



DITERPENOID ALKALOIDS FROM *ACONITUM ORIENTALE*

AYHAN ULUBELEN,*† ALI H. MERİÇLİ,* FILİZ MERİÇLİ* and FUNDA YILMAZ*

*Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Istanbul, Istanbul 34452, Turkey; †TUBITAK Marmara Research Centre, Department of Chemistry, PK 21, 41470, Gebze-Kocaeli, Turkey

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Abstract—Four new diterpenoid alkaloids demethylappaconitine; 7,11,14-trihydroxy-2,13-dioxohetisane, 6,13,15-trihydroxyhetisane and *N*-deethyldephatine, were isolated from *Aconitum orientale*, in addition to the previously known compounds, lappaconitine, lycoctonine and browniine. The structures of the new and the known alkaloids were established from spectral data.

INTRODUCTION

In previous studies with *Aconitum orientale* collected from the north Caucasus, a group of norditerpenoid alkaloids (lappaconitine, as the major compound, lappaconine, gigactonine, *N*-deacetylappaconitine, and lycoctonine), together with an aporphine alkaloid, corydine [1], and a C_{20} diterpenoid alkaloid, orgetine [2], were isolated.

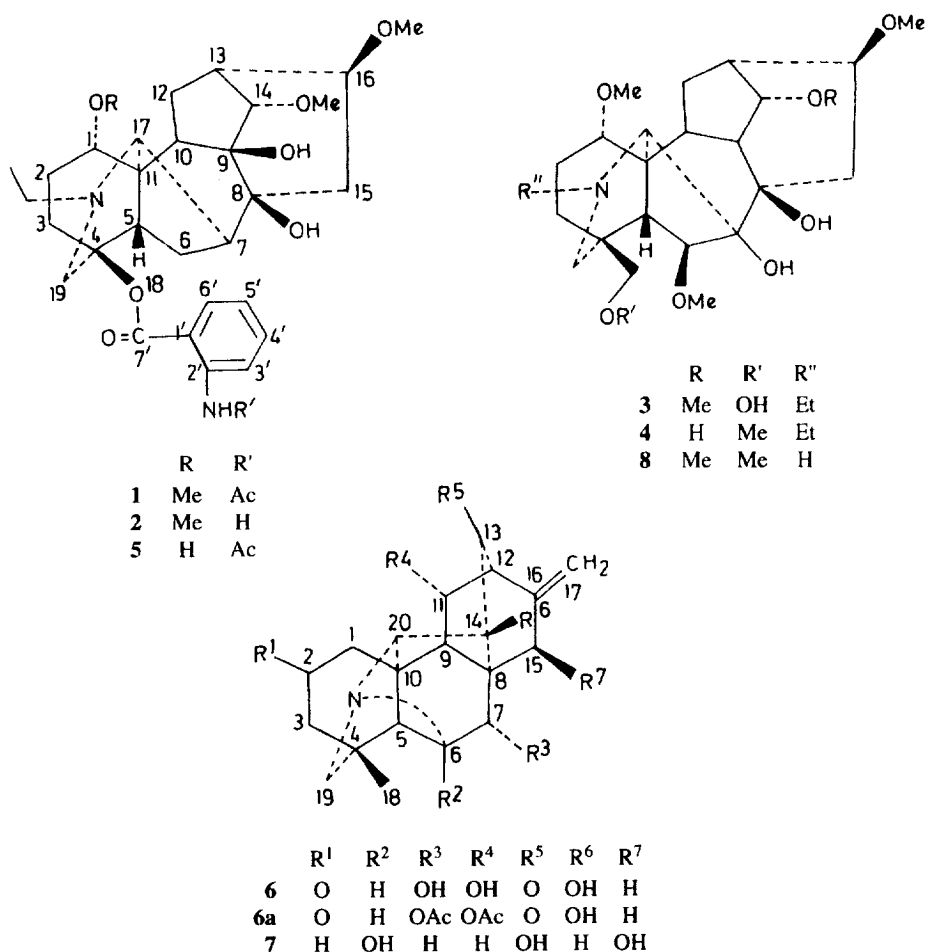
In the present study, with plant material collected from the eastern Black Sea area, we have obtained three of the above compounds, lappaconitine (1) [3] *N*-deacetylappaconitine (2) [4], lycoctonine (3) and another known alkaloid, browniine (4) [5]. Four new alkaloids, demethylappaconitine (5), orientinine (7,11,14-trihydroxy-2,13-dioxohetisane) (6), acorientine (6,13,15-trihydroxyhetisane) (7) and *N*-deethyldephatine (8) were also isolated. The differences in the alkaloidal contents indicated that the two collections represent two different chemotypes. The structures of the known and the new compounds were assigned on the basis of their spectroscopic data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The high resolution EI mass spectrum of the new compound 5 indicated a molecular formula $C_{31}H_{42}N_2O_8$ (m/z 570.2958, calc. 570.2941). The 1H NMR spectrum showed the presence of an acetyl group at δ 2.20 (3H, s), two methoxyl groups at δ 3.44 and 3.33 (each 3H, s), four aromatic proton signals at δ 8.67 (1H, *br d*, $J = 8.0$ Hz), 7.95 (1H, *dd*, $J = 1.5$ and 8.0 Hz), 7.49 (1H, *dd*, $J = 1.5$ and 8.0 Hz) and 7.06 (1H, *br d*, $J = 8.0$ Hz) and an amide proton at δ 11.05 (1H, *br s*). All these signals were similar to those of 1: only the signal for one of the methoxyl groups (at δ 3.30) in 1 was missing.

