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EUDISTOMIN U AND ISOEUDISTOMIN U, NEW ALKALOIDS FROM THE CARRIBEAN ASCIDIAN LISSOCLINUM FRAGILE

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ABSTRACT.—Chemical investigations of the Caribbean ascidian Lissoclinum fragile (Didemnidae) have resulted in the isolation of new alkaloids which we have designated eudistomin U [1] and isoeudistomin U [2]. Their structures were determined by spectrometric and chemical means.

Marine ascidians are a very rich source of nitrogenous secondary metabolites, and particularly of alkaloids, with most of these occurring in the family Polycitoridae. In contrast, the number of marine alkaloids isolated from the family Didemnidae is rather small, namely, ascididemnin (1), the shermilamines (2), the lamellarins (3), the trididemnic acids (4), and diplamine (5). The varamines (6) possess a thiomethyl group and are the only alkaloids isolated from the genus Lissoclinum, which is known to contain cyclic peptides (7) and macrolides (8). In this paper, we report the structure of two new alkaloids isolated from the genus Lissoclinum, which were obtained using a simplified hplc system for the detection of compounds capable of binding to DNA (9) as a guide for chromatographic separations.

Brown and green color morphs of the colonial ascidian *L. fragile*, which is the host of a symbiotic alga (10), were col-

lected near "Ilet Pigeon" (Cousteau's reservation) Guadeloupe, France, in June 1988, between -30 and -40 m depth. Solvent partition of the crude extract and extensive chromatographic purification, monitored by the aforementioned bioassay (9), allowed the separation of two yellow compounds which we have designated eudistomin U [1] and isoeudistomin U [2].

Accurate mass measurement (peak matching) of the highest ion at m/z 283.10945 in the eims of eudistomin U [1], provided the molecular formula $C_{19}H_{13}N_3$ (M^+ , $\Delta=1.4$ mmu), in agreement with ¹H- and ¹³C-nmr data (see Table 1). The infrared spectrum (CHCl₃) established the presence of conjugated double bonds (ν max 3010 and 1610 cm⁻¹) and of OH and/or NH functionalities (ν max 3600–3400 cm⁻¹). The ¹H-nmr spectrum of eudistomin U displayed the best dispersion when measured in CD₂Cl₂ with 1 drop of CD₃OD.



Position	Сотроила									
	1					2				
	¹ H			¹³ C		¹ H			¹³ C	
	δ (ppm)	mult.	J (Hz)	δ (ppm)	"J _{CH} =10 Hz	δ (ppm)	mult.	J (Hz)	δ (ppm)	^b J _{CH} =10 Hz
1				136.51	H-3					
2						3.90	t	11.7	42.30	H-3
3	8.30	d	6	128.00	H-4	3.20	t	11.7	20.35	H-2
4	8.05	d	6	114.50	H-3				132.06	H-2
4a				121.05	H-3/H-4				125.71	H-3
4b				122.43	H-5/H-6				138.31	H-6/H-8
5	8.20	d	8	123.48	H- 7	7.65	d	7.2	119.07	H- 7
6	7.35	brt	8, 7.3	121.47	H-8	7.41	br t	8, 7.2	124.24	H-8
7	7.60	br t	8, 7.3	131.00	H-5	7.39	brt	8, 7.2	124.96	H-5
8	7.61	d	8	114.87	H-6	7.81	d	7.2	114.48	H-6
8a				143.04	H-5/H-7				142.95	H-5/H-7
9a				132.40	H-4				158.63	H-2
1'				109.32					109.45	
2'	7.97	s		138.00		8.30	s		138.00	
3'a				137.79	H-5'/H-7'				141.10	H-5'/H-7'
4'	7.50	d	8	113.70	H-6′	7.55	d	7.3	113.78	H-6'
5'	7.30	brt	8, 7.2	124.00	H-7′	7.49	brt	8,7.3	129.69	H-7'
6′	7.21	br t	8, 7.2	122.05	H-4′	7.25	brt	8, 7.3	122.69	H-4'
7'	7.80	d	8	120.32	H-5'	7.75	d	7.3	121.70	H-5'
7' a				126.16	H-4′/H-6′				124.90	H-4'/H-6'

TABLE 1. ¹H- (400 MHz) and ¹³C⁴- (100 MHz) Nmr Data for 1^{b} and 2^{b} .

