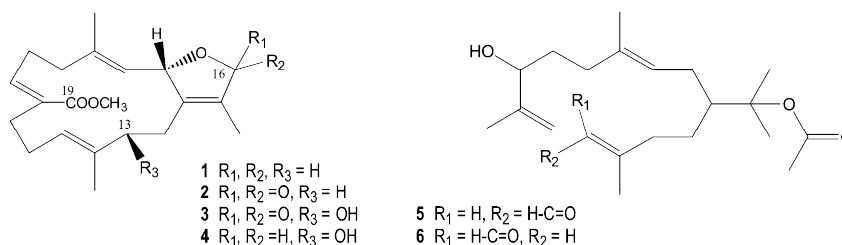


**B137 New cytotoxic cembranoid diterpenes from the soft corals *Nephthea* sp. and *Sarcophyton* sp.**

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Two soft corals, *Nephthea* sp. and *Sarcophyton* sp., collected from the Fiji Islands and the Great Barrier Reef were investigated. After extraction with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  and MeOH, the organic extracts of the two soft corals were evaluated for biological activity. Simultaneous with these assays, investigation of the secondary metabolite chemistry of the samples was started. Chromatographic separation of the extracts using normal and  $\text{C}_{18}$  reversed phase VLC, SPE, and HPLC yielded three new cembranes from the *Sarcophyton* sp. (**1-3**), and two new seco-cembranoid acetates from the *Nephthea* sp. (**5** and **6**), together with the known compounds sarcoglaucol (**4**) and decaryiol. All structures were elucidated using IR, UV, EI-MS,  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  and 2D-NMR techniques (HSQC,  $^1\text{H-COSY}$  and HMBC). Among the numerous cembranoids already isolated from coelenterates compounds **1**, **2**, and **3** represent rare examples of cembranoids functionalized at C-19. Compounds **1**, **3**, and decaryiol were found to be cytotoxic towards several tumor cell lines ( $\text{GI}_{50}$  values ranged from 0.15 to 8.6  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ).

**B138 New and biologically active imidazole alkaloids from two sponges of the genus *Leucetta***H. Gross<sup>a</sup>, S. Kehraus<sup>a</sup>, G.M. König<sup>a</sup>, G. Woerheide<sup>b</sup> and A.D. Wright<sup>a</sup><sup>a</sup> Institute for Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Bonn, Nussallee 6, 53115 Bonn, Germany. <sup>b</sup> Queensland Centre for Biodiversity, Queensland Museum, P.O. Box 3300, South Brisbane, Qld 4101, Australia.

Chemical investigation of two sponges, *Leucetta chagosensis* and *Leucetta* cf. *chagosensis*, collected from the Great Barrier Reef and the Fiji Islands, respectively, has led to the isolation of three new imidazole alkaloids (**1-3**), along with the known compounds isonaamine B (**4**) and naamine A (**5**). The structures of the new compounds (**1-3**) were elucidated by employing spectroscopic techniques (NMR, MS, UV, and IR). The structures of the known compounds **4** and **5** were determined by comparison of their  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopic data with published values. Compounds **1** and **2** were found to be cytotoxic towards several tumor cell lines ( $\text{GI}_{50}$  values ranged from 1.3 to 7.0  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ).

