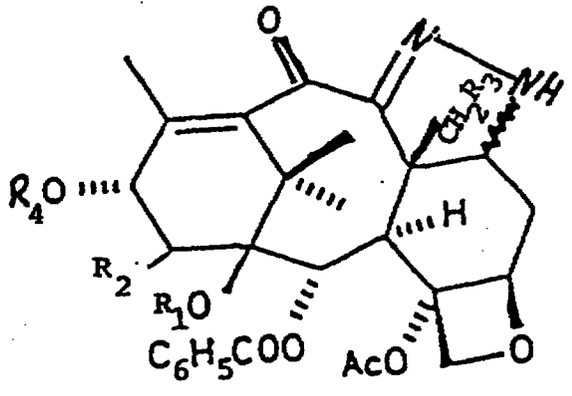
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TAXANE DERIVATIVES, THE PREPARATION THEREOF AND FORMULATIONS CONTAINING THEM

The present invention relates to taxane derivatives prepared starting from 10-deacetyl-baccatine III, 14-hydroxy-10-deacetyl-baccatine III, 19-hydroxy-10-deacetylbaccatine III and their esters at C_{13}, by reaction of the respective 10-dehydro-derivatives with hydrazine, hydroxylamine and derivatives thereof. The novel compounds contain a pyrazoline group involving the C_7 and C_9 carbons. The esters at C_{13} with isoserine chains functionalized at C_3' and at NH have cytotoxic activity on the cell lines of the most common human tumors as well as *in vivo* anti-cancer activity. The compounds of the invention are potent cytotoxic agents, particularly active on cells resistant to known antiblastics and are strong apoptosis inducers on these cell lines, which activity is significantly important in the oncologic therapy.

The derivatives of the present invention have the following general formula (1)

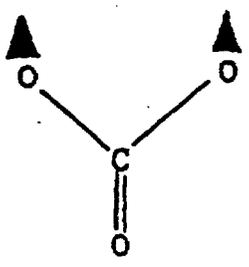


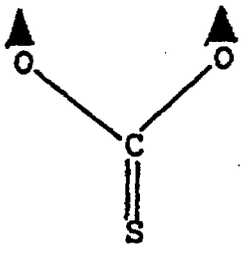
(1)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen atoms or R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is a hydroxy, alkoxy or acyloxy group,

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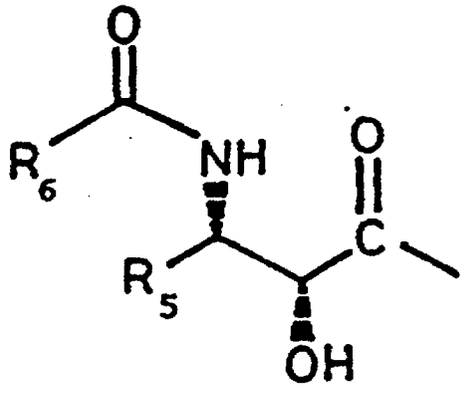
or R_1 and R_2 together form a cyclic carbonate or a cyclic thiocarbonate group of formula





R_3 is hydrogen or hydroxy;

R_4 is hydrogen or an isoserine residue of formula (2)

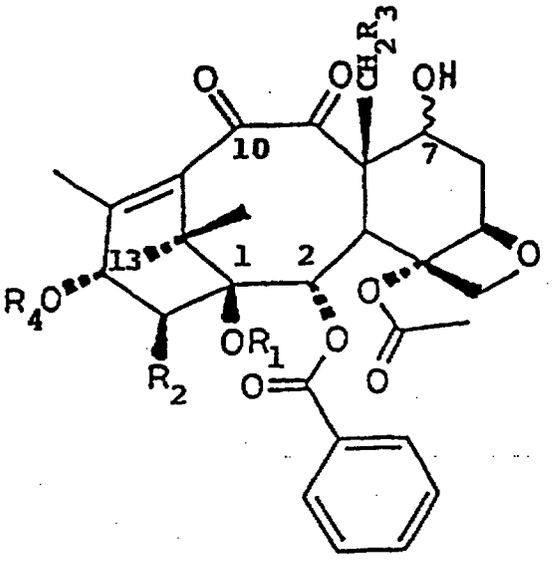


(2)

wherein R_5 is a C_1-C_5 alkyl or C_2-C_5 alkenyl group or an aryl residue, R_6 has the same meanings as R_5 or is a tert-butoxy group.

