PAVINANE AND ISOPAVINANE ALKALOIDS

CORRELATION OF ABSOLUTE CONFIGURATIONS BY SYNTHESIS

S. F. DYKE,* R. G. KINSMAN, P. WARREN and A. W. C. WHITE School of Chemistry, University of Bath, Bath, England

(Received in the UK 2 June 1977; Accepted for publication 11 July 1977)

Abstract—(-)-Caryachine (9) and (-)-Reframoline (10) have been synthesised from a common intermediate; this confirms the absolute configuration in the isopavinane series deduced previously by application of the aromatic chirality rule. This also represents the first synthesis of an optically active pavinane alkaloid.

A number of alkaloids is now known¹⁻³ based upon the pavinane ring system (1). All possess N-Me groups, although the first example of this class of compounds, pavine (1g) is a secondary amine, and was first prepared by reducing papaverine with tin and hydrochloric acid. The only method of synthesis used for the pavinane alkaloids has involved partial reduction of 1 - benzyl - 2 methylisoquinolinium salts (2) to the 1,2-dihydroisoquinoline (3), followed by acid-catalysed cyclisation, usually with H₃PO₄/POCl₃ mixtures at elevated temperature (120-150°). Yields are often poor. The major side-reactions include disproportionation of the unstable enamine (3) into the quaternary salt (2) and the 1,2,3,4tetrahydroisoquinoline (4),5 elimination of the C1-benzyl group⁶ and rearrangement to the 3 - benzyl - 3,4 - dihydroisoquinolinium salt (5). 3,5,7,8 Early attempts⁹ to establish the conditions for preferential pavinane formation or rearrangement were inconclusive; however a more extensive investigation using 2 - methyl - 1,2 dihydropapaverine has been described.8 The conditions used for the cyclisation of derivatives of 3 are often so severe that methylenedioxy groups are cleaved.9 A further disadvantage of this method of synthesis of pavinanes is that 1-benzylisoquinolines with the required oxygenation pattern are sometimes inaccessible.2.3 Further it seems that only racemic pavinanes can be prepared since it has not yet proved possible to resolve the intermediate, acid-labile 1,2-dihydroisoquinolines.5

Isopavinane alkaloids, based upon the ring system (6)° have been prepared $^{10-14}$ by acid-catalysed cyclisation of 1 - benzyl - 4 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydroisoquinolines (7, R = H or Me). These intermediates, which need not be isolated, can be obtained by hydroboration and oxidation of 1 - benzyl - 1,2 - dihydroisoquinolines (3), 12 by oxidation of 1 - benzyl - 7 - hydroxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydroisoquinolines with lead tetraacetate, 14 or, most usefully, by acid-catalysed cyclisation of benzylaminoacetaldehyde dialkylacetals (8, R_5 = H or Me, R_6 = $CH_2CH(OMe)_2$). 11,13 Since the required acetals are now very readily available, 15 this route to isopavinanes is an attractive one. Additionally since 1,2-diarylethylamines (8, R_5 = Me, R_6 = H) can be resolved quite easily, 7 optically active isopavinanes should be accessible.

Under acid conditions a competition between cyclisation of the 4-hydroxytetrahydroisoquinolines of type 7 to yield isopavinanes, (6), and dehydration to 1 - benzyl -1,2 - dihydroisoquinolines (3), followed by cyclisation to pavinanes (1) is obviously possible, and might be expected to depend upon such factors as the nitrogen substituent, the pH, and the nature and position of oxygen functions attached to the two aromatic rings. Recently we¹³ reported that when the acetals (8b and 8e) were treated separately with 6 N HCl at room temperature, the expected isopavinanes (6a and 6b) were accompanied by the corresponding pavinanes (1a and 1b), respectively. This is the first time that a pavinane cyclisation had been observed under such mild conditions. 16 We do not know at what stage the O-benzyl groups were cleaved. In one case (that of 8e), the product of a $C_1 \rightarrow C_3$ -benzyl migration was also detected. Since the mixtures of pavinanes and the isomeric isopavinanes are easily separated by column chromatography, the route is an attractive one for suitably substituted pavinanes, especially since we have now found that the benzylamino acetal (8f) can be cyclised to the pavinane (1c) in 40% yield. Only trace amounts of the isopavinane were detected. N-Methylation of 1c with HCHO/NaBH₄ gave 1a, whereas Ndemethylation of 1a to 1c could be achieved easily by treatment with ethyl chloroformate, followed by base.

