

# New Cytotoxic Cembranolides from the Soft Coral *Lobophytum michaelae*

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Eleven new cytotoxic cembranolides, michaelides A–K (1–11), and crassolide (12) were isolated from the CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> extract of the Formosan soft coral *Lobophytum michaelae*. Their structures were established by extensive spectral analysis. The cytotoxicity of the isolates against selected cancer cells was measured *in vitro*.

**Key words** *Lobophytum michaelae*; cembranolide; cytotoxicity

Soft corals of the genus *Lobophytum* are rich sources of bioactive terpenoids and steroids.<sup>1–10</sup> In our search for bioactive substances from marine organisms, the Formosan soft coral *Lobophytum michaelae* TIXIER-DURIVAU (Alcyoniidae) was studied because the CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> extract showed significant cytotoxicity against HT-29 (human colon adenocarcinoma) and P-388 (mouse lymphocytic leukemia) cell cultures as determined by standard procedures.<sup>11,12</sup> Bioassay-guided fractionations of extract resulted in the isolation of eleven new cytotoxic cembranolides, michaelides A–K (1–11), and crassolide (12).

Compound **1** was isolated as a colorless oil, [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> –29° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). HR-ESI-MS, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, and DEPT spectroscopic data established the molecular formula of **1** as C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>8</sub>. The IR spectrum of **1** indicated the presence of the functionalities of ester group(s) ( $\nu_{\max}$  1735 cm<sup>–1</sup>) and an  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -lactone ( $\nu_{\max}$  1765, 1665 cm<sup>–1</sup>). The presence of the  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -lactone system in **1** was also demonstrated by UV absorption at 221 (log  $\epsilon$  3.66) nm and signals at  $\delta$  5.73 (H-16) and 6.40 (H-16) in the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of **1** also showed signals for two olefinic protons at  $\delta$  5.11 (H-11), and 5.24 (H-7) ppm; three oxymethine protons at  $\delta$  3.94 (dd, *J*=9.9, 3.0 Hz, H-9), 4.49 (dd, *J*=11.1, 3.6 Hz, H-5), 4.98 (t, *J*=3.6 Hz, H-2), and 5.25 (d, *J*=11.7 Hz, H-14); one methine proton at  $\delta$  3.18 (br s, H-1), two olefinic methyl groups at  $\delta$  1.72 (H<sub>3</sub>-19) and 1.81

(H<sub>3</sub>-20); and two methyl groups in acetate esters at  $\delta$  2.00 and 2.11. HMBC spectrum exhibited a methyl-bearing trisubstituted epoxy [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.82 (d, *J*=3.6 Hz, H-3), 1.45 (H<sub>3</sub>-18);  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  61.4 (CH), 61.9 (qC), 13.2 (CH<sub>3</sub>)]. The spectral data of **1** indicated some similarities to those of crassolide (**12**),<sup>13</sup> except for the data due to C-9. The <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H COSY spectrum exhibited correlations from H-13 to H-3, H-5 to H-7, H-9 to H-11. <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H long-range correlations were also observed between H-1 to H<sub>2</sub>-16, H-7 to H<sub>3</sub>-19, and H-11 to H<sub>3</sub>-20. These spectroscopic findings and the nine degrees of unsaturations indicated that **1** was a 14-membered cembrane-type diterpene skeleton with an  $\alpha$ -methylene- $\gamma$ -lactone. After assignments between all the C–H bondings were made based on HSQC experiment, the plane structure was determined by HMBC analysis. The correlations according to HMBC are shown in Fig. 1. The stereochemistry for the trisubstituted olefins of **1** was determined by NOESY analysis. The NOESY correlations between H-7 and H-9, and H-11 and H-13 disclosed the *E* configurations for the trisubstituted olefins. The chemical shift values at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  10.8 and 15.9 (for C-19, and C-20 respectively) also supported the *E* configurations.<sup>13</sup> The NOESY correlations (Fig. 2) observed between H-3 and H-1/H-5/H-11/H-13 $\alpha$ , H-14 and H-1/H<sub>3</sub>-20, H-7

