Research on External Signs and Chemical Composition of Medicinal Plant Raw Material -Leaves of *Ficus Elastica*

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ABSTRACT

Ficus elastica is a species of the plant in the genus Ficus, from the family Moraceae. Ficus elastica, which is the object of our study, has been used for many years in phytodesign, however in terms of medicine, it remains a poorly studied plant. While studying the external signs and chemical composition of medicinal plant raw materials of leaves Fícus elastica, chromato-mass spectrometry was used. During the process of studying, some diagnostic signs of Ficus elastica were identified. Chromato-mass spectrometry was used to identify 68 compounds. The maximum amount was accounted for 6-D-Glucopyranoside, methyl (28,99%), Phytol (9,90%), 2-Hydroxy-3-methylsuccinic acid (6,93%), Lanosterol (6,13%), Hydroquinone (5,55%), 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, ethyl ester, (Z,Z,Z)- (4,86%), Lup-20(29)-en-3one (4,17%), 1,2-Benzenediol (3,33%), Lupeol (2,95%), 16-Allopregnene-36,9a-diol-20-one 3-O-acetate (2,77%), 9-Octadecenamide, (Z)- (2,67%), 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, (Z,Z,Z)- (2,05%), 3-Sitosterol (1,84%), a-d-Lyxofuranoside, methyl (1,57%), Dasycarpidan-1-methanol, acetate (ester) (1,52%), n-Hexadecanoic acid (1,45%), Hexadecanoic acid, ethyl ester (1,33%), 1,8-Dioxacyclohexadecane-2,10dione, 5,6:12,13-diepoxy-8,16-dimethyl- (1,15%), Vitamin E (0,64%). Identified morphological features of the leaves of Ficus elastica can be used in diagnosis of this species and may help to develop indicators of authenticity for promising medicinal leaves. As mentioned earlier, by means of chromato-mass spectrometry were identified 68 compounds, and the relative percentage of identified compounds was determined using a simple normalization method.

Key words: Ficus elastic, Chromato-mass spectrometry, 6-D-Glucopyranoside, Methyl, Phytol, Vitamin E.

INTRODUCTION

Ficus elastica is a species of the plant in the genus Ficus, family Moraceae. This species, out of all the species included in the genus Ficus, is the most popular among gardeners. *Ficus elastica*, which is the object of our research, has been used for many years in phytodesign,^{49,12,18,20} its role in urban life and in nature is studied,^{13,16,17,19} there are studies on the stress generation in aerial roots of the plant,¹ but in terms of medicine it remains a poorly studied plant.

The *Ficus elastica* is a natural source of rubber. However, nowadays some scientists, for example, Nowiki M. with co-authors and Yukino Inoue with co-authors, have proved that there are alternative sources of natural rubber.^{21,29}

In natural conditions *Ficus elastica* reaches a height of about 30 m. The height of the indoor Ficus rarely exceeds 200 centimeters. However, it is not a slow-growing plant, for in 1 year under favorable conditions the bush can add in growth from 0.4 to 0.45 m (Figure 1). Its leaf anatomy and plant's morphology have been studied thoroughly in botany.^{2,8,11,14}

Kumar and co-authors have studied methods of alleviation of chromium-induced phytotoxicity in *Ficus elastica*.¹⁵

A number of scientists carried out a research on the chemical composition of the Ficus extracts, and so, a lot of phenolic compounds^{3,27} and alcohols²⁴



Figure 1A: Appearance of *Ficus elastica* is at home. (at column width)

were found. Silver D. J., Cornish K. A. studied composition and content of proteins.²³

Anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activity,^{6,22} anti-preeclampsia potential,⁷ anthelmintic activities,¹⁰ anticoagulant potentials,³ antimalarial, antitrypanosomal and cytotoxicity activity,²⁶ antimicrobial activity²⁵ of *Ficus elastica* were studied in detail. Currently, the search for new bioactive metabolites in *Ficus elastica* continues⁵.

Innovative scientific investigations of this plant are constantly conducted.³⁰

Ficus elastica is insufficiently characterized as a source of medicinal plant raw materials. Therefore, study of its raw materials for the purpose of standardization is relevant.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

The component composition of the samples was determined by means of gas chromatography-mass- spectrometry. The research was carried out on the Agilent Technologies equipment, consisting of: 1) a 7890 gas chromatograph (HP-5 column, 50 m \times 320 \times 1.05 mkm) and 2) a 5975 C mass selective detector with a quadrupole mass analyzer. Temperature chromatography program was: at 40 °C-isotherm 2 min; then programmable heating up to 250 °C at the speed of 5 °C/min; at 250 °C-isotherm 15 min; then heating up to 320 °C at the speed of 25 °C / min; at 320 °C-isotherm 5 min. Injector separates the flow 1:50. The injector's temperature is 250 °C. Interface temperature is 280 °C. Eluent gas was helium; flow rate was 1 ml/min. Chromatogram of samples was conducted by the total ion current. Conditions for massspectrometric analysis were: the energy of ionizing electrons is 70 eV; registration of mass spectra of positive ions is in the range (m/z) from 20 to 450 at the speed of 2.5 scans/sec. Software used - ChemStation E 02.00. The component composition identification (qualitative analysis) was completed with the help of the library of NIST-05 full mass-spectra and corresponding values of chromatographic linear retention indices. Relative content (%) of the mixture components (quantitative analysis) was calculated from the ratio of the areas of chromatographic peaks (by simple normalization).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

