



ELSEVIER

Fitoterapia 77 (2006) 331–332

FITOTERAPIA

www.elsevier.com/locate/fitote

Short report

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

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Received 5 May 2005; accepted 31 March 2006

Available online 15 May 2006

### 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, hexamethylcoruleoellagic 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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