

ALKALOIDS FROM *BRUNSVIGIA ORIENTALIS*

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**Key Word Index**—*Brunsvigia orientalis*; Amaryllidaceae; bulbs; alkaloids; lycorine; crinine; buphanisine; buphanidrine; epibuphanisine; undulatine; crinamidine; crinamine; 6-hydroxy-crinamine; 1-epibowdensine; 1-epidemethoxybowdensine; 1-epideacetylbowdensine.

**Abstract**—Twelve alkaloids have been isolated from bulbs of *Brunsvigia orientalis*. 1-Epibowdensine, 1-epidemethoxybowdensine and 1-epideacetylbowdensine are reported here for the first time. The structure and stereochemistry of these new alkaloids have been determined by physical and spectroscopic methods. The  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of 6-hydroxycrinamine (both epimers) and crinamidine were completely assigned by means of 2D NMR techniques. Copyright © 1996 Elsevier Science Ltd

## INTRODUCTION

*Brunsvigia orientalis* is an endemic Amaryllidaceae species from southern Africa, widely distributed in the southern and southwestern Cape [1]. In the present study, we report the isolation and characterization of 12 alkaloids from the bulbs of this hitherto unstudied plant species. Undulatine (**2**), crinamine (**4**) and the new alkaloid, 1-epibowdensine (**5**), were found to be the principal constituents. According to the literature, compound **2** was described as an active antineoplastic agent from *Amaryllis belladonna* bulbs [2]. In turn, compound **4** was the principal antibacterial constituent of the bulbs of *Crinum jagus* [3], possessing strong cytotoxic and moderate antimalarial activities [4]. Compound **5**, as well as 1-epidemethoxybowdensine (**6**) and 1-epideacetylbowdensine (**7**), were the first natural  $\beta$ -5,10b-ethanophenanthridine alkaloids having the C-1 substituent in the equatorial orientation. It is noteworthy that, just as in *B. josephinae* [5, 6], the majority of alkaloids from *B. orientalis* belong to the 5,10b-ethanophenanthridines; many of them have a methoxyl group at the C-7 position.

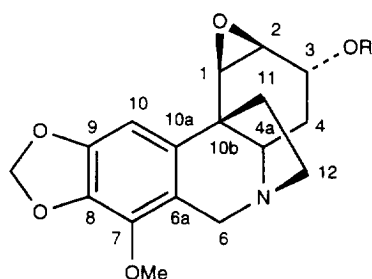
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The absolute configurations of alkaloids with a 5,10b-ethano bridge were determined from circular dichroism (CD) curves. In this way, the molecular ellipticity of crinamidine (**1**), **2**, **5**–**7**, crinine,

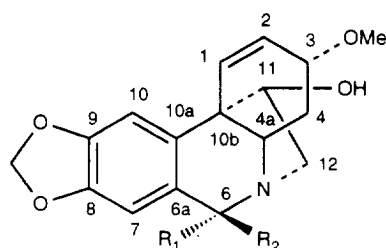
buphanisine and buphanidrine showed CD curves which were similar qualitatively to those of  $\beta$ -5, 10b-ethanophenanthridine alkaloids with a maximum around 250 nm and, in turn, the CD curves of 6-hydroxycrinamine (**3a** and **3b**), **4** and epibuphanisine were similar to those of  $\alpha$ -5,10b-ethanophenanthridines with a minimum around 250 nm [7, 8].

Compound **1**,  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{19}\text{NO}_5$ , characterized as crinamidine, gave an EI mass spectrum with a base peak at  $m/z$   $[\text{M}-29]^+$  and exhibited the typical fragmentation pattern for structures with an epoxide ring [9]. The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum was completely assigned, providing additional information with respect to a previously reported paper [10]. The spectrum was similar to that of **2** [6], apart from the absence of the singlet attributable to a methoxyl group. The small coupling constants between H-1 and H-2 ( $J = 4.0$  Hz), H-2 and H-3 ( $J = 2.5$  Hz) and between H-3 and H-4 $\beta$  ( $J = 3.0$  Hz), together with the additional long-range coupling of H-2 with H-4 $\alpha$  (W-mechanism), allowed us to assign the configurations of the epoxide ring and the hydroxyl group at the C-3 position. The aromatic singlet proton was assigned to the C-10 position, because of the three-bond HMBC correlations with C-6a, as well as with C-10b and C-8, and this was corroborated by the spatial proximity (ROESY [11] experiment) between H-10 and H-1. Thus, it could be inferred that the position of the methoxyl group was at C-7. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectrum (Table 1) is reported for the first time and all resonances have been unambiguously confirmed by means of HMQC [12] and HMBC [13] experiments. The pronounced highfield shift of the C-1 and C-2, signals, with respect to the corresponding

