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Flavonoids from *Alphitonia neocaledonica*

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Alphitonia neocaledonica (Schlechter)

Guil. (Rhamnaceae) is an endemic small forest tree of New Caledonia (1). Some preparations of the bark and leaves are used in folk medicine to treat rheumatism, dermatosis, and to ease child delivery (2). There is no report on either phytochemical or pharmacological work on this plant.

A sample of the leaves was collected in the region of Noumea, New Caledonia, in May 1992. A voucher specimen (n° 55) was deposited at the herbarium of the Laboratory of Pharmacognosy of the Dijon University. The present paper describes the isolation and characterisation of three flavonol glycosides from the leaves of this species: isorhamnetin 3-O-rutinoside (1), isorhamnetin 3-O- β -D-glucopyranoside (2), and isorhamnetin 3-O-[6"-p-coumaroyl]- β -D-glucopyranoside (3).

Powdered leaves (700 g) were submitted to successive Soxhlet extraction by CH₂Cl₂, EtOAc, and MeOH. Fractionation of the EtOAc extract (11 g) by CC on silica gel eluted with a gradient mixture (CH₂Cl₂-MeOH, 100:0 $\rightarrow$ 50:50) in combination with successive CC on polyamide (MeOH-H₂O, 25:75 $\rightarrow$ 75:25) and preparative TLC on sili-

ca gel (toluene-EtOAc-HCOOH, 50:40:20) afforded 30 mg of 1, 9 mg of 2, and 15 mg of 3. Identification of the flavonoids was made by direct comparison of their physical and spectroscopic data (FAB-mass, IR, UV, ¹H- and ¹³C-NMR, DEPT, COSY ¹H-¹H) with those reported in the literature (3–7). Although these flavonoids have been isolated from several plants (6–10), they have not, to our knowledge, been reported previously from *Alphitonia* species.

Information in detail on the work-up procedure and copies of the original spectra are obtainable from the author of correspondence.

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