

SHORT COMMUNICATION

DITERPENOIDS FROM *ENHYDRA FLUCTUANS**

S. C. PAKRASHI, P. P. GHOSH DASTIDAR and S. K. GUPTA† (in part)

Indian Institute of Experimental Medicine, Calcutta-32, India

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Plant. *Enhydra fluctuans* Lour—Compositae (tribe, Heliantheae).

Occurrence. Tropical and sub-tropical regions. Only species recorded in India found in Bihar, West Bengal and Assam.

Uses. Leaves—laxative, anti-inflammatory, anti-bilious and demulcent, for skin and nervous diseases.^{1,2} Plant possesses very high folic acid activity.³

Previous work. Dry plant (EtOH⁴ and light petroleum extr.⁵). On sister species, none.

Whole Plant: Light Petroleum Extract

(Concentrate chromatographed, silica gel; light petroleum:C₆H₆ (8:2) fractions.)

Myricyl alcohol, C₃₀H₆₂O (m.p., mxd. m.p. of alcohol and acetate).

Enhydrin,⁵ C₂₃H₂₈O₁₀ (m.p., [α]_D, i.r., u.v., NMR mass spectrum).

New Cpd. A, C₂₃H₂₈O₉, m.p. 201°, [α]_D -30.56 (CHCl₃; c. = 1.06), $\nu_{\max}^{\text{nujol}}$ 1775, 1772, 1740, 1727, 1670, 1635, 1405 (m), 1377, 1250, 1235 cm⁻¹. (Found: M⁺ 448; C, 61.28; H, 6.12; O, 32.74. Calc. for C₂₃H₂₈O₉: Mol. wt. 448; C, 61.60; H, 6.30; O, 32.07.)

(-)-*Kauran-16-ol*,⁶ C₂₀H₃₄O (m.p., [α]_D, i.r., NMR, mass spec.; acetate; m.p., [α]_D, i.r.).

(-)-*Kaur-16-en-19-oic acid*,⁷ C₂₀H₃₀O₂ (m.p., [α]_D, i.r., NMR, mass spec.; methyl ester, m.p., [α]_D).

Stigmasterol,⁴ C₂₉H₄₈O (m.p., mxd. m.p. [α]_D, i.r., and TLC of sterol, its acetate and benzoate): from light petroleum:C₆H₆ (1:1) fractions.

New Cpd. B, C₂₀H₃₀O₃, m.p. 175°, [α]_D -85.4° (CHCl₃; c. = 1.11) $\nu_{\max}^{\text{nujol}}$ 1739, 1695, 1258, 1000, 805 cm⁻¹. δ_{CDCl_3} 1.00 (s, 3), 1.28 (s, 3), 2.83 (m, 1), 5.18 (s, 2), 5.40 (um, 1). m/e 318, 300, 285, 272, 260, 257, 255, 254, 239. (Found: C, 74.7; H, 9.41. Calc. for C₂₀H₃₀O₃: $\frac{1}{2}$ H₂O: C, 74.37; H, 9.36.) From petroleum ether:benzene (3:7) fractions.

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† Present address: Department of Pharmacology, All India Institute of Medicinal Sciences, New Delhi.

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