

Review **Natural Products from Marine-Derived Fungi with Anti-Inflammatory Activity**

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Abstract: Inflammation is considered as one of the most primary protective innate immunity responses, closely related to the body's defense mechanism for responding to chemical, biological infections, or physical injuries. Furthermore, prolonged inflammation is undesirable, playing an important role in the development of various diseases, such as heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and even certain cancers. Marine-derived fungi represent promising sources of structurally novel bioactive natural products, and have been a focus of research for the development of anti-inflammatory drugs. This review covers secondary metabolites with anti-inflammatory activities from marine-derived fungi, over the period spanning August 2018 to July 2024. A total of 285 anti-inflammatory metabolites, including 156 novel compounds and 11 with novel skeleton structures, are described. Their structures are categorized into five categories: terpenoids, polyketides, nitrogen-containing compounds, steroids, and other classes. The biological targets, as well as the in vitro and in vivo screening models, were surveyed and statistically summarized. This paper aims to offer valuable insights to researchers in the exploration of natural products and the discovery of anti-inflammatory drugs.

Keywords: marine-derived fungi; marine natural products; anti-inflammatory

1. Introduction

Inflammation is considered as one of the most prime protective innate immunity responses, which is derived from the process of activation caused by the mammalian immune system. Inflammation is closely related to the body's defense mechanism, which responds to chemical, biological, or physical infections and damages [\[1,](#page-40-0)[2\]](#page-40-1). Furthermore, chronic inflammation, characterized by uncontrolled inflammation, can evolve into a persistent issue. It significantly contributes to the development of various diseases, including asthma, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and even certain cancers. Consequently, managing chronic inflammation and maintaining a balance between inflammatory and anti-inflammatory processes within the body is of considerable importance [\[3](#page-40-2)[–5\]](#page-40-3).

The revival of normal tissue homeostasis after exposure to injurious conditions is a beneficial consequence of inflammation, primarily orchestrated by a complicated set of defensive feedback interactions between soluble inflammatory mediators and cells [\[6](#page-40-4)[–8\]](#page-40-5). In the course of inflammation, activated immune monocytes and macrophages initiate the transactivation of various critical transcription factors. The well-known inflammatory

Citation: Qiu, Y.; Chen, S.; Yu, M.; Shi, J.; Liu, J.; Li, X.; Chen, J.; Sun, X.; Huang, G.; Zheng, C. Natural Products from Marine-Derived Fungi with Anti-Inflammatory Activity. *Mar. Drugs* **2024**, *22*, 433. [https://doi.org/](https://doi.org/10.3390/md22100433) [10.3390/md22100433](https://doi.org/10.3390/md22100433)

Academic Editor: Chang-Lun Shao

Received: 18 August 2024 Revised: 22 September 2024 Accepted: 23 September 2024 Published: 25 September 2024

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signal pathway, the NF-*κ*B (nuclear factor kappa-B) signal pathway, is classified as a canonical pathway. The activation of NF-*κ*B enhances the activity of downstream responses, including the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as interleukin-1*β* (IL-1*β*), interleukin-6 (IL-6), tumor necrosis factor (TNF-*α*), etc. It also increases the activity of pro-inflammatory enzymes, like inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) and cyclooxygenase 2 (COX-2), among others, leading to the generation of nitric oxide (NO) and prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) [\[9,](#page-40-6)[10\]](#page-40-7). The mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) signaling pathway, which includes extracellular signal-regulated kinases (ERK), p38 MAPK, and c-Jun NH2-terminal kinases (JNK), can also be activated by inflammation. This pathway regulates the transcription of various genes associated with inflammation, thereby amplifying the downstream inflammatory response. A multitude of inflammatory mediators and factors contribute to cellular damage and inflammation, manifesting as symptoms such as redness, pain, fever, and swelling [\[11,](#page-40-8)[12\]](#page-40-9). Consequently, targeting the reduction in these pro-inflammatory mediators can be an effective strategy for controlling and preventing chronic inflammatory diseases to a certain degree. Researchers typically assess anti-inflammatory activity by monitoring the suppressed expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines, the pro-inflammatory enzyme of COX-2, iNOS, and their derived production. A variety of proteins associated with inflammation were also tested in NF*-κ*B and MAPK signal pathways. These results were obtained from immune monocytes and macrophages, including BV2 and RAW264.7 cell lines, both in vitro, upon stimulation with lipopolysaccharides (LPS), and in vivo, by assessing the reduced swelling rate in a mouse ear edema model induced by phorbol myristate acetate (PMA) [\[13](#page-40-10)[–15\]](#page-40-11).

Toward the aim of discovering new natural products with anti-inflammatory activities, researchers discover novel sources in different environments. The oceans, with their unique aquatic environment and plentiful biodiversity, have garnered significant interest due to their rich reservoir of diverse secondary metabolites exhibiting potent anti-inflammatory, antitumor, antimicrobial, antiviral, antimalarial, and anti-oxidant activities. Marine natural products are of great value in drug development; approximately 20 natural lead molecules or compounds isolated from marine organisms have already become drugs, and even more are in clinical trials and the drug discovery pipeline [\[16–](#page-40-12)[19\]](#page-40-13). For example, lurbinectedin, isolated from *Ecteinascidia turbinata* (tunicate), was granted orphan status and approved for the treatment of adult metastatic small-cell lung cancer (SCLC) in 2020 by the US FDA. It can reduce tumor-associated macrophages and the inflammatory tumor microenvironment in preclinical models [\[20\]](#page-41-0). Echinochrome A, a natural polyhydroxy-1,4-naphthoquinone pigment from the sea urchin *Scaphechinus mirabilis*, has been in clinical use since 1999. The drug exerts a therapeutic cytoprotective effect and is predominantly utilized in Russia to treat a variety of diseases, including the degeneration of the macula, retina, and cornea, circulatory disorder of the retina, and myocardial ischemia/reperfusion injury. Moreover, echinochrome A effectively normalizes lipid metabolism, recovers antioxidant status, and reduces atherosclerotic inflammation. It serves as both an anti-inflammatory and as an antioxidant agent and is also advantageous for the treatment of atherosclerosis and metabolicsyndrome-related diseases [\[21\]](#page-41-1).

Among marine organisms, marine microorganisms are prolific producers of a multitude of novel bioactive secondary metabolites, which hold the potential to serve as promising lead molecules for drug development. Notably, marine-derived fungi play a vital role in the discovery of new anti-inflammatory drugs. Many novel secondary metabolites showing potent anti-inflammatory activities have been discovered from fungi that inhabit marine environments, including seawater, mangroves, sponges, corals, and sediments. Owing to their distinctive mechanisms of action, compounds derived from marine fungi have garnered increasing attention and have become one of the main areas of focus for the development of anti-inflammatory drugs [\[22,](#page-41-2)[23\]](#page-41-3).

Herein, 285 anti-inflammatory compounds reported from the beginning of August 2018 to July 2024 are included, and 96 references are cited in this review. This study comprehensively covers the chemical diversity and anti-inflammatory properties of 285 reported compounds, including 156 new compounds isolated from marine-derived fungi. The relevant biological and pharmacological activities of some potential compounds are also highlighted. Meanwhile, the structure-activity relationships of compounds with analogous chemical structures are discussed, which will benefit future drug development and innovation. This review provides valuable insights for researchers in the field of marine anti-inflammatory pharmacology and emphasizes the need for further research to harness the pharmacological benefits of marine-fungi-derived compounds for the development of effective and safe therapeutic agents.

2. Structural and Biological Activity Studies

Based on the literature search, 285 anti-inflammatory properties (1–285) were obtained from marine-derived fungi from 2018 to 2024. These compounds were structurally categorized into 53 terpenoids compounds, 110 polyketides compounds, 76 nitrogen-containing compounds, 20 steroid compounds, and 26 other compounds. The structures and the absolute configurations of the new and novel skeleton compounds were elucidated by a detailed spectroscopic analysis of NMR and MS data, time-dependent density functional theory (TDDFT)/ECD calculations, DP4+ probability predictions, single-crystal X-ray diffraction, *2.1. Terpenoids* and the Marfey, Snatzke, and Mosher methods.

2.1. Terpenoids \overline{S} Tructurally, the categorized into monoterpenoids, see set \overline{S}

Terpenoids are a class of natural compounds derived from isoprene or isopentane. Structurally, they can be categorized into monoterpenoids, sesquiterpenoids, diterpenoids, sesterterpenes, triterpenoids, meroterpenoids, and polyterpenes. A total of 53 anti-inflammatory terpenoids were found from the marine-derived fungi, comprised of two monoterpenoids, 20 sesquiterpenoids, 21 diterpenoids, and 10 meroterpenoids. Among them, 44 were new compounds, and two new compounds (1 and 46) had novel skeleton structures. noids, sesterterpenes, triterpenoids, meroterpenoids, and polyterpenes. A total of 53 antiinflamente for the marine-derived from the marine-derived from the marine-

2.1.1. Monoterpenoids and B (**1**) and B (**1**) and B (**1**) and B (**1**) and B (**2**), and B (**1**) and B (

Two new osmane-related monoterpenoids, aspermonoterpenoids A (1) and B (2), were isolated from the deep-sea sediment-derived fungus, Aspergillus sydowii MCCC 3A00324 (South Atlantic Ocean) (Figure [1\)](#page-2-0). Compound 1 possessed a novel monoterpenoid skeleton, and a plausible biosynthetic pathway for this compound was proposed in [\[24\]](#page-41-4). It is likely that 1 originated from the osmane-type monoterpenoid after cyclopentane ring cleavage and oxidation reactions (Scheme [1\)](#page-2-1) [\[24\]](#page-41-4). Additionally, compounds 1 and 2 exhibited dosedependent inhibitory activity against NO production in lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced RAW 264.7 cells at the concentrations of 20 and 10 µM, respectively [\[24\]](#page-41-4).

Figure 1. Anti-inflammatory monoterpenoids produced by marine fungi (1, 2).

Scheme 1. Plausible biogenetic pathway for compound **1** [24]. **Scheme 1.** Plausible biogenetic pathway for compound **1** [\[24\]](#page-41-4).

