A NEW NATURAL PHENOLIC (9-8)-24-NOR-D:A-FRIEDO-OLEANAN TRITERPENE FROM *KOKOONA ZEYLANICA*

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Recently we reported the isolation of zeylasterone, zeylasteral and desmethyl zeylasterone, a new series of phenolic D:A-friedo-oleanan triterpenes from *Kokoona zeylanica* (1)(2). In continuing our studies on this plant, we have isolated a minor constituent present in the phenolic fraction of the petroleum ether extract of the outer bark.

The structure of this minor constituent, $C_{30}H_{38}O_5$, m.p. 157-160°C, was established as 23-oxoisopristimerin III (2. 3-dihydroxy-23-oxo-(9-8)-24-nor-D:A-friedo-oleana-1, 3, 5 (10), 6, 9 (11)-pentaen-29-oic acid methyl ester (20 α)) with the aid of spectroscopic evidence.

Occurrence of 23-oxoisopristimerin III in nature is significant as its analogue, isopristimerin III could be the possible biosynthetic precursor of recently isolated novel quinone-methides in nature, pristimerinene and hydroxypristimerinene (3).

References

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