

E2-19: Steroidal glycosides and other constituents from *Gliricidia sepium*

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Gliricidia sepium (Leguminosae) is an introduced plant to Sri Lanka and is very common in the tea plantations as a shade plant. Though the preliminary idea of planting *G. sepium* in a tea field is to cut off direct sunlight to maintain the optimum light required for tea plants, it has been found that *G. sepium* also acts as a good diversionary host plant for *Glyptotermes dilatatus*, a tea pest responsible for causing great damage in the low country tea plantations of Sri Lanka. Insecticidal activity of heartwood and the stem bark of *G. sepium* and their organic extracts showed that their activity is significantly higher than some of the highly susceptible tea clones to the above termite. Further the feeding experiments of the different parts of the raw plant materials and the organic extracts of *G. sepium* indicated that the raw heartwood is highly toxic to *Glyptotermes dilatatus*. In our previous studies we reported the isolation and identification of a new isoflavan, 7', 4'-dihydroxy-2'-methoxyisoflavan, some flavonoids, afromosin, formonetin and isovestotol, stigmasterol and medicarpin from the heartwood of *G. sepium*.

This report describes the isolation and the structural elucidation of two steroidal glycosides, betulinic acid and a phenolic ester. These compounds were isolated from the stem bark of *G. sepium* and all compounds are new to the species. Structural elucidation was carried out by MS, ¹H & ¹³C NMR, HMQC and HMBC spectral data.