

**Department of Pharmacy**  
University of Salerno

**Giuseppe Bifulco**

**Quantum chemical calculation of NMR parameters in the stereochemical determination of organic compounds**

Ischia, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Solving the relative configuration of organic molecules is essential in organic and bioorganic chemistry**

**For:**

- undertaking total synthesis of natural compounds
- conformational and structure activity relationship studies
- understanding the biological mechanism of action at the molecular level

The configurational analysis of highly **flexible carbon chains** is usually complicated by the lack of information on the conformational behaviour

**Problems arise from:**

- presence of multiple conformer equilibria
- large contributions to NOE intensity derived from **minor populations**

**Consolidated Approaches**

- Application of Nuclear Overhauser Effect (NOE) in combination with computational techniques
- Simple NMR studies of a flexible system transformed in a rigid one (e.g.: the Rychnovsky method for 1,3-diols)

**Determining relative configuration on flexible carbon chains by NMR spectroscopy**

**Recent Approaches**

- The J-based approach (M. Murata, et al. *J. Org. Chem.* 1999) and its modifications
- Conformational analysis and Boltzmann-averaged <sup>13</sup>C NMR chemical shift calculations by ab initio methods (G. Bifulco, et al. *Chem. Eur. J.* 2002; *Pure and Appl. Chem.* 2003)
- Quantum mechanical calculations of NMR J coupling values (G. Bifulco, et al. *Organic Letters* 2004, 6(6), 1025-1028; *J. Org. Chem.* 2010, 75 (6), 1982-1991)

**Other Perspectives**

- UDB (Universal NMR DataBase) (Kishi. Y. et al *Org. Lett.* 1999, 1, 2177)

3741 Chem. Rev. 2007, 107, 3744-3779

**Determination of Relative Configuration in Organic Compounds by NMR Spectroscopy and Computational Methods**

Giuseppe Bifulco,<sup>1</sup> Paolo Dambrosio,<sup>1</sup> Luigi Gomez-Palomero,<sup>1</sup> and Raffaele Ricci<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dipartimento di Scienze Farmaceutiche, University of Salerno, Via Ponte Don Melillo, 84081 Fisciano, Salerno, Italy

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**MICROREVIEW**

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**Quantum Mechanical Calculation of NMR Parameters in the Stereostructural Determination of Natural Products**

Simone Di Micco,<sup>1,2</sup> Maria Giovanna Chini,<sup>1,2</sup> Raffaele Ricci,<sup>1,2</sup> and Giuseppe Bifulco,<sup>1,2</sup>

**Keywords:** Natural products / NMR spectroscopy / Biochemistry / Quantum chemistry / Drug Design/Devellopment

This paper illustrates how the combined approach of NMR spectroscopy and computational methods can be used as a fast and convenient method to solve the total synthesis of complex natural products to the absolute configuration. In particular, different core strategies are presented for the stereochemical analysis of natural products. In particular, different core strategies are presented for the stereochemical analysis of the *3,5-dihydro-4H-pyran-4-one* core of the polyketide antibiotic *luteosincin*. The application of the quantum mechanical calculation of NMR parameters in the stereochemical analysis of the *luteosincin* core is described. Moreover, it is shown that the 2D-NMR

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**1. Introduction**

Most molecular properties of organic compounds, such as chemical reactivity, catalytic, biological, pharmacological, and physical properties, depend on the spatial arrangement of functional groups but also on their spatial position. Thus the stereochemical analysis of organic molecules is part in the full understanding of their chemical behavior. Different approaches to determine the exact structure and/or configuration of organic molecules have been developed.

Total synthesis has played a primary role in structural assignments of natural products, but it is often a time-consuming process. For this reason, the development of new methods to reduce the additional costs in terms of time and money. For these reasons, the use of NMR spectroscopy and computational methods, such as quantum mechanical calculations of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), circular dichroism (CD), and optical rotation (OR), has become a powerful tool for the stereochemical analysis of organic molecules. In particular, the nuclear Overhauser effect (NOE)<sup>1-4</sup> provides information of the 3D spatial arrangement of the atoms in the molecule.

In the last years, applying the geometrical information on the relative position of the atoms in the molecule instead of the absolute configuration, the evaluation of simple NMR parameters, such as  $\Delta\delta_{NOE}$  and  $\Delta\delta_{J}$  values, in combination with the nuclear Overhauser effect intensities, allows the configuration of the sample under investigation to be determined.

On the other hand, the use of NMR spectroscopy and of compounds with predictable conformational behavior, such as cyclohexanes, cyclohexenyl derivatives, and macrocyclic lactones, more difficult cases of relative configuration can be approached by geometrical unambiguity of each type of compound.

For the above-mentioned, different NMR-based methods, such as the NOE effect, the use of 2D-NMR (2D-NMR),<sup>5-7</sup> and the quantum mechanical calculation of NMR parameters (QM-NMR),<sup>8-10</sup> have been applied to the absolute and/or relative configuration of organic molecules. These methods have been applied to several distinct research areas, such as natural products, pharmaceuticals, and materials science, food chemistry, and material sciences. Approaches relying on NMR spectroscopy to solve the relative configuration of stereocenters have been developed.

[1] Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Salerno, via Ponte Don Melillo, 84081 Fisciano (SA), Italy. E-mail: ricci@fis.unisa.it

[2] Department of Pharmacology, School of Pharmacy, University of Salerno, via Ponte Don Melillo, 84081 Fisciano (SA), Italy. E-mail: gchini@fis.unisa.it

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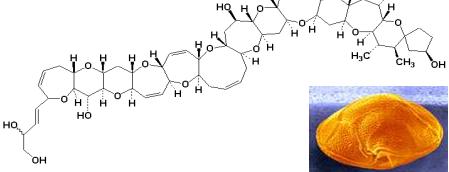
1



## Ciguatera Fish Poisoning

**"The name may be difficult to remember.  
But if you get this disease, you'll never forget it."**

Ciguatoxin (CTx-1)



### Ciguatera fish

- is endemic in all tropical area where coral reef fishes are a food source
- results from the eating of reef fish affected with ciguatoxin

### CTx-1

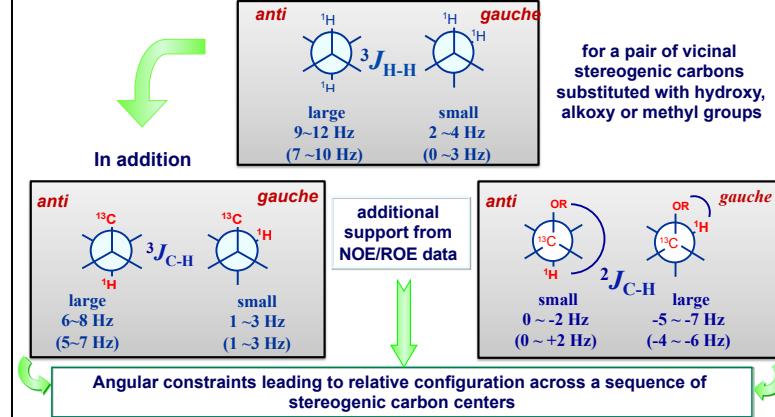
- is produced by the dinoflagellate *Gambierdiscus toxicus* which colonizes coral beds
- has been also isolated from the flesh and viscera of ciguotoxic fish

Ciguatera symptoms were first described in the 1500's by the Spanish explorers to Cuba and were attributed to the ingestion of a small snail which they called *cigua*.



