

# Alkaloids

Presented by

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M.Sc. - II / Sem- - III (. Natural Product)

# **Alkaloid**

**The course discuss the organic chemistry  
of important classes of drugs and bioactive natural products.**

**Synthesis / biosynthesis, mode of action,  
bioavailability and stability for chosen drug classes.**

**Structure activity and structure optimisation**

- Natural Products
- Drug Design
- Receptors - Drug Action
- Drug Metabolism



- Antibiotics/Antimicrobial Agents
- Antiparasitic Agents
- Antifungal Agents
- Antimycobacterial Agents
- Anticancer Agents
- Antiviral Agents

# Origin of Drugs / Bioactive Compounds

- Natural Products / Natural Product Derivatives
- Random testing, serendipity\*
- Screening of Libraries
- (Rational) Drug Design (1. mentioned SciFinder 1970, most papers after 1990)

• Screening/Design/Serendipity

• Lead compound -

• Design/Structure Optimisation

• Actual Drug



• Activity

• Toxicity

• Bioavailability

• Metabolism

*in vitro*

*in vivo* animals

*in vivo* humans

Why new drugs?

Resistance

New diseases (Aging, life style)

Less tolerance for side effects

\*Fortunate discovery by accident

"The three princes of Serendip" Persian Fairy tail  
Serendip=Sri Lanka

# **Origin of Drugs / Bioactive Compounds: History**

**Before 1800:** Plants, plant extracts, inorganic material

**1805:** Morphine isolated from opium (structure proposed 1935, proved by synth. 1952)

**1828:** First organic synthesis (urea)

**1840-1850:** First synthesized org. compds used in medicine:  $\text{CHCl}_3$ ,  $\text{Et}_2\text{O}$  anesthetics)

**Ex of early synthetic drugs:**

Choral hydrate (sleeping pill) 1869

Acetyl salicylic acid synth 1853, clin trials 1893

Phenazone synth 1884

Benzocaine 1902

Prontocil 1932

**Ex of early isolated nat. prod.**

Quinine ca 1825

Digitoxin 1841 (structure 1928)

Salicylic acid, antipyretic 1875

Cocaine isol. 1860, local anesthetic 1884

Benzylpenicillin 1941

**Traditional medicine**

**Screening**

**Serendipity**

# **Natural Products**

- Only source of drugs before last part of 19th century
  - Antibiotics 1940 - 1960
  - Cyclosporin (immunomodulator) isolated from soil fungus Hardangervidda 1971
  - Taxol isolated 1960s, approved drug USA 1992
- 
- Lead compounds

# Natural Products

## Sources

- Microorganisms (bacteria, fungus) - Antibiotics
- Higher plants, ex. morphine, quinine, taxol
- Sponges (polycellular “animals”, no real organs or cell tissue) ex. agelasines
- Higher animals, fewer examples, epibatidine from South American tree frog

### Microorganisms, sponges, plants

No immune system, produce their own antibiotics as defence

Secondary metabolites with great structural diversity, stereochemistry!

Secondary metabolites have no known metabolic role in cells

Three main classes: **alkaloids, terpenoids, phenolics**

# **Alkaloid Natural Products**

- Largets class of secondary metabolites, >6500 compds known
- Contains N, most compds basic (alkaline)
- Often highly toxic
- Found in certain higher plants (seldom in bacteria)
- Little is known regarding why alkaloides are produced
- Biosynthesis from amino acids

# Alkaloid Natural Products

**Amino alkaloids:** N as amine / amide (not in heterocycle)

Source *Ephedra sinica*



Sub types cholinerge reseptors

Acetylcholine

Muscarinerge

Nicotinerge

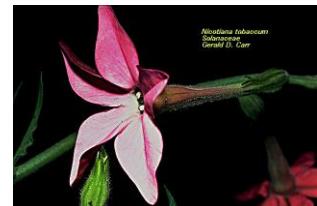
Source  
*Amanita muscaria*



*Nicotiana tabacum*  
Gerald D. Carr

*KJM5230 - H06*

Nicotine from  
*Nicotiana tabacum*



# Alkaloid Natural Products

## Amino alkaloids

Source  
*Lophophora williamsi*



## Pyridine / piperidine alkaloids



Source  
*Erythroxylon coca*

*Cocaine*

KJM5230 - H06

# Pyridine / piperidine alkaloids

Parasympatolytika  
(Antikolinergika)

Tropanalkaloids

Source *Atropa belladonna* og *Hyoscamus niger*



Muscle relax (guts, eye)

Scopolamin

*Atropa belladonna*



*Hyoscamus niger*  
(bulmeurt)

# Alkaloid Natural Products

## Isoquinoline alkaloids

Curare - Poison - Southamerican indians  
Mixt. of alkaloids  
Several sources i.e. *Chondodendron tomentosum*



Ex. *Mivacurium klorid*  
Muscle relax, anesthesia

**Suksametonium, Curacit® “Nesset”**

# Alkaloid Natural Products

## Isoquinoline alkaloids

Morfin isolert fra opium 1803 (Morpheus: gresk søvngud)



Morfinanalog, binds to opiopeptide (endorfin / enkefalin) receptors

# Naturally occurring and semisynth analgetic opioides

*Morphine*

*Codeine*

**also against cough**

**slow metabol. to morphine**

**Small amounts in opium, semisynth from morphine**

# Total synthetic analgetic opioides

## SAR - morphine

Model of morphine bound to  
μ-receptor



*Petidin (Meperidin)*  
Ketodur®, Ketorax®

*Fenantyl*  
Fenantyl®, Leptanal®  
(anestetica)

*Ketobemidon*  
Ketodur®, Ketorax®  
Ketogan ®

Moscow theatre

*KJM5230 - H06*

*Dekstropropoksyfen*

Aporex®

*Metadon*

**Buprenorfin**

Temgesic®, Subutex®

(+) most active  
less adict. than M.

