A NEW TRITERPENOID FROM *SALACIA RETICULATA* (CELASTRACEAE)

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We have previously reported(1) the isolation of ten friedelane derivatives from the methanol insoluble fraction of the stem bark of *Salacia reticulata.*

The methanol soluble fraction was separated into two pigments and a colourless compound by chromatographic techniques. The least polar compound was the triterpene quinone-methide iquesterin. Pristimerin the most common quinone-methide in Celastraceae was found to be the major component of the extract.

SECTION E

The most polar compound isolated appeared to be a friedelane keto-diol [mp 271-273°, $(\alpha)_D$-29] from its ^{1}H-NMR spectrum. One of the hydroxy groups was found to be a primary alcohol group ($C\underline{H}_2OH$, δ4.0, dd J 12, 15 Hz) while the second was a secondary alcohol group (C$\underline{H}$OH, δ 3.7, dd J 6, 12 Hz). Acetylation gave a keto-diacetate which on reduction with Li/ethylenediamine gave four products. The least polar product was identified as 3(α)-hydroxyfriedelane suggesting that the keto group of the parent compound should be at C-3. The next two polar compounds were diols and were oxidized separately by CrO_3/pyridine to give friedelane-3, 21-dione and a friedelane keto-aldehyde which we believe is 3-oxofriedelane-26-al. The mass spectrum of the diol with m/z 291 suggests the angular methyl oxygenation is at C_{23} to C_{27}(ABC rings). The C_{23} methyl doublet is clearly shown in the ^{1}H-NMR spectrum of the keto-diol, while the keto-aldehyde was not identical to 3-oxofriedelane-27-al and 3-oxofriedelane-25-al. From the position of the $C\underline{H}_2OH$ signal in the ^{1}H-NMR spectrum and keto-diol we believe the substitution as 26 rather than 24. The coupling constants of the C$\underline{H}$OH signal suggests the 21-hydroxy group to have the 21(α) stereochemistry. The compound is therefore 21(α)26-dihydroxyfriedelan-3-one.

Reference

1. Wijeratne, D. B. T. *and* Kumar, V., *Proc. Sri Lanka Assoc. Adv. Sci.*, 37, 74 (1981).