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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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Qingqianliusus A-N, 3,4-*seco*-dammarane triterpenoids from the leaves of *Cyclocarya paliurus* and their biological activities

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KEYWORDS

Cyclocarya paliurus; Juglandaceae; Qinqianliusu; 3 4*-seco*-dammarane triterpenoids; Anti-hypoglycemic; Anti-inflammatory **Abstract** Fourteen previously unreported 3,4-*seco*-dammarane triterpenoids named Qingqianliusus A-N (1–14), along with four known 3,4-*seco*-dammarane triterpenoid derivatives (15–18) were isolated from the 95 % ethanol extract of the *Cyclocarya paliurus* leaves. Compounds 1 and 2 possess a rare 3,11-heptacyclic lactone as natural product, and several pairs of the 3,4-*seco*-dammarane triterpenoid epimers with *R/S* configuration at C-24 were investigated and determined in detail for the first time. Compounds 8, 11, and 14 showed good α -glucosidase inhibitory effects with IC₅₀ values of 4.97 \pm 0.63, 7.08 \pm 0.53, and 3.76 \pm 0.77 μ M, respectively. Meanwhile, compound 11 was also found potent inhibition rate of 35.83 % against COX-2, as compared with the positive control celecoxib (70.28 %). In addition, compounds 3, 7, 10, and 13 exhibited outstanding cytotoxicities against human gastric cancer cell lines (BGC-823) with IC₅₀ values of 7.69 \pm 0.21, 8.47 \pm 0.41, 9.04 \pm 0.61, and 8.86 \pm 0.38 μ M, respectively. Compounds 13 and 3 had modest activities on human colon cancer cell lines (HCT-116) with IC₅₀ values of 8.80 \pm 0.36 and 9.45 \pm 0.93 μ M, respectively.

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1. Introduction

Cyclocarya paliurus (Batalin) Iljinskaja (family: Juglandaceae), also known as "Qingqianliu" in Chinese, is now widely distributed in most areas of the south of the Yangtze River such as Hunan, Jiangxi, Hubei, Jiangxi, Sichuan, Guizhou, Guangxi, and Yunnan (Xie et al., 2010; Yang et al., 1992). As a precious species, its leaves have long history of being used as food resources and health care medicines. In Hunan folk medicine, Qingqianliu were used to slake thirst as a drink, and also called *Sweet Tea* due to sweet taste (Kennelly et al., 1995). More-

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over, according to the "Resources of Traditional Chinese Medicine", it has the potential therapy to clear heat, reduce swelling and relieve pain. In August 2013, Qingqianliu also were approved by the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China to become a new raw food material (Xie et al., 2015; Xie et al., 2018). Until 2017, Many enterprises exploited and developed the leaves of the title plant into health products with health care function of blood sugar, blood lipids, and blood pressure regulations, together with weight loss (https://db.yaozh.com/baojian).

In our previous study, > 210 compounds have been reported from the title plant (Chen et al., 2022). Among them, the largest number of characteristic 3,4-seco-dammarane triterpenoids could be proved as quality markers to identify the plant (Cui and Li, 2012). They can also be considered as the major active and functional constituents in Qingqianliu with anti-hyperglycemic (Li et al., 2021; Li et al., 2012; Sun et al., 2020b; Yang et al., 2018; Zhou et al., 2021), antiinflammatory (Li et al., 2021; Liu et al., 2020), cytotoxic (Chen et al., 2018; Sun et al., 2020a; Zhou et al., 2021), anti-hyperlipidemic (Wu et al., 2017; Yang et al., 2018), and anti-microbial (Kennelly et al., 1995) activities. Obviously, our previous researches have illustrated the cytotoxic capability of 3,4-seco-dammarane triterpenoids isolated from 80 % ethanol extract of Qingqianliu (Chen et al., 2018). The aim of this study focused on further chemical constituents and pharmacological activities to provide deeper insights into Qingqianliu as a nutraceutical additive or raw food material (Ning et al., 2019; Xie et al., 2018). On this basis, fourteen undescribed 3,4seco-dammarane triterpenoids (1-14, Fig. 1) were extracted and separated from the chloroform extract of Qingqianliu. Moreover, their

structures were elucidated through X-ray crystallography and extensive spectroscopic methods. Compounds (1–14) were tested for their biological properties on α -glucosidase inhibition, COX-2 inhibition, and cytotoxic activities.

2. Material and methods

2.1. General and solvents

UV spectra were recorded with Hewlett-Packard 8452A, UVvis spectrophotometer (L.P., Palo Alto, Ca, USA). Using a Frontier infrared spectrometer to record IR spectra (PerkinElmer, U.S.A). HR-ESI-MS spectra were performed on Xevo G2-S QTOF mass spectrometer (Waters Co., Milford, MA, USA), 6500 series Q-TOF mass spectrometer (Agilent Co., USA) and LTQ Orbitrap Velos Pro MS (Thermo Scientific, MA, USA). The single Crystal X-ray diffraction data were obtained using a SuperNova, Dual, Cu at zero, AtlasS2 diffractometer (Rigaku Co., Japan). 1D and 2D NMR spectra were acquired on a Bruker Avance DRX-600 MHz spectrometer (Bruker Co., Billerica, MA, USA) at room temperature with CD₃OD as solvent. The absolute configuration of the sugar moiety was detected by HPLC analysis at 210 nm using C18 columns (5 μ m, 4.6 \times 250 mm, Agilent, Palo Alto, CA, USA) on Agilent 1260 series HPLC instrument (Agilent, Palo Alto, CA, USA). Semi preparative HPLC was carried out on



Fig. 1 Structure of compounds 1–18 isolated from Qingqianliu.

Agilent 1260 series semi preparative HPLC instrument (Agilent, Palo Alto, CA, USA) by using C18 columns (5 mm, 9.4 \times 150 mm) with a flow rate of 2 mL/min. All analytical-grade solvents were bought from Merck KGaA (Darmstadt, Germany). Besides, chemical solvent were obtained from Shanghai Titan Scientific Co., ltd. P. R. China and silica gel (300–400 mesh) for column chromatographic were purchased from Qingdao Marine Chemical Inc. P. R. China. Similarly, Sephadex LH-20 gel were bought from GE Health care, Sweden and Lichrospher RP-18 gel (20–45 μ m) from Merck KGaA (Darmstadt, Germany).

2.2. Plant material

The leaves of *Cyclocarya paliurus* (Batalin) Iljinskaja were purchased from Huaihua, Hunan Province, People's Republic of China, in June 2015, and authenticated by Prof. Wei Wang of Hunan University of Chinese Medicine. The voucher specimen (No. 20150629) was preserved in the TCM and Ethnomedicine Innovation & Development Laboratory, School of Pharmacy, Hunan University of Chinese Medicine, People's Republic of China.

2.3. Extraction and isolation

The crude extract (4 Kg) was extracted from Qingqianliu (20.0 Kg) using 95 % ethanol percolation for three times at room temperature. Afterwards, the ethanol extract was suspended in water and then extracted with petroleum ether (PE), chloroform (CHCl₃), and n-butanol (n-BuOH) respectively. The chloroform layer (980.0 g) was subjected to silica gel column (60 \times 15.5 cm) chromatography eluted with CH₂Cl₂-CH₃OH (0:1-1:1) to gain nineteen fractions (Fr. E1-E19). Fraction E7 (5.2 g) was purified using silica gel column (60 \times 15.5 cm) chromatography eluted with CYH-EA (0:1-1:1) and reverse-phase HPLC (2.0 mL/min, MeCN-H₂O, 7.0:3.0) afforded 10 (4.0 mg) and 14 (4.0 mg). Combined fractions E8 and E9 named fractions E8-9 (33.9 g), which through silica gel column with PE-EA (0:1-1:1) to give thirteen fractions (Fr. F1-F13). Sub fraction F9 (2.5 g) through silica gel column chromatography yield 1 (12.5 mg), 2 (7.0 mg), 3 (15.2 mg), 4 (5.8 mg), 5 (4.1 mg), 11 (4.4 mg), 12 (27.4 mg), and 13 (32.4 mg). Similarly, fraction F10 (4.6 g) was subjected using Sephadex LH-20 column (4 \times 77 cm) chromatography eluted with CH₃OH and reverse-phase HPLC (2.0 mL/min, MeCN-0.01 % F₃CCOOH-H₂O, 6.5:3.5) to produce 6 (9.1 mg), 7 (4.4 mg), 8 (3.8 mg), 9 (17.9 mg), 15 (4.0 mg), and 18 (8.2 mg). Compounds 16 (5.2 mg) and 17 (4.2 mg) were separated from fraction E13 (10.0 g) via silica gel column (60 \times 15.5 cm) chromatography eluted with CYH-EA (0:1-1:1) and purified by reverse-phase HPLC (2.0 mL/min, MeCN-H₂O, 7.0:3.0).