The alkaloid caryachine has been isolated from Formosan Cryptocarya chinensis in optically active and racemic forms 18 but a distinction between structures 1a and 1b could not be made. Both racemates were synthesised 19 by the standard method from the preformed 1 benzyl - 1,2 - dihydroisoquinolines: 1a was described as a solid m.p. 239-240° and 1b had m.p. 195-196°. The Indian workers stated that these two synthetic compounds could be distinguished from each other by small differences apparent in the IR spectra, although TLC, UV and NMR characteristics were identical. Unfortunately Natarajan and Pai did not specify the solvent used for the NMR measurements. However, it was stated that the IR spectrum of 1a is identical with that of an authentic sample of caryachine. Our synthetic samples of 1a and 1b had13 m.p. 240-241° and 206-207° respectively. The NMR spectra were recorded in several solvents when significant differences in the aromatic region were apparent. Such differences are to be expected in the light of the correlations suggested by Chen and Soine, 20 where predictive additivity rules were proposed. We find that these rules are applicable to the published spectra²¹ of eschscholtzine (1d) and eschscholtzidine (1e), thus extending their scope to pavinanes containing methylenedioxy groups. The observed and predicted chemical shift values for 1a and 1b (in DMSO-de solution) are summarised in Table 1. The NMR spectra in CDCl₃ do not conform to this additivity rule and a closer examination of the behaviour of 1a and 1b suggests that

Table 1.

Compound in		8-Values for aromatic H			
	DMSO-d ₆	H ₁	H ₄	H ₇	H ₁₀
1a	Found	6.51	6.75	6.39	6.72
	Predicted	6.54	6.78	6.36	6.70
1b	Found	6.51	6.75	6.51	6.58
	Predicted	6.54	6.78	6.48	6.57

by changing from DMSO to CDCl₃, a downfield shift (up to 0.1 ppm) results for aromatic protons ortho to phenolic OH, and a comparable upfield shift for protons meta to the OH group. This is in agreement with earlier studies²² and confirms the assignments made in Table 1. Although we find that these additivity rules work well, we suggest that an anisotropic effect of the benzene rings, rather than a C-N bond inductive effect, accounts for the fact that the singlet absorptions of H₇ and H₁ are at lower

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fields than those due to H₁₀ and H₄ in symmetrically substituted pavinanes.

In view of the unsymmetrical nature of the isopavine ring system it is not surprising that a set of empirical rules similar to those for pavinanes could not be found. No firm assignments could be made for the aromatic proton absorptions; in most cases they appear as three or four singlets.

We have now resolved the 1,2-diarylethylamine (8a) using (+)-dibenzoyltartaric acid, to give the (+)-base $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +87.3 (6.16% in EtOH)]. Conversion to the acetal (8b) was effected with bromacetal in DMF under conditions that had previously been shown not to cause any racemisation. Treatment of 8b with hydrochloric acid, and chromatography of the reaction mixture (Experimental) yielded (-)-reframoline (10; 16%) as a micro-crystalline solid, m.p. 160°, $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ -144° (0.37% in EtOH) (lit.²³ $[\alpha]_D$ -140° (MeOH)), and (-)-caryachine (9; 14%) as a beige solid, m.p. 170°, $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ -251° (0.43% in EtOH) (lit. 18 [α]_D -270° (MeOH)). Unfortunately it has not proved possible to make a direct comparison between natural caryachine and our synthetic sample, either as the racemate or its (-)-form. However there is no doubt about the structure of our compound on the basis of the UV and especially NMR and mass spectral data. The TLC behaviour of our sample of (-)-reframoline is identical with that of the racemate synthesised previously¹³ and shown there to be identical with the natural alkaloid.

