

Constituents from Salvia Species and Their Biological Activities

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Lamiaceae (formerly Labiatae), a widespread family, comprises 220 genera and 4000 species distributed throughout most of the world as annuals and perennial plants. The increasing number of commonly known crops in this family reflects the intensification of taxonomical and ethnobotanical research in this field. The chemistry of the Lamiaceae is very extensive and dominated by reports concerning the volatile oils (mainly monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes) found in genera of economic importance, but chemical constituents such as diterpenes (mainly abietane and clerodane diterpenes) and triterpenes, phenolics, and others may offer great significance as taxonomic characters and biologically active compounds with a potential ecological role. Salvia L., one of the largest genera of the family, is represented by over 1000 species, organized in five subgenera (Sclarea, Audibertia, Jungia, Leonia, and Salvia) as herbaceous, suffruticose, or shrubby perennial plants, of which 78 species, 24 varieties, and 8 forms are distributed in China, especially in the southwest.^{1,2} The name Salvia is derived from the Latin "salvare" meaning "to heal or to be safe and unharmed", which sums u[p th](#page-53-0)e folkloric belief of its "magical" therapeutic properties for many kinds of ailments and its popularity in traditional medicine, and it is also known by the common name sauge (sage) in French and sawge in old English.³ The genus Salvia is widely distributed in various regions of the world including the temperate and warmer zones of the [w](#page-53-0)orld such as the Mediterranean, Central Asia, the Pacific Islands, tropical Africa, and America.^{4,5} The genus Salvia has a subcosmopolitan distribution, which is largely absent in

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Figure 1. (a, b) The flowers and (c) the roots of S. miltiorrhiza and (d) commercial tablets of Danshen (taken by Q.-W. Shi).

the North and most of the low-lying tropical areas of the world such as the Amazon basin and central and west Africa. Mexico has the largest number of species (about 300). There are about 90 Salvia species growing naturally in Turkey; half of the plants are endemic.⁶ Sixty species are found in Iran, of which 17 are endemic.⁷ In Africa, the greatest number of species (ca. 30) is found in th[e](#page-53-0) northwest and the southern parts. The genus is absent fr[o](#page-53-0)m most of western and central tropical Africa.⁸ Many species in the genus Salvia L. are noted for their brightly colored flowers, which are typically pink to red or p[ur](#page-53-0)ple to blue. S. uliyinosa Benth., a perennial herb native to South America, was first cultivated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, as long ago as 1913 because of its beautiful sky-blue flowers.⁹ Some members of this genus have economic importance because they have been used as flavoring agents in perfu[m](#page-53-0)ery and cosmetics. For example, clary sage (S. sclarea) is commercially cultivated, and its essential oil is widely used as a flavoring. Meadow sage (S. pratensis) is used in cosmetics and has some medicinal properties.⁷ Since ancient times Salvia species have been used in folk medicine all around the world because of their diverse bi[ol](#page-53-0)ogical activities, including antibacterial, spasmolytic, hemostatic, and many others.³ Some species of Salvia have been cultivated worldwide for culinary purposes.

Of 1000 Salvia species, about 134 of them have been studied. For example, the dried root of S. miltiorrhiza (Danshen or Tanshen in Chinese) is one of the most popular herbal traditional medicines in Asian countries and has been used extensively for the treatment of coronary artery diseases, angina pectoris, myocardial infarction, cerebrovascular diseases, and various types of hepatitis, chronic renal failure, and dysmenorrhea (Figure 1). There are about 40 Salvia species that were used for the treatment of coronary heart disease, and more than 700 pharmaceutical companies produce preparations of Danshen in China. In the United States and Europe, Danshen products have been widely used for the treatment of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases; in China Danshen ranked as a "Supergrade" medicine in Shen-Nung's Pen-Ts'ao, and the specific clinical use is to treat particularly angina pectoris and myocardial infarction.¹⁰ It has also been indicated for hemorrhage, dysmenorrhea, miscarriage, swelling, and insomnia, as well as inflammato[ry](#page-53-0) diseases such as edema, arthritis, and endangitiis. Chronic hepatitis and liver fibrosis have also been treated with Tanshen for centuries. Fufang Danshen tablet, a combined prescription mainly derived from the rhizome of S. miltiorrhiza and Panaxnotoginseng, is a common traditional Chinese medicine used for the treatment of cardiovascular disease in China for over 30 years. It has been documented in the Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China from the 1977 edition to the 2010 edition (The Pharmacopoeia Committee of China, 2010). It was reported that Fufang Danshen tablet showed effects by activating blood circulation, dilating coronary artery, and antagonizing myocardial ischemia, and it was very effective for treating coronary heart disease, cardiac angina, and atherosclerosis in clinic. The product of Danshen, Fufang Danshen Diwan, by extracting curative ingredients mainly from the plant, is now available in 16 countries and became the first Chinese herbal medicine approved by the Food and Drug Administration for clinical tests in the United States.¹¹ In Japan, Danshen products are used to promote circulation and improve blood flow.¹² The chemical composition of D[an](#page-53-0)shen has been studied extensively over the last 50 years. The alcohol extract of Danshen is particularly rich in abietanoids and diterpene quinone pigments.¹³ Tanshinone IIA (255), as one of the major active components of this Chinese medicine, has been shown to be effecti[ve](#page-53-0) against atherosclerotic calcification, as well as apoptosis through antioxidative damage. Tanshinone IIA (255) was also reported to dilate coronary arteries and increase coronary flow by activating potassium channels. Additionally, 255 was found to have anti-inflammatory properties. The present studies by Ren et al. demonstrated that 255 exerted its cardioprotective effect by attenuating inflammatory responses following myocardial infarction. 255 could reduce MCP-1 expression and macrophage infiltration, as well as inhibit the expression of TGF- β_1 especially in cardiac fibroblasts.¹⁴ 255 is one of the potential anticancer components, despite the fact that its traditional application was in the treat[m](#page-53-0)ent of cardiovascular diseases in China. Experiments have shown that 255 exerted cytotoxic effect on a number of human tumor cell lines. Studies revealed that induction of apoptosis was the key factor in contributing to the cytotoxic property of $255.^{15}$

S. yunnanensis is used as a resource of Danshen in Yunnan province, China. The water-soluble extracts of S. yunnane[nsi](#page-53-0)s were found to have a potent effect against human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) and hepatitis B virus (HBV).¹⁶ S. przewalskii was a traditional medicinal plant used as the surrogate of S. miltiorrhhiza (Danshen) for the treatment of various [ca](#page-53-0)rdiovascular diseases.¹⁷ There is also a large number of species mentioned in the handbook of Xinhua Bencao.

S. officinalis is one of the m[ost](#page-53-0) widespread species, and since ancient times it has been used in the treatment of various disorders, such as tuberculosis, psoriasis, and seborrhoeic eczemas. It has shown strong antibacterial and antifungal activities.¹⁸ S. divinorum, also referred to as "diviner's sage", "magic mint", or "holey mint", is a psychotropic plant first describe[d i](#page-53-0)n the 1960s, contains the neo-clerodane diterpene salvinorin A (465) as a hallucinogenic active constituent.¹ S. parryi is endemic in Northern Mexico and in Arizona. Local people use its aqueous root extract to cure stomach disor[de](#page-53-0)r[s.](#page-53-0)⁵ The Canary sage (S. canariensis L.) is a protected endemism widely used in the popular medicine of the Canary Archipelag[o](#page-53-0) because of its anti-inflammatory, wound healing, and antiseptic properties, with its infusion being particularly recommended for all kinds of stomach complaints. In contrast, with other species of genus Salvia, the Canary sage is a shrub that can grow up to 2 m high and whose long branches with long lanceolate leaves show a characteristic dense arrangement. Therefore, this species has been considered as a likely link between Old and New World sages.² A mixture of leaves of S. fulgens Cav. and S. microphylla Kunth is a traditional Mexican medicine-called "mirto"—for [s](#page-53-0)tomach ailments in Mexico.²² S. cavaleriei is used for the treatment of dysentery, boils, and fall injuries; S. desoleria is used for the treatment of me[nst](#page-53-0)rual, digestive, and central nervous system diseases; and S. bucharica is used as a traditional medicine for the treatment of hepatic problems.²³ S. aegyptiaca L. (English name, Egyptian sage; vernacular names, Shajarat al ghazal, Ghabeisha; family Labiatae) is a green [dwa](#page-53-0)rf shrub that grows in various locations in the Arabian Peninsula, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Iran, and Afghanistan. It is commonly used in local folk medical practices and in cosmetics. For example, the seeds are used as a demulcent for diarrhea and for piles, and the whole plant is used in diarrhea, gonorrhea and hemorrhoids, and eye diseases, and as an antiseptic, antispasmodic, and stomachic. The plant is also used in cases

of nervous disorders, dizziness, and trembling.²⁴ S. moorcroftiana, commonly known in Pakistan as "kallijari", is used as a folk medicine for the guinea worm and itch and i[s a](#page-53-0)pplied in the form of a poultice to wounds.²⁵

This group of plants has been characterized from a phytochemical standpoint by [th](#page-53-0)e production of monoterpenoids, mainly diterpenoids with an abietane or clerodane skeleton, triterpenoids, and flavonoids. Many diterpenoids isolated from Salvia species have shown antioxidant, antifeedant, antibacterial, antimutagenic, anti-inflammatory, and antiplatelet aggregation activities or cytotoxic properties. 26 Several authors have given reviews about the structures, synthesis, and biological activities of diterpenoids from Sal[via](#page-53-0) species.8,27−⁴⁰ However, no a comprehensive review has been published so far. Considering the recent flurry of reports in this area, h[ere](#page-53-0) [we](#page-53-0) review systematically all the papers that have published in the literature from 1934 until the beginning of 2011, concerning the isolation, structural elucidation, and biological evaluations of Salvia plant constituents.

2. CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS

Investigated Salvia plants have produced an array of secondary metabolites. Some of them have attracted considerable attention from the chemical and biological communities for their broad spectrum of biological activities and novel structure; for example, salvinorin A and tanshinone IIA delayed a variety of significant bioactivities. Until the beginning of 2011, a total of 773 compounds were isolated from 134 Salvia species. We classify the constituents into seven groups: sesquiterpenoids, diterpenoids, sesterterpenoids, triterpenoids, steroids, polyphenols, and others. Their structures are shown in Figures 2−54, and their names, the corresponding plant sources, and references are collected in Tables 1−5.

Figure 2. Aliphatic sesquiterpenoid.

2.1. Sesquiterpenoids

Sesquiterpenes are a wide variety of 15-carbon skeletons derived from the coupling of three isoprene subunits, and the majority of sesquiterpenes arise directly from farnesyl diphosphate (FPP), a key C15 diphosphorylated intermediate of the mevalonate (MVA) biosynthetic pathway. The number of natural sesquiterpenoids from Salvia species reported by April of 2010 is 46. This group is distributed in 15 Salvia species and can be divided into six subgroups: aliphatic sesquiterpene, germacrane sesquiterpenes, carotane sesquiterpenes, caryophyllane sesquiterpenes, guaiane sesquiterpenes, and other sesquiterpenes (Table 1).

2.1.1. Aliphatic Sesquiterpene. In this subgroup, only one compound, salvinine (1), ha[s b](#page-3-0)een found in S. divaricata.⁴¹

2.1.2. Germacranes. Germacrane sesquiterpenoids are a group of sesquiterpenes with a 10-membered ring system wi[th](#page-53-0) different arrangements in functionality. Salviadienol A (2) and salviadienol B (6) were the first germacrane sesquiterpenes obtained from S. chinensis. Compounds 2 and 6 were highly acetylated members with oxy-isovaleryl groups being the most unusual ones.⁴² From the whole plant of S. roborowskii, four new germacrane sesquiterpene esters, 3, 4, 5, and 16, were

Table 1. Sesquiterpenoids 1−46

isolated in $2003⁴³$ In 2005, the same compound 16 was isolated from S. castanea Diels f. tomentosa Stib again and given another name: ca[sta](#page-53-0)nin B (16).⁴⁴ Trijugins A–I (7–15) were all isolated from S. trijuga, and the structure of 7 was confirmed by X-ray analysis. Compound [15](#page-53-0) exhibited moderate toxicity against HL-60, SMMC-7721, and SW480 with IC_{50} values of 17.9, 34.5, and 24.88 μ M, respectively.⁴⁵ Six germacrane sesquiterpenes, castanin A $(22)^{44}$ castanin B $(16)^{44}$ and castanins C−F (18−21),⁴⁶ were isolated fr[om](#page-53-0) S. castanea Diels f. tomentosa Stib. Among them, [cas](#page-53-0)tanin A (22) repr[ese](#page-53-0)nts a novel germacrane sesq[uite](#page-53-0)rpene, with a contracted ring A, derived from eudesmanolide. The structural determination of 18−21 was complex because they existed as two mixtures of interconvertible isomers. The computational study explained that the ratios of 18 and 19, 20 and 21, in the mixtures were 1:1 and 1:2, respectively. In addition, the semisynthesis of 18 and 19 was conducted by the photooxidation of 16, the major constituent of this plant. The other two members belonging to germacrane sesquiterpenes, compounds 17^{47} and $23,48$ were

obtained from S. palaefolia and S. roborowskii Maxim, respectively.

