PYRROLIZIDINE ALKALOIDS FROM CRYPTANTHA SPECIES

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Abstract—In the first alkaloid investigation of the genus Cryptantha (Boraginaceae), pyrrolizidine alkaloids were identified from C. cana, C. clevelandii, C. confertiflora, C. flava, C. fendleri, C. leiocarpa, C. thyrsiflora, C. virgata and C. virginensis. Six perennial species from section (or subgenus) Oreocarya were similar in their alkaloid content, which was dominated by lycopsamine and intermedine and in some species with their acetyl derivatives. In two other species from this section, amabiline and tessellatine (heliospathine) were also major components. In contrast, in three annual species from section (or subgenus) Krynitzkia, the major pyrrolizidine alkaloids were angelylretronecine and echiumine derivatives. New pyrrolizidine alkaloids found were threo-2",3"-dihydroxyechiumine, erythro-3"-chloro-2"-hydroxyechiumine and 2",3"-epoxyechiumine.

INTRODUCTION

Cryptantha Lehm. ex G. Don (Boraginaceae) is a genus of about 150 species, two-thirds of which occur in the western U.S., with the remainder in the South American Andes [1]. They are plants of arid regions, many of which seem to prefer soils impregnated with mineral salts. The genus has been described as being of remarkable taxonomic and distributional interest [2]. Early botanists sometimes employed the generic concepts Oreocarya and Krynitzkia for the perennial/biennial and annual species, respectively, but more recent treatments have usually maintained these divisions as sections or subgenera under Cryptantha. One recent authority [3] recommended returning to a generic split, but the North American Flora currently under preparation will maintain all under Cryptantha (D. Wilken and W. Kelley, personal communication). The Oreocarya and Krynitzkia concepts are easily separable and distinct in the U.S., but South American species show intermediate characters and this fact seems to be the major one for placing all species within the unifying genus Cryptantha [2]. In a revision of the subgenus Oreocarya [4], groupings and phylogeny within that subgenus were also proposed. Genera of the Boraginaceae are often toxic due to their content of pyrrolizidine alkaloids and some are known to present severe poisoning problems to livestock of the western U.S. [5]. Several Cryptantha species were reported to be used in Ramah Navajo medicine [6]. The present work was undertaken to search for pyrrolizidine alkaloids in Cryptantha as a possible taxonomic aid and to determine if the genus represents a potential toxicity hazard.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Cryptantha cana, C. flava, C. thyrsiflora and C. virgata (all of section Oreocarya) were very similar in both total pyrrolizidine alkaloid (PA) content (about 0.1-0.3% of the dry weight) and alkaloid pattern (80-90% intermedine and/or lycopsamine). The remaining PAs were mainly intermedine or lycopsamine 3'- and 7'-acetates (Table 1). The alkaloids were obtained only after zinc reduction and were therefore present in the plant as Noxides. Complete NMR data for 3'-acetylintermedine have not previously been reported and are included in the Experimental. The alkaloid content of C. thyrsiflora was very similar to that of Amsinckia menziesii [7] a related genus of the Boraginaceae. Links to Amsinckia were also seen in the PA content of C. confertiflora and C. virginensis, also of section Oreocarya. These species contained major amounts of amabiline and tessellatine [8] (heliospathine [9]), alkaloids known from Amsinckia [8, 10]. On the basis of plant morphology, each of these Cryptantha species were placed in different phylogenetic groupings [4] so their very similar alkaloid content does not aid in evaluating these divisions.

In contrast, the alkaloid content of the three annual species from section Krynitzkia was considerably lower (C. fendleri 0.068%, C. clevelandii 0.029% and C. leiocarpa 0.014% of the dry weight) and the major PAs found (Table 2) were quite different from those of the section Oreocarya species. Most of the PAs in section Krynitzkia were angelylretronecines and their derivatives, compounds not found in section Oreocarya. Among the isolates were three previously undescribed alkaloids, 1-3,

Alkaloid	Cryptantha spp.								
	thyrsiflora	virgata	cana	flava	virginiensis	confertiflora A	confertiflora B		
Intermedine	38*	3	9	12	9	3	13		
Lycopsamine	16	90	65	57	72	29	68		
7-Acetylintermedine	10	т	Т	1					
7-Acetyllycopsamine	6	6	T†	6	and the set				
3'-Acetylintermedine	27	Т	18	12	- course and	*****			
3'-Acetyllycopsamine	2	-	7	7	and the second second				
Amabiline			_		3	50	1		
Tessellatine [†]	_				15	13	15		
9-Acetyltessellatine		-		—		3	2		

Table 1. Pyrrolizidine alkaloid content of Cryptantha species (section Oreocarya)

*Percentage of total alkaloids, determined from isolation and/or GC and GC-MS.