The lack of $[M - 31]^+$ and the presence of $[M - 17]^+$ ions in the mass spectrum indicated the presence of a hydroxyl group at C-1 instead of a methoxyl group [6, 7]. A HETCOR experiment made the assignment of the protons and carbon atoms possible (Table 1). The ^{13}C NMR (APT) spectrum correlated the presence of the hydroxyl at C-1 with the signals at δ 26.2 and 27.0 for C-2 and C-3, instead of δ 26.2 and 31.9, respectively. Also, C-1 appeared at δ 74.5, while a C-1 methoxyl group would shift the C-1 signal to δ 84.2 + 0.2 [8]. The 1H NMR spectrum showed H-1 β at δ 3.70 as a multiplet. Two signals at δ 3.45 (1H, *t*, $J = 4.5$ Hz, H-14 β) and 3.28 (1H, *dd*, $J = 3.0$ and 9.0 Hz, H-16 α) indicated the presence of methoxyl groups at C-14 and C-16. The ^{13}C NMR signals, except for C-1 and C-3, were in agreement with those of 1 (Table 2). These spectral data indicated that compound 5 was a 1-demethylappaconitine.

The HR mass spectrum of the new compound 6 indicated a molecular formula $C_{20}H_{23}NO_5$ (m/z 357.1566, cal. 357.1576). The ^{13}C NMR (APT) spectrum showed the presence of one methyl quartet at δ 24.2, five methylene triplets at δ 37.0, 46.0, 51.5, 62.7 and 108.2, seven methine doublets at δ 49.5, 54.9, 60.0, 65.3, 68.6, 69.8 and 70.0 and seven quaternary carbon atoms at δ 40.3, 44.2, 48.2, 79.1, 146.0, 211.4 and 214.1. The absence of methoxyl, *N*-methyl or *N*-ethyl groups suggested a hetisane-type diterpenoid alkaloid for 6. The 1H NMR spectrum indicated the presence of a methyl group at δ 1.02 (3H, s) and an exocyclic methylene group at δ 4.98 and 4.86. The presence of these groups were supported by the ^{13}C NMR signals at δ 24.2 (*tert.* CH_3), δ 108.2 (*t*) and 146.0 (*s*) ($C=CH_2$). There are five oxygen functions in the molecule, two of which are oxo groups, as revealed by ^{13}C NMR signals at δ 211.4 and 214.1. The other three are hydroxyls attached to carbons, which were observed at δ 79.1 (*s*), 70.0 (*d*) and 69.8 (*d*), indicating one tertiary and two



