Abstract

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The aim of this study was to process the summary alkaloidal extract of aerial parts of *Papaver rhoeas* L.; to isolate contained alkaloids using chromatographical methods; to identify them and to determine their inhibitory activity towards human enzymes acetylcholinesterase, butyrylcholinesterase and prolyloligopeptidase. Two alkaloids (+)-rhoeagenine and LB-2 were isolated, and the structure of LB-2 (its absolute configuration) is being determined nowadays.

In vitro biological assays of these alkaloids found the following results: (+)-rhoeagenine (IC₅₀ AChE > 1000 μ M, IC₅₀ BuChE = 230 ± 10 μ M, IC₅₀ POP = 878 ± 45 μ M) and LB-2 (IC₅₀ AChE > 1000 μ M, IC₅₀ BuChE = 314 ± 13 μ M, IC₅₀ POP = 706 ± 2 μ M).

The determined IC₅₀ values of isolated alkaloids were compared with inhibitory standards of cholinesterases galanthamine (IC₅₀ AChE = $1,71 \pm 0,065 \mu$ M, IC₅₀ BuChE = $42,30 \pm 1,30 \mu$ M), huperzine A (IC₅₀ AChE = $0,033 \pm 0,001 \mu$ M, IC₅₀ BuChE > 1000μ M, IC₅₀ POP > 1000μ M) and rivastigmine (IC₅₀ AChE = $0,037 \pm 0,001 \mu$ M, IC₅₀ BuChE = $0,0033 \pm 0,0003 \mu$ M); with POP standards berberine (IC₅₀ POP = $142 \pm 21 \mu$ M) and *Z*-pro-prolinal (IC₅₀ POP = $3,27 \pm 0,02 n$ M). None of the isolated compounds showed better inhibitory activity than the used reference compounds.

Key words: *Papaver rhoeas*, Papaveraceae, Alzheimer's disease, acetylcholinesterase, butyrylcholinesterase, prolyl oligopeptidase