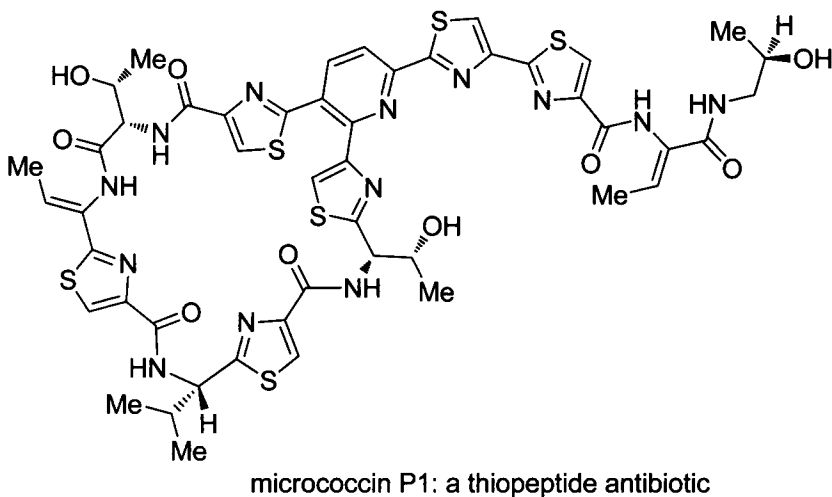
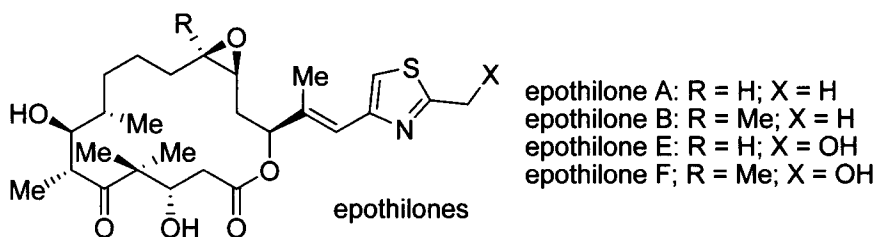


Thiazoles have been often discovered as key components of novel and structurally diverse natural products exhibiting a range of biological activities. Their antitumor, antiviral, and antibiotic activities; their ubiquitous occurrence in peptides; and their ability to bind to proteins, DNA and RNA have all led to several synthetic studies and their inclusion in drug discovery. Perhaps the best-known example of such a complex natural product featuring a thiazole substructure is the epothilones, which have demonstrated activity against taxol resistant tumor cell lines.<sup>8</sup>



Another example of a well-established class of natural products containing the thiazole heterocycle is the thiopeptide antibiotics. Often referred to as thiazolyl peptides, most of these highly modified, macrocyclic peptides inhibit protein synthesis in bacteria.<sup>9</sup> They display a high inhibition