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# Biologically Active Metabolites from Fungi, 9.1

# New Palmarumycins CP<sub>4a</sub> and CP<sub>5</sub> from *Coniothyrium palmarum*: Structure Elucidation, Crystal Structure Analysis and Determination of the Absolute Configuration by CD Calculations

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Abstract: Two new palmarumycins CP<sub>4a</sub> (2) and CP<sub>5</sub> (3) with an unusual bridged structure were isolated from *Coniothyrium palmarum*. The structure and relative configuration was elucidated by NMR and X-ray studies; the absolute configuration was determined by CD calculations. © 1997 Elsevier Science Ltd. All rights reserved.

#### INTRODUCTION

Recently we reported on the isolation and structure elucidation of palmarumycins  $C_1$ – $C_{16}$  from *Coniothyrium* sp.<sup>2</sup> and  $CP_1$ – $CP_4$  from *Coniothyrium palmarum*.<sup>3</sup> Related compounds have been isolated from different species (see ref. in<sup>2,3</sup>); in more recent papers the DNA gyrase inhibition<sup>4</sup> and the absolute configuration of the diepoxin class of compounds<sup>5</sup> were published.

Palmarumycin  $CP_3$  (1), isolated from *Coniothyrium palmarum*, showed a unique bridged ring system (Fig.1). The more polar fractions from the culture broth of *Coniothyrium palmarum* were screened for further compounds of this class and here we describe the isolation and determination of the absolute configuration of two new palmarumycins  $CP_{4a}$  and  $CP_5$  (the index numbers of the CP compounds increase with polarity; for descriptions of the fungi and fermentation conditions see ref.<sup>3</sup>).

Fig. 1. Absolute configuration of palmarumycin CP<sub>3</sub> (1) <sup>6</sup>

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

# 1. Isolation, Structure Elucidation and Crystal Structure Analysis of CP4a and CP5

The optically active compound  $CP_{4a}$  (2) (Fig. 2) of intermediate polarity between  $CP_3$  and  $CP_4$  showed a positive TLC-test with 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine. The presence of a carbonyl group was confirmed by a characteristic IR band at 1701 cm<sup>-1</sup>. Typical NMR signals and also the characteristic fragment at m/z = 160 in the mass spectrum proved the presence of the 1,8-dioxygenated naphthalene fragment occurring in all palmarumycins<sup>2</sup>. In contrast to the spectrum of  $CP_3$ , a strong band at 3440 cm<sup>-1</sup> indicated the presence of a hydroxy group.

The molecular formula of  $C_{20}H_{18}O_5$  was deduced from the numbers of the protons and carbon atoms found in the  $^1H$  and  $^{13}C$  NMR spectra in combination with the mass spectrum. These spectra showed great similarity to those measured for palmarumycin  $CP_3$  (1) and also (see below) to those for the second new metabolite  $CP_5$  (3) (Fig. 2). However, the  $^{13}C$ -signal for a carbonyl group at C-5 at  $\delta$  = 189.9 seen in  $CP_3$  (1)³ was absent in the spectrum of  $CP_{4a}$  (2). Instead, signals at  $\delta$  = 74.6 in the  $^{13}C$  NMR and at 3.50 in the  $^{14}H$  NMR spectrum appeared. Furthermore, the characteristic signals in the  $^{14}H$  as well as in the  $^{13}C$  NMR spectra for the  $C_{6-7}$  double bond were absent in the spectra of both  $CP_{4a}$  (2) and  $CP_5$  (3). A broad signal at  $\delta$  = 4.3 was exchangeable with deuterated methanol. This indicated the reduction of one of the carbonyl groups in  $CP_3$  to a hydroxyl group.

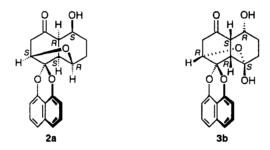


Fig. 2. Stereostructures of CP<sub>4a</sub> (2a) and CP<sub>5</sub> (3b) (assignment of stereochemistry see text).

