The reduction of ervincinine with zinc in methanolic sulfuric acid gave dihydroervincinine  $C_{22}H_{28}O_4N_2$ , mol. wt. 384 (by mass spectrometry), mp 206.5°-207.5° C (ether). UV spectrum:  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  (ethanol), 245, 304 m $\mu$  (log  $\epsilon$  4.06, 4.02), which is characteristic of indoline bases.

The NMR spectrum of ervinicinine exhibited signals of an ethyl group ( $\delta = 0.61$  ppm), of the six protons of two methoxy groups ( $\delta = 3.71$  ppm, singlet), of three aromatic protons ( $\delta = 6.34-7.01$  ppm), and of an NH group ( $\delta = 8.89$  ppm, singlet). The mass spectrum of ervincinine is very similar to that of lochnerinine [4], differing only by the low intensity of the peaks with m/e 138 and 108. The IR spectra of the base lacks a band in the 2700-2800 cm<sup>-1</sup> region, showing cis-orientation of the hydrogen in relation to the unshared pair of electrons of the nitrogen atom N(b).

On the basis of the data presented, a structure is proposed for ervincinine which differs from that of lochnerinine by the configuration of the hydrogen at  $C_{19}$ .

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## STRUCTURE AND CONFIGURATION OF PETILIDINE

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From the acetonic mother liquors from petilinine [1] we have isolated a new alkaloid, petilidine (I), with mp 265°-266° C (acetone—methanol (2:1)),  $[\alpha]_D$  -15.5° (c 1.2; methanol), composition  $C_{27}H_{45}O_2N$ , mol. wt. 415 (mass spectrum). In a thin layer of  $Al_2O_3$  and  $CaSO_4$  (9:1),  $R_f$  0.19 in the chloroform—benzene—methanol (10:5:0.5) system. The alkaloid forms a hydrochloride with mp 273°-274° C and a hydrobromide with mp 310°-312° C. IR spectrum of peptilidine:  $\nu_{max}$  3300, 1055 (-OH), 2950-2860, 1450 (-CH<sub>3</sub>), 2750 cm<sup>-1</sup> (trans-quinolizidine). A mixture of petilidine with petilinine melted at 235°-246° C.

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Substance	(S), 3H,	(D), 3H,	(D), 3H,	(S) 6H,	(M) 2H,
	C-19 CH <sub>3</sub>	C-2! CH <sub>3</sub>	C-27 CH <sub>3</sub>	2 COOCH <sub>3</sub>	2 HCO COCH <sub>3</sub>
(I) (II) (III)	9.29 9.21 9.13	9.23 9.23 9.22	9.23 9.23 9.22	8.04	5.42

The action of acetic anhydride on petilidine in pyridine forms the difficultly crystallizing diacetylpetilidine (II). In a thin layer of  $Al_2O_3$  and  $CaSO_4$  (9:1),  $R_f=0.82$  in the butylacetate—petroleum ether—methanol (20:20:5) system. IR spectrum:  $\nu_{\rm max}$  1730, 1245, 1030 cm<sup>-1</sup>. The NMR spectrum exhibited a 6-proton singlet at 8.04  $\tau$ . Oxidation of the alkaloid with chromic acid gave a diketone with mp 226°-228° C (III) ( $\nu_{\rm max}$  1708 cm<sup>-1</sup>), identical with petilininedione. Reduction of the latter by the Huang-Minlon method led to an oxygen-free base which was identical with desdioxotetra-

hydropetilininedione [1]. The identity of the products was shown by the melting point of mixtures and by a comparison of their IR spectra; this shows a structural relationship between petilidine and petilinine. In the mass spectrum of petilidine, as in that of petilinine, the main characteristic peaks are those of the ions with m/e 97, 98, 111, 112, 397,  $(M-18)^+$ , 400  $(M-15)^+$ , and 415  $(M^+)$ .

Consequently, petilidine differs from petilinine only by the configuration of the substituting groups, which was established by a study of the NMR spectra of substances (I), (II), and (II) (table).

The values of the signals of the protons of the 19-methyl group and the two acetyl groups in diacetylpetilidine and diacetylpetilinine are different. This shows a difference in the configurations of the hydroxy groups in petilidine and petilinine. In diacetylpetilidine, unlike diacetylpetilinine, the acetyl group could be present in the  $\beta$ -position at  $C_6$ . Then the signal from the 19-methyl protons should be found at approximately 9.1  $\tau$  as in 3 $\beta$ , 6 $\beta$ -diacetyldihydroim-perialine. However, this is not the case. Thus, in diacetylpetilidine the acetyl group at  $C_3$  has the  $\beta$ -orientation. This is confirmed by the presence in the NMR spectrum of diacetylpetilidine of a singlet of the 19-methyl group at 9.21  $\tau$ , as in the spectrum of 3 $\beta$ , 6 $\beta$ -diacetyldihydroimperialine [2]. In addition, the difference in the chemical shifts of the 19-methyl protons in diacetylpetilidine and diacetylpetilinine is 3 Hz. In analogous steroid compounds this difference is 2.5 Hz. [3]. Consequently, the structural formula and configuration (I) may be put forward for petilidine.

The conditions for recording the spectra have been reported previously [1].

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## NUCLEAR MAGNETIC RESONANCE SPECTRA OF 5αH-C-NOR-D-HOMOSTEROIDS

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Imperialine is a representative of the  $5\alpha H$ - and verticine a representative of the  $5\beta H$ -C-nor-D-homosteroid alkaloids [1]. In this paper we give the values of the signals from the C-19, C-21, and C-27 methyl protons found in the NMR spectra of the  $5\alpha H$ -series. A comparison of the values of the signals of the  $5\alpha H$ -series with the corresponding values for the  $5\beta H$ -series [2] has in many cases enabled us to establish a relative displacement of the chemical shifts from the C-19 methyl group in the  $5\beta H$ -series into the weak field (table).