2.1.2. Sesquiterpenes Six new eremophilane sesquiterpenoids, paraconulones B−G (**3**−**8**), along with three known compounds, periconianone D (**9**), microsphaeropsisin (**10**), and 4-epi-micro-

2.1.2. Sesquiterpenes

Six new eremophilane sesquiterpenoids, paraconulones B–G (3–8), along with three known compounds, periconianone D (9), microsphaeropsisin (10), and 4-epi-microsphaeropsisin (11), were obtained from the marine-coastal-sediment-derived fungus, *Paraconiothyrium* sporulosum DL-16. Compounds 3 and 5 were the first examples of dimeric eremophilane sesquiterpenoids coupled through a C−C bond identified from microorganisms. The linkage of C-C bond in 3 was probably formed by a free radical coupling reaction, and the linkage in **5** could have been formed by a [2+2] cycloaddition reaction of two eremophilane units [\[25\]](#page-41-5). Compounds $3-6$, 8 , and 11 showed inhibitory effects on NO production in LPS-induced BV2 cells, with IC₅₀ values of 6.9 ± 2.6 , 7.7 ± 2.0 , 2.8 ± 0.5 , 8.1 ± 2.9 , 8.1 ± 3.5 , and $4.6 \pm 3.5 \mu$ M, respectively, which were comparable with or better than the positive control, curcumin $(IC_{50}, 8.6 \pm 1.6 \mu M)$. Compounds 7, 9, and 10 showed moderate or weak inhibitory effects on NO production in LPS-induced BV2 cells, with IC_{50} values of 40 ± 15 , and lithogarin $\frac{120}{17}$, $\frac{120}{17}$, $\frac{120}{17}$, $\frac{120}{17}$, $\frac{120}{17}$, $\frac{120}{17}$ 98 ± 17 , and 80 ± 38 μ M, respectively [\[25\]](#page-41-5). Seven new sesquiterpene derivatives, AA03390 (**12**), eremofortin F (**13**), eremofortins G−J (**14**−**17**), and lithocarin A (**18**), were isolated bour National Nature Reserve, Hainan Province, China). Compounds **12**–**18** showed pofrom the mangrove endophytic fungus *Phomopsis* sp. SYSU-QYP-23 (East Harbour National non the mangleve endophy he rangus *i homopolis sp.* 5150 Q11-25 (East Francour National
Nature Reserve, Hainan Province, China). Compounds **12–18** showed potent inhibitory value $\text{Resive}, \text{Haman 1 volume}, \text{Cerna}, \text{Componas 12, to showed point number, }$ activities against NO production in LPS-induced RAW 264.7 cells, with IC₅₀ values of 14.5, 13.5, 12.0, 8.6, 9.2, 13.5, and 10.5 μ M, respectively. In particular, compounds **15** and **16** showed potent inhibitory activities against NO production in LPS-induced RAW 264.7 cells, with IC_{50} values of 8.6 and 9.2 μ M, respectively. Compounds **12–14** and **17–18** exhibited moderate inhibitory activity compared to the positive control, NG-monomethyl-L-arginine \blacksquare (L-NMMA), with an IC_{50} value 15.0 μ M. All the compounds showed no cytotoxic effects at the tested concentration [\[26\]](#page-41-6). Two undescribed drimane sesquiterpenes, ustusolates H (19) and I (20), were separated from a seagrass-derived fungus, *Aspergillus insuetus* SYSU6925 (Zhuhai, Guangdong, China). Compounds 19 and 20 exhibited potent anti-inflammatory activity by inhibiting the production of NO in RAW264.7 cells, with IC_{50} values of 21.5 and 32.6 µM, respectively [\[27\]](#page-41-7). Two new sesquiterpenes, 21 and 22, were isolated from the mutant of the polar strain, *Eutypella* sp. D-1 (London Island of Kongsfjorden in Ny-Ålesund District, Arctic). Compounds 21 and 22 exhibited anti-inflammatory effects through inhibiting the release of NO from LPS-stimulated RAW264.7 cells. Furthermore, acorane-type sesquiterpene 22 could modulate the MAPK and NLRP3/caspase-1 signaling pathways and alleviate the CuSO₄-induced systemic neurological inflammation symptoms in a transgenic fluorescent zebrafish model [\[28\]](#page-41-8) (Figure [2\)](#page-4-0). [28] (Figure 2).

concentration of 2.5 µM [30]. Three new diterpenes with 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octalin skeletons, **Figure 2.** *Cont*.

Figure 2. Anti-inflammatory sesquiterpenes produced by marine fungi (**3**–**22**). **Figure 2.** Anti-inflammatory sesquiterpenes produced by marine fungi (**3**–**22**).

2.1.3. Diterpenoids 2.1.3. Diterpenoids

 $(28-30)$, L (31) , M (32) , and O–R $(33-36)$, together with two known analogs, sphaeropsidin C (37) and pleosmarane S (38), were found from the mangrove *Kandelia candel* endophytic sphaeropsidin C (**37**) and pleosmarane S (**38**), were found from the mangrove *Kandelia* fungus, *Pleosporales* sp. HNQQJ-1 (Dongzhai Harbor Mangrove Nature Reserve in Hainan *candel China*). Compounds **23–29** possess an unusual aromatic B ring and a 20-norisopimarane skeleton. Compounds 33–35 contain a unique 2-oxabicyclo [2.2.2]octane noiety. Compound 36 features a rare 2-oxabicyclo [3.2.1]octane moiety. Compounds **23–38** showed potent anti-inflammatory activities, with IC_{50} values of 30, 37, 38, 42, 42, 19, 35, 33, 25, 35, 37, 30, 33, 35, 31, and 40 μM, respectively, compared with the positive control (L-NMMA, 33 μ M). The preliminary structure—activity relationship (SAR) of these isopimarane-type diterpenoids indicated that the carbonyl group at C-14 in 23−28 appeared to contribute to the NO-inhibitory activity, based on the comparison of the activities of $23-27$ with those of 28. The more potent activities of 23, 24, 26, and 27 relative to those of 38 indicated that the methoxy group at C-14 was associated with enhancement of anti-inflammatory activity. Consequently, isopimarane diterpenoids have demonstrated significant potential as NO inhibitors and may be further explored as lead compounds for anti-inflammatory therapeutic applications [\[29\]](#page-41-9). The known diterpene, aspergillon A (39), was isolated from marine-derived fungus *Eutypella scoparia* GZU-4-19Y (Xuwen, Guangdong, China), which showed potent NO inhibition activity with IC₅₀ value of 2.0 μ M, and significantly suppressed the protein expression of iNOS and COX-2 at the concentration of 2.5 μ M [30]. Three new diterpenes with 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,8a-octalin skeletons, talaroacids A, B, and D (40−42), together with an isopimarane diterpenoid talaromarane Fourteen new isopimarane-type diterpenoids, pleosmaranes **A**–**D** (**23**–**26**), F (**27**), H–J A (**43**), were obtained from the mangrove endophytic fungus, *Talaromyces* sp. JNQQJ-4 (Jinniu Island Mangrove Nature Reserve, Guangzhou, China). Compound **43** contained a rare 2-oxabicyclo [3.2.1] octan moiety in isopimarane diterpenoids. Compound **41** had better anti-inflammatory activity than the positive control, quercetin (IC $_{50}$, 11.33 μ M), with an IC_{50} value of 4.59 μ M. Compounds **40, 42**, and **43** showed moderate anti-inflammatory activities, with IC_{50} values of 15.78, 21.60, and 13.38 μ M, respectively. In addition, the better activity of **40** and **41** compared with **42** indicated that the ∆ ¹⁴ double bond in the side chain made a contribution to the NO-inhibitory activity. Compound **41** might be worthy of further study as a potential anti-inflammatory lead compound. None of the compounds were cytotoxic to RAW264.7 cells at the tested concentrations [\[31\]](#page-41-11) (Figure [3\)](#page-5-0).

were cytotoxic to RAW264.7 cells at the tested concentrations \mathcal{S}^1

Figure 3. Anti-inflammatory diterpenoids produced by marine fungi (**23**–**43**). **Figure 3.** Anti-inflammatory diterpenoids produced by marine fungi (**23**–**43**).

2.1.4. Meroterpenoids

Two meroterpenoids, peniscmeroterpenoids A and D (**44** and **45**), were isolated from the marine *Onchidium* sp.-derived fungus, *Penicillium sclerotiorum* GZU-XW03-2. Compound **44** possessed an unprecedented and highly oxidized 6/7/6/5/5 pentacyclic system, featuring a unique tetrahydrofuro [2,3-b]furan-2(3H)-one motif. Compound **45** owned 6(*D*)/5(*E*) fused rings, which were not common in natural products. Compounds **44** and **45** inhibited the production of NO in RAW264.7 cells, with IC_{50} values of 26.60 \pm 1.15 and $8.79 \pm 1.22 \mu M$, respectively. Moreover, compound 45 significantly suppressed the production of pro-inflammatory mediators (COX-2, IL-1*β* and IL-6) and the protein expression of the enzyme iNOS, with an IC₅₀ value of 8.79 \pm 1.22 μ M [\[32\]](#page-41-12). Three new compounds, aspermeroterpene A–C (**46**–**48**), were isolated from the marine-derived fungus, *Aspergillus terreus* GZU 31-1. Their structures were elucidated by quantum chemical calculations, X-ray diffraction, and spectroscopic methods. Compound **46** had a highly congested 5/3/6/6/6/5 hexacyclic skeleton. The biogenetic pathway for **46**−**48** is pro-

posed in Scheme [2](#page-6-0) [\[33\]](#page-41-13). Compounds **46**−**48** showed potent inhibitory activity against LPS-induced NO production in RAW 264.7 cells, with IC₅₀ values of 17.8, 14.1, and 13.4 μ M, respectively, compared to the positive control (indomethacin, $IC_{50} = 24.0 \mu M$) [\[33\]](#page-41-13). A new meroterpenoid, terretonin D1 (**49**), and three known compounds, terretonin (**50**), terretonins A (**51**), and D (**52**), were isolated from marine *Pacific oyster*-derived fungus *Aspergillus terreus* ML-44 (Yangma lsland, Yantai, China). Compounds **49**−**52** inhibited the NO production of RAW264.7 macrophages stimulated by LPS, with inhibitory rates of 30.2% , 34.0% , 22.5% and 23.5% , respectively, at the concentration of $50 \mu g/mL$ [\[34\]](#page-41-14). One new undescribed diisoprenyl-cyclohexene-type meroterpenoid, aspergienyne C (**53**), was obtained from the mangrove *Kandelia cande* endophytic fungus *Aspergillus* sp. GXNU-Y65 (Beihai, China). Compound **53** significantly reduced the triglyceride (TG) content compared with fenofibrate (positive control) in palmitic acid + oleic acid-treated AML12 cells at the same concentration of 20 μM, and obviously increased the phosphorylation of acetyl-CoA carboxylase. No significant loss of cell viability was observed when the concentration of 53 was equal to or lower than 40 μM [\[35\]](#page-41-15) (Figure [4\)](#page-7-0). when renombrate (post

Scheme 2. Plausible biogenetic pathway of $46−48$ [\[33\]](#page-41-13).

Figure 4. *Cont*. ● **139**

Figure 4. Anti-inflammatory meroterpenoids produced by marine fungi (44–53).

2.2. Polyketides

Polyketides are a class of compounds distinguished by their structural diversity and a range of biological activities. They are synthesized by megaenzymes known as polyketide synthases (PKSs). These compounds were produced through a series of Claisen condensation reactions, typically employing acetyl-CoA, malonyl-CoA, and other substrates. A total of 110 anti-inflammatory polyketides have been isolated from marine-derived fungi, among which 60 are new compounds. Additionally, five of these new compounds (designated as **64**, **136**−**139**) possess novel skeleton structures.