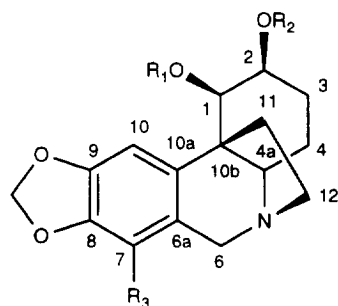
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**1:** R=H  
**2:** R=Me



**3a:** R<sub>1</sub>=H, R<sub>2</sub>=OH  
**3b:** R<sub>1</sub>=OH, R<sub>2</sub>=H  
**4:** R<sub>1</sub>=R<sub>2</sub>=H



**5:** R<sub>1</sub>=R<sub>2</sub>=Ac, R<sub>3</sub>=OMe  
**6:** R<sub>1</sub>=R<sub>2</sub>=Ac, R<sub>3</sub>=H  
**7:** R<sub>1</sub>=R<sub>2</sub>=H, R<sub>3</sub>=OMe

signals in the 1,2-unsaturated alkaloids in this series, was consistent with an 1,2-oxiran ring: substitution of the methoxyl group at the C-3 position by an hydroxyl group induced a pronounced shielding effect on C-3 and a deshielding effect on the  $\beta$ -carbons, C-2 and C-4, with respect to **2** [6].

6-Hydroxycrinamine, C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, recrystallized as needles from acetone was homogeneous chromatographically but the signals in both <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were rather complex, suggesting that it was a 2:1 mixture of two epimers (**3a** and **3b**) in the C-6

position. The EI mass spectrum showed a typical fragmentation pattern of 1,2-unsaturated alkaloids of the crinine series bearing a hydroxyl substituent at C-11 [14]. In this group, the loss of methanol (peak at  $m/z$  285) is favoured when both the ethano bridge and the methoxyl group at the C-3 position are on the same side of the molecule and, in the case of derivatives bearing a 6-hydroxyl substituent, ion [M-methanol]<sup>+</sup> very easily loses a hydroxyl radical leading to the base peak ( $m/z$  268), which is consistent with 6-hydroxycrinamine data [14]. The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum reported in the literature is incomplete [15] and all <sup>1</sup>H resonances of both epimers were therefore unambiguously assigned (Table 2). In both, the small coupling constant between H-2 and H-3, the large one between H-4 $\alpha$  and H-3, and finally the NOE contour correlation between H-3 and H-4 $\alpha$ , were also indicative of a *cis*-relationship between the C-3 pseudoequatorial substituent and the 5,10b-ethano bridge. The deshielding effect on H-11, in relation to the reported data for alkaloids with no bridge substituent in this series [16, 17], as well as the NOE effect between H-10 and H-11 and the long range W-coupling between H-11 and H-4 $\alpha$ , were consistent with a C-11 hydroxyl substituent at the *exo*-position. The epimer **3a** showed the benzylic proton H-6 $\alpha$  as a singlet at  $\delta$  5.01 and spatial proximity between H-6 and H-12 *endo* was observed. In the **3b** spectrum, the proton H-6 $\beta$  was observed at lower fields ( $\delta$  5.59) and a NOE contour correlation between H-6 $\beta$  and H-4 $\alpha$  was established, confirming the assignment of the hydroxyl group at C-6 in both epimers. The <sup>13</sup>C assignments (Table 1), reported for the first time, were confirmed by HMQC and HMBC experiments. The pronounced deshielding effect on C-11 and C-6 of both epimers, observed as doublets, was also consistent with the presence of hydroxyl substituents. In both structures, **3a** and **3b**, the carbon singlet C-9 was assigned at lower fields than C-8 because of its three-bond correlation with the methine proton H-7. The quaternary carbons C-6 $\alpha$  and C-10 $\alpha$  were ascribed by means of their correlations with the methine protons H-10 and H-7, respectively. Finally, the singlets at  $\delta$  50.4 and 50.8 were assigned to C-10b of **3a** and **3b**, respectively, taking into account their three-bond connectivities with H-2, H-4 and H-10.

