



Keele  
UNIVERSITY

# Characterization of Anti-ovarian Cancer Diterpenoids in *Justicia Insularis* and their Roles in Apoptosis

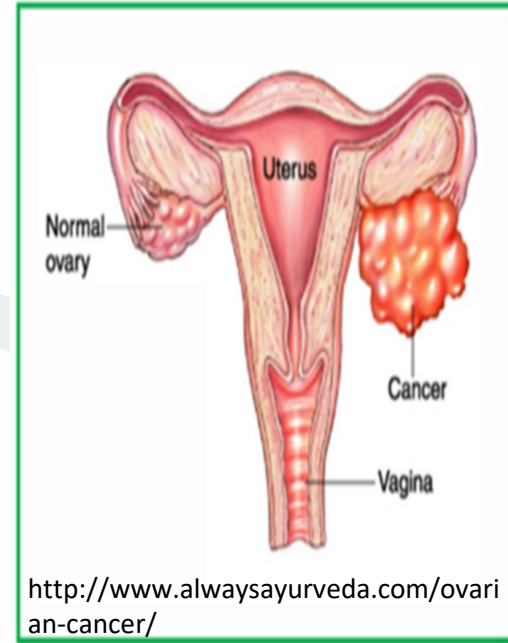
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70  
YEARS  
of the  
KEELE DIFFERENCE

The  keele difference

# Background on Ovarian Cancer

- ❑ Ovarian cancer is the most severe gynaecological malignancy associated with the highest level of lethality worldwide.
- ❑ In the UK, over 6600 cases were recorded each year with above 4400 death.
- ❑ Seventh leading cause of cancer mortality among women with 140,000 mortality estimate yearly.
- ❑ Diagnosed in about quarter of a million women worldwide each year.
- ❑ In recent times, ovarian cancer have being known to be resistant to chemotherapeutic drugs.



# Our research focus

- Our research is focused on the evaluation of the anti-ovarian cancer activities of some medicinal plants, identification of the bioactive natural compounds and mechanism of action.



# *Justicia insularis* (JI)

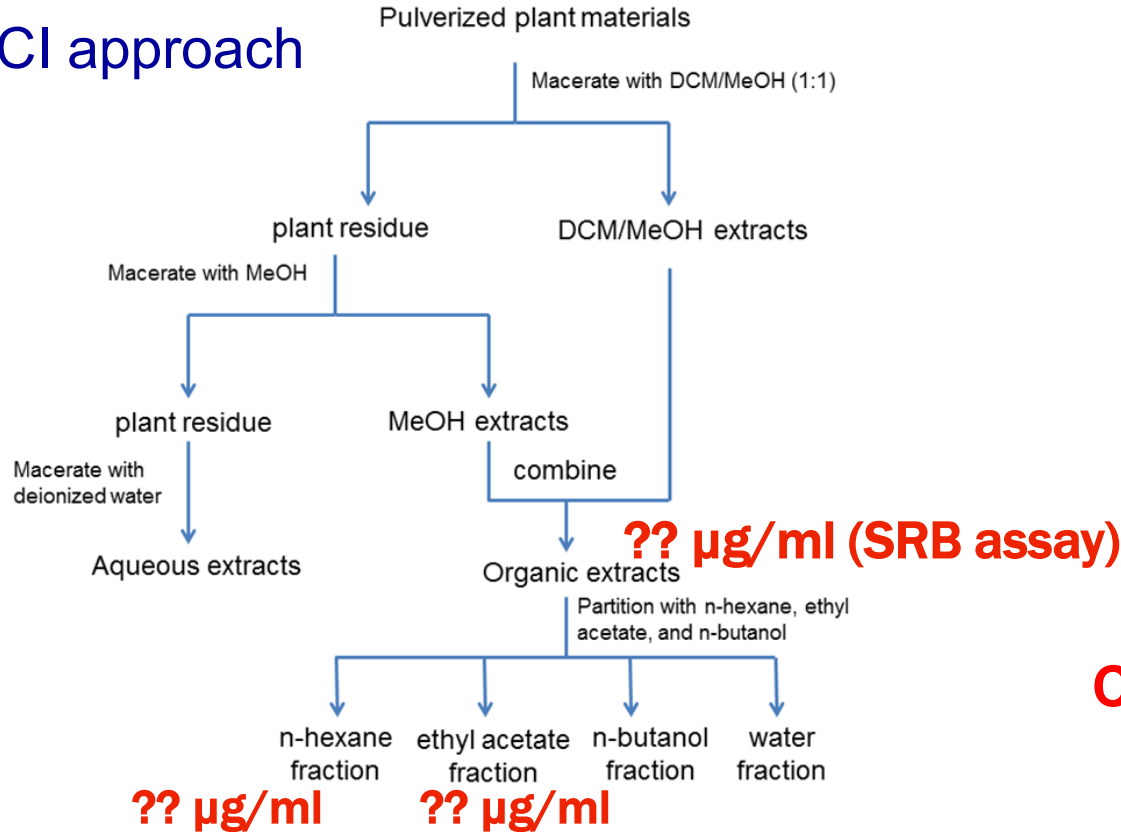
- ❑ *Justicia insularis* is an edible herbaceous plant in the family Acanthaceae, and mostly found in the tropical part of Africa.
- ❑ The leaves are used in making vegetable and groundnut soup and are even eaten as spinach when cooked.
- ❑ A medicinal plant widely used in the treatment of various diseases across Africa.
- ❑ The phytochemical analysis of *Justicia insularis* revealed the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, saponin, anthocyanins, tanins, steroids and terpenes



# Research methods

## Bioassay-guided fractionation and isolation

### NCI approach



EtOAc fraction

CC

Sub-fractions

HPLC/MS/NMR

Active compounds

**Cytotoxicity/selectivity  
/Apoptosis**

# Results

## ➤ Growth inhibitory activities of *J. insularis* extracts and sub fractions using SRB assay

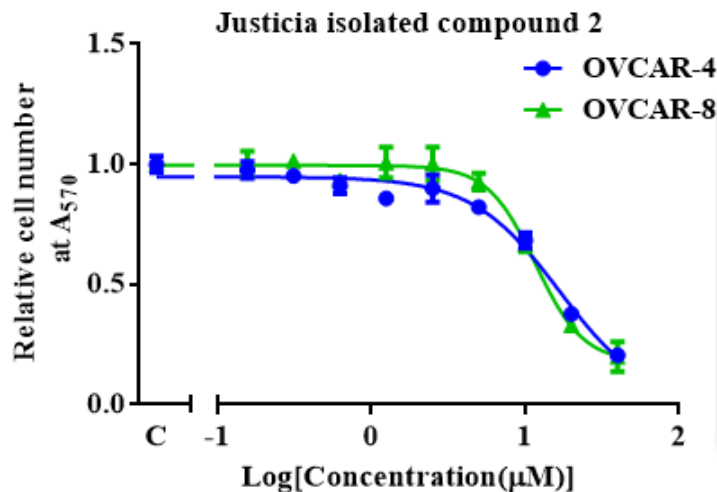
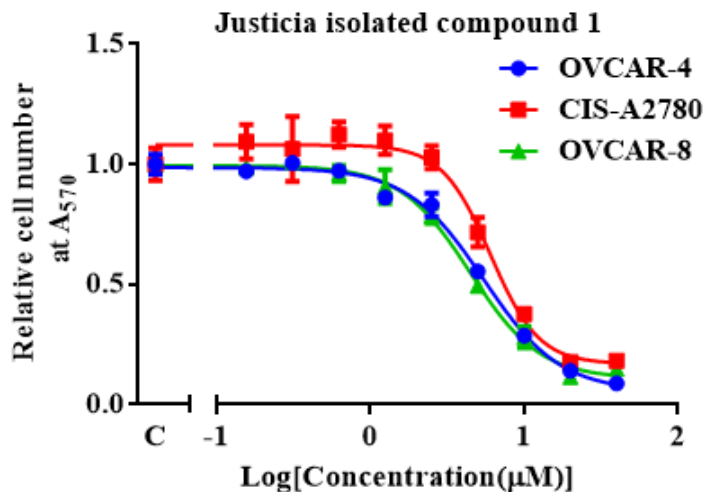
PLANT EXTRACTS	OVCAR-4 IC <sub>50</sub> (µg/mL) ±SEM	OVCAR-8 IC <sub>50</sub> (µg/mL) ±SEM
<b>DCM/MeOH <i>J. insularis</i></b>	19.2±0.5	10.74±0.6
Aqueous <i>J. insularis</i>	>150	99.8±0.3

