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ACRIDONE ALKALOIDS FROM *PLEIOSPERMUM ALATUM* AND LUVUNGA *ANGUSTIFOLIA (RUTACEAE)*

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Acronycine, an acridone alkaloid, still remains to be the natural product showing the broadest spectrum of *in vivo* antitumour activity.[1] During our search for plant derived antitumour agents, we have earlier obtained four acridones from the roots of *Pleiospermium alatum*[2]. Further studies on the root extracts of the same plant led to the isolation, by chromatographic fractionation of the dichloromethane extract, of yellow crystalline compound, m.p. 118-119°C, which was identified as 1,5,6-trihydroxy-2,3-dimethoxy-10-methyl-9-acridone, from spectroscopic analysis (IR, UV, ^{1}H NMR, Mass) and chemical conversions.

With the same objective in mind we started chemical investigation of *Luvunga angustifolia*, a woody glabrous climber endemic to Sri Lanka. The powdered stem bark was sequentially and exhaustively extracted with n-hexane and dichloromethane. Chromatographic separation of the hexane extract afforded a yellow crystalline compound, m.p.205-207°C, which was characterized as 1,5-dihydroxy-2,3-dimethoxy-10-methyl-9-acridone from spectroscopic analysis and by comparison with an authentic sample; this alkaloid has previously been isolated from *P.alatum*[2]. This is the first report of the isolation of an acridone alkaloid from the genus *Luvunga*.

References

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