# SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

# Synthesis and biological evaluation of picroside derivatives as anti-liver injury agents

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### Abstract

*Picrorhizae Rhizoma* as a hepatoprotective herb, has been applied for thousands of years, and picroside was proved to be its active constituent. In this study, twelve derivatives of picroside were synthesized and the hepatoprotective activity of the derivatives was evaluated on SMMC-7721 cells. Six out of the derivatives had shown a better protective effect on H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced SMMC-7221 cells than picroside, and the activity of two derivatives (**2** and **4**) was stronger than that of the reference compound, silybin. Compound **2** shown the strongest protective effect (EC<sub>50</sub> =6.064 ± 1.295  $\mu$ M).

Keywords: Picroside; Derivatization; Hepatoprotective activity; SMMC-7221

# **Experimental**

#### General

NMR spectra were performed on Bruker DRX-400 NMR Spectrometer at 400 MHz using CD<sub>3</sub>OD as solvent in Zhengzhou University. Mass spectra were recorded on a Triple TOF 5600 instrument. Optical rotation values were measured on a Jasco P-2000 polarimeter. The purity of Picroside and the derivatives were checked on a Waters e2695 liquid chromatograph equipped with 2424 ELS detector and 2998 PDA detector. All the chemical reagents were purchased from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd (Shanghai, China).

## **Preparation of Picroside**

Take the dried rhizome of *Picrorhiza* (about 1-2 cm in length) 5 kg, 6 BV of 95% ethanol reflux extraction for 3 h, repeated three times, combined the extracts, concentration under vacuum, the residue was purified by AB-8 macroporous resin column chromatograph, eluted by 50% ethanol, concentration under vacuum and got the crude picroside 721 g. the further purified was performed with silica gel column chromatograph (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>OH, 10:1, v/v) to yield Picroside I 57 g and Picroside II 204 g.

#### **Synthesis**

## Synthesis of compound 1

0.05 g of Picroside II was dissolved with 2 mL methanol, and 0.2 mL concentrated nitric acid was added dropwise. The mixture was refluxed for 10 min at 80  $^{\circ}$ C. After cooled to room temperature, excess calcium carbonate was added until the solution was neutral, filtered, recovered the solvent under vacuum, the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography, eluted with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1:1) to obtain **1**.

1*α*,3*β*-dimethoxy-3,4-dihydrogen-picroside II (1) Yield 37%; yellow powder;  $[α]_D^{20}$  - 18.8 (*c* 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ: 1.85 (1H, m, H-4a), 1.95 (1H, m, H-4b), 2.33 (1H, m, H-5), 2.79 (1H, dd, J = 2.0 Hz, 8.2 Hz, H-9), 3.41 (3H, s, H-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.45 (3H, s, H-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.54 (1H, d, J = 12.8 Hz, H-10a), 3.62 (1H, s, H-7), 3.89 (3H, s, H-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.01 (1H, d, J = 12.8 Hz, H-10b), 4.77 (1H, dd, J = 2.6 Hz, 6.0 Hz, H-3), 4.99 (1H, d, J = 3.7 Hz, H-1), 5.27 (1H, dd, J = 1.0 Hz, 8.2 Hz, H-6), 6.84 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, H-5'), 7.56 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz, H-2'), 7.85 (1H, dd, J = 1.8 Hz, 8.1 Hz, H-6'); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 30.2, 34.0, 41.2, 55.3, 55.9, 56.5, 61.1, 61.4, 81.1, 87.3, 96.3, 99.2, 113.6, 116.0, 122.2, 125.3, 148.8, 153.1, 168.2; ESI-MS *m*/*z* 395 [M-H]- 441 [M+HCOO]<sup>-</sup> 791 [2M-H]<sup>-</sup>.

#### General procedure for synthesis of 2

0.1 g of Picroside II was dissolved with 6 mL SOCl<sub>2</sub>, and refluxed for 30 min at 50 °C. The mixture was concentrated under vacuum. The residue was redissolved by methanol, recovered the solvent, the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography, eluted with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1:3) to obtain **2**.

