Registry No.--5b (R = Me), 50896-84-9; 8, 28309-53-7; 9, 4105-38-8; acetyl chloride, 75-36-5; valeric anhydride, 2082-59-9; isovaleric anhydride, 1468-39-9; sec-valeryl chloride, 5856-79-1; pivaloyl chloride, 3282-30-2; pivalic anhydride, 1538-75-6; pivalic acid, 75-98-9; decanoyl chloride, 112-13-0; margaroyl chloride, 40480-10-2; margaric acid, 506-12-7; lignoceroyl chloride, 58576-73-1; cyclopropanecarboxylic anhydride, 33993-24-7; 1-adamantanecarboxylic anhydride, 42601-02-5; 1-adamantoyl chloride, 2094-72-6; crotonic anhydride, 623-68-7; benzoic anhydride, 93-97-0;  $\gamma$ -phenylbutyric anhydride, 1940-02-9; cinnamic anhydride, 538-56-7; acetic anhydride, 108-24-7; cytidine, 65-46-3; boron trifluoride, 7637-07-2; benzoyl chloride, 98-88-4; 2',3',5'-tri-O-benzoylcytidine, 31652-74-1; benzoic acid, 65-85-0; uridine, 58-96-8.

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# Acyclic Polyhalogenated Monoterpenes from the Red Alga **Plocamium violaceum**

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Several new acyclic 1,4,6-trichloro-3,7-dimethyl-2,7-octadiene monoterpenes are reported from the red marine alga Plocamium violaceum (Dixon) collected along a narrow coastal region of Monterey County, Calif. Both the gross structures and all of the stereochemical features of these halocarbons were established by extensive analysis of their <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data in comparison to data from numerous model compounds.

Our recent study of the natural products from the marine algae of the Plocamiaceae has revealed a fascinating array of halogenated monoterpenes. Without exception, every Plocamiaceae species that we have examined has been rich in one or more of these natural products.<sup>1</sup> For example, *Plocamium* cartilagineum (Dixon) contains several 2,7-dimethyl-1,5,7octatrienes such as cartilagineal 1<sup>2</sup> or 2.<sup>3</sup> Other unusual acyclic monoterpenes including 3 and 4 can be isolated from Plocamium oregonum (Doty),<sup>4</sup> and costatol (5) is found in Plocamium costatum (C. Ag.).<sup>5</sup> By contrast, Plocamium violaceum (Farlow) has been a source for a number of alicyclic monoterpenes<sup>6,7</sup> such as plocamene B (6) and plocamene D (7)

Our past work upon the monocyclic constituents from P. violaceum has involved specimens toxic to both fish and insects which are collected from a broad area north of Santa Cruz, Calif. (Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties). Concurrent work by others has shown that P. violaceum from San Diego County, Calif., contains additional examples of cyclic monoterpenes.8 Not long ago we had occasion to collect samples of P. violaceum from a narrow coastal region of Monterey County just south of Santa Cruz, Calif. These seaweeds displayed no alicyclic monoterpenes and instead yielded several new acyclic monoterpenes. Reported below are the structures of these interesting new compounds.

Collections of P. violaceum from Pescadero Point, Point Joe, and Asilomar Beach (all in Monterey County, Calif.) gave crude oils, from CHCl<sub>3</sub> extraction of fresh plants, having fairly



different GC/MS profiles. The Point Joe oil contained a single major component, which was easily purified, of molecular formula  $C_{10}H_{15}ClBr_2$  to which we assigned a gross structure 8a. While its UV was blank above 200 nm and the IR showed only halocarbon functionality, both the mass spectrum (weak M<sup>+</sup> cluster at m/e 328/330/332) and the <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum (Table I) provided information about the total formula. In addition, the <sup>13</sup>C NMR exhibited two double bonds thereby revealing, in combination with the molecular formula, an acyclic constitution. The relative atom connectivities were solved from the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 100 MHz). The 15 H's were distributed among six multiplet clusters divisible into four subgroups: (a) two vinyl CH<sub>3</sub>'s  $\delta$  1.87 (A = 6) singlet (as two singlets  $\delta$  1.67 and 1.77 in 1:1 CDCl<sub>3</sub>-Bz-d<sub>6</sub>); (b) XCHCH<sub>2</sub>CHX  $\delta$  2.42 (A = 2) triplet (J = 7.2 Hz),  $\delta$  4.66 and 4.69 (A = 1, 1) overlapping triplets (J = 7.2 Hz), collapsible to a single triplet at  $\delta$  4.61 (A = 2) in 1:1 CDCl<sub>3</sub>-Bz-d<sub>6</sub> or collapsible to two singlets by irradiation at  $\delta$  2.42; (c) >C=CH<sub>2</sub>  $\delta$  4.95 and 5.11 (A = 1, 1) br singlets; and (d) XCH<sub>2</sub>CH=C<  $\delta 4.07 (A = 2)$  doublet  $(J = 7.4 \text{ Hz}), \delta 5.80 (A = 1)$  br triplet  $(J = 7.4 \text{ Hz}), \delta 5.80 (A = 1)$ = 7.4 Hz). These four fragments could be pieced together in only one way as shown by structure 8a.

