

Antimycobacterial Activities of the *Zanthoxylum leprieurii* Metabolite Adubangoamide and Non-Natural Fagaramide Analogues

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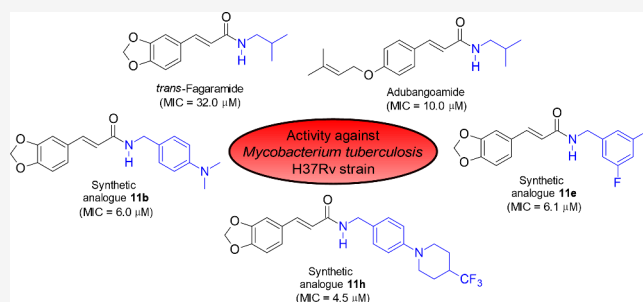


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ABSTRACT: *trans*-Fagaramide (**1**) and adubangoamide (**2**) are natural products with a cinnamic acid amide skeleton that have recently been isolated from *Zanthoxylum leprieurii*, a medicinal plant used locally in Uganda for the treatment of tuberculosis. Insufficient quantities of material from the natural source originally prevented the antimycobacterial evaluation of the new natural product **2**. Herein, a synthesis of **2** is reported, and its antimycobacterial activity was determined using the synthetic material. Adubangoamide (**2**) is three times more active against the drug-susceptible *M. tuberculosis* strain H₃₇Rv than *trans*-fagaramide (**1**), with an MIC value of 10.0 μM. In addition, we synthesized eight non-natural analogues of *trans*-fagaramide (**1**, MIC = 32.0 μM against H₃₇Rv strain), in which benzylamide groups mimic the isobutylamide part of the *trans*-fagaramide structure. Five out of eight synthetic analogues are more active than the parent natural product: **11b** (MIC = 6.0 μM), **11d** (21.0 μM), **11e** (6.1 μM), **11g** (17.0 μM), and **11h** (4.5 μM).



Tuberculosis (TB) is a major cause of ill health and one of the leading causes of death worldwide.¹ Reduced access to TB diagnosis and treatment due to interruptions brought in by the COVID-19 pandemic has increased TB deaths. The COVID-19 pandemic has more severely impacted TB mortality in 2020 and 2021 than HIV/AIDS.^{1,2} Worldwide, the estimated number of deaths from TB increased between 2019 and 2021, reversing years of decline between 2005 and 2019. In 2021, there were an estimated 1.4 million deaths among HIV-negative people and 187,000 deaths among HIV-positive people, a combined total of 1.6 million. This was up from the best estimates of 1.5 million in 2020 and 1.4 million in 2019 and back to the level of 2017,¹ indicating a resurgence in the TB pandemic. Furthermore, the net reduction from 2015 to 2021 was 5.9%, about one-sixth of the way to the first milestone of the WHO End TB Strategy.¹ As such, the WHO End TB Strategy still needs a lot of effort to be achieved. This calls for multifaceted approaches to reverse the trend, which includes the search for alternative treatments.

Natural products from plants often possess a number of exciting bioactivities and have therefore emerged as templates for the development of novel drugs,^{3–5} including potential anti-TB agents.^{6–9} Therefore, medicinal plants remain essential for finding original active drugs or new therapeutic agents. Hence, there is a need to search for new molecular structures from the plant kingdom as lead structures.¹⁰ *Zanthoxylum leprieurii* is a tree distributed in tropical Africa that is used

locally in Uganda for the treatment of TB.¹¹ Some of us have recently reported that the root bark extract of *Z. leprieurii* exhibits activity against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.¹² In two phytochemical investigations, we isolated six known natural products from the *Z. leprieurii* stem bark,¹³ and 16 known and two new compounds from its root bark.¹⁴ Among these compounds, in particular *trans*-fagaramide (**1**), a natural product previously isolated from many *Zanthoxylum* species,¹⁵ showed a notable antimycobacterial activity against the susceptible (H₃₇Rv) TB strain (MIC = 7.82 μg•mL⁻¹ (32 μM)).¹⁴ Although numerous bioactivities had been reported for *trans*-fagaramide (**1**) before,¹⁶ its notable antimycobacterial activity was unknown prior to our investigation.¹³ One of the two new natural products isolated by us from the *Z. leprieurii* root bark,¹⁴ adubangoamide (**2**), is structurally closely related to *trans*-fagaramide (**1**), as both are cinnamides of isobutylamine. Adubangoamide (**2**) could only be isolated in minute amounts (1 mg of **2** from 1 kg of plant material) from its

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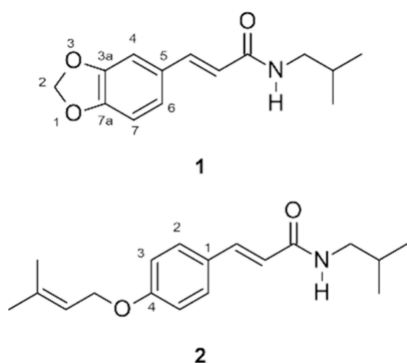
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natural source, which initially prevented an investigation into its antimycobacterial activity.



