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The Crystal Structure of Lucidusculine Hydriodide

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Crystals of lucidusculine hydriodide ($C_{24}H_{35}O_4N \cdot HI$) are orthorhombic, with space group $P2_12_12_1$ and lattice parameters $a = 15.94$, $b = 14.29$, $c = 10.20$ Å, containing four molecules in the unit cell. The structure was solved by the heavy atom method using three-dimensional Fourier and difference Fourier syntheses. The refinement was carried out by full-matrix least-squares calculations including isotropic temperature factors. The final R index for 1092 nonzero reflexions was 0.133. The absolute configuration was established by the anomalous dispersion method.

The molecule is composed of four six-membered rings, three of which have the boat configuration and one the chair configuration. The iodine atom lies between the two alcoholic hydroxyl groups of the same molecule, and a hydrogen-bonded chelate structure is suggested. Within the crystal, the molecules are linked together by hydrogen bonds in the a direction, forming a chain which is packed sideways by van der Waals forces.

Introduction

The diterpene alkaloid lucidusculine was extracted from *Aconitum lucidusculum* by Majima & Morio (1931, 1932). Later, the chemical structure of this compound was studied by Sugimoto, Amiya & Shima (1959) who suggested the presence of an allyl acetate group, a secondary hydroxyl group and an N -ethyl group. Amiya (1960, 1961) obtained a phenanthrene derivative by selenium oxide reduction and proposed a partial structure. Further study by chemical methods was suspended owing to difficulties in getting enough of the sample. The present X-ray study is therefore undertaken in order to determine the molecular structure of lucidusculine.

Experimental

We isolated lucidusculine from *Aconitum yoesoensis* Nakai and purified it in the form of the quaternary ammonium perchlorate. In order to determine the molecular structure, a heavy atom salt, the hydriodide,

was prepared by exchanging the anion ClO_4^- with the I^- anion over the ion exchange resin Amberlite IRA-410. The crystals of lucidusculine hydriodide were recrystallized from aqueous methanol. They are colorless prisms with well developed {110} planes and elongated along the c axis. The density was measured by the flotation method with a mixture of benzene and carbon tetrachloride. The cell dimensions and space group were determined from rotation and Weissenberg photographs taken with $Cu K\alpha$ radiation.

Crystal data

Lucidusculine hydriodide $C_{24}H_{35}O_4N \cdot HI$.

Mol.wt. 529.0

m.p. 249–250°C

Orthorhombic

$a = 15.94 \pm 0.02$, $b = 14.29 \pm 0.02$, $c = 10.20 \pm 0.015$ Å

$U = 2349.8$ Å³

$$D_m = 1.478 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}, \quad D_x = 1.496 \text{ g.cm}^{-3}, \quad Z = 4$$

Linear absorption coefficient for Cu $K\alpha$ radiation, $\mu = 128.5 \text{ cm}^{-1}$

$$F(000) = 1088$$

Absent reflexions: $h00$ when h is odd,
 $0k0$ when k is odd,
 $00l$ when l is odd

Space group $P2_12_12_1$

The three-dimensional reflexions of $h0l \sim h3l$ and $hk0 \sim hk6$ were recorded with Cu $K\alpha$ radiation on equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs taken about the b and c axes using the multiple-film technique. The intensities of reflexions were visually estimated by using a standard scale. The c axis X-ray specimen prepared

for the intensity measurements was a cylindrical rod crystal elongated along the c axis and 0.133 mm in diameter. Since the μR value was about 1.0 the absorption correction was not applied. During the exposure of X-rays, the thin rod-like specimen bent plastically under its own weight, so that the sizes of the reflexion spots varied with the reflexion position of the crystal. A spot size correction was therefore necessary for the measurement of integrated intensities. All intensity data were then corrected for Lorentz and polarization factors. The resulting values were put on a single scale and a total of 1803 structure factors were finally evaluated. A Wilson plot was then made using the $hk0$ reflexions, which gave an approximate scale factor and an overall temperature factor B with the value 4.5 \AA^2 .

