

**P-063: ISOLATION OF OXYPREGNANE GLYCOSIDES FROM *HOODIA GORDONII***

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Hoodia is a succulent plant from African continent which is gaining great attention due to its claim as appetite suppressant. Apart from its anorectic activity, it has also been claimed to prevent aspirin-induced gastric damage and exhibit anti-diabetic activity. It is known that San Bushmen in the Kalahari Desert would eat fresh *H. gordonii* to suppress their appetite and reduce dehydration during their long hunting trips in the hot deserts. Recently, Phytopharm, Inc and CSIR, Pretoria, ZA, had patented the extract of *H. currorii*, *H. gordonii* and *H. lugerdii* as appetite suppressant. The active constituent was identified as P57AS3 (P57), an oxypregnane steroidal glycoside, was licensed to Phytopharm. Since then a large number of preparations of *Hoodia* and products claiming to contain *Hoodia* have flooded the market. Since no phytochemical and analytical studies are reported, the identification and standardization of extracts and formulations is a great concern. In an effort to achieve this goal we took up the phytochemical investigation of *Hoodia gordonii*. Here we are reporting the isolation and structural elucidation of 13 new oxypregnane glycosides from *H. gordonii*. The structures were established by the extensive use of IR, mass, NMR spectroscopy and chemical studies.