

For thin-layer chromatography we used KSK silica gel ground and passed through a Kapron sieve. The sorption material consisted of a mixture of silica gel and gypsum in a ratio of 9:1. The layer was deposited in an apparatus made as described by Stahl [3]. The layer thickness was 250 μ . The prepared plates were activated by drying at 20° C for 24 hr. Chromatography was carried out in cylindrical chambers (120 \times 300 mm). The bases were deposited in an amount of 5–10 γ . The plates were revealed by being sprayed with a 1% solution of cerium ammonium sulfate in concentrated orthophosphoric acid.

Thus, this method enables the alkaloids of the plant *Vinca erecta* to be identified rapidly and it can be recommended for determining the quantitative composition of the individual fractions of a mixture of alkaloids.

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ALKALOIDS OF *THALICTRUM SIMPLEX*

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Continuing our investigation of the alkaloids of the roots of *Th. simplex* L. [1–3], we have isolated an optically inactive base with mp 169°–170° C (acetone) from the nonphenolic fraction by treatment with methanol. From a comparison of the UV and IR spectra, paper chromatography, and a mixed melting point test, the alkaloid has been shown to be identical with an authentic sample of β -allocryptopine [4].

The chloroform extract after the elimination of the bulk of the alkaloids was concentrated and treated repeatedly with 10% sulfuric acid, and the combined alkaloids were obtained by the usual method and separated on alumina. The benzene eluate yielded crystals of a base with mp 131°–132° C (ethanol), $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 20.26^\circ$ C (c 1.38; chloroform), + 57.85° C (c 0.96; ethanol), hydrobromide, mp 250°–252° C (decomp.), sulfate mp 198°–202° C (decomp.), picrate mp 141°–150° C. The nitrogen in the base was tertiary, since it formed a methiodide having mp 224°–225° C. There were no CH_2O_2 and OH groups. UV spectrum: λ_{max} 220, 280, and 300 μ . From its spectrum and the value of the specific rotation the base can be assigned to the aporphine series with an unsubstituted C-4 position. Preliminary data indicate that this base is new.

After the chloroform extraction, the roots were dried and were reextracted with methanol. This gave 0.1% (of the weight of the dry roots) of a quaternary base in the form of an iodide with mp 249°–251° C (methanol), which was identified by a comparison of the UV and IR spectra and by paper chromatography with an authentic sample of magnoflorine iodide.

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