

Skin-Protection Composition Containing *Dendrobium*-Based Ingredients

Inventors

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims the benefit of (1) US Non-provisional Patent Application Serial Number 15/351,636 filed on November 15, 2016; (2) US Non-provisional Patent Application Serial Number 15/352,903 filed on November 16, 2016; and (3) US Non-provisional Patent Application Serial Number 15/633,780 filed on June 27, 2017, where the US Non-provisional Patent Application Serial Number 15/351,636 is a continuation-in-part application of US Non-provisional Patent Application Serial Number 14/740,410 filed on June 16, 2015; the US Non-provisional Patent Application Serial Number 15/352,903 is a continuation-in-part application of US Non-provisional Patent Application Serial Number 14/740,410 filed on June 16, 2015; the US Non-provisional Patent Application Serial Number 15/633,780 is a divisional application of the US Non-provisional Patent Application Serial Number 15/351,636 filed on November 15, 2016, which the disclosures are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a skin-protection composition that comprises stilbenoid(s) and/or stilbenoid-containing extract(s) isolated from *Dendrobium* plants, such as *Dendrobium officinale* and *Dendrobium nobile* for the management of melanogenesis, skin-darkening and skin-aging. More particularly, it relates to the usage of *Dendrobium* ingredients to reduce the formation of melanin in melanocytes. It also relates to the usage of *Dendrobium* ingredients to reduce the generation of reactive oxygen species and oxidative free radicals in melanocytes. The present invention further relates to the use of *Dendrobium*-derived extracts or ingredients in the formulation of skin-protection, skin-whitening and/or anti-skin aging products.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0002] In general, light skin can become darker upon exposure to sunlight, which is the primary source of ultraviolet (UV) radiation in our daily life. Upon UV exposure, reactive oxygen species (ROS) and highly volatile free radicals are provoked. Consequently, our skin gets darkened since melanin-producing cells, or melanocytes, located in the skin's epidermis are prone to produce more melanin in order to minimize the indirect damages of body cells [Sklar LR, Almutawa F, Lim HW, Hamzavi I. Effects

of ultraviolet radiation, visible light, and infrared radiation on erythema and pigmentation: a review. *Photochemical & Photobiological Sciences* 2013; 12:54-64]. In other words, the elevation of melanin production is actually a defense mechanism against UV radiation; however, the accumulation of melanin may result in deleterious biological effects, including abnormal pigmentation, skin darkening as well as aesthetic problems, e.g. freckles or chloasmata [Mishima Y, Imokawa G. Selective aberration and pigment loss in melanosomes of malignant melanoma cells in vitro by glycosylation inhibitors: premelanosomes as glycoprotein. *Journal of Investigative Dermatology* 1983; 81: 106-114]. In this regard, the formation of ROS and free radicals plays a pivotal mechanism leading to skin-darkening and skin-aging. Scavenging of ROS and free radicals can definitely protect skin cells from the oxidative damages. Currently, topical antioxidants, e.g. vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin E, ascorbic acid (AC), butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA) and/or their derivatives, have been widely used in over-the-counter skincare products. However, these products are not effective skin-protection agents possessing both depigmentation and antioxidant properties. To this end, their effectiveness on skin protection is highly limited and restrained. There is a conception in the general public that dark and dull skin makes people look old, depressing and disfigured; therefore, people, especially in oriental countries, are eager to maintain a fair complexion and a pleasing appearance of their integumentary system.

[0003] In fact, melanin refers to a group of endogenous pigments that give multitude of skin colors, i.e. from the basic skin tone to freckles, birth marks, age spots, also in eyes and hair. In the human body, melanins are produced by melanocytes and classified into three major types: eumelanin, pheomelanin and neuromelanin. They differ in chemical structures and physical properties, and thus they are elicited upon different biological responses against external stimuli. Eumelanin and pheomelanin are the two types of melanin that can be found in the skin. Eumelanin provides primarily dark brown to black colors whereas pheomelanin produces reddish colors [Maresca V, Flori E, Picardo M. Skin phototype: a new perspective. *Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research* 2015; 28:378-389]. In melanogenesis, tyrosinase is the major rate-limiting enzyme for regulating melanin production in epidermal melanocytes whereas tyrosinase-related proteins (TRPs) are melanogenic enzymes that control the proportion of carboxylated subunits in melanin biopolymers. When exposed to sunlight, melanin deposition is accelerated as more alpha-melanocyte-stimulating hormone (α -MSH) is released from melanocytes. In addition to the overt skin darkening, such acceleration is indeed a defense mechanism against the UV-induced generation of ROS and/or free radicals, which consequently causes most of the wrinkles, freckles, rashes and age spots on the face. Collectively, the harmful effects of constant or excessive sunlight or UV exposure

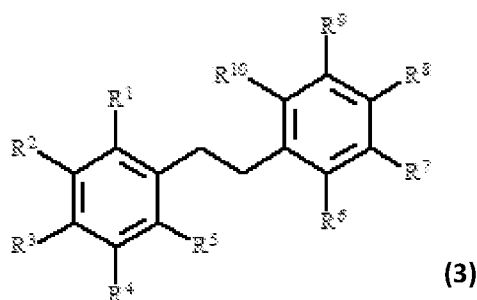
include skin aging, skin damage and even skin cancer. The present invention provides a composition that efficiently attenuates the biosynthesis of melanin as well as oxidative substances. By any means of mechanism, the present invention is able to restrain melanin accumulation and/or oxidative damage in the skin, hence skin protection can be achieved.

[0004] The composition of present invention comprises stilbenoids and/or extracts obtained from plants of the genus *Dendrobium* (Orchidaceae family, commonly called “Shi Hu”), particularly from the species *D. officinale* and *D. nobile*. The said stilbenoids, explicitly *trans*-resveratrol and dihydro-resveratrol, and extracts can be formulated into a cosmetic blend of skin-protection, skin-whitening and/or anti-skin aging products for human skin as they are found to attenuate the generation of ROS and oxidative free radicals, and/or reduce cellular melanin content in melanocytes. The reduction of melanin formation may be associated with an inhibition of the activity of pigment-producing enzymes, namely tyrosinase, TRP-1 and TRP-2.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0005] Accordingly, the objective of this invention relates to a skin-protection composition that comprises stilbenoid(s) and/or stilbenoid-containing extract(s) isolated from *Dendrobium* plants, such as *Dendrobium officinale* and *Dendrobium nobile*. This invention also relates to the use of *Dendrobium*-derived extracts or ingredients in reducing melanin formation in melanocytes for the management of melanogenesis and skin-darkening. Particularly, this invention also relates to the use of *Dendrobium*-derived extracts or ingredients in the formulation of skin-protection, skin-whitening and/or anti-skin aging products.

[0006] In a first embodiment of the first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a compound for use in suppressing a fibrotic mediator of stellate cells present in an internal organ of a subject in need thereof, or a use of the compound in preparation of a composition for suppressing a fibrotic mediator of stellate cells present in an internal organ of said subject. Said compound has a formula of



(3)

wherein

R² and R⁴ are each independently selected from -OR¹¹ and -OC(O)R¹¹;

R¹, R³, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -OR¹¹ and -OC(O)R¹¹; or R² and R³, or R⁷ and R⁸ may be taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a cyclic group;

R¹¹ is independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R¹²;

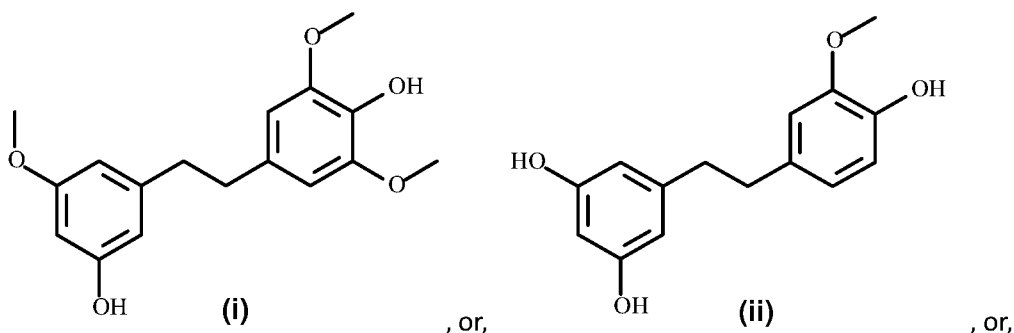
R¹² is independently selected from halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, oxo, -OR¹³, -C(O)R¹⁴, -C(O)N(R¹³)R¹⁴, -C(O)OR¹³, -OC(O)R¹⁴, -S(O)₂R¹³, -S(O)₂N(R¹³)R¹⁴, -N(R¹³)R¹⁴;

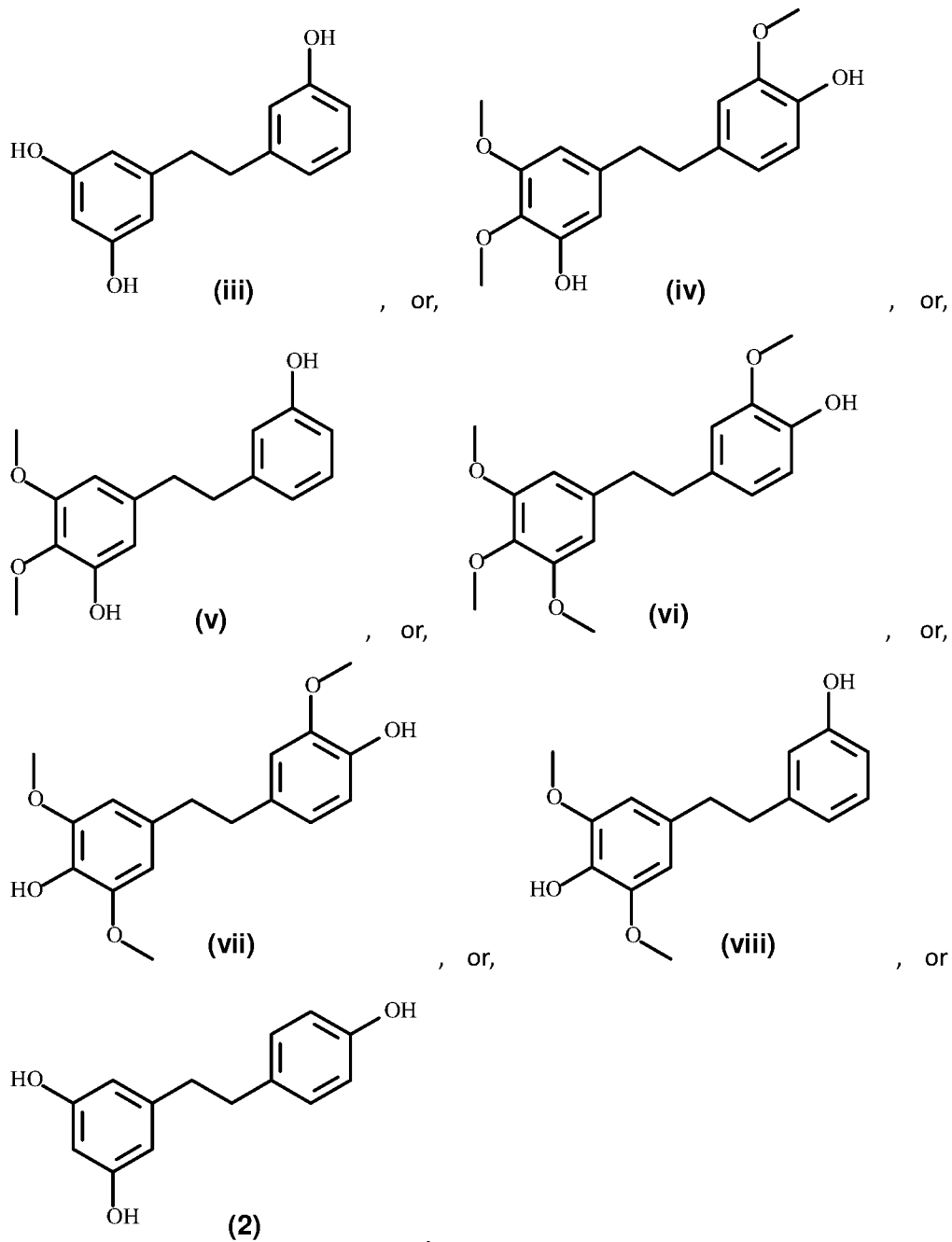
R¹³ and R¹⁴ are each independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, amino, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl and C₁₋₆ alkoxy; or an enantiomer thereof;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof;

or a mixture of said compound, the derivative and/or chemical variants thereof.

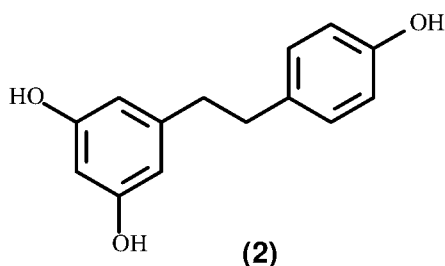
[0007] In a second embodiment of the first aspect of the present invention there is provided a compound for use in suppressing a fibrotic mediator of stellate cells present in an internal organ of a subject in need thereof or the use of the compound in preparation of a composition for suppressing a fibrotic mediator of stellate cells present in an internal organ of said subject, wherein said compound has a formula of





[0008] In a first embodiment of a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for suppressing fibrotic mediator(s) in stellate cells present in an internal organ of a subject in need thereof comprising administering a composition comprising one or more compounds of formulae (i) to (viii) or dihydro-resveratrol [i.e., formula (2)] to a subject in need thereof.

[0009] In a second embodiment of the second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for suppressing fibrotic mediator(s) in stellate cells present in an internal organ of a subject in need thereof wherein the composition is administered to a subject in need thereof with a dosage of at least 1.622 mg/kg/day wherein said composition consists of a compound with a formula of



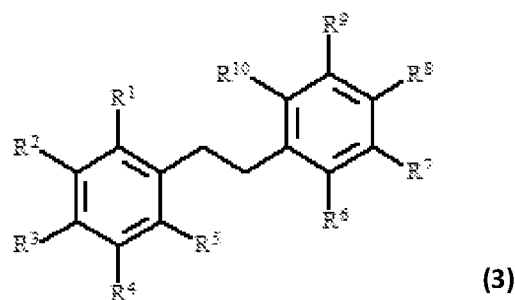
[0010] In a third embodiment of the second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for suppressing fibrotic mediator(s) in stellate cells present in an internal organ of a subject in need wherein the said subject is human.

[0011] In a fourth embodiment of the second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for suppressing fibrotic mediator(s) in stellate cells present in an internal organ of a subject in need wherein the composition is administered orally to said subject in need thereof.

[0012] In a fifth embodiment of the second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for suppressing fibrotic mediator(s) in stellate cells present in an internal organ of a subject in need thereof wherein the internal organ comprises pancreas, liver, kidney and lung.

[0013] In a sixth embodiment of the second aspect of the present invention, said composition is administered to said subject orally.

[0014] In a first embodiment of a third aspect of the present invention there is provided a compound for use in treating pancreatogenic diabetes (or Type 3c diabetes milieus) in a subject in need thereof with a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the following formula:



wherein

R^2 and R^4 are each independently selected from $-OR^{11}$ and $-OC(O)R^{11}$;

R^1 , R^3 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} are each independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-OC(O)R^{11}$; or R^2 and R^3 , or R^7 and R^8 may be taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a cyclic group;

R^{11} is independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R^{12} ;

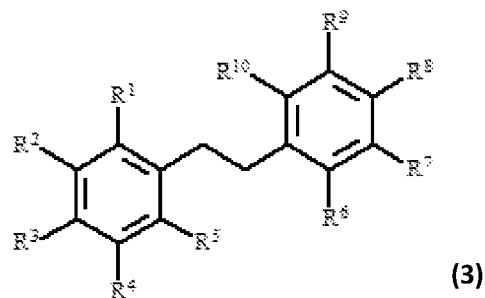
R^{12} is independently selected from halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, oxo, $-OR^{13}$, $-C(O)R^{14}$, $-C(O)N(R^{13})R^{14}$, $-C(O)OR^{13}$, $-OC(O)R^{14}$, $-S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{13})R^{14}$, $-N(R^{13})R^{14}$;

R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkoxy; or an enantiomer thereof;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof;

or a mixture of said compound, the derivative and/or chemical variants thereof.

[0015] In a second embodiment of the third aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for treating pancreatogenic diabetes (or Type 3c diabetes milieus) in a subject in need thereof comprising using a composition comprising compounds of the following formula:



wherein

R^2 and R^4 are each independently selected from $-OR^{11}$ and $-OC(O)R^{11}$;

R^1 , R^3 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} are each independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-OC(O)R^{11}$; or R^2 and R^3 , or R^7 and R^8 may be taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a cyclic group;

R^{11} is independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R^{12} ;

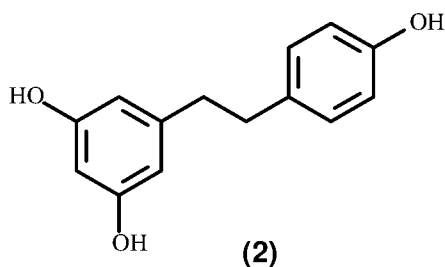
R^{12} is independently selected from halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, oxo, $-OR^{13}$, $-C(O)R^{14}$, $-C(O)N(R^{13})R^{14}$, $-C(O)OR^{13}$, $-OC(O)R^{14}$, $-S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{13})R^{14}$, $-N(R^{13})R^{14}$;

R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkoxy; or an enantiomer thereof;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof;

or a mixture of said compound, the derivative and/or chemical variants thereof.

[0016] In a third embodiment of the third aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for treating pancreatogenic diabetes (or Type 3c diabetes milieus) in a subject in need thereof wherein the composition is administered to a subject in need thereof with a dosage of at least 1.622 mg/kg/day wherein said composition consists of a compound with a formula of

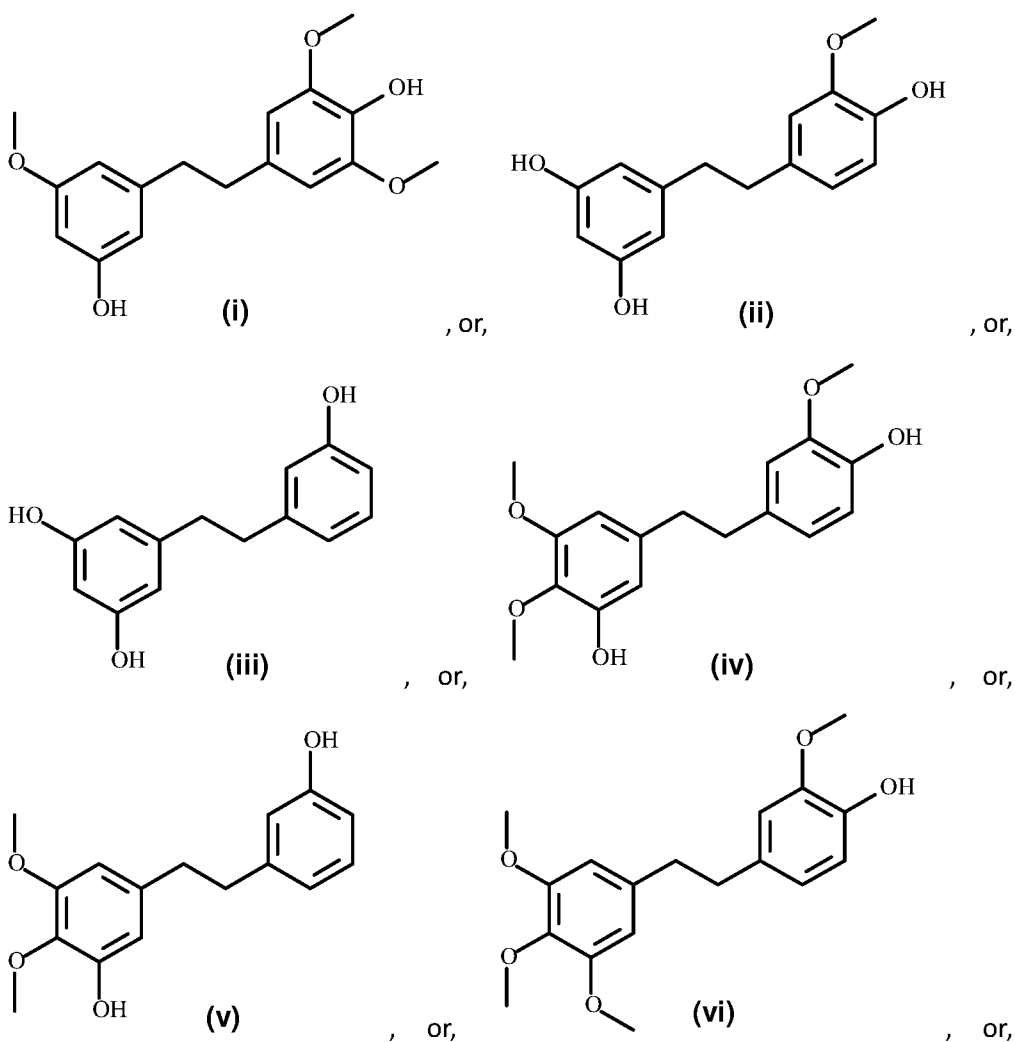


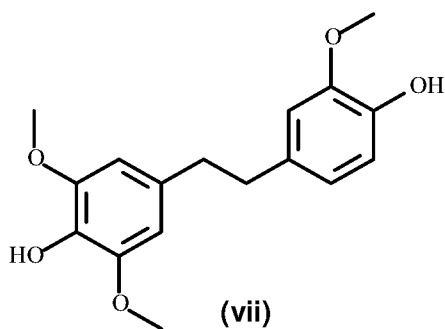
[0017] In a fourth embodiment of the third aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for treating pancreatogenic diabetes (or Type 3c diabetes milieus) in a subject in need thereof wherein said subject is human.

[0018] In a fifth embodiment of the third aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for treating pancreatogenic diabetes (or Type 3c diabetes milieus) in a subject in need thereof wherein the composition is administered orally to said subject in need thereof.

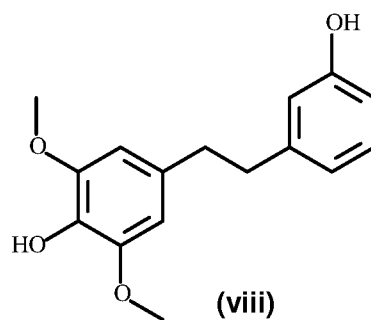
[0019] In a sixth embodiment of the third aspect, said compound is used in preparation of a composition for treating pancreatogenic diabetes (or Type 3c diabetes milieus) in said subject, and said subject is human.

[0020] In a first embodiment of a fourth aspect of the present invention there is provided a composition for use in treating pancreatogenic diabetes (or Type 3c diabetes milieus) in a subject in need thereof comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of one of the following formulae:

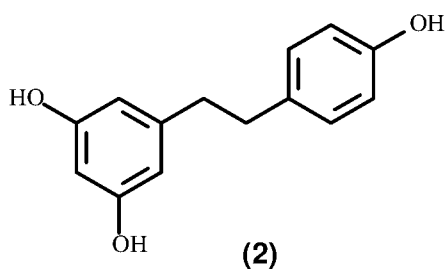




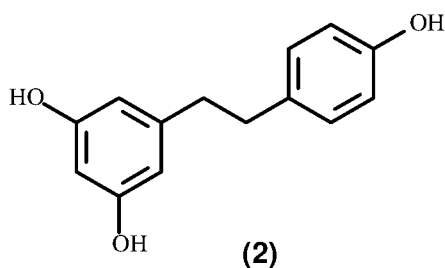
, or,



, or

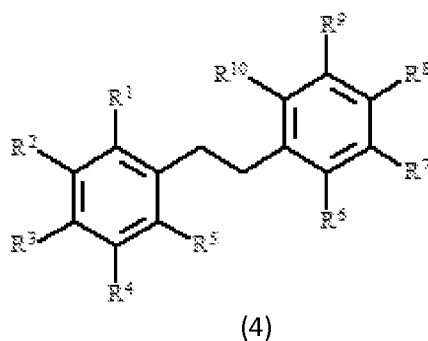


[0021] In a second embodiment of the fourth aspect of the present invention there is provided a composition for treating pancreatogenic diabetes (or Type 3c diabetes milieus) in a subject in need thereof wherein the composition is administered to said subject with a dosage of at least 1.622 mg/kg/day wherein said composition consists of a compound with a formula of



[0022] In a third embodiment of the fourth aspect of the present invention there is provided a composition for treating pancreatogenic diabetes (or Type 3c diabetes milieus) in a subject in need thereof wherein said subject is human.

