แอลคาลอยด์จากใบทุ้งฟ้า

นางสาว วิมลักษณ์ นพศิริ

สถาบนวทยบรการ

วิทยานิพนธ์นี้เป็นส่วนหนึ่งของการศึกษาตามหลักสูตรปริญญาเภสัชศาสตรมหาบัณฑิต สาขาวิชาเภสัชเวท ภาควิชาเภสัชเวท คณะเภสัชศาสตร์ จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย ปีการศึกษา 2545 ISBN 974-17-1574-9 ลิขสิทธิ์ของจุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย ALKALOIDS FROM THE LEAVES OF ALSTONIA MACROPHYLLA

Miss Wimaluk Nopsiri

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science in Pharmacy Department of Pharmacognosy Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Chulalongkorn University Academic Year 2002 ISBN 974-17-1574-9 Thesis TitleALKALOIDS FROM THE LEAVES OF ALSTONIA MACROPHYLLAByMiss Wimaluk NopsiriField of StudyPharmacognosyThesis AdvisorAssociate Professor Sumphan Wongseripipatana, Ph.D.Thesis Co-advisorAssociate Professor Dhavadee Ponglux, Ph.D.

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วิมลักษณ์ นพศิริ : แอลคาลอยด์จากใบทุ้งฟ้า (ALKALOIDS FROM THE LEAVES OF *ALSTONIA MACROPHYLLA*) อาจารย์ที่ปรึกษา : รศ. ดร. สัมพันธ์ วงศ์เสรีพิพัฒนา, อาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาร่วม : รศ. ดร. ธาวดี ผ่องลักษณ์, 141 หน้า. ISBN 974-17-1574-9.

จากใบทุ้งฟ้า (Alstonia macrophylla Wall. ex G. Don) สามารถสกัดแยกสารบริสุทธิ์ได้ 4 ชนิด ประกอบด้วยอินโดลแอลคาลอยด์ 3 ชนิด เป็นกลุ่ม vincorine 2 ชนิด คือ demethoxyalstonamide และ (-)-1-norvincorine และอีกกลุ่มหนึ่งคือกลุ่ม macroline มี 1 ชนิด คือ alstophylline ส่วนสารบริสุทธิ์อีกชนิดหนึ่งเป็น amide คือ 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzamide ซึ่งได้พิสูจน์ โครงสร้างทางเคมีของสารบริสุทธิ์ที่แยกได้ด้วยการวิเคราะห์สเปคตรัมของ UV, IR, MS และ NMR ร่วมกับการเปรียบเทียบข้อมูลของสารประกอบที่ทราบโครงสร้างแล้ว

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ภาควิชา เภสัชเวท สาขาวิชา เภสัชเวท ปีการศึกษา 2545

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WIMALUK NOPSIRI : ALKALOIDS FROM THE LEAVES OF *ALSTONIA MACROPHYLLA*. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSOC. PROF. SUMPHAN WONGSEREPIPATANA, Ph.D., THESIS CO-ADVISOR : ASSOC. PROF. DHAVADEE PONGLUX, Ph.D., 141 pp. ISBN 974-17-1574-9.

Four pure compounds were isolated from the leaves of *Alstonia macrophylla* Wall. ex G. Don. Three of them were indole alkaloids identified as two vincorine groups namely demethoxyalstonamide and (-)-1-norvincorine and another one of indole alkaloids as macroline group, being alstophylline. The last one was amide namely 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzamide. The structures of all isolated compounds were determined by extensive spectroscopic studies, including comparison of UV, IR, MS and NMR spectra with the previously reported data.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

br	=	Broad (for NMR spectra)
С	=	Concentration
°C	=	Degree Celsius
СА	=	Chemical Abstract
CDCI ₃	=	Deuterated chloroform
CD ₃ OD	=	Deuterated methanol
CHCI ₃	= 🧹	Chloroform
cm	= 🧹	Centimeter
¹³ C NMR	=	Carbon-13 nuclear magnetic resonance
COSY	=	Correlation spectroscopy
1-D	=	One dimensional
2-D	=	Two dimentional
d	=	doublet (for NMR spectra)
dd	=	doublet of doublets (for NMR spectra)
ddd	=	doublet of doublets of doublets (for NMR spectra)
DEPT	-	Distortionless Enhancement by Polariyation Transfer
δ	=	Chemical shift
EC_{50}	= 🤍	Median effective concentration
EIMS	= doo	Electron Impact Mass Spectrum
EtOAc	= 6161	Ethyl acetate
g	ເມື່ອງ ແມ່ນ	Gram
¹ H NMR	N 19	Proton nuclear Magnetic Resonance
НМВС	=	¹ H-detected Heteronuclear Multiple Bond Correlation
HMQC	=	¹ H-detected Heteronuclear Multiple Quantum Correlation
Hz	=	Hertz
IC ₅₀	=	Median inhibitory concentration

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (continued)

IR	=	Infrared spectrum
J	=	Coupling constant
KBr	=	Potassium bromide
Kg	=	Kilogram
L	=	Liter
$\lambda_{_{\text{max}}}$	=	Wavelength at maximal absorption
3	=	Molar absorptivity
μg	=	Microgram
μM	- /	Micromolar
M^+	=	Molecular ion
m	=	Multiplet (for NMR spectra)
МеОН	=	Methanol
mg	=	Milligram
MHz	=	MegaHertz
ml	=	Milliliter
m/z	-	Mass to charge ratio
MS	- 1	Mass spectrometry
N _a	=	Nitrogen atom (a)
$N_{\scriptscriptstyle D}$	- สกา	Nitrogen atom (b)
$\rm NH_4OH$	= 61611	Ammonium hydroxide
nm	สาลง	Nanometer
NMR		Nuclear magnetic resonance
NOESY	=	Nuclear Overhauser Effect Correlation Spectroscopy
ppm	=	part per million
${oldsymbol{ u}}_{{ m max}}$	=	Wave number at maximal absorption
q	=	Quartet (for NMR spectra)

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (continued)

S	=	Singlet (for NMR spectra)
t	=	Triplet (for NMR spectra)
TLC	=	Thin layer chromatography
UV	=	Ultraviolet



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CHAPTER I

Introduction

It is from those plants containing alkaloids that a large number of drugs are derived. The group, however, is a very varied one and it is only the chemical properties of a basic nitrogen that unify the many classes of alkaloids. The number of indole alkaloids of known structure today amounts to approximately 1200. Indole alkaloids are defined as the natural organic products containing either the indole nucleus or an oxidized, reduced or substituted equivalent of it (Kisakurek and Hesse, 1980).

Some indole alkaloids exert considerable pharmacological activity, three groups are notable for clinically useful alkaloids: (a) the Ergot alkaloids, ergometrine, with its direct action on the contraction of uterine muscle; ergotamine for migraine relief and modified alkaloid, bromocriptine, which suppresses lactation and has some application for the treatment of mammary carcinoma, (b) the *Rauvolfia* alkaloids and specifically reserpine which was the forerunner of the tranquilizers and hypotensive, (c) the Dimeric anti-leukemic alkaloids of *Catharanthus*, vinblastine and vincristine which are in current clinical use. It might be thought that interest in indole alkaloids had passed their peak as far as new discoveries were concerned. In fact it is logical to assume that after such intensive research efforts, there would be little novelty left in this area (Phillipson and Zenk, 1980). More than 99.8% of the isolations of indole alkaloids are entirely distributed among three families: Loganiaceae, Apocynaceae, and Rubiaceae, belonging to order Gentianales (Kisakurek and Hesse, 1980).

These three families can be recognized and identified easily, as their leaves mostly opposite, simple, pinnately veined, with or without inter-or intrapetiolar stipules. Their flowers mostly 4- or 5-merous, usually actinomorphic, but sometimes zygomorphic and exceptionally irregular. Corolla segments always united, and stamens inserted on the corolla. Style one. Ovary, except in most Rubiaceae, superior and mostly 2-locular. The Apocynaceae can be differentiated from the Loganiaceae by the presence of milky sap. The genus *Alstonia* belongs to the tribe Plumerieae (Alstonieae) in the family

Apocynaceae. They are laticiferous trees or shrubs; leaves: simple, whorled or opposite; inflorescences; terminal, flowers cymose; calyx lobes 5, deeply devided; corolla salverform, white to yellow or red; stamens: short but distinct filaments, longitudinally dehiscent, without appendages; ovary: apocarpous (bicarpellate), superior or halfsuperior, ovules numerous, 2-8 seriate; fruits: dry-dehiscent follicles; seeds: numerous, very light, flattened and ciliate (Monachino, 1949).

There are about 40 species of the genus *Alstonia* distributed throughout the tropical and subtropical parts of the world especially in Southeast Asia, Polynesia, Australia, India and Africa (Keawpradub *et al.*, 1997). And there are seven species in Thailand. Almost all Malesian Alstonias prefer wet ground, some even peat swamp forests, and tolerate open water. They are frequent to common in lowland rain forests, some in mountain rain forests too. The most widely distributed species, *A. scholaris* and *A. spectabilis*, have a wider range of water requirement, occurring also in sclerophyllous woods and wood patches in savannas (Markgraf, 1974). The leaf shape is extremely variable in this genus. On the same twig, and even in the same whorl, leaves may vary from obovate and obtuse to elliptic and acuminate. Sometimes, after the fruits have shed their seeds, short shoots with much smaller leaves spring between the branches of the inflorescence from the axial of fallen leaves. The inflorescence is terminal, pleiochasial, short-peduncled or often sessile, its branches springing from the axis of small scales; these partial inflorescences have a long peduncle and 1-3 nodes giving rise to secondary cymes.

Alstonia macrophylla Wall. ex G. Don is a tree in the family Apocynaceae, distributes in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea and Thailand. It was found in evergreen forest, often on sandy soil. In Thailand, this family distributes in Chumphon, Surat Thani, Phangnga, Phuket, Nakhon Si Thammarat. Phattalung, Trang, Satun, Songkhla, Yala (Markgraf, 1974 and Middleton, 1999), and some in central part of Thailand (Abe, Yamauchi and Santisuk,1994b), locally known as Tung fa, Kratung fa hai (Peninsular); Tung fa kai (Chumphon); Tin thian (Songkhla) (Markgraf, 1974 and Middleton, 1999).

It is a tree of 30 m high, 70 cm diameter at breast height, trunk sometimes fluted at base or with small buttresses. *Bark* blackish-brown to grey, inner bark cream or green,

sapwood white to yellowish-brown. *Branchlets* sparsely pubescent, glabrate; branches sparsely lenticellate or not. *Leaves* in whorls of 3 or 4; blade coriaceous, oblong-obovate, $5.5-28 \times 3-10.2$ cm, apex acuminate, base cuneate; secondary veins 14-21 pairs, widely spaced, ascending; sparsely pubescent on petiole, on underside of leaf blade and on midrib above, rarely completely glabrous. *Flowers Inflorescence* 3.5-11.5 cm long; sparsely pubescent or rarely glabrous; many flowered; pedicels 2-5 mm long. *Sepals* ovate, 1.2-2.2 \times 0.8-1.2 mm, apex rounded to acute; pubescent or glabrous, ciliate. *Corolla* white or yellowish; lobes overlapping to the right in bud; tube 4-5.5 mm long; lobes 3.5-6.5 \times 1.4-2.5 mm, oblong, apex rounded; lobes ciliate, otherwise glabrous outside, pubescent inside on base of lobes and upper part of tube. *Fruits* a pair of follicles; 22-40 cm long, 2.2-3.7 mm wide; glabrous; many seeded. *Seeds* pubescent; oblong, one end long acuminate; 4.2-8 \times 0.8-1.8 mm, cilia 5-9 mm long (Markgraf, 1974 and Middleton, 1999).