Table 1. The final fractional atomic coordinates, temperature factors and their standard deviations

| | x/a | $\sigma(x/a)$ | y/b | $\sigma(y/b)$ | z/c | $\sigma(z/c)$ | $B(\text{\AA}^2)$ | $\sigma B(\text{\AA}^2)$ |
|--------|----------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| I(1)/2 | 0.10914 | 0.00042 | 0.38553 | 0.00049 | -0.05255 | 0.00081 | 4.93 | 0.18 |
| I(2)/2 | 0.09944 | 0.00042 | 0.37845 | 0.00049 | -0.11443 | 0.00081 | 4.85 | 0.18 |
| C(1) | -0.09094 | 0.0023 | -0.01131 | 0.0023 | 0.12176 | 0.0039 | 4.27 | 0.84 |
| C(2) | -0.12206 | 0.0023 | 0.06468 | 0.0025 | 0.23438 | 0.0041 | 4.67 | 0.92 |
| C(3) | -0.04376 | 0.0023 | 0.11828 | 0.0032 | 0.28657 | 0.0043 | 5.53 | 0.92 |
| C(4) | 0.01704 | 0.0021 | 0.15714 | 0.0022 | 0.19301 | 0.0039 | 3.55 | 0.73 |
| C(5) | 0.18458 | 0.0025 | 0.17035 | 0.0028 | 0.11569 | 0.0047 | 5.46 | 1.05 |
| C(6) | 0.27718 | 0.0022 | 0.16472 | 0.0024 | 0.05919 | 0.0045 | 5.36 | 0.89 |
| C(7) | 0.28521 | 0.0019 | 0.11261 | 0.0026 | -0.07640 | 0.0041 | 4.43 | 0.74 |
| C(8) | 0.19952 | 0.0020 | 0.11146 | 0.0028 | -0.14068 | 0.0038 | 4.48 | 0.78 |
| C(9) | 0.06685 | 0.0019 | 0.00257 | 0.0021 | -0.09856 | 0.0041 | 3.55 | 0.72 |
| C(10) | 0.03675 | 0.0023 | -0.07588 | 0.0025 | -0.00707 | 0.0042 | 4.73 | 0.93 |
| C(11) | 0.00655 | 0.0021 | -0.02105 | 0.0022 | 0.12189 | 0.0039 | 3.51 | 0.76 |
| C(12) | 0.04446 | 0.0020 | 0.08348 | 0.0023 | 0.10060 | 0.0044 | 3.98 | 0.81 |
| C(13) | 0.14234 | 0.0017 | 0.06783 | 0.0019 | 0.09611 | 0.0039 | 2.40 | 0.64 |
| C(14) | 0.15749 | 0.0022 | 0.03358 | 0.0025 | -0.05764 | 0.0045 | 4.99 | 0.90 |
| C(15) | -0.13656 | 0.0020 | -0.09975 | 0.0025 | 0.15297 | 0.0038 | 4.07 | 0.86 |
| C(16) | -0.11886 | 0.0023 | 0.02456 | 0.0024 | -0.00954 | 0.0039 | 4.19 | 0.86 |
| C(17) | 0.02773 | 0.0019 | 0.09842 | 0.0022 | -0.05975 | 0.0040 | 4.11 | 0.98 |
| C(18) | 0.30491 | 0.0022 | 0.01236 | 0.0024 | -0.04900 | 0.0041 | 4.77 | 0.89 |
| C(19) | 0.22423 | 0.0021 | -0.04788 | 0.0024 | -0.06498 | 0.0044 | 4.88 | 0.83 |
| C(20) | 0.37926 | 0.0026 | -0.02051 | 0.0027 | 0.00734 | 0.0041 | 6.01 | 1.02 |
| C(21) | -0.08435 | 0.0019 | 0.11055 | 0.0024 | -0.22658 | 0.0036 | 3.74 | 0.75 |
| C(22) | -0.04517 | 0.0030 | 0.20015 | 0.0035 | -0.27756 | 0.0052 | 7.77 | 1.34 |
| C(23) | 0.23414 | 0.0032 | -0.21005 | 0.0037 | -0.00595 | 0.0061 | 7.96 | 1.37 |
| C(24) | 0.24133 | 0.0019 | -0.26823 | 0.0021 | 0.11705 | 0.0037 | 4.06 | 0.72 |
| N(1) | -0.07036 | 0.0014 | 0.10209 | 0.0018 | -0.08114 | 0.0032 | 3.92 | 0.60 |
| O(1) | -0.02475 | 0.0015 | 0.23260 | 0.0016 | 0.12346 | 0.0025 | 4.20 | 0.57 |
| O(2) | 0.29335 | 0.0015 | 0.26603 | 0.0017 | 0.03270 | 0.0026 | 5.52 | 0.64 |
| O(3) | 0.22072 | 0.0013 | -0.11519 | 0.0018 | 0.04484 | 0.0024 | 4.97 | 0.53 |
| O(4) | 0.22297 | 0.0022 | -0.22619 | 0.0026 | -0.11384 | 0.0042 | 9.77 | 0.99 |

