Tetrahedron Vol. 42, No. 2, p. 445, 1986. Pergamon Press Ltd. Printed in Great Britain.

ERRATUM

In : "Ichthyotoxic sesterterpenoids from the Neo-Guinean sponge *Carteriospongia foliascens*", by J.C. BRAEKMAN, D. DALOZE, B. MOUSSIAUX and M. KAISIN, Tetrahedron 41, 4603 (1985), on p. 4609, the attribution of the chemical shifts of carbon atoms 3 and 20 should be reversed for compounds 3, 6, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 21 (P. Crews, personal communication). Consequently in Table 3 the entries 3 and 20 should be read :

		3	6	13	15	16	18	20	21
3	t	36.6	36.5	36.7	36.7	36.7	36.7	36.6	36.7
20	t	24.5	24.7	24.6	24.5	24.6	24.6	24.5	24.6

Another consequence of this reattribution is that the section of the paper beginning at the penultimate line of p. 4605 ("If we compare...) and ending at line 15 of p. 4606 (... of the C-3 chemical shift") should be replaced by :

In the ^{13}C NMR spectrum of 6 the signal at 24.7 ppm (t) is attributable to the methylene of the axial ethyl chain which undergoes two γ-gauche effects with C-2 and C-6. Since only one γ-gauche effect is taking place when the ethyl group is equatorial, it is expected that in the epimer at C-4, the ethyl methylene will absorb at a much lower field. A good analogy is afforded by the difference of chemical shift observed for the axial and equatorial methyl groups at C-4 in the scalarane derivatives, which appear at about 21 and 33 ppm respectively (4,8-11). It follows that the chemical shift of the ethyl methylene could be of diagnostic value for the determination of the configuration at C-4 in the C_{27} tetracyclic terpenes. Unfortunately, suitable derivatives having the adequate configuration at C-4 (α-ethyl) are not available for comparison purposes. The only structurally related compound we found in the literature was the diterpene 9, isolated from the liverwort *Trichocoleopsis sacculata*, in which the ethyl methylene absorbs at δ 37.3 (29). This prompted us to synthesize the model compound 11, which could be prepared from dehydroabietic acid methyl ester (10) using the sequence of reactions described in figure 1.

The value of the chemical shift (36.3 ppm) of the ethyl methylene measured for compound 11, clearly indicates that the strong shielding effect, observed for the C-4 β-ethyl derivatives, is not found when the ethyl group is equatorial (α). Hence, in derivatives bearing both a methyl and ethyl group at C-4, the configuration at this centre may be assigned on the basis of the ethyl methylene chemical shift.