**μ-Agonist**  
analgetc, not euphoria,  
Long duration  
Good oral availabil.

More potent than M. (pain)

Partiell  $\mu$ -agonist:

Antagonister high doses

Naloxon effects (dysfori etc)



# Naturally occurring and antitussiva opioides

## Biosynthetic routes in *Papaver somniferum*

*Noskapin*  
(not analgetic,  
not addiction)

*Codeine*

*Etylmorfin*  
Cosylan®

*Hydrokon*  
Hydrokon®

*Folkodin*  
Tuxi®      *KJM5230 - H06*

# Alkaloid Natural Products

## Quinoline alkaloids

*Cinchona pubescens* (Kinatre) from South America



R=OMe: Quinine (Cinchonidine epimer at C-9)

R=H: Quinidine (Cinchonine epimer at C-9)

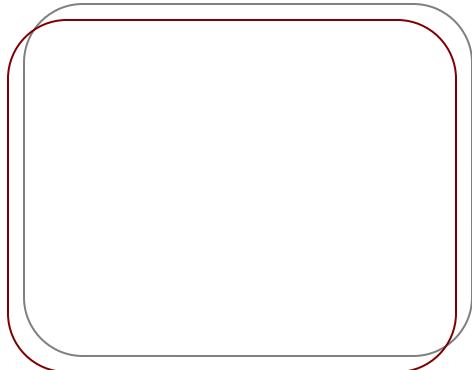
Quinidine: Antiarytmic

Quinine: Antimalaria

Dihydroquini(di)ne and der.  
Chiral ligands  
Asym. dihydroxylation (Sharpless)

# Alkaloid Natural Products

## Indole natural products



## Indole alkaloids



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**Strychnos alkaloids - from *Strychnos nux vomica***



**KJM5230 - H06**

# **Terpenoide Natural Products**

**C-10: Monoterpenes**  
**C-15: Sesquiterpenes**  
**C-20: Diterpenes**  
**C-25: Sesterterpenes**  
**C-30: Triterpenes**

## **Natures leaving group**

# Monoterpenes

Volatile compds, smell, taste etc.



**Permetrin, Nix®**

**Shampoo, Lice, scabies**



**Cannabinoids,  
from *Cannabis sativa* (Hemp)**



**KJM5230 - H06**

## Diterpenes (C-20)

**Head to tail coupling**

# Triterpenes (C-20)

*KJM5230 - H06*

# Steroids

**Cholesterol**

**Sex hormones**

**Estrogens**

**Progesterones**

**Testosteron and anabolic steroids**

**B / C og C / D always *trans* (animals)**

**Corticoids**

**Glucocorticostereoids**

**Cortison etc. etc.**

**Mineralcorticostereoidsr**

**Aldosterone**

**Digitalis glycosides**

**Fucidinic acid (antibiotic)**

**Brassinostereoids (Plant growth hormones)**

**etc. etc.**

## **Sex hormones - Estrogenes**

**Estrogen agonists (mimics)**

**Phytoestrogen  
(in soya)**

## **Sex hormones - Progesterones (gestagens, progestines)**

**Many semisynth drugs in use (better bioavailabil.)**

### **Testosterone**

## **Doping - Anabolic steroids**

# **Semisynthesis sex hormones**

# Corticosteroids

## Mineralcorticoid

*Aldosterone*

Regulation of electrolytic balance  
increase re-uptake of Na (and hence H<sub>2</sub>O)

## Glucocorticoid

Effect on metabolism (carbohydrates, lipids, proteins)

Antiinflammatory

Numerous semisynth. analogs as drugs

Various antiinflam. activity, mineralcorticoid side effects



## Digitalis glycosides (cardenolides)

- Treatment of hart disease 1500 BC (Egypt)
- Increase hart contraction
- Tox.

*Digitoxin*

Digitoxin® R= H

*Digoxin*

Lanoxin® R= OH

A-B and C-D *cis* condens.

*Digitalis purpurea*  
(foxglowe, revebjelle)

### Stability

- Acid: Cleavage of sugars (acidic hydro acetals)
- Base:

# **Phenolic Natural Products**

**Biosynthesis from shikimate (- alkaloids)**

**From cinnamate**

**Volatile compds,  
smell, taste etc.,  
Not monoterpenes**

**From *Podophyllum peltatum*  
May apple**

**Antiviral, venereal warts**

**Toxic - lead for anticancer drugs**

## **From cinnamate**

### **Psoralenes**

- Isolated from various plants
- Photochemotherapy against psoriasis
- [2+2] cycloadd. With cytocin / thymin in DNA

### **Dicoumarol**

- Anticoagulant - Vit K antagonist
- Sweet clover disease

### **Warfarin - Marevan®**

### **Aflatoxines**

- From *Aspergillus flavus* (fungus)
- Attacks nuts etc.
- Carcinogenic