

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF KOTTEKILANGU (*BORASSUS FLABELLIFER L*)

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The young shoot of the palmyrah palm (*Borassus flabellifer L.*), commonly known as kottekilangu is a popular food item in Sri Lanka especially in the northern parts. Claims about its hepatotoxicity (Panabokke *et al.*, 1976) neurotoxicity (Greig *et al.*, 1980) and the presence of chromosome damaging and lethal factors (Arseculeratne *et al.*, unpublished results) prompted us to initiate a chemical analysis of kottekilangu. Although there are reports on the chemical composition of roots (Joachim and Kandiah, 1940), Kernel (Subramaniam *et al.*, 1956), sap (Bagehi and Basu, 1952) and fruits (Datta, 1963) of palmyrah, no systematic analysis has hitherto been performed on kottekilangu.

FOUR NEW OXYGENATED LUPANE DERIVATIVES FROM PLEUROSTYLIA OPPOSITA
(WALL) ALSTON, (CELASTRACEAE)

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Pristimerin, α -amyrin, β -sitosterol and nine triterpenes 1-9 were isolated from the benzene extract of the stem bark of *Pleurostyliya opposita* (Celastraceae). Chemical and spectroscopic evidence was used to identify compounds 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 as lup-5,20(29)-diene-3-one(2) [m.o.214°-216°, $[\alpha]_D + 64.4(\text{CHCl}_3)$]; 20-hydroxy-lupan-3-one(4)¹; 6 β , 20-dihydroxy-lupan-3-one(5) [m.p.249-252°C, $[\alpha]_D -37.5(\text{CHCl}_3)$]; 3 β ,6 β -dihydroxy-lup-20(29)-ene-3-one(6) [m.p. 196-198°C; $[\alpha]_D + 4^\circ(\text{CHCl}_3)$]; 3 β , 20-dihydroxy-lupan-3-ol(7)¹ and 6 β ,28-dihydroxy-lup-20(29)-ene-3-one(8) [m.p.228-229° $[\alpha]_D, -21,3(\text{CHCl}_3)$] respectively. Compounds 2, 5, 6 and 8 are new compounds.

A lupane derivative isolated from *Maytenus rigida* has been assigned the structure 6 α -hydroxy-lup-20-(29)-ene-3-one². Our studies indicate that this assignment is incorrect. Hence compounds 5, 6 and 8 are the first examples reported of lupanes with an oxygen substituent at C-6.

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