2.2.1. Lactones

Two new polyketides, asperphenylpyrone (**54**) and aspercoumarine acid (**55**), were isolated from the deep-sea sediment-derived fungus, *Aspergillus sydowii* MCCC 3A00324 (South Atlantic Ocean). Compounds **54** and **55** exhibited dose-dependent inhibitory effects against NO production induced by the LPS at the concentrations of 20 and 10 μ M, respectively [\[24\]](#page-41-4). Four known polyketides, 6,8-dihydroxy-3-methylisocoumarine (**56**), (*S*)- 5,7-dichloro-6-methoxy-2-methyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-4-carboxylic acid (**57**), 5-chloro-6-hydroxymellein (**58**), and 3-methyl-6-hydroxy-8-methoxy-3,4-dihydroisocoumarin (**59**), were isolated from the mangrove *Avicennia marina* endophytic fungus *Amorosia* sp. SCSIO 4102 (Zhanjiang, Guangdong Province, China). Compounds **56**–**59** inhibited LPS-induced overproductions of NO and pro-inflammatory cytokines including IL-6, TNF-*α*, and MCP-1 in both mRNA and protein levels, with the condition that none of these compounds showed significant cytotoxicity. Compound **58** was identified as the most active compound, with strong anti-LPS-induced inflammation in RAW264.7 macrophages and in ALI mice, probably by inhibiting the PI3K/AKT signaling pathway. A preliminary SAR analysis was conducted, suggesting that the chlorine atom at C-5 and the hydrogen atom at C-7, together with the hydroxy group at C-8 in **58**, would probably increase the inflammatory activity, and the chlorine atom at C-7 may decrease the activity [\[36\]](#page-41-16). Two new *α*-pyrone derivatives, amphichopyrones A (**60**) and B (**61**), were obtained from the *Culturing ascidian*-derived fungus, *Amphichorda felina* SYSU-MS7908. The fungus was collected from the north atoll of the Xisha Islands in the South China Sea. Compounds **60** and **61** displayed potent anti-inflammatory activity by inhibiting NO production in RAW264.7 cells, with IC⁵⁰ values of 18.09 ± 4.83 and 7.18 ± 0.93 µM, respectively [\[37\]](#page-41-17). Nectriapyrone (**62**) was isolated from the ascidian-derived fungus, *Diaporthe* sp. SYSU-MS4722, and showed anti-inflammatory activity with an IC_{50} value of 35.4 μ M (positive control, indomethacin, IC₅₀ = 35.8 μ M) [\[38\]](#page-41-18). One known sorbicillinoid, trichopyrone (63), was identified from the mangrove *Hibiscus tiliaceus*-Linnn-derived fungus, *Penicillium* sp. DM815 (Wenchang, Hainan, China). It showed weakly inhibited LPS-induced NO release at 10 μ M [\[39\]](#page-41-19). One new unique isocoumarin, penicillol B (**64**), featuring a spiroketal ring, was isolated from the barks of the mangrove *Avicennia marinav* (Forsk.) endophytic fungus, *Penicillium* sp. BJR-P2 (Yangjiang Hailing Island Mangrove Wetland Park, China). Its absolute configuration was presented based on ECD calculation, DP4+ analysis, and single-crystal X-ray diffraction. The condensation of one mole of acetyl coenzyme A with six moles of malonyl coenzyme A results in the formation of a linear polyketide chain. Subsequent steps, including keto-reduction, cyclization, methylation, and hydroxylation lead to the production of **64** [\[40\]](#page-41-20). Compound **64** inhibited LPS-induced NO production in RAW 264.7 cells with

an IC₅₀ value of 12 µM, being more potent than the positive control, indomethacin (IC₅₀, 35.8 ± 5.7 μ M) [\[40\]](#page-41-20). One new polypropionate derivative, decempyrone C (65), and one known analogue, decempyrone J (**66**), were isolated from the marine sea-grass-derived fungus, *Fusarium decemcellulare* SYSU-MS6716 (Lingshui Xincungang and Li'angang Special Protected Area, Hainan Province, China). The *J*-based configurational analysis (JBCA), chemical degradation, and geminal proton rule were adopted to determine the absolute configurations in the side chain. Compounds **65** and **66** exhibited potent anti-inflammatory activity by inhibiting the production of NO in RAW264.7 cells activated by LPS, with IC₅₀ values of 22.4 \pm 1.8 and 21.7 \pm 1.1 µM, respectively [\[41\]](#page-41-21). One new linear polyketide, 5,9-dihydroxy-2,4,6,8,10-pentamethyldodeca-2,6,10-trienal (**67**), and two polyketides, (3*R*,4*S*)-(-)-4-hydroxymellein (**68**) and (3*R*,4*R*)-(−)-4-hydroxymellein (**69**), were isolated from the alga *Hypnea pannosa*-derived fungus, *Aspergillus ochraceopetaliformis* SCSIO 41020 (South China Sea in Luhuitou, Hainan Province, China). Compounds **67**–**69** possessed inhibitory activity against the excessive production of NO and pro-inflammatory cytokines in LPS-treated RAW 264.7 macrophages in a dose-dependent manner without cytotoxicity. The preliminary SAR was discussed, indicating that the hydroxy group at C-9 in **67** played a pivotal role in NO inhibition. Moreover, the 4*R* configuration in **69** probably increased the inflammatory activity. Further studies revealed that compound **67** was active in blocking the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines (IL-6, MCP-1, and TNF-*α*) induced by LPS both in vivo and in vitro. These findings provided a basis for the further development of linear polyketides as promising anti-inflammatory agents [\[42\]](#page-41-22). One new *α*-pyrone, sclerketide D (**70**), was isolated from the gorgonian-derived fungus, *Penicillium sclerotiorum* CHNSCLM-0013 (Weizhou coral reef in South China Sea). Compound **70** exhibited significant inhibitory activity against the NO production in the LPS-induced macrophage, RAW 264.7, with an IC₅₀ value of 5.5 μ M [\[43\]](#page-41-23). Dicitrinone G (71), a novel citrinin dimer derived from the marine fungus, *Penicillium* sp. GGF 16-1-2, has been shown to suppress pancreatic angiogenesis by modulating the activation of the NLRP3 inflammasome. Furthermore, in both in vivo and in vitro studies, it has demonstrated the ability to inhibit pancreatic cancer angiogenesis by regulating the inflammatory microenvironment through IL-18. These findings suggested that **71** could impede angiogenesis through the NLRP3/IL-18 pathway and may possess the potential to curb tumor progression [\[44\]](#page-42-0). A new chloro-containing *γ*-butyrolactone derivative, (4*S*,5*S*,6*S*,7*R*)-4-(3-chloro-1,2-dihydroxybutyl)-butyrolactone (**72**), was isolated from the fruits of the mangrove plant *Sonneratia glauca* endophytic fungus *Neofusicoccum parvum* Y2NBKZG1016 (Nansha District, Guangzhou, China). Compound **72** exhibited weak anti-inflammatory activity at the concentration \geq 6.25 μ M, reaching a maximal inhibition rate of 28.9%, and had no cytotoxicity to RAW 264.7 cells [\[45\]](#page-42-1). Two known compounds, walterolactone A (**73**) and (4*R*,5*S*)-5-hydroxyhexan-4-olide (**74**), were obtained from the deep-sea sulfide-sample-derived fungus, *Samsoniella hepiali* W7 (South Atlantic), by using a molecular networking approach. Compounds **73** and **74** showed potent inhibitory activity against NO production in LPS-activated BV-2 microglia cells, with inhibition rates of 38.6% and 58.2%, respectively, at the concentration of $1 \mu M$. Compound 74 exhibited remarkable inhibitory activity, with an IC_{50} value of 426.2 nM [\[46\]](#page-42-2). Alternariol (75) was isolated from the Antarctic fungal strain, *Pleosporales* sp. SF-7343 (King George Island, Antarctica). It could inhibit the secretion of IL-8 and IL-6 in tumor necrosis factor-*α*/interferon-*γ*-treated HaCaT cells in an inflammatory disease, atopic dermatitis [\[47\]](#page-42-3). Two new polyketides, aspulvinones U (**76**) and V (**77**), were isolated from the marine alga *Ulva lactuca* L.-derived fungus, *A. terreus* NTU243, collected from the northeastern coast of Taiwan, China. Compound **77** inhibited 45.0% of the production of NO under a concentration of 10 µM without any cytotoxicity. Compounds **76** and **77** inhibited LPS-induced MMP-9-mediated gelatinolysis (56.0% and 67.8%, respectively) compared the vehicle-treated condition [\[48\]](#page-42-4). The known compound, butyrolactone I (**78**), was separated from the mangrove plant *Acanthus illicifolius*-derived fungus, *Aspergillus flavipes* MTCC 5220 (Goa, India). It blocked IL-6 and TNF-*α* production in LPS-activated THP-1 cells, with IC₅₀ values of 2.69 \pm 0.5 μM and 6.64 \pm 0.4 µM, respectively, and exhibited inhibition activity, with IC₅₀ values of

12.03 \pm 0.85 μM (IL-6) and 43.29 \pm 0.76 μM (TNF-*α*), with low toxicity to host cells in LPS-stimulated THP-1 cells [\[49\]](#page-42-5). Furthermore, **78** was also isolated from the coral *Porites pukoensis*-derived fungus, *Aspergillus terreus* XWC21-10 (Zhanjiang seawaters in the South China Sea), significantly reduced NO production in LPS-induced BV2 microglia cells, and also inhibited the expression of iNOS and COX-2. Additionally, **78** suppressed LPSinduced phosphorylation and nuclear translocation of NF-*κ*B in BV2 microglia cells. A docking study showed that molecular events occurred at the binding interface of **78** with NF-*κ*B and COX-2 interaction sites, indicating that **78** may act as a potential candidate for treating inflammation-related neurological disorders and provide a new insight into the secondary metabolism derived from marine fungi [\[50\]](#page-42-6). Furthermore, its anti-inflammatory and intestinal-barrier-protective effects were assessed using the LPS-induced IPEC-J2 inflammation model and the DSS-induced IBD model in mice. It was found that **78** alleviated inflammatory responses by TLR4/NF-*κ*B and the MAPK signal pathway, according to in vitro and in vivo studies. Therefore, **78** might potentially be used as an ocean drug to prevent intestinal bowel disease [\[50\]](#page-42-6). Furthermore, the modulation of the gut microbiota of **78** was demonstrated to be one of the mechanisms contributing to anti-inflammation properties and improving endoxemia [\[51\]](#page-42-7). One new polyketide, (2*E*)-3-[(3*R*)-3,4-dihydro-6,8-dihydroxy-1-oxo-1H-2-benzopyran-3-yl]-2-propenoic-acid (**79**), was isolated from the deep-sea hydrothermal vent sediment-derived fungus, *Penicillium* sp. TW58-16 (Kueishantao, Taiwan, China). Compound **79** suppressed NO production in LPS-stimulated macrophages [\[52\]](#page-42-8). Two new linear polyketides, alternapyrones G (**80**) and H (**81**)**,** and two known 6-alkenylpyrone polyketides, alternapyrones D (**82)** and E (**83),** were found in a marine *Phakellia fusca*-derived fungus, *Arthrinium arundinis* ZSDS-F3 (Xisha Islands of China). The biosynthetic gene cluster (alt) for alternapyrones was identified from *A. arundinis* ZSDS-F3 and validated by heterologous expression in *A. nidulans* A1145 ∆ST∆EM. Compared with the vehicle control, the ratio at which compounds **80**–**83** inhibited NO release was above 50% at the concentration of 20 µM. Compound **80** evidently suppressed TNF-*α* and IFN-*γ* production, decreased LPS-induced IL-4 and IL-10 at concentrations of 2 and 20 μ M, respectively, and significantly suppressed the production of NO and the mRNA expression of iNOS (M1 marker) at the concentration of 20 µM. Compound **80** not only suppressed M1 polarization in LPS-stimulated BV2 microglia but also stimulated dendrite regeneration and neuronal survival after Aβ treatment, suggesting that alternapyrone G could be employed as a privileged structure for the development of Alzheimer's disease treatments [\[53\]](#page-42-9) (Figure [5\)](#page-10-0).

Figure 5. *Cont*.

Figure 5. Lactones produced by marine fungi with anti-inflammatory activity (**54**–**83**). **Figure 5.** Lactones produced by marine fungi with anti-inflammatory activity (**54**–**83**).

