

Review

Putative Anticancer Compounds from Plant-Derived Endophytic Fungi: A Review

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Abstract: Endophytic fungi are microorganisms that exist almost ubiquitously inside the various tissues of living plants where they act as an important reservoir of diverse bioactive compounds. Recently, endophytic fungi have drawn tremendous attention from researchers; their isolation, culture, purification, and characterization have revealed the presence of around 200 important and diverse compounds including anticancer agents, antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, immunosuppressants, and antimycotics. Many of these anticancer compounds, such as paclitaxel, camptothecin, vinblastine, vincristine, podophyllotoxin, and their derivatives, are currently being used clinically for the treatment of various cancers (e.g., ovarian, breast, prostate, lung cancers, and leukemias). By increasing the yield of specific compounds with genetic engineering and other biotechnologies, endophytic fungi could be a promising, prolific source of anticancer drugs. In the future, compounds derived from endophytic fungi could increase treatment availability and cost effectiveness. This comprehensive review includes the putative anticancer compounds from plant-derived endophytic fungi discovered from 1990 to 2020 with their source endophytic fungi and host plants as well as their antitumor activity against various cell lines.

Keywords: endophytic fungi; anticancer compounds; living plants



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1. Introduction

In 1866, de Bary introduced the term “endophyte” [1]. An endophyte may be a fungal or bacterial microorganism that colonizes various interior parts of plants causing no apparent pathogenic effects on its host plants. The endophytes, most commonly endophytic fungi, are believed to help plants adapt to abiotic factors (high temperature and salinity, drought, metal toxicity, and harmful effects of light) as well as biotic factors (herbivores, insects, nematodes, and pathogens). This is mainly achieved by the secondary bioactive metabolites produced by the endophytic fungi. In their symbiotic relation, the endophytes are fed and protected by the host plant, and in return, these microorganisms produce bioactive secondary metabolites, enhancing the growth of the host plant and protecting the plant from pathogens and herbivores [2]. Therefore, endophytic fungal metabolites can also be exploited as drugs for the treatment of various types of human diseases, including cancer [3].

This group of microorganisms has drawn tremendous attention from researchers since the isolation, culture, purification, and characterization of this fascinating group of microorganisms revealed the presence of hundreds of important and diverse chemical classes of compounds. The interest of scientists in endophytes is also growing as they are a good reservoir of bioactive metabolites [4,5]. Until now, many cytotoxic agents including paclitaxel (also known as Taxol) [6] have been isolated from endophytes. Secondary metabolites with cytotoxic properties have the potential to be explored as anticancer drugs.

Recent studies revealed that naphthoquinone derivatives fusarubins including anhydrofusarubin and fusarubin (FUS) produced by endophytic fungi *Cladosporium* species [7] and *Fusarium* species [8] showed promising cytotoxicity against cancer cells. Although FUS was reported earlier to have antibacterial activity, its cytotoxic activity was reported recently. Very recently, for the first time, we have revealed the molecular mechanism of cytotoxic action of fusarubin isolated from a *Cladosporium* species inhabiting the leaves of *Rauwolfia serpentina*. We have reported that fusarubin and anhydrofusarubin inhibit proliferation and increase apoptosis in leukemia and other hematological tumor cells lines in different manners through the p21/p53-mediated pathway [9]. Our findings urge us to write this review on endophytic fungal metabolites as a fascinating group of bioactives or putative anticancer compounds. Many of these putative anticancer compounds have very promising cytotoxicity against a broad spectrum of cancer cell lines; some compounds are already used as treatments for different cancer types such as breast, bladder, colorectal, esophageal, lung, ovarian, prostate, melanoma, testicular, leukemia, and lymphoma.

2. Anticancer Activity of Endophytic Fungi

Endophytic fungi have been a known source of anticancer agents since the discovery of the valuable drug Taxol (also known as paclitaxel, a diterpenoid) isolated for the first time from an endophytic fungus *Taxomyces andreanae* obtained from the Pacific Yew bark (*Taxus brevifolia*) [6]. Since then, other anticancer drugs have been isolated from endophytic fungi, and among these 9-methoxycamptothecin and 10-hydroxycamptothecin from *Fusarium solani* [10], camptothecin from *Entrophospora infrequens* [11]; the anticancer lead compounds podophyllotoxin from *Phialocephala fortinii* [12] and deoxypodophyllotoxin from *Aspergillus fumigatus* [13] fueled further research on endophytic fungi to discover many other important known and novel anticancer compounds. According to this review, until now, more than 100 different fungal species have been identified to produce more than two hundred putative anticancer compounds (Figures 1 and 2) reported to possess antiproliferative and/or cytotoxic properties against more than 60 different cell lines (Tables 1–3). Figure 1 indicates that endophytic fungal-derived anticancer agents gained attention from scientists over the past three decades. Meanwhile, Figure 2 represents the abundance of different chemical classes and diversity of fungal metabolites. The anticancer compounds isolated from endophytic fungi are effective against diverse cell lines that could be helpful in combating any particular type of cancer (Table 1).

Table 1. Different cell lines against which endophytic fungal derived metabolites showed cytotoxicity.

Cell Lines		Cell Lines	
A2780S	Ovarian tumor cell line	Int-407	Human intestine cancer
A2058	Human melanoma	Jurkat	T cell leukemia
A549	Lung carcinoma epithelial	KB	Human nasopharyngeal epidermoid tumor
A431	Skin carcinoma	K562	Human leukemia cells
ACHN	Renal cells	L5178Y	Mouse lymphoma cells
AsPC-1	Human pancreatic cancer cells	MIA Pa Ca-2	Pancreatic carcinoma
B16F10	Skin carcinoma	MiaPaka-2	Pancreatic cancer
BC	Human breast cancer cell line	MDA-MB-231	Breast cancer cell line
BC-1	Breast cancer	MDA-MB-435	Human breast cancer cell line

Table 1. Cont.

Cell Lines		Cell Lines	
BEL-7402	Human hepatocellular carcinoma/human hepatoma cell line	MFC	Gastric cancer cells in mice
BEL-7404	Human hepatocellular carcinoma/human hepatoma cell line	MCF-7	Breast cancer cell line
BGC-823	Gastric carcinoma	MOLT-4	Lymphoblastic leukemia
BT-220	Breast cancer cell line	MRC-5	Fibroblast-like fetal lung cells
BT474	Human breast cancer	MV4-11	Human FLT3-ITD mutant AML cell line
CHO	Chinese hamster ovary	NCI-H187	Human small-cell lung cancer
DU145	Human prostate carcinoma	NCI-H460	Non-small-cell lung cancer
EAC	Ehrlich ascites carcinoma	NEC	Colorectal neuroendocrine cell carcinoma
H116	Human colon adenocarcinoma	OVCAR-5	Human ovarian cancer
HeLa	Cervical cancer	PANC-1	Human pancreatic carcinoma
HEp-2	Human liver cancer	P388	Murine leukemia cells
HepG2	Human hepatocellular liver carcinoma	PC-3	Prostate cancer
Hep3B	Human hepatoma cell line	PC-3 M	Metastatic prostate cancer
HM02	Human gastric carcinoma	RAW264.7	Mouse macrophage cell
HL-60	Human promyelocytic leukemia cell line	SF-268	CNS glioma
HL251	Human lung cancer	SW480	Human colon cancer cells
HL-7702	Normal hepatocyte	SW-620	Colon tumor cell line
HLK 210	Human leukemia	SW1116	Human colon cancer cell line
HCT-8	Human colorectal adenocarcinoma	SW1990	Human pancreatic cancer cells
HCT-116	Colon tumor cell line	T24	Bladder carcinoma
H22	Hepatic cancer cells in mice	T47D	Breast cancer
H1975	Non-small-cell lung cancer cells/human lung adenocarcinoma	THP-1	Human monocytic cell line
H522-T1	Non-small cell lung cancer	WI-38	Normal human fibroblast cells
HT-29	Human colon cancer line	U2OS	Human osteosarcoma cells

Table 2. Anticancer compounds from plant-derived endophytic fungi.

Compounds	Chemical Class	Fungal Endophytes	Host Medicinal Plant	Activity Against Cell Lines	IC50 Values	Ref.
Leucinostatin A	Peptide	<i>Acremonium</i> spp.	<i>Taxus baccata</i> twig	BT-20	2 nM (LD50)	[14]
Allantopyrone A	α -Pyrone	<i>Allantophomopsis</i> l. KS-97		A549 cells, HL-60	>32, 0.32 μ M	[15]
Alternariol, Altenusin, Alternariol 5-O-sulfate, Alternariol 5-O-methyl ether, Desmethylaltenusin	Polyketide	<i>Alternaria</i> spp	<i>Polygonum senegalense</i> leaves	L5178Y	$<1 \times 10^{-6}$, 1×10^{-5} , 1×10^{-5} , 1×10^{-5} g/mL	[16]
Lapachol	Naphthoquinone	<i>Alternaria</i> spp.	<i>Tabebuia argentea</i> leaf	DU145, HepG2, Hep3B & MCF-7 (β -Lapachone)	3.5, 3.5, 3.5 & 5 μ M	[17–22]
Resveratrol derivatives A & B	Stilbenoid (Resveratrol derivatives)	<i>Alternaria</i> spp. R6	<i>Myoporium bontioides</i> root	MDA-MB-435, HCT-116	<10 μ M	[23]
Alterporriol K, Alterporriol L	Quinones	<i>Alternaria</i> spp. ZJ9-6B	<i>Aegiceras corniculatum</i>	MDA-MB-435, MCF-7	26.97, 29.11 & 13.11, 20.04 μ M	[24]
Alternariol-10-methyl ether	Polyketide	<i>Alternaria</i> a.	<i>Capsicum annum</i>	HL-60, A549, PC-3, HeLa, A431, MiaPaka-2 and T47D	85, >100, >100, >100, 95, >100 and >100 μ M	[25]

Table 2. Cont.

Compounds	Chemical Class	Fungal Endophytes	Host Medicinal Plant	Activity Against Cell Lines	IC50 Values	Ref.
Camptothecin (CPT), 9-methoxy CPT, 10-hydroxy CPT Chrysin (5,7-dihydroxy flavone) Alternariol 9-methyl ether	Alkaloids Flavone Dibenzopyranone	<i>Alternaria a.</i> <i>Alternaria a.</i> (KT380662) <i>Alternaria a.</i>	<i>Miquelia dentata</i> fruit and seed regions <i>Passiflora incarnata</i> leaves <i>Camellia sinensis</i> branches	HCT-116, SW-480, MCF-7 MCF-7 U2OS	6.59, 7.2, 10.24 µg/mL (crude fungal ethyl acetate extract) 34.066 µg/mL 28.3 µM	[26] [27] [28]
Lapachol (6aR,6bS,7S)-3, 6a, 7,10-tetrahydroxy- 4,9-dioxo-4, 6a, 6b, 7, 8,9- hexahydroperylene	Naphtho- quinone Perylenes	<i>Alternaria a.</i> <i>Alternaria t.</i>	<i>Tabebuia argentea</i> bark, leaf and stem <i>Erythrophleum fordii</i> bark	DU145, HepG2, Hep3B & MCF-7 (β-Lapachone) HCT-8	3.5, 3.5, 3.5 & 5 µM 1.78 µM	[17–22] [29]
1. Flavasperone, 2. Rubrofusarin B 3. Fonsecinone D	Naphthopyrones	<i>Aspergillus sp.</i>	<i>Limonia acidissima</i> seeds	1. Hep 3B and U87 MG 2. SW1116 3. SMMC-7721 and A549 HL-60, KB, Hela, MCF-7 and SpC-A-1	1. Between 19.92 and 47.98 µM 2. 4.5 µg/mL 3. >10 µg/mL	[30]
Brefeldin A	Lactone	<i>Aspergillus c.</i>	<i>Torreya grandis</i> bark	MCF-7 and SpC-A-1	1.0–10.0 ng/mL	[31]
9-Deacetoxy fumigaclavine C 1. Fumitremorgin D, 2. 4,8,10,14- tetramethyl-6- acetoxy-14-[16- acetoxy-19-(20,21- dimethyl)-18-ene]- phenanthrene-1- ene-3,7-dione 3. 12,13-dihydroxy- fumitremorgin C 4. Verruculogen 2,14-Dihydrox-7- drimen-12,11-olide Nigerapyrones B, D & E Asniapyrones A Rubrofusarin B	Alkaloids Alkaloids Sesquiterpenes Pyrone	<i>Aspergillus f.</i> <i>Aspergillus f.</i> <i>Aspergillus g.</i> <i>Aspergillus n.</i> MA-132	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> stem <i>Diphylleia sinensis</i> mainly roots, rhizomes <i>Ipomoea batatas</i> plant <i>Avicennia marina</i> plant	K562 HepG2 Hep-G2, MCF-7 HepG2, MCF-7, A549, SW1990, MDA-MB-231 SW1116	3.11 µM 1. 47.5 µM 2. 139.9 µM 3. 4.5 µM 4. 9.8 µM 61, 41.7 µg/mL 86, 105, 43, 38, 48 µM 4.5 µg/mL	[32] [33] [34] [35]
Lapachol	Naphtho- quinone	<i>Aspergillus n.</i>	<i>Tabebuia argentea</i> leaves	DU145, HepG2, Hep3B & MCF-7 (β-Lapachone)	3.5, 3.5, 3.5 & 5 µM	[17–22]
1. Sequoiatones A & B 2. Sequoiamonascin A & B Butyrolactone I and Butyrolactone V Terrein	Polyketide Butenolide	<i>Aspergillus p.</i> <i>Aspergillus t.</i> —F7 <i>Aspergillus t.</i> JAS-2	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i> inner bark <i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> <i>Achyranthus aspera</i>	1. BC 2. MCF7, NCI-H460, SF-268 MDA-MB-231 and MCF-7 A-549	1. 4 to 10 µM 2. 19×10^{-4} , 4×10^{-4} , 15×10^{-4} M 34.4, 17.4 & 22.1, 31.9 µM 121.9 µg/mL	[37,38] [39] [40]
1. Violaceoid A, 2. Violaceoid C, Violaceoid D, 3. Violaceoid F	Hydroquinones	<i>Aspergillus v.</i>	Wild Moss (Bryophyta unidentified species)	1. HeLa, MCF-7, Jurkat, MOLT-4, HCT116, RAW264.7 2. Jurkat, MOLT-4 3. HCT116, RAW264.7 BT 220, H116, Int 407, HL 251 and HLK 210	1. 24.6, 14.8, 3.1, 3.0, 5.8, 5.6 µM (LD ₅₀) 2. 8.2, 5.9 & 8.3, 6.2 µM (LD ₅₀) 3. 6.4, 6.5 µM (LD ₅₀)	[41]
Taxol	Terpene	<i>Bartalinia r.</i>	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> leaves		-	[42]

Table 2. Cont.

