

E - 35 TWO NEW PHENOLIC TRITERPENES FROM *KOKOONA ZEYLANICA* (CELASTRACEAE)

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Recently we reported the isolation of zeylasterone, the first of a new series of phenolic D : A-friedo-oleanane triterpenes from *Kokoona zeylanica*. In continuing our work on the triterpenes of the outer stem bark of this plant we investigated the minor constituents present in the phenolic and acidic fractions and report the isolation and characterisation of two natural phenolic 24-nor-D : A-friedo-oleanane triterpenes, 2,3-dihydroxy-6-oxo-23-formyl-24-nor-D : A-friedo-oleana-1,3,5 (10), 7-tetraen-29-oic acid methyl ester (20  $\alpha$ ) and 2,3-dihydroxy-6-oxo-24-nor-D : A-friedo-oleana-1,3,5 (10), 7-tetraen-23,29-dioic acid (20  $\alpha$ ), related to zeylasterone.

Column and preparative thin-layer chromatographic separation of the phenolic fraction afforded the phenolic triterpene aldehyde ( $C_{30}H_{48}O_6$ , m.p. 278-280 $^{\circ}$ , ( $\alpha$ ) $_D$ -136 $^{\circ}$ ). From the acidic fraction of the benzene extract, zeylasterone and another phenolic triterpene ( $C_{29}H_{46}O_7$ , m.p. 180-182 $^{\circ}$ , ( $\alpha$ ) $_D$ -36.5 $^{\circ}$ ) were isolated. The structures of these two compounds were determined with the aid of spectroscopic (UV, IR,  $^1H$ - and  $^{13}C$ -NMR, MS) evidence and were confirmed by inter-relating to trimethylzeylasterone which we have synthesised from pristimerin.

The above two compounds were also shown to be present in the 'kokum' soap' used by village women in Sri Lanka in bathing and known to make the skin smooth and fine.