MICROBIAL PRODUCTS

VIII¹⁾. AZINOTHRICIN, A NOVEL HEXADEPSIPEPTIDE ANTIBIOTIC

HUBERT MAEHR, CHAO-MIN LIU, NORBERTO J. PALLERONI, JOANNE SMALLHEER, LOUIS TODARO, THOMAS H. WILLIAMS and JOHN F. BLOUNT

Chemical Division, Roche Research Center, Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. Nutley, New Jersey 07110, U.S.A.

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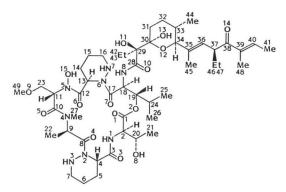
Azinothricin was isolated from the culture filtrate of *Streptomyces* sp. X-14950 in crystalline form. It represents a new type of hexadepsipeptide antibiotic as it contains a 19-membered cyclodepsipeptide ring composed of six unusual amino acids and bearing a novel C21 side chain. Azinothricin was identified as $[(3S,4S,7R(S^*),10S,17R,20S,23R)]2S(2'R^*,5'S^*,$ $6'S^*)3S^*]]-\alpha$ -ethyl-6-(3-ethyl-1,5-dimethyl-4-oxo-1,5-heptadienyl)-N-(1,8,14,15,18,21,27heptaaza-21-hydroxy-7-(1-hydroxyethyl)-2,6,9,16,19,22-hexaoxo-4-isopropyl-20-(methoxymethyl)-17,18-dimethyl-5-oxatricyclo[21.4.0.0^{10,15}]heptacosan-3-yl)tetrahydro- α ,2-dihydroxy-5methyl-2*H*-pyran-2-acetamide and is primarily active against Gram-positive microorganisms.

The culture filtrate of *Streptomyces* sp. X-14950 attracted our attention in view of its potent *in* vitro activity against Gram-positive bacteria. The active principle was isolated in crystalline form and identified as a novel cyclohexadepsipeptide antibiotic, termed azinothricin (1). The chemical structure of 1 incorporates *erythro*-3-hydroxy-L-leucine, D-threonine, L-piperazic acid, N-methyl-D-alanine, N-hydroxy-O-methyl-L-serine, and D-piperazic acid. These six unusual amino acids make up the 19-membered cyclodepsipeptide ring in which the *erythro*-3-hydroxyleucine moiety provides the hydroxyl group for the lactone linkage and the amino group for an amide bond to a C21 side chain. Due to the presence of N-hydroxy-O-methyl-L-serine, the 19-membered lactone ring can also be regarded as a cyclic monohydroxamic acid.²⁾ The name of the antibiotic reflects the presence of the azino groups of the piperazic acid moieties which invite a comparison with the monamycin family of antibiotics.³⁾ In contrast to azinothricin, however, the monamycin antibiotics contain 18-membered lactone rings

composed of one 2-hydroxycarboxylic acid and only five amino acids. None of the amino acids present in monamycins occur in azinothricin with the exception of D-piperazic acid which is found in 9 of the 15 known monamycins. In spite of these chemical differences, the monamycins exhibit antimicrobial spectra similar to that of azinothricin and share toxic liabilities with the title compound which preclude its clinical use.

Producing Culture

The characteristics of growth and sporulation in various ISP media are summarized in Table 1. Media ISP 2, 4 and 5 support the best growth,



Azinothricin (1)

The numbering system shown here is arbitrary and serves only as an aid in NMR-spectral and crystallographic identifications.

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Medium	Amount of growth and degree of sporulation	Color of the aerial mass*	Color of the reverse mycelium*
Yeast - malt extract agar (ISP 2)	Abundant growth; no fragmentation of substrate mycelia. Sparse aerial	Light yellow (1–1/2 fv)	Sunlight yellow (1–1/2 ia)
	mycelium. No sporulation.	mixed with alabaster tint (13 ba)	
Oatmeal agar (ISP 3)	Fair growth, no fragmentation of substrate mycelia. Light, even sporulation. Flexibilis type.	White (a)	Pearl (2 ba)
Inorganic salts agar	Abundant growth; no fragmentation of substrate mycelia. Dense mat of sporulation. Rectus to flexibilis	White (a)	Light yellow $(1-1/2 \text{ ea})$
Glycerol - asparagine agar (ISP 5)	type. Abundant growth; no fragmentation of substrate mycelia. Dense mat of sporulation. Rectus type.	Alabaster tint (13 ba)	Pearl (2 ba)

Table 1. Culture characteristics of Streptomyces sp. X-14950.

