

as hentriacontanol. Compound **8**. From petrol. C₆H₆ (1:4) fractions; white crystals, m.p. 193° (MeOH); ν_{\max}^{KBr} 3450 (OH), cm⁻¹; M⁺ 426. Acetate, m.p. 228–230° (50% MeOH–CHCl₃). From above data compound **8** appeared to be β -amyrin and further confirmed (CO-TLC, IR and m.m.p.) with an authentic specimen of β -amyrin. Compound **9**. From benzene (100%) fraction; colourless flakes, m.p. 146°. ν_{\max}^{KBr} 3400 (OH), cm⁻¹. Acetate, 139–140°. From above data compound **9** was found to be sitosterol.

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11-METHOXYDIABOLINE IN *STRYCHNOS MALACOCLADOS*

ROBERT VERPOORTE and A. BAERHEIM SVENDSEN

Department of Pharmacognosy of the University of Leyden, Gorlaeus Laboratories, Leyden, The Netherlands

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In screening African *Strychnos* species,¹ we found that extracts of the bark of *Strychnos malacoclados* C. H. Wright (collected by Prof. F. Sandberg at Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and identified by Dr. A. J. M. Leeuwenberg) gave clonic and tonic convulsions. The original dry EtOH–1% HOAc extract of the bark was, after basification, extracted with Et₂O and CHCl₃. GLC showed one main peak, and TLC one main spot [*R_f*-value 0.87 relative to strychnine in EtOAc-*iso* PrOH-25% NH₃ (45:35:10)]. By column chromatography the main alkaloid was obtained and identified as 11-methoxydiaboline (**1**) by spectra, compared with an authentic sample. A small amount of a new minor alkaloid (m.p. 148–152) was also obtained which from UV and MS (384, 204) appeared to be a dihydroderivative of (**1**). 11-Methoxydiaboline has been found previously in the South American species *Strychnos romeu-belenii* Krukoff and Barneby² and the African species *Strychnos henningsii* Gilg.³

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¹ SANDBERG, F., VERPOORTE, R. and CRONLUND, A. (1971) *Acta Pharm. Suec.* **8**, 341.

² MARINI BETTOLO, G. B., MIRANDA DELLE MONACHE, E., GIUFFRÀ, S. ERAZO and GALEFFI, C. (1971) *Gazz. Chim. Ital.* **101**, 971.

³ SPITELLER-FRIEDMANN, M. and SPITELLER, G. (1968) *Ann. Chem.* **712**, 179.