

E2-53: Triterpenoid acid from *Uncaria elliptica*

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Uncaria elliptica (Rubiaceae) is a woody climber which grows mainly in the wet lowland forests of Sri Lanka. The plant is widely distributed in South East Asia, but is believed to be the only species of *Uncaria* to be found in the island.

In an earlier investigation, the plant collected from the Udawattakelle forest reserve, and identified as *U. thwaitesii* was worked up for neutral compounds and 3 interrelated triterpenoid acids isolated and identified. The structure of the major and most polar acid was established as 3 β , 6 β , 18 β - trihydroxyurs-12-en-30-oic acid (uncaric acid).

With the availability of CMR, high resolution PMR and 2D NMR spectroscopy, a re-investigation was undertaken of the structure of uncaric acid, isolated from *U. elliptica*, collected from the Kanneliya forest reserve. Analysis of the spectroscopic data showed that uncaric acid is 3 β , 6 β , 19 α -trihydroxyurs-12-en-28-oic acid.

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