Compounds	Chemical Class	Fungal Endophytes	Host Medicinal Plant	Activity Against Cell Lines	IC50 Values	Ref.
Depsidone 1	Depsidone	<i>Pleosporales</i> (BCC 8616)	unidentified plant leaf of the Hala-Bala forest origin	KB, BC	6.5, 4.1 µg/mL	[43]
1. Diepoxin δ, Palmarumycin C8 2. Diepoxins κ & ζ	Spirobis-naphthalenes	<i>Berkleasium</i> spp.	<i>Dioscorea zingiberensis</i>	1. HCT-8, Bel-7402, BGC-823, A 549, A2780 2. Bel-7402 and A 549	1. 1.7, 3.3, 3.3, 3.2, 5.8 & 4.2, 2.5, 2.6, 1.6, 1.3 µM 2. 6.4, 8.7 & 5.1, 8.8 µM	[44]
Verticillin D	Peptide	<i>Bionectria</i> o.	<i>Sonneratia caseolaris</i> Inner leaf tissues	L5178Y	<0.1 µg/mL (EC50)	[45]
Ophiobolin A	Sesterterpenoid	<i>Bipolaris</i> s.	Unidentified	MDA-MB-231	0.4–4.3 µM	[46]
1. Stemphyperyleneol 2. Altenuene	1. Polyketide 2. Mycotoxin	<i>Botryosphaeria</i> d. KJ-1	<i>Melia azedarach</i> stem bark	HCT116	3.13 µM	[47]
Botryorhodine A and B	Depsidone	<i>Botryosphaeria</i> r.	<i>Bidens pilosa</i> stem	HeLa, K-562	96.97, 36.41 & 0.84, 0.003 µM (CC ₅₀)	[48]
Cercosporene F	Guanacastane Diterpenes	<i>Cercospora</i> spp.	<i>Fallopia japonica</i> leaves	HeLa, A549, MCF-7, HCT116 and T24	19.3, 29.7, 46.1, 21.3 & 8.16 µM	[49]
Ceriponol F, Ceriponol G, Ceriponol K	Sesquiterpenes	<i>Ceriporia</i> l.	<i>Huperzia serrata</i>	HeLa, HepG2, SGC7901	173.2, 32.3, 77.5; 185.1, >500.0, >500.0 & 47.8, 35.8, 60.2 µM	[50]
Cochliodinol, Isocochliodinol	Quinones	<i>Chaetomium</i> spp.	<i>Salvia officinalis</i> Stem	L5178Y	7.0, 71.5 µg/mL (EC50)	[51]
Chaetocochin C	Diketopiperazine	<i>Chaetomium</i> spp.	<i>Cymbidium goeringii</i> root	SW-480	0.63 µM	[52]
Chaetocochin G	Indole diketopiperazines	<i>Chaetomium</i> spp. 88194	<i>Cymbidium goeringii</i>	MCF-7	8.3 mg/mL	[53]
Chaetominine	Alkaloids	<i>Chaetomium</i> spp. IFB-E015	<i>Adenophora axilliflora</i> leaves	K562, SW1116	21.0, 28.0 nM	[54]
Radicol	Lactone	<i>Chaetomium</i> c.	<i>Ephedra fasciculata</i> stem	MCF-7	0.03 µM	[55]
Chaetoglobosin X	Alkaloids	<i>Chaetomium</i> g. L18	<i>Curcuma wenyujin</i>	H22, MFC	3.125, 6.25 µg/mL	[56]
Chaetoglobosin C, E, F & U, Penochalasin A	Alkaloids	<i>Chaetomium</i> g. IFB-E019	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> stem	KB cell line	34.0, 40.0, 48.0 & 16.0, 48.0 µM	[57]
Globosumone A & B	Ester	<i>Chaetomium</i> g.	<i>Ephedra fasciculata</i>	NCI-H460, MCF-7, SF-268, MIA Pa Ca-2, WI-38	6.50, 21.30, 8.80, 10.60, 13.00 & 24.80, 21.90, 29.10, 30.20, 14.20 µM	[58]
Chaetoglobosins A, F _{ex} , F _a & 20-dihydrochaetoglobosin Anhydrofusarubin and methyl ether of Fusarubin	Alkaloids (cytochalasan mycotoxins)	<i>Chaetomium</i> g.	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> leaves	HCT116	3.15, 4.43, 5.85, 8.44 µM	[59]
	Naphthoquinones	<i>Cladosporium</i> spp.	<i>Rauwolfia serpentina</i> leaves	K-562	3.97 & 3.58 µg/mL	[7]
Taxol	Diterpene	<i>Cladosporium</i> c.	<i>Taxus media</i> inner bark	MCF-7, BT220, H116, INT-407, HL251, HLK210	0.005 to 5 µM	[60,61]
Taxol	Diterpene	<i>Cladosporium</i> o.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> , <i>Coccinia indica</i> and <i>Moringa oleifera</i>	HCT 15, T47D	3.5, 2.5 µM	[62,63]
Taxol	Diterpene	<i>Colletotrichum</i> c.	<i>Capsicum annuum</i> fruit	MCF-7, HL 251, HLK 210, BEL7402	0.005 to 5 µM	[64,65]
Tyrosol C	#	<i>Colletotrichum</i> g.	<i>Pandanus amaryllifolius</i> leaves	A549, HT29, HCT116	-	[66]
Deacetylcytochalasin C and Zygosporin D	Cytochalasins	<i>Cordyceps</i> t.	unidentified	95-D	3.67 & 4.04 µM	[67]

Table 2. Cont.

Compounds	Chemical Class	Fungal Endophytes	Host Medicinal Plant	Activity Against Cell Lines	IC50 Values	Ref.
1. Cytospolide P, 2. Cytospolide Q	Lactones	<i>Cytospora</i> spp.	<i>Ilex canariensis</i>	1. A-549, QGY, U973 2. A-549	1. 2.05, 15.82, 28.26 µg/mL 2. 10.55 µg/mL	[68]
Xylarolide	#	<i>Diaporthe t. GG3F6</i> .	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> rhizomes	T47D	7 µM	[69]
Taxol	Diterpenes	<i>Didymostilbe</i> spp.	<i>Taxus chinensis</i> var. <i>mairei</i> old inner bark	MCF-7, HL 251, HLK 210, BEL7402	0.005 to 5 µM	[64,65]
Camptothecin	Alkaloids	<i>Entrophospora i.</i>	<i>Nothapodytes foetida</i> inner bark	A-549, HEP-2, OVCAR-5	-	[11]
1. Eutypellin A, 2. ent-4(15)-eudesmen-11-ol-1-one	1. γ-Lactone 2. Sesquiterpene	<i>Eutypella</i> sp. BCC 13199	<i>Etlintera littoralis</i>	NCI-H187, MCF7, KB, Vero cells	1. 12, 84, 38, 88 µM 2. 11, 20, 32, 32 µM	[70]
Camptothecine (CPT), 9-methoxy CPT, 10-hydroxy CPT	Alkaloids	<i>Fomitopsis</i> spp.	<i>Miquelia dentata</i> fruit and seed regions	HCT-116, SW-480, MCF-7	5.63, 23.5, 10.32 µg/mL (crude fungal ethyl acetate extract)	[26]
Beauvericin	Depsipeptide	<i>Fusarium o.</i>	<i>Cinnamomum kanehirae</i> bark	PC-3, PANC-1, A549	49.5, 47.2, 10.4 µM	[71]
Taxol	Diterpenes	<i>Fusarium o.</i>	<i>Rhizomphora annamalayana</i> leaves	BT220, HL251, HLK 210	0.005 to 5 µM	[72,73]
Vincristine	Alkaloids	<i>Fusarium o.</i>	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> inner bark	HeLa, MCF7, A549, U251, A431 & HEK293	4.2, 4.5, 5.5, 5.5, 5.8 µg/mL	[74,75]
Beauvericin	Depsipeptide	<i>Fusarium o.</i>	<i>Cinnamomum kanehirae</i> bark	PC-3, PANC-1, A549	49.5, 47.2, 10.4 µM	[71]
Beauvercin	Depsipeptide	<i>Fusarium o.</i>	<i>Ephedra fasciculata</i> root	NCI-H460, MIA Pa Ca-2, MCF-7, SF-268, PC-3 M, MDA-MB-231, MRC-5, Hep-G2	1.41, 1.66, 1.81, 2.29, 3.0, 5.0, 4.7–5.0, 8.8–22.2 µM	[76,77]
Beauvercin	Depsipeptide	<i>Fusarium o.</i> EPH2RAA	<i>Cylindropuntia echinocarpus</i> stem	NCI-H460, MIA Pa Ca-2, MCF-7, SF-268, PC-3 M, MDA-MB-231	1.41, 1.66, 1.81, 2.29, 3.0, 5.0 µM	[77]
Bikaverin	Polyketide	<i>Fusarium o.</i> CECIS	<i>Cylindropuntia echinocarpus</i> stem	NCI-H460, MIA Pa Ca-2, MCF-7, SF-268, EAC, leukemia L 5178, sarcoma 37	1.41, 1.66, 1.81, 2.29, 0.5, 1.4, 4.2 µg/mL (ED ₅₀)	[77,78]
Camptothecin (CPT) and 9-methoxy CPT	Alkaloids	<i>Fusarium s.</i> (MTCC 9667 and MTCC 9668)	<i>Apodytes dimidiata</i>	HCT-116, SW-480, MCF-7	7, 8.5, 8 & 7, 8.5, 8 µg/mL	[10,26]
Podophyllotoxin	Lignans	<i>Fusarium s.</i>	<i>Podophyllum hexandrum</i> roots	#	-	[79]
Camptothecine (CPT), 9-methoxy CPT, 10-hydroxy CPT	Alkaloids	<i>Fusarium s.</i>	<i>Camptotheca acuminata</i> inner bark	OVCAR-5, HCT-116, SW-480, MCF-7	7, 8.5, 8 & 7, 8.5, 8 µg/mL	[26,80]
Gliocladicillins A & B	Epipolythiodioxopiperazines	<i>Gliocladium</i> spp. XZC04-CC-302	<i>Cordyceps sinensis</i> bark.	HeLa, HepG2, MCF-7	0.50, 0.50, 0.20 µg/mL (GI ₅₀)	[81]
Guignarenone A	Tricycloalternarene	<i>Guignardia b.</i> PSU-G11	<i>Garcinia hombroniana</i> leaves	KB, Vero	0.38, 2.24 µM	[82]
Guignardones Q & S	Meroterpenoids	<i>Guignardia m.</i> A348	<i>Smilax glabra</i> leaves	MCF-7	83.7 & 92.1 µM	[83]
Cajanol (5-hydroxy-3-(4-methoxyphenyl)-7-methoxychroman-4-one)	Flavonoids	<i>Hypocrea l.</i>	<i>Cajanus cajan</i> roots, stems and leaves	1. A549 2. PC-3, HT-29, HepG2	1. 20.5 µg/mL after 72 h treatment, 24.6 µg/mL after 48 h; and 32.8 µg/mL after 24 h 2. 29.8, 21.4, 33.6 µg/mL (Fungal crude extract)	[84]

Table 2. Cont.

Compounds	Chemical Class	Fungal Endophytes	Host Medicinal Plant	Activity Against Cell Lines	IC50 Values	Ref.
Daldinone C & D	Benzo[<i>j</i>]fluoranthene	<i>Hypoxylon t.</i> IFB-18	<i>Artemisia annua</i> surface-sterilized fresh stems	SW1116	49.5 & 41.0 μ M	[85]
1. * Brefeldin A, trichothecolone, 7 α -hydroxy- scirpene 2. 8-deoxy- trichothecin, 7 α - hydroxytrichodermol	* Lactone, Sesquiterpenes (trichothecenes)	KLAR 5 (<i>Hypocreales</i>)	<i>Knema laurina</i> healthy twig	1. KB, BC-1, NCI-H187 2. BC-1, NCI-H187	1. 0.18, 0.04, 0.1; 12.90, 10.06, 11.31 & >75.10, 2.37, 1.73 μ M 2. >62.81, 0.88, 1.48 & 8.47, 21.53, 27.76 μ M	[86]
Taxol	Diterpenes	<i>Lasiodiplodia t.</i>	<i>Morinda citrifolia</i> leaves	1. MCF-7 2. BT220, H116, INT-407, HL251, HLK210	1. 300 μ g/mL 2. 0.005–5.00 μ M	[60,87]
Lasiodiplodin	Macrolide	<i>Lasiodiplodia t.</i> (MUB-65)	<i>Myracrodruon</i> <i>urundeuva</i> branches	HCT-116	11.2 μ g/mL	[88]
Vincristine	Alkaloids	<i>Mycelia s.</i> 97CY (3)	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> leaves	HeLa, MCF7, U251, A549, A431 & HEK293	4.2, 4.5, 5.5, 5.5, 5.8 μ g/mL	[74,89]
Spiromamakone A	Spirobis naphthalene	<i>Mycelia s.</i>	<i>Knightsia excelsa</i> surface-sterilized leaves	P388	0.33 μ M	[90]
Cercosporin	Quinones	<i>Mycosphaerella</i> spp.	<i>Psychotria horizontalis</i>	MCF7	4.68 μ M	[91]
Arundinone B	Coumarins	<i>Microsphaeropsis a.</i>	<i>Ulmus macrocarpa</i> stems	T24, A549	35.4, 81.6 μ M	[92]
Mycoleptodiscin B	Alkaloids	<i>Mycoleptodiscus</i> spp. F0194	<i>Desmotes</i> <i>incomparabilis</i> healthy mature leaves	H460, A2058, H522-T1, PC-3, IMR-90 HepG2, SMMC-7721, A549, MCF-7 cells, QSG-7701, HL-7702	0.66, 0.78, 0.63, 0.60, 0.41 μ M	[93]
Myrotheciumone A	Lactone	<i>Myrothecium r.</i>	<i>Ajuga decumbens</i>	A-549, MCF-7 cells, QSG-7701, HL-7702	5.36, 6.56, 5.88, 7.56, 16.30, 20.69 μ M	[94]
Dihydromyrothecine C	Trichothecene Macrolide	<i>Myrothecium r.</i> IFB-E012	<i>Artemisia annua</i>	KB	44.48 μ M	[95]
Camptothecin (2 <i>R</i> *,4 <i>R</i> *)-3,4- dihydro- 4-methoxy-2- methyl-2H-1- benzopyran-5-ol	Alkaloids	<i>Neurospora c.</i>	<i>Nothapodytes foetida</i> seed	A-549, HEP-2, OVCAR-5	-	[11,96]
	Pyrans	<i>Nodulisporium</i> spp.	<i>Aquilaria sinensis</i> stem	SF-268	-	[97]
Brefeldin A (22 <i>E</i> ,24 <i>R</i>)-8,14- epoxyergosta-4,22- diene-3,6- dione	Lactone	<i>Paecilomyces</i> spp.	1. <i>Torreya grandis</i> 2. <i>Taxus mairei</i> bark	HL-60, KB, HeLa, MCF-7 and Spc-A-1	10.0, 9.0, 1.8, 2.0 & 1.0 ng/mL	[31]
1. 19-(α -D- glucopyranosyloxy) isopimara-7,15- dien-3 β -ol, 2. 19-(2-acetamido-2- deoxy- α -D- glucopyranosyloxy) isopimara- 7,15-dien-3 β -ol, 3. 19-(α -D- glucopyranosyloxy) isopimara-7,15- dien-3-one	Steroids	<i>Papulaspora i.</i>	<i>Smallanthus</i> <i>sonchifolius</i> roots & leaves	MDA-MB435, HCT-8, SF295, HL-60	3.3, 14.7, 5.0, 1.6 μ M	[98]
	Diterpenes	<i>Paraconiothyrium</i> spp. MY-42	<i>Fagus</i> stem	HL60	1. 11.2 μ M, 2. 6.7 μ M, 3. 9.8 μ M	[99]

Table 2. Cont.

