

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

plant are useful for tumours, scrofulous affections of the glands of the neck and in diseases of the blood. The plant is also useful as an anthelmintic and in cases of bronchitis. It is also claimed to be useful in tuberculosis.¹ Due to its important medicinal properties, the chemical investigation of the plant was undertaken.

The petroleum ether extract of the tubers on chromatographic separation over alumina yielded in addition to a yellow wax, two colourless, neutral, nitrogen-free substances, of m.p. 75° and 82°. The former (C, 81.9; H, 13.8, OCH₃—nil) was identified to be *n*-hexacosyl alcohol by the preparation of its acetyl derivative, m.p. 64° (C, 79.0; H, 13.3%) and a mixed melting point determination of the latter with an authentic specimen. The substance (C, 78.4; H, 13.0%) was too small for identification.

The methanolic extract of the plant was divided into two parts. The first portion (about 15 gm.) was made alkaline and on steam-distillation gave a dark-brown oil (100 mg.) with a strong odour of pyridine. It was redistilled at 115–20° at 0.02 mm. It contained nitrogen but did not give the characteristic tests for alkaloids. Due to variable results of analysis no structure could be assigned to it.

The second portion of the methanolic extract gave on chromatographic separation over alumina an appreciable amount of a brownish oil which could not be purified, together with small amounts of a colourless solid, m.p. 211–12° (C, 84.3, H, 11.4; $[\alpha]_D^{25} = +28$) which gave a positive Libermann Burchard test. It was identified as lupeol by a mixed melting point with an authentic specimen and by the preparation of its acetyl derivative, m.p. 214–15° (C, 82.1; H, 11.6).

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Institute of Science,
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CHEMICAL INVESTIGATION OF
EULOPHIA NUDA LINDL.

THE plant *Eulophia nuda* Lindl. known in Sanskrit as *Manya* and in Hindi as *Goruma* belongs to the natural order Orchidaceæ. It is distributed in the tropical Himalayas from Nepal eastwards to Sikkim, Assam, Kharia hills and Burma. It is also available in the Deccan from Konkan southwards. The tubers of the

1. Chopra, R. N., *Glossary of Indian Medicinal-Plants*, 1956, p. 112 and *Review of Work on Indian Medicinal Plants*, 1955, p. 98.