[0023] In a first embodiment of a fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided a compound of formula (4):



wherein

R^2 , R^4 , and R^8 are each independently selected from $-OR^{11}$, $-OCH_2R^{12}$, $-OC(O)R^{11}$, $-OCH_2C(O)OR^{12}$ and $-OC(O)CH_2R^{12}$;

R^1 , R^3 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^9 and R^{10} are each independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^{12}$ and $-OC(O)R^{12}$; or R^2 and R^3 , or R^7 and R^8 may be taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a cyclic group;

R^{11} is independently selected from $-(CH_2)$ -hydrocarbyl, C_{2-10} alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and heterocyclyl, each of these groups is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R^{13} ;

R^{12} is independently selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R^{13} ;

R^{13} is independently selected from halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, oxo, $-OR^{14}$, $-C(O)R^{15}$, $-C(O)N(R^{14})R^{15}$, $-C(O)OR^{14}$, $-OC(O)R^{15}$, $-S(O)_2R^{14}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{14})R^{15}$, $-N(R^{14})R^{15}$;

R^{14} and R^{15} are each independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkoxy; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

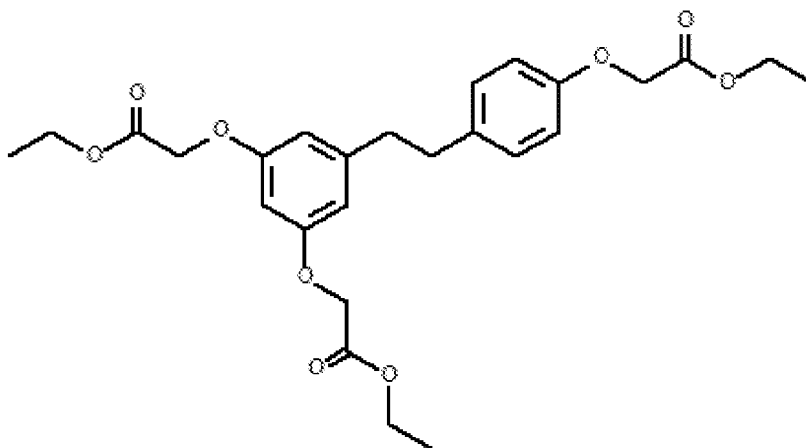
[0024] In a second embodiment of the fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided a compound of formula (4) wherein said compound is an optically pure stereoisomer, enantiomer, racemate or diastereomer thereof.

[0025] In a third embodiment of the fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of the compound of formula (4), the derivatives thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier thereof.

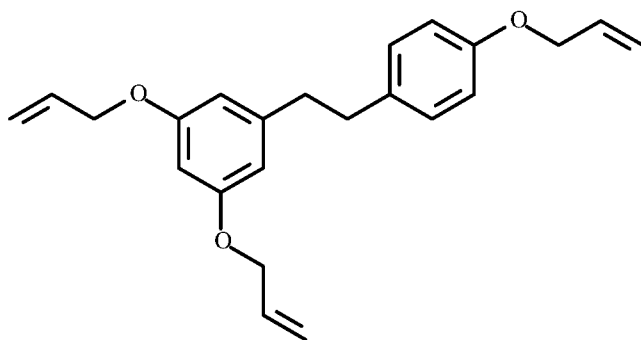
[0026] In a fourth embodiment of the fifth aspect of the present invention there is

provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of the skin whitening and skin protection compound of formula (4), the derivatives thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier thereof.

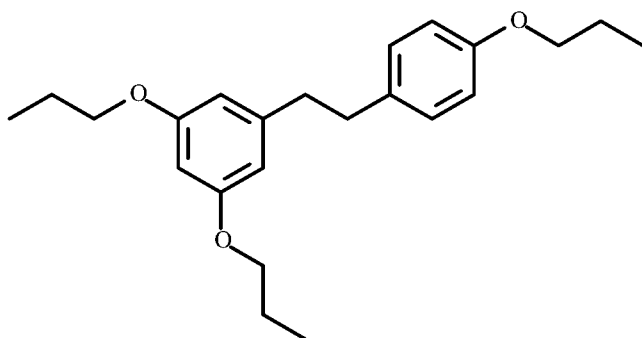
[0027] In a fifth embodiment of the fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided a compound of formula (4), wherein the compound is selected from DR1, DR2, DR3, DR4, DR5, DR6, DR7, DR8, DR9, DR10 or DR11 with the following formulae respectively:



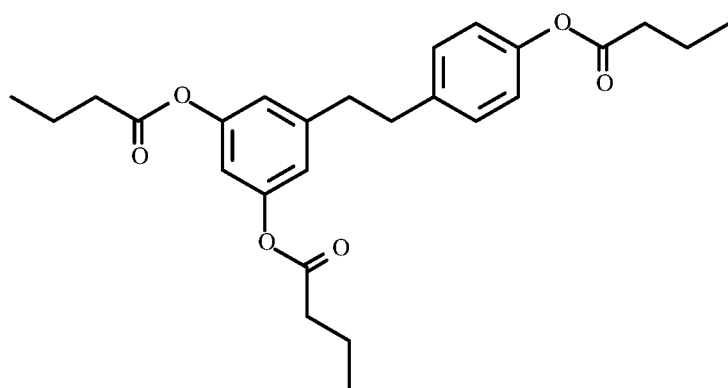
DR1;



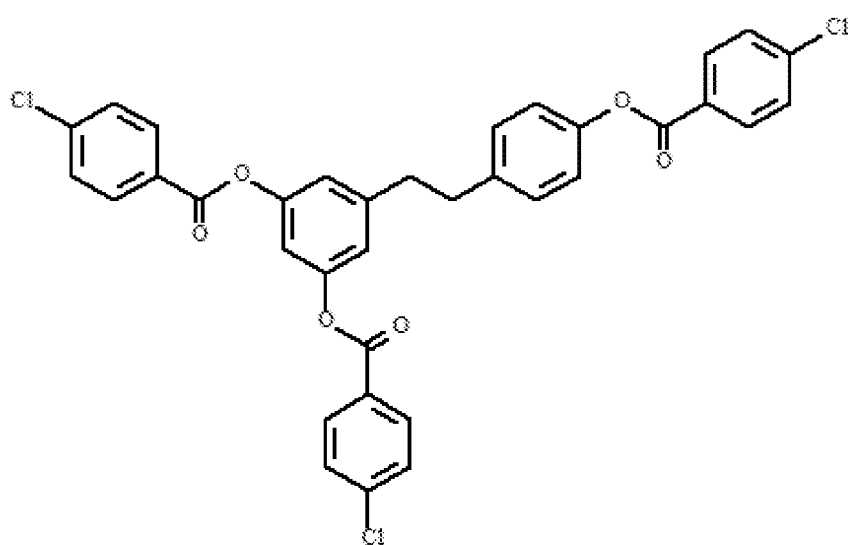
DR2;



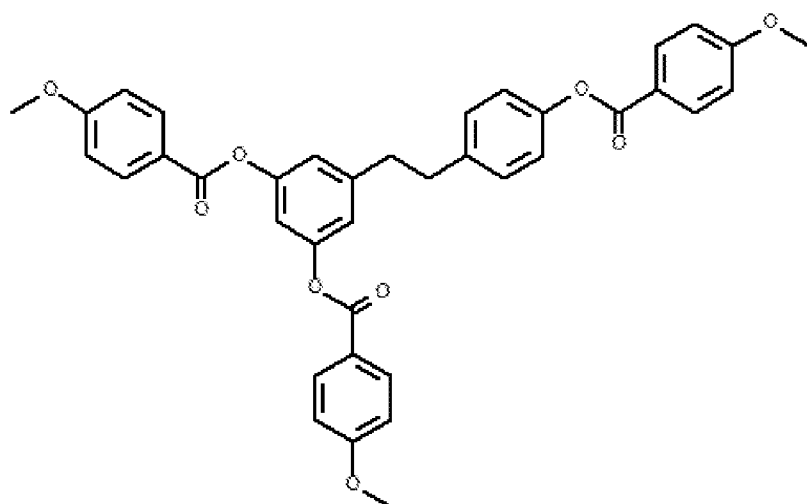
DR3;



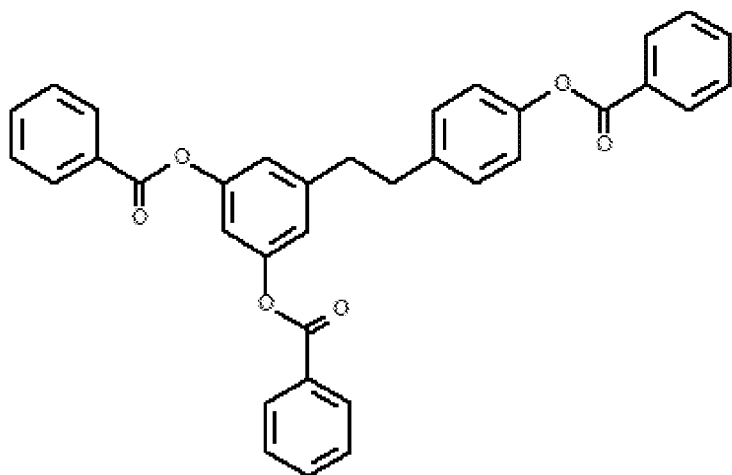
DR4;



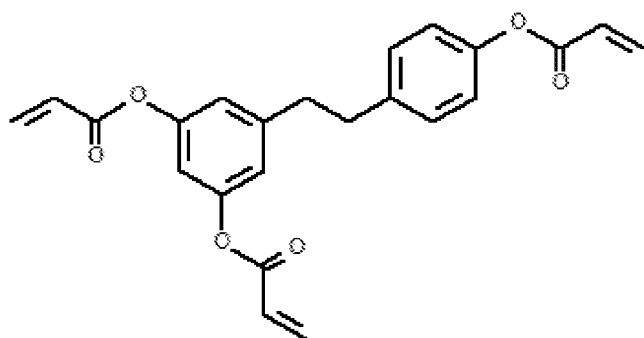
DR5;



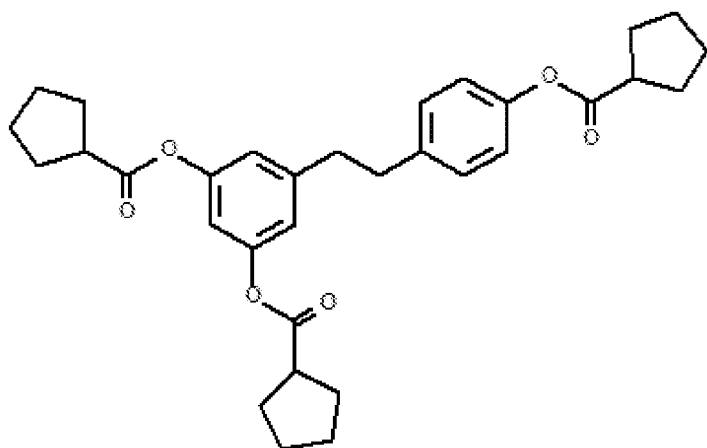
DR6;



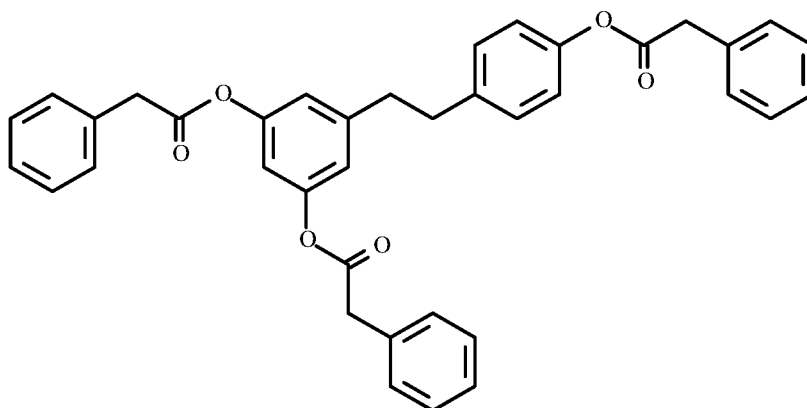
DR7;



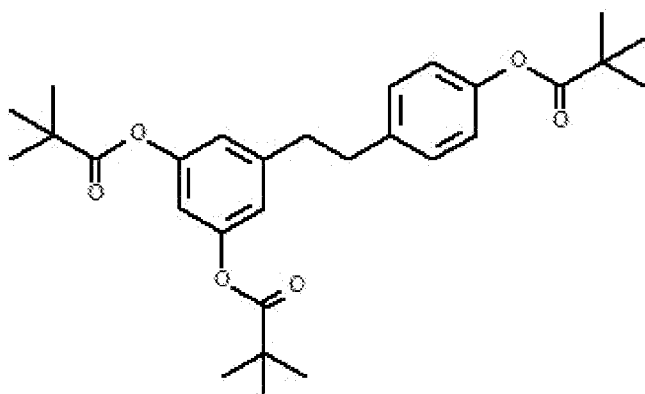
DR8;



DR9;



DR10;



DR11;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

[0028] In a sixth embodiment of the fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided a use of the compound of formula (4) and/or the derivatives or chemical variants thereof alone and/or in combination with one or more other pharmaceutically acceptable skin-whitening and skin-protection agent(s) in preparation of a composition for treatment, prevention or delay of progression of a skin darkening in a subject in needs thereof.

[0029] In a seventh embodiment of the fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided the use of the compound of formula (4) and/or the derivatives or chemical variants thereof alone and/or in combination with one or more other pharmaceutically acceptable skin-whitening and skin-protection agent(s) in the preparation of the composition for treatment, prevention or delay of progression of a skin darkening,

wherein said subject is a human.

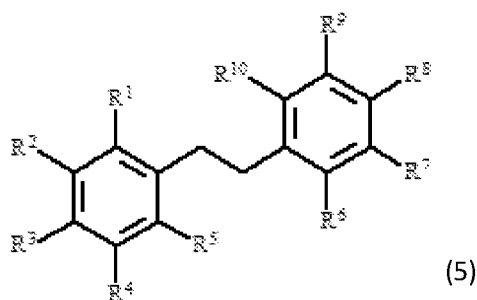
[0030] In an eighth embodiment of the fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating and preventing development and progression of a skin darkening comprising administering the compound of formula (4) and/or the derivatives thereof to a subject in need thereof.

[0031] In a ninth embodiment of the fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating and preventing development and progression of a skin darkening comprising administering the compound of formula (4) and/or the derivatives thereof to a subject in need thereof wherein said subject is a human.

[0032] In a tenth embodiment of the fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided the use of the compound of formula (4) and/or the derivatives or chemical variants thereof alone and/or in combination with one or more other pharmaceutically acceptable skin-whitening and skin-protection agent(s) in the preparation of the composition for treatment, prevention or delay of progression of a skin darkening in a subject in need thereof, wherein the composition is applied topically.

[0033] In an eleventh embodiment of the fifth aspect of the present invention there is provided the composition comprising the compound of formula (4) and/or the derivatives or chemical variants thereof alone and/or in combination with one or more other pharmaceutically acceptable skin-whitening and skin-protection agent(s), wherein the composition is in the form of paste, solid, powder, particle, emulsion, a day cream, a night cream, a face lotion, a body lotion, a body butter, a skin peel, a mask, a shower gel, a sun cream, a sun lotion, an after sun cream, an after sun lotion, a lip balm, a lip gloss, or alike.

[0034] In a first embodiment of a sixth aspect of the present invention there is provided a skin whitening and skin protection against UV exposure, skin damage and aging compound of formula (5):



wherein

R^2 , R^4 , and R^8 are each independently selected from $-OR^{11}$, $-OCH_2R^{11}$, $-OC(O)R^{11}$, $-OCH_2C(O)OR^{11}$ and $-OC(O)CH_2R^{11}$;

R^1 , R^3 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^9 and R^{10} are each independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-OC(O)R^{11}$; or R^2 and R^3 , or R^7 and R^8 may be taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a cyclic group;

R^{11} is independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R^{12} ;

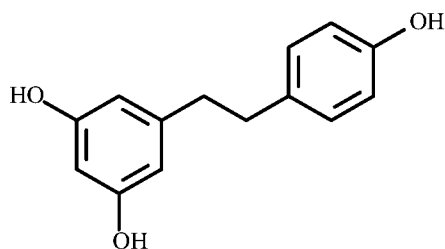
R^{12} is independently selected from halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, oxo, $-OR^{13}$, $-C(O)R^{14}$, $-C(O)N(R^{13})R^{14}$, $-C(O)OR^{13}$, $-OC(O)R^{14}$, $-S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{13})R^{14}$, $-N(R^{13})R^{14}$;

R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkoxy;

or an enantiomer, optically pure stereoisomer, racemate or diastereomer thereof;

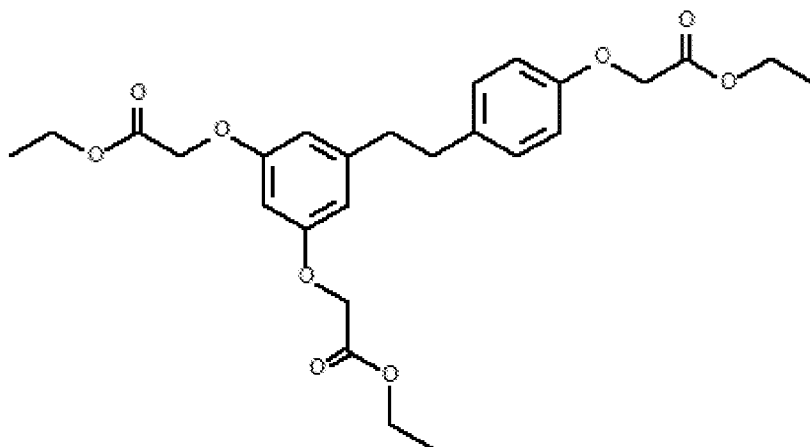
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof

[0035] In a second embodiment of the sixth aspect of the present invention there is provided a skin whitening and skin protection against UV exposure, skin damage and aging compound with a formula of:

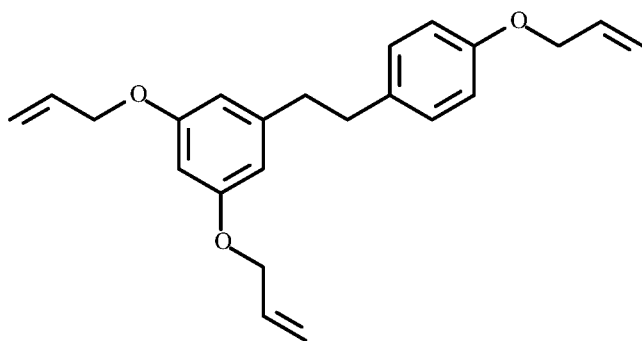


Dihydro-resveratrol

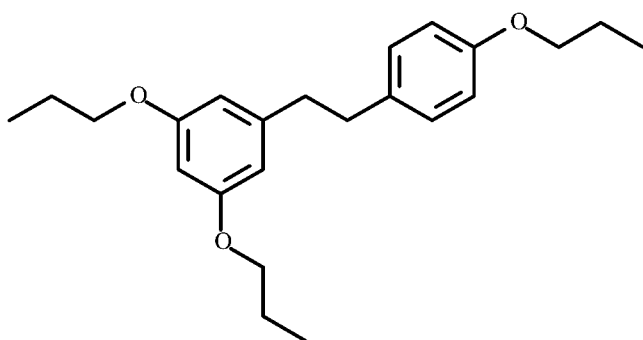
;



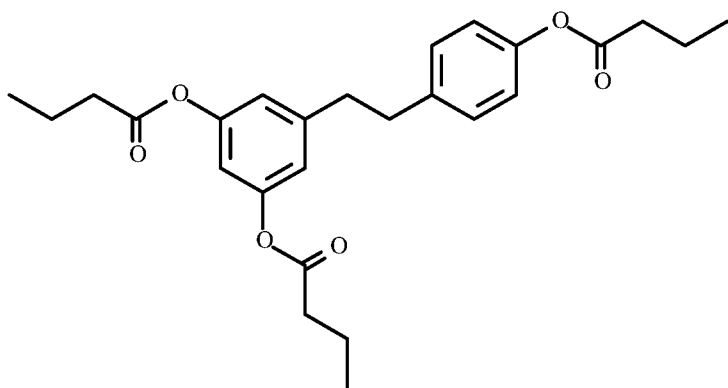
DR1;



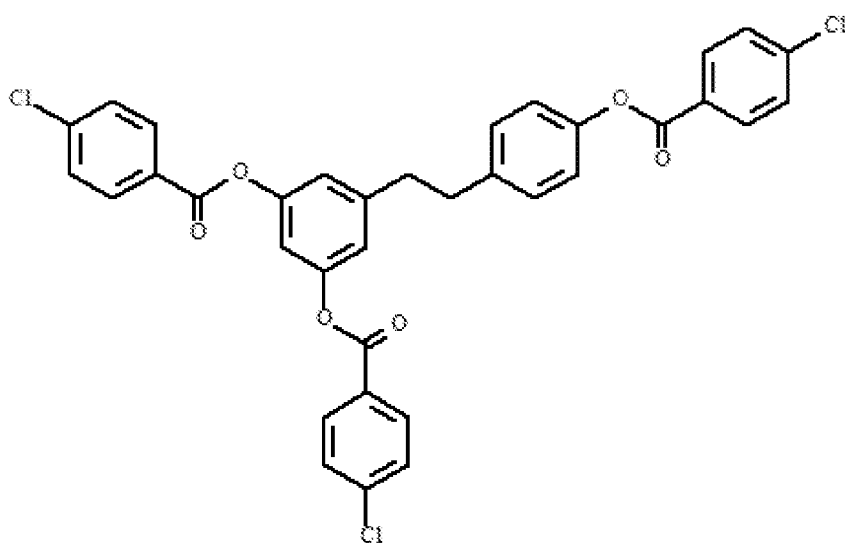
DR2;



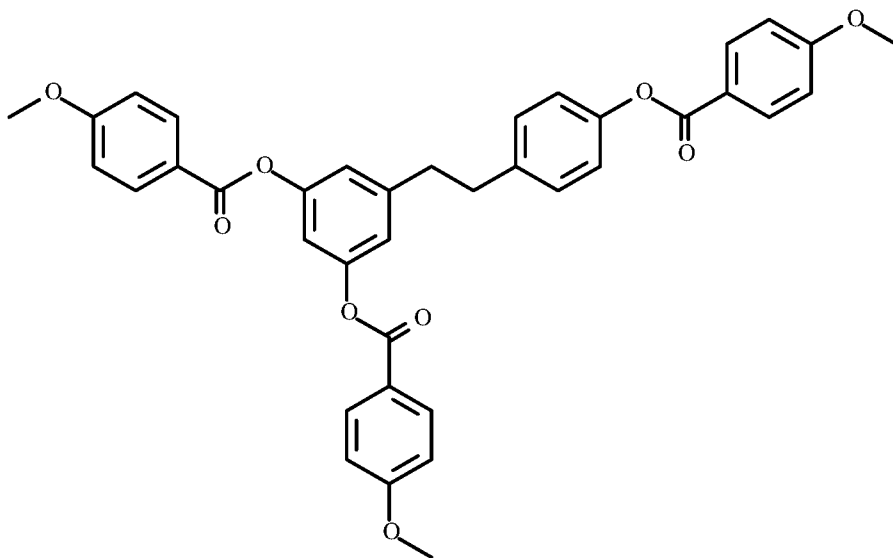
DR3;