External signs

Whole raw materials. *Ficus elastica* is characterized by a whole, rarely broken, simple, elliptical shape with a pointed tip, approximately 15 cm long and 10 cm wide leaves. There is a petiole 3 cm length. Leaf venation is pinnate, and the edge of the leaf is smooth. The leaf is not pubescent. The upper side of the leaf plate is dark green, whereas the lower side is green. Its smell is faint. The taste is bitter. Specific features: leaf is leathery and juicy (Figure 2A).

Ground raw materials. Pieces of leaves pass through a sieve with holes 7 mm in diameter. The color of the leaf pieces is green. The smell is faint. The taste is bitter (Figure 2B).

Qualitative reaction

A few drops of NaOH and NH₄Fe(SO₄)₂·12H₂O were placed on the lower part of the leaf (Figure 3A). During the reaction, after a few minutes, at the site of NaOH application the leaf turned brown and, afterwards, a NH₄Fe(SO₄)₂·12H₂O application to the same site did not lead to any visible reaction (Figure 3B).

The alcohol extraction from the leaves of *Ficus elastica* (Figure 4) was analyzed by chromatography-mass-spectrometry. As a result, 68 compounds were identified (Table 1).

The compounds found in the sample can be divided into three groups:

Major compounds, whose content exceeds 3%: 1,2-Benzenediol; Hydroquinone; 6-D-Glucopyranoside, methyl; 2-Hydroxy-3methylsuccinic acid; Phytol; 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, ethyl ester, (Z,Z,Z)-; Lup-20(29)-en-3-one; Lanosterol.

Minor compounds whose content is less than 1%: 3-Carbamyl-(14H) (E)-nor-eburnamenine (3a,15a); Ethaneperoxoic acid, 1-cyano-1,4-diphenylpentyl ester; Pentanamide, 2-(dimethylamino)-N-[7-(hydroxyphenylmethyl)-3-(1-methylethyl)-5,8-dioxo-2-oxa-6,9-diazabicyclo[10.2.2]hexadeca-12,14,15-trien-4-yl]-3-methyl-; 1,2-Ethanediol, monoacetate; 2(3H)-Furanone, 5-ethoxydihydro-; 3-Penten-2-one,3-ethyl-4-methyl-;Phenol,2-methoxy-;Cyclopentanol; 9,10-Anthracenedione, 1,8-diethoxy-; Pterin-6-carboxylic acid; 2(3H)-Furanone, 5-acetyldihydro-; Imidazole, 2-[[(6-carboxy) propionyl]amino]-; 4H-Pyran-4-one, 2,3-dihydro-3,5-dihydroxy-



Figure 2A: Fresh leave of F. Elastica. (at column width)



Figure 2B: Ground raw materials of F. Elastica. (at column width)



Figure 3A: The reaction with NaOH and NH₄Fe(SO₄)₂·12H₂O. (at column width)



Figure 3B: After the reaction with NaOH and $\rm NH_4Fe(SO_4)_2\cdot 12H_2O.$ (at column width)



6-methyl-; 2-Chloroethyl benzoate; Benzofuran, 2,3-dihydro-; Dammar-22-en-3-ol, 20,24-epoxy-24-methyl-, acetate, (36,24S)-; 1-Aminocyclopentane hydroxamic acid; 4,7-Methanoisobenzofuran-3a,4,7,7a-tetrahydro-3-hydroxy-; 1(3H)-one, Cyclopentanone, 2-(2-octenyl)-; 2-Methoxy-4-vinylphenol; 2-Methyl-6-(1-propenyl) piperidine, [2R-[2a, 6a(E)]-; d-Glucitol, 6-desoxy-6-thio-noctyl-2,5-anhydro-; 1,2,3-Benzenetriol; Vanillin; 1-Dodecanol; D-Allose; 4-Aminoresorcinol; Propan-2-one, 1-(4-isopropoxy-3methoxyphenyl)-; 4-Butyl-indan-5-ol; Megastigmatrienone; 4-((1E)-3-Hydroxy-1-propenyl)-2-methoxyphenol; Galacto-heptulose; Acetic acid, 2-(2,2,6-trimethyl-7-oxa-bicyclo[4.1.0]hept-1-yl)-propenyl ester; 2-Pentadecanone, 6,10,14-trimethyl-; 7H-Furo[3,2-g][1]benzopyran-7-one; 1-Tetradecanol; 4,4,6a,6b,8a,11,11,14b-Octamethyl-1,4,4a,5 ,6,6a,6b,7,8,8a,9,10,11,12,12a,14,14a,14b-octadecahydro-2H-picen-3-one; 12-Oleanen-3-yl acetate, (3a)-; Androstane-11,17-dione, 3-[(trimethylsilyl)oxy]-, 17-[O-(phenylmethyl)oxime], (3a,5a)-; D:B-Friedo-B':A'-neogammacer-5-en-3-ol, (36)-; Vitamin E; Hexadecanoic acid, 2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)ethyl ester; Phenol, 2,4-bis(1methyl-1-phenylethyl)-; 1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, mono(2ethylhexyl) ester; 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-, 2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)ethyl ester; 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, ethyl ester, (Z,Z,Z)-; 9-Octadecenamide, (Z)-; Spirost-8-en-11-one, 3-hydroxy-, (36,5a,146,206,226,25R)-; Carbamic acid, N-[10,11-dihydro-5-(2-methylamino-1-oxoethyl)-3-5H-dibenzo[b,f]azepinyl]-, ethyl ester.

