Zoosporicidal Activities of Anacardic Acids against *Aphanomyces cochlioides*

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The EtOAc soluble constituents of the unripe fruits of *Ginkgo biloba* showed motility inhibition followed by lysis of zoospores of the phytopathogenic *Aphanomyces cochlioides*. We purified 22:1-ω^7-anacardic acid (**1**), 24:1-ω^9-anacardic acid (**2**) and 22:0-anacardic acid (**3**), together with other related compounds, 21:1-ω^7-cardol (**4**) and 21:1-ω^7-cardanol (**5**) from the crude extracts of *Ginkgo* fruits. Amongst them, compound **1** was a major active agent in quality and quantity, and showed potent motility inhibition (98% in 30 min) followed by lysis (55% in 3 h) of the zoospores at 1×10^{-7} M. The 2-*O*-methyl derivative (**1–c**) of **1** displayed antibacterial activity against *Bacillus subtilis*, but practically inactive to *Escherichia coli*. A brief study on structure-activity relationships revealed that a carboxyl group on the aromatic ring and an unsaturated side chain in the anacardic acid derivative are important for strong motility inhibitory and lytic activities against the zoospore.

Introduction

Ginkgo biloba L. is one of the most important medicinal plants that received a considerable interest (Jaggy and Koch, 1997; Wang *et al.*, 1998; Briskin, 2000). It is a valuable source of several groups of natural products such as phenolic lipids (Zarnowska *et al.*, 2000), terpenoids (ginkgolides and bilobalide), and flavonoids (*Ginkgo*-flavone glycosides) (Briskin, 2000). Previous works on phenolic lipids of *G. biloba* revealed that it contains anacardic acids, cardanols, and cardols with alk(en)yl side chains differing in the chain length and the unsaturation patterns (Lepoittevin *et al.*, 1989; Himejima and Kubo, 1991; Irie *et al.*, 1996). In particular, anacardic acids are known to inhibit enzymes such as prostaglandin synthase (Grazzini *et al.*, 1991), tyrosinase (Kubo *et al.*, 1994) and lipoxygenase (Shobha *et al.*, 1994), and also known to exhibit antitumor (Itokawa *et al.*, 1987) and antimicrobial (Himejima and Kubo, 1991) activities.

During the survey of physiologically active secondary metabolites toward zoospores of *Aphanomyces cochlioides*, we observed that the EtOAc soluble extracts of unripe *Ginkgo* fruits induced potent motility inhibition followed by lysis of the zoospores. This unusual phenomenon prompted us to investigate the active constituents in the extract. This paper describes the isolation of 22:1-ω^7-anacardic acid (**1**) as a major active compound and biological activities of **1** and related compounds against the fungal zoospores and two bacteria.

Materials and Methods

General

Merck silica gel 60 F_{254} pre-coated on glass plates was used for analytical and preparative TLC. Column chromatography was conducted using silica gel 60 (spherical, Merck 100–200 mesh). High performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) was carried out by a Hitachi D-7500 equipped with a reversed phase column Prep-ODS (RP-C18, 20 × 250 mm, GL Sciences Inc., Tokyo) using aq. MeOH as eluting solvent with a flow rate at 10 ml/min, otherwise, specially mentioned in the text. Chemical substances were detected and monitored by a UV detector at wavelength of 254 nm. ^{1}H NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL JNM-EX270 FT-NMR spectrometer at 270 MHz using TMS as an internal standard in deuterated chloroform. FD-MS and EI-MS spectra were acquired on a JEOL JMS-SX102A and a JEOL DX 500 spectrometers, respectively. Electron microscopic

observation was done by a scanning electron microscope (JEOL JSM-6301F).

Plant material and chemicals

The unripe *Ginkgo* (*G. biloba*) fruits were collected in August 2000 at the campus of Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan. The whole unripe *Ginkgo* fruits (15 kg) were extracted with MeOH (10 l) and the MeOH extract was concentrated *in vacuo* to remove the solvent. The resulting aqueous solution was diluted with deionized water to 4 l and extracted successively with *n*-hexane (4 l) and then EtOAc (4 l). The EtOAc solubles (*ca.* 70 g) were chromatographed on a silica gel (900 g) column and the constituents were eluted with a mixture of *n*-hexane and EtOAc (15:1 v/v) to yield 40 g of an anacardic acid-mixture (**1 m**). Fluazinam (**6**) was purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Ind. Ltd., Osaka.