2.3.1. Qingqianliusu A (1)

Colorless cubic crystal; mp 169 ~ 171°C; [α]23 D = + 67.0 (*c* 0.19, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ^{max} (log ε): 204 (3.93) nm; IR (ν_{max}): 3369, 2950, 2959, 2930, 2907, 1728 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS *m*/*z* 495.3450 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₀H₄₈O₄Na, 495.3450).

2.3.2. Qingqianliusu B (2)

Colorless amorphous powder; $[\alpha]23 \text{ D} = + 76.0 \ (c \ 0.25, \text{MeOH}); \text{ UV (MeOH)} \ \lambda^{\text{max}} \ (\log \epsilon): 203 \ (3.71) \text{ nm}; \text{ IR } (\nu_{\text{max}}): 3407, 2944, 2873, 1709 \ \text{cm}^{-1}; \ ^{1}\text{H} \ \text{and} \ ^{13}\text{C} \ \text{NMR} \ (\text{CD}_{3}\text{OD}, \text{Tables 1 and 2}); \text{HR-ESI-MS } m/z \ 495.3451 \ [M + \text{Na}]^{+} \ (\text{calcd.} \ \text{for } \text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_{4}\text{Na}, 495.3450).$

2.3.3. Qingqianliusu C (3)

Colorless powder; $[\alpha]23 \text{ D} = + 38.5 (c \ 0.29, \text{ MeOH})$; UV (MeOH) λ^{max} (log ε): 204 (3.91) nm; IR (ν_{max}): 3408, 2963, 2871, 1717 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS m/z 527.3712 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₁H₅₂-O₅Na, 527.3712).

2.3.4. Qingqianliusu D (4)

Colorless amorphous powder; $[\alpha]23 \text{ D} = + 36.0 \ (c \ 0.25, MeOH); UV (MeOH) \lambda^{max} (log <math>\varepsilon$): 203 (3.84) nm; IR (ν_{max}): 3358, 2944, 2878, 1732 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS *m*/*z* 527.3719 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₁H₅₂O₅Na, 527.3712).

2.3.5. Qingqianliusu E (5)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]23 D = + 39.4 (c 0.33, MeOH);$ UV (MeOH) λ^{max} (log ε): 203 (3.81) nm; IR (v_{max}): 3269, 2940, 2868, 1734 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS m/z 527.3717 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₁H₅₂O₅-Na, 527.3712).

2.3.6. Qingqianliusu F (6)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]23 D = + 39.9 (c 0.28, MeOH)$. UV (MeOH) λ^{max} (log ε): 204 (4.00) nm; IR (v_{max}): 3364, 2950, 2943, 2868, 1732 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS *m*/*z* 511.3764 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₁-H₅₂O₄Na, 511.3763).

2.3.7. Qingqianliusu G (7)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]23 D = + 36.0 (c 0.22, MeOH);$ UV (MeOH) λ^{max} (log ε): 203 (3.69) nm; IR (v_{max}): 3388, 2949, 2869, 1712 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS m/z 497.3589 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₀H₅₀O₄-Na, 497.3607).

2.3.8. Qingqianliusu H (8)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]23 D = + 14.3 (c \ 0.21, MeOH);$ UV (MeOH) λ^{max} (log ε): 204 (3.76) nm; IR (v_{max}): 3432, 2937, 2868, 1708, 1692 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS m/z 511.3382 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₀-H₄₈O₅Na, 511.3399).

2.3.9. Qingqianliusu I (9)

Colorless amorphous powder; $[\alpha]23 \text{ D} = + 33.2 \ (c \ 0.21, \text{MeOH})$; UV (MeOH) λ^{max} (log ε): 204 (3.89) nm; IR (ν_{max}): 3259, 2949, 2875, 1735 cm⁻¹. ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS m/z 541.3869 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₂H₅₄O₅Na, 541.3868).

2.3.10. Qingqianliusu J (10)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]23 \text{ D} = + 7.2$ (*c* 0.29, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ^{max} (log ε): 204 (3.95) nm; IR (v_{max}): 3351, 2927,

