E2-11 Oleanane triterpenoids from *Gordonia ceylanica*

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The Family Theaceae consists of 25 genera and about 250 species in the tropical and warm temperate areas of the world. In Sri Lanka we have 12 Theaceae species belonging to 5 genera. Four of these species were categorized under genus *Gordonia* and all of the *G. ceylanica* , *G.dassanayakei*, *G.speciosa* and *G.elliptica* are endemic. Though all these *Gordonia* plants are being used in traditional medicine in Sri Lanka, neither chemical nor biological investigations have been reported. Therefore the chemical characterization and the biological activity of Sri Lankan *Gordonia* species are of great interest.

The concentrated hot hexane extract was fractionated by medium pressure column using gradient elution with hexane-dichloromethane methanol mixtures. These fractions were further purified by small scale medium pressure, flash and thin layer chromatography to give 9 pure compounds; 3 of them were identified as oleananes and their structures established as 3β- acetoxyolean-12-en-11-one (**I**), 3β-acetoxyolean-12-ene (**II**) and 3β-acetoxy-28-hydroxyolean-12-ene (**III**) by spectroscopic evidence (IR,^{1}H NMR,^{13}C NMR and MS). Acid hydrolysis of compound **I** gave 3β-hydroxyolean-12-en-11-one. The structures of compound **I** and **II** were further confirmed by comparison of the spectral data with the previously reported values. The proposed structure of compound **III** was supported by the reported spectral data of erythrodiol and erythrodiol diacetate.