

Review Article

Review of Compounds and Pharmacological Effects of *Delphinium*

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Received 15 June 2020; Revised 21 August 2020; Accepted 2 September 2020; Published 21 September 2020

Academic Editor: Pedro M. Mancini

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Plants of *Delphinium* are herbal medicine used in the Tibet region with whole grass as a drug, which have the effects of analgesic, antibacterial, antipyretic, and anticancer. The main bioactive compounds are alkaloids, flavonoids, and sterols. This review summarized the compounds and pharmacological effects of *Delphinium* and provides a reference for further research on *Delphinium*.

1. Introduction

Delphinium of the Ranunculaceae family is widely distributed in the North temperate zone, with about 350 species worldwide. 173 species (150 endemic) of *Delphinium* are distributed in China [1]. *Delphinium* is composed of subgen. *Delphinastrum*, subgen. *Delphinium*, and subgen. *Oligophyllon*, in the world, of which subgen. *Delphinastrum* has the most species [2]. In China, there are 18 species of *Delphinium* used as folk medicine, which are used to treat bruises, rheumatism, toothache, and enteritis. In addition, four species of *Delphinium* can be used as soil pesticides for their effects of killing lice, mosquitoes, and fly larvae [3]. The main compounds of *Delphinium* are diterpenoid alkaloids, and most of them have physiological activities [4]. In addition, *Delphinium* also contains chemical constituents such as flavonoids and sterols. In recent years, with the development of analysis methods and increasing focus on

Delphinium, more and more chemical constituents and pharmacological activities of *Delphinium* had been researched. In this paper, the chemical constituents and pharmacological effects of *Delphinium* were reviewed in order to improve the development and utilization of the *Delphinium* resources.

2. Chemical Constituents

According to the research studies, the alkaloids are the main constituents with physiological activities in *Delphinium* and diterpenoid alkaloids are the most characteristic constituents with toxicity [5]. In addition, flavonoids and sterols are also present [6].

2.1. Diterpenoid Alkaloids. Diterpenoid alkaloids are derived from the amination of tetracycline diterpenoids or pentacyclic diterpenoids to heterocyclic systems containing

β -aminoethanol, methylamine, or ethylamine nitrogen atoms [7]. There are abundant diterpenoid alkaloids in *Delphinium*, which can be classified into C-18 diterpenoid alkaloids, C-19 diterpenoid alkaloids, and C-20 diterpenoid alkaloids according to the carbon skeleton configuration [5]. Characteristic quaternary carbon signal and substituent signal are important information to distinguish different diterpene alkaloids.

C-18 diterpenoid alkaloids are the diterpenoid alkaloids whose C-18 are mostly substituted by C(4)-H/OH or the ester group, and a few of them contain 3,4-epoxide. According to the oxygen-containing groups on C-7, they can be sorted into two types (Figure 1): lappacinitine-type and ranaconitine-type, and C-7 of the ranaconitine-type has an oxygen-substituent group. C₄ (δ_c 30–40, s), C₈ (δ_c 73–84, s), and C₁₁ (δ_c 47–55, s) are C-18's characteristic signals [8]. Characteristic signal of the ranaconitine-type on C-7 is at δ_c 91–93 (s), and the characteristic signal of the lappacinitine-type on C-7 is at δ_c 45–48 (s).

Most C-19 diterpene alkaloids are natural diterpenoid alkaloids and belong to pentacyclic diterpene alkaloids. According to the oxygen-containing groups on C-7 and the difference of skeleton, they can be classified into six types (Figure 2): lycoctonine-type, aconitine-type, 7,17-seco type (δ_{c8} 137–139, s; δ_{c10} 48–49, s; δ_{c14} 216–218, s), lactone-type, pyro-type ($\delta_{c8,15}$ 146–147, s), and rearranged-type (δ_{c8} 40–55, s; δ_{c10} 44–45, s; δ_{c14} 210–211, s) [8]. The majority of C-19 diterpenoid alkaloids are lycoctonine-type and aconitine-type. The differences between them are that C-7 (δ_c 87–93) of the lycoctonine-type has an oxygen-substituent group and others do not have [9]. And, C-19 diterpenoid alkaloids isolated from *Delphinium* are mostly lycoctonine-type [10]. C-19 diterpene alkaloids contain oxygen substituent (δ_H 3.0–5.0; δ_c 70–90) and methoxy substituent (δ_H 3.2–3.6, s; δ_c 55–59, q). C₄ (δ_c 37–41, s), C₈, and C₁₁ (δ_c 47–51, s) are C-19 characteristic signals [8].

C-20 diterpenoid alkaloids are tetracyclic diterpenes with a carbon skeleton of 20 carbon atoms and have a trans-a-ring alkaloid that connects C-19 to C-20 in N-ethyl or N- β -hydroxyl ethyl [11]. Compared with C-18 and C-19, C-20 diterpene alkaloid skeletons are complex, and most of them have exocyclic double bond structures. At present, 22 types of C-20 diterpenoid alkaloids were found [12]. The C-20 diterpenoid alkaloids isolated from *Delphinium* mainly belong to atisine-type, veatchine-type, hetisine-type, hetidine-type, denudatine-type, delnudine-type [13], and vakognavine-type (Figure 3) [14, 15]. C₄ (δ_c 30–40, s), C₈ (δ_c 30–50, s), C₁₁ (δ_c 30–40, s), C₁₆ (δ_c 143, s), and C₁₇ (δ_H 5, brs; δ_c 110, t) are C-20's characteristic signals. C₆ (δ_c 17–20, s), C₇ (δ_c 31–35, s), C₁₀ (δ_c 36–40, s), C₁₄ (δ_c 25–26, s), and C₂₀ (δ_c 50–54, s) are characteristic signals of atisine-type, and C₆ (δ_c -24, s), C₇ (δ_c -43, s), C₁₀ (δ_c 48–51, s), C₁₄ (δ_c 36–39, s), and C₂₀ (δ_c -69, s) are characteristic signals of hetidine-type [16].

At present, 155 alkaloids were isolated from *Delphinium*, and the details are shown in Tables 1–3 and Figures 4–6. Based on the references listed in Tables 1–3, it can be summarized that *D. anthriscifolium* varietas and *D. elatum* and its varietas have been further studied in chemistry.

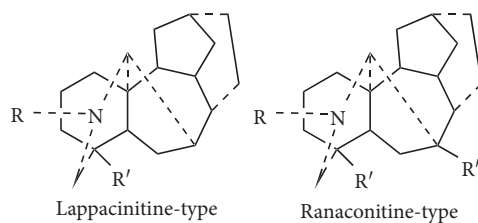


FIGURE 1: The skeleton structures of C-18 diterpene alkaloids.

2.2. Amide Alkaloids. The typical groups of amide alkaloids are acyl groups. 9 amide alkaloids were isolated from *Delphinium*, and the details are shown in Table 4 and Figure 7.

2.3. Other Alkaloids. Except diterpene alkaloids and amide alkaloids, one other alkaloid (No.155, anthriscifolsine A, C₂₉H₃₁NO₇, [49]) was isolated from *D. anthriscifolium* var. *majus*. The structure is shown in Figure 8.

2.4. Other Compounds. *Delphinium* also contains compounds such as flavonoids and sterols. In recent years, other compounds isolated from *Delphinium* had also been reported, and a total of 13 nonalkaloids (Table 5 and Figure 9) were isolated from *Delphinium*.

3. Biological Activities

Plants of *Delphinium* are used with whole grass as medicine. According to the ancient Tibetan medicine Jingzhubencao, plants of *Delphinium* had analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and insecticidal effects [9]. Literature studies showed that plants of *Delphinium* have many pharmacological effects including antibacterial, antiepileptic, detoxification, and Alzheimer's disease treatment. In this section, this paper reviews the research studies on the antibacterial, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antidepressant, and anticancer effects of *Delphinium*.

3.1. Antibacterial Activity. Hari et al. found that anthriscifoldine C (5.0 mg/mL) from *D. brunonianum* had a good inhibiting effect on *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Salmonella flexnari*, and its MIC were 24.0 μ M, 23.4 μ M, and 24.2 μ M, respectively, *in vitro* [61]. Ren et al. carried out the bacteriostatic test on the total alkaloids extracted from the roots of *Delphinium* and found that the MIC of the total alkaloids extracted on *S. aureus* and *Aspergillus niger* was 50 mg/mL *in vitro* [62].

3.2. Analgesic Activity. Zaheer et al. used the eddy current hot plate method and the tail flick reaction method to evaluate the analgesic activity of *D. denudatum* on Wistar albino rats. The experimental results showed that the response time of rats given *D. denudatum* ethanol extract and methanol fraction was longer than that of the propylene glycol group, and the effects of the high doses of the ethanol extract (600 mg/kg) and methanol fraction (400 mg/kg) were equal to that of the positive control group, indicating that

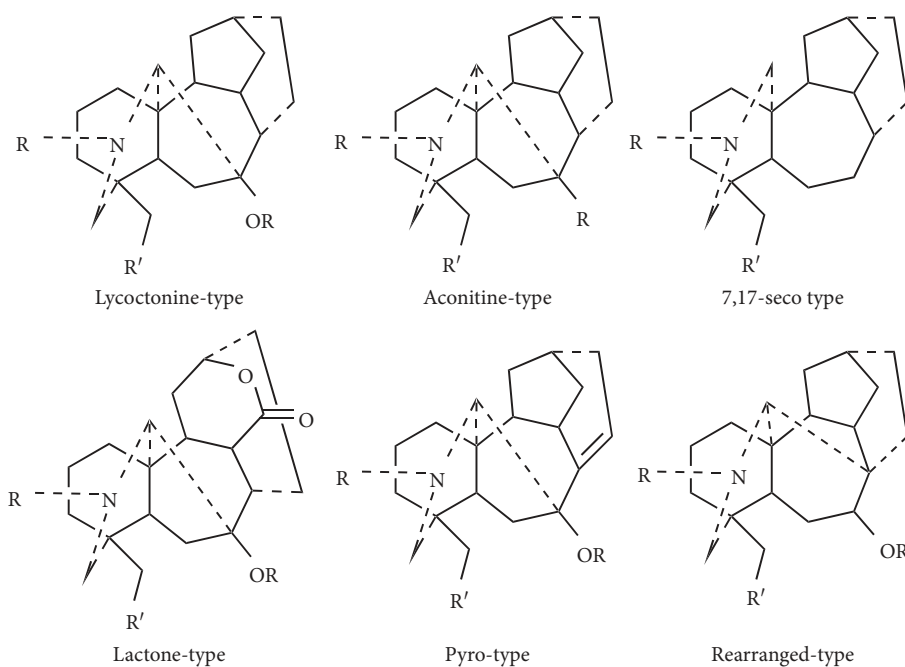


FIGURE 2: The skeleton structures of C-19 diterpene alkaloids.