No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
la	1.78 (m)	1.78 (m)	2.35 (m)	2.35 (m)	2.35 (m)	1.61 (m)	1.61 (m)	1.49 (m)	1.62 (m, 2H)	1.63 (m, 2H)	1.63 (m, 2H)	1.63 (m, 2H)	1.63 (m, 2H)	1.63 (m, 2H)
1b	1.33 (<i>t</i> -like, 13.5)	1.32 (<i>t</i> -like, 13.5)	1.54 (m)	1.56 (m)	1.55 (m)	1.59 (m)	1.59 (m)	0.86 (m))		
2a	2.81 (dd, 15.4, 12.7)	2.81 (dd, 15.7, 12.4)	2.64 (m)	2.64 (m)	2.63 (m)	2.39 (m)	2.34 (m)	2.59 (ddd, 16.0, 12.1, 4.0)	2.38 (m)	2.37 (m)	2.38 (m)	2.38 (m)	2.38 (m)	2.38 (m)
2b	2.30 (dd, 15.4, 8.1)	2.30 (dd, 15.4, 8.1)	2.33 (m)	2.34 (m)	2.34 (m)	2.21 (m)	2.15 (m)	2.12 (ddd, 16.0, 12.1, 5.5)	2.21 (m)	2.20 (m)	2.21 (m)	2.20 (m)	2.20 (m)	2.21 (m)
5	1.87 (m)	1.87 (m)	2.07 (dd, 12.9, 3.4)	2.07 (dd, 12.1, 4.1)	2.07 (dd, 12.8, 3.4)	2.05 (dd, 12.8, 3.2)	2.05 (dd, 12.7, 3.1)	2.74 (dd, 13.2, 3.2)	2.05 (m)	2.05 (m)	2.06 (m)	2.06 (m)	2.06 (m)	2.05 (m)
6a	2.02 (qd, 13.2, 4.0)	2.00 (qd, 13.3, 3.9)	1.88 (m)	1.88 (m)	1.87 (m)	1.90 (m)	1.88 (m)	1.98 (dd, 13.2, 3.2)	1.91 (m)	1.91 (m)	1.92 (m)	1.91 (m)	1.91 (m)	1.93 (m)
6b	1.44 (m)	1.43 (m)	1.33 (m)	1.32 (m)	1.32 (m)	1.36 (m)	1.35 (m)	1.23 (m)	1.39 (m)	1.40 (m)	1.40 (m)	1.39 (m)	1.39 (m)	1.40 (m)
7a	1.65 (m)	1.66 (m)	1.57 (m)	1.57 (m)	1.56 (m)	1.61 (m)	1.62 (m)	1.62 (m)	1.60 (m)	1.61 (m)	1.61 (m)	1.59 (m)	1.60 (m)	1.61 (m)
7b	1.23 (m)	1.23 (m)	1.20 (m)	1.19 (m)	1.19 (m)	1.25 (m)	1.24 (m)	1.24 (m)	1.28 (m)	1.27 (m)	1.26 (m)	1.27 (m)	1.27 (m)	1.27 (m)
9	1.84 (d, 9.6)	1.84 (d, 9.7)	1.73 (m)	1.73 (m)	1.74 (m)	1.60 (m)	1.61 (m)	1.70 (m)	1.68 (dd,	1.66 (dd,	1.66 (dd,	1.67 (dd,	1.66 (d,	1.66 (m)
									13.4, 2.9)	13.5, 3.1)	13.6, 3.1)	13.2, 3.2)	13.3, 3.1)	
11a	4.78 (q-like, 8.8)	4.78 (q-like, 8.8)	3.92 (td, 10.8, 5.0)	3.91 (td, 10.9, 5.0)	3.91 (td, 10.8, 5.0)	1.44 (m)	1.46 (m)	1.44 (m)	1.77 (m)	1.74 (m)	1.75 (m)	1.76 (m)	1.75 (m)	1.76 (m)
11b						1.36 (m)	1.33 (m)	1.32 (m)	1.33 (m)	1.31 (m)	1.29 (m)	1.31 (m)	1.30 (m)	1.32 (m)
12a	2.47 (ddd, 13.8, 8.0,	2.46 (ddd, 13.8, 7.9,	2.13 (m)	2.12 (m)	2.12 (m)	1.89 (m)	1.88 (m)	1.87 (m)	3.58 (td, 10.6, 5.1)	3.69 (td, 10.4, 5.3)	3.71 (td, 10.5, 5.3)	3.56 (td, 10.6, 5.1)	3.57 (td, 10.6, 5.1)	3.70 (td, 10.4, 5.3)
101	4.5)	4.5)	1.45 ()	1.46()	1 46 ()	1.20 ()	1.21 ()	1.20 ()						
126	1.68 (m)	1.68 (m)	1.45 (m)	1.46 (m)	1.46 (m)	1.30 (m)	1.31 (m)	1.30 (m)	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	1.89 (m)	1.8/(m)	1.88 (m)	1.8/ (m)	1.85 (m)	1./4 (m)	1./2 (m)	1.72 (m)	1.80 (m)	1.80 (m)	1.// (m)	1.79 (m)	1./9 (m)	1.78 (m)
15a	1.54 (m)	1.52 (m)	1.41 (m)	1.41 (m)	1.41 (m)	1.49 (m)	1.49 (m)	1.47 (m)	1.56 (m)	1.59 (m)	1.58 (m)	1.55 (m)	1.53 (m)	1.59 (m)
150	1.10 (m)	1.11 (m)	1.06 (m)	1.08 (m)	1.08 (m)	1.09 (m)	1.08 (m)	1.07 (m)	1.07 (m)	1.06 (m)	1.06 (m)	1.09 (m)	1.09 (m)	1.09 (m)
10a 16b	1.80 (m)	1.79 (m)	1.75 (m) 1.62 (m)	1.74 (m)	1.73 (m) 1.60 (m)	1.75 (m) 1.60 (m)	1.74 (m) 1.58 (m)	1.73 (m) 1.50 (m)	1.88 (m) 1.40 (m)	1.87 (m)	1.90 (m)	1.88 (m) 1.22 (m)	1.88 (m) 1.25 (m)	1.91 (m)
100	1.00 (m)	1.02 (m)	1.03 (m)	1.01 (m)	1.00 (m)	1.00 (III) 1.75 (m)	1.38 (m)	1.39 (m)	1.40 (m)	1.41 (m)	1.39 (III)	1.32 (m)	1.55 (m)	1.33 (m)
17	1.79 (III) 1.00 (s)	1.78 (III) 1.00 (s)	1.79 (m) 1.06 (s)	1.00 (III) 1.05 (s)	1.76 (III) 1.05 (s)	1.75 (m) 1.06 (c)	1.75 (III) 1.06 (s)	1.74(m) 1.09(s)	2.08 (m) 1.08 (s)	2.24 (III) 1.06 (s)	2.27 (III) 1.07 (s)	1.06 (s)	1.06 (s)	2.27 (III) 1.06 (s)
10	1.00(s)	1.00(s) 1.20(s)	1.00(s) 1.07(s)	1.03(s) 1.07(s)	1.03(s) 1.07(s)	1.00(s) 0.88(s)	1.00(3)	1.09(8)	1.03(s)	1.00(s)	1.07(3)	1.00(3)	1.00(s)	1.00(s)
21	1.20(s)	1.20(s) 1.14(s)	1.07(s) 1.16(s)	1.07(s) 1.14(s)	1.07(s) 1.14(s)	1.13(s)	1.12 (s)	1.13 (s)	1.15(s)	1.33 (s)	1.32 (s)	1.15(s)	1.14 (s)	1.33 (s)
21 22a	2.20 (m)	1.14 (s) 1.50 (m)	2.21 (m)	1.14 (s) 1.54 (m)	1.14 (s) 1.58 (m)	1.13 (s) 1.59 (m)	1.12 (s) 1.58 (m)	1.15 (s) 1.50 (m)	2.32 (m)	2.54 (dd,	2.59 (dd,	1.13 (s) 1.53 (m)	1.14 (s) 1.54 (m)	1.75 (m)
226	2.18 (m)	1.40 (m)	2.10 (m)	1.41.(m)	1.20 (m)	1.40 (m)	1.20 (m)	1.28 (m)	2.20 (m)	14.3, 5.0)	14.2, 0.2	1.21 (m)	1.20 (m)	1.62 (m)
220 23a	5.67 (ddd,	1.40 (m) 1.65 (m)	5.68 (ddd,	1.41 (m) 1.64 (m)	1.65 (m)	1.40 (m) 1.65 (m)	1.64 (m)	1.61 (m)	5.74 (ddd,	5.73 (ddd,	5.74 (ddd,	1.74 (m)	1.30 (m) 1.76 (m)	1.80 (m)
	6 2)		63)						6.0)	5.6)	6 1)			
23h	0.2)	1.57 (m)	0.5)	1.55 (m)	1.55 (m)	1.57 (m)	1.56 (m)	1.58 (m)	0.0)	5.5)	0.1)	1.57 (m)	1.54 (m)	1.53 (m)
24	5.62 (d,	3.97 (t, 6.5)	5.63 (d,	3.96 (t,	3.98 (t,	3.96 (t,	3.96 (t,	3.96 (t, 6.5)	5.63 (d,	5.63 (d,	5.55 (d,	4.00 (t, 6.4)	3.98 (t,	3.98 (t,
26a	1.27 (s)	4.91 (br s)	1.28 (s)	4.91 (br	4.92 (br	4.92 (br	4.92 (br	4.91 (br s)	1.29 (s)	1.29 (s)	1.28 (s)	4.93 (br	4.93 (br	4.74 (br

Table 1 ¹H spectroscopic data of compounds 1-14 (in CD₃OD, J in Hz at 600 MHz).

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Table 1 (continued)														
No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
26b		4.81 (br s)		s) 4.82 (br s)	s) 4.81 (br s)	s) 4.82 (br s)	s) 4.81 (br s)	4.81 (br s)				s) 4.82 (br s)	s) 4.82 (br s)	s) 4.71 (br s)
27 28a	1.26 (s) 4.86 (br s)	1.72 (s) 4.85 (br s)	1.26 (s) 4.85 (br s)	1.75 (s) 4.85 (br	1.73 (s) 4.85 (br	1.73 (s) 4.86 (br	1.72 (s) 4.86 (br	1.72 (s) 6.42 (br s)	1.28 (s) 4.88 (br s)	1.28 (s) 4.88 (br s)	1.27 (s) 4.88 (br s)	1.73 (s) 4.88 (br	1.73 (s) 4.88 (br	1.74 (s) 4.88 (br
28b	4.74 (br s)	4.74 (br s)	4.69 (br s)	4.69 (br s)	4.69 (br s)	4.69 (br s)	4.69 (br s)	6.22 (br s)	4.71 (br s)	4.71 (br s)	4.71 (br s)	4.71 (br s)	4.71 (br s)	4.71 (br s)
29 30 3-COO <i>CH</i> 2	1.75 (s) 0.97 (s)	1.75 (s) 0.97 (s)	1.75 (s) 0.97 (s) 3.63 (s)	1.76 (s) 0.97 (s) 3.62 (s)	1.75 (s) 0.96 (s) 3.62 (s)	1.75 (s) 0.94 (s) 3.66 (s)	1.75 (s) 0.95 (s)	9.44 (s) 0.98 (s)	1.76 (s) 0.95 (s)	1.77 (s) 0.95 (s)	1.76 (s) 0.96 (s)	1.76 (s) 0.95 (s)	1.77 (s) 0.96 (s)	1.76 (s) 0.97 (s)
3-COO <u>CH</u> 2 CH3	Y	ι.							4.11 (q, 7.1)	4.11 (q, 7.1)	4.12 (q, 7.1)	4.11 (q, 7.1)	4.11 (q, 7.2)	4.11 (q, 7.1)
3- COOCH ₂ CH ₃									1.24 (t, 7.1)	1.25 (t, 7.1)	1.25 (t, 7.1)	1.25 (t, 7.1)	1.25 (t, 7.2)	1.25 (t, 7.1)
1′										5.27 (d, 2.9)	5.27 (d, 2.9)			5.27 (d, 2.8)
2'										3.94 (dd, 4.9. 2.9)	3.95 (dd, 4.8, 2.9)			3.96 (dd, 4.8, 2.8)
3'										3.82 (dd, 64.49)	3.82 (dd,			3.82 (dd,
4′ 5′a										4.11 (m) 4.26 (m)	4.10 (m) 4.26 (m)			4.07 (m)
5'b										4.13 (m)	4.11 (m)			4.13 (m)
5-0C0 <u>CH</u> ₃ 25-0 <u>CH</u> ₂CH₃ 25-0CH CH										2.00 (8)	2.00 (s) 3.39 (q, 7.0) 1.12 (t, 7.0)			2.00 (8)

