

PRELIMINARY PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING, ISOLATION AND STRUCTURAL ELUCIDATION OF BIOACTIVE COMPOUND FROM METHANOL BARK EXTRACTS OF *FICUS POLITA*

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Article Received on
27 Oct. 2019,

Revised on 17 Nov. 2019,
Accepted on 08 Dec. 2019

DOI: 10.20959/wjpr20201-16442

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to screen the phytochemical constituents, isolate and elucidate the structure of bioactive compound from methanol extracts from the bark of *Ficus polita*. The qualitative phytochemical analysis of the bark extract of *Ficus polita* was done following standard procedures and the tests revealed the presence of saponins, tannins, steroids, triterpenoids and lipids. The methanol extract of the bark led to the isolation of one compound, E5. Structure determination was accomplished by means of spectroscopic methods (FT-IR, ^{13}C , ^1H , COSY, and HSQC NMR). The spectral data of the isolated compound E5 is identical with spectral data of literature study, the spectral interpretation of the compound E5 shows that it is a

cardiolipin derivative, is a kind of disphosphatidylglycerol lipid in which all four of the phosphatidyl acyl groups are specified as oleoyl, it has two phosphatidic acid moieties connected to glycerol backbone in the center and potentially carries two negative charges, and is elucidated to be Tetraoleoylcardiolipin ($\text{C}_{81}\text{H}_{150}\text{O}_{17}\text{P}_2$) which is reported for the first time from *Ficus polita*.

KEYWORDS: *Ficus polita*, Methanol extract, Bark, Cardiolipin, Tetraoleoylcardiolipin.

INTRODUCTION

Ficus polita belongs to the well-known family of edible plants, Moraceae, it is an edible plant growing up to 15 and sometimes to 40 meters tall in coastal and dry forest (East and Southern Africa), lowland rainforest and gallery forest (West and Central Africa). The edible fruits are

chewed for dyspepsia, while leaves, bark and roots are used in the treatment of infectious diseases, cough, abdominal pains and diarrhea.^{[1][2]} The bark, leave and branch is used in treatment of all pregnancy disorders and breast milk booster enhancing tonic.^[3] The leaves, roots and bark are used by traditional people in Kano for the management of diabetes.^[4] The methanol bark extract shows high antidiabetic activity, and effective use of the extract could lead to the cure of the diabetic problems around the world.^[5] In the previous studies, researchers reported the isolation of euphol-3-*O*-cinnamate, lupeol, taraxar-14-ene, ursolic acid, β -sitosterol, betulinic acid, sitosterol 3-*O*- β -D-glucopyranoside and (E)-3,5,4'-trihydroxy-stilbene-3,5-*O*- β -D-digluco-pyranoside and politamide from roots and stem bark parts of plant.^{[2][6]} In the present study, preliminary phytochemical analysis, isolation and structural elucidation of methanol extract of the plant bark has been done.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of The Plant Samples And Preparation

The plant was identified and authenticated in herbarium of Bayero University Kano and a voucher specimen was deposited BUKHAN 104. The branches of *Ficus polita* were harvested and the barks peeled off while still fresh, cut into small portions, and dried at room temperature under shade for one month. The dried plant barks were grounded, and the powdered was kept at room temperature away from direct sunlight.^[5]

Extraction and Isolation of *Ficus Polita* Bark

The powdered sample (500g) was macerated using Ethanol (2L) for 7 days with occasional agitation. The solvent was evaporated using rotary evaporator at 40⁰C. The crude ethanol extract was macerated sequentially using n-hexane, chloroform, ethyl acetate (EtOAc) and methanol (MeOH). The fractions of these solvents were dried by exposing them to air at room temperature.^[5] The methanol extract (5g) was subjected to column chromatography, the column was eluted with n-hexane, EtOAc and MeOH.^[7] This gave different fractions and each fraction was analyzed on TLC and similar fractions were combined according to their TLC patterns which were pooled together. Pooled fraction with single spot was subjected to spectroscopic analysis. The structure of isolated pooled component (E5) was elucidated by NMR (¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, COSY, HSQC) and IR techniques. The resulting spectral data obtained for E5 was interpreted by comparing with identical literature spectral data, FIDs of both the literature data and the experimental data were viewed, processed and compared using Spinworks, and the structure was elucidated.^[8]

Phytochemical Screening

Ficus polita bark crude ethanol extract and fractions were screened for the presence of phytochemicals such as alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins, saponins, triterpenoids, steroids, carbohydrates, anthraquinones and lipids using standard phytochemical procedures.^{[9][10]}

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

Table 1: Phytochemical screening results of *Ficus polita* bark extracts.

