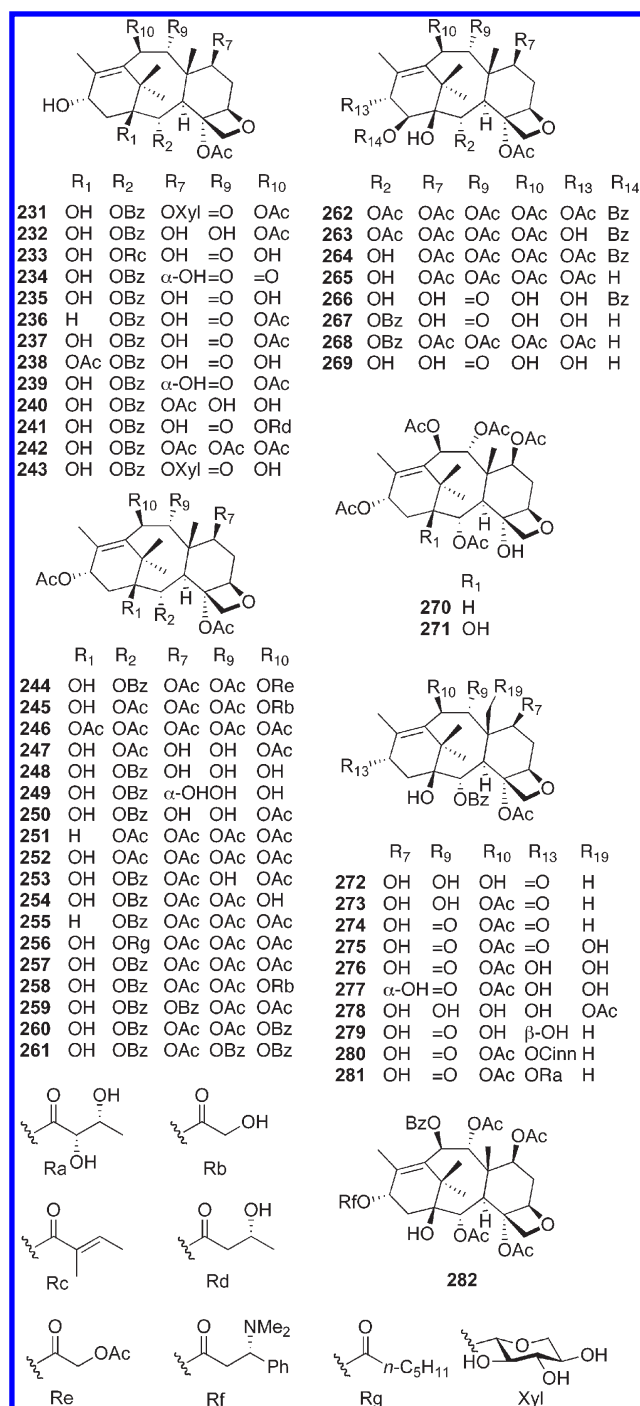


Figure 22. Taxanes with an oxetane ring.

some members of this class were artifacts of an isolation process. It is also arguable that they might be genuine natural products and acted as the intermediates in the taxane biosynthesis in the plants.

4.11. 6/8/6-Taxanes 12: Taxanes with a C-4,20-Epoxy Ring (Table 13 and Figure 20)

Baccatin I (227, Figure 21) is the first taxane structure elucidated with a C-4,20-epoxy group. Members of this group differ primarily in the number and position of acetyl groups and hydroxy groups around the periphery of their ring system. Yet, a

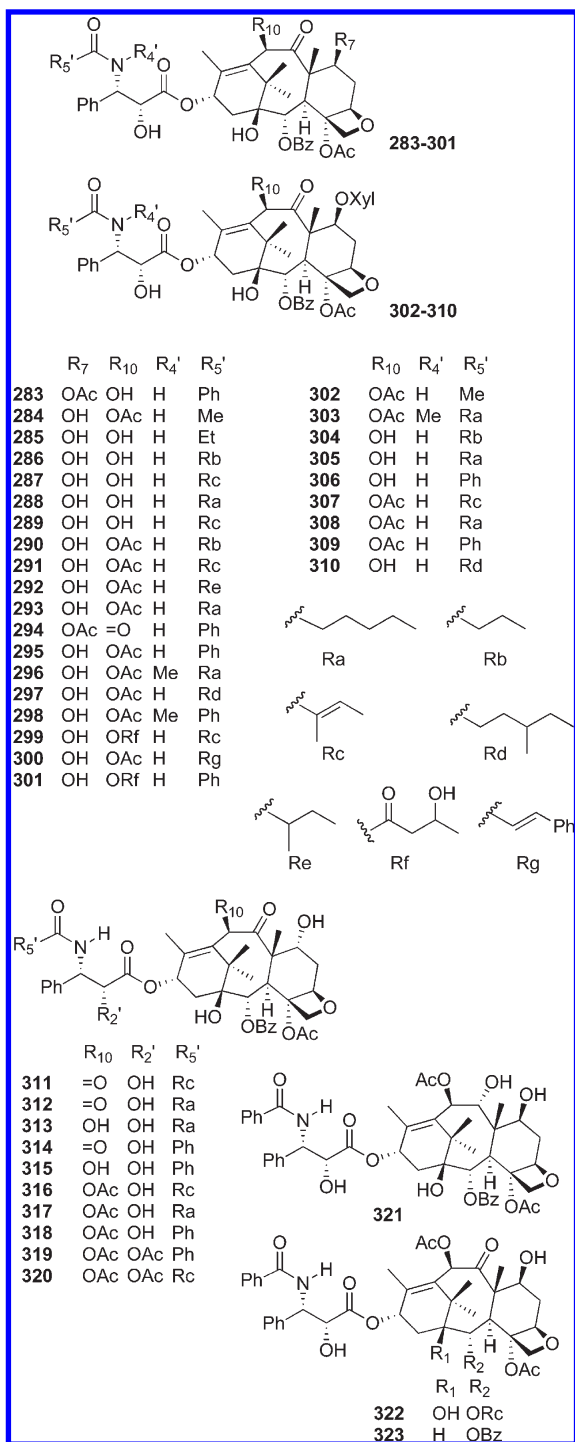


Figure 23. Taxanes with an oxetane ring and a phenylisoserine side chain.

few exceptions do exist: **218**, **222**, **227**, and **230** have no substitution at C-1 and **215** bears a cinnamoyl group at C-5. These findings suggested that the esterification pattern might have great relevance in the biosynthesis of taxanes. One attractive possibility is that acetylation and benzylation play a role in the trafficking of intermediates between cytosolic and membranous sites of biosynthesis. Taxane **214** is a taxane with a rare hydroxy acetate at C-10. Compounds **223** and **224** provide the first examples of intramolecular transesterification in this family of

taxane metabolites, and were found to isomerize readily via acyl migration between C-7 and C-9 under mild acid catalyzed conditions, even when standing in CDCl_3 .⁶⁸ Such migration was also observed in the components isolated from *T. yunnanensis*.⁶⁹ Taxanes with a C-4,20-epoxy ring, a suspected biosynthetic precursors of those with an oxetane ring, have received less attention comparing to other taxane types.

4.12. 6/8/6-Taxanes 13: Taxanes with an Oxetane Ring (Table 14 and Figure 22)

Taxanes in this group are structurally related to baccatin III (**237**), IV (**252**), V (**239**), VI (**257**), and VII (**256**), characterized by the presence of an oxetane bridge between C-5 and C-20, an oxo or hydroxy group at C-9, and hydroxy groups at C-1, C-2, C-4, C-7, C-10, and C-13. Some of them have more interesting esterification patterns, for example, a 2,3-dihydroxy-3-phenylpropanoyl group at the C-13 position of baccatin III and a tiglyl substituent at C-2 in place of the more normal benzoyl group. What's more, there are rare taxanes with both C-13 and C-14 oxygenated like **262**–**269**. With the core skeleton of paclitaxel, some compounds of this group can be used as the starting material of semisynthesis. For instance, paclitaxel and docetaxel could be achieved by connecting an appropriate side chain to the C-13-hydroxy group of baccatin III and 10-deacetylbaccatin III (**235**, Scheme 1). Compound 9-dihydro-13-acetylbaccatin III (**250**)^{70–72} also provided a new template for the preparation of paclitaxel analogs. The overall required transformations were the removal of the C-10 and C-13 acetates and selective acylation of the C-13 hydroxy with the desired side chain.^{73–76} In addition to the roles mentioned above, baccatin III,^{77–79} 10-deacetylbaccatin III⁷⁹ and 14 β -hydroxy-10-desacetylbaccatin III (**267**)⁸⁰ were extensively studied to synthesis series of analogs for structure–activity relationship (SAR) studies.

The content of **235** in the needles of European yew is higher (1 g/kg fresh leaves⁸¹) than that in the bark of Pacific yew. 5-Decinnamoyltaxagifine (**157**) is the most abundant metabolite in rooted cuttings of the Canadian yew followed by 10-deacetylbaccatin III and paclitaxel (**295**), while the three major metabolites in the needles of the mature Canadian yew are 9-dihydro-13-acetylbaccatin III (9-DHAB-III, **250**), taxinine (**70**), and taxinine E (**82**). The role of these secondary metabolites in the plant or in the rooted cuttings is presently unknown, but the difference between the metabolites of these various sources is intriguing. Due to the possibility of C-2-Ac \rightarrow C-14 migration, which could take place under relatively mild condition, some compounds may be isolated as artifacts.⁸²

4.13. 6/8/6-Taxanes 14: Taxanes with an Oxetane Ring and a Phenylisoserine Side Chain (Table 15 and Figure 23)

Taxanes of this class include paclitaxel (**295**) and a number of related compounds such as taxol B (**291**), taxol C (**293**), and taxol D (**290**) as well as cephalomannine (**291**) (which in spite of its name was isolated from *T. wallichiana*, previously thought to be from *Cephalotaxus munnii*).⁸³ The differences among them are *N*-acyl groups of the side chain. Several C-7-xylosyl paclitaxels and 7-*epi*-isomers of paclitaxel derivatives (**311**–**320**) were isolated from different yew trees. With regards to baccatin III derivatives, epimerization of the hydroxy group at C-7 can be prepared by base-induced isomerization of the corresponding natural taxanes.⁸⁴ *N*-Methyltaxol C (**296**) and taxcultine (**290**) showed activity close to that of paclitaxel in a tubulin assembly assay.⁸⁵ The IC_{50} values of 7-*epi*-cephalomannine (**316**) and 10-deacetyl-10-oxo-7-*epi*-taxol (**314**) were 80 and 64 nM, respectively,

Table 13. 6/8/6-Taxanes 12: Taxanes with a C-4,20-Epoxy Ring

compound	no.	source	part	ref
7 β -deacetoxy-1 β ,7 α -dihydroxybaccatin I	211	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
taxumairol F	212	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	398
9 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-4,20-epoxytax-11-ene-2 α ,5 α ,14 β -triol	213	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	393
10-deacetyl-10-glycolyl-1 β -hydroxybaccatin I	214	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	407
2 α ,7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -pentaacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-4 β ,20-epoxy-tax-11-en-1 β -ol	215	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	325
2 α ,7 β -deacetyl-1 β -hydroxybaccatin I	216	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	419
1-acetoxybaccatin I	217	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, tw	420
10 β ,13 α -diacetoxy-4 β ,20-epoxytax-11-ene-2 α ,5 α ,9 α -triol	218	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv	332, 421
7 β ,9 α ,10 β -trideacetyl-1 β -hydroxybaccatin I (taxumairol C)	219	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	411
2,7,9-trideacetyl-1-hydroxybaccatin I	220	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	197
7,9-deacetyl-1 β -hydroxybaccatin I (taxumairol B)	221	<i>T. canadensis</i>		202
		<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	411, 415
5 α -deacetyl baccatin I	222	<i>T. baccata</i>		422
2 α ,5 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -pentaacetoxy-4 β ,20-epoxytax-11-ene-1 β ,7 β -diol	223	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	68
2 α ,5 α ,7 β ,10 β ,13 α -pentaacetoxy-4 β ,20-epoxytax-11-ene-1 β ,9 α -diol	224	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	68
1 β -hydroxy-5 α -deacetyl baccatin I (taxuspine V)	225	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	200
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	423
1 β -hydroxy-10-deacetyl baccatin I (taxumairol D)	226	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	69
		<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	411
baccatin I	227	<i>T. baccata</i>		422
1 β -hydroxybaccatin I	228	<i>T. baccata</i>		422
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv, st, rt	82
		<i>T. baccata</i>	hw	424
		<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	337
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	419
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st, bk	365
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, tw	425
1 β -acetoxy-5 α -deacetyl baccatin I	229	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	203
7 β -acetoxy-9-acetylspicataxine	230	<i>T. media</i>	rt	426

Table 14. 6/8/6-Taxanes 13: Taxanes with an Oxetane Ring

compound	no.	source	part	ref
7 β -(β -D-xylopyranosyl)baccatin III	231	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	427
7,9,13-trideacetyl baccatin VI	232	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	407
10-deacetyl-2-debenzoyl-2-tigloyl-baccatin III	233	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	428
10-deacetyl-10-oxobaccatin V	234	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	429
10-deacetyl baccatin III	235	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	81
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	200
		<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	338
1-dehydroxybaccatin III	236	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	200
baccatin III	237	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
		<i>T. baccata</i>	hw	424
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	st, rt	430
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv, st, rt	83
		<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	411
1-acetyl-10-deacetyl baccatin III	238	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv, st	70
baccatin V	239	<i>T. baccata</i>		431
taxuspine E	240	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st, lv	344
10-deacetyl-10-(β -hydroxybutyryl)baccatin I	241	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	432
13-deacetyl baccatin VI	242	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	201
10-deacetyl-7-xylosyl baccatin III	243	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	197
(10 β -O-acetylglycolyl)baccatin VI	244	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	86
10-deacetyl-10 β -O-glycolyl baccatin IV	245	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	407

Table 14. Continued

compound	no.	source	part	ref
1 β -acetylbaccatin IV	246	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	200
7,9-deacetylbaccatin IV	247	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	202
		<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	433
7,9,10-deacetylbaccatin VI	248	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	202
7- <i>epi</i> -9,10-deacetylbaccatin VI	249	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	202
9-dihydro-13-acetylbaccatin III	250	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	71
		<i>T. canadensi</i>	lv, st	70
		<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	434
1 β -dehydroxybaccatin IV	251			435
		<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	368
baccatin IV	252			435
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, tw	436
9-deacetylbaccatin VI	253	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	69
10-deacetylbaccatin VI	254	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	69
1 β -dehydroxybaccatin VI	255	<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	368
baccatin VII	256			435
baccatin VI	257	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	13
		<i>T. baccata</i>	hw	424
				435
		<i>T. mairei</i>	hw	368
10-hydroxyacetylbaccatin VI	258	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	202
4 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxy-2 α ,7 β -dibenzoyloxy-5 β ,20-epoxytax-11-en-1 β -ol	259	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	437
4 α ,7 β ,9 α ,13 α -tetraacetoxy-2 α ,10 β -dibenzoyloxy-5 β ,20-epoxytax-11-en-1 β -ol	260	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	437
4 α ,7 β ,13 α -triacetoxy-2 α ,9 α ,10 β -tribenzoyloxy-5 β ,20-epoxytax-11-en-1 β -ol	261	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	437
14 β -benzoyloxybaccatin IV	262	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	438
13-deacetyl-14 β -benzoyloxybaccatin IV	263	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	438
2-deacetyl-14 β -benzoyloxybaccatin IV	264	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	438
2-deacetyl-2 α ,14 β -dihydroxybaccatin IV	265	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, br	438
2-debenzoyl-14 β -benzoyloxy-10-deacetylbaccatin III	266	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	84
14 β -hydroxy-10-deacetylbaccatin III	267	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	439
14 β -hydroxybaccatin VI	268	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	440
14 β -hydroxy-10-deacetyl-2- <i>O</i> -debenzoylbaccatin III	269	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	47
1 β -dehydroxy-4 α -deacetylbaccatin IV	270	<i>T. mairei</i>	st, bk	203
4-deacetylbaccatin IV	271	<i>T. x media</i>	rt	426
taxuspinanane C	272	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	441
13-oxo-7,9-bisdeacetylbaccatin VI (taxuspinanane D)	273	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	366
13-oxobaccatin III	274	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	tw, lv	442
19-hydroxy-13-oxobaccatin III	275	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv	443
19-hydroxybaccatin III	276	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	81
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	200
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	rt, st, lv	444
7- <i>epi</i> -19-hydroxybaccatin III	277	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	429
9(β H)-9-dihydro-19-acetoxy-10-deacetylbaccatin III	278	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	114
13- <i>epi</i> -10-deacetylbaccatin III	279	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	428
deaminoacylcinnamoyltaxol (taxuspinanane J, baccatin III 13-cinnamate)	280	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	57
		<i>T. mairei</i>	tw	445
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	427
13-(2',3'-dihydroxy-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy)baccatin III (yunnanxol)	281	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	446
taxuspine N	282	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	229

indicating that the C-10-keto group reduced the bioactivity.⁸⁶ In vitro studies of cytotoxicity to the breast adenocarcinoma cell line MCF7 revealed that **316** was cytotoxic (IC₅₀ = 10 nM), similar to that of cephalomannine (IC₅₀ = 6 nM), and less

cytotoxic comparing to that of paclitaxel (IC₅₀ = 2 nM).⁸⁶ **302–310** isolated first from *T. cuspidata*⁸⁷ are all bearing an *O*-linked xylosyl group at C7. And what's more, the rare 4-methylhexanoyl functional group was found (**297**) only in

Table 15. 6/8/6-Taxanes 14: Taxanes with an Oxetane Ring and a Phenylisoserine Side Chain

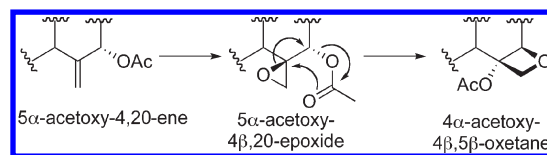
compound	no.	source	part	ref
7 β -O-acetyl-10-deacetyltaxol	283	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	86
N-acetyl-N-debenzoyltaxol	284	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	407
N-debenzoyl-N-propanoyl-10-deacetylpaclitaxel	285	<i>T. baccata</i>		447
N-debenzoyl-N-butanoyl-10-deacetylpaclitaxel	286	<i>T. baccata</i>		447
10-deacetylcephalomannine (10-deacetyltaxol B)	287	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	rt, st, lv	444
		<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
10-deacetyltaxuyunnanine A	288	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	448
10-deacetyltaxol	289	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	rt, st, lv	444
		<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
N-debenzoyl-N-butanoyltaxol (taxol D, taxcultine)	290	<i>T. x media</i>	rt	426
cephalomannine (taxol B)	291	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv, st, rt	83, 430
		<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	81
N-debenzoyl-N-(2-methylbutyryl)taxol	292	<i>T. x media</i>	rt	449
taxuyunnanine (N-debenzoyl-N-hexanoyltaxol, taxol C)	293	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	450
		<i>T. x media</i>	rt	451
10-deacetyl-10-dehydro-7-acetyltaxol A	294	<i>T. x media</i>	rt	35
paclitaxel (Taxol)	295	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	9
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	rt, st	430
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv, rt, st	83
		<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, tw	420
N-methyltaxol C	296	<i>T. x media</i>	rt	451
taxuspinanane A	297	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	88
N-methylpaclitaxel, taxuspinanane I	298	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	57
10-(β -hydroxybutyryl)-10-deacetylcephalomannine	299	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
N-debenzoyl-N-cinnamoyltaxol	300	<i>T. x media</i>	rt	449
10-(β -hydroxybutyryl)-10-deacetyltaxol	301	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
7- β -(D-xylopyranosyl)taxol D	302	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	452
7- β -(D-xylopyranosyl)-N-methyltaxol C	303	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	106
7-(β -xylosyl)-10-deacetyltaxol D	304	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	382
7-(β -xylosyl)-10-deacetyltaxol C	305	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
7-(β -xylosyl)-10-deacetyltaxol	306	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
7-(β -xylosyl)cephalomannine	307	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
7-(β -xylosyl)taxol C	308	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
7-(β -xylosyl)taxol	309	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	417
7-O- β -Xylosyl-10-deacetyltaxuspinanane A	310	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	87
10-deacetyl-10-oxo-7- <i>epi</i> -cephalomannine	311	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	86
10-deacetyl-10-oxo-7- <i>epi</i> -taxuyunnanine A	312	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	448
7- <i>epi</i> -10-deacetyltaxol (taxuspinanane E)				
7- <i>epi</i> -10-deacetyltaxuyunnanine A	313	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	366
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	448
10-deacetyl-10-oxo-7- <i>epi</i> -taxol	314	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	453
10-deacetyl-7- <i>epi</i> -taxol	315	<i>T. chinensis</i>	sd	206
7- <i>epi</i> -cephalomannine	316	<i>T. x media</i>	lv	454
7- <i>epi</i> -taxuyunnanine A	317	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	448
7- <i>epi</i> -taxol	318	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	193
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, tw	420
2'-acetoxy-7- <i>epi</i> -taxol	319	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	105
2'-acetyl-7- <i>epi</i> -cephalomannine	320	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	86
9-deoxo-9 α -hydroxytaxol	321	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	446
2-debenzoyl-2-tigloyltaxol (<i>iso</i> -cephalomannine)	322	<i>T. x media</i>	rt	449
1-deoxypaclitaxel	323	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	213

T. cuspidata,⁸⁸ which may be the taxonomic characteristic of this species.

The committed step in the biosynthesis of paclitaxel is considered to require more than 20 enzymatic steps. Early steps proceed in sequence is the cyclization of the initial diterpenoid precursor geranylgeranyl diphosphate, catalyzed by taxadiene synthase, yielding the tricyclic taxane ring system, commonly referred to as a taxa-4,11-diene. Cyclization is then followed by hydroxylation regioselectively at the C-5 α -position, with allylic migration of the C-4-double bond, to afford the second established intermediate 5 α -hydroxytaxa-4(20),11-diene (Scheme 2). This parental olefin is then functionalized by a series of eight cytochrome P450-mediated

oxygenations and three CoA-dependent acylations, and undergoes oxidation at C-9 and a ring expansion step to form the oxetane group en route to the late stage intermediate baccatin III, upon which the functionally important C-13 α -O-side

Scheme 3. Proposed Biosynthetic Pathway of a C-4,20-Oxetane Ring from a C-4(20)-Double Bond



Scheme 2. Proposed Biosynthetic Pathway of Paclitaxel, Involving the Construction of Baccatin III and Final Assembly of the C-13-Side Chain

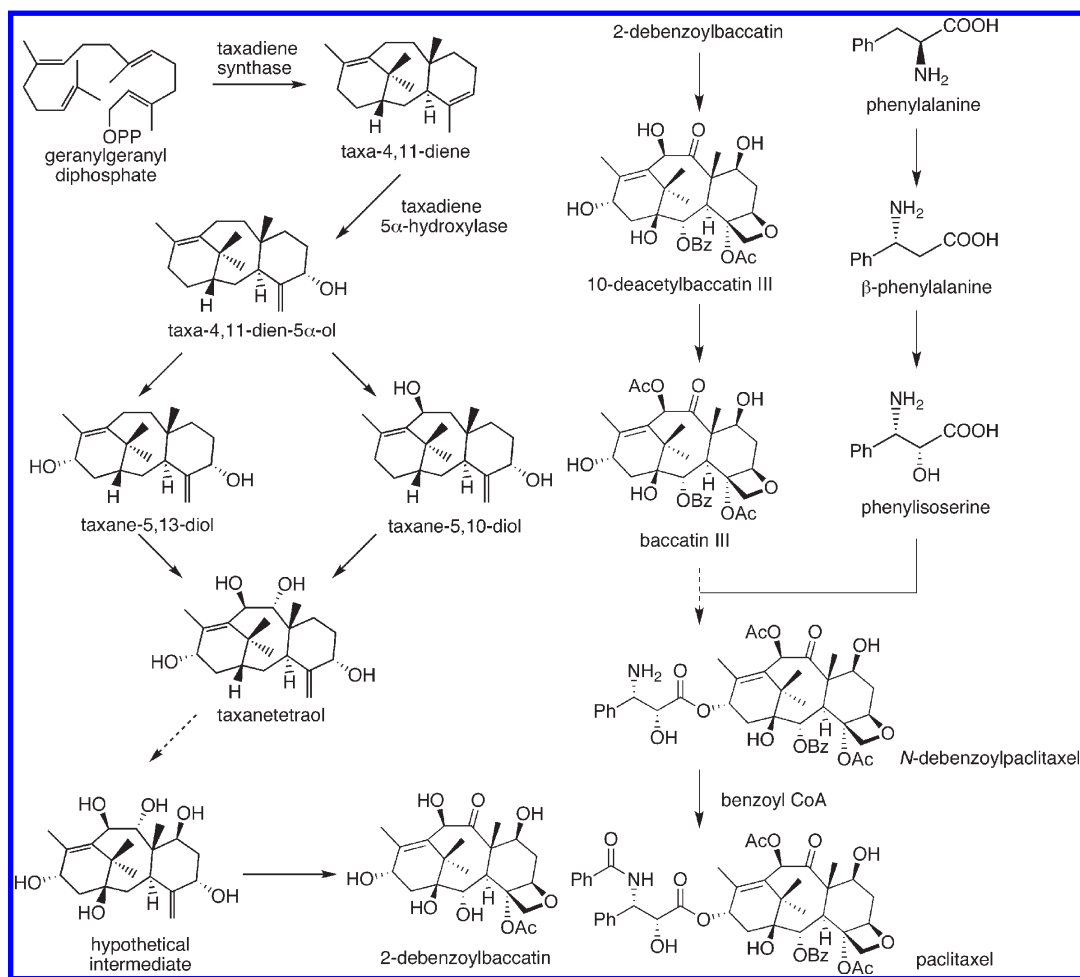


Table 16. 6/8/6-Taxanes 15: Others

compound	no.	source	part	ref
taxuyunnanine Z	324	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	106
taxuspine K	325	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	412
2 α ,10 β ,13 α -triacetoxytaxa-4(20),5,11-trien-9-ol	326	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	53
taxezopidine B	327	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd, st	343
taxchinin N	328	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	108
(12 α H)-2 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-9 α ,13 α -epoxytaxa-4(20)-ene-11 β ,13 β -diol	329	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	96

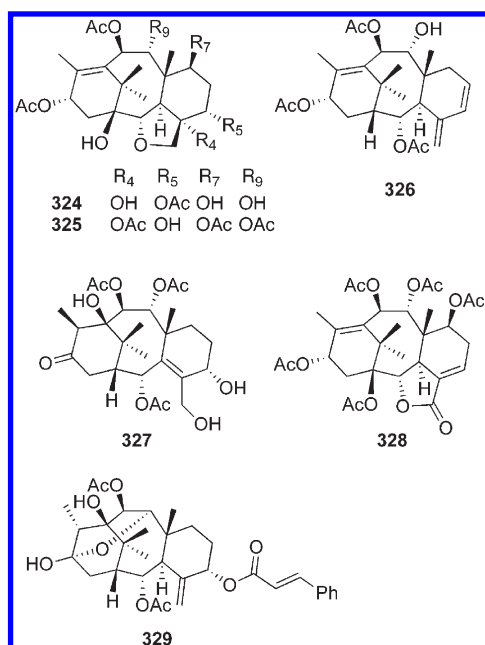


Figure 24. Other taxanes.