Table 2 13 C spectroscopic data of compounds 1–14 (in CD ₃ OD, J in Hz at 600 MHz).														
No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	40.6t	40.6,t	31.7t	37.7t	37.7t	35.9t	36.0t	36.2t	35.8t	35.8t	35.8t	35.8t	35.8t	35.7t
2	30.5t	30.5t	30.2t	30.3t	30.2t	29.4t	29.4t	28.8t	29.6t	29.7t	29.7t	29.6t	29.6t	29.6t
3	179.6s	179.6s	177.3s	177.3s	177.3s	176.4s	178.2s	178.0s	175.8s	175.7s	175.8s	175.7s	175.7s	175.7s
4	148.3s	148.3s	149.1s	149.1s	149.1s	148.9s	149.0s	154.2s	148.7s	148.7s	148.7s	148.6s	148.6s	148.7s
5	58.7 d	58.7 d	52.8 d	52.8 d	52.8 d	52.0 d	52.0 d	40.2 d	51.7 d	51.7 d	51.7 d	51.7 d	51.7 d	51.7 d
6	26.3t	26.3t	26.1t	26.1t	26.1t	25.9t	25.9t	26.3t	25.8t	25.8t	25.8t	25.8t	25.8t	25.8t
7	34.7t	34.7t	35.8t	35.8t	35.8t	35.1t	35.1t	35.2t	34.6t	34.5t	34.5t	34.6t	34.6t	34.5t
8	41.8s	41.8s	41.7s	41.6s	41.6s	41.3s	41.3s	41.3s	40.6s	40.7s	40.7s	40.6s	40.6s	40.6s
9	53.5 d	53.5 d	46.4 d	46.4 d	46.4 d	42.3 d	42.3 d	42.3 d	41./d	41.3 d	41.3 d	41./d	41./d	41.3 d
10	40.78	40.78 78.5.4	40.0s	40.0s	40.0s	40.28	40.28	39.38 22.4+	40.28	40.28	40.28	40.28	40.28	40.28
11	78.5 d	/8.5 d	/1.0 d	/1.0 d	/1.0 d	23.2l	23.2l	23.4l	32.31 71.9.4	31.31 71.5.4	51.5t 71.4.4	32.01 71.7.4	32.01 71.7.4	31.3L
12	30.0 d	37.0t 40.0.d	40.11 42.0 d	40.01 42.0.4	40.01 42.0.4	20.01 43.6 d	20.01 43.6 d	20.31 43.6 d	/1.0 U /0.3 d	71.5 d 50.0 d	71.4 U 50 0 d	/1./ u	/1./ u	/1.5 U
13	59.9 U	40.0 u	42.0 u 51.6s	42.0 u	42.0 u	43.0 u	43.0 u 51.0c	43.0 u 51.0c	49.5 U	53.0 c	53.0 c	49.0 u	49.0 U	49.0 u
14	31.0s	31.0s	31.0s	31.05	31.05	32 3t	32.3t	32 3t	32.18	31.0s	31.0s	32.15	32.15	31.5t
16	25.8t	26.0t	25.7t	25.9t	25.9t	25.8t	25.8t	25.8t	27.2t	26.8t	26.9t	27.4t	27.4t	27.0t
17	51.9 d	52.4 d	50.3 d	50.5 d	50.8 d	51.0 d	51.1 d	50.8 d	54.5 d	52.7 d	52.6 d	55.0 d	55.1 d	52.8 d
18	17.5 a	17.4 a	16.9 a	16.8 a	16.8 a	15.8 a	15.8 a	15.8 a	16.1 a	16.2 a	16.2 a	15.9 a	16.0 a	16.1 a
19	19.3 a	19.4 a	21.3 a	21.1 a	21.1 a	20.8 g	20.8 g	19.6 a	20.7 g	20.6 g	20.6 g	20.8 g	20.8 g	20.6 g
20	75.7s	75.4s	75.9s	75.6s	75.6s	75.9s	75.9s	75.8s	74.5s	83.8s	83.7s	74.1s	74.3s	84.0s
21	26.1 q	25.5 q	26.0 q	25.5 q	25.4 q	25.2 q	25.2 q	25.4 q	27.1 q	23.3 q	23.3 q	26.7 q	26.7 q	22.7 q
22	45.2t	37.9t	45.4t	38.3t	38.3t	38.2t	38.2t	38.2t	40.3t	39.9t	39.8t	32.2t	32.3t	32.6t
23	123.7 d	30.1t	123.8 d	30.2t	30.3t	30.2t	30.2t	30.1t	124.1 d	123.5 d	126.9 d	30.0t	30.1t	30.4t
24	142.2 d	77.4 d	142.1 d	77.4 d	77.3 d	77.3 d	77.3 d	77.5 d	141.6 d	142.0 d	139.6 d	77.4 d	77.4 d	77.2 d
25	71.2s	148.8s	71.2s	148.8s	149.0s	149.0s	149.0s	148.8s	71.2s	71.2s	76.3s	148.8s	149.2s	149.3s
26	29.9 q	111.6t	29.9 q	111.6t	111.3t	111.3t	111.3t	111.6t	29.8 q	29.9 q	26.9 q	111.4t	111.1t	111.2t
27	30.0 q	17.5 q	30.0 q	17.5 q	17.8 q	17.8 q	17.8 q	17.5 q	30.0 q	30.0 q	26.9 q	17.7 q	17.9 q	18.0 q
28	114.6t	114.6t	114.2t	114.2t	114.2t	114.0t	113.9t	138.3t	114.6t	114.2t	114.2t	114.2t	114.2t	114.2t
29	23.9 q	23.8 q	23.8 q	23.8 q	23.8 q	23.7 q	23.7 q	196.6 d	23.7 q	23.7 q	23.7 q	23.7 q	23.7 q	23.7 q
30	16.1 q	16.1 q	16.6 q	16.7 q	16.7 q	16.9 q	16.9 q	16.9 q	17.0 q	17.2 q	17.2 q	17.1 q	17.1 q	17.3 q
3-COO <u>CH</u> 3			51.9 q	51.9 q	51.9 q	52.1 q								
3-COO <u>CH</u> 2CH3									61.6t	61.6t	61.6t	61.6t	61.6t	61.6t
3-COOCH ₂ <i>CH</i> ₃									14.5 q	14.5 q	14.5 q	14.5 q	14.5 q	14.5 q
1'-O <u>CH-</u>										103.5 d	103.6 d			103.4 d
2'- <u>CH-</u>										83.7 d	83.6 d			83.5 d
3'-CH-										77.9 d	78.0 d			78.1 d
4'-CH-										82.1 d	82.2 d			82 d
5'-CHO										65.2t	65.3t			65.3t
5' <u>0C0</u>										172.65	172.65			172.65
5-0 <u>00-</u>										20.7 c	20.7 a			20.7.0
$3-000 CH_3$										20.7 Y	20.7 q			20.7 q
25-0 <u>CH</u> 2CH3											39.0t			
25-OCH ₂ <i>CH</i> ₃											16.4 q			

1734 cm⁻¹; ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS m/z 715.4400 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₉H₆₄O₁₀Na, 715.4397).

2.3.11. Qingqianliusu K (11)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]23 D = + 12.0$ (*c* 0.25, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ^{max} (log ε): 204 (3.82) nm; IR (ν_{max}): 3401, 2973, 1734 cm⁻¹. ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS *m*/*z* 743.4718 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₄₁H₆₈O₁₀Na, 743.4710).

2.3.12. Qingqianliusu L (12)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]23 D = + 24.2 (c 0.41, MeOH);$ UV (MeOH) λ^{max} (log ε): 204 (3.94) nm; IR (ν_{max}): 3292, 2942, 2872, 1733 cm⁻¹. ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS m/z 541.3863 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₂H₅₄O₅-Na, 541.3869).

2.3.13. Qingqianliusu M (13)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]23 D = +40.8 (c \ 0.59, MeOH);$ UV (MeOH) λ^{max} (log ε): 204 (3.77) nm; IR (ν_{max}): 3265, 2941, 2875, 1732 cm⁻¹. ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS m/z 541.3859 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₂H₅₄O₅-Na, 541.3869).

2.3.14. Qingqianliusu N (14)

White amorphous powder; $[\alpha]^{23} D = + 7.2$ (*c* 0.28, MeOH); UV (MeOH) λ^{max} (log ε): 203 (3.77) nm; IR (ν_{max}): 3287, 2916, 2849, 1728 cm⁻¹. ¹H and ¹³C NMR (CD₃OD, Tables 1 and 2); HR-ESI-MS m/z 715.4382 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₉H₆₄O₁₀-Na, 715.4397).

2.4. Determination of the absolute configurations of the Sugars

The acid hydrolysis was adopted from reported method (Liu et al., 2020; Shen et al., 2020). After the comparison of the retention times (t_R) of monosaccharide derivatives with those of standard products: L-Arabinose (19.75 min) and D-Arabinose (23.96 min), compounds **10**, **11**, and **14** were determined to be L-Arabinose. Detailed description of the procedure can be seen in the Supporting Information (Text S1.).