secondary hydroxyl groups. Acetylation of **6** yielded a diacetyl derivative (**6a**). In the ^1H NMR spectrum of **6a**, the acetyl signals were at δ 2.06 and 2.10, while in the ^{13}C NMR spectrum, signals appeared for these groups at δ 170.4, 171.0 and 21.4, 21.0. The secondary hydroxyl groups were established by the shifts of the α -Cs and by OAc resonances. The tertiary hydroxyl group may be located at C-5, C-6, C-9, C-12, C-14 or C-20 of the hetisane skeleton to account for the quaternary carbon appearing at δ 79.1. A hydroxyl at C-6 (carbinolamine) would have shifted the C-6 resonance downfield to δ 97–101 [9, 10]. Location of the hydroxyl at C-5 or C-20 has not so far been observed in isolated hetisane-type diterpenoids. When C-12 carries a hydroxyl group it would produce a downfield shift of C-16 to δ 150–156 analogous to the β -effect produced by hydroxylation of C-15 [11, 12]. A hydroxyl group at C-9 caused a 5–10 ppm downfield shift of C-10 (to 50–55 ppm) compared with hetisane-type alkaloids not having a hydroxyl at C-9 [12, 13]. Therefore, the hydroxyl group has to be located at C-14. The lack of a resonance at δ 18–20 in the ^{13}C NMR spectrum indicated that one of the carbonyl or hydroxyl groups has to be located in ring A [14]. The chemical shifts of C-1 to δ 46.0 and C-3 to δ 51.5 suggested that there is an oxo

group at C-2, rather than a hydroxyl [15, 16]. In this case, the second carbonyl group is C-6 and the skeleton atisine-type; Me-18 would be shifted downfield to δ 1.40–1.50 [17, 18]. In the hetisane-type skeleton, the second oxo group could be in one of the following positions, C-7, C-11, C-13, C-15 or C-19. When the oxo group is at C-15 the protons at C-17 are shifted to δ 5.20–5.90, as in atisinone and isoatsinone [19], but not as seen here. Also, the signals for the C-19 protons were observed at δ 2.31 and 2.62 as broad doublets ($J = 11$ Hz). The possible places for the second oxo group and for the secondary hydroxyl groups are, therefore, at C-7, C-11 and C-13. The ^1H NMR signal at δ 4.50 (1H, t , $J = 2$ Hz, $\text{H}-7\beta$) is typical for a C-7 α -hydroxyl group [20, 21], as also correlated by spin-decoupling experiments between H-6 (δ 3.47, $br\ s$) and H-7 (δ 4.50, t); when the former signal was irradiated, the latter one collapsed to a singlet. This leaves two locations, C-11 and C-13, for the remaining hydroxyl and the oxo groups. When the hydroxyl group is at C-13, both of the signals for C-13 and C-14 should appear at δ 80.0–82.0 [13, 22], whereas an oxo group at C-13 and a hydroxyl at C-11 would give a signal at δ 70.0–71.0 ppm [23]. In the present case, there are two signals as doublets at δ 70.0 and 69.8 for C-11 and C-7 carrying the hydroxyl groups. In order to establish

