

PHYTOCHEMICAL INVESTIGATION OF ALSTONIA BOONEI AND SCHIZOZYGIA COFFAEOIDES FOR CYTOTOXIC PRINCIPLES

BY

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DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis is my original work and has never been presented for a degree award in any higher University. Where other people's work has been used, this has properly been acknowledged and referenced in accordance with University of Nairobi Requirements.



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ABSTRACT

The air dried and ground stem bark and root bark of *Alstonia boonei* were extracted, separately, with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (1:1) by cold percolation. After which, the crude extract of the stem bark was subjected to a combination of chromatographic separation which resulted in the isolation of two terpenes: lupeol acetate (**101**) and cycloeucalenol (**104**), a steroid: stigmasterol, a xanthone: lichexanthone (**103**) and an alkaloid: phenanthridine-**6**(*5H*)-one (**105**). Similarly, the root bark extract resulted into isolation of three triterpenes: **101**, **104** and lupeol (**106**), a steroid: β -sitosterol and an alkaloid: Echitamine (**108**). Chromatographic separation of the leaf extract of *Schizozygia coffaeoides* resulted into isolation of stigmasterol, three alkaloids: schizozygine (**95**), isoschizozygaline (**99**) and 6,7-dehydro-19 β -hydroxyschizozygine (**96**) and two anthraquinones: cassamin A (**97**) and cassamin B (**98**). Compounds **104** and **105** are hereby reported for the first time from Apocynaceae family. All of the compounds structures where elucidated using various spectroscopic/spectrometric techniques; proton and ¹³C NMR, ¹H-¹H COSY, HSQC, NOESY, HMBC, ORD and MS.

The crude extract of the root bark from *Alstonia boonei* exhibited good cytotoxic activity against HepG2 liver cancer cells ($IC_{50} = 12.8 \ \mu g/ml$) but was toxic to the LO2 normal liver cells ($IC_{50} = 1.19 \ \mu g/ml$). The crude extract was also toxic to the BEAS-2B normal lung cells but inactive against the A549 human lung cancer cells. Similarly, the crude extract of the stem bark of *Alstonia boonei* was toxic to the normal cells from both the lung and the liver but not active against the respective cancerous cells. Lupeol was inactive against the A549 cancer cells but toxic to BEAS-2B normal lung cells ($IC_{50} = 0.71 \ \mu$ M). Furthermore, lupeol was very active HepG2 liver cancerous cells ($IC_{50} = 1.65 \ \mu$ M) cells but highly toxic against LO2 normal liver cells ($IC_{50} = <0.1 \ \mu$ M).

Treatment of schizozygine (95) with boron tribromide in an inert atmosphere at -18 $^{\circ}$ C led to cleavage of the methylenedioxy group leading to the formation the Schizozygine derivative (110) with 29% yield.



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ABBREVIATIONS

CD :	Circular Dichroism
DCM :	Dichloromethane
DMSO	Dimethylsulphoxide
DNA :	Deoxyribonucleic acid
EIMS :	Electron Ionization Mass Spectrometry
HCOSY:	Homonuclear correlation spectroscopy
HMBC:	Heteronuclear multiple bond correlation
HRMS :	High Resolution Mass Spectrometry
HSQC:	Heteronuclear Single quantum coherence
IC ₅₀ :	50% Inhibition Concentration
IR :	Infrared
MeOH :	Methanol
NMR :	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
PTLC :	Preparative Thin Layer Chromatography
UV :	Ultra Violet
WHO :	World Health Organization

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Cancer for long has been taken to be 'a disease of the rich', considering their lifestyle. However, the situation seems to have changed, given the increasing cancer cases in developing countries (WHO, 2008). Cancer may result from genetic instability and epigenetic alterations caused by different types of DNA damage induced by exposure to radiation and other carcinogenic agents (Villanueva *et al.*, 2011). Apparently, everyone is potentially at risk of developing some form of cancer because of exposure to various external factors such as tobacco smoking, infectious diseases and unhealthy diet. Internal factors, including heredity, genetic mutations, hormones and susceptible conditions are also causes of cancer. The long period it takes for detection of cancer (more than nine years of exposure to external factors to detect cancer) complicates the situation (American Cancer Society, 2016).

It was reported that out of 14.1 million new cancer cases, 58% cancer deaths were registered worldwide in 2012 (Globocan, 2012). Cancer is becoming a major health problem in developing countries where it is projected to shoot up by 55% by the year 2020 (Szic *et al.*, 2011). The death rate among cancer patients has not declined significantly even with advances in the existing cancer treatment methods (American Cancer Society, 2016). Hence, prevention remains an essential strategy in the fight against cancer worldwide. The increasing incidences of cancer in the world today call for interventions including phytochemical chemoprevention. This involves the use of natural dietary phytochemicals that restrain, obstruct or reverse tumour growth at different stages - initiation, promotion or progression of carcinogenesis (Ugbogu *et al.*, 2013).

Phytochemicals lower the risk of cancer advancement in humans by radical scavenging, antiinflammatory, cytotoxicity, anti-proliferative and anti-oxidation mechanisms (Ugbogu *et al.*, 2013). Therefore, phytochemicals are a potential stand-in source for safer agents having anticarcinogenic effects. The mode of action of phytochemicals in chemoprevention is either as blocking or suppressing agents (Ugbogu *et al.*, 2013).

Surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy are the most commonly used cancer treatment methods (WHO, 2014; WHO, 2008). Even so, these can evoke various side effects and complete cure is not always realized for most patients suffering from different types of cancers (American Cancer Society, 2016). It has recently been reported that phyto-compounds from different foods can activate or deactivate molecular signaling cascades by targeting molecular cancer cells (Chung *et al.*, 2013). A number phytochemicals, including gingerol (1), indole-3-carbinol (2), genistein (3), resveratrol (4) and curcumin (5) have been considered anticancer chemo-preventive agents (Ugbogu *et al.*, 2013).



The metastatic stage of cancer complicates its management by either surgery or radiotherapy. This requires metastasis gene suppression through epigenetic mechanisms that can alter DNA methylation, histone acetylation and methylation, a condition only brought about by dietary natural substances (Szic *et al.*, 2011). There seem to be no clear therapeutic approaches for

managing metastasis (Ugbogu *et al.*, 2013). However, phytochemicals in edible plants are known to restrain metastatic of cancer progression (Meadows, 2012). In 2012, the American Cancer Society recommended two guidelines that could reduce cancer mortality by 22%: eating foods such as non-starchy vegetables, fruits and legumes containing various anticancer phytochemicals and low consumption of red meat as a source of protein (Meadows, 2012).

Members of the family Apocynaceae, including some *Alstonia* species produce compounds with cytotoxic activities (Zhang *et al.*, 2014). Hence, in this project the stem bark and roots of *A. boonei* and the leaves of *Schizozygia coffaeoides* were investigated for cytotoxicity with the aim of identifying lead compounds that might have a different mode of action from the current anticancer drugs.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite advances in surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy, which are the most commonly used cancer treatment methods, the cancer death rate has not declined significantly (American Cancer Society, 2016). At the same time, these common methods can cause a number of side effects, and yet complete cure is not realized for most cancer patients. In addition, cancer drugs have encountered resistance especially after the initial chemotherapy and this has become a problem for the new targeted agents (Cree and Charlton, 2017). For this reason, cancer is becoming a major health problem, not only in developed countries, but in developing countries as well. It is estimated that the incidence of cancer will have shot-up by 55% in the year 2020 (Szic *et al.*, 2011). Therefore, this research was aimed at searching for new cytotoxic agents of plant origin, which can be used as templates in management of cancer related illnesses.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

The main objective of this study was to identify cytotoxic metabolites from *Alstonia boonei* and *Schizozygia coffaeoides*.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this study were:

- i. To isolate and characterize metabolites from the stem and root bark of *Alstonia boonei* and leaves of *Schizozygia coffaeoides*;
- ii. To establish the cytotoxity of the crude extract and isolated metabolites;
- iii. To improve the cytotoxity of the promising compounds through derivatization.

1.4 Justification

Due to the estimated high cancer cases by the year 2020 (Szic *et al.*, 2011), it is necessary to search for alternative anticancer agents. In this regard, plants remain an excellent source of anticancer agents (Ugbogu *et al.*, 2013). Some cytotoxic compounds have been reported from the family Apocynaceae (Khyade *et al.*, 2014), including *Alstonia* species (Khyade *et al.*, 2014). However, there is no report on the phytochemistry and cytotoxicity of *Alstonia boonei* and *Schizozygia coffaeoides*. Therefore in this study, the stem bark and root bark of *Alstonia boonei*; and the leaves of *Schizozygia coffaeoides* were investigated for cytotoxic phytochemicals.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Cancer

Cancer is a collection of diseases resulting from the uncontrolled growth of abnormal and irreparable cells (American Cancer Society, 2016). The root cause of cancer can be due to internal or external factors (lifestyle and environmental). Internal factors may include alteration of DNA structure (Tringali, 2001), high concentration of free radical agents (Boik, 2001) and epigenetic changes (Miller et al., 2016). Lifestyle includes tobacco smoking – mortality from various types of cancer have been attributed to smoking (Kuper et al., 2002; Stewart & Kleihues, 2003). Diet also plays a very big role in contributing to cancer risks and apparently accounting for about 30% of the cancer cases in western countries and 20% of cases in developing countries (Key et al., 2004; Stewart & Kleihues, 2003). Heavy alcohol consumption contributes to the cancer through formation of carcinogenic metabolites to humans, according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) (Testino et al., 2012; WHO, 2008; Danaei et al., 2005). Environmental factors such as exposure to radiation, pathogens (for example; Helicobacter pylori, papilloma viruses and Epstein-Barr virus) also contribute to cancer (Tringali, 2001). Nonmodifiable factors such as old age and family history also contribute to cancer development (WHO, 2014; WHO, 2008).

2.1.2 Types of Cancer

Cancer manifests in various forms which can closely be related to the cause and the organ/tissue affected. Globocan (2012) reported an estimate of over 28 cancer types spread over 184 countries across the world. Of these, the most common and the most devastating cancer forms

are lung cancer (responsible for 13.0% of the global total), breast cancer (responsible for 11.9%), and colorectal cancer (accounting for 9.7%). Liver cancer is yet another type causing 9.1% cancer deaths, and stomach cancer which accounted for 8.8% global mortality. In women, about 528,000 cervical cancer cases are registered each year making it fourth, with mortality of about 266,000 worldwide in 2012 (Globocan, 2012). Leukaemia, lymphoma and choriocarcinoma cancers are commonly reported in children (WHO, 2014; WHO, 2008). Other common types of cancer include prostate, Kaposi sarcoma, ovary and gastric (WHO, 2014; WHO, 2008).

2.1.3 Cancer Prevalence

Globally, 14.1 million new cancer cases were recorded in 2012, and of these 58% were fatal. By 2020 cancer cases are projected to rise to about 22 million globally. A great majority of cancer cases were recorded in under-developed countries (Globocan, 2012). As a result, cancer is becoming a major health problem in developing countries where it is projected to rise by 55% by the year 2020 (Szic *et al.*, 2011). Annually 37,000 new cancer cases are registered in Kenya with 28,000 deaths which are 7% of the total annual mortality (Kenya cancer control, 2017). Thus cancer is rated the second highest cause of mortality (below cardiovascular disease) in Kenya as for other developing countries (Kenya Nation Cancer Control, 2017).

2.2 Cancer Therapy

Cancer therapy involves both the preventive and treatment measures. Treatment of cancer depends on the cancer type, the stage of cancer, health status, age and additional personal traits of the patient. Preventive measures such as vaccination (American cancer society, 2016), minimizing exposure to intense radiation (American Cancer Society, 2016), systematic screening (Maseri *et al.*, 1978) and chemoprevention (Ugbogu *et al.*, 2013) reduces cancer incidences. Such preventive measures have worked against leukaemia, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Wilms tumour (WHO, 2014).

The existing methods for cancer treatment include radiotherapy, immunotherapy, surgery, targeted therapy (Ugbogu *et al.*, 2013), chemotherapy, gene therapy (Bagchi & Preuss, 2005), and hormone therapy (American Cancer Society, 2016). These treatments are very expensive to the common population; as such treatment involves both direct and indirect costs. For example, in the UK, an average of £570 is spent monthly per individual upon cancer diagnosis (Macmillan Cancer Support, 2016). Moreover, up to £860 is spent per person as indirect cost associated with cancer treatment. The situation is even worse in under-developed countries, because treatment is often sought overseas in developed countries (Macmillan cancer support, 2016). The average treatment cost for cancer in Kenya is estimated at KShs 300,000 (approx. 3000 USD) (Atieno *et al.*, 2018). Besides the cost, the present treatment methods are not well tolerated by the patients. Even after such treatment, cancer often re-occur in a short period of time because of aggressive metastasis (Macmillan cancer support, 2016). In addition to cost, the side effects associated to these treatments are painful and are also sometimes the cause of death to patients after being cured of cancer (American cancer society, 2016).

2.4 Cancer Treatment using Natural Products

Natural products have played an important role in the treatment of different diseases including cancer (Ugbogu *et al.*, 2013). The management of cancer cases is still costly-unaffordable to many patients; and the drugs have severe side effects. Therefore the use of phyto-chemotherapy in cancer management is a reasonable option. Most of the natural products used in cancer treatment, work as blocking or suppressing agents in chemoprevention mechanisms. The systematic use of natural products in cancer treatment can be traced to the isolation of the vinca alkaloids vinblastine (**6**) and vincristine (**7**). To date, several natural product-derived drugs are used in the treatment of various cancers. Table 2.1 shows some of the most important natural product derived anti-cancer drugs.

