

TRITERPENE ACIDS FROM n-HEXANE EXTRACT OF ALBIZZIA LEBBECK BENTH

Abstract

Two triterpene acids like $2\alpha, 19\alpha$ -dihydroxy – 3-oxo-12-ursen-28-oic acid (1), $2\alpha, 16\alpha, 19\alpha$ -trihydroxy – 3-oxo-12-ursen-28-oic acid (2) were isolated from the n-hexane soluble fractions of a methanol extract of the root of *Albizzia lebeck* Benth. The structures of the isolated compounds were elucidated as by extensive spectroscopic studies, including high field NMR analyses. This is the first report of isolation of compounds 1-2 from this species. INTRODUCTION: *Albizzia lebeck* Benth., Leguminosae (Bengali name-Shirish, Kalo koroi) is an unarmed deciduous tree of 12-21 m height that grows all over Bangladesh. The root of the plant has astringent property and is useful in ophthalmia and skin diseases. The leaves are used in the treatment of night blindness and syphilis. The flowers of the plant are reputed for its aphrodisiac properties and are also useful in asthma and snake bite. The bark of the plant is anti-helminthic and used in the treatment of inflammation, bronchitis, toothache and leprosy 5, 9 . Previous phytochemical investigations with *A. lebeck* revealed the occurrences of glycosides 11 , alkaloids 2 , terpenoids, steroids, saponins 8 , anthraquinones and other phenolics 1 . We, herein, report the isolation of $2\alpha, 19\alpha$ -dihydroxy – 3-oxo-12-ursen-28-oic acid (1), $2\alpha, 16\alpha, 19\alpha$ -trihydroxy – 3-oxo-12-ursen-28-oic acid (2).