Derivatization of a mixture of anacardic acids (**1 m**)

A part of the anacardic acid mixture (**1 m**, 1.5 g) was refluxed in conc. H_2SO_4-MeOH (1:20 v/v) followed by silica gel column chromatography to yield a mixture of methyl esters (**1 m–a**, 975 mg) and a slowly eluting non-derivatizable constituent (99 mg). Both carboxyl and phenolic OH groups of **1 m** were methylated by treating **1 m** with Me_2SO_4 and K_2CO_3 in acetone to give **1 m-b**. The resulting derivative **1 m-b** was refluxed in a mixture of MeOH-aq. 2 M NaOH (1:1) for 3 h to give 2-*O*-methylanacardic acids (**1 m-c**). Reduction of **1 m-a** and **1 m-b** with $LiAlH_4$ in EtOH/THF resulted in yielding compounds **1 m-d** and **1 m-e.** Pyrolytic decarboxylation of **1 m** was done at 170 °C for 3 h, using 2% acetone/glycerol mixture as the matrix in sealed glass tubes. After the reaction process, the reaction mixture was diluted with water and then extracted with EtOAc to give decarboxylated product **1 m-f** (a mixture of cardanol homologues). Methylation of **1 m-f** with Me_2SO_4 and K_2CO_3 in acetone yielded compound **1 m-g** (= 2-*O*-methyl-**1 m-f**).

Isolation of anacardic acid homologues (**1–3**), *21:1-ω⁷-cardol* (**4**) *and 21:1-ω⁷-cardanol* (**5**)

A mixture of methyl anacardates (**1 m-a**) was applied to medium-pressure column chromatography using an ODS column eluted with 3% H_2O/MeOH to give two major peaks (fr. 1 and fr. 2, 478 and 360 mg, respectively). The major component in fr. 1 was further purified by HPLC (Prep-ODS column, 1% H_2O/MeOH, flow rate 5 ml/min, ^tR-66.6 min) to yield 281 mg of **1a**. From the latter fraction, two major peaks were separable by HPLC (Prep-ODS column, 3% H_2O/MeOH) to give 280 mg of crude **2a** and 60 mg of crude **3a** as an oil, respectively. The compounds **2a** and **3a** were purified from each HPLC fraction by repeated HPLC (100% MeOH, flow rate 5 ml/min) as a colorless oil (180 and 24 mg, respectively).

Methylated products (**1a**, **2a** and **3a**) thus purified were separately hydrolyzed in MeOH-aq. 2 M KOH (1:1) and the resulting products purified by preparative TLC (*n*-hexane-EtOAc-HCOOH, 14:2:1 v/v/v) to yield **1**, **2** and **3**, respectively in good yields. The derivatization and transformation reactions were similarly applied to highly purified **1** to prepare **1-b** and **1-c**. Pure **1** was hydrogenated with H_2/palladium carbon to yield a quantitative amount of **3**.

21:1-ω⁷-Cardol (**4**) containing fraction (66 mg) eluted from the first silica gel column followed after the anacardic acid mixture was purified by preparative TLC in $CHCl_3$-EtOAc-HCOOH (60:10:3, v/v/v, R_f 0.27, 35 mg). 21:1-ω⁷-Cardanol (**5**) found the unchanged constituent (99 mg) in the methylation reaction mixture of 1.5 g of **1 m** was separated by preparative TLC (R_f 0.65 in $CHCl_3$–EtOAc–HCOOH = 60:10:3), and finally purified by HPLC (Prep-ODS column, 3% H_2O/MeOH, ^tR-53.3 min) to give 40 mg of a colorless syrup.

