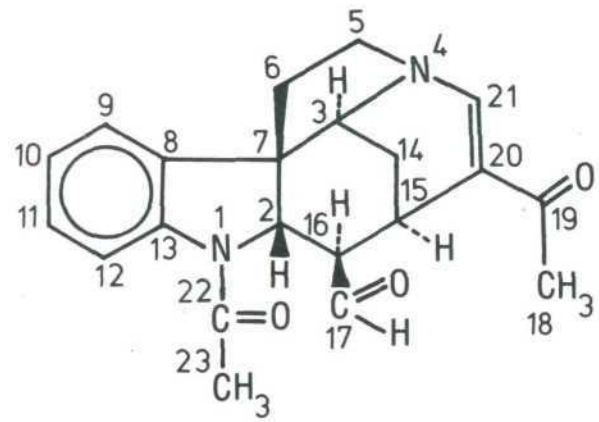
P-70 THE STRUCTURE OF STRYCHNOZAIRINE, A NEW INDOLE ALKALOID FROM *STRYCHNOS VARIABILIS*

*M. Tits**, D. Tavernier**, L. Angenot*

Extensive studies in our laboratory on the constituents of *Strychnos variabilis* have resulted in the isolation of a number of alkaloids, of which twenty-two are fully characterized (1-3). We should at present like to report on the structure elucidation of a remaining minor alkaloid, which we have named strychnozairine, because *S. variabilis* was collected in the province of Kinshasa in Zaire, where the species is abundant but endemic.

Through a combination of spectroscopic techniques (UV, IR, MS and NMR) it has been possible to show that strychnozairine possesses the strychnane skeleton with a particular pattern involving oxydation of the ethylidenic side chain and dehydration of the piperidine ring to afford an unusual alkaloid with typical UV spectrum

$[\lambda_{max}^{MeOH}$ nm (log ε) 305 (4.1), 251 (3.98), 212 (4.3)]

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* Pharmaceutical Institute, Liège University, rue Fusch 5, 4000 Liège, Belgium.
** Department of Organic Chemistry, Ghent University, Krijgslaan, 281 9000 Ghent, Belgium.