REACTIONS OF PROTOBERBERINE-TYPE ALKALOIDS-XI'

SYNTHESIS OF OPTICALLY ACTIVE OCHOTENSANES

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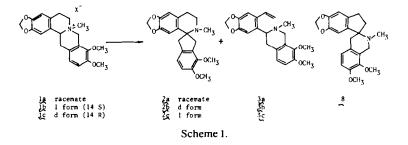
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Abstract—Treatment of l(14S)- β -canadine methochloride (1b) and d(14R)- β -canadine methochloride (1c) with organometals gave d- (2b) and l-2,3-methylenedioxy-9,10-dimethoxyochotensances (2c), respectively. The structures of these derivatives were proved by chemical and spectral means. The CD spectra of 2b showed Davydov split extrema centered at 284 nm with a positive first Cotton effect, while 2c showed the antipodal curve of 2b. Consequently, the absolute configurations of 2b and 2c were concluded the 14R and 14S, respectively.

Application of the anionic rearrangement to N-methyltharictricavine chloride (15) led to 2.3 - methylenedioxy - 9,10 - dimethoxy - 13 - methylochotensane (18) together with the Hofmann methines 16 and 17. The stereochemistry of 18 was confirmed in terms of the nuclear Overhauser effects.

Several light- and base-induced rearrangements of the protoberberinium salts into the ochotensine type alkaloids have been reported.²⁻⁶ These rearrangements²⁻⁵ include an o-quinodimethide as the general intermediate. Although the Hofmann degradation of the protoberberinium salts is quite commonly employed, the non-phenolic protoberberinium salts are comparatively stable for cold alkali.²⁻⁴ We now report the first synthesis of optically active ochotensanes which include an anionic rearrangement of the non-phenolic protoberberinium salts.

Compound **2a** showed the composition $C_{21}H_{23}O_4N$, which was established by mass spectral and elemental analysis, and gave a picrate, m.p. 237-238° (dec), $C_{27}H_{26}O_{11}N_4$. **2a** revealed absorption maxima in the UV spectrum at 230 nm (sh. log ϵ 4·24) and 287 nm (log ϵ 3·77) showing the presence of the tetrahydroisoquinoline nucleus. In the NMR spectrum of **2a** in CDCl₃, although signals at δ 2·29 (3H, s), 3·85 (6H, s), 5·81 (2H, s), 6·42 (1H, s), 6·47 (1H, s), 6·62 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz) and 6·83 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz) were readily assignable to the N-Me group,



When dl-N-methyltetrahydroberberinium salts 1a (X = I, Cl, and CH₃SO₄) were subjected to Stevens rearrangement with phenyllithium, a tertiary base 2a, m.p. 117-118°, was obtained in addition to the normal Hofmann methine⁷ 3a, m.p. 111-112°. Compound 2a was also obtained on treatment of 1a with other organometalic reagents, butyllithium, lithium aluminium hydride and sodium methylsulfinylmethanide as well as 3% sodium amalgam.⁸ Yields are given in Table 1.

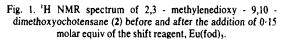
Tabl	e 1	
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	Yield (%)				
<u>x</u>	n-Butyl Li	PhenylLi	NaCH2SOCH3	L1A1H4	Na/Hg
I	-	-	29.1	62.4	-
C1	54.5	-	63.3		3,5
sulfate		25.0		61,0	

two OMe groups, methylenedioxy group, $C_{1(or 1)}$, $C_{4(or 1)}$, $C_{1(or 12)}$ and $C_{12(or 11)}$ ring protons, respectively, a multiplet at $\delta 2.68-3.60$ was difficult to assign because of the relative complexity of the pattern. In practice, however, the spectrum was well separated on addition of a shift reagent, Eu(fod)₁, and all signals were assigned satisfactorily to 2,3 - methylenedioxy - 9,10 - dimethoxyochotensane⁹ 2a with the aid of double resonance technique. Typical spectra are shown in Fig. 1.

2a readily reacted with methyl iodide or dimethyl sulfate to yield a dimethyl quarternary salt 4 (X = I or SO₄CH₃) as amorphous solid. 4 on treatment with caustic alkali solution led successively to a Hofmann methine base 5, m.p. 118–119°, $C_{22}H_{25}O_4N$ (M⁺ 367). 5 showed an absorption maximum at 298 nm (log ϵ 4.23) which resembled that of stilbene.