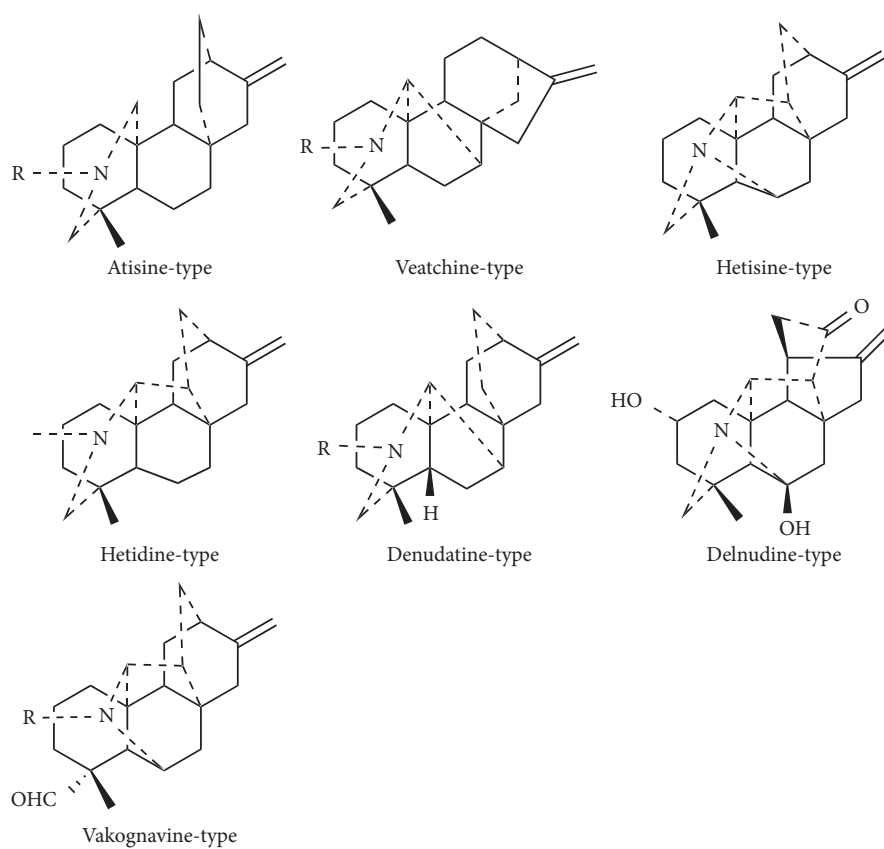


FIGURE 3: The skeleton structures of C-20 diterpene alkaloids.

D. denudatum had a good analgesic activity [63]. Nesterova et al. investigated chronic immune inflammation which was induced by injecting 0.1 mL of complete Freund's in outbred

male rats, and the results showed that the 40% alcohol extract (0.12 mL/kg) and total alkaloids (0.05 mg/kg) of *Delphinium* could significantly reduce the frequency of joint

TABLE 1: C-18 diterpenoid alkaloids isolated from *Delphinium*.

| No. | Compound | Type | Source | Molecular formula | Reference |
|-----|--------------------|---------------|--|---|-----------|
| 1 | Anthriscifolcine A | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₆ H ₃₈ NO ₇ | [17] |
| 2 | Anthriscifolcine B | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₄ H ₃₇ NO ₆ | [17] |
| 3 | Anthriscifolcine C | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [17] |
| 4 | Anthriscifolcine D | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₆ H ₃₉ NO ₇ | [17] |
| 5 | Anthriscifolcine E | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₄ H ₃₇ NO ₆ | [17] |
| 6 | Anthriscifolcine F | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₈ | [18] |
| 7 | Anthriscifolcine G | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [18] |
| 8 | Naviconine | Lappacinitine | <i>D. naviculare</i> var. <i>lasiocarpum</i> W. T. Wang. | C ₃₁ H ₄₀ N ₂ O ₉ | [19] |
| 9 | Anthriscifolcone A | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₇ H ₃₉ NO ₈ | [20] |
| 10 | Anthriscifolcone B | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₃ H ₃₃ NO ₇ | [20] |
| 11 | Grandifline A | Ranaconitine | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> Linn | C ₂₂ H ₃₃ NO ₇ | [21] |
| 12 | Tuguaconitine | Ranaconitine | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> | C ₂₃ H ₃₅ NO ₇ | [22] |
| 13 | Linearilin | Ranaconitine | <i>D. linearilobum</i> (Trautv.) N. Busch | C ₂₄ H ₃₉ NO ₈ | [23] |
| 14 | Anthriscifoltine A | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₃₀ H ₄₅ NO ₉ | [24] |
| 15 | Anthriscifoltine B | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₈ H ₄₃ NO ₈ | [24] |
| 16 | Anthriscifoltine C | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₉ H ₄₃ NO ₉ | [25] |
| 17 | Anthriscifoltine D | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₃₂ H ₄₁ NO ₉ | [25] |
| 18 | Anthriscifoltine E | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₅ NO ₈ | [25] |
| 19 | Anthriscifoltine F | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₃ H ₃₃ NO ₇ | [25] |
| 20 | Anthriscifoltine G | Ranaconitine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₃ H ₃₁ NO ₇ | [25] |

TABLE 2: C-19 diterpenoid alkaloids isolated from *Delphinium*.

| No. | Compound | Type | Source | Molecular formula | Reference |
|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|-----------|
| 21 | Anthriscifoldine A | Lycotone | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [17] |
| 22 | Anthriscifoldine B | Lycotone | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₉ NO ₇ | [17] |
| 23 | Anthriscifoldine C | Lycotone | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₇ H ₄₁ NO ₇ | [17] |
| 24 | Naviculine | Lycotone | <i>D. naviculare</i> var. <i>lasiocarpum</i> W. T. Wang. | C ₂₆ H ₄₂ NO ₇ ⁺ | [19] |
| 25 | Naviconitine | Aconitine | <i>D. naviculare</i> var. <i>lasiocarpum</i> W. T. Wang. | C ₃₄ H ₄₆ N ₂ O ₉ | [19] |
| 26 | Grandifline B | Lycotone | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> Linn | C ₂₅ H ₃₉ NO ₈ | [21] |
| 27 | Grandifline C | Lycotone | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> Linn | C ₂₅ H ₄₀ NO ₇ ⁺ | [21] |
| 28 | Olivimine | Lycotone | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> | C ₂₄ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [22] |
| 29 | Hohenackeridine | Lycotone | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> | C ₂₂ H ₃₁ NO ₇ | [22] |
| 30 | 14-O-Methyldephinfoline | Lycotone | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> | C ₂₄ H ₃₉ NO ₇ | [22] |
| 31 | N-Deethyldephatine | Lycotone | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> | C ₂₄ H ₃₉ NO ₇ | [22] |
| 32 | Browniine | Lycotone | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> | C ₂₅ H ₄₁ NO ₇ | [22] |
| 33 | 14-Dehydrobrowniine | Lycotone | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₉ NO ₇ | [22] |
| 34 | Linearilobin | Aconitine | <i>D. linearilobum</i> (Trautv.) N. Busch | C ₃₇ H ₄₆ N ₂ O ₉ | [23] |
| 35 | Melpeline | Lycotone | <i>D. elatum</i> | C ₂₄ H ₃₇ NO ₆ | [26] |
| 36 | 19-Oxoisodelpheline | Lycotone | <i>D. elatum</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [26] |
| 37 | N-Deethyl-19-oxoisodelpheline | Lycotone | <i>D. elatum</i> | C ₂₃ H ₃₃ NO ₇ | [26] |
| 38 | N-Deethyl-19-oxodelpheline | Lycotone | <i>D. elatum</i> | C ₂₃ H ₃₃ NO ₇ | [26] |
| 39 | N-Formyl-4,19-secopacine | Lycotone | <i>D. elatum</i> cv. Pacific Giant | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [27] |
| 40 | Iminoisodelpheline | Lycotone | <i>D. elatum</i> cv. Pacific Giant | C ₂₃ H ₃₃ NO ₆ | [27] |
| 41 | Iminodelpheline | Lycotone | <i>D. elatum</i> cv. Pacific Giant | C ₂₃ H ₃₃ NO ₆ | [27] |
| 42 | Iminopacine | Lycotone | <i>D. elatum</i> cv. Pacific Giant | C ₂₄ H ₃₅ NO ₆ | [27] |
| 43 | 6-Dehydroeladine | Lycotone | <i>D. elatum</i> cv. Pacific Giant | C ₂₄ H ₃₅ NO ₆ | [27] |
| 44 | Elapacidine | Lycotone | <i>D. elatum</i> cv. Pacific Giant | C ₂₄ H ₃₇ NO ₆ | [27] |
| 45 | Yunnanensine A | Rearranged-type | <i>D. yunnanense</i> | C ₃₇ H ₄₈ N ₂ O ₉ | [28] |
| 46 | Iliensine A | Lycotone | <i>D. iliense</i> | C ₄₀ H ₅₅ NO ₁₄ | [29] |
| 47 | Iliensine B | Lycotone | <i>D. iliense</i> | C ₂₆ H ₄₁ NO ₈ | [29] |
| 48 | Pseudophnine A | Lycotone | <i>D. pseudoaemulans</i> C. Y. Yang et B. Wang | C ₂₅ H ₄₀ NO ₇ ⁺ | [30] |
| 49 | Pseudophnine B | Lycotone | <i>D. pseudoaemulans</i> C. Y. Yang et B. Wang | C ₂₄ H ₃₈ NO ₇ ⁺ | [30] |

TABLE 2: Continued.

