

# Identification and characterization of antibacterial compound(s) of cockroaches (*Periplaneta americana*)

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**Abstract** Infectious diseases remain a significant threat to human health, contributing to more than 17 million deaths, annually. With the worsening trends of drug resistance, there is a need for newer and more powerful antimicrobial agents. We hypothesized that animals living in polluted environments are potential sources of antimicrobials. Under polluted milieus, organisms such as cockroaches encounter different types of microbes, including superbugs. Such creatures survive the onslaught of superbugs and are able to ward off disease by producing antimicrobial substances. Here, we characterized antibacterial properties in extracts of various body organs of cockroaches (*Periplaneta americana*) and showed potent antibacterial activity in crude brain extract against methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and neuropathogenic *Escherichia coli* K1. The size-exclusion spin columns revealed that the active compound(s) are less than 10 kDa in molecular mass. Using cytotoxicity assays, it was observed that pre-treatment of bacteria with lysates inhibited bacteria-mediated host cell cytotoxicity. Using spectra obtained with LC-MS on Agilent 1290 infinity liquid chromatograph, coupled with an Agilent 6460 triple quadrupole mass spectrometer, tissues lysates were analysed. Among hundreds of compounds, only a few homologous compounds were

identified that contained the isoquinoline group, chromene derivatives, thiazine groups, imidazoles, pyrrole-containing analogs, sulfonamides, furanones, and flavanones and known to possess broad-spectrum antimicrobial properties and anti-inflammatory, anti-tumour, and analgesic properties. Further identification, characterization, and functional studies using individual compounds can act as a breakthrough in developing novel therapeutics against various pathogens including superbugs.

**Keywords** Cockroach · Antibacterials · Superbugs

## Introduction

Antibiotic resistance is one of the world's most pressing public healthcare problems (WHO 2002). In recent decades, almost every variant of human pathogenic bacteria has become resistant and/or less vulnerable to available antibiotic treatment, threatening new infectious diseases or emergence of superstrains that are difficult to eradicate (Alanis 2005; Nordmann et al. 2007). Moreover, the current decline in the identification of new antibacterial molecules presents a clear and present danger (Alanis 2005; Nordmann et al. 2007; Devasahayam et al. 2010). In particular, the prevalence of multiple drug-resistant bacterial strains in hospital and community settings is a significant challenge to human health (Alanis 2005; Nordmann et al. 2007; Devasahayam et al. 2010). Among a plethora of multiple drug-resistant bacteria, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) poses a significant threat to human and animal health (Enright 2003). MRSA is a Gram-positive bacteria, which is resistant to many antibiotics and possesses the ability to produce skin and tissue infections that are often nosocomial in nature (Pantosti and Venditti, 2009). Likewise, neuropathogenic *Escherichia coli*

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K1 is a leading cause of neonatal meningitis contributing to significant morbidity and mortality, despite advances in antimicrobial chemotherapy (Lee et al. 2011).

We hypothesize that animals living in unsanitary and unhygienic conditions have developed ways of protecting themselves against pathogenic microorganisms (Lee et al. 2011; Sagheer et al. 2014; Bulet et al. 1999; Wilson et al. 1999; Khan et al. 2008). For example, insects such as cockroaches thrive in unhygienic environments. The fact that cockroaches share environmental niches with humans and animals suggests their routine exposure to infectious agents important to human health. The ability of cockroaches to flourish under such threats and ward off diseases indicates their resistance to pathogenic microbes including superbugs as well as toxicants and hazardous materials. Such organisms could be a good source of antibacterials against human pathogens. Insects represent 70 % of living fauna and are the most diverse among the entire animal kingdom. Insects such as cockroaches have survived millions of years and withstood catastrophic events (for comparison, humans have been on the planet for 10,000 years), suggesting their ability to adapt and resist environmental threat. These findings support our hypothesis, to search for potential antimicrobials in such creatures. To this end, our studies suggested that insects such as locusts and cockroaches possess antimicrobials. We characterized antibacterial properties of organ extract of cockroaches (*P. americana*) and tested their effects on human cells, with a view to determine chemical and structural identities as potential therapeutic agents to treat infections.

## Materials and methods

### Bacterial cultures

A clinical isolate of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) was used in the present study (Malaysian Type Culture Collection 381123). The MRSA strain used in this study was originally derived from blood cultures, obtained from the Luton & Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Luton, England, UK. The sensitivity patterns of MRSA demonstrated its susceptibility to gentamicin, ciprofloxacin, and vancomycin and resistance to amoxicillin, augmentin, cephalaxin, ceftazidim, penicillin, flucloxacillin, tetracycline, and erythromycin. In addition, a Gram-negative neuropathogenic *E. coli* (a cerebrospinal fluid isolate from a meningitis patient; 018:K1:H7), strain E44, was used as described previously (Malaysian Type Culture Collection 710859). Bacteria were cultured in Luria-Bertani (LB) broth

and grown overnight at 37 °C, prior to experiments as previously described (Khan et al. 2008).

### Organ lysates of cockroaches

Cockroaches (*P. americana*) were reared on a diet of dried dog food pellets and were housed in glass-fronted metal cages in the dark. The cages were kept in a temperature-regulated insectary at 30 °C. For dissections, all instruments were disinfected in 70 % ethanol prior to and during each dissection. Cockroaches were immobilized by exposure to 4 °C for 15 min. Cockroaches were immobilized by removal of legs and wings and securing to a dissection plate, ventral side up, using a pin on either side of the thorax and one through the distal abdomen. The head and legs were removed, prior to a longitudinal incision made down the midline of the abdomen to expose the fat body tissue, a sample of which was removed aseptically. The thoracic cuticle was opened up with a flap-shaped incision to obtain the haemolymph from the cockroach body cavity using a pipette. The upper hind leg of the cockroach was opened up with a longitudinal incision to expose muscle tissue, a sample of which was aseptically removed. The removed cockroach head was dissected to obtain the intact brain aseptically.

Insect tissue samples were collected in 500 µL of sterile water in batches of samples obtained from 500 cockroaches. The samples were kept on ice during dissection and treated in an identical manner. An estimate was made by eye/weight to ensure that the mass of each tissue was approximately similar. The samples were subjected to four cycles of freeze-thawing in order to cause cellular disruption and lysis. The thawing period was kept as brief as possible and organ extracts were kept cold (4 °C) before re-freezing. The samples were then homogenized aseptically with a tissue grinder, prior to centrifugation at 10,000g for 30 min at 4 °C. The supernatant (crude extract) was then collected and filtered using a sterilized 0.2-µm pore size filter, and protein concentration was determined using a Bio-Rad Protein Assay kit. Finally, lysates were stored at –20 °C until needed for antibacterial bioassay testing.

### Antibacterial assays

To determine the effects of crude extracts of various organ lysates on bacterial viability, antibacterial assays were performed as described previously (Khan et al. 2008). Briefly, the optical density of bacterial broth cultures was adjusted to 0.22 at 595 nm using a spectrophotometer (equivalent to 10<sup>8</sup> colony-forming units per mL and confirmed by plating on nutrient agar plates). Approximately 10<sup>6</sup> colony-forming units (c.f.u.), suspended in 10 µL, were incubated with different concentrations of various organ lysates of cockroaches at 37 °C for 2 h. Following this, bacteria were serially diluted and enumerated by plating on nutrient agar plates (Khan et al.

2008). For negative controls, bacteria were incubated in PBS alone, and for positive controls, bacteria were incubated with 100 µg per mL of gentamicin. Percentage bactericidal effects were determined as the percentage of bacteria surviving relative to the control:  $100 - (\text{cfu recovered} / \text{original inoculum} \times 100)$ .

### Human brain microvascular endothelial cell (HBMEC) cultures

The primary HBMEC were cultured in RPMI-1640 containing 10 % heat-inactivated fetal bovine serum, 10 % Nu-serum, 2 mM glutamine, 1 mM Na-pyruvate, 100 U penicillin per mL, 100 µg streptomycin per mL, non-essential amino acids, and vitamins as previously described (Khan and Siddiqui, 2009). For cytotoxicity assays, HBMECs were cultured in 24-well plates by inoculating  $5 \times 10^5$  cells per well per mL and incubating them at 37 °C with 5 % CO<sub>2</sub>, which resulted in the formation of complete monolayers within 48 h.

### Cytotoxicity assay

Cytotoxicity assays were performed as previously described (Khan and Siddiqui, 2009). Briefly, assays were performed in 24-well plates containing confluent HBMEC monolayers. The organ lysates alone, bacteria alone, or bacteria treated with lysates were added to confluent HBMEC layers (final volume of 500 µL RPMI-1640). For treatment, bacteria were incubated with gentamicin (100 µg per mL) or lysates (100 µg per mL) for 2 h at 37 °C, followed by incubation with HBMEC monolayers. Plates were incubated at 37 °C in a 5 % CO<sub>2</sub> incubator for 20 h. After this incubation, the supernatants were collected from each well and centrifuged to remove cellular debris and then cytotoxic effects were determined by estimating the amount of lactate dehydrogenase released from HBMEC using a Cytotoxicity Detection kit (Roche Applied Sciences). The percent cytotoxicity was calculated as follows:  $\% \text{ cytotoxicity} = (\text{sample value} - \text{control value}) / (\text{total LDH release} - \text{control value}) \times 100$ . Control values were determined by incubating HBMEC monolayers with RPMI-1640 alone, and total LDH release was obtained by completely lysing the HBMEC using 1 % Triton X-100. To determine the molecular mass of the active molecule(s), crude brain lysates were filtered through 30- and 10-kDa molecular weight cutoff Spin-X UF columns (Corning). Both the elutate and retentate were used in the aforementioned antibacterial assays.

### Liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LC-MS): separation and analysis

All samples were analysed using a LC-MS on Agilent 1290 infinity liquid chromatograph (Agilent Technologies, Wilmington, DE), coupled with an Agilent 6460 triple

quadruple mass spectrometer. Separation of compounds was achieved using reverse-phase HPLC, with a Merck C-18 column of particle size 3 µm (5.5 cm length and i.d. of 4.6 mm) at 25 °C, and equilibrated with 90 % solvent A (0.1 % formic acid in Milli-Q water) and 10 % solvent B (0.1 % formic acid in MeOH). A flow rate of 0.6 mL per min with a linear gradient was used as follows: 10 % solvent B for 4 min, 80 % solvent B over the course of 3.2 min, and 10 % solvent B for 2.8 min. The total run time was 14 min, including a 5-min equilibration time.

The compounds were ionized using ESI + jet stream ion mode with the QQQ analyser. The parameters of ion source were set as follows: capillary voltage at 4500 V, sheath gas flow at 8 L per min, fragmentor voltage at 135 V, gas temperature at 350 °C, gas flow at 8 L per min, and nebulizer gas at 40 psi, and the detector used was MCP Microchannel Plate detector, while a blank was used after each sample of composition 50 % MeOH + 50 % Milli-Q water.

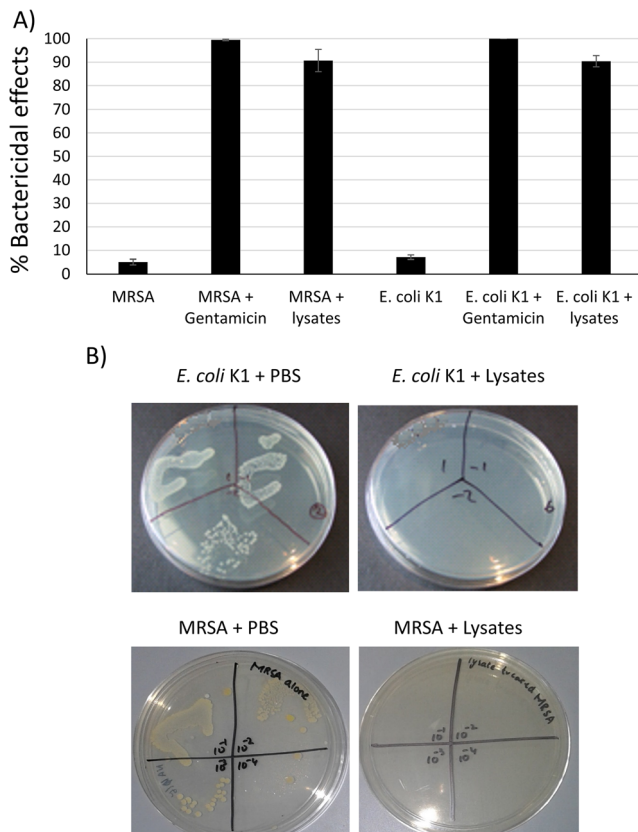
### Identification of compounds through matching with library

Water-soluble and methanol-extracted lysates of brain, haemolymph, and muscles of cockroaches were subjected to LC-MS analysis as described above, to obtain the chromatograms and the prospective mass spectra of every separated fraction of the mixture of compounds. The MS spectra for the compounds present in water-soluble and methanol-extracted lysates were run against the NIST Mass Spectral Search Program-2009 version 2.0f (National Institutes of Standard and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD) for the identification of homologous compounds through Agilent Mass Hunter software, while keeping in view compensation needed for charges in positive ESI MS as well as electron fragmentations, to ensure searches for the correct parent mass. Reported biological activities of the compounds identified and their novelty were determined with the help of Scifinder software.