## Fundamentals of the J-based approach of configurational analysis

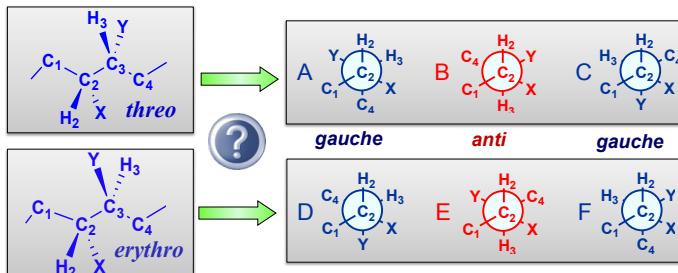
Homo- and hetero-nuclear spin-coupling constants can provide reliable stereochemical information on the major staggered conformation in a flexible carbon chain



## Relative Configuration Assignment in Oxygenated C<sub>2</sub> Subunits by J-based Configuration Analysis (Murata, et al.)

for any pair of vicinal stereogenic carbons substituted with hydroxy, alkoxy or methyl groups:

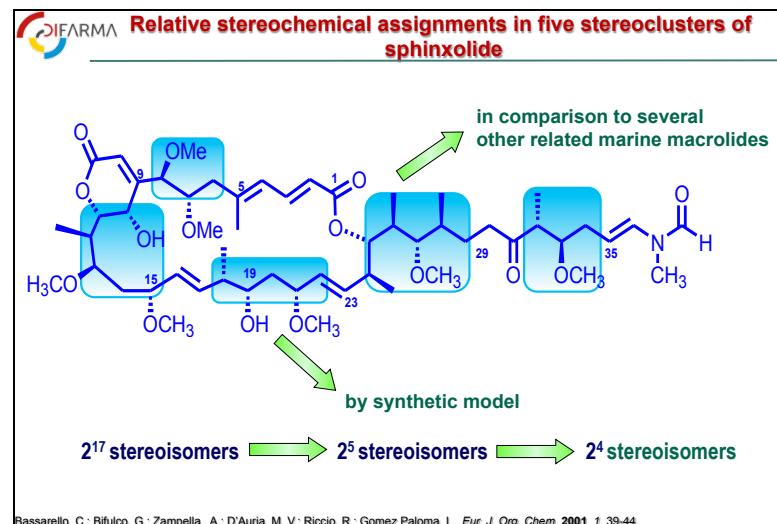
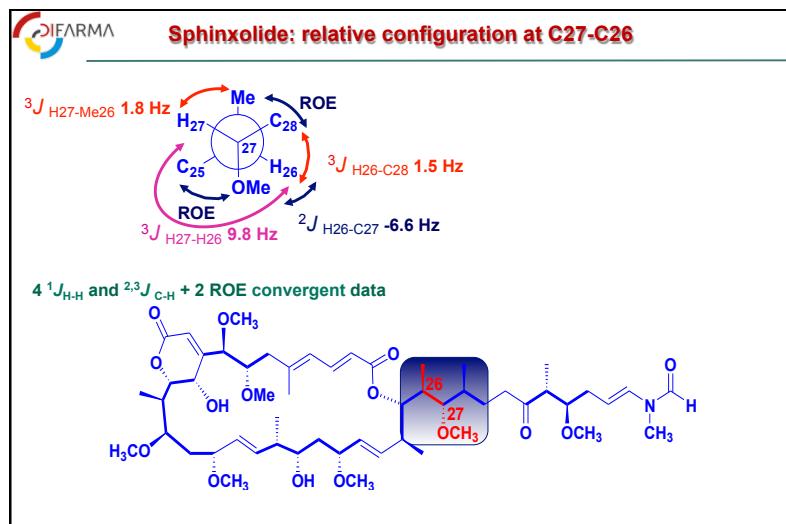
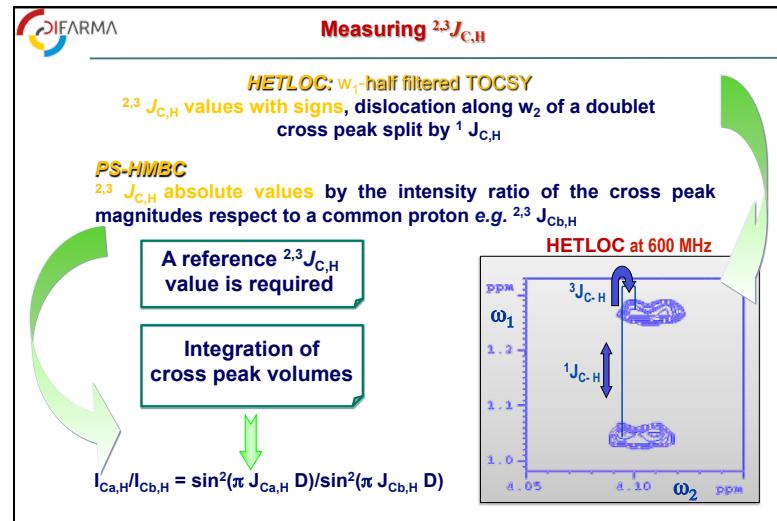
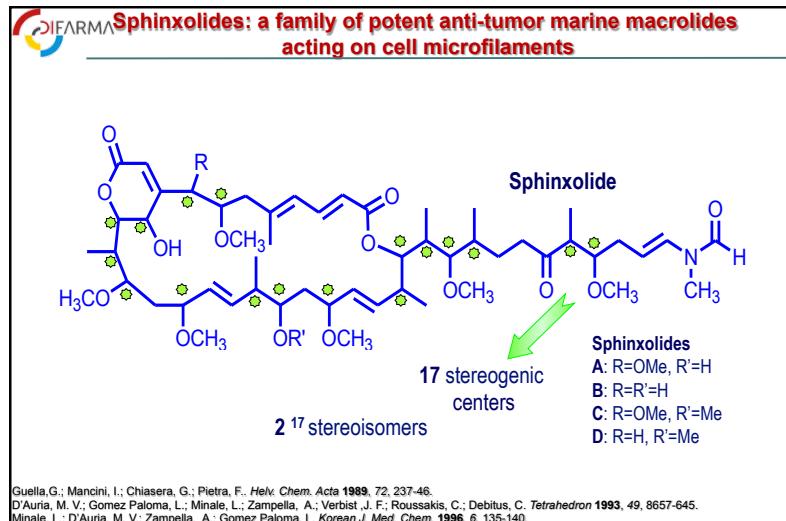
- six possible staggered conformers with *threo* and *erythro* arrangements
- determination of the dominant rotamer and of its relative configuration can be achieved through angular constraints inferred by measuring  $^3J_{H,H}$  and  $^{2,3}J_{C,H}$  values and NOE



## Relative Configuration Assignment in Oxygenated C<sub>2</sub> Subunits by J-based Configuration Analysis (Murata, et al.)

by the expected  $^3J_{H,H}$  and  $^{2,3}J_{C,H}$  coupling pattern of the six staggered rotamers with *threo* (*syn*) and *erythro* (*anti*) geometries

threo ( <i>syn</i> )	A	B	C	erythro ( <i>anti</i> )	A	B	C
$^3J_{H_2H_3}$	small	large	small	$^3J_{H_2H_3}$	small	large	small
$^3J_{H_2C_4}$	large	small	small	$^3J_{H_2C_4}$	small	small	large
$^3J_{H_3C_1}$	large	small	small	$^3J_{H_3C_1}$	large	small	small
X = Me, Y = OR				X = Me, Y = OR			
$^3J_{C_2H_3}$	small	large		$^3J_{C_2H_3}$	small	small	large
$^2J_{C_3H_2}$	large	large	small	$^2J_{C_3H_2}$	small	large	large
X = OR, Y = OR				X = OR, Y = OR			
$^2J_{C_2H_3}$	large	large	small	$^2J_{C_2H_3}$	large	large	small
$^2J_{C_3H_2}$	large	large	small	$^2J_{C_3H_2}$	small	large	large