2.2.2. Azaphilones 2.2.2. Azaphilones

Six new azaphilones, including penicilazaphilones F (84) , G (85) , I (86) , K (87) , L (88) ,
N (98) , (99) , (11) and N (**89**), together with two known analogs, hypocrellone A (**90**) and penicillazaphilone D (91), were isolated from the culture of the sponge *Holoxea* sp.-derived fungus, *Penicil-*
linux alum finance E22X 1.4 (Oran fu Like al Hairean China), Campange de 94,95,99, and 94. inhibited the production of NO in LPS-induced BV-2 cells, with IC_{50} values of 31.7 ± 1.5 , 34.5 ± 1.4 , 25.3 ± 2.2 , and 34.8 ± 1.9 μ M, respectively. Compound **89** exhibited moderate inhibition of NO production in LPS-stimulated RAW264.7 cells, with an IC_{50} value of tion of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ be $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ be of $\frac{1}{2}$ cells, compounds which in $\frac{1}{2}$ in highling. At the same time 22.63 ± 2.95 μ M, and the other compounds exhibited weak inhibition. At the same time, and N (**89**), together with two known analogs, hypocrellone A (**90**) and penicillazaphilone *lium sclerotiorum* E23Y-1A (Quanfu Island, Hainan, China). Compounds **84**, **85**, **90**, and **91**

these compounds showed no obvious cytotoxicity at the concentration of 50.0 μ M [\[54,](#page-42-10)[55\]](#page-42-11). One new sclerotioramine, sclerketide F (**92**), was isolated from the mangrove *Bruguiera gymnorhiza* endophytic fungus, *Penicillium sclerotiorin* SCNU-F0040 (Zhanjiang Mangrove Nature Reserve, Guangdong Province, China). Compound **92** showed moderate COX-2 inhibitory activity, with an IC₅₀ value of 47.8 μ M [\[56\]](#page-42-12). Two new azaphilones, 8a-epihypocrellone A (**93**) and 8a-epi-eupenicilazaphilone C (**94**), together with three known azaphilones, hypocrellone A (**95**), sclerotiorin (**96**) and isochromophilone IV (**97**), were obtained from the alga *Grateloupia* sp.-derived fungus, *Penicillium sclerotiorum* (Yilan County, Taiwan, China). Compounds **93**, **95**, and **97** inhibited TNF-*α*-induced NF-*κ*B phosphorylation but did not change the NF-*κ*B activity at the concentration of 20 µM. Compounds **94** and **96** respectively promoted and inhibited SMAD-mediated transcriptional activities stimulated by transforming growth factor-*β* (TGF-*β*). Compound **94** could promote both TGF-*β*/Smad signaling and transcriptional function. Compound **96**, similarly to the selective TGF*β*RI kinase inhibitor, LY3200882, inhibited both TGF-*β*/Smad-mediated signaling and transcriptional function [\[57\]](#page-42-13). Two new azaphilone analogous sclerketides, B (**98**) and C (**99**), together with one known compound, isochromophilone IX (**100**), were isolated from the gorgonian-derived fungus, *Penicillium sclerotiorum* CHNSCLM-0013 (Weizhou coral reef in South China Sea). Compounds 98–100 exhibited significant inhibitory activities against NO production in the LPS-induced macrophage RAW 264.7, with IC_{50} values of 3.4, 17.6, and 2.7 μ M, respectively [\[43\]](#page-41-23) (Figure [6\)](#page-11-0).

Figure 6. Anti-inflammatory azaphilones produced by marine-derived fungi (**84**–**100**). **Figure 6.** Anti-inflammatory azaphilones produced by marine-derived fungi (**84**–**100**).

2.2.3. Xanthones 2.2.3. Xanthones

Six known dimeric xanthones, 12-deacetylphomoxanthone A (**101**), phomoxanthone Six known dimeric xanthones, 12-deacetylphomoxanthone A (**101**), phomoxanthone A (102), dicerandrol B (103), dicerandrol C (104), phomoxanthone B (105), and deacetylphomoxanthone B (**106**), were obtained from the ascidian-derived fungus, *Diaporthe* sp. SYSU-
MC4722. (**D**₁), *C*₁ SYSU-MS4722 (Bay of Da'ao, Guangdong Province, China). Compounds **101**−**106** showed MS4722 (Bay of Da'ao, Guangdong Province, China). Compounds **101**−**106** showed strong inhibition of NO production in RAW264.7 cells activated by LPS, with IC_{50} values 6.3,

7.5, 6.3, 7.6, 8.0, and 7.8 μ M, respectively, which was better than the positive control, indomethacin (IC₅₀ = 35.8 μ M) [\[58\]](#page-42-14). Two new chromone analogs, epiremisporines G (107) and H (**108**), were isolated from marine-origin *Penicillium citrinum* (Hazailiao, Dongshi, Chiayi, Taiwan, China). Compounds **107**−**108** remarkably suppressed N-formyl-L-methionyl-L-leucyl-L-phenylalanine (fMLP)-induced superoxide anion generation by human neutrophils, with IC₅₀ values of 31.68 \pm 2.53 and 33.52 \pm 0.42 µM, respectively, while the positive control, ibuprofen, had an IC_{50} value of 28.56 μ M [\[59\]](#page-42-15). Two known compounds, 1,3,5,6-tetrahydroxy-8-methyl-xanthone (**109**) and arthripenoid C (**110**), were isolated from the sea-anemone-derived fungus, *Arthrinium arundinis* MA30 (sea shore of Badouzi). Compounds **109** and **110** demonstrated distinctive inhibitory activities against NO production in mouse microglial BV-2 cells, with IC₅₀ values of 5.3 ± 0.6 and 1.6 ± 0.4 µM, respectively, and showed no significant cytotoxicity [\[60\]](#page-42-16). One known xanthone, ravenelin (**111**), isolated from the mangrove endophytic fungus, *Setosphaeria rostrata* (Prachuap Kiri Khan, Thailand), displayed significant activity, with an IC₅₀ value of 6.27 µM, and could suppress iNOS and COX-2 expression [\[61\]](#page-42-17) (Figure [7\)](#page-12-0).

Figure 7. Anti-inflammatory xanthones produced by marine-derived fungi (**101**–**111**). **Figure 7.** Anti-inflammatory xanthones produced by marine-derived fungi (**101**–**111**).

2.2.4. Other Polyketides 2.2.4. Other Polyketides

Four new monomeric sorbicillinoids, trichillinoids A–D (**112**−**115**), were obtained Four new monomeric sorbicillinoids, trichillinoids A–D (**112**−**115**), were obtained from the marine fish *Sebastes schlegelii*-derived fungus, *Trichoderma* sp. G13 (Yangma Is-from the marine fish *Sebastes schlegelii*-derived fungus, *Trichoderma* sp. G13 (Yangma Island, Yantai, China). Compounds **112**−**115** showed strong inhibition of NO production in land, Yantai, China). Compounds **112**−**115** showed strong inhibition of NO production in compared with the positive control, dexamethasone $(IC_{50} = 10 \mu M)$ [\[62\]](#page-42-18). Six new dimeric compared with the positive control, dexamethasone (IC50 = 10 µM) [62]. Six new dimeric sorbicillinoids, 24-hydroxybisvertinol (**116**), trichobisvertinols A−D (**118**−**121**), and 12-episorbicillinoids, 24-hydroxybisvertinol (**116**), trichobisvertinols A−D (**118**−**121**), and 12-epi-trichobisvertinol D (**122**), two new monomeric sorbicillinoids, trichosorbicillins B (**123**) and trichobisvertinol D (**122**), two new monomeric sorbicillinoids, trichosorbicillins B (**123**) C (**124**), along with one known analogue, bisvertinol (**117**), were isolated from the marineand C (**124**), along with one known analogue, bisvertinol (**117**), were isolated from the sponge-derived fungus, *Trichoderma reesei* 4670 (Shantou, Guangdong Province, China). marine-sponge-derived fungus, *Trichoderma reesei* 4670 (Shantou, Guangdong Province, Compounds **121** and **122** were the first examples of bisorbicillinoids possessing a benzofuro [2,3-h] chromene scaffold from a natural source; a similar structure has been synthesized by $\mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{z}}$, a natural source; a similar structure has been structure has been similar structure has been structure has be RAW264.7 cells activated by LPS, with IC_{50} values of 14, 14, 16, and 20 μ M, respectively, the Gulder group. Compounds **116**−**124** exhibited potent anti-inflammatory activity by inhibiting the production of NO in RAW264.7 cells activated by LPS, with IC_{50} values 6.1, 9.9, 5.9, 22, 24, 22, 32, 8.5, and 38 μ M, respectively. A preliminary SAR analysis indicated that the anti-inflammatory activities of the sorbicillinoids mainly depended on the structural types and the functional groups of the sorbyl side chain. For monomeric sorbicillinoids, the double bonds of the sorbyl side chain played an important role in their anti-inflammatory action, as **123**, with at least one double bond in the side chain, was much more active than **124**, without a double bond in the side chain [\[63\]](#page-42-19). Two new sorbicillinoids, trichosorbicillin J (**125**) and demethylsorbiquinol (**126**), together with three known compounds, sorbiquinol (**127**), 13-hydroxy-trichodermolide (**128**), and trichodimerol (**129**), were isolated from the mangrove *Avicennia marina*-derived fungus, *Trichoderma reesei* BGRg-3 (Guangdong Province, China). Compounds **128** and **129** presented remarkable anti-inflammatory activities, with 47% and 67% inhibition of IL-6, and 85% and 87% inhibition of IL-1*β*, respectively, which was even more effective than the positive control (dexamethasone) at the concentration of 25 µM. Furthermore, compounds **126** and **127** showed potent effects, with stronger inhibition than dexamethasone on IL-1*β* at the same concentration. Compounds **125**–**127** also showed potent inhibition of IL-6 (45%, 27%, and 35%%, respectively) and IL-1*β* (21%, 75%, and 58%, respectively) [\[64\]](#page-42-20). Six known sorbicillinoids, trichopyrone (**130**), epite-trahydrotrichodimer ether (**131**), (9′*R*)-tetrahydrotrichodimer ether (**132**), trichodimerol (**133**), dihydrotrichodimerol (**134**), and tetrahydrotrichodimerol (**135**), were isolated from the mangrove *Hibiscus tiliaceus*-Linnn-derived fungus, *Penicillium* sp. DM815 (Qinglan, Wenchang, Hainan Province, China). Compounds **130**–**135** weakly inhibited LPS-induced NO release at 10 µM. Compounds **131** and **135** both dose-dependently inhibited the LPS-induced expression of iNOS, although the effect of **135** was much stronger than that of **131**. Compound **135** significantly inhibited LPS-induced NO production in RAW264.7 cells by inhibiting the upregulation of iNOS expression in a dose-dependent mode, and it did not exhibit inhibition of cell survival, even at the concentration of 20 μ M, indicating that it is not toxic to cells [\[39\]](#page-41-19). Eight undescribed sorbicilinoids, sorbicillinolides A–G (**136**–**142**) and sorbicillinolide J (**143**), were determined by using the chemical fingerprinting approach utilizing LC-MS/MS coupled with 2D NMR data from the deepsea sediment-derived fungus, *Penicillium rubens* F54 (Pacific Ocean). The cyclopentenone core of **136**–**139** was derived from sorbicillin/dihydrosorbicillin through a new oxidative rearrangement. Biogenetically, **136**–**139** are believed to originate from sorbicillin and dihydrosorbicillin. The oxidation of sorbicillin/dihydrosorbicillin produces an intermediate a, and then this intermediate undergoes cleavage of the C-5/C-6 bond, resulting in rearrangement to form a cyclopentendione nucleus **138**–**139**. The reduction of a ketone to a hydroxy group in the nucleus leads to the formation of **136** and **137** (Scheme [3\)](#page-15-0) [\[36\]](#page-41-16). Moreover, the epoxidation of sorbicillin yields an intermediate b, which incorporates an amine unit (the pathway remains unclear). The stereoisomers of **140**–**142** incorporate a nitrogen unit, forming a unique hydroquinoline nucleus. This amine-incorporated intermediate then proceeds through nucleophilic ring cyclization, resulting in the generation of **140**–**142**, with compound **142** probably derived from **140** through olefinic isomerization. Further bioassays involving non-cytotoxic analogues against LPS-stimulated BV2 cells revealed that **136**–**143** at 10 µM exhibited inhibitory effects on NO and PGE2 production, with inhibition rates of 68.6%, 36.6%, 64.7%, 44.5%, 54.9%, 41.9%, 44.5%, and 33.4%, respectively. Notably, analogues **140** and **142** showed more potent inhibition against NO production than L-NMMA (methylarginine acetate), an NOS inhibitor, with IC_{50} values of 6.6 and 6.9 µM, respectively. Compounds **136** and **138** exhibited significant anti-neuroinflammation in LPS-stimulated BV-2 macrophages, achieved by the potent inhibition of NO and PGE2 production through the interruption of the RNA transcription of iNOS, COX-2, and IL-6 in the NF-*κ*B signaling pathway. Further investigation identified COX-2 as a potential target of **136**, suggesting that **136** is a potential lead compound for the development of a non-steroidal anti-neuroinflammatory agent [\[65\]](#page-42-21). One new propenylphenol derivative, chlorophenol A (**144**), and two known compounds, *α*-acetylorcinol (**145**) and kojic acid