DCM/MeOH Partitioned fractions	OVCAR-4 IC <sub>50</sub> (µg/mL) ±SEM	OVCAR-8 IC <sub>50</sub> (µg/mL) ±SEM
<b>N-Hex fraction</b>	19.5±1.0	6.1±1.8
<b>Ethylacetate (EA) fraction</b>	25.7±1.5	7.5±1.7
n-Butanol fraction	188.4±4.6	101.7±2.2
Aqueous fraction	80.0±0.8	71.5±14.9

EA fractions	OVCAR-4 IC <sub>50</sub> (µg/mL)
<b>EA1</b>	7.2±0.8
<b>EA2</b>	5.9±0.1
<b>EA3</b>	6.7±0.1
<b>EA4</b>	4.1±0.4
<b>EA5</b>	6.2±0.4
<b>EA6</b>	5.7±0.8
<b>EA7</b>	12.0±0.3
<b>EA8</b>	11.5±0.3
<b>EA9</b>	43.7±1.4
<b>EA10</b>	68.4±3.3

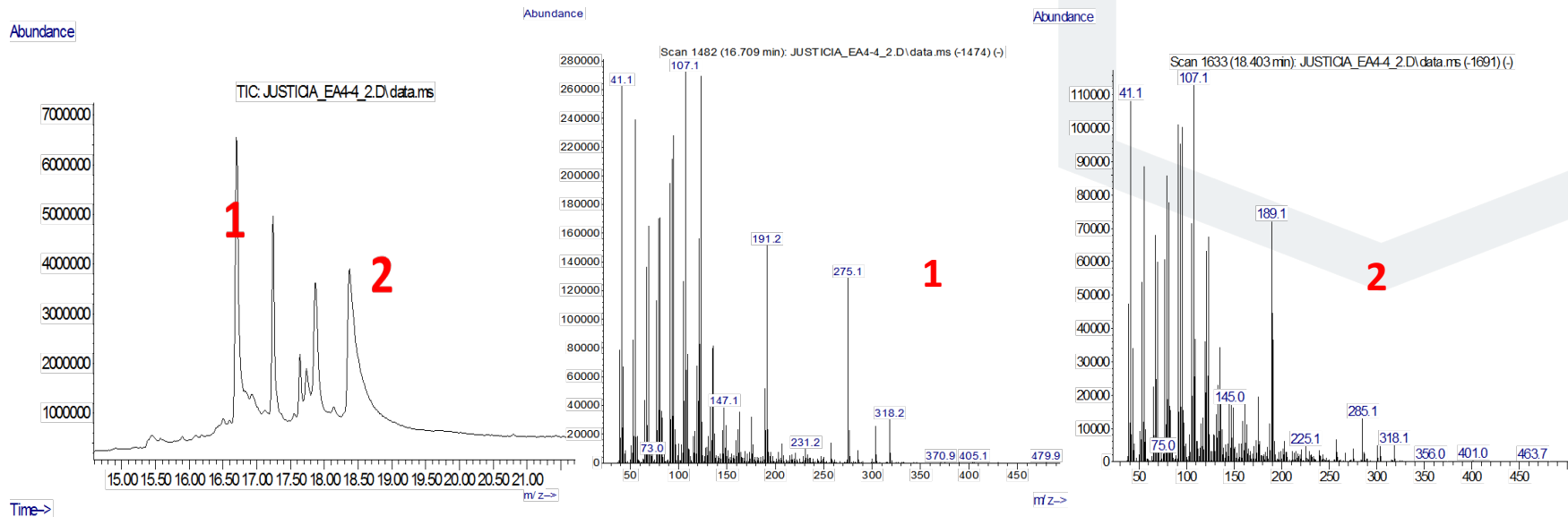
# Growth inhibitory activities of *J. insularis* isolated compound 1 and 2

Compounds	OVCAR-4 ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	OVCAR-8 ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	CIS-A2780 ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	HOE ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	Selectivity index with OVCAR-8
Compound 1	5.7 $\pm$ 0.3 (1.8 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	4.4 $\pm$ 0.2 (1.4 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	8.1 $\pm$ 0.8 (2.5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	12.1 $\pm$ 0.1 (3.9 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	3
Compound 2	16.6 $\pm$ 2.8 (5.3 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	11.8 $\pm$ 0.5 (3.8 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	Not determined	22.8 $\pm$ 0.7 (7.3 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )	2
Carboplatin	17.6 $\pm$ 4.6	8.2 $\pm$ 2.2	> 40	13.0 $\pm$ 3.7	1.6



Mean concentration-response curve of growth inhibitory activities of *J. insularis* isolated compound 1 and 2 against ovarian cancer cell lines

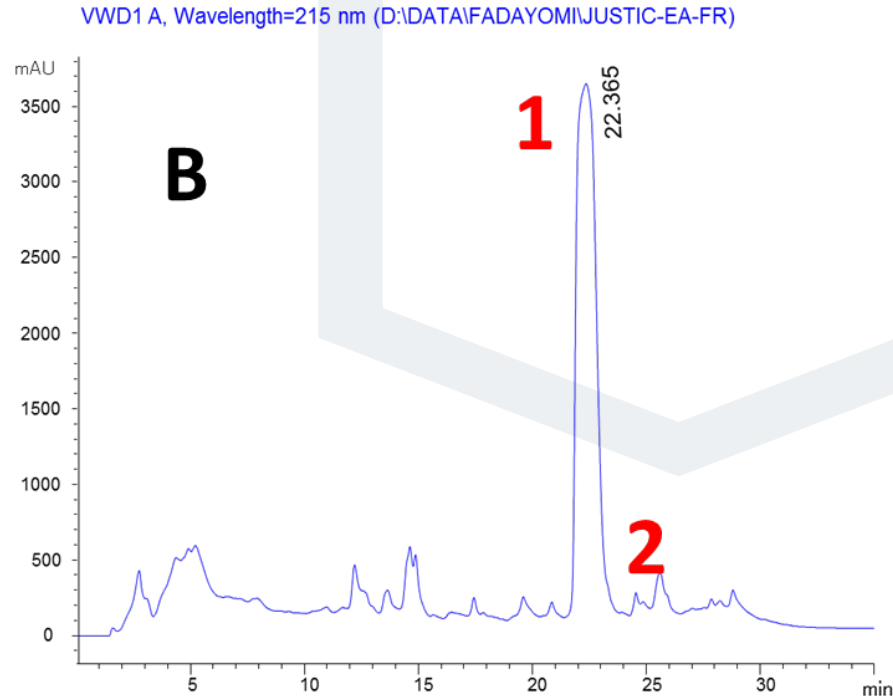
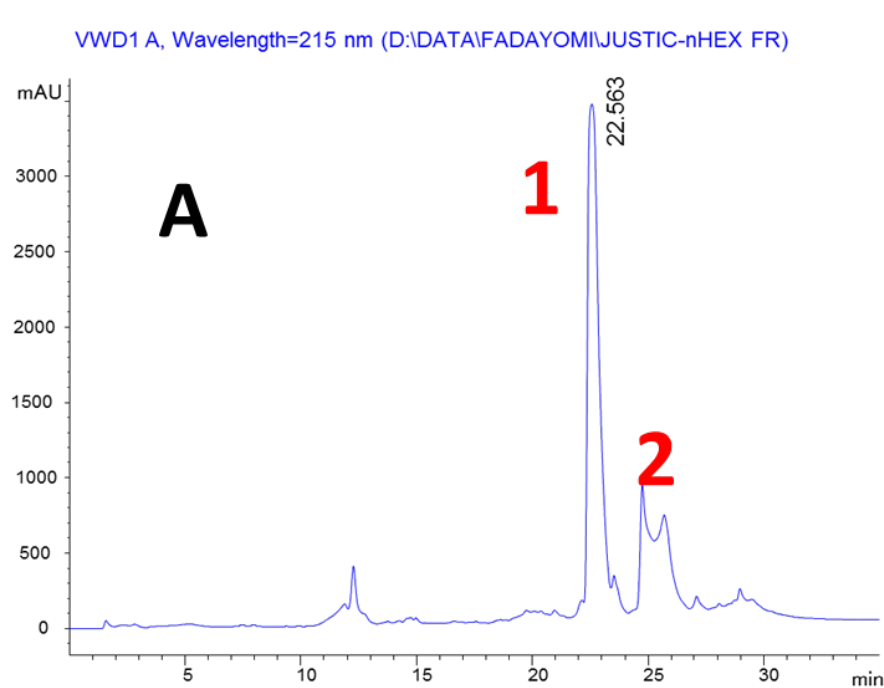
# GC MS Analysis of EA Sub fraction of *J*



