CONVERSION OF CINCHONINE INTO IPECAUANHA ALKALOIDS
THROUGH CINCHOLOIPON ETHYL ESTER

Tozo Fujii and Shigeyuki Yoshifuji
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kanazawa University
13-1 Takara-machi, Kanazawa 920, Japan

The synthesis of lemetine from natural cinchonine is described. It was undertaken as the vehicle for synthetic efforts toward general ipecacuanha alkaloid and analogous alkaloid preparations through cincholoipon ethyl ester where the later reaction steps could take advantage of high stereoselectivity due to the two asymmetric centers at the 3- and 4-positions.

A TOTAL SYNTHESIS OF dl-DIHYDRODEOXYEPIALLOCERNUINE
SOME FINDINGS ON THE HOFMANN-LOEFFLER TYPE OF REACTION

Yoshio Ban, Masayuki Kimura, and Takeshi Oishi
Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Hokkaido University, Sapporo 060, Japan

Cernuine is an alkaloid isolated from Lycopodium Cernuum L. The present work constitutes a total synthesis of the entitled compound, whose final step was effected by photocyclization of the Hofmann-Loeffler type in the absence of any strong acid. N-acetylisopelletierine was refluxed with Et₃OBF₄ in methylene chloride to afford the corresponding iminoether, which was heated with t-BuOK in t-BuOH, and the product was hydrogenated to give 2-methyl-4-quinolizidone.

The foregoing product was condensed with α-picolylium lithium to furnish 2-methyl-4-(2-picolidene)-quinolizidone, which was successively hydrogenated to afford piperidylmethylquinolizidine, whose N-chloro derivative was irradiated with a 300 W high pressure mercury lamp in ether in the absence of strong acid to readily afford dl-dihydroxyepiallocernuine as the free base with no base treatment. The features of the present photocyclization are remarkably different from those of the known Hofmann-Loeffler reaction. Several compounds of 1,3-diaza six-membered ring system were prepared by the present procedure.

The mechanism of the present photoreaction will be discussed.