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ISORESERPININE FROM *Vinca herbacea*

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From the herbaceous periwinkle (*Vinca herbacea*, Waldst. et Kit.) (family Apocynaceae) growing in Georgia we have isolated an alkaloid in the form of white acicular crystals with mp 224-226°C, $[\alpha]_D^{20}$ −18° (c 1.1; pyridine).

The PMR spectrum of the alkaloid has a group of signals in the weak-field region (aromatic and —O—CH protons), two singlets or methoxy groups at 3.71 and 3.63 ppm, and a doublet from a C-methyl group at 1.33 ppm. The spectrum was taken on a Varian T-60A spectrophotometer (Switzerland) with a working frequency of 60 MHz in acetone-d_6 solution. HMDS was used as internal standard.

The mass spectrum of the compound showed the following main peaks: of the molecular ion with m/e 382, of fragments formed from the molecular ion with m/e 367, 351, 323, 214, and 200, of ions with m/e 297, 281, 253, and 199 arising from the $(M-1)^+$ ion, and of ions with m/e 186 and 295 formed from the ions with m/e 214 and 297, respectively. The mass spectrum of the base was recorded on a Varian CH-6 instrument (Switzerland) with a system for the direct introduction of the sample at a temperature of 200°C and an energy of the ionizing electrons of 70 eV.

A comparison of the results of spectral analysis and the physicochemical indices of the compound that we have isolated with those alkaloids of the heteroyohimban group enabled it to be identified as isoreserpinine [1, 2].

This is the first time that isoreserpinine has been isolated from plants of the genus *Vinca*.

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