FURTHER STUDIES ON THE ALKALOIDS OF RAUWOLFIA CANESCENS BARK

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Rauwolfia canescens (f. Apocynaceae) is a common plant in Sri Lanka. The presence of a large number of pharmaceutically and commercially important compounds in this genus attracted our attention to study the alkaloids in this species. We have earlier reported three compounds from the bark[1] and six compounds from the leaves[2] of this species. The present study deals with the isolation and identification of three more indole alkaloids.

The methods of extraction, separation, isolation and characterization were described earlier[2]. With the help of spectral data two compounds were identified as corynanthine and deserpidine. The third was a new compound having M+ at 318. The fragment ions at 303, and 287 indicated the loss of CH_3 and OCH_3 groups. In the ^{13}C and ^{1}H NMR spectra the presence of an unsubstituted benzene ring, a substituted pyridine ring and 3 unsplit CH_3 groups were observed. A structure was assigned to this compound by studying the DEPT, ^{13}C, ^{1}H NMR spectra MS, IR, and UV spectra of the compound.

Acknowledgments: The authors are grateful to IFS, Sweden for the research grant and Dr. A.S. Amarasekera for helpful suggestions.

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