

ABSTRACT

In part I the isolation of some constituents of Hippomane mancinella L. (manchineel) and the characterisation of some terpenoids found in this plant are described. The structure, stereochemistry and absolute configuration of a new triterpene alcohol are discussed and the chemical and spectroscopic data which revealed the structure and stereochemistry of the new diterpene manchinene diosphenol are presented. Preliminary results are also reported on the Compound B to which a novel diterpene structure is tentatively assigned. The biogenesis of some diterpenes is discussed in an attempt to rationalize the biosynthesis of Compound B.

In part II the characterization of two known diterpenes nepetaefolin and nepetaefuran isolated from Leonotis nepetaefolia R.Br. is discussed. The characterisation of the eudesmane sesquiterpene chaenocephalol isolated from Verbesina rupestris (Urb.) Blake is also discussed.