(**146**), were isolated from the mangrove *Avicennia marina* endophytic fungus, *Amorosia* sp. SCSIO 4102 (Zhanjiang, Guangdong Province, China). Compounds **144**–**146** inhibited the LPS-induced overproduction of NO and pro-inflammatory cytokines, including IL-6, TNF-*α*, and MCP-1, in both mRNA and protein levels, with the condition that none of these compounds showed significant cytotoxicity [\[36\]](#page-41-16). One known compound, (+)-terrein (**147**), was isolated from the marine alga *Ulva lactuca*-derived fungus, *A. terreus* NTU243, collected from the northeastern coast of Taiwan, and also from the marine mangrove plant *Acanthus illicifolius*-derived fungus, *Aspergillus flavipes* MTCC 5220 (Goa, India). Compound **147** inhibited 49.2% of the NO production under the concentration of 10 µM without any cytotoxicity, and it exhibited IL-6 and TNF- α inhibition activity, with IC₅₀ values of 8.5 ± 0.68 and 15.76 ± 0.18 µM, respectively [\[48\]](#page-42-4). The known compound, sequoiatone B (**148**), isolated from the gorgonian-derived fungus, *Penicillium sclerotiorum* CHNSCLM-0013 (Weizhou coral reef in South China Sea), exhibited significant inhibitory activity against NO production in the LPS-induced macrophage, RAW 264.7, with an IC_{50} value of 5.2 μ M [\[43\]](#page-41-23). Two new chromone compounds, diaporspchromanones B (**149**) and C (**150**), were separated from the mangrove-derived fungus, *Diaporthe* sp. XW12-1 (Xuwen, Guangdong Province, China). Compounds **149** and **150** possessed a 3-substituted-chroman-4-one skeleton, which is rarely found in natural sources, and showed potent anti-inflammatory effects, with IC₅₀ values of 19.06 \pm 3.60 and 9.56 \pm 0.18 μ M, respectively, which was better than the positive control, indomethacin (IC₅₀ = 70.33 \pm 0.95 μ M) [\[66\]](#page-42-22). One new pyrone derivative, phomasparapyrone B (**151**), was isolated from marine mangrove *Acanthus ilicifolius* endophytic fungus *Phomopsis asparagi* LSLYZ-87 (Huizhou Mangrove National Nature Reserve, Guangdong Province, China). Compound **151** showed moderate inhibition of NO accumulation induced by LPS on BV-2 cells in a dose-dependent manner at 30, 40, and 50 μ M, and without cytotoxicity, at a concentration of 50.0 μ M [\[67\]](#page-42-23). One new anthraquinone, pisorhodoptilometrin (**152**), was isolated from the sponge-associated fungal strain, *Penicillium oxalicum* CLC-MF05 (Cu Lao Cham islands, Quang Nam, Vietnam). Compound **152** inhibited the LPS-induced production of NO in BV-2 cells, with an IC⁵⁰ value of 15.2 ± 0.8 µM, and showed an inhibitory effect on the overproduction of the proinflammatory mediators NO and PGE2, the overexpression of iNOS and COX-2, and the mRNA overexpression of the pro-inflammatory cytokines TNF-*α*, IL-1*β*, IL-6, and IL-12 in LPS-stimulated BV2 and rat primary microglia. The inhibitory effect of **152** was found to be regulated by the inactivation of the NF-*κ*B, MAPK, and TLR4/MyD88 signaling pathways, indicating that **152** presented potential anti-inflammatory candidates for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases [\[58\]](#page-42-14). Three new polyketides, guhypoxylonols A (**153**), C (**154**), and D (**155**), and one known compound, hypoxylonol B (**156**), were isolated from the mangrove *Acanthus ilicifolius* endophytic fungus, *Aspergillus* sp. GXNU-Y45 (Beihai City, China). Compounds **153–156** showed inhibitory activity against the production of NO, with IC_{50} values of 14.42 ± 0.11 , 18.03 ± 0.14 , 16.66 ± 0.21 , and 21.05 ± 0.13 µM, respectively [\[68\]](#page-42-24). Two new polyketide derivatives, heterocornols T (**157**) and X (**158**), were isolated from the sponge *Phakellia fusca*-derived fungus *Pestalotiopsis heterocornis* XWS03F09 (Xisha Islands, China) by one strain–many compounds (OSMAC) manipulation. Compounds **157** and **158** significantly inhibited the production of LPS-induced NO in RAW 264.7 cells with no cytotoxicity, compared to the positive drug, dexamethasone (DXM, $IC_{50} = 33 \mu M$), and markedly suppressed the iNOS protein expression in LPS-induced RAW 264.7 cells in a concentrationdependent manner. The findings indicated that the two novel polyketide derivatives could potentially serve as promising candidates for anti-inflammatory activity [\[69\]](#page-43-0). Two known polyketides, trypacidin (**159**) and fumiquinone B (**160**), were isolated from the cold-seepderived fungus, *Talaromyces helicus* SCSIO41311 (South China Sea). Compound **160** showed more potent NO-inhibitory activity ($IC_{50} = 9.65 \mu M$) than eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), with an IC⁵⁰ value of 15.54 µM. Compound **160** showed moderate NO-inhibitory effects, with an IC₅₀ value of 38.62 μ M [\[70\]](#page-43-1). Two new benzophenone derivatives, carneusones E (161) and F (**162**), were isolated from the sponge-derived fungus, *Aspergillus carneus* GXIMD00543 (Weizhou islands coral reef, Beibu Gulf, China). Compounds **161** and **162** exhibited moder-

ate anti-inflammatory effects on NO secretion when using LPS-induced RAW 264.7 cells, with EC₅₀ values of 34.6 \pm 0.9 and 20.2 \pm 1.8 μ M, respectively [\[71\]](#page-43-2). One new compound, 5-hydroxy-7-(2'-hydroxypropyl)-2-methyl-chromone (163), was isolated from the spongeassociated fungus, *Penicillium oxalicum* CLC-MF05 (Cu Lao Cham islands, Quang Nam, Vietnam). Compound **163** inhibited the LPS-induced production of NO in BV-2 cells, with an IC₅₀ value of 75.5 \pm 3.8 μ M, and showed an inhibitory effect on the overproduction of PGE2, the overexpression of iNOS and COX-2, and the mRNA overexpression of TNF-*α*, IL-1*β*, IL-6, and IL-12 in LPS-stimulated BV2 and rat primary microglia. The inhibitory effect of **163** was regulated by the inactivation of the NF-*κ*B, MAPK, and TLR4/MyD88 signaling pathways, indicating that **163** is potential anti-inflammatory candidate for the **fireatment of neurodegenerative diseases** [\[72\]](#page-43-3) (Figure 8).

Scheme 3. Postulation of the biogenetic relationships of **136**–**139** [36]. **Scheme 3.** Postulation of the biogenetic relationships of **136**–**139** [\[36\]](#page-41-16).

Figure 8. *Cont*.

Figure 8. Other polyketides produced by marine fungi with anti-inflammatory activity (112–163).

2.3. Nitrogen-Containing Compounds

Scheme 3. Postulation of the biogenetic relationships of **136**–**139** [36]. as **221**, **222**, **256**, and **257**) were identified as possessing novel skeletal structures.Nitrogenous secondary metabolites are prevalent in nature and exhibit a diverse array of biological activities. A comprehensive study of marine-derived fungi led to the discovery of 76 nitrogen-containing compounds, among which 35 are novel. These compounds encompass 67 alkaloids and 9 peptides. Among the 35 new compounds, four (designated

