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Scopoletin from the Flowers of Malaysian Uncaria Cordata

Nur Hakimah Abdullah and Rohaya Ahmad^{*}

Faculty of Applied Sciences, Universiti Teknologi MARA, 40450, Shah Alam, Selangor; E-mail: rohayaahmad@salam.uitm.edu.my

We have reported the isolation of pentacyclic oxindole alkaloids from *Uncaria longiflora* (Salim *et al.*, 2011). Continuing our interest in the genus, we have selected *Uncaria cordata* which was collected during the flowering season for phytochemical investigation. The crude methanolic extract of the flowers was subjected to column chromatography using normal phase silica employing DCM:EtOAc followed by EtOAc:MeOH as the solvent system to give seven fractions. Repeated preparative thin layer chromatography on Fraction 2 successfully yielded scopoletin (7-hydroxy-6-methoxy coumarin). The structure of the compound was elucidated on the basis of extensive spectroscopic data analysis, mostly 1D-NMR, 2D-NMR as well as comparison with literature. HPLC profiling of the methanolic extracts of the flowers, hooks, roots and leaves on Agilent 1200 system (DAD) using an RP-C18 column showed the presence of this compound in the different parts of this plant along with other secondary metabolites.

Keyword: Uncaria cordata, Scopoletin, Coumarin.