2.1.3. Carotanes. Carotane sesquiterpenes are also called daucane sesquiterpenes. The daucane class of sesquiterpenes is a relatively small group of compounds that, for a long time, seemed to be restricted to members of the plant family Umbelliferae. In recent years, daucane derivatives have also been found in the Compositae, Rosaceae, Bryophyta, fungal, and marine sources. Only one carotane sesquiterpene, 24, was discovered from Salvia sclarea (Figure 3).⁴⁹ Compounds 24 had a structural feature with a C_1 -O- C_5 6-membered oxygen bridge.

2.1.4. Caryophyllanes. Caryophy[lla](#page-4-0)ne sesquiterpenes are a group of natural bicyclic sesquiterpenes with a 4/9-ring system. Three compounds (25−27) were reported from S. sclarea L. Their structures were very similar, in which every molecule had a different group at C-2. Rearrangement of epoxide 25 using $MgBr₂$ in ether gave an epimeric mixture of the two aldehydes 26 and 27. ⁴⁹ Caryophyllene oxide (28) was obtained from S. palaefolia and S. sclarea by three research groups. $47,50,51$

2.1.5. Guaianes. Nine guaiane sesquiterpenes (29–37) were obtained from this species. In the studies carried out by Ali et al., nubiol (33), nubenolide (34), nubenolideacetate (35), bisnubidiol (36), and bisnubenolide (37) were identified from *S. nubicola.*^{23,52} The structures of 33 and 34 were finally confirmed via the single-crystal X-ray diffraction, which was found to be mo[derat](#page-53-0)ely active against Pseudomonas aeruginosa. Compounds 36 and 37 were two dimers of 33 and 34, respectively.

2.1.6. Other Sesquiterpenoids. Compound 38 was a β agarofuran sesquiterpene dibenzoate isolated from the aerial part of S. *palaefolia*.⁵⁰ Further investigation on the same species collected in Colombia was undertaken, and compounds 39, 40, and 43−46 were [iso](#page-53-0)lated. Among them, 43−46 were four

eudesmanolides with a five-membered α , β -unsaturated lactone ring.^{53,54} 41 and 42 were two sesquiterpenes isolated from the acetone extract of *S. microphylla.⁵⁵*

2.2. [Dite](#page-53-0)rpenoids

Diterpenes are one class of nat[ura](#page-53-0)l compounds that possess a core skeleton of 20 carbons. Their formation can be rationalized by considering the different types of cyclization of geranylgeranyl diphosphate (GGPP), and they are found in many different plant families and some animals. They are biosynthesized by two different pathways, the mevalonic acid pathway (MVA) or the deoxyxylulose phosphate pathway (DOXP). Cyclization is an important and interesting process, from the perspective of the formation of a variety of diterpene carbon skeletons, and is a major branch of the biosynthesis of cyclic diterpenes. Diterpenes are of interest as many have been Table 2. Diterpenoids 47−591

Table 2. continued

20(10→5)abeoabieta-1(10),6,8,11,13-pentaene-11,12,16-triol S. apiana [64](#page-53-0)

19(4→3)abeo-O-demethylcryptojaponol S. pubescens [404](#page-58-0)

Table 2. continued

S. cryptantha [90](#page-54-0)

S. wiedemannii [65](#page-54-0)

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Table 2. continued

found to have biological activity; for example, taxol, cafestol, and kahweol all display anticancer properties. Diterpenes isolated from Salvia spp. are the largest group, comprising 545 of the 791 Salvia constituents (Table 2). According to their structure, this group is further classified into five subgroups: abietane diterpenoids, clerodane dit[er](#page-5-0)penoids, pimarane diterpenoids, labdane diterpenoids, and other diterpenoids.

2.2.1. Abietanes. Abietanes and rearranged abietanes are a family of naturally occurring diterpenoids that have been isolated from a variety of terrestrial plant sources. These compounds exhibit an array of interesting biological activities, which has generated significant interest from the pharmacological community. Abietanes and rearranged abietane comprised the largest group of components of Salvia plants. Of 545 known Salvia diterpenoids, 365 found in Salvia species belong to the abietane diterpenoids and have been identified since 1976. This is the largest group of known Salvia diterpenoids, appears to be the most widely distributed, and can be divided into 19 subgroups.

2.2.1.1. Abieta-8,11,13-trienes. Compounds 47−145 have an aromatic C ring and differ in the functionalities at C-1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 11−14, 18, and 20. The first aromatic C ring abietane found in Salvia species was 3β -hydroxy-8,11,13(14),15abietatetraen-18-oic acid (142) isolated from S. tomentosa in 1981.⁵⁶ Two of the aromatic C ring abietanes, ferruginol (50)

and iguestol (63), are typical compounds in t[his g](#page-56-0)roup and have been isolated from several species.^{51,57−69} Investigation of S. pomifera gave seven new aromatic C ring abietanes: pomiferin A−G (78–82, 98, and 99[\).](#page-53-0)^{7[0,71](#page-53-0)} [Ex](#page-54-0)traction of the roots of S. hypargeia from Turkey afforded four new diterpenoids, hypargenins A–C and E $(65-68)^{72}$ $(65-68)^{72}$ $(65-68)^{72}$ Pomiferins E and F and hypargenins A–C, having an α , β -unsaturated keto group in the B ring, differ in the functionalities [at](#page-54-0) C-2, 6, and 15. Only three compounds (47−49), along with two known ones, salviol (88) and 12-methoxycarnosic acid (92), were reported from S. blepharochlaena⁷³ and S. tomentosa.⁶⁷ Their structures are very similar, in which every molecule has a carboxy group at C-10 (except 88[\).](#page-54-0) The plants of S. la[nig](#page-53-0)era, S. melissodora, S. mellifera, and S. microstegia were systematically investigated by many groups. Seven diterpenes, 16-hydroxycarnosic acid (74), 16-acetoxycarnosic acid (75), 11,12,16,20 tetrahydroxyabieta-8,11,13-triene (76), 10-acetylferruginol (83), 84, 12-methoxycarnosic acid (92), and methyl carnosoate (94) , were isolated.^{61,72,74–78} Their structures were determined mainly by spectroscopic means. Ulubelon and co-workers published 14 paper[s o](#page-53-0)[n se](#page-54-0)v[er](#page-54-0)al Salvia species during the period 1988−2001, reporting the isolation and identification of forskalinone $(\mathbf{53})^{79}_{6}$ compounds $\mathbf{56}^{80}_{6}$ $\mathbf{57}^{80}_{6}$ $\mathbf{60}^{81}_{6}$ $\mathbf{71}^{68}_{6}$ $\mathbf{72}^{59}_{6}$ 77,⁸² 85,⁶⁵ and 100,⁵¹ 1-oxoferruginol (58) ,⁸³ 6-oxoferruginol (59) ,⁸³ salviviridin[ol](#page-54-0) (62) ,⁸⁴ euphrat[ico](#page-54-0)l (69) (69) (69) ,⁸⁵ [an](#page-54-0)d e[up](#page-54-0)hra[cal](#page-53-0) $(70)^{85}$ [Gon](#page-53-0)zález an[d c](#page-53-0)o-workers obtained fo[ur](#page-54-0) compounds (87) and [89](#page-54-0)−91) from S. c[ard](#page-54-0)iophylla and th[e](#page-54-0) flowers of S. *cana[rien](#page-54-0)sis.* $86,87$ Salvidorol (113), salvirecognone (114), and salvirecognine (115) were three 20-norditerpenoids that were isolated fr[om](#page-54-0) [S](#page-54-0). dorrii⁸⁸ and S. recognita.⁸⁹ Cryptanol (122), as one of the chief constituents of five Salvia species (S. cilicica, S. euphratica, S. pachyst[ach](#page-54-0)ys, S. wiedeman[nii](#page-54-0), and S. cryptantha), was first isolated from S. cryptantha in 1987. Investigation of S. apiana gave three new abietanes: 116, 117, and 124.

Figure 7. continued

Figure 7. Abieta-8,11,13-trienes.

Compounds 117−124 bear the same structural features: an aromatic C ring and a double bond between C-6 and C-7. 124 has another unusual double bond between C-1 and C-10. The differences among them are the substituents at carbons C-3, 6, 11, 12, 14, and 20.57,64,65,68,85,89,90 130−136 also have an aromatic C ring but have a double bond between C-5 and C-6. The positions C-6, [C-11](#page-53-0), [a](#page-53-0)[nd C-12](#page-54-0) are commonly functionalized by a hydroxy group or methoxy group, and carbon C-7 is always a keto group.59,73,81,91−⁹³ 14-Deoxycoleon U (136) was first isolated from S. phlomoides in 1983.⁹⁴ The same compound was obtained from [S.](#page-53-0) [montbret](#page-54-0)ii in 1996 and given another name: 6-hydroxysalvinolone.⁹³ Multica[ulin](#page-54-0) (138),^{73,95} 139,^{95,96} and 145^{97} were three other aromatic C ring abietanes with an aromatic A ring in their st[ruc](#page-54-0)tures. 140−144 b[ear](#page-54-0) the s[ame](#page-54-0) structur[al f](#page-54-0)eatures: a C-1 keto group and a C-11 hydroxy group. Of them, $140^{66,74}$ and 141^{61} have an aromatic B ring and 144^9 has a hydroxy group at C-15.

2.2.1.2. A[bie](#page-53-0)[ta](#page-54-0)n-12-on[es.](#page-53-0) Compounds 148, 149, and 151[−](#page-54-0) 153, isolated from S. texana, have a keto group at C-12 and three double bonds between C-7 and C-8, C-9 and C-11, and C-13 and C-14. Among them, 149 and 151 have a keto group at C-6, and 153 has a hydroxy group at C-7.98,99 156-160, obtained from four Salvia species, bear the same structural features: a keto group at C-12 and four double [bond](#page-54-0)s between C-5 and C-6, C-7 and C-8, C-9 and C-11, and C-13 and C-14.84,87,100−¹⁰²

2.2.1.3. Abietane-11,14-diones. The genus Salvia is rich in ta[nshinones, w](#page-54-0)hich have a furo-1,2- or a furo-1,4-naphthoquinone chromophore, first isolated from Salvia miltiorrhiza Bunge, a traditional Chinese medicinal herb, by Nakao and Fukushima in 1934.¹⁰³ This group of secondary metabolites is interesting to organic chemists, pharmacologists, and phytochemists not only f[or c](#page-54-0)hemical reasons as challenging synthetic targets but also for their remarkable biological properties.

Horminone (162), 7-acetylhorminone (163), and royleanone (166) are typical compounds in this subgroup and have

Figure 8. Abietan-12-ones.

been isolated from 14 Salvia species.^{26,57,65,67,68,73,74,82,90,104-110} They have the same C ring: two keto groups at C-11 and C-14 and two double bonds between C-[8 and C-](#page-53-0)[9, C-12, and C](#page-54-0)-[13.](#page-54-0) Recently, a new natural abietane diterpenoid 7-oxoroyleanone-12-methyl ether (183) and six known diterpenoids 7α acetoxyroyleanone-12-methyl ether, cryptojaponol (102), inuroyleanol (103), horminone (162), 7-acetylhorminone (163), and royleanone (166) were isolated from the root of S. barrelieri Ettling. Among the diterpenoids, the new diterpenoid 183 showed the highest superoxide anion scavenging activity whereas 103 showed both the highest 1,1-diphenyl-2 picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) scavenging activity and inhibition of lipid peroxidation in the β-carotene−linoleic acid system. These

Figure 9. Abietane-11,14-diones.

findings indicate that S. barrelieri extract as well as isolated abietane diterpenes, particularly 103, are promising antioxidants that can be used as food additives.¹¹¹ 185−200 were sixteen C-11, C-14 keto abietanes that were isolated from Salvia species. Of them, bractealine $(185)^6$ has [a d](#page-54-0)ouble ring between C-15 and C-16, 186 and 187^{95} have one between C-5 and C-6, and 197−200^{59,72,108,112} have o[ne](#page-53-0) between C-6 and C-7.