The genus is well-known as a rich source of indole alkaloids, and more than 180 alkaloids have been isolated from this particular genus. In spite of this large number, only a few *Alstonia* alkaloids have been assessed for biological evaluation (Keawpradub and Houghton, 1997). In traditional medicine, methanol extract of root bark of *A. macrophylla* has been used for treatment of malaria, and has been assessed for cytotoxic activity against two human lung cancer cell lines (Keawpradub *et al.*, 1997, 1999a and 1999b), also antiplasmodial activity (Keawpradub *et al.*, 1999b).

The previous phytochemical studies of the bark, root bark and leaves of *A*. *macrophylla* were reported by several groups of researchers. However, only one report on the chemical constituents of the leaves in central of Thailand has been published (Abe *et al.*, 1994b). Therefore, it is interesting to investigate some other alkaloids from the leaves of this plant.







Figure 1 (continued) Alstonia macrophylla Wall. ex G. Don

CHAPTER II

Historical

The first isolation of alkaloids in the nineteenth century followed the reintroduction into medicine of number of alkaloid-containing drugs and were coincidental with the advent of the percolation process for extraction of drugs. It was well over a century before the structures were finally elucidated. Modern methods and instrumentation have greatly facilitated these investigations, and it is interesting to note that the yields of minor alkaloids, too small for further investigation, isolated by chemists during the first quarter of this century would now be sufficient, several thousand times over, for a complete structure analysis.

1. Distribution of Indole Alkaloids

All the indole alkaloids with a C_9 – or C_{10} – monoterpene moiety isolated from the plants of the families Apocynaceae, Rubiaceae and Loganiaceae. The huge number of alkaloids (a total of 3450 reports covers the isolation of 1200 different alkaloids) have been classified into eight different skeletal types: corynanthean, vincosan, vallesiachotaman, strychnan, aspidospermatan, eburnan, plumeran and ibogan (Figure 2) (Kisakurek, Leeuwenberg and Hesse, 1983).







Figure 2 (continued) Structure of classified eight different skeletal types of alkaloids

The botanical classification of the plant families Apocynaceae, Loganiaceae and Rubiaceae which have species containing indole alkaloids are listed below (Kisakurek and Hesse, 1980).

Family	A	Apocyn	aceae					
	Subfamil	ly	Plumeri	oideae				
	Т	ribe		Carisse	eae			
			Genus		Carpodinus,	Hunteria,	Landolphia,	Melodinus,
					Picralima, Ple	iocarpa, Plo	oyadoa	
	ର୍ବ	ribe		Tabern	aemontaneae			

Genus Anacampta, Bonafousia, Callichilia, Capuronetta, Conopharyngia, Crioceras, Ervatamia, Gabunia, Hazunta, Hedranthera, Muntafara, Pagiantha, Pandaca, Peschiera, Phrissocarpus, Rejoua, Schizozygia, Stemmadenia, Stenosolen, Tabernaemontana, Tabernanthe, Voacanga

Tribe Plumerieae

Genus Alstonia, Ammocallis, Amsonia, Aspidosperma, Catharanthus, Craspidospermum, Diplorhynchus, Geissospermum, Gonioma, Haplophyton, Lochnera, Plumeria, Rhazya, Tonduzia, Vinca

Tribe Rauvolfieae

Genus	Bleekeria,	Cabucala,	Excavatia,	Kopsia,
	Neiosperma,	Ochrosia, Rauv	olfia, Vallesia	

Family	Loganiaceae				
	Tribe	Strych	nneae		
		Genus	Gardneria, Strychnos		
	Tribe	Gelse	mieae		
		Genus	Gelsemium, Mostuea		
Family	Rubiace	eae			

Subfamily Rubioideae

- Tribe Psychotrieae
 - Genus Palicourea
- Tribe Urophylleae
 - Genus Pauridiantha
- Subfamily Cinchonoideae
 - Tribe Naucleeae

	Genus	Adina,	Anti	hocephalus,	Cephalanth	nus,	Haldina,	
		Mitragyna,		Nauclea,	Neonauclea,	Οι	urouparia,	
		Pertusadina, Sarcocephalus, Unca						
Tribe	Cincho	Cinchoneae						
	Genus	Cinchona,		Coryn	anthe,	Pau	Pausinystalia,	
	Pseudocinchona, Remijia							
Tribe	Mussaendeae							
	Genus	Isertia						
Subfamily	Guettardoideae							
Tribe	Guettardeae							
	Genus	Antirhea	, Gu	ettarda				
Subfamily	Hillioideae							
Tribe	Hillieae							
	Genus	Hillia						

2. Distribution of Alstonia species

The genus *Alstonia* was named in honour of Charles Alston (1685-1760), a Scottish physician and professor of Botany at the University of Edinburgh. It was first described by Robert Brown in 1811 with four species, namely *A. scholaris* (the type species of the genus), *A costata, A. spectabilis*, and *A. venenata* (Monachino, 1949). A systemic revision of the genus was published by Monachino in 1949 with 5 sections, 39 species, and 12 varieties. However, an accumulation of new specimens from recent field studies led to the regional revisions for Malaysia and Australia (Markgraf, 1974). Recently, two new species, i.e. *A. undulifolia* from Malaysia (Kochummen and Wong, 1984) and *A. beatricis* from Irian Jaya, Indonesia (Sidiyasa, 1996) have been described.

According to the taxonomic treatments mentioned earlier, the following 45 species of genus *Alstonia* have been recognized.

2.1 Section *Winchia* (monotypic)

2.1.1 A. glaucescens (K. Schum.) Monach.

[syn: A. pachycarpa Merrill & Chun, Winchia calophylla A. DC.]

2.2 Section Pala (Section Alstonia)

- 2.2.1 A. actinophylla (A.Cunn.) K. Schum.
 - [syn: *A. verticillosa* F. Muell.]
- 2.2.2 A. angustiloba Miq.
- 2.2.3 A. boonei De Wild.
- 2.2.4 *A. congensis* Engl. [syn: *A. gilletii* De Wild.]

[syn. A. gilletil De Wild.]

- 2.2.5 A. pneumatophora Backer ex L.G. Den Berger
- 2.2.6 A. scholaris (L.) R. Br.
- 2.2.7 A. spatulata Bl.
- 2.2.8 A. undulifolia Kochum & Wong
- 2.3 Section Blaberopus
 - 2.3.1 A. curtisii King & Gamble
 - 2.3.2 *A. mairei* Leveille
 - 2.3.3 A. neriifolia D. Don
 - [syn: *A. sericea* Bl.]
 - 2.3.4 A. rupestris Kerr
 - 2.3.5 A. sebusi (van Heurck & Muell. Arg.) Monach.
 - 2.3.6 A. venenata R. Br.

[syn: Blaberopus venenatus A. DC.]

2.3.7 A. yunnanensis Diels

- 2.4.1 A. angustifolia Wall. ex A. DC.
- 2.4.2 A. brassii Monach.
- 2.4.3 A. glabriflora Markgraf
 - A. linearis Benth.
 - A. macrophylla Wall. ex G. Don
 - [syn: A. batino Blanco]
- 2.4.6 A. muelleriana Domin
- 2.4.7 A. ophioxyloides F. Muell.
- 2.4.8 A. parvifolia Merrill
- 2.4.9 A. spectabilis R. Br.

[syn: A. longissima F. v. Muell., A. somersetensis F.M., Bailey,

A. villosa BI.]

2.5 Section Dissuraspermum

- 2.5.1 A. balansae Guillaum.
- 2.5.2 A. boulindaensis Boit.
- 2.5.3 A. constricta F. Muell.

[syn: A. mollis Benth.]

2.5.4 A. coriacea Pancher ex S. Moore[syn: A. lenormandii van Heurck & Muell. Arg. var. coriaceaMonach.]

2.5.5 A. costata (Forst. F.) R. Br.

[syn: A. fragrans J.W. Moore]

- 2.5.6 *A. deplanchei* van Heurck & Muell. Arg.[syn: *A. linearifolia* Guillaum., *A. retusa* S. Moore]
- 2.5.7 *A. lanceolata* van Heurck & Muell. Arg.

2.5.8 A. lanceolifera S. Moore

[syn: *A. lenormandii* van Heurk & Muell. Arg. var.*lanceolifera* (S. Moore) Monach.]

- 2.5.9 *A. legouixiae* van Heurck & Muell. Arg. [syn: *A.saligna* S. Moore]
- 2.5.10 A. lenormandii van Heurck & Muell. Arg.

[syn: A. comptonii S. Moore, A. filipes Schltr. ex Guillaum.]

2.5.11 A. montana Turrill

[syn: A. smithii Markgraf]

- 2.5.12 A. odontophora Boit.
- 2.5.13 A. plumosa Labill.

[syn: A. roeperi van Heurck & Muell. Arg.]

- 2.5.14 A. quaternata van Heurck & Muell. Arg.
- 2.5.15 A. reneckeana Lauterb.
- 2.5.16 A. sphaerocapitata Boit.
- 2.5.17 A. undulata Guillaum.
- 2.5.18 A. vieillardii van Heurck & Muell. Arg.
- 2.5.19 A. vitiensis Seem.

[syn: A. villosa Seem.]

2.6 Unknown Section

2.6.1 A. beatricis Sidiyasa

There are some interesting points to note on the distribution of native species. Among these 45 species, *A. scholaris* is the most widely distributed species stretching from India through Southeast Asia to Australia and some Eastern Pacific Islands. On the other hand, the occurrence of some species is very restricted. The two species, *A. boonei* and *A. congensis*, have been found exclusively in Africa and are the only two of *Alstonia* reported from this continent. Nearly all members of section *Blaberopus* are abundant in Southeast Asia and Southern China, for instance, *A. venenata* is native to India while the small shrub *A. yunnanensis* has been found only in the south of China. The only species of the section *Winchia, A. glaucescens*, has been reported only from southern China downwards through the Myanmar-Thailand border to Sumatra (Monachino, 1949). The distribution of genus *Alstonia* in Southeast Asia and Australia is dominated by the members of sections *Pala* and *Monuraspermum* particularly *A. scholaris, A. macrophylla*, and *A. spectabilis*. All 14 species of *Alstonia* found in New Caledonia belong to the section *Dissuraspermum* (Boiteau, Allorge and Sevenet, 1977).

3. Phytochemistry of *Alstonia* species

About 246 indole alkaloids have been isolated from the genus *Alstonia*. During the last ten years many more new alkaloids and other compounds have been isolated from the genus *Alstonia* and in order to provide an overall view of *Alstonia* constituents, the following section will deal with all skeletal types of compounds isolated so far from the genus together with corresponding examples. The chemical constituents found in the genus *Alstonia* are arranged in two main classes: indole alkaloids and miscellaneous compounds. The indole alkaloids are further classified on the basis of their biogenesis, according to the skeletal types proposed by Hesse and colleagues (Kisakurek *et al.*, 1983; Kisakurek and Hesse, 1980), with slight modifications. Throughout this present work the generally accepted biogenetic numbering system for indole alkaloids proposed by Le Men and Taylor (1965) is used.

3.1 Indole Alkaloids

The indole alkaloids are characterized by having the indole nucleus which derives from the amino acid tryptophan and comprise two classes, i.e. simple indole alkaloids and monoterpenoid-derived indole alkaloids. Indole alkaloids can undergo oxidation or dimerization during biosynthesis from which oxindoles and bisindoles are respectively formed.

3.1.1 Simple Indole Alkaloids

Alkaloids of this group do not present a structural uniformity, having only the indole nucleus as a common feature. Only two β -carboline derivatives so far have been isolated from genus *Alstonia*, i.e. 1-carbomethoxy β -carboline from the stem bark of *A. constricta* (Allam, Beutler and Le Quesne, 1987) and 5- methoxy-1-oxo-tetrahydro- β carboline from the root bark of *A. venenata* (Banerji *et al.*, 1982).





1-Carbomethoxy- β -carboline

5-Methoxy-1-oxo-tetrahydro- β -carboline

3.1.2 Monoterpenoid-derived indole alkaloids

Indole alkaloids with a C_{9} - or C_{10} - monoterpene moiety are classified into the following subgroups : see below. And the biologenic relationships of these main skeletal types are shown in Figure 6.

