

Caelestines A–D, Brominated Quinolinecarboxylic Acids from the Australian Ascidian *Aplidium caelestis*

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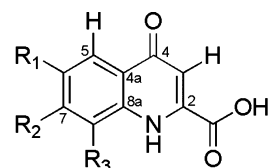
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Four new brominated natural products, caelestines A–D (**1–4**), have been isolated from the Australian ascidian *Aplidium caelestis*. The structures of **1–4** were determined by analysis of their NMR and MS data. This is the first report of brominated quinolinecarboxylic acids from nature. Compound **1** has been previously synthesized but not spectroscopically characterized. Compounds **1–4** were tested against three mammalian cell lines (MCF-7, NFF, and MM96L) and a panel of microbial strains and showed only minor cytotoxicity.

2-Quinolinecarboxylic acid derivatives are relatively uncommon in nature. To date, about 20 simple quinolinecarboxylic acids have been isolated from insects,^{1–4} bacteria,^{5–7} and plants.^{8–10} Xanthurenic acid, or 4,8-dihydroxy-2-quinolinecarboxylic acid, a metabolite of tryptophan, is present in the urine of vitamin B₆-deficient rats.¹¹ The 8-methoxy derivative of xanthurenic acid is a possible endogenous carcinogen.¹² Only seven quinolinecarboxylic acid derivatives have been reported from marine organisms. These include 4,5,8-trihydroxyquinolinecarboxylic acid from the Antarctic sponge *Dendrilla membranosa*,¹³ xanthurenic acid and its derivatives, tridemnic acids A and B, which were isolated from the Canadian ascidian *Trididemnum* sp.,¹⁴ distomadine B, which was isolated from the New Zealand ascidian *Pseudodistoma aureum*,¹⁵ and perspicamides A and B, which were purified from the Australian ascidian *Botrylloides perspicuum*.¹⁶ As part of our continuing efforts to discover new chemistry from Australian ascidians,^{16–19} we undertook a detailed chemical analysis of the previously uninvestigated ascidian *Aplidium caelestis*. These studies resulted in the isolation of four new brominated natural products, caelestines A–D (**1–4**). The structures of **1–4** were determined by analysis of the NMR and MS data. Compound **1** has been previously synthesized but not spectroscopically characterized. This is the first report of brominated quinolinecarboxylic acids from nature. Caelestines A–D (**1–4**) were tested against three mammalian cell lines (MCF-7, NFF, and MM96L) and a panel of microbial strains and showed only minor cytotoxicity. In this paper we report the isolation, structure elucidation, and bioactivity of compounds **1–4**.

The freeze-dried and ground ascidian *A. caelestis* was exhaustively extracted with *n*-hexanes, CHCl₃/MeOH (4:1), and MeOH. The CHCl₃/MeOH extracts were all combined and chromatographed using reversed-phase C₁₈ HPLC (MeOH/H₂O/0.1% TFA) to yield caelestines A–D (**1–4**).

Caelestine A (**1**) was isolated as a pale gum. The (+)-LRESIMS spectrum showed an isotopic cluster of [M + H]⁺ ions in the ratio 1:1 at *m/z* 268/270, indicating the presence of one bromine atom. The [M + H]⁺ ion in the (+)-HRESIMS spectrum at *m/z* 267.9597 allowed the molecular formula C₁₀H₆BrNO₃ to be assigned to **1**. The ¹H NMR data (Table 1) of **1** showed signals for two exchangeable protons [δ_{H} 11.98 (brs) and 11.14 (s)], a 1,2,4-trisubstituted benzene ring [δ_{H} 7.98 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz), 7.50 (dd, *J* = 8.6, 1.8 Hz), and 8.17 (d, *J* = 1.8 Hz)], and an olefinic singlet (δ_{H} 6.63). The ¹³C NMR spectrum together with the HSQC experiment