Mean standard deviations

| | $\sigma(x/a)$ | $\sigma(y/b)$ | $\sigma(z/c)$ |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| I | 0.00042 | 0.00049 | 0.00081 |
| C | $\sigma(x)$ (0.0064 \AA) | $\sigma(y)$ (0.0056 \AA) | $\sigma(z)$ (0.0081 \AA) |
| N | 0.0014 | 0.0018 | 0.0032 |
| O | 0.0016 | 0.0019 | 0.0029 |
| | (0.025 \AA) | (0.027 \AA) | (0.029 \AA) |
| I | $\sigma(r) = 0.006 \text{ \AA}$ | C | $\sigma(r) = 0.038 \text{ \AA}$ |
| N | $\sigma(r) = 0.027 \text{ \AA}$ | O | $\sigma(r) = 0.027 \text{ \AA}$ |

Mean estimated standard deviations in bond lengths

$$\sigma(\text{C-C}) = 0.05 \text{ \AA} \quad \sigma(\text{C-N}) = 0.04 \text{ \AA} \quad \sigma(\text{C-O}) = 0.04 \text{ \AA}$$

Mean estimated standard deviations in tetrahedral bond angles

$$\sigma(\text{C-C-C}) = 2.8^\circ$$

and $I(h\bar{k}l)$ are expected to be measurable, 44 pairs showed significant differences in the c -axis Weissenberg photographs of the first and the second layers. Some of the results are shown in Table 3. A comparison of the observed and calculated intensity differences led to the absolute configuration shown in Fig. 1.

Table 3. Comparison of the observed and calculated intensity differences used for the establishment of absolute configuration

| hkl | $\frac{F_o^2(hkl)}{F_c^2(h\bar{k}l)}$ | $\frac{I_o(hkl)}{I_c(h\bar{k}l)}$ |
|-------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 111 | 0.480 | < 1 |
| 211 | 0.726 | < 1 |
| 311 | 0.755 | < 1 |
| 611 | 1.608 | > 1 |
| 811 | 0.520 | < 1 |
| 521 | 1.577 | > 1 |
| 621 | 1.938 | > 1 |
| 112 | 1.754 | > 1 |
| 612 | 1.447 | > 1 |
| 1012 | 0.760 | < 1 |
| 322 | 1.706 | > 1 |
| 332 | 0.726 | < 1 |
| 832 | 1.493 | > 1 |
| 442 | 0.546 | < 1 |
| 252 | 2.252 | > 1 |
| 652 | 0.752 | < 1 |
| 762 | 2.364 | > 1 |
| 272 | 0.534 | < 1 |
| 472 | 1.938 | > 1 |

Discussion of the structure

The molecular structure

Intramolecular bond distances and angles, calculated from the coordinates given in Table 1, are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. The mean estimated standard deviations in the bond distances are 0.05 Å in C-C and 0.04 Å

in C-N and 0.04 Å in C-O bonds, and those in bond angles are 2.8° in tetrahedral C-C-C bonds. In Table 4, the bond distances and angles are listed in groups of similar type, together with their average values.

As seen in the table, the C-C single bond distances vary from 1.47 Å [C(3)-C(4)] to 1.67 Å [C(12)-C(17)]. The mean value of the twenty-five C-C bonds found in the molecule, 1.56₁ Å, is slightly longer than the normal carbon-carbon single bond distance, but the difference is within the limit of experimental error.

Table 4. The bond distances and angles arranged in groups of similar type

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|------------------|-------------------|
| C-C single bonds | | C=C double bond | |
| C(1)-C(2) | 1.66 Å | C(18)-C(20) | 1.40 Å |
| C(2)-C(3) | 1.56 | C-O single bonds | |
| C(3)-C(4) | 1.47 | C(4)-O(1) | 1.49 Å |
| C(4)-C(12) | 1.48 | C(6)-O(2) | 1.50 |
| C(5)-C(6) | 1.59 | C(19)-O(3) | 1.48 |
| C(5)-C(13) | 1.62 | C(23)-O(3) | 1.47 |
| C(6)-C(7) | 1.58 | Mean value | 1.48 ₅ |
| C(7)-C(8) | 1.52 | C-N single bonds | |
| C(7)-C(18) | 1.49 | C(16)-N | 1.54 Å |
| C(8)-C(14) | 1.55 | C(17)-N | 1.58 |
| C(9)-C(10) | 1.54 | C(21)-N | 1.50 |
| C(9)-C(14) | 1.57 | Mean value | 1.54 ₀ |
| C(9)-C(17) | 1.56 | C=O double bond | |
| C(10)-C(11) | 1.61 | C(23)-O(4) | 1.14 |
| C(11)-C(1) | 1.56 | | |
| C(11)-C(12) | 1.63 | | |
| C(12)-C(13) | 1.58 | | |
| C(12)-C(17) | 1.67 | | |

