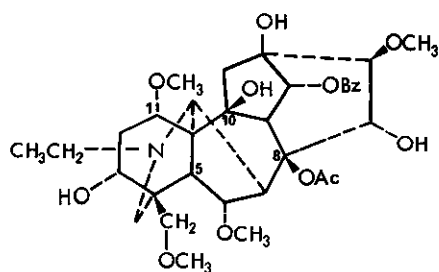


THE IDENTITY OF WANG'S AND ZHU'S "NAGARINE" WITH ACONIFINE (10 β -HYDROXYACONITINE)

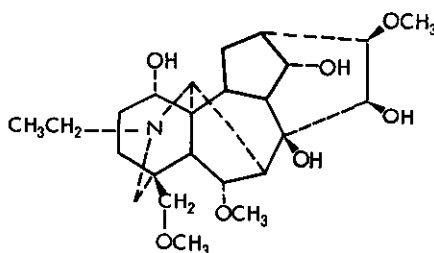
S. William Pelletier*, Naresh V. Mody and Chen Szu-ying
 Institute for Natural Products Research and the Department of Chemistry,
 The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602, U.S.A.

Recently Wang¹ reported the isolation from *Aconitum nagarum* Stapf. var. *lasiantrum* of a "new alkaloid" named *nagarine*, C₃₄H₄₇NO₁₂, mp. 198-200°C, [α]_D + 30.6° (CHCl₃), to which they assigned structure 1. In a recent issue of this journal, Zhu and Zhu² reported the isolation from the same plant of the identical alkaloid that they named *nagarine*, and to which they also assigned structure 1. In the same issue of *Heterocycles*³ we reported the isolation from *Aconitum nagarum* var. *heterotrichum* F. *dielsianum* W.T. Wang of a new alkaloid, C₂₄H₃₉NO₇, mp. 190-191°C, [α]_D²⁰ + 20.4° (CHCl₃), that we named *nagarine*, and to which we assigned structure 2.

We wish to point out that Wang's and Zhu's "nagarine" is identical in melting point, molecular formula and structure with *aconifine* (10 β -hydroxyaconitine), a diterpenoid alkaloid which was first reported by Yunusov and coworkers⁴ in 1973 and whose complete structure was reported in 1980.⁵ In view of the prior use of the trivial name *aconifine* for alkaloid 1, the name, *nagarine*, should be withdrawn for this structure and used only to identify alkaloid 2.



1 Aconifine \equiv Wang's and Zhu's "Nagarine"



2 Nagarine

REFERENCES

1. Wang Fenqenq, *Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica*, **16**, 950 (1981).
2. Zhu Yuanlong (Chu Yuan-Lung) and Zhu Renhong (Chu Jen-Hung), *Heterocycles*, **17**, 607 (1982).
3. N.V. Mody, S. W. Pelletier and Chen Szu-ying, *Heterocycles*, **17**, 91 (1982).
4. M.N. Sultankhodzhaev, M.S. Yunusov and S. Yu. Yunusov, *Khim. Prir. Soedin.*, **9**, 127 (1973).
5. M.N. Sultankhodzhaev, L.V. Beshitaishvili, M.S. Yunusov, M.R. Yaqudov and S. Yu. Yunusov, *Khim. Prir. Soedin.*, **16**, 665 (1980).

Received, 24th April, 1982