The absolute configuration of (-)-caryachine has been established as 5S, 11S by relation with (-)-argemonine (1f) of proven absolute configuration. The CD spectrum of (-)-argemonine is very similar to that of our synthetic caryachine (Fig. 1). This is the first time that a synthesis of an optically active pavinane has been described.

It follows that the 1,2-diarylethylamine (+)-(8a) has the S-configuration. The ORD spectrum of (+)-S-1,2-diphenylethylamine has been reported, so but in view of the fact that a chromophore is directly attached to the chiral centre, care has to be exercised in extrapolating these data to derivatives such as 8a. The work described here places the absolute configuration of 8a beyond doubt; the CD spectrum of 8a is very similar (Fig. 2) to

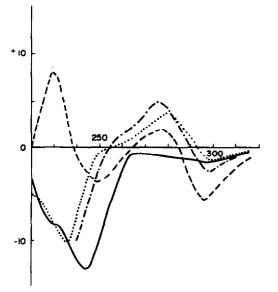


Fig. 1. CD of caryachine (1a) (·····); argemonine (1f) (·····); reframoline (6a) (----); and amurensine (6c) (-----).

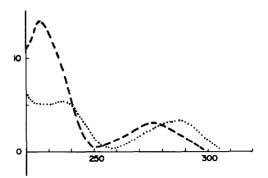


Fig. 2. CD of the diphenylethylamines 8a (.....) and 8c (----).

that of (+)-8c⁷ thus establishing the absolute configuration in the tri-oxygenated derivatives as well.

Since (+)-S-8a gave rise to (-)-reframoline (6a) as well as to (-)-caryachine (1a), it follows that natural reframoline has the 5S, 10S-configuration depicted in 10. The CD spectrum of 10 is similar to that of (-)-amurensine (6c)²⁶ (Fig. 1); although our spectrum does not exhibit Davydof splitting, it is clear that the two alkaloids possess the same absolute configuration. Shamma et al. had deduced a similar configuration for amurensine by an application of the aromatic chirality method,²⁷ which is being used increasingly in isoquinoline and other systems.^{26,29} The present work offers confirmation of these deductions for the isopavinane alkaloids.

EXPERIMENTAL

M.ps are uncorrected. UV spectra are reported in nm for solns in 95% EtOH and IR spectra in cm⁻¹ for Nujol mull or liquid film except where noted. Chemical shifts are expressed in ppm downfield of TMS as internal standard and mass spectra were measured on an AEI MS12 with relative peak intensities quoted as a percentage of the base peak.

Acid cyclisation of 8g. 8g (1.0 g) was dissolved in EtOH (25 ml) and conc HCl (25 ml) was added. The soln was left at room temp. for 2 hr then heated under reflux for a further 2 hr after which the EtOH was removed under reduced pressure. The remaining soln was diluted to 100 ml with H₂O, washed with Et₂O (2 × 30 ml), basified (NaHCO₃) and extracted with CHCl₃ (4 × 30 ml). The combined organic layers were washed with H₂O, dried (MgSO₄) and evaporated to give 1c which recrystallised from MeOH as colourless prisms (264 mg, 39%), m.p. 257-8°. ν_{max} 3280, 3100–2400 broad, 1605, 1480, 1230, 1118, 920, 825; λ_{max} (ϵ) 295 (7300); λ_{max} (ϵ) (EtOH/NaOH) 300 (7600). NMR (TFA), 7.85 broad s [2] ($N_{\text{H}2}$), 6.85 s [1], 6.75 s [2] and 6.57 s [1] (Ar-H), 5.94 s [1] and 5.90 s [1] (-OCH₂O-), 5.2-5.0 complex [2] (2×-CH₂CH₂), 3.96 s [3] (-OCH₃), 3.74 broad d [2] (J = 17 Hz)

and 3.10 broad d [2] (J = 17 Hz) ($2 \times -CH_2CH_1$). Mass m/e (%), 311 [M⁺] (80), 178 (100), 176 (91). (Found: C, 69.1; H, 5.6; N, 4.7.