### Limits of the J-based configurational analysis protocol ...

- ✓ Limited literature data that correlate the size of heteronuclear  $^{2,3}J_{CH}$  values to molecular structures
- ✓ Pattern small/large
- ✓ The identical small/large  $J$  coupling pattern in C2 fragments with protons in *anti* arrangement

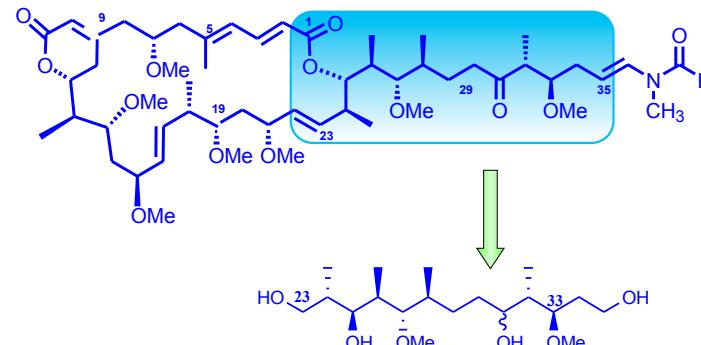
#### ..... and current developments

##### Quantum mechanical calculation of coupling constants

- ✓ powerful and versatile calculation packages: Gaussian 09 software package
- ✓ good reliability and efficiency in the  $J$  and  $^{13}\text{C}/\text{H}$  calculation through different DFT theory levels and medium size basis sets



### Stereochemical analysis in the side chain of Reidispongiolide A by quantum mechanical calculation of coupling constants



Zampella, A.; Bassarello, C.; Bifulco, G.; Gomez Paloma, L.; D'Auria, M. V. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* 2002, 5, 785-790.  
Zampella, A.; Sepe, V.; D'Orsi, R.; Bifulco, G.; Bassarello, C.; D'Auria, M. V. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* 2003, 14, 1787-1798.



### The basics of configurational analysis by quantum mechanical calculation of coupling constants

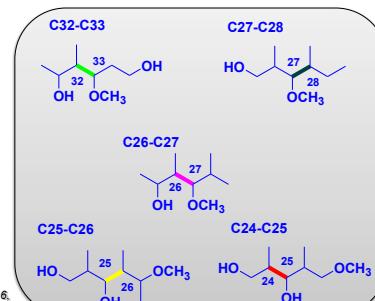
Model compound under investigation  
7 stereogenic centers

$6^5$  staggered rotamers

The complexity of the problem can be reduced by breaking down the carbon framework into 5 individual  $\text{C}_2$  fragments

Analysis of 30 relative spatial relationships across two adjacent stereogenic centers

Bifulco, G.; Bassarello, C.; Riccio, R.; Gomez-Paloma, L. *Org. Lett.* 2004, 6, 1025-1028.



### Comparison of calculated and experimental $J$ coupling values for C32-C33 stereocenters

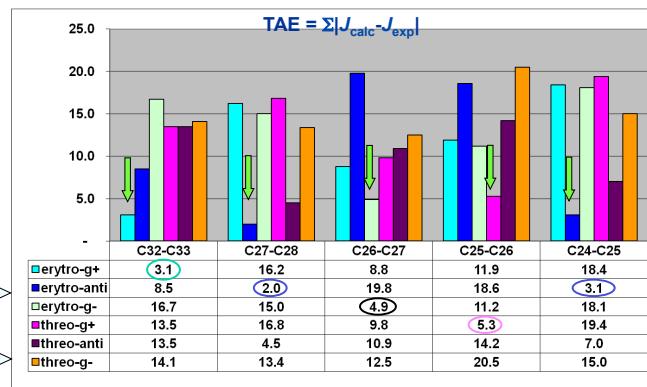


Calculated and exp $J$ values at the C32-C33 bond						
erythro			threo			
-Geometry optimization: DFT/MPW1PW91/6-31G(d)	-Property calculation: SP DFT/MPW1PW91/6-31G(d,p)	exp	-Geometry optimization: DFT/MPW1PW91/6-31G(d)	-Property calculation: SP DFT/MPW1PW91/6-31G(d,p)	exp	
$^{3}J_{\text{H}32}$	-4.7	-1.5	0.9	0.4	-3.4	-3.5
$^{2}J_{\text{H}32-\text{C}33}$	4.4	5.2	1.1	2.9	1.4	5.1
$^{3}J_{\text{H}32-\text{C}34}$	4.4	5.2	1.1	2.9	1.4	5.1
$^{3}J_{\text{H}32-\text{C}31}$	1.9	1.0	6.1	3.7	0.8	5.6
$^{3}J_{\text{H}33-\text{Me}32}$	4.8	7.5	3.6	3.7	3.1	1.0
$\Sigma  J_{\text{calc}} - J_{\text{exp}} $	3.1	8.5	16.7	13.5	13.5	14.1

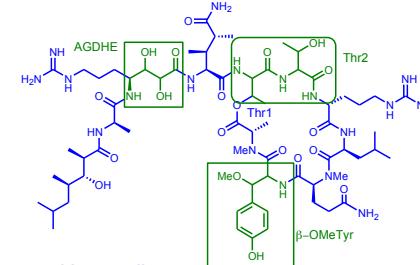
Cimino, P.; Gomez-Paloma, L.; Duca, D.; Riccio, R.; Bifulco, G. *Mag. Res. Chem.* 2004, 42, S26-S33.



**Conformational and configurational assignment across all the individual C<sub>2</sub> fragments through minimum values of Total Absolute Error (TAE)**



**First Application of the QM-J: method to a “real” and complex case**



Callipeltin A

isolated from *Callipelta* sp. and *Latrunculia* sp.

Activity: antiviral & anti HIV-1

Strong inhibition of the cardiac sodium/calcium pump

Potential regulator of the myocardium contractility

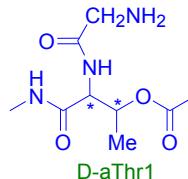
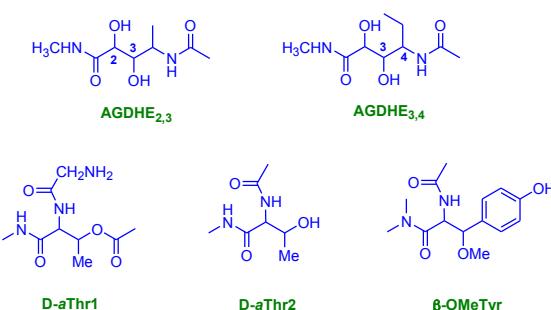
ISOLATION: Zampella, A.; D'Auria, M. V.; Gomez-Paloma, L.; Casapulco, A.; Minale, L.; Debitus, C.; Henin, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1996**, *118*, 6202–6209.

I REVISION: Zampella, A.; Randazzo, A.; Borbone, N.; Luciani, S.; Trevisi, L.; C. Debitus, M. V. D'Auria. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2002**, *43*, 6163–6166.

II REVISION: Bassarelo, C.; Zampella, A.; Monti, M. C.; Gomez-Paloma, L.; D'Auria, M. V.; Riccio, R.; Bifulco, G. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2006**, 604–609.



