CHEMISTRY OF ACRONYCINE IV. MINOR CONSTITUENTS OF ACRONINE AND THE PHYTOCHEMISTRY OF THE GENUS ACRONYCHIA¹

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ABSTRACT.—In the course of isolating acronycine (1) from an alkaloid fraction of the bark of *Acronychia baueri* (Rutaceae), five alkaloids, 1,2,3-trimethoxy-10-methyl-acridone (9), 1,3,4-trimethoxy-10-methyl-acridone (10), des-N-methyl acronycine (14), normelicopine (5), and noracronycine (2), were isolated. Four of the isolates are new to the genus, and a phytochemical analysis of the genus *Acronychia* is presented.

Acronychia baueri Schott (Rutaceae) is the source of the potent antineoplastic alkaloid acronycine (1) (1,2). In previous reports from this laboratory, we have described the cmr spectra of acronycine and some derivatives (3), the dimerization of noracronycine (2) (4), the trimerization of 2 (5), and the pmr spectra of acronycine and its derivatives (6). During the course of isolating large quantities of acronycine for chemical evaluation, a number of alkaloids were also obtained, and these are the subject of this present report. A brief review of the phytochemistry of the genus Acronychia is presented in Table 1 (7-15) which summarizes the isolation of alkaloids from Acronychia species, classified according to structure, and Table 2 (6-25) which indicates the miscellaneous compounds that have been obtained.

Successive chromatography of the alkaloid mixture from the bark of *A. baueri* on alumina and/or silica gel followed by repeated preparative tlc gave 1,2,3-trimethoxy-10-methyl-acridone (**9**), 1,3,4-trimethoxy-10-methyl-acridone (**10**), des-N-methyl acronycine (**14**), normelicopine (**5**), and noracronycine (**2**).

The uv spectrum of 1,2,3-trimethoxy-10-methyl acridone (9) indicated it to be an acrid-9-one alkaloid, and the mass spectrum revealed a molecular ion at m/z 299. In the pmr spectrum, three methoxyl signals and an N-methyl signal (δ 4.046, 4.035, 3.927, and 3.851) were observed, together with four coupled aromatic protons and a singlet proton at δ 6.627. The most downfield proton (δ 8.513, dd, J=1.6, 8.0 Hz) is attributed to the C8-H, thereby establishing a C1-OCH₃. Comparison with the chemical shift of C4-H (or its equivalent) in a variety of acridone alkaloids (4,6,26,27) indicated that these protons resonate in the region δ 6.23-6.38. However, comparison with the data for 1,2,3-trimethoxy-10-methyl acridone (9) (28) indicated that this compound also exhibited a singlet aromatic proton at δ 6.56. An unambiguous distinction between the 1,2,3-trimethoxy- and 1,2,4-trimethoxy-10-methyl acridone isomers was made on the basis of transient nOe experiments at 360 MHz. Irradiation of H-5 (δ 7.448) caused a 1.5% enhancement in the signal at δ 3.851, thereby demonstrating this to be the 10-methyl resonance. As expected, irradiation of the singlet at δ 6.627 (H-3 or H-4) caused enhancement in two of the three-proton singlets (δ 4.035 and 3.851). Since the latter singlet was also affected by irradiation at H-5, the singlet aromatic proton must be at H-4, not at H-2 or H-3, and the isolate has the structure 9.

1,2,3-Trimethoxy-10-methyl acridone (9) was first synthesized by Hughes and coworkers (29,30) and subsequently isolated from *Vepris bilocularis* (31) and *Melicope leratii* (28), both in the family Rutaceae. It is reported from the genus Acronychia for the first time.

The uv spectrum of 1,3,4-trimethoxy-10-methyl actidone (10) revealed it to be an

¹For paper III in this series, see reference 5.

