

Triterpenoid Constituents from *Gardenia imperialis*

Short Communication

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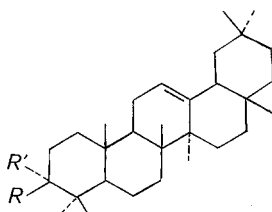
From the root bark of *Gardenia imperialis* two triterpenoids were isolated and identified as pulcherrol (= 3-epi- β -amyrin) and β -amyrin acetate.

(Keywords: *Gardenia imperialis*; Rubiaceae; Triterpenoids)

Triterpenoide von Gardenia imperialis (Kurze Mitteilung)

Aus der Rinde der Wurzeln von *Gardenia imperialis* wurden zwei Triterpene isoliert, die als Pulcherrol (= 3-epi- β -Amyrin) und β -Amyrinacetat identifiziert wurden.

Several species of *Gardenia* (*G. turgida*, *G. jasminoides*, *G. gummifera*, *G. latifolia*, *G. pomodora*, *G. voglii*, *G. jovis-tonantis*) were previously analysed [1–8], but no study was reported on *G. imperialis*. This communication reports the isolation and identification of triterpenoid constituents from the root bark of this plant.



	R	R'
1	OAc	H
2	H	OH

The roots of *G. imperialis* were collected in the vicinity of Kimwenza (the region of Kinshasa) and authenticated by a voucher specimen *H. Breyne* 3710 kept in the herbarium of the Inera, Faculty of Sciences, University of Kinshasa.

The dried and powdered root bark of *G. imperialis* was first macerated then percolated with petrol (40–60 °C). The petrol extract was separated by repeated column chromatography with *n*-hexane—CHCl₃ gradient elution and TLC-monitoring (petrol—CHCl₃ 10 : 1).

Two compounds were obtained and identified as β-amyrin acetate (**1**) and 3-epi-β-amyrin (**2**) by direct comparison of their physical and spectral data with those of authentic samples, and those reported in literature [8, 9].

This is the first report of isolation of these compounds from *Gardenia* genus.

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