Compound **5**, C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>25</sub>HO<sub>7</sub>, as well as its 7-demethoxyl derivative, compound **6**, C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>6</sub>, were isolated for the first time from a natural source. Their EI mass spectra displayed a similar fragmentation pattern, with a parent peak at  $m/z$  403 and 373, respectively, and important fragments at  $m/z$  [M-59]<sup>+</sup>, [M-119]<sup>+</sup>, [M-131]<sup>+</sup>, [M-149]<sup>+</sup> and [M-171]<sup>+</sup>, which are characteristic of 1,2-disubstituted crinamine alkaloids [18]. Compound **5** showed an additional ion at  $m/z$  314, associated with the loss of both the methoxyl and one acetoxy group. The peaks at  $m/z$  [M-59]<sup>+</sup> and [M-119]<sup>+</sup> were in agreement with the loss of one or two vicinal acetoxy groups. Their <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra (Table 3) were very close and only the absence of a methoxyl group in **6** was noteworthy. The methoxyl group of **5** was assigned to the C-7 position because of

Table 1.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR chemical shift assignments of compounds 1–7

C	1	2	3a	3b	4	5	6	7
1	53.8 <i>d</i>	53.9 <i>d</i>	136.4 <i>d</i>	136.2 <i>d</i>	136.8 <i>d</i>	74.0 <i>d</i>	74.0 <i>d</i>	73.0 <i>d</i>
2	56.4 <i>d</i>	55.1 <i>d</i>	123.0 <i>d</i>	123.2 <i>d</i>	123.6 <i>d</i>	68.2 <i>d</i>	68.3 <i>d</i>	69.7 <i>d</i>
3	65.5 <i>d</i>	74.8 <i>d</i>	75.9 <i>d</i>	75.6 <i>d</i>	76.0 <i>d</i>	26.3 <i>t</i>	26.4 <i>t</i>	28.9 <i>t</i>
4	29.7 <i>t</i>	25.2 <i>t</i>	29.4 <i>t</i>	29.4 <i>t</i>	30.1 <i>t</i>	21.0 <i>t</i>	21.3 <i>t</i>	20.4 <i>t</i>
4a	61.0 <i>d</i>	61.2 <i>d</i>	59.5 <i>d</i>	64.8 <i>d</i>	66.1 <i>d</i>	68.1 <i>d</i>	68.5 <i>d</i>	67.6 <i>d</i>
6	58.6 <i>t</i>	58.6 <i>t</i>	88.0 <i>d</i>	85.5 <i>d</i>	63.5 <i>t</i>	58.3 <i>t</i>	62.2 <i>t</i>	58.2 <i>t</i>
6a	117.6 <i>s</i>	117.8 <i>s</i>	127.3 <i>s</i>	128.8 <i>s</i>	126.6 <i>s</i>	116.9 <i>s</i>	125.8 <i>s</i>	116.5 <i>s</i>
7	141.1 <i>s</i>	140.9 <i>s</i>	109.5 <i>d</i>	108.3 <i>d</i>	106.8 <i>d</i>	140.3 <i>s</i>	106.4 <i>d</i>	140.0 <i>s</i>
8	133.4 <i>s</i>	133.3 <i>s</i>	146.5 <i>s</i>	146.7 <i>s</i>	146.1 <i>s</i>	133.4 <i>s</i>	146.0 <i>s</i>	133.3 <i>s</i>
9	148.1 <i>s</i>	147.9 <i>s</i>	147.8 <i>s</i>	147.5 <i>s</i>	146.4 <i>s</i>	148.0 <i>s</i>	146.2 <i>s</i>	148.0 <i>s</i>
10	96.4 <i>d</i>	96.3 <i>d</i>	102.8 <i>d</i>	102.7 <i>d</i>	103.1 <i>d</i>	97.3 <i>d</i>	103.6 <i>d</i>	99.5 <i>d</i>
10a	138.7 <i>s</i>	138.9 <i>s</i>	135.8 <i>s</i>	134.6 <i>s</i>	135.5 <i>s</i>	140.9 <i>s</i>	140.0 <i>s</i>	142.1 <i>s</i>
10b	41.6 <i>s</i>	41.4 <i>s</i>	50.4 <i>s</i>	50.8 <i>s</i>	50.2 <i>s</i>	47.0 <i>s</i>	47.2 <i>s</i>	49.3 <i>s</i>
11	39.2 <i>t</i>	39.2 <i>t</i>	78.1 <i>d</i>	79.0 <i>d</i>	80.0 <i>d</i>	37.2 <i>t</i>	37.4 <i>t</i>	36.4 <i>t</i>
12	52.5 <i>t</i>	52.5 <i>t</i>	57.7 <i>t</i>	51.8 <i>t</i>	61.2 <i>t</i>	52.2 <i>t</i>	52.2 <i>t</i>	51.7 <i>t</i>
-OCH <sub>2</sub> O-	100.7 <i>t</i>	100.5 <i>t</i>	101.1 <i>t</i>	101.1 <i>t</i>	100.7 <i>t</i>	100.5 <i>t</i>	100.8 <i>t</i>	100.4 <i>t</i>
3-OMe		57.5 <i>q</i>	55.9 <i>q</i>	55.9 <i>q</i>	55.6 <i>q</i>			
7-OMe	59.1 <i>q</i>	59.0 <i>q</i>				59.0 <i>q</i>		59.0 <i>q</i>
1-OAc						21.2 <i>q</i>	21.1 <i>q</i>	
						170.0 <i>s</i>	170.0 <i>s</i>	
2-OAc						21.2 <i>q</i>	21.2 <i>q</i>	
						170.4 <i>s</i>	170.4 <i>s</i>	

