

## Supporting Information

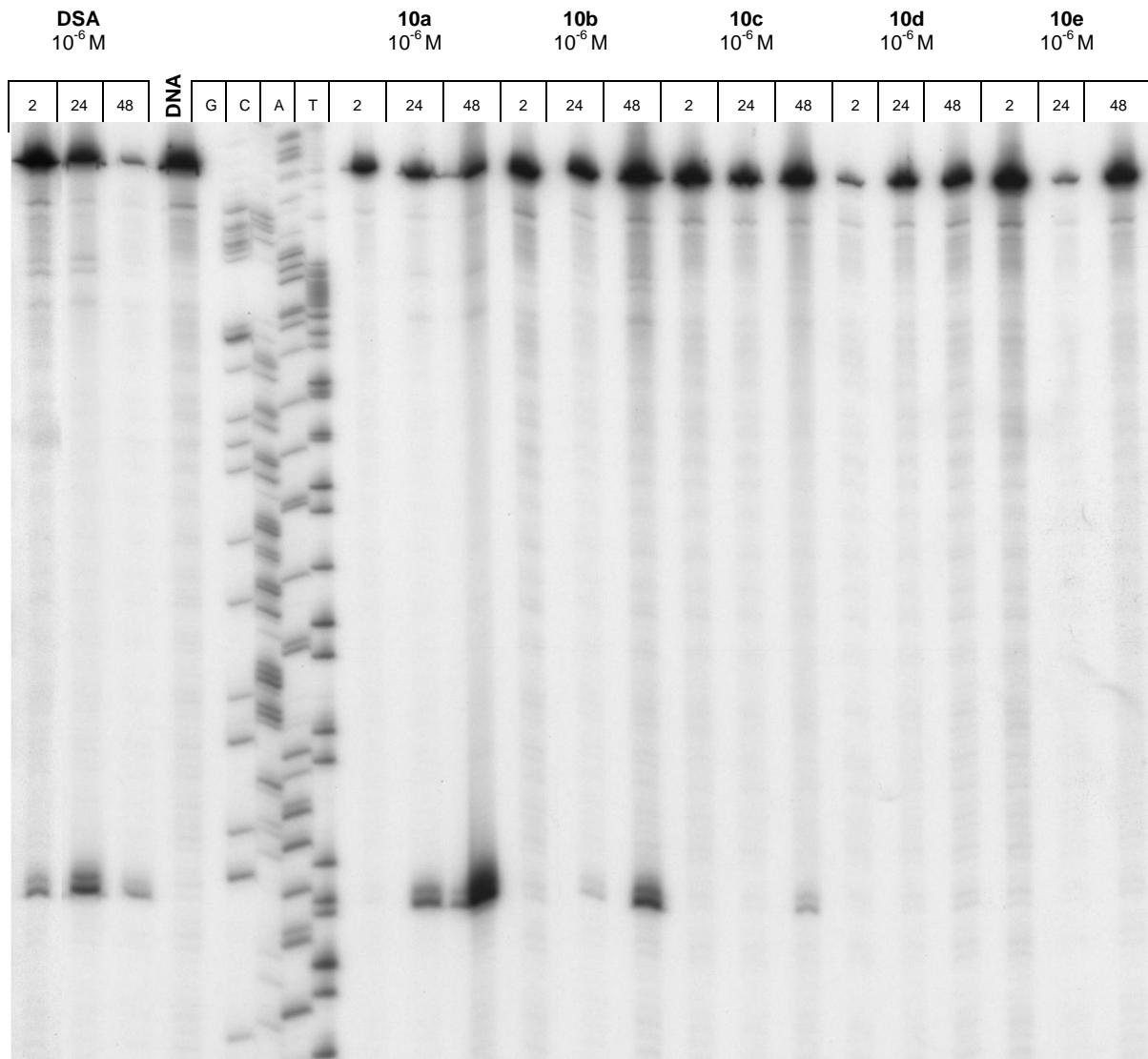
### A Fundamental Relationship between Hydrophobic Properties and Biological Activity for the Duocarmycin SA Class of DNA Alkylating Antitumor Drugs: Hydrophobic Binding-Driven-Bonding