Compound	Source	Form of cancer treated	Reference
Vinblastine (6)	Catharanthus roseus	Breast, lung, leukaemia	Prakash et al., 2013
Vincristine (7)	Catharanthus roseus	Leukaemia in children	Prakash et al.,2013
Camptothecin (8)	Camptotheca acumminata	Ovarian, lung, breast	Itokawa <i>et al.</i> , 2008
Taxol (9)	Taxus brevifolia nut	Colorectal	Itokawa <i>et al.</i> , 2008

Table 2. 1: Natural products derived anti-cancer drugs



2.5 The Apocynaceae Family

Plants of the family Apocynaceae can be tropical trees, shrubs and vines among dogbane family of flowering plants of the gentian order (Wong *et al.*, 2013). The subfamilies of Apocynaceae include; Secamonoideae, Asclepiadoideae, Apocynoideae, Rauvolfioideae and Periplocoideae (Kashef *et al.*, 2015). The family Apocynaceae comprises of more than 500 genera and 15,000 species with 22 genera and 40 species reported in Kenya (Kashef *et al.*, 2015, Omino and Kokwaru, 1993). Some plants from this family have been reported to possess cytotoxic properties. The genera with cytotoxic activity include; *Allamanda, Alstonia, Calotropis, Catharanthus, Cerbera, Nerium, Plumeria, Tabernaemontana* and *Vallaris* (Wong *et al.*, 2013). For example, *Catharanthus roseus* has been reported as a source of the natural product-derived

anticancer drugs including vinblastine (6) and vincristine (7) which are used in the treatment of leukaemia in children (Aruna *et al.*, 2015).

2.5.1 The Genus Alstonia

The genus *Alstonia* has diverse pharmacological properties including cytotoxicity, antiplasmodial and antifungal (Pratyush *et al.*, 2011). The genus consists of about 40 species widely distributed in the tropics especially in Africa, South Asia (Adotey *et al.*, 2012), Australia and the Central America (Pan *et al.*, 2014). *Alstonia* species are rich in alkaloids, steroids and triterpenoids, and phenolic compounds (Pratyush *et al.*, 2011).

2.5.1.1 Alstonia Boonei

Alstonia boonei is widely distributed throughout the tropics, the rain forest of west and Central Africa (Opoku and Akoto, 2014). The species is widely available in Ethiopia, Uganda, Senegal and Sudan (Orwa *et al.*, 2009). It has also been considered as a medicinal plant in the areas where it grows (Opoku and Akoto, 2015). The plant is commonly known as stool wood, cheese wood and De wild. In Central Uganda, it is known as "*Mubajangalabi*" (Luganda) (Orwa *et al.*, 2009). It grows best in the damp areas with moist to well-drained soils and also favoured by the altitude between 500-1000 m above sea level, with mean annual rainfall between 1500-2000 mm (Orwa *et al.*, 2009).

2.5.2 Ethnobotanical Uses of the Genus Alstonia

Plants of the genus *Alstonia* are widely used as medicinal plants for the treatment of various diseases. Table 2.2 summarizes the various ethnomedical uses of the different *Alstonia* species

Species	Plant	Use	Reference
	part		
A. boonei	Leaves	Anti-diabetic	Adotey et al., 2012
	Stem	Anti-inflammatory	
	bark		
	Root bark	Antipsychotic, insecticidal, anti-snake venom,	Miracle et al., 2014
		anthelminthic, antidiarrheal properties	
A. scholaris	Leaves	Used for the treatment of Ulcer, rheumatic	Pratyush et al., 2011
		pain, asthma, diabetes and dropsy	
	Roots	Used for treatment of enlarged liver with pain	
		and leprosy	
	Stem	Tonic, aphrodisiac, febrifuge, stimulant,	Khyade <i>et al.</i> , 2014
	bark	expectorant, alterative, carminative,	
		antiperiodic, astringent and stomach ache.	
		For treatment of leprosy, dyspepsia, malarial	
		fever, leishmania infection.	
		Ulcers, tuberculosis, toothache, post-	
		pregnancy fever, menstrual disorder, skin	
		disease, dog bite, cough, asthma, hepatitis,	
		snake bites, tumors, itching, rheumatism	
	Flowers	Management of asthma and other respiratory	
		problems	

Table 2. 2: Ethnobotanical uses of Alstonia species

A. macrophylla	Leaf	Used for treatment of stomach ache, bruise,	Khyade et al., 2014
		dislocated joints, skin diseases, urinary	
		infections, sprain, ulcers, vulnerary properties	
	Stem	Used for treatment of swelling, malaria fever,	
	bark	bone fracture, vulnerary properties, diabetes,	
		fatigue, liver disease, general tonic, fatigue.	
	Roots	Fractured bones, fever, ulcers	
A. angustifolia	Leaves	Used as remedy for fever	Pan <i>et al.</i> , 2014
	Stem	Anti-malarial remedy	
	bark		
A. rupestris	Leaves	Known for its cytotoxicity, anti-bacterial and	Zhang <i>et al.</i> , 2014
		antifungal activities	

2.6 Phytochemistry of the Genus Alstonia

A variety of phytochemicals have been reported from the genus *Alstonia* including alkaloids, steroids, terpenoids and phenolic compounds (Pratyush *et al.*, 2011; Zhang *et al.*,2014). These classes of compounds are presented in sub-sections 2.6.1 - 2.6.3.

2.6.1 Alkaloids of the genus Alstonia

More than 76 alkaloids have been isolated from the genus *Alstonia*. Some of these have exhibited antimicrobial (Khyade *et al.*, 2014), anticancer (cytotoxic activities), antitussive (Zhang *et al.*, 2014) and anthelminthic activities (Miracle *et al.*, 2014). Some of the alkaloids reported from this genus are listed in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Alkaloids reported from Alstonia species

Alkaloids	Source (plant part)	References
Alstiphyllanine A (10)	A. Macrophylla (L)	Hirasawa et al., 2009
Alstiphyllanine B (11)		
Alstiphyllanine C (12)		
Alstiphyllanine D (13)		
Alstiphyllanine G (14)	A. Macrophylla (L)	Khyade et al.,2014
Alstonoxine A (15)	A. Macrophylla (L)	Lim et al., 2014
Alstonoxine B (16)		
Alstonoxine C (17)		
Alstonoxine D (18)		
Alstofolinine A (19)		
Alstonerine (20)		
Quaternine (21)		
11-demethoxy quaternine (22)		
Vincamajine (23)		
Vincamajine <i>N</i> (4)-oxide (24)		
Vincamajine17- <i>O</i> -verate <i>N</i> (4)-Oxide(25)		
Vincamajine17- <i>O</i> -verate (26)		
Cathafoline (27)	A. macrophylla (Sb)	Khyade et al.,2014
2(<i>S</i>)- Cathafoline (28)		
2(<i>R</i>)-3-Hydroxy-Cathafoline (29)		
2(<i>S</i>)-10-Methoxy Cathafoline (30)		
Lumutinine A (31)		
Macralstonine (32)		
Macrocarpine A(33)		
Macrocarpine B (34)		
Macrocarpine D (35)		
Macrodasine A (36)		
Macrodasine F (37)		
Macrodasine H(38)	A. macrophylla (Sb)	Kam et al., 1998
Alstonal (39)		
Alstophylline (40)		
Alstonisine (41)		
Alstonerinal(42)		
Lochnerine (43)		
10-methoxyaffinisine (44)		
Alstomacrophylline (45)	<i>A. macrophylla</i> (Rb)	Niwat <i>et al.</i> , 1998
Alstomacroline (46)		

Table 2.3 continued...

Alstoniascholarine A (47)	A. scholaris (L)	Qin et al., 2015
Alstoniascholarine B (48)		
Alstoniascholarine C (49)		
Alstoniascholarine D (50)		
Alstoniascholarine E (51)		
Alstoniascholarine F (52)		
Alstoniascholarine G (53)		
Alstoniascholarine H (54)		
Alstoniascholarine I (55)		
Alstoniascholarine J (56)		
Alstoniascholarine K (57)		
Akuammidine (58)	A. scholaris (L)	Feng et al., 2009
19- <i>Epi</i> -scholaricine (59)		
Vallesamine (60)	A. scholaris (L)	Qin et al.,2015
Echitamine (61)	A. scholaris (Sb)	Khyade et al.,2014
Scholaristine B (62)	A. scholaris (Sb)	Feng et al.,2009
Scholaristine C (63)		
Scholaristine D (64)		
Scholaristine E (65)		
Scholaristine F (66)		
Scholaristine G (67)		
Picralinal (68)	A. scholaris (L)	Liang <i>et al.</i> , 2013
Picraline (69)		
Scholarsine A (70)	A. scholaris (Rb)	Arora & Rai, 2015
Alistonitrine A (71)		
6,7-Epoxy-8-oxo-vincadiformine (72)	A. rupestris(aerialparts)	Zhang et al.,2014
11-Acetyl-6,7-epoxy-8-0xo-		
vincadifformine (73)		
11,15-Dihydroxy-14-chloro-		
vincadifformine (74)		
Perakine N_{1,N_4} -dioxide (75)		
11-Hydroxy-6,7-epoxy-8-oxo-		
vincadifformine (76)		
Vinorine N_1, N_4 -doixide (77)		
<i>N</i> ₄ -Methyltalpinine (78)	A. angustifolia (Sb)	Pan et al., 2014
Villastonine (79)		
Villastonine N (4)-oxide (80)		

Table 2.3 continued...

Villastonine D (81)	A. angustifolia (Sb)	Pan <i>et al.</i> ,2014
Villastonine E (82)		
Alstogustine (83)	A. angustifolia (Sb)	Hu et al., 1989
19-Epicalstogustine (84)		
Echitamidine (85)		
Akuamicine (86)		









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N Me

R



15 R_1 =H, R_2 = C=O **16** R_1 =H, R_2 = a-OH, 19S **17** R_1 =OMe, R_2 = C=O **18** R_1 =OMe, R_2 = a-OH, 19S





23 24 N(4) - O



Ĥ

Η

NMe



21 R=H 22 R=OMe

































2.6.2 Triterpenes of the genus Alstonia

More than 13 triterpenes have been reported from the genus *Alstonia*. Some of the triterpenoids, such as lupeol acetate and β -amyrin acetate, have exhibited anti-inflammatory activity (Adotey *et al.*, 2012). Other terpenoids isolated include α -amyrin, α -amyrin acetate, alstoprenylene, 20(30)-

ursa-ene-3-ol, lupeol, betulin, betulinic acid, ursolic acid (Kashef *et al.*, 2015), alstonic acid A, alstonic acid B, (-)-lyoniresinol- 3α -O- β -D-glucopyranoside (Khyade *et al.*, 2014) and α -amyrin palmitate (Adotey *et al.*, 2012). Some of the terpenoids from this genus are represented in the Table 2.4

Triterpenes	Source	Reference
Betulin (87)	A. scholaris (L)	(Kashef <i>et al.</i> , 2015)
Betulinic acid (88)	A. scholaris (L)	(Kashef <i>et al.</i> , 2015)
α-Amyrin (89)	A. scholaris (Rb)	(Kashef <i>et al.</i> , 2015)
β -Amyrin acetate(90)	A. scholaris (L)	(Kashef <i>et al.</i> , 2015)
Alstonic acid A (91)	A. scholaris	(Khyade <i>et al.</i> , 2014)
Alstonic acid B (92)	A. scholaris	(Khyade <i>et al.</i> , 2014)
Alstoprenylene (93)	A. scholaris (Fl)	(Kashef <i>et al.</i> , 2015)
Ursolic acid (94)	A. macrophylla	(Adotey <i>et al.</i> , 2012)

Table 2. 4: Triterpenoids reported from Alstonia species



90 R₁=Acetyl,R₂, R₃=H, R4=CH₃

 R_1O H R_1O H R_2 R_2

87 R₁,R₂,=H, R₃=CH₂OH **88** R₁,R₂,=H, R₃=COOH





2.7 Biological Activities of Compounds Isolated from Alstonia Species

Previous studies on *Alstonia* species have resulted in the identification of bioactive compounds from this genus. The activities include antidiabetic, antipyretic, anti-fertility, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antiprotozoal and antidiarrheal (Khyade *et al.*, 2014), anticancer (cytotoxic activities) and antitussive activities (Zhang *et al.*, 2014).

2.7.1 Cytotoxic Compounds from Alstonia Species

Six cytotoxic monoterpenoid indole alkaloid derivatives have been reported from the aerial parts of *Alstonia rupestris* (Zhang *et al.*, 2014). These monoterpenoid indole alkaloids include 6,7epoxy-8-oxo-vincadifformine (**72**), 11-acetyl-6,7-epoxy-8-oxo-vincadifformine (**73**), 11hydroxy-14-chloro-15-hydroxy-vincadifformine (**74**), perakine- N_1 , N_4 -dioxide(**75**), 11-hydroxy-6, 7-epoxy-8-oxo- vincadifformine (**76**) and vincorine- N_1 , N_4 -dioxide (**77**). *In vitro* cytotoxicity tests on these compounds were carried out against seven tumor cell lines using MTT assay (Zhang *et al.*, 2014). The cytotoxic activities are presented in Table 2.5.

Compounds	Cell lines (IC ₅₀ , µM)						
	Hep-2	SCL-1	CAL-27	UMSCC-27	Detroit-562	SCC-PKU	TCA-83
6,7-Epoxy-8-oxo-vincadifformine (72)	10.3	11.3	9.2	12.0	10.7	13.7	13.0
11-Ecetyl-6,7-epoxy-8-oxo- vincadifformine (73)	12.9	12.3	10.8	12.7	11.3	12.9	14.9
11-Hydroxy-14-chloro-15-hydroxy-	52.7	51.8	49.0	59.4	54.3	59.7	59.5
vincadifformine (74)							
Perakine N_1, N_4 -dioxide (75)	44.1	40.8	44.8	50.7	48.9	47.0	40.1
11-Hydroxy-6,7-epoxy-8-oxo-vincadifformine (76)	16.3	15.7	14.8	17.2	14.7	11.2	15.5
Vincorine N_1, N_4 -dioxide (77)	47.8	51.5	44.8	49.1	53.2	43.6	48.2
Doxorubicin	18.3	14.7	22.0	31.7	24.9	35.4	15.9

Table 2. 5: In vitro Cytotoxicity of compounds from Alstonia species against seven human tumor cell lines (IC₅₀, µM)^a.

