

Sunscreen, antioxidant, and bactericide capacities of phlorotannins from the brown macroalga *Halidrys siliquosa*

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Abstract :

The present study focused on a brown macroalga (*Halidrys siliquosa*), with a particular emphasis on polyphenols and their associated biological activities. Two fractions were obtained by liquid/liquid purification from a crude hydroethanolic extract: (i) an ethyl acetate fraction and (ii) an aqueous fraction. Total phenolic contents and antioxidant activities of extract and both fractions were assessed by in vitro tests (Folin–Ciocalteu test, 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging activity, reducing power assay, superoxide anion scavenging assay, and β -carotene–linoleic acid system). For the most active fraction, i.e., the ethyl acetate fraction, the oxygen radical absorbance capacity (ORAC) value, antibacterial activities, and sunscreen potential (Sun Protection Factor and UV-A-Protection Factor) were tested in vitro. A high correlation found between antioxidant activities and total phenolic content was interpreted as the involvement of polyphenolic compounds in antioxidant mechanisms. Interestingly, the ethyl acetate fraction appeared to be a broad-spectrum UV absorber and showed a strong bactericidal activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Escherichia coli*. In this fraction, four phenolic compounds (trifluhalols and tetrafluhalols and, for the first time, diphloretols and triphloretols) were identified using 1D and 2D nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and MS analysis. These findings are promising for the use of *H. siliquosa*, abundant in Brittany, as a valuable source of photoprotectant molecules for sunscreen and cosmetic applications.

Keywords : Antioxidant, Bactericidal, Phenolic compounds, Phaeophyceae, Seaweed, ORAC value, Sunscreen potential

39 **Introduction**

40 One of the consequences of global change is an increase in the ambient level of ultraviolet (UV)
41 radiation, particularly in southern areas (resulting from ozone depletion) (Thomas et al. 2012). This
42 phenomenon, in addition to chronic sun exposure behavior, induces various skin-related disorders in
43 humans, such as premature aging and skin cancer development (Lautenschlager et al. 2007; Thomas et al.
44 2012; Saewan and Jimtaisong 2015). UV radiation mostly consists of UV-A radiation, which penetrates
45 deep into the dermis and epidermis and is known to be responsible for the production of reactive oxygen
46 species (ROS), which can cause DNA damage. UV-A is also known to cause premature skin aging by
47 damaging the underlying structures of the dermis (Ichihashi et al. 2003; Lautenschlager et al. 2007). UV-B
48 radiation, which represents a lesser proportion of the total UV radiation than UV-A, is known to be the solar
49 light component the most inductive of skin cancer, and can also cause DNA damage. It penetrates into the
50 epidermis layer and causes some acute biological effects such as skin sunburn (Ichihashi et al. 2003;
51 Lautenschlager et al. 2007). In order to lower the risk of skin diseases, topical sunscreen applications have
52 been developed (Ichihashi et al. 2003; Lautenschlager et al. 2007; Sambandan and Ratner 2011). An
53 optimal sunscreen combines UV-A and UV-B filters in order to provide broad spectrum protection
54 (Lautenschlager et al. 2007; Sambandan and Ratner 2011). Present UV filters are, however, based on
55 chemical compounds and cause many side effects, such as [irritant or allergic reactions, dermatitis and in a](#)
56 [few cases, severe anaphylactic reactions](#) (reviewed in Lautenschlager et al. 2007). Thus, biotechnological
57 research is now focusing on natural compounds, such as phytochemicals, that show promising bioactivities
58 for sunscreen applications (Saewan and Jimtaisong 2015), [such as absorption and scattering properties and](#)
59 [conservative actions respectively in sunscreen and other cosmetic products and are suitable to replace some](#)
60 [synthetic compounds](#). Among the organisms recognized as valuable sources of diverse bioactive chemicals,
61 seaweeds remain an under-exploited resource, especially in Brittany (Bourgougnon and Stiger-Pouvreau
62 2011). Indeed, marine brown algae synthesize polyphenols, known as phlorotannins, that present various
63 chemical structures (Singh and Bharate 2006) and have a large spectrum of biological activities (Li et al.
64 2011) of interest for skin protection. For example, phenolic compounds could have some antimicrobial
65 (Eom et al. 2012), antioxidative (Liu et al. 2011), anti-cancer, radioprotective [and](#) anti-inflammatory
66 properties (Kim et al. 2009; Kang et al. 2013). Moreover, in brown seaweeds, phlorotannins are [of special](#)
67 [interest regarding to the UV radiation protective effect](#) (Pavia and Brock 2000; Swanson and Druehl 2002;
68 Schoenwaelder 2002; Huovinen and Gómez 2015).

69 [Previous works on development of innovative natural products for preventive skin health care have](#)
70 [been done](#) by our laboratory (Surget et al. 2015). [Among brown macroalgae](#) which grow along the coasts of
71 Brittany (France) and can form dense forests in the subtidal zone, *Halidrys siliquosa* [has been reported to](#)
72 [have](#) a high phenolic content (Stiger-Pouvreau et al. 2014) and potentially useful biological properties, such
73 as strong antioxidant and interesting anti-tumor activities (Zubia et al. 2009). [Moreover, this species](#)
74 [belongs to the Sargassaceae family, which is known to present a natural diversity in bioactive compounds](#)
75 [and is usually used as a model system for chemotaxonomic studies](#) (Kornprobst 2010; Stiger-Pouvreau et
76 al. 2014).

77 The goal of this study was to show the sunscreen potential of phlorotannins from this marine brown
78 alga, in particular to identify active compounds (phycochemicals) with several biological activities. It
79 focused on antioxidative activities associated with antibacterial and photoprotection capabilities of the
80 phenolic-enriched fraction. Moreover, the total phenolic content of this active fraction was quantified with
81 the Folin-Ciocalteu assay and qualified by NMR and MS analysis.

82 **Materials and Methods**

83 **Biological Material**

84 *Halidrys siliquosa* (Linnaeus) Lyngbye (Ochrophyta, Phaeophyceae, Fucales, Sargassaceae) was
85 collected on January 30 2013, from the sheltered side of the Porsmeur site (N48° 28' 51"; W4° 46' 8") near
86 Lanildut (France). Apical and median parts of thalli were collected, while the holdfasts were left on place to
87 minimize collection impact on the seaweed population. Immediately after collection, epiphytes of
88 *H. siliquosa* were removed and parts of thalli were thoroughly washed with distilled water. The cleaned
89 algae were cut into small fragments and homogenized to remove effects of intra- and inter-individual
90 variability. Samples were freeze-dried for 72 h and ground into powder for extraction.

91 **Crude extraction and Liquid-Liquid purification processes**

92 As described below and on Figure 1, two fractions (an ethyl acetate fraction or EAF and an aqueous
93 fraction or AqF) were obtained from the purification of the hydroethanolic crude extract (CE).

94 Crude Extraction

95 To obtain the CE, 30 g of powder of thalli obtained from the collected sample were extracted with 300
96 mL of ethanol/water (50/50, v/v) mixture (EtOH 50) in the dark at 40 °C for 2 h under rotary agitation
97 (200 rpm). Sample was centrifuged at 3000 g at 10 °C for 10 min and supernatant was collected. Next, the
98 pellet was again extracted twice with 300 mL EtOH 50 in the dark at 40 °C for 1 h under rotary agitation
99 (200 rpm) and centrifugation process was repeated. Finally, 900 mL of supernatant were obtained, pooled
100 and evaporated at 40 °C under vacuum to reach 100 mL of crude extract (CE).

101 Liquid-Liquid Purification Process

102 Crude extract was semi-purified in order to concentrate the phenolic compounds using a process
103 already described (Stiger-Pouvreau et al. 2014). Briefly, the process consisted of three steps. The first step
104 was three dichloromethane washings. The second step consisted in rinsing the aqueous phase (containing
105 phlorotannins) with acetone, and then with ethanol. Finally, the third step was three ethyl acetate rinses that
106 permitted to obtain the aqueous (AqF) and the ethyl acetate (EAF) fractions. All further analyses were
107 carried out on the crude extract and these two purified fractions.

108 **Total Phenolic Content**

109 Total phenolic content (TPC) was determined by spectrophotometry using an adapted Folin-Ciocalteu
110 assay as described by Le Lann et al. (2008) and Zubia et al. (2009). The samples (100 µL) were mixed with
111 50 µL Folin-Ciocalteu reagent, 200 µL 20% sodium carbonate solution, and 650 µL distilled water. Then,
112 the mixture was allowed to stand at 70 °C in the dark for 10 min. After a blue colour was produced, the

116 absorbance was read at 650 nm. The total phenolic compounds content (TPC) was expressed in mg per g of
117 dry weight ($\text{mg}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ DW) from a standard curve of phloroglucinol (1,3,5-trihydroxybenzene). This analysis
118 was made in triplicate for each extract.

