

# Alkaloidal Constituents of the Tubers of *Stephania cepharantha* Cultivated in Japan: Structure of 3,4-Dehydrocycleanine, a New Bisbenzylisoquinoline Alkaloid

Noriaki KASHIWABA,\*<sup>a</sup> Shigeo MOROOKA,<sup>a</sup> Michiko KIMURA,<sup>a</sup> Yoshie MURAKOSHI,<sup>a</sup> Minoru ONO,<sup>a</sup> Jun TODA,<sup>b</sup> Hideki SUZUKI,<sup>b</sup> and Takehiro SANO<sup>b</sup>

Research Laboratories, Kaken Shoyaku Co., Ltd.,<sup>a</sup> 3-37-10 Shimorenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181, Japan and Showa College of Pharmaceutical Sciences,<sup>b</sup> 3-3165 Higashi-Tamagawagakuen, Machida-shi, Tokyo 194, Japan.

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Full details of the isolation and characterization of 52 alkaloids obtained from the tubers of *Stephania cepharantha* HAYATA (Menispermaceae) cultivated in Japan are presented, along with the structural determination of a new bisbenzylisoquinoline alkaloid, 3,4-dehydrocycleanine (8).

**Key words** 3,4-dehydrocycleanine; *Stephania cepharantha*; tuber; bisbenzylisoquinoline alkaloid; cycleanine

In previous papers,<sup>1)</sup> we have reported the isolation and structural determination of four new morphinan alkaloids, cephamonine (1),<sup>1a)</sup> cephamuline (2),<sup>1a)</sup> cephasamine (3),<sup>1b)</sup> cephacine (4),<sup>1b)</sup> one new hasubanane alkaloid, cephatonine (5),<sup>1b)</sup> and two new stephaoxocane<sup>2)</sup> alkaloids, stephaoxocanine (6),<sup>1c)</sup> stephaoxocanidine (7),<sup>1d)</sup> from the tubers of *Stephania cepharantha* HAYATA (Menispermaceae) cultivated in Japan. In our continuing investigations of the alkaloidal constituents of the tubers of this plant, we have obtained a new bisbenzylisoquinoline alkaloid, 3,4-dehydrocycleanine (8), together with 51

known alkaloids as shown in Table 1. This paper describes the isolation and structural determination of 8 and full details of the isolation and characterization of all the alkaloids.

The methanol extract of the tubers of *S. cepharantha* was fractionated, and the alkaloid-containing fractions were repeatedly subjected to crystallization, column chromatography, and preparative TLC, to give 3,4-dehydrocycleanine (8) as colorless needles, together with 51 known alkaloids.

The molecular formula of 3,4-dehydrocycleanine (8)

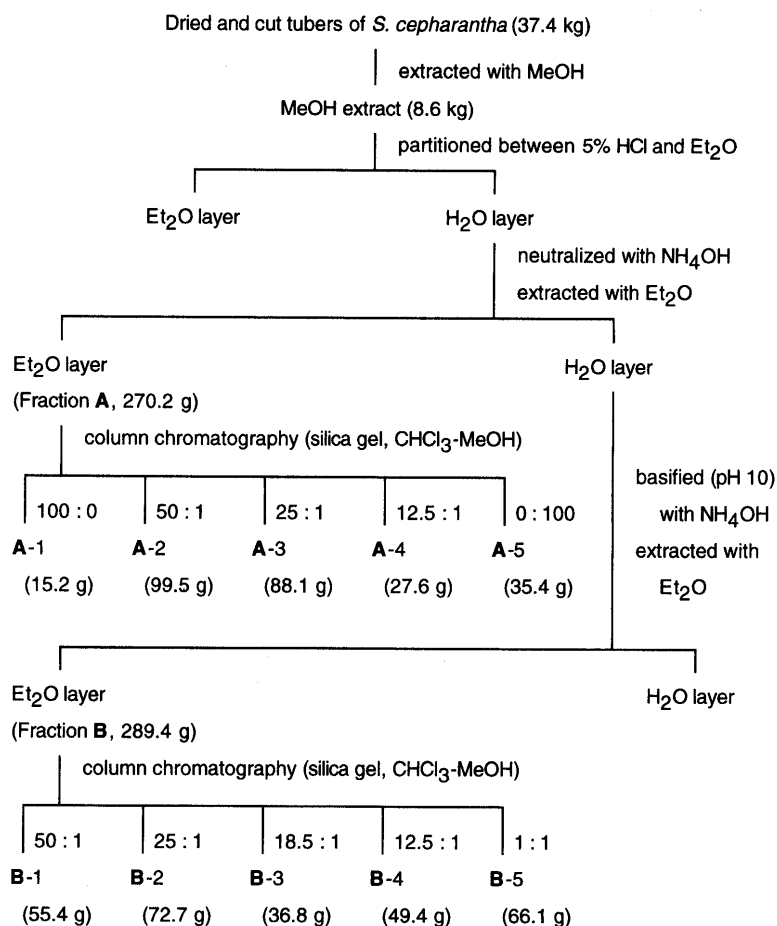


Chart 1. Fractionation of *Stephania cepharantha* HAYATA

\* To whom correspondence should be addressed.

