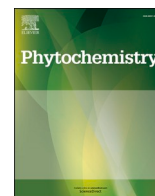




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## Aporphine alkaloids and a naphthoquinone derivative from the leaves of *Phaeanthus lucidus* Oliv. and their $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity

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## ABSTRACT

Three previously undescribed aporphine alkaloids, phaeanthuslucidines E–G, one previously undescribed naphthoquinone derivative, phaeanthusnaphthoquinone, and three known compounds were isolated from an EtOAc extract of the leaves of *Phaeanthus lucidus* Oliv. The structures of all previously undescribed compounds were established through extensive spectroscopic investigations and high-resolution mass spectroscopy. The 6aR configuration of phaeanthuslucidines E–G was assigned by comparing their ECD spectra and specific rotation values with the reported known compounds. Some isolated compounds were evaluated for their  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity. Among these compounds, phaeanthuslucidine E showed the highest  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity with an IC<sub>50</sub> value of  $17.9 \pm 0.4 \mu\text{M}$ . The molecular docking of phaeanthuslucidine E was further studied.

## 1. Introduction

The *Phaeanthus* genus, a member of the Annonaceae family, encompasses a plethora of over 20 distinct species, predominantly distributed across the continents of Asia (Nhiem et al., 2017). Many species in the genus *Phaeanthus* have been used to treat infectious, gastrointestinal, inflammatory, and dermatitis diseases (Magpantay et al., 2021; Tu et al., 2022). *Phaeanthus* species produced alkaloids as major compounds (Johns et al., 1968; Sedmera et al., 1990; Atan et al., 2011; Zaima et al., 2012; Nhiem et al., 2017; Magpantay et al., 2021; Malaluan et al., 2022; Tu et al., 2022); lignans and terpenoids were observed as minor compounds (Nhiem et al., 2017). Many compounds found in *Phaeanthus* species exhibited diverse biological activities, including anti-inflammatory (Nhiem et al., 2017; Magpantay et al., 2021; Tu et al., 2022), anti-microbial (Sedmera et al., 1990; Magpantay et al., 2021; Malaluan et al., 2022), and anti-cancer (Malaluan et al., 2022). *Phaeanthus lucidus* Oliv. (Synonym name *P. splendens*) is an evergreen shrub that is distributed throughout the evergreen forests of Thailand (Wiya et al., 2021). In previous reported phytochemical investigations (Teerapongpisan et al., 2023), five dimeric aporphine

alkaloids were found from the twig extract of this plant, and four of these compounds were scalemic mixtures, which were successfully resolved by chiral HPLC. Some aporphine alkaloids isolated from *P. lucidus* displayed  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity with IC<sub>50</sub> values in the range of 6.7–29.2  $\mu\text{M}$  (Teerapongpisan et al., 2023). To complete the phytochemical investigation of this plant as well as continue the investigation of the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity of the natural products obtained, three previously undescribed aporphine alkaloids (1–3), one previously undescribed naphthoquinone derivative (7), and three known compounds (4–6) were isolated from the leaf extract of this plant (see Fig. 1). The anti-diabetic property of some isolated compounds was evaluated by their inhibition of yeast  $\alpha$ -glucosidase. The molecular docking simulation of the active compound was also studied.

## 2. Results and discussion

The EtOAc extract of *P. lucidus* leaves was separated using various chromatographic methods, yielding three previously undescribed aporphine alkaloids (1–3) and one previously undescribed naphthoquinone derivative (7), together with three previously reported ones

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(4–6). These previously reported compounds were identified as *N*-acetylxypine (4) (Nonato et al., 1990), *N*-acetylanonaine (5) (Nonato et al., 1990), and corydaldine (6) (Atan et al., 2011) by comparison of their NMR spectroscopic data with reported in the literature.

## 2.1. Structural elucidation

Compounds 1–3 were aporphine alkaloids, which showed the common IR spectra for hydroxy and amide carbonyl functionalities at ca. 3413 and 1677  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , respectively. The UV–vis spectra of these compounds showed the maxima absorption bands at 206, 241, 285, and 324 nm. The structures of compounds 1–3 shared the same core structure as compounds 4 and 5. However, the key difference was that the structures of compounds 4 and 5 displayed the *N*-acetyl group, but the structures of compounds 1–3 were *N*-benzoyl derivatives.