†Trace.

‡Also known as heliospathine.

Table 2. P	yrrolizidine a	lkaloid co	ontent of (Cryptantha s	species (section	Krinitzkia*)
	-						

	Cryptantha spp.						
Alkaloid	fendleri	leiocarpa	clevelandii				
7-Angelylretronecine	major	major					
9-Angelylretronecine	major	trace					
Echiumine	+	minor	minor				
1	aproprieta-	minor	major				
2	e-1400 YW N	minor	major				
3	- and a state	minor	major				
Intermedine	- Martin	minor	major				
3'-Acetylintermedine	Approximate	trace	major				
Latifoline	minor						
Neolatifoline	minor						

*Relative amounts estimated from isolation and TLC spots and GC-MS (C. clevelandii). †A trace of echiumine or its isomer symlandine was found.



- 1: R = threo-2",3"-dihydroxyangelyl
- 2: R = erythro-3"-chloro-2"-hydroxyangelyi
- 3: R = 2",3"-epoxyangelyl

described below. These are derivatives of echiumine, a rare PA from *Echium plantagineum* [11], but also described from *Amsinckia* species [12].

Thus, the two sections [2], subgenera [4] or genera

[3] Oreocarya and Krynitzkia are chemically as well as morphologically distinct. It will be of interest to chemically examine the South American Cryptantha spp. which appear to be the key in determining the level of distinction among these taxa.

Structure elucidations. New PAs from C. clevelandii and C. leiocarpa were assigned structures 1-3 based on their mass and NMR spectra (Table 3). In general, the spectra could be compared with those for echiumine (7-angelylintermedine) and intermedine (Table 3). The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectra of the major PA of the four, 1, included all the proper resonances for intermedine, including a C-5' proton resonance at $\delta 2.02$ which distinguishes the trachelanthate from the viridiflorate ($\delta 2.17$) [7]. The MS showed m/z 415, which was consistent with a C₂₀H₃₃NO₈ formulation. If the 299 mass for intermedine was subtracted from the observed m/z 415, a mass of 116 remained, which corresponded to $C_5H_8O_3$. Since the δ 5.44 broad singlet ¹H resonance was typical of a C-7esterified PA, an acyl moiety must be present at the C-7 hydroxyl and this would correspond to O=CC₄H₈O₂.

Carbon no.	1	1		2		3		Inter	Intermedine	
	С	н	С	н	с	Н	Н	С	Н	
1	132.9		132.6		*			132.7		
2	125.0	5.80	127.8	5.88	128.5	5.87	5.84	130.1	5.98	
3u	63.3	3.37	62.4	3.36	62.7	3.40	3.40	62.5	3.43	
3d		3.98		3.98		3.94	3.95		3.95	
5u	54.0	2.60	53.7	2.60	53.6	2.64	2.66	53.8	2.73	
5d		3.37		3.36		3.32	3.32		3.28	
6	34.8	2.08	34.5	2.13	34.4	2.10	2.11	36.1	2.00	
7	74.9	5.44	75.4	5.35	75.3	5.37	5.42	70.6	4.27	
8	75.7	4.29	75.8	4.36	75.4	4.34	4.34	78.4	4.18	
9u	63.0	4,74	62.3	4.74	62.5	4.68	4.67	62.3	4.79	
9d		4.74		4.91		4.86	4.85		4.87	
1′	174.9		173.6		175.1	-		175.2	_	
2'	83.2		83.0		82.9			83.1	_	
3'	69.8	4.13	69.4	4.07	69.4	4.06	4.03	69.1	4.12	
4'	16.9	1.22	16.9	1.21	17.1	1.21	1.19	16.9	1.24	
5′	33.2	2.02	33.0	2.05	33.0	2.04	2.04	33.0	2.04	
6'	17.2	1.01	17.1	0.95	16.9	0.95	0.93	17.1	0.95	
7'	17.2	0.94	17.3	0.94	17.3	0.93	0.94	17.1	0.94	
1″	175.4		175.1		*				_	
2''	78.7†		77.2		77.2					
3″	71.5	3.80 a	62.8	4.19 a	60.0	3.04 a	6.09 a		_	
4"	16.5	1.19 d	17.9	1.53 d	13.6	1.32 d	1.96 m			
5″	22.1	1.24 s	23.0	1.36 s	19.3	1.49 s	1.81 s	_	_	

Table 3. ¹H and ¹³C NMR data (CDCl₃) for new pyrrolizidine alkaloids compared to echiumine and intermedine

*Obscured by noise.