## Results

### Cockroach brain crude lysates exhibit potent bactericidal activity against MRSA and neuropathogenic *E. coli* K1

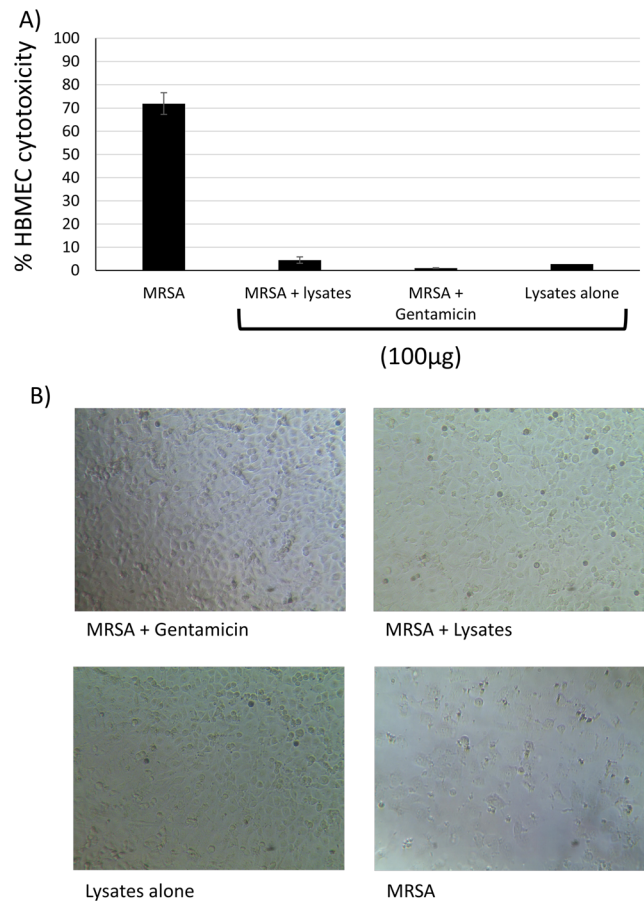
The crude extracts of cockroach fat body, muscle, and brain were prepared and tested along with aspirated haemolymph in antibacterial bioassays against MRSA. Fat body and muscle lysates showed no bactericidal activity against MRSA and *E. coli* K1 at 100 µg per mL, while haemolymph exhibited 35 % ±5.1 and 20 % ±3.5 bactericidal effects, against MRSA and *E. coli* K1, respectively. In contrast, brain extracts exhibited more than 90 % bactericidal effects against both MRSA and neuropathogenic *E. coli* K1 (Fig. 1).



**Fig. 1** Crude extract from cockroach brains were prepared and tested (100  $\mu$ g) for antibacterial activity, as described in ‘Materials and methods’. **a** The results revealed that cockroach brain lysates exhibited more than 90 % bactericidal activity against MRSA and neuropathogenic *E. coli* K1. For positive control, gentamicin (100  $\mu$ g per mL) exhibited more than 99 % killed rate. The data is presented as the mean  $\pm$  standard mean of three independent experiments performed in duplicate. **b** Representative effects of crude extracts from cockroach brains on MRSA and neuropathogenic *E. coli* K1. Both MRSA and neuropathogenic *E. coli* K1 were treated with lysates for 2 h at 37  $^{\circ}$ C for then plated on nutrient agar plates. Note that pretreatment of MRSA and neuropathogenic *E. coli* K1 exhibited bactericidal effects

### Partial characterization of cockroach brain crude lysates and their effects on human cells

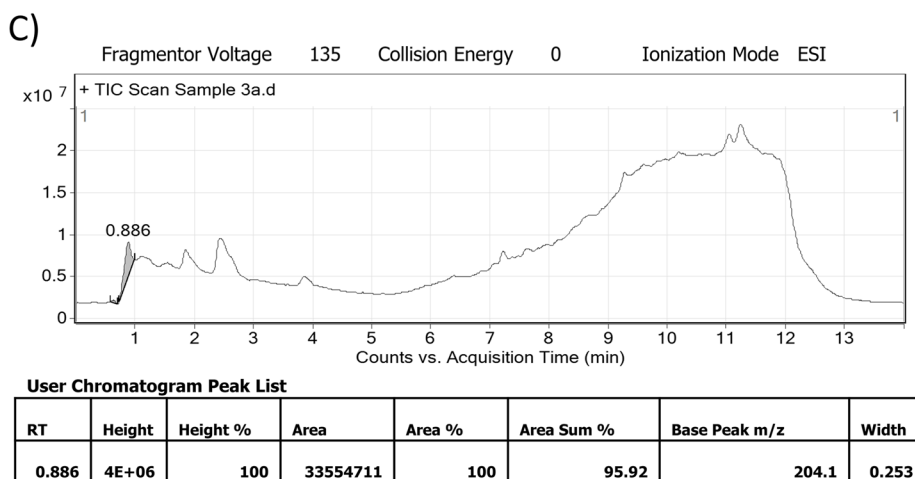
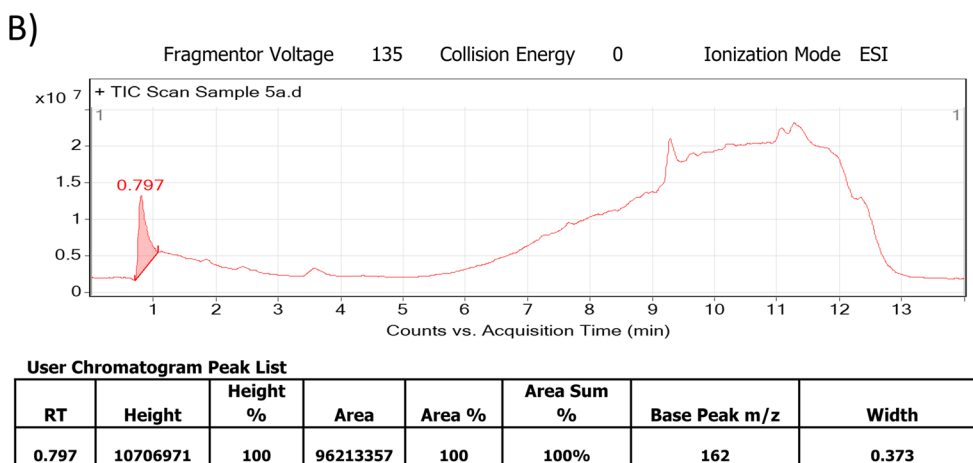
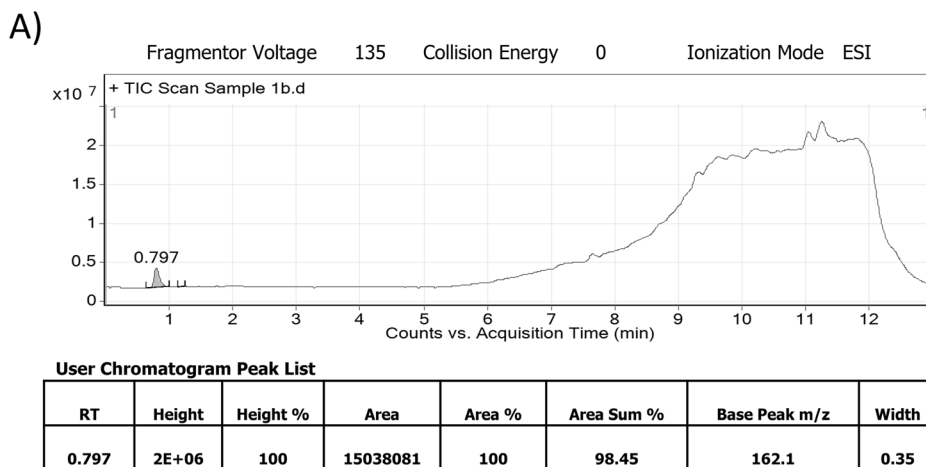
When crude brain lysates were filtered through 30- and 10-kDa molecular weight cutoff Spin-X UF columns, the antibacterial activity was observed in eluate, suggesting that antibacterial compound(s) are less than 10 kDa in molecular mass. To assess potential cytotoxicity to human cells, lysates were added to HBMEC monolayers, and lactate dehydrogenase, a marker for cellular lysis, was measured using a Roche cytotoxicity detection kit. When incubated with MRSA or neuropathogenic *E. coli* K1 alone, more than 70 % HBMEC cytotoxicity was observed (Fig. 2). In contrast, MRSA or neuropathogenic *E. coli* K1 pretreated with gentamicin or lysates followed by incubation with HBMEC produced minimal host cell damage. Notably, lysates alone showed minimal HBMEC cytotoxicity, indicating selective toxicity against bacteria tested.



**Fig. 2** Cockroach brain lysates inhibited methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)-mediated human brain microvascular endothelial cell (HBMEC) cytotoxicity. **a** Cockroach brain lysates were prepared and tested for their protective effects against MRSA-mediated cytotoxicity on HBMEC as described in ‘Materials and methods’. Note that MRSA alone exhibited >70 % cell death. In contrast, MRSA pretreated with gentamicin or lysates for 2 h at 37  $^{\circ}$ C and then incubated with HBMEC monolayers for 20 h exhibited minimal cell death. Likewise, 100  $\mu$ g of brain lysates alone had minimal cytotoxic effects on HBMEC. The data is presented as the mean  $\pm$  standard mean of three independent experiments performed in duplicate. **b** Representative effects of MRSA, lysates, gentamicin-treated MRSA, and lysates-treated MRSA on HBMEC monolayers for 20 h. Pretreatment of MRSA with gentamicin did not produce visual disruption of HBMEC monolayers. Similar results were observed with lysates alone and MRSA pretreated with lysates. In contrast, HBMEC monolayers treated with MRSA exhibited complete monolayer disruptions.  $\times 200$

### Identification of compound(s) present in cockroach lysates using liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry

The brain, haemolymph, and muscle lysates of cockroaches were processed for water and methanol extractions and subjected to LC-MS (Agilent Technologies 6460 Triple Quadrupole LC/MS) for qualitative analyses. Figure 3 shows spectra from respective extractions. These compounds were separated based on the  $m/z$  ratio and retention time in the column. The data obtained from the LC-MS for brain lysates



**Fig. 3** Cockroach brain and haemolymph lysates (water and methanol extractions) were subjected to LC-MS (Agilent Technologies 6460 Triple Quadrupole LC/MS) for qualitative analyses. The compounds were separated based on *m/z* ratio and retention time in the column. The data obtained from the LC-MS for brain extract contained over 168 peaks from water-extracted compounds (a), over 193 peaks from methanol-

extracted compounds (b), and the data obtained from haemolymph extract contained over 182 peaks from water-extracted compounds (c) and over 172 peaks from methanol-extracted compounds (d), and the data obtained from muscle extract contained over 180 peaks from water-extracted compounds (e) and over 190 peaks from methanol-extracted compounds (f)

contained over 168 peaks for water-soluble and over 193 peaks for methanol-extracted brain lysates (Fig. 3). Similarly, the data obtained from LC-MS for haemolymph

lysates contained over 182 peaks for water-soluble and over 172 peaks for methanol-extracted haemolymph lysates (Fig. 3). Similarly, the data obtained for muscle extract