2.5. X-ray crystallographic Analysis

All data were obtained using a SuperNova, AtlasS2 diffractometer with graphite monochromated Cu Ka radiation ($\lambda = 1.54184$ Å). The structure was solved by direct method with the SHELXTL software package and was refined by full-matrix least-squares techniques. All the nonhydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically and H atoms were located in geometrical calculations. Crystal data for compounds 1 and 18 were listed below.

2.5.1. Crystal data for 1

CCDC: 2133487, $C_{30}H_{48}O_4$, M = 472.68 g/mol, monoclinic space group $P2_1$, a = 14.0820(8) Å, b = 8.2422(3) Å, c = 24.0159(11) Å, $\beta = 100.684(5)^\circ$, V = 2739.1(2) Å³, Z = 4, T = 149.99(10) K, μ (Cu K α) = 0.576 mm⁻¹, Dcalc = 1.146 g/cm³, 21,646 reflections measured (6.388 $\leq 2\Theta$ ≤ 150.052), 9167 unique ($R_{int} = 0.0538$, $R_{sigma} = 0.0530$) which were used in all calculations. The final R_1 was 0.0781 (I > 2 σ (I)) and w R_2 was 0.2170. Flack parameter = -0.3(2).

2.5.2. Crystal data for 18

CCDC: 2133486, $C_{31}H_{52}O_5$, M = 504.72 g/mol, tetragonal space group $P4_{1}2_{1}2$, a = 19.3567(2) Å, c = 16.0224(3) Å, V = 6003.30(17) Å³, Z = 8, T = 149.99(10) K, μ (Cu K α) = 0.578 mm⁻¹, *Dcalc* = 1.117 g/cm³, 32,912 reflections measured (6.458 $\leq 2\Theta \leq 133.17$), 5302 unique ($R_{int} = 0.0326$, $R_{sigma} = 0.0186$) which were used in all calculations. The final R_1 was 0.0626 (I > 2σ (I)) and w R_2 was 0.1679. Flack parameter = -0.05(6).

2.6. *a-Glucosidase inhibitory activity Assay*

The α -glucosidase inhibition assay was adopted from reported method (Perez et al., 2019; Smirnova et al., 2020; Zhou et al., 2021). The detailed protocol was described in the Supporting Information (Text 2).

2.7. Anti-inflammatory activity against COX-2

The COX-2 inhibition assay was detected with previous report (Chai et al., 2008; Shataer et al., 2021). The detailed procedures for this assay were discussed in the Supporting Information (Text 3).

2.8. Cytotoxic Bioassays

Using the previously described MTT method (Chen et al., 2018; Gao et al., 2016; Peng et al., 2019; Sun et al., 2021; Yan et al., 2014; Zhou et al., 2021), the cytotoxicities of new compounds against the human cancer cell lines (BGC-823, MCF-7, HCT-116, and HepG-2) were measured. Paclitaxel was used as positive control. The detailed process can be seen in the Supporting Information (Text 4).



Fig. 2 Key ${}^{1}H{-}^{1}H$ COSY (blue thick bonds) and HMBC (red solid arrows) correlations of compounds 1–4, and 6, together with NOESY (red dash arrows) correlations of compounds 1, 3, and 6.





Fig. 3 Crystal structures of compounds 1, and 18.

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Structure Determination

The chloroform extract of Qingqianliu was isolated and fractionated over Sephadex LH-20, silica gel, RP-18 (ODS), and semi-preparative HPLC to obtain fourteen undiscovered compounds named Qingqianliusus A-N (1–14), as well as four reported compounds, 20*S*,24*S*-dihydroxy-3,4-*seco*-dammara-4 (28),25-dien,3-oic acid (15) (Aoki et al., 1988), cyclocariol B (16) (Chen et al., 2018), cyclocariol A (17) (Chen et al., 2018), and cyclocariol E (18) (Chen et al., 2018). In addition, compound 15 was reported from Qingqianliu for the first time.

Qingqianliusu A (1), an optical rotation value of [α]23 D = + 67.0 (*c* 0.19, MeOH), was obtained as cubic crystals (CH₃-CN-CH₃OH) with mp 169 ~ 171°C. The molecular formula C₃₀H₄₈O₄ was established by [M + Na]⁺ ion at *m/z* 495.3450 (calcd. for C₃₀H₄₈O₄Na, 495.3450) in HR-ESI-MS (**Fig. S6**). Its IR spectrum (**Fig. S8**) revealed characteristic absorption peaks for hydroxyl (3369 cm⁻¹), methyl (2950, 2930, 1457, 1387 cm⁻¹), double bond (1644 cm⁻¹), and carbonyl groups (1728 cm⁻¹). The ¹H NMR data (Table 1) exhibited resonances for four olefinic proton singlets at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.67 (ddd, J = 15.6, 7.5, 6.2 Hz, H-23), 5.62 (d, J = 15.6 Hz, H-24), 4.86 (br s, H-28a), and 4.74 (br s, H-28b); one oxygenated methine at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.78 (q-like, J = 8.8 Hz, H-11); as well as seven methyl singlets at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.75 (s, H₃-29), 1.26 (s, H₃-27), 1.27 (s, H₃-26), 1.20 (s, H₃-19), 1.14 (s, H₃-21), 1.00 (s, H₃-18), and 0.97 (s, H_3 -30). According to the ¹³C NMR (Table 2), DEPT-135°, and HSQC spectra (Fig. S12), 30 carbon signals including one carbonyl at δ_C 179.6 (C-3); four olefinic carbons at δ_C 148.3 (C-4), 142.2 (C-24), 123.7 (C-23), and 114.6 (C-28); one oxygenated sp³ methine at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 78.5 (C-11); five sp³ quaternary carbons at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 75.7 (C-20), 71.2 (C-25), 51.0 (C-14), 41.8 (C-8), and 40.7 (C-10); seven methyls at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 29.9 (C-26), 30.0 (C-27), 26.1 (C-21), 23.9 (C-29), 19.3 (C-19), 17.4 (C-18), and 16.1 (C-30); as well as eight sp³ methylenes at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 45.2 (C-22), 40.6 (C-1), 37.0 (C-12), 34.7 (C-7), 31.6 (C-15), 30.5 (C-2), 26.3 (C-6), and 25.8 (C-16) were determined. All the above data indicated that 1 possessed a 3,4-seco-dammarane triterpenoid skeleton.

The ¹H–¹H COSY correlations (Fig. 2) of **1** demonstrated the presence of four spin-coupling systems (C-1 to C-2, C-5 to C-7, C-9 to C-15, C-22 to C-24). The HMBC spectrum (Fig. S13) showed the correlations from $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.78 (H-11) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 179.6 (C-3)/40.7 (C-10), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.81 (H-2a)/2.30 (H-2b) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 40.7 (C-10), as well as $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.78 (H-1a)/1.33 (H-1b) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 179.6 (C-3), suggesting the existence of a 3,11-heptacyclic lactone unit, which was supported by the down-field shift of the resonance with $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.78 (q-like, J = 8.8 Hz, H-11). The correlations from $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.67 (H-23) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 75.7 (C-20)/71.2 (C-25), $\delta_{\rm H}$

1.26 (H-26)/1.27 (H-27) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 142.2 (C-24), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.14 (H-21) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 51.9 (C-17)/45.2 (C-22) and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.89 (H-13)/1.80 (H-16a) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 75.7 (C-20) showed that an eight-carbon side chain containing a double bond was attached to C-17. The configuration of the Δ^{23} double bond was E geometry due to the large coupling constant (${}^{3}J_{H-23/H-24} = 15.6$ Hz). In addition, the correlations of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.75 (H-29) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 114.6 (C-28)/58.7 (C-5), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.86 (H-28a)/4.74 (H-28b) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 58.7 (C-5), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.00 (H₃-18) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 34.7 (C-7)/53.5 (C-9) /51.0 (C-14), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.00 (H₃-30) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 41.8 (C-8)/39.9 (C-13) /31.6 (C-15), implied the planar structure of 1 (Fig. 2). The relative configuration of 1 were determined by ROESY spectrum (Fig. S14), in which the correlations of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.87 (H-5)/1.84 (H-9)/1.79 (H-17)/0.97 (H₃-30) revealed that H-5, H-9, H-17, and H₃-30 were cofacial and randomly allocated to be α -oriented. Consequently, the β -orientations of H-11, H-13, H₃-18, and H₃-19 were defined by the ROESY cross-peaks of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.78 (H-11)/1.89 (H-13)/1.00 (H₃-18)/1.20 (H₃-19). Furthermore, a single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis was thus successfully performed to expressly assign the stereochemistry of 1 (Fig. 3). The Flack parameter of -0.3(2) could only allow the relative configuration of **1**. However, by analyzing several 3,4-seco-dammarane analogues (Aoki et al., 1988; Aoki et al., 1990; Chen et al., 2018; Phan et al., 2011; Takayuki and Toshifumi, 1979), as well as X-ray data (Fig. S4) of known analogue cyclocariol E (18) with a small Flack parameter of 0.05(6), it was found that the skeleton configurations of these compounds were stable. Therefore, based on the above evidence, the absolute structure of 1 was established 23(E),11R,20S-11,20,25-trihydroxy-3,4-secoas dammara-4(28),23-dien-3 oic acid-3,11-heptacyclic lactone.