[†]CD₃OD solvent.

The $\delta 175.35$ carbon resonance was assigned to the carbonyl carbon. In the normal CDCl₃ ¹³C NMR spectrum only three of the required four peaks for the C₄H₈O₂ moiety were seen: $\delta 16.46$, 22.06 and 71.46. In CD₃OD, an additional resonance, which had been obscured by the CDCl₃ resonances, was seen at $\delta 78.7$ and such a peak was visible in the HMBC spectrum as well. In the ¹H NMR spectrum, a singlet methyl resonance was at $\delta 1.24$, while doublets (J = 8 Hz) were present at $\delta 1.19$ (3H) and 3.80 (1H). These data were all consistent with a 2,3-dihydrox-yangelyl moiety at the C-7 hydroxyl. The resonances were virtually identical with the corresponding ones reported [13] for synthetic ethyl *threo*-2,3-dihydroxyangelate. Thus, 1 is *threo*-2",3"-dihydroxyechiumine, with the absolute configuration unknown.

Dihydroxyangelyl side chains at the C-9 hydroxyl were recently reported [14] for the new PAs ipanguline and isoipanguline, but without assignment of relative stereochemistry. The ¹H NMR resonances reported for these side chains (δ 3.77, 1.16 and 1.41 for ipanguline and δ 3.91, 1.30 and 1.22 for isoipanguline) are virtually identical with those found for the synthetic *erythro* and *threo* models, respectively [13]. On the same basis, the *threo* stereochemistry can also be assigned to similar structural moieties in two unnamed PAs (4 and 11 [15]) from *Senecio* species.

The NH₃CIMS of 2 showed double $[M]^+ + 1$ molecular ions at 434 and 436 (ratio 3:1) suggesting the presence of one chlorine atom and a calculated molecular formula of C₂₀H₃₂CINO₇. All the expected NMR resonances were present for an intermedine moiety and the re-

mainder could be analysed for an O=CC₄H₇ClO acyl moiety at the C-7 hydroxyl. ¹³C resonances for C-3", C-4" and C-5" (δ 77.2, 16.9 and 23.0) were comparable to the model dihydroxyangelyl derivatives [13], but the C-3" resonance was at $\delta 62.8$ rather than at $\delta 71-72$. This could be accounted for by the presence of a Cl instead of an OH at C-3". The macrocycle PA doronine contains a similarly arranged chlorohydrin functionality and the resonance for the carbon bearing the chlorine in that compound is δ 63.0 [16]. The assignment was supported by the ¹HNMR spectrum where H-3" was at $\delta 4.19$ ($\delta 4.05$ in doronine) and H-4" at $\delta 1.53$ as opposed to the $\delta 3.7$ -3.9 and $\delta 1.15-1.22$ resonances for the corresponding protons in the dihydroxyangelyl synthetics [13]. Thus, 2 is erythro-3"-chloro-2"-hydroxyechiumine, based on its close spectral correspondence with the macrocycle chlorohydrin doronine, whose stereochemistry is known from an X-ray study [17]. If 2 arises from the trans-epoxide 3 (see below), then it would indeed have the erythro configuration. Since H_2SO_4 and not HCl was used in the isolation procedures, 2 is presumed to be a natural constituent.

Compound 3 had a M, of 397 (mass spectrum) or 18 mass units less than 1. All ¹H and ¹³C NMR resonances were again present for an intermedine moiety and the remainder could be accounted for by the epoxyangelyl side chain at C-7. The macrocycles ligularizine, petasitenine, neopetasitenine and an episenecicannabine are all *trans*-substituted epoxides with the methine proton appearing at δ 3.02–3.04 and the methyl at δ 1.27–1.48. The macrocycles jacobine, senecicannabine, florosenine and

otosenine are all *cis*-substituted epoxides having the methine proton at $\delta 2.91-2.96$ and the methyl at $\delta 1.17-1.23$. The corresponding resonances in 3 are at $\delta 3.03$ and 1.27 and we thus assigned it as a *trans*-substituted epoxide. Echiumine [11] was a trace component of two plant species and was isolated slightly contaminated by other PAs. Its mass spectrum (molecular ion m/z 381) and previously unpublished ¹H NMR spectrum (Table 3), again in comparison with that for intermedine, were consistent with its structure as 7-angelylintermedine, the expected precursor of 1-3.