⁴A relaxation delay (4 sec) was used during ¹³C-nmr spectroscopy to improve the signals of quaternary carbons having longer relaxation times. Identification was based on DEPT, QUAT (selective quaternary carbon observation with ¹H decoupling), HMQC and HMBC experiments.

^bNmr data for [1] in CD₂Cl₂+1 drop of CD₃OD; nmr data for 2 in CD₂Cl₂+1 drop of trifluoroacetic acid-d.

Single frequency decoupling and doublequantum filtered COSY nmr verified three spin-coupled networks. Two spin systems, H-5, -6, -7, -8 and H-4', -5', -6'. -7' (see Table 1), constituted signals of disubstituted benzenes. The remaining proton signals were two mutually coupled one-proton signals at H-3 and H-4 (δ 8.05, d and 8.30, d; J=6 Hz) and an olefinic singlet at H-2' (δ 7.97, 1H). Furthermore, broad exchangeable protons (δ 9.5, bs, 2H) were detected in the ¹H-nmr spectrum of eudistomin U in CD₂Cl₂. Due to the limited amount of available compound, the ¹³C-nmr spectrum of 1 was assigned on the basis of reverse 2D nmr (optimized in an HMQC experiment for ${}^{1}J_{CH}=160$ Hz, and in HMBC experiments for ${}^{3}J_{CH} = 10$ Hz for dihedral angles = 180°, and ${}^{3}J_{CH} = 5$ and 3 Hz for dihedral angles= 0°) (11). The high-field signals for the quaternary sp² carbons (C-4a, C-4b, C-1', and C-7'a) and for the protonated carbons C-8 and C-4', at 8 114.87 and 113.70, respectively, were consistent with the β -shielding effect of nitrogen functionalities. The chemical shift values observed during the nmr studies were found to be very close to those reported for a β -carboline moiety (12–14) and for an indole ring (14–16). A large number of mono-, di-, and trisubstituted β -carbolines have already been extracted (12–14) from ascidians (named eudistomins A–T), so this new derivative was called eudistomin U [1].

Only one nuclear Overhauser effect was observed by using the nOe difference nmr spectrometric technique. Irradiation of H-5 produced a marked enhancement (6%) for H-4. In DMSO- d_6 , the ¹H nmr spectrum of **1** showed broad singlets at δ 11.6 for NH-3', at δ 11.2 for NH-9 and a doublet at δ 8.10 with J=2.1 Hz for H-2'. The monoacetylated derivative **1a** with (M⁺) at m/z 326 and (M-42)⁺ at m/z284 in the cims, was produced by acetylation of **1** (excess Ac₂O in pyridine). The ¹H-nmr spectrum of **1** in CD₂Cl₂+1 drop of CD₃OD, confirmed the presence of one acetyl functionality (δ CH₃=2.75) inducing a deshielded effect [δ 7.95 (H-4') and 9.50 (H-2')] on two aromatic protons. This result indicated that the acetyl group was located on the indole ring. The ir spectrum of **1a** showed absorptions of a residual NH (ν max 3550 cm⁻¹) and of amide functionalities (ν max 1655 cm⁻¹). A color change from yellow to pink was correlated with a bathochromic shift in the uv spectrum upon acidification (17) of **1a**, indicating a free base. These results gave considerable support to the proposed structure [**1**] for eudistomin U.

Isoeudistomin U[2] was obtained as a vellow foam. The molecular formula $C_{19}H_{15}N_3$ was determined from the molecular ion at $m/z 285.12578 (M^+, \Delta = 0.7)$ mmu) in the eims (peak matching) and positive parent ion at $286(M^+ + H)$ in the fabms, in conjunction with ¹H- and ¹³Cnmr data (Table 1). However, the cims, fabms, and eims were always found to contain significant ions at m/z 283 (or m/z284, M^+ + H) corresponding to M^+ - 2H (peak matching 283.11005, $\Delta = 0.8$ mmu) and m/z 257 (or 258, M^+ +H) for $M^+ - C_2 H_4$ (peak matching 257.09474, $\Delta = 0.5$ mmu). The ir and uv spectra of 2 were very similar to those of 1.

