

## **AMINO ACID AND SUGAR CONTENT OF THE NECTAR EXUDATE FROM *LIMODORUM ABORTIVUM* (ORCHIDACEAE). COMPARISON WITH *EPIPACTIS ATROPURPUREA* NECTAR COMPOSITION**

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### **SUMMARY**

The amino acid content of nectary exudates from two orchids, *L. abortivum* (spur nectary) and *E. atropurpurea* (open nectary) were studied by means of capillary gas chromatography. Amino acids were analyzed as the corresponding N-heptafluorobutyl isopropyl esters. For each amino acid, enantiomeric composition was achieved by gas chromatography of the N-pentafluoropropionyl isopropyl esters on a capillary coated with the chiral liquid phase Chirasil-Val. Comparison of the amino acid contents of both nectars, as well as the enantiomeric composition of the particular amino acids, indicate evolutionary differences of both nectaries. Gas chromatographic analysis of the nectar sugars, supports the conclusion that the open nectary of *Epipactis atropurpurea* belongs to a more advanced evolutionary type compared to the spur nectary of *Limodorum abortivum*. The possible influence of the nectar composition on pollinators is discussed.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Floral and extrafloral nectaries from epiphytic and terrestrial orchids have been studied by different authors (MAURIZIO, 1959 ; BASKIN and BLISS, 1969 ; ARDITTI *et al.*, 1971). Particular attention has been paid to the sugar content. Studies by PERCIVAL (1961) using paper chromatography showed that *Epipactis atrorubens*, *E. helleborine* and *E. palustris* are sucrose dominant. According to JEFFREY *et al.* (1970), the nectar of orchids can be classified as Fructose (F), Glucose (G) and Sucrose (S) dominant. Gas chromatography of the nectary exudates from 20 orchid species revealed that fructose, glucose, sucrose and raffinose are dominant over other mono- and oligosaccharides (BASKIN and BLISS,

1969). Similar results were reported for the sugar content of the nectar of *Epipactis atropurpurea* (PAIS and CHAVES DAS NEVES, 1980).

The first reports on free amino acid content of nectars are due to ZIEGLER (1956). BAKER and BAKER (1977) have intensively studied the amino acid content of nectar exudates from different species. The role of the nectary exudate in attracting orchid pollinators has been emphasized since DARWIN (1877), namely by VAN DER PIJL and DODSON (1966), PERCIVAL (1961), BAKER and BAKER (1973) and VOGEL (1983).

Our paper deals with the study of free amino acid and sugar content of the nectar exudate from *Limodorum abortivum* and its comparison with the nectar exudate of *Epipactis atropurpurea*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 1. Collection and Storage of Nectars

The nectary exudates from *Epipactis atropurpurea* and *Limodorum abortivum* were collected by means of a glass capillary from 30 to 40 plants until a volume of 3 ml was obtained. The nectar was immediately frozen after collection, freeze-dried, and stored under vacuum until further use.

### 2. Materials

All solvents used were obtained from E. MERCK (Darmstadt) and purified by fractional distillation after appropriate drying. Hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS), trimethylchlorosilane (TMCS), pyridine, ethanethiol, heptafluorobutyric anhydride (HFBA) and pentafluoropropionic anhydride (PFPA) were chromatographic grade from Pierce Chemical Co. (ROCKFORD, ILL.) and used without further purification. Standard amino acids were obtained from Supelco and cycloleucine was purchased from Aldrich Europe. The solutions of HCl in isopropyl alcohol were prepared in a volumetric flask by adding the appropriate amount of acetyl chloride (E. MERCK, Darmstadt) to isopropyl alcohol, in an ice bath. OV-101 was obtained from Alltech Associates.

### 3. Instruments

Capillary gas chromatography was performed with a Pye Unicam instrument, Model 204, equipped with a splitter and a flame ionization detector (FID). Hydrogen was used as carrier gas,  $U = 25$  cm/s, split ratio 1 : 60. Analysis was carried out on a 25 m  $\times$  0.18 mm i.d. borosilicate glass capillary coated with OV-101 according to the method described by SCHOMBURG *et al.* (1979). Enantiomer separations were achieved on a 25 m  $\times$  0.25 mm glass capillary coated with Chirasil-Val. Quantitative calculations were carried out with a Spectra Physics computing integrator Model SP 4100. Response factors were calculated relative to N-heptafluorobutyryl cycloleucine isopropyl ester as internal standard. GC/MS experiments were executed with a Shimadzu QP-1000 instrument.

