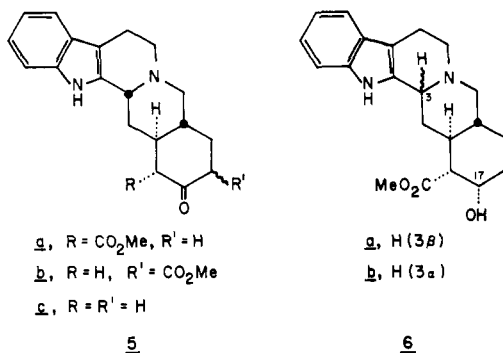


NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.58, 3.67 (each s, 3), 3.91 (br s, 1), 6.9–7.5 (m, 4)).

Treatment of 4a with sodium hydride in tetrahydrofuran (50 °C, 1.5 h) gave (44 and 36%, respectively) keto esters 5a² (mp 227–228.5 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 3460, 1735, 1710 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.87 (s, 3), 4.53 (br s, 1), 6.9–7.5 (m, 4)) and 5b² (mp 223–225 °C; IR (CHCl₃) 3465, 1720, 1655, 1615



cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.67 (s, 3), 4.60 (br s, 1), 6.9–7.6 (m, 4)). Alkaline hydrolysis and acid-induced decarboxylation of the latter afforded (±)-pseudoyohimbone (5c), mp 247–250 °C (lit.¹ mp 249–251 °C) (spectra identical with those of authentic sample), confirming the stereochemistry of all precursors. Hydrogenation of 5a (platinum, 1:1 methanol-acetic acid, 1 drop of 36% hydrochloric acid, atmospheric pressure, room temperature, 48 h) yielded (72%) (±)-pseudoyohimbine (6a),^{2,4,5} mp 249–251 °C dec (lit. mp⁴ 252–256 °C, charring at 250 °C; mp⁵ 248–251 °C) (spectra identical with those of an authentic specimen).

Hydrolysis of diester 4a in refluxing 2:1 18% hydrochloric-acetic acids (24 h), followed by esterification with methanolic hydrogen chloride, led to the recovery (27%) of starting ester and the formation (41%) of isomer 4b: mp 153–155 °C (lit.⁶ mp 152–154 °C); IR (KBr) 3375, 1735, 1718 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 3.67, 3.71 (each s, 3), 7.0–7.8 (m, 4). In view of the previous conversion of the latter into (+)-yohimbine (6b)⁶ and (–)-β-yohimbine (17-iso-6b),⁶ this constitutes a formal total synthesis of these alkaloids also.⁵

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Structure of Mildiomycin, a New Antifungal Nucleoside Antibiotic

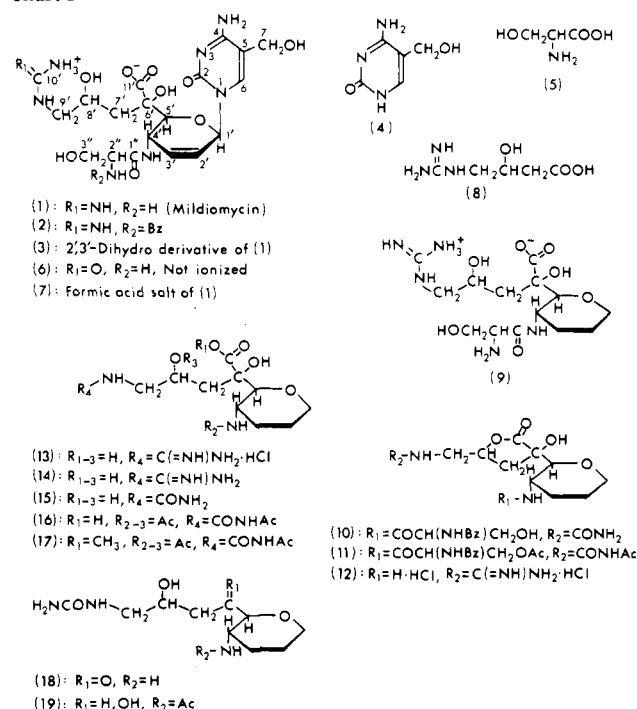
Sir:

A new nucleoside antibiotic, mildiomycin, was isolated from the culture filtrate of *Streptovorticillium rimofaciens* B-98891 in our laboratories.¹ It shows strong activity against powdery mildews on various plants^{1a} and remarkably low toxicity in mammals and fishes.^{1b} This paper deals with the structural elucidation of mildiomycin carried out on the basis of chemical degradations and spectral evidence as shown in Chart I.