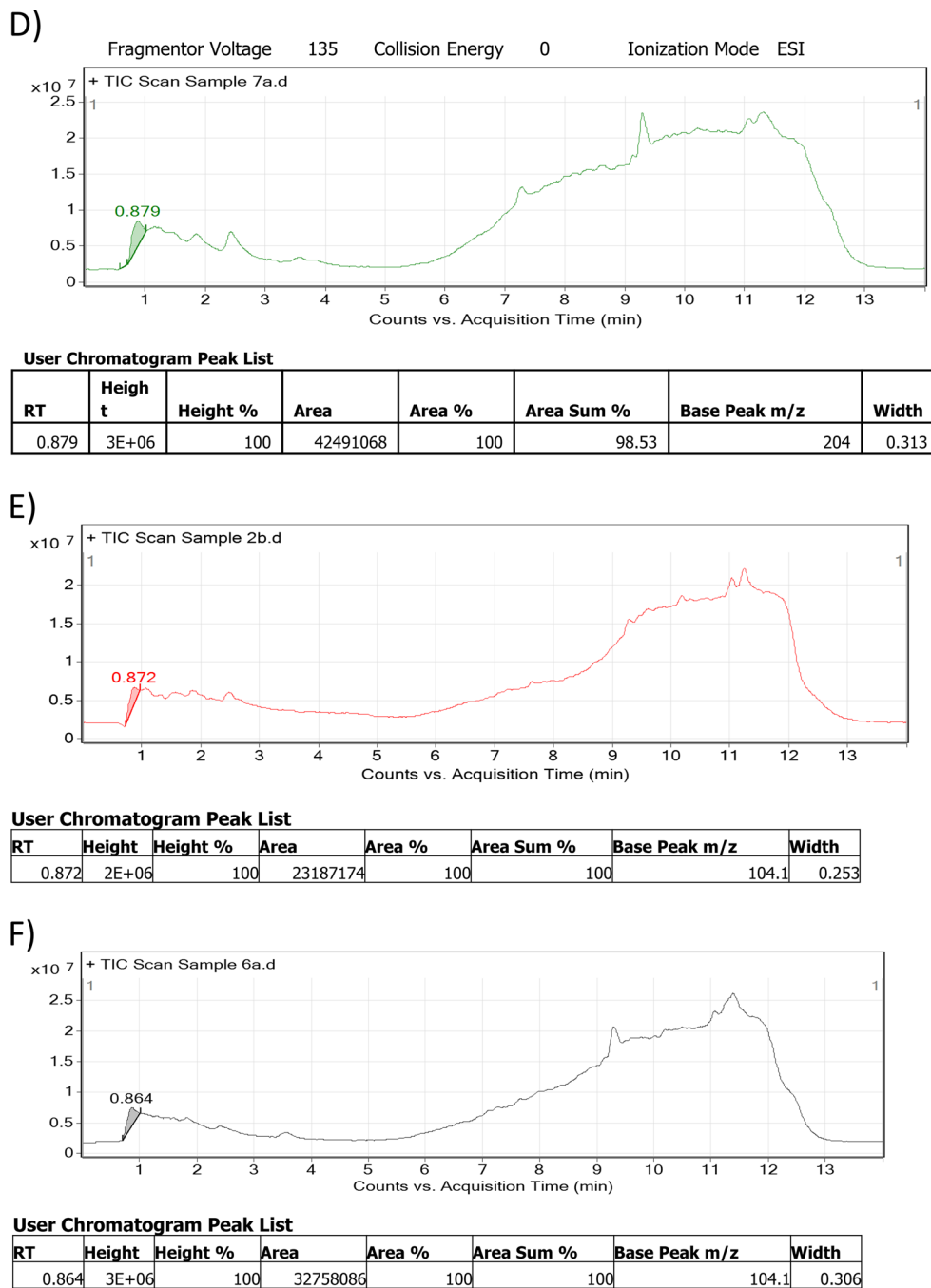


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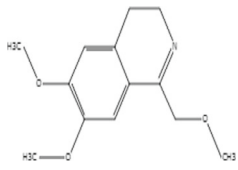
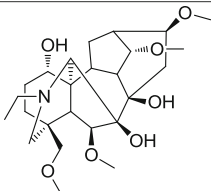
contained over 180 peaks for water-soluble and 190 peaks for methanol-soluble lysates of muscles (Fig. 3).

For brain lysates, among hundreds of compounds, five were identified from water-extracted lysates, and 15 generated from LC-MS were identified from methanol-extracted compounds (Table 1). Similarly, for haemolymph lysates, among hundreds of compounds, 19 were identified from water-extracted lysates and 18 from methanol-extracted compounds (Table 2). For muscle lysates, among hundreds of compounds, 12 were identified from water-soluble lysates, and 18 from

methanol-extracted compounds were identified using LC-MS (Table 3).

The compounds were searched through Scifinder software to determine any reported biological activity. Among various homologous compounds from brain lysates, many of them were shown to possess biologically active molecules (Table 1). For example, compounds 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 possess antimicrobial activities against various Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria including *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Salmonella typhimurium*,

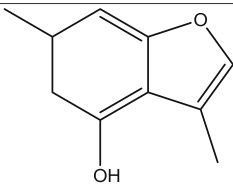
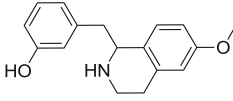
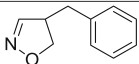
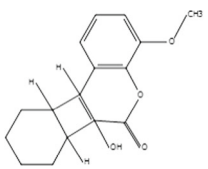
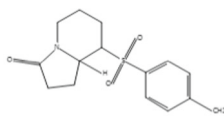
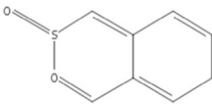
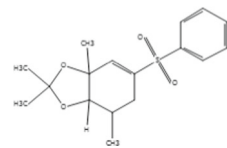
**Table 1** Compounds identified from the cockroach brain lysates

No.	Compound	Formula	Structure	Reported activity
Compounds identified from the water-soluble brain lysates				
1	6,7-Dimethoxy-1-methoxymethyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline	$C_{13}H_{17}NO_3$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine derived lamellarin natural products (Tangdenpaisal et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Quorum sensing inhibitors of <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (Givskov et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7 and <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> (Seo et al. 2012), <i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i> (Mharti et al. 2011)</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Candida albicans</i> (Orhan et al. 2007), <i>Curvularia lunata</i> (Brunskole et al. 2011)</li> <li>• Antiviral activity against Parainfluenza virus (Orhan et al. 2007)</li> <li>• Anti diabetic activity (Yang et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Used for treating degenerative and ischemic disorders (Mootha et al. 2010)</li> <li>• Anticancer activity against human oral squamous cell carcinoma cells (Hatano et al. 2009), murine mammary cancer cells DA3 cells (Alvarez et al. 2009), hepatic carcinoma cells Huh7 (Kumar et al. 2015)</li> </ul>
2	(3 <i>S</i> ,6 <i>S</i> ,6 <i>aS</i> ,8 <i>S</i> ,10 <i>S</i> ,11 <i>aR</i> ,12 <i>R</i> ,12 <i>aS</i> ,13 <i>S</i> )-1-Ethyl-8,10,13-trimethoxy-3-(methoxymethyl)tetradecahydro-1 <i>H</i> -3,6 <i>a</i> ,12-(epiethane[1,1,2]triy l)-7,9-methanonaphtho[2,3- <i>b</i> ]azocine-6,11 <i>a</i> ,12-triol	$C_{25}H_{41}NO_7$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acting as norditerpenoid ligands (Hardick et al. 1996)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> and <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (Yin et al. 2015), <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>, <i>Escherichia coli</i> (Sinam et al. 2012)</li> <li>• Antimicrobial activity against <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>, <i>Bacillus mycoides</i>, <i>Proteus vulgaris</i>, <i>Verticillium alboatrum</i>, <i>Colletrichurm lagenarium</i>, <i>Alternaria alternate</i>, <i>Phytophthora infestans</i> (Yuan and Wang 2012)</li> <li>• Antiviral activity against tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) (Huang et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Used to treat cancer and postoperative pain (Yang et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antiproliferative activity against lung (A549), prostate (DU145), nasopharyngeal (KB), and vincristine resistant nasopharyngeal (KB-VIN) cancer cell lines (Wada et al. 2015), human breast cancer cell resistant to tamoxifen MCF-7/TAM (Chen and Chen 2012)</li> <li>• Antidiabetic activity (Han et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Antioxidant activity (Yin et al. 2015)</li> </ul>

*Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumonia*, *Bacillus mycoides*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Morganella morganii*, and *Providencia stuartii*; fungi including *Candida albicans*, *Curvularia lunata*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Verticillium alboatrum*, *Colletrichurm lagenarium*,

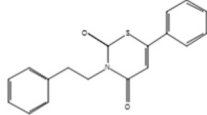
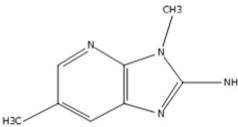
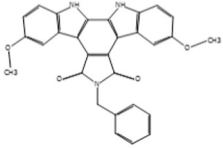
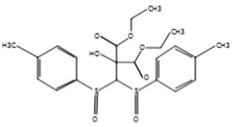
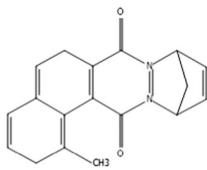
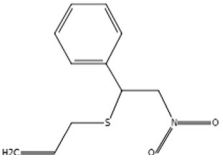
*Alternaria alternate*, *Phytophthora infestans*, *Dermatophytes* etc.; viruses including Parainfluenza virus, Influenza A virus, Respiratory syncytial virus, Herpes virus, etc. Additionally, compounds homologous to 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 13, 16, and 17 are shown to possess anti-tumour properties against various types of cancers, including oral squamous cell carcinoma, breast cancer, hepatic carcinoma, nasopharyngeal carcinoma,

**Table 1** (continued)

3	3,6-Dimethylbenzofuran-4(5 <i>H</i> )-ol	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herbicidal activity (Zhao et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Inhibition of LPS-induced muscle atrophy (Shiota et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Agonists for enhancing the olfactory effect (Huchel et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Anti platelet aggregation activities (Tang et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antiviral agent against Herpes virus (Yuan and Xu 2015)</li> </ul>
4	3-((6-Methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-1-yl)methyl)phenol	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>19</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monoamines in the nervous system of the queensland fruit fly, <i>Dacus tryoni</i> (Armati et al. 1976)</li> <li>• Actions of compounds related to dopamine at neuro-secretory synapse (Ginsborg et al. 1976)</li> </ul>
5	4-Benzyl-4,5-dihydroisoxazole	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dihydroisoxazole inhibitors of <i>Anopheles gambiae</i> seminal transglutaminase AgTG3 (Le et al. 2014)</li> </ul>
Compounds identified from the methanol-extracted brain lysates.				
6	6a-Hydroxy-4-methoxy-6a,6b,7,8,9,10,10a,10b-octahydro-6 <i>H</i> -benzo[3,4]cyclobuta[1,2- <i>c</i> ]chromen-6-one	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>4</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-inflammatory activity (Gao et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against multidrug-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>, <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Proteus mirabilis</i>, <i>Enterobacter cloacae</i>, <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>, <i>Morganella morganii</i> and <i>Providencia stuartii</i> (Zampini et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Botrytis cinerea</i> and <i>Penicillium digitatum</i> (Exarchou et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antiviral activity against respiratory syncytial virus (Shin et al. 2013)</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antioxidant activity (Breton et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Reduces influenza A virus replication (Perwitasari et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Anticancer activity against human colon cancer HCT116 (Park et al. 2014), human breast, ovarian, and intestinal tumor cells (Vergara et al. 2014)</li> </ul>
7	(8 <i>R</i> ,8 <i>aS</i> )-8-[( <i>p</i> -Toluenesulfonyl)perhydro-3-indolizidinone	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>19</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> S		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pesticidal activities (Schnatterer et al. 2009)</li> </ul>
8	1,4-Dihydro-2,3-benzoxathin-3-oxide	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S		No biological activity reported
9	2,2,4,7a-Tetramethyl-6-(phenylsulfonyl)-3a,4,5,7a-tetrahydrobenzo[ <i>d</i> ][1,3]dioxole	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>4</sub> S		No biological activity reported



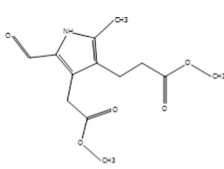
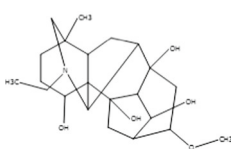
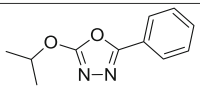
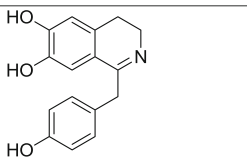
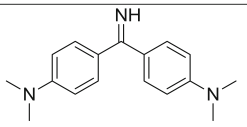
**Table 1** (continued)

