

Abstract

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The aim of this study was to isolate alkaloids from joined fraction no. 55-67 (A2) obtained from the total alkaloid fraction of extract of *Fumaria officinalis* L. (Fumariaceae) plant. Using chromatography methods three alkaloids were isolated and then identified by structural analysis (GC-MS, NMR). Three alkaloids were isolated by using common chromatographic methods and then identified by structural analyses optical rotation and melting point as (–)-*O*-methylfumarophycine, (–)-sinactine and (–)-stylophine.

Inhibitory activity of isolated alkaloids was assessed against human erythrocyte acetylcholinesterase, human butyrylcholinesterase and prolyl oligopeptidase. The results were expressed as IC₅₀ values ((–)-stylophine: IC₅₀ AChE and IC₅₀ BuChE > 1000 μM, IC₅₀ POP > 1000 mM; (–)-*O*-methylfumarophycine: IC₅₀ AChE = 963.10 ± 135.98 μM, IC₅₀ BuChE = 1771.0 ± 380.94 μM, IC₅₀ POP – unmeasured; (–)-sinactine IC₅₀ AChE = 632.0 ± 68.12 μM, IC₅₀ BuChE = 8154.3 ± 981.42 μM, IC₅₀ POP = IC₅₀ POP = 52.9 ± 1.8 μM). None of alkaloids isolated showed better inhibitory activity against cholinesterases than galantamine (IC₅₀ AChE = 1.71 ± 0.07 μM, IC₅₀ BuChE = 42.03 ± 1.30 μM), huperzine A (IC₅₀ AChE = 0.033 ± 0.001 μM, IC₅₀ BuChE > 1000 μM) and physostigmine (IC₅₀ AChE = 0.063 ± 0.001 μM, IC₅₀ BuChE = 0.130 ± 0.004 μM). And it's obvious they are not responsible for inhibitory activity of the total alkaloid fraction (IC₅₀ AChE = 39.2 ± 1.96 μg/ml, IC₅₀ BuChE = 40.32 ± 1.9 μg/ml). At POP (–)-sinactine (IC₅₀ POP = 52.9 ± 1.8 μM) appears to be very active, with inhibitory activity exceeding inhibitory activity of the standard baicalin (IC₅₀ POP = 0.610 ± 0.021 mM), but not as strong as Z-pro-prinalin (IC₅₀ POP = 3.27 ± 0.02 nM).

Key words: acetylcholinesterase, Alzheimer's disease, butyrylcholinesterase, *Fumaria officinalis* L., prolyl oligopeptidase.