**3-ethoxy-3,4-dihydrogen-7***a***-chlorine-8-hydroxy-(1***β***,10)-epoxy-picroside** II (2) Yield 28%; white powder;  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  + 46.5 (*c* 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 1.15 (3H, t, J = 7.1 Hz, H-CH3), 1.49 (1H, m, H-4a), 1.93 (1H), 2.53 (1H, dq, J = 2.2 Hz, 14.3 Hz, H-5), 2.59 (1H, dd, J = 4.8 Hz, 4.6 Hz, H-9), 3.55 (1H, m, H-OCH<sub>2</sub>a), 3.76 (1H, d, J = 10.4 Hz, H-10a), 3.85 (1H, m, H-OCH<sub>2</sub>b), 3.90 (3H, s, H-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.27 (1H, d, J = 10.4 Hz, H-10b), 4.41 (1H, d, J = 10.3 Hz, H-7), 5.18 (1H, dd, J = 5.7 Hz, 7.6 Hz, H-3), 5.38 (1H, t, J = 9.8 Hz, H-6), 5.51 (1H, d, J = 4.6 Hz, H-1), 6.89 (1H, d, J = 8.3 Hz, H-5''), 7.56 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz, H-2''), 7.60 (1H, dd, J = 1.8 Hz, 8.3 Hz, H-6''); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 15.5, 27.9, 37.2, 52.1, 56.5, 64.7, 69.9, 75.9, 79.3, 86.0, 96.9, 100.2, 113.7, 116.1, 121.6, 125.4, 148.9, 153.5, 167.7; ESI-MS *m*/z 413 [M-H]<sup>-</sup> 827 [2M-H]<sup>-</sup>.

### General procedure for synthesis of 3 and 6

0.05 g of Picroside II and I was dissolved with 4 mL acetic anhydride, respectively, and refluxed for 1 h at 80  $^{\circ}$ C. Recovered the solvent in vacuum and the

residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography, eluted with ethyl acetate-petroleum ether (1:2) to obtain **3** and **6**, respectively.

Hexaacetyl picroside II (3) Yield 81%; white powder;  $[a]_D^{20} - 86.4$  (*c* 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 1.90 (3H s, H-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.00 (3H, s, H-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.00 (3H, s, H-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.04 (3H, s, H-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.05 (3H, s, H-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.29 (3H, s, H-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.53 (1H, m, H-5), 2.60 (1H, m, H-9), 3.79 (1H, q, J = 12.6 Hz, H-6'a), 3.86 (1H, s, H-7), 3.86 (3H, s, H-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.09 (1H, m, H-10a), 4.09 (1H, m, H-5'), 4.20 (1H, m, H-10b), 4.76 (1H, q, J = 8.1 Hz, H-6), 4.89 (1H, d, J = 9.7 Hz, H-4), 4.94 (1H, d, J = 8.5 Hz, H-1'), 4.95-5.05 (3H, m, H-3'), 5.17 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz, H-1), 5.23 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-6'b), 6.46 (1H, dd, J = 1.5 Hz, 6.0 Hz, H-3), 7.29 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-6''), 7.64 (1H, s, H-5''), 7.67 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz, H-2''); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 20.2, 20.2, 20.3, 20.4, 20.4, 34.8, 40.1, 56.0, 58.4, 60.1, 62.3, 62.6, 67.9, 70.6, 71.7, 72.8, 79.9, 94.3, 96.0, 102.8, 113.1, 122.4, 123.4, 127.8, 142.5, 143.5, 151.0, 165.0, 168.1, 168.9, 169.3, 169.4, 169.9, 170.0; ESI-MS *m*/z 809 [M+HCOO]<sup>-</sup>.

