

Flavonoids of *Calophyllum inophyllum* Linnaeus. C. von

K. SHAKILA^{1*}

¹Assistant professor of Chemistry, Bharathiyar College of Engg & Tech., Karaikal. 609-609

*Email: shakila.manickaraj@gmail.com

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Abstract : *Calophyllum inophyllum* Linnaeus *C.von* (*Syn.*) *Calophyllum bintagar Roxb of Guttiferae (Clusiaceae)* is commonly known as ‘ Indian laurel’ or ‘Alexandrian laurel’ a broad leaved evergreen tree occurring as a littoral species along the beach crests, sometimes seen inland . It is widely distributed and cultivated throughout tropics from West Africa to Pacific islands (as far) Eastas Tahiti. It blossoms during March to October. Fresh flowers of *calophyllum inophyllum* have been treated for their flavonoids contents. They are rich flavonol quercetin and flavonol glycosides quercitrin. They have been characterized with the help of modern physical methods like UV, H-1 NMR , C-13 NMR, chemical reactions, chromatographic techniques and hydrolytic studies.

Keywords: Clusiaceae; Quercetin; Quercitrin.

1. INTRODUCTION

The antibacterial / antineoplastic, anti-inflammatory, antiplatelet, antipsychotic, antiviral and photoprotection have been observed in *C. Inophyllum*[1]. The bark of the plant has astringent activities and its decoction is used to cure the diarrhoea and dysentery. However, the juice of the bark and the fruits are also found to be purgative. The latex of the palnt is also an emetic [10-11]. Investigations on cancer chemopreventive acivity of 4 – phenylcoumarins from *C. inophyllum* establishes the property of the species[2] . Examinations on healing of ocular burns shows considerable activity of *C. Inophyllum*[3]. The cytoprotective effects of *C. inophyllum* against UV induced damage show the efficacy of the species[4]. The toxicities have also been studied in detail. Myricetin 7 - glucoside has been isolated from *C. Inophyllum*[12]. With a view to locating additional flavonoids, the flowers of *C. Inophyllum* have been investigated and the results are presented hereunder.

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2. EXPERIMENTAL

2.1. Extraction and fractionation

Fresh flowers (1 kg) of *C. inophyllum* collected from Thirukalachery, in Nagapattinam District, during September were extracted with 90% MeOH (4 × 500 ml) under reflux. The specimen for the *C. inophyllum* is kept at Rapinat Herbarium and Centre for Molecular Systematics, St. Josheph's college (Campus), Tiruchirappalli- 620 002, the specimen number being SA 010. The alc. extract was concentrated in vacuo and the aq. concentrate successively fractionated with petrol (b.p. 60 - 80°C) (3 × 250 ml), peroxide free Et₂O (3 × 250 ml) and EtOAc (4 × 250 ml).

The petrol and Et₂O fractions did not yield any isolable material.

2.2. Et₂O fraction: [flavonols - quercetin]

The Et₂O fraction was concentrated *in vacuo* and left in the ice chest for about a week. A yellow solid that separated was filtered and studied. It came out as pale yellow needles m.pt. 316-318°C yield (0.01%) on recrystallisation from MeOH. It was soluble in organic solvents and sparingly in hot water. It gave red colour with Mg-HCl, Olive – green colour with alc. Fe³⁺, golden yellow colour with NH₃ and NaOH, yellow solution with a pale green fluorescence with conc. H₂SO₄ and appeared yellow under UV with or without ammonia. It reduced ammonical AgNO₃ (in hot) and Fehling's solution. It answered the Horhammer – Hansel[5], Wilson's boric acid[6] and Gibb's tests[7-8]. It did not answered Molisch's tests. It had nm 255, 269sh, 301sh, 370; +NaOMe 247sh, 321(dec.); +AlCl₃ 272, 304sh, 333, 458; + (AlCl₃ – HCl) 265, 301sh,

Table: 1 hRf [Rf × 100] Values of the constituents of the flowers of *C. Inophyllum*

(Whatman No 1, Ascending, 30 ± 2°C)

Compound	Mobile Phases								
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
Aglycone the Et ₂ O fraction	–	01	04	17	38	85	39	72	48
Quercetin (authentic)	–	01	04	17	38	85	39	72	48

