

## Table of contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	1
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Significance of the study</b> .....	1
1.1.1	Prey-predator relationship of phyllidiids and sponges .....	1
1.1.2	Role of cyanide terpenes in host organisms .....	3
1.1.3	Biological activity of isolated cyanide metabolites .....	5
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Statement of the objective</b> .....	6
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Short review of current knowledge of phyllidiid species</b> .....	7
1.3.1	Taxonomy, biology, and ecology of the family Phyllidiidae .....	7
1.3.2	Isolated compounds from phyllidiid species .....	11
1.3.3	Biosynthesis of isocyanide compounds in phyllidiid species .....	15
<b>1.4</b>	<b>Short review of the Phylum Porifera (sponges)</b> .....	15
1.4.1	Definition and biology of sponges .....	15
1.4.2	Sponges containing isocyanide metabolites and related compounds .	17
1.4.2.1	Sponges of the family Axinellidae .....	18
1.4.2.2	Sponges of the family Dictyonellidae .....	21
1.4.2.3	Sponges of the family Halichondriidae .....	23
1.4.2.4	Other sponges not belonging to the order Halichondrida .....	24
1.4.3	Biosynthesis of the isocyanide group in marine sponges .....	25
<b>2</b>	<b>Materials and Methods</b> .....	27
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Research materials and location of collection</b> .....	27
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Collection of research objects</b> .....	28
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Feeding observation</b> .....	28

<b>2.4</b>	<b>Identification of samples</b> .....	30
2.4.1	Phyllidiid species.....	30
2.4.1.1	<i>Phyllidia elegans</i> .....	30
2.4.1.2	<i>Phyllidia ocellata</i> .....	30
2.4.1.3	<i>Phyllidia varicosa</i> .....	30
2.4.1.4	<i>Phyllidiella lizae</i> .....	31
2.4.1.5	<i>Phyllidiella pustulosa</i> .....	31
2.4.1.6	<i>Phyllidiella rudmani</i> .....	31
2.4.1.7	<i>Phyllidiella zeylanica</i> .....	31
2.4.1.8	<i>Phyllidiopsis krempfi</i> .....	32
2.4.1.9	<i>Phyllidiopsis shireenae</i> .....	32
2.4.1.10	<i>Fryeria menindie</i> .....	32
2.4.2	Sponge species.....	34
2.4.2.1	<i>Axinyssa aplysinoides</i> .....	35
2.4.2.2	Group A ( <i>Axinyssa</i> 6 n. sp.) .....	35
2.4.2.3	Group B ( <i>Axinyssa</i> 4 n. sp.) .....	36
2.4.2.4	Group C ( <i>Axinyssa</i> 5 n. sp.).....	36
2.4.2.5	Group D ( <i>Axinyssa</i> 1 n. sp.).....	37
2.4.2.6	Group E ( <i>Axinyssa</i> 2 n. sp.).....	38
2.4.2.7	Group F ( <i>Axinyssa</i> 3 n. sp.) .....	38
2.4.2.8	<i>Acanthella cavernosa</i> .....	39
2.4.2.9	<i>Dragmacidon</i> sp.....	39
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Isolation of isocyanide compounds</b> .....	41
2.5.1	Chromatographic methods.....	41
2.5.1.1	Thin layer chromatography .....	41
2.5.1.2	Vacuum liquid chromatography.....	41
2.5.1.3	Normal column chromatography .....	42
2.5.1.4	Flash chromatography .....	42
2.5.1.5	Gas chromatography .....	42
2.5.2	Procedure for the isolation of the secondary metabolites.....	43
2.5.2.1	Isolation of the mixture 9 $\alpha$ - and 9 $\beta$ -thiocyanatopupukeanane .....	43
2.5.2.2	Isolation of 2-thiocyanatoneopupukeanane.....	43
2.5.2.3	Isolation of 8-isocyano-1(12)-cycloamphilectene .....	44