**Pentaacetyl picroside I** (6) Yield 77%; white powder;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 67.6$  (*c* 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ: 2.00 (3H, s, H-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.02 (3H, s, H-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.03 (3H, s, H-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.06 (3H, s, H-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.07 (3H, s, H-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2.43 (1H, m, H-5), 2.53 (1H, q, J = 8.1 Hz, H-9), 3.64 (1H, s, H-7), 3.76 (1H, d, J = 12.6 Hz, H-6'a), 3.98 (1H, m, H-5'), 4.36 (1H, dd, J = 2.5 Hz, 12.4 Hz, H-10a), 4.43 (1H, dd, J = 4.6 Hz, 12.4 Hz, H-10b), 4.75 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz, H-1'), 4.81 (1H, d, J = 1.0 Hz, H-6), 4.90 (1H, m, H-4), 4.95 (1H, m, H-2'), 4.96 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, H-1), 5.09 (1H, d, J = 12.6 Hz, H-6'b), 5.15 (1H, m, H-4'), 5.31 (1H, t, J = 9.5 Hz, H-3'), 6.33 (1H, dd, J = 1.7 Hz, 6.0 Hz, H-3), 6.56 (1H, d, J = 16.1 Hz, H-α), 7.39 (1H, d, J = 3.2 Hz, H-6''), 7.39 (1H, d, J = 3.2 Hz, H-4''), 7.39 (1H, d, J = 3.2 Hz, H-2''), 7.62 (1H, m, H-5''), 7.62 (1H, m, H-3''), 7.72 (1H, d, J = 16.1 Hz, H-β); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ: 20.6, 20.7, 20.8, 20.8, 20.8, 36.5, 42.7, 60.0, 62.7, 63.7, 64.7, 69.8, 72.3, 73.4, 74.0, 81.1, 95.8, 98.0, 103.1, 118.5, 129.5, 129.5, 129.5, 130.1, 130.1, 131.7, 131.7, 135.7, 142.3, 147.0, 167.9, 170.9, 171.2, 171.6, 172.4, 172.6; ESI-MS *m*/*z* 747 [M+HCOO]<sup>T</sup></sup>.

General procedure for synthesis of 4, 5 and 7

0.1 g of Picroside II and I were dissolved with 8 mL DMF, respectively. Then 0.5 g  $K_2CO_3$  (anhydrous) and 0.4 mL CH<sub>3</sub>I was added by turn. The mixture was reflux for 8 h at room temperature. Recovered the solvent in vacuum, the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography, eluted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>3</sub>OH (15:1) to obtain **4**, **5** and **7**, respectively.

#### $3\alpha$ -methoxy-3,4-dihydrogen-7-iodine- $8\beta$ -hydroxy-( $1\beta$ ,10)-epoxy-picroside

II (4) Yield 42%; yellow powder;  $[\alpha]_D^{20}$  + 76.0 (*c* 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 1.47 (1H, m, H-4a), 2.00 (1H, d, J = 2.5 Hz, 14.7 Hz, H-4b), 2.50 (1H, m, H-5), 2.71 (1H, dd, J = 5.1 Hz, 5.0 Hz, H-9), 3.42 (3H, s, H-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.80 (1H, d, J = 10.2 Hz, H-10a), 3.90 (3H, s, H-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.13 (1H, d, J = 10.2 Hz, H-10b), 4.41 (1H, d, J = 11.0 Hz, H-7), 5.06 (1H, t, J = 6.8 Hz, H-3), 5.38 (1H, t, J = 11.0 Hz, H-6), 5.59 (1H, d, J = 5.0 Hz, H-1), 6.89 (1H, d, J = 8.3 Hz, H-5''), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 2.0 Hz, H-2''), 7.60 (1H, d, J = 2.0 Hz, H-6''); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 27.7, 37.1, 39.1, 53.5, 55.8, 56.5, 80.9, 81.2, 83.8, 98.9, 100.0, 113.8, 116.1, 121.5, 125.5, 148.9, 153.6, 167.7; ESI-MS *m*/z 491 [M-H]<sup>-</sup> 983 [2M-H]<sup>-</sup>.