^a The activities of doxorubicin are expressed as IC_{50} in nM and those of compounds **72-77** are expressed as IC_{50} in μ M.

2.8 Schizozygia coffaeoides

Schizozygia coffaeoides a monotypic shrub, family Apocynaceae, is indigenous to Comoro islands, central and East Africa, including Kenya, Tanzania Somalia and Angola (Barink, 1984). The plant has wide ethnomedicinal uses.

2.8.1 Ethnobotanical Uses of Schizozygia coffaeoides

The root infusion is used in the treatment of dizziness, Steam from boiled leaves treats inflamed eyes, a mixture of *S. coffaeoides* and coconut oil is applied in the sore treatment and lastly in Kenya, the aqueous extract of leaves treats infected skins (Barink, 1984; Omino and Kokwaro, 1993).

2.8.2 Phytochemistry of Schizozygia coffaeoides

Among the compounds reported from this shrub, includes alkaloids which are considered to be the major class compared to the triterpenes, quinones and steroids. The alkaloids isolated from this monotypic shrub are known as hexacyclic *N*-acyl indole alkaloids (Atilaw *et al.*, 2014). Table 2.6 show some of the alkaloids isolated from different parts of *Schizozygia coffaeoides*;

Compound	Plant part	Reference
Schizozygine (95)	Leaves, roots and stem	Atilaw et al., 2014; Kariba et al., 2002
	bark	
6,7-Dehydro-19 β	Leaves and roots	Atilaw et al., 2014; Kariba et al., 2002
hydroxyschizozygine (96)		
Cassamin A (97)	Roots	Atilaw <i>et al.</i> , 2014
Cassamin B (98)	Roots	Atilaw <i>et al.</i> , 2014
Isoschizogaline (99)	Stem, roots and leaves	Atilaw et al., 2014; Kariba et al., 2002
Isoschizogamine (100)	Roots and stem bark	Atilaw et al., 2014; Kariba et al., 2002

Table 2. 6: Reported Alkaloids from Schizozygia coffaeoides



2.8.3 Biological Activities of Metabolites of Schizozygia coffaeoides

Different activities of the metabolites from *Schizozygia coffaeoides* have been reported by various researchers mainly focusing on antifungal, antimicrobial and antiplasmodial activities (Atilaw *et al.*, 2014; Kariba *et al.*, 2002). In one of these reports (Kariba *et al.*, 2002), 6,7-dehydro-19 β -hydroxyschizozygine (**96**) was the most active compound as an antifungal agent, while isoschizogaline (**99**) was active against bacteria. The results obtained by Kariba *et al.* (2002) showed that 6,7-dehydro-19 β -hydroxyschizozygine (**96**) was also more active than Ketoconazole (standard drug). Of all the test fungi, *T. mentagrophyles* (MIC= <1.95 µg/ml), *M. gyseum* (MIC= 1.96 µg/ml) and *E. floccosum* (MIC= >1.96 µg/ml) were the most inhibited. Isoschizogaline (**99**) showed weak activity against *Bacillus subtilis* (MIC= 62.5 µg/ml) and *Staphylococcus aureas* (MIC= 125 µg/ml) as compared to ampicillin (standard drug) (Kariba *et al.*, 2002). The dichloromethane extract of *Schizozygia coffaeoides* leaves was active against

fungi such as *Tichophyton mentagrophytes*, *Micosporium gypseum*, *Cladosporim cucumerium* and *Candida albicans* using disc diffusion method (Kariba *et al.*, 2002).
CHAPTER THREE

MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1 General

Solvents used in extraction and chromatographic separation were glass distilled. The proton and carbon spectra were obtained on a Bruker Avance 500 MHz Spectrometer using TMS (Teteramethyl silane) or residual solvent signals as reference. UV/VIS spectra were recorded using UV-1601 (UV-Visible spectrophotometer). HCOSY, HSQC and HMBC spectra were processed using the standard software, Mestronova or Topspin, EI-MS was done as direct inlet at 70 eV on micro mass GC-TOF Wythenshawe, waters ink, UK.

3.2 Chromatographic Conditions

Column chromatography was performed on silica gel 60G (70-230 mesh, Merck) and Sephadex LH-20. Analytical TLC was done on silica gel 60 (F_{254} Merck) pre-coated aluminium plates. The visualization of the spots on the TLC was carried out using the UV light (254 or 366 nm), iodine vapour and/or by spraying with Dragendroff's reagent.

3.4 Plant materials

The root bark and stem bark of *Alstonia boonei* were collected from Nsanule village, Kaliro district in Eastern Uganda in August 2016. The plant material was identified by Dr. Paul Ssegawa of the Herbarium, Department of Botany, Makerere University, where a voucher specimen (IG001) was deposited.

The leaves of *Schizozygia coffaeoides* were collected from Kenya around Shimba hills in 2009. The plant material was verified by Mr. Simon Mathenge, of the Herbarium, School of Biological Sciences, University of Nairobi, where a voucher specimen (AYT-SM-036-2009) was deposited.

3.5 Extraction and Isolation of Compounds

3.5.1 Extraction and Isolation of Compounds from the Stem Bark of Alstonia boonei

The air dried and ground stem bark (1 kg) of *Alstonia boonei* was extracted using $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$ (1:1) by cold percolation (3 x 3L) to give 73 g of crude extract after the removal of the solvent. The crude extract was partitioned between EtOAc and water giving 38 g of the EtOAc extract which was separated by column chromatography over silica gel (400 g) eluting with *n*-hexane containing increasing amounts of EtOAc. A total of 230 fractions were collected and combined into 40 fractions based on their TLC profile. Lupeol acetate (**101**, 70 mg) precipitated as white amorphous solids from the fraction eluted with 1% EtOAc in *n*-hexane. From the combined fractions eluted with 2% EtOAc in *n*-hexane stigmasterol (**102**, 30 mg) precipitated as white amorphous powder. 6% EtOAc eluent in *n*-hexane were combined and purified by Sephadex LH-20 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH, 1:1) and gave a light yellow powder of lichexanthone (**103** 10.1 mg). From fractions eluted with 7% EtOAc in *n*-hexane eluent yielded a brown solid of phenanthridine-6(5*H*)-one (**105**, 10 mg).

3.5.2 Extraction and Isolation of compounds from the root bark of Alstonia boonei

The air dried and ground root bark (900 g) of *Alstonia boonei* was extracted using $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$ (1:1) by cold percolation to give 74 g of extract. A portion of the extract (68 g) was subjected to fractionation using column chromatography using silica gel (600 g) and eluting with *n*-hexane containing increasing percentages of EtOAc. A total of 300 fractions were collected and combined to 30 fractions based on their TLC profile. The fraction eluted with 3% EtOAc gave white amorphous solids of stigmasterol (**102**, 10 mg). Lupeol (**106**, 30 mg) was obtained as a white amorphous solid from the fraction eluted with 3-5% EtOAc in *n*-hexane. The

combined fractions eluted with 6-9% EtOAc in *n*-hexane yielded white amorphous solids of β -stitosterol (**107**, 6 mg). Sucrose (**109**, 20 mg) was eluted at 50% EtOAc in *n*-hexane as white crystals. Echitamine (**108**, 500 mg) was obtained from the column when eluted with 100% MeOH as white solids.

3.5.3 Extraction and Isolation of Compounds from the Leaves of Schizozygia coffaeoides

The air dried and ground leaves (800 g) of *Schizozygia coffaeoides* were extracted with $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$ (1:1) by cold percolation. The extract (53.4 g) was subjected to column chromatography over silica gel (600 g) and eluted with a mixture of CH_2Cl_2 and EtOAc. Three major fractions collected; F1 (100% CH_2Cl_2), F2 (50% EtOAc) and F3 (100% EtOAc).

F1 (4.9 g) was applied on silica gel (400 g) column and eluted with petroleum ether (boiling point: 50-70 °C) containing increasing percentages of EtOAc. The fraction eluted with 4-7% EtOAc in petroleum ether were combined, from which a white solid of stigmasterol (**102**, 25 mg) was obtained; also fractions eluted with 10-16% EtOAc in petroleum ether were purified, combined and further separated on Sephadex LH-20 (eluent $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$; 1:1) to give 6,7dehydro-19 β -hydroxyschizozygine (**96**, 15 mg); the fraction eluted with 17-25% EtOAc in petroleum ether was combined and crystallized from CH_2Cl_2 /petroleum ether to give schizozygine (**95**, 500 mg). The fractions eluted with 20-24% EtOAc in petroleum ether were combined and purified on Sephadex LH-20 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH; 1:1) to give cassamin B (**98**, 18 mg).

The second major fraction (F2, 4 g) eluted at 50% EtOAc in CH_2Cl_2 was also separated over silica gel (300 g) eluting with petroleum ether containing increasing percentages of EtOAc. The fractions eluted with 22-24% EtOAc in petroleum ether were combined and purified over Sephadex LH-20 ($CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$; 1:1) to give (**99**, 9 mg); and the fractions eluted with 26-32%

EtOAc in petroleum ether were combined and purified by column chromatography over Sephadex LH-20 (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH; 1:1) to give cassamin A (**97**, 16 mg).

3.5.4 Physical and Spectroscopic Data of Compounds Isolated from the Stem and

Root Bark of *Alstonia boonei*

Lupeol acetate (101)

White amorphous solids. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.47 (1H, *dd* , *J* = 5.3, 11.3 Hz, H-3), 4.70 (*s*, 29a), 4.59 (*s*, 29b), 0.88 (*s*, 23-CH₃), 0.86 (*s*, 24-CH₃), 1.05 (*s*, 25-CH₃), 0.85 (*s*, 25-CH₃), 0.95 (*s*, 27-CH₃), 0.80 (*s*, 28-CH₃); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz): $\delta_{\rm C}$ 38.4 (C-1), 25.1 (C-2), 81.0 (C-3), 38.0 (C-4), 55.4 (C-5), 18.2 (C-6), 34.2(C-7), 40.8 (C-8), 50.3 (C-9), 37.1 (C-10), 20.9 (C-11), 23.7 (C-12), 37.8 (C-13), 42.8 (C-14), 27.4 (C-15), 35.6 (C-16), 43.0 (C-17), 48.3 (C-18), 48.0 (C-19), 150.9 (C-20), 29.8(C-21), 40.0 (C-22), 28.0 (C-23), 16.5 (C-24), 16.2 (C-25), 16.0 (C-26), 14.5 (C-27), 18.0 (C-28), 19.3 (C-29), 109.4 (C-30), 171.0 (C=O in OAc), 21.3 (CH₃ in OAc).

Stigmasterol (102)

White solid. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.37 (1H, *d*, *J* = 6.0 Hz, H-6), 5.17 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 15.0, *J* = 9.0 Hz, H-22), 5.04(1H, *dd*, *J* = 15.0, 9.0 Hz, H-21) and 3.55 (1H, *m*, H-3). ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz): $\delta_{\rm C}$ 37.2 (C-1), 29.7 (C-2), 71.8 (C-3), 42.3 (C-4), 140.7 (C-5), 121.7 (C-6), 31.7 (C-7), 29.4 (C-8), 50.1 (C-9), 36.2 (C-10), 24.7 (C-11), 39.8 (C-12), 42.2 (C-13), 56.9 (C-14), 24.3 (C-15), 28.9 (C-16), 56.0 (C-17), 12.1 (C-18), 19.4 (C-19), 40.5 (C-20), 23.1 (C-21), 138.3 (C-22), 129.3 (C-23), 51.2 (C-24), 33.7 (C-25), 21.1 (C-26), 22.8 (C-27), 25.4 (C-28) and 12.2 (C-29).

Lichexanthone (103)

Light yellow amorphous solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.71 (1H, *d*, *J* = 2.5Hz, H-5), 6.68 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 10.7Hz, H-7), 6.35 (1H, *d*, *J* = 2.5 Hz, H-4), 6.32 (1H, *d*, *J* = 2.5 Hz, H-2), 3.92 (3H, *s*, 6-OCH₃), 3.89 (3H, *s*, 3-OCH₃) and 2.83 (3H, *s*, 8-CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): $\delta_{\rm C}$ 163.7 (C-1), 182.4 (C-9), 104.1(C-9a), 156.9 (C-4a), 98.5 (C-5), 96.9(C-2), 165.8 (C-3), 92.1 (C-4), 112.9 (C-8a), 143.5 (C-8), 115.4 (C-7), 163.8 (C-6), 98.5 (C-5'), 159.4 (C-10a), 55.7(6-OCH₃), 55.6(3-OCH₃), 23.5(8- CH₃).

Cycloeucalenol (104)

White amorphous solid. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.72 (1H, *brs*, H-30a), 4.67 (1H, *brs*, H-30b), 3.20 (1H, *m*, H-3), 1.03 (6H, *d*, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 26, 27-CH₃), 0.38 (1H, *d*, *J* = 3.6 Hz, H-19a), 0.14 (1H, *d*, *J* = 3.6 Hz, H-19b), 1.03, 1.02, 0.97, 0.97, 0.89 (5 x CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CD₂ Cl₂, 125MHz): $\delta_{\rm C}$ 30.9 (C-1), 34.9 (C-2), 76.7 (C-3), 44.7 (C-4), 43.5 (C-5), 24.8 (C-6), 28.3 (C-7), 46.0 (C-8), 23.7 (C-9), 29.6 (C-10), 25.3 (C-11), 35.5 (C-12), 45.5 (C-13), 48.3 (C-14), 33.0 (C-15), 27.4 (C-16), 52.3 (C-17), 17.9 (C-18), 27.1 (C-19), 36.3 (C-20), 18.5 (C-21), 35.1 (C-22), 31.4 (C-23), 157.1 (C-24), 33.9 (C-25), 21.9 (C-26, C-27), 19.3 (C-28), 14.5 (C-29), 106.0(C-30).