the three-bond HMBC correlations between H-10 and C-6a, as well as with both C-10b and C-8, and between the H-6 protons and C-7, and because of the observed NOE between H-10 and H-1.

Compound **6** showed two *para*-positioned aryl protons, which were consistent with their multiplicity. Both alkaloids have two acetoxy groups at C-1 and C-2; a deshielding effect on H-1 and H-2 was observed. A ROESY experiment allowed us to establish the axial orientation of H-1 by spatial proximity with H-10, as well as with H-3ax. The magnitude of the coupling constant between H-1 and H-2 and between H-2 and H-3ax led us to assign the equatorial disposition for H-2. Consequently, the acetoxy substituents on C-1 and C-2 should be assigned to the equatorial and axial disposition, respectively. The large vicinal coupling

constants between H-4ax and H-4a ( $J = ca$  12.0 Hz) and between H-4ax and H-3ax ( $J = 13.5$  Hz) denoted their *trans*-diaxial relationship, which was consistent with the NOE contour correlations between H-4a and H-3ax and between H-4ax and H-12*exo*. The assignments of the H-6 and H-12 protons were supported by the NOE effect between H-12*endo* and H-6 $\beta$ , as well as between H-6 $\alpha$  and H-4a; additionally, both H-6 $\alpha$  and H-12*exo* protons were assigned at lower fields due to their *cis*-relation with the nitrogen lone pair [19].

The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra of **5** and **6** were assigned taking into account the HMQC and HMBC connectivities (Tables 1 and 4). At lower fields six (**6**) or seven (**5**) carbon singlets for the acetoxy carbonyl groups and the quaternary carbons of the aromatic ring were observed. The carbon singlet at  $\delta$  140.3 of **5** was

Table 2.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and ROESY data for compounds **3a** and **3b** ( $J$  given in Hz in parentheses)