10	3-(2'-Phenylethyl)-2,3-dihydro-6-phenyl-2,4-dioxo-4 <i>H</i> -1,3-thiazine	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>15</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antioxidant activity of thiazolidinone derivatives (Amutha et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Antitubercular activity against <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i></li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>, <i>Escherichia coli</i>, and <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i></li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Aspergillus niger</i>, <i>Aspergillus flavus</i>, and <i>Candida albicans</i> (Samadhiya et al. 2014)</li> </ul>
11	2-Amino-3,6-dimethylimidazo[4,5- <i>b</i> ]pyridine	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N <sub>4</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carcinogenic activity (Fang et al. 2008), mutagenic activity (Hatch et al. 2001)</li> <li>• Anticancer activity against HeLa cells (Mackmull et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Increases oxidative stress (Carvalho et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Toxicity against primary dopaminergic neurons (Griggs et al. 2014)</li> </ul>
12	3,9-Dimethoxy-12,13-dihydro-5 <i>H</i> -indolo[2,3- <i>a</i> ]pyrrolo[3,4- <i>c</i> ]carbazole-6-benzyl	C <sub>29</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-inflammatory and analgesic activities, (Alanazi et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Anticancer activities against various cancers including breast, lung, colon etc. by acting as serine/threonine -protein kinase TBK1 inhibitors (Richters et al. 2014)</li> </ul>
13	( <i>S,S</i> )-1,1-Bis(ethoxycarbonyl)-2,2-bis- <i>p</i> -tolylsulfanyl-1-ethanol	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>26</sub> O <sub>7</sub> S <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cytotoxic activity against human promyelocytic leukemia (HL-60) cells (Nagarajan et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Useful for liver regeneration and treatment of liver failure by acting as an inhibitor of mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 4 (MAP2K4, also termed MKK4) (Zender and Wuestefeld 2012)</li> <li>• Act as inhibitors of bacterial DNA adenine methyltransferases (Mashhoon et al. 2006)</li> <li>• Pesticidal activity (Pisanenko et al. 1986)</li> </ul>
14	1-Methyl-[14-(13) <i>C</i> ]-9,12-methanobenzo[ <i>h</i> ]pyridazino[1,2- <i>b</i> ]phthalazine-7,14-dione	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act as glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta inhibitors (Alisi et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Act as cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors (Raffa et al. 2009)</li> <li>• Act as tyrosine kinase inhibitors (Jansen et al. 2005)</li> <li>• Analgesic activity (Alisi et al. 2010)</li> <li>• Act as 5-HT<sub>4</sub> receptor agonists useful in the treatment of digestive tract disorders (Suzuki et al. 2000)</li> <li>• Act as serotonergic 5<sub>3</sub> antagonists useful as antiemetics (Kon et al. 1991)</li> <li>• Antiarrhythmic activity (Kane and Levine 1981)</li> </ul>
15	Allyl(2nitro-1-phenylethyl)sulfane	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>13</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used to treat metabolic disorders (Pellecchia 2008)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> (Gokce et al. 2004)</li> <li>• Used for the treatment of seborrhea (Kalopissis and Manoussos 1976)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Escherichia coli</i> and antifungal activities against <i>Candida</i> species and dermatophytes (Bilich et</li> </ul>

prostate cancer, lung cancer, intestinal tumour, etc. while some homologous compounds are shown to exhibit biological activities such as anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory, anti-platelet aggregation, antioxidant, and analgesic activities (Table 1).

The five compounds identified in water-extracted brain lysates, i.e., Cpd1: 6,7-dimethoxy-1-methoxymethyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline, Cpd2: (3*S*,6*S*,6*aS*,8*S*,10*S*,11*aR*,12*R*,12*aS*,13*S*)-1-ethyl-8,10,13-

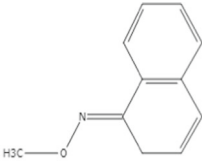
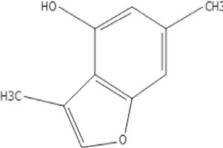
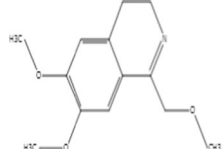
**Table 1** (continued)

				al. 1970)
16	Methyl 5-formyl-4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-2-methylpyrrole-3-propionate	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>17</sub> NO <sub>5</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-inflammatory activity (Indumathi et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Act as inhibitors against yeast alpha-glucosidase (Niaz et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against ESBL isolates of <i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i> (Murthy et al. 2012), <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i></li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Candida albicans</i></li> <li>• Anticancer activities against Hep G2 (liver), Hela (cervical), MCF-7 (breast cancer) cells (Idhayadhulla et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Act as non-nucleoside HIV-1 RT inhibitors (Antonucci et al. 1995)</li> <li>• Used for treating liver diseases including necrosis, fatty hepatitis, and viral hepatitis (Giller et al. 1976)</li> </ul>
17	KARAKOLIDINE	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>35</sub> NO <sub>5</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antioxidant activity</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> and <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (Yin et al. 2015), <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>, <i>Escherichia coli</i> (Sinam et al. 2012) <i>Bacillus mycoides</i>, <i>Proteus vulgaris</i>,</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Verticillium alboatrum</i>, <i>Colletrichum lagenarium</i>, <i>Alternaria alternate</i></li> <li>• Antiparasitic activity against <i>Phytophthora infestans</i> (Yuan and Wang 2012)</li> <li>• Antiviral activity against tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) (Huang et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Used to treat cancer and postoperative pain (Yang et al. 2015)</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiproliferative activity against lung (A549), prostate (DU145), nasopharyngeal (KB), and vincristine resistant nasopharyngeal (KB-VIN) cancer cell lines (Wada et al. 2015), human breast cancer cell resistant to tamoxifen MCF-7/TAM (Chen and Chen 2012)</li> <li>• Antidiabetic activity (Han et al. 2014)</li> </ul>
18	2-Isopropoxy-5-phenyl-1,3,4-oxadiazole	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-inflammatory activity (Akhter et al. 2011)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i></li> <li>• Antifungal activity <i>Candida krusei</i>, <i>Candida albicans</i> and <i>Candida parapsilosis</i> (Şahin et al. 2002)</li> </ul>
19	1-(4-Hydroxybenzyl)-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline-6,7-diol	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>15</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antitubercular activity (Guzman et al. 2015)</li> </ul>
20	4,4'-(Iminomethylene)bis( <i>N,N</i> -dimethylaniline)	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>3</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act as an aniline dye used as a disinfectant and an antiseptic agent. Used to stain <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> (Arrowood and Sterling 1989)</li> <li>• Act as a toxic dye against wood-destroying fungi (Weaver et al. 1985)</li> </ul>

trimethoxy-3-(methoxymethyl)tetradecahydro-1*H*-3,6a,12-(epiethane[1,1,2]triylo)-7,9-methanonaphtho[2,3-*b*]azocine-6,11a,12-triol, Cpd3: 3,6-dimethylbenzofuran-

4(5*H*)-ol, Cpd4: 3-((6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-1-yl)methyl)phenol, and Cpd5: 4-benzyl-4,5-dihydroisoxazole, have reported biological

**Table 2** Compounds identified from the cockroach haemolymph

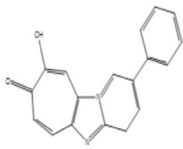
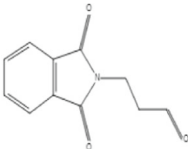
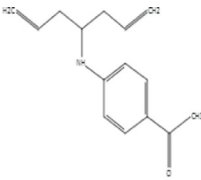
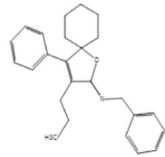
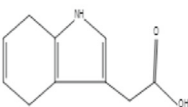
No.	Compound	Formula	Structure	Reported activity
Compounds identified from the water-soluble haemolymph				
1	3,4-Dihydro-1(2 <i>H</i> )-naphthalene <i>O</i> -methyloxime	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>13</sub> NO		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiviral activity against HIV-1 (La et al. 2015), HSV-1 and HSV-2 (Ishikawa et al. 1996)</li> <li>• Fungicidal activity for crop protection (Dubost et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activities against <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>, <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Proteus vulgaris</i>, <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>, ESBL <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>,</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Aspergillus niger</i>, <i>Candida albicans</i> (Gonewar et al. 2012)</li> <li>• Anticancer activity against HeLa and HL60 cancer cells (Wirth et al. 2010), prostate cancer cells (Capitosti et al. 2004)</li> </ul>
2	3,6-Dimethylbenzofuran-4-ol	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herbicidal activity (Zhao et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Inhibition of LPS-induced muscle atrophy (Shiota et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Agonists for enhancing the olfactory effect (Huchel et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antiplatelet aggregation activities (Tang et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antiviral agent against Herpes virus (Yuan and Xu 2015)</li> </ul>
3	6,7-Dimethoxy-1-methoxymethyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>17</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine-derived lamellarin natural product (Tangdenpaisal et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Quorum sensing inhibitors of <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (Givskov et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7 and <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> (Seo et al. 2012), <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (Mharti et al. 2011)</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Candida albicans</i> (Orhan et al. 2007), <i>Curvularia lunata</i> (Brunskole et al. 2011)</li> <li>• Antiviral activity against Parainfluenza virus (Orhan et al. 2007)</li> <li>• Antidiabetic activity (Yang et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Used for treating degenerative and ischemic disorders (Mootha et al. 2010)</li> <li>• Anticancer activity against human oral squamous cell carcinoma cells (Hatano et al. 2009), murine mammary cancer DA3 cells (Alvarez et al. 2009), hepatic carcinoma cells Huh7 (Kumar et al. 2015)</li> </ul>

activities mentioned above. Among the 15 compounds identified from brain methanol extracts, 3 of them (Cpd11: 2-amino-3,6-dimethylimidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine, Cpd18: 2-isopropoxy-5-phenyl-1,3,4-oxadiazole, and Cpd20: 4,4'-(iminomethylene)bis(*N,N*-dimethylaniline) have reported biological activities. However, Cpd8: 1,4-dihydro-2,3-benzoxathin-3-oxide and Cpd9: 2,2,4,7a-tetramethyl-6-(phenylsulfonyl)-3a,4,5,7a-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*][1,3] dioxole do not have any reported biological activities. The remaining 10 compounds

have homologous structures, reported in the literature with various biological activities (Table 1).

For haemolymph lysates, several homologous compounds were shown to possess biologically active molecules. For example, compounds 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 37 were shown to possess antimicrobial activities against a broad range of microorganisms including bacteria such as *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus anthracis*, *Bacillus mycoides*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Proteus vulgaris*,

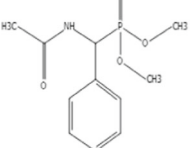
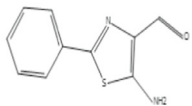
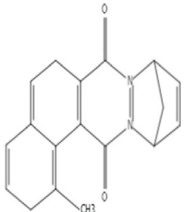
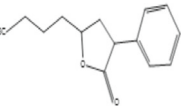
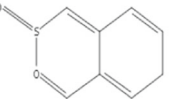
**Table 2** (continued)

4	2-Phenylpyrido[1',2',1,2]imidazo[4,5]tropolone	$C_{18}H_{12}N_2O_2$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act as neuroprotective agent by inducing oxidation of protein disulfide isomerase (Kaplan et al. 2015)</li> <li>Antiparasitic agents that specifically target parasitic worm embryos (Ryder 2010)</li> <li>Anticancer activity against MCF-7 breast cancer cells (Tapia et al. 2009)</li> <li>Used for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (Wynne et al. 2008)</li> <li>Antiprotozoal activity against <i>Plasmodium</i> and <i>Theileria</i> (Rathore et al. 2007)</li> <li>Used for the prevention and treatment of gastrointestinal diseases by inhibition of acid secretion (Simon et al. 1998)</li> <li>Nitric oxide synthase (nos) inhibitors (Mjalli et al. 1998)</li> <li>Fungicidal activity (O'Mahony et al. 1997)</li> </ul>
5	3-Phthalimidopropion aldehyde	$C_{11}H_9NO_3$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insecticidal activity (Rico and Van 2015)</li> <li>Anticancer and fluorescence activity (Funk et al. 2015)</li> </ul>
6	<i>N</i> -(1-Allyl-3-butenyl)- <i>N</i> -( <i>p</i> -acetylphenyl)amine	$C_{15}H_{19}NO$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antiviral activity against HIV-1 (Pery et al. 2015)</li> <li>Anti-inflammatory activity (Zarzycka et al. 2015)</li> <li>Used to treat obesity (Richardson and Campbell 2015)</li> <li>Antidiabetic activity (Tomizawa et al. 2014)</li> <li>Anticancer activity against prostate (PC3), cervical (HeLa), and breast (MCF7) cells (Istanbullu et al. 2014)</li> <li>Psychoactive agent (Elliott and Evans 2014)</li> </ul>
7	<i>N</i> -Benzyl (4-phenyl-3-propyl-1-oxaspiri[4,5]dec-3-enylidene)amine	$C_{25}H_{29}NO$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No biological activity reported</li> </ul>
8	2-(4,7-Dihydro-1 <i>H</i> -indol-3-yl)acetic acid	$C_{10}H_9NO_2$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insect repellent activity (Ray and Boyle 2011)</li> <li>Antipsychotic activity (Heffernan et al. 2011)</li> <li>Anti-inflammatory activity (Vance and Kambam 2007)</li> <li>Used for the treatment of pain (Macias 2001)</li> <li>Useful for the treatment of renal dysfunction (Macias and Meador 2001)</li> <li>Useful for the treatment of thrombosis (Girard et al. 1989)</li> </ul>

