# Synthesis, Isolation and Structure Determination of Cannabidiol Derivatives and their cytotoxic potential

Yedukondalu Nalli, Suraya Jan, Gianluigi Lauro, Javeed Ur Rasool, Waseem I. Lone, Aminur R. Sarkar, Junaid Banday, Giuseppe Bifulco, Hartmut Laatsch, Sajad H. Syed and Asif Ali **ABSTRACT** 

In a continuing effort to explore the structural diversity and pharmacological activities of natural products based scaffolds, herein, we report the isolation, synthesis, and structure determination of cannabidiol and its derivatives along with their cytotoxic activities. Treatment of cannabidiol (1) with acid catalyst POCl<sub>3</sub> afforded a new derivative **6** along with six known molecules 2-5, **7** and, **8**. The structure of **6** was elucidated by extensive spectroscopic analyses and DFT calculations of the NMR and ECD data. All the compounds (2-8) were evaluated for their cytotoxic potential against a panel of eight cancer cell lines. Compounds **4**, **5**, **7**, and **8** showed pronounced *in vitro* cytotoxic activity with GI50 values ranging from 5.6 to 60  $\mu$ M. Out of the active molecules, compounds **4**, and **7** were found to be comparable to that of the parent molecule **1** on the inhibition of almost all the tested cancer cell lines.

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C.No	$\delta_{\rm H}(J{\rm Hz})$	$\delta_{\rm C}$	HMBC
1	-	157.7	
2	6.26 s	108.4	C-1, C-10a, C-4, C-1'
3	-	143.0	
4	6.06 s	105.8	C-5, C-10a, C-4, C-1'
5	-	153.5	
6	-	74.2	
7	1.96 – 1.78 m	35.5	C-6, C-8, C-9, C-15
8	1.51 m 1.34 m	28.5	C-10, C-12
9	-	76.2	
10	3.26 d (1.6)	34.4	C-6, C-9, C-1, C-5, C-10a
10a	-	109.2	
11	2.42 - 2.36 m	31.7	C-10, C-10a
	1.48 m		
12	1.69 dt (13.4, 6.7)	32.7	C-13, C-14, C-10
13	1.11 d (6.6)	17.2	C-14, C-9
14	0.78 d (6.8)	16.6	C-13, C-9
15	1.37 s	28.5	C-6, C-7, C-11
1'	2.47 - 2.42  m	35.8	C-2, C-3, C-4, C-2', C-3'
2'	1.31 m	31.6	C-3, C-3'
3'	1.58 m	30.6	C-4', C-2'
4'	1.33 m	22.5	C-3'
5'	0.89 t (6.9)	14.0	C-3', C-4', C-2'

**Table S1**. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) &<sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz) NMR Spectroscopic Data for Compound **6** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

All assignments were based on HSQC and HMBC experiments.

	δ <sub>exp</sub> , ppm	$\delta_{\text{calc}}$ ( <sup>13</sup> C),	ppm	$ \Delta\delta $ ( <sup>13</sup> C), ]	opm <sup>a</sup>
#		6a	6b	6a	6b
1	157.7	155.9 <sup>b</sup>	153.6 <sup>b</sup>	1.78	4.07
2	108.4	110.3 <sup>b</sup>	105.2 <sup>b</sup>	1.94	3.23
3	143.0	144.5 <sup>b</sup>	143.0 <sup>b</sup>	1.51	0.03
4	105.8	109.1 <sup>b</sup>	110.2 <sup>b</sup>	3.26	4.44
5	153.5	156.6 <sup>b</sup>	158.0 <sup>b</sup>	3.09	4.52
6	74.2	70.7	72.5	3.54	1.69
7	35.5	37.7	36.6	2.24	1.13
8	28.5	31.1	29.1	2.61	0.58
9	76.2	77.2	76.1	0.95	0.14
10	34.4	37.6	37.4	3.17	3.03
10a	109.2	109.1 <sup>b</sup>	109.7 <sup>b</sup>	0.13	0.54
11	31.7	33.1	31.8	1.39	0.12
12	32.7	31.0	33.5	1.73	0.84
13	17.2	18.2	17.9	1.02	0.67
14	16.6	17.2	17.9	0.59	1.25
15	28.5	29.0	29.1	0.49	0.63
1'	35.8	38.4	37.9	2.64	2.10
2'	31.6	34.5	34.3	2.91	2.74
3'	30.6	32.4	32.0	1.84	1.41
4'	22.5	25.2	24.9	2.74	2.37
5'	14.0	16.0	15.9	2.03	1.86
MAE, ppm <sup>c</sup>				1.98	1.78

