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CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS OF *NERIUM OLEANDER*

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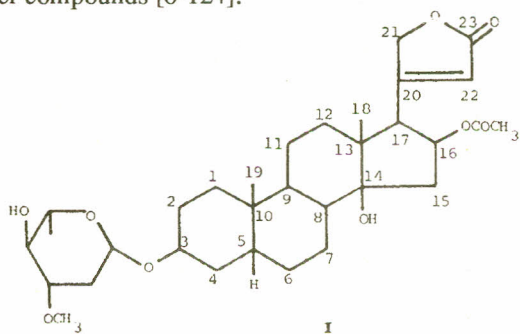
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Studies on the chemical constituents of *Nerium oleander* are reviewed. The isolation, unique features of the structures, biosynthetic aspects, and biological significance of these constituents are discussed.

Key words: *Nerium oleander*, Biosynthetic aspects, Chemical constituents.

Introduction

Nerium oleander (Apocynaceae) (Syn. *N. odorum* Soland; *N. indicum* Mill) commonly known as "kaner", is a native of Indo-Pakistan sub-continent, widely distributed in the Mediterranean region and sub-tropical Asia. Various parts of the plant are highly reputed in the traditional systems of medicine, for the treatment of a variety of human ailments [1-5]. Leaves possess cardiotoxic, diuretic, antibacterial properties and are used against snake bites. Roots have been used externally for the cure of different types of cancers, ulcers, leprosy, headache, eye diseases, ringworm and other skin complaints. Studies in the constituents of this plant were undertaken as far back as 1861, when Lukowski reported the isolation of the first cardio-tonic principle oleandrin [6] (I), from this plant. Subsequent investigations of different parts of the plant resulted in the isolation of about two hundred constituents including glycosides, steroids, terpenoids and other compounds [6-124].



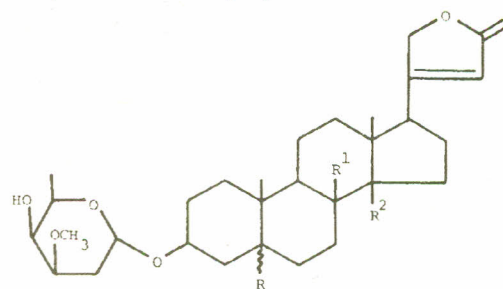
Extracts of various parts of the plant and their constituents have also been studied for their pharmacological activity by different groups of workers [6-9]. On the other hand, laboratory experiments carried out in 1957 showed insecticidal activity of the leaves against sugar cane mites and citrus leaf minor [125-126].

The object of this review is to briefly describe the chemical constituents isolated so far from this plant with a reference to their significant structural and pharmacological features. These are tabulated under the headings glycosides,

terpenoids and steroids (Table 1) and miscellaneous compounds (Table 2).

Glycosides, steroids and terpenoids. Apart from oleandrin a series of cardiac and other steroidal and nonsteroidal glycosides have been reported by various groups of workers (Table 1). Several of these have been fully characterized through intensive chemical and spectral studies. One of the glycosides reported earlier with the name folinerin [12,13] is however now treated as the same glycoside as oleandrin*.

Pharmacologically and chemically oleandrin and adynerin [15] (II) belong to the group of digitalis genin, while foliandrin, a pure glycoside isolated [20] in 1944 from the Palestinian oleander bush (*N. oleander*) resembles in its action with that of the strophanthin glycoside. On the other hand nerium D was assumed to be a cardiac glycoside of digitalis-strophanthus type [27]. Odoroside B [24] (IV) gave diginose and an aglycone on hydrolysis, which was ultimately converted to Me-3 (β -)acetoxy-14-hydroxy-14-isoetiocholanate, thus showing that odoroside B is allodigitoxigenin, which is identical with the uzarigenin of Tschesche, Bohle and Sah [25].



II. $R = \beta H, R^1, R^2 = >O$

III. $R = \beta H, R^1 = H, R^2 = OH$

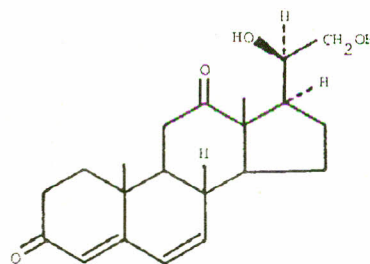
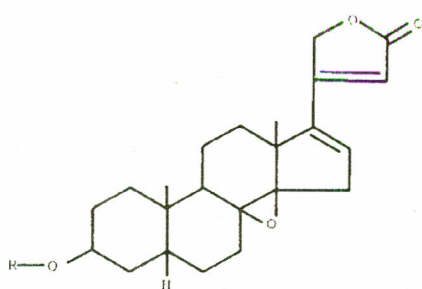
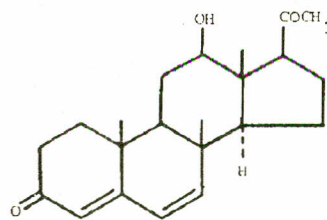
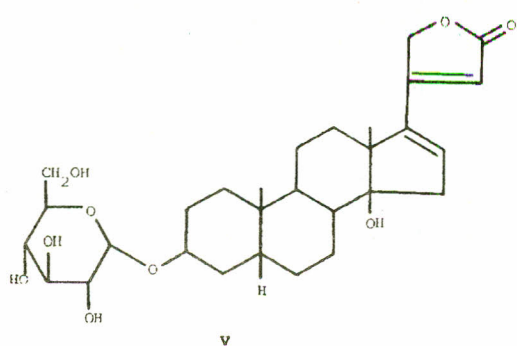
IV. $R = \alpha H, R^1 = H, R^2 = OH$

V. $R = \beta H, R^1, R^2 = >O, \Delta^{16}$

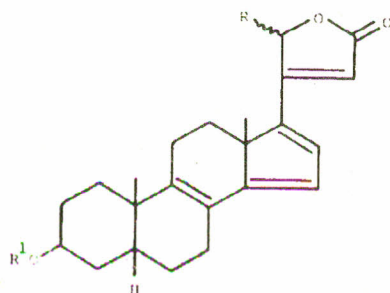
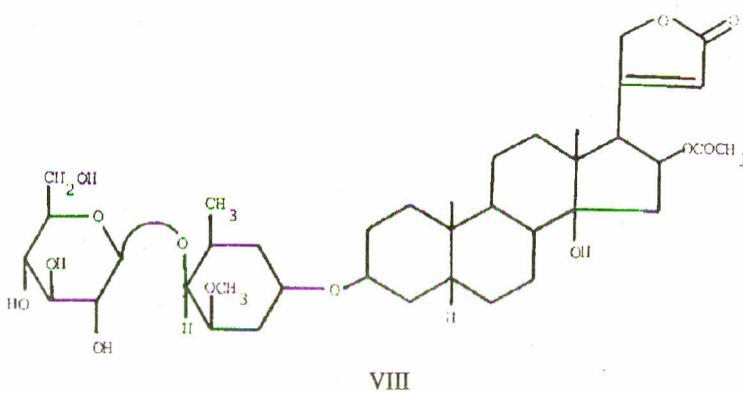
An active principle, neriodin, was extracted from the air dried leaves of *N. oleander* in 1949 by B. Nuki²⁶. This glycoside was twice as active as digitoxin in digitalis-like action and has some similarity in action with oleandrin.

