sister species from Argentina[1] and hordenine identified (GC–MS) in sister species from Uruguay.[2]

Present work. TLC screening[3] detected alkaloids. Chloroform extraction of 1·04 kg of freeze-dried, pulverized, and defatted material yielded 5·278 g of *N*-methyltyramine HCl (m.p. 148–149°, m.m.p. 147–149°, reference m.p. 146–147°, IR, 0·51% yield) from fractions A and C without using the ion-exchange column.[4] Traces of tyramine and hordenine were identified via two-dimensional cochromatography[5] in the mother liquors. *N*-methyltyramine was, by far, the major alkaloid observed in three different collections of this species. This is the first report of the crystallization of an alkaloid from the *Opuntia* genus. A previous report[6] regarding the isolation of mescaline from *O. cylindrica* erroneously utilized *Trichocereus pachanoi.*[7]

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ELLAGIC ACIDS FROM *EUPHORBIA CORNIGERA* AND *E. WALLICHII*

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Key Word Index—*Euphorbia cornigera*; *E. wallichii*; Euphorbiaceae; ellagic acid; 3,3′-di-*O*-methylellagic acid.

Plants. Euphorbia cornigera Boiss. (Peshawar Herbarium No. 4374) and *Euphorbia wallichii* Hook. f. (Herbarium No. 48) collected from Murree Hills, Rawalpindi. *Uses.* Medicinal properties have been reported from sister species.[1] *Previous work.* Sister species.[2]

Euphorbia cornigera. Alcoholic extract of the roots of *E. cornigera* deposited crystals of *ellagic acid,* m.p. 360° (dec) (Found: C, 55·92; H, 2·22. $C_{14}H_6O_8$ requires: C, 55·64; H,

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2·00%). ν_{max} 3050, 1720, 1655, 1620 cm^{-1}. *Ellagic acid tetraacetate*, m.p. 340–341° (Found: C, 55·96; H, 3·15; MeCO–, 36·32. $C_{22}H_{14}O_{12}$ requires: C, 56·18; H, 3·00; 4 × MeCO–, 36·57%). ν_{max} 1780, 1745, 1610 cm^{-1}. NMR: (TFA) 90MHz τ 1·7 (2H), τ 7·45 (6H, MeCO–), τ 7·50 (6H, MeCO–), M^+ *m/e* 470.

The extract after removal of ellagic acid was chromatographed on an alumina column (Brockmann, E. Merck) to give *3,3′-di-O-methyl-ellagic acid*, m.p. 336–338° (Found: C, 57·90; H, 3·16; –OMe, 18·23. $C_{16}H_{10}O_8$ requires: C, 58·19; H, 3·05; 2 × –OMe, 18·78%). ν_{max} 3200, 1725, 1610 cm^{-1} superimposable with the IR of 3,3′-di-*O*-methyl-ellagic acid obtained from *E. wallichii*.

Euphorbia wallichii. Alcoholic extract of the roots of *E. wallichii* deposited crystals identified as *3,3′-di-O-methylellagic acid*, m.p. 335–337° (Found: C, 57·72; H, 3·1. $C_{16}H_{10}O_8$ requires: C, 58·19; H, 3·05%). ν_{max} 3200, 1725, 1610 cm^{-1}. *3,3′-di-O-Methylellagic acid diacetate*, m.p. 300–302° (Found: C, 58·14; H, 3·20. $C_{20}H_{14}O_{10}$ requires: C, 57·98; H, 3·41%). ν_{max} 1760, 1605. NMR: (TFA) 90MHz τ 1·82 (2H), τ 5·58 (6H, –OMe), τ 7·45 (6H, MeCO–), M^+ *m/e* 414.

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DEHYDRO-1,8-CINEOLE: A NEW MONOTERPENE OXIDE IN *LAURUS NOBLIS* OIL*

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Key Word Index—*Laurus noblis*: Lauraccae; essential oil; monoterpene oxide; dehydro-1,8-cineole.

The essential oil of *Laurus noblis* L. has been the subject of a number of investigations.[1–10] In each case 1,8-cineole was found to be the major component. During a recent

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