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XANTHONES FROM GUTTIFERAE

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Abstract—Since the last review in 1980, over eighty new xanthones have been isolated from the Guttiferae. These are listed with reference to structure elucidation and synthesis. The distribution of xanthones is examined in relation to the taxonomic divisions of the Guttiferae Xanthone biosynthesis is discussed in the light of new biosynthetic results and the various pharmacological properties of xanthones are summarized

INTRODUCTION

As the quest for new natural products continues, it becomes increasingly clear that xanthones are very restricted in occurrence. The majority of natural xanthones have been found in just two families of higher plants—Guttiferae and Gentianaceae [1] Simple, oxygenated xanthones occur in both families and are generally more highly oxygenated in the Gentianaceae. Prenylated xanthones are widely distributed in the Guttiferae but not known in the Gentianaceae, and whereas O-glycosylxanthones are common in the Gentianaceae [2], only two have been reported from the Guttiferae

Xanthones occur sporadically throughout the remainder of the plant kingdom. The Moraceae contain several Guttiferae-type prenylated xanthones and the Polygalacae, simple hydroxy- and alkoxyxanthones [1]. C-Glucosylxanthones have been found in certain ferns, and in over one hundred species of higher plants [3], and fungi produce xanthones with substitution patterns characteristic of their acetate derivation [4].

Several earlier reviews have summarized the literature on xanthones [5-10], with emphasis on biosynthesis [7, 8], synthesis [6, 9] or phylogeny [10]. In the last review in 1980, Sultanbawa listed 95 xanthones from the Guttiferae [1]. Since then there has been a steady stream of reports in which more than 80 new xanthones have been characterized and many known xanthones re-isolated from ca 60 species of Guttiferae.

The aim of this review is to summarize the recent work on xanthones from the Guttiferae as a supplement to the 1980 review. The combined data will then be studied from a chemotaxonomic point of view to determine if any patterns of xanthone distribution exist within the family, and the implications of new biosynthetic results will be discussed. Structure elucidation, synthesis, and pharmacology will also be covered.

DISTRIBUTION

The family Guttiferae numbers over 1000 species, mainly confined to the tropics—the major exception being the genus *Hypericum*, which occurs widely in

temperate regions. According to Engler's Syllabus [11] the family comprises six subfamilies (Table 1). The subfamily Hypericoideae has been treated by some taxonomists (notably Hutchinson [12]) as a separate family, but the recent surge of interest in the chemistry of this group has led to the isolation of several prenylated xanthones, supporting its inclusion in the Guttiferae. The only related family in which xanthones have been found is the Bonnetiaceae, which, in keeping with Thorn's recent classification [13], is included in the Kielmeyeroideae subfamily in Table 1.

Xanthones or the related benzophenones have been found in all the major and several minor genera of the Guttiferae. The approximate number of species [14], and the number that have been found to contain xanthones is given for each genus (Table 1). It appears from the number of chemically investigated species (for three of the larger genera), that a large proportion of the species contains xanthones. A species—xanthone index is included as an appendix

Simple oxygenated xanthones

The symmetrical nature of the xanthone nucleus, coupled with its mixed biogenetic origin in higher plants, necessitates that the carbons be numbered according to a biosynthetic convention. Carbons 1–4 are assigned to the acetate-derived ring A, (often characterized by 1,3-dioxygenation) and carbons 5–8 to the shikimate-derived ring B (e.g. 1,3,7,8-tetrahydroxy rather than 1,2,6,8). All higher plant xanthones appear to have 5- and/or 7-oxygenation [8] and with this assumption, only xanthones with 2,5(or 4,7)-oxygenation have alternative names. In cases where only ring B is oxygenated the lowest numbers are used except in the biosynthetic discussion [e.g. 2- rather than 7-hydroxyxanthone (1)].

Structural assignments are based mainly on ¹H NMR and UV spectroscopy. Shifts of ring or side-chain protons due to acetylation or alkylation of adjacent hydroxyls and changes in the UV spectrum on addition of the usual shift reagents, are especially useful in determining substitution patterns. Confirmation of assignment may be

Table 1 The family Guttiferae

SUB-FAMILY	TRIBE	<u>GENUS</u>	NO. OF SPECIES
Kielmeyeroideae	Kielmeyereae	Kielmeyera	20/9(10)
		Mahurea	8/1
	Caraipeae	Caraipa	20/4
		Haploclathra	4/3
	(Bonnetiaceae)	Bonnetia	18/1
		Archytaea	2/1
Calophylloideae	Calophylleae	Calophyllum	110/21(32)
		Mesua(inc.Kayea)	40/5
		Mammea(inc. Ochrocarpus)	50/5
Clusioideae	Clusieae	Clusia	145/4
oldsioldede	Olusiede	Tovomita	60/6
	Garcinieae	Allanblackia	8/1
	darerniege	Garcinia	400/29(38)
		Pentaphalangium	7/1
		Rheedia	45/4
Moronoboideae		Moronobea	7/1
		Pentadesma	4/1
		Platonia	1-2/1
		Symphonia	20/1
Lorostemonoideae		Lorostemon	3/2
Hypericoideae	Cratoxyleae	Cratoxylum	6/2
	Hypericeae	Hypericum	400/18
	Vismieae	Harungana	1/1
		Psorospermum	40/1
		Vismia	35/3

^{*}Approx no. of species [14]/no of species in which xanthones and closely related compounds have been found. Numbers in parentheses refer to number of species chemically investigated.

obtained by derivatization (sometimes not possible due to the scarcity of material), although often synthesis is necessary

The synthesis of xanthones has been reviewed [15, 9]. The standard method is the Grover, Shah and Shah condensation between an *ortho*-oxygenated benzoic acid and a reactive phenol in the presence of phosphorous oxychloride and zinc chloride [16]. A recent variation of this method uses methylsulphonic acid and phosphorous pentoxide in place of the above reagents [17]. Alternatively, benzophenones, prepared by Friedel-Crafts acylation [18], may be converted to xanthones by dehydrative or oxidative cyclization. Two other methods have appeared recently. The nucleophilic addition of salicylic acid derivatives to *p*-benzoquinones has been used to prepare a series of 1,4 (or 5,8)-dihydroxyxanthones [19], and 3-hydroxyxanthone has been prepared in 50% yield

by a cycloaddition reaction between a diene and a benzopyranone [20]

Mono-oxygenated xanthones. Two mono-oxygenated xanthones (1 and 2, Table 2) have recently been isolated from seven species 4-Hydroxyxanthone also occurs in Guttiferae. These compounds are now known to occur in eight genera from three subfamilies. Notable is their absence from Clusioideae (>50 species investigated).

Dioxygenated xanthones The majority of the recently isolated dioxygenated xanthones (Table 3) are from species of the Hypericoideae, reflecting the recent interest in this subfamily Dioxygenated xanthones are however, also common in species of Calophyllum, Mammea and Mesua and found in all subfamilies 1,7-Dihydroxyxanthone (4), has now been isolated from 40 species of Guttiferae The 2,5-dioxygenation pattern of xanthones 5 and 10 is new from nature

Table 2 Mono-oxygenated xanthones

2-Hydroxyxanthone(1) 2-Methoxyxanthone(2) Calophyllum zeylanicum Kosterm.[21] Caraipa psidifolia Ducke [29] Hypericum balearicum L. [22] Hypericum mysorense [27] Hypericum canariensis L. [24] Vismia guaramirangae Huber [28] Hypericum ericoides L. [25] Hypericum mysorense [26,27] Vismia guaramirangae Huber [28] *First reported occurrence in nature

Table 3 Dioxygenated vanthones

Table 3 Dioxyg	enated xanthones
1.5-Dihydroxyxanthone(3)	1-Hydroxy-7-methoxyxanthone(7)
Calophyllum zeylanicum Kosterm.[21]	Bonnetia stricta (Nees) Ness Mart. [31]
Garcinia xanthochymus Hook, f. [30]	Haploclathra paniculata (Mart.) Benth. [33]
1.7-Dihydroxyxanthone(4)(Euxanthone)	Haplociathra verticillata Ducke[29]
Bonnetia stricta (Nees) Ness & Mart.[31]	Hypericum mysorense [26]
Calophyllum zeylanicum Kosterm.[21]	Nahurea tomentosa Ducke [29]
Garcinia indica Choisy [50] Garcinia xanthochymus Hook. f.[30]	Vismia guaramirangae Huber [28]
Haploclathra verticillata Ducke[29]	2-Hydroxy-1-methoxyxanthone(8)
Hypericum balearicum L. [22]	Vismia guaramirangae Huber [28]
Hypericum canariensis L. [24]	2-Hydroxy-3-methoxyxanthone(9)
Hypericum ericoides L. [25]	*Hypericum mysorense [26]
Hypericum mysorense [26.27]]	2-Hydroxy-5-methoxyxanthone(10)
Mahurea tomentosa Ducke [29]	*Hypericum androsaemum L. [34]
Vismia guaramirangae Huber [28]	Hypericum canariensis L. [24]
2.5-Dihydroxyxanthone(5)	3-Hydroxy-2-methoxyxanthone(11)
*Hypericum canariensis L. [24]	Hypericum androsaemum L. [34]
2.3-Dimethoxyxanthone(6)	Hypericum balearicum L. [22]
*Hypericum mysorense [27,32]	Psorospermum febrifugum Sprach [35]
	Vismia guaramirangae Huber [28]

Trioxygenated xanthones. Twenty trioxygenated xanthones, of which nine are new natural products, are shown in Table 4. Novel oxygenation patterns are 1,5,8(17), 1,4,7- (19) and 2,3,5- (27), and xanthones 33 and 34 are the first trimethoxyxanthones from the Guttıserae. Two 1,2,5-trioxygenated xanthones (12 and 14) have been

[†]First reported occurrence in Guttiferae.