The remaining open question, i.e. which of the two carbonyls at C-4 or C-5 in CP<sub>3</sub> (1) was reduced, was solved by comparison with the spectral data of the more polar compound CP<sub>5</sub>. This compound was also optically active and crystallized in colorless orthorhombic form. The presence of an additional hydroxyl group compared to CP<sub>4a</sub> (2) was confirmed by the absence of the signals for one carbon proton at  $\delta = 4.39$ , the occurrence of signals for one additional quarternary carbon and the presence of an additional exchangeable proton (2 exchangeable signals at  $\delta = 4.1$  and 4.7). One of these signals showed a large coupling of  $^3J = 10$  Hz indicating the connection with a tertiary carbon atom. This assumption was further confirmed by a HH-COSY experiment showing a correlation between the signal for the hydroxy proton at  $\delta = 4.1$  and the signal for the methine proton at  $\delta = 3.7$ .

The two signals in the  $^{13}$ C NMR spectrum at  $\delta = 103.4$  and 107.4 indicated the presence of *two* acetal carbon atoms. The low-field signal can be attributed to the typical spiro acetal fragment present in all palmarumycins. Consequently, the second hydroxy group must be located at C-8. The location of the remaining carbonyl and methylene groups was deduced from the coupling constants of the aliphatic protons using two-dimensional CH-COSY and HH-COSY experiments. Thus, the two protons of one methylene group at  $\delta = 1.5$  and 1.9 showed (in addition to a geminal coupling of 12.4 Hz) two  $^3J$  couplings of 4.2 and 4.3 Hz with the

protons of a neighboring methylene group at  $\delta = 1.9$  and 2.2. The further cross-coupling with the methine proton at  $\delta = 3.7$  led to the fragment A (Scheme 1). The location of low-field signals for methylene groups at  $\delta = 2.69$  and 2.89 are typical for a neighboring carbonyl group and the  $^3J$ -couplings of 2.40 and 2.41 Hz with the proton at  $\delta = 4.60$  prove the structure of fragment B (Scheme 1), in which the carbonyl group is located between the methylene and methine group at  $\delta = 3.0$  (4a-H).

Scheme 1. Fragment A and B of the 'upper' part of the molecule CP5 (3).

A very similar picture is shown by the NMR spectra of the less polar compound  $CP_{4a}$  (2). The combination of the available structural information leads to structures 2 and 3 for  $CP_{4a}$  and  $CP_5$ , respectively, as shown in Fig. 2, but without stereochemical information.

The question of relative configuration of  $CP_{4a}$  and  $CP_5$  can essentially be reduced to the orientation of the hydroxy group at C-5, the connection of the two hydroaromatic rings (cis/trans), and the relative position of the oxygen bridge. All these questions are difficult to answer by the analysis of <sup>1</sup>H NMR coupling constants alone. Fortunately, both compounds crystallized very nicely allowing crystal structure analysis. The results of the X-ray analysis showing the relative stereochemistry are presented in Fig. 3 and 4.

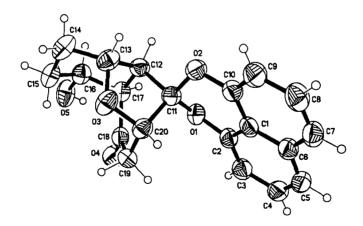


Fig. 3. The molecular structure of CP4a; arbitrarily, the (correct) 2S,4aR,5S,8R,8aS-enantiomer is drawn.

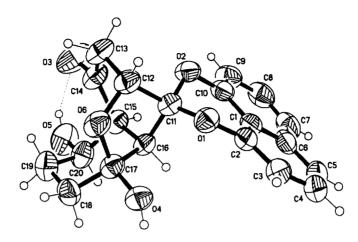


Fig. 4. The molecular structure of CP5; arbitrarily, the (non-natural) 2R,4aS,5R,8S,8aR-enantiomer is drawn.

# 2. Elucidation of the Absolute Configuration of $CP_{4a}$ and $CP_5$ by Circular Dichroism Calculations

Given the known constitution and relative configuration of palmarumycin CP<sub>5</sub> (3), the elucidation of the absolute stereostructure of the compound, *i.e.* whether palmarumycin CP<sub>5</sub> has structure 3a (2S,4aR,5S,8R,8aS) or 3b (2R,4aS,5R,8S,8aR), see Fig. 5, was achieved using a method described recently, 6 the calculation of the circular dichroism (CD) spectrum of the compound and its comparison with the experimental one.