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| C-C single bonds | |
| C(13)-C(14) | 1.66 |
| C(14)-C(19) | 1.58 |
| C(15)-C(1) | 1.49 |
| C(16)-C(1) | 1.50 |
| C(18)-C(19) | 1.56 |
| C(21)-C(22) | 1.52 |
| C(23)-C(24) | 1.51 |
| Mean value | 1.56 ₁ |

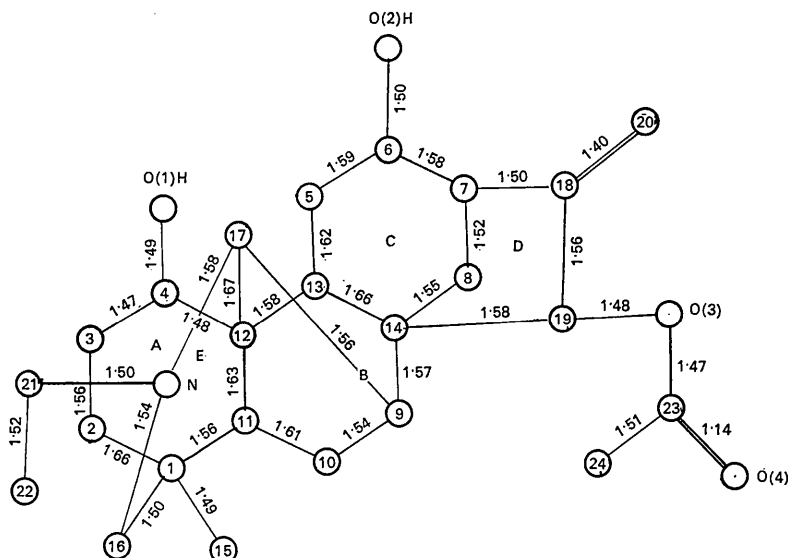


Fig. 2. Bond lengths of the lucidusculine molecule found in the hydriide.

Table 4 (cont.)

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| C-C-C | | C-C-C | |
| C(11)-C(1)-C(2) | 110.9° | C(10)-C(11)-C(1) | 110.0° |
| C(11)-C(1)-C(15) | 114.2 | C(11)-C(12)-C(13) | 104.0 |
| C(2)-C(1)-C(16) | 107.8 | C(11)-C(12)-C(4) | 117.3 |
| C(15)-C(1)-C(16) | 109.6 | C(4)-C(12)-C(13) | 114.3 |
| C(2)-C(1)-C(15) | 105.2 | C(10)-C(9)-C(17) | 111.3 |
| C(11)-C(1)-C(16) | 109.1 | C(13)-C(12)-C(17) | 98.5 |
| C(1)-C(2)-C(3) | 108.6 | C(4)-C(12)-C(17) | 119.0 |
| C(2)-C(3)-C(4) | 119.5 | C(11)-C(12)-C(17) | 100.9 |
| C(3)-C(4)-C(12) | 109.9 | C(12)-C(13)-C(5) | 106.2 |
| C(13)-C(5)-C(6) | 107.2 | C(5)-C(13)-C(14) | 108.8 |
| C(5)-C(6)-C(7) | 114.7 | C(12)-C(13)-C(14) | 102.3 |
| C(6)-C(7)-C(8) | 108.2 | C(9)-C(14)-C(13) | 101.6 |
| C(6)-C(7)-C(18) | 107.8 | C(13)-C(14)-C(8) | 111.6 |
| C(8)-C(7)-C(18) | 105.1 | C(8)-C(14)-C(19) | 102.2 |
| C(7)-C(8)-C(14) | 99.3 | C(9)-C(14)-C(8) | 117.1 |
| C(10)-C(9)-C(14) | 109.4 | C(9)-C(14)-C(19) | 113.6 |
| C(14)-C(9)-C(17) | 93.0 | C(13)-C(14)-C(19) | 111.1 |
| C(9)-C(10)-C(11) | 103.6 | C(9)-C(17)-C(12) | 94.2 |
| C(10)-C(11)-C(12) | 103.2 | C(7)-C(18)-C(19) | 109.7 |
| C(1)-C(11)-C(12) | 106.7 | C(14)-C(19)-C(18) | 98.3 |
| | | Mean value | 107.5 |
| C-C-N | | C-O-C | |
| C(1)-C(16)-N | 121.4° | C(19)-O(3)-C(23) | 109.2° |
| C(12)-C(17)-N | 107.3 | O-C=O | |
| C(9)-C(17)-N | 113.0 | O(3)-C(23)-O(4) | 120.4° |
| C(22)-C(21)-N | 110.2 | C-C=O | |
| C(3)-C(4)-O(1) | 107.5° | C(24)-C(23)-O(4) | 134.7° |
| C(12)-C(4)-O(1) | 111.6 | | |
| C(5)-C(6)-O(2) | 100.2 | | |
| C(7)-C(6)-O(2) | 106.6 | | |
| C(18)-C(19)-O(3) | 108.2 | | |
| C(14)-C(19)-O(3) | 114.7 | | |
| C(24)-C(23)-O(3) | 103.1 | | |
| C-N-C | | | |
| C(16)-N-C(17) | 114.1° | | |
| C(16)-N-C(21) | 116.9 | | |
| C(17)-N-C(21) | 106.6 | | |
| C-C=C | | | |
| C(7)-C(18)-C(20) | 125.3° | | |
| C(19)-C(18)-C(20) | 123.9 | | |

