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3-METHYLCARBAZOLE FROM *CLAUSENA HEPTAPHYLLA**

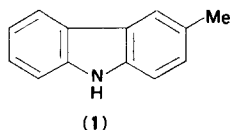
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Key Word Index—*Clausena heptaphylla*; Rutaceae; alkaloid 3-methyl carbazole.

IN CONTINUATION of our investigations on the carbazoles of *Clausena heptaphylla* Wt. and Arn.,¹⁻³ we now report the occurrence of 3-methylcarbazole (**1**) in the roots of the plant.



The neutral fraction of the oily product obtained from the petrol. (40–60°) extract of the plant, on keeping in the refrigerator and careful chromatography over alumina, furnished a homogeneous (TLC) crystalline constituent, $C_{13}H_{11}N$, m.p. 207° which gave a picrate m.p. 176°. It had UV spectrum (λ_{max}^{EtOH} 230, 236, 243, 260, 296, 330 nm, with $\log \epsilon$ 4.61, 4.63, 4.37, 4.27, 4.28, 3.60) almost superimposable with that of 3-methylcarbazole.⁴ The position of the methyl group at 3-position was readily discernible from the IR spectrum of the compound (ν_{max}^{KBr} 3450, 1600, 1493, 1390, 885, 808 cm^{-1}), the band at 808 cm^{-1} being characteristic for 3-methylcarbazole.⁵ The identity of the compound was further established by direct comparison of an authentic specimen of 3-methylcarbazole obtained in our laboratory (IR, m.m.p., UV, TLC).⁶

The first isolation of 3-methylcarbazole from a plant source is significant from biogenetic considerations as all the phytocarbazoles, so far isolated, have a 3-methylcarbazole skeleton or a modification thereof.

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* Part XXXIV in the series "Chemical Taxonomy." For Part XXXIII see Ref. 2.

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