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ALKALOIDS FROM *ROLLINIA EMARGINATA*

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As part of an investigation of the Argentinian species of the genus *Rollinia* (Annonaceae) (1) that grow in Argentina, the major alkaloids of *Rollinia emarginata* Schlecht are reported here.

R. emarginata is a shrub widely distributed in the northeast of Argentina. The plant is claimed to be a remedy for tumors in their early stages and for other human diseases. In this communication, we describe the isolation and identification of three alkaloids: (−)-anonaine, (−)-asimilobine, and (+)-reticuline.

EXPERIMENTAL

PLANT MATERIAL.—Aerial parts of *R. emarginata* were collected near Resistencia, Chaco province, Argentina. The plant was authenticated by the "Miguel Lillo" Botanical Institute of San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentina, where a voucher specimen (No. 6193) has been deposited.

EXTRACTION AND ISOLATION OF ALKALOIDS.—Air-dried and powdered stem bark of the plant (1.1 kg) was extracted in a Soxhlet apparatus with $CHCl_3$-MeOH (9:1) until the extract gave a negative test for alkaloids with Mayer's reagent. The organic solution was concentrated under reduced pressure to a syrup: a dark green, semisolid residue was obtained, which was fractionated in a silica gel column (MN 60 H, for tlc) using $CHCl_3$-MeOH (94:6) as eluant. Two aporphines were obtained, (−)-anonaine (60 mg) (2) and (−)-asimilobine (43 mg) (3), and one benzyltetrahydroisoquinoline, (+)-reticuline (52 mg) (4). All alkaloids were identified on the basis of their spectral data (ir, ms, ^{1}H nmr), which were identical with those reported in the literature (2-4). (+)-Reticuline was also compared with an authentic sample.

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