



## Communication

# New seco-dibenzocyclooctadiene lignans with nitric oxide production inhibitory activity from the roots of *Kadsura longipedunculata*



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## ABSTRACT

Four new seco-dibenzocyclooctadiene lignans, kadlongilignans A–D (**1–4**), consisting of a rare 6,7-seco- (**1**), two 15,16-seco- (**2** and **3**) and a 9,10-seco-dibenzocyclooctadiene (**4**) lignans, were isolated from the roots of *Kadsura longipedunculata*. Their structures were elucidated by spectroscopic analysis, including extensive NMR, MS and ECD (electronic circular dichroism) spectra. Compounds **3** and **4** exhibited potent inhibitory activities against NO (nitric oxide) production of LPS (lipopolysaccharide)-induced murine macrophages with the inhibition rates of 36.3% and 26.9%, respectively.

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*Kadsura longipedunculata* Finet et Gagnep is widely distributed in the middle and southwest region of China. Its roots and stems have been used in Chinese folk medicine, and have the effect of promoting blood circulation and dispersing swelling, dispelling wind and activating collaterals, regulating qi-flowing for relieving pain, and have been used for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, traumatic injury, canker, gastroenteritis, etc. [1]. Phytochemical studies showed that the main principal bioactive constituents of *Kadsura* were lignans and triterpenoids. Schisandraceae lignans mainly contain dibenzocyclooctadiene lignans, tetrahydrofurans, cyclolignans, and simple lignans [2]. As the characteristic component of genus *Kadsura* and *Schizandra*, dibenzocyclooctadiene lignans have the effect of anti-inflammatory [3–6], antineoplastic [7–9], and anti-HIV activities [10–13], and its anti-inflammatory activity has been a hot research field for natural product researchers during recent years [3–6]. As the study to seek components with anti-inflammatory activity from *K. longipedunculata*, four new seco-dibenzocyclooctadiene lignans, named kadlongilignans A–D (**1–4**) (Fig. 1), were isolated from the active fraction (Experimental section in Supporting information). Their inhibitory activity of NO (nitric oxide) production of LPS (lipopolysaccharide)-induced murine macrophages were evaluated. The isolation, structural identification, and bioactivity evaluation of these compounds were reported in the text.

Compound **1** had the molecular formula of  $C_{29}H_{30}O_{10}$ , as deduced by HRESIMS (Fig. S4 in Supporting information), which showed a quasi-molecular ion peak at  $m/z$  561.1736  $[M+Na]^+$  (calcd. for  $C_{29}H_{30}O_{10}Na$ : 561.1731) and  $^{13}C$  NMR data. The UV spectrum (Fig. S1 in Supporting information) with  $\lambda_{max}$  values at 210 and 279 nm, along with its IR spectrum (Fig. S3 in Supporting information) with absorption bands at 1613, 1582, and 1503  $cm^{-1}$  (aromatic moiety), indicated the presence of a biphenyl moiety. The IR ( $\nu_{max}$  3419 and 1716  $cm^{-1}$ ) bands revealed hydroxyl and carbonyl groups of **1**. The  $^1H$  NMR spectrum (Fig. S5 in Supporting information) of **1** displayed two aromatic singlets for an octa-substituted biphenyl moiety at  $\delta_H$  6.93 (H-4) and 6.70 (H-11), five aromatic proton signals for a mono-substituted benzene system at  $\delta_H$  8.04 (dd, 2H,  $J=8.0, 1.5$  Hz, H-3' and H-7'), 7.57 (tt, 1H,  $J=8.0, 1.5$  Hz, H-5'), and 7.44 (t, 2H,  $J=8.0$  Hz, H-4' and H-6'), three singlets for methoxy groups at  $\delta_H$  3.98 (3 H), 3.94 (3 H), 3.82 (3 H), a signal of methylenedioxy at  $\delta_H$  5.99 and 5.96, an oxymethine at  $\delta_H$  5.69 (d, 1H,  $J=6.0$  Hz, H-9), an oxymethylene at  $\delta_H$  4.24 (br d, 2H,  $J=6.0$  Hz, H-6), a methine at  $\delta_H$  3.15 (m, 1H, H-8), an acetyl methyl at  $\delta_H$  2.02 (s, 3H, H-17) and a methyl at  $\delta_H$  0.96 (d, 3H,  $J=7.0$  Hz, H-18) (Table 1). The  $^{13}C$  NMR data of **1** indicated 29 carbon signals (Table 1), including a ketone carbonyl ( $\delta_C$  209.8), an ester carbonyl ( $\delta_C$  165.9), 18 aromatic carbons [ $\delta_C$  152.1, 149.4, 147.0, 141.6, 137.2, 136.8, 134.4, 133.5, 132.0, 129.9 (2 $\times$ ), 129.5, 128.6 (2 $\times$ ), 120.8, 112.7, 104.2, 101.0], a methylenedioxy carbon ( $\delta_C$  101.5), an oxygenated methine carbon ( $\delta_C$  75.4), an oxygenated methylene carbon ( $\delta_C$  62.4), three methoxy carbons ( $\delta_C$  61.1, 59.9, 55.7), a methine carbon ( $\delta_C$  51.1), and two methyl carbons ( $\delta_C$  30.6, 14.0). The HMBC