**3,4-dihydrogen-7-iodine-8\beta-hydroxy-(3\alpha,10\alpha)-epoxy-picroside II (5) Yield 46%; yellow powder; [\alpha]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> + 18.7 (c 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) \delta: 2.08 (1H, dd, J = 3.1 Hz, 13.9 Hz, H-4a), 2.39 (1H, q, J = 8.4 Hz, H-4b), 2.50 (1H, dt, J = 2.2 Hz, 7.9 Hz, H-5), 2.68 (1H, d, J = 9.9 Hz, H-9), 3.15 (1H, t, J = 8.1 Hz, H-2'), 3.25 (1H, m, H-5'), 3.25 (1H, m, H-3'), 3.28 (1H, m, H-4'), 3.66 (1H, dd, J = 5.1 Hz, 11.8 Hz, H-6'a), 3.80 (1H, d, J = 1.6 Hz, H-10a), 3.85 (1H, dd, J = 1.6 Hz, 11.8 Hz, H-6'b), 3.89 (3H, s, H-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 4.13 (1H, d, J = 12.1 Hz, H-10b), 4.66 (1H, dd, J = 3.5 Hz, 9.0 Hz, H-7), 4.70 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, H-1'), 5.23 (1H, dd, J = 2.2 Hz, 9.0 Hz, H-6), 5.32 (1H, t, J = 2.5 Hz, H-3), 5.68 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-1), 6.85 (1H, d, J = 8.3 Hz, H-5''), 7.53 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz, H-2''), 7.57 (1H, dd, J = 1.8 Hz, 8.3 Hz, H-6''); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) \delta: 34.2, 36.9, 41.6, 47.0, 56.5, 62.9, 67.2, 74.7, 78.0,**  79.9, 89.8, 93.2, 95.9, 98.9, 113.6, 116.1, 121.9, 125.3, 148.9, 153.4, 167.9; ESI-MS *m*/*z* 639 [M-H]<sup>-</sup>.

**10-methoxy-picroside I** (7) Yield 24%; white powder;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 55.7$  (*c* 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 2.54 (1H, m, H-5), 2.54 (1H, m, H-9), 3.25–3.55 (4H, m, H-3',4',5'), 3.45 (1H, m, H-7), 3.69 (3H, s, H-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.81 (1H, dd, J = 0.8 Hz, 8.2 Hz, H-6), 4.09 (1H, d, J = 12.4 Hz, H-10a), 4.47 (1H, dd, J = 4.8 Hz, 11.8 Hz, H-6'a), 4.53 (1H, dd, J = 2.3 Hz, 11.8 Hz, H-6'b), 4.75 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz, H-1'), 4.85 (1H, d, J = 7.6 Hz, H-1), 4.95 (1H, t, J = 6.5 Hz, H-10b), 5.01 (1H, q, J = 4.8 Hz, H-4), 6.32 (1H, d, J = 6.0 Hz, H-3), 6.56 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H- $\alpha$ ), 7.40–7.60 (4H, m, H-4',5'), 7.72 (1H, d, J = 16.0 Hz, H- $\beta$ ); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 39.0, 43.4, 55.4, 62.3, 63.2, 63.8, 67.3, 71.2, 74.8, 75.8, 77.7, 79.5, 95.6, 100.4, 103.7, 118.8, 129.3, 129.3, 130.0, 130.0, 131.6, 135.7, 141.9, 146.5, 168.3; ESI-MS *m*/*z* 551 [M+HCOO]<sup>-</sup>.

## General procedure for synthesis of 8

0.1 g of Picroside II was dissolved with 8 mL pyridine, 0.104 g Boc-Gly and 0.412 g DCC were added, stirred for 6 h at room temperature, recovered the solvent in vacuum, the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography, eluted with  $CH_2Cl_2$ -CH<sub>3</sub>OH (12:1) to obtain **8**.