Table 1. Alkaloids from *Stephania cepharantha*

| Fraction | Compound <sup>a)</sup>                       | mp (°C) <sup>b)</sup>      | [ $\alpha$ ] <sub>D</sub> <sup>c)</sup> (°) |
|----------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| A-1      | Cepharanthine (11, BBI)                      | 142—143                    | +350                                        |
|          | Cepharamine (33, Has)                        | 187—188                    | −243                                        |
| A-2      | Cephasamine <sup>d)</sup> (3, Mor)           | 142—144                    | +105                                        |
|          | Cephakicine <sup>d)</sup> (4, Mor)           | Amor. powder               | −161                                        |
|          | Cephatonine <sup>d)</sup> (5, Has)           | Amor. powder               | −264                                        |
|          | Stephaoxocanidine <sup>d)</sup> (7, Steph)   | 188—191                    | +30                                         |
|          | (−)-Cycleanine (9, BBI)                      | 277—280 (d)                | −13                                         |
|          | Cepharanthine (11, BBI)                      | 142—143                    | +350                                        |
|          | Isotetrandrine (20, BBI)                     | 185—187                    | +146                                        |
|          | 14-Episinomenine (30, Mor)                   | 101—103                    | −55                                         |
|          | Sinoacutine (32, Mor)                        | 190—192                    | −76                                         |
|          | Cepharamine (33, Has)                        | 187—188                    | −243                                        |
|          | Aknadinine (34, Has)                         | Amor. powder               | −290                                        |
|          | Aknadicine (35, Has)                         | 153—155                    | −231                                        |
|          | Aknadilactam (36, Has)                       | Amor. powder               | −152                                        |
|          | Corydine (37, Apo)                           | 145—147                    | +208                                        |
|          | Isocorydine (38, Apo)                        | 184—185                    | +197                                        |
|          | Isocorytuberine (39, Apo)                    | Amor. powder               | +203                                        |
|          | N-Methylaurotitanine (40, Apo)               | Amor. powder               | +121                                        |
|          | (−)-Anonaine (42, Apo)                       | Gum                        | −60                                         |
|          | (−)-Scoulerine (51, Pro-ber)                 | 193—194                    | −269                                        |
| A-3      | Stephaoxocanine <sup>d)</sup> (6, Steph)     | 160—162                    | +60                                         |
|          | (−)-Cycleanine (9, BBI)                      | 277—280 (d)                | −13                                         |
|          | Cepharanoline (13, BBI)                      | 272—273 (d)                | +273 <sup>e)</sup>                          |
|          | Homoaromoline (18, BBI)                      | 241—243 (d)                | +268 <sup>e)</sup>                          |
|          | Isotetrandrine (20, BBI)                     | 185—187                    | +146                                        |
|          | trans-N-Feruloyltyramine (52, Tyr)           | Amor. powder               | —                                           |
|          | Cepharanoline (13, BBI)                      | 272—273 (d)                | +273 <sup>e)</sup>                          |
|          | Homoaromoline (18, BBI)                      | 241—243 (d)                | +268 <sup>e)</sup>                          |
|          | Berbamine (21, BBI)                          | 148—150                    | +297                                        |
|          | Juziphine (47, BI)                           | Amor. powder               | +5                                          |
| A-5      | Berbamine (21, BBI)                          | 148—150                    | +124                                        |
| B-1      | (−)-Cycleanine (9, BBI)                      | 277—280 (d)                | −13                                         |
|          | Cepharanthine (11, BBI)                      | 142—143                    | +350                                        |
| B-2      | Obaberine (15, BBI)                          | Amor. powder               | +308                                        |