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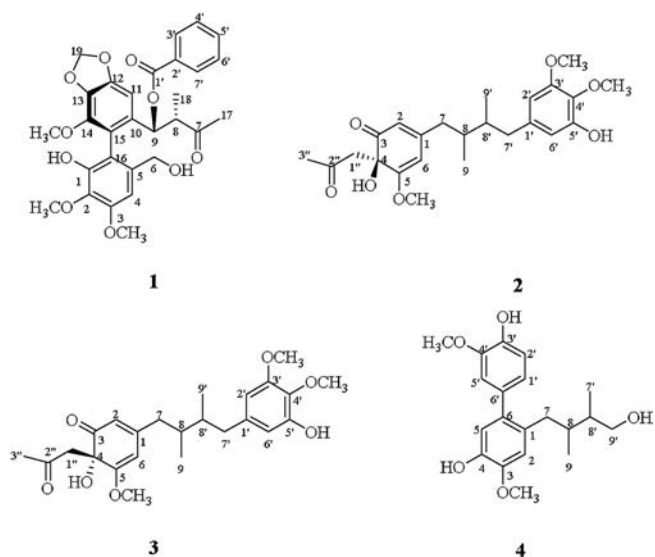


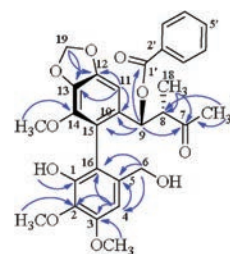
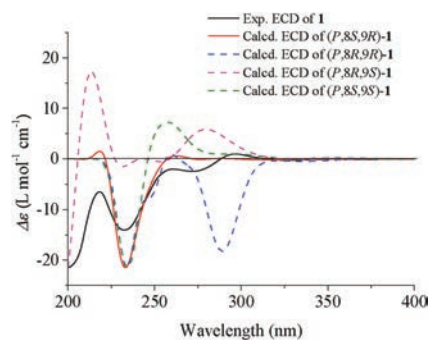
Fig. 1. Structures of compounds 1–4.

Table 1

<sup>1</sup>H (500 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz) NMR data of **1** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

Pos.	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	Pos.	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$
1		147.0	19a	5.99 (d, 1.5)	101.5
2		134.4	19b	5.96 (d, 1.5)	
3		152.1	1'		165.9
4	6.93 (s)	104.2	2'		129.5
5		137.2	3'	8.04 (dd, 8.0, 1.5)	128.6
6	4.24 (br d, 6.0)	62.4	4'	7.44 (t, 8.0)	129.9
7		209.8	5'	7.57 (tt, 8.0, 1.5)	133.5
8	3.15 (m)	51.1	6'	7.44 (t, 8.0)	129.9
9	5.69 (d, 6.0)	75.4	7'	8.04 (dd, 8.0, 1.5)	128.6
10		132.0	1-OH	5.86 (s)	
11	6.70 (s)	101.0	6-OH	3.20 (t, 7.0)	
12		149.4	2-OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.94 (s)	61.1
13		136.8	3-OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.98 (s)	55.7
14		141.6	14-OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.82 (s)	59.9
15		120.8			
16		112.7			
17	2.02 (s)	30.6			
18	0.96 (d, 7.0)	14.0			

