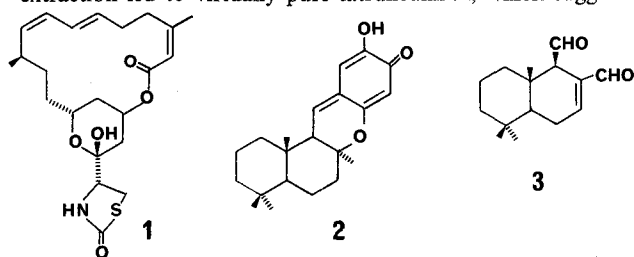


against *Candida albicans*, but no activity against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Escherichia coli*, or *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. In fish toxicity studies with goldfish at a concentration of 1 mg of latrunculin-A per liter of water the goldfish exhibit increased activity within 5 min of exposure; within 15–35 min the assay animals become disorientated and progressively paralyzed; within 50 min all assay animals are dead, while all control fish behave normally.

Examination of the brown encrusting sponge, *Heteronema* sp., on which *C. elisabethina* were feeding, yielded not even traces of latrunculin-A (1). Instead, the hexane fraction of our routine solvent partition after Sephadex LH 20 and silica gel HPLC purification led to a yellow solid, which by spectral comparison proved to be puupehenone (2), which we had previously isolated from an unidentified Enewetak sponge⁶.

Concentration of latrunculin-A in *C. elisabethina* is high, ranging from 0.27 to 1% of wet animal. A rapid 5-min alcoholic extraction led to virtually pure latrunculin-A, which suggests



that the compound is stored close to the surface of the animal. What is the biological origin of latrunculin-A? While Cimino et al.⁷ have shown that the nudibranch *Dendrodoris limbata* can synthesize the well-known antifeedant polygodial (3) from mevalonic acid, diet-derived defensive agents seem to be employed more frequently³. We tend to believe – though we have no proof – that *C. elisabethina* acquires latrunculin-A (1) from an occasional food source, yet to be discovered.

Acknowledgment. We thank Mr Scott Johnson, Drs C. Ireland and G. Schulte for the collections and the National Science Foundation for financial support.

- 1 Kashman, Y., Groweiss, A., and Shmueli, U., *Tetrahedron Lett.* 21 (1980) 3629.
- 2 Spector, I., Shochet, N. R., Kashman, Y., and Groweiss, A., *Science* 219 (1983) 493.
- 3 Schulte, G. R., and Scheuer, P. J., *Tetrahedron* 38 (1982) 1857.
- 4 We thank Drs C. Ireland and G. R. Schulte for the June 1981 Guam collection and Mr Scott Johnson for the 1982/83 collections from Enewetak.
- 5 For spectral details see R. K. Okuda, Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Hawaii, 1983.
- 6 Ravi, B. N., Perzanowski, H. P., Ross, R. A., Erdman, T. R., and Scheuer, P. J., *Pure appl. Chem.* 51 (1979) 1893.
- 7 Cimino, G., Rosa, S. De, De Stefano, S., Sodano, G., and Villani, G., *Science* 219 (1983) 1237.

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Correction

G. A. Schuling, N. Pols-Valkhof and T. R. Koiter: Clomiphene citrate can mimic the augmentative (positive) but not the depressing (negative) effect of estradiol on the LHRH-stimulated

release of LH and FSH by the pituitary gland of the long-term ovariectomized rat, *Experientia* 41 (1985) 1060–1063. We regret that due to a production error, the placement of Fig. 1B and Fig. 2B was inadvertently reversed.

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