Phytochemical constituent	Fractions				
	Crude Extract	n-Hexane	Chloroform	Ethyl acetate	Methanol
Alkaloids	+	-	-	-	-
Flavonoids	+	-	-	+	-
Tannins	+	+	+	+	+
Triterpenoids	+	+	+	+	+
Steroids	+	+	+	+	+
Saponin	+	+	+	+	+
Anthraquinones	+	+	+	+	-
Carbohydrates	+	+	+	+	-
Lipids	+	+	+	+	+

Key: + = Presence - = Absence

Table 2: Column Chromatography of Methanol Extract of *Ficus Polita* Bark.

Solvent System	Volume	50ml Label Portion Collected				Weight (g)
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	
n-Hexane	100% (200ml)	A ₁	A ₂	A ₃	A ₄	0.0037
n-Hexane : Ethyl acetate	95:5% (190:10ml)	A ₅	A ₆	A ₇	A ₈	0.0040
n-Hexane : Ethyl acetate	80:20% (160:40ml)	B ₁	B ₂	B ₃	B ₄	0.0153
n-Hexane : Ethyl acetate	70:30% (140:60ml)	B ₅	B ₆	B ₇	B ₈	0.0102
n-Hexane : Ethyl acetate	50:50% (100:100ml)	C ₁	C ₂	C ₃	C ₄	0.0598
n-Hexane : Ethyl acetate	30:70% (60:140ml)	C ₅	C ₆	C ₇	C ₈	0.0536
n-Hexane : Ethyl acetate	10:90% (20:1800ml)	D ₁	D ₂	D ₃	D ₄	0.0579
Ethyl acetate	100% (200ml)	E ₁	E ₂	E ₃	E ₄	0.0535
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	95:5% (190:10ml)	E ₅	E ₆	E ₇	E ₈	0.0530
Ethyl acetate: Methanol	90:10% (180:20ml)	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	F ₄	0.0930
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	85:15% (170:30ml)	F ₅	F ₆	F ₇	F ₈	0.3412
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	80:20% (160:40ml)	G ₁	G ₂	G ₃	G ₄	0.3848
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	75:25% (150:50ml)	G ₅	G ₆	G ₇	G ₈	0.3096
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	70:30% (140:60ml)	H ₁	H ₂	H ₃	H ₄	0.3758
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	65:35% (130:70ml)	H ₅	H ₆	H ₇	H ₈	0.3806
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	60:40% (120:80ml)	I ₁	I ₂	I ₃	I ₄	0.3881
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	50:50% (100:100ml)	I ₅	I ₆	I ₇	I ₈	0.3432
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	40:60% (80:120ml)	J ₁	J ₂	J ₃	J ₄	0.3526
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	30:70% (60:140ml)	J ₅	J ₆	J ₇	J ₈	0.3859
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	20:80% (40:160ml)	K ₁	K ₂	K ₃	K ₄	0.0828

Ethyl acetate : Methanol	15:85%	(30:170ml)	K ₅	K ₆	K ₇	K ₈	0.0271
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	10:90%	(20:180ml)	L ₁	L ₂	L ₃	L ₄	0.0125
Ethyl acetate : Methanol	5:95%	(10:190ml)	L ₅	L ₆	L ₇	L ₈	0.0121
Methanol	100%	(200ml)	M ₁	M ₂	M ₃	M ₄	0.0750