Table 1. HETCOR assignments of compounds 5–7

	5		6		7	
	¹³ C	¹ H	¹³ C	¹ H	¹³ C	¹ H
1	74.5	3.70	46.0	1.53; 2.03	39.3	1.35; 1.92
2	26.2	2.10	214.1	—	18.9	1.10; 1.55
3	27.0	2.30	51.5	1.75; 1.60	35.1	1.58
4	84.6	—	40.3	—	35.9	—
5	48.6	3.20	60.0	2.03	59.3	1.83
6	26.8	2.50	65.3	3.47	100.9	—
7	47.6	3.24	69.8	4.50	46.7	2.12; 2.35
8	75.8	—	44.2	—	40.9	—
9	78.7	—	54.9	2.00	54.1	2.10
10	36.5	2.85	48.2	—	49.6	—
11	51.1	—	70.0	4.24	37.6	1.95; 2.35
12	24.2	2.92	49.5	2.90	39.5	2.65
13	49.0	3.00	211.4	—	72.0	3.98
14	90.2	3.45	79.1	—	40.7	2.45
15	44.8	3.30	37.0	2.30	73.6	4.02
16	83.0	3.28	146.1	—	150.3	—
17	61.5	3.32	108.2	4.86; 4.98	116.1	5.16; 5.27
18	—	—	24.2	1.02	29.9	1.42
19	55.4	2.40; 2.80	62.7	2.31; 2.62	57.3	2.37; 2.67
20	—	—	68.6	3.64	67.2	3.86
N-CH ₂	49.8	3.40	—	—	—	—
CH ₃	13.6	1.10	—	—	—	—
14-OMe	57.9	3.33	—	—	—	—
16-OMe	56.2	3.44	—	—	—	—
NH-CO	169.2	—	—	—	—	—
CH ₃	25.5	2.20	—	—	—	—
Ar-CO	168.5	—	—	—	—	—
C-1'	116.0	—	—	—	—	—
C-2'	141.6	—	—	—	—	—
C-3'	120.3	8.67	—	—	—	—
C-4'	134.6	7.95	—	—	—	—
C-5'	122.3	7.49	—	—	—	—
C-6'	131.0	7.06	—	—	—	—

the position of the second hydroxyl group at C-11, a spin-decoupling experiment was performed. When the signal at δ 4.24 (H-11, *br d*) was irradiated, the signal at δ 2.0 (H-9, *d*) collapsed to a singlet, the signal at δ 2.90 (H-12, *d*) was sharpened. After examining the Dreiding model and measuring the *J* values, the hydroxyl group at C-11 was deduced as α . A HETCOR spectrum was recorded to assign the carbons and hydrogens. The spectral data indicated that orientinine (6) is 7,11,14-trihydroxy-2,13-dioxo-hetisane.

The molecular formula $C_{20}H_{27}NO_3$ (*m/z* 329.1984, calc. 329.2001) was derived for 7 from its HR mass spectrum. The ¹³C NMR (APT) spectrum indicated one methyl quartet at δ 29.9, seven methylene triplets at δ 18.9, 35.1, 37.6, 39.3, 46.7, 57.3 and 116.1, seven methine doublets at δ 39.5, 40.7, 54.1, 59.3, 67.2, 72.0 and 73.6, and five quaternary carbons at δ 35.9, 40.9, 49.6, 100.9 and 150.3, indicating a C_{20} diterpenoid alkaloid. The lack of methoxyl, *N*-methyl or *N*-ethyl signals showed that 7 is

also a hetisane-type alkaloid. A C-6 hydroxyl group was deduced to be present from the ¹H NMR shift of the C-18 methyl group to δ 1.42 and from the carbinolamine signal at δ 100.9 in the ¹³C NMR spectrum. Due to the β -effect of the C-15 hydroxyl group, the signal for C-16 is shifted to δ 150.3. In the ¹H NMR spectrum, the exomethylene (C-17) signals were observed as broad singlets at δ 5.16 and 5.27, indicating the presence of a β -hydroxyl group at C-15 [24]; H-15 was observed at δ 4.02 as a broad singlet. Since no carbonyl signal was present in the IR and ¹³C NMR spectra of 7, the third oxygen function is also a hydroxyl group. It is placed at C-13, as evident from the ¹H NMR signal at δ 3.98 (1H, *d*, *J* = 5 Hz) and the ¹³C NMR signal at δ 72.0 (*d*), as well as from spin-decoupling experiments, in which the signal at δ 2.45 (1H, *s*, H-14) was sharpened when the signal at δ 3.86 (1H, *s*, H-20) was irradiated. Irradiation of the H-14 signal collapsed the doublet at δ 3.98 (H-13) to a broadened singlet. A HETCOR experiment made the assignment of the

