# Supporting Information

# Polybrominated diphenyl ethers: structure determination and trends in antibacterial activity

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Figure S25. HMBC spectrum of 5a in CDCl<sub>3</sub>
Figure S26. IR spectrum of 5a
Figure S27. HRESIMS spectrum of 5a
Experimental for MIC and cytotoxicity determination.

	3	a	5a				
No.	δ <sub>H</sub> (J in Hz)	δ <sub>C</sub>	δ <sub>H</sub> (J in Hz)	δ <sub>C</sub>			
1		150.9, C	· · ·	150.1, C			
2		145.7, C		147.9, C			
3		119.3, C		119.5, C			
4	7.40 d (2.2)	129.7, CH	7.53 d (2.1)	131.6, CH			
5		116.8, C		117.0, C			
6	6.48 d (2.2)	117.1, CH	6.96 d (2.1)	122.3, CH			
1'		150.5, C		148.8, C			
2'		146.5, C		149.1, C			
3'		120.8, C	7.15 s	122.9, CH			
4'		120.9, C		120.1, C			
5'	7.82 s	133.9, CH		123.4, C			
6'		117.9, C		120.1, C			
2-OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.81 s, 3H	61.7, CH₃	3.89 s, 3H	61.4, CH3			
1'-OCH <sub>3</sub>	4.00 s, 3H	61.4, CH3	3.87 s, 3H	61.4, CH3			

Table S1. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR data of 3a and 5a in CDCI<sub>3</sub> at 298 K



Figure S1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 8 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

Figure S3. HSQC spectrum of 8 in CDCl<sub>3</sub>







## Figure S6. HRESIMS spectrum of 8

#### Elemental Composition Report

Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 10.0 mDa / DBE: min = -2.0, max = 500.0 Element prediction: Off Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 3

Monoisotopic Mass, Even Electron Ions 29 formula(e) evaluated with 2 results within limits (up to 19 closest results for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-120 H: 0-2000 O: 0-50 79Br: 5-5 11-Feb-2015 hbl-11feb15-25-25-neg 79 (1.461) Cn (Cen,5, 50.00, Ar); Sm (SG, 3x5.00); Sb (12,5.00)

ht-reuzolo hbi-11feb15-25-25-neg 79 (1.461) Cn (Cen,5, 50.00, Ar); Sm (SG, 3x5.00); Sb (12,5.00 ) TOF 1										
100	615.5 615.9616.	D	616.9 617.1	617.8.6	17.9 618.0	618.9 619.0 619	6	620.9 621.0 621.4 621.6	621.8 622.3	
0 <del>-1,1,1,1,1</del> 615.00	615.50 616.00	616.50	617.00	617.50	618.00 6	50 619.00	619.50 620.00 620.4	50 621.00 621.50	622.00 622.50	
Minimum: Maximum:		10.0	10.0	-2.0 500.0						
Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	Formula				
620.6187	620.6183 620.6242	0.4 -5.5	0.6 -8.9	8.5 -0.5	n/a n/a	C13 H6 O4 79 C6 H10 O9 79	9Br5 9Br5			

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Figure S9. <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of 8a in CDCl<sub>3</sub>



Figure S11. HSQC spectrum of 8a in CDCI<sub>3</sub>



Figure S13. Selective 1-D NOE spectra of 8 and 8a.

**Figure S7**. 1D-DPFGSE-NOE spectra of **8** (top only) and **8a**. The bottom spectrum serves as a reference to which the NOE selected resonances have been similarly scaled. For clarity the spectra have been expanded to include selected resonances. Numbers in black are distances (Å) known from molecular geometry (methyl 5.2 Å =  $<1/r^6>$ ); numbers in blue correspond to the complimentary NOE experiment; and those in red are calculated distances. The asterisks designate very weak NOE responses that correspond to >7 Å. If comparing heights, the H-4 and H-6 responses should be approximately doubled to account for line width. The difference between known 5.2 and calculated 5.1 Å for the ring A methoxy to H-6 distance (second to top spectrum) is suggestive of the error in the calculations (less than 2%).