**Table S2**. <sup>13</sup>C experimental and calculated NMR chemical shifts for **6a** and **6b**, with  ${}^{a}|\Delta\delta|({}^{13}C)$  and  ${}^{c}MAE$  values. Chemical shift data here reported were produced using benzene as reference compound for *sp*<sup>2</sup> carbons, and tetramethylsilane (TMS) for *sp*<sup>3</sup> carbons.

<sup>a</sup> $|\Delta\delta|(^{13}C) = |\delta_{exp} - \delta_{calc}|(^{13}C)$ , ppm: absolute differences for experimental versus calculated <sup>13</sup>C NMR chemical shifts <sup>b13</sup>C chemical shifts calculated using benzene as reference compound; all the remaining values calculated using TMS as reference compound.

<sup>c</sup> MAE =  $(\Sigma[|(\delta_{exp} - \delta_{calc})|])/n$ , summation through n of the absolute error values (difference of the absolute values between corresponding experimental and <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts), normalized to the number of the chemical shifts

	$\delta_{exp}$ , ppm $\delta_{calc}$ ( <sup>1</sup> H), ppm		Δδ  ( <sup>1</sup> H), p	pm <sup>a</sup>	
#		6a	6b	6a	6b
2	6.26	5.89 <sup>b</sup>	5.27 <sup>b</sup>	0.37	0.99
4	6.06	5.81 <sup>b</sup>	5.81 <sup>b</sup>	0.25	0.25
7	1.78	1.58	1.70	0.20	0.08
7	1.96	1.81	2.02	0.15	0.06
8	1.51	1.80	1.59	0.29	0.08
8	1.34	1.28	1.37	0.06	0.03
10	3.26	3.40	3.12	0.14	0.14
11	2.42	1.87	2.51	0.55	0.09
11	1.48	1.58	1.24	0.10	0.24
12	1.69	2.20	1.85	0.51	0.16
13	1.11	1.18	1.02	0.07	0.09
14	0.78	1.07	0.81	0.29	0.03
15	1.37	1.24	1.24	0.13	0.13
1'	2.47	2.43	2.37	0.04	0.10
2'	1.31	1.55	1.53	0.24	0.22
3'	1.58	1.28	1.27	0.30	0.31
4'	1.33	1.31	1.32	0.02	0.01
5'	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.01	0.01
MAE, ppm <sup>c</sup>				0.21	0.17

**Table S3**. <sup>1</sup>H experimental and calculated NMR chemical shifts for **6a** and **6b**, with <sup>a</sup> $|\Delta\delta|(^{1}H)$  and <sup>c</sup>MAE values. Chemical shift data here reported were produced using benzene as reference compound for sp<sup>2</sup> carbons, and tetramethylsilane (TMS) for sp<sup>3</sup> carbons.

<sup>a</sup>  $|\Delta \delta|({}^{1}\mathbf{H}) = |\delta_{exp} - \delta_{calc}|$  (<sup>1</sup>H), ppm: absolute differences for experimental versus calculated <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts <sup>b1</sup>H chemical shifts calculated using benzene as reference compound; all the remaining values calculated using TMS as reference compound.

<sup>e</sup> MAE =  $(\Sigma[|(\delta_{exp} - \delta_{calc})|])/n$ , summation through n of the absolute error values (difference of the absolute values between corresponding experimental and <sup>1</sup>H chemical shifts), normalized to the number of the chemical shifts

<b>Table S4.</b> <sup>13</sup> C experimental and calculated NMR chemical shifts for <b>6a</b> and <b>6b</b> , with $ \Delta\delta (^{13}C)$
and <sup>b</sup> MAE values. Chemical shift data here reported were produced using tetramethylsilane
(TMS) as reference compound.