|          | Isotetrandrine (20, BBI)                     | 185—187                    | +146                                        |
|          | Secocepharanthine (26, BBI)                  | Amor. powder               | −14                                         |
|          | (+)-Reticuline (46, BI)                      | Amor. powder               | +45                                         |
|          | Cephamonine <sup>d)</sup> (1, Mor)           | Amor. powder <sup>f)</sup> | −36                                         |
|          | Cephamuline <sup>d)</sup> (2, Mor)           | Amor. powder               | −63                                         |
|          | 3,4-Dehydrocycleanine <sup>d)</sup> (8, BBI) | 259—261 (d)                | +79                                         |
|          | (−)-Cycleanine (9, BBI)                      | 277—280 (d)                | −13                                         |
|          | 2-Norcepharanthine (12, BBI)                 | Amor. powder               | +345                                        |
|          | Isotetrandrine (20, BBI)                     | 185—187                    | +146                                        |
| B-3      | Tannagine (29, Mor)                          | Amor. powder               | +23                                         |
|          | FK-3000 (31, Mor)                            | 160—161                    | −142                                        |
|          | (+)-Isoboldine (41, Apo)                     | 122—123                    | +39                                         |
|          | (+)-Laudanidine (48, BI)                     | 184—186                    | +265                                        |
|          | Stepharine (49, Proapo)                      | 181—184                    | +142                                        |
|          | N-Methylcrotosparine (50, Proapo)            | 219—221                    | −32                                         |
|          | Cepharanoline (13, BBI)                      | 272—273 (d)                | +273 <sup>e)</sup>                          |
|          | Oxyacanthine (16, BBI)                       | Amor. powder               | +297                                        |
|          | Stephibaberine (17, BBI)                     | Amor. powder               | +254                                        |
|          | Homoaromoline (18, BBI)                      | 241—243 (d)                | +268 <sup>e)</sup>                          |
| B-4      | Thalrugosine (22, BBI)                       | Amor. powder               | +297                                        |
|          | 2-Norisorotetrandrine (24, BBI)              | Amor. powder               | +136                                        |
|          | Sinomenine (28, Mor)                         | 164—166                    | −54                                         |
|          | 14-Episinomenine (30, Mor)                   | 101—103                    | −55                                         |
|          | (−)-Norcycleanine (10, BBI)                  | 251—252 (d)                | −27                                         |
|          | Cepharanoline (13, BBI)                      | 272—273 (d)                | +273 <sup>e)</sup>                          |
|          | Homoaromoline (18, BBI)                      | 241—243 (d)                | +268 <sup>e)</sup>                          |
|          | Berbamine (21, BBI)                          | 148—150                    | +124                                        |
|          | Sinomenine (28, Mor)                         | 164—166                    | −54                                         |
|          | Protosinomenine (43, BI)                     | Amor. powder               | +53                                         |
| B-5      | (+)-N-Methylcoclaurine (44, BI)              | Amor. powder               | ±0 <sup>g)</sup>                            |
|          | 2-Norcepharanolone (14, BBI)                 | 280—282 (d)                | +283                                        |
|          | Aromoline (19, BBI)                          | 217—220 (d)                | +343                                        |
|          | Berbamine (21, BBI)                          | 148—150                    | +124                                        |
|          | Obamegine (23, BBI)                          | Amor. powder               | +297                                        |
|          | 2-Norberbamine (25, BBI)                     | 184—187                    | +77                                         |
|          | 3',4'-Dihydrostephasubine (27, BBI)          | Amor. powder               | +171                                        |
|          | (+)-Coclaurine (45, BI)                      | 210—212                    | +23                                         |

