

JOURNAL OF NATURAL PRODUCTS

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Editorial

Changes for Volume 66

Dr. John H. Cardellina II, of the U.S. National Cancer Institute, has recently been installed as the new Book Review Editor for the *Journal of Natural Products*, and he is warmly welcomed to this new position. He replaces Dr. David G. I. Kingston, of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, who has served in this capacity since 1979. David Kingston also served the journal as Associate Editor for 15 years (1984–1998), so he has earned a well-deserved respite from manuscript editorial duties! We are very grateful to him for a doing such a superb job.

Over the years since this journal began to be co-published by the American Chemical Society and the American Society of Pharmacognosy in 1996, our cover photographs have featured a number of plants, microbes, and animals of terrestrial and marine origin. The cover illustration for January–June 2003 is the first we have had to show an inanimate object and was contributed by Prof. Giovanni Appendino, of the University of Piemonte Orientale, Novara, Italy. Featured is a Greek coin from the colony of Cyrene, showing the plant silphion, a member of the genus *Ferula* (family Umbelliferae). Silphion was once used as a spice and medicinally as a contraceptive, but later went extinct due to excessive commercial exploitation. The cover also features the structure of ferutin, which has been found recently to be a potent phytoestrogen in an estrogen-inducible yeast assay (Appendino et al., *J. Nat. Prod.* **2002**, *65*, 1612–1615) and is postulated to have been a bioactive constituent of silphion. In the second cover illustration to be used in 2003 (July–December), Prof. Dr. Stefan Schulz of the Technical University, Braunschweig, Germany, will provide a photograph of an alligatorid species. Recent research by Prof. Dr. Schulz and his colleagues has led to the identification of a number of unusual acyclic terpenoids and substituted aliphatic ketones from the paracloacal glands of crocodylians (e.g., Schulz et al. *J. Nat. Prod.* **2003**, *66*, 34–38).

Last year, a new feature of the journal was instituted, through the inauguration of two new awards which honor two of our former editors. The Arthur E. Schwarting Award for best paper is open to all authors and was won in 2001 by corresponding author Prof. Dr. Gerhard Höfle (GBH, Braunschweig; *J. Nat. Prod.* **2001**, *64*, 847–856). The second of these, the Jack L. Beal Award, which is open to younger investigators, was won for 2001 by corresponding author Dr. Ben Shen [University of California, Davis (now at the University of Wisconsin); *J. Nat. Prod.* **2001**, *64*, 444–449]. We congratulate both Prof. Dr. Höfle and Dr. Shen and hope that these new awards will serve to stimulate the submission of additional outstanding papers to the *Journal of Natural Products*. Access to these articles and details of their titles and coauthorship, as well as the criteria used for the Jack L. Beal Award and the procedure employed for selecting the winners, are provided on the journal home page (<http://pubs.acs.org/journals/jnprdf/index/html>). The Arthur E. Schwarting and Jack L. Beal Awards are funded by the American Society of Pharmacognosy Foundation.

In response to comments made by several readers, I am pleased to announce that henceforth the *Journal of Natural Products* will be printed on a higher quality coated paper than previously. In addition, our voluntary page charges for 2003 and 2004 will be reduced from \$45 to \$25 per page and then will be phased out altogether in 2005.

A. Douglas Kinghorn
Editor-in-Chief
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