Solvent Key : a – H₂O ; b – 5% aq. HOAc ; c – 15% aq. HOAc ; d – 30% aq. HOAc ; e – 60% aq. HOAc ; f-n- BuOH: HOAc: H₂O = 4:1:5(upper Phase); g- phenol saturated with water; h –t- BuOH: HOAc: H₂O = 3:1:1; i – Forestal = HOAc: Conc. HCl: H₂O = 30: 3: 10 j - Formic = EtOAc: HCOOH: H₂O = 10: 2: 3

Acquisition Time (sec)	0.2999	Comment	KS-I	Date	15 Sep 2011 16:55:36
Date Stamp	15 Sep 2011 16:55:36			File Name	C:\Users\Manickara\Downloads\PART_1\PART_1\3\fid
Frequency (MHz)	100.65	Nucleus	13C	Number of Transients	1024
Original Points Count	6943	Owner	av400	Points Count	8192
Receiver Gain	203.00	SW(cyclical) (Hz)	23148.15	Solvent	DMSO-d6
Spectrum Type	STANDARD	Sweep Width (Hz)	23145.32	Temperature (degree C)	25.000
				Pulse Sequence	zgpg
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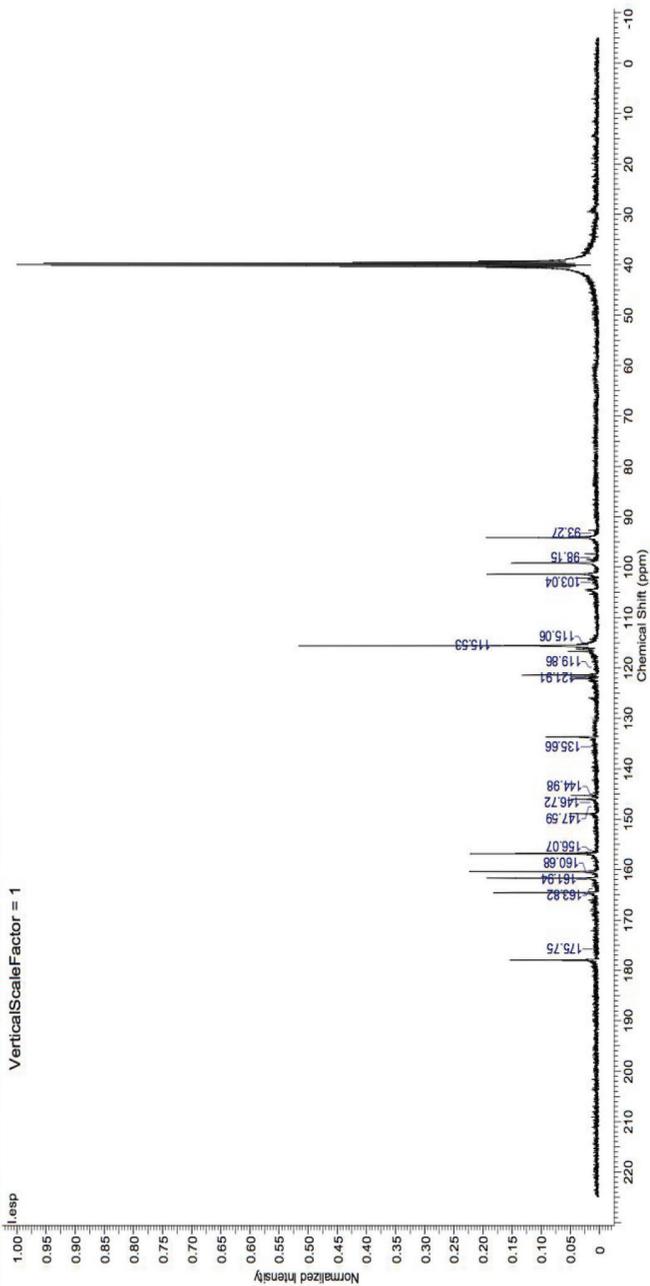


Fig. 1: This report was created by ACD/NMR Processor Academic Edition. For more information go to www.acdlabs.com/nmrproc/

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359, 428; + NaOAc 257sh, 274, 329, 390(dec) and + (NaOAc – H₃BO₃) 261, 303 sh, 388 and had R_f values as depicted in Table.1. ¹³C NMR of the flavonol is appended (Fig.1). It was identified as quercetin and the same was confirmed by co – and mixed – PC and m.m.p with an authentic sample of quercetin from *Physalis minima*[9].