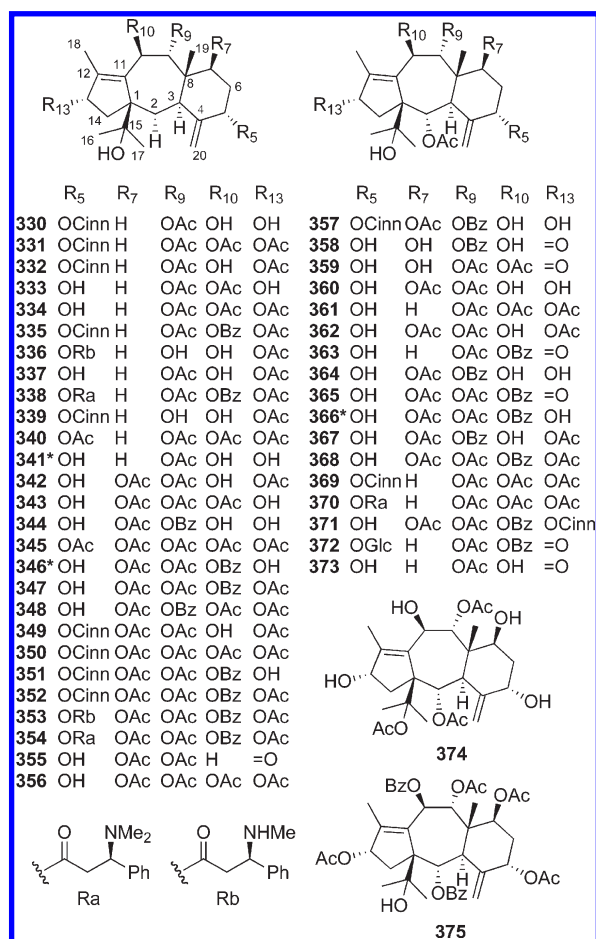


Figure 25. 11(15→1)Abeotaxa-4(20),11-dienes. Asterisks (*) indicate revised structures.

chain (*N*-benzoylphenylisoserine) is constructed in several additional steps to yield paclitaxel.^{89–95} However, the precise

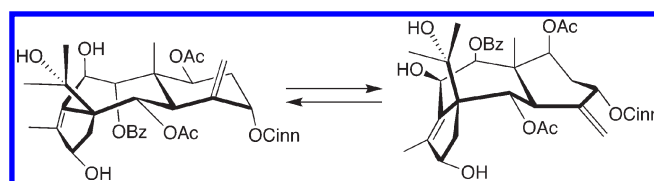


Figure 26. Two conformational isomers of 357.

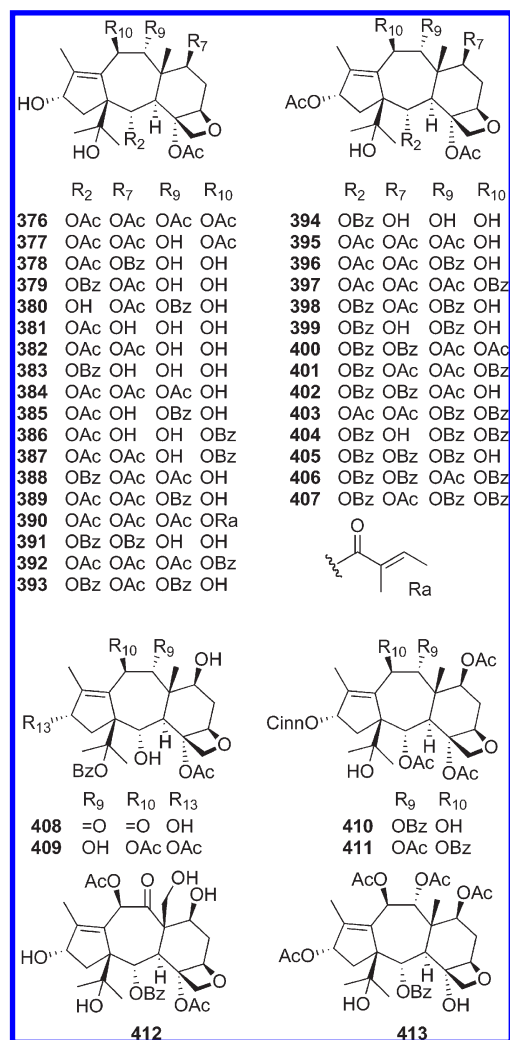


Figure 27. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes with an oxetane ring.

order of hydroxylation and acetylation occurred at C-10, C-13, C-9, C-7, C-2, and C-5 is uncertain.

The acetylation of the C-5 α -hydroxy group is considered to be a prelude to oxetane (D-ring) formation via the sequential conversion of the 5 α -acetoxy-4(20)-ene functional group to the corresponding β -epoxide, with the last step most plausibly involving intramolecular migration of the 5 α -acetoxy moiety in the process of oxirane ring expansion (Scheme 3).

4.14. 6/8/6-Taxanes 15: Others (Table 16 and Figure 24)

A double bond between C-3 and C-4 was detected originally in taxezopidine B (327), and a tetrahydrofuran ring at C-2, C-3, C-4, and C-20 was confirmed in taxuyunnanine Z (324) and taxuspine K (325).⁶² 326 is the first 6/8/6-membered normal taxane with a rare conjugated double bond between C-4(20) and

Table 17. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes 1:Taxanes with a C-4(20),11-Double Bonds

compound	no.	source	part	ref
chinentaxunine	330	<i>T. chinensis</i>	sd	206
7-deacetoxytaxuspine J	331	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	455
9 α ,13 α -diacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-10 β ,15-diol	332	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	350
9 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,13 α ,15-triol	333	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	378
9 α ,10 β ,13 α -triacetoxy-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,15-diol	334	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	378
9 α ,13 α -diacetoxy-10 β -benzoyloxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-15-ol	335	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	210
13 α -acetoxy-5 α -[(<i>R</i>)-3'-dimethylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-9 α ,10 β -diol	336	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	356
9 α ,13 α -diacetoxy-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,10 β ,15-triol	337	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	456
9 α ,13 α -diacetoxy-10 β -benzoyloxy-5 α -[(<i>R</i>)-3'-dimethylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy]-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-15-ol	338	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	456
13 α -acetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-9 α ,10 β ,15-triol	339	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	215
5 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetracetoxy-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-15-ol	340	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	bk	457
7-debenzoyloxy-10-deacetylbrevisfoliol	341	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	201
13-acetyl-2-deacetoxy-10-debenzoyltaxchinin A (taxawallin F)	342	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	458
10-acetyl-2-deacetoxy-10-debenzoyltaxchinin A (taxawallin H)	343	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	458
9-deacetyl-9-benzoyl-10-debenzoylbrevifoliol	344	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	459
5,10,13-triacetyl-10-debenzoylbrevifoliol	345	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	460
brevifoliol	346	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	lv	100
13-acetylbrevisfoliol	347	<i>T. wallichiana</i>		201
		<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	406
9-benzoyl-2-deacetoxy-9-deacetyl-10-debenzoyl-10,13-diacetyltaxchinin A (taxawallin D)	348	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	458
taxuspine M	349	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	412
taxuspine J	350	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st, lv	344
taxchinin H	351	<i>T. chinensis</i>	st, lv	416
			lv	396
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	458
taxuspine A	352	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	461
		<i>T. brevifolia</i>	lv	100
7 β ,9 α ,13 α -triacetoxy-10 β -benzoyloxy-5 α -(3'-methylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy)-11-(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-1 β -ol	353	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	lv	100
7 β ,9 α ,13 α -triacetoxy-10 β -benzoyloxy-5 α -(3'-dimethylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy)-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-1 β -ol	354	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	lv	100
7 β ,9 α -diacetoxy-5 α ,15-dihydroxy-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-13-one	355	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	462
7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxy-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,15-diol	356	<i>T. canadensis</i>	rt	103
2 α ,7 β -diacetoxy-9 α -benzoyloxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-10 β ,13 α ,15-triol	357	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	463
2 α -acetoxy-9 α -benzoyloxy-5 α ,7 β ,10 β ,15-tetrahydroxy-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-13-one	358	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	341
taxuspine O	359	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	229
10-debenzoyl-2 α -acetoxybrevifoliol	360	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	396
teixidol	361	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	464
taxchinin G	362	<i>T. chinensis</i>		207
taxuspine Y	363	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	380
9-deacetyl-9-benzoyl-10-debenzoyltaxchinin A	364	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	465
taxuspinanane B	365	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	88
taxchinin A	366	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	466
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, tw	420
		<i>T. baccata</i>	sd	64
13-acetyl-9-deacetyl-9-benzoyl-10-debenzoyltaxchininA	367	<i>T. chinensis</i>	bk, lv	467
taxchinin D	368	<i>T. chinensis</i>		207
taxamedin A	369	<i>T. x media</i>	lv	468
(-)-2 α -acetoxy-2',7-dideacetoxy-1-hydroxy-11(15→1)abeoaustrospicatinine	370	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	383
taxchinin E	371	<i>T. chinensis</i>	st, lv	416
5 α -O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl)-10 β -benzoyltaxacustone	372	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv, st	345
taxacustone	373	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv, st	345
2 α ,9 α ,15-triacetoxy-11(15→1)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-5 α ,7 β ,10 β ,13 α -tetraol	374	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	bk	469
2-deacetyl-2 α -benzoyl-5,13-diacetyltaxchinin A	375	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	470

Table 18. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes 2: Taxanes with an Oxetane Ring

compound	no.	source	part	ref
2 α -acetyl-13-deacetyl-2-debenzoylabeobaccatin VI (taxayuntin H)	376	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	323
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	471
taxumairol W	377	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	472
2 α -debenzoyl-2 α -acetyltaxayuntin A (taxayuntin B)	378	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	209
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	473
9-deacetyltaxayuntin E (taxuspinanane F)	379	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	209
		<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	323
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	366
4 α ,7 β -diacetoxy-9 α -benzoyloxy-5 β ,20-epoxy-11(15→1)abeotax-11-ene-2 α ,10 β ,13 α ,15-tetraol taxuyunnanin M (taxumairol Q)	380	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	474
	381	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	475
		<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv,tw	476
tasumatrol B	382	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv,tw	477
7,13-dideacetyl-9,10-debenzoyltaxchinin C	383	<i>T. brevifolia</i>		459
taxacustin (10,13-deacetylabeobaccatin IV)	384	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv,tw	203, 359
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	478
taxumairol K	385	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	479
7,9-dideacetyltaxayuntin	386	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	433
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	480
13-decinnamoyl-9-deacetyltaxchinin B	387	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	bk	481
taxayuntin E	388	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	482
		<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	406
taxayuntin F (taxchinin L)	389	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	482
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	483
taxuspine Q	390	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	399
taxayuntin A	391	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	473
13-deacetylaccatin VI (taxayunnansin A, taxayuntin)	392	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	201
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	211
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv	212
4 α ,7 β -diacetoxy-2 α ,9 α -dibenzoyloxy-5 β ,20-epoxy-11(15→1)abeotaxene-10 β ,13 α ,15-triol	393	<i>T. baccata</i>	bk	484
7,9,10-trideacetylabeobaccatin VI	394	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	112
taxuyunnanin F	395	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	211
taxchinin M	396	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	483
		<i>T. floridana</i>	lv	485
13-acetyl-13-decinnamoyltaxchinin B	397	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	486
9-O-benzoyl-9,10-dide-O-acetyl-11(15→1)abeobaccatin VI (taxchinin I)	398	<i>T. x media</i>	rt	487
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	st, lv	416
9-O-benzoyl-9-de-O-acetyl-11(15→1)abeobaccatin VI	399	<i>T. x media</i>	rt	487
4 α ,9 α ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxy-2 α ,7 β -dibenzoyloxy-5 β ,20-epoxytax-11-en-1 β -ol	400	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	437
2 α -deacetyl-2 α -benzoyl-13 α -acetyltaxayuntin (taxayuntin C)	401	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	473
		<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	437
2,7-dideacetyl-2,7-dibenzoyltaxayunnanin F	402	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	470
taxchinin K	403	<i>T. chinensis</i>	st, lv	416
7-deacetyltaxayuntin D	404	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	470
7-deacetyl-7-benzoyltaxchinin I	405	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	470
7-deacetyl-7-benzoyltaxayuntin C	406	<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	470
9-deacetyl-9-benzoyltaxayuntin C (taxayuntin D, taxchinin C)	407	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	473
		<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	429
		<i>T. brevifolia</i>	bk	437
15-O-benzoyl-10-deacetyl-2-debenzoyl-10-dehydroabeobaccatin III	408	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	407
7,9-di-O-acetyl-15-O-benzoyl-2-de-O-benzoylabeobaccatin VI	409	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	407
taxchinin J	410	<i>T. chinensis</i>	st, lv	416
taxchinin B	411	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	429
tasumatrol O	412	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv,tw	488
4-deacetyl-11(15→1)abeobaccatin VI	413	<i>T. x media</i>	rt	487

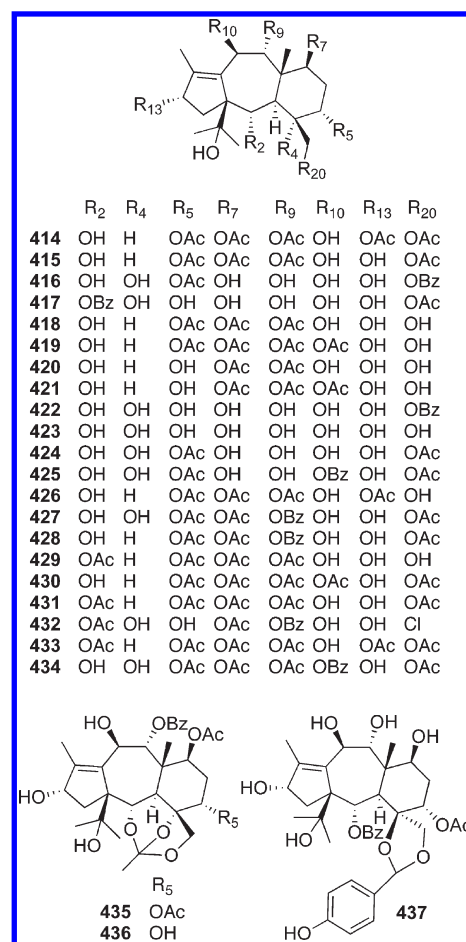
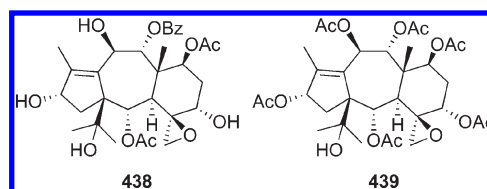
Table 19. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes 3: Taxanes with an Opened Oxetane Ring

compound	no.	source	part	ref
taxumairol U	414	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	472
taxumairol V	415	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	472
taxuyunnanine K	416	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	475
taxuyunnanine L	417	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	475
taxuyunnanine N	418	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	475
taxuyunnanine O	419	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	475
taxuyunnanine P	420	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	452
taxuyunnanine Q	421	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	452
taxuyunnanine R	422	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	452
taxuyunnanine S	423	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	489
taxuyunnanine T	424	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	489
taxuyunnanine U	425	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	489
taxuyunnanine V	426	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	489
tasumatrol E	427	<i>T. sumatrata</i>	lv, tw	490
tasumatrol F	428	<i>T. sumatrata</i>	lv, tw	490
taxayuntin G	429	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	491
			bk	452
taxayuntin J	430	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	471
taxumain A	431	<i>T. mairei</i>	tw	445
taxuchin B	432	<i>T. chinensis</i>	tw, lv	492
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	102
taxumain B	433	<i>T. mairei</i>	tw	445
yunantaxusin A	434	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	493
taxuyunnanine W	435	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	106
taxuyunnanine X	436	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	106
5- <i>O</i> -acetyl-20- <i>O</i> -deacetyl-4,20-(<i>p</i> -hydroxybenzylidenedioxy)-taxuyunnanine L	437	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	494

C-5(6). **329** is a unique natural taxane with a C-13 and C-9-oxygen bridge to form 6-membered acetal ring.⁹⁶

4.15. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes 1: Taxanes with 4(20),11-Double Bonds (Table 17 and Figure 25)

This 11(15→1)abeotaxane skeleton was first encountered as a transformation product of paclitaxel,⁶⁷ then observed as naturally occurring taxane,^{97,98} and the number of taxanes of this skeleton is increasing.⁹⁹ These 11(15→1)abeotaxanes are characterized by the presence of a C-4(20)-double bond. Esterification of the C-2 hydroxy group is normally in the form of acetate other than benzoate in this series, and both cinnamate and β-aminophenylpropionate esters are observed at C-5. Brevifoliol (**346**) was the first one isolated with this type of skeleton, but its backbone was misassigned as normal 6/8/6-membered ring system initially.¹⁰⁰ Actually, as a new skeleton, taxchinin A was isolated from the Chinese yew in 1992 by a Chinese group. Unfortunately it did not arouse any attention due to its accessibility of the language and availability of the journal.¹⁰¹ Taxuspine A (**352**) was the first correctly identified taxane structurally with an 11(15→1)abeotaxane skeleton from the Japanese yew.⁶² Compound **356** was initially discovered as a biotransformation product¹⁰² and later reported as a natural product.¹⁰³ **363** was the first taxane glycoside isolated from Japanese yew tree while **374** is a rare abeotaxane with an acetoxy group at C-15. Under acidic conditions, 10-deacetylpaclitaxin III derivatives can rearrange into corresponding 11(15→1)abeotaxane through a Wagner–Meerwein-type rearrangement (Scheme 4).^{67,95,104}

**Figure 28.** 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes with an opened oxetane ring.**Figure 29.** 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes with a C-4,20-epoxy ring.

11(15→1)Abeotaxanes usually exist as two stable conformers in solution at ambient temperature (Figure 26).

4.16. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes 2: Taxanes with an Oxetane Ring (Table 18 and Figure 27)

There are some notable substitution patterns in these 11(15→1)abeotaxanes such as a rare tigloyloxy group at C-10 of **390**, a cinnamoyl group at C-13 of **410** and **411** and a hydroxymethyl moiety at C-8 of **412**. It should be noted that 11(15→1)abeotaxanes corresponding to paclitaxel (having a C-13-side chain), taxine B and 1-hydroxytaxinine-type taxanes (both having the C-13-oxo and C-5-side chain groups) have never been isolated as natural products. **409**¹⁰⁵ is an 11(15→1)abeotaxane with a pair of vicinal oxo groups at C-9 and C-10, and it is the first taxane having a benzoyl group attached to C-15. It was reported that 11(15→1)abeotaxane with two vicinal oxo groups at C-9 and C-10 could transform easily into 11(15→1),11(10→9)diabeotaxane such as wallifolol (**460**).

Table 20. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes 4: Taxanes with a C-4,20-Epoxy Ring

compound	no.	source	part	ref
2 α ,7 β -diacetoxy-9 α -benzyloxy-4 β ,20-epoxy-11(15→1)abeotax-11-ene-5 α ,10 β ,13 α ,15-tetraol taxuchin A	438 439	<i>T. mairei</i> <i>T. chinensis</i>	bk bk	209 495

Table 21. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes 5: Taxanes with a C-2,20-Ether Ring

compound	no.	source	part	ref
taxumairol G	440	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	409
taxumairol H	441	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	21
taxuyunnanine Y	442	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk	102
tasumatrol G	443	<i>T. sumatrata</i>	lv, tw	490
taxuyunnanine E	444	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	rt	211
10-O-benzoyl-15-O-acetyltaxumairol X	445	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	494
4 α ,10 β ,13 α -triacetoxy-15-benzyloxy-2 α ,20 β -epoxy-11(15→1)abeotax-11-ene-5 α ,7 β ,9 α -triol	446	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	107
4 α ,7 β ,9 α ,10 β ,15-pentaacetoxy-2 α ,20 β -epoxy-11(15→1)abeotax-11-ene-5 α ,13 α -diol	447	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	107
taxumairol I	448	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	409
taxumairol J	449	<i>T. mairei</i>	rt	409
4 α ,13 α -diacetoxy-2 α ,20-epoxy-11(15→1)-abeotaxa-11,15-diene-5 α ,7 β ,9 α ,10 β -tetraol	450	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	191

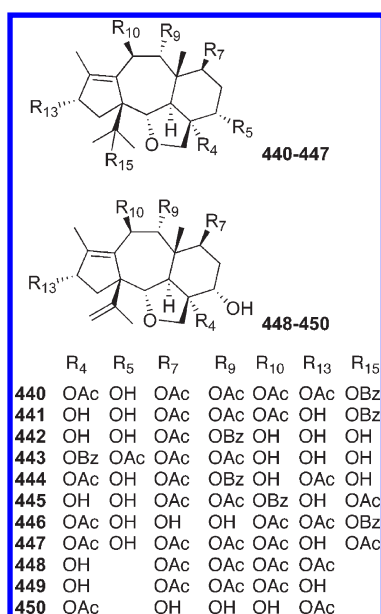


Figure 30. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes with a C-2,20-ether ring.

4.17. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes 3: Taxanes with an Opened Oxetane Ring (Table 19 and Figure 28)

The 11(15→1)abeotaxanes undergone an oxirane or oxetane ring-opening, are observed within a group of normal taxanes. Taxuchin B (432), the first reported chlorine-containing taxane, was isolated from *T. chinensis*. Two orthoesterified taxanes, taxuyunnanines W (435) and X (436), were isolated from the bark of *T. yunnanensis* recently.¹⁰⁶ An orthoesterified taxane, 4-deacetyl-5-*epi*-20,*O*-secotaxol 4,5,20-orthoacetate, has been proposed as an intermediate of paclitaxel in its reaction with Meerwein's reagent, which led to a product with an opened oxetane ring.⁶⁷

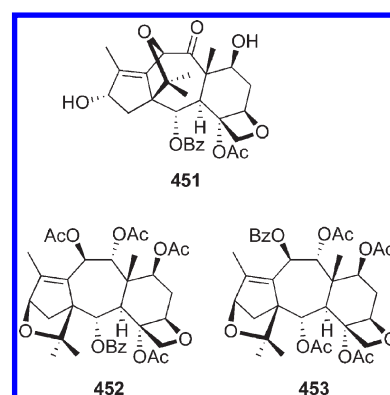


Figure 31. Other 11(15→1)abeotaxanes.