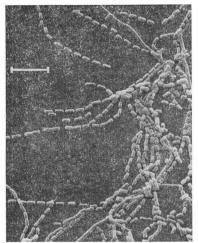
* Colors described according to the Color Harmony Manual, 4th Ed., Container Corp. of America, Chicago, 1958.

whereas sporulation is most abundant on ISP 4 and 5.

As indicated in Table 1 no fragmentation of the substrate mycelium has been observed in any of the agar media. Spore chains were found to correspond to the *rectus-flexibilis* type, with 20 or more spores per chain. The average width of the spores was 0.57 μ m, and the length varied from 0.96 to 1.55 μ m. The surface of the spores was smooth (Fig. 1).

Optimum growth temperature was determined to be 28°C with slightly less growth at 37°C.

Fig. 1. Spore chains of *Streptomyces* sp. X-14950. The fragility of the mature chains is evident. ISP 4, 14-day culture. Bar represents 5 μ m. Spore dimensions: 0.95~1.55 μ m×0.55 μ m.



Glucose, arabinose, fructose, galactose, inositol, mannitol, xylose, salicin, and melibiose could serve as carbon sources, but the culture did not utilize rhamnose or sucrose, and the utilization of raffinose and lactose was doubtful. On Czapek-solution agar, growth was fair and sporulation was good.

The culture showed strong reduction of nitrate after 7 days, indicated by a dark-red color after addition of the reagents. Tolerance to NaCl was not determined because of poor growth in the test medium. The culture decomposed hypoxanthine, xanthine and urea, and hydrolyzed starch and casein. Esculin was not hydrolyzed and melanin was not produced on either ISP 6 or ISP 7 media.

Species X-14950 is sensitive to streptomycin

as a 7-mm disc containing 10 μ g of streptomycin gave a 13.5-mm zone of inhibition.

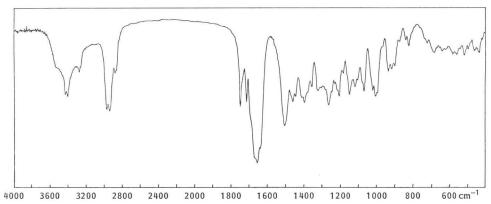
Three species of *Streptomyces* described in the literature⁴⁾ resemble strain X-14950. These are *S. badius, S. felleus*, and *S. sampsonii*. They belong to the *rectiflexibilis* type, and they have smooth

spores. None of the cultures produces melanin or have distinctive reverse pigments. The carbon utilization pattern of these cultures is essentially the same as that of X-14950. In fact, the published information available on these three species is insufficient not only for a differentiation from X-14950, but also for a clear separation from each other, so that a certain assignment of species X-14950 to any of the above-mentioned strains is not feasible.

Fermentation and Isolation

Streptomyces sp. X-14950 was cultured and maintained on a starch - casein agar slant of the following composition (g/liter distilled water); soluble starch 10, casein 1, K_2HPO_4 0.5, MgSO₄ 0.5, and agar 20. The pH was adjusted to 7.4 with sodium hydroxide prior to autoclaving. The agar slant was inoculated with the culture and incubated at 28°C for 7~14 days. A piece of such an agar slant, containing spores and mycelium, served as inoculum for 100 ml of a medium (500-ml Erlenmeyer flask) with the following composition (g/liter distilled water); tomato pomace 5, distillers solubles 5, OM peptone 5, debittered dried yeast 5, Eclipse N starch 20, K_2HPO_4 1, CaCO₃ 1, and CoCl₂·6H₂O 0.000238. The medium was adjusted to pH 7, autoclaved, inoculated and incubated at 28°C for 2 days on a rotary shaker at 250 rpm. Portions of the resulting culture (20 ml) were used to inoculate 6-liter Erlenmeyer flasks containing 2 liters of medium, with the same composition each. Four liters of the resulting broth, obtained after incubation for 2 days at 28°C and 250 rpm, served as inoculum for a 230-liter fermentation employing the same medium as described above with the exception that tap water was used and that antifoam SAG 4130 (Union Carbide, 0.1 g/liter) was added. The inoculated fermentor was aerated at a rate of 0.085 m³/minute and stirred at an impeller speed of 280 rpm for 118 hours at 28°C.