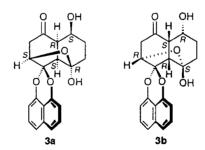


Fig. 5. Possible absolute stereostructures 3a or 3b for palmarumycin CP<sub>5</sub>.

Following the procedure described in detail, recently, <sup>6-8</sup> the conformational behavior of **3** was calculated, arbitrarily starting with the 2S,4aR,5S,8R,8aS-enantiomer **3a**. The calculations gave rise to six minimum structures (**3a-A** to **3a-F**) (Fig. 6), which differ by three conformational parameters:

 the mutual orientation of the two molecular halves, by variation of the dihedral angle at the acetal oxygen functions as a 'hingejoint';<sup>6</sup>

- the structure of the conformationally flexible tricyclic 'upper' part of the molecule; and
- the rotation of the H atoms attached to the oxygen atoms at C-5 and C-8, about the adjacent C-O bonds

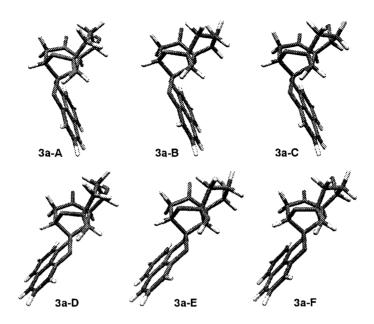


Fig. 6. Calculated minimum structures 3a-A to 3a-F of the 3a-enantiomer of palmarumycin CP5.

One of these conformers, 3a-A, matches nicely (RMS value = 0.219) with the structure of palmarumycin  $CP_5$  as found in the crystal (Fig. 7), underlining the reliability of the semiempirical calculation of the molecular structure.



Fig. 7. Matchplot of conformer 3a-A with the structure of palmarumycin CP<sub>5</sub> experimentally found in the crystal. For the experimental structure, arbitrarily the same enantiomer is shown.

For these six conformational species 3a-A to 3a-F, the CD spectra were separately calculated and added up according to the Boltzmann statistic, to give the calculated spectra for 3a and for its enantiomer, 3b. Fig. 8 shows the good agreement of the experimental CD spectrum with the one calculated for the 2R,4aS,5R,8S,8aR-

enantiomer 3b, whereas the one calculated for 3a is virtually opposite to the experimental spectrum, showing the natural product to have 2R,4aS,5R,8S,8aR-configuration, i.e. stucture 3b.

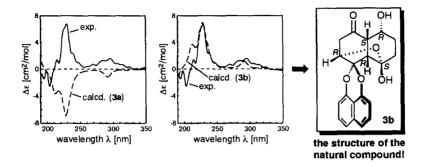


Fig. 8. Attribution of the absolute stereostructure of palmarumycin CP<sub>5</sub> as 3b, by comparison of the theoretically predicted CD spectrum for the two possible enantiomers 3a and 3b with the experimental one for the natural product.

For the investigation of the absolute configuration of the second compound, palmarumycin  $CP_{4a}$  (2a or 2b, see Fig. 9), the empirical comparison of its experimental CD spectrum with that of 3b should not lead to a reliable attribution because of the pronounced differences of the two spectra (cf. Figs. 8 and 11). Therefore, as for 3b, the CD spectrum of palmarumycin  $CP_{4a}$  was calculated, leading to an unambiguous assignment of the absolute configuration of this natural product.

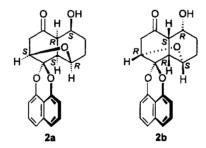


Fig. 9. Possible absolute stereostructures 2a or 2b for palmarumycin CP4a.

Again, for the arbitrarily chosen enantiomer 2a six conformers, 2a-A to 2a-F were found (Fig. 10), one of which (2a-A) again matches well with the structure experimentally found in the crystal (not shown, RMS value = 0.199).

