

Screening of Antifungal Substances from *Bovistella Radicata* (Mont.) Pat and Their Antifungal Effect

Yong Ye

Hefei University of Technology

Qinghua Zeng

Hefei University of Technology

Kun Liu

Hefei University of Technology

zeng qingmei (✉ zengqingmei@hfut.edu.cn)

Hefei University of Technology

Research article

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Abstract

Background To analyse the antifungal active compounds in *B. radicata* alcohol extract, the alcohol extract was purified by column chromatography (macroporous resin D-101) and the active compounds was named as SPAF-1 (the spore powder active fraction).

Results Alcohol extracts and SPAF-1 were submitted to GC-MS analysis, there were two characteristic peaks (peak1 and peak2) in Gas chromatogram. By comparing in NIST, the compound were 2-propyl-1-pentanol corresponding to peak1 and decanal, n-decanol and 2E-decanol corresponding to peak2. The main constituents were decanal (24.3%) n-decanol (27.9%), 2E-decanol (21.2%) and 2-Propyl-1-pentanol (13.6%). Their MIC values were 62.5 µg/ml, 31.2 µg/ml, 31.2 µg/ml and 250 µg/ml against *T. rubrum* respectively. Furthermore, transmission electron microscope (TEM) analysis showed altered surface morphology in the majority of *T. rubrum* cells after treatment with SPAF-1.

Conclusions In this paper, we successfully separate SPAF-1 from alcohol extract of *B. radicata*. The antifungal effect of SPAF-1 is similar to positive control, the main component were decanal, n-decanol, 2E-decanol and 2-Propyl-1-pentanol, the anti-tinea pedis effect of them was obvious.

Background

Tinea pedis is a chronic fungal infection of the feet^[1]. Patients that have tinea pedis may be affected by several pathogens, including filamentous fungi named *Trichophyton rubrum* and *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*^[2], as well as a yeast named *Candida albicans*^[3]. *T. rubrum* is the main pathogenic fungi for tinea pedis, having a prevalence as high as 80% among all tinea-pedis-associated pathogenic microbes^[4]. Traditionally, to treat tinea pedis, synthetic fungicides such as fluconazole, itraconazole, echinocandins^[5], and miconazole nitrate, either by oral medication or external use^[6], have been used to treat this disease. Vermes et al. (2000) found that flucytosine and AMB (amphotericin B) were moderately effective in fighting against invasive fungal infections^[7–9]. Similar studies on Itraconazole have demonstrated that it is effective against fungal infections^[10]. However, due to side effects or the continuous drug resistance, some oral medications are unsafe for patients^[11], and these chemicals also cause potential deleterious effects on the environment due to their residues^[12–13], which has prompted researchers to develop newer and safer antifungal agents. Generally speaking, natural products extracted from plants represent a rich resource for screening bioactive compounds^[14].

Puffballs are widely distributed in many provinces of China, and are represented by more than 100 species^[15]. *Calvatia gigantea* (Batsch ex Pers.) Lloyd, *Calvatia lilacina* (Mont. et Berk.) Lloyd, *Lasiosphaera fenzlii* Reich, *Lycoperdon pyriforme* Schaeff.: pers, *Bovistella radicata* (Mont.) Pat, *Handkea utrifomis* (HU), *H. excipuliformis* (HE), and *Vascellum pratense* (VP) are all common medicinal puffballs. Although no longer edible in their mature state (because of their powdery consistency), these puffballs have been shown to be a source of active compounds of various biological activities. Puffballs are believed to have several therapeutic properties when used medicinally: hemostasis^[16], cough relief^[17],

suppression of cell division, and antitumor^[18] and antimicrobial^[19] properties. Petrović P, et al(2016) reported noticeable antimicrobial activity diversity for the methanol extracts obtained from *Handkea utriformis* (HU), *H. excipuliformis* (HE), and *Vascellum pratense* (VP)^[20]. The spore powder of HFTU-PB1 has been used traditionally as a folk remedy for tinea pedis. Picked specimen (named HFUT-PB1) was dried and deposited at the herbarium of the Department of Biology, Hefei University of Technology (HFUT), China.

The aim of the present study was to evaluate the antifungal activity of the spore powder active fraction (SPAF) extracted from *Bovistella radicata* (Mont.) Pat and its fractions against different species of tinea pedis pathogens, including *T. rubrum* and *T. mentagrophytes*. The differences of antifungal activities and GC fingerprints between spore and sporophore powder were determined. The antifungal activities were evaluated in terms of their minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values and zone of inhibition(ZOI) values^[21], and the chemical constituents responsible for this activity were identified.

