## **Supporting Information**

Preparation of apoastaxanthinals and evaluation of their anti-inflammatory action against lipopolysaccharide-stimulated macrophages and adipocytes

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## Figure S1. Synthesis of apo-15-astaxanthinal



NaOMe (5.18 M in MeOH; 0.29 mL, 1.50 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of phosphonium salt A (Yamano et al., 2001) (520 mg, 1.00 mmol) and acetal-aldehyde B (Martin et al., 1999) (184 mg, 1.00 mmol) in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> (7 mL) at room temperature (rt). After being stirred at rt for 10 min, the mixture was quenched by addition of saturated aq. NH<sub>4</sub>Cl and extracted with AcOEt. The extracts were washed with brine and evaporated. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> (1.5 M in H<sub>2</sub>O: 0.33 mL, 0.50 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of the resulting residue in THF (10 mL), MeOH (1 mL) and H<sub>2</sub>O (1 mL) at rt and stirring was continued for a further 30 min. After being quenched by addition of saturated aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub>, the mixture was extracted with AcOEt. The extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated to give a residue, which was purified by flash silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt-*n*-hexane, 3:5 to MeOH-AcOEt-*n*-hexane, 0.1:5:5) to provide an isomeric mixture of condensed products (109 mg, 34% from A). This was then purified by preparative HPLC (COSMOSIL 5CN-MS  $20 \times 250$  mm; AcOEt-*n*-hexane, 2:8) to give all-*E*-apo-15-astaxanthinal (48 mg, 15% from A) as a yellow viscous oil: UV (EtOH) λ 236, 292, 378 nm; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 3497 (OH), 1658 (conj. C=O), 1609 and 1585 (C=C) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.20 and 1.33 (each 3H, s, 1-gem-Me), 1.83 (3H, br t, J 13, 2-Hax), 1.93 (3H, d, J 0.5, 5-Me), 2.06 (3H, d, J 0.5, 9-Me), 2.17 (1H, dd, J 5.5, 13, 2-H<sub>eq</sub>), 2.34 (3H, d, J 1.5, 13-Me), 3.66 (1H, br s, OH), 4.34 (1H, br dd, J 5.5, 14, 3-H), 6.01 (1H, br d, J 8, 14-H), 6.32 (1H, br d, J 11.5, 10-H), 6.34 (1H, br d, J 16, 7-H), 6.40 (1H, d, J 16, 8-H), 6.46 (1H, d, J 15, 12-H), 7.11 (1H, dd, J 11.5, 15, 11-H), 10.13 (1H, d, J 8, CHO); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 12.85 (9-Me), 13.11 (13-Me), 13.89 (5-Me), 26.05 and 30.63 (1-gem-Me), 36.78 (C1), 45.36 (C2), 69.22 (C3), 125.93 (C7), 127.46 (C5), 129.97 (C14), 131.43 (C11), 133.13 (C10), 136.95 (C12), 139.13 (C9), 141.19 (C8), 135.91 (C13), 161.56 (C6), 191.09 (CHO), 200.42 (C4) ; HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 337.1774, found 337.1776.

Figure S2. Synthesis of (2E,4E)-6,6-Dimethoxy-2-methylhexa-2,4-dienal



To a solution of hydroxy-aldehyde **C** (Barrero et al., 2011) (960 mg, 7.6 mmol) and HC(OMe)<sub>3</sub> (1.25 mL, 11.4 mmol) in MeOH (10 mL) was added *p*-TsOH•H<sub>2</sub>O (29 mg, 0.15 mmol) at 0 °C. After being stirred at 0 °C for 10 min, the mixture was quenched by addition of saturated aq. NaHCO<sub>3</sub> and extracted with AcOEt. The extracts were washed with brine, dried over Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> and evaporated. The resulting crude acetal was dissolved in ether (10 mL) and *n*-hexane (10 mL), and NaHCO<sub>3</sub> (100 mg) and MnO<sub>2</sub> (5.0 g) were added to it. After being stirred at rt for 2 h, the mixture was filtered through a pad of Celite and washed with AcOEt. The filtrate was evaporated to give a residue, which was purified by flash CC (acetone–*n*-hexane, 1:2) to provide acetal-aldehyde **D** (876 mg, 68% for 2 steps) as a colorless oil: UV (EtOH)  $\lambda$  269 nm; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 1680 (conj. C=O), 1644 and 1608 (C=C) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.88 (3H, s, 2-Me), 3.37 (6H, s, OMe × 2), 4.98 (1H, d, *J* 4, 6-H), 6.12 (1H, m, 5-H), 6.80–6.92 (2H, m, 3-H and 4-H), 9.49 (1H, s, CHO); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  9.52, 52.71 (C × 2), 101.31, 128.16, 138.10, 139.26, 146.62, 194.99; HRMS (ESI) *m/z* calcd for C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>15</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 171.1016, found 171.1018.