GC MS chromatogram of EA sub-fraction 4-4 of *J. insularis* showing the EI- MS spectra of the two compounds (1 and 2) isolated at different retention times.

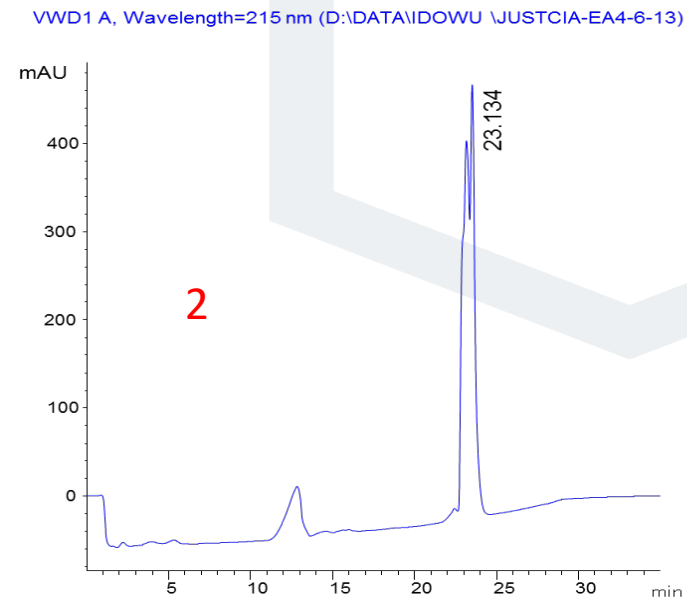
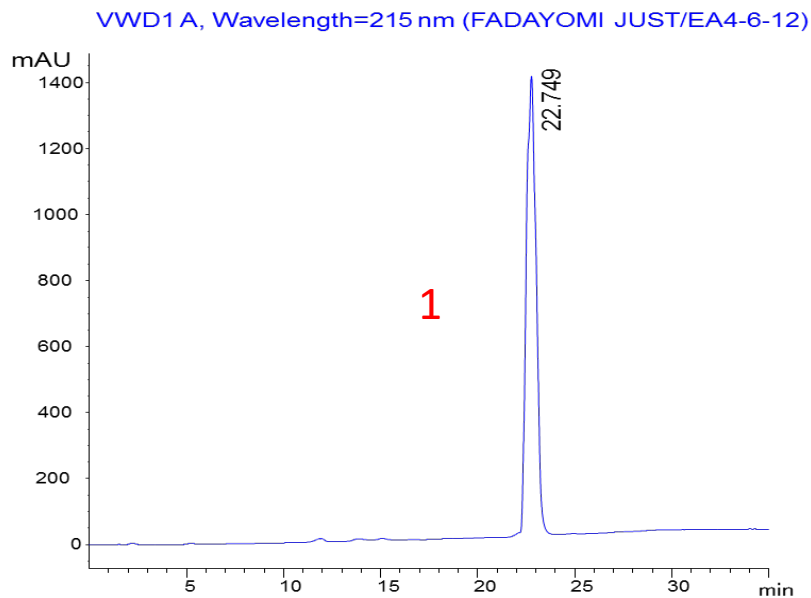


# Isolation and purification of the bioactive compounds of *J. insularis*



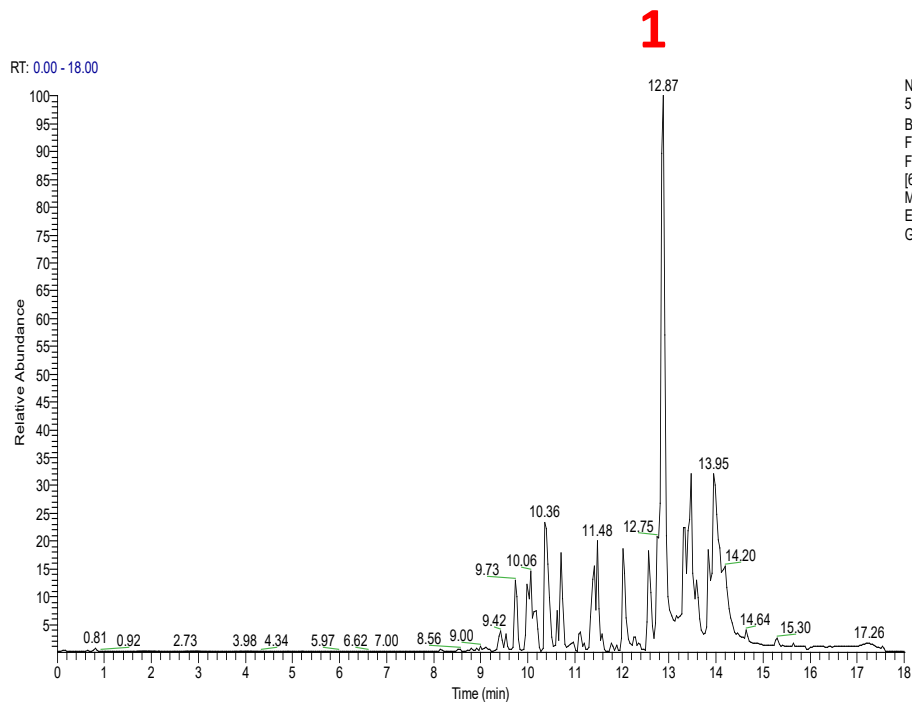
**Analytical HPLC chromatogram of n-Hexane (A) and Ethylacetate (B) fractions respectively showing several peaks with the main compound indicated by retention time**