C₁₈H₁₇NO₄ requires: C, 69.4; H, 5.5; N, 4.5%).

N-(4'- Benzyloxy - 3'- methoxybenzylidene) - 4 - benzyloxy - 3 - methoxybenzylamine. 4 - Benzyloxy - 3 - methoxybenzylamine (9 g) were heated together with C₆H₆ (150 ml) under reflux with a Dean and Stark head for 6 hr. Evaporation of the solvent afforded the Schiff's base as a yellow gum which solidified on standing. ν_{max} 1645; NMR (CDCl₃), 8.24 s [1] (-CH=N-), 7.6-6.6 complex [16] (Ar-H), 5.16 s [2] and 5.11 s [2] (2×PhCH₂O-), 4.69 s [2] (ArCH₂N=), 3.90 s [3] and 3.86 s [3] (2×-OCH₃). (Found: C, 77.2; H, 6.4; N, 2.7. C₃₀H₂₉NO₄ requires: C, 77.1; H, 6.3; N, 2.8%)

 α - (4 - Benzyloxy - 3 - methoxyphenyl) - β - (3',4' - methylene-dioxyphenyl)ethylamine (8g). A soln of the above Schiff's base

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(16 g) in dry DMF (275 ml) was added to a stirred slurry of NaH (2g) in dry DMF under N₂. After stirring for 3hr, a soln of 3,4-methylenedioxybenzyl chloride (11 g) in dry DMF (50 ml) was added dropwise (over 30 min) to the resultant dark coloured soln. The colour was rapidly discharged and the soln was stirred overnight, then the excess NaH was destroyed by dropwise addition of MeOH (50 ml). The mixture was made just acidic to litmus using glacial AcOH and the solvent was removed at 60° under reduced pressure. The residue was stirred with a mixture of C₆H₆ (250 ml) and 2 M HCl (250 ml) for 4 hr and the hydrochloride of the required amine was filtered off, washed with C6H6 and Et2O then recrystallised from EtOH as colourless needles (75%), m.p. 207-8°. NMR (CDCl₃/DMSO), 8.7 broad s [3] (-NH₃), 7.6-6.4 complex [11] (Ar-H), 5.88 s [2] (-OC H_2O -), 5.04 s [2] (PhC H_2O -), 3.82 s [3] (-OC H_3), 3.6-3.0 complex [2] (CHCH₂Ar), 4.3 m [1] (CHCH₂Ar). (Found: C, 66.7; H, 5.6; N, 3.4; Cl, 8.5. C23H23NO4·HCl requires: C, 66.8; H, 5.8; N, 3.4; Cl, 8.6%). The hydrochloride was stirred with 2 M NH₄OH (100 ml) and the base extracted into Et₂O which was dried (Na2SO4) and evaporated to afford a quantitative yield of the free amine as a colourless oil. NMR (CDCl₃) 7.6-7.0 complex [5] $(C_6H_5CH_2-)$, 7.0-6.5 complex [6] (Ar-H), 5.92 s [2] $(-OCH_2O-)$,

 $(-CH_2CHNH_2)$, 3.9 s [3] $(-OCH_3)$, 2.90 d of d [1] (J = 5 Hz and I)

5.14 s [2] (PhC H_2O_-), 4.06 d of d [1] (J = 9 Hz and 5 Hz)

13 Hz) and 2.75 d of d [1] (J = 9 Hz and 13 Hz) (-CH₂C HNH₂), 1.48 broad s [2] <math>(-NH₂).

N - Carbethoxy - α - (4 - benzyloxy - 3 - methoxyphenyl) - β - (3',4' - methylenedioxyphenyl) ethylamine (8h). The amine 8g (9 g) was stirred with 2 M NaOH (60 ml) and Et₂O (10 ml), then ethyl chloroformate (6 ml) was added dropwise. The Et₂O was allowed to evaporate and the product was collected by filtration, washed with water then recrystallised from MeOH as colourless needles (72%), m.p. 117-8°. NMR (CDCl₃) 7.52-7.24 complex [5] (C₆H₃CH₂-), 7.0-6.4 complex [6] (Ar-H), 5.88 s [2] (-OCH₂O-),

