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TITLE: Analogues of the Potent Antitumor Compound Leiodermatolide from a Deep-Water Sponge of the Genus *Leiodermatium*

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ABSTRACT:

Two new analogues of the potent antitumor compound leiodermatolide, which we call leiodermatolides B and C, have been isolated from specimens of a deep-water sponge of the genus *Leiodermatium* collected off Florida. The compounds were purified using standard chromatographic methods, and the structures defined through interpretation of the HRMS and 1D and 2D NMR data. Leiodermatolide B (2) lacks the C-21 hydroxy group found in leiodermatolide and has equal potency as the parent compound, providing a simpler analogue for possible clinical development. It inhibits the proliferation of the AsPC-1 human pancreatic adenocarcinoma cell line with an IC₅₀ of 43 nM. Leiodermatolide C (3) has a modified macrolide ring and is over 85-fold less potent with an IC₅₀ of 3.7 μ M against the same cell line. These compounds add to the knowledge of the pharmacophore of this class of potent antitumor agents.

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