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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Andrew Enquist, Jr. was born in Santa Rosa, California on February 24th, 1982 to Cynthia and John Enquist. His early years were spent growing up and attending school in Rohnert Park, with frequent visits to the Santa Rosa area. Though he was born an only child, he was fortunate enough to spend his childhood with his stepmother Janet, his stepfather Mike, his four stepsisters (Tracy, Tiffany, Christy, and Jenna), and his three stepbrothers (Dave, Ryan, and Ben). Much of his early youth was spent playing card, board, and video games with his friends. He also passed much time riding his bike and developing a keen interest in computers. In elementary school, John learned to play the trombone. He maintained this practice throughout middle school, and upon entering Rancho Cotate high school as a freshman, he joined their performance and marching band. At Rancho Cotate John was introduced to the International Baccalaureate program, and it was this class sequence that helped to foster his interest in math and science.

In the fall of the year 2000, John relocated several hundred miles south to attend the University of California in San Diego. As a freshman he was intimidated by the UCSD Chem 141 sequence, but the skillful teaching and powerful enthusiasm of Professor Jay Siegel soon transformed this apprehension into excitement. Over the years, John would attend multiple classes taught by Professor Siegel, as well as courses lead by Professors Charles Perrin, Karsten Meyer, Yoshihisa Kobayashi, John Wheeler, and Marjorie Casserio. Their dynamic and challenging lessons pertaining to all matters of chemistry helped to fuel John's interest in organic synthesis. Though John passed a year as an undergraduate assistant in the molecular biology laboratories of Professor Daniel Donoughe, he was later given the opportunity to join the organic chemistry labs of Professor Yitzhak Tor. In Professor Tor's group, John learned the fundamentals of synthesis, and learned much from Dr. Haim Weizman.

After graduating from UCSD in 2004, John travelled to Pasadena, California to enter the graduate program at the California Institute of Technology. He was fortunate enough to join the group of Professor Brian Stoltz, where his research efforts have focused on the enantioselective total synthesis of the cyanthiwigin diterpenoid molecules. John will begin a postdoctoral position in the laboratories of Professor John Wood at Colorado State University in late 2010.