H	3a		3b	
	$^1\text{H}$ NMR	ROESY	$^1\text{H}$ NMR	ROESY
1	6.23 <i>d</i> (10.5)	H-2, H-10, H-11	6.21 <i>d</i> (10.5)	H-2, H-10
2	6.19 <i>dd</i> (10.5, 2.0)	H-1, H-3	6.17 <i>dd</i> (10.5, 1.5)	H-1, H-3
3	4.02 <i>ddd</i> (9.0, 6.5, 2.0)	H-4a, H-4 $\beta$ , H-2	3.96 <i>ddd</i> (10.5, 6.0, 1.5)	H-4a, H-4 $\beta$ , H-2
4 $\alpha$	2.11 <i>ddd</i> (13.0, 12.5, 9.1)	H-4 $\beta$ , H-12 <i>exo</i>	2.26 <i>ddd</i> (13.5, 12.5, 10.0)	H-4 $\beta$ , H-12 <i>exo</i>
4 $\beta$	2.08 <i>ddd</i> (12.5, 6.5, 5.0)	H-4 $\alpha$ , H-3, H-4a	2.16 <i>ddd</i> (12.5, 6.0, 5.0)	H-4 $\alpha$ , H-3, H-4a
4a	3.73 <i>ddd</i> (13.0, 5.0, 1.0)	H-3, H-4 $\beta$	3.41 <i>ddd</i> (13.0, 5.0, 1.0)	H-3, H-4 $\beta$ , H-6
6	5.01 <i>s</i>	H-12 <i>endo</i> , H-7	5.59 <i>s</i>	H-4a, H-7
7	6.80 <i>s</i>	H-6	6.96 <i>s</i>	H-6
10	6.74 <i>s</i>	H-1, H-11	6.72 <i>s</i>	H-1
11	3.90 <i>ddd</i> (6.5, 3.0, 1.0)	H-1, H-10, H-12 <i>endo</i>	3.87 <i>ddd</i> (7.0, 2.5, 1.0)	H-12 <i>endo</i>
12 <i>endo</i>	3.35 <i>dd</i> (14.0, 6.5)	H-6, H-12 <i>exo</i> , H-11	4.19 <i>dd</i> (14.0, 7.0)	H-12 <i>exo</i> , H-11
12 <i>exo</i>	3.30 <i>dd</i> (14.0, 3.0)	H-4 $\alpha$ , H-12 <i>endo</i>	3.01 <i>dd</i> (14.0, 2.5)	H-4 $\alpha$ , H-12 <i>endo</i>
-OCH <sub>2</sub> O-	5.89 <i>d</i> –5.91 <i>d</i> (1.5)		5.88 <i>d</i> –5.90 <i>d</i> (1.5)	
3-OMe	3.37 <i>s</i>		3.38 <i>s</i>	

Table 3.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR data for compounds **5**–**7** ( $J$  given in Hz in parentheses)

H	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
1	5.30 <i>d</i> (4.0)	5.32 <i>d</i> (4.5)	4.08 <i>d</i> (4.5)
2	5.55 <i>ddd</i> (4.0, 3.5, 2.0)	5.56 <i>ddd</i> (4.5, 3.5, 2.5)	4.17 <i>ddd</i> (4.5, 3.5, 2.5)
3eq	1.92 <i>dddd</i> (14.0, 3.5, 3.0, 2.5)	1.93 <i>dddd</i> (14.0, 3.5, 3.0, 3.0)	2.06 <i>dddd</i> (14.0, 3.5, 3.5, 3.0)
3ax	1.57 <i>dddd</i> (14.0, 13.5, 3.5, 2.0)	1.56 <i>dddd</i> (14.0, 13.5, 3.5, 2.5)	1.56 <i>dddd</i> (14.0, 12.5, 3.5, 2.5)
4eq	1.60 <i>dddd</i> (14.0, 5.5, 3.5, 3.0)	1.60 <i>dddd</i> (14.0, 5.5, 3.5, 3.0)	1.59 <i>dddd</i> (14.0, 5.0, 3.5, 3.0)
4ax	1.67 <i>dddd</i> (14.0, 13.5, 11.5, 2.5)	1.68 <i>dddd</i> (14.0, 13.5, 12.0, 3.0)	1.79 <i>dddd</i> (14.0, 12.5, 11.5, 3.5)
4a	3.01 <i>dd</i> (11.5, 5.5)	3.06 <i>dd</i> (12.0, 5.5)	2.95 <i>dd</i> (11.5, 5.0)
6 $\alpha$	4.16 <i>d</i> (17.5)	4.33 <i>d</i> (17.0)	4.22 <i>d</i> (17.5)
6 $\beta$	3.74 <i>d</i> (17.5)	3.74 <i>d</i> (17.0)	3.80 <i>d</i> (17.5)
7		6.42 <i>s</i>	
10	6.16 <i>s</i>	6.43 <i>s</i>	7.24 <i>s</i>
11endo	2.01 <i>ddd</i> (12.5, 9.0, 4.5)	2.03 <i>ddd</i> (12.5, 9.0, 4.5)	2.01 <i>ddd</i> (12.0, 8.5, 4.5)
11exo	2.73 <i>ddd</i> (12.5, 10.5, 5.5)	2.75 <i>ddd</i> (12.5, 10.5, 5.5)	2.78 <i>ddd</i> (12.0, 9.5, 6.0)
12endo	2.80 <i>ddd</i> (12.5, 9.0, 5.5)	2.82 <i>dd</i> (12.5, 9.0, 5.5)	2.80 <i>ddd</i> (12.5, 8.5, 6.0)
12exo	3.40 <i>ddd</i> (12.5, 10.5, 4.5)	3.41 <i>ddd</i> (12.5, 10.5, 4.5)	3.42 <i>ddd</i> (12.5, 9.5, 4.5)
-OCH <sub>2</sub> O-	5.80 <i>d</i> –5.82 <i>d</i> (1.5)	5.84 <i>d</i> –5.85 <i>d</i> (1.5)	5.88 <i>d</i> –5.90 <i>d</i> (1.5)
1-OAc	2.08 <i>s</i>	2.09 <i>s</i>	
2-OAc	2.08 <i>s</i>	2.09 <i>s</i>	
7-OMe	3.95 <i>s</i>		4.00 <i>s</i>