# HPLC chromatogram of isolated compound 1 and 2 from JJ



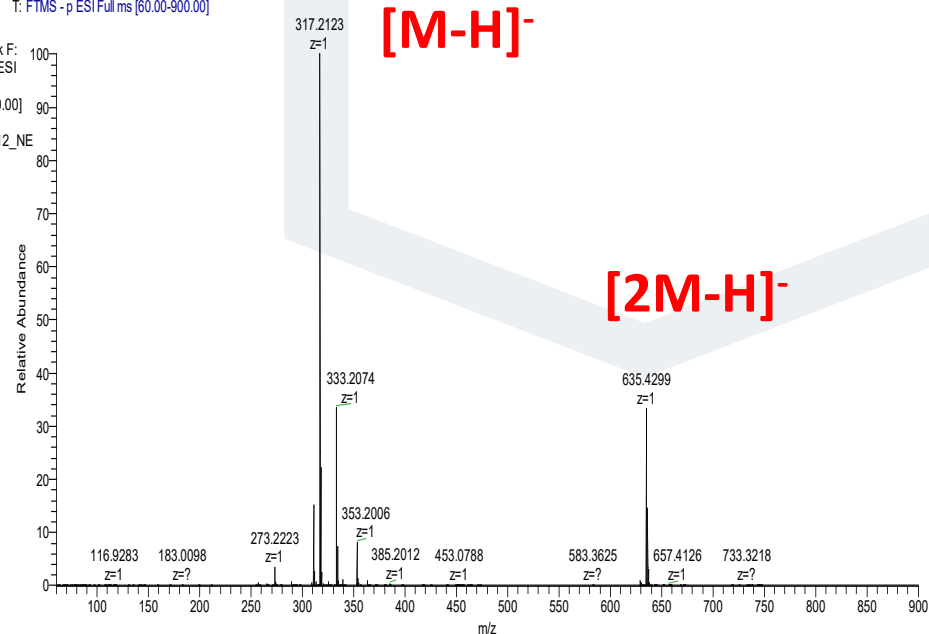
Analytical HPLC chromatogram of compound 1 and 2 isolated from JJ

# Identification of compound 1 and 2 with LC MS and NMR



EA4\_F6\_12\_NEG#3354 RT: 12.87 AV: 1 NL: 5.02E9  
T: FTMS -p ESI Full ms [60.00-900.00]

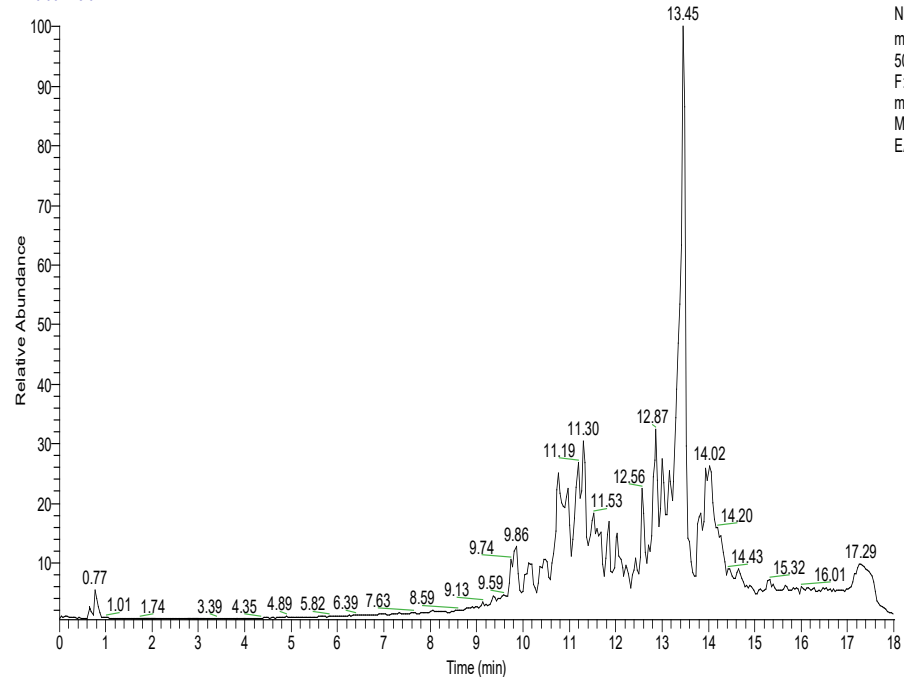
NL:  
5.08E9  
Base Peak F:  
FTMS -p ESI  
Full ms  
[60.00-900.00]  
MS  
EA4\_F6\_12\_NE  
G



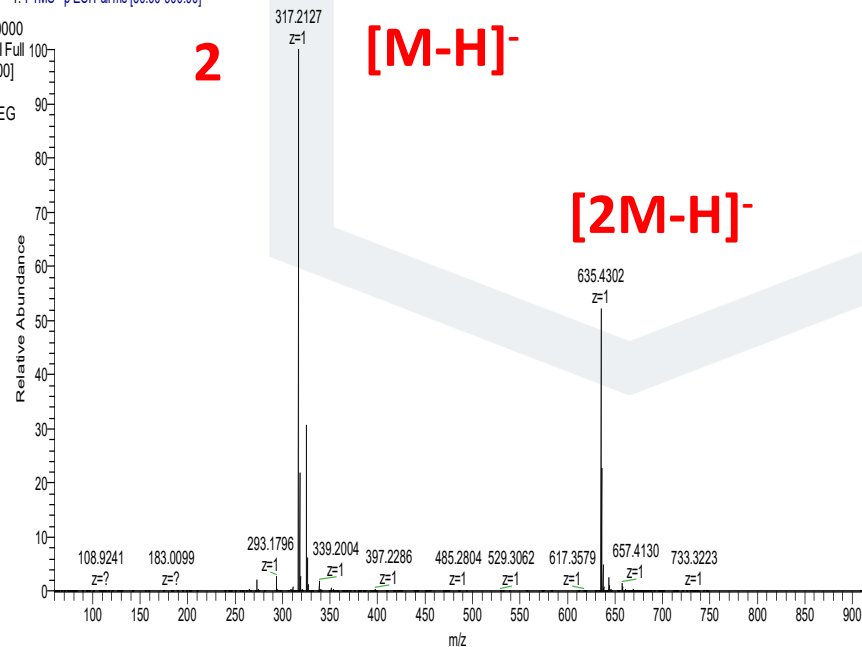
LC MS chromatogram of isolated compound 1 showing the (-)ESI-MS of the major peak (1) at retention time of 12.87.

