

IRIDOIDS FROM *PENTAS LANCEOLATA* (FORSSK.) DEFLERS

Caprini, G. P.¹, Schripsema, J.^{1,2}, Dagnino, D.¹, Retamal, C. A.³

Grupo Metabolômica: ¹Laboratório de Biotecnologia and ²Laboratório de Ciências Químicas. ³Laboratório de Biologia Celular e Tecidual.
Universidade Estadual do Norte Fluminense Darcy Ribeiro,
Av. Alberto Lamego, 2000, 28015-620 Campos dos Goytacazes, Brazil.

From the aerial parts of *Pentas lanceolata* a series of iridoids was isolated by preparative HPLC. This is the first report of the occurrence of iridoids in the genus *Pentas*. Seven iridoid glucosides were identified. Besides asperuloside and asperulosidic acid, characteristic iridoids for Rubiaceae, five new iridoids, with special structures were isolated: Tudoside, E-Uenfoside, Z-Uenfoside, 13-epi-Gaertneroside and 13-epi-Epoxygaertneroside. The iridoids might contribute to the systematic classification of the Rubiaceae, which remains a question of controversy. The similarity of the iridoids with those known from *Morinda* is remarkable.

Keywords: *Pentas lanceolata*, Rubiaceae, citrifolinin B, gaertneroside, uenfoside.

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