

Apology

Statement

In our recently-published article in *Carbohydrate Research* [303 (1997) 435-443], entitled "Structural determination of the lipo-chitin oligosaccharide nodulations signals produced by *Rhizobium fredii* HH103", we discovered, at a point too late to prevent publication, that during the preparation of the manuscript Dr. G. Franco-Rodriguez (at time a Ph.D. student in Seville) deliberately altered the original data while preparing Fig. 4. Specifically, a peak was introduced having m/z 1256 that was barely present in the mass spectrum supplied by Dr. Thomas-Oates, while a peak present in the spectrum at m/z 204 was removed. The m/z

1256 peak was also reported in Table 1. While the modifications to the data do not alter the structures assigned or the conclusions drawn based on these structures, we realise that this sort of alteration of original data is totally unacceptable. On being confronted with our discovery, Dr. G.F.-R. admitted his actions and has apologised for the embarrassment this has caused Dr. Thomas-Oates and our other co-authors. All the authors of the paper strongly disapprove of this action, and while we thank him for his frankness, and accept his apologies, we obviously wish to make this matter public and we all join with him in apologising to the readers of *Carbohydrate Research*.