Compounds	Chemical Class	Fungal Endophytes	Host Medicinal Plant	Activity Against Cell Lines	IC50 Values	Ref.
Brasilamides E	Bisabolane Sesquiterpenoids	<i>Paraconiothyrium b.</i> (M3-3341)	<i>Acer truncatum</i> branches	MCF-7 and MGC	8.4 & 14.7 µM	[100]
5-Methyl-8-(3-methylbut-2-enyl) furanocoumarin	Coumarins	<i>Penicillium</i> spp. ZH16	<i>Avicennia</i> sp. leaves	KB, KBV200	5, 10 µg/mL	[101]
1. Penicillenol A ₁ , 2. Penicillenol B ₁	Polyketides (tetramic acids derivatives)	<i>Penicillium</i> spp. GQ-7	<i>Aegiceras corniculatum</i> inner bark	1. A-549, BEL-7402, P388, HL-60 2. HL-60	1. 23.8, 13.03, 8.85, 0.76 µM 2. 3.20 µM	[102]
1. Leptosphaerone C 2. Penicillone	Polyketides	<i>Penicillium</i> spp. JP-1	<i>Aegiceras corniculatum</i> inner bark	1. A549 2. P388	1. 1.45 µM 2. 1.38 µM	[103]
Penifupyrone	Funicone	<i>Penicillium</i> spp. HSZ-43	<i>Tripterygium wilfordii</i> leaves	KB	4.7 µM	[104]
Lapachol	Naphthoquinone	<i>Penicillium</i> spp.	<i>Tabebuia argenticola</i> leaves	DU145, HepG2, Hep3B & MCF-7 (β-Lapachone)	-	[17–22]
Arisugacin B, Arisugacin F	Meroterpenoids	<i>Penicillium</i> spp. SXH-65	<i>Tamarix chinensis</i> leaves	Hela, HL-60 and K562	59.9, 24.2, 36.2 & 44.4, 45.9, 46.6 µM	[105]
1. TMC-264, 2. PR-toxin	1. Heptaketide 2. Mycotoxin	<i>Penicillium</i> ch. HLit-ROR2	<i>Hertiera littoralis</i> root	1,2 >> HuCCA-1, HepG2, A549, MOLT-3, HeLa T47D, MDAMB231, MRC-5, 2. >> HL-60 L5178Y	1,2. 5.62, 3.27, 8.01, 1.36, 4.49, 1.08, 2.81, 12.64 & 0.81, 3.41, 3.59, 0.09, 1.22, 1.00, 2.19, 3.66 µM 2. 0.06 µM	[106]
Citriquinochroman 1. (+)-(3S,6S,7R,8S)-periconone A, 2. (-)-(1R,4R,6S,7S)-2-carene-4,8-olide	Alkaloids Triterpenes	<i>Penicillium</i> ci. <i>Periconia</i> spp.	<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> stem <i>Annona muricata</i> leaves	HCT-8, Bel-7402, BGC-823, A549, A2780, MCF-7	6.1 µM >10 ⁻⁵ M	[107] [108]
Periconicin B	Diterpene	<i>Periconia a.</i>	<i>Xylopiia aromatica</i> leaves	HeLa and CHO	8.0 µM	[109]
Pestalotiopsone F	Chromone	<i>Pestalotiopsis</i> spp.	<i>Rhizophora mucronate</i> leaves	L5178Y	8.93 µg/mL (EC50)	[110]
Pestalactam A, Pestalactam B 1. (4S,6S)-6-[(1S,2R)-1,2-dihydroxybutyl]-4-hydroxy-4-methoxytetrahydro-2H-pyran-2-one, 2. (6S,2E)-6-hydroxy-3-methoxy-5-oxodec-2-enoic acid, 3. LL-P880γ 4. LL-P880α 5. Ergosta-5,7,22-trien-3b-ol Siccayne [2-(3-Methyl-3-buten-1-ynyl) Hydroquinone]	Alkaloids Monoterpenoids (1,2)	<i>Pestalotiopsis</i> spp. DO14	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> stem <i>Dendrobium officinale</i>	MCF-7, NFF	64.4, 20.2 & 58.5, 12.8 µM	[111]
1. Pestalofone F, G & H, Pestalodiol C, 2. Pestaloficiol I, J, K & L	Alkyne	<i>Pestalotiopsis</i> f.	<i>Camellia sinensis</i> branches	HeLa, HT29	48.2, 33.9 µM	[113]
Pestallone B	Benzophenones	<i>Pestalotiopsis</i> k.	<i>Camellia sasanqua</i> stems	HeLa, HepG2, U-251	12.6, 31.7, 5.4 µg/mL	[116]
Taxol	Diterpene	<i>Pestalotiopsis</i> m. EF01	<i>Plectranthus amboinicus</i> healthy leaves	Hep G2, MCF-7, BT220, HL251	0.5 µM	[117,118]

Table 2. Cont.

Compounds	Chemical Class	Fungal Endophytes	Host Medicinal Plant	Activity Against Cell Lines	IC50 Values	Ref.
Torreyanic acid	Quinones	<i>Pestalotiopsis m.</i>	<i>Torreya taxifolia</i>	NEC, A549 BT220, H116,	3.5, 45 µg/mL	[119]
Taxol	Diterpene	<i>Pestalotiopsis m.</i>	<i>Taxus wallichiana</i>	INT-407, HL251, HLK210, MCF-7	0.005–0.5 µM	[60,120]
Taxol	Diterpenes	<i>Pestalotiopsis p.</i> VM1	<i>Tabebuia pentaphylla</i>	MCF-7 breast cancer cell line	350 µg/mL	[121]
Photinides A–F, Photipyron B	γ-Lactones	<i>Pestalotiopsis p.</i>	<i>Roystonea regia</i>	MDA-MB-231	10 µg/mL (IC25)	[122,123]
Taxol	Diterpenes	<i>Pestalotiopsis t.</i>	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> leaves	INT-407, HL251, HLK210, MCF-7	-	[60,121]
Taxol	Diterpenes	<i>Pestalotiopsis v.</i> , <i>Pestalotiopsis n.</i>	<i>Taxus cuspidate</i> leaves and inner bark	BT220, HL251, HLK 210	-	[73]
Podophyllotoxin	Lignan	<i>Phialocephala f.</i>	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Topoisomerase I	-	[12]
Phialomustin A–D	Azaphilone	<i>Phialophora m.</i>	<i>Crocus sativus</i>	T47D	10, 1, 7, 9.2 µM	[124]
1. 4-hydroxymellein 2. 4,8-dihydroxy-6- methoxy-3-methyl- 3,4-dihydro-1H- isochromen-1-one	1. Polyketide 2. Benzopyran	<i>Phoma</i> spp.	<i>Cinnamomum</i> <i>mollissimum</i>	P388	1. 94.6 (%) 2. 48.8 (%)	[125]
Taxol	Diterpenes	<i>Phoma b.</i>	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i> leaves	MCF-7, A549, T98G	-	[117]
Camptothecine (CPT) 9-methoxy CPT (9-MeO-CPT), 10-hydroxy CPT (10-OH-CPT) 1. 2-(7'- hydroxyoxooctyl)- 3-hydroxy-5- methoxybenzene- acetic acid ethyl ester 2. 3-O-(6-O-a-L- arabinopyranosyl)- β-D- glucopyranosyl-1,4- dimethoxyxanthone	Alkaloids	<i>Phomopsis</i> spp.	<i>Miquelia dentata</i> fruit and seed regions	HCT-116, SW-480, MCF-7	-	[26]
1. Phomopsidone A 2. Diaporthelactone, 7-hydroxy-4,6- dimethyl-3H- isobenzofuran-1- one and 7-methoxy-4,6- dimethyl-3H- isobenzofuran-1- one	1. Polyketide 2. Xanthone O-glycoside	<i>Phomopsis</i> spp. ZSU-H76	<i>Excoecaria agallocha</i> stem	HEp-2 and HepG2	32–64 µg/mL (MIC)	[126,127]
1. Phomopsidone A 2. Diaporthelactone, 7-hydroxy-4,6- dimethyl-3H- isobenzofuran-1- one and 7-methoxy-4,6- dimethyl-3H- isobenzofuran-1- one	1. Depsidone 2. Isobenzofuranones	<i>Phomopsis</i> spp. A123	<i>Kandelia candel</i> foliage	1. MDA-MB-435 2. Raji cell line	1. 63 µM 2. 27, 47 & 18 µM	[128]
Phomoxanthone A and B	Xanthone	<i>Phomopsis</i> spp. BCC 1323	<i>Tectona grandis</i>	KB, BC-1, Vero 1. BC 2. KB, BC, NCI-H187, Vero cells	0.99, 0.51, 1.4 & 4.1, 0.70, 1.8 µg/mL	[129]
1. Oblongolide Y 2. Oblongolide Z	Polyketide (hexaketide γ-lactone)	<i>Phomopsis</i> spp. BCC 9789	<i>Musa acuminata</i> leaf		1. 48 µM 2. 37, 26, 32, 60 µM	[130]
18- metoxycytochalasin J, Cytochalasins H and J	Cytochalasins	<i>Phomopsis</i> spp.	<i>Garcinia kola</i> nut	HeLa	8.18, 35.69 & 3.66 µg/mL (LC50)	[131]
Dicerandrol A, B & C	Ergochromes	<i>Phomopsis l.</i>	<i>Dicerandra frutescens</i> stem	A549, HCT-116	7, 1.8, 1.8 & 7, 1.8, 7 µg/mL (IC100)	[132]
Tauranin	Sesquiterpene Quinone	<i>Phyllosticta s.</i>	<i>Platyclusus orientalis</i> leaf tissue	NCI-H460, PC-3 M, MCF-7, SF-268, MIA Pa Ca-2	4.3, 3.5, 1.5, 1.8, 2.8 µM	[133]

Table 2. Cont.

Compounds	Chemical Class	Fungal Endophytes	Host Medicinal Plant	Activity Against Cell Lines	IC50 Values	Ref.
Ergoflavin	Ergochrome	PM0651480	<i>Mimusops elengi</i>	TNF- α , IL-6, ACHN, H460, Panc1, HCT116, and Calu1	1.9, 1.2, 1.2, 4, 2.4, 8, & 1.5 μ M	[134]
Spiroreussione A	Spirobis naphthalene	<i>Preussia</i> spp.	<i>Aquilaria sinensis</i>	A2780, BEL-7404	2.4, 3.0 μ M	[135]
Cytochalasin 1, 2, 3 and E	Alkaloids	<i>Rhinoctadiella</i> spp.	<i>Tripterygium wilfordii</i> dead tree limbs	A2780S, HCT-116, SW-620	3.91, 15.6, 3.91; 15.6, 62.5, 15.6; 3.91, -, 15.6 & <0.0153, 0.977, 0.244 μ g/mL (IC100)	[136]
1. Rhytidones B 2. Rhytidones C, MK3018, Palmarumycin CR1	Spirobis naphthalenes	<i>Rhytidhysterion</i> spp.	<i>Azima sarmentosa</i> leaves	1. CaSki 2. MCF-7 and CaSki	1. 22.81 2. 17.30, 20.10, 14.47 & 24.44, 25.59, 21.95 μ M	[137]
TMC-264	Heptaketide	<i>Rhizopycnis</i> v. Nitaf22	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i>	HCT-116, HepG2, BGC-823, NCIH1650, and A2780	4.2, 5.9, 7.8, 3.2, 3.6 μ M	[138]
Rhytidenone H & F	Spirobisnaphthalenes	<i>Rhytidhysterion</i> r. AS21B	<i>Azima sarmentosa</i>	Ramos and H1975	0.018, 0.252 & 0.048, 1.17 μ M	[139]
1. Secalonic acid A, Penicillixanthone A 2. Hypothemycin	1. Tetrahydro-xanthone 2. RAL	<i>Setophoma</i> t.	Unidentified (leaf litter collected in a mangrove habitat)	MDA-MB-435 and SW-620	1. 0.16, 0.41 & 0.18, 0.21 μ M 2. 0.58, 2.14 μ M	[140]
Sphaeropsidin A, Sphaeropsidin D	Diterpenes	<i>Smardaea</i> spp. AZ0432	<i>Ceratodon purpureus</i> living photosynthetic tissue	MDA-MB-231	1.4, 3.7 μ M	[141]
Taxol	Diterpenes	<i>Stemphylium</i> s. SBU-16	<i>Taxus baccata</i> inner bark	MCF-7, A549, T98G	-	[117,142]
1. Altersolanol A, 2. Alterporriol G and H 1. 3-Dehydroxymethylbisde-thio-3,10a-bis(methylthio)-gliotoxin 2. Bisde-thiobis(methylthio)-Gliotoxin 3. Didehydrobisde-thiobis(methylthio)gliotoxin	Quinones	<i>Stemphylium</i> g.	<i>Mentha pulegium</i> stem	1. K562, A549, 2. L5178Y	1. >1, >2 μ M 2. 2.7 μ g/mL (EC50)	[143,144]
	Alkaloids	<i>Talaromyces</i> spp. LGT-2	<i>Tripterygium wilfordii</i>	B16	86, 82 & 78% at 500 μ g/mL	[145]
Talaperoxide B, Talaperoxide D	Peroxides	<i>Talaromyces</i> f.	<i>Sonneratia apetala</i> healthy leaves	MCF-7, MDA-MB-435, HepG2, HeLa, PC-3	1.33, 2.78, 1.29, 1.73, 0.89 & 1.92, 0.91, 0.90, 1.31, 0.70 μ g/mL	[146]
Vincristine and Vinblastine	Alkaloids	<i>Talaromyces</i> r. CrP20	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> leaf tissues	HeLa, MCF7, U251, A549, A431 BT220, H116,	4.2, 4.5, 5.5, 5.5, 5.8 μ g/mL	[74]
Taxol	Terpenes	<i>Taxomyces</i> a.	<i>Taxus brevifolia</i> inner bark	INT-407, HL251, MCF-7HLK210	-	[6,60]
Hypericin, Emodin	Polyketides	<i>Thielavia</i> s.	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> stem	THP-1	-	[147]
Podophyllotoxin	Lignan	<i>Trametes</i> h.	<i>Podophyllum hexandrum</i>	Topoisomerase I	-	[148]
Aspochalasin D, Aspochalasin J	Cytochalasan	<i>Trichoderma</i> g.	<i>Panax notoginseng</i>	HeLa	5.72, 27.4 μ M	[149]
Trichothecinol-A	Mycotoxins	<i>Trichothecium</i> spp. XG8D	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i>	MDA-MBA-231, B16F10	500 μ M (LC25), 500 μ M (LC50)	[150]
Merulin A Merulin C	Sesquiterpenes	(a basidiomycete, not better identified)	<i>Xylocarpus granatum</i> plant	BT474, SW620	4.98, >10 & 4.84, >10 μ g/mL	[151]
Eremophilanolide 1,2 & 3	Sesquiterpenes	<i>Xylaria</i> spp. BCC 21097	<i>Licuala spinosa</i>	KB, MCF-7, NCI-H187, Vero cells	3.8–21 μ M	[152]

Table 2. Cont.