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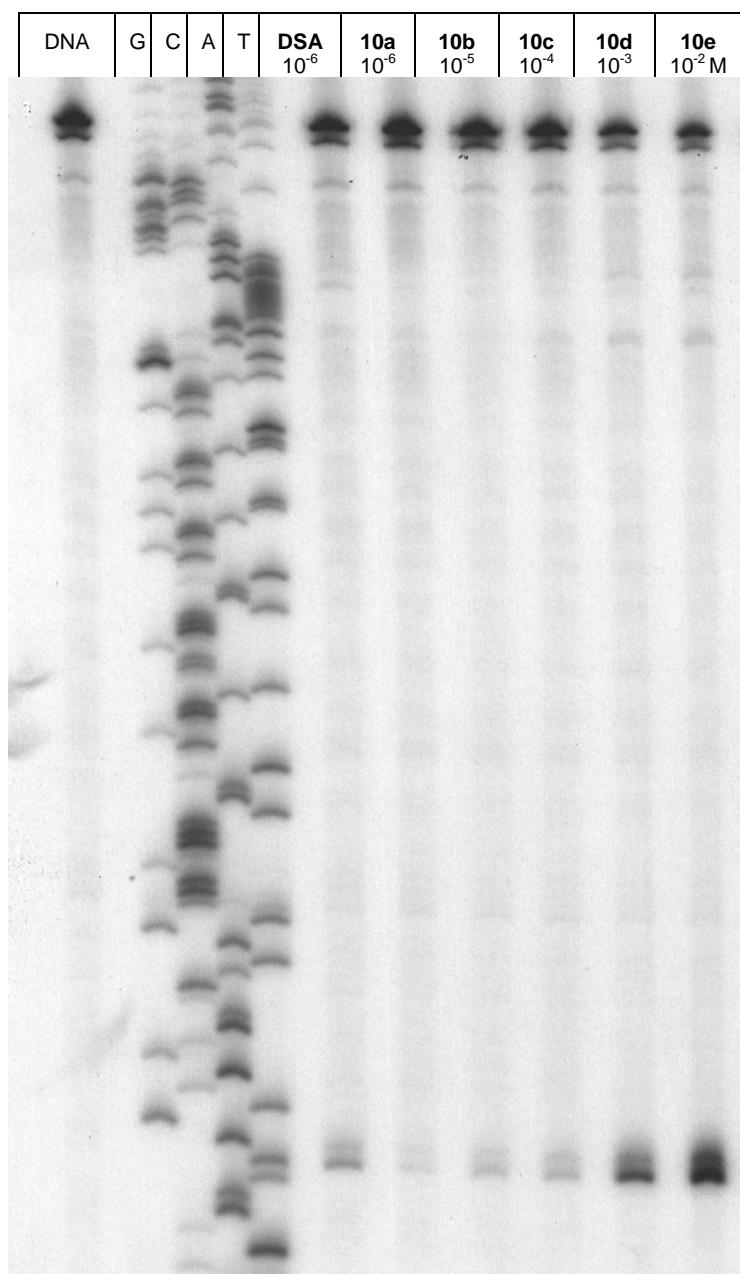
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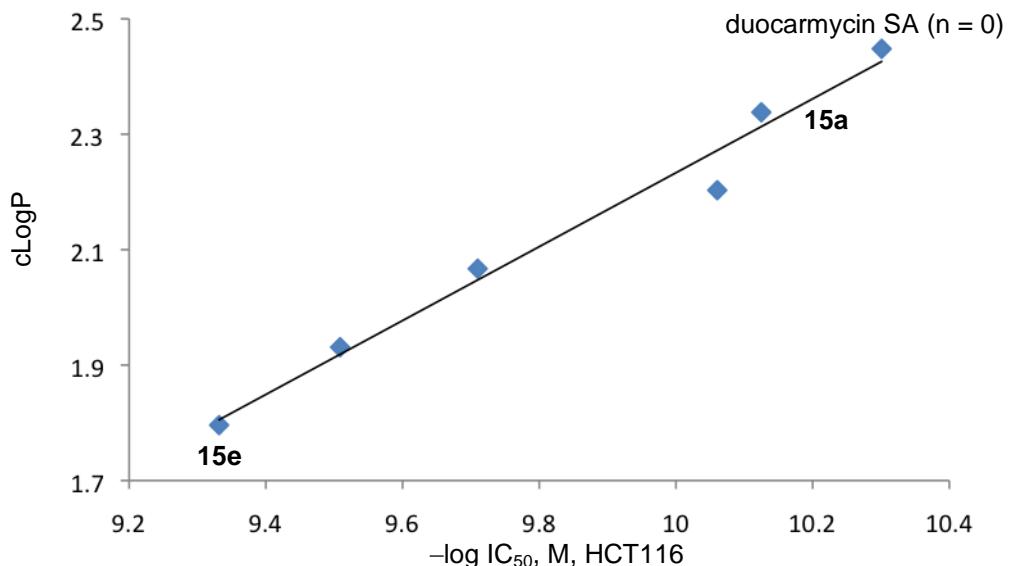
**Figure S1.** Thermally induced strand cleavage of w794 DNA following DNA alkylation; DNA–agent incubation at 23 °C for 2, 24, and 48 h, removal of unbound agent by EtOH precipitation, and 30 min of thermolysis (100 °C) followed by 8% denaturing PAGE and autoradiography. Lanes 1–3 duocarmycin SA ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$ ); lane 4, control DNA; lanes 5–8, Sanger G, C, A, and T sequencing reactions; lanes 9–11, **10a** ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$ ); lanes 12–14, **10b** ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$ ); lanes 15–17, **10c** ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$ ); lanes 18–20, **10d** ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$ ); lanes 21–23, **10e** ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$ ).



