

## Antiviral Activity of Triterpenoid Saponins

Through his letter in the Open Forum section in the January 1975 issue of *J. Pharm. Sci.*, we are pleased to note that Dr. Alberto I. Calabrese had reported antiviral activity of hederin, a triterpenoid saponin, as early as 1949<sup>1</sup>. However, there was no way that we could have encountered this reference during our routine literature search on antiviral activity of triterpenoid saponins, the subject of our recent communication<sup>2</sup>, since even in the *Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus*<sup>3</sup>, cited by Dr. Calabrese, the paper on hederin is listed *only* under the author's name. Further, this citation gives only the title, "La hederina, un nuevo antibiotico," with no indication of the antiviral activity.

We are grateful to Dr. Calabrese for bringing to the attention of *J. Pharm. Sci.* readers his original work published in 1949 and we regret not being able to locate this reference earlier.

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<sup>1</sup> A. I. Calabrese, *Semana Med.*, 1, 116(1949).

<sup>2</sup> G. S. Rao, J. E. Sinsheimer, and K. W. Cochran, *J. Pharm. Sci.*, 63,

471(1974).

<sup>3</sup> A. I. Calabrese, *Quart. Cumul. Index Medicus*, 45, 233(1949).

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## Pharmacognocist versus Pharmacognosist

In a recent issue of this Journal (Dec. 1974, p. ix), an advertisement appeared for a "Staff Pharmacognocist." Although those of us who claim to be practitioners of pharmacognosy are always happy to see a continued need for our offspring in the industry, I would like to point out a not too uncommon error in the spelling of "pharmacognocist." The correct spelling of this unusual type of individual is, of course, pharmacognosist, being derived from the word pharmacognosy. All too often, those in the pharmaceutical sciences make the error of correlating the spelling of pharmacognocist with that of pharmacist which, of course, is derived from pharmacy.

This reminds me of an article that I once wrote for a student magazine, which was entitled "Ysongocamrahp." The point that I attempted to get across was that it matters little whether we spell pharmacognosy in the conventional manner, or backward, people still do not know what it means.

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