

NEW SECOCLARINE ALKALOIDS FROM SARCOCAPNOS SPECIES

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Abstract - Five new secoclarine alkaloids have been isolated from Sarcocapnos species and their structures elucidated by spectroscopic studies and chemical correlations.

We have previously reported<sup>1</sup> the isolation (from Sarcocapnos crassifolia and Corydalis claviculata) of the first two members of a new group of cularine-related alkaloids which we named secoclarines. We report here the isolation from Sarcocapnos crassifolia (Desf.) DC and Sarcocapnos enneaphylla (L.) DC of five new members of this group: secosarcocapnine 1, secosarcocapnidine 2, norsecoclaridine 3, norsecosarcocapnine 4 and norsecosarcocapnidine 5. All were obtained as very minor alkaloids, and attempts to crystallize them were unsuccessful; only secosarcocapnine 1 and secosarcocapnidine 2 can be crystallized as their hydrochloride (mp: 168-88°C and 240-41°C, ethanol-ether, respectively).

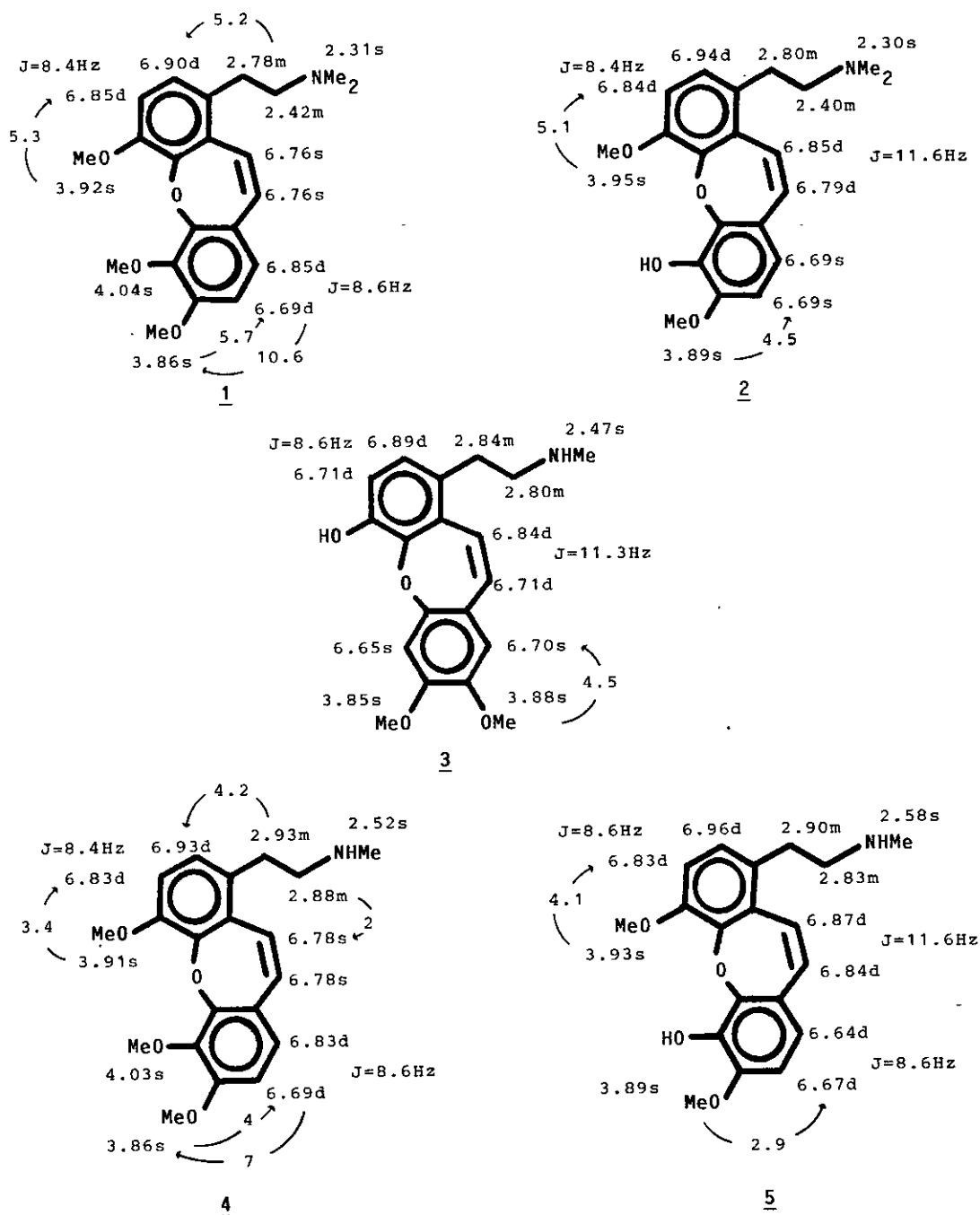
The secoclarine nature of the new alkaloids was deduced on the basis of the PMR spectra<sup>2</sup> (Figure I). These show characteristic signals in the aliphatic region which suggested the presence of a CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NMe<sub>2</sub> side chain in compounds 1 and 2, and CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>NHMe chain in compounds 3, 4 and 5. This interpretation was supported by the presence of base peaks in the mass spectra at m/z 58 (CH<sub>2</sub>=<sup>+</sup>NMe<sub>2</sub>) and 44 (CH<sub>2</sub>=<sup>+</sup>NHMe) respectively.