	δ <sub>exp</sub> , ppm	$\delta_{exp}$ , ppm $\delta_{calc}$ ( <sup>13</sup> C), ppm		$ \Delta\delta $ ( <sup>13</sup> C), ppm <sup>a</sup>	
#		6a	6b	6a	6b
1	157.7	151.2	148.9	6.50	8.79
2	108.4	105.6	100.4	2.79	7.96
3	143.0	139.8	138.3	3.22	4.70
4	105.8	104.3	105.5	1.47	0.28
5	153.5	151.9	153.3	1.64	0.20
6	74.2	70.7	72.5	3.54	1.69
7	35.5	37.7	36.6	2.24	1.13
8	28.5	31.1	29.1	2.61	0.58
9	76.2	77.2	76.1	0.95	0.14
10	34.4	37.6	37.4	3.17	3.03
10a	109.2	104.3	105.0	4.86	4.19
11	31.7	33.1	31.8	1.39	0.12
12	32.7	31.0	33.5	1.73	0.84
13	17.2	18.2	17.9	1.02	0.67
14	16.6	17.2	17.9	0.59	1.25
15	28.5	29.0	29.1	0.49	0.63
1'	35.8	38.4	37.9	2.64	2.10
2'	31.6	34.5	34.3	2.91	2.74
3'	30.6	32.4	32.0	1.84	1.41
4'	22.5	25.2	24.9	2.74	2.37
5'	14.0	16.0	15.9	2.03	1.86
MAE, ppm <sup>b</sup>				2.40	2.22

<sup>a</sup>  $|\Delta\delta|({}^{13}C) = |\delta_{exp} - \delta_{calc}| ({}^{13}C)$ , ppm: absolute differences for experimental versus calculated  ${}^{13}C$  NMR chemical shifts <sup>b</sup> MAE =  $(\Sigma[|(\delta_{exp} - \delta_{calc})|])/n$ , summation through n of the absolute error values (difference of the absolute values between corresponding experimental and  ${}^{13}C$  chemical shifts), normalized to the number of the chemical shifts **Table S5**. <sup>1</sup>H experimental and calculated NMR chemical shifts for **6a** and **6b**, with <sup>a</sup> $|\Delta\delta|(^{1}H)$  and <sup>b</sup>MAE values. Chemical shift data here reported were produced using tetramethylsilane (TMS) as reference compound.

	δ <sub>exp</sub> , ppm	$\delta_{calc}$ ( <sup>1</sup> H), ppm		Δδ  ( <sup>1</sup> H	l) <b>, ppm</b> <sup>a</sup>
#		6a	6b	6a	6b
2	6.26	6.45	5.84	0.19	0.42
4	6.06	6.37	6.37	0.31	0.31
7	1.78	1.58	1.70	0.20	0.08
7	1.96	1.81	2.02	0.15	0.06
8	1.51	1.80	1.59	0.29	0.08
8	1.34	1.28	1.37	0.06	0.03
10	3.26	3.40	3.12	0.14	0.14
11	2.42	1.87	2.51	0.55	0.09
11	1.48	1.58	1.24	0.10	0.24
12	1.69	2.20	1.85	0.51	0.16
13	1.11	1.18	1.02	0.07	0.09
14	0.78	1.07	0.81	0.29	0.03
15	1.37	1.24	1.24	0.13	0.13
1'	2.47	2.43	2.37	0.04	0.10
2'	1.31	1.55	1.53	0.24	0.22
3'	1.58	1.28	1.27	0.30	0.31
4'	1.33	1.31	1.32	0.02	0.01
5'	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.01	0.01
MAE, ppm <sup>b</sup>				0.20	0.14

<sup>a</sup>  $|\Delta \delta|({}^{1}\mathbf{H}) = |\delta_{exp} - \delta_{calc}| ({}^{1}\mathbf{H})$ , ppm: absolute differences for experimental versus calculated  ${}^{1}\mathbf{H}$  NMR chemical shifts <sup>b</sup>  $\mathbf{MAE} = (\Sigma[|(\delta_{exp} - \delta_{calc})|])/n$ , summation through n of the absolute error values (difference of the absolute values between corresponding experimental and  ${}^{1}\mathbf{H}$  chemical shifts), normalized to the number of the chemical shifts

Compound	<sup>13</sup> C MAE, ppm	<sup>1</sup> H MAE, ppm	DP4+ probability
6a	1.98	0.21	0.00%
<u> </u>	1.78	0.17	100.00%

Table S6. <sup>13</sup>C/<sup>1</sup>H MAE values, and DP4+ probabilities computed for compounds 6a and 6b.