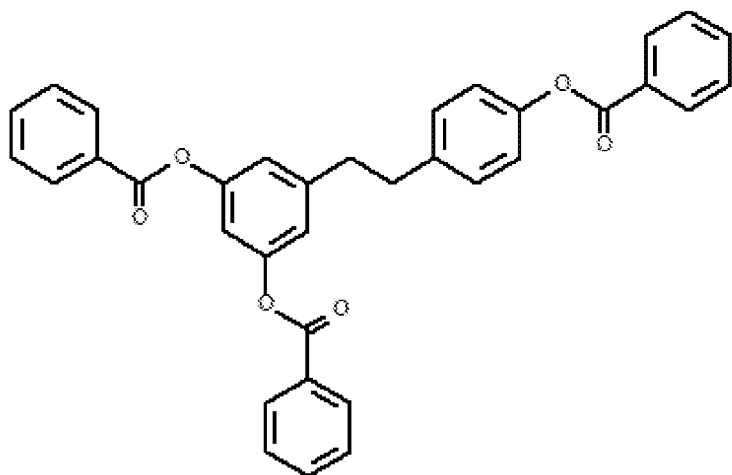
DR4;



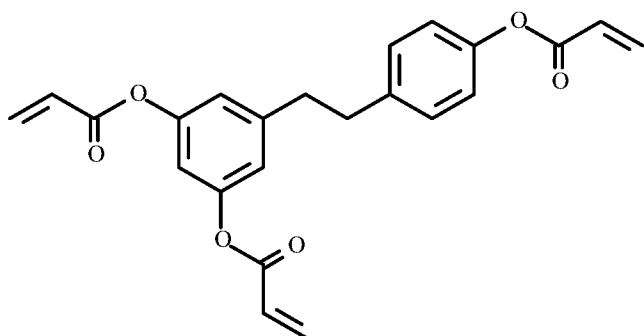
DR5;



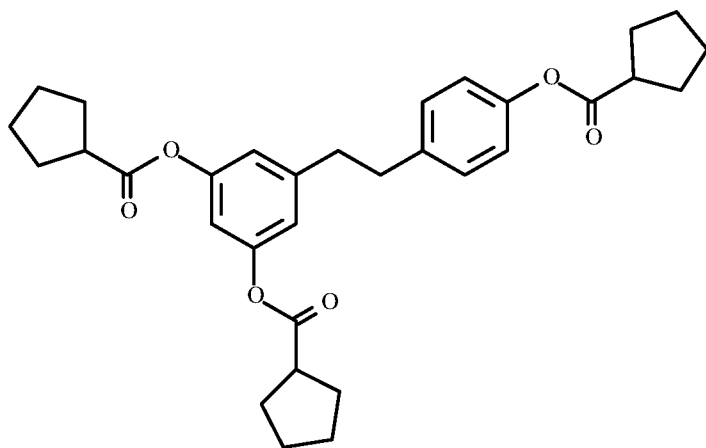
DR6;



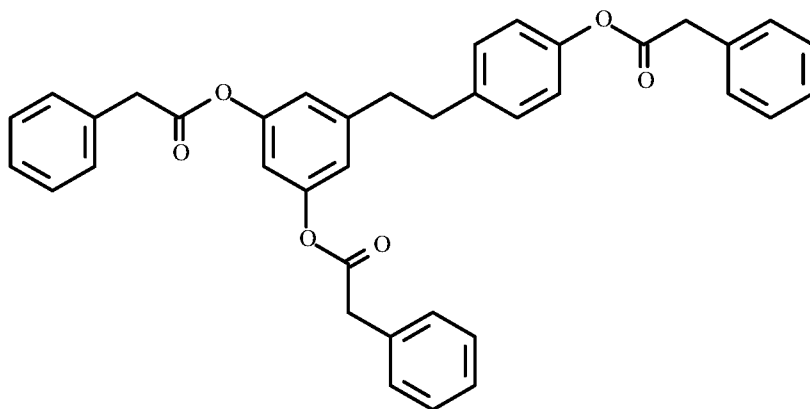
DR7;



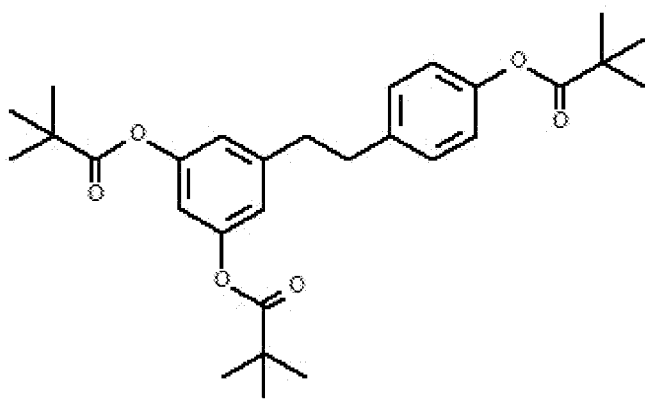
DR8;



DR9;



DR10; or



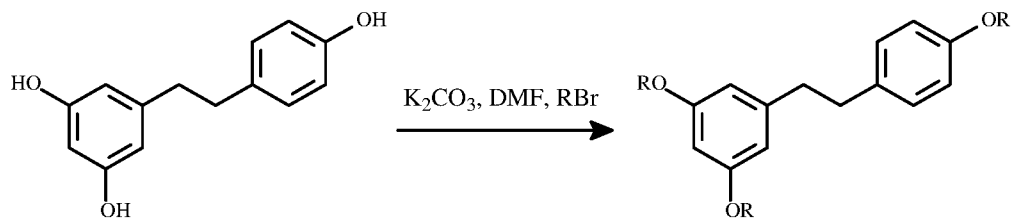
DR11;

or an enantiomer thereof;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

[0036] In a seventh aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of synthesizing the compound of formulae DR1 to DR11 from dihydro-resveratrol according to the following synthesis schemes, respectively:

Scheme 1 for DR1 to DR3:



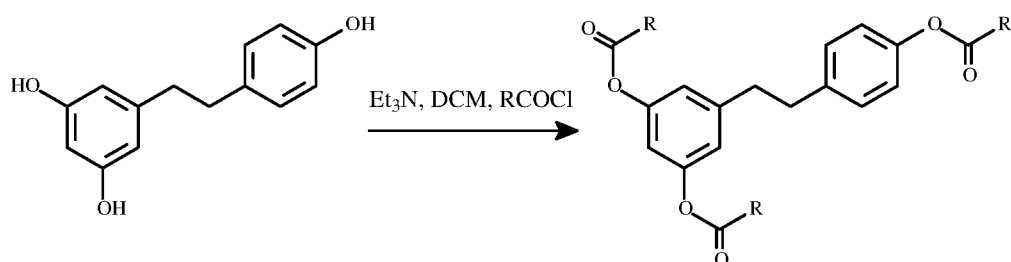
wherein

R is -OR¹¹, -OCH₂R¹¹ or -OCH₂C(O)OR¹¹;

R¹¹ is hydrocarbyl;

and

Scheme 2 for DR4 to DR11:



wherein

R is $-\text{R}^{11}$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{R}^{11}$;

R^{11} is hydrocarbyl, which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R^{12} ;

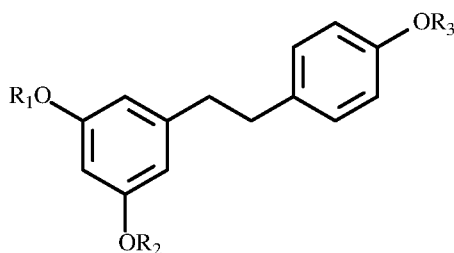
R^{12} is halogen or $-\text{OR}^{13}$; and

R^{13} is hydrogen or hydrocarbyl.

[0037] In an embodiment, under Scheme 1, dihydro-resveratrol and RBr are added in dimethylformamide (DMF) and K_2CO_3 to form a mixture. The resulting mixture is stirred at room temperature until the starting material disappear on thin-layer chromatography (TLC). The mixture is then diluted with H_2O and washed with dichloromethane (DCM) three times to extract the organic phase. The combined organic layer is washed with saturated sodium chloride (NaCl) twice, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , concentrated in vacuum and purified by preparative (prep-)TLC (PE/EA = 5/1 or 3/1) to afford the desired compound(s).

[0038] In other embodiment, under Scheme 2, dihydro-resveratrol and RCOCl are added into DCM and Et_3N at 0°C to form a mixture. The resulting mixture is warmed to room temperature and stirred until the starting material disappear on TLC. The mixture is then diluted with H_2O and washed with DCM three times to extract the organic phase. The combined organic layer is washed with saturated NaCl twice, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , concentrated in vacuum and purified by prep-TLC (PE/EA = 5/1 or 3/1) to afford the desired compound(s).

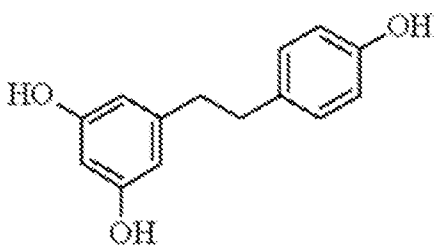
[0039] In other aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications by administering to a subject in needs thereof a composition comprising an effective amount of a stilbenoid derivative which comprises a compound of formula (1),



(1), wherein R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are each

independently selected from an alkyl group. The term “alkyl”, alone or in combination with other groups, includes reference to a straight chain alkyl moiety having 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbon atoms. The term is further exemplified by such groups as methyl, ethyl, propyl (n-propyl or isopropyl), butyl (n-butyl, sec-butyl and tert-butyl), pentyl, hexyl and the like, and the derivatives or chemical variants thereof; or a mixture of said compound, the derivative and/or chemical variants thereof.

[0040] In one embodiment of that other aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications wherein the stilbenoid derivative is *trans*-3,5,4'-trihydroxybibenzyl, or dihydro-resveratrol, which is a compound of formula (2):



(2), and the derivatives or chemical variants

thereof; or a mixture of said compound, the derivative and/or chemical variants thereof.

[0041] In other embodiment of that other aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications wherein the subject is a human or an animal.

[0042] In another embodiment of that other aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications wherein the composition is administered orally.

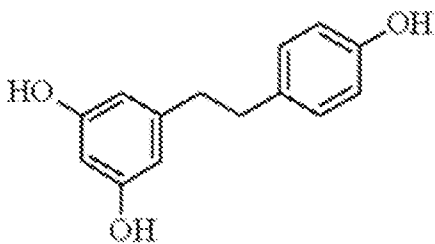
[0043] In yet another embodiment of that other aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications wherein the acute inflammatory condition of the

pancreas comprises all forms of acute pancreatitis and the associated systemic complications comprise pulmonary injury.

[0044] In thus another embodiment of that other aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications wherein said composition is administered at no less than 20 mg/kg to said subject for no less than 3 times a day.

[0045] In a further embodiment of that other aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications wherein said composition is administered at no less than 3.24 mg/kg to said subject for no less than 3 times a day.

[0046] In another aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for preparing a compound of molecular formula $C_{14}H_{14}O_3$ and of formula (2),



(2), which is a stilbenoid derivative having a chemical name of *trans*-3,5,4'-trihydroxybiphenyl by hydrogenating of *trans*-resveratrol.

[0047] In an embodiment of that another aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of preparing the compound of molecular formula $C_{14}H_{14}O_3$ and of formula (2) wherein the hydrogenating of *trans*-resveratrol comprises steps of;

stirring a solution of *trans*-resveratrol in anhydrous ethanol (EtOH) at room temperature under 5 atm H_2 pressure in the presence of 10% Pd/C for 8 hours;

filtering off the catalyst from the stirred solution;

evaporating the filtrate in vacuum to produce a residue;

eluting the residue using silica gel chromatographic separation with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (1:1) to produce dihydro-resveratrol.

[0048] Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the invention described herein is susceptible to variations and modifications other than those specifically described.

[0049] The invention includes all such variation and modifications. The invention also includes all of the steps and features referred to or indicated in the specification, individually or collectively and any and all combinations or any two or more of the steps or features.

[0050] Throughout this specification, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise" or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or group of integers but not the exclusion of any other integer or group of integers. It is also noted that in this disclosure and particularly in the claims and/or paragraphs, terms such as "comprises", "comprised", "comprising" and the like can have the meaning attributed to it in the corresponding Patent law; e.g., they can mean "includes", "included", "including", and the like; and that terms such as "consisting essentially of" and "consists essentially of" have the meaning ascribed to them in U.S. Patent law, e.g., they allow for elements not explicitly recited, but exclude elements that are found in the prior art or that affect a basic or novel characteristic of the invention.

[0051] Furthermore, throughout the specification and claims, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "include" or variations such as "includes" or "including", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or group of integers but not the exclusion of any other integer or group of integers.

[0052] Other definitions for selected terms used herein may be found within the detailed description of the invention and apply throughout. Unless otherwise defined, all other technical terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood to one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention belongs.

[0053] Other aspects and advantages of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art from a review of the ensuing description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0054] The above and other objects and features of the present invention will become apparent from the following description of the present invention, when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0055] **Figure 1** shows the gain of water content in rats due to effect of pancreatic edema as a result of cerulein-induced acute pancreatitis. The obtained weights are

expressed as a ratio percentage of pancreatic weight to body mass. A p -value of less than 0.05 is considered as statistically significant. $*p < 0.05$ when comparing with control group whereas $\#p < 0.05$ comparing with cerulein group.

[0056] **Figures 2A to 2F** show the architecture and morphological alteration in pancreatic tissues of control group (Figure 2A), cerulein group (Figure 2B) and dihydro-resveratrol treatment groups (D-Res) (Figures 2C to 2F) by means of hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) staining. Images are shown with a scale bar of 50 μm .

[0057] **Figures 3A to 3E** show the architecture and morphological alteration in pulmonary tissues of control group (Figure 3A), cerulein group (Figure 3B) and dihydro-resveratrol treatment groups (D-Res) (Figures 3C to 3E) by means of H&E staining. Images are shown with a magnification of 200 $\times$.

[0058] **Figure 4A** shows the measurement of MPO activity which represents neutrophil sequestration in pancreatic tissues of control group, cerulein group and dihydro-resveratrol treatment groups (D-Res) by means of colorimetric spectrophotometry. A p -value of less than 0.05 is considered as statistically significant. $*p < 0.05$ when comparing with control group whereas $\#p < 0.05$ comparing with cerulein group.

[0059] **Figure 4B** shows the measurement of MPO activity which represents neutrophil sequestration in pulmonary tissues of control group, cerulein group and dihydro-resveratrol treatment groups (D-Res) by means of colorimetric spectrophotometry. A p -value of less than 0.05 is considered as statistically significant. $*p < 0.05$ when comparing with control group whereas $\#p < 0.05$ comparing with cerulein group.

[0060] **Figure 5A** shows the measurement of TNF- α level in pancreatic tissues of control group, cerulein group and dihydro-resveratrol treatment groups (D-Res) by means of enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). A p -value of less than 0.05 is considered as statistically significant. $*p < 0.05$ when comparing with control group whereas $\#p < 0.05$ comparing with cerulein group.

[0061] **Figure 5B** shows the measurement of TNF- α level in pulmonary tissues of control group, cerulein group and dihydro-resveratrol treatment groups (D-Res) by means of ELISA. A p -value of less than 0.05 is considered as statistically significant. $*p < 0.05$ when comparing with control group whereas $\#p < 0.05$ comparing with

cerulein group.

[0062] **Figure 6A** shows the measurement of glutathione levels in pancreatic tissues of control group, cerulein group and dihydro-resveratrol treatment groups (D-Res) by means of colorimetric spectrophotometry. A p -value of less than 0.05 is considered as statistically significant. $*p < 0.05$ when comparing with control group whereas $\#p < 0.05$ comparing with cerulein group.

[0063] **Figure 6B** shows the ameliorative effect of dihydro-resveratrol (D-res) and *trans*-resveratrol (Res) on reducing water content as a result of pancreatic edema in rats with cerulein-induced acute pancreatitis. The obtained weights are expressed as a ratio percentage of pancreatic weight to body mass. A p -value of less than 0.05 is considered as statistically significant. $*p < 0.05$ when comparing with saline-treated control group (Con) whereas $\#p < 0.05$ comparing with cerulein-treated control group.

[0064] **Figure 7** shows the measurement of metabolic rates by means of MTT cell proliferation in pancreatic acinar cells treated with dihydro-resveratrol and *trans*-resveratrol. $*p < 0.05$ when comparing with cells treated without dihydro-resveratrol or *trans*-resveratrol.

[0065] **Figures 8A to 8H** shows eight derivatives (i.e. Compound i to Compound viii) from dihydro-resveratrol (i.e. Compound 2).

[0066] **Figure 8I** shows the chemical structure of dihydro-resveratrol (i.e. Compound 2).

[0067] **Figure 9** shows Western blotting of LTC-14 PSCs pre-incubated with TGF- β (5 ng/mL), and treated with *trans*-resveratrol (Resv) or dihydro-resveratrol or stilbene compounds **i to viii** at 20 μ g/mL for 24 hours. Control was not treated with Resv or any stilbenoids.

[0068] **Figure 10** shows the probing of α -SMA and FN1 in Western blotting of LTC-14 cells pre-incubated with TGF- β (5 ng/mL), and treated with *trans*-resveratrol or dihydro-resveratrol at the indicated concentrations.

[0069] **Figure 11** shows the green fluorescent signal (identified by arrow marks) of fibrotic filaments α -SMA in LTC-14 cells implying the degree of PSC activation.

[0070] **Figure 12** shows the fluorescent signal of fibronectin (FN1) deposition in pancreatic tissue sections for an estimation of the degree of fibrosis with and without treatment of dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res, 20 mg/kg/day) or *trans*-resveratrol (Res, 20 mg/kg/day) in cerulein (Cer)-induced chronic pancreatitis mice.

[0071] **Figure 13** shows the glucose response of the normal mice (Control) and chronic pancreatitis mice (Cer) with or without treatment of dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res, 20 mg/kg/day) in the intraperitoneal glucose tolerance test. At all time-points, a significant difference ($p < 0.05$) is achieved between the Cer group and the Cer+D-Res group.

[0072] **Figure 14** shows the fluorescent signal of insulin in pancreatic tissue sections for an evaluation of pancreatic insulin-secreting cell (i.e. beta-cell) area. The comparison is made among the control mice, chronic pancreatitis mice and the chronic pancreatitis mice with treatment of dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res) at 20 mg/kg/day.

[0073] **Figure 15** shows the suppressive effect of the *Dendrobium* stilbenoids (25 μ M), which are dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res), *trans*-resveratrol (Res) and compounds DR1 to DR11, on cellular melanin content in B16 melanocytes. Ascorbic acid (AC) and BHA are served as positive controls. Data are expressed as mean $\pm$ SEM ($n=3$). $*P < 0.05$ and $**p < 0.01$ vs DMSO-treated cells.

[0074] **Figure 16** shows the suppressive effect of the *Dendrobium* stilbenoids (25 μ M), which are dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res), *trans*-resveratrol (Res) and compounds DR1 to DR11, on cellular melanin content in A375 melanocytes. Ascorbic acid (AC) and BHA are served as positive controls. Data are expressed as mean $\pm$ SEM ($n=3$). $*P < 0.05$ and $**p < 0.01$ vs DMSO-treated cells.

[0075] **Figure 17** shows the suppressive effect of *D. nobile* extract (JCSH, 50 μ g/mL), *D. officinale* extract (TPSH, 50 μ g/mL), *trans*-resveratrol (Res, 25 μ M) and dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res, 25 μ M) on cellular melanin content in B16 melanocytes. Ascorbic acid (AC) is served as a positive control. Data are expressed as mean $\pm$ SEM ($n=3$). $*P < 0.05$ vs DMSO-treated cells.

[0076] **Figure 18** shows the inhibitory effect of the *Dendrobium* stilbenoids (25 μ M), which are dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res), *trans*-resveratrol (Res) and compounds DR1 to DR11, on cellular tyrosinase activity in B16 melanocytes. Ascorbic acid (AC) and BHA

are served as positive controls. Data are expressed as mean $\pm$ SEM ($n=3$). $*P<0.05$ and $**p<0.01$ vs DMSO-treated cells.

[0077] **Figure 19** shows the inhibitory effect of the *Dendrobium* stilbenoids (25 μ M), which are dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res), *trans*-resveratrol (Res) and compounds DR1 to DR11, on cellular tyrosinase activity in A375 melanocytes. Ascorbic acid (AC) and BHA are served as positive controls. Data are expressed as mean $\pm$ SEM ($n=3$). $*P<0.05$ vs DMSO-treated cells.

[0078] **Figure 20** shows the inhibitory effect of *D. nobile* extract (JCSH, 50 μ g/mL), *D. officinale* extract (TPSH, 50 μ g/mL), *trans*-resveratrol (Res, 25 μ M) and dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res, 25 μ M) on cellular tyrosinase activity in B16 melanocytes. Ascorbic acid (AC) is served as a positive control. Data are expressed as mean $\pm$ SEM ($n=3$). $*P<0.05$ and $**p<0.01$ vs DMSO-treated cells.

[0079] **Figure 21** shows suppressive effect of *D. nobile* extract (JCSH, L:10; M:25; H:50 μ g/mL) and *D. officinale* extract (TPSH, L:10; M:25; H:50 μ g/mL), dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res, L:25; H:50 μ M), *trans*-resveratrol (Res, L:25; H:50 μ M) and ascorbic acid (AC, H:50 μ g/mL) on protein levels of TRP-1, TRP-2, phospho-AKT and phospho-p38 in B16 melanocytes. GAPDH is served as a loading reference.

[0080] **Figure 22** shows suppressive effect of *D. nobile* extract (JCSH, high: 50 μ g/mL; low: 25 μ g/mL), *D. officinale* extract (TPSH, high: 50 μ g/mL; low: 25 μ g/mL), *trans*-resveratrol (Res, high: 50 μ M; low: 25 μ M), dihydro-resveratrol (D-R, high: 50 μ M; low: 25 μ M) and ascorbic acid (AC, 50 μ M) on ROS generation in B16 melanocytes. Fluorescent signals are measured at Ex488nm. Data are expressed as mean $\pm$ SEM ($n=3$). $*p<0.05$ vs the sole TBHP treatment (i.e. no *Dendrobium* extract or compound).

[0081] **Figure 23** shows the whitening effect of stilbenoid solution containing 2% *trans*-resveratrol (Res) or 2% dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res) on the arm of an individual human subject on day 7 and day 14.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

[0082] The present invention is not to be limited in scope by any of the specific embodiments described herein. The following embodiments are presented for exemplification only.

Definitions**Hydrocarbyl**

[0083] The term "hydrocarbyl" as used herein includes reference to a moiety consisting exclusively of hydrogen and carbon atoms; such a moiety may comprise an aliphatic and/or an aromatic moiety. The moiety may comprise 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20 carbon atoms. Examples of hydrocarbyl groups include C₁₋₆ alkyl (e.g. C₁, C₂, C₃ or C₄ alkyl, for example methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl or tert-butyl); C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted by aryl (e.g. benzyl) or by cycloalkyl (e.g. cyclopropylmethyl); cycloalkyl (e.g. cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl); aryl (e.g. phenyl, naphthyl or fluorenyl) and the like.

Alkyl

[0084] The term "alkyl" as used herein includes reference to a straight or branched chain alkyl moiety having 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 or 20 carbon atoms. Examples of alkyl groups include "C₁₋₆ alkyl" and "C₂₋₁₀ alkyl". The term "C₁₋₆ alkyl" as used herein include reference to a straight or branched chain alkyl moiety having 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbon atoms. The term "C₂₋₁₀ alkyl" as used herein include reference to a straight or branched chain alkyl moiety having 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 carbon atoms. This term includes reference to groups such as methyl, ethyl, propyl (n-propyl or isopropyl), butyl (n-butyl, sec-butyl or tert-butyl), pentyl, hexyl and the like. In particular, the alkyl moiety may have 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbon atoms.