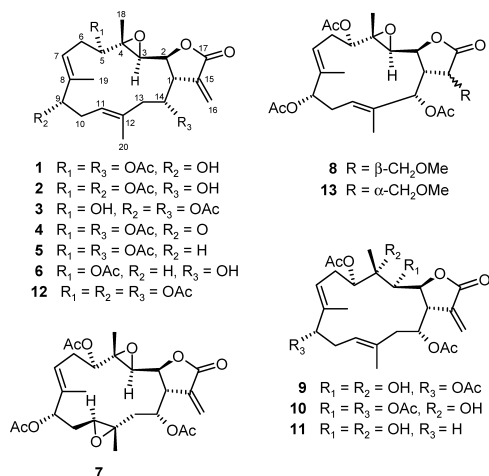


Chart 1. Structures of **1**–**13**

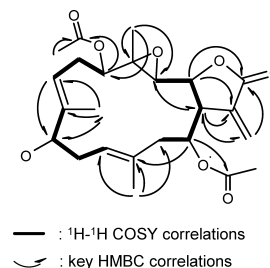


Fig. 1. <sup>1</sup>H–<sup>1</sup>H COSY and Key HMBC Correlations of **1**

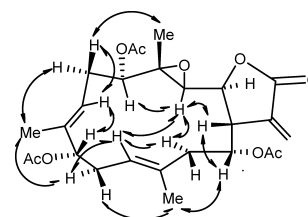


Fig. 2. Selected NOESY Correlations of **1**

and H-9/H-6 $\beta$ , H<sub>3</sub>-19 and H-6 $\alpha$ /H-10 $\alpha$ , H<sub>3</sub>-18 and H-5 $\beta$  indicated the relative configurations for the 14-membered ring carbons, which were identical to the X-ray diffraction data of the methanolysis product (**13**) of crassolide (**12**).<sup>14)</sup>

Compound **2** was shown to have the same molecular formula as **1** by HR-ESI-MS and from its <sup>13</sup>C-NMR data. The

<sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectral data (Tables 1, 2) of **2** closely resembled those of **1** except for the signals at C-9 and C-14. <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY cross peak between H-9 and H-10 as well as HMBC correlations between H-9 and C-10/C-11/C-19 revealed that the secondary hydroxyl attached to C-9 in **1** was replaced by an acetoxyl [ $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.94 (dd,  $J=3.3$ , 11.2 Hz,

Table 1. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR Data<sup>a)</sup> (300 MHz) of **1**—**6**

H	1	2	3	4	5	6
1	3.18 br s	3.04 br s	3.14 br s	2.97 br s	3.30 br s	3.16 br s
2	4.98 t (3.6) <sup>b)</sup>	5.08 br s	5.11 t (3.0)	5.11 t (3.3)	4.99 m	5.04 t (3.0)
3	2.82 d (3.6)	2.80 d (3.3)	2.80 d (3.0)	2.88 d (3.3)	2.87 d (3.6)	2.83 d (3.0)
5	4.49 dd (3.6, 11.1)	4.38 dd (3.6, 11.1)	3.11 br s	4.56 dd (2.7, 10.4)	4.46 dd (3.9, 11.4)	4.36 dd (3.6, 10.4)
6	2.17 m	2.17 m	2.12 m	2.54 m	2.18 m	2.08 m
	2.50 m	2.54 m	2.53 m	2.66 m	2.45 m	2.48 m
7	5.24 m	5.27 t (7.5)	5.29 d (7.2)	6.36 m	4.97 m	4.94 t (7.2)
9	3.94 dd (3.0, 9.9)	4.94 dd (3.3, 11.2)	4.92 dd (3.6, 11.1)		2.00 m	2.28 m
					2.27 m	
10	2.33 m	2.38 m	2.28 m	3.27 m	2.12 m	2.25 m
	2.50 m	2.52 m	2.54 m	3.55 m	2.30 m	1.09 m
11	5.11 m	5.09 m	5.00 t (6.9)	5.41 t (7.8)	5.25 m	5.24 t (7.2)
13	2.22 m	2.25 m	2.17 m	2.19 m	2.26 m	2.23 m
	2.42 m	2.40 m	2.45 m	2.53 m	2.43 m	2.41 m
14	5.25 br d (11.7)	4.14 br d (11.1)	5.21 br d (11.7)	5.15 m	5.26 m	4.09 br d (10.5)
16	5.73 br s	5.74 d (1.8)	5.77 br s	5.63 br s	5.73 d (2.7)	5.68 br s
	6.40 br s	6.46 d (1.8)	6.41 br s	6.36 br s	6.40 d (2.1)	6.39 br s
18	1.45 s	1.44 s	1.39 s	1.42 s	1.45 s	1.41 s
19	1.72 s	1.74 s	1.68 s	1.76 s	1.67 s	1.66 s
20	1.81 s	1.78 s	1.85 s	1.78 s	1.76 s	1.68 s
5-OAc	2.11 s	2.11 s		2.00 s	2.11 s	2.08 s
9-OAc		2.06 s	2.05 s			
14-OAc	2.00 s		1.99 s	2.14 s	2.01 s	

a) Recorded in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (assigned by COSY, HSQC, and HMBC experiments). b)  $J$  values (in Hz) in parentheses.

