DEHYDROTHALICMINE - A NEW BASE FROM

Thalictrum isopyroides

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From the benzene eluate obtained in the chromatography of the nonphenolic fraction of the combined alkaloids from the roots of Thalictrum isopyroides on a column of alumina we have isolated a crystalline base (I) with mp 190-191°C (chloroform/ethanol). The UV spectrum of (I) [λ_{max} 267, 337 nm (log ϵ 4.60, 3.93)] is characteristic for the dehydroaporphine bases [1-3]. The IR spectrum of (I) has a strong band in the 1590-1640 cm⁻¹ region and bands at 960 cm⁻¹ (CH₂O₂) and 2845 cm⁻¹ (OCH₃). The NMR spectrum of (I) (τ scale) has a three-proton singlet at 7.04 ppm (N-CH₃), a four-proton multiplet in the 6.93-6.68 ppm region (2CH₂), singlets at 6.05 and 5.95 ppm (9H; 3OCH₃), a two-proton singlet at 3.90 ppm (CH₂O₂), and three one-proton singlets at 3.48, 3.02, and 1.72 ppm due to aromatic protons. The downfield shift of the signals of the N-CH₃ group and of the aromatic protons at C₁₁ confirms the dehydroaporphine structure for (I) [1-3]. The mass spectrum of (I) shows the peak of the molecular ion with m/e 367 (100%) and a strong (M-15) peak. The (M-1) and (M-43) peaks characteristic of aporphine bases are absent.

Since the base contains the same substituents as thalicmine (II) but differs from it by two mass units, we assume that it is a dehydrothalicmine. A direct comparison of R_f values and UV and IR spectra and a mixed melting point with an authentic sample identified (I) as the dehydrothalicmine obtained by the oxidation of (II) with potassium permanganate in acetonic solution.

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