In 1972, T. Yamauchi and T. Ehara [50] reported that the less polar glycosides such as oleandrin are obtained from the leaves dried in oven at temperature above 80° or by incubation of the homogenates of the fresh leaves, whereas more polar

*Dictionary of Organic Compounds, Oxford University Press, 1978, p.2570



VI. R = β - D-diginosyl
 VII. R = β - D-digitalosyl



IX. R = OH, R' = β -gentiobiosyl - (1 \rightarrow 4 β) - D-digitalosyl
 X. R = OH, R' = β -D-glucosyl - (1 \rightarrow 4 β) - D-digitalosyl
 XI. R = H, R' = β -gentiobiosyl - (1 \rightarrow 4 β) - D-digitalosyl

XII. R = H, R' = β -glucosyl - (1 \rightarrow 4 β) - D-digitalosyl
 XIII. R = H, R' β -gentiobiosyl - β -D-diginosyl

TABLE. 1. GLYCOSIDES, TERPENOIDS AND STEROIDS OF *NERIUM OLEANDER*

| S.No. | Name | M.p °C | Molecular Formula | Optical Rotation | References |
|-------|--|-----------|----------------------|---|-------------|
| 1. | 16-O-Acetyldigitalinum verum | - | - | - | 67 |
| 2. | 16-O-Acetyleneogilostin | - | - | - | 70 |
| 3. | Adigoside | 138-142 | - | $[\alpha]_D -16.8^\circ(M)$ | 36 |
| 4. | Adynerin (II) | 220-223 | $C_{30}H_{44}O_7$ | $[\alpha]_D^{18} +7.5^\circ(P)$ $+21.6^\circ(M)$ | 14,16,18,67 |
| 5. | 5 α -Adynerin | 222-224 | $C_{30}H_{44}O_7$ | $[\alpha]_D -2.0^\circ(M)$ | 72 |
| 6. | α -Amyrin | 186-188 | $C_{30}H_{50}O$ | $[\alpha]_D^{17} +83.5^\circ(C)$ | 45,52 |
| 7. | Δ^{16} -Anhydrodigita- linum verum | - | - | - | 33,70 |
| 8. | Betulin | 251-252 | $C_{30}H_{50}O_2$ | $[\alpha]_D^{15} +20.0^\circ(P)$ | 130 |
| 9. | Betulinic acid | 275-278 | $C_{30}H_{48}O_3$ | $[\alpha]_D^{23} +7.9^\circ(P)$ | 130 |
| 10. | Campesterol | 157-158 | $C_{28}H_{48}O$ | $[\alpha]_D^{23} -33.0^\circ(C)$ | 83 |
| 11. | Campherol-3- glucoside | 178-179 | $C_{21}H_{20}O_{11}$ | - | 75 |
| 12. | Campherol-3- rhamnoglucoside | - | $C_{27}H_{30}O_{15}$ | - | 32,75 |
| 13. | Conerin | - | - | - | 97 |
| 14. | Cortenerin | 168-187 | - | inact. | 19 |
| 15. | Cryptograndoside-A | 115-120 | $C_{32}H_{48}O_9$ | $[\alpha]_D -31.2^\circ(M)$ | 36 |
| 16. | Δ^{16} -Dehydroadynerigenin β -D-diginoside (VI) | 188-190 | $C_{30}H_{42}O_7$ | $[\alpha]_D^{20} +71.4^\circ(M)$ | 65 |
| 17. | $^{16}\Delta$ -Dehydroadynerigenin β -D-digitaloside (VII) | 234-235 | $C_{30}H_{42}O_8$ | $[\alpha]_D^{20} +81.7^\circ(M)$ | 65 |
| 18. | $^{16}\Delta$ -Dehydroadynerigenin- β D-glucosyl- β -D-digitaloside | 221-225 | $C_{46}H_{68}O_{19}$ | $[\alpha]_D +20^\circ$ | 67 |
| 19. | Digistroside | 205-208 | - | $[\alpha]_D -16.6^\circ(M)$ | 36 |
| 20. | Digitalinum verum | - | - | - | 34 |
| 21. | Digitalinum verum hexaacetate | 223-230 | - | $[\alpha]_D^{19} -14.6^\circ(C)$ | 33,34,67 |
| 22. | Digitalinum verum odorobioside G | - | - | - | 35 |
| 23. | Digitalinum verum odorobioside-K | - | - | - | 35 |
| 24. | Digitoxigenin | 253-255 | $C_{23}H_{34}O_4$ | $[\alpha]_D^{17} +19.1^\circ(M)$ | 36 |
| 25. | Digitoxigenin- α - L-oleandroside | 205-208 | - | $[\alpha]_D -27.7^\circ(M)$ | 20 |
| 26. | Foliandrin | - | - | - | 20 |
| 27. | Folinerin | - | - | - | 12,13 |
| 28. | Gentiobiosyl- adynerin | - | - | - | 67 |
| 29. | Gentiobiosyl Δ^{16} - dehydroadynerin | 221-225 | $C_{46}H_{68}O_{19}$ | $[\alpha]_D +20.0^\circ$ | 67 |
| 30. | Gentiobiosyl odoroside-A | - | - | - | 67 |
| 31. | Gentiobiosyl oleandrin | 169-173 | $C_{44}H_{68}O_{19}$ | $[\alpha]_D -47.8^\circ$ | 67 |
| 32. | Gluconerigoside (VIII) | - | $C_{38}H_{58}O_{13}$ | $[\alpha]_D -47.8^\circ$ | 66 |
| 33. | β -D-Glucopyrano- syl Δ 5-pregnenolone | 231-235 | $C_{39}H_{62}O_{17}$ | $[\alpha]_D -20.5^\circ(P)$ | 63 |

(Contd.)

