

Publication**Antimalarial beta-carbolines from the New Zealand ascidian *Pseudodistoma opacum*****JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)****ID** 1022822**Author(s)** Chan, Susanna T S; Pearce, A Norrie; Page, Michael J; Kaiser, Marcel; Copp, Brent R**Author(s) at UniBasel** [Kaiser, Marcel](#) ;**Year** 2011**Title** Antimalarial beta-carbolines from the New Zealand ascidian *Pseudodistoma opacum***Journal** Journal of natural products**Volume** 74**Number** 9**Pages / Article-Number** 1972-9

One tetrahydro-beta-carboline, (-)-7-bromohomotryptargine (1), and three alkylguanidine-substituted beta-carbolines, opacalines A, B, and C (2-4), have been isolated from the New Zealand ascidian *Pseudodistoma opacum*. The structures of the metabolites were determined by analysis of mass spectrometric and 2D NMR spectroscopic data. Natural products 2 and 3, synthetic debromo analogues 8 and 9, and intermediate 16 exhibited moderate antimalarial activity toward a chloroquine-resistant strain of *Plasmodium falciparum*, with an IC(50) range of 2.5-14 µM. The biosynthesis of 1-4 is proposed to proceed via a Pictet-Spengler condensation of 6-bromotryptamine and the alpha-keto acid transamination product of either arginine or homoarginine. Cell separation and (1)H NMR analysis of *P. opacum* identified tetrahydro-beta-carboline 1 to be principally located in the zooids, while fully aromatized analogues 2-4 were localized to the test

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