- 1** R₁ = H R₂ = Br R₃ = H
2 R₁ = Br R₂ = Br R₃ = H
3 R₁ = Br R₂ = H R₃ = OMe
4 R₁ = Br R₂ = Br R₃ = OMe

revealed 10 carbon resonances, which included two carbonyl signals (δ_{C} 177.2 and 163.4), four sp² methines (δ_{C} 110.5, 127.0, 127.0, and 121.8), and four quaternary sp² carbons (δ_{C} 139.5, 126.0, 141.1, and 124.5). The aforementioned data were similar to those of 4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-2-carboxylic acid¹⁰ except that one of the aromatic protons in 4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-2-carboxylic acid was replaced with a bromine atom in **1**. This was supported by the ABX substitution pattern of the benzene ring and the presence of the bromine atom in the molecular formula of **1**. Detailed analysis of the 2D NMR data (HSQC and HMBC) of **1** allowed the bromine atom to be positioned at C-7. In particular the intensity of the HMBC correlations assisted in the unambiguous assignment of the brominated benzenoid system (see Supporting Information). Strong ³J_{CH} HMBC correlations from the aromatic proton at δ_{H} 7.98 to C-4 (δ_{C} 177.2), C-7 (δ_{C} 126.0), and C-8a (δ_{C} 141.1) placed this proton at C-5, while the proton at δ_{H} 8.17 was positioned at C-8 due to HMBC correlations between H-8 and C-4 (⁴J_{CH}, weak correlation), C-6 (³J_{CH}), and C-4a (³J_{CH}) (Figure 1). The proton at δ_{H} 7.50 and bromine atom were placed at C-6 and C-7, respectively, on the basis of the ABX substitution pattern of the benzene ring. Strong HMBC correlations (³J_{CH}) from both H-3 and H-6 to C-4a further supported this assignment. Thus caelestine A (**1**) was assigned as 7-bromo-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-2-carboxylic acid. Compound **1** has previously been synthesized and shown to be an antagonist toward the *N*-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor.²⁰ No spectroscopic data have been previously reported for **1**.

Caelestine B (**2**) was isolated as a pale gum. The (+)-LRESIMS spectrum showed a cluster of pseudomolecular ions in the ratio 1:2:1 at *m/z* 346/348/350, indicating the presence of two bromine atoms. The molecular formula of C₁₀H₅Br₂NO₃ was determined by (–)-HRESIMS data at *m/z* 343.8547 [M – H][–], which showed it had one more bromine atom than **1**. The ¹H NMR spectrum of **2** was similar to **1** except for the replacement of the ABX benzene ring system in **1** by two aromatic singlets in **2**. This indicated that the additional bromine atom in **2** was also substituted on the benzene ring. 2D NMR experiments (HMBC, HSQC) were employed to

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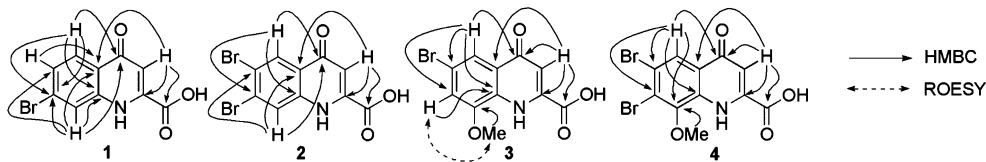
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Table 1. ^1H NMR (600 MHz) Data for Caelestines A–D (1–4)

no.	1		2		3		4	
	δ_{H}^a	δ_{H}^a	δ_{H}^a	δ_{H}^b	δ_{H}^a	δ_{H}^b	δ_{H}^c	
3	6.63, s	6.66, s	6.71, brs	6.97, s	N.O.	6.95, s	6.65, s	
5	7.98, d (8.6)	8.27, s	7.74, d (1.6)	7.92, s	8.15, s	8.30, s	8.11, s	
6	7.50, dd (8.6, 1.8)							
7			7.47, d (1.6)	7.44, s				
8	8.17, d (1.8)	8.35, s						
8-OMe			4.04, s	4.10, s	4.04, s	4.08, s	3.98, s	
NH	11.14, s	11.14, s	11.13, s		11.13, s			
COOH	11.98, brs	12.10, brs	N.O. ^d		N.O.			