Alkenyl

[0085] The terms "alkenyl" and "C₂₋₆ alkenyl" as used herein include reference to a straight or branched chain alkyl moiety having 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbon atoms and having, in addition, at least one double bond, of either *E* or *Z* stereochemistry where applicable. This term includes reference to groups such as ethenyl, 2-propenyl, 1-butenyl, 2-butenyl, 3-butenyl, 1-pentenyl, 2-pentenyl, 3-pentenyl, 1-hexenyl, 2-hexenyl and 3-hexenyl and the like.

Alkynyl

[0086] The terms "alkynyl" and "C₂₋₆ alkynyl" as used herein include reference to a straight or branched chain alkyl moiety having 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbon atoms and having, in addition, at least one triple bond. This term includes reference to groups such as ethynyl, 1-propynyl, 2-propynyl, 1-butyne, 2-butyne, 3-butyne, 1-pentyne, 2-pentyne, 3-pentyne, 1-hexynyl, 2-hexynyl and 3-hexynyl and the like.

Alkoxy

[0087] The terms "alkoxy" and "C₁₋₆ alkoxy" as used herein include reference to -O-alkyl, wherein alkyl is straight or branched chain and comprises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbon atoms. In one class of embodiments, alkoxy has 1, 2, 3 or 4 carbon atoms. This term includes reference to groups such as methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, butoxy, tert-butoxy, pentoxy, hexoxy and the like.

Cycloalkyl

[0088] The term "cycloalkyl" as used herein includes reference to an alicyclic moiety having 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 carbon atoms. The group may be a bridged or polycyclic ring system. More often cycloalkyl groups are monocyclic. This term includes reference to groups such as cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, norbornyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octyl and the like.

Aryl

[0089] The term "aryl" as used herein includes reference to an aromatic ring system comprising 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16 ring carbon atoms. Aryl is often phenyl but may be a polycyclic ring system, having two or more rings, at least one of which is aromatic. This term includes reference to groups such as phenyl, naphthyl, fluorenyl, azulenyl, indenyl, anthryl and the like.

Cyclic group

[0090] "Cyclic group" means a ring or ring system, which may be unsaturated or partially unsaturated but is usually saturated, typically containing 5 to 13 ring-forming atoms, for example a 5- or 6-membered ring. The ring or ring system may be substituted with one or more hydrocarbyl groups. Cyclic group includes carbocyclyl and heterocyclyl moieties.

Carbocyclyl

[0091] The term "carbocyclyl" as used herein includes reference to a saturated (e.g. cycloalkyl) or unsaturated (e.g. aryl) ring moiety having 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16 carbon ring atoms. In particular, carbocyclyl includes a 3- to 10-membered ring or ring system and, in particular, 5- or 6-membered rings, which may be saturated or unsaturated. The ring or ring system may be substituted with one or more hydrocarbyl groups. A carbocyclic moiety is, for example, selected from cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, norbornyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octyl, phenyl, naphthyl, fluorenyl, azulenyl, indenyl, anthryl and the like.

Heterocyclyl

[0092] The term "heterocyclyl" as used herein includes reference to a saturated (e.g. heterocycloalkyl) or unsaturated (e.g. heteroaryl) heterocyclic ring moiety having from 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16 ring atoms, at least one of which is selected from nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, silicon and sulphur. In particular, heterocyclyl includes a 3- to 10-membered ring or ring system and more particularly a 5- or 6-membered ring, which may be saturated or unsaturated. The ring or ring system may be substituted with one or more hydrocarbyl groups.

[0093] A heterocyclic moiety is, for example, selected from oxiranyl, aziriny, 1, 2-oxathiolanyl, imidazolyl, thienyl, furyl, tetrahydrofuryl, pyranal, thiopyranal, thianthrenyl, isobenzofuranyl, benzofuranyl, chromenyl, 2*H*-pyrrolyl, pyrrolyl, pyrrolinyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyrrolizidinyl, imidazolyl, imidazolidinyl, benzimidazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrazolidinyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, dithiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, piperidyl, piperazinyl, pyridazinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, especially thiomorpholino, indoliziny, isoindolyl, 3*H*-indolyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, cumaryl, indazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, purinyl, 4/*V*-quinoliziny, isoquinolyl, quinolyl, tetrahydroquinolyl, tetrahydroisoquinolyl, decahydroquinolyl, octahydroisoquinolyl, benzofuranyl, dibenzofuranyl, benzothiophenyl, dibenzothiophenyl, phthalazinyl, naphthyridinyl, quinoxalyl, quinazolinyl, quinazolinyl, cinnoliny, pteridinyl, carbazoiyl, β -carbolinyl, phenanthridinyl, acridinyl, perimidinyl, phenanthrolinyl, furazanyl, phenazinyl, phenothiazinyl, phenoxazinyl, chromenyl, isochromanyl, chromanyl and the like.

Heterocycloalkyl

[0094] The term "heterocycloalkyl" as used herein includes reference to a saturated heterocyclic moiety having 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 ring carbon atoms and 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 ring heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulphur. The group may be a polycyclic ring system but more often is monocyclic. This term includes reference to groups such as azetidiny, pyrrolidinyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, piperidinyl, oxiranyl, pyrazolidinyl, imidazolyl, indolizidinyl, piperazinyl, thiazolidinyl, morpholinyl, thiomorpholinyl, quinolizidinyl and the like. The ring or ring system may be substituted with one or more hydrocarbyl groups.

Heteroaryl

[0095] The term "heteroaryl" as used herein includes reference to an aromatic heterocyclic ring system having 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 or 16 ring atoms, at least one of which is selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur. The group may be a polycyclic ring system, having two or more rings, at least one of which is aromatic, but

is more often monocyclic. The ring or ring system may be substituted with one or more hydrocarbyl groups. This term includes reference to groups such as pyrimidinyl, furanyl, benzo[b]thiophenyl, thiophenyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolidinyl, pyridinyl, benzo[b]furanyl, pyrazinyl, purinyl, indolyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, phenothiazinyl, triazinyl, phthalazinyl, 2*H*-chromenyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, thiazolyl, isoindolyl, indazolyl, purinyl, isoquinolinyl, quinazolinyl, pteridinyl and the like.

Halogen

[0096] The term "halogen" as used herein includes reference to F, Cl, Br or I.

Halogen Containing Moiety

[0097] The expression "halogen containing moiety" as used herein includes reference to a moiety comprising 1 to 30 plural valence atoms selected from carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur which moiety includes at least one halogen. The moiety may be hydrocarbyl for example C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₆ alkoxy, or carbocyclyl for example aryl.

Substituted

[0098] The term "substituted" as used herein in reference to a moiety means that one or more, especially up to 5, more especially 1, 2 or 3, of the hydrogen atoms in said moiety are replaced independently of each other by the corresponding number of the described substituents. The term "optionally substituted" as used herein means substituted or un-substituted. It will, of course, be understood that substituents are only at positions where they are chemically possible, the person skilled in the art being able to decide (either experimentally or theoretically) without inappropriate effort whether a particular substitution is possible.

Enantiomer

[0099] The term "enantiomer" as used herein means one of two stereoisomers that have mirror images of one another.

Racemate

[00100] The term "racemate" as used herein means a mixture of equal amounts of enantiomers of a chiral molecule.

Diastereomer

[00101] The term "diastereomer" as used herein means one of a class of stereoisomers that are not enantiomers, but that have different configurations at one or

more of the equivalent chiral centers. Example of diastereomers are epimers that differ in configuration of only one chiral center.

Stereoisomer

[00102] The term “stereoisomer” as used herein means one of a class of isomeric molecules that have the same molecular formula and sequence of bonded atoms, but different three-dimensional orientations of their atoms in space.

Prodrug

[00103] A prodrug is a medication that is administered as an inactive (or less than fully active) chemical derivative that is subsequently converted to an active pharmacological agent in the body, often through normal metabolic processes.

Independently

[00104] Where two or more moieties are described as being "each independently" selected from a list of atoms or groups, this means that the moieties may be the same or different. The identity of each moiety is therefore independent of the identities of the one or more other moieties.

[00105] Embodiments of the present invention are described below. Preferred features of each aspect of the present invention are as for each of the other aspects *mutatis mutandis*. Moreover, it will be appreciated that the features specified in each embodiment may be combined with other specified features, to provide further embodiments.

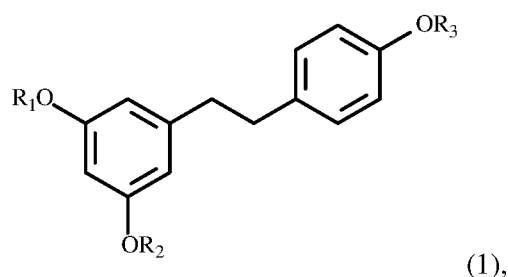
[00106] Among the several established animal models, repetitive intraperitoneal (i.p.) injection of cholecystokinin secretagogue, cerulein, is the most widely used and a highly reproducible method for the production of an experimental acute pancreatitis. Followed by a single shot of lipopolysaccharide (LPS), pulmonary injury characterized by neutrophil sequestration in the lung tissues and increased permeability of the alveolar membrane barrier is often observed as an acute pancreatitis associated complication. For the diagnosis of the onset of acute pancreatitis, bulky leakage of digestive enzymes, namely α -amylase, into the bloodstream is regarded as the principal pathological parameter. For evaluating the severity of acute pancreatitis and the associated pulmonary injury, morphological alterations of organ architecture including interstitial edema, cellular damage, leukocyte infiltration and hemorrhage are characterized as the histological and/or pathological parameters. Besides histological examination, aberrant MPO activity is often measured for assessing the severity of

neutrophil-mediated inflammatory condition. Both the local and systemic inflammatory responses can be further confirmed by the high levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines present in the homogenates of affected tissues. Moreover, glutathione depletion, a defense mechanism, is one of the most common parameters for assessing the severity of tissue injury.

[00107] The subject to be treated by the method of this invention may be a human or an animal. The present invention is applicable to various forms of acute pancreatitis, and particularly to the acute pancreatitis associated systemic complications including pulmonary injury.

[00108] Dihydro-resveratrol, also known as *trans*-3,5,4'-trihydroxybiphenyl, is a derivative of polyphenol belonging to the family of stilbenoids, which are often obtained from plant extracts. In fact, dihydro-resveratrol is a phytoalexin produced by various plant species including Orchidaceae and *Cannabis sativa* L. against abiotic and biotic challenges, particularly in the case of fungal infection as reported in Fritzemeier, K.H., Kindl, H. 1983. 9,10-dihydrophenanthrenes as phytoalexins of Orchidaceae. Biosynthetic studies in vitro and in vivo proving the route from L-phenylalanine to dihydro-m-coumaric acid, dihydrostilbene and dihydrophenanthrenes. Eur J Biochem 133, 545-550.

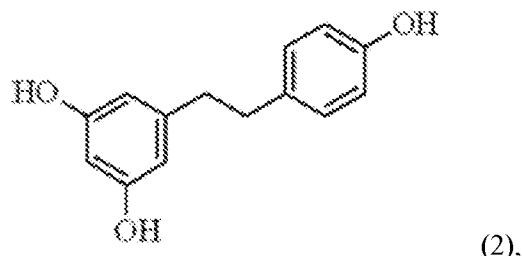
[00109] The present invention relates to the usage of a polyphenol derivative of the stilbenoid family with formula (1):



wherein R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are each independently selected from an alkyl group. The term “alkyl”, alone or in combination with other groups, includes reference to a straight chain alkyl moiety having 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbon atoms. The term is further exemplified by such groups as methyl, ethyl, propyl (n-propyl or isopropyl), butyl (n-butyl, sec-butyl and tert-butyl), pentyl, hexyl and the like, to ameliorate tissue injury of the pancreas and lungs.

[00110] The present invention further relates to the usage of a stilbene compound

containing *trans*-3,5,4'-trihydroxybibenzyl, also known as dihydro-resveratrol, see Compound of formula (2):



to ameliorate tissue injury of the pancreas and lungs. In the present invention, this particular stilbenoid derivative was obtained as white powders through dehydrogenation of *trans*-resveratrol.

[00111] Further, the invention is concerned with a process for the manufacture of the above compound, pharmaceutical preparations which contain such compound, and the use of this compound for the production of pharmaceutical preparations.

[00112] The oral administration of dihydro-resveratrol at an adequate dosage of not less than 20 mg/kg is shown to significantly ameliorate the severity of acute pancreatitis and associated pulmonary injury in cerulein-treated rats. In terms of pathological parameters, rats with acute pancreatitis are shown to have lessened pancreatic water content due to an attenuation of pancreatic edema (Figure 1), lowered plasma level of α -amylase (Table 1), more intact acinar morphology (Figures 2C to 2F) and reduced thickening of alveolar wall and hemorrhage (Figures 3C to 3E).

Table 1: Plasma α -amylase activities are expressed as U/ μ l/minute. A *p*-value of less than 0.05 is considered as statistically significant and S.D. stands for standard derivation. **p* < 0.05 when comparing with control group whereas #*p* < 0.05 comparing with cerulein group.

	Control	Cerulein	Cerulein+D-Res 10mg	Cerulein+D-Res 20mg	Cerulein+D-Res 50mg
mean	0.1294	0.4846 *	0.2891	0.2498 #	0.2431 #
S.D.	0.03909	0.1457	0.05248	0.05593	0.06025

[00113] Cerulein-induced elevated levels of neutrophil sequestration, which is quantified as the activity of MPO, are significantly suppressed in pancreatic and pulmonary tissues by the administration of dihydro-resveratrol (Figures 4A and 4B). Cerulein-induced elevated levels of TNF- α in the pancreas and lungs are significantly

suppressed by the administration of dihydro-resveratrol (Figures 5A and 5B).

[00114] Glutathione depletion is a distinctive sign of tissue injury. The cerulein-induced declined levels of glutathione in the pancreas are significantly restored by the administration of dihydro-resveratrol (Figure 6A).

[00115] In the present invention, dihydro-resveratrol completely and easily dissolves in 0.5% (weight/volume, w/v) methanol whereas *trans*-resveratrol, with vigorous shaking, dissolves in 2.5% (w/v) methanol (Table 2). Thus, the solubility of dihydro-resveratrol is at least 5 times higher than that of *trans*-resveratrol. The ameliorative effect of dihydro-resveratrol was more promising than that of *trans*-resveratrol on reducing water content as a result of pancreatic edema in rats with cerulein-induced acute pancreatitis (Figure 6B).

Table 2: Solubility of Dihydro-resveratrol and *Trans*-resveratrol in methanol.

	<i>Trans</i> -resveratrol	Dihydro-resveratrol
Methanol required (w/v)	2.5%	0.5%

[00116] From the evaluation of mitochondrial metabolic rates by means of MTT assay, the cytotoxicity of dihydro-resveratrol in pancreatic acinar cells is determined to be approximately 500 μ M whereas that of *trans*-resveratrol is roughly 250 μ M (Figure 7). Thus, the cytotoxicity of dihydro-resveratrol was 50% lower than that of *trans*-resveratrol.

[00117] Experiments

[00118] Preparation and structural identification of dihydro-resveratrol. The molecular formula of dihydro-resveratrol was established as $C_{14}H_{14}O_3$, which was obtained as white powders through hydrogenation of *trans*-resveratrol. A solution of *trans*-resveratrol (10 g, 43.8 mmol) in anhydrous EtOH (150 ml) was stirred at room temperature under 5 atm H_2 pressure in the presence of 10% Pd/C (0.2 g). The reaction was quenched after 8 hours (h), by filtering off the catalyst. The filtrate was evaporated in vacuum and the residue was subjected to silica gel chromatographic separation eluting with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (1:1) to afford dihydro-resveratrol as white amorphous powder (9.6 g, 95% yield): HR-ESIMS ($[M+1]^+$ m/z 231.1026, calcd 231.1016 for $C_{14}H_{15}O_3$); 1H NMR (methanol- d_4 , 400 MHz) δ 6.96 (2H, ABd, J = 8.3 Hz), 6.67 (2H, ABd, J = 8.4 Hz), 6.13 (2H, brd, J = 2.2 Hz), 6.09 (1H, brt, J = 2.2 Hz), 2.74 (2H, brdd, J = 8.5, 5.6), 2.67 (2H, brdd, J = 8.3, 5.2); ^{13}C NMR (methanol- d_4 , 100 MHz) δ 159.2 (2C, s), 156.3 (1C, s), 145.6 (1C, s), 134.1 (1C, s), 130.3 (2C, d), 116.0

(2C, d), 108.1 (2C, d), 101.1 (1C, d), 39.6 (2C, t), 38.0 (2C, t).

[00119] Evaluation of biological activities. Sprague-Dawley rats aged 28 days weighing in the range of 70 to 90 g were randomly assigned into 6 groups of 6 to 8 individuals. The rats were housed with an ambient temperature of $23 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$, a relative humidity of 60 to 80% and a 12-h light/dark cycle. Prior to the experiment, the rats were starved overnight but allowed with free access to water. Experimental acute pancreatitis was induced in the rats by six hourly i.p. injections of cerulein at the supramaximally stimulating dose (50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$) followed by a single dose of LPS at 7.5 mg/kg 1 h after the last cerulein injection, and this group of rats was designated as the cerulein group. The control group received injections of 0.9% saline instead of cerulein in the same volume and at same time intervals. The treatment groups given with cerulein and oral doses of dihydro-resveratrol (10, 20 or 50 mg/kg) were designated as Cerulein + D-res 10 or 20 or 50 mg/kg. The therapeutic intervention was given 30 minutes after the first cerulein injection for three consecutive hours. Upon scarification, pancreata were immediately removed, weighed, trimmed from fat and fixed in 4 % paraformaldehyde-phosphate buffered saline overnight at 4°C . Samples were then processed, embedded in paraffin wax, sectioned and subjected to H&E staining. Levels of TNF- α in pancreatic and pulmonary samples were determined using commercial ELISA kits. Tissue homogenates were subjected to biochemical assays for the evaluation of MPO activity and glutathione content.

[00120] Functional intact acini were dissociated from pancreatic tissue using collagenase digestion with mild shearing forces. Acini were cultured in Dulbecco's modification of Eagle's medium (GIBCO) supplemented with 5% fetal bovine serum (GIBCO), 1% penicillin-streptomycin (GIBCO) in a 5% CO_2 , 95% air humidified atmosphere at 37°C . LTC-14 cells were seeded at a density of $1 \times 10^4/\text{well}$ in a 96-well plate, and incubated with different concentrations of dihydro-resveratrol or *trans*-resveratrol (dissolved in DMSO) for 24 hours. MTT reagent was added to the cells at the end of the 24-hour treatment period. After a 3-hour reaction time, MTT products were dissolved in DMSO and absorbance at 570 nm was taken.

[00121] Results

[00122] After the induction of cerulein, the weight ratio of pancreas to body in the acute pancreatitis rats was drastically increased by roughly 60% when compared with the non-cerulein induced controls due to the occurrence of pancreatic edema. The oral administration of dihydro-resveratrol at an adequate dosage of not less than 20 mg/kg notably reduced the pancreatic edema as reflected by the significant decrease in the

weight ratio of pancreas to body. The ameliorative effect of dihydro-resveratrol on reducing pancreatic edema was more promising than that of *trans*-resveratrol, the accredited antioxidant. Regarding the human dosage, the comparable dosage is 3.24 mg/kg based on the standard dosage conversion according to Reagan-Shaw S, Nihal M, Ahmad N (2008) Dose translation from animal to human studies revisited. FASEB J 22(3) : 659–661.

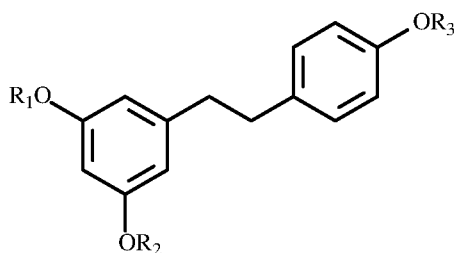
[00123] When oral administration of dihydro-resveratrol was given, the focal expansion of the interlobular septae, cytoplasmic shrinkage and leukocyte infiltration in pancreatic parenchyma was remarkably reduced whereas the pulmonary wall thickening and hemorrhage in lung tissues were significantly improved in the rats with cerulein-induced acute pancreatitis.

[00124] For a relief of inflammatory conditions of the pancreas and lungs, the levels of pro-inflammatory cytokine TNF- α as well as MPO activities were significantly reduced in the pancreatic and pulmonary tissues by the oral administration of dihydro-resveratrol.

[00125] The level of glutathione in cerulein-induced pancreatic tissue was depleted drastically by more than 50% when compared to the non-cerulein-treated control. The oral administration of dihydro-resveratrol significantly suppressed glutathione depletion in the cerulein-induced pancreata.

[00126] The solubility of dihydro-resveratrol in a methanol-based solvent was at least 5 times higher than that of *trans*-resveratrol. By assessing the mitochondrial metabolic rates of acini, the cytotoxicity of dihydro-resveratrol was shown to be approximately 500 μ M whereas that of *trans*-resveratrol was roughly 250 μ M. Thus, the cytotoxicity of dihydro-resveratrol was 50% lower than that of *trans*-resveratrol.

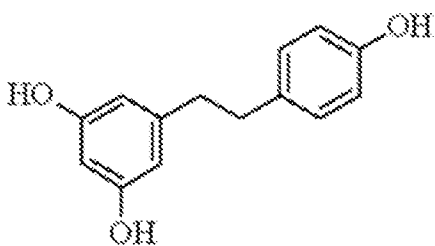
[00127] In a first embodiment of a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications by administering to a subject in needs thereof a composition comprising an effective amount of a stilbenoid derivative which comprises a compound of formula (1),



(1), wherein R_1 , R_2 and R_3 are each

independently selected from an alkyl group. The term “alkyl”, alone or in combination with other groups, includes reference to a straight chain alkyl moiety having 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 carbon atoms. The term is further exemplified by such groups as methyl, ethyl, propyl (n-propyl or isopropyl), butyl (n-butyl, sec-butyl and tert-butyl), pentyl, hexyl and the like, and the derivatives or chemical variants thereof; or a mixture of said compound, the derivative and/or chemical variants thereof.

[00128] In a second embodiment of a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications wherein the stilbenoid derivative is *trans*-3,5,4'-trihydroxybibenzyl, or dihydro-resveratrol, which is a compound of formula (2):



(2), and the derivatives or chemical variants

thereof; or a mixture of said compound, the derivative and/or chemical variants thereof.

[00129] In a third embodiment of the first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications wherein the subject is a human or an animal.

[00130] In a fourth embodiment of the first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications wherein the composition is administered orally.

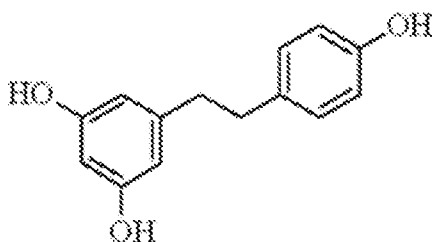
[00131] In a fifth embodiment of the first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications wherein the acute inflammatory condition of the

pancreas comprises all forms of acute pancreatitis and associated systemic complications comprise pulmonary injury.

[00132] In a sixth embodiment of the first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications wherein said composition is administered at no less than 20 mg/kg to said subject for no less than 3 times a day.

[00133] In a seventh embodiment of the first aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of treating acute inflammatory condition of the pancreas and associated systemic complications wherein said composition is administered at no less than 3.24 mg/kg to said subject for no less than 3 times a day.

[00134] In a first embodiment of a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for preparing a compound of molecular formula $C_{14}H_{14}O_3$ and of formula (2),



(2), which is a stilbenoid derivative having a chemical name of *trans*-3,5,4'-trihydroxybibenzyl by hydrogenating of *trans*-resveratrol.

