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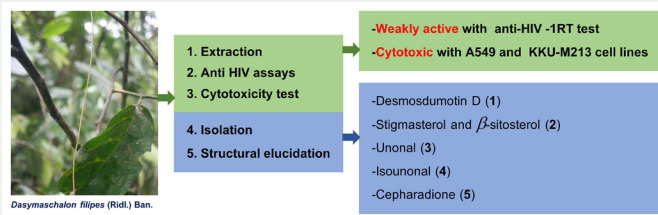
Secondary metabolites from the twigs and stems of *dasymaschalon filipes* (ridl.) ban. and their biological activities

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ABSTRACT

Investigation of the crude hexane and ethyl acetate extracts of the twigs and stems of *D. filipes* (Annonaceae) led to the discovery of five compounds: desmosdumotin D (1), a mixture of stigmasterol and β -sitosterol (2), unonal (3), isounonal (4), and cepharadione B (5). The structural elucidation of the compounds was accomplished using ¹H, ¹³C, and 2D NMR techniques. The three crude extracts of *D. filipes* showed weak activity versus the HIV-1 virus. The cytotoxicity assays showed that the crude hexane extract was particularly effective against A549 cell lines, with an ED₅₀ of 15.24 mg/mL. Meanwhile, the crude ethyl acetate and methanol extracts inhibited KKU-M213 cell lines, demonstrating ED₅₀ values of 13.42 and 10.92 mg/mL, respectively. *D. filipes* is a rich source of potential compounds with anti-HIV-1RT or cytotoxicity activities. This is the first report on the phytochemistry and bioactivity study of *D. filipes*.



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1. Introduction

The genus *Dasymaschalon* (Annonaceae) comprises approximately 30 species of small trees indigenous to the tropical and subtropical regions worldwide. In Thailand, 12 different species have been identified (Wang et al. 2009). Previous phytochemical studies on the *Dasymaschalon* genus have reported various classes of chemical compounds, including acetogenins (Sinz et al. 1998), alkaloids (Chanakul et al. 2011; Hongthong et al. 2014; Jaidee et al. 2015), cyclohexene derivatives (Hongthong et al. 2015; Jaidee et al. 2015), flavonoids (Sinz et al. 1998; Prawat et al. 2013; Chokchaisiri et al. 2015), neolignans (Hongthong et al. 2016), oxygenated phenylpropanoids (Yu et al. 2017), and triterpenoids (Prawat et al. 2013). Some of these compounds have significant biological activities with anti-HIV (Hongthong et al. 2016; Yu et al. 2017); Bunteang et al. 2018), anti-inflammatory (Hongthong et al. 2015), anti-malarial (Jaidee et al. 2015), and cytotoxicity properties (Chanakul et al. 2011; Hongthong et al. 2014; Jaidee et al. 2015; Hongthong et al. 2016). A preliminary screening of the crude extracts from the twigs and stems of *Dasymaschalon filipes* (Wang et al. 2009) (Figure 1) demonstrated cytotoxicity against human cholangiocarcinoma (KKU-M213), human colon adenocarcinoma (MDA-MB-231), and human lung carcinoma (A549) cell lines. An investigation into the chemical compounds in these extracts was initiated. This paper outlines the isolation and structural elucidation of the phytochemicals derived from this plant.

2. Results and discussion

The air-dried, milled, and mixed twigs and stems of *D. filipes* (1.8 kg) were extracted using hexane (15 litres \times 3 days \times 4 times), ethyl acetate (23 litres \times 3 days \times 4 times), and methanol (23 litres \times 3 days \times 4 times), yielding crude extracts of hexane (7.43 g), ethyl acetate (25.28 g), and methanol (46.55 g), respectively. Biological activity tests revealed that the three crude extracts of the twigs and stems of *D. filipes* are weakly active in the anti-HIV-1RT test at a range value of 30.33–47.52% inhibition (Table 1).



Figure 1. The leaves, twigs, stems, flowers, and fruits of *D. filipes* (ridl.) ban.

Table 1. Anti-HIV-1RT Study of three crude extracts from twigs and stems of *D. filipes*.

