# ChemComm

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#### Cover



Crambe Crambe, a marine sponge from which crambescidin alkaloids have been isolated (pp. 253–265). Photo courtesy of Miquel Pontes (http://marenostrum.org)



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# contents

#### FEATURE ARTICLE

## The tethered Biginelli condensation in natural product synthesis

Zachary D. Aron and Larry E. Overman\*

This review describes the development of the tethered Biginelli condensation and its application to the total synthesis of structurally complex, bioactive guanidine alkaloids.





→ liquid flow → gas flow

#### OMMUNICATIONS

#### Continuous laminar evaporation: micron-scale distillation

Robert C. R. Wootton and Andrew J. deMello\*

Micron scale distillation within continuous flow microfluidic systems is achieved using laminar flow regimes and carrier gases to control liquid movement.



# Fluorescence properties of 2-aminopurine–cytidine–7-deazaguanine (5'- $ApC^{dz}G\mbox{-}3')$ trimer in B- and Z-DNA

Takumi Kimura, Kiyohiko Kawai and Tetsuro Majima\*

To test the possibility of using 2-aminopurine as a Z-DNA probe, the effect of the B–Z transition on electron transfer quenching of Ap by guanine and 7-deazaguanine was investigated.

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Chemical Science

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## COMMUNICATIONS



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### Self-assembled metal-organic squares derived from linear templates as exemplified by a polydentate ligand that provides access to both a polygon and polyhedron

Giannis S. Papaefstathiou, Tamara D. Hamilton, Tomislav Friščić and Leonard R. MacGillivray\*

Bi- and polyfunctional pyridyl-cyclobutanes obtained from templatedirected syntheses conducted in the solid state self-assemble with the Cu(II) ion to form di- and tetranuclear metal–organic squares.

#### Spin labeling monitors weak host-guest interactions

Lenz Kröck, Alexander Shivanyuk, David B. Goodin and Julius Rebek, Jr.\*

Rapid host-guest interactions can be detected by EPR using spin-labeled cavitands.

## Thioglycosynthases: double mutant glycosidases that serve as scaffolds for thioglycoside synthesis

Michael Jahn, Hongming Chen, Johannes Müllegger, Jennifer Marles, R. Antony J. Warren and Stephen G. Withers

A double mutant, retaining glycosidase that lacks both the catalytic nucleophile and the catalytic acid/base residues efficiently catalyzes thioglycoside formation from a glycosyl fluoride donor and thiosugar acceptors.

# Room-temperature one-step immobilization of rod-like helical polymer onto hydrophilic substrates

Guangqing Guo, Masanobu Naito, Michiya Fujiki,\* Anubhav Saxena, Kento Okoshi, Yonggang Yang, Masaaki Ishikawa and Takahiro Hagihara

A facile, one-pot immobilization method for a rigid rod-like helical polysilane, poly(*n*-decyl-*i*-butylsilane), was developed onto hydrophilic surfaces at room temperature in the presence of triethylamine as a catalyst.

#### Polymorphism in butylated hydroxy anisole (BHA)

Jennifer A. McMahon, Michael J. Zaworotko and Julius F. Remenar\*

Butylated hydroxy anisole (3-BHA) exists as two polymorphs with dramatically different crystal packings sustained by OH…ether supramolecular heterosynthons: double helical chains (Form I, alongside) and a discrete hexameric assembly (Form II).



CH<sub>2</sub>mutated



### COMMUNICATIONS



#### In flagrante metallo-cyclophane self-assembly?

Peter J. Cragg, Fenton R. Heirtzler,\* Mark J. Howard, Ivan Prokes and Thomas Weyhermüller

The dimeric self-assembly of an alkyl-substituted pyrazine–pyridine hybrid ligand with copper(I) initially affords its sterically congested,  $C_2$ -symmetric stereoisomer, which then undergoes partial isomerisation to a dynamic mixture containing the less crowded *meso*-configured diastereomer.

# Parallel nucleic acid recognition by the LNA (locked nucleic acid) stereoisomers $\beta$ -L-LNA and $\alpha$ -D-LNA; studies in the mirror image world

Nanna K. Christensen, Torsten Bryld, Mads D. Sørensen, Khalil Arar, Jesper Wengel and Poul Nielsen\* Two stereoisomers of LNA are evaluated in the mirror-image world by the study of LNA and  $\alpha$ -L-LNA and their L-DNA and L-RNA complements. Both  $\beta$ -L-LNA and  $\alpha$ -D-LNA display high-affinity parallel stranded RNA-recognition.

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#### Artificial muscle: movement and position control

T. F. Otero\* and M. T. Cortes

All polymeric artificial muscle shows bending under absolute control of the applied current. The position of this device can be controlled by the consumed charge, the speed and movement direction by the magnitude and direction of the current. This device does not show relaxation when the electrical energy is switched off.

# Oxygenation of thiolates to S-bonded sulfinate in an iron(III) complex related to nitrile hydratase

Erwan Galardon, Michel Giorgi and Isabelle Artaud\*

A new mimic of iron nitrile hydratase containing two sulfinato groups *trans* to two carboxamido nitrogens has been prepared by air oxidation of the corresponding dithiolato complex  $[Fe(N_2S_2)Cl]^{2-}$  in the presence of  $CN^{-}$ .



# Alteration of room temperature phosphorescence lifetimes of quinine and quinidine by chiral additives

Yanli Wei, Wing-Hong Chan, Albert W. M. Lee and Carmen W. Huie\*

The observation of room temperature phosphorescence lifetime differences between quinine (QN) and quinidine (QD) and the ability to alter these differences based on the addition of chiral counter-ions or surfactants are reported.