Compound 1, phaeanthuslucidine E, was isolated as a yellow amorphous powder. Its molecular formula was determined to be  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{23}\text{NO}_6$  by HRESIMS ( $m/z$  446.1583;  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ , calcd for 446.1598). The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (Table 1) of compound 1 displayed the resonances for aporphine unit similar to those of *N*-acetylxypine (4) (Nonato et al., 1990; Lo et al., 2000), including an ABX spin system [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  8.05 (1H, d,  $J = 9.1$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  128.5, C-11,  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.90 (1H, dd,  $J = 9.1, 2.4$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  112.5, C-10, and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.91 (1H, d,  $J = 2.4$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  113.8, C-8], a singlet aromatic proton [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.64 (1H, s)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  106.6, C-3], one methine proton [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.15 (1H, dd,  $J = 14.1, 4.2$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  51.0, C-6a], three methylene protons [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.84 (1H, overlap), H-4 $\beta$  and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.67 (1H, dd,  $J = 15.7, 2.4$  Hz), H-4 $\alpha$ / $\delta_{\text{C}}$  30.4, C-4,  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.17 (1H, dd,  $J = 12.2, 3.4$  Hz), H-5 $\beta$  and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.29 (1H, td,  $J = 12.2, 2.4$  Hz), H-5 $\alpha$ / $\delta_{\text{C}}$  42.6, C-5, and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.19 (1H, dd,  $J = 14.1, 4.2$  Hz), H-7 $\beta$  and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.95 (1H, overlap), H-7 $\alpha$ / $\delta_{\text{C}}$  34.2, C-7], one methylenedioxy group [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.13 (1H, d,  $J = 1.0$  Hz) and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.03 (1H, d,  $J = 1.0$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  100.9, 1-OCH<sub>2</sub>O-2], and one methoxy group [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.85 (3H, s)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  54.7, 9-OMe]. At the *N*-substituent unit, compound 1 displayed a set of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxy benzoyl unit [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.09 (1H, d,  $J = 1.8$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  110.9, C-3',  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.98 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.0, 1.8$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  120.1, C-7', and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.89 (1H, d,  $J = 8.0$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  114.6, C-6'] and one methoxy group [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.90 (3H, s)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  55.5, 4'-OMe] instead of the acetyl group as appeared in compound 4. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR resonances of H-6a and H-5 $\beta$  were shifted downfield due to the anisotropic effect of the adjacent carbonyl group of the benzoyl derivative compared to the NH ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.71 to 4.32 for H-6a and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.87 to 3.73 for H-5) (Nguyen et al., 2008; Tsai et al., 2008; Guo et al., 2011; Yu et al., 2019; Chaichompoo et al., 2021) or NR ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.46 to 5.45 for H-6a and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.70 to 4.98 for H-5) (Yu et al., 1998; Chang et al., 2000; Pabon et al., 2010; Chen et al., 2011; Zheng et al., 2021; Liu et al.,

2023) substitutions. This information suggested that the 4-hydroxy-3-methoxy benzoyl unit is linked to the *N* atom. The significant NOESY cross-peaks between H-5 $\beta$  with H-3' confirmed this assignment. The full assignments of  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  resonances were confirmed by  $^1\text{H}$ – $^1\text{H}$  COSY (Fig. 2), HSQC, HMBC (Fig. 2), and NOESY (Fig. 3).

The relative configuration of C-6a was determined by NOESY experiments. Key NOESY cross-peaks (Fig. 3) between H-4 $\beta$ /H-6a and H-6a/H-7 $\beta$  indicated H-4 $\beta$ , H-6a, and H-7 $\beta$  located at the same side and assigned as the  $\beta$ -orientation. The absolute configuration of C-6a of compound 1 was assessed by comparing the ECD data and specific rotation with the reported known compounds in the literature. The 6aR and 6aS configurations have been found in nature which displayed the ECD spectra with the positive Cotton effect at ca. 273 nm and a negative Cotton effect at ca. 237 nm for the 6aR configuration displayed (Ringdahl et al., 1981; Guo et al., 2011; Chaichompoo et al., 2021), whereas the 6aS configuration showed the opposite ECD spectra at the same range (Ringdahl et al., 1981; Chen et al., 2011; Matsushige et al., 2012; Chaichompoo et al., 2021). In addition, the specific rotation of the 6aR configuration was levorotatory, and the 6aS configuration was dextrorotatory. Compound 1 gave a positive Cotton effect at 273 nm and a negative Cotton effect at 237 nm (Fig. 4), and its specific rotation was levorotatory ( $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} -87$ ), which was well matched with the 6aR configuration. Compound 1 was, therefore, identified as having the R configuration and was named (–)-(6aR)-phaeanthuslucidine E.

Compound 2 was obtained as a brown amorphous powder. The HRESITOFMS data ( $m/z$  476.1705  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$ ) corresponded to the molecular formula  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_7$ . The spectroscopic data of compound 2, including UV, IR,  $^1\text{H}$ , and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data (Table 1), were closely related to those of compound 1. Compound 2 showed resonances for a tetra-substituted benzene ring [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.79 (2H, s, H-3' and H-7')/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  104.6] and two methoxy groups [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.88 (6H, s, 4'-OMe and 6'-OMe)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  55.9] instead of the ABX aromatic protons coupling pattern for H-3', H-6', and H-7' of benzoyl unit found in compound 1. The correlations of H-3' and H-7' with C-4' and C-6' ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  147.6) in the HMBC spectrum of compound 2, together with the NOESY correlations between H-3'/4'-OMe and H-7'/6'-OMe, supported the position of methoxy groups at C-4' and C-6'. The specific rotation and ECD spectra (Fig. 4) of compound 2 were similar to those of compound 1. Thus, the absolute configuration of compound 2 was assigned as 6aR and was named as (–)-(6aR)-phaeanthuslucidine F.