120 **Antioxidant Assays**

121 DPPH Radical Scavenging Activity

122 The DPPH radical-scavenging activity was determined by the method described by Zubia et al. (2009),
123 modified from Fukumoto and Mazza (2000) and Turkmen et al. (2007). Briefly, 22 μL of CE and both
124 fractions at various concentrations were mixed with 200 μL of a 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH)
125 solution ($25 \text{ mg}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$) prepared daily. The reaction was allowed to develop for 60 min in the dark at room
126 temperature, before absorbance was read at 540 nm with a multi-well spectrophotometer. Water was used
127 as a negative control, and ascorbic acid (Vitamin C), 6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic
128 acid (Trolox), and 2(3)-*t*-Butyl-4-hydroxyanisole (butylated hydroxyl-anisole or BHA) as positive controls.
129 This assay was done in triplicate for each sample. The percentage of DPPH inhibition was calculated using
130 the equation published in Surget et al. (2015). For each sample, a curve of extract concentration against %
131 of DPPH inhibition was generated to estimate the concentration of extract needed to cause a 50% reduction
132 of the initial DPPH concentration. IC_{50} was expressed in mg per mL. A high IC_{50} is considered as indicative
133 of a weak radical scavenging activity and *vice versa*.

134 Reducing Power Assay

135 Total antioxidant capacity of the seaweed extract was determined using the ferric reducing-antioxidant
136 power assay, as described by Zubia et al. (2009) and slightly modified by Surget et al. (2015). Briefly, 25
137 μL of sample at different concentrations were mixed with 25 μL sodium phosphate buffer (0.2M, pH 6.6)
138 and 25 μL 1% potassium ferricyanide [$\text{K}_3\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6$]. After homogenization and incubation at 50 °C for 20
139 min, the mixture was cooled down in an ice bath prior to the addition of 25 μL 10% trichloroacetic acid, 100
140 μL deionised water, and 20 μL 0.1% $\text{FeCl}_3\cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$. After homogenization, the reaction was allowed to
141 develop for 10 min at room temperature and the absorbance was then read at 620 nm on a multi-well
142 spectrophotometer. An increase of the absorbance at 650 nm of the reaction mixture indicated that the
143 molecules had some reducing power. Results are expressed as EC_{50} in mg per mL. This value was obtained
144 by interpolation of a regression linear curve. This assay was carried out in triplicate for each sample and for
145 the positive controls (ascorbic acid, Trolox, and BHA, as described above).

146 Superoxide Anion-Scavenging Activity (NBT)

147 The superoxide anion scavenging assay was carried out according to Chua et al. (2008), as slightly
148 modified by Tanniou et al. (2014). The reaction mixture consisted of 203 μL $5\cdot 10^{-3}$ M Tris-HCl buffer (pH
149 7.5), 57 μL 5mM hypoxanthine, 30 μL 0.33 mM NBT, and 13 μL of the extracts, positive controls (ascorbic
150 acid, Trolox, and BHA) or negative controls (distilled water and ethanol). After incubation at 25 °C for 10
151 min, the reaction was started by adding 30 μL xanthine oxidase. The absorbance was measured every 3 min
152 for 21 min at 560 nm. The inhibition ratio (%) was calculated from the equation published in Chua et al.
153 (2008). Results were then expressed as IC_{50} in mg per mL (the concentration of substrate that causes a 50 %
154 inhibition).

156 β-Carotene–Linoleic Acid System Test

157 The antioxidant activity of samples was measured by the β-carotene bleaching method in accordance
158 with Kaur and Kapoor (2002) and Koleva et al. (2002) after slight modifications, as described in Le Lann et
159 al. (2008) and Zubia et al. (2009). Briefly, 2 mL of a solution of β-carotene in chloroform (0.1mg.mL⁻¹)
160 were added to round-bottom flasks containing 20 mg linoleic acid and 200 mg Tween 40. After evaporation
161 with a rotavapor, oxygenated distilled water (50 mL) was added and the mixture was shaken to form a
162 liposome solution. This mixture was added to 12 μL of extracts, positive controls (α-tocopherol, Trolox,
163 and BHA) or negative controls (distilled water and ethanol). The absorbance of the solution at 450 nm was
164 measured immediately (t = 0 min) and after 2 hours at 50 °C (t = 120 min). All samples were assayed in
165 triplicate. Antioxidant activity was expressed through the antioxidant activity coefficient (AAC700 in mg
166 per mL) described by Le Lann et al. (2008). Furthermore, the lower the AAC700 was, the stronger the
167 antioxidant activity became.

168

169 Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity (ORAC)

170 ORAC assay summarizes two results in a single value: the inhibition percentage and inhibition rapidity
171 of peroxy radicals by antioxidants, in competition with the substrate (Dudonné et al. 2009). The ORAC
172 assay was performed by INVIVO LABS company (www.invivo-labs.com) on the most antioxidant
173 fraction. The protocol was adapted from Cao et al. (1993). Results were expressed as μmol Trolox
174 equivalent (Te) per mg.

175

176 **Antibacterial Activity**

177 Antibacterial assays were performed by IDEA LAB company (www.groupeideatests.com), Plouzané,
178 France. The most antioxidant fraction was tested against bacteria at 5 mg.mL⁻¹ in 1% EtOH. The three
179 tested bacterial strains, referenced in the European Pharmacopoeia (2011), were: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
180 (ATCC 9027), *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 6538) and *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 8739). According to the
181 benchmarks used, a product is bactericidal if a reduction of 4 or 5 log (AFNOR and European standards) of
182 the bacterial concentration is obtained.

183

184 **Protective Efficacy: Sun Protection Factor (SPF) and UV-A Protection Factor (PF-UV-A)**

185 The photoprotective efficiency of *H. siliquosa* extracts was determined in UV-A and UV-B ranges
186 (respectively 320-400 nm and 290-320 nm) using a previously described *in vitro* method (Couteau et al.
187 2007; El-Boury et al. 2007). SPF is used as a universal indicator to give information about the capacity of a
188 product to reduce UV-induced solar erythema. An *in vitro* method makes it possible to highlight the UV
189 filter role of organic or inorganic substances, which could later be incorporated into a sunscreen
190 formulation for topical application.

191 Concisely, extracts were incorporated in a basic O/W (Oil in Water) emulsion to finally obtain an
192 emulsion at 10% (w/w) of extracts. Fifty milligrams of prepared emulsion were spread using a cot-coated
193 finger across the entire surface (25 cm²) of a polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) plate (Europlast,
194 Aubervilliers). After spreading, only 15 mg of the emulsion remained on the plate. Transmission
195 measurements between 200 and 400 nm were performed using a spectrophotometer equipped with an

196 integrating sphere (UV Transmittance Analyzer UV1000S, Labsphere, North Sutton, USA). Three plates
197 were prepared for each extract to be tested and nine measurements were carried out on each plate. SPF and
198 PF-UV-A were calculated using the following equations:

$$\text{SPF} = \frac{\sum_{290}^{400} E_{\lambda} S_{\lambda} d\lambda}{\sum_{290}^{400} E_{\lambda} S_{\lambda} T_{\lambda} d\lambda} \quad \text{PF - UV-A} = \frac{\sum_{320}^{400} E_{\lambda} S_{\lambda} d\lambda}{\sum_{320}^{400} E_{\lambda} S_{\lambda} T_{\lambda} d\lambda}$$

202 where E_{λ} is erythemal spectral effectiveness at λ , S_{λ} is solar spectral irradiance at λ , and T_{λ} is spectral
203 transmittance of the sample at λ (Diffey and Robson 1989).

204 Results were given as SPF and PF-UV-A. A higher SPF/PF-UV-A value indicates that a sample offers
205 more protection against UV-B/UV-A by absorbance or reflection.

207 **Structural Elucidation of Active Molecules by Nuclear Magnetic Resonance and MALDI-TOF Mass** 208 **Spectrometry Analysis**

209 The most antioxidant fraction was analyzed by ^1H and ^{13}C nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR). The
210 1D ^1H - and ^{13}C -NMR heteronuclear multiple bond correlation (HMBC) and heteronuclear single-quantum
211 correlation spectroscopy (HSQC) experiments were carried out on a Bruker Avance 500. Samples were
212 dissolved in 750 μL MeOD. Homonuclear and heteronuclear NMR spectra were recorded at 25 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.
213 Chemical shifts were measured in ppm using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as a chemical shift reference at
214 0 ppm.

