

· 综述 ·

蒺藜科驼蹄瓣属植物化学成分

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[摘要] 全球约有蒺藜科驼蹄瓣属植物 150 种, 主要分布在亚洲、非洲、澳洲及地中海地区该属植物具有耐旱、抗风沙和耐盐碱性, 种子所到之处皆容易生根发芽, 适应性极强。对该属植物的研究主要集中在提取物或组分的药理活性及化学成分的分离鉴定方面, 文献记载该属的 *Zygophyllum aegyptium*, *Z. album*, *Z. atriplicoides*, *Z. berenicense*, *Z. coccineum*, *Z. cornutum*, *Z. decumbens*, *Z. ducumbens*, *Z. dumosum*, *Z. eichwaldii*, *Z. eurypterum*, 驼蹄瓣(*Z. fabago*), *Z. gaetulum*, *Z. geslini*, *Z. melongena*, *Z. oxianum*, *Z. propinquum* 和 *Z. simplex* 等植物在民间用做草药或已被证明有生物活性, 有的植物在亚洲、非洲地区民间被用于治疗糖尿病、高血脂、高血压、肥胖、腹泻和痉挛等; 有的植物具有降糖、降压、降血脂、解痉、解热、抗腹泻、抑酶、抗氧化、抗炎、抗菌、抗癌等药理活性。驼蹄瓣属植物可以被用作防治代谢综合征, 该属许多植物具有多种生物活性。对该属植物还有待于在以下几方面的进一步研究, ①生物活性成分的活性导向分离; ②分子机制的明确; ③通过 HPLC, GC, LC-MS 等方法对生物活性成分的含量进行分析。该文综述了驼蹄瓣属植物中已分离和鉴定出的皂苷类、黄酮类、生物碱类和其他类化合物及其已知的药理活性。

[关键词] 驼蹄瓣属; 化合物; 皂苷类; 黄酮类; 生物碱类及其他

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Review on Chemical Compounds from *Zygophyllum* Genus in Zygophyllaceae Family

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[Abstract] There are over 150 species in *Zygophyllum* genus in the world, distributed mainly in Asia, Australia, Africa and Mediterranean coast. These species have the properties of drought resistance, wind and sand resistance, and saline-alkali resistance. The seeds are easy to germinate everywhere, with high adaptability. The researches on this genus mainly focused on the pharmacological activities of extracts or fractions as well as the separation and identification of chemical constituents. *Z. aegyptium*, *Z. album*, *Z. atriplicoides*, *Z. berenicense*, *Z. coccineum*, *Z. cornutum*, *Z. decumbens*, *Z. ducumbens*, *Z. dumosum*, *Z. eichwaldii*, *Z. eurypterum*, *Z. fabago*, *Z. gaetulum*, *Z. geslini*, *Z. melongena*, *Z. oxianum*, *Z. propinquum* and *Z. simplex* have been used as herbal medicines or have shown biological activities in studies. Some of them have been used in folk of Asian and African countries to treat the diseases such as diabetes, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, obesity, diarrhea and

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spasticity. Some of them have shown hypoglycemic, antihypertensive, hypolipidemic, antispasmodic, antipyretic, anti-diarrhea, inhibiting enzymes, anti-oxidation, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, anti-cancer and other pharmacological activities. *Zygophyllum* genus can be used for prevention and treatment of metabolic syndrome; the plants have a variety of biological activities. Further researches on this genus are needed in the following aspects: ① bioactivity-guided isolation of the biological compounds; ② clarification of molecular mechanisms; ③ content analysis of biological compounds by using HPLC, GC, and LC-MS etc. The saponins, flavonoids and other main compounds isolated and identified from *Zygophyllum* plants as well as their known pharmacological activities were reviewed in this paper.

[**Key words**] *Zygophyllum* genus; compounds; saponins; flavonoids; alkaloids and others

Zygophyllum, the largest genus in Zygophyllaceae family consists of about 150 species, is widely distributed in deserts and steppes from the Mediterranean to Central Asia, South Africa and Australia^[1]. As succulent annual or biennial herbs, they grow in a prostrate or erect manner, branching from the base and reaching a height of 4 to 60 centimeters. They have yellow, orange or white flowers, with a large amount of fruits rising out of opposite leaf axils. *Zygophyllum* plants can resist drought, sand and wind, and some species have good saline-alkali resistance properties^[2].

A total of 17 species, 2 subspecies and 3 variants are distributing in deserts, Gobi and low hills of Northwest China, especially in Xinjiang province. *Z. macropodum* (大叶驼蹄瓣), *Z. fabago* subsp. *dolichocarpum* (长果驼蹄瓣), *Z. fabago* subsp. *fabago* (拟豆叶驼蹄瓣) and *Z. iliense* (伊犁驼蹄瓣) distribute in Yili area, Xinjiang province, China. *Zygophyllum* plants are growing better with the increase of drought degree in some areas. Owing to their strong fitness, we can find *Z. macropodum* in the sandy-pebble bottom of dry river beds, deserted sloping field, on debris tailing of mountains and hills, stony slopes of hills and pebble deserts, road sides or woodlands in Yili.

Do these plants have some special uses? Many papers focused on: ① bioactivities such as anti-diabetic effect^[3-6] of the total extraction or fractions from *Zygophyllum* plants and few papers on bioactivity-guided isolation; ② chemical structure of *Zygophyllum* compounds. *Z. fabago* was used to treat bronchitis, colds, toothache and intractable headaches in folk of Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia, China^[7]. Some compounds were isolated and identified from *Z. fabago*

(驼蹄瓣) in some researches^[8-10]. It was found that *Z. macropodum* extraction had analgesic and anti-inflammation effects from one preliminary study (not published). Studies on drought resistance were far more than the studies on medicinal functions of *Zygophyllum* plants, and no animal studies were on the bioactivity and bioactivity-guided isolation of *Zygophyllum* plants in China. The literature from all over the world showed that *Zygophyllum* plants caused various biological effect including hypoglycemic^[3-6,11-12], hypotension^[13-14], antioxidant^[15-16], anti-inflammatory^[17-18], anticancer^[19-20] and antipyretic effects^[21] in animals, patients or cells. Therefore, *Zygophyllum* plants have the application prospects in medicine, but no one has summed up the compounds identified from *Zygophyllum* plants before. The aim of this paper is to review the research situations of *Zygophyllum* compounds and clarify the uses of these plants.