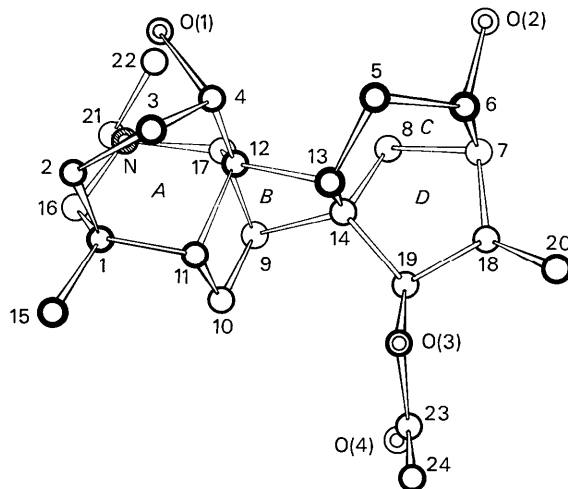
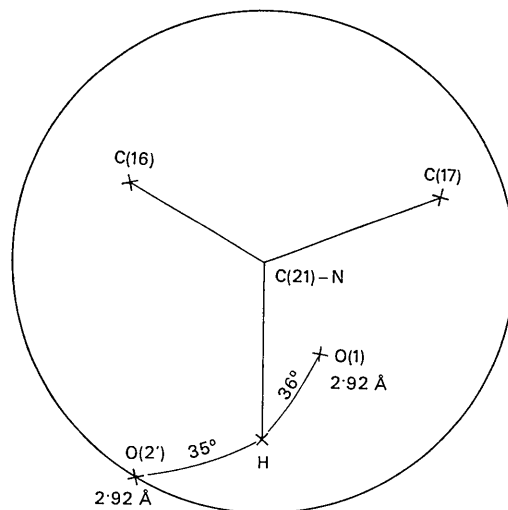
Fig. 4. A view of the molecule along the *c* axis.

Fig. 5. Stereographic projection showing the distribution of atoms around the nitrogen atom. For oxygen atoms, the distances from the nitrogen atom are given. The direction of the C(21)-N bond is taken as the polar axis and the suggested N-H directions are indicated.

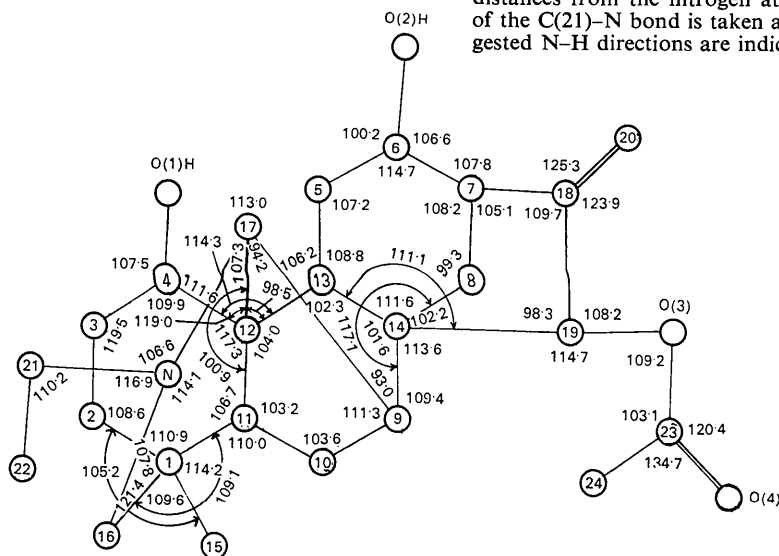


Fig. 3. Bond angles.

