

**A NOVEL PHENOLIC FRIEDELAN TRITERPENE AND
PRISTIMERIN FROM *KOKOONA ZEYLANICA* (CELASTRACEAE)**

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As a part of our continuing phytochemical studies of *Kokoona zeylanica* Thwaites (Gunatilaka *et al.*, 1979) we have investigated the outer stem bark of this plant and here we report the isolation and characterisation of pristimerin, a friedelane triterpene with reported antitumour properties, and the first natural phenolic 24-nor-D:A-friedo-oleanane triterpene, 2,3-dihydroxy-6-oxo-24-nor-D:A-friedo-oleana-1,3,5(10),7-tetraen-23,29-dioic acid methyl ester, (20 α).

The light petroleum extract of the outer stem bark was separated into neutral, phenolic and acidic fractions. Comparison of the physical data [m.p., IR, $^1\text{H-NMR}$, $[\alpha]_D^{25}$, and m.m.p.] of the major compound (0.8%) from plant material) isolated from the neutral fraction showed it to be pristimerin. Repeated chromatography of the acidic fraction afforded the new phenolic triterpene [$\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{38}\text{O}_9$, m.p. 240-242°C] whose structure was determined with the aid of spectroscopic [UV, IR, $^1\text{H-NMR}$, $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$, and MS] evidence and chemical reactions.

The above two compounds were also shown to be major constituents in the 'Kokum Soap' used by village women of Sri Lanka for cleansing the body in bathing and is known to make the skin smooth and fine (Attygalle, 1917).

References:

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