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Compound	Plant	Plant part ^a	Reference
Acridone alkaloids			
acridone (3)	Acronychia baueri	lf	7
2,3-dimethoxy-1-hydroxy-10- methyl actidone (4)	A. hatlothylla (F. v. Mueil.) Engi.	lf	8
normelicopine (5)	A. baueri	bk	9.6
normelicopidine (6)	A. haueri	bk	2.9
xanthevodine (7)	A. baueri	lf	10
melicopine (8)	A. baueri	bk	2.9.11.12
	A. baueri	lf	7
1,2,3-trimethoxy-10-			
methyl acridone (9)	A. baueri	bk	Ь
1,3,4-trimethoxy-10-			
methylacridone (10)	A. baueri	bk	Ь
melicopidine (11)	A. baueri	bk	9,11,12
-	A. baueri	lf	7
normelicopicine (12)	A. baueri	bk	9
melicopicine (13)	A. baueri	bk	9,13
	A. baueri	lf	7,11,12
Prenylacridone alkaloids			
acronycine (1)	A. baueri	bk	2,9,11,12
des-N-methyl acronycine (14)	A. baueri	bk	b
noracronycine (2)	A. baueri	bk	Ь
acronidine (15)	A. baueri	lf	7
acrophylline (16)	A. haplophylla	bk	14
	A. haplophylla	lf	8
acrophyllidine (17)	A. haplophylla	bk	14
	A. haplophylla	lf	8
Quinoline alkaloids 1,2-dimethyl-quinol-			
4-one (18)	A. baueri	lf	10
Furoquinoline alkaloids			
acronycidine (19)	A. baueri	bk	9,11,12
analianian (20)	A. baueri		/
$\frac{20}{21}$	A. peaunculata (L.) Miq.	wd	15
$kokusaginine\left(21\right) \ldots \ldots$	A bodumeulata	11- 16	/
skimmianine (22)	A. baueri	lf	7

TABLE 1. Alkaloids Isolated from Acronychia Species

^alf=leaf, bk=bark, wd=wood.

^bThis paper.

acrid-9-one alkaloid, and the mass spectrum with an M^+ at m/z 299 indicated the isolate to be an isomer of **9**. The pmr spectrum confirmed the close structural relationship with three methoxyl groups, one *N*-methyl group, a three-proton multiplet of aromatic protons, a doublet at δ 8.35 for the proton *peri* to the carbonyl, and finally a singlet aromatic proton at δ 6.39. On this basis, two structures, the 1,2,4-trimethoxy- and the 1,3,4-trimethoxy- isomers of 10-methyl acridone, were proposed. Direct comparison of the isolate with an authentic sample of 1,3,4-trimethoxy-10-methyl acridone (**10**) established the identity.

1,3,4-Trimethoxy-10-methyl acridone (10) has been synthesized by Hughes and co-workers (30) and subsequently synthesized and isolated from *Teclea boiviniana* (Rutaceae) by Vaquette *et al.* (26). No other previous isolations have been reported.

Compound	Plant	Plant part ^a	Reference	
Acronylin	A. pedunculata	bk	16	
6-Demethylacronylin	A. pedunculata	rt bk	17	
Methyl 4-geranyloxy-	•			
cinnamate	A. baueri	bk	9,13	
Methyl 4-geranyloxy-3-				
methoxy-cinnamate	A. baueri	bk	13	
Geranyl coumarate methyl			-	
ether	A. baueri	bk	9	
Acrovestone	A. pedunculata	bk	18,19	
	A. vestita F.v. Muell.	bk	20	
(+)-Asarinin	A. muelleri (Engl.) Francis	lf	21	
α-Pinene	A. pedunculata	lf	22	
Limonene	A. pedunculata	lf	22	
Bauerenol	A. baueri	bk	13,23	
	A. pedunculata	st bk	24	
β -Sitosterol	A. baueri	bk	9	
•	A. pedunculata	wd	22,25	
Lupeol	A. baueri	bk	2,9	
Stigmasterol	A. baueri	bk	9	
K Oxalate	A. pedunculata	st bk	24	

TABLE 2. Miscellaneous Compounds Isolated from Acronychia Species

^abk=bark, rt=roots, lf=leaf, st=stem.





