and physical properties. An interesting table lists all known alkaloids isolated from each Papaveraceae species. A short section deals with the confusing chemotaxonomy of the family. This chapter involves a complex group of alkaloids, and Santavy has been quite thorough, as evidenced by the citation of 853 references.

The final chapter, by R. S. Kapil and R. T. Brown, covers monoterpene alkaloid glycosides. Many alkaloids of this novel class were discovered after biosynthetic studies that predicted their existence. They are condensation products of secologanin with dopamine, tryptamine, and tryptophan derivatives and are considered biosynthetic precursors of the *Ipecacuanha*, terpenoid indole, and *Camptotheca* alkaloids. This class of alkaloids is expected to expand as isolation methods become more sophisticated and different biosynthetic schemes are investigated.

This volume, like its predecessors, should prove invaluable to alkaloid chemists.

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Pharmacological and Biochemical Properties of Drug Substances, Vol. 2. Edited by MORTON E. GOLDBERG. American Pharmaceutical Association, 2215 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20037. 1979. 557 pp. 16 × 23 cm. Price \$29.00 (\$20.00 member rate).

Volume 2 of this series reviews 20 new drug entities in various therapeutic classes. The monographs discuss the chemistry, animal pharmacology, metabolism and pharmacokinetics, toxicology, and clinical pharmacology of agents that represent prototypes for major therapeutic drug classes. The drug substances considered are amoxapine, butorphanol, valproic acid, atenolol, bretylium tosylate, disopyramide, metoprolol, labetalol, sulfinpyrazone, cephradine, doxycycline, miconazole, tamoxifen, auranofin, levamisole, penicillamine, acetylcysteine, ipratropium bromide, sincalide, and endorphins. The information conveniently presented in this series concerning the biological properties of agents may be difficult to locate in other sources. In most instances, the monograph authors are associated with the company responsible for developing the drug and as such offer a unique perspective of the various stages of discovery and testing.

Staff Review

## NOTICES

- The Action of Drugs on Calcium Metabolism. Progress in Pharmacology. Vol. 2, No. 1. Edited by P. A. van ZWIETEN and E. SCHONBAUM. Gustav Fisher Verlag, D-7000 Stuttgart 72 Postfach 720 143, West Germany. 1978. 83 pp. 16 × 24 cm.
- Botanical Dermatology. Plants and Plant Products Injurous to the Skin. By JOHN MITCHELL and ARTHUR ROCK. Lea & Febiger, 600 South Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19106. 1979. 786 pp. 13 × 22 cm. Price \$39.50.

- Evaluation and Optimization of Laboratory Methods and Analytical Procedures. A Survey of Statistical and Mathematical Techniques. By DESIRE L. MASSART, AUKE DIJKSTRA, and LEONARD KAUFMAN. Elsevier Scientific Publishing, 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, NY 10017. 1978. 596 pp. 16 × 24 cm. Price \$57.75.
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- Sleeping Pills, Insomnia, and Medical Practice. Report of a Study from the Institute of Medicine. National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C. 1979. 127 pp. 21 × 28 cm. Price \$6.00.
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