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Research Article

Isolation and study of a Saponin (Echinocystic acid-3-o- α -l-Rhamnopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 5)-o- β -d-xylofuranosyl (1 \rightarrow 5)-o- β -d-arabinofuranosyl (1 \rightarrow 4)-o- β -d-Glucopyranoside) from the leaves of *Clematis nepaulensis* D.C.

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ABSTRACT

A saponin (echinocystic acid-3-o- α -l-rhamnopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 5)-o- β -d-xylofuranosyl (1 \rightarrow 5)-o- β -d-arabinofuranosyl (1 \rightarrow 4)-o- β -d-glucopyranoside) have been isolated and identified from the leaves of *Clematis nepaulensis*. Repeated chromatographic manipulations and spectral analysis (IR, $^1\text{H-NMR}$, and Mass) suggested the structure of saponin.

Keywords: Saponin, Echinocystic acid, Isolation, spectral analysis

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INTRODUCTION

Clematis nepaulensis D.C. (N.O. Ranunculaceae). It is known as Birri and wandak in Punjab and Banjuli in Kumaon.^{1,2} This plant occurs in temperate Himalayas region. plant is acridic and poisonous, these properties are probably due to the presence of an acrid principle which acts deleteriously on the skin, used for purposes of visitation. Plant has been evaluated for its anti-inflammatory, cytotoxic, and antimicrobial effects.^{3,4}

METHOD OF ISOLATION

Air dried, powered and defatted leaves of *Clematis nepaulensis* were extracted exhaustively with 95% ethanol and the extract filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure to a brown viscous mass (2.15%), which was successively extracted with benzene, chloroform, acetone and methanol.

Removal of the solvents yielded residues out of which residues from benzene and chloroform extracts were in very small amounts and could not be taken up for further studies for want of materials while residue from methanol soluble part was worked up further to get the saponin. On TLC appeared one spot concluded presence of one compound in methanolic residue.

It crystallized from methanol, had m.p. 211-212 °C and analyzed for molecular formula; $\text{C}_{52}\text{H}_{84}\text{O}_{21}$, (α) $\text{D}^{28} + 36.8^\circ$ (in MeOH) and $M^+ = 1044$ (by mass spectroscopy). It was

insoluble in benzene and petroleum ether but soluble in chloroform, methanol, ethanol and pyridine. It responded to positive Molisch's test⁵ and gave characteristic haemolysis, honey comb form and other tests of saponin(s)^{6,7,8}

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Identified on the basis of following spectral analysis:

IR:

The important peaks obtained in its IR spectrum and the structural units inferred with the help of available literature^{9,10} are recorded in the Table-I.

Table-I

S. N.	Peaks cm^{-1}	Assignments
1	3328	-OH
2	2842-2938	-CH ₃ -CH ₂ Stretching.
3	1270	Unsaturation.
4	1368, 1330, 1275, 1112	tri-terpenoidal nature.
5	1716	-COOH group
6	860	Cyclo hexane ring.
7	1445	-CH ₃ group

The position of the various methyl, hydroxyl and that of the carboxylic group and the structure of the saponin was

established by its hydrolysis and separately studying the sapogenin and sugar moieties.

The saponin was therefore, hydrolyzed by 7% H₂SO₄ when the sapogenin precipitated out which was separated by filtration.

Structural study of the sapogenin

The sapogenin on TLC examination showed single spot thereby confirming its homogenous nature. It crystallized from ethanol and analyzed for molecular formula; C₃₀H₄₈O₄,

M⁺ = 472 (by mass spectroscopy) m.p. 307-90°C, (decompose) (α) D²⁸ + 40.6° in EtOH and gave various characteristic color reactions of triterpenes e.g. Salkowski¹¹ Liebermann Burchard¹² and Tschugajew¹³ reaction.

IR spectrum of the sapogenin

The characteristic peaks obtained in the IR spectrum of the sapogenin and the structural assignments made with the help of available literature ^{14,15} are recorded in the Table-II.

TABLE - II

S. No.	Peaks cm ⁻¹	Assignments
1	3328	-OH group
2	2950	-CH Stretching vibration of CH ₃
3	2840	-CH stretching.
4	1628	CH ₂ -CH group
5	1276	Vinylidene type double bond.
6	1430, 1112	CO- stretching of secondary -OH group.
7	862	-C = CH ₂ group
8	1720	-COOH group.
9	1464, 1368, 1334, 1320	Triterpenoidal nucleus.

¹H-NMR spectrum of the methyl ester of the sapogenin

The significant signals obtained in the ¹H-NMR spectrum of the mono methyl ester of the sapogenin and the structural

units inferred with the help of available literature are given in the table III.

TABLE-III.

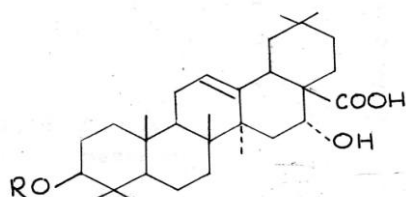
S. No.	Value	Pattern	J Value	No. of protons	Assignments
1	0.70	s	-	3	-CH ₃
2	0.85	s	-	3	-CH ₃
3	0.97	s	-	9	3xCH ₃
4	1.22	s	-	6	2xCH ₃
5	1.8-2.04	Couple Pattern	-	15	Polymethylene CH ₂ and CH
6	2.7	s	-	3	-OCH ₃
7	3.0-3.40	m	-	2	C ₃ -OH, C ₁₆ -OH
8	4.3	bs	-	2	C ₃ -H and C ₁₆ -H
9	5.45	bs	-	1	Ethylene 4-H
10	3.60	s	-	3	COOCH ₃

Mass spectrum of the sapogenin^{16,17}:

The important fragmentation patterns obtained in the electron impact mass spectrum of the sapogenin are given below.