Some of the bond distances and angles involved in the *B* ring differ significantly from the normal values and indicate a considerable strain existing in the ring.

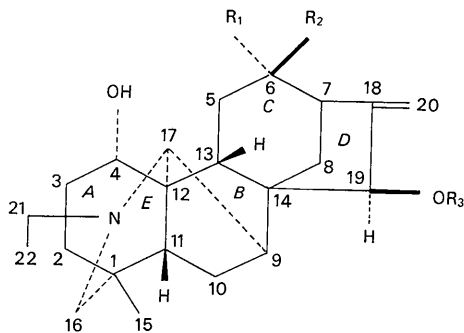


Fig. 6. Chemical formulae of lucidusculine, songorine, and luciculine, together with their absolute configurations.

- I. $R_1 = \text{OH}$, $R_2 = \text{H}$, $R_3 = \text{COCH}_3$, lucidusculine.
- II. $R_1, R_2 = \text{O}$, $R_3 = \text{H}$, songorine.
- III. $R_1 = \text{OH}$, $R_2 = \text{H}$, $R_3 = \text{H}$, luciculine.

A bridge between C(9) and C(12) probably causes such deformations. The angle at the bridgehead [C(9)–C(17)–C(12)] is 94.2° , which is of the same order of magnitude as that found in the tricyclo-octane nucleus (Macdonald & Trotter, 1965).

As for the structure of the molecule of lucidusculine found in the crystals of its hydriodide, the following points are well established (Fig. 4):

- (a) The conformation of ring *A* is a boat form.
- (b) The conformation of ring *B* is a boat form.
- (c) Rings *A* and *B* are *trans*-fusion.
- (d) Ring *C* has a boat form.
- (e) The ring-juncture of *B* and *C* is *cis*.
- (f) C(4)–O(1)H is axially oriented from the *A* ring, *i.e.* O(1)H takes the α -alcohol conformation.
- (g) C(6)–O(2)H is equatorial and takes the α -alcohol conformation.
- (h) The bonds C(7)–C(18) and C(14)–C(19) are both axially oriented from ring *C*.
- (i) C(19)–O(3) is a β -conformation.

