hydroxycoumarin. Judging from the cleavage of the glucoside with emulsin, we assume that it is the β -anomer.

 $8-\beta$ -Glucosidyl-7-hydroxycoumarin has been isolated previously [3] from <u>Gnidia polycephala</u>, but this sample differed from ours in optical activity and melting point because of contamination with daphnin. We are the first to have isolated $8-\beta$ -glucosidyl-7-hydroxycoumarin as a natural compound in the pure state.

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I Moscow Sechenov Medical Institute; All-Union Institute of Medicinal Plants

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ERICININE - A NEW ALKALOID FROM VINCA ERECTA

N. Abdurakhimova, Sh. Z. Kasymov, and S. Yu. Yunusov

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Continuing our separation of the mixture of alkaloids of the epigeal part of Vinca erecta Rgl. et Schmalh [1], collected on the 30th April 1963 in the Osh Oblast, we have isolated a base with the composition $C_{21}H_{26}O_5N_2$ with mp 206–207° C (methanol), $[\alpha]_D^{18}$ +43.8° (acetone), which we have called ericinine (I). This forms a crystalline hydrobromide with mp 237–238° C (methanol). The UV spectrum has an absorption maximum at 220 mµ (log ε 4.68). The IR spectrum

has the following vibrational bands: $3295 \text{ cm}^{-1} (= \text{NH})$, 1610 and 1730 cm⁻¹ (the grouping H₃COOC-C=C-O-), 1670 cm⁻¹ (amide carbonyl group). The UV and IR absorption spectra of ericinine show that it belongs to the hydroxyindole group of alkaloids [2]. On the basis of the data given, the alkaloid has the following developed formula:

$$C_{17}H_{19}(=NH) (=N-) (-COOCH_3) (-OCH_3) (=CO) (-O-).$$

On acetylation with acetic anhydride, ericinine forms a N-acetyl derivative, $C_{24}H_{28}O_6N_2$, mp 158-159°C (methanol), $[\alpha]_D^{18} -98°$ (acetone). N-Acetylericinine was shown to be identical with N-acetylvinerine [3]. When ericinine was heated in pyridine, in addition to the initial base an isomerization product with mp 200-201°C (diethyl ether), $[\alpha]_D^{20} -98°$ (acetone) was isolated. The latter proved to be identical with hydroxyindole reserpinine [3]. Consequently, ericinine is a base isomeric with vinerine and vineridine and has the following configuration: $C_{15} - \alpha$; $C_{20} - \alpha$; $C_{19} - \beta$. The configurations at the C_3 and C_7 centers remain undetermined.



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Order of the Red Banner of Labor Institute of the Chemistry of Plant Substances, AS UzSSR

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