3.1.2.1 Corynanthean-type Indole Alkaloids

The corynanthean-type includes those alkaloids containing C(2)-C(3)-C(14) unit and $N_b-C(21)$ bond, with the exception of the alstonidine and macroline groups which lack the N_b -C(21) bond. These alkaloids constitute the majority of Alstonia alkaloids and can be subdivided into 8 skeletal groups, as shown in Figure 2 with their representative alkaloids. About 135 alkaloids of this type occur throughout many species in five sections of genus Alstonia, notably, vincamajine derivatives (ajmaline group) from A. constricta (Crow et al., 1970) and A. lanceolifera (Lewin et al., 1975); picraline and picrinine derivatives (akuammiline group) from A. lanceolata (Vercauteren et al., 1981), A. lanceolifera (Ravao et al., 1982), A. scholaris (Abe et al., 1989), A. venenata (Majumder and Basu, 1982) and A. vitiensis (Mamatas-Kalamaras et al., 1975a); pericyclivine derivatives (Sarpagine group) from A. undulata (Guillaume et al., 1984; Pinchon et al., 1990); yohimbine derivatives (yohimbine group) from A. quaternata (Mamatas-Kalamaras et al., 1975b) and A. venenata (Chatterjee, Majumder and Ray, 1965a; Chatterjee, Majumder and Das, 1969; Chatterjee, Roy and Mukhopadhyay, 1981; Govindachari et al., 1964, 1965); vincorine and echitamine derivatives (vincorine group) A. congensis (Caron et al., 1989), A. glaucescens (Keawpradub et al., 1994), A. scholaris (Boonchuay and Court, 1976; Yamauchi et al., 1990b) and A. sphaerocapitata (Caron et al., 1984). On the other hand, the occurrence of the alkaloids belonging to alstonidine, macroline, and pleiocarpamine groups is very restricted. Only three alkaloids of the alstonidine group (Allam et al., 1987; Crow et al., 1970), six of the macroline group (Burke et al., 1973; Cook, Le Quesne and Elderfield, 1969; Ghedira et al., 1988; Hart, Johns and Lamberton, 1972; Ratnayake et al., 1987) and three of the pleiocarpamine group (Burke et al., 1973; Jacquier et al., 1982) have been reported from the genus Alstonia.



 Figure 3
 Skeletal group of corynanthean-type indole alkaloids occurring in

 Alstonia species
 Alstonia species



Figure 3 (continued) Skeletal group of corynanthean-type indole alkaloids occurring in Alstonia species

3.1.2.2 Vallesiachotaman-type Indole Alkaloids

Alkaloids of the type are recognized as those containing C(2)-C(3)-C(14) unit with N_b -C(17) bond. Only one skeletal type, the vallesiachotamine group, is found in the genus *Alstonia* of which two alkaloids, antirhine from *A. odontophora* (Vercauteren *et al.*, 1979) and *A. angustifolia* (Ghedira *et al.* 1988) and N_b - β -methylantirhine from *A. angustifolia* (Hu, Zhu and Hesse, 1989), have been reported.



Antirhine

 $N_{\rm b}$ - β -Methylantirhine

3.1.2.3 Strychnan-type Indole Alkaloids

The strychnan-type alkaloids are those containing C(2)-C(16)-C(15) unit with C(3)-C(7) bond. About 30 strychnan-type alkaloids isolated from genus *Alstonia* are derived from the curan stereoparent and are known as the akuammicine group. Two representative alkaloids, compactinervine from *A. lanceolata* (Vercauteren *et al.*, 1981) and N_a -formyl-12-methoxyechitamidine from *A. boonei* (Oguakwa *et al.*, 1983) are illustrated.



Compactinervine



N_a-formyl-12-methoxyechitamidine

3.1.2.4 Aspidospermatan-type Indole Alkaloids

The aspidospermatan-type alkaloids are those characterized by the forming of C(2)-C(16)-C(15) unit without C(3)-C(7) bond, and in some cases with C(7)-C(21) bond instead. Four alkaloids of this type, belonging to the tubotaiwine group, have been reported from genus *Alstonia*, for instance, 12-methoxytubotaiwine from the leaves of *A. congensis* (Caron *et al.*, 1989). The other remaining three were isolated exclusively from *A. scholaris* (Boonchuay and Court, 1976; Yamauchi *et al.*, 1990a, 1990b).



3.1.2.5 Plumeran-type Indole Alkaloids

The plumeran-type are those containing C(2)-C(16)-C(17)-C(20) unit. Eighteen alkaloids of the type so far have been isolated from genus *Alstonia* which can be subdivided into two groups, the kopsinine group and the tabersonine group. Four kopsinine derivatives, for instance, venalstonidine, were isolated only from *A. venenata* (Chatterjee *et al.*, 1981; Das and Biemann, 1965; Govindachari *et al.*, 1965). Fourteen alkaloids of the tabersonine group, for example, minovincinine, have been isolated mainly from *A. venenata* (Das *et al.*, 1966; Majumder, Chanda and Dinda, 1973; ; Majumder, *et al.*, 1981).



3.1.2.6 Ibogan-type Indole Alkaloids

Alkaloids of the type are those containing the C(2)-C(16)-C(17)-C(14)

unit. Voacangine, belonging to the catharanthine group, from *A. boonei* (Croquelois *et al.,* 1972) is the only one structure of this type which has been reported so far from the genus *Alstonia*.



3.1.2.7 Vallesamine-type Indole Alkaloids

Alkaloids of this type are characterized by having C(2)-C(16)-C(15) unit with C(7)-C(6) and N_b -C(21) bonds, but lack of the typical two-carbon tryptamine bridge. Among *Alstonia* species, seventeen vallesamine-type alkaloids occur exclusively in the section *Pala* such as *A. angustiloba*, *A. congensis* and *A. scholaria*. These alkaloids are mainly derived from angustilobine A and angustilobine B (Caron *et al.*, 1989; Yamauchi *et al.*, 1990a, 1990b).



Angustilobine A

H₃COOC

Angustilobine B

3.1.2.8 Uleine-type Indole Alkaloids

The uleine-type alkaloids are those which possess C(2)-C(16)-C(15) unit and C(7)-C(21) bond, but lack the original tryptamine side chain, having only one carbon atom between N_b and the indole nucleus. Of the genus *Alstonia*, only one alkaloid of the type, i.e. undulifoline from the stem bark of *A. undulifolia* (Massiot *et al.*, 1992) has been reported.


3.1.2.9 Oxindole and Pseudoindoxyl Alkaloids

These alkaloids occur as oxidised forms and are typically found to occur with their corresponding indole analogues. Seven oxindole alkaloids have been reported from genus *Alstonia*, almost all of which were isolated from *A. macrophylla* (Attaur-Rahman, Qureshi and Muzaffar, 1988c; Atta-ur-Rahman *et al.*, 1987; 1991b; Abe *et al.*, 1994b; Wong, Lim and Chuah, 1996) with the exception of alstonisine which was also found in *A. muelleriana* (Elderfield and Gilman, 1972; Burke *et al.*, 1973) and *A. anguslifolia* (Ghedira *et al.*, 1988). The only pseudoindoxyl alkaloid reported from genus *Alstonia*, fluorocarpamine, was isolated from *A. plumosa* (Jacquier *et al.*, 1982), *A. undulata* (Guillaume *et al.*, 1984) and *A. angustifolia* (Ghedira *et al.*, 1988).



3.1.2.10 Bisindole Alkaloids

About 28 bisindole alkaloids have been isolated from several species in the sections *Monuraspermum* and *Dissuraspermum* of genus *Alstonia*. The two units of these bisindoles are typically derived from the corresponding corynanthean-type monomeric alkaloids. It is rare that these alkaloids possess two identical monomeric units. More often, different structural groups are involved in the two portions particularly those derived from macroline, akuammiline, pleiocarpamine, and sarpagine groups. Three representative bisindoles are illustrated in Figure 3, namely alstocraline from *A. angustifolia* (Ghedira *et al.*, 1988); pleiocorine from *A. deplanchei* (Das *et al.*, 1974), *A. odontophora*

(Vercauteren *et al.*, 1979) and *A. plumosa* (Jacquier *et al.*, 1982); and undulatine from *A. undulata* (Pinchon *et al.*, 1990).



3.2 Miscellaneous Compounds

Apart from indole alkaloids, there are some other types of compounds including alkaloids, amides, phytosterols, and terpenoids which have been isolated from the genus *Alstonia* as listed in Table 1, and some representative compounds are illustrated in Figure 4. Although the occurrence of these compounds is very restricted, some of them such as the terpenoids boonein, sweroside, and loganin are of interest since they are involved in the biosynthesis of monoterpenoid-derived indole alkaloids. The novel structure of lanceomigine from *A. lanceolata* is the first example of an indole-derived quinoline alkaloid isolated from the genus *Alstonia*. This structural type is built up biogenetically from tryptamine and secologanin but contains a quinoline instead of an indole nucleus, mainly isolated from genera *Melodinus* and *Rhazya* of the family Apocynaceae (Hu *et al.*, 1987). The quinine-related alkaloid, corialstonine, from *A. coriacea* is of interest for biological activity as far as the antimalarial activity is concerned.

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Table 1Miscellaneous compounds known to occur in Alstonia species[Abbreviations:Ivs=leaves, sb=stem bark, rb=root bark, frt=fruits,
unk=unknown plant part]

Molecular Weight	Compound	Source and Reference
(Structural Type)		
149: C ₉ H ₁₁ NO	Venoterpine (27)	A. venenata: frt
(Alkaloid)	[Gentialutine]	(Ray and Chatterjee, 1968):
		A. angustiloba: unk,
		A. spatulata: unk
		(Ravao <i>et al</i> ., 1985)
170: C ₉ H ₁₄ O ₃	Boonein (28)	A. boonei: sb
(Terpenoid)		(Marini-Bettolo <i>et al</i> ., 1983)
175: C ₁₀ H ₉ O ₂	Gentianine	A. coriacea: sb
(Alkaloid)		(Cherif <i>et al.</i> , 1989);
	Carles Controls	A. lanceolata: sb
	a sugar and a sugar a s	(Vercauteren <i>et al</i> ., 1981);
	2	A. lenormandii: lvs
		(Legseir <i>et al</i> ., 1986)
207: C ₁₁ H ₁₃ O ₃	Cantleyine	A. angustiloba: unk,
(Alkaloid)		A. pneumatophora: unk,
ิด	กาบนาทยบว	A. spatulata: unk
0.000		(Ravao <i>et al</i> ., 1985)
	NALIJIHAN LI	A. undulifolia: sb
9		(Massiot <i>et al</i> ., 1992)
211: C ₁₁ H ₁₇ NO ₃	Tetrahydrocantleyine	A. angustifolia: lvs
(Alkaloid)		(Ghedira <i>et al</i> ., 1988)
		A. undulifolia: sb
		(Massiot <i>et al</i> ., 1992)

Table 1 (continued) Miscellaneous compounds known to occur in Alstonia species

Molecular Weight	Compound	Source and Reference
(Structural Type)		
211: C ₁₀ H ₁₃ NO ₄	3,4,5-Trimethoxybenzamide (29)	A. constricta: sb
(Amide)	shill be	(Allam <i>et al</i> ., 1987)
237: C ₁₃ H ₁₉ NO ₃	Angustialine (30)	A. angustifolia: sb
(Alkaloid)		(Kam <i>et al</i> ., 1997)
237: C ₁₂ H ₁₅ NO ₄	Cintriamide	A. lenormandii: lvs
(Amide)	[3-(3,4,5-Trimethoxyphenyl)-2-	(Legseir <i>et al</i> ., 1986)
	Propenamide]	
358: C ₁₆ H ₁₂ O ₉	Sweroside (31)	A. glaucescens: sb
(Terpenoid)		(Keawpradub <i>et al</i> ., 1994)
382: C ₂₂ H ₂₆ O ₄	Lanceomigine (32)	A. lanceolata: sb
(Alkaloid)	[N _a -Methylrhazicine]	(Vercauteren et al., 1981)
390: C ₁₇ H ₂₆ O ₁₀	Loganin (33)	A. glaucescens: roots
(Terpenoid)	agener and a second	(Chen <i>et al.</i> , 1988)
398: C ₂₂ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₅	Lanceomigine N_b -oxide	A. lanceolata: sb
(Amide)		(Vercauteren <i>et al.</i> , 1981)
410: C ₂₃ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₅	Corialstonine (34)	A. coriacea: sb
(Amide)	ວວນເອົາວິນແມລິ	(Cherif, Massiot and Le Man-
6		Olivier, 1987; Cherif <i>et al</i> ., 1989)
412: C ₂₉ H ₄₈ O	Stigmasterol (35)	A. venenata: bark
(Phytosterol)	N N I I 3 P P P P I I 3	(Govindachari <i>et al.</i> , 1964)
426: C ₃₀ H ₅₀ O	lpha-Amyrin	A. scholaris: unk
(Terpenoid)		(Mukherjee And Ghosh, 1979)
426: C ₃₀ H ₅₀ O	Lupeol (36)	A. scholaris: unk
(Terpenoid)		(Mukherjee and Ghosh, 1979)





4. Previous Indole Alkaloids Isolated from Alstonia macrophylla

Alstonia macrophylla has been subjected for phytochemical investigation for decades and a large number of alkaloids have been isolated. To date, about 44 indole alkaloids (Table 2) have been reported from this species.