Compounds	Chemical Class	Fungal Endophytes	Host Medicinal Plant	Activity Against Cell Lines	IC50 Values	Ref.
1. 2-Chloro-5-methoxy-3-methylcyclohexa-2,5-diene-1,4-dione 2. Xylariaquinone A	Benzoquinone	<i>Xylaria</i> spp.	<i>Sandoricum koetjape</i>	Vero cells	1.35, >184 μ M	[153]
1. Cytochalasin D 2. Cytochalasin C and Q	Cytochalasins	<i>Xylaria</i> spp. NC1214	<i>Hypnum</i> sp.	1,2 >> NCI-H460, PC-3M, SF-268, MDA-MB-231; 1. >> MCF-7,	D: 1.03, 0.22, 0.43, 1.01 μ M; C: 1.65, 1.06, 0.96, 1.72 μ M; Q: 1.53, 1.51, 1.31, 1.32; 1.44 μ M	[154]
Cytochalasin E	Alkaloids	<i>Xylaria</i> spp. XC-16	<i>Toona sinensis</i>	brine shrimp	2.79 μ M (LC50)	[155]
1. Cytochalasin D 2. Ergosterol peroxide	1. Cytochalasins 2. Steroid	<i>Xylaria</i> cf. c. PK108	Unidentified	1. NCI-H187, KB, Vero cell 2. NCI-H187, Vero cell	1. 5.95, 3.25, 0.36 μ g/mL 2. 5.81, 47.95 μ g/mL	[156]
Xylariacin A Xylariacin B Xylariacin C	Triterpenes	<i>Xylarialean</i> spp. A45	<i>Annona squamosa</i> phloem	HepG2	48, 9.7, 46.7% at 20 μ g/mL	[157]
Secalonic acid D	Ergochrome	ZSU44 (not better identified)	(unidentified) mangrove plant	HL-60, K562	0.38, 0.43 μ M	[158]

* Compounds with IC50 values less than 10 μ M are reported.

Table 3. Recently (2018–2020) reported potential cytotoxic metabolites isolated from medicinal-plant-associated endophytic fungi.

SI	Isolated Metabolites *	Fungus Name	Host Medicinal Plant	Reported Activity	References
1	Penicolinate A	<i>Bionectria</i> spp.	<i>Raphia taedigera</i>	Displayed potent cytotoxicity against cells with an IC50 value of 4.1 μ M.	[159]
2	Fusarithioamide B	<i>Fusarium</i> c.	<i>Anvillea arcinia</i> (Burm.f.) DC.	Showed selective and potent effect towards BT-549, MCF-7, SKOV-3, and HCT-116 cell lines with IC50s 0.09, 0.21, 1.23, and 0.59 μ M, respectively	[160]
3	3-(4-nitrophenyl)-5-phenyl isoxazole	<i>Aspergillus n.</i> spp.		Exhibited potent cytotoxic effect on HepG2 and SMCC-7721 cells with the IC50 values were 0.347 and 0.380 mM, respectively	[161]
4	Spiciferone F	<i>Phoma</i> b.	<i>Kalidium foliatum</i> (Pall.) Moq	Exhibited strong biological effect against MCF7 with a half-maximal inhibitory concentration value at 7.73 \pm 0.11 μ M	[162]
5	Xylariphthalide A	<i>Diaporthe</i> spp.	<i>Tylophora ouata</i>	Displayed cytotoxic activity against human tumor cell lines BGC-823 cells with IC50 values of 1.5 μ mol·L ⁻¹	[163]
6	Cis-4-hydroxy-6-deoxytalone	<i>Diaporthe</i> spp.	<i>Tylophora ouata</i>	Displayed cytotoxic activity against human tumor cell lines BGC-823 cells with IC50 8.6 μ mol·L ⁻¹	[163]
7	Xylarolide A	<i>Diaporthe</i> spp.	<i>Datura inoxia</i>	Showed promisingly inhibited growth of MIA PaCa-2 and PC-3 cells with an IC50 values of 20 14 μ M	[164]
8	Jammosporin A	<i>Rosellinia sanctae-cruciana</i>	<i>Albizia lebbek</i>	Exhibited promising cytotoxic potential against the human leukemia cancer cell line (MOLT-4)	[165]

Table 3. Cont.

S1	Isolated Metabolites *	Fungus Name	Host Medicinal Plant	Reported Activity	References
9	Pyrocidine A (Pyridone alkaloid)	<i>Cylindrocarpon</i> spp.	<i>Sapium ellipticum</i>	Shown potent cytotoxicity against the human ovarian cancer cell line A2780 with an IC50 value of 1.7 μ M	[166]
10	Bostrycoidin	<i>Fusarium</i> s.	<i>Cassia alata</i> Linn. plant	Significant cytotoxicity against vero cell line	[8]
11	Anhydrofusarubin				
12	1-Monolinolein			Exhibited cytotoxicity against human lung adenocarcinoma EGFR-TKI-resistant A549 cells with IC50 values of 3.6 μ M	
13	Bafilomycin D	<i>Streptomyces</i> c. YBQ59	<i>Cinnamomum cassia</i> plant	Shown activity against EGFR-TKI-resistant A549 cells with IC50 values 6.7 μ M	[167]
14	3'-Hydroxydaidzein			Shown activity against EGFR-TKI-resistant A549 cells with IC50 values 7.8 μ M	
15	Colletotricone A	<i>Colletotrichum</i> g. A12	<i>Aquilaria sinensis</i>	Inhibited growth of MCF-7, NCI-H460, HepG-2, and SF-268 tumor cells with IC50 values ranging from 15.7 to 46.8 μ M	[168]
16	Mollicellin G	<i>Chaetomium</i> spp. Eef-10	<i>Eucalyptus exserta</i>	Cytotoxic against two human cancer cell lines HepG2 and Hela with IC50 values of 19.64 and 13.97 μ g/mL, respectively	[169]
17	Demethylcisterol A₃	<i>Pestalotiopsis</i> spp.	<i>Rhizophora mucronata</i>	Shown potent activity against the Hela, A549 and HepG, with IC50 values ranging from 0.17 to 14.16 nM	[170]
18	Shearilicine (1), Paspalinine-13-ene (2), 7-Hydroxypaxilline-13-ene (3), Shearinine O (6), Shearinine P (7), emindole SB (10), paspaline (18), 7-hydroxy-13-dehydroxypaxilline (19) *	<i>Penicillium</i> spp. (strain ZO-R1-1)	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	1 showed the most pronounced cytotoxicity against L5178Y (IC50 is 3.6 μ M) whereas 2, 3, 6, 7 & 19 exhibited cytotoxicity with IC50 values ranging between 5.3 and 8.1 μ M. 1, 6, 10 and 18 displayed pronounced cytotoxicity with IC50 values ranging between 5.3 and 8.7 μ M against A2780	[171]
19	Flavipin	<i>Chaetomium</i> g.	<i>Couroupita guianensis</i> Aubl. leaves	Exhibited cytotoxicity toward A549, HT-29, and MCF-7 cancer cells with an IC50 concentration of 9.89 μ g/mL, 18 μ g/mL, and 54 μ g/mL, respectively	[172]
20	Bellidisin D	<i>Phoma</i> b.	<i>Tricyrtis maculate</i> leaves	Exhibited significant cytotoxicity against HL-60, A549, SMMC-7721, MCF-7, and SW480 cells with IC50 value ranged from 3.40 to 15.25 μ M	[173]
21	Epicorazine A	<i>Epicoccum</i> n.	<i>Salix</i> sp.	Displayed strong to moderate cytotoxic activities against L5178Y, Ramos, and Jurkat J16 cell lines with IC50s ranging from 1.3 to 28 mM	[174]

Table 3. Cont.

S1	Isolated Metabolites *	Fungus Name	Host Medicinal Plant	Reported Activity	References
22	Cytochalasin E			Exhibited significant cytotoxicity with an IC50 value of 7.8 μ M	
23	Asperchalasin A-F (seco-cytochalasins), Asperlactone G-H (asperlactones)	<i>Aspergillus</i> spp.	<i>Pinellia ternata</i> tubers	All the compounds showed cytotoxicity against A-549 with IC50 values ranging from 23.3 to 70.2 μ M	[175]
24	Demethylchaetocochin C, dethiotetra(methylthio)chetomin, chaetoperazine A, 4-formyl-N-(30-hydroxypyridin-20-yl) benzamide	<i>Chaetomium</i> g. 7951	<i>Panax notoginseng</i> root	Showed cytotoxicity against MCF-7, MDA-MB-231, H460, and HCT-8 cell lines with IC50 values ranging from 4.5 to 65 μ M	[176]
25	Chetoseminudin F (1), chaetocochin C (6), ergosterol (8), chetomin A (9), chetomin (12)	<i>Chaetomium</i> spp. SYP-F7950	<i>Panax notoginseng</i> Stem	1 displayed more potent cytotoxic activity against MDA-MB-231 cells than paclitaxel with IC50 of 26.49 μ M. 6, 8, 9 and 12 exhibited strong cytotoxicity with IC50 values ranging between 2.75 and 8.68 μ M against A549 and MDA-MB-231. 1 and 3 exhibited moderate cytotoxic activities against MDA-MB-231, MDA-MB-435, NCI-H460, PC-3 & HCT116 cell lines with IC50 values ranging between 4.2 and 7.8 μ M. 2 showed cytotoxicity towards the MDA-MB-231 and HCT116 cells with IC50s of 6.6 and 4.5 μ M, respectively	[177]
26	Ascomylactam A to C (1–3)	<i>Didymella</i> spp. CYSK-4	<i>Pluchea indica</i> healthy branch	Exhibited moderate cytotoxicity towards MDA-MB-231 cell line with an IC50 value of 22.4 \pm 1.1 μ M.	[178]
27	Pleosporalin F	<i>Pleosporales</i> spp. F46	<i>Mahonia fortunei</i>	1 and 3 displayed moderate toxicity against SK-MEL and BT-549 cell lines. 2 showed moderate toxicity against BT-549 and LLC-PK11 cell lines	[179]
28	19,20-epoxycytochalasins C (1) and D (2), and 18-deoxy-19,20-epoxycytochalasin C (3)	<i>Nemania</i> spp. UM10M	<i>Torreya taxifolia</i> leaf	1–3 showed selective cytotoxicity against the cell line, MV4–11, with IC50 values of 7.2, 10.0, and 0.22 μ M, respectively	[180]
29	Garttryprostatis A to C (1–3)	<i>Aspergillus</i> spp. GZWMJZ-258	<i>Garcinia multiflora</i> fruit	Displayed significant specific cytotoxic activity against HL-60 cells with an IC50 of 1.11 μ M.	[181]
30	19,20-epoxycytochalasin C	<i>Xylaria</i> cf. c.	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> stem tissues	Displayed weak cytotoxic activities against MCF-7 and LM3 cells, with IC50 values of 34.4 and 39.2 μ M, respectively.	[182]
31	Sporulosaldehyd F	<i>Paraphaeosphaeria</i> spp. F03	<i>Paepalanthus planifolius</i> leaves	Displayed moderate cytotoxicity towards A549, LN229, MGC, LOVO, and MDA231 with IC50 values of 51.45, 23.43, 39.16, 46.97, and 42.85 μ g/mL, respectively.	[183]
32	Trichodermic acid	<i>Penicillium</i> o.	<i>Taxus media</i> roots		[184]

Table 3. Cont.