^a In $\text{DMSO}-d_6$. ^b In CD_3OD . ^c In $\text{DMSO}-d_6/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (17:1). ^d N.O. = not observed.

**Figure 1.** Selected HMBC and ROESY correlations for caelestines A–D (1–4).

assign the substituents of the benzene ring. The HMBC correlations from one of the aromatic protons at δ_{H} 8.27 to the carbons at δ_{C} 176.0 (C-4), 139.6 (C-8a), and 128.1 (C-7) placed this proton at C-5. HMBC correlations from the other aromatic proton at δ_{H} 8.35 to C-4 ($^4J_{\text{CH}}$, weak correlation), C-6, and C-4a located this proton at C-8. Thus only two positions (C-6 and C-7) were left on the benzene ring to place two bromine atoms. The *para* relationship of the two aromatic protons on the benzene ring was further supported by their sharp singlet signals in ^1H NMR spectrum, as either an *ortho* or *meta* relationship of these two protons should result in an observable ^1H – ^1H coupling. Thus the structure of caelestine B (2) was assigned as 6,7-dibromo-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-2-carboxylic acid.

Caelestine C (3) was isolated as a pale gum. The (+)-LRESIMS spectrum showed 1:1 ion cluster peaks at m/z 298/300 [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]⁺ and 320/322 [$\text{M} + \text{Na}$]⁺, indicating the presence of one bromine atom. The molecular formula of $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_8\text{BrNO}_4$ was determined by (+)-HRESIMS data at m/z 297.9702 [$\text{M} + \text{H}$]⁺. The ^1H NMR spectrum of 3 recorded in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ (Table 1) showed signals for one exchangeable proton [δ_{H} 11.13 (s)], two aromatic protons [δ_{H} 7.74 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz) and 7.47 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz)], a methoxy group (δ_{H} 4.04), and a weak and broad olefinic signal at δ_{H} 6.71. The aforementioned information implied 3 was an analogue of compounds 1 and 2. Unfortunately, 2D NMR correlations (HSQC and HMBC) arising from the olefinic signal at δ_{H} 6.71 were very weak in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$, and hence the structure of 3 could not be initially confirmed. This broad signal was possibly due to tautomerization between the 4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline and the 4-hydroxyquinoline moieties, which has been reported for related compounds in various solvents.^{13,19} In order to investigate whether a change of deuterated solvents could improve the shape of the H-3 signal, the ^1H NMR spectrum of 3 was recorded in CD_3OD . This resulted in all the nonexchangeable protons appearing as sharp signals, suggesting that 3 was present as one preferred tautomeric form in CD_3OD . In a similar manner to caelestines A and B, the HMBC data were critical for the structure assignment of 3. In CD_3OD the proton at δ_{H} 6.97 (H-3) showed HMBC correlations to C-2 (δ_{C} 141.4), C-4 (δ_{C} 179.7), C-4a (δ_{C} 128.0), and –COOH (δ_{C} 164.4), indicating that 3 shared the same ring system as compounds 1 and 2 (Figure 1). The strong $^3J_{\text{CH}}$ HMBC correlation from the aromatic proton at δ_{H} 7.92 to C-4, C-7, and C-8a assigned this proton as H-5. The *meta* coupling constant ($J = 1.6$ Hz, in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$) between H-5 and the other aromatic proton at δ_{H} 7.47 required the latter to be placed at C-7. The methoxy group was located at C-8, as the only ROESY correlation observed in 3 was between H-7 and 8-OMe. The existence of the 8-OMe was further supported by the upfield-shifted carbon signals of C-5 ($\Delta \delta_{\text{C}} > 7$ ppm) and C-8a ($\Delta \delta_{\text{C}} > 8$

ppm) compared with those in compounds 1 and 2, as the insertion of methoxy group has shielding effects at the *ortho* and *para* positions of a benzene system.²¹ Subsequently, a bromine atom was placed at C-6. Hence the structure of caelestine C (3) was assigned as 6-bromo-8-methoxy-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-2-carboxylic acid.