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Table 2 Indole alkaloids isolated from Alstonia macrophylla

[Abbreviations:lvs=leaves, sb=stem bark, rb=root bark, frt=fruits, unk=unknown plant part]

Molecular Weight	Compound	Plant Part and Reference
(Structural Type)		
308: C ₂₀ H ₂₄ N ₂ O	Affinisine (37)	: lvs
(Sarpagine group)	[1-Methylsarpagan-1-ol]	(Banerji <i>et al</i> ., 1972)
322: C ₂₀ H ₂₂ N ₂ O ₂	Pleiocarpamine (38)	: unk
(Pleiocarpamine	[Methyl 19,20-didehydro-1,16-	(Manalo <i>et al</i> ., 1968)
group)	cyclocorynan-17-oate]	
322: C ₂₀ H ₂₂ N ₂ O ₂	Strictamine (39)	: lvs
(Akuammiline group)	[Desacetyldesformoakuammiline]	(Abe <i>et al.</i> , 1994a)
	[Vincamidine]	
324: C ₂₀ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₂	Alstoumerine (40)	: lvs
(Sarpagine group)	(Assessed Developed D	(Atta-ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1991a)
336: C ₂₁ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₂	Alstonerine (41)	: sb
(Macroline group)	2	(Ratnayake <i>et al</i> ., 1987)
338: C ₂₀ H ₂₂ N ₂ O ₃	Alstonal (42)	: bark
(Oxindole)	[11-Demethoxy- <i>N_b</i> -demethylalstophyllal	(Wong <i>et al</i> ., 1996)
<i></i>	oxindole]	-
338: C ₂₀ H ₂₂ N ₂ O ₃	Alstonisine (43)	: lvs, bark
(Oxindole)	ນດຮຸດໂມນາດົວນາມ	(Atta-ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1990b;
NN I	פועניו תנגנינועת	Wong <i>et al.</i> , 1996)
338: C ₂₁ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₂	Cathafoline (44)	: lvs
(Akuammiline group)	[Methyl 1,2-dihydro-1-methylakuammilan-	(Abe <i>et al.</i> , 1994a, 1994b)
	17-oate]	
338: C ₂₀ H ₂₂ N ₂ O ₃	10-Hydroxystrictamine (45)	: lvs
(Akuammiline group)		(Atta-ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1994)

Molecular Weight	Compound	Plant Part and Reference
(Structural Type)		
338: C ₂₀ H ₂₂ N ₂ O ₃	Picrinine (46)	: lvs
(Akuammiline group)	[Methyl 2,5-epoxy-1,2-dihydroakuammilan-	(Banerji <i>et al.</i> , 1972)
	17-oate]	
	[Vincaridine]	
338: C ₂₁ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₂	Talcarpine (47)	: bark
(Macroline group)	[20,21-Dihydro-21-methyl-18-	(Ratnayake <i>et al</i> ., 1987; Wong
	noralstophyllan-19-al]	<i>et al.</i> , 1996)
339: C ₂₁ H ₂₇ N ₂ O ₂	Macrosalhine (48)	: sb
(Macroline group)		(Khan, Hesse and Schmid,
	De la	1967)
340: C ₂₁ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₂	Alstomacrocine	: lvs
(Macroline group)	A States (States)	(Atta-ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1994)
342: C ₂₀ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₃	Macroxine (49)	: lvs
(Oxindole)	2	(Atta-ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1991b)
352: C ₂₁ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₃	11-Methoxyakuammicine (50)	: lvs
(Akuammiline group)		(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994b)
352: C ₂₁ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₃	Quebrachidine (51)	: lvs
(Ajmaline group)	[Methyl 19,20-didehydro-1-demethyl-17-	(Atta-ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1990b)
2942	hydroxyajmalan-16-carboxylate]	้อาการเ
354: C ₂₁ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₃	Cathafoline N_b -oxide (52)	: lvs Di C
(Akuammiline group)		(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994b)
354: C ₂₁ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₃	Strictaminolamine (53)	: lvs
(Akuammiline group)		(Atta-ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1988a)

Table 2 (continued) Indole alkaloids isolated from Alstonia macrophylla

Molecular Weight	Compound	Plant Part and Reference
(Structural Type)		
366: C ₂₂ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₃	Alstophylline (54)	: lvs, sb
(Macroline group)	[11-Methoxyalstonerine]	(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994b; Kishi <i>et al</i> .,
		1965; Ratnayake <i>et al</i> ., 1987)
366: C ₂₂ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₃	Vincamajine (55)	: lvs
(Ajmaline group)		(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994b; Atta-ur-
		Rahman, Nighat and Choudhary,
		1988b; Ratnayake <i>et al</i> ., 1987)
368: C ₂₁ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₄	Alstolagumine (56)	: lvs
(Akuammiline group)	[11-Methoxy-19 <i>0</i> ,20 <i>0</i> -	(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994a)
	epoxyakuammicine]	
368: C ₂₂ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₃	Cabucraline (57)	: sb
(Akuammiline group)	[11-Methoxycathafoline]	(Ratnayake <i>et al</i> ., 1987)
368: C ₂₁ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₄	11-Methoxyakuammicine N _b -oxide (58)	: lvs
(Akuammiline group)		(Abe <i>et al.</i> , 1994b)
368: C ₂₁ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₄	N_{b} -Demethylalstophyllal oxindole (59)	: bark
(Oxindole)		(Wong <i>et al.</i> , 1996)
368: C ₂₁ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₄	N_{b} -Demethylalstophylline oxindole (60)	: lvs
(Oxindole)		(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994b; Atta-ur-Rahman
ລາທຳ	<u>ุลงกรกโบหาวิ</u> ช	<i>et al</i> ., 1987; Wong <i>et al</i> ., 1996)
368: C ₂₂ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₃	Vincorine (61)	: lvs
(Vincorine group)	[Methyl 10-methoxy-1-methyl-2,4(1H)-	(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994b; Ratnayake <i>et</i>
	cyclo-3,4-secoakuammilan-17-oate]	al., 1987)
382: C ₂₂ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₄	Demethoxyalstonamide (62)	: lvs
(Vincorine group)		(Atta-ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1991a)

Table 2 (continued) Indole alkaloids isolated from Alstonia macrophylla

Molecular Weight	Compound	Plant Part and Reference	
(Structural Type)			
384: C ₂₁ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₅	16-Hydroxy- <i>N_b</i> -demethylalstophylline	: lvs	
(Oxindole)	oxindole (63)	(Atta-ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1988c)	
384: C ₂₂ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₄	19-Hydroxyvincamajine (64)	: lvs	
(Ajmaline group)		(Ratnayake <i>et al</i> ., 1987)	
384: C ₂₁ H ₂₄ N ₂ O ₅	Lagumidine (65)	: lvs	
(Akuammiline group)	[11-Methoxy-19-oxo-20 <i>Q</i> -	(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994a)	
	hydroxyakuammicine]		
398: C ₂₂ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₅	Norquaternine (66)	: lvs	
(Akuammiline group)	[10,11-Dimethoxypicrinine]	(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994a)	
	[Volkensine]		
400: C ₂₂ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₅	Alstozine N _b -oxide	: lvs	
(Akuammiline group)	Cardena Statistica	(Atta-ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1990a)	
412: C ₂₃ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₅	Alstonamide (67)	: lvs	
(Vincorine group)	2	(Atta-ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1991a)	
412: C ₂₃ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₅	Alstopicralamine (68)	: lvs	
(Akuammiline group)		(Atta-ur-Rahman <i>et al.</i> , 1988b)	
412: C ₂₃ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₅	Quaternine (69)	: lvs	
(Akuammiline group)	[10,11-Dimethoxy- <i>N_a</i> -methylpicrinine]	(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994a)	
412: C ₂₃ H ₂₈ N ₂ O ₅	5 α ,10,11-Trimethoxystrictamine (70)	: lvs	
(Akuammiline group)		(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994a)	
470: C ₂₉ H ₃₀ N ₂ O ₄	O-Benzoylvincamajine	: lvs	
(Ajmaline group)		(Mukherjee <i>et al</i> ., 1969)	
516: C ₃₀ H ₃₂ N ₂ O ₆	10-Methoxy-N _a -methylburnamine-17-O-	: lvs	
(Akuammiline group)	benzoate	(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994a)	

Table 2 (continued) Indole alkaloids isolated from Alstonia macrophylla

Molecular Weight	Compound	Plant Part and Reference
(Structural Type)		
530: C ₃₁ H ₃₄ N ₂ O ₆	Vincamajine-17-O-veratrate	: lvs
(Ajmaline group)	[O-(3,4-Dimethoxybenzoyl)-vincamajine]	(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994b)
546: C ₃₁ H ₃₄ N ₂ O ₇	N _a -Demethylvincamajine-N _a -tri-O-	: lvs
(Ajmaline group)	methylgallate	(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994b)
576: C ₃₂ H ₃₆ N ₂ O ₈	10-Methoxy-N _a -methylburnamine-17-O-	: lvs
(Akuammiline group)	veratrate	(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994a)
642: C ₄₁ H ₄₆ N ₄ O ₃	Macrocarpamine (71)	: bark
(Bisindole)	(macroline-pleiocarpamine group)	(Mayerl and Hesse, 1978)
644: C ₄₁ H ₄₈ N ₄ O ₃	Macralstonidine	: bark
(Bisindole)	(macroline-sarpagine group)	(Sharp, 1934; Waldner <i>et al</i> .,
	AB/28/A	1967)
660: C ₄₁ H ₄₈ N ₄ O ₄	Villalstonine (72)	: bark
(Bisindole)	(macroline-pleiocarpamine group)	(Hesse <i>et al</i> ., 1965; Sharp,
		1934)
704: C ₄₃ H ₅₂ N ₄ O ₅	Macralstonine (73)	: bark
(Bisindole)	(macroline-macroline group)	(Kishi <i>et al</i> ., 1966; Ratnayake <i>et</i>
5	ວດເພື່ອນພຣິດວ	<i>al</i> ., 1987)

Table 2 (continued) Indole alkaloids isolated from Alstonia macrophylla

al., 1987)











COOCH₃

 N_b -Demethylalstophyllal oxindole (59)

HO

 N_b -Demethylalstophylline oxindole (60)





19-Hydroxyvincamajine (64)

н

н

H₃CO

H₃CO

COOCH₃

H ∑ H₃C



16-Hydroxy- N_{b} -demethylalstophylline oxindole (63)











Alstopicralamine (68)









5. Plausible Biogenetic Pathway of Monoterpenoid-derived Indole Alkaloids occurring in *Alstonia* species

The well-established knowledge on biogenesis of indole alkaloids, illustrates the plausible biogenetic pathways leading to the different structural groups of the indole alkaloids so far isolated from the genus *Alstonia*. With the exception of simple indole alkaloids, monoterpenoid-derived indole alkaloids are biogenetically derived from tryptamine (74), the decarboxylation product of tryptophan, and a monoterpenoid secologanin (75) via the key intermediate strictosidine (76) (Stockigt and Zenk, 1977) and the subsequent elaborations of the presumed intermediates 4,21-dehydrogeissoschizine (77), stemmadenine-related iminium cation (78), and 4,21-dehydrosecodine (79) (Atta-ur-Rahman and Basha, 1983; Cordell, 1981; Van Beek *et al.*, 1984).