correlations of the aromatic protons at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.93 (H-4) with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  134.4 (C-2), 152.1 (C-3), 137.2 (C-5), 112.7 (C-16), 147.0 (C-1), 120.8 (C-15) and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.70 (H-11) with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  149.4 (C-12), 136.8 (C-13), 120.8 (C-15), 132.0 (C-10), 141.6 (C-14), 112.7 (C-16) further proved the biphenyl moiety. The HMBC correlations of the methylenedioxy protons at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.99, 5.96 (H-19) with the aromatic carbons of the biphenyl moiety at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  149.4 (C-12) and 136.8 (C-13) suggested the methylenedioxy group was connected on C-12 and C-13. The HMBC correlations of 2-OCH<sub>3</sub> C-2, 3-OCH<sub>3</sub> with C-3 and 14-OCH<sub>3</sub> with C-14 suggested that the three methoxy groups were located at C-2, C-3 and C-14 of biphenyl moiety, respectively. The HMBC correlations of OH signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.86 with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  147.0 (C-1), 134.4 (C-2) and 112.7 (C-16) showed that the hydroxyl group was linked to C-1. The HMBC correlations of oxygenated methylene signal at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.24 (H-6) with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  104.2 (C-4), 137.2 (C-5), 112.7 (C-16) assigned the methylene group on C-5 of the biphenyl moiety. The HMBC correlations of the methyl at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.02 (H-17) with the carbonyl of  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  209.8 (C-7) and 51.1 (C-8), and the methyl at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.96 (H-18) with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  209.8 (C-7), 51.1 (C-8), and the methine at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.15 (H-8) with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  209.8 (C-7), 75.4 (C-9), 132.0 (C-10), 30.6 (C-17) and 14.0 (C-18), and  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.69 (H-9) with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  209.8 (C-7), 51.1 (C-8), and 14.0 (C-18) suggested the presence of a C-7 keto-isoprene moiety.

Fig. 2. Key HMBC (H→C) correlations of **1**.Fig. 3. Experimental and calculated ECD spectra of **1**.

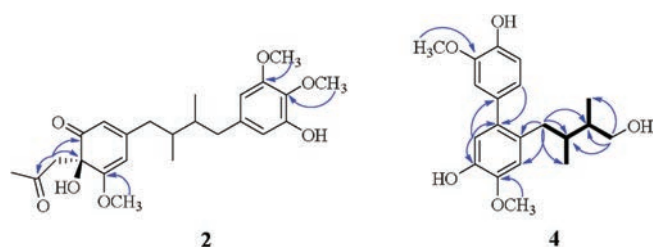
Furthermore, the HMBC correlations of H-9 with C-10, C-11 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  101.0), C-15 indicated that the C-7 keto-isoprene moiety was attached on C-10 of the biphenyl moiety. The HMBC correlations of mono-substituted benzene aromatic protons of H-3' and H-7' ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  8.04) with the ester carbonyl of C-1' ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  165.9) showed a benzyloxy group, and the HMBC correlations of H-9 with C-1' suggested that the benzyloxy moiety was attached on C-9 of the C-7 keto-isoprene moiety (Fig. 2). The interpretation above indicated that **1** is a 6,7-seco-dibenzocyclooctadiene lignan.

The ECD curve of **1** exhibited a negative Cotton effect near 240 nm (Fig. S2 in Supporting information), which consequently reflected a *P*-biphenyl absolute configuration [14–16]. After defining the biphenyl axial chirality, the absolute configurations of C-8 and C-9 of **1** were determined to be 8*S* and 9*R* by comparison of the experimental and calculated ECD curves (Fig. 3). Thus, the structure of **1**, and its absolute configuration (*P,8S,9R*) were established as shown in Fig. 1, and it was named as kadlongilignan A.