2.3.1. Alkaloids

One new 3-carboxy-indole derivative, phomtersine A (**164**), was isolated from the marine-sediment-derived fungus, *Phomopsis tersa* FS441 (at a depth of 3000 m in the Indian Ocean). The structure was sufficiently established by extensive 1D and 2D NMR techniques and the modified Snatzke's method. The derivative exhibited moderate inhibitory activity against LPS-induced NO production, with an IC_{50} value of 83.57 \pm 2.81 μ M [\[73\]](#page-43-4). Steckfusarin A (**165**), a new fusarin derivative, isolated and identified from the green algae, *Botryocladia* sp. fungus *Penicillium steckii* SCSIO 41040 (South China Sea), showed weak anti-inflammatory activity at a concentration of 20 μ M [\[74\]](#page-43-5). Two known miscellaneous compounds, 5-*O*-acetyladenosine (**166**) and 5-*O*-acetyluridine (**167**), were obtained from the deep-sea sulfide-sample-derived fungus, *Samsoniella hepiali* W7 (South Atlantic), by using the molecular networking approach. Compounds **166** and **167** showed potent inhibitory activity against NO production in LPS-activated BV-2 microglia cells, with inhibition rates of 34.2% and 30.7%, respectively, at a concentration of 1 μ M [\[46\]](#page-42-2). One new alkaloid, sclerotioloid B (**168**), was obtained under the guidance of MS/MS-based molecular networking from the marine-derived fungus, *Aspergillus sclerotiorum* ST0501 (Guangdong, China). This alkaloid showed inhibition of NO production induced by LPS, with an inhibition rate that was 28.92% than that of dexamethasone (25.87%) [\[75\]](#page-43-6). Ten undescribed notoamidetype alkaloids, namely sclerotiamides J, K, and O−Q (**169**−**173**), and eight known compounds, notamide X (**174**), notamide Z (**175**), notamide R (**176**), (-)-notamide A (**177**), notamide I (**178**), notamide F (**179**), sclerotiamide (**180**), and sclerotiamide B (**181**), were isolated from a marine gorgonian-derived fungus, *Aspergillus sclerotiorum* LZDX-33-4, in the South China Sea. Compounds **169**–**181** possessed inhibitory effects against LDH and IL-1*β* expression in BV-2 cells. The bioassay results demonstrated that analogs **170**, **172**–**173**, **176**, and **179** significantly down-regulated the expression of LDH and IL-1*β* in BV-2 cells with more than 50% inhibition at a concentration of 10 μ M. The preliminary analyses of the SAR indicated that the active analogs of **172**, **173**, **176**, and **179** are characterized by a 6,6,5,6,6,5-hexacyclic scaffold with mono-substitution of the OH or MeO group at C-18 or C-19, whereas **178**, with 18-hydroxylation and 19-methoxylation, and **170**, **174**, and **178,** with a ketone at C-19, attenuated the activities. Analogs bearing a spiro-6,6,5,5,6,5-ring system (**173**, **180**, and **181**) showed weak activities, with the exception of **171**, which showed potent inhibition. Analog **169** was the only one with a 6,6,6,5,6,5-ring system, and it was the most active among the analogs. Further investigation revealed that **169** significantly inhibited NLRP3 inflammasome activation and blocked NLRP3-inflammasome-induced pyroptosis via the amelioration of mitochondria damage, indicating that **169** can be used as a potential anti-inflammasome lead compound for further structure optimization [\[76\]](#page-43-7). Equisetin (**182**), a hemiterpene compound isolated from marine-sponge-derived fungi, displayed anti-atherosclerosis effects through inhibiting macrophage inflammatory response, lipid uptake, and foam cell formation in vitro, and finally ameliorated high-fat diet (HFD)-induced atherosclerosis in AopE-/- mice in vivo. Mechanistically, **182** directly bound to STAT3 with high affinity by forming hydrophobic bonds at GLN247 and GLN326 residues, as well as hydrogen bonds at ARG325 and THR346 residues, interacted with STAT3 physically, and functionally inhibited the transcription activity of STAT3, thereby regulating atherosclerosis. Therefore, these results indicated that **182** can be used as a candidate for developing anti-atherosclerosis therapeutic agents [\[77\]](#page-43-8). Four new indole diterpenoids, penpaxilloids A (**183**), C (**184**), and D (**185**) and 7-methoxypaxilline-13-ene (**186**), together with seven known analogues, schipenindolene A (**187**), 21-isopentenylpaxilline (**188**), penerpene E (**189**), paspalinine (**190**), 4a-demethylpaspaline-4a-carboxylic acid (**191**), paxilline D (**192**), and 7-methoxypaxilline (**193**), were isolated from the fungus, *Penicillium* sp. ZYX-Z-143, obtained from an arthropod, *Dardanus scutellatus*, collected from Yinyu Island in South China. Compounds **183**–**193** exhibited inhibitory activities toward NO production on LPSstimulated RAW264.7 macrophages, with IC_{50} values of 33.09, 27.25, 7.11, 38.79, 11.87, 32.95, 23.89, 19.34, 28.22, 4.46, and 22.88 µM respectively, which were comparable to or better than those of the positive control (indomethacin, $IC_{50} = 32.52 \pm 2.90 \mu M$). Additionally,

compounds **185**, **187**, and **192** exhibited inhibitory activities toward NO production on LPS-stimulated RAW264.7 macrophages, displayed more potent anti-inflammatory activity than indomethacin, and showed no obvious cytotoxicity [\[78\]](#page-43-9) (Figure [9\)](#page-19-0).

Figure 9. *Cont*.

Figure 9. Alkaloids produced by marine-derived fungi with anti-inflammatory activity (164–193).

Two new dipyrrolobenzoquinones, terreusinones B (194) and C (195), along with the known analogue, terreusinone (196), were isolated from the marine-sponge-fibrosarived fungus, *Aspergillus tamarii* MCCF102 (Vizhinjam, Southwest coast of India). They derived fungus, *Aspergillus tamarii* MCCF102 (Vizhinjam, Southwest coast of India). They exhibited NO-inhibitory activity in LPS-stimulated RAW 264.7 cells, with the IC_{50} values of 0.046, 0.096, and 0.032 µM, respectively [79]. N[ine](#page-43-10) known alkaloids, chaetominine isotryptoquivaline F (**198**), fumiquinazoline F (**199**), 12,13-dihydroxyfumitremorgin C (**197**), isotryptoquivaline F (**198**), fumiquinazoline F (**199**), 12,13-dihydroxyfumitremorgin C (200), cyclotryprostatin B (201), azaspirofuran A (202), 14-norpseurotin A (203), 11-Omethylpseurotin A (**204**), and fumigaclavine C (**205**), were isolated from the South China methylpseurotin A (**204**), and fumigaclavine C (**205**), were isolated from the South China Sea cold-seep-derived fungus. *Talaromyces helicus* SCSIO41311. Compound **202** showed Sea cold-seep-derived fungus. *Talaromyces helicus* SCSIO41311. Compound **202** showed more potent NO-inhibitory activities than EPA, with an IC_{50} value of 9.65 μ M. Compounds **197** and **203** showed stronger NO-inhibitory activities than EPA, with IC₅₀ values of 9.65 and and 15.54 µM, respectively. Compounds **198**–**205** showed moderate inhibitory activities, 15.54 µM, respectively. Compounds **198**–**205** showed moderate inhibitory activities, with IC₅₀ values of 26.51, 21.35, 24.95, 29.58, 32.37, 32.22, and 23.46 μM, respectively, while compound 197 exhibited weak inhibitory activities, with an IC_{50} value of 103.2 μ M. Moreover, pound 193² comprised weak mannerly activities, while an regulate of Total parts who compound 203 could significantly attenuate the release of LPS-induced pro-inflammatory
compound 203^{*could significantly attenuate the release of LPS-induced pro-inflammatory*} cytokines, such as TNF-*α* and INF-*γ*, while dramatically upregulating anti-inflammatory cytokines IL-4 and IL-10 [\[71\]](#page-43-2). One alkaloid, oxaline (**206**), was isolated from a fermented culture of the sponge-associated fungal strain, *Penicillium oxalicum* CLC-MF05 (Cu Lao Cham islands, Quang Nam, Vietnam). It inhibited the LPS-induced production of NO in BV-2 cells, with an IC₅₀ value of 9.2 \pm 0.5 µM, and showed inhibitory effects on the overproduction of NO and PGE2, the overexpression of iNOS and COX-2, and the mRNA overexpression of the pro-inflammatory cytokines, TNF-*α*, IL-1*β*, IL-6, and IL-12 in LPSstimulated BV2 and rat primary microglia. The inhibitory effect of 206 was found to be regulated by the inactivation of the NF-*κ*B, MAPK, and TLR4/MyD88 signaling pathways, indicating that 206 presented potential anti-inflammatory candidates for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases [58]. One new nitrogen-containing secondary metabolite, variotin B (207) was separated from the deep-sea fungus *Aspergillus unguis* IV17-109, based on NMR guided isolation. Compound 207 showed moderate anti-inflammatory activity, with an IC₅₀ value of 20.0 µM [\[80\]](#page-43-11). Two compounds, benzomalvin E (208) and methylviridicatin (209), were isolated from the seawater-derived fungus, *Metarhizium* sp. P2100 (Qingdao Huiquan Bay, Yellow Sea, China), using the OSMAC strategy. Compounds 208 and 209 demonstrated anti-inflammatory activity against NO production induced by LPS, with IC₅₀ values of 37.08 and 37.48 μ M, respectively [\[81\]](#page-43-12). Two new diketopiperazine alkaloids, aspechinulins B (211) and C (213), along with four known ones, isoechinulin B (210), neoechinulin B (212), cryptoechinuline G (214), and isoechinulin A (215), were isolated from the Ocean. Compounds **210**–**215** exhibited potential inhibitory activities against NO producdeep-sea-derived fungus, *Aspergillus* sp. nFS445, in the Indian Ocean. Compounds **210–215**
deep-sea-derived fungus, *Aspergillus* sp. nFS445, in the Indian Ocean. Compounds **210–215** exhibited potential inhibitory activities against NO production in LPS-induced mouse marcrophage RAW 264.7, with IC_{50} values in the range of 20–90 μ M, with compounds **210** and **213** shown to be as effective as the positive control, aminoguanidine $(IC_{50}$, 23.7 μ M) [\[82\]](#page-43-13). Three alkaloids, (-)-cyclopenol (**216**), cyclopenin (**217**), and virdicatol (**218**), were isolated from the marine-derived fungus, *Aspergillus austroafricanus* Y32-2, from the Indian Ocean. Compounds **216**–**218** displayed anti-inflammatory activity in a dose-dependent manner.

Compound **218** displayed potent anti-inflammatory activity at a concentration of 30 µg/mL, and compounds **216** and **217** had moderate effects at concentrations of 70 and 120 µg/mL, respectively [\[83\]](#page-43-14). One new 3-carboxy-indole derivative, phomtersine A (**219**), was isolated from the marine deep-sea-derived fungus, *Phomopsis tersa* FS441, from the Indian Ocean. Its structure and absolute configuration were sufficiently established by spectroscopic methods and the modified Snatzke method. Compound **219** demonstrated anti-inflammatory activity against NO production induced by LPS, with an IC₅₀ value of 83.57 \pm 2.81 µM [\[84\]](#page-43-15). One new alkaloid, penifuranone A (**220**), isolated from the mangrove endophytic fungus, *Penicillium crustosum* SCNU-F0006, exhibited strong anti-inflammatory activity in vitro by inhibiting NO production in LPS-activated RAW264.7 cells, with an IC_{50} value of 42.2 μ M. The docking study revealed that **220** exhibited an ideal fit within the active site of the murin iNOS, establishing characteristic hydrogen bonds [\[85\]](#page-43-16). An unreported N, N-ketal quinazolinone enantiomers (±)-penicamide A [(-)-**221** and (+)-**222**], and two known compounds, penicamide B (**223**) and (*S*)-2-(2-hydroxypropanamido) benzamide (**224**), were isolated from the ascidian *Styela plicata*-derived fungus, *Penicillium* sp. 4829 (Bay of Da'ao, Shenzhen City, Guangdong, China). The enantiomeric pair of (\pm) -penicamide A was the first example of a naturally occurring N,N-ketal quinazolinone possessing a unique tetracyclic system, having 4-quinazolinone fused with a tetrahydroisoquinoline moiety. (\pm) -Penicamide A should be PKS-NRPS hybrid metabolites derived from anthranilic acid and phenylpropanoid, 2,4 dihydroxy-6-(2-oxopropyl)benzoicacid. A possible biogenetic pathway for (±)-penicamide A was proposed, as shown in Scheme [4](#page-21-0) [\[86\]](#page-43-17). Two intermediates, a and b, were derived from the precursors anthranilic acid and 2,4-dihydroxy-6-(2-oxopropyl)benzoic acid, followed by dehydration–condensation to generate an intermediate Schiff base, c. Subsequently, c underwent dehydration, cyclization, and methylation to give (\pm) -penicamide A. The enantiomeric mixtures of **221** and **222** displayed an inhibitory effect on NO production in LPS-activated RAW264.7 cells, while the optically pure (−)-**221** showed better inhibitory effects than (+)-**222**. The enantiomer mixture of (±)-penicamide A (**221** and **222**) displayed moderate inhibitory effects on NO production, with an IC_{50} value of 35.1 \pm 1.7 µM, while the optically pure 221 showed better inhibitory effects than 222 (IC_{50} : 27.2 \pm 1.2 μ M for **221** and $47.5 \pm 2.3 \mu M$ for **222**). In addition, **223** and **224** also exhibited moderate antiinflammatory activity, with IC₅₀ values of 45.9 ± 2.0 and 21.8 ± 1.3 μ M, respectively [\[86\]](#page-43-17). Two novel diketopiperazine alkaloids, penipiperazine A (**225**) and its biogenetically related new metabolite (**226**), were obtained from the strain, *Penicillium brasilianum* HBU-136 (Bohai Sea, China; MH377073). Their planar structures and absolute configurations were elucidated by extensive spectroscopic analyses, ¹³C NMR calculation, and Marfey's, ECD, and ORD methods. Compound **225** featured a unique 6/5/6/6/5 indole–pyrazino– pyrazino–pyrrolo system, and its plausible biogenetic pathway was also proposed, which was started from L-Pro and L-Trp, two important precursors to the synthesis of many 2,5-diketopiperazines in fungi [\[87\]](#page-43-18). Compounds **225** and **226** significantly inhibited the release of NO and the expression of related pro-inflammatory cytokines on LPS-stimulated RAW264.7 cells. They could markedly decrease the mRNA levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines, including IL-1*β*, IL-6, and TNF-*α*, in RAW264.7 cells stimulated by LPS, at a concentration of $25.0 \mu M$, suggesting that they could be attractive candidates for further development as anti-inflammatory agents [\[87\]](#page-43-18). One known compound, cytochalasin Z24 (**227**), was isolated from marine-derived *Eutypella scoparia* GZU-4-19Y (Xuwen in Guangdong Province, China). Compound 227 showed potent NO inhibition activity, with an IC₅₀ value of 17.1 µM [\[30\]](#page-41-10). A novel ceramide compound, aspercerebroside A (**228**), isolated from the EtOAc layer of the marine symbiotic fungus, *Aspergillus* sp. (Dongshan Island, Fujian Province, China), exhibited notable anti-inflammatory activity by effectively inhibiting the production of NO in RAW 264.7 cells at concentrations of 30 and 40 µg/mL, offering a promising avenue for the treatment of inflammatory diseases [\[88\]](#page-43-19). Two new cerebroside metabolites, hortacerebrosides A (**229**) and B (**230**), were isolated from the sponge-derived fungus, *Hortaea werneckii* (Danzhou, Hainan, China). Compounds **229** and **230** showed significant inhibitory effects on NO production by LPS-stimulated RAW 264.7 macrophages,