1D NOE analysis for ring B. To investigate the substitution pattern of hydroxy, the naturally occurring methoxy and bromine atoms in ring B, we recorded transient 1D-NOE spectra for **8** and **8a** wherein each proton was irradiated in individual spectra. NOE peak intensities were integrated and distances calculated as a function of  $<1/r^6>$  by comparing to experimental intensities between atoms with known distances. Along with the molecular connectivity described in the paper the NOEs led to some specific conclusions. First, the NOE from the two B ring methoxy groups (Me<sup>B</sup>) suggested that they were separated by >6 Å, which ruled out an ortho relationship to one another and, with the exception of the 1'/5' configuration, conformers with the Me<sup>B</sup>s on the same side of the plane of the aromatic ring. Further analysis indicated that the methoxy at  $\delta_H 3.79$  was close to both the C-2 –OCH<sub>3</sub>

and H-6 (4.6 and 4.2 Å, respectively), and the other methoxy at  $\delta_H$  3.91 was ~6 Å from C-2 –OCH<sub>3</sub> and 5 Å from H-6. This eliminated methoxy substitution at C-1'/C-3' (where both methoxy groups are always close to the methoxy and H-6 in ring A) and C-4'/C-6' (in which no conformer is close to both) but could not unambiguously distinguish between the C-11/C-4' and C-1'/C-5' positions. This left either the 1'/4' or 1'/5' arrangement with the 1'-Me<sup>B</sup> positioned close to both Me<sup>A</sup> and H-6. For both of these, the ether bond rotational barrier (MM2 level) is ~12 kcal/mol, thus rotating on the NMR timescale, and ~2 kcal/mol advantage (>95% of population) for the lowest energy conformer which has H-6 positioned over ring-B as opposed to C-2 –OCH<sub>3</sub>. This major conformer is consistent with the shielded shift of H-6, comparatively deshielded shift of Me<sup>A</sup>, with one Me<sup>B</sup> located close and one distant to Me<sup>A</sup>, and the H-6 contact with both Me<sup>B</sup>s. Considering this conformation, a 5'- $Me^{B}$  would be over 8 Å from  $Me^{A}$  whereas a 4'-Me<sup>B</sup> would be roughly equidistant (6-7 Å) from Me<sup>A</sup> and 1'-Me<sup>B</sup>, which is consistent with the NOE data and the 4' shift change, vide infra. The similar NOE response from the methoxy at  $\delta_H$  3.91 in 8 compared to 8a suggested that this was the original Me<sup>B</sup>. Finally, a shorter <sup>13</sup>C-T<sub>1</sub> relaxation time for the resonance at  $\delta_{C}$  119, the chemical shift itself, and the changes in chemical shift were consistent with the Br resonance assignments.



#### Figure S14. IR spectrum of 8a

## Figure S15. HRESIMS spectrum of 8a

Elemental Composition Report

Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 10.0 mDa / DBE: min = -50.0, max = 500.0 Element prediction: Off Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 3

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd Electron Ions 131 formula(e) evaluated with 3 results within limits (up to 19 closest results for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-100 H: 0-200 O: 0-30 79Br: 5-5

14-Apr-2015

hbl-14apr15-as	ıbl-14apr15-asap-25-25-dimethyl-pos 164 (2.813) Cn (Cen,5, 50.00, Ar); Sm (SG, 3x5.00); Sb (12,5.00 )											
100 %	649.7	650.7	651.6	652 652.1	.6	653.6	654.6	655.6	656	.6	657.6	658.6
649.0	650.0	651.0	65	52.0	653.0	654.0	6	55.0	656.0	657.0	658.0	659.0
Minimum: Maximum:		10.0	10.0	-50.0 500.0								
Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	Formula						
649.6567	649.6574 649.6633 649.6480	-0.7 -6.6 8.7	-1.1 -10.2 13.4	8.0 -1.0 -5.0	16675.3 17340.8 17327.2	C15 H11 C8 H15 C4 H15	04 79B 09 79Br 012 79B	r5 5 r5				

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Figure S17. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of **3a** in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

7.8 7.6 7.4 7.2 7.0 6.8 6.6 6.4 6.2 6.0 5.8 5.6 5.4 5.2 5.0 4.8 4.6 4.4 4.2 4.0 3.8 f2 (ppm)



Figure S19. HMBC spectrum of 3a in CDCl<sub>3</sub>

## Figure S21. HRESIMS spectrum of 3a

#### **Elemental Composition Report**

Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 25.0 mDa / DBE: min = -50.0, max = 500.0 Element prediction: Off Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 3

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd Electron Ions 109 formula(e) evaluated with 8 results within limits (up to 19 closest results for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-100 H: 0-200 O: 0-30 79Br: 5-5