Mildiomycin (1)^{1b} is a water-soluble, basic antibiotic: C₁₉H₃₀N₈O₉·H₂O; mp >300 °C dec; [α]_D²⁵ +100°; pK_a' = 2.8 (–COO[–]), 4.2 (3–NH⁺), 7.2 (2'–NH⁺), and >12 (guanidine); ν 1650 (–CONH–) and 1000–1150 (–C–O–) cm⁻¹; λ (pH 7) 271 nm (ε 8720) and λ (0.1 N HCl) 280 nm (ε 13 100); positive with Sakaguchi, Greig–Leback and ninhydrin reactions. Because 1 is noncrystallizable, hygroscopic and nonvolatile, determination of the molecular formula of 1 was based on two crystalline derivatives, 2'–N-monobenzoate 2 (C₁₉H₃₀N₈O₉·C₇H₄O·2H₂O (benzoyl chloride/5% NaHCO₃), mp >300 °C, [α]_D²⁷ +92.5° (AcOH–H₂O (2:8)) and 2',3'-dihydromildiomycin (3, C₁₉H₃₂N₈O₉·H₂O (PtO₂/water), mp >300 °C, [α]_D²² ±0°). The ¹³C NMR spectra of 1 and 3 also support the molecular formula as shown in Table I.

On acidic hydrolysis (2 N HCl, reflux, 2 h), 1 gave 5-hydroxymethylcytosine (4) and L-serine (5), which were identified with the authentic samples. The ¹³C NMR signals of 1

Chart I



^a In CF₃COOD. ^b Determined by subtracting signals of blastidic acid^{5,6} and cytosine from those of blasticidin S.

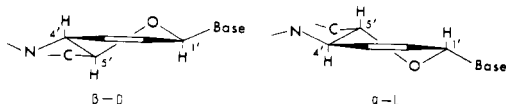
–Ac), and 1.98 ppm (s, –Ac). These data suggested that the serine moiety is bound to the 4'-amino function forming an amide bond.

Vigorous acid hydrolysis of **9** (3 N HCl, reflux, 15 h) gave a lactone dihydrochloride (**12**, $C_{11}H_{20}N_4O_4 \cdot 2HCl$, $[\alpha]^{23}_D \pm 0^\circ$) and **5**. **12** gave a monohydrochloride (**13**, $[\alpha]^{23}_D \pm 0^\circ$) upon treatment with NH_4OH or IR-45, while a free base (**14**, $[\alpha]^{23}_D -7.9^\circ$, $pK_a' = 2.8$ (–COO[–]), 8.6 (new 4'-NH₃⁺), and >12 (guanidine)) was obtained by treatment with IRA-410. In the ¹³C NMR spectrum of **14** the signals at C_{3'} and C_{5'} showed downfield shifts,⁷ 4.4 and 6.8 ppm, when compared with those of **12**; therefore, the new primary amine should be located at 4'. The IR spectrum of **12** showed a strong absorption at 1770 cm^{–1} attributable to a five-membered lactone which disappeared in the spectra of **13** and **14**. The ¹³C NMR signal of C_{8'} shifted to 77.5 ppm in **12** from 68.9 ppm in **14**. In the ¹H NMR spectrum of **14** the signals at 3.75 (m, H_{8'}) and 1.95 ppm (m, H_{7'}) showed downfield shifts to 4.95 and 2.62 ppm (d like) in **12**, respectively. These data provided evidence for the structure of the lactone **12** as well as for the location of the carboxyl group in question.

Another ureido compound (**15**) was a key compound for establishing the location of the α-hydroxyl carboxylic acid. **14** was hydrolyzed (0.2 N NaOH, reflux, 2 h) to give ammonia and an ureido compound (**15**, mp 248 °C dec, $[\alpha]^{23}_D +5.9^\circ$, $pK_a' = 7.75$ (4'-NH₃⁺) and 2.9 (–COO[–]), δ 3.8 (d, H_{5'}) and 2.02 (m, H_{7'})). On acetylation (Ac₂O/pyridine), **15** gave a triacetate (**16**, $[\alpha]^{25}_D +14.6^\circ$, $pK_a' = 2.8$ (–COO[–]), ν 1700–1740 cm^{–1}, δ (Me₂SO-*d*₆) 1.98 (3 H, s) and 2.02 (3 H × 2, s)). On methylation (CH₂N₂/MeOH–Et₂O), **16** afforded a methyl ester (**17**, $[\alpha]^{23}_D +14.1^\circ$, ν 1740 cm^{–1}, δ (CDCl₃) 3.80 (s, –COOCH₃).