215 Analysis by MALDI-TOF MS was performed using a Voyager DE-STR MALDI-TOF mass
216 spectrometer (Applied Biosystems). The most active fraction (EAF) of *H. siliquosa* was first diluted to 1
217 $\text{mg}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ in water. Then 1 μL of this solution was diluted with matrix at 1/1, 1/10, 1/100 and 1/1000, and
218 spotted onto the MALDI target. The matrix solution consisted of 2,5 dihydroxybenzoic acid (Sigma) 10
219 $\text{mg}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ in 50% ACN, 0.1% TFA. Spectra were acquired in positive ion reflector mode under 20 kV
220 accelerating voltage, a delay time of 80 sec, and a mass range of 100–5000 Da. Each spectrum was the sum
221 of 10000 single laser shots randomized over 10 positions within the same spot (1000 shots/position) at a
222 laser frequency of 20 Hz. External calibration was performed using the Peptide mix 4 calibration mixture
223 (Laser Bio Labs).

225 **Statistical Analysis**

226 The software R (v. 2.12.0) for Windows was used, with the RStudio (v. 0.95.263) integrated
227 development environment. All laboratory analyses were performed in triplicate, and results were expressed
228 as mean values \pm standard deviation (SD). As data did not respect the requirements for ANOVA
229 (homogeneity of variances, tested with the Bartlett's test at the 0.05 significance level), Kruskal-Wallis
230 tests were performed, at a significance level of 95%, to reveal potential significant differences. In the case
231 of significant differences between the data, non-parametric multiple comparisons (Behrens-Fisher test)
232 were applied using the nmpc package. Moreover, to test the correlation between phenolic content and
233 antioxidant activity, principal component analysis (PCA) was performed with the factomineR package and
234 cluster analysis with the fpc and pvclust packages. Pvclust is designed to assess the uncertainty in

235 hierarchical cluster analysis. For each cluster in the hierarchical clustering, quantities called *p*-values are
236 calculated via multiscale bootstrap resampling. The *p*-value of a cluster indicates how strongly the cluster is
237 supported by the data. Clusters with *p*-values larger than 95% are strongly supported by data.

239 Results

240 Total Phenolic Content

241 The purification of the crude extract of *Halidrys siliquosa* was efficient in generating a
242 phenolic-enriched ethyl acetate fraction, as shown in Table 1, which compares the total phenolic contents
243 (TPC) of the crude extract and semi-purified fractions. Phenolic compounds were strongly concentrated in
244 EAF. Indeed, almost 98% of this fraction ($975.73 \pm 19.26 \text{ mg.g}^{-1} \text{ DW}$) consisted of phenolic compounds.
245 The last 2% is probably constituted of traces of fatty acids and carbohydrates, as it is shown by the $^1\text{H NMR}$
246 analysis (Figure 2). Conversely, AqF showed lower TPC ($164.19 \pm 7.58 \text{ mg.g}^{-1} \text{ DW}$) than CE
247 ($182.47 \pm 3.33 \text{ mg.g}^{-1} \text{ DW}$; Kruskal-Wallis test: $p < 0.05$; Behrens-Fisher test).

249 Antioxidant activities

250 Table 1 shows results of the antioxidant activities of the crude extract and both semi-purified fractions
251 compared with positive controls, assessed by DPPH radical-scavenging activity, reducing power assay,
252 superoxide anion-scavenging activity, and the β -carotene bleaching method.

253 The crude extract and both fractions showed high DPPH radical-scavenging activities. EAF exhibited
254 the lowest IC_{50} ($0.020 \pm 3.54\text{E}10^{-4} \text{ mg.mL}^{-1}$), close to that obtained for the positive controls
255 (*e.g.*, $0.010 \pm 4.82\text{E}10^{-5} \text{ mg.mL}^{-1}$ for BHA). The other antioxidant assays confirmed the results obtained by
256 the DPPH test. Indeed, in the reducing power assay, EAF showed a low EC_{50} compared with those of the
257 positive controls ($p < 0.05$, Behrens-Fisher test; $0.058 \pm 0.001 \text{ mg.mL}^{-1}$ and $0.074 \pm 0.002 \text{ mg.mL}^{-1}$ for
258 EAF and BHA, respectively). In the superoxide anion-scavenging test, the IC_{50} displayed by EAF ($0.664 \pm$
259 0.019 mg.mL^{-1}) was equal to the IC_{50} obtained for BHA ($0.664 \pm 0.022 \text{ mg.mL}^{-1}$). In the β -carotene
260 bleaching method, EAF showed the lowest AAC700 ($0.206 \pm 0.001 \text{ mg.mL}^{-1}$, $p < 0.05$, Behrens-Fisher
261 test). It should be noted, however, that this AAC700 value is significantly higher than those of the positive
262 controls (*e.g.*, $0.015 \pm 0.001 \text{ mg.mL}^{-1}$ for BHA) (Table 1). Despite this last result, EAF showed strong
263 antioxidant activities. Furthermore, whatever the antioxidant assay considered, AqF always showed the
264 lowest activity by exhibiting a high IC_{50} (DPPH and superoxide anion-scavenging tests), a high EC_{50}
265 (reducing power assay) and a strong AAC700 (β -carotene bleaching method). These results meant that AqF
266 showed a weak antioxidant activity.

267 The ethyl acetate fraction of *H. siliquosa* showed an interesting ORAC value of 5.39 ± 1.08
268 $\mu\text{molTE.mg}^{-1}$ (Table 1), which is comparable to the ORAC value measured for ascorbic acid (9.35 ± 0.63)
269 mentioned by Huang et al. (2010).

271 Correlations between Antioxidant Activities and Phenolic Content

272 It is worth noting that the ethyl acetate fraction, with marked antioxidant activities, had the highest
273 phenolic content ($975.73 \pm 19.26 \text{ mg.mL}^{-1} \text{ DW}$) whereas the aqueous fraction, which showed low
274 antioxidant activities, had the lowest phenolic content ($164.19 \pm 7.58 \text{ mg.mL}^{-1} \text{ DW}$). These observations

275 were confirmed by statistical analysis. Cluster analysis revealed a significant association between TPC and
276 antioxidant activities (100%). Moreover, non-significant associations were found between the two
277 scavenging tests (DPPH radical-scavenging and superoxide anion-scavenging assays, 70%) and between
278 the reducing power test and β -carotene bleaching method (61%). The principal component analysis (PCA,
279 Figure 3) confirmed that antioxidant activities were correlated with the total phenolic content of the
280 samples. Moreover, PCA showed that TPC values were strongly negatively correlated with EC_{50} obtained
281 with reducing power. This means that the higher the measured TPC of a sample, the lower its EC_{50} and the
282 stronger its antioxidant activity. Other antioxidant assays were less correlated with TPC. PCA also
283 confirmed that DPPH radical-scavenging and superoxide anion-scavenging assays were positively
284 associated.

286 **Bactericidal Activities**

287 Results of the antibacterial assays are reported in Table 2. The negative control (1% EtOH) had no
288 effect on bacterial growth, whatever the pathogen. In contrast, at a concentration of 5 mg.mL⁻¹, EAF
289 showed a strong bactericidal activity. Indeed, this fraction showed a reduction higher than 5 log of the
290 initial bacterial concentration with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Escherichia coli* (< 1 UFC.mL⁻¹).
291 Concerning *Staphylococcus aureus*, EAF showed a bactericidal activity with a reduction of 4.5 log of the
292 initial bacterial concentration (75 UFC.mL⁻¹).

294 **Photoprotective Sunscreen Activity**

295 The absorption spectrum of the *H. siliquosa* EAF shows a band with a maximum at 376 nm. Moreover,
296 the O/W emulsion manufactured with this phlorotannin-enriched fraction (*Halidrys* emulsion) had a Sun
297 Protection Factor (SPF) of 3.55 ± 0.29 and a PF-UV-A value of 2.20 ± 0.13 .