Results

In Vitro Antifungal Activity Assay

The puffballs (*B. radicata*, *C. gigantean*, *C. lilacina*, *L. fenzlii* Reich, and *L. pyriforme*) exhibited different antifungal activity against *T. rubrum*, *T. mentagrophytes*, *E. floccosum*, and *C. albicans*. The results were shown in Table 1. Alcohol extract of *B. radicata* spore powder showed good activity against the tested microorganisms (MIC was 62.5 and 125 µg/ml), while alcohol extract of *B. radicata* sporophore powder and other puffballs (*C. gigantean*, *C. lilacina*, *L. fenzlii* Reich, and *L. pyriforme*) showed weak activity against the fungus (MIC was about 250 and 500 µg/ml).

Table 1 MIC volues of puffball spore or sporophore powder

MIC(µg/ml)

Test items *T.rubrum* *T.mentagrophytes* *E.floccosum* *C.albicans*

TUTUTUTU

<i>B. radicata</i>	62.5	250	125	250	125	250	125	250
<i>C.lilacina</i> <i>Lioyd</i>	250	500	250	500	250	500	500	500
<i>L.fenzlii</i> <i>Reich</i>	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
<i>L.pyriforme</i>	500	500	500	500	250	500	500	500
<i>C.gigantean</i>	250	500	500	500	500	125	250	

Terbinafine 62.5 31.2 62.5 31.2

Note

T spore powder groups treated with alcohol, U sporophore powder groups treated with alcohol, Terbinafine is positive control.

As shown in Table 1, antifungal effect of *B. radicata* sporophore powder and other puffball alcohol extract performed poor antifungal activity. The zone of inhibition (ZOI) was observed in PDA medium inoculated with *T. rubrum*, after co-cultivation with different alcohol extracts from *B. radicata* and *L.fenzlii* Reich, The results were showed in Fig. 1.

Figure1. zone of inhibition(ZOI) of spore and sporophore powder from B.radicata

From Fig. 1, the inhibitory effects on the growth of *T. rubrum* suggested that antifungal compound maybe was from *B. radicata* spore powder.

SPAF-1 preparation from *B. radicata* alcohol extract by macroporous resin D-101

We focused on *B. radicata* spore powder alcohol extract for further extraction and purification. This portion was separated by column chromatography using macroporous resin D-101 with 90% ethanol as eluent. The antifungal effectiveness of alcohol extract from *B. radicata*, eluent fractions with distilled water(EF) and 90% ethanol (SPAF-1) were assessed against *T. rubrum* (the main pathogenic fungi of tinea pedis). The antifungal assay confirmed that the alcohol extract and SPAF-1 exhibited high antifungal effectiveness, while EF exhibited weak antifungal activity (MIC = 250 mg/l). MIC of alcohol extract was 62.5 mg/l. While SPAF-1(90% ethanol eluent fraction) exhibited the most complete activity with a 100% inhibition rate at a concentration of 31.2 mg/l.

HPLC analysis of alcohol extract and SPAF-1 from *B. radicata*

As stated above, alcohol extract and SPAF-1 from *B. radicata* have obvious antifungal activity, while the eluent fractions(EF) has weak antifungal activity. It meant that the active ingredient(SPAF-1) could be purified by macroporous resin D-101. Alcohol extract and SPAF-1 were analysed by HPLC. The characteristic peak1(2.42 min) and peak2(16.04 min) were shown in Fig. 2B (SPAF-1), the results also demonstrated macroporous resin D-101 was a good selectivity for purification of SPAF-1.

Figure 2. HPLC chromatograms of SPAF-1 and alcohol extract from B. radicata spore powder

Chemical constituent analysis of SPAF-1 by GC-MS and HPLC

The antifungal substances in *B. radicata* were also analyzed by GC-MS, among the GC-MS chromatograms of alcohol extract of spore powder, sporophore powder and SPAF-1. More than 50

compounds were identified from spore and sporophore powder of *B. radicata* by GC-MS. Fitting analysis results of spore and sporophore GC chromatograms showed that spore chromatograms presented characteristic peak P1(8.791 min) and P2(17.825 min) (Fig. 3), the characteristic peak time was consistent with SPAF-1.

Figure 3. Fitting gas chromatogram of *B. radicata* spore and sporophore powder

The test results were submitted to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) library, we analyzed the mass chromatograms of SPAF-1, the results were showed in Table 2. Peak1 revealed a peak of m/z 116 (M + H), by comparing in NIST, the substance were 2-propyl-1-pentanol. Peak2 revealed peaks of m/z 158,145,130,141 (M + H), by comparing in NIST, the substances may include decanal, n-decanol and 2E-decanol, The results are showed in Table 2.