Table 2. ^{13}C NMR data (50 MHz) for compounds 1 and 5–8

C	1*	5	8	6	7
1	84.2	74.5	83.6	46.0	39.3
2	26.2	26.2	26.2	214.1	18.9
3	31.9	27.0	32.4	51.5	35.1
4	84.7	84.6	37.7	40.3	35.9
5	48.6	48.6	42.5	60.0	59.3
6	26.8	26.8	88.4	65.3	100.9
7	47.6	47.6	86.7	69.8	46.7
8	75.6	75.8	78.2	44.2	40.9
9	78.6	78.7	49.5	54.9	54.1
10	36.4	36.5	38.3	48.2	49.6
11	51.0	51.1	50.5	70.0	37.6
12	24.2	24.2	29.0	49.5	39.5
13	49.0	49.0	44.2	211.4	72.0
14	90.2	90.2	83.5	79.1	40.7
15	44.9	44.8	33.5	37.0	73.6
16	82.9	83.0	81.9	146.0	150.3
17	61.5	61.5	64.3	108.2	116.1
18	—	—	78.0	24.2	29.9
19	55.5	55.4	52.0	62.7	57.3
20	—	—	—	68.6	67.2
N-CH ₂	49.9	49.8	—	—	—
CH ₃	13.5	13.6	—	—	—
1 OMe	56.5	—	55.8	—	—
6 OMe	—	—	56.5	—	—
14 OMe	57.9	57.9	57.9	—	—
16 OMe	56.1	56.2	56.3	—	—
18 OMe	—	—	59.8	—	—
NH-CO	169.0	169.2	—	—	—
CH ₃	25.5	25.5	—	—	—
ArCO	167.5	168.5	—	—	—
C-1'	115.8	116.0	—	—	—
C-2'	141.7	141.6	—	—	—
C-3'	120.3	120.3	—	—	—
C-4'	134.4	134.6	—	—	—
C-5'	122.3	122.3	—	—	—
C-6'	131.1	131.0	—	—	—

*Data from ref. [26].

carbon and the protons possible (Table 2). These spectral data indicated that acorintine (7) was 6,13,15-trihydroxyhetisane.

The new compound (8) is a norditerpene alkaloid. The HR EI mass spectrum of 8 indicated a molecular formula $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{39}\text{NO}_7$ (m/z 453.2720, calc. 453.2726). The $[\text{M} - 31]^+$ ion indicated the presence of a C-1 methoxyl group. The ^1H NMR spectrum indicated five methoxyl groups at δ 3.46, 3.42, 3.40, 3.36 and 3.32. The lack of *N*-ethyl or *N*-methyl group signals and the presence of a singlet at δ 3.12 (D_2O -exchangeable) indicated the presence of a N-H group in the molecule. A triplet at δ 3.65 (1H, *t*, $J = 4.5$ Hz, H-14 β) and a multiplet at δ 3.70 (1H, *m*, H-16 α) indicated that the two methoxyl groups are at C-14 and C-16, respectively [25]. The third is assigned to C-1, based on the signal at δ 3.20 (1H, *t*, $J = 6$ Hz, H-1 β). The C-6 methoxyl group was evident from the signals at δ 4.20 (1H, *d*, $J = 6$ Hz, H-6 β) and 2.63 (1H, *d*, $J = 6$ Hz,

H-5). The relation between these two signals was shown by spin-decoupling experiments. The latter methoxyl is at C-18 as evidenced from ^1H NMR signals at δ 3.60 (1H, *d*, $J = 9$ Hz) and 3.54 (1H, *d*, $J = 9$ Hz) (H₂-18) and from the ^{13}C NMR signal of the C-18 OMe group at δ 59.8 ppm. ^{13}C NMR (APT) revealed the presence of five methyl quartets at δ 55.8, 56.3, 56.5, 57.9 and 59.8, six methylene triplets at δ 26.2, 29.0, 32.4, 33.5, 52.0 and 78.0, nine methine doublets at δ 38.3, 42.5, 44.2, 49.5, 64.3, 81.9, 83.5, 83.6 and 88.4, and four quaternary carbon singlets at δ 37.7, 50.5, 78.2 and 86.7, consistent with the proposed molecular formula. The spectral data for 8 was similar to that of delphatine, except that the *N*-ethyl group is missing. Therefore, the structure of 8 was established as *N*-deethyldephatine.