(Table 1. Continued)

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|----------|---|---|----------|
| 34. | Bis-β-D-glucopyranosyl- (1→2, 1→6)β-D-glucopyranosyl Δ ⁵ -pregnenolone | 231-235° | C ₃₉ H ₆₂ O ₁₇ | [α] _D ²⁰ -20.5°(P) | 63 |
| 35. | β-D-Glucopyranosyl- (1→2) β-D-glucopyranosyl Δ ⁵ -pregnenolone | 255-259 | C ₃₃ H ₅₂ O ₁₂ | [α] _D -11.9°(P) | 63 |
| 36. | β-D-Glucopyranosyl- (1-6)β-D-Glucopyra- nosyl- Δ ⁵ -pregnenolone | 252-256 | C ₃₃ H ₅₂ O ₁₂ | [α] _D -7.2°(P) | 63 |
| 37. | Glucosylnerigeroside | 178-181 | C ₃₈ H ₅₈ O ₁₄ | [α] _D +34.0°(P) | 67 |
| 38. | Gracilloside | — | — | — | 70 |
| 39. | 12-β-Hydroxy-pregna 4,6-diene-3,20-dino | — | C ₂₁ H ₂₈ O ₃ | — | 69 |
| 40. | 12-βHydroxy-pregna- 4-ene-3,20-dione | — | C ₂₁ H ₃₀ O ₃ | — | 69 |
| 41. | 12-β-Hydroxy-16α- methoxy-pregna- 4,6-diene-3,20- dione | 168-171 | C ₂₂ H ₃₀ O ₄ | [α] _D +7.7°(P) | 69 |
| 42. | Isoneriucoumaric acid (XXXI) | 208-209 | C ₃₉ H ₅₄ O ₆ | [α] _D ²⁴ +50.5°(C) | 131 |
| 43. | Kaneric acid (XXXIV) | 122 | C ₃₀ H ₄₈ O ₄ | [α] _D ²⁴ +16.66°(C) | 134 |
| 44. | Kaneroicin (XXXII) | 259-260 | C ₃₀ H ₄₆ O ₃ | — | 132 |
| 45. | Kanerdione (XXV) | 178-180 | C ₃₀ H ₄₆ O ₃ | [α] _D ²⁴ +36.36°(C) | 128 |
| 46. | Kanerin (XXVI) | 280-281 | C ₂₉ H ₄₄ O ₄ | [α] _D 14.28°(C) | 129 |
| 47. | Kanerol | 185-86 | C ₃₀ H ₅₀ O ₅ | [α] _D ³⁰ +80.1°(C) | 82 |
| 48. | Kaneroside(XXIII) | 110-111 | C ₃₀ H ₄₂ O ₈ | [α] _D ²⁴ +26.66°(C) | 127 |
| 49. | Nerein | — | — | — | 39 |
| 50. | Neriantin (V) | 206-208 | C ₂₉ H ₄₂ O ₉ | — | 16,101 |
| 51. | Neriaside (XVI) | — | — | [α] _D -17.6°(P) | 71 |
| 52. | Neridienone-A (XIV) | — | — | — | 69,93 |
| 53. | Neridienone-β (XV) | — | — | — | 69 |
| 54. | Nerigoside | 155-163 | C ₃₆ H ₅₆ O ₁₁ | [α] _D -17.0°(M) | 36,73 |
| 55. | Neriin | — | — | — | 9,10 |
| 56. | Nerin | — | — | — | 23 |
| 57. | Neriodin | 238-239 | — | — | 26 |
| 58. | Neriodorein | 106-107 | C ₂₃ H ₃₄ O ₁₁ | — | 2,11 |
| 59. | Neriodorin | 204-205 | C ₃₂ H ₄₆ O ₈ | [α] _D ¹⁷ +35.5° | 2,11 |
| 60. | Neriolit | — | — | — | 97 |
| 61. | Nerioside | — | — | — | 22 |
| 62. | Neritaloside | 135-140 | C ₄₀ H ₆₄ O ₁₄ | [α] _D -11.4°(M) | 36 |
| 63. | Neriuoumaric acid (XXX) | 120-121 | C ₃₉ H ₅₄ O ₆ | [α] _D ²⁴ +16.66°(C) | 131 |
| 64. | Nerium-D | 235-238 | — | [α] _D ¹⁵ -19.2°(DO) | 27 |
| 65. | Nerium-E (16-Deacetyl- anhydro- oleandrin) | 225-227 | C ₃₀ H ₄₄ O ₇ | — | 27,37,73 |
| 66. | Nerium-F (16-Anhydro- digitoxigenin acetate) | 245-247 | C ₂₃ H ₃₂ O ₄ | [α] _D ²¹ +93.1° | 27,30 |
| 67. | 12,13-Dihydrourosolic acid(XXVII) | 230-232 | C ₃₀ H ₅₀ O ₃ | [α] _D 6.0(C) | 129 |
| 68. | Neriumoside(XXIV) | 140-142 | C ₃₀ H ₄₄ O ₈ | [α] _D ²⁴ +23.20°(C) | 127 |
| 69. | Neriumoside A-1 (IX) | — | — | — | 68 |

(Contd.)

(Table 1. Continued)