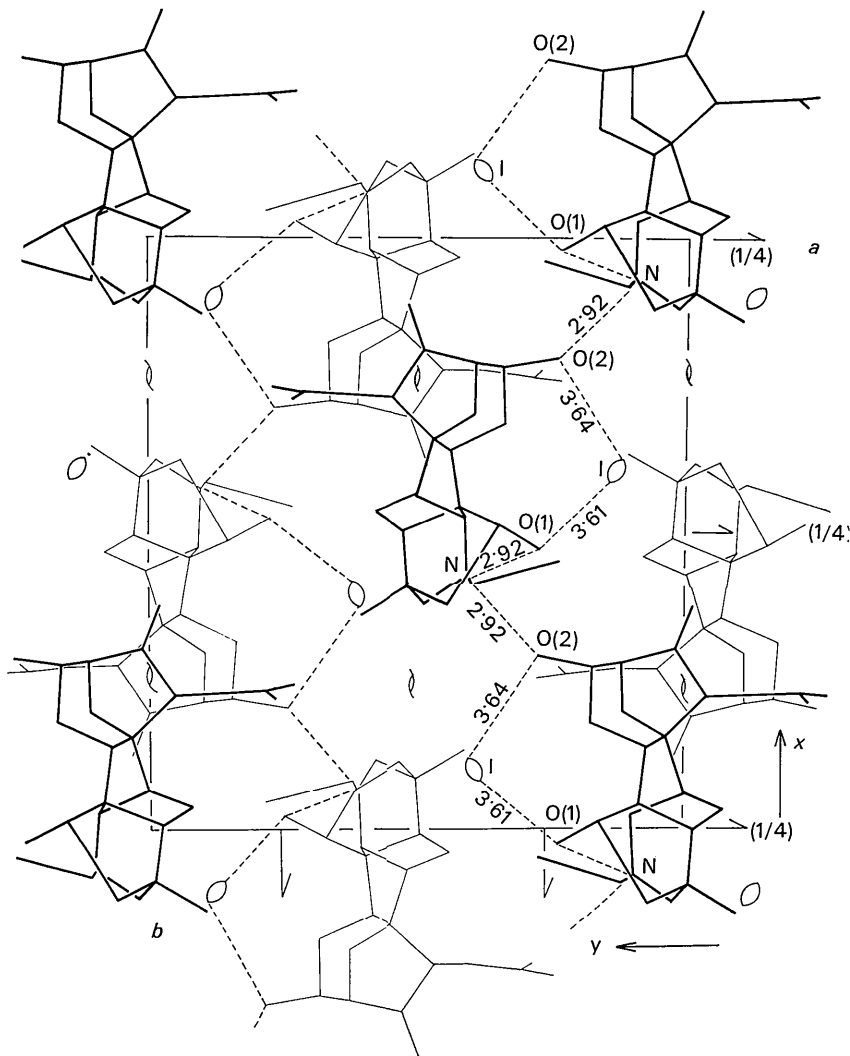


Fig. 7. Projection of the structure along the *c* axis (*c* axis upwards). Hydrogen bonds are shown by broken lines.

(j) The C-C=C group formed by C(7), C(18), C(19),



C(20) and the acetyl group C(23), C(24), O(3), O(4) both have planar configurations.

(k) Ring *E* has the chair form and the ring-juncture of *B* and *E* is *cis*-fusion.

(l) The angles subtended at the apex of the pyramid formed by N-R₁R₂R₃ are 106.6, 114.1 and 116.9°, and the *N*-ethyl bond turns to the *trans* side of the *A* ring. The nitrogen atom takes a tetrahedral coordination HN-R₁R₂R₃ with a hydrogen atom attached through the fourth bond. In Fig. 5, the arrangement of electronegative atoms around the nitrogen atom is shown by the stereographic projection, in which the direction of the C(21)-N bond is taken as the polar axis and a suggested N-H direction is also indicated. It is seen that the hydrogen atom is situated on the line nearly bisecting the angle O(1)···N···O(2') and forms a bifurcated hydrogen bond. The present structure analysis on the HI salt has shown that the *A* ring is in the boat form and C(4)-O(1)H is axial. This axial OH group should be situated at a shorter distance than would be observed if the *A* ring were in the chair form and C(4)-O(1)H were equatorial. It is clear that the boat conformation is stabilized by the hydrogen bonding between N and O(1)H.

Absolute configuration

Recently, the absolute configuration of some of the diterpene alkaloids such as lycocotinine (Przybylska, 1961), aconitine (Przybylska, 1961) and hetisine (Przybylska, 1963) has been determined by X-ray methods. The present study has provided direct evidence that lucidusculine (Fig. 6, I) takes the same absolute configuration as that found in the above mentioned diterpene alkaloids, and, besides, important information on the absolute configuration of an aconite alkaloid, songorine (Fig. 6, II). For years the structure of songorine (C₂₂H₃₁O₃N, m.p. 198~202°C) had been a subject of intensive investigations (Yunsov, 1948; Kuzovkov, 1953; Sugawara, 1956; Wiesner, Ito & Valenta, 1958). In 1956, Sugawara proposed the structural formula except for its absolute configuration. Upon completion of the present study, Okamoto, Natsume, Iitaka, Yoshino & Amiya (1965) showed that the reduction product of songorine is really identical with luciculine (C₂₂H₃₃O₃N · H₂O, m.p. 117-118.5°C, Fig. 6, III), a hydrolysis product of lucidusculine, and established the structural relationship between them together with the absolute configuration of songorine.

The crystal structure

The projection of the structure viewed along the *c* axis is shown in Fig. 7, where suggested hydrogen bonds are represented by broken lines. Fig. 8 is another projection of the structure viewed along *b*, in which some

of the intermolecular short distances less than 3.80 Å are shown by broken lines.

As seen in the figure, the I⁻ ion lies between the two alcoholic hydroxyl groups of the same molecule [O(1)H and O(2)H]. Chelation to the I⁻ ion may be suggested by the formation of the hydrogen bond system, O(1)H···I⁻···HO(2), the hydrogen bond distances being 3.61 Å and 3.64 Å respectively.

There is another hydrogen bond between the molecules, *i.e.*, NH···O(2') of 2.92 Å, which links the molecules in the *a* direction to form a chain of the molecules. Within the crystal, these chains are bound together sideways by van der Waals forces.

