This, the second issue on *Natural Product Chemistry* of *Current Organic Chemistry*, focusses on the isolation and structure determination of selected classes of natural products. The first chapter presents applications of a very recent and powerful technique, HPLC/NMR, for on-line structure elucidation of constituents in plant extracts. Not only does LC/NMR allow a rapid determination of the structural elements of a compound in a sample but it also gives an idea of the novelty of the substance in question. Pezzuto and Kinghorn describe the strategy involved in the isolation of cancer chemopreventive agents from plants, illustrated by numerous examples obtained in their group. Two chapters on other plant constituents, saponins from Chinese plants and iridoids from the Gentianaceae, are also included. Finally, Li, Fusetani and Matsunaga list recently isolated metabolites from marine sponges, together with their associated biological activities.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all the contributors for taking the time to write about their work and I am sure the reader will find the articles stimulating.

*Kurt Hostettmann*