Table 4 Trioxygenated xanthones

1,2-Dihydroxy-5-methoxyxanthone(12)	1-Hydroxy-3,5-dimethoxyxanthone(23)
*Garcina xanthochymus Hook f [30]	Haploclathra paniculata (Mart) Benih [33]
1,3-Dihydroxy-2-methoxyxanthone(13)	1-Hydroxy-6,7-dimethoxyxanthone(24)
*Vismia guaramirangae Huber [28]	Hypericum mysorense [26]
1,5-Dihydroxy-2-methoxyxanthone(14)	1-Hydroxy-7,8-dimethoxyxanthone(25)
*Garcinia xanthochymus Hook. f [30]	Haploclathra paniculata (Mart) Benth [33]
1.5-Dihydroxy-3-methoxyxanthone(15)	2-Hydroxy-3,4-dimethoxyxanthone(26)
Garcinia xanthochymus Hook f.[30]	Hypericum canariensis L [24]
Haploclathra lieantha (Benth) Benth [36]	Hypericum sampsonii Hance [39]
Haploclathra paniculata (Mart) Benth [33]	Kielmeyera rubiflora Camb [40]
Vismia guaramırangae Huber [28]	*Kielmeyera speciosa St.Hill [40]
1,5-Dihydroxy-6-methoxyxanthone(16)	3-Hydroxy-2,5-dimethoxyxanthone(27)
*Fovomita excelsa Andrade-Lima et G Mariz [37]	*Hypericum androsaemum L [34]
1,5-Dihydroxy-8-methoxyxanthone(17)	4-Hydroxy-2,3-dimethoxyxanthone(28)
*Vismia guaramirangae Huber [28]	Caraipa grandiflora Mart. [29]
1,6-Dihydroxy-5-methoxyxanthone(18) '(Buchanoxanthone)	5-Hydroxy-1,3-dimethoxyxanthone(29)
Calophyllum zeylanıcum Kosterm [21]	Haploclathra panıculata (Mart.) Benth. [33]
Tovomita excelsa Andrade-Lima et G Mariz [37]	1.3.5-Trihydroxyxanthone(30)
1,7-Dihydroxy-4-methoxyxanthone(19)	Garcinia xanthochymus Hook, f [30]
*Vismia guaramirangae Huber [28]	1,3,7-Trihydroxyxanthone(31) (Gentisein)
1,7-Dihydroxy-6-methoxyxanthone(20)	Haploclathra paniculata (Mart.) Benth [33]
*Tovomita excelsa Andrade-Lima et G Marız [37]	Hypericum degenii Bornm. [41]
1,7-Dihydroxy-8-methoxyxanthone(21)	1,6,7-Trihydroxyxanthone(32)
Bonnetia stricta (Nees) Ness & Mart [31]	Platonia insignis Mart [29]
Haploclathra lieantha (Benth) Benth. [36]	1,3,5-Trimethoxyxanthone(33)
Haploclathra paniculata (Mart) Benth. [33]	†Haploclathra paniculata (Mart.) Benth [33]
5,6-Dihydroxy-1-methoxyxanthone(22)	2,3,4-Trimethoxyxanthone(34)
*Tovomita excelsa Andrade-Lima et G.Mariz [37]	*Hypericum ericoides L [25]

reported from Garcinia xanthochymus, but their physical data have not been published.

Three of the four xanthones isolated from the trunk

wood of *Tovomita excelsa*, were assigned a 1,5,6-dihydroxymethoxy structure [37]. Two of these (16, 18) were known compounds, whereas the 1-methoxy structure (22)

Table 5. Tetra- and pentaoxygenated xanthones

1.3-Dihydroxy-5.6-dimethoxyxanthone (Leiaxanthone)(35)	<u>2-Hydroxy-5,6,7-trimethoxyxanthone</u> (43)
Haploclathra lieantha (Benth) Benth [36]	*Hypericum ericoides L [25]
1,5-Dihydroxy-6,7-dimethoxyxanthone (36)	<u>3-Hydroxy-1,2,4-trimethoxyxanthone</u> (44)
Caraipa grandiflora Mart [29]	*Psorospermum februfugum Sprach [35]
Caraipa psidifolia Ducke [29]	3-Hydroxy-1,5,6-trimethoxyxanthone (45)
Caraipa valioi Paula [29]	Haploclathra lieantha (Benth) Benth [36]
Tovomita brasiliensis Walp [42]	7-Hydroxy-1,3,8-trimethoxyxanthone (Anthaxanthone)(46)
1,6-Dihydroxy-5,7-dimethoxyxanthone (37)	*Haploclathra lieantha (Benth) Benth [36]
Hypericum canariensis L [24]	1,3,5,6-Tetrahydroxyxanthone(47)
1,7-Dihydroxy-3,8-dimethoxyxanthone (Gentiaculein)(38)	Hypericum androsaemum L [34]
Haploclathra lieantha (Benth) Benth [36]	<u>1,3,6,7-Tetrahydroxyxanthone(48)</u> (Norathyriol)
Haploclathra paniculata (Mart) Benth. [33]	Cratoxylum pruniflorum Kurz [130]
2,5-Dihydroxy-1,6-dimethoxyxanthone (39)	Garcinia mangostana L. [16]
*Garcinia thwaitesii Pierre [43]	Hypericum androsaemum L. [34]
3.7-Dihydroxy~1.8-dimethoxyxanthone (40)	Hypericum aucherı Jaub et Sprach. [47]
*Haploclathra panıculata (Mart.) Benth [33]	1,3,5-Trihydroxy-6-methoxyxanthone (49)
3.8-Dihydroxy-1.7-dimethoxyxanthone (Isogentiaculein)(41)	Haploclathra lieantha (Benth) Benth. [36]
†Haploclathra paniculata (Mart.) Benth [33]	1,5,6-Trihydroxy-3-methoxyxanthone (50)
5.6-Dihydroxy-1.3-dimethoxyxanthone (Ferrxanthone)(42)	[†] Hypericum androsaemum L. [34]
Haploclathra lieantha (Benth) Benth. [36]	1,7,8-Trihydroxy-6-methoxyxanthone (51)
*Nesua ferrea L. [23]	*Archytaea multiflora Benth. [31]
	2.4.5-Trihydroxy-1-methoxyxanthone (BR-xanthone-B)(52)
	*Garcinia mangostana L. [83]

3.8-Dihydroxy-1,2,4-trimethoxyxanthone(53)

*Psorospermum febrifugum Sprach [35]

was new. An unambiguous synthesis of 22 has been completed by the methylation of 1-hydroxy-5,6-dibenzyloxyxanthone followed by debenzylation, and the product shown to be different from the natural compound [38]. 4,5-Dihydroxy-3-methoxyxanthone is suggested as a likely alternative structure

The sodium acetate induced shifts in the UV spectrum of a 2,3,4-hydroxydimethoxyxanthone from *Kielmeyera* species, led to the assignment of the more acidic 3-

hydroxy structure. However, the ¹³C NMR spectrum has indicated that both methoxy groups are di-ortho-substituted and that therefore the structure should be 2-Hydroxy-3,4-dimethoxyxanthone (26) [40]. Consequently, the structure of a xanthone from Hypericum canariensis should also be revised to 26, as in Table 4.