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|------|---|---------|---|---|-------------|
| 70. | Neriumoside A-2 (X) | — | — | — | 68 |
| 71. | Neriumoside B-1 (XI) | — | — | — | 68 |
| 72. | Neriumoside B-2 (XII) | — | — | — | 68 |
| 73. | Neriumoside C-1 (XIII) | — | — | — | 68 |
| 74. | Nicotifloroside | — | — | — | 104 |
| 75. | Odorin | — | — | — | 105,106 |
| 76. | Odorobioside-D | — | — | — | 33 |
| 77. | Odorobioside-G Pantaacetate | 219-231 | — | $[\alpha]_D^{20} -10.6^\circ(\text{C})$ | 33 |
| 78. | Odorobioside-K | 220-255 | $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{56}\text{O}_{12}$ | $[\alpha]_D -38.2^\circ(\text{DO})$ | 34 |
| 79. | Odorobioside-K | 256-263 | — | $[\alpha]_D^{22} -28.4^\circ(\text{C})$ | 33 |
| 80. | Odoside A (III) | 200-206 | — | $[\alpha]_D -5.9^\circ(\text{C})$ $-4.3^\circ(\text{M})$ | 24,34,36,64 |
| 81. | Odoside B (IV) | 196-198 | — | $[\alpha]_D -19.2^\circ(\text{C})$ | 24,31,34 |
| 82. | Odoside D | — | — | — | 34 |
| 83. | Odoside E | — | — | — | 29 |
| 84. | Odoside F (gracilside) | — | — | — | 30 |
| 85. | Odoside G | — | — | — | 35 |
| 86. | Odoside G octaacetate* | 228-231 | — | $[\alpha]_D^{25} -15.1^\circ$ | 28 |
| 87. | Odoside H | 231-238 | — | $[\alpha]_D^{21} 7.8^\circ(\text{M})$ | 29 |
| 88. | Odoside K | 242-265 | $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{66}\text{O}_{17}$ | $[\alpha]_D -37.6^\circ(\text{C})$ | 29,31 |
| 89. | Odoside K acetate* | — | — | — | 29 |
| 90. | Odoside K heptaacetate* | — | — | — | 31 |
| 91. | Odoside L-acetate* | 178-183 | — | $[\alpha]_D^{19} +74.0^\circ(\text{C})$ | 29 |
| 92. | Odoside-M-acetate* | 219-224 | — | $[\alpha]_D^{20} +31.9^\circ(\text{C})$ | 29 |
| 93. | Odotrioside-G octaacetate | 228-233 | — | $[\alpha]_D^{20} -15.3^\circ(\text{C})$ | 33 |
| 94. | Odotrioside-K | — | — | — | 34 |
| 95. | Odotrioside-K- acetate | 177-186 | — | $[\alpha]_D^{20} -35.8^\circ(\text{C})$ | 33 |
| 96. | Oleandrogenin | 226-228 | — | — | 36,50 |
| 97. | Oleandrogenin- β -D-gentiobiosyl- (1-4) β -D-digitaloside | 253-257 | — | $[\alpha]_D -16.0^\circ$ | 70 |
| 98. | Oleandrogenin- β -D-glucoside | — | — | — | 67 |
| 99. | Oleanderen (XXXIII) | 215-217 | $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{50}$ | $[\alpha]_D^{24} +7.06^\circ(\text{D})$ | 133 |
| 100. | Oleanderoic acid (XXXV) | 293-295 | $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{38}\text{O}_3$ | $[\alpha]_D^{24} +83.33^\circ(\text{C})$ | 133 |
| 101. | Oleanderol (XXIX) | 206-208 | $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_3$ | $[\alpha]_D^{24} +6.15^\circ(\text{C})$ | 130 |
| 102. | Oleanderoic acid (XXVIII) | 262-264 | $\text{C}_{37}\text{H}_{54}\text{O}_6$ | $[\alpha]_D^{24} +50.0^\circ(\text{C})$ | 128 |
| 103. | Oleandrin (I) | 249-251 | $\text{C}_{32}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_9$ | $[\alpha]_D -48.2^\circ(\text{M})$ | 6,14 |
| 104. | Oleandroside | — | — | — | 21 |
| 105. | Oleanolic acid | 306-308 | $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_3$ | $[\alpha]_D^{12} +79.5^\circ(\text{C})$ | 53,81,130 |
| 106. | Oleaside A (XVII) | 251-255 | $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{44}\text{O}_7$ | $[\alpha]_D +25.4^\circ(\text{M})$ | 73,74 |
| 107. | Oleaside β (XVIII) | 267-277 | $\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{44}\text{O}_8$ | $[\alpha]_D -45.2^\circ(\text{M})$ | 73,74 |
| 108. | Oleaside C (XIX) | 198-205 | $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{51}\text{O}_{12}$ | $[\alpha]_D +13.9^\circ(\text{M})$ | 73,74 |
| 109. | Oleaside D (XX) | 232-235 | $\text{C}_{36}\text{H}_{51}\text{O}_{13}$ | $[\alpha]_D +37.0^\circ(\text{M})$ | 73,74 |
| 110. | Oleaside E (XXI) | 182-184 | $\text{C}_{42}\text{H}_{64}\text{O}_{17}$ | $[\alpha]_D +16.0^\circ(\text{M})$ | 73,74 |
| 111. | Oleaside F (XXII) | — | — | — | 73,74 |
| 112. | Phenyl glucoside | — | $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{16}\text{O}_6$ | — | 76 |
| 113. | Plumericin | — | — | — | 124 |

(Contd.)

(Table 1. Continued)

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|---|---------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 114. Quercetrin | 182-185 | $C_{21}H_{20}O_{11}$ | — | 51,77,78 |
| 115. Quercetrin | — | — | — | 51,77 |
| 116. Rosagenin | — | — | — | 6-8 |
| 117. Rutin | 214-215 | $C_{27}H_{30}O_{16}$ | $[\alpha]_D^{23}+13.8^\circ$ (Et) | 51,79,80,120 |
| 118. Rutoside | — | — | — | 104 |
| 119. Scopolin | 170-171 | $C_{16}H_{19}O_9$ | $[\alpha]_D^{16}+2.0^\circ$ (C) | 29 |
| 120. Sitosterol | 164-166 | $C_{29}H_{48}O$ | $[\alpha]_D^{28}-1.7^\circ$ (C) | 85 |
| 121. β -Sitosterol | 136-137 | $C_{29}H_{50}O$ | $[\alpha]_D^{22}-35.0^\circ$ (C) | 51,83,84 |
| 122. Stigmasterol | 170-171 | $C_{29}H_{48}O$ | $[\alpha]_D^{22}-51.0^\circ$ (C) | 52,83 |
| 123. 1-Strospanthin | 180-181 | $C_{29}H_{44}O_{12}$ | — | 6-8 |
| 124. ψ -Strospanthin | 92-93 | — | — | 7,8 |
| 125. Stroseside | 253-255 | $C_{30}H_{46}O_7$ | $[\alpha]_D^{20}+15.7^\circ$ (C) | 37,101 |
| 126. Urechitoxin. | — | — | — | 37 |
| 127. Ursolic acid | 292-293 | $C_{30}H_{48}O_3$ | $[\alpha]_D+66.0^\circ$ (E) | 45,53,81,130 |
| 128. Uvaol | 222-224 | $C_{30}H_{50}O_2$ | $[\alpha]_D^{24}+70^\circ$ (C) | 134 |
| 129. Uzarigenin | 246-249 | $C_{23}H_{34}O_4$ | — | 25 |
| 130. Uzarigenin- β -D- | 239-240 | $C_{30}H_{46}O_8$ | $[\alpha]+4.2^\circ$ | 70 |
| 131. Uzarigenin- β -D- glucosyl-(1-4)-B- D-digitaloside | 315-325 | $C_{36}H_{56}O_{13}$ | $[\alpha]_D-12.0^\circ$ | 70 |

glycosides are obtained from the fresh and air-dried leaves. Thus they obtained oleandrin, adynerin (adynerigenin- β -D-diginoside), odoroside A (digitoxigenin- β -D-diginoside), 16-deacetylanhydro-oleandrin and oleandrigenin together with unknown cardenolides from the oven dried leaves. As a result of later studies (1975) T. Yamauchi *et al.* [67] noted that oleandrin, odoroside A, adynerin and Δ^{16} -dhydroadynerin, previously obtained from oven dried leaves, were also present in the fresh leaves as gentiobiosides.