[00135] In a second embodiment of the second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of preparing the compound of molecular formula $C_{14}H_{14}O_3$ and of formula (2) wherein the hydrogenating of *trans*-resveratrol comprises steps of:

stirring a solution of *trans*-resveratrol in anhydrous EtOH at room temperature under 5 atm H_2 pressure in the presence of 10% Pd/C for 8 hours;

filtering off the catalyst from the stirred solution;

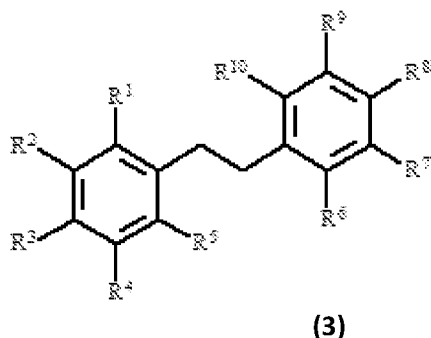
evaporating the filtrate in vacuum to produce a residue;

eluting the residue using silica gel chromatographic separation with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate (1:1) to produce dihydro-resveratrol.

PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

[00136] TGF- β has been reported by some previous studies as a potent inducer of PSC activation in which a series of fibrotic mediators, including FN1, are being up-regulated. In cultured LTC-14 cells, which are immortalized PSCs from rat, the expression levels of fibrotic filament α -SMA and ECM protein FN1 are remarkably elevated by the exogenous addition of recombinant TGF- β (5 ng/mL). In one further embodiment of the present invention, the inventors discover that the administration of dihydro-resveratrol significantly attenuate the expression levels of α -SMA and FN1 in rat PSCs upon the challenge of TGF- β . The derivatives of dihydro-resveratrol exert similar suppressive effect in PSCs. When compared to the renowned anti-oxidant trans-resveratrol, the inhibitory effect of dihydro-resveratrol is more significant. Among the testing stilbenoids, dihydro-resveratrol exerts the most potent anti-fibrotic effect in PSCs despite they possess modest structural differences.

[00137] The present invention provides a compound for suppressing a fibrotic mediator of stellate cells present in an internal organ of a subject in need with a formula of



wherein

R^2 and R^4 are each independently selected from $-OR^{11}$ and $-OC(O)R^{11}$;

R^1 , R^3 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 and R^{10} are each independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-OC(O)R^{11}$; or R^2 and R^3 , or R^7 and R^8 may be taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a cyclic group;

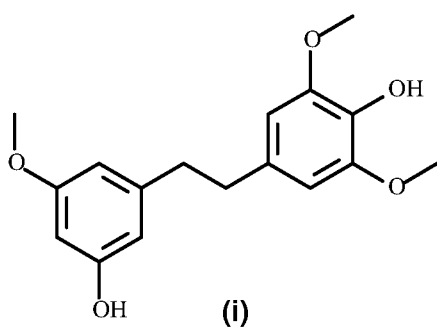
R^{11} is independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R^{12} ;

R^{12} is independently selected from halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, oxo, $-OR^{13}$, $-C(O)R^{14}$, $-C(O)N(R^{13})R^{14}$, $-C(O)OR^{13}$, $-OC(O)R^{14}$, $-S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{13})R^{14}$, $-N(R^{13})R^{14}$;

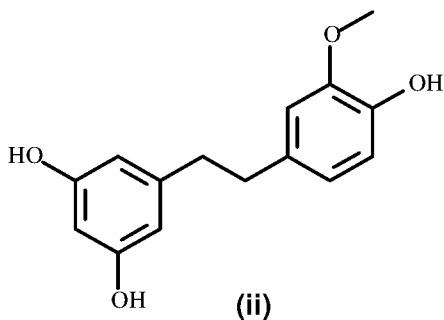
R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents

independently selected from halogen, cyano, amino, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl and C₁₋₆ alkoxy;
 or an enantiomer thereof;
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof;
 or a mixture of said compound, the derivative and/or chemical variants thereof.

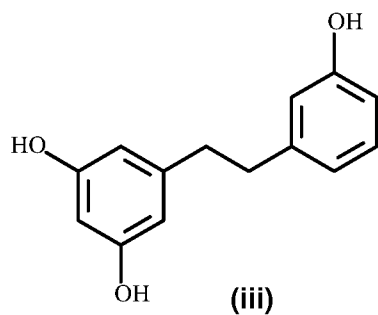
[00138] The present invention further provides nine embodiments of compounds for suppressing a fibrotic mediator of stellate cells present in an internal organ of a subject in need with formula of:



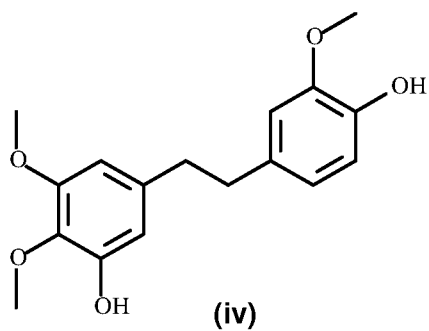
or 4-[2-(3-Hydroxy-5-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-2,6-dimethoxy-phenol;



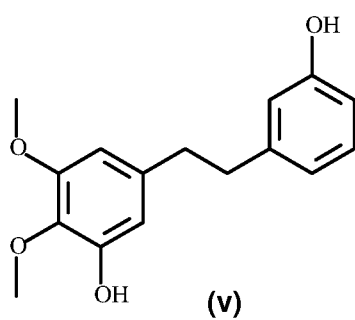
or Tristin;



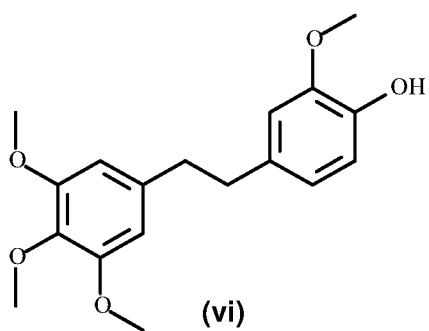
or 3,3',5-Trihydroxydibenzyl;



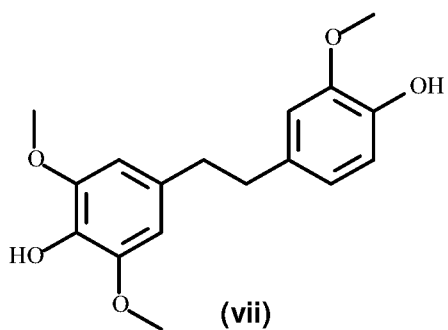
or 5-[2-(4-Hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)ethyl]-2,3-dimethoxy-phenol;



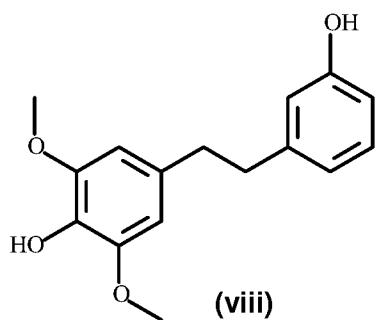
or 5-[2-(3-Hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-2,3-dimethoxy-phenol;



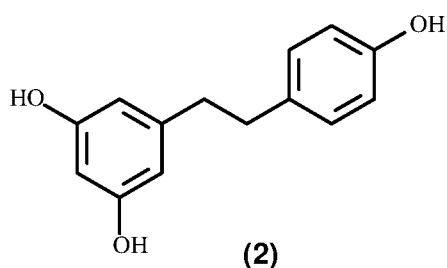
or Crepidatin;



or Moscatilin;



or Aloifol I;



or dihydro-resveratrol.

[00139] The internal organ can be, for example, pancreas, liver, kidney and lung of a subject. The subject can be a human subject.

[00140] Experiments:

[00141] LTC-14 cells were cultured at 37°C under a humidified condition of 95% air and 5% CO₂ in IMDM supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS). Cells used in all the experiment were among passages 9 to 25. LTC-14 cells were seeded at a density of 1×10^5 /well in a 12-well plate, and incubated with recombinant TGF- β at 5 ng/mL with dihydro-resveratrol at 0, 1, 5, 10 and 20 μ g/mL in IMDM supplemented with 0.2% FBS for 24 hours. Cells were then harvested for protein extraction and Western blotting analysis or immunofluorescent staining.

[00142] Total proteins of the LTC-14 cells are extracted using RIPA lysis buffers containing protease inhibitors. Cell lysates were loaded and separated by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. After wet electroblotting, proteins were transferred onto PVDF membranes (Bio-rad), blocked with 5 % non-fat milk, probed with antibodies and visualized by utilization of an ECL kit (GE Healthcare).

[00143] For immunofluorescent staining of α -SMA, LTC-14 cells were seeded at a

density of 1×10^5 onto the poly-L-lysine-coated cover slips in a 24-well plate, incubated with TGF- β at 5 ng/mL with dihydro-resveratrol at 0, and 10 μ g/mL in IMDM supplemented with 0.2% FBS for 24 hours. Cells were then fixed, blocked with 3% BSA, probed with antibodies and mounted with fluorescence mounting medium containing 4', 6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI). Images were captured using the Nikon microscope and analyzed by the SPOT advanced software.

[00144] Evaluation of biological activities. C57/BL6 mice aged 28 days weighing in the range of 20 to 25 g were randomly assigned into 4 groups of 6 to 8 individuals. The mice were housed with an ambient temperature of $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$, a relative humidity of 60 to 80% and a 12-h light/dark cycle. Prior to the glucose tolerance test, the mice were starved overnight but allowed with free access to water. Experimental chronic pancreatitis was induced in the mice by four hourly i.p. injections of cerulein at the supramaximally stimulating dose (50 μ g/kg) a day, 3 days a week, in a total of 6 weeks. The control group received injections of 0.9% saline instead of cerulein in the same volume and at same time intervals. The treatment groups given with cerulein and oral doses of dihydro-resveratrol (20 mg/kg/day) were designated as Cer+D-res. A dosage of dihydro-resveratrol at 50 mg/kg/day had also been attempted in the treatment course, but no statistically significant difference from the dose at 20 mg/kg/day in fibrosis formation was achieved. Nevertheless, no adverse effect was obtained from this higher dosage in the *in vivo* trial. Thus, it concludes that an effective dosage of dihydro-resveratrol is at least 20 mg/kg/day. The group given with *trans*-resveratrol was designated as Cer+Res. The drug intervention of both compounds was given from the first day of week 4 till the end of experiment, i.e. in a total of 3 weeks. At the end of the 6-week experiment, mice were subjected to the intraperitoneal glucose tolerance test (IPGTT). Mice had been starved for 14 hours prior to the IPGTT, in which a 15% (w/v) glucose solution was injected to individual animals at 1.5 g glucose per kg body weight. About 1 μ L of blood will be obtained from the tail vein, and blood glucose levels were monitored 30 min before (i.e. fasting level) and 10, 20, 30 and 60 min after glucose injection using a glucometer (Medisign, Korea). Upon scarification, pancreases were immediately removed, weighed, trimmed from fat and fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde-phosphate buffered saline overnight at 4°C . Samples were then processed, embedded in paraffin wax, sectioned and subjected to immunostaining.

[00145] According to the dose translation formula, human equivalent dosage (mg/kg) = Animal dose (mg/kg) multiplied by animal Km/human Km, where mouse Km is 3 and human Km is 37 (*Guidance for Industry Estimating the Maximum Safe Starting Dose in Initial Clinical Trials for Therapeutics in Adult Healthy Volunteers*), the

effective human equivalent dosage of dihydro-resveratrol of the present invention is at least 1.622 mg/kg/day.

[00146] In yet another embodiment of the present invention, 8 other derivatives (compounds i to viii) of dihydro-resveratrol and dihydro-resveratrol (compound 2) are shown in Figures 8A – 8I. In this embodiment, each compound is experimented accordingly as follows:

[00147] Experiment with the embodiments of compounds in Figures 8A – 8I

[00148] LTC-14 cells were pre-incubated with TGF- β (5 ng/mL), and treated with *trans*-resveratrol (Resv) or dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res) or stilbene compounds i-viii at 20 μ g/mL for 24 hours. Control was not treated with Resv or any stilbenoids. Total proteins were extracted and analyzed using Western blotting. This is shown in Figure 9.

[00149] LTC-14 cells are pancreatic stellate cells. α -SMA is the hallmark component of fibrogenesis whereas β -actin serves as a loading control. Thus, the expression level of α -SMA implies the degree of PSC activation. TGF- β was added since it is regarded as a potent inducer of fibrotic events. Suppressive effect on α -SMA expression level is tested among dihydro-resveratrol and compounds i to viii in relation to *trans*-resveratrol (Resv). All of the testing compounds exert suppressive effect of α -SMA expression level.

[00150] LTC-14 cells were pre-incubated with TGF- β (5 ng/mL), and treated with *trans*-resveratrol or dihydro-resveratrol at the indicated concentrations. Total proteins were extracted and analyzed using Western blotting. This is shown in Figure 10.

[00151] FN1 is a major extracellular matrix protein produced during fibrogenesis or upon the activation of pancreatic stellate cells. Its expression level implies the degree of fibrogenesis. Suppressive effect on levels of FN1 and α -SMA is tested between dihydro-resveratrol (i.e. compound 2) and *trans*-resveratrol.

[00152] LTC-14 cells were pre-incubated with TGF- β (5 ng/mL), and treated with dihydro-resveratrol at 20 μ g/mL for 24 hours prior to immunofluorescent staining.

[00153] LTC-14 cells are pancreatic stellate cells. α -SMA is the hallmark component of fibrogenesis whereas β -actin serves as a loading control. Thus, the green fluorescent signal (identified by arrow marks in Figure 11) of α -SMA implies the degree of PSC activation. TGF- β was added since it is regarded as a potent inducer of fibrotic events.

Suppressive effect of dihydro-resveratrol on α -SMA expression level is tested.

[00154] Pancreatic tissue sections are stained with antibody against FN1; thus, the immunostaining signals imply the degree of FN1 deposition in the parenchyma. The treatment with dihydro-resveratrol at 20 mg/kg/day (Cer+D-Res) reduces such deposition in chronic pancreatitis in a manner more significant to *trans*-resveratrol (Cer+Res). This is shown in Figure 12.

[00155] Evaluation of biological activities. C57/BL6 mice aged 28 days weighing in the range of 20 to 25 g were randomly assigned into 4 groups of 6 to 8 individuals. The mice were housed with an ambient temperature of $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$, a relative humidity of 60 to 80% and a 12-h light/dark cycle. When oral administration of dihydro-resveratrol (20 mg/kg/day) is given, the fasting blood glucose levels of the chronic pancreatitis mice (Cer) become markedly higher than those of the control group, indicating these chronic pancreatitis mice develop hyperglycemia, a discernible feature of diabetes. Importantly, their impaired glucose tolerance has been significantly rectified by the 3-week dihydro-resveratrol treatment (Cer+D-Res). As a result, the hyperglycemic condition of the chronic pancreatitis mice is improved. This is shown in Figure 13.

[00156] When oral administration of dihydro-resveratrol (Cer+D-Res) is given at 20 mg/kg/day, the severity of pancreatitis and the shrinkage and destruction of islets, explicitly beta cells, are notably ameliorated. As shown in Figure 14, the pancreatic beta-cell area is reflected by the immunofluorescent insulin signals. A reduced beta-cell area or mass implicates the deficiency in glucose tolerance, or the development of diabetes. Thus, the restoration of beta-cell area by the dihydro-resveratrol treatment indicates this stilbenoid is beneficial to the treatment of pancreatogenic diabetes (i.e. Type3c DM).

[00157] According to the dose translation formula, human equivalent dosage (mg/kg) = Animal dose (mg/kg) multiplied by animal Km/human Km, where mouse Km is 3 and human Km is 37 (*Guidance for Industry Estimating the Maximum Safe Starting Dose in Initial Clinical Trials for Therapeutics in Adult Healthy Volunteers*), the effective human equivalent dosage of dihydro-resveratrol of the present invention is at least 1.622 mg/kg/day.

OTHER PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

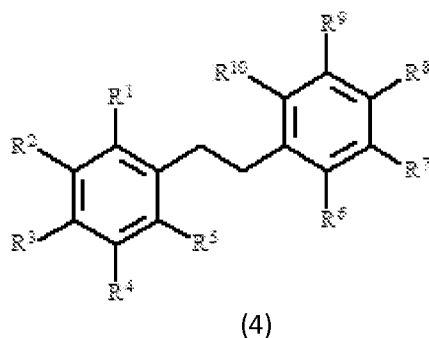
[00158] *Dendrobium* plants, commonly called “Shi Hu”, are widely used in the traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) system as well as in folk medicines for treating

various kinds of diseases, such as chronic atrophic gastritis, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. *Dendrobium*-derived extracts or ingredients contain substantial amounts of various stilbenoids, such as *trans*-resveratrol and dihydro-resveratrol, which are potential compounds for combating oxidative stress in the human body. However, the uses of these compounds for skin-protection or skin whitening have not been disclosed.

[00159] As oriental cosmetics prefer plant-based composition, the present invention relates to the use of *Dendrobium*-derived stilbenoids, particularly *trans*-resveratrol, dihydro-resveratrol or dihydro-resveratrol derivatives in reducing melanin formation with a potential to inhibit the generation of oxidative radicals and ROS. The present composition is applied to the subject in need thereof via topical administration. The present composition is in the form of a day cream, a night cream, a face lotion, a body lotion, a body butter, a skin peel, a mask, a shower gel, a sun cream, a sun lotion, an after sun cream or an after sun lotion.

[00160] The present composition comprises one or more extract(s) derived from *Dendrobium* plants.

[00161] The present composition comprises one or more stilbenoids with the following formula:



wherein

R^2 , R^4 , and R^8 are each independently selected from $-OR^{11}$, $-OCH_2R^{12}$, $-OC(O)R^{11}$, $-OCH_2C(O)OR^{12}$ and $-OC(O)CH_2R^{12}$;

R^1 , R^3 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^9 and R^{10} are each independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, OR^{12} and $-OC(O)R^{12}$; or R^2 and R^3 , or R^7 and R^8 may be taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a cyclic group;

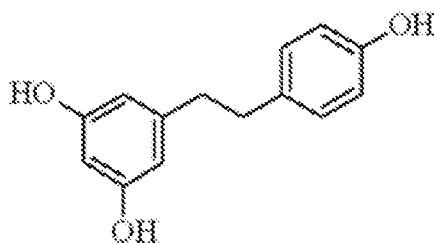
R^{11} is independently selected from $-(CH_2)$ -hydrocarbyl, C_{2-10} alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and heterocyclyl, Each of these groups is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R^{13} ;

R^{12} is independently selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R^{13} ;

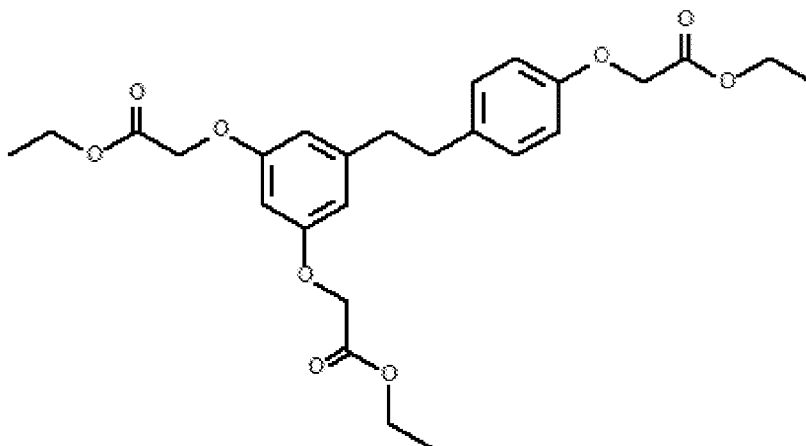
R^{13} is independently selected from halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, oxo, -OR¹⁴, -C(O)R¹⁵, -C(O)N(R¹⁴)R¹⁵, -C(O)OR¹⁴, -OC(O)R¹⁵, -S(O)₂R¹⁴, -S(O)₂N(R¹⁴)R¹⁵, -N(R¹⁴)R¹⁵;

R^{14} and R^{15} are each independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, amino, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl and C₁₋₆ alkoxy; or an enantiomer thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

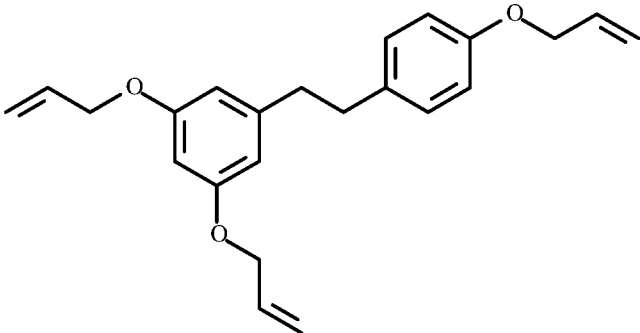
[00162] The present composition comprises stilbenoid(s) with the following formula:



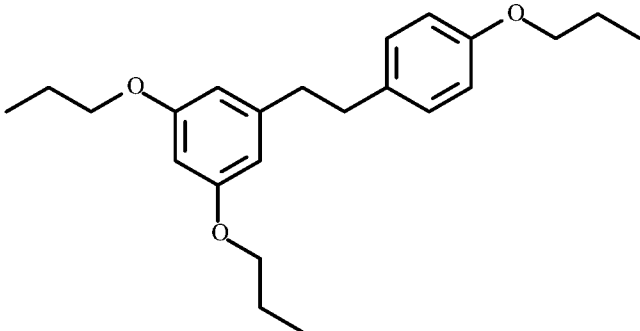
, which is dihydro-resveratrol, and the derivatives or chemical variants thereof; or a mixture of said compound, the derivative and/or chemical variants thereof, or with a formula of:



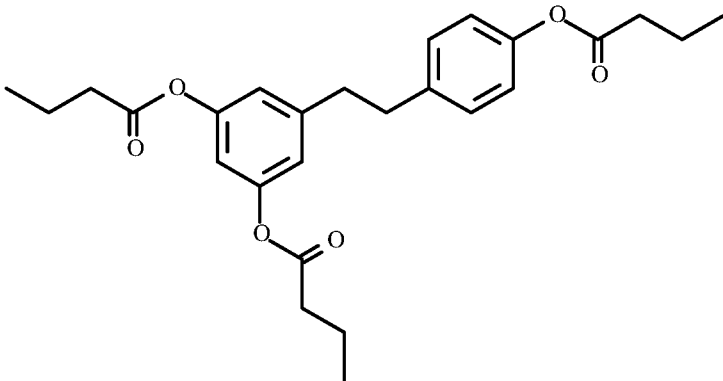
DR1;



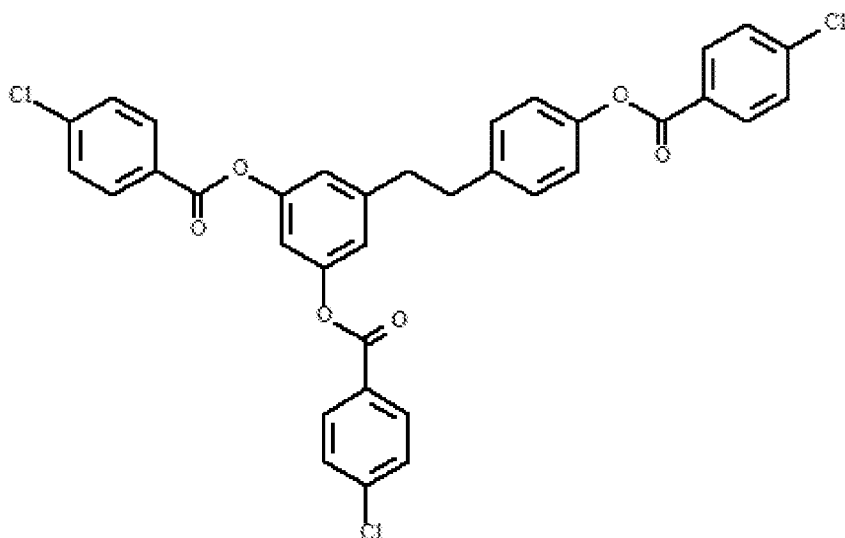
DR2;



