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A structural investigation of some light atom molecules. John Buckleton 1989.

A thesis presented to the University of Auckland for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

by John Buckleton, 1989

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CONTENTS

			Page		
Section 1.	Org	anic natural products isolated during			
the chemot	axono	mic investigation of coastal marine organisms.	1		
Chapter	1.1	Aplyvioline, a metabolite from the sponge			
		Chelonaplysilla violacea.	3		
	1.2	Cheloviolene-2, a diterpene from the sponge			
		Chelonaplysilla violacea.	34		
	1.3	Dendrillol-1, a metabolite from the sponge			
		Dendrilla rosea.	64		
	1.4	Tetrahydroaplysulphurin-1, a metabolite from			
		the sponge <u>Darwinella oxeata</u> .	96		
	1.5	The first porphyrin isolated from a sponge.	120		
	1.6	The first example of a primnane skeleton, a			
		class of natural products from a sponge.	159		
Other organic natural products.					
	1.7	An intermediate in the synthesis of			
		potentially odoriferous compounds.	191		
TV-	1.8	An isostegane	220		

Section 2.	Comp	oounds related to the drug amsacrine m-AMSA,				
of known che	emoth	merapeutic use.	255			
Chapter 2	2.1	o-AMSA.	264			
i a	2.2	m-ANAC ⁺ .	276			
2	2.3	dm-AMSA.	281			
Other compou	unds	produced in the study of chemotherapeutic				
agents.			371			
2	2.4	An intermediate in the synthesis of				
		polypyrazolecarboxamides.	378			
2	2.5	An intermediate in the synthesis of				
		trisintercalators.	389			
2	2.6	An intermediate in the synthesis of				
		nitroaromatic mustards.	436			
Section 3. Anthraquinone derivatives related to the						
synthesis of compounds of known chemotherapeutic activity.						
Chapter 3	3.1	A stable ozonide, produced in the				
		investigation of synthetic routes to 4-				
		demethoxydaunomycinone.	467			
3	3.2	An intermediate in the synthesis of				
		anthracyclinones.	510			
3	3.3	A compound produced in the investigation of				
		Claisen rearrangements.	534			

Section 4. Th	e study of 4,4'-bipyridinium cations,			
compounds rela	ted to paraquat and exhibiting interesting			
electrical properties.				
Chapter 4.1	4,4'-bipyridylium dinitrate.	574		
4.2	Dicyanomethylviolene.	582		
Section 5. Th	e study of colchicine, the most commonly used			
drug in the tr	eatment of gout and a compound of other			
biological int	erest.	619		
Chapter 5.1	A colchicine analog.	619		
5.2	An intermediate in the synthesis of			
	colchicine and analogs.	652		

Abstract

A series of structures of light atom molecules is presented. The molecules, in the main, are physiologically active or potentially active. The molecules have been divided into five broad categories. Their structure and properties are discussed.

Section 1 presents some organic natural products largely isolated during the chemotaxonomic investigation of coastal marine organisms from New Zealand and Australian waters including the first porphyrin isolated from a sponge. Also presented are the structures of an isostegane and an intermediate in the synthesis of potentially odoriferous compounds.

Section 2 presents compounds related to the drug amsacrine m-AMSA, of known chemotherapeutic use and other compounds produced in the study of chemotherapeutic agents, some as templates for elaboration into bis- and tris- intercalators.

Section 3 presents anthraquinone derivatives related to the synthesis of compounds of known chemotherapeutic activity. One of these is a stable ozonide.

Section 4 presents the study of 4,4'-bipyridinium cations, compounds related to paraquat and exhibiting interesting electrical properties.

Section 5 presents two compounds related to the study of colchicine, the most commonly used drug in the treatment of gout and a compound of other biological interest. One is an active analog the other is an intermediate in the regiocontrolled synthesis of colchicine itself.

The units for the tables are \mathring{A} for distances and degrees for angles. The structure factors are electrons x 10, and the thermal parameters are \mathring{A}^2 .

Chemical structures for each of the compounds in this thesis appear at the back.