299 **Structural elucidation of active molecules**

300 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Analysis

301 The ¹H NMR spectrum of the ethyl acetate fraction of *Halidrys siliquosa* showed a broader distribution
302 of the ¹H signals between 5.8 and 6.3 ppm, characteristic of phlorotannins (Figure 2). Observations from
303 the HMBC experiments (Figure 4 and Table 3) confirmed the presence of polyphenolic structures. Indeed,
304 the HMBC spectrum showed characteristic carbon atom resonances at (1) 96.10 ppm, corresponding to
305 quaternary methine groups; (2) between 124 and 132 ppm, corresponding to diaryl-ether bonds
306 (ether-linked phloroglucinol units); (3) between 142 and 148 ppm for additional OH functions other than
307 the 1,3,5 OH groups originally present in each phloroglucinol unit; and finally, (4) between 152 and 159
308 ppm, signals for phenolic carbons (Figure 4 and Table 3). We can, therefore, hypothesize that fuhalol type
309 units, and also phlorethol-type units, are present. Moreover, it is worth noting the absence of signals
310 between 100 and 105 ppm indicative of the absence of aryl-aryl carbons and thus the absence of fucol-type
311 units in this purified phenolic sample.

312 MALDI-TOF Mass Spectrometry

313 The MALDI-TOF analysis of the ethyl acetate fraction of *Halidrys siliquosa* revealed a molecular
314 weight ranging from 222 to 763 Da (Table 4). It could be resumed that the EAF contained small

315 polyphenolic compounds with no more than six phloroglucinol units (oligomers). The peak-to-peak mass
316 increments observed at 273.06 Da, 413.29 Da, 523.36 Da, and 537.38 Da could correspond to the formation
317 of M+ Na adducts of (1) (250 Da), (3) (390 Da), and (4) (514 Da) (Table 4 and Figure 5). Moreover, the
318 peak-to-peak mass increment observed at 375.03 Da could correspond to the formation of M+ H adducts of
319 (2) (374 Da). The peak-to-peak mass increments observed at 343.31 and 365.30 Da could correspond to the
320 formation of M+ H and M+ Na adducts of a compound with a native mass of about 342 Da that seems not to
321 be a phloroglucinol oligomer. Table 4 gives the experimental and calculated masses of the polyphenolic
322 oligomers identified for the EAF sample (Figure 5), together with their putative chemical structures.
323 Masses of phlorethols and fuhalols were calculated using the respective chemical formula of a typical
324 phlorethol and fuhalol (respectively $C_{6n}H_{4n+2}O_{3n}$ and $C_{6n}H_{4n+2}O_{3n+i}$, where n is the number of
325 phloroglucinol units and i was the number of additional hydroxyl groups).

327 Discussion

328 The purification process used in the present study to purify phenolic compounds from
329 *Halidrys siliquosa* was highly efficient to isolating oligophlorotannins. This procedure was also described
330 as efficient for other Sargassaceae species belonging to the genera *Bifurcaria*, *Cystoseira* and *Sargassum*
331 (Stiger-Pouvreau et al. 2014), for Fucaceae species as *Pelvetia canaliculata* and *Ascophyllum nodosum* (Ar
332 Gall et al. 2015) and also for halophytes (Surget et al. 2015). The preliminary structural analyses of the
333 ethyl acetate fraction, combined with data from the literature (McInnes et al. 1984; Cérantola et al. 2006)
334 allowed the identification of four phenolic compounds: di- and triphlorethols and tri- and tetrafuhalols.
335 Until now, little information has existed on the chemical nature of phenolic compounds produced by *H.*
336 *siliquosa*. Fuhalols had already been described in this species (Glombitza and Sattler 1973; Sattler et al.
337 1977) but, as these studies were done on non-native compounds (peracetylated compounds), the true nature
338 of the phlorotannins present in *H. siliquosa* was not fully explored. Moreover, the present study is the first
339 time which identified phlorethol-type compounds in this species. Phlorethols are known to be present in
340 other Sargassaceae species, such as in *Sargassum muticum* and some *Cystoseira* species from Brittany (see
341 Stiger-Pouvreau et al. 2014 for a review). Moreover, the co-occurrence of fuhalols and phlorethols was
342 already known in other Sargassaceae species, like *Cystoseira tamariscifolia* (Glombitza et al. 1975) and
343 *Sargassum spinuligerum* (Keusgen and Glombitza 1995), but not in *H. siliquosa*. Additionally, the
344 phenolic compounds identified in *H. siliquosa* in the present study were oligomers of phloroglucinol. These
345 results are in line with previous data on Sargassaceae species, which produces low-molecular-weight
346 phenolic compounds (Le Lann et al. 2012a; Le Lann et al. 2012b; Harnita et al. 2013; Jégou et al. 2015;
347 Montero et al. 2016) rather than high-molecular-weight phlorotannins as observed in the Fucaceae and
348 Laminariales (Wang et al. 2012; Shibata et al. 2015; Heffernan et al. 2015).

349 In order to characterize the antioxidant capacity of extracts and fractions of *H. siliquosa*, four fast,
350 reliable and classical biochemical methods were used. Three of them (DPPH, NBT, and Reducing Power
351 tests) represent a single electron-transfer (SET) reaction, whereas the β -carotene bleaching method
352 (BCBM) represents a hydrogen atom transfer reaction (HAT) (Huang et al. 2005). The antioxidant
353 molecules can act as inhibitors of lipid oxidation through various different mechanisms in addition to free
354 radical trapping, e.g., prevention of chain initiation, binding of transition metal ion catalysts or peroxide
355 decomposition (Frankel and Meyer 2000). Thus, simple *in vitro* tests are an approach to evaluate the
356 antioxidant capacity of samples, and the combination of four of them made it possible to by-pass the

357 inability of a one-dimensional test of antioxidant capacity to accurately mirror the *in vivo* complexity of
358 interactions between antioxidants in foods and biological systems (Frankel and Meyer 2000).

359 Among the tested samples, the ethyl acetate fraction exhibited the highest antioxidant activity
360 independent of what assay was used. Moreover, its antioxidant activity was equivalent to those displayed
361 by the commercial antioxidants used as positive controls in this study (ascorbic acid, α -tocopherol, BHA,
362 and Trolox) for the SET assays (DPPH, NBT, and reducing power). These results were reinforced by the
363 ORAC value obtained for the ethyl acetate fraction. Indeed, the ORAC value of the EAF ($5.39 \pm 1.08 \mu\text{mol}$
364 TE/mg) was close to the ORAC values obtained for ascorbic acid in the literature (Huang et al. 2010;
365 Ishimoto et al. 2012; Fujii et al. 2013). For the β -carotene bleaching method, the activity of the EAF is
366 higher than those of commercial antioxidants. This test measures the activity of lipophilic molecules
367 (Koleva et al. 2002; Le Lann et al. 2008), so the active compounds would therefore tend to be polar, or
368 faintly apolar compounds. Moreover, in the β -carotene bleaching method, the system is complex, and the
369 emulsified lipid in use introduces additional variables liable to affect the oxidation process (Zubia et al.
370 2009).

371 To our knowledge, this study is the second to provide evidence for the existence of high antioxidant
372 activity in this seaweed species, following a screening of antioxidant and antitumor activities of
373 non-identified phlorotannins (Zubia et al. 2009). However, our paper is the first to identify active purified
374 native phlorotannins from *H. siliquosa*. Moreover, the antioxidant activities exhibited by the extract and
375 fractions of *H. siliquosa* were positively correlated with their phenolic contents. Additionally, Fujii et al.
376 (2013) evaluated the antioxidative properties of phlorotannins isolated from the brown alga *Eisenia bicyclis*
377 (Laminariales, Lessoniaceae). These authors found H-ORAC values of phloroglucinol
378 ($20.38 \pm 1.11 \mu\text{mol TE} / \text{mg}$) and various eckols (H-ORAC values between 11.6 ± 1.2 and
379 $20.62 \pm 1.46 \mu\text{mol TE} / \text{mg}$). In the same way, in 2010, Parys et al. (2010) published ORAC values for
380 phloroglucinol and fucophlorethols isolated from *Fucus vesiculosus*. Despite the unusual units used by
381 these authors, their results showed that phloroglucinol was a little more active than fucophlorethols,
382 meaning that oligomers of phloroglucinol could be more active than polymers for this test. Thus, our
383 present study highlights, for the first time, the antioxidative potential of small phenolic compounds
384 (oligofuhalols and oligophlorethols) from *H. siliquosa*. This enhances previous results on the high
385 antioxidant potential of phenolic compounds from brown seaweeds. Further studies should now be carried
386 out to isolate each phenolic compound and test them separately, to study potential synergy between
387 phytochemicals. Furthermore, the marked correlation between the reducing power and the total phenolic
388 content could provide information on the antioxidant mechanism of phenolic compounds from *H. siliquosa*.
389 Indeed, the reducing power determined in this work, depends on the redox potentials of the compounds
390 present in the sample. Therefore, it can be predicted that the phlorotannins present in the *H. siliquosa* EAF
391 show low redox potential and thus a high antioxidant efficiency against free radicals (peroxyl or hydroxyl
392 radicals) (Zhu et al. 2002).

