MERENDERINE — AN ENANTIOMER OF R-FLORAMULTINE

A. A. Trozyan, M. K. Yusupov,
and Kh. A. Aslanov

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In one of our preceding papers [1] we gave an account of the alkaloid merenderine from *Merendera raddeana* Rgl., for which we proposed the structure of 2,6-dihydroxy-3,4,5-trimethoxyhomoaporphine. However, a study of the mass and NMR spectra of merenderine and its diacetyl and dimethyl derivatives has enabled us to obtain additional information on the structure of this base. From this information and the spectral characteristics of the homoaporphines [2-4] we came to the conclusion that one of the hydroxy groups in merenderine is located not at the C_2 but at the C_3 atom, and the C_2 position is replaced by a methoxy group. Thus, merenderine corresponds to the structure of 3,6-dihydroxy-2,4,5-trimethoxyhomoaporphine, i.e., to floramultine [2, 5], but the two bases possess opposite signs of their specific rotation.

On the basis of the facts given, it can be stated that in spite of some difference in their physical constants and spectra, both merenderine and bechuanine [6] are S-floramultine.

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