assigned to C-7 because of its three-bond correlation with the methoxyl group and both H-6 protons. Moreover, the additional methoxyl group strongly influenced the signals of C-6a and C-8. In contrast, the C-7 doublet of **6** was observed in the characteristic shift range ( $\delta$  106.4). The rest of the signals were very close for both **5** and **6**. Thus, the carbon singlets of the acetoxycarbonyl groups (*ca*  $\delta$  170) were assigned taking into account the three-bond connectivities with the H-1 or H-2 protons. The quaternary carbons of the aromatic ring, as well as C-10b, were easily assigned by means of long-range correlations.

The other new alkaloid (**7**) was isolated as a crystalline white compound. The EI mass spectrum showed a  $[\text{M}]^+$  at  $m/z$  319, which analysed for  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}_8$  and exhibited only a few prominent peaks, one being that at  $m/z$  232, being consistent with a 1,2-disubstituted

crinane alkaloid [10, 18]. The IR spectrum showed an intense absorption band at 3500–3300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ , characteristic of a hydroxyl group but no carbonyl absorption was observed. Its  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum (Table 3), recorded in  $\text{CDCl}_3$ , was similar to that of **5**; only the absence of the singlets attributable to the acetoxycarbonyl groups was noteworthy. A ROESY experiment was used principally to afford information about the relative spatial distances of protons, allowing us to establish the axial orientation of H-1 by spatial proximity to H-10, H-3ax and H-4a. The small coupling constants of H-2 confirmed its equatorial disposition. All of these data would allow the assignment of the proposed structure, which has the same stereochemistry as the related alkaloid **5**. The  $^{13}\text{C}$  assignments (Table 1) were confirmed considering the connectivities obtained from HMQC and HMBC spectra.

Table 4. ROESY and HMBC data for compound **5**

H	ROESY	HMBC
1	H-2, H-3ax, H-10	C-11, C-4a, C-10a, CO
2	H-1, H-3eq, H-3ax	C-10b
3eq	H-3ax, H-2, H-4eq, H-4ax	
3ax	H-3eq, H-4a, H-4eq, H-2, H-1	
4eq	H-3eq, H-3ax, H-4ax, H-4a	
4ax	H-3eq, H-4eq, H-12exo	C-2
4a	H-3ax, H-4eq, H-6 $\alpha$	C-12, C-10a, C-11
6 $\alpha$	H-4a, H-6 $\beta$	C-10a, C-12, C-7
6 $\beta$	H-6 $\alpha$ , H-12endo	C-10a, C-12, C-7, C-4a
10	H-1	C-8, C-6a, C-10b
11endo	H-11exo, H-12endo	C-10a
11exo	H-11endo, H-12exo	C-10a
12endo	H-12exo, H-11endo, H-6 $\beta$	C-10b
12exo	H-12endo, H-11exo, H-4 $\beta$	
-OCH <sub>2</sub> O-		C-8, C-9
1-OAc		
2-OAc		
7-OMe		C-7

## EXPERIMENTAL

**General.** Mps are uncorr. IR spectra were measured in KBr discs or as dry films. EIMS at 70 eV.  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, DEPT,  $^1\text{H}$  COSY, HMQC, HMBC and ROESY spectra were recorded in a Varian VXR 500, using the solvent specified and TMS as int. standard. Chemical shifts are reported in  $\delta$  units (ppm) and coupling constants ( $J$ ) in Hz. Silica gel Merck (70–230 mesh) and silica gel SDS chromagel 60 A CC (230–400 mesh) were used for CC and flash CC, respectively. Sephadex LH-20 was used for gel filtration, and silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> (Merck) for analyt. (0.25 mm) and prep. (1 mm) TLC. Spots on chromatograms were detected under UV (254 nm) and by Dragendorff's reagent.