The whole broth was extracted with ethyl acetate (200 liters), the extract was evaporated and the residue triturated with diethyl ether. The ether-insoluble residue was discarded and the filtrate evaporated. The resulting residue was chromatographed on silica gel with a dichloromethane and dichloromethane - ethanol (9:1) gradient. The major antibacterial fraction (*Staphylococcus aureus* as test organism) was evaporated and rechromatographed as described above. The syrup obtained upon evaporation was taken up in methanol and allowed to crystallize. The pure antibiotic was obtained after one recrystallization from methanol and several crystallizations from acetone. Thus 1.4 g of **1** was obtained, and an additional 2 g of material could be recovered by chromatography of the evapo-



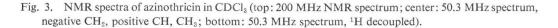


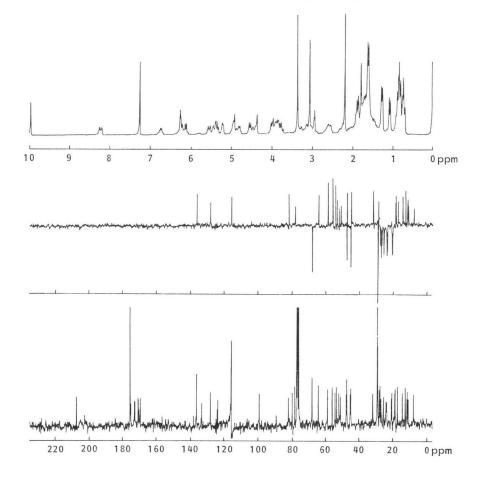
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rated mother liquors on silica gel with a dichloromethane and ethyl acetate gradient followed by crystallization from acetone.

Chemical Characterization and Structure Determination

Azinothricin, recrystallized from acetone as an acetone monosolvate, exhibited mp >188°C (dec); $[\alpha]_{15}^{25}$ +117.65° (*c* 0.6, CHCl₃); Rf 0.75 (silica gel plates) (dichloromethane - hexane - ethanol, 8: 2: 1); UV λ_{max} (dioxane) 225 nm (sh, ε 18,920); IR (KBr) 3500 (OH), 3425, 3400 (NH), 1745 (lactone C=O) cm⁻¹ (Fig. 2); 200 MHz ¹H NMR δ 0.71, 0.74, 0.82 (3d, 3 each, J=7 Hz, H25, 26, 44), 0.84, 0.86 (2t, 3 each, J=7 Hz, H43, 47), 1.07 (d, 3, J=7 Hz, H21), 1.28 (d, 3, J=7 Hz, H22), 1.35~2.35 (m, H5, 6, 14, 15, 31, 32, 42, 46), 1.60 (s, 3, H45), 1.78 (s, 3, H48), 1.87 (d, 3, J=7 Hz, H41), 2.01 (m, 1, CH), 2.50~3.40 (m, H7, 16), 2.62 (m, 1, CH), 2.97 (s, 1, OH), 3.08 (s, 3, H27), 3.38 (s, 3, H49), 3.76, 3.87 (AB, 2, $J_{gem}=11$ Hz, $J_{v1e}=6.5$ and 7.5 Hz, H23), 3.88 (m, 1, NH), 3.96 (m, 1, H37), 4.00, 4.53 (2d, 2, J=9 Hz, 2 CH), 4.34 (s, 1, OH), 4.43 (d, 1, J=11 Hz, NH), 4.80 (q, 1, J=7 Hz, H20), 4.92, 4.94, 5.20 (3m, 1 each, 3 CH), 5.31 (t, 1, J=7 Hz, H11), 5.40 (d, 1, J=11 Hz, CH), 5.55 (d, 1, J=9 Hz, CH), 6.12 (q, 1, J=7 Hz, H9), 6.22 (d, 1, J=9 Hz, N1-H), 6.25 (s, 1, OH), 6.73 (q, 1, J=7 Hz, H40), 8.25 (d, 1, J=11 Hz, N8-H), 9.96 (s, 1, O15-H). The multiplicity of the bands was confirmed





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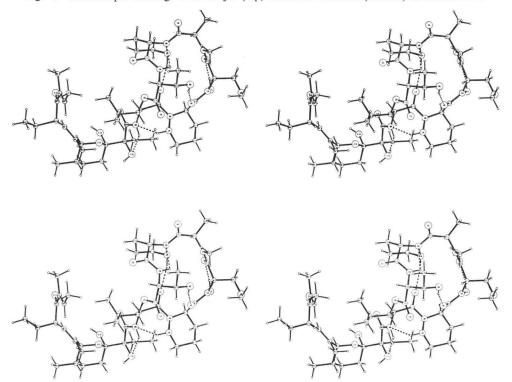


Fig. 5. Stereoscopic drawings of the major (top) and minor rotamer (bottom) of azinothricin.

