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SHORT COMMUNICATION

CONSTITUENTS OF *PIPER HOOKERI**

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Abstract—1-Phenylethanol benzoate has been reported for the first time from a plant source. Triacontane, triacontanol and β-sitosterol were also isolated.

Plant. Piper hookeri L—Piperaceae.

Occurrence. Western Ghats, India.

Uses. Species of *Piper* have considerable[1] medicinal and economic value.

Previous work. Not reported. On sister species, *P. nigrum*,[2] *P. betel*,[3] *P. longum*,[4] *P. chaba*,[5] *P. cubeb*,[6] *P. methysticum*,[7] *P. peepuloides*,[8] *P. futokadzura*[9] and *P. bette*.[10]

Leaves. Vacuum dried petroleum ether extract chromatographed over neutral alumina.

New Cpd. 1-*Phenylethanol benzoate;* This compound has been reported to occur for the first time from a plant source. Hydrolysis with alcoholic KOH yielded 1-phenylethanol (b.p., n_D^{15}, Co-TLC, 3,5-DNB, m.p.) and benzoic acid (m.p., mxd. m.p., Co-TLC, superimposable u.v. and titrimetric mol. wt. determination). 1-Phenylethanol on oxidation yielded acetophenone (Co-TLC, 2,4-DNP, m.p. and mxd. m.p. and semicarbazone, m.p.). Identity of the ester was confirmed by comparison with a synthetic sample (b.p., Co-TLC, n_D^{21} and superimposable i.r. Found: C, 78·176; H, 6·67. $C_{15}H_{14}O_2$ required: C, 79·64; H, 6·19 per cent): from later petroleum ether fractions obtained as a major component by preparative TLC on SiO_2 (*n*-hexane:ethyl acetate, 1:99).

Triacontane. $C_{30}H_{62}$ (m.p., mxd. m.p., Co-TLC and i.r. Found: C, 85·1; H, 14·30. $C_{30}H_{62}$ required: C, 85·3; H, 14·69 per cent): from earlier petroleum ether fractions and crystallization (CH_3COCH_3).

Triacontanol. $C_{30}H_{62}O$ (m.p., TLC and i.r. of alcohols, its acetate. Found: C, 81·66;

* Part VII in the series "Studies on the Genus *Piper*"; for Part VI see K. L. DHAR and C. K. ATAL, *Indian J. Chem.* **5**, 588 (1967).

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H, 13·96. $C_{30}H_{62}O$ required: C, 82·19; H, 14·15 per cent): from benzene fractions and crystallization (EtOAC).

β-Sitosterol. (M.p., mxd. m.p. and Co-TLC of sterol, its acetate): from $CHCl_3$ fractions and crystallization (MeOH).

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