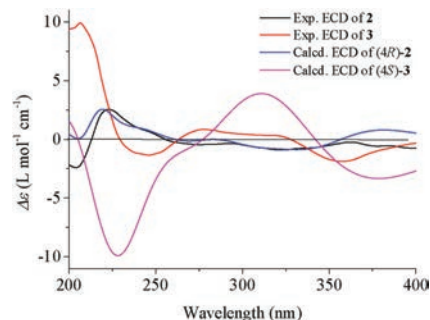
Compounds **2** and **3**, belonging to a pair of isomers, were obtained by separation of chiral HPLC, and had the same molecular formula of C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>32</sub>O<sub>7</sub> by HRESIMS and ESIMS ion at *m/z* 433.2219 [M + H]<sup>+</sup> (calcd.: 433.2221) (Figs. S13 and S22 in Supporting information) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data. The IR spectrum (Figs. S12 and S21 in Supporting information) showed the presence of hydroxyl (3399 cm<sup>-1</sup>), carbonyl (1711 cm<sup>-1</sup>), arylalkenyl (1661 cm<sup>-1</sup>) and aromatic (1593, 1511 and 1458 cm<sup>-1</sup>) groups. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data (Table 2) showed the presence of two aromatic methine protons at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.42 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz) and 6.26 (d, 1H, *J* = 2.0 Hz) indicating the presence of one 1,3,4,5-tetrasubstituted benzene system, two olefinic protons at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.78 (br s, 1H) and 5.10 (br s, 1H), three methoxy groups at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.87 (s, 3H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 3.70 (s, 3H), two methylenes at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.06 (dd, 1H, *J* = 13.0, 10.0 Hz, H-7a) and 2.47 (dd, 1H, *J* = 13.0, 4.5 Hz, H-7b), 2.34 (dd, 1H, *J* = 14.0, 8.5 Hz, H-7'a) and 2.58 (dd, 1H, *J* = 14.0, 6.5 Hz, H-7'b), two methines at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.81 (m, 2H, H-8 and H-8'), two methyls at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.91 (d, 3H, *J* = 7.0 Hz, H-9) and 0.87 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.5 Hz, H-9'). The <sup>13</sup>C NMR data of **2** (Table 2) displayed signals for one ketone carbonyl carbon at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  199.3, ten aromatic or olefin carbons at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  166.4, 161.9, 152.3, 149.0, 137.5,

**Table 2**<sup>1</sup>H (500 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C (125 MHz) NMR data of **2–4** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