Caelestine D (4) was assigned a molecular formula of $\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_7\text{Br}_2\text{NO}_4$ on the basis of (–)-HRESIMS data, which had one more bromine atom than 3. The ^1H NMR spectrum of 4 recorded in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ exhibited only three singlets, which were assigned to an exchangeable proton (δ_{H} 11.13), an aromatic proton (δ_{H} 8.15), and a methoxy group (δ_{H} 4.04). The absence of the olefinic signal (H-3) in $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ implied that 4 also underwent tautomerization. We postulated that 4 might be present as one preferred tautomeric form in a polar protic solvent as shown for 3 in CD_3OD . Unfortunately, 4 was only partially soluble in CD_3OD , which prevented good-quality 2D NMR data from being obtained. Hence one drop of H_2O was added to the $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ solution, which resulted in the appearance of the H-3 signal at δ_{H} 6.65 in the ^1H NMR spectrum. The aforementioned information implied that 4 was an analogue of 3, with the only structural difference occurring on the benzene ring. Analysis of 2D NMR data recorded in wet $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ allowed the structure of 4 to be determined. The aromatic proton at δ_{H} 8.11 was assigned as H-5 on the basis of a strong HMBC correlation from this proton to a conjugated ketone at δ_{C} 176.4 (C-4). As no ROESY correlations were observed between H-5 and the methoxy group, and H-5 had a strong HMBC correlation with the carbon at δ_{C} 118.9 (C-7) and a weak correlation with the carbon at δ_{C} 148.8 (C-8), the methoxy group was placed at C-8. This assignment was further confirmed by comparison of the carbon chemical shifts of 4 with 2. The chemical shifts of C-5, C-7, and C-8a in 4 were shifted upfield by 4.9, 9.2, and 5.8 ppm, respectively, compared to those in 2, since the presence of a methoxy group at C-8 had shielding effects at the *ortho* and *para* positions.²¹ Subsequently, two bromine atoms were placed at C-6 and C-7. Thus the structure of caelestine D (4) was assigned as 6,7-dibromo-8-methoxy-4-oxo-1,4-dihydroquinoline-2-carboxylic acid.

Table 3 shows the *in vitro* activity of compounds 1–4 against three mammalian cell types. MCF-7 is derived from a breast adenocarcinoma cell line, MM96L is an melanotic metastatic melanoma cell line, and NFF (neonatal foreskin fibroblasts) is a “normal” primary cell type. The NFF cells are routinely used in toxicity studies to determine compound selectivity for cancer cells. All compounds (1–4) showed only minor activity at 100 μM . Compounds 1–4 were also tested against a panel of ATCC and NCTC type stains of microbes known to be associated with

Table 2. ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz) Data for Caelestines A–D (1–4)

no.	1 ^a	2 ^a	3 ^b	4 ^c
2	139.5, C	140.0, C	141.4, ^d C	145.8, ^d C
3	110.5, CH	110.5, CH	111.4, CH	108.6, CH
4	177.2, C	176.0, C	179.7, ^d C	176.4, ^d C
4a	124.5, C	125.9, C	128.0, C	125.9, C
5	127.0, CH	129.3, CH	119.9, CH	124.4, CH
6	127.0, CH	118.9, C	119.3, C	121.9, C
7	126.0, C	128.1, C	116.5, CH	118.9, C
8	121.8, CH	124.6, CH	151.3, C	148.8, ^d C
8a	141.1, C	139.6, C	131.1, C	133.8, ^d C
–COOH	163.4, C	163.2, C	164.4, C	162.8, ^d C
8-OMe			57.7, CH ₃	61.7, CH ₃

^a In DMSO-*d*₆. ^b In CD₃OD. ^c In DMSO-*d*₆/H₂O (17:1). ^d Signals were assigned from 2D NMR data.