A literature search revealed that cinnamic acids and their derivatives have been intensively investigated for the treatment of tuberculosis for quite some time. The first publication in this regard dates from 1893 and reports the treatment of tuberculous rabbits with cinnamic acid.^{17,18} More recently, the synergistic activity of cinnamic acid in combination with established drugs^{19,20} and the antitubercular activity of natural cinnamic acids²¹ and synthetic cinnamic acid derivatives has been established.^{22–25} It was demonstrated that cinnamide analogues of rosmarinic acid, a caffeic acid ester, act through inhibition of UDP-galactopyranose mutase, an enzyme required for cell wall biosynthesis of *M. tuberculosis*.²⁶

This literature precedence, in combination with the above-mentioned remarkable antitubercular activity of *trans*-fagaramide (1) and the traditional use of *Z. lepreurii* in Uganda for treating tuberculosis prompted us to synthesize the new natural product adubangoamide (2) to obtain sufficient amounts for antimycobacterial testing. Additionally, structural analogues of *trans*-fagaramide (1) were synthesized by varying the amine part of the cinnamide structure via amide coupling reactions. To gain first insights into structure–activity relationships and identify potentially more active derivatives, all compounds were tested against drug-susceptible ($H_{37}Rv$) and resistant MDR-TB strains.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Total Synthesis of Adubangoamide (2). Adubangoamide (2) was synthesized in four steps from commercially available *para*-coumaric acid (3). The synthesis proceeds by esterification of 3 to its methyl ester 4²⁷ to enable selective *O*-prenylation of the phenol with prenyl bromide (5) in the next

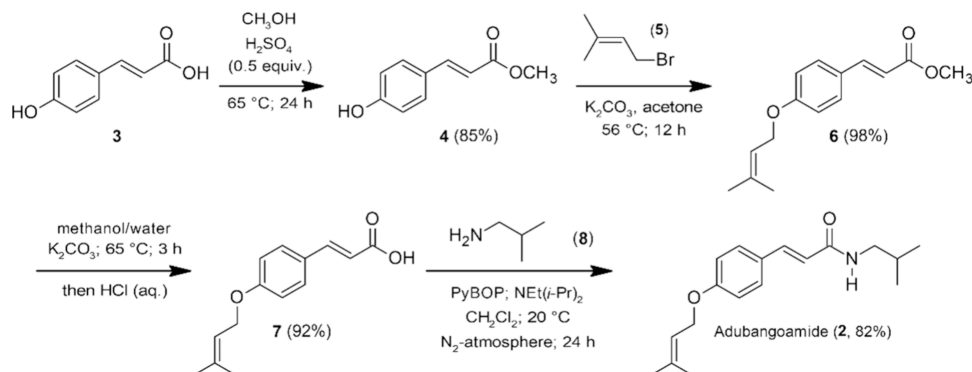
step,²² without concomitant prenylation of the carboxylate. The resulting *para*-prenyloxy methylcinnamate (6) was saponified to carboxylic acid 7,²² which was reacted with isobutylamine (8) using the peptide coupling reagent²⁸ PyBOP (benzotriazol-1-yloxytripyrrolidinophosphonium hexafluorophosphate)²⁹ and Hünig's base to furnish adubangoamide (2) in 63% yield over four steps (Scheme 1). All analytical data of synthetic 2 match those previously reported for the compound isolated from the natural source.¹⁴

Synthesis of Fagaramide Analogues. The notable antimycobacterial activity of *trans*-fagaramide (1)¹³ and its structural similarity with the new natural product 2 prompted us to synthesize amide analogues of 1, to enable a preliminary investigation into the structure–activity relationship. To mimic the branched *N*-(2-methylpropyl) substituent present in fagaramide (1) and adubangoamide (2) we focused on amides derived from various benzylamines 10 through coupling with commercially available 3,4-(methylenedioxy)cinnamic acid (9). The formation of the amide bond was accomplished with PyBOP as a coupling reagent under conditions identical to those used for the synthesis of adubangoamide (2). Apart from six commercially available benzylamines 10a–f, carboxylic acid 9 was also coupled with two benzylamines 10g,h, that were synthesized based on previously published general procedures,³⁰ to furnish in total eight carboxamides 11a–h (Scheme 2). Imidazo[1,2-*a*]pyridine amides,³⁰ pyrazolo[1,5-*a*]pyridine amides³¹ and nitrobenzamides^{32,33} of amines 10g and 10h have earlier been synthesized, and it was reported that they show high antimycobacterial activity against the same MTB $H_{37}Rv$ strain that has also been used by us.

Out of the eight *trans*-fagaramide analogues 11a–h only compound 11a had previously been described in the literature. It was synthesized by amide coupling of acid 9 and benzyl amine (10a) in 38% yield, using the coupling reagent 1-hydroxybenzotriazol (HOBt). These researchers evaluated 11a and several other amide analogues of *trans*-fagaramide in cytotoxicity assays against various cancer cell lines, but found *trans*-fagaramide (1) and all analogues tested to be inactive in this regard.¹⁶ For compounds 11b,c,f a CAS-registry number exists, but no references or analytical data were found in a SciFinder search. All other amides 11d,e,g,h are new compounds.

