PRELIMINARY STUDIES ON THE CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS OF PLANT EXTRACTIVES OF GENUS *DIOSPYROS* (EBENACEAE)

G.M.Kamal B. Gunaherath and Purnima M. Jayasingha
Dept. of Chemistry, Open University, Nawala.

The family ebenaceae is represented by 32 *Diospyros* species in Sri Lanka and 21 are found to be endemic[1]. Some of them are of economic and medicinal importance. Plants belonging to Ebenaceae are rich in Naphthoquinones, but not much attention has been drawn into Sri Lankan *Diospyros* in the recent past.

In this paper we report the results of preliminary studies on Chemical constituents of *Diospyros walkery*, *D. insignis*, *D. insignis var. parvifolia* and *D. ferrea*. Hexane and chloroform extractives of stem bark of *D. walkeri* yielded plumbagin, isoshinanolone, scopoletin, umckalin, a rare mono hydroxy di-methoxy coumarin, and triterpenoids, lupeol and betulin. The hexane extract of *D. insignis* yielded plumbagin and lupeol amongst other constituents whose structure elucidations are underway. Hexane extract of *D. insignis var. parvifolia* bark clearly indicated the absence of plumbagin but the presence of lupeol, while the hexane extract of *D. ferrea* contained lupeol and betulin.

The isolation of umckalin from *D. walkeri* bark constitutes the first report of a trioxygenated coumarin from *Diospyros* species.

Acknowledgements - Authors wish to thank Dr. T. Herath, Botany Division, OUSL for identification of plant material, Prof. J. Reisch, University of Munster for spectral data and NARESA for financial assistance.

References:

1. Herath,W.H.M.W.,Rajasekera,N.D.S.,Sultanbawa, M.U.S., Wannigama, G.P. and Balasubramaniam S., 1978, Phytochemistry, 17 1007 - 1009.

2. Thomson,R.H.,(1971) Naturally Occurring Quinones, Edn. Academic Press, London.