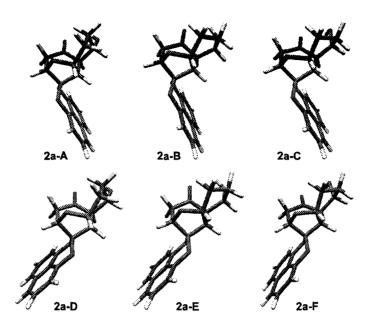


Fig. 10. Calculated minimum structures 2a-A to 2a-F, arbitrarily of the 2a-enantiomer of palmarumycin CP<sub>4a</sub>.

The calculation of the single CD spectra of these six conformational species, their Boltzmann-weighted addition and the comparison of the resulting overall CD spectrum with the experimental one, clearly showed palmarumycin  $CP_{4a}$  to be 2S,4aR,5S,8R,8aS-configured, *i.e.* to be represented by stereostructure 2a (Fig. 11).

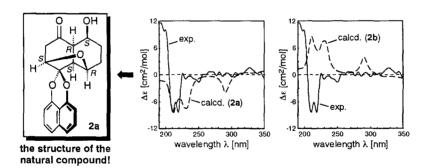


Fig. 11. Attribution of the absolute stereostructure of palmarumycin  $CP_{4a}$  as 2a, by comparison of the theoretically predicted CD spectrum for the two possible enantiomers 2a and 2b with the experimental one for the natural product.

Unexpectedly, the oxygen-bridge from C-2 to C-8, which is a joint structural element of both palmarumycins  $CP_5$  and  $CP_{4a}$ , is not located on the same side for both molecules, it is above the plain for  $CP_{4a}$ , but below the plain for  $CP_5$ . The opposite stereochemical array of the oxygen bridges might hint at a different biosynthetic origin of this bridge, possibly both from an 2,3-epoxide related to palmarumycin  $C_2$  (4), the bridge being formed by attack of O-2 at C-8 in one case (3b), and by  $S_N2$ -type epoxide opening by an oxygen at C-8 in the other (2a).

Fig. 12. Palmarumycin C2.

#### **EXPERIMENTAL**

For general methods and instrumentation see ref.<sup>2</sup> and for microbiological methods and culture conditions ref.<sup>9</sup>

Coniothyrium palmarum was incubated at 20 °C for 93 days in a biomalt softagar medium. The agar was homogenated using a Warring-Blender and the homogenate extracted three times with ethyl acetate (3 l). The combined organic phases were dried ( $Na_2SO_4$ ), filtered, and the filtrate evaporated at reduced pressure to afford 7.0 g of a crude extract. The solution of the extract was chromatographed three times by column chromatography on silica gel with a gradient of  $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$  (1 % - 10 % of MeOH) followed by layer chromatography on silica gel ( $CH_2Cl_2/5$  % MeOH) and semipreparative HPLC on Si 60 ( $CH_2Cl_2/1$ % MeOH) to afford 29 mg of the metabolite  $CP_{4a}$  (2) from the fraction between  $CP_4$  and  $CP_5$ . From the following more polar fraction 25 mg of  $CP_5$  (3) were isolated.