**Plant material.** Bulbs of *B. orientalis* (L.) Ait ex Eckl were collected in February 1994 in the southern cape town of Knysna, South Africa. A voucher specimen (Viviers s.n.) has been deposited in the Bolus Herbarium, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

**Extraction and isolation of alkaloids.** Bulbs (5.1 kg) were crushed and macerated with EtOH for 48 hr. The extract was evapd under red. pres., the residue dissolved in H<sub>2</sub>O and acidified to pH 4. After removing neutral material with Et<sub>2</sub>O, the acidic soln was extracted with CHCl<sub>3</sub> to provide extract A. Basifying the soln to pH 8–9 and extracting it with CHCl<sub>3</sub> gave extract C. Finally, CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH (3:2) extraction of the basic soln gave extract D. Extracts A, C and D were combined (22.06 g) and subjected to CC on silica gel, eluting with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>–MeOH (19:1), increasing the gradient for the last steps to (4:1). Five frs were afforded. Fr. I was subjected to flash CC using a Me<sub>2</sub>CO–MeOH step gradient; after final purification on Sephadex LH-20, **2** (620 mg) and **5** (460 mg) were isolated. Fr. II was subjected to CC using a CHCl<sub>3</sub>–MeOH step gradient, followed by further prep. TLC, eluting twice with MeOH and Me<sub>2</sub>CO; after purification on Sephadex LH-20, **5** (62 mg), epibuphanisine (46 mg), buphanidrine (52 mg), **2** (18 mg), **6** (15 mg) and buphanisine (37 mg) were isolated. Compound **4** crystallized directly from fr. III; recrystallization with MeOH afforded 2.12 g. The rest of fr. III was purified in a similar manner to that described for fr. II, and **4** (205 mg), buphanisine (124 mg) and **1** (21 mg) were isolated. Finally, after purification by similar chromatographic processing to that described for fr. II, fr. IV afforded lycorine (87 mg), **7** (29 mg) and **3** (22 mg), and, fr. V, crinine (23 mg).

**Crinamide (1).** Found: C, 65.05; H, 6.06; N, 4.35. Calc. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 64.35; H, 5.99; N, 4.42%. Mp 215–217°.  $[\alpha]_D^{22} - 10^\circ$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>; c 0.1). CD  $[\theta]_{256} + 1625$ ,  $[\theta]_{290} - 175$ . IR  $\nu_{\max} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ : 3400–3200 (–OH), 1498, 1260, (epox.), 1043, 940 (–OCH<sub>2</sub>O–), 805 (epox.). EIMS 70 eV,  $m/z$  (rel. int.): 317 [M]<sup>+</sup> (37), 288 (100), 258 (18), 245 (31), 244 (25), 217 (32), 205 (31), 204 (21), 203 (32), 189 (19), 173 (38), 115 (17), 85 (19), 57 (21), 56 (31).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>):  $\delta$  1.56 (1H, ddd,  $J = 13.5, 12.5, 3.0$  Hz, H-4 $\beta$ ), 1.61 (1H, dddd,  $J = 13.5, 5.5, 2.0, 1.5$  Hz, H-4 $\alpha$ ), 2.0 (1H, ddd,  $J = 12.5, 9.0, 5.0$  Hz, H-11endo), 2.37 (1H, ddd,  $J =$

12.5, 10.5, 5.5 Hz, H-11exo), 2.77 (1H, ddd,  $J = 12.5, 9.0, 5.5$  Hz, H-12endo), 3.17 (1H, ddd,  $J = 12.5, 10.5, 5.0$  Hz, H-12exo), 3.17 (1H, dd,  $J = 12.5, 5.5$  Hz, H-4a), 3.26 (1H, ddd,  $J = 4.0, 2.5, 1.5$  Hz, H-2), 3.71 (1H, d,  $J = 17.5$  Hz, H-6 $\beta$ ), 3.75 (1H, d,  $J = 4.0$  Hz, H-1), 3.95 (3H, s, 7-OMe), 4.19 (1H, d,  $J = 17.5$  Hz, H-6 $\alpha$ ), 4.48 (1H, ddd,  $J = 3.0, 2.5, 2.0$  Hz, H-3), 5.85–5.86 (2H, 2d,  $J = 1.5$  Hz, OCH<sub>2</sub>O), 6.61 (1H, s, H-10).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Table 1.