2.2.1.4. Abietane-1[1,1](#page-54-0)2-diones. In this subgroup, nine compoun[ds](#page-53-0) [have b](#page-54-0)een found in eight Salvia species, with similar structures: two keto groups at C-11 and C-12 and two double bonds between C-8 and C-9, C-13 and C-14. 201−204 were four C-11, C-12 keto abietanes that were isolated from S. recognita, S. napifolia, S. miltiorrhiza, and S. phlomoides, respectively.^{13,83,89,94} 205−209 are 20-norabietanes, and 206 has an unusual double bond between C-4 and C-18.13,66,73,83,[89,](#page-53-0)[95,105](#page-54-0)

2.2.1.5. 7,20-Ep[ox](#page-54-0)yabietanes. Isocarnosol (222), as one of th[e ma](#page-53-0)[jor constitue](#page-54-0)nts of S. lanigera, was first isolated in 1984. Its structure was established mainly by analysis of NMR data.¹¹³ A series of derivatives of isocarnosol, 210−223, were then isolated by repeated phytochemical investigations on m[any](#page-54-0) Salvia species. Abietanes in which the C ring is aromatic, carbon C-20 is a keto group, and carbons C-11 and C-12 are hydroxy groups are the most common substitutional pattern of 7,20 epoxyabietanes, and this group of abietanes are exemplified by 210−212, 215, 216, 218, and 219. Among them, 16 hydroxycarnosol (212) was the major diterpene isolated from Salvia species and showed anticancer activities against A2780 (ovarian) and HBL-100 (breast) cancer cell lines ($GI₅₀ \approx 3.6$

 μ M). Diterpenes such as 12,16-epoxycarnosol, isotanshinone II (278), (+)-neocryptotanshinone, and seven new semisynthetic diterpene analogues were obtained by partial synthesis from 212. ¹¹⁴ 224−228 were five 7,20-epoxyabietanes, with one or two keto groups in C ring. Investigation of S. miltiorrhiza, S. napi[folia](#page-54-0), and S. columbariae gave three new 7,20-epoxyabietanes: 224, 227, and 228. $83,91,115$

Figure 11. 7,20-Epoxyabietanes.

2.2.1.6. 6,20-Epoxyabietanes. Rosmanol (229), the typical one belonging to this 6,20-epoxyabietane subgroup, was obtained repeatedly from five Salvia species: S. rubescens, S. blepharochlaena, S. canariensis, S. officinalis, and S. pachyphyl $la.$ ^{67,87,104,107,116–118} Following that, four analogues, 230, 231, 235, and 236, have been reported.88,116,119 Of them, the st[ruc](#page-53-0)[ture of](#page-54-0) [23](#page-54-0)5 [w](#page-54-0)as established by X-ray analysis.⁸⁸ Sagequinone methide A (238) was isolated [from](#page-54-0) [S.](#page-54-0) officinalis with a keto group at C-12 and a hydroxy group at $C-11$.¹²⁰

2.2.1.7. 19,20-Epoxyabietanes. Conacytone (245), the first one belonging to this subgroup, was obtained fr[om](#page-54-0) the aerial

Figure 12. 6,20-Epoxyabietanes.

parts of S. ballotaeflora Benth in 1976.¹²¹ Then, in 1995, it was also isolated from *S. candicans.*¹²² The structure and relative stereochemistry were elucidated [by](#page-54-0) single-crystal X-ray diffraction techniques. 123 239 [wa](#page-54-0)s isolated from the aerial parts of *S. gilliesii*, and 240 was an acetyl derivative of 239.¹²⁴ 241 was obtained fro[m t](#page-54-0)wo Salvia species: S. regla¹²⁵ and S. sessei.¹²⁶ Investigation of S. candicans gave two other 19,[20](#page-54-0) epoxyabietanes: 243 and 244. 122

Figure 13. 19,20-Epoxyabietanes.

2.2.1.8. 8,20-Epoxy- and 9,13-Epoxyabietanes. Only four compounds (246−249) belonging to 8,20-epoxyabietane have been found in three different species.^{117,127,128} Investigation of S. oxyodon led to the isolation of two new 9,13-epoxyabietanes: 250 and 251 .¹²⁹

Figure 14. 8,20-Epoxy- and 9,13-epoxyabietanes.

2.2.1.9. 11,17-Epoxy-, 12,17-Epoxy-, and 14,17-Epoxyabietanes. Nakao and Fukushima first extracted the tanshinones from traditional Chinese medicine Danshen S. miltiorrhiza in 1934. Subsequently, it was shown that the broad spectrum biological activity of Danshen was due to the presence of a number of interesting abietane diterpenoid quinones. A number of abietane diterpenoid quinones were subsequently isolated.

In this subgroup, 31 diterpenoids with four rings structures, compounds (252−282), were isolated by several research groups during 1985−2010. All of these diterpenoids consist of four characteristic rings, with ring C being an ortho-quinone or a para-quinone and ring D being a dihydrofuran or a furan. The most representative species that produced this type of diterpenoid is S. miltiorrhiza. In 1985, investigation of the root of S. miltiorrhiza from China gave five new 14,17 epoxyabietanes: tanshindiols A−C (257−259), 3α-hydroxytanshinone A (260) , and nortanshinone (262) . Their relative

Figure 15. 11,17-Epoxy-, 12,17-epoxy-, and 14,17-epoxyabietanes.

stereochemistries have been established on the basis of spectral and chemical evidence.¹³⁰ 280−282 were isolated from the same plant with a $6/6/7/5$ -membered ring system.¹³ 20-Norabietane cryptotans[hino](#page-54-0)ne (266) was the sole diterpenoid isolated from both aerial parts and roots of S. axil[lar](#page-53-0)is.¹³¹ Extraction of the aerial part of S. yunnanensis from China afforded two diterpenoids, danshenols $A(271)$ and $C(273)$ [. It](#page-54-0) is interesting that the cytotoxic activities of 271 and 273, being stereoisomers of each other, differed significantly. 271 showed potential inhibitive activity to K562 (IC₅₀ = 0.53 μ g/mL), T-24 $(IC_{50} = 7.94 \ \mu g/mL)$, and Me180 $(IC_{50} = 6.89 \ \mu g/mL)$ cell lines whereas 273 was inactive.¹³² Recently, neo-tanshinlactone (274), having an α , β -unsaturated lactone in the C ring, was isolated from this plant, and [was](#page-54-0) also synthesized for the first time. It showed significant inhibition against two ER human breast cancer cell lines.¹³³ Investigation of the roots of S. glutinosa gave five 12,17-epoxyabietanes: danshenol A (271) , dihydroisotanshinone I ([27](#page-54-0)5), isotanshinone I (277), isotanshinone II (278), and dihydroisotanshinone II (279).¹⁰⁵ Because the cyclohexan-1,4-diene is relatively unstable, the authors proposed that miltiradiene may undergo aromatizat[ion](#page-54-0) to ferruginol (50), followed by further installation of different groups to give miltirone (202) and neocryptotanshinone

(176). 176 can be converted stepwise to 266, 261, 255, and 264 (Scheme 1).¹³⁴ In addition, Luo et al. proposed that tanshinlactone may be produced biologically from 264 through three intermed[iat](#page-22-0)[es, c](#page-54-0)arboxylic acid, β -ketocarboxylic acid, and ketone (Scheme 1).¹³⁵

2.2.1.10. Abietane Alkaloids. In 2005 and 2006, 16 abietane alkaloids, com[po](#page-22-0)[und](#page-54-0)s 283−298, were found from S. yunnanensis, S. miltiorrhiza, and S. trijuga. Most of them have an oxazole ring between C-11 and C-12 (except 297 and 298), and some of them also have a dihydrofuran or furan ring between C-14 and C-15. Four new N-containing compounds, salvianan (289), neosalvianen (290), salvianen (291), and salviadione (297), were isolated from S. miltiorrhiza. Their structures were mainly established by spectroscopic methods. Compound 290 was prepared by treatment of tanshinone IIA (255) in EtOH with aqueous ethylamine solution (Scheme 2). Among these components, 291 exhibited the most potent cytotoxicity with a CD_{50} (cytotoxic dose) range of 30.4−3[9.](#page-22-0)5 μ M against HeLa (cervical epitheloid carcinoma), HepG2 (hepatocellular carcinoma), and OVCAR-3 (ovarian adenocarcinoma) cell lines in a dose-dependent manner.¹³⁶ Eleven new abietane diterpene alkaloids containing an oxazole ring, salviamines A−F (292 and 283−287) and iso[salv](#page-54-0)iamines A−

Scheme 1. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed for Neotanshinlactone (274) and Derivatives

Figure 16. Abietane alkaloids.

Scheme 2. Conversion of 255 to 290

E (293−296 and 288), were isolated and characterized from the roots of S. yunnanensis and S. trijuga.^{137,138}

2.2.1.11. 1,2-Seco-abietanes. Compound 299 was the only example reported so far belonging to 1,2-seco-abietane-type diterpene, isolated from S. lanigera.¹³⁹

2.2.1.12. 2,3-Seco-abietanes. Salvipalestinoic acid (300), one example of 2,3-seco-abietan[es,](#page-54-0) was obtained from S. palaestina. The impure 300 was purified as its O-methyl derivative (301) after treatment with ethereal $\mathrm{CH_{2}N_{2}}$. 300 could arise biogenetically from the normal abietane candelabrone (51 co-occurring in the plant) by a rupture of the C-2 and C-3 bond.¹⁴⁰ Candesalvolactone (302), isolated from the aerial parts of [S.](#page-54-0) [ca](#page-54-0)ndelabrum, is another example in this subgroup

Figure 17. 1,2-Seco-abietane.

Figure 18. 2,3-Seco-abietanes.

that exhibited pronounced antioxidant effects in both enzymedependent and enzyme-independent anti-LPO systems.¹⁴¹

2.2.1.13. 3,4-Seco-abietanes. Compound 303 was obtained from *S. cinnabarina* by three research groups.^{142−144} T[he](#page-54-0) new 3,4-seco-abietanes, candesalvoquinone (304), 12-O-methylcandesalvone B (305), and candesalvone B me[thyl est](#page-54-0)er (307), were isolated from S. candelabrum.¹⁴⁵

Figure 19. 3,4-Seco-abietanes.

2.2.1.14. 4,5-Seco-abietanes. Twenty-seven 4,5-seco-bicyclo-abietanes (308−334) have been isolated since 1981.3,51,57,66,82,106,146−¹⁵⁴ Among them, sclareapinone (312), prionoid D (315) , prionoid E (317) , and prionoid F (322) , isolat[ed from](#page-53-0) [the r](#page-54-0)[oot](#page-55-0)s [of](#page-55-0) S. prionitis Hance, showed significant cytotoxic activity against P-388 (315, IC₅₀ = 0.41 μ M), A-549 (317, IC₅₀ = 0.72 μ M), HL-60 human leukemia (312, IC₅₀ = 4.6 μ M), SGC-7901 (312, IC₅₀ = 0.2 μ M), and MKN-28 stomach cancer (312, IC₅₀ = 0.3 μ M) cell lines. The results indicated that ortho-quinone diterpenoids were more cytotoxic than para-quinone diterpenoids in S. prionitis.^{146,150} In addition, 4-hydroxysaprorthoquinone (316), also discovered from this species, exhibited significant inhibition agai[nst top](#page-55-0)oisomerase with an IC₅₀ value of 0.8 μ M.^{146,148}

Thirteen 4,5-seco-tricyclo-abietanes (335−347) have been obtained from eight species. [Salvib](#page-55-0)retol (342), microstegiol (343), 1-oxosalvibretol (344), and candidissiol (345) were four rearranged 4,5-seco-abietanes with seven- or eight-membered ring skeletons. The possible mechanisms of these rearrangements were considered as shown in Schemes 3 and 4, respectively.^{93,147,155,156} Prionoid A (337) was the first rearranged tetracyclic diterpenoid with an epoxy gro[up](#page-25-0) isolat[ed](#page-25-0) from S. pri[oni](#page-54-0)[tis](#page-55-0). [Its str](#page-55-0)ucture was elucidated using spectroscopic analysis and further confirmed by a single-crystal X-ray diffraction determination.¹⁵⁰ A plausible origin of 4,5-secoabietanes can be rationalized biogenetically from saprorthoquinone (319) ,¹⁵⁷ as shown [in](#page-55-0) Scheme 5.^{146,150}

2.2.1.15. 6,7-Seco-abietanes. Cariocal (348), obtained from S. anastomos[ans](#page-55-0) collected in Mexico, [wa](#page-26-0)[s one o](#page-55-0)f the compounds belonging to the $6,7$ -seco-abietane group.⁷⁴ 16-Hydroxyrosmadial (349), isolated from the aerial parts of S. mellifera, is the other example in this subgroup, with ri[ng](#page-54-0) B being a 10,11 lactone.⁷⁵