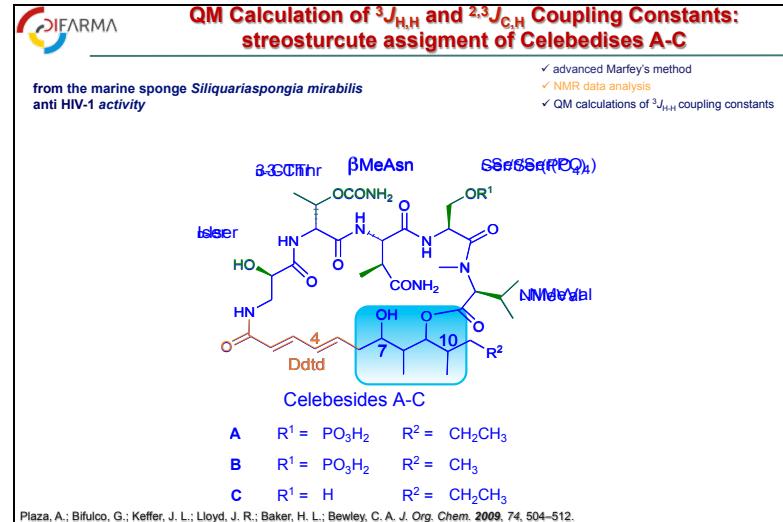
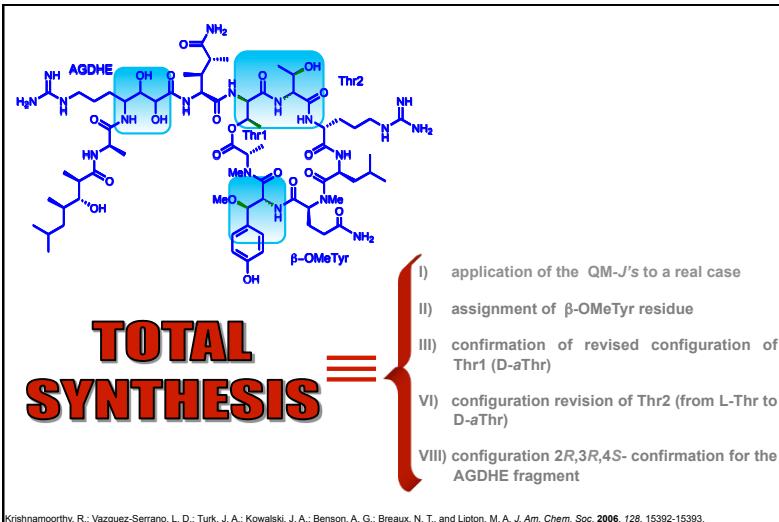
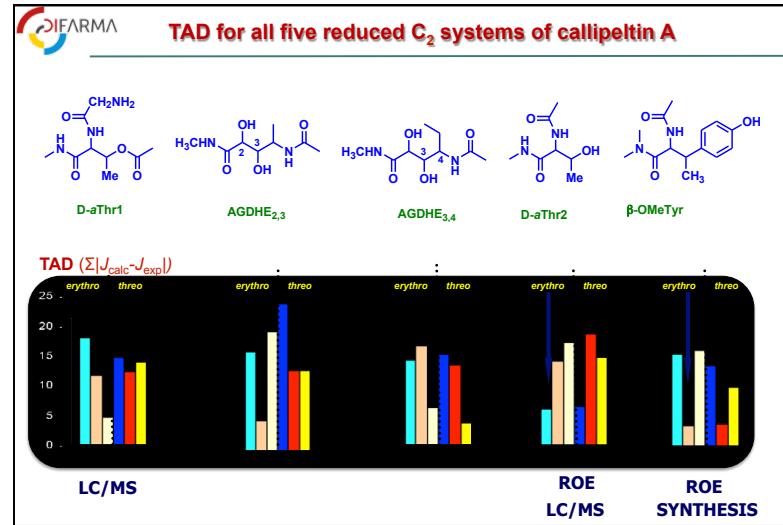
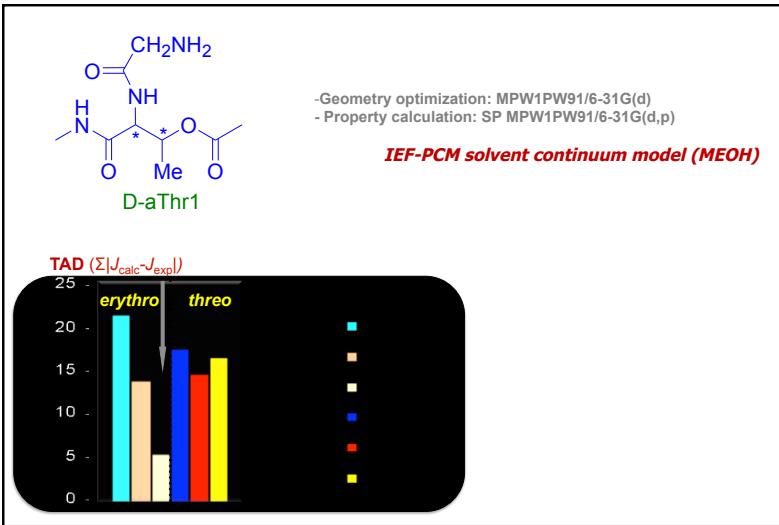
**Molecular fragments of the five C<sub>2</sub> systems of callipeltin A**



-Geometry optimization: MPW1PW91/6-31G(d)  
-Property calculation: SP MPW1PW91/6-31G(d,p)

**IEF-PCM solvent continuum model (MeOH)**

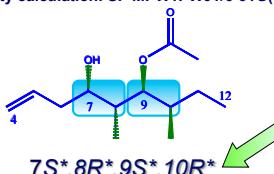
(calc)	D-aThr1		erythro		threo		expt
	g <sup>+</sup>	anti	g <sup>-</sup>	g <sup>+</sup>	anti	g <sup>-</sup>	
<sup>3</sup> J <sub>H2-H3</sub>	3.7	8.6	2.6	4.5	9.2	1.3	2.8
<sup>2</sup> J <sub>H2-C3</sub>	0.9	-4.4	-4.9	-4.5	-4.2	0.6	-5.7
<sup>3</sup> J <sub>H2-Me</sub>	0.7	2.3	4.0	0.3	2.7	1.9	5.0
<sup>2</sup> J <sub>H3-C2</sub>	-1.4	-2.2	0.3	-0.6	-1.8	0.6	-1.4
<sup>3</sup> J <sub>H3-C=O</sub>	7.2	2.4	1.4	7.4	1.0	2.1	2.0
TAD ( $\Sigma  J_{\text{calc}} - J_{\text{exp}} $ )	17.0	11.0	4.3	13.8	11.6	13.0	



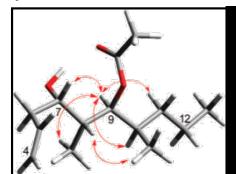


### QM Calculation of $^3J_{H,H}$ and $^{2,3}J_{C,H}$ Coupling Constants: stereosturcute assigment of Celebesides A-C

- ✓ Geometry optimization: MPW1PW91/6-31G(d)
- ✓ Property calculation: SP MPW1PW91/6-31G(d,p)



Confirmed by key ROE correlations of the all molecule



Plaza, A.; Bifulco, G.; Keffler, J. L.; Lloyd, J. R.; Baker, H. L.; Bewley, C. A. *J. Org. Chem.* 2009, 74, 504–512.