Compound 3, HRESITOFMS  $m/z$  416.1494  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  ( $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_5$ ), was isolated as a yellow amorphous powder. The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data (Table 1) obtained for compound 3 were similar to those of compound 1. The main difference was the aromatic proton spin system on the

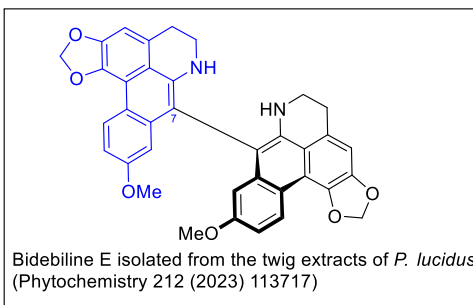
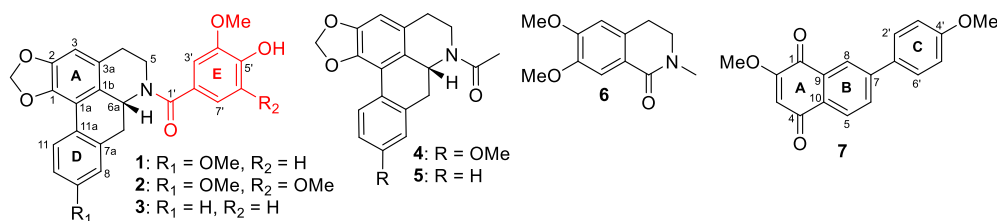


Fig. 1. Isolated compounds from the leaves of *P. lucidus*.

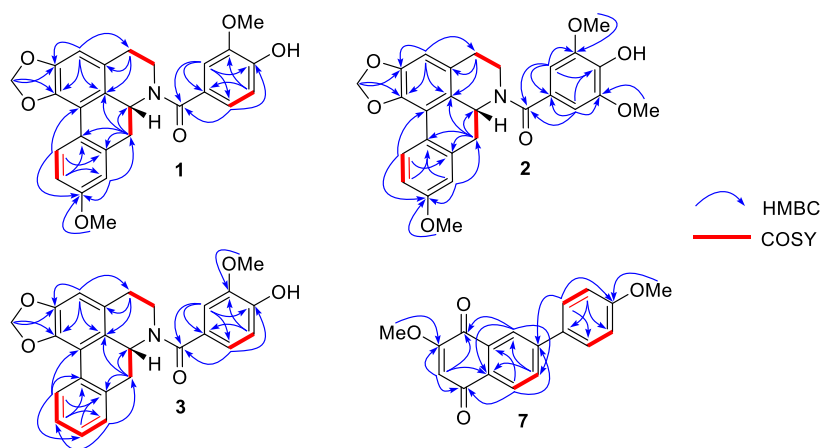
**Table 1**  
 $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR Spectroscopic Data of compounds 1–3 in acetone- $d_6$ .

Position	$1^a$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ , mult ( $J$ in Hz)	$2^b$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ , mult ( $J$ in Hz)	$3^b$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ , mult ( $J$ in Hz)
	$\delta_{\text{C}}$		$\delta_{\text{C}}$		$\delta_{\text{C}}$	
1	142.4	–	142.3	–	143.1 <sup>c</sup>	–
1a	117.1	–	117.1	–	117.0	–
1 b	125.1	–	125.1 <sup>c</sup>	–	125.8 <sup>c</sup>	–
2	146.9	–	146.9	–	147.1 <sup>c</sup>	–
3	106.6	6.64 s	106.6	6.64 s	107.5	6.71 s
3a	127.9	–	127.9 <sup>c</sup>	–	127.9 <sup>c</sup>	–
4	30.4	2.84 overlap; 2.67 dt (15.7, 2.4)	30.3 <sup>c</sup>	2.87 overlap; 2.68 dt (15.6, 2.4)	30.4 <sup>c</sup>	2.84 overlap; 2.69 dt (15.5, 2.2)
5	42.6	4.17 dd (12.2, 3.4); 3.29 td (12.2, 2.4)	42.3 <sup>c</sup>	4.19 dd (11.7, 2.7); 3.30 m	41.3 <sup>c</sup>	4.19 dd (13.4, 3.1); 3.31 td (13.4, 2.2)
6a	51.0	5.15 dd (14.1, 4.2)	51.1 <sup>c</sup>	5.15 dd (14.0, 4.4)	51.1 <sup>c</sup>	5.17 dd (14.0, 4.3)
7	34.2	3.19 dd (14.1, 4.2); 2.95 overlap	34.2 <sup>c</sup>	3.21 dd (14.0, 4.4); 2.94 overlap	33.8 <sup>c</sup>	3.23 dd (14.0, 4.3); 2.94 overlap
7a	138.0	–	138.0	–	136.1	–
8	113.8	6.91 d (2.4)	113.8	6.92 d (2.6)	128.6	7.33 m
9	159.4	–	159.4 <sup>c</sup>	–	127.8	7.28 m
10	112.5	6.90 dd (9.1, 2.4)	112.4	6.91 dd (9.4, 2.6)	126.9	7.33 m
11	128.5	8.05 d (9.1)	128.6	8.05 d (9.4)	127.1	8.13 d (9.1)
11a	123.3	–	123.3 <sup>c</sup>	–	127.9 <sup>c</sup>	–
1-OCH <sub>2</sub> O-2	100.9	6.13 d (1.0); 6.03 d (1.0)	100.9	6.13 d (1.1); 6.03 d (1.1)	101.1	6.17 d (1.0); 6.05 d (1.0)
9-OMe	54.7	3.85 s	54.7	3.85 s	–	–
1'	169.9	–	169.9 <sup>c</sup>	–	169.9 <sup>c</sup>	–
2'	128.5	–	127.4 <sup>c</sup>	–	128.6 <sup>c</sup>	–
3'	110.9	7.09 d (1.8)	104.6	6.79 s	110.9	7.10 d (1.8)
4'	147.4	–	147.6	–	147.3 <sup>c</sup>	–
5'	147.9	–	137.2 <sup>c</sup>	–	147.7 <sup>c</sup>	–
6'	114.6	6.89 d (8.0)	147.6	–	114.6 <sup>c</sup>	6.89 d (8.0)
7'	120.1	6.98 dd (8.0, 1.8)	104.6	6.79 s	120.2	6.99 dd (8.0, 1.8)
4'-OMe	55.5	3.90 s	55.9	3.88 s	55.5	3.90 s
6'-OMe	–	–	55.9	3.88 s	–	–

