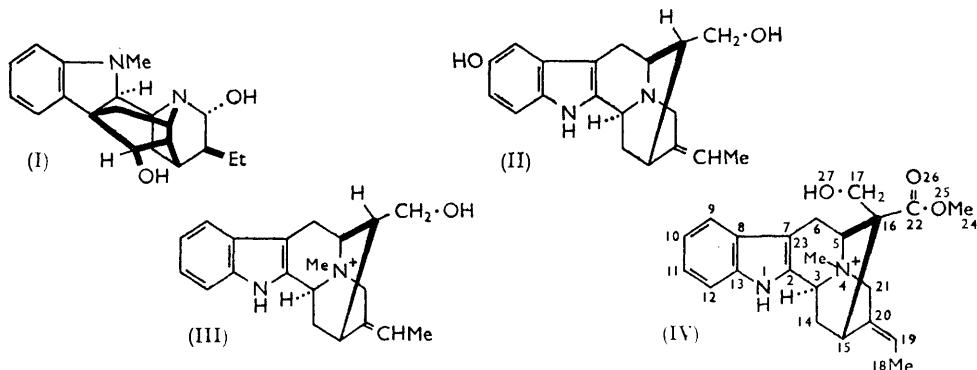


341. The Structure of Macusine-A: X-Ray Analysis of Macusine-A Iodide.

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In order to determine the molecular structure of macusine-A, a quaternary alkaloid isolated from *Strychnos toxifera*, the iodide has been subjected to X-ray analysis. The crystals are orthorhombic, space group $P2_12_12_1$ (D_{2h}^4), with four molecules of $C_{22}H_{27}N_2O_3I$ in the unit cell of dimensions $a = 13.82$, $b = 9.06$, $c = 17.43$ Å. Phase determination based initially on the iodine atom with subsequent Fourier and least-squares refinement methods led to the constitution and stereochemistry (apart from absolute configuration) given in formula (IV).

AMONG the quaternary alkaloids isolated¹ from *Strychnos toxifera* are macusine-A and macusine-B. By detailed chemical study involving correlation with ajmaline² (I) and sarpagine³ (II), macusine-B has been shown⁴ to have structure (III), the only



uncertain point being the configuration of the ethyldene system. Scarcity of material precluded an unambiguous chemical derivation of the structure of macusine-A

¹ Battersby, Binks, Hodson, and Yeowell, *J.*, 1960, 1848.

² Bartlett, Sklar, Taylor, Schlittler, Amai, Beak, Bringi, and Wenkert, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1962, 84, 622.

³ Bartlett, Sklar, and Taylor, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, 1960, 82, 3790.

⁴ Battersby and Yeowell, *Proc. Chem. Soc.*, 1961, 17.

and at the suggestion of Dr. A. R. Battersby we undertook an X-ray investigation of macusine-A iodide. After a number of cycles of three-dimensional Fourier syntheses and least-squares refinement of positional and thermal atomic parameters our final results establish the constitution and stereochemistry (apart from absolute configuration) of the alkaloid to be as in (IV); chemical studies at Bristol⁵ are consistent with this structure. The absolute stereochemistry shown in (IV) has been defined⁵ by a chemical correlation with macusine-B (III).

The final electron-density distribution for macusine-A iodide is shown in Fig. 1 as superimposed contour sections drawn parallel to (010) and covering the region of one