15-Apr-2015 hbl-15apr15-asap-25-27-methylated 75 (1.287) Cn (Cen,5, 50.00, Ar); Sm (SG, 3x5.00); Sb (12,5.00 )

hbl-15apr15	-asap-25-27-methylate	ed 75 (1.287) Cr	n (Cen,5, 50.0	00, Ar); Sm (S0	G, 3x5.00); Sb (1	2,5.00)						TOF MS A 1.17e+	\P+ +004
100 %	619.6 620	.7 621	.6	622.6	623.6	624.6	625.6	626.6	627.6	628.6	629.6	630.6	m/z
	620.0	621.0	622.0	623.0	624.0	625.0	626.0	627.0	628.0	629.0	630.0	631.0	
Minimum: Maximum:		25.0	10.0	-50.0 500.0									
Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	Formula							
619.6458	619.6468 619.6527 619.6375 619.6586 619.6316 619.6621 619.6257 619.6680	-1.0 -6.9 8.3 -12.8 14.2 -16.3 20.1 -22.2	-1.6 -11.1 13.4 -20.7 22.9 -26.3 32.4 -35.8	8.0 -1.0 -5.0 -10.0 4.0 12.0 13.0 3.0	2282.2 2341.6 2363.4 2399.2 2313.4 2269.1 2260.3 2337.5	C14 H9 C7 H13 C3 H13 H17 O13 C10 H9 C18 H9 C17 H5 C11 H13	03 79Br5 08 79Br5 011 79Br5 79Br5 06 79Br5 79Br5 0 79Br5 05 79Br5						





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Figure S23. <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of 5a in CDCl<sub>3</sub>





## Figure S27. HRESIMS spectrum of 5a

Elemental Composition Report

Single Mass Analysis Tolerance = 25.0 mDa / DBE: min = -50.0, max = 500.0 Element prediction: Off Number of isotope peaks used for i-FIT = 3

Monoisotopic Mass, Odd Electron Ions 109 formula(e) evaluated with 8 results within limits (up to 19 closest results for each mass) Elements Used: C: 0-100 H: 0-200 O: 0-30 79Br: 5-5

15-Apr-2015 hbl-15apr15-asap-25-30-metylated 112 (1.921) Cn (Cen,5, 50.00, Ar); Sm (SG, 3x5.00); Sb (12,5.00 )

100 % 0 	619.6 62	20.6 62 <sup>.</sup>	6: 1.6	22.6	623.6	624.6	625.6	626.6	627.6	628.6	629.6 630.0	630.6 
	020.0	021.0	022.0	020.0	024.0	020.0	020.0	021.0	020.0	023.0	000.0	001.0
Minimum: Maximum:		25.0	10.0	-50.0 500.0								
Mass	Calc. Mass	mDa	PPM	DBE	i-FIT	Formula						
619.6473	619.6468 619.6527 619.6375 619.6586 619.6621 619.6316 619.6680 619.6257	0.5 -5.4 9.8 -11.3 -14.8 15.7 -20.7 21.6	0.8 -8.7 15.8 -18.2 -23.9 25.3 -33.4 34.9	8.0 -1.0 -5.0 -10.0 12.0 4.0 3.0 13.0	3661.1 3748.4 3767.9 3833.7 3655.6 3694.9 3756.7 3617.6	C14 H9 C7 H13 C3 H13 H17 O13 C18 H9 C10 H9 C11 H13 C17 H5	03 79Br5 08 79Br5 011 79Br5 79Br5 06 79Br5 05 79Br5 0 79Br5 0 79Br5					

TOF MS AP+ 1 78e+004

#### **Bacterial strains and Minimal Inhibitory Concentration determination**

Compounds were tested in duplicate in at least two independent experiments for their antimicrobial activity against laboratory strains listed in Table 3 and as described in the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guidelines. Laboratory strains were obtained from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC).

#### Cytotoxicity assays

The effects of compounds **1** and **2** on HCT-116 (human colorectal cancer cell line) and BSC-1 (monkey kidney cell line) cells were determined using an MTT cell proliferation assay kit (American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, VA). HCT-116 ( $1 \times 10^4$  cells/well) or BSC-1 ( $2 \times 10^4$  cells/well) cells were seeded in 96-well tissue culture plates and allowed to adhere for 18 h. Cells were then exposed for 24 hr to two-fold dilutions of compounds where concentrations ranged from 0.4 to 100 µg/ml, followed by addition of fresh growth media. After 48 h of additional incubation, the media was replaced with 10% MTT and plates were incubated for 4 hr. Cells were lysed with detergent (100 µl) and plates were stored in the dark at room temperature for 2 hr. A<sub>570</sub> values were read using a multi-mode microplate reader (Synergy HT, Biotek Instruments, Inc.).