| No. | Compound | Type | Source | Molecular formula | Reference |
|-----|---|-------------|---|---|-----------|
| 50 | Pseudophnine C | Lycotoonine | <i>D. pseudoaemulans</i> C. Y. Yang et B. Wang | C ₂₇ H ₄₂ NO ₇ ⁺ | [30] |
| 51 | Pseudophnine D | Lycotoonine | <i>D. pseudoaemulans</i> C. Y. Yang et B. Wang | C ₂₆ H ₄₀ NO ₇ ⁺ | [30] |
| 52 | Pseudorenines A | Lycotoonine | <i>D. pseudoaemulans</i> C. Y. Yang et B. Wang | C ₃₉ H ₅₃ N ₂ O ₁₁ ⁺ | [30] |
| 53 | Pseudorenines B | Lycotoonine | <i>D. pseudoaemulans</i> C. Y. Yang et B. Wang | C ₃₉ H ₅₃ N ₂ O ₁₁ ⁺ | [30] |
| 54 | Pseudonidine A | Lycotoonine | <i>D. pseudoaemulans</i> C. Y. Yang et B. Wang | C ₂₄ H ₃₅ NO ₇ | [30] |
| 55 | Pseudonidine B | Lycotoonine | <i>D. pseudoaemulans</i> C. Y. Yang et B. Wang | C ₂₉ H ₄₅ NO ₈ | [30] |
| 56 | Navicularine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. naviculare</i> var. <i>lasiocarpum</i> | C ₂₇ H ₄₃ NO ₈ | [31] |
| 57 | Shawurensine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. shawurensis</i> W. T. Wang | C ₃₇ H ₅₂ N ₂ O ₁₁ | [32] |
| 58 | Sharwuphinine B | Lycotoonine | <i>D. shawurensis</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₆ H ₄₀ NO ₇ ⁺ | [33] |
| 59 | Ajacisine A | Lycotoonine | <i>D. ajacis</i> L. | C ₃₁ H ₄₄ N ₂ O ₉ | [34] |
| 60 | Ajacisine B | Lycotoonine | <i>D. ajacis</i> L. | C ₃₂ H ₄₆ N ₂ O ₉ | [34] |
| 61 | Ajacisine C | Lycotoonine | <i>D. ajacis</i> L. | C ₃₁ H ₄₂ N ₂ O ₈ | [34] |
| 62 | Ajacisine D | Lycotoonine | <i>D. ajacis</i> L. | C ₃₀ H ₄₂ N ₂ O ₈ | [34] |
| 63 | Ajacisine E | Lycotoonine | <i>D. ajacis</i> L. | C ₃₀ H ₄₂ N ₂ O ₈ | [34] |
| 64 | Caerudelphinine A | Lycotoonine | <i>D. caeruleum</i> Jacq.ex Camb | C ₂₅ H ₃₉ NO ₈ | [35] |
| 65 | Grandiflodine B | Lycotoonine | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> | C ₃₃ H ₄₈ N ₂ O ₁₀ | [36] |
| 66 | Majusine A | Lycotoonine | <i>D. majus</i> W. T. Wang | C ₃₂ H ₄₄ N ₂ O ₉ | [37] |
| 67 | Majusine B | Lycotoonine | <i>D. majus</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₄ H ₃₇ NO ₆ | [37] |
| 68 | Majusine C | Lycotoonine | <i>D. majus</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₆ H ₃₇ NO ₈ | [37] |
| 69 | Davidisine A | Lycotoonine | <i>D. davidii</i> Franch. | C ₂₃ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [38] |
| 70 | Davidisine B | Lycotoonine | <i>D. davidii</i> Franch. | C ₂₄ H ₃₇ NO ₈ | [38] |
| 71 | Laxicymine 1 | Lycotoonine | <i>D. laxicymosum</i> var. <i>pilostachyum</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₄ H ₃₅ NO ₇ | [39] |
| 72 | Laxicymisine 2 | Lycotoonine | <i>D. laxicymosum</i> var. <i>pilostachyum</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₄ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [39] |
| 73 | Laxicyminine 3 | Lycotoonine | <i>D. laxicymosum</i> var. <i>pilostachyum</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₄ H ₃₅ NO ₆ | [39] |
| 74 | Tiantaishansine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. tiantaishanense</i> W. J. Zhang et G. H. Chen | C ₂₂ H ₃₃ NO ₇ | [40] |
| 75 | Tiantaishannine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. tiantaishanense</i> W. J. Zhang et G. H. Chen | C ₂₆ H ₃₉ NO ₇ | [40] |
| 76 | Tiantaishanmine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. tiantaishanense</i> W. J. Zhang et G. H. Chen | C ₂₅ H ₃₅ NO ₇ | [40] |
| 77 | Trifoliasine A | Lycotoonine | <i>D. trifoliolatum</i> Finet et Gagnep | C ₃₅ H ₅₀ N ₂ O ₉ | [41] |
| 78 | Trifoliasine B | Lycotoonine | <i>D. trifoliolatum</i> Finet et Gagnep | C ₃₆ H ₅₂ N ₂ O ₉ | [41] |
| 79 | Trifoliasine C | Lycotoonine | <i>D. trifoliolatum</i> Finet et Gagnep | C ₄₀ H ₅₇ N ₃ O ₁₁ | [41] |
| 80 | 14-Demethyl-14-isobutyrylanhweidelphinine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. pentagynum</i> Lam. | C ₃₈ H ₄₈ N ₂ O ₁₁ | [42] |
| 81 | 14-Demethyl-14-acetylanhweidelphinine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. pentagynum</i> Lam. | C ₃₆ H ₄₄ N ₂ O ₁₁ | [42] |
| 82 | Giraldine G | Lycotoonine | <i>D. giraldii</i> | C ₄₀ H ₅₇ N ₃ O ₁₁ | [43] |
| 83 | Giraldine H | Lycotoonine | <i>D. giraldii</i> | C ₄₁ H ₅₉ N ₃ O ₁₁ | [43] |
| 84 | Giraldine I | Aconitine | <i>D. giraldii</i> | C ₂₂ H ₃₅ NO ₃ | [43] |
| 85 | Giraldine D | Lycotoonine | <i>D. giraldii</i> | C ₂₄ H ₃₇ NO ₆ | [44] |
| 86 | Giraldine E | Lycotoonine | <i>D. giraldii</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₉ NO ₇ | [44] |
| 87 | Giraldine F | Lycotoonine | <i>D. giraldii</i> | C ₂₃ H ₃₃ NO ₆ | [44] |
| 88 | Campylocine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. campylocentrum</i> Maxim. | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [45] |
| 89 | Campylotine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. campylocentrum</i> Maxim. | C ₂₄ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [45] |
| 90 | Davidisine A | Lycotoonine | <i>D. davidii</i> Franch | C ₂₃ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [46] |
| 91 | Davidisine B | Lycotoonine | <i>D. davidii</i> Franch | C ₂₄ H ₃₇ NO ₈ | [46] |
| 92 | Ajadephine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. honanense</i> var. <i>piliteram</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₅ H ₃₉ NO ₇ | [47] |
| 93 | Aconine | Aconitine | <i>D. honanense</i> var. <i>piliteram</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₅ H ₄₁ NO ₉ | [47] |
| 94 | Siwanine E | Lycotoonine | <i>D. honanense</i> var. <i>piliteram</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₈ H ₃₉ NO ₉ | [47] |

TABLE 2: Continued.

| No. | Compound | Type | Source | Molecular formula | Reference |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|---|-----------|
| 95 | Grandiflorine III | Aconitine | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> L. | C ₂₆ H ₃₉ NO ₉ | [48] |
| 96 | Isotalatizidine | Aconitine | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> L. | C ₂₃ H ₃₇ NO ₅ | [48] |
| 97 | 14-O-Methyl isotalatizidine | Aconitine | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> L. | C ₂₄ H ₃₉ NO ₅ | [48] |
| 98 | Anthranoyllycoctonine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> L. | C ₃₂ H ₄₆ N ₂ O ₈ | [48] |
| 99 | Deoxylycoctonine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> L. | C ₂₆ H ₄₃ NO ₆ | [48] |
| 100 | Umbrosine | Lycotoonine | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> L. | C ₂₄ H ₃₉ NO ₆ | [48] |
| 101 | Anthriscifoline A | Lycotoonine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₆ | [49] |
| 102 | Anthriscifoline B | Lycotoonine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₇ H ₄₁ NO ₈ | [49] |
| 103 | Anthriscifoline C | Lycotoonine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₇ H ₄₁ NO ₉ | [49] |
| 104 | Anthriscifoline D | Lycotoonine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₇ H ₃₉ NO ₉ | [49] |
| 105 | Anthriscifoline E | Lycotoonine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₆ H ₃₉ NO ₈ | [49] |
| 106 | Anthriscifoline F | Lycotoonine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₉ NO ₇ | [49] |
| 107 | Tianshanisine A | Lycotoonine | <i>D. tianshanicum</i> W. T. Wang | C ₃₀ H ₄₁ NO ₆ | [50] |
| 108 | Tianshanisine B | Lycotoonine | <i>D. tianshanicum</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₃ H ₃₇ NO ₅ | [50] |
| 109 | Tianshanisine C | Lycotoonine | <i>D. tianshanicum</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₅ H ₃₉ NO ₆ | [50] |
| 110 | Tianshanisine D | Lycotoonine | <i>D. tianshanicum</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₃ H ₃₅ NO ₅ | [50] |
| 111 | Tianshanisine E | Lycotoonine | <i>D. tianshanicum</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₃ H ₃₅ NO ₇ | [50] |
| 112 | Elapacigine | Lycotoonine | <i>Delphinium elatum</i> cv. Pacific Giant | C ₂₃ H ₃₁ NO ₆ | [51] |
| 113 | N-Deethyl-N-formylpaciline | Lycotoonine | <i>Delphinium elatum</i> cv. Pacific Giant | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [51] |
| 114 | N-Deethyl-N-formylpacinine | Lycotoonine | <i>Delphinium elatum</i> cv. Pacific Giant | C ₂₄ H ₃₃ NO ₇ | [51] |
| 115 | N-Formyl-4,19-secoyunnadelphinine | Lycotoonine | <i>Delphinium elatum</i> cv. Pacific Giant | C ₂₄ H ₃₅ NO ₇ | [51] |

TABLE 3: C-20 diterpenoid alkaloids isolated from *Delphinium*.

| No. | Compound | Type | Source | Molecular formula | Reference |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------|--|---|-----------|
| 116 | Yunnanensine B | Hetisine | <i>D. yunnanense</i> | C ₂₈ H ₃₇ NO ₇ | [28] |
| 117 | Yunnanensine C | Hetisine | <i>D. yunnanense</i> | C ₂₆ H ₃₅ NO ₆ | [28] |
| 118 | Grandiflodine A | Hetisine | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> | C ₂₂ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₃ | [36] |
| 119 | Majusimine A | Vakognavine | <i>D. majus</i> W. T. Wang | C ₄₅ H ₄₇ NO ₁₅ | [37] |
| 120 | Majusimine B | Vakognavine | <i>D. majus</i> W. T. Wang | C ₄₃ H ₄₅ NO ₁₄ | [37] |
| 121 | Majusimine C | Vakognavine | <i>D. majus</i> W. T. Wang | C ₄₁ H ₄₃ NO ₁₃ | [37] |
| 122 | Majusimine D | Vakognavine | <i>D. majus</i> W. T. Wang | C ₃₄ H ₃₇ NO ₁₂ | [37] |
| 123 | Majusidine A | Hetisine | <i>D. majus</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₂ H ₂₉ NO ₅ | [37] |
| 124 | Majusidine B | Hetisine | <i>D. majus</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₅ H ₃₃ NO ₄ | [37] |
| 125 | Tiantaishandine | Hetisine | <i>D. tiantaishanense</i> W. J. Zhang et G. H. Chen | C ₂₉ H ₃₃ NO ₅ | [40] |
| 126 | 2-Dehydrodeacetylhetero phyllloidine | Hetidine | <i>D. pentagynum</i> Lam. | C ₂₁ H ₂₅ NO ₃ | [42] |
| 127 | Davidisine C | Hetidine | <i>D. davidii</i> Franch | C ₂₁ H ₃₃ NO ₄ | [46] |
| 128 | 12-Epinapelline | Veatchine | <i>D. honanense</i> var. <i>piliteram</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₂ H ₃₃ NO ₃ | [47] |
| 129 | Anthriscifolsine B | Hetisine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₂₄ H ₃₁ NO ₇ | [49] |
| 130 | Anthriscifolsine C | Hetisine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>majus</i> | C ₃₀ H ₄₃ NO ₇ | [49] |
| 131 | Anthriscifolmine A | Denudatine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₅ | [52] |
| 132 | Anthriscifolmine B | Denudatine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₆ | [52] |
| 133 | Anthriscifolmine C | Hetisine | <i>D. anthriscifolium</i> var. <i>savatieri</i> | C ₂₉ H ₃₁ NO ₇ | [52] |
| 134 | Trichodelphinines A | Hetisine | <i>D. tichophorum</i> Franch | C ₂₆ H ₃₅ NO ₅ | [53] |
| 135 | Trichodelphinines B | Hetisine | <i>D. tichophorum</i> Franch | C ₂₄ H ₃₃ NO ₄ | [53] |
| 136 | Trichodelphinines C | Hetisine | <i>D. tichophorum</i> Franch | C ₂₇ H ₃₇ NO ₅ | [53] |
| 137 | Trichodelphinines D | Hetisine | <i>D. tichophorum</i> Franch | C ₂₄ H ₃₁ NO ₅ | [53] |
| 138 | Trichodelphinines E | Hetisine | <i>D. tichophorum</i> Franch | C ₂₆ H ₃₃ NO ₅ | [53] |
| 139 | Trichodelphinines F | Delnudine | <i>D. tichophorum</i> Franch | C ₂₈ H ₃₃ NO ₄ | [53] |
| 140 | Flexuosine | Hetisine | <i>D. flexuosum</i> M. Bieb. | C ₃₆ H ₄₃ NO ₉ | [54] |
| 141 | Tatsienenseine A | Vakognavine | <i>D. tatsienense</i> Franch | C ₄₃ H ₄₅ NO ₁₃ | [55] |
| 142 | Tatsienenseine B | Hetisine | <i>D. tatsienense</i> Franch | C ₂₄ H ₃₁ NO ₄ | [55] |
| 143 | Tatsienenseine C | Hetisine | <i>D. tatsienense</i> Franch | C ₂₄ H ₃₁ NO ₃ | [55] |
| 144 | 13-(2-Methyl butyryl) azitine | Atisine | <i>D. scabriflorum</i> | C ₂₅ H ₃₇ NO ₃ | [56] |
| 145 | Tatsienensine | Hetisine | <i>D. tatsienense</i> | C ₁₉ H ₂₅ NO ₂ | [57] |

