

E2-55: Insecticidal compounds from *Persea gratissima*

Shanthini Saminathan, K A N Premaratne Bandara, Vijaya Kumar
(Dept of Chemistry, Univ of Peradeniya)

The leaf extract of the avocado (*Persea gratissima*, Family: Lauraceae) showed activity against *Aedes* larvae and *Aphis craccivora* adults.

The active compound was isolated from the extract through activity directed fractionation and found to be 1,2,4-trihydroxy heptadec-16-ene. The triol was found to be 30 times more active than the extract against *Aedes* larvae and 60 times more active against the aphid.

Although the triol had been previously isolated from avocado, its insecticidal activity had not been reported. In an attempt to obtain compounds of enhanced activity, the structure of the compound was chemically modified and 5 derivatives prepared. Structure-activity studies however showed that the highest activity was in the natural product.

Financial assistance from International Program in Chemical Sciences, Sweden is acknowledged.