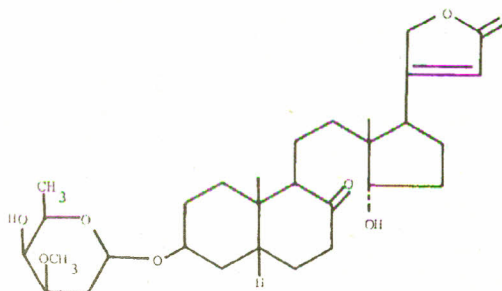
T. Yamauchi *et al.* [63] in 1972 reported the isolation of mono-, di- and triglycoside of pregnenolone from the root and trunk bark of *N. oleander* and characterized them through their acetates and permethylated derivatives. They reported [72] the isolation and structure elucidation of a further steroid neridienone, a C-21 steroid, from the same source. They further noted that this is either substance 1 of T. Reichstein *et al.* [64] reported in 1949 or is closely related with it since both have UV absorption around 280 and 240 nm.

In 1974, T. Yamauchi [66] reported the isolation of a cardiokinetic and diuretic glyconerigoside from the leaves and elucidated its structure as oleandrigenin- β -D-glycopyranosyl- β -D-diginopyranoside.

In 1976, T. Yamauchi and co-workers reported the isolation of three new uzarigenin and oleandrigenin glycosides from the root bark in addition to odorosides A, B, D, G, H, K, odorobioside K and a mixture of 16-O-acetyl and 16-anhydrodigitalinum verum (*loc. cit.*). The new constituents were characterized as β -D-digitaloside, β -D-glucoside-(1-4)- β -D-digitaloside of uzarigenin and oleandrigenin

β -gentiobiosyl-(1-4)- β -D-digitaloside. Regarding the environmental variations they observed that the above compounds obtained from the stem bark of Japanese plant were not present in the stem bark of *N. oleander* grown in India. On the other hand, gracilioside present in the Indian plant was not found in the plant of Japanese origin.

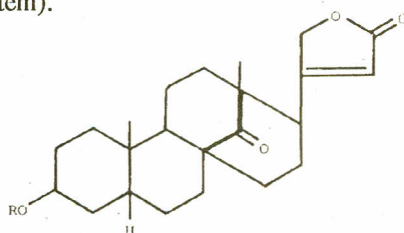
In 1978, a 8,14-seco-cardenolide, neriaside was isolated from the leaves dried at 80° by T. Yamauchi and F. Abe [71] and its structure elucidated as XVI. They further isolated [72] two new cardenolides digitoxigenin- α -L-oleandroside and 5 α -adynerin from the leaves. Their structures were elucidated with the aid of ^{13}C -NMR and conversion of oleandrin to digitoxigenin- α -L-oleandroside and synthesis of 5 α -adynerin respectively. Digitoxigenin- α -L-oleandroside is a rare glycoside in *oleander*, since L-oleandrose has been found only as the glycosides of oleandroginin and its deacetyl or anhydro derivatives. Further, 5 α -adynerin is the first 5 α -cardenolide isolated from the leaves, although the root bark



XVI

contains a large amount of uzarigenin glycosides (loc.cit.).

As a result of reinvestigation of the cardenolides of *N. oleander* they reported [73,74] further cardenolide, oleasides A-F. The structure of the common aglycone, oleagenin was established as 3 β -hydroxy-15 (14 β)abeo-5 β (8R)-14-oxo-card-20(22)-enolide. The sugars were identified as D-diginose (oleaside-A) (XVII), D-digitalose (oleaside-B) (XVIII), β -D-glucosyl-D-diginose (oleaside-C) (XIX), 4-O- β -glucosyl-D-digitalose (oleaside-D) (XX), β -gentiobiosyl-D-diginose (oleaside-E) (XXI) and 4-O- β -gentiobiosyl-D-digitalose (oleaside-F) (XXII). The oleasides are the first occurring cardenolides having bicyclo (3,3,1)nonan-9-one (C/D ring system).



XVII.R = D-diginose

XVIII.R = D-digitalose

XIX.R = β -D-glucosyl-D-diginose

XX.R = 4-O- β -D-glucosyl-D-digitalose

XXI.R = β -gentiobiosyl-D-diginose

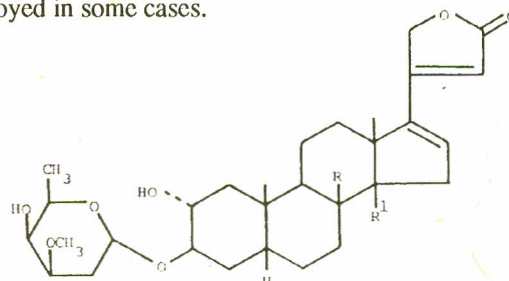
XXII.R = 4-O- β -gentiobiosyl-D-digitalose

In more recent studies, T. Yamauchi and co-workers [58] investigated the quantitative variations in cardiac glycosides of the leaves from 20 horticultural and wild strains of *Nerium* and concluded that the plants studied fall in two groups based on their contents of adynerin and oleaside-A or gentiobioside adynerin and oleaside-E. A large variation in oleandrin content was noted in all samples.

Besides the cardiac and other steroidal glycosides noted above, some glycosides containing coumarins or flavonoidal aglycones as well as free steroidal constituents [51,52,69,83-85] have also been isolated from different parts of *N.oleander* as listed in Table 1.

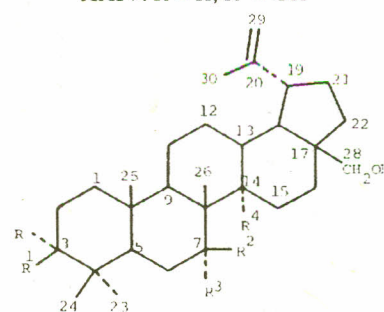
It would be evident from the brief reference of literature noted above, that in most of the cases dried (air-or oven-dried) plant material was used in earlier investigations. Keeping in view the pharmacological significance attributed to the plant, and the fact that the use of fresh, undried plant materials avoids formation of the artefacts through oxidation and enzymatic degradation, Siddiqui *et al* [127-135] more recently undertook studies on fresh, undried and uncrushed leaves which resulted in the isolation and structure elucidation of several new constituents, including two cardiac glycosides namely kaneroside (XXIII) and neriumoside [127] (XXIV), ten pentacyclic triterpenoids kanerodione [128] (XXV) kan-

erin [129] (XXVI) 12,13-dihydrourosolic acid [129] (XXVII), oleandric acid [128] (XXVIII), oleandrol [130] (XXIX), neriucoumaric acid [131] (XXX), isoneriucoumaric acid [131] (XXXI), kanerocin [132] (XXXII), oleanderen [133] (XXXIII) and kaneric acid [134] (XXXIV), one diterpene oleandric acid [133] (XXXV) (Table- 1) and two straight chain compounds nerifol [135] (XXXVI) and neriumol [135] (XXXVII) (Table-2) along with five known pentacyclic triterpenoids. Three of the known terpenoids namely betulin [130], betulinic acid [130] and uvaol [134] were isolated for the first time from this plant whereas ursolic and oleanolic acids [130], α - amyrin [45,52] and an uncharacterized compound kanero [182] with the molecular formula $C_{30}H_{50}O$ were reported earlier from this source. The structures of the new compounds were elucidated through intensive chemical and spectroscopic studies including high resolution mass, FABMS, 1D- and 2D- 1H -NMR (COSY-45, NOESY, 2D-J-resolved, heterocopy experiments) and ^{13}C -NMR (broad band and DEPT experiments). Homonuclear decoupling experiments and NOE difference measurements have also been employed in some cases.



