

Inside Cover

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Pladienolides, 12-membered macrolides isolated from *Streptomyces platensis* Mer-11107, show prominent in vitro and in vivo antitumor activities based on a unique mode of action. Y. Kotake and co-workers describe in their Communication on page 4350 ff. the first total synthesis of this class of natural product, by an efficient coupling between macrolide and side-chain fragments, which confirmed the absolute structure and provided a practical method to prepare analogues.