4.18. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes 4: Taxanes with a C-4,20-Epoxy Ring (Table 20 and Figure 29)

There were two examples in the group of 11(15→1)-abeotaxane featured with a C-4,20-epoxy ring. They were rare rearranged baccatin II derivatives isolated from different yews with not much chemical and pharmacologic activity information available.

4.19. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes 5: Taxanes with a C-2,20-Ether Ring (Table 21 and Figure 30)

All these taxanes listed in this group have a C-2,20-ether ring with 448-450 bearing a extra C-15(16)-double bond. Up to now, diterpenoids with the rare 2,20-ether ring system only have been isolated from five species, which may put some hint of the chemotaxonomy. Compound 446 showed weak inhibitory activity against T-98 (IC₅₀ ≈ 100 μM) and MM1-CB (IC₅₀ ≈ 100 μM) cells, and inactive against HeLa, HEC-1, SHIN3, HOC-21, HAC-2, HLE, U251-SP, HMV-1, and KT cells in vitro.¹⁰⁷

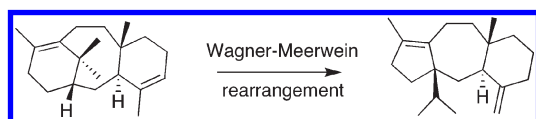
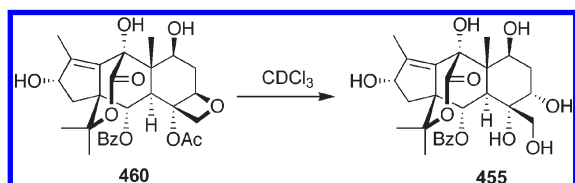
Table 22. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes 6: Others

compound	no.	source	part	ref
10,15-epoxy-11(15→1)abeo-10-deacetylaccatin III	451	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	84
13-acetoxy-13,15-epoxy-11(15→1)abeo-13- <i>epi</i> -baccatin VI	452	<i>T. x media</i>	rt	487
13,15-epoxy-13- <i>epi</i> -taxayunnasin A	453	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv, st	108

Table 23. 11(15→1),11(10→9)Diabeotaxanes

compound	no.	source	part	ref
20-acetoxy-2- <i>alpha</i> -benzoyloxy-4 <i>alpha</i> ,5 <i>alpha</i> ,7 <i>beta</i> ,9 <i>alpha</i> ,13 <i>alpha</i> -pentahydroxy-11(15→1),11(10→9)bisabeotax-11-ene-10,15-lactone	454	<i>T. yunnansensis</i>	sd	215
tasumatrol H	455	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	54
tasumatrol I	456	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	54
tasumatrol R	457	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	109
13- <i>O</i> -acetylwallifoliol	458	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	476
tasumatrol J	459	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	54
wallifoliol	460	<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	496
tasumatrol A	461	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	477
tasumatrol P	462	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	109
tasumatrol T	463	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	109
tasumatrol Q	464	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	109
tasumatrol S	465	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	109

Scheme 4. Proposed Biosynthetic Pathway of 11(15→1)Abeotaxane

Scheme 5. Decomposition of Wallifoliol in CDCl₃

4.20. 11(15→1)Abeotaxanes 6: Others (Table 22 and Figure 31)

This group of 11(15→1)abeotaxanes possesses new ether rings between C-15 and C-10 or C-13. Besides isolated from the yew tree, **451** was obtained as a minor reaction product from the acidic degradation of 10-deacetylaccatin III.⁸⁴ Chemical transformation from taxayunnasin A to **453** was conducted successfully and employed methanesulfonyl chloride pyridine with an excellent yield (99%). The mechanism of this transformation could be an intramolecular S_N2 nucleophilic substitution involving OH-15 and C-13, which might also be its biosynthetic route.¹⁰⁸

4.21. 11(15→1),11(10→9)Diabeotaxanes (Wallifoliol Type, Table 23 and Figure 32)

This group of taxanes are often oxygenated at C-10 and esterified with a C-15-hydroxy group, sometimes with C-19-hydroxy group. Tasumatrol S (**465**) has a remarkable spiro-connected

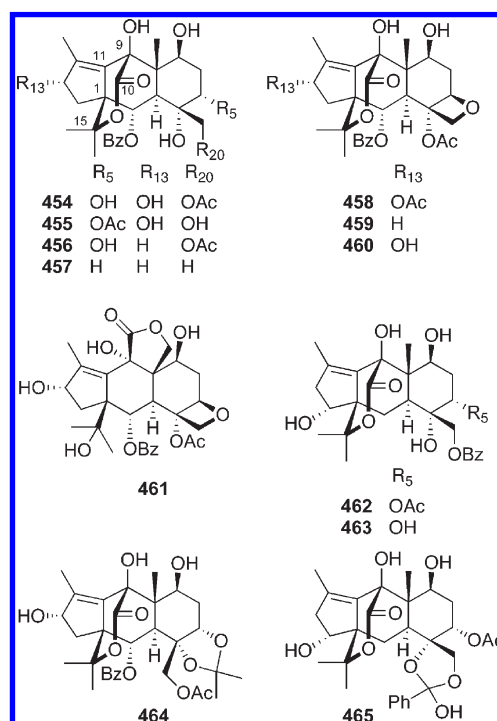


Figure 32. 11(15→1),11(10→9)diabeotaxanes

2-hydroxy-2-phenyl-1,3-dioxolane ring.¹⁰⁹ This class of taxanes presumably arises from 10-dehydro-10-deacetylabeobaccatin III by benzyl–benzylic acid rearrangement of the α -dioxosystem.¹¹⁰ It should be noted that compound wallifoliol (**460**) could isomerize into tasumatrol H (**455**) along with the migration of the C-4-*O*-acetyl to C-5 and hydroxylated at C-20 in CDCl₃ solution (Scheme 5), but it was stable in acetone-*d*₆ solution at ambient temperature.¹¹¹

Table 24. 2(3→20)Abeotaxanes

compound	no.	source	part	ref
5 α -O-cinnamoyltaxin B	466	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	353
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	195
7-deacetoxy-5-O-cinnamoyltaxin B	467	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	370
2 α ,7 β ,13 α -triacetoxo-5 α -[(2' <i>R</i> ,3' <i>S</i>)- <i>N,N</i> -dimethyl-3'-phenylisoseroyloxy]-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-9,10-dione	468	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	181
2 α ,7 β ,10 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxo-5 α -[(2' <i>R</i> ,3' <i>S</i>)- <i>N,N</i> -dimethyl-3'-phenylisoseroyloxy]-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-9-one	469	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	195
2-deacetyltaxuspine B	470	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	322
5 α -O-acetyltaxin B	471	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	322
2 α ,7 β ,13 α -triacetoxo-5 α -[(2' <i>R</i> ,3' <i>S</i>)- <i>N,N</i> -dimethyl-3'-phenylisoseroyloxy]-10 β -hydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-9-one	472	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	456
7-O-acetyltaxine A	473	<i>T. baccata</i>		497
		<i>T. wallichiana</i>	lv	384
2 α ,5 α ,13 α -triacetoxo-7 β -hydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-9,10-dione	474	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	498
7 β ,13 α -diacetoxo-2 α ,5 α ,10 β -trihydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-9-one	475	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	499, 500
2 α ,5 α ,13 α -triacetoxo-7 β ,10 β -dihydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-9-one	476	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	501
10 β ,13 α -diacetoxo-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-2 α ,7 β -dihydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-9-one	477	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	195
7 β ,10 β ,13 α -triacetoxo-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-2 α -hydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-9-one	478	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	195
dantaxusin A	479	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	bk, lv, tw	360
2 α ,5 α ,7 β ,13 α -tetraacetoxo-10 β -hydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-9-one	480	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	500
7 β -deacetyl-5-decinnamoyltaxuspine B, deaminoacyltaxine A	481	<i>T. x media</i>	lv	502
		<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	112
7 β ,10 β ,13 α -triacetoxo-5 α -(3'-dimethylamino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy)-2'-hydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-9-one	482	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	230
2-deacetyltaxin B	483	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	503
		<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	406
taxuspine W	484	<i>T. x media</i>	lv	504
		<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	423
taxin B	485	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	lv, st	503
taxuspinanane H (deaminoacylcinnamoyltaxine A)	486	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	57
2-deacetyltaxine A (taxine C)	487	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	334, 505
taxuspine B	488	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	461
		<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	498
taxine A	489	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	505, 506
taxezopidine P	490	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	sd	386
2 α ,10 β ,13 α -triacetoxo-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-7,9-dione	491	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	501
2 α ,13 α -diacetoxo-10 β -hydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-diene-7,9-dione	492	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	501
2 α ,7 β ,10 β -triacetoxo-5 α ,13 α -dihydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-9-one	493	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	507
2 α ,7 β -diacetoxo-5 α ,10 β ,13 α -trihydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-9-one	494	<i>T. mairei</i>	bk	500
7 β ,10 β -diacetoxo-2 α ,5 α ,13 α -trihydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-9-one	495	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	213
taxumairone A	496	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	508
2 α ,13 α -diacetoxo-10 β -hydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),6,11-triene-5,9-dione	497	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	213
2 α ,7 β ,13 α -triacetoxo-5 α ,9 α -dihydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-10-one	498	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	214
2 α ,7 β -diacetoxo-5 α ,10 β ,13 β -trihydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-10-one	499	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	113
2 α ,7 β ,10 α -triacetoxo-5 α -hydroxy-2(3→20)abeotaxa-4(20),11-dien-9,13-dione	500	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	122

In addition, Tasumatrol P (462) showed mild cytotoxic activity against human HeLa and Daoy tumor cells.¹⁰⁹

4.22. 2(3→20)Abeotaxanes (Table 24 and Figure 33)

Taxanes of this class are probably formed from a transannular cyclization of an intermediate verticilladiene that involved in normal taxane biosynthesis (Scheme 6).¹¹² The alkaloid taxine A (489), a component of the original "taxine," is the first member of this class isolated from *T. baccata* in 1982 and its structure was elucidated by single crystal X-ray diffractometry. The characteristics of this group are the C-4(20)-double bond, C-10-oxo and hydroxy or

acetoxy substitutions at C-2, C-5, C-10 and C-13. There were three exceptions discovered so far (496, 497 and 498). 496 and 497 are two 2(3→20)abeotaxanes with an α,β -unsaturated ketone moiety formed by the C-5-oxo and the C6-double bond, while 498 is the first example of 2(3→20)abeotaxane with an oxo group at C-10 instead of usual C-9, and 499 has an abnormal 13 β -substituent.¹¹³ In the molecular configuration of this group taxanes, both ring A and B were in boat conformations while ring C adopt a chair conformation with the C-4-double bond in *E*-configuration (Figure 34).

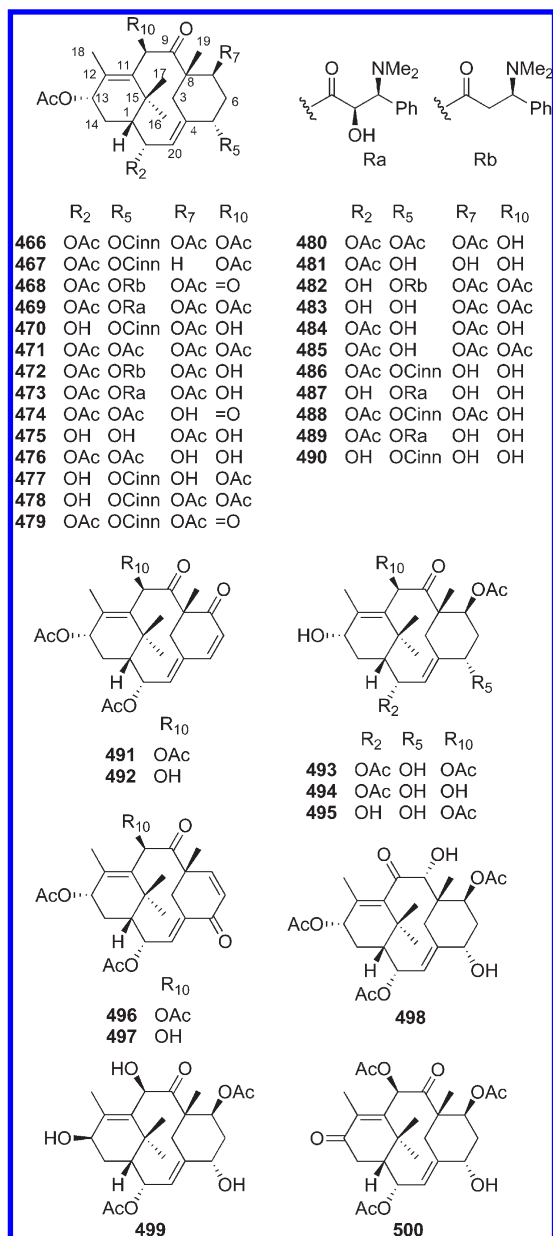


Figure 33. 2(3→20)Abeotaxanes.

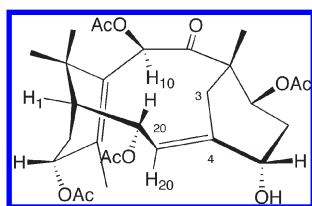


Figure 34. Stereostructure of taxin B (485).

4.23. 3,11-Cyclotaxanes (Table 25 and Figure 35)

All the 24 compounds in this set of taxanes have a C-13-oxo group and a C-4(20)-double bond simultaneously with the majority of them bearing a cinnamoyl moiety at C-5. Two of them have alkaloid side chains at C-5. It was initially reported that irradiation of the corresponding tax-11-en-13-ones lead to

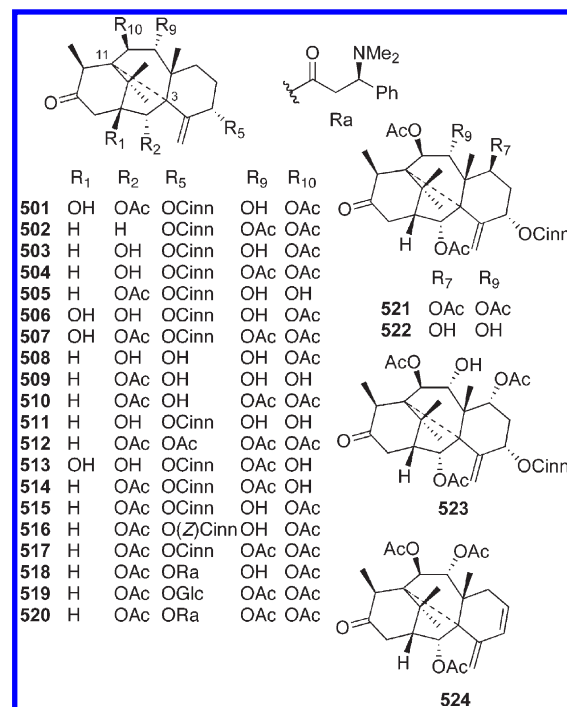
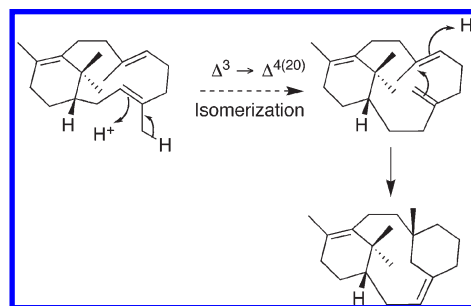


Figure 35. 3,11-Cyclotaxanes.

Scheme 6. Proposed Biosynthetic Pathway of 2-(3→20)Abeotaxane Skeleton



the bond formation between C-3 and C-11 but cannot get the unity optic isomer of the side chain.¹¹⁴ Recently, a pair of taxanes (515, 516) with optic isomer of the side chain were isolated. Taxinines K (510) and L (512) are the first two 3,11-cyclotaxanes isolated from *T. cuspidata*.⁶² Compounds 521, 522, and 523 are three 3,11-cyclic taxanes with a rare substitution on C-7, while 524 is the only case without a substitution at C-5. Taxuspine C (517) exhibited remarkable multidrug-resistance (MDR)-reversing activity and enhanced the chemotherapeutic effect of VCR in P388/VCR-bearing mice.¹¹⁵ 1β-Hydroxytaxuspine C (507) also showed remarkable activity as modulator of multidrug-resistant tumor cells.⁴⁵

4.24. Other Cyclotaxanes (Table 26 and Figure 36)

This group of taxanes with a new skeleton was isolated from the needles of the Canadian yew, *T. canadensis*. The cross-links pulled the structures into rigid cages with a number of chiral centers. Compound 530¹¹⁶ represents the first example of the novel carbon framework with a rare 5/5/4/6/6/6-membered

Table 25. 3,11-Cyclotaxanes

compound	no.	source	part	ref
2 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-1 β ,9 α -dihydroxy-3,11-cyclotax-4(20)-en-13-one	501	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	352
9 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-3,11-cyclotax-4(20)-en-13-one	502	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	326
10 β -acetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-2 α ,9 α -dihydroxy-3,11-cyclotax-4(20)-en-13-one	503	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	370
9 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-2 α -hydroxy-3,11-cyclotax-4(20)-en-13-one	504	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	370
2 α -acetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-9 α ,10 β -dihydroxy-3,11-cyclotax-4(20)-en-13-one	505	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	507
10 β -acetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-1 β ,2 α ,9 α -trihydroxy-3,11-cyclotax-4(20)-en-13-one	506	<i>T. canadensis</i>	rt	103
1 β -hydroxytaxuspine C	507	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	325
10 β -acetoxy-2 α ,5 α ,9 α -trihydroxy-3,11-cyclotax-4(20)-en-13-one	508	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	215
2 α -acetoxy-5 α ,9 α ,10 β -trihydroxy-3,11-cyclotax-4(20)-en-13-one	509	<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	214
taxinine K	510	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	16
5-cinnamoylphototaxin II	511	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	432
taxinine L	512	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	16
5-O-cinnamoyl-9-O-acetylphototaxin I	513	<i>T. baccata</i>	lv	114
2,9-diacetyl-5-cinnamoylphototaxin II	514	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	216
2,10-diacetyl-5-cinnamoylphototaxin II	515	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	216, 217
		<i>T. yunnanensis</i>	sd	215
2,10-diacetyl-5-[(Z)-cinnamoyl]phototaxin II	516	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	217
taxuspine C	517	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	461
2 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-9 α -hydroxy-5 α -(3'-dimethyl-amino-3'-phenylpropanoyloxy)-3,11-cyclotax-4(20)-en-13-one	518	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	230
2 α ,9 α ,10 β -triacetoxy-5 α -(β -D-glucopyranosyloxy)-3,11-cyclotax-11-en-13-one	519	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv, tw	417
taxuspine H	520	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st, lv	344
7 β -acetoxytaxuspine B	521	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	353
2,10-diacetyl-5-cinnamoyl-7 β -hydroxyphototaxin II	522	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	216
2 α ,7 α ,10 β -triacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-9 α -hydroxy-3,11-cyclotax-4(20)-en-13-one	523	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	325
3 α ,11 α -cyclotaxinine NN-2	524	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	387

Table 26. Other Cyclotaxanes

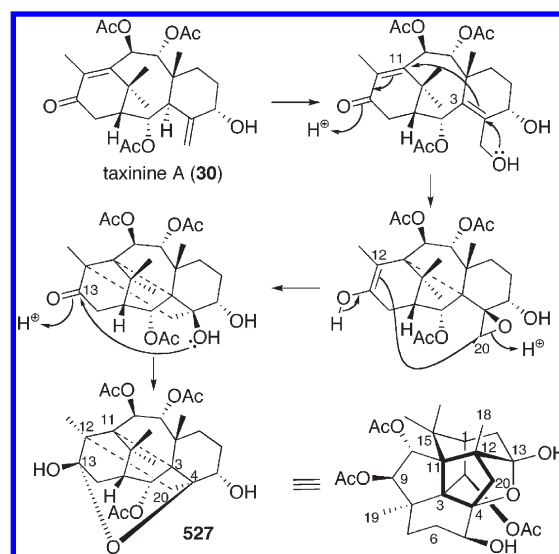
compound	no.	source	part	ref
dipropellane A	525	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	218
dipropellane B	526	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	218
dipropellane C	527	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	218
2 α ,9 α -diacetoxy-5 α -cinnamoyloxy-10 β ,11 β -dihydroxy-14 β ,20-cyclotax-3-en-13-one	528	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	117
canataxpropellane	529	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	219
2 α ,10 β -diacetoxy-5 α ,9 α ,20 α -trihydroxy-3 α ,11 α ;4 α ,12 α ;14 α ,20-tricyclotaxan-13-one	530	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	116
taxpropellane A	531	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	509

ring system, the most complex core skeleton in all the natural taxanes. Scheme 7 showed a plausible biosynthetic pathway of taxane dipropellanes 525–527 via intramolecular Michael addition and alkylation. Similarly, a plausible biosynthetic pathway from a taxane such as 22 to canataxpropellane was also suggested (Scheme 8).¹¹⁶ It should be emphasized that structure C has a 6/8/6/6 tetracyclic skeleton, which showed a cage-like backbone and a similar taxane 528 has been isolated from this plant.¹¹⁷ The C-3(4) and C-11(12)-double bonds were spatially closed and [2 + 2] cycloaddition could occur to form the cyclobutane ring. The coexistence of the novel type taxane 530 and 528 implied that the former should be biosynthesized from a 14,20-cyclotaxane-type precursor.

4.25. Bicyclic Taxanes 1: 3,8-Secotaxa-3,8,11-trienes (Table 27 and Figure 37)

Bicyclic taxanes are a group of interesting 3,8-secotaxanes comprising a 6-membered A ring and a 12-membered B-ring, and most of them possess three double bonds and a 10-acetoxy group, as well as a cinnamoyl group at C-20 in some cases.

Scheme 7. Proposed Biosynthetic Pathway of 527



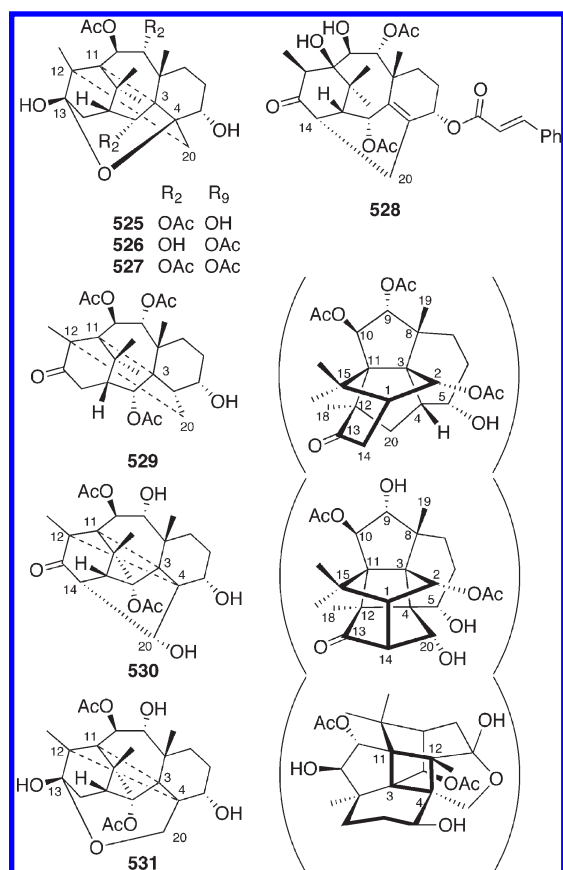


Figure 36. Other cyclotaxanes.

