A NORDITERPENE LACTONE FROM *PODOCARPUS HALLII*

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The isolation of totarol, 16-hydroxytotarol, 16-oxototarol, sugiol, podocarpic acid and two unidentified compounds from a methanolic extract of the heartwood of *Podocarpus hallii* has been reported previously [1] One of the unidentified compounds (compound *C*) which crystallized from an ether extract of the methanolic residue has now been identified as the known norditerpene lactone, sellowin-*A* [2] (I)
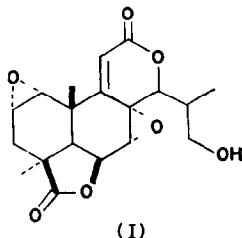
(I)

Compound-*C* was chromatographed on alumina with EtOAc to give material, m p. 298–299° (lit.[2] for sellowin-*A*, 298°) The IR (KBr) and UV (MeOH) spectra showed bands for an α,β-unsaturated δ-lactone and a γ-lactone while the NMR spectrum in pyridine-d^5 could be compared with that reported for sellowin-*A* in DMSO-d^6 (1 16, *d*, 7, Me 16, 1·36, *s*, Me 18, 1·43, *s*, Me 19, 3·23, *d*, 4, H1, 3·33, *m*, H2, 2 22, *dd*, 2·16, H3, 1·65, *dd*, 2 16, H3; 1·78, *d*, 4, H5, 5·12, *dd*, 1·5, 4, H6, 4 30, *d*, 1 5, H7, 6·12, *s*, H11, 4 77, *d*, 5, H14, 2 2, *m*, H15) The high resolution MS gave a molecular ion at m/e 362 ($C_{19}H_{22}O_7$), base peak at m/e 305, and other fragments consistent with those reported for sellowin-*A* Formation of a monoacetate, m p 245–247° (lit [2] 246–247)° confirmed the identity of compound *C*

Sellowin-*A* strongly inhibited growth of a pea stem hook segments giving a typical podolactone type response [3]

[1] CAMBIE, R C , SIMPSON, W R J and COLEBROOK, L D (1963) *Tetrahedron* **19**, 209

[2] SANCHEZ, W E , BROWN, K S , NISHIDA, T , DURHAM, L J and DUFFIELD, A M (1970) *An Acad Brasil Cienc* **42**, 77

[3] GALBRAITH, M N , HORN, D H S , SASSE, J M and ADAMSON, D (1970) *Chem Commun* 170