Ten xanthones have been isolated from the roots of Vismia quaramirangae [28] Based mainly on ¹H NMR spectroscopy, one of the three new xanthones was as-

signed the structure of 1,7-dihydroxy-4-methoxyxanthone (19), rather than the 2-methoxy alternative that was indicated by a positive Gibbs test. Two paradioxygenated analogues also gave positive Gibbs tests, suggesting that this test is unreliable in certain cases

Tetraoxygenated xanthones The newly isolated tetraoxygenated xanthones are shown in Table 5. In the first investigations of the genus Haploclathra, three species have yielded 17 different xanthones [29, 33, 36]. These include four 1,3,5,6- and four 1,3,7,8-tetraoxygenated xanthones, the latter being common in the Gentianaceae Xanthone 35 has been synthesized [44] and shown to be identical to a compound from Centaurum linarifolium, but to differ somewhat from the Haploclathra xanthone.

Several unusual oxygenation patterns have been found. The stem bark and timber of *Garcinia thwaitesi* yielded 2,5-dihydroxy-1,6-dimethoxyxanthone (39), and the structure of 2-hydroxy-5,6,7-trimethoxyxanthone (43), isolated from *Hypericum ericoides* [24], has been confirmed by synthesis (Scheme 1) [45] A 1,2,4,5-tetraoxygenated xanthone, BR-xanthone-B (52), has been isolated from the fruit of *Garcinia mangostana*.

The inclusion of Archytaea (Bonnetiaceae) in the subfamily Kielmeyeroideae is supported by the isolation of a 1,6,7,8-tetraoxygenated xanthone (51) from Archytaea multiflora [31] This oxygenation pattern is only known in other three species, two of which belong to this subfamily

Pentaoxygenated xanthones. These compounds are rare in the Guttiferae but common in the Gentianaceae The new compound, 3,8-dihydroxy-1,2,4-trimethoxyxan-

thone (53, Table 5) is related to 44 from the same plant, and brings the total number known to five

Alkylated xanthones

Alkylated xanthones in Guttiferae are usually monoor di- C_5 -substituted The C_5 group may be 3-methylbut-2-enyl (as in **54**), or less often 1,1-dimethylprop-2-enyl (as in **89**), and these are frequently cyclized with *ortho* hydroxyls giving 2,2-dimethylpyrano (or dihydropyrano), 2,2,3-trimethylfurano (possible artefacts), or rarely 2-isopropenyldihydrofurano compounds Occasionally, hydroxylation or hydration of the side chain occurs C_{10} substituents, in which two prenyl groups are joined together, include geranyl (as in **112**) and lavandulyl (as in **115**)

The oxygenation patterns of alkylated xanthones are less diverse than in the unalkylated compounds Four patterns predominate: 1,3,5-, 1,3,7-, 1,3,5,6-, and 1,3,6,7-Di- and pentaoxygenated compounds are rare.

Mono-C₅-trioxygenated xanthones Fractionation of the cytotoxic ethanol extract of the roots of Psorospermum febrifugum led to the isolation of the anti-leukaemic xanthones, psorospermin (57, Table 6) and its chlorohydrin (58) [51, 52]. Their ready interconversion suggested a possible artefact Tandem mass spectrometry has confirmed that psorospermin is a natural product, while the possibility that 58 is an artefact has not been rigorously excluded [53] The other derivatives (59–61), show no anti-leukaemic properties The absolute stereochemistry of psorospermin has been determined as

Reagents (1) AlCl₃ / ether, (11) Me₄NOH / reflux, (111) H₂, Pd / C

Scheme 1

Table 6 Mono-C5-trioxygenated xanthones

$$R_2$$
 OHOMe

(54)
$$R_1 = OH$$
, $R_2 = H$

*Garcinia mangostana L. [48,49]

(55)
$$R_1 = H$$
, $R_2 = OH$

*Garcinia mangostana L. [48]

(56) 6-Deoxyjacareubin

Calophyllum zeylanicum Kosterm.[21]

(57)
$$R = {\stackrel{3}{\nearrow}} Me$$
; Psorospermin (2'R,3'R)

(60)
$$R = \bigvee_{Me} : 3.4.-Deoxypsorosperming$$

*Psorospermum febrifugum Sprach. [51,52,54]

(62) Rheediachromenoxanthone

Rheedia brasiliensis (Mart.) Pl. and Tr.[58] *Rheedia gardneriana Pl. and Tr.[59]

- (63) $R_1 = H$, $R_2 = OH$; Hypericanarin

 *Hypericum canariensis L. [24]
- (64) $R_1 = 0H$, $R_2 = H$; Hyperxanthone *Hypericum sampsonii Hance [39]

2'R,3'R by an ORD, ¹H NMR and TLC comparison with analogous epoxides derived from rotenone [54].

A stereoselective synthesis of 5-methyl- (\pm) -2'R,3'S-psorospermin (65) has been completed and is shown in part in Scheme 2 [55]. The final step in the synthesis involves two consecutive displacements, producing a racemic mixture of the 2R',3'S and 2'S,3'R epoxides (65).

Progress towards a total synthesis of psorospermin has been made by the enantioselective preparation of the 2'R,3'R-dihydrobenzofuran (66) [56] A synthesis of the 5-methyl-1',2'-dehydro derivative of 3',4'-deoxypsorospermin (60) has also been reported [57].

Rheediachromenoxanthone (62) and hyperxanthone (64) appear to be derived from tetraoxygenated xan-

Reagents (1) OsO₄/NaIO₄, dioxane / $H_2O(II)$ Ph₃P=C(Me)CO₂Et, benzene (III) LiAlH₄ / THF (IV) MCPBA, CH₂Cl₂ (V) MsCl/py (VI) H₂, Pd/C (VII) KO^tBu

Scheme 2

thones by nuclear reduction at the 3- and 1-positions respectively In fact, 64 occurs with the expected precursor, toxyloxanthone B (82) in Hypericum sampsonu. The unusual 4,6,7- (or 2,3,5-?) oxygenation pattern of hypericanarin (63) is otherwise only known in 27 from Hypericum androsaemum. The structures of 63 and 64 are supported by significantly different physical data

 $Di-C_5$ -trioxygenated xanthones Garcinone A from Garcinia mangostana was assigned a novel 1,3,6-trihydroxy structure (68, Table 7), an oxygenation pattern unknown in the Guttiferae However, the synthetic substance, prepared by the prenylation of 1,3,6-trihydroxy-xanthone, showed little similarity with the natural compound [66].

The stem bark of Garcinia quadrifaria produces xanthone 69, which shows a rare prenylation, para, rather than ortho to a hydroxyl group. 6-Deoxy-γ-mangostin (70) has been isolated from the seed arils of Garcinia mangostana fruit and is a possible biosynthetic precursor

to mangostin (70; $R_1 = Me$, $R_2 = OH$), the major metabolite from the same plant (see Biosynthesis).

The stem bark of Calophyllum walkers contains xanthones 74 and 76–78 The hydroxymethyl group in thwastesixanthanol (77) was located by mild acetylation Shielding of H-3" was observed, while H-3' was unaffected [65]. The 2-isopropenyldihydrofuran group of 78 is otherwise only known (without the hydroxy) in 3',4'-deoxypsorospermin (60) The cis configuration of 78 was assigned from the 6 Hz coupling between the 2" and 3" protons The 3" proton was also coupled to H-6 and strongly deshielded, suggesting that it is almost in the same plane as the xanthone nucleus

Mono- C_5 -tetrahydroxyxanthones Xanthone 79 (Table 8) is the second 1,3,5,8-tetra-oxygenated xanthone from G. mangostana, the other being gartanin (79; $R_1 = H$, $R_2 = prenyl$). This oxidation pattern is otherwise unknown in the Guttiferae but common in the Gentianaceae Three 2-prenyl-3-methoxyxanthones (54, 55, and 79) have been

Table 7 D1-C5-trioxygenated xanthones

(67)

$$\begin{array}{c|c} & O & OH \\ \hline \\ R_2 & \\ \hline \\ R_1 & \\ \end{array}$$

R₁ = OH, R₂ = H, <u>8-Desoxygartanin</u>

Rheedia brasiliensis (Mart.)

