

JOURNAL OF NATURAL PRODUCTS

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Editorial

Changes for Volume 62

This year marks a changing of the guard in terms of two of the Associate Editors since Drs. David G. I. Kingston and Harry H. S. Fong have retired after a total of 15 and 5 years, respectively, of conscientious and efficient service to the journal. Drs. Alice M. Clark and Francis J. Schmitz are incoming Associate Editors, and will be primarily responsible, in turn, for biologically focused papers and for contributions on marine natural products. David Kingston will continue to serve in the capacity of Book Review Editor, and Richard G. Powell remains as Associate Editor.

I am happy to announce that henceforth two cover changes will be made per year in the *Journal of Natural Products*. In the first half of 1999, the structure of the Annonaceous acetogenin asimicin will be featured, overlaid on its botanical source, *Asimina triloba* (the North American paw paw tree). The acetogenins are potent inhibitors of ATP production and have the potential to serve as new pesticides and antitumor agents, especially when resistance to xenobiotics is dependent on ATP-driven mechanisms. A fascinating new addition to knowledge on the acetogenins is contained in the Rapid Communication in the present issue of the journal by Dr. Jerry L. McLaughlin and co-workers at Purdue University. They have found that the zebra swallowtail butterfly (*Eurytides marcellus*) concentrates acetogenins such as asimicin for defensive purposes from the paw paw tree. This butterfly is also included in the new cover photograph. In the second half of 1999, the cover of the journal will show the marine natural product ecteinascidin 743, overlaid on its Caribbean tunicate of origin, *Ecteinascidia turbinata*. This potent antitumor compound was originally isolated by Dr. Tom Holt in the group of Dr. Kenneth L. Rinehart at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a review on its struc-

ture elucidation has appeared in this journal (*J. Nat. Prod.* **1990**, *53*, 771–792). Ecteinascidin 743 has completed Phase I clinical trials in five cancer centers in Europe and the United States and is now entering Phase II clinical trials in several countries in up to 13 types of cancer. The mechanism of action of ecteinascidin 743 and structurally related compounds includes reversible alkylation of DNA in the minor groove. To facilitate the selection of interesting bioactive molecules for use on the journal cover in future years, readers are invited to send their suggestions to any of the Editors.

In recent years, there has been a vast increase in the use of phytomedicines in countries in North America, Europe, and elsewhere. Several papers on the chemistry and biological activity of the constituents of this interesting group of natural products have appeared in the journal in the past, but additional contributions describing scientific investigations of a rigorous nature are welcomed, in response to the increasing prominence of “herbal remedies”.

The *Journal of Natural Products* is fortunate in receiving many high-quality papers of wide interest that provide readers with substantial new information. Unfortunately, some contributors to the journal have a tendency to write several short notes on the constituents of a given organism, rather than combining such articles into a single coherent paper. This is wasteful not only in the use of available space in the journal, but also in terms of time taken in the reviewing and editorial processes. Due to ever-increasing constraints on the space in *J. Nat. Prod.*, our long-standing policy on the unnecessary fragmentation of manuscripts will be tightly enforced, as stated clearly in the Notice to Contributors.

A. Douglas Kinghorn
Editor-in-Chief

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