#### Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI)

### Zero-quantum filtered pure shift TOCSY

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#### Experimental

All TOCSY experiments were performed in CDCl<sub>3</sub> at 25 °C on a Bruker Avance DPX400 spectrometer equipped with a 5 mm BBFO probehead. A 20 ms DIPSI-2 sequence was used for the isotropic mixing. The conventional phase sensitive ZQF TOCSY spectrum of (–)-eburnamonine was recorded using a spectral width of 3491.62 Hz in both dimensions, 2 k data points, 256  $t_1$  increments, and 8 transients. The experimental time was 1 h 23 min. The data was zero-filled to a 2 k × 2 k matrix before Fourier transformation. The phase sensitive pure shift TOCSY spectra of (–)-eburnamonine were recorded using 2 k data points, 32  $t_2$  increments and 128  $t_1$  increments, and 4 transients. The experimental times were 11 h 34 min (non-ZQF version) and 11 h 59 min (ZQF version). Spectral widths were 3491.62, 99.761, and 3491.62 Hz in *F*3, *F*2, and *F*1 dimensions, respectively. The pure shift spectra were recorded with the same receiver gain setting. The Bruker AU program "pshift" (modified to cope with the aqseq 321 data) was used to generate a 2D data set in which the *F*2 dimension was decoupled. The data was zero-filled to a 2 k × 2 k matrix before covariance processing (the Bruker AU program "covariance"). All data processing was made using TopSpin 3.0 software.

#### Molecular structure of (-)-eburnamonine



Scheme S1 Molecular structure of the indole alkaloid (–)-eburnamonine. Proton assignments are shown in red. The assigned <sup>1</sup>H spectrum is shown in Fig. S2 (*F*2 projection).

# Pulse sequence timing diagrams for the non-ZQF pure shift TOCSY and conventional ZQF TOCSY experiments



**Fig. S1** Pulse sequences for the pure shift TOCSY experiment without zero-quantum filtering (a) and for the conventional ZQF TOCSY experiment (b).

S3





**Fig. S2** Conventional ZQF TOCSY spectrum of (–)-eburnamonine. Projections: conventional <sup>1</sup>H spectra. Proton assignments are given in red (*F*2 projection).



**Fig. S3** Non-ZQF pure shift TOCSY spectrum of (–)-eburnamonine. Projections: 1D <sup>1</sup>H pure shift spectra.<sup>1</sup>



**Fig. S4** ZQF pure shift TOCSY spectrum of (–)-eburnamonine. Projections: 1D <sup>1</sup>H pure shift spectra.<sup>1</sup>

1 J. A. Aguilar, S. Faulkner, M. Nilsson and G. A. Morris, *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.*, 2010, **49**, 3901-3903.

## Pulse sequence for the ZQF pure shift TOCSY experiment (Bruker spectrometers)

;push2dzs\_zqf\_tocsy

;Zangger-Sterk pure shift sequence ;2D homonuclear Hartman-Hahn transfer using DIPSI-2 sequence for mixing ;with gradient/rf spoil pulses (ZQ-filter) ;phase sensitive ;

;Jari J. Koivisto, Aalto University (12th September 2012)

;Morris, G. A.; Aguilar, J. A.; Evans, R.; Haiber, S.; Nilsson, M. J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2010, 132, 12770-12772. ;Aguilar, J. A.; Faulkner, S.; Nilsson, M.; Morris, G. A. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2010, 49, 3901-3903. ;Thrippleton, M. J.; Keeler, J. Angew. Chem., Int. Ed. 2003, 42, 3938-3941.

;Data can be reconstructed using the 'pshift' macro (mod. by JJK to cope with the aqseq 321 data).

;\$CLASS=HighRes ;\$DIM=3D ;\$TYPE= ;\$SUBTYPE= ;\$COMMENT=

#include <Avance.incl>
#include <Grad.incl>
#include <Delay.incl>

define delay tauA define delay tauB define delay tauC

;TOCSY: "d12=20u" "in0=inf1" "d0=in0/2-p1\*4/3.1416" "FACTOR1=(d9/(p6\*115.112))/2" "l1=FACTOR1\*2" ;ZS: "in10=inf2/2" "p2=p1\*2" "tauA=in10/2-p16-d16" "tauB=in10-p16-d16-300u" "tauC=in10/2-p16-d16-350u-(dw\*2)-(dw\*2\*cnst4)-de"

aqseq 321

- 1 ze
- 2 d1
- d12 pl1:f1 3 50u UNBLKGRAD p1 ph1 d0 p1 ph2 10u gron0 (p32:sp29 ph7):f1 d16 groff d12 pl10:f1 4 p6\*3.556 ph23 p6\*4.556 ph25 p6\*3.222 ph23 p6\*3.167 ph25 p6\*0.333 ph23 p6\*2.722 ph25 p6\*4.167 ph23 p6\*2.944 ph25 p6\*4.111 ph23 p6\*3.556 ph25 p6\*4.556 ph23

;start ZQF 1 ;SmoothedChirp ;end ZQF 1 ;power level for DIPSI-2 ;start TOCSY spinlock (DIPSI-2)

ph2=00002222 ph3=00002222 ph7=0 ph23=3 ph25=1 ;ZS: ph8=000000000 ph9=00110011 ph31=0 2 2 0 1 3 3 1 ;Processing ;PHC0(F1): 90 ;PHC1(F1): -180 ;FCOR(F1): 1

;TOCSY ph1=0 2

200u p16:gp1\*-1.0 d16 50u BLKGRAD tauC d10 5 go=2 ph31 30u d1 mc #0 to 2 F1PH(rd10 & ip1, id0) F2QF(id10) exit

p6\*3.167 ph23 p6\*0.333 ph25 p6\*2.722 ph23 p6\*4.167 ph25 p6\*2.944 ph23 p6\*4.111 ph25 p6\*3.556 ph23 p6\*4.556 ph25 p6\*3.222 ph23 p6\*3.167 ph25 p6\*0.333 ph23 p6\*2.722 ph25 p6\*4.167 ph23 p6\*2.944 ph25 p6\*4.111 ph23 lo to 4 times l1 p31:gp1 10u gron0 (p34:sp30 ph7):f1 20u groff d31 d12 pl1:f1 p1 ph3 d10 tauA p16:gp1\*0.5 d16 p2 ph8 tauB p16:gp1\*-0.5 d16 300u gron2 p12:sp2:f1 ph9:r 100u groff

;recovery delay ;end TOCSY ;start ZS, incremented delay ;gradient +0.5 ;hard 180 ;gradient -0.5 ;slice selection gradient on ;soft 180 (Rsnob.1000) ;slice selection gradient off ;gradient -1 ;incremented delay ;1st hard 90 ;2nd hard 90 ;3rd hard 90 ;ZQF 1 + 2 ;DIPSI-2 ;DIPSI-2 ;hard 180 ;soft 180 ;receiver

;end TOCSY spinlock (DIPSI-2)

;crusher gradient

;SmoothedChirp

;start ZQF 2

;end ZQF 2

p6\*3.222 ph25 p6\*3.167 ph23 p6\*0.333 ph25 p6\*2.722 ph23 p6\*4.167 ph25 p6\*2.944 ph23 p6\*4.111 ph25 p6\*3.556 ph25 p6\*4.556 ph23 p6\*3.222 ph25