

COUMARINS FROM *CITRUS HYSTRIX*

L.B. de Silva*, W.H.M.W. Herath* K.Malangani Navaratne*

V.U. Ahmad** and V. Sultana**

*Medical Research Institute, Colombo 8.

**Inst. of Chemistry, University of Karachi, Pakistan.

The family Rutaceae is a rich source of coumarins. This class of compounds shows a wide range of biological activity¹. Many of the activities have been attributed to the benzofuran system and a well₂defined structure activity relationship is observed among furanocoumarins. Our search for biologically active compounds from plant sources has resulted in the chemical investigation of several Rutaceae species². The present communication describes the chemical constituents of the fruit peel of *Citrus hystrix*.

The unripe fruit peel of *C.hystrix* was extracted with hot acetone. The solvent was evaporated and the ethyl acetate soluble portion when subjected to chromatographic separation resulted in the isolation of the furanocoumarins, 5-[(3'-Methyl-2',3'-dihydroxy-butyl) oxy]-psoralen and 5-[(6',7'-dihydroxy-3',7'-dimethyl-2'-octenyl) oxy]-psoralen.

The authors are thankful to NARESA for financial support.

References

Gray, A.I. and Waterman, P.G.(1979) Phytochemistry 17:845.

De Silva, L.B., Herath, W.H.M.W., Jennings, R.C., Mahendran, M. and Wannigama, G.P. (1981) Phytochemistry, 20, 2776 and refs. cited therein.