Table 2. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR Spectral Data<sup>a)</sup> (75 MHz) of **1**—**12** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	42.2	43.8	41.6	41.6	42.4	43.8	43.7	39.9	42.1	42.8	43.8	42.2
2	73.6	72.4	72.8	72.4	73.8	72.9	72.8	74.6	80.6	79.4	80.8	73.2
3	61.4	62.2	63.1	61.6	61.7	62.1	62.3	62.3	74.7	74.5	74.9	61.9
4	61.9	61.1	63.5	60.9	61.6	61.3	61.2	62.6	77.1	76.1	76.7	61.3
5	77.4	77.9	77.1	78.0	77.8	78.4	77.3	77.8	76.0	75.3	77.4	77.6
6	29.5	29.5	31.3	31.7	30.1	30.1	29.8	30.3	29.4	29.1	29.2	29.4
7	119.9	122.2	123.4	136.4	118.1	118.1	123.6	122.0	125.0	123.3	121.5	122.0
8	141.0	137.2	136.6	138.8	138.9	138.9	136.4	135.9	134.0	135.0	137.1	137.1
9	77.3	78.9	79.2	197.9	24.5	24.6	75.7	78.5	78.4	78.5	38.9	78.6
10	32.8	30.3	30.4	39.6	40.2	40.3	30.9	29.8	30.0	30.1	24.6	30.3
11	124.9	123.3	123.8	122.6	127.6	128.8	59.3	123.6	122.1	123.3	128.6	123.9
12	132.5	134.5	134.1	135.3	130.1	130.9	57.3	133.0	136.2	133.1	130.7	133.8
13	42.2	45.5	42.4	42.3	42.1	45.4	41.6	41.9	39.9	41.1	40.4	42.2
14	73.2	72.6	73.7	73.9	73.3	72.4	73.0	70.9	75.1	75.6	74.2	73.3
15	135.2	136.9	135.1	135.3	135.5	137.4	134.8	44.0	136.2	137.3	136.7	135.0
16	124.3	123.8	124.9	122.6	124.1	123.3	125.5	69.3	123.4	122.1	122.5	124.7
17	169.0	169.5	169.1	168.9	169.9	170.3	169.8	175.4	170.4	169.9	170.2	168.9
18	13.2	12.8	10.9	12.0	13.1	12.7	12.6	13.7	21.1	23.1	21.1	13.0
19	10.8	11.3	11.1	12.0	15.1	15.2	12.0	11.2	11.4	11.3	15.3	11.3
20	15.9	16.2	16.0	16.3	15.8	16.1	16.8	15.7	16.5	15.9	16.3	15.8
3-OAc										170.2		
										21.4		
5-OAc	170.1	170.3		170.2	170.2	169.9	170.2	170.1	170.3	170.2	170.4	170.2
	21.2	21.3		20.9	21.3	21.3	20.8	21.2	21.3	21.2	21.4	21.2
9-OAc		170.3	170.2				170.0	170.3	170.5	170.5		170.2
		21.4	21.3				21.3	21.3	21.3	21.2		21.4
14-OAc	170.2		170.1	169.9	170.2		170.0	170.5	170.5	170.5	170.5	170.1
	21.0		20.9	21.2	21.0		20.8	21.4	21.4	21.2	21.1	20.9
OMe								59.2				

a) Assigned by DEPT, COSY, HSQC, and HMBC experiments.

H-9),  $\delta_C$  78.9 (CH, C-9)] in **2**.  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY cross peaks between H-14 and H-1/H<sub>2</sub>-13 as well as HMBC correlations between H-14 and C-13/C-12/C-1 suggested the secondary acetoxyl attached to C-14 in **1** to be replaced by a hydroxyl [ $\delta_H$  4.14 (br d,  $J=11.1$  Hz, H-14),  $\delta_C$  72.6 (CH, C-14)] in **2**. NOESY data for **2** were comparable to those of **1**. Both compounds thus had to possess identical stereochemistry.

