



M. Sherburn

The author presented on this page has recently published his **10th article** in *Angewandte Chemie* in the last 10 years:

"Tetravinylethylene": E. J. Lindeboom, A. C. Willis, M. N. Paddon-Row, M. S. Sherburn, *Angew. Chem.* **2014**, 126, 5544–5547; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2014**, 53, 5440–5443.

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Date of birth:	March 17, 1966
Position:	Professor and Group Leader, Australian National University
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Education:	1987 BSc, University of Nottingham 1991 PhD with Professor John Murphy, University of Nottingham 1991–1994 Postdoctoral fellow with Professor Lew Mander, Australian National University
Awards:	2006 Le Fèvre Memorial Prize, Australian Academy of Science; 2008 A. J. Birch Medal, Royal Australian Chemical Institute
Current research interests:	Total synthesis of natural and designed compounds, hydrocarbon chemistry, development of new methods, strategies, and tactics
Hobbies:	Cooking, especially with hot peppers (which I also grow and hybridize to create new varieties), strength and aerobic fitness (more a way of life than a hobby). I also have an addiction to "performance" cars (a description provided by car insurance companies).

My motto is ... "the journey is as important as the destination".

The secret of being a successful scientist is ... recruit co-workers smarter than yourself.

My favorite saying is ... "there is a difference between *doing* science and *making* science".

I advise my students to ... refuse to accept mediocrity (especially from me).

The most important thing I learned from my students is ... patience, resilience, and gratitude.

When I was eighteen I wanted to be ... noticed.

I am waiting for the day when someone will discover ... the perfect synthesis (I will be waiting a very long time).

The biggest challenge facing scientists is ... reversing the perception of irrelevance by governments and the general public.

My favorite drink is ... the first cup of coffee or the second glass of Australian Shiraz.

The most important future applications of my research are ... completely unpredictable, if I am doing my job properly.

If I were a car I would be ... hoping to avoid Jeremy Clarkson.

My first experiment was ... with a chemistry set, aged six, on the floor in my grandparents' kitchen, simultaneously breaking almost every present-day laboratory safety rule and regulation.

My 5 top papers:

1. "Total Synthesis of Kingianins A, D, and F": S. L. Drew, A. L. Lawrence, M. S. Sherburn, *Angew. Chem.* **2013**, 125, 4315–4318; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2013**, 52, 4221–4224. (The first reported fourfold semi-reduction of a conjugated tetra-alkyne.)
2. "Practical Synthesis of the Dendralene Family Reveals Alternation in Behavior": A. D. Payne, G. Bojase, M. N. Paddon-Row, M. S. Sherburn, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, 121, 4930–4933; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, 48, 4836–4839. (Nine years after our original approach (see Ref. [5]), we could make multigram quantities of these hydrocarbons.)
3. "Superbowl Container Molecules": E. S. Barrett, J. L. Irwin, A. J. Edwards, M. S. Sherburn, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2004**, 126, 16747–16749. (Still one of the biggest organic molecular hosts prepared by rational (i.e., "total") synthesis, rather than self-assembly.)
4. "The Intramolecular Carboxylation Approach to Podophyllotoxin": A. J. Reynolds, A. J. Scott, C. I. Turner, M. S. Sherburn, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2003**, 125, 12108–12109. (Two total syntheses in one paper: different synthetic routes to the two enantiomers of the same important compound but both using the same type of domino radical reaction.)
5. "First Synthesis of the Dendralene Family of Fundamental Hydrocarbons": S. Fielder, D. D. Rowan, M. S. Sherburn, *Angew. Chem.* **2000**, 112, 4501–4503; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2000**, 39, 4331–4333. (Our first paper on the dendralenes showed the synthesis of a few milligrams of each of the lower family members.)

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201406197