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, *Pasturella multivida*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, etc.; fungi such as *Aspergillus niger*, *Fusarium proliferatum*, *Aspergillus parasiticus*, *Trichoderma reesei*, *Candida albicans*, *Curvularia lunata*, *Geotrichum candidum*, *Pyricularia oryzae*, *Helminthosporium oryzae*,

*Rhizoctonia bataticola*, *Alternata alternata*, *Pythium aphanidermatum*, *Fusarium solani*, and *Sclerotium folfsi*; *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*; parasites such as *Leishmania chagasi*; parasitic worm embryos; *Plasmodium*, *Toxoplasma*, and *Theileria*; phytoparasitic nematodes; viruses such as HIV-1, HSV-1, HSV-2, parainfluenza virus, tobacco mosaic virus,

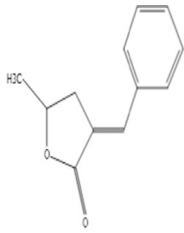
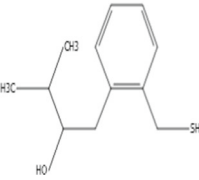
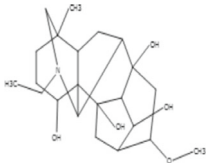
**Table 2** (continued)

9	Dimethyl (acetamido(phenyl)methyl)phosphonate	$C_{11}H_{16}NO_4P$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Binding potency with Src SH2 protein (Deprez et al. 2002)</li> <li>• Act as inhibitors of cathepsin C (Pawelczap et al. 1998)</li> <li>• Herbicidal activity (Sasaki et al. 1996)</li> <li>• Cytostatic activity against KB cell line (contaminant of HeLa cells) (Dus et al. 1984)</li> </ul>
10	5-Amino-2-phenylthiazole-4-carbaldehyde	$C_{10}H_8N_2OS$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> (Bondock et al. 2013), <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> and <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> (Chen et al. 2012), <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> MRSA, <i>Escherichia coli</i> (Sadek and Faelelbom 2011)</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Geotricum candidum</i> (Bondock et al. 2013), <i>Aspergillus niger</i> (Sadek and Faelelbom 2011)</li> <li>• Anti-viral activity against <i>Norovirus</i> (Rademacher et al. 2011), flavi-virus activity (Mayhoub et al. 2011), retroviruses (Hanuske-Abel et al. 2005)</li> <li>• Used for treatment of cancer and related hyperproliferative disorders (Uesugi et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Anticancer activity against prostate cancer cells (Lack et al. 2011), colon cancer cells (Ontoria et al. 2009)</li> <li>• Used for the treatment of metabolic disorders, e.g., diabetes and obesity (Uesugi et al. 2013)</li> </ul>
11	1-Methyl-[14-(13)C]-9,12-methanobenzo[h]pyridazino[1,2-b]phthalazine-7,14-dione	$C_{18}H_{14}N_2O_2$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act as glycogen synthase kinase 3 beta inhibitors (Alisi et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Act as cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors (Raffa et al. 2009)</li> <li>• Act as tyrosine kinase inhibitors (Jansen et al. 2005)</li> <li>• Analgesic activity (Alisi et al. 2010)</li> <li>• Useful in the treatment of digestive tract disorders (Suzuki et al. 2000)</li> <li>• Useful as antiemetics (Kon et al. 1991)</li> <li>• Antiarrhythmic activity (Kane and Levine 1981)</li> </ul>
12	5-Butyl-3-phenyltetrahydrofuran-2-one	$C_{14}H_{18}O_2$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Bacillus cereus</i>, <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> and <i>Escherichia coli</i> (Bajpai et al. 2014), <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>, <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (Mehetre 2013)</li> <li>• Antitumor activity against A549 (adenocarcinomic human alveolar basal epithelial cells), CNE (nasopharyngeal epithelial), MCF-7 (breast cancer cells), NCI-H460 (human lung cancer cells), HepG2 (hepatocellular carcinoma cells), and KB-3-1 cells (cervix carcinoma cells) (Su et al. 2013)</li> </ul>
13	1,4-Dihydro-2,3-benzoxathin-3-oxide	$C_8H_8O_2S$		No biological activity reported

norovirus, and flavivirus, Avian influenza virus (H5N1). Moreover, compounds 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, and 35 were shown to possess anti-tumour activities against ovarian, hepatic, lung, prostate,

nasopharyngeal, colon, skin, and vincristine-resistant nasopharyngeal, breast cancer, as well as in the treatment of metabolic disorders, inflammation, diabetes, neurodegenerative diseases, convulsing disease, platelet-related disease conditions.

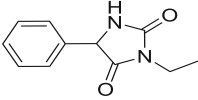
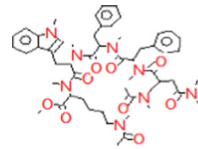
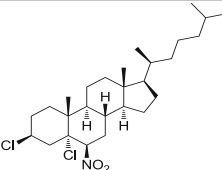
**Table 2** (continued)

14	(E)-3-Benzylidene-5-methyl-2,3-dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>, <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>, <i>Escherichia coli</i>, and <i>Salmonella typhi</i> (Mehetre et al. 2013), <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> (Miyazawa et al. 2000)</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Candida albicans</i> (Husain et al. 2006) <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> and <i>Aspergillus niger</i> (Miyazawa et al. 2000)</li> <li>• Anti-avian influenza virus (H5N1) activity (Flefel et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Nematocidal activity against phytoparasitic nematodes (Gonzalez et al. 1995)</li> <li>• Anticancer activity against A549: human lung cancer, NIH3T: fibroblast cancer, SK-OV-3: human ovarian cancer (Bang et al. 2004), neoplastic hepatoma cells (HTC) (Schlewer et al. 1979)</li> <li>• Analgesic and anti-inflammatory properties with reduced gastrointestinal toxicity and lipid peroxidation (Alam et al. 2009)</li> </ul>
15	1-[2-(Mercaptomethyl)phenyl]-3-methyl-2-butanol	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>18</sub> OS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used in perfume compositions (Robvieux and Blanc 2015)</li> <li>• Act as TRPA1 (Transient receptor potential cation channel, member A1) activity inhibitor that can relieve irritation of the skin and mucous membranes (Kinoshita et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Pesticidal and/or acaricidal activity (Kim and Jung et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Antidiabetic activity against type 2 diabetes mellitus (Ley et al. 2011)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Corynebacterium xerosis</i>, <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> and <i>Brevibacterium epidermidis</i> (Schmaus et al. 2006)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against Gram-positive bacteria including</li> </ul>
				<p>those responsible for body odor, blemished skin or bad breath (Reckziegel et al. 2005)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anticancer activities against human ovarian carcinoma cells (HO-8910) and human hepatoma cells (Bel-7402) (Sun et al. 2005)</li> </ul>
16	KARAKOLIDINE	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>35</sub> NO <sub>5</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antioxidant activity</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> and <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (Yin et al. 2015), <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>, <i>Escherichia coli</i> (Sinam et al. 2012) <i>Bacillus mycoides</i>, <i>Proteus vulgaris</i>,</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Verticillium alboatrum</i>, <i>Colletrichum lagenarium</i>, <i>Alternaria alternata</i></li> <li>• Antiparasitic activity against <i>Phytophthora infestans</i> (Yuan and Wang 2012)</li> <li>• Antiviral activity against tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) (Huang et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Used to treat cancer and postoperative pain (Yang et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antiproliferative activity against lung (A549), prostate (DU145), nasopharyngeal (KB), and vincristine resistant nasopharyngeal (KB-VIN) cancer cell lines (Wada et al. 2015), human breast cancer cell resistant to tamoxifen MCF-7/TAM (Chen and Chen 2012)</li> <li>• Antidiabetic activity (Han et al. 2014)</li> </ul>

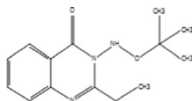
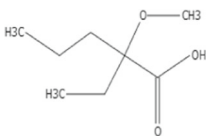
Out of 19 compounds identified in haemolymph water lysates, 5 were shown to possess biological activities including

Cpd2: 3,6-dimethylbenzofuran-4-ol, Cpd3: 6,7-dimethoxy-1-methoxymethyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline, Cpd5: 3-

**Table 2** (continued)

17	3-Ethyl-5-phenylimidazolidine-2,4-dione	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethotoin an anticonvulsant drug (Leal and Troupin 1977)</li> <li>Bioactive hydantoin alkaloids from the Red Sea marine sponge <i>Hemimyscale arabica</i> (Youssef et al.2015)</li> </ul>
18	N <sup>2</sup> -Acetyl-N <sup>2</sup> ,N <sup>4</sup> ,N <sup>4</sup> -trimethyl-L-Asn-N-methyl-L-Phe-N-methyl-L-Phe-N,1-dimethyl-L-Trp-N <sup>6</sup> -acetyl-N <sup>2</sup> ,N <sup>6</sup> -dimethyl-L-Lys-OMe	C <sub>53</sub> H <sub>72</sub> N <sub>8</sub> O <sub>9</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act as myotropic peptide, from <i>Periplaneta americana</i> (Brown et al. 1975)</li> </ul>
19	Cholestane,3,5-dichloro-6-nitro-(3beta,5alpha,6beta)	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>45</sub> C <sub>12</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A phyto component in the methanolic extract of <i>Oldenlandia umbellata</i> (De et al. 2013)</li> <li>Improves left ventricular diastolic function (He and Xue 2014)</li> <li>Involved in the treatment of first-episode schizophrenia (Wang and Jin 2014)</li> <li>Antibacterial activity against <i>Bacillus cereus</i> (Sun et al. 2015)</li> <li>Therapeutic effect for high uric acid disease and Alzheimer's disease (Yan and Xiao 2015)</li> <li>Antitumor activity and inhibitory effect on thermal-induced protein denaturation (Rauf et al. 2015)</li> <li>Lipid-lowering activity in HepG2 hepatocytes (Zhu et al. 2015)</li> </ul>

## Compounds identified from the methanol-extracted haemolymph

20	2-Ethyl-3- <i>tert</i> -butoxyaminoquinazolin-4(3 <i>H</i> )-one	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antifungal activity against (<i>Fusarium proliferatum</i>, <i>Aspergillus parasiticus</i>, <i>Aspergillus niger</i>, <i>Trichoderma reesei</i> (Karakaya, et.al 2013), <i>Candida albicans</i> (Peter and Lucky 2014)</li> <li>Antifungal activity against (<i>F. proliferatum</i>, <i>A. parasiticus</i>, <i>A. niger</i>, <i>T. reesei</i> (Karakaya, et.al 2013), <i>Candida albicans</i> (Peter and Lucky 2014)</li> <li>Antiviral activity against HIV (Sanchez et al. 2013)</li> <li>Antiparasitic activity against malaria and toxoplasmosis (Riscoe et al. 2011)</li> <li>Anticonvulsant activity (Chikhale et al. 2012)</li> <li>Antihyperlipidemic activities (Ganguli et al. 2012)</li> </ul>
21	2-Ethyl-2-methoxypentanoic acid	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formed as a part of product in methionine salvage pathway (Dai et al. 2001)</li> <li>Act as germination inhibitors (Fu et al. 2015)</li> <li>Used to retain antigenic properties of glutamate dehydrogenase (Bettsworth and Martinez 2015)</li> </ul>

phthalimidopropionaldehyde, Cpd17: 3-ethyl-5-phenylimidazolidine-2,4-dione, and Cpd19: cholestane,3,5-dichloro-6-nitro-(3beta, 5alpha, 6beta) (Table 2). For homologous searches, all compounds except Cpd7: *N*-benzyl (4-phenyl-3-propyl-1-oxaspiri[4,5]dec-3-enylidene) amine

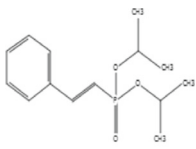
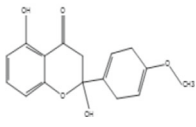
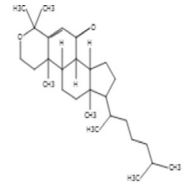
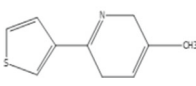
possess reported biological activities (Table 2). For methanol-extracted haemolymph lysates, 18 compounds were identified and 5 of them were shown to possess biological activities including Cpd21: 2-ethyl-2-methoxypentanoic acid, Cpd23: 7-(isopropoxy)-2,2,5-trimethylchromene, Cpd29: 5-