Compounds whose content ranges from 1% to 3% are: a-d-Lyxofuranoside, methyl; n-Hexadecanoic acid; Hexadecanoic acid, ethyl ester; 1,8-Dioxacyclohexadecane-2,10-dione, 5,6:12,13-diepoxy-8,16-dimethyl-; 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, (Z,Z,Z)-; Dasycarpidan-1-methanol, acetate (ester); 9-Octadecenamide, (Z)-; 3-Sitosterol; Lupeol; 16-Allopregnene-36,9a-diol-20-one 3-O-acetate.

In the total sample saponins were detected in quantity of 20%, consisting of: Lanosterol (31%) and Lup-20(29)-en-3-one (21%). The content of Dammar-22-en-3-ol, 20,24-epoxy-24-methyl-, acetate, (36,24S)-, Androstane-11,17-dione, 3-[(trimethylsilyl) oxy], 17-[O-(phenylmethyl)oxime],(3a,5a)-, Spirost-8-en-11-one, 3-hydroxy-, (36, 5a, 146, 206, 226, 25R) does not exceed 1 %. Saponins are assumed to be participating in lowering cholesterol, stimulation of luteinizing hormone release, leading to abortifacient properties, immunomodulatory potential, cytostatic and cytotoxic effects, etc.²⁸

It was found that the total content of phenols was 10%. The maximum content of phenols was accounted for Hydroquinone (55%), 1, 2-Benzenediol (33%). Minor components are Phenol, 2,4-bis(1-methyl-1-phenylethyl)-(1%), 4-((1E)-3-Hydroxy-1-propenyl)-2-methoxyphenol(1%), 4-Butyl-indan-5-ol(1%), Vanillin(1%), Phenol, 2-methoxy-(1%), 1,2,3-Benzenetriol(1%), Propan-2-one, 1-(4-isopropoxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-(1%). Hydroquinone is a pharmacologically active compound with disinfectant, antimicrobial, and diuretic properties.

It was found that the total carbohydrate content is 31%. A large number of sugars, apparently, indicates the content of glycosides. The maximum amount identified is applied to 6-D-Glucopyranoside, methyl (93%). The minimum amount detected turns out to be d-Glucitol, 6-desoxy-6-thio-n-octyl-2,5-anhydro - (1%).

The composition of Ficus elastica contains 19% organic acids and esters. Most of all: 2-Hydroxy-3-methylsuccinic acid (36%), 9, 12, 15-Octadecatrienoic acid, ethyl ester, (Z,Z, Z)-(26%). Minor components are Ethaneperoxoic acid, 1-cyano-1,4-diphenylpentyl ester (1%), Pterin-6-carboxylic acid (1%), Imidazole, 2-[[(6-carboxy) propionyl]amino]-(1%), Acetic acid, 2-(2,2,6-trimethyl-7-oxa-bicyclo[4.1.0]hept-1-yl)-propenyl ester (1%), 1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acid, mono(2-ethylhexyl) ester (1%), 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-, 2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)ethyl ester (1%), Carbamic acid, N-[10,11-dihydro-5-(2-methylamino-1-oxoethyl)-3-5H-dibenzo[b,f] azepinyl]-, ethyl ester (1%).

Ficus elastica contains 11% alcohol. The maximum content of alcohol is accounted for Phytol (87%). The minimum content of alcohol is accounted for 4, 7-Methanoisobenzofuran-1(3H)-one, 3a, 4, 7, 7a-tetrahydro-3-hydroxy-(1%), 1-Tetradecanol (1%), 1, 2-Ethanediol, monoacetate (1%), 4H-Pyran-4-one, 2, 3-dihydro-3, 5-dihydroxy-6-methyl-(1%).

