

petrol.-benzene 1:1. Further elution with Et₂O-MeOH 9:1 gave a crude mixture (12.5 g) of alcohols (TLC, IR) which was rechromatographed over alumina II. Careful elution with benzene (TLC controlled) gave simiarenol (150 mg) as pure colourless crystals. Further elution gave a mixture of the two unidentified alcohols followed finally by β -sitosterol.

Acknowledgements—We thank Dr. E. S. Waight of Imperial College, London and Mr. M. A. Adesida of this Department for MS and NMR spectral analyses respectively. We acknowledge the financial support of the University of Ife, through a research grant for the project on hypotensive plants.

Phytochemistry, 1972, Vol. 11, p. 3094. Pergamon Press. Printed in England.

VERBENACEAE

LAMIIDE FROM *CHASCANUM CERNUUM**

H. RIMPLER

WE Pharmakognosie der Freien Universität Berlin, Berlin, Deutschland

(Received 4 June 1972. Accepted 12 June 1972)

Key Word Index—*Chascanum cernuum*; Verbenaceae; iridoids; lamiide.

Plant. *Chascanum cernuum* (L.) E. MEY. *Source.* South Africa, Cape, District Simons-town.

Leaf and stem. (145 g). Isolation by standard procedures¹ gave an impure iridoid-fraction with one main constituent. Column chromatography on silica gel (*n*-BuOH-MeOH-H₂O, 4:1:5) followed by gel filtration on Sephadex afforded 1.7 g of a pure amorphous compound (1.2%). The properties of this compound and of its penta- and hexa-acetates are identical with those reported² for lamiide and its acetates respectively (NMR, UV, IR, optical rotation, m.p.). The MS is in agreement with this structure.

The penta-acetate is identical with an authentic sample, which was kindly provided by Dr. M. L. Scarpati, University of Rome.

Voucher specimens are deposited in WE Pharmakognosie der Freien Universität Berlin.

Acknowledgements—We are indebted to the Chief of the Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria, Department of Agricultural Technical Services, for the collection and identification of the plant material. Our thanks are due to Mrs. E. M. Cybulski for her able technical assistance and to Mr. Grelbig and Mr. Teschmann, WE Pharmazie der FU Berlin, for recording the NMR- and MS respectively. We gratefully acknowledge financial support from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

* Part IV in the series "Iridoids and Ecdysones from Verbenaceae". For Part III see *Phytochem.* **11**, 3096 (1972).

¹ H. RIMPLER, *Arch. Pharmaz.* in press.

² M. L. SCARPATI and M. GUIISO, *Gazz. Chim. Ital.* **99**, 1150 (1969).