Compound **3** analyzed for  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_8$  from its HR-ESI-MS and NMR spectroscopic data. The NMR features of compound **3** were analogous to those of **1** with exception that the secondary acetoxyl attached to C-5 was replaced by a hydroxyl [ $\delta_H$  3.11 (brs, H-5),  $\delta_C$  77.1 (CH, C-5)] and the secondary hydroxyl attached to C-9 was replaced by an acetoxyl [ $\delta_H$  4.92 (dd,  $J=3.6, 11.1$  Hz, H-9),  $\delta_C$  79.2 (CH, C-9)].  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  COSY cross peaks between H-6 and H-5 and between H-9 and H-10 as well as HMBC correlations between H-6 and C-5 and between H-9 and C-10/C-11/C-19 helped ascertain these assignments. The relative stereochemistry of **3** was identical to **1** from NOESY analysis.

Compound **4** had the molecular formula,  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_8$ , 2 mass units lower than that of **1**. Detailed comparison of the  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectral data (Tables 1, 2) of **4** and **1** revealed that **4** differed from **1** at C-9. HMBC correlations from H<sub>3</sub>-19 to C-7/C-8/C-9 revealed that the secondary hydroxyl attached to C-9 in **1** was replaced by a ketone ( $\delta_C$  197.9) in **4**. The relative stereochemistry of **4** was established from a NOESY spectrum as shown in Fig. 3.

Compound **5** had the molecular formula,  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_7$ , 16 mass units lower than that of **1**. The  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectral data (Tables 1, 2) resembled those of **1** except that the absence of secondary hydroxyl at C-9. HMBC correlations from H<sub>3</sub>-19 to H-7/H-8/H-9 suggested these assignments. The relative stereochemistry of **5** was similar to **1** from NOESY analysis.

Compound **6** had the molecular formula,  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{30}\text{O}_6$ , 58 mass units lower than that of **2**. The  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectral data (Tables 1, 2) were similar to those of **2** except for the missing of the secondary acetoxyl at C-9. HMBC correlations from H<sub>3</sub>-19 to H-7/H-8/H-9 confirmed the missing of the secondary acetoxyl at C-9. The relative stereochemistry of **5** was similar to **2** from NOESY analysis.

To determine the absolute configuration, compound **6** was treated with (*R*)- or (*S*)- $\alpha$ -methoxy- $\alpha$ -trifluoromethylphenylacetyl chloride [(*R*)- or (*S*)-MTPA-Cl] in the presence of pyridine to yield the (*S*)- and (*R*)-MTPA esters (**6a**, **6b**), respectively.<sup>15</sup> The MTPA esters formed at C-14 were elucidated from the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR chemical shifts and coupling constants of H-14 in **6a** and **6b** (**6a**,  $\delta$  5.50, 1H, d,  $J=9.9$  Hz, H-14; **6b**,  $\delta$  5.42, 1H, d,  $J=10.5$  Hz, H-14). Comparison of the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR chemical shifts for **6a** and **6b** ( $\Delta\delta$  values shown in Fig. 4) led to the assignment of the *R*-configuration at C-14. Therefore, the absolute structure of **6** was determined as shown in formula **6**.

Compound **7** had the molecular formula,  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_{10}$ , 16 mass units higher than that of **12**. The  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectral data (Tables 2, 3) of **7** showed some similarity to those of **12** except that a trisubstituted olefin was replaced by a trisubstituted epoxide [ $\delta_H$  2.58 (m, H-11),  $\delta_C$  59.3 (CH, C-11), 57.3 (qC, C-12)]. This trisubstituted epoxy was located at C-11/C-12 upon observation of COSY correlations from H-10 to H-11/H-9 and HMBC correlations from H<sub>3</sub>-20 to C-

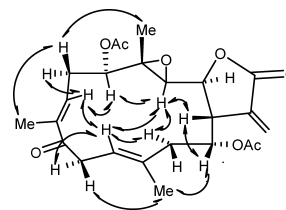


Fig. 3. Selected NOESY Correlations of **4**

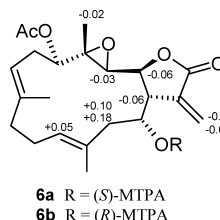


Fig. 4. Absolute Stereochemistry of **6**:  $\Delta\delta$  Values ( $\delta_S - \delta_R$ ) in ppm for the Two MTPA Esters **6a** and **6b**

11/C-12/C-13. The relative stereochemistry of **7** was established by a NOESY spectrum as shown in Fig. 5. NOESY correlations from H<sub>3</sub>-20 to H-10/H-14, from H-14 to H-1, from H-7 to H-9/H-6 $\beta$ , from H<sub>3</sub>-18 to H-6 $\beta$  positioned H-7, H-9, H-14, H<sub>3</sub>-18, H<sub>3</sub>-20 on the  $\beta$ -face of the 14-membered ring and help ascertain the *E* configuration for the trisubstituted the epoxy at C-11/C-12.