### 4. Isolation of Amino Acids and Sugars from *L. abortivum*

The initial volume of the nectar was reconstituted by addition of the corresponding amount of deionized water. From this solution a known weight (0.640 g) was transferred to a 10 ml volumetric

flask, 0.100 ml of a 4 mg/10 ml solution of cycloleucine were added and the volume completed to 10 ml by addition of deionized water. The solution was passed through a column of the cationic exchanger Dowex 50 W-X 8, the column was washed with approximately four times its volume of deionized water and the aqueous solutions collected and evaporated to dryness in a rotary evaporator. Weight of the sugar-containing residue was 0.108 g (16.9 %).

The amino acids retained on the resin were eluted from the column with approximately four times its volume of a 4 M  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  solution. The ammoniacal solution was collected and evaporated to dryness in a rotary evaporator (0.022 g, 3.4 %).

#### 5. Isolation of Amino Acids and Sugars from *E. atropurpurea*

The freeze-dried nectar was treated as above. A starting weight of 0.549 g afforded 0.176 g of a sugar-containing residue (32 %) and 0.036 g of an amino acid-containing residue (6.5 %).

#### 6. Derivatization of the Sugars

The sugars were derivatized to the corresponding TMS ethers by reaction with N,O-bis(trimethylsilyl) trifluoroacetamide (BSTFA) in dimethylformamide according to a previously described procedure (PAIS and CHAVES DAS NEVES, 1980).

#### 7. Derivatization of Amino Acids

The residue containing the free amino acids was dissolved in a minimal amount of water and transferred to a volumetric flask and the volume completed to 10 ml by addition of deionized water. A 0.250 to 0.500 ml aliquot was transferred to a teflon-lined screw cap derivatization flask, the solvent evaporated under a light stream of nitrogen. 0.250 ml of 4 M HCl in isopropyl alcohol and 0.010 ml of ethanethiol were added to the residue and heated at 110° for 30 min. in the closed vial. After cooling to room temperature, the solvent was evaporated under a light stream of nitrogen. To the residue 0.200 ml of dichloromethane, 0.100 ml of HFBA and 0.010 ml of ethanethiol were added. The flask was closed and heated at 150° for 15 min. For analysis of histidine, the residue resulting from the evaporation of the solvent under a light stream of nitrogen was treated at 150° for 20 min. with 0.250 ml of benzene and 0.050 ml of ethyl pyrocarbonate. The solution was concentrated to 0.005 ml and directly used for gas chromatographic analysis. An identical procedure was used for the preparation of the N-pentafluoropropionyl isopropyl esters as required for enantiomer separation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As inherent constituents of a cell, amino acids represent more than 50 % of its dry weight, mainly as building blocks of proteins. They are not only structural elements of the cell but also act as vehicles of selective transport or as messenger substances, nutrients, intermediates in metabolism and biosynthetic precursors. They play a major role in plant physiology and are important metabolic intermediates. Compared to other methods, capillary gas chromatography offers the advantages of high analysis speed, high sensitivity, high resolving power and great versatility of the instrument, together with its ability of on-line coupling to a mass spectrometer for rapid identification of unknowns. It requires, however, the previous preparation of volatile derivatives (for a revision see FRANK, 1985).