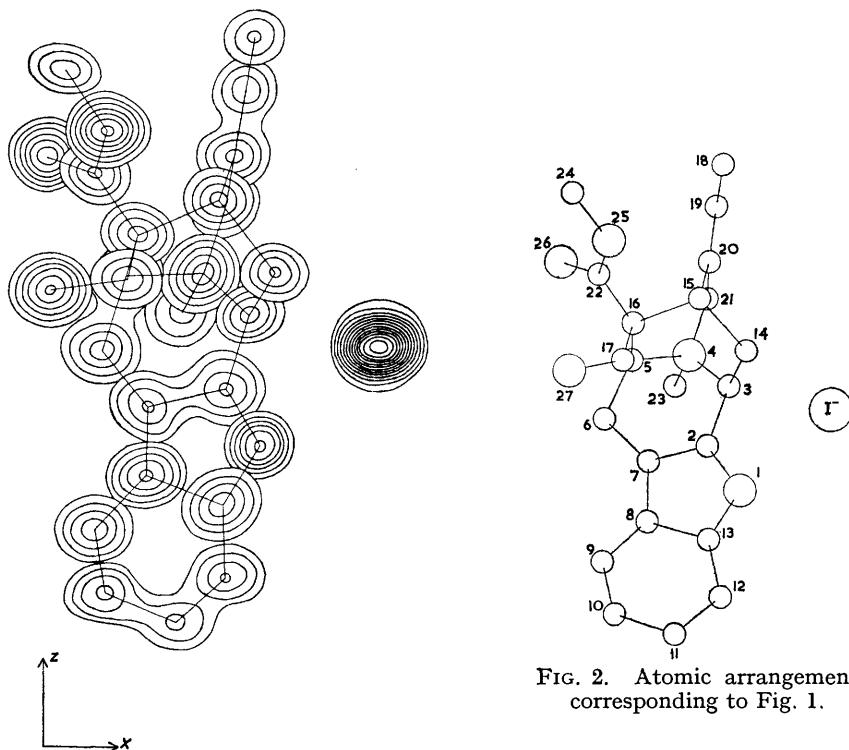


FIG. 1. Final three-dimensional electron-density distribution for macusine-A iodide shown by means of superimposed contour sections drawn parallel to (010). Contour interval $1\text{e}/\text{\AA}^3$ except around the iodide ion where it is $5\text{e}/\text{\AA}^3$.

molecule; the corresponding atomic arrangement is explained in Fig. 2. The interatomic distances and valency angles calculated from the final atomic co-ordinates (see Table 1) are listed in Table 2. The standard deviations of the final atomic co-ordinates were estimated in the usual manner from the least-squares residuals (see Experimental section) and are shown in Table 3; from the results the average estimated standard deviation (e.s.d.) of a carbon-carbon bond length is about 0.07 \AA and the average e.s.d. of a valency angle about 4° .

The average bond length in the benzene ring, 1.41 \AA , and the average carbon-carbon single bond length, 1.57 \AA , do not differ significantly from the accepted values of 1.397 \AA

⁵ Battersby, personal communication; McPhail, Robertson, Sim, Battersby, Hodson, and Yeowell, *Proc. Chem. Soc.*, 1961, 223.

TABLE 3.
Standard deviations of the final atomic co-ordinates (Å).

Atom	$\sigma(x)$	$\sigma(y)$	$\sigma(z)$	Atom	$\sigma(x)$	$\sigma(y)$	$\sigma(z)$	Atom	$\sigma(x)$	$\sigma(y)$	$\sigma(z)$
N(1)	0.042	0.032	0.034	C(11)	0.055	0.050	0.047	C(20)	0.053	0.051	0.043
C(2)	0.047	0.048	0.040	C(12)	0.061	0.045	0.045	C(21)	0.058	0.049	0.051
C(3)	0.057	0.053	0.053	C(13)	0.053	0.038	0.043	C(22)	0.054	0.044	0.042
N(4)	0.046	0.037	0.037	C(14)	0.056	0.053	0.048	C(23)	0.069	0.048	0.056
C(5)	0.061	0.054	0.052	C(15)	0.049	0.047	0.048	C(24)	0.070	0.051	0.043
C(6)	0.045	0.040	0.041	C(16)	0.059	0.045	0.046	O(25)	0.032	0.032	0.030
C(7)	0.058	0.052	0.044	C(17)	0.053	0.052	0.054	O(26)	0.033	0.031	0.034
C(8)	0.058	0.040	0.043	C(18)	0.057	0.048	0.048	O(27)	0.035	0.033	0.036
C(9)	0.053	0.037	0.045	C(19)	0.055	0.054	0.050	I	0.004	0.004	0.003
(C10)	0.049	0.040	0.037								