Total absolute deviation ( $\sum |J_{\text{exp}} - J_{\text{cal}}|$ ) values

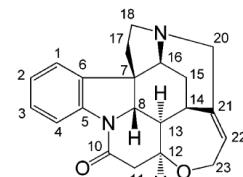
		celebeside A					
		calculated			Exp		
		threo			erythro		
C7-C8		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6
H7-Me8	2.7	4.0	4.3	2.9	4.2	5.1	5.5
H7-C9	4.9	0.4	2.1	5.6	1.5	0.1	3.1
H8-C6	4.4	1.7	0.5	0.7	5.2	5.7	2.6
H8-H7	2.7	7.5	2.2	2.4	4.1	6.3	1
$\Sigma J_{\text{exp}}$	8.0	11.7	5.5	8.4	9.7	11.8	
C8-C9		B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6
H8-C9	-0.4	-4.8	-3.8	-4.1	-0.7	-5.2	-7.2
H9-C7	5.2	5.5	1.8	2.3	2.3	1.2	3.0
H9-Me8	1.5	3.6	2.7	1.0	6.5	5.1	1.3
H9-H8	2.0	2.5	9.0	9.2	1.2	5.1	10.6
$\Sigma J_{\text{exp}}$	17.8	15.3	7.6	5.5	21.9	13.0	
C9-C10		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6
H9-Me10	5.0	0.4	2.5	6.6	4.7	2.9	5.3
H9-C11	2.6	6.2	4.4	0.3	2.2	4.7	4.0
H10-C9	2.3	-2.0	-5.7	-2.1	-5.7	2.3	1.3
H10-H9	2.6	4.4	2.3	4.8	2.3	2.7	1.1
$\Sigma J_{\text{exp}}$	4.2	13.7	10.3	12.1	10.7	8.7	

Total absolute deviation ( $\sum |J_{\text{exp}} - J_{\text{cal}}|$ ) values



### Quantum Chemical Calculations of $^1J_{CC}$ Coupling Constants for the Stereochemical Determination of Organic Compounds

- ✓ sensitivity advances in state of art cryogenic NMR probes
- ✓ number of efficient pulse sequences such as  $J$ -modulated ADEQUATE
- ✓ feasibility of collecting a significant set of  $^1J_{CC}$  and  $^nJ_{CC}$  data even for relatively mass-limited samples
- ✓ these parameters are relatively easily measured in an overnight NMR experiment using few milligrams of material

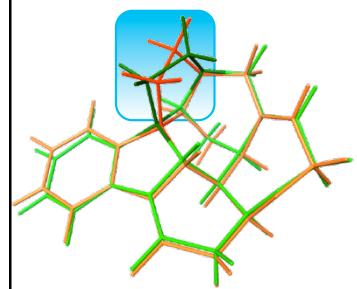


✓ for strychnine a mean absolute error (MAE) of 0.84 Hz and a correlation coefficient of 0.9986 was observed in a comparison of experimental and calculated  $^1J_{CC}$  and  $^3J_{CC}$  NMR data

Bifulco, G.; Riccio, R.; Martin, G., E.; Buevich, A. V.; Williamson, R.T. *Org. Lett.*, 2013, 15, 654–657.



### Quantum Chemical Calculations of $^1J_{CC}$ Coupling Constants for the Stereochemical Determination of Organic Compounds



**1b** is 4.01 kcal/mol less stable than **1a** (~0.11% of **1b** at 25 °C to the conformational equilibrium)

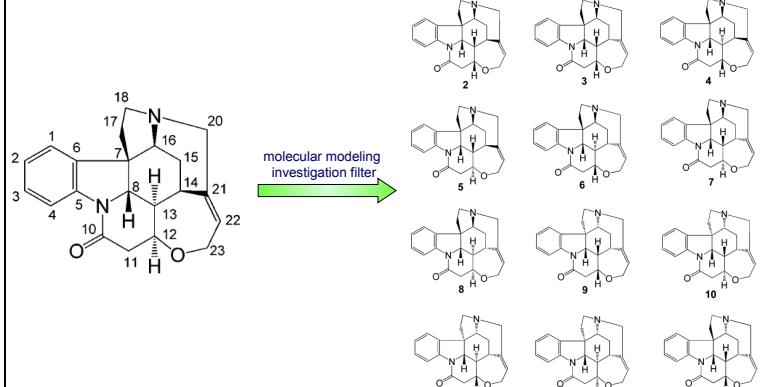
Bifulco, G.; Riccio, R.; Martin, G., E.; Buevich, A. V.; Williamson, R.T. *Org. Lett.*, 2013, 15, 654–657.

$^1J_{CC}$	exptl. (Hz)	<b>1a</b>	<b>1b</b>
C1-C2	58.1	59.1	59.2
C2-C3	58.9	59.9	59.8
C3-C4	59.9	59.0	59.1
C4-C5	64.9	66.9	66.8
C1-C6	65.7	65.9	66.0
C7-C8	33.9	34.1	35.2
C10-C11	50.1	49.6	49.7
C11-C12	37.6	36.5	36.8
C12-C13	36.8	35.3	34.5
C8-C13	32.4	32.4	32.6
C13-C14	32.4	32.3	32.6
C14-C15	32.6	32.3	32.3
C7-C16	33.7	33.4	29.9
C15-C16	33.3	32.9	33.8
C17-C18	34.0	32.6	29.9
C20-C21	41.6	40.2	39.1
C14-C21	37.6	37.2	37.3
C21-C22	71.8	73.9	74.4
C22-C23	45.6	45.2	45.3
C7-C17	32.1	31.0	38.0
C5-C6	60.7	61.4	61.7
C6-C7	43.3	43.3	42.4
MAE, (Hz)		0.75	1.47



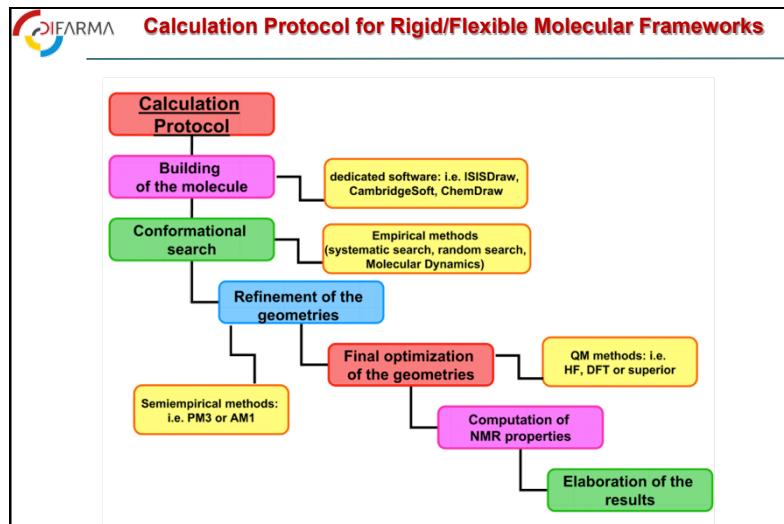
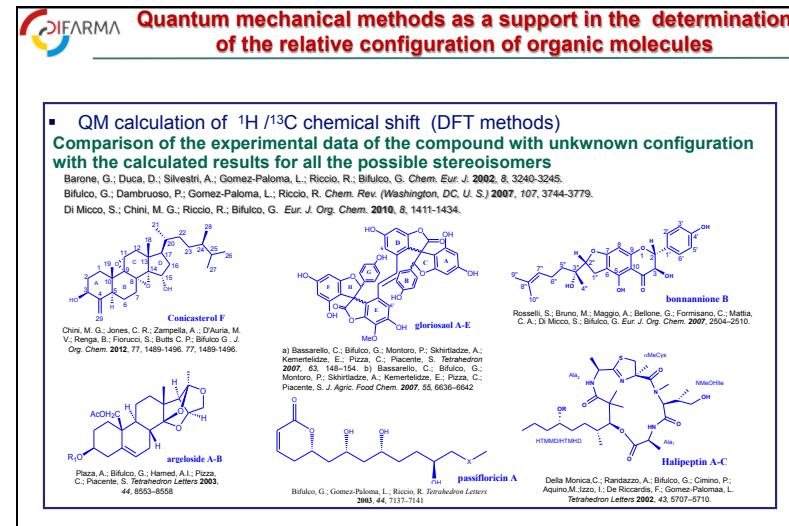
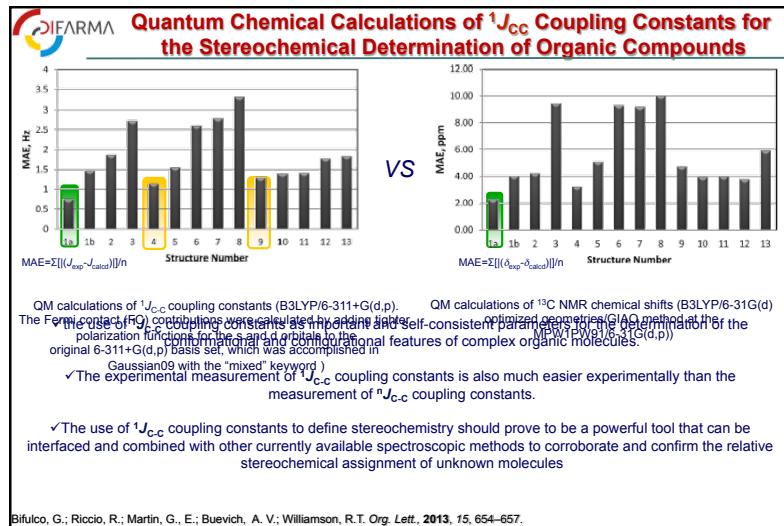
### Quantum Chemical Calculations of $^1J_{CC}$ Coupling Constants for the Stereochemical Determination of Organic Compounds

