

## Two pairs of new dihydrobenzophenanthridine alkaloid isolated from the root of *Macleaya cordata*

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### ABSTRACT

Two pairs of dihydrobenzophenanthridine alkaloid, named (±)(S)-6-((R)-1-hydroxyethyl) dihydrochelerythrine (**1a**, **1b**) and (±)(S)-6-((R)-1-hydroxyethyl)dihydro-sanguinarine (**2a**, **2b**) were isolated from the root of *Macleaya cordata*. Their chemical structures were elucidated by analysis of the spectroscopic data including one-dimensional (1D) and two-dimensional (2D) NMR spectra, and were further confirmed by X-ray crystallographic analysis.

### 1. Introduction

*Macleaya cordata* (Willd) R.Br., belonging to Papaveraceae family, is widely distributed in south and northwest China. In ancient China, this plant medicine was used for apostasis, anabrosis and empyrosis (Hu et al., 1975). Contemporary pharmacological studies demonstrated that *M. Cordata* had significant anti-microbial activity (Newton et al., 2002), anti-inflammatory (Kosina et al., 2010), anti-tumor (Ahmad et al., 2000) and animal growth promotion (Qing et al., 2015). Alkaloids were regarded the mainly bioactive constituents. As reported previously, more than thirty alkaloids were identified from this plant (Zhang et al., 2005; Ye et al., 2009; Feng et al., 2012; Qing et al., 2014, 2016). A series of products have been developed from these bioactive alkaloids. Sangrovit®, an extract of *M. Cordata*, which was used in Europe and China as a natural feed additive. In addition to these well-known compounds, a series of alkaloids which may have potential biological activities are still unknown, and further investigation is necessary. In this paper, two pairs of new dihydrobenzophenanthridine alkaloid named (±)(S)-6-((R)-1-hydroxyethyl) dihydrochelerythrine (**1a**, **1b**) and (±)(S)-6-((R)-1-hydroxyethyl) dihydrosanguinarine (**2a**, **2b**) were isolated from this plant medicine, and their structures were identified by HRMS, NMR spectra and X-ray crystallographic analysis (Fig. 1).

### 2. Result and discussion

#### 2.1. Structure elucidation of compound 1

Compound **1** was obtained as a yellow powder, the molecular formula was established as C<sub>23</sub>H<sub>24</sub>NO<sub>5</sub> by HRMS (*m/z* 394.1647 [M + H]<sup>+</sup>, calculated for 394.1649). The <sup>13</sup>C and DEPT spectra of **1** showed 23 carbons (Fig. S1), including ten C (sp<sup>2</sup>) (δ<sub>c</sub> 152.2, 148.3, 147.6, 146.9, 140.4, 131.1, 126.7, 126.7, 125.2, 123.9), six CH (sp<sup>2</sup>) (δ<sub>c</sub> 123.9, 119.9, 119.1, 111.9, 104.6, 100.5), two C (sp<sup>3</sup>) (δ<sub>c</sub> 69.3, 64.0), one OCH<sub>2</sub>O (δ<sub>c</sub> 101.2), two MeO (δ<sub>c</sub> 61.0, 55.9), one Me (δ<sub>c</sub> 43.8), and one MeN (δ<sub>c</sub> 20.2). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum revealed six aromatic H-atoms (δ<sub>H</sub> 7.68, 7.55, 7.45, 6.95, each d, *J* = 8.4; 7.65 and 7.10, each s), two methoxys (δ<sub>H</sub> 3.95, 3.91, s, each 3H), one *N*-methyl (δ<sub>H</sub> 2.69, s, 3H) and one methylenedioxy (δ<sub>H</sub> 6.03, s). These evidences indicated that **1** was a typical 6-substituent-dihydrobenzophenanthridine alkaloid (Hu et al., 2006; Di et al., 2009). In addition, a methyl (δ<sub>c</sub> 20.2, δ<sub>H</sub> 1.03) group and two methines (δ<sub>H</sub> 4.32, δ<sub>c</sub> 64.0; δ<sub>H</sub> 3.55, δ<sub>c</sub> 69.2) moieties were detected compared to the <sup>1</sup>H NMR of dihydrochelerythrine. The differences suggested that the group [CH(OH)CH<sub>3</sub>] was included in compound **1**. In the HMBC spectrum (Fig. 2), the methylenedioxy (δ<sub>H</sub> 6.03) correlations with C-2 (δ<sub>c</sub> 147.6) and C-3 (δ<sub>c</sub> 148.3), suggested that the methylenedioxy connected with C-2 and C-3. The two