# Identification of compound 1 and 2 with LC MS and NMR

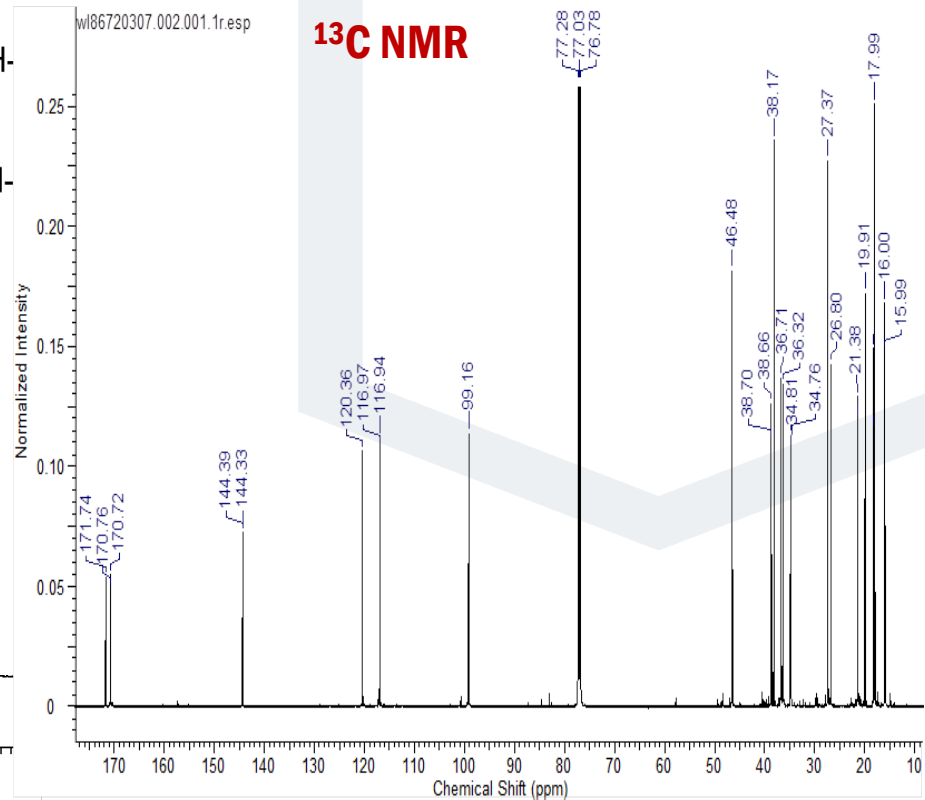
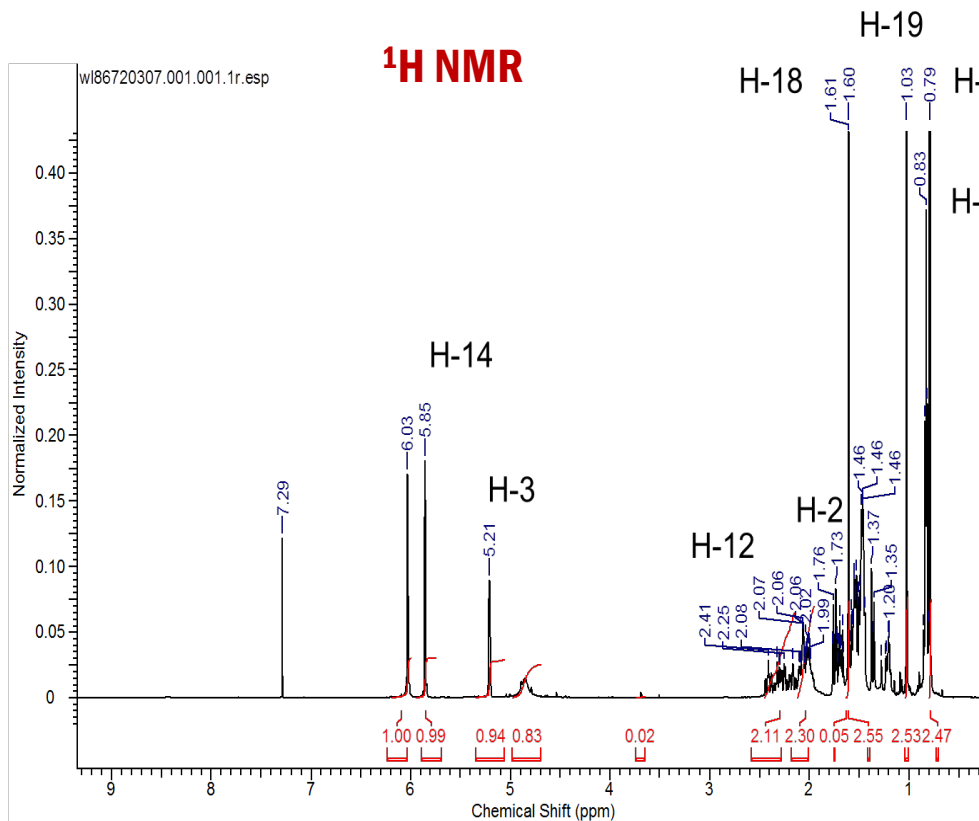
RT: 0.00 - 18.01



NL: 9.11E9 EA4\_F6\_13\_NEG#3559-3582 RT: 13.45-13.48 AV: 2 NL: 3.02E9  
m/z= 50.0000-2815.0000  
F: FTMS - p ESI Full ms [60.00-900.00]  
MS  
EA4\_F6\_13\_NEG

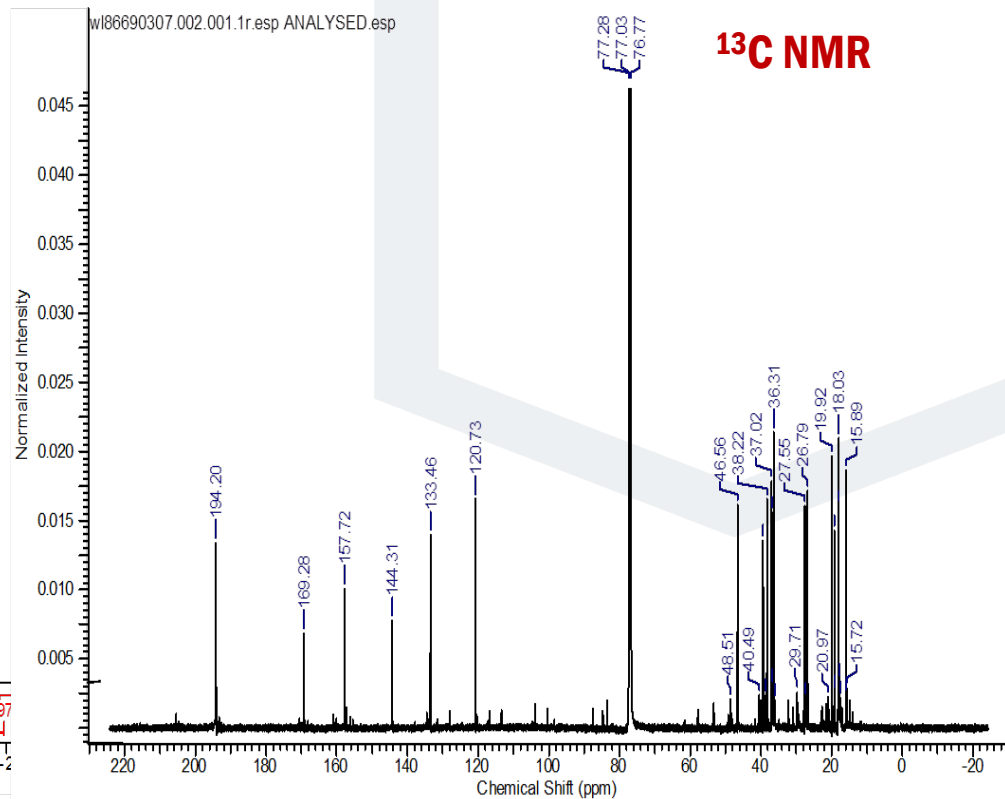
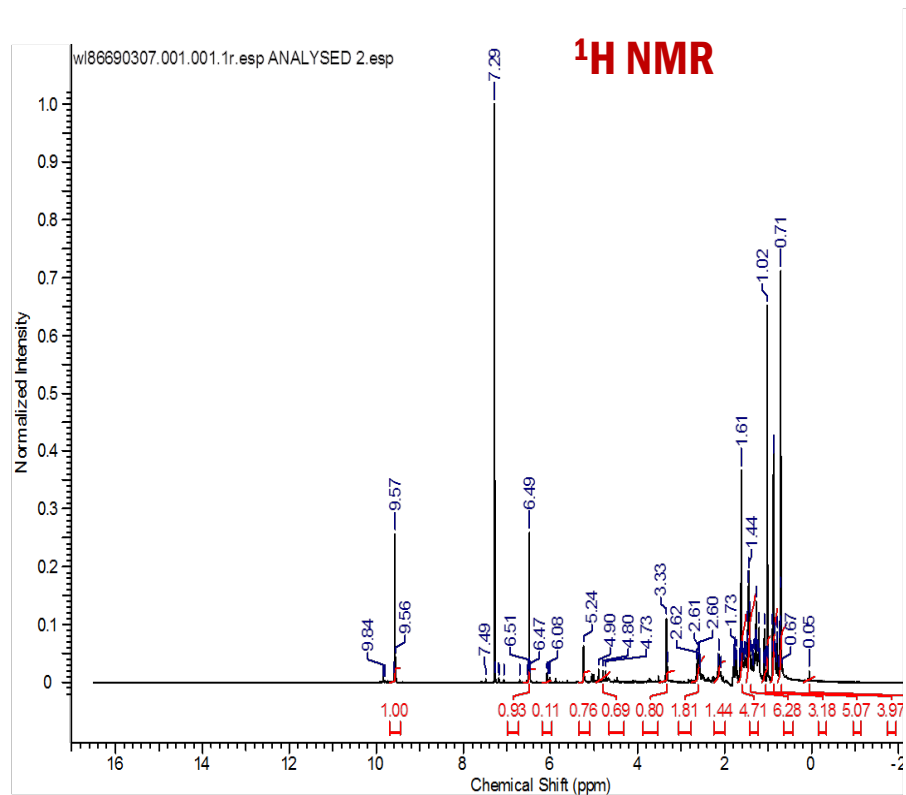


