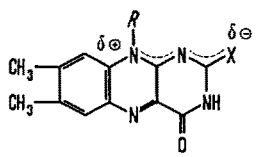
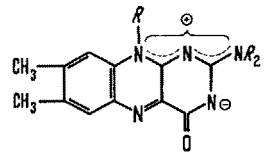
3. Die Thione I, welche durch Einwirkung von überschüssigem H_2O_2 schon bei Raumtemperatur zu IV entschwefelt werden, lassen sich bei Behandlung mit nur 2–3 Äquivalenten stark verdünnter Peroxyessigsäure in die Desoxyflavine VIII überführen. Diese sehr empfindlichen Körper[7] lassen sich auf diesem Wege rein erhalten, sie autoxydieren jedoch in wässrig-alkalischer Lösung augenblicklich unter Bildung von IV.

Der Vergleich der Spektren zeigt, dass Flavoxime III (λ_{max}[8]: 294 mμ, 526 mμ), Flavohydrazone II (λ_{max}: 296 mμ, 512 mμ) als echte (Aza)Chinon-Derivate in der Form IIa vorliegen, während für die Amine VI (λ_{max}: 276 mμ, 366 mμ, 452 mμ) die dipolare Form VIa am wahrscheinlichsten ist.



IIa



VIa

Die Amine VI, $R = CH_3$, sind dementsprechend als einzige Derivate dieser Reihe in $CHCl_3$ unlöslich.

Experimentelle Details, physikochemische, koordinationschemische und biologische Eigenschaften sollen demnächst an anderer Stelle näher beschrieben werden.

Summary. Starting from 2-thioisoalloxazines, a synthetic route to the formerly inaccessible 2-(alkyl)imino, 2-oximino, 2-hydrazono and 2-azino derivatives of vitamin B_2 was developped.

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Institut für Anorganische Chemie der Universität Basel (Schweiz), 18. Juni 1962.

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[8] λ_{max} bezieht sich auf die Neutralmoleküle in $CHCl_3$ (II, III) resp. Äthanol (VI).

Arachnoidal Cell Clusters in the Lizard *Lacerta lepida*

Arachnoidal cell clusters were first described as postmortem findings in the meninges of patients suffering from mental disease[1]. In general these cell clusters have been accepted as a manifestation of advancing age. Cushing, Weed and Essick observed that the arachnoidal cell clusters occurred not only in man but also in various laboratory animals[2]. The association of the cell clusters with advancing age can be attributed largely to the work of Weed[3], who in a series of cats of different ages found that in very young animals the cell clusters were never present, while they were always observed in very old animals. According to Watt[4], in man arachnoidal cell clusters can be observed even in the unborn foetus and consequently factors other than those of old age must be considered in the aetiology.

We observed arachnoidal cell proliferations in a series of very young and adult specimens of the lizard *Lacerta lepida*. These proliferations appeared to be present in nearly 70% of all very young lizards. As in man[4] the histological features varied from typical arachnoidal cell clusters to a more fibrous structure, which often showed degenerative changes and sometimes contained capillaries. The significance of the arachnoidal cell clusters is uncertain. Chornyak[5] demonstrated that under conditions of anoxaemia the cells of the arachnoid do proliferate and form typical cell clusters as well as freely wandering macrophages. Such a mechanism could certainly operate *in utero*, but on the strength of the occurrence of arachnoidal cell clusters in *Lacerta lepida* it is likely that other factors are also involved. As our results in *Lacerta lepida* are in good agreement with those obtained in man[4], a general significance should be attached to these structures.

Zusammenfassung. Beschreibung von Zellanhäufungen in der Arachnoidea bei der Eidechse *Lacerta lepida*.

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Department of Histology, Free University, Amsterdam (The Netherlands), July 3, 1962.

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On the Specific Inhibition of Adrenal Steroid Biosynthesis

Since the discovery that amphenone[1] inhibits adrenal steroidogenesis, steadily growing interest in this special type of action resulted in the elaboration of a large number of substances[2–5] with similar activity. Some of these were found to produce quite specific inhibitions of steroidal 11β-hydroxylation, such as e.g. Su-4885 (Metopirone®)[6,7], or of 17α-hydroxylation, e.g. Su-8000, Su-9055 and Su-10'603[7,8]; these properties are of

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