

JOURNAL OF NATURAL PRODUCTS

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Editorial

Changes for Volume 64

We are continuing our policy of featuring promising new biologically active natural products on the front cover of the journal. The first of this year's two new cover illustrations features a photograph of the sarcoglossan *Elysia rufescens* feeding on the algal dietary source *Briopsis* species. This is overlaid by the molecule of the depsipeptide kahahalide F, which was isolated initially by Hamann and Scheuer (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1993**, *115*, 5825–5826), with the absolute stereochemistry published by Goetz et al. (*Tetrahedron* **1999**, *55*, 7739–7746). Kahahalide F is currently in clinical trials in Europe for the treatment of patients with androgen-independent prostate tumors. This cover illustration was provided by Professor Paul Scheuer, a former Editorial Advisory Board member of this journal, who recently celebrated 50 years on the faculty of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Hawaii. For the second half of 2001, the cover will feature the structure of epothilone B, a cytotoxic and antifungal compound obtained from the cellulose-degrading myxobacterium *Sorangium cellulosum* (Gerth et al. *J. Antibiot.* **1996**, *49*, 560–563; Höfle et al. *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. Engl.* **1996**, *35*, 1567–1569). The epothilones are of great interest in being microtubule-stabilizing agents with a mechanism of action similar to paclitaxel, and both epothilone B and a derivative of this substance are currently undergoing clinical trials as potential anticancer agents. We are grateful to Prof. Dr. Hans Reichenbach (Abteilung Naturstoffbiologie, GBF, Braunschweig, Germany) for kindly providing this second cover illustration.

The *Journal of Natural Products* has seen increased numbers of papers submitted on herbal remedies (phytomedicines) published in the past few years. However, it has become necessary to tighten our requirements for this type of paper. When whole plant materials are used, information should be provided as to how a voucher specimen can be accessed by other workers. In situations when investigators examine a commercially available extract of a herbal remedy, the process used for the preparation of the extract should be indicated, and the authenticity of the extract should be supported by HPLC traces wherein marker compounds of known structure are identified. Full details of these new requirements are provided in our updated "Notice to Contributors" in this month's issue.

In the Editorial that appeared last January, contributors to the *Journal of Natural Products* were urged to use color photographs to support the taxonomic descriptions of organisms that are unidentified as to species. I would now like to point out to readers that the use of color in the journal is now free, subject to the approval of the editors. Finally, owing to the sustained high volume of submissions to this journal, coupled with the intention to stabilize the journal at its present size for some time to come, contributors are urged to place tables and figures of lesser importance in the Supporting Information of their paper only. In this way, the maximum number of papers can be published in the available journal space.

A. Douglas Kinghorn
Editor-in-Chief

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