**LC MS chromatogram of isolated compound 2 showing the (-) ESI-MS of the major peak (2) at retention time of 13.45 .**



**NMR analysis of isolated bioactive compound 1**

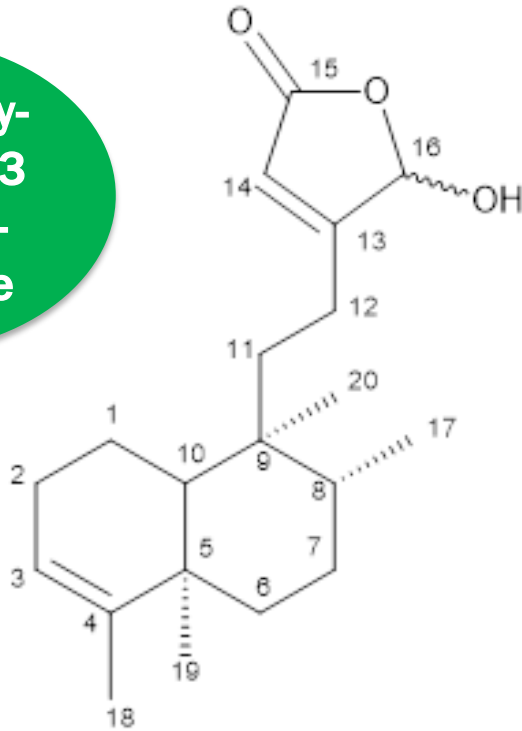




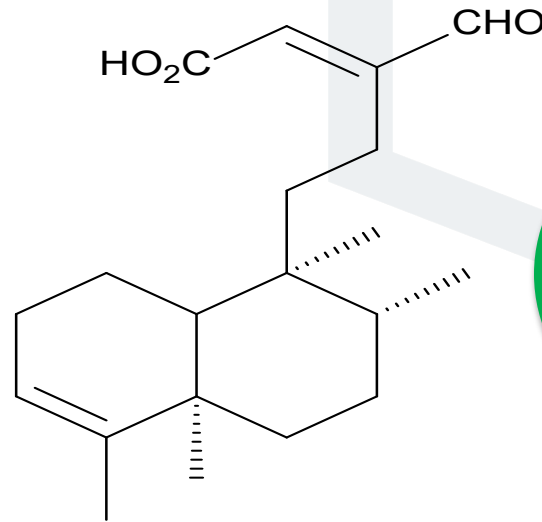
**<sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR analysis of isolated bioactive compounds 2**

# Identification and chemical structure of compound 1 and 2

**16 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-  
cleroda-3,13  
(14)Z-dien-  
15,16-olide**



**1**

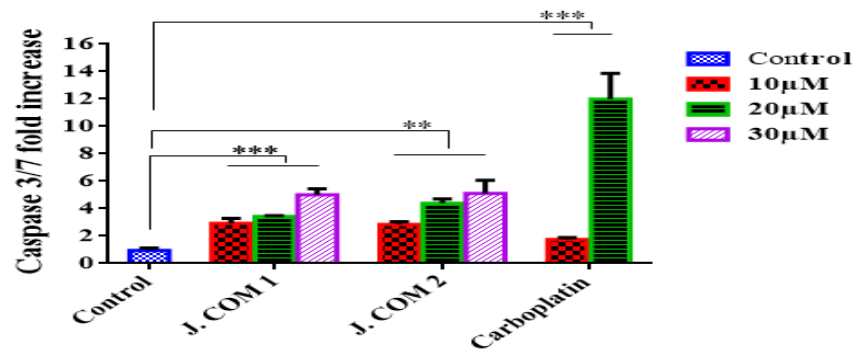


**2**

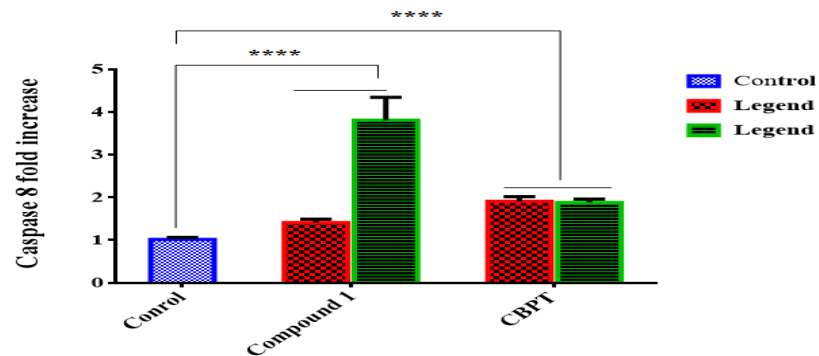
**16-  
oxocleroda-  
3,13(14)E-  
dien-15-oic  
acid**

# Analysis of Apoptotic activities of identified compounds 1 and 2

## Caspase 3/7 activities of compound 1 and 2

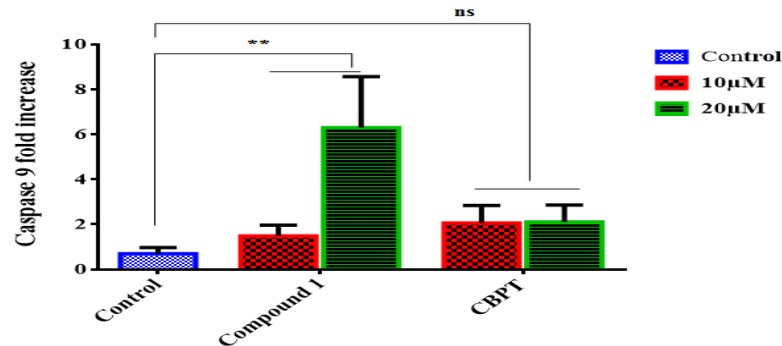
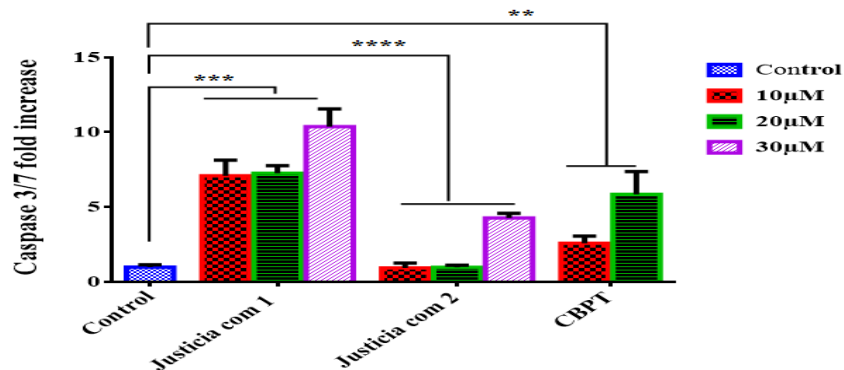