Pl. and Tr [58]

Rheedia gardneriana Pl. and Tr [60]

(68) $R_1 = H$, $R_2 = OH$; <u>Garcinone A</u>

*Garcinia mangostana L. [61]

(69) 4.8-Di(3-methylbut-2-enyl)-1.3.5trihydroxyxanthone

*Garcinia quadrifaria Baill ex Pierre [62]

$$R_2O$$
 OH OH R_1 OOH

(70) R₁=R₂=H; <u>6-Deoxy-γ-mangostin</u>
*Calophyllum thwaitesi Pl. and Tr [63]
Garcinia mangostana L [49]

(71) R₁=H. R₂=Me: Calcocalabaxanthone (6-Deoxymangostin)
Calophyllum bracteatum Thw. [63]

*Calophyllum calaba var.calaba L. [63.64]

(72) Trapezifolixanthone

Calophyllum calaba var. calaba L [63]

(73) R = Me; Calabaxanthone

Calophyllum calaba var. calaba L.[64] Calophyllum zeylanicum Kosterm.[21] Garcinia mangostana L. [49]

(74) R = H ; <u>Demethylcalabaxanthone</u>
*Calophyllum walkeri Wight [65]
Garcinia mangostana L. [49]

(75) Calothwaitesixanthone

*Calophyllum thwaitesi Pl.and Tr.[63]

Table 7 Continued

Table 8 Mono-C₅-tetraoxygenated xanthones

found in Garcinia mangostana The 3-methoxy group prevents further prenylation in the 4-position, however the presence of a methylating enzyme does not preclude 4-prenylation as is shown by the presence of 67 in the same plant

Toxyloxanthone B (82), first found from the Moraceae, has been isolated from Hypericum androsaemum together with its probable biogenetic precursor (80)

 $Di-C_5$ -tetraoxygenated xanthones While the xanthones in this category (Table 9) are more numerous than

(83) Xanthone Y_{1a}

Vismia guineensis (L.) Choisy [68]

7-Prenyljacereubin

Rheedia gardneriana Pl.and Tr.[60]

(85) R = 3-Methylbut-2-enyl; Xanthone V₁Vismia guineensis (L.) Choisy [68]

R = 1.1-Dimethylprop-2-enyl;(86)

Macluraxanthone

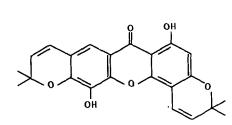
Garcinia ovalifolia Oliv. [69]

Rheedia benthamiana Pl. and Tr.[70]

Rheedia brasiliensis (Mart.) Pl.and Tr.[58] Rheedia gardneriana Pl. and Tr.[59]

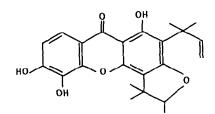
Pyranojacereubin

Rheedia brasiliensis (Mart.) *Rheedia gardneriana Pl.and Tr.[60]



Rheediaxanthone A (88)

*Garcinia densivenia Engl. [71] Garcinia staudtii Engl. [62] Rheedia benthamiana Pl. and Tr. [70] Rheedia brasiliensis (Mart)
Pl. and Tr. [58]
Rheedia gardneriana Pl. and Tr. [59]



Rheediaxanthone B (89)

*Rheedia benthamiana Pl. and Tr. [70]Rheedia brasiliensis (Mart.) Pl. and Tr. [58] Rheedia gardneriana Pl. and Tr. [59]

*Garcinia mangostana L [61,147]

Table 9 Continued

the monoprenylated compounds, there is little structural variation This is due in part to the fact that most of these xanthones have been isolated from only a few species of the closely allied genera *Garcinia* and *Rheedia*. Dialkylated xanthones, especially dipyrano compounds, give rise to doubly-charged ions in their mass spectra due to the simultaneous loss of two alkyl fragments [58]. Apart from macluraxanthone (86), which is known from a Moraceae species, all the xanthones in Table 9 are new natural products.

A dipyranoxanthone from Garcinia densivenia was originally assigned the linear structure of pyranojacereubin (87) on the basis of the size of the diamagnetic shift of H-4' upon O-acetylation [71]. Subsequently, when a similar compound was isolated from Rheedia gardneriana and the two compounds compared, the structure of the G. densivenia xanthone was revised to that of rheediaxanthone A (88), and the new compound assigned the structure of pyranojacereubin (87) [60]. This example serves to highlight the problem of differentiating between substituents at the 2- and 4-positions. Upon acetylation, H-4' of 87 was deshielded by $\delta 0.26$ (expected $\sim \delta 0.30$), compared to $\delta 0.19$ for H-4' of 88 [60].

Compounds which contain a 1,1,2-trimethyldihydrofuran ring are possible artefacts due to the ease with which the parent 1,1-dimethylallyl group cyclizes with an ortho-hydroxyl. Rheediaxanthone B (89) and xanthones 90 and 94 are optically active and should therefore be true natural products; however rheediaxanthone C (91), although also optically active, is thought to be an artefact of 89 [70].

Nine of the xanthones in Table 9 were isolated from Rheedia brasiliensis and are biogenetically closely related (eg. 92–94). The location of the methoxyl in manglexanthone (95) was confirmed by its 13 C NMR chemical shift (> δ 60), indicating di-ortho-substitution [70]. Therefore 95 is apparently different from tovopyrifolin A (95; $R_1 = H$, $R_2 = Me$) which is found in the same genus [76].

During the last eight years an equal number of papers have described new xanthones from Garcinia mangostana. Those shown in Table 9 all contain the 1,3,6,7-tetra-oxygenation pattern and are cyclized or hydrated derivatives of the major metabolite, mangostin (70; $R_1 = Me$, $R_2 = OH$) or γ -mangostin (70) $R_1 = H$, $R_2 = OH$). The chromanoxanthones (98 and 101–104) had been synthesised previously by the p-toluenesulphonic acid catalysed cyclization of mangostin [77]. Whereas this reagent gave both linear and angular chroman rings, methanolic HCl gives only the linear product [78].

Dimethylmangostin (106), which may be selectively demethylated to give the natural mangostins, has been synthesized by Lee (Scheme 3) [79]. The problem of

Scheme 3

selective prenylation in the 2- and 8-positions was overcome by the preparation of the dichromanoxanthone (105). Ring opening was accomplished with boron trichloride to give a dichloride which underwent dehydrochlorination with lithium chloride in DMF, producing 106 Alternatively, treatment of the dichloride with potassium-t-butoxide in DMSO gave β -mangostin (107)

Tri-C₅-tetraoxygenated xanthones. Five xanthones of this type are now known, and the two new ones are shown in Table 10. The structure of garcinone E (108) is tentative, and based mainly on the formation of a trichromano compound with methanolic HCl [78]

The novel ring B substitution pattern of nervosaxanthone (109) was suggested by the deshielded methylene of one of the prenyl groups, placing it *peri* to the carbonyl, and the ¹H NMR resonance of the single aromatic proton [72] The arrangement of the 2- and 4-substituents was determined by an ¹H NMR study of the tri- and tetra-acetates

 $Di-C_5$ -pentaoxygenated xanthones The first natural examples of this type are xanthones V_2 (110) and V_{2a} (111) (Table 10) from *Vismia quineensis* They are the 7-methoxy derivatives of xanthones V_1 (83) and V_{1a} (85) (Table 9) Together these constitute the only occurrences of prenylated xanthones in the genus *Vismia*

More complex xanthones. Garcinia pyrifera shows a link with G. cowa and G. rubra by producing 8-geranyl-1,3,6,7-tetraoxygenated xanthones (112–114; Table 11) [72] The optically active maculatoxanthone (115) is the first xanthone with a lavandulyl side chain, although this arrangement is found in three benzophenones—tovophenones A and B (141, 142) and xanthochymol (144). Calozeyloxanthone (116) contains a novel C₁₀ arrangement, presumably a cyclized geranyl group

Calophyllum wightianum produces a palmitic acid clathrate which yielded a xanthone named wightianone [81]. A 5,5-diprenyl structure was proposed. However, on comparison [21], it was found to be identical with a sample of zeyloxanthanone (117) isolated from Calophyllum zeylanicum Gambogic acid (118) has been reisolated from Garcinia hanburyi together with a new derivative, neo-gambogic acid (119) [82]

Xanthone glycosides

The C-glucosylxanthones, mangiferin (120; Table 12) and isomangiferin (121) have been found in several species of Hypericum and Cratoxylum pruniflorum but are not known in the rest of the family. The taxonomic significance of this will be discussed later. There are only two examples of O-glycosides in Guttiferae (122, 123), although neither has been properly characterized. Both O- and C-glycosylxanthones are common in the Gentianaceae [2]

X anthonoliquoids

Kielcorin was first isolated from Kielmeyera species, and its structure has been defined as a racemate of the two 5,6-trans isomers (124) [88] It has recently been isolated from several Hypericum species and Vismia guaramirangae. The other xanthonolignoids in Table 13 also have the trans configuration and are optically inactive.

Biogenetically, xanthonolignoids are thought to be formed by the coupling of a cinnamyl alcohol with an ortho-dihydroxyxanthone Kielcorin and 2,3,4-(or 5,6,7)-trioxygenated xanthones co-occur in Hypericum calycinum and H. ericoides as well as in three Kielmeyera

Table 10 Tri-C5-tetraoxygenated and Di-C5-pentaoxygenated xanthones

species. The 1,5,6,7-tetraoxygenated candensins A and C (125, 126) are found alongside similarly substituted xanthones in the two *Caraipa* species and *H. canariensis* Furthermore, syringaresinol (129), a likely precursor to the C_6C_3 moiety of candensins A and C, has been isolated as the diacetate from *Vismia quaramirangae*.