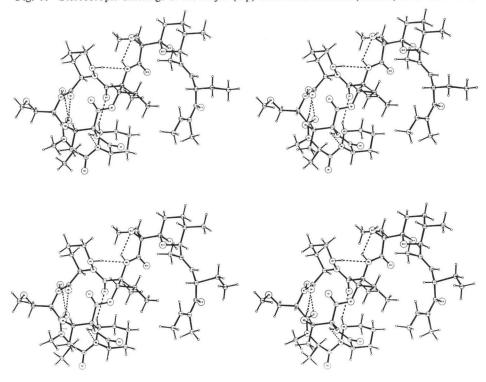


Fig. 4. Stereoscopic drawings of the major (top) and minor rotamer (bottom) of azinothricin.

by a 100 MHz ¹H NMR spectrum.

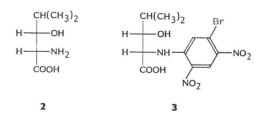
The corresponding 50.3 MHz ¹³C NMR spectrum showed 10 *C*-methyl groups at 8.33, 11.41, 11.95, 12.26, 13.22, 14.79, 14.96, 17.77, 18.95, 19.29; 8 CH₂ groups at 21.19, 21.38, 24.16, 24.46, 26.04, 27.34, 27.83, 28.38; 2 NCH₂ groups at 45.71 and 48.05; OCH₂ (C23) at 68.57; NCH₃ (C27), OCH₃ (C49) and 12 CH groups at 29.43, 29.70, 32.45, 45.27, 47.73, 51.33, 52.43, 53.85, 54.70, 56.28, 59.25, 64.85, 78.71, 82.55; CH-36 and 40 at 128.56, 136.79; C29 at 80.17; C30 at 99.67; C35 and/or C39 at 133.80; lactone carbonyl and 6 *N*-carbonyl at 169.11, 170.35, 170.92, 171.09, 172.89, 173.17, 175.32; and C38 carbonyl at 207.44. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra, including a plot representing a refocused INEPT experiment set for CH₂ carbons are shown in Fig. 3.

FAB mass spectrometry suggested a molecular weight of 1,002, but the peak m/z 1,002 was subsequently interpreted as M-H₂O in view of a crystallographic analysis indicating a molecular weight of 1,020.

The crystal selected for the Roentgen diffraction data was approximately $0.14 \times 0.20 \times 0.7$ mm (Hilger-Watts diffractometer, Ni-filtered CuK α radiation, $\theta - 2\theta$ scans, pulse-height discrimination, data not corrected for absorption). Of the 4,537 independent reflections for $\theta < 57^{\circ}$, 2,879 were considered to be observed [I>2.5 σ (I)].

The acetone monosolvate is orthorhombic, space group $P_{2_12_12_1}$, a=9.778(2), b=20.700(4), c=29.574(6) Å, and $d_{caled}=1.198$ g cm⁻³ for Z=4 ($C_{49}H_{80}N_8O_{15}\cdot C_3H_6O$, MW 1,079.29). In the crystal, the ethyl group attached to C37 was disordered. This disorder was described by resolving the ethyl group into two moieties. Thus, for approximately 60% of the molecules in the crystal, the ethyl moiety was oriented as shown in Fig. 4 and for the remaining 40%, it had the orientation as in Fig. 5. The hydroxyl group O(11)H was weakly hydrogen bonded to O50 of the acetone molecule. The instability of this hydrogen bond is indicated by the tendency of the acetone molecules to escape readily from the crystal. For this reason, the crystal was coated with epoxy cement to minimize acetone evolution during data collection and to preserve crystallinity.

The structure was solved by a multiple-solution procedure⁵⁾ and was refined by block-diagonal least squares in which the matrix was partitioned into three blocks. In the final refinement, the non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically, except for the carbon atoms of the two resolved ethyl groups, which were refined isotropically. The occupancy factors of the atoms of the ethyl moiety in the major rotamer were adjusted to 0.6, and to 0.4 for those in the minor rotamer, so as to obtain approximately equal isotropic thermal parameters for the corresponding atoms in the two ethyl groups. The hydrogen atoms were included in the structure factor calculations but their parameters were not refined. The final discrepancy indices are R=0.055 and wR=0.048 for the 2,879 observed reflections.