S1	Isolated Metabolites *	Fungus Name	Host Medicinal Plant	Reported Activity	References
33	Stemphyperylenol (5), (17R)-4-hydroxy-17-methylincisterol (10)	<i>Alternaria a.</i>	<i>Psidium littorale</i> Raddi leaves	5 showed cytotoxicity against MCF-7 and HepG-4 cell lines (IC50 values of 4.2 ± 0.6 and $7.9 \pm 0.9 \mu\text{M}$, respectively); 10 exhibited cytotoxicity against HepG-4 cell line with an IC50 value of $9.73 \pm 1.2 \mu\text{M}$.	[185]
34	Aspergisocoumrins A & B	<i>Aspergillus</i> spp. HN15-5D	<i>Acanthus ilicifolius</i> fresh leaves	Exhibited cytotoxicity against MDA-MB-435 cells (IC50 values of 5.08 ± 0.88 and $4.98 \pm 0.74 \mu\text{M}$, respectively)	[186]
35	Phomoxanthone A (1) and Penialidin A (2)	<i>Coniochaeta</i> spp. F-8	<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	1 showed a stronger cytotoxicity than 2	[187]
36	Macrophin	<i>Phoma m.</i>	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> Linn	Exhibited prominent cytotoxic activity against all the cancer-cell lines (MDA-MB-231, T47D, MCF-7, and MIA PaCa-2 with IC50 values of 14.8, 8.12, 13.0, and $0.9 \mu\text{M}$, respectively).	[188]
37	Myrothecines D–G (1–4), 16-hydroxymyotoxin B (5), and 14'-dehydrovertisporin (6)	<i>Myrothecium r.</i> , IFB-E008, IFB-E009, and IFB-E012 strains	<i>Trachospermum jasmimoides</i>	Showed cytotoxicity against K562 and SW1116 cells (IC50 values ranging between 56 nM and $16 \mu\text{M}$).	[189]
38	Giluterrin	<i>Aspergillus t.</i> P63	<i>Axonopus leptostachyus</i> roots	Exhibited cytotoxicity against 786-0 and PC-3 cell lines (IC50 of $22.93 \mu\text{M}$ and $48.55 \mu\text{M}$, respectively).	[190]
39	2'-aminodechloromaldoxin (1) and 2'-aminodechlorogeodoxin (2)	<i>Pestalotiopsis f.</i>	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i> branches	1 & 2 displayed moderate cytotoxicity against NCI-H460, SF-268, MCF-7 and PC-3 cell lines (IC50 values of 18.63, 20.23, 23.53, $20.48 \mu\text{M}$ and 16.47, 17.57, 20.79, $19.43 \mu\text{M}$, respectively).	[191]
40	Stachybochartins A, B, C, D and G.	<i>Stachybotrys c.</i> PT2–12	<i>Pinellia ternata</i>	Showed cytotoxicity against MDA-MB-231 and U-2OS cells (IC50 values ranging between 4.5 to $21.7 \mu\text{M}$).	[192]
41	(S)-3,6-dihydroxy-8-methoxy-3-methylisochroman-4-one (1a), 6-methoxy-3-methylisochromane-3,8-diol (2).	<i>Aspergillus f.</i>	<i>Cordyceps sinensis</i> fruiting body	1a & 2 exhibited moderate growth inhibition against MV4–11 (IC50 values of $38.39 \mu\text{M}$ and $30.00 \mu\text{M}$, respectively).	[193]
42	Flavoglaucin	<i>Aspergillus</i> spp. AV-2	<i>Avicennia marina</i> healthy leaves	Exhibited most potent cytotoxicity against Caco-2 cells (IC50 of $2.87 \mu\text{M}$)	[194]
43	Peniquinone A (1) & peniquinone B (2)	<i>Penicillium</i> spp. L129	<i>Limonium s.</i>	1 showed cytotoxicity against the cell lines, MCF-7, U87, and PC3 (IC50 ranging between 9.01 and $14.59 \mu\text{M}$); 2 exhibited relatively weak cytotoxicity against the same cells (IC50 ranging between 13.45 and $25.32 \mu\text{M}$)	[195]

Table 3. Cont.

S1	Isolated Metabolites *	Fungus Name	Host Medicinal Plant	Reported Activity	References
44	Pestalolide B (1), pestalotether F (4)	<i>Pestalotiopsis</i> spp.	<i>Melaleuca alternifolia</i> leaves	1 displayed remarkable inhibitory effect against the cell lines, HL60, U87MG, MDA-MB-231, and HEP-3B cells (IC50 ranging from 1.42 to 5.90 μ M); 4 exhibited significant inhibitory potency against HL60 (IC50 5.05 μ M) 2, 4, and 6 showed cytotoxicity against cell lines, SMMC-7721 & SW-480 (IC50 values ranging between 8.19 and 18.80 μ M). Compound 4 also exhibited cytotoxicity against A-549 (IC50 of 11.33 μ M)	[196]
45	Emeridone B (2), Emeridone D (4), Emeridone F (6)	<i>Emericella</i> spp. TJ29	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i> root	Displayed weak inhibitory activities against SF-268, MCF-7, HepG-2, and A549 cell lines with IC50 values ranging between 30 and 100 μ M	[197]
46	Lithocarin B & C, Tenellone H	<i>Diaporthe</i> l. A740	<i>Morinda officinalis</i> twigs	All Showed significant cytotoxicity against the cell lines, L929 and KB-3-1 (IC50 values ranging from 2.4 to 26 μ g/mL)	[198]
47	Cytosporaquinone A–D, leucomelone.	<i>Cytospora</i> spp. CCTU A309	<i>Juglans</i> (Walnut tree)	1 showed moderate cytotoxicity against MCF-7 cells (IC50 is 4.79 μ M). 4 displayed cytotoxicity towards MCF-7, NCI-H460, and SF-268 cells (IC50 values ranging between 5.46 to 8.56 μ M)	[199]
48	Ilanpyrone (1), methyl Asterrate (4)	<i>Annulohyphoxylon</i> i.	<i>Cinnamomum</i> sp.	1, 7 & 15 exhibited cytotoxic activities against L5178Y (IC50 values of 5.0, 8.7, and 24.4 μ M, respectively).	[200]
49	Rhinomilisin A (1), Rhinomilisin G (7) and Gliocladic acid (15)	<i>Rhinoclaadiella</i> s.	<i>Acrostichum aureum</i>	2, 15, and 16 showed antiproliferative activities against A549 (IC50 values of 46.6, 31.3, and 22.2 μ M, respectively)	[201]
50	Koninginol B (2), 1R,3S,6S,7R,10S-7-isopropyl-4,10-dimethylbicyclo[4.4.0]dec-4-en-3,10-diol (15), 1R,3R,6S,7R,10S-7-isopropyl-4,10-dimethylbicyclo[4.4.0]dec-4-en-3,10-diol (16)	<i>Trichoderma</i> k. A729	<i>Morinda officinalis</i> branches		[202]
51	Cytochalasin D1 (1) and C1 (2)	<i>Xylaria</i> cf. <i>cu.</i>	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> stem tissues	1 and 2 showed moderate cytotoxicity against HL-60 (IC50 value of 12.7 and 22.3 μ M, respectively)	[203]
52	Bipolahydroquinone C (3), cochlioquinone I (4), cochlioquinones K–M (6–8)	<i>Bipolaris</i> spp. L1–2	<i>Lycium barbarum</i> fresh leaves	3, 4, and 6–8 exhibited cytotoxic activities against NCIH226 and/or MDA-MB-231 (IC50 values ranging between 5.5 to 9.5 μ M)	[204]
53	Botryosulfuranol A	<i>Botryosphaeria</i> m. strain E224	<i>Bixa orellana</i> fresh leaves	Exhibited cytotoxicity against HT-29, HepG2, Caco-2, HeLa, IEC6, and vero cells (IC50 values ranging between 8 to 23.5 μ M)	[205]

Table 3. Cont.

S1	Isolated Metabolites *	Fungus Name	Host Medicinal Plant	Reported Activity	References
54	Chloroisosulochrin	<i>Pestalotiopsis t.</i> (N635)	<i>Camellia sinensis</i> (Theaceae)	Exhibited moderate cytotoxicity towards the HeLa cell line with an IC50 value of 35.2 µM	[206]
55	Pestalotether D			Exerted cytotoxicity against HeLa and MCF-7 cell lines with IC50 values of 60.8 and 22.6 M, respectively	
56	Cytosporins W *	<i>Pseudopestalotiopsis t.</i>	<i>Rhizophora racemosa</i> mangrove plants	Exhibited potent cytotoxicity towards mouse lymphoma cell line L5178Y with an IC50 value of 3.0 µM	[207]
57	Terezine E and 14-hydroxyterezine D	<i>Mucor</i> spp.	<i>Centaurea stoebe</i>	Shown potent activity against K-562 and HUVEC cell lines	[208]
58	Citrinin (CIT) and dicitrinin-A	<i>Penicillium ci.</i>	<i>Dichotomaria marginata</i>	Shown toxicity in <i>A. saline</i> , with LC50 (24 h) 1.71 µg/mL and 2.29 µg/mL, and LC50 (48 h) of 0.54 µg/mL and 0.54 µg/mL, respectively	[209]
59	Allantopyrone E	<i>Aspergillus v.</i>	<i>Avicennia marina</i> mangrove	Shown cytotoxic effect on HeLa cells with IC50 = 50.97 µM	[210]
60	Integracin A and B	<i>Cytospora</i> spp.	<i>Ceriops tagal</i> (Chinese mangrove)	Both compounds showed promising cytotoxicity towards HepG2 Cells with IC50 values of 5.98 ± 0.12 µM and 9.97 ± 0.06 µM, respectively	[211]
61	(±)-Asperteretone F (3a/3b)	<i>Aspergillus t.</i>	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Potent cytotoxic activities against human pancreatic cancer cells, including AsPC-1, SW1990 and PANC-1 cells, with IC50 values ranging from 1.2 to 15.6 µM	[212]
62	Sterigmatocystin	<i>Paecilomyces</i> spp. TE-540	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.	showed moderate to strong cytotoxicity towards A549, BT-549, HepG2, and MCF-7 cells with IC50 values ranging from 5.6 to 14.2 µM	[213]
63	Methyl 3-chloroasterric acid	<i>Pleosporales</i> spp. SK7.	<i>Kandelia candel</i> leaves	Exhibited cytotoxicity against MDA-MB-435 cell with an IC50 of 25.96 ± 0.32 µM	[214]
64	Rhizoperemophilane N	<i>Rhizopycnis v.</i>	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i>	Exhibited selective cytotoxicity against NCI-H1650 and BGC823 tumor cells	[215]
65	Pramanicin A	<i>Aplosporella j.</i>	<i>Orychophragmus violaceus</i> (L.) O. E. Schul	exhibited strong cytotoxic activities against human lymphoma (Ramos) and leukemia (Jurkat J16) cells with IC50 values of 4.7 and 4.4 µM, respectively	[216]
66	Myrothecines H and I	<i>Paramyrothecium r.</i>	<i>Morinda officinalis</i>	Both the compounds exhibited promising cytotoxicity against SF-268, NCI-H460, and HepG-2 tumor cell lines with the IC50 ranging from 0.0002–16.2 µM and induced apoptosis of HepG-2 cells	[217]
67	Colletotrichalactone A and colletotrichalactone Ca	<i>Colletotrichum</i> spp. JS-0361	<i>Morus alba</i>	Exhibited moderate-to-potent cytotoxic activities against MCF7 cells with IC50s of 35.06 and 25.20 µM, respectively	[218]

Table 3. Cont.

Sl	Isolated Metabolites *	Fungus Name	Host Medicinal Plant	Reported Activity	References
68	Emodin, (an anthraquinone)	<i>Diaporthe l.</i>	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i>	exhibited cytotoxicity against murine leukemia P-388 cells with an IC ₅₀ value of 0.41 µg/mL	[219]
69	Demethyli cisterol A₃	<i>Aspergillus t.</i> YP-2.	<i>Taxus yunnanensis</i> bark	Shown cytotoxicity against the A549 and HepG2 cell with IC ₅₀ values of 5.34 and 12.03 µM, respectively	[220]
70	Demethylincisterol A ₅			Shown cytotoxicity against the A549 and HepG2 cell with IC ₅₀ values of 11.05 and 19.15 µM, respectively	

* Compounds with IC₅₀ values less than 10 µM are reported in bold.

Discovery of anticancer agents over years.

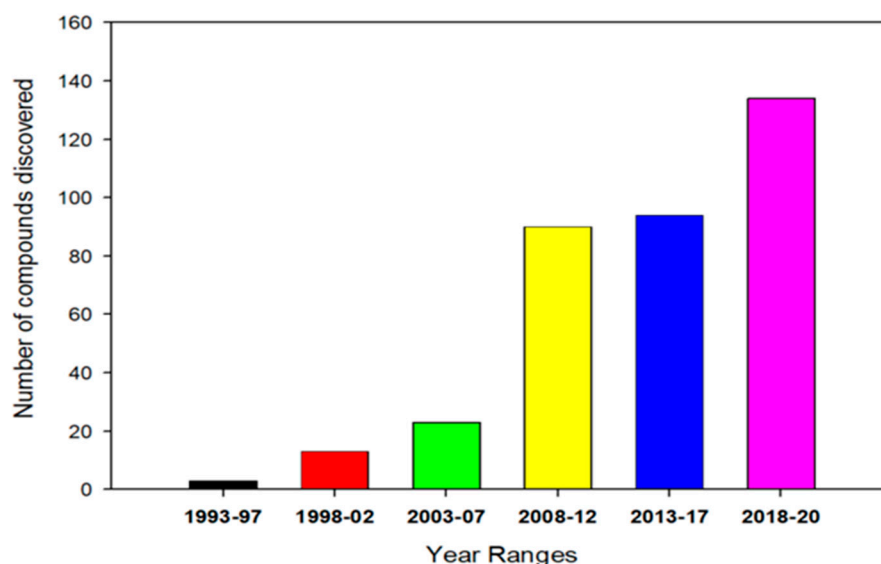


Figure 1. Discovery of anticancer agents from endophytic fungi over time.

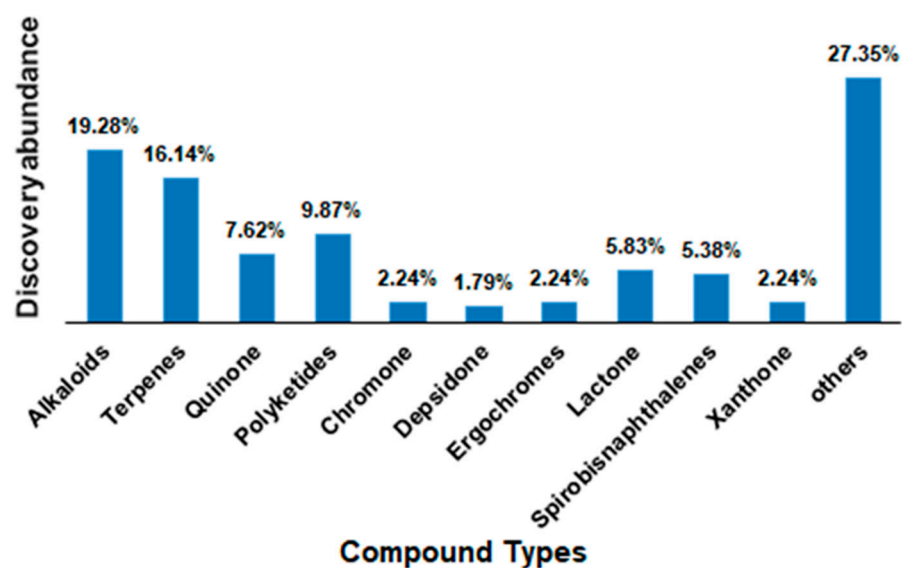


Figure 2. Relative abundance of anticancer agents from endophytic fungi.

The genera of endophytic fungi containing two or more putative anticancer-agent-producing species are *Acremonium*, *Alternaria*, *Aspergillus*, *Ceriporia*, *Chaetomium*, *Colletotrichum*, *Cytospora*, *Emericella*, *Eurotium*, *Eutypella*, *Fusarium*, *Guignardia*, *Hypocrea*, *Penicillium*, *Pestalotiopsis*, *Phomopsis*, *Periconia*, *Stemphylium*, *Talaromyces*, *Thielavia*, and *Xylaria* [4,221]. These endophytic fungi offer an alternative source of bioactive compounds. We may be able to increase their yield of specific anticancer compounds by employing biotechnology and genetic engineering [221].