Qingqianliusu B (2) was obtained as a colorless amorphous powder with $[\alpha]23 D = + 76.0$ (c 0.25, MeOH). The molecular formula, C₃₀H₄₈O₄, was based on its sodium adduct molecular ion $[M + Na]^+$ at m/z 495.3451 (calcd. for $C_{30}H_{48}O_4Na$, 495.3450) in HR-ESI-MS spectrum (Fig. S15). Comparison of the NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) of 2 with compound 1 suggested that they share a similar skeleton with the same 3,11heptacyclic lactone unit. The only difference between 1 and 2 were at the eight-carbon side chain. Terminal double bond with chemical shift at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.91 (H-26a)/4.81 (H-26b), $\delta_{\rm C}$ 148.8 (C-25) and 111.6 (C-26) in 2 replaced E-type disubstituted double bond in 1. Compound 2 also included one guaternary oxygen-bearing carbon at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 75.4 (C-20), together with one oxygenated methine at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 77.4 (C-24). The key HMBC correlations (Fig. S22) from $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.91 (H-26a)/4.81 (H-26b)/1.72 (H₃-27) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 77.4 (C-24), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.65 (H-23a)/1.57 (H-23b) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 148.8 (C-25)/75.4 (C-20), and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.14 (H-21) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 52.4 (C-17)/37.9 (C-22) revealed eight carbon side chain structure of 2. Notably, the absolute configuration of chiral center (C-24) on the branch chain was determined by summarizing NMR data characteristics of epimers with R/S configuration at C-24 and single crystal data of corresponding compound cyclocariol B (16) (Chen et al., 2018). Please see "3.3. Determination of the Absolute Configurations of Epimers" of this article for more details. Thus, the structure of 2 was assigned as 23 (E),11R,20S,24S-11,20,24-trihydroxy-3,4-seco-dammara-4 (28),25-dien-3 oic acid-3,11-heptacyclic lactone.

Qingqianliusu C (3), a colorless powder with $[\alpha]23 D = +$ 38.5 (*c* 0.29, MeOH), had a molecular formula C₃₁H₅₂O₅ as determined by HR-ESI-MS on its sodium adduct molecular ion $[M + Na]^+$ at *m*/*z* 527.3712 (calcd. for C₃₁H₅₂O₅Na, 527.3712) (Fig. S24). In the ¹³C NMR spectrum (Fig. S28), singlets were exhibited for four oxygenated carbon singlets at δ 75.9 (C-20), 71.6 (C-11), 71.2 (C-25), and 51.9 (3-COOCH₃). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) of **3** were analogous to those of cyclocariol E (18) (Chen et al., 2018), illustrating that 3 had similar 3,4-seco-dammarane skeleton with cyclocariol E. Moreover, in the HMBC spectrum (Fig. 2 and Fig. S31), key correlations from $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.63 (s, 3-COO<u>CH₃</u>) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 177.3 (C-3) showed that a methoxy group was connected to the carbonyl. The correlations from $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.92 (td, J = 10.8, 5.0 Hz, H-11) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 41.7 (C-8) and 40.6 (C-10) verified the hydroxyl was located at C-11 in 3, while one hydroxyl located at C-12 in cyclocariol E (18). The α -orientations of H-5, H-9, H-17, and H₃-30 were further to confirm with the ROESY correlations (Fig. 2 and Fig. S32) of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.07 (H-5)/1.73 (H-9)/1.79 $(H_3-17)/0.97$ (H₃-30). Then, key correlations of δ_H 3.92 (H-11)/1.87 (H-13) /1.00 (H₃-18)/1.20 (H₃-19) suggested that H-11, H-13, H₃-18, and H₃-19 are β -oriented. Thus, the configuration of C-11 in 3 was proved as S by comparing with the structure and ROESY correlation (Fig. 2) of 1. Accordingly, the compound 3 was determined as 23(E), 11R, 20S-11, 20, 25trihydroxy-3,4-seco-dammara-4(28),23-dien-3-oic acid methyl ester.

Qingqianliusu D (4), colorless amorphous powder with $[\alpha]$ 23 D = + 36.0 (*c* 0.25, MeOH). The HR-ESI-MS spectrum (Fig. S33) of 4 showed a quasi-molecular ion peak at m/z[M + Na]⁺ at m/z 527.3719 (calcd. for C₃₁H₅₂O₅Na, 527.3712), which illustrated a molecular formula C₃₁H₅₂O₅. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) of 4 were closely identical to 3 except for the side chain at C-17. A pair of terminal disubstitutd double bond carbon singlets at δ_C 148.8 (C-25) and δ_C 111.6 (C-26), one quaternary oxygen-bearing carbon at δ_C 75.6 (C-20), together with one oxygenated methine at δ_C 77.4 (C-24) suggested that compound 4 and 2 have the same side chain connected at C-17 (Table 2). Consequently, compound 4 was deduced as 11*R*,20*S*,24*S*-trihydroxy-3,4-*seco*-dammara-4(28),25-dien,3-oic acid methyl ester.

Qingqianliusu E (5) was isolated as a white amorphous powder with $[\alpha]23$ D = + 39.4 (*c* 0.33, MeOH), which has the same molecular formula of C₃₁H₅₂O₅ as **4**, as evidenced by the ¹³C spectrum (**Fig. S46**) and its sodium adduct molecular ion $[M + Na]^+$ at *m/z* 527.3717 (calcd. for C₃₁H₅₂O₅Na, 527.3712) in the HR-ESI-MS spectrum (**Fig. S42**). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR (Tables 1 and 2) of **5** showed almost identical with **4** except for a slight difference in the chemical shifts $[\Delta\delta_{\rm C} = \delta_{\rm C}$ (**5**) - $\delta_{\rm C}$ (**4**)] at C-25 ($\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ + 0.35), C-26 ($\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ -0.30), and C-27 ($\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ + 0.31), which could be attributed to the difference configuration of the hydroxyl group (-OH) at C-24 according to spectroscopic data and characterized as 11*R*,20*S*,24*R*-trihydroxy-3,4-seco-dammara-4(28),25-dien,3oic acid methyl ester.

Qingqianliusu F (6) was also obtained as white amorphous powder with [α]23 D = + 39.9 (c 0.28, MeOH). The molecular formula C₃₁H₅₂O₄ was confirmed by the HR-ESI-MS m/z511.3764 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₁H₅₂O₄Na, 511.3763) (Fig. S51) and ¹³C NMR data (Table 2). Comprehensive analysis of the NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) of 5 and 6 revealed that compound 6 has one more methylene ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.44/1.36, $\delta_{\rm C}$ 23) while one less oxymethine ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.91, $\delta_{\rm C}$ 71.6). Moreover, the diagnostic ¹H–¹H COSY spectrum (Fig. S56) of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.60 (m, H-9) and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.44/1.36 (m, H₂-11) indicated that there was no hydroxyl group substitutied at C-11. Therefore, the structure of 6 was determined as 20S,24R-dihydroxy-3,4-secodammara-4(28),25-dien,3-oic acid methyl ester.

Oinggianliusu G (7) was separated as white amorphous powder with $[\alpha]23$ D = + 36.0 (c 0.22, MeOH), which had a molecular formula of C₃₀H₅₀O₄ determined by its quasimolecular ion peak $[M + Na]^+$ at m/z 497.3589 (calcd. for C₃₀H₅₀O₄Na, 497.3607) in the HR-ESI-MS (Fig. S60), 14 mass units less than those of 6. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data (Tables 1 and 2) of 7 were also very similar to those of 6, except for the disappearance of one methoxyl group. As a result, compound 7 was deduced as 20S,24R-dihydroxy-3,4-secodammara-4(28),25-dien,3-oic acid.