As noted in the previous section, the plastic deformation of the crystal often disturbed the experimental work. This deformation seems to occur by a slip on the (001) plane. The pronounced anisotropic

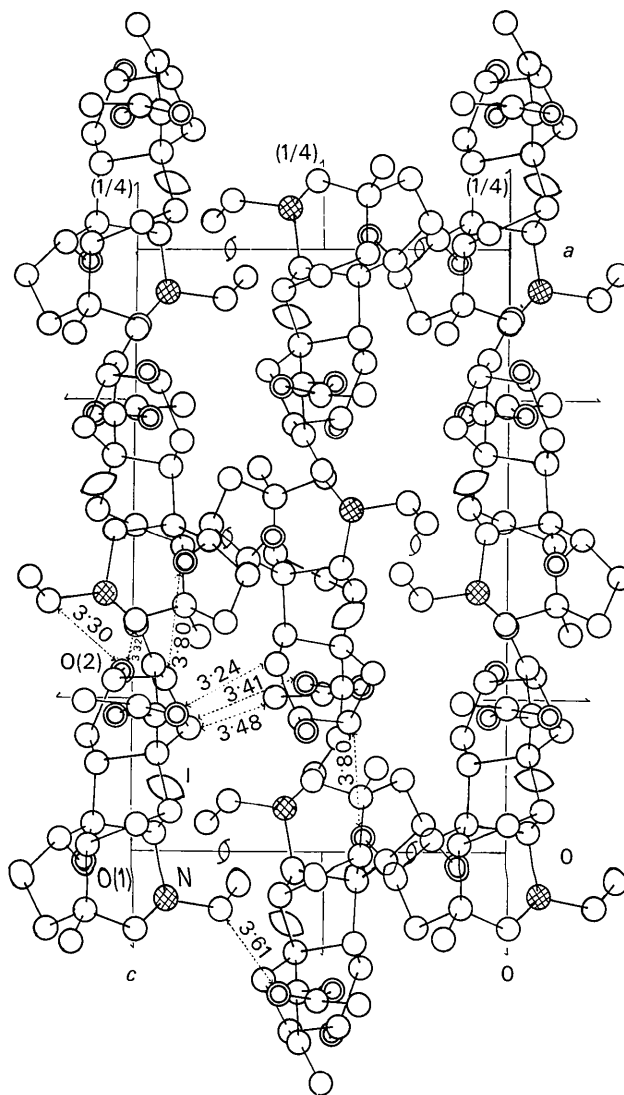


Fig. 8. Projection of the structure along the *b* axis (*b* axis downwards), showing the packing of the chains of molecules. Some of the shorter intermolecular interatomic distances less than 3.80 Å are shown by broken lines.

thermal vibrations of the iodine atoms were also observed along *c*. These facts indicate that the structure of the crystal has no strong intermolecular force in the *c* direction.

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Relationships among Structure Factors due to Identical Molecules in Different Crystallographic Environments

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Restraints on phases are imposed when a molecule crystallizes in different crystal forms or occurs more than once per asymmetric unit. These restrictions are expressed by the equations

$$|F_p| \exp \{i\alpha_p\} = \frac{U}{V} \sum_{h=-\infty}^{+\infty} |F_h| \exp \{i\alpha_h \sum_{n=1}^N G_{hpn} \exp \{i\varphi_{hpn}\}\}.$$

Here $|F_p|$, α_p , $|F_h|$, and α_h are the structure factors and their phases at the reciprocal lattice points \mathbf{p} and \mathbf{h} in either the same or different crystals. G_{hpn} and φ_{hpn} are simple functions of the rotation and translation parameters relating the molecules in the structures concerned. These equations have been tested in both one and three dimensions. In the one-dimensional case the same arbitrary electron density distribution was repeated several times at irregular intervals within the unit cell. All chosen distributions led to equations that could be solved correctly, suggesting that in general there is a unique solution. Refinement of initial approximate translation parameters during phase solution was also successful.

Introduction

When there are chemically identical molecules in different crystallographic environments, the phase problem may be approached in three distinct stages. The first stage involves determining the three rotation parameters that relate any two molecules. The rotation function (Rossmann & Blow, 1962; Sasada, 1964) has

proved successful for this purpose in a number of cases (Blow, Rossmann & Jeffery, 1964; Prothero & Rossmann, 1964; Dodsden, Harding, Hodgkin & Rossmann, 1966; Palmer, Palmer & Dickerson, 1964). The second stage involves determining the translation parameters that relate these molecules. A method of determining these parameters has been worked out in a special situation when the independent molecules are within the