Water extraction of root, aerial parts or whole plants of many *Zygophyllum* plants have been used in folk medicines (Table 1).

The traditional treatment effect of *Zygophyllum* plants in folk occupy a leading position in medical systems of African and Mediterranean areas. They have been proved non-toxic to animals^[32-33], and their pharmacological activities also have been well documented. The pharmacological actions of extraction or fraction of *Z. album*, *Z. coccineum*, *Z. gaetulum*, *Z. geslini*, *Z. potanini* and *Z. oxianum* have been studied in model animals or patients, including antidiabetic^[3-6,11,34-36], antihypertensive and hypolipidemic activities^[5,14,35], antioxidant^[15-16,31], antimicrobial^[37-39], anti-diarrheal^[40-41], anticancer^[19-20]

Table 1 Application of *Zygophyllum* plants in folk

No.	<i>Zygophyllum</i> plants	treatment	country or area
1	<i>Zygophyllum album</i>	Diabetes, dermatitis, spasms and dysmenorrhoea ^[22-23]	Algeria
2	<i>Z. coccineum</i>	Rheumatism, gout, hypertension and diabetes ^[24]	Moroccan
3	<i>Z. fabago</i>	Cough, sputum, disperse wind and pain ^[25]	Mongolia and China
4	<i>Z. fabago</i>	Bronchitis, colds, toothache and intractable headaches ^[7]	Xinjiang of China
5	<i>Z. fabago</i>	Rheumatism, worm infections, constipation, and asthma ^[26]	Mediterranean countries
6	<i>Z. fabago</i>	Worm infections, rheumatism, and asthma ^[26]	Turkey
7	<i>Z. fabago</i>	Worm infections and constipation ^[27]	Iran
8	<i>Z. fabago</i>	Inflammatory and painful symptoms from insect bites ^[28]	Azerbaijan province of Iran
9	<i>Z. gaetulum</i>	Spasm, eczema, stomach and liver diseases ^[29]	Moroccan
10	<i>Z. gaetulum</i>	Arterial hypertension and diabetes ^[30]	Errachidia of Morocco
11	<i>Z. geslini</i>	Diabetes ^[22-23]	Algeria
12	<i>Z. potanini</i>	Inflammation, liver cirrhosis, ulcer, wounds and degeneration of liver and bile, ascites tumors ^[31]	Mongolia

and anti-inflammatory activities^[17-18].

A large number of compounds such as saponins and flavonoids have been isolated from *Zygophyllum* plants. The previous studies about *Zygophyllum* genus mainly focused on isolation of some compounds and observation of pharmacological effect of the plant extractions or fractions. The results showed that the studies on the following three aspects were insufficient: tracing in biological activity isolation, molecular mechanisms, and content determination of some important compounds or fractions.

In this review, we will briefly review the main compounds isolated from *Zygophyllum* plants, including saponins, flavonoids and others and their effects *in vitro* or *in vivo* in order to provide basis for further studies on *Zygophyllum* plants.

1 Main compounds

The identified compounds mainly include about 81 kinds of saponins, 51 kinds of flavonoids and some other important compounds since 1977. Each compound was isolated from one or several *Zygophyllum* species that we could search at present. These plants include: *Z. aegyptium*, *Z. album*, *Z. atriplicoides*, *Z. berenicense*, *Z. coccineum*, *Z. decumbens*, *Z. ducebens*, *Z. dumosum*, *Z. eichwaldii*, *Z. eurypterum*, *Z. fabago*, *Z. gaetulum*, *Z. geslini*, *Z. melongena*, *Z. oxianum*, *Z. propinquum* and *Z. simplex*.

1.1 Saponins A total of 81 kinds of saponins isolated from *Zygophyllum* species such as triterpenoidal saponins. Some saponins such as zygophyloside E existing in several *Zygophyllum* species were found gradually in *Z. coccineum*, *Z. dumosum*, *Z. gaetulum*, *Z. geslini*, and *Z. propinquum*. Some saponins were isolated only from one or two species. The presence of the ursane-type aglycone and the sulfonyl moiety in the compounds such as zygophyloside A-N may represent chemotaxonomic markers of this genus^[42], and the mother nucleus structure of zygophyloside was shown in Fig. 1. The R₁, R₂ and R₃ of zygophyloside D, E and G were β -D-(2-O-SO₃H)-Quip-, H-and H-; β -D-(2-O-SO₃H)-Quip-, H-and- β -D-Glcp; and β -D-(2-O-SO₃H)-Quip-, H-and- β -D-Glcp, respectively.

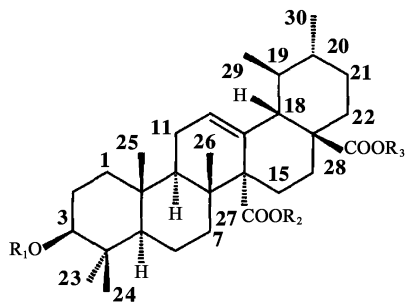


Fig. 1 Mother nucleus structure of zygophyloside

Zygo-faboside A can inhibit urease activity to 87%. Zygophyloside I and M can reduce electrically stimulated contractions and morphine withdrawal in

guinea pig ileum. Some saponins can inhibit fungal or bacteria growth^[20,37], and some can inhibit tumor cells^[43] (Table 2). The activities of the most saponins

isolated from *Zygophyllum* plants have not been studied and the contents of the useful saponins need further analysis.