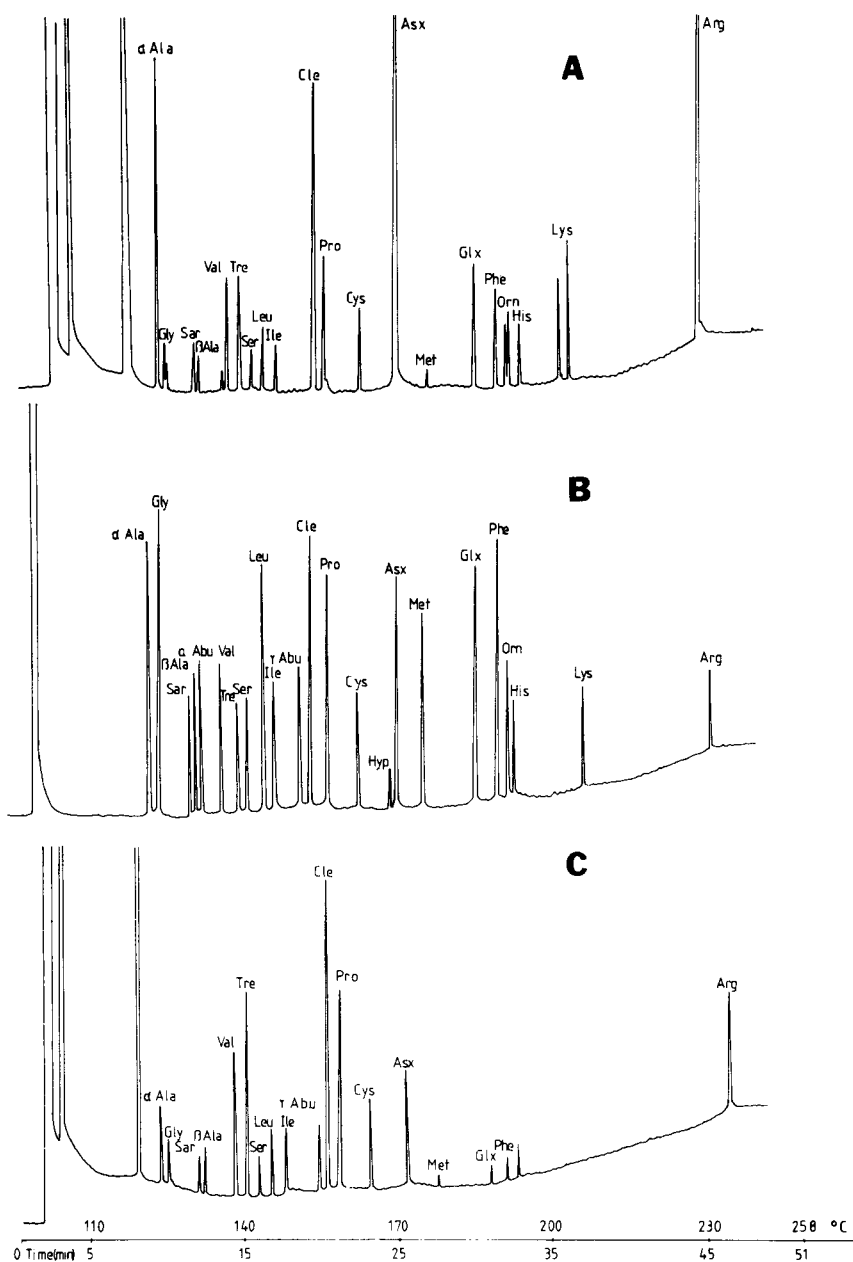


FIG. 1. — Gas chromatographic separation of nectar amino acids as the *N*-heptafluorobutyryl isopropyl esters (histidine as  $N^{1m}$ -ethoxycarbonyl derivative)

Column : WCOT, 25 m  $\times$  0.25 mm i.d., coated with OV-101. Carrier gas :  $H_2$ ;  $U = 25$  cm/s; split ratio : 1 : 60; attenuation 1 : 32. A - *E. atropurpurea*; B - chromatogram of standard amino acids; C - *L. abortivum*.

For many years, floral nectars were treated as if they simply were a solution of sugars in water. However, the occurrence of free amino acids in nectars seems to be universal among nectariferous plants, possibly of taxonomic value (BAKER and BAKER, 1973 a, b).

The amino acids of the nectar solutions were analyzed as the corresponding N-heptafluorobutyryl isopropyl esters, or as the N-pentafluoropropionyl isopropyl esters for enantiomer separation. Histidine was analyzed as the corresponding N<sup>im</sup>-ethoxycarbonyl derivative. All the amino acids could be separated in a single run on a WCOT column coated with OV-101 (Fig. 1). The results are summarized in Table 1. When the relative concentrations are considered, a characteristic pattern of amino acids is obtained for each of the nectary types.