(2S,4aR,5S,8R,8aS)-5-Hydroxy-2,3,5,6,7,8,8a-heptahydrospiro[2,8-epoxynaphthaline-1  $naphtho-[1,8de][1,3-dioxin]-4(4aH)-one\ CP_{4a}$  (2a): Mp 213 °C;  $[\alpha]_{D}^{20} = +70.59$  ° (c = 0.85 mg/ml; CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); Rf 0.41 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/2% MeOH); IR (KBr) 3440 (OH); 2936, 2929 (CH<sub>2</sub>); 1701 (C=O); 1684, 1653, 1559, 1507, 1271 (ether); 1075, 1049 (ether, C-OH) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>):  $\lambda_{max}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) 333.6 (1.23), 319.2 (1.26), 305.4 (1.24) nm; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.55 (dd,  $J_{5',6'} = 8.39$  Hz,  $J_{5',7'} = 0.70$  Hz, 1H, 5'-H), 7.54 (dd,  $J_{4',3'} = 8.37$ Hz,  $J_{4',2'} = 0.94$  Hz, 1H, 4'-H), 7.46 (dd,  $J_{3',4'} = 8.39$  Hz,  $J_{3',2'} = 7.39$  Hz, 1H, 3'-H), 7.43 (dd,  $J_{6',5'} = 8.38$ Hz,  $J_{6',7'} = 7.51$ Hz, 1H, 6'-H), 7.03 (dd,  $J_{2',3'} = 7.38$  Hz,  $J_{2',4'} = 0.96$  Hz, 1H, 2'-H), 6.91 (dd,  $J_{7',6'} = 7.50$ Hz,  $J_{7',5'} = 0.76$ , 1H, 7'-H), 4.61 (d,  $J_{2,3} = 2.93$  Hz, 1H, 2-H), 4.39 (pseudo-s, 1H, 8-H), 4.30 (d,  $J_{OH,5ax} = 0.76$ 10.0 Hz, 1H, 5-OH), 3.5 (m,  $J_{5ax, 5-OH} = 9.89$  Hz,  $J_{5ax, 6e} = 4.78$  Hz, 1H, 5 ax-H), 2.94 (dd,  $J_{3e,3ax} = 19.23$ Hz,  $J_{3e, 2} = 2.16$  Hz,  $J_{3e, 4a} = 1.36$  Hz, 1H, 3e-H), 2.73 (dd,  $J_{3ax, 3e} = 19.30$  Hz,  $J_{3ax, 2} = 2.71$  Hz,  $J_{3ax, 4a} = 1.36$  Hz 1.08 Hz, 1H, 3ax-H), 2.55 (dd,  $J_{4a, 8a} = 5.6$  Hz,  $J_{4a, 3ax} = 1.03$  Hz, 1H, 4a-H), 2.18 (m,  $J_{8a, 4a} = 5.45$  Hz,  $J_{8a, 8a} = 5.45$ = 2.33 Hz, 1H, 8a-H), 1.65 (m, 4H, 6-H, 7-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 214.7 (s, C-4), 146.5 (s, C-8'), 146.7 (s, C-1), 134.3 (s, C-4a'), 127.4 (d, C-3), 127.2 (d, C-6'), 121.5 (d, C-5'), 121.0 (d, C-4'), 113.9 (s, C-8a'), 109.7 (d, C-2'), 109.1 (d, C-7'), 106.9 (s, C-1), 74.6 (d, C-5), 74.0 (d, C-8), 71.0 (d, C-2), 49.0 (d, C-4a), 47.0 (t, C-4a), 47.0 3), 43.5 (d, C-8a), 27.1 (t, C-7), 26.6 (t, C-6); MS (100 °C): m/z (%) = 338 (100) [M+], 252 (60), 197 (16), 160 (46), 115 (16), 105 (4), 79 (4), 55 (4). Found C, 69.71 %; H, 5.50 % Calcd. for C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>5</sub>: C, 71.0 %; H 5.36 %.

 $(2R,4aS,5R,8S,8aR)-5,8-Dihydroxy-2,3,5,6,7,8a-hexahydrospiro-[2,8 epoxy-naphthaline-1 (4 H), 2'-naphtho[1,8 de][1,3]dioxin]-4(4aH)-one CP_5 (3b): Mp 168 °C; [<math>\alpha$ ]D<sup>20</sup>= + 45.45 ° (c = 1 mg/ml, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>); R<sub>f</sub> 0.29 (CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH 2 %); IR (KBr) 3445 (OH); 2915, 2843 (CH<sub>2</sub>); 1700 (C=O); 1635, 1410, 1381, 1271 (ether); 1096, 1051 (ether, C-OH) cm<sup>-1</sup>; UV (CHCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (lg  $\epsilon$ ) = 297 (3.41), 312 (3.57), 326 (3.60) nm; <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  7.60 (d,  $J_5$ ;  $\delta$ ' = 8.3 Hz, 1 H, 5'-H), 7.59 (d,  $J_4$ ',  $\delta$ ' = 8.2 Hz, 1 H, 4'-H), 7.49 (dd,  $J_3$ ',  $\delta$ ' = 8.3