**Table 2** (continued)

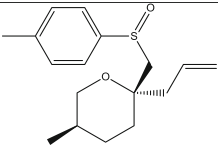
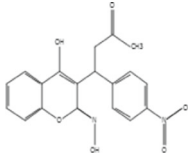
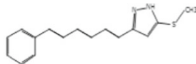
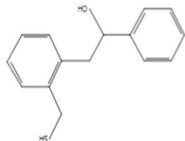
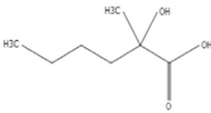
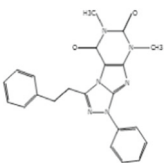
22	(8 <i>R</i> ,8 <i>aS</i> )-8-[( <i>p</i> -Toluenesulfonyl)perhydro-3-indolizidinone	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>19</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> S		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pesticidal activities (Schnatterer et al. 2009)</li> </ul>
23	7-(Isopropoxy)-2,2,5-trimethylchromene	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiallatal activity against <i>Caenorhabditis remanei</i> (nematode) (Fodor et al. 1989)</li> <li>• Leishmanicidal activity (Lima et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> and <i>Escherichia coli</i> (George et al. 2015), <i>Bacillus megaterium</i>, (Hussain et al. 2014), <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>, and <i>Micrococcus lysodeikticus</i> (Mihailovic et al. 2011)</li> <li>• Antialgal activities against <i>Chlorella fusca</i> (Hussain et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Penicillium</i> sp., <i>Candida albicans</i>, <i>Aspergillus glaucus</i> and <i>Trichoderma viride</i>, (Mihailovic et al. 2011), <i>Microbotryum violaceum</i> (Hussain et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Anticancer activity against breast, prostate, lung, colon, skin cancer cells (Di Marzo et al. 2008), Dalton's lymphoma ascites cells (George et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Used in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases,</li> <li>• Anti-inflammatory and antiviral activities (Oberbauer et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Used in therapy for diabetes and atherosclerosis (Korthout 2012)</li> </ul>
24	<i>N</i> -(2-Methyl-3-butyl-3,4-pentadienyl)- <i>p</i> -toluenesulfonamide	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>25</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anticancer activity against prostate cancer cells (Arora and Sawyers 2015), breast cancer cells (Ren et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Alkaline phosphatase inhibitors (al-Rashida et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Used to treat Alzheimer's disease (Aziz-ur-Rehman et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against yeast, <i>Fusarium solani</i>, <i>Fusarium moniliforme</i>, <i>Penicillium expansum</i> and <i>Cladosporium cladosporioides</i> (Philip Kodi 2014)</li> <li>• Antileishmanial activity (Tiunan et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Antiviral activity against HIV 1 (Bruening et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Antidiabetic activity (Frederico et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Antigenotoxic activity in hypothyroidism (Celikler et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Carbonic anhydrase IX and XII inhibitors (Rosatelli et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Antimycobacterial activity (Villemagne et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Sensitizes Gram-positive bacterial pathogens to beta-lactam antibiotics (Rajagopal et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Escherichia coli</i> and <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (Ajani et al. 2013)</li> </ul>
25	5-Ethyl-6,7-dihydro-5 <i>H</i> -cyclopentapyrazine	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anticancer activity (Gyorfi et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Used to treat platelet-related disease conditions, thrombotic events, thrombosis, cardiovascular diseases, myocardial infarction, stroke, deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism, and respiratory disease conditions such as cystic fibrosis, bronchial asthma, and obstructive airway diseases, also useful as a male contraceptive (Fung et al. 2008)</li> </ul>



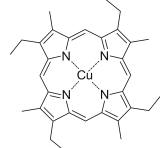
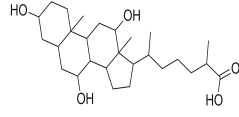
**Table 2** (continued)

26	Diisopropyl 2-phenylethenylphosphonate	$C_{14}H_{21}O_3P$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antioxidant activity,</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Bacillus subtilis</i>, <i>Pasturella multocoda</i>, <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (Jahangir et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Act as inhibitors of relaxase activity and conjugative DNA transfer (Lujan et al. 2007)</li> <li>• Used for treating tissue ischemia (Tracey et al. 2000)</li> <li>• Growth-regulating and herbicidal activities (Vassilev 1995)</li> <li>• Anticholesteremic activity (Harada et al. 1996)</li> <li>• Anti-inflammatory and anti-arthritic agents (Johnson 1996)</li> <li>• Act as virucides against Herpes simplex virus (Peyman et al. 1991)</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Pyricularia oryzae</i>, <i>Helminthosporium oryzae</i>, <i>Rhizoctonia bataticola</i>, <i>Alternata alternata</i>, <i>Pythium aphanidermatum</i>, <i>Fusarium solani</i>, and <i>Sclerotium folpsi</i> (Roy and Taneja 1989), <i>Aspergillus niger</i> and <i>Alternaria fusarium</i> (Jahangir et al. 2013)</li> </ul>
27	2,5-Dihydroxy-4'-methoxy-flavanone	$C_{16}H_{14}O_5$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antioxidant activity, enhance lipid metabolism, anticancer activity against hepatic carcinoma (Chung et al. 2013) (Yen et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Act as stimulants to enhance the expression of NKG2D ligands (Kim and Lee 2015)</li> </ul>
28	4,4-Dimethyl-3-oxacholest-5-en-7-one	$C_{28}H_{46}O_2$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improves left ventricular diastolic function (He and Xue 2014)</li> <li>• Involved in the treatment of first-episode schizophrenia (Wang and Jin 2014)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Bacillus cereus</i> (Sun et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Therapeutic effect for high uric acid disease and Alzheimer's disease (Yan and Xiao 2015)</li> <li>• Antitumor activity and inhibitory effect on thermal-induced protein denaturation (Rauf et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Lipid-lowering activity in HepG2 hepatocytes. (Zhu et al. 2015)</li> </ul>
29	5-Methyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)pyridine	$C_{10}H_9NS$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act as 17-beta hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase-II inhibitors useful for treating cancer, hypercholesterolemia, non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, osteopenia, etc. (Wood et al. 2002)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> (Verbitskiy et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Anti-HIV-1 activity (Ganguly and Murugesan 2011)</li> <li>• Act as inhibitors of influenza endonuclease activity (Bauman et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Anticancer activity against MCF-7 (breast cancer), H-460 (lung cancer), and SF-268 (glioblastoma) cells (Kouznetsov et al. 2012)</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against dermatophytes (Gomez et al. 2008), <i>Sphaerotheca fuliginea</i> (Tamao et al. 1986)</li> <li>• Antiparasitic activity against <i>Leishmania chagasi</i> and <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> (Kouznetsov et al. 2007)</li> <li>• Used for treating or preventing a disorder of lipid metabolism (pain, diabetes, a vascular condition, demyelination, or</li> </ul>

**Table 2** (continued)

				nonalcoholic fatty liver disease) (Aslanian et al. 2008)
30	(2 <i>S</i> ,5 <i>R</i> , <i>R</i> s)-2-Allyl-5-methyl-2-( <i>p</i> -tolylsulfanyl)methyl)tetrahydropyran	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>2</sub> S		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antimalarial activity against <i>Plasmodium falciparum</i> (Bachi et al. 1998)</li> </ul>
31	4-Hydroxy-3-[1'-( <i>p</i> -nitrophenyl)-3'-oxobutyl]-2 <i>H</i> -[1]benzopyran-2-one - oxime	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used for treating and/or preventing a cardiovascular event (Nidorf 2015)</li> <li>• Anticoagulant activity (Weitz 2014)</li> <li>• Used for modulating ferroptosis and treatment of excitotoxic disorders (Stockwell et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Used for treating serine protease-related disease (Wei et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Useful for treating hyperproliferative disorders, e.g. cancer (Hamdy et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Used for the treatment and prevention of thromboembolic disease (Antoniou Sotiris 2015)</li> <li>• Antiviral activity against Herpes virus infection (Yuan and Xu 2015)</li> <li>• Used for treatment of pulmonary hypertension (Makowski et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Used for treating neurodegenerative disorders or cognitive deficits (Hung 2015)</li> </ul>
32	5-Methylthio-3-(6-phenyl-1,3,5-hexatrienyl)pyrazole	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>2</sub> S		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used for treating and preventing demyelinating diseases including multiple sclerosis, and traumatic injury (Yuzhakov 2011)</li> <li>• Antileishmanial activity (Sunduru et al. 2006)</li> </ul>
33	2-[2-(Mercaptomethyl)phenyl]-1-phenylethanol	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>16</sub> OS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wound-healing property (Dente E.L. 2014)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Enterococcus faecium</i> and <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> (Orabi et al. 2014)</li> </ul>
34	2-Hydroxy-2-methylhexanoic acid	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antisecretory activity (Guzzi et al. 1986)</li> <li>• Used in food preservation (Kosakai and Hirose 2015)</li> </ul>
35	1,3-Dimethyl-2,4-dioxo-6-(2-phenylethenyl)-8-phenyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro[1.2.4...	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>18</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act as osteoblast activator used for the treatment of osteoporosis (Liou et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Used for the treatment of Parkinson's disease (Kasai 2014)</li> <li>• Act as aldehyde dehydrogenase 1A1 inhibitors used to treat diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's disease, obesity, and cataracts (Morgan and Hurley 2015)</li> <li>• Act as inhibitors of pre-mRNA splicing (Pawellek et al. 2014)</li> </ul>

**Table 2** (continued)

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act as ROS kinase inhibitor (Grueneberg et al. 2014)</li> </ul>
36	2,7,12,17-Tetraethyl-3,8,13,18-tetramethyl-21 <i>H</i> ,23 <i>H</i> -porphine copper	C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>36</sub> N <sub>4</sub> Cu		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used in photodynamic therapy (Bonnett et al. 2002)</li> <li>Involved in photosynthesis reactions (Engelsma et al. 1962)</li> </ul>
37	2-Methyl-6-(3,7,12-trihydroxy-10,13-dimethylhexadecahydro-1 <i>H</i> -cyclopenta[ <i>a</i> ]phenanthren-17-yl)heptanoic acid	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>46</sub> O <sub>5</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bile acid derivatives (Li et al. 2009)</li> <li>Broad-spectrum antibacterial activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria (Savage and Li 2000)</li> </ul>

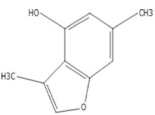
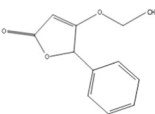
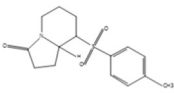
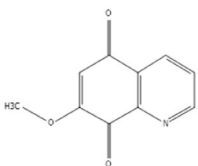
methyl-2-(thiophen-2-yl)pyridine, Cpd34: 2-hydroxy-2-methylhexanoic acid, and Cpd36: 2,7,12,17-tetraethyl-3,8,13,18-tetramethyl-21*H*,23*H*-porphine copper (Table 2). The remaining compounds have homologous structures, reported in the literature with various biological activities (Table 2).

When compared with compounds extracted from muscle lysates with no antibacterial activity, out of a total of 20 compounds identified from cockroach brain lysates, 5 of them were found to be common in muscle lysates and brain lysates, indicating that possibly these were the compounds which are not responsible for the tested biological activities. However, the remaining 15 compounds were absent in the muscle lysates and these included, i.e., Cpd 2: (3*S*,6*S*,6*aS*,8*S*,10*S*,11*aR*,12*R*,12*aS*,13*S*)-1-ethyl-8,10,13-trimethoxy-3-(methoxymethyl)tetradecahydro-1*H*-3,6*a*,12-(epiethane[1,1,2]triyl)-7,9-methanonaphtho[2,3-*b*]azocine-6,11*a*,12-triol, Cpd 3: 3,6-dimethylbenzofuran-4(5*H*)-ol, Cpd 4: 3-((6-methoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinolin-1-yl)methyl)phenol, Cpd 5: 4-benzyl-4,5-dihydroisoxazole, Cpd6: 6*a*-hydroxy-4-methoxy-6*a*,6*b*,7,8,9,10,10*a*,10*b*-octahydro-6*H*-benzo[3,4]cyclobuta[1,2-*c*]chromen-6-one, Cpd 9: 2,2,4,7-tetramethyl-6-(phenylsulfonyl)-3*a*,4,5,7*a*-tetrahydrobenzo[*d*][1,3]dioxole, Cpd 10: 3-(2'-phenylethyl)-2,3-dihydro-6-phenyl-2,4-dioxo-4*H*-1,3-thiazine, Cpd 11: 2-amino-3,6-dimethylimidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine, Cpd 12: 3,9-dimethoxy-12,13-dihydro-5*H*-indolo[2,3-*a*]pyrrolo[3,4-*c*]carbazole-6-benzyl, Cpd 13: (*S,S*)-1,1-bis(ethoxycarbonyl)-2,2-bis-*p*-tolylsulfanyl-1-ethanol, Cpd 14: 1-methyl-[14-(13)*C*]-9,12-methanobenzo[*h*]pyridazino[1,2-*b*]phthalazine-7,14-dione, Cpd 15: allyl(2-nitro-1-phenylethyl)sulfane, Cpd 17: KARAKOLIDINE, Cpd 18: 2-isopropoxy-5-phenyl-1,3,4-oxadiazole, and Cpd 19: 1-(4-hydroxybenzyl)-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline-6,7-diol. However, compounds 1, 7, 8, 16, and 20 are common in muscles and indicated that these might not possess potent biological activities against MRSA and neuropathogenic *E.coli* K1.