Table 2 Identified saponins in *Zygophyllum*

No.	saponins	source	abbreviation	biological activities
1	3- <i>O</i> -[α - <i>L</i> -arabinopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)- β - <i>D</i> -quinovopyranosyl] quinovic acid	<i>Zygophyllum propinquum</i> ^[44] , <i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[45]	zygophyloside A	inhibit fungal growth ^[37]
2	3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -quinovopyranosyl] quinovic acid-27- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. propinquum</i> ^[44] , <i>Z. dumosum</i> ^[46]	zygophyloside B	
3	3- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl-quinovic acid	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[43] , <i>Z. melongena</i> ^[47] , <i>Z. propinquum</i> ^[44]		inhibit snake venom phosphodiesterase-I ^[48]
4	sitosterol glucoside	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[49]		
5	3- <i>O</i> -[α - <i>L</i> -arabinopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 2)- β - <i>D</i> -quinovopyranosyl]-quinovic acid-27- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. propinquum</i> ^[50]	zygophyloside C	
6	3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -quinovopyranosyl]-quinovic acid	<i>Z. dumosum</i> ^[46] , <i>Z. propinquum</i> ^[50] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[51-52]		
7	14-decarboxyquinovic acid-3 β - <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -quinovopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 4)-quinovopyranoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[53]		
8	quinovic acid 28- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl (2 \rightarrow 1) β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl ester	<i>Z. album</i> ^[53]		
9	quinovic acid 27- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl (2 \rightarrow 1) β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl ester	<i>Z. album</i> ^[53]		
10	quinovic acid-3- β - <i>O</i> -glucopyranosyl(2 \rightarrow 1) rhamnopyranoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[53]		
11	3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -2- <i>O</i> -sulphonyl quinovopyranosyl]-quinovic acid	<i>Z. propinquum</i> ^[54]	zygophyloside D	inhibit fungal growth ^[37] ; potent cytotoxicity ^[55]
12	3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -2- <i>O</i> -sulphonyl quinovopyranosyl]-quinovic acid-28- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[37] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[51,56] , <i>Z. gaetulum</i> ^[57-58] , <i>Z. geslini</i> ^[59] , <i>Z. oxianum</i> ^[6]	zygophyloside E	inhibit urease ^[6] ; hypoglycemic effect ^[56]
13	3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl]- β -sitosterol	<i>Z. album</i> ^[20] , <i>Z. atriplicoides</i> ^[60] , <i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[61] , <i>Z. propinquum</i> ^[50] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[49]		antibacterial effect ^[28] ; inhibit human leucocyte elastase ^[62] ; a chemotaxonomic marker in <i>Zygophyllum</i> genus ^[63]
14	3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -2- <i>O</i> -sulphonyl quinovopyranosyl]-decarboxy quinovic acid-28- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[46] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[51] , <i>Z. propinquum</i> ^[50]		
15	quinovic acid-3 β - <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -quinovoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[64]		
16	3 β - <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -quinovopyranosyl quinovic acid (28 \rightarrow 1) β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl ester	<i>Z. album</i> ^[20,46,64]		
17	quinovic β acid 3 β - <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -quinovopyranosyl (3 \rightarrow 1) β - <i>D</i> -xylopyranoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[64]		

续表 2

No.	saponins	source	abbreviation	biological activities
18	3β-O-β-D-quinovopyranosyl-quinovic acid (28 → 1) quinovopyranosyl ester	<i>Z. album</i> ^[64]		
19	3-O-[β-D-2-O-sulphonyl quinovopyranosyl]-quinovic acid-27-O-[β-D-glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. album</i> ^[46] , <i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[46] , <i>Z. dumosum</i> ^[46,61] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[51]	zygophyloside F	inhibit NO in lipopolysaccharide stimulated RAW264.7 macrophages ^[20]
20	β-D-glucuronic acid pyranosyl]-29-hydroxyoleanolic acid-28-O-[β-D-glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. decumbens</i> ^[65]		
21	3-O-[β-D-quinovopyranosyl] quinovic acid 27-O-[β-D-glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. dumosum</i> ^[46]		
22	3-O-[β-D-2-O-sulphonyl glucopyranosyl]-quinovic acid-28-O-[β-D-glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. album</i> ^[20] , <i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[61] , <i>Z. propinquum</i> ^[54] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[56] , <i>Z. gaetulum</i> ^[58] , <i>Z. geslini</i> ^[42]	zygophyloside G	inhibit urease to 60% ^[56]
23	3-O-[α-L-arabinopyranosyl-(1→2)-β-D-quinovopyranosyl]-quinovic acid-28-O-[β-D-glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[45] , <i>Z. dumosum</i> ^[61] , <i>Z. geslini</i> ^[42]	zygophyloside H	
24	3-O-[β-D-glucuronic acid pyranosyl]-arjunolic acid-28-O-[β-D-glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. decumbens</i> ^[65] , <i>Z. gaetulum</i> ^[57]	zygophyloside I	
25	3-O-[β-D-glucuronic acid pyranosyl]-30-norajunolic acid-28-O-[β-D-glucopyranosyl] ester.	<i>Z. decumbens</i> ^[65]	zygophyloside J	
26	3-O-[β-D-glucuronic acid pyranosyl]-29-hydroxyoleanolic acid-28-O-[β-D-glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. album</i> ^[20] , <i>Z. decumbens</i> ^[65]	zygophyloside K	
27	3β-O-α-L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 → 2)-α-L-arabinopyranosyl-(1→2)-β-D-glucopyranosylsurs-20(21)-en-28-oic acid 28-O-[β-D-2-O-sulfonylglucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. gaetulum</i> ^[58]	zygophyloside I	reduce both electrically stimulated contractions and morphine withdrawal in isolated guinea pig ileum ^[66]
28	3β-O-[α-L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 → 2)-α-L-arabinopyranosyl-(1 → 2)-β-D-glucopyranosyl] urs-20(21)-en-28-oic acid 28-O-[β-D-glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. gaetulum</i> ^[58]	zygophyloside L	
29	3β-O-β-d-quinovopyranosyl-27-nor-olean-12-en-28-oic acid 28-O-β-d-glucopyranosyl ester	<i>Z. gaetulum</i> ^[58]	zygophyloside M	reduce both electrically stimulated contractions and morphine withdrawal in isolated guinea pig ileum ^[66]
30	3-O-β-d-glucopyranosyl quinovic acid 28-β-d-glucopyranosyl ester	<i>Z. gaetulum</i> ^[57,58] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[67] , <i>Z. propinquum</i> ^[61]		reduce the electrically induced contractions of isolated guinea pig ileum ^[57,68]
31	3β-O-β-D-glucopyranosylquinovic acid 28-O-β-D-glucopyranosyl ester	<i>Z. gaetulum</i> ^[58]		
32	3β-O-α-L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1→2)-O-α-L-arabinopyranosyl-(1 → 2)-β-D-glucopyranosyl) oxy]-ursan-20-β-28-olide	<i>Z. gaetulum</i> ^[57]	zygophyloside N	
33	28-β-D-glucopyranosyl ester of 3β,19β-dihydroxyurs-12-en-28-oic acid 3-O-β-L-arabinopyranoside	<i>Z. eichwaldii</i> ^[69]	zygoeichwaloside E	
34	3β,19β-dihydroxyurs-12-en-28-oic acid 3-O-β-L-arabinopyranoside	<i>Z. eichwaldii</i> ^[69]	zygoeichwaloside C	
35	28-O-β-D-glucopyranosyl ester of pomolic acid 3-O-β-D-2-O-sulfonylgalactopyranoside	<i>Z. eichwaldii</i> ^[70]	zygoeichwaloside I	