The methine base 5, in spite of homogeneous spot on the TLC and sharp m.p., revealed split signals attributable to one of OMe groups. The fact suggests that the methine base is a mixture of double-bond isomers. 5 was



hydrogenated with Adams catalyst to yield $2 - (2' - dimethylaminoethyl - 4',5' - methylenedioxy) - 4,5 - dimethoxyindane 6, <math>C_{22}H_{27}O_4N$ (M⁺ 369), oil, in good yield. 6 revealed, as was expected, a sharp singlet at 3.84 ppm (6H) due to two OMe groups.

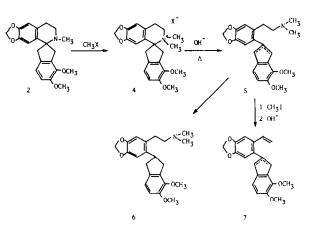
When the methine base 5 was subjected to second Hofmann degradation, a nitrogen-free substance 7, $C_{20}H_{18}O_4$ (M⁻ 322), m.p. 155-156°, was obtained. 7 showed absorption maxima at 224 nm (log ϵ 4.25), 265 nm (3.88), 301 nm (4.02) and 313 nm (3.99) in the UV spectrum. Although 7 was anticipated to be an admixture of double-bond isomers, its NMR spectrum revealed newly appeared signals attributed to the vinyl group at 5.15 ppm

(1H dd, J = 11 Hz, J ~ 1 Hz,
$$\overset{H}{}$$
 C=C $\overset{H}{\overset{H}{H}}$) and 5.53 ppm
(1H dd, J = 17 Hz, J ~ 1 Hz, $\overset{H}{}$ C=C $\overset{H}{\overset{H}{H}}$). These obser-

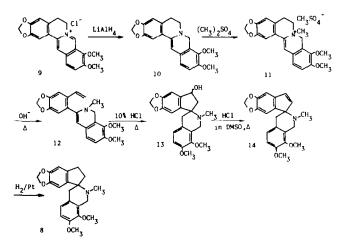
vations led to the conclusion that 2a is 2,3 methylenedioxy - 9,10 - dimethoxyochotensane. Another possible structure 8 could be ruled out by synthetic manner which involves schematically the sequence $9 \rightarrow 10 \rightarrow 11 \rightarrow 12 \rightarrow 13 \rightarrow 14 \rightarrow 8$ (Scheme 3).

Compound 8, $C_{21}H_{23}O_4N$, m.p. 147-148°, was not identical with the rearrangement product 2a.

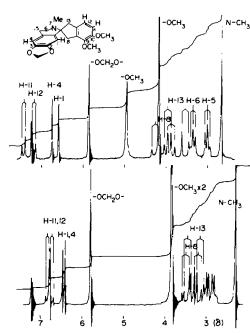
As an extension of the utility of this rearrangement, treatment of l-(14S)- β -canadine methochloride 1b (m.p.



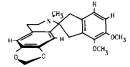
Scheme 2.



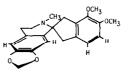




262°, $[\alpha]_D^{16} - 161°$ and $d \cdot (14R) \cdot \beta$ -canadine methochloride 1c (m.p. 262°, $[\alpha]_{D}^{16}$ + 161°) with sodium methylsulfinylmethanide afforded d - 2,3 - methylenedioxy - 9,10 dimethoxyochotensane 2b (m.p. 104-105°, $[\alpha]_D^{16} + 60^\circ$) and 1 - 2,3 - methylenedioxy - 9,10 - dimethoxyochotensane 2c (m.p. 104–105°, $[\alpha]_D^{16} - 60°$), respectively. Since this rearrangement was rationalized by an S_Ni mechanism,¹⁰ 2b derived from l- β -canadine methochloride was dextrorotatory and must have the R configuration. The CD of 2b, as was expected, showed Davydov split extrema centered at 284 nm, corresponding to the $L_b \leftarrow A$ band, with a positive first Cotton effect.¹¹ Therefore, the absolute configuration of d - 2,3 - methylendioxy - 9,10 dimethoxyochotensane 2b is represented as 2B. 2c derived from d- β -canadine methochloride was levorotatory and its CD spectrum showed the antipodal curve of 2b, corresponding to the S configuration 2C.