Compound **8** had the molecular formula,  $\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{39}\text{O}_{10}$ , 16 mass units higher than that of **12**. Analysis of the  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectral data (Tables 2, 3) of **7** revealed that the exomethylene in **12** was substituted by a methoxyl [ $\delta_H$  3.56 (dd,  $J=3.0, 9.6$  Hz, H-16), 3.78 (dd,  $J=3.6, 9.6$  Hz, H-16), 3.41 (s, OMe);  $\delta_C$  44.0 (CH, C-15), 69.3 (CH<sub>2</sub>, C-16), 59.2 (OMe)]. HMBC correlations from OCH<sub>3</sub> to C-16 confirmed the methoxyl at C-16. NOESY correlations from H-1 to H<sub>2</sub>-16 and from H<sub>3</sub>-18 to OCH<sub>3</sub> at C-16 permitted the placement of the methoxyl on the  $\beta$ -face of the molecule.

Compound **9** had the molecular formula,  $\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{36}\text{O}_{10}$ , 18 mass units higher than that of **12**. The  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectral data (Tables 2, 3) of **9** exhibited some similarity those of **12** except that the epoxy at C-3/C-4 in **12** was replaced by two hydroxyls [ $\delta_H$  3.80, brs, H-3],  $\delta_C$  74.7 (CH, C-3), 77.1 (qC, C-4)] in **9**. HMBC correlations from H<sub>3</sub>-18/H-2 to C-4/C-3 confirmed the hydroxyls at C-4 and C-3. The relative stereochemistry of **9** was established from a NOESY spectrum as shown in Fig. 6. NOESY correlations from H<sub>3</sub>-18 to H-3/H-6 $\beta$ , from H-7 to H-9/H-6 $\beta$ , from H<sub>3</sub>-20 to H-10/H-14, from H-14 to H-1 demonstrated that H-3, H<sub>3</sub>-18, H-7, H-9, H<sub>3</sub>-20, and H-14 were on the  $\beta$ -face of the 14-membered ring.

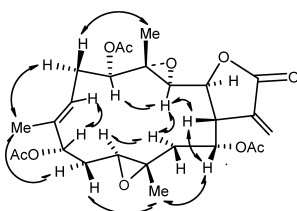
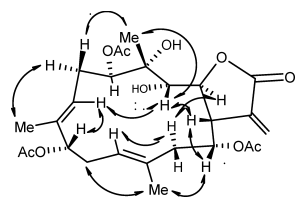
Compound **10** had the molecular formula,  $\text{C}_{28}\text{H}_{38}\text{O}_{11}$ , 42 mass units higher than that of **9**. The  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectral data (Tables 1, 2) of **10** were analogous to those of **9** except that the hydroxy at C-3 in **9** was replaced by an acetoxyl [ $\delta_H$  4.97, brs, H-3],  $\delta_C$  74.5 (CH, C-3), 76.1 (qC, C-4)] in **10**. HMBC correlations from H<sub>3</sub>-18/H-2 to C-4/C-3 enabled the correct poisoning of the acetoxyl at C-3. The relative stereochemistry of **10** was identical to **9**, as established from NOESY analysis.

