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Oleanane saponins from the leaves of Diploclisia glaucescens

In a continuation of our studies on high polar secondary metabolites of Sri Lankan plants, the present investigation was carried out on the leaves of *Diploclisia glaucescens* (Bl.) Diels (=*Cocculus macrocarpus* W. & A.). *D. glaucescens* of the family Menispermaceae is a liana growing in India and Sri Lanka. *D. glaucescens* is the only species of *Diploclisia* found in Sri Lanka. The leaves of the plant have been used in the treatment of biliousness and venereal diseases. The dry leaves of *D. glaucescens* were defatted with *n*-hexane and extracted with methanol. Chromatographic separation of the methanol extract over silica gel, sephadex LH-20 and reversed phase HPLC afforded saponins 3-*O*-_-D-glucopyranosyl(1>3)-_-D-glucopyranosyl-28-*O*-_-D-gluco pyranosyloleanolic acid(**1**) and 3-*O*-_-D-xylopyranosyl(1>2)-_-D-glucopyranosyl-28-*O*-_-D-glucopyranosyloleanolic acid (**2**). The structures of these saponins were established by detailed analysis of spectral data of **1** and **2**, and their acetates **1a** and **2a**, including NOE, H-H and C-H COSY experiments, positive FAB mass spectrometry (MS) and acid hydrolysis.