28 (ftOH) λmax 287nm (log 4.24) cd 292nm (Δε +1.6) Davydov 276nm (Δε -1.0) split



2C (EtOH) λmax 287nm (loge 4.24) cd 292nm (Λε -1.6) 276nm (Δε +1.0) split

The Stevens rearrangement of 1b or 1c to give optically active ochotensanes is understood as an S_N mechanism which involved initially a tight ion pair as the obligatory intermediate. Organolithium bases, LAH and sodium methylsulfinylmethanide were usually used for preparation of carbanions. It is of interest to note that ochotensane was also obtained in poor yield even when N-methyltetrahydroberberinium salts were treated with sodium amalgam in aqueous solution.⁸

Analogously, treatment of dl-N-methylthalictricavine chloride 15 with sodium methylsulfinylmethanide in THF afforded two normal Hofmann methines 16, m.p. 116–117° (24%), 17, m.p. 166–167° (54%), and a rearrangement

product 18, oil (6%). Attempts to improve the yield of 18 by means of application of some organometals (sodium methylsulfinylmethanide, phenyllithium, n-butyllithium) and solvents (THF, DMSO) were not achieved.

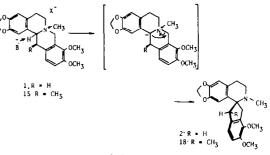
The composition $C_{22}H_{23}O_4N$ of **18** was confirmed on the basis of the molecular ion peak at m/e 367 in the mass spectrum and formation of a picrate, m.p. 207-209° (dec), $C_{28}H_{28}O_{11}N_4$. The UV absorption spectrum of **18** showed maxima at 230 nm (sh. log ϵ 4·20), 286 nm (3·80) and 294 nm (3·74), and the NMR spectrum exhibited signals at δ 1·24 (3H, d, J = 7 Hz), 2·18 (3H, s), 2·66-3·10 (4H, m), 3·06 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz), 3·44 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz), 3·39 (1H, d, J = 7 Hz), 3·85 (6H, s), 5·78 (2H, s), 6·44 (1H, s), 6·46 (1H, s) and 6·72 (2H, s) which were satisfactorily assigned to 2.3 - methylenedioxy - 9.10 - dimethoxy - 13 - methylochotensane (Fig. 2).

The C-13 Me doublet of 18 appeared in lower magnetic field than that of dihydroochotensimine^{12,26,46} 19 (δ 0.95, J = 7.2 Hz). This fact suggests that C-13 Me group is pointing to the nitrogen side and deshieled by the lone pair of the nitrogen. The observation of the nuclear Overhauser effects¹³⁻¹⁶ between C-1H and C-13H as well as C-1H and C-8H_A offered final proof of the stereochemistry. The results are given in Table 2.

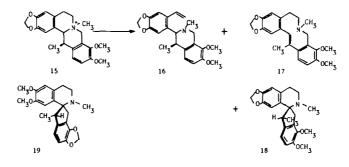
Table 2. Nuclear Overhauser effects in 18.

bserved proton	δ(ppm)	Irradiated protons	δ(ppπ)	\$ area increase
C-4H	5.48	C - 5H	2,76	26
C-1H	6.45	C-13H	3,36	14
C-1H	6.45	C-8HA	3.43	9
C-13H	3 36	C-1H	6.15	8

The S_N mechanism depicted in Scheme 5 is further supported by the fact that the rearrangement of thalic-tricavine methochloride 15 proceeded with retention of the 13-Me configuration to give 18.







Scheme 4.

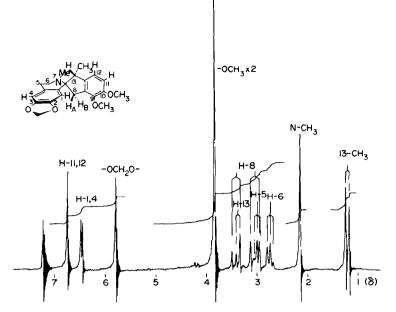


Fig. 2. ¹H NMR spectrum of 2,3 - methylendioxy - 9,10 - dimethoxy - 13 - methylochotensane (18).

Although several conversions²⁻³ of the protoberberinium salts into the ochotensine alkaloids have been reported, these conversions which included an oquinodimethide intermediate were inadequate as the synthetic strategy for the optically active ochotensanes. The anionic rearrangement $1 \rightarrow 2$ or $15 \rightarrow 18$, represents a new stereospecific method for the synthesis of the optically active ochotensane alkaloids.