Figure 6 Plausible biogenetic interrelationships of various structural groups of monoterpenoid-derived indole alkaloids occurring in *Alstonia* species

6. Biological Activity of the Genus Alstonia

In contrast to the enormous amount of phytochemical work, relatively little is known about the biological activity of extracts or alkaloids of genus Alstonia. Almost all of previous investigations have been focused on antimalarial activity of some extracts and alkaloids from a few species. In 1930, the results of alkaloid extracts from the barks of four Alstonia species tested against avian malaria, Plasmodium inconstans, were published by Goodson and co-worker (cited by Wright et al., 1993). Slight activity was observed for the total alkaloids of A. scholaris and for A. constricta at daily oral doses of 125 mg/kg and 500 mg/kg, respectively, for 6 days. On the other hand, the total alkaloids of A. congensis and A. macrophylla were inactive in the same tests. Hawkins and Elderfield (1942) also reported that finely ground bark of A. constricta was inactive when fed to birds infected with avian malaria at a dose of 150 mg/day and the total alkaloid extract of the bark was inactive at doses of 60-120 mg/day both as the free bases and hydrochorides. Alstonine (80), the major alkaloid found in the bark of A. constricta, was also inactive against avian malaria at a dose of 35 mg/day (Leonard and Elderfield, 1942). Furthermore, Mukerji (1946) reported that A. scholaris alkaloids exhibited no antiplasmodial effect in fowls, but a pronounced febrifugal activity was noticed. More recent investigation by Gandhi and Vinayak (1990) has demonstrated that both petroleum ether and methanol extracts of the bark of A. scholaris were inactive orally against Plasmodium berghei in mice. However, a dose-dependent improvement of conditions and delayed mortality was noticed amongst animals treated with methanol extract even though it had no direct antiplasmodial activity. In contrast to these findings, it was reported that echitamine (81), the main alkaloid of A. scholaris, given subcutaneously as a chloride salt, was effective against P. berghei in mice at a dose of 1.6 mg/kg. However, its LD₅₀ in mice by intravenous route was 13.7 mg/kg (Vasanth et al., 1990). The same authors also reported that alstonine (80), as a hydrochloride salt, was active against P. lophurae in ducks and was about 2-3 times more effective than quinine dihydrochloride, but it was found to be more toxic. Various doses of methanol extract from the leaves of the African species *A. congensis* were screened for antimalarial activity using *P. berghei* in mice (Awe and Opeke, 1990). The extract, when given orally in 4 days suppressive test of blood schizontocidal action, produced a dose-dependent suppressive effect in the early infection with a maximum of 75% at a dose of 200 mg/kg/day while 90% suppression of parasitaemia was demonstrated by chloroguine at a dose of 5 mg/kg/day. However, the extract had no significant activity against the established infection. It was also reported by Asuzu and Anaga (1991) that the aqueous extract of *A. boonei*, the other African species, noticeably reduced the level of parasitaemia in mice infected with *Trypanosoma brucei* at a dose of 100 mg/kg (i.p.), for 5 days.

It is of interest to note that the investigations for antimalarial activity of extracts and alkaloids of *Alstonia* species prior to 1990 were carried out *in vivo* and none of the test organisms were infected with *P. falciparum*, the human malaria parasite. In recent years *in vitro* testing procedures for antiprotozoal activity have been developed. Two bisindole alkaloids isolated from the roots of *A. angustifolia*, macrocarpamine (82) and villastonine (83), have been reported to possess pronounced antiprotozoal activity (*in vitro*) against *P. falciparum* and *Entamoeba histolytica* with IC₅₀ values in the ranges of 2.9-11.8 μ M (Wright *et al.*, 1992). Also, echitamine (81) and the quinoline alkaloid from *A. coriacea*, corialtonine (34), were investigated for *in vitro* antiprotozoal activity (Wright *et al.*, 1993). Echitamine (81) exhibited slight antiplasmodial activity against *P. falciparum* with an IC₅₀ value of 5.7 μ M which was about 10 times less potent than that of quinine. Disappointingly, the two alkaloids were inactive against *Giardia intestinalis* at 60 μ M.

Recently, Keawpradub *et al.* (1999b) reported that methanol extracts prepared from various parts of *Alstonia scholaris*, *A. macrophylla* and *A. glaucescens*, collected from Thailand, have been assessed for antiplasmodial activity against multidrug-resistant K1 strain of *Plasmodium falciparum* cultured in human erythrocytes. Pronounced antiplasmodial activity was exhibited by methanol extract of the root bark of *A. macrophylla* with an IC₅₀ value of 5.7 μ g/ml. Thirteen indole alkaloids were isolated from the active

extract. These alkaloids and a semisynthetic bisindole O-acetylmacralstonine were subsequently tested against the K1 strain of P. falciparum. Pronounced antiplasmodial activity was observed mainly among the bisindole alkaloids, particularly villalstonine (83) and macrocarpamine (82) with IC_{50} value of 0.27 and 0.35 μ M, respectively. The potent alkaloids were further tested against T9-96, the chloroquine-sensitive strain of P. falciparum. It has been found that the active alkaloids, in contrast to chloroquine, have significantly higher affinity to K1 strain than to the T9-96 strain. Furthermore, Keawpradub et al. (1999a) reported that thirteen indole alkaloids isolated from the root bark of Alstonia macrophylla and a semisynthetic bisindole O-acetylmacralstonine have been assessed for cytotoxic activity against two human lung cancer cell lines, MOR-P (adenocarcinoma) and COR-L23 (large cell carcinoma), using the SRB assay. Pronounced cytotoxic activity was exhibited by the bisindoles on both cell lines. This suggests that, in comparison with the corresponding monomeric indoles, at least part of both the ring systems present in the bisindoles is essential for cytotoxic activity. The potent alkaloids were further tested against a human normal cell line (breast fibroblasts) and other human cancer cell lines including StMI1 1a (melanoma), Caki-2 (renal cell carcinoma), MCF7 (breast adenocarcinoma), and LS174T (colon adenocarcinoma). The bisindoles O-acetylmacralstonine, villalstonine and macrocarpamine were found to possess pronounced activity against cancer cell lines with IC_{50} value in the range of 2-10 μ M with no discernible cell-type selectivity. However, O-acetylmacralstonine displayed discernibly less toxicity against the normal breast fibroblasts.

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 Figure 7
 Structures of investigated alkaloids from genus Alstonia that have interesting biological activities

CHAPTER III

Experimental

1. Source of Plant Materials

The leaves of *Alstonia macrophylla* Wall. ex G. Don were collected from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, in June 2001. Authentication of plant materials was done by comparison with herbarium specimens at the Royal Forest Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Bangkok, Thailand.

2. General Techniques

2.1 Analytical Thin-Layer Chromatography

Technique	:	One dimension, ascending	
Adsorbent	:	Silica gel 60 F	254 (E. Merck) precoated plate
Layer thickness	:	250 µ m	
Distance	:	5 cm	
Temperature	:	Laboratory ten	nperature (24-30 °C)
Detection	:	1. Ultraviolet light at wavelength 254 nm	
		2. Dragendorff's spray reagent	
		Solution A:	bismuth subnitrate (850 mg), distilled
water (40 ml) and acetic aci		water (40 ml) and acetic acid (10 ml)	
		Solution B:	potassium iodide (8 mg) and distilled
			water (20 ml)
		Solutions A and B, each of 5 ml were mixed. Then	
		20 ml of glacial acetic acid and 70 ml of distilled water	

20 ml of glacial acetic acid and 70 ml of distilled water were added and used as spray reagent. The alkaloids give orange spots as positive test.

2.2 Column Chromatography

2.2.1 Flash Column Chromatography

Adsorbent	:	Silica gel 60 (No. 9385) particle size 0.040-0.063 mm
		(230-400 mesh ASTM) (E. Merck)
Packing method	:	Wet packing
Sample loading :	:	The sample was dissolved in a small amount of eluent and
		then applied gently on top of the column.
Detection	:	1. Fractions were examined by TLC under UV light at the
		wavelength 254 nm.
		2. Fractions were examined by TLC using Dragendorff's
		spray reagent.

2.3 Crystallization technique

The compounds were crystallized from the unsoluble differently solvents. Each compound was dissolved in selected solvent until saturated and let standing at room temperature until amorphous powder or crystals were formed.

2.4 Spectroscopy

2.4.1 Ultraviolet (UV) Aborption Spectra

UV (in methanol) spectra were obtained on a JASCO V-560 instrument (Japan) or a Shimadzu UV-160A UV/vis spectrophotometer (Pharmaceutical Research Instrument Center, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University).

2.4.2 Infrared (IR) Absorption Spectra

IR spectra (KBr disc and film) were recorded on a Perkin-Elmer Spectrum 2000 FT-IR spectrometer (Pharmaceutical Research Instrument Center, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University).

2.4.3 Mass Spectra

Electron Impact (EIMS) were measured with a JEOL GCmate (Japan) or a FISONS VG TRIO 2000 mass spectrometer (Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University).

2.4.4 Proton and Carbon-13 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (¹H and ¹³C-NMR) Spectra

¹H NMR (600 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (150 MHz) spectra were obtained with a JEOL JNM-EPC 600 NMR spectrometer (Japan). ¹H NMR (300 MHz) and ¹³C NMR (75 MHz) spectra were obtained with a Bruker Avance DPX-300 FT-NMR spectrometer (Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University).

The solvent for NMR spectra was deuterated chlorofom (chloroform- α). Chemical shifts were reported in ppm scale using the chemical shift of the solvent as the reference signal.

2.5 Physical Properties

2.5.1 Melting Points

Melting Points were obtained on a Fisher/Johns melting point apparatus (Department of Pharmaceutical Botany, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University).

2.5.2 Optical Rotations

Optical Rotations were measured on a Perkin Elmer 341 polarimeter (Pharmaceutical Research Instrument Center, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University).

2.6 Solvents

Throughout this work, all organic solvents were of commercial grade and redistilled prior to use.

3. Extraction and Isolation

3.1 Extraction

The dried and powdered leaves of *Alstonia macrophylla* (6.75 kg) were moistened with strong solution of ammonium hydroxide overnight. They were macerated with methanol for one day four times $(4 \times 12 \text{ L})$ and filtered. Each filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure to syrupy mass, added with glacial acetic acid (100 ml) poured into distilled water (1900 ml) to give about 5% glacial acetic acid solution. The suspension was well shaken and left to stand overnight. The filtered acid extract was washed and made alkaline (pH 8-9) with concentrated ammonium hydroxide solution and extracted with 5% methanol in chloroform (4×2 L). The combined chloroform extract was washed with distilled water, dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure to yield dried crude alkaloidal extract (77.41 g).

7 compounds were present in addition to base-line alkaloids.