The 1 H-nmr spectrum of **2** displayed the best dispersion when run in CD_2Cl_2 with two drops of trifluoroacetic acid-d. Single-frequency and double-quantum filtered COSY verified two spin-coupled networks of disubstituted benzenes, H-5, -6, -7, -8 and H-4', -5', -6', -7' (see Table 1). The remaining proton signals were two mutually coupled methylenes H-2 and H-3 (§ 3.9, t, 2H and § 3.2, t, 2H with J=11.7 Hz) and an olefinic singlet H-2' (δ 8.30, 1H). Two supplementary broad exchangeable protons (10.5 ppm) were observed for 2 in CD_2Cl_2 . The ¹³Cnmr spectrum of 2 (Table 1) was assigned mainly on the basis of reverse heteronuclear correlation spectroscopy, HMQC and HMBC, respectively optimized for observing 160 and 10 Hz J_{C-H} couplings.

In the ¹H-nmr spectrum of the

monoacetylated derivative 2a, produced by acetylation of 2, two aromatic protons were found at 8.60 and 8.25 ppm in agreement with a deshielding effect by the acetyl group (δ CH₃=2.72). The monoacetylated derivative 2a showed a molecular ion at m/z 326 (M⁺-2H) and a fragment $(M^+ - 2H - 42)^+$ at m/z 284 in the cims, probably corresponding to more stable ions during mass spectrometric fragmentation, since the ¹H-nmr spectrum of 2a did not show a supplementary unsaturation when compared to those of 2. Selective spin decouplings readily assigned the whole set of aromatic protons. six of them having similar chemical shifts in 2 and 2a. From the uv spectra of 2a, bathochromic shifts were observed upon acidification. The ¹H-nmr spectrum of 2in DMSO- d_6 showed broad singlets at δ 11.6 for NH-3' and at δ 10.5 for NH-9, and a doublet at δ 8.39 with J=2.1 Hz for H-2'. The main structural variation between compounds 1 and 2 was based on observed differences occurring in the ¹³C-nmr spectrum of **2**. The carbon C-9a (8 158.63) was located between two nitrogen atoms like in a pyrrolo [2,3-d] pyrimidine (18) or α -carboline ring (δ 152.2) (14), a deshielded value corresponding to the lack of a β -shielding effect due to the nitrogen atom N-2 in the β -carboline ring. With such a structure, the other deshielded carbon value (δ 138.31 for C-4b) was in agreement with those found for indole alkaloids possessing an unsaturated double bond [e.g., pandoline (19)] or unsaturated functionalities [rhyncophylline derivatives (20)] in an α orientation from the NH group. Therefore, a dihydro α -carboline moiety was proposed for 2 to account for these features. This proposal was confirmed by the HMBC couplings between $C-9a(\delta 158.63)/H-2(\delta 3.90)$ and $C-4a(\delta 3.90)$ 125.71)/H-3 (δ 3.20). The β -carboline ring possibility was thus eliminated as these HMBC couplings could not be obtained with such a structure {cf. the C-H couplings in eudistomin U [1] between C-9a (§ 132.40)/H-4 (§ 8.30) and C-4a (\$121.05)/H-4 (\$8.30) and H-3 (\$ 8.05)}. Moreover, this structure was supported by a conspicuous nOe, observed by using nOe difference nmr technique, wherein irradiation of H-2' produced a marked enhancement for H-3 (12%), a strong nOe that implied a close proximity of the respective ring residues. This result did not fit well with the aforementioned result obtained on the β -carboline moiety of eudistomin U (i.e., an nOe between H-5 and H-4) but was in agreement with the proposed dihydro α carboline structure, placing the indole ring as shown in 2. This was also confirmed by an observed nOe enhancement (8%) of H-5 (δ 7.65) when H-7' (δ 7.75) was irradiated. The α -carboline skeleton-a quite rare moiety in natural product chemistry-has already been described from a solitary tunicate (14).

Alkaloids 1 and 2 were found to be capable of binding to DNA in a chromatographic purification procedure (9), but their detailed biological profiles have not been determined as yet. However, the compounds showed a strong antibacterial activity against Agrobacterium tumefaciens, employing this crown-gall bioassay (21,22) to estimate antineoplastic potencies. Antibacterial activities, however, were not detected against marine strains. Compounds 1 and 2 did not show cytotoxic effects against CEM human leukemic lymphoblasts. The presence of eudistomin derivatives in an ascidian of the family Didemnidae is surprising since they are usually found only in the family Polycitoridae. However, eudistomin K (23) has also been isolated from the family Polyclinidae. These features could be related to a possible microbial origin of such molecules, especially for ascidians that harbor prokaryotic unicellular symbionts.