**10-O-Boc-glycyl-picroside** II (**8**) Yield 56%; white powder;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 53.6$  (*c* 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 1.44 (9H, s, H-Gly-5,6,7), 2.65 (1H, m, H-5), 2.71 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz, H-9), 3.2–3.4 (4H, m, H-3',4',5'), 3.63 (1H, q, J = 7.1 Hz, H-6'a), 3.79 (1H, d, J = 6.0 Hz, H-7), 3.84 (2H, s, H-Gly-2), 3.91 (3H, s, H-OCH3), 3.95 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz, H-6'b), 4.09 (2H, q, J = 7.1 Hz, H-10), 4.76 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz, H-1'), 4.99 (1H, q, J = 4.6 Hz, H-4), 5.17 (1H, d, J = 8.6 Hz, H-6), 5.21 (1H, d, J = 9.6 Hz, H-1), 6.37 (1H, d, J = 1.5 Hz, 6.0 Hz, H-3), 6.86 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-5''), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 1.7 Hz, H-2''), 7.60 (1H, dd, J = 1.7 Hz, 8.0 Hz, H-6''); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 28.8, 36.6, 43.0, 43.1, 56.5, 60.3, 63.1, 63.9, 65.1, 71.8,

74.6, 77.8, 78.7, 80.8, 81.5, 94.9, 99.7, 102.7, 113.6, 116.0, 122.0, 125.3, 142.0, 148.4, 153.2, 158.6, 167.8, 171.9; ESI-MS *m*/*z* 668 [M-H]<sup>-</sup>.

#### General procedure for synthesis of 9-12

0.2 g of Picroside II was dissolved with 16 mL pyridine, 0.224 g Boc-Ala and 0.824 g DCC were added, stirred for 16 h at room temperature, recovered the solvent in vacuum, the residue was purified by silica gel column chromatography, gradient eluted with acetate-mineral ether (1:1) and  $CH_2Cl_2-CH_3OH$  (35:1—20:1—15:1) to obtain 9, 10, 11 and 12.

**3'-O-Boc-alacyl-picroside** II (9) Yield 12%; white powder;  $[a]_D^{20} - 65$  (*c* 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 1.37 (3H, d, J = 4.0 Hz, H-Ala-3), 1.45 (9H, s, H-Ala-6,7,8), 2.64 (1H, m, H-9), 2.69 (1H, m, H-5), 3.39–3.51 (3H, m, H-2',4',5'), 3.65 (1H, m, H-6'a), 3.75 (1H, s, H-7), 3.84 (1H, m, H-10a), 3.90 (1H, m, H-6'b), 3.90 (3H, s, H-OCH3), 4.16 (1H, d, J = 7.3 Hz, H-10b), 4.21 (1H, d, J = 4.0 Hz, H-Ala-2), 4.80 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-1'), 5.01 (1H, m, H-4), 5.13 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz, H-6), 5.20 (1H, d, J = 9.1 Hz, H-1), 6.38 (1H, dd, J = 1.2 Hz, 6.0 Hz, H-3), 6.86 (1H, d, J = 8.1 Hz, H-5''), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 1.8 Hz, H-2''), 7.60 (1H, dd, J = 1.8 Hz, 8.2 Hz, H-6''); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 18.0, 28.7, 36.8, 43.2, 50.9, 56.5, 60.3, 61.2, 62.6, 66.9, 69.9, 73.0, 78.4, 79.6, 80.7, 81.7, 95.2, 99.5, 103.0, 113.6, 116.0, 122.0, 125.3, 142.4, 148.4, 153.2, 158.1, 167.9, 174.5; ESI-MS *m*/z 682 [M-H]<sup>-</sup>.

**6',4''-O-2-Boc-alacyl-picroside** II (**10**) Yield 9%; white powder;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 36.5$  (*c* 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 1.39 (3H, d, J = 7.3 Hz, H-Ala-3), 1.42 (9H, s, H-Ala-6,7,8), 1.46 (9H, s, H- Ala-6,7,8), 1.52 (3H, d, J = 7.3 Hz, H-Ala-3), 2.63 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz, H-9), 2.70 (1H, m, H-5), 3.20–3.40 (3H, m, H-3',4'), 3.51 (1H, m, H-5'), 3.81 (1H, m, H-7), 3.82 (1H, m, H-10a), 3.88 (3H, s, H-OCH3), 4.13 (1H, d, J = 13.2 Hz, H-10b), 4.18 (1H, d, J = 7.3 Hz, H-Ala-2), 4.26 (1H, dd, J = 11.0 Hz, 4.1 Hz, H-6'a), 4.40 (1H, d, J = 7.3 Hz, H-Ala-2), 4.61 (1H, d, J = 7.3 Hz, H-Ala-2), 4