Table 2
chemical composition and antifungal activity of alcohol extract from *B. radicata*

name	time	MIC	content(%)	chemical name	molecular	molecular
	(min)	(µg/ml)			formula	weight
peak1	8.791	250	13.6	2-propyl-1-pentanol	C ₇ H ₁₆	116
peak2	17.83	62.5	24.3	decanal	C ₁₀ H ₁₉ O	156
		31.2	27.9	n-decanol	C ₁₀ H ₂₁ O	158
		31.2	21.2	2E-decanol	C ₁₀ H ₂₁ O	158
Among them, decanol, n-decanol and 2E-decanol can inhibit the growth of <i>T. rubrum</i> at minimum inhibitory concentration of 62.5, 31.2 and 31.2 µg/ml.						
FT-IR analysis of SPAF-1						
The FT-IR spectral results of alcohol extract, SPAF-1 and EF are shown in Fig. 4, the differences range among them are from 1100 cm ⁻¹ to 1800 cm ⁻¹ and 720 cm ⁻¹ to 900 cm ⁻¹ . The broad stretch of frequency from 3500 -3200cm ⁻¹ was assigned to the hydroxyl group. There are no stretching vibrations at 1600,1580, 1500 and 1450 cm ⁻¹ which is considered to no aromatics in alcohol extract, EF and SPAF-1. In addition, the band obtained at ~ 1433 cm ⁻¹ (SPAF-1) and 1652 cm ⁻¹ (alcohol) is assigned to the stretching vibrations of unsaturated –C = O and the stretch from 1300 cm ⁻¹ to 1000 cm ⁻¹ was attributed to -C-O. The –C = O and -C-O stretching vibrations could be due to aldehyde group and hydroxyl group. The absorbance signals at 2930, 2932, and from 2300 to 2500 cm ⁻¹ could be explained by a long fat chain existing in the compounds. Decanal, n-decanol, 2E-decanol and 2-Propyl-1-pentanol as components of SPAF-1 were verified by FT-IR.						

Figure 4. FT-IR spectral of SPAF-1, alcohol extract and EF from HFUT-PB1

Ultrastructural changes in *T.rubrum* with SPAF-1

To investigate the changes in shape and ultrastructure of *T. rubrum* cells, cells were examined after co-cultivation with SPAF-1 by transmission electron microscopy. As shown in Fig. 5A. The membrane of the non-inoculated control cells was intact with uniformly distributed cytoplasm and electron density inside the cells. In contrast, more than 30% of *T. rubrum* cells showed concentrated cytoplasm and altered cell morphology after co-cultivation with SPAF-1 (Fig. 5B). As indicated by the red arrow 1, the cell membrane is badly shrunk out of wall. As indicated by the red arrow 2, the cell wall is obviously thinner and the edge is blurred comparing with the control. which may increase membrane permeability and cause leakage of intracellular substances.

Figure 5. Transmission electron microscope images of *T. rubrum* co-cultured with SPAF-1

Conclusions

In this paper, we successfully separate SPAF from alcohol extract of *B. radicata*. The antifungal effect of SPAF is similar to positive control. The compound SPAF was characterized as decanal(24.3%) n-decanol(27.9%), 2E-decenol (21.2%) and 2-Propyl-1-pentanol (13.6%) by GC-MS, FT-IR and HPLC analysis. They could inhibit the growth of *T. rubrum* at minimum inhibitory concentration of 62.5 µg/ml, 31.2 µg/ml, 31.2 µg/ml and 250 µg/ml respectively. TEM (transmission electron microscope) analysis showed altered surface morphology in the majority of *T. rubrum* cells after treatment with SPAF.

Methods

Tested sample and pathogenic microbiology

Tested puffball was isolated from pine forest of Jiangxi province, China and identified as *Bovistella radicata* (Mont.) Pat. The other tested puffballs included *Calvatia gigantea*, *Calvatia lilacina* Lloyd, *Lasiosphaera fenzlii*, and *Lycoperdon pyriforme* purchased from Anhui Bozhou traditional Chinese medicine commodity trading center. All of these puffball specimens were dried and deposited at herbarium of Department of Biology, Hefei University of Technology.

The four tested pathogenic bacterias included *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 6538), *Bacillus subtilis* (ATCC 6051), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 8739) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (ATCC 15442), four fungi *Trichophyton rubrum*(ATCC 28188), *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*(ATCC 9533), *Epidermophyton floccosum*(ATCC 52066), and *Candida albicans* (ATCC 10231).