5.09 s [2] (PhC H_2O -), 5.05-4.65 complex [2] (NH) and

(ArCHNH-), 4.04 q [2] (J = 7.5 Hz) (-C H_2 CH₃), 3.80 s [3] OC H_3), 2.93 d [2] (J = 6 Hz) (CHC H_2 -), 1.16 t [3] (J = 7.5 Hz) (-CH₂C H_3). (Found: C, 69.6; H, 6.2; N, 3.2. C₂₆H₂₇NO₆ requires: C, 69.5; H, 6.0; N, 3.1%). N - Methyl - α - (4 - benzyloxy - 3 - methoxyphenyl) - β - (3',4' -

methylenedioxyphenyl) ethylamine (8a). The carbamate 8h (10 g) in dry dioxan (50 ml) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of LAH (5 g) in boiling dioxan (300 ml). After stirring under reflux for 3 hr the excess reagent was decomposed with 20% NaOH aq (25 ml) and the mixture was filtered. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure and the residual oil was treated with 2 M NaOH (50 ml) and extracted with Et₂O (2×100, 1× 50 ml). The combined extracts were dried (Na₂SO₄) and treated with HCl gas causing precipitation of the amine salt which was collected by filtration and recrystallised from EtOH as colourless needles (75%), m.p. 173-5°. NMR (CDCl₂/DMSO) 9.96 broad s [2] (NH_2), 7.5-7.2 broad s [5] ($C_6H_5CH_2$ -), 7.0-6.4 complex [6] (Ar-H), 5.86 s [2] (-OCH₂O-), 5.1 s [2] (PhCH₂O-), 3.94 s [3] (-OCH₃), 3.8-3.0 complex [3] (-CH₂CH₂), 2.45 broad s [3] (-NH₂CH₃). (Found: C, 66.6; H, 6.2; N, 3.4; Cl, 8.3. C₂₄H₂₅NO₄·HCl requires: C, 67.4; H, 6.1; N, 3.3; Cl, 8.3%). The hydrochloride was stirred with 2 M NH₄OH (100 ml) and the free amine was extracted into Et₂O (2×100, 1×50 ml). Evaporation of the dried (Na₂SO₄) combined extracts afforded the required base 8a in quantitative yield as a colourless oil. λ_{max} (ϵ) 237 (11,600), 285 (7000). NMR (CDCl₃) 7.6-7.1 complex [5] $(C_6H_5CH_2-)$, 6.9-6.4 complex [6] (Ar-H), 5.92 s [2] (-OCH₂O-), 5.13 s [2] (PhC H_2O_-), 3.88 s [3] (-OC H_3), 3.64 t [1] (J = 7 Hz) $(-CH_2CH_2')$, 2.78 d [2] (J = 7 Hz) $(-CH_2CH_2')$, 2.2 s [3] $(-NHCH_3)$, 1.55 broad s [1] $(-NHCH_3)$.

Resolution of 8a. The racemic amine 8a (9.8 g, 0.025 mole) and (+)-dibenzoyltartaric acid (4.71 g, 0.0125 mole) were dissolved in 95% EtOH (150 ml) and heated at reflux for a short time. The soln was diluted to 350 ml with hot EtOH, filtered while hot, then left to stand at room temp. After 72 hr the crystallised solid was collected by filtration and recrystallised twice from EtOH. Treatment of the salt with M/10 NH₄OH followed by extraction with Et₂O afforded the free amine with $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +72.6°. The salt was reformed and further recrystallised until regenerated amine showed a constant specific rotation. The yield of (+)-8a was 1.5 g (31%) with $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ +87.3° (6.2% in EtOH).