TABLE 1. — Amino acid content (mg/100 ml) of the nectars of *Epipactis atropurpurea* (open nectary) and *Limodorum abortivum* (closed nectary), as analyzed by capillary gas chromatography

Amino acid	<i>E. atropurpurea</i>	<i>L. abortivum</i>
Alanine	0.40	0.09
Glycine	0.05	0.05
Sarcosine	0.08	0.13
β-Alanine	0.10	0.20
Valine	0.26	0.47
Threonine	0.22	0.47
Serine	0.11	0.13
Leucine	0.08	0.13
Isoleucine	0.15	0.33
Proline	0.25	0.53
Cysteine	0.89	1.20
Aspartic acid/Asparagine	1.48	0.40
Methionine	0.38	0.03
Glutamic acid/Glutamine	0.27	0.05
Phenylalanine	0.20	0.07
Ornithine	0.26	0.12
Lysine	0.53	—
Histidine	0.25	—
Arginine	4.50	1.87
γ-Aminobutyric acid	—	0.05
Total	10.46	6.32

As can be seen in Fig. 2, there are considerable differences between the amino acid patterns of both nectars. While in the open nectary of *E. atropurpurea* the more functionalized amino acids predominate, in the nectar of *L. abortivum*, which possesses a spur nectary, the less functionalized amino acids dominate the amino acid spectrum. Although seasonal differences in the concentration of a particular amino acid have been observed during a three year study of both nectars, the described amino acid pattern was constant and characteristic. A very

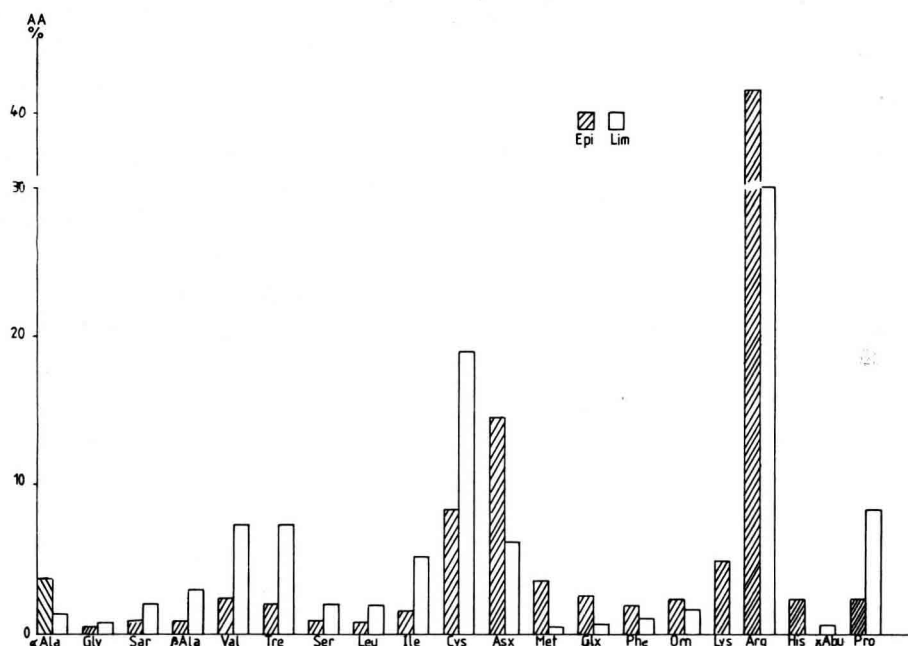


FIG. 2. — Comparison between the amino acid distribution (%) in the nectaries of orchids

interesting result is the presence of D-amino acids in both nectars. D-glutamic acid is analyzed in both nectars with a high relative enantiomeric concentration. An unexpectedly high amount of D-alanine was found in the nectar of *E. atropurpurea*. D-cystein was exclusively present in the nectar of *Epipactis atropurpurea*. In the nectar of *L. abortivum* in the other hand, D-isoleucine has been exclusively identified (Table 2).

TABLE 2. — Relative percent enantiomeric concentrations of D-amino acids analyzed as the corresponding N-pentafluoropropionyl isopropyl esters, in the nectars of *E. atropurpurea* and *L. abortivum*

Amino acid	<i>E. atropurpurea</i> (%)	<i>L. abortivum</i> (%)
D-Alanine	96.4	38.6
D-Isoleucine	—	12.6
D-Glutamic	33.6	27.4
D-Cysteine	30.4	—
D-Lysine	traces	traces
D-Methionine	—	traces

A major difference was found by comparison of the sugar contents of both nectars. The nectars of *Limodorum abortivum* is largely dominated by sucrose, with both fructose and glucose present in small amounts, mannitol, sorbitol and lactose being present only in traces (Fig. 3). This contrasts openly with the more complex composition of the nectar from *E. atropurpurea* (PAIS and CHAVES DAS NEVES, 1980).