2.1. Anti-Cancer Agents in Clinical Use Shared by Plants and Endophytic Fungi

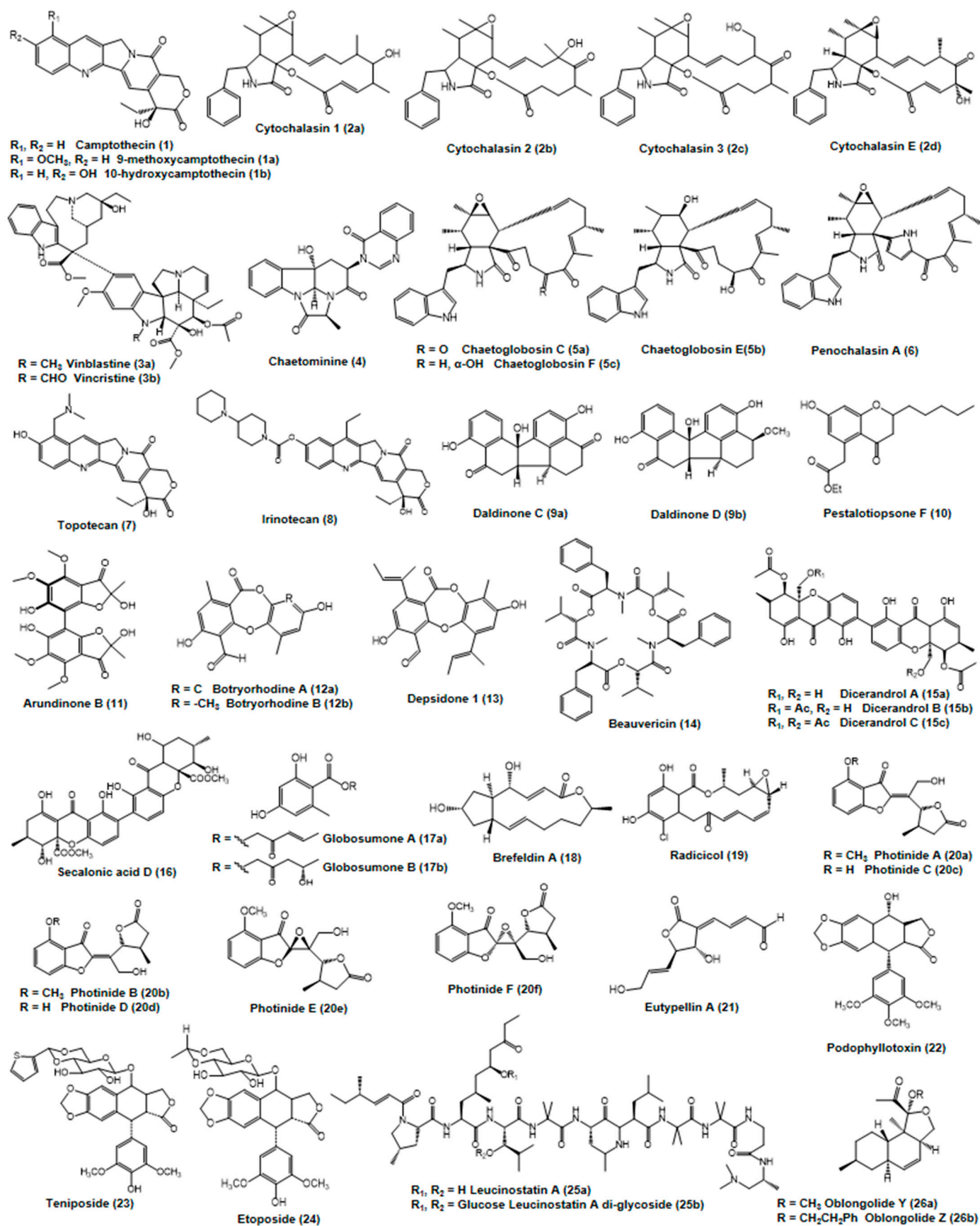
Plants are prolific sources of anticancer agents. In the area of cancer, of the 175 approved small molecules over the years from the 1940s to 2014, 75% (131) are other than synthetic and 49% (85) are either natural products or their derivatives [222]. Very recently, it was reported that among the approved 321 anticancer molecules from all sources during the period of 1946 to 2019, 35 (10.9%) were unaltered natural products and 65 (20.2%) were natural product derivatives compared to 53 (16.5%) completely synthetic drug molecules. Some of these agents obtained from plants are also found in their corresponding endophytic fungi. The following are some examples of plant/endophytic fungi-derived cancer effective agents [1,6] (Figure 3a,b).

Paclitaxel (Taxol[®]) is used in combination with other anti-cancer drugs in ovarian, breast, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), and Kaposi sarcoma. An active paclitaxel analogue, docetaxel is used in breast and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) treatment [223]. Even though camptothecin exerted severe bladder toxicity in its clinical trial in the 1970s and therefore, was dropped, its two water-soluble derivatives, topotecan and irinotecan, have been shown to be more effective anti-cancer agents and are being utilized for these purposes [223]. Topotecan (Hycamtin[®]) was the first CPT derivative that was orally available and has been approved for cervical (when used in combination with cisplatin), ovarian, and non-small cell lung cancer treatment. Irinotecan (Camptosar[®]) has been approved for colorectal cancer treatment. These agents show cytotoxicity on account of their ability to inhibit a fundamental enzyme, topoisomerase-I, involved in the winding and unwinding process of DNA during replication or protein synthesis [1,223]. The vinca alkaloids, vinblastine and vincristine, and their semi-synthetic analogs, vinorelbine and vindesine, are primarily used in combination with other chemotherapeutic drugs in the treatment of advanced testicular cancer, breast cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma, lung cancer, leukemias, and lymphomas [223]. Etoposide and teniposide are clinically effective semi-synthetic derivatives of a podophyllotoxin isomer, epipodophyllotoxin, which are used in bronchial cancers, lymphomas, and testicular cancer treatments [223].

2.2. Putative Anticancer Compounds from Endophytic Fungi

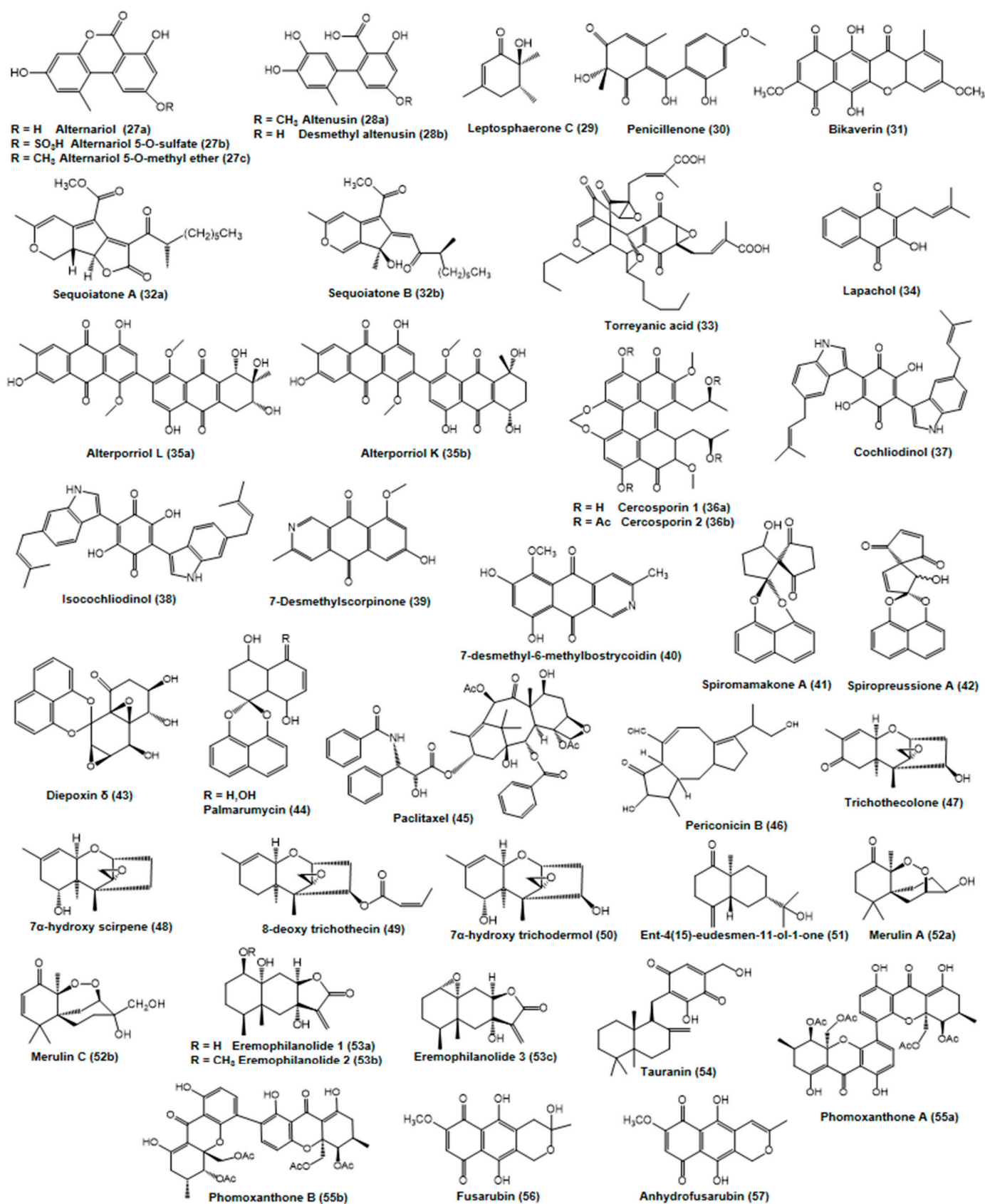
2.2.1. Alkaloids and Nitrogen-Containing Heterocycles

Camptothecin (CPT) (1), a pentacyclic quinoline alkaloid, was, at first, isolated from the *Camptotheca acuminata* (happy tree) woods showing antileukemic and anti-cancer effects in animals [1]. It exerts its cytotoxicity by inhibition and dissociation of the DNA-topoisomerase-I complex during DNA replication [224,225]. However, recently, CPT has been isolated from some endophytic fungi, *Entrophospora i.*, residing in these plants. Since *Entrophospora i.* also lives inside the inner bark of *Nothapodytes foetida* [11], in 2008, CPT was isolated from a *Nothapodytes foetida* seed endophyte, *Neurospora c.*, and both authentic and fungal CPT exhibited comparable cytotoxic effects in human cancer cell lines HEP-2 (liver cancer), A549 (lung cancer), and OVCAR-5 (ovarian cancer) [96]. In 2009, CPT along with its two derivatives, 9-methoxycamptothecin and 10-hydroxycamptothecin, were isolated from a *Camptotheca acuminata* inner bark endophyte, *Fusarium s.* (Figure 3a). These derivatives are more water soluble and more potent inhibitors of the topoisomerase-I enzyme [80] (Table 2).



a)

Figure 3. Cont.



b)

Figure 3. Anticancer compounds of different chemical classes from endophytic fungi-alkaloidal compounds and their derivatives: (a) (1–8), benzol[j]fluoranthene (9), Chromone (10), coumarin (11),

depsidones (12, 13), depsideptide (14), ergochromes (15, 16), ester (17), lactones (18–22), lignans (23–24), peptide (25), polyketides (26); (b) polyketides (27–32), quinones (33–39), spirobisanthralenes (40–42), terpenes (43–54), xanthones (55), naphthoquinones (56, 57).

Cytochalasins (2a–2d) are fungal metabolites that inhibit cell division by means of inhibiting actin filament polymerization [226]. Four cytochalasins (cytochalasin 1, 2, 3, and E) have been isolated from an endophytic fungus, *Rhinochadiella* spp. from the *Tripterygium wilfordii* dead tree limbs and were tested against HCT-116 (colon tumor cell line), A2780S (ovarian tumor cell line), and SW-620 (colon tumor cell line) showing cytotoxic activities [136].

The vinca alkaloid (3a, 3b), vincristine (leurocristine), was isolated from *Catharanthus roseus* [227]. This alkaloid has also been isolated from some fungal endophytes of *Catharanthus roseus* such as *Fusarium o.* (inner bark), *Mycelia s.* 97CY(3) (Leaves), and *Talaromyces r.* CrP20 (Leaves) [74,75,89]. Vincristine irreversibly binds to the spindle proteins and microtubules during the S-phase of cell cycle hampering mitotic spindle formation and therefore arresting tumor cell division in the metaphase [1].

Chaetominine (4) was isolated from an endophyte, *Chaetomium* sp. IFB-E015 from the healthy leaves of *Adenophora axilliflora*, and it was cytotoxic against K562 (human leukemia cells) and SW1116 (human colon cancer cells) [54].

Cytochalasan-based alkaloids (5a–5c, 6), namely chaetoglobosin C, E, F, U, and penochalasin A (6), were obtained from the endophyte *Chaetomium g.* IFB-E019 residing inside the *Imperata cylindrica* healthy stem. Chaetoglobosin U was cytotoxically active against the KB cell line (human nasopharyngeal epidermoid tumor) with an IC₅₀ value of 16.0 μM, whereas chaetoglobosin C (IC₅₀ 34.0 μM), E (IC₅₀ 40.0 μM), F (IC₅₀ 52.0 μM), and penochalasin A (IC₅₀ 48.0 μM) were moderately active against the KB cell line [57]. Endophytic fungus *Chaetomium g.* L18 from the plant *Curcuma wenyujin* produces chaetoglobosin X that exerted cytotoxic activity against H22 (hepatic cancer cells in mice) and MFC (gastric cancer cells in mice) cell lines [56] (Table 2).

2.2.2. Benzofluoranthenes

Daldinone C (9a) and D (9b) were discovered from an *Artemisia* *Artemisia annua* endophyte, *Hypoxylon t.* IFB-18, where both agents exerted strong cytotoxic action against the human colorectal cancer SW1116 cell line at IC₅₀ values of 49.5 and 41.0 μM, respectively [85] (Table 2, Figure 3a).

2.2.3. Chromones

A novel chromone, Pestalotiopsone F (10), was isolated from an endophytic fungus *Pestalotiopsis* spp. associated with a mangrove plant *Rhizophora mucronata*. Pestalotiopsone F showed moderate cytotoxicity to L5178Y (murine cancer cell line) at an EC₅₀ value of 8.93 μg/mL [110]. Pestaloficiol I, J, K, and L are new isoprenylated chromone derivatives discovered from a *Camellia sinensis* endophyte, *Pestalotiopsis f.*, that displayed cytotoxicity against HeLa (Cervical cancer) and MCF-7 (Breast cancer) cell lines [115] (Table 2).