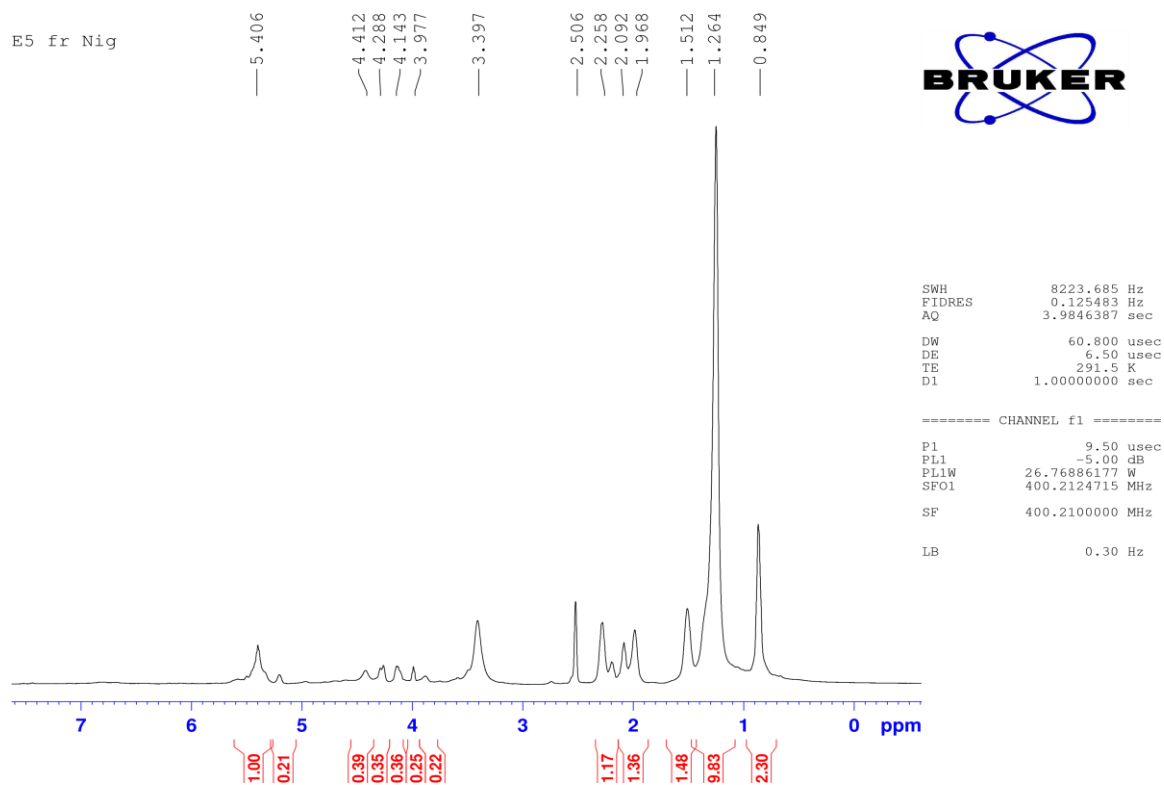


Fig. 1: ¹H NMR of compound E5 in DMSO-d₆.