2.3. Preparation of acetyl derivative:

The glycoside (0.05g) was dissolved in freshly distilled acetic anhydride (2 ml). It was treated with fused anhydrous sodium acetate (2 g) and the mixture gently refluxed at 140°C for about 2 hr. The reaction mixture was then poured in a thin stream with constant stirring into excess of ice water containing crushed ice. The crude acetate that separated was filtered and recrystallised from EtOAc. It gave a pentaacetate, m.pt. 200 - 201°C.

2.4. Preparation of benzoyl derivative

The pigment (0.05 g) was dissolved in AR benzoylchloride (1 ml) and treated with aq. NaOH (1 ml) in a conical flask. After the addition of benzoyl chloride, the conical flask was shaken vigorously for about 15 – 20 m till there were no smells of benzoylchloride. The separation of a brown solid indicated the completion of the reaction. When the reaction was completed, the crude benzoate that separated out was filtered and recrystallised from EtOAc. It gave a pentabenzoate derivative, m.p 200 – 01°C.

2.5. EtOAc fraction: (quercitrin)

The EtOAc fraction was concentrated *in vacuo* and left in an ice – chest for a few days. A yellow solid that separated was filtered and studied.

Table: 2 hRf [Rf × 100) values of the constituents of the flowers of *C. Inophyllum*

(Whatman No: 1, Ascending, 30 ± 2° C)

Compound	Mobile Phases								
	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i
Gycoside from EtOAc fraction	42	34	53	74	80	82	65	83	81
Quercetin 3-rhamnoside (authentic)	42	35	53	74	80	83	65	89	81