(+) - N - Methyl - N - [α - (4 - benzyloxy - 3 - methoxyphenyl) - β - (3',4' - methylenedioxyphenyl) ethyl]aminoacetaldehyde diethylacetal (8b). Bromoacetal (1.5 g) was added portionwise over 12 hr to a stirred mixture of the (+)-amine 8a and anhyd K_2CO_3 (0.3 g) in dry DMF (10 ml) at 100° under N_2 . Examination of the reaction mixture by gc showed that no further reaction occurred after 36 hr at 100°. The mixture was allowed to cool, then was poured into H_2O (75 ml) and the product was extracted with C_6H_6 (4×25 ml), the combined extracts were washed with H_2O (5×10 ml) and evaporated. Excess reagent was removed at 60° (1 mm pressure) over 30 min and the resultant black gum was chromatographed on neutral Al_2O_3 , eluting with 20% CHCl₃ in C_6H_6 to give 8b as a colourless oil (68%). $[α]_D^{20}$ +67.3° (1.4% in EtOH). NMR (CDCl₃), 7.5–7.2 complex [5] $(C_6H_3CH_2-)$, 6.9–6.3 complex [6] (Ar-H), 5.82 s [2] (-OCH₂O-), 5.08 s [2] (PhCH₂O-), 4.46 t [1] (J = 5 Hz) [-CH₂CH(OEt)₂], 3.82 s [3] (-OCH₃), 3.8-2.4

complex [9] (2×-OCH₂CH₃) and (ArCH₂CH NCH₂-), 2.3 s [3]

(NCH_3), 1.15 t [6] (J = 8 Hz) ($2 \times CH_3CH_2O_{-}$).

Caryachine (9) and Reframoline (10). The aminoacetal (+)-8b (400 mg) was dissolved in EtOH (25 ml) and 6 M HCl (50 ml) was added. The soln was left to stand at room temp overnight and then heated on a steam bath for 6 hr. After cooling, the soln was poured into H₂O (100 ml), washed with Et₂O (2 × 50 ml), basified (NaHCO₃) and extracted with CHCl₃ (3 × 100 ml). Evaporation of the dried (Na₂SO₄) combined extracts gave a yellow oil (170 mg) which solidified on trituration with Et₂O. TLC on silica (10% MeOH in CHCl₃) showed two major components with R_f values of 0.15 and 0.40, which were separated by column chromatography (SiO₂) to yield 9 and 10 respectively. 9 was obtained as a beige crystalline solid on trituration with Et₂O (35 mg, 14%), m.p. 170° (lit. 18 m.p. 175°) with $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ -251° (0.43% in EtOH) (lit. 16 $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ -270° in MeOH). λ_{max} (ϵ) 294 (9000); λ_{max} (hexane), 278, 285, 290, 295, 303. NMR (CDCl₃), 6.59 s [2], 6.50 s [1] and 6.43 s

(-OH), 3.86 s [3] (-OCH₃), 4.1-3.2 complex [6] (aliphatic H), 2.53 s [3] (NCH₃). Mass m/e (%), 326 (15), 325 [M⁺] (50), 324 (34),

[1] (Ar-H), 5.87 s [1] and 5.82 s [1] (-OCH₂O-), 5.1 broad s [1]

282 (3), 190 (100), 188 (100). High resolution: M^+ -1 found: 324.1228; $C_{19}H_{18}NO_4$ requires: 324.1236. 10 was isolated as a beige crystalline solid on trituration with Et_2O (41 mg, 16%). M.p. 160° with $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –144° (0.37% in EtOH) (lit.²³ $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ –140° in MeOH). λ_{max} (ϵ) 294 (7000), 230 sh (10,000). NMR (CDCl₃), 6.78 s [1], 6.73 s [1], 6.62 s [1] and 6.49 s [1] (Ar- \underline{H}), 6.2 broad s [1] (-OH), 5.86 s [1] and 5.83 s [1] (-OCH₂O-). 3.85 s [3] (-OCH₃), 3.8-2.8 complex [6] (aliphatic H), 2.55 s [3] (NCH₃). Mass m/e (%), 326 (7), 325 [M⁺] (32), 324 (35), 282 (38), 190 (100), 188 (4). High resolution: M^+ -1 found: 324.1231; $C_{19}H_{18}NO_4$ requires: 324.1236.

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