Kielcorin (124) has been synthesized by two different routes [91, 92] One involves the biomimetic coupling of 2-methoxy-3,4-dihydroxyxanthone (130, Scheme 4) and conferyl alcohol (131) [91] cis-Kielcorin (124, 5,6-cis) was a minor product.

Candensin D and hypericorin from Hypericum canartensis and H. mysorense respectively, have been assigned the same structure (127) and their physical data compare reasonably well. An isomer of kielcorin, named kielcorin B has been identified in Kielmeyera coriacea and tentatively assigned structure 128.

Benzophenones

Benzophenones are of interest as they have been implicated in xanthone biosynthesis. Simple benzophenones are rare in the Guttiferae. They have been found in the heartwood of five species (Table 14)—usually with analogous xanthones. For example, maclurin (134) occurs with 1,3,6,7-tetrahydroxyxanthone (48) in Garcinia mangostana, with 48 and 1,3,5,6-tetrahydroxyxanthone in Symphonia globulifera and with xanthochymol (144) in Garcinia xanthochymus.

Prenylated benzophenones

These compounds shown in Table 15, may be divided into two groups, true benzophenones (136-142) and those with reduced A rings, the so-called polyisoprenylated

Table 11 More complex xanthones

benzophenones (143–148) Of the former group, five contain unsubstituted B rings, and therefore have no known xanthone analogues. The vismiaphenones (136–139) have been synthesized by the prenylation of suitably substituted benzophenones [98–100]. Tovophenones A and B (141, 142) contain the rare lavandulyl side chain, and kolanone (143) from the edible fruit of

Garcinia kola, shows broad antimicrobial activity [102] There has been some controversy regarding the structures of the four closely related compounds containing a bicyclononene moiety (144–147). The X-ray determined structures of xanthochymol (144) and isoxanthochymol (146) are shown in Table 15 Cambogin (147) was shown to be the antipode of the latter and camboginol (145),

(120) $R_1 = \beta - D - Glucopyranosyl, R_2 = H$;

Mangiferin

Cratoxylum pruniflorum Kurz. [130]

Hypericum aucheri Jaub et Sprach [47] Hypericum barbatum Jack [84]

Hypericum boissieri Petrovic [85]

 $^{
m I}$ Hypericum humifusum L. [86]

Hypericum maculatum Crantz [84]

Hypericum rocheli Griseb. and Schenk. [85] Hypericum rumeliacum Boiss [84]

Hypericum sampsonii Hance [39]

(121) $R_1 = H$. $R_2 = \beta - D - Glucopyranosyl$:

Isomangiferin

Cratoxylum pruniflorum Kurz. [130]

Hypericum boissieri Petrovic [85]

Hypericum hirsutum [87]

Hypericum rochelı Griseb and Schenk [85] Hypericum sampsonii Hance [39]

(122) R₁=R₂=H; <u>1,3,6,7-Tetrahydroxy-</u> <u>0-glucosylxanthone</u>

Garcinia mangostana L. [46]

(123) 1.6.7-Trihydroxyxanthone-7-0-glycoside

Platonia insignis Mart. [29] (Gly: unidentified sugar)

129

Scheme 4

131

which can be prepared from cambogin, was assigned the structure of the enantiomer of xanthochymol with a shifted double bond [106].

Two related pigments, namely garcinol and isogarcinol were isolated from Garcinia indica [107] Garcinol was assigned the structure of camboginol (145), however, their UV spectra in ethanol differed significantly, and it was suggested that camboginol lacked the extended conjugation in the cyclohexane ring. The UV spectrum of camboginol was repeated in cyclohexane and shown to be compatible with the originally proposed structure. A solvent-dependent UV spectrum had already been noted for xanthochymol [108] Ultimately, the X-ray crystal structure of isogarcinol indicated its identity with cambogin (147), and the formation of isogarcinol from garcinol, as well as physical data, suggest that the latter is identical to camboginol (145) [111]

A related compound, nemorosonol, isolated from the fruits of *Clusia nemorosa* has been assigned the tricyclodecane structure (148). It is suggested that the various polyisoprenylated benzophenones may originate from a common precursor (150, R = prenyl or 2-isopropenylhex-4-enyl) by cyclization between C-1 and C-6 to form the bicyclic compounds and C-10-C-1 and C-6-C-7 to form 148.

Sarothralin (149) from Hypericum japonicum has antimicrobial properties, and is closely related to other filicinic acid derivatives (which lack a benzoyl group) found in this and other Hypericum species. Three other

Table 13 Xanthonolignoids

(124) $R_1=H$, $R_2=H$, $R_3=H$, $R_4=Me$,

Kielcorin

Hypericum androsaemum L [34,88]
Hypericum calycinum L [88]
Hypericum canariensis L [24]
Hypericum ericoides L [89]
Hypericum maculatum Crantz [88]
Hypericum perforatum L. [88]
Vismia guaramirangae Huber [28]

(125) $R_1 = OH$, $R_2 = H$, $R_3 = OMe$, $R_4 = H$

Candensin A

Cariapa grandiflora Mart [29]
Caraipa valoi Paula [29]
Vismia guaramirangae Huber [28]

(126) $R_1 = OH$, $R_2 = OMe$, $R_3 = H$, $R_4 = Me$,

<u>Candensin</u> <u>C</u>

Hypericum canariensis L [24]

*Vismia guaramirangae Huber [28]

(127) $R_1=H$, $R_2=OMe$, $R_3=H$, $R_4=Me$,

Candensin D (Hypericorin)

*Hypericum canariensis L [24]

Hypericum mysorense [90]

(128) Kielcorin B

*Kielmeyera cortacea Mart. [91]

prenylated benzophenones (bronianone, clusianone, and marupone) were mentioned in the earlier review [1].

Finally, one other compound of interest is hermionic acid. Originally isolated from *Garcinia hermonii*, and assigned a diphenyl structure [1], it has now been re-

isolated from G. quaesita, and on the basis of its conversion to a xanthone and ¹³C NMR evidence, its structure has been revised to the diphenylether (149) [113]. Decarboxylated hermionic acid (150) and its demethyl derivative (151), named quaesitol were also isolated [114].

Table 14 Benzophenones

Biogenetically, these compounds appear to be very closely related to xanthones.

CHEMOTAXONOMY

Recent reviews have outlined the principles of chemotaxonomy and the taxonomic importance of various classes of secondary metabolites [115-117]. As xanthones occur widely in only a few, unrelated families of higher plants, their potential taxonomic value is restricted to within these few families. This section will examine the distribution of xanthones within the Guttiferae.

The oxygenation pattern is the most variable structural feature of Guttiferae xanthones, and almost forty different patterns are known. The major oxygenation patterns are shown at the top of Table 16, grouped mainly according to B-ring oxygenation. The number of species in which xanthones with each oxygenation pattern occur is given for various sub-divisions of the family (cf. Table 1).

It can be seen from Table 16 that the variation of xanthone oxygenation pattern is of some systematic significance. Some oxygenation patterns appear throughout the family, while others are restricted to certain plant groups. Clearly, the first three of the six subfamilies each produce xanthones with a different range of oxygenation patterns, suggesting that there are different biogenetic constraints on the species of each group. A similar or somewhat narrower range of oxygenation patterns is shown by the tribes or genera of each of these subfamilies. This overall picture may become clearer as more plants are studied.

A species from a particular genus generally does not contain the whole range of oxygenated xanthones found

in the genus. Some species appear not to synthesize xanthones, e.g. Calophyllum macrocarpum. This plant accumulates a C_6C_1 compound, 3,4-dihydroxybenzaldehyde, perhaps, it is suggested, due to the absence of a key enzyme [65]. Similarly, some species appear to produce only benzophenones, or only simple rather than prenylated xanthones

At first sight, such wide variations within a genus may appear to suggest that xanthones are of little taxonomic value at this level; however, when considered with other taxonomic characters, xanthones may be useful in aiding infra-generic classifications. For example, closely related species of *Calophyllum* have many xanthones in common.

The xanthone distribution within each subfamily will now be examined in more detail. Besides xanthones, the Guttiferae contain a wide variety of other metabolites many of which are also of taxonomic value and these will be mentioned briefly.