<sup>a</sup>  $^1\text{H}$  NMR at 125 MHz and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR at 500 MHz.

<sup>b</sup>  $^1\text{H}$  NMR at 150 MHz and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR at 600 MHz.

<sup>c</sup> Assignments from HSQC and HMBC data.

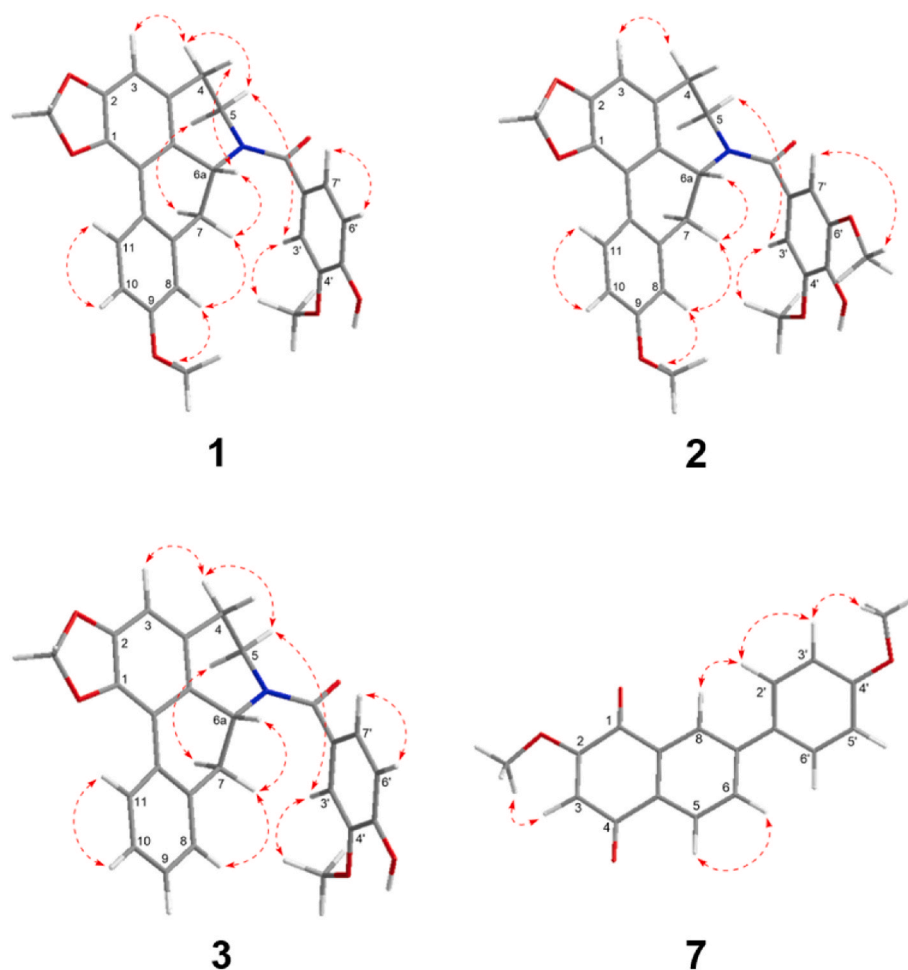


**Fig. 2.**  $^1\text{H}$ – $^1\text{H}$  COSY (red, bold) and selected HMBC (blue single arrows) correlations of compounds 1–3 and 7. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the Web version of this article.)

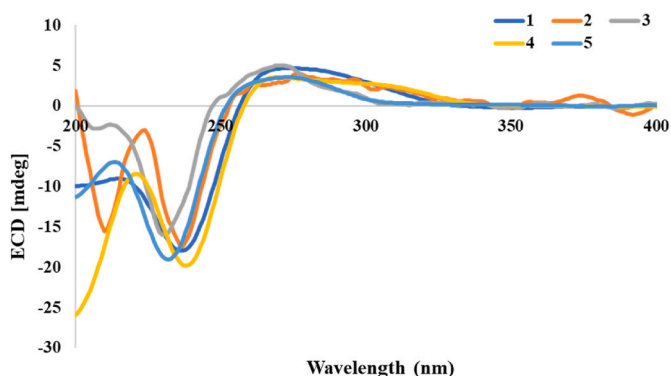
aporphine alkaloid unit. Compound 3 displayed resonances for a 1,2-disubstituted benzene ring [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  8.13 (1H, d,  $J = 9.1$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  127.1, C-11,  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.33 (1H, m)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  128.6, C-8,  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.33 (1H, m)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  126.9, C-10, and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.28 (1H, m)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  127.8, C-9], whereas compound 1 showed an ABX aromatic proton coupling pattern for H-8, H-10, and H-11 and a methoxy signal. The structure of compound 3 was confirmed by HMBC data as shown in Fig. 2. The ECD spectrum of compound 3 (Fig. 4) and its specific rotation ( $[\alpha]_{\text{D}}^{25} -56$ ) were similar to those of compounds 1 and 2, suggesting the absolute configuration was 6aR configuration. Thus, the structure of compound 3, (–)-(6aR)-phaeanthuslucidine G, was assigned.

