

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

# CONSTITUENTS OF THE ROOT-BARK OF *CLERODENDRON SERRATUM*

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*Plant: Clerodendron serratum* (L.) Moon—Verbenaceae.

*Uses:* Medicinal.<sup>1</sup>

*Previous work:* Pharmacological.<sup>2</sup>

*Products isolated:* The root-bark does not contain any alkaloidal matter. It contains traces of saponins. Extraction of the dried root-bark (500 g) with petroleum ether (40–60°) yielded a dark-yellow residue (3.9 g) which was chromatographed on alumina. The benzene-ether (1:1) fraction afforded  $\gamma$ -sitosterol  $C_{29}H_{50}O$ , m.p. 146–147° (from ethanol) (m.p. and mxd. m.p.),  $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 41^\circ$  (chloroform); acetate, m.p. 143°,  $[\alpha]_D^{25} - 44^\circ$  (chloroform); benzoate, m.p. 151°.

An aqueous extract of the root-bark (500 g) was mixed with filter paper pulp and dried. Extraction of this with boiling *n*-butanol yielded crude mannitol (6 g) which on extraction with 97 per cent ethanol in a Soxhlet yielded D (–)-mannitol\* (5 g), m.p. 166° (mxd. m.p.); acetate, m.p. 126°, and benzoate, m.p. 148–149°.

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\* Isolation of mannitol from this plant was previously reported by us.<sup>3</sup> More recently Garg and Verma<sup>4</sup> reported the isolation of mannitol from this plant but no reference was made to our prior publication.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> K. R. KIRTIKAR and B. D. BASU, in *Indian Medicinal Plants*, Vol. 3, 2nd edition, p. 1948, Prabasi Press, Calcutta (1933).

<sup>2</sup> K. S. SACHDEV, S. A. VASAVADA and A. JOSEPH, *Indian J. Pharm.* **26**, 105 (1964).

<sup>3</sup> K. S. SACHDEV, S. K. BANERJEE and R. N. CHAKRAVARTI, *Bull. Calcutta School Trop. Med.* **13**, 17 (1965); *Chem. Abstr.* **62**, 15068e (1965).

<sup>4</sup> V. P. GARG and S. C. L. VERMA, *J. Pharm. Sci.* **56**, 639 (1967).