Dear Editor,

We have carefully examined all of the comments made by Reviewers and these are our responses.

Responses to Reviewer 1:

1. “Since the inspiration for this work stems from the belief that 2 new

analogues might have better biological activity, explanation of potential

effect of C-19 substituent importance doesn’t seem to be sufficient. Are there any docking or SAR studies to back these statements?”

We did not perform any docking or SAR studies to additionally support our hypothesis about biological activity of the C-19 analogues, because the precise mechanism of action for alstoscholarisines A-E is still unknown. Additionally, we believe that experimentally determined differences in activity between alstoscholarisine A and E is a good indication and that it is not crucial to have docking studies.

1. “In conclusion last sentence should be corrected as readers might be mislead to believe that HPLC method is developed for testing biological activity.

We changed the last sentence:

“As analogues **6** and **7** were obtained in racemic forms, development of a HPLC method for the separation of these enantiomers and subsequent evaluation of the biological activity of thus obtained optically pure compounds are currently underway.”

Responses to Reviewer 2:

1. “Because of the importance of the mentioned intermediate

15a for further synthesis, I propose to authors to put in the text a scanned

part of the NOESY spectrum in which the indicated correlations are clearly

indicated”

Since the NOESY spectrum and correlations are given in the Electronic supporting information in our previous paper, we added this comment in the text:

Low diastereoselectivity was observed in the formation of tetracyclic core and NOESY experiment showed that a mixture of C-16 epimeric aminals **15a, b** was obtained in almost equimolar ratio (for the NOESY spectrum and correlations, see Electronic supporting information of ref. 11).

1. “I suggest that authors should specify how they have been

determined the axial position of the aldehyde group in compound 19 (NOESY or

some other way).”

The CHO group in compound 19 was obtained in two steps from the selenium-containing substituent in compound 15a and the conformation of this substituent was determined by NOESY spectrum (please see also the previous comment of the Reviewer 2 and our response).

1. “Except attached spectroscopic confirmations for the structures of compounds 6 and 7,are the authors may have determined a specific rotation of these two compounds?”

The synthesis is racemic and optical rotation is zero for all synthesized compounds.

All the corrections are implemented in our revised manuscript. We are grateful for the Reviewers’ comments, which helped in improving the quality of the manuscript.