An aryl group is preferably a phenyl group. An alkoxy group is preferably a methoxy or ethoxy group. An acyloxy group is preferably an acetoxy group.

The compounds of formula (1) are prepared starting from a taxane of formula (3)



(3)

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are as defined above, by reaction with hydrazine in alcohols, preferably in methanol.

The reaction yields two diastereomers in α and β at C_7 which can be separated by fractional crystallization or better by chromatography using for example silica gel columns and mixtures of ethyl acetate and hexane as eluents. In the reaction with hydrazine the isomer β forms preferably in an about 8:2 ratio. Therefore the two isomer forms are also an object of the present invention. The reaction can be applied, besides to baccatine III or 14-β-hydroxy-baccatine III or the corresponding carbonates or thiocarbonates prepared by reaction with phosgene or thiophosgene in pyridine (Italian patent appl. MI95A000533 and MI95001022), also to the products already esterified at C_{13}, such as paclitaxel, cephalomannine, docetaxel and their semi-synthetic analogues. The above mentioned products, after removing the acetate at C_{10} by treatment with hydrazine in methanol, are oxidized with copper acetate to 10-

dehydro derivatives (see Italian patent applications cited above) which are directly converted into the corresponding pyrazoline derivatives by treatment with hydrazine. The conversion yields are nearly quantitative in the various steps. The pyrazoline derivatives can be used as such and have an activity comparable to or higher than the starting products as far as cytotoxicity is concerned. The obtained pyrazoline derivatives can be converted into the dihydro derivatives by catalytic hydrogenation or they can be derivatized at the nitrogen.

By way of example, the cytotoxicity of some of the prepared compounds is reported.

Table I - IC_{50} of compounds 2, 4, 5, 6, of paclitaxel and of docetaxel on a normal ovary cell line and on an adriamycin-resistant one

	IC_{50} (nM)	
	Line MDA	Line MCF7-ADR_r
Paclitaxel	2.4	2600
Docetaxel	0.8	700
Compound of example 2	3.1	600
Compound of example 4	1.2	264
Compound of example 5	1.4	190
Compound of example 6	2.1	102

The compounds of the present invention comprise preferably compounds with the chain at C_{13} modified compared with paclitaxel and docetaxel wherein the phenylisoserine phenyl has been substituted with an

isobutyl, isobutenyl or propenyl group.

The compounds of the invention can be incorporated in conventional pharmaceutical formulations such as solutions of the active ingredient in polyoxyethylenated castor oil free in particular from metal cations affecting adversely both the stability of the active principles and their cardiotoxicity or in formulations containing other excipients such as polysorbates or phospholipids, forming liposomes with the latter. The compounds of the present invention can moreover be co-ground with cyclodextrin oligomers, in particular with β and γ cyclodextrin or salified with pharmaceutically acceptable acids to be subsequently administered in a completely aqueous medium. The following examples illustrate the invention.

Example 1

Synthesis of 10-deacetyl-10-dehydro-baccatine III 2- or β-pyrazoline

A suspension of 10-deacetyl-10-dehydro-baccatine III. (1 g, 1.845 mmol) in 15 ml of methanol was added with 11.7 ml of a 10% hydrazine solution (31.5 mmoles). The suspension was refluxed and after 10 min became clear. The reaction was controlled by TLC on silica gel observing the disappearance of 10-deacetyl-10-dehydro-baccatine III. ($CHCl_3$-Acetonitrile 2:1). After 2h the reaction mixture was diluted with H_2O made acidic with HCl (100 ml) and extracted with EtOAc. The organic phase was dried on Na_2SO_4 concentrated to dryness. The residue was purified by chromatography on a silica gel column (40 g of silica gel, eluent hexane-ethyl acetate 1:1). 687 mg of β pyrazoline and 208 mg of α pyrazoline were

obtained, having the following physico-chemical and spectroscopical characteristics:

β pyrazoline: m.p. 195°C, MS^+ 538, ^1H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) H2 5.80 d J 8.6, H3 3.16 d J 8.6, H5 5.04 dd J 9.5/4.5, H6a 2.43 ddd J 13.5/9.5/4.5, H6 2.20 dd J 13.5/13.5/4.5, H7 4.20 ddd J 15.5/4.5/3.0, H13 4.69, H14 2.34 m, H16 1.23 s, H17 1.15 s, H18 1.66 s, H19 1.50 s, H20a 4.47 d, J 8.6, H20b 4.33 d J 8.6, NH 6.44 br s, OH 2.33 brs/i,87 brs, Ac 2.26 s, Bz 8.14 brd 6.7.

