

**CAULERPIN: A COMMON METABOLITE FROM GREEN ALGAE OF THE
GENUS CAULERPA,**

ISOLATED FROM RED ALGA *ALSIDIUM CORALLINUM*

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As a part of our continue research for biologically active secondary metabolites from marine seaweed, we became interested in the red alga *Alsidium corallinum*. When we found a strong antifeeding activity in the acetone extract against two species of herbivorous gastropods *Littorina striata* and *Osilinus atratus*, and lethal toxicity against larvae fish *Sparus aurata*.

The marine red alga *Alsidium corallinum* was collected by hand at Pozo Izquierdo on the southwestern coast of Gran Canaria Island. The alga was carried to the laboratory in a cooler. After consistently removing epiphytes and animals, the fronds were rinsed with distilled water to remove both the sediment and the salt. After air-dried in darkness, at room temperature, plant material was ground and exhaustively extracted in a Soxhlet apparatus with acetone. The extract was evaporated under reduced pressure with rotary evaporator in order to give a dark-green viscous mass (% of dry weight). The crude residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column (12 x 100 cm) eluted with increasing concentrations of ethyl acetate in *n*-hexane. Fractions of 300 ml were collected, and those exhibiting similar thin layer chromatographers were combined.

Caulerpin was obtained from the most polar fraction of the acetonic soluble extract of the alga, after realizing sequential chromatographic separations along with several no identified metabolites. The structure of this compound was elucidated on the basis of spectroscopic methods (MS, UV/Vis and IR spectra, 1D and 2D studies, including COSY, HMQC, HMBC, NOE experiments) and comparison of its spectral data with literature values. Caulerpin is a unique pigment found in some, but not in all, species of the green alga *Caulerpa*, originally isolated from *Caulerpa racemosa*. This poster reports the isolation of caulerpin for the second time from a red alga.