Qingqianliusu H (8), a white amorphous powder with $[\alpha]$ 23 D = + 14.3 (c 0.21, MeOH), had the molecular formula $C_{30}H_{48}O_5$ by the ¹³C NMR data (Fig. S73) and quasimolecular ion peak $[M + Na]^+$ at m/z 511.3382 (calcd. for $C_{30}H_{48}O_5Na$, 511.3399) in the HR-ESI-MS (Fig. S69). The IR absorption (Fig. S71) at 3432, 2868, 1708 and 1692 cm⁻¹ represented the presence of hydroxyl (-OH), aldehyde (-CHO) and carbonyl groups (-COOH), respectively. Analysis of the 1D and 2D NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) showed 8 was the high similarity with those of the know compound 20S,24Sdihydroxy-3,4-seco-dammara-4(28),25-dien, 3-oic acid (15). The only slight difference in the group observed was the methyl group (-CH₃) in 15 replaced by the aldehyde group (-CHO) in 8 at C-4. The correlations from $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.42 (H-28a)/6.22 (H-28b) to $\delta_{\rm C}$ 196.6 (C-29)/40.2 (C-5) in the HMBC spectrum (Fig. S1 and Fig. S76) proved the linkage of aldehyde group located at C-4. These data generated the assignment of 8 20S,24S-dihydroxy-3,4-seco-dammara-4(28),25-dien,4as aldehyde group,3-oic acid.

Qingqianliusu I (9) was isolated as a colorless amorphous powder with $[\alpha]23 D = + 33.2$ (c 0.21, MeOH). The molecular formula of 9 was determined to be $C_{32}H_{54}O_5$ by ¹³C NMR spectrum (Fig. S82) and positive-ion peak $[M + Na]^+$ at m/z 541.3869 (calcd. for C₃₂H₅₄O₅Na, 541.3868) in the HR-ESI-MS (Fig. S78). The 1D and 2D NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) were nearly identical with cyclocariol E (18) (Chen et al., 2018), except for the replacement of the methoxy moiety (-OCH₃) by ethoxy unit (-OCH₂CH₃) at C-3 in 9. Furthermore, the crucial ¹H–¹H COSY (Fig. S83) correlation of 9 illustrated the presence of ethyl fragment $\delta_{\rm C}$ 4.11 (H-3-COOCH2CH3) and 1.24 (H-3-COOCH2CH3). In its key HMBC correlation (Fig. S85) from $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.11 (H-3- $COO_{CH_2}CH_3$) to δ_C 175.8 (C-3) suggested that ester ethyl unit (-OCH₂CH₃) at C-3. Therefore, the structure of 9 was determined 23(E).12R.20S-11.20.25-trihvdroxy-3.4-secoas dammara-4(28),23-dien-3-oic acid ethyl ester.

Qingqianliusu J (10), a white amorphous powder with $[\alpha]23$ D = + 7.2 (c 0.29, MeOH), was assigned as molecular formula of $C_{39}H_{64}O_{10}$ determined on the basis of a positive-ion peak $[M + Na]^+$ m/z 715.4400 (calcd. for C₃₉H₆₄O₁₀Na, 715.4397) in the HR-ESI-MS (Fig. S87). A detailed analysis of 1D NMR data (Table 1 and Table 2), compound 10 were almost similar to 9 except for the additional glycosyl derivatives unit, which was proven by presence seven carbon singlets including one carbonyl signal at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 172.6 (C-5'-O<u>CO</u>CH₃); four oxygenated methines at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 103.5 (C-1'), 83.7 (C-2'), 82.1 (C-4'), and 77.9 (C-3'); one oxygenated methylene at 65.2 (C-5'); and one methyl signal at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 20.7 (C-5'-OCO<u>CH₃</u>). The glycosyl unit can be identified as α -arabinose by comparing the ¹³C NMR data with known compound cyclocarioside O (Liu et al., 2020). In addition, an acetoxy group ($-OCOCH_3$) attached to the C-5' of α -arabinose based on the HMBC correlations (Fig. S1 and Fig. S94) of $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.26 (H-5'a)/4.13 (H-5'b) with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 172.6 (C-5'-O<u>CO</u>CH₃). Then, the key HMBC correlations from anomeric hydrogen $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.27 (H-1') with $\delta_{\rm C}$ 83.8 (C-20) determined the position of glycosyl unit was located at C-20. Besides, the sugar was recognized with acid hydrolysis and HPLC analysis (Fig. S5) of Larabinose standard. Therefore, the structure of 10 was deduced 23(E),12R,20S-12,20,25-trihydroxy-3,4-seco-dammara-4 as (28),23-dien,3-oic acid ethyl ester-20-O-a-L-(5'-O-acetyl)arabinofuranoside.

Qingqianliusu K (11) was deduced as a white amorphous powder with $[\alpha]23 D = + 12.0 (c 0.25, MeOH)$. The molecular formula of 11, C₄₁H₆₈O₁₀, yielded a positive sodium ion HR-ESI-MS peak (Fig. S96) at m/z 743.4718 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for $C_{41}H_{68}O_{10}Na$, 743.4710), which is 28 Da more than that of 10. Detailed comparison of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) showed that 11 was almost similar to 10, except for the hydroxyl group (-OH) at C-25 was replaced by the ethoxy (-OCH₂CH₃), which was proven by the key HMBC correlations (Fig. S103) from $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.39 (H-25- $O_{CH_2}CH_3$) to δ_C 76.3 (C-25). In addition, the glycosyl unit was assigned as α-L-arabinofuranoside based on acid hydrolysis and HPLC analysis (Fig. S5). Therefore, compound 11 was a characteristic 3,4-seco-dammarane triterpenoid glycoside 23(E),12R,20S-12,20,25-trihydroxy-3,4-seconamed as dammara-4(28),23-dien,3-oic acid ethyl ester-25-O-ethyl,20-O-α-L-(5'-O-acetyl)-arabinofuranoside.

Qingqianliusu L (12) was obtained as a white amorphous powder and had a molecular formula of C₃₂H₅₄O₅, which

Table	Fable 3 Comparison of 13 C NMR spectroscopic of the isomers with $24R/24S$ (CD ₃ OD, 150 MHz).											
No.	. Epimer (1)		Epimer (2	Epimer (2)			Epimer (3)			Epimer (4)		
	17 (24 <i>R</i>)	16 (24 <i>S</i>)	$\Delta \delta_{ m C}$	13 (24 <i>R</i>)	12 (24 <i>S</i>)	$\Delta \delta_{ m C}$	7 (24 <i>R</i>)	15 (24 <i>S</i>)	$\Delta \delta_{ m C}$	5 (24 <i>R</i>)	4 (24 <i>S</i>)	$\Delta \delta_{\mathrm{C}}$
			(24 <i>R</i> -24 <i>S</i>)			(24 <i>R</i> -24 <i>S</i>)			(24 <i>R</i> -24 <i>S</i>)			(24 <i>R</i> -24 <i>S</i>)
25	149.26	148.85	0.41	149.24	148.85	0.39	148.99	148.79	0.20	149.14	148.79	0.35
26	111.10	111.44	-0.34	111.10	111.44	-0.34	111.27	111.61	-0.34	111.30	111.60	-0.30
27	17.92	17.67	0.25	17.94	17.67	0.27	17.81	17.49	0.32	17.83	17.52	0.31

Compound 17 24R

Compound 16 24S





Fig. 4 Comparison of key ¹³C NMR data differences for the isomers 24R (represented in blue) and 24S (represented in red) (CD₃OD, 150 MHz).

was established by HR-ESI-MS (Fig. S105) from a positive sodium ion at m/z 541.3863 [M + Na]⁺ (calcd. for C₃₂H₅₄O₅-Na, 541.3869). Comparing the ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) of 12 and cyclocariol B (16)(Chen et al., 2018), which demonstrated a considerable degree of similarity except for the replacement of the ester methoxy moiety ($-OCH_3$) by ethoxy unit ($-OCH_2CH_3$) at C-3 in 12. Accordingly, the structure of 12 was deduced as 12R,20S,24S-trihydroxy-3,4-*seco*-dammara-4(28),25-dien,3-oic acid ethyl ester.

Qingqianliusu M (13), a white amorphous powder with $[\alpha]$ 23 D = + 40.8 (*c* 0.59, MeOH), had a molecular formula of C₃₂H₅₄O₅, the same as that 12, as determined by the [M + Na]⁺ ion peaks at *m*/*z* 517.3859 (calcd. for C₃₂H₅₄O₅-Na, 541.3869) in the HR-ESI-MS (Fig. S114). Detailed analysis of 1D NMR spectroscopic (Tables 1 and 2), compound 13 contained exactly a 3,4-*seco*-dammarane triterpenoids skeleton as 12, except for a slight difference in the chemical shifts $[\Delta\delta_{\rm C} = \delta_{\rm C} (13) - \delta_{\rm C} (12)]$ at C-25 ($\Delta\delta_{\rm C} + 0.39$), C-26 ($\Delta\delta_{\rm C} - 0.34$), and C-27 ($\Delta\delta_{\rm C} + 0.27$), which suggested that 13 was a epimer at C-24 of 12. Therefore, compound 13 was elucidated as 12*R*,20*S*,24*R*-trihydroxy-3,4-*seco*-dammara-4(28),25-dien,3-oic acid ethyl ester.