2.5.2.4	Isolation of Epipolasin-A.....	44
2.5.3	Structure elucidation of the isolated secondary metabolites .....	45
2.5.3.1	Mass spectrometry (MS).....	45
2.5.3.2	Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR).....	45
2.5.3.3	Optical activity.....	46
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Organ-specific distribution of isolated compounds .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Feeding deterrent experiments.....</b>	<b>48</b>
2.7.1	Qualitative feeding deterrent experiments of phyllidiid species intact .	48
2.7.2	Quantitative feeding deterrent experiments of isolated compounds....	49
<b>2.8</b>	<b>Bioassay .....</b>	<b>49</b>
2.8.1	Brine-shrimp assay .....	50
2.8.2	Antibacterial activity .....	51
<b>2.9</b>	<b>Chemicals used.....</b>	<b>52</b>
2.9.1	General laboratory chemicals.....	52
2.9.2	Solvents .....	52
2.9.3	Chromatography: .....	52
<b>2.10</b>	<b>Equipments used .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Results .....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Identification of research objects .....</b>	<b>54</b>
3.1.1	Phyllidiid species.....	54
3.1.2	Sponge-preys of phyllidiid species.....	54
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Feeding and behaviour observations in the aquarium .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Isolated isocyanide compounds.....</b>	<b>64</b>
3.3.1	Isolated compound 9 $\alpha$ - & 9 $\beta$ -thiocyanatopupukeanane (1, 2; new compounds).....	64

3.3.2	Isolated compound 2-thiocyanatoneopupukeanane (3; known compound) .....	76
3.3.3	Isolated compound 8-isocyano-1(12)-cycloamphilectene (4, known compound) .....	84
3.3.4	Isolated compound epipolasin-A (5, known compound) .....	96
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Concentration variations of terpenes in collected sponges</b> .....	<b>101</b>
3.4.1	Quantitative analysis of sesquiterpene isocyanides in sponge <i>Axinyssa</i> species .....	101
3.4.1.1	<i>Axinyssa</i> 1 n. sp. ....	101
3.4.1.2	<i>Axinyssa</i> 4 n. sp. ....	103
3.4.1.3	<i>Axinyssa</i> 5 n. sp. ....	105
3.4.1.4	<i>Axinyssa</i> 6 n. sp. ....	107
3.4.2	Quantitative analysis of terpene isocyanides in the sponge <i>Dragnacidon</i> sp. ....	108
3.4.3	Quantitative variation of compounds in the sponge <i>Acanthella cavernosa</i> .....	110
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Analysis of isocyanide compounds between phyllidiid species and their sponge-preys</b> .....	<b>112</b>
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Organ specific distribution of terpene isocyanides in phyllidiids</b> .....	<b>116</b>
<b>3.7</b>	<b>Fish feeding experiments</b> .....	<b>118</b>
3.7.1	Qualitative feeding deterrent experiments with intact phyllidiid species .....	118
3.7.2	Quantitative feeding deterrent experiments .....	119
<b>3.8</b>	<b>Brine-shrimp and antimicrobial assays</b> .....	<b>122</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Discussion</b> .....	<b>123</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Feeding and behaviour of phyllidiid species</b> .....	<b>123</b>
4.1.1	Feeding mechanism .....	123

4.1.2	Morphological correlations between phyllidiids and their sponge-preys	124
4.1.3	Phyllidiids behaviours in aquarium	125
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Taxonomy and chemo-taxonomy of the collected sponge-preys of phyllidiid species</b>	<b>126</b>
4.2.1	<i>Dragmacidon</i> sp.	127
4.2.2	<i>Axinyssa</i> spp.	128
<b>4.3</b>	<b>Isolated compounds of diterpene isocyanide, thio- and isothiocyanate sesquiterpenes</b>	<b>131</b>
4.3.1	Compounds containing the thiocyanato function (compounds <b>1</b> , <b>2</b> , & <b>3</b> )	132
4.3.2	Compound containing the isothiocyanato function ( <b>5</b> ; epipolasin-A)	136
4.3.3	Compound containing isocyano function ( <b>4</b> ; known compound)	138
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Quantitative variation of compounds in the collected sponges</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>4.5</b>	<b>Chemical correlations between phyllidiids and sponge-preys</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>4.6</b>	<b>Phyllidiids's organ specific distribution of isolated compounds</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>4.7</b>	<b>Ecological role of the isolated terpene isocyanides</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>147</b>