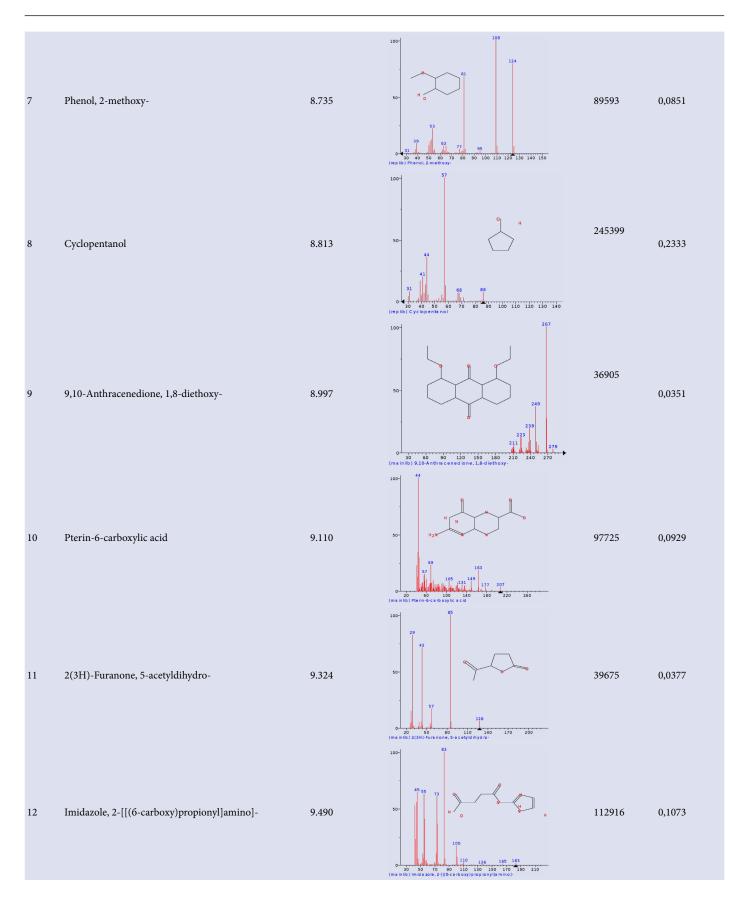
CONCLUSION

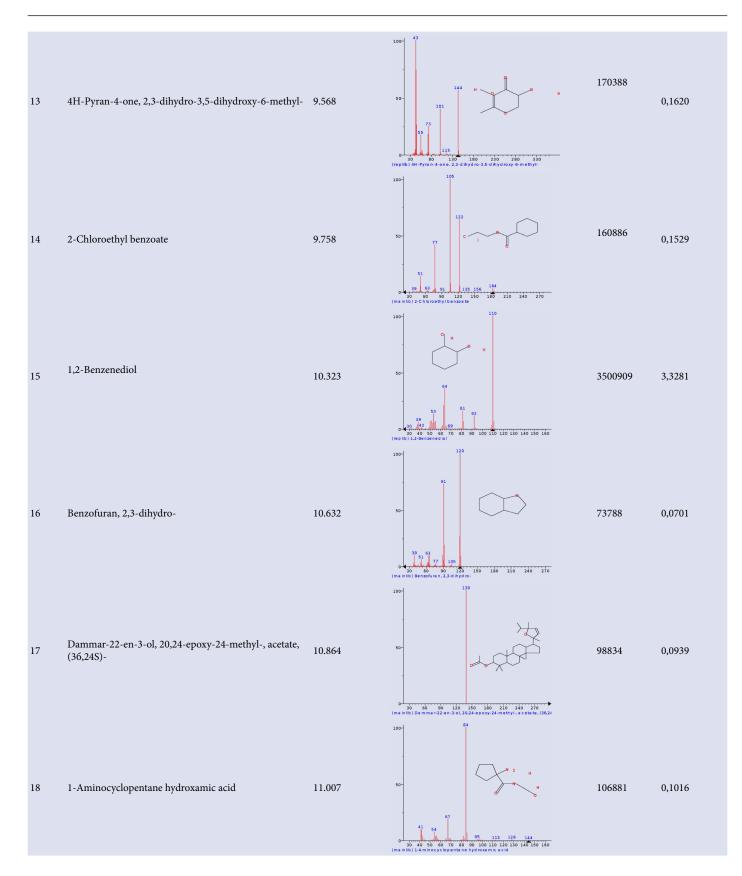
The identified morphological features of the leaves of *Ficus elastica* could be used for identification this species and develop indicators of authenticity for promising medicinal raw materials of leaves.