and 1.545 Å,⁶ respectively. The average sp^3 -carbon–nitrogen(4) bond length of 1.49 Å is in reasonable agreement with the lengths of such bonds in other alkaloids (for a fuller discussion see Hamilton *et al.*⁷). The average sp^2 -carbon–nitrogen(1) bond length is

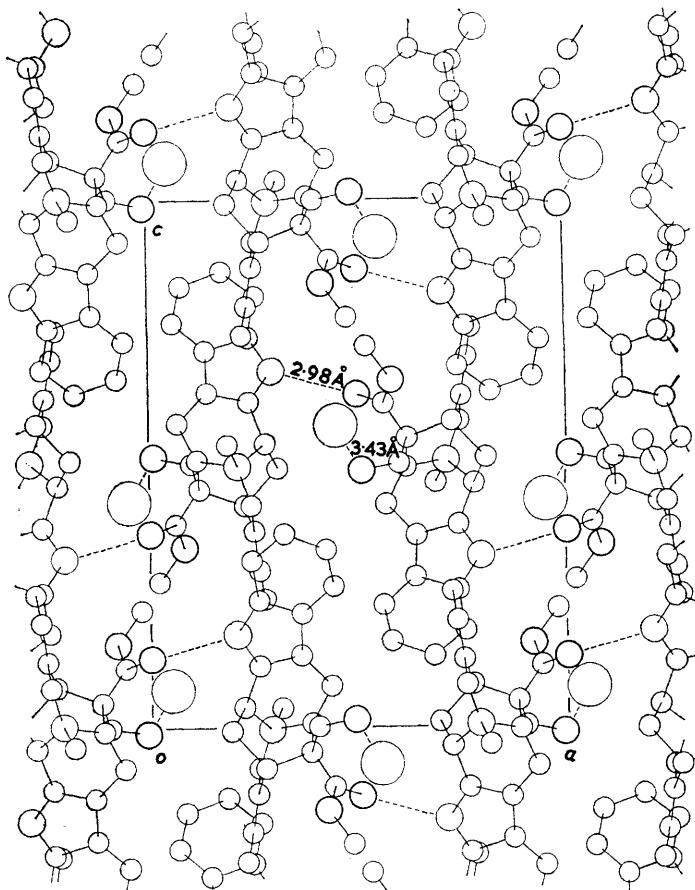


FIG. 3. The crystal structure as viewed in projection on (010).

considerably shorter (1.33 Å) and as the radius of an sp^2 -hybridized carbon atom is only 0.02–0.03 Å smaller than that of an sp^3 -hybridized carbon atom it follows that there is a difference in the covalent radii of the two types of nitrogen atom and/or a degree of

⁶ Sutton *et al.*, "Tables of Interatomic Distances and Configuration in Molecules and Ions," *Chem. Soc. Special Publ.*, No. 11, 1958.

⁷ Hamilton, Hamor, Robertson, and Sim, *J.*, 1962, 5061.

double-bond character associated with the sp^2 -carbon-nitrogen(1) bonds. The carbon-oxygen bond lengths in the ester and alcohol groups show no significant deviations from the usual values. The length of the carbon-carbon double bond in the ethylidene group, 1.31 Å, does not differ significantly from the value of 1.334 Å in ethylene.⁸

