

SHORT COMMUNICATION

CONSTITUENTS OF *OLEANDRA NERIIFOLIA*

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Plant. *Oleandra neriifolia*—Davalliaceae.

Uses. Medicinal.¹

Previous work. A new pentacyclic triterpene alcohol neriifolol;² on sister species *O. wallichii*.^{3, 4}

Rhizome, leaves and roots. Extr. hexane, chromatographed.

Filicene, C₃₀H₅₀, m.p. 230–231°, $\alpha_D + 50^\circ$ (lit.⁵ m.p. 228.5–229.5°; $\alpha_D + 50^\circ$), superposable i.r. spectra with that of an authentic sample.⁵ Oxidation with CrO₃ to filicenone (flic-3-ene-2-one), m.p. 258–261°, $\alpha_D + 50^\circ$, i.r.; oxidation with SeO₂ to filicenone, m.p., α_D , i.r. Epoxidation with monoperphthallic acid to adiantoxide,⁶ m.p., α_D , superposable i.r. spectra. Isomerization with 6 per cent HCl in AcOH (reflux, 12 hr) to isofernene,⁵ m.p., mxd. m.p., superposable i.r. spectra.; with 6 per cent H₂SO₄ in AcOH (reflux, 18 hr) to isofernene and hopene-II,³ m.p., mxd. m.p., α_D , superposable i.r. spectra.

n-Octacosanol lignocerate. M.p. 84°, i.r.; hydrolysis with 10 per cent alcoholic NaOH to *n*-octacosanol, m.p., i.r.; acetate, m.p., i.r. and lignoceric acid, m.p., i.r.; methyl ester, sap equivalent.

β -Sitosterol. M.p., mxd. m.p., α_D , i.r.; acetate, m.p., α_D , i.r.

New compound. Triterpene epoxide designated as neriifoloxide, C₃₀H₅₀O. (Found: C, 84.32, H, 12.15. C₃₀H₅₀O required: C, 84.50; H, 11.73 per cent.) M.p. 294–298°; no CO or OH band in the i.r. spectra. Recovered unchanged when treated with LiAlH₄ or HCl gas in CHCl₃; on refluxing with 6 per cent HCl in AcOH yielded an acetate, m.p. 210–211°, $\nu_{\max}^{\text{KBr}}$ 1720, 1250 cm⁻¹.

Hydrolysis of the meal. Ten common amino acids and glucose and fructose identified.

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¹ *Wealth of India, Raw Material*, Vol. 7, p. 94, CSIR, New Delhi, India (1966).

² G. N. PANDEY and C. R. MITRA, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 1353 (1967).

³ G. N. PANDEY and C. R. MITRA, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 4683 (1967).

⁴ G. N. PANDEY and C. R. MITRA, *Phytochem.* **8**, 327 (1969).

⁵ H. AGETA, K. IWATA and S. NATORI, *Tetrahedron Letters*, 3413 (1964).

⁶ G. BERTI, F. BOTTARI and A. MARSILI, *Il Farmaco*, Ed. Sci. **18**, 446 (1963).