2.2.1.16. 7,8-Seco-abietane. Compound 350 was the sole exampl[e r](#page-54-0)eported so far belonging to 7,8-seco-abietane, which was isolated from S. prionitis, which is used in Chinese folk medicine as an antiphlogistic, antibacterial, and antitubercular drug. 350 showed antimicrobial activities against two Grampositive organisms, Staphylococcus aureus and Micrococcus luteus, with MIC values of 20.0 and 15.0 μ M, respectively.¹⁴⁶

2.2.1.17. Abietane Dimers. Rosmanoyl carnosate (351), obtained from the flowers of S. canariensis, was the fi[rst a](#page-55-0)bietane dimer consisting of rosmanol triacetate and carnosic acid diacetate, which were bonded together by an ester bond. 87 Two novel abietane dimers, 7,7′-bistaxodione (352) and 11,11′ didehydroxy-7,7′-dihydroxytaxodione (353), were isolat[ed](#page-54-0) from the roots of S. montbretii. They consisted of two 7 hydroxytaxodiones (150), which were joined together at C- $7-\text{C-}7$ ['] and C-11 $-\text{C-}11^{7.93}$ One other novel dimeric abietane diterpene, hongencaotone (354), has been isolated from the roots of S. prionitis, and it[s st](#page-54-0)ructure was determined by spectral data interpretation and X-ray analysis. 354 is the first etherlinked heterodimeric diterpene to have been isolated from the genus Salvia.¹⁵⁸ More recently, three abietane diterpenoid dimers, bisprioterones A−C (355−357), were isolated from roots of the [Ch](#page-55-0)inese folk medicinal plant S. prionitis Hance. They possessed two different abietane diterpenoid skeletons, which were linked via either a C−C single bond (355 and 356) or an ether bridge (357). Their structures were elucidated by analysis of 1D and 2D NMR spectroscopic data. The structure of 355 was further confirmed by a single-crystal X-ray diffraction determination.¹⁵⁹

2.2.1.18. Icetexanes. The icetexanes are a family of diterpenoid natural pro[duct](#page-55-0)s that have been isolated from a variety of terrestrial plant sources. The compounds in this family exhibit an array of interesting biological activities that, coupled with their unique structural features, have generated significant interest from the synthetic community. Icetexane diterpenoids are biosynthetically believed to arise from a rearrangement of the more common abietane and chemically belong to $9(10 \rightarrow 20)$ abeoabietane skeleton with a $6/7/6$ membered ring system.

In 1976, the isolation and structural determination of icetexone (367), a rearranged abietane quinone isolated from

Figure 20. 4,5-Seco-abietanes.

S. ballotaeflora, was described.¹⁶⁰ Following that, 18 analogues (358−375) from 12 Salvia species have been reported. 19- Deoxyicetexone (365), 5-epi-[icet](#page-55-0)exone (366), 367, and 19 deoxyisoicetexone (368) were four icetexane diterpenoids with a 10,19-epoxy-icetexane core.122−124,131,160,161 Four 7,10-epoxyicetexane diterpenoids, 369, brussonol (370), salviasperanol (371), and przewalskin E ([375](#page-54-0)[\), wer](#page-54-0)[e obta](#page-55-0)ined from Salvia species. A plausible biogenetic relation is given in Scheme 6 for the formation of compounds 370, demethylsalvicanol (360), 369 , and 371 , all found in *Salvia* species.^{58,162,163}

2.2.1.19. Other Abietanes. This group includes all o[f](#page-27-0) the Salvia abietane diterpenoids that do not [b](#page-53-0)[elong i](#page-55-0)n any of the above-mentioned groups. Thirty-three diterpenoids are included in this group.

Castanolide (410) and epi-castanolide (411), two novel diterpenoids possessing a unique seco-norabietane skeleton, which features a six-membered α , β -unsaturated lactone ring and a five-membered $α$ -methyl- $α, β$ -unsaturated γ-spirolactone moiety, were isolated from S. castanea Diels f. pubescens Stib. Their structures and relative stereochemistry were elucidated by extensive NMR analysis and confirmed by a single-crystal X-ray diffraction study. A possible biosynthetic pathway of these two compounds from miltipolone (409) was also proposed (Scheme 7).¹⁶⁴ Tilifolidione (376), a salvifolane (9→20,10→ 6)-diabeoabietane, possessed a cycloheptanenaphthoquinone skeleton [an](#page-29-0)[d wa](#page-55-0)s isolated from the roots of S. tiliaefolia and S. semiatrata.^{62,74} It could be biogenetically derived from an abietanic diterpene as indicated in Scheme 8.62 Two novel diterpene [q](#page-53-0)[ui](#page-54-0)nones with rearranged abietane skeletons, aegyptinones A (381) and B (379) , have be[en](#page-29-0) [is](#page-53-0)olated from the roots of S. aegyptiaca. Their structures have been established primarily by interpretation of detailed NMR data. The structure of 381 was further confirmed by single-crystal Xray analysis. Biosynthetically, the novel carbon skeleton of 381

Scheme 3. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed for 343

Scheme 4. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed for 4,5-Secoabietanes

and 379 may arise from 6,7-dehydroroyleanone (200) (commonly found in Salvia) as shown in Scheme 9.¹¹² The six-five-six-membered ring system is a unique skeleton, and only six compounds with this structure have been repo[rt](#page-29-0)[ed](#page-54-0) from Salvia species. Among them, dichroanal A (383), dichroanal B (382), and dichroanone (386) were isolated from the roots of S. dichroantha.⁶⁷ The other three, salvicanaric acid (389), 2 α hydroxysalvicanaric acid (387), and salvicanaraldehyde (388), were obtained [fr](#page-53-0)om S. canariensis, S. texana Torrand, and S. munzii, respectively. 389 and 388 could be biogenetically derived from abietanic diterpenes 159 and 120 as indicated in Schemes 10 and 11, respectively.^{101,165,166} Paramiltioic acid (390), epi-cryptoacetalide (391), 6-methyl-epi-cryptoacetalide (392), cr[ypt](#page-30-0)oaceta[lid](#page-30-0)e (393), 6-[meth](#page-54-0)[ylcryp](#page-55-0)toacetalide (394), epi-danshenspiroketallactone (395), and danshenspiroketallactone (396) were seven spirolactones isolated from many Salvia species.^{60,61,105,167-171} Biogenetically, the 6-methyl groups of 6methyl-epi-cryptoacetalide (392) and 6-methylcryptoacetalide (394), [isola](#page-53-0)[ted](#page-54-0) [from w](#page-55-0)hole plant of S. aegyptiaca, might arise by a series of methyl group shifts from C-10 to C-5 and then C-6. Przewalskin B (399), a novel diterpenoid possessing a unique skeleton, was isolated from a Chinese medicinal plant S. przewalskii. Its structure and relative stereochemistry were elucidated by extensive NMR analysis and a single-crystal X-ray study. Compound 431 exhibited modest anti-HIV-1 activity

with EC₅₀ = 30 μ g/mL.¹⁷ A new oxygenated diterpene γ lactone, compound 400, was isolated from the aerial parts of S. officinalis. The structure [was](#page-53-0) established by spectroscopic data and substantiated by X-ray diffraction.¹⁷² 405 and 406 were two abietane diterpenes, isolated from S. wiedemannii and S. heldrichiana, with a double bond [betw](#page-55-0)een C-15 and C-16.56,65,92

2.2.2. Clerodanes. The structure and stereochemistry (a[part](#page-53-0) [fro](#page-54-0)m absolute configuration) of clerodin, a group of diterpenoids as bitter principle first isolated from the Indian bhat tree Clerodendron infortunatum (Verbenaceae), were established using X-ray analysis of a bromolactone derivative.¹⁷³ The parent hydrocarbon skeleton has been known as clerodane ever since. Clerodanes are found in many different pl[ant](#page-55-0) families and contain four contiguous stereocenters contained in a cis- or trans-decalin. Biosynthetically, the clerodanes appear to be related to the labdanes, via a series of methyl and hydride shifts. The best-known and most extensively studied biological property of clerodane diterpenoids is insect antifeedant activity. A total of 138 clerodane diterpenoids, compounds 412−549, isolated from Salvia species displayed biological activity. According to their structure, this group is further classified into 15 subgroups.

2.2.2.1. Clerodane-15,16-diols. In this subgroup, only three examples, salvigresides A−C (412−414), were obtained from the aerial parts of S. greggii, with two hydroxys at C-15 and C-16 and a β -D-glucopyranoside at C-6.¹⁷⁴ Among the members of the genus Salvia, S. greggii is considered to be abundant in neoclerodane diterpenoid glucosid[es.](#page-55-0)

2.2.2.2. 15,16-Epoxyclerodanes. Twenty-two 15,16-epoxyclerodanes, compounds (415−436), were isolated from Salvia species. Most of them have a double bond between C-3 and C-4 (except 434) and a $β$ -substituted furan ring or an $α, β$ unsaturated lactone ring at C-12. 415, 416, and hardwickiic acid (417) were three 15,16-epoxyclerodanes that were isolated from S. fulgens²² and S. regal.^{125'} Six new 15,16-epoxyclerodanes, divinatorins A−E (418−420, 422, and 423) and divinorin F (421), were o[bta](#page-53-0)ined from [the](#page-54-0) leaves of S. divinorum. 20,175,176 Further investigation on the same species collected in Japan was undertaken, and salvidivins C (436) and D (4[34](#page-53-0)[\) were](#page-55-0) isolated. 436 and 434 were neoclerodane diterpenes that possess an γ-hydroxy- α , β -unsaturated γ-lactone moiety.²⁰ Kerlinic acid (424) was isolated from S. keerlii with a carboxy group at $C-5$.¹⁰² Thymo[nin](#page-53-0) (425) and 7 β -hydroxythymonin (428) were two diterpenes that were isolated from S. thymoides, and 426 was a[n ac](#page-54-0)etyl derivative of 425; allylic oxidation of 425 gave the α , β -unsaturated aldehyde 427, and 429 and 430 were acetyl derivatives of 428. ¹⁷⁷ 431−433 were examples from three *Salvia* species: *S. regal*,¹²⁵ *S. melissodora*,¹⁷⁸ and *S.* lasiantha.¹⁷⁹ Salvigreside [D](#page-55-0) (435), a diterpenoid glucoside, isolated from the aerial parts of [S.](#page-54-0) greggii, showed [anti](#page-55-0)bacterial activity a[gain](#page-55-0)st Bacillus subtilis ATCC6633 in the agar diffusion paper disk method at 8 μ g/disk.¹⁷⁴

2.2.2.3. 2,19-Epoxyclerodan-16,15-olides. This subgroup is rare in genus Salvia; only [bre](#page-55-0)vifloralactone (437) and

Scheme 5. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed for 4,5-Seco-abietanes

Figure 21. 6,7-Seco-abietanes.

brevifloralactone acetate (438) have been isolated from S. breviflora. 180

2.2.2.4. Clerodane-17,19:16,15-diolides. In this subgroup, only thre[e co](#page-55-0)mpounds, salvimadrensinone (439), salvimadrensinol (440), salvimadrensin (441), have been found in S. madrensis.¹⁸¹

2.2.2.5. Clerodan-18,19-olides. Portulide C (442) was one example i[n th](#page-55-0)is subgroup, isolated from S. melissodora, with two

hydroxys at C-15 and C-16. Its structure was established by spectroscopic and chemical means.¹⁸² 443−446 were four clerodane-18,19:15,16-diolides obtained from genus Salvia, with an α , β -unsaturated γ -lactone [rin](#page-55-0)g at C-12.^{177,183–185} 447−453 were seven clerodan-18,19-olides, with a $β$ substituted furan ring at C-12.^{186−190} Among them, [salvisp](#page-55-0)l[en](#page-55-0)din C (452), from an acetone extract of the flowers of S. splendens, has an acetoxy grou[p at the](#page-55-0) C-12 position. From the aerial parts of S. melissodora, nine ent-clerodane-18,19:16,15 diolides were isolated. The presence of an α -substituted butenolide is a common feature in all the diterpenoids isolated from this population of S. melissodora.¹⁷⁸ Investigation of S. melissodora gave six clerodane-18,19-olides: 455, 457, 459− 461,¹⁷⁸ and 462¹⁸² with an α -substituted [lac](#page-55-0)tone group at C-12. 454 and 458 were acetyl derivatives of 457, and 456 was an acet[yl d](#page-55-0)erivative [of](#page-55-0) 455.