For adubangoamide (2) and fagaramide analogues 11b, 11c, and 11e a full signal assignment of ¹H- and ¹³C NMR data was performed, based on the 2D-NMR experiments COSY, HSQC, HMBC and in some cases NOESY (see Supporting Information for details). The molecular structures of amides

Scheme 1. Synthesis of Adubangoamide (2)



Scheme 2. Synthesis of Fagaramide Analogues 11a–h

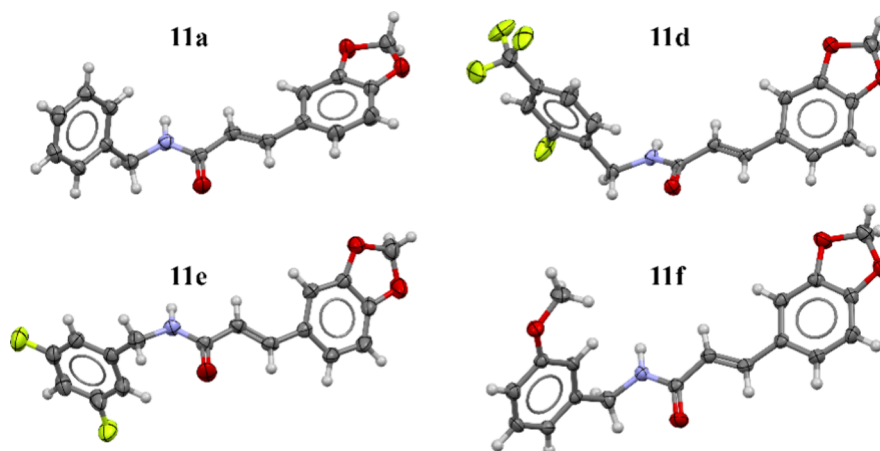
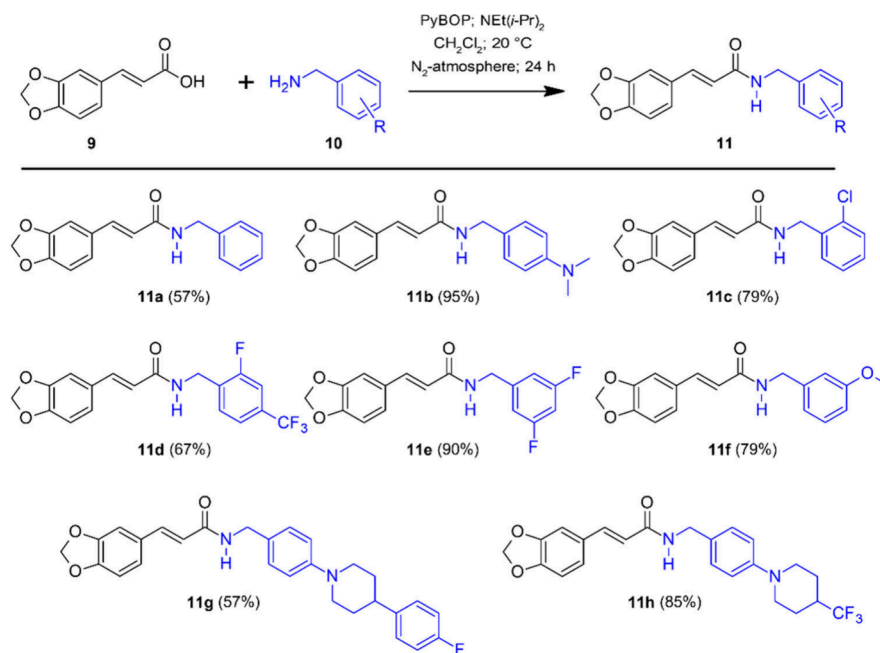


Figure 1. Single crystal X-ray structure of 11a, 11d, 11e, and 11f. Displacement ellipsoids are shown at the 50% probability level.

11a, 11d, 11e and 11f were unambiguously corroborated by single crystal X-ray structure analysis (see Figure 1 and Supporting Information for details).

Antimycobacterial Activity Screening. We examined the *in vitro* antimycobacterial activity of the fagaramide analogues 11a–h and synthetic adubangoamide (2) against a drug-susceptible (H₃₇Rv) and a multidrug-resistant (MDR TB (375)) strain of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The results are shown in Table 1, together with the positive control rifampicin and literature values for *trans*-fagaramide (1), for comparison.

While the natural products, *trans*-fagaramide (1) and adubangoamide (2), and all *trans*-fagaramide analogues 11 investigated in this study were found to be inactive against the multidrug-resistant strain, four out of the nine compounds tested herein showed a notable activity against the drug-susceptible strain H₃₇Rv, with MIC values less than or equal to 10 μM. This includes the recently discovered natural product adubangoamide (2), which is 3-fold more active than *trans*-fagaramide (1). Out of the eight *trans*-fagaramide analogues 11 only three are significantly less active than *trans*-fagaramide (1)

Table 1. Mean MIC values of adubangoamide (2) and synthetic cinnamide analogues 11a–h against susceptible (H₃₇Rv) and MDR-TB strains

compounds	mean MIC ^a	
	H ₃₇ Rv	MDR
11a	46.9 (167.0)	187.5 (667.0)
11b	2.0 (6.0)	1000.0 (3555.0)
11c	31.5 (100.0)	250.0 (792.0)
11d	7.8 (21.0)	375.0 (1021.0)
11e	2.0 (6.1)	250.0 (788.0)
11f	62.5 (200.0)	250.0 (803.0)
11g	7.8 (17.0)	250.0 (545.0)
11h	2.0 (4.5)	1000.0 (2312.0)
adubangoamide (2)	2.9 (10.0)	375.0 (1200.0)
fagaramide (1) ^b	7.8 (32.0)	250.0 (1011.0)
rifampicin ^c	0.3 (0.3)	N/A

^aμg·mL⁻¹ (μM). ^bThese data were previously reported by us¹⁴ and are shown for comparison. ^cPositive control.

itself: for the unsubstituted benzyl amide **11a**, and the 2-chloro (**11c**) and 3-methoxy-substituted (**11f**) benzylamides MIC values above 100 μM were determined. Analogues **11d** and **11g** show MIC-values between 10 μM and 20 μM , and **11b**, **11e**, and **11h** possess MIC values between 4.5 and 6.1 μM , and are thus six- to 7-fold more active than *trans*-fagaramide (**1**). Notably, out of the five derivatives with increased activity, three share a tertiary amine group in *para*-position to the aminomethylene substituent, i.e. **11b** with a dimethylamino substituent, and **11g** and **11h** with a piperidine group.