Phenanthridin-6(5*H*)-one (105)

Brown solids. ¹H NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 500 MHz): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.35 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-3), 8.09 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-9), 8.14 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-11), 7.61 (1H, d, J = 8.0 Hz, H-12), 7.38 (1H, s, H-1), 7.69 (1H, s, H-4), 6.17 (2H, s, OCH₂O), 3.76 (3H, s, 5-CH₃), 3.86 (3H, s, MeO-7), 9.68 (1H, brs, HO-2). ¹³C NMR (DMSO- d_6 , 125 MHz): $\delta_{\rm C}$ 147.2 (C-7), 150.8 (C-8), 122.5 (C-10), 119.1 (C-12), 127.6 (C-10a), 117.2 (C-11a), 135.2 (C-4a), 161.7 (C-6), 119.3 (C-6a), 119.0 (C-9), 123.2 (C-10), 131.2 (C-10a), 104.4 (C-1), 147.56(C-3), 141.21 (C-2), 102.76 (C-4), 120.3 (C-5a), 102.06 (OCH2O), 40.5 (7-CH₃), 61.7 (7-OCH₃).

Lupeol (106)

White amorphous solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.69 (1H, *s*, H-30a), 4.56 (1H, *s*, H-30b), 3.17 (1H, *m*, H-3), 2.37 (1H, *m*, H-19), 1.38 (2H, *m*, H-21), 1.55 (2H, *m*, H-2) and the methyl protons $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.74, 0.80, 0.83, 0.95, 0.95, 1.04 and 1.68. ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): $\delta_{\rm C}$ 151.1 (C-20), 109.1 (C-30), 78.8 (C-3), 55.2 (C-5), 50.4 (C-9), 48.3 (C-18), 48.0 (C-19), 43.0 (C-17), 42.8 (C-14), 40.8 (C-8), 39.9 (C-22), 38.8 (C-4), 38.7 (C-1), 38.1 (C-13), 37.1 (C-10) 35.6 (C-16), 34.3 (C-7), 29.8 (C-21), 27.8 (C-23), 27.5 (C-2), 27.4 (C-15), 25.2 (C-12), 20.9 (C-11), 19.1 (C-29), 18.30 (C-6), 17.8 (C-28), 15.9 (C-25), 15.8 (C-26), 15.2 (C-24), 14.30 (C-27)

β-Sitosterol (107)

White amorphous solid. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 500 MHz): $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.35 (1H, *t*, *J* = 6.4 Hz, H-5), 3.52 (1H, *tdd*, *J* = 4.5 Hz, 4.2Hz, 3.8 Hz, H-6), 1.0 (3H, *s*, CH₃), 0.92 (3H, *d*, *J* = 6.5 Hz, CH₃), 0.85 (3H, *t*, *J* = 7.2 Hz, CH₃), 0.83 (3H, *d*, *J* = 6.4 Hz, CH₃), 0.83 (3H, *d*, *J* = 6.4 Hz) and 0.68 (3H, *s*, CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃, 125 MHz): $\delta_{\rm C}$ 140.9 (C-5), 121.9 (C-6), 72 (C-3), 57.0 (C-14), 56.2 (C-17), 50.3 (C-9), 46.0 (C-22), 42.5 (C-13), 42.4 (C-4), 40.0 (C-12), 37.4 (C-1), 36.6 (C-10), 36.3 (C-18), 34.1 (C-20), 32.1 (C-7), 32.0 (C-8), 31.8 (C-13), 29.3 (C-25), 28.4 (C-16), 26.2 (C-21), 24.4 (C-15) , 23.2 9C-23), 21.2 (C-11), 20.0 (C-26), 19.5 (C-27), 19.2 (C-19), 18.9 (C-28), 12.1 (C-24), 12.0 (C-29).

Echitamine (108)

Pale yellow crystals. $[\alpha]_D = -49.1$ (*c* 0.02, MeOH). UV (MeOH) λ_{max} nm: 246.5, 293.5 and 332. IR v_{max} cm⁻¹: 3427 (OH), 3215 (OH), 1734 (C=O), 1470, 1032 and 75. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz): δ_H 4.41 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 10.7, 6.3 Hz, H-3), 3.39 (1H, *m*, H-5), 2.37 (IH, *dd*, *J* = 13.62, 8.72 Hz, H-6 β), 2.07 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 13.62, 8.72 Hz, H-6 α), 7.63 (1H, *d*, *J* = 8.0 Hz, H-9), 6.76 (1H, *t*, *J* = 7.6 Hz, H-10), 7.09 (1H, *t*, *J* = 7.6 Hz, H-11), 6.70 (1H, *d*, *J* = 8.0 Hz, H-12), 2.48 (1H, *m*, H-14 β), 1.60 (1H, *m*, H-14 α), 3.87 (1H, *d*, *J* = 6.85 Hz, H-15), 3.80 (1H, *d*, *J* = 12.3 Hz, H-17 β), 3.27(1H, d, J = 12.3 Hz, H-17 α), 1.66 (1H, d, J = 6.90 Hz, H-18), 5.73 (1H, dd, J = 13.83, 6.78 Hz, H-19), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.39 (1H, br d, 1H-21 β), 3.90 (1H, br d, H-21 α), 3.72 (1H, s, OCH₃) and 3.22 (1H, s, N-CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz): $\delta_{\rm C}$ 100.7 (C-2), 70.1 (C-3), 63.9 (C-5), 42.3 (C-6), 62.3 (C-7), 130.5 (C-8), 128.2 (C-9), 121.5 (C-10), 130.6 (C-11), 111.7 (C-12), 148.1 (C-13), 31.6 (C-14), 35.9 (C-16), 65.7 (C-17), 15.5 (C-18), 132.2 (C-19), 131.6(C-20), 66.9 (C-21), 175.6 (C=O), 53.5 (OCH₃) and 50.5 (N-CH₃). HRESIMS *m*/*z*: 385.2119 [theoretical mass for C₂₂H₂₉N₂O₄, 385.2119].

Sucrose (109)

White solids. IR v_{max} cm⁻¹: 3390 (OH), 3325 (OH), 2941, 1065, 1050 and 988, ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz): δ_{H} 5.25 (1H, *d*, *J* = 3.8 Hz, H-2), 3.73 (1H, *m*, H-3), 4.05 (1H, *d*, *J* = 8.8 Hz, H-4), 3.89 (1H, *t*, *J* = 8.58Hz, H-5), 3.59 (1H, *t*, *J* = 9.61Hz, H-6), 3.65 (1H, *m*, H-7), 3.39 (1H, *d*, *J* = 9.98, 3.8 Hz, H-8), 3.31 (1H, *t*, *J* = 9.49Hz, H-9), 3.66, 3.52 and 3.65. ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz): δ_{C} 104.6 (C-1), 93.1 (C-2), 82.3 (C-3), 77.3 (C-4), 74.9 (C-5), 73.5 (C-6), 73.3 (C-7), 73.3 (C-7), 72.0 (C-8), 70.1 (C-9), 63.3 (C-10), 62.2 (C-11) and 61.0 (C-12). ESIMS *m/z*: 265.1049 [M⁺+Na] [theoretical mass for C₁₂H₂₂NaO₁₁, 365.1054]

3.5.5 Physical and Spectroscopic Data of Compounds isolated from the Leaves of Schizozygia coffaeoides

Schizozygine (95)

White crystals. $[\alpha]_D = 17.5$ (*c* 0.02, CH₂Cl₂). UV (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} nm: 229, 2670, 316. IR v_{max} cm⁻¹: 2935, 1639 (amidic C=O), 1466, 1392, 1256 and 1158 ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz): δ_H 7.61 (1H, *s*, H-12), 6.67 (1H, *d*, *J* = 0.7 Hz, H-9), 5.92 (1H, *d*, *J* = 1.3 Hz, OCH₂O), 5.91 (1H, *d*, *J* = 1.3 Hz, OCH₂O), 5.73 (1H, *ddd*, *J* = 10.0, 4.4, 2.0 Hz, H-15), 5.57 (1H, *dt*, *J* = 10.0, 2.2 Hz, H-14), 3.37 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16.83 Hz, H-3 β), 2.80 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16.80 Hz, H-3 α), 3.02 (1H, *bs*, H-5 β), 2.27 (1H, *m*, H-5 α), 3.20 (1H, *t*, *J* = 6.70 Hz, H-7 β), 2.03 (1H, *m*, H-7 α), 2.28 (1H, *m*, H-16),

1.87 (*ddd*, J = 12.8, 8.7, 5.4 Hz, H-17α), 2.04 (1H, *m*, H-17β), 2.45 (1H, *dd*, J = 18.0, 2,7 Hz, H-19α), 2.61 (1H, *d*, J = 18.0 Hz, H-19β) and 2.25 (1H, *s*, H-21). ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz); $\delta_{\rm C}$ 73.0 (C-2), 53.9 (C-3), 50.4 (C-5), 26.2 (C-6), 42.5 (C-7), 125.8 (C-8), 104.2 (C-9), 144.6 (C-10), 147.2 (C-11), 98.4 (C-12), 137.4 (C-13), 124.2 (C-14), 130.6 (C-15), 39.0 (C-16), 38.0 (C-17), 169.2 (C-18), 47.3 (C-19), 45.1 (C-20), 68.4 (C-21) and 102.0 (OCH₂O). EIMS *m/z* (rel. int.): 336 [M]⁺ (100), 307 (30), 337 (20). HRMS *m/z* 336.1481 (theoretical mass for C₂₀H₂₀O₃N₂, 336.1474)

6,7-Dehydro-19β-hydroxyschizozygine (96)

Purple amorphous solid. $[\alpha]_D = -20.1$ (*c* 0.02, CH₂Cl₂). UV (CHCl₃) λ_{max} nm: 277, 316, 545. IR ν_{max} cm⁻¹: 3431 (OH), 2936, 1653 (amidic C=O), 1436 1223, 1035 and 1021. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz): δ_H 2.85 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16.9 Hz, H-3 α), 3.45 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 16.9, 4.6 Hz, H-3 β), 2.94 (1H, *d*, *J* = 16.3 Hz, H-5 α), 3.59 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 16.3, 4.8 Hz, H-5 β), 5.24 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 4.75, 2.2 Hz, H-6), 6.5 (1H, *s*, H-9), 8.35 (1H, *s*, H-12), 5.73 (1H, *ddd*, *J* = 10.0, 4.6, 1.9 Hz, H-14), 6.03 (1H, *d*, *J* = 10.25 Hz, H-15), 2.06 (1H, *m*, H-16 α), 2.35 (1H, *m*, H-16 β), 1.84 (1H, *m*, H-17 α), 2.44 (1H, *m*, h-17 β), 4.02 (1H, *d*, *J* = 1.6 Hz, H-19), 2.50 (1H, *s* H-21), 5.91 (1H, *d*, *J* = 1.3 Hz, OCH₂O α) and 5.92 (1H, *d*, *J* = 1.3 Hz, OCH₂O β). ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz): δ_C 64.4 (C-2), 52.4 (3), 52.3 (C-5), 100.6 (C-6), 145.1 (C-7), 116.8 (C-8), 98.3 (C-9), 144.9 (10), 142.5 (C-11), 103.0 (C-12), 138.5 (C-13), 123.6 (C-14), 127.5 (15), 38.2 (16), 30.0 (C-17), 171.1 (C-18), 76.2 (C-19), 46.9 (20), 68.1 (C-21) and 102.2 (OCH₂O).

Cassamin A (97)

Yellow amorphous solid: $[\alpha]_D = -49.8$ (*c* 0.02, CH₂Cl₂). UV (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} nm: 271, 308 and 445. IR v_{max} cm⁻¹: 3352 (OH), 2498, 1672 (C=O), 1604, 1446, 1264, 1128 and 1041. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz): δ_H 7.83 (1H, *s*, H-4), 7.82 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 7.7, 1.2 Hz, H-5), 7.72 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 8.47, 7.9 Hz, H-6), 7.30 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 8.47, 1.21 Hz, H-7), 7.78 (1H, *s*, H-4'), 7.24 (1H, *d*, *J* = 2.5 Hz, H-5'), 6.61 (1H, *d*, *J* = 2.5Hz, H-7'), 2.21 (3H, *s*, 3-CH₃) and 2.20 (3H, *s*, 3'-CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz): $\delta_{\rm C}$ 160.3 (C-1), 114.6 (C-1a), 131.2 (C-2), 149.0 (C-3), 122.2 (C-4), 133.6 (C-4a), 120.5 (C-5), 134.2 (C-5a), 137.8 (C-6), 125.1 (C-7), 162.8 C-(8), 116.5 (C-8a), 193.3 (C-9), 182.9 (C-10), 160.0 (C-1'), 114.6 (C-1'a), 130.9 (C-2') 147.7 (C-3'), 121.9 (C-4'), 133.6 (C-4'a), 110.1 (C-5'), 136.1 (C-5'a), 166.4 (C-6'a), 108.9 (C-7'), 165.8 (C-8'), 110.1 (C-8'a), 191.2 (C-9'), 182.9 (C-10'), 20.9 (3-CH₃) and 20.7 3'-CH₃). EIMS *m*/*z* (rel. int.): 522 [M]⁺(100), 520 (20), 523 (10). HRMS *m*/*z* 522.0968 (theoretical mass for C₃₀H₁₈O₉, 522.0950).

Cassamin B (98)

Yellow amorphous solid. $[\alpha]_D = 27.0$ (*c* 0.02, CH₂Cl₂). (CH₂Cl₂). UV (CH₂Cl₂) λ_{max} nm: 264, 291, 450. IR v_{max} cm⁻¹: 3328 (OH), 2975, 1720, 1621, 1600, 1517, 1478, 1456 and 1031. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂/CD₃OD, 500 MHz): δ_H 7.76 (1H, *s*, H-4), 7.22 (1H, *s*, H-5), 6.59 (1H, *s*, H-7) and 2.22 (3H, *s*, 3-CH₃). ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz): δ_C 160 (C-1), 131.1 (C-2), 147.7 (C-3), 121.9 (C-4), 133.4 (C-4a), 110.1 (C-5), 136.0 (C-5a), 166.4 (C-6), 108.9 (C-7), 165.8 (C-8), 109.9 (C-8a), 191.2 (C-9), 182.9 (C-10) and 20.7 (3-CH₃). EIMS *m*/*z* (rel. int.): 538 [M]⁺(100), 539 (30). HRMS *m*/*z* 538.0907 (theoretical mass for C₃₀H₁₈O₁₀, 538.0900).

