

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Identity of Vasicinine from *Adhatoda vasica*

SIR,—One of us in the course of examining Indian drugs isolated a water soluble base "Vasicinine" from the leaves of *Adhatoda vasica* Nees (Acanthaceae), and certain derivatives were described¹. Subsequently the compound was thought to be a pyrrolidine derivative². Re-examination of "Vasicinine hydrobromide" has now shown that it is in fact identical with betaine hydrobromide: a comparison of derivatives is shown below:

	<i>Vasicinine</i>	<i>Betaine</i>
	m.p.	m.p.
Base	292° (decomp.)	293° (decomp.) ³
Hydrobromide	232–233° (decomp.)	232–233° (decomp.) ⁴
Picrate	179–180°	180–181° ⁵

Bases and hydrobromides behaved identically when their melting points were determined simultaneously. Admixture of "Vasicinine" picrate with an authentic sample derived from betaine gave no depression in melting point.

Examination of the infra-red spectrum (potassium bromide discs) revealed the identity of peaks in the case of "Vasicinine" and betaine hydrobromides: viz. 1742, 1637, 1477, 1453, 1425, 1402, 1324, 1242, 1185, 1132, 993, 951, 929, 884, 833, 779 cm^{-1} .

Dr. J. F. Cavalla of Parke Davis and Co. Ltd. has independently likewise identified "Vasicinine" with betaine, and we are indebted to him for communicating this information to us.

B. M. MITHAL.
D. W. MATHIESON.

The School of Pharmacy,
17, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1.

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