In Vitro Antagonistic Activity of Puffball

The examined methods were the minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs)(Negi et al.2003)and zone of inhibitions (ZOIs). MIC value was determined in the 96-well plates by the double micro dilution method(7.8 ~ 250 µg/mL) against pathogens. ZOI (100 µg/ml) was also evaluated ^[33], Terbinafine and Gentamicin sulfate as the positive control.

Alcohol extraction by Soxhlet system

Puffball samples include spore and sporophore powder. The Soxhlet system includes extraction bottle, extraction tube and condenser. When extracting, the samples were wrapped in a degreased filter paper bag and put into the extraction tube. Alcohol was added into the extraction bottle, the extraction bottle was heated, alcohol was gasified, risen, condensed, dripped into the extraction tube, the bioactive components were extracted into the extraction bottle. so that the cycle reciprocates until the extraction is complete.

The chemical constituents of alcohol extraction by GC–MS

The alcohol extracts were recorded on a GC–MS (Gas Chromatography–Mass Spectrometer) system. One microliter of alcohol extract of spore and sporophore powder was injected into a DB-5MS capillary column coated with 5% diphenyl cross-linked 95% dimethylpolysiloxane (30 m × 250 µm inner diameter, 0.25 µm film thickness; J&W Scientific, Folsom, CA, USA). The alcohol extract were injected in the splitless mode. Helium was used as the carrier gas. The front inlet purge flow was 1 mL/min, and the gas flow rate through the column was 20 mL/min. The initial temperature was kept at 40 °C, held for 3.0 min, then raised to 150 °C at a rate of 10 °C/min. The temperature was kept for 10 min at 150 °C. The mass spectrometer was operated in electron ionization (EI) mode at 70 eV. The injection, transfer line, and ion source temperatures were 150, 250, and 230 °C, respectively. The mass spectrometry data were acquired in full-scan mode with an m/z range of 10–500 u at a rate of 20 u spectra per second after a solvent delay of 210 s. Peaks were identified by comparing with the mass spectra data from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) spectral library.

HPLC analysis of alcohol extract and SPAF-1 from *Bovistella radicata* (Mont.) Pat

Alcohol extract from *B. radicata* was also analyzed via high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) coupled with an ultraviolet (UV) detector (Agilent, 1260 Infinity II Prime, USA). The aim was to identify the most active compounds in the fractions of the puffballs. A C18 reversed-phase column (Hypersil Gold 25 mm × 2.1 mm, 1.8 µm, Thermo Scientific, Massachusetts, USA) was used with the following solvent system: A = acetonitrile, B = 0.15% ammonium acetate–water. The gradient elution was 7% A in 5 min, 7–10% A in 3 min, 10% A in 2 min, 10–15% A in 5 min, 15% A in 3 min, 5–15% A in 2 min. The LC system was operated at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min for 20 min. The injection volume was 5 µL, and the detection was at 220 nm.

FT-IR analysis of SPAF-1

The FT-IR (Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy) spectra of samples were recorded using a NICOLET 5700 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometer (provided by Nicolet Instrument Co., U.S.A) using potassium bromide (KBr) pellets. The pellets were designed by blending the sample and KBr at a ratio of 1:100 and were ground into particles smaller than 0.1 mm. The FT-IR measurement scanned the range from 400 to 4000 cm^{-1} . A He-Ne laser source operating at 0.5 W was utilized for sample excitation.

Transmission Electron Microscopy

Overnight cultures of *T. rubrum* were on PDA. The wells (5.0 mm in diameter) were cut from PDA medium, The tested compounds (SPAF-1) were added to the wells, the wells added normal saline were used as controls, then incubated at 28°C for 48 hours. Following the incubation period samples were picked up from PDA and fixed overnight in 2.5% glutaraldehyde in PBS (phosphate-buffered saline), washed three times in PBS and postfixed overnight in 1% osmium tetroxide. Following ethanol dehydration, probes were embedded in Epon resin (Sigma-Aldrich), cut on a ultramicrotome Leica UC7 and contrasted in uranyl acetate and lead citrate. Transmission electron microscopy studies were performed using a Philips CM100 electron microscope [34].

Discussion

In the present study, *B. radicata* from Jiangxi province, China, shows remarkable antifungal activities. These data are consistent with previous findings on the minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) of *B. radicata* [19].

According to the Chinese Pharmacopeia, the main anti-microorganism activity of the puffball is against *S. aureus* and *Paeruginosa*. The antifungal function of puffballs has not been reported previously. The novel antimicrobial activities of *B. radicata* might be due to different geographic sources of the material used and different strains used [22].

