

ON THE STRUCTURE OF GLAUVINE: SYNTHESIS OF OXOLIRIOFERINE, NORLIRIOFERINE
AND N,O-DIACETYL NORLIRIOFERINE¹.

Luis Castedo*, José M. Saá, Rafael Suau, and Carmen Villaverde

Departamento de Química Orgánica de la Facultad de Química e
Instituto de Productos Naturales Orgánicos (Sección Alcaloides)
del C.S.I.C.

Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

Abstract- Further support for structure (2) of glauvine by proving that its reduction product and norlirioferine (3c) were distinct compounds is described. Norlirioferine (3c) and its N,O-diacetyl-derivative (3d) were obtained via oxolirioferine (4a), which was synthesized by two independent routes.

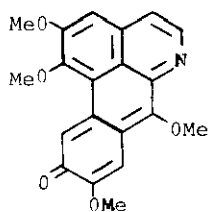
We have seriously questioned the structure of glauvine {assumed to be (1)²} by proving its identity with corunnine³. The structure of corunnine (2) has been unambiguously confirmed by two different syntheses⁴. However, Zn-AcOH reduction of corunnine (2)^{4b} gave thalicmidine (3a) while similar reduction of glauvine followed by acetylation has been reported by Yakhontova et al.² to afford a product (A) (mp 148-150°C), which claimed from its spectroscopic data to be the new compound N,O-diacetylnorlirioferine (3d). The latter result has been used by Yakhontova et al.² to establish the previous structure (1) of glauvine. However, our new structure (2) of glauvine seems to be contradictory to his result. This together with the lack of a direct comparison of glauvine and corunnine as mentioned by Shamma⁵ led us to study the synthesis of N,O-diacetylnorlirioferine (3d). This was achieved via oxolirioferine (4a), which was obtained by two independent routes involving the regioselective demethylation of isoquinoline alkaloids by mineral acids⁶.

Thus, treatment of 6'-bromopapaverinol (5a)⁷ with 80% orthophosphoric acid and a small amount of P₂O₅ gave in 35% yield the phenolic compound (5b), mp 189-91°C⁸. Photocyclization of (5b) in a solution of methanol at or near neutrality^{4b} afforded in 25% yield oxolirioferine (4a) as orange needles {mp 270°C (dec.); UV (EtOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 244(4.35), 274(4.32), 294(sh, 4.12), 359(3.82), 394(sh, 3.73) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 1650 cm⁻¹; pmr δ (CDCl₃) 8.86(1H, d, J=5.5, H-5), 8.68(1H, s, H-11), 8.03(1H, s, H-8), 7.74(1H, d, J=5.5, H-4), 7.16(1H, s, H-3), 4.06(6H, s, C-2 and C-9 OMe) and 4.01 ppm (3H, s, C-1 OMe); m/e (%) 337(100 M⁺), 312(34), 294(25)}. Oxolirioferine (4a), upon acetylation with acetic anhydride in pyridine, afforded the acetate (4b) as yellow needles {mp 227-9°C (dec.); UV (EtOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 242(4.59), 272(4.54), 286 (sh, 4.26), 333(3.85), 376(3.79), 430(3.77) nm; IR (KBr) ν_{max} 1760 (ester C=O), 1665 (ketone C=O) cm⁻¹; pmr δ (CDCl₃) 8.86(1H, d, J=5.2, H-5), 8.83(1H, s, H-11), 8.08(1H, s, H-8), 7.75(1H, d, J=5.2, H-4), 7.14(1H, s, H-3), 4.06, 4.00 and 3.98(3H each, s, 3xOMe) and 2.39 (3H, s, CH₃-CO-); m/e (%) 379 (22, M⁺), 337 (100)}.

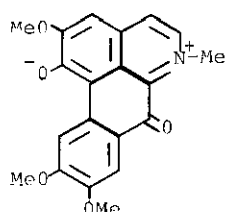
The other approach to the synthesis of O-acetyloxolirioferine (4b), started with the selective demethylation of dehydroglauvine (6a) with sulfuric acid which afforded in 48% yield the unstable dehydrolirioferine (6b)⁹. This, upon acetylation, gave O-acetyl-

dehydrolirioferine(6c) ⁹, which when submitted to eosine-sensitized photooxidation ¹⁰ was converted into O-acetyloxolirioferine (4b) (82% yield).