In summary, the natural product adubangoamide, a secondary cinnamic acid amide with a *para*-prenyloxy substituent, that was recently isolated from *Zanthoxylum leprieurii* in quantities too small to allow any biotesting, was synthesized in four steps and 63% overall yield. Evaluation of the antimycobacterial activity was accomplished using synthetic material, and it was found that adubangoamide (MIC = 10 μM against H₃₇Rv strain) is 3-fold more active against this drug-susceptible *M. tuberculosis* strain than *trans*-fagaramide. We synthesized eight non-natural analogues of *trans*-fagaramide, in which the *sec*-butylamide was replaced by a benzylamide. Five of the non-natural analogues are notably more active than the parent natural product, and three of these possess MIC values lower than 10 μM against the susceptible H₃₇Rv strain. Our work provides further scientific evidence for the efficacy of the traditional use of *Z. leprieurii* against tuberculosis in Uganda, and shows that the basic cinnamic acid amide skeleton holds opportunities for obtaining more active analogues by structure variation. Further investigations in this regard are currently underway.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

General Experimental Procedures. All syntheses were conducted in dry reaction vessels under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen. Solvents were purified by standard procedures. Unless otherwise stated, reaction mixtures were heated with silicon oil baths. All NMR spectra were recorded with an AVANCE NEO 400 MHz spectrometer from Bruker Biospin GmbH, Ettlingen, Germany. ¹H NMR spectra were obtained at 400 MHz in CDCl₃ with residual CHCl₃ (δ = 7.26 ppm) as an internal reference. ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra were recorded at 100 MHz in CDCl₃ with CDCl₃ (δ = 77.1 ppm) as an internal reference. Whenever the solubility of the sample was insufficient in CDCl₃, it was replaced by either methanol-*d*₄ (CD₂HOD as a calibrant for ¹H NMR spectroscopy, δ = 3.31; CD₃OD as a calibrant for ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectroscopy, δ = 49.0) or DMSO-*d*₆ (DMSO-*d*₅ as a calibrant for ¹H NMR spectroscopy, δ = 2.50; DMSO-*d*₆ as a calibrant for ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectroscopy, δ = 39.5). All signal assignments are based on 2D-NMR experiments COSY, HSQC, HMBC or NOESY. The numbering scheme used for signal assignments is shown for structure **1** and **2**; for the benzodioxole core of fagaramide derivatives the benzodioxole numbering scheme is used. IR spectra were recorded as ATR-FTIR spectra using a PerkinElmer UATR TWO FT-IR spectrometer. Wavenumbers (ν) are given in cm⁻¹. The peak intensities are defined as strong (s), medium (m) or weak (w). Low- and high-resolution mass spectra were obtained by ESI-TOF using a Waters Micromass (Manchester, UK) instrument. For the chromatographic purification of compounds, the dry column vacuum chromatography (DCVC) method was used as described in the literature.³⁴ Benzyl amines **10g,h**³⁰ were synthesized based on previously published general procedures.

Methyl (2E)-3-(4-Hydroxyphenyl)prop-2-enoate (4).²⁷ To a solution of *p*-hydroxycinnamic acid (**3**, 3.30 g, 20.0 mmol) in dry and degassed MeOH (100 mL) was added conc. H₂SO₄ (0.50 mL, 9.3 mmol) at ambient temperature. The solution was heated at 65 °C for 24 h, cooled to ambient temperature, and all volatiles were

evaporated in *vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in EtOAc (300 mL), the solution was washed with a saturated aq. sol. of NaHCO₃ and brine, dried with MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to furnish ester **4** (3.05 g, 17.1 mmol, 85%): off-white solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.64 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.85 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 6.30 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1H), 5.76 (br s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 168.3, 158.0, 144.9, 130.1, 127.3, 116.0, 115.2, 51.9.

Methyl (2E)-3-{4-[(3-Methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl}prop-2-enoate (6).²² To a solution of methyl ester **4** (1.00 g, 5.6 mmol) in dry and degassed acetone (30 mL) was added K₂CO₃ (1.20 g, 8.4 mmol), followed by prenyl bromide (**5**, 0.97 mL, 8.4 mmol). The mixture was heated at 56 °C for 12 h, cooled to ambient temperature, filtered and evaporated. Water (40 mL) and EtOAc (40 mL) were added to the residue. The aqueous phase was separated, and extracted twice with EtOAc. The combined organic extracts were dried with MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated in *vacuo* to furnish compound **6** (1.35 g, 5.5 mmol, 98%): colorless solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.65 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.91 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.30 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (tm, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 3.79 (s, 3H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 1.75 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 167.9, 160.9, 144.7, 138.8, 129.8, 127.1, 119.3, 115.3, 115.1, 65.0, 51.7, 26.0, 18.4.

