Oxidation of II. A soln of II (100 mg) in Me_2CO (5 ml) at 0° was treated with Jones reagent till the orange colour persisted, left at room temp. for 15 min, poured into H_2O (400 ml) and extracted with EtOAc. Dry column chromatography (C_6H_6–EtOAc, 4:1) of the residue gave III, fine needles, m.p. 151–153°, $[\alpha]_D$ −221° (*c* 0·10) (Found: C, 59·61; H, 6·44; N, 7·17. $C_{18}H_{22}O_5N_2$ requires: C, 59·33; H, 6·64; N, 7·69%). λ_{max}^{EtOH} 323 nm (ε 320). ν $1780_{max}^{CHCl_3}$ (γ-lactone), 1740 cm^{-1} (CO). NMR: τ 7·86 (3H, *s*, OAc), 8·15 (3H, broad *s*, Me–C_{10}).

Artemisiifolin. Ia, eluted with C_6H_6–EtOAc (7:3). Prisms, m.p. 128–130°, $[\alpha]_D$ 53°. Yields the *diacetate* Ic, identical with the product obtained from Ib (TLC, IR, NMR spectra superimposable). Ia was also obtained from cnicin by the procedure described,[2] and by saponification of Ib; both reaction products proved to be identical with the natural sample (m.m.p., TLC, IR, NMR spectra superimposable).

Salonitolide IV, eluted with C_6H_6–EtOAc (1:1). Neeldes, m.p. 183–184°, $[\alpha]_D$ 116°. It was shown to be identical with authentic material (m.m.p., TLC, IR, NMR spectra superimposable). IV was also obtained by hydrogenating Ia and by $NaBH_4$ treatment of Ib in EtOH as usual.

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KAURANOID DITERPENES IN *ESPLETIA* SPECIES

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Plants. E. humbertii; E. littlei; E. timotensis. Previous work. None.

Present work. Dried leaves and bark of *Espletia littlei* were ground and extracted with light petrol. The acidic fractions from these extracts were obtained by treatment with 5% Na_2CO_3, the components separated by chromatography on SiO_2 columns, and identified by comparison with authentic specimens. (−)-Kaur-9(11)-16-dien-19-oic acid,[1] $C_{20}H_{28}O_2$ (M^+ 300), m.p. 155–158°, $[\alpha]_{578}$ 33 (EtOH), IR, NMR and m.m.p. was isolated from all three species. In addition to this 15-α-hydroxy-kaur-16-en-19-oic acid,[2] $C_{20}H_{30}O_3$ (M^+ 318), m.p. 220–223°, IR, NMR and m.m.p. was obtained from *E. timotensis;* (−)-16-α-hydroxy-kaurane, $C_{20}H_{34}O$ (M^+ 290), m.p. 211–215°, $[\alpha]_{578}$ −38($CHCl_3$), IR, NMR and 15-α-acetoxy-kaur-16-en-19oic acid,[1] $C_{22}H_{32}O_4$ (M^+ 360), m.p. 172–173°, $[\alpha]_{578}$ −81° ($CHCl_3$), IR, NMR and m.m.p. were isolated from *E. humbertii.*

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