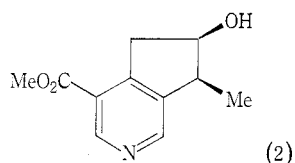
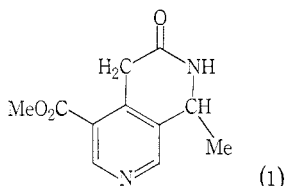


THE ISOLATION OF THE ALKALOID JASMININE FROM *OLEA PANICULATA* (OLEACEAE)

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The terpenoid alkaloid jasminine (1) was previously isolated from a number of *Jasminum* species and from *Ligustrum novoguineense*.^{1,2} Its range of occurrence has now been extended to a third genus of the family Oleaceae by the isolation of jasminine from the leaf alkaloids of *Olea paniculata* R. Br., a slender tree occurring in New Guinea.



In the earlier study of *Jasminum* alkaloids another terpenoid alkaloid (2) was isolated from an incompletely identified *Jasminum* species from New Guinea.² Since the publication of this work,² the same alkaloid has been isolated from *Cantleya corniculata* (family Icacinaceae) and given the trivial name cantleyine.³ Cantleyine was also reported to have been obtained from the pericarp of *Strychnos nux-vomica* (family Loganiaceae).³ It has been shown convincingly that cantleyine is an artefact generated by the action of ammonia on loganin, and it is therefore to be expected that the *Jasminum* alkaloid (2) is also an artefact. This possibility was considered when the occurrence of alkaloid (2) (cantleyine) was first reported.² The situation with jasminine is less clear. It could be an artefact generated from ammonia and a bakankosin-type precursor, but in the only instance where a *Jasminum* species was extracted without the use of ammonia the yield of jasminine was not significantly altered.¹

Experimental

Leaves of *O. paniculata* (Herbarium voucher number TGH 11948) were collected from a tree (12 m high, 20 cm in diameter) near Omaura in the Eastern Highlands District, Territory of New Guinea.

Extraction of the milled dried leaves (8 kg) by the method described¹ afforded 2.6 g crude alkaloids. As with previously examined species, about 50% of the crude alkaloids dissolved in hot

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¹ Hart, N. K., Johns, S. R., and Lamberton, J. A., *Aust. J. Chem.*, 1968, **21**, 1321.

² Hart, N. K., Johns, S. R., and Lamberton, J. A., *Aust. J. Chem.*, 1969, **22**, 1283.

³ Sévenet, T., Das, B. C., Parello, J. B., and Potier, P., *Bull. Soc. chim. Fr.*, 1970, 3120.

benzene, leaving an insoluble, intractable gum. Chromatography of the benzene-soluble portion from 1.8 g crude alkaloids on neutral alumina afforded a series of crystalline fractions (100 mg) which were eluted by benzene. Crystallization from benzene gave jasminine, m.p. 175–176°, $[\alpha]_D -33^\circ$ (c, 0.9 in CHCl_3), which was identical (mixed m.p., i.r., and n.m.r. spectra) with that previously identified.^{1,2}

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