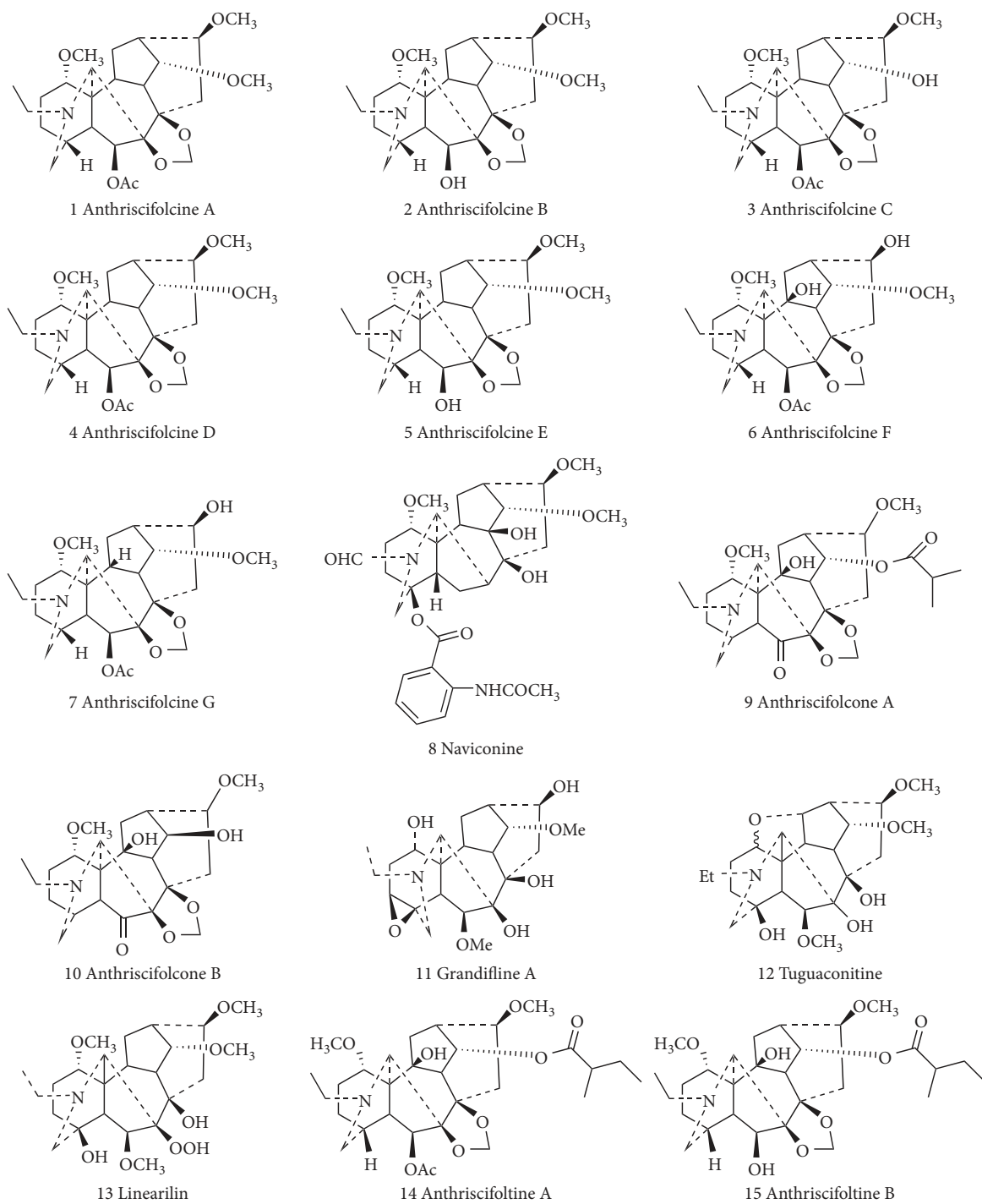


FIGURE 4: Continued.

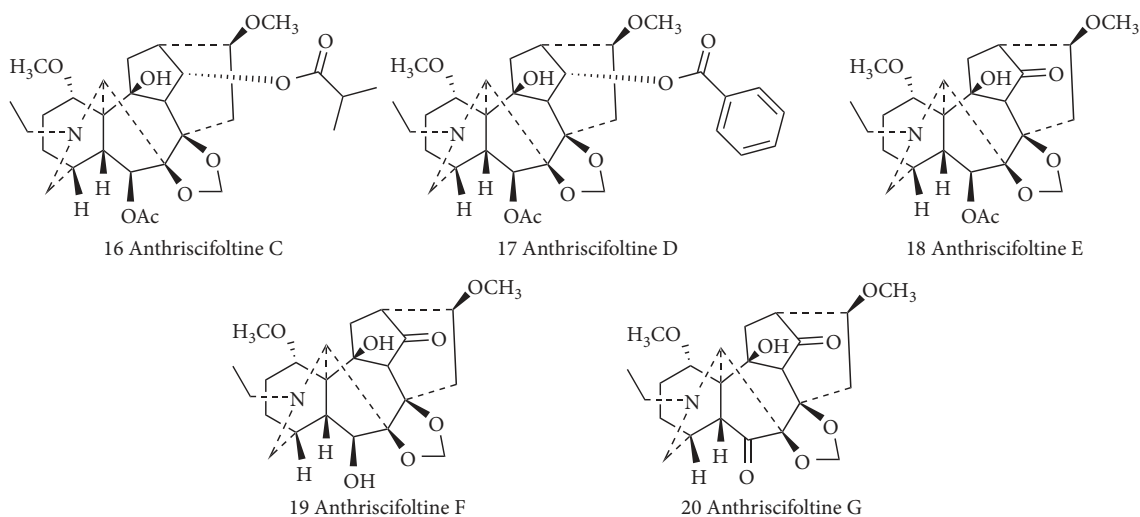


FIGURE 4: C-18 diterpenoid alkaloids isolated from *Delphinium*.

swelling in outbred male rats. On the 14th day, the rats in the total alkaloids (0.05 mg/kg) treatment group of *Delphinium* had no pain when their joints were bended, which indicated a good analgesic effect of *Delphinium* [64]. Through the hot-plate method and the acetic acid writhing method, Suslov et al. found that the water extract (0.5 g/kg) and the alcohol extract (0.25 g/kg) of *D. grandiflorum* L. var. *leiocarpum* could prolong the pain threshold of mice, which was similar to the effect of acetaminophen (0.2 g/kg), and performed a good analgesic effect [65].

3.3. Anti-Inflammatory Activity. Nesterova et al. found that the alkaloids and flavonoids in *Delphinium* had a good inhibitory effect on the inflammatory response through the experiment of the mice peritonitis model in the inflammatory exudation phase *in vivo*. Aqueous fraction of flavonoids (25.0 mg/kg) had a good therapeutic effect on the edema reaction caused by histamine (0.1%), and alkaloids (0.05 mg/kg) showed a good anti-inflammatory effect on the inflammatory reaction caused by 5-hydroxytryptamine (0.5 mg/kg) [66]. Andreeva and Liu established an acute inflammation model with increased capillary permeability induced by acetic acid in ICR male mice, and the results showed that the high- (1.5 g/kg), medium- (1.0 g/kg), and low-dose groups (0.5 g/kg) of the total flavonoids extracted from *D. grandiflorum* with ethanol had good anti-inflammatory activity [67].

3.4. Spiritual Influence

3.4.1. Antidepressant Activity. Ebrahimzadeh et al. demonstrated that the extract (250 mg/kg, 500 mg/kg, and 1000 mg/kg) of *D. elbursense* had good antidepressant activity by using the forced swimming experiment and the tail suspension experiment in mice. The results revealed that the extract at 1000 mg/kg had the same inhibitory activity as imipramine at 15 mg/kg in the control group [68].

3.4.2. Antianxiety Activity. Mohammad et al. found that the *D. denudatum* extract (200 and 400 mg/kg) had a certain therapeutic effect on anxiety in Wistar albino rats and a better synergistic effect toward the *Amaranthus spinosus* extract (100 mg/kg) [69].

3.5. Anticancer Activity. Zheng et al. used the MTT method to determine the antihepatoma activity of the ethyl acetate extract from *D. caeruleum in vitro*. After giving 25, 50, 100, and 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ of HepG2 cells for 12, 24, and 48 hours, they found that the ethyl acetate extract from *D. caeruleum* had good antiliver cancer activity and had a good dose-effect and time-effect relationship on HepG2 cells and had less toxicity to L-02 cells. IC_{50} of the ethyl acetate extract from *D. caeruleum* on HepG2 cells was 28.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ [70].

3.6. Antipulmonary Fibrosis Activity. In the study on pulmonary fibrosis induced by bleomycin in SD rats, Lin et al. found that after 14 days of gavage with 4 g/kg, 2 g/kg, and 1 g/kg extracts of *D. trichophorum*, the expression of collagen in the tissues during the pathological process of pulmonary fibrosis could be inhibited and the symptoms of pulmonary fibrosis in rats could be improved [71].

3.7. Antifeedant Activity. Shan et al. determined the antifeedant activity of 12 alkaloids isolated from *D. naviculare* var. *lasiocarpum* on *Spodoptera exigua*, and the results showed that the chemical shawurensine had a strong antifeedant activity with an EC_{50} of 0.45 mg/cm² [31]. González and Guadaño extracted 5 alkaloids from *Delphinium* for activity determination against *Spodoptera littoralis* and *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* by choice feeding assays, and the results showed that cardiopetamine had the strongest activity against *S. littoralis* with the EC_{50} of 5.48 nmol/cm² and 15-acetylcardiopetamine had the strongest activity against *L. decemlineata* with the EC_{50} of 12.86 nmol/cm² [72].

