

PEPTIDE ALKALOIDS FROM *ZIZIPHUS SPINACHRISTI*\*

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**Key Word Index**—*Ziziphus spinachristi*, Rhamnaceae, mauritine-A, mauritine-C, amphibine-A; amphibine-E, amphibine-F

*Plant.* *Ziziphus spinachristi* Willd. *Source.* In the region of Zaria, Nigeria, January 1971. *Previous work.* In other species of Rhamnaceae, cyclopeptide alkaloids of different structural types have been isolated.<sup>1-6</sup>

*Present work.* During a general screening programme of the Rhamnaceae, it was found that the bark of *Z. spinachristi* contained alkaloids. The bark (17 kg) was dried, powdered and extracted in the usual manner.<sup>1</sup> On evaporation 12.5 g of a yellow residue remained. The analytical TLC showed six spots and the components were separated first by column chromatography and then by preparative TLC. The major compound, after separation and purification, afforded 4.2 g of white crystals m.p. 104°,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 315^\circ$  (MeOH), identical with mauritine-A (m.m.p, IR, PMR, MS and co-TLC) previously reported as an alkaloid of *Z. mauritiana*.<sup>2</sup> Further alkaloids were isolated in smaller amounts and identified by MS, IR, PMR, co-TLC and optical rotation as: amphibine-A,<sup>3</sup> m.p. 236° (lit<sup>3</sup> m.p. 237–239°); amphibine-E;<sup>4</sup> amphibine-F<sup>5</sup> and mauritine-C.<sup>6</sup>

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