The final difference map has no peaks greater than ± 0.2 eÅ⁻³.

The assignment of the absolute configuration to azinothricin is based on the determination of the L-configuration of *erythro*-3-hydroxyleucine (2), isolated from the antibiotic hydrolysate and also known as a constituent of the antibiotic telomycin.^{6,7)}

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Azinothricin (1 g) was hydrolyzed in a sealed tube with 6 N HCl (15 ml) at 100°C for 18 hours. The filtered hydrolysate was evaporated, the residue dissolved in water and the solution chromatographed on a column of Dowex 50X-8, 25×680 mm, $200 \sim 400$ mesh, with a pH 3.44 citrate buffer as mobile phase (19.6 g trisodium citrate dihydrate and 11.7 ml concd HCl per liter, 400 ml). *Erythro*-3-hydroxyleucine was eluted with a pH 4.12 buffer (19.6 g trisodium citrate dihydrate, 11.7 g NaCl and 8.34 ml concd HCl per liter, 400 ml). Desalting on Dowex 50 (H⁺) furnished the pure amino acid as amorphous residue (50 mg), Rf 0.30 (TLC, E. Merck, silica gel 60, 1-BuOH - AcOH - H₂O, 4: 1: 1), 100 MHz ¹H NMR (D₂O) δ 1.46 (d, 6, J=7 Hz, Me₂C), 2.40 (m, 1, H4), 4.03 (dd, 1, J_{2,3}=4 and J_{3,4}= 9 Hz, H3), 4.41 (d, 1, J_{2,3}=4 Hz, H2).

Anal Caled for C₆H₁₃NO₃: C 48.97, H 8.90, N 9.52. Found: C 48.37, H 8.98, N 9.54.

A solution of 1-bromo-3-fluoro-4,6-dinitrobenzene⁸⁾ (130 mg) in ethanol (2 ml) was added to a solution of the amino acid (25 mg) in water (1 ml) containing sodium hydrogen carbonate (84 mg). The mixture was agitated in the dark overnight, evaporated and the residue was partitioned between water and ether. The aqueous phase was extracted again with ether, acidified (1 M HCl) and extracted repeatedly with ether. The combined extracts from the acidified solution were washed with brine and evaporated, the residue was chromatographed on silicic acid with chloroform as mobile phase. Chloroform containing 2% acetone eluted the major yellow band. Evaporation of the pooled fractions gave 3 which was crystallized from acetone - cyclohexane as yellow plates, Rf 0.64 (CHCl₃ - MeOH - AcOH, 16:4:1), mp 116~117°C, 100 MHz ¹H NMR (CDCl₃ - DMSO- d_6 , 20:1) δ 1.04, 1.11 (2d, 3 each, J=5 Hz each, Me₂C), 2.02 (m, 1, H4), 2.16 (s, 4, 2/3 Me₂CO), 3.64 (dd, 1, $J_{2,3}=$ 3.5 and $J_{3,4}=8$ Hz, H3), 4.45 (dd, 1, $J_{2,3}=$ 3.5 and $J_{2, NH}=8$ Hz, H2), 6.30 (br, 2, COOH and OH), 7.29 (s, 1, H2 of aromatic), 8.97 (s, 1, H5 of aromatic), 9.12 (d, 1, $J_{2, NH}=8$ Hz, NH). Mass spectrum m/z (relative intensity) 392 (M+H, <1), 373 (M-H₂O, <1), 358 (M-H₂O-Me, <1), 319 (M-Me₂CH(CHOH)+H, 5), 301 (2).

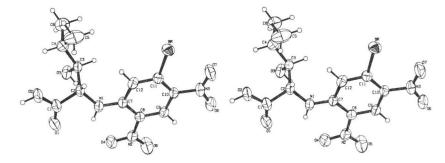
Anal Calcd for $C_{12}H_{14}BrN_3O_7 \cdot C_3H_6O$:C 40.02, H 4.48, N 9.33.Found:C 40.25, H 4.40, N 9.27.

 $[\alpha]_{\rm D}^{25}$ -39.92° (*c* 0.76, EtOAc).

