

observed in the mass spectral results. Once the structure of dolastatin 13 (**1**) was in hand, it was clear from the combined NMR and mass spectral studies that dehydrodolastatin 13 was the Ahp dehydration product of depsipeptide **1**, thereby corresponding to structure **2**. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra of depsipeptide **1** and **2** appeared almost identical, with exception of the Ahp signals, and the amide proton of Val-2 at δ 7.42 (H-4) which upon dehydration shifts upfield by 1 ppm. Perhaps the latter shift indicates hydrogen bonding between H-4 and O-15 in dolastatin 13.

Interestingly, dolastatin 13 appears only remotely related to the cyclodepsipeptides dolastatins 11 and 12¹ and not at all to the previous cytostatic diterpenes⁵ and peptides⁶ we isolated from *D. auricularia*. Hence, this sea hare's facility for selecting and concentrating cytostatic and antineoplastic constituents and/or synthesizing such substances is a truly virtuoso performance. Presently we are pursuing experiments directed at determining the asymmetric centers of dolastatin 13 and evaluating various biological properties. Stereochemical assignments completed to date for other cytostatic and/or antineoplastic peptides of the remarkable dolastatin series^{1,6} suggests that dolastatins **1** and **2**

are most likely derived from *S*-amino acids. So far dolastatin 13 has been found to strongly inhibit growth of the PS cell line exhibiting an ED_{50} of 0.013 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$, whereas dehydrodolastatin 13 proved to be marginally inactive in this system and revealed the first structure/activity insight.

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Additions and Corrections

Molecular and Electronic Structure of Electron-Transfer Active Main-Group Organometallics [*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, *111*, 2126-2131]. JENS BAUMGARTEN, CHRISTIAN BESSENBACHER, WOLFGANG KAIM,* and THOMAS STAHL

The designations "cage" and "escape" in formula 1 should be exchanged. The arrow between both words should be deleted.