	R ₁	R_2	R ₃	R ₄	R ₅
3	OCH ₃	н	OCH ₃	Н	CH ₃
4	OH	осн,	OCH ₃	н	CH,
5	OH	OCH,	-OCH ₂ O-		CH ₃
6	OH	-OCI	H₂O-	OCH ₃	CH,
7	OCH ₃	-OCI	H ₂ O-	OCH ₃	н
8	OCH ₃	OCH ₃	-OCH ₂ O-		CH,
9	OCH ₃	OCH ₃	OCH ₃	Н	CH,
10	OCH ₃	н	OCH,	OCH ₃	CH ₃
11	OCH ₃	-OCH ₂ O-		OCH ₃	CH,
12	OH	OCH ₃	OCH ₃	OCH,	CH,
13	OCH ₃	OCH ₃	OCH,	OCH,	CH,





16 $R = -CH_2CH = C(CH_3)_2$ **17** $R = -CH_2CH_2C(OH)(CH_3)_2$





From its uv spectrum, normelicopine (5) was shown to be an acrid-9-one alkaloid, and it, too, displayed a molecular ion at m/z 299. Two methoxyl and/or N-methyl signals, a methylenedioxy signal (δ 5.99), and a strongly H-bonded phenolic OH signal (δ 15.05) were observed in the pmr spectrum together with four coupled aromatic protons, including a strongly deshielded (δ 8.35) doublet of doublets. These data suggested two alternative structures, normelicopine (5) or normelicopidine (6), and direct comparison with an authentic sample of 5 (9) established the identity.

Normelicopine (5) has been isolated previously from A. baueri bark (9), and the compound has been synthesized from melicopine by demethylation (32).

Noracronycine revealed a uv spectrum typical of a member of the acronycine series of alkaloids (4) and displayed a molecular ion at m/z 307, 14 mass units less than acronycine (1). The pmr spectrum displayed a six-proton singlet for a geminal methyl group, one N-methyl (or 0-methyl) group, a pair of doublets (J=9.6 Hz) for the olefinic protons, a singlet aromatic proton (δ 6.19), and four coupled aromatic protons. Most significant was a hydrogen-based hydroxyl proton at δ 14.68, which suggested that the isolated compound was noracronycine (2).² Comparison with an authentic sample, from the demethylation of acronycine (3), confirmed the identity.

Noracronycine (2) is an established natural product, having been isolated previously from *Glycosmis pentaphylla* (33), *Murraya paniculata* (34), and *Boenninghausenia albiflora* (35). It has also been an intermediate in the synthesis of acronycine (1) (36-38).

Des-N-methyl acronycine also displayed a uv spectrum typical of an acronycine-like alkaloid (3), and a molecular ion at m/z 307, indicating it be isomeric with **2**. In the pmr spectrum, signals for a pair of doublets (J=10.0 Hz) were observed at δ 5.53 and 6.81, a singlet at δ 1.47 for the geminal methyl protons, a singlet at δ 6.16 for an aromatic proton, four coupled aromatic protons and a methoxyl (or N-methyl) singlet at δ 3.88. Substitution on the A-ring was established by the observation of a strongly deshielded doublet at δ 8.31 for the proton *peri* to the carbonyl. No strongly hydrogenbonded protons were observed. The accumulated data suggested that the isolated compound was des-N-methyl acronycine (**14**), and direct comparison with an authentic

 $^{^{2}}A$ more detailed discussion of the high-field proton nmr spectra of acronycine derivatives may be found in reference 6.

sample confirmed the identity. The alkaloid has previously been isolated from G. pentaphylla (33) and M. paniculata (34) and synthesized en route to acronycine (1) (39,40).

All of the isolates described above are new to the genus *Acronychia*, with the exception of normelicopine (**5**).