a) BBI: bisbenzylisoquinoline, Has: hasubanane, Mor: morphinane, Steph: stephaoxocane, Apo: aporphine, Pro-ber: protoberberine, Tyr: tyramine derivative, BI: benzylisoquinoline, Proapo: proaporphine. b) Amor. powder: amorphous powder, (d): decomposition. c) Measured in CHCl<sub>3</sub>, except for 13 and 18. d) New alkaloid. e) Measured in 0.1N HCl. f) HCl salt; mp 185—187 °C. g) CD (MeOH) Δε (nm): +0.3 (290), ±0 (271), +1.5 (232), −0.5 (216).

Table 2. <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR Data for **8** and **9**

| Position            | <sup>1</sup> H       |                      | <sup>13</sup> C |          |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------|
|                     | <b>8</b>             | <b>9</b>             | <b>8</b>        | <b>9</b> |
| 1                   | 4.70 d (10.4)        | 4.26 d (10.4)        | 58.04           | 59.48    |
| 3                   | 6.15 d (7.0)         | 2.90 m               | 136.87          | 44.62    |
| 4                   | 5.44 d (7.0)         | 3.25 m               |                 |          |
|                     |                      | 2.91 m               | 98.20           | 24.79    |
|                     |                      | 3.02 m               |                 |          |
| 4a                  |                      |                      | 129.81          | 129.73   |
| 5                   | 6.45 s               | 6.57 s               | 103.10          | 109.18   |
| 6                   |                      |                      | 152.19          | 151.80   |
| 7                   |                      |                      | 138.95          | 138.87   |
| 8                   |                      |                      | 142.34          | 143.64   |
| 8a                  |                      |                      | 114.98          | 125.59   |
| α                   | 2.81 d (13.1)        | 2.52 dd (12.8, 10.4) | 33.67           | 37.72    |
|                     | 2.96 dd (13.1, 10.4) | 3.22 d (12.8)        |                 |          |
| 9                   |                      |                      | 129.35          | 130.43   |
| 10                  | 6.26 dd (8.5, 2.1)   | 6.28 dd (8.2, 2.1)   | 128.97          | 128.68   |
| 11                  | 5.89 dd (8.5, 2.8)   | 5.83 dd (8.2, 2.8)   | 114.23          | 113.98   |
| 12                  |                      |                      | 154.02          | 154.10   |
| 13                  | 6.57 dd (8.2, 2.8)   | 6.60 dd (8.5, 2.8)   | 117.26          | 117.36   |
| 14                  | 6.95 dd (8.2, 2.1)   | 7.04 dd (8.5, 2.1)   | 128.46          | 128.10   |
| N-CH <sub>3</sub>   | 3.12 s               | 2.53 s               | 40.10           | 42.37    |
| 6-OCH <sub>3</sub>  | 3.82 s               | 3.81 s               | 56.04           | 55.99    |
| 7-OCH <sub>3</sub>  | 3.39 s               | 3.40 s               | 60.33           | 60.01    |
| 1'                  | 4.23 d (10.1)        | 4.26 d (10.4)        | 59.59           | 59.48    |
| 3'                  | 2.92 m               | 2.90 m               | 44.67           | 44.62    |
|                     | 3.26 m               | 3.25 m               |                 |          |
| 4'                  | 2.90 m               | 2.91 m               | 24.81           | 24.79    |
|                     | 3.02 m               | 3.02 m               |                 |          |
| 4a'                 |                      |                      | 129.78          | 129.73   |
| 5'                  | 6.58 s               | 6.57 s               | 109.24          | 109.18   |
| 6'                  |                      |                      | 151.84          | 151.80   |
| 7'                  |                      |                      | 138.97          | 138.87   |
| 8'                  |                      |                      | 143.55          | 143.64   |
| 8a'                 |                      |                      | 125.51          | 125.59   |
| α'                  | 2.52 dd (12.8, 10.1) | 2.52 dd (12.8, 10.4) | 37.73           | 37.72    |
|                     | 3.19 dd (12.8)       | 3.22 d (12.8)        |                 |          |
| 9'                  |                      |                      | 130.57          | 130.43   |
| 10'                 | 6.25 dd (8.2, 2.1)   | 6.28 dd (8.2, 2.1)   | 128.95          | 128.10   |
| 11'                 | 5.81 dd (8.2, 2.8)   | 5.83 dd (8.2, 2.8)   | 114.23          | 113.98   |
| 12'                 |                      |                      | 153.84          | 154.10   |
| 13'                 | 6.62 dd (8.5, 2.8)   | 6.60 dd (8.5, 2.8)   | 117.03          | 117.36   |
| 14'                 | 7.02 dd (8.5, 2.1)   | 7.04 dd (8.5, 2.1)   | 128.09          | 128.10   |
| N'-CH <sub>3</sub>  | 2.52 s               | 2.53 s               | 42.44           | 42.37    |
| 6'-OCH <sub>3</sub> | 3.82 s               | 3.81 s               | 55.98           | 55.99    |
| 7'-OCH <sub>3</sub> | 3.41 s               | 3.40 s               | 60.05           | 60.01    |

Values in parentheses are coupling constants (Hz).

was established by the high-resolution mass spectrum (HR-MS) as C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>40</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub>, and the electron impact mass spectrum (EI-MS) showed the molecular ion peak at *m/z* 620 (100%) and strong peaks at *m/z* 312 (29%), 311 (26%), 310 (54%), and 309 (79%), indicating that **8** is a bisbenzylisoquinoline alkaloid having two “head-to-tail” diphenyl ether linkages.<sup>3)</sup> The IR spectrum suggested the absence of hydroxy and primary and secondary amino groups (no absorption from 3500 to 3200 cm<sup>−1</sup>). The UV spectrum showed the presence of an olefin conjugated to an aromatic ring (absorption maximum at 340 nm). The <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra were similar to those of (−)-cycleanine (**9**), which is an alkaloid possessing two “head-to-tail” diphenyl ether linkages, and the molecular formula has 2H more than that of **8**. The <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum of **8** showed two coupled olefinic proton signals at δ<sub>H</sub> 5.44 and 6.15, and the <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectrum

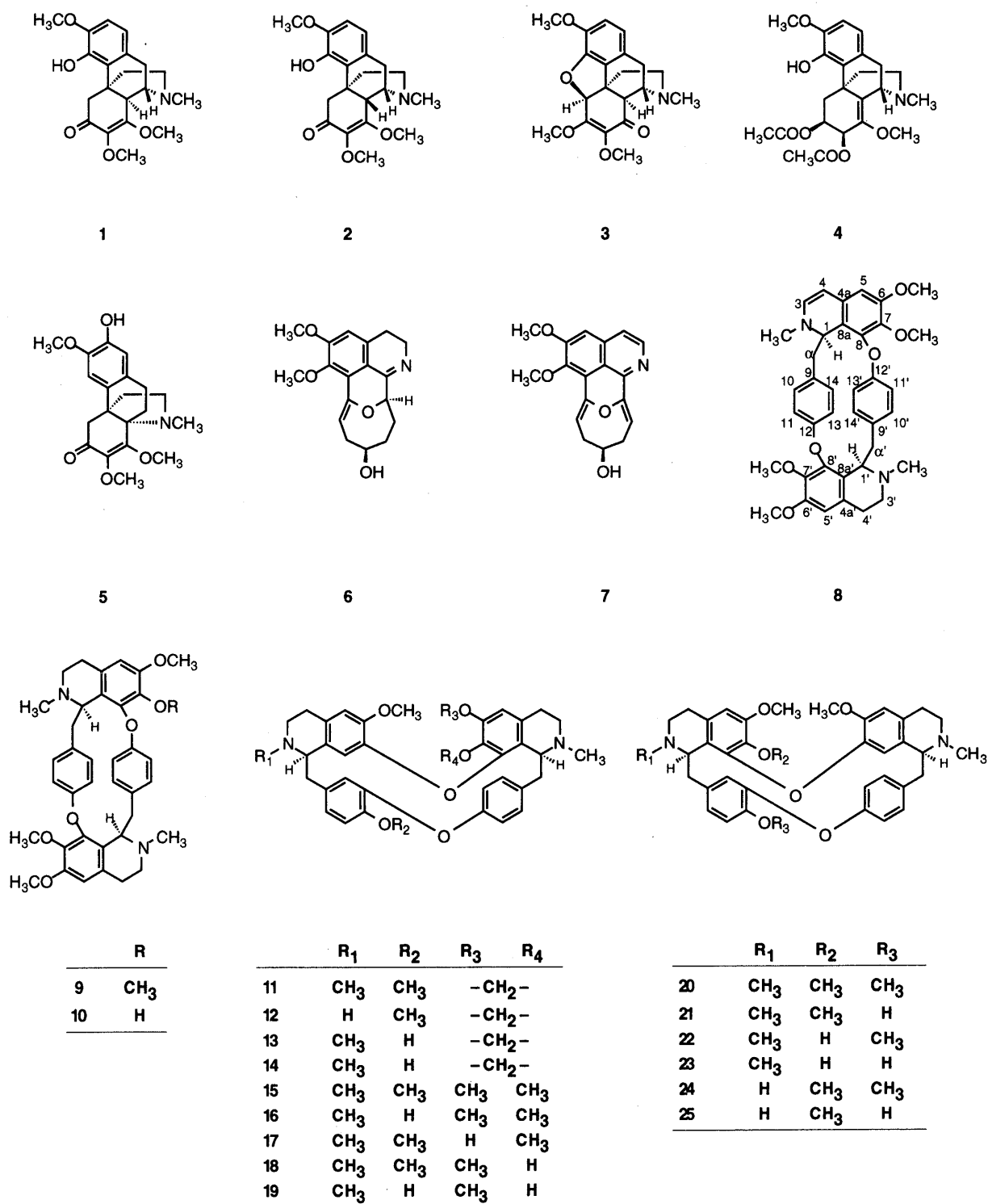


Chart 2

exhibited two  $sp^2$ -tertiary carbon signals at  $\delta_C$  98.20 and 136.87 instead of the two signals due to C-3 ( $\delta_C$  44.62) and C-4 ( $\delta_C$  24.79) of **9** (Table 2). These data indicated that **8** should be the 3,4-dehydro derivative of **9**. The heteronuclear multiple-bond connectivity (HMBC) spectrum also supported the 3,4-dehydro structure of **9**, showing correlations between the  $N$ -CH<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta_H$  3.12) and C-3 ( $\delta_C$  136.87) signals and between the H-5 ( $\delta_H$  6.45) and C-4 ( $\delta_C$  98.20) signals.

Hydrogenation of **8** in the presence of 10% palla-

dium-carbon in ethanol gave a saturated compound that was identified by direct comparison with an authentic sample of **9**. Thus, the structure of **8** was determined as 1*R*,1'*R*-3,4-dehydrocycleanine.