## Discussion

Infectious diseases remain one of the leading causes of death worldwide (WHO 2002). Antibiotic-resistant bacteria continue to rise at an alarming rate (Nordmann et al. 2007; Devasahayam et al. 2010). Most currently available antibacterial drugs were discovered between 1940 and 1980 using traditional approaches, which have now become saturated. Most of the newer antibacterial drugs have arisen from chemical modification of existing antibiotic structures. Efforts to create new drugs using existing antibiotic scaffolds are challenging because these semi-synthetic derivatives are often not able to penetrate the bacterial cell wall adequately. More innovative, non-traditional strategies are therefore required in order to provide the urgently needed next generation of antimicrobial drugs. Insects represent a plentiful and untapped potential source of new antimicrobial drugs prompting us to investigate the antibacterial activity of their various tissues. The tissues of living multicellular organisms are potentially a rich source of nutrients for microbes, and effective strategies have to be developed by the host organism to prevent microbial digestion. Cockroach lysates prepared from fat body and muscle tissue showed no antibacterial activity against bacteria tested in this study. This is in contrast to previous studies, which showed that insect such as *Drosophila* fat body produce seven distinct antimicrobial peptides, which are then secreted into the haemolymph to participate in a systemic response to septic injuries (Clynen and Schoots 2009; Metz-Boutigue et al. 2003; Amiche et al. 1999; Salzet 2001). However, this response is mounted as a result of microbial challenge. Since cockroaches used in our study were not immune-stimulated, prior to dissection, this could explain why no antibacterial activity was seen in fat and muscle tissues, while limited activity was observed in the haemolymph. Future work will involve immune stimulation of the cockroach, prior to dissection, by injecting heat-killed bacteria into the haemocoel to

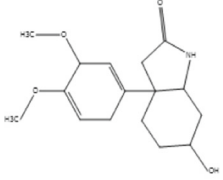
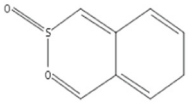
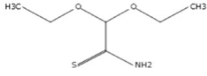
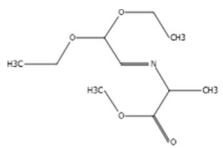
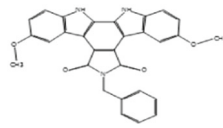
**Table 3** Compounds identified from the cockroach muscle lysates

No.	Compound	Formula	Structure	Reported activity
Compounds identified from the water-soluble muscle lysates				
1	3,6-Dimethylbenzofuran-4-ol	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herbicidal activity (Zhao et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Inhibition of LPS-induced muscle atrophy (Shiota et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Agonists for enhancing the olfactory effect (Huchel et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antiplatelet aggregation activities (Tang et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antiviral agent against Herpes virus (Yuan and Xu 2015)</li> </ul>
2	4-Ethoxy-5-phenyl-2,5-dihydrofuran-2-one	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>, antioxidant and anti-urease activities thus acting as antigastric ulcer agent (Wang et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Anticancer activity</li> <li>• Antiviral activity against influenza A virus subtype (H3N2) and swine flu (H1N1) viruses</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> (Sun et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Antiepileptic activity (Liu et al. 2013)</li> <li>• Analgesic activity (Kormann et al. 2012)</li> <li>• Anti-inflammatory and anticancer property (De Simone et al. 2010)</li> </ul>
3	(8 <i>R</i> ,8 <i>aS</i> )-8-[( <i>p</i> -Toluenesulfonyl)perhydro-3-indolizidinone]	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>19</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> S		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pesticidal activities (Schnatterer et al. 2009)</li> </ul>
4	7-Methoxy-5,8-quinolinequinone	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>7</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiviral activity against human immunodeficiency virus and avian myeloblastosis virus (Take et al. 1989), pox virus infections (Huegin Ambros 2012), West Nile virus (Puig-Basagoiti et al. 2009)</li> <li>• Used for treating neurodegenerative diseases (Chen 2013)</li> <li>• Antitrypanosomal activity (Ellendorff et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Bacillus cereus</i>, <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>, <i>Salmonella enterica</i>, <i>Shigella sonnei</i>, <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>, <i>Staphylococcus intermedius</i> (Yang and Lee 2015), <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (Naseem and Farrukh 2015) and <i>Bacillus subtilis</i></li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Candida albicans</i> (Chansukh et al. 2014), growth inhibitory activity against forest herbs and ectomycorrhiza fungi (Ruckli et al. 2014), dermatophyte fungi</li> <li>• Anticancer activity against cervical cancer (Braud et al. 2008), murine hepatome MH22a cells (Nemeikaite-Ceniene et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Cytotoxic activity against primary mice splenocytes (Miliukiene et al. 2014),</li> </ul>

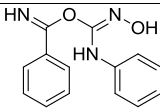
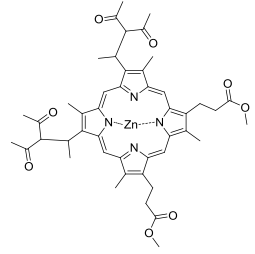
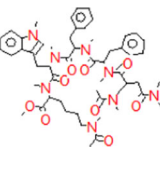
investigate if an inducible antibacterial effect can be detected. In contrast, cockroach brain lysates exhibited high

antibacterial activity against bacteria tested in the present study. Furthermore, high antibacterial activity was observed

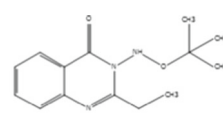
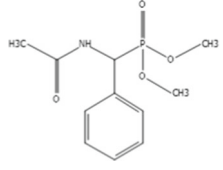
**Table 3** (continued)

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Useful in the treatment and control of diabetes, insulin resistance and hyperglycemia (Wilcke et al. 2008)</li> </ul>
5	2-Oxo-3a-[3,4-(dimethoxy)phenyl]-6-hydroxy-2,3,3a,4,5,6,7,7a-octahydroindole	$C_{16}H_{21}NO_4$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act as phosphodiesterase inhibitors useful to prevent the transmission of malaria parasites from humans to mosquitoes (Ramdani et al. 2015)</li> <li>Anti-inflammatory activity (Bauquier et al. 2015)</li> <li>Antiviral activity against influenza viral infections (Altmeyer et al. 2010)</li> <li>Used for the treatment of cancer (Piazza 2015)</li> <li>Anticancer activity against hepatocellular carcinoma (Sun et al. 2014), HCT-15 human colon cancer cells (Mareddy et al. 2013)</li> </ul>
6	1,4-Dihydro-2,3-benzoxathin-3-oxide	$C_8H_8O_2S$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No biological activity reported</li> </ul>
7	2,2-Diethoxythioacetamide	$C_6H_{13}NO_2S$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act as p38MAP kinase and/or TNF-alpha production inhibitor (Ohkawa et al. 2002), integrase inhibiting antiviral activity (Kiyama et al. 2003)</li> <li>Used to treat disorders of tryptophan-serotonin metabolism (Bur et al. 2015), used for treating obesity (Kasai et al. 2013), possess anti-inflammatory, and</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>anticancer activity and also used to treat disease associated with urinary system (Kawaminami et al. 2012)</li> <li>Antiproliferative activity (Cheng et al. 2011)</li> <li>Act as HIV protease inhibitors (Flentge et al. 2011), used for the treatment of atherosclerosis, thrombosis, coronary artery disease, hypertension, and cardiac insufficiency (Strobel et al. 2008)</li> <li>Antibacterial activity against methicillin-sensitive and methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and antifungal activity against <i>Aspergillus niger</i> and <i>Candida albicans</i> (Anthony et al. 2007)</li> </ul>
8	Methyl N-2,2-diethoxyethylidenealaninate	$C_{10}H_{19}NO_4$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used in insecticidal compositions (Groves et al. 2012)</li> </ul>
9	6-Benzyl-3,9-dimethoxy-12,13-dihydro-5H-indolo[2,3-a]pyrrolo[3,4-c]carbazole-5,7(6H)-dione	$C_{29}H_{21}N_3O_4$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anti-inflammatory and analgesic activities (Alanazi et al. 2015)</li> <li>TBK1 inhibitors (Richters et al. 2014)</li> </ul>

**Table 3** (continued)

10	Benzimidic ( <i>E</i> )- <i>N'</i> -hydroxy- <i>N</i> -phenylcarbamidic anhydride	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used for prophylaxis of vision, eating or cardiovascular disorders, and act as anxiolytic and antiemetic agents (Sit and Kai, 2003)</li> </ul>
11	Dimethyl 3,8-di(2,2-diacetyl-1-methylethyl)-2,7,12,18-tetramethyl-21 <i>H</i> ,23 <i>H</i> -porphine-13,17-dipropionate zinc(II)	C <sub>46</sub> H <sub>52</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>8</sub> Zn		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Photosensitizers of the porphyrin and phthalocyanine series for Photodynamic Therapy (Bonnett 1995)</li> </ul>
12	<i>N</i> 2-Acetyl- <i>N</i> 2, <i>N</i> 4, <i>N</i> 4-trimethyl- <i>L</i> -Asn- <i>N</i> -methyl- <i>L</i> -Phe- <i>N</i> -methyl- <i>L</i> -Phe- <i>N</i> ,1-dimethyl- <i>L</i> -Trp- <i>N</i> 6-acetyl- <i>N</i> 2, <i>N</i> 6-dimethyl- <i>L</i> -Lys-OMe	C <sub>53</sub> H <sub>72</sub> N <sub>8</sub> O <sub>9</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isolation of proctolin, a myotropic peptide, from <i>Periplaneta americana</i> (Brown and Starratt 1975)</li> </ul>

## Compounds identified from the methanol-extracted muscle lysates

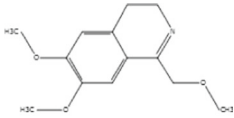
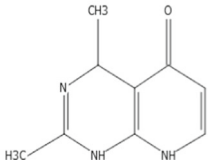
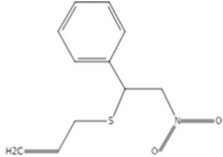
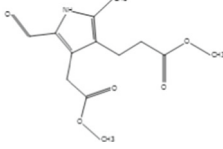
13.	2-Ethyl-3- <i>tert</i> -butoxyaminoquinazolin-4(3 <i>H</i> )-one	C <sub>14</sub> H <sub>19</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antibacterial activity against Gram-positive bacteria such as <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Bacillus</i> species, and <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>; Gram-negative bacteria such as <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i> and <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i></li> <li>Antifungal activity against fungi <i>Candida albicans</i> (Peter and Lucky 2014), filamentous fungi (<i>Fusarium proliferatum</i>, <i>Aspergillus parasiticus</i>, <i>Aspergillus niger</i>, <i>Trichoderma reesei</i>) (Karakaya et al. 2013)</li> <li>Antiviral activity against HIV (Sanchez et al. 2013)</li> <li>Antiparasitic activity against malaria and toxoplasmosis (Riscoe et al. 2011)</li> <li>Anticonvulsant activity (Chikhale et al. 2012)</li> <li>Antihyperlipidemic activities (Ganguli et al. 2012)</li> </ul>
14.	Dimethyl .alpha.-( <i>N</i> -acetylamino)benzylphosphonate	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>16</sub> NO <sub>4</sub> P		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Binding potency with Src SH2 protein (Deprez et al. 2002), act as inhibitors of cathepsin C (Pawelczap et al. 1998)</li> <li>Herbicidal activity (Sasaki et al. 1996)</li> <li>Cytostatic activity against KB cells (Dus et al. 1984)</li> </ul>

at micro-level, showing high potency of the active component(s), which is presumably present at even lower amounts. Moreover, antibacterial molecule(s) were less than 10 kDa in molecular mass, and non-toxic to human cells.