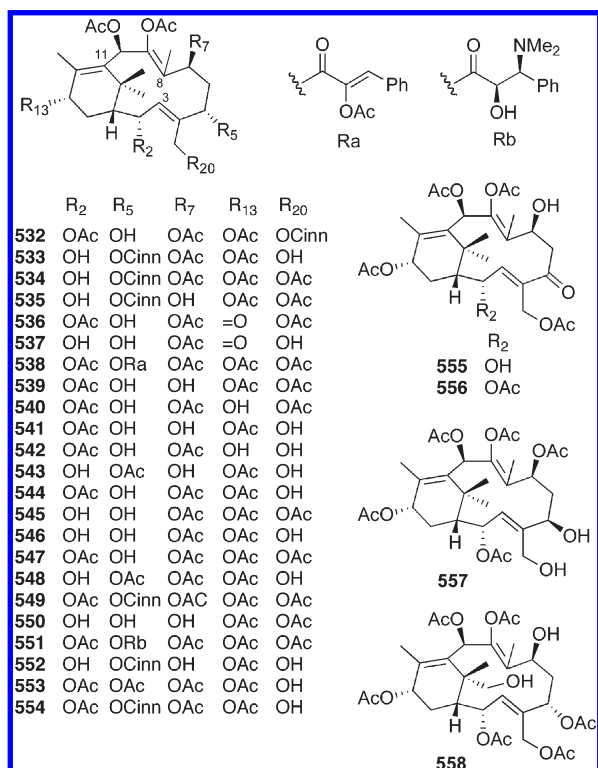


Figure 37. 3,8-Secotaxa-3,8,11-trienes.

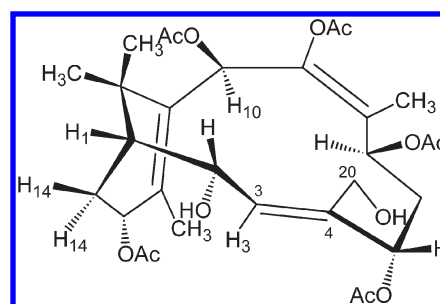
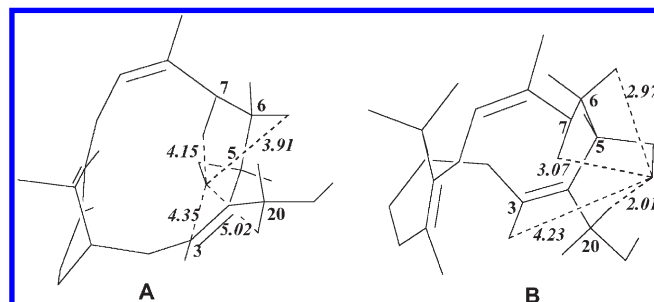
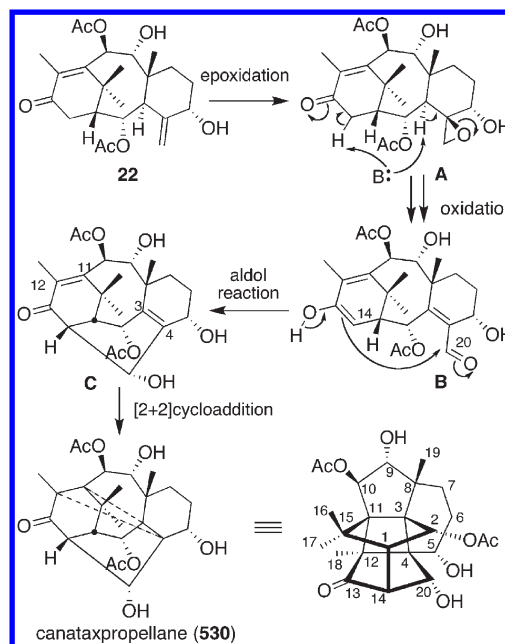


Figure 38. Stereostructure of taxachitriene B (548).

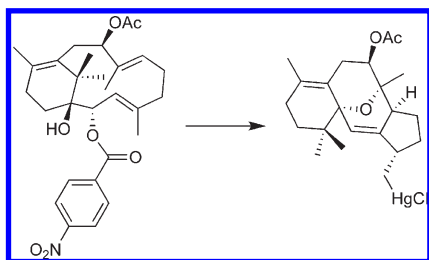
Figure 39. Molecular models of the lowest energy structure of (A) canadensene (557) and (B) 5-*epi*-canadensene (544) illustrating the distances (in Å) between the OH-5 hydrogen and the neighboring hydrogens. Reprinted with permission from ref216. Copyright 1998 Elsevier Science.

Scheme 8. Proposed Biosynthetic Pathway of Canataxpropellane (530)

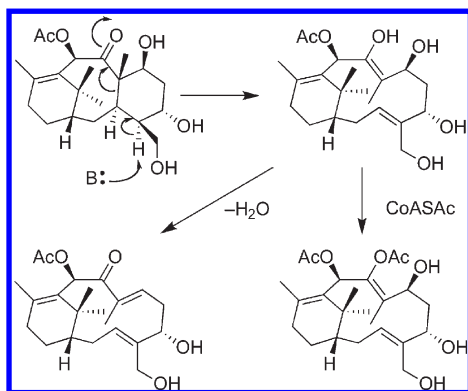


This kind of taxanes, as represented by taxachitrienes A (547), B (548, Figure 38),¹¹⁸ canadensene (557)¹¹⁹ and 5-*epi*-canadensene (544), was first reported by two groups simultaneously from the Chinese and Canadian yews in 1995. Up to now, bicyclic taxanes were detected mainly in the Canadian, Chinese, and Japanese

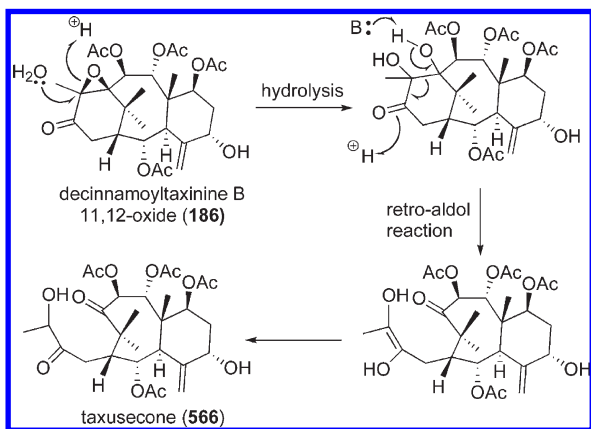
Scheme 9. Product of 3,8-Secotaxane Cyclization



Scheme 10. Proposed Biosynthetic Pathway of Bicyclic Taxanes



Scheme 11. Proposed Biosynthetic Pathway of Taxusecone (566)



yews. Compound **537** from *T. mairei* is the only example of bicyclic taxane with a C-13-oxo group. Taxane **558** has a hydroxy substituent on the C-17-methyl group. It is of great interest that canadensene (**557**) is the first and the only bicyclic taxane with a 5β -substitution. 5 -*epi*-Canadensene was originally isolated from the Chinese yew, *T. chinensis*, and was considered incorrectly to be canadensene although differences in both ^1H NMR and ^{13}C NMR data were observed.¹²⁰ Actually, 5β -substituted canadensene has never been isolated again. The 5 -*epi*-canadensene seems to be more prone to cyclize to form an oxetane because of the

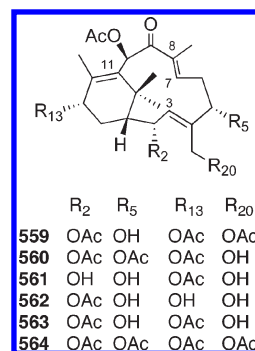


Figure 40. 3,8-Secotaxa-3,7,11-trien-9-ones.

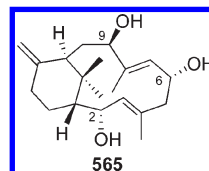


Figure 41. 3,8-Secotaxatriene-2,6,9-triol.

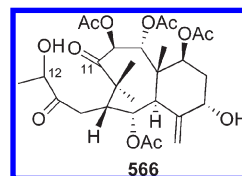


Figure 42. 11,12-Secotaxane.

proximity of the two hydroxy groups. It is tempting to assume that one of them is used for the formation of a taxane whereas the other acts as a dead-end metabolite. Preliminary studies by Zamir's group suggested that the isolation of the different stereoisomers must be dependent on the season of the plant collected. The biosynthetic puzzle is still unsolved. Why only very few yew species produce these kind of compounds? Why both C-5 stereoisomers existed only in the Canadian yew?

On the basis of molecular modeling work, distances between the oxygen atoms of 5-OH and 20-OH were measured as 4.27 Å for canadensene, which adopted a striking U-shape in the 3D-model¹²¹ and 3.08 Å for the 5 -*epi*-canadensene (Figure 39). Molecular modeling studies revealed that modified bicyclic taxanes can adopt a conformation similar to the bioactive conformation of paclitaxel and can be well accommodated within the pseudoreceptor and therefore predicted the microtubule-stabilizing activity for taxanes.^{31,65} In addition, taxuspine X (**549**) indeed exhibited remarkable multidrug-resistance (MDR)-reversing activity.⁶¹ **552** and **553** showed significant cytotoxicity against HeLa (cervical epitheloid), WiDr (colon), Daoy (medulloblastoma), and Hep2 (liver carcinoma) tumor cells.¹²²

The structure diversity of compounds obtained from the Canadian yew might be a hint to two possible biosynthetic pathways of taxanes.¹²³ It has been considered that geranylgeranyl diphosphate first cyclized into a verticillene as a transient intermediate.¹²⁴ Initial verticillyl cation does not undergo the proton shift needed to generate the normal taxane ring system, but instead it is quenched at the bicyclic stage.

Table 27. Bicyclic Taxanes 1: 3,8-Secotaxa-3,8,11-trienes

compound	no.	source	part	ref
20-O-cinnamoyl-5- <i>epi</i> -canadensen	532	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	510
2,20-dideacetyltaxuspine X	533	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	511
2-deacetyltaxuspine X	534	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	511
2,7-dideacetyltaxuspine X	535	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	511
(3 <i>E</i> ,8 <i>E</i>)-2 <i>α</i> ,7 <i>β</i> -9,10 <i>β</i> ,20-pentaacetoxy-5 <i>α</i> -hydroxy-3,8-secotaxa-3,8,11-trien-13-one	536	<i>T. mairei</i>	lv	512
(3 <i>E</i> ,8 <i>E</i>)-7 <i>β</i> ,9,10 <i>β</i> -triacetoxy-2 <i>α</i> ,5 <i>α</i> ,20-trihydroxy-3,8-secotaxa-3,8,11-trien-13-one	537	<i>T. mairei</i>	lv	512
(3 <i>E</i> ,8 <i>E</i>)-2 <i>α</i> ,7 <i>β</i> ,9,10 <i>β</i> ,13 <i>α</i> ,20-hexaacetoxy-5-[(<i>Z</i>)-2'-acetoxycinnamoyloxy]-3,8-secotaxa-3,8,11-triene	538	<i>T. mairei</i>	lv	220
7-deacetyltaxachitriene A	539	<i>T. mairei</i>	lv	513
		<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	122
13-deacetyltaxachitriene A	540	<i>T. mairei</i>	lv	513
7-deacetylcanadensene	541	<i>T. mairei</i>	lv	514
		<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	488
13-deacetylcanadensene	542	<i>T. mairei</i>	lv	514
taxuspine U	543	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	423
5- <i>epi</i> -canadensene	544	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	216
		<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	406
2-deacetyltaxachitriene A	545	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv	515
5-deacetyltaxachitriene B	546	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv	120
taxachitriene A	547	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv	118
taxachitriene B	548	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv	118
		<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	406
taxuspine X	549	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	st	380
tasumatrols M	550	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	488
5-[(2' <i>S</i> ,3' <i>R</i>)- <i>N,N</i> -dimethyl-3'-phenylisoseril]taxachitriene A	551	<i>T. chinensis</i>	bk, lv	467
(3 <i>E</i> ,8 <i>E</i>)-9,10 <i>β</i> ,13 <i>α</i> -triacetoxy-2 <i>α</i> ,7 <i>β</i> ,20-trihydroxy-5 <i>α</i> -[(<i>E</i>)-cinnamoyloxy]-3,8-secotaxa-3,8,11-triene	552	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	122
(3 <i>E</i> ,8 <i>E</i>)-2 <i>α</i> ,5 <i>α</i> ,7 <i>β</i> ,9,10 <i>β</i> ,13 <i>α</i> -hexaacetoxy-20-hydroxy-3,8-secotaxa-3,8,11-triene	553	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	122
5- <i>epi</i> -O-cinnamoylcanadensene	554	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	105
tasumatrol N	555	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, st	488
(3 <i>E</i> ,8 <i>E</i>)-2 <i>α</i> ,9,10 <i>β</i> ,13 <i>α</i> ,20-pentaacetoxy-7 <i>β</i> -hydroxy-3,8-secotaxa-3,8,11-trien-5-one	556	<i>T. sumatrana</i>	lv, tw	122
canadensene	557	<i>T. canadensis</i>	lv	119
taxumairol M	558	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	516

Table 28. Bicyclic Taxanes 2: 3,8-Secotaxa-3,7,11-trien-9-ones

compound	no.	source	part	ref
(3 <i>E</i> ,7 <i>E</i>)-2 <i>α</i> ,10 <i>β</i> ,13 <i>α</i> ,20-tetraacetoxy-5 <i>α</i> -hydroxy-3,8-secotaxa-3,7,11-trien-9-one	559	<i>T. mairei</i>	lv	211
(3 <i>E</i> ,7 <i>E</i>)-2 <i>α</i> ,5 <i>α</i> ,10 <i>αβ</i> ,13 <i>α</i> -tetraacetoxy-20-hydroxy-3,8-secotaxa-3,7,11-trien-9-one	560	<i>T. mairei</i>	lv	211
(3 <i>E</i> ,7 <i>E</i>)-10 <i>β</i> ,13 <i>α</i> -diacetoxy-2 <i>α</i> ,5 <i>α</i> ,20-trihydroxy-3,8-secotaxa-3,7,11-trien-9-one	561	<i>T. mairei</i>	lv	211
(3 <i>E</i> ,7 <i>E</i>)-2 <i>α</i> ,10 <i>β</i> -diacetoxy-5 <i>α</i> ,13 <i>α</i> ,20-trihydroxy-3,8-secotaxa-3,7,11-trien-9-one	562	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv	515
(3 <i>E</i> ,7 <i>E</i>)-2 <i>α</i> ,10 <i>β</i> ,13 <i>α</i> -triacetoxy-5 <i>α</i> ,20-dihydroxy-3,8-secotaxa-3,7,11-trien-9-one	563	<i>T. chinensis</i>	lv	515
(3 <i>E</i> ,7 <i>E</i>)-2 <i>α</i> ,5 <i>α</i> ,10 <i>β</i> ,13 <i>α</i> ,20-pentaacetoxy-3,8-secotaxa-3,7,11-trien-9-one	564	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	517

However, trying to close the 3,8-seco-taxane into tetracyclic taxane was failed¹¹⁹ or got unexpected result (Scheme 9).¹²⁵ These results suggested another alternative pathway shown in Scheme 10.^{26,62} While it is doubtful that the bicyclic taxanes originate from the opening of a full oxygenated tricyclic taxane¹²¹ as no report is available on such transformation by chemical reactions or in vivo.

The regiochemistry of the 12-membered ring in bicyclic taxane was 3*E* and 8*E* and ring A had a boat conformation. The relative stereochemistry of ring B in bicyclic taxane like taxuspine U was 2*R**,5*S**,7*S**,10*R**.

Table 29. Bicyclic Taxanes 3: 3,8-Secotaxatriene-2,6,9-triol

compound	no.	source	part	ref
(11 <i>α</i> H)-3,8-secotaxa-3,7,12(18)-triene-2 <i>α</i> ,6 <i>α</i> ,9 <i>β</i> -triol	565	<i>T. mairei</i>	sd	126

4.26. Bicyclic Taxanes 2: 3,8-Secotaxa-3,7,11-trien-9-ones (Table 28 and Figure 40)

Bicyclic taxanes of this group were characterized by the presence of a C-9-oxo and the two double bonds at C-3 and C-7.

4.27. Bicyclic Taxanes 3: 3,8-Secotaxatriene-2,6,9-triol (Table 29 and Figure 41)

Unlike other bicyclic taxanes, (11 α H)-3,8-secotaxa-3,7,12(18)-triene-2,6,9-triol (**565**) has no substitution at C-5, C-10, C-13, C-20, but a 6-OH group and it was speculated to be an intermediate of bicyclic taxane biosynthesis as a least substituted taxane.¹²⁶

Table 30. Bicyclic Taxanes 4: 11,12-Secotaxane

compound	no.	source	part	ref
taxusecone	566	<i>T. cuspidata</i>	lv	127

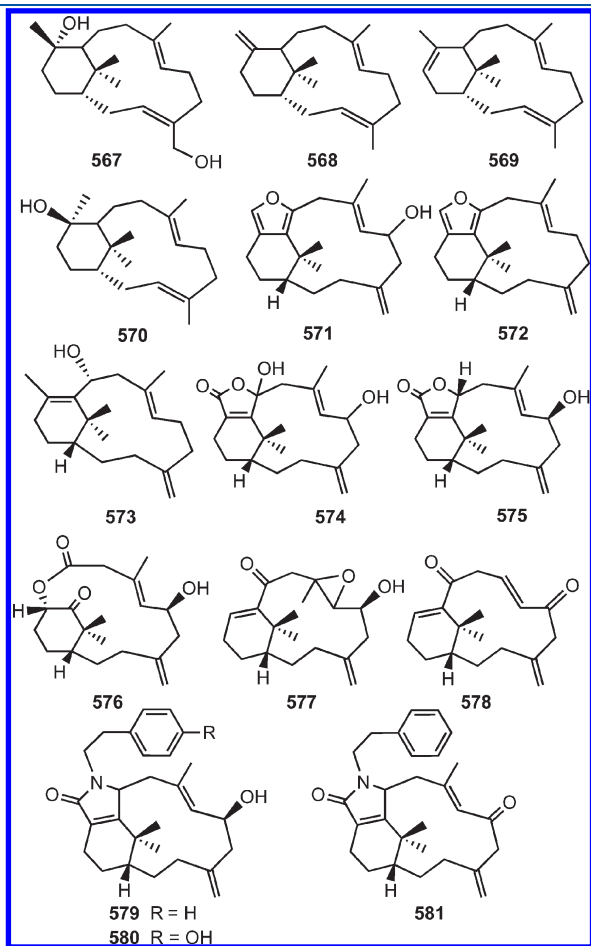


Figure 43. Bicyclic taxane analogs isolated from other sources.

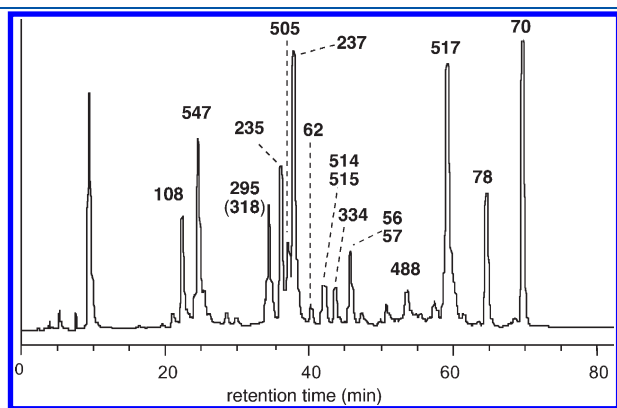


Figure 44. HPLC spectrum of taxanes eluted with a 100 min linear gradient of acetonitrile (25–100%) in water at a flow rate of 18 mL/min.

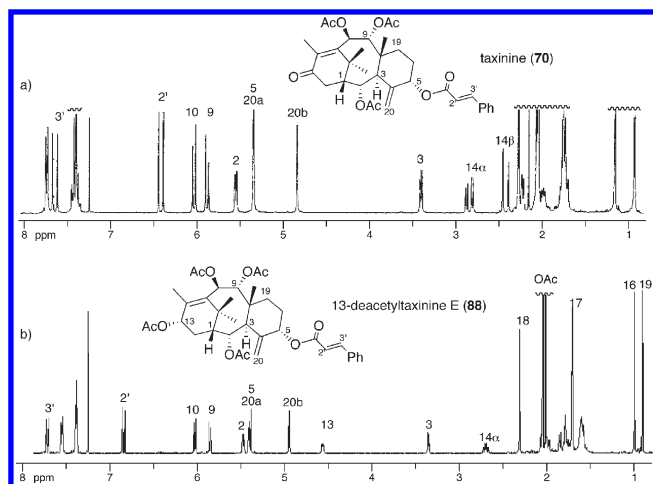


Figure 45. ¹H NMR Spectrum of (a) taxinine (**70**, 300 MHz) and (b) 13-deacetyltaxinine E (**88**, 500 MHz) in CDCl₃.

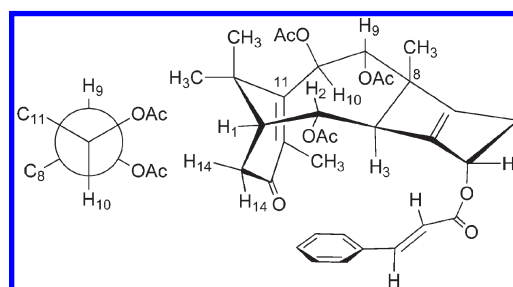


Figure 46. Newman projection along C-9 and C-10 in taxinine (**70**) and its stereostructure.

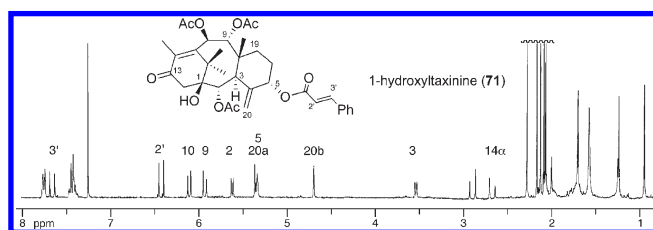


Figure 47. ¹H NMR spectrum of 1-hydroxytaxinine (**71**) in CDCl₃ (300 MHz).

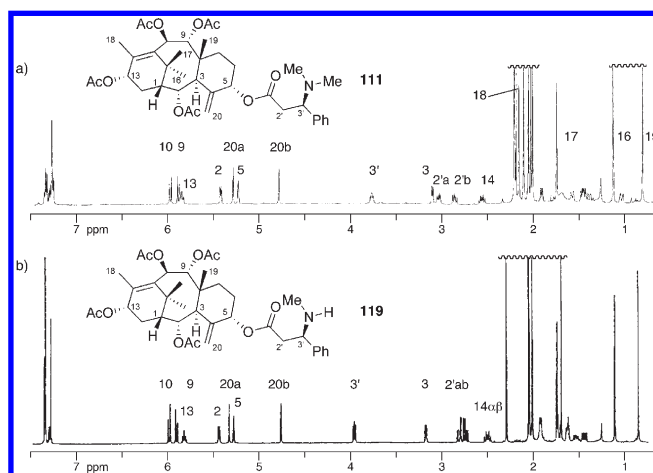


Figure 48. ¹H NMR spectrum of (a) **111** and (b) **119** (500 MHz) in CDCl₃.

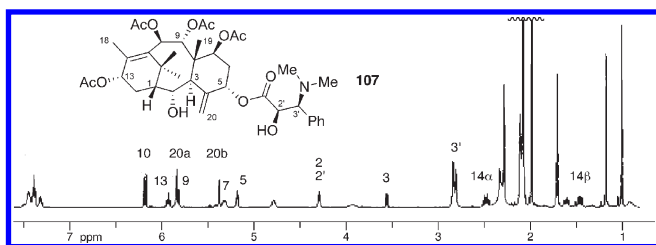


Figure 49. ^1H NMR spectrum of **107** in acetone- d_6 (600 MHz).

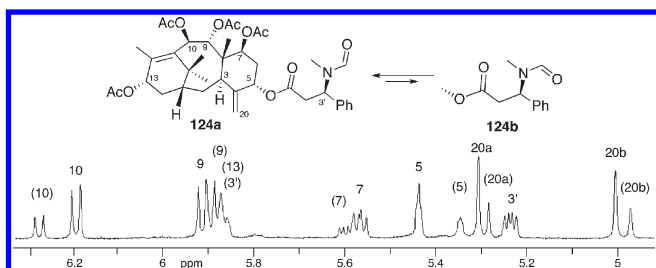


Figure 50. Part of ^1H NMR spectrum of **124**. Positional numbers in parentheses are of the minor rotamer.