= 11.0 Hz, H-6'b), 4.79 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz, H-1'), 5.02 (1H, m, H-4), 5.10 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz, H-1), 5.16 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz, H-6), 6.38 (1H, dd, J = 1.6 Hz, 6.0 Hz, H-3), 7.20 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, H-6''), 7.70 (1H s, H-5''), 7.72 (1H, s, H-2''); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 17.6, 17.9, 28.6, 28.7, 36.9, 43.3, 50.6, 50.8, 56.6, 60.0, 61.0, 64.3, 66.9, 71.2, 74.8, 75.9, 77.5, 80.6, 80.7, 82.3, 95.4, 100.0, 103.0, 114.5, 123.8, 124.0, 129.8, 142.5, 145.4, 152.7, 152.7, 157.9, 167.0, 172.8, 174.7; ESI-MS *m*/*z* 853 [M-H]<sup>-</sup> 899 [M+HCOO]<sup>-</sup>.

**6'-O-Boc-alacyl-picroside** II (**11**) Yield 30%; white powder;  $[a]_D^{20} - 76.0$  (*c* 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 1.39 (3H, d, J = 7.3 Hz, H-Ala-3), 1.43 (9H, s, H-Ala-6,7,8), 2.63 (1H, s, H-9), 2.67 (1H, m, H-5), 3.28–3.5 (3H, m, H-3',4'), 3.51 (1H, m, H-5'), 3.79 (1H, s, H-7), 3.82 (1H, s, H-10a), 3.90 (3H, s, H-OCH3), 4.13 (1H, d, J = 13.2 Hz, H-10b), 4.18 (1H, d, J = 7.3 Hz, H-Ala-2), 4.26 (1H, dd, J = 1.1 Hz, 11.6 Hz, H-6'a), 4.61 (1H, d, J = 11.6 Hz, H-6'b), 4.79 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz, H-1'), 5.00 (1H, m, H-4), 5.03 (1H, d, J = 7.5 Hz, H-1), 5.11 (1H, d, J = 7.1 Hz, H-6), 6.37 (1H, dd, J = 1.4 Hz, 6.1 Hz, H-3), 6.86 (1H, d, J = 8.2 Hz, H-5''), 7.57 (1H, d, J = 1.9 Hz, H-2''), 7.60 (1H, dd, J = 1.9 Hz, 8.2 Hz, H-6''); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 17.9, 28.8, 36.9, 43.3, 50.6, 56.5, 60.1, 61.0, 64.4, 66.7, 71.2, 74.8, 75.8, 77.5, 80.6, 81.7, 95.4, 100.0, 103.1, 113.6, 116.0, 122.0, 125.1, 142.4, 148.8, 153.2, 157.9, 167.8, 174.7; ESI-MS *m*/z 682 [M-H]<sup>-</sup>728 [M+HCOO]<sup>-</sup>.

**4''-O-Boc-alacyl-picroside** II (**12**) Yield 30%; white powder;  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 55.0$  (*c* 0.10, CH<sub>3</sub>OH); <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$ : 1.45 (9H, s, H-Ala-6,7,8), 1.52 (3H, d, J = 7.4 Hz, H-Ala-3), 2.66 (1H, m, H-9), 2.70 (1H, dd, J = 1.6 Hz, 4.2 Hz, H-5), 3.25–3.45 (4H, m, H-3',4',5'), 3.65 (1H, dd, J = 6.6 Hz, 11.9 Hz, H-6'a), 3.78 (1H, d, J = 0.9 Hz, H-7), 3.84 (1H, d, J = 5.0 Hz, H-10a), 3.89 (3H, s, H-OCH3), 3.93 (1H, dd, J = 1.6 Hz, 11.9 Hz, H-6'b), 4.19 (1H, d, J = 13.2 Hz, H-10b), 4.40 (1H, d, J = 7.4 Hz, H-Ala-2), 4.80 (1H, d, J = 7.9 Hz, H-1'), 5.18 (1H, d, J = 5.3 Hz, H-4), 5.18 (1H, d, J = 5.3 Hz, H-6), 5.20 (1H, d, J = 7.8 Hz, H-1), 6.39 (1H, dd, J = 1.6 Hz, 6.0 Hz, H-3), 7.20 (1H, d, J = 8.7 Hz, H-6''), 7.70 (1H, s, H-5''), 7.71 (1H, s, H-2''); <sup>13</sup>C NMR