Pos.	<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>	
	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$	$\delta_{\text{H}}$	$\delta_{\text{C}}$
1		161.9		161.8		130.3
2	5.78 (s)	115.2	5.78 (br s)	115.4	6.86 (s)	113.5
3		199.3		199.2		146.2
4		75.4		75.5		144.1
5		166.4		166.3	6.67 (s)	116.9
6	5.10 (s)	96.4	5.10 (br s)	96.3		135.3
7a	2.47 (dd, 13.0, 4.5)	40.7	2.47 (dd, 13.0, 4.5)	40.6	2.77 (dd, 13.5, 5.0)	35.7
7b	2.06 (dd, 13.0, 10.0)		2.05 (dd, 13.0, 10.0)		2.28 (dd, 13.5, 10.0)	
8	1.81 (m)	35.2	1.80 (m)	35.1	1.66 (m)	36.5
9	0.91 (d, 7.0)	16.8	0.89 (d, 6.0)	16.9	0.69 (d, 7.0)	16.0
1'		137.5		137.5	6.72 (dd, 8.0, 2.0)	122.1
2'		104.7	6.27 (d, 2.0)	104.7	6.86 (d, 8.0)	114.5
3'		152.3		152.3		145.3
4'		133.6		133.7		146.9
5'		149.0		149.0	6.84 (d, 2.0)	113.1
6'	6.42 (d, 2.0)	108.5	6.43 (d, 2.0)	108.5		133.7
7'a	2.58 (dd, 14.0, 6.5)	39.8	2.58 (dd, 14.0, 6.5)	39.9	0.78 (d, 7.0)	13.2
7'b	2.34 (dd, 14.0, 8.5)		2.35 (dd, 14.0, 8.5)			
8'	1.81 (m)	39.3	1.80 (m)	39.4	1.44 (m)	40.4
9'	0.87 (d, 6.5)	15.9	0.87 (d, 6.5)	15.8	3.36 (m)	64.6
					3.19 (m)	
					3.87 (s)	55.4
3-OCH <sub>3</sub>						
5-OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.70 (s)	56.2	3.70 (s)	56.2		
3'-OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.85 (s)	55.9	3.84 (s)	55.9		
4'-OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.87 (s)	61.0	3.86 (s)	61.2	3.88 (s)	55.5
1''a	2.85 (s)	53.2	2.88 (d, 14.0)	53.1		
1''b			2.83 (d, 14.0)			
2''		205.8		206.0		
3''	2.22 (s)	31.7	2.23 (s)	31.8		
4-OH	3.60 (s)		3.63 (s)			
5'-OH	5.78 (s)		5.76 (s)			

**Fig. 4.** Key HMBC (H→C) correlations of **2** and **4**, <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H COSY (-) correlations of **4**.

133.6, 115.2, 108.5, 104.7 and 96.4, a quaternary carbon at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  75.4, two methylenes at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  40.7 and 39.8, two methines at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  35.2 and 39.3, and two methyls at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  16.8 and 15.9, which suggested that **2** was a deformed simple lignan with one cyclohexadienone ring. Additionally, a methylene at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.85 (s, 2H), a methyl at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.22 (s, 3H) of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR data and a ketone carbon at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  205.8, a methylene at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  53.2, a methyl at  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  31.7 of the <sup>13</sup>C NMR data indicated that an acetyl group was in **2**. The HMBC correlations of  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.85 (H-1'') with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  199.3 (C-3), 75.4 (C-4), 166.4 (C-5), 205.8 (C-2''), and 31.7 (C-3'') indicated that the acetyl group was connected at C-4 of the lignan. The HMBC correlations of three methoxy signals at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.70 (5-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.85 (3'-OCH<sub>3</sub>), 3.87 (4'-OCH<sub>3</sub>) with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  166.4 (C-5), 152.3 (C-3') and 133.6 (C-4') showed that they were located at C-5, C-3' and C-4', respectively (Fig. 4). The mainly difference between compounds **2** and **3** was the absolute configuration of C-4. By comparison of the experimental and calculated ECD curves, the absolute configurations of C-4 of **2** and **3** were assigned as 4*R* and 4*S*, respectively (Fig. 5). Meanwhile, according to the octant rule of cyclohexanone [17,18], using the cotton effect at around 360 nm ( $n \rightarrow \pi^*$ , R band), the absolute configurations of C-4 of **2** and **3** was determined to be *R* and *S*, too.

**Fig. 5.** Experimental and calculated ECD spectra of **2** and **3**.

Since the C—C bonds rotated freely, the configurations of C-8 and C-8' of **2** and **3** could not be determined exactly. Thus, the structures of **2** and **3** were determined as 15,16-*seco*-dibenzocyclooctene lignans in Fig. 1 and named as kadlongilignan B and kadlongilignan C.

