

Swiss Chemical Society

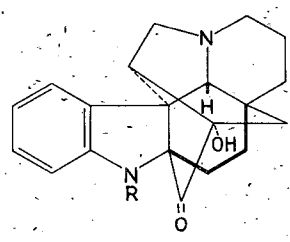
Summer Assembly of 8th September 1962 in Schuls-Tarasp

K. NAGARAJAN (Organisch-Chemisches Institut der Universität Zürich), *Rearrangements in the Kopsine Series*

Alkaline hydrolysis of kopsine (I), the major alkaloid of *Kopsia fruticosa*¹ gives rise to two isomeric N_α-decarbomethoxy compounds (III) and (IV), which have similar spectral properties. (III) and (IV) achieve equilibrium under mild alkaline conditions, as well as by the action of heat or hot acid. The reaction causing this equilibrium is looked upon as an α-ketol rearrangement. Interest in their identification was enhanced by the discovery of their occurrence in trace quantities in the leaves of the plant. Thermal isomerization of (I) gave isokopsine (II), which could be brought into equilibrium with I under similar conditions. Identification of III and IV was eventually achieved by the use of the dihydroderivations of (I) and (II). These reactions as well as the properties of various compounds encountered in this study were discussed.



I R = CO₂Me
 III R = H



II R = CO₂Me
 IV R = H

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Printed in Switzerland

Druckerei H. R. Sauerländer & Co. Aarau (Schweiz)