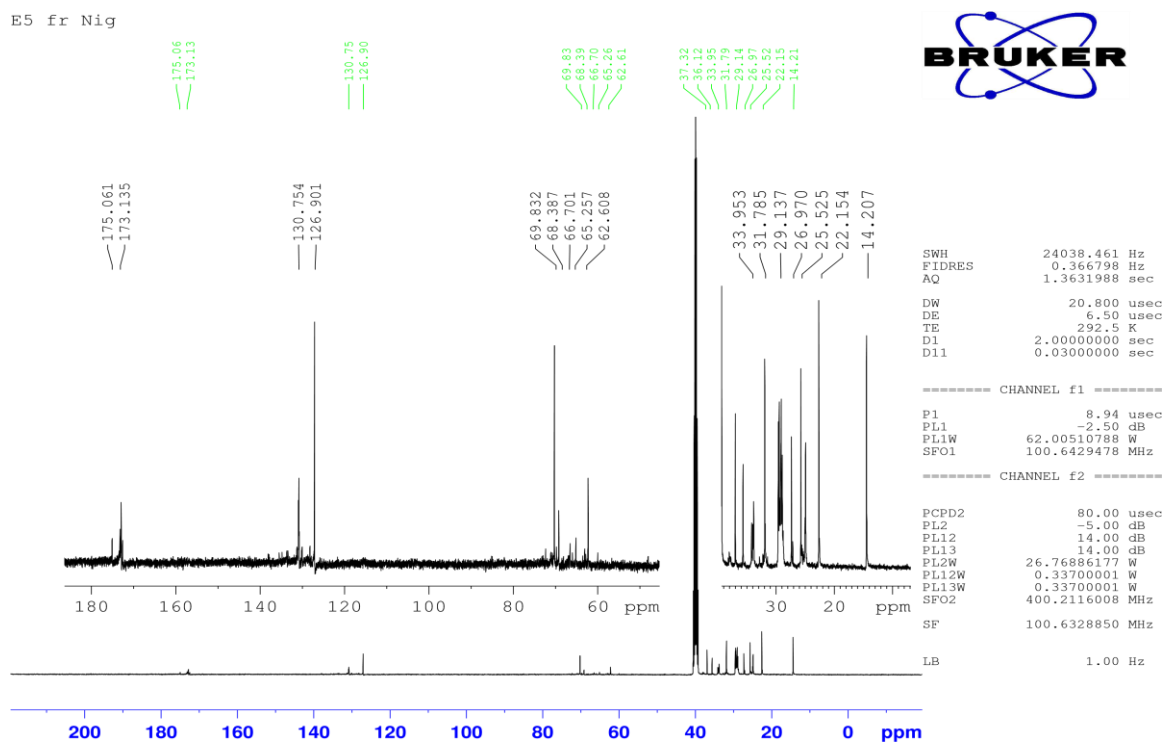


Fig. 2: ¹³C NMR of Compound E5 in DMSO-d₆.

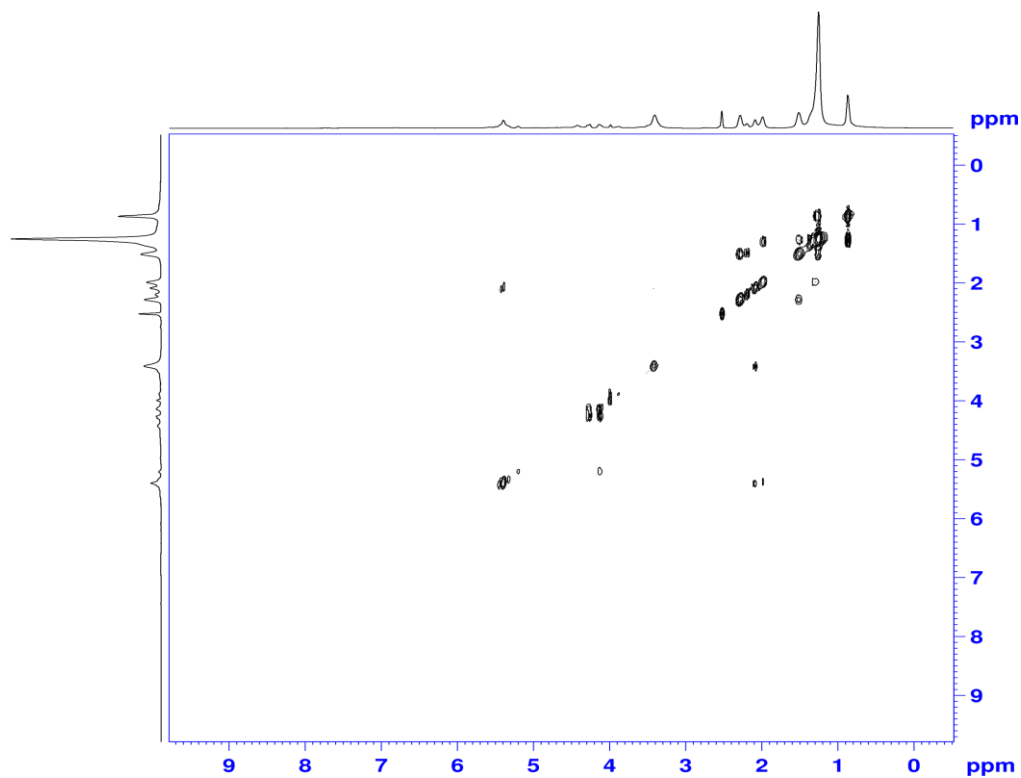


Fig. 3: COSY of compound E5 in DMSO-d₆.