Compound 7 was isolated as a yellow amorphous powder. Its molecular formula,  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{14}\text{O}_4$ , was deduced from HRESIMS. The UV

spectrum showed absorption bands at  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  234, 276, and 312 nm, and the IR spectrum indicated two carbonyl ( $1724$  and  $1647$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) and aromatic ( $1519$  and  $1454$   $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) functionalities, indicative of a naphthalene skeleton (Wu et al., 2011; Auranwiwat et al., 2017; Salae et al., 2017). The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data of compound 7 displayed 18 resonances assigned to eight aromatic methine carbons, two methoxy carbons, two carbonyl carbons, and six non-protonated aromatic carbons. The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR data (Table 2) demonstrated resonances of the phenyl naphthoquinone skeleton as follows: a set of ABX pattern [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  8.25 (1H, d,  $J = 1.4$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  123.4, C-8,  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  8.10 (1H, dd,  $J = 8.1, 1.4$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  131.5, C-6, and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  8.07 (1H, d,  $J = 8.1$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  126.5, C-5], four aromatic protons of a *para*-disubstituted benzene ring [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.77 (2H, d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  128.4, C-2'/C-6' and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.11 (2H, d,  $J = 8.8$  Hz)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  114.6, C-3'/C-5'], one singlet aromatic proton [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.28 (1H, s)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  109.8, C-3], and two methoxy



**Fig. 3.** Key NOESY (red dashed arrows) correlations of compounds 1–3 and 7. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the Web version of this article.)



**Fig. 4.** Experimental ECD spectra (MeOH) of compounds (–)(1), (–)(2), (–)(3), (–)(4), and (–)(5).

groups [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.95 (3H, s)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  56.0, 2-OMe and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.88 (3H, s)/ $\delta_{\text{C}}$  54.9, 4'-OMe]. The typical carbonyl groups were confirmed by HMBC correlations (Fig. 2) between H-8 and C-1 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  179.6) and H-5 and C-4 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  184.0), demonstrating that the other two carbonyl groups located at C-1 and C-4, respectively. The *para*-disubstituted aromatic ring was located at C-7 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  145.4) of the naphthalene-1,4-dione unit (ring B) according to the HMBC correlations of the aromatic protons H-2' and H-6' with C-7. The two methoxy groups were placed at C-2 and C-4', which supported the assignments by the HMBC correlations as follows: H-3 and 2-OMe with C-2 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  160.8) and H-2', H-6', and 4'-OMe with C-4' ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  160.6).

**Table 2**

$^1\text{H}$  (500 MHz) and  $^{13}\text{C}$  (150 MHz) NMR Spectroscopic Data of compound 7 in acetone- $d_6$ .

Position	7	
	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$ , mult (J in Hz)
1	179.6	–
2	160.8	–
3	109.8	6.28 s
4	184.0	–
5	126.5	8.07 d (8.1)
6	131.5	8.10 dd (8.1, 1.4)
7	145.4	–
8	123.4	8.25 d (1.4)
9	131.8	–
10	130.2	–
1'	131.0	–
2'/6'	128.4	7.77 d (8.8)
3'/5'	114.6	7.11 d (8.8)
4'	160.6	–
2-OMe	56.0	3.95 s
4'-OMe	54.9	3.88 s

The observation of NOESY cross-peaks (Fig. 3) between H-3 and 2-OMe and between H-3', H-5', and 4'-OMe also confirmed these assignments. Compound 7, therefore, was named as phaeanthusnaphthoquinone (2-methoxy-7-(4-methoxyphenyl)naphthalene-1,4-dione).