EXPERIMENTAL

General. Kieselgel 60F₂₅₄ (E. Merck) plates were used for prep. sepn and Sephadex LH-20 (Fluka) for further purification.

Plant material. *Aconitum orientale* Mill. was collected from the eastern Black Sea area of Trabzon-Hamsiköy at an altitude of ca 1500 m in August 1993. The species was identified by A. H. M. and a voucher specimen is deposited in the Herbarium of the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Marmara (Istanbul) MARE 4152.

Isolation of alkaloids. Dried and powdered aerial parts (700 g) were extracted with MeOH at room temp. and the solvent evapd to dryness. The residue (45 g) was acidified with 0.1 N H_2SO_4 (pH 1.5) and extracted with CHCl_3 . The pH of the aq. part was brought to 10 by addition of 5% NaOH and extracted with CHCl_3 . The basic CHCl_3 extract (1.5 g) was fractionated on a basic Al_2O_3 column (5 $\times$ 70 cm) eluting with petrol, then petrol-EtOAc (1:1) followed by EtOAc and a gradient of EtOH up to 100%. The following compounds were obtained, lappaconitine (15 mg), 1-demethylappaconitine (8 mg), *N*-deacetylappaconitine (12 mg), lycotoniine (65 mg), orientinine (15 mg), acorintine (8 mg), *N*-deethyldephatine (10 mg) and browniine (15 mg).

1-Demethylappaconitine (5). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}} + 52^\circ$ (*c* 0.1, CHCl_3). IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 3340, 2960, 2850, 1720 (sh), 1695, 1605, 1595, 1525, 1510, 1450, 1375, 1300, 1260, 1130, 1095, 760. ^1H NMR 200 MHz (CDCl_3) δ : 1.10 (3H, *t*, N-CH₂CH₃), 2.20 (3H, *s*, NHCOCH₃), 3.28 (1H, *dd*, $J = 3.0, 9.0$ Hz, H-16 α), 3.33, 3.44 (each 3H, *s*, OMe), 3.45 (1H, *t*, $J = 4.5$ Hz, H-14 β), 3.70 (1H, *m*, H-1 β), 7.06 (1H, *br d*, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H-6'), 7.49 (1H, *dd*, $J = 1.5, 8.02$ Hz, H-5'), 7.95 (1H, *dd*, $J = 1.5, 8.0$ Hz, H-4'), 8.67 (1H, *br d*, $J = 8.0$ Hz, H-3') (aromatic protons), 11.05 (1H, *br s*, NHAc). ^{13}C NMR, see Table 1. HREIMS m/z (rel. int.): 570.2958 ($\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{42}\text{N}_2\text{O}_8$) $[\text{M}]^+$ (15), 553 $[\text{M} - \text{OH}]^+$ (10), 492 $[\text{M} - 2 \times \text{OMe} - \text{H}_2\text{O}]^+$ (8), 465 (27), 435 (50), 392 (82), 162 (100), 119 (98).

Orientinine (6). $[\alpha]_{\text{D}} + 42.0^\circ$ (*c* 0.1, CHCl_3). IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm^{-1} : 3400, 2930, 2850, 1725, 1717 (sh), 1650, 1570, 1460, 1400, 1380, 1170, 1100, 1070, 1050, 1030, 890, 760. ^1H NMR 200 MHz (CDCl_3) δ : 1.02 (3H, *s*, Me-18), 2.0

(1H, *d*, *J* = 9 Hz, H-9), 2.31 (1H, *d*, *J* = 11 Hz, H-19a), 2.62 (1H, *d*, *J* = 11 Hz, H-11b), 2.90 (1H, *br s*, H-12), 3.47 (1H, *br s*, H-6), 4.24 (1H, *br d*, *J* = 9 Hz, H-11 β), 4.50 (1H, *t*, *J* = 2 Hz, H-7 β), 4.86 (1H, *br s*), 4.98 (1H, *br s*) (H₂-17). ¹³C NMR, see Table 1. HREIMS *m/z* (rel. int.): 357.1566 (C₂₀H₂₃NO₅) [M]⁺ (47), 340 [M – OH]⁺ (62), 321 [M – 2 × H₂O]⁺ (25), 314 (30), 300 (15), 284 (25), 274 (45), 256 (30), 213 (17), 185 (15), 115 (37), 97 (55), 83 (60).