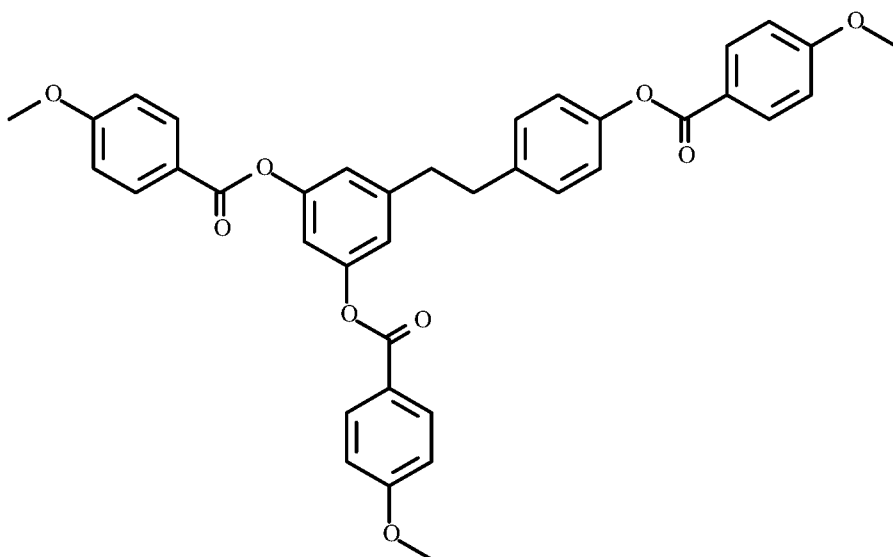
DR3;



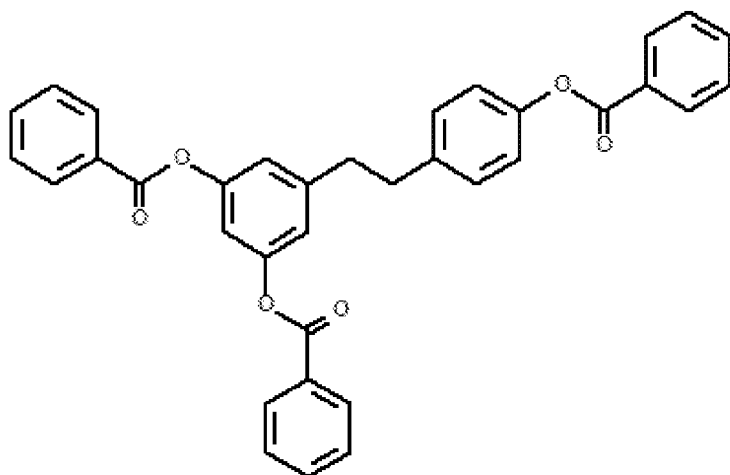
DR4:



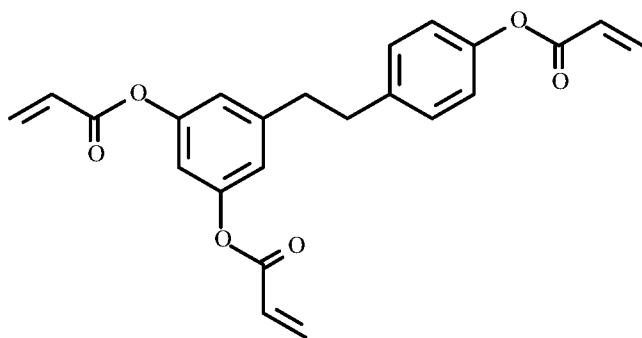
DR5;



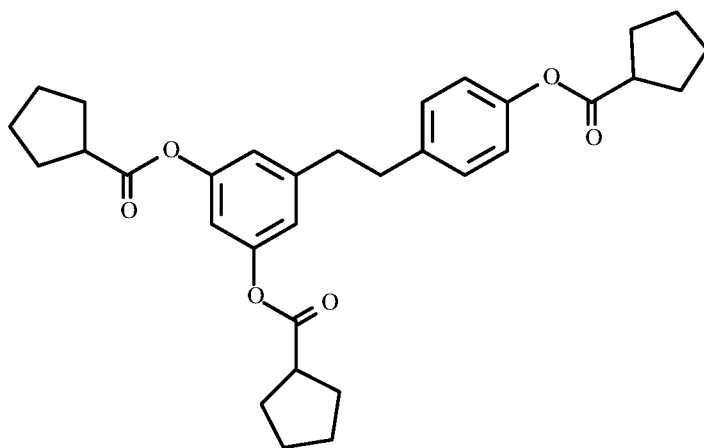
DR6;



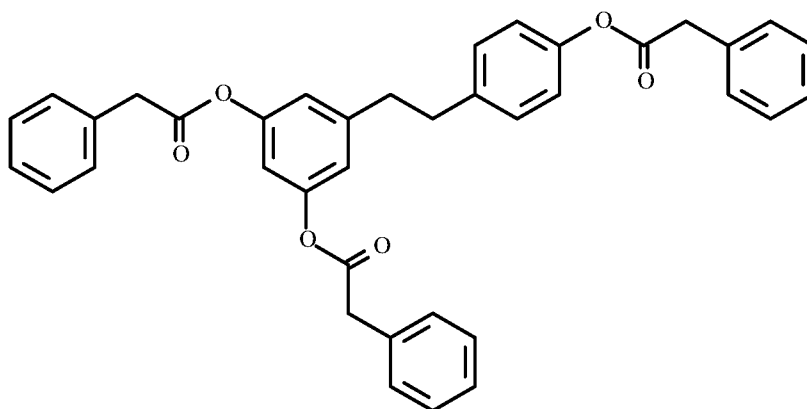
DR7;



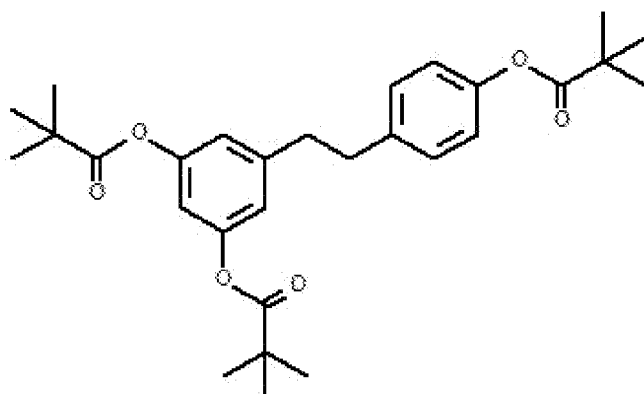
DR8;



DR9;

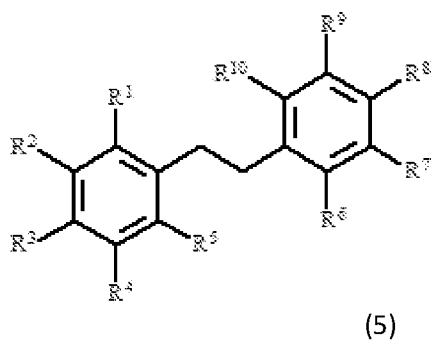


DR10;



DR11.

[00163] The present composition for skin whitening and skin protection comprises stilbenoid(s) with the following formula:



wherein

R^2 , R^4 , and R^8 are each independently selected from $-OR^{11}$, $-OCH_2R^{11}$, $-OC(O)R^{11}$, $-OCH_2C(O)OR^{11}$ and $-OC(O)CH_2R^{11}$;

R^1 , R^3 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^9 and R^{10} are each independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^{11}$ and $-OC(O)R^{11}$; or R^2 and R^3 , or R^7 and R^8 may be

taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a cyclic group;
 [00164] R^{11} is independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R^{12} ;

[00165] R^{12} is independently selected from halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, oxo, $-OR^{13}$, $-C(O)R^{14}$, $-C(O)N(R^{13})R^{14}$, $-C(O)OR^{13}$, $-OC(O)R^{14}$, $-S(O)_2R^{13}$, $-S(O)_2N(R^{13})R^{14}$, $-N(R^{13})R^{14}$;

[00166] R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl and C_{1-6} alkoxy;

or an enantiomer thereof;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof.

[00167] To determine the antioxidant capacity, a spectrophotometric decolorization assay complemented with pre-formed radical monocation of 2,2'-azinobis-(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid), also known as ABTS, is used. In this assay, ABTS (Abcam, USA) is dissolved in water to a 7 mM concentration and ABTS radical cation is produced by reacting the ABTS stock solution with 2.45 mM ammonium persulfate (Sigma-Aldrich, USA) and allowing the mixture to stand in the dark at room temperature for 16 hours before use. When testing the *Dendrobium* extract samples or stilbenoid samples, the ABTS radical solution is diluted with ethanol to an absorbance of 0.70 at 734 nm and equilibrated at 30°C. The dilutions of testing samples (0.1 mL) or DMSO (0.1 mL) are incubated with ABTS radical solution (0.9 mL) for 15 min prior to the absorbance taking at 734 nm. DMSO is served as a vehicle treatment whereas Trolox (Abcam, USA), a renowned derivative vitamin E, ranging from 0.001 to 0.05 mg/mL is used as a positive drug reference. The antioxidant capacity of testing samples is expressed as the amount equivalent to Trolox in milligrams (mg) according to the Trolox standard curve.

[00168] Upon the incubation with dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res), *trans*-resveratrol (Res), *Dendrobium* extract samples or other stilbenoid samples (compounds DR1 to DR11), the pre-formed ABTS radicals have been scavenged, and their antioxidant capacity is normalized to the Trolox positive standards as illustrated in Table 3.

Table 3. Antioxidant capacity of stilbenoids equivalent to amount of Trolox (mg):

Compound	Trolox equivalent (mg)	Standard deviation
D-Res	4969.611	333.841
Res	4296.325	83.132

DR1	105.736	24.978
DR2	30.178	52.270
DR3	119.325	90.071
DR4	94.277	84.519
DR5	0	0
DR6	0	0
DR7	0	0
DR8	15.893	27.527
DR9	0	0
DR10	0	0
DR11	0	0

[00169] The cellular melanin content and tyrosinase activity are determined in cultured B16 and A375 melanocytes. In fact, melanocytes are melanin-producing cells whereas melanin refers to groups of endogenous pigments that give multitude of skin colors. B16 cells (Shanghai Institutes for Biological Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China) and A375 cells (American Type Culture Collection, USA) are routinely grown in DMEM medium (Gibco, USA) supplemented with 10% heat-activated fetal bovine serum (FBS, Gibco, USA) and 1% penicillin/streptomycin (Gibco, USA) in a humidified atmosphere of 95% air and 5% CO₂ at 37° C.

[00170] To determine the cellular melanin content, melanocytes are seeded in 12-well plates (8×10⁴ cells/well) and stimulated with alpha-melanocyte-stimulating hormone (α -MSH, 100 nM) for 24 hours. Such stimulation is aimed to accelerate the cellular formation of melanin in the melanocytes, so that the reducing ability of the testing compounds or extracts on melanin formation becomes more apparent. Followed by the α -MSH stimulation, cells are then treated with different *Dendrobium* extract samples or stilbenoid samples (5 μ L) or DMSO (5 μ L, Sigma-Aldrich, USA) for another 24 hours. DMSO serves as a vehicle treatment. At the end of experiment, cells are trypsinized for detaching from the culturing plates. After centrifugation, the melanin pellet of each sample is incubated with 100 μ L of 1 N Sodium hydroxide solution (Sigma-Aldrich, USA) for 1.5 hours at 70° C. After cooling to room temperature, the solution is centrifuged at 15,000 $\times$ g for 10 min. The supernatant (100 μ L) of each sample is transferred to 96-well plates for a reading of absorbance taken at 405 nm. Relative melanin content of each sample is normalized with its protein content and presented as the percentage change over the DMSO-treated cells.

[00171] Upon the incubation with dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res), *trans*-resveratrol

(Res), *Dendrobium* extract samples or other stilbenoid samples (compounds DR1 to DR11), the cellular melanin contents in B16 and A375 melanocytes have been reduced as illustrated in Figures 15 to 17.

[00172] To determine the cellular tyrosinase activity, melanocytes are seeded in 12-well plates (8×10^4 cells/well) and stimulated with α -MSH (100 nM) for 24 hours. Post the α -MSH stimulation, cells are treated with different testing samples (5 μ L) or DMSO (5 μ L) for another 24 hours. At the end of experiment, the cells are washed with ice-cold phosphate buffer saline (PBS, pH 6.8) (Gibco, USA) twice and then lysed with 150 μ L of PBS (pH 6.8) containing 0.1% Triton X-100 on ice. The cell lysates are centrifuged at $15,000 \times g$ for 15 min at 4° C. An aliquot of 50 μ L supernatant is mixed with 50 μ L L-3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine (L-DOPA, Abcam, USA) solution (0.2% in PBS, pH 6.8) in 96-well plates and incubated at 37°C for 2 hours under darkness. Optical density of each sample is measured at 475 nm. The absorbance is normalized with the protein content of each sample. The relative activity of cellular tyrosinase in melanocytes is calculated and presented as the percentage change over the DMSO-treated cells. In addition, another set of experiment is collected for Western blotting analysis of the expression levels of TRP1 and TRP2, so as their upstream regulators p-AKT and p-38.

[00173] Upon the incubation with dihydro-resveratrol (D-Res), *trans*-resveratrol (Res), *Dendrobium* extract samples or other stilbenoid samples (compounds DR1 to DR11), the tyrosinase activity in B16 and A375 melanocytes has been inhibited as illustrated in Figures 18 to 20. Western blotting results are shown in Figure 21.

[00174] To determine the generation of intracellular ROS in melanocytes, B16 or A375 cells are seeded in 12-well plates (8×10^4 cells/well) and stimulated with α -MSH (100 nM) for 24 hours. At the end of α -MSH incubation, cells are trypsinized for detaching from the culturing plates and subjected to cellular ROS detection assay (Abcam) according to manufacturer's instruction. In brief, cells are stained with 20 μ M DCFDA for 30 min at 37°C. After staining, cells are treated with tert-butyl hydrogen peroxide (TBHP, 55 nM) for an evident level of ROS elevation prior to a 4-hour incubation with our testing extracts or compounds or ascorbic acid (AC) in a volume of 5 μ L. Signals of ROS generation will be detected using a fluorescence microplate reader. DCF are excited by the 488 nm laser. Results of this assay are presented in Figure 22.

[00175] All assays are performed in triplicate and repeated for at least 3 times in

individual experiments. The results are presented as the mean $\pm$ standard deviation. Variance between two groups is evaluated by Student's *t*-test whereas variance among more than two groups is calculated by means of one-way analysis of variance (one-way ANOVA). A *p* value of less than 0.05 is considered as statistically significant.

[00176] To determine the skin color of the individual human subjects, the initial skin conditions at the arms of the individuals are tested by the skin colorimeter MPA 5 on day 0. The individual typology angle (ITA°) is calculated by the colorimeter based on the luminance (L*) and yellow-blue component (b*) values. The greater the ITA° value, the greater the skin whiteness [S. Del Bino and F. Bernerd. Variations in skin colour and the biological consequences of ultraviolet radiation exposure. *British Journal of Dermatology* 2013; 169 (Suppl. 3), 33-40]. In fact, skin colors are classified into 6 major divisions: very light, light, intermediate, tan, brown and dark as listed in Table 4. Two areas (2 cm $\times$ 2 cm each) are selected as treated areas whereas regions surrounding the treated areas on the arms are regarded as control areas. A volume of 200 μ L of the testing stilbenoids (2% by weight dissolved in ethanol) is applied to the designated area twice a day, day and night. At the end of the first week (day 7), individuals are tested with the skin colorimeter for recording the data about using the stilbenoids for 7 days. Again, at the end of the second week (day 14), individuals are tested with the skin colorimeter for recording the data about using the stilbenoids for 14 days. The ITA° readings are presented in Table 5. Overt whitening effect from dihydro-resveratrol or *trans*-resveratrol is obtained from most individuals. A set of representative images taken from a human individual who uses the topical treatment is shown in Figure 23.

Table 4. Skin classification based on ITA°:

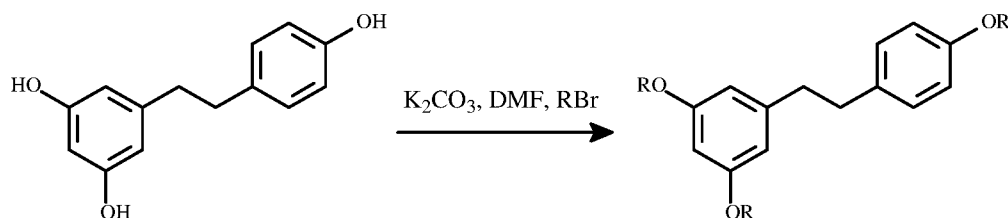
Individual typology angle (ITA°)	Skin classification
ITA° > 55°	Very light
41° < ITA° < 55°	Light
28° < ITA° < 41°	Intermediate
10° < ITA° < 28°	Tan
-30° < ITA° < 10°	Brown
ITA° < -30°	Dark

Table 5. ITA° measurements of individual human subjects on the indicated time-points:

Individual	day 0	day 7			day 14		
	nil	2% D-Res	2% Res	nil	2% D-Res	2% Res	nil
					Res		

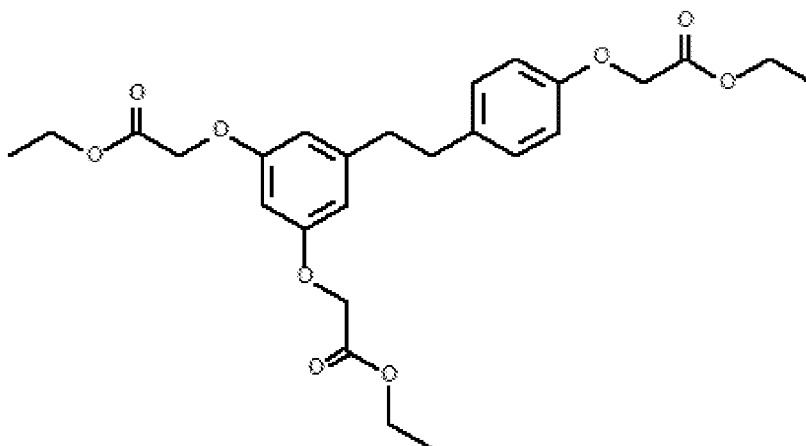
No. 1	46.3 ± 3.525	49.0 ± 1.732	47.7 ± 1.155	40.3 ± 2.517	52.4 ± 1.166	46.4 ± 0.548	41.8 ± 0.860
No. 2	46.3 ± 0.473	41.1 ± 3.391	39.2 ± 2.564	36.4 ± 3.530	49.8 ± 4.630	44.8 ± 2.871	39.6 ± 2.542
No. 3	41.1 ± 2.895	35.0 ± 1.000	38.0 ± 1.732	41.4 ± 2.782	33.8 ± 0.837	36.2 ± 1.789	38.8 ± 1.855
No. 4	34.2 ± 1.779	26.8 ± 2.371	22.4 ± 1.715	26.8 ± 1.789	35.2 ± 2.103	29.4 ± 1.342	29.0 ± 3.768
No. 5	31.2 ± 0.884	25.6 ± 1.817	26.6 ± 1.159	27.0 ± 2.827	27.8 ± 1.934	34.0 ± 2.168	28.2 ± 3.693
No. 6	26.8 ± 3.609	26.4 ± 2.649	28.2 ± 2.718	29.4 ± 1.949	34.6 ± 0.927	41.8 ± 3.372	32.6 ± 2.315
No. 7	20.8 ± 4.560	21.2 ± 0.837	20.6 ± 1.140	19.8 ± 1.893	23.8 ± 2.634	20.4 ± 0.578	21.6 ± 1.435
No. 8	11.5 ± 2.619	14.0 ± 2.345	14.0 ± 1.232	9.0 ± 1.414	16.2 ± 1.483	9.6 ± 1.342	11.2 ± 1.241
No. 9	-11.3 ± 3.726	-5.2 ± 0.837	-7.2 ± 1.789	-12.0 ± 1.225	-2.2 ± 0.447	-7.4 ± 1.140	-6.2 ± 2.223

[00177] **General Synthetic Route of DR1 to DR3**



To a mixture of dihydro-resveratrol (0.2 mmol) and an alkyl bromide (RBr) (1.2 mmol) in dimethylformamide (DMF, 2 mL), K₂CO₃ (1.2 mmol) was added. The resulting mixture was stirred at room temperature until the starting material disappeared on thin-layer chromatography (TLC). The mixture was diluted with H₂O (10 mL) and washed with dichloromethane (DCM, 10 mL) three times. The combined organic layer was washed with saturated sodium chloride (NaCl) twice, dried over anhydrous Na₂SO₄, concentrated in vacuum and purified by preparative (prep-)TLC (PE/EA = 5/1 or 3/1) to afford the desired compound(s). The R group in RBr can be OR¹¹, -OCH₂R¹¹ or -OCH₂C(O)OR¹¹, where R¹¹ is hydrocarbyl.

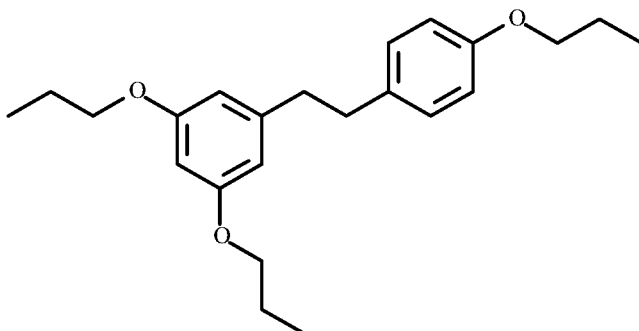
DR1:



High-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS): 511.1997 [M+Na]⁺

Proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H NMR, 400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.31 (9H, t, *J* = 7.1 Hz), 2.82 (4H, s), 4.22-4.32 (6H, m), 4.56 (4H, s), 4.60 (2H, s), 6.29-6.41 (3H, m), 6.80-6.86 (2H, m), 7.04-7.13 (2H, m).

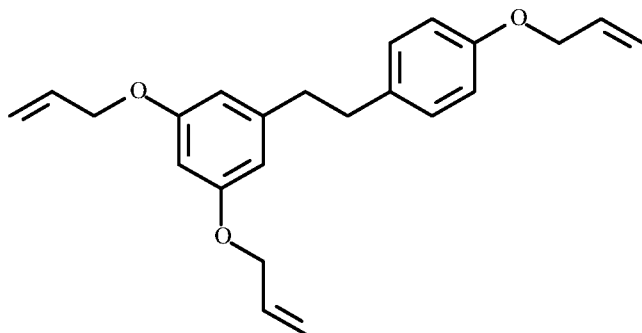
DR2:



HRMS: 373.1770 [M+Na]⁺.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.84 (4H, d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 4.49 (4H, dt, *J* = 5.3, 1.4 Hz), 4.51-4.53 (2H, m), 5.25-5.35 (3H, m), 5.37-5.48 (3H, m), 5.99-6.13 (3H, m), 6.36 (3H, s), 6.81-6.90 (2H, m), 7.05-7.15 (2H, m).

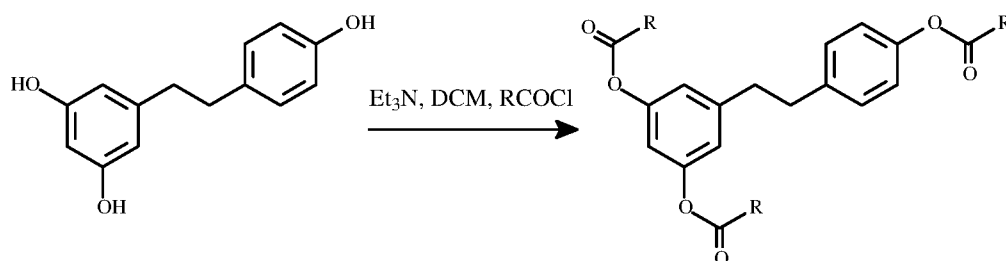
DR3:



HRMS: 379.2220 $[M+Na]^+$.