Isoschizozygaline (99)

White amorphous solid. $[\alpha]_D = -222.7$ (*c* 0.02, CH₂Cl₂). UV (CHCl₃) λ_{max} nm: 252.5, 295.2. IR v_{max} cm^{-1:} 2965, 1567, 1426, 1327 and 1153. ¹H NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz): δ_H 8.43 (1H, *d*, *J* = 2.6 Hz, H-12), 7.06 (1H, *d*, *J* = 8.35 Hz, H-9), 6.67 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 8.33, 2.63 Hz, H-10), 5.75 (1H, *ddd*, *J* = 10.13, 2.63, 1.8 Hz, H-15), 5.62 (*ddd*, *J* = 10.14, 4.64, 1.84 Hz, H-14), 3.83 (3H, *s*, OCH₃), 3.44 (1H, *ddd*, *J* = 17.4, 3.0, 1.64 Hz, H-3 β), 3.29 (1H, *ddd*, *J* = 17.3, 2.8, 1.43 Hz, H-3 α), 3.25 (1H, *t*, *J* = 5.91 Hz, H-7), 2.84 (1H, *ddd*, *J* = 14.6, 12.9, 3.31 Hz, H-5 β), 2.78 (1H, *d*, *J* = 12.35 Hz, H-19 β), 2.52 (1H, *ddd*, *J* = 14.3, 2.81, 1.82 Hz, H-5 α), 2.50 (*dd*, *J* = 19.0, 2.9 Hz, H-

19α), 2.34 (1H, *m*, H-2), 2.24 (1H, *m*, H-6β), 1.86 (1H, *m*, H-17 β), 1.76 (1H, *m*, H-17α), 1.69 (1H, *m*, H-16β), 1.19 (1H, *m*, H-6α) and 1.13 (1H, *m*, H-16α). ¹³C NMR (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz): $\delta_{\rm C}$ 174.8 (C-18), 159.2 (C-11), 139.3 (C-13), 131.3 (C-15), 129.6 (C-9), 120.7 (C-14), 118.9 (C-8), 110.1 (C-10), 103.5 (C-12), 85.1 (C-21), 55.8 (O-CH₃), 48.2 (C-3), 46.5 (C-19), 44.7 (C-20), 37.8 (C-7), 36.8 (C-17), 35.1 (C-2), 27.3 (C-6) and 25.3 (C-16). EIMS *m/z* (rel. int.): 322 [M]⁺(100), 323 (20). HRMS *m/z* 322.1685 (theoretical mass for C₂₀H₂₂ N₂O₂, 322.1681).

3.6 Modification of compound 95

3.6.1 Preparation of 10, 11-Dihydroxyschizozygine Derivative

Schizozygine (50 mg, 0.15 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (30 ml) was stirred at -18 °C under nitrogen atmosphere for 30 minutes. Boron tribromide (1 g, 4.5 mmol) in dry dichloromethane (10 ml) was added to the mixture then stirred for 24 hours. MeOH (20 ml) was then added to quench the reaction. The mixture was then concentrated *in vacuo* and crystallized from $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$ to yield a brown solid of nor-schizozygine derivative (15 mg) in 29% yield.

3.7 Cytotoxic activity

The cell lines; A549, HepG2 and two non-tumoral cells purchased from ATCC were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium. The medium was supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, antibiotics penicillin (50 U/mL) and streptomycin (50 µg/mL; Invitrogen, Paisley, Scotland, UK). All the cell cultures were incubated at 37 °C in a 5% humidified CO₂ incubator. Cytotoxicity on the A549, HepG2 and two non-tumoral cells was carried out according to Atilaw *et al.*, (2017) using 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2yl)-2,5 diphenyl tetrazolium bromide (MTT) (5.0 mg/mL). The test compounds were dissolved in DMSO (50 mmol/L) and stored at -20 °C until when needed for use.

An optimal 4^{10^3} cells per well were seeded in 96-well plates to ensure exponential growth for the duration of the assay. The cells were exposed, after overnight culture, to different concentrations of the compounds (0.039-100 µmol/L) for 72 hours. The untreated cells were used as control. MTT solution (10 µL) was added to each cell and incubated at 37 °C for 4 hours with the addition of 100 µL solubilisation buffer (10% SDS in 0.01 mol/L HCl) then incubated overnight. After 24 hours, the concentration of A₅₇₀ nm was measured on each well.

The percentage cell viability was obtained from a formula: cell viability = $(A_{treated} / A_{control}) * 100$. The results obtained were expressed as mean \pm standard error for the eight independent experiments.

CHAPTER 4

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

The crude extracts of the root bark of *Alstonia boonei* and the leaves of *Schizozygia coffaeoides* were analysed by TLC which showed the presence of several spots. These spots were visualized by exposure to iodine vapour or under UV light (254 and 366 nm) and by spraying with dragendorff reagent (for alkaloids) and ammonium solution (for quinones). The constituents of these extracts were isolated and characterized and tested for cytotoxicity. The structural elucidation and cytotoxicity results of the isolated metabolite are discussed below.

4.1 Characterization of Compounds Isolated from the Stem Bark of Alstonia boonei

The air dried and ground stem bark of *Alstonia boonei* was extracted with $CH_2Cl_2/MeOH$ (1:1) by cold percolation at room temperature. The crude extract was subjected to a combination of chromatographic techniques which resulted in isolation of two triterpenes, a steroid, a xanthone and an alkaloid.

4.1.1 Lupeol acetate (101)

Compound **101** was isolated as a white solid, which was not visible at 254 nm on TLC. The ¹H NMR spectral data (Table 4.1) shows the presence of six methyl singlets at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.84, 0.83, 0.85, 1.05, 0.94, 0.78, and a vinylic methyl at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.70 ppm. The ¹³C NMR spectrum displayed 32 carbon signals (Table 4.1), consistent with a triterpene acetate skeleton. The presence of an acetate group was supported by methyl signal at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.05 (3H, s). The oxymethine proton signal at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.47 (*dd*, *J* = 10.7 Hz, 5.5 Hz) was assigned to H-3 as in several triterpenes (Ahmad *et al.*, 2013).

The presence of two exo-methylene protons ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.69, 4.57, H₂-29) and one methyl signal at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.70 (H-30) represents a lupane skeleton. Two of the ¹³C NMR signals at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 150.9 and 109.4 ppm were attributed to olefinic carbon atoms, a feature consistent with the presence of a terminal double bond. All the other signals were for sp³ hybridized carbon atoms, one of which appeared at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 81.0 ppm was for an acetoxymethine (C-3) of a triterpene. On the basis of NMR spectral data (Table 4:1) and comparison with the literature values, the compound **101** was identified as lupeol acetate (Ahmad *et al.*, 2013; Ragasa *et al.*, 2012).



Position	$\delta_{\text{H in}}$ ppm (<i>mult</i> , <i>J</i> in Hz)	δ _C	$\delta_{\rm C}$
		Experimental	literature (Ragasa et
			al., 2012)
1	0.99 (<i>m</i>)	38.4	38.7
2	1.62 (<i>m</i>)	25.1	21.3
3	$4.47 (dd, J = 5.3, 11.3 H_Z)$	81.0	81.0
4		38.0	38.0
5	0.80 (<i>m</i>)	55.4	55.4
6	1.52 (<i>m</i>), 1.42 (<i>m</i>)	18.2	18.2
7	1.49 (<i>m</i>), 1.38 (<i>m</i>)	34.2	34.2
8		40.8	40.8
9	1.30 (<i>m</i>)	50.3	50.3
10		37.1	37.1
11	1.42 (<i>m</i>), 1.23 (<i>m</i>)	20.9	20.9
12	1.91 (<i>m</i>), 1.63 (<i>m</i>)	23.7	23.7
13	1.66 (<i>m</i>)	37.8	37.1
14		42.8	42.8
15	1.69 (<i>m</i>), 1.01 (<i>m</i>)	27.4	27.4
16	1.49 (<i>m</i>), 1.36 (<i>m</i>)	35.6	35.6
17		43.0	43.0
18	1.37 (<i>m</i>)	48.3	48.3
19	2.39 (<i>m</i>)	48.0	48.0
20		150.9	151.0
21	1.93 (<i>m</i>), 1.34 (<i>m</i>)	29.8	29.8
22	1.39 (<i>m</i>), 1.20 (<i>m</i>)	40.0	40.0
23	0.88 (s)	28.0	28.0
24	0.86 (s)	16.5	16.5
25	1.05 (s)	16.2	16.2
26	0.85 (s)	16.0	16.0
27	0,95 (s)	14.5	14.5
28	0.80 (s)	18.0	18.0
29	1.70 (s)	19.3	19.3
30	4.70 (<i>s</i> , 29a), 4.59 (<i>s</i> , 29b)	109.4	109.3
2'	2.06 (s)	21.3	21.3
1'		171.0	171.3

Table 4.1: ¹H (500 MHz) and ¹³C (125 MHz) NMR data of compound **101** (CDCl₃)

4.1.2 Stigmasterol (**102**)

Compound **102** was isolated as a white amorphous solid, which was iodine active on TLC. Its ¹³C NMR spectral data (Table 1.2) showed twenty nine signals, and this is consistent with a steroid skeleton (Pierre and Moses, 2015). Four of these signals resonating at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 141.5, 122.0, 139.0 and 129.8 ppm were for olefinic carbon atoms, which are consistent with the presence of two carbon-carbon double bonds. The other signals included six methyl carbons resonating at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 12.2, 12.3, 19.1, 19.7, 20.6 and 21.6, an oxymethine carbon at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 71.8 ppm was typical of C-3 of steroids (Chaturvedula and Prakash, 2012). By direct comparison of its NMR spectral data (Table 4.2) with literature, compound **102** was identified as stigmasterol (Chaturvedula and Prakash, 2012; Pierre & Moses, 2015).



Positio	$\delta_{\rm H}$ in ppm (<i>mult</i> , <i>J</i> in Hz)	δ _C	$\delta_{\rm C}$ Literature
n		Experimental	(Chaturvedula &
			Prakash, 2012)
1		37.8	37.6
2		32.2	32.1
3		72.2	72.1
4		42.9	42.4
5		141.5	141.1
6	5.37 (1H, d, J = 6.0 Hz)	122.0	121.8
7		32.5	31.8
8		32.5	31.8
9		50.7	50.2
10		36.7	36.6
11		21.6	21.5
12		40.3	39.9
13		41.1	42.4
14		57.4	56.8
15		24.8	24.4
16		29.5	29.3
17		56.6	56.2
18		40.4	40.6
19		21.6	21.7
20	5.17 (1H, dd, J = 15.0, J = 9.0 Hz)	139.0	138.7
21		129.0	129.6
22		46.4	46.1
23		26.0	25.4
24		12.2	12.1
25		29.7	29.6
26		20.1	20.2
27		19.7	19.8
28		19.1	18.9
29		12.3	12.2

Table 4.2: ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃: 125 MHz) data for compound **102**

4.1.3 Lichexanthone (**103**)

Compound **103** was isolated as a light yellow solid which was visualized under UV light (on TLC at 254 nm). Furthermore, from the ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data (Table 4:3), it is evident that this compound is a xanthone derivative (Le Pogam and Boustie, 2016). Its ¹H NMR spectral data (Table 4.3) displayed a signal for a chelated hydroxy group ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 13.4, 1-OH).



In addition, there was a pair of *meta*-coupled aromatic protons of ring A at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.32 (d, 1H, J = 2.3 Hz, H-2) and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.35 (d, 1H, J = 2.5 Hz, H-4), in agreement with the biogenetic expected oxygenation at C-1 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 163.7) and C-3 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 165.8) of ring A. Two *meta*-coupled protons at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.68 (d, 1H, J = 2.5, Hz, H-7) and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.71 (d, J = 2.5 Hz, H-5) indicated a C-6 and C-10a substituted ring B of a xanthone. The presence of two methoxy (δ_H 3.89, δ_C 55.7 and δ_H 3.92, δ_C 55.6), a hydroxyl ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 163.7) and methyl ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 23.5) substituents were observed in the NMR spectra (Table 4.3). The placement of the methoxy groups at C-3 and C-6 was established from HMBC spectrum, where 3-OCH₃ ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.89) correlated with C-3 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 165.8) and 6-OCH₃ ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.92) with C-6 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 163.8). The long range coupling of the methyl protons ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.79) with H-7 and its HMBC correlation with C-7 and C-8a confirmed the placement of the methyl group at C-8. Upon irradiation of the methoxy groups, in an NOE difference experiment, enhancements were observed in the signals for H-2 and H-4 and H-5 and H-7 confirming the placement of methoxyl groups at C-3 and C-6, respectively. Based on the spectroscopic data and literature, compound 103 was identified as lichexanthone (Le Pogam and Boustie, 2016). This compound has been reported for the first time from the family Apocynaceae.

