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INVESTIGATION OF KOKOONA REFLEXA AND SURVEY OF SOME PLANTS OF CELASTRACEAE FOR PHENOLIC TRITERPENOIDS

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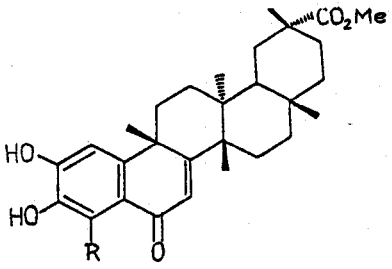
Phenolic triterpenoids were first encountered in a Sri Lankan species, Kokoona zeylanica[1] and subsequently in Celastrus paniculatus[2], both belonging to family Celastraceae. Presence of a number of new triterpenoids with diverse structures in K.zeylanica prompted us to investigate other species of this genus. K.reflexa root outer bark collected in Malaysia gave the quinone-methide, pristimerin and two phenolic triterpenoids, zeylasterone (1) and zeylasteral (2).

A survey of several other species of the family Celastraceae was carried out for the presence of phenolic triterpenoids. This study indicated the presence of (1) and (2) in K.zeylanica, K.reflexa and Celastrus paniculatus whereas these were absent in Gymnosporia emarginata, Elaeodendron balae, Pleurostylia opposita and Reissantia indica. However, quinone-methide triterpenoids are known to occur in all these species.



(1); R = CO_2H
(2); R = CHO

This work was partly funded by I.F.S.(Sweden)

References

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