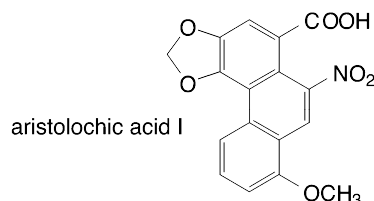


**B007 Detection of aristolochic acid in Chinese phytomedicines and dietary supplements used as slimming regimens**J.-R. Ioset<sup>a</sup>, E.G. Raelison<sup>a,b</sup> and K. Hostettmann<sup>a</sup><sup>a</sup> Institut de Pharmacognosie et Phytochimie, Université de Lausanne, BEP, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland. <sup>b</sup> Laboratoire de Pharmacodynamie, Faculté des Sciences, Université de Antananarivo, BP 906, Antananarivo 101, Madagascar.

During the last decade, numerous cases of intoxication, resulting mostly in end stage renal failure, have been reported after consumption of slimming regimens prepared from Chinese plants. These intoxications were associated with species from the *Aristolochia* genus, such as *Aristolochia fangchi*, known to contain very nephrotoxic and carcinogenic compounds named aristolochic acids (1). A thin layer chromatography assay was developed for a preliminary identification of aristolochic acid I in complex mixtures. Using a new method based on direct on-line coupling between HPLC and UV-DAD/MS (2), aristolochic acid I was detected and, when possible, quantified in forty-two herbal preparations sold on the Swiss market. Four of them were found to contain aristolochic acid I and two were suspected to contain aristolochic acid derivatives. Immediate removal of these products from the Swiss market was called for.

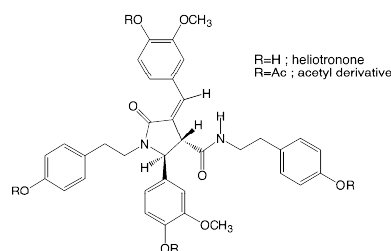


**Acknowledgements:** The authors would like to thank the Swiss National Science Foundation for financial support (grant n° 2000-063670.00 to Prof. K. Hostettmann).

**References:** 1. Vanherweghem J.L. et al. (1993) Lancet; 341: 387-391. 2. Ioset, J.-R. et al. Planta Med. (in press)

**B008 A new alkaloid from *Heliotropium ovalifolium***A. Guntern<sup>a</sup>, J.-R. Ioset<sup>a</sup>, E. F. Queiroz<sup>a</sup>, P. Sándor<sup>b</sup>, S. Mavi<sup>c</sup> and K. Hostettmann<sup>a</sup><sup>a</sup> Institut de Pharmacognosie et Phytochimie, Université de Lausanne, BEP, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland. <sup>b</sup> Varian Deutschland GmbH, Ailsfelder Strasse 3, 64289 Darmstadt, Germany. <sup>c</sup> National Herbarium Botanic Garden, P.O. Box 8100, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Since hypothesis of a plant intoxication was suggested to explain the flaccid trunk paralysis in free-ranging elephants on the southern shore of Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe (1), we focused our investigations on the flora of Fothergill Island. After observation of the elephant feeding habit, *Heliotropium ovalifolium* Forsk. (Boraginaceae) was suspected to be responsible for the floppy trunk syndrome. Two antifungal benzoquinones, heliotropinones A and B, have already been described from the dichloromethane extract of *H. ovalifolium* aerial parts (2). A new complex alkaloid named heliotronone have been isolated from the same extract. Its structure was elucidated by spectrometric methods including ESI-HR, EI, D/CI mass spectrometry, <sup>1</sup>H, <sup>13</sup>C and 2D NMR experiments.



**Acknowledgements:** The authors would like to thank the Swiss National Science Foundation for financial support (grant n° 2000-063670.00 to Prof. K. Hostettmann).

**References:** 1. Kock, N.D. et al. (1994) Journal of Wildlife Diseases 30: 432-435. 2. Guntern, A. et al. (2001) Phytochemistry 58: 631-635.