molecular modeling investigation filter



- ✓ Conformational search at the empirical level
- ✓ geometry- and energy optimized at the B3LYP/6-31G(d) level of theory

Bifulco, G.; Riccio, R.; Martin, G., E.; Buevich, A. V.; Williamson, R.T. *Org. Lett.*, 2013, 15, 654–657.



**Quantum mechanical methods as a support in the determination of the relative configuration of organic molecules**

**$^{13}C$  Nuclear shielding as a sensitive probe of the molecular environment**

**Theoretical Methods for Shielding Computation**

- Solution of Schroedinger equation in the absence of a magnetic field
- Application of a magnetic moment and a static external magnetic field
- Transformation of the zero order and first order density matrices are then used to give the diamagnetic and paramagnetic shielding terms, respectively

**Common Approaches for the Chemical Shift Calculation**

- GIAO – Gauge Including Atomic Orbital method
- IGLO – Individualized Gauge for Localized Orbitals method
- LORG – Localized ORbital Local Origin method
- CSGT – Continuos Set of Gauge Transformation method

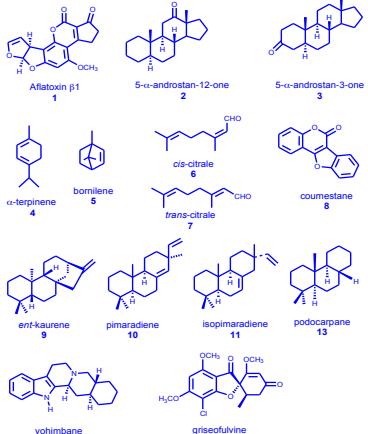
*These approaches have been often limited to small molecules due to large computational costs*



### Validation of the Calculation Protocol in 14 Model Compounds

$^{13}\text{C}$  NMR chemical shifts calculations, employing either HF or DFT approaches, displayed good to excellent agreements with experimental data

especially for **low polar compounds** whose NMR spectra were typically recorded in **D-chloroform** solution

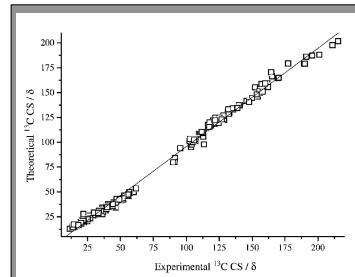


Barone, G.; Gomez-Paloma, L.; Duca, D.; Silvestri, A.; Riccio, R.; Bifulco, G. *Chem Eur J* 2002, 8, 3233-3239.



### Validation of the Calculation Protocol in 14 Model Compounds

Correlation plot of calculated vs. experimental  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR chemical shifts, at HF level, for the species 1-14



Intercept, slope, correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) and corresponding HF and B3LYP energy, obtained by linear fits of calculated vs. experimental  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR C.S. plots for the species 1-14.

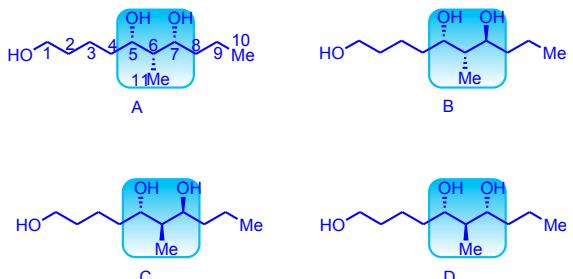
Species	Theory	Intercept	Slope	$r$	Energy (a.u.)
1	HF	-5.650	1.008	0.995(5)	-1099.9125
2	HF	-2.080	0.933	0.998(0)	-811.8504
2	B3LYP	3.530	0.934	0.999(8)	-817.3365
3	HF	-2.060	0.936	0.998(2)	-811.8499
4	HF	-1.752	0.996	0.999(5)	-387.9785
5	HF	-2.068	0.985	0.997(1)	-387.9604
6	HF	0.758	0.955	0.999(7)	-467.8238
7	HF	0.556	0.956	0.999(7)	-467.8236
8	HF	4.285	0.950	0.989(2)	-797.3028
8	B3LYP	2.443	0.934	0.996(4)	-802.1093
9	HF	-3.278	0.974	0.994(7)	-775.9779
10	HF	-3.568	0.981	0.997(1)	-775.9683
11	HF	-3.594	0.992	0.995(5)	-775.9673
12	HF	-5.551	1.029	0.997(8)	-842.3934
13	HF	3.985	0.747	0.995(8)	-661.2445
14	HF	-5.810	1.011	0.997(4)	-1562.2763
average	HF	-3.265	0.990	0.997(6)	---

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### From Rigid Compounds with Known Stereochemistry to Flexible Compounds with Unknown Stereochemistry...

Geometry optimization and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR chemical shift calculation by ab initio methods as a support to stereochemical investigation of low-polar open chain compounds



Synthetic model stereoisomers: Kobayashi, Y.; Tan, C.-H.; Kishi, Y. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 2001, 123, 2076-2078