Position	$\delta_{\rm H}(m, J \text{ in Hz})$	δ _C	HMBC	NOE
1		163.7		
2	6.32 (<i>d</i> , 2.3)	96.8	C-1, C-3, C-4, C-9a	3-OCH ₃
3		165.8		
4	6.35 (<i>d</i> , 2.5)	92.1	C-2, C-3, C-4a,C-9a	3- OCH ₃
4a		156.9		
5	6.71 (<i>d</i> , 2.5)	98.5	C-6, C-7, C-8a, C-10a	6-OCH ₃
6		163.8		
7	6.68 (<i>d</i> , 2.5)	115.4	C-5, C-6, C-8, C-8a	8-CH ₃ , 6-OCH ₃
8		143.5		
8a		112.9		
9		182.4		
9a		104.1		
10a		159.4		
3-OCH ₃	3.89, <i>s</i>	55.6	C-3	
6-OCH ₃	3.92, <i>s</i>	55.7	C-6	
8-CH ₃	2.87, <i>s</i>	23.5	C-7, C-8a	

Table 4.3: 1 H (500 MHz) and 13 C (125 MHz) NMR data with HMBC and NOE correlation for **103** (CDCl₃)

4.1.4 Cycloeucalenol (104)

The ¹³C NMR spectrum of this compound exhibited 30 carbon signals, of which two of these are olefinic carbon atoms resonating at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 105.6 (C-30) and 156.2 (C-24) ppm consistent with a triterpene having one carbon-carbon double bond, five methyl protons at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.03, 1.02, 0.97, 0.97, 0.89, 0.89 and a hydroxy proton resonating at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.21 ppm. In agreement with this, the ¹H NMR exhibited the presence of two olefinic protons resonating at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.72 and 4.67 ppm which is typical of terminal methylene protons (CH₂-30), The presence of cyclopropyl group was deduced from the ¹H NMR spectrum $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.39 and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.14 ppm. The methylene carbon of the cyclopropyl moiety appeared at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 27.1 ppm (C-19) and is a characteristic of cycloartane triterpenoids (and the oxymethine carbon at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 76.7 ppm (C-3). Comparing the NMR spectral data (Table 4.4) with the literature confirms that compound **104** is cycloeucalenol (Ragasa *et al.*, 2012).



Position	$\delta_{\rm C}$ -literature (Ragasa <i>et al.</i> , 2012)	δ_{C} -experimental
1	30.8	30.9
2	34.8	34.9
3	76.6	76.7
4	44.6	44.7
5	43.3	43.5
6	24.7	24.8
7	28.0	28.3
8	46.9	47.0
9	23.5	23.7
10	29.5	29.6
11	25.1	25.3
12	35.3	35.5
13	45.3	45.5
14	48.6	49.3
15	32.9	33.0
16	27.0	27.4
17	52.2	52.3
18	17.8	17.9
19	27.0	27.1
20	36.1	36.3
21	18.3	18.5
22	35.0	35.1
23	31.3	31.4
24	156.9	157.1
25	33.8	33.9
26	21.9	22.1
27	21.9	22.0
28	19.3	19.3
29	14.4	14.5
30	105.9	106.0

Table 4.4: ¹³C NMR (125 MHz) data of compound **104** (CDCl₃)

4.1.5 Phenanthridine-6(5*H*)-one (**105**)

Compound **105** was isolated as a brown solid and identified as an alkaloid using dragendorff reagent. The ¹H NMR spectrum in the aromatic region showed two sets of *ortho*-coupled protons including one set resonating at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.35 and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 8.09 (J = 8.0 Hz) while the other set at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 8.14 and 7.61 (1H, d, J = 8.8 Hz). In addition, two *para*-oriented proton singlets at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.38 (1H, s) and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.69 (1H, s) were also observed. The ¹³C NMR spectral data (Table 4.5) showed a methylenedioxy, a methoxy, *N*-methyl, amidic carbonyl and 16 sp²-hybridized carbon atoms suggesting a typical skeleton of benzophenanthridine alkaloids (Vavreková *et al.*, 1986). In agreement with this, the *N*-CH₃ protons correlated with C-6 and C-8 in the HMBC spectrum. The placement of the methylenedioxy group at C-2/C-3 is consistent with the HMBC and HSQC spectra (Appendix 92). Compound **105** was identified as phenanthridine-6(5*H*)-one based on the above evidence and comparison of the spectroscopic data with literature data (Krane *et al.*, 1984).



Position	δ _C	δ_{H}	HMBC
1	104.8	7.38 (s)	C-3, C-4, C-4a, C-12
2	147.6		
3	147.2		
4	102.8	7.69 (s)	C-1, C-2, C-12a
6	161.7		
7	147.6		
8	150.8		
9	119.1	8.09 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)	C-7, C-10a
10	122.5	7.35 (d, <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)	C-6a, C-8, C-11a
11	119.1	8.14 (<i>d</i> , <i>J</i> = 8.0 Hz)	C-5a, C-10a, C-12a
12	123.6	7.61 (d , J = 8.0 Hz)	C-1, C-4a , C-11a
4a	135.2		
5a	120.8		
ба	119.3		
10a	127.6		
11a	117.2		
12a	131.6		
OCH ₂ O	102.1	6.18 (<i>s</i>)	C-2, C-3
OCH ₃	61.4	3.86(<i>s</i>)	C-7
N-CH ₃	40.8	3.76 (<i>s</i>)	C-6, C-8

Table 4.5: ¹H (500 MHz) and ¹³C (125 MHz) NMR data for compound **105** (DMSO- d_{6} ,)

4.2 Characterization of Compounds Isolated from the Stem Bark of Alstonia boonei

4.2.1 Lupeol (106)

Compound **106** was isolated as a white amorphous solid; the ¹H NMR spectrum showed the presence of seven methyl singlets at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 0.74, 0.80, 0.83, 0.95, 0.95, 1.04 and 1.68 ppm, and an oxymethine proton signal at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.17 (1H, *m*, H-3) ppm. A vinylic proton at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.68 (H-30) and the presence of two exo-methylene protons ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.69, 4.55, H-29) showed that compound has the lupine triterpene skeleton. In agreement with this, the ¹³C NMR spectrum showed the presence of thirty carbon atoms with the olefinic carbons appearing at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 151.1 (C-20) and $\delta_{\rm C}$ 109.1 (C-29) consistent with a terminal double bond. The signal at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 78.7 confirms a highly deshieled carbon due to the presence of oxygenation at C-3 in this triterpene. The NMR data (Table 4.6) is in complete agreement with the literature report for lupeol (Abdullahi *et al.*, 2013).



Position	$\delta_{\rm C}$ -literature (Abdullahi <i>et al.</i> , 2013).	δ_{C} -experimental
1	38.7	38.7
2	27.4	27.5
3	79.0	78.8
4	38.9	38.8
5	55.5	55.2
6	18.5	18.3
7	34.2	34.3
8	40.9	40.8
9	50.5	50.4
10	37.2	37.1
11	21.0	20.9
12	25.2	25.2
13	38.1	38.1
14	42.9	42.8
15	27.1	27.4
16	35.5	35.6
17	43.0	43.0
18	48.3	48.3
19	48.0	48.0
20	150.0	151.1
21	29.9	29.8
22	40.0	39.9
23	28.0	27.8
24	15.5	15.2
25	16.1	15.9
26	16.0	15.8
27	14.8	14.3
28	18.0	17.8
29	109.0	109.1
30	19.5	19.1

Table 4.6: ¹³Carbon (125 MHz) NMR data of compound **106** (CDCl₃)

4.2.2 β-Sitosterol (107)

Compound **107** was isolated as a white amorphous solid. It's ¹H NMR spectrum exhibited one deshieled olefinic proton $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.38 (*t*, *J* = 6.7 Hz) and also a proton attached to the oxygenated carbon $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.53 (*m*) together with six methyl protons at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 1.0, 0.92, 0.85, 0.83, 0.80 and 0.68. Among the twenty nine carbons observed in the ¹³C NMR; one carbon ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 72.0) was oxygenated, two were olefinic ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 140.9 and 121.9) and the remaining where sp³ carbons. Based on the spectroscopic data (Table 4.7) and the comparisons with the literature (Chaturvedula & Prakash, 2012) the compound was identified as β -sitosterol (**107**).



Position	δ_{C} -literature (Chaturvedula &	δ_{C} -experimental
	Prakash, 2012)	
1	37.5	37.4
2	31.9	31.8
3	72.0	72.0
4	42.5	42.4
5	140.9	140.9
6	121.9	121.9
7	32.1	32.1
8	32.1	32.0
9	50.3	50.3
10	36.7	36.6
11	21.3	21.3
12	39.9	40.0
13	42.6	42.5
14	56.9	57.0
15	26.3	24.4
16	28.5	28.4
17	56.3	56.2
18	36.3	36.3
19	19.2	19.2
20	36.2	34.1
21	26.3	26.2
22	46.1	46.0
23	23.3	23.2
24	12.2	12.1
25	29.4	29.3
26	20.1	20.0
27	19.6	19.5
28	18.9	18.9
29	12.0	12.0

Table 4.7: ¹³C NMR (125 MHz) data of compound **107** (CDCl₃)

4.2.3 Echitamine (108)

Compound **108** was isolated as a brown crystalline powder. The TLC spot changed to orange on spraying with dragendorff's reagent suggesting an alkaloid.



The ¹H NMR spectral data (Table 4.8) of **108** was fully assigned by means of a H,H-COSY experiment, it showed signals for one olefinic proton $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.73 ((*dd*, *J*= 13.83, 6.780 Hz, H-19) together with four mutually coupled aromatic protons resonating at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.63 (H-9), 7.09 (H-11), 6.76 (H-10) and 6.70 (H-12) expressing the lack of substituents on the aromatic ring. The presence of three methyl groups were also evident from the ¹H NMR signals at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.72 (3H, s), 3.22 (3H, s) and 1.66 (3H, s) with the corresponding ¹³C NMR signals appearing at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 55.6, 51.5 and 49.9 ppm. These were assigned to a methyl ester, a quaternary *N*-methyl group and allylic methyl groups, respectively.

The ¹³C NMR spectrum also displayed seven quaternary carbon signals at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 100.7, 62.3, 130.5, 148, 57 and 131.6, including an ester C=O resonating at 175.6. In the HMBC spectrum, H-9 correlated with C-7, C-11 and C-13; H-10 correlated with C-8 and C-12; H-11 correlated with C-9 and C-13; and H-12 correlated with C-8 and C-10. Also in the HMBC spectrum, H-14 correlates with C-2, C-3, C-6, C-15, C-16 and C-20 while H-5 correlates with C-3, C-7, C-14, C-19 and C-21. The HREIMS of compound **108** showed a molecular ion peak at *m*/*z* 385.2119 in line with the molecular formula of C₂₀H₂₉N₂O₄⁺. Thus this compound was identified as echitamine based on comparison of NMR data (table 4.8) with literature (Ashok *et al.*, 2015, Niwat *et al.*, 1994).

Position	δ _C	$\delta_{\rm H}$ (<i>m</i> , <i>J</i> in Hz)	HMBC
2	100.7		
3	70.1	4.41 (<i>dd</i> , 10.7, 6.3)	
5	63.9	3.39 (<i>m</i>)	
6	42.3	2.37 (<i>dd</i> , 13.6, 8.72)	C-5, C-16
		2.07 (<i>dd</i> , 13.6, 8.72)	C-2, C-5, C-8
7	62.3		
8	130.5		
9	128.2	7.63 (<i>d</i> , 8.0)	C-7, C-11, C-13
10	121.5	6.76 (<i>t</i> , 7.6)	C-8, C-12
11	130.6	7.09 (<i>t</i> , 7.6)	C-9, C-13
12	111.7	6.70 (<i>d</i> , 8.0)	C-8, C-10
13	148.1		
14	31.6	2.48 (<i>m</i>)	C-2, C-6, C-20
		1.60 (<i>m</i>)	C-3, C-15, C-16, C-20
15	35.9	3.87 (<i>d</i> , 6.85)	C-3, C-7, C-14, C-19,C-21
16	57		
17	65.7	3.80 (<i>d</i> , 12.3)	
		3.27 (<i>d</i> , 12.3)	
18	15.5	1.66 (<i>d</i> , 6.90)	C-19, C-30
19	132.2	5.73 (<i>dd</i> , 13.83, 6.780)	C-15, C-18, C-21
20	131.6		
21	66.9	4.39 (br d)	
		3.90 (br d)	
C=O	175.6		
OCH ₃	53.5	3.72 (s)	C=O
N-CH ₃	50.5	3.22 (s)	C-2, C5, C-21

Table 4.8: 1 H (500 MHz) and 13 C (125 MHz) NMR data for compound **108** (D₂O)

4.2.4 Sucrose (109)

Compound **109** was isolated as a white solid. The ESI of compound **109** showed a molecular ion peak m/z 365.1049 [M +Na]⁺ corresponding to the molecular formula $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$. The ¹H NMR and HMBC spectrums showed the linkage of the hexose and pentose sugar units through H-2 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.25) (table 4.9). The HMBC spectrum showed correlation of H-2 with C-1 and C-6 and this is characteristic of sucrose (Bruyn, 1991). The ¹³C exhibited twelve oxygenated carbon atoms which belong to sugar nucleus with three methylene oxygenated carbons C-10 (63.3), C-11

(62.2) and C-12 (61.0) biogenetically belonging to sucrose moiety. Based on the spectroscopic data (Table 4.9) and the literature (Bruyn, 1991), compound **109** was confirmed as sucrose.



Position	δ _C	$\delta_{\rm H}(m, J \text{ in Hz})$	HMBC (H \rightarrow C)
1	104.6		
2	93.1	5.25 (<i>d</i> , 3.8)	C-1, C-6
3	82.3	3.73	
4	77.3	4.05 (<i>d</i> , 8.8)	C-3, C-5, C-11
5	74.9	3.89 (<i>t</i> , 8.6)	C-3, C-4, C-10
6	73.5	3.59 (<i>t</i> , 9.6)	C-2, C-8, C-9
7	73.3	3.65	
8	72.0	3.39 (<i>dd</i> , 9.9, 3.8)	C-6
9	70.1	3.31 (<i>t</i> , 9.5)	C-7, C-10
10	63.3	3.66	
11	62.2	3.52	C-1, C-4
12	61.0	3.65	C-3, C-11

		13 ~ (1 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~		1 1 0 0	
Table /1 3+ *H ((500 MHz) and	¹³ C (125 MH	z) NMR data for	compound 109 ($(\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{A}})$
1 auto J. 11 (JUO WILL) and	C(125) WIII	L) INININ Uata 101	compound 107 ($\mathbf{D}_{2}\mathbf{O}_{1}$

4.3 Characterization of compounds isolated from the leaves of Schizozygia

coffaeoides

The air dried ground leaves of *Schizozygia coffaeoides* were extracted with CH₂Cl₂/MeOH (1:1) by cold percolation at room temperature. The crude extract was subjected to a combination of chromatographic techniques which resulted into isolation of a steroid, three alkaloids and two anthraquinones. Then using the spectroscopic techniques, the structures were determined.

