

only a six-year interval it was impossible to find the relevant details, so the cause of the original error has not been identified. It would be a great help, therefore, if in future authors would ensure that their assignment complies with this check list. Fortunately, there is now so much automation at every stage from data collection through to the production of diagrams and stereopairs that errors are becoming increasingly rare. But even well established and proven procedures broke down somewhere with centaurepentin.

We are often surprised, however, to see papers submitted in which no attempt had been made to round off the work by determining the chirality in circumstances where this could have been done and would have provided valuable new or confirmatory data: the effort is trivial compared with that already put in, and we can do with all the cross checks we can get. We urge, therefore, that the assignment of chirality should be regarded as a normal outcome of structure analysis wherever the problem allows.

We are indebted to John R. Rodgers of CCDC for help in producing the present, very convenient, format of the search output.

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