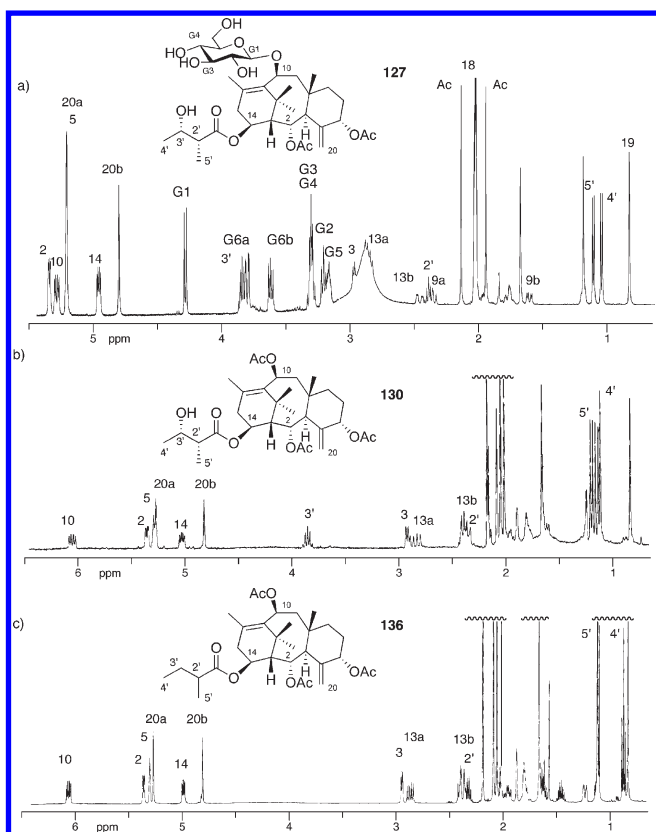


Figure 51. ^1H NMR spectra of (a) a taxane glycoside (**127**, acetone- d_6), (b) **130**, and (c) **136** (in CDCl_3).

4.28. Bicyclic Taxanes 4: 11,12-Secotaxane (Table 30 and Figure 42)

A novel 11,12-secotaxane was isolated from the needles of *T. cuspidata*, and it did not display in vitro cytotoxicity against human breast cancer MCF-7 cell line. As shown below

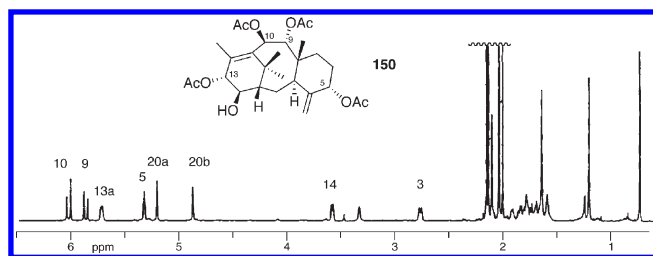


Figure 52. ^1H NMR spectrum of **150** with both C-13 and C-14 substitutions in CDCl_3 .

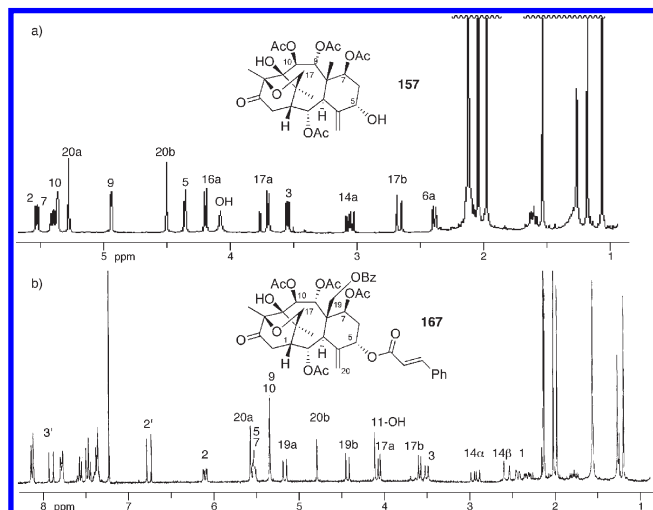


Figure 53. ^1H NMR spectrum of 5α -decinnamoyltaxagifine (**157**) (500 MHz) and taxacin M (**167**) (300 MHz) in CDCl_3 .

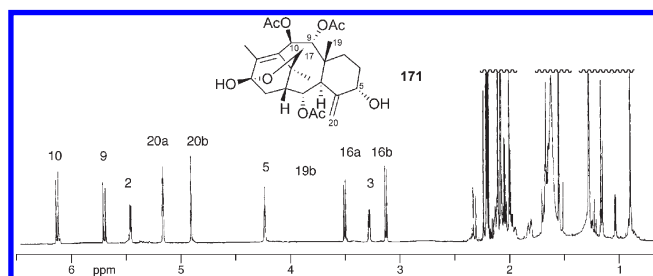


Figure 54. ^1H NMR spectrum of taxezopidine A (**171**) in CDCl_3 (300 MHz).

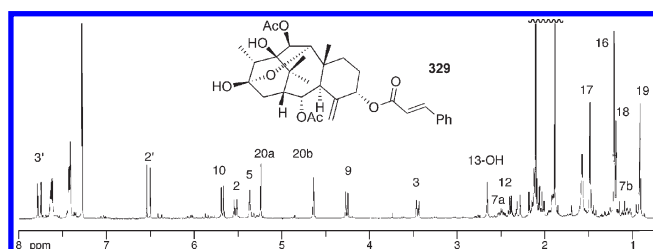


Figure 55. ^1H NMR spectrum of **329** in CDCl_3 (500 MHz).

(Scheme 11), this unique framework would be biosynthesized from decinnamoyltaxinine B 11,12-oxide (**186**).¹²⁷

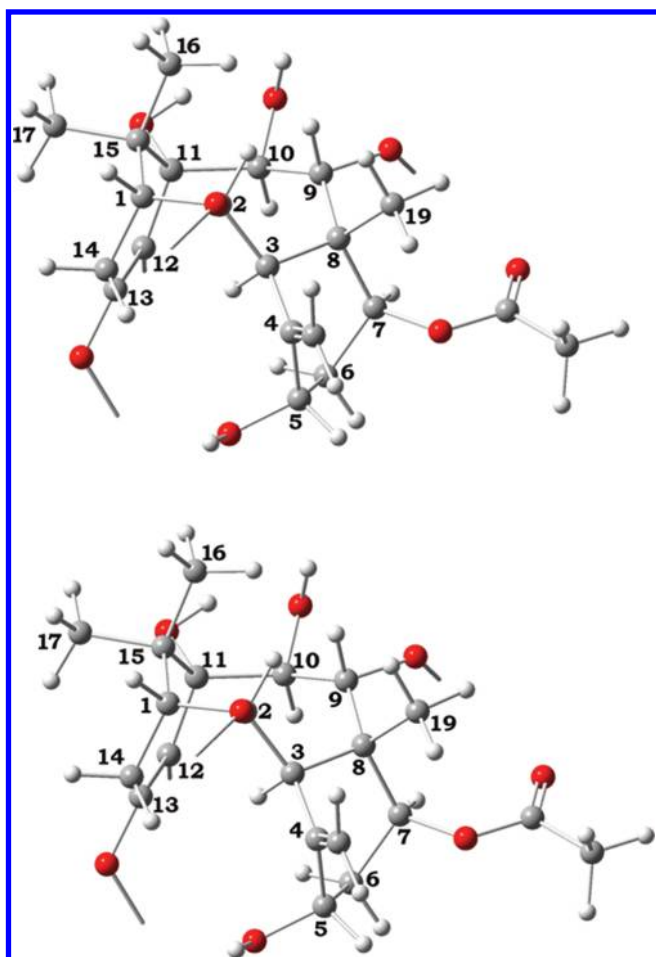


Figure 56. Optimized crown conformation (left) and boat-chair conformation (right) of taxane 175, some nuclei of acetyl groups and Me-18 have omitted for better viewing.

5. TAXANE ANALOGS (VERTICILLENES) FROM OTHER SOURCES (FIGURE 43)

Until now, taxanes were mainly found in plants of the genera *Taxus* and *Austrotaxus*.³¹ According to the view that similar chemical constituents exist in relative plant groups, much attention has been directed to several genera relative to *Taxus*. Paclitaxel was found in the stems and leaves of *Podocarpus gracilior* Pilger (Podocarpaceae) in a yield of 0.54 mg/kg,¹²⁸ but the claim was deficient as it was merely on the base of the similar retention time in HPLC and the same molecular ion peaks in MS. Luo et al.¹²⁹ found paclitaxel and its homologues from the stems and leaves of *Cephalotaxus manii*, *C. fortunei*, *C. hainannensis*, and *Podocarpus forrestii*. Chen¹³⁰ isolated 10-deacetylbaccatin III from the needles of *Pinus massoniana* and *Cephalotaxus sinensis*. Zhou et al.¹³¹ detected paclitaxel and brevifoliol from *Pseudotaxus chienii* (Cheng) Cheng, distributed only in China, however, this result could not be repeated by other groups.^{132,133}

Another source that could provide diverse taxanes is the endophytic fungus isolated from yews,^{134–138} such as *Tuberularia* sp., *Pestalotiopsis* spp., *Taxomyces andreanae*, and *Pestalotiopsis microspora*. These organisms probably learned to biosynthesize paclitaxel from the tree by horizontal gene transfer.

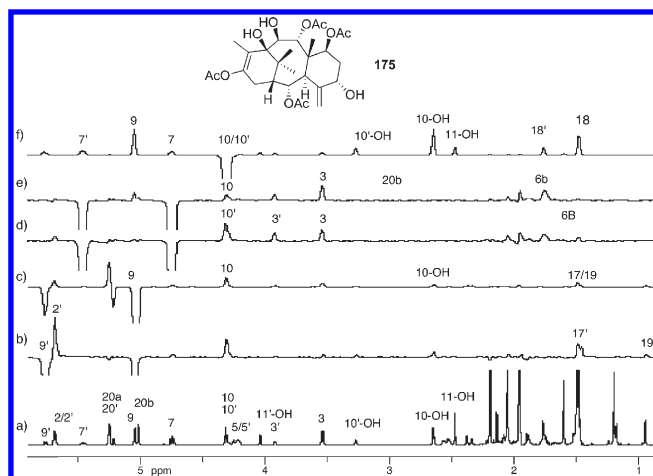


Figure 57. ^1H NMR spectrum of 175 in acetone- d_6 (500 MHz) and slices from the ROESY experiment with 175: (a) normal ^1H NMR spectrum; (b) H-9' slice at δ 5.76 ppm; (c) H-9 slice at δ 5.05 ppm; (d) H-7' slice at δ 5.46 ppm; (e) H-7 slice at δ 4.74 ppm; (f) H-10/H-10' slice at δ 4.31 ppm.

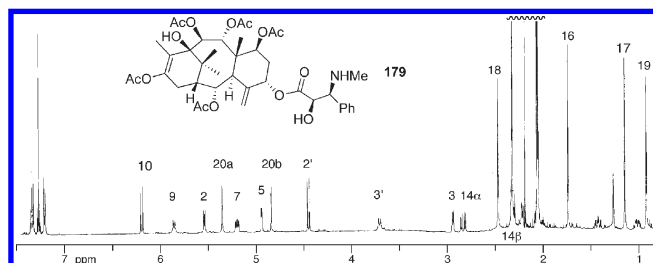


Figure 58. ^1H NMR spectrum of 179 with an alkaloid side chain at C-5 in CDCl_3 (600 MHz).

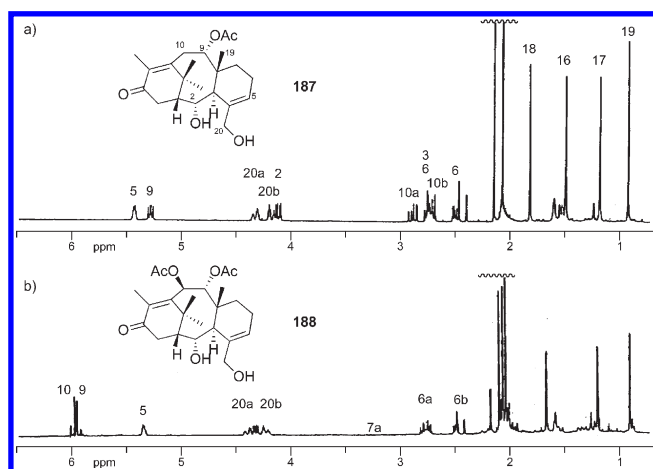


Figure 59. ^1H NMR spectrum of (a) 187 and (b) 188 in CDCl_3 (500 MHz).

Some bicyclic taxanes have been reported from other sources. Four analogs were isolated from wood of *Sciadopitys verticillata* Sieb. et Zucc.,¹³⁹ one bis-bicyclic taxane from *Hypoestes rosea*,¹⁴⁰ five bicyclic taxanes from Japanese liverwort *Jackiella javanica*,¹⁴¹ (567–570) (Figure 43), and more recently five verticillane diterpenoids from the stems of *Bursera suntui* and *Bursera*

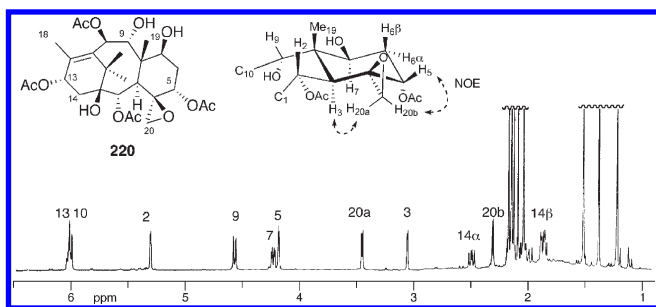


Figure 60. ^1H NMR spectrum of **220** with C-4,20-epoxy ring in CDCl_3 .

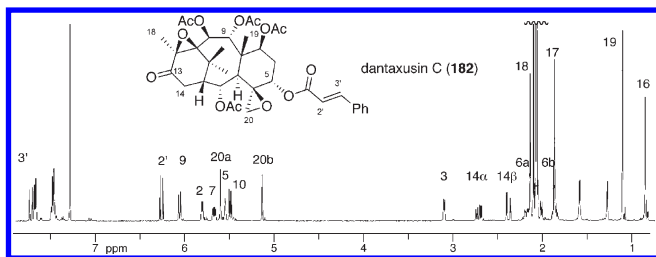


Figure 61. ^1H NMR spectrum of taxane with C-11,12-epoxy ring (**182**) in CDCl_3 .

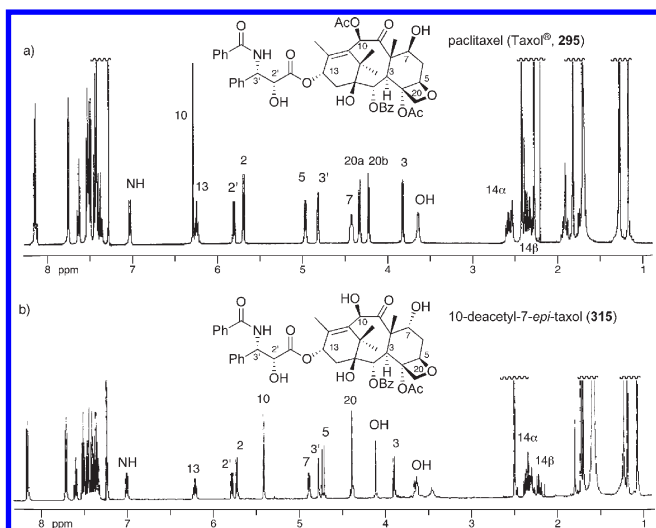


Figure 62. ^1H NMR spectrum of paclitaxel (**295**) (500 MHz) and 10-deacetyl-7-*epi*-taxol (**315**) in CDCl_3 (300 MHz).

kerberi.¹⁴² Though bicyclic taxanes were thought to be the precursors in the biosynthesis of taxanes,^{143,144} relationships between tricyclic taxanes and bicyclic taxanes were still not clear. Taxanes were also found in marine environment. Four cytotoxic diterpenes were isolated from the Formosan soft coral *Cespitularia hypotentaculata* (**571–574**)¹⁴⁵ and it is the first example of compounds with taxane skeleton found in marine origins. Recently, two more compounds were reported: a new verticillane diterpenes, cespitularins O (**575**), and a new norditerpene, cespitularin Q (**576**), isolated from the methylene chloride solubles of the same species.¹⁴⁶ Shen et al. also isolated two nor-verticillane diterpenes, named cespiphypotins C (**577**) and D (**578**) from soft coral *Cespitularia taeniata*.¹⁴⁷ In addition, three new

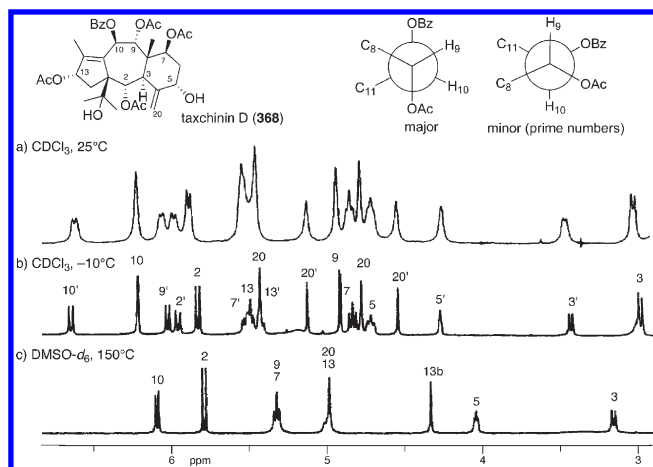


Figure 63. ^1H NMR spectra of taxchinin D (**368**) at different temperatures in CDCl_3 and $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ (400 MHz), and its newman projections along C-9 and C-10 in the two major conformers.

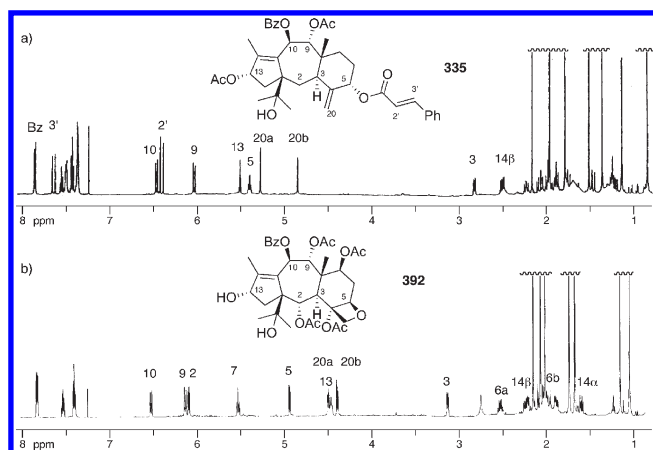


Figure 64. ^1H NMR spectrum of (a) **335** and (b) **392** in CDCl_3 (600 MHz).

nitrogen-containing verticillane diterpenoids, cespitulacames A, B and C (**579–581**), were isolated.¹⁴⁸

6. ISOLATION AND PURIFICATION

6.1. Isolation and Purification

Taxanes have been extracted from the bark and needles of various yew species by ordinary solvent extraction. The majority of extraction processes reported in the literature have made use of MeOH as the common extraction solvent at room temperature.^{149–152} However, there are also reports of extraction using other solvents, for example, MeOH– CHCl_3 (1:1),¹⁵³ MeOH– CH_2Cl_2 (1:1),^{154,155} and 95% EtOH.¹⁵⁶ Supercritical fluid extraction methods exhibit high selectivity for taxanes, although organic solvents (e.g., EtOH, MeOH, and CH_2Cl_2) are required to obtain high taxane recovery.^{157–160} Recently, microwave-assisted extraction has been reported as an extraction method for taxanes and found to reduce considerably both the extraction time and solvent consumption.¹⁶¹

Accelerated solvent extraction (ASE) is a new extraction method and enhances the traditional extraction process using solvent at elevated temperatures. Pressure is applied to the sample extraction cell to maintain the heated solvent in a liquid

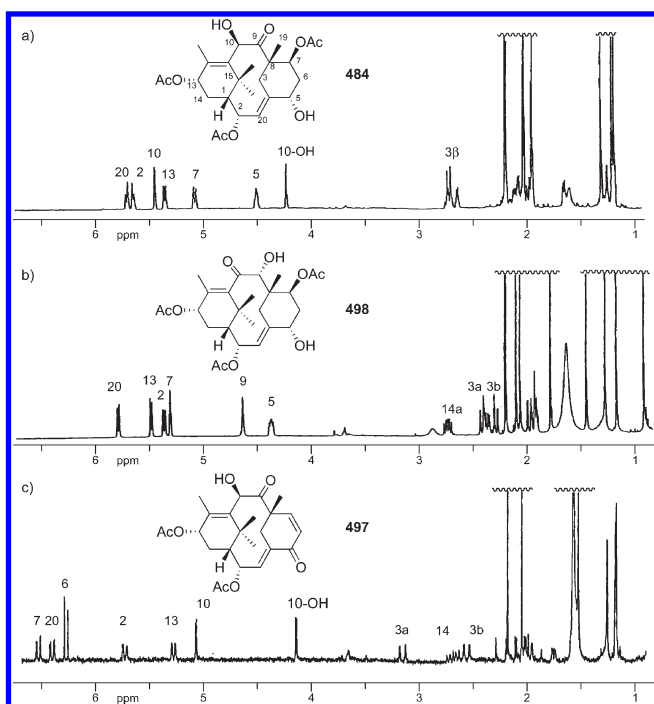


Figure 65. ^1H NMR spectra of 2(3 \rightarrow 20)abeotaxanes: (a) 484 (300 MHz), (b) 498 (300 MHz), and (c) 497 (600 MHz) in CDCl_3 .

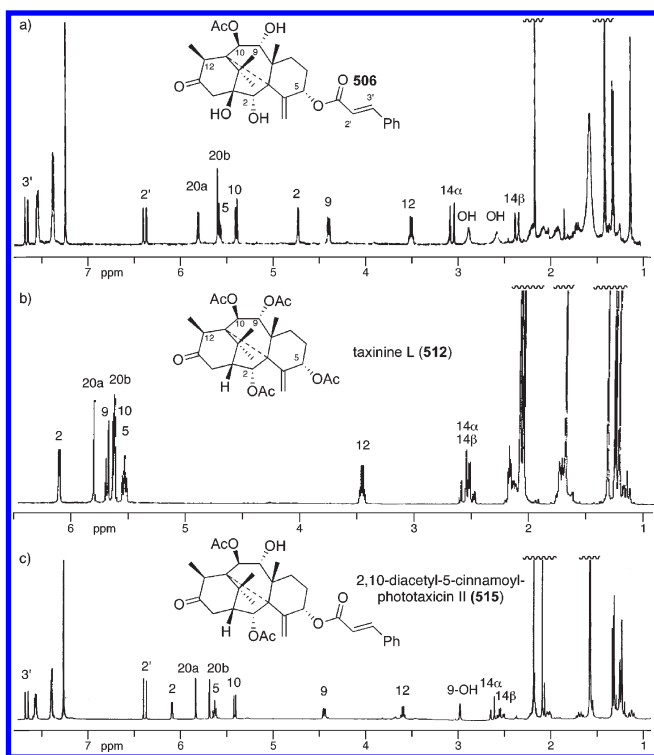


Figure 66. ^1H NMR spectra of (a) 506, (b) taxinine L (512, 300 MHz) and (c) 2,10-diacetyl-5-cinnamoylphototaxin II (515, 500 MHz) in CDCl_3 .

state during the extraction procedure and hence augments its dissolving power.^{162–164} Kawamura reported that ASE of paclitaxel, baccatin III, and 10-deacetylbaccatin III produced higher amounts of these compounds than ordinary solvent extraction at

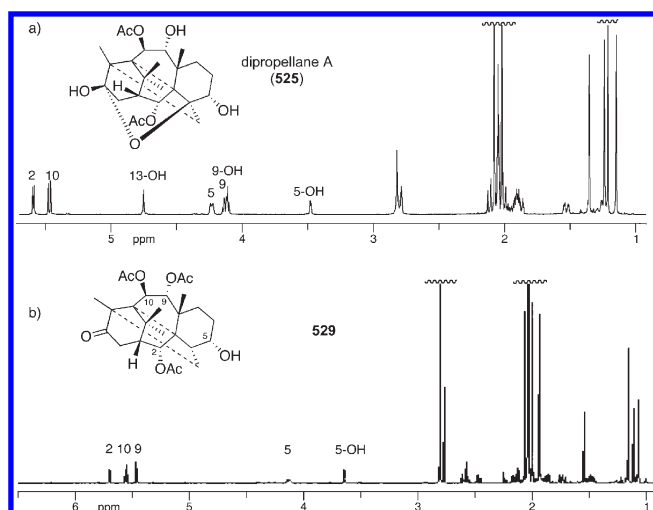


Figure 67. ^1H NMR spectra of (a) dipropellane A (515) and (b) 529 in acetone- d_6 (500 MHz).