The molecular arrangement in the crystal as seen in projection along the *b* axis is illustrated in Fig. 3. The positively charged macusine-A molecules and the negatively charged iodide ions are held together by the normal ionic forces, by van der Waals forces, and by hydrogen bonds which involve the indole nitrogen atom, the ketonic oxygen atom of the ester group, the hydroxyl oxygen atom O(27), and the iodide ion. The N(1)H \cdots O(26) distance of 2.98 Å is comparable with N \cdots O hydrogen-bonded distances in other crystals (*e.g.*, 2.79, 2.83, 2.96 Å in L-serine phosphate,⁹ 2.68, 2.75, 2.86, 2.89 Å in glycyl-L-tryptophan dihydrate,¹⁰ 2.86, 2.92, 2.94 Å in L-glutamic acid¹¹). The C(2)N(1)O(26) angle is 109°. The O(27)H \cdots I hydrogen-bonded distance of 3.43 Å is similar to O \cdots I distances in muscarine iodide (3.57 Å),¹² (+)-de(oxymethylene)-lycoctonine hydriodide monohydrate (3.65 Å),¹³ and (+)-demethanolaconinone hydriodide trihydrate (3.52—3.62 Å).¹⁴ The C(17)O(27)I angle is 107°.

The closest contacts between an iodide ion and carbon atoms, 3.93 and 3.95 Å, are similar to the minimum C \cdots I[—] distances in the crystal structures of muscarine iodide (3.87 Å),¹² (+)-de(oxymethylene)lycoctonine hydriodide monohydrate (3.81 Å),¹³ and isocryptopleurine methiodide (3.96 Å).¹⁵

A full list of the intermolecular contacts of less than 4 Å is given in Table 2.

EXPERIMENTAL

Crystal Data.—Macusine-A iodide, $C_{22}H_{27}IN_2O_3$; M , 494.4; m. p. 274° (decomp.). Orthorhombic, a = 13.82, b = 9.06, c = 17.43 Å, U = 2182 Å³, D_m = 1.50 g. cm.^{—3} (by flotation), Z = 4, D_c = 1.50 g. cm.^{—3}, space group $P2_12_12_1 - D_2^4$. Absorption coefficient for X-rays (λ = 1.542 Å) μ = 127 cm.^{—1}.

The crystals were obtained from aqueous solution in the form of fine needles elongated along *a*.

Experimental Measurements.—Rotation, oscillation, and Weissenberg photographs were taken with copper- K_α (λ = 1.542 Å) radiation; precession photographs were taken with molybdenum- K_α (λ = 0.7107 Å) radiation. The cell dimensions were obtained from the precession and rotation photographs. The space group was determined uniquely from the systematic halvings in the reflexions. For the intensity survey a small crystal was employed, completely bathed in a uniform X-ray beam, and no corrections for absorption were applied. The intensities were estimated visually from equi-inclination Weissenberg photographs of the $0kl$ — $8kl$ layers; the multiple-film technique was employed. The usual correction factors (Lorentz, polarization, and rotation¹⁶) were applied and 1145 independent structure amplitudes were derived. The exposures were such that the various layers were approximately on the same relative scale; the absolute scale of each layer was obtained at a later stage by correlation with the calculated structure amplitudes, $|F_c|$.

Analysis of the Structure.—The analysis proceeded directly on the basis of the usual phase-determining heavy-atom method.¹⁷ The initial co-ordinates of the iodide ion were determined

⁸ Bartell and Bonham, *J. Chem. Phys.*, 1957, **27**, 1414.

⁹ McCallum, Robertson, and Sim, *Nature*, 1959, **184**, 1863.

¹⁰ Pasternak, *Acta Cryst.*, 1956, **9**, 341.

¹¹ Hirokawa, *Acta Cryst.*, 1955, **8**, 637.

¹² Jellinek, *Acta Cryst.*, 1957, **10**, 277.

¹³ Przybylska, *Acta Cryst.*, 1961, **14**, 424.

¹⁴ Przybylska, *Acta Cryst.*, 1961, **14**, 429.

¹⁵ Fridrichsons and Mathieson, *Acta Cryst.*, 1955, **8**, 761.

¹⁶ Tunell, *Amer. Min.*, 1939, **24**, 448.