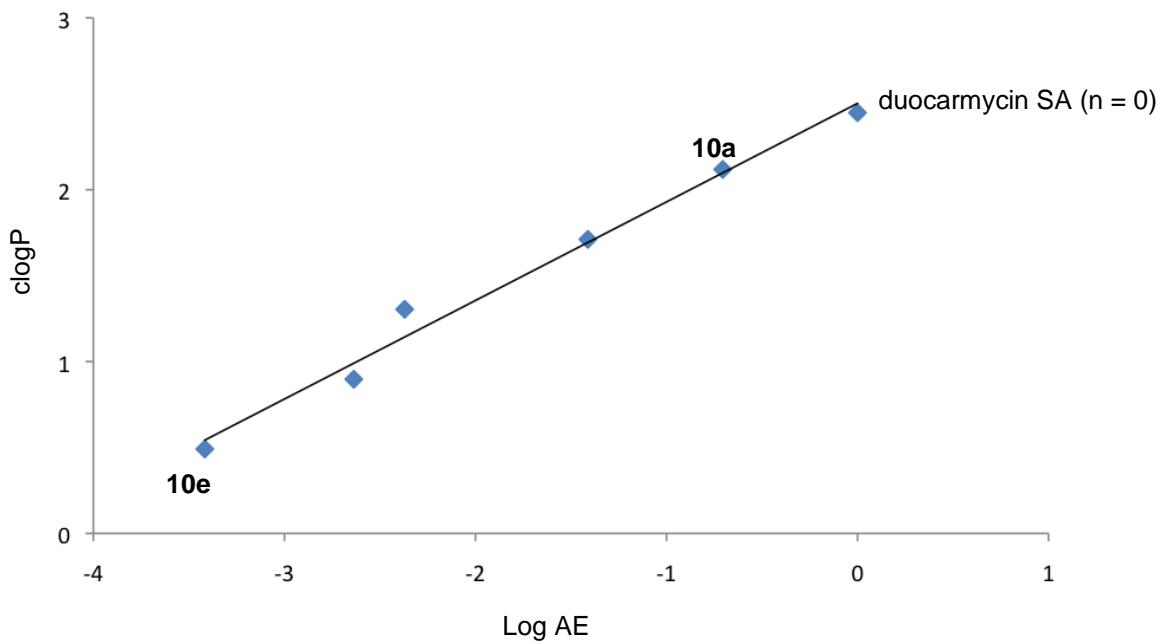
**Figure S2.** Thermally induced strand cleavage of w794 DNA; DNA–agent incubation at 23 °C for 2 h, removal of unbound agent by EtOH precipitation, and 30 min of thermolysis (100 °C) followed by 8% denaturing PAGE and autoradiography. Lane 1 control DNA; lanes 2–5, Sanger G, C, A, and T sequencing reactions; lane 6, duocarmycin SA ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$ ); lane 7, **10a** ( $1 \times 10^{-6}$ ); lane 8, **10b** ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$ ); lane 9, **10c** ( $1 \times 10^{-4}$ ); lane 10, **10d** ( $1 \times 10^{-3}$ ); lane 11, **10e** ( $1 \times 10^{-2}$ ).