Scheme 4. Postulation of the biogenetic relationships of **221**−**222** [\[86\]](#page-43-17).

HO

Chaetominine (197)

Å \sim

 \overline{R}

 Ω

Oxaline (206)

11-O methylpseurotin A (204)

Variotin B (207)

Ŕ

Isoechinulin B (210) R_1 =H R_2 =

Neoechinulin B (212) R₁=R₂=H

Isotryptoquivaline F (198)

Azaspirofuran A (202)

Fumigaclavine C (205)

Benzomalvin E (208)

Figure 10. *Cont*.

Figure 10. Alkaloids produced by marine fungi with anti-inflammatory activity (**194**−**230**). **Figure 10.** Alkaloids produced by marine fungi with anti-inflammatory activity (**194**−**230**).

2.3.2. Peptides

Scheme 4. Postulation of the biogenetic relationships of **221**−**222** [86]. China), by a molecular-networking-guided isolation procedure. Those compounds featurein LPS-activated microglial BV-2 cells, with IC₅₀ values of 12.0 ± 2.3 and 10.6 ± 4.0 μ M, respectively. Furthermore, they significantly attenuated the expression of inducible NO $\sin a$ concentration-dependent manner (5–40 μ M) [90]. Seven new cyclop Mastophora rosea-derived fungal strain, *Acremonium* sp. NTU492, in the northeastern inter-**221, 222 b** tides, pseudoviridinutans A−G (**233**−**239**), were obtained from the ahydrothermal vent Two new peptides, acrepeptins A (231) and C (232), were isolated from the red alga wed markedly inhibitory activities tidal zone of Taiwan, and showed markedly inhibitory activities on nitric oxide production **c** synthase in a concentration-dependent manner (5−40 µM) [\[90\]](#page-43-21). Seven new cyclopentapepsediment-derived fungus, *Aspergillus pseudoviridinutans* TW58-5 (Kueishantao, Taiwan, a rare amino acid moiety, *O*,*β*-dimethyltyrosine, observed for the first time in a marinederived fungus, and their absolute configurations were determined using a combination of Marfey's method and X-ray diffraction. Compounds 233−239 showed anti-inflammatory effects on the production of NO stimulated by LPS on cultured RAW264.7 cells, especially 239, which displayed obvious inhibitory effects at 20 µM, with no obvious cytotoxicity. Compound 239 inhibited NO production in LPS-induced murine macrophage RAW264.7 cells by regulating the expression levels of NLRP3 [an](#page-43-22)d iNOS [\[91\]](#page-23-0) (Figure 11).

Pseudoviridinutan G (239)

Figure 11. Peptides derived from marine fungi with anti-inflammatory activity (**231**−**239**). **Figure 11.** Peptides derived from marine fungi with anti-inflammatory activity (**231**−**239**).

2.4. Steroids

Steroids are biosynthesized via intricate cyclization reactions that involve the squalene and mevalonate pathways. Twenty anti-inflammatory steroids have been identified from marine-derived fungi. Among them, three are novel compounds, and two of these new compounds (256 and 257) possess novel skeletal structures (Figure [12\)](#page-24-0).

pro-inflammatory cytokines, including IL-6, TNF-*α*, and MCP-1, in both mRNA and pro-

Figure 12. Steroids produced by marine-derived fungus with anti-inflammatory activity (240-259).

One new ergostane-type sterolester (**240**), along with 15 known compounds, 22-tetraen-3-one (**241**), ganodermaside (**242**), 22-tetraen-3-one (**243**), isocyathisterol (**244**), herbarulide (**245**), dankasterone A (**246**), (22*E*,24*R*)-ergosta-7,22-dien-3*β*,5*α*-diol-6-one (**247**), (22*E*,24*R*) ergosta-7,22-dien-3*β*,5*α*,9*α*-trihydroxy-6-one (**248**), (22*E*,24*R*)-3*β*-hydroxyergosta-5,8,22 trien-7-one (**249**), 22-triene-3*β*-ol (**250**), (22*E*, 24*R*)-7*α*-methoxy-5*α*,6*α*-epoxyergosta-8(14),22 dien-3*β*-ol (**251**), (22*E*,24*R*)-6-acetoxy-ergosta-7,22-dien-3*β*,5*α*,6*β*-triol (**252**), (22*E*,24*R*)-5*α*,8*α*epidioxyergosta-6,9(11),22-trien-3*β*-ol (**253**), (22*E*,24*R*)-5*α*,8*α*-epidioxyergosta-6,22-dien-3*β*ol (**254**), and demethylincisterol A3 (**255**), were isolated from the fungus, *Penicillium oxalicum* HL-44, associated with the soft coral, *Sinularia gaweli* (Xisha area of the South China Sea). These compounds demonstrated potent anti-inflammatory activities at a concentration of 20 µM. Compounds **241**, **248**, and **253** exhibited significant inhibition of IFNB1 expression, while compounds **242**, **243**, and **244** showed strong inhibition of TNF-*α* expression in LPSstimulated cells. In DT-DIAPHORASE inhibitor (DMXAA)-stimulated cells, compounds **240**, **244**, and **246** effectively suppressed IFNB1 expression, whereas compounds **246**, **247**, and **250** demonstrated the most potent inhibition of TNF-*α* expression. These findings suggest that these tested compounds may exert their anti-inflammatory effects by modulating the cGAS-STING pathway. This study provided valuable insight into the chemical diversity of ergosteroid derivatives and their potential as anti-inflammatory agents [\[92\]](#page-43-23). Two unusual naturally Diels–Alder additive steroids, ergosterdiacids A and B (**256** and **257**), constructing a 6/6/6/6/5 pentacyclic steroidal system, were obtained from the mangrove plant *Aegiceras corniculatum*-derived fungus *Aspergillus* sp. (Thailand). The plausible biosynthetic pathways of **256** and **257** were discussed. Compounds **256** and **257** should be naturally Diels–Alder addition products between fumaric acid and ergosta-5,7,14,22-tetraene-3*β*-ol. They were derived from the precursor steroids, (22*E*,24*R*)-ergosta-5,7,14,22-tetraene-3*β*-ol and (22*Z*,24*ξ*)-ergosta-5,7,14,22-tetraene-3*β*-ol, respectively, which were probably generated with fumaric acid by an enzymatically catalyzed reaction [\[37\]](#page-41-17). Moreover, **256** and **257** showed strong in vitro anti-inflammatory effects by suppressing NO production at 4.5 and 3.6 µM, respectively [\[93\]](#page-43-24). One known compound, (22*E*,24*R*)-ergosta-5,7,22-trien-3*β-*ol **(258**), was isolated from the mangrove *Avicennia marina* endophytic fungus, *Amorosia* sp. SCSIO 4102 (Zhanjiang, Guangdong Province, China). It could inhibit the LPS-induced overproduction of NO and pro-inflammatory cytokines, including IL-6, TNF-*α*, and MCP-1, in both mRNA and protein levels with the condition that none of these compounds showed significant cytotoxicity [\[36\]](#page-41-16). One known compound, ergosterol (**259**), was obtained from the deep-sea sulfide-sample-derived fungus, *Samsoniella hepiali* W7 (South Atlantic), by using the molecular networking approach. Under a concentration of 1 µM, compound **259** showed potent inhibitory activity against NO production in LPS-activated BV-2 microglia cells, with an inhibition rate of 32.9% [\[46\]](#page-42-2) (Figure [12\)](#page-24-0).

2.5. Other Classes

Additionally, there are also 26 other classes of anti-inflammatory secondary metabolites (including 14 new compounds) isolated from marine-derived fungi, including fatty acids and benzene derivatives.

One new benzaldehyde, 4-hydroxy-3-(3-methylbut-2-en-1-yl)-benzaldehyde (**261**), and one known compound, (*S*)-3-(2,3-dihydroxy-3-methylbutyl)-4-hydroxybenzalde-hydehave (**260**), were isolated from a coral-derived *A. terreus* strain, C23-3. Compounds **260** and **261** showed anti-inflammatory effects via the suppression of the MAPK signaling pathway in RAW264.7 cells. They could reduce the levels of some inflammatory biomarkers, significantly inhibit the release of NO and ROS, and effectively block the protein expression of IL-6, iNOS, and COX-2 and the phosphorylation levels of ERK, JNK, and p38 [\[94\]](#page-43-25). One known secondary metabolite alternate C (**262**) was isolated from the Antarctic fungal strain, *Pleosporales* sp. SF-7343 (King George Island, Antarctica), and it inhibited the secretion of IL-8 and IL-6 in tumor necrosis factor-*α*/interferon-*γ*-treated HaCaT cells in an inflammatory disease, atopic dermatitis [\[47\]](#page-42-3). One novel cyclopentenone derivative, talarocyclopenta A (**263**), one new phenolic derivative, talarocyclopenta B (**264**), and one