XXIII. R, R¹ = O,

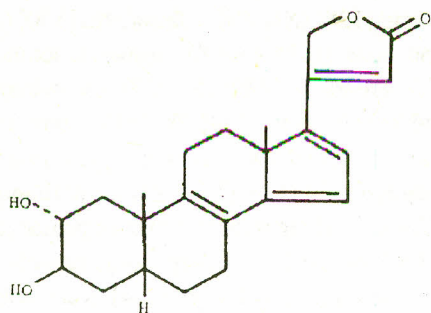
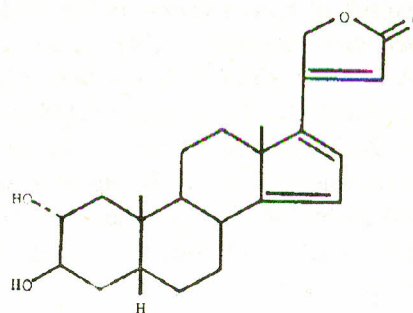
XXIV. R = H, R¹ = OH



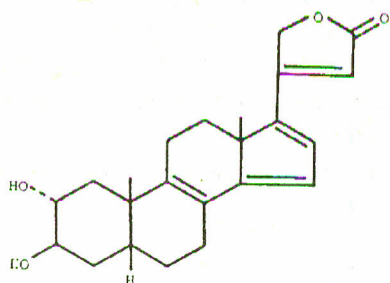
XXV. R, R¹ = R², R³ = O, R⁴ = CH₃,

XXIX. R = H, R¹ = OH, R² = R³ = H, R⁴ = CH₂ OH, Δ^{12-}

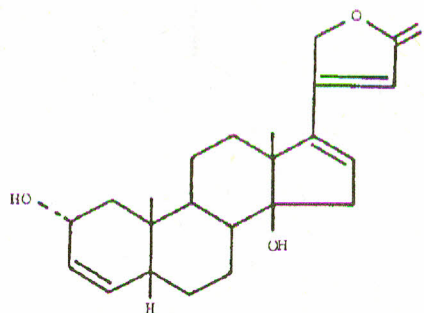
Neriumoside (XXIV) of Siddiqui *et al.* [127] is different from the series of neriumosides A-1, A-2, B-1, B-2 and C-1 of T. Yamauchi [68]. Hydrolysed products XXIIIa of XXIII and XXIVa, XXIVb and XXIVc of XXIV have all been fully characterized through intensive spectral studies and chemical transformations. The sugar was identified as diginose through co-paper chromatography with reference sugars and 1H - and ^{13}C -NMR studies.

XXV. $R, R^1 = R^2, R^3 = O, R^4 = CH_3$ XXIX. $R = H, R^1 = OH, R^2 = R^3 = H, R^4 = CH_2OH, \nabla^{12}$ 

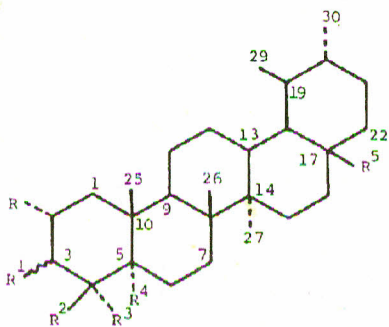
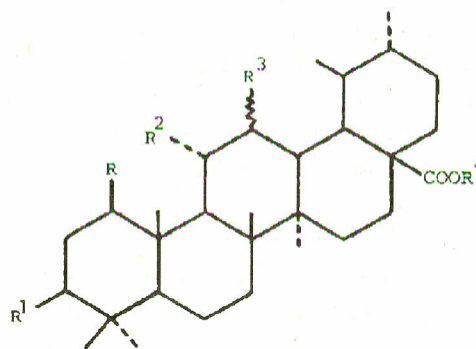
XXXIV-c



XXIV-b

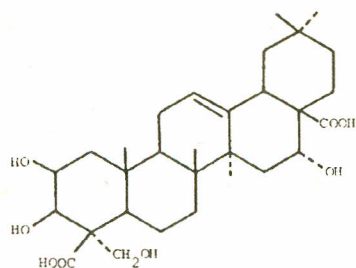


Structure XXIV-C

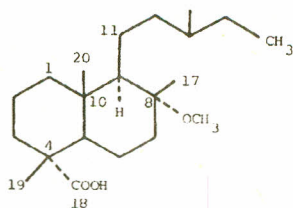
XXXVI. $R=H, R^1 = \beta OH, R^2, R^3 = \text{---} CH_2, R^4 = OH, R^5 = COOH, \nabla^{12}$ XXXVII. $R=H, R^1 = \beta OH, R^2 = R^3 = CH_3, R^4 = H, R^5 = COOH$ XXX. $R = \rho\text{-cis-coumaroyloxy}, R^1 = \beta OH, R^2 = R^3 = CH_3, R^4 = H, R^5 = COOH, \nabla^{12}$ XXXa. $R = \rho\text{-2', 3'-dihydrocoumaroyloxy}, R^1 = \beta OH, R^2 = R^3 = CH_3, R^4 = H, R^5 = COOH$ XXXI. $R = \rho\text{-trans-coumaroyloxy}, R^1 = \beta\text{-OH}, R^2 = R^3 = CH_3, R^4 = H, R^5 = COOH, \nabla^{12}$ XXXII. $R=H, R^1 = \alpha_2 OH, R^2, R^3 = CH_3, R^4 = H, R^5 = COOH, \nabla^{12}$ XXXIII. $R=R^1=H, R^2, R^3 = CH_3, R^4 = H, R^5 = CH_3, \nabla^{12}$ XXVIII. $R=R^1=H, R^2=O=C^*H^4 = \rho\text{-OH}, R^3 = \alpha\text{-OH}, \nabla^{20}$ XXVIIIa. $R=H, R^1=O=C^*H^4 = \rho\text{-OCH}_3, R^2 = \alpha\text{-OH}, R^3 = \alpha\text{-OH}, \nabla^{20}$

XXVIIIb. 20,21-dihydroxy-XXVIII-a

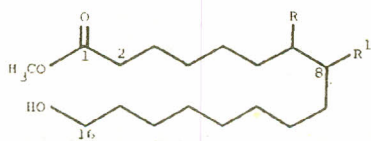
XXXIV. $R=R^1 = OH, R^2 = R^3 = H, R^4 = H, \nabla^{12}$



Platycogenic acid A



XXXV



XXXVI. R = H, R¹ = OH,
 XXXVII. R = OH, R¹ = H, ∇⁸

The structure of XXV [128] was also determined through spectral studies and finally confirmed through its Wolf-Kishner reduction to the known 3-deoxybetulin.