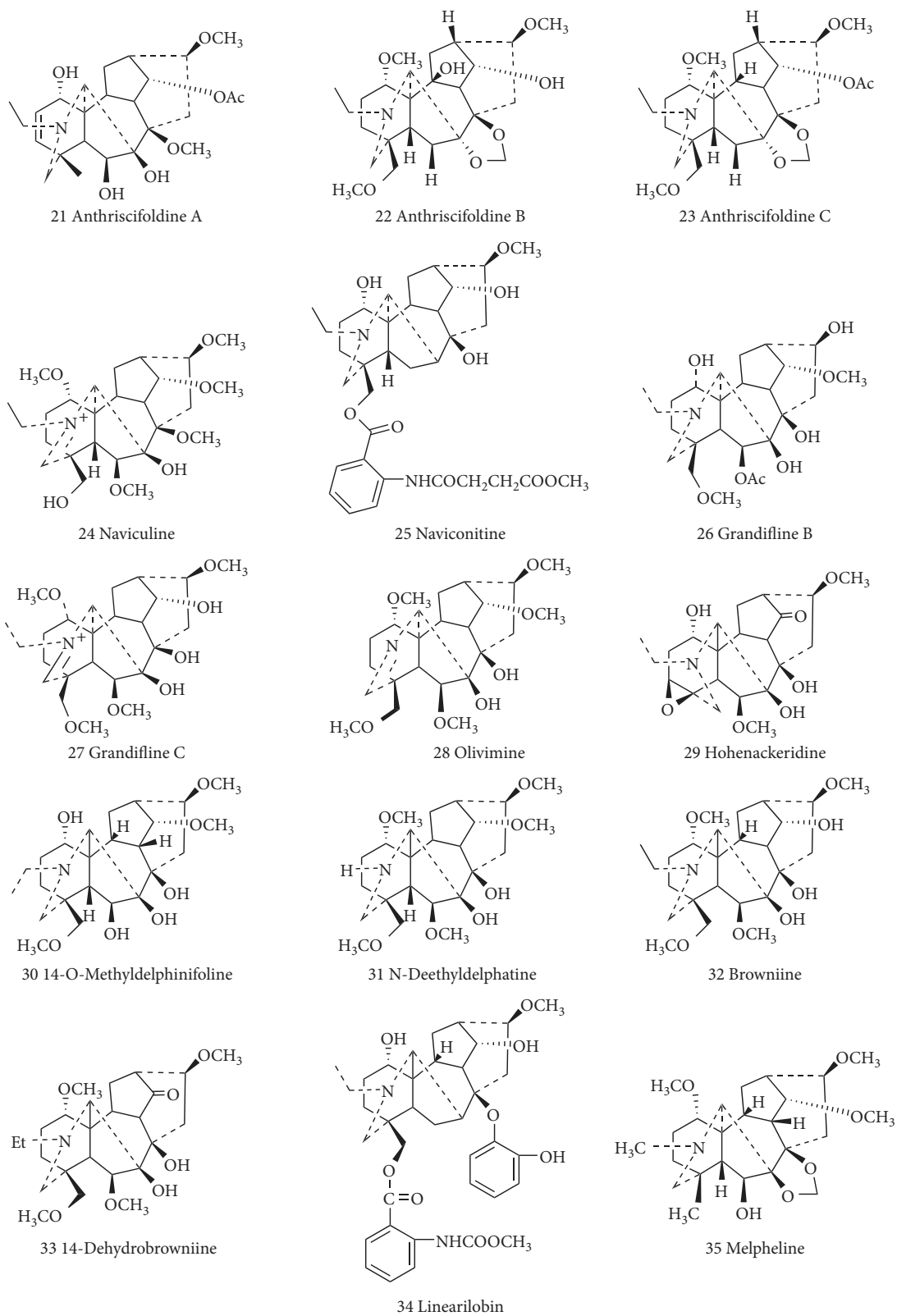


FIGURE 5: Continued.

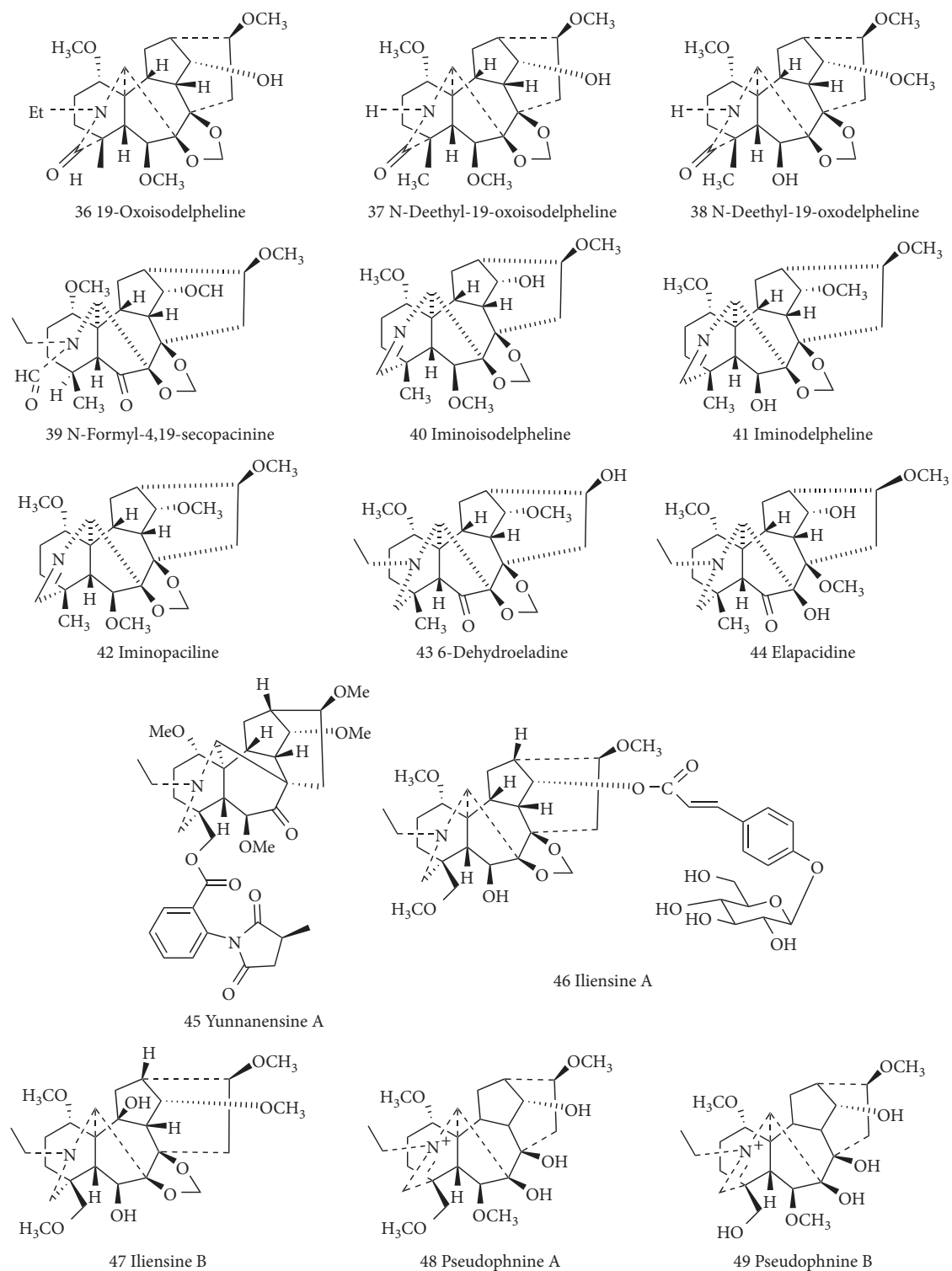


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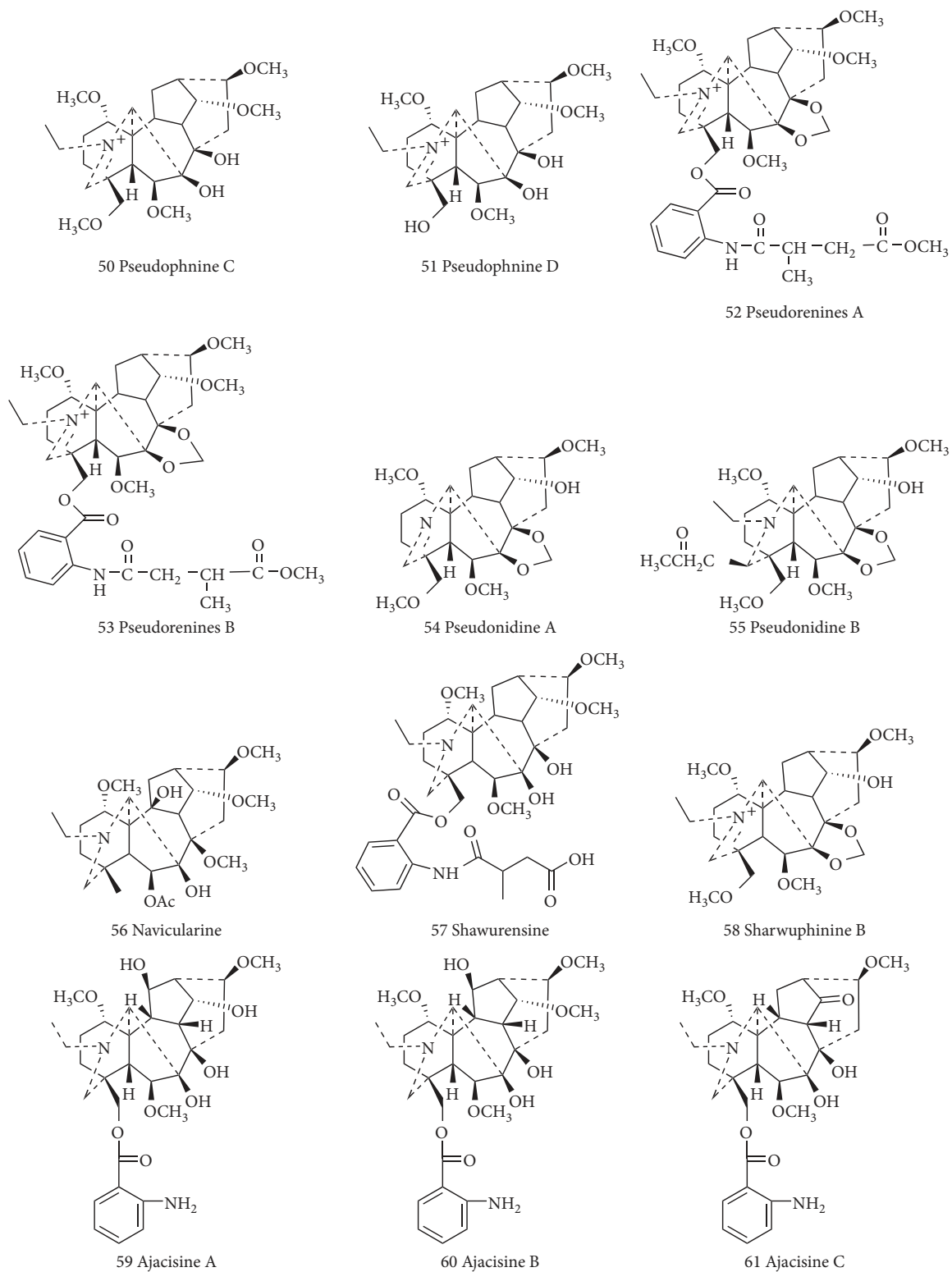


FIGURE 5: Continued.

