Plant. M. nitida Benth. (Hong Kong Herbarium voucher Specimen No. 6903). *Previous work*. None.

Leaves. Friedelin and friedelan-3β-ol as for *M. dielsiana* leaves.

Stems. Extracted light petrol., chromatographed—alumina): Friedelin from light petrol.–benzene (4:1) fractions. Taraxerone from light petrol.–benzene (7:3) fractions. Friedelan-3β-ol from light petrol.–benzene (1:1) fractions. Taraxerol $C_{30}H_{50}O$ (m.p., m.m.p., $[\alpha]_D$, IR) from light petrol.–benzene (2:3) fractions. A sterol mixture from benzene fractions, as for *M. dielsiana* stems.

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TRITERPENOIDS OF *ISERTIA HYPOLEUCA* LEAVES*†

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Key Word Index—*Isertia hypoleuca*; Rubiaceae; α-amyrin; sitosterol; taraxasterol.

Plant. Isertia hypoleuca Benth. *Occurrence*. Ecuador,[1] Brazil,[2,3] Colombia,[4–6] the Guianas,[7] Panama,[8] Peru,[5,9] Venezuela.[6] *Source*. Leticia, Colombia. *Uses*. Unknown. *Previous work*. Alkaloids,[10,11] biological and phytochemical screening.[12]

* Part III in the series "Constituents of *Isertia hypoleuca*". For Part II see C. A. LAU-CAM and J. TASHIRO, *Phytochem.* **10,** 1655 (1971).

† Experimental work reported herein was conducted at the University of Rhode Island, College of Pharmacy.

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[12] C. A. LAU-CAM, C. O. WARD, A. TANG and A. ASKARI, unpublished results.

Leaves. The dried, powdered material was extracted with light petrol. (b.p. 30–60°). The concentrated extract was saponified and worked up as described by Scheuer *et a.*.[13] An ethereal solution of the unsaponifiable fraction was successively extracted with 5% aq. $NaHCO_3$ and 5% aq. KOH solutions, and then evaporated to dryness. The residue was chromatographed on a column of neutral alumina.

The benzene eluate contained a mixture of sitosterol and α-amyrin, resolved by preparative TLC (benzene–Et_2O, 7:3, silica gel G). Sitosterol, $C_{29}H_{50}O$, m.p. 135–137°, $[\alpha]_D$ −35° (L.B. test, m.m.p., IR, co-TLC); acetate, m.p. 125–127°, $[\alpha]_D$ −39° (m.m.p., IR, co-TLC). α-Amyrin, $C_{30}H_{50}O$, m.p. 185–186° (L.B. test of triterpene, TNM, m.m.p., IR, co-TLC); acetate, m.p. 210–220° (m.m.p., IR, co-TLC); α-amyrenone, m.p. 121–123° (2,4-DNPH and TNW tests, IR, co-TLC). More sitosterol was eluted with Et_2O. The benzene–Et_2O (9:1) eluate gave a mixture of three substances resolved by preparative TLC (benzene–MeOH, 4:1, silica gel G) into sitosterol (identified as above), unknown A, m.p. 170–172° (L.B. test of triterpene, TNM, IR acetate, m.p. 62–64°) and of unknown B (trace).

Dilution of the 5% aq. KOH solution followed by cooling furnished taraxasterol, m.p. 222–224° (L.B. test of triterpene, TNM, IR, co-TLC): acetate, m.p. 238–241°; deacetylation product, m.p. 221–223°; benzoate, m.p. 238–241°. Acidification of the alkaline solution, extraction with ether and evaporation of the ethereal extract to dryness yielded unknown C, m.p. 239–241° (dec.), MW 452 (M^+) (L.B. test of triterpene, TNM, IR).

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A NOVEL WITHANOLIDE FROM *DATURA QUERCIFOLIA*

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Key Word Index—*Datura quercifolia*; Solanaceae; withanolide; daturalactone.

During the chemical investigation of *Withania somnifera* a new type of steroidal lactone has been reported.[1] Recently, similar withanolides have been reported from *Jaborosa integrifolia*.[2,3] In this communication we report the presence of a similar type of withanolide, named here as daturalactone from *Datura quercifolia.*

During the screening of *Datura* species for the alkaloid hyoscine, a novel compound close to withanolides in structure was extracted from leaves of *D. quercifolia* HBK with benzene and purified by repeated crystallization from light petrol.–benzene mixture (1:1).

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