¹⁷ Robertson and Woodward, *J.*, 1937, 219; 1940, 36; Sim, in "Computing Methods and the Phase Problem in X-ray Crystal Analysis," ed. Pepinsky, Robertson, and Speakman, Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1961, p. 227.

by calculating the two-dimensional Patterson synthesis along the a -axis (Fig. 4) and the section at $z = \frac{1}{2}$ through the three-dimensional Patterson synthesis (Fig. 5).

The first three-dimensional Fourier synthesis was evaluated with the measured values of the structure amplitudes and the phase constants appropriate to the iodine atom alone. When the resulting electron-density distribution was displayed as contoured sections drawn on sheets of glass and stacked in a frame various significant peaks were apparent. These could be attributed to carbon atoms (2), (3), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (19), (20), (21), (22), (23), nitrogen atoms (1) and (4), and oxygen atom (25). Co-ordinates were assigned to these atoms and they were included in the calculation of a second set of structure amplitudes and phase constants. The value of R , the average discrepancy between the calculated and measured structure amplitudes, was 27.4%.

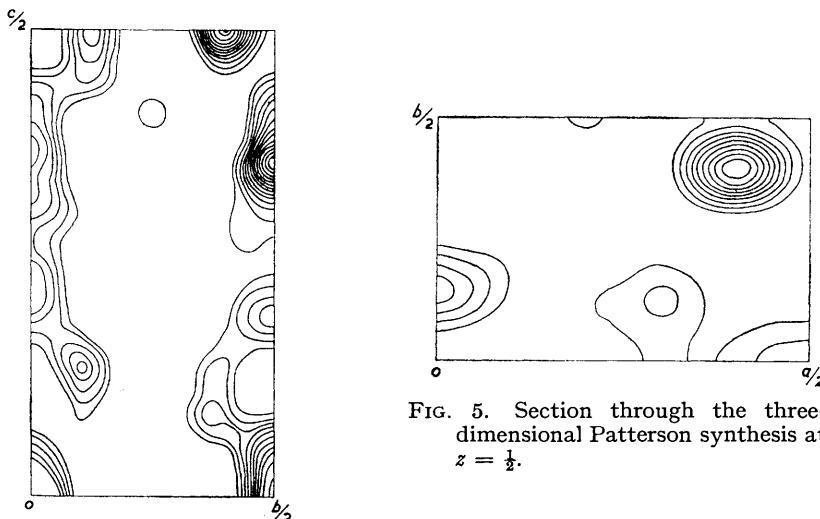


FIG. 4. Patterson projection along the a -axis.

The improved phase constants were employed in the computation of a second three-dimensional Fourier synthesis in which it was possible to locate without ambiguity the remaining atoms C(17), C(18), C(24), O(26), and O(27). When structure factors were recalculated with the inclusion of these additional atoms the value of R fell to 21.3%.

Three further rounds of structure-factor and Fourier calculations were carried out. Back-shift corrections for terminations of series were derived at each stage from a three-dimensional F_c synthesis and individual isotropic temperature factors were assigned. The value of R was reduced to 16.7%.

The refinement was concluded by performing two cycles of least-squares adjustment of the positional and anisotropic thermal parameters of the atoms; the programme employed was that devised by Dr. J. S. Rollett.¹⁸ The value of the discrepancy factor R fell to 14.5%.

The theoretical atomic scattering factors employed in the structure-factor calculations were those of Berghuis *et al.*¹⁹ for carbon, nitrogen, and oxygen, and the Thomas-Fermi values²⁰ for iodine. The final atomic co-ordinates are listed in Table 1, details of the progress of the analysis are summarized in Table 4 and the final values of $|F_o|$, $|F_c|$, and α are shown in Table 5. The parameters defining the anisotropic thermal vibrations are in Table 6; they are values of b_{ij} in the equation