EXPERIMENTAL

GENERAL EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES.—Uv and Ft-ir spectra were recorded on Perkin-Elmer model spectrophotometers. ¹H- and ¹³C-nmr spectra (respectively at 400 MHz and 100 MHz) were recorded on a JEOL-EX400 instrument. Mass spectra were obtained on a VG ZAB HS instrument. Standard parameters were used for 2D nmr experiments.

EXTRACTION AND ISOLATION.—The colonial ascidian (700 g dry wt) was collected in June 1988 near "Ilet Pigeon," (Cousteau's reservation) Guadeloupe, France, at between -30 and -40 m depth. A voucher specimen has been deposited in the Observatoire Océanologique, Banyuls sur Mer, France. The material was preserved in EtOH, then ground and extracted with CHCl₃-MeOH (1:1). After filtration and evaporation, the crude extract was partitioned between H2O and successively hexane, Et₂O, CHCl₂ and BuOH. After evaporation, the BuOH-soluble material was dissolved in acidic H2O and extracted with CH2Cl2. The organic-soluble material was evaporated to yield 2 g of a crude organic extract. Chromatographic separations were done on a Si gel column with mixtures of $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$. The novel isoeudistom in U(2, 8 mg, 0.0012% dry wt) and eudistomin U (1, 5 mg, 0.0007% dry wt) were eluted with CH₂Cl₂-MeOH (90:10), purified by a reversed-phase open column (RP-8, MeOH/H2O, 1:1) and by repeated hplc on a C_{18} reversed-phase column with a 75:25 solvent mixture of MeOH-H₂O.

EUDISTOMIN U [1].—Yellow foam; $uv \lambda max$ (MeOH)(e) 220 (8000), 240 (3500), 252 (10500), 270 (7700), 278 (7210), 340 (9020), 380 (13000), 470 (5120) nm; ir v max (CHCl₃) 3600, 3520, 3010, 2981, 1610, 1405, 1290, 1255, 1221, 890 cm^{-1} ; hreims (peak matching) found m/z283.10945 (M⁺), C₁₉H₁₃N₃ requires 283.11087; eims m/z 283 (100) M⁺, 128 (37), 127 (19), 85 (36), 84 (22); cims m/z 284 (M⁺+H, 100) 213 (51), 133 (82); ¹H- and ¹³C-nmr spectra, see Table 1; ¹H nmr (CD₂Cl₂) δ 9.5 (2H, br s), 8.46 (1H, d, J=5.6 Hz, H-3), 8.41 (1H, br s, H-2'), 8.38 (1H, d, J=5.6 Hz, H-4), 8.35 (1H, d, J=8 Hz, H-5), 7.82(1H,d,J=8Hz,H-4'), 7.78(1H,d,J=8Hz,H-8), 7.64 (1H, d, J=8 Hz, H-7'), 7.43 (1H, br t, J=7.3 and 8 Hz, H-6), 7.42 (1H, br t, J=7.3and 8 Hz, H-7), 7.32 (1H, br t, J=7.3 and 8 Hz, H-6'), 7.24 (1H, br t, J=7.3 and 8 Hz, H-5'); selected values from ¹H nmr in DMSO- $d_6 \delta$ 11.6 (1H, br s, NH-3'), 11.2 (1H, s, NH-9), 8.10 (1H, d, J = 2.1 Hz, CH-2').