Oxidation of **15** (Pb(OAc)₄/AcOH–water) yielded CO₂ and a ketone (**18**, $[\alpha]^{23}_D -1.2^\circ$, ν 1720 cm^{–1} (–CO–), δ 3.97 (d, H_{5'}) and 2.54 (m, H_{7'})). In the ¹³C NMR spectrum of **18** the signal of an isolated carbonyl group newly appeared at 210.9 ppm (s, C_{6'}) instead of the signal at 80.4 (s, C_{6'}) and 179.8 ppm (s, C_{11'}) in **14**. The 4'-N-acetate of **18** was reduced with NaBH₄/MeOH to give a diol (**19**, $[\alpha]^{27}_D +59.0^\circ$). Proton spin-decoupling studies of **19** confirmed the structure: when the 7'-methylene proton at 2.20 ppm (m) was irradiated, the methine signals at 4.25 (m, H_{6'}) and 4.03 ppm (m, H_{8'}) collapsed into a doublet (*J* = 7 Hz) and a double doublet, respectively. On irradiation of the methine proton at 3.78 ppm (q, H_{5'}) of **19**, the H_{6'} methine signal at 4.25 ppm collapsed into a doublet (*J* = 4 Hz). From these data the presence of α-hydroxycarboxyl structure was established.

As for the absolute configuration of pyran-3-ene ring, the stereochemistry of H_{4'} and H_{5'} should be diaxial on the basis of the coupling constant of *J*_{4',5'} = 10 Hz in **7**. Also the stereochemistry of H_{1'} was assigned axial from *J*_{1',2'} = 10 and 2 Hz in **3**. Thus, three bulky groups in the pyran-3-ene ring should reasonably be all equatorial. Only two sterically stable stereostructures of β-D or α-L could be permitted among all the possible isomers of pyran-3-ene as shown. Since these formula are mirror images, the Cotton effect of the CD spectrum in the B_{2u} band should be of opposite sign to each other.



The CD spectra of the model and mildiomycin compounds follow: blasticidin S, $[\theta]_{270} -12\,900$; **1**, $[\theta]_{273} -8700$; cytosine, $[\theta]_{271} -9500$; deseryl derivative of **1** (**20**, $[\alpha]^{24}_D +26.9^\circ$), $[\theta]_{273} -9300$; gougerotin, $[\theta]_{280} -2700$; **3**, $[\theta]_{285} -1800$. The absolute configuration of blasticidin S and gougerotin has been determined as β-D.^{8,9} These mildiomycin

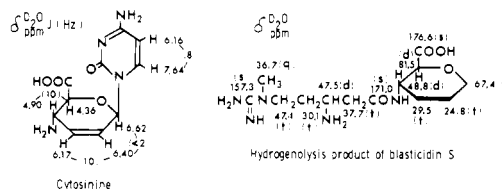
compounds showed negative Cotton effects quite similar to those of the model compounds, indicating that the pyranene ring should be β-D. The absolute configuration of **1** was thus assigned 1'*R*,4'*S*,5'*S*,2''*S*.

One of the interesting structural features of **1** is that the carboxyguanidino butyl group is bound to the unsaturated pyranoside with C–C bond. The aspects of the biosynthesis of this antibiotic provide another interesting problem—whether the quaternary carbon originates from an amino acid or sugar as a precursor.

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- (2) Satisfactory elemental analyses were obtained for all compounds herein as containing some molecules of water of crystallization; adhesion was measured by thermogravimetric analysis. The melting points were measured by FT-5 (Mettler) at 3 °C/min. The specific rotations were also measured at the concentration of 0.5–1.0 in water unless otherwise stated.
- (3) The IR spectra were measured in KBr pellet. The δ values in the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra using XL-100 (Varian) were recorded in parts per million downfield from Me₄Si. All spectra herein were measured at the concentration of 20 mg/0.4 mL (¹H) and 200–300 mg/3 mL (¹³C) in D₂O unless otherwise stated. In the ¹³C NMR spectra dioxane was the internal standard (67.4 ppm).
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¹³C-Enriched S-Methylmethionyl Residues as a Probe of Protein Conformation¹

Sir:

Specific ¹³C labeling of proteins has enhanced the usefulness of ¹³C NMR spectroscopy as a tool for the study of these macromolecules. One highly selective method for ¹³C enrichment of proteins which permits their observation in an essentially native form is the methyl exchange reaction at methionyl residues.² This method has now been applied in our laboratories to the basic pancreatic trypsin inhibitor (BPTI).³ In the course of this work we have had occasion to make spectroscopic observations on the ¹³C labeled protein intermediate, which possesses an enriched S-methylmethionyl residue at position 52 ([ε-¹³C-SMM-52]-BPTI). Detailed NMR spectroscopic studies of S-methylmethionine-containing