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## MELIACEAE

# EXTRACTIVES FROM *SOYMIDA FEBRIFUGA*

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*Soymida* is a monotypic genus of the order Meliaceae, occurring in Indomalaysia. We have examined the wood and bark of *S. febrifuga* A. Juss for limonoids. The timber of the specimen we examined contained no detectable amount of limonoids, the bark contained approximately 0·1 % of methyl angolensate, identical with an authentic specimen.[1] These results are in agreement with the botanical conclusion[2] that *Soymida* is closely related to the African genus *Khaya* which we have already investigated extensively.[1] Specimens of the plant have been examined anatomically and physically at the Forest Products Laboratory, Princes Risborough, England and found to agree with those in their reference collection.

[1] G. A. ADESIDA, E. K. ADESOGAN, D. A. OKORIE, D. A. H. TAYLOR and B. T. STYLES, *Phytochem.* **10**, 1845 (1971).
[2] Personal communication from Dr. B. T. STYLES.

*Key Word Index—Soymida febrifuga*; Meliaceae; methyl angolensate.

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# OBTUSIFOLIOL, SYRINGETIN AND DIHYDROSYRINGETIN FROM *SOYMIDA FEBRIFUGA*

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*Plant. Soymida febrifuga. Source.* Kakinada Forest Division, Andhra Pradesh, India. *Previous work.* Methyl angolensate from stem bark.[1]

Petroleum extract of root heartwood yielded sitosterol and a colourless compound, m.p. 144°; positive Liebermann–Burchardt reaction; MW 426, $C_{30}H_{50}O$; yields monoacetate, vinylidene group seen in IR and PMR spectra (see Experimental). This was identified as obtusifoliol,[2] confirmed by direct comparison with authentic material. Further extraction with $CHCl_3$ yielded two flavonoids; syringetin, golden yellow needles, m.p. 288° and dihydrosyringetin, needles m.p. 228°. Syringetin MW 346, $C_{17}H_{14}O_8$, yielded a tetraacetate and a tetraethyl ether mixed with a small quantity of triethyl ether. The oxygenation pattern became clear from the PMR spectrum (see Experimental) of the tetraethyl ether in which appropriate signals corresponding to protons at C-6, C-8, C-2′ and C-6′,

[1] R. Y. AMBAYE, M. A. INDAP and T. B. PANSE, *Current Sci.* 7, 158 (1971).
[2] J. B. BARRERA, J. L. BRETON, J. D. MARTIN and A. G. GONZALIZ, *Anales real soc. espan fis. y. quim.* **63B**, 191 (1967).