FLAVONOIDS OF SOME SRI LANKAN *GARDENIA* GUMS

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Plants belonging to the genus *Gardenia* (Rubiaccae) produce a characteristic yellow bud exudate (gum), some having insect repellant properties. Claims about the medicinal properties of these gums[1] prompted us to investigate the gums of the two endemic seecies, *G. fosbergii* and *G. cramerii* and here we report the isolation of 4', 5' 7-trihydroxy-6, 8-dimethoxyflavone (I), 3, 5,5'-trihydroxy-3,4', 6,7-tetramethoxy-flavone (II), 3', 5, 6, 7-tetrahydroxy-3, 3', 5'-trimethoxyflavone (III), and 5-hydroxy-3', 4', 5', 6, 7-pentamethoxyflavone (IV) from the chloroform extract of the gums of *G. fesbergii* and the flavone (II) from the chloroform extract of the gum of *G. cramerii*. Presence of the flavone (IV) in the latter extract was indicated by TLC studies. This is the first report of the isolation of the flavone (IV) in a pure state for characterisation.

The presence of the flavones with an oxygen substituent at C-3 in the Sri Lankan *Gardenias* is of significance as none of the seventeen previously deseribed flavones from the other *Gadenias*[2] contained this substituent at C-3.

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References

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2. S. L. Chaabra, S. R. Gupta, C. S. Sharma and N. D. Sharma, *Phytochemistry*, 1977, **16**(7), 1109 and references cited therein.