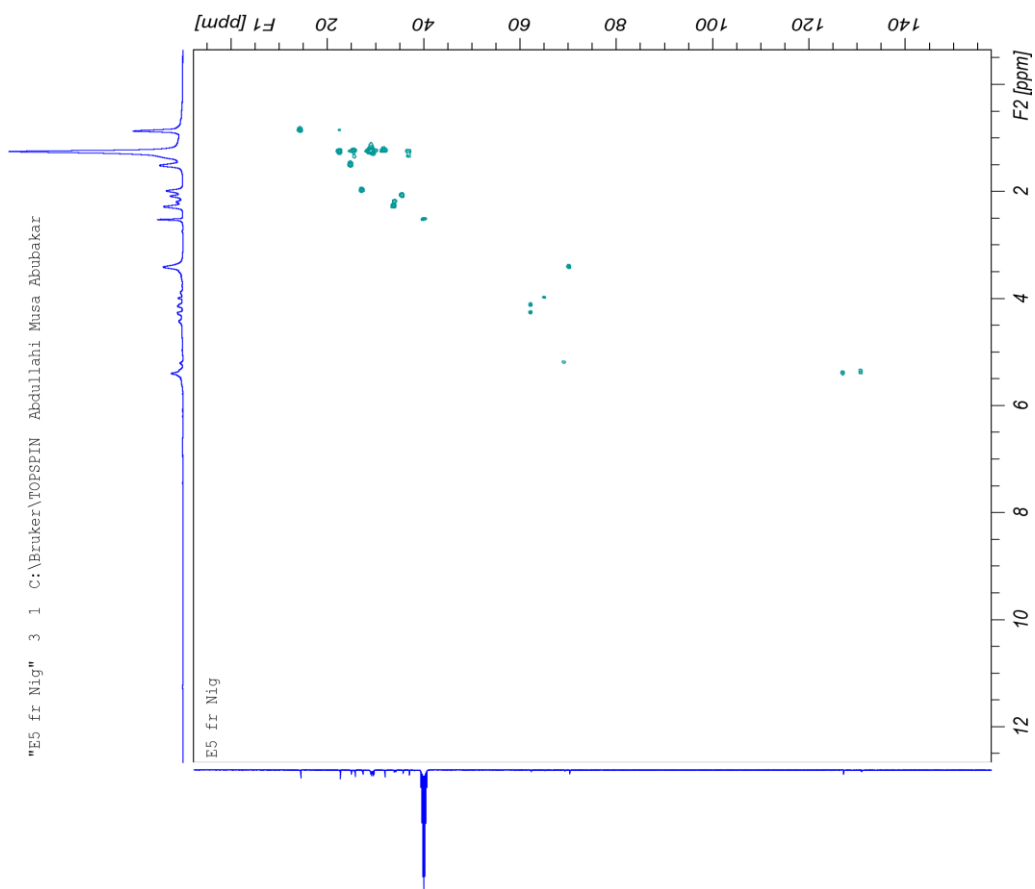


Fig. 4: HSQC of compound E5 in DMSO-d₆



Agilent Technologies

Sample ID: E5 Method Name: DATA COLLECT ONLY

Sample Scans: 32 User: FTIR

Background Scans: 32 Date/Time: 10/25/2018 3:00:01PM

Resolution: 8 cm-1 Range: 4,000.00 - 650.00

System Status: Good Apodization: Happ-Genzel

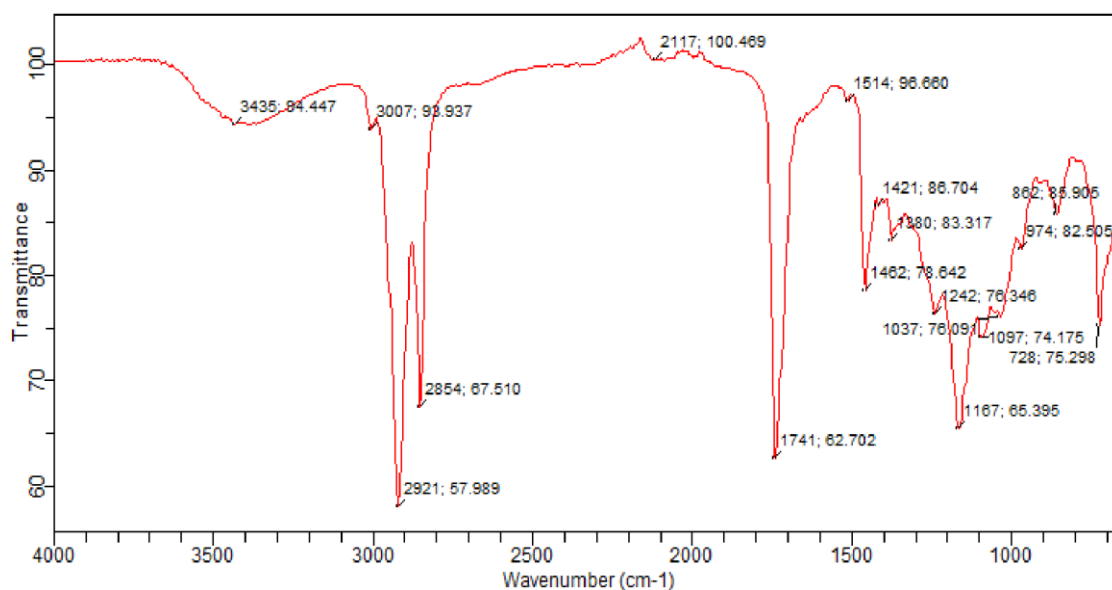


Fig. 5: FT-IR of Compound E5.

Table 3: ^1H NMR chemical shift data of compound E5.

Experiment δ_{H}	Literature δ_{H}^*	^1H Assignment	^1H Position in E5
0.849	0.880	RCH ₃	H1
1.264	1.268	RCH ₂ R	H2, H2'
1.512	1.582	RCH ₂ R	H5
1.968	1.968	RCH ₂ C=C	H3
2.092	2.024	RCH ₂ C=C	H3'
2.258	2.285	RCH ₂ C=O	H6
2.506		DMSO	
3.397	7.26	H ₂ O	
3.977	3.923	RCH ₂ OR	H7, H9
4.143	4.180	RCH ₂ OR	H8
4.288	4.381	RCH ₂ OR	H10
