

Ethyl 6-Bromo-3-indolcarboxylate and 3-Hydroxyacetal-6-bromoindole, Novel Bromoindoles from the Sponge *Pleroma menoui* of the Coral Sea

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The demosponge *Pleroma menoui* (order Lithistida, suborder Trienosina (= Desmophorina), family Pleromidae), collected in the Coral Sea south-east of Noumea at a depth of 500 m, is proven here to contain the novel alkaloids ethyl 6-bromo-3-indolcarboxylate and 3-hydroxyacetyl-6-bromoindole.

Introduction

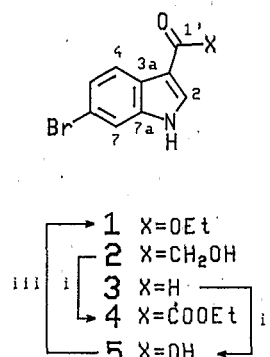
Indoles substituted by bromine at either C(3), C(5), or the non-electrophilic C(6) have been isolated from marine animals. Thus, the hemichordate *Ptychodera flava laysanica* has given 3-bromoindole [1] and 3,6-dibromoindole [2] while the sponge *Smenospongia aurea* has given 5-bromo- and 5,6-dibromo-N,N-dimethyltryptamine [3]. 6-Bromoindoles have been isolated from the bryozoan *Flustra foliacea* [4], from the sponges *Cliona celata* [5], *Iotrochota* sp. [6] and *Aplysinopsis reticulata* [7], and from scleractinian corals of the family Dendrophylliidae [8]. Moreover, 6-bromo-3-indolinones are products of prosobranch mollusks and form the basis of Tyrian purple [9].

We report here on two novel 6-bromoindoles and a previously known 6-bromoindole [8], isolated from the sponge *Pleroma menoui* (order Lithistida, suborder Trienosina (= Desmophorina), family Pleromidae) from the Coral Sea.

Results and Discussion

The first compound isolated from the sponge was the less polar **1** whose spectral data suggested a 6-bromo-3-substituted indole [8]. The ethyl ester group revealed by the spectral data must thus be located at C(3). The structure ethyl 6-bromo-3-indolcarboxylate (**1**) for this compound was confirmed by oxidation of the previously available compound **3** [8] (which was also isolated from *P. menoui* as the next

Scheme



Scheme. i) a) PCC, CH₂Cl₂; b) EtOH. ii) KMnO₄, 1:1 (CH₃)₂CO-H₂O, room temperature, 48 h. iii) DCC, DMPA, EtOH, 24 h.

more polar compound) to acid **5** which was then esterified to **1** (Scheme). Before this firm structural proof, under the hypothesis of a weak ¹³C NMR C=O signal, we deemed structure **4** also compatible with the spectral data in the Experimental for the compound isolated from the sponge. This was ruled out by comparison with an authentic sample of **4** prepared from **2** via route i as described in the Experimental.

The next more polar compound isolated from this sponge was **2**. The composition C₁₀H₈BrNO₂ was established by mass and NMR spectral analysis. Its indole nature, and the presence of an alcoholic func-

Experimental

General experimental procedures

Melting points: Kofler hot-stage microscope. NMR spectra (δ values in ppm relative to internal Me_4Si ($= 0$ ppm) and J values in Hz): Varian XL-300 spectrometer (^1H at 300 MHz, ^{13}C at 75.4 MHz, J in Hz, multiplicities from APT [10]. MS (EI; m/z (%)) home-built spectrometer based on the ELFS-4-162-8-Extranuclear quadrupole [11]. UV spectra (λ_{max} in nm, ϵ in $\text{mol}^{-1} \text{ l cm}^{-1}$): Perkin-Elmer Lambda-3 spectrophotometer. IR spectra: Perkin-Elmer 337 spectrometer (ν_{max} in cm^{-1}). Reverse-phase HPLC: 25×1 cm column filled with Merck LiChroprep RP-8 (7 nm); HPLC: 25×1 cm column filled with Merck LiChrosorb Si-60 (7 nm), UV monitoring at 254 nm, solvent flux 5 ml min^{-1} . Flash chromatography: Merck Kieselgel 60, 15–25 nm. TLC: Merck SiF₂₅₄ plates.

