

PHYTOCHEMICAL STUDIES ON HORSFIELDIA
IRYA SEEDS (NYRISTICACEAE)

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Horsfieldia irya (S.Irya) is a tree growing in Sri Lanka, Burma, Malacca, Andaman Island, and Java. It bears bright pink fruits. The globose seed is covered by a scarlet aril¹. No work has been previously reported on this plant.

The powdered dried seeds collected from Matale were extracted successively with hot light petroleum (b.p. 40 - 60°C) and methanol. Each extract was subjected to vacuum liquid chromatography on silica gel in mixtures of light petroleum and ethyl acetate.

The light petroleum extract yielded trimyristin² and myristic acid². The methanol extract yielded trimyristin², 1-(2,6-dihydroxyphenyl)dodecan-1-one, asarin² and horsfieldin². 1-(2,6-dihydroxyphenyl)dodecan-1-one was identified by comparison of spectral data with those of 1-(2,6-dihydroxyphenyl) tetradecan-1-one³ while the other four compounds were identified by comparison of spectroscopic and melting point data with those previously reported².

Steam distillation of the seeds and aril yielded no volatile oils.

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References:

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