

SHORT COMMUNICATION

TRITERPENES OF *EUPHORBIA POLYGONIFOLIA**

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(Received 26 November 1968)

Plant. *Euphorbia polygonifolia* L.—Euphorbiaceae.

Source. Picton, Ontario.

Previous work. Many studies on sister species.¹⁻³

Constituents of aerial parts.† A petroleum ether extract was saponified. Chromatography (alumina) of the neutral part yielded an inseparable mixture of alcohols (major fraction), β -sitosterol (m.p. 138–140°; acetate, m.p. 126–127°, $[\alpha]_D - 42^\circ$ (c, 0.4)), and cycloart-23-en-3 β , 25-diol (m.p. 194–199°; monoacetate, m.p. 146–148°). After acetylation of the alcohol mixture *lupeol acetate* (m.p. 212–214°, $[\alpha]_D + 43^\circ$ (c, 0.3)), *cycloartenol acetate* (m.p. 118–122°, $[\alpha]_D + 60^\circ$ (c, 1.0)), β -*amyrin acetate* (m.p. 232–234°) and *ceryl acetate* (m.p. 64–65°; hydrolysed to ceryl alcohol, m.p. 79–81°) were isolated by chromatography over alumina and on silver nitrate impregnated Kieselgel plates. The triterpenes of *E. polygonifolia* are similar to those reported³ as latex constituents of *E. hirta* which belongs to the same section (*Anisophyllum*) but a different subsection of *Euphorbia* as classified by Pax and Hoffmann.⁴

Acknowledgements—The author gratefully acknowledges the contribution of Dr. P. Harris who collected the plant material and the technical assistance of Mrs. M. E. Stevens and Mrs. M. H. Thomson.

* Contribution No. 398.

† Compounds were identified by direct comparison (mxd. m.p., i.r., TLC) with authentic specimens.

¹ A. N. STARRATT, *Phytochem.* **5**, 1341 (1966).

² G. PONSINET and G. OURISSON, *Phytochem.* **4**, 799 (1965).

³ G. PONSINET and G. OURISSON, *Phytochem.* **7**, 89 (1968).

⁴ F. PAX and K. HOFFMANN, in *Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien* (edited by A. ENGLER), 2nd edition, Vol. 19c, p. 208, W. Engelmann, Leipzig (1931).