In vitro assays demonstrated that alcohol extract and SPAF-1 from *B. radicata* were able to suppress the mycelial growth of *T. rubrum* and *T. mentagrophytes*. The MICs of SPAF-1 from alcohol extract are 31.2 µg/ml and 31.2 µg/ml against *T. rubrum* and *T. mentagrophytes*, respectively. Terbinafine was used as a positive control in this study with MIC values 62.5 and 31.2 µg/ml. The antifungal effect of SPAF-1 was similar with that of positive control.

The SPAF-1 were purified by macroporous resin D-101 and submitted to GC–MS analysis. The main constituents were identified alcohols (62.7%) and aldehydes (30.2%), the main alcohols were n-decanol (27.9%), 2E-decenol (21.2%) and 2-ethyl-1-Hexanol (13.6%), while the major aldehydes were decanal (24.3%). alcohols, aldehydes and 2-Propyl-1-pentanol have a long aliphatic chain. Aliphatic alcohols are the most widespread compounds found in plants, and are also known to cause a variety of biochemical responses [23]. Long-chain aliphatic alcohols ranging in chain length from 6 to greater than 20 carbon atoms can inhibit the growth of various types of bacteria and fungi [24–26]. n-decanol, 2E-decenol are volatile organic compounds (VOC) and have been reported to possess various bioactivities [27]. Previous studies reported that 1-Decanol exhibited antibacterial [28] and antimicrobial [29] activities. Begnami et al (2010) found that 1-decanol, 2E-decenol, 2Z-dodecenol, and aldehydes from *Coriandrum sativum* L (Apiaceae) exhibited effective growth-inhibitory activities against five species of *Candida albicans* [30], while activities against *T. rubrum* and *T. mentagrophytes*, the main pathogens of tinea pedis have not been reported.

All these aliphatic alcohols and aldehydes obtained from *B. radicata* alcohol extracts increase the fluidity of the membrane and are known to inhibit the key enzyme of saturated fatty acids ^[31]. The aliphatic alcohols also have one hydroxyl group. The hydroxyl group mainly determines the hydrophilicity of the molecule, resulting in much easier interaction with its target in a living organism ^[32].

Future work concentrating on determining the antifungal mechanisms of aliphatic alcohols and aldehydes will be performed, which will be helpful in laying a foundation for overcoming the drug resistance that pathogens quickly develop against antibiotic drugs.

Abbreviations

AMB
Amphotericin B
PDA
Potato Dextrose Agar
EI
electronionization
HPLC
High Performance Liquid Chromatography
UV
ultraviolet
MIC
Minimum Inhibitory Concentration
NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
GC–MS
Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometer
FT-IR
Fourier-Transform Infrared
VOC
Volatile Organic Compound

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable

Consent for publication

Not applicable

Availability of data and material

Not applicable

Competing interests

Not applicable

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Authors' contributions

Yong ye conceived and designed the experiments. Yong ye performed the experiments and analyzed the data. Qinghua zeng analyzed the data. Yong ye wrote and edited the manuscript. The excellent technical support by Chuanxun Yuan and Qingmei Zeng

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Not applicable

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36. **238125-47625Figure1. zone of inhibition(ZOI) of spore and sporophore powder from *B.radicata***
37. is ZOI of. alcohol extract from *B. radicata* spore powder; 1 is alcohol extract from *B. radicata* sporophore powder; and 2 is alcohol extract from *L.fenzlii Reich*. “+” is positive control and “-” is negative control.
38. -190500-304800**Figure. 2.** HPLC chromatograms of SPAF-1 and alcohol extract from *B. radicata* spore powder.
39. A.; *HPLC chromatograms of alcohol extract from B. radicata spore powder.*
40. B. *HPLC chromatograms of SPAF-1.*

Figures



Figure 1

zone of inhibition(ZOI) of spore and sporophore powder from *B.radicata* 0 is ZOI of alcohol extract from *B. radicata* spore powder; 1 is alcohol extract from *B. radicata* sporophore powder; and 2 is alcohol extract from *L.fenzlii* Reich. "+" is positive control and "-" is negative control.

