E 33 **FOUR BIFLAVANONES FROM *GARGINIA THWAITESII* (GUTTIFERAE)**

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The chloroform soluble fraction of the methanol extracts of the timber and bark of *C. thwaitesii* deposited on standing a sparingly soluble solid. Thin layer chromatographic examination of this solid showed it to be a mixture of four constituents. Column and preparative thin layer chromatographic separations of the solid gave the pure constituents which were identified as :

II–3,I–4',I–5,II–5,I–7,II–7–Heptahydroxy (I–3,II–8) biflavanone (1) ;
I–4',II–4',I–5,II–5,I–7,II–7–Hexahydroxy (I–3,II–8) biflavanone (2) ;
II–3,I–4',II–4',II–5',I–5,II–5,I–7,II–7–Octahydroxy (I–3,II–8) biflavanone (3) ; and
I–4',II–4',II–5',I–5,II–5,I–7,II–7–Hepthahydroxy (I–3,II–8) biflavanone (4).

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The biflavanones (1) and (2) were more predominant in the bark whereas the biflavanones (3) and (4) were more predominant in the timber. The chief constituent of the ethylacetate extract of the leaves of *G. thwaitesii* was found to be biflavanone (4). The structures of these biflavanones were elucidated by use of physical and chemical methods. These biflavanones have been previously reported from seven other *Garcinia* species. The chemotaxonomic significance of this isolation will be discussed with respect to the parts of the *Garcinia* species investigated.