EXPERIMENTAL

GENERAL EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES.—Melting points were determined using a Kofler hot stage microscope and are uncorrected. Ir spectra were recorded with a Beckman model IR 18-A spectrophotometer with polystyrene calibration at 1601 cm^{-1} or with a Nicolet MX-1 FT-IR interferometer; absorbtion bands are recorded in wave numbers (cm⁻¹). Uv spectra were measured with a Beckman model DB-G spectrophotometer. Pmr spectra were recorded in CDCl₃ or CDCl₃+CD₃OD with a Varian T-60A instrument operating at 60 MHz and having a Nicolet Model TT-7 Fourier Transform attachment. High field nuclear magnetic resonance spectra were obtained at the Midwest Regional NMR Facility, University of Illinois at Urbana, on a Nicolet NT-360 instrument. Mass spectra were taken on a Varian MAT 112S double focusing spectrometer.

ISOLATION OF (5), (9), (10), (14), AND (2).—A crude, acronycine-containing mixture of alkaloids from the bark of *Acronychia baueri* (100 g) was chromatographed over a column of neutral alumina³ eluting with C_6H_6 -CHCl₃ and subsequently silica gel ⁴ eluting with CHCl₃-MeOH. Repeated chromatography of the most polar fraction (4.905 g) on silica gel followed by preparative tlc on silica gel 60⁴ afforded 1,2,3trimethoxy-10-methylacridone (9), 1,3,4-trimethoxy-10-methylacridone (10), and des-*N*-methylacronycine (14). Chromatography of the acronycine-containing mixture on silica gel without passage through alumina afforded, after preparative tlc, normelicopine (5) and noracronycine (2).

Normelicopine (**5**, 3.1 mg) was obtained as red needles from CHCl₃, mp 234-236° [Lit. 235.5-236.5° (32)]; ir ν max (KBr) 1575, 1446, 1361, 1321, 1266, 1166, 1127, and 1066 cm⁻¹; uv λ max (EtOH) 251 (log ϵ 3.27), 279 (3.32), 315 (3.11), and 431 nm (2.62); pmr (60 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.96 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 4.00 (s, 3H, -NCH₃), 5.99 (s, 2H, -OCH₂O-), 7.07-7.81 (m, 3H, C5-H, C6-H and C7-H), 8.35 (dd, 1H, J=1.6, 7.9 Hz), and 15.05 (s, 1H, -OH); ms m/z (rel. int.) 300 (16), 299 (M⁺, 86), 285 (17), 284 (100), 254 (34), 170 (10), 158 (26), and 115 (17). Identification was established through comparison with an authentic, synthetic sample.

1,2,3-Trimethoxy-10-methylacridone (9, 11.7 mg) was obtained as pale yellow, rhomboid crystals from CHCl₃-MeOH, mp 157-160° [Lit. 116-118° (30)]; ir ν max (KBr) 1623, 1603, 1496, 1477, 1257, 1192, 1139, 1125, 1100, and 1051 cm⁻¹; uv λ max (EtOH) 272 (log ϵ 3.29) and 393 nm (2.60); pmr (360 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 3.851 (s, 3H, -NCH₃), 3.927 (s, 3H, C1-OCH₃ or C2-OCH₃), 4.035 (s, 3H, C3-OCH₃), 4.046 (s, 3H, C2-OCH₃ or C1-OCH₃), 6.627 (s, 1H, C4-H), 7.270 (ddd, 1H, J=0.7, 7.0, 8.0 Hz, C7-H), 7.448 (dd, 1H, J=0.7, 8.6 Hz, C5-H), 7.665 (ddd, 1H, J=1.6, 7.0, 8.6 Hz, C6-H), and 8.513 (dd, 1H, J=1.6, 8.0 Hz, C8-H); ms m/z (rel. int.) 300 (7), 299 (M⁺, 39), 285 (17), 284 (100), 266 (5), 256 (10), 254 (6), 241 (11), 226 (6), 142.5 (6), 142 (38), 141.5 (7), 127 (9), and 119.5 (13).

