

Progress in the Chemistry of Organic Natural Products

Founded by László Zechmeister

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Editors

Progress in the Chemistry of Organic Natural Products

Volume 107

With contributions by

Joshua M. Henkin · Yulin Ren · Djaja Djendoel Soejarto ·
A. Douglas Kinghorn

Runner R. T. Majinda



Springer

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Preface

The editors of *Progress in the Chemistry of Organic Natural Products* are pleased to announce that with the publication of Volume 107 of the book series in 2018, this marks the 80th anniversary of its founding in 1938 by Professor László Zechmeister. This monograph series was established under the title “Fortschritte der Chemie Organischer Naturstoffe”, but for many years was simply known as “Zechmeister”. From its inception, and continuing up to the present time, the major aim of the editors of this book series has been to convey to the reader significant new developments in the chemistry of natural product molecules from organisms. In Volume 100 of “Progress”, published in 2015, a detailed profile of the coverage of the book series in the 75 years from 1938 to 2013 was provided [1].

As of Volume 107, we are delighted to welcome two highly esteemed natural product scientists as new Series Editors, namely, Professor Yoshinori Asakawa, of Tokushima Bunri University, Tokushima, Japan, and Professor Ji-Kai Liu, of South-Central University for Nationalities, Wuhan, People’s Republic of China. Professor Asakawa is a world expert on the chemistry and biology of liverworts and is a distinguished and esteemed member of the natural products community who has provided three extensive monographs in the book series to date [2–4]. Professor Liu has both academic and industrial experience and is highly accomplished in the isolation chemistry, total synthesis and biosynthesis of secondary metabolites purified from higher fungi. With a colleague, he provided an excellent chapter on this topic in Volume 106 of our book series [5]. He is the founding Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Natural Products and Bioprospecting* (Springer Open journal).

The year 2018 also marks the 20th year in succession that Emeritus Professor Heinz Falk has served as Series Editor of *Progress in the Chemistry of Organic Natural Products*. He began in this capacity for Volume 75, and since then has played a major role in overseeing the many changes that have occurred, and has also ensured that the high standards established earlier for our book series have been maintained. Together with his colleague, Dr. Klaus Wolkenstein, of the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany, Professor Falk

contributed an illuminating chapter on molecular fossils and biomarkers for Volume 104 of the series [6].

The first of the two chapters in Volume 107 delves into the logistics of tropical plant collecting and chemical and biological work-up in the search for new cancer chemotherapeutic agents. This was written by the Series Editor Professor Douglas Kinghorn, along with colleagues from the Ohio State University and the University of Illinois at Chicago. In the second chapter, Professor Runner Majinda, of the University of Botswana, Gaborone, Botswana, offers an updated treatise on the fascinating topic of the *Erythrina* alkaloids.

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