phenone (150 mg) and benzoyl chloride (500 mg) in dry Py were left at room temp. during 24 hr. The mixture was poured on ice, HCl added until pH6 and extracted with EtOAc. After washing with aq. $NaHCO_3$ and H_2O, evapn of the extract led to an oily, chromatographically homogeneous benzoate (375 mg) which was dissolved in DMSO (10 ml) Powdered NaOH (800 mg) was added, the mixture shaken during 5 min before addition of ice, left at room temp. for 30 min, neutralized with HOAc and extracted with EtOAc. After washing with $NaHCO_3$ and H_2O, evapn left a brown residue which was dissolved in C_6H_6. Impurities were pptd by hexane, filtered and the crude product separated by further addition of hexane After successive crystallizations in MeOH–H_2O, Et_2O–hexane and C_6H_6, 38 mg (17%) colorless crystals were obtained, mp 165–167° (lit. 166–167°) undepressed by mixing with natural 3-formyl-2,4,6-trihydroxy-5-methyldibenzoylmethane. IR spectra (KBr) were superimposable and both products gave only one spot (bright yellow under UV, orange with diazotized benzidine without spraying Na_2CO_3) and the same R_f on TLC

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HESPERETIN 7-RHAMNOSIDE FROM *CORDIA OBLIQUA*

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Key Word Index—*Cordia obliqua*; Boraginaceae, hesperetin 7-rhamnoside, flavanone

The ethanolic extract of the roots of *Cordia obliqua* (Boraginaceae) yielded hesperetin 7-*O*-α-L-rhamnopyranoside. The species is commonly known as 'Lasora' in Hindi and various parts of the plant are used medicinally. Although hesperetin is a well known flavanone, its 7-rhamnoside has not previously been reported in plants.

EXPERIMENTAL

The powdered roots of the *Cordia obliqua* were extracted exhaustively with hot EtOH which on concn and keeping at 0 for 2 days deposited white crystals which are being further studied. The filtrate was diluted with H_2O and the insoluble portion was extracted with EtOAc to give the reported glycoside, which was crystallised from EtOAc–petrol and shown to be homogeneous by PC and TLC. The glycoside was a yellowish-brown solid, $C_{22}H_{24}O_{10}$, (C= 58.90; H = 5.33; Calc. C = 58.92; H = 5.35%). Acid hydrolysis afforded hesperetin, $C_{16}H_{14}O_6$, mp 222–223° (*d*) (UV, IR, acetate, methoxyl, alkaline degradation) and L-rhamnose (mp, mmp, PC and osazone). The location of the sugar linkage was established by spectral means and by specific colour reactions

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