## 2.2. $\alpha$ -Glucosidase inhibitory activities and in silico molecular docking

Only compounds with sufficient quantity (**1** and **4–7**) were evaluated for their  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activities by the colorimetric assay. Of these, compound **1** displayed good  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity with an  $IC_{50}$  value of  $17.9 \pm 0.4 \mu\text{M}$ , which was better than that of acarbose, a positive control ( $IC_{50}$  value of  $184.9 \pm 0.9 \mu\text{M}$ ); however, all remaining were found to be inactive. It should be noted that the structures of **1**, **4**, and **5** were mainly different at the *N*-substitution. Compound **1** contained the *N*-benzoyl unit, which seems to play an important role in  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity compared to the *N*-acyl group in structures **4** and **5**. To confirm this assumption, compounds **1**, **4**, and **5** were further studied on the *in silico* molecular docking (Table 3), which was performed to examine the potential interactions of these compounds with the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase (PDB ID: 2QMJ). It was found that compound **1** had the lowest free binding energy ( $-8.89 \text{ kcal/mol}$ ). In the case of hydrophilic interactions, the hydrogen atom of the phenolic group of compound **1** showed hydrophilic interactions with the carbonyl oxygen of Arg202 ( $2.10 \text{ \AA}$ ) in the active site residue (Fig. 5A). Furthermore, four  $\pi$ - $\pi$  aromatic ring interactions and five van der Waals force effects were observed in compound **1**. These interactions included aromatic rings with Tyr299 ( $5.11 \text{ \AA}$ ), Phe575 ( $5.15 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $5.43 \text{ \AA}$ ), Trp406 ( $5.27 \text{ \AA}$ ) and hydrogen atoms of the methoxy group with Gln603 ( $2.34 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $2.86 \text{ \AA}$ ), Ser448 ( $2.40 \text{ \AA}$ ) and hydrogen atoms of methylene groups with Asp203 ( $2.40 \text{ \AA}$ ) and Tyr299 ( $2.75 \text{ \AA}$ ). Undoubtedly, the docking score ( $-6.98 \text{ kcal/mol}$  for **4** and  $-7.38 \text{ kcal/mol}$  for **5**) (Table 3) and the lack of significant interaction between the 4-hydroxy on benzoyl unit and ligand afford the weak binding (Fig. 5B and C). The results showed that the hydroxy group of the benzoyl unit could be introduced into the active site of the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase and block the catalytic reaction by interacting with the entrance of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase. This information could explain why compounds **4** and **5** had less  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity than compound **1**.

It is interesting to note that in a previous study, bidebiline E, an aporphine alkaloid isolated from the same plant (Teerapongpisan et al., 2023), displayed remarkably high  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity ( $IC_{50} = 6.8 \pm 0.3 \mu\text{M}$ ) comparing to that of compound **1** ( $IC_{50} = 17.9 \pm 0.4 \mu\text{M}$ ). This suggests that the different structures of bidebiline E and compound **1** could play an important role in  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity. The structure of compound **1** was a monomeric  $\Delta^{6a(7)}$  dihydroaporphine alkaloid and the *N*-substitution group was a benzoyl derivative. In contrast, bidebiline E was a dimeric  $\Delta^{6a(7)}/\Delta^{6a(7)}$  dehydroaporphine alkaloid with free *NH/NH'* groups that are essential to increase the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity.

## 3. Conclusions

In conclusion, four previously undescribed compounds, including

**Table 3**  
In silico  $\alpha$ -Glucosidase Inhibitory Activities of compounds **1**, **4**, and **5**.

Compounds	Binding affinity		Hydrophilic interactions (Hydrogen bonding)	Hydrophobic interactions
	$\Delta G$ (kcal/mol)	$K_i$ ( $\mu\text{M}$ )		
<b>1</b>	-8.89	0.3	Arg202	Gln603, Asp 327, Ser448, Asp203, Tyr299, Trp406, Phe575, Asp 542
<b>4</b>	-6.98	7.66	-	Asp443, Met444, Tyr605, Trp406, Phe450, Gln603, Tyr299, Phe575
<b>5</b>	-7.38	3.93	-	Asp443, Met444, Trp406, Phe450, Tyr299, Phe575

three aporphine alkaloids (**1–3**) and one naphthoquinone derivative (**7**), together with three known compounds (**4–6**), were obtained from the leaf extract of *P. lucidus*. Their structures were deduced by spectroscopic method and ECD data. Some isolated compounds were evaluated to derive their inhibitory effects on the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase. Interestingly, compound **1**, having a trisubstituted benzoyl unit, exhibited a significant inhibitory effect. A molecular docking simulation was employed to disclose possible interaction mechanisms of compound **1** with  $\alpha$ -glucosidase. Our findings provided insights into the hypoglycemic activity of this plant.

## 4. Experimental

### 4.1. General experimental procedures

Optical rotations were measured on a JASCO P-2000 polarimeter. UV Spectra were recorded on a VARIAN Cary 5000 spectrophotometer, and CD spectra were obtained using a JASCO J-1500 spectrometer. IR Spectra were obtained using a PerkinElmer FTS FT-IR spectrometer. HRESIMS and HRESITOFMS data were measured on an Agilent 1290 infinity II/G6545B QTOF mass spectrometer and a Kratos MS-50 mass spectrometer, respectively. HPLC was performed using an Agilent Technology HPLC 1260 Infinity II system, coupled to a 1260 Infinity II Diode Array Detector HS and equipped with a C-18 column. NMR spectra were run on 500 MHz Bruker AV-500 and 600 MHz Bruker AV-600 spectrometers. Column chromatography (CC) was performed on Silica gel C60 (0–20  $\mu\text{m}$ , SiliCycle® Inc.), Sephadex LH-20. Fractions and isolated compounds were monitored by thin-layer chromatography (TLC), and spots were observed by ultraviolet (UV) light (254 and 310 nm).

