



Anthraquinones from the Roots of *Knoxia valerianoides* and their Anticancer Activity

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SUMMARY. Anticancer compounds from the roots of *Knoxia valerianoides* Thorel et Pitard were investigated. Two anthraquinones, damnacanthol- ω -ethyl ether (**1**) and 3-hydroxy-2-hydroxymethyl anthraquinones (**2**) were isolated for the first time, along with seven other anthraquinones, lucidin (**3**), rubiadin (**4**), 3-hydroxymorindone (**5**), damnacanthol (**6**), nordamnacanthol (**7**), konxiadin (**8**) and 2-ethoxy-methylknoxiavaladin (**9**). Three of these anthraquinones (compounds 3-5) showed remarkable cytotoxicity against human hepatoma Hep3B cells, human gastric cancer AGS cells and human breast cancer MDA-MB-231 cells but had no significant effects human normal liver L-02 cells. And they also performed inhibitory activities on cell division cycle 25B (Cdc25B) phosphatase.

KEY WORDS: Anthraquinones, Cytotoxic activity, Cdc25B, Hep3B, *Knoxia valerianoides*.

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