

A NOVEL DITERPENOID FROM CROTON OFFICINALIS (EUPHORBIACEAE)

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Croton officinalis is a medicinal plant growing in India and Sri Lanka. The hot petroleum extracts of the dried roots were partly soluble in cold petroleum. The insoluble residue when recrystallised from diethyl ether gave a white compound, m.p. 138-138.5°C, $[\alpha]_D^{25} + 215.1^\circ$ (CHCl₃, c, 1.06), which was found to be a new diterpenoid (C₂₀H₂₂O₅) and named officinalin. The analysis of its spectral data (UN, IR, ¹H NMR, 2D-HOMOCOSY-NMR, ¹³C NMR and Mass) led to the formulation of the structure of officinalin as ent-15, 16-epoxy-9, 10-friedolaba-5(10), 13(16), 14-trien-18, 6:20, 12-diollactone.

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