EXPERIMENTAL

NMR spectra were determined in CDCl₃ with TMS as int. standard at 300 MHz (¹H) and 75 MHz (¹³C) at Colorado State, except for 2D ¹H NMR spectra which were run at 400 MHz at Rhodes University. TLC data are for silica gel plates developed with CHCl₃-MeOH-25% NH₄OH, 85:14:1. GLC was performed on a 30 m DB-1 0.32 mm i.d. column (0.1 μ film), He carrier gas at 2 ml min⁻¹. The oven was programmed at 165° for 14 min, then ramped to 275° at 20° min⁻¹ with a final hold time of 10 min. GC-MS data were obtained as described previously [18].

Plant collections. Cryptantha cana (A. Nels.) Payson: Weld Co., CO, sandstone buttes at Forest Road 681 west of Pawnee Buttes on 26 May 1991 (voucher FRS 428, CSU herbarium, identified by W. A. Weber, University of Colorado Museum, Boulder); C. clevelandii Greene: Monterey Co., CA, County Road G-18 west of U.S. 101, on 28 March 1980 (James N. Roitman voucher JR 80-05) and on 17 June 1991 (R. B. Kellev voucher RBK 308); identified by R.B.K., in comparison with material in the Jepson Herbarium, University of California from the same location; C. confertiflora (Greene) Payson Collection A: Mono Co., CA, Hot Creek thermal area on 9 August 1989 (voucher RBK 266) and Collection B: Invo Co., CA, State Road 168 east of Westgard Pass in the White Mtns on 9 June 1986; C. flava (A. Nels.) Payson: San Juan Co., NM off SH 544 between Aztec and Bloomfield on 31 May 1991 (voucher FRS 431, CSU, identified by W. A. Weber); C. fendleri (Grav) Greene; Chaffee Co., CO, west of U.S. 285 just north of Nathrop on 3 August 1990 (voucher FRS 415, CSU, identified by W. A. Weber); C. leiocarpa (F.&M.) Greene: Sonoma Co., CA, in sand dunes west of dormitories on Bodega Marine Reserve on 13 April 1992 (voucher FRS 440, CSU, identified by P. Conners, botanist, University of California, Bodega Marine Reserve); C. thyrsiflora (Greene) Payson: Chaffee Co., CO, west of Rd 321, 3 miles south of Buena Vista on 24 June 1990 (voucher FRS 406, CSU, identified by W. A. Weber); C. virgata (Porter) Greene; Larimer Co., CO, at Kelly Flats, SH 14 30 miles west of Fort Collins (voucher FRS 406, CSU, identified by W. A. Weber); C. virginensis (M. E. Jones) Payson: Esmeralda County, NV, off U.S. 95 near Goldfield Summit on 9 June 1986 (R.B.K.).

Isolations. Dried and milled plant material of C. cana, C. flava, C. clevelandii, C. leiocarpa, C. thyrsiflora and C. virgata was soaked in MeOH at room temp. for 24 hr $(\times 3)$. The combined extracts were concd to dryness in vacuo and the residue was partitioned between 0.1 M H_2SO_4 and CHCl₃. The aq. layer was washed with $CHCl_3 (\times 3)$ and stirred with Zn dust for at least 3 hr. The Zn was removed by filtration, the filtrate made basic to pH 9-10 with aq. NH₃ and the alkaloids extracted into $CHCl_3$ (× 5). Results were as follows (plant, dry wt extracted, wt of alkaloid fr., per cent yield): C. cana (287 g, 440 mg, 0.15%), C. clevelandii (305 g, 89 mg, 0.03%), C. flava (374 g, 680 mg, 0.18%), C. leiocarpa (438 g, 62 mg, 0.014%), C. thyrsiflora (90 g, 112 mg, 0.12%). For C. cana, separate plant parts were analysed: roots (0.29%), stems (0.10%) and leaves (0.60%). Separation and purification of individual alkaloids was achieved by prep. TLC on silica gel. Identification of known alkaloids was by ¹HNMR and/or GLC or GC-MS in comparison with authentic standards.

