

ABSTRACT

A mycelial culture of the Kenyan basidiomycete *Fomitiporia aethiopica* was fermented on rice and the cultures were extracted with methanol. Subsequent HPLC profiling and preparative chromatography of its crude extract led to the isolation of five previously undescribed pregnenolone type triterpenes **1–5**, for which we propose the trivial name aethiopinolones A–E. The chemical structures of the aethiopinolones were determined by extensive 1D- and 2D-NMR, and HRMS data analysis. The compounds exhibited moderate cytotoxic effects against various human cancer cell lines, but they were found devoid of significant nematocidal and antimicrobial activities.

Keywords:

cytotoxicity; fungi; Hymenochaetaceae; triterpenes