

CONSTITUENTS OF THE STEM BARK FROM
BUTEA MONOSPERMA (LEGUMINOSAE)

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Butea monosperma O. Kuntze, Leguminosae, (Sinh. Gas Kela) is a moderate sized tree found in India, Sri Lanka, Burma and Java. The stem bark, root bark flowers and seeds of the tree find medicinal use in Sri Lanka (Jayaweera, 1981).

The pterocarpan (-)-Medicarpin (Bandara et al, 1987), lupeol, lupenone and sitosterol were isolated from the light petroleum extract of the stem bark from Butea monosperma. The dichloromethane extract yielded (-)-Medicarpin and two isoflavones. The isoflavones were established to be 5,4'-dihydroxy-7-methoxy isoflavone (Prunetin) (Dean, 1963) and 7,4'-dihydroxy-5-methoxy isoflavone (5-methoxy genistein) (Gottlieb and da Rocha, 1972). This paper describes the isolation and structural elucidation of the two isoflavones.

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References:

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