(2E)-3-{4-[(3-Methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl}prop-2-enoic Acid (7).²² To a solution of methyl ester **6** (1.00 g, 4.1 mmol) in methanol (20 mL) was added a solution of K₂CO₃ (2.80 g, 20.2 mmol) in water (20 mL). The mixture was heated at 65 °C for 3 h. It was then cooled to ambient temperature, and methanol was evaporated in *vacuo*. The remaining aq. solution was cooled to 0 °C and then acidified to pH = 2 by addition of aq. HCl (1 M). The mixture was extracted with diethyl ether, the combined organic extracts were washed with brine, dried with MgSO₄, filtered and evaporated to furnish acid **7** (863 mg, 3.7 mmol, 92%), that was used in the next step without further purification: colorless solid; ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.75 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 7.50 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.93 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.31 (d, *J* = 15.9 Hz, 1H), 5.48 (tm, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 4.54 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 2H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 1.76 (s, 3H).

General Procedure for the Synthesis of Cinnamic Acid Amides **2 and **11**.** Cinnamic acid **7** (1.00 mmol, 232 mg) or **9** (1.00 mmol, 192 mg) was dissolved in DCM (10 mL). To this solution was added NEt(*i*-Pr)₂ (2.55 mmol, 0.43 mL), isobutylamine **8** (1.7 mmol) (for the synthesis of adubangoamide **2**) or the corresponding benzyl amine **10** (1.7 mmol) (for the synthesis of amides **11**), and PyBOP (1.02 mmol, 531 mg). The mixture was stirred under an atmosphere of dry nitrogen for 24 h. Progress of the reaction was checked by TLC (hexanes/EtOAc 1:1 (v/v)). The mixture was filtered through a short pad of silica, which was washed with MeOH. The filtrate was evaporated in *vacuo* and the residue was purified by DCVC using hexanes-EtOAc mixtures of increasing polarity (starting with 15% EtOAc and increasing to 50% EtOAc) to furnish the respective carboxamides **2** or **11**, respectively.

(2E)-3-{4-[(3-Methylbut-2-en-1-yl)oxy]phenyl}-N-(2-methylpropyl)prop-2-enamide (Adubangoamide, **2).** Following the general procedure for the synthesis of cinnamic acid amides, acid **7** (1.00 mmol, 232 mg) and isobutylamine (**8**, 1.70 mmol, 0.20 mL) were converted to **2** (236 mg, 0.82 mmol, 82%): colorless solid; IR (ATR) ν 3286 (m), 2959 (m), 2930 (m), 2869 (m), 1651 (m), 1602 (s), 1546 (s), 1508 (s), 1384 (m), 1334 (m), 1301 (m), 1200 (s), 1219 (s), 1173 (s), 980 (s), 825 (s), 517 (m); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.57 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H, -HC=CHC(O)), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H, H₂), 6.88 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H, H₃), 6.28 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H, -HC=CHC(O)), 5.76–5.68 (m, 1H, -NH-), 5.48 (tm, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H, -OCH₂CH=), 4.52 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H, -OCH₂CH=), 3.21 (t, *J* = 6.5 Hz, 2H, -NHCH₂CH(CH₃)₂), 1.91–1.76 (m, 1H, -NHCH₂CH(CH₃)₂), 1.79 (s, 3H, *cis*-CH=C(CH₃)₂), 1.74 (s, 3H, *trans*-CH=C(CH₃)₂), 0.95 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H, -NHCH₂CH(CH₃)₂); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 166.4 (C=O), 160.3 (C-4), 140.6 (-HC=CHC(O)), 138.7 (CH=C(CH₃)₂), 129.4 (C-2), 127.6 (C-1), 119.4 (-OCH₂CH=), 118.5 (-HC=CHC(O)), 115.0 (C-3), 65.0 (-OCH₂CH=), 47.2 (-NHCH₂CH(CH₃)₂), 28.8

(-NHCH₂CH(CH₃)₂), 25.9 (*cis*-CH=C(CH₃)₂), 20.3 -NHCH₂CH(CH₃)₂, 18.3 (*trans*-CH=C(CH₃)₂); HRESIMS *m/z* 288.1968 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₁₈H₂₆NO₂, 288.1964). Analytical data match those previously reported for the natural product.¹⁴

(2*E*)-3-(1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl)-*N*-benzylprop-2-enamide (**11a**).³⁵ Following the general procedure, acid **9** (1.00 mmol, 192 mg) and benzylamine (**10a**, 1.70 mmol, 0.19 mL) were converted to **11a** (159 mg, 0.57 mmol, 57%): colorless crystals, mp 150–154 °C; IR (ATR) ν 3283 (w), 3083 (w), 2898 (w), 1655 (m), 1619 (m), 1559 (m), 1488 (s), 1445 (s), 1249 (s), 1037 (s); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.48 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.30–7.35 (m, 4H), 7.28–7.22 (m, 1H), 7.10 (d, *J* = 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.03 (dd, *J* = 8.0, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.47 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 5.98 (s, 2H), 4.48 (s, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 168.8, 150.7, 149.9, 141.9, 140.0, 130.7, 129.6, 128.7, 128.3, 125.1, 119.7, 109.4, 107.1, 102.9, 44.3; HRESIMS *m/z* 282.1137 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₁₇H₁₆NO₃, 282.1125).

