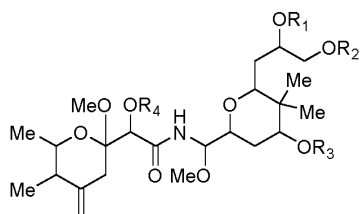


CLAIMS

1. A compound of general formula **I** or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, tautomer, or stereoisomer thereof

**I**

5 wherein:

R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are each independently selected from hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkynyl, $-C(=O)R_a$, $-C(=O)OR_b$ and $-(C=O)NR_cR_d$;

R_4 is selected from hydrogen, $-C(=O)R_a$, $-C(=O)OR_b$, and $-(C=O)NR_cR_d$;

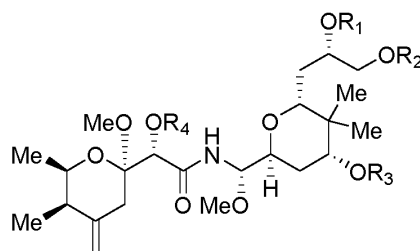
10 R_a is selected from hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkynyl, aryl, and heterocyclyl;

R_b is selected from substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkynyl, aryl, and heterocyclyl;

R_c and R_d are independently selected from hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkynyl, aryl and heterocyclyl;

with the proviso that R_1 and R_2 are not simultaneously methyl.

2. The compound according to claim 1, also having general formula **III** or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, tautomer or stereoisomer thereof

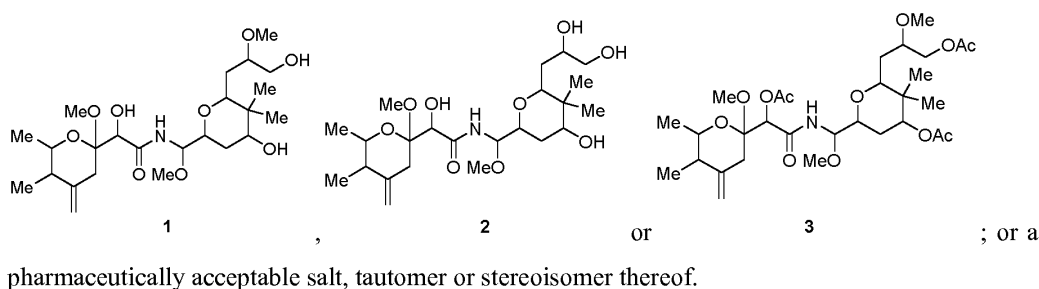
**III**

20

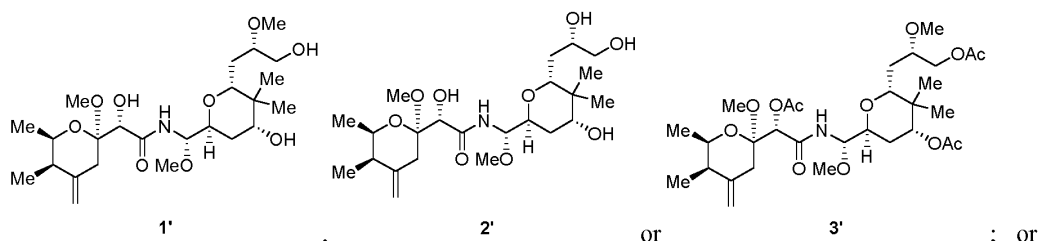
wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are as defined for formula **I** in claim 1.

3. The compound according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R_1 is selected from hydrogen and substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_6 alkyl.

4. The compound according to claim 3, wherein R_1 is selected from hydrogen and methyl.
5. The compound according to any preceding claim, wherein R_2 is selected from hydrogen and $-C(=O)R_a$ where R_a is selected from substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_6 alkyl.
6. The compound according to claim 5, wherein R_2 is selected from hydrogen and acetyl.
7. The compound according to any preceding claim, wherein R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen and $-C(=O)R_a$, wherein R_a at each occurrence is independently selected from substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_6 alkyl.
8. The compound according to claim 7 wherein R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen and acetyl.
9. The compound according to claim 1 of formula:

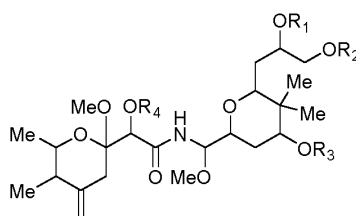


10. The compound according to claim 9 of formula:



- 15 a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, tautomer or stereoisomer thereof.
11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as defined in any preceding claim, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, tautomer or stereoisomer thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
12. A compound as defined in any of claims 1 to 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, tautomer or stereoisomer thereof, or a composition as defined in claim 11, for use as a medicament.