EXPERIMENTAL

All m.ps were determined on a Yamato Model MP-21 apparatus and uncorrected. IR spectra were recorded on a Shimazu IR-27G grating spectrophotometer, and UV spectra were measured on a Hitachi 124 spectrometer. The NMR data were obtained using Hitachi H-60 and JNM PS-100 spectrometers. The chemical shifts (δ) were calculated on the basis of TMS as an internal standard. Mass spectra were obtained on a Hitachi RMU-7 spectrometer. CD spectra were determined on a Jasco J-20A spectropolarimeter. The samples for the measurement of the nuclear Overhauser effects were dissolved in deuterio-solvent and degassed by at least five freeze-thaw cycles under high vacuum.

Reaction of N-methyl tetrahydroberberinium salts with carbanion reagents

General procedure. Well dried and powdered N-methyltetrahydroberberinium salts (X = I, Cl, and MeSO₄) was suspended in dry THF and carbanion reagent (3-0 molar equiv) was added with a vigorous stirring under a dry N₂. The mixture became a clear yellowish brown soln as the reaction proceeded. After stirring at room temp. for 30 min, the mixture was poured into ice-water and extracted with AcOEt three times. The combined extracts were washed once with water, dried over K₂CO₃, and evaporated.

Reaction of β -tetrahydroberberine methochloride 1 with n-buthyllithium

A. To a suspension of 1a (1.02 g, 2.62 m mole) in 20 ml dry THF, 6 ml of 20% n-BuLi in hexane was added. The mixture was treated as described to yield a reddish brown oil, which was chromatographed on active II alumina column. The initial benzene eluate gave crystals of 3a, m.p. $111-112^{\circ}$ (85 mg) which were identical with the Hofmann degradation product⁷ of 1a. Further elution with benzene-AcOEt (9:1) afforded 2a (500 mg) which was recrystallized from EtOH to give colorless needles, m.p. $117-118^{\circ}$ (Found: C, 71.57; H, 6.64; N, 4.05. $C_{21}H_{23}O_4N$ requires: C, 71.37;

H, 6·56; N, 3·96%); UV (nm) EtOH: 230 (sh log ϵ 4·24), 287 (3·77); NMR (δ) CDCl₃: 2·29 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 2·68 to 3·08 (4h, m, -CH₂-CH₂-), 3·13 and 3·45 (1H × 2, d, J = 16 Hz, -CH₂-), 3·19 and 3·49 (1H × 2, d, J = 16 Hz, -CH₂-), 3·85 (6H, s, -OCH₃), 5·81 (2H, s, -O-CH₂-O-), 6·42 and 6·47 (1H × 2, s, Ar-H), 6·72 and 6·83 (1H × 2, d, J = 8 Hz, Ar-H). MS (*m*/*e*): 353 (M⁴), 338. 322.

B. Compound 1b (222 mg; 0.571 mmole) was suspended in 4.4 ml dry THF and sodium methylsulfinylmethanide (0.55 ml) added. The mixture was treated as described. The residual oil was chromatographed on alumina column (8 g) with benzene: ACOEt. The initial eluate gave 3b m.p. $103-104^{\circ}$ (21 mg). The second eluate afforded 2b (132 mg) which was recrystallized from EtOH to give colorless prisms, m.p. $104-105^{\circ}$ [α]^b₁₀ + 60^{\circ} (c = 0.19). (Found: C, 71-41; H, 6-50; N, 3-93. C₂₁H₂₃O₄N requires: C, 71-37; H, 6-56; N, 3-96%); NMR, UV and MS data were identical with those of 2a.

C. Compound 1c (231 mg; 0.592 mmole) was suspended in 4.6 ml dry THF and sodium methylsulfinylmethanide (0.56 ml) added. The mixture was treated as described to yield 3c, m.p. 103-104° (24 mg), and 2c (120 mg) which was recrystallized from EtOH to give colorless prisms, m.p. 104-105°, $[\alpha]_D^{16} - 60°$ (c = 0.14), (Found: C, 71-29; H, 6.70; N, 3.88. C₂₁H₂₃O₄N requires: C, 71-37; H, 6.56; N, 3.96%); NMR, UV and MS date were identical with those of 2a.

