

SHORT COMMUNICATION

CONSTITUENTS OF THE BARK OF *SICKINGIA KLUGII* (STANDL)

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Plant: *Sickingia klugii* (Standl)—Rubiaceae.

Uses: Not known.

Previous work: None.

Compounds isolated: The extraction of the dried bark (21.5 kg) with methanol yielded the basic fraction (38 g, 0.14 per cent) and the neutral fraction (147 g, 0.17 per cent). The basic fraction afforded *harman* $C_{12}H_{10}N_2$, m.p. 243° (from acetone) (m.p., mxd. m.p., and i.r.); NMR (δ 2.82 ppm 3H, singlet, CH_3 ; δ 7–9 ppm 7H); u.v. λ_{max}^{EtOH} 235, 298, 350 nm ($\log \epsilon$ 4.54, 4.25, 3.67); methiodide, m.p. 292° (from methanol-ether); u.v. λ_{max}^{EtOH} 252, 307, 375 nm ($\log \epsilon$ 4.33, 4.22 and 3.53); $\lambda_{max}^{EtOH+NaOH}$ 281, 330 nm ($\log \epsilon$ 4.35, 3.68); picrate, m.p. 263–265° (from ethanol).

The neutral fraction was chromatographed on alumina. The chloroform-ethanol fraction afforded β -sitosterol $C_{29}H_{50}O$, m.p. 142.5–143° (from acetone) (m.p., mxd. m.p., and i.r.); acetate, m.p. 127.5–128.5° (from acetone).

From mother liquors of β -sitosterol there was isolated a small amount (25 mg) of a compound, m.p. 133–133.5°. The benzene fraction afforded a material, m.p. 70–73° (from acetone). This compound showed a carbonyl band at 1740 cm^{-1} , could not be reduced with sodium borohydride but with lithium aluminium hydride.

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