1,3,4-Trimethoxy-10-methyl acridone (**10**, 9.3 mg) was obtained as pale yellow, rhomboid crystals from EtOAc, mp 134-137° [Lit. 137° (26)]; ir ν max 1638, 1601, 1589, 1462, 1321, 1210, 1203, 1173, 1096, and 1052 cm⁻¹; uv λ max (EtOH) 264 (log ϵ 4.01), 295 (3.46), and 394 nm (3.26); pmr (60 MHz, CDCl₃), δ 3.70 (s, 3H, -NCH₃), 3.90 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 3.99 (s, 6H, 2 x -OCH₃), 6.39 (s, 1H, C2-H), 7.04-7.76 (m, 3H, C5-H, C6-H and C7-H), and 8.35 (dd, 1H, J=1.4, 7.8 Hz, C8-H); ms m/z (rel. int.) 300 (17), 299 (M⁺, 91), 284 (100), 270 (8), 255 (9), 254 (12), 241 (12), 240 (59), 266 (11), 255 (8), 212 (9), 184 (6), 183 (5), 170 (8), 149.5 (14), 128 (7), 127 (9), and 105 (8). Identification was confirmed by direct comparison with an authentic sample.²

Des-N-methylacronycine (14, 14.6 mg) was obtained as pale yellow, fine prisms from CHCl₃-MeOH, mp 253-256° [Lit. 268-270° (33), 218-219° (39), 237-240° (40)]; ir ν max (KBr) 3530, 3325, 3200, 3130, 2975, 1630, 1600, 1575, 1535, 1355, 1313, 1202, 1143, 1104, and 756 cm⁻¹; uv λ max (EtOH) 252 (sh) (log ϵ 3.60), 266 (3.76), 283 (3.55), 293 (3.58), 307 (3.18), 335 (2.73), and 391 nm (2.96), λ max (EtOH+KOH) 252 (sh), 266, 275 (sh), 293, 307, 335, 398, 425 (sh), and 451 nm; pmr (60 MHz, CDCl₃+CD₃OD) δ 1.47 (s, 6H, -C(CH₃)₂), 3.88 (s, 3H, -OCH₃), 5.53 (d, 1H, *J*=10.0 Hz, C2-H), 6.16 (s, 1H, C5-H), 6.81 (d, 1H, *J*=10.0 Hz, C1-H), 6.97-7.50 (m, 3H, C9-H, C10-H and C11-H), and 8.31 (bd d, 1H, *J*=8.0 Hz, C8-H); ms *m*/z (rel. int.) 308 (31), 307 (M⁺, 100), 293 (50), 292 (100), 278 (38), 277 (21), 264 (13), 263 (45), 262 (35), 249 (14), 248 (19), 220 (12), 153.5 (16), 146 (33), 145.5 (11), 131.5 (19), 131 (27), 117 (19), and 102 (17). Identification was confirmed by direct comparison with an authentic sample.⁴

Noracronycine (2, 6.5 mg) was obtained from CHCl₃ as yellow needles, mp 200.5-201°; ir ν max

³Fisher Scientific Co., Fairlawn, NJ.

⁴E. Merck, Darmstadt, West Germany.

(KBr) 1633, 1590, 1569, 1549, 1478, 1333, 1273, 1172, 1146, and 755 cm⁻¹; uv λ max (EtOH) 227 (log ϵ 4.22), 256 (4.41), 284 (4.68), 295 (sh, 4.63), 312 (4.37), 342 (sh, 3.68), and 410 nm (3.69); pmr (60 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.50 (s, 6H, -C(CH₃)₂), 3.83 (s, 3H, -NCH₃), 5.45 (d, 1H, *J*=9.6 Hz, C2-H), 6.19 (s, 1H, C5-H), 6.50 (d, 1H, *J*=9.6 Hz, C1-H), 7.08-7.75 (m, 3H, C9-H and C11-H), 8.26 (d, 1H, *J*=7.6 Hz, C8-H) and 14.68 (s, 1H, -OH); ms *m/z* (rel. int.) 308 (7), 307 (M⁺, 32), 293 (21), 292 (100), 278 (8), 277 (34), 146 (12), 132 (6), and 124.5 (9).

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