Figure S3. Synthesis of apo-14'-astaxanthinal



In the same manner as described for the preparation of apo-15-astaxanthinal, phosphonium salt A (520 mg, 1.00 mmol) was condensed with acetal-aldehyde D (170 mg, 1.00 mmol) and subsequently hydrolyzed with acid. The resulting crude products were purified by flash silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt-*n*-hexane-CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 1.5:4:4 to 2:2:4) and then preparative HPLC (COSMOSIL 5CN-MS  $20 \times 250$  mm; AcOEt-n-hexane, 2:8) to give all-E-apo-14'-astaxanthinal (6.5 mg, 2% from A) as an orange foam. The 1H NMR spectral data were identical with those reported (Etoh et al., 2012): UV-VIS (EtOH) λ 312, 405 nm; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 3504 (OH), 1668 (conj. C=O), 1603, 1587 and 1573 (C=C) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 1.21 and 1.33 (each 3H, s, 1-gem-Me), 1.82 (1H, br t, J 13.5, 2-Hax), 1.93 (3H, d, J 0.5, 5-Me), 2.04 (3H, br s, 9-Me), 2.12 (3H, d, J 0.5, 13-Me), 2.17 (1H, dd, J 5, 13, 2-Heq), 3.67 (1H, d J 1.5, OH), 4.33 (1H, br dd, J 5, 13.5, 3-H), 6.21 (1H, dd, J 8, 15, 15'-H), 6.30 (1H, br d, J 16, 7-H), 6.30 (1H, br d, J 11.5, 10-H), 6.40 (1H, br d, J 12, 14-H), 6.41 (1H, d, J 16, 8-H), 6.47 (1H, d, J 15, 12-H), 6.90 (1H, dd, J 11.5, 15, 11-H), 7.51 (1H, dd, J 12, 15, 15-H), 9.63 (1H, d, J 8, CHO) <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 12.77 (9-Me), 13.29 (13-Me), 13.96 (5-Me), 26.11 and 30.69 (1-gem-Me), 36.82 (C1), 45.40 (C2), 69.24 (C3), 125.00 (C7), 127.25 (C5), 128.86 (C11), 129.80 (C14), 131.57 (C15'), 133.96 (C10), 137.45 (C9), 137.95 (C12), 141.62 (C8), 145.93 (C13), 147.11 (C15), 161.94 (C6), 193.50 (CHO), 200.45 (C4); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>22</sub>H<sub>29</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [M+H]<sup>+</sup> 341.2111, found 341.2019.

Figure S4. Synthesis of apo-12'-astaxanthinal



In the same manner as described for the preparation of apo-15-astaxanthinal, phosphonium salt A (540 mg, 1.05 mmol) was condensed with acetal-aldehyde E (Bernhard et al., 1998) (250 mg, 1.00 mmol) and subsequently hydrolyzed with acid. The resulting crude products were purified by flash silica gel column chromatography (AcOEt-n-hexane-CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, 1.5:4:4 to 2:3:4) to provide all-E-apo-12'-astaxanthinal (103 mg, 26% from A) as red-orange solids: UV-VIS (EtOH) λ 431 nm; IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>) v 3496 (OH), 1660 (conj. C=O), 1611, 1594, 1579 and 1547 (C=C) cm<sup>-1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  1.21 and 1.33 (each 3H, s, 1-gem-Me), 1.82 (1H, br t, J = 13.5, 2-H<sub>ax</sub>), 1.89 (3H, br s, 13'-Me), 1.94 (3H, br s, 5-Me), 2.02 (3H, br s, 9-Me), 2.06 (3H, br s, 13-Me), 2.16 (1H, dd, J 5.5, 12.5, 2-H<sub>eq</sub>), 3.68 (1H, d, J 2, OH), 4.33 (1H, ddd, J 2, 5.5, 14, 3-H), 6.26 (1H, br d, J 16, 7-H), 6.31 (1H, br d, J 11.5, 10-H), 6.35 (1H, br d, J 12, 14-H), 6.42 (1H, d, J 16, 8-H), 6.46 (1H, d, J 15, 12-H), 6.72 (1H, dd, J 11.5, 14.5, 15'-H), 6.78 (1H, dd, J 11.5, 15, 11-H), 6.96 (1H, br d, J 11.5, 14'-H), 7.03 (1H, dd, J 12, 14.5, 15-H), 9.47 (1H, s, CHO); <sup>13</sup>C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 9.63 (13'-Me), 12.66 (9-Me), 13.03 (13-Me), 13.95 (5-Me), 26.11 and 30.70 (1-gem-Me), 36.79 (C1), 45.38 (C2), 69.21 (C3), 124.19 (C7), 126.77 (C11), 127.03 (C5), 128.18 (C15'), 132.19 (C14), 134.54 (C10), 136.06 (C9), 137.30 (C15), 137.38 (C13'), 138.82 (C12), 141.12 (C13), 141.94 (C8), 148.53 (C14'), 162.02 (C6), 194.44 (CHO), 200.43 (C4); HRMS (ESI) m/z calcd for C<sub>25</sub>H<sub>33</sub>O<sub>3</sub>Na [M+Na]<sup>+</sup> 403.2244, found 403.2249.

Figure S5. Pictures of differentiated 3T3-L1 adipocytes at Day 10.



3T3-L1 preadipocytes (ATCC CL-173, passage number 4) were cultured in DMEM with 10% FBS containing 100  $\mu$ g/mL streptomycin and 100 U/mL penicillin. To differentiate, 3T3-L1 cells reaching confluence (on day 2) were replaced in flesh DMEM with 1  $\mu$ M dexamethasone, 500  $\mu$ M IBMX, and 10  $\mu$ g/mL insulin. After incubated for two days (on day 4), the media were replaced to flesh DMEM with 5  $\mu$ g/mL insulin. The insulin-containing media were changed every two days. On day 10, the cells were stained by Oil Red O.

Figure S6. mRNA expression data of inflammatory cytokines in co-culturing of RAW264.7 macrophages and 3T3-L1 adipocytes



Contact coculture of RAW264.7 and 3T3-L1 cells (day 10) in the presence or absence of carotenoids (5  $\mu$ M for 24 h). *Il1b* and *Ccl2* mRNA levels were evaluated by quantitative PCR methods. *Actb* was used as the endogenous control. Data are represented as the mean  $\pm$  SEM (n=3) with different letters (p < 0.05). Apo11: apo-11-astaxanthinal. Apo14': apo-14'-astaxanthinal. Apo12': apo-12'-astaxanthinal. Apo10': apo-10'-astaxanthinal. Apo8': apo-8'-astaxanthinal. Ax: astaxanthin.