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Chemical constituents and biological activity of agarwood

Jeong Hill Park, Bo Wu, Sung Won Kwon and **Gwi Seo Hwang** Seoul National University, Republic of Korea

The Aquilaria genus (Thymelaeaceae), consisting of 14 species of trees, is mainly distributed in rainforest of Southeast Asia. Several species of this genus produce a dark aromatic resin in response to the infection. The resin-deposited heartwood is known as agarwood, which has long been used as incense, and as sedative, analgesic, and digestive herbal drug in Korea. We studied chemical constituents and its biological activity of agarwood from Aquilaria malaccensis. As a result, we isolated 40 compounds and elucidated their structure. Nine chromones and four sesquiterpenoids were found to be new compounds. Their anti-proliferative and anti-tyrosinase inhibitory activities were evaluated. Three compounds showed strong anti-proliferative activity against A549 human lung cancer cell and one compound showed strong anti-tyrosinase inhibitory activity.

Biography

Jeong Hill Park has completed his PhD from Seoul National University, Republic of Korea. He is the Professor at College of Pharmacy, SNU. He has published more than 230 papers and 30 patents.

hillpark@snu.ac.kr

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