Compound **11** had the molecular formula,  $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{34}\text{O}_8$ , 58

Table 3.  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR Data<sup>a)</sup> (300 MHz) of **7**–**12**

H	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	3.08 br s	2.93 t (7.5)	3.60 br s	3.43 br s	2.30 br s	3.13 br s
2	4.98 t (3.0) <sup>b)</sup>	4.89 dd (3.0, 7.5)	4.65 br s	4.80 br s	4.79 br s	4.98 t (3.6)
3	2.63 d (3.0)	2.80 d (3.0)	3.80 br s	4.97 br s	3.84 br s	2.81 d (3.6)
5	4.37 dd (4.2, 11.7)	4.42 dd (3.3, 11.1)	4.81 br d (6.3)	4.80 br s	4.94 br d (8.4)	4.40 dd (3.0, 11.1)
6	2.20 m	2.23 m	2.29 m	2.29 m	2.18 m	2.13 m
	2.66 m	2.49 m	2.69 m	2.69 m	2.86 m	2.53 m
7	5.42 t (7.5)	5.43 t (7.2)	5.74 m	5.86 t (7.2)	5.30 m	5.25 t (7.2)
9	5.14 d (10.8)	4.97 dd (3.0, 9.6)	5.13 dd (9.3, 4.8)	5.12 dd (9.9, 4.8)	5.13 dd (9.3, 4.8)	4.93 dd (3.5, 10.5)
10	2.41 m	2.51 m	2.52 m	2.52 m	2.45 m	2.30 m
	1.66 m	2.28 m	2.29 m	2.29 m	2.22 m	2.50 m
11	2.58 m	5.10 t (6.9)	5.08 t (6.9)	5.30 t (6.6)	5.13 t (6.3)	5.08 m
13	1.38 m	2.20 m	2.23 m	2.23 m	2.36 m	2.24 m
	2.45 m	2.50 m	2.31 m	2.31 m		2.41 m
14	5.19 br d (12.0)	5.19 br d (9.0)	5.30 m	5.18 br d (9.0)	5.30 m	5.22 m
16	5.89 br s	3.56 dd (3.0, 9.6)	5.74 br s	5.62 br s	5.67 br s	5.74 br s
	6.48 br s	3.78 dd (3.3, 9.6)	6.29 br s	6.25 br s	6.28 br s	6.39 br s
18	1.46 s	1.54 s	1.34 s	1.36 s	1.25 s	1.41 s
19	1.79 s	1.71 s	1.62 s	1.64 s	1.58 s	1.70 s
20	1.53 s	1.74 s	1.71 s	1.78 s	1.71 s	1.81 s
3-OAc				2.16 s		
5-OAc	2.12 s	2.06 s	2.10 s	2.09 s	2.03 s	2.08 s
9-OAc	2.06 s	2.10 s	2.07 s	2.05 s		2.02 s
14-OAc	2.01 s	2.12 s	2.06 s	1.96 s	2.10 s	1.96 s
OMe		3.41 s				

a) Recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  (assigned by COSY, HSQC, and HMBC experiments). b)  $J$  values (in Hz) in parentheses.

Fig. 5. Selected NOESY Correlations of **7**Fig. 6. Selected NOESY Correlations of **9**

mass units lower than that of **9**. The  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectral data (Tables 1, 2) of **10** were similar to those of **9** except that the acetoxy at C-9 was missing. HMBC correlations from  $\text{H}_3$ -19 to H-7/H-8/H-9 confirmed the missing of the secondary acetoxy at C-9. The NOESY analysis suggested **11** to have similar stereochemistry as **9**.

The cytotoxicity of compounds **1**–**12** is shown in Table 4. Compounds **2** and **6** showed potent cytotoxicity against HT-29 and P-388 cell lines. Compounds **9**–**11** showed moderate cytotoxicity against HT-29 and P-388 cell lines. Hydroxylation at C-14 together with an  $\alpha$ -exo-methylene- $\gamma$ -lactone and a 3,4-trisubstituted epoxy may be important for potent cytotoxicity.

## Experimental

**General Experimental Procedures** Optical rotations were determined on a JASCO DIP-181 polarimeter. UV spectra were obtained on a Shimadzu

Table 4. Cytotoxicity<sup>a)</sup> of **1**–**12**

Compounds	Cell lines ED <sub>50</sub> ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ )	
	HT-29	P-388
<b>1</b>	0.7	0.1
<b>2</b>	0.03	0.001
<b>3</b>	0.8	0.4
<b>4</b>	1.5	0.2
<b>5</b>	0.05	0.007
<b>6</b>	0.001	0.004
<b>7</b>	0.8	0.3
<b>8</b>	3.1	0.4
<b>9</b>	1.4	0.8
<b>10</b>	0.8	0.6
<b>11</b>	9.9	0.6
<b>12</b>	0.05	0.04

a) For significant activity of pure compounds, an ED<sub>50</sub> of  $\leq 4.0 \mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  is required.

