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We have studied the alkaloid composition of the leaves of *Taxus baccata* (English yew) of the family Taxaceae collected in Azerbaidzhan.

The comminuted raw material, after wetting with 3% ammonia solution, was extracted with ether. The ethereal extract was concentrated and extracted with 1% sulfuric acid, and the acid solution of alkaloid salts was made alkaline with 5% ammonia and re-extracted with ether. Distillation of the ether gave the combined alkaloids consisting, according to chromatography, of two bases - A and B.

For separation, the combined alkaloids were dissolved in 1% sulfuric acid and the solution was washed with chloroform. Base A passed into the chloroform layer and B could be isolated from the acid solution.

Base A, $C_{33}H_{43}N_2O_{14}$, mp 112-113°C, $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 10.7^\circ$ (c 0.835; chloroform), was purified by recrystallization from petroleum ether. IR spectrum, cm^{-1} : 3400 - 3500, 1740, 1670, 1640, 1240, 1190, 1040, 990, 760.

Base B, $C_{37}H_{51}NO_{10}$, has mp 118-120°C (ethanol), $[\alpha]_D^{25} +$ (c 1.08; ethanol). The UV spectrum has λ_{max} 280 nm, which is characteristic for the alkaloid taxine isolated previously from the yew growing in foreign countries [1, 2]. The IR spectrum (UR-20 spectrophotometer) exhibits absorption bands in the following regions (cm^{-1}): 3480 (OH), 2960 (C - CH₃), 1730 ($-C \begin{array}{l} \diagup O \\ \diagdown \end{array}$), 1640, 1605, (-CH=CH-), 1240 ($\begin{array}{c} C \\ | \\ C > O \\ | \\ C \end{array}$), 1040 (-C-O-C), which agrees with the IR spectrum of taxine given by Graf and Bertholdt [1].

LITERATURE CITED

1. E. Graf and H. Bertholdt, Pharmaz. Zentrallhalle, Nos. 8-9; 385, 1957.
2. T. A. Henry, The Plant Alkaloids [Russian translation], Moscow, 1956, p. 799.

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