M⁺ = 472 and m/e 440, 427, 248, 133, 207, 203, 190, 189, 175, 133.

On the basis of the interpretation of above data following structure has been proposed



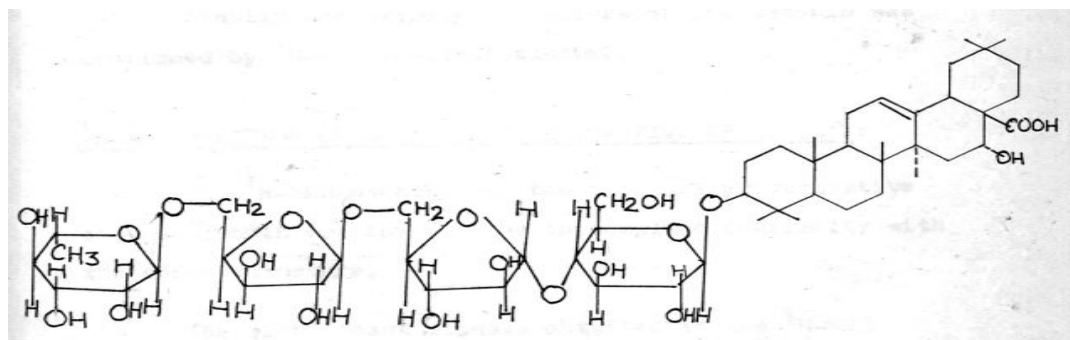
Structure of the sapogenin
Identified as: Echinocystic acid
I - R = H, II - R = Ac

The above facts and a survey of literature ¹⁸, when put together identified the sapogenin as the well known compound Echinocystic acid.

Nature of the glycosidic linkage:

The glycoside was hydrolysable with Tokadistase¹⁸ solution affording ; prosapogenin SC3 and L-rhamnose (by CO-PC & TLC with authentic sample) The prosapogenin SC3 when hydrolyzed with almond emulsion ¹⁹ yielded sapogenin D-xylose, D-arabinose and D-glucose (by Co-PC and TLC with authentic samples) Confirming the presence of α- linkage between L-rhamnose and D-xylose and β-linkage between D-xylose, D-arabinose and D-glucose and also β linkage between D-glucose and the sapogenin.

Thus the structure to the saponin was assigned as; Echinocystic acid-3-O-α-L-rhamnopyransyl1 (1 → 5)-O-β-D-xylofuranosyl1 (1 → 5) O-β-D-arabinofuranosyl1 (1 → 4)-O-β-D-glucopyranoside



Finally the proposed structure of the saponin was confirmed by $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectral studies.

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of deca acetyl derivative of sapobnin

The $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of the decal acetyl derivative of the saponin was found to be in complete conformity with the above structure.

The significant signals obtained in the $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectrum of the saponin (Fig. IV) and structural units inferred with the help of available literature^{21,22} are given below :-

TABLE - IV

S. No.	(S) Value	Pattern	J value (Hz)	No. of protons	Assignments
1.	0.70	s	-	3	-CH ₃
2.	0.85	s	-	3	-CH ₃
3.	0.97	s	-	9	3xCH ₃
4.	1.22	s	-	6	2xCH ₃
5.	1.8-1.04	Couple pattern	-	15	Polymethylene CH ₂ and CH
6.	2.1	s	-	6	2x-OCH ₃
7.	3.0-3.40	m	2	2	C ₃ -OH, C ₁₆ -OH
8.	4.3	bs	-	2	C ₃ H and c ₁₆ -H
9.	5.45	bs	-	1	ethylenic 4-H
10.	3.60	s	-	3	CooCH ₃
11.	4.30	d	7.8	1	1'anomeric proton
12.	5.45	d	2	1	1'anomeric proton
13.	4.29	d	7.0	1	1'''anomeric proton
14.	4.2	d	7.5	1	1'''anomeric proton
15.	2.08	s	-	6	2'OAC, 6'OAC
16.	2.15	s	-	6	3'OAc
17.	2.00	s	-	6	2'''OAc, 3'OAc
18.	2.06	s	-	6	2'''OAc, 3'''OAc
19.	2.02	s	-	3	5''' OAc
20.	1.02				2''' OAc
21.	1.02	s	-	6	3''' OAc

Mass spectrum of saponin²²

The important fragmentation pattern obtained in the electron impact mass spectrum of the saponin is given below. The presence of fragmentation due to the cleavage of sugar units provided considerable assistance in the identification of sugars.

$M^+ =$

1044,911,895,779,763,633,617,471,440,427,248,233,207,190,175,113.

On the basis of the above data and comparison with the authentic sample the structure of the compound has been elucidated as:-

Echinocystic acid-3-O- α -L-rhamnopyransyl1 (1 \rightarrow 5)-O- β -D-xylofuranosyl1 (1 \rightarrow 5) O- β -D-arabinofuranosyl1 (1 \rightarrow 4)-O- β -D-glucopyranoside

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