α pyrazoline: m.p. 219-222°C, MS 538^-, ^1H-NMR ($CDCl_3$) H2 6.04 d J 6.0, H3 3.71d J 6.0,H5 4.93 br d J 2.5, H6 2.06 td J14.0/14.0/2.5, 6' 1.85 m, H7 4.39dd J14.0/4.2, H13 4.79, brdd J 10.0/6.5, 14a 2.46 dd J 15.0/10.0, 14b 1.88dd J15.0/6.5, H16 1.33s, H17 1.23 s, H18 1.74 brs, H19 1.70 s, H_2O 4.38s, NH 6.34 brs, OH 2.63/2.00, Ac 2.36s, Bz 8.12 brd, /.6.

Example 2

Synthesis of 10-deacetyl-10-dehydro-Paclitaxel pyrazoline

400 mg of 10-dehydro paclitaxel (0.49 mmol) were dissolved in 10 ml of methanol and added with 10 mol.eq. of a NH_2NH_2 (4.9 mmol, 1.5 ml) solution prepared diluting 1 ml of pure NH_2NH_2 in 10 ml of methanol. After 2h the reaction mixture was diluted with water and 3 ml of dil. HCl and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was counter washed then dried over sodium sulfate and evaporated to dryness. The residue was chromatographed through 10 g of silica gel eluting with an hexane/ethyl acetate 1:1 mixture, recovering the fractions containing paclitaxel β pyrazoline. 250 mg of a compound having the following characteristics were

obtained: m.p. 190°C, MS 823 $(M^+ NH_4)^+$ and ^1H-NMR and ^{13}C-NMR in agreement with the structure.

Example 3

Synthesis of 10-dehydro-13-(N-Boc-phenylisoserinyl)-10-deacetylbaccatine III

1 g of docetaxel was dissolved in 50 ml of dry methanol and added under stirring with 3.71 g of finely ground copper acetate; the reaction mixture was stirred for 6h at room temperature. The undissolved copper acetate was filtered off and the solution was diluted with water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was counter washed with an ammonia diluted solution, then dried and concentrated to dryness. A pale yellow solid was obtained in an 85% yield, corresponding to 10 dehydro-13-(N-Boc-phenylisoserinyl) 10-deacetyl-baccatine III. M^+ 801.

Example 4

Synthesis of 13-(N-Boc-phenylisoserinyl)-10-dehydro-10-deacetyl-baccatine III pyrazoline

390 mg of 10-dehydro-13-(N-Boc-phenylisoserinyl) 10deacetyl-baccatine III (0.49 mmol) were dissolved in 10 ml of methanol and added with 10 mol.eq. of a NH_2NH_2 (4.9 mmol, 1.5 ml) solution prepared diluting 1 ml of pure NH_2NH_2 in 10 ml of methanol. After 2h the reaction mixture was diluted with water and 3 ml of dil. HCl and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was counter washed, dried over sodium sulfate and evaporated to dryness. The residue was chromatographed through 10 g of silica gel eluting with an hexane/ethyl acetate 1:1 mixture, recovering the fractions containing docetaxel β pyrazoline. 280 mg of a compound having the following

characteristics were obtained: m.p. 190°C, MS 823 $(M^+ NH_4)^+$ and ^1H-NMR and ^{13}C-NMR in agreement with the structure.

Example 5

Synthesis of 13-(N-Boc-3'-isobutyl)-isoserinyl-10-dehydrobaccatine III pyrazoline

A solution of 100 mg of 13-(N-Boc-3'-isobutyl)-isoserinyl-baccatine III (0.12 mmol) in 2 ml of ethanol was added with 10 mol.eq. of a 10% hydrazine ethanol solution, freshly prepared (1.2 mmol, 0.38 ml of the ethanol sol.), then 15 mol.eq. of hydrazine are added in two successive times, in a 12 h interval from each other. After three days the deacetylation reaction was completed and the mixture was diluted with water and 2 ml of dil. HCl and the whole was extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with water to neutrality, then dried and concentrated to dryness. The residue was chromatographed through a silica gel column eluting with an ethyl acetate/hexane 4:6 mixture. 67 mg of 13-(N-Boc-3'-isobutyl)-isoserinyl-10-deacetyl-baccatine III were obtained.

