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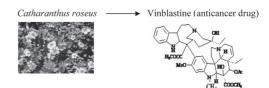
INVITED MINI REVIEWS

Role of plants in anticancer drug discovery

pp 173-181

Jabeena Khazir, Bilal Ahmad Mir, Lynne Pilcher and Darren L. Riley

• Cancer is second deadly disease after cardiovascular diseases. • There is a tremendous need to discover novel safer and more effective anticancer agents. • Plants serve as a basis for promising therapeutic agents for cancer treatment. • Important plant derived anticancer agents have been discussed here. • Some potential plant derived lead molecules have also been discussed.



LETTERS

Nigrosphaerin A a new isochromene derivative from the endophytic fungus Nigrospora sphaerica

pp 1-5

Ahmed M. Metwaly, Hazem A. Kadry, Atef A. El-Hela, Abd-Elsalam I. Mohammad, Guoyi Ma, Stephen J. Cutler and Samir A. Ross

• The phytochemical and biological properties of the endophytic fungus Nigrospora sphaerica were examined. Nigrosphaerin A, a new isochromene derivative, along with nineteen known compounds was isolated and identified. Four compounds showed good *in vitro* antileukemic activity. Three compounds showed moderate *in vitro* antileishmanial activity. One compound showed good antifungal activity.

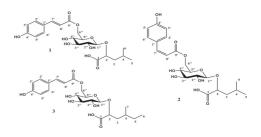
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Phytochemicals from the aerial parts of *Ligularia thomsonii* and their radical scavenging activity

pp 6-10

Syed Hamid Hussain, Abdul Latif, Russell J. Cox, Thomas J. Simpson, Mumtaz Ali, Mohammad Arfan and Ghias Uddin

• Three new and nine reported compounds were isolated and characterized. • The known compounds are reported for the first time from the genus. • All compounds were evaluated for their antioxidant activities.



A new nortriterpenoid from the fruiting bodies of Ganoderma tropicum

pp 11-13

Li-li Hu, Qing-yun Ma, Sheng-zhuo Huang, Zhi-kai Guo, Hai-xia Ma, Jian-chun Guo, Hao-fu Dai and You-xing Zhao

◆ A C-24 lanostane nortriterpene was isolated from *Ganoderma tropicum*. ◆ A new C-29 lanostane nortriterpene was isolated from *Ganoderma tropicum*. ◆ The lanostane triterpenoids from *Ganoderma tropicum* were found for the first time.

Guaianolides and elemanolides from Vernonia anthelmintica

pp 14-18

Li Zhang, Yong-Liang Shao, Lei Hua, Ya Li, Syed Hamid Hussain, Mohammad Arfan and Kun Gao

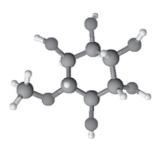
• Two new guaianolides and two known elemanolides were isolated from *Vernonia anthelmintica* Willd. • Their biosynthetic relationships were discussed. • Compounds 1–4 were evaluated for their cytotoxicity against HL-60 and SMMC-7721 cell lines.

Development and validation of a gas chromatographic method for the quantification of D-pinitol in decoctions of *Desmodium adscendens*

pp 19-25

Ines van Dooren, Nina Hermans, Liene Dhooghe, Tania Naessens, Reinhilde Vermeylen, Magda Claeys, Arnold Vlietinck, Luc Pieters and Sandra Apers

● A GC method for quantification of pinitol in *D. adscendens* was developed. ● Different internal standards and derivatization methods were evaluated. ● The final method was validated. ● The calibration model was linear, the precision and accuracy were acceptable.



Simalin A and B: Two new aromatic compounds from the stem bark of Bombax ceiba

pp 26-29

Khem Raj Joshi, Hari Prasad Devkota and Shoji Yahara

Two new aromatic compounds; simalin A (1) and simalin B (2) were isolated from the stem barks of *Bombax ceiba*.
Five known compounds (3–7) were also isolated together with these two new compounds.
Compounds 6 and 7 were isolated for the first time from *B. ceiba*.



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