## Caspase 8 and 9 activities of compound 1



Treatment Administered on OVCAR-4 for 48hours

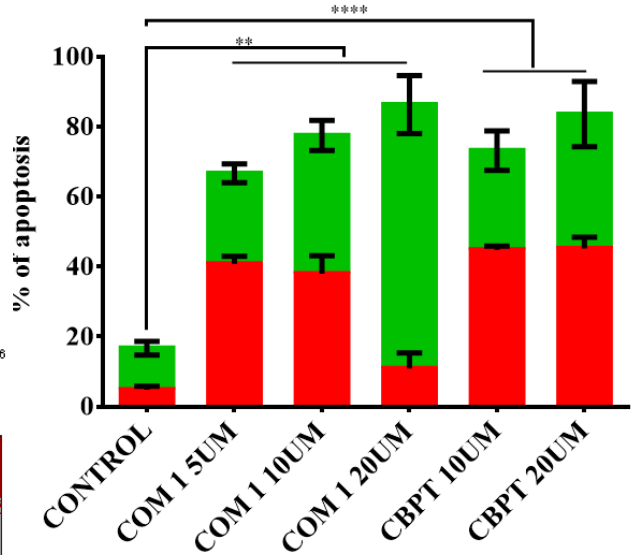
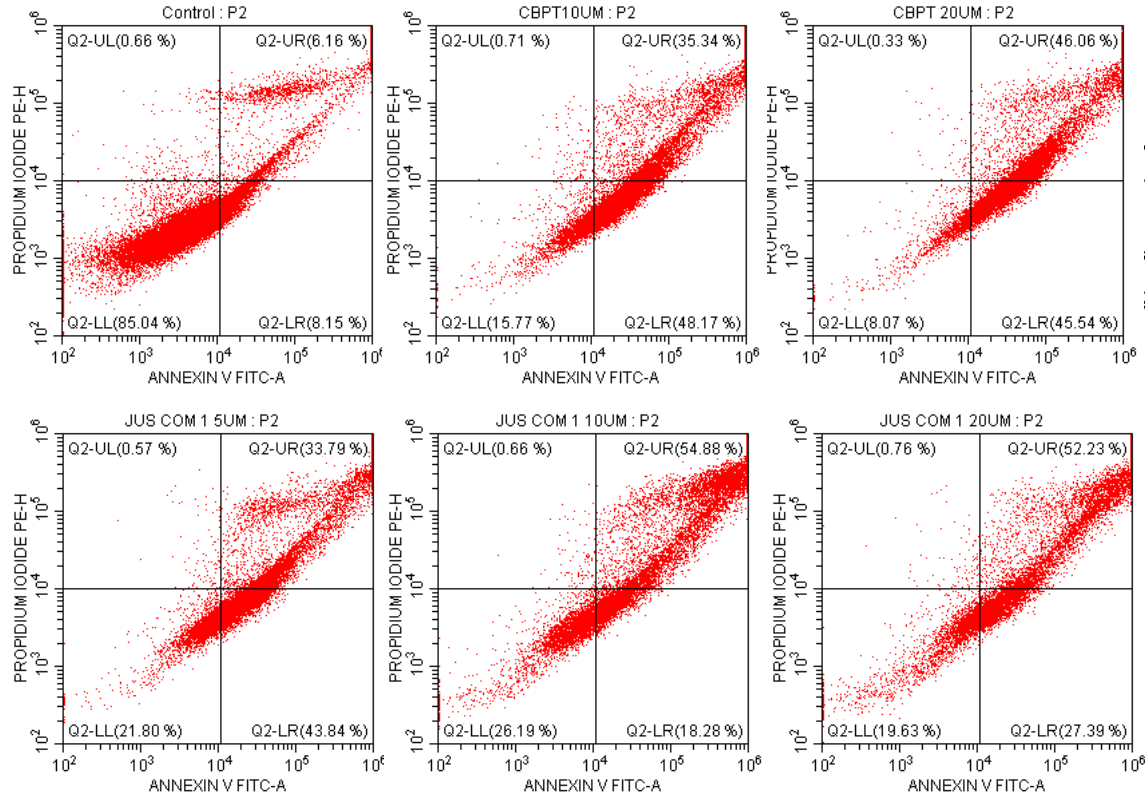
Treatment Administered on OVCAR-8 for 48hours



Treatment Administered on OVCAR-8 for 48hours

Treatment Administered on OVCAR-8 for 48hours

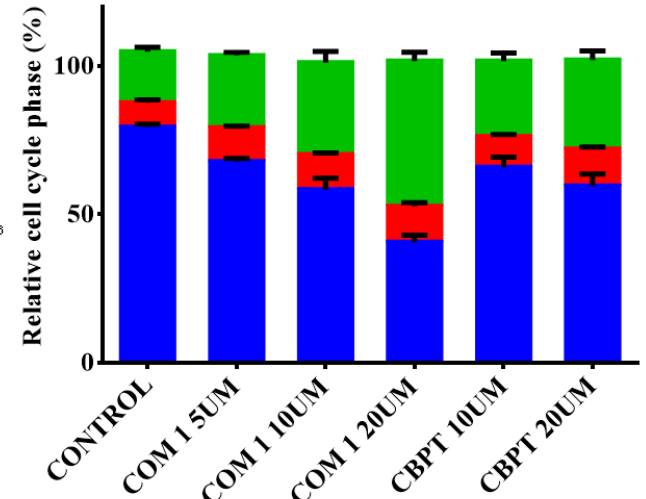
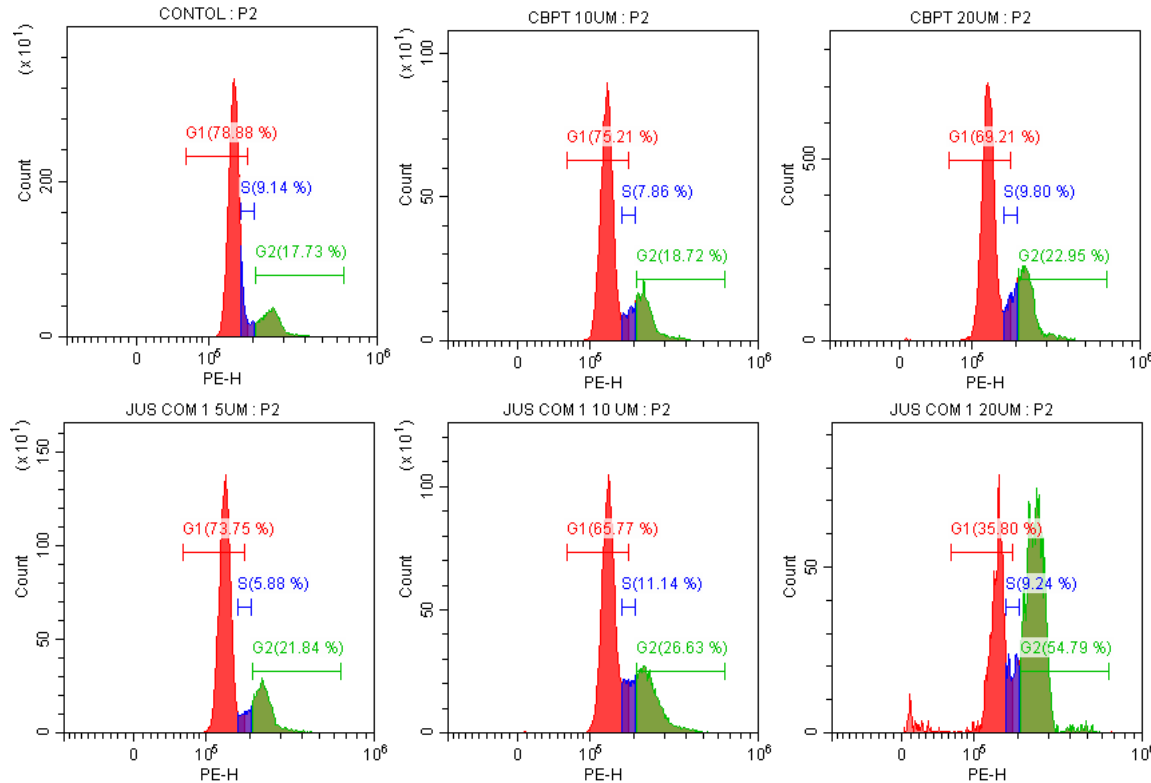
# Analysis of Early and Late apoptosis in ovarian cancer cells