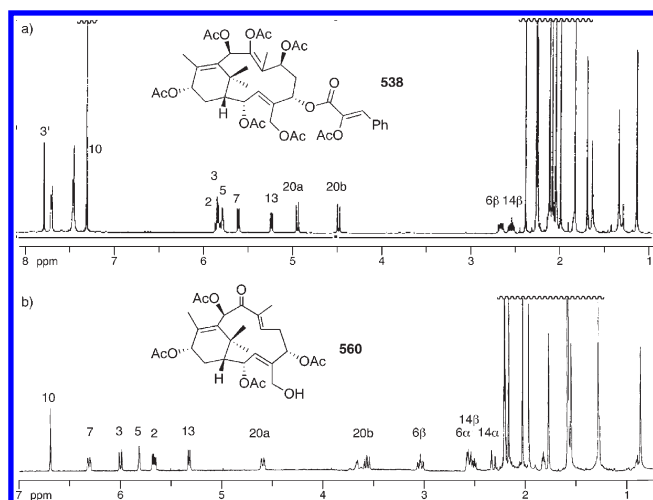


Figure 68. ^1H NMR spectrum of bicyclic taxanes (a) 538 (600 MHz) and (b) 560 (300 MHz) in CDCl_3 .

room temperature. The conditions providing the highest recovery of paclitaxel were as follows: solvent, $\text{MeOH-H}_2\text{O}$ (90:10); temperature, $150\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$; and pressure, 10.13 MPa (0.128% w/w recovery based on oven-dried sample powder). ASE does not require chlorinated solvents and can reduce solvent consumption because of its strong dissolving power. Moreover, with water alone, the recovery of paclitaxel and related compounds using ASE is much higher than with other extraction methods.¹⁶⁵

Relatively crude plant extracts, generally after simple washing/extraction with hexane to remove most lipids, was subjected to partition between dichloromethane and water. Most taxanes dissolved in dichloromethane, and aqueous phase contains polar/water-soluble constituents.

The separation of taxanes is usually conducted by repeated silica gel column chromatography (sometimes using Sephadex LH-20 with $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2\text{-MeCN/MeOH}$ as eluting solvent), preparative TLC, and reversed-phase (RP) preparative HPLC.

Octadecyl, phenyl, cyano, and fluorinated phases, such as perfluorophenyl (PFP), have been used as RP-HPLC stationary

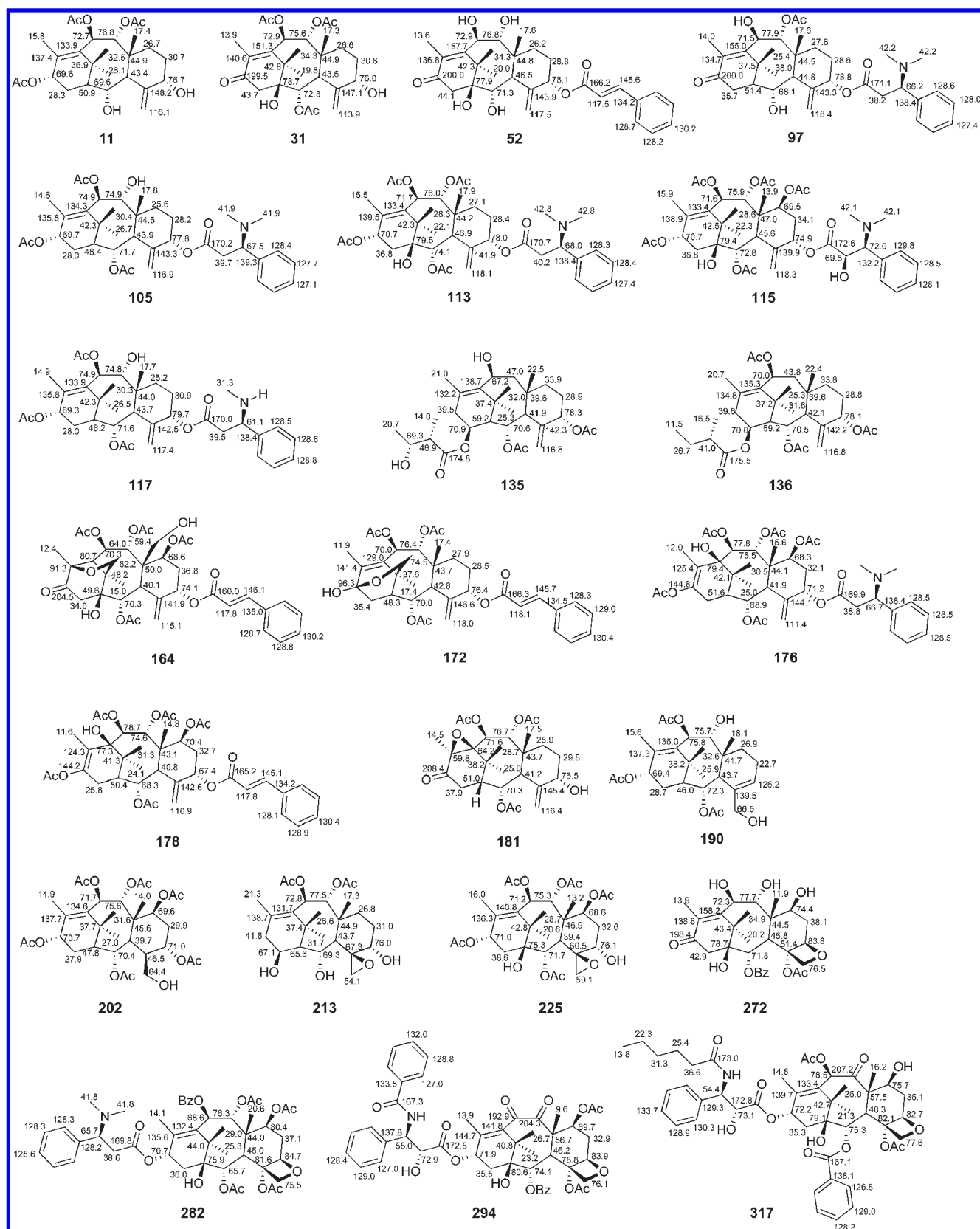


Figure 69. ^{13}C NMR chemical shift data of 6/8/6-taxanes.

phases. Octadecyl is the most used stationary phase.^{150,156,166–172} Dolfinger et al. used fluorinated phases and hydrocarbonaceous

phase through optimizing conditions of aqueous acetonitrile (ACN) eluent composition and temperature to separate a

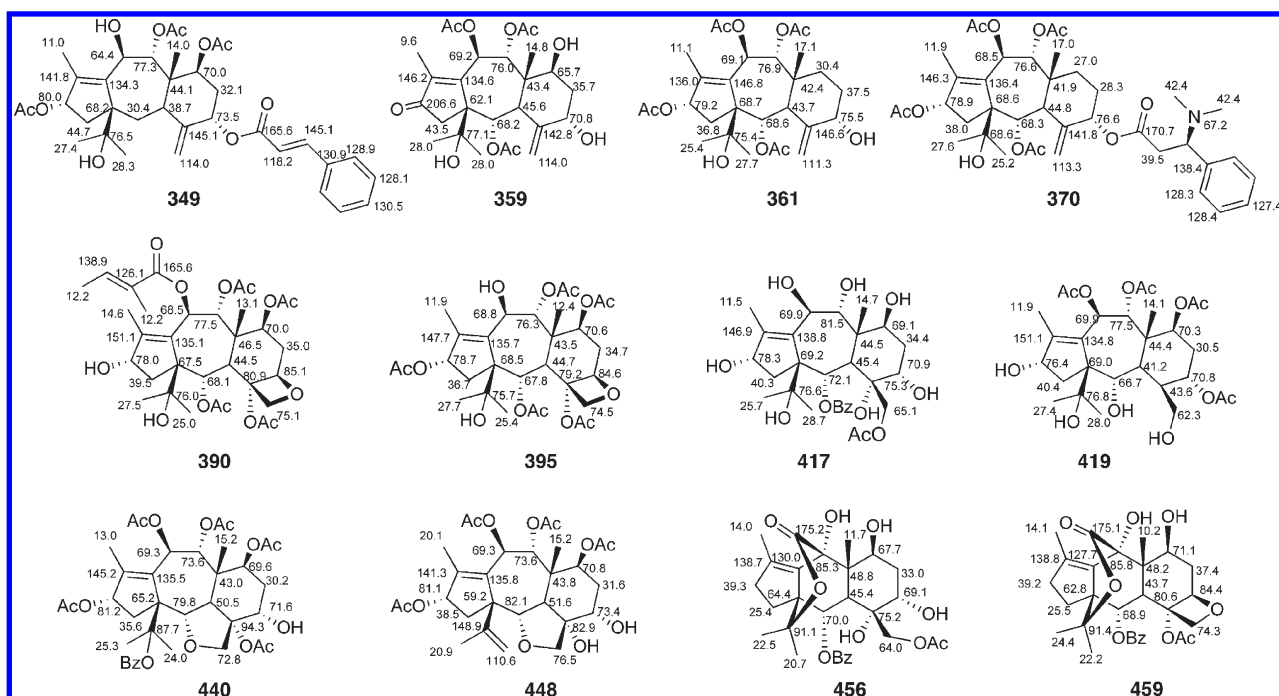


Figure 70. ^{13}C NMR chemical shift data of 11(15→1)abeotaxanes and 11(15→1),11(10→9)diabeotaxanes.

standard mixture of 15 taxanes.¹⁷³ HPLC analysis of taxanes was reviewed by Theodoridis.¹⁷⁴ In June 1966, separation of paclitaxel involved standard ethanol extraction, partition of the ethanolic residue between water and chloroform, followed by a large number of Craig countercurrent distribution treatments, the last of which involved a 400-tube Craig countercurrent distribution and finally approximately 0.5 g (yield 0.004%) of paclitaxel was isolated from 12 kg of air-dried stem and bark.¹⁷⁵

Hexane–acetone, CH_2Cl_2 –MeCN/MeOH, CHCl_3 –MeOH, and hexane–EtOAc in different ratio are suitable solvents for developing TLC and eluting CC. Taxanes were visualized on TLC plates with 10% sulfuric acid in ethanol and heating on a hot plate, most taxanes exhibited a blue or dark blue spot, while some bicyclic taxanes showed dark green color. As for RP-HPLC, an ODS (octadecylsilyl) column is usually used and MeCN– H_2O is a good mobile phase. The retention time of taxanes usually between 18 and 70 min eluted with a 100 min linear gradient of acetonitrile (25–100%) in water at a flow rate of 3–18 mL/min (Figure 44). If it was eluted with a 50 min linear gradient of acetonitrile (25–100%) in water, the retention times of taxanes were usually between 18 (taxane glucosides) and 55 min (taxinine analogy). Although there are hundreds of taxanes in the yew trees, normal phase column chromatography and preparative TLC plus reversed-phase preparative HPLC can make all the taxanes be separated and purified. For example, the structures of paclitaxel (295) and 7-*epi*-taxol (318) were very similar, but the retention time of them were $R_t = 36.0$ min and $R_t = 39.5$ min, respectively, when they were eluted with a 50 min linear gradient of acetonitrile (25 to 100%) in water. While the retention time of taxinine (70), 2-deacetyltaxinine (61) and 9, 10-dideacetyltaxinine (62) were $R_t = 53.2$ min, 46.5 and 41.1 min, respectively, when they were eluted with a 50 min linear gradient of acetonitrile (25 to 100%) in water. The dual λ absorbance detector was set at 227 and 210 nm, and strong absorption at 278 nm would suggest the presence of a cinnamoyl substitution.

6.2. Dereplication of Taxanes

High-throughput analytical method using liquid chromatography-evaporative light scattering detection-mass spectrometry (LC-ELSD-MS) was demonstrated using fractions from the organic extract from *T. brevifolia*.¹⁷⁶ A *Taxus* library was produced by using a parallel four channel preparative HPLC. A total of 147 compounds were detected in the library by positive ion ESI-MS. The identification of the known taxanes was performed by ^1H and COSY NMR using a microcoil flow probe (5–50 μg samples in 3 μL CD_3OD) and MS. Schneider et al. reported HPLC-NMR analyses of taxanes from 500 mg of leaf samples without prior isolation.¹⁷⁷ They used a stopped-flow technique and acetonitrile- D_2O solvent system, and identified several known taxanes. Konishi et al. reported dereplication method of taxanes from *T. wallichiana* by using ESI-MS/MS or MS/MS/MS.¹⁷⁸ From EtOAc extract 57 basic taxanes including 45 new compounds were detected.

7. NMR FEATURES OF TAXANES

NMR spectra play an important role in structure elucidation of taxanes. Different backbones and substitution patterns of taxanes showed characteristic NMR features (chemical shift and splitting pattern) and provide useful information for the structure identification. Full assignment of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR signals can be achieved with the support of ^1H – ^1H COSY, HMQC, DEPT, and HMBC spectral data.

7.1. ^1H NMR Features of Taxanes

Generally, proton NMR spectra of taxane diterpenoids showed much dispersed signals between 1 to 9 ppm, but different class of taxanes exhibited their own features. In 1966, Nakanishi summarized the NMR features of taxanes,¹⁷⁹ and this work was updated later by Miller,²⁰ Kingston,²² and Appendino.¹⁸⁰ The proton NMR of most taxanes include four tertiary methyl signals. An angular methyl of Me-19 appeared in an upfield and a vinyl

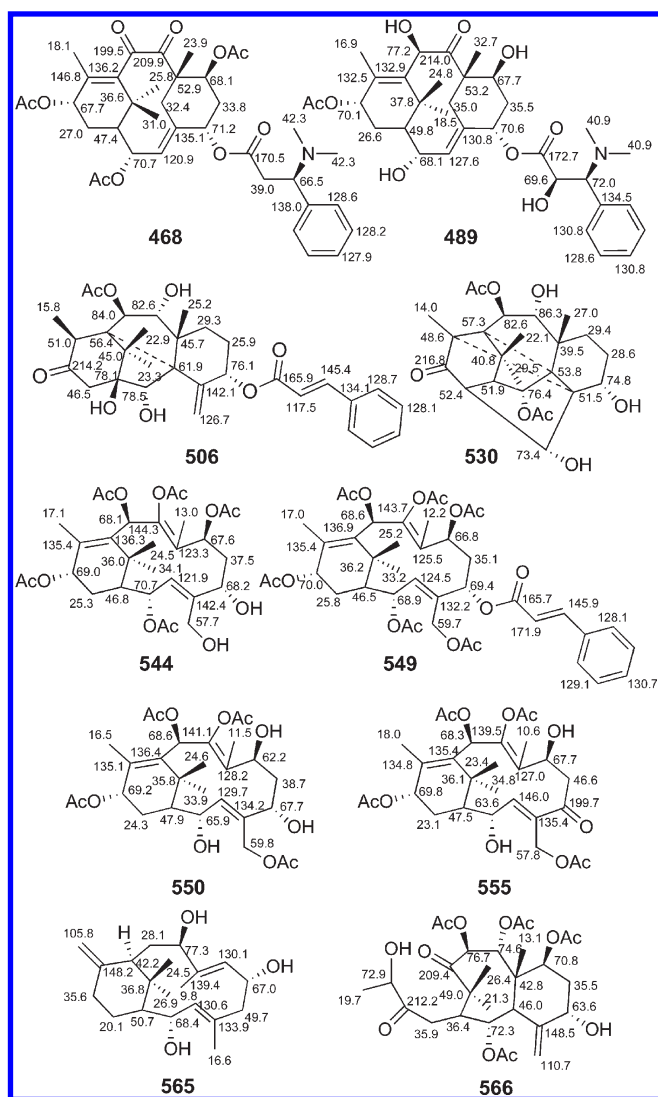


Figure 71. ^{13}C NMR chemical shift data of other taxanes.

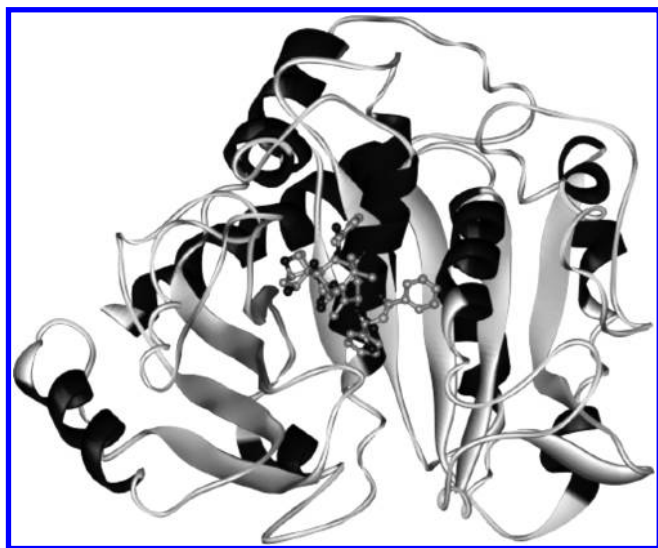


Figure 72. Crystal structure of the β -tubulin/paclitaxel: β -tubulin (in solid ribbon), paclitaxel (in stick ball).

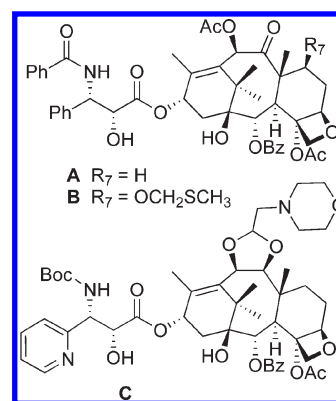
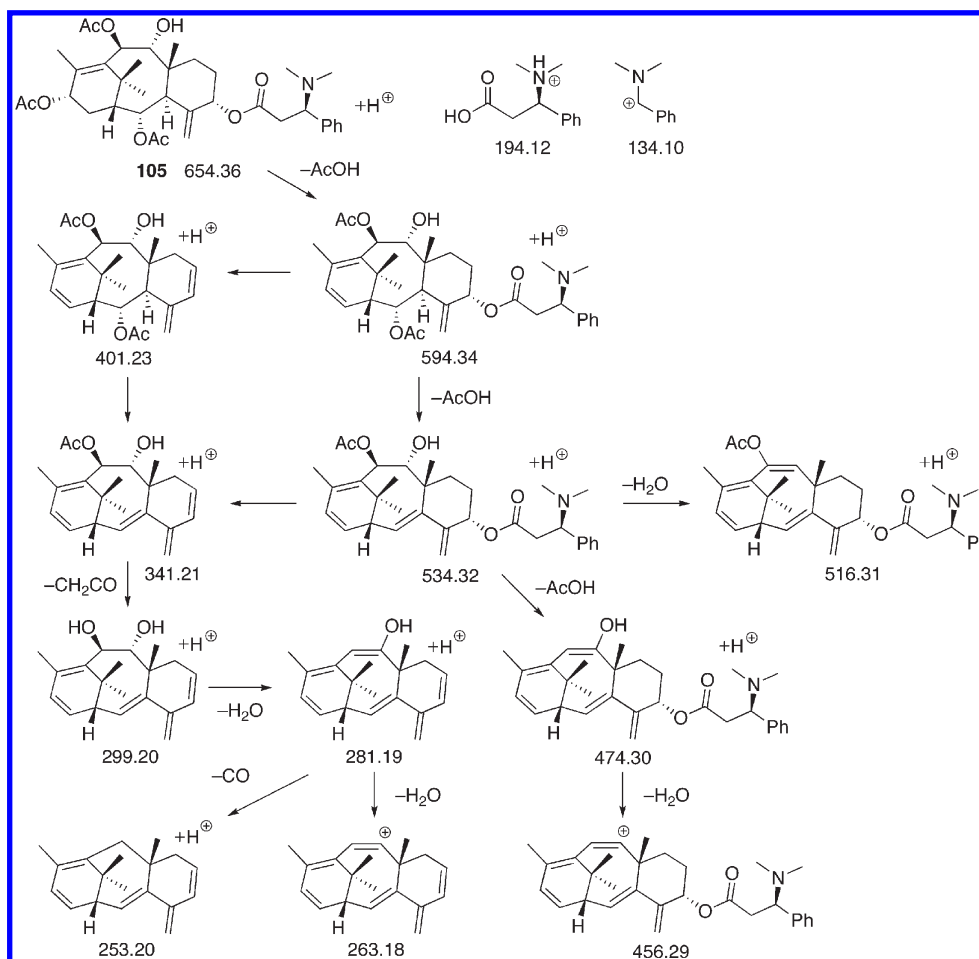


Figure 73. Modified paclitaxel.

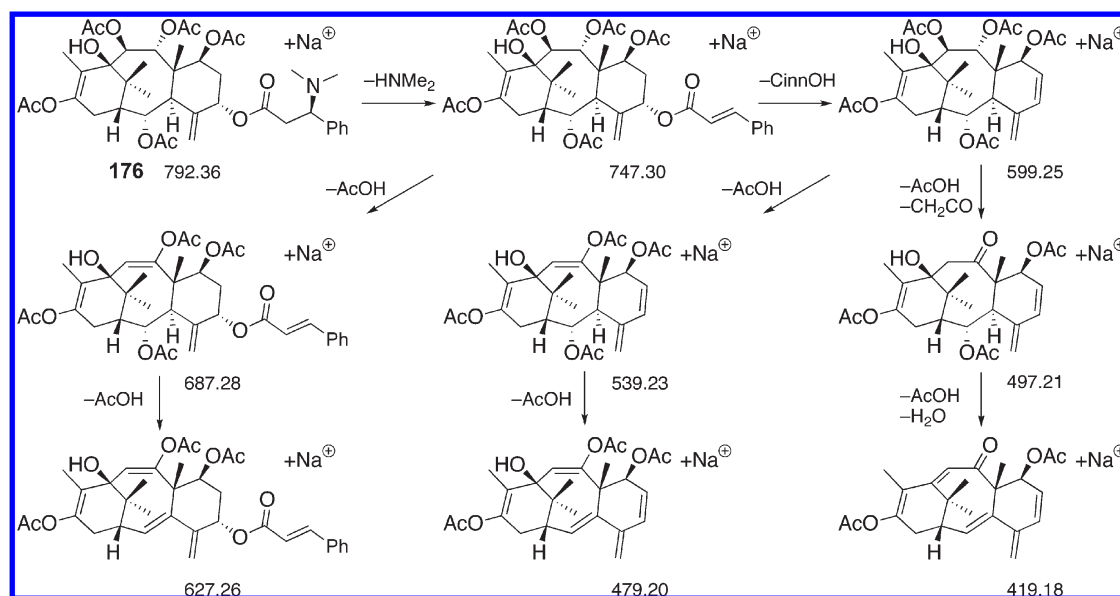
methyl of Me-18 showed long-range coupling with H-13 β generally resonating at the lowest field (usually in the range of methyl of acetyl group, but H-18 is broader and shorter than that of the acetyl methyl group). In addition, other two COSY-related geminal methyl groups on C-15 (Me-16 and Me-17) have broader peaks than the H-19 singlet signal. The methyl groups of acetyl moieties, geminal protons attached to oxygenated carbon (hydroxy or acetoxy), ring junction proton H-3, sp^2 -hybrid protons of benzene ring and protons located at C-9 and C-10, which usually composed an isolated AB system, are all characteristic signals of taxanes. H-20a and H-20b are also the characteristic signals in different kind of taxanes. Protons adjacent to an acetate group are usually 1 ppm downfield than the corresponding protons adjacent to a hydroxy group. This dramatic chemical shift allows a straightforward distinction of the positions of hydroxy and acetoxy groups. Proton of hydroxy group is usually not observed in CDCl_3 unless forming a hydrogen bond with an adjacent keto carbonyl group, but which can be observed in acetone- d_6 or DMSO. The connectivity of the protons on the taxane skeleton can be determined by analysis of the ^1H – ^1H COSY spectrum. The relative stereochemistry of taxanes can be defined on the basis of the NOESY/ROESY data, chemical shifts, and their coupling constants. Herein are listed some NMR spectra of different type taxanes for reference.

