

## E2-33 A new steroidal alkaloid from *Sarcococca brevifolia*

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Plants of the Family Buxaceae have been used in the indigenous system of medicine for the treatment of various disorders, especially malaria, rheumatism and skin infections. A large number of new steroidal alkaloids have been reported from the different species of the Family Buxaceae. *Sarcococca brevifolia* of the Family Buxaceae is an evergreen shrub growing in mid-country regions of Sri Lanka. Two *Sarcococca* species, *S.brevifolia* and *S.zeylanica* occur in Sri Lanka. Both are endemic.

No previous chemical and bioactivity work has been reported on these plants. This paper reports the isolation and structure elucidation of a new steroid alkaloid from the aerial parts of *S.brevifolia*.

The dry ground mature aerial parts of *S.brevifolia* were extracted with MeOH, Evaporation of the MeOH gave a dark brown solid, which was taken up in 2N HCl and the acidic extract was washed with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>. Basification with 20% NH<sub>4</sub>OH followed by extraction with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> gave the non-quaternary alkaloids as a brown solid. Separation of the latter over silica gel (eluent: n-hexane-EtOAc-MeOH) followed by preparative thin layer chromatography (eluent: CHCl<sub>3</sub>, chamber saturated with NH<sub>3</sub> vapour) gave 3 alkaloids. One of them was identified as I.