A solution of 57 mg of 13-(N-Boc-3'-isobutyl)-isoserinyl-10-deacetyl-baccatine III (0.07 mmol) in 3 ml of methanol was added with 15 mol.eq. of powdered $Cu(OAc)_2$ and the whole was stirred for 6h. The reaction mixture was diluted with water and extracted with ethyl acetate; the organic phase was washed with ammonia, then with water to neutrality and concentrated to dryness. The residue was dissolved in 3 ml of methanol and added with 20 mol.eq. of a 10% hydrazine ethanol solution. The reaction mixture was refluxed for two hours, controlling

the reaction by TLC until the reagents disappeared. The reaction mixture was diluted with water and dil. hydrochloric acid and then extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with water, dried and concentrated to dryness; the residue was chromatographed on silica gel eluting with hexane/ethyl acetate 1:1. 29.2 mg of β pyrazoline and 11 mg of α pyrazoline were obtained.

Example 6

Synthesis of 13-(N-Boc-phenyl-isoserinyl)-1,14-carbonate10-dehydro-10-deacetyl-baccatine III pyrazoline

A solution of 100 mg of N-Boc 14-hydroxytaxol 1,14-carbonate (0.11 mmol) in 3 ml of MeOH was added with 10 mol.eq. of a freshly prepared 10% NH_2NH_2 ethanol solution (1.12 mmol, 0.36 ml of the ethanol sol.). After 12 hours, a further 10 mol.eq. (tot. mol.eq. added: 20) were added. The reaction was controlled by TLC (Ex-EtOAc 3:7). After 48 hours the reaction mixture was diluted with water and 2 ml of dil. HCl, extracted with EtOAc (x3), the organic phase was washed with brine, dried, filtered, evaporated and separated by CC (Ex-EtOAc 6:4 and then 5:5) to obtain 30 mg of the starting product and 40 mg of the 10-deacetyl derivative.

A solution of 40 mg of the 10-deacetyl derivative (0.05 mmol) in 3 ml of MeOH was added with 15 mol.eq. of powdered $Cu(OAc)_2$ (0.69 mmol, 138 mg). The reaction was controlled by TLC (Ex-EtOAc 3:7) which lasted 24 hours. The reaction was diluted with water and extracted with EtOAc (x3): the organic phase was washed with a $NH_3:H_2O$ 1:5 solution (x2) and then with brine. The organic phase was evaporated to obtain a pale yellow

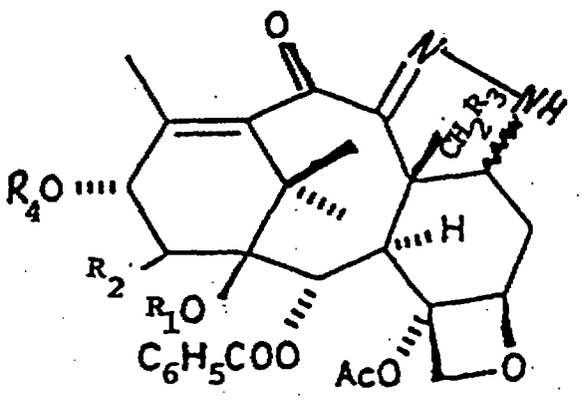
solid in a nearly quantitative yield.

The crude product from the oxidation with $Cu(OAc)_2$ was dissolved in 2 ml of MeOH and added with 20 mol.eq. of a 10% NH_2NH_2 ethanol solution (0.8 mmol, 0.25 ml of ethanol sol.). The reaction mixture was refluxed for 2 hours, the reaction was controlled by TLC (Ex-EtOAc 3:7), then diluted with water, added with 2-3 ml of dil. HCl. and extracted with EtOAc (x3). The organic phase was washed with brine, dried, mixed, filtered, evaporated and separated by CC with Ex-EtOAc 6:4/5:5 to obtain 10.5 mg of pyrazoline (α and β mixture).