The remaining details unsolved for the total structure of 8a included the geometry about the  $C_2-C_3$  trisubstituted double bond, the absolute halogen regiochemistry, and the relative stereochemistry of the halogens at  $C_4$  and  $C_6$ . Each of these assignments was unambiguously established below by employing several types of NMR data.

The <sup>13</sup>C shift assignments for 8a (Table I) were made based upon the  $J_{CH}$  data<sup>6</sup> and reference to chemical shift data for several model compounds (Scheme I). That <sup>13</sup>C shifts for

Scheme I. <sup>13</sup>C NMR Chemical Shifts of Model Compounds



<sup>*a*</sup> This work. <sup>*b*</sup> Reference 9. <sup>*c*</sup> Reference 10. <sup>*d*</sup> Reference 11. <sup>*e*</sup> Reference 12. <sup>*f*</sup> Reference 13.

halogenated carbons in an isostructural environment are quite dependent upon the type of halogen substituent is illustrated in Scheme I. Thus, a  $-CH_2Br$  appears 12 ppm higher than a  $-CH_2Cl$  in models 9 and 10 vs. 11 and 12. Of the three halogenated carbons in 8a which occur at  $\delta$  39.8, 56.5, and 57.9, it



				5	□ □ □ 8¢
Carbon	δ	Mult	$J_{\rm CH}$	δ	δ
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	39.7 124.6 $139.9^{a}$ $56.2^{b}$ 43.4 $57.6^{b}$ 143.7 114.8	t d s d t d s t	151 156 159 131 159 156	$\begin{array}{c} 39.5\\ 125.3\\ 142.7\\ 62.8^{b}\\ 42.7\\ 63.9^{b}\\ 142.7\\ 115.5\end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{r} 40.4 \\ 124.7 \\ 63.1^{b} \\ 43.0 \\ 64.4^{b} \\ 114.8 \\ \end{array} $
9 10	$\begin{array}{c} 12.7 \\ 18.4 \end{array}$	đ đ	$\begin{array}{c}127\\127\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 11.5\\ 16.9 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 11.9\\17.7\end{array}$

 $^{a,b}$  The assignments of these close-lying peaks could be reversed.

was possible to assign the Cl to the peak at  $\delta$  39.8 attached at C<sub>1</sub> because of the similarity in shift between that carbon and the -CH<sub>2</sub>Cl in 10 ( $\delta$  41.3). The remaining two Br's could then be placed at C<sub>4</sub> and C<sub>6</sub> which was consistent with closeness of their  $\delta$ 's.

Turning to the vinyl methyl carbons, by comparison to Scheme I, it was possible to assign the 8a C<sub>7</sub> CH<sub>3</sub> to the peak at 18.4 ppm and the 12.7 ppm absorption to the  $C_3$  CH<sub>3</sub>. In addition arguments which follow indicated that this latter methyl must be oriented cis to the -CH<sub>2</sub>Cl unit. The pattern of methyl shifts from the trisubstituted olefins in Scheme I reveals, in agreement with past observations,<sup>14</sup> that the chemical shift of a methyl cis to an alkyl chain is shielded by about 5-8 ppm relative to a trans methyl. The base shift value for a methyl which is geminal to a straight alkyl chain and either on a 1,1-disubstituted alkene or trans to another alkyl appears at  $\delta$  22–24 (i.e., 13 and 14) while the base value for a methyl which is geminal to an alkyl chain and cis to another alkyl appears upfield at  $\delta$  15–16 (i.e., 15). Comparison of the data for compound sets 13 and 16, 14 and 17, and 15 and 18 shows that a  $\gamma$ -alkyl substituent on the alkyl chain imparts a 3-6 ppm upfield shift upon the geminal methyl.<sup>15</sup> The methyl shifts for the series, 13, 16, and 19 are also informative and indicate that the  $\gamma$  shift of a polar group is about 2 ppm larger than for a  $\gamma$ -alkyl substituent. Applying these collective insights to the data of 8a led to the methyl shift and double bond geometry assignments shown in Table I.