Chemical proof of the double bond at C-4 (C-23) in XXVI, [129] located through spectral studies, was provided through Sarett oxidation to its 3 keto derivative. XXVI is the first naturally occurring 24-nor triterpenoid of the ursane series with a double bond at C-4 (C-23). It is interesting to note that only one 24-nor triterpenoid of this series namely methyl-3-oxo-24-norurs-12-en-28-oate has earlier been reported from a natural source [136] which was suggested to be an artifact derived from either the corresponding 23-hydroxy-3-oxo or 24-hydroxy-3-oxo compound [137] through formaldehyde elimination. The nor compounds may also be formed as artefacts through reverse Prins reaction during acidic hydrolysis of saponins [138]. As XXVI was isolated through solvent separation and preparative TLC under mild conditions without involving hydrolysis (acidic or basic) and was also detected in the fresh leaves extract, it was regarded as a naturally occurring compound. It was also noted that XXVI is the first constituent of ursane series with a hydroxyl function at C-5 as well as a first naturally occurring ursolic acid derivative with a double bond at C-18. Taking into consideration the triterpenoid platycogenic acid A [139] as a natural

product from *Platycodon grandiflorum* they suggested a similar hypothetical intermediate of the ursane series (bearing both the carboxyl group and -CH₂OH function at C-4) for the formation of XXVI, decarboxylation of which followed by dehydration would result in XXVI.

Structure of XXVII [129] was proved by its synthesis from acetylmethyl ursolic acid through H₂O₂/AcOH oxidation followed by Wolf—Kishner reduction.

Structure and stereochemistry of various centres of XXVIII [128], were conclusively established through catalytic reduction of its trimethyl derivative (XXVIIIa) to dihydrotrimethyl derivative which was identified with the product XXVIIIb ultimately obtained through a series of reactions on acetylmethyl ursolic acid (Scheme 1).

Isolation of XXIX [130] is the first instance of a lupane triterpene from any of the various parts of *N. oleander* and makes an addition to the rare examples of reported A¹²⁻²⁷-hydroxy pentacyclic triterpenoids of lupane series.

The relationship of XXX and XXXI, the isomeric triterpenoids, was established through their catalytic reduction (H₂Pt) to a common reduction product [131] XXXa.

XXXII [132] obtained from the 1% methanolic extract of the fresh leaves is the first ursane derivative with the 18,20 diene system, and represents one of the rare triterpenoids with an oriented hydroxyl group at C-3. XXXIII [133] (12 ursene), the parent hydrocarbon of ursane series of triterpenoid was considered a genuine naturally occurring product in the light of the fact that fresh plant material was used avoiding any drastic conditions.

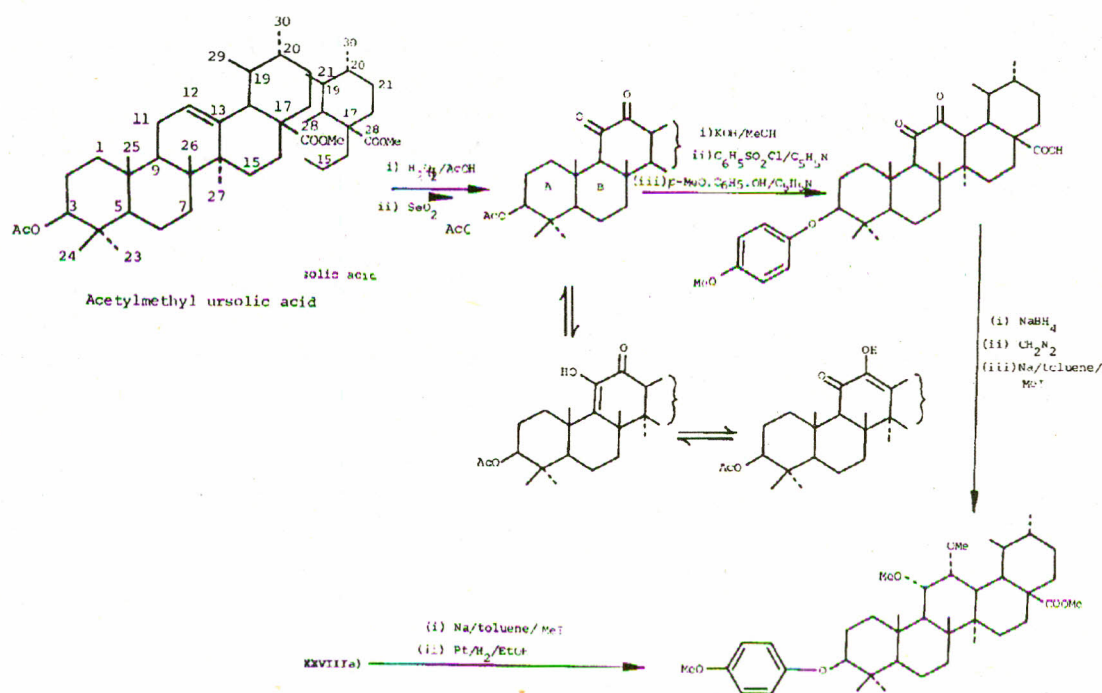
The structure of XXVIII [128], the first diterpenoid isolated from the plant was determined through spectroscopic and chemical studies.

Siddique. *et. al.* stressed that the isolation of several new terpenoids exemplifies the advantage of using fresh plant material.

Miscellaneous compounds. Various fatty acids, sugars, hydrocarbons and other aliphatic and aromatic compounds have been reported by a number of authors, from different parts of the plant (Table 2).

