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Phytochemical communication

Flavonoids from *Blumea balsamifera*

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Abstract

3,4',5-Trihydroxy-3',7-dimethoxyflavanone was isolated from the ligroin extract of the leaves of *Blumea balsamifera*, while the acetone extract yielded 3',4',5-trihydroxy-7-methoxyflavanone and a new biflavonoid identified as 3-O-7''-biluteolin (**1**). The isolation of **1** is significant since a biflavonoid with a C–O–C linkage of the type [1-3-O-II-7] has not been previously reported from a plant.

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Keywords: *Blumea balsamifera*; 3-O-7''-Biluteolin

1. Plant

Blumea balsamifera DC. (Compositae) leaves were collected from Guar Chempedak, Kedah, Malaysia, in June 1999, and identified by Mr. Adenan Jaafar, School of Biological Sciences, University Sains Malaysia, Penang, where a voucher specimen (USM8225) has been deposited.

2. Uses in traditional medicine

This shrub is considered to have stomachic, expectorant, antispasmodic and sudorific properties. The leaves and roots are used as a crude drug for beri-

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