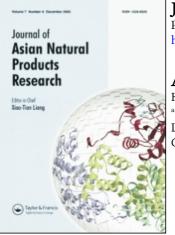
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Alkaloids from Anabasis aphylla L.

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A new pyridine alkaloid **1**, together with three known alkaloids *N*-methylanabasine (**2**), anabasamine (**3**), and isonicoteine (**4**), was isolated from the aerial part of *Anabasis aphylla* L. Their structures were elucidated by spectroscopic analysis.

Keywords: Anabasis aphylla L; chemical constituents; pyridine alkaloid; spectroscopic analysis

1. Introduction

The family Chenopodiaceae has 38 genera and 184 species, mostly distributed in the desert of Xinjiang province, northwest of China [1]. Since 1930, the chemical constituents from the genus of Anabasis have been reported, including alkaloids, steroids, terpenoids, and flavonoids [2]. The plant Anabasis aphylla L. was used as pesticide in the local regions [3], and in our continuous study to find antibacterial active components, a new pyridine alkaloid 1, along with three known alkaloids, N-methylanabasine (2), anabasamine (3), and isonicoteine (4), was obtained using column chromatography (CC) from the chloroform part of the crude ethanolic extract of this plant. Herein, we describe the isolation and structural elucidation of the new alkaloid.

2. Results and discussion

Compound **1** was obtained as a yellow oil. The molecular formula was determined as $C_{20}H_{20}N_4$ by positive HR-ESI-MS ion peak at m/z 317.1766 [M + H]⁺. ¹H NMR spectrum (Table 1) of **1** showed 3-substituted

pyridine moieties and 1-substituted piperidine group. Based on the ¹H⁻¹H COSY analysis, the spin coupling system of protons at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 9.17 (1H, s, H-2''), 8.63 (1H, d, J = 4.8 Hz, H-6''), 8.31 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-4"), and 7.40 (1H, dd, J = 4.8, 8.0 Hz, H-5"), and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 8.66 (1H, s, H-2^{*III*}), 8.50 (1H, d, J = 4.8 Hz, H-6^{*III*}), 7.83 $(1H, d, J = 8.0 \text{ Hz}, \text{ H-4}^{\prime\prime\prime})$, and 7.28 (1H, dd, $J = 4.8, 8.0 \text{ Hz}, \text{H-5}^{\prime\prime\prime}$), displayed the existence of two 3-substituted pyridyl moieties. Another 2,5-disubstituted pyridyl moiety was observed from the protons at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 8.75 (1H, s, H-6'), 7.95 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-4'), and 7.30 (1H, d, $J = 8.0 \,\mathrm{Hz}, \mathrm{H-3'}$). The piperidine moiety showed the presence of two methine protons at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.94 (1H, d, J = 10.2 Hz, H-2) and 3.90 (1H, d, J = 10.2 Hz, H-6), two overlapped methylene protons at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.84 (2H, m, H_a-3,5) and 1.60 (2H, m, He-3,5), and one methylene proton at δ_{H} 2.03 (1H, m, H_a-4) and 1.69 (1H, m, H_e-4). $^{13}C\,$ NMR (Table 1) and DEPT spectra of 1 exhibited 20 carbons including four aromatic quaternary carbons at δ_C 153.7 (C-2'), 140.4 (C-3"), 139.8 (C-5'), and 134.7 (C-3"); 11 aromatic tertiary carbons at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 149.7 (C-6"), 148.9 (C-6'), 148.7 (C-6"), 148.6

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Table 1. ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data and HMBC correlations of compound 1 (in CDCl₃, *J* in Hz)^a.

Position	δ_{H}	δ_{C}	HMBC
2	$3.94 (1H_a, J = 10.2)$	59.6	C-6
3	$1.84 (1H_a, m) 1.60 (1H_e, m)$	34.4	C-5, C-4
4	2.03 (1H _a , m) 1.69 (1H _e , m)	25.3	C-2, C-6
5	$1.84 (1H_a, m) 1.60 (1H_e, m)$	34.4	C-3, C-4
6	$3.90 (1H_a, J = 10.2)$	59.9	C-6′
2'	_	153.7	
3'	7.30 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$)	120.4	C-2′, C-5′, C-3″
4'	7.95 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$)	135.4	C-2′, C-6′, C-6
5'	_	139.8	
6'	8.75 (1H, s)	148.9	C-2′, C-4′, C-6
2"	9.17 (1H, s)	148.0	C-2′, C-6″, C-4″
3″	_	134.7	
4″	8.31 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$)	134.2	C-2′, C-6″, C-2″
5″	7.40 (1H, dd, $J = 4.8, 8.0$)	123.5	C-6", C-3"
6″	8.63 (1H, d, $J = 4.8$)	149.7	C-2", C-4"
2‴	8.66 (1H, s)	148.6	C-6 ^{///} , C-4 ^{///} , C-2
3‴	_	140.4	
4‴	7.83 (1H, d, $J = 8.0$)	134.4	C-2", C-6", C-2
5‴	7.28 (1H, dd, $J = 4.8, 8.0$)	123.4	C-3 ^{///} , C-6 ^{///}
6'''	8.50 (1H, d, $J = 4.8$)	148.7	C-2", C-4", C-5"

^a Experiments were run at 400 MHz for ¹H and 100 MHz for ¹³C.