Culture of Aphanomyces cochlioides, preparation of zoospore suspensions, and bioassay

Culture of *A. cochlioides* AC-5 and production of its zoospores were done as described previously (Horio *et al.*, 1992). For zoospore assay, we used both particle method (Tahara *et al.*, 1999) and homogeneous solution method (Shimai *et al.*, 2002). In the former method, particles of Chromosorb W AW (60/80 mesh) were coated with a test compound solved in EtOAc at a set concentration, and some of the particles were then carefully dropped into 2 ml of a zoosopore suspension (original zoospore suspension, *ca.* 2×10^5/ml, was

diluted 2–3 times before each experiment) in a small petri dish (3 cm i.d.). The behavior of zoospores around the particle was observed for several hours after addition of the particles under a microscope (x 53). As a control, particles treated with solvent alone were used. The latter method mainly employed in the present study was 100–1000 fold sensitive in comparison with the particle method. The test compounds were initially dissolved in DMSO and then diluted with water. To each well of a 24-hole petri dish (16 mm i.d.), 450 µl of the zoospore suspension and 50 µl of the test compound solution were added and gently stirred. The final concentration of DMSO was adjusted to 0.1%. The original zoospore suspension (*ca.* 2×10^5/ml) was initially diluted (usually 2–3 times) with appropriate amount of water to adjust the zoospore density which gives 30–60 zoospores in each microscopic field when all zoospores are halted swimming and settling down on the bottom of the petri dish (16 mm i.d.). The numbers of zoospores in the test solution were counted as follows: once mechanically stimulated by a vortex for 30 sec, all zoospores in the suspension halted swimming instantly and sunk to the bottom of the petri dish within 5 min, which makes possible to count the numbers of zoospores under a microscope (x 53).

Evaluation of motility inhibitory and lytic activities of the test compounds

Only preliminary evaluation of lytic activity against the zoospores of the anacardic acid mixture (**1 m**) and its derivatives (**1 m-a**–**1 m-b**) was carried out by particle method (see Table I) and the injured/burst spores were counted. Other experiments using purified samples were conducted by homogeneous solution method (Tables II and III). When zoospores were exposed to 1×10^{-5} M of fluazinam (**6**), nearly 100% zoospores were instantly halted and shown remarkable lytic activity. Therefore, compound **6** was used as the positive control in our quantitative bioassay to measure fungal zoospores halted-and-sunk and/or burst. Compound **1** also showed almost the equivalent halting activity to that of the reference fungicide (**6**). The numbers of halted-and-sunk spores effected by test compounds at $1 \times 10^{-6} - 10^{-8}$ M up to 5–30 min were recorded by a digital camera (OLYMPUS Camedia C-3040 200M) and numbers of zoospores settling down on the bottom of each petri dish were counted to compare with that of vortex-stimulated zoospore suspension in each microscopic field. At 30, 60, 120, and 180 min after the treatment, uninjured spores on the bottom of each petri dish were counted in the same manner described above to evaluate the lytic activity of tested compounds. As a control solution for this bioassay was used 0.1% DMSO alone.

Scanning electron microscopy

22:1-ω^7-Anacardic acid (**1**) was first dissolved in small quantities of DMSO and then diluted with distilled water. Appropriate amounts of sample suspension were directly added into the zoospore suspension taken on a SEMpore membrane to take final volume as 200 µl. The concentrations of **1** and DMSO in the zoospore suspension were 5×10^{-5} M and 0.1%, respectively. After a set interval (10, 20 and 60 min) of treatments, the specimen was fixed with 2% buffered glutaraldehyde, and the rest of the procedures for scanning electron microscopy were carried out as described previously (Islam *et al.*, 2001).

Antimicrobial assay

As test microbes, two bacteria (*Bacillus subtilis* AHU1036 (Laboratory of Applied Microbiology, Graduate School of Agriculture, Hokkaido University, Japan) and *Escherichia coli* IFO 3301 (Institute for Fermentation, Osaka)) and a fungus (*Pythium vexans*) isolated from soil by Dr. Kasuya (Yamaji *et al.*, 2000) were used. The antimicrobial tests of major compounds by means of paper disc method were done on nutrient-broth agar and potato-dextrose agar media for the bacteria and for *P. vexans*, respectively. All of the tests were triplicated.