Table 3. *In Vitro* Cytotoxicity of Caelestines A–D (1–4)

compound	mammalian cells [% inhibition at 100 μM (\pm SD)]		
	MCF-7	MM96L	NFF
1	39 (\pm 3)	62 (\pm 11)	57 (\pm 5)
2	49 (\pm 8)	69 (\pm 6)	66 (\pm 2)
3	40 (\pm 5)	54 (\pm 3)	58 (\pm 2)
4	38 (\pm 5)	52 (\pm 6)	68 (\pm 13)

nosocomial infections that included multidrug-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 43300), methicillin-sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus* (ATCC 25923), *Escherichia coli* (ATCC 25922), *Enterococcus faecalis* (ATCC 19433), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (NCTC 10662), and *Candida albicans* (ATCC 10231). At concentrations ranging from 0.1 μM to 10 mM no microbial growth inhibition was observed after 20 h of incubation.

Experimental Section

General Experimental Procedures. UV and IR spectra were recorded on a Jasco V-650 UV/vis spectrophotometer and a Bruker Tensor 27 spectrometer, respectively. NMR spectra were recorded at 30 °C on either a Varian 500 MHz or a 600 MHz Unity INOVA spectrometer. The latter spectrometer was equipped with a triple resonance cold probe. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR chemical shifts were referenced to the solvent peak for DMSO-*d*₆ at δ_{H} 2.49 and δ_{C} 39.5 and for CD₃OD at δ_{H} 3.31 and δ_{C} 49.0. LRESIMS spectra were recorded on a Waters ZQ mass spectrometer. HRESIMS data were recorded on a Bruker Daltonics Apex III 4.7e Fourier-transform mass spectrometer. A Bioline orbital shaker was used for the large-scale extraction of ascidian material. Alltech Davisil 40–60 μm 60 Å C₁₈ bonded silica was used for preadsorption work. A Waters 600 pump equipped with a Waters 996 PDA detector and a Waters 717 autosampler were used for HPLC. A Phenomenex Luna 5 μm C₁₈ column (21.2 \times 250 mm) was used for semipreparative HPLC separation. All solvents used for chromatography, UV, and MS were Lab-Scan HPLC grade, and the H₂O was Millipore Milli-Q PF filtered.

Animal Material. The ascidian *Aplidium caelestis* (Monniot 1987) was collected by scuba diving at a depth of 12.9 m from Manta Ray Bommie, North Stradbroke Island, Queensland, Australia, in February 2005. A voucher sample, QMG322279, was lodged at the Queensland Museum, South Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Extraction and Isolation. The freeze-dried and ground ascidian (20 g) was transferred to a conical flask (1 L), *n*-hexane (250 mL) was added, and the flask was shaken at 200 rpm for 2 h. The *n*-hexane extract was filtered under gravity, then discarded. A CHCl₃/MeOH mixture (4:1, 250 mL) was added to the defatted marine material in the conical flask, which was then shaken at 200 rpm for 2 h. The resulting extract was filtered under gravity and set aside. MeOH (250 mL) was added, and the MeOH/ascidian mixture was shaken for a further 2 h at 200 rpm. Following gravity filtration the marine material was extracted with another volume of MeOH (250 mL), while being shaken at 200 rpm for 16 h. All CHCl₃/MeOH extracts were combined and dried under reduced pressure to yield a dark brown solid (1.2 g). This solid was redissolved into a CHCl₃/MeOH mixture (4:1, 50 mL), then filtered under gravity to remove the salt. The resulting solution

was dried to give a desalted residue (0.45 g). This residue was preadsorbed on C₁₈-bonded silica, then packed into a stainless steel cartridge (10 \times 30 mm) that was subsequently attached to a C₁₈ Luna HPLC column. Isocratic HPLC conditions of 90% H₂O (0.1% TFA)/10% MeOH (0.1% TFA) were initially employed for the first 10 min; then a linear gradient to MeOH (0.1% TFA) was run over 40 min, followed by isocratic conditions of MeOH (0.1% TFA) for a further 10 min, all at a flow rate of 9 mL/min. Sixty fractions (60 \times 1 min) were collected from time = 0 min. Following lyophilization fractions 29, 31, 33, and 35 yielded pure **1** (1.5 mg, 0.0075% dry wt), **3** (2.1 mg, 0.0105% dry wt), **2** (1.1 mg, 0.0055% dry wt), and **4** (2.3 mg, 0.0115% dry wt), respectively.

