

Chemical studies on the roots of *Uvaria welwitschii*.

Abstract:

A chemical investigation of the chloroform extract of the roots of *Uvaria welwitschii* (Annonaceae), an African traditional medicine taken for stomach ache, led to the isolation of eight new compounds, named welwitschins A-H (1-8), together with five known compounds (9-13). The structural elucidation by spectroscopic studies of the compounds isolated is described. All new compounds were flavonoids having a 2-hydroxy-3,4,6-trimethoxyphenyl moiety in the A-ring, and unsubstituted phenyl in the B-ring. Four of them (1-4) were monomeric flavonoids while the others (5-8) were dimeric flavonoids. The cytotoxicity of the isolated compounds against human promyelocytic leukemia HL-60 cells was investigated.