续表 2

No.	saponins	source	abbreviation	biological activities
36	3- <i>O</i> - α - <i>L</i> -(2- <i>O</i> -sulphonyl)-arabinopyranoside of 19- α -hydroxyursolic acid	<i>Z. eichwaldii</i> ^[71]	zygoeichwaloside G	
37	3- <i>O</i> -[α - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)- β - <i>D</i> -xylopyranosyl] hederagenin	<i>Z. atriplicoides</i> ^[60]	atriplicosaponin A	
38	27 α -hydroxyurs-12-ene-3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl(1 \rightarrow 4)(2- <i>O</i> -sulpho)- β - <i>D</i> -quinovopyranoside]	<i>Z. atriplicoides</i> ^[60]	atriplicosaponin B	
39	3- <i>O</i> - α - <i>L</i> -rhamnopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)- α - <i>L</i> -arabinopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)- β - <i>D</i> -glucuronopyranosyl-urs-20(21)-en-28-oic acid-28- <i>O</i> -(2- <i>O</i> -sulfo- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl) ester	<i>Z. atriplicoides</i> ^[60]		Ursane type aglycone and the sulfonyl moiety in these molecules may represent chemotaxonomic markers of <i>Zygophyllum</i> genus ^[42]
40	3- <i>O</i> -(2- <i>O</i> -sulfo- β - <i>D</i> -glucuronopyranosyl)-urs-20-(21)-en-28-oic acid-28- <i>O</i> -(2- <i>O</i> -sulfo- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl) ester	<i>Z. atriplicoides</i> ^[60] , <i>Z. geslini</i> ^[42]		
41	3- <i>O</i> -(2- <i>O</i> -sulfo- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl)-quinovic acid	<i>Z. geslini</i> ^[42]		
42	(3 β)-3-[[6-deoxy- α - <i>L</i> -mannopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)- α - <i>L</i> -arabinopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranurosonyl] oxy] urs-20-en-28-oic acid 28-(2- <i>O</i> -sulfo- β - <i>d</i> -glucopyranosyl) ester	<i>Z. geslini</i> ^[42]		
43	(3 β)-3-[(2- <i>O</i> -sulfo- β - <i>d</i> -glucopyranurosonyl) oxy] urs-20-en-28-oic acid 28-(2- <i>O</i> -sulfo- β - <i>d</i> -glucopyranosyl) ester	<i>Z. geslini</i> ^[42]		
44	3- <i>O</i> -[α - <i>L</i> -arabinopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl] quinovic acid 28-(β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl) ester	<i>Z. geslini</i> ^[42]		
45	3 β , 23-di- <i>O</i> -sulfonyl-23-hydroxyurs-20(21)-en-28-oic acid 28- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[72]	zygofaboside A	inhibit urease to 87% ^[56]
46	3 β , 23-di- <i>O</i> -sulfonyl-23-hydroxyurs-20(21)-en-28-oic acid 28- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[72]	zygofaboside B	
47	3- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl pyrocincholate	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[43]		effectively inhibit the proliferation of the human ECA-109 cells (esophageal cancer) ^[43]
48	3- <i>O</i> -6-deoxy- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl-pyrocincholate	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[43]		effectively inhibit the proliferation of the human ECA-109 cells
49	quinovic acid	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[43]		effectively inhibit the proliferation of the human ECA-109 cells
50	3- <i>O</i> -6-deoxy- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl-quinovic acid	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[43]		
51	3- <i>O</i> -6-deoxy- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl-cincholic acid	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[43]		
52	3- <i>O</i> -[α - <i>L</i> -2- <i>O</i> -sulphonylarabinopyranosyl]-pomolic acid-28- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. eichwaldii</i> ^[73]	zygoeichwaloside H	
53	3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>d</i> -2- <i>O</i> -sulphonylglucopyranosyl]-pomolic acid-28- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>d</i> -glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. eichwaldii</i> ^[73]	zygoeichwaloside K	
54	3 β -[(2- <i>O</i> -sulfo- β - <i>D</i> -xylopyranosyl) oxy] urs-12-ene-27,28-dioic acid	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[52]	zygophyloside O	
55	3 β -[(2- <i>O</i> -sulfo- β - <i>D</i> -xylopyranosyl) oxy] -urs-12-ene-27,28-dioic acid 28- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranoside	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[52]	zygophyloside P	