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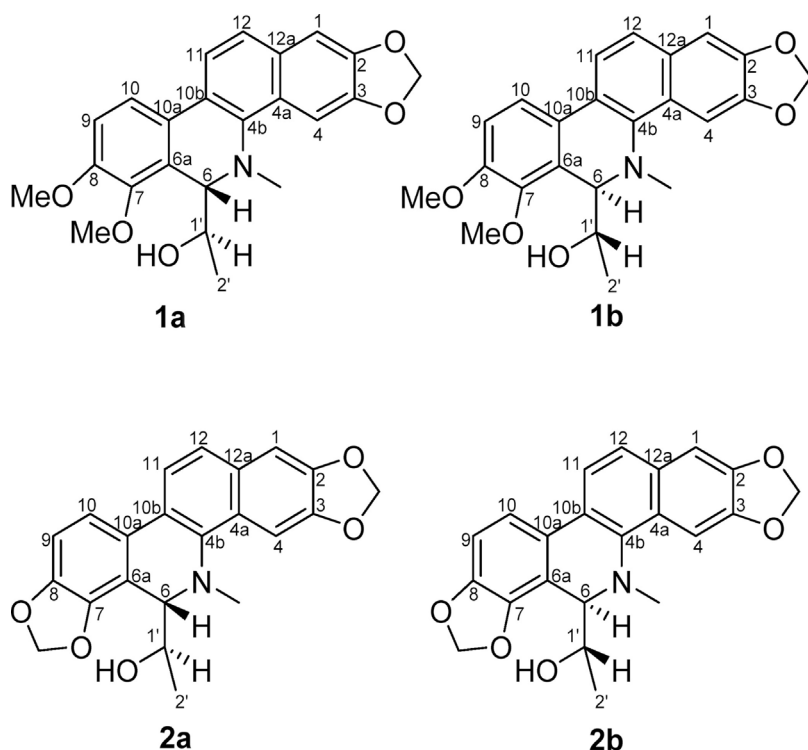


Fig 1. The chemical structures of alkaloids 1a, 1b, 2a and 2b.

methoxys at  $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.95 and 3.91 correlations with C-7 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  146.7) and C-8 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  152.1) respectively, which indicated that the two methoxys connected with C-7 and C-8. The group  $-\text{CHOHCH}_3$  ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  3.58, 1.03) was assigned at C-6 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  64.0) due to the correlations of H-6 ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  4.32) with C-1' ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  69.2) and H-2' ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  1.03) with C-6 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  64.0). Other significant HMBC correlations for the structural elucidation of compound 1 are given in Fig. 2. In addition, the chiral resolution of alkaloid 1 on a chiral column was performed, which demonstrated that compound 1 was a racemate (Fig. S3). X-ray diffraction experiments were further conducted in order to confirm the absolute configuration (Fig. 3). Finally, the structure of compound 1 was identified as  $(\pm)$ -(S)-6-((R)-1-hydroxyethyl) dihydrochelerythrine (1a, 1b).

## 2.2. Structure elucidation of compound 2

Compound 2 was obtained as a yellow powder, the molecular formula was established as  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{20}\text{NO}_5$  by HRMS  $m/z$  378.1338  $[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$  (calculated for 378.1341). The  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR and DEPT spectra of 2 showed 22 carbons (Fig. S2), including ten C ( $\text{sp}^2$ ) ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  148.7, 147.6, 147.1, 146.2, 140.2, 131.1, 126.9, 126.1, 123.9, 114.7), six CH ( $\text{sp}^2$ ) ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  123.9, 120.2, 116.7, 107.9, 104.9, 100.6), two C ( $\text{sp}^3$ ) ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  69.2, 64.3), two  $\text{OCH}_2\text{O}$  ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  101.5, 101.2), one Me ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  20.1), and one MeN ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  44.0). The  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectrum revealed six aromatic H-atoms ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  7.68, 7.46, 7.36, 6.89, each d,  $J = 8.4$ ; 7.66 and 7.09, each s), one N-methyl ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  2.67), two methylenedioxy ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.01, 6.05). These data indicated that

compound 2 was also a dihydrobenzophenanthridine alkaloid (Hu et al., 2006). the mere differences between 2 and 1 was the two methoxys at C-7 and C-8 was replaced by a methylenedioxy, which was further confirmed by the HMBC correlations of methylenedioxy ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  6.05) with C-7 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  146.2) and C-8 ( $\delta_{\text{C}}$  147.1) (Fig. 2). In addition, compound 2 was also regarded as a pair of racemate by the X-ray and chiral HPLC separation experiments (Fig. 3 and S4). Finally, compound 2 was identified as  $(\pm)$ -(S)-6-((R)-1-hydroxyethyl) dihydrosanguinarine (2a, 2b).

## 3. Experimental

### 3.1. General experimental procedures

Optical rotations were measured on bruker axis, IR spectra were taken on Nicolet infrared spectrometer with KBr disc technique. 1D and 2D NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker ACF-400 (the  $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra at 400 MHz and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectra at 100 MHz). The mass was collected by an Agilent 1290 HPLC system coupled with a 6350 Q-TOF/MS accurate-mass spectrometer. The chiral HPLC separation experiment was performed on an Agilent 1260 HPLC system coupled with a CHIRALCEL OJ-H (Lot No. OJH0CE-UC023) chiral column. Column chromatography was performed on silica gel (200–300 or 300–400 mesh; QingDao Marine Chemical Factory, QingDao, RP China). The X-ray data were collected by on a Bruker APEX-II CCD

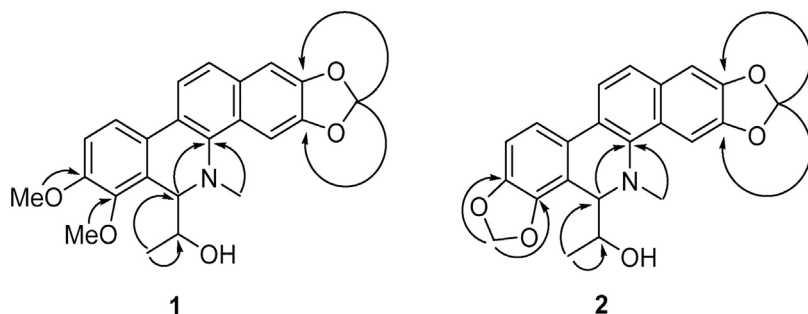


Fig. 2. Key HMBC correlation of alkaloids 1 and 2.

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