The seven-carbon constellation in 8a from  $C_2$  to  $C_8$  has a symmetry element at  $C_5$ . Within this fragment the Br's at  $C_4$ and  $C_6$  can adopt either a relative  $C_s$  or  $C_2$  type arrangement, which will then impart a distereotopic or homotopic relationship, respectively, for the protons on  $C_5$ . An extension of this analysis to the mildly unsymmetrical  $C_1$ - $C_8$  piece is enticing and a relative  $C_2$ -like Br stereochemistry is indicated based upon the observation that the methylene protons appear as a sharp triplet and maintain their chemical shift equivalence even at 360 MHz in both benzene- $d_6$  and CDCl<sub>3</sub>.

Mixtures of two isomers 8b and 8c of formula  $C_{10}H_{15}Cl_3$ (*m/e* 240/242/244) were isolated from *P. violaceum* from Pescadero Point and Asilomar Beach Calif., but they could not be separated by either normal or reverse phase preparative HPLC or by preparative GLC. However, the purified isomer mixtures were found to be enriched in 8b (70%) or 8c (60%) from the collections at these different sites. A comparison of the GC/MS and magnetic resonance data for these enriched mixtures enabled specific NMR peak assignments for each isomer. Most of the <sup>1</sup>H NMR signals (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) of these two components had identical chemical shifts which were similar to that of 8a for the peaks at  $\delta$  1.79 (A = 6), singlet; 4.98 and 5.09 (A = 1, 1), br singlets; 4.08 (A = 2), doublet, J = 7.4 Hz; and 5.74 (A = 1), br triplets, J = 7.4 Hz; but different than 8a for the resonances due to the XCHCH<sub>2</sub>CHX unit at  $\delta 2.22$  (A = 2), overlapping triplet and multiplet, and 4.41 and 4.61 (A = 2), br triplet, J = 7.3 Hz. These data along with the molecular formula indicated that gross structure 8 was also appropriate for 8b and 8c. This was further supported by the vinyl carbons observable in the <sup>13</sup>C spectra of the 8b and 8c mixtures. The specific assignments shown in Table I for 8b and 8c were made by comparison to the data for 8a and the model compounds in Scheme I. In agreement with arguments above, the  ${}^{13}C$  shifts of  $C_1$  in 8b and 8c of 39.7 and 40.6 ppm were ascribable to a -CH<sub>2</sub>Cl cis to another alkyl chain or methyl. As expected the shift positions for  $C_4$  and  $C_6$  in both isomers were quite similar. The diagnostic shift positions of the C<sub>3</sub> methyl peaks (8b  $\delta$  11.5, 8c  $\delta$  11.9) were consistent only with a cis geometry of the methyl and -CH<sub>2</sub>Cl unit. Having the  $C_2$ - $C_3$  double bond of identical geometry for 8b and 8c then required the halogens at C<sub>4</sub> and C<sub>6</sub> to be respectively  $C_s$ -like and  $C_2$ -like for the two diastereomers. This could be further confirmed by analogy to the case for 8a in that the <sup>1</sup>H NMR at 360 MHz of the isomer mixture showed a triplet resonance (J = 7.3 Hz) ascribable to the C<sub>5</sub> methylene protons of isomer 8b and two sets of ddd (J = 14.5, 8, 6 Hz) for the C<sub>5</sub> methylene protons of the isomer assigned as 8c.