Analysis of apoptosis in OVCAR-8 cell line

■ LATE APOPTOSIS   
 ■ EARLY APOPTOSIS

# Cell cycle analysis of ovarian cancer cells in response to drug treatment



Cell cycle analysis of OVCAR-8 cell line using propidium iodide

■ G1 Phase ■ S Phase ■ G2 Phase



# Morphological evaluation of the apoptotic activities of bioactive compound 1 using fluorescence microscopy

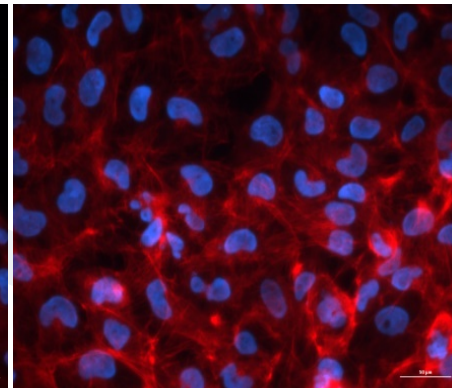
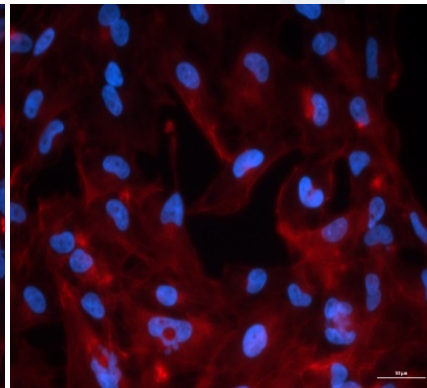
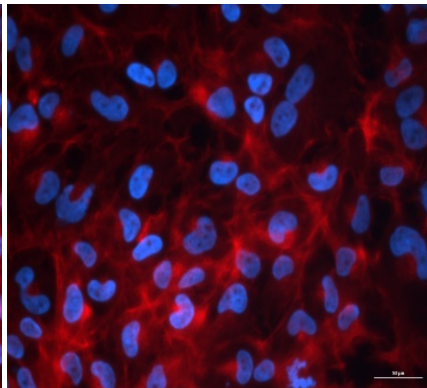
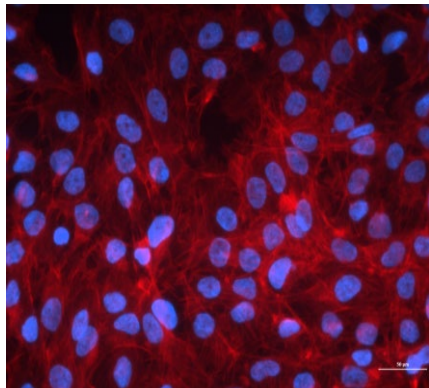
-ve Control

Com 1 10 $\mu$ m

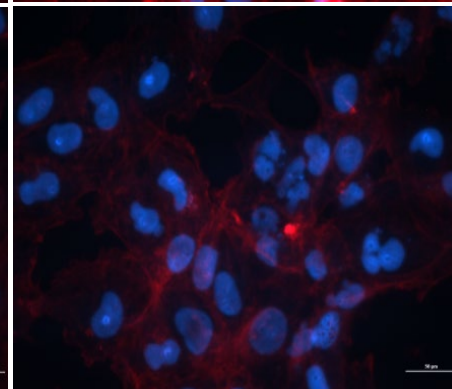
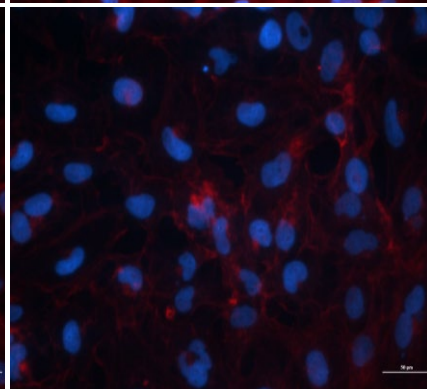
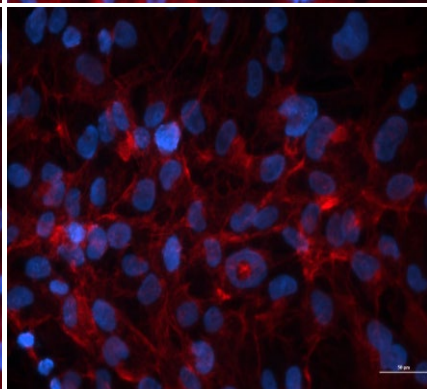
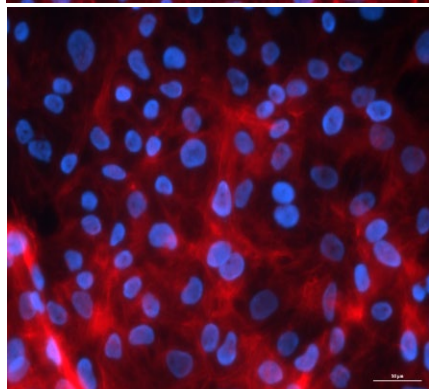
Com1 20 $\mu$ m

+ve Control

48hrs



72hrs



Scale 50 $\mu$ m

# Conclusion

- ❑ This study shows that *J. insularis* has significant cytotoxic activities against ovarian cancer cell lines. It further identified 16 $\alpha$ -hydroxy-cleroda-3,13(14)Z-dien-15,16-olide and 16-oxocleroda-3,13(14)E-dien-15-oic acid as the bio-active compounds in *J. insularis*.
- ❑ The cytotoxic activities of the bio-active compounds were further established to be induction of cell death/apoptosis by activation of caspase 3/7 activities through both intrinsic and extrinsic pathways.
- ❑ Further study will establish the roles of the identified diterpenoid compounds in gene regulating apoptosis.

# Acknowledgements



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**Thank you**

**It's the Keele difference.**