

Short report

Sedative activity of stem bark of the Sri Lankan endemic plant,  
*Vateria copallifera*

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**Abstract**

An aqueous bark extract of *Vateria copallifera* showed marked sedative activity, which supports the therapeutic effects claimed by Sri Lankan traditional physicians.

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**Keywords:** *Vateria copallifera*; Sedative activity

**1. Plant**

*Vateria copallifera* Retz. (Dipterocarpaceae) [1] stem bark collected from mature trees in Horana, Sri Lanka, in October–December 2003 was authenticated by Dr. I. Senavirathne (Mrs.), Department of Plant Science, University of Colombo.

**2. Uses in traditional medicine**

Decoction of the bark in the treatment of rheumatic pains, ulcers, diarrhoea and diabetes mellitus.

**3. Previously isolated constituents**

Triterpenes, hexamethylcorulcoellagic acid, pentamethylflavellagic acid, tetramethylellagic acid, chrysophanol, scopoletin, resveratrol, copalliferol A and B [2,3].

**4. Tested material**

Aqueous extract (yield: 5.6% w/w).

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