Several pairs of erimeric acyclic distereomers have been isolated from both Plocamium cartilagineum<sup>3</sup> and Plocamium oregonum<sup>4</sup> and they all have adjacent chiral centers. In contrast, the epimeric diastereomers 8b and 8c contain chiral centers which are separated by two bonds. This same structural feature is also present in a few of the monocyclic terpenes from Plocamium. Thus, structural frame 8 provides a logical biogenetic relay to the cyclic series of *Plocamium* compounds. For example, addition of  $X_2$  to 8c accompanied by olefinassisted cyclization followed by loss of 2HX could produce a 1,1,5-trialkylcyclohexane ring skeleton such as 7. In view of this potential relationship we have given the trivial name of preplocamene to the skeleton of 8. Recently, the x-ray structure of 20 was reported by Mynderse et al.<sup>16</sup> Owing to the striking relationship between the S-C<sub>4</sub> in 20 and C<sub>6</sub> in  $8c_{.}^{17}$ it is tempting to propose an S stereochemistry for this latter center, and in view of the relative  $C_6$  and  $C_4$  (8c) symmetry deduced above, an R arrangement at C<sub>4</sub> in 8c.

#### **Experimental Section**

The NMR spectra were recorded on a JEOL PS 100 pulsed FT spectrometer operating at 100 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and 25.1 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C. The 360-MHz <sup>1</sup>H spectra were recorded at the Stanford Magnetic Resonance Laboratory. Optical rotations were measured on a PerkinElmer 141 polarimeter with a 1-dm cell (5 mL). GC/MS data were recorded on a Finnigan 4000 system equipped with a 6 ft  $\times$  0.125 in. glass column packed with 3% OV-17 on Chromosorb G and temperature programmed 115-225 °C at 5 °C/min. Routine low-resolution mass spectra were measured on a Hitachi Perkin-Elmer RMU-6E mass spectrometer and UV data were recorded on a Carv 14 spectrometer. Infrared data were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer 237 B spectrophotometer. High-performance liquid chron atography (HPLC) was done on a Waters ALC 201 instrument fitted with Porasil columns (8 ft  $\times$  0.375 in.) for normal phase and C-18 Corasil columns (4 ft  $\times$  0.375 in.) for reverse phase. All solvents were reagent grade and distilled prior to HPLC use. Spectral grade solvents were used for NMR (Me<sub>4</sub>Si standard), UV, and optical rotation measurements. Low-boiling petroleum ether was used in all instances.

Collections and Extractions. Plocamium violaceum was collected intertidally from three locations (wet weight and vield of extract) including the following: Point Joe, Dec 3, 1975 and Dec 20, 1975 (2.38 kg, 3.65 g, 0.15%); Pescadero Point, June 29, 1976 and July 27, 1976 (3.65 kg, 4.23 g, 0.12%); and Asilomar Beach, July 15, 1976 (0.34 kg, 0.43 g, 0.13%), all within a 10-mile range in Monterey County, Calif.

The freshly collected algae were either directly extracted or frozen until extraction. All samples were extracted first with CHCl<sub>3</sub> for ca. 3 days and then with EtOH for ca. 3 days in a Soxhlet apparatus. The combined extracts were then chromatographed through silica gel (Grace Co. grade 62, 60-200 mesh, activated) using petroleum ether. The resulting semipurified oil was then subjected to HPLC using petroleum ether-benzene (95:5).

Isolations. Following the procedure above, compounds 8a and mixtures of 8b and 8c were isolated.

1-Chloro-4,6-dibromo-3,7-dimethyl-2,7-octadiene (8a) was isolated as a clear, mobile oil, HPLC fractions 10-14 (20-mL fractions, 116 mg oil) from the collections made at Point Joe. Its <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR are described in the text and in Table I and at 360 MHz (benzene- $d_6$ ),  $H_{5a}$  and  $H_{5b}$  are seen as a dt at  $\delta$  2.40 (J = 7.5, 2.3 Hz) and  $H_{1a}$  as dd at  $\delta$  3.65 and 3.75 (J = 11.3, 7.5 Hz). It displayed an  $[\alpha]^{20}$ <sub>D</sub> -35° (c 1.43, CHCl<sub>3</sub>); IR 1430, 1380, 1260, 910 cm<sup>-1</sup>; MS m/e 328, 330, 332 (M<sup>+</sup>); 293, 295, 297 (M<sup>+</sup> - Cl); 249, 251, 253 (M<sup>+</sup> - Br); 213, 215  $(M^+ - HBr, Cl)$ ; 169, 171  $(M^+ - HBr, Br)$ ; 133 base  $(C_{10}H_{13})$ .

