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TWO NEW INDOLE ALKALOIDS FROM *SARCOCEPHALUS LATIFOLIUS*

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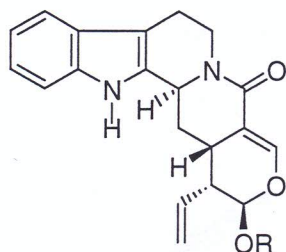
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In a previous publication we have reported the isolation of the indole alkaloids 19-*O*-ethylangustoline, angustine, angustoline, angustidine and nauclefine, from the stem bark of the Rubiaceae *Sarcocephalus latifolius* (Smith) Bruce (*Nauclea latifolia* Sm.).¹

Further investigation of the ethanol root extract of *S. latifolius* led to the isolation of 21-*O*-methylstrictosamide aglycone (**1**) and 21-*O*-ethylstrictosamide aglycone (**2**), two new alkaloids related to strictosamide (**3**), the main constituent of the extract. These compounds were isolated by successive silica gel column chromatography and preparative tlc, and their structures were characterised by HRCIMS and extensive NMR experiments.

In addition to alkaloids, the ethanol extract afforded β -sitosterol, quinovic acid-3 β -*O*- β -D-fucopyranoside, quinovic acid-3 β -*O*- α -L-rhamnopyranoside, and scopoletin.

Strictosamide exhibited moderated antiplasmodial activity against *Plasmodium falciparum* strains K1 and NF54, with IC₅₀ values of 0.45 and 0.37 μ g/ml, respectively. These results suggest that strictosamide is the active principle of the root extracts of *S. latifolius*, whose antiplasmodial activity has been previously reported.² Traditionally, African healers prescribe both stems and roots from this species against malaria crises.



- 1 R = CH₃
- 2 R = C₂H₅
- 3 R = Gluc

Refs.

1. P. Abreu and A. Pereira, *Heterocycles*, **48**, 885 (1998).
2. F. B-Vical *et al*, *J. Ethnopharmacol.*, **61**, 173 (1998).

Acknowledgements

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