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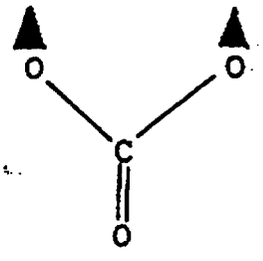
CLAIMS

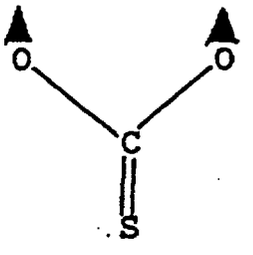
1. Compounds of formula (1):



(1)

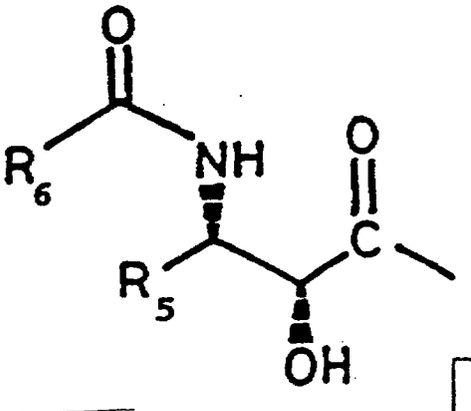
wherein R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen atoms or R_1 is hydrogen and R_2 is a hydroxy, alkoxy or acyloxy group, or R_1 and R_2 together form a cyclic carbonate or a cyclic thiocarbonate group of formula





R_3 is hydrogen or hydroxy;

R_4 is hydrogen or an isoserine residue of formula (2)



(2)

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☒ Claim(s) : paged ..11... to paged ..13..
☐ Drawing(s) : paged ..... to paged .....
☐ Abstract : paged ..... to paged .....

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wherein R_5 is a C_1-C_5 alkyl or C_2-C_5 alkenyl group or an aryl residue, R_6 has the same meanings as R_5 or is a tert-butoxy group.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are hydrogen.

3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are a residue of formula (2) wherein R_5 and R_6 are phenyl.

4. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are hydrogen and R_4 is a residue of formula (2) wherein R_5 is phenyl and R_6 is tert-butoxy.

5. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_1, R_2 and R_3 are hydrogen and R_4 is a residue of formula (2) wherein R_5 is isobutyl and R_6 is tert-butoxy.

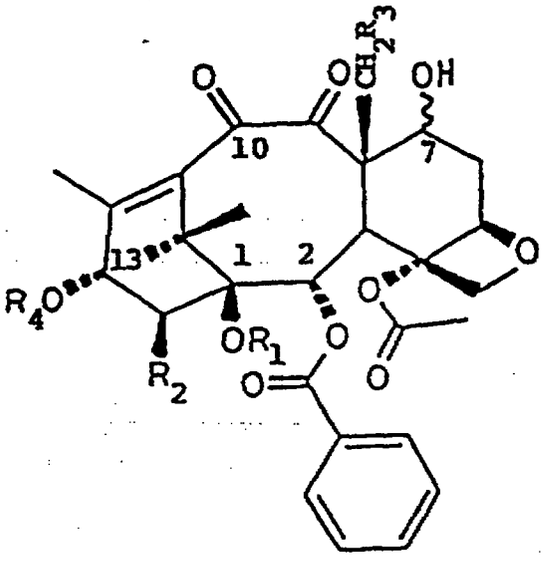
6. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R_1 and R_2 form together a cyclic carbonate group, R_3 is hydrogen and R_4 is an isoserine residue wherein R_5 is phenyl and R_6 is tert-butoxy.

7. A compound according to claim 1 selected from:

- 10-deacetyl-10-dehydro-baccatine III 2-α or β-pyrazoline;
- 10-deacetyl-10-dehydro-Paclitaxel pyrazoline;
- 10-dehydro-13-(N-Boc-phenylisoserinyl)-10-deacetyl-baccatine III;
- 13-(N-Boc-phenylisoserinyl)-10-dehydro-10-deacetyl-baccatine III pyrazoline;
- 13-(N-Boc-3'-isobutyl)-isoserinyl-10-dehydrobaccatine III pyrazoline;
- 13-(N-Boc-phenyl-isoserinyl)-1,14-carbonate-10-dehydro-10-deacetyl-baccatine III pyrazoline;

8. A process for the preparation of the compounds of

claim 1 starting from a taxane of formula (3)



(3)

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are as defined above, by reaction with hydrazine in alcohols.

9. A process according to claim 8 which is carried out in methanol.

10. Pharmaceutical compositions containing as the active ingredient a compound of claim 1 in admixture with a suitable carrier.

11. The use of the compounds of claim 1 for the preparation of a cytotoxic and antitumor medicament.