PS-13 FRIEDELANE TRITERPENOIDS FROM RAWSONIA LUCIDA.

Guchu S. M., Abiy Yenesew, Midiwo J. O. and Oketch-Rabah*, H.A.T.

Department of Chemistry, *Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacognosy, University of Nairobi, P.O. Box 30197, Nairobi. Kenya.

Rawsonia lucida (Flacourtiaceae) is an evergreen tree or shrub that is mainly distributed in tropical and southern Africa. Recent survey of plants traditionally used for the treatment of malaria have shown that the leaves of this plant exhibit in vitro antimalarial activity with IC_{50} value of 29.8µg/ml against Plasmodium falciparum.

In this study the stem bark of this plant was investigated and five friedelane-type triterpenes were isolated and identified as fridelin (1), canophyllol (2), canophyllal (3) friedelane-1,3-dione (4), and 28-hydroxyfriedelane-1,3-dione (5). In this presentation the isolation and structure elucidation of these compounds will be discussed.