续表 2

No.	saponins	source	abbreviation	biological activities
56	3- <i>O</i> -(β - <i>D</i> -quinovopyranosyl)-pyrocincholate	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[74]		anti-tumour; inhibit 80.3% ECA-109 activity by MTT assay at 50 mg·L ⁻¹ ; inhibit NO ^[74]
57	3- <i>O</i> -(β - <i>D</i> -quinovopyranosyl) cincholic acid	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[74]		
58	quinoviric acid-3- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -chicken glycoside	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[74]		
59	nahagenin	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[74]		inhibit NO ^[74]
60	quinoviric acid-3- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -glucoside	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[74]		
61	3- <i>O</i> -(β - <i>D</i> -2- <i>O</i> -sulfonic acid chicken sugar)-28- <i>O</i> -(β - <i>D</i> -glucose quino)	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[74]		
62	3 β ,24,28,30-tetrahydro-urs-20-ene-24- <i>O</i> -sulphonyl-3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl]-30- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranoside	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[74]	zygophyloside Q	
63	3 β ,24,28,30-tetrahydro-urs-20-ene-24- <i>O</i> -sulphonyl-3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -xylopyranosyl]-30- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranoside	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[74]	zygophyloside R	
64	3 β ,24-dihydroxyurs-20-ene-24- <i>O</i> -sulphonyl-28- <i>oic</i> acid	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[10]	fabagoin 1	
65	(3 β ,4 α)-3,23,30-trihydroxyurs-20-en-28-al-3,23-di(sulfate) sodium salt	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[67]		inhibit urease to 75% ^[56]
66	(3 β ,4 α)-3,23,28-trihydroxyurs-20-en-30-yl- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranoside 3,23-di(sulfate) sodium salt	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[67]		
67	3 β - <i>O</i> -[β - <i>d</i> -quinovopyranoside] quinovic acid 28- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>d</i> -glucopyranosyl] ester	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[67]		
68	3- <i>O</i> -[α - <i>L</i> -arabinopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl] quinovic acid	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[37]	zygophyloside S	inhibit fungal growth ^[37]
69	3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -(2- <i>O</i> -sulphonyl)-quinovopyranosyl] quinovic acid	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[37]		inhibit fungal growth ^[37]
70	3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl] quinovic acid	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[37] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[43,51] , <i>Z. melongena</i> ^[47]		inhibit fungal growth ^[37]
71	3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -quinovopyranosyl] quinovic acid-28- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl ester	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[37] , <i>Z. dumosum</i> ^[61] , <i>Z. geslini</i> ^[59]		inhibit fungal growth ^[37]
72	3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -(2- <i>O</i> -sulphonyl) glucopyranosyl] quinovic acid	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[37]		inhibit fungal growth and show 77% fungal growth inhibition rate at a concentration of 30 μ mol·L ⁻¹ against <i>Phomopsis viticola</i> ^[37]
73	3- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl] quinovic acid-28- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl ester	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[37] , <i>Z. dumosum</i> ^[61]		reduce the electrically induced contractions of isolated guinea pig ileum ^[57]
74	30-carboxy-3 β -24-dihydroxy-urs-28,13 β -lactam- <i>N</i> -acetate	<i>Z. eurypterum</i> ^[75]	atriplicoide A	
75	3 β ,24-dihydroxyursan-28,13 β -olide	<i>Z. eurypterum</i> ^[75]	atriplicoide B	
76	3 β ,23,30-trihydroxyurs-20-en-28-al-23-sulfate-3- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -xylopyranoside	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[76]	zygofaboside C	
77		<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[9]	fabagoin A	
78		<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[9]	fabagoin B	
79	3,30-hydroxy-urs-12-en-27-28 dioic acid	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[9]	fabagoin C	
80	3- β - <i>D</i> -xylopyranosyl-quinovic acid	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[9]	fabagoin D	
81	3- <i>O</i> -(β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl) quinovic acid (28 \rightarrow 1)-(β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl) ester	<i>Z. melongena</i> ^[47]		

1.2 Flavonoids A total of 51 kinds of flavonoids isolated from *Zygodphyllum* plants were listed in Table 3, including flavone and flavonol glycoside. The roles of flavonoids as plant systematic markers particularly depended on the glycosylation level. The identified aglycones were kaempferol, quercetin and isorhamnetin^[77]. The core structure of flavonoids in *Zygodphyllum* was shown in Fig.2. Quercetin-3-*O*-rutinoside and isorhamnetin-3-*O*-rutinoside were considered as the chemotaxonomic markers of *Zygodphyllum* plants^[37]. Many of the flavonoids showed antioxidation and anticancer effect. Quercetin-3-*O*-rutinoside can target mitochondrial apoptotic pathway in acute lymphoblastic leukemia, protected against the

functional impairment of the endothelium dependent vaso-relaxation caused by a reduction of nitric oxide availability in diabetes patients, protected against γ -radiation and showed antibacterial activity to *Staphylococcus aureus*. Isoquercetrin, kaempferol and quercetin-3-*O*-glucoside showed more potential pharmacology effects, respectively (Table 3).