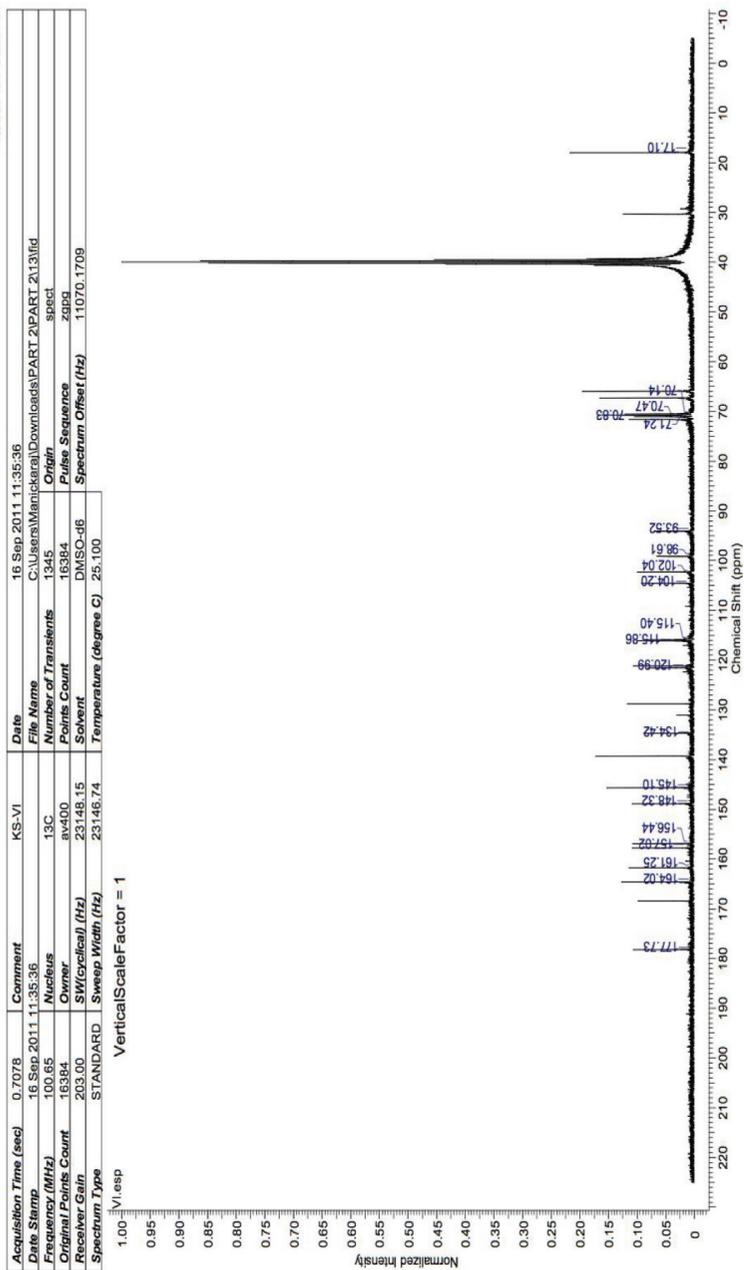


Fig. 2: This report was created by ACD/NMR Processor Academic Edition. For more information go to www.acdlabs.com/nmrproc/

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Table: 3 hRf [x 100) values of the constituents of the flowers of *C. Inophyllum*(Whatman No: 1, Ascending, $30 \pm 2^\circ \text{C}$)

Compound	Mobile Phases			
	e	f	g	i
Sugar from the Glycoside from EtOAc fraction	76	30	60	92
Rhamnose (authentic)	76	30	60	91

It came out as pale yellow leaflets, m.p. $182 - 85^\circ \text{C}$ (yield 0.05%) on recrystallisation from MeOH. It was soluble in EtOH and EtOAc but insoluble in cold water. It developed green colour with Fe^{3+} , pink colour with Mg^{2+} - HCl and a yellow precipitate with aq. (basic) lead acetate. It reduced ammonical silver nitrate solution but not Fehling's solution. It appeared deep, purple under UV that turned yellowish green on exposure to NH_3 . It responded to Wilson's boric acid, Molisch's and Gibb's tests, but did not answer the Horhammer – Hansel test. It had nm 256, 265sh, 301sh, 350; +NaOMe 270, 326, 393; $+(\text{AlCl}_3 - \text{HCl})$ 272,303sh, 353, 401; + NaOAc 272,322sh, 372, and $+(\text{NaOAc} - \text{H}_3\text{BO}_3)$ 260, 300sh, 367. It had R_f values as depicted in Table.2. The ^{13}C NMR spectra of the glycoside is appended (Fig.2).

2.6. Hydrolysis of the glycoside

The glycoside (0.05g, 0.1 m mole) was dissolved in hot aq. MeOH (2ml, 50%) and also was hydrolysed with H_2SO_4 (5%) at 100°C for about 2 h and the hydrolytic products identified as described below.

2.7. Identification of aglycone: (Flavonol: quercetin)

The aglycone on crystallisation (Me_2CO), gave yellow needles, m.p. $316 - 318^\circ\text{C}$. The aglycone that resulted was characterised as quercetin, by comparing it with an authentic sample isolated from *Physalis minima*.

2.8. Identification of Sugar: (rhamnose)

The concentrated filtrate from the neutralized aq. hydrolysate when examined by PC gave R_f values (Table.3) corresponding to those of rhamnose. The identity of the sugar was also confirmed by direct comparison with an authentic sample

Table 4: ^{13}C nmr spectral data their assignment for the aglycone from the flowers of *C. Inophyllum*

Compound	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C1'	C2'	C3'	C4'	C5'	C6'
Quercetin (from Literature)	146.77	135.61	175.75	160.65	98.10	163.80	93.25	156.09	103.0	121.91	115.04	144.97	147.61	115.53	119.90
Aglycone from Et ₂ O fraction (δ ppm)	146.72	135.66	175.75	160.68	98.15	163.82	93.27	156.07	103.04	121.91	115.06	144.98	147.59	115.53	119.86

Table 5: ^{13}C nmr spectral data and their assignment for the glycoside from the flowers of *C. Inophyllum*

Compound	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C1'	C2'	C3'	C4'	C5'	C6'
Quercitrin (from Literature)	156.4	134.4	177.7	161.2	98.6	164.0	93.5	157.0	104.2	121.0	115.4	145.1	148.3	115.8	121.0
Glucoside from EtOAc fraction (δ ppm)	156.4	134.4	177.7	161.2	98.6	164.0	93.5	157.0	104.2	121.0	115.4	145.1	148.3	115.8	120.0

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Compound	C1''	C6''	C6''	C6''	C6''	C6''
Quercitrin (from Literature)	102.0	70.4	70.0	71.2	70.1	17.1
Glucoside from EtOAc fraction (δ ppm)	101.7	70.4	70.5	71.2	70.1	17.4

of rhamnose. A quantitative hydrolysis revealed the aglycone sugar ratio to be 1:1 confirming the presence of a monoside.