2.2.2.6. Clerodan-17,12-olides. In this subgroup, 13 examples were all isolated from S. divinorum. Salvinicins A (463) and B (464) , salvinorin A (465) , divinorin B (466) , ¹⁹¹ and salvinorins C−H (467–472)^{20,175,176,192,193} were 10 clerodan-17,12-olides, isolated from the hallucinogenic sage [S.](#page-55-0) divinorum. Salvinorin A (465), first i[so](#page-53-0)[lated from th](#page-55-0)is plant in $1982₁¹⁹⁴$ the main active component of the psychotropic herb S. divinorum, has been reported to be a potent agonist at the κopioi[d re](#page-55-0)ceptor.19,20,175,176 Two new neoclerodane diterpenes, 463 and 464, were isolated from the dried leaves of this plant. The structures [of](#page-53-0) [these](#page-55-0) compounds were elucidated by

Figure 23. Abietane dimers.

Scheme 6. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed for 360 and 369− 371

spectroscopic techniques. The absolute stereochemistry of these compounds was assigned on the basis of single-crystal Xray crystallographic analysis of 463. This is the first report of this highly oxygenated tetrahydrofuran ring system in compounds isolated from the Salvia genus. Further work indicated that 463 exhibited partial κ -agonist activity and 464 exhibited antagonist activity at μ -receptors.¹⁹⁵ 1-Deacetoxy-8epi-salvinorin G (473), salvidivin A (474), and salvidivin B (475) were other examples from this plant.^{[20,1](#page-55-0)96}

2.2.2.7. 12,17-Epoxyclerodane. This subgroup is rare in genus Salvia; only sa[lvin](#page-55-0)orin I (476), 17 β [-sa](#page-53-0)lvinorin J (477), and 17 α -salvinorin J (478) have been isolated from S. divinorum. 20,197

Figure 24. Icetexanes.

2.2.2.8. Clerodane-17,12:18,19-diolides. Twenty-six clerodane-17,12:18,19-diolides, 479−504, have been isolated from genus Salvia. All of these diterpenoids share very similar structures with two lactone rings and a furan ring at C-12 (except 497). Splendidin (484) and splenolide B (486) were isolated from S. splendens.^{19,198} Salviarin (485) was isolated from three Salvia species: S. divinorum,¹⁹ S. greggii,¹⁸⁶ and S. $rhyacophila.¹⁹⁹$ I[n](#page-53-0)vestigation [of](#page-55-0) the plant of S. splendens gave three new clerodane-17,12:18,19-dioli[de](#page-53-0)s: salvisp[lend](#page-55-0)ins A (489) and [B](#page-55-0) (495) and splenolide C (497).^{189,200} Polystachynes D (499) and E (500) and 501, isolated from S. polystachya and S. reptans, have an epoxy ring bet[ween C](#page-55-0)-1 and C-2.^{201,202} The structures were established by spectroscopic methods, including the X-ray analysis of 499. 502, 503, and 504 have a 1,10-epoxy, 2,3-epoxy, and 6,7-epoxy ring, respectively.203−²⁰⁵

2.2.2.9. 8,12-Epoxyclerodan-18,19-olides. Kerlin (505) was one exampl[e in thi](#page-55-0)s subgroup, isolated from S. keerlii, with an epoxy ring between C-8 and C-12 and a β -substituted butenolide ring at C-12.¹⁸⁵ The other compounds belonging to this subgroup were dehydrokerlin (506) and salvisplendin D (507), both with a β -su[bstit](#page-55-0)uted furan ring at C-12.^{189,199,201}

2.2.2.10. C-9 Spiroclerodanes. In this subgroup, seven compounds (508−514) were reported from Salv[ia](#page-55-0) [species](#page-55-0). They share similar structural characteristics: an epoxy ring between C-12 and C-20, an epoxy ring between C-7 and C-20 (except 508), a lactone ring attached to ring A, and a β substituted furan ring at C-12. From the aerial parts of S.

Scheme 7. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed from Miltipolone (409) to Catanolide (410) and epi-Castanolide (411)

Scheme 8. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed for 376

polystachya, three new neoclerodane diterpenoids, polystachynes A−C (509−511), have been isolated. The structures were established by spectroscopic methods, including the X-ray analysis of 511. The structures of 510 and 511 were quite similar to that of 509 except the C-1,2-epoxy ring. Salvifarin (512) has been isolated from S. farinacea by three groups.^{19,206,207} Salvifaricin (513) was obtained from three Salvia species: S. farinacea,^{19,207} S. dugesii,²⁰⁸and S. leucantha.²⁰⁹

trans-1,2-Dihydrosalvifaricin (514) was the other example in this subgroup that was isolated from S. fulgens in 2006 ²

2.2.2.11. 1,16-Cycloclerodanes. Compounds 515−519 were C-1,16-cycloclerodanes, which are usually called l[ang](#page-53-0)uidulanes.²¹⁰ Compound 517 also was isolated previously from S. sousae 203 and S. urolepis.²¹¹ The main feature of these comp[ound](#page-55-0)s is the presence of a seven-membered ring, with an α , β -unsa[tura](#page-55-0)ted ketone functi[on,](#page-55-0) due to the linkage of C-l with C-16 of a clerodane skeleton.^{13,187,203,212,213} Four new diterpenoids, salvilanguidulines A−D (520−523), with a rearranged clerodane skeleton wer[e i](#page-53-0)[solated from](#page-55-0) S. languidula. All of them contain an epoxy spiro γ-lactone function and a C1−C13 bond. Their structures were established by spectroscopic methods, and X-ray crystallographic analysis was carried out for the structure confirmation of $520.²¹⁴$

2.2.2.12. 5,6-Seco-clerodanes. 524−531 were eight 5,6 seco-clerodanes isolated from genus Sal[via](#page-55-0). In 2005, salvixalapadiene (525) and isosalvixalapadiene (526), with an unprecedented carbocyclic skeleton, have been obtained from the leaves of S. xalapensis.²¹³ Following that, the similar compound salvifulgenolide (524) was isolated from the aerial parts of S. fulgens Cav. T[he](#page-55-0) structure was established by spectroscopic methods and confirmed by X-ray analysis.² Salvianduline C (527) and salvireptanolide (528) were two examples in this subgroup that were isolated from [S.](#page-53-0) lavanduloides²¹⁵ and S. reptans,²⁰² respectively. Rhyacophiline (529) and 7,8-didehydrorhyacophiline (531) were two other 5,6-seco-cler[oda](#page-55-0)nes, with a 7,1[2:12](#page-55-0),20:15,16-triepoxy structural

Scheme 11. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed for 388

Figure 26. Clerodane-15,16-diols.

moiety, that were isolated from S. rhyacophila and S. reflexa, respectively.199,216

2.2.2.13. 5,10-Seco- and 9,10-Seco-clerodanes. Cardiophyllidin (5[32](#page-55-0)[\) an](#page-55-0)d polystachyne F (533) were two examples of 5,10-seco-clerodanes that were isolated from the aerial parts of S. cardiophylla and S. polystachya, respectively. The structures

Figure 27. 15,16-Epoxyclerodanes.

were established by spectroscopic methods and further verified by X-ray method.^{86,217,218} Almanza and co-workers published two papers on S. lavanduloides and S. haenkei and reported the isolation and i[den](#page-54-0)[ti](#page-56-0)fi[cat](#page-56-0)ion of two 9,10-seco-clerodanes: salviandulines A (534) and B (535). 536 was an acetyl

Figure 28. 2,19-Epoxyclerodane-16,15-olides.

Figure 29. Clerodane-17,19:16,15-diolides.

derivative of 535. Their structures were established by highresolution NMR and X-ray diffraction analysis.^{190,219}

2.2.2.14. Diterpene Dimers. From the surface exudate of the aerial parts of S. wagneriana, two bisditerpenoi[ds,](#page-55-0) [537](#page-56-0) and 538, were obtained. They could be derived biogenetically from a Diels−Alder-type cycloaddition between the furan ring of one clerodane diterpene and the C-3/C-4 double bond of the other one.²²⁰

2.2.2.15. Other Clerodanes. Blepharolide A (539), a 5,6 uns[atur](#page-56-0)ated octahydro-1H-cyclopropa $[a]$ naphthalene derivative, has been isolated from S. blepharophylla Brandegee ex

Figure 31. Clerodan-17,12-olides.

Figure 32. 12,17-Epoxyclerodanes.

Epling. The relative stereochemistry for 539 was determined by X-ray diffraction.²²¹ Investigation of the roots of S. lavanduloides gave a new neoclerodane diterpene, salvianduline D (540), containing a 2[,6-d](#page-56-0)ioxabicyclo[2.2.l]heptane structural moiety.²²² Spiroleucantholide (541) , isolated from the aerial parts of S. leucantha CAV, was the first report of spiro-6/6 A/B ring dit[erpe](#page-56-0)noid derived from a neoclerodane skeleton. The structure was established by spectroscopic methods, including X-ray analysis.²⁰⁹ Salvileucalin B (542), having an unprecedented rearranged neoclerodane skeleton, was isolated from the aerial parts of [S.](#page-55-0) leucantha Cav. The absolute structure was elucidated by spectroscopic analysis, X-ray crystallographic analysis, and vibrational circular dichroism. 542 represents a novel neoclerodane, characterized by a tricyclo $[3.2.1.0^{2,7}]$ octane substructure. This molecule exerted cytotoxic activity against A549 and HT-29 cells with IC₅₀ values of 5.23 and 1.88 μ g/mL, respectively.²²³ 543−549 were seven rearranged neoclerodanes, isolated from genus Salvia, with a seven-membered ring A or a seven-mem[bere](#page-56-0)d ring B. Salviandulin E (548) was isolated from S. leucantha twice.^{209,224} Dugesin A (549) was one example in this subgroup that was isolated from S. dugesii.²⁰⁸ A possible biosynthetic pat[hwa](#page-55-0)[y o](#page-56-0)f these compounds was also proposed (Scheme 12).^{183,208,}209,213,221,224

2.2.3. Pimaranes. Pimarane diterpenes belong to the tricyclic hydrophe[nan](#page-33-0)[threne nucl](#page-55-0)[eus d](#page-56-0)iterpenoids group; biosyntheticaly it is closely related with labdane and is found in many different plant families.²²⁵ Pimarane diterpenes

Figure 33. Clerodane-17,12:18,19-diolides.

Figure 34. 8,12-Epoxyclerodan-18,19-olides.

comprised a smaller group of components of Salvia plants. Among the members of the genus Salvia, S. parryi is considered to be abundant in pimarane diterpenes.

Figure 35. C-9 Spiroclerodanes.

Figure 36. 1,16-Cycloclerodanes.

Twenty pimarane diterpenes (550−569) have been obtained from Salvia species. Six pimarane-type diterpenes (550−552, 562, 567, and 568) were isolated from the acetone extract of roots of S. parryi. Parryin (569) represents the first example of a biogenetically new type of tricyclic 6/7/5-membered ring diterpene, isolated from the same species. Biogenetically, 569 might be generated by rearrangement of 550 (Scheme 13).⁵ Sandaracopimaric acid (553) was a pimarane diterpene that was obtained from S. fulgens.¹⁸³ Investigation of S. micro[phy](#page-34-0)ll[a](#page-53-0) gave four pimarane diterpenes, $554-557.^{183}$ 560, 561, 563, and 564 were four examples in [this](#page-55-0) subgroup that were isolated from S. greggii.^{186,226} Of them, 560 was [als](#page-55-0)o obtained from S. wiedemannii by Topçu and Ulubelen in 1990.⁶⁵ The next year, the other pim[ara](#page-55-0)[ne-t](#page-56-0)ype diterpene 14-oxo-pimaric acid (565) was isolated by them from the same plant.^{10[9](#page-53-0)}

Figure 37. 5,6-Seco-clerodanes.

Figure 38. 5,10-Seco- and 9,10-seco-clerodanes.

2.2.4. Labdanes. Labdane, belonging to the bicyclic diterpenoids group, comprises a decalin system and a C-6 ring, which may be open or closed with an oxygen atom, as in manoyl oxide and its derivatives. Labdane-type diterpenes have a widespread occurrence in nature and exhibit a broad spectrum

Figure 40. Other clerodane diterpenoids.

Scheme 12. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed from 543 to 541 and 547

of significant biological activities. In this subgroup, 18 labdane diterpenoids have been isolated from Salvia species.

570−579 were 10 labdane-type diterpenes, isolated from S. eupatorium, S. sclarea, and S. officinalis. Investigation of S.

Figure 41. Pimaranes.