2.2.4. Coumarins

Arundinone B (11) was isolated from an endophyte *Microsphaeropsis a.* associated with *Ulmus macrocarpa*. The compound showed cytotoxicity to T24 (Bladder carcinoma) and A549 (Lung carcinoma epithelial) cell lines [92] (Table 2).

2.2.5. Depsidones

Botryorhodines A (12a) and B (12b), two depsidones, were isolated from the endophytic fungus *Botryosphaeria r.* associated with *Bidens pilosa*. These compounds exhibited weak antitumor activity against the HeLa cell line at a concentration of 96.97 and 36.41 μM, respectively [48]. Depsidone 1 was discovered from a fungus of the Pleosporales order (BCC 8616) isolated from an unidentified plant leaf of the Hala-Bala forest origin. Depsidone 1

displayed weak cytotoxicity to KB and BC cell lines with IC₅₀ values 6.5 and 4.1 µg/mL, respectively [43] (Table 2).

2.2.6. Depsipeptides

Beauvericin (14), a depsipeptide, was isolated from two fungi, *Fusarium o.* EPH2RAA and *Fusarium o.*, associated with the plants *Cylindropuntia echinocarpus* and *Ephedra fasciculata*, respectively. Beauvericin displayed cytotoxicity to NCI-H460 (human non-small cell lung cancer), MIA Pa Ca-2 (human pancreatic carcinoma), MCF-7 (human breast cancer), and SF-268 (human CNS cancer) cell lines with IC₅₀ values of 1.41, 1.66, 1.81, and 2.29 µM, respectively, showing selective cytotoxicity toward MIA PaCa-2 and NCI-H460 (Table 2). Beauvericin also inhibited the metastasis of MDA-MB-231 (Breast cancer) and PC-3M (metastatic prostate cancer) cells at concentrations ranging between 3.0–4.0 and 2.0–2.5 µM, respectively [77]. According to other studies, beauvericin displayed cytotoxicity against A549 (Lung carcinoma epithelial), PC-3 (Prostate cancer), and PANC-1 (human pancreatic carcinoma) cell lines with IC₅₀ values of 10.4 ± 1.6 , 49.5 ± 3.8 , and 47.2 ± 2.9 µM, respectively [71]. Additionally, in 2006, Ivanova et al. demonstrated the cytotoxicity of beauvericin against Hep-G2 (hepatocellular carcinoma) and MRC-5 (fibroblast-like fetal lung cell line) cells as well [76].

2.2.7. Ergochromes

Phomopsis l., an endophytic fungus of *Dicerandra frutescens*, produced three compounds dicerandrols A, B, and C (15a–15c), structurally related to the ergochromes and secalonic acids as they also have the same tricyclic C15 system with a similar arrangement of substituents. These compounds displayed modest antitumor activities toward A549 (lung adenocarcinoma epithelial cell line) and HCT-116 (colon tumor cell line) cell lines [132] (Table 2).

Secalonic acid D (16), isolated from mangrove plant endophytic fungus no. ZSU44, displayed potent cytotoxicity against HL60 (the human promyelocytic leukemia cell line) and K562 (human leukemia cells) cells with IC₅₀ values of 0.38 and 0.43 µM, respectively. It caused apoptosis in those cell lines and cell cycle arrest in the G(1) phase as well [158].

2.2.8. Esters

Globosumones A (17a) and B (17b), isolated from the endophyte *Chaetomium g.* associated with *Ephedra fasciculata*, were shown to have cytotoxicity to MCF-7 (breast cancer), MIA PaCa-2 (pancreatic carcinoma), NCI-H460 (non-small cell lung cancer), SF-268 (CNS glioma), and WI-38 (normal human fibroblast cells) cell lines [58].

2.2.9. Lactones

The lactone compound Brefeldin A (18) was obtained from two endophytic fungi, *Aspergillus c.* and *Paecilomyces* spp., isolated from the plants *Taxus mairei* and *Torreya grandis*. Brefeldin A exhibited antitumor activities to Hela, HL-60, KB, MCF-7, and Spc-A-1 with IC₅₀ values of 1.8, 10.0, 9.0, 2.0, and 1.0 ng/mL [31]. Brefeldin A was also obtained from the endophyte *Acremonium* spp. isolated from the healthy *Knema laurina* twig. It showed cytotoxicity to BC-1 (breast cancer), KB (epidermoid cancer of the mouth), and NCIH187 (human small-cell lung cancer), with IC₅₀ values of 0.04, 0.18, and 0.11 µM, respectively [86] (Table 2).

Radicalol (19) was obtained from *Chaetomium c.* associated with *Ephedra fasciculata* and it is a HSP90 (heat shock protein) inhibitor, which is frequently expressed highly in cancer cells. It also showed cytotoxicity to the MCF-7 (breast cancer) cell line at an IC₅₀ value 0.03 µM [55].

Photinides A–F (20a–20f) were obtained from the endophyte *Pestalotiopsis p.* associated with *Roystonea regia*, and all of these γ-lactones at 10 µg/mL exerted cytotoxicity against the MDA-MB-231 (breast cancer) cell line with inhibitory rates of 24.4, 24.2, 23.1, 24.4, and 24.6%, respectively [123] (Table 2).

Eutypellin A (21), isolated from the endophyte *Eutypella* spp. BCC 13199 associated with *Etilingera littoralis*, showed cytotoxicity to KB, MCF-7/NCI-H187 (human small-cell lung cancer cells), and nonmalignant Vero cells with IC₅₀ values of 38, 84, 12, and 88 μ M, respectively [70].

2.2.10. Lignans

Podophyllotoxin (22), a precursor to the topoisomerase-I-inhibiting anticancer drugs teniposide (23), etoposide (24), and etoposide phosphate, were isolated from the endophyte *Phialocephala* f. associated with *Podophyllum peltatum* [12]. This was also obtained from the endophyte *Trametes h.* associated with *Podophyllum hexandrum* and from the endophyte *Fusarium s.* associated with *Podophyllum hexandrum* [1,79,148] (Table 2).

2.2.11. Peptides

Leucinostatin A was isolated from the endophyte *Acremonium* spp. associated with *Taxus baccata* and was shown to be effective against BT-20 (breast cancer) cell line with an LD₅₀ value of 2 nM [14]. It inhibits the growth of prostate cancer cells through the suppression of IGF-I (Insulin-Like Growth Factor-I) expression in PrSC (prostate stromal cells) [228] (Table 2).

2.2.12. Polyketides

Two novel oblongolides, Y (26a) and Z (26b) (Figure 3a), are produced by the endophyte *Phomopsis* spp. BCC 9789 housed in *Musa acuminata* (a wild banana). Oblongolide Y exhibited cytotoxicity against BC (human breast cancer) cell line (IC₅₀ 48 μ M) and Oblongolide Z showed cytotoxicity against BC (human breast cancer), KB (human oral epidermoid cancer), NCI-H187 (small-cell lung cancer), and nonmalignant (Vero) cell lines with IC₅₀ values of 26 μ M, 37 μ M, 32 μ M, and 60 μ M, respectively [130] (Table 2).

Five tricyclic lactone polyketides, alternariol (27a), alternariol 5-O-sulfate (27b), alternariol 5-O-methyl ether (27c), altenusin (28a), and desmethylaltenusin (28b) (Figure 3b), were isolated from the endophyte *Alternaria* spp. housed in the leaves of *Polygonum senegalense*. All these compounds manifested significant cytotoxicity against L5178Y (mouse lymphoma cells) with EC₅₀ values of 1.7, 4.5, 7.8, 6.8, and 6.2 μ g/mL, respectively [16]. According to another study conducted by Devari et al. in 2014, alternariol 5-O-methyl ether showed antiproliferative activity against HL-60 (human promyelocytic leukemia), A549 (lung cancer), PC-3 (prostate cancer), HeLa (cervical cancer), A431 (skin carcinoma), MiaPaka-2 (pancreatic cancer), and T47D (breast cancer) cell lines. Among all these cell lines, HL-60 (human promyelocytic leukemia) cells were most sensitive (IC₅₀ 85 μ M) to alternariol 5-O-methyl ether [25].

Two novel polyketides, leptosphaerone C (29) and penicillenone (30), are produced by an endophytic fungus *Penicillium* spp. JP-1, isolated from *Aegiceras corniculatum*. Leptosphaerone C showed cytotoxicity to A549 (lung carcinoma epithelial) with an IC₅₀ value of 1.45 μ M, and penicillenone exhibited activity against P388 (leukemia cells) with an IC₅₀ value of 1.38 μ M [103].

Bikaverin (31) was isolated from an endophytic fungus *Fusarium o.* strain CECIS associated with *Cylindropuntia echinocarpa* [77]. It exerted cytotoxic activities against cancer cell lines, MIA PaCa-2 (pancreatic carcinoma), NCI-H460 (non-small cell lung cancer), MCF-7 (human breast cancer), and SF-268 (human CNS cancer) with IC₅₀ values of 0.26, 0.43, 0.42, and 0.38 μ M, respectively, showing selective cytotoxicity toward MIA PaCa-2 and NCI-H460. Bikaverin was also proven to be cytotoxic against EAC (Erich ascites carcinoma), leukemia L5178, and sarcoma 37 cell lines affecting precursor utilization of nucleic acid and protein synthesis [78].

Sequoiatone A (32a) and B (32b), two novel polyketides (Figure 3b), were isolated from a *Sequoia sempervirens* bark endophyte, *Aspergillus p.* These polyketide compounds were tested against 60 diverse human tumor cell lines, and among them, breast cancer cell lines showed the greatest sensitivity [37] (Table 2).

2.2.13. Quinones

Torreyanic acid (33) (Figure 3b), a dimeric quinone, was isolated from an endophyte of *Torreya taxifolia*, *Pestalotiopsis m.* It causes cytotoxicity by apoptosis against A549 (lung carcinoma epithelial) and NEC (human colorectal neuroendocrine cell carcinoma) cell lines with IC₅₀ values of 3.5 µg/mL and 45 µg/mL, respectively [119] (Table 2).

Four endophytes, *Alternaria* spp., *Alternaria a.*, *Aspergillus n.*, and *Penicillium* spp., associated with *Tabebuia argentea*, produced the antitumor and anti-metastatic agent lapachol (34) [17,20–22]. It acts by interfering with the bioactivities of the topoisomerase enzymes, which are crucial for DNA replication [22]. β-Lapachone showed activity on DU145 (human prostate carcinoma) and MCF-7 (breast cancer cell line) cell lines [20,22]. Additionally, its antitumor and anti-metastatic activities were evident in HepG2 (human hepatocellular liver carcinoma) and Hep3B (human hepatoma cell line) cell lines [19]. Notably, *Aspergillus n.* can be used to produce lapachol in a large scale within a short time [18].

Two bianthraquinone derivatives, Alterporriol K (35a) and L (35b), are produced by the endophytic fungus *Alternaria* spp. ZJ9-6B associated with the mangrove *Aegiceras corniculatum*. Alterporriol K and L exerted moderate cytotoxicity against MDA-MB-435 and MCF-7 (breast cancer cell line) cell lines with IC₅₀ values between 13.1 and 29.1 µM [24].

Cercosporin (36) was isolated from the endophytic fungus *Mycosphaerella* spp., associated with *Psychotria horizontalis*, and exhibited cytotoxicity against MCF-7 [91].

Another endophytic fungus, isolated from the *Salvia officinalis* stem, was *Chaetomium* spp., which produced the cytotoxically active agents, cochliodinol (37) and isocochliodinol (38) (Figure 3b). These compounds were tested against the L5178Y (mouse lymphoma cells) cell line where cochliodinol showed higher cytotoxicity (EC₅₀ 7.0 µg/mL) than isocochliodinol (EC₅₀ 71.5 µg/mL) [51] (Table 2).

Azaanthraquinones, 7-desmethylscorpinone (39), and 7-desmethyl-6-methylbostrycoidin (40) (Figure 3b) isolated from *Fusarium s.* showed cytotoxic activity against four human tumor cell lines, MDA MB 231, MIA PaCa2, HeLa, and NCI H1975 [229].

2.2.14. Spirobisnaphthalenes

Mycelia s., an endophytic fungus isolated from the leaves of *Knightia excelsa*, was shown to produce Spiromamakone A (41) (Figure 3b) that exhibited cytotoxicity to P388 (murine leukemia cell line) at an IC₅₀ value 0.33 µM [90] (Table 2).

A novel spirobisnaphthalene, spiropreussione A (42), was isolated from the endophyte *Preussia* spp. associated with *Aquilaria sinensis*. It displayed cytotoxicity to A2780 (human ovarian carcinoma) and BEL-7404 (human liver carcinoma) cell lines with IC₅₀ values of 2.4 and 3.0 µM, respectively [135].

Diepoxin δ (43), palmarumycin C8 (44), and diepoxins κ and ζ were isolated from the endophytic fungus *Berkleasmiium* spp. associated with *Dioscorea zingiberensis*. Diepoxin δ and palmarumycin C8 displayed pronounced cytotoxicity to A-549, A-2780, Bel-7402, BGC-823, and HCT-8 cell lines with IC₅₀ values between 1.28 and 5.83 µM, while diepoxins κ and ζ selectively inhibited A-549 and Bel-7402 cells' growth showing moderate to weak cytotoxicity [44] (Table 2).

2.2.15. Terpenes (Diterpenes, Sesquiterpenes, Triterpenes)

Several terpenes of plant and fungal origin have been established as potential anticancer drugs (Figure 3b, structures 45–54). Among these, paclitaxel (Taxol) (45) was isolated from *Taxus brevifolia* (Pacific yew tree) [230,231]. However, due to less availability of the Pacific yew tree and insignificant yield of this metabolite, scientists have set up other approaches, including tissue culture, chemical synthesis, and semi-synthesis [230,232]. However, this diterpenoid was also reported to be produced by an endophytic fungus, *Taxomyces a.*, isolated from the *Taxus brevifolia* [6]. Following this report, a number of paclitaxel-producing other endophytes were reported. Some of them are *Bartalinia r.* from the leaves of *Aegle marmelos* [42] and *Pestalotiopsis n.* and *Pestalotiopsis v.* from the plant

Taxus cuspidate [73]. This metabolite has been found to induce apoptosis when screened against INT-407, BT220, H116, HL251, and HLK210 cell lines [42] (Table 2).

A fusicoccane diterpene, periconicin B (46), was isolated from a *Xylopiia aromatica* endophyte, *Periconia a.* It exerted potent cytotoxicity against HeLa (cervical cancer) and CHO (Chinese hamster ovary) cell lines [109].