Finally, from the tubers of *Stephania cepharantha* HAYATA (Menispermaceae) cultivated in Japan, the following 52 alkaloids were isolated: 20 bisbenzylisoquinoline alkaloids, 3,4-dehydrocycleanine (**8**), (–)-cycleanine (**9**),<sup>4,5)</sup> (–)-norcycleanine (**10**),<sup>5)</sup> cepharanthine (**11**),<sup>6)</sup> 2-norcepharanthine (**12**),<sup>6)</sup> cepharanoline (**13**),<sup>7)</sup> 2-norceph-

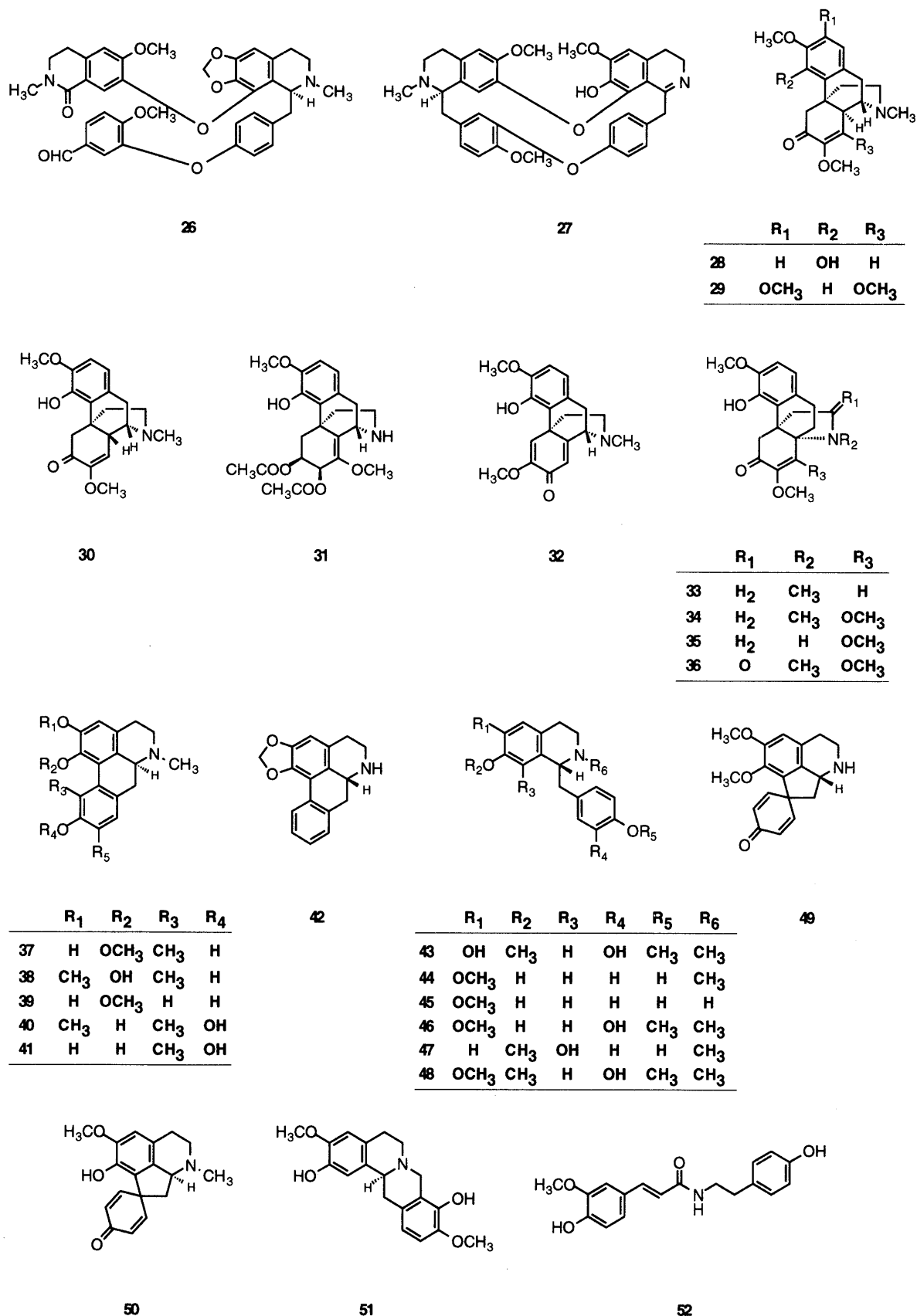


Chart 2

aranoline (14),<sup>8)</sup> obaberine (15),<sup>9)</sup> oxyacanthine (16),<sup>10)</sup> stephibaberine (17),<sup>8)</sup> homoaromoline (18),<sup>9,11)</sup> aromoline (19),<sup>9)</sup> isotetrandrine (20),<sup>12)</sup> berbamine (21),<sup>13)</sup> thalrugosine (22),<sup>11,14)</sup> obamegine (23),<sup>15)</sup> 2-norisotetrandrine (24),<sup>8)</sup> 2-norberbamine (25),<sup>16)</sup> secocepharanthine (26),<sup>17)</sup> and 3',4'-dihydrostephasubine (27)<sup>18)</sup>; nine morphinane alkaloids, cephamonine (1), cephamuline (2), cephasamine (3), cephakicine (4), sinomenine (28),<sup>19)</sup> tannagine (29),<sup>20)</sup>