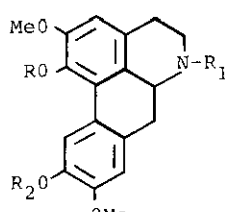
Reduction of (4b) with Zn-AcOH gave in 90% yield norlirioferine (3c) { mp 112-4°C (CHCl₃); UV(EtOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 220(4.45), 273(sh, 3.95), 280(4.02), 305(3.98), 316(sh, 3.91) nm; pmr δ(CDCl₃) 7.99(1H, s, H-11), 6.69(1H, s, H-8), 6.55(1H, s, H-3), 3.89 and 3.85(3H each, s, C-2 and C-9 OMe), and 3.66 ppm (3H, s, C-1 OMe); m/e(%) 327(76, M⁺), 326(100)}. Norlirioferine (3c), upon acetylation, afforded N,O-diacetylnorlirioferine (3d) {mp 202-4°C (CHCl₃-ether); UV(EtOH) λ_{max} (log ε) 216(4.71), 282(4.29), 294(sh, 4.22), 302(sh, 4.11) nm; pmr δ(CDCl₃) 8.13(1H, s, H-11), 6.82(1H, s, H-8), 6.59(1H, s, H-3), 3.84(6H, s, C-2 and C-9 OMe), 3.63(3H, s, C-1 OMe), 2.32, and 2.19 ppm (3H each, s, N-CO-CH₃, O-CO-CH₃)}.



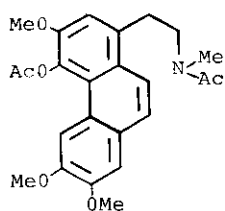
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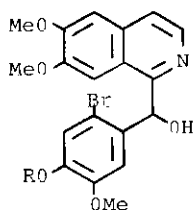


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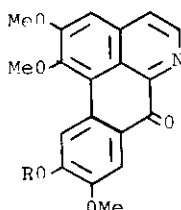
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- a) R=H; R₁=R₂= Me
- b) R=Ac; R₁=R₂=Me
- c) R=Me; R₁=R₂=H
- d) R=Me; R₁=R₂=Ac
- e) R=R₂=Me; R₁=Ac
- f) R=R₁=Ac; R₂=Me



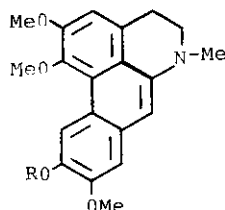
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- a) R=Me
- b) R=H



6

- a) R=H
- b) R=Ac



7

- a) R=Me
- b) R=H
- c) R=Ac

When the melting point and the spectroscopic data (pmr and IR) (Table I) of product (A) and N,O-diacetylnorlirioferine (3d) are compared it clearly shows that both are distinct compounds. Signals corresponding to the N-acetyl group of N,O-diacetylnorlirioferine (3d) appeared at 1635 cm^{-1} and at $\delta\ 2.75\text{ ppm}$ (Table I) and we have found the same chemical shift value (in TFA- d_1) in other N-acetyl aporphines such as N-acetylnorglaucine (3e) and N,O-diacetylwilsonirine (3f). However, for product (A) a further high field singlet (at $\delta\ 2.25\text{ ppm}$) and an absorption band at 1698 cm^{-1} (too high for a tertiary amide carbonyl) have been reported² and both values on the other hand agree with acetic acid (Table I). Therefore, bearing in mind the identity of glauvine and corunnine and its reduction to thalicmidine (3a) we conclude that product (A) can only be O-acetylthalicmidine (3b) or phenanthrene (7). The compound (7) can be obtained when an aporphine is heated in acetic anhydride¹¹. This last possibility was discarded by pmr comparison of product (A) and phenanthrene (7) obtained from thalicmidine (3a)¹¹. Consequently, product (A) can only be the higher melting O-acetylthalicmidine (3b) (mp $184\text{-}50\text{C}$) possibly impurified by acetic acid. In this way, we found that O-acetylthalicmidine (3b) plus acetic acid gave the same pmr spectrum (in TFA- d_1) as reported for product (A) (Table I)¹². Hence we further prove that glauvine should have the same structure (2) as corunnine.

TABLE I

	NMR data in TFA- d_1 , δ , ppm					IR data (KBr) ν_{max} (cm^{-1})	
	H-3	H-8	H-11	N-Ac	O-Ac		
N,O-diacetylnorlirioferine (3d)	6.87	7.02	8.21	2.75	2.48	1770	1635
Product (A)	6.87	6.95	7.56	<u>2.25</u>	2.48	1770	<u>1698</u>
O-Acetylthalicmidine (3b)	6.85	6.97	7.67		2.49	1770	
Acetic acid					<u>2.26</u>		<u>1700</u>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: To the Comisi3n Asesora de Investigaci3n Cientifica y T3cnica (Spain) for its financial support.

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Received, 25th April, 1980