Kielmeyeroideae

The species of this South American subfamily are characterized by an abundance of simple oxygenated xanthones. The two tribes, Kielmeyereae and Caraipeae, show nine oxygenation patterns in common (Table 16). Several rather unique patterns containing 7,8-oxygenation are evident, and interestingly, xanthones with 6,7-dioxygenated B-rings have not been found. Simple 1,3,5-trioxygenated xanthones are common only in this subfamily, and perhaps related to this is the rare occurrence of prenylated xanthones. Prenylation is absent in the Caraipeae tribe, but three prenylated xanthones have been found in species of the Kielmeyereae tribe. Two of

these xanthones are very common in Calophyllum species.

A further difference between the two tribes is that xanthones without 1-oxygenation are common only in the Kielmeyereae tribe Similarly, xanthonolignoids, which otherwise only occur in the Hypericoideae subfamily, are 5,6,7-trioxygenated in Kielmeyera species but 1,5,6,7-tetraoxgenated in Caraipa species.

Remarkably. the two genera of the Caraipeae tribe, so far have no oxygenation patterns in common (*Caraipa*: 7-, 1,3,7-, 1,5,6,7-, 5,6,7- and 1,6,7,8-oxygenation, and *Haploclathra*: 1,7-, 1,3,5-, 1,3,5,6-, 1,3,7,8- and 1,7,8-oxygenation).

For a long time a morphological link has been recognised between the Kielmeyeroideae and the family Bonnetiaceae (Bonnetia and Archytaea genera), and Hutchinson has even grouped the two together as a single family [118]. However, the Bonnetiaceae have also been classified as a tribe in Theaceae [119], a related family in which xanthones have not been found. The xanthones that have recently been isolated from two Bonnetiaceae species show the characteristic oxidation patterns of the Kiel-

meyeroideae [31], and have led one taxonomist to submerge the Bonnetiaceae into this subfamily [13].

Calophylloideae

In Table 16 this subfamily has been divided into two groups; Calophyllum and Mesua/Mammea. Both groups contain a similar range of simple xanthones, and show the same common oxygenation patterns (1,5-,1,7- and 1,5,6-), but there is a clear distinction, in that the latter group shows an almost total absence of prenylated xanthones. Only two are known from a species of Kayea (= Mesua)

The 180 species of Calophyllum are found mainly from India to New Guinea [120] The genus appears to be the most homogeneous in the family as far as xanthone distribution is concerned. Almost all the 21 xanthone-containing species show both simple and prenylated xanthones Jacareubin (81) occurs in 17 of these species (and with 6-deoxyjacareubin (56) in 11), and is therefore classed as a taxonomic marker for the genus [121] This

Table 15 Prenylated benzophenones

Table 15 Continued

(141) Tovophenone A

*Tovomita mangle G.Maritz [101]

(142) Tovophenone B

*Tovomita mangle G.Maritz [101]

<u>Kolanone</u>

*Garcinia kola Heckel [102]

(144) R = 3-Methylbut-3-enyl

(145) R = 3-Methylbut-2-enyl

Xanthochymol

Garcinia mannii Oliv. [103]

Garcinia ovalifolia Oliv [69]

Garcinia polyantha Oliv. [72]

Garcinia staudii Engl. [62]

Garcinia xishuanbannanensis Y H.Li [104]

Rheedia madrunno (HBK)
Pl and Tr [105]

"enantiomer" of 144

Camboginol (Garcinol)

*Garcinia cambogia Desr.[106,108]

Garcinia huillensis [109]

Garcinia indica Choisy [107,111]

Table 15 Continued

(146) Isoxanthochymol

Garcinia ovalifolia Oliv [69] Garcinia polyantha Oliv [72]

Garcinia xishuanbannanensis Y H Li [104]

(147) Enantiomer of 146

*Garcinia cambogia Desr [106]

Cambogin(Isogarcinol)

Garcinia indica Choisy [107,111]

(148) Nemorosonol

Clusia nemorosa G F.W Meyer [110]

uniformity may be a reflection of the rather narrow geographic range, and close relationship of many of the species investigated

Interestingly, the xanthone content of Calophyllum species often varies greatly with the part of the plant. For example, the three xanthones found in the bark of C zeylanicum, were not found in the timber, which contained seven other xanthones [21] This phenomenon, as well as the structural similarities of many of the xanthones, makes the chemical comparison of Calophyllum species difficult

In a recent review of the genus [120], Stevens equated C. zeylanicum (now C lankaensis? [21]) with C. trapezifolium. They do in fact have seven xanthones in common, and only differ in that they each produce two xanthones not found in the other [21, 122] A possible geographical variation is suggested in C. walkeri [65] A plant from India yielded four xanthones that were not found in the Sri Lankan plant of the same name, however, the bark of the latter was not thoroughly investigated [123] Significant differences have also been found in two varieties of C calaba [63, 64, 124]

Table 16. The distribution* of simple and alkylated xanthones and related metabolites in the Guttiferac

Oxygenation patterns

							;	.									
						Simple xanthones	thones					Alkyl	ated x	Alkylated xanthones	S		
Subfamily/Tribet (No of species)	5 7	1 1 5 7	1 1 3 2 3 2 3 5 3 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	1 1 3 3 7 5 6	1 5 5 6 6	11 36 7	6175	5 1 6 3 7 7 8	7 1 8 8	1 Others‡ 6 7 8	2 3	-62	6 5 3 -	1 Out	Others§	<i>x e</i> ∥ <i>x</i>	XG XZ BZ
Kielmeyereae (9) Caraipeae (7) {Bonnetiaceae (2)	2	4 7 -	5 2	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			4	6 1 1 2	3 3 1 1	1 12378 1 1}	т	æ	-			mm	
Calophyllum (21) Mesua, Mammea (10)	3 4	8 14 7 6	2 2 1	1.1	11 1 5 1	1 1 2 1	2		2	1 12378 37, 13567	4	14 1	18	24, 123	24, 15 1235		
Clusicae (10)			-		-	-	1			1345, 345? [38]			7	4 156	9		4
<i>Garcınıa (29)</i>		\$ \$	-	-	ю	5 1				125, 1245, 1256, 1347, 1357	7	2	₩ ₩	5 1358	28		12
Rheedia etc (6)		3 2			-	2					3	2	<u>ب</u>	1 167	7		2
Moronoboideae (4)		2	-	-	-	1 1						7	2	1 125	125, 1256		7
Lorostemordeae (2)													, ,	7			
Cratoxyleae (2) Hypericeae (18)	4	4		1.1		1 2 1	3 1	3		25, 235, 2567			-	156 3 235	1567 235, 367	1 6	-
Vısmıeae (5)	-	7					2			147, 158, 5678, 15678	-		-	135	13567	-	7

†Genera in which several plants have been examined are separated from the rest of the subfamily or tribe (cf Table 1) ‡These minor oxygenation patterns, apart from one, have been found in one species; 2,5-dioxygenation found in two species \$1,5-Dioxygenation and 1,6,7-trioxygenation found in eight and two species respectively, remainder found in one species *Numbers in Table refer to number of species in which xanthones with the particular oxygenation have been found. IXG, xanthone glycosides, XL, xantholignoids, BZ, simple and prenylated benzophenones Tincludes three species which contain xanthones with reduced B-ring

Neoflavonoids (and other 4-substituted coumarins) and chromones occur in many *Calophyllum* species [125, 126].

Clusiodeae

Generally xanthones occur less frequently in the Clusiodeae than in the preceding subfamilies, and the range of major oxygenation patterns is rather restricted. Xanthones in which I-oxygenation is absent are not known, but several unique oxygenation patterns containing 2and 4-oxygenation occur Species of both tribes produce prenylated benzophenones, often as the major metabolites, but otherwise the tribes show little in common.

In the Clusieae tribe, xanthones and benzophenones occur in *Tovomita* species, but the large, poorly-studied *Clusia* genus has so far not yielded any xanthones. Recently, Delle Monache and co-workers have begun to study a number of *Clusia* species [110]

The Garcineae tribe is divided into two groups in Table 16 Garcinia and Rheedia/Pentaphalanginum/Allanblackia. The tribe appears fairly homogeneous, with each group showing a similar range of simple and prenylated xanthones

Xanthones have been found in about half the Garcinia species studied Biffavonoids occur in almost all species and benzophenones in 11 Waterman and co-workers have systematically examined several Garcinia species from tropical Africa. The subsequent chemotaxonomic review of the genus shows that in certain cases xanthone structure correlates well with the infra-generic classification [127].

