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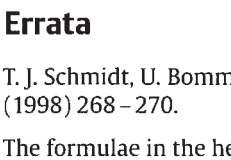
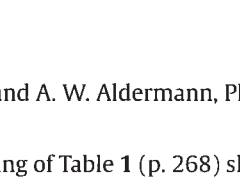
Errata

T. J. Schmidt, U. Bomme, and A. W. Aldermann, Planta Med. 64 (1998) 268–270.

The formulae in the heading of Table **1** (p. 268) should be:



helenalin and its esters



11α,13-dihydrohelenalin and its esters

Byung-Hoon Lee, Sang-Jun Lee, Jang-Hyun Hur, Sooyong Lee, Jong-Hwan Sung, Jae-Doo Huh, and Chang-Kiu Moon, Planta Med. 64 (1998) 500–503:

We regret that the third author's name was incorrectly printed.

Masaaki Miyamoto, Yoichi Matsushita, Akiko Kikokawa, Chie Fukuda, Yasuteru Iijima, Machiko Sugano, and Toshiyuki Akiyama, Planta Med. 64 (1998) 516–519.

Figure 1 should be as shown below.

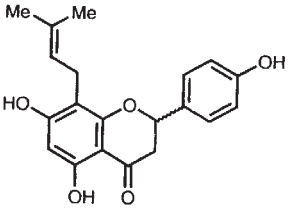


Fig. 1 Chemical structure of 8-Isopentenylnaringenin.

Ho Cheong, Eun Ju Choi, Gyurng Soo Yoo, Kyeong-Man Kim, and Shi Yong Ryu, Planta Med. 64 (1998) 577–578.

We regret that the first author's name was incorrectly printed.

A New Bioactive Norquinone-Methide Triterpene from *Maytenus scutioides*

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Abstract: **By antimicrobial and cytotoxic-guided fractionation, a bioactive norquinone-methide triterpene, 15α-hydroxypristimerin, was isolated from a South American medicinal plant, *Maytenus scutioides*. Its structure was determined on the basis of spectroscopic evidence. Successful chemical transformation of pristimerin to netzahualcoyene indicates that the 15-hydroxy compounds seems to be a possible precursor of 14(15)-ene-quinone-methide-triterpenoids in the biogenetic pathway.**

As part of an intensive study of the bioactive compounds from South American medicinal plants (1, 2), we studied the active principles of genus *Maytenus* (Celastraceae), which have been widely used in folk medicine (3, 4). *M. scutioides* Lourteig and O'Donnell (5) is a subtropical shrub distributed in the Central region of South America. The aerial part and the roots of this plant are used as cardiotonic and abortifacient, respectively, by the inhabitants of these regions (6). By antimicrobial and cytotoxic-guided fractionation, an *n*-hexane-Et_2O (1 : 1) extract of the root bark of *M. scutioides* gave celastrol, pristimerin, tingenone, netzahualcoyene (7), scutione (2) and the new norquinone-methide triterpene 15α-hydroxy-pristimerin (**1**), as its active principles.

The structure of **1** was elucidated by ^{1}H- and ^{13}C-NMR spectroscopic studies, including ^{1}H-^{13}C heteronuclear correlation (HETCOR), long range correlation spectroscopy with inverse detection (HMBC), and ROESY experiments. The possible implication of **1** as precursor in the biogenetic pathway to 14(15)-ene-quinone-methide triterpenoids with netzahualcoyene skeleton is discussed.

The *n*-hexane-Et_2O (1 : 1) extract of the bark root of *M. scutioides* was repeatedly chromatographed on Sephadex LH-20 and silica gel. From the active fractions compound **1** was isolated as a red lacquer and had a molecular formula of $C_{30}H_{40}O_5$ by HREIMS and ^{13}C-NMR data. Its IR spectrum revealed the presence of hydroxy groups (3600 and 3300 cm^{-1}), carboxyl group (1720 cm^{-1}), and conjugated carbonyl group (1590 cm^{-1}). Its ^{1}H-NMR spectrum showed signals characteristic of a triterpenic quinoid system at δ 6.51 (d), δ 6.52 (s) and δ 6.98 (d), corresponding to the three vinyl protons, H-7, H-1, and H-6, respectively; five angular methyl groups, and a methyl group on an aromatic ring at δ 2.21. Also the ^{1}H-NMR spectrum showed signals for a carboxymethyl group at δ 3.57 and a doublet at δ 4.30 (J = 4.2 Hz) attributable