What is Odoratin?

Keyphrases □ Odoratin—recommended assignment of name only to isolate from *Cedrela odorata* □ Undecanortriterpenoids—odoratin, recommended assignment of name only to isolate from *Cedrela odorata* □ *Cedrela odorata*—recommended assignment of odoratin as name for isolate from *Cedrela odorata* only

To the Editor:

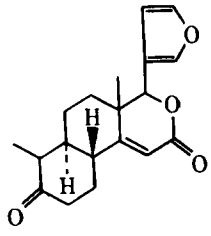
In 1966, Chan *et al.* (1, 2) assigned the name odoratin (I) to a novel undecanortriterpenoid isolated from the West Indian cedar *Cedrela odorata* L. (Meliaceae). To our knowledge, this was the first time that the name odoratin was assigned to any plant principle.

Two years later, Ortega *et al.* (3) isolated a novel pseudoguaianolide (II) from the Mexican Compositae *Hymenoxys odorata* DC. and also assigned it the trivial name odoratin.

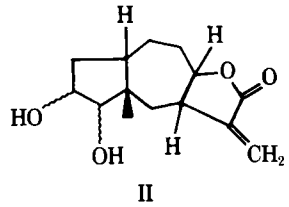
In 1973, Bose *et al.* (4, 5) reported the isolation of a novel chalcone from *Eupatorium odoratum* L. (Compositae), which was shown to be 6′-hydroxy-4,2′,3′,4′-tetramethoxychalcone (III), and confused the literature further by naming it odoratin.

Finally, Galina and Gottlieb (6) and Hayashi and Thomson (7) simultaneously reported the isolation of a novel isoflavone from *Pterodon apparicioi* Pedersoli (Leguminosae) and *Dipteryx odorata* Willd. (Leguminosae), respectively. This compound also was assigned (7) the name odoratin (IV) and subsequently was synthesized (8).

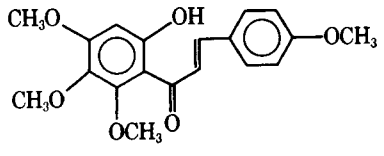
In spite of the repetitive assignments of the trivial name odoratin to four classes of natural products over an 8-year period, odoratin recently has been used again to designate the chalcone (III) isolated from *Eupatorium odoratum* (9) and the pseudoguaianolide (II) isolated from *Baileya pauciradiata* Harv. and Gray (Compositae) (10).



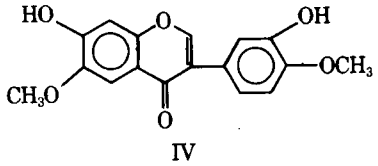
I



II



III



IV

Because of the confusion created by this failure to check the literature prior to the assignment of a trivial name, we suggest that the name odoratin be retained for the first isolate, the undecanortriterpenoid represented by I. Structures II–IV should be referred to by the systematic names 3,4,8β-trihydroxyambros-11(13)-en-12-oic acid γ-lactone (II), 6′-hydroxy-4,2′,3′,4′-tetramethoxychalcone (III), and 7,3′-dihydroxy-6,4′-dimethoxyisoflavone (IV).

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Monitoring *In Vivo* Disintegration Time of Tablets by External Scintigraphy

Keyphrases □ Disintegration—monitoring of *in vivo* tablet disintegration time by external scintigraphy □ Scintigraphy, external—monitoring of *in vivo* tablet disintegration time □ Tablets—disintegration *in vivo*, monitoring by external scintigraphy

To the Editor:

Several investigators developed techniques for the determination of *in vivo* disintegration times of pharmaceutical solid formulations. One technique had the tablet attached at the end of a string. The tablet was administered orally; at predetermined time intervals, the tablet was pulled back, and the degree of disintegration was observed (1). In another case, the tablet was recovered by inducing vomiting (1). Other techniques involved direct visualization of the tablet in the stomach by means of a gastroscope or a fiberscope (1, 2) or by using roentgenography or fluoroscopy with or without a radiopaque material

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