UV-160A spectrophotometer, and IR spectra were recorded on a Hitachi 26-30 spectrophotometer. The NMR spectra were recorded on Bruker Avance 300 NMR spectrometer at 300 MHz for  $^1\text{H}$  and 75 MHz for  $^{13}\text{C}$ , respectively, in  $\text{CDCl}_3$  using TMS as internal standard. ESI-MS spectra were obtained with a Bruker APX II mass spectrometer. Si gel 60 (Merck, 230–400 mesh) was used for column chromatography; precoated Si gel plates (Merck, Kieselgel 60 F<sub>254</sub>, 0.25 mm) were used for TLC analysis.

**Animal Material** The soft coral *Lobophytum michaelae* TIXIER-DURIVAUULT (Alcyoniidae) was collected at Ken-tin (southern Taiwan), in July 1992, at a depth of 2–3 m and was stored for 1 week in a freezer until extraction. A voucher specimen, NSUMR-12, was deposited in the Department of Marine Biotechnology and Resources, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan.

**Extraction and Isolation** The bodies of the soft coral *L. michaelae* were freeze dried to give 1.90 kg of a solid, which was extracted with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (5.01 $\times$ 3). After removal of solvent *in vacuo*, the residue (40 g) was chromatographed over Si gel 60 using *n*-hexane and *n*-hexane–EtOAc mixtures of increasing polarity. Elution with *n*-hexane/EtOAc (19:1) gave fractions containing **5** and **12**, with *n*-hexane/EtOAc (9:1) gave fractions containing **1** and **2**, with *n*-hexane/EtOAc (8:1) gave fractions containing **3** and

7, with *n*-hexane/EtOAc (7:1) gave fractions containing **4**, **6**, and **8**, with *n*-hexane/EtOAc (6:1) gave fractions containing **9**, **10**, and **11**. Compounds **1** and **2** were further purified by RP-C<sub>18</sub> HPLC separation, by eluting with MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (78:22). Compounds **3** and **7** were further purified by RP-C<sub>18</sub> HPLC separation, by eluting with MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (76:24). Compounds **5** and **12** were further purified by RP-C<sub>18</sub> HPLC separation, by eluting with MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (82:18). Compounds **4**, **6**, and **8** were further purified by RP-C<sub>18</sub> HPLC separation, by eluting with MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (70:30). Compounds **9**—**11** were further purified by RP-C<sub>18</sub> HPLC separation, by eluting with MeOH/H<sub>2</sub>O (65:35).

Michaolide A (**1**): (3 mg); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> −29° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH) nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 221 (3.66). IR (neat) cm<sup>−1</sup>: 3410, 1765, 1735, 1665. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: see Table 1. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see Table 2. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*=471.1993 (Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Na=471.1995).

Michaolide B (**2**): (4 mg); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> −37° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH) nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 222 (3.68). IR (neat) cm<sup>−1</sup>: 3420, 1768, 1732, 1665. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: see Table 1. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see Table 2. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*=471.1995 (Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Na=471.1995).

Michaolide C (**3**): (8 mg); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> −33° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH) nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 220 (3.56). IR (neat) cm<sup>−1</sup>: 3426, 1763, 1736, 1669. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: see Table 1. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see Table 2; HR-ESI-MS *m/z*=471.1997 (Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Na=471.1995).

Michaolide D (**4**): (2 mg); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> −7° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH) nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 226 (3.82). IR (neat) cm<sup>−1</sup>: 1769, 1739, 1670. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: see Table 1. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see Table 2. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*=469.1836 (Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Na=469.1838).

Michaolide E (**5**): (4 mg); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> −97° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH) nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 224 (3.49). IR (neat) cm<sup>−1</sup>: 1763, 1736, 1666. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: see Table 1. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see Table 2. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*=455.2043 (Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>7</sub>Na=455.2046).

Michaolide F (**6**): (6 mg); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> −88° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH) nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 225 (3.55). IR (neat) cm<sup>−1</sup>: 3440, 1765, 1733, 1660. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: see Table 1. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see Table 2. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*=413.1942 (Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>30</sub>O<sub>6</sub>Na=413.1940).

Michaolide G (**7**): (4 mg); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> −10° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH) nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 225 (3.65). IR (neat) cm<sup>−1</sup>: 1769, 1738, 1666. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: see Table 1. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see Table 2. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*=529.2048 (Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>10</sub>Na=529.2050).