From our results we may conclude that nectars of both species are very rich in amino acids (19 different amino acids for *E. atropurpurea*, 18 for *L. abortivum*). The total amino acid-containing residue is 6.5 % of the total

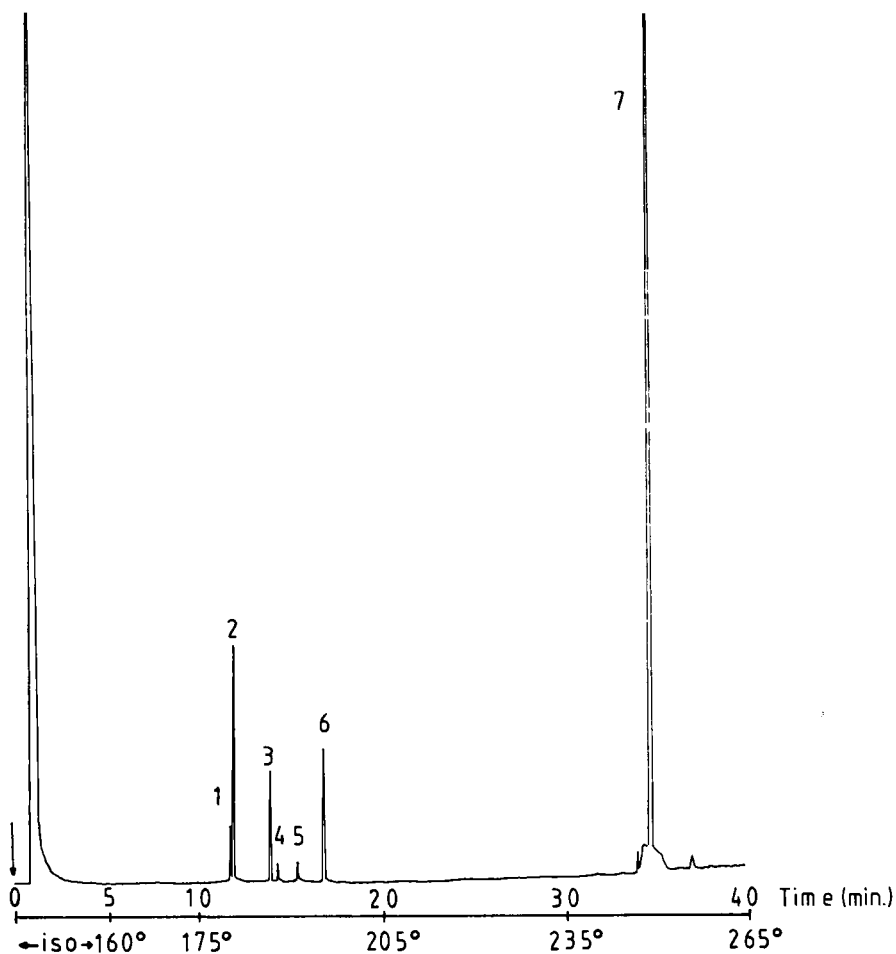


FIG. 3. — Gas chromatographic analysis of the sugars in the nectar of *L. abortivum*

Sugars as the trimethylsilyl ethers : 1 and 2 - Fructose ; 3 -  $\alpha$ -Glucose ; 4 - Mannitol ; 5 - Sorbitol ; 6 -  $\beta$ -Glucose ; 7 - Sucrose.

nectar weight for *E. atropurpurea* and 3.4 % for *L. abortivum*. Lysine and histidine are detected only in *E. atropurpurea*. The more significant difference seems to be correlated with the presence of D-amino acids. It is interesting to note that while D-glutamic acid is present in significant amounts in both nectars together with a high relative enantiomeric concentration of D-alanine (96.4 and 38.6 respectively for *E. atropurpurea* and *L. abortivum*), D-cysteine was exclusively detected in the former, while D-isoleucine could only be detected in the latter.

To the best of our knowledge, no report exists on the relative amounts of D-amino acids in nectars from different species or genera. It will be interesting to check if differences in D-amino acids can contribute to tracing taxonomic relationships between genera or/and type of nectaries (spur or open nectaries).