Scheme 13. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed Parryin (569)

eupatorium gave three labdane-type diterpenes, 570−572. Sclareol (573) (from S. sclarea)⁵¹ and manool (574) (from S. officinalis¹⁷² and S. sclarea⁵¹) were found to be active against Staphylococcus aureus. Recently, [fo](#page-53-0)ur others (576−579) were obtained [fro](#page-55-0)m the aerial [pa](#page-53-0)rts of S. palaestina Bentham. Their structural elucidation was accomplished by extensive spectroscopic methods including 1D and 2D NMR experiments as well as ESIMS analysis and chemical analysis.²²⁷ 580 was a trinorlabdane-type diterpene, isolated from the aerial parts of S. palaestina Bentham.²²⁷ Compounds 581−[58](#page-56-0)4 were four tetranorlabdane-type diterpenes, obtained from aerial parts of S. aethiopis. Among them, $\overline{583}$ $\overline{583}$ $\overline{583}$ and $\overline{584}$ had a five-membered lactone ring.^{228,229} 6 α -Hydroxyambreinolide (585) was one

Figure 42. Labdanes.

example in this subgroup that was isolated from S. yosgadensis.²²⁸

2.2.5. Other Diterpenoids. $2,6$ -Dimethyl-10- $(p$ -tolyl)undeca-2,6[-die](#page-56-0)ne (588) was a diterpene isolated from the steam-distilled oil of S. *dorisiana*.²³⁰ Salviolone (589) was

isolated from S. miltiorrhiza with a 6/6/7-membered ring systerm.^{13,231} In 2010, salviatalin A (590) and salvitrijudin A (591), two diterpenes with novel skeletons derived biosynthetically fr[om](#page-53-0) [lab](#page-56-0)dane skeleton, were isolated from the roots of S. digitaloides. Their structures were determined using 1D NMR, 2D NMR, and HRESI-MS spectroscopic analyses. 590 isolated by a bioassay-guided fractionation showed a potent inhibitory

effect on superoxide anion production in GMLP/CB-activated human neutrophils as well as other anti-inflammatory effects.²³² Salviatalin A (590) and salvitrijudin A (591) were also evaluated for cytotoxicity against KB, A549, HCT-8, [and](#page-56-0) DU145 cell lines. Neither of them showed a significant cytotoxicity. As two novel rearranged labdane-type diterpenes with unique 6/6/7 and 6/5/3/7-membered ring carbon skeletons, the biosynthetic pathway to both compounds is of great interest. A plausible biosynthetic pathway is illustrated in Scheme 14.

Scheme 14. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed for Salviatalin A (590) and Salvitrijudin A (591)

2.3. Sesterterpenoids

2.3.1. C-23 Terpenoids. For this subgroup of C-23 terpenoids with a new basic skeleton was proposed the name of apianane; seven C23 terpenes with unprecedented novel skeletons have been discovered from genus Salvia. The structures have a $6/6/7$ -, a $6/6/8$ -, or a $6/6/5/5$ -ring skeleton,

Figure 44. C-23 terpenoids.

with a lactone between C-6 and C-22 (except 592). Among them, three apianane terpenoids, rel-(5S,6S,7S,10R,12S,13R)-7 hydroxy-11,16-dioxoapiana-8,14-dien-22,6-olide (594), rel- (5S,6S,7R,10R,12S,13R)-7-hydroxy-11,16-dioxoapiana-8,14 dien-22,6-olide (595), and rel-(5S,6S,7S,10R,12R,13S)-7-hydroxy-11,16-dioxoapiana-8,14-dien-22,6-olide (596), were isolated from the leaves of S. *officinalis*.²³³ Przewalskin A (592), a novel C-23 terpenoid with a 6/6/7-carbon ring skeleton, was isolated from S. przewalskii. Its str[uctu](#page-56-0)re was determined by comprehensive 1D NMR, 2D NMR, and MS spectroscopic analysis. 592 showed modest anti-HIV-1 activity with EC_{50} = 41 μ g/mL.²³⁴ A new C-23 terpenoid, 13,14-dioxo-11-hydroxy-7-methoxyhassane-8,11,15-trien-22,6-olide (593), was isolated from the [aeri](#page-56-0)al parts of S. apiana Jeps. A possible common biosynthetic origin of 593 is reported (Scheme 15).²³⁵ Two

Scheme 15. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed for 593

new C-23 terpenoids, 14-hydroxy-7-methoxy-11,16-dioxoapian-8-en-22,6-olide (597) and 7-methoxy-11,16-dixooapian-8,14 dien-22,6-olide (598), were isolated from the same plant. The structure of 598 was confirmed by X-ray analysis. 597 could be biogenetically derived from an abietanic diterpene as indicated in Scheme 16.²³⁶

Scheme 16. [Biog](#page-56-0)enetic Pathway Proposed for 597

2.3.2. C-25 Terpenoids. Sesterterpenes usually come from the aerial parts of S. spp. Salvileucolide methyl ester (610), which was isolated as the major constituent from aerial parts of S. hypoleuca²³⁷ and S. sahendica,²³⁸ both species that are endemic to Iran. The absolute configuration of the sesterterpen[oid](#page-56-0) 610 was establishe[d b](#page-56-0)y X-ray single diffraction

analysis, and the configuration at C-16 was determined to be R^{239} 605–607 were salvileucolide methyl ester derivatives that were isolated from the same plant with a hydroperoxide g[roup](#page-56-0).²⁴⁰

Investigation of S. yosgadensis gave five 19,20-dinorsesterterpenes, yosgadensonol (599), 13-epi-yosgadensonol (600), yosgadensolide A (603), 604, and yosgadensolide B (615), consisting of a partial structure of manoyl oxide and differing in the functionality at C-13.^{228,241} 6-Dehydroxyyosgadensonol (601) and 6-dehydroxy-13-epi-yosgadensonol (602) are epimeric dinorsesterterpenes t[hat wer](#page-56-0)e isolated from S. limbata.¹⁴⁹

Salvimirzacolide (608), salvisyriacolide (609), and 614 were three examples in this subgroup that were isolated from S. mirzayanii, 242 S. syriaca, 243 and S. hypoleuca, 240 respectively. The phytochemical study of S. palaestina aerial parts led to the isolation [of th](#page-56-0)ree new s[este](#page-56-0)rterpenes (611–6[13](#page-56-0)).²²⁷ Another two 19,20-dinorsesterterpenes isolated were 3-epi-salviaethiopisolide (616) and salviaethiopisolide (617), which [oc](#page-56-0)cur in S. aethiopis collected from Salamanca of Spain.²²⁹ The aerial parts fractions of S. hypoleuca afforded six sesterterpene lactones, 618−623, with a lactone ring between C-4 [an](#page-56-0)d C -6.^{237,240}

2.4. Triterpenoids and Steroids

A total of 74 triterpenoids and steroids have been [found](#page-56-0) in Salvia species since 1976. (Table 3) According to their structure, this group is further classified into six subgroups: ursane-type triterpenoids, oleanane-ty[pe](#page-37-0) triterpenoids, lupanetype triterpenoids, dammarane triterpenoids, steroids, and other triterpenoids.

Figure 45. C-25 terpenoids.

Table 3. Sesterterpenes 592−625

2.4.1. Ursanes. Oleanolic acid (627) and salvistamineol (628) were isolated from S. officinalis and S. staminea, respectively.^{244,245} Six new ursane-type triterpenoids (629– 633 and 646) were isolated from the roots of S. kronenburgii.^{[246,247](#page-56-0)} From the aerial parts of *S. argentea,* four new ursene triterpenoids (634-637) were obtained.²⁴⁸ 3Oxours-12-[ene-](#page-56-0)1 β ,11 α -diol (638) (from S. haenkei),¹⁹⁰ 3-epiursolic acid (639) [\(](#page-56-0)from S. lanata),²⁴⁹ santolinoic acid (640)

(from S. santolinifolia), 250 and salvin A (641) (from S. santolinifolia)¹⁶³ were four examples in this subgroup. In 2009, a new ursane-type [tri](#page-56-0)terpenoid (649) was isolated from the aerial p[arts](#page-55-0) of S. chinensis.²⁵¹ 648 and 650 were two triterpenoids isolated from S. hierosolymitana. Of them, 650 had a *p*-coumaroyl group at $C-23$.²⁵²

2.4.2. Oleananes. 651 was an oleanane-type triterpenoid isolated from S. hierosolymitana.²⁵² 652-656 were five oleanane-type triterpenoids, all with a double bond between C-12 and C-13, isolated from [fou](#page-56-0)r Salvia species: S. kronenburgii, S. argentea, S. virgata, and S. santolinifo $lia.$ ^{163,247,248,253} 658–660 were three oleanane-type triterpenoids, with two double bonds between C-12 and C-13, C-4 and C-[23,](#page-55-0) [isolated f](#page-56-0)rom three Salvia species: S. hierosolymitana, S. carduacea, and S. palaestina.227,252,254 Przewanoic acids A and B (662 and 661), isolated from S. przewalskii, have a 12,13-cyclo group.²⁵⁵ Investigation of [S. lanige](#page-56-0)ra gave an oleanane-type triterpene (667), with a lactone between C-28 and C-13.⁷

Table 4. Triterpenoids 626−699

Reglin (670) was an ester consisting of a abietane quino[ne](#page-56-0) diterpene and triterpenoid acyl moiety.¹²⁵

2.4.3. Lupanes. From an acetone extract of the roots of S. palaestina, four lupane-type triterpe[nes](#page-54-0) (671−674) were obtained, with a double bond between C-20 and C-29.¹⁴⁰ 680−684, 686, and 687 were other seven lupane-type triterpenes from four Salvia species: S. deserta, S. phlomoi[des](#page-54-0), S. macrochlamys, and S. montbretii, with a hydroxy group at C-20.256−²⁵⁸

2.4.4. Dammaranes. Three new 20,24-epoxydammarane triterpenes, santolins A (689) , B (688) , and C (690) , were isolated from the AcOEt-soluble fraction of the MeOH extract of S. santolinifolia.²⁵⁹ Salvilymitone (692) and salvilymitol (693), two new triterpenoids, were obtained from S. hierosolymitana. 260

2.4.5. Other Triterpenoids. Ahmad and co-workers published two [pap](#page-56-0)ers on S. bucharica in 1999, reporting the isolation and identification of salvadiol (694) and salvadiones A

Figure 47. Oleans.

 (695) and B (696) . 694 has a novel carbon skeleton that is supposed to be derived from icetexone precursor through the addition of epoxy triene, which could be formed by autoxidation of myrcene. The coupling of both units can be rationalized in terms of a Diels−Alder-type reaction as shown in Scheme 17.261,262

2.4.6. Steroids. Brassicasterone (697), $1-\alpha x - 7\alpha$ -hydroxysitosterol ([6](#page-40-0)[98](#page-56-0))[, an](#page-56-0)d stigmast-4-en-3-one (699) were three steroids isolated from S. multicaulis, S. glutinosa, and S. amplexicaulis, respectively. 80,263,264

2.5. Polyphenols

There are two major grou[ps](#page-54-0) [of](#page-56-0) [acti](#page-56-0)ve constituents in Salvia spp: besides the previously mentioned lipophilic component terpenoids, another group of metabolites are water-soluble polyphenolics mainly including salvianolic acid B, danshensu, protocatechualdehyde, and so on. According to structures of the polyphenols, this group is further classified into two subgroups: phenolic acids and flavonoids (Table 5).

2.5.1. Phenolic Acids. Since the 1980s, Chinese and Japanese scientists have studied the water-solubl[e c](#page-41-0)onstituents from Danshen and isolated more than 20 phenolic acids from this plant. These phenolic acids include caffeic acid monomers and oligomers, and the latter are also called depsides or salvianolic acids. The structures of these phenolic acids are summarized in Figure 52. Phenolic acids play an important role in the prevention of human diseases. The most prominent effects of the phenolic acids in Tanshen are antioxidant, antiblood coagulation, and cell protection.³⁷

Przewalskinone B (700) was a new anthraquinone that was is[ola](#page-53-0)ted from S. przewalskii.²⁶⁵ The polar phenolic acids constitute the major part of the water-soluble components of the Salvia species. 702 and 707 [we](#page-56-0)re benzene derivatives, which were isolated from S. moorcroftiana.^{25,266,267} 703 and 704 were two phenolic esters from the acetone extract of S. microphylla.⁵⁵ From the rhizome of S. miltiorr[hiza](#page-53-0)[, a n](#page-56-0)ew cyclic phenyllactamide (701) [was](#page-53-0) isolated.²⁶⁸ The other compound 705 was isolated from the same plant. 61 Three new phenolic glycosides 708, 709, and 714 were i[sol](#page-56-0)ated from S. officinalis.^{269,270} Eugenylglucoside (706) [was](#page-53-0) a glycosidic bound flavor precursor that was isolated from the same plant.²⁷¹ F[urther](#page-56-0) investigation of the same plant gave another six compounds: 710–713,^{269,272} 719, and 720.²⁷³ In 2009, ph[yto](#page-56-0)chemical investigations of the EtOAc-soluble fraction of the whole plants of S. ple[beia](#page-56-0) [led](#page-56-0) to the isolati[on o](#page-56-0)f a new phenylbutanone glucoside, salviaplebeiaside $(726).^{274}$ Further investigation of this plant, salvianolic acid L (727), a rosmarinic acid dimer, was isolated. 727 was a significantly be[tter](#page-56-0) antioxidant activity than trolox, caffeic acid, and rosmarinic acid, with the latter being the major phenolic antioxidant in this plant.²⁷⁵ The identity of 727 was corroborated by acid hydrolysis (Scheme 18), which yielded two products, 774 and its 3-mo[noe](#page-56-0)ster (775), together with the known 776. The structures of compoun[ds](#page-44-0) 774 and 775 were fully elucidated and assigned using 2D NMR techniques.