Results and Discussion

Isolation and derivatization of anacardic acids

The procedures for isolation of anacardic acids (**1**–**3**), cardol (**4**) and cardanol (**5**) from *Ginkgo* fruits and derivatization of the anacardic acids were described in the section of Materials and Methods. Chemical structures of all isolated com-

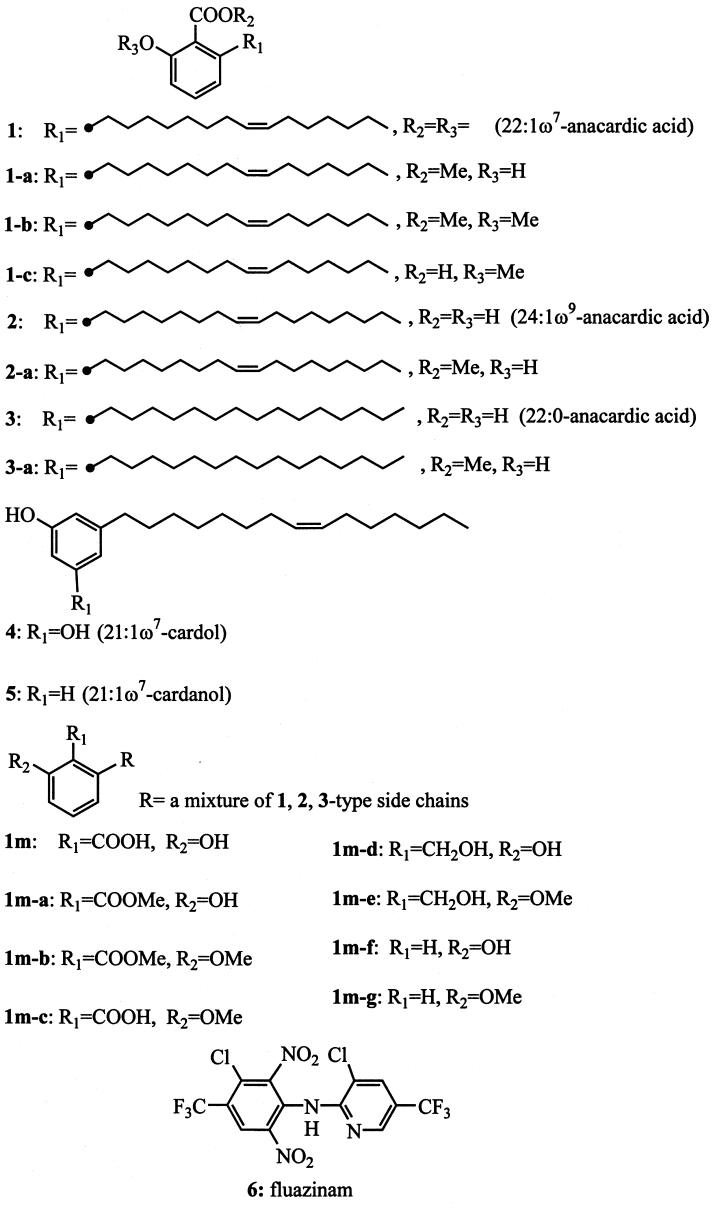

Fig. 1. Structures of anacardic acids and related compounds tested for their activities toward zoospores of *A. cochlioides* and some other microorganisms.

pounds (**1**–**5**) were confirmed on the basis of their spectral data compared with the reported ones (Itokawa *et al.*, 1987; Yamagiwa *et al.*, 1987; Irie *et al.*, 1996). Derivatization of an anacardic acid mixture (**1 m**) was also described in Materials and Methods. The structures of the derivatives (**1 m-a**–**1 m-f**) from an anacardic acid mixture (**1 m**) were spectroscopically confirmed.

Biological activities of anacardic acids and related compounds toward the Aphanomyces cochlioides zoospores

When Chromosorb W AW particles coated with 1000-ppm solution of EtOAc solubles of unripe *Ginkgo* fruits were subjected to a zoospore bioassay (particle method), the motility of zoospores around the particles was suddenly inhibited and followed by cell lysis. In homogeneous solution

Table I. Lytic activity of a mixture of anacardic acids (**1 m**), 21:1ω^7-cardol (**4**), 21:1ω^7-cardanol (**5**) and derivatives of **1 m** (structures, in Fig. 1) against *Aphanomyces cochlioides* zoospores tested by particle method*.

