Saponins and Sapogenins. XXVI.* On the Second Sapogenins of Maharashtrian *Albizzia Odoratissima*, Benth. Seeds

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In an earlier communication[1] *Albizzia odoratissima* Benth. seeds from Mahrashatra have been reported to contain a mixture of saponins which, on sulphuric acid hydrolysis, yields two acid sapogenins acetates which melt at 228—234°C and 260—265°C respectively. The acetate with the m. p. of 260—265°C has earlier been identified as that of Machaerinic acid (3, 21-dihydroxy-olean-12-ene-18β-28-oic acid).[1]

The unidentified second acid sapogenin, the acetate with the m. p. of 228—234°C, after repeated crystallizations melted at 232—234°C. It was deacetylated with a methanolic sodium hydroxide solution on a water bath; the free genin was obtained by the decomposition of the sodium salt with hydrochloric acid and had a m. p. of 267—270°C. The acetate, on reaction with diazomethane, was recovered unchanged. The melting points of the genin and of the acetate and the non-formation of acetyl methyl ester indicated that the genin might be identical with acacic acid. A direct comparison by mixed melting point and infrared spectra showed that the genin is identical with acacic acid, which has recently been assigned the formula 3, 16, 21-trihydroxy-olean-12-ene-28-oic acid[2] and in which the 3- and 16-hydroxyl groups are in the β-position.[3] Acacic acid is widely distributed in the seeds and the bark of the members of the *Leguminosae* family.[4]

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* Part XXI: See Ref. 2.

1) I. P. Varshney and M. S. Y. Khan, *J. Pharm. Sci.*, 51, 923 (1961).

2) I. P. Varshney and K. M. Shamsuddin, unpublished results.

3) I. P. Varshney and K. M. Shamsuddin, *Tetrahedron Letters*, No. 30. 2055 (1964).

4) I. P. Varshney, "Leguminosae Saponins," Symposium on "Glycosides and Saponins," Calcutta, 1964, C. S. I. R. (in press) and the references cited therein.