Figure 48. Lupanes.

Figure 49. Dammaranes.

2.5.2. Flavonoids. A new flavanone, nubatin (737), has been isolated from S. nubicola collected from Quetta, Pakistan.²⁷⁶ 738−745 were six flavonoids that were isolated and identified from S. officinalis. 140,269,277 746 and 747, two

Scheme 17. Biogenetic Pathway Proposed for Salvadiol (646)

new flavone glycosides with an unusual interglycosidic linkage, have been isolated from the petals of *S. uliginosa*.⁹ 748 was a new anthocyanin from the same plant that constituted the anthocyanin component of the pigment respons[ib](#page-53-0)le for blue flower color in the same plant.²⁷⁸ Zahid and co-workers published three papers on S. moorcroftiana during 2001−2003,

Table 5. Polyphenols and Others 700−791

reporting the isolation and identification of four new flavonoid glycosides 749–752.^{25,266,267} 753 was isolated from *S*. triloba. 279

2.6. Others

From [the](#page-56-0) aerial parts of S. nemorosa, three new megastigmane glycosides, salvionosides A–C (754–756), were isolated.²⁸⁰ Investigation of S. miltiorrhiza gave two compounds: a 2,5 disubstituted furan (759) and a N-containing compo[und](#page-56-0) (760) .^{61,136} From the ethanol extract of Dalmatian sage (S. officinalis), three glycosidic bound flavor precursors (771, 757, and 7[58](#page-53-0)[\) w](#page-54-0)ere isolated. Of them, 771 had an epoxy ring between C-1 and C-8, and 757 and 758 were C-13 norisoprenoids.²⁷¹ Further investigation of the same plant gave another three compounds: sagecoumarin $(770)^{278}$ 772^2 , and 774.²⁷⁵ [Of](#page-56-0) them, 770 was also isolated from S. miltiorrhiza. 281 762 w[as](#page-56-0) another example that was isola[ted](#page-56-0) from the [sam](#page-56-0)e plant.²⁸² Zhang and co-workers published two papers on [S. y](#page-56-0)unnanensis in 2008, reporting the isolation and identification of salv[iano](#page-56-0)lic acid N (761), salvianolic acid A (763), methyl salvianolate A (764), ethyl salvianolate A (765), lithospermic acid (766), and cis-lithospermic acid (767). Among them, 761 both inhibited HIV-1 IN in vitro and also reduced HIV-1 p24 antigen in MT-4 cell lines.^{16,283} 768 and 769 were two lignan diesters from the seeds of S. plebeia.^{284,285}

3. BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Salvia is a large and widespread genus with a diversity of ethnobotanical uses. Many plants from Salvia genus have been used for centuries, especially by the Chinese to promote longevity, especially Danshen (Salvia miltiorrhiza). Tanshinones are a group of natural products isolated from S. miltiorrhiza and other S. spp as early as in 1934. The major components of tanshinones are tanshinone IIA (255), 3 hydroxytanshinone, tanshinone IIB, and cryptotanshinone (266). These compounds have been observed to possess various pharmacological activities including antibacterial,

antidermatophytic, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, [ant](#page-59-0)ineoplastic, and antiplatelet aggregation activities. In the past few decades, Salvia constituents have attracted considerable attention from medicinal chemists and clinicians as antimicrobial, antioxidant, antitumor, and antifeeding agents. Many natural Salvia constituents from different species, as well as hemisynthetic derivatives, have been tested by many research groups. A few have shown very potent activity against bacteria and tumor cell lines. Pharmacological effects of genus Salvia and active compounds are shown in Table 6.

3.1. Antimicrobial Activity

The antimicrobial activities of forskalin[on](#page-47-0)e (53) and the dimeric cinnamic acid ester (715), isolated from S. forskahler, were tested against standard bacterial strains and a yeast. The results showed that 53 was moderately active against Staphylococcus epidermidis (670 μ g/mL) and slightly active against Enterococcus faecalis (168 μg/mL). Compound 715 showed a slight activity against Candida albicans (156 μ g/ mL).⁷⁹Compounds 101 (from S. africana-lutea) exhibited MICs of 28 μ M against Mycobacterium tuberculosis.²⁸⁶ Potent anti[bac](#page-54-0)terial activity was exhibited by horminone (162) and 7 acetylhorminone (163) against Staphylococcus aur[eus](#page-56-0) ATCC 6538 P (6.5 and 10 μ g/mL), Staphylococcus epidermidis ATCC 12226 (1.5 and 6 μ g/mL), and Bacillus subtilis ATCC 6633 (1.5 and 3 μ g/mL). Horminone was also found to be active against Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212 (14 μg/mL). O-Methylpisiferic acid (49) was active only against Bacillus subtilis ATCC 6633.⁷³ 210, 235, 358, 255, and 360, respectively, were active against S. aureus (30−25, >45, 25, 3−2, and 25−20 μg/mL), S. albus [\(2](#page-54-0)5, 35−30, >45, >60, and 20−15 μg/mL), and B. subtilis (6−4, >45, 10−8, 6−4, and 6−4 μg/mL).²⁸⁷ 1-Oxoferruginol (58) showed activity against B. subtilis (15.6 μ g/mL), S. aureus (15.6 μ g[/mL](#page-56-0)), and S. epidermidis (15.6 μ g/mL) and a modest activity against P. mirabilis (>250 μ g/mL); microstegiol had a little activity against B. subtilis $(>250 \ \mu g/mL)$.⁸⁴ Sclareol showed high activity against Staphylococcus aureus (15.6 μ g/

Figure 52. continued

Figure 52. Phenolic acids.

Scheme 18. Degradation Study of Salvianolic Acid L (727)

mL), S. epidermis (15.6 μg/mL), Escherichia coli (62.5 μg/mL), Proteus vulgaris (62.5 μg/mL), and Pseudomonas aeruginosa $(31.3 \mu g/mL)^{288}$ Compound 575 was found to possess antibacterial activity against Staphylococcus aureus.²⁸⁹ Salvipisone and aethi[opin](#page-56-0)one showed antibacterial activity against S. aureus (MIC range, 18.75−37.5 μg/mL) and S. [epi](#page-56-0)dermidis (9.37–75.0 μ g/mL).²⁹⁰ Compound 350 showed antimicrobial

activities against two Gram-positive organisms, Staphylococcus aureus and Micrococcus luteus, with MIC values of 20.0 and 15.0 μ M, respectively.¹⁴⁶ The minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of oleanolic acid (627) and ursolic acid were 8 and 4 μ g/mL, respecti[vely](#page-55-0). These two compounds also showed antimicrobial activity against Streptococcus pneumoniae and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).²⁴⁴

3.2. Antioxidant Activity

Because of limitations in recent years in usin[g](#page-56-0) [s](#page-56-0)ynthetic antioxidant compounds in the food products because of their side effects, natural sources have became more important to find proper and safe food antioxidants. Salvia species can be one of the natural sources for this purpose with good culinary qualities, and their extracts are commonly used to increase the shelf life of foods.²⁹¹ The antioxidant effects of phenolic acids include antilipid-peroxidation and radical scavenging. The antioxidant activi[ties](#page-57-0) of the methanol extracts of six Salvia species (S. caespitosa, S. hypargeia, S. euphratica, S. sclarea, S. candidissima, and S. aethiopis) from Turkey were examined. In the DPPH free radical-scavenging test system, the most active plant was S. euphratica, with an IC₅₀ value of 20.7 \pm 1.22 μ g/ mL, followed by S. sclarea (IC₅₀ = 23.4 \pm 0.97 μ g/mL) among the polar subfractions. In the β -carotene/linoleic acid test system, the polar extract of S. hypargeia was superior to the polar extracts of other Salvia species studied (69.2% \pm 1.90%). This activity was followed by S. sclarea with $63.5\% \pm 4.24\%$

Figure 53. Flavonoids.

inhibition rate. The inhibition rate of the synthetic antioxidant, butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), was also determined to be 96%. Because the polar extracts of Salvia species dealt with here exhibited excellent antioxidant activities when compared to BHT, it seems possible to keep perishable fat-containing food longer by direct addition of an extract of sage.²⁹² Candesalvoquinone (304), candelabroquinone (171), 12-Omethylcandesalvone (305), candesalvone B methyl ester (3[07](#page-57-0)), and candelabrone (51) were evaluated for antioxidant activity in enzyme-dependent (IC_{50} values 3.49–10.42 μ g) and enzyme-independent (IC₅₀ values 1.40−13.40 μ g) systems of lipid peroxidation.¹⁴¹ The antioxidant activities of the sage polyphenols, consisting of flavone glycosides and a range of rosmarinic acid de[riva](#page-54-0)tives, were evaluated for their capacity to scavenge DPPH and superoxide anion radicals. The antioxidant activity of the flavonoids was variable, and those with a catechol B-ring (luteolin glycosides) were more active than those without (apigenin glycosides).²⁷⁷ Rosmariquinone, dehydrorosmariquinone, miltirone I, tanshinone IIA, cryptotanshinone, and dihydrotanshinone were e[xtra](#page-56-0)cted from S. miltiorrhiza. The antioxidant activity of these quinones in lard at 100 °C was determined with a Rancimat. The following structural features are associated with increased activity: (1) additional conjugated double bonds in the A ring; (2) a dihydrofuran ring rather than a furan ring; (3) an isopropyl substituent ortho to a quinone carbonyl rather than a dihydrofuran ring.²⁹³ Antioxidant activity of the compounds isolated from S. officinalis was evaluated by the oil stability index method. A[mong](#page-57-0) them: carnosol,

rosmanol, epi-rosmanol, isorosmanol, galdosol, and carnosic acid exhibited remarkably strong activity, which was comparable to that of α -tocopherol.¹⁰⁷ Rosmarinic acid and carnosol were the main compounds in all the antioxidant phenolic extracts isolated from S. of[ficin](#page-54-0)alis.²⁹⁴ Among abietane diterpenes, inuroyleanol (103) showed the highest DPPH (1,1 diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl)-scavenging acti[vity](#page-57-0) as well as the highest inhibition on lipid peroxidation in β-carotene−linoleic acid system. In contrast, inuroyleanol (103) revealed the lowest superoxide anion scavenging activity while abietane 7 oxoroyleanone-12-methyl ether (183) showed the highest activity with an equal antioxidant potent to the well-known antioxidant L-ascorbic acid, even more active than BHT and α tocopherol. Royleanone (166) showed higher antioxidant activity in the two systems than both horminone (162) and 7-acetylhorminone (163). Considering these results in both DPPH and β-carotene−linoleic acid systems, we can conclude that quinonoids or fully substituted C ring phenolic abietane diterpenoids having no substituent other than a keto group at C-7 would have decreased activity. In DPPH free radicalscavenging test method, 7-acetoxyroyleanone-12-methyl ether, which is a methyl derivative of 7-acetylhorminone (163) at C-12, showed higher activity as much as 4−5 times of 163; this effect can be attributable to the higher scavenging power of the methoxy group at C-12. In fact, in the literature, the higher activity of carnosic acid, which possessed ortho-dihydroxy groups on aromatic ring C with comparison of royleanonic acid having hydroxy-p-benzoquinone moiety, has been previously

explained by inhibition of the oxidation through donating H atoms to scavenge free radicals^{107,111,295} in the two systems (DPPH and β-carotene−linoleic acid). Therefore, orthodihydroxy phenols, or one bei[ng a h](#page-54-0)[ydr](#page-57-0)oxy and the other a methoxy, can form more stable radicals by donating H atoms as observed for inuroyleanol (103); thus, these types of abietanes are expected to be more active antioxidants than abietanes that contain the monohydroxy phenol or p-quinoid C ring abietanes. Formation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) has been proposed to be an important step leading to neuronal death related to a variety of neurodegenerative diseases, such as stroke, Alzheimer's disease (AD), and Parkinson's disease (PD). These diseases primarily affect the elderly populations and are considered to be responsible for ca. 60 of all dementia in people aged 65 or older. Plants of Salvia genus have been used since antiquity in the treatment of various neurodegenerative diseases. Caffeic acid, danshensu, rosmarinic acid, prolithospermic acid, salvianolic acid A (763), and salvianolic acid B showed inhibitory activity against the lipid peroxidation induced by iron cysteine and the erythrocyte hemolysis induced by hydrogen peroxide. In these studies, salvianolic acid A (763) was the most potent compound. Caffeic acid and its polymers show free radical scavenging activity. The tetrameric lithospermic acid B and its Mg^{2+} salt show the strongest activity; the trimeric lithospermic acid (766) and dimeric rosmarinic acid show lower but similar efficacy, whereas the monomeric caffeic acid shows the lowest activity. Rosmarinic acid, salvianolic acid A (763), and salvianolic acid B (729) exhibit strong antilipoperoxidant activity, acting by scavenging superoxide anion radical (O_2^-) . Structure−activity relationships (SARs) indicated that the ohydroxy groups and a saturated connection between the aromatic rings are important for free radical scavenging. 37