Compound	**1 m**	**1 m-a**	**1 m-b**	**1 m-c**	**1 m-d**	**1 m-e**	**1 m-f**	**1 m-g**	**4**	**5**
	27 ± 0.6	–	–	40 ± 0.6	–	–	–	–	6 ± 0.9	–

* In this experiment, Chromosorb W AW particles were coated with each 1000-ppm solution and 3 particles were dropped into the petri dish (3 cm i.d.) containing 2 ml of a zoospore suspension. The lytic activity was observed around the particles under a microscope (x 53) after 3 h. In this bioassay, the zoospore density was adjusted *ca.* 60 per microscopic field and injured/burst zoospores around the particles were counted. Results are shown as an average of four microscopic fields ± SE.

method (Shimai *et al.*, 2002), the active EtOAc fraction exhibited lytic activity at a range of 0.1–1 ppm (data not shown) toward *A. cochlioides* zoospores. After adding the sample solution into the zoospore suspension, cells quickly became immobile or moved in an unusual circular fashion for a few minutes and then halted. Initially the halted zoospores became round-shaped spores by losing their flagella and part of them were burst gradually.

Our preliminary bioassay by particle method revealed that in the crude anacardic acid mixture (**1 m**), chemically derivatized anacardates (**1 m-a** to **1 m-g**), cardol (**4**) and cardanol (**5**), **1 m** and 2-*O*-methyl derivative (**1 m-c**) had significant lysis-inducing activity against zoospores (Table I). 21:1-ω^7-Cardol (**4**), one of non-carboxylated *Ginkgo* metabolites, also showed similar, but weak activity. However, carboxyesters (**1 m-a** and **1 m-b**), benzyl alcohol-type derivatives (**1 m-d** and **1 m-e**), and

Table II. Motility inhibition of *Aphanomyces cochlioides* zoospores in the presence of anacardic acids (**1**, **2** and **3**), cardol (**4**), 2-*O*-methyl-22:1ω^7-anacardic acid (**1-c**) and a reference compound fluazinam (**6**).

		Observed motility inhibition activity*			
Tested compound	Concentration [M]	5 min	10 min	20 min	30 min
1	1×10^{-6}	51±2.5	75±1.9	98±3.3	101±2.5
	1×10^{-7}	37±2.6	60±6.3	82±4.8	98±2.2
	1×10^{-8}	22±2.5	47±2.1	66±3.4	81±2.0
2	1×10^{-6}	39±1.2	55±2.6	72±2.0	99±1.6
	1×10^{-7}	24±1.2	36±3.1	58±3.3	83±3.9
	1×10^{-8}	9±1.2	21±1.9	40±5.4	69±2.0
3	1×10^{-6}	27±3.2	36±5.0	54±4.8	99±2.0
	1×10^{-7}	15±1.2	23±2.3	40±4.2	61±2.6
	1×10^{-8}	4±1.4	12±1.9	26±3.4	47±1.5
4	1×10^{-6}	47±3.2	56±3.1	82±2.8	99±2.0
	1×10^{-7}	28±1.9	44±4.4	68±5.1	90±4.5
	1×10^{-8}	16±2.6	32±3.6	53±3.0	77±3.7
1-c	1×10^{-6}	59±2.1	80±4.3	100±2.6	101±2.5
	1×10^{-7}	44±3.5	65±5.1	88±2.3	100±1.5
	1×10^{-8}	33±3.7	53±3.3	72±3.4	90±4.8
6	1×10^{-6}	65±3.6	84±3.1	100±2.6	101±3.5
	1×10^{-7}	53±2.7	71±3.9	90±6.3	101±3.5
	1×10^{-8}	43±2.8	59±3.3	79±2.5	95±2.5
	Control	0	2±0.9	4±1.4	4±0.9

* Time after treatment (min); % of motility inhibition activity ± SE; % of motility inhibition = (a-b)/(c-b) × 100, a = average number of halted zoospores per microscopic field in treated solution, b = avearge number of halted zoospores per microscopic field in control solution, c = average number of halted zoospores per microscopic field from the vortexed (30 sec) zoospore suspension, calculated after 15 min (33.75). Each test was replicated twice and spores in 4 microscopic fields (randomly) were averaged.

cardanol-type compounds (**1 m-f** and **1 m-g**) were practically inactive when tested by particle method using their 1000-ppm solutions (*ca.* 3×10^{-3} M), whilst under the same condition, strong activity of **1 m** and **1 m-c**, and weak activity of **4** were clearly detectable (Table I). Since both of the active compounds (**1 m** and **1 m-c**) possessed a -COOH on the aromatic ring, the presence of a free carboxyl group seemed an important functional group in the anacardic acid relatives for the lytic activity.