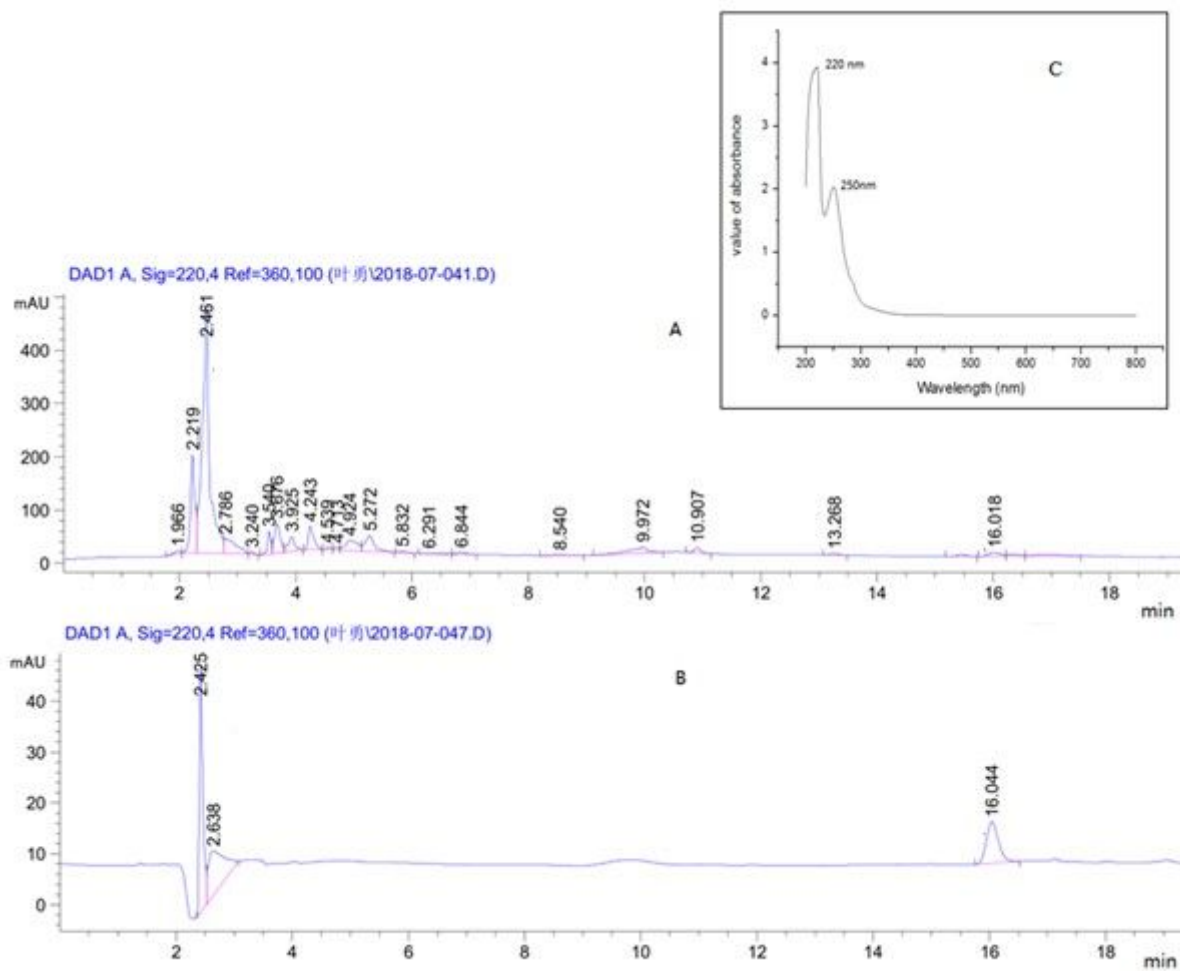


Figure 2

HPLC chromatograms of SPAF-1 and alcohol extract from *B. radicata* spore powder A ; HPLC chromatograms of alcohol extract from *B. radicata* spore powder B: HPLC chromatograms of SPAF-1

