

SOME BIOACTIVE STEROIDAL SAPONINS OF PALMYRAH

Bv

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Ph.D.



2008

SOME BIOACTIVE STEROIDAL SAPONINS OF PALMYRAH

By

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Thesis submitted to the University of Sri Jayewardenepura for the
award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry on
29th February, 2008.

DECLARATION

The work described in this thesis was carried out by me under the supervision of Professor E. R. Jansz and Dr. S. Ekanayake and a report on this has not been submitted in whole or in part to any University or any other Institution for another Degree/Diploma.

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Date

CERTIFICATION

We certify that the above statement made by the candidate is true and that this thesis is suitable for submission to the University for the purpose of evaluation.



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Professor E. R. Jansz



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Dr S. Ekanayake

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Abbreviations

¹³ C-NMR	Carbon Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectrometry
1D-TOCSY	One Dimensional - Total Correlation Spectroscopy
¹ H-NMR	Proton Nuclear Magnetic Resonance spectrometry
2D-TOCSY	Two Dimensional - Total Correlation Spectroscopy
AOAC	Association of Official Analytical Chemists
AR	Analytical Reagent (chemical grade)
BEN	Butanol:Ethanol:Ammonia
CSTH	Colombo South Teaching Hospital
DMSO	Dimethyl Sulfoxide
FAB/MS	Fast Atom Bombardment – Mass Spectrometry
F _A	New flabelliferin triglycoside
F _B	Anti bacterial flabelliferin triglycoside
F _C	Flabelliferin triglycoside
F _D	Flabelliferin diglycoside
GC	Gas Chromatography
GC-MS	Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectroscopy
Glc	Glucose
GPR	General Purpose Reagent (chemical grade)
HMBC	Heteronuclear Single Quantum Coherence
HMQC	Heteronuclear Multiple Quantum Coherence
HPLC	High Performance Liquid Chromtography
ICR	Institute of Cancer Research
MPLC	Medium Pressure Liquid Chromatography

MRI	Medical Research Institute
MRSA	Methicillin resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
MW	Molecular Weight
PDB	Palmyrah Development Board
PF	Palmyrah flour
PPF	Palmyrah fruit pulp
R _f	Retardation Factor
Rha	Rhamnose
RPM	Rounds per minute
RPR-HPLC	Reverse Phase Recycle - High Performance Liquid Chromtography
TEM	Transition Electron Microscopy
TLC	Thin Layer Chromatography
TMS	Tetra methyl silane
TOF-Mass	Time Of Flight– Mass Spectrometry
UV	Ultra Violet

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A journey is easier when you travel together. This thesis contains my Ph.D. research work. Many individuals have accompanied, helped and supported in many ways to achieve the results of this thesis. I take this opportunity now to express my gratitude to all of them.

First and foremost, I am deeply indebted to Prof. E. R. Jansz, Professor of Biochemistry, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP), for his continuous support throughout my Ph.D. program which is hard to explain by words. He is always there to listen and answer my questions. He involved me in this project and showed me the different ways to approach research problems. I am grateful for his patience, motivation, enthusiasm and immense knowledge in biochemistry.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. S. Ekanayake (Department of Biochemistry), also my supervisor for her constant support, guidance, motivation and courage during my research work and specially during the animal experiments.

I extended my warmest gratitude to foreign supervisors Prof. Vichai Retrakul (Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand), Prof. Iqbal Choudhary (HEJ Research Institute, Karachchi, Pakistan) for their invaluable guidance and support during the final separation of compounds and spectroscopic studies. I want to express my special thank to Prof. Pathoomarathana Thuchinda (Mahidol University) for the support that she has given as a supervisor as well as personally. I specially thank Prof. Ahsana Dar (ICR Cell line assay) and Dr. S. Yousuf (Spectroscopy) (HEJ Research Institute, Karachchi, Pakistan) for their support.

I would like to thank Prof. M. S. A. Perera (Department of Family Medicine, USJP) and Dr. Sunil J. Mendis (Colombo South Teaching Hospital - CSTH) for their guidance and the supervision during the clinical studies.

I am also greatly indebted to Prof. Hemantha Peiris (Department of Biochemistry) who gave me the opportunity to work as a technical assistant and at the same time I would like to mention and thank all academic staff members and my teachers in the Department of Biochemistry.

I want to express my special thank to International Program in Chemical Sciences (IPICS) Uppsala University, Sweden for the funding and Prof. Malin Akerblom for her valuable suggestions to conduct my research project and for her friendship.

My thanks goes to Dr. S. Jayasekara and Dr. M. Thamityyagoda (Animal House Medical Research Institute - MRI) for their constant help by providing me with animals, training in animal studies and all scientific and personal advice.

My gratitude and my special thanks to Madam Oranee Jansz, who corrected my thesis. She always served coffee with a smile during my discussions with Prof E. R. Jansz at Pietersz place.

I should acknowledge the time consuming support given by Dr. Sirimal Premakumara for his guidance in finalizing the spectroscopic results for the thesis.

It is necessary to mention my senior research colleague Mr. J. K. Nikawala, Palmyrah Development Board (PDB) for his deep involvement in research and acting as a bridge between the PDB and my research work, and big thank to you.

I thank National Science Foundation (NSF) for the financial support and Faculty of Graduate studies and staff for the management of my postgraduate work.

I thank Director, CSTH to allowing me to conduct my clinical studies in the hospital clinics and wards and Director, MRI to allowing me to use electron microscopic facilities,

Head, Department of Chemistry always kept the post graduate research laboratory open for me.