Michaolide H (**8**): (2 mg); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> −13° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). IR (neat) cm<sup>−1</sup>: 1786, 1732. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: see Table 3. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see Table 2. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*=523.2545 (Calcd for C<sub>27</sub>H<sub>39</sub>O<sub>10</sub>=523.2543).

Michaolide I (**9**): (3 mg); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +10° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH) nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 226 (3.41). IR (neat) cm<sup>−1</sup>: 3426, 1766, 1732, 1665. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: see Table 3. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see Table 2. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*=531.2204 (Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>36</sub>O<sub>10</sub>Na=531.2206).

Michaolide J (**10**): (3 mg); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +19° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH) nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 223 (3.55). IR (neat) cm<sup>−1</sup>: 3460, 1765, 1733, 1661. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: see Table 3. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see Table 2. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*=573.2314 (Calcd for C<sub>28</sub>H<sub>38</sub>O<sub>11</sub>Na=573.2312).

Michaolide K (**11**): (2 mg); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> +61° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH) nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 224 (3.62). IR (neat) cm<sup>−1</sup>: 3450, 1765, 1735, 1666. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: see Table 3. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see Table 2. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*=473.2150 (Calcd for C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>34</sub>O<sub>8</sub>Na=473.2152).

Crassolide (**12**): (60 mg); [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> −19° (*c*=0.1, CHCl<sub>3</sub>). UV  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (MeOH) nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 220 (3.68). IR (neat) cm<sup>−1</sup>: 1769, 1738, 1668. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR: see Table 3. <sup>13</sup>C-NMR: see Table 2. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*=491.2280 (Calcd for C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>35</sub>O<sub>9</sub>=491.2281).

Preparation of (*R*)- and (*S*)-MTPA Esters (**6a**, **6b**) of **6**: To a solution of compound **6** (1.1 mg, 2.5 mmol) in pyridine (0.5 ml) at room temperature

were added (*R*)-MTPA-Cl (2.0  $\mu$ l, 10.6  $\mu$ mol) and the resultant mixture was stirred for 24 h at room temperature. The reaction mixture was worked up by adding 2 ml of water to give the corresponding (*S*)-MTPA ester **6a** (0.5 mg): <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  1.37 (3H, s, H<sub>3</sub>-18), 1.64 (3H, s, H<sub>3</sub>-19), 1.77 (3H, s, H<sub>3</sub>-20), 2.12 (3H, s, 5-OAc), 2.11 (H, m, H-6), 2.34 (1H, m, H-13), 2.54 (1H, d, *J*=12.3 Hz, H-13), 2.83 (1H, *J*=4.5 Hz, H-3), 3.29 (1H, br s, H-1), 3.45 (3H, s, OMe), 4.53 (1H, dd, *J*=10.5, 3.9 Hz, H-5), 4.69 (1H, t, *J*=4.5 Hz, H-2), 4.96 (1H, t, *J*=7.2 Hz, H-7), 5.30 (1H, t, *J*=7.2 Hz, H-11), 5.50 (1H, br d, *J*=9.9 Hz, H-14), 5.75 (1H, d, *J*=2.1 Hz, H-16), 6.37 (1H, d, *J*=2.7 Hz, H-16), 7.40—7.65 (5H, aromatic H). Treatment of **6** (1.2 mg) in the same manner with (*S*)-MTPA chloride in pyridine gave the corresponding (*R*)-MTPA ester **6b** (0.6 mg): <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 300 MHz):  $\delta$  1.39 (3H, s, H<sub>3</sub>-18), 1.65 (3H, s, H<sub>3</sub>-19), 1.78 (3H, s, H<sub>3</sub>-20), 2.10 (3H, s, 5-OAc), 2.12 (H, m, H-6), 2.16 (1H, m, H-13), 2.44 (1H, d, *J*=12.6 Hz, H-13), 2.80 (1H, *J*=4.5 Hz, H-3), 3.35 (1H, br s, H-1), 3.42 (3H, s, OMe), 4.41 (1H, dd, *J*=10.8, 3.6 Hz, H-5), 4.75 (1H, t, *J*=4.5 Hz, H-2), 4.96 (1H, t, *J*=6.9 Hz, H-7), 5.25 (1H, m, H-11), 5.42 (1H, br d, *J*=10.5 Hz, H-14), 5.79 (1H, d, *J*=2.1 Hz, H-16), 6.44 (1H, d, *J*=2.1 Hz, H-16), 7.41—7.66 (5H, aromatic H).

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