Three species from the section Rheediopsis of the genus have been investigated, and each contains prenylated xanthones with 1,3,5,6-tetraoxygenation as well as xanthochymol (144) The benzophenones cambogin (147) and camboginol (145) occur in two species from the Gamogin section, and the two species which produce gambogic acid (118) and other xanthones with reduced B-rings are from the section Hebradendron 8-Geranylated xanthones are only known in three Garcinia species, two of which belong to section Oxycarpus It has been suggested that the third species, which has so far not been assigned to a section, may also go here [72] Such correlations were not found in many other sections, but as only 10% of Garcinia species have been studied it is perhaps too early to tell

Also of interest is the apparent geographical variation of tetraoxygenation patterns [127] African Garcinia species contain 1,3,5,6- (and no 1,3,6,7-) tetraoxygenated xanthones, whereas Asian species, apart from one, show only 1,3,6,7-tetraoxygenation. Some xanthones from African Garcinia also occur in species of the related South American genus, Rheedia, which so far has also yielded only 1,3,5,6-tetraoxygenated xanthones

The Moronboideae subfamily is rather small, and the four investigations so far have produced xanthones similar to those in the Clusiodeae. The Lorostemoideae subfamily contains only two species from which one prenylated xanthone has been isolated.

Hypericoideae

This subfamily of three tribes is closely related to the rest of the Guttiferae [128, 129], although it is sometimes classed as a separate family, the Hypericaceae [12] The

following evidence supports such a relationship Prenylated xanthones, have been found in all three tribes of the Hypericoideae, and although they have unique structures, they are similar to those found in other subfamilies (e.g. 63, 80). The presence of xanthones with 7,8- and 5,6,7-oxygenation and xanthonolignoids shows a link with the Kielmeyeroideae subfamily, and two benzophenones (138, 139) from Vismia decipiens also occur in a species of Clusia

Unlike the rest of the family, the Hypericoideae contain C-glucosylxanthones. They have been found in several species of Hypericum [84, 85] and Cratoxylum prunifolium [130], and occur with both simple and prenylated xanthones, as well as flavonoids. As it appears that these glycosides may be biogenetically different from the xanthones in the rest of the family (see Biosynthesis), their presence should not be regarded as evidence of 'xanthones' to support the inclusion of the subfamily in the Guttiferae Interestingly, simple xanthones with 6,7-oxygenated B-rings are unusually common in Hypericum species. They occur with the similarly substituted glycosides and may be biogenetically related.

A chemotaxonomic survey of the *Hypericum* genus has recently appeared [131] In addition to xanthones, many flavonoids and other phloroglucinol derivatives have been found *Vismua* species produce prenylated anthranoids and other anthracene derivatives (vismiones) [132] Similar metabolites also occur in *Psorospermum* species [133]

BIOSYNTHESIS

The characteristic oxygenation patterns of xanthones from higher plants were recognised early on as being due to a mixed shikimate-acetate biogenesis [5] Along these lines various biosynthetic pathways were proposed [7, 8, 10] and these have been reviewed [1]

Early biosynthetic studies were limited to the 1,3,7-trioxygenated xanthones of *Gentiana lutea* (Gentianaceae) [134, 135] The results indicated that the xanthone nucleus was formed from acetate (ring A) and a C_6C_1 unit derived from phenylalanine. The participation of an intermediate benzophenone (152) was demonstrated by the incorporation of tritiated 152 [135]

The first study on the biosynthesis of xanthones in the Guttiferae has recently been reported [136] Cinnamic acid, benzoic acid, m-hydroxybenzoic acid and the benzophenone (152) as well as malonic acid were efficient precursors to mangostin (153) in Garcinia mangostana, implying the pathway depicted in Scheme 5

Furthermore, the labelled benzophenone (152) was significantly incorporated into 8-desoxygartanin (67) and gartanin (79, $R_1 = H$, $R_2 = prenyl$) in the same plant These findings, coupled with the earlier studies on *Gentiana lutea*, indicate the involvement of benzophenone 152 in the biosynthesis of xanthones with four different oxygenation patterns (1,3,5-, 1,3,6,7- and 1,3,5,8-), and suggest that it may be an intermediate in the biosynthesis of most higher plant xanthones

The proposed direct *m*-hydroxylation of benzoate (Scheme 5) was suggested, in part, by the poor incorporation of *p*-substituted precursors Earlier biosynthetic proposals, such as the choice of maclurin (134) as a universal xanthone precursor [10] and the idea of spirodieneone intermediates [7], were formulated with the assumption that shikimate derivatives were necessarily

oxygenated in the p-position. As it now appears that xanthone biosynthesis may not involve such shikimate derivatives, the earlier proposals require re-evaluation.

Of the various modes of xanthone formation proposed to date, phenol oxidative coupling [137, 138] can most neatly account for the large variety and co-occurrence of oxgenated xanthones [8] Carpenter et al, postulated the oxidative coupling of a series of suitably hydroxylated benzophenones to account for the major xanthone oxygenation patterns [8]. This suggestion is compatible with the new biosynthetic results, as the benzophenones all require the meta- or 3'-oxygenation for oxidative coupling, and may be derived from benzophenone 152. For example, the oxidative coupling of 152 can give 1,3,5- and 1,3,7-trihydroxyxanthones (Scheme 6, Route A) and maclurin (134), which may be formed by the 4'-hydroxylation of 152, can produce 1,3,5,6- and 1,3,6,7-tetrahydroxyxanthones (Route B)

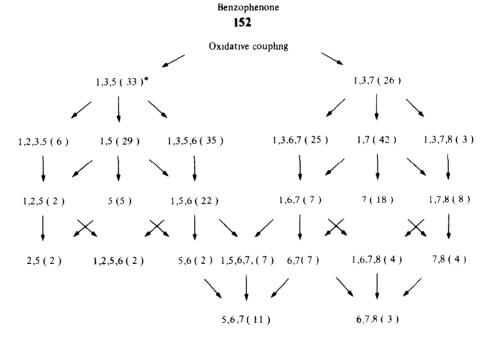
An alternative to the view that xanthones are formed from a series of benzophenones, is the proposal of Rezende and Gottlieb that the xanthone oxygenation pattern is modified after initial xanthone formation from a single benzophenone—maclurin (134) [10]. The 'pri-

mitive', maclurin-derived 1,3,5,6- and 1,3,6,7-tetraoxygenated xanthones could lead to all other oxygenation patterns by successive nuclear oxidations and/or reductions. For example, the reduction of the 6-position of these xanthones would give 1,3,5- and 1,3,7-trioxygenated xanthones (Scheme 6, Route C).

In view of the recent biosynthetic studies, the 1,3,5- and 1,3,7-trioxygenated xanthones appear more suited to occupy the positions of 'primitive' xanthones, as they are clearly more likely to be formed by the direct oxidative coupling of benzophenone 152 (Scheme 6, Route A), than by a three-step route via maclurin (134) (Route B + Route C). The 1,3,5,6- and 1,3,6,7-tetraoxygenated xanthones may alternatively be formed by the 6-oxygenation of the 1,3,5- and 1,3,7-trioxygenated xanthones (Scheme 6, Route D)

Similar nuclear oxidations/reductions of the trioxygenated xanthones, can lead to the major oxygenation patterns of Guttiferae xanthones, as illustrated in Scheme 7 It can be seen that the most common oxygenation patterns (particularly 1,3,5-, 1,3,7-, 1,7-, 1,5-, and 7-) are more directly accessible from 152 than from maclurin (134) in the earlier proposal.

Scheme 6



*No of species that produce xanthones with each oxygenation pattern

Scheme 7

The discussion so far has centred on the four predominant oxygenation patterns of prenylated xanthones, but avoided the issue of prenylation Prenylation is almost

always found *ortho* to an oxygen function 2-Prenylation is the most common, but is only found in the presence of 1,3-dioxygenation, suggesting perhaps that the prenyl

group inhibits reduction of the 3-hydroxyl, which is very often absent in simple xanthones

Monoprenylation occurs less often in the 4-, 8-, or 7-positions. A second prenyl group frequently occurs in the 4- or 8-positions 2,4-Diprenylation is associated with 1,3,5-, 1,3,5,6,- or 1,3,5,8-oxygenation, but interestingly, not known with 1,3,7- or 1,3,6,7-oxygenation, and 2,8-diprenylation is limited to 1,3,7- and 1,3,6,7-oxygenation patterns

As with oxygenation, there is little evidence to suggest whether prenylation occurs at the benzophenone or xanthone stage, although the latter is preferred, e.g. ref [139] 2-Prenyl-1,3,5-trihydroxyxanthone has been postulated as a precursor to 6-deoxyjacareubin (56) and jacareubin (81) [140], a route involving 6-oxygenation at the xanthone stage, and in keeping with Scheme 7 These three xanthones are found together in four Calophyllum species. Similarly, 2-prenyl-1,3,7-trihydroxyxanthone could lead to mangostin (153) via 6-deoxy-γ-mangostin (70). The alternative, that 153 and 70 derive from two benzophenones, is less attractive, as it does not indicate such a close relationship between these co-occurring xanthones It can be seen that a series of modifications (oxygenation, further prenylation, cyclization etc.) to the two basic 2-prenylxanthones can produce over 40, or about half of the known prenylated xanthones.

