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NOTE

Phytochemical Investigation of *Anamirta cocculus* Linn.

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Anamirta cocculus Linn.[1] (family : Menispermaceae) is found in humid regions of India. Earlier investigation on the seeds of this plant reported[1] picrotoxin as the active principle. Herein we report the isolation of stearic acid in seeds and fumaric acid in flowers of the plant.

The alcoholic extract of the air-dried leaves of *A cocculus* (800 g) on removal of the solvent yielded a solid residue (29 g), which was dissolved in minimum quantity of methanol. It was then adsorbed on SiO_2 gel and chromatographed over silica gel column eluting with solvents of increasing polarity. The eluates from petroleum ether (b.p. 60–80°) was evaporated to a residue, which on crystallisation from methanol furnished colourless granules (2 g), m.p. 68–69° (lit.[2] 69°); R_f 0.83 (benzene-methanol, 20 : 0.5); ν_{max} (KBr) 1 740, 1 690, 1 460 and 1 300 cm^{-1}: δ (90 MHz; $CDCl_3$) 0.90 (CH_3), 1 30 (14 × CH_2), 1.62 (CH_2), 2.35 (CH_2); *m/z* (rel. int. %) 285 (*M*+1) 284 (M^+ 17.6), 267 (2), 255 (2), 241 (15), 227 (4), 213 (4), 198 (6), 184 (14), 160 (8), 156 (8), 142 (10), 137 (35). Ir, ^1H nmr, mass spectral data and m.m.p. of the granules were identical with those reported for stearic acid[2].

Similarly, the methanolic extract of dried flowers of *A cocculus* (300 g) yielded a semi-solid (17 g) after removal of the solvent. The semi-solid was then dissolved in minimum quantity of methanol, adsorbed on silica gel, subjected to column chromatography over silica gel column and eluted with solvents of increasing polarity. The benzene-chloroform (9 : 1) eluate gave a solid which was crystallised from methanol as colourless fine needles, m.p. 289–90° (lit.[3] 290°); positive bromothymol blue test for acids; ν_{max} (KBr) 2 700, 1 680, 1 590 and 1 450 cm^{-1}: δ (90 MHz; CD_3OCD_3) 6.82 (2H, s); *m/z* (rel. int. %) 116.0108 (8.75 $C_4H_4O_4$), 99 (13.9), 88 (11.6), 72 (4), 71 (5), 55 (7), 45 (9), 44 (9). Ir, ^1H nmr, mass and m.m.p. data were identical with those reported for fumaric acid[3].

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