ISOLATION OF A NEW ISOMER OF (+)-LEUCOFISETINIDIN FROM
CASSIA MARGINATA LEAVES*

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*Cassia marginata* Roxb. (family: Leguminosae) is a small deciduous tree

growing in the forests from South Arcot to Travancore (India) and often planted

for ornament. The bark of the tree is a good tanning material and has been found to

be a substitute for wattle and avaram. The present communication describes the

isolation and identification of (+)-catechin, butein 4'-glucoside (coreopsin), and a

new dextrorotatory isomer of leucofisetinidin from the *Cassia marginata* leaves.

(+)-Catechin and butein 4'-glucoside were separated by cellulose column

chromatography; the former was identified by comparison of its infrared spectrum,

analytical values, and *R*<sub>f</sub> values with those of the authentic sample and also by

mixed melting points of the compound and its derivatives with authentic samples.

Butein 4'-glucoside (coreopsin) was identified by thoroughly comparing it with

an authentic sample. The presence of butein 4'-glucoside (coreopsin) was earlier

noticed in several plants. Though the compound seems to occur widely in nature,

its presence in a Leguminosae plant is noted for the first time.

The (+)-leucofisetinidin was found to be a new dextrorotatory isomer of

7,3',4'-tri­hydroxyflavan-3,4-diol, since the melting points and rotation of this

compound and its derivatives (see Experimental) were quite different from those of

the corresponding isomers of (+)-7,3',4'-tri­hydroxyflavan-3,4-diol.<sup>35,4,5</sup>

Experimental

Two-dimensional paper chromatography was carried out using Whatman No. 1 paper in the

solvent systems composed of (A) 6% acetic acid in the first way followed by (B) n-butanol–acetic

acid–water (4 : 1 : 5, v/v) in the second way.<sup>6</sup>

Collection of the Plant Material

The leaves collected from a mature tree on the grounds of Central Leather Research

Institute, Madras, were used in the experiments.

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of India: Calcutta 1957.)

(Eyre & Spottiswoode: London 1965.)

Preparation of Acetone Extract

Fresh leaves (2 kg) were crushed and 500 ml of water was added. After 1 hr, 4 l. of acetone was added; the mixture was kept at room temperature for 3 days. The acetone solution was decanted and a fresh lot of acetone was added; the process was continued till the extraction was complete. The combined acetone extract was then evaporated to 500 ml under vacuum (40'); nitrogen atmosphere) and filtered off from the chlorophyll and other viscous matter. The filtrate was evaporated to dryness in vacuum to give a reddish brown phenolic solid (50 g) which was successively extracted with ether (500 ml) to give fraction I (8 g) and ethyl acetate (300 ml) to give fraction II (10 g).

Separation of (+)-Catechin and Butein 4'-Glucoside from Fraction I

A glass column (90 by 3 cm) was filled with an aqueous suspension of Whatman ashless cellulose powder up to a length of 65 cm. Fraction I (2 g) in methanol (5 ml) was placed on top of the column, which was then successively eluted with 6% acetic acid (250 ml; fraction A) and ethanol (200 ml; fraction B).

Fraction A on evaporation in vacuum (nitrogen) gave a solid, which on crystallization from water gave (+)-catechin (0.50 g), m.p. and mixed m.p. 176'. The pentaacetate was prepared using acetic anhydride and pyridine and crystallized from ethanol, m.p. and mixed m.p. 130'.

The acid hydrolysis of butein 4'-glucoside was carried out following the procedure of Shimokoriyama and Hattori. Butein, m.p. and mixed m.p. 212-214', and glucose (osazone m.p. and mixed m.p. 204-206') were found to be the only products of hydrolysis.

Isolation and Characterization of (+)-7,3',4'-Trihydroxylavan-3,4-diol from Fraction II

Fraction II (4.0 g) was dissolved in ethyl acetate (25 ml) and dried (Na₂SO₄). Light petroleum (40-60°) was gradually added and the coloured sticky solid precipitated first was discarded. Further addition of light petroleum and cooling yielded the leucoanthocyanidin as a pinkish white amorphous powder. The process was repeated several times in order to obtain an almost colourless sample (1.5 g). The compound did not melt up to 300° (Found: C, 61.9; H, 4.9. Calc. for C₇H₁₀O₅: C, 62.1; H, 4.8%). Rₚ 0.61 in A and 0.57 in B. Sodium hydroxide degraded the compound into resorcinol (dibenzoate, m.p. and mixed m.p. 117') and protocatechuic acid, m.p. and mixed m.p. 199'.

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Conversion into the anthocyanidin chloride was effected by the method of Swain and Hillis and it had an absorption maximum in the visible range at 530 mp. The unidimensional ascending chromatography of the chloride was carried out on Whatman No. 3 filter paper using two solvent systems, viz., (i) Forestal solvent0 and (ii) 90% formic acid-3N hydrochloric acid (1:1, v/v). The Rₚ values obtained (0.75 and 0.43 respectively) were the same as those of the reference compound which was run under identical conditions.

The trimethyl ether was crystallized from ethyl acetate-light petroleum (40-60°), m.p. 150° (Found: C, 64.9; H, 6.2; OCH₃, 28.1. Calc. for C₇H₁₀O₅: C, 65.1; H, 6.0; OCH₃, 30.0).

28.0%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 5.14^\circ$ (c 0.07 in acetone). The diacetate was crystallized from ethyl acetate–light petroleum (40–60°), m.p. 167–169° (Found: C, 63.5; H, 6.2. Calc. for $C_{12}H_{14}O_4$: C, 63.5; H, 5.8%).

The pentaacetoxyflavan was prepared in the usual way and crystallized from ethyl acetate–light petroleum (40–60°), m.p. 172–174° (Found: C, 59.8; H, 5.0; COCH$_3$, 42.0. Calc. for $C_{18}H_{20}O_{11}$: C, 60.0; H, 4.8; COCH$_3$, 43.0%). $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 7.87^\circ$ (c 0.1 in acetone).

**Potassium Permanganate Oxidation of the Trimethyl Ether**

Leucofisetinidin trimethyl ether (1.0 g) in acetone (100 ml) was refluxed with potassium permanganate (5.0 g) for 24 hr and the reaction mixture was worked up in the usual way; veratric acid (0.1 g), m.p. and mixed m.p. 181°, and 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzoic acid (0.05 g), m.p. and mixed m.p. 157°, were isolated and identified.

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