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### Complete $^1\text{H}$ and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR Chemical Shift Assignments for Some Pentacyclic Oxindole Alkaloids

H. Toure<sup>a</sup>; A. Babadjamian<sup>b</sup>; G. Balansard<sup>a</sup>; R. Faure<sup>b</sup>; P. J. Houghton<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Laboratoire de Pharmacognosie, Faculté de Pharmacie, Cedex, France <sup>b</sup> ensSPICam, Université d'Aix-Marseille III, Marseille, Cedex, France <sup>c</sup> Chelsea Department of Pharmacy, King College London, University of London, London, SW, England

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COMPLETE  $^1\text{H}$  AND  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR CHEMICAL SHIFT ASSIGNMENTS  
FOR SOME  
PENTACYCLIC OXINDOLE ALKALOIDS.

Key Words: Mitraphylline Isomitraphylline Speciophylline Pteropodine  $^1\text{H}$  homonuclear correlation  $^1\text{H}$  homonuclear J-resolved 2D NMR spectra  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR chemical shifts.

H. TOURE†, A. BABADJAMIAN\*††, G. BALANSARD† R. FAURE††  
and P.J. HOUGHTON‡

(†) Laboratoire de Pharmacognosie, Faculté de Pharmacie, 27 Boulevard Jean Moulin, 13385 Marseille Cedex 5, France.

(††) ensSPICam, Université d'Aix- Marseille III, Avenue Escadrille Normandie-Niemen, 13397 Marseille Cedex 13, France.

(‡) Chelsea Department of Pharmacy, King College London, University of London, Mauresa Road, London SW 36 LX, England.

Abstract:

The complete analysis of the  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR has been performed for four pentacyclic oxindole alkaloids: mitraphylline, isomitraphylline, speciophylline and pteropodine. The total assignment of the  $^1\text{H}$  NMR parameters was achieved from combined evaluation of homonuclear shift correlation and J-resolved diagrams, while DEPT spectra and selective decoupling experiments provided all carbon chemical shifts.

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\* To whom correspondance should be addressed)

## INTRODUCTION

As part of an investigation of the medicinal properties of natural products extracted from the leaves of *Mitragyna inermis* (willd.) O. Kuntze, a plant used in african folk medicine, we have isolated a mixture of four alkaloids which possess the pentacyclic oxindole skeleton. Comparison with previously reported physico-chemical data<sup>1</sup> indicated that these compounds were mitraphylline **1a**, isomitraphylline **1b**, speciophylline **1c** and pteropodine **1d** (figure 1).

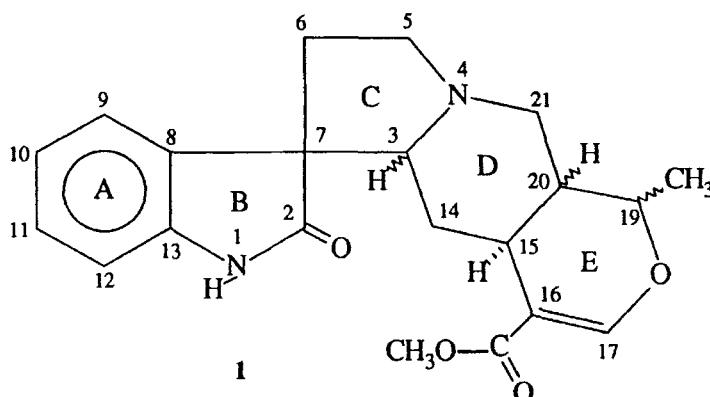
We report in this paper the complete <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR assignment of the **1a**-**1d** compounds using two-dimensional NMR spectroscopic techniques.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectroscopy

<sup>1</sup>H NMR spectral assignments for pentacyclic oxindole alkaloids **1a**-**1d** were deduced from the concerted application of autocorrelated<sup>2-4</sup> and homonuclear J-resolved<sup>5, 6</sup> two-dimensional NMR spectroscopy. Chemical shift information is provided by the 2D-J technique while the proton connectivity is easily available from the COSY diagram. The complete <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum analysis of mitraphylline **1a** illustrates this approach.

