

43.1 Introduction

Yahunu, Herba Cissampelotis, is the dry whole plant of *Cissampelos pareira* L. var. *hirsuta* (Buch. ex DC.) Formen (Menispermaceae) collected in spring and summer. It is officially listed in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia and is used as an analgesic and hemostatic for reduction of swelling and for external treatment of traumatic pain and bleeding.

43.2 Chemical Constituents

Cissampelos pareira contains a number of alkaloids, especially bisbenzylisoquinoline alkaloids. The major alkaloid is hayatine (43-1) with a content of 0.1% [1]. Hayatine has a tubocurarine (43-2) skeleton [2–4] and is racemic. The optically active compound, named curine [5, 6] and its stereoisomer bebeerine [7, 8], were also isolated from *C. pareira*. Further alkaloids with a tubocurarine skeleton isolated from *C. pareira* are 12'-O-methylcurine (43-3) [9–11] and its stereoisomer hayatinine [12].