**6-Hydroxycrinamine (3a and 3b).** Found: C, 63.41; H, 6.07; N, 4.33. Calc. for C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>19</sub>NO<sub>5</sub>: C, 64.35; H, 5.99; N, 4.42%. Mp 150–152°.  $[\alpha]_D^{22} + 40^\circ$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>; c 0.5). CD  $[\theta]_{256} - 1565$ ,  $[\theta]_{266} + 4087$ . IR  $\nu_{\max} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ : 3420 (–OH), 2926, 1481, 1248, 1038, 933 (–OCH<sub>2</sub>O–). EIMS 70 eV,  $m/z$  (rel. int.): 317 [M]<sup>+</sup> (1), 285 [M – MeOH]<sup>+</sup> (39), 284 (10), 269 (20), 268 [M – MeOH – OH]<sup>+</sup> (100), 258 (10), 227 (25), 209 (26).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Table 2;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Table 1.

**1-Epibowdensine (5).** Found: C, 61.55; H, 6.12; N, 3.51. C<sub>21</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> requires: C, 62.53; H, 6.20; N, 3.47%. Mp 124–126°.  $[\alpha]_D^{22} + 4^\circ$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>; c 1.1). CD  $[\theta]_{256} + 2130$ ,  $[\theta]_{286} - 132$ . IR  $\nu_{\max} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ : 2946, 1740 (>C=O), 1617, 1478, 1367, 1245, 1041, 942 (–OCH<sub>2</sub>O–), 751. EIMS 70 eV,  $m/z$  (rel. int.): 403 [M]<sup>+</sup> (100), 344 [M – OAc]<sup>+</sup> (81), 314 [M – OAc – OMe]<sup>+</sup> (23), 284 [M – OAc – HOAc]<sup>+</sup> (63), 283 (22), 272 (31), 256 (21), 255 (27), 254 (37), 232 (36), 231 (28), 202 (26).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Table 3;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Table 1.

**1-Epidemethoxybowdensine (6).** Found: C, 63.61; H, 6.08; N, 3.81. C<sub>20</sub>H<sub>23</sub>NO<sub>6</sub> requires: C, 64.34; H, 6.17; N, 3.75%. Mp 96–98°.  $[\alpha]_D^{22} + 20^\circ$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>; c 0.78). CD  $[\theta]_{256} + 3850$ ,  $[\theta]_{289} - 225$ . IR  $\nu_{\max} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ : 2922, 1734 (>C=O), 1478, 1367, 1233, 1036, 942 (–OCH<sub>2</sub>O–), 751. EIMS 70 eV,  $m/z$  (rel. int.): 373 [M]<sup>+</sup> (100), 315 (24), 314 [M – OAc]<sup>+</sup> (75), 254 [M – OAc – HOAc]<sup>+</sup> (60), 253, (23), 242 (25), 226 (22), 225 (24), 224 (27), 202 (41), 201 (37).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Table 3;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Table 1.

**1-Epideacetylbowdensine (7).** Found: C, 62.78; H, 6.65; N, 4.45. C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> requires: C, 63.95; H, 6.58; N, 4.39%. Mp 162–164°.  $[\alpha]_D^{22} + 22^\circ$  (CHCl<sub>3</sub>; c 0.47). CD  $[\theta]_{256} + 4520$ ,  $[\theta]_{283} - 75$ . IR  $\nu_{\max} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ : 3450–3200 (–OH), 2924, 1618, 1473, 1373, 1274, 1215, 1045, 939 (–OCH<sub>2</sub>O–), 755. EIMS 70 eV,  $m/z$  (rel. int.): 319 [M]<sup>+</sup> (100), 302 (12), 275 (29), 246 (20), 232 (76), 220 (25), 219 (22), 203 (18), 57 (38), 56 (25).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (500 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Table 3;  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (50 MHz, CDCl<sub>3</sub>): Table 1.

**Crinine** [6], **buphanisine** [6], **buphanidrine** [6], **undulatine** [6], **epibuphanisine** [17], **crinamine** [5, 10, 20] and **lycorine** [4, 21]. These were identified by comparison of their chromatographic and spectroscopic properties (TLC, IR, CD, MS,  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR) with those of authentic samples obtained from other plant sources.

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