14-episinomenine (30),<sup>21</sup> FK-3000 (31),<sup>22</sup> and sinoacutine (32)<sup>23</sup>; five hasubanane alkaloids, cephatonine (5), cepharamine (33),<sup>24</sup> aknadine (34),<sup>25,26</sup> aknadine (35),<sup>26</sup> and aknadilactam (36)<sup>26,27</sup>; two stephaoxocane alkaloids, stephaoxocanine (6) and stephaoxocanidine (7); six aporphine alkaloids, corydine (37),<sup>28</sup> isocorydine (38),<sup>29</sup> isocorytuberine (39),<sup>30</sup> *N*-methyllaurotetanine (40),<sup>31</sup> (+)-isoboldine (41),<sup>32</sup> and (–)-anonaine (42)<sup>33</sup>; six benzylisoquinoline alkaloids, protosinomenine (43),<sup>34</sup> (+)-*N*-methylcoclaurine (44),<sup>31</sup> (+)-coclaurine (45),<sup>35</sup> (+)-reticuline (46),<sup>36</sup> juziphine (47),<sup>37</sup> and (+)-laudandine (48)<sup>31</sup>; two proaporphine alkaloids, stepharine (49)<sup>38</sup> and *N*-methylcrotosparine (50)<sup>39</sup>; one protoberberine alkaloid, (–)-scoulerine (51),<sup>23</sup> and one tyramine derivative, *trans*-*N*-feruloyltyramine (52).<sup>40</sup>

The structures of the known alkaloids were identified by direct comparison with authentic samples or by comparison of the spectroscopic data with the literature values.

### Experimental

Melting points were measured on a Yanagimoto hot-stage melting point apparatus without correction. IR spectra were recorded on an FT/IR-5000 (JASCO) spectrometer as KBr pellets. UV spectra were measured on a Ubest-35 (JASCO) spectrometer in MeOH. CD spectra were measured on a J-600 (JASCO) spectrometer in dioxane. NMR spectra were taken on a JNM- $\alpha$ 500 (JEOL) (500 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H and 125 MHz for <sup>13</sup>C) spectrometer in CDCl<sub>3</sub> with tetramethylsilane (TMS) as an internal standard. Optical rotations were determined on a DIP-140 (JASCO) instrument in CHCl<sub>3</sub>. MS were taken on a JMS-D300 (JEOL) spectrometer at 30 eV. Column chromatography was performed on Wakogel C-200 (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd.). Preparative TLC was done on precoated Silica gel 60 F<sub>254</sub> (0.25 mm thick) plates (Merck).

**Plant Material** *Stephania cepharantha* HAYATA was cultivated at Yasato-machi, Ibaraki prefecture, Japan and collected in October 1987. The plants were kept at the Yasato factory of Kaken Shoyaku Co., Ltd.

**Extraction and Isolation** Dried and cut tubers of *S. cepharantha* (37.4 kg) were extracted twice with hot MeOH. The extract (8.6 kg) was evaporated *in vacuo*, and the residue was treated with 5% HCl. The mixture was filtered, and the filtrate was extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O. The aqueous layer was adjusted to pH 7 with NH<sub>4</sub>OH and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O to yield fraction A (270.2 g). Then, the aqueous layer was basified with NH<sub>4</sub>OH to pH 10 and extracted with Et<sub>2</sub>O to yield fraction B (289.4 g). Fraction A was subjected to silica gel column chromatography using CHCl<sub>3</sub>, 2%, 4%, and 8% MeOH–CHCl<sub>3</sub>, and MeOH as eluents to afford fractions A-1 (15.2 g), A-2 (99.5 g), A-3 (88.1 g), A-4 (27.6 g), and A-5 (35.4 g). Fraction B was also chromatographed on silica gel using 2%, 4%, 6%, 8%, and 50% MeOH–CHCl<sub>3</sub> as eluents to give fractions B-1 (55.4 g), B-2 (72.7 g), B-3 (36.8 g), B-4 (49.4 g), and B-5 (66.1 g). Each fraction (A-1-5 and B-1-5) was further subjected to a combination of crystallization, column chromatography, and preparative TLC, to afford 52 alkaloids.