(C-2"), 148.0 (C-2"), 135.4 (C-4'), 134.4 (C-4^{///}), 134.2 (C-4^{//}), 123.5 (C-5^{//}), 123.4 (C-5^{///}), and 120.4 (C-3'); two tertiary carbons at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 59.6 (C-2) and 59.9 (C-6); and three methylene carbons at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 34.3 (overlapped, C-3, C-5) and 25.3 (C-4). It was easily recognized that the 2- and 6-positions of the piperidine ring were substituted by pyridine moieties, respectively, which was further supported by HMBC analysis. The HMBC spectrum (Figure 1) showed correlations between the protons at δ 7.83 (H-4^{///}) and 8.66 (H-2^{///}) and the carbon at δ 59.6 (C-2), which indicated that the 2-position of piperidine was connected to the 3^{*III*}-position of pyridine. The correlations between the protons at $\delta 7.95$ (H-4') and 8.75 (H-6') and the carbon at δ 59.6 (C-6), and between the protons at $\delta 9.17$ (H-2") and 8.31 (H-4") and the carbon at $\delta 153.7$ (C-2'), were also readily observed, which indicated that the 6-position of the piperidine ring was adjacent to the 5'-position of 3"-2' bipyridyl moiety. Thus, the structure of **1** was elucidated as 2-(pyridin-3-yl)-6-(2-(pyridin-3-yl) pyridin-5-yl) piperidine.

3. Experimental

3.1 General experimental procedures

The optical rotations were measured with a Horiba SEPA-300 spectropolarimeter. IR spectrum was obtained on a Bruker Vector-22 infrared spectrophotometer with KBr pellets. UV spectrum was taken on a Hewlett

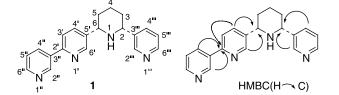


Figure 1. Structure and key HMBC correlations of 1.

Packard 8453 spectrophotometer. NMR spectra (¹H NMR, ¹³C NMR, and DEPT) were recorded on Varian Inova-400 instrument with TMS as an internal standard: δ in ppm and J in Hz. EI-MS and HR-ESI-MS were recorded on VG Autospec-3000 spectrometer.

Thin layer chromatography and CC were performed on plates precoated with silica gels F_{254} and H (Qingdao Haiyang Chemical Co., Ltd., Qingdao, China), respectively. Solvents were distilled before use.

3.2 Plant material

The plants of *A. aphylla* were collected from Xinjiang in July 2005 and authenticated by Dr Y. Ping, Xinjiang Shihezi University. A voucher specimen (XJ20050710) has been deposited in Xinjiang Shihezi University.

3.3 Extraction and isolation

The air-dried aerial parts of *A. aphylla* were extracted with EtOH (95%) for three times under reflux (each process lasting 3 h). The EtOH extract was concentrated under reduced pressure, the residue was suspended in H₂O, and successively extracted with EtOAc and CHCl₃. The solvent was removed to give the EtOAc and CHCl₃ extracts. The CHCl₃ extracts were subjected to CC on silica gel; five fractions were obtained by gradient elution with petroleum ether–diethylamine (100:1 to 50:1) and fraction 4 was further

purified by CC on RP C_{18} silica gel column eluting with CH₃OH—H₂O (2:8 to 4:6) and on Sephadex LH-20 eluting with CHCl₃-—CH₃OH (1:1) to afford compounds **1** (30 mg), **2** (1 g), **3** (20 mg), and **4** (15 mg).

3.3.1 2-(Pyridin-3-yl)-6-(2-(pyridin-3-yl) pyridin-5-yl) piperidine (1)

Yellow oil, $C_{20}H_{20}N_4$. $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 60$ (*c* 1.0, CHCl₃). UV $\lambda_{max}^{CHCl_3}$ (nm) (log ϵ): 263 (3.66), 269 (3.59). IR (KBr) ν_{max} (cm⁻¹): 3415, 3036, 2939, 2863, 1665, 1578, 1479, 1428, 1249, 995, 715. For ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data, see Table 1. EI-MS *m/z*: 316 [M⁺], 273, 210, 182. HR-ESI-MS *m/z*: 317.1766 [M + H]⁺ (calcd for C₂₀H₂₁N₄, 317.6555).

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