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#### Photocontrol of the adsorption behavior of phenol for an azobenzene-montmorillonite intercalation compound

Tomohiko Okada,\* Yusuke Watanabea and Makoto Ogawa\*

Phenol was intercalated into *p*-(ω-dimethylhydroxyethylammonioethoxy)azobenzene (AZ<sup>+</sup>)-montmorillonite intercalation compound by UV irradiation and was deintercalated by subsequent visible light irradiation.



Contrasting coordination behaviour of 22-membered chalcogenaaza (Se, Te) macrocylces towards Pd(II) and Pt(II): Isolation and structural characterization of the first metallamacrocyle with a C-Pt-Se linkage

Snigdha Panda, Harkesh B. Singh\* and Ray J. Butcher

The synthesis and crystal structure of a novel 23-membered Pt(IV) metallamacrocyclic complex with a C-Pt-Se linkage is reported.

#### A new biotinylated tris bipyridinyl iron(II) complex as redox biotin-bridge for the construction of supramolecular biosensing architectures



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Naoufel Haddour, Chantal Gondran and Serge Cosnier\*

A new tris(bipyridyl)iron(II) complex bearing six 3 D oriented biotin groups has been designed and applied to the anchoring of multilayered avidin structures on an electrode surface.



## Discovery of two high-energy N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> isomers

Giulia de Petris,\* Fulvio Cacace\* and Anna Troiani

 $(NO)_{2}^{+}$  \_ N (+ e) (NO)<sub>2</sub> R (-e) → (NO) 2 Two N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> isomers containing N<sub>2</sub>/O<sub>2</sub> and NO/NO subunits, respectively, were detected by neutralization-reionization mass spectrometry (NRMS) as metastable species with lifetimes exceeding 1 µs.



## Polyhedral monocarbaborane chemistry. Carboxylic acid derivatives of the $[closo-2-CB_9H_{10}]^-$ anion

Andreas Franken, Colin A. Kilner and John D. Kennedy\*

The new  $[closo-2-CB_9H_9-2-(COOH)]^-$  and  $[closo-2-CB_9H_9-2-(C_6H_4-para-$ COOH)]<sup>-</sup> anions, obtained in overall 45–50% yield from  $B_{10}H_{14}$ , are potentially useful synthons for the further derivatisation of {*closo*-CB<sub>9</sub>} monocarbaboranes.



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 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{3a} \ R = p\text{-tert-butylphcnoxy}\\ \textbf{3b} \ R = N\text{-morpholino}\\ \textbf{3c} \ R = n\text{copentoxy}\\ \textbf{3d} \ R = cyano\\ \textbf{3e} \ R = 1\text{-octanethio} \end{array}$ 

#### Stereoselective ring-opening polymerization of racemic lactide using alkoxy-amino-bis(phenolate) group 3 metal complexes

Chen-Xin Cai, Abderramane Amgoune, Christian W. Lehmann and Jean-François Carpentier\*

Alkyl- and amido-yttrium complexes of a non-chiral tetradendate alkoxy-amino-bis(phenolate) ligand initiate the fast and controlled polymerization of rac-lactide to give heterotactic-rich polylactic acid.

### Definitive identification of lead(II)-amino acid adducts and the solid state structure of a lead-valine complex

Neil Burford,\* Melanie D. Eelman, Wesley G. LeBlanc, T. Stanley Cameron and Katherine N. Robertson

Electrospray ionization mass spectra of lead(II) nitrate-amino acid mixtures provide unequivocal identification of lead species with each of the essential amino acids and assignment of a valine complex has been supported with the first crystallographic characterization of a lead-amino

### Indium sulfide nanorods from single-source precursor

Mohammad Afzaal, Mohammad A. Malik and Paul O'Brien\*

Thin films comprised of In<sub>2</sub>S<sub>3</sub> nanorods have been prepared on glass substrates by metal-organic chemical vapour deposition [Et<sub>2</sub>In(S<sub>2</sub>CNMe<sup>n</sup>Bu)] without either template or catalyst.

### Partially stripped insulated nanowires: a lightly substituted hexa-perihexabenzocoronene-based columnar liquid crystal

Zhaohui Wang, Mark D. Watson, Jishan Wu and Klaus Müllen\*

Despite carrying only three alkyl chains at a single peripheral focal area, a new hexa-peri-hexabenzocoronene derivative forms stable columnar liquid crystalline mesophases and is easily processable from solution or from the melt, the latter due to a practically accessible isotropization

## Polysubstituted phthalocyanines by nucleophilic substitution reactions on hexadecafluorophthalocyanines

Clifford C. Leznoff\* and José L. Sosa-Sanchez

Nucleophilic substitution reactions on hexadecafluorophthalocyaninato zinc(II) with a variety of O, N, C, and S nucleophiles led to narrowly defined mixtures of polysubstituted phthalocyanines.

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#### COMMUNICATIONS

![](_page_10_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Picture_2.jpeg)

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 $-30 \,\mu m$ 

Preparation of thermosensitive PNIPAAm hydrogels with superfast response

Xian-Zheng Zhang and Chih-Chang Chu\*

A simple effective strategy was developed to prepare thermosensitive poly(*N*-isopropylacrylamide) (PNIPAAm) hydrogel with a superfast response by using THF as a foaming agent as well as a precipitation agent during the polymerization/crosslinking in water at room temperature. The superfast response PNIPAAm hydrogel may contribute significantly to the construction of novel intelligent devices in the future.

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