From fraction A-1; cepharanthine (11, 8.36 g), cepharamine (33, 0.110 g). From fraction A-2; cephasamine (3, 0.034 g), cephakicine (4, 0.217 g), cephatonine (5, 0.015 g), stephaoxocanidine (7, 0.022 g), (–)-cycleanine (9, 1.25 g), cepharanthine (11, 68.20 g), isotetrandrine (20, 12.37 g), 14-episinomenine (30, 0.015 g), sinoacutine (32, 0.22 g), cepharamine (33, 0.192 g), aknadine (34, 0.478 g), aknadine (35, 0.057 g), aknadilactam (36, 0.032 g), corydine (37, 0.098 g), isocorydine (38, 0.275 g), isocorytuberine (39, 0.178 g), *N*-methyllaurotetanine (40, 0.009 g), (–)-anonaine (42, 0.016 g), (–)-scoulerine (51, 0.101 g). From fraction A-3; stephaoxocanine (6, 0.058 g), (–)-cycleanine (9, 5.03 g), cepharanoline (13, 7.72 g), homoaromoline (18, 1.29 g), isotetrandrine (20, 54.66 g), *trans*-*N*-feruloyltyramine (52, 0.048 g). From fraction A-4; cepharanoline (13, 4.49 g), homoaromoline (18, 0.970 g), berbamine (21, 11.24 g), juziphine (47, 0.128 g). From fraction A-5; berbamine (21, 27.03 g). From fraction B-1; (–)-cycleanine (9, 4.22 g), cepharanthine (11, 3.96 g), obaberine (15, 0.072 g), isotetrandrine (20, 20.31 g), secocepharanthine (26, 0.050 g), (+)-reticuline (46, 0.359 g). From fraction B-2; cephamonine (1, 2.65 g), cephamuline (2, 0.047 g), 3,4-de-

hydrocycleanine (8, 0.034 g), (–)-cycleanine (9, 12.38 g), 2-norcepharanthine (12, 0.102 g), isotetrandrine (20, 37.33 g), tannagine (29, 0.038 g), FK-3000 (31, 11.17 g), (+)-isoboldine (41, 0.153 g), (+)-laudandine (48, 0.125 g), stepharine (49, 0.398 g), *N*-methylcrotosparine (50, 0.083 g). From fraction B-3; cepharanoline (13, 0.880 g), oxyacanthine (16, 0.041 g), stephibaberine (17, 0.102 g), homoaromoline (18, 6.32 g), thalrugosine (22, 0.099 g), 2-norisotetrandrine (24, 0.030 g), sinomenine (28, 1.06 g), 14-episinomenine (30, 0.065 g). From fraction B-4; (–)-norcycleanine (10, 5.53 g), cepharanoline (13, 0.325 g), homoaromoline (18, 3.36 g), berbamine (21, 20.35 g), sinomenine (28, 0.580 g), protosinomenine (43, 0.150 g), (+)-*N*-methylcoclaurine (44, 0.072 g). From fraction B-5; 2-norcepharanoline (14, 0.152 g), aromoline (19, 14.73 g), berbamine (21, 33.96 g), obamegine (23, 3.82 g), 2-norberbamine (25, 0.077 g), 3',4'-dihydrostephasubine (27, 0.022 g), (+)-coclaurine (45, 2.43 g).

**3,4-Dehydrocycleanine (8)** mp 259–261 °C (dec.) (acetone). [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>24</sup> +79° (c=0.65). IR: 1609, 1508, 1491, 1421, 1342, 1321, 1220, 1172, 1118 cm<sup>–1</sup>. UV  $\lambda_{\max}$  nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 340 (3.97). CD  $\Delta\epsilon$  (nm): +15.1 (339), +2.4 (306), +7.2 (290), +7.1 (287), +8.7 (279), –9.2 (257). EI-MS  $m/z$  (%): 620 (M<sup>+</sup>, 100), 312 (29), 311 (26), 310 (54), 309 (79), 204 (15), 202 (27), 174 (15), 157 (16). HR-MS  $m/z$ : 620.2908 (C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>40</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> requires 620.2887).

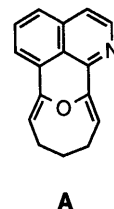
**Hydrogenation of 8** A mixture of 8 (10 mg) and 10% Pd–C (5 mg) in EtOH (20 ml) was stirred for 4 h at room temperature under an H<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Work-up of the product was done in a usual manner and was followed by preparative TLC [with EtOAc–Et<sub>2</sub>NH (9:1)] to afford 9 (2 mg) and 8 (4 mg). The identification of 9 was accomplished by comparison of its TLC behavior and CD, IR, and <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra with those of an authentic sample of 9.

**(–)-Cycleanine (9)** mp 277–280 °C (dec.) (MeOH) [mp 268–271 °C<sup>41</sup>]. [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>25</sup> –13° (c=1.00) [[ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub> –20° (c=1.00, CHCl<sub>3</sub>)<sup>41</sup>]. IR: 1607, 1580, 1508, 1454, 1417, 1344, 1296, 1220, 1118 cm<sup>–1</sup>. UV  $\lambda_{\max}$  nm (log  $\epsilon$ ): 277 (3.68). CD  $\Delta\epsilon$  (nm): +14.7 (276), +9.4 (265), +25.3 (255), –1.2 (246). EI-MS  $m/z$  (%): 622 (M<sup>+</sup>, 88), 621 (36), 313 (22), 312 (100), 311 (32), 309 (8), 204 (6), 190 (6). HR-MS  $m/z$ : 622.3005 (C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>42</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>6</sub> requires 622.3040).

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