To analyze more precise relationships between structure and activity, pure anacardic acid homologues (**1**–**3**) and a 2-*O*-methylanacardic acid (**1-c**) were prepared and bioassayed. Since a fungicide fluazinam (**6**) has been reported on its strong lytic activity against *Phytophthora* zoospores (Andrieu *et al.*, 2001), we successfully employed this synthetic compound as a positive reference for a motility inhibitory and lysis-inducing agent in the present study using *Aphanomyces* zoospores. Relatively high motility inhibition and lysis-inducing activities against *A. cochlioides* zoospores were expectedly observed in 22:1-ω^7-2-*O*-methylanacardic acid (**1-c**) and 22:1-ω^7-anacardic acid (**1**) as with fluazinam (**6**) (Tables II and III). 21:1-ω^7-Cardol (**4**), 24:1-ω^9-anacardic acid (**2**, a homologue of **1**) were a little less active.

As shown in Tables II and III, the halting and lytic activities were observed in decreasing order of **6** > **1-c** > **1** > **4** > **2** > **3**. Compound **1** at 1×10^{-6} M caused 96% motility inhibition in 20 min and 67% lysis of the zoospores within 3 h. Relatively longer time (~ 6 h) was required for **4** and **2** to achieve similar lytic activity (data not shown). In contrast, 22:0-anacardic acid (**3** with a saturated **1** at the aliphatic side chain) exhibited relatively a weak activity and 21:1-ω^7-cardanol (**5**, a decarboxylative product of **1**) was thoroughly inactive up to 1×10^{-4} M concentration. In respect of structure-activity correlation, active compound possessed common part structures, an aliphatic side chain with one olefinic bond and a carboxyl group on the aromatic ring, which are likely to be necessary to show the activity. In particular, the quantitatively major compound **1** in the EtOAc solubles from *Ginkgo* fruits revealed to be a predominant

Table III. Lytic activity of anacardic acids (**1**, **2** and **3**), cardol (**4**), 2-*O*-methyl-22:1ω^7-anacardic acid (**1-c**) and a reference compound fluazinam (**6**) to *Aphanomyces cochlioides* zoospores.

		Observed lytic activity*			
Tested compound	Concentration [M]	30 min	60 min	120 min	180 min
1	1×10^{-7}	10±2.5	14±1.2	34±1.9	55±2.7
	1×10^{-6}	23±2.7	31±2.3	47±2.0	68±2.7
	1×10^{-5}	33±0.9	43±2.4	63±2.2	84±2.6
2	1×10^{-6}	13±1.3	24±1.4	34±4.2	43±2.8
	1×10^{-5}	27±2.6	39±2.5	47±0.9	60±0.9
3	1×10^{-6}	0.5±2.2	4±2.0	14±1.5	28±2.4
	1×10^{-5}	15±2.0	19±0.9	30±0.9	48±2.0
4	1×10^{-6}	20±3.6	28±2.2	39±2.9	54±2.6
	1×10^{-5}	30±2.6	38±2.0	50±2.6	69±3.0
1-c	1×10^{-7}	13±3.6	24±1.1	39±3.4	60±2.6
	1×10^{-6}	26±2.4	36±2.7	51±2.6	72±2.6
	1×10^{-5}	39±0.8	50±1.5	65±2.4	87±1.8
6	1×10^{-7}	19±2.2	29±2.8	47±1.6	69±2.7
	1×10^{-6}	29±2.7	40±2.1	58±1.6	79±1.6
	1×10^{-5}	43±1.9	54±2.5	71±1.3	95±1.3

* Time after treatment (min): % of lytic activity ± SE; % of lytic activity was calculated, 100-a, a = % of unaffected zoospores per microscopic field, a = b × 100/c, b = average number of unaffected zoospores per microscopic field in treated solution, c = average number of cystospores per microscopic field from the vortexed (30 sec) zoospores suspension calculated after 15 min (55.25). At 10^{-7} M, concentration compounds **2**, **3** and **4** showed very weak lytic activity and not all zoospores were halted after 30 min. Control (without compound) showed no (0%) lytic activity. Each test was replicated twice and spores in 4 microscopic fields (randomly) were averaged.