13. The compound or composition according to claim 12, for use as a medicament for the treatment of cancer.
14. Use of a compound as defined in any of claims 1 to 10, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, tautomers, or stereoisomers thereof, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.
15. A method of treating a patient, notably a human, affected by cancer, which comprises administering to the affected individual in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in any of claims 1 to 10, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, tautomer, or stereoisomer thereof.
16. A process for obtaining a compound of formula II or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, tautomer, or stereoisomer thereof



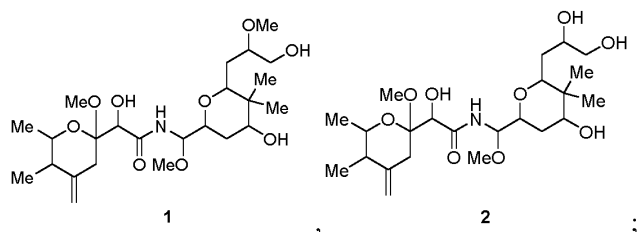
II

wherein

- R_1 , R_2 , and R_3 are each independently selected from hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkynyl, $-C(=O)R_a$, $-C(=O)OR_b$ and $-(C=O)NR_cR_d$;
- R_4 is selected from hydrogen, $-C(=O)R_a$, $-C(=O)OR_b$, and $-(C=O)NR_cR_d$;
- R_a is selected from hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkynyl, aryl, and heterocyclyl;
- R_b is selected from substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkynyl, aryl, and heterocyclyl;
- R_c and R_d are independently selected from hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2 - C_{12} alkynyl, aryl and heterocyclyl;

the process comprising the steps of:

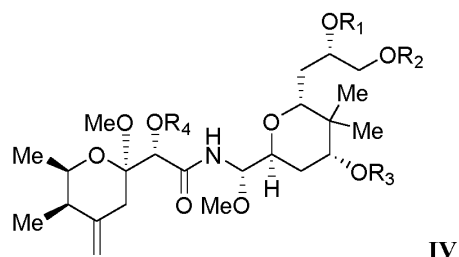
- culturing the wild type marine bacterial strain PHM005 or their mutants under suitable conditions to produce compounds **1** and/or **2** of formula:



- isolating compounds **1** or **2**; and, if needed,

5 -derivatizing compounds **1** or **2**.

17. The process according to claim 16, wherein the compound of formula **II** has also formula **IV**



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, tautomer or stereoisomer thereof;

10 wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are as defined for formula **II** in claim 16.

18. Biologically pure strain PHM005, deposited under the accession number CECT-9225 in the Colección Española de Cultivos Tipo at the University of Valencia, Spain.

19. An isolated nucleic acid comprising the Lab biosynthetic gene cluster or being complementary to a sequence comprising the Lab biosynthetic gene cluster which is derived from
15 *Labrenzia* sp. and in particular from strain PHM005.

20. The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 19 comprising:
a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2; or
a nucleotide sequence which is the complement of SEQ ID NO: 2; or
a nucleotide sequence hybridising under highly stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO: 2 or to
the complement thereof; or
20 a nucleotide sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 2 or with the complement thereof.

21. An isolated nucleic acid comprising nucleic acid fragments forming individual units and/or modules of the Lab biosynthetic gene cluster as shown in Figure 3.
22. A modular enzymatic system encoded by a nucleic acid sequence as defined in any of claims 19 to 21.
- 5 23. A modular enzymatic system according to claim 22 comprising one or more of a protein sequence selected from the group formed by the sequences SEQ ID NO: 3 to SEQ ID NO: 23 or a protein sequence having at least 80% sequence identity with these sequences.
24. A modular enzymatic system according to claim 22 or 23 having functional activity in the synthesis of pederin-like or onnamide-like compounds and/or a polyketide moiety and/or a
10 nonribosomal peptide moiety.
25. A vector comprising a nucleic acid consisting essentially of the Lab biosynthetic gene cluster derived from *Labrenzia* sp. and in particular from strain PHM005.
26. A vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to any of claims 19 to 21.
27. A recombinant host cell or a transgenic organism comprising a nucleic acid according to
15 any of claims 19 to 21 or containing a vector according to claim 25 or 26.
28. A recombinant host cell according to claim 27 which is a bacterial cell and in particular is a *Pseudomonas*, *Acinetobacter*, *Bacillus*, *Streptomyces*, or *E. coli* cell.
29. A method for producing pederin-like or onnamide-like compounds using a mutant of PHM005 or a recombinant host cell according to claim 27 or a transgenic organism according to
20 claim 28 comprising the steps of:
- culturing the mutant of PHM005 or the recombinant host cell or the transgenic organism under conditions to express the Lab biosynthetic gene cluster; and
 - isolating the produced pederin-like or onnamide-like compounds.
30. The method according to claim 29 wherein the product of the *lab719* is expressed to
25 provide an onnamide-like compound.
31. Use of a nucleic acid according to any of claims 19 to 21 in the preparation of a modified Lab biosynthetic gene cluster.

32. Use of a nucleic acid according to any of claims 19 to 21 in the preparation of a pederin-like compound.