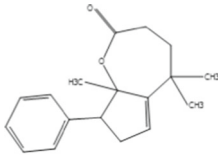
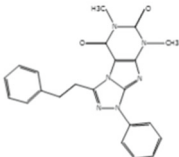
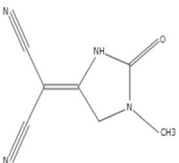
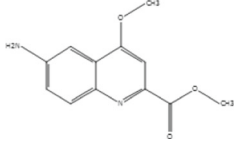
Using LC-MS, spectra was acquired from brain, haemolymph and muscles lysates. Out of hundreds of compounds, only few homologous compounds were identified (Tables 1, 2, and 3). The identified compounds possess characteristics in their structure like arrangement of specific

functional groups and presence of active components, which make them biologically significant for their potential therapeutic value against various infectious and non-infectious diseases. For example, several compounds in the brain lysates and haemolymph possess the isoquinoline group, chromene derivatives, thiazine groups, imidazoles, and pyrrole-containing analogs, and are biologically active against broad-spectrum microorganisms, such as bacteria, fungi, viruses, and parasites, and known to exhibit anti-tumour and

**Table 3** (continued)

15.	6,7-Dimethoxy-1-methoxymethyl-3,4-dihydroisoquinoline	$C_{13}H_{17}NO_3$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine derived lamellarin natural products (Tangdenpaisal et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Quorum sensing inhibitors of <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (Givskov et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7 and <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> (Seo et al. 2012), <i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i> (Mharti et al. 2011)</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Candida albicans</i> (Orhan et al. 2007), <i>Curvularia lunata</i> (Brunskole et al. 2011)</li> <li>• Antiviral activity against Parainfluenza virus (Orhan et al. 2007)</li> <li>• Anti diabetic activity (Yang et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Used for treating degenerative and ischemic disorders (Mootha et al. 2010)</li> <li>• Anticancer activity against human oral squamous cell carcinoma cells (Hatano et al. 2009), murine mammary cancer DA3 cells (Alvarez et al. 2009), hepatic carcinoma cells Huh7 (Kumar et al. 2015)</li> </ul>
16.	2,4-Dimethylpyrido[2,3-d]pyrimidin-5-one	$C_9H_9N_3O$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used for treating or preventing cancer e.g. human leukemic lymphoblast carcinoma or a neuropathic disorder, inducing a chemoprotective phase II enzyme, DNA, or protein synthesis, enhancing the immune system, treating inflammation (Danishefsky et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Used to treat IDO-mediated immunosuppression and immunosuppression associated with infectious</li> </ul>
				<p>diseases, including HIV-I., also used for cancer treatment and tumor-specific immunosuppression (Mautino et al. 2009)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used as anti-infectives (Levy et al. 2005)</li> <li>• Act as angiotensin II antagonists hence used to treat hypertension, diabetic nephropathy, congestive heart failure (Ellingboe et al. 1992)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against various Gram-negative bacteria and <i>Staphylococci</i> (Desplaces et al. 1986), <i>Escherichia coli</i> and <i>Staphylococci aureus</i> (Minami, et al. 1971)</li> </ul>
17.	2-(Allylthio)-1-nitro-2-phenylethane [1-(allylsulfanyl)-2-nitroethyl]benzene	$C_{11}H_{13}NO_2S$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used to treat metabolic disorders (Pellecchia 2008)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> (Gokce et al. 2004), <i>Escherichia coli</i></li> <li>• Antifungal activities against <i>Candida</i> species and dermatophytes (Bilich, et al. 1970)</li> <li>• Used for the treatment of seborrhea (Kalopissis and Manoussos 1976)</li> </ul>
18.	Methyl 5-formyl-4-methoxycarbonylmethyl-2-methylpyrrole-3-propionate	$C_{13}H_{17}NO_5$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-inflammatory activity (Indumathi et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Act as inhibitors against yeast alpha-glucosidase (Niaz et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antibacterial activity against ESBL isolates of <i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i> (Murthy et al. 2012) <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i></li> <li>• Antifungal activity against <i>Candida albicans</i></li> <li>• Anticancer activities against Hep G2 (liver), HeLa</li> </ul>

**Table 3** (continued)

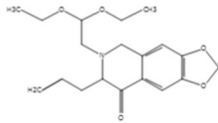
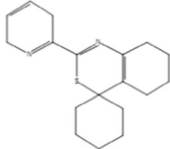
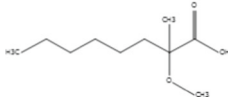
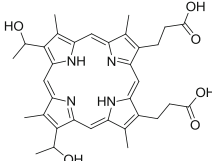
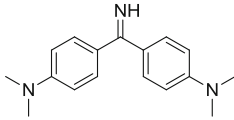
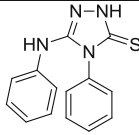

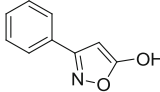
				<p>(cervical), MCF-7 (breast cancer) cells (Idhayadhulla et al. 2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Act as non-nucleoside HIV-1 RT inhibitors (Antonucci et al. 1995)</li> <li>• Used for treating liver diseases including necrosis, fatty hepatitis, and viral hepatitis (Giller et al. 1976)</li> </ul>
19.	1-Oxa-2-oxo-5,5,8a-trimethyl-8-phenylbicyclo[3.5.0(5a,8a)]dec-5(4a)-ene	$C_{18}H_{22}O_2$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (Emran et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Anticyanobacterial activity against <i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i> (Wang et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Antifungal activity against phytopathogenic fungi (Ma et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Melanin inhibiting and skin-whitening activity (Okabe 2015)</li> </ul>
20.	(E)-6,8-Dimethyl-1-phenyl-3-styryl-1H-[1,2,4]triazolo[3,4-f]purine-5,7(6H,8H)-dione	$C_{22}H_{18}N_6O_2$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used for the treatment of osteoporosis (Liou et al. 2015)</li> <li>• Used for the treatment of Parkinson's disease (Kasai 2014)</li> <li>• Used to treat diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's disease, obesity, and cataracts (Morgan and Hurley 2015)</li> <li>• Act as inhibitors of pre-mRNA splicing (Pawellek et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Act as ROS kinase inhibitor (Grüneberg et al. 2014)</li> </ul>
21.	(Dicyanomethylene)imidazolidinone	$C_7H_6N_4O$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antiproliferative activity against various cell lines including leukemia, melanoma LOX IMVI, non-small cell lung NCI-H522, renal 786-0, CAKI-1, SN12C, UO-31, breast MCF7, MDA-MB-435, T-47D, melanoma SK-MEL-5 cancer cell lines (Cesarini et al. 2009)</li> </ul>
22.	Methyl 6-amino-4-methoxy-2-quinolinecarboxylate	$C_{12}H_{12}N_2O_3$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antibacterial activity against <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> and <i>Chryseobacterium meningosepticum</i> (Zheng et al. 2014), <i>Escherichia coli</i> (De Troconis et al. 2000)</li> <li>• Antimycobacterial activity (Parmar et al. 2012)</li> <li>• Anti-apoptotic activity against A549 (lung carcinoma) and HeLa (cervical carcinoma) tumor cell lines (Zheng et al. 2014)</li> <li>• Antihyperglycemic activity (Moinet et al. 2005)</li> <li>• Antimalarial activity (Basak et al. 2010)</li> <li>• Used to treat disorders of white blood cells, such as inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, including rheumatism, as well as used as anticoagulant, antivenin, analgesic and for antithrombotic purposes (Correa et al. 2008)</li> <li>• Antiviral activity against orthopoxvirus (Zemtsova et al. 2011), HIV-1 integrase (Burke et al. 1995)</li> </ul>

anti-diabetic properties (Ali and El-Kazak 2010; Iwasa et al. 2001; Khafagy et al. 2002; Vennerstrom et al. 1995; Ozkay et al. 2010; Fachinetti et al. 2012; Bhardwaj et al. 2015).

Similarly, sulfonamides and furanones are found to possess active components to treat many tumours, possess broad-spectrum antimicrobial activities, and anti-inflammatory and



**Table 3** (continued)

23.	7-Allyl-6-(2,2-diethoxyethyl)-6,7-dihydro-[1,3]dioxolo[4,5-g]isoquinolin-8(5H)-one	$C_{19}H_{25}NO_5$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No biological activity reported</li> </ul>
24.	2-(3,6-Dihydropyridin-2-yl)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrospiro[benzo[d][1,3]thiazine-4,1'-cyclohexane]	$C_{18}H_{22}N_2S$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Useful for treating prostate and breast cancer (Bierer et al. 2002)</li> <li>Useful for treatment of digestive tract and mental disorders (Iwaoka et al. 1998)</li> </ul>
25.	2-Methoxy-2-methyloctanoic acid	$C_{10}H_{20}O_3$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antibacterial activity against biofilms in combination (Salas et al. 2014)</li> </ul>
26.	Hematoporphyrin	$C_{34}H_{38}NO_{46}$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Studies upon the physiological action of hematoporphyrin. (Smetana 1928)</li> <li>It is used in photodynamic therapy (Bonnett and Martinez 2001)</li> </ul>
27.	4,4'-(Iminomethylene)bis(N,N-dimethylaniline)	$C_{17}H_{21}N_3$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act as an aniline dye used as a disinfectant and an antiseptic agent. Used to stain <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> (Arrowood and Sterling 1989)</li> <li>Act as a toxic dye against wood-destroying fungi (Weaver et al. 1959)</li> </ul>
28.	4-Phenyl-3-(phenylamino)-1H-1,2,4-triazole-5(4H)-thione	$C_{14}H_{12}N_4S$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antibacterial activity against <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> and <i>Bacillus cereus</i> (Ghattas et al. 2012)</li> </ul>
29.	Thiomorpholine	$C_4H_9NS$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degradation by <i>Mycobacterium aurum</i> (Combourieu et al. 2000)</li> <li>Antibacterial activity against <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>, <i>Moraxalla catarrhalis</i> (Singh et al. 2003)</li> </ul>
30.	3-Phenylisoxazol-5-ol	$C_9H_7NO_2$		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antioxidant and antibacterial activities (Musad et al. 2011)</li> <li>Anticonvulsant activity (Eddington et al. 2002)</li> </ul>

analgesic properties (Ozbek et al. 2007; He et al. 2015; Rappai et al. 2009). Other compounds contained flavanones. Flavanones are naturally occurring compounds present in

fruits and vegetables and have considerable therapeutic potential in platelet inhibition and antibacterial, anti-tumour, and antioxidant properties (Cushnie and Lamb 2005).

Notably, the majority of compounds in this study remain unidentified and/or whose biological activities have not yet been reported. It is hoped that chemical identities of all compounds and *in vitro* testing for their antibacterial, anti-tumour, antioxidant, and anti-diabetic properties will determine their value for potential clinical applications. Although a detailed characterization of all compounds is needed, the present study suggests the potential significance of these naturally occurring compounds derived from novel sources, i.e., species living in challenging environments, can be a useful resource. To this end, insects such as cockroaches are potentially an important source of therapeutic molecules, as they share several environmental niches with humans and animals. This is evident from our findings that cockroach brain lysates possess potent antibacterial properties. Compared to vertebrates, the insects' nervous system is far more decentralized. Behavior such as feeding, movement, and mating is controlled by segmental ganglia running the length of the insects' body, instead of the brain. In some cases, the brain may stimulate or inhibit activity in the segmental ganglia. The neuronal cells of the brain synthesize neurotransmitter and neuropeptide chemical messengers to communicate with each other and with peripheral organs (Clynen and Schoots 2009; Metz-Boutigue et al. 2003; Amiche et al. 1999; Salzet 2001). These chemical messengers represent the highest physiological hierarchy in animals controlling many crucial biological processes. It is therefore essential to the survival of the organism that this system is constantly protected against challenge from pathogens or noxious agents. Constitutive expression of antibacterial factors could provide this protection as a first line of defense before an inducible response has had time to manifest. In addition to metabolites that may possess antibacterial activity and/or inflammatory mediators, large neuropeptide precursor molecules such as proenkephalin and prodermaseptin are known to be processed into smaller peptides, some of which have antibacterial activity (Clynen and Schoots 2009; Metz-Boutigue et al. 2003). The antimicrobial peptides have diverse amino acid sequences and structures, but most are small amphipathic, cationic peptides that exert their antimicrobial effect by disrupting the structural integrity of cell membranes.

In conclusion, these findings suggest that compounds present in cockroach brains are of potential therapeutic value. Further identification, characterization, and functional studies *in vitro* and *in vivo* using individual compounds can act as a breakthrough in developing novel therapeutics against various pathogens including superbugs. It is hoped that these molecules could eventually be developed into treatments for bacterial infections that are increasingly resistant to presently available drugs; however, this will require intensive research over the next few years.

**Compliance with ethical standards** This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

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**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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