Crude extracts	Anti-HIV-1RT ^a
	% inhibition (Activity results)
Hexane extract	47.52 (Weakly active)
Ethyl acetate extract	42.42 (Weakly active)
Methanol extract	30.33 (Weakly active)

^aAnti-HIV-1RT activity express as % inhibition at 200 µg/mL: very active (VA) = >70% inhibition, moderately active (MA) = 50% to 69% inhibition, weakly active (WA) = 30% to 50% inhibition and inactive (I) = <30% inhibition; For determination of IC₅₀ in the HIV-1 RT assay, the coefficients of determination, R², were 0.98–0.99 in all assays for 50% end point.

Table 2. Cytotoxicity study of crude extracts of twigs and stems of *D. filipes*.

Crude extracts	Cytotoxicity ED ₅₀ (µg/mL) ^a						
	KKU-M213	FaDu	HT-29	MDA-MB-231	A549	SH-SY5Y	MMNK-1
Hexane extract	16.30	–	–	18.61	15.24	–	–
Ethyl acetate extract	13.42	–	–	18.99	–	–	–
Methanol extract	10.92	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ellipticine (Control)	0.51	0.49	0.54	0.48	0.39	0.48	0.51

^aCytotoxic assay: ED₅₀ less than 20 µg/mL were considered active for extracts and ED₅₀ less than 4 µg/mL were considered active for pure compounds. Cancer cell lines: KKU-M213 (Human cholangiocarcinoma), FaDu (Human squamous cell carcinoma), HT-29 (Human colon adenocarcinoma), MDA-MB-231 (Human mammary gland/breast adenocarcinoma), A549 (Human lung adenocarcinoma), SH-SY5Y (Human neuroblastoma), MMNK-1 (highly differentiated immortalised human cholangiocyte cell line).

Moreover, the crude hexane extracts of the twigs and stems of *D. filipes* are active against KKU-M213, MDA-MB-231, and A549 cell lines with an ED₅₀ of 16.30, 18.61, and 15.24 mg/mL, respectively, and the crude ethyl acetate extract is active against KKU-M213 and MDA-MB-231 cell lines with an ED₅₀ of 13.42 and 18.99 mg/mL, respectively, while the crude methanol extract was only active against KKU-M213 cell lines with an ED₅₀ of 10.92 mg/mL (Table 2). The separation and purification of the crude extracts were accomplished using column chromatography techniques with gradient systems of hexane, ethyl acetate, and methanol. The hexane extract was separated, purified, and recrystallized with ethanol to give desmosdomutin D (**1**) (5 mg) (Wu et al. 1989) as a light yellow-white solid. Similarly, the crude ethyl acetate extract gave a mixture of stigmasterol and β -sitosterol (**2**) (0.2 g) (Forgo and Kövér 2004; Kamal et al. 2016; Karim et al. 2021) as a white solid, unonal (**3**) (8 mg) (Ju and Yu 1999; Rittiwong 2010) as a yellow-white solid, isounonal (**4**) (15 mg) (Ju and Yu 1999; Rittiwong 2010), as a yellow-white solid, and cepharadione B (**5**) (12 mg) (Kim et al. 2001) as a yellow-white solid. Unfortunately, the separation of the crude methanol extract did not give any interesting compound. The structures of compounds **1–5** are illustrated in Figure 2. The material and methods, bioactivities test, extraction, isolation, and structural characterisation of all compounds are described in the supplemental material.

Although not all compounds were evaluated for anti-HIV-1 RT activity and cytotoxicity tests, the previous report indicates that desmosdomutin B (Nakagawa-Goto et al. 2005) and desmosdomutin C (Nakagawa-Goto et al. 2007) showed cytotoxicity against A549 (human lung carcinoma) with ED₅₀ values of 28 and 3.5 µg/mL, while desmosdomutin D demonstrated anti-HIV activity with an IC₅₀ value of 13.6 µg/mL