Ozonolysis of 8a. Several attempts were made to ozonize 8a (10 mg) in  $CH_2Cl_2$  at -78 °C with a stream of ozone generated by a Welsbach T-408 apparatus. The crude ozonide from above was worked up with several reagents including (Ph)<sub>3</sub>P and (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>S and in each case an unstable product was obtained whose spectral properties indicated oxygen formation (i.e., IR peak at 1720 cm<sup>-1</sup>). Attempts to purify this material (i.e., distillation, chromatography, or DNPH formation) yielded only intractable material.

Hydride Reduction of 8a. Attempts to displace a bromine in 8a by Li(Et)<sub>3</sub>BH were also unsuccessful. Following a good literature analogy,<sup>18</sup> 8a (10 mg) in 2 mL of HF (anhydrous) was reacted with 1 equiv of Li(Et)<sub>3</sub>BH in THF solution (1 M) at 0 °C for 15 min which resulted in only recovery of starting material. Prolonged reaction at higher temperatures yielded only decomposed products.

1.4.6-Trichloro-3.7-dimethyl-2.7-octadienes (8b and 8c) were isolated as a mixture of diastereomers in varying relative percents from two locations. Neither preparative HPLC (Porasil A or Corasil C18) or preparative GC afforded separation of the mixture. Analytical GLC did show two separate peaks for 8b and 8c, tr 18.3 and 19.0 min. The collections made at Pescadero Point yielded pure 8b and 8c (180 mg) as an oil after reverse phase HPLC (CH<sub>3</sub>CN-H<sub>2</sub>O solvent, 60:40), ten recycles. The ratio of 8b:8c, 69:31, was determined by integration of the -CHCl- region in the <sup>1</sup>H NMR (100 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>) where 8b signals ( $\delta$  4.41, triplet, J = 7.3 Hz) were clearly separable from 8c signals ( $\delta$  4.61, triplet, J = 7.3 Hz) and by rough intensity comparisons to the C<sub>5</sub> methylene region in which a triplet at  $\delta 2.28 (J = 7.3 \text{ Hz})$  (8b) and multiplet at  $\delta 2.32$  (J = 14.5 and 7.3 Hz) (8c) were observed. These upfield resonances along with the added detail observable at 360 MHz added strength to our specific <sup>1</sup>H NMR assignments of 8b and 8c (Table I). At 360 MHz in benzene- $d_6$  8b displayed -CH(Cl)-  $\delta$  4.23 (t), J = 7.3 Hz, and 4.36 (t), J = 7.3 Hz; H<sub>5</sub>  $\delta$  1.98 (t), J = 7.3 Hz, while 8c displayed  $-CH(Cl) - \delta 4.49$  (dd), J = 8.4, 5.7 Hz, and 4.58 (dd), J= 8.4, 5.7 Hz;  $H_{5a} \delta 1.97 (ddd)$ , J = 14.5, 8, 6 Hz, and  $H_{5b} 2.26 (ddd)$ , J = 14.5, 8, 6 Hz. The ratio of 8b:8c was also determined by GC/MS and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data as 70:30 and 71:29, respectively. Another collection from Asilomar Beach (22 mg) afforded the opposite enrichment as determined by GC/MS (8b:8c 40:60). The mixture of 8b and 8c displayed IR 1430, 1260, 910, 800 cm<sup>-1</sup>, and MS at each GC peak m/e 240, 242, 244 (M<sup>+</sup>); 225, 227, 229 (M<sup>+</sup> - CH<sub>3</sub>); 205, 207, 209 (M<sup>+</sup> - Cl); 170, 172 (M<sup>+</sup> - Cl<sub>2</sub>); 81 base (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>). <sup>13</sup>C NMR of Model Compounds. Compounds 9, 11, and 13 were

purchased from Aldrich Chemical Co. and 10 and 12 were prepared according to the literature.<sup>19 13</sup>C NMR data were obtained with 50% solutions in CDCl<sub>3</sub>. <sup>13</sup>C NMR data (Me<sub>4</sub>Si standard) not in Scheme I; 1-chloro-trans-2-butene (9), C2 127.5, C3 130.7; 1-chloro-3methyl-2-butene (10), C<sub>2</sub> 121.0, C<sub>3</sub> 139.0; 1-bromo-trans-2-butene (11), C<sub>2</sub> 127.8, C<sub>3</sub> 131.0; 1-bromo-3-methyl-2-butene (12), C<sub>2</sub> 121.0,  $C_3$  139.5; 2-methyl-1-pentene (13),  $C_1$  110.1 (t),  $C_2$  145.7 (s),  $C_3$  40.6 (t), C<sub>4</sub> 21.2 (t), C<sub>5</sub> 13.9 ppm (q).