4.412	4.402	R ₂ COH	H11, H11'
5.406	5.337	RC=CH	H4

Key: δ_{H}^* Tetraoleoylcardiolipin Spectra in CDCl₃.^{18]}

Table 4: ^{13}C NMR chemical shift data of compound E5.

Experiment δ_{C}	Literature δ_{C}^*	^{13}C Assignment	Carbon Position in E5
14.207	14.137	RCH ₃	C1
22.154	22.708	RCH ₂ R	C2
25.525	24.963	RCH ₂ R	C9
26.970	27.261	RCH ₂ R	C6
29.137	29.353	RCH ₂ R	C4
31.787	29.805	RCH ₂ R	C5
33.953	31.938	RCH ₂ R	C11
36.12	34.114	RCH ₂ R	C3
37.32	34.312	RCH ₂ R	C10
62.608	62.736	R ₃ COR	C14
65.257	63.508	R ₃ COR	C16
66.701	66.799	R ₃ COR	C17
68.387	69.523	R ₃ COH	C18
69.832	70.487	R ₃ COR	C15
126.901	129.657	RC=CR	C7
130.754	129.989	RC=CR	C8
173.135	173.489	RCOOR	C12
175.061	174.112	RCOOR	C13

Key: δ_{C}^* Tetraoleoylcardiolipin Spectra in CDCl_3 .^[