

E2-52: Bioactivity and chemistry of *Wikstroemia indica* (Thymelaeaceae)

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The whole plant of *Wikstroemia indica* is used as a herbal remedy for the treatment of human syphilis, arthritis, whooping cough and cancer. Antileukemic and antitumor activities of both plant extracts and compounds have been reported.

Continuing our studies on the search for insecticidal compounds from Sri Lankan Thymelaeaceae, the dichloromethane extract of the root bark of *W. indica* was found to show larvicidal and aphicidal activities. Although methanolic extract of the root bark has also shown these activities to a lesser extent, it has shown moulting inhibition.

A dicoumarin, daphnoretin, two lignans, artigenin and nortrachelogenin and a flavanoid, triclin were isolated from this plant. A new flavanoid in addition to the above known compounds has been isolated from the methanolic extract of twigs and leaves. The structure of the new flavanoid was found to be 3, 5, 7, 2', 5'-pentahydroxyflavone from its spectral data (UV, IR, ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR and MS) and chemical methods.

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