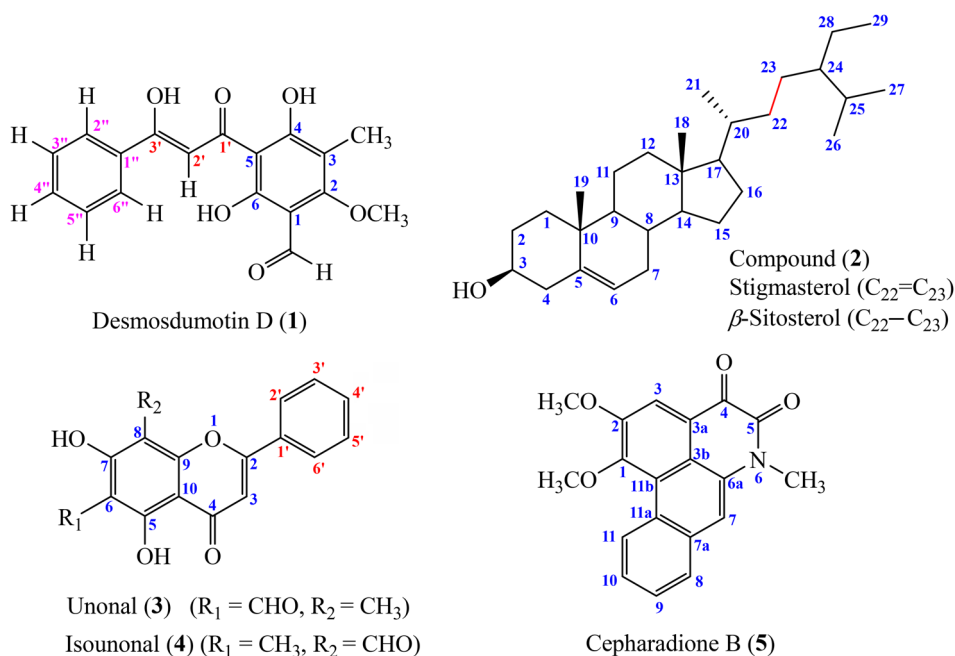


Figure 2. Chemical structure of compounds **1–5**.

(Deng et al. 2024). Isounonal and unonal exhibited NO inhibition in RAW 264.7 cells, with IC_{50} values ranging from 69.1 to 89.8 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (Kuo et al. 2015). Moreover, their compounds also showed antifungal activities against *P. oryzae*, *R. solani*, and *S. rolfisii*, with MIC/MBC ranges of 15.6/15.6 to 125/250 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (Tuntipaleepun et al. 2012). Cepharadione B demonstrates significant cytotoxicity against five human tumour cell lines, including A549, SK-OV-3, SK-MEL-2, XF-489, and HCT-15, with identical EC_{50} values of 40 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (Kim et al. 2001). It also exhibits anti-tyrosinase activities on HSV-1 virus cells, with an inhibition percentage of 3.24 (Chou et al. 2009). Cepharadione B demonstrates significant cytotoxicity against five human tumour cell lines, including A549, SK-OV-3, SK-MEL-2, XF-489, and HCT-15, with identical EC_{50} values of 40 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (Kim et al. 2001). It also exhibits anti-tyrosinase activities on HSV-1 virus cells, with an inhibition percentage of 3.24 (Chou et al. 2009). Moreover, stigmasterol and β -sitosterol were studied and exhibited a wide range of bioactivities, including anti-cancer, anti-osteoarthritis, anti-inflammatory, anti-viral, and anti-diabetic effects (Patel et al. 2017; Bakrim et al. 2022; Zhang et al. 2022; Nandi et al. 2024). Exploring these compounds in twigs and stems of *D. filipes* is consistent with this study's anti-viral and antitumor activity tests. Additional research into the phytochemical investigation and biological activity of other parts of this plant is particularly fascinating. The significant findings of the study could inspire future research in natural product chemistry and modern pharmacology.

3. Conclusions

In this work, five known compounds, including desmosdumotin D (**1**), a mixture of stigmasterol and β -sitosterol (**2**), unonal (**3**), isounonal (**4**), and cepharadione B (**5**),

were found in the twigs and stems of *D. filipes*. In the anti-HIV-1RT testing, the three crude extracts showed weak activity versus the HIV-1 virus. The cytotoxicity assay showed that the crude hexane extract is quite specifically active against A549 cell lines, while the crude ethyl acetate and methanol extracts are quite active against KKU-M213 cell lines. However, the cytotoxicity properties of the three crude extracts were not as effective as those of ellipticine, which served as the standard compound in the experiment.

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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