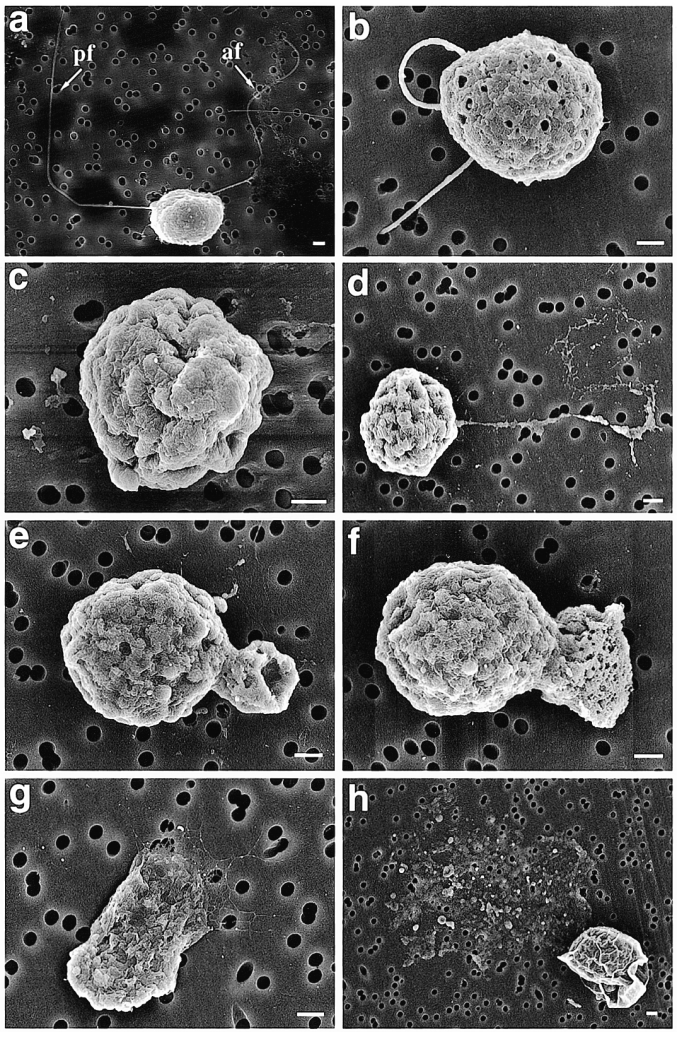

Fig. 2. Zoospore lytic activity of anacardic acid (**1**) isolated from *Ginkgo biloba* fruits. **a**: a bi-flagellated zoospore (af, anterior flagellum; pf, posterior flagellum) and **b–h**: zoospores exposed to anacardic acid (**1**) at 5×10^{-5} M for shown time, **b**: a nearly round-shaped zoospore (10 min), **c–d**: dehydrated or squeezed zoospores (20 min), **e–g**: cellular material coming out through a certain point of spores, **h**: traces of a lysed zoospore and a deformed cystospore (60 min). Scale bars **a–h**, 1 μm. Circular objects in the background are pores (size: 0.6 μm) of SEMpore membrane.

factor in quality for the motility inhibitory and zoospore lytic properties of the *Ginkgo* metabolites.