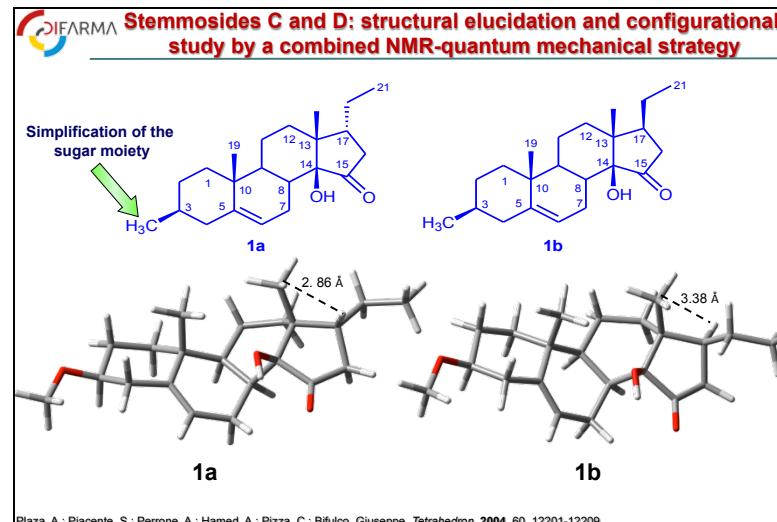
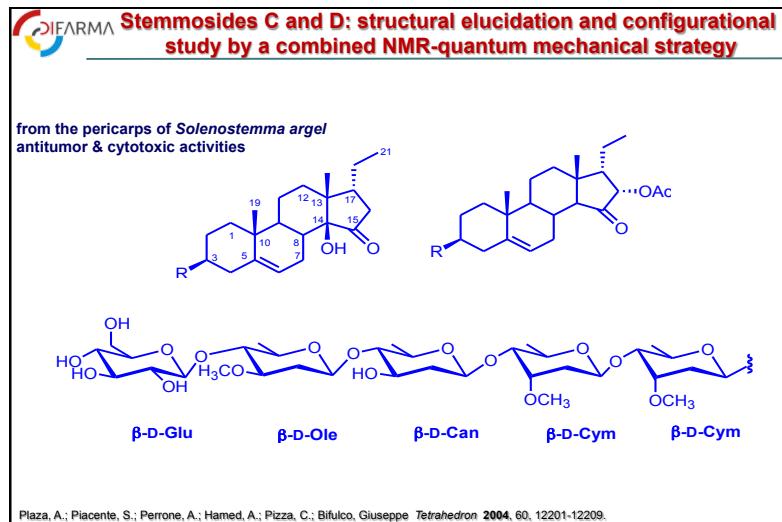
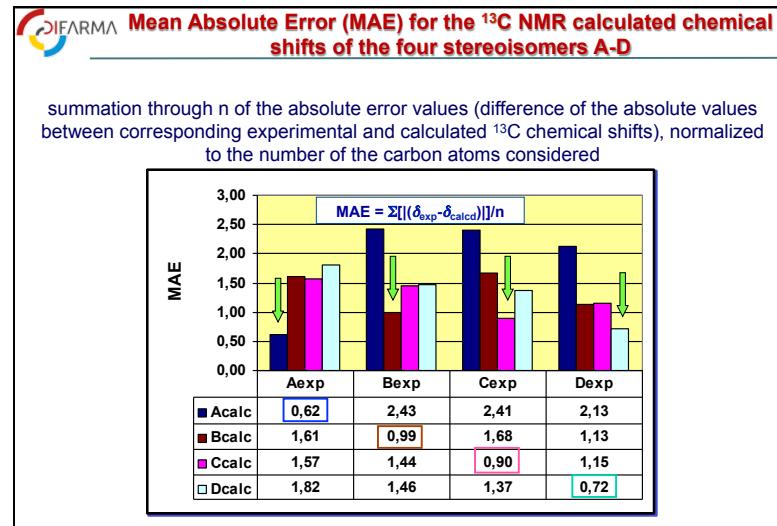
Stereoisomer A: values of the GIAO calculated  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR c.s. (ppm relative to TMS) for the conformers A1-A8 and their Boltzmann weighted average

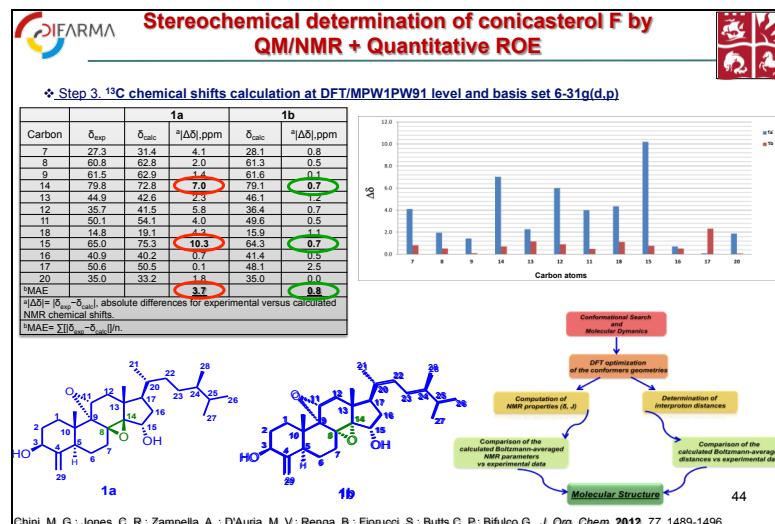
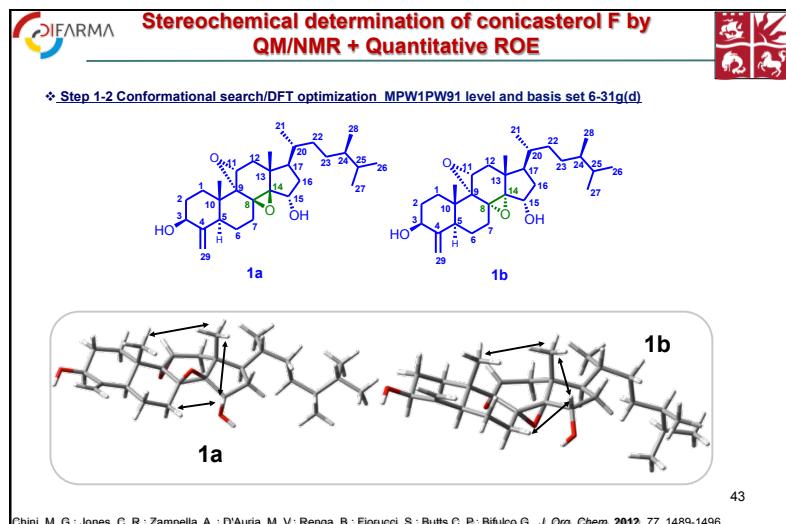
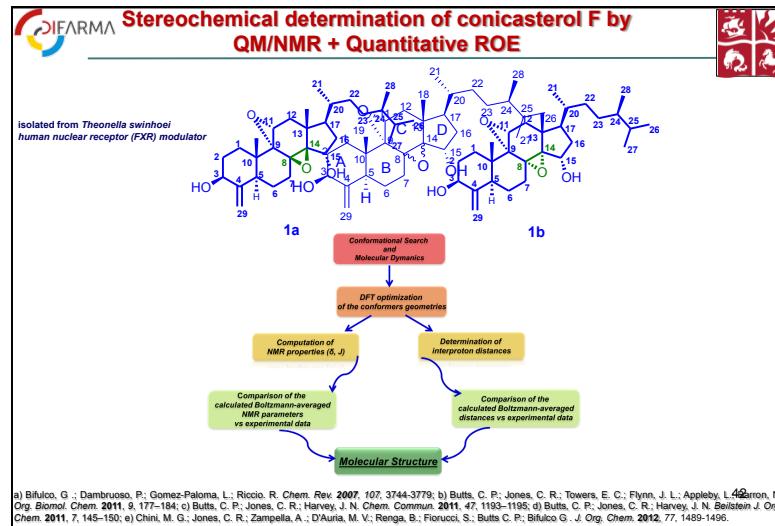
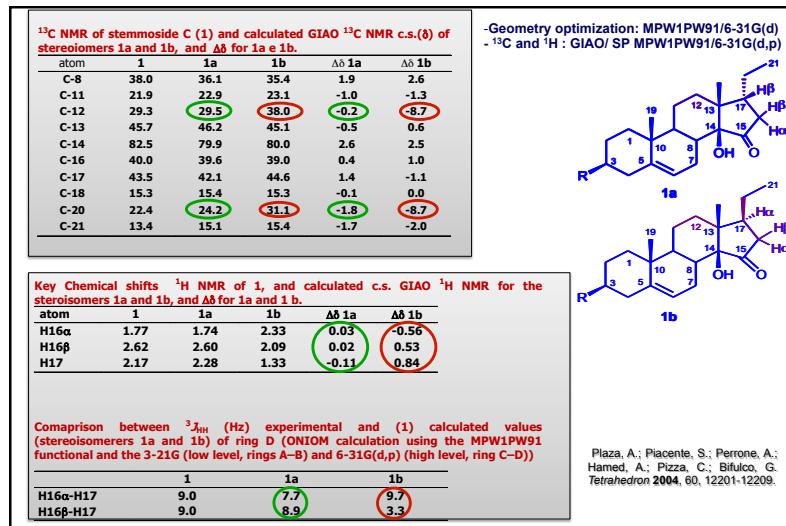