Qingqianliusu N (14) was obtained as a white amorphous powder with $[\alpha]23 D = + 7.2$ (*c* 0.28, MeOH). It provided the molecular formula $C_{39}H_{64}O_{10}$, which was determined by HRESI-MS ion $[M + Na]^+$ at *m*/*z* 715.4382 (calcd. for C_{39} -H₆₄O₁₀Na, 715.4397) (Fig. S123). The 1D NMR data (Tables 1 and 2) of 14 were highly analogous to those of 13 except for

Table4 α -Glucosidaactivities of compounds	se inhibition 1–14 <i>in vitro</i> .
compounds ^a	IC $_{50} (\mu M)^{b}$
8 10	$\begin{array}{r} 4.97 \ \pm \ 0.63 \\ 19.62 \ \pm \ 0.70 \end{array}$
11 14	7.08 ± 0.53 3.76 ± 0.77
Acarbose ^c	1.07 ± 0.31
^a Compounds that are n table did not exhibit active ^b Data expressed as $(n = 3)$. ^c Acarbose was used control.	ot shown in this ity. $\pm sD$ as a positive

Table 5	CO	X-2 inhibit	ory rates	of cor	npounds	5 1–14	in vi	tro.
Compour	dea	Sample	anaantrati	on (uN	() Inh	hitian	roto	(0/)

Compounds	Sample concentration (µM)	minoriton rate (70)
1	25	12.11
2	25	15.73
4	25	10.23
6	25	20.62
10	25	17.44
11	25	35.83
Celecoxib ^b	1	70.28

^a Compounds that are not shown in this table did not exhibit activity.

^b Celecoxib was used as a positive control.

the additional glycosyl derivatives unit, which indicated that **14** also possesses a 3,4-*seco*-dammarane triterpenoids skeleton. The glycosyl unit of **14** was identified as α -(5'-O-acetyl)arabinofuranoside by comparing the ¹³C data (Table 2) of compounds **10** and **11**. Moreover, the acid hydrolysis results were also in agreement with the presence of Larabinofuranoside standard (**Fig. S5**). Thus, **14** was identified as 12*R*,20*S*,24*R*-trihydroxy-3,4-*seco*-dammara-4(28),25dien,3-oic acid methyl ester-20-O- α -L-(5'-O-acetyl)arabinofuranoside.

3.2. Determination of the absolute configurations of isomers

To further clarify the absolute configuration of the hydroxyl group (-OH) substituted at the C-24, according to the ¹³C

NMR date (Table 2) of C-25 to C-27 in the four pairs of epimers 24R/24S (17/16, 13/12, 7/15, and 5/4) were compared and analyzed. One pair of known isomers cyclocariol B (16) and cyclocariol A (17) has been isolated by our group. The X-ray crystallographic analysis of 17 demonstrated that the absolute configuration at C-24 was *R*. As shown in Table 3 and Fig. 4, the rules demonstrated that the slight variations between the epimers were the chemical shifts (24*R*-24*S*) at C-25 ($\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ + 0.20 to + 0.41), C-26 ($\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ -0.34 to -0.30), and C-27 ($\Delta\delta_{\rm C}$ + 0.25 to + 0.32). Apparently, it could be basically inferred that compounds 5, 7, and 13 were found to be *R* configuration at C-24, while its corresponding epimers 4, 15, and 12 were in the *S* configuration.

3.3. *a-Glucosidase inhibitory activity assay*

Diabetes mellitus is a complex chronic metabolic disorder with an increasing prevalence every year (Xiao et al., 2017; Zhu et al., 2015). The inhibitors of α -glucosidase had become one of the clinically effective drugs for the prevention and treatment of diabetes (Chen et al., 2021; Li et al., 2012). On this basis, in order to further explore the potential hypoglycemic effect of the active components in Qingqianliu, α -glucosidase inhibitory activity was tested on fourteen 3,4-secodammarane triterpenoids (1-14). The results (Table 4) showed that only three compounds 8, 11, and 14 exhibited strong α glucosidase inhibitory activities with the IC₅₀ ranges from 3.76 \pm 0.77 to 7.08 \pm 0.53 μ M, while compound 10 showed weak activity with IC₅₀ value of 19.62 \pm 0.70 μ M, as compared with positive control acarbose (IC_{50} 1.07 \pm 0.31 $\mu M).$ The structure-activity relationship analysis indicated that the presences of the aldehyde group at C-4 and arabinose unit at C-20 could improve the α -glucosidase inhibitory activity.

3.4. Anti-inflammatory activity against COX-2

COX-2, known as Prostaglandin-endoperoxide synthase (PTGS), keeps closely related to the occurrence of inflammation and tumors (Jiang et al., 2022). The inhibitors of COX-2, which become a hot spot in drug research, could prevented inflammation and the formation of malignant tumors by blocking prostaglandin synthesis (Liu et al., 2020; Shataer et al., 2021). With celecoxib as positive control, the COX-2 inhibitory activity of compounds (1–14) were evaluated. The results were demonstrated in the Table 5. Only six compounds

Table 6	Cytotoxicities of	f compounds	1–14 against	BGC-823, MCF-7,	, HCT-116 and Hepg-2 cell lines.
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Compounds ^b	Cell lines (IC ₅₀ value	s, μM^a)		
	BGC-823	MCF-7	HCT-116	HepG-2
3	7.69 ± 0.21	> 20	9.45 ± 0.93	> 20
7	8.47 ± 0.41	> 20	> 20	> 20
10	9.04 ± 0.61	> 20	> 20	> 20
12	> 20	> 20	11.24 ± 0.22	> 20
13	8.86 ± 0.38	9.19 ± 0.78	$8.80~\pm~0.36$	13.41 ± 0.90
Paclitaxel ^c (nM)	$8.93~\pm~0.75$	$11.53~\pm~0.26$	14.71 ± 0.85	$13.27~\pm~1.18$

^a Compounds that are not shown in this table did not exhibit activity.

^b Data expressed as means \pm SD (n = 3).

^c Taxol was used as a positive control.

1, 2, 4, 6, 10, and 11 showed COX-2 inhibitory activity with inhibition rates from 10.23 % to 35.83 % at the concentration of 25 μ M. Among them, compound 11 had the highest inhibition rate and reached half of the inhibition rate of celecoxib. The results indicated that an additional sugar moiety at C-20 plays an important role in COX-2 inhibitory activity.

3.5. Cytotoxic bioassays

All unreported 3,4-*seco*-dammarane triterpenoids (1–14) were evaluated for their cytotoxicities against for human cancer cell lines (BGC-823, MCF-7, HCT-116, and HepG-2). As shown in Table 6, compounds 3, 7, 10, and 13 displayed moderate activities against BGC-823 with IC₅₀ values from 7.69 \pm 0.21 to 9.04 \pm 0.61. Moreover, compound 13 showed modest activity against MCF-7 and HCT-116 with IC₅₀ values of 9.19 \pm 0.78 and 8.80 \pm 0.36. respectively. Structurally, compounds 13 and 12 as a pair of isomers, which 13 exhibited stronger activities than 12. It can be inferred that the hydroxyl group at the C-24 was *R* configuration in the same type of 3,4-*seco*dammarane triterpenoids skeleton possess potential cytotoxicity effect.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, as a new raw food material with the edible and medicinal values, the investigations of chemical constituents with bioactive effects in Qingqianliu keeps urgently needed. In this study, fourteen new 3,4-*seco*-dammarane triterpenoids (1–14) and four known 3,4*seco*-dammarane triterpenoids (15–18) were isolated and identified. Notably, two 3,4-*seco*-dammarane triterpenoids (1 and 2) with the rare structural features of heptacyclic lactone linked by oxygen between C-3 and C-11 in parent were obtained. Furthermore, three compounds (10, 11, and 14) with their sugar units were attached to the C-20 while most at C-11 and C-12 were also found. Four compounds (6–8 and 15) were rare 3,4-*seco*-dammarane triterpenoids without hydroxyl at position C-11 and C-12. In addition, the NMR data rules of determining the absolute configuration of four pairs of epimers at C-24 were discovered and summarized for the first time.

All undescribed compounds were calculated for anti-hypoglycemic, anti-inflammatory, and cytotoxic activities *in vitro*. Compounds **8**, **11**, and **14** exhibited good α -glucosidase inhibitory activity compared with the positive control acarbose. Compound **10** showed a weak inhibitory effect on α -glucosidase and COX-2, together with strong inhibitory activity on BGC-823, respectively. These studies provided a preliminary biological activity basis for the anti-hyperglycemia, antiinflammatory, and cytoxicity latent impacts of Qingqianliu, and furnished references for its development and utilization as functional foods or medicines.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Appendix A. Supplementary material

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.arabjc.2022.104441.

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