**Figure S1.** <sup>13</sup>C/<sup>1</sup>H MAE instagrams related to compounds **6a** and **6b** (values reported in Table S6).



A QM/NMR approach (Bifulco et al. 2007, Di Micco et al. 2010) was employed to compare the sets of experimental <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts with those calculated for **6a** and **6b** isomers. Firstly, all the conformers obtained at the empirical level were submitted to a geometry and energy optimization step at the DFT (density functional theory) using the MPW1PW91/6-31G(d) functional/basis set (see computational details, experimental section). Then, <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H NMR chemical shifts were predicted at the MPW1PW91/6-31G(d,p) level, and the mean absolute error (MAE) values were used to compare calculated and experimental values (Tables S1-S5) for 6a and 6b. As shown in Figure S1, compound **6b** showed the lowest <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H MAE values, 1.78 and 0.17 ppm, respectively. To further confirm our findings, we also employed the recently introduced DP4+ method (Grimblat et al. 2015). Again, the isomer 6b showed the highest DP4+ probabilities (100.00%) (Table S6). Interestingly, the NOESY correlations were also found to be consistent with the **6b** isomer. Finally, the absolute configurations were established by comparison of the experimental ECD spectrum of 6 with those predicted for **6b** (6*R*, 9*S*, 10*S*) and for its enantiomer **6b**<sub>enant</sub> (6*S*, 9*R*, 10*R*) (Cerulli et al. 2017). The results showed that the calculated ECD spectrum of 6b was in accordance with the experimental spectrum (Figure S2). Accordingly, the absolute configuration of 6 was confidently assigned as 6R, 9S, 10S.

**Figure S2.** a) Superposition of the measured ECD spectrum of **6** and that computed for compound **6b** (6S,9R,10R); b)Superposition of the measured ECD spectrum of **6** and that computed for compound **6b**<sub>enant</sub> (6R,9S,10S).



#### Figure S3. (+) HR-ESI-MS of compound 6





Figure S4. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) spectrum of compound 6

Figure S6. COSY spectrum of compound 6



Figure S7. HSQC spectrum of compound 6



Figure S8. HMBC spectrum of compound 6



Figure S9. NOESY spectrum of compound 6







	C.No	$\delta_{\rm H}$ (mult., <i>J</i> Hz, no. H)	$\delta_{ m C}$	НМВС
Q2	1		155.81	-
2	2	6.12 (d, <i>J</i> = 1.2 Hz, 1H)	105.96	C-1, C-10a, C-4, C-1'
Q3	3	-	141.66	-
1	4	6.04 (s, 1H)	106.53	C-1, C-10a, C-2, C-1'
	C1-OH	9.10 (s, 1H)	-	C-1, C-10a
Q1	5	-	157.62	-
Q6	6	-	74.08	-
3	7	1.89 (td, <i>J</i> = 13.3, 5.0 Hz,	36.11	C-8
		1H) 1.69 – 1.63 (m, 1H)		
11	8	1.41 – 1.38 (m, 1H), 1.15	28.68	C-7
		-1.09 (m, 1H) <sup>A</sup>		
Q5	9		74.87	
5	10	3.20 ( <i>brs</i> , 1H)	33.86	C-6, C-9, C-1, C-5, C-10a
Q4	10a		110.03	
7	11	2.41 – 2.34 (1H) <sup>B</sup> , 1.27 –	32.14	C-15
		$1.21 (1H)^{A}$		
6	12	$1.58 - 1.45 (1H)^{C}$	33.12	C-13, C-14, C-10
13	13	1.06 (d, <i>J</i> = 6.5 Hz, 3H)	18.71	C-14, C-9, C-12
14	14	0.73 (d, <i>J</i> = 6.8 Hz, 3H)	17.26	C-13, C-9, C-12
10	15	1.31 (s, 3H) <sup><math>A</math></sup>	29.05	C-6, C-7, C-11
4	1'	$2.41 - 2.34 (2H)^{B}$	35.44	C-2, C-3, C-4, C-2', C-3'
9	2'	$1.58 - 1.45 (2H)^C$	30.71	C-3, C-1', C-3', C-4'
8	3'	$1.30 - 1.27 (2H)^{A}$	31.52	C-4'
12	4'	$1.36 - 1.31 (2H)^{A}$	22.43	C-2'
15	5'	0.91 (t, <i>J</i> = 6.9 Hz, 3H)	14.37	C-3', C-4'

