WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preparing and purifying noribogaine which method comprises:

a) converting voacangine to 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid or the carboxylic acid salt or ester thereof, wherein the indole nitrogen is optionally protected by an amino protecting group;

b) optionally isolating the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid or the carboxylic acid salt, ester and/or amino protected derivative thereof;

c) converting the product of step a) or b) to noribogaine; and

d) isolating noribogaine.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein b) and c) are conducted in a one-pot synthesis.

3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein step b) further comprises the steps of b') de-esterifying the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester to provide 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid, and b") decarboxylating the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid to provide the noribogaine.

4. A method for preparing and purifying noribogaine which method comprises:

a) converting voacangine to 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid wherein the indole nitrogen is optionally protected by an amino protecting group;

b) converting the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid to noribogaine; and

c) isolating noribogaine.

5. A method for preparing and purifying noribogaine which method comprises:

a) converting voacangine to 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester wherein the indole nitrogen is optionally protected by an amino protecting group;

b) optionally covalently attaching 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester or amino protected derivative thereof to a solid support via the hydroxyl group of 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester or amino protected derivative thereof so as to form a suspension of solid supports having 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester or amino protected derivative thereof bound thereto;

c) removing residual voacangine from said suspension;

d) cleaving and recovering the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester or amino protected derivative thereof from the solid support;

e) converting the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester or amino protected derivative thereof to noribogaine; and

f) isolating noribogaine.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein steps d) and e) are reversed.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein steps b), c) and d) are repeated up to 5 times.

8. A method for preparing and purifying noribogaine which method comprises:

a) covalently attaching voacangine to a solid support via the indole nitrogen of voacangine so as to form a suspension of solid supports having voacangine bound thereto;

b) converting voacangine to 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester,12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid or the carboxylic acid salt thereof under conditions wherein the level of voacangine bound to the solid support is less than 0.1 weight percent;

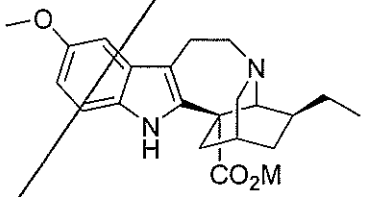
c) cleaving and recovering 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester,12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid or the carboxylic acid salt thereof from the solid support;

d) converting the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid or the carboxylic acid salt thereof to noribogaine; and

e) purifying noribogaine.

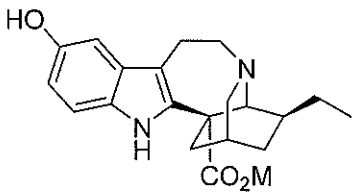
9. A solid support having voacangine, 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid or the carboxylic acid salt thereof, covalently bound thereto through a cleavable linker.

10. A compound of the formula:




where M is lithium, sodium or potassium.

11. A compound of the formula:




where M is lithium, sodium or potassium.

12. The compound of claim 10 or claim 11, wherein M is lithium.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for preparing and purifying noribogaine which method comprises:

a) converting voacangine to 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid or the carboxylic acid salt or ester thereof, wherein the indole nitrogen is optionally protected by an amino protecting group;

b) optionally isolating the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid or the carboxylic acid salt, ester and/or amino protected derivative thereof;

c) converting the product of step a) or b) to noribogaine; and

d) isolating noribogaine.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein b) and c) are conducted in a one-pot synthesis.

3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein step b) further comprises the steps of b') de-esterifying the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester to provide 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid, and b") decarboxylating the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid to provide the noribogaine.

4. A method for preparing and purifying noribogaine which method comprises:

a) converting voacangine to 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid wherein the indole nitrogen is optionally protected by an amino protecting group;

b) converting the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid to noribogaine; and

c) isolating noribogaine.

5. A method for preparing and purifying noribogaine which method comprises:

a) converting voacangine to 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester wherein the indole nitrogen is optionally protected by an amino protecting group;

b) optionally covalently attaching 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester or amino protected derivative thereof to a solid support via the hydroxyl group of 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester or amino protected derivative thereof so as to form a suspension of solid supports having 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester or amino protected derivative thereof bound thereto;

c) removing residual voacangine from said suspension;

d) cleaving and recovering the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester or amino protected derivative thereof from the solid support;

e) converting the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester or amino protected derivative thereof to noribogaine; and

f) isolating noribogaine.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein steps d) and e) are reversed.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein steps b), c) and d) are repeated up to 5 times.

8. A method for preparing and purifying noribogaine which method comprises:

a) covalently attaching voacangine to a solid support via the indole nitrogen of voacangine so as to form a suspension of solid supports having voacangine bound thereto;

b) converting voacangine to 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester,12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid or the carboxylic acid salt thereof under conditions wherein the level of voacangine bound to the solid support is less than 0.1 weight percent;

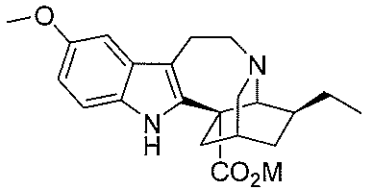
c) cleaving and recovering 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester,12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid or the carboxylic acid salt thereof from the solid support;

d) converting the 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid or the carboxylic acid salt thereof to noribogaine; and

e) purifying noribogaine.

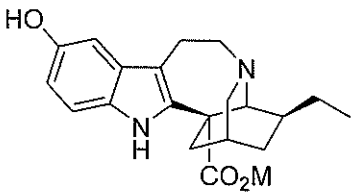
9. A solid support having voacangine, 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 12-hydroxyibogamine-18-carboxylic acid or the carboxylic acid salt thereof, covalently bound thereto through a cleavable linker.

10. A compound of the formula:




where M is lithium, sodium or potassium.

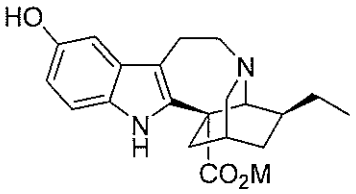
11. A compound of the formula:




where M is lithium, sodium or potassium.

12. The compound of claim 10 or claim 11, wherein M is lithium.

13. A compound of the formula:




where M is lithium or sodium.