Acetylation of 6. Ac₂O (1 ml) was added to 5 mg **6** dissolved in 1 ml pyridine and left at room temp. for 4 hr. The reaction mixt. was evapd to dryness and the product purified by prep. TLC yielding 4.5 mg **6a**. IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm⁻¹: 3380, 2950, 2840, 1730, 1725, 1715, 1650, 1560, 1460, 1410, 1370, 1150, 1240, 1100, 1050, 1020, 880. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ : 1.04 (3H, *s*, Me-18), 2.06, 2.10 (each 3H, *s*, 2 × OAc), 4.86, 4.96 (each 1H, *br s*) (H₂-17), 4.76 (1H, *br d*, *J* = 8.5 Hz, H-11 β), 5.15 (1H, *t*, *J* = 2.5 Hz, H-7 β). ¹³C NMR 50 MHz (CDCl₃) δ : C-1 45.7, C-2 213.8, C-3 51.5, C-4 40.2, C-5 58.9, C-6 65.5, C-7 68.6, C-8 44.2, C-9 53.8, C-10 48.2, C-11 69.8, C-12 49.4, C-13 211.0, C-14 79.0, C-15 37.1, C-16 146.2, C-17 107.9, C-18 23.9, C-19 63.0, C-20 68.5.

Acorientine (7). [α]_D + 13.5° (*c* 0.1, CHCl₃). IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm⁻¹: 3360, 2940, 2820, 1660, 1560, 1450, 1410, 1220, 1100, 1040, 1020, 910, 760. ¹H NMR 200 MHz (CDCl₃) δ : 1.42 (3H, *s*, Me-18), 2.45 (1H, *br s*, H-14), 3.86 (1H, *s*, H-20), 3.98 (1H, *d*, *J* = 5 Hz, H-13), 4.02 (1H, *s*, H-15 α), 5.16 (1H, *br s*), 5.27 (1H, *br s*) (H₂-17). ¹³C NMR, see Table 1. HREIMS *m/z* (rel. int.): 329.1984 (C₂₀H₂₇NO₃) [M]⁺ (23), 314 [M – Me]⁺ (7), 301 [M – CO]⁺ (7), 284 (5), 162 (100), 127 (50), 63 (75).

N-Deethyldephatine [8]. [α]_D + 52° (*c* 1, CHCl₃). IR $\nu_{\text{max}}^{\text{CHCl}_3}$ cm⁻¹: 3420, 2940, 2850, 1650, 1460, 1380, 1240, 1190, 750. ¹H NMR 200 MHz (CDCl₃) δ : 2.63 (1H, *d*, *J* = 6 Hz, H-5), 3.12 (1H, *br s*, NH) (D₂O-exchange), 3.20 (1H, *d*, *J* = 6 Hz, H-1 β), 3.54 (1H, *d*, *J* = 9 Hz), 3.60 (1H, *d*, *J* = 9 Hz) (H₂-18), 3.65 (1H, *t*, *J* = 4.5 Hz, H-14 β), 3.27 (1H, *m*, H-16 α), 4.20 (1H, *d*, *J* = 6 Hz, H-6 β), 3.32, 3.36, 3.40, 3.42, 3.46 (each 3H, *s*, OMe). ¹³C NMR, see Table 1. HREIMS *m/z* (rel. int.): 453.2720 (C₂₄H₃₉NO₇) [M]⁺ (50), 422 [M – OMe]⁺ (25), 406 (10), 392 (14), 371 (10), 340 (45), 292 (15), 141 (30), 85 (55).

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