A convenient starting point for the interpretation and utilization of the COSY spectrum of **1a** is provided by the resonances which can be assigned with certainty from the one-dimensional <sup>1</sup>H spectrum: H-17, H-19 and the methyl protons. It is evident from the contour plot of the homonuclear shift correlation that the H-17 doublet presents correlated peaks with the proton resonating at 2.02 ppm (H-15) via a long range coupling, while H-19 correlates vicinally with H-20 which, in turn, is coupled with the methylenic protons H-21  $\alpha$  and H-21  $\beta$ . The H-15 resonance is also coupled with the signal at 0.91 ppm which can be easily identified as H-14  $\beta$  from its coupling pattern (q, J = 11.2 Hz). As a consequence, the H-14  $\alpha$  and H-3 chemical shifts were determined in a straightforward manner from their spin multiplicities extracted from the corresponding slices of the 2D-J spectrum.



compound	Alkaloid	Type	configuration of asymmetric centres			
			C-3 H	C-20 H	C-19 CH <sub>3</sub>	C-7 <sup>a</sup>
<b>1a</b>	Mitraphylline	normal	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	B
<b>1b</b>	Isomitraphylline	normal	$\alpha$	$\beta$	$\alpha$	A
<b>1c</b>	Speciophylline	epiallo	$\beta$	$\alpha$	$\alpha$	A
<b>1d</b>	Pteropodine	allo	$\alpha$	$\alpha$	$\alpha$	B

<sup>a</sup> A: lactam carbonyl group below the plane of C/D rings;

B: lactam carbonyl group above the plane of C/D rings.

FIGURE 1. Configurational terminology for oxindole alkaloids

Deshielding of H-5  $\beta$  (and H-21  $\beta$ ) was supported by the examination of Dreiding models and the <sup>1</sup>H assignments of isopteropodine<sup>7</sup>. Although the protons of C ring form a complex spin system, their coupling connectivities can be easily established from the <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>1</sup>H homonuclear correlation spectrum. Finally, additional support for these assignments was also provided by double resonance experiments.

A complete summary of the proton chemical shifts of **1a-1d** is presented in table 1. As stated by Yagudaev *et al*<sup>8</sup>, it can be seen from the table, that in **1c** (epiallo type) the signals in the 19-CH<sub>3</sub> and 1H protons appear in a stronger field than those of the corresponding protons in **1d** (allo type).

### <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectroscopy

The complete <sup>13</sup>C data are given in table 2. The limited quantities of material available precluded the use of the 2D-heteronuclear shift correlation. The <sup>13</sup>C chemical shift assignments of **1a-1d** were, therefore, assigned a) by comparison with literature data of representative oxindole<sup>7, 9</sup> or other alkaloid<sup>10</sup> models, b) on the basis of their multiplicities in the DEPT<sup>12</sup> spectra and c) from selective decoupling experiments using previously reported <sup>1</sup>H chemical shifts for <sup>13</sup>C ambiguous assignments: CH-3 and CH-19; CH<sub>2</sub>-5 and CH<sub>2</sub>-21. It should be point out that our attribution for the cited carbons, for pteropodine **1d** and for speciophylline **1c**, do not agree with the interpretation of Borges del Castillo *et al*<sup>13</sup>.

## EXPERIMENTAL

Mitraphylline **1a**, isomitraphylline **1b**, speciophylline **1c** and pteropodine **1d** were isolated from the plant according to the operating process previously reported<sup>1, 11</sup>. All NMR spectra were recorded with a multinuclear Bruker AM-200 spectrometer (Centre Interuniversitaire de RMN de Marseille). The NMR spectra were measured as solutions in CDCl<sub>3</sub> (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> for **1a**) in 10mm and 5mm o.d. tubes for <sup>13</sup>C and <sup>1</sup>H respectively. Tetramethylsilane was used as an internal standard in both measurements.