(100 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ: 17.7, 28.7, 36.8, 43.2, 50.8, 56.7, 60.3, 61.2, 62.9, 67.1, 71.8, 74.8, 77.7, 78.6, 80.7, 82.4, 95.1, 99.7, 102.9, 114.5, 123.8, 124.1, 129.8, 142.6, 145.4, 152.7, 157.9, 167.2, 172.9; ESI-MS *m/z* 682 [M-H]<sup>-</sup>728 [M+HCOO]<sup>-</sup>.

#### **Biological** assays

Silybin was purchased from Chengdu Mansite Bio-Technology Co., Ltd (Chengdu, China). SMMC-7721 was obtained from Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, SIBS, CAS (Shanghai, China), and was grown in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum and 1% Penicillin-Streptomycin Solution.

The cell viability was evaluated using the MTT assay. The cells were plated in 96-well plate with 100  $\mu$ L for each well (1×10<sup>4</sup> cells/well) and incubation for 24 h in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37 °C. Then the cells were exposed with different concentrations (0.1, 1, 10, 100, and 1000  $\mu$ M) of the derivatives respectively and incubation for 3 h, Silybin was used as the positive drug. Then the culture media containing derivatives were removed and new medium containing 0.6 mmol/L H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was added. After 3 h of treatment, 20  $\mu$ L MTT regents (5 mg/mL) were added to each well and incubation for 4 h, the medium was removed and 100  $\mu$ L of DMSO was added to each well and shaken for 10 min. The absorbance was measured by a microplate reader at a wavelength of 490 nm. Control wells received only the medium without the derivatives. Each derivative concentration had four replicates. The cell viability was calculated using the following formula:

Cell viability (%) =  $(A_{Sample} / A_{Blank} - A_{Model} / A_{Blank}) \times 100\%$ 

The hepatoprotective effect of each derivative was expressed as  $EC_{50}$ . The dose-response curves of the derivatives were showed in Figure S1, and the  $EC_{50}$  values were showed in Table S1. All the results were expressed as mean  $\pm$  SD. Statistical analysis was carried out by SPSS 24 software.**Figure S1**. Dose-response curves of the derivatives



**Table S1**.  $EC_{50}$  of the derivatives

| No.          | EC <sub>50</sub>  | No. | EC <sub>50</sub>  |
|--------------|-------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Picroside I  | $4409\pm971.6$    | 6   | $5906\pm3845$     |
| Picroside II | $704.1 \pm 123.1$ | 7   | $3696\pm809.6$    |
| Silybin      | $116.6\pm14.68$   | 8   | $576.6\pm109.2$   |
| 1            | $547.4\pm70.21$   | 9   | $157.1\pm69.96$   |
| 2            | $6.064 \pm 1.295$ | 10  | $911.6 \pm 140.4$ |
| 3            | $1286\pm314.6$    | 11  | $568 \pm 66.29$   |
| 4            | $63.06\pm11.77$   | 12  | $1037\pm240.2$    |
| 5            | $794.1 \pm 280.4$ |     |                   |



Figure S2. ESI-MS, <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 1



Figure S3. ESI-MS, <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 2







Figure S5. ESI-MS, <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 4



Figure S6. ESI-MS, <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 5







Figure S8. ESI-MS, <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 7











Figure S11. ESI-MS, <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 10







230 220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110

80

100 90

60

70

40 30 20 10

ppm

50

# Figure S13. ESI-MS, <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra of compound 12