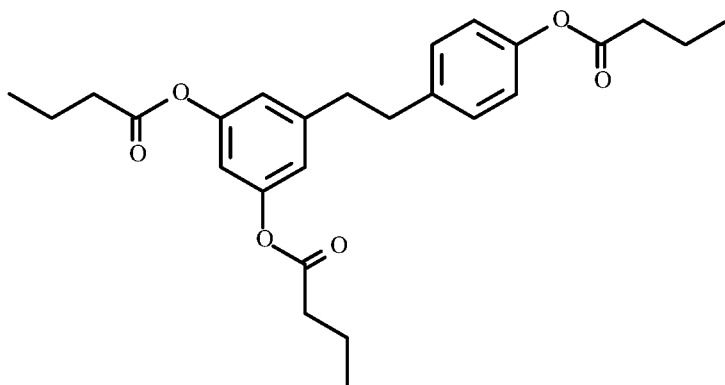
1H NMR (400 MHz, $CDCl_3$) δ 0.98-1.08 (9H, m), 1.74-1.90 (6H, m), 2.75-2.90 (4H, m), 3.85-3.95 (6H, m), 6.29-6.39 (3H, m), 6.81-6.87 (2H, m), 7.07-7.15 (2H, m).

[00178] **General Synthetic Route of DR4 to DR11**



[00179] To a mixture of dihydro-resveratrol (0.2 mmol) and acyl chloride ($RCOCl$) (1.2 mmol) in DCM (2 mL), Et_3N (1.2 mmol) at 0 °C was added. The resulting mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred until the starting material disappeared on TLC. The mixture was diluted with H_2O (10 mL) and washed with DCM (10 mL) three times. The combined organic layer was washed with saturated NaCl twice, dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , concentrated in vacuum and purified by prep-TLC (PE/EA = 5/1 or 3/1) to afford the desired compound(s). The R group in $RCOCl$ can be $-R^{11}$ or $-CH_2R^{11}$, where R^{11} is hydrocarbyl, which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R^{12} , and where R^{12} is halogen or $-OR^{13}$, and where R^{13} is hydrogen or hydrocarbyl.

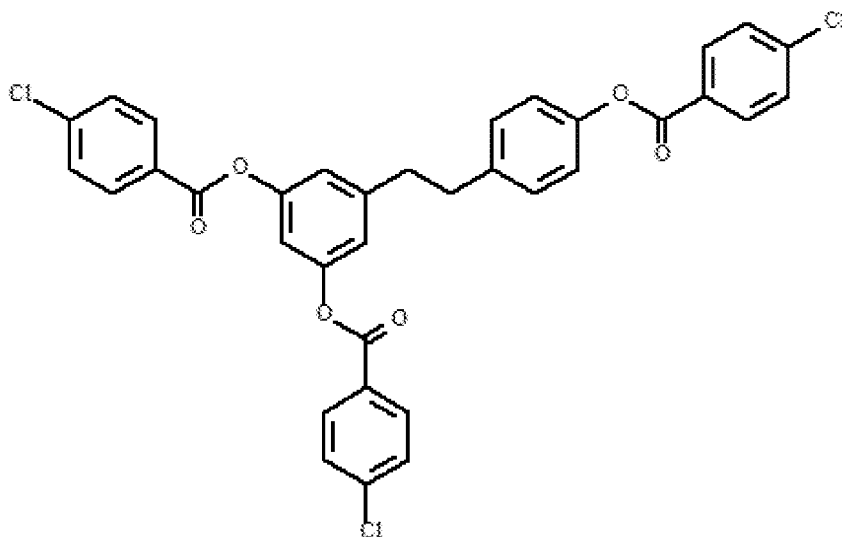
DR4:



HRMS: 463.2044 [M+Na⁺].

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 0.97-1.10 (9H, m), 1.72-1.89 (6H, m), 2.47-2.58 (6H, m), 2.91 (4H, s), 6.74-6.84 (3H, m), 6.94-7.04 (2H, m), 7.13-7.21 (2H, m).

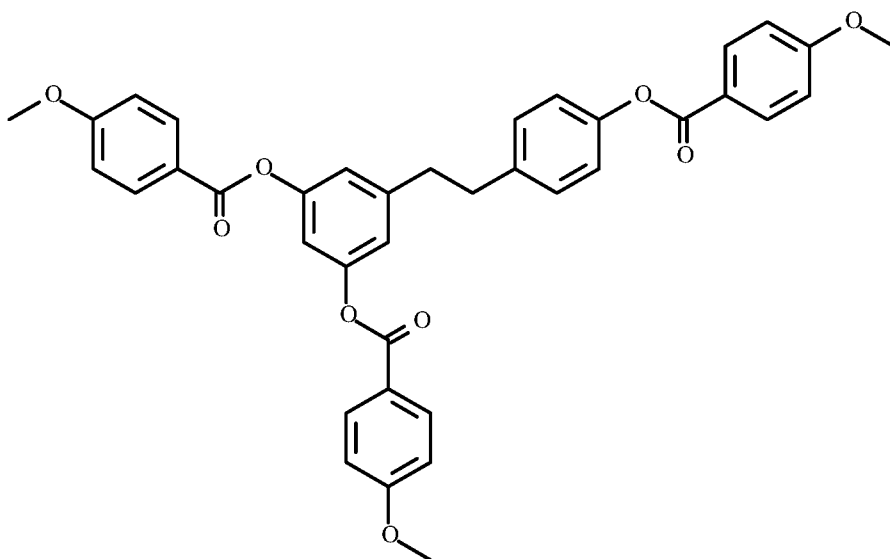
DR5:



HRMS: 667.0427 and 669.0408 [M+Na⁺].

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.01 (4H, s), 6.99-7.06 (3H, m), 7.10-7.17 (2H, m), 7.22-7.27 (2H, m), 7.46-7.55 (6H, m), 8.09-8.18 (6H, m).

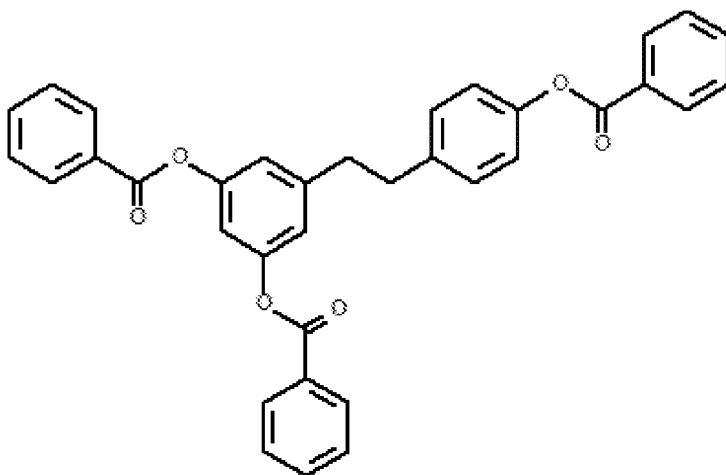
DR6:



HRMS: 655.1964 [M+Na⁺].

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.00 (4H, s), 3.89-3.92 (9H, m), 6.97-7.04 (9H, m), 7.11-7.16 (2H, m), 7.23-7.27 (2H, m), 8.13-8.18 (6H, m).

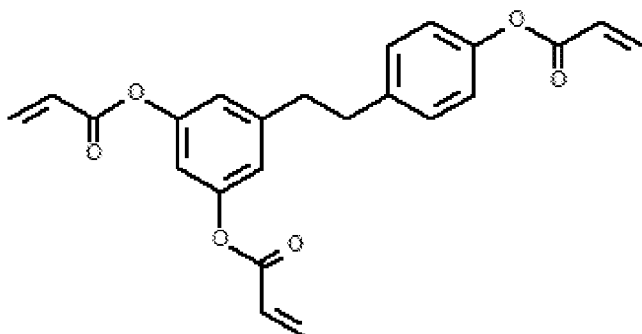
DR7:



HRMS: 565.1600 [M+Na]⁺.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.02 (4H, s), 7.02-7.08 (3H, m), 7.12-7.20 (2H, m), 7.25-7.29 (2H, m), 7.50-7.57 (6H, m), 7.60-7.70 (3H, m), 8.17 - 8.28 (6H, m)

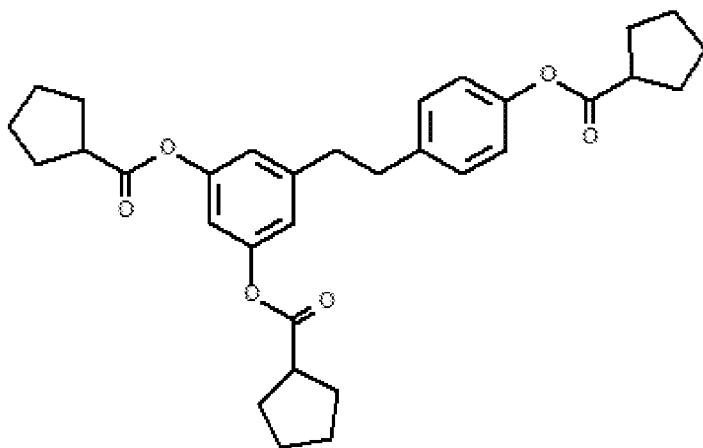
DR8:



HRMS: 415.1140 [M+Na]⁺

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 2.94 (4H, s), 5.98-6.08 (3H, m), 6.23-6.43 (3H, m), 6.58-6.70 (3H, m), 6.84-6.97 (3H, m), 7.01-7.13 (2H, m), 7.16-7.26 (2H, m).

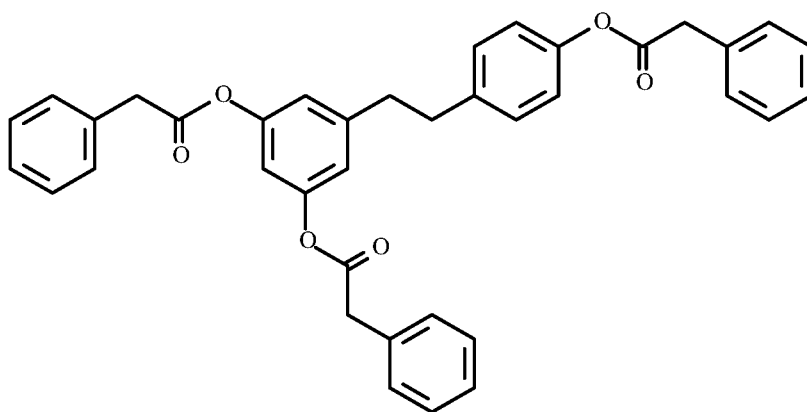
DR9:



HRMS: 514.2550 [M+Na]⁺.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.61-1.79 (12H, m), 1.88-2.09 (12H, m), 2.82-3.08 (7H, m), 6.72-6.83 (3H, m), 6.96-7.03 (2H, m), 7.15-7.20 (2H, m).

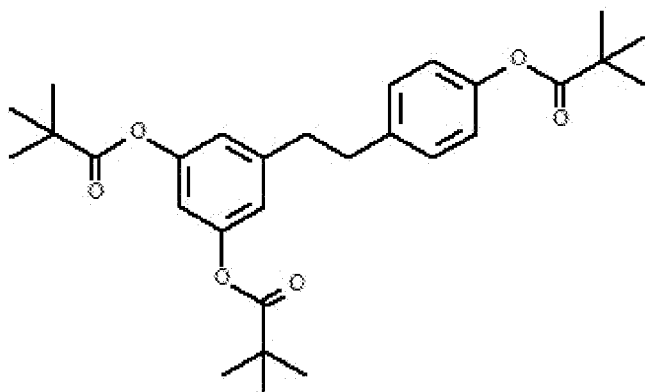
DR10:



HRMS: 607.2070 $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$.

^1H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl_3) δ 2.91 (4H, s), 5.27 (6H, s), 6.91-6.98 (3H, m), 7.08-7.12 (2H, m), 7.14-7.19 (2H, m), 7.38-7.46 (15H, m).

DR11:

HRMS: 505.2550 [M+Na]⁺.

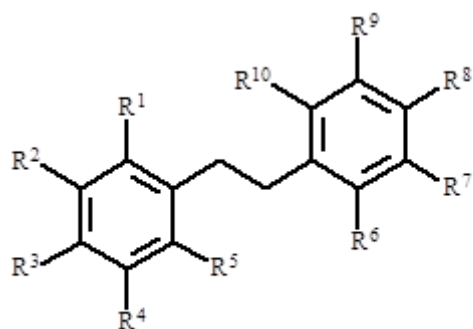
¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) • 1.34-1.38 (27H, m), 2.86-2.94 (4H, m), 6.77 (3H, d, *J* = 2.1 Hz), 6.93-7.02 (2H, m), 7.14-7.21 (2H, m)

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[00180] The present invention relates to a skin-protection composition that comprises stilbenoid(s) and/or stilbenoid-containing extract(s) obtained from *Dendrobium* plants, such as *Dendrobium officinale* and *Dendrobium nobile* for the management of melanogenesis, skin-darkening and skin-aging. More particularly, it relates to the usage of *Dendrobium* ingredients and stilbenoids to reduce the formation of melanin in melanocytes. It also relates to the usage of *Dendrobium* ingredients and stilbenoids to reduce the generation of reactive oxygen species and oxidative free radicals. This invention relates to the use *Dendrobium*-derived extracts or ingredients or stilbenoids in the formulation of skin-protection, skin-whitening and/or anti-skin aging products.

CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula (4):



(4)

5 wherein

R², R⁴, and R⁸ are each independently selected from -OR¹¹, -OCH₂R¹², -OC(O)R¹¹, -OCH₂C(O)OR¹² and -OC(O)CH₂R¹²;

R¹, R³, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -OR¹² and -OC(O)R¹²; or R² and R³, or R⁷ and R⁸ are taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a cyclic group;

R¹¹ is independently selected from -(CH₂)-hydrocarbyl, C₂₋₁₀ alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl and heterocyclyl, each of these groups is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R¹³;

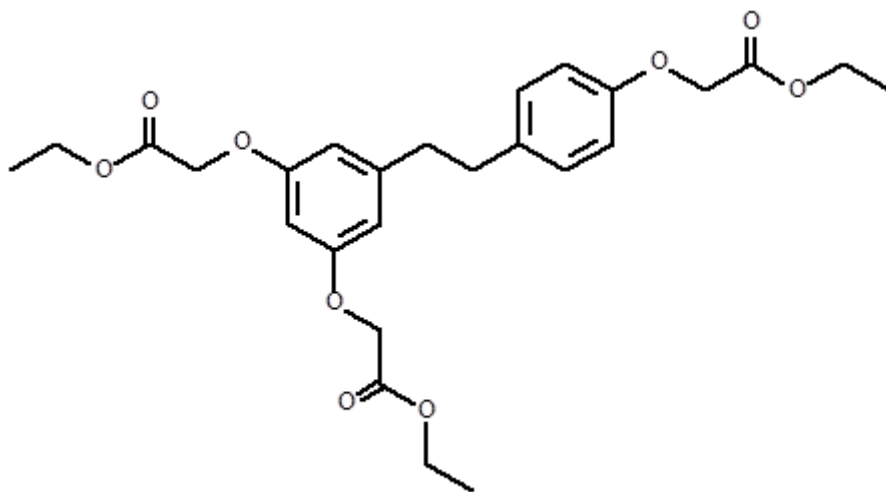
R¹² is independently selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R¹³;

R¹³ is independently selected from halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, oxo, -OR¹⁴, -C(O)R¹⁵, -C(O)N(R¹⁴)R¹⁵, -C(O)OR¹⁴, -OC(O)R¹⁵, -S(O)₂R¹⁴, -S(O)₂N(R¹⁴)R¹⁵, -N(R¹⁴)R¹⁵;

R¹⁴ and R¹⁵ are each independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, amino, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl and C₁₋₆ alkoxy;

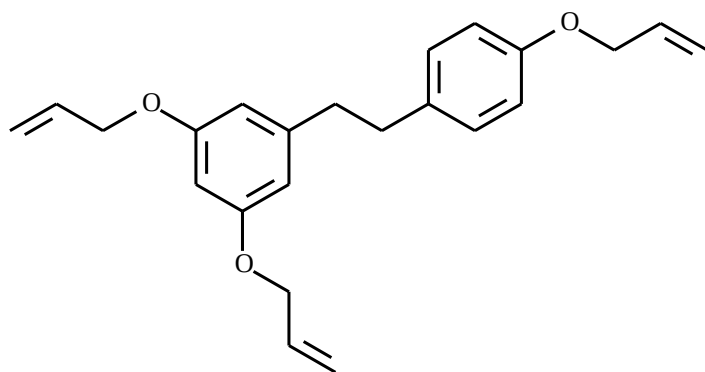
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from DR1, DR2, DR3, DR4, DR5, DR6, DR7, DR8, DR9, DR10 or DR11 with the following formulae respectively:

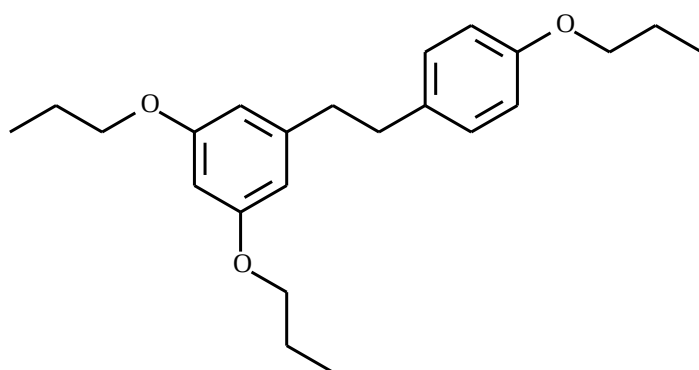


DR1;

5

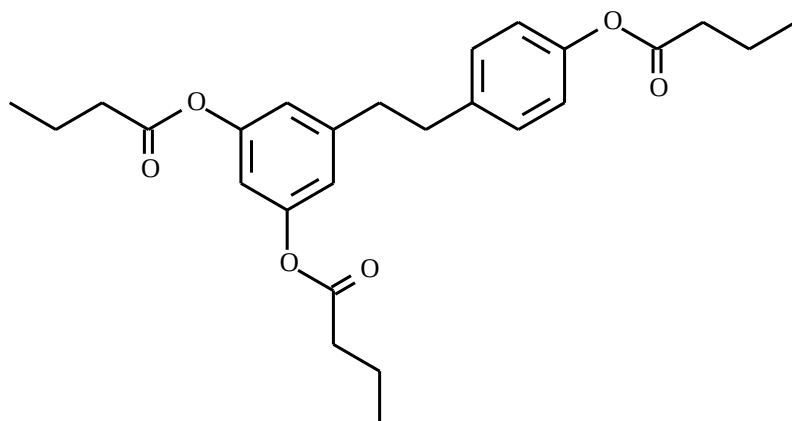


DR2;

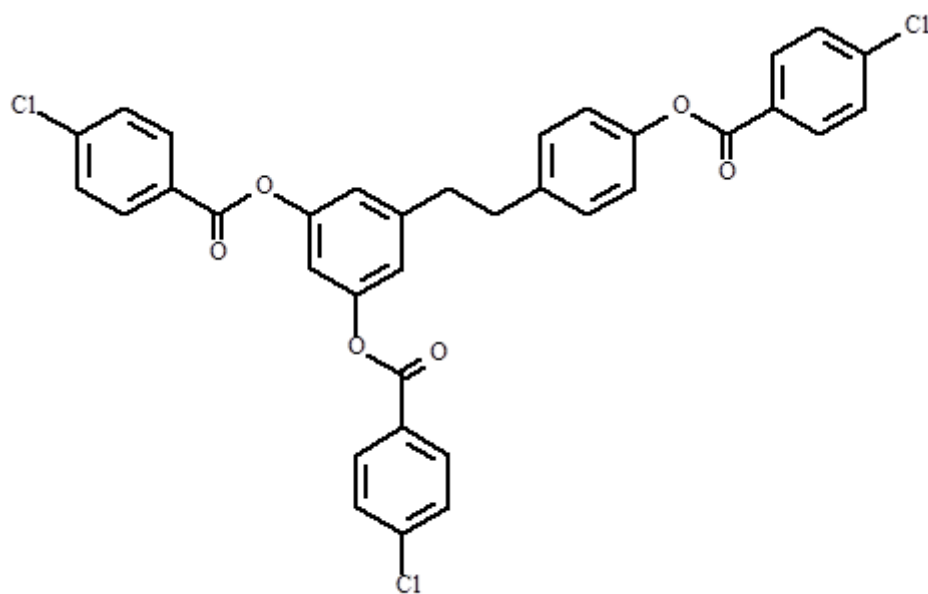


DR3;

69

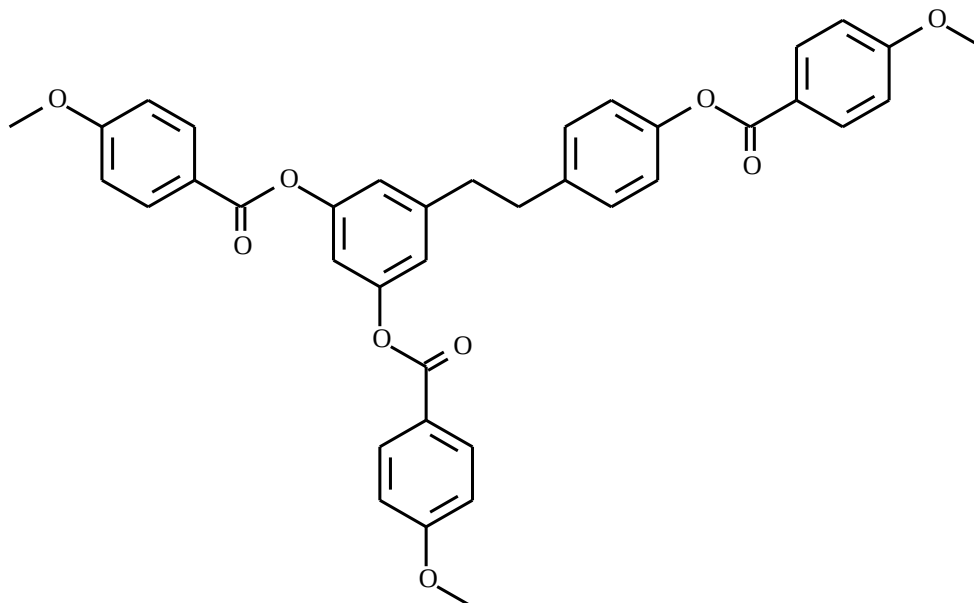


DR4;

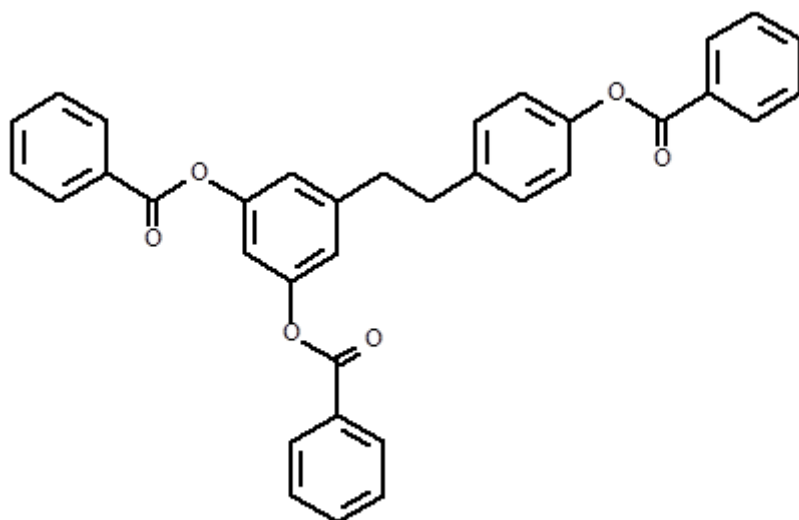


DR5;