4.3.1 Schizozygine (95)

Compound **95** was obtained as white crystals from CH_2Cl_2 /petroleum ether. When sprayed with Dragendorff's reagent, the TLC spot of this compound turned orange suggesting that it is an alkaloid.



The ¹H and ¹³C NMR spectral data (Table 4.10) of this compound suggested that it is a schizozygine alkaloid (Kariba *et al.*, 2002). The ¹H NMR spectrum exhibited two aromatic protons *para* to each other resonating at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.61 (*s*) and 6.66 (*bs*) and were assigned to H-9 and H-12, with C-10 and C-11 having a methylenedioxy group, $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.92 and 5.92 (2 x *d*, *J* = 1.3 Hz, OCH₂O). The long range coupling observed between the signal at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.66 (H-9) and H-7 allowed the assignment of the aromatic signal to H-9 and hence the singlet at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.61 to H-12. The two olefinic proton signals observed at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.57 (1H, *dt*, *J* = 10.0, 2.2 Hz,) and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.73 (1H, *ddd*, *J* = 10.0, 4.4, 2.0 Hz) were assigned to H-14 and H-15. In agreement with this assignment, the corresponding ¹³C NMR signals appeared at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 124.2 (C-14) and 130.6 (C-15). The ¹³C NMR

spectrum further displayed seven quaternary carbons $\delta_{\rm C}$ 45.1, 73.0, 125.8, 137.4, 144.6, 147.2 and 169.2, of which a carbonyl resonance appeared at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 169.2 (C-18). The HMBC spectrum shows correlation of H-7 with C-2, C-5, C-6, C-8, C-9, C-13, C-16 and C-21 and H-9 with C-7, C-10, C-11 and C-13 confirming that H-7 and H-9 are in close proximity as shown by the long range coupling between the two protons (Table 4.10). Also in the HMBC spectrum, correlations of H-7 ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.2, *t*, *J* = 6.7 Hz) with C-2 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 73.0), C-5 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 50.4), C-6 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 26.2), C-8 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 125.8), C-9 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 104.2), C-13 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 137.4), C-16 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 39.0) and C-21 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 68.4) is in agreement with a piperidine ring fused to the indole moiety at the C-2/C-7 junction. Furthermore, the annulation with tetrahydropyridine ring C-21/N-4 was evident from the HMBC data (Table 4.10). Using the above spectroscopic data and the literature (Kariba *et al.*, 2002), the compound was identified as schizozygine and is the major compound from the roots and leaves of *Schizozygia coffaeoides* (Kariba *et al.*, 2002).

Carbon No	¹ H NMR $\delta_{\rm H}$ (<i>m</i> , <i>J</i> in Hz)	¹³ C NMR	НМВС
2		73.0	
3	2.80 (<i>d</i> , 16.8)	53.9	
	3.37 (<i>d</i> , 16.8)	1	
5	2.27 (<i>m</i>)	50.4	C-2, C-3, C-19
	3.02 (<i>bs</i>)	1	
6	2.03 (<i>m</i>)	26.2	
7	3.20 (<i>t</i> , 6.7)	42.5	C-2, C-5, C-6, C-8, C-9, C-13, C-16, C-21
8		125.8	
9	6.67 (<i>bs</i>)	104.2	C-7, C-10, C-11,C-13
10		144.6	
11		147.2	
12	7.61 (s)	98.4	C-8, C-10, C-11, C-13
13		137.4	
14	5.57 (<i>dt</i> , 10.0, 2.2)	124.2	C-3, C-15
15	5.73 (<i>ddd</i> , 10.0, 4.4, 2.0)	130.6	C-3, C-14, C-21
16	2.28 (<i>m</i>)	39.0	
17	1.87 (<i>ddd</i> , 12.8, 8.7, 5.4)	38.0	
	2.04 (<i>m</i>)		
18		169.2	
19	2.45 (<i>dd</i> , 18.0, 2,7)	47.3	C-15, C-17, C-18, C-20
	2.61 (<i>d</i> , 18.0)	1	C-17, C-18, C-20, C-21
20		45.1	
21	2.25 (s)	68.4	C-3, C-5, C-7, C19
OCH ₂ O	5.91 (<i>d</i> , 1.3)	102.0	C-10, C-11
	5.92 (<i>d</i> , 1.3)		C-10, C-11

Table 4.4:¹H (500 MHz) and ¹³C (125 MHz) NMR data for compound **95** (CD₂Cl₂)

4.3.2 6,7-Dehydro-19β-hydroxyschizozygine (96)

Compound **96** was isolated as a pink amorphous solid whose spot on TLC turned red when sprayed with Dragendorff's reagent, indicating that it is an alkaloid. The only difference between compounds **95** and **96** is the presence in the latter of a hydroxy group C-19 and a double bond between C-6 and C-7.



As in compound **95**, the ¹H NMR spectrum exhibited two aromatic proton singlets resonating at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.5 (H-9) and 8.35 (H-12) with C-10 (144.9) and C-11 (142.5) being substituted with methylenedioxy group. Three olefinic protons were evident from the signals at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.73 (*ddd*, J = 10.0, 4.6, 1.9 Hz, H-14), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.03 (*d*, J = 10.3 Hz, H-15) and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.24 (*dd*, J = 4.8, 2.2 Hz, H-6). The proton resonating at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 4.02 (1H, *d*, J = 1.6 Hz, H-19) was assigned to hydroxymethine proton (H-19). The ¹³C NMR spectrum showed one amidic carbonyl resonating at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 171.1 (C-18), four olefinic carbons resonating at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 100.6 (C-6), 145.1 (C-7), 123.6 (C-14) and 127.5 (15) together with three oxygenated carbons resonating at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 144.9 (C-10), 142.5 (C-11) and 76.2 (C-19).

In the HMBC spectrum, H-19 correlates with C-15 (δ_{C} 127.5), C-17 (δ_{C} 30.0), amidic carbonyl C-18 (δ_{C} 171.1), C-20 (δ_{C} 46.9) and C-21 (δ_{C} 68.1) supporting the fact that the hydroxy group is attached to C-19 adjacent to C-18 (Table 4.11). The β -orientation of OH-19 was established from long range (*W*) coupling (*J*=1.8 Hz) between H-19 (δ_{H} 4.02) and H-17 (δ_{H} 1.84) that requires H-19 be in α -equatorial configuration and hence the 19-OH has to be β -oriented. The compound was therefore identified as 6,7-dehydro-19 β -hydroxyschizozygine based on the spectroscopic data and comparison with literature (Kariba *et al.*, 2002).

Position	δ _C	$\delta_{\rm H}(m, J \text{ in Hz})$	НМВС
2	64.4		
3	52.4	3.45 (<i>dd</i> , 16.9, 4.6)	
	1	2.85 (d, 16.9)	
5	52.3	3.59 (<i>dd</i> , 16.3, 4.8)	
		2.94 (<i>d</i> , 16.3)	
6	100.6	5.24 (<i>dd</i> , 4.8, 2.2)	C-2, C-5, C-7
7	145.1		
8	116.8		
9	98.3	6.5 (<i>s</i>)	C-7, C-8, C-10, C-13
10	144.9		
11	142.5		
12	103.0	8.35 (s)	C-8, C-9, C-11, C-13
13	138.5		
14	123.6	5.73 (<i>ddd</i> , 10.0, 4.6, 1.9)	C-3, C-20
15	127.5	6.03 (<i>d</i> , 10.25)	
16	38.2	2.35 (<i>m</i>)	
		2.06 (<i>m</i>)	
17	30.0	2.44 (<i>m</i>)	C-16, C-19, C-20, C-21
		1.84 (<i>m</i>)	C-2, C-16, C-19, C-20
18	171.1		
19	76.2	4.02 (<i>d</i> , 1.6)	C-15, C-17, C-18, C-20, C-21
20	46.9		
21	68.1	2.50 (s)	C-5, C-16, C-17, C-19
OCH ₂ O	102.2	5.92 (<i>d</i> , 1.3)	C-10, C-11
		5.91 (d, 1.3)	C-10, C-11

Table 4.5: ¹H (500 MHz) and ¹³C (125 MHz) NMR for compound **96** (CD₂Cl₂)

4.3.3 Cassamin A (97)

Compound **97** was isolated as a yellow amorphous solid; and a yellow TLC spot turned red on exposure to ammonia vapour indicating that it could be quinone derivative.



The HRESIMS molecular ion peak at m/z 522.0954 and the NMR data (Table 4.12) was consistent with the molecular formula C₃₀H₁₈O₉. The MS, ¹H NMR (which showed two methyl groups at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.20 and 2.21) and ¹³C NMR, which showed two methyl carbons at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 20.7 and 20.9 and four carbonyl resonances ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 182.9, 182.9, 191.2 and 193.3) suggested that this compound is a dimeric anthraquinone.

In one half of the molecule, the ¹H NMR spectrum showed three mutually coupled aromatic protons (Table 4.12) for ring B (structure **97**) which is substituted with hydroxy group at C-8 (δ_C 162.8) as in chrysophanol. Ring A has only one aromatic proton (δ_H 7.83) where C-1 (hydroxy group, δ_C 160.3) and C-3 (methyl group (δ_H 2.21; δ_C 20.9) are substituted as expected biogenetically. This leaves C-2 (δ_C 131.2) as the point of attachment to the other half of the molecule.

The other half of the molecule has three hydroxy substituents ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 160, 166.4 and 165.8) in addition to the methyl ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.20; $\delta_{\rm C}$ 20.7) at C-3' as expected from biogenesis. In ring A', the presence of only one aromatic proton ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.78 for H-4'), having hydroxy group at C-1' (from biogenetic point of view) suggested that C-2' is the point of attachment with the other half. In ring B, two *meta*-coupled aromatic protons resonating at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.61 and 7.24 would place the remaining hydroxy group at C-7 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 125.1) as in emodin. Thus based on the above evidence in addition to detailed ¹H, ¹HCOSY, HSQC and HMBC analyses, along with literature comparison, compound **97** was identified as 2,2'-crysophanol-emodin dimer (trivial name cassamin A) (Atilaw *et al.*, 2014). This compound is optically active, $[\alpha]_{\rm D} = -49.8$, due to restricted rotation at the bi-aryl linkage. However, the absolute configuration remains undetermined.

Position	$\delta_{\rm H}(m, J \text{ in Hz})$	δ _C	НМВС
1		160.3	
1a		114.6	
2		131.2	
3		149.0	
4	7.83 (s)	122.2	C-1a, C-2, C-3
4a		133.6	
5	7.82 (<i>dd</i> , 7.7, 1.2)	120.5	C-7, C-8a, C-10
5a		134.2	
6	7.72 (<i>dd</i> , 8.5, 7.9)	137.8	C-5a, C-8
7	7.30 (<i>dd</i> , 8.5, 1.2)	125.1	C-5, C-8a
8		162.8	
8a		116.5	
9		193.3	
10		182.9	
1'		160.0	
1'a		114.6	
2'		130.9	
3'		147.7	
4'	7.78 (s)	121.9	C-1'a, C-2', C-10', C-3'
4'a		133.6	
5'	7.24 (<i>d</i> , 2.5)	110.1	C-7', C-10'
5'a		136.1	
6'		166.4	
7'	6.61 (<i>d</i> , 2.5)	108.9	C-5'
8'		165.8	
8'a		110.1	
9'		191.2	
10'		182.9	
1-OH			
1'-OH			
3-CH ₃	2.21	20.9	C-2, C-3 C-4
3'-CH ₃	2.20	20.7	C-2', C-3', C-4'
6'-OH			
8-OH			
8'-OH			

Table 4.6: ¹H (500 MHz) and ¹³C (125MHz) NMR data for compound **97** (CD_2Cl_2/CD_3OD ; 1:1)

4.3.4 Cassamin B (98)

Compound **98** was isolated as a yellow amorphous solid, as in compound **97**, a yellow TLC spot turned red when exposed to ammonia vapour, indicating a quinone moiety. The HRESIMS of this compound showed a molecular ion peak of 538.0917 consistent with the molecular formula $C_{30}H_{18}O_{10}$, also indicating a dimeric anthraquinone.



The ¹H NMR spectrum showed three aromatic protons resonating at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.76 (*s*, H-4), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.22 (*s*, H-5) and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.59 (*s*, H-7). ¹³C NMR only showed fifteen carbon signals of which; two were carbonyl ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 191.2 and 182.9), three oxygenated carbons ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 166.4, 165.8 and 160.0), a methyl group ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 20.7) and three methine aromatic carbon signals ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 121.9, 110.1, 108.9) and biogenetically expected methyl group ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 2.22) at C-3. In the HMBC spectrum, the methyl protons showed correlation with C-2, C-3 and C-4 (table 4.13).

The NMR spectra are clearly in agreement with the compound being a symmetrical dimer of emodin; the only difference is the absence of a signal for H-2 in compound **98** indicating C-2 is the point of attachment to the other half of the molecule. In support of this, in the HMBC spectrum, H-4 correlated with C-1a, C-2, C-10 and 3-CH₃ and H-2 was a point of attachment to the half of molecule since it was not observed in the ¹H NMR spectrum consistent with the compound **98** being a symmetric dimer of emodin. In ring C, H-5 correlated with C-8a, C-10 and H-7 correlated with C-8a confirming the identity of this ring. Compound **98** was therefore
characterized as 2,2'-biemodin (Atilaw et al., 2014). This compound is also optically active, [\alpha]_D

= 27.0, and the absolute configuration is yet to be determined.