393 The EAF of *H. siliquosa* also showed bactericidal activities against three bacterial strains:
394 *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. The antimicrobial activities of
395 phenolic compounds from seaweeds are very well known (see Eom et al. 2012 for a review), including
396 phenolic compounds from *H. siliquosa* (Sattler et al. 1977). The antibacterial activities of phlorotannins
397 were reviewed by Li et al. (2011), but this is the first time that bactericidal activities have been reported for
398 a phenolic-rich fraction from *H. siliquosa*. More specifically, phlorotannins from *Ascophyllum nodosum*
399 showed bactericidal activities against *E. coli* (Wang et al. 2009). The bactericidal activities of phenolic

400 compounds seemed to be related to the number of hydroxyl groups (Smith et al. 2003; Wang et al. 2009)
401 and to the degree of polymerization of phloroglucinol within phlorotannins (Nagayama et al. 2002).
402 Moreover, Wang et al. (2009) suggested that condensed phlorotannins with high hydroxylation may inhibit
403 bacterial growth by altering the cell membrane (Wang et al. 2009). The fuhalol compounds identified in the
404 EAF of *H. siliquosa* have high hydroxyl functions. The oxidation potential of hydroxyl groups, well known
405 in phlorotannins (Ragan and Glombitza 1986), could explain their bactericidal activity, by alteration of
406 bacterial cell membranes. Because this work is a preliminary study, there is now a need to test the dose
407 effect to identify the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and the minimum bactericidal concentration
408 (MBC) of the EAF. Nevertheless, such fraction is interesting and could be used in cosmetic formula itself as
409 natural conservators.

410 The SPF obtained for the *Halidrys* emulsion is similar to eight UV pure synthetic filters authorized in
411 the European Union, like homosalate for example, tested in O/W emulsion with the same method (Couteau
412 et al. 2007). While UV-B protection is imperative, UV-A protection is now recognized as being equally
413 essential. Indeed, if UV-B is considered as "burning rays", then UV-A can be considered as "aging rays"
414 (Lautenschlager et al. 2007; Saewan and Jimtaisong 2015). With a maximal absorbance (376 nm) in the
415 UV-A range (400–320 nm) and a PF-UV-A about 2.20 ± 0.13 , the EAF of *H. siliquosa* exhibited an
416 absorbance and a sunscreen activity similar to the synthetic filter Avobenzone (358 nm and 2.76 ± 0.31 for
417 maximal absorbance and PF-UV-A respectively) (Lohézic-Le Dévéhat et al. 2013). So, the EAF obtained
418 from *H. siliquosa* is interesting because it appears to be a broad-spectrum UV absorber, useful to be
419 included as natural filter in solar cream for example.

420 The photoprotective capacities of plant extracts have been demonstrated in previous studies. Indeed,
421 using a similar *in vitro* UV method, three sunscreen emulsions with ethyl acetate plant extract (10 wt.%)
422 were tested *in vitro* and authors obtained SPF and PF-UV-A values ranging from 6.00 ± 0.42 to 9.88 ± 1.66
423 and from 3.64 ± 0.07 to 6.96 ± 0.21 , respectively (Jarzycka et al. 2013). Likewise, using the same protocol
424 as the present study, one acetonic extract of the lichen *Lasallia pustulata* was found to have SPF and
425 PF-UV-A maxima of 5.52 and 2.45, respectively (Lohézic-Le Dévéhat et al. 2013). Furthermore, usnic
426 acid, extracted from the lichen *Xanthoparmelia farinosa*, was described as the best UV-B filter tested, with
427 a protection factor similar to a commercial product called LSF 5 (4.1; Rancan et al. 2002). Among marine
428 macrophytes, the EAF from a *Salicornia ramosissima* extract is an interesting candidate to provide an
429 effective protective action over the whole UV-A–UV-B range, with large SPF and PF-UV-A values (Surget
430 et al. 2015). Moreover, the photoprotection efficiency of seaweed extracts has been demonstrated for
431 several species, as recently reviewed by Saewan and Jimtaisong (2015). For example, the photoprotective
432 potential of extracts obtained from 11 commercial brown algae and 10 commercial red algae was evaluated
433 against UV-B radiation (Guinea et al. 2012). In the same way, phlorotannins isolated and purified from
434 *Ecklonia cava* were demonstrated as effective at protecting against UV-B radiation (Cha et al. 2012). Both
435 of these studies used an *in-vivo* test with a zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) embryo assay. In a more generalistic
436 point of view, the common feature of UV-absorbing secondary metabolites is the presence of aromatic or
437 conjugated bond structures as it is found in phlorotannins. Such molecules presents a π -electron system,
438 which is one of the most effective UV radiation absorbers (Cockell and Knowland 1999).

439 One other point that would be taken into consideration is the spatio-temporal variability of phenolic
440 contents. Indeed, the phlorotannin pool strongly depends on sites, seasons and on the phenology of algae
441 (*i.e.*: Parys et al. 2009; Le Lann et al. 2012a; Celis-Plá et al. 2016). So, knowledge of the chemical ecology

442 of potentially exploitable species is essential to identify the best sites and seasons for the highest
443 bioactivities.

444 445 **Conclusions**

446 This study emphasized, for the first time, the sunscreen potential and strong antioxidant and
447 antibacterial capacities of a mix of four small phlorotannins, *i.e.*, di and tri-phlorethols and tri- and
448 tetra-fuhalols, from the brown macroalga *Halidrys siliquosa*. The antioxidant and sunscreen activities were
449 found to be equivalent to several commercial antioxidant molecules and to some synthetic UV filters.
450 Moreover, the correlation found between antioxidant activities and total phenolic content supports the
451 involvement of phenolic compounds in the antioxidant mechanisms. Furthermore, the EAF showed
452 bactericidal activities against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli*,
453 which represents interesting properties for proposing these compounds as natural preservatives in
454 cosmetics for example. These findings therefore highlight the potential of this brown seaweed as a natural
455 source of phytochemicals with several biological activities of interest to both the cosmetics and
456 pharmaceutical industries. Nevertheless, it would be worth carrying out additional experiments in order to
457 evaluate the photostability of compounds over time, and to check for the absence of cytotoxicity so they can
458 be used in formulations. Moreover, because our results suggest that bioactivities of the EAF are derived
459 from the synergy between the active phlorotannins, other further studies need to be carried out to isolate and
460 to separately test the bioactive compounds present in the active fraction in order to gain a better
461 understanding of their mechanisms of action.

462
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472 Fanny Gaillard performed the experiments; Klervi Le Lann analyzed the data; Mayalen Zubia, Fabienne
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Figure 1. Procedure of liquid:liquid purification carried out on the hydroethanolic crude extract of *Halydris siliquosa*.

Figure 2. ^1H NMR spectrum of the ethyl acetate fraction of the brown macroalga *Halidrys siliquosa* (in MeOD), focusing on the aromatic region.

Figure 3. Principal component analysis (PCA), applied to the active variables of radical-scavenging activity (DPPH), reducing power assay (RP), superoxide anion-scavenging test (NBT) and the β -carotene bleaching method (BCBM).

Figure 4. HMBC contour plots of the ethyl acetate fraction of *Halidrys siliquosa* (in MeOD)

Figure 5. Chemical structures of phlorotannins identified in the ethyl acetate fraction of the brown alga *Halidrys siliquosa*.

