

Search for new marine natural products inhibiting melanin biosynthesis

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Tyrosinase inhibitors may control over production of the dermal melanin pigment since tyrosinase, which is a bifunctional copper protein widely distributed in animals and plants, plays an important role in the process of melanin biosynthesis. In our going investigation of bioactive substances from marine organisms, we have isolated novel cyclic peptides, showing tyrosinase inhibitory activity, from a marine sponge *Hymeniacidon* sp. and novel alkaloids possessing inhibitory activity of melanin synthesis from a marine sponge *Amphimedon* sp.