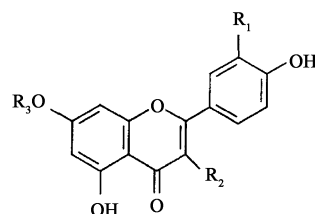


Fig.2 Mother nucleus structure of flavonoids in *Zygodphyllum*

Table 3 Identified flavonoids in *Zygodphyllum* plants

No.	flavonoids	source	abbreviation	biological activities
1	2-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-3,5,7-trihydroxy-4H-chromen-4-one	<i>Zygodphyllum album</i> ^[14] , <i>Z. fabago</i> <i>Z. simplex</i>	quercetin	quercetin supplementation does not alter antioxidant status in humans ^[78] ; it is a naturally occurring polar auxin transport inhibitor ^[79] ; antioxidant ^[80] ; anticarcinogenic ^[81] ; antithrombotic ^[82] ; anti-allergic ^[83] ; antidiabetic ^[84] ; antiobesity ^[85] ; immune and inflammation-modulating activities ^[86] ; anti-atherosclerotic, anti-proliferative, and anti-inflammatory effects of quercetin have been documented in many human <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> models ^[87]
2	quercetin-3- <i>O</i> - β -glucopyranoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[88] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[77,89]	isoquercetrin	protect PC12 cell by inhibiting reactive oxygen species (ROS) ^[90] ; inhibit matrix metalloproteinase (MMP)-9 in HT-1080 cells ^[91] ; improve cGMP in the brain of rats and strengthen electroacupuncture analgesia ^[92]
3	quercetin-3,7-di- <i>O</i> - β -glucopyranoside	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[89]		
4	quercetin-3- <i>O</i> - α -rhamnopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)- <i>O</i> - β -glucopyranoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[77,89] , <i>Z. berenicense</i> ^[77] , <i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[77] , <i>Z. decumbens</i> ^[89]	quercetin-3- <i>O</i> -rutinoside	target mitochondrial apoptotic pathway in acute lymphoblastic leukemia ^[93] ; protect against the functional impairment of the endothelium-dependent vasorelaxation caused by a reduction of nitric oxide availability in diabetes ^[94] ; protect against γ -radiation ^[95] ; inhibit methicillin resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ^[96]
5	3,5,7-trihydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)chromen-4-one	<i>Z. album</i> ^[88] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[49] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[97]	isorhamnetin	show antioxidative activity and suppress the generation of the superoxide anion <i>in vitro</i> ; be against BEL-7402 cells ^[98]
6	isorhamnetin 3- <i>O</i> -glucoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[88] , <i>Z. decumbens</i> ^[77] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[49] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[28]		show hepatoprotective effects ^[99]
7	quinovic acid 3- α -L-rhamnoside.	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[49]		
8	kaempferol-3- <i>O</i> -rutinoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[77] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[49]		inhibit glucosidase ^[99] ; decreases systolic, diastolic, mean arterial blood pressure and heart rate remarkably ^[100] ; hepatoprotective effect ^[101] ; antiglycation activity ^[102] ; promote keratinocyte migration through focal adhesion kinase (FAK) and Rac1 activation ^[103] ; inhibit adipogenesis in 3T3-L1 cells through the suppression of PPAR γ and CCAAT-enhancer-binding protein α expression ^[104]

续表 3

No.	flavonoids	source	abbreviation	biological activities
9	kaempferol-3- <i>O</i> - β -glucopyranoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[105] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[49] , <i>Z. melongena</i> ^[47] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[52]	astragalin	
10	6''-(2- <i>E</i> -butenyl) isorhamnetin-3- <i>O</i> -glucoside	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[49]		maybe anti-inflammatory ^[18]
11	malvidin 3-rhamnoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[53]		antioxidant; resist lung carcinoma cell lines; anti-inflammatory in RAW264.7 macrophages ^[20]
12	quercetin-3-sulphate	<i>Z. album</i> ^[53]		same as above
13	3,4',5,7-tetrahydroxyflavone	<i>Z. album</i> , <i>Z. berenicense</i> ^[77] , <i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[77] , <i>Z. decumbens</i> ^[77] , <i>Z. dumosum</i> ^[106] , <i>Z. eurypterum</i> ^[107] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[97] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[89]	kaempferol	lethal for spore germination of <i>V. albo-atrum</i> and <i>F. oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>lycopersici</i> ^[106] ; protect PC12 and T47D cells from β -amyloid induced toxicity ^[108] ; anxiolytic effect through a γ -aminobutyric acid ergic mechanism; protect against amyloid β -peptide induced neurotoxicity in ICR mice ^[109] ; anticancer effect ^[110-111] ; aldose reductase inhibitor, anti-viral activity, and prevent cardiovascular disease ^[112]
14	isorhamnetin 3- <i>O</i> -(4''-sulfatyl-rutinoside)	<i>Z. dumosum</i> ^[113]		
15	3 β -(3,4-dihydroxycinnamoyl)-erythrodiol.	<i>Z. geslini</i> ^[114]		antimicrobial; cytotoxic ^[114]
16	(-)-1,2-dihydroxy-4-(hydroxymethyl)-3,9-dimethoxypterocarpan	<i>Z. eurypterum</i> ^[107]	atricarpan A	inhibit butyrylcholinesterase, lipoxigenase and acetylcholinesterase ^[107]
17	(-)-2,3-ethylenedioxy-1,4-dihydroxy-9-methoxypterocarpan	<i>Z. eurypterum</i> ^[107]	atricarpan B	inhibit butyrylcholinesterase ^[107]
18	(-)-1,9-dimethoxypterocarpan-3-carboxylic acid	<i>Z. eurypterum</i> ^[107]	atricarpan C	inhibit butyrylcholinesterase ^[107]
19	(-)-2,9-dimethoxy-4-(5-oxohexyl) pterocarpan	<i>Z. eurypterum</i> ^[107]	atricarpan D	inhibit butyrylcholinesterase, lipoxigenase and acetylcholinesterase ^[107]
20	quercetin-3- <i>O</i> -glucoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[88] , <i>Z. eurypterum</i> ^[107] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[77]		high antioxidant activity ^[74] ; high phytotoxic effect ^[115] ; wound healing activity <i>in vivo</i> ^[116] ; anti-diabetic ^[117] ; anti-allergic ^[118] ; the acylated derivatives of it are more effective in anti-proliferation, anti-inflammation, and hyperlipidemic effects ^[119-120] ; suppress pancreatic cancer cells migration ^[91] ; inhibit adenylyl cyclase ^[121] ; reduce transient Ca ²⁺ ^[122] ; anticancer cells selectively <i>in vitro</i>
21	stigmast-4-en-3-one	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[123]		hypoglycemic effect
22	kaempferol 3- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranoside	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[123] , <i>Z. melongena</i> ^[47]	astragalin	
23	astragalin 3- <i>O</i> ''-sulfate	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[124]		
24	(<i>E</i>)- β -damascenone	<i>Z. album</i> ^[125]		major components (11.8%) of the essential oil from <i>Z. album</i> ^[125]
25	isorhamnetin-3- <i>O</i> -[α - <i>L</i> -rhamnopyranosyl (1'' \rightarrow 6'')- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranoside]	<i>Z. album</i> ^[14,89] , <i>Z. atriplicoides</i> ^[60] , <i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[77] , <i>Z. decumbens</i> ^[77] , <i>Z. dumosum</i> ^[113] , <i>Z. cornutum</i> ^[126]	isorhamnetin-3- <i>O</i> -rutinoside (narcissin)	a chemotaxonomic marker of genus <i>Zygophyllum</i> ^[37]
26	isorhamnetin-3,7-diglucoside	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[127]		
27	isorhamnetin-3- <i>O</i> -(6'-malonyl) glucoside	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[127]		