Morphological changes of zoospores interacting with anacardic acid (**1**)

To understand the mode of action, we examined the morphological changes of zoospores interacting with anacardic acid (**1**) (Fig. 2). Time-course scanning electron microscopic observation revealed that anacardic acid (homogeneous solution method, 5×10^{-5} M) first damaged fine hairs of flagella and thus halted the zoospores within few min. The affected zoospores immediately turned into a nearly round-shaped spores (10 min after treatment, Fig. 2**b**) leaving or after complete destruction of one or both flagella. The immobile round spores appeared to be dehydrated and squeezed within 20 min after treatment (Fig. 2**c–d**). The membranes of dehydrated spores ruptured at a single point through which the cellular materials gradually released into water (Fig. 2**e**, **f**). Finally, all inner materials of the affected cells were came out and dispersed into water within 60 min (Fig. 2**e–g**). More than half of the zoospores affected by **1** (5×10^{-5} M) nearly disappeared within 60 min. When some of the zoospores changed into cystospores immediately after the treatment with **1**, they were not so easily lysed/burst until 60 min

(Fig. 2**h**), whilst they were also dehydrated and lost their original shape. These deformed cystospores did not proceed to germination or regeneration of zoospores, but gradually lysed few hours later.

Antimicrobial activities of anacardic acids and related compounds

Antimicrobial activities of anacardic acid (**1**) and related compounds were also evaluated by paper disc method using two bacteria, Gram-positive *B. subtilis* and Gram-negative *E. coli*, and a fungus *Pythium vexans*. Two classes of *Ginkgo* constituents, anacardic acids (**1** and **2**) and cardanol **4**, both possessing significant lytic activity toward *A. cochlioides* zoospores also exhibited growth inhibition of *B. subtilis* (Table IV). These results indicated the presence of certain links between the lysis-inducing activity to fungal zoospores and antibacterial activity against *B. subtilis*. Not only cardols possessing an unsaturated side chain, but also similarly substituted anacardic acids have been known to be antibiotic against not to Gram-negative, but to Gram-positive bacteria (Himejima and Kubo, 1991). Our derivatization experiments revealed a little increase of antibacterial activity against *B. subtilis* in 2-*O*-methyl derivative (**1-c**) (activity decreasing order in Table IV: **1-c** > **1-m** = **1** > **4** > **2** > **3** > **5**). The sensitivity of a Gram-negative bacterium *Escherichia coli* to anacardic acids and their derivatives all tested in the present study was expectedly far lower than that of *B. subtilis*. These compounds were all inactive against *P. vexans* at 200 μg/disc on a potato-dextrose agar medium.

In summary, our results indicate that anacardic acids isolated from *G. biloba* fruits exhibited motility inhibiting and lytic effects on *A. cochlioides* zoospores, and growth inhibitory effects on *B. subtilis*. It became apparent that the partial structures in anacardic acids, for example, the free carboxyl group and unsaturated side chain were responsible for higher zoosporicidal and antibacterial effects, and structural modification, for example 2-*O*-methylation could improve their activities. Cardol (**4**) having no carboxyl group, but two hydroxyl groups on the aromatic ring also exhibited noticeable antizoosporic and antibacterial activities, whilst the content of **4** in the crude extract of ginkgo fruits was very small (< 0.2%). However, at present we have no structural information what contributes to such biological activities of **4**. Further understanding of the mode of action of anacardic acids and related compounds against oomycete zoospores should provide important knowledge required for the biorational control of the notorious oomycete phytopathogens.

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Table IV. Antibacterial activity of anacardic acids and related compounds against *Bacillus subtilis*.

Compound	Growth inhibition*/dose (μg/disc)							
	200	100	50	25	12.5	6.25	3.12	1.56
1 m	+++	+++	++	++	+	+	±	±
1	+++	+++	++	++	+	+	±	–
2	++	++	+	+	–	–	–	–
3	++	++	++	+	+	–	–	–
4	++	++	++	+	+	±	–	–
5	+	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1-c	+++	+++	++	++	++	+	+	±
PCP**	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	++

* Inhibitory activities are shown owing to the width of the growth inhibitory zone in mm from the edge of a paper disc: +++ : > 11; ++ : 10–6; + : 5–2; ± : < 2; – : non-inhibition. Each paper disc (thick type, 8 mm diameter, 1.5 mm thickness, Advantec Toyo, Tokyo) was charged 50 μl of a sample solution containing shown amounts.

** PCP: reference compound pentachlorophenol. PCP showed the inhibitory zone (+) at 0.09 μg/disc.

Compounds **1 m-a**, **1 m-b**, **1 m-d**, **1 m-e**, **1 m-f** and **1 m-g** (structures in Fig. 1) did not show any activity against *B. subtilis* upto 200 μg/disc.

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