7.1.1. 6/8/6 Taxanes. **7.1.1.1. Neutral 6/8/6-Taxanes with a C-5-Cinnamoyl Group.** In stereochemistry of above two 6/8/6-membered taxanes, taxinine (70) and 13-deacetyltaxinine E (88, Figure 45),¹⁸¹ oxygenic group on C-13 has a heavy influence not only on the protons of H-14 α and H-14 β including chemical shift and split pattern, but also the protons on the benzene ring. Because of trans-oriented configuration of H-9 and H-10 (vicinal dihedral angle $\sim 180^\circ$, Figure 46), the vicinal coupling constant between H-9 and H-10 is large ($J = \sim 10$ Hz). Comparing the above two and following one spectra (Figure 44 and Figure 46), H-2' and H-3' of the cinnamoyl group showed different resonance. H-3' of the cinnamoyl in taxinine (70) resonated between two *ortho*-phenyl hydrogen protons and H-2' resonated at relative highfield. As for 13-deacetyltaxinine E (88), H-3' of the cinnamoyl resonated beyond two *ortho*-hydrogen protons of benzene protons while the H-2' at relative lowfield. This is presumably because the cinnamoyl residue is in the concave face of the molecule and is subjected to the anisotropic effect of C-13 carbonyl in taxinine type taxanes. However, the coupling constants of H-2' and H-3' were same in the two type of taxanes ($J = \sim 16$ Hz). If the cinnamoyl group adopts a *cis*-configuration,

Scheme 12. Fragmentation Pattern of Protonated Taxane Determined by FAB-MS of Taxane 105



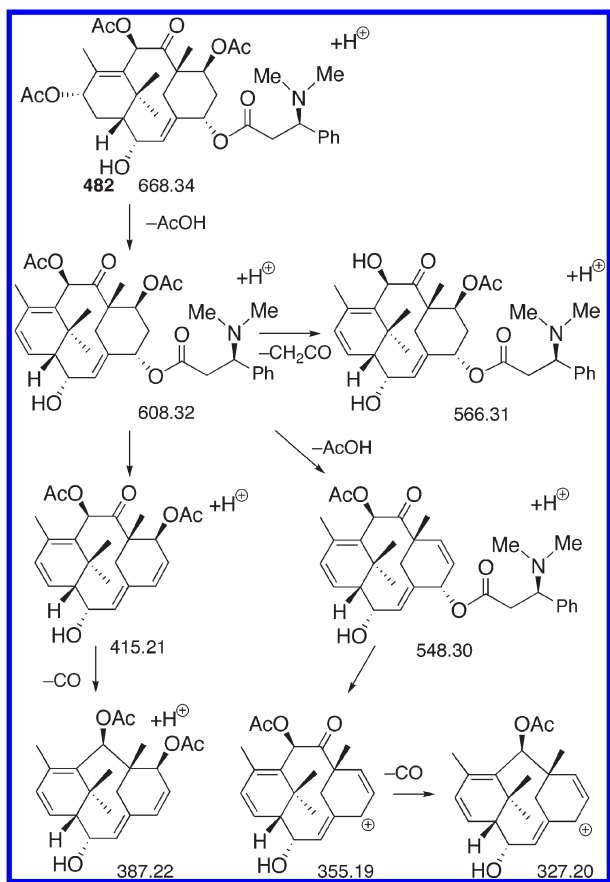
Scheme 13. Fragmentation Pattern of Sodio Taxane Determined by FAB-MS of Taxane 176



H-3' would resonate at relatively upfield, and the coupling constant of H-2' and H-3' will become smaller than $J = 10$ Hz

(as in compound 49 and 50).¹⁸² When a hydroxy group was located at C-1, H-14 α and H-14 β become a pair of doublets with

Scheme 14. Fragmentation Pattern of Protonated Taxane Determined by FAB-MS of an 2(3→20)Abeotaxane 482



a large coupling constant $J = 18$ Hz. [1-hydroxytaxinine (71),¹⁸³ Figure 47].

7.1.1.2. 6/8/6-Taxanes with an Alkaloidal Side Chain. A methyl group attached to nitrogen resonates at downfield comparing with other methyl groups such as acetyl and methyls on the taxane skeleton (111,¹⁸⁴ Figure 48). On the other hand, the aromatic protons move to an upfield as broad singlet because the influence of a C-1' carbonyl group on them are limited comparing with that caused by a cinnamoyl moiety (C-2' and C-3' are unsaturated). The proton on the nitrogen in 119¹⁸⁵ cannot be observed which is different from those in a paclitaxel side chain, but the information could be obtained from the corresponding ¹³C NMR and MS spectra (Scheme 15). In the ¹³C NMR data, removal of one methyl from the dimethylamino group of the Winterstein's acyl moiety could result in a dramatic upfield shift (~8 ppm) of the remaining methyl group. When a hydroxy group substituted at C-2', the chemical shifts and coupling patterns of H-2' and H-3' (107)¹⁸⁶ were varied dramatically as shown in Figure 49.

Of interest were 124 adopted two conformations as seen in ¹H NMR spectra especially for the side chain. The spectrum revealed two rotameric isomers in a ratio of approximately 2:1 (Figure 50).⁵²

7.1.1.3. 6/8/6-Taxanes with a C-14-Oxygen Functional Group. There is no substitution at C-9 and C-13 in this group of taxanes (127,⁵³ 130,¹⁰⁶ and 136,^{187–189} Figure 51), so both H-9 and H-13 resonated with very different resonance pattern as

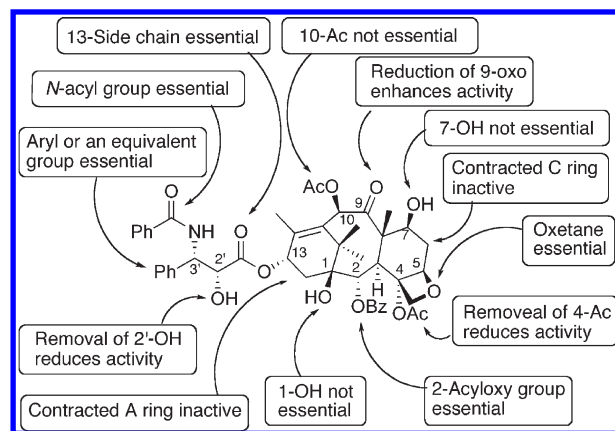


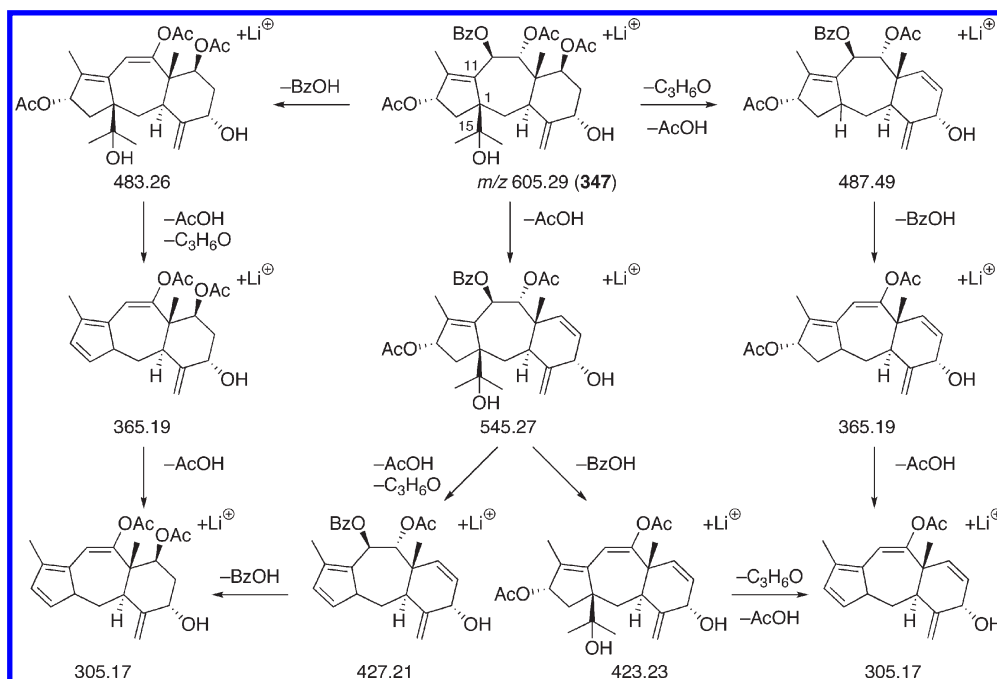
Figure 74. Brief description of structure–activity relationships of paclitaxel.

doublet of doublets. Both H-10 and H-14 resonated at downfield as doublet of doublets with coupling constants of $J = 12.2, 5.6$ Hz and $J = 9.2, 4.8$ Hz, respectively. The side chain at C-14 also showed some characters depending on whether position 3' was substituted by a hydroxy group. Comparison of the spectroscopic data of C-13 and C-14 oxygenated taxanes revealed obvious changes of splitting patterns and coupling constants for H-13 and H-14. On the other hand, the C-1 methine carbon resonated at downfield (δ 59–65 ppm) in the C-14 oxygenated taxanes, while in the C-13 oxygenated taxane corresponding carbon resonated at $\delta < 50$ ppm. The strong NOE correlation of H-14 and H-1 and the small coupling constant between H-1 and H-14 in this class of taxanes suggested that their dihedral angle was about 90°: the C-14 side chain was β -oriented with H-14 was α -oriented. When having a hydroxy group at C-3' (130), a characterized proton signal resonated at approximately δ 3.83 ppm as a multiplet. When having substitution groups at both C-13 and C-14 (150,¹⁹⁰ Figure 52), H-13 become a broad singlet and H-14 changed to a doublet with a smaller coupling constant at a relatively upfield (comparing with other protons on oxygenated carbons such as H-5, H-7 and H-9, 152¹⁹¹).

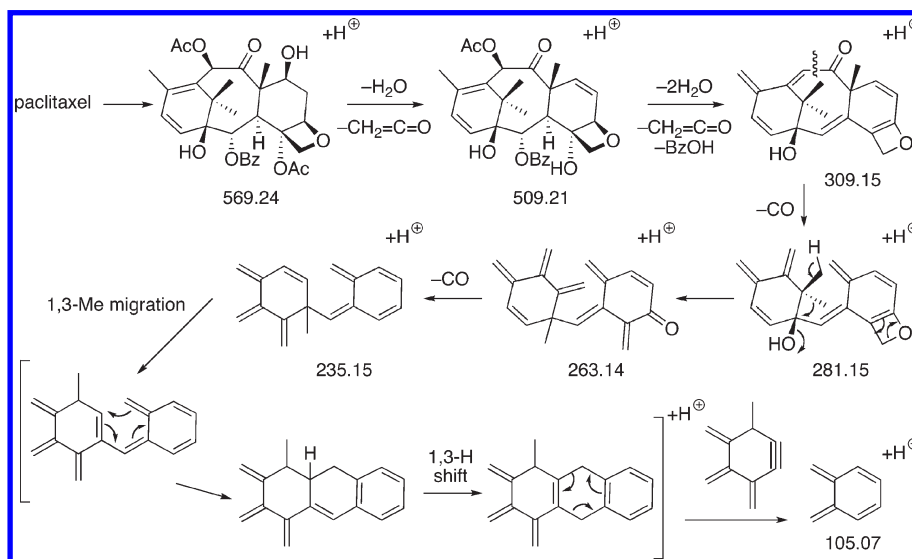
It should be noticed that when a sample of taxane glucoside was solubilized in CDCl₃ (2–3 mg in 0.3 mL), it solidified as a gel giving broad signals in the NMR spectrum and provided two doublets at δ 4.35 ppm (major peaks) and δ 4.42 ppm (minor peak) for the anomeric proton of the sugar. However, when the sample was dissolved in acetone, it gave sharp signals and only one peak for H-1'', which confirmed its purity.

7.1.1.4. 6/8/6-Taxanes with a C-12,17-Ether Ring. The features of taxinine M class of taxanes (157¹⁹² and 167,¹⁹³ Figure 53) are the signals of H-17 and H-19. Both of them resonate as a pair of doublets with relatively large coupling constants. C-19 oxygenated methylene has a larger coupling constant ($J = 12.4$ Hz) than that of C-17 oxygenated methylene ($J = 8.0$ Hz) because the latter accommodates in a ring. Beside protons on the benzoyl group, H-2 resonates at downfield (generally the most deshielded acyloxymethine of ring B, δ 6.18 ppm) as a doublet of doublets with a large coupling constant between H-3 and H-2 (dd, $J = 10.0, 2.4$ Hz, in the corresponding taxinines with C-11,12 double bond $J_{2,3} = \sim 7$ Hz). As there is no double bond at position C-11,12 and a new ring formed between C-12 and C-17, the chemical shift of H-9 (δ 5.48 ppm) and H-10

Scheme 15. Fragmentation Pattern of Lithio Taxane Determined by ESI-MS/MS of Taxane 347



Scheme 16. Fragmentation Pattern of Protonated Taxanes Determined by MS/MS/MS of Paclitaxel



(δ 5.36 ppm) are very close with a small coupling constant ($J = 3.2$ Hz). The small value of $J_{9,10} = 3.2$ Hz is due to an eclipsed conformation around the C-9 and C-10 bond ($\phi = 120^\circ$), that place H-9 and H-10 in an anticlinal fashion. The speculative conformation of ring B in this type of taxanes is required by the presence of the C-12, C-17 oxygen bridge. The peculiar conformation of ring B in this class of taxanes reduces the severe nonbonded interaction between H-3 and 18-methyl group. Because of an oxo group at C-13, H-14 α and H-14 β also consist a pair of characteristic signals at relatively downfield as doublet ($J = 18-19$ Hz) and doublet of doublets ($J = 18-19, 11-12$ Hz).

7.1.1.5. 6/8/6-Taxanes with a C-13,17-Ether Ring. The signals of H-17 protons in this group of 6/8/6-taxanes having a C-13,17-

ether ring [taxezopidine A (171),¹⁹⁴ Figure 54) resonated at δ 3.08 and 3.50 with a relatively smaller coupling constant of $J = 8.1$ Hz as geminal protons. Other protons on the skeleton such as H-2, H-5, H-9, and H-10 observed in the regular region with standard coupling constants as those of normal 6/8/6-taxanes. Another diagnostic signal is the hemiacetal carbon in the ¹³C NMR data owing to the presence of a hydroxy group at C-13.

7.1.1.6. 6/8/6-Taxanes with a C-9,13-Ether Ring. The signals of H-2 and H-3 protons in these 6/8/6-taxanes with a C-9, 13-ether ring appeared in the normal region with a relatively large coupling constant of $J = 11.8$ Hz (329,⁹⁶ Figure 55). Because of the presence of the C-11 hydroxy group, H-12 resonated as a

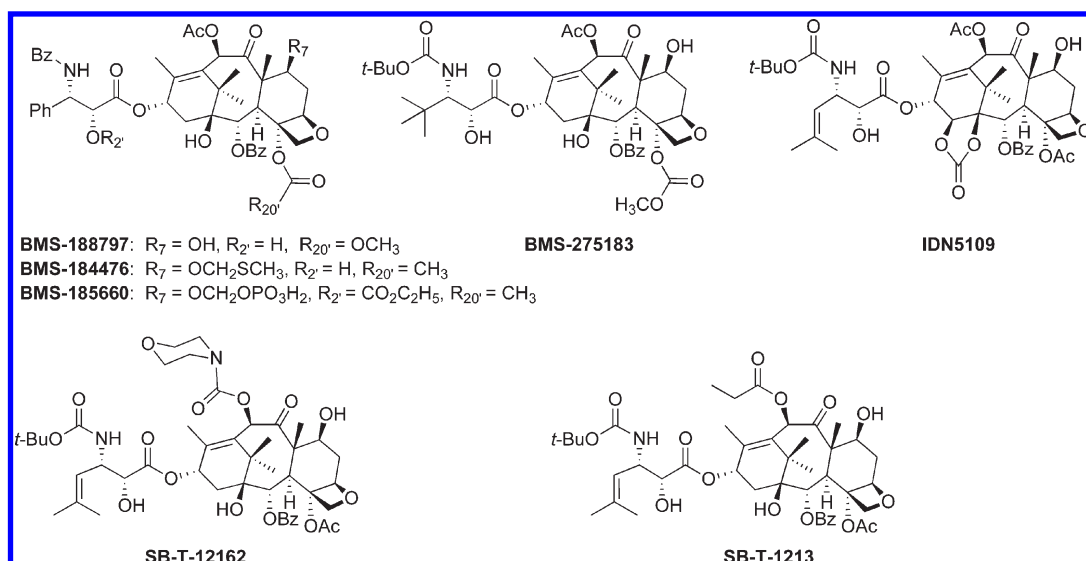
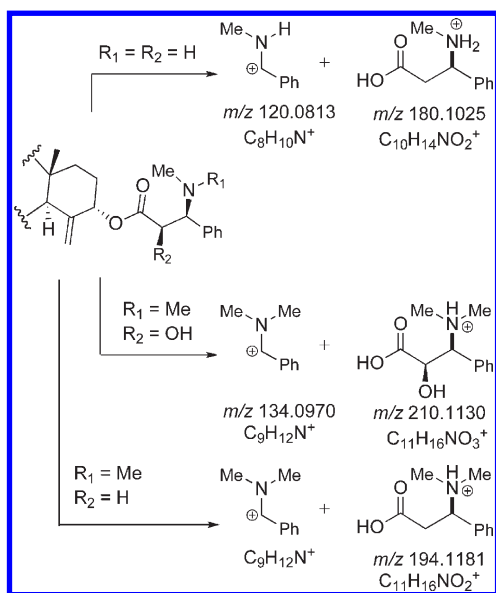


Figure 75. Second-generation derivatives of paclitaxel.

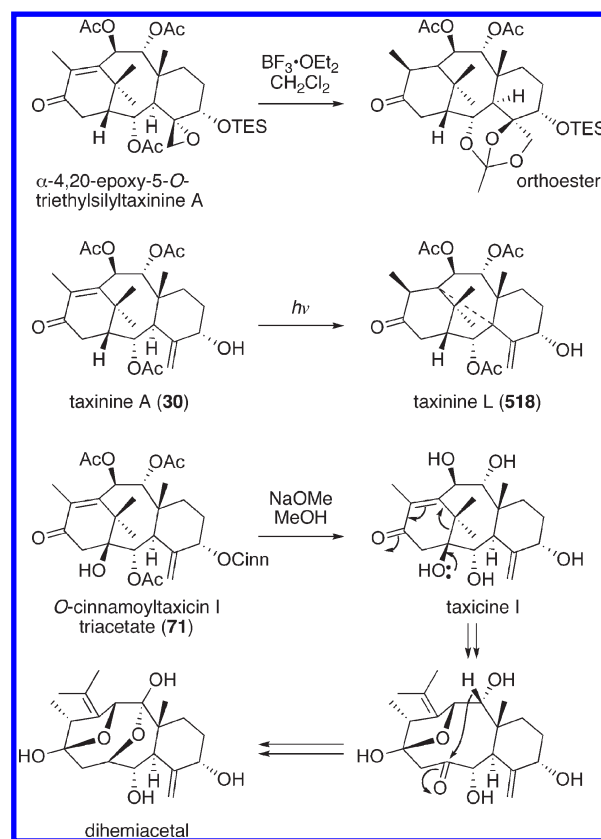
Scheme 17. Fragmentation Pattern Observed in Positive Ion FAB-MS/MS Spectra of Taxanes with Different C-5-Amino-Side Chains



quartet and H-18 as a doublet. Other protons on the skeleton including H-5, H-9, and H-10 were observed in the regular region with typical coupling constants as in common 6/8/6-membered taxanes.

7.1.1.7. 6/8/6-Taxanes with a C-12(13)-Double Bond. This class of taxanes has an unusual small coupling constant between H-9 and H-10 ($J = 4.4\text{--}5.0$ Hz), but H-14 α and H-14 β resonated at downfield (δ 2.3–2.6 ppm) as a set of doublet ($J = 18.6$ Hz) and doublet of doublets ($J = 18.6, 8.0$ Hz), respectively. The plausible two conformations of **175**⁵³ elucidated from ROESY experiment (Figures 56 and 57). The presence of an enol acetate moiety in ring A can be implied by the chemical shifts of the olefin carbons of C-12 and C-13, although no unambiguous HMBC correlation can be observed (**179**,⁶⁶ Figure 58).

Scheme 18. Preparation of Taxinine L (518) from Taxinine A (30)



7.1.1.8. 6/8/6-Taxanes with a C-4(5)-Double Bond. In the NMR of taxanes with C-4(5)-double bond (**187**¹⁹⁵ and **188**,¹⁹⁶ Figure 59), H-5 resonates as a broad singlet and the correlation between H-5 and C-5 in the HMQC spectrum is apparent, which suggest an endocyclic location. As shown above, both of the signal H-10a and H-10b displayed as doublet of doublet with a large coupling constant (about $J = 14.3$ Hz).

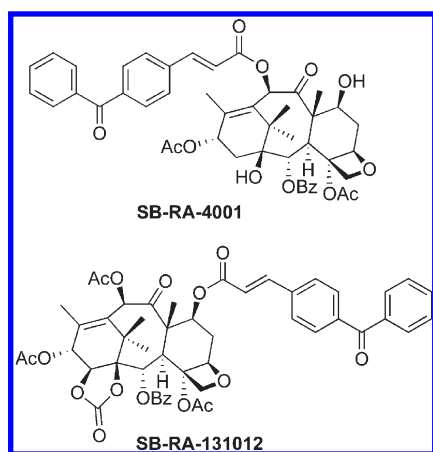


Figure 76. Taxane-based multidrug resistant (MDR) reversal agents.

7.1.1.9. 6/8/6-Taxanes with a C-4,20-Epoxy Ring. The two H-20 protons on C-4,20-epoxide ring and the H-5 in this group of taxanes are the most diagnostic features (220,¹⁹⁷ Figure 60). Although H-20a and H-20b attached to the same carbon C-20, their chemical shifts are very different (>1 ppm) as H-20a is closer to the C-2 ester carbonyl carbon than H-20b. Large separation (more than 1 ppm) of the geminal oxirane protons of H-20a and H-20b at δ 2.3 ppm and 3.6 ppm in an AX system with a coupling constant of \sim 5.2 Hz is a unique feature of the geminal oxirane protons with a β -oriented epoxy ring. So far, all the natural taxanes of this type bear a β -orientated oxirane ring. H-2 and H-3 resonate as a couple of doublets with relatively smaller coupling constant ($J = \sim$ 3.0–4.5 Hz) comparing to the corresponding taxanes with a C-4(20)-*exo*-double bond.^{68,198,199} Because of the magnetic anisotropy of the C-4,20-epoxy ring, H-5 resonated with an unusual upfield chemical shift than corresponding taxanes with a C-4(20) double bond. This peculiar feature sometimes led to incorrect assignments of H-5 by a simple inspection of the chemical shift values, whose chemical shift (4.2 ppm) was not the expected for an α -acetylated proton.^{70,200,201} For example, Zamir located an acetoxy group at C-1 and a free hydroxy group at C-5.⁷⁰ Three years later, her group revised this structure as a free hydroxy group at C-1 and acetoxy group at C-15.²⁰² Same erroneous assignment also occurred in Liang's paper,²⁰³ which assigned the signals according to literature report: Della Casa de Marcano and co-workers reported²⁰⁴ if the C-5 α -position was substituted with an acetoxy group, the signal of H-5 β appeared at 5.62 ppm. While the same position was substituted by a hydroxy group, the signal of H-5 β appeared at 4.16 ppm.

7.1.1.10. 6/8/6-Taxanes with a C-11,12-Epoxy Ring. This group of taxane was characterized by the presence of a C-11,12-epoxy ring and an oxo group at C-13 (dantaxusin C (182),²⁰⁵ Figure 61). Because of the magnetic anisotropy of the C-11,12 epoxy ring, H-9 resonated in downfield than that of H-10 when they have the same substituents, which is contrary to C-11,12 double bond taxane. Another feature is that the two ortho-protons of benzene ring shifted to upfield comparing to taxinine analogs. H-2 and H-3 also resonate as a couple of doublets with relatively smaller coupling constant (\sim 3.0–5.1 Hz) comparing to the corresponding taxanes with an C-4(20)-*exo*-double bond, but the coupling constant of H-14 α and H-14 β are large as a pair of doublet ($J = 20.1$ Hz) and doublet of doublets ($J = 20.1, 8.8$ Hz).

7.1.1.11. 6/8/6-Taxanes with an Oxetane Ring. The feature of paclitaxel (295, Figure 62) is N–H signal at extra downfield (\sim 7.0 ppm) as a doublet. H-20 signals of oxetane ring appeared as a couple of doublets with coupling constant about 8 Hz (the coupling constant between H-20a and H-20b would be large for the oxetane ring-open taxanes, and chemical shifts are fairly different). H-10 resonates as a singlet and H-13 as a triplet. If H-7 is epimerized [10-deacetyl-7-*epi*-taxol (315, Figure 62)²⁰⁶], H-20 would be a two-proton singlet. As seen from above spectra, the chemical shift and splitting pattern of H-14 depend on the functionalization of C-13. In oxetane type taxanes, the presence of the amino acid side chain at C-13 causes a marked upfield shift on H-18 (δ 2.00 ppm in baccatin III (237)⁸³ and 1.80 ppm in paclitaxel).

