

A NEW TRITERPENE QUINONE-METHIDE FROM *ELAEODENDRON* SPECIES (CELASTRACEAE)

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Triterpene quinone-methides which have recently become important as antitumour substances are found in several Celastraceae.

Light petroleum extract of root bark of *Elaeodendron balae* was found to contain four triterpene methides of which three have been identified as Pristimerin, tingenone (1) and 20-hydroxytingenone (2) on the basis of their physical properties and by comparison with authentic samples.

The other compound was spectroscopically slightly different from hydroxytingenone. Its NMR signals were shown to be similar to that of 22-hydroxytingenone (3) except in the angular methyl region. It showed signals for four methyls in the region δ 0.75–1.31 and for a vinyl methyl at δ 1.8. The fragment at m/z 265 in the mass spectrum supports the presence of a double bond in ring C. The $UV\lambda_{max}$ at 446 nm (22-hydroxytingenone, 420 nm) suggested an extension of conjugation to 9,11. These and other data suggest the compound to be 3,22-dihydroxy-24, 29-nor-D:A-friedo-oleana-2, 5, 7, 9(11), 10(1)-pentaen-2, 21-dione for the new quinone methide.

References

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