Hz,  $J_{3',\,2'}$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H, 3′-H), 7.45 ( $J_{6',\,5'}$  = 8.3 Hz,  $J_{6',\,7'}$  = 7.6 Hz, 1H, 6′-H), 7.10 (dd,  $J_{2',\,3'}$  = 7.6 Hz,  $J_{2',\,4'}$  = 0.6 Hz, 1H, 2′-H), 6.9 (dd,  $J_{7',\,6'}$  = 7.5 Hz,  $J_{7',\,5'}$  = 0.5 Hz, 1H, 7′-H), 4.7 (s, 1H, 8-OH), 4.6 (m, 1H, 2-H), 4.1 (d,  $J_{\rm OH,\,5}$  = 10 Hz, 1H, 5-OH), 3.7 (ddd,  $J_{\rm 5ax,\,6ax}$  = 12.0 Hz,  $J_{\rm 5ax,\,4a}$  = 4.7 Hz,  $J_{\rm 5ax,\,6e}$  = 1.5 Hz, 1H, 5ax-H), 3.0 (m,  $J_{\rm 4a,\,8a}$  = 8.7 Hz,  $J_{\rm 4a,\,5ax}$  = 4.7 Hz, 1H, 4a-H), 2.9 (ddd,  $J_{\rm 3ax,\,3e}$  = 19.3 Hz,  $J_{\rm 3ax,\,2}$  = 2.40 Hz,  $J_{\rm 3ax,\,4a}$  = 0.99 Hz, 1H, 3e-H), 2.7 (d,  $J_{\rm 8a,\,4a}$  = 8.7 Hz, 1H, 8a-H), 2.68 (ddd,  $J_{\rm 3ax,\,3e}$  = 19.3 Hz,  $J_{\rm 3ax,\,2}$  = 2.41 Hz,  $J_{\rm 3ax,\,4a}$  = 1.4 Hz, 1H, 3ax-H), 2.2 (ddd,  $J_{7e,\,7ax}$  = 12.6 Hz,  $J_{7e,\,6ax}$  = 4.3 Hz,  $J_{7e,\,6e}$  = 4.2 Hz, 1H, 7e-H), 1.9 (m, 2H, 6ax-H, 7ax-H), 1.5 (ddd,  $J_{6e,\,6ax}$  = 12.4 Hz,  $J_{6e,\,7ax}$  = 4.3 Hz,  $J_{6e,\,7e}$  = 4.2 Hz, 1H, 6e-H); <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ 213.0 (s, C-4), 146.2 (s, C-8), 145.7 (s, C-1′), 134.4 (s, C-4a′), 127.5 (d, C-3′), 127.4 (d, C-6′), 122.0 (d, C-5′), 121.9 (d, C-4′), 113.6 (s, C-8a′), 109.8 (d, C-2′), 109.5 (d, C-7′), 107.6 (s, C-1), 103.4 (s, C-8), 75.4 (d, C-2), 71.0 (d, C-5), 49.8 (d, C-4a), 47.7 (d, C-8a), 46.4 (t, C-3), 32.8 (t, C-7), 28.6 (t, C-6); MS (110 °C) m/z (%) = 354 (100) [M+], 252 (84), 197 (16), 160 (70), 115 (14); HRMS found 354.110 ± 2 ppm; Calcd. 354.110340.

Crystal Structure Determination of  $CP_{4a}$  (2a): $^{10}$   $C_{20}H_{18}O_5$ ,  $M_r$  = 338.3, monoclinic, space group P  $2_1$ , a = 679.7(3), b = 959.2(4), c = 1236.2(5) pm,  $\beta$  = 103.71(2)°, V = 783.0  $^{10}$  pm<sup>3</sup>, Z = 2,  $D_r$  = 1.435 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, F(000) = 356, T = 298(1) K. Siemens R3m diffractometer, graphite monochromator,  $\lambda(MoK\alpha)$  = 71.073 pm,  $\mu$  = 0.10 mm<sup>-1</sup>, colorless crystal, size  $0.20 \times 0.20 \times 0.63$  mm,  $\omega$ -scan, 2798 intensities collected  $3 < 20 < 55^{\circ}$ , -8 < h < 8, -12 < k < 12, 0 < l < 16, 3 standards every 400 reflections showed 13% decrease, intensities corrected accordingly, Lp correction, 2715 unique intensities ( $R_{int}$  = 0.021), 2261 with F >  $4\sigma(F)$ . Structure solved by direct methods  $^{11}$ , full-matrix least-squares refinement based on  $F^2$  and 228 parameters  $^{11}$ , all but H atoms refined anisotropically, H atoms located from difference Fourier maps and refined with riding model on idealized positions, refinement converged at R1(F) = 0.043,  $wR2(F^2$ , all data) = 0.100, S = 1.04,  $max(\Delta/\sigma) < 0.001$ , min/max height in final  $\Delta F$  map -0.13/0.19 e/Å<sup>3</sup>. Figure 3 shows the molecular structure.