3.3. Cytotoxicity Activity

It is reported that cancer causes 7 million deaths each year and results in 12.5% of deaths worldwide (World Heath Organization (WHO). Cancer. www.who.int/cancer/ (accessed January 29, 2006)). Plants have played an important role as a source of effective anticancer [agents, and it is signi](www.who.int/cancer/)ficant that over 60% of currently used anticancer agents are derived in one way or another from natural sources including plants, marine organisms, and micro-organisms^{111,296,297} In 2000, Liu's study demonstrated that the aqueous extract of S. miltiorrhiza had profound effects on HepG2 hep[ato](#page-54-0)[ma cel](#page-57-0)ls in vitro. It reduced the proliferation of these cells, caused changes in their morphology, and induced cell death by apoptosis.²⁹⁸ The hypoxia-inducible factor-1 (HIF-1) has become an important target in the development of anticancer drugs. Sibiriqu[ino](#page-57-0)ne A, sibiriquinone B, cryptotanshinone (266), and dihydrotanshinone I (263), isolated from S. miltiorrhiza, potently inhibited hypoxia-induced luciferase expression with IC_{50} values of 0.34, 3.36, 1.58, and 2.05 μ M on AGS cells, a human gastric cancer cell line, and 0.28, 3.18, 1.36, and 2.29 μ M on Hep3B cells, a human hepatocarcinoma cell line, respectively.²⁹⁹ Danshenol A (271) showed inhibited growth of K562 (IC₅₀ = 0.53 μ g/mL), T-24 (IC₅₀ = 7.94 μ g/mL), QGY (IC₅₀ = 4.[65](#page-57-0) μ g/mL), and Me180 (IC₅₀ = 6.89 μ g/mL) cell lines. Yunnannin A (226) showed moderate inhibitory activity on QGY ($IC_{50} = 16.75 \ \mu g$ / mL) and Me180 (IC₅₀ = 5.84 μ g/mL) cells.¹³² The cytotoxic activity of carnosol (210), 20-deoxocarnosol, and 16-hydroxycarnosol (212) were evaluated in vitro agai[nst](#page-54-0) A2780 ovarian cancer, SW1573 nonsmall-cell lung cancer, WiDr colon cancer, T-47D breast cancer, and HBL-100 breast cancer cells. All of them showed GI₅₀ values in the range 3.6–35 μ M for the five cell lines, with the A2780 and HBL-100 cell lines being the most sensitive, with GI₅₀ values in the range 3.6–5.4 μ M.¹¹⁷ Taxodione, isolated from S. staminea, showed significant cytotoxicity in a panel of cell lines: BC1, LU1, COL2, [KB,](#page-54-0) KB-VI, LNCaP, P388, and A2780, with IC_{50} values of 1.2, 5.1, 0.7, 3.4, 4.1, 0.7, 0.3, and 9.0 μ g/mL, respectively.²⁴⁵ Salvileucalin B (542) exerted cytotoxic activity against A549 and HT-29 cells with IC₅₀ values of 5.23 and 1.88 μ g/[mL,](#page-56-0) respectively.²²³

3.4. Anti-HIV Activity

In the 30 [ye](#page-56-0)ars since the "acquired immune deficiency syndrome" (AIDS) was first recognized, over 40 million people have become infected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Many secondary metabolites from plants as a source of potential natural compounds with in vitro anti-HIV activity have been screened. A new polyphenol, salvianolic acid N (761), isolated from the aqueous extracts of the roots of S. yunnanensis, is inhibited on HIV-1 RT and IN, and the IC_{50} values were 67.10−193.39 μg/mL and 1.78−18.5 μg/mL, respectively. The nontoxic concentration of salvianolic acid N is also inhibitory on HIV-1 p24 antigen expression in MT-4 cell lines; the TC₅₀ value of cellular toxicity is 3.7−24.10 μ g/mL, the IC₅₀ of inhibition on P24 in MT-4 cell cultures was 0.649− 4.28 μ g/mL, and the selective index (SI) was 5.63-5.70.¹⁶ Przewalskin A (592) and B(397) exhibited modest anti-HIV-1 activity with EC_{50} values of 41 and 30 μ g/mL.²³⁴¹⁷ The an[ti-](#page-53-0)HIV-1 activities of salvianolic acid A (763), methyl salvianolate A (764), ethyl salvianolate A (765), lithosper[mic](#page-56-0) [ac](#page-53-0)id (766), and cis-lithospermic acid (767) were tested for the inhibition of P24 antigen in HIV-1 infected MT-4 cell cultures, with EC_{50} values of 2.07, 1.62, 1.44, 3.99, and 6.11 μ g/mL, respectively.²⁸³

Table 6. Summary of Pharmacological Effects of Genus Salvia and Active Compounds

Table 6. continued

3.5. Others

Acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitors are the only registered drugs used to treat Alzheimer's disease (AD). Dihydrotanshinone, cryptotanshinone, tanshinone, and tanshinone A were active AChE inhibitory, with c log P values of 2.4, 3.4, 4.8, and 5.8, respectively, which indicate that these compounds have the potential to penetrate the blood−brain barrier.³⁰⁰ The crude extract of S. eriophora and five isolated compounds (4,14 dihydroxysaprorthoquinone, aethiopinone, fe[rrug](#page-57-0)inol, 4,12 dihydroxysapriparaquinone, and 6,7-dehydroroyleanone) were tested for their cardiovascular activities using Wistar Albino rats and showed activity. A significant reduction in the direct blood pressure was observed together with a slight increase in the heart rate, which did not reach a significant level. 3 The comparative cytotoxic effects of demethylsalvicanol, 14 deoxycoleon U (136), and demethylcryptojaponol [\(](#page-53-0)105) were tested on insect Sf9 and mammalian CHO cells. Demethylsalvicanol was a moderate antifeedant to L. decemlineata, and 14-deoxycoleon U (136) was the strongest antifeedant, whereas demethylcryptojaponol (105) was toxic to this insect.⁵⁸ The clerodane diterpenoid salvinorin A (465) , the main active component of the psychotropic herb S. divinorum, was a pot[ent](#page-53-0) agonist at the κ-opioid receptor.^{19,176} Safficinolide (112) showed a yield reduction of VSV (vesicular stomatitis virus), whereas sageone (143) showed virus i[na](#page-53-0)[ctiv](#page-55-0)ation activity against VSV and HSV (herpes simplex virus type 1).⁶³

4. CONCLUSION

Beside the above-mentioned components, Salvia species also contain volatile components comprised mainly of monoterpenoids such as $(S)-(-)$ -α-pinene, (R) - $(+)$ -α-pinene, camphene, β-pinene, 3-carene, terpinolene, myrcene, β-phellandrene, limonene, 1,8-cineole, camphor, borneol, spathulenol, βcaryophyllene, cadinadiene, β-caryophyllene oxide, bourbonene, and iso-β-caryophyllene monoterpenoids almost embodied the aerial parts, especially in the flower of the plants.230,301[−]³¹⁴

To date, over 730 secondary metabolites have been reported from [Salv](#page-56-0)[ia](#page-57-0) s[pec](#page-57-0)ies. The main secondary metabolite constituents of Salvia species are terpenoids and flavonoids. Of these, more than 80% are terpenoids, especially abietane and clerodane diterpenoids; relatively, sequiterpenoids and triterpenoids are rare in the Salvia species, which is in agreement with the biosynthesis of terpenoids. In the high plant, the biosynthesis of terpenoids proceeds via two different pathways located in different cellular cytoplasms. The mevalonate (MVA) pathway in the cytoplasm is responsible for the biosynthesis of sesquiterpenoids and triterpenoids, whereas plastides contain the 1-deoxy-D-xylulose-5-phosphate (DOXP) pathway for the biosynthesis of monoterpenoids (the main constitution of essential oil) and diterpenoid.^{315,316} Terpenoids and flavonoids dominate the medicinal chemistry of the Salvia plant; many studies have demonstrated [that ae](#page-57-0)rial parts of these plants

contain flavonoids, triterpenoids, and monoterpenes, [pa](#page-54-0)rticularly in the flowers and leaves, while diterpenoids are found mostly in the roots. However, a literature survey indicates that some American Salvia species also contain diterpenoids in the aerial parts, and in a few S*alvia* species, triterpenoids and flavones are present in the roots. $317,318$

Even though Danshen is officially listed in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia and is used widel[y and](#page-57-0) successfully in clinics in China, the exact mechanism for its therapeutic basis is poorly understood. In contrast, over the last 50 years, the chemical constituents and biological activities of Tanshen have been well studied. According to their structural characteristics and physical/chemical properties, the constituents of Danshen have been divided into two groups. The first group contains phenolic acids such as salvianolic acid and lithospermic acid B, which are water-soluble. The second group contains abietane type-diterpene quinone pigments such as tanshinone I, tanshinone IIA, tanshinone IIB, and cryptotanshinone, which are more lipophilic. Both of the groups contribute to the biological activities of Danshen.

The phytochemical studies of the aerial parts and roots of European and Asiatic Salvia spp. led to the isolation of a number of diterpenoids with an abietane skeleton in almost 100% of the species studied.¹⁶² The same chemical profile has been found for some Californian salvias (subgenus Audibertia).64,75,166,319 On the other [ha](#page-55-0)nd, the phytochemical study of the aerial parts of several species of American salvias (subgenus Cal[os](#page-53-0)[ph](#page-54-0)[ace](#page-55-0)[\) le](#page-57-0)d to the isolation of several diterpenes, mainly of the neoclerodane-type, in the major part of the sections studied, although some abietane- and icetexane-type diterpenoids have been isolated from few spp., belonging to sections Erythrostachys, Conzatianna, and Tomentellae.¹⁶² The occurrence of abietane and clerodane are well-established as chemosystematic markers in the Salvia genus.³²⁰

Pharmacological and phytochemical research carried out during the past four decades [co](#page-57-0)nfirms many traditional uses for plants of the genus Salvia in various diseases. There is, however, a need for further studies to evaluate other folk uses of these plants and to test other less well-known and widespread species such as S. leriifolia. Despite showing good pharmacological or therapeutic effects, there is still a need for more precise studies to determine and separate the active compounds and elucidate their mechanisms of action where possible.²⁸ A further action mechanism study of active components of Salvia plant will shed light on understanding the role of a physiol[og](#page-53-0)ical system, such as a detailed investigation of salvinorin A's mode of action, and will likely help to illuminate the role of the kappergic system in human brain function. A recent study also reveals that tanshinone IIA is a new activator of human cardiac KCNQ1/ KCNE1 (IKs) potassium channels. 321 As for pharmacological or therapeutic effects, the water-soluble component was less studied; much more attention sho[uld](#page-57-0) be paid directed to the biologically active, water-soluble components. On the other

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hand, many related Salvia species are also sold well in China because of their same therapeutic effects as S. miltiorrhiza. Simultaneously, wild S. miltiorrhiza decreases gradually. Therefore, investigation of the active components in the related Salvia species is very important for the rational utilization of Salvia species and protection of wild S. miltiorrhiza.

As a total of 730 constituents were isolated from 134 Salvia species of the over 1000 species suggested, there are still many diterpenoids waiting isolation,^{322,323} limited work has been carried out on the aerial parts of Salvia species, and further extensive phytochemical inve[stigatio](#page-57-0)n on Salvia species is necessary. A comprehensive spectrum of diterpenoid from different Salvia species will provide some clues to understand the taxonomic relationship of Salvia species. On the other hand, to fully gain command of the profile of diterpenoids, a detailed understanding of the steps of different diterpene biosynthesis and the identification of the associated genes is essential. And the research input is likely to continue in search of new natural products for application in the pharmaceutical, food, and cosmetics industries. It is important to note that most of the research done on Salvia employs in vitro-based studies, and in vivo tests should be encouraged. This review did not cover the chemical synthesis of the active components³²⁴⁻³³³ isolated from genus Salvia, which is beyond the scope [of](#page-57-0) t[he](#page-57-0) [r](#page-57-0)eview.

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