### 4.2. Plant material

The leaves of *P. lucidus* were collected in April 2021 from Narathiwat Province (N:  $6.156754^\circ$ , E:  $101.664661^\circ$ ), Thailand. The plant was identified by Mr. Abdulromae Baka (Independent Research Group on Plant Diversity in Thailand, Sichon, Nakhon Si Thammarat, 80120, Thailand), and a voucher specimen (MFUNPR0210) was deposited at the Natural Products Research Laboratory, School of Science, Mae Fah Luang University.

### 4.3. Extraction and isolation

The chopped and air-dried leaves of *P. lucidus* (3.8 kg) were extracted with EtOAc ( $3 \times 20 \text{ L}$ ) at room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure to provide an EtOAc extract (60.2 g). This crude extract was subjected to a  $C_{18}$  reverse-phase silica gel CC eluted with MeOH–H<sub>2</sub>O (1:4 v/v) to afford three fractions (Fr. PLL1–PLL3). Separation of fraction PLL1 (175.7 mg) using CC over silica gel (2:3 v/v, EtOAc–hexanes) yielded compound **6** (2.7 mg). Fraction PLL3 (281.3 mg) was fractionated over a Sephadex-LH20 eluted with MeOH (100% v/v) to provide seven subfractions (Fr. PLL3A–PLL3G). Compounds **3** (0.7 mg,  $t_R$  46.4 min), **4** (1.8 mg,  $t_R$  43.9 min), **5** (1.5 mg,  $t_R$  52.4 min), and **7** (2.8 mg,  $t_R$  62.9 min) were obtained from fraction PLL3F (22.7 mg) by semipreparative RP-18 HPLC and eluted with ACN–H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL/min, 1:1, v/v). Fraction PLL3G (31.4 mg) was subjected to RP-18 HPLC eluted with ACN–H<sub>2</sub>O (2 mL/min, 2:3, v/v) to give compounds **1** (1.4 mg,  $t_R$  84.6 min) and **2** (0.9 mg,  $t_R$  79.1 min).

#### 4.3.1. Phaeanthuslucidine E (**1**)

Yellow amorphous powder:  $[\alpha]_D^{25} -87$  (c 0.01, MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (log  $\epsilon$ ) 206 (4.2), 241 (3.9), 285 (3.9), and 324 (3.3); IR (neat)  $\nu_{\text{max}}$  3413, 2923, 1677, 1604, and 1457  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 237 ( $-1.76$ ), 273 ( $+0.49$ ) nm;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, see Table 1; HRESIMS  $m/z$  446.1583  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  (calcd for  $C_{26}H_{24}NO_6$ , 446.1598).