I must highlight all experts who helped me during the relevant parts of my Ph.D. studies; Dr. A. Razak – MRI (electron microscopy), Dr. P. P. M. Jayaweera – Department of Chemistry (IR - spectroscopy), Dr. Kamani Samarasinghe - Department of Pathology (animal histopathology), Dr. S. Yasewardena – Department of Anatomy (animal experiments), Dr. Sriyani Ekanayaka – Department of Parasitology (mosquito experiments), Dr. Aloka Pathirana – Department of Surgery (clinical trials) Dr. Neluka Fernando - Department of Microbiology (Microbiological studies), Prof. S. Sivayogan – Department of Community Medicine (statistics) and Prof. Savitri Kumar – Department of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya (methylation studies). Dear Sir/Madam, thank you very much for the support you have given.

Big thank to Dr. P. P. R Perera, you gave me the ophthalmoscope, participated in studies as a volunteer, panel member and software provider too. Dr. Samantha Iddamalgoda, Dr. Achala Abeyadeera you are also unforgettable during my animal studies. I'm thankful to all pervious demonstrators and research laboratory student in the Department of Biochemistry specially who participated to my studies as volunteers and observation panel members.

Mr. Nalaka Illeperuma, Ms. Ruwanthi and Ms. Indika, I should thank you for the support given. Mr. Gamini and student lab staff, I'm thankful to you also.

I would like to thank Ms. Sriyani and the Animal House, USJP for providing me the animal house facilities.

Mr. Amerasena and Mr. Jayaweera apart from your support, your cup of tea gave me the strength to work long hours.

I would also like to thank you very much for support given by Mr. Darshana, Ms. Fara (Department of Microbiology) Keerthi Wickramarathna (MRI) – (electron microscopy), Mr Athula and hospital Staff - Csth (clinical trials) and Staff Microbiology laboratory – Csth (clinical trials).

Chamminda ayya and Dharshika akka always unforgettable for the support you have given in the beginning of my research carrier. Rashitha ayya, Sampath ayya and Mauri akka, thank you for the support and advice. Nadi akka, Sevvandi Anna and Maggnuss my lovely friends, you are always with me. Ransome, thank you also.

Research laboratory members Inoka akka, Lohini Akka, Usha Akka, Buddika, Gayathri, and Rahal, thank you very much for the continuous support and the strength you have given during my laboratory work.

My thanks goes to Mr. Munasinghe, Mr. Manjula (Medical Education), Mr. Gunasekara (Community Medicine), Physiology and Community Medicine non-academic staff who always gave me positive response and Security USJP, who permitted me to work long extra hours.

I pay my respects to Research Laboratory, Department of Biochemistry, which never gave me any extra trouble from its' instruments.

Finally my special thanks to my family, parents and two brothers and my wife for their unconditional support given to me which enabled me to complete this Ph.D. work successfully.

A. A. P. Keerthi
February, 2008.

ABSTRACT

TITLE: SOME BIOACTIVE PRINCIPLES OF PALMYRAH

A. A. P. Keerthi

Palmyrah fruit pulp is known to have flabelliferins (steroidal saponins) which have hypoglycemic, hypocholesterolaemic and anti-microbial properties. The anti-microbial property was studied further and compound F_B (a β sitosterol glycoside) was found to have an IC₅₀ of 31 μ mol/L on *Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922 in liquid medium. Sitosterols and all flabelliferins bind florescent carotenoids, which make the complex less soluble in aqueous medium. Therefore, the Bauer-Kerby method was used to test anti-microbial activity of the complex (F_B and UV active binder). The complex had higher activity than the pure glycoside both on equimolar and equal-weights basis against *Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922. The complex on application to human non-ulcerous wounds was as good as the normal hospital treatment.

Palmyrah flour (PF) contained a number of other bioactivities. One flabelliferin with a linear Glc.Rha.Rha sugar moiety caused lethality to larvae of the dengue mosquito *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti* at a LC₅₀ ranging from 60 mg/L to 75.8 mg/L by forming a layer on the surface of water, which the short breathing siphons of these larvae could not penetrate. PF also contains a hyperhemolytic steroidal saponin (MW= 1534) with 5 Rha and 1 Glc and a fragment of 228. Another tetraglycoside (MW= 1014) with 1 Glc and 3 Rha had cytotoxic activity on melanoma cells at a concentration of 100 μ g/mL. It has a aglycone of spirostane and its the structure has been elucidated.

PF is known to exert a neurotoxic effect on rats and mice. The nature of this neurotoxin had evaded classification since 1971. This was found to be due to the toxin being in a

mixture of steroidal saponins. Separation of the mixture resulted in loss of activity on oral administration. Intravenous administration in a bioactivity directed separation on Wistar rats by MPLC, ion exchange chromatography and preparative TLC of suspected neurotoxin narrowed the range to a mixture of 3 compounds, which exhibited the neurotoxic effect. They were two primary amines (A and B) found in mixture to be toxic and a non amine which was non-toxic. It was found that there is a synergistic effect between the two amines. The amines were found to be tetraglycosides of spirostane containing 3 α Rha and β pyranoside which is likely to contain a NH_2 group. It is possible that this NH_2 group is at position 6 in A and in position 3 in B of a first pyranoside moiety. More data is needed to confirm this. Knowing the chemical nature of the toxin along with the data previously gathered, it is possible to hypothesize the mechanism of uptake of the neurotoxin and its neurotoxic effects. Some understanding has been reached to explain why humans have never been reported to show the neurotoxic effect.