ISOLATION OF PSEUDOCOPSININE METHOCHLORIDE AND OF MINOVINCININE FROM Vinca erecta

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From the combined alkaloids of V. erecta collected in the flowering and fruit-bearing period in the Osh oblast we have obtained and isolated nitrates of bases and have separated the residual mother liquor (130 g) according to its solubility in water and in 10% citric and sulfuric acids into 11 fractions. From the water-soluble fraction by treatment with chloroform we obtained 6 g of a base with mp 285-287°C (decomp., methanol). Its IR spectrum had the absorption bands of a disubstituted benzene ring (770 cm^{-1}), of an indole chromophore (1610 cm^{-1}), of an ester carbonyl (1720 cm^{-1}), and of a NH group (3410 cm^{-1}).

The NMR spectrum of the base (JNM-4H-100/100 MHz spectrometer, pyridine) resembled that of pseudocopsinine [1] but differs by the presence of an additional signal from an $-\overset{+}{N}-CH_3$ group (δ scale, 3.57 ppm, 3 H). The base showed a positive reaction for halogen. All these facts show that the alkaloid is pseudocopsinine methochloride, and the initial compound present in the plant is apparently a quaternary form of pseudocopsinine.

The information presented is also in harmony with the mass spectrum of the base, in which the peaks of ions are observed with m/e 352 $(M - HCl)^+$, 388 (max.) $(M - CH_3Cl)^+$, and others characteristic for pseudocopsinine.

The second base isolated from the neutral fraction of the combined alkaloids collected in the flowering period in the Tashkent oblast has been identified as *l*-minovincinine [2].

LITERATURE CITED

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2. M. Plat et al., Bull. Soc. Chim. Fr., 2237 (1962).

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