A SEARCH FOR SAPONINS IN *DIPLOCLISIA GLAUCESCENS* (MENISPERMACEAE)

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Diploclisia glaucescens (Sinhala - Ata thiththa wel) is a creeper growing in the mid country regions of Sri Lanka and India. The leaves of the plant have been used in India as a treatment for biliousness and venereal diseases. Five phytoecdysteroids have been reported from the seeds. 20-hydroxyecdysone being the major compound.[1]

The roots of *D. glaucescens* were sequentially extracted with hot petroleum ether and hot methanol. The methanolic extract was evaporated and the residue taken up in n-butanol. The latter extract gave a positive response for saponins in both the froth and hemolysis tests. Further, the methanolic extract showed strong molluscicidal activity (against the small *Biomphalaria glabrata).*

Separation of the methanolic extract gave a major compound, showing a strong positive hemolysis test but structurally neither a triterpenoidglycoside nor a steroid glycoside. This compound was shown to be the hexahydroxyketo steroid, 20-hydroxyecdysone. Identfication was based on a comparison of physical properties and spectral data of the steroid as well as of its triacetate and tetraacetate[2]. ^{13}C NMR data for the triacetate and tetraacetate as well as NOE data for the triacetate are presented.

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References

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