3.2 Isolation

The crude methanolic alkaloidal extract (7.25 g) was dissolved in a small amount of chloroform and packed onto top of wet silica gel column (4.5×16 cm). The column was eluted with each 300 ml of chloroform, chloroform : ethyl acetate (9:1), chloroform : ethyl acetate (4:1), chloroform : ethyl acetate (1:1), ethyl acetate, ethyl acetate : methanol (20:1), ethyl acetate : methanol (9:1), ethyl acetate : methanol (20:1), ethyl acetate : methanol (9:1), ethyl acetate : methanol (4:1), ethyl acetate : methanol (1:1) and then washed with methanol until no traces of alkaloids could be detected. Fractions of 50 ml were collected and compared by TLC. The eluting solvents were altered to give more polar solvent systems when the difference of alkaloidal patterns on TLC were observed. Those fractions of similar pattern were combined and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure. By this procedure :-

- 1. Fractions 1-8 were combined and designated as fraction A (0.042 g).
- Fractions 9-19 were combined and designated as fraction B (0.075 g).
- 3. Fractions 20-27 were combined and designated as fraction C (1.687 g).
- 4. Fractions 28-45 were combined and designated as fraction D (1.823 g).
- 5. Fractions 46-68 were combined and designated as fraction E (3.861 g).
- Fractions 69-126 were combined and designated as fraction F (1.376 g).

3.2.1 Isolation of compounds AM-1 and AM-2 from fraction C, fraction C-3 and fraction C-33

3.2.1.1 Isolation of fraction C-3 from fraction C

Fraction C (1.687 g) was shown by TLC to contain at least three compounds. It was dissolved in small amount of n-hexane and packed onto the top of wet silica gel column (3×16 cm). The column was eluted with n-hexane : ethyl acetate (8:2), n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:9) and then washed with methanol until no traces of compounds could be detected. Ninety-eight fractions, each of approximately 30 ml, were collected. The volumes of eluent were 1600, 850 and 500 ml, respectively. The fractions were examined by TLC and the liked fractions were combined to give the following portions :-

- Fractions 8-24 were combined and designated as fraction C-1 (0.022 g).
- 2. Fractions 25-27 were combined and designated as fraction C-2 (0.003 g).
- 3. Fractions 28-60 were combined and designated as fraction C-3 (0.169 g).
- 4. Fractions 61-90 were combined and designated as fraction C-4 (1.259 g).
- 5. Fractions 91-98 were combined and designated as fraction C-5 (0.183 g).

3.2.1.2 Isolation of fraction C-33 from fraction C-3

Fraction C-3 (0.169 g) was shown by TLC to contain at least seven compounds. It was dissolved in small amount of chloroform and packed onto the top of wet silica gel column (1.5×18 cm). The column was eluted with n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:2). Then washed with methanol until no traces of compounds could be detected. Twenty-four fractions, each of approximately 20 ml, were collected. The

volumes of eluent were 250 ml and 200 ml, respectively. The fractions were examined by TLC and the liked fractions were combined to give the following portions :-

- Fractions 1-3 were combined and designated as fraction C-31 (0.002 g).
- Fractions 4 was designated as fraction C-32 (0.011 g).
- Fractions 5-6 were combined and designated as fraction C-33 (0.118 g).
- 4. Fractions 7-8 were combined and designated as fraction C-34 (0.004 g).
- 5. Fractions 9-16 were combined and designated as fraction C-35 (0.008 g).
- 6. Fractions 17-20 were combined and designated as fraction C-36 (0.021 g).
- 7. Fractions 21-24 were combined and designated as fraction C-37 (0.044 g).

3.2.1.3 Isolation of compounds AM-1 and AM-2 from fraction C-33

Fraction C-33 (0.118 g) was shown by TLC to contain at least five compounds. It was dissolved in small amount of chloroform, mixed with a small amount of silica gel, vacuum dried and packed onto the top of silica gel column (1.5×22 cm). The column was eluted with n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:1). Thirty-two fractions, each of approximately 10 ml were collected, until no traces of compounds could be detected. The volumes of eluent were 400 ml. The fractions were examined by TLC and the liked fractions were combined to give the following portions :-

 Fractions 1-8 were combined and designated as fraction C-331 (0.005 g).

- 2. Fractions 9-10 were combined and the TLC chromatogram shown only one spot under UV light at 254 nm, R_f 0.37 [silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:1)] and 0.57 [silica gel / chloroform : ethyl acetate (1:1)]. These fractions were evaporated under reduced pressure to give 0.022 g of compound AM-1 as colorless rosette (0.303% based on dried weight of crude alkaloidal extract). It was later identified as demethoxyalstonamide.
- Fractions 11-15 containing mixture of compounds (0.050 g).
 - Fractions 16-25 were combined and the TLC chromatogram shown only one spot under UV light at 254 nm, R_f 0.28 [silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:1)] and 0.32 [silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (2:1)]. These fractions were evaporated under reduced pressure to give 0.025 g of compound AM-2 as pale yellow powder (0.345% based on dried weight of crude alkaloidal extract). It was later identified as (-)-1-norvincorine.
 - Fractions 26-29 were combined and designated as fraction C-335 (0.003 g).
- 6. Fractions 30-32 were designated as fraction C-336 (0.024 g).

5. 6.

3.2.2 Isolation of compound AM-3 from fraction C-4 and fraction C-47

3.2.2.1 Isolation of fraction C-47 from fraction C-4

Fraction C-4 (1.259 g) was shown by TLC to contain at least three compounds. It was dissolved in small amount of ethyl acetate and packed onto the top of wet silica gel column (3×23 cm). The column was eluted with ethyl acetate and fifty- three fractions, each of approximately 30 ml, were collected. The eluates were examined by TLC using ethyl acetate. Then washed with methanol until no traces of compounds could be detected and thirty-seven fractions, each of approximately 50 ml, were collected and compared with TLC. The volumes of eluent were 1500 and 2000 ml, respectively. The fractions were examined by TLC and the liked fractions were combined to give the following portions :-

5.

6.

- 1. Fractions 1-3 were combined and designated as fraction C-41 (0.0175 g).
- 2. Fractions 4-7 were combined and designated as fraction C-42 (0.0382 g).
- Fractions 8 and 9 were designated as fraction
 C-43 (0.0088 g) and fraction C-44 (0.0079 g),
 respectively.
- 4. Fractions 10-13 were combined and designated as fraction C-45 (0.2858 g).
 - Fractions 14-19 were combined and designated as fraction C-46 (0.5827 g).
 - Fractions 20-30 were combined and designated as fraction C-47 (0.5183 g).
- Fractions 31 was designated as fraction C-48 (0.0030 g).
- 8. Fractions 32-37 were combined and designated as fraction C-49 (0.0059 g).

- 9. Fractions 38-46 were combined and designated as fraction C-410 (0.0066 g).
- 10. Fractions 47-53 were combined and designated as fraction C-411 (0.0087 g).
- 11. Fractions 54-56 were combined and designated as fraction C-412 (0.0930 g).
- 12. Fractions 57 and 58 were designated as fraction C-413 (0.0165 g) and fraction C-414 (0.0135 g), respectively.
- 13. Fractions 59-62 were combined and designated as fraction C-415 (0.0163 g).
- 14. Fractions 63-90 were combined and designated as fraction C-416 (1.0261 g).

3.2.2.2 Isolation of compound AM-3 from fraction C-47

Fraction C-47 (0.5183 g) was shown by TLC to contain at least two compounds. It was dissolved in small amount of chloroform and packed onto the top of wet silica gel column (3×25 cm). The column was eluted with n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:4). Fifty-one fractions, each of approximately 30 ml were collected, until no traces of compounds could be detected. The volumes of eluent were 1600 ml. Then washed with methanol until no traces of compounds could be detected and seven fractions, each of approximately 50 ml were collected. The volumes of eluent were 400 ml. The fractions were examined by TLC using n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:4) and the liked fractions were combined to give the following portions :-

- 1. Fractions 1-4 were combined and designated as fraction C-471 (0.0070 g).
- Fractions 5-16 were combined and designated as fraction C-472 (0.0485 g).

- 3. Fractions 17-34 were combined and the TLC chromatogram shown only one spot under UV light at 254 nm, R_f 0.12 [silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:4)] and 0.18 [silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:9)]. These fractions were evaporated under reduced pressure to give 0.046 g of compound AM-3 as pink amorphous powder (0.634% based on dried weight of crude alkaloidal extract). It was later identified as alstophylline.
- 4. Fractions 35-51 containing mixture of compounds (0.0439 g).
- 5. Fraction 52 was designated as fraction C-475 (0.0033 g).
- 6. Fractions 53-58 were combined and designated as fraction C-476 (0.0072 g).

3.2.3 Isolation of compound AM-4 from fraction D, fraction D-9 and fraction D-95

3.2.3.1 Isolation of fraction D-9 from fraction D

Fraction D (1.823 g) was shown by TLC to contain at least three compounds. It was dissolved in small amount of chloroform and ethyl acetate and packed onto the top of wet silica gel column (3.5×17 cm). The column was eluted with n-hexane : ethyl acetate (8:2), chloroform : ethyl acetate (1:1), n-hexane : ethyl acetate (9:1) and chloroform : ethyl acetate : methanol (5:4:1). Then washed with methanol until no traces of compounds could be detected. Fifty-six fractions, each of approximately 50 ml, were collected. The volumes of eluent were 200, 1600, 200, 600 and 500 ml, respectively. The fractions were examined by TLC and the liked fractions were combined to give the following portions :-

- Fractions 1-4 were combined and designated as fraction D-1 (0.016 g).
- Fractions 5, 6, 7 and 8 were designated as fraction D-2 (0.002 g), D-3 (0.009 g), D-4 (0.020 g), D-5 (0.019 g), respectively.
- Fractions 9-11 were combined and designated as fraction D-6 (0.303 g).
- 4. Fractions 12-13 were combined and designated as fraction D-7 (0.116 g).
- 5. Fractions 14-16 were combined and designated as fraction D-8 (0.088 g).
- 6. Fractions 17-41 were combined and designated as fraction D-9 (0.219 g).
- 7. Fractions 42-49 were combined and designated as fraction D-10 (0.548 g).
- 8. Fractions 50-56 were combined and designated as fraction D-37 (0.291 g).

3.2.3.2 Isolation of fraction D-95 from fraction D-9

Fraction D-9 (0.219 g) was shown by TLC to contain at least three compounds. It was dissolved in small amount of chloroform and packed onto the top of wet silica gel column (2.5×18 cm). The column was eluted with chloroform : methanol (40:1). Then washed with methanol until no traces of compounds could be detected. Forty-four fractions, each of approximately 30 ml, were collected. The volumes of eluent were 1100 ml and 350 ml, respectively. The fractions were examined by TLC and the liked fractions were combined to give the following portions :-

- 1. Fractions 1-3 were combined and designated as fraction D-91 (0.004 g).
- 2. Fractions 4-9 were combined and designated as fraction D-92 (0.002 g).

- 3. Fractions 10-11 were combined and designated as fraction D-93 (0.005 g).
- 4. Fractions 12-14 were combined and designated as fraction D-94 (0.070 g).
- 5. Fractions 15-31 were combined and designated as fraction D-95 (0.100 g).
- 6. Fractions 32-40 were combined and designated as fraction D-96 (0.009 g).
- 7. Fractions 41-44 were combined and designated as fraction D-97 (0.045 g).

Fraction F-95 (0.100 g) was crystallized from chloroform

3.2.3.3 Isolation of compound AM-4 from fraction D-95

to yield 0.061 g of white needle crystals. It was shown by TLC to contain at least two compounds. It was dissolved in small amount of chloroform and packed onto the top of wet silica gel column (1.5×30 cm). The column was eluted with ethyl acetate. Then washed with methanol until no traces of compounds could be detected. Forty-one fractions, each of approximately 30 ml were collected. The volumes of eluent were 1050 ml and 350 ml, respectively. The fractions were examined by TLC and the liked fractions were combined to give the following portions :-

(0.003 g).

2.

- 1. Fractions 1-6 were combined and designated as fraction D-951 (0.007 g).
 - Fraction 7 was designated as fraction D-952
- 3. Fraction 8 was shown by the TLC chromatogram only one spot under UV light at 254 nm, R_f 0.22 [silica gel / ethyl acetate] and 0.12 [silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:20)]. These fractions were evaporated under reduced pressure to give 0.011 g of compound AM-4 as colorless needle (0.152% based on dried weight of crude alkaloidal extract). It was later identified as 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzamide.
- 4. Fractions 9-28 were combined and designated as fraction D-954 (0.047 g).
- 5. Fractions 29-37 were combined and designated as fraction D-955 (0.005 g).
- 6. Fractions 38-41 were combined and designated as fraction D-956 (0.049 g).