Caelestine A (1): pale gum; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 356 (3.21), 340 (3.32), 251 (3.63), 223 (3.87) nm; IR ν_{max} (KBr) 1696 (br), 1623, 1589, 1561, 1509, 1456, 1402, 1295 (br), 1243, 1205, 1141, 1065, 826 cm⁻¹; ^1H (600 MHz) and ^{13}C (125 MHz) NMR, see Tables 1 and 2, respectively; (+)-LRESIMS m/z (35 eV) (rel int) 268 [C₁₀H₆⁷⁹BrNO₃ + H]⁺ (92), 270 [C₁₀H₆⁸¹BrNO₃ + H]⁺ (100); (+)-HRESIMS m/z 267.9597 (calcd for C₁₀H₆⁷⁹BrNO₃, 267.9604).

Caelestine B (2): pale gum; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 350 (3.53), 263 (4.00), 224 (4.12) nm; IR ν_{max} (KBr) 1721 (br), 1628, 1587, 1494, 1439, 1403, 1205, 1137, 801 cm⁻¹; ^1H (600 MHz) and ^{13}C (125 MHz) NMR, see Tables 1 and 2, respectively; (+)-LRESIMS m/z (35 eV) (rel int) 346 [C₁₀H₅⁷⁹Br₂NO₃ + H]⁺ (42), 348 [C₁₀H₅⁷⁹Br⁸¹BrNO₃ + H]⁺ (100), 350 [C₁₀H₅⁸¹Br₂NO₃ + H]⁺ (42); (–)-HRESIMS m/z 343.8547 (calcd for C₁₀H₄⁷⁹Br₂NO₃, 343.8563).

Caelestine C (3): pale gum; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 347 (3.25), 244 (3.80), 227 (3.77) nm; IR ν_{max} (KBr) 1679 (br), 1514, 1439, 1203, 1138, 1064, 801 cm⁻¹; ^1H (600 MHz) and ^{13}C (125 MHz) NMR, see Tables 1 and 2, respectively; (+)-LRESIMS m/z (35 eV) (rel int) 298 [C₁₁H₈⁷⁹BrNO₄ + H]⁺ (95), 300 [C₁₁H₈⁸¹BrNO₄ + H]⁺ (100), 320 [C₁₁H₈⁷⁹BrNO₄ + Na]⁺ (35), 322 [C₁₁H₈⁸¹BrNO₄ + Na]⁺ (38); (+)-HRESIMS m/z 297.9702 (calcd for C₁₁H₈⁷⁹BrNO₄, 297.9709).

Caelestine D (4): pale gum; UV (MeOH) λ_{max} (log ϵ) 355 (3.48), 340 (3.47), 255 (3.93), 225 (4.01) nm; IR ν_{max} (KBr) 1623, 1582, 1549, 1503, 1452, 1417, 1392, 1196, 1039, 932, 805 cm⁻¹; ^1H (600 MHz) and ^{13}C (150 MHz) NMR, see Tables 1 and 2, respectively; (+)-LRESIMS m/z (35 eV) (rel int) 376 [C₁₁H₇⁷⁹Br₂NO₄ + H]⁺ (45), 378 [C₁₁H₇⁷⁹Br⁸¹BrNO₄ + H]⁺ (100); 380 [C₁₁H₇⁸¹Br₂NO₄ + H]⁺ (48); (–)-HRESIMS m/z 373.8662 (calcd for C₁₁H₆⁷⁹Br₂NO₄, 373.8669).

Mammalian Cell Assays. The experimental details of the mammalian cell assays have been described in a previous publication.²² Doxorubicin was used as a positive control for all assays and gave 99% inhibition of MCF-7 and MM96L and 95% inhibition of NFF at 1 μM .

Antimicrobial Assays. Antimicrobial activities were evaluated using the CLSI broth microdilution assay²³ with each compound screened in a decimal dilution series commencing from 0.1 μM to 10 mM.

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Supporting Information Available: NMR data for caelestines A–D (1–4). This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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