Marks 7

June 2010

• The tropane alkaloid (-)-hyoscyamine is found in certain plants of the *Solanaceae* family. It is an anticholinergic agent that works by blocking the action of acetylcholine at parasympathetic sites in smooth muscle, secretory glands and the central nervous system.

Give the molecular formula of (-)-hyoscyamine.

 $C_{17}H_{23}O_3N$

List the functional groups present in (-)-hyoscyamine.

amine, alcohol, ester, aromatic ring (arene)

Hydrolysis of (-)-hyoscyamine results in two fragments, tropine and tropic acid. Draw each of these fragments.

tropine tropic acid H CH₂OH OH

What is the stereochemistry at the tropic acid stereocentre? Write (R) or (S).

(S)

Is tropine optically active? Explain your answer.

No. It is a *meso*-isomer (i.e. has a plane of symmetry) and therefore optically inactive.

It is superimposable on its mirror image.