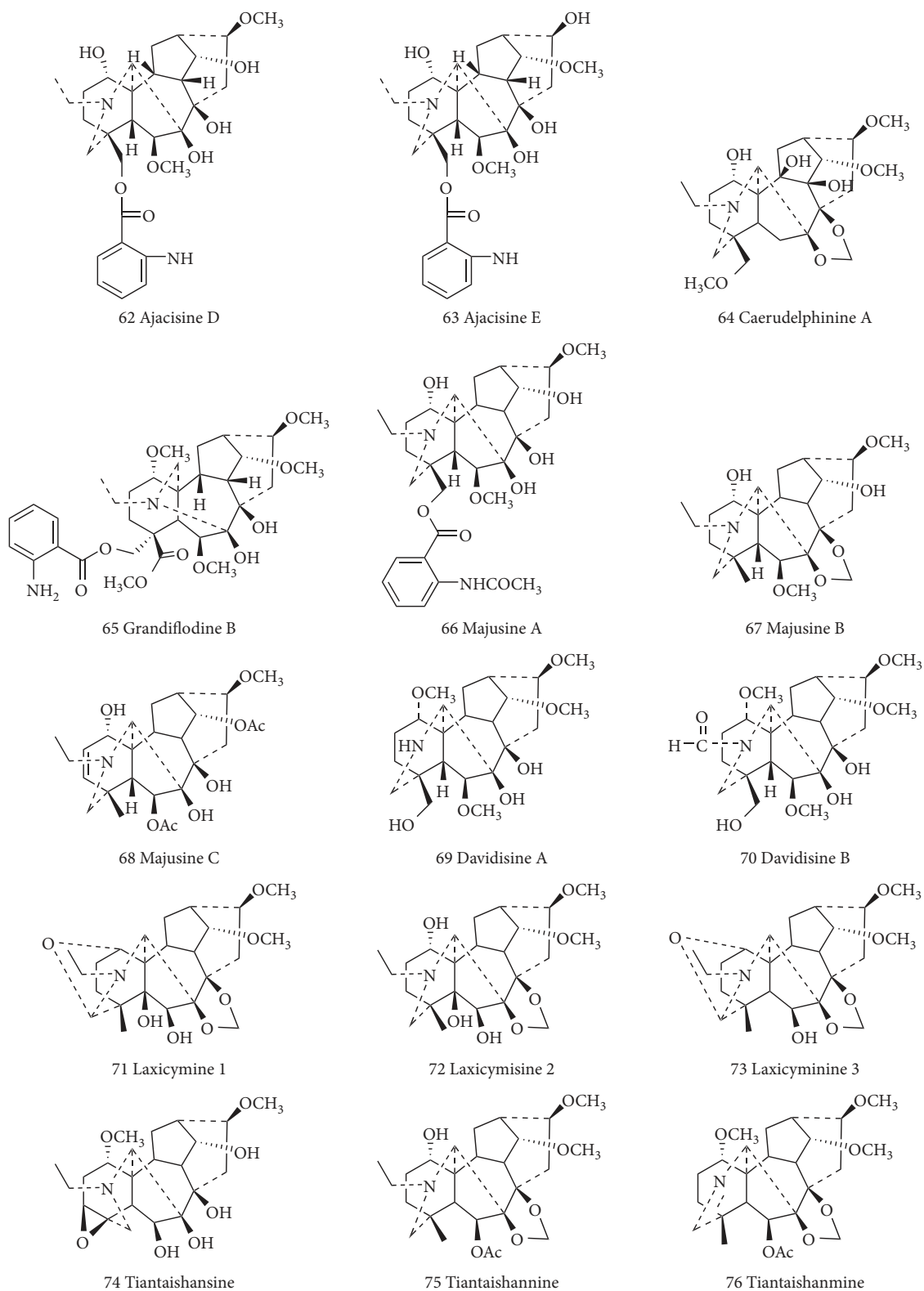
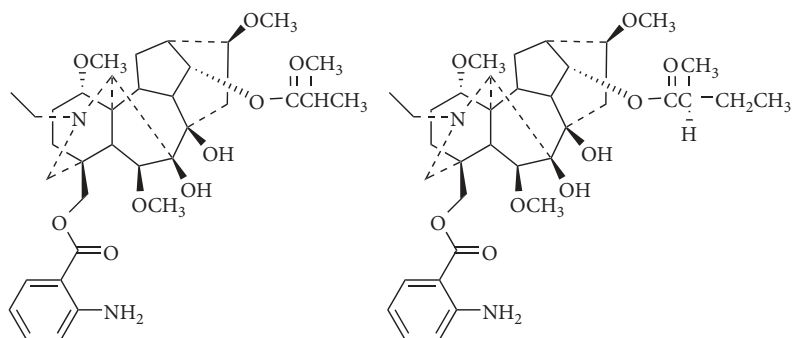
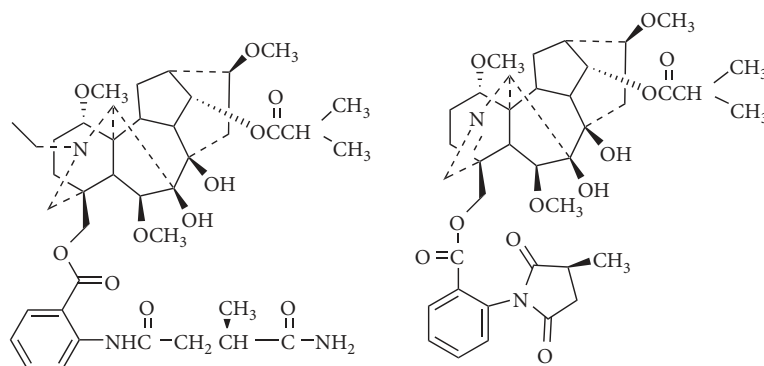


FIGURE 5: Continued.



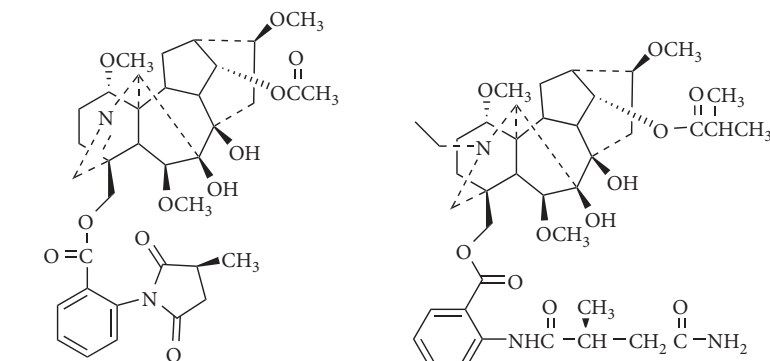
77 Trifoliolasmine A

78 Trifoliolasmine B



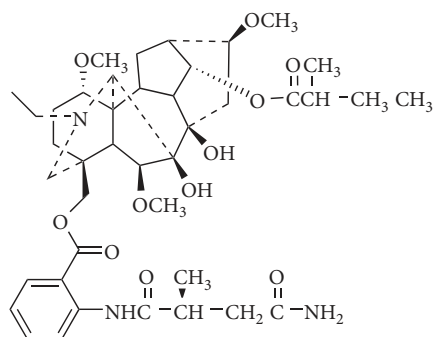
79 Trifoliolasmine C

80 14-Demethyl-14-isobutyrylanhweidelphinine

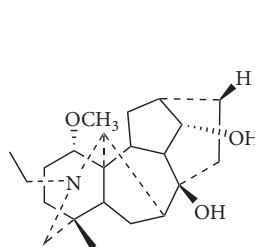


81 14-Demethyl-14-acetylanhweidelphinine

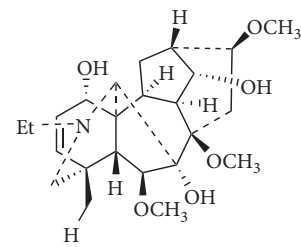
82 Giraldine G



83 Giraldine H



84 Giraldine I



85 Giraldine D

FIGURE 5: Continued.

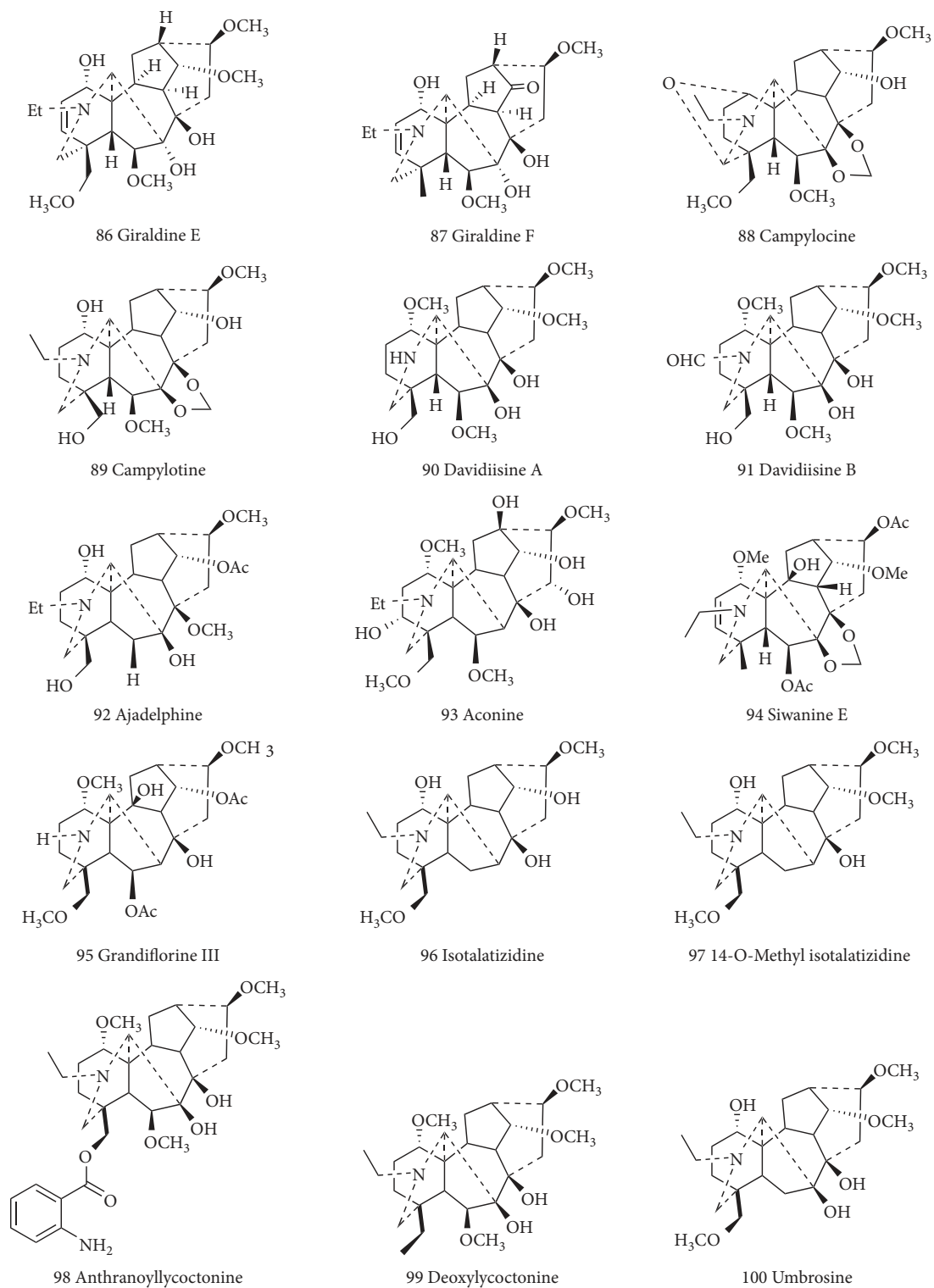
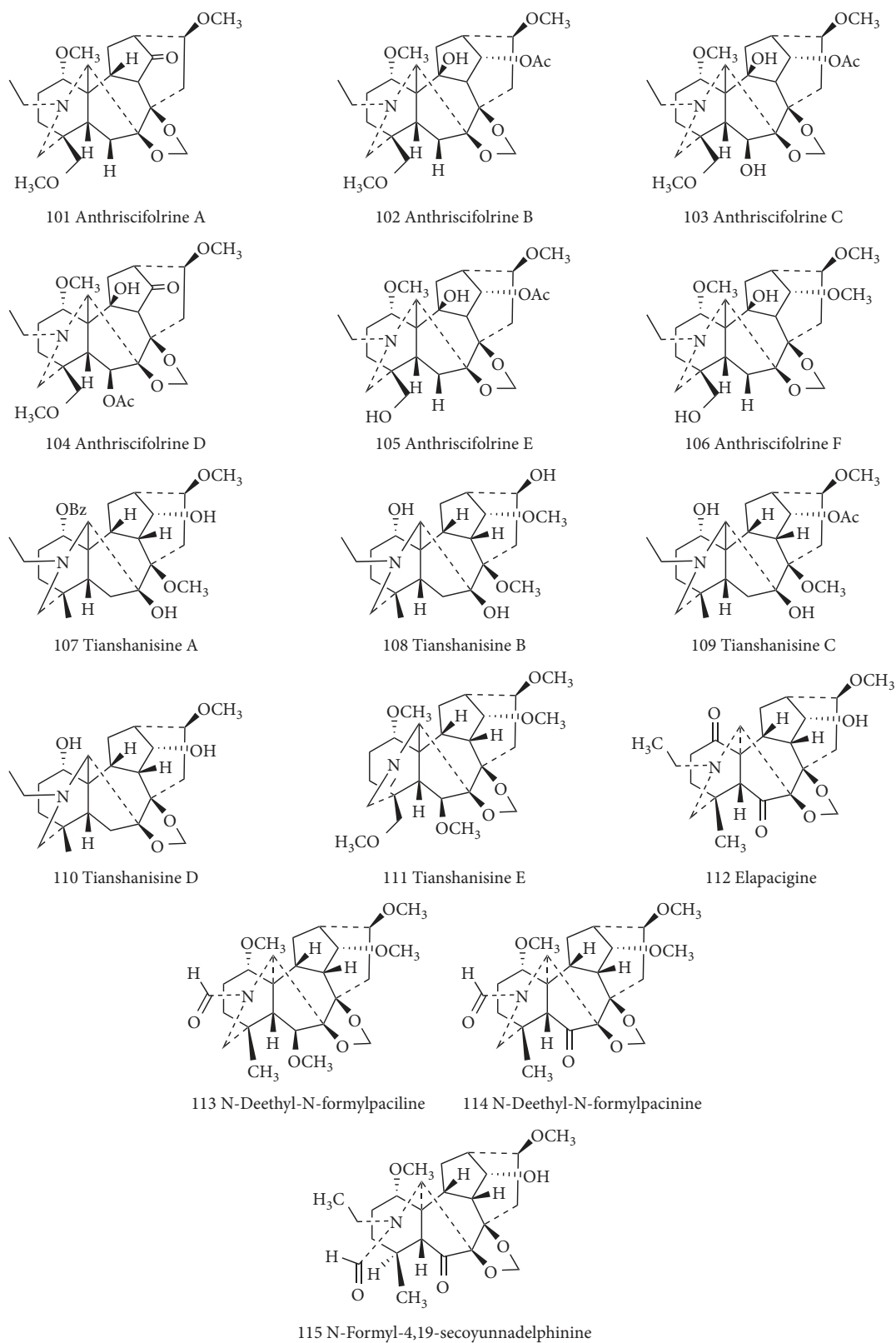