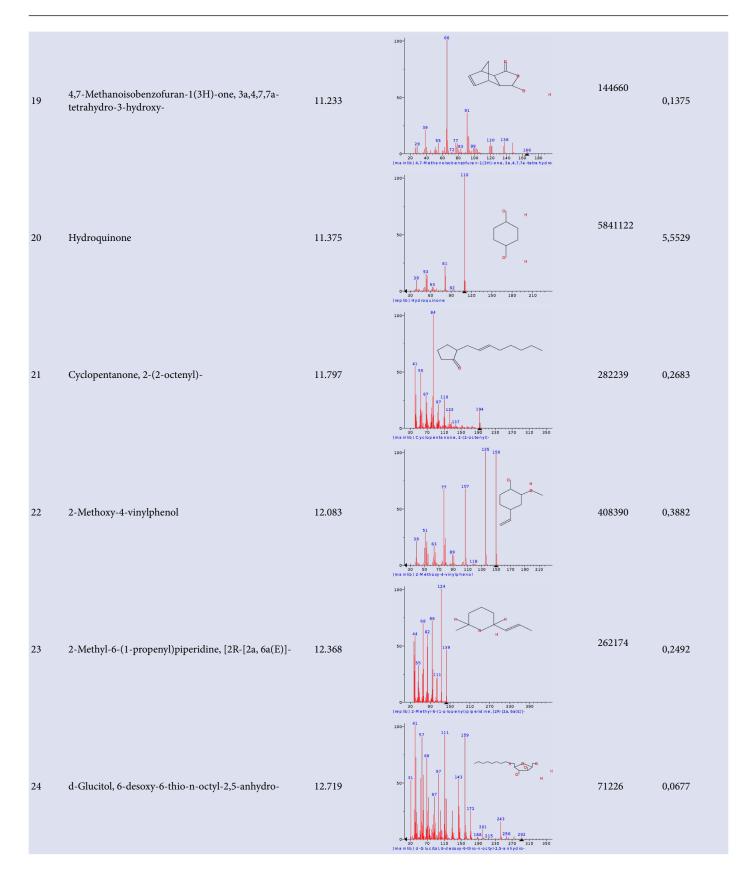
68 compounds were identified by chromatography-mass spectrometry. The maximum content was registrated for:6-D-Glucopyranoside, methyl (28,99%), Phytol (9,90%), 2-Hydroxy-3-methylsuccinic acid (6,93%), Lanosterol (6,13%), Hydroquinone (5,55%), 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, ethyl ester, (Z,Z,Z)- (4,86%), Lup-20(29)-en-3-one (4,17%), 1,2-Benzenediol (3,33%), Lupeol (2,95%), 16-Allopregnene-36,9a-diol-20-one 3-O-acetate (2,77%), 9-Octadecenamide, (Z)- (2,67%),

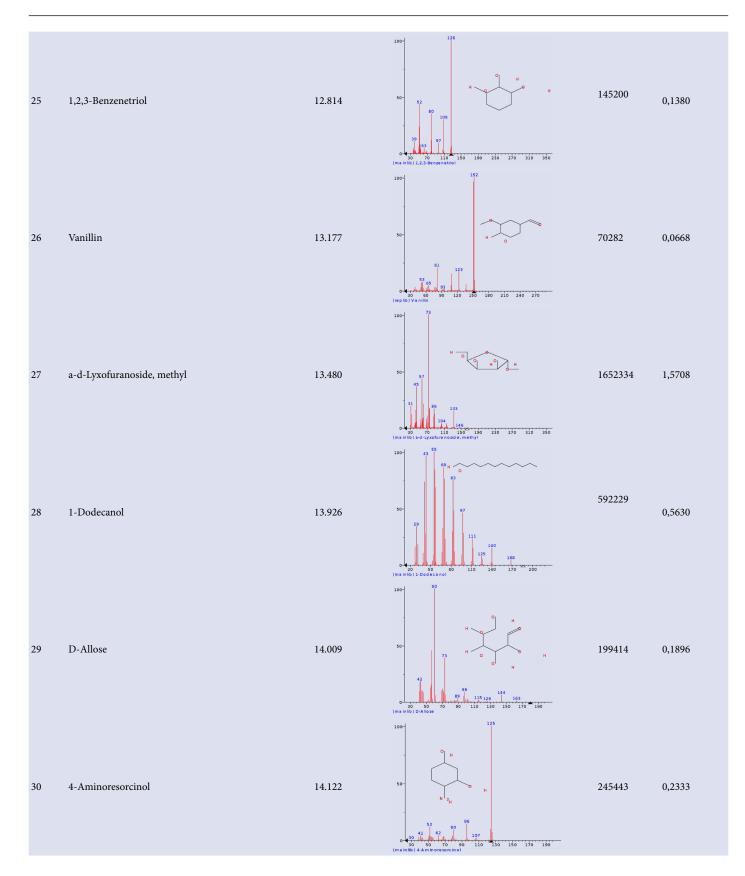
Nº	Name	Ret Time	Mass spectrum	Area	%
1	3-Carbamyl-(14H)(E)-nor-eburnamenine(3a,15a)	7.284	100 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 120 150 100 210 210 210 210 210 210 21	111282	0,1058
2	Ethaneperoxoic acid, 1-cyano-1,4-diphenylpentyl ester	7.647	100^{-100}	130297	0,1239
3	Pentanamide, 2-(dimethylamino)-N-[7- (hydroxyphenylmethyl)-3-(1-methylethyl)-5,8-dioxo-2- oxa-6,9-diazabicyclo[10.2.2] hexadeca-12,14,15-trien-4- yl]-3-methyl-	7.820	100 - 100	214294	0,2037
4	1,2-Ethanediol, monoacetate	8.075	100- 31 50- 32 43 50- 50- 50- 50- 50- 50- 50- 50-	81098	0,0771
5	2(3H)-Furanone, 5-ethoxydihydro-	8.361	100 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50	103824	0,0987
6	3-Penten-2-one, 3-ethyl-4-methyl-	8.432	100^{-1} 4^{-3}	139434	0,1325