new itaconic acid derivative, talarocyclopenta C (**265**), together with one known itaconic acid derivative, asperitaconic B (**266**), were isolated from the leaves of the *Ceriops tagal* fungus, *Talaromyces assiutensis* JTY2, from the South China Sea. Compounds **263**−**266** showed significant anti-inflammatory activities against NO production induced by LPS in mouse macrophage RAW 264.7 cells in vitro, with IC₅₀ values of 3.38 \pm 0.12, 6.26 \pm 0.10, 12.56 ± 0.08 , and $15.63 \pm 0.12 \,\mu M$, respectively, while the positive control, hydrocortisone, showed inhibitory activity, with an IC₅₀ value of 3.68 \pm 0.10 μ M [\[95\]](#page-44-0). One new compound, 5-[(3*E*,5*E*)-3,5-nonadienyl]-1,3-benzenediol (**267**), was isolated from a marine brown alga *Saccharina cichorioides*-derived *Aspergillus* sp., from the South China Sea. Compound **267** significantly inhibited NO production, with an IC₅₀ value of 6.0 \pm 0.5 μ M, in LPS-induced RAW264.7 cells. Moreover, compound **267** also showed anti-inflammatory activity by inhibiting the NF-κB activated pathway [\[96\]](#page-44-1). One known compound, 3,7-dihydroxy-1,9 dimethyldibenzofuran (**268**), was isolated from the deep-sea-sediment-derived fungus, *Aspergillus sydowii* MCCC 3A00324 (South Atlantic Ocean). Compound **268** showed potent inhibitory NO production in LPS-activated BV-2 microglia cells, with an inhibition rate of 94.4%, at a concentration of 10 µM [\[24\]](#page-41-4). One new compound, chlorophenol A (**269**), and one known compound, *α*-acetylorcinol (**270**), were isolated from the mangrove *Avicennia marina* endophytic fungus, *Amorosia* sp. SCSIO 4102 (Zhanjiang, Guangdong Province, China). Compounds **269** and **270** inhibited LPS-induced overproduction of NO and proinflammatory cytokines, including IL-6, TNF-*α*, and MCP-1, in both mRNA and protein levels, with the condition that none of these compounds showed significant cytotoxicity [\[36\]](#page-41-16). One compound, monodictyphenone (**271**), isolated from the ascidian-derived fungus, *Diaporthe* sp. SYSU-MS4722, showed anti-inflammatory activity, with an IC₅₀ value of 40.8 μ M (positive control indomethacin, IC₅₀ = 35.8 μ M) [\[38\]](#page-41-18). Six new monomeric sorbicillinoids, 12-hydroxysorbicillin (**272**), 8,9-dihydro-12-hydroxysorbicillin (**273**), trichosorbicillin E (**274**), trichosorbicillin F (**275**), isotrichosorbicillin E (**276**), and trichosorbicillin I (**280**), along with three known compounds, sohirnone A (**277**), 2′ ,3′ -dihydrosorbicillin (**278**), and (2*E*,4*E*)-1-(2,6-dihydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)hexa-2,4-dien-1-one (**279**), were isolated from the marine-sponge-derived fungus, *Trichoderma reesei* 4670 (Shantou, Guangdong Province, China). Compounds **272**−**280** exhibited potent anti-inflammatory activity by inhibiting the production of NO in RAW264.7 cells activated by LPS, with IC_{50} values of 6.8, 2.9, 0.94, 6.1, 12, 14, 13, 3.3, and 13 µM, respectively. A preliminary SAR analysis indicated that the anti-inflammatory activities of the sorbicillinoids mainly depended on the structural types and the functional groups of the sorbyl side chain. For monomeric sorbicillinoids, the double bonds of the sorbyl side chain played an important role in their anti-inflammatory action, as compounds **272**−**280**, with at least one double bond in the side chain, were much more active than the compounds without a double bond in the side chain. Compounds **274** and **277** exhibited stronger anti-inflammatory effects, indicating that the terminal carboxylic acid group of the sorbyl side chain was a disadvantage for anti-inflammatory activity. The keto carbonyl group at C-7 made no difference to the antiinflammatory activity. Compound **277**, with a keto carbonyl group at C-7, showed the same level of activity as **280**, which contained a methylene group at C-7. In the case of dimeric sorbicillinoids, the presence of a lipophilic terminus on the sorbyl side chain appeared to enhance anti-inflammatory activity better than when a hydrophilic group was presented [\[64\]](#page-42-20). Two new compounds, 4-carboxy-5-((1*Z*,3*E*)-1,3-heptadien-1-yl)-1,3-benzenediol (**281**) and 5-((1*Z*,3*E*)-4-carboxy-1,3-butadienyl-1-yl)-1,3-benzenediol (**282**), along with one known compound, 3,4-dihydroxybenzeneaceticacid (**283**), were isolated from the deep sea hydrothermal vent sediment-derived fungus *Penicillium* sp. TW58-16 (Kueishantao, Taiwan). Compounds **281**−**283** suppressed LPS-stimulated NO production in macrophages, and, in particular, **281** greatly inhibited the expression of iNOS, the enzyme that produces NO [\[52\]](#page-42-8). Two known compounds, scordyol C (**284**) and 3,7-dihydroxy-1,9-dimethyldibenzofuran (**285**), were isolated from a strain of the sponge-derived marine fungus, *Aspergillus carneus* GXIMD00543 (Weizhou islands coral reef, Beibu Gulf, China). Compounds **284** and **285** exhibited moderate and potent anti-inflammatory effects on NO secretion when using LPS-

induced RAW 264.7 cells, with EC₅₀ values of 26.8 \pm 1.7 and 2.9 \pm 0.1 μ M, respectively [\[72\]](#page-43-3) (Figure [13\)](#page-27-0). $\frac{1}{2}$ mudded KAVV 204.7 dens, with EC₅₀ values of 20

Figure 13. Other classes produced by marine fungi with anti-inflammatory activity (260-285).

3. Conclusions

This review provides a summary of the sources, structural diversity, and biological activities of secondary metabolites produced by marine fungi, encompassing a time frame from August 2018 to July 2024. A total of 285 anti-inflammatory compounds were isolated from marine-derived fungi, and 156 were new compounds. Due to the high salt levels of the marine environment, some nitrogen-containing secondary metabolites from marine-derived fungi contained halogen atoms, such as compounds **33**, **37**, and **259**–**262**. Remarkably, among them, 11 compounds (**1**, **46**, **64**, **136**−**139**, **221**, **222**, **256,** and **257**) exhibited novel skeletal structures, and the proposed biosynthetic pathways of novel skeleton structures were also discussed. The isolated compounds, along with their biological activities, producing strains, and habitats, are summarized in Table [1.](#page-29-0)

As shown Table [1,](#page-29-0) about 47 compounds displayed significantly anti-inflammatory activities comparable to or better than the positive control. Examples of these include paraconulones B−E (**3**−**6**), paraconulone G (**8**), 4-epi-microsphaeropsisin (**11**), eremofortin H (**15**), nectriapyrone (**62**), sequoiatone B (**149**), diaporspchromanone B**,** oxaline (**206**), and isoechinulin B (**210**). The preliminary SAR values of the bioactive compounds were also discussed. The mechanisms of 46 compounds with potent inflammatory activity, such as sesquiterpene (**22**), aspergillon A (**39**), peniscmeroterpenoid D (**45**), butyrolactone I (**78**), ravenelin (**112**), and sclerotiamide J (**226**), were also demonstrated. The preliminary SAR of the isolated isopimarane-type diterpenoids (**23**−**38**), polyketides (**56**−**59)**, sorbicillinoids (**120**−**128**), and notoamidetype alkaloids (**173**−**185** and **276**−**284**) were also discussed. The inhibitory effects of the above compounds are regulated by the inactivation of the NF-*κ*B, MAPK, and TLR4/MyD88 signaling pathways. Furthermore, various proteins associated with inflammation were examined within the aforementioned signaling pathways in immune monocytes and macrophages (BV2 cells and RAW264.7 cells), stimulated by LPS in vitro. The impact on the swelling rate was assessed using a mouse ear edema model induced by phorbol myristate acetate in vivo. Furthermore, 15 compounds (**22**, **26**, **41**, **58**, **71**, **78**, **80**, **136**, **152**, **157**, **158**, **163**, **169**, **182**, and **206**), exhibiting potent anti-inflammatory activity, have the potential to serve as anti-inflammatory candidates.

The distribution of the structural types and bioactivity among anti-inflammatory compounds derived from marine fungi is also depicted in Figure [14.](#page-39-0) The chemical structures of the 285 secondary metabolites from marine-derived fungi were mainly classified into five types, including 53 terpenoids, 110 polyketides, 76 nitrogen-containing compounds, 20 steroids, and 26 other compounds. Among these compounds, polyketides accounted for the largest proportion, at 38.60%, followed by nitrogen-containing compounds accounted, with 26.67%. Terpenoids accounted for 18.60%, and steroids and other classes accounted for 7.01%, and 9.12%, respectively (Figure [14\)](#page-39-0). From a distributional perspective, 65.27% of all anti-inflammatory structures were polyketides (38.60%) and nitrogen-containing compounds (26.67%), indicating that polyketides and nitrogen-containing compounds have great potential in the development of anti-inflammatory drugs.

This review has identified numerous potential lead compounds that could lead to the discovery of innovative anti-inflammatory agents originating from fungi sourced from marine environments., especially *Aspergillus* sp. (41.4%) and *Penicillium* sp. (27.1%) (Figure [15\)](#page-39-1). Additionally, the samples were collected from various environments: 16.50% from sediment, 12.0% from corals, 12.28% from sponges, 27.02% from mangroves, 3.16% from seawater, and 16.84% from marine animals, 4.9% from algae, and 7.37% from other marine resources (Figure [16\)](#page-39-2).

Table 1. The biological activities, producing strains, and habitats of anti-Inflammatory secondary metabolites from marine-derived fungi.

Table 1. *Cont.*

Table 1. *Cont.*

Figure 14. The numbers and types of anti-inflammatory compounds isolated from marine fungi.

ing compounds have great potential in the development of anti-inflammatory drugs.

9.47% 28.78% **Figure 15.** The proportion of anti-inflammatory compounds from different marine fungi sources. **Figure 15.** The proportion of anti-inflammatory compounds from different marine fungi sources.

Figure 16. The proportion of marine-derived fungi from different marine sources.

structures and diverse secondary metabolites with anti-inflammatory activities, revealing their great untapped potential in medicinal applications. Marine-derived fungi hold promise as sources for bioprospecting safe and effective anti-inflammatory agents to tackle these curable, yet potentially devastating conditions. The purpose of this review is to offer insights into the advancement of research and to furnish additional momentum for the transformation of compounds with distinctive structural features derived from marine fungi into anti-inflammatory medications. However, despite the promising anti-inflammatory In summary, marine-derived fungi were proven to be important sources of novel significance of marine-fungi-derived compounds and extracts, there are still no FDAapproved marine-fungi-derived anti-inflammatory drugs. The transfer of technology from experimental outcomes to pre-clinical and clinical applications of secondary metabolites derived from marine fungi remains in its nascent stages and has not yet fully harnessed the pharmaceutical potential of these compounds. In the future, our focus should be on elucidating the pharmacological mechanisms, understanding the pharmacokinetics, advancing medicinal chemistry, and exploring biosynthesis to foster the development of innovative drugs in subsequent research.

Author Contributions: X.S., C.Z. and G.H. conceived and revised this article; Y.Q. and S.C. prepared and wrote the original draft; M.Y. and J.S. conducted the literature analysis; J.L., X.L. and J.C. reviewed and edited this article. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Nos. 32160108 and 2217702), the Key Research and Development Program of Hainan Province (No. ZDYF2024SHFZ116 and ZDYF2021SHFZ270), the Team Innovation Center for Academicians of Hainan Province, the Specific Research Fund for the Innovation Center of Hainan Province Academicians (No. YSPTZX202309), and the Key Science and Technology Program of Hainan Province (No. ZDKJ202008).

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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