Position	δ _C	$\delta_{\rm H}(m, J \text{ in Hz})$	HMBC
1	160.0		
1a	114.5		
2	131.1		
3	147.7		
4	121.9	7.76 (<i>s</i>)	C-1a, C-2, C-10, 3- CH ₃
4a	133.4		
5	110.1	7.22	C-8a, C-10
5a	136.0		
6	166.4		C-8a
7	108.9	6.59	
8	165.8		
8a	109.9		
9	191.2		
10	182.9		
3-CH ₃	20.7	2.22 (s)	C-2, C-3, C-4
1-OH			
6-OH			
8-OH			

Table 4.7: ¹H (500 MHz) and ¹³C (125 MHz) NMR for compound **98** (CD₂Cl₂/ CD₃OD; 1:1)

4.3.5 Isoschizozygaline (99)

Compound **99** was isolated as a white amorphous solid and is also an isoschizozygane alkaloid as shown from NMR spectral data (Table 4.14). The HREIMS of compound **99** exhibited the molecular ion peak at m/z 322.1685 corresponding to the molecular formula $C_{20}H_{22}O_2N_2$.



The ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **99** is similar to that of schizozygine except that the two *para*-oriented aromatic protons in the latter are replaced by an AMX spin system resonating at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 8.43 (1H, *d*, *J* = 2.6 Hz, H-12), $\delta_{\rm H}$ 7.06 (1H, *d*, *J* = 8.4 Hz, H-9) and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 6.67 (1H, *dd*, *J* = 8.3, 2.6 Hz, H-10). Also the methylenedioxy signals in compound **99** are now replaced by a methoxy group ($\delta_{\rm H}$ 3.8; $\delta_{\rm C}$ 55.8).

The ¹H NMR spectrum of compound **99** also showed two olefinic protons resonating at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.75 (1H, *ddd*, J = 10.1, 2.6, 1.8 Hz, H-15) and $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.62 (*ddd*, J = 10.1, 4.6, 1.8 Hz, H-14). The ¹³C NMR spectrum exhibited two olefinic carbons C-15 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 131.3) and C-14 ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 120.7), one methoxy group ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 55.8), and one carbonyl group ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 174.8). In the HMBC spectrum, (H-9 correlated with C-7, C-11 and C-13 confirming the long range coupling of the protons (H-7 and H-9) and also guided in the confirmation of the substitution pattern of the aromatic ring. That the compound has a five-membered lactam ring, rather than six-member as in compound **95** was established based on the chemical shift value of the carbonyl ($\delta_{\rm C}$ 178.4) as discussed in Kariba *et*

al., (2002). The compound was therefore characterized as isoschizogaline (Atilaw et al., 2014;

Kariba et al., 2002).

Position	δ _C	$\delta_{\rm H}(m, J \text{ in Hz})$	HMBC
2	35.1	2,34(m)	
3	48.2	<u>3.44 (<i>ddd</i></u> , 17.4, 3.0, 1.6)	C-5, C-14, C-15
		3.29 (<i>ddd</i> , 17.3, 2.8, 1.4))	C-14. C-15
5	44.6	2.84 (<i>ddd</i> , 14.6, 12.9, 3.3)	C-5,
		2.52 (<i>ddd</i> , 14.3, 2.81, 1.8)	
6	27.3	2.24 (<i>m</i>)	
		1.19 (<i>m</i>)	
7	37.8	3.25 (<i>t</i> , 5.9)	
8	118.9		
9	129.6	7.06 (<i>d</i> , 8.4)	C-7, C-11, C-13
10	110.1	6.67 (<i>dd</i> , 8.3, 2.6)	C-8, C-11, C-12
11	159.2		
12	103.5	8.43 (<i>d</i> , 2.6)	C-8, C-10, C-10, C-11
13	139.3		
14	120.7	5.62 (<i>ddd</i> , 10.14, 4.6, 1.8)	
15	131.3	5.75 (<i>ddd</i> , 10.13, 2.6, 1.8)	C-3, C-7, C-20, C-21
16	25.3	1.69 (<i>m</i>)	
		1.13 (<i>m</i>)	
17	36.8	1.86 (<i>m</i>)	C-15
		1.76 (<i>m</i>)	C-5, C-17
18	174.8		
19	46.5	2.78 (<i>d</i> , 12.4)	C-5, C-13, C-17, C-18
		2.50 (<i>dd</i> , 19.0, 2.9)	C-5, C-17, C-18, C-18
20	44.7		
21	85.1		
OCH ₃	55.8	3.83 (s)	C-11

Table 4.14: ¹H (500 MHz) and ¹³C (125 MHz) NMR for compound **99** (CD₂Cl₂)

4.4 10,11-Dihdroxyschizozygine Derivative (110)

Compound **110**, a white amorphous solid, was prepared from schizozygine using boron tribromide as Lewis acid in dry dichloromethane as illustrated in Scheme 2.1.



Scheme 2.1: Reaction equation of Schizozygine with boron tribromide

Preliminary attempts that used lower concentrations of boron tribromide (0.2 g, 1 mmol and 0.4 g, 2 mmol) in 10mL of dry dichloromethane were not successful in cleaving the methylenedioxy linkage. The reaction was successful when 1 g (4.5 mmol) of boron tribromide was used in the same volume of dry dichloromethane. This was a sign that the methylenedioxy is a very stable group hence required excess boron tribromide for its cleavage. The proposed reaction mechanism involves boron tribromide acting as a Lewis acid to activate the methylenedioxy linkage for nucleophilic cleavage as shown in Scheme 2.2.



2Br₂BOH

Scheme 2.2: proposed mechanism of synthesis of 10,11-dihydroxyschizozygine derivative

Based on the spectroscopic data, mass and IR, the compound was characterized as 10,11dihydroxyschizozygine derivative.



The ¹H NMR of 10, 11-dihydroxyschizozygine derivative is similar to that of schizozygine (**95**), except for the absence of the methylenedioxy protons resonating at $\delta_{\rm H}$ 5.92. The absence of the methylenedioxy carbon resonating at $\delta_{\rm C}$ 102.0 in the ¹³C NMR spectrum (Appendix 146) of the product was evident, reducing the number of carbons to nineteen, further confirming the

cleavage of the methylenedioxy. The IR v_{max} cm⁻¹ were as follows; 3290 (OH), 3119 (OH),

2906, 1636 (amidic C=O), 1501 and 1413 confirming the existence of the hydroxyl groups.

The HREIMS of compound 110 showed a molecular ion peak at m/z 324.1484 consistent with

the molecular formula $C_{19}H_{20}O_3N_2$, thereby confirming that the cleavage was successful.

4.5 Cytotoxicity

The crude extract of the stem bark and root bark and some of the compounds isolated from A.

boonei were tested for cytotoxicity against four cell lines (Table 4.15).

Table 4.15: <i>In</i>	n vitro cy	ytotoxicity (of cor	npounds	from	Alstonia	boonei	against	2 normal	and	two
cancer cell lin	nes (IC ₅₀ i	in µM)									

Samples	Cell lines						
	BEAS-2B	LO2	A549	HepG2			
Stem bark extract	19.70±0.59 µg/ml	6.29 μg/ml	>100 µg/ml	84.1 µg/ml			
Root bark extract	7.48±2.83 µg/ml	1.19±0.25 µg/ml	>100 µg/ml	12.8 µg/ml			
Lupeol acetate (101)	>100	8.07±0.72	>100	>100			
Lupeol (106)	0.71±0.19	<0.10	>100	1.65			
Cycloeucalenol (104)	>100	91.60±9.8	>100	>100			
Phenanthridine-	39±1.10	2.58±0.30	>100	34.90			
6(5H)-one (105)							
Lichexanthone (103)	>100	84.50±8.40	>100	85.40			
Stigmasterol (103)	94.60±7.90	11.30±`1.84	>100	>100			

LO2: non-tumor (normal) liver cell; BEAS-2B: immortal cell line (normal lung cell). Cancer cells; A549 (adenocarcinomic human epithelial cells) and HepG2 (human liver cancer cell line).

The crude extract of the root bark exhibited good activity against HepG2 liver cancer cells (IC₅₀ = $12.8 \ \mu g/ml$) but was also toxic to both LO2 normal liver cells (IC₅₀ = $1.19 \ \mu g/ml$) and BEAS-2B lung cells. However, the crude extract of the stem was toxic to the normal cells from both the lung and the liver but inactive against the respective cancerous cells. Lupeol was active against the HepG2 human liver cancer cells (IC₅₀ = 1.65 μ M). Furthermore, lupeol was toxic to both LO2 normal (IC₅₀ = <0.1 μ M) and BEAS-2B normal (IC₅₀ = 0.71 μ M) cells. Lupeol has been reported to inhibit growth and proliferation of highly aggressive pancreatic cancer and melanoma cells through modulation of several signaling pathways in cap cells (Saleem *et al.*, 2009). Lupeol acetate was inactive against any cancerous cells but toxic to the LO2 cells. Cycloeucalenol and lichexanthone were inactive against any cell line but phenanthridine-6(5H)-one was moderately active on HepG2 and toxic to both BEAS-2B and LO2 cells. Stigmasterol was toxic to LO2 cells but inactive against other cell lines. Both the crude extracts and the isolated compounds were inactive against the A549 cancerous cells. Lupeol being one of the active phytochemical shows the reason why *Alstonia boonei* is used for the treatment of cancer traditionally but also has side effects on the normal cells.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- Five compounds were isolated and characterized from the stem bark of *Alstonia boonei* including; lupeol acetate (101), stigmasterol (102), lichexanthone (103), cycloeucalenol (104) and phenanthridine-6(5H)-one (105). Of these, compound (103) and 105 are reported for the first time from the family Apocynaceae.
- 2. From the root bark of *Alstonia boonei*, a total of four compounds were isolated and characterized as lupeol (106), β -sitosterol (107), echitamine (108), sucrose (109) and stigmasterol (102) was re-isolated.
- Five compounds were isolated and characterized from *Schizozygia coffaeoides* including schizozygine (95), 6,7-dehydro-19β-hydroxyschizozygine (96), cassamin A (97), cassamin B (98) and isoschizozygaline (99).
- 4. The dimeric anthraquinones; Cassamin A and Cassamin B are reported for the first time from the leaves of *S. coffaeoides*
- 5. The crude extract of the root bark and lupeol from *Alstonia boonei* showed moderate cytotoxity against HepG2 cancer cell line but toxic to the normal cells. However, both the crude extract and isolated compounds were inactive against A549 cancerous cell line.
- 10,11-Dihydroxyschizozygine (110) was prepared from schizozygine (95) through cleavage of the methylene dioxide using boron tribromide. Compound 110 is a new compound.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- The crude extracts and isolated compounds from Alstonia boonei and Schizozygia coffaeoides should be tested against other cell lines.
- The absolute configuration of the Cassamin A (97) and Cassamin B (98) should be determined.

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SPECTRA APPENDICES

APENDIX A

SPECTRA FOR COMPOUND 101

¹H NMR SPECTRA FOR COMPOUND 101 (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)



¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 101 (CDCl₃, 125 MHz)



APPENDIX B

SPECTRA FOR COMPOUND 102

¹H NMR SPECTRA FOR COMPOUND 102 (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz)



¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 102 (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz)



APPENDIX C

SPECTRA FOR COMPOUND 103

¹H NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMOPUND 103 (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)



¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 103 (CDCl₃, 125 MHz)



HH-COSSY SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 103 (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)



HSQC SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 103 (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)



HMBC SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 103 (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)



NOESY SPECRUM FOR COMPOUND 103 (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)



APPENDIX D

SPECTRA FOR COMPOUND 104

¹H NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 104 (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)



¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 104 (CDCl₃, 125 MHz)



APPENDIX E

SPECTRA FOR COMPOUND 105

¹H NMR SPECTRA FOR COMPOUND 105 (DMSO-d6, 500 MHz)



¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 105 (DMSO-d6, 125 MHz)


HH-COSSY SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 105 (DMSO-d6, 500 MHz)



HSQC SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 105 (DMSO-d6, 500 MHz)



HMBC FOR COMPOUND 105 (DMSO-d6, 500 MHz)



APPENDIX F

¹H NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 106 (CDCl₃, 500 MHz)



100

¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 106 (CDCl₃, 125 MHz)



APPENDIX G

¹H NMR SPECTRUM FOR COUMPOUND 107 (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz)



¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 107 (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz)



APPENDIX H

¹H NMR SPECTRUM OF COMPOUND 108 (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz)



¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 108 (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz)









APPENDIX I

¹H NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 109 (D₂O, 500 MHz)



¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 109 (D₂O, 125 MHz)



HH-COSSY SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 109 (D₂O, 500 MHz)



34 D * 15mg i. 0.75ml D2O * H,H-COSY * AV500



HMBC SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 109 (D₂O, 500 MHz)



APPENDIX J

¹H NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 95 (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz)



47 J * 17.1mg i. 0.25ml CD2Cl2 * 1H * AV500

¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 95 (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz)









APPENDIX L

¹H NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 96 (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz)



48 F * 21.2mg i. 0.25ml CD2Cl2 * 1H * AV500

¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 96 (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz)









APPENDIX M

¹H NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 97 (CD₂Cl₂/CD₃OD, 500 MHz)



¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 97 (CD₂Cl₂/CD₃OD, 125 MHz)


HH-COSSY SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 97 (CD₂Cl₂/CD₃OD, 500 MHz)





HMBC SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 97 (CD₂Cl₂/CD₃OD, 500 MHz)



APPENDIX N

SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 98

¹H NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 98 (CD₂Cl₂/CD₃OD, 500 MHz)



¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 98 (CD₂Cl₂/CD₃OD, 125 MHz)



HH-COSSY SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 98 (CD₂Cl₂/CD₃OD, 500 MHz)



HSQC SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 111 (CD₂Cl₂/CD₃OD, 500 MHz)



HMBC SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 98 (CD₂Cl₂/CD₃OD, 500 MHz)



APPENDIX O

SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 99

¹H NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 99 (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz)



¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 99 (CD₂Cl₂, 125 MHz)







HMBC SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 99 (CD₂Cl₂, 500 MHz)



APPENDIX P

SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 110

¹H NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 110 (DMSO, 500 MHz)



¹³C NMR SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 110 (DMSO, 500 MHz)



HH-COSSY SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 110 (DMSO, 500 MHz)



HSQC SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 110 (DMSO, 500 MHz)



HMBC SPECTRUM FOR COMPOUND 110 (DMSO, 500 MHz)

