Reprinted from the *Indian Journal of Chemistry*, 1965, Vol. 3, No. 5, pp. 237, 238

Chemical Investigation of Some Indian Plants

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Manuscript received 30 *December* 1964

Isolation of several known compounds belonging to the class of steroids, terpenoids, coumarins, etc., from a number of Indian plants is recorded.

WE have been examining a large number of Indian plants to see whether any biologically active principles are present. In the course of this work a number of compounds of known structure were isolated. We place these results on record since they may be of some value from the point of view of chemotaxonomy. All the plants were correctly identified, dried in the shade and powdered. They were then extracted by successive percolation with hexane (b.p. 60-80°), methanol and acetone. The compounds were isolated and purified by the usual methods and the identities of the compounds listed in the Table 1 were established by elemental analysis, spectral data, thin layer chromatography and mixed melting point determination with authentic specimens.

Our thanks are due to Professors C. Djerassi, H. Schmid, T. R. Seshadri, C. W. Shoppee and Drs C. J. W. Brooks, T. G. Halsall, P. Sen Gupta, W. I. Taylor and D. E. White for kindly supplying authentic specimens of the natural products.

TABLE 1 — COMPOUNDS ISOLATED FROM VARIOUS PLANT SPECIES

Plant	Family	Part of plant	Solvent for extraction	Compound isolated
		TRITERPENOIDS		
Alstonia scholaris	Apocynaceae	Stem bark	Hexane	Lupeol
A. scholaris	do	do	Methanol	Betulinic acid
Bassia malabarica	Sapotaceae	Bark	Hexane	Friedelin
Ehretia cuneata	Boraginaceae	Stem	do	Baurenol
E. cuneata	do	Roots	do	do
Euphorbia acaulis	Euphorbiaceae	Tubers	do	Taraxerol
E. neriifolia	do	Stem	do	Friedelan-3 α-ol, friedelan-3 β-ol, taraxerol
Grewia tiliaefolia	Tiliaceae	Bark	do	Betulin, friedelin, lupeol
G. tiliaefolia	do	Roots	do	Friedelin, lupeol
Gymnosporia montana	Celastraceae	Stem	do	β-Amyrin
Lophopetalum wightianum	do	Bark	do	Lupeol
Mastixia arborea	Cornaceae	do	do	Taraxerol, taraxerone
Moringa oleifera	Moringaceae	do	do	Baurenol
Ougeinia dalbergioides	Leguminosae	Stem bark	do	Lupeol
Poeciloneuron indicum	Guttiferae	Fruits	do	Friedelin
Pouteria tomentosa	Sapotaceae	Bark	do	β-Amyrin acetate
Securinega leucopyrus	Euphorbiaceae	do	do	Friedelin
Terminalia arjuna	Combretaceae	do	do	do
Vepris bilocularis	Rutaceae	Leaves	do	Lupeol
		STEROIDS		
Alstonia venenata	Apocynaceae	Bark	do	Stigmasterol
Anisomeles malabarica	Labiatae	Whole plant	do	β-Sitosterol
Ervatamia divaricata	Apocynaceae	Stem	do	do
Ligustrum neilgherrense	Oleaceae	Roots	Methanol	Stigmasterol
Mitragyna parviflora	Rubiaceae	Bark	Hexane	β-Sitosterol
Nardostachys jatamansi	Valerianaceae	Rhizomes	do	do
Opuntia vulgaris	Cactaceae	Whole plant	do	do
Pueraria tuberosa	Leguminosae	Tubers	do	do
		COUMARINS		
Hymenodictyon obovatum	Rubiaceae	Bark	Methanol	Aesculin
H. obovatum	do	Roots	do	do
		LEUCOANTHOCYANIDINS		
Bassia latifolia	Sapotaceae	Bark	Acetone	Leucodelphinidin
		CARBOHYDRATES		
Ervatamia divaricata	Apocynaceae	Roots	Methanol	D-Mannitol
Ixora parviflora	Rubiaceae	do	do	do
Randia dumetorum	do	do	do	do
		ALKALOIDS		
Alstonia venenata	Apocynaceae	Bark	do	Reserpine
A. venenata	do	do	Acetone	Kopsinine
Annona reticulata	Annonaceae	Root bark	Methanol	Liriodenine
Michelia champaca	Magnoliaceae	Roots	do	do