Hofmann degradation of dl - 2,3 - methylenedioxy - 9,10 - dimethoxyochotensane **2a**

To a soln of 2a (480 mg; 1.36 mmole) 1.0 ml CHCl₃ (0.5 ml) MeI was added. The mixture was allowed to stand at room temp for 1 hr and then evaporated to give a pale yellow residue. The residue was dissolved in 10 ml MeOH and Ag₂O added (newly prepared from 1.03 g AgNO₃). The mixture was heated on a boiling water bath for 15 min and the ppt was filtered off. After the filtrate was evaporated under reduced pressure, 10% NaOH (6.0 ml) was added to the residue and refluxed on a water bath for 5 hr. The oil was exhaustively extracted with ether. The pooled ether layers were washed with sat NaCl aq, dried over K2CO3, and evaporated to give colorless needles 5 (420 mg), m.p. 118-119° (EtOH). (Found: C, 71.84; H, 6.98; N, 3.59. C₂₂H₂₅O₄N requires: C, 71.91; H, 6.86; N, 3.81%); UV (nm) EtOH: 298 (log ϵ 4.24); NMR (δ) CDCl₃: 2·12 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 8 2·35 to 2·96 (4H, m, -CH₂CH₂-N), 3.64 (2H, m, -CH2-), 3.85 (3H, s, -OCH3), 3.89 and 3.93 (3H, each s, -OCH₃), 5.90 (2H, s, -O-CH₂-O-), 6.64-7.15 (5H, m, Ar-H). MS (m/e): 367 (M⁺), 58 (CH₂=N⁺(CH₃)₂).

Reduction of the methine base 5

Compound 5 (100 mg, 0.272 mmole) in mixture of 15 ml MeOH

and 0.5 ml AcOH was hydrogenated over PtO₂ (100 mg) at atmospheric pressure and room temp. for 2 hr. After removal of the catalyst, the filtrate was made alkaline with ammonia. Extraction with ether yielded an oil. The oil was chromatographed on a silica gel column (6.0 g). The eluate with CHCl₃-MeOH (20:1) afforded 6 (oil) (82.5 mg) (Found: C, 71.41; H, 7.50; N, 3.70; C₂₂H₂₇O₄N requires: C, 71.52; H, 7.37; N, 3.79%); UV (nm) EtOH: 230 (log ϵ 4.07), 285 (3.71), 292 (3.67); NMR (δ) CDCl₃. 2.30 (6H, s, N-CH₃), 2.40 to 3.52 (9H, m), 3.84 (6H, s, -OCH₃), 5.84 (2H, s, -O-CH₂-O-), 6.65 and 6.67 (1H × 2, s, Ar-H), 6.74 and 6.88 (1H × 2, d, J = 8 Hz, Ar-H). MS (*m*/*e*): 369 (M⁺), 324, 127, 86, 84, 58.

Second Hofmann degradation

To a soln of methine base 5 (105 mg, 0.266 mmole) in 0.22 ml CHCl, MeI (0.15 ml) was added and allowed to stand at room temp. for 3 hr. After removal of the solvent, 1.5 ml of 25% KOH-MeOH was added and then refluxed under N₂ for 15 min. The crude product (76.9 mg) was isolated in the usual manner. Recrystallization from acetone gave colorless needles 7 (60.3 mg), m.p. 155-156° (Found: C, 74.68; H, 5.50. C₂₀H₁₈O₄ requires: C, 74.52; H, 5.63%); UV (nm) EtOH: 224 (sh. log ϵ 4.25), 265 (3.88), 301 (4.02), 313 (3.99); *NMR* (δ) CDCl₃: 2.70 (2H, m, -CH₂-), 3.88 (3H, s, -OCH₃), 3.93 and 3.95 (3H, each s, -OCH₃), 5.15 (1H, dd, J = 11 Hz, H C=C H, 5.96 (2H, s, -O-CH₂-O), 6.70-7.40 (6H, m). MS (*m/e*): 322 (M⁺), 307, 291, 275.

N - Methyl - 7,8 - dimethoxy - 1,2,3,4 - tetrahydroisoquinoline - 3 spiro - 1' - 5',6' - methylenedioxyindane 8

Compound 14¹⁷ (243 mg, 0.693 mmole) in 15 ml MeOH was hydrogenated over PtO₂ (60 mg) at atmospheric pressure and room temp, for 1 hr. After removal of the catalyst, the filtrate was evaporated to dryness. The residue was chromatographed on an alumina column (25 g). The eluate with benzene-AcOEt (9:1) afforded 8 (204 mg) which was recrystallized from EtOH to give colorless needles, m.p. 147-148°, (Found: C, 71:30; H, 6:60; N, 3*81; C₂,H₂,O₄N requires: C, 71:37; H, 6:56; N, 3*96%); UV (nm) EtOH: 228 (sh, log ϵ 4:07), 288 (3:75), 294 (3:77); NMR (δ) CDCl₃: 1:69 and 2:20 (1H × 2, m, -CH₂-CH₃-), 2:20 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 2:52-3:12 (4H, m), 3:52 and 4:00 (1H × 2, d, J = 17 Hz, Ar-CH₂-N), 3*81 (6H, s, -OCH₃), 5:89 (2H, m, -O-CH₂-O-), 6:60 and 6:65 (1H × 2, s, Ar-H), 6:70 (2H, s, Ar-H). MS (m/e): 338, 322, 164.

