Indole alkaloids from two New Caledonian tunicates, *Eudistoma album* and *Pseudodistoma arborescens*

Cécile Debitus, J.-B. Carré, M. Païs*, M. Chbani*, G. Bargibant, J.-L. Menou , P. Tirard et D. Duhet

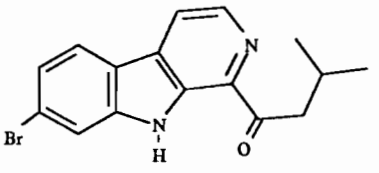
*ORSTOM, Centre de Nouméa, BPA5, NOUMEA, New Caledonia; * ICSN/CNRS, 91198 Gif/Yvette; France**

During our work on marine organisms from New Caledonia, we studied some of the major species of tunicates, together with the zoological survey of the marine Fauna from the New Caledonian lagoon (1) (2).

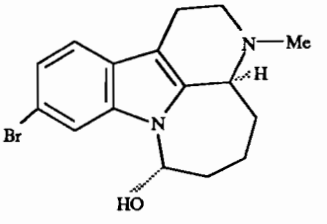
34 species were extracted and screened on several bioassays; 8 of them showed reliable interesting bioactivity and have been further chemically studied. Among these selected organisms, two species of *Eudistoma* (Polycitoridae) and *Pseudodistoma arborescens* (Polyclinidae) yielded some new indole alkaloids.

Woodinine, a new tetrahydro-ß carboline has isolated from *Eudistoma fragum* (3) and a recent work led to the isolation of the new alkaloid Eudistomin U together with the antiviral Eudistomin E from an other *Eusdistoma sp., E. album..*

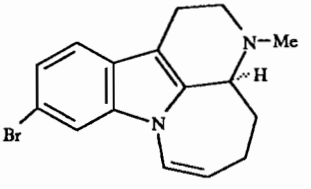
Pseudodistoma arborescens belongs to a different family of Ascidians, but has been studied also for its antimicrobial and cytotoxic properties: three new ß-carbolines named Arborescidines A, B and C were identified, thought they are not the bioactive metabolites, which are still being studied.



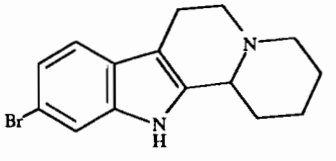
Eudistomine U



Arborescidine C



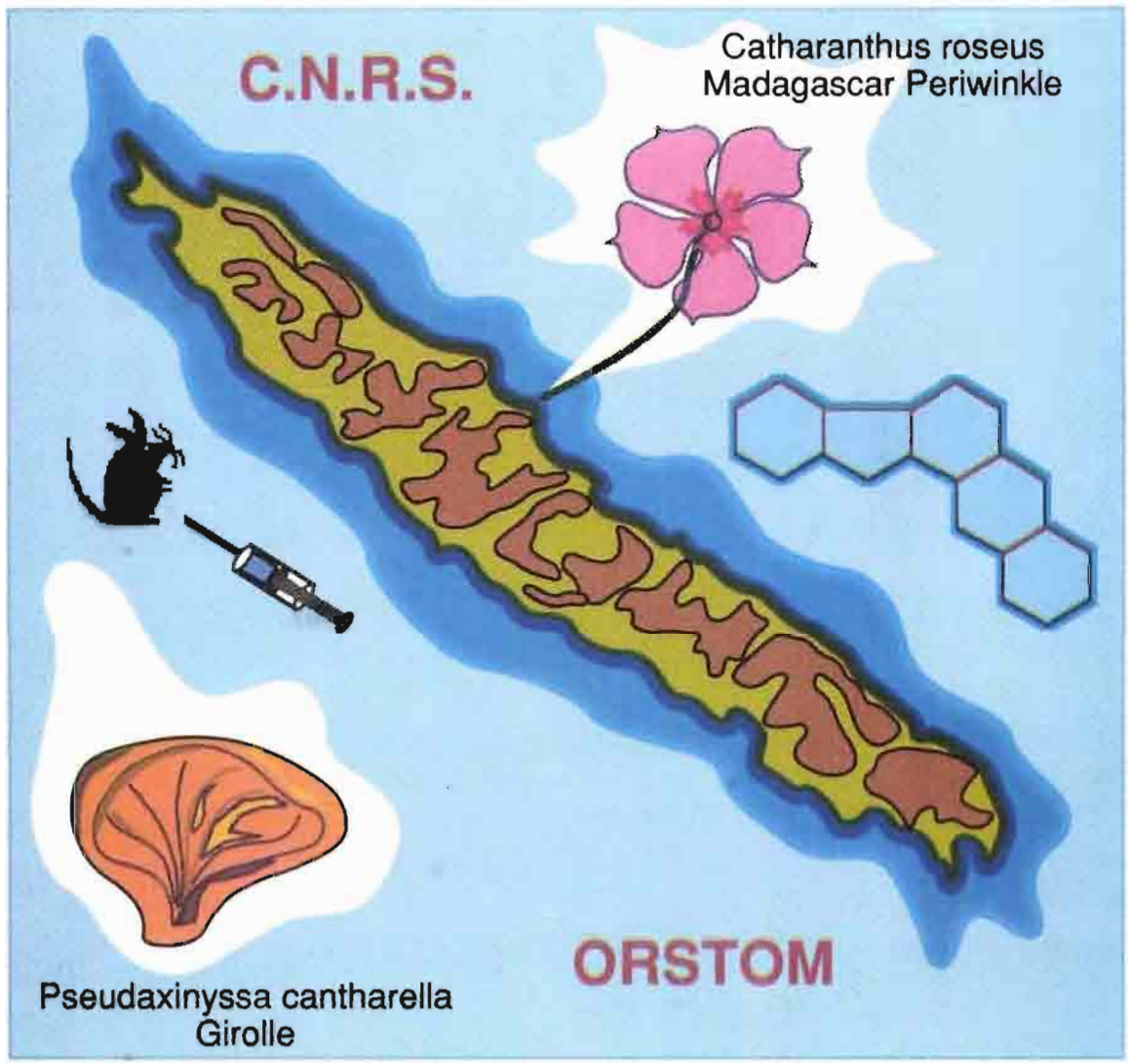
Arborescidine A



Arborescidine B

References

1. A. Guille, P. Laboute et J.-L. Menou: Handbook of the sea-stars, sea-urchins and related echinoderms of New-Caledonia lagoon, ORSTOM ed.
2. C. Monniot, F. Monniot and P. Laboute: Coral reef ascidians of New-Caledonia, ORSTOM ed.
3. C. Debitus, M. Païs et D. Laurent, J. Nat. Prod., **51**, 799-801 (1988)



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