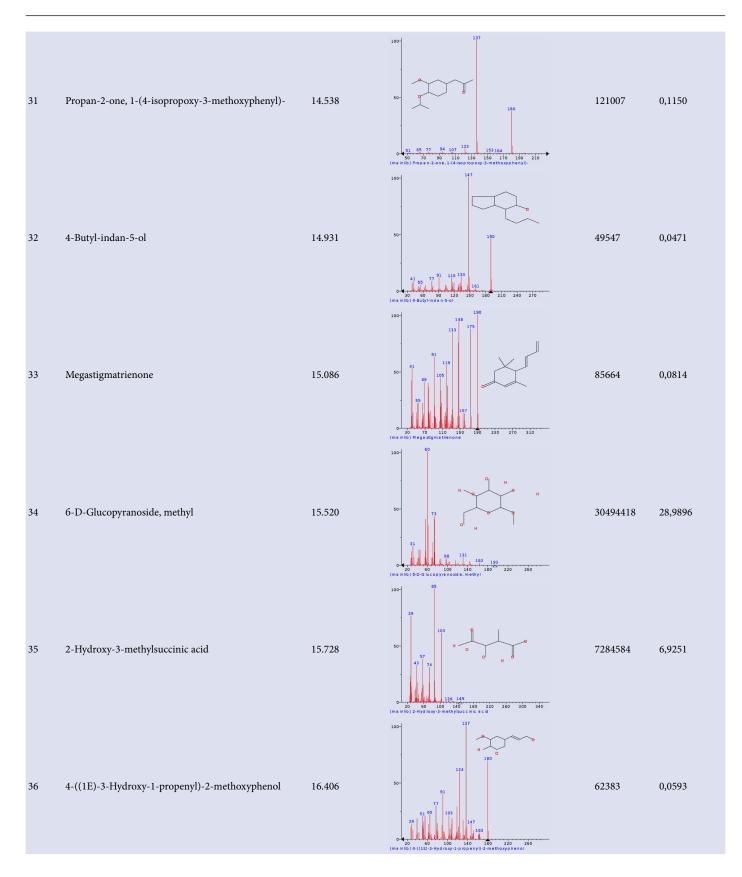
Table 1: The compounds were identified in alcohol extraction from the Ficus elastica.