7.1.2. 11(15 \rightarrow 1)Abeotaxanes. The NMR spectra of compounds, such as taxchinin D (368,²⁰⁷ Figure 63), often showed broad lines or humps at ambient temperature due to fluxional behavior of the B and C ring systems, which can adopt either B-twist-boat/C-chair or B-twist-chair/C-boat conformations (the coupling constants between H-9 and H-10 mark the difference in these two conformations). If the temperature was set at below zero, this kind of taxanes usually adopts one major conformation with sharp signals in their NMR spectra.^{207–209}

In fact a clear-cut distinction between C-1 hydroxylated taxanes and C-15 hydroxylated 11(15 \rightarrow 1)abeotaxanes is not obvious without ¹³C NMR or 2D NMR data to support, sometime even providing incorrect structures.^{84,97} For example, the first 11(15 \rightarrow 1)abeotaxane, brevifoliol (346),¹⁰⁰ was initially assigned incorrectly as a normal 6/8/6-taxane.⁹⁷ In its ¹³C NMR, the C-1 signal of 11(15 \rightarrow 1)abeotaxanes shifted to downfield comparing to those without an oxygenated carbon. It is feasible to distinguish 11(15 \rightarrow 1)abeotaxane with the corresponding normal 6/8/6-taxanes with HMBC experiment. The long-range correlations between protons of Me-16, Me-17, and C-11 in the normal 6/8/6-taxanes were strong while absent in the 11(15 \rightarrow 1)abeotaxanes. On the other hand, no HMBC correlations have been observed between H-14 and C-11, C-13 as well as long-range correlation between H-10 and C-1 in the normal 6/8/6-taxanes, but they could be recorded on the 11(15 \rightarrow 1)abeotaxanes generally.

If having a benzoyl group at B-ring, the *ortho*-protons of benzoyl group resonated beyond 8.0 ppm in baccatin III and its analogs, but they will resonate at most 8.0 ppm or little upfield than 8.0 ppm in rearranged baccatin III and its analogs, that is, in 11(15 \rightarrow 1)abeotaxanes (335²¹⁰ and 392,^{201,211,212} Figure 64).

7.1.3. 2(3 \rightarrow 20)Abeotaxanes. The peculiarity of 2(3 \rightarrow 20)abeotaxanes is H-10 and H-3 (484,⁵⁷ 497²¹³ and 498,²¹⁴ Figure 65). Since this kind of taxane usually has an oxo group at C-9, H-10 resonated as a singlet at \sim 5.4 ppm (C-10-OH), or 6.3 ppm (C-10-OAc). Although the proton of hydroxy group at C-10 is an exchangeable proton, it is still observed as a singlet around 4.2 ppm due to forming a hydrogen bond with the vicinal oxo group at C-9. Two protons at C-3 resonated as an isolated coupling system resonate at \sim 1.6–2.8 ppm with a large coupling constant ($J = 15.0$ Hz). H-2 β and H-20 resonated as a pair of broad doublets at downfield because they have weak coupling with H-1 and H-5, respectively. H-7 resonated as a quartet, while H-13 resonated as a broad doublet.

7.1.4. 3,11-Cyclotaxanes. The presence of an additional transannular bond of 3,11-cyclotaxane prevents conformational mobility of the ring-B. The diagnostic features of 3,11-cyclotaxanes, 506,¹⁰³ taxinine L (512),¹⁶ and 2,10-diacetyl-5-cinnamoylphototaxin

II (**515**)^{215–217} are H-12 resonated as a quartet due to the coupling with Me-18 and consequently, Me-18 appeared as a doublet of three-protons with a coupling constant approximately $J = 7.0$ Hz [Figure 66b]. Because the double bond between C-11 and C-12 is saturated, the chemical shift of H-9 and H-10 is closer than that in corresponding unsaturated taxane and the coupling constants between the two protons become smaller because of the small dihedral angle between them. This kind of taxane has an oxo group at C-13, so H-14 methylene resonates at relatively downfield as a double doublets with a large coupling constant (ca. $J = 20.0$ Hz) when there is a proton at C-1 [(Figure 66c). When a hydroxy group substituted at C-1, H-14 α and H-14 β resonate as a couple of doublets of an AB system with a large coupling constant (ca. $J = 20.0$ Hz) [Figure 66a], but H-14 β and H-2 showed as a broad doublet and a broad singlet, respectively, due to long-range coupling between them. Comparing **515** with taxinine (**70**, Figure 45), the H-3' of the cinnamoyl group in **515** resonates beyond two *ortho*-hydrogen protons of benzene.

7.1.5. Multicyclotaxanes. The ¹H NMR spectra of multicyclotaxanes were simplified because the double bonds in original taxadienes are saturated by transannular C–C bond formation (**525**²¹⁸ and **529**²¹⁹ Figure 67).

7.1.6. Bicyclic Taxanes. The signals of the bicyclic taxanes are very dispersed at downfield (**538**²²⁰ and **560**²²¹ Figure 68). Besides H-5 resonated as a broad singlet and H-10 as a singlet (even actually H-10 showed long-range couple with Me-18 and Me-19 in the ¹H–¹H COSY spectrum) resonate at most downfield among all the protons on the skeleton (sometime overlapped with the signals of CDCl₃ residues, for example, **538**), other oxygenated protons resonate as doublets (H-20a, H-20b, H-3, H-7, H-13) or doublet of doublets (H-2). For example, H-2 (dd, $J = 11.1, 4.8$ Hz) and H-3 (d, $J = 11.1$ Hz) consist a coupling system, the geminal protons of C-20 consist another characteristic coupling system with a large coupling constant ($J = 12.9$ Hz) and large separation. H-13 resonates as a doublet in this type of taxane, usually it appeared as triplets, double of doublets or multiplicity in other type of taxane except in 2(3→20)*abeotaxane*. H-13 also exhibited allylic coupling with H-18 ($J =$ ca. 1.0 Hz) as in other type of taxanes. The geminal protons of H₂-6 resonated relatively at downfield as a pair of multiplets.

7.2. ¹³C NMR Features of Taxanes

The ¹³C NMR chemical shifts of representative taxanes were shown in Figures 69–71. Generally, the C-1 of 11(15→1)-*abeotaxane* and 6/8/6-taxane with C-14 acyl substituted resonated at a relatively low field. The aliphatic quaternary C-1 of 11(15→1)*abeotaxane* usually resonated between δ 60 and 70 ppm, which is diagnostic for this type of taxane. When 11-(15→1)*abeotaxane* diterpenoids with a rare 2,20-ether ring system, C-2 and C-4 also resonated at relatively downfield. C-20 of taxane with a C-4(20)-epoxy ring resonated at most upfield (δ 50 ppm). As for methyl groups on taxane skeleton, Me-18 and Me-19 usually appears at upfield (δ 11–17 ppm).

The assignments of all protonated carbons can be determined by DEPT and HMQC (or HSQC) experiments, while the assignments of quaternary carbons and the attachment of the functional groups can be achieved by interpreting multiple-bond ¹H–¹³C correlations in the HMBC spectrum. Besides segment parted by quaternary carbon, HMBC experiment was also used to determine the position of all functional groups such as acetyl, benzoyl, Winterstein's acid side chain and cinnamoyl groups to

the pertinent carbons and to construct the subunits derived from ¹H–¹H COSY analysis. Relative stereochemistry of taxanes can be established by analysis of NOESY or ROESY data, their chemical shifts and coupling constants (J -based Configuration Analysis). Extensive 1D- and 2D-NMR spectroscopic analysis plus literature survey can establish and verify almost all the structures of taxane, so X-ray crystallographic analysis was seldom used.

The chemical shifts of all the acetyl groups, which mostly resonated at 170 ppm for carbonyl carbon and 20 ppm for methyl carbon are omitted to improve the clarity.

8. MS FEATURES OF TAXANES

The MS features of taxane diterpenoids were reported in several papers.^{178,222–227} All the taxanes can produce a relatively strong molecular ion in EI-MS or quasi-molecular ion ($[M + H]^+$, $[M + K]^+$, $[M + Na]^+$, $[M + Cu]^+$, or $[M + NH_4]^+$) in FAB-MS analysis. The molecular formula of taxanes can be corroborated by HR-FAB-MS, which can be further verified by the data from ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra. The characters of taxane MS spectra are the loss of acetates one by one and the MS can provide useful information for the structure elucidation of the side chains at C-13 and C-5 of taxanes.^{85,228} Schemes 12–14 illustrated the substructure analysis of representative taxanes (**105**,⁵³ **176**,²²⁹ and **482**²³⁰). Abliz et al. investigated MS fragmentation patterns of 11(15→1)*abeotaxanes*.²²⁶

Recent developments of tandem mass spectroscopy using electrospray ionization (ESI) or atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI) have facilitated the identification of taxanes. Madhusudanan et al. reported the analysis of taxanes from *T. wallichiana*.^{222,225,227,231} Scheme 15 illustrates the fragmentation pattern of 15(11→1)*abeotaxane* **347** with lithium cation.

ESI and APCI methods with MS/MS were compared by Ye and Guo.²³² In the positive ion mode taxanes gave prominent $[M + Na]^+$ and $[M + K]^+$ ions with ESI and $[M + NH_4]^+$ and $[M + H]^+$ ions with APCI, and the fragmentation behavior of both methods were similar.

Konishi et al. proposed the fragmentation pattern of paclitaxel by MS/MS/MS analysis (Scheme 16).²³³

Taxanes with different C-5-amino-side chains produce different fragment ions (Scheme 17).²³⁴ The relative abundance of the molecular ion is high and sometimes displayed as the base peak. An ion peak at m/z 120 suggests that there is only one methyl group attached to the nitrogen of side chain, whereas m/z 134 suggests there are two methyl groups. Concomitantly, the former signal (m/z 120) is observed with a corresponding ion peak at m/z 180, while corresponding ion peak at m/z 194 or 210 for the latter (m/z 134), depending on whether it has a hydroxy group at C-2' of the side chain.

9. CHEMICAL STUDIES OF PACLITAXEL DERIVATIVES

Most paclitaxel derivatives have a core structure best described as an inverted cup and this conformation could play a key role in their chemical properties. First set of reactions carried out on paclitaxel was hydrolysis for removal of the C-13-side chain on structure elucidation. Subsequent studies were mainly focused on reduction, oxidation and epimerization and found the following:

- (1) The hydroxy groups of 10-deacetylbaocatin III (**235**) and baocatin III (**237**) showed weak reactivity. C-13-OH situated in the skeletal concavity hidden by C-4-OAc and a stabilizing hydrogen bond could formed between C-13-OH and C-4-OAc, thus, esterification at C-13 proved

- exceedingly difficult.²³⁵ In addition, opening of the oxetane ring did not affect the conformation of rings A, B and C.
- (2) D ring (oxetane ring) of paclitaxel opened under basic conditions through intramolecular attack of the C-4-Ac, and the acetyl group immigrated to C-5.²³⁶
 - (3) The C-2-OAc group of α -4,20-epoxy-5-O-triethylsilyltaxinine A attacked the epoxy ring to give an orthoester derivative under treatment with $\text{BF}_3 \cdot \text{OEt}_2$ (Scheme 18).²³⁷ Orthoester type taxanes have been isolated from nature.
 - (4) 7β -OH of paclitaxel can easily epimerize into a 7α isomer presumably involving a retro-aldol processes and the reverse epimerization was also observed. Principal degradation product of paclitaxel was 7-*epi*-taxol (318), thermodynamically more stable.²³⁸
 - (5) Another phenomenon is intramolecular hydrogen migration: irradiation of taxinine A (30, Scheme 18) resulted in bond formation between C-3 and C-11, involving a hydrogen transferred from C-3 to C-12.²² Fragmentation of the C-1/C-15 bond of *O*-cinnamoyltaxicin I triacetate (71) under basic conditions also involved a long-range hydride shift to give a dihemiacetal (Scheme 18).²³⁹

The cuplike shape could be taken into account for the above characters, at least to some degree. While Snyder suggested something interrogatory to the premise:²⁴⁰ paclitaxel possesses at least seven easily rotated single bonds. Consequently, existence of only one or two paclitaxel/docetaxel conformers at 25 °C is highly unlikely. Moreover, virtual conformation was obtained based on NMR spectra. While the latter was the dynamic averages arising from rapid conformer equilibration, which illustrated that single conformation hypothesis is incomplete.

10. MECHANISM OF ACTION OF PACLITAXEL

Tubulin is the basic subunit of microtubules and one of the most highly conserved proteins in evolution.²⁴¹ Normal cell division, intracellular transport, cellular motility, cell signaling, and maintenance of cell shape are all dependent on the highly regulated dynamic instability process of the tubulin/microtubule system.^{242,243} Microtubules are key actors in the cytoskeleton of eukaryotic cells where they play important roles in organizing the spatial distribution of organelles during interphase and chromosomes throughout cell division. Microtubules are hollow filaments of ~ 240 Å diameter comprising the 55 kD proteins α - and β -tubulin as the constituent subunits binding a molecule of GTP respectively (E-side for β -GTP, N-side for α -GTP).²⁴⁴ The remainder is heterogeneous microtubule-associated proteins (MAPs). Apart from many other critical functions, they are of particular importance for the formation of the mitotic spindle, which provides the structural framework for the physical segregation of sister chromatids during cell division. First step in polymerization is the formation of a heterodimer comprising one molecule of α - and β -tubulin each (Mg^{2+} preferred, GTP existed),²⁴⁵ then they bind head to tail to form nucleation center, through protofilament, finally reach the critical concentration.²⁴⁶ Microtubules are not static and equilibrium are set up with constant loss and gain of subunits.²⁴⁷ In this process α -GTP is nonexchangeable while β -GTP is not only exchangeable but also hydrolyzed to GDP.²⁴⁸

Interference with microtubule functionality represents an important concept in anticancer drug discovery. The microtubule-targeting drugs can be grouped into two distinct functional classes, namely, compounds which inhibit the assembly of tubulin heterodimers into microtubule polymers (“microtubule depolymerizing

agents” or “tubulin polymerization inhibitors”) and those which stabilize microtubules under normally destabilizing conditions (“microtubule polymerizing agents” or “microtubule stabilizers”). Paclitaxel and its analogs for more than 15 years were the only class of compounds known to act as microtubule stabilizers. Interaction between paclitaxel (microtubule polymerizing agents) and tubulin alters the normal microtubule dynamics leading finally to cell apoptosis (Scheme 17).^{14,249–252}

Paclitaxel binds to β -tubulin, affects the tubulin-microtubule equilibrium, decreases the concentration of tubulin, resists to cooling and calcium ions, and dilute that could lead to depolymerize,¹³ inhibits mitosis in G2/M phase. While Antonella suggested that some certain taxanes could reorganize microtubules into short fibers, unlike paclitaxel-bundled and did not always block cell-cycle in the G2/M phase.²⁵³ The structural biology investigation into the paclitaxel-tubulin interactions has culminated in the determination of the electron crystallographic (EC) structure of the α/β -tubulin heterodimer bound to paclitaxel (Figure 72).^{15,254} Crystallographic analysis²⁴⁸ showed that paclitaxel has a T-shaped structure, optimized to a hydrophobic pocket on tubulin. C-2-Bz binds to H₇-helix, which contacted with the exchangeable nucleotide (GTP/GDP) binding site. It was supposed that paclitaxel could induce a confirmation of β -tubulin that mimics the GTP-bound tubulin and this hypothesis was supported by the fact that paclitaxel could promote tubulin assembly with GTP absent.¹³ Equivalent to the pocket in β -tubulin, 8 amino acid peptide in α -tubulin formed part of S₉–S₁₀ loop, which was assumed as an endogenous regulatory factor^{15,255} and paclitaxel was proposed to exert activity by mimicking the function of this factor.²⁴⁹ It is interesting to note that docetaxel and paclitaxel, similar in structure, compete for the same binding site²⁵⁶ while microtubules induced by them are structurally different.²⁵⁷ Epothilones though structurally different competitively inhibit the binding of paclitaxel to mammalian brain tubulin.²⁵⁸ By far, some confusion still exists: (i) whether paclitaxel prevents microtubule from depolymerization indeed relates to mitosis inhibition. If so, whether it is just because paclitaxel mimics some endogenous factor to induce a conformational alteration. (ii) Paclitaxel could alter calcium regulation, which involves in the tubulin-microtubule equilibrium. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that paclitaxel alters calcium concentration to disrupt mitosis, or affects the cell-signaling cascade. Schiff²⁵⁹ and Jordan²⁶⁰ published their views on this aspect.

11. STRUCTURE–ACTIVITY RELATIONSHIPS OF PACLITAXEL DERIVATIVES

Understanding the interaction of a lead compound with its receptor on a molecular level is important for new drug development. Toward this end, extensive structure–activity studies have been performed on paclitaxel.^{261–265}

Preliminary studies on paclitaxel showed that 6/8/6-membered ring and a free hydroxy group at C-2' are important for its activity. A C-13-side chain is essential and removal of the side chain abolished its antimitotic and antimicrotubule activity completely. Functional groups at C-10 and C-7 act indirectly on tubulin,¹⁰⁴ so modifications at these positions have little effect on activity, while C-13, C-2, and C-4 have direct interaction with tubulin.²⁶⁶ The oxetane ring was assumed to affirm a correct binding of these derivatives on tubulin.²⁶⁷ However, it was not clear that the oxetane ring involves in or as a conformational lock.²⁶⁸ Kingston tested the electronegativity of the heteroatom

using a thietane instead of the oxetane and the bioactivity decreased.²⁶⁹ Barboni et al.²⁷⁰ concluded that compounds could still be active without the D ring when substituent at C-4 have no conformational steric hindrance to the binding pocket (like 4-methyltaxol, as potent as paclitaxel at microtubule stabilization *in vitro*). 2-Epi-taxol was inactive in a cytotoxicity assay,²⁷¹ while modification at C-3 (*meta*) position of C-2-Bz with CN, N₃, MeO and Cl could considerably increase the anticancer activity against P-388 cell line.²⁶⁴ Several *ortho*-, *meta*-substituted derivatives with smaller groups at C-2-Bz proved to be more active.²⁷² Compound **B** (Figure 73) modified at 7-OH led to compound **A**, which showed similar cytotoxicity as paclitaxel^{268,274} and compound **C** modified at C-7 and C-10 showed increased anticancer activity to docetaxel.^{275,276} It was notable that CaCl₂-induced microtubule depolymerization was inhibited by some taxanes with a C-5-cinnamoyl group but not a D-ring and C-13-side chain. The C-5-cinnamoyl group presumably plays a role like a C-13-side chain. C-10-Ac and C-11-OH act as C-4-oxetane moiety.²⁷⁷ In addition, some taxoids increase VCR accumulation in MDR cells, since bulky groups at C-2, C-5, or C-13 oriented to the inside of the “cage” structure, maybe important for binding to P-glycoprotein.⁶² Structure–activity relationships of paclitaxel are summarized in Figure 74.^{272,278}

12. CLINICAL USE, SIDE EFFECTS, AND DEVELOPMENT

Today, paclitaxel is still the most commonly used drug to treat ovarian, breast, and other carcinomas such as nonsmall-cell lung cancer, small-cell lung cancer, squamous cancers of the head and neck, etc.²⁷⁹ In 2000, it was approved for the adjuvant treatment of early stage node-positive breast carcinoma.²⁸⁰ However, preclinical and clinical data are quite limited in pediatric oncology.²⁸¹ Besides great potentialities, paclitaxel has a variety of harmful side effects including: alterations in liver function, hypersensitivity reactions, cardiotoxicity, neutropenia, peripheral neuropathy, mucositis, gastrointestinal toxicities, suppression of immune system, dead sensory nerves, alopecia, arthralgias, myalgias.^{282,283} Further studies on taxanes led to the discovery of advanced second generation derivatives with increased selectivity, longer efficacy, lower toxicity, potency against multidrug resistant and drug-sensitive cell lines. At least three new taxanes underwent clinical trials in 2000²⁸⁴ (Figure 75): **BMS-184476** and **BMS-188797** exhibited potent activity *in vitro* against human tumor cell lines that are highly resistant to paclitaxel, either from overexpression of P-glycoprotein or because of specific mutations in β -tubulin. **BMS-185660**, phosphate prodrug was orally active. A 7-amino acid synthetic peptide conjugated with the paclitaxel-2'-hydroxy function by a linker, **PTXPEGBBN[7–13]**, was the first soluble tumor-directed paclitaxel prodrug.²⁸⁵ The IC₅₀ against NCI-H1299 human nonsmall cell lung cancer cells was 6 nM (paclitaxel: IC₅₀ 15 nM). Linking antibody and a cytotoxic agent offers a mean to deliver an anticancer agent selectively to the tumor sites, for example, **SB-T-1213**, **SB-T-12162** (IC₅₀ 0.18 nM and 0.09 nM against MCF7, respectively).²⁸⁶ **SB-T-101131 (IDN5109)** was the first highly promising orally active taxane anticancer agent, for it was not a substrate for P-glycoprotein²⁸⁷ and with superior growth inhibition activity against P-glycoprotein-expressing MDR tumors. Additionally, **BMS-275183** showed oral efficacy in preclinical models comparable to iv-administered paclitaxel.²⁸⁸

Ojima et al. discovered taxane-based multidrug resistant (MDR) reversal agents (TRAs, such as **SB-RA-131012**, **SB-RA-4001**, etc, Figure 76), as well as paclitaxel congeners that would not be recognized by P-glycoprotein. Paclitaxel recovered 95–99.8% of its efficacy against the resistant human cancer cells when TRAs were coadministered at 1.0 μ M.²⁸⁹

13. CONCLUSION

Among these natural taxanes, no one is more potential than paclitaxel. Although most of biosynthetic pathway of paclitaxel have been clarified,²⁹⁰ its production by bioengineering is still far from commercial scale. Total synthesis of paclitaxel become alternative, and many outstanding chemists devoted themselves to complete, this challenge although it was considered as a formidable task. After two decades of effort, at least six groups have achieved the total synthesis of paclitaxel. A diverse strategy and excellent approaches for the synthesis of the taxane framework²⁹¹ and for paclitaxel itself²⁹² were evolved. But the complexity of the fascinating structure of paclitaxel claims lengthy syntheses steps, which result in extremely low overall yields rendering total synthesis to this agent impractical for large-scale commercial preparation. The construction of the taxane framework with the oxetane ring and the homochiral ester side-chain at C-13 become challenges for synthetic chemists.

Another alternative approaches for paclitaxel production is semisynthesis from 10-deacetylbaccatin III and analogs²⁹³ that can be isolated from the needles, a renewable resource. It has been adopted as the current commercial method for paclitaxel production. However, availability of yews is decreasing significantly due to overexploitation for medicinal/commercial purposes. A sustainable management of the resource is needed urgently; otherwise the genetic diversity and natural abundance of yew trees will be at risk. On the other hand, the *in vivo* productions of paclitaxel in plant tissue and cell culture have not provided economically feasible solutions to the paclitaxel supply problem.

The most challenging goals in this field at present are to discover or design molecules that possess the beneficial activities of paclitaxel but not its structural intricacy and to promote taxanes production based on biotechnology. Therefore, to fully gain command of the profile of taxane diterpenoids, a detailed understanding of the steps of taxane biosynthesis and the identification of the associated genes is essential. Actually as seen in the numerous literatures, advances in genetic engineering,²⁹⁴ biotransformation of taxanes,^{295–302} and cell or tissue culture^{303–306} provide breakthroughs continuously for improvement of the paclitaxel production by biological methods. It is worth to note that though 3,8-*seco*-bicyclic skeleton was proposed as biosynthetic precursor for taxanes¹¹⁹ and adopted a conformation similar to paclitaxel,^{65,307} not enough attention has been paid to its bioactivity, synthesis and biosynthesis.³⁰⁸ Anyway, advances in technology will certainly speed up the process of investigation on taxanes. As reported recently, computer-aided analysis of ¹³C NMR spectra was applied directly to identify taxanes in different fractions of extracts from yew trees³⁰⁹ and this method was reported on some clues as early as 1990s.^{310,311}

Bioactivity studies of natural taxanes were carried out mostly by Kobayashi group and three comprehensive reviews have been published on these works.^{61,62,312} As for the biosynthesis of paclitaxel, the groups of Croteau and William have done excellent works.^{94,124,290,313–321} This review did not cover the activities, chemical synthesis and biosynthesis of taxanes. As for nontaxanes

isolated from yew trees mainly including lignans, flavonoids, ecdysteroids, sesquiterpenes and nor-sesquiterpenes, Appendino's,²³ Parmar's²⁵ and Gulacti's³²² reviews have described them in detail, are also beyond the scope of the review.

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