续表 3

No.	flavonoids	source	abbreviation	biological activities
28	quercetin-3- <i>O</i> -(6"-malonyl) glucoside	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[127]		
29	<i>p</i> -hydroxy acetophenone	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[127]		
30	<i>p</i> -hydroxy acetophenone glucoside	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[127]		
31	androsin	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[127]		anti-asthmatic effect ^[128]
32	stigmast-3,6-dione	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[127]		
33	quercetin-3,7-di- <i>O</i> - β -glucopyranoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[14] , <i>Z. simplex</i>		
34	isorhamnetin-3- <i>O</i> - β -glucopyranoside-7- <i>O</i> - α -rhamnopyranoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[14] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[89]		
35	isorhamnetin-3- <i>O</i> - β -galactopyranoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[14,89] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[89]		
36	isorhamnetin-3- <i>O</i> - β -glucopyranoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[14,89] , <i>Z. decumbens</i> ^[89] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[89]		
37	isorhamnetin-3- <i>O</i> - α -rhamnopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 6)- <i>O</i> - β -galactopyranoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[14,89]	isorhamnetin-3- <i>O</i> -robinoside	
38	2-(6,10-dimethylspiro[4,5]dec-6-en-2-yl)-2-propanol	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[8]	hinesol	induce apoptosis through the c-Jun <i>N</i> -terminal kinase (JNK) signaling pathway in HL-60 cells ^[129]
39	12-hydroxy-valenc-1-en-2-one	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[8]		
40	(6 <i>S</i> ,7 <i>E</i>)-6-hydroxy-4,7-me-gastigmadien-3,9-dione	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[8]		
41	3-hydroxy-5 α ,6 α -epoxy- β -ionone	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[8]		
42	(3 <i>S</i> ,5 <i>R</i> ,6 <i>S</i> ,7 <i>E</i>)-3,5,6-trihydroxy-7-megastigmen-9-one.	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[8]		
43	(6 <i>R</i> ,7 <i>E</i> ,9 <i>R</i>)-9-hydroxy-4,7-megastigmadien-3-one	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[8]		
44	(<i>S</i>)-3-hydroxy- β -ionone	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[8]		
45	blumenol A	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[8]		resist human solid tumor cells ^[130] ; blumenol A and grasshopper ketone may be the growth inhibitor in <i>Oryza sativa</i> variety <i>Awaakamai</i> and may play an important role in the allelopathy of <i>Awaakamai</i> ^[131]
46	2-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-3,5,7-trihydroxy-6-methoxy-4-benzopyrone.	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[39]		antimicrobial effect against <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> and <i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i> etc. ^[39]
47	6- <i>C</i> -prenyl-7- <i>O</i> -[β - <i>D</i> -4"- <i>O</i> -acetyl-glucopyranosyl-(1" \rightarrow 2")- β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranosyl]-apigenin	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[28]	zygocaperoside	
48	isorhamnetin-3- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -rutinoside	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[132]		
49	isorhamnetin-3- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -glucoside	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[132]		
50	isorhamnetin-3- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -glucopyranoside	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[97]		
51	luteolin-7- <i>O</i> - β - <i>D</i> -glucoside	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[132]		

1.3 Other important substances β -Carboline was the core substance of the alkaloids of *Zygophyllum* (Fig. 3). The content of crude total alkaloids was about 0.12% from the dry aerial parts of *Z. album* and harmine was isolated and identified^[88]. Harmine, harmine and harmol were separated from other *Zygophyllum* plants. Other important compounds such as (+)-*D*-pinitol, β -sitosterol and daucosterol were also isolated from some *Zygophyllum* plants. Both of (+)-*D*-pinitol and β -sitosterol had anti-diabetes

activity. β -Sitosterol and daucosterol had many biological actions especially anticancer actions (Table 4). But the contents of them and their presence in other *Zygophyllum* species shall be further studied.