compound	$IC_{50}$ (pM, HCT116)	cLogP
(+)-seco-DSA	50	2.44
<b>15a</b>	75	2.33
<b>15b</b>	87	2.20
<b>15c</b>	195	2.06
<b>15d</b>	310	1.93
<b>15e</b>	466	1.79

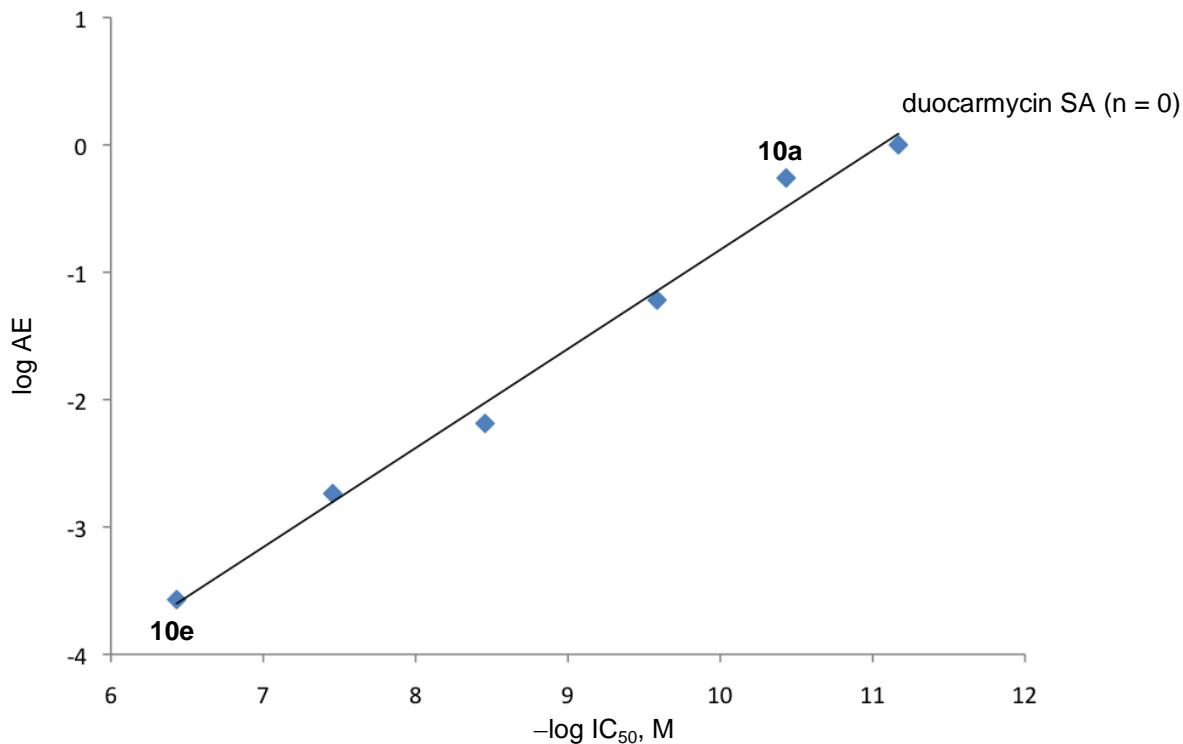
**Table S1.** Cell growth inhibition (HCT116) and cLogP for *seco*-duocarmycin SA and **15a–e**.



**Figure S3.** Plot of  $-\log IC_{50}$  of **2** and **15a–15e** (HCT116) versus cLogP,  $r^2 = 0.98$ .



**Figure S4.** Plot of log AE vs cLogP for **2** and **10a-e** using densitometry values from alkylation cleavage band,  $r^2 = 0.98$ . Compare to Fig. 8 with values taken from unreacted full length DNA.



**Figure S5.** Plot of  $-\log IC_{50}$  versus log AE (averaged) for **2** and **10a-e**, slope = 0.85,  $r^2 = 0.99$ .