According to BAKER and BAKER (1973 b) higher amino acid scores are related to increasing evolutionary advancement. If the amino acid concentration of nectars, as previously reported by BAKER and BAKER (1973 b) can be related to the evolution degree of the nectaries, our results would account for a less evolved nectary in *L. abortivum* (6.3 mg/100 ml total amino acid concentration) when compared to the open nectary of *E. atropurpurea* (10.5 mg/100 ml). This trend is in agreement with the results obtained in the analysis of both nectars. The sugar-containing residue amounts to 32 % of initial nectar weight from *E. atropurpurea* and only to 16.9 % in the nectar from *L. abortivum*. In this context, nectaries of *L. abortivum* may be less evolved than those of *E. atropurpurea*. Nectar from *L. abortivum* contains mainly sucrose (Fig. 3), while that from *E. atropurpurea* is of the fructose-glucose type (PAIS and CHAVES DAS NEVES, 1980). HARBORNE (1982), based on the sugar composition of nectars, suggested that, in angiosperms, an evolutionary trend can be established from nectars of the sucrose type to nectars of the fructose-glucose type.

It has also been reported that the nectars of the sucrose type are mainly secreted by spur nectaries, while the nectars of the fructose-glucose type would originate from open nectaries (PERCIVAL, 1961). Our results on *Limodorum abortivum* and *Epipactis atropurpurea* nectars are in full agreement with this.

A correlation between the sugar content of nectaries and the kind of pollinators has been suggested (PERCIVAL, 1965 ; BAKER and BAKER, 1975). According to these authors, butterflies would prefer nectars containing 21-48 % sugar, while honey bees would prefer nectars with a sugar concentration range within 10 to 74 %. On the other hand, bumble bees, would favor nectars the sugar concentration of which is in the range of 30 to 40 %. According to this point of view, the nectars of both *E. atropurpurea* and *L. abortivum* would be suitable for all three kinds of pollinators. The fact that the overall amino acid content of the nectar of *L. abortivum* is lower than in *E. atropurpurea* suggests that the



former may be preferentially collected by bees while the latter would be suitable for bees and butterflies. On this subject WALLER (1972) has noticed that bees collect preferentially nectars with sucrose concentrations of 30 to 50 %. This is the case with *L. abortivum*. According to the observations of GODFERY (1933) the pollinators of *L. abortivum* are different kinds of bees. On the other hand, bumble bees (GODFERY, 1933) and honey bees have been described as pollinators of *E. atropurpurea* (WIEFELSPÜTZ, 1970).

### CONCLUSION

High resolution power, speed of analysis and high sensitivity of capillary gas chromatography make this method the analytical tool of choice for the analysis of complex mixtures. Capillary gas chromatography was thus used for the determination of amino acids and sugars, after adequate derivatization, in the nectars of *Epipactis atropurpurea* and *Limodorum abortivum*. The former possesses a nectary of the open type in contrast with the spur type nectary of the latter. In agreement with observations of others our results seem to indicate a difference in the evolutionary stage between the orchids, *L. abortivum* belonging to a lower evolved type. According to HARBORNE (1982), lower scoring families tend to be bee-pollinated, bees being able to obtain nitrogen from sources other than nectar, such as pollen. Comparative discussion of the amino acid concentrations in both nectars clearly shows important quantitative and qualitative differences in amino acid composition. These differences can be correlated to the nectary type (open or spur) in each case, in agreement with the observations of other authors. Major differences in sugar composition were also observed. While the nectar of *E. atropurpurea* follows the fructose-glucose pattern, as previously described, the nectar of *L. abortivum* belongs to the sucrose type.

Different kinds of bees have been described as pollinators of *L. abortivum* (GODFERY, 1933), while bumble bees and honey bees seem to be pollinators of *E. atropurpurea*. Our results suggest that systematic comparative studies of nectar composition, by powerful analytical techniques as capillary gas chromatography could prove invaluable in the study of pollinator-plant relations as well as in the chemotaxonomic area.