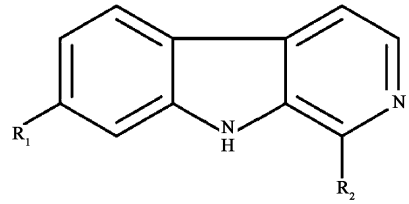


Fig. 3 Mother nucleus structure of alkaloids in *Zygophyllum*

Table 4 Other important substances isolated from *Zygophyllum*

No.	substances	source	abbreviation	biological activities
1	1-methyl- β -carboline	<i>Zygophyllum album</i> ^[88] <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[88]	harmine	a neurotoxin that is strongly associated with essential tremor, one of the most common neurological diseases in the elderly; a monoamine oxidase inhibitor and believed to be the main endogenous ligand for the benzodiazepine receptor
2	7-methoxy-1-methyl- β -carboline	<i>Z. album</i> ^[88] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[88]	harmine	inhibit breast cancer cell line (MDA-MB-231); reduce resistance to the anticancer drugs mitoxantrone and camptothecin ^[133]
3	1-methyl-2,9-dihydro-pyrido [3,4 β] indol-7-one	<i>Z. gaetulum</i> ^[134]	harmol	
4	erythrodiol-3-caffeate	<i>Z. propinquum</i> ^[50]		
5	3 β -(3,4-dihydro-xycinna-moyl)-erythrodiol	<i>Z. propinquum</i> ^[50]		show significant <i>in vitro</i> cytotoxicity against KB cells with an inhibitory concentration 50% of 4 $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ^[114]
6	(1 <i>S</i> ,2 <i>S</i> ,4 <i>S</i> ,5 <i>R</i>)-6-methoxy-cyclohexane-1,2,3,4,5-pentol	<i>Z. melongena</i> ^[47]	(+)- <i>D</i> -pinitol.	anti-diabetes ^[135] ; anti-inflammatory ^[136]
7	(3 <i>S</i> ,8 <i>S</i> ,9 <i>S</i> ,10 <i>R</i> ,13 <i>R</i> ,14 <i>S</i> ,17 <i>R</i>)-17-[(2 <i>R</i> ,5 <i>R</i>)-5-ethyl-6-methylheptan-2-yl]-10,13-dimethyl-2,3,4,7,8,9,11,12,14,15,16,17-dodecahydro-1 <i>H</i> -cyclopenta[<i>a</i>]phenanthren-3-ol	<i>Z. cornutum</i> ^[126] , <i>Z. fabago</i> ^[123] , <i>Z. oxianum</i> ^[19] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[18] , <i>Z. xanthoxylum</i> ^[137]	β -sitosterol.	antimicrobial effect ^[138] ; anti-inflammatory ^[139] ; anticancer; angiogenic ^[140] ; antioxidant ^[141-142] ; immunomodulatory ^[143] ; anti-hyperlipidemic activity ^[144] ; antiatherosclerosis ^[145] ; antidiabetes ^[146-147]
8	(2 <i>R</i> ,3 <i>R</i> ,4 <i>S</i> ,5 <i>S</i> ,6 <i>R</i>)-2-(3 <i>S</i> ,8 <i>S</i> ,9 <i>S</i> ,10 <i>R</i> ,13 <i>R</i> ,14 <i>S</i> ,17 <i>R</i>)-17-[(2 <i>R</i> ,5 <i>R</i>)-5-ethyl-6-methylheptan-2-yl]-10,13-dimethyl-2,3,4,7,8,9,11,12,14,15,16,17-dodecahydro-1 <i>H</i> -cyclopenta- α -phenanthren-3-yl]oxy]-6-(hydroxymethyl)oxane-3,4,5-triol	<i>Z. fabago</i> ^[123]	daucoesterol	immunoregulatory ^[148] ; promote the proliferation of neural stem cells ^[149] ; daucoesterol derivatives have antibacterial activity ^[150] ; inactivation of phosphatidylinositol-3 kinases/protein kinase B (PI3K/Akt) pathway and up regulation of phosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN) gene in human breast adenocarcinoma cells ^[151] ; inhibit cancer cell proliferation by inducing autophagy ^[152] ; protect neurons against oxygen glucose deprivation ^[152] ; promote proliferation osteoblast like cells by 45.8% ^[149,153] ; inhibit colon cancer cell migration and invasion ^[154] ; neuroprotective effect ^[155] ; protect MC3T3-E1 cells against H ₂ O ₂ induced injury via regulating insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1) pathway ^[152] ; a possible lead compound for allergic transfusion reactions ^[156]
9	gentisic acid	<i>Z. album</i> ^[14] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[89]		

续表 4

No.	substances	source	abbreviation	biological activities
10	gentisic acid 5- <i>O</i> - α -rhamnopyranoside	<i>Z. album</i> ^[14] , <i>Z. simplex</i> ^[89]		
11	1-hexyl-2-nitrocyclohexane	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[38]		antifungal activity against <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> , <i>Cladosporium</i> sp., <i>Alternaria alternata</i> and <i>Fusarium solani</i> and the effects of NO 7, 8 and 9 to <i>Cladosporium</i> sp. were 89.8%, 88.9% and 88.6%, respectively ^[38]
12	2-octadecyl-propane-1,3-diol	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[38]		same as above
13	octadecanal	<i>Z. coccineum</i> ^[38]		same as above
14	(7 <i>R</i> , 8 <i>S</i> , 8' <i>S</i>)-4, 9, 4'-trihydroxy-3, 3'-dimethoxy-4'-sulfonyl-7, 9'-epoxy lignan	<i>Z. aegyptium</i> ^[157]		
15	myricitrin	<i>Z. simplex</i> ^[132]		

2 Discussion and prospect

Different substances in *Zygophyllum* plants had the same effect different substances in *Zygophyllum* plants had antidiabetic effect, including total extract^[3-4]; butanol soluble fraction and aqueous fraction from the water extraction^[158], the essential oil from *Z. album*^[5] and purified total triterpene^[6], (*E*)- β -damascenone^[5], quercetin-3-*O*-rutinoside^[89,94], quercetin-3-*O*-glucoside, stigmast-4-en-3-one, (+)-*D*-pinitol^[135] and β -sitosterol^[146-147].

The chloroform-methanol(2:1) extract from aerial parts of *Z. oxianum*^[19], dichloromethane extract of *Z. album*^[20], quercetin^[81], isoquercitrin and quercetin-3-*O*-glucoside^[91], quercetin-3-*O*-rutinoside^[93], kaempferol^[110-111], kaempferol 3-*O*-rutinoside^[103], isorhamnetin^[98], malvidin 3-rhamnoside and quercetin-3-sulphate^[20], hinesol^[129], blumenol A^[130], 3 β -(3,4-dihydroxycinnamoyl)-erythrodiol, harmine^[133], 3 β -(3,4-dihydroxycinnamoyl)-erythrodiol^[114], β -sitosterol and daucosterol from some *Zygophyllum* plants, all had the anticancer effect.

We could presume that the hypoglycemic or anticancer effect was a synergetic process depending on a series of the above substances, but further research is required due to the compatibility and complexity of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). The effective constituents of TCM are the basis for their clinical efficacy. Therefore, we believe that the active ingredients or parts of the TCM have specific pharmacological effects as "Chinese medicine molecule".

The isolation or determination of active ingredients is necessary. Most of compounds in the *Zygophyllum* genus listed in Table 1-3 were only isolated and identified, but seldom associated with the pharmacological action of *Zygophyllum* plants. The pharmacological action was studied usually by using the total extract with polar solvents or a few fractions with simple solvent/solvent extraction from the total extract, but seldom associated with the isolated single compound by activity guided methods. The pharmacological effects of total extract and some fractions of *Zygophyllum* species were significant, but with very high dosage.

It is possible that the contents of the main active compounds are different among species. Activity guided separation and chromatographic fingerprint construction are necessary for study. The disease related target gene is the most essential role of plant medicine indicators. *Zygophyllum* species have the effective components for diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipemia and other disease models. The effective compounds and the detection methods are necessary to investigate and elucidate the molecular mechanisms. Further studies with experiments *in vitro* or *in vivo* to isolate the active ingredients are required for *Zygophyllum* plants for a good understanding on their mechanisms of action^[17].

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