Roentgen diffraction studies (*vide supra*) were based on a diamond-shaped plate approximately $0.1 \times 0.4 \times 0.4$ mm in size. Of the 2,210 accessible reflections with $\theta < 76^{\circ}$, the intensities of 2,136 were significantly greater than background [I>2.5 σ (I)] and were used in the analysis. The crystal was of space group P2₁, a=15.878(8), b=6.513(2), c=9.881(3) Å, $\beta=104.52(3)^{\circ}$, and $d_{caled}=1.511$ g cm⁻³ for Z=2 (C₁₂H₁₄BrN₃O₇·C₃H₆O, MW 450.25).

The structure (Fig. 6) was solved by standard Patterson and Fourier techniques. Full-matrix least squares were used for all refinements. The imaginary part of the anomalous dispersion correction ($\Delta f''$) was set to zero during the preliminary refinement of the structure. At the conclusion of this refinement (all atoms anisotropic) a difference Fourier was calculated. Peaks were found on this map at reasonable positions for almost all hydrogen atoms except those of the acetone molecule. The positions of all hydrogen atoms were calculated. These hydrogens were included in all subsequent calculations but their parameters were not refined. The final unweighted discrepancy index is R = 0.033 for the 2,136 observed reflections.

To establish the absolute configuration, two separate refinements were made following the conclusion of the preliminary refinement in which $\Delta f''$ had been ignored. In one refinement the correct Fig. 6. Stereoscopic drawing of 3 showing its conformation and absolute configuration. The acetone molecule has been omitted. The thermal ellipsoids are scaled to the 50% probability level and the hydrogen atoms are shown as spheres of a fixed, arbitrary size.



value of $\Delta f''$ was used and in the other the sign of $\Delta f''$ was reversed (equivalent to refining the antipode). The final weighted R values for the two refinements were 0.0553 and 0.0574. Thus, according to the test described by HAMILTON,⁰⁾ the absolute configuration can be taken as the one corresponding to the lower R value at a significance level exceeding 0.995.

This determination of the absolute configuration was corroborated by the classical method of BIJVOET¹⁰. For each reflection hkl for which $F_o(hkl) > 20$ e, structure factors were calculated for the reflection and the related reflection $h\bar{k}l$. (In the space group P2₁ the reflections hkl and $h\bar{k}l$ are, in the absence of the anomalous dispersion, equal. When one takes into account the anomalous dispersion correction, however, they no longer are equal). Of the reflections with $F_o > 20$ e, there were 26 pairs for which the difference in the calculated intensities, $\Delta I_o(hkl) = I_o(hkl) - I_o(h\bar{k}l)$, exceeded 5% of the average intensity of the pair. For each of these 26 reflection pairs, the intensities of four symmetry equivalent reflections were measured. Taking into account the chirality of the molecule and the anomalous dispersion, each set of four reflections can be divided into two sets of two with $I(hkl) = I(\bar{h}k\bar{l})$ and $I(h\bar{k}l) = I(\bar{h}\bar{k}\bar{l})$ but with $I(hkl) \neq I(h\bar{k}l)$. After measuring the intensities of these selected reflections the differences in the observed intensities $\Delta I_o(hkl) = I_o(hkl) - I_o(h\bar{k}l)$ were compared with the calculated differences (based on the absolute configuration previously assigned). In 22 of the 26 cases the signs of $\Delta I_o(hkl)$ and $\Delta I_o(hkl)$ were the same and in the other four cases the magnitude of $\Delta I_o(hkl)$ was too small for the sign to be considered significant. Thus, the classical method of BIJVOET¹⁰ fully confirmed the absolute configuration as determined by the method of HAMILTON.

The final atomic parameters and the anisotropic thermal parameters have been deposited at the Crystallographic Data Center. Since the relative configuration of 1 was established on the basis of its crystallographic analysis, the absolute configuration was now defined as well and is reflected in 1 by the use of topographic stereodescriptors.¹¹⁾

Biological Properties

Azinothricin exhibited LD₅₀ values in mice of 10 (intravenous), 3.2 (intraperitoneal), 420 (subcutaneous) and >500 (oral route) mg/kg. MIC values as determined by the broth micro-dilution method ranged from <0.008 to 0.016 μ g/ml for 31 strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* and were 0.063 μ g/ml for 16 strains of *Enterococcus faecalis*, 0.016 μ g/ml for 2 strains of *Streptococcus pyogenes*, and <0.008 μ g/ml for 2 strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Azinothricin was also active against the two anaerobes *Clostridium histolyticum* and *Clostridium septicum* with MIC values of 0.001 μ g/ml each but was much less active against Gram-negative bacteria and fungi.

Acknowledgment

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