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Registry No.-8a, 62743-07-1; 8b, 62743-08-2; 8c, 62743-09-3; 9, 4894-61-5; 10, 503-60-6; 11, 29576-14-5; 12, 870-63-3; 13, 763-29-1.

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- Majusculamides A and B, Two Epimeric Lipodipeptides from Lyngbya majuscula Gomont

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Majusculamides A and B are major lipophilic constituents of the blue-green alga Lyngbya majuscula Gomont. Detailed spectral analysis, chemcial degradation, and x-ray crystallographic studies show that majusculamide A is N-[(2R)-2-methyl-3-oxodecanoyl]-D-N,O-dimethyltyrosyl-L-N-methylvalinamide (6a) and that majusculamideB is N-[(2S)-2-methyl-3-oxodecanoyl]-D-N,O-dimethyltyrosyl-L-N-methylvalinamide (6b). Majusculamide B is epimerized into a mixture of majusculamides A and B and then degraded into D-N,O-dimethyltyrosyl-L-N-methylvaline lactam (2) and racemic 2-methyl-3-oxodecanoic amide (1) at 140 °C in anhydrous dimethyl sulfoxide.

The blue-green alga Lyngbya majuscula Gomont is responsible for sporadic outbreaks of a contact dermatitis known in Hawaii as "swimmers' itch".<sup>2</sup> Not all varieties of this seaweed show dermonecrotic activity. L. majuscula from Laie Bay, Oahu, however, is frequently dermatitis-producing during the summer months. The causative agent, which is found in the lipid extract of the seaweed, may be debromoaplysiatoxin,<sup>3</sup> a poisonous substance that was first isolated from the digestive tract of the gastropod mollusk Stylocheilus longicauda.4

We have found that L. majuscula is characterized chemotaxonomically by the presence of two major lipophilic constituents which we have named majusculamides A and B. Majusculamides A and B are constituents of both the dermatitis- and nondermatitis-producing varities, but are not found in L. gracilis.<sup>5a</sup> In this report we describe the structure determination of these two nontoxic<sup>5b</sup> compounds.

**Isolation.** The alga was collected in shallow water (0.5-2)m) from several points around the island of Oahu, but mainly from Kahala Beach for the structure work. Extraction of the wet seaweed with methanol and chloroform or the freeze-dried seaweed with chloroform gave an oily extract which after chromatography and gel filtration resulted in a crystalline mixture of majusculamides A and B. Separation of the two epimeric compounds was readily achieved by high-pressure liquid chromatography.

Structure Determination. Majusculamides A and B both crystallized from aqueous methanol and analyzed for  $C_{28}H_{45}N_3O_5 H_2O$ . Molecular ions could not be observed in their electron-impact (EI) mass spectra, but fragment ions appeared at m/e 486 and 487 for loss of NH<sub>3</sub> and NH<sub>2</sub> from the molecular ions and high-resolution mass measurements gave elemental compositions of  $C_{28}H_{42}N_2O_5$  for the *m/e* 486 peaks. Molecular ions, however, were easily seen at m/e 503 in the field desorption (FD) mass spectra. The loss of NH<sub>3</sub> and NH<sub>2</sub> from the molecular ions in the EI mass spectra suggested that the majusculamides were primary amides and this was confirmed by IR and <sup>1</sup>H NMR.

The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra of majusculamides A and B in chloroform-d and dimethyl- $d_6$  sulfoxide at room temperature were rather complex due to the presence of two slowly interconverting conformers for each compound. At 140 °C in anhydrous dimethyl- $d_6$  sulfoxide, however, the <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were greatly simplified and each one clearly showed the presence of a para-substituted anisole ring, two N-methyl groups, three secondary methyl groups, two adjacent methine