Crystal Structure Determination of CP<sub>5</sub> (3b):  $^{10}$  C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>18</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, M<sub>r</sub> = 354.3, orthorhombic, space group P  $^{12}$ 12<sub>1</sub>, a = 633.5(3), b = 1304.9(7), c = 1971.3(11) pm, V = 1630  $^{10}$ 6 pm<sup>3</sup>, Z = 4, D<sub>r</sub> = 1.444 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, F(000) = 744, T = 298(1) K. Diffractometer and data collection as for  $^{10}$ CP<sub>4a</sub>,  $\mu$  = 0.11 mm<sup>-1</sup>, colorless crystal, size 0.20 x 0.30 x 0.61 mm, 2176 intensities collected 3 < 20 < 55°, 0 < h < 8, 0 < k < 16, 0 < l < 25, 3 standards every 400 reflections showed only random deviations, Lp correction, 1353 unique observed intensities with F > 4o(F). Structure solution and refinement as for CP<sub>4a</sub>, 238 parameters, refinement converged at R1(F) = 0.038, wR2(F<sup>2</sup>, all data) = 0.110, S = 1.03, max( $^{10}$ O/c) < 0.001, min/max height in final  $^{10}$ F map -0.16/0.18 e/Å<sup>3</sup>. Figure 4 shows the molecular structure.

## **COMPUTATIONAL**

The conformational analyses were carried out using the AM1 method<sup>12</sup> as implemented in the program VAMP 5.0.<sup>13</sup> The starting geometries were preoptimized by the TRIPOS<sup>14</sup> force field. For the calculation of the rotational strength  $R_{0a}$  of an electric transition from the groundstate  $\psi_0$  to an excisted state  $\psi_a$ 

$$R_{0a} = \Im \left\{ \frac{e\hbar}{im(E_a - E_0)} \langle \psi_0 | \hat{p} | \psi_a \rangle \cdot \langle \psi_a | \hat{m} | \psi_0 \rangle \right\}$$
 (1)

$$= \Im\left\{\frac{e\hbar}{im(E_a - E_0)}p_{0a} \cdot m_{a0}\right\},\tag{2}$$

the wavefunctions of the excited states were obtained by a CNDO/S-CI calculation<sup>15</sup> using a CI expansion which includes  $20 \times 20 = 400$  singly occupied configurations and the ground state determinant. The rotational strengths were then calculated by use of the BDZDO/MCDSPD program package, <sup>16</sup> following equation (2) to give origin-independent results even for approximated wavefunctions.

Corresponding to the Boltzmann statistic the CD spectra of all conformers were added up according to their heats of formation, leading to the theoretical overall CD spectrum. At last, for a better optical comparison with the experimental one, the rotational strengths were transformed into  $\Delta \varepsilon$  value according to

$$\Delta \varepsilon(\nu) = \frac{6.909 h c_o \nu \sqrt{\varepsilon_0}}{8\pi^2 1000 N_A \sqrt{\mu_0}} R_{0a},\tag{3}$$

and superimposed with an Gaussian band shape function

$$\sigma_{0a}(\lambda) = -\frac{1}{\Delta m \sqrt{\pi}} e^{-\left(\frac{\lambda - \lambda_a}{\Delta m}\right)^2} \tag{4}$$

with a halfband width of  $\Delta m = 5$  nm, giving a  $\Delta \epsilon$  curve.

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Dedicated to Prof. H. Paulsen on the occasion of his 75th birthday

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