More recently, straight chain hydroxy acid derivatives, nerifol (XXXVI) and neriumol (XXXVII) were isolated [135] (*loc. cit.*) from the fresh leaves and considered to be of potential pharmacological significance, since 15, 16-dihydroxyhexadecanoic acid forms a component of the antibiotic ustilagic acid [140]. Further, 11-hydroxy hexadecanoic acid and its glycoside are reported as anticancer and antimicrobial agents [141].

Pharmacology. *N. oleander* has been cautiously used in China and South East Asian countries as a heart tonic [142].



Scheme 1.

The studies carried out by various groups of workers on its glycosides and other constituents [143-184] showed that they possess cardiotonic properties. The chief active principle, oleandrin, was found to stimulate the heart function and also noted for diuretic effect, while nerifolin is milder in these respects. More recent investigation on the bark of the plant has revealed the presence of several glycosides, such as odoroside, A,B,D,F,G,H,K, odorobioside K and odoroside L and M

possessing digitalis like activity [29-31, 185-187].

Another cardiac glycoside neriin causes diuresis in dogs and is toxic, when administered in high doses. Nerigenin, obtained through acidic hydrolysis of nerin, is comparatively less toxic. The effect of odorin on the heart of rabbits and dogs is identical with that of digitalis group, whereas neriodin is twice as active as digitoxin in digitalis like action similar to that of oleandrin.

TABLE 2. MISCELLANEOUS COMPOUNDS OF *NERIUM OLEANDER*

| S.No. | Name | Mp°C °C | Molecular Formula | Optical Rotation | References |
|-------|----------------------------------|------------|---|--|------------|
| 1. | Aromatic acid | 242-245 | — | — | 82 |
| 2. | Benzyl acetate | — | C ₉ H ₁₀ O ₂ | — | 83 |
| 3. | Benzyl alcohol | — | C ₇ H ₈ O | — | 83 |
| 4. | Bornesitol | — | C ₆ H ₁₂ O ₂ | — | 86 |
| 5. | Butyric acid | -8.0 | C ₄ H ₈ O ₂ | — | 82 |
| 6. | Campherol | 276-278 | C ₁₅ H ₁₀ O ₆ | — | 45 |
| 7. | Capric acid | 30.5 | C ₁₀ H ₂₀ O ₂ | — | 87,88 |
| 8. | Caproic acid (Hexanoic acid) | -2.0 | C ₆ H ₁₂ O ₂ | — | 87,88 |
| 9. | Caprylic acid (Octanoic acid) | 16.5 | C ₈ H ₁₆ O ₂ | — | 87,88 |
| 10. | Choline | 273-275 | C ₅ H ₁₅ O ₂ N | — | 52 |
| 11. | Chlorogenic acid | 208-210 | C ₁₆ H ₁₈ O ₉ | [α] _D ¹⁶ -35.2°(W) | 89 |
| 12. | Dambonitol | 219-220 | C ₈ H ₁₆ O ₆ | — | 86,121,122 |
| 13. | 2,4-Dihydroxy- acetophenone | 148-149 | C ₈ H ₈ O ₃ | — | 90 |

(Contd.)

Table 2. continued

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|----------|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 14. | Docosanoic acid | 80-81 | $C_{22}H_{44}O_2$ | - | 83 |
| 15. | Eicosanoic acid | 77-78 | $C_{20}H_{40}O_2$ | - | 83 |
| 16. | Formic acid | 8.4-9.0 | CH_2O_2 | - | 82 |
| 17. | Heptadecanoic acid | -7.5 | $C_{17}H_{34}O_2$ | - | 83 |
| 18. | 4-Hydroxy-acetophenone | 109-110 | $C_8H_8O_2$ | - | 90 |
| 19. | 9-D-Hydroxy-cis-12-octadecenoic acid | - | $C_{18}H_{34}O_3$ | - | 84 |
| 20. | Karavi's Indicator | - | - | - | 123 |
| 21. | Lauric acid (Dodecanoic acid) | 44-45 | $C_{12}H_{24}O_2$ | - | 83,87,88 |
| 22. | Linolenic acid (9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid) | -11.3 | $C_{18}H_{33}O_2$ | - | 91 |
| 23. | Linolic acid (9,12-Octadecadienoic acid) | -5.5-6.5 | $C_{18}H_{32}O_2$ | - | 82,88 |
| 24. | Myristic acid (Tetradecanoic acid) | 58-59 | $C_{14}H_{28}O_2$ | - | 83 |
| 25. | Nerifol (XXXVI) | 74.75 | $C_{17}H_{34}O_4$ | - | 135 |
| 26. | Neriumol (XXXVII) | 78-80° | $C_{17}H_{32}O_4$ | $[\alpha]_D^{24} -458^\circ(C)$ | 135 |
| 27. | Nonadecanoic acid | 68-69 | $C_{19}H_{38}O_2$ | - | 83 |
| 28. | Oleic acid (9-Octadecenoic acid) | 15.16 | $C_{18}H_{34}O_2$ | - | 82,83,87,88 |
| 29. | Orange essential oil | - | - | $[\alpha]_D -4.0^\circ(C)82$ | |
| 30. | Palmitic acid (Hexadecanoic acid) | 63-64 | $C_{16}H_{32}O_2$ | - | 83,87,88 |
| 31. | Paraffin | 70-71 | $C_{30}H_{70}$ | - | 92 |
| 32. | n.Parrafin | - | - | - | 83 |
| 33. | Pentadecanoic acid | 53-54 | $C_{15}H_{30}O_2$ | - | 83 |
| 34. | Phenolic Compound | 140-141 | - | - | 82 |
| 35. | β -Phenyl ethyl | - | $C_{10}H_{12}O_2$ | - | 83 |
| 36. | β -Phenyl ethyl alcohol | - | $C_8H_{10}O$ | - | 83 |
| 37. | Quercetin | 314-315 | $C_{15}H_{10}O_7$ | - | 51 |
| 38. | Resene | 245-246 | - | - | 92 |
| 39. | Scopoletin | 204-205 | $C_{10}H_8O_4$ | - | 74 |
| 40. | Stearic acid (Octadecanoic acid) | 71.72 | $C_{18}H_{36}O_2$ | - | 82,83,87,88 |
| 41. | Sucrose | 184-185 | $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$ | $[\alpha]_D^{20} +66.3^\circ(W)$ | 52 |
| 42. | Tridecanoic acid | 44-46 | $C_{13}H_{26}O_2$ | - | 83 |

C = Chloroform, N = Water

The toxicity of various parts of the plant and their constituents has been studied by different groups of workers, [143,144] who noted that 15-20 g of oleander leaves are sufficient to cause death in horses, while in the case of cows the fatal dose is some what higher (12-25g).

Various groups of workers [23,157,177-184] further noted that nerin, oleandrin and other cardiotoxic glycosides prove fatal, when given in higher doses.

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