FIGURE 5: Continued.

FIGURE 5: C-19 diterpenoid alkaloids isolated from *Delphinium*.

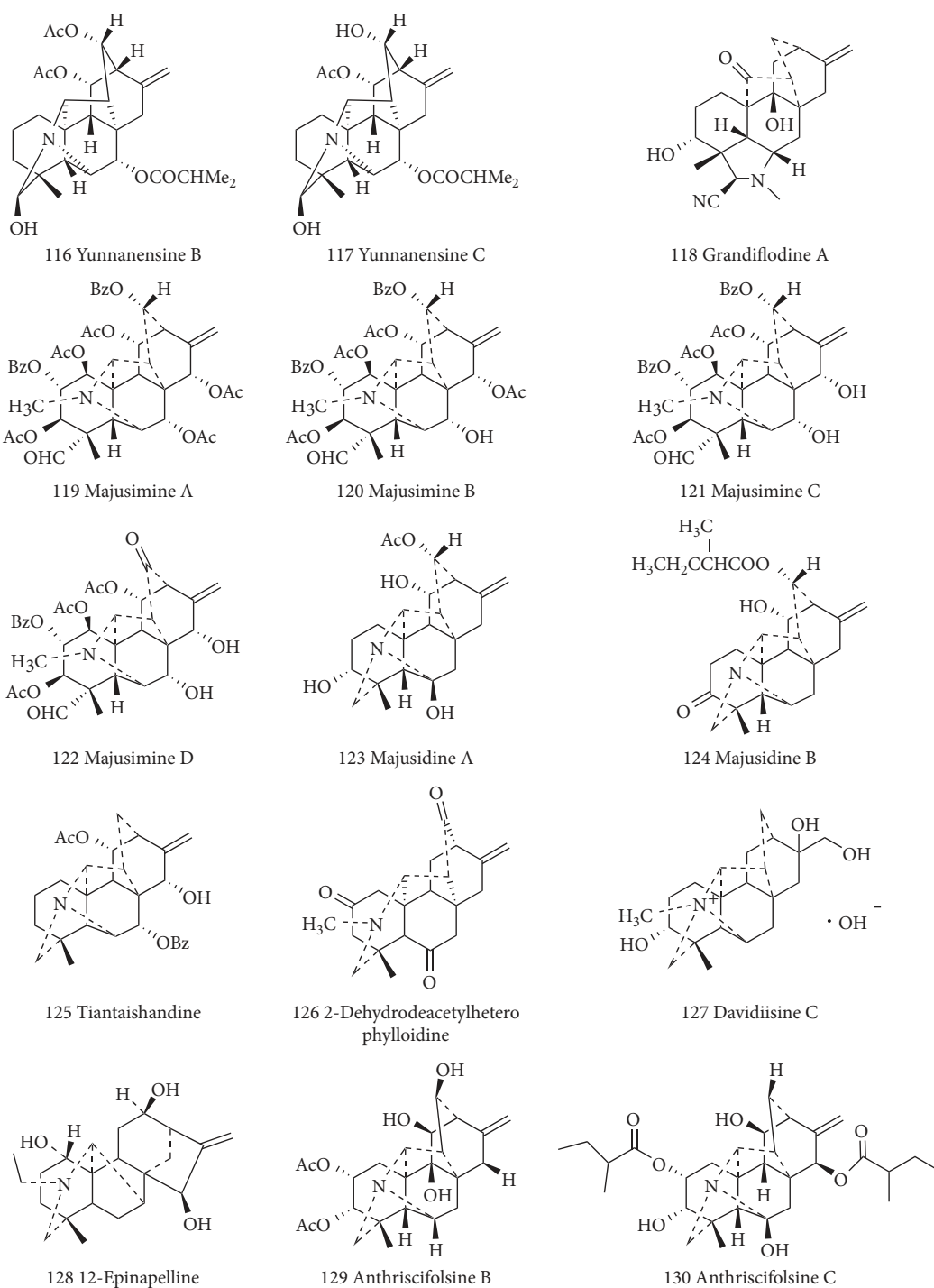


FIGURE 6: Continued.

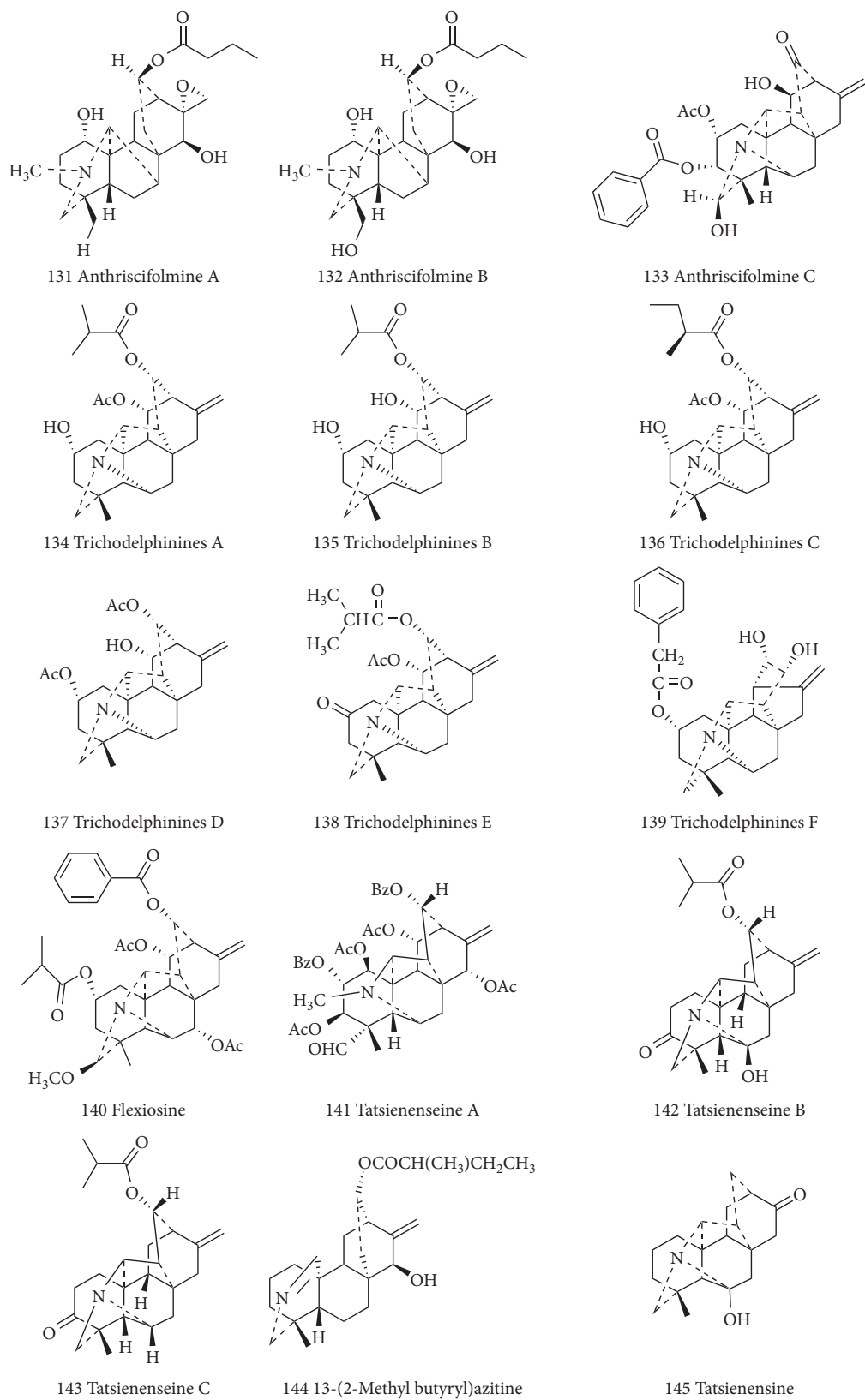
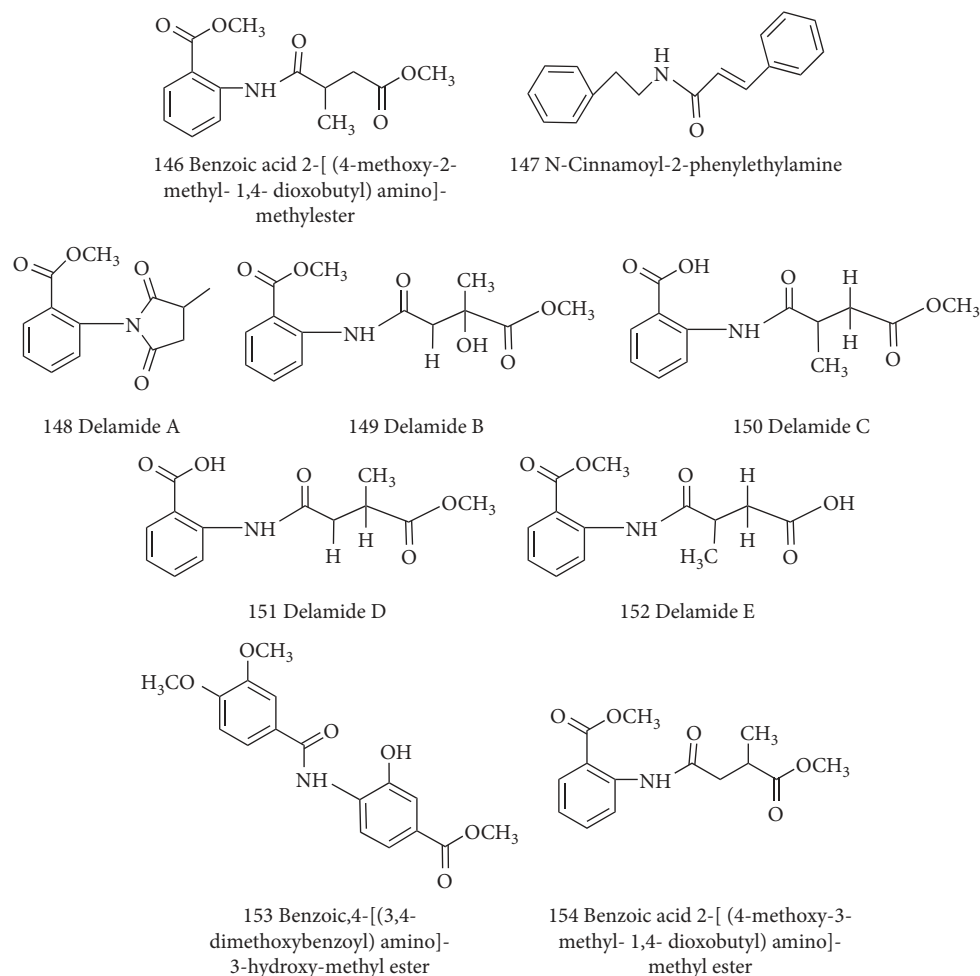
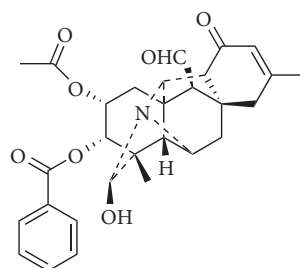
FIGURE 6: C-20 diterpenoid alkaloids isolated from *Delphinium*.