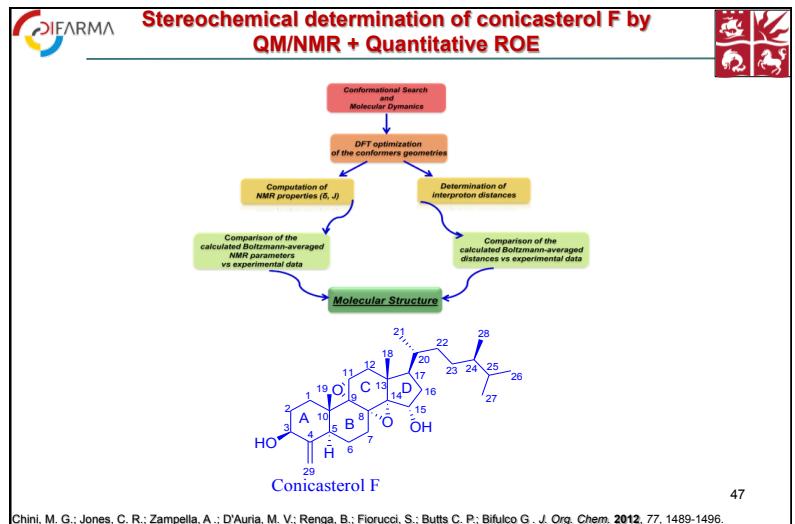
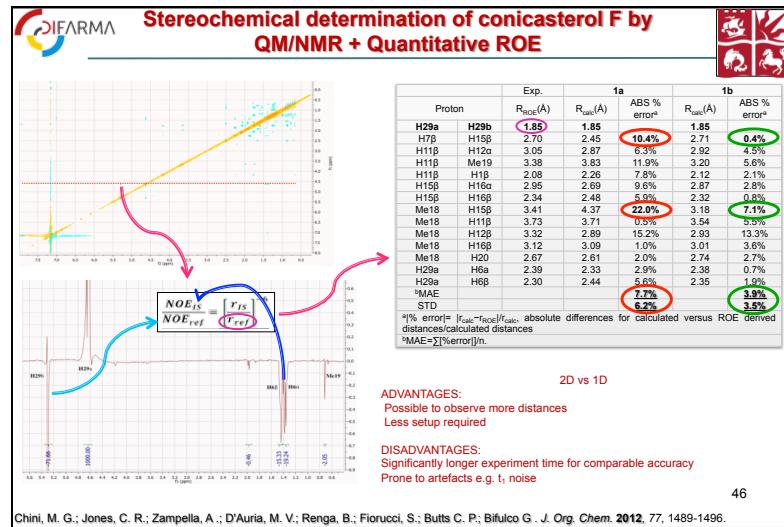
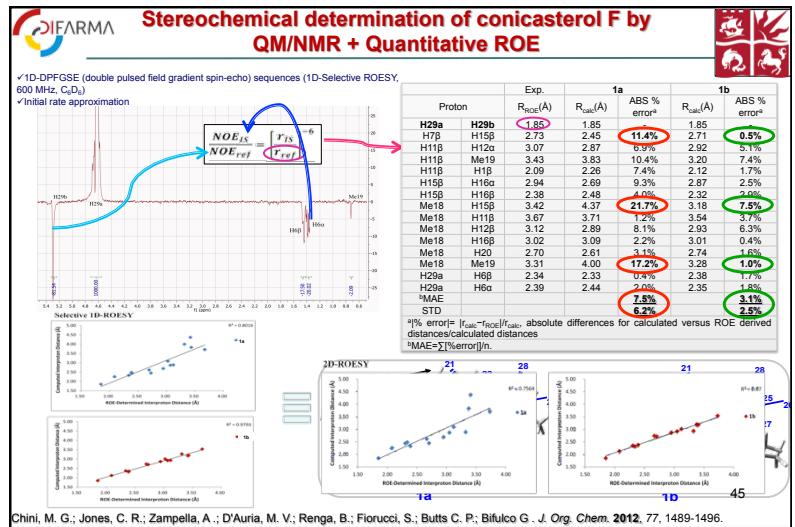
$^{13}\text{C}$ atom	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	average
<b>1</b>	57.1	56.8	56.3	56.9	56.1	56.9	56.8	56.8	<b>57.0</b>
<b>2</b>	29.9	29.6	31.0	29.7	32.2	29.7	32.7	32.7	<b>29.8</b>
<b>3</b>	21.8	21.6	20.8	21.8	22.4	21.8	19.8	19.2	<b>21.7</b>
<b>4</b>	33.7	34.6	33.2	34.5	34.8	34.1	33.3	34.4	<b>34.1</b>
<b>5</b>	67.7	69.8	68.8	62.4	62.9	61.9	61.3	61.8	<b>68.6</b>
<b>6</b>	39.2	39.3	35.2	42.9	41.4	38.0	36.8	33.0	<b>39.1</b>
<b>7</b>	69.8	67.8	67.5	64.9	63.9	65.9	65.4	63.1	<b>68.8</b>
<b>8</b>	35.7	34.8	35.0	33.9	34.3	31.3	33.4	33.5	<b>35.3</b>
<b>9</b>	19.5	19.7	19.7	19.2	19.6	19.8	18.8	14.5	<b>19.6</b>
<b>10</b>	15.2	15.5	15.5	15.4	15.4	15.4	15.5	15.5	<b>15.4</b>
<b>11</b>	6.8	6.7	5.9	10.6	9.9	11.0	10.0	10.3	<b>6.7</b>
$\Delta G^\circ$ (kJ/mol)	0	0.3833	7.0520	13.2298	15.5639	14.5767	17.9479	19.7043	
%	51.94	44.50	3.02	0.25	0.10	0.14	0.04	0.01	

<b>Stereoisomer A</b>	<b>Stereoisomer B</b>
values of GIAO $^{13}\text{C}$ c.s. (ppm relative to TMS) calcd. for the Boltzmann average of conformers A1-A8	values of GIAO $^{13}\text{C}$ c.s. (ppm relative to TMS) calcd. for the Boltzmann average of conformers B1-B8
<b>Stereoisomer C</b>	<b>Stereoisomer D</b>
values of GIAO $^{13}\text{C}$ c.s. (ppm relative to TMS) calcd. for the Boltzmann average of conformers C1-C13	values of GIAO $^{13}\text{C}$ c.s. (ppm relative to TMS) calcd. for the Boltzmann average of conformers D1-D10

Barone, G.; Duca, D.; Silvestri, A.; Gomez Paloma, L.; Riccio, R.; Bifulco, G. *Chem Eur J* 2002, 8, 3240-3245.







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