Collection and isolation

The sponge was collected by dredging in September 1985 south-east of Noumea at a depth of 500 m and was identified by Professor C. Levi. The fresh sponge was lyophilized and then extracted with 80% EtOH. The extract was partly evaporated and then partitioned between water and CH_2Cl_2 . The organic layer was evaporated to dryness to leave a dark sticky residue (1.18 g) which was subjected to flash chromatography on 20 g of SiO_2 with hexane/AcOEt gradient elution, collecting 20 fractions of 50 ml each. The sixth fraction was evaporated and the residue was subjected to reverse-phase HPLC with $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 62/38 obtaining pure **1** (15 mg) at $t_R = 8.2$ min. Similar work-up of the ninth flash-chromatographic fraction with $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 42/58 led to pure **3** (32 mg, $t_R = 9.3$ min).

Flash-chromatographic fractions 13 and 14 were evaporated and then first subjected to reverse-phase HPLC with $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}/\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 3/7 and then the fraction

H-C(5)), 7.74 (dd, $J = 1.8, 0.6$, H-C(7)), 4.32 (q, $J = 7.2$, 2H-C(2')), 1.37 (t, $J = 7.2$, 3H-C(3')). ^{13}C NMR ($(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$) δ 133.28 (d, C(2)), 130.84 (s, C(3)), 126.11 (s, C(3a)), 123.42 (d, C(4)), 125.25 (d, C(5)), 116.41 (s, C(6)), 115.86 (d, C(7)), 138.47 (s, C(7a)), 164.90 (s, C(1')), 60.00 (t, C(2')), 14.84 (q, C(3')). MS: 269–267 (45, M^+), 241–239 (27, $\text{M}^+ - 28$), 224–222 (100, $\text{M}^+ - \text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$).

Synthesis of ethyl 6-bromo-3-indolcarboxylate (**1**)

6-Bromoindol-3-carboxaldehyde (**3**) [8] (9 mg, 0.04 mmol) in 2 ml of 1:1 acetone–water was added of KMnO_4 [12] (8 mg, 0.05 mmol). After 48 h of stirring at room temperature, TLC indicated the complete disappearance of **3** from the mixture which was filtered on silica gel. Crude **5**, obtained by evaporation of the filtrate, was dissolved in 2 ml of EtOH and added of 1,3-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (10.3 mg, 0.05 mmol) and of 4-dimethylaminopyridine (6.1 mg, 0.05 mmol) [13]. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h and then filtered and evaporated. The residue was subjected to preparative silica-gel TLC with 2:3 hexane–AcOEt to give 3.2 mg of pure **1** with physical data identical to those of the natural product.

Synthesis of the ethyl ester of 6-bromo-3-indolglyoxylic acid (**4**)

3-Hydroxyacetyl-6-bromoindole (**2**) (5 mg, 0.02 mmol) was stirred with 6 molar equivalents of PCC in 1 ml of CH_2Cl_2 , whereby all **2** disappeared. The mixture was added of 2 ml of EtOH and, after 1 h, it was filtered on silica gel Si-60 (15–25 μm). The filtrate was evaporated and the residue was subjected to HPLC with hexane/AcOEt 3/2 to give 1.8 mg of pure **4** ($t_R = 6.1$ min). M.p. 240–242 °C (lit. [14] 241–242 °C). ^1H NMR ($(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$) δ 11.48 (br. s, NH), 8.50 (br. s, H-C(2)), 8.23 (d, $J = 8.5$, H-C(4)), 7.45 (dd, $J = 8.5, 1.9$, H-C(5)), 7.70 (d, $J = 1.8$, H-C(7)), 4.39 (q, $J = 7.2$, 2H-C(3')), 1.38

7.74 (dd, $J = 1.8, 0.6$, H-C(7)), 4.71 (s, 2H-C(2')). ^{13}C NMR ($(\text{CD}_3)_2\text{CO}$) δ 134.16 (d, C(2)), 114.41 (s, C(3)), 125.58 (s, C(3a)), 123.92 (d, C(4)), 125.94 (d, C(5)), 116.96 (s, C(6)), 115.83 (d, C(7)), 138.44 (s, C(7a)), 194.59 (s, C(1')), 66.00 (t, C(2')). MS: 255–253 (9, M^+), 224–222 (100, $\text{M}^+ - \text{CH}_2\text{OH}$), 196–194 (20, $\text{M}^+ - \text{COCH}_2\text{OH}$).

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