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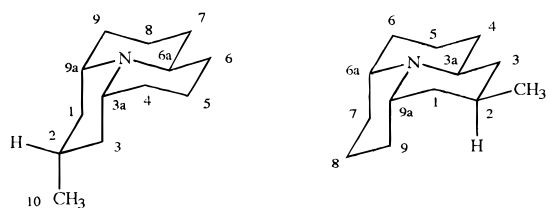
2-Dehydrococcinelline, a New Defensive Alkaloid from the Ladybird Beetle *Anatis ocellata* (Coccinellidae)B. Lebrun,[†] J. C. Braekman,^{*†} D. Daloz,[†] and J. M. Pasteels[‡]

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Received June 2, 1997[©]

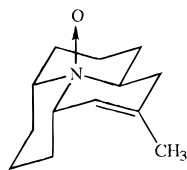
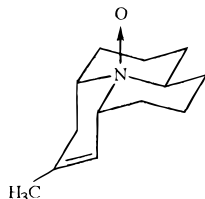
2-Dehydrococcinelline (**6**), a novel coccinellid defensive alkaloid, has been isolated from the European ladybird *Anatis ocellata*. Its structure was established by spectroscopic methods and confirmed by chemical correlation with precoccinelline (**1**).

Ladybird beetles (Coleoptera; Coccinellidae) are well protected against predation and a variety of alkaloids, which contribute to this protection, have been characterized from these beetles.^{1,2} Several of these alkaloids belong structurally to the 2-methylperhydro-9b-azaphenylene ring system [e.g. precoccinelline (**1**), coccinelline (**2**), hippodamine (**3**), and convergine (**4**)] which appears to be specific to these insects. In a preliminary chemical survey of a variety of coccinellid beetles,³ we reported the presence in the European species *Anatis ocellata* (L.) of two alkaloids [AO₁ (M⁺, 191) and AO₂ (M⁺, 207)], the mass spectra of which suggested that they are the *N*-oxide/free base pair of an alkaloid belonging to the 2-methyldecahydro-9b-azaphenylene ring system. At that time, because of lack of biological material, the structure elucidation of AO₁ and AO₂ could not be achieved. In the present study we report the isolation and structure determination of the major alkaloid AO₂ obtained by extraction of whole bodies of *A. ocellata*.



(1) Precoccinelline
(2) Coccinelline (*N*-oxide)

(3) Hippodamine
(4) Convergine (*N*-oxide)

(5) Hippocasine *N*-oxide

(6) 2-Dehydrococcinelline

The insects (35 adults) were exhaustively extracted with CH₃OH, and successive chromatographic separa-

tions of the extract (352 mg) on alumina and silica gel led to the isolation of the main Dragendorff positive compound AO₂, 1.4 mg. HREIMS measurements coupled to the presence of 13 signals in the proton decoupled ¹³C NMR spectrum showed the molecular formula to be C₁₃H₂₁NO. Characteristic fragment ions were observed at *m/z* 191.1667 (46; C₁₃H₂₁N), 190.1599 (93; C₁₃H₂₀N), 188.1448 (27; C₁₃H₁₈N), 176.1438 (100; C₁₂H₁₈N), 162 (20) and 148 (16) reminiscent of the mass spectrum of hippocasine *N*-oxide (**5**),⁴ a defensive alkaloid isolated 20 years ago by Ayer *et al.*⁴ from *Hippodamia caseyi*, a ladybird indigenous to Western Canada. Loss of O and OH from the molecular ion is distinctive of a *N*-oxide group. The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of AO₂ contained signals for one trisubstituted double bond, one vinylic methyl group, three methines α to the nitrogen atom, and seven methylenes. All of these data were suggestive of formula **6**, the connectivities of which were further corroborated by a 2D NMR study (¹H-¹H COSY, HMQC, HMBC). The complete assignments of the ¹H and ¹³C NMR signals are reported in the Experimental Section. Most noteworthy in the ¹H-¹H COSY spectrum were the correlations between H-3 (δ 5.19) and H-3a (δ 3.97) and H₂-1 (δ 2.17 and 2.56), and between the latter and H-9a (δ 3.51).

AO₂ thus has the same connectivity as hippocasine *N*-oxide (**5**), the structure of which has been determined by X-ray diffraction analysis.⁴ At the time, neither ¹³C nor high-field ¹H NMR spectra of **5** had been reported so that we could not make an accurate comparison between **5** and AO₂, but the reported chemical shift for the vinylic proton of **5** (δ 5.42, instead of 5.19 for AO₂) suggested that the two compounds were not identical and could thus be stereoisomeric. The establishment of the relative configuration of AO₂ was based on the following NMR arguments. The ¹³C chemical shifts of the carbon atoms adjacent to the nitrogen atom for coccinelline (**2**), convergine (**4**), and AO₂ are reported in Table 1. It appears from the examination of this table that C-3a is shielded in convergine while C-6a is shielded in coccinelline. These shieldings can be attributed to gauche interactions between H-3a/H_{7ax} and H-3a/H-9ax in convergine and between H-6a/H-3ax and H-6a/H-1ax in coccinelline. In this respect, AO₂ behaves as coccinelline, suggesting that they have the same

[†] Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry.[‡] Laboratory of Animal and Cellular Biology.[©] Abstract published in *Advance ACS Abstracts*, September 15, 1997.