TABLE 4: Amide alkaloids isolated from *Delphinium*.

| No. | Compound | Type | Source | Molecular formula | Reference |
|-----|---|-------|--------------------------------|---|-----------|
| 146 | Benzoic acid 2-[(4-methoxy-2-methyl-1,4-dioxobutyl) amino]-methyl ester | Amide | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> Linn | C ₁₄ H ₁₇ NO ₅ | [21] |
| 147 | N-Cinnamoyl-2-phenylethylamine | Amide | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> L. | C ₁₇ H ₁₇ NO | [48] |
| 148 | Delamide A | Amide | <i>D. brunonianum</i> | C ₁₃ H ₁₃ NO ₄ | [58] |
| 149 | Delamide B | Amide | <i>D. brunonianum</i> | C ₁₄ H ₁₇ NO ₆ | [58] |
| 150 | Delamide C | Amide | <i>D. brunonianum</i> | C ₁₃ H ₁₅ NO ₅ | [58] |
| 151 | Delamide D | Amide | <i>D. brunonianum</i> | C ₁₃ H ₁₅ NO ₅ | [58] |
| 152 | Delamide E | Amide | <i>D. brunonianum</i> | C ₁₃ H ₁₅ NO ₅ | [58] |
| 153 | Benzoic,4-[(3,4-dimethoxybenzoyl) amino]-3-hydroxy-methyl ester | Amide | <i>D. brunonianum</i> Royle | C ₁₇ H ₁₇ NO ₆ | [59] |
| 154 | Benzoic acid 2-[(4-methoxy-3-methyl-1,4-dioxobutyl) amino]-methyl ester | Amide | <i>D. brunonianum</i> Royle | C ₁₄ H ₁₇ NO ₅ | [59] |

FIGURE 7: Amide alkaloids isolated from *Delphinium*.

155 Anthriscifolsine A

FIGURE 8: Other alkaloids isolated from *Delphinium*.

TABLE 5: Other compounds isolated from *Delphinium*.

| No. | Compound | Type | Source | Molecular formula | Reference |
|-----|--|-----------|--|---|-----------|
| 156 | β -Carotene | | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> Linn | C ₃₄ H ₅₆ NO ₄ | [21] |
| 157 | 3,5-Dihydroxy-4'-methoxyflavon-7-yl-O- β -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 4)- α -L-rhamnopyranoside | Flavonoid | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> Linn | C ₂₁ H ₁₈ NO ₈ | [21] |
| 158 | β -D-Galactopyranoside,4-hydroxyphenyl | | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> Linn | C ₁₁ H ₁₂ NO ₅ | [21] |
| 159 | β -Sitosterol | Sterol | <i>D. honanense</i> var. <i>piliteram</i> W. T. Wang | C ₂₉ H ₅₀ O | [47] |
| 160 | 4',7-Dimethoxy-5-hydroxyflavone | Flavonoid | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> L. | C ₁₇ H ₁₄ O ₅ | [48] |
| 161 | Kaempferol-7-O- α -L-pyranorhamnoside | Flavonoid | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> L. | C ₂₁ H ₂₀ O ₁₀ | [60] |
| 162 | 5,7,3',4'-Tetrahydroxy-8-methoxyflavone | Flavonoid | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> L. | C ₁₆ H ₁₂ O ₇ | [60] |
| 163 | Tachioside | Phenolics | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> L. | C ₁₃ H ₁₈ O ₈ | [60] |
| 164 | 6-Methoxycoumarin | Coumarin | <i>D. grandiflorum</i> L. | C ₁₀ H ₈ O ₃ | [60] |
| 165 | para-Hydroxybenzoic acid | | <i>D. brunonianum</i> Royle | C ₇ H ₆ O ₃ | [59] |
| 166 | Benzoic acid | | <i>D. brunonianum</i> Royle | C ₇ H ₆ O ₂ | [59] |
| 167 | Cinnamic acid | | <i>D. brunonianum</i> Royle | C ₉ H ₈ O ₂ | [59] |
| 168 | Dibutyl phthalate | | <i>D. brunonianum</i> Royle | C ₁₆ H ₂₂ O ₄ | [59] |

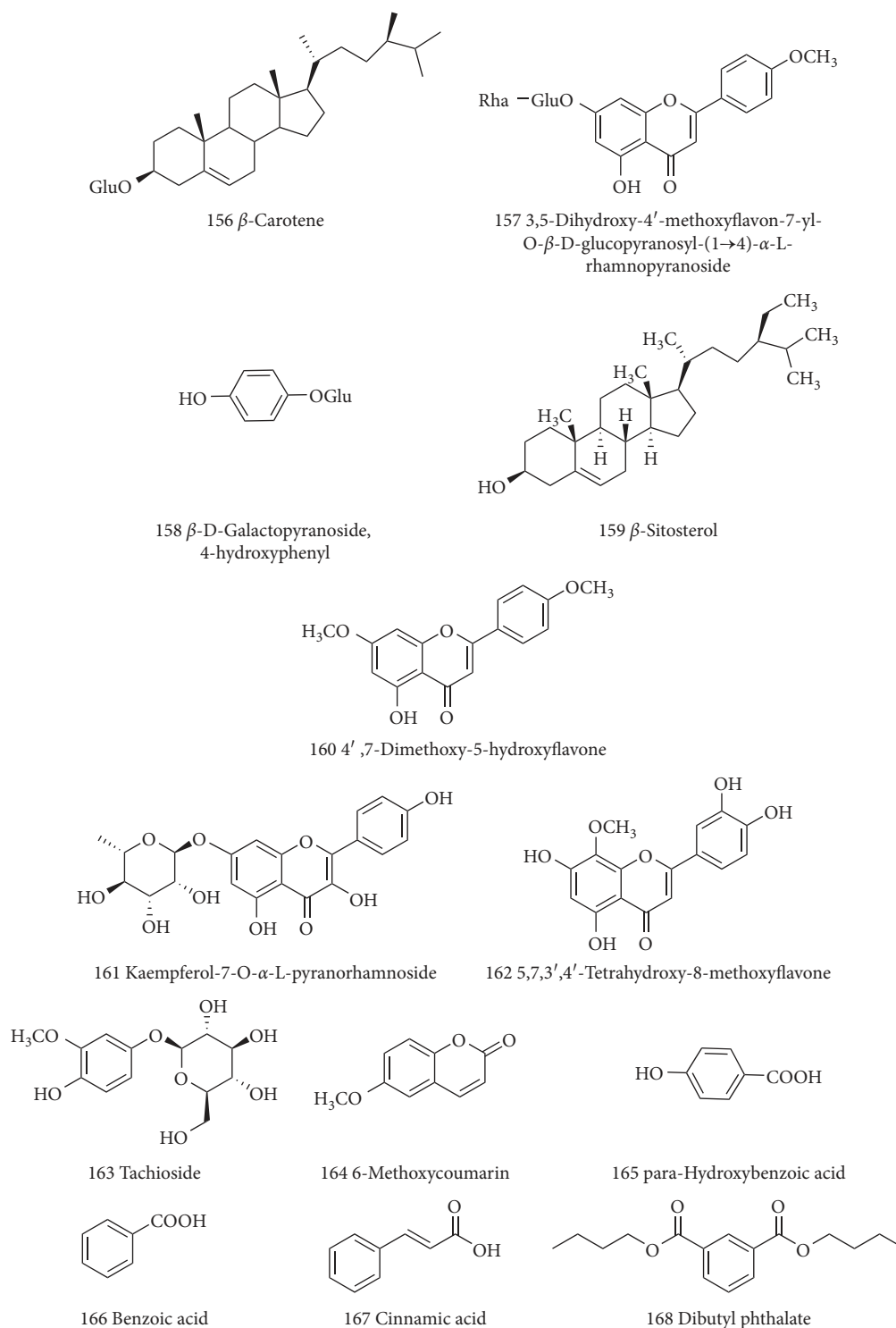


FIGURE 9: Other compounds isolated from *Delphinium*.

3.8. *Antiparasite Activity*. Reina et al. found that delphinigraciline extracted from *D. gracile* had antileishmanicidal activity *in vitro*, and its IC_{50} was $7.3 \mu\text{g/mL}$ [73].

4. Summary and Analysis

Delphinium is rich in germplasm resources and has a wide range of pharmacological effects. In recent years, 168

compounds were isolated from plants of *Delphinium*, including 155 alkaloids and 13 nonalkaloids. The alkaloids in the genus *Delphinium* are mainly diterpene alkaloids, including 20 C-18 diterpenoid alkaloids, 95 C-19 diterpenoid alkaloids, and 30 C-20 diterpenoid alkaloids. The study of chemical composition for *Delphinium* mainly focuses on *D. anthriscifolium* varietas, *D. elatum*, *D. grandiflorum*, *D. brunonianum*, *D. tiantaishanense*, and *D. pseudoaemulans*.

Although there are many research studies, the pharmacological effects on the antibacterial, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antidepressant, anticancer, antipulmonary fibrosis, antifeedant, and antiparasite effects of *Delphinium* are mainly on the crude extracts and few on compounds.

5. Future Prospects

The genus *Delphinium* is rich in new and novel compounds, but the current research is only focused on several species. In the future, more new compounds should be investigated from other species in depth. The pharmacological effects of *Delphinium* are extensive, but the current research is limited to extracts, so it is necessary to focus on the effects of the compounds from *Delphinium* and the structure-activity relationship in the future.

Data Availability

The data supporting this article are from previously reported studies, which have been cited. The data are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

All authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Authors' Contributions

Sitan Chen and Lijun Meng contributed equally to this work.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the Basic Project in Science and Technology Agency of Kaifeng City (1908007).

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