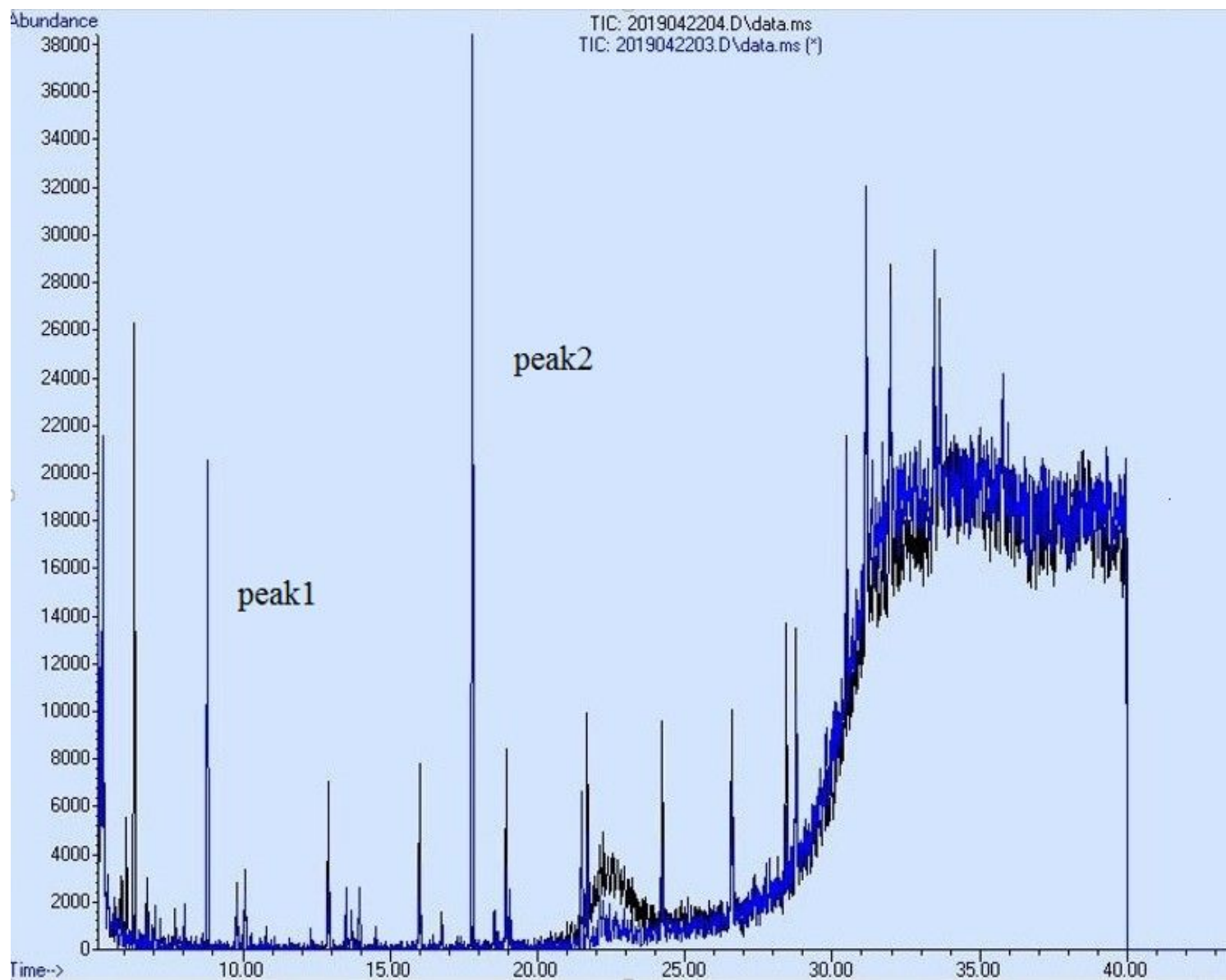


Figure 3

Fitting gas chromatogram of *B. radicata* spore and sporophore powder

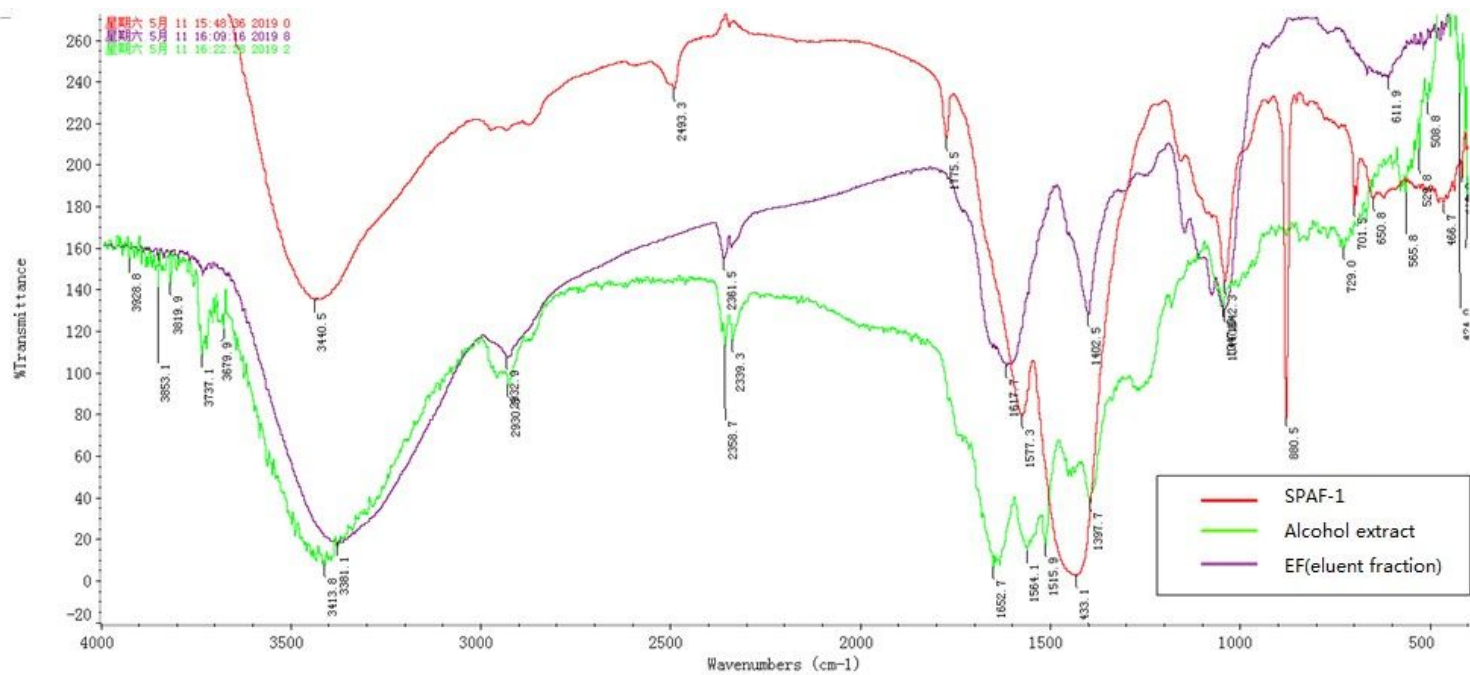


Figure 4
 FT-IR spectral of SPAF-1, alcohol extract and EF from HFUT-PB1