Resonance multiplicities for <sup>13</sup>C were established via the acquisition of DEPT spectra obtained for proton pulses P<sub>θ</sub> = 90° (CH only) and P<sub>θ</sub> = 135° (CH and CH<sub>3</sub> differentiated from CH<sub>2</sub>). For the DEPT sequence the width of <sup>1</sup>H 90° pulse was 29 μs, the width of a <sup>13</sup>C 90° pulse was 13 μs and the (2J)<sup>-1</sup> delay was set equal to 3.7 ms.

TABLE 1.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR chemical shifts of oxindole alkaloids **1a** - **1d** <sup>a</sup>

Atoms	$\delta^1\text{H}$			
	<b>1a</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>1b</b>	<b>1c</b>	<b>1d</b>
1	10.17	8.99	9.15	9.15
3	2.33	2.65	2.18	2.47
5 $\alpha$	3.16	3.32	3.39	3.36
5 $\beta$	2.18	2.41	2.45	2.35
6 $\alpha$	1.89	2.06	2.05	1.99
6 $\beta$	2.45	2.56	2.45	2.40
9	7.28	7.38	7.16	7.21
10	6.99	6.97	7.18	7.18
11	7.18	7.18	7.02	7.03
12	6.81	6.91	6.94	6.90
14 $\alpha$	2.12	2.23	2.21	1.74
14 $\beta$	0.91	0.66	1.63	1.53
15	2.02	2.19	2.86	2.36
17	7.42	7.40	7.39	7.49
19	4.46	4.39	4.21	4.55
20	1.76	1.90	2.05	1.60
21 $\alpha$	1.81	1.95	2.12	2.40
21 $\beta$	3.08	3.16	3.12	3.35
OCH <sub>3</sub>	3.50	3.58	3.37	3.50
CH <sub>3</sub>	1.04	1.12	1.26	1.39

<sup>a</sup> in ppm from TMS<sup>b</sup> DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> as solvent

TABLE 2.  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR chemical shifts of oxindole alkaloids **1a** - **1d**<sup>a</sup>

Atoms	<b>1a</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>1b</b>	<b>1c</b>	<b>1d</b>
2	179.44	181.21	181.95	181.41
3	73.62	71.88	70.52	74.47
5	52.79	53.40	53.37	55.18
6	34.35	35.37	34.16	34.83
7	54.85	56.60	56.00	56.34
8	133.65	133.95	133.44	133.62
9	122.85	125.00	122.59	123.04
10	121.40	122.38	122.15	122.59
11	127.50	127.65	127.80	127.99
12	108.69	109.61	109.85	109.70
13	141.80	140.57	141.59	141.10
14	28.01	29.33	26.45	29.73
15	29.73	30.29	25.21	31.20
16	106.74	107.59	105.20	109.38
17	153.29	153.88	153.66	155.30
19	73.22	74.09	74.8	172.28
20	40.23	41.14	36.60	38.10
21	53.31	54.39	54.90	53.72
CO	165.94	167.06	167.47	167.73
OCH <sub>3</sub>	50.30	50.67	50.45	50.86
CH <sub>3</sub>	14.53	14.90	18.80	18.94

<sup>a</sup> in ppm from TMS<sup>b</sup> DMSO-d<sub>6</sub> as solvent

The homonuclear  $^1\text{H}$ - $^1\text{H}$  shift correlated two-dimensional diagrams were obtained using the COSY-45 pulse sequence. The spectral widths were  $F_2 = 2000\text{Hz}$  and  $F_1 = \pm 1000\text{ Hz}$ , allowing a digital resolution of 1.95 Hz. The spectra were collected as  $2048 \times 1024$  blocks of data, and were processed using sinusoidal multiplication in each dimension followed by symmetrization of the final data matrix. Other parameters were as follows: number of increments in  $t_1$ , 512; scans, 32; phase cycling, 16; and relaxation delay, 2s.

The basic pulse sequence was used for the two-dimensional homonuclear proton J-resolved diagram. The  $F_2$  spectral width was 2000 Hz and  $F_1$  was  $\pm 62\text{ Hz}$ . A 16 phase cycling, with 16 scans and 64 increments, followed by zero filling and weighting with sine bell functions in both directions, providing a digital resolution of 1.95 Hz in  $F_2$  and 0.97 Hz in  $F_1$ ; the recycle delay was 2s.

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