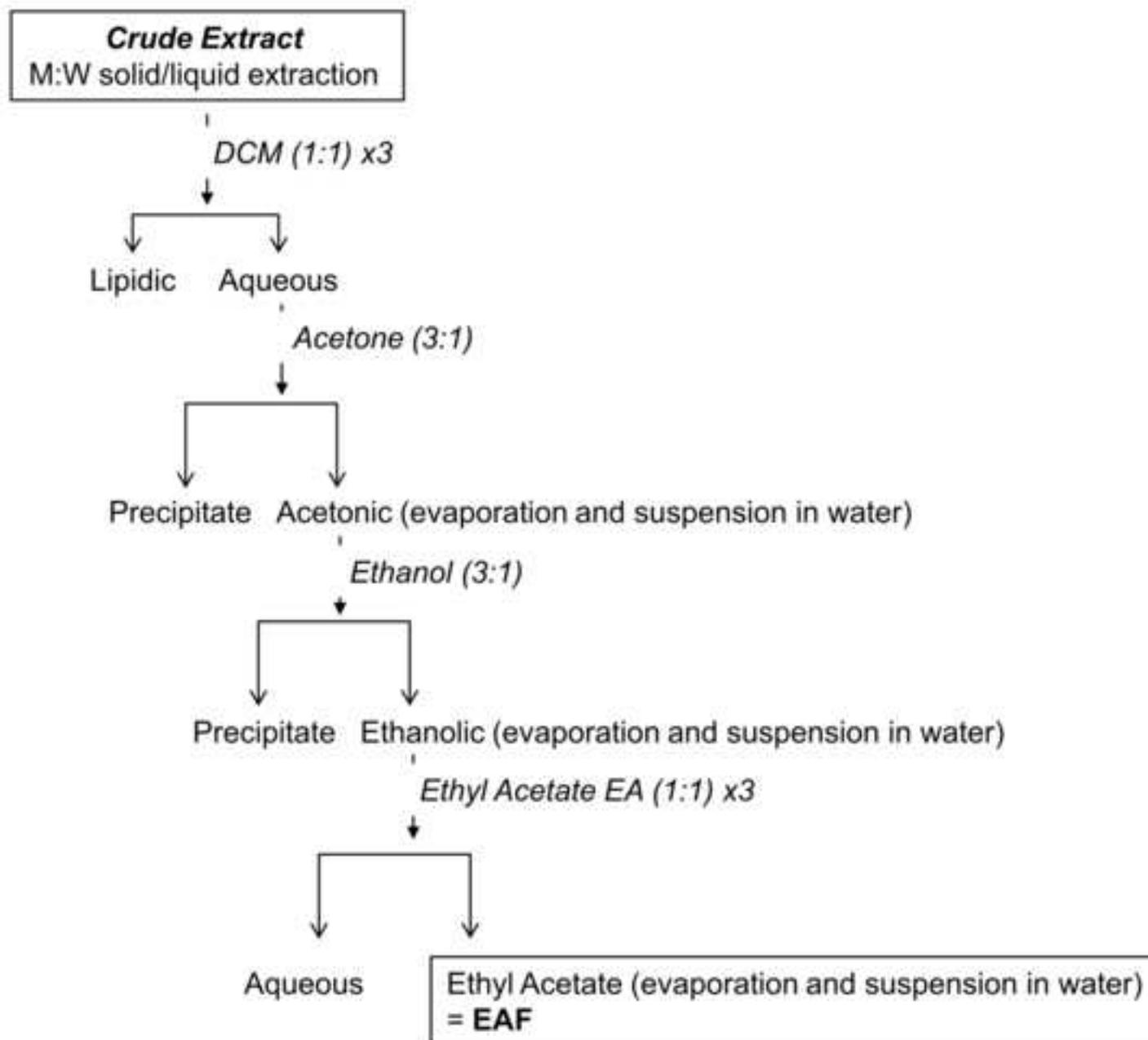
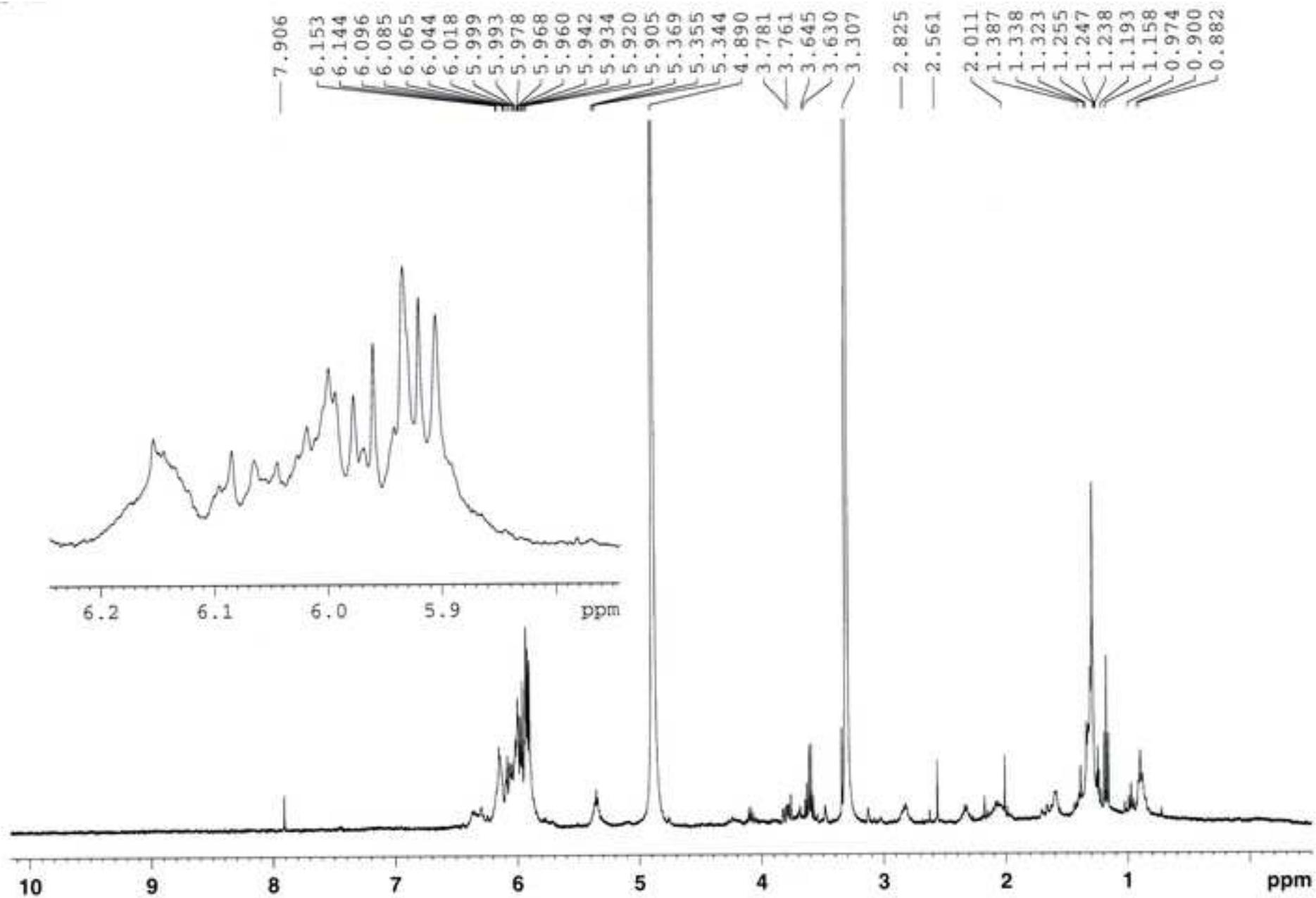
