

SHORT COMMUNICATION

AN EXAMINATION OF THE RUBIACEAE OF HONG KONG—V.*

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Plant. *Mussaenda pubescens* Ait.f. (Rubiaceae).

Uses. Medicinal, for stomach troubles by local herbalists.

Previous work. On sister species.¹

Leaves. (Extrctd light petroleum, chromatographed—alumina): *A higher aliphatic alcohol** (m.p., mxd m.p., and i.r. of alcohol and acetate): from light petroleum: benzene (1:1) fractions.

Sterol mixture from benzene fractions, separated into *Stigmasterol* C₂₉H₄₈O (m.p., mxd m.p. of acetate tetrabromide; m.p., mxd m.p., [α]_D, i.r. of acetate and alcohol) and β -*Sitosterol* C₂₉H₅₀O (m.p., mxd. m.p., [α]_D, i.r. of acetate and alcohol). (Extrctd EtOH): no triterpene acids.

Stems. (Extrctd light petroleum, chromatographed—alumina): *Sterol mixture* from benzene fractions, separated into *Stigmasterol* and β -*sitosterol* as for leaves. (Extrctd EtOH, evaporated to dryness, extrctd Et₂O, soln. shaken with aq. NaOH, and aq. soln. acidified): *Crude triterpene acid*, methylated and chromatographed—(alumina; light petroleum: benzene): *Arjunolic acid*^{2,3} C₃₀H₄₈O₅ (m.p., mxd m.p., [α]_D, and, i.r. of methyl ester and acid).

Plant. *Lasianthus chinensis* Benth. (Rubiaceae).

Uses. None.

Previous work. None.

Leaves. (Extrctd light petroleum, chromatographed—alumina): *Stigmasterol* and β -*sitosterol* from benzene fractions as above.

Betulin C₃₀H₅₀O₂ (m.p., mxd m.p., [α]_D, i.r. of alcohol and diacetate). (Extrctd EtOH): no triterpene acids.

Stems. (Extrctd light petroleum, chromatographed—alumina): *Damnacanthol*,^{4,5} C₁₆H₁₀O₅ (m.p., mxd m.p., i.r.) from light petroleum fractions.

Stigmasterol and β -*sitosterol* from benzene fractions as above. (Extrctd EtOH): no triterpene acids.

* Part IV, *Phytochem.* 6, 443 (1967).

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³ F. E. KING, T. J. KING and J. D. WHITE, *J. Chem. Soc.* 2830 (1958).

⁴ S. NONOMURA, *J. Pharm. Soc. Japan* 75, 219, 222, 225 (1955).

⁵ N. R. AYYANGAR, B. S. JOSHI and K. VENKATARAMAN, *Tetrahedron* 6, 331 (1959).

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