(2*E*)-3-(1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl)-*N*-[4-(dimethylamino)benzyl]prop-2-enamide (**11b**). Following the general procedure, acid **9** (1.00 mmol, 192 mg) and benzylamine **10b** (1.70 mmol, 379 mg) were converted to **11b** (308 mg, 0.95 mmol, 95%): yellow solid, mp 122–126 °C; IR (ATR) ν 3286 (w), 2907 (w), 1647 (m), 1615 (s), 1549 (s), 1525 (m), 1501 (s), 1488 (m), 1448 (s), 1355 (m), 1324 (m), 1251 (s), 1189 (m), 1103 (m), 1040 (s), 969 (s), 934 (s); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.54 (d, *J* = 15.5 Hz, 1H, -HC=CHC(O)), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H-2(-C₆H₄(NCH₃)₂), 6.96 (s, 1H, H-4), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H-6), 6.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H-7), 6.70 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H, H-3(-C₆H₄(NCH₃)₂), 6.19 (d, *J* = 15.5, 1H, -HC=CHC(O)), 5.97 (s, 2H, H-2), 5.89–5.82 (m, 1H, -NH-), 4.44 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H, -NHCH₂-), 2.93 (s, 6H, -N(CH₃)₂); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 165.9 (C=O), 150.3 (C-4(-C₆H₄(NCH₃)₂), 149.1 (C-7a), 148.3 (C-3a), 140.9 (-HC=CHC(O)), 129.4 (C-5), 129.3 (C-2(-C₆H₄(NCH₃)₂), 125.9 (C-1(-C₆H₄(NCH₃)₂), 123.9 (C-6), 118.8 (-HC=CHC(O)), 112.9 (C-3(-C₆H₄(NCH₃)₂), 108.6 (C-7), 106.4 (C-4), 101.5 (C-2), 43.6 (-NHCH₂-), 40.8 (-N(CH₃)₂); HRESIMS *m/z* 325.1559 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₁₉H₂₁N₂O₃, 325.1547).

(2*E*)-3-(1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl)-*N*-(2-chlorobenzyl)prop-2-enamide (**11c**). Following the general procedure, acid **9** (1.00 mmol, 192 mg) and benzylamine **10c** (1.70 mmol, 241 mg) were converted to **11c** (251 mg, 0.79 mmol, 79%): colorless solid, mp 155–157 °C; IR (ATR) ν 3268 (w), 3059 (w), 2905 (w), 1650 (m), 1617, 1548 (m), 1501 (s), 1443 (s), 1247 (s), 1037 (s); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.54 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H, -NH-), 7.45 (dd, *J* = 7.1, 1.8 Hz, 1H, H-3(-2-Cl-C₆H₄)), 7.40 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H, -HC=CHC(O)), 7.37–7.27 (m, 3H, H-4,5,6(-2-Cl-C₆H₄)), 7.16 (d, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.09 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H, H-6), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H, H-7), 6.58 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H, -HC=CHC(O)), 6.07 (s, 2H, H-2), 4.46 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H, -NHCH₂-); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 165.4 (C=O), 148.6 (C-7a), 148.0 (C-3a), 139.1 (-HC=CHC(O)), 136.3 (C-1,2(-2-Cl-C₆H₄)), 132.2 (C-1,2(-2-Cl-C₆H₄)), 129.2, 129.2, 129.1, 128.7, 127.2 (C-5; C-3,4,5,6(-2-Cl-C₆H₄)), 123.4 (C-6), 119.8 (-HC=CHC(O)), 108.6 (C-7), 106.3 (C-4), 101.5 (C-2), 40.3 (-NHCH₂-); HRESIMS *m/z* 316.0718 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₁₇H₁₅ClNO₃, 316.0735).

(2*E*)-3-(1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl)-*N*-[2-fluoro-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]prop-2-enamide (**11d**). Following the general procedure, acid **9** (1.00 mmol, 192 mg) and benzylamine **10d** (1.70 mmol, 328 mg) were converted to **11d** (245 mg, 0.67 mmol, 67%): colorless crystals, mp 169–172 °C; IR (ATR) ν 3295 (w), 2892 (w), 1648 (m), 1614 (m), 1501 (s), 1334 (s), 1254 (s), 1116 (s); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 15.6, 1H), 7.50–7.42 (m, 2H), 7.11 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.04 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 6.83 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (s, 2H), 4.59 (s, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD) δ 169.0, 161.8 (d, ¹J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 248.6 Hz), 150.8, 149.9, 142.3, 131.8 (d, ⁴J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 4.6 Hz), 130.6, 125.2, 122.2, 119.2, 113.8, 113.5, 109.4, 107.1, 102.9, 37.8 (d, ¹J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 4.5 Hz), two signals are not observed due to low intensity caused by ¹³C–¹⁹F-coupling; HRESIMS *m/z* 368.0896 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₁₈H₁₄F₄NO₃, 368.0904).

(2*E*)-3-(1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl)-*N*-(3,5-difluorobenzyl)prop-2-enamide (**11e**). Following the general procedure, acid **9** (1.00 mmol, 192 mg) and benzylamine **10e** (1.70 mmol, 243 mg) were converted to **11e** (287 mg, 0.90 mmol, 90%): colorless crystals, mp 112–116 °C; IR (ATR) ν 3275 (w), 2930 (w), 1650 (m), 1621 (m), 1599 (m), 1539 (m), 1504 (m), 1446 (s), 1306 (m), 1254 (s), 1117 (s), 1038 (s), 932 (s), 855 (s); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.60 (t, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 1H, -NH-), 7.40 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H, -HC=CHC(O)), 7.17 (d, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H, H-4), 7.13–7.06 (m, 2H, H-6, H-4(-3,5-F₂C₆H₄)), 7.03–6.95 (m, 2H, H-2,6(-3,5-F₂C₆H₄)), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.53 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H, -HC=CHC(O)), 6.06 (s, 2H, H-2), 4.41 (d, *J* = 6.0, 2H, -NHCH₂-); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 165.5 (C=O), 162.4 (dd, ¹J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 246.1 Hz, ²J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 13.4 Hz, C-3,5(-3,5-F₂C₆H₄)), 148.6 (C-7a), 148.0 (C-3a), 144.5 (t, ¹J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 9.0 Hz, C-4(-3,5-F₂C₆H₄)), 139.2 (-HC=CHC(O)), 129.2 (C-5), 123.4 (C-6), 119.7 (-HC=CHC(O)), 110.4–110.0 (m, C-2,6(-3,5-F₂C₆H₄)), 108.6 (C-7), 106.3 (C-4), 102.2 (t, ²J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 26.0 Hz, C-4(-3,5-F₂C₆H₄)), 101.5 (C-2), 41.6 (-NHCH₂-); HREIMS *m/z* 317.0873 [M]⁺ (calcd for C₁₇H₁₃F₂NO₃, 317.0858).