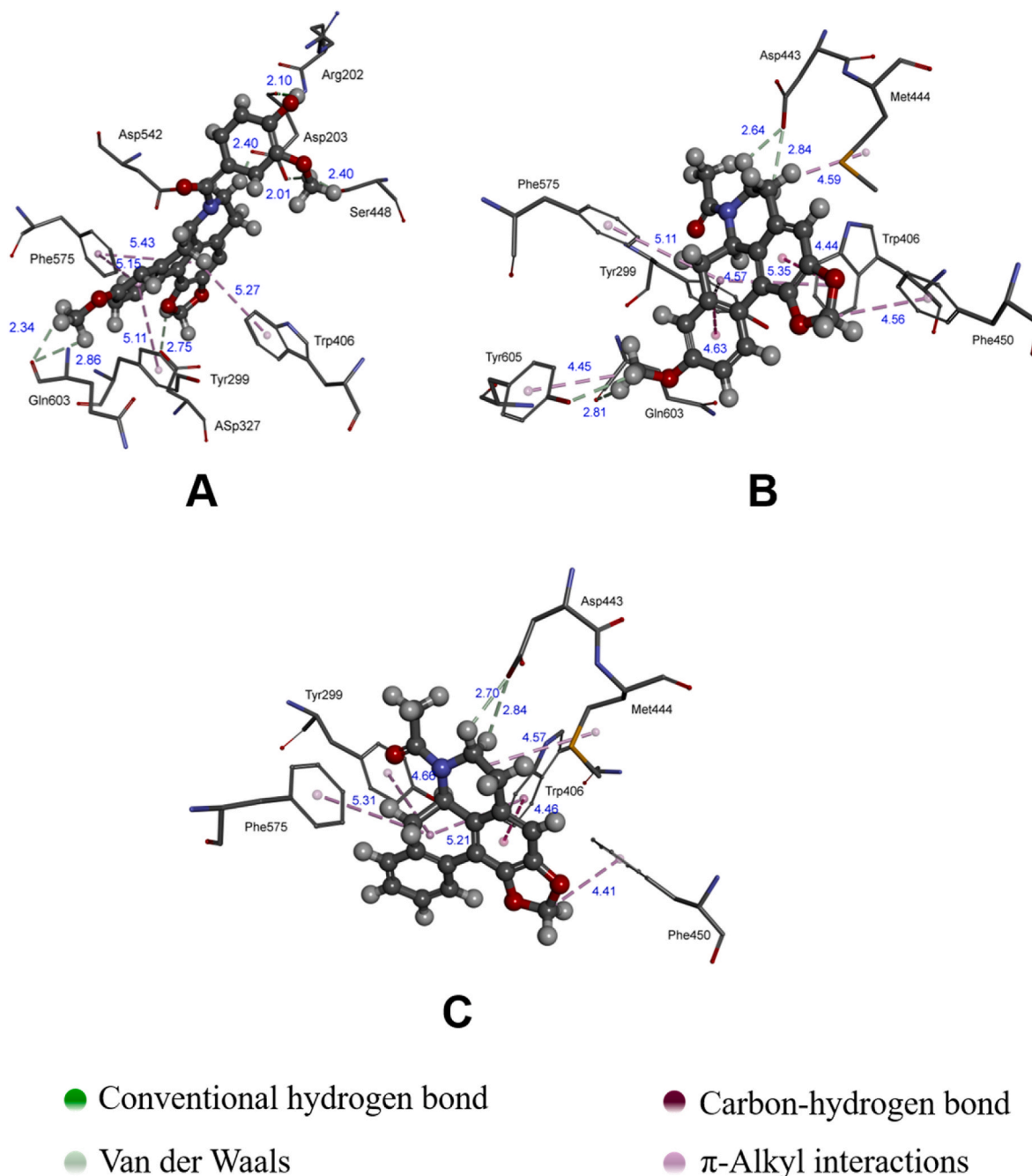


Fig. 5. 3D ligand interaction diagram of compounds 1 (A), 4 (B), and 5 (C) in the catalytic site of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase.

#### 4.3.2. *Phaeanthuslucidine F* (2)

Brown amorphous powder:  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$   $-43$  ( $c$  0.01, MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  ( $\log \epsilon$ ) 213 (4.5), 267 (4.2), and 295 (3.9); IR (neat)  $\nu_{max}$  3393, 2924, 1648, 1603, and 1463  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 210 ( $-1.57$ ), 237 ( $-1.76$ ), 278 ( $+0.38$ ) nm;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, see Table 1; HRESITOFMS  $m/z$  476.1705  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  (Trg. for  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{25}\text{NO}_7$ , 475.1631).

#### 4.3.3. *Phaeanthuslucidine G* (3)

Yellow amorphous powder:  $[\alpha]_D^{25}$   $-56$  ( $c$  0.01, MeOH); UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  ( $\log \epsilon$ ) 222 (4.1), 256 (4.0), and 294 (3.7); IR (neat)  $\nu_{max}$  3380, 2921, 1665, 1595 and 1454  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ; ECD (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  ( $\Delta\epsilon$ ) 231 ( $-1.61$ ), 271 ( $+0.51$ ) nm;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, see Table 1; HRESITOFMS  $m/z$  416.1494  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  (Trg. for  $\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_5$ , 415.1420).

#### 4.3.4. *Phaeanthusnaphthoquinone* (7)

Yellow amorphous powder: UV (MeOH)  $\lambda_{max}$  ( $\log \epsilon$ ) 234 (3.9), 276 (4.1), and 312 (3.7); IR (neat)  $\nu_{max}$  2927, 1724, 1647, 1519, 1454 and 1249  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ;  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, see Table 2; HRESIMS  $m/z$  295.0959  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  (calcd for  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{15}\text{O}_4$ , 295.0965).

#### 4.4. $\alpha$ -Glucosidase inhibitory assay

According to the previously published procedure with a slight modification (He et al., 2020; Hou et al., 2021), the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme was prepared at 0.05 U/mL by dissolving with phosphate buffer (pH 6.8–7.0), then treated with the tested compounds at various concentrations (0.1–1000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) at 37  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 10 min. The reaction was performed in 96-well plates using 1 mM of *p*-nitrophenyl  $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside (*p*-NPG) as the substrate in phosphate buffer at 37  $^\circ\text{C}$  for 20

min. After 20 min, the reaction was terminated by adding 1 mL of 0.3 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>. The hydrolyzation of *p*-NPG can be measured at 405 nm. Acarbose was used as a positive control.

#### 4.5. Molecular docking study

The crystal structure of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase [PDB entry code: 2QMJ] was obtained from the Protein Data Bank (<http://www.rcsb.org/pdb>). The structures of compounds were built with Gaussview and Gaussian 03 W was used for energy optimization. Auto Dock Tools 1.5.4 (ADT) and Auto Dock 4.2 programs were used for molecular docking with 50 runs. A grid box size of 60 × 60 × 60 points with a spacing of 0.375 Å between the grid points was implemented and covered almost the entire  $\alpha$ -glucosidase protein surface (Kumboonma et al., 2021).

#### CRedit authorship contribution statement

**Passakorn Teerapongpisan:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Investigation, Formal analysis, Data curation. **Virayu Suthiphasilp:** Writing – original draft, Formal analysis. **Pakit Kumboonma:** Writing – original draft, Resources, Investigation, Formal analysis. **Tharakorn Maneerat:** Writing – original draft, Resources, Data curation. **Thidarat Duangyod:** Writing – original draft, Resources, Data curation. **Rawiwan Charoensup:** Writing – original draft, Resources, Data curation. **Phunrawie Promnart:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Data curation. **Surat Laphookhieo:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Supervision, Project administration, Funding acquisition, Formal analysis, Data curation, Conceptualization.

#### Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests: Surat Laphookhieo reports financial support was provided by National Research Council of Thailand. Surat Laphookhieo reports a relationship with National Research Council of Thailand that includes: funding grants and travel reimbursement. If there are other authors, they declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

#### Data availability

Data will be made available on request.

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#### Appendix A. Supplementary data

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