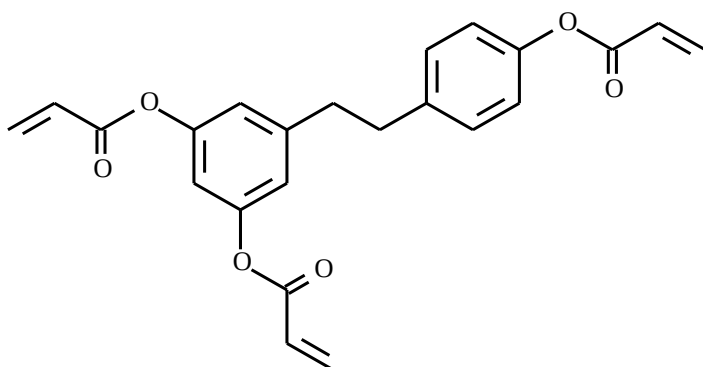
70



DR6;



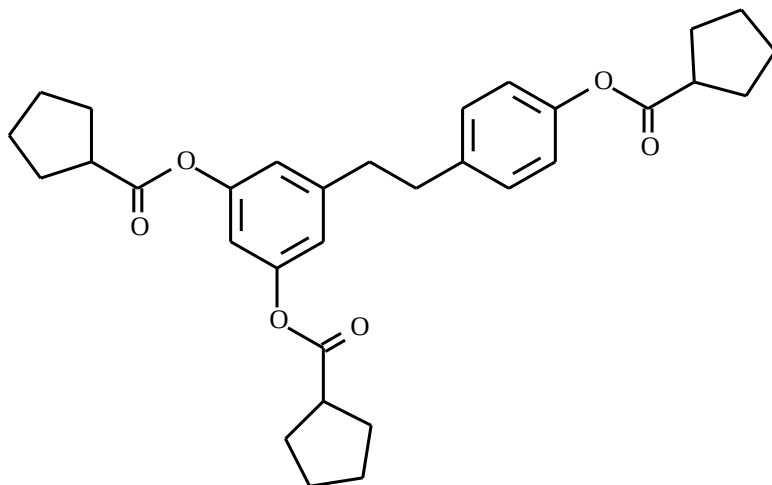
DR7;



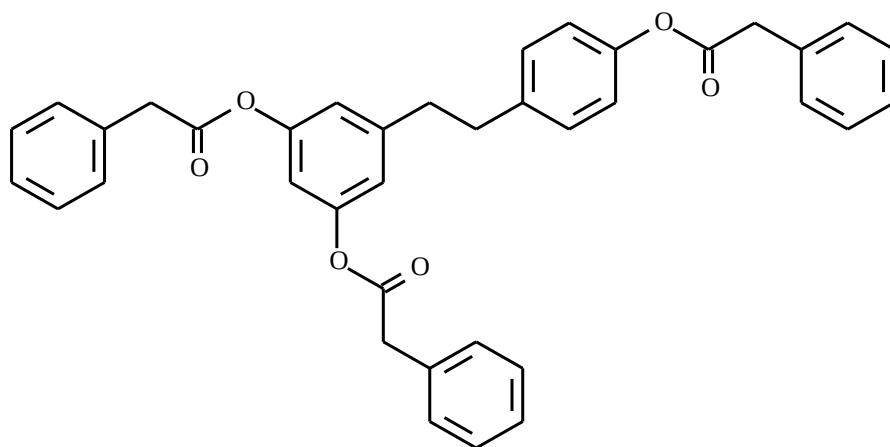
5

DR8;

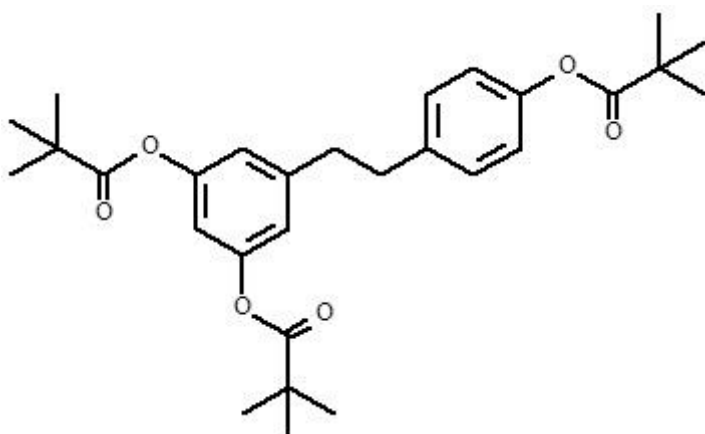
71



DR9;



DR10;



DR11;

5

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

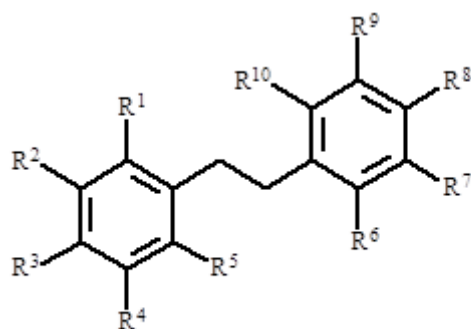
3. A composition for treating, preventing and/or delaying progress of skin darkening comprising an effective amount of the compound of claim 1 or 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier thereof.

10

4. A cosmetic, non-therapeutic method for skin whitening or delay of progression of a skin darkening in a subject comprising using a composition comprising the compound of claim 1 or 2 and/or the derivatives or chemical variants thereof alone and/or in combination with one or more other pharmaceutically acceptable skin-whitening and skin-protection agent(s).
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said composition is applied topically to said subject.
6. The method of claim 4 or 5, wherein said subject is human.

10

7. A cosmetic, non-therapeutic method for skin whitening, skin protection against UV exposure, skin damage and aging in a subject comprising using a topical formulation comprising the compound:



(5)

15 wherein

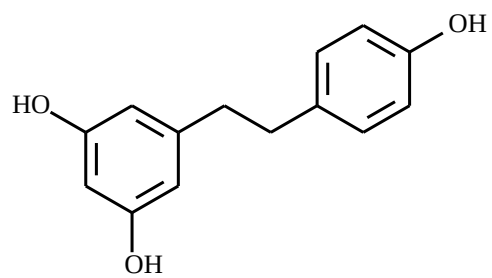
R², R⁴, and R⁸ are each independently selected from -OR¹¹, -OCH₂R¹¹, -OC(O)R¹¹, -OCH₂C(O)OR¹¹ and -OC(O)CH₂R¹¹;

R¹, R³, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -OR¹¹ and -OC(O)R¹¹; or R² and R³, or R⁷ and R⁸ are taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached to form a cyclic group;

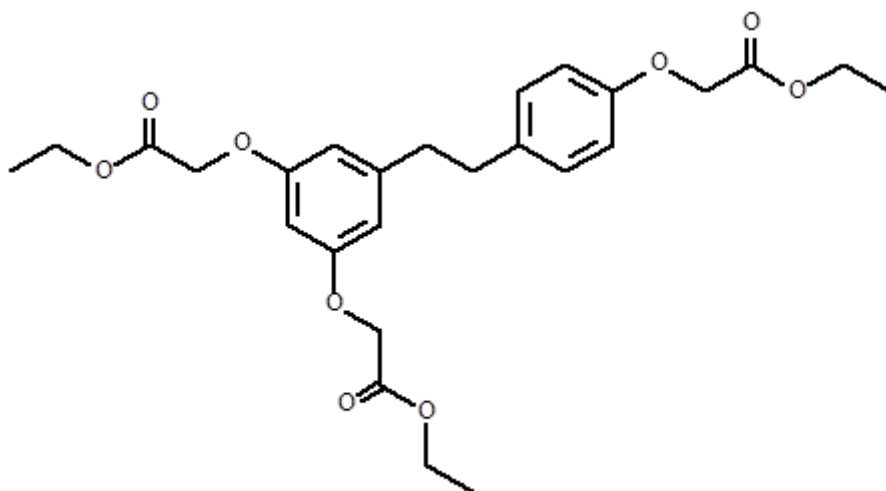
R¹¹ is independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R¹²;

R¹² is independently selected from halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, oxo, -OR¹³, -C(O)R¹⁴, -C(O)N(R¹³)R¹⁴, -C(O)OR¹³, -OC(O)R¹⁴, -S(O)₂R¹³, -S(O)₂N(R¹³)R¹⁴, -N(R¹³)R¹⁴;

R¹³ and R¹⁴ are each independently hydrogen or selected from hydrocarbyl and heterocyclyl, either of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents independently selected from halogen, cyano, amino, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkyl and C₁₋₆ alkoxy; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or

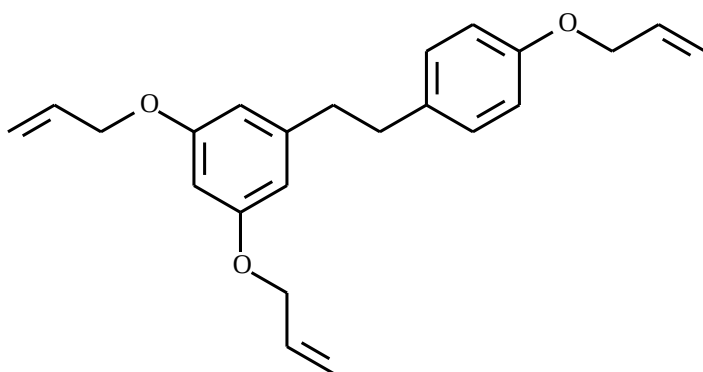


Dihydro-resveratrol ;



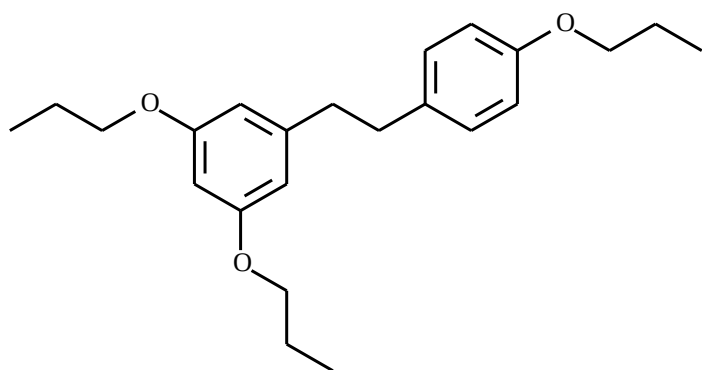
DR1;

5

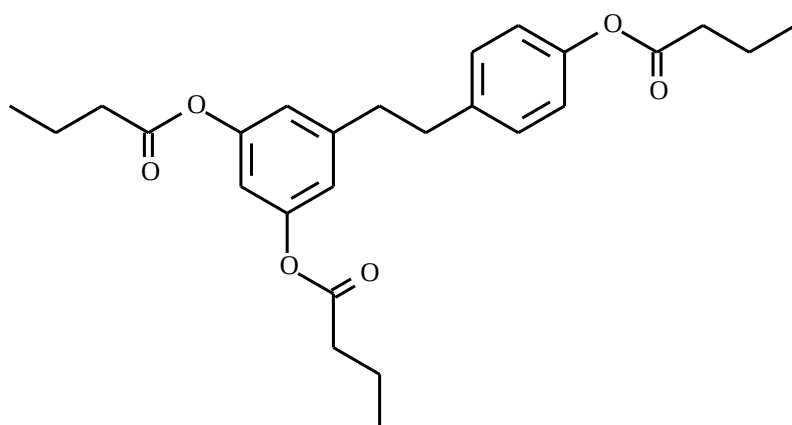


DR2;

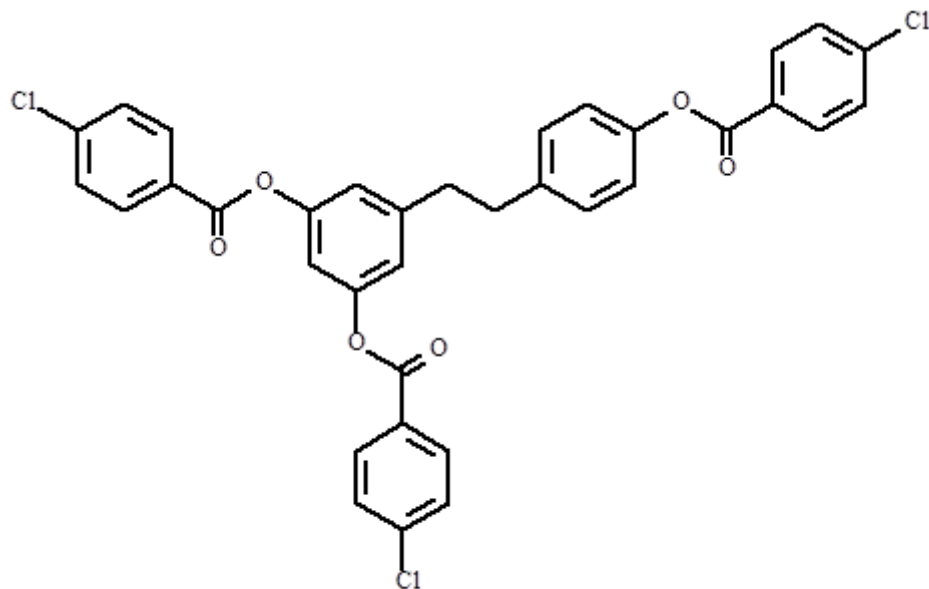
74



DR3;

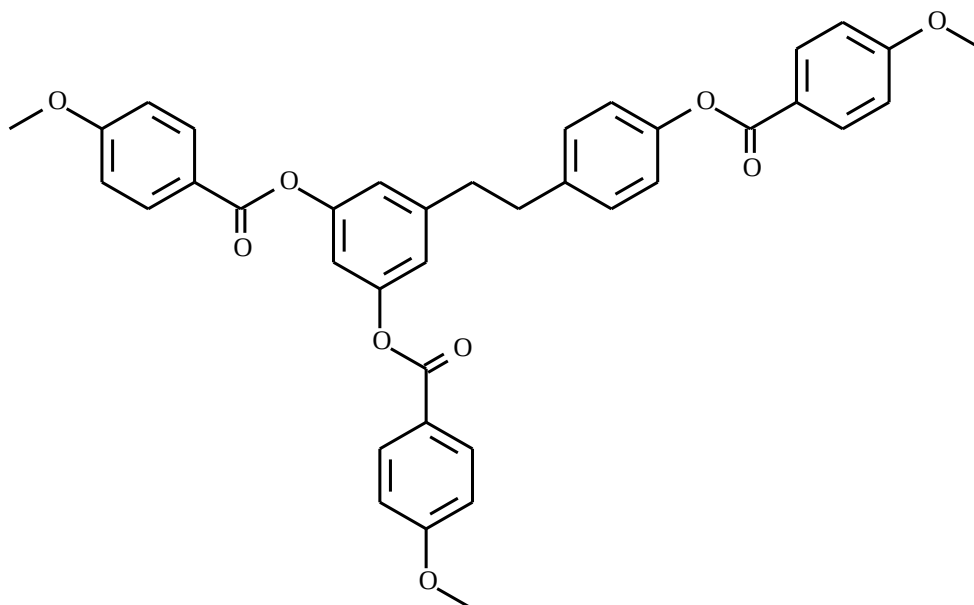


DR4;

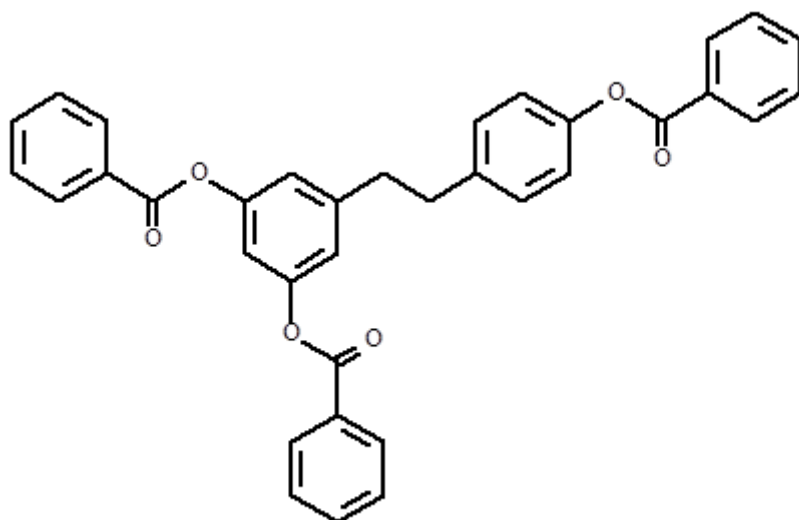


DR5;

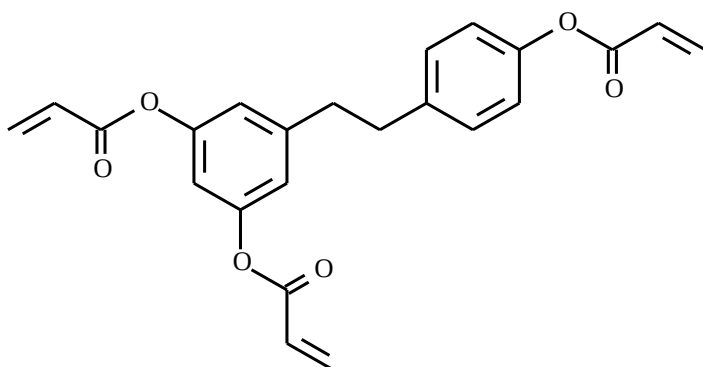
75



DR6;



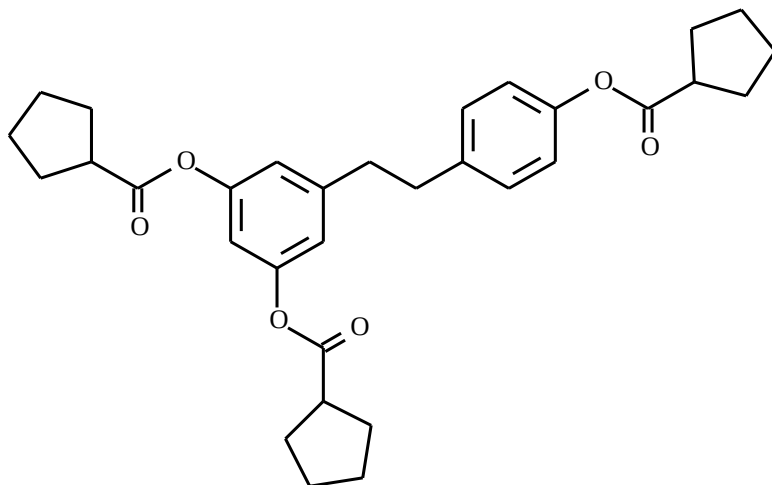
DR7;



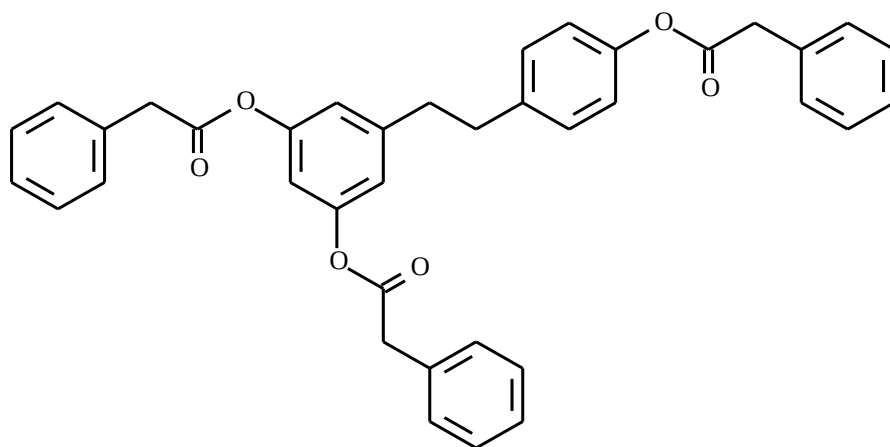
5

DR8;

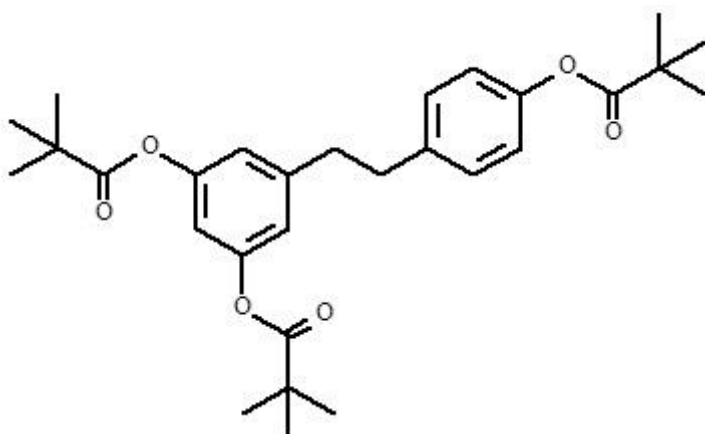
76



DR9;



DR10;



DR11;

5

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said topical formulation is in a form of a paste, solid,
powder, particle, emulsion, day cream, night cream, face lotion, body lotion, body butter, skin
10 peel, mask, shower gel, sun cream, sun lotion, after sun cream, after sun lotion, lip balm, or

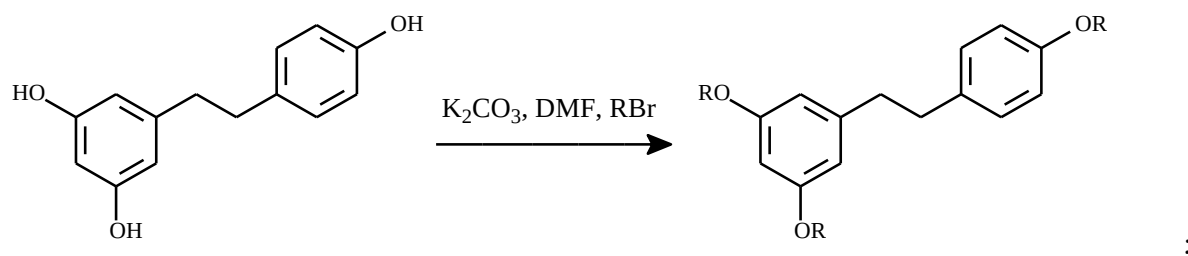
lip gloss, or alike.

9. The method of claim 7 or 8, wherein said subject is human.

10. The composition of claim 3, wherein the composition is in the form of a paste, solid, powder, particle, emulsion, day cream, night cream, face lotion, body lotion, body butter, skin peel, mask, shower gel, sun cream, sun lotion, after sun cream, or after sun lotion.

11. A method of synthesizing the compound of claim 2 from dihydro-resveratrol comprising the following two synthesis schemes:

Scheme 1 for said DR1 to DR3:

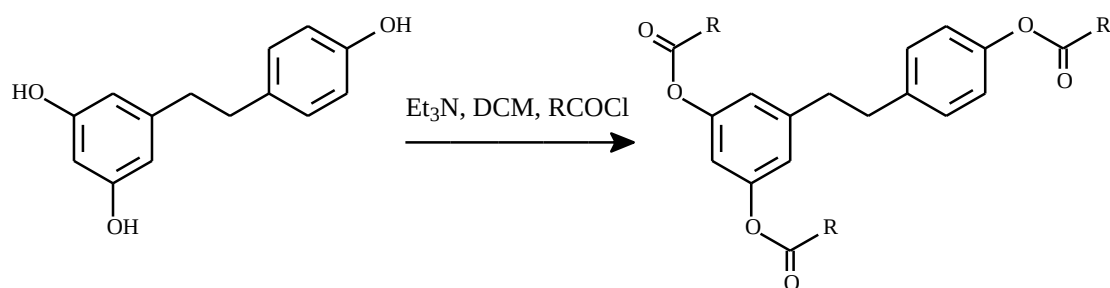


wherein

15 R is $-\text{OR}^{11}$, $-\text{OCH}_2\text{R}^{11}$ or $-\text{OCH}_2\text{C}(\text{O})\text{OR}^{11}$;
 R^{11} is hydrocarbyl;
 and

Scheme 2 for said DR4 to DR11:

20



wherein

25 R is $-\text{R}^{11}$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{R}^{11}$;
 R^{11} is hydrocarbyl, which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 R^{12} ;
 R^{12} is halogen or $-\text{OR}^{13}$; and
 R^{13} is hydrogen or hydrocarbyl.