4. Physical and Spectral data of Isolated Compounds

4.1 Compound AM-1

Compound AM-1 was obtained as colorless rosette (0.022 g). It was soluble in chloroform and methanol. R_f value on silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:1) = 0.37 and silica gel / chloroform : ethyl acetate (1:1) = 0.57

Melting point	:	141-146° C
UV	กรถ	$\lambda_{_{max}}$ nm (log $\epsilon),$ in methanol ; Figure 11: 30 (0.24),
		294 (0.26), 263 (0.56), 205 (1.51)
IR	:	$\mathbf{V}_{\scriptscriptstyle max}cm^{-1}$, KBr disc ; Figure 12: 2923, 1730, 1669,
		1596

EIMS	:	<i>m/z</i> (% relative intensity); Figure 13: 382
		(M ⁺ ,35.37), 354 (100), 339 (26.52),295 (8.54), 199
		(5.43), 186 (7.62), 174 (7.32)
¹ H NMR	:	δ ppm, 300 MHz, in $\text{CDCl}_{\scriptscriptstyle 3}\textsc{;}$ see Figure 14 and
		Table 3
¹³ C NMR	:	δ ppm, 75 MHz, in CDCl_{_3}; see Figure 16 and
		Table 4

4.2 Compound AM-2

Compound AM-2 was obtained as pale yellow powder (0.025 g). It was soluble in chloroform and methanol. R_f value on silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:1) = 0.28 and silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (2:1) = 0.32

$\left[\boldsymbol{\alpha} \right]_{D}^{20}$	/ : 3	-165 [°] (CHCl ₃ ; c 0.1 g/100 ml)
Melting point	1:24	219-222° C
UV	: 2	$\lambda_{_{max}}$ nm (log ϵ), in methanol ; Figure 20: 306
		(0.31), 247 (0.64), 206 (1.73)
IR	1	V_{max} cm ⁻¹ , KBr disc ; Figure 21: 3447, 2926, 1734,
		1668, 1594, 1490, 1281, 1158, 1033
EIMS	:	<i>m/z</i> (% relative intensity); Figure 22: 354
		(M ⁺ ,11.55), 339 (3.34), 326 (6.99), 295 (1.82), 281
		(1.22)
¹ H NMR	ЧЧ	δ ppm, 300 MHz, in $\text{CDCl}_{\scriptscriptstyle 3}\textsc{;}$ see Figure 23 and
		Table 5
¹³ C NMR	196	δ ppm, 75 MHz, in CDCl ₃ ; see Figure 25 and
		Table 6

4.3 Compound AM-3

Compound AM-3 was obtained as pink amorphous powder (0.046 g). It was soluble in chloroform and methanol. R_f value on silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:4) = 0.12 and silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:9) = 0.18

Melting point	:	155-158°C
UV	:	λ_{max} nm (log ϵ), in methanol ; Figure 29: 289
		(0.24), 264 (0.39), 232 (1.05)
IR	:	v_{max} cm ⁻¹ , KBr disc ; Figure 30: 3447, 2926, 1653,
		1621, 1473, 1385, 1242
EIMS	:	<i>m/z</i> (% relative intensity); Figure 31: 366
		$(M^+, 100), 297 (10.3), 254 (7.2), 227 (80.6), 212$
		(19.3), 211 (27.9), 200 (55.0)
¹ H NMR	: 8	δ ppm, 600 MHz, in $\text{CDCI}_{\scriptscriptstyle 3}$; see Figure 32 and
		Table 7
¹³ C NMR	:	δ ppm, 150 MHz, in $\text{CDCI}_{\scriptscriptstyle 3}$; see Figure 34 and
		Table 8

4.4 Compound AM-4

Compound AM-4 was obtained as colorless needle (0.011 g). It was soluble in chloroform and methanol. R_f value on silica gel / ethyl acetate = 0.22 and silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:20) = 0.12

Melting point		168-169 [°] C
UV	11.36	$\lambda_{_{max}}$ nm (log ϵ), in methanol ; Figure 38: 281
		(0.22), 257 (0.43), 210 (1.59)
IR	:	\mathbf{V}_{max} cm ⁻¹ , KBr disc ; Figure 39: 3420, 2924, 2856,
		1661, 1617, 1580, 1385, 1262, 1127
EIMS	:	<i>m/z</i> (% relative intensity); Figure 40: 211
		(M ⁺ , 100), 196 (26.23), 140 (25), 109 (6.59)

¹ H NMR	:	δ ppm, 300 MHz, in CDCl ₃ ; see Figure 41 and
		Table 9
¹³ C NMR	:	δ ppm, 75 MHz, in $\text{CDCl}_{\scriptscriptstyle 3}$; see Figure 43 and
		Table 10



CHAPTER IV

Results and Discussion

Dried leaves of *Alstonia macrophylla* Wall. ex G. Don (6.75 kg) were extracted with methanol. The obtained methanolic extract, after acid-basic treatment (77.41 g), was then separated using several chromatographic techniques to afford four pure compounds.

The structure determinations of all isolates were performed by interpretation of their UV, IR, MS and NMR data, and then confirmed by comparison with literature values.

1. Structure Determination of Isolated Compounds

1.1 Structure Determination of Compound AM-1

Compound AM-1 was obtained as colorless rosette. The R_f values are 0.37 [silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:1)] and 0.57 [silica gel / chloroform : ethyl acetate (1:1)]. It was identified as demethoxyalstonamide. This compound was previously isolated from leaves of *Alstonia macrophylla* (Atta-Ur-Rahman *et al.*, 1991a).

The UV spectrum of compound AM-1 (Figure 11) showed maximum absorption at 205, 263, 294 and 302 nm, typical of a vincorine-type system (Atta-Ur-Rahman *et al.*, 1991a). The IR spectrum of AM-1 (Figure 12) indicated absorption bands at 1596 cm⁻¹ (C=C), 1669 cm⁻¹ (*N*-formyl C=O) and 1730 cm⁻¹ (ester C=O). The EIMS (Figure 13) afforded a molecular ion peak [M⁺] at *m*/*z* 382, consistent with the molecular formula $C_{22}H_{26}N_2O_4$ (D.B.E.= 11), while other major fragments appeared at *m*/*z* 354, 339, 295, 281, 199, 186 and 174. This fragmentation pattern is characteristic of the vincorine-type alkaloids (Mamatas-Kalamaras *et al.*, 1975b and Proksa *et al.*, 1987)

The ¹H- NMR spectrum of compound AM-1 (Figure 14 and Table 3), 2-D COSY-45 (Figure 15) and *J*-resolved measurements helped in assigning each proton and their relative stereochemistries. The ethylidene methyl protons (H-18) appeared as a doublet at δ 1.57 showing vicinal coupling ($J_{18,19} = 6.3$ Hz) with the adjacent C-19 olefenic proton. The C-19 olefenic proton, on the other hand, resonated at δ 5.41 as a split quartet showing vicinal coupling ($J_{19,18} = 6.6$ Hz) with the ethylidene methyl protons (H-18). The ester methyl protons resonated at δ 3.79. A three-proton singlets at δ 3.75 was assigned to the 10-OCH₃. A one-proton singlet at δ 8.47 was assigned to the *N*-formyl proton. In the aromatic region where the three aromatic protons were found to resonate, indicating the presence of one substituent on the benzene ring.

The ¹³C-NMR spectrum (Figure 16 and Table 4) indicated the presence of seven methine, five methylene, three methyl and seven quaternary carbons. The signal due to the C-2 quaternary carbon was found to resonate at δ 94.6. In the aromatic region three methine carbons were found to resonate at δ 111.9, 110.9 and 116.8 and were assigned to C-9, C-11 and C-12, respectively. The *N*-formyl carbon resonated at 160.1. The two OCH₃ carbons resonated at δ 55.6 and 51.9. All of the above spectral studies led us to assign this structure to be demethoxyalstonamide.



 Figure 8
 Structure of Demethoxyalstonamide

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Table 3¹H NMR Assignments of Compound AM-1 (in CDCl₃)and Demethoxyalstonamide (in CDCl₃)

	Compound AM-1	Demethoxyalstonamide
Position		(Atta-Ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1991a)
	$\delta_{_{ m H}}$ (ppm)(multiplicity, J in Hz)	$\delta_{_{ m H}}$ (ppm)(multiplicity, J in Hz)
6 α	3.18 (q, 8.7)	3.20 (m)
$_{6eta}$	2.76 (m)	2.80 (m)
9	6.98 (d, 2.1)	7.00 (d, 2.6)
11	6.71 (dd, 2.3, 8.5)	6.72 (dd, 2.6, 8.7)
12	7.98 (d, 8.7)	8.00 (d, 8.7)
15 2	2.34 (m)	2.40 (m)
16 2	1.96 (d, 5.7)	1.98 (d, 8.4)
18	1.57 (d, 6.3)	1.60 (dd, 7.0, 1.8)
19	5.41 (q, 6.6)	5.43 (split q, 7.0)
21 A	2.98 (d, 15.3)	3.00 (d, 15.4)
21 $meta$	3.88 (d, 15.6)	3.92 (d, 15.4)
СНО	8.47 (s)	8.47 (s)
10-OCH ₃	3.75 (s)	3.81 (s)
COOCH ₃	3.79 (s)	3.88 (s)

Table 4¹³C NMR Assignments of Compound AM-1 (in CDCl₃)and Demethoxyalstonamide (in CDCl₃)

	Compound AM-1	Demethoxyalstonamide
Position		(Atta-Ur-Rahman <i>et al</i> ., 1991a)
	$\delta_{ m c}$ (ppm)	$\delta_{_{ m C}}$ (ppm)
2	94.6	94.2
3	26.4	26.4
5	54.3	54.3
6	41.4	41.3
7	58.3	58.4
8	139.5	139.7
9	111.9	112.0
10	156.7	157.0
11	110.9	111.1
12	116.8	117.0
13	132.4	133.0
14	27.8	27.4
15	35.5	35.4
16	49.9	49.9
17	172.9	173.3
18	13.6	13.5
19	123.0	123.3
20	135.2	138.0
21	58.0	58.0
N-CHO	159.8	160.1
OCH ₃	55.6	56.2
COOCH ₃	51.9	51.9

1.2 Structure Determination of Compound AM-2

Compound AM-2 was obtained as pale yellow powder. The R_f values are 0.28 [silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:1)] and 0.32 [silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (2:1)]. It was identified as (-)-1-norvincorine. This compound was previously isolated from leaves of *Vinca minor* (Proksa *et al.*, 1987)

The UV spectrum of compound AM-2 (Figure 20) showed maximum absorption at 206, 247and 306 nm, this compound belongs to the dihydroindole group of alkaloids (Proksa *et al.*, 1987). The IR spectrum of AM-2 (Figure 21) indicated absorption bands for an N-H functionality at 3447 cm⁻¹, C-H stretching at 2926 cm⁻¹, a methoxycarbonyl functional group at 1734 cm⁻¹, C=C stretching of aromatic ring at 1668, 1594, 1490 cm⁻¹, C-C stretching of ester at 1281 cm⁻¹. The EIMS (Figure 22) showed a molecular ion peak [M⁺] at *m/z* 354, corresponding to the molecular formula $C_{21}H_{26}N_2O_3$ (D.B.E.= 10), while other major fragments appeared at *m/z* 339, 326, 295 and 281. This fragmentation pattern is characteristic of the vincorine-type alkaloids (Mamatas-Kalamaras *et al.*, 1975b and Proksa *et al.*, 1987).