The glycoside was therefore identified as quercetin – 3- rhamnoside and confirmed by co – and mixed – PC with an authentic sample of quercetin – 3- rhamnoside isolated from *Leucaena leucocephala*.

3. Results and Discussion

The fresh flowers of *C. inophyllum* have been found to contain quercetin and its glycoside (quercitrin).

The UV spectrum of the Et₂O soluble exhibited λ_{\max} at 370 nm (band I) and 255 nm (band II) indicating a flavonol skeleton. A bathochromic shift of +58 nm on the addition of AlCl₃ – HCl indicates the presence of free –OH at C-5 in A ring[13]. A comparison of AlCl₃ and AlCl₃ – HCl spectrum revealed an additional bathochromic shift of 30nm in the case of AlCl₃ spectrum (without acid) which again points to the presence of catechol type of B –ring. It is further substantiated by the bathochromic shift of 18 nm noticed in band I on the addition of H₃BO₃. The presence of a free –OH at C-7 is evident from the bathochromic shift of 19nm in band II on the addition of NaOAc.

In the ¹H –NMR spectrum (400MHz, DMSO – d₆, TMS) (Fig.1) of the aglycone, the hydroxyl proton at C-5 shows up at δ 12.49ppm as a distinct singlet. The sharp singlets at δ 10.9 and δ 9.56ppm correspond to –OH protons at C-7 and C-3. The doublet at δ 9.31ppm (J = 9Hz) accounts for the hydroxyl protons at C-3' and C-4'. The C-5' proton appears as a doublet at δ 6.68ppm (J = 9 Hz). The signals due to the protons at C-2' and C-6' overlap at δ 7.54ppm. a ring protons at C-6 and C-8 could be located at δ 6.16 (d, J = 2.5Hz) and δ 6.41ppm (d, J = 2.5 Hz) respectively.

The supporting evidence for the structure of the flavonols is provided by the ¹³C-NMR (100MHz, DMSO –d₆, TMS) Fig.2 spectra data. A complete assignment of the various signals is provided in Table.4.

A comparison of band I absorption of the glycoside and that of the aglycone revealed that there may be 3- glycosylation in the flavonols as mentioned under Et₂O fraction. A bathochromic shift of 43 nm (band I) on the addition of NaOMe confirmed the presence of a free –OH at C-4'. The AlCl₃ spectra (with and without HCl) showed four absorption peaks to reveal the presence of a free 5 – OH group. It was confirmed by the bathochromic shift of 51 nm on the addition of (AlCl₃ –HCl) in the glycoside. The presence of a free –OH at C-7 was evident from the 16nm (band II) shift on the addition of NaOAc. The band I absorption in AlCl₃ spectrum is 29 nm more than that noticed on addition of AlCl₃ – HCl. This is indicative of the existence of an O-dihydroxyl group in the B –ring. The O-dihydroxyl grouping in B –ring is once again ascertain from a bathochromic shift of 17nm on the addition of H₃BO₃.

In the ¹H – NMR spectrum (400 MHz, DMSO – d₆, TMS) the A- ring protons at C-6 and C-8 appear as doublets at δ 6.2 and δ 6.4 ppm respectively. The 5 – OH proton resonates at δ12.63ppm. The protons at C-5' appear at δ 6.8ppm as a doublet. The protons at C-2' and C-6' appear at δ7.3 and δ 7.6ppm. The methyl protons of rhamnose moiety can be located as a doublet at δ 0.9ppm. The H-1' of the rhamnoside resonates at δ 5.2ppm. The remaining sugar protons appear in the range δ 3.2 – 3.4ppm[14].

Supporting evidence for the structure of the glycoside was provided by the analysis of ¹³C - NMR(100 MHz, DMSO-d₆, TMS) data and a complete assignment is given in Table.5. Due to glycosylation at 3 positions, C-2 and C-4 carbons absorb at δ156.5 and δ177.8ppm respectively. C-1'' absorbs at δ101.8ppm. The rest of the carbons of the rhamnosyl unit except C-6'' appear between δ70.4 and δ71.2ppm. C-6'' appear at δ17.4ppm.

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