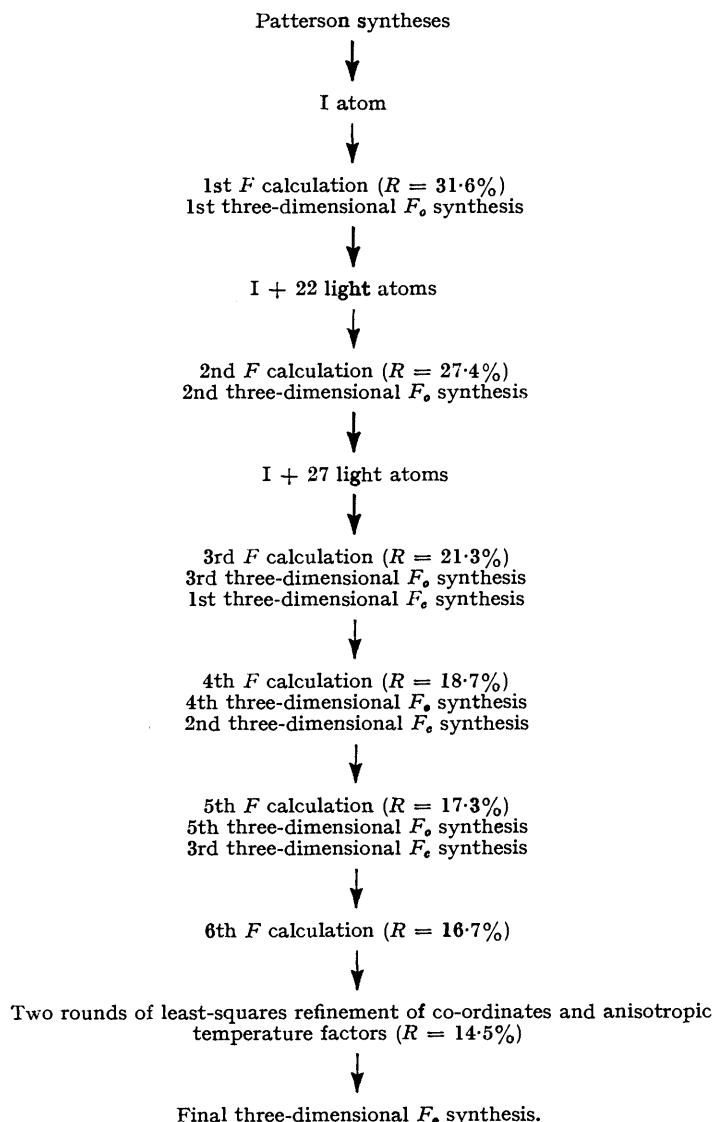
$$\exp(-B \sin^2 \theta/\lambda^2) = 2^{-(b_{11}h^2 + b_{22}k^2 + b_{33}l^2 + b_{12}hk + b_{23}kl + b_{13}hl)}$$

¹⁸ Rollett, in "Computing Methods and the Phase Problem in X-ray Crystal Analysis," ed. Pepinsky, Robertson, and Speakman, Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1961, p. 87.

¹⁹ Berghuis, Haanappel, Potters, Loopstra, MacGillavry, and Veenendaal, *Acta Cryst.*, 1955, **8**, 478.

²⁰ "Internationale Tabellen zur Bestimmung von Kristallstrukturen," Borntraeger, Berlin, 1935, Vol. II, p. 572.

TABLE 4.
Progress of the structure analysis.



The standard deviations of the final atomic co-ordinates were derived from the least-squares residuals by application of the equation

$$\sigma^2(x_i) = \sum w_j (\Delta F_j)^2 / [(n - s) \sum w_j (\partial F_j / \partial x_i)^2].$$

The results are listed in Table 3.

The final three-dimensional electron-density distribution was evaluated on the basis of the phase constants in Table 5 and is shown in Fig. 1 by means of superimposed contour sections drawn parallel to (010). The corresponding atomic arrangement is illustrated in Fig. 2.

