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GLABRACHROMENE-II, A MINOR CONSTITUENT OF SEEDS OF *PONGAMIA GLABRA*

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In continuation of our earlier investigations (1-3) of *Pongamia glabra* seeds, we report here the isolation of glabrachromene-II, *i.e.*, 2′-hydroxyl-3,4-methylenedioxy-2″,2″-dimethylpyrano [3′,4′,5″,6″]chalcone. Its uv, ir, and pmr spectra agreed with the reported data (4,5). Full details of the isolation and identification are available on request to the senior author.

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TRITERPENES AND STEROLS FROM *OCIMUM SPICATUM*

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Continuing our screening of the Somali flora, we investigated *Ocimum spicatum* Deflers (1) (synonymous: *Ocimum superbum* Busc. and Muschl., *Ocimum cylindrostachys* Schwfth ex Loes. and Schl., *Ocimum hararense* Auct non Guerke: Chiovenda), family Labiatae, Somali name *reexaan weyn*. The species is rather widespread in Somalia, especially on alluvial soils and along the Wabi Shebeli River. It is a perennial herbaceous shrub, up to 80 cm high, with oblong leaves, characterized by a typical, strobyliform spike. In traditional medicine, the leaves and flowers are boiled in a meat broth and used as an antiabortive.

Usual chromatographic fractioning of the extract (see Experimental Section) yielded the sterols stigmasterol and sitosterol, with minor amounts of campesterol, and the triterpenes acids oleanolic acid (3β-hydroxy-olean-12-en-oic acid) with small amounts of maslinic acid (2α,3β-dihydroxy-olean-12-en-28-oic acid) and 3-epi-maslinic acid (2α,3α-dihydroxy-olean-12-en-28-oic acid). The latter products arise from biogenetic oxidation of oleanolic acid. No oxidized derivative of ursolic acid occurs in the species. Neither diterpenes nor flavones occurs in *O. spicatum*, whereas the other Somali species *O. canum* Sims contains the flavones salvigenin and nevadensin as well as ursolic acid in addition to oleanolic acid (2).

Full details of the isolation and identification are available on request to the senior author.