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ISOLATION AND X-RAY STUDIES OF MILBEMYCINS A3/A4 AND DIANEMYCIN

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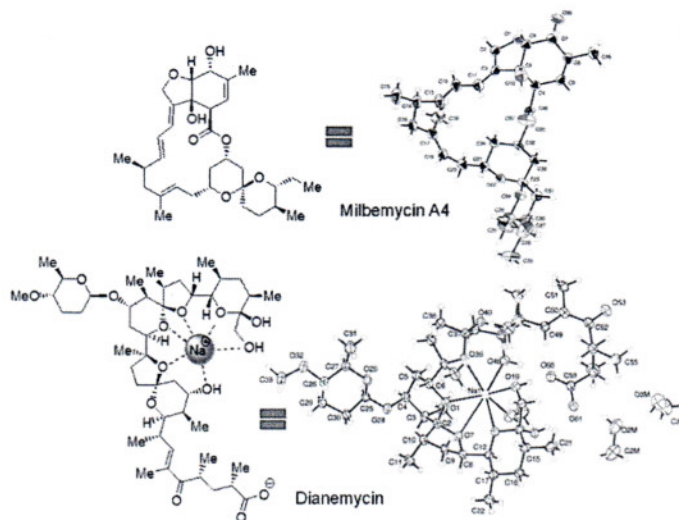
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Microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, and algae produce a plethora of polyketide natural products. Strain of *Streptomyces milbemycinus* NRRL 5739 is known for production of several antibacterial and antiparasitic substances or their precursors. We have isolated from the aforementioned strain milbemycins A4 and A3. The latter are active substances of well known miticide *Milbeknock* and the key starting materials for the semi-synthesis of milbemycin oxime, a prominent antihelmintic drug. For the first time these important natural products are fully characterized by X-ray diffraction analysis. We have also unexpectedly isolated and re-characterized natural product Dianemycin¹ which is known since 1970-ties; however, its previous X-ray studies were not based on crystals with excellent quality. Dianemycin belongs to the class of carboxyl ionophores that complex the first row metal cations and therefore affect the transport of these latter in mitochondria. This property results in outstanding activity against chloroquine-resistant forms of malaria.



1. Kumpiņš, V.; Belyakov, S.; Bizdēna, Ē.; Turks, M. Z. *Kristallogr. NCS* **2012**, in press.

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