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## RÉSUMÉ

TENEUR EN ACIDES AMINÉS ET EN SUCRES  
 DU NECTAR DE *LIMODORUM ABORTIVUM* (ORCHIDACEA).  
 COMPARAISON AVEC LA COMPOSITION DU NECTAR D'*EPIPACTIS ATROPURPUREA*

La teneur en acides aminés du nectar de 2 orchidées, *Epipactis atropurpurea* (nectaire ouvert) et *Limodorum abortivum* (nectaire à éperon) a été étudiée par chromatographie en phase gazeuse sur colonnes capillaires, après avoir été isolés par échange d'ions (Dowex 50 W-X 8). Afin d'obtenir des dérivés volatiles, les acides aminés ont été transformés en N-heptafluorobutyryl isopropylesters. Ceux-ci ont pu être entièrement séparés en 1 seul passage chromatographique sur 1 capillaire en verre de 25 m × 0,18 mm imprégné de OV-101 (Fig. 1). L'analyse a été réalisée par la méthode de l'étalon interne, après calcul des coefficients de réponse individuels vis-à-vis de la cycloleucine utilisée comme étalon interne. L'histidine a été analysée sous forme du dérivé N<sup>15</sup>-éthoxycarbonyl correspondant. Ces acides aminés ont été identifiés individuellement par comparaison avec des échantillons authentiques, par les temps relatifs de rétention et par chromatographie en phase gazeuse-spectrométrie de masse (GCMS). Les résultats sont présentés dans le tableau 1. La séparation des acides aminés D et L a été réalisée sur un capillaire de verre de 25 m × 0,25 mm imprégné d'une phase liquide chirale de chiralil-val et la concentration énantiomérique relative a été calculée à partir de l'aire des pics (Tabl. 2). Un modèle caractéristique est obtenu pour chacun des types de nectar (Fig. 2). Les acides aminés les plus fonctionnalisés prédominent dans le nectar d'*E. atropurpurea*. Un résultat très intéressant est la présence dans les 2 nectars de quelques acides aminés-D qui ne sont pas les mêmes à l'exception de l'acide glutamique-D, présent dans les 2 nectars avec une composition énantiomérique plus ou moins équivalente. On a trouvé une quantité élevée inattendue d'alanine-D dans le nectar d'*E. atropurpurea*. Une différence majeure entre les 2 nectars est la composition en sucres, déterminée par la chromatographie gaz liquide capillaire des esters TMS. Le nectar de *L. abortivum* est largement dominé par le saccharose tandis que celui d'*E. atropurpurea* a une composition plus complexe (PAIS et CHAVES DAS NEVES, 1980).

De ces résultats nous pouvons conclure que les deux nectars sont qualitativement riches en acides aminés ; 19 acides aminés ont été identifiés chez *E. atropurpurea* et 18 chez *L. abortivum*. La concentration totale en acides aminés est respectivement de 10,46 et 6,32 mg/100 ml. Si les concentrations en acides aminés reflètent le degré d'évolution des nectaires (BAKER and BAKER, 1973 b), alors nos résultats indiquent que le nectaire de *L. abortivum* est moins évolué que celui d'*E. atropurpurea*. Le fait que la teneur totale en acides aminés du nectar de *L. abortivum* soit plus faible que celle du nectar d'*E. atropurpurea* suggère que le premier est récolté de préférence par les abeilles, tandis que le second convient à la fois aux abeilles et aux papillons.

La puissance de résolution élevée, la vitesse d'analyse et la haute sensibilité de la chromatographie en phase gazeuse sur capillaires permet d'introduire des méthodes plus précises pour établir la teneur en acides aminés des nectars. Pour la première fois, l'ensemble des acides aminés des nectars d'orchidées est établi en détail. L'utilisation de nouvelles phases liquides chirales a permis pour la première fois d'identifier des acides aminés-D dans les nectars. Des études comparatives systématiques de la composition du nectar, à l'aide de techniques analytiques puissantes telles que la chromatographie en phase gazeuse sur capillaires pourrait se montrer très précieuse dans l'étude des relations pollinisateur-plante et dans le domaine de la chimiotaxonomie.

## ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

AMINOSÄUREN- UND ZUCKERGEHALT DER NEKTARAUSSCHEIDUNG  
 VON *LIMODORUM ABORTIVUM* (ORCHIDACEAE).  
 VERGLEICH MIT DER NEKTARZUSAMMENSETZUNG BEI *EPIPACTIS ATROPURPUREA*

Der Aminosäuregehalt von Nektarexsudaten der beiden Orchideen *Epipactis atropurpurea* (offene Nektarien) und *Limodorum abortivum* (Nektarsporn) wurde mit Hilfe von Kapillar-

Gasflüssigkeits-Chromatographie nach der Isolation durch Ionenaustausch (Dowex 50 W-X 8) untersucht. Um auch flüchtige Derivate auffangen zu können, wurden die Aminosäuren in N-Heptafluorobutyryl-Isopropylester transformiert. Diese können mit einem chromatographischen Durchgang in einer 25 m × 0,18 mm i.d. Glaskapillare beschichtet mit OV-101 (Fig. 1) isoliert werden. Die Analyse wurde mit Cycloleucin als internem Standard durchgeführt. Histidin wurde als N<sup>1</sup><sup>m</sup>-Ethoxycarbonyl-Derivat analysiert. Die Identifikation der individuellen Aminosäuren wurde durch Vergleich der rel. Retentionszeiten mit authentischen Proben und durch GCMS durchgeführt. Die Ergebnisse sind in Tab. 1 zusammengestellt. Die Separation von D- und L-Aminosäuren wurde durch eine 25 m × 0,25 mm Glaskapillare beschichtet mit der chiralen Flüssigkeitsphase von Chirasil-Val durchgeführt und die relative enantiomerische Konzentration von den maximalen Flächenwerten errechnet (Tab. 2). Ein charakteristisches Muster wurde für jeden Nektarientyp aufgezeichnet (Fig. 2). Die mehr funktionalisierten Aminosäuren dominieren im Nektar von *E. atropurpurea*. Ein sehr interessantes Ergebnis ist die Präsenz von einigen D-Aminosäuren in den beiden Nektaren. Diese sind unterschiedlich in jedem Nektar mit Ausnahme von D-Glutaminsäure, die in beiden in mehr oder weniger äquivalenter enantiomerischer Komposition vorhanden ist. Eine unerwartet hohe Menge von D-Alanin wurde im Nektar von *E. atropurpurea* gefunden. Ein bedeutender Unterschied zwischen den beiden Nektaren wurde in der Zuckerzusammensetzung gefunden, die mit Hilfe der Kapillar-Gasflüssigkeits-Chromatographie der TMS Äther bestimmt wurde. Der Nektar von *L. abortivum* wird besonders von Saccharose dominiert im Gegensatz zu der mehr komplexen Zusammensetzung des Nektars von *E. atropurpurea* (PAIS and CHAVES DAS NEVES, 1980).

Aus diesen Ergebnissen folgern wir, daß beide Nektare reich an Aminosäuren sind. Für *E. atropurpurea* wurden 19 und für *L. abortivum* wurden 18 verschiedene Aminosäuren identifiziert. Die gesamte Aminosäurekonzentration war jeweils 10,46 und 6,32 (mg/100 ml). Falls die Aminosäurekonzentration in Beziehung zum Evolutionsgrad der Nektarien gesetzt werden könnte (BAKER and BAKER, 1973 b), würden unsere Ergebnisse ein weniger evoluiertes Nektarium bei *L. abortivum* als bei *E. atropurpurea* aufzeigen. Die Tatsache eines kleineren totalen Aminosäuregehalts im Nektar von *L. abortivum* als im Nektar von *E. atropurpurea* läßt darauf schließen, daß ersterer vornehmlich von Bienen gesammelt wird während der andere Bienen und Schmetterlingen zugeschrieben werden kann.

Durch die hohe Auflösung, die Geschwindigkeit der Analyse und die hohe Sensitivität der Kapillar-Gasflüssigkeits-Chromatographie können präzisere Methoden der Bestimmung des Aminosäuregehalts von Nektariensexudaten eingeführt werden. Die Gesamtheit der Aminosäuren des Orchideen-Nektars wurde zum ersten Mal in Einzelheiten bestimmt. Durch den Gebrauch der neuen chiralen Flüssigkeitsphasen konnten zum ersten Mal die D-Aminosäuren in den Nektaren identifiziert werden. Systematische vergleichende Studien der Nektarzusammensetzung durch effektive analytische Techniken wie Kapillar-Gaschromatographie könnten für die Erforschung von Bestäuber-Pflanze-Beziehungen wie auf chemotaxonomischem Gebiet wertvoll werden.

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