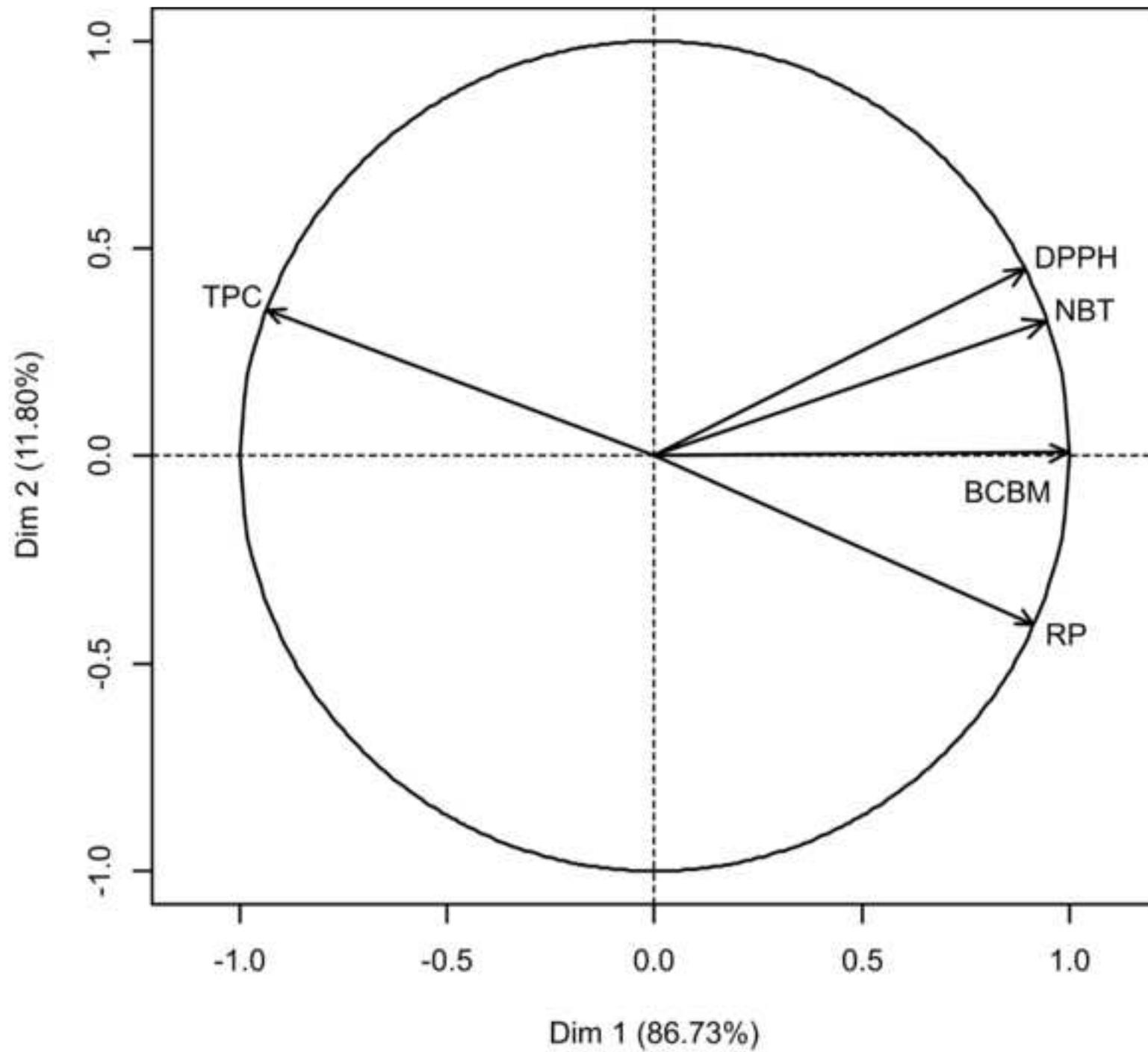
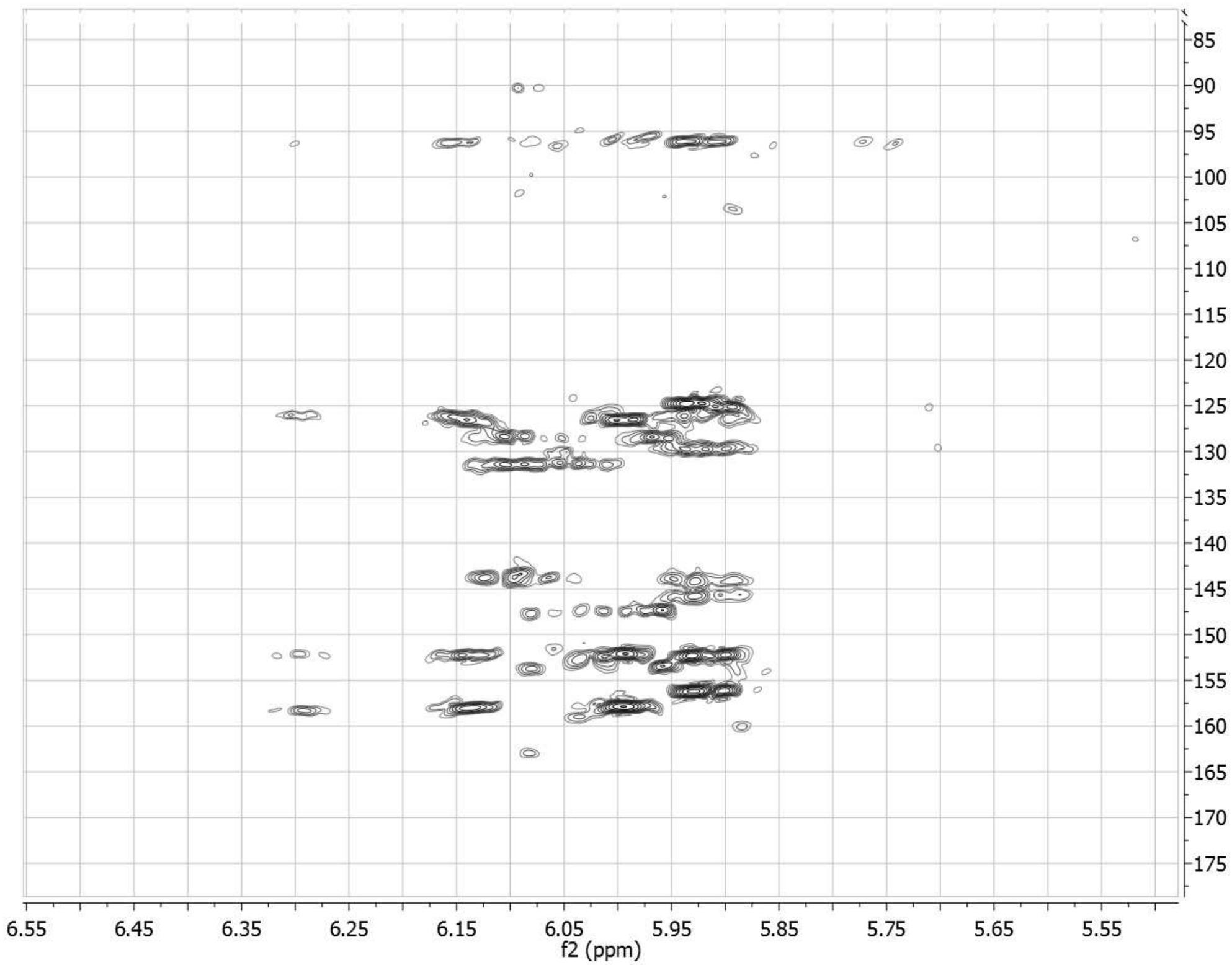


