E2-34 Chemical investigation of *Anogeissus latifolia*

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The Family Combretaceae consists of 20 genera and 500 species. Among them 5 genera and 12 species are distributed in Sri Lanka. Several plants of the Family Combretaceae have been known for their traditional uses in the folkloric medicine of South and South-east Asia. *Anogeissus latifolia* (Sinhala: Dawu) of the Family Combretaceae is a tree of moderate size growing in Sri Lanka. Various parts of the plant have been used in the treatment of snake-bites and for the preparation of a remedy against painful expectoration and obstruction of the windpipe by phlegm. Quercitin-3-*O*-ß-D-galactopyranosyl(1->4)-*O*-á-L-rhamnopyranoside and 3,3'-di-*O*-methylellagic acid-4'-ß-D-glucoside have been isolated from the roots and heartwood respectively of the plant.

In this paper, the isolation and identification of lupeol (**I**),betulinaldehyde(**II**), ß-sitosterol(**III**) betulinic acid(**IV**) and 4-hydroxy-3-methoxycinnamaldehyde(**V**) which have not been obtained previously from the plant, are reported.

The dry ground mature stem was extracted with *n*-hexane. Evaporation of the solvent gave a dark brown solid. Chromatographic adsorption of the *n*-hexane extract over silica gel column followed by gradient elution with *n*-hexane-EtOAc-MeOH and preparative thin layer chromatography furnished (**I**), (**II**), (**III**), (**IV**) and (**V**). The isolates were characterized by spectroscopic evidence and chemical methods.

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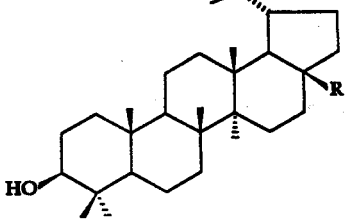
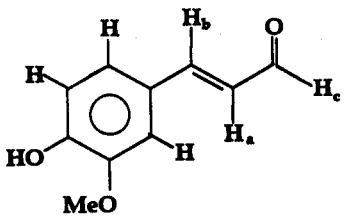


I R = CH_3
II R = CHO
IV R = COOH



V