(2*E*)-3-(1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl)-*N*-(3-methoxybenzyl)prop-2-enamide (**11f**). Following the general procedure, acid **9** (1.00 mmol, 192 mg) and benzylamine **10f** (1.70 mmol, 233 mg) were converted to **11f** (245 mg, 0.79 mmol, 79%): colorless crystals, mp 168–172 °C; IR (ATR) ν 3313 (w), 2894 (w), 1655 (m), 1615 (m), 1600 (m), 1547 (m), 1547 (m), 1499 (m), 1448 (m), 1435 (m), 1418 (m), 1325 (m), 1251 (s), 1034 (s), 781 (s); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.48 (t, *J* = 5.9, 1H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 1.4, 1H), 7.08 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.4 Hz, 1H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.81–6.87 (m, 3H), 6.54 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (s, 2H), 4.37 (d, *J* = 5.9 Hz, 2H), 3.74 (s, 3H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 165.2, 159.3, 148.5, 147.9, 141.1, 138.8, 129.4, 129.3, 123.3, 120.1, 119.5, 113.1, 112.2, 108.6, 106.2, 101.4, 55.0, 42.2; HRESIMS *m/z* 312.1227 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₁₈H₁₈NO₄, 312.1230).

(2*E*)-3-(1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl)-*N*-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperidin-1-yl]benzylprop-2-enamide (**11g**). Following the general procedure, acid **9** (1.00 mmol, 192 mg) and benzylamine **10g** (1.70 mmol, 483 mg) were converted to **11g** (260 mg, 0.57 mmol, 57%): orange-colored solid; IR (ATR) ν 3280 (w), 2925 (w), 1653 (m), 1611 (m), 1557 (m), 1506 (m), 1491 (m), 1446 (m), 1250 (s), 831 (s), 816 (s), 561 (s); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.38 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.26–7.34 (m, 2H), 7.00–7.20 (m, 6H), 6.92–6.98 (m, 3H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (s, 2H), 4.29 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.77 (dm, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 2H), 2.72 (td, *J* = 12.6, 2.9 Hz, 2H), 2.67 (tt, *J* = 12.2, 3.8 Hz, 1H), 1.84 (dm, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 2H), 1.73 (qd, *J* = 12.6, 3.8 Hz, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 165.0, 160.7 (d, ¹J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 243.5 Hz), 150.4, 148.4, 147.9, 142.2 (d, ³J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 3.0 Hz), 138.5, 129.5, 129.3, 128.4 (d, ¹J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 8.0 Hz), 128.3, 123.1, 120.3, 115.9, 115.0 (d, ³J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 20.9 Hz), 108.6, 106.2, 101.4, 49.6, 41.8, 40.8, 32.8; HRESIMS *m/z* 459.2068 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₈H₂₈FN₂O₃, 459.2078).

(2*E*)-3-(1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl)-*N*-[4-(trifluoromethyl)piperidin-1-yl]benzylprop-2-enamide (**11h**). Following the general procedure, acid **9** (1.00 mmol, 192 mg) and benzylamine **10h** (1.70 mmol, 296 mg) were converted to **11h** (250 mg, 0.85 mmol, 85%): off-white solid, mp 165–170 °C; IR (ATR) ν 3299 (w), 2923 (w), 1653 (m), 1610 (s), 1539 (m), 1520 (m), 1508 (m), 1491 (s), 1448 (s), 1388 (m), 1324 (m), 1250 (s), 1190 (m), 1140 (s), 1078 (s); ¹H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 8.37 (t, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 7.17–7.11 (m, 3H), 7.07 (dd, *J* = 8.1, 1.5, 1H), 6.96–6.88 (m, 3H), 6.52 (d, *J* = 15.7 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (s, 2H), 4.28 (d, *J* = 5.8 Hz, 2H), 3.75 (dm, *J* = 12.6 Hz, 2H), 2.68 (td, *J* = 12.4, 1.9 Hz, 2H), 2.54–2.40 (m, 1H), 1.86 (dm, *J* = 12.4 Hz, 2H), 1.54 (qd, *J* = 12.5, 3.9 Hz, 2H); ¹³C{¹H} NMR (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*₆) δ 164.9, 149.8, 148.4, 147.9, 138.6, 129.8, 129.3, 128.4, 123.2, 120.3, 121.7 (q, ¹J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 287.1 Hz), 116.0, 108.6, 106.2, 101.4, 47.7, 41.8, 39.8 (q, ¹J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 21.7 Hz), 23.6 (q, ¹J(¹³C–¹⁹F) = 2.5 Hz), signal for CF₃ group was not observed due to low intensity caused by ¹³C–¹⁹F-coupling; HRESIMS *m/z* 433.1719 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₃H₂₄F₃N₂O₃, 433.1734).

