

**THE EXTRACTION AND ISOLATION OF SCOPOLETIN FROM THE
BARK OF *HYMENODICTYON ORIXENSE* (ROXB) MABB.**

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ABSTRACT : A flowering plant growing in Myanmar, known as Ku-than (*Hymenodictyon orixense* (Roxb., Mabb.)); belonging to the family Rubiaceae was studied to reveal its botanical characteristics and chemical constituents. This research work was on pharmacognostical aspects of its authenticity and quality was incited by the fact that Ku-than was used like Cinchona in providing the same antimalarial activity as claimed by some Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners.

Both the plants possessed identified scopoletin as identified by spectroscopic study. The main constituent of bark was scopoletin which was isolated from the methanolic extract of the stem bark and identified from UV, IR and ¹H NMR spectral data.

Based on the chemical constituents present in each plant, traditionally claimed antimalarial activity of Ku-than might be an indication of presence of active compounds in the plant independent of quinine or alkaloid like quinine of Cinchona.

Key Words : *Hymenodictyon orixense* (Roxb., Mabb.), bark, extraction, chemical analysis.