Plant material of C. confertiflora, C. clevelandii and C. virginensis was similarly treated using the detailed methods described previously [10] and analysed by GC-MS, also as described in detail [18]. Alkaloid yields were: C. confertiflora Collection A (0.36%) and Collection B (0.39%), C. clevelandii (0.004%) and C. virginensis (0.35%). In these GC-MS studies, the following trace amounts (less than 1% of the total) of alkaloids were found in addition to those described above or in Table 1: C. confertiflora Collection A (3'-acetylmyoscorpine, myoscorpine, 3'-acetylamabiline), C. confertiflora Collection B (supinine, myoscorpine, amabiline, 3'-acetyllycopsamine) and C. virginensis (supinine). Amabiline, echiumine, 3',7diacetylintermedine and myoscorpine were also found in small amounts in the crude base fraction of C. clevelandii analysed by GC-MS.

Threo-2", 3"-dihydroxyechiumine (1). Brown gum, R_f 0.32, R_t 19.76 min; EIMS: 415 (0.4), 371 (2), 254 (56), 236 (3), 210 (26), 166 (5), 138 (30), 136 (37), 120 (100), 93 (70), 80 (29); NH₃CIMS 416 (72), 370 (46), 326 (33), 300 (13), 272 (100), 254 (28), 238 (6), 210 (22), 162 (27), 138 (24). NMR data (Table 3) assignments verified by COSY and HMBC. Copies of the NMR spectra are available from F.R.S.

Erythro-3"-chloro-2"-hydroxyechiumine (2). Brown gum, R_f 0.39, R_t 20.03 min; NH₃CIMS 436 (39), 434 (100), 414 (18), 180 (44), 118 (23); EIMS 435 (0.5), 274 (37), 273 (32), 272 (92), 254 (10), 236 (13), 208 (9), 138 (10), 136 (28), 121 (26), 120 (100), 94 (32), 93 (45), 80 (19), 71 (19). NMR data (Table 2) assignments were verified by HETCOR and HMBC spectra. Copies of the NMR spectra are available from F.R.S.

2",3"-Epoxyechiumine (3). Brown gum, R_f 0.47, R_t 19.05 min; NH₃CIMS 398 (100), 336 (36), 308 (9), 254 (56), 238 (71), 236 (51); EIMS 397 [M]⁺, 254 (9), 237 (33), 236 (100), 164 (17), 157 (4), 138 (4), 136 (19), 121 (24), 120 (85), 94 (27), 93 (44), 80 (12), 71 (4), 43 (30). NMR data (Table 3) assignments made in comparison with data for 1 and 2. Copies of the NMR spectra are available from F.R.S.

Echiumine. Brown gum, R_f 0.45, R_t 18.60 min; NH₃CIMS 381 (12), 336 (18), 238 (20), 222 (23), 118 (100); EIMS 381 (1), 337 (1), 281 (2), 255 (1), 238 (9), 221 (37), 220 (100), 141 (14), 138 (7), 136 (45), 121 (30), 120 (73), 94 (20), 93 (49), 83 (24), 80 (17), 55 (35). ¹H NMR data (not previously published, Table 3). Assignments were verified by comparison with data for intermedine and for 7-angelyl PAs from the literature.

3'-Acetylintermedine. EIMS: 341 (3), 298 (2), 255 (3), 198 (2), 181 (4), 139 (20), 138 (100), 136 (14), 120 (10), 99 (7), 94 (45), 93 (79), 80 (13), 43 (34); NMR data, not previously published: carbon or hydrogen number (¹³C resonance, ¹H resonance): C-1 (132.5), C-2 (130.8, 5.91), C-3 (62.9, 3.42, 3.95), C-5 (53.9, 2.73, 3.28), C-6 (36.1, 2.00), C-7 (71.0, 4.31), C-8 (78.5, 4.18), C-9 (62.9, 4.72, 4.85), C-1' (174.5), C-2' (81.7), C-3' (72.1, 5.21), C-4' (14.1, 1.25), C-5' (32.6, 2.06), C-6' (17.2, 0.96), C-7' (16.6, 0.92), C=O (169.9), MeCO (21.0, 2.04).

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