Table S7. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO) & <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100 MHz, DMSO) Spectroscopic Data of Compound 6

All assignments were based on HSQC and HMBC experiments; A, B, C represents overlapped signals

Figure S11. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d6) spectrum of compound 6









Figure S13. DEPT-135 (100 MHz, DMSO-d6) spectrum of compound 6

Figure S14. COSY spectrum of compound 6 in DMSO-d6





Figure S14a. Expantion of COSY spectrum of compound 6 in DMSO-d6

Figure S15. HSQC spectrum of compound 6 in DMSO-d6





Figure S16a. Expantion of HSQC spectrum of compound 6 in DMSO-d6

Figure S17. HMBC spectrum of compound 6 in DMSO-d6





Figure S18. NOESY spectrum of compound 6 in DMSO-d6

Figure S19. Expantion of NOESY spectrum of compound 6 in DMSO-d6



Figure S20. HPLC chromatogram of fraction Fr.1

### Natural Product Chemistry

```
USER:YEDU
Data file:D:\Agilent
Technologies/Result/desktop/Yedu/CS-NEW/25-07-2017-1.rslt/1-Rep3
Method Name:D:\Agilent
Technologies\Result\desktop\Yedu\CS-NEW\25-07-2017-1.rslt\CS-NEW-50-6-B.met
 7/25/2017 5:54:51 PM (GMT +05:30)
Sample CS-PL-FR-1
Injection Vol.: 10 uL
 METHOD;
            TIME
                                     0
                                           100
            C% (MeOHin WATER)
                                     75
                                           75
FLOW RATE; 3.5 mL/min, COLOUMN;XBridge Prep C8 ODB 5 uM 19mm x 250mm
```



Figure S21. HPLC chromatogram of fraction Fr.3

## Natural Product Chemistry

```
USER:YEDU
Data file:D:\Agilent
Technologies\Result\desktop\Yedu\CS-NEW\19-07-2017.rslt\2-Rep1
Method Name:D:\Agilent
Technologies\Result\desktop\Yedu\CS-NEW\19-07-2017.rslt\CS-NEW-50-6-a.met
 7/19/2017 11:26:33 AM (GMT +05:30)
Sample CS-PL-FR-3
Injection Vol.: 10 uL
 METHOD;
            TIME
                                     0
                                           65
            C%(MeOHin WATER)
                                     75
                                           75
FLOW RATE; 3.5 mL/min,
                       COLOUMN;XBridge Prep C8 ODB 5 uM 19mm x 250mm
```



Cells	GI50 (µM)				
	1	4	5	7	8
HCT-116	$10.47 \pm 1.58$	15.11±2.10	24.94±3.45	24.39±4.21	>60
MCF-7	$13.52 \pm 3.06$	$15.60 \pm 1.82$	$28.06 \pm 2.74$	$15.23 \pm 3.30$	54.62±3.92
K562	$20.03 \pm 2.85$	$11.07 \pm 3.01$	28.29±4.12	22.23±1.87	$54.62 \pm 4.38$
MIAPaCa-2	$15.57 \pm 1.95$	$10.22 \pm 3.23$	$28.43 \pm 2.78$	$27.37 \pm 3.63$	$43.02 \pm 5.03$
PANC-1	9.743±1.04	24.97±2.21	$19.95 \pm 2.65$	$20.39 \pm 5.06$	$44.24 \pm 2.78$
A549	$10.41 \pm 1.25$	13.36±1.26	39.38±1.38	$28.71 \pm 4.27$	51.12±1.94
PC3	$5.678 \pm 1.05$	$15.66 \pm 3.22$	$21.30 \pm 2.81$	$16.51 \pm 2.02$	$34.25 \pm 3.38$
SW	$18.30{\pm}1.86$	$21.69 \pm 2.07$	60.13±3.21	33.74±5.19	>60
Results are expressed as the mean value of IC50± SD					

Table S8. In vitro Growth % age inhibition of all screened derivatives using MTT assay

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