X-ray Crystallographic Data. Compounds **11a,d,e,f** crystallized from hexanes-ethyl acetate solutions as colorless blocks (**11a**), needles (**11d**, **11f**), or plates (**11e**). For all compounds, crystallographic data were collected at 210 K on a Stoe Imaging Plate Diffraction System Stadivari, using Mo-K α radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å). Afterward, a spherical absorption correction (STOE LANA)³⁶ and an extinction correction were performed. The structures were solved with SHELXS-2013/1³⁷ using direct methods and refined against F^2 by full-matrix least-squares procedures with SHELXL-2014/7.³⁸ The non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically. For the visualization of the structure, the graphic program Mercury was used.³⁹

The crystallographic data can be obtained free of charge via <https://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/structures/> or from The Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK; fax (+44) 1223-336-033; or via e-mail: deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk; deposit numbers: CCDC 2257759 (**11a**); CCDC 2257760 (**11d**); CCDC 2257761 (**11e**); CCDC 2257762 (**11f**).

Data for Compound 11a. C₁₇H₁₅NO₃, M = 281.30 g/mol, 0.600 × 0.433 × 0.300 mm³, monoclinic, space group P2₁/c (no. 14), $a = 12.0479(7)$ Å, $b = 9.8040(4)$ Å, $c = 11.8974(8)$ Å, $\alpha = 90^\circ$, $\beta = 94.777(5)^\circ$, $\gamma = 90^\circ$, $V = 1400.41(14)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $D_c = 1.334$ g/cm³, 41446 reflections measured ($6.5^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 60.0^\circ$), 4081 unique ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0446$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0269$), which were used in all calculations. The final R_1 was 0.0360 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$) and wR_2 was 0.0949 (all data).

Data for Compound 11d. C₁₈H₁₃F₄NO₃, M = 367.29 g/mol, 0.300 × 0.100 × 0.100 mm³, triclinic, space group P $\bar{1}$ (no. 2), $a = 5.0783(10)$ Å, $b = 10.231(2)$ Å, $c = 15.521(3)$ Å, $\alpha = 96.49(3)^\circ$, $\beta = 93.66(3)^\circ$, $\gamma = 101.72(3)^\circ$, $V = 781.4(3)$ Å³, $Z = 2$, $D_c = 1.561$ g/cm³, 17927 reflections measured ($6.3^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 55.0^\circ$), 3588 unique ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0520$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0380$), which were used in all calculations. The final R_1 was 0.0531 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$) and wR_2 was 0.1553 (all data).

Data for Compound 11e. C₁₇H₁₃F₂NO₃, M = 317.28 g/mol, 0.500 × 0.300 × 0.100 mm³, triclinic, space group P $\bar{1}$ (no. 2), $a = 4.9614(6)$ Å, $b = 16.4845(18)$ Å, $c = 17.8656(19)$ Å, $\alpha = 94.570(9)^\circ$, $\beta = 93.940(9)^\circ$, $\gamma = 90.844(9)^\circ$, $V = 1452.8(3)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $D_c = 1.451$ g/cm³, 29297 reflections measured ($5.3^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 57.0^\circ$), 7306 unique ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0491$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0522$), which were used in all calculations. The final R_1 was 0.0481 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$) and wR_2 was 0.1239 (all data).

Data for Compound 11f. C₁₈H₁₇NO₄, M = 311.32 g/mol, 0.700 × 0.100 × 0.100 mm³, monoclinic, space group P2₁/n (no. 14), $a = 8.2457(16)$ Å, $b = 9.850(2)$ Å, $c = 18.925(4)$ Å, $\alpha = 90^\circ$, $\beta = 101.97(3)^\circ$, $\gamma = 90^\circ$, $V = 1503.6(5)$ Å³, $Z = 4$, $D_c = 1.375$ g/cm³, 28020 reflections measured ($6.0^\circ \leq 2\theta \leq 50.0^\circ$), 2652 unique ($R_{\text{int}} = 0.0515$, $R_{\text{sigma}} = 0.0308$), which were used in all calculations. The final R_1 was 0.0316 ($I > 2\sigma(I)$) and wR_2 was 0.0802 (all data).

Antimycobacterial Assay. *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Strains and Preparation of Inoculums. As mycobacterial strains for this study a fully susceptible (H37Rv) and a multidrug resistant (MDR TB 375) were used from a WHO Proficiency Testing panel. Both were obtained from the Mycobacteriology Laboratory (BSL-3), College of Health Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, which is accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP: ISO 15189). The preparation of the inoculums was done as previously reported.^{13,14}

Determination of MIC for the Isolated Compounds. The microplate Alamar blue assay (MABA) was used to determine the MIC, with minor modifications as previously described.⁴⁰ A color change from blue to pink confirmed the growth of the bacteria.⁴¹ The lowest concentration of the sample that prevented a color change to pink was defined as the MIC. Rifampicin, a standard drug was used as the positive control, while the negative control was sterile distilled water.^{41,42}

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

Data Availability Statement

Primary NMR FID files for compounds **2**, **4**, **6**, **7**, and **11a–11h** via the Zenodo data repository at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14198152>.

■ Supporting Information

The Supporting Information is available free of charge at <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.jnatprod.4c01377>.

Copies of ¹H and ¹³C{¹H} NMR spectra of all compounds; crystallographic details and refinement data for **11a**, **11d**, **11e**, and **11f** (PDF)

X-ray crystallographic data for **11a** (CIF)

X-ray crystallographic data for **11d** (CIF)

X-ray crystallographic data for **11e** (CIF)

X-ray crystallographic data for **11f** (CIF)

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Notes

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