The ¹H chemical shifts from NMR spectrum of compound AM-2 (Figure 23 and Table 5), 2-D COSY-45 (Figure 24) and *J*-resolved measurements helped in assigning each proton and their relative stereochemistries. The ethylidene methyl protons (H-18) appeared as a doublet at δ 1.56 showing vicinal coupling ($J_{18,19} = 6.6$ Hz) with the adjacent C-19 olefenic proton. The C-19 olefenic proton, on the other hand, resonated at δ 5.36 as a quartet showing vicinal coupling ($J_{19,18} = 6.6$ Hz) with the ethylidene methyl protons (H-18). The ester methyl protons resonated at δ 3.77. A three-proton singlets at δ 3.71 was assigned to the 10-OCH₃. In the aromatic region where the three aromatic protons were found to resonate, indicating the presence of one substituent on the benzene ring.

The ¹³C-NMR spectrum (Figure 25 and Table 6) indicated the presence of six methine, five methylene, four methyl and seven quaternary carbons. The signal due to the C-2 quaternary carbon located between two nitrogen atoms was found to resonate at δ 98.0. In the aromatic region three methine carbons were found to resonate at δ 112.6, 111.7 and 105.4 and were assigned to C-9, C-11 and C-12, respectively. The two OCH₃

carbons resonated at δ 56.5 and 52.0. All of the above spectral studies led us to assign this structure to be (-)-1-norvincorine.





Structure of (-)-1-Norvincorine

Table 5 1 H NMR Assignments of Compound AM-2 (in CDCl3)and (-)-1-norvincorine (in CDCl3)

	Compound AM-2	(-)-1-norvincorine
Position		(Proksa <i>et al</i> ., 1987)
	$\delta_{_{ m H}}$ (ppm)(multiplicity, J in Hz)	$\delta_{_{ m H}}$ (ppm)(multiplicity, J in Hz)
5 a	3.57 (s)	3.51 (m)
5 $meta$	2.71 (m)	2.74 (m)
6 X	2.43 (m)	2.49 (m)
6 eta	1.72 (m)	2.02 (m)
9	6.92 (d, 2.1)	6.92 (d, 2.2)
11	6.60 (dd, 2.3, 8.3)	6.57 (dd, 2.2, 8.4)
12	6.15 (d, 8.4)	6.42 (d, 8.4)
18 9	1.56 (d, 6.6)	1.58 (dd, 7.0)
19	5.36 (q, 6.6)	5.40 (q, 7.0)
10-OCH ₃	3.71 (s)	3.72 (s)
COOCH ₃	3.77 (s)	3.79 (s)

Table 6 13 C NMR Assignments of Compound AM-2 (in CDCl3)and (-)-1-norvincorine (in CDCl3)

	Compound AM-2	(-)-1-norvincorine
Position		(Proksa <i>et al</i> ., 1987)
	$\delta_{_{ m C}}$ (ppm)	$\delta_{ m c}$ (ppm)
2	97.7	94.4
3	26.4	26.6
5	55.0	56.0
6	40.9	41.3
7	58.3	57.8
8	138.8	139.1
9	112.1	112.2
10	151.9	153.1
11	111.3	111.9
12	105.0	109.3
13	143.5	141.8
14	28.1	26.6
15	34.9	35.3
16	50.8	50.6
17	173.4	173.5
18	13.7	13.5
19	122.4	122.0
20	138.4	138.2
21	57.2	58.1
OCH ₃	56.1	54.6
COOCH ₃	51.7	51.7

1.3 Structure Determination of Compound AM-3

Compound AM-3 was obtained as pink amorphous powder. The R_f values are 0.12 [silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:4)] and 0.18 [silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:9)]. It was identified as alstophylline. This compound was previously isolated from leaves of *Alstonia macrophylla* (Kishi *et al.*, 1965, Cook *et al.*, 1969 and Abe *et al.*, 1994b).

The UV spectrum of compound AM-3 (Figure 29) showed maximum absorption at 234, 257 and 295 nm suggesting the presence of summation of exo-enol function,

 $O_{L} C_{1}$ and an indole nucleus (Cook *et al.*, 1969). The IR spectrum of AM-3 (Figure 30) indicated absorption bands at 1653 and 1621 cm⁻¹ suggest the presence of an oxo-enol ether function (Cook *et al.*, 1969). The EIMS (Figure 31) afforded a molecular ion peak [M⁺] at *m/z* 366, consistent with the molecular formula $C_{22}H_{26}N_2O_3$ (D.B.E.=11), while other major fragments appeared at *m/z* 297, 254, 227, 212, 211 and 200 (Kishi *et al.*, 1965). And the mass spectral fragmentation pattern was virtually identical with that of the ajmaline derivative (Kishi *et al.*, 1965).

In the ¹H NMR spectrum of compound AM-3 (Figure 32 and Table 7), a oneproton singlet at δ 7.53 arises from the enol ether vinyl proton. The aromatic region contains three protons from the indole nucleus, resonating at δ 7.33 with no pyrrole N-H or indole α -H signals. A three-proton singlets at δ 2.09 is consonant with a CH₃COgroup, permitting the expansion of the oxo-enol ether structure element to CH₃CO-C (C)=CH-O-C-. Two further methyl group signals, at δ 2.32 and δ 3.60, are assigned to aliphatic and indolic N-CH₃ groups respectively. This evidence, taken together with the absence from the NMR spectrum of any signals at higher field than δ 2.00, suggests a polycyclic structure resembling that of the unusual indolohomotropane alkaloid alstophylline.

The ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound AM-3 is shown on Figure 34. And the carbon assignments of AM-3 (alstophylline) are depicted in table 8.



Figure 10

Structure of Alstophylline

Table 7¹H NMR Assignments of Compound AM-3 (in CDCl₃)and Alstophylline (in CDCl₃)

	Compound AM-3	Alstophylline
Position		(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994b)
	$\delta_{_{ m H}}$ (ppm)(multiplicity, J in Hz)	$\delta_{_{ m H}}$ (ppm)(multiplicity, J in Hz)
3	3.84 (br s)	3.83 (br s)
5	3.07 (br d, 6.8)	3.05 (br d, 7)
6	2.46 (d, 16.2)	2.45 (dd, 17, 2)
	3.27 (dd, 16.6, 6.8)	3.28 (dd, 17, 7)
9	7.33 (d, 8.5)	7.33 (d, 8)
10	6.77 (dd, 8.5, 2.2)	6.75 (dd, 8, 2)
12	6.81 (d, 2.2)	6.80 (d, 2)
14	1.80 (m)	1.80 (m)
	2.10 (m)	2.10 (m)
15	2.62 (m)	2.61 (m)
16	1.89 (m)	1.89 (m)
17	4.17 (ddd, 11.0, 3.8, 1.7)	4.15 (dd, 11, 2)
	4.39 (t, 11.4)	4.43 (t, 11)
18	2.09 (s)	2.08 (s)
21	7.53 (s)	7.52 (s)
N _a -CH ₃	3.60 (s)	3.59 (s)
N _b -CH ₃	2.32 (s)	2.32 (s)
OCH ₃	3.89 (s)	3.88 (s)

Table 8¹³C NMR Assignments of Compound AM-3 (in CDCl₃)and Alstophylline (in CDCl₃)

		Alstophylline
Position	Compound AM-3	(Abe <i>et al</i> ., 1994b)
	$\delta_{\rm c}$ (ppm)	$\delta_{_{ m C}}$ (ppm)
2	132.0	132.0
3	53.9	53.9
5	54.8	54.8
6	22.9	22.9
7	105.9	105.9
8	121.2	121.2
9	118.4	118.3
10	108.3	108.2
11	156.0	156.0
12	93.4	93.5
13	138.0	138.0
14	32.5	32.5
15	23.0	23.0
16	38.6	38.6
17	67.9	67.8
18	25.1	25.0
19	195.6	195.4
20	121.2	121.2
21	157.5	157.3
N _a -CH ₃	29.2	29.1
N _b -CH ₃	41.8	41.8
OCH3	56.0	56.0

1.4 Structure Determination of Compound AM-4

Compound AM-4 was obtained as colorless needle. The R_f values are 0.22 [silica gel / ethyl acetate] and 0.12 [silica gel / n-hexane : ethyl acetate (1:20)]. It was identified as 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzamide. This compound was previously isolated from the stem bark of *Alstonia constricta* (Allam *et al.*, 1987 and Crow *et al.*, 1970).

The UV spectrum of compound AM-4 (Figure 38) showed maximum absorption at 210, 257 and 286 nm suggesting the presence of a benzene ring chromophore. The IR spectrum of AM-4 (Figure 39) indicated absorption bands for an N-H functionality at 3420 and 3196 cm⁻¹, C-H stretching of alkanes at 2924 and 2856 cm⁻¹, C=O stretching of ester at 1735 cm⁻¹, C=C stretching of aromatic ring at 1661 and 1617 cm⁻¹, N-H bending of primary amine at 1580 cm⁻¹, and C-O stretching of esters at 1385 and 1262 cm⁻¹. The EIMS (Figure 40) afforded a molecular ion peak [M⁺] at *m/z* 211,consistent with the molecular formula $C_{10}H_{13}NO_4$ (D.B.E.= 5), while other major fragments appeared at *m/z* 196, 181, 165, 140 and 109.

The ¹H chemical shifts from NMR spectrum of compound AM-4 (Figure 41 and Table 9) showed signals from three methoxy groups at δ 3.87 (6H, s, 2×OCH₃) and 3.90 (3H, s, OCH₃) and from two aromatic protons which are coincident in chemical shift at δ 7.03 (2H, s, aromatic proton of trimethoxybenzoyl). From these signals, all of which can be assigned as the 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzoyl derivative.

The ¹³C NMR spectrum of compound AM-4 is shown on Figure 43. And the carbon assignments of AM-4 (3,4,5-,trimethoxybenzamide) are depicted in table 10.



Figure 11 Structure of 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzamide

Table 9¹H NMR Assignments of Compound AM-4 (in CDCl₃)and 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzamide (in CDCl₃)

	Compound AM-4	3,4,5-trimethoxybenzamide	
Position		(Crow <i>et al</i> ., 1970)	(Schaller, 1999)
	$\delta_{_{ m H}}$ (ppm)(multiplicity, J in Hz)	$\delta_{_{ m H}}$ (ppm)(multiplicity, J in Hz)	$\delta_{_{ m H}}$ (ppm)(multiplicity, J in Hz)
2	7.03 (s)	7.13 (s)	6.91 (s)
6	7.03 (s)	7.13 (s)	6.91 (s)
3-OCH ₃	3.87 (s)	3.88 (s)	3.73 (s)
4-OCH ₃	3.90 (s)	3.91 (s)	3.73 (s)
5-OCH ₃	3.87 (s)	3.88 (s)	3.73 (s)
NH ₂	-		Not estimated

Table 10 13 C NMR Assignments of Compound AM-4 (in CDCl₃)10.45 triangle and the second second

and 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzamide (in CDCl_3)

	Compound AM-4	3,4,5-trimethoxybenzamide
Position	1991-1915 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11 - 11	(Schaller, 1999)
	$\delta_{ m c}$ (ppm)	$\delta_{\rm c}$ (ppm)
1	120.1	127.8
2	105.0	106.2
3	153.2	148.7
4	128.7	136.6
5	153.2	148.7
6	105.0	106.2
3-OCH ₃	56.1	56.3
4-OCH ₃	56.4	56.6
5-OCH ₃	56.1	56.3
NH ₂	169.1	169.7

CHAPTER V

Conclusion

In this investigation, four pure compounds were isolated from the leaves of *Alstonia macrophylla* Wall. ex G. Don. These compounds are the indole alkaloids being identified as demethoxyalstonamide (AM-1), (-)-1-norvincorine (AM-2) and alstophylline (AM-3). Another one is amide namely 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzamide (AM-4). Two of the isolated compounds demethoxyalstonamide (AM-1) and alstophylline (AM-3) have been reported from the leaves of this species before, except (-)-1-norvincorine (AM-2) and 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzamide (AM-4).



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APPENDIX


























































Figure 39 IR spectrum of compound AM-4 (KBr disc)

Fingure 39 IR spectrum of compound AM-4 (KBr















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