Four sesquiterpens, trichothecolone (47), 7 α -hydroxy-scirpene (48), 8-deoxy-trichothecin (49), and 7 α -hydroxytrichodermol (50), were isolated from an endophyte, KLAR 5, housed in the healthy twig of *Knema laurina*. Compounds 47 and 48 were moderately active against BC-1 (human breast cancer cells), KB (Human nasopharyngeal epidermoid tumor), and NCI-H187 (human small-cell lung cancer cells), whereas compounds 49 and 50 showed selective cytotoxic activity against BC-1 and NCI-H187 [86].

Ent-4(15)-eudesmen-11-ol-1-one (51), an eudesmane sesquiterpene, isolated from an *Etlingera littoralis* endophyte, *Eutypella* spp. BCC 13199, showed weak cytotoxicity against KB, MCF7, NCI-H187, and Vero cells with IC50 values of 32, 20, 11, and 32 μ M, respectively [70].

Two sesquiterpenes, Merulin A (52a) and Merulin C (52b), are produced by a *Xylocarpus granatum* endophytic fungi, XG8D, where both of them showed significant cytotoxic activity against SW620 (colon cancer) and BT474 (breast cancer) cell lines with IC50 values of 4.84 and 4.11 μ g/mL for SW620 and 4.98 and 1.57 μ g/mL for BT474, respectively [151].

Three novel eremophilane-type sesquiterpenes (Figure 3b), eremophilanolides 1, 2, and 3 (53a–53c), were isolated from the endophytic fungi *Xylaria* spp. BCC 21097 of the *Licuala spinose* plant and were moderately cytotoxic against KB, MCF-7, and NCI-H187 cell lines [152].

Tauranin (54) is produced by a *Platyclusus orientalis* endophyte, *Phyllosticta s.*, exhibiting cytotoxicity against MCF-7 (breast cancer), MIA Pa Ca-2 (pancreatic carcinoma), NCI-H460 (non-small cell lung cancer), PC-3 M (metastatic prostate cancer), and SF-268 (CNS cancer- glioma) cell lines with IC50 values of 1.5, 2.8, 4.3, 3.5, and 1.8 μ M, respectively [133] (Table 2).

2.2.16. Xanthonenes

Phomoxanthone A (55a) and B (55b) (Figure 3b), isolated from the endophyte *Phomopsis* spp. BCC 1323 associated with *Tectona grandis*, exerted significant cytotoxicity against KB, BC-1, and nonmalignant Vero cells with IC50 values of 0.99, 0.51, and 1.4 μ g/mL, respectively, for phomoxanthone A and 4.1, 0.70, and 1.8 μ g/mL, respectively, for phomoxanthone B [129] (Table 2).

2.3. Recently Reported Metabolites with Potential Cytotoxicity and the Case of Fusarubin

More than one hundred metabolites have been isolated and evaluated for putative anticancer activities in the years 2018 to 2020. Cytotoxic activities of these endophytic metabolites have been summarized in Table 3. Among the reported metabolites, penicillinate A isolated from *Bionectria* spp. [159] and pyrrocidine A isolated from *Cylindrocarpon* spp. [166] exhibited potent cytotoxicity against the human ovarian cancer cell line A2780. Fusarithioamide B, a new type benzamide, isolated from *Fusarium c.*, showed potent activity against several cell lines [160]. 3-(4-nitrophenyl)-5-phenyl isoxazole was reported to have a potent effect against HepG2 and SMCC-7721 cells [161], while spiciferone F was reported to have a strong effect against MCF7 [162]. Liu et al. isolated two metabolites, namely xylariphthalide A and *cis*-4-hydroxy-6-deoxytalone, and Sharma V. et al. isolated Xylarolide A from *Diaporthe* spp. [163,164]. All these metabolites showed activity towards cancer cells. Three naphthaquinones, anhydrofusarubin, fusarubin, and 3-deoxyfusarubin, and one aza-anthraquinone, bostrycoidin, have potentiality as bioactive compounds against cytotoxicity on vero cells. These metabolites were isolated from a *Fusarium s.* strain isolated from *Casia alata*. [8]. Monolinolein, bafilomycin D, and 3'-hydroxydaidzein displayed a strong effect against A549 cells. These metabolites were isolated from actinomycete strain

YBQ59 residing in *Cinnamomum cassia* [167]. *Colletotrichum g.* A12 produced colletotricone A, which showed moderate activity against MCF-7, NCI-H460, HepG-2m and SF-268 tumor cell lines [168]. Mollicellin G, a depsidone, was reported as a moderately active cytotoxic metabolite towards HepG2 and Hela cells [169]. A metabolite of *Pestalotiopsis* spp., named demethylcisterol A3, showed potential cytotoxicity against human cancer cell lines Hela, A549, and HepG [170].

A new type of cytochalasin, named jamosporin A, isolated from endophytic fungi *Rosellinia s.-c.*, exhibited cytotoxic potential towards MOLT-4 cells [165]. Prenylated diphenyl ethers, namely diorcinol N and analogues isolated from *Arthrinium a.* TE-3, showed moderate cytotoxicity against the human monocytic cell line (THP-1 cell line), with IC50 values of 40.2, 28.3, and 25.9 μM , respectively [233].

An indole diterpenoid, shearilicine, isolated from *Penicillium* spp. (strain ZO-R1-1) of *Zingiber officinale*, showed potent cytotoxicity towards L5178Y cells and A2780 cells [171]. Flavipin from *Chaetomium g.* displayed activity against A549, HT-29, and MCF-7 cells [172]. Emodin, an anthraquinone from *Diaporthe l.*, significantly inhibited the growth of murine leukemia P-388 cells [219].

Recently reported metabolites, namely chloroisosulochrin from *Pestalotiopsis t.* (N635) [206], cytosporin W from *Pseudopestalotiopsis t.* [207], terezine E and 14-hydroxyterezine D from *Mucor* spp. [208], citrinin (CIT) and dicitrinin-A from *Penicillium c.* [209], allantopyrone E from *Aspergillus v.* [210], integracin A and B from *Cytospora* spp. [211], (\pm)-asperteretone F (3a/3b), and compound 6 (name not established in the paper) *Aspergillus t.* [212], sterigmatocystin, a xanthone, from *Paecilomyces* spp. TE-540 [213], mutolide [234] and pramanicin A from *Aplosporella j.* [216], myrothecines H and I from *Paramyrothecium r.* A697 [217], and colletotrichalactone A and colletotrichalactone Ca from *Colletotrichum* spp. JS-0361, exhibited promising activity against different cancer cells [218]. A summary of the putative cytotoxic effects of recently reported endophytic fungal metabolites are summarized in Table 3.

Fusarubin and anhydrofusarubin have been isolated from the endophytic fungi *Cladosporium* residing inside *Rauwolfia* leaves. These compounds inhibited the cell growth of different leukemia cell lines (OCI-AML3, HL-60, U937, and Jurkat) by arresting the cell cycle and augmenting apoptosis. Whereas fusarubin exerted an antiproliferative effect on OCI-AML3 cells by up-regulating p21 in a p53-dependent manner, apoptosis was induced only in a small sub-population of leukemic cells by inducing the production of the Fas ligand (Figure 4) [9].

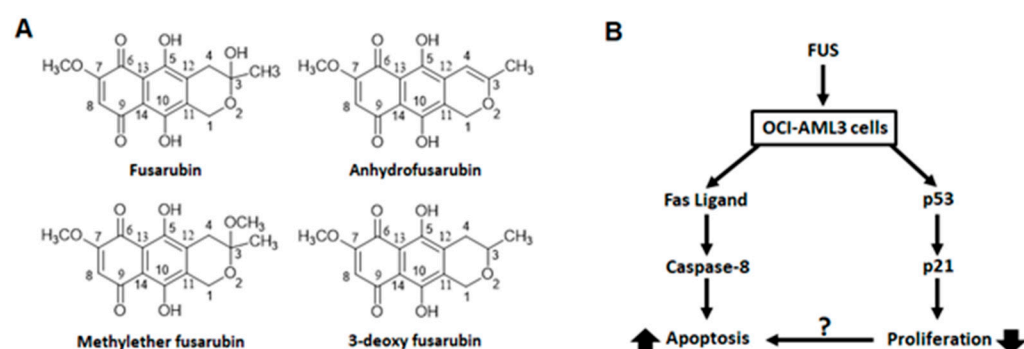


Figure 4. Fusarubin (FUS) and FUS analogues with proposed mechanism of action. (A) Structures of FUS derivatives and (B) Proposed mechanism of action of FUS on OCI-AML3 cells.

3. Conclusions

Several hundred endophytic fungal metabolites have been isolated to have cytotoxic and antimicrobial effects. Many metabolites are currently available as drugs on the market. Given that plants host endophytes as part of a symbiotic relationship, some plant metabolites might have an endophytic fungal origin. In fact, increasing evidence indicates that some of these plant metabolites are also produced by fungi. Many of the isolated

metabolites of endophytic fungi inhabitant medicinal plants have been proved to have cytotoxic effects in vitro. Several of these compounds have been investigated at the molecular level to elucidate the mechanism, since these metabolites are produced in very small quantities by endophytes of plant origin. Due to very insignificant yields and isolation difficulties, these secondary metabolites may not be available to carry out in vivo studies in animal models. Some laboratories applied synthetic approaches to produce natural product derivatives, and one group also tried to synthesize some of these compounds. Optimizing derivatization and synthetic approaches is critical to attain higher yields for animal studies. These approaches will be key for investigating and developing these putative anticancer compounds into treatments.

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Abbreviations

Fungus Name	Abbreviation
<i>Allantophomopsis lycopodina</i>	<i>Allantophomopsis l.</i>
<i>Alternaria alternata</i>	<i>Alternaria a.</i>
<i>Alternaria tenuissima</i>	<i>Alternaria t.</i>
<i>Aspergillus clavatus</i>	<i>Aspergillus c.</i>
<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>	<i>Aspergillus f.</i>
<i>Aspergillus glaucus</i>	<i>Aspergillus g.</i>
<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	<i>Aspergillus n.</i>
<i>Aspergillus parasiticus</i>	<i>Aspergillus p.</i>
<i>Aspergillus terreus</i>	<i>Aspergillus t.</i>
<i>Aspergillus violaceofuscus</i>	<i>Aspergillus v.</i>
<i>Bartalinia robillardoides</i>	<i>Bartalinia r.</i>
<i>Bionectria ochroleuca</i>	<i>Bionectria o.</i>
<i>Bipolaris setariae</i>	<i>Bipolaris s.</i>
<i>Botryosphaeria dothidea</i>	<i>Botryosphaeria d.</i>
<i>Botryosphaeria rhodina</i>	<i>Botryosphaeria r.</i>
<i>Ceriporia lacerate</i>	<i>Ceriporia l.</i>
<i>Chaetomium chiversii</i>	<i>Chaetomium c.</i>
<i>Chaetomium globosum</i>	<i>Chaetomium g.</i>
<i>Cladosporium cladosporioides</i>	<i>Cladosporium c.</i>
<i>Cladosporium oxysporum</i>	<i>Cladosporium o.</i>
<i>Colletotrichum capsici</i>	<i>Colletotrichum c.</i>
<i>Colletotrichum gloeosporioides</i>	<i>Colletotrichum g.</i>
<i>Cordyceps taii</i>	<i>Cordyceps t.</i>
<i>Diaporthe terebinthifolii</i>	<i>Diaporthe t.</i>
<i>Entrophospora infrequens</i>	<i>Entrophospora i.</i>
<i>Fusarium oxysporum</i>	<i>Fusarium o.</i>
<i>Fusarium solani</i>	<i>Fusarium s.</i>
<i>Guignardia bidwellii</i>	<i>Guignardia b.</i>
<i>Guignardia mangiferae</i>	<i>Guignardia m.</i>
<i>Hypocrea lixii</i>	<i>Hypocrea l.</i>
<i>Hypoxyton truncatum</i>	<i>Hypoxyton t.</i>
<i>Lasiodiplodia theobromae</i>	<i>Lasiodiplodia t.</i>
<i>Mycelia sterilia</i>	<i>Mycelia s.</i>
<i>Microsphaeropsis arundinis</i>	<i>Microsphaeropsis a.</i>
<i>Myrothecium roridum</i>	<i>Myrothecium r.</i>

<i>Neurospora crassa</i>	<i>Neurospora c.</i>
<i>Papulaspora immersa</i>	<i>Papulaspora i.</i>
<i>Paraconiothyrium brasiliense</i>	<i>Paraconiothyrium b.</i>
<i>Penicillium chermesinum</i>	<i>Penicillium ch.</i>
<i>Penicillium citrinum</i>	<i>Penicillium ci.</i>
<i>Periconia atropurpurea</i>	<i>Periconia a.</i>
<i>Pestalotiopsis fici</i>	<i>Pestalotiopsis f.</i>
<i>Pestalotiopsis karstenii</i>	<i>Pestalotiopsis k.</i>
<i>Pestalotiopsis microspora</i>	<i>Pestalotiopsis m.</i>
<i>Pestalotiopsis pauciseta</i>	<i>Pestalotiopsis pa.</i>
<i>Pestalotiopsis photinae</i>	<i>Pestalotiopsis ph.</i>
<i>Pestalotiopsis terminaliae</i>	<i>Pestalotiopsis t.</i>
<i>Pestalotiopsis versicolor</i>	<i>Pestalotiopsis v.</i>
<i>Pestalotiopsis neglecta</i>	<i>Pestalotiopsis n.</i>
<i>Phialocephala fortinii</i>	<i>Phialocephala f.</i>
<i>Phialophora mustea</i>	<i>Phialophora m.</i>
<i>Phoma betae</i>	<i>Phoma b.</i>
<i>Phomopsis longicolla</i>	<i>Phomopsis l.</i>
<i>Phyllosticta spinarum</i>	<i>Phyllosticta s.</i>
<i>Rhizopycnis vagum</i>	<i>Rhizopycnis v.</i>
<i>Rhytidhysteron rufulum</i>	<i>Rhytidhysteron r.</i>
<i>Setophoma terrestris</i>	<i>Setophoma t.</i>
<i>Stemphylium sedicola</i>	<i>Stemphylium s.</i>
<i>Stemphylium globuliferum</i>	<i>Stemphylium g.</i>
<i>Talaromyces flavus</i>	<i>Talaromyces f.</i>
<i>Talaromyces radicus</i>	<i>Talaromyces r.</i>
<i>Taxomyces andreanae</i>	<i>Taxomyces a.</i>
<i>Thielavia subthermophila</i>	<i>Thielavia s.</i>
<i>Trametes hirsuta</i>	<i>Trametes h.</i>
<i>Trichoderma gamsii</i>	<i>Trichoderma g.</i>
<i>Xylaria cf. cubensis</i>	<i>Xylaria cf. c.</i>

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