Data for all compounds are summarized in Figure II.

The structures of secosarcocapnine 1 and secosarcocapnidine 2 were confirmed by direct comparison (tlc, PMR, MS) with synthetic products obtained by Hofmann elimination from the corresponding cularine methiodides<sup>3</sup>.

The structures of norsecoclaridine 3, norsecosarcocapnine 4 and norsecosar-

FIGURE I



cocapnidine 5 were confirmed by transformation into their respective secocapnidines<sup>1</sup> and secoisocapnidines via N-methylation with  $\text{H-CO}/\text{NaBH}_4$ .

FIGURE II

| COMPOUNDS                      | FORMULA   | HIGH-RESOLUTION MS |         | UV   | IR<br>cm <sup>-1</sup> |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------|---------|--|------------------------|
|                                |   | Calcd.             | Found   |  |                        |
| Secosarcocapnine <u>1</u>      | C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>25</sub> NO <sub>4</sub> | 355.178            | 355.179 | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ (log $\epsilon$ ): 206(4.1), 219(3.9),<br>246(3.7), 312(3.7).   | ----                   |
| Secosarcocapnidine <u>2</u>    | C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>4</sub> | 341.162            | 341.166 | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ (log $\epsilon$ ): 214(3.9), 314(3.6).<br>$\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH/OH}^-}$ (log $\epsilon$ ): 226(4.1), 280(3.6),<br>310(3.6), 350(3.5).                                     | 3400                   |
| Norsecocularidine <u>3</u>     | C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>21</sub> NO <sub>4</sub> | 327.146            | 327.146 | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ (log $\epsilon$ ): 219(4.0), 234(4.0),<br>296(3.5), 318(3.6).<br>$\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH/OH}^-}$ (log $\epsilon$ ): 227(4.2), 322(3.7).                                     | 3360                   |
| Norsecosarcocapnine <u>4</u>   | C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>23</sub> NO <sub>4</sub> | 341.162            | 341.163 | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ (log $\epsilon$ ): 222(3.6), 244(3.5),<br>310(3.6).   | 3400                   |
| Norsecosarcocapnidine <u>5</u> | C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>21</sub> NO <sub>4</sub> | 327.146            | 327.147 | $\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH}}$ (log $\epsilon$ ): 222(3.9), 264(3.6),<br>284(3.6), 314(3.8).<br>$\lambda_{\max}^{\text{EtOH/OH}^-}$ (log $\epsilon$ ): 228(4.1), 264(3.7),<br>284(3.6), 314(3.6),<br>350(3.5). | 3420                   |

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the CAICYT (Spain) for its financial support and the Midwest Center for Mass Spectrometry (Department of Chemistry, University of Nebraska, USA) the high-resolution mass spectra provided.

#### REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. J.M.Boente, L.Castedo, D.Dominguez, A. Fariña, A.Rodriguez de Lera, and M.Carmen Villaverde; Tetrahedron Lett., 1984, 25, 889.
2. All the PMR spectra including NOE difference studies were recorded at 250 MHz in CDCl<sub>3</sub> solution with TMS as internal standard. All the data are summarized on the corresponding structures in Figure 1. Chemical shifts of norsecocularines 3, 4 and 5 are slightly concentration depending.
3. This reaction, first carried out by R.H.F.Manske in his work on the structure of cularine (J.Am.Chem.Soc., 1950, 72, 55) gave elimination material of unknown composition. Our experiments, using sodium ethoxide in refluxing ethanol for 3 hours, gave the secocularines 1 and 2 in 80% yield.

Received, 26th September, 1986