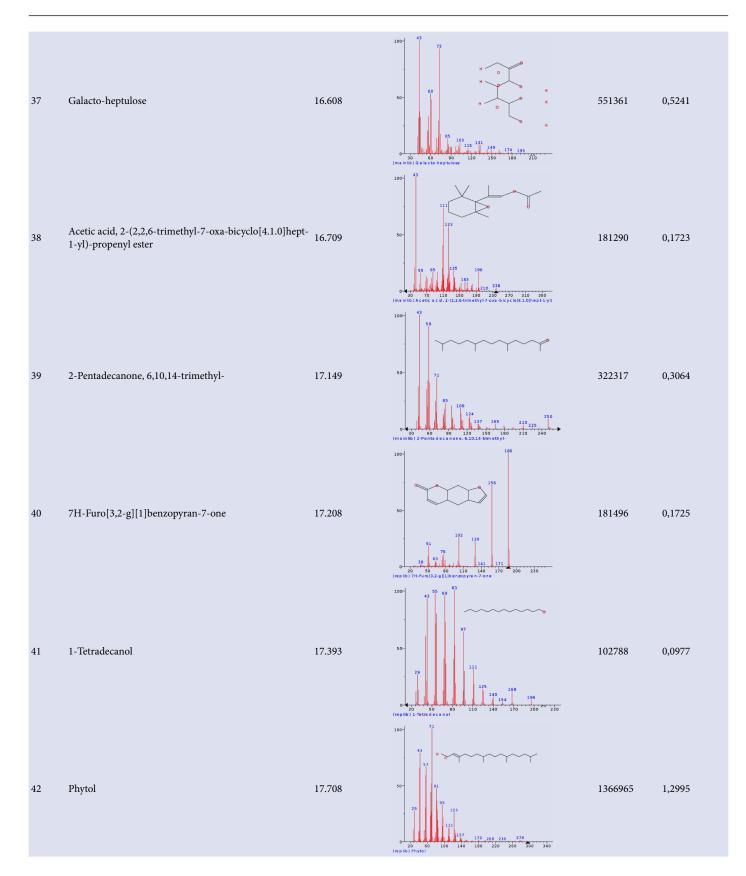


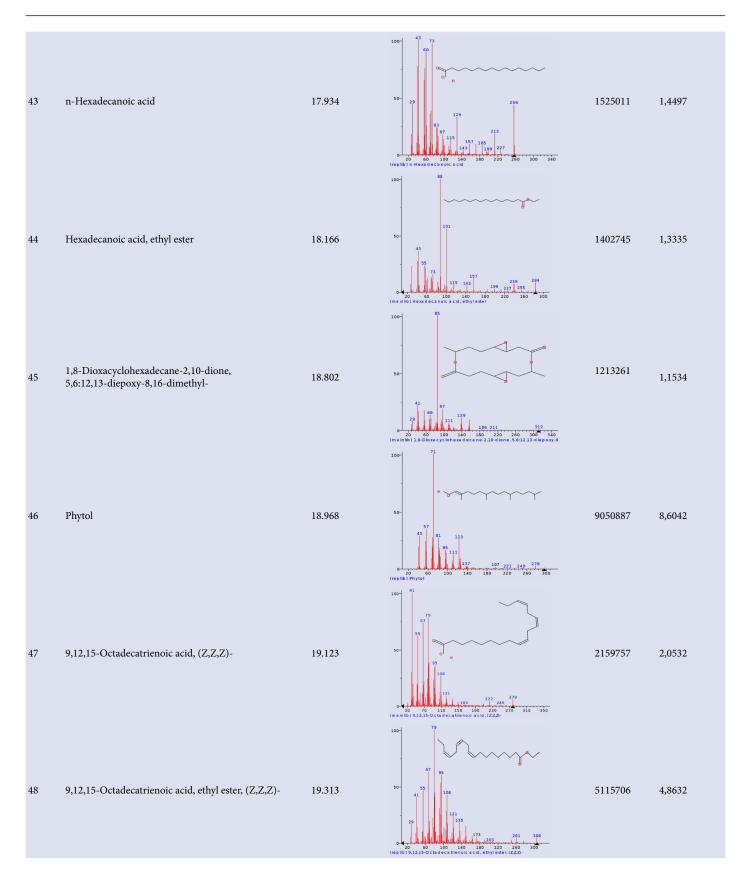


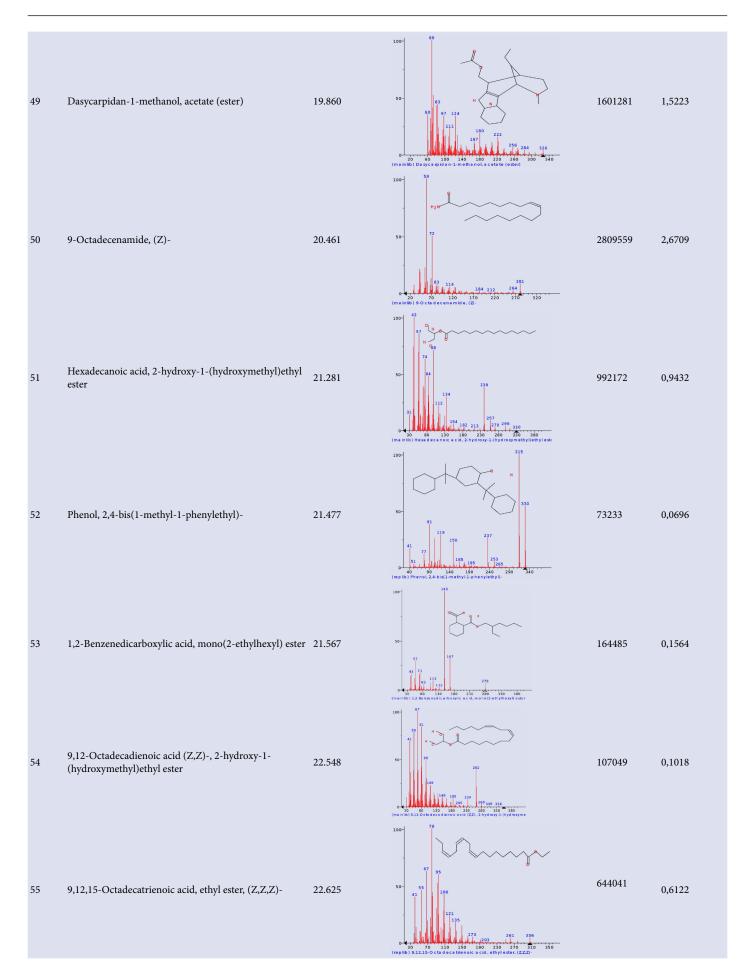


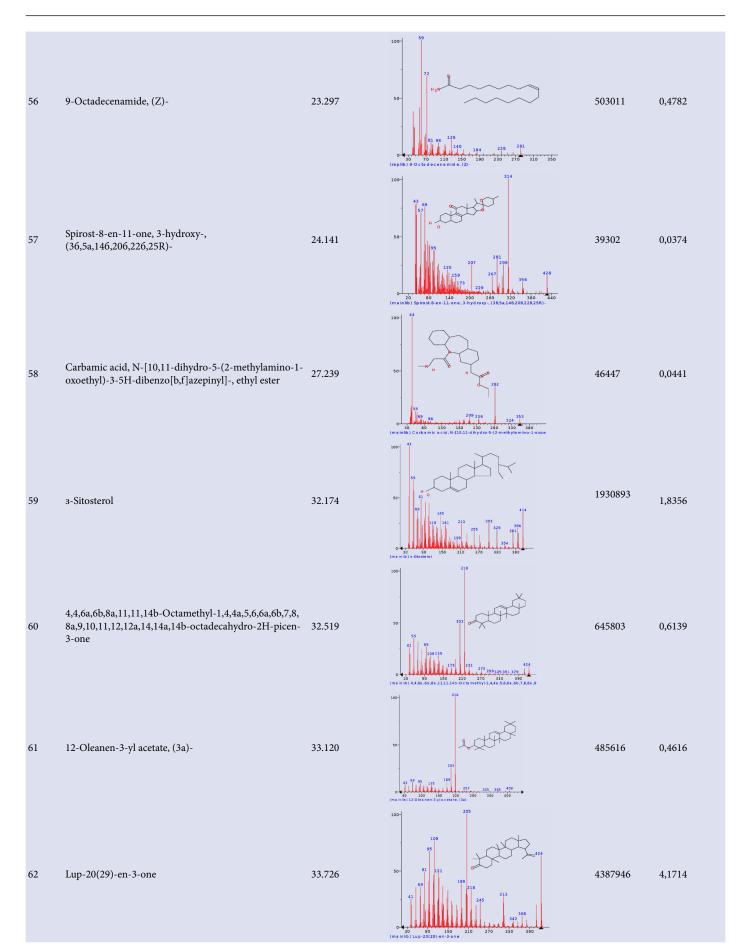


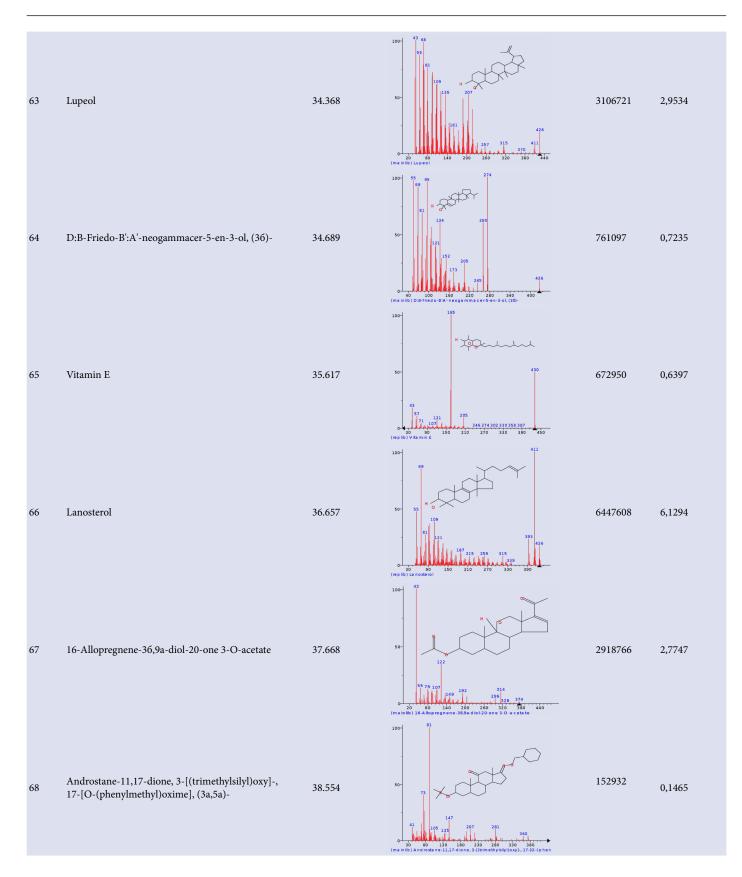












9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, (Z,Z,Z)- (2,05%), 3-Sitosterol (1,84%), a-d-Lyxofuranoside, methyl (1,57%), Dasycarpidan-1-methanol, acetate (ester) (1,52%), n-Hexadecanoic acid (1,45%), Hexadecanoic acid, ethyl ester (1,33%), 1,8-Dioxacyclohexadecane-2,10-dione, 5,6:12,13-diepoxy-8,16-dimethyl- (1,15%).

The relative percentage of identified compounds was determined using a simple normalization method.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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