Compound **4** was given a molecular formula of C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>5</sub> based on HRESIMS ion at  $m/z$  369.1673 [M + Na]<sup>+</sup> (calcd. 369.1672) (Fig. S27 in Supporting information). The UV bands (207, 289 nm) (Fig. S25 in Supporting information) and IR absorptions (Fig. S26 in Supporting information) at 1593, 1507 cm<sup>-1</sup> indicated the presence of biphenyl moiety. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR data of **4** (Table 2) showed three AMX coupling aromatic protons at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.86 (d, 1H,  $J = 8.0$  Hz, H-2'), 6.84 (d, 1H,  $J = 2.0$  Hz, H-5') and 6.72 (dd, 1H,  $J = 8.0, 2.0$  Hz, H-1') indicating the presence of one 1,3,4-trisubstituted benzene system, two singlet aromatic methine protons at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.86 (s, 1H, H-2') and 6.67 (s, 1H, H-5) indicating the presence of one 1,2,4,5-tetrasubstituted benzene system, two methoxy groups at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.87 (s, 3H, 3-OCH<sub>3</sub>) and 3.88 (s, 3H, 4'-OCH<sub>3</sub>), an oxymethylene at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.36 (m,

**Table 3**  
Inhibition effects of compounds **1–4** on LPS-induced NO production.

Group	Inhibition rate of NO (%)	Inhibition rate of cell proliferation (%)
<b>1</b>	3.5	2.3
<b>2</b>	–2.2	0.1
<b>3</b>	36.3	–1.6
<b>4</b>	26.9	–8.1
DEX <sup>a</sup>	61.8	18.2

<sup>a</sup> DEX (dexamethasone): positive control substance.

1H, H-9') and 3.19 (m, 1H, H-9'), a methylene at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.77 (dd, 1H,  $J = 14.0, 5.0$  Hz, H-7) and 2.28 (dd, 1H,  $J = 13.5, 10.0$  Hz, H-7), two methyls at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  0.78 (d, 3H,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, H-7') and 0.69 (d, 3H,  $J = 7.0$  Hz, H-9), and two methines at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.66 (m, 1H, H-8) and 1.44 (m, 1H, H-8'). The  $^1\text{H}-^1\text{H}$  COSY correlations of H-7/H-8/H-8'/H-9', H-8/H-9, and H-7'/H-8', along with the HMBC correlations of H-7 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.28, 2.77) with C-8 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  36.5), C-9 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  16.0), and C-8' ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  40.4), H-9' ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.19, 3.36) with C-8', C-7' ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  13.2), and C-8 suggested the structural unit of 2,3-dimethylbutan-1-ol was in **4** (Fig. 4). The structural unit was attached on C-1 of the aromatic ring by the HMBC correlations of the aromatic proton at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.86 (H-2) with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  130.3 (C-1) and 35.7 (C-7). The HMBC correlations of one aromatic proton at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.67 (H-5) with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  135.3 (C-6) and 133.7 (C-6') and another aromatic proton at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.72 (H-1') with  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  135.3 (C-6) (Fig. 4) indicated the presence of bibenzyl by the C–C bond connection between C-6 and C-6'. Because of the free rotation of C–C bonds, the configurations of C-8 and C-8' of **4** were not determined. Thus, the planar structure of **4**, determining as shown in Fig. 1, was 9,10-seco-dibenzocyclooctene lignan and named as kadlongilignan D.

In summary, kadlongilignans A–D (**1–4**) were four new seco-dibenzocyclooctadiene lignans from the roots of *K. longipedunculata*. Notably, compound **1** was a rare 6,7-seco-dibenzocyclooctadiene lignan, and **2** and **3** possessed a novel cyclohexadienone structure. In a view of biosynthesis, the 6,7-seco-, 9,10-seco- and 15,16-seco-type structures deriving from dibenzocyclooctadiene lignans may be degraded by the oxidases in this plant [19]. The original 3,4-dihydroxy moiety of **2** and **3** was first oxidized to be

o-quinone unit and then coupled with acetoacetyl-CoA to form acetonilycyclohexadienone structure [20]. The four compounds were tested for their capacity to inhibit the production of NO through LPS-induced murine macrophages (Table 3). Compounds **3** and **4** exhibited inhibition effect on the NO production with the inhibition rates of 36.3% and 26.9% at the concentration of  $10 \mu\text{mol/L}$ , respectively (dexamethasone as positive control).

### Acknowledgments

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### Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary material related to this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cclet.2019.06.006>.

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