It had been suggested that mangiferin (120) was biogenetically related to flavonoids [5, 141], due to its occurrence in some plants in the presence, or apparently in place of C-glucosylflavones [142], rather than with other xanthones Fujita and Inoue have conducted a thorough study on the biosynthesis of mangiferin (120) and isomangiferin (121) in Anemarrhena asphodeloides (Liliaceae) [143, 144]. The results indicate that the xanthone nucleus is indeed formed from a flavonoid-type C_6C_3 precursor (p-hydroxycinnamate) coupled with two malonates (Scheme 8) The labelled benzophenones, iriflophenone (154) and maclurin (134) were significantly

incorporated into 120, whereas labelled 1,3,6,7-tetrahy-droxyxanthone was not, suggesting that the glucosylation occurs at the maclurin stage, and that both 120 and 121 are formed by the oxidative coupling of 3-glucosylmaclurin (156)

Interestingly, mangiferin (120) has recently been found together with 3-C-glucosyliriflophenone (155) in two ferns (*Hypodematium*) [145], and with the 1,3,7-xanthone analogue of 155 in *Gentiana lactea* [146].

PHARMACOLOGY

Probably the most important development in this area has been the identification of the cytotoxic xanthone psorospermin (57) [51, 52, 54] It shows significant *in vivo* activity in P338 leukaemia, colon (C6) and mammary (CD) tumotir systems [148]. Synthetic studies on psorospermin are in progress [55–57] (see earlier), and analogues are being prepared and tested for similar activity [149].

Mangiferin (120) has been the subject of several studies. Anti-inflammatory [150], antihepatoxic [151] and anti-viral (herpes) [152] properties have been reported. Mangiferin has also been shown to cause the *in vitro* activation of the lymphocytes of tumour-bearing rats [153].

In contrast to mangiferin (120), which is reported to be a CNS stimulant [154], mangostin (153) and several of its derivatives [155] as well as xanthones from Calophyllum inophyllum and Mesua ferrea [156] produce CNS depression in rats and mice. Many of these xanthones, especially mangostin, exhibit significant anti-inflammatory properties at doses of 50 mg/kg [155, 156]. They have no analgesic or antipyretic effect, but mangostin shows anti-ulcer activity. The interference of mangostin with inflammatory and immunopathological responses has been further studied [157]. The synthetic 3,6-di-O-glucosylmangostin produces myocardial stimulation and a rise in blood pressure in dogs [155, 158].

COOH

2 x

Malonyl CoA

HO

HO

HO

HO

OH

R

R

HO

OH

R

154 R = H

155 R =
$$\beta$$
-D-Glucopyranosyl

(1) 3'-oxidation
(11) 3-glucosylation

OH

OH

OH

OH

OH

156

More xanthones have been tested for *in vitro* inhibition of monoamine oxidases (MAO's) [159] Two compounds, 1-hydroxy-3,8-dimethoxyxanthone and 1,3-dihydroxy-7,8-dimethoxyxanthone (swertinin) were identified as the most effective inhibitors of type A MAO, but were weak type B MAO inhibitors In another study 1,5,8-trihydroxy-3-methoxyxanthone also showed selective type A inhibition [146] A number of xanthones also inhibit xanthine oxidase [160] 1,3,6,7-Tetrahydroxyxanthone was the most potent of the compounds tested

Several prenylated xanthones possess significant antimicrobial properties. Mangostin shows broad spectrum antibacterial activity, including the inhibition of penicif-lin-resistant strains of *Staphylococcus aureus*, as well as antifungal properties [161, 162]. Xanthones from *Calophyllum inophyllum*, particularly 6-deoxyjacareubin (56) and jacareubin (81) [163], and the benzophenones kolanone (143) [102] and garcinol (145) [109] also exhibit antimicrobial properties

A tuberculostatic effect has been noted in many natural and synthetic xanthones [164]. A quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR) study has found a correla-

tion between ¹³C NMR chemical shifts of C-4b and C-7 of various 1,3-oxygenated xanthones and tuberculosis inhibition [165]. Three potent xanthones were identified, of which gentisein (31) was the most active

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Guttiferae produce a wide variety of both simple and prenylated xanthones. The growing interest in these compounds is shown by the large number isolated during the last eight years. An attempt has been made in this review to correlate xanthone structure with the classical taxonomic divisions of the Guttiferae. The new results on xanthone biosynthesis support the idea of a common benzophenone precursor, although further studies are still required. Lastly, the pharmacology of xanthones has been summarized, indicating their potential as medicinal agents.

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APPENDIX

Species-compound index

Xanthones except (ital)-xantholignoid, { }-glycoside ()-benzophenone

```
Allanblackia floribunda Oliv
                                        (132), (133)
Archytea multiflora Benth
                                         51
Bonnetia stricta (Nees) Nees & Mart
                                         4, 7 21
Calophyllum bracteatum Thw
                                         71
C calaba var calaba L
                                         71-73
C thwaitesii Pl and Tr
                                         70, 75
C walkeri Wight
                                         74, 76-78
C wightianum T Anders
                                         117
C zeylanıcum Kosterm
                                         1, 3 4, 18, 56, 73, 81, 116
  (=C \ lankaensis \ Kosterm)
Caraipa grandiflora Mart
                                         28, 36, (125)
C psidifolia Ducke
                                         2 36
C valioi Paula
                                         36, (125)
Clusia ellipticifolia Cuatr
                                        (138-140)
Clusia nemorosa G F W Meyer
                                        (148)
Cratoxylum pruniflorum Kurz
                                         48, {120}, {121}
Garcinia cambogia Dest
                                        (145) (147)
G densu enta Engl
                                         88
G hanburyi Hook f
                                         118, 119
G huillensis
                                        (145)
G indica Choisy
                                         4, (145), (147)
G kola Heckel
G mangostana L
                                         48, 52, 54, 55, 68, 70, 73, 74, 79, 96-104, 108, {122},
                                        (134)
G mannu Oliv
                                        (144)
G nervosa Mia
                                         109
G ot alifolia Oliv
                                        86, (144), (146)
G pedunculata Roxb
                                        (135)
G polyantha Oliv
                                         90, (144), (146)
G pyrifera Ridl
                                         112-114
G quadrifaria Baill ex Pierre
G quaesita Kosterm
                                        [151 a -c]
G staudtu Engl
                                        88, (144)
G thwaitesu Pierre
G xanthochymus Hook f
                                        3, 4, 12, 14, 15, 30, (134)
G xishuanbannanensis Y H Li
                                        (144), (146)
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APPENDIX Continued

Haploclathra lieantha (Benth.) Benth 15, 21, 35, 38, 42, 45, 46, 49 H paniculata (Mart) Benth 7, 15, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31, 33, 38, 40, 41 H verticillata Ducke 4.7 Hypericum androsaemum L 10, 11, 27, 47, 48, 50, 80, 82, (124) H aucher: Jaub et Sprach 48, {120} H. balearicum I. 1, 4, 11 H barbatum Jack **[120]** H boissieri Petrovic {120}, {121} H calycinum L (124)H canariensis L 1, 4, 5, 10, 26, 37, 63, (124), (126), (127) H. degenu Bornm H ericoides L 1, 4, 34, 43, (124) H hirsutum {121} H humifusum L {120} H. japonicum Thunb (149) H maculatum Crantz 115, {120}, (124) H mysorense 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 24, (127) H perforatum L (124)H rocheli Griseb and Schenk {120}, {121} H rumeliacum Boiss **{120}** 26, 64, 82, {120}, {121} H sampsonu Hance Kielmeyera coriacea Mart. (128)K rubiflora Camb 26 K speciosa St Hill 26 Mahurea tomentosa Ducke 4.7 Mesua ferrea L 42 Platonia insignis Mart. 32, {123} 11, 44, 53, 57-61 Psorospermum febrifugum Sprach Rheedia benthamiana Pl and Tr 86, 88, 89, 91 R. brasiliensis (Mart) Pl and Tr 62, 67, 86-94 R gardneriana Pl and Tr 62, 67, 84, 86-91 R madrunno (HBK) Pl (144)Symphonia globulifera L (134)Tovomita brasiliensis Walp 36 T excelsa Andrade-Lima & G Maritz 16, 18, 20, 22 T mangle G Maritz 95, (141), (142) Vismia decipiens Schlect-Cham (136), (138), (139) V guaramırangae Huber 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, (124–126), (136), (137) V guineensis (L) Choisy 83, 85, 110, 111

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