Reaction of dl-thalictricavine methochloride 15 with sodium methylsulfinylmethanide

To a suspension of 15 (1.43 g, 3.56 mmole) in 28.4 ml THF sodium methylsulfinylmethanide (4.5 ml) was added. The following treatment was carried out in the general procedure mentioned above. To the resulting residue MeOH was added to give colorless crystals. The crystalline mass was filtered off and recrystallized from MeOH to afford colorless fine needles (710 mg, 1.93 mmole) m.p. 166–167° (lit.¹⁸ m.p. 162–163°) which was found to be identical with 17 (Found: C, 71.91; H, 6.90; N, 3.71; requires: C, 71.91; H, 6.86; N, 3.81%); UV (nm) EtOH: 234 (log ϵ 4.18), 294 (3.94). NMR (δ) CDCl₃: 1.77 (3H, d, J = 1 Hz, H C=C CH₃), 2.20 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 2.74 (4H, broad s, Ar-CH₂-CH₂-N), 3.70 (2H, broad s, Ar-CH₂-O), 6.42 (1H, broad s, H C=C CH₃), 5.91 (2H, s, -O-CH₂-O-), 6.42 (1H, broad s, H C=C CH₃), 6.67 (1H, s, Ar-H), 6.74 (1H, s, Ar-H), 6.80 (1H, d, J = 8 Hz, Ar-H), 6.96 (1H, d, J = 8 Hz, Ar-H). MS (m/e): 367 (M⁻): 352, 336, 309.

The mother liquor was evaporated in vacuo and the residue was

chromatographed on a silica gel column (42 g). The initial eluate with CHCl₃-MeOH (100: 1) gave 16 (317 mg, 24%). Recrystallization from EtOH gave colorless prisms, m.p. 116–117°. (Found: C, 71·94; H, 7·02; N, 3·75. C₂₂H₂₃O₄N requires: C, 71·91; H, 6·86; N, 3·81%); UV (nm) EtOH: 264 (log ϵ 4·05), 300 (3·69); NMR (δ) CDCl₃: 1·05 (3H, d, J = 7 Hz, CH-CH₃), 2·29 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 2·96 (1H, octet, J₁ = 5 Hz, J₂ = 7 Hz, CH-CH₂-CH₂-CH₃), 3·50 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, Ar-CHH-N), 4·16 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, Ar-CH₂-CH₃), 3·92 (1H, d, J = 5 Hz, Ar-CH₂-CH₂-CH₃), 5·16 (1H, dd, J₁ = 11 Hz, J₂ = 2 Hz, H C=C H, S - 0-CH₂-O-), 6·74 (1H, s, Ar-H), 7·95 (1H, s, Ar-H), 6·80 (2H, s, 2 × Ar-H), 7·05 (1H, dd, J₁ = 11 Hz, J₂ = 18 Hz, H C=C H, M S (m/e): 367 (M⁺), 352, 336.

The second eluate with CHCl₃-MeOH (100:1) afforded 18 as an oil (82 mg, 6·3%). The analytical data was obtained as a picrate, m.p. 207-209° (dec) (MeOH). (Found: C, 56·22; H, 4·80; N, 9·61: C₂₂H₂₃O₄N, C₄H₃O₇N₃ requires: C, 56·3; H, 4·69; N, 9·39%); UV (nm) EtOH: 230 (sh. log ϵ 4·20), 286 (3·80), 294 (3·74); NMR (δ) CDCl₃: 1·24 (3H, d, J = 7 Hz, CH-CH₃), 2·18 (3H, s, N-CH₃), 2·75 (2H, t, J = 6 Hz, Ar-CH₂-CH₂-N), 3·00 (2H, m, Ar-CH₂-CH₂-N), 3·06 (1H, d, J = 16 Hz, -CH₄-N), 3·85 (6H, s, 2 × -OCH₃), 5·78 (2H, s, 2 × Ar-H). MS (*m*/ ϵ): 367 (M⁺), 352, 336.

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