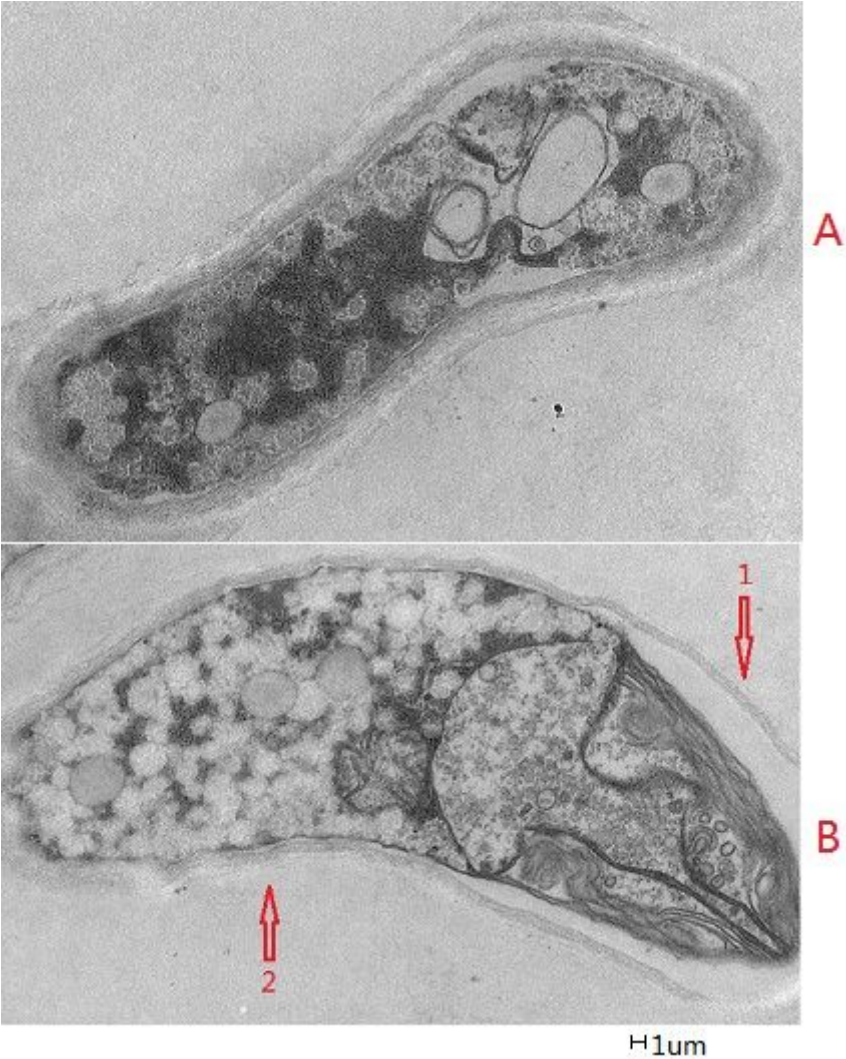


Figure 5

Transmission electron microscope images of *T. rubrum* co-cultured with SPAF-1. (A) Untreated control *T. rubrum*. (B) *T. rubrum* co-cultured with SPAF-1