

prevention of diabetic complications.

To evaluate active principles for the inhibition of aldose reductase from the rhizomes of *Belamcanda chinensis*, systematic fractionations were carried out and led to isolation of 12 phenolic compounds, among which tectoridin and tectorigenin, two isoflavonoids, were found to possess the strongest rat lens aldose reductase inhibitory activity *in vitro*, their IC₅₀ values, being 1.08x10⁻⁶ M and 1.12x10⁻⁶ M, respectively, while the IC₅₀ value of tetramethylene glutaric acid, a positive reference drug, being 0.63x10⁻⁶ M for DL-glyceraldehyde as a substrate.

Both compounds, when administered orally to streptozotocin-induced diabetic rats, caused a significant inhibition of sorbitol accumulation in the tissues such as lens, sciatic nerves and red blood cells.

Tectorigenin showed a stronger inhibitory activity than tectoridin.

From these experimental data, it is suggested that tectorigenin is attributed to be a promising compound for the prevention and/or treatment of diabetic complications.

[PA1-44] [04/18/2002 (Thr) 14:00 – 17:00 / Hall E]

A New Derivative of Ursolic Acid from the Roots of *Chaenomeles japonica*

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Chaenomeles japonica (Thunb.) Lindl. (Rosaceae), distributed over the southern parts of Korean peninsula as well as Japan, commonly grown in gardens, is a small shrub with thorns on the branches. Fruit parts of this plant have been used in the traditional medicine as a stomachic and astringent. So far no chemical and biological work has been carried out on the root parts of this plant. Searching for biologically active natural products, we investigated the constituents of the root parts of *C. japonica* and isolated a novel derivative of ursolic acid (1) together with prunasin, (-)-epicatechin, daucosterol and three other triterpenes, ursolic acid, oleanolic acid and pomolic acid. All these compounds except (-)-epicatechin were isolated from this plant for the first time. Compound 1 was determined to be 3-O-(*E*-3',5'-dihydroxycinnamoyl) ursolic acid on the basis of IR, NMR and FAB-MS spectra, and to our knowledge, which is the second example of acylated triterpenes possessing the pentacyclic triterpenes with an unusual phenylpropanoid, (*E*)-3,5-dihydroxycinnamic acid moiety.

[PA1-45] [04/18/2002 (Thr) 14:00 – 17:00 / Hall E]

The ELISA systems based on transcriptional mechanism of PPARs to detect potential agents of metabolic disease

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The PPAR family is a nuclear hormone receptor that is known to control the expression of genes involved in lipid homeostasis, energy balance and related to metabolic diseases including obesity, diabetes and cancers. The PPARs as transcriptional regulators are able to bind endo- or exogenous ligands by their ligand binding domain. The PPAR ligands are concerned as potential agents of therapy of metabolic diseases in the current day. The ligand-bound PPARs are converted to an activated mode or non-activated mode in the nucleus. These modes are decided by binding of ligands and co-regulators. The agonist binding to their PPARs recruits co-activator such as steroid receptor co-activator-1 (SRC-1), and then triggers transcription. While the antagonist binding to their PPARs recruits co-repressor such as nuclear hormone receptor corepressor (N-CoR), and then inhibits transcription. This transcriptional activity is due to the change of ligand-dependent conformation. In this study, we applied this mechanism to the development of a novel PPAR enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) system. These systems are optimized for the mass screening of potential drugs. This screening system can be a promising system in the development of drugs for metabolic disorders such as obesity, type2 diabetes and cancers.