Figure 2







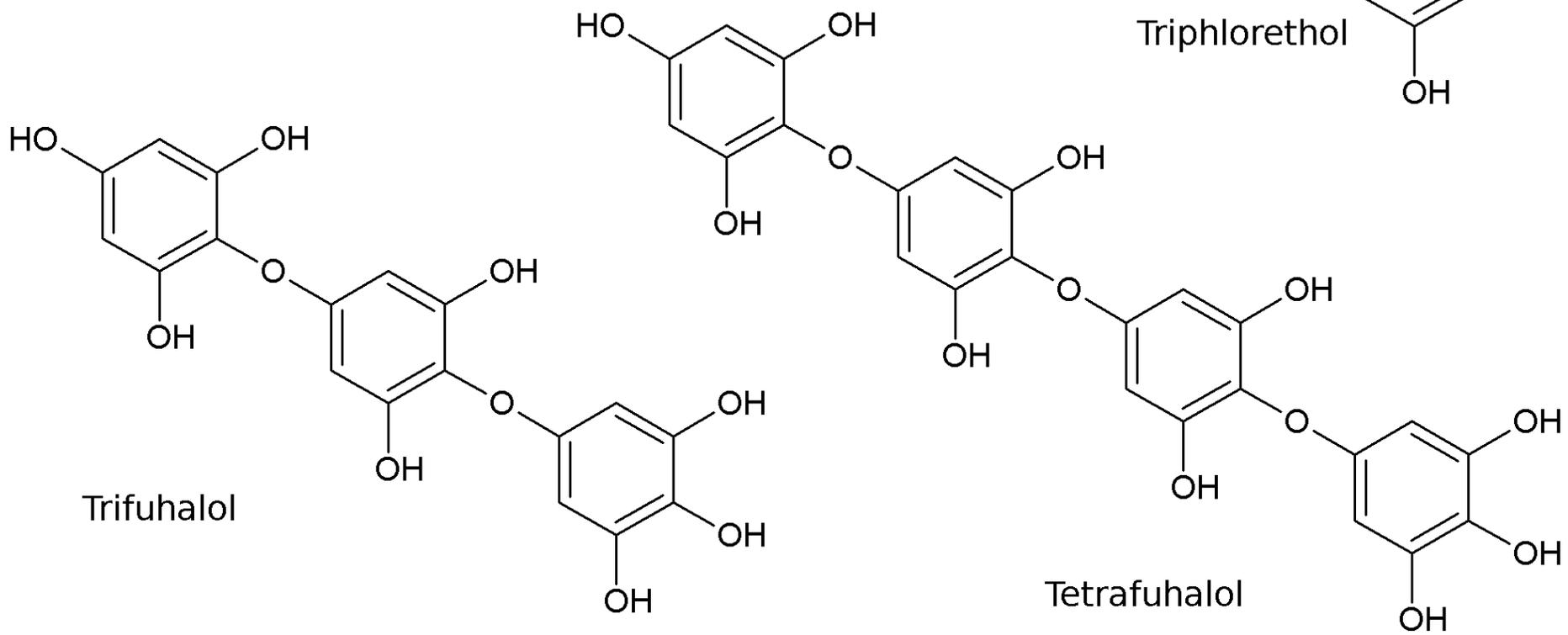
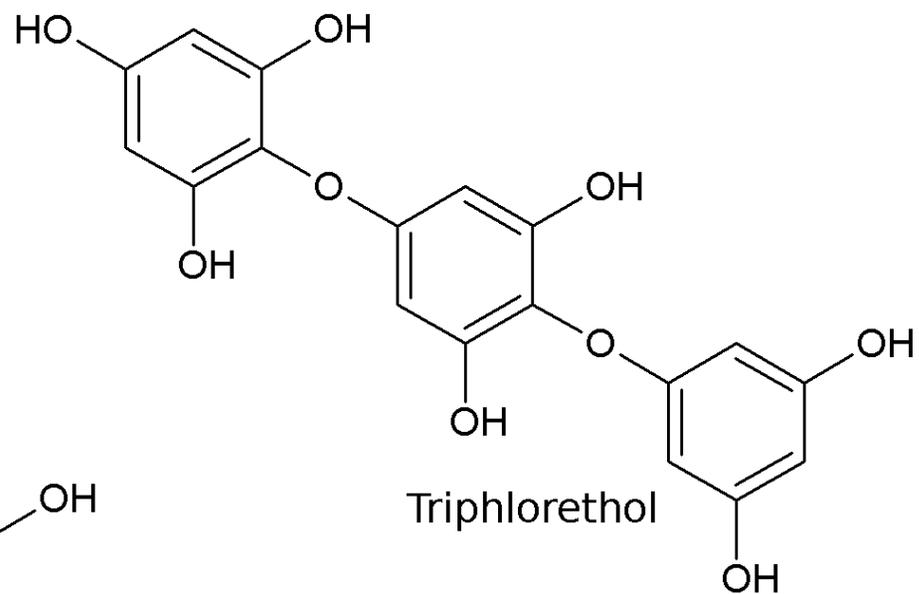
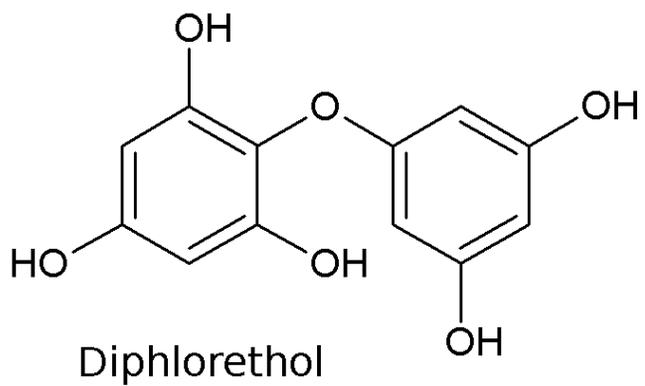


Table 1. Results of total phenolic content (TPC) and screening of several antioxidant activities measured on crude extract and fractions from *Halidrys siliquosa*, using radical-scavenging activity (DPPH; IC₅₀), reducing power assay (RP; EC₅₀), superoxide anion-scavenging test (NBT; IC₅₀), β-carotene bleaching method (BCBM, AAC₇₀₀), and ORAC value.

		TPC (mg.g ⁻¹ DW)	DPPH; IC ₅₀ (mg.mL ⁻¹)	RP; EC ₅₀ (mg.mL ⁻¹)	NBT; IC ₅₀ (mg.mL ⁻¹)	BCBM; AAC ₇₀₀ (mg.mL ⁻¹)	ORAC value (μmolTE.mg ⁻¹)
Samples		Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD	Mean ± SD
<i>Halidrys siliquosa</i>	CE	182.47 ± 3.33 ^b	0.226 ± 0.032 ^f	0.618 ± 0.039 ^e	1.345 ± 0.273 ^c	1.007 ± 0.01 ^f	nd
	AqF	164.19 ± 7.58 ^a	1.002 ± 0.055 ^e	0.59 ± 0.014 ^e	2.441 ± 0.401 ^d	1.502 ± 0.077 ^e	nd
	EAF	975.73 ± 19.26 ^c	0.02 ± 3.54E10 ^{-4d}	0.058 ± 0.001 ^a	0.664 ± 0.019 ^b	0.206 ± 0.001 ^d	5.39 ± 1.08
Positive controls	BHA	nd	0.01 ± 4.82E10 ^{-5c}	0.074 ± 0.002 ^b	0.664 ± 0.022 ^b	0.015 ± 0.001 ^c	nd
	Trolox	nd	0.007 ± 3.40E10 ^{-4b}	0.404 ± 0.037 ^d	0.368 ± 0.042 ^a	0.007 ± 0 ^b	nd
	Ascorbic acid	nd	0.005 ± 8.06E10 ^{-4a}	0.088 ± 0.001 ^c	0.367 ± 0.045 ^a	nd	9.35 ± 0.63 [*]
	α-tocopherol	nd	nd	nd	nd	0.005 ± 0 ^a	nd
	BHT	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	24.1 ± 1.18 [*]

Each value corresponds to the mean ± SD (n = 3). Significant differences determined by the Behrens-Fisher test (p < 0.05) are indicated by different letters. nd = not determined; CE = crude extract, AqF = aqueous fraction, EAF = ethyl acetate fraction, TE = trolox equivalent

* according to Huang et al. (2010).

Table 2. Antibacterial activity of *Halidrys siliquosa* ethyl acetate fraction (EAF, 5mg.mL⁻¹ in 1% EtOH against three selected bacterial pathogens (*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*; *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli*). ETOH: Ethanol. Data are expressed in UFC.mL⁻¹

Bacterial strains		T0	T24h	Remark
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (ATCC 9027)	Growth control	1.1×10^6	1.3×10^9	
	1% EtOH	1.1×10^6	1.5×10^9	No effect
	EAF	1.1×10^6	<1	Bactericide activity
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (ATCC 6538)	Growth control	1.9×10^6	2.2×10^9	
	1% EtOH	1.9×10^6	2.1×10^9	No effect
	EAF	1.9×10^6	7.5×10^1	Bactericide activity
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (ATCC 8739)	Growth control	1.6×10^6	1.5×10^9	
	1% EtOH	1.6×10^6	2.5×10^9	No effect
	EAF	1.6×10^6	<1	Bactericide activity

Table 3. HMBC assignments of the ethyl acetate fraction of *Halidrys siliquosa* (in MeOD)

	^{13}C (δ in ppm)	^1H (δ in ppm, J in Hz)
Quaternary methine groups	96.10	5.95, <i>s</i>
	124.82	5.95, <i>s</i>
	125.07	5.92, <i>s</i>
	126.22	6.15, <i>s</i>
	126.52	6.14, <i>s</i>
Diaryl-ether bond (ether linkage)	128.40	5.97, <i>s</i>
	129.74	5.92, <i>s</i>
	129.76	5.95, <i>s</i>
	131.21	6.05, <i>s</i>
	131.31	6.04, <i>s</i>
	131.41	6.10, <i>s</i>
Additional OH function (characteristic of fupalol-type units)	143.80	6.12, <i>s</i>
	144.19	5.93, <i>s</i>
	145.77	5.93, <i>s</i>
	147.36	5.96, <i>d</i> , 2.5
	152.26	6.14, <i>s</i>
	152.31	5.93, <i>s</i>
Aromatic methine carbons (phenolic carbons)	152.66	6.03, <i>s</i>
	156.12	5.93, <i>s</i>
	156.21	5.2, <i>s</i>
	157.86	5.99, <i>s</i>
	158.04	6.14, <i>s</i>

Table 4. Experimental and calculated masses and putative chemical structures of polyphenolic oligomers identified by MALDI-TOF assisted by $^{13}\text{C}/^1\text{H}$ NMR, for the ethyl acetate fraction of *Halidrys siliquosa*.

Experimental measure (m/z)	Calculated m/z		Identified phloroglucinol oligomers	Calculated native masses (Da)
	M + Na (+ 22.99 Da)	M + H (+1 Da)		
273.06	273.19		(1) Diphlorethol	250.20
375.03		375.30	(2) Triphlorethol	374.30
413.29	413.29		(3) Trifuhalol	390.30
537.38	537.39		(4) Tetrafuhalol	514.40