Table 1. Comparison of the ^{13}C NMR Chemical Shifts (δ) of the Carbon Atoms Adjacent to the Nitrogen Atom in **2**, **4**, and **6**

carbon atom	coccinelline (2)	2-dehydrococcinelline (6)	converginine (4)
C-9a	72.7	69.2	74.2
C-6a	59.0	59.4	73.5
C-3a	72.7	71.6	58.0

relative configuration. Catalytic hydrogenation of **AO**₂ led to precoccinelline (**1**), thus confirming the configuration attributions. The hydrogenation proceeds selectively from the less hindered face (*si*-*si* face) of the double bond to give the compound with an equatorial methyl group. From all these results it can be deduced that **AO**₂ is 2-dehydrococcinelline (**6**).

A minor Dragendorff positive derivative was also isolated from the CH_3OH extract during the separation procedures. Its mass spectrum (EIMS) presented a molecular ion at m/z 191, indicating that traces of the corresponding free base (**AO**₁) may be present in the beetle.

A. ocellata belongs to the tribe Coccinellini. Until now members of this tribe were found to produce alkaloids with either 2-methylperhydro-9b-azaphenalene, homotropane or long-chain skeletons, and these alkaloids were never found in members of other subtribes.¹ The identification of 2-dehydrococcinelline in *A. ocellata* thus confirms this pattern.

Experimental Section

General Experimental Procedures. HREIMS were performed on a Fisons Autospec instrument. The ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were recorded in CDCl_3 at 600 and 150.87 MHz, respectively, using a Varian Unity 600 instrument. The IR spectrum was obtained on a Bruker IFS 48 FT instrument as a film on a NaCl disk. The optical rotations were measured on a Perkin-Elmer 141 polarimeter (Hg vapor lamp) in a 10 cm cell at 20 °C. Thin layer chromatography analyses (TLC) were performed on 0.25 mm Polygram silica gel SILG/UV₂₅₄ precoated plates (Macherey Nagel) or on 0.2 mm neutral alumina 60 F₂₅₄ precoated plates (Merck, type E). Column chromatographies were performed over silica gel (MN Kieselgel 0.04–0.063 mm), using the flash technique or over MN neutral alumina. GC analyses were performed on a Varian 3700 apparatus equipped with an OV-1701 capillary column (Rescom, 25 m, 0.32 mm i.d.).

Extraction and Isolation. A total of 35 adult specimens of *Anatis ocellata* collected near Brussels were ground and exhaustively extracted with MeOH

affording 352 mg of an orange oil which was chromatographed over alumina (eluent: $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$, gradient from 100:0 to 80:20 and then MeOH 1% NH_4OH). The fractions showing Dragendorff positive spots by TLC were combined and flash chromatographed on silica gel (eluent: $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ 0.1% NH_4OH , gradient from 98:2 to 90:10). This afforded 1.4 mg of compound **6**, homogeneous by TLC, exhibiting the following properties: oil; $[\alpha] + 8$ at 579 nm and $+ 19$ at 407 nm ($\text{CH}_2\text{-Cl}_2$, $c = 0.16$); IR (film) ν_{max} 2926, 1660, 1442, 1382, 956 cm^{-1} ; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 600 MHz) δ 5.19 (1H, br s, H-3), 3.97 (1H, br s, H-3a), 3.51 (1H, br s, H-9a), 3.14 (1H, t, $J = 12$ Hz, H-6a), 2.90 (1H, tt, $J = 13.5$ and 5 Hz, H-9ax), 2.70 (1H, tt, $J = 13.5$ and 4.5 Hz, H-4ax), 2.56 (1H, br t, $J = 14$ Hz, H-1ax), 2.17 and 2.20 (2H, m, H-1eq and H-7ax), 1.98 (1H, dq, $J = 12$ and 4 Hz, H-6ax), 1.74 (3H, s, H₃-10), 1.64 (1H, dt, $J = 13$ and 5 Hz, H-8ax), 1.58 (1H, m, H-8eq), 1.52 and 1.43 (3H, m, H₂-5 and H-4eq), 1.26 (2H, m, H-6eq and H-7eq); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 150.87 MHz) δ 133.4 (C-2), 121.7 (C-3), 71.6 (C-3a), 69.2 (C-9a), 59.4 (C-6a), 33.2 (C-1), 27.2 (C-6), 26.6 (C-7), 26.3 (C-4), 23.6 (C-9), 22.2 (C-10), 18.7 (C-5), 17.2 (C-8); HREIMS M^+ at m/z 207.1615 (calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{21}\text{NO}$, 207.1623; 8). Characteristic fragment ions were observed at m/z 191.1667 (46; $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{21}\text{N}$), 190.1599 (93; $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{20}\text{N}$), 188.1448 (27; $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$), 176.1438 (100; $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}$), 162 (20) and 148 (16).

Catalytic Hydrogenation of 2-Dehydrococcinelline. A solution of 2-dehydrococcinelline (1.4 mg) in CH_3OH containing Pd/C was hydrogenated under 3 atm of hydrogen overnight. The solution was filtered over silica gel and flash chromatographed (silica gel; $\text{CH}_2\text{-Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ 0.1% NH_4OH , 98:2). This afforded 0.5 mg of a compound showing chromatographic and spectroscopic properties (GC, TLC, MS and ^1H NMR) identical to those of precoccinelline (**1**).

Acknowledgment. This work was supported by grants from the Belgian Fund for Basic Research (Grant 2.4513.90-96) and the French Community of Belgium (ARC 93/98-137). We thank Mr. C. Maerschalk for the NMR spectra and Mr. C. Moulard for the mass spectra.

References and Notes

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NP9702695