

## MORACEAE

ALKALOIDS OF *FICUS SEPTICA*

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INSTEAD of the alkaloids previously isolated from *Ficus septica*,<sup>1</sup> we have found partially racemic antofine<sup>2</sup> to be the major alkaloid in young trees. Other, minor, bases were of the phenanthroindolizidine type but could not be related to known alkaloids and are as yet of undetermined structure.

## EXPERIMENTAL

The alkaloids (1.9 g from the roots and leaves of twelve 4-ft high trees) were isolated following a published method.<sup>4</sup> Separation was achieved on Kieselgel G using 2–10% MeOH in CHCl<sub>3</sub>. The major alkaloid (168 mg) was recrystallized (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/EtOH), m.p. 212–214°,  $[\alpha]_D^{22} -32^\circ$  (C = 0.002 in CHCl<sub>3</sub>). (Found: C, 75.8; H, 7.0; N, 3.5. Calc. for C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>25</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>: C, 76.0; H, 6.9; N, 3.85%). It was identical with antofine [TLC (3 solvents), UV, IR and MS] and a m.m.p. was undepressed.

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<sup>1</sup> J. H. RUSSEL, *Naturwissenschaften* **50**, 443 (1963).

<sup>2</sup> W. WIEGREBE, L. FABER, H. BROCKMANN JR., H. BUDZIKIEWICZ and U. KRÜGER, *Annalen* **721**, 154 (1969), reported as Alkaloid A; B. CHAUNCY and E. GELLERT, *Austral. J. Chem.* **23**, 2503 (1970).

<sup>3</sup> T. R. GOVINDACHARI, B. R. PAI and K. NAGARAJAN, *J. Chem. Soc.* 2801 (1954).

*Key Word Index*—*Ficus septica*; Moraceae; alkaloids; antofine.

SESELIN FROM *NAUCLEOPSIS CALONEURA*\*†

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*Plant.* *Naucleopsis caloneura* (Hub.) Ducke, trivial name 'muiratinga', tree. *Source.* Manaus, Brasil.

*Trunk wood.* The ethanol extract (1 %) was chromatographed on silica, giving an aliphatic ketone, sitosterol and seselin (2',2'-dimethylpyrano-5',6':8,7-coumarin, 0.0005 %), m.p.

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<sup>1</sup> R. BRAZ FILHO, A. FARIAS MAGALHÃES and O. R. GOTTLIEB, *Anais Acad. brasil. Ciênc.* **43**, in press (1971).