Acetylation of **1**.—Standard procedures were used. Purification was performed with reversedphase hplc (12% MeOH/H₂O) to obtain 1 mg of pure monoacetylated derivative [**1a**]; uv λ max (MeOH) (ϵ) 220 (7980), 240 (3480), 268 (5840), 289 (5120), 303 (4700), 349 (3100), 364 (3050) nm; uv in MeOH+1 drop of 1N HCl λ max (ϵ) 258 (8570), 268 (7390), 303 (5340), 325 (4360), 374 (3078), 393 (2930) nm; ir ν max (CHCl₃) 3550, 3050, 2997, 2988, 1655, 1598, 1455, 1248, 1205, 897 cm⁻¹; cims m/z 326 (M⁺+H, 100), 284 (M⁺+H-42, 91); ¹H nmr of [**1a**] in CD₂Cl₂+1 drop of CD₃OD δ 9.50 (1H, s, H-2'), 8.30 (1H, d, J=6 Hz, H-3), 8.21 (1H, d, J=8 Hz, H-5), 8.05 (1H, d, J=6 Hz, H-4), 7.95 (1H, d, J=8 Hz, H-4'), 7.80 (1H, d, J=8 Hz, H-7'), 7.62 (1H, br t, J=8 and 7.3 Hz, H-8), 7.60 (1H, br t, J=8 and 7.3 Hz, H-7), 7.35 (1H, br t, J=8 and 7.3 Hz, H-6), 7.31 (1H, br t, J=8 and 7.2 Hz, H-5'), 7.20 (1H, br t, J=8 and 7.2 Hz, H-6'), 2.75 (3H, s, Ac).

ISOEUDISTOMIN U [2].—Yellow foam; uv λ max (MeOH) (e) 250 (10230), 270 (7700), 278 (7150), 340 (9160), 380 (12990), 470 (5140) nm; ir v max (CHCl₃) 3600, 3515, 3046, 2987, 1605, 1422, 1282, 1245, 1200, 895 cm⁻¹; hreims (peak matching) found m/z 285.12578 (M⁺), C₁₉H₁₅N₃ requires 285.12651, 283.11005 (M⁺-2H), C₁₉H₁₃N₃ requires 233.11087, 257.09474 $(M^+ - C_2 H_4), C_{17} H_{11} N_3$ requires 257.09523; eims *m*/*z* 285 (M⁺, 100), 283 (90), 257 (30), 128 (37), $127(19), 85(36), 84(22); fabms m/z 286(M^+ + H),$ 100) 258 (48), 214 (51), 133 (82); ¹H- and ¹³Cnmr spectra, see Table 2; ¹H nmr (CD₂Cl₂) δ 10.5 (2H, br s), 8.60 (1H, s, H-2'), 8.00 (1H, d, J=8) $H_z, H_{-8}, 7.90 (1H, d, J=8 H_z, H_{-4'}), 7.79 (1H, H_{-4'})$ d, J=8 Hz, H-7'), 7.71 (1H, d, J=8 Hz, H-5), 7.60 (1H, br t, J=7.3 and 8 Hz, H-5'), 7.50-7.35 (3H, H-7+H-6'+H-6), 3.82 (2H, t, J=12 Hz,H-2), 3.28 (2H, t, J=12 Hz, H-3); selected values from ¹H nmr in DMSO- $d_6 \delta$ 11.6 (1H, br s, NH-3'), 10.5 (1H, s, NH-9), 8.39 (1H', d_{J} = 2.1 Hz, CH-2').

Acetylation of 2 .--- Standard procedures were used. Purification was performed with reversedphase hplc (12% H₂O in MeOH) to obtain 1 mg of pure monoacetylated derivative [2a]; uv λ max $(MeOH)(\epsilon) 250(15970), 290(9330), 340(7960),$ 360 (6925), 400 (2196), 460 (594) nm; uv λ max (MeOH+1 drop of 1N HCl) (€) 270 (8412), 287 (4452), 313 (7269), 328 (6888), 355 (5233), 393 (3110) nm; ir v max (CHCl₃) 3545, 3050, 2997, 2987, 1655, 1600, 1452, 1245, 1200, 897 cm⁻¹; cims m/z 326 (M⁺+H, 100), 284 (M⁺+H-42, 19); 'H nmr (CD₂Cl₂+1 drop of CF₃COOD) δ 8.60 (1H, s, H-2'), 8.25 (1H, d, J=8 Hz, H-4'), 7.82 (1H, s, H-8), 7.75 (1H, d, J=8 Hz, H-7'), 7.55 (1H, d, J=8 Hz, H-5), 7.50 (1H, t, J=7.3 and 8 Hz, H-5'), 7.41 (1H, t, J=7.2 and 8 Hz, H-6), 7.39 (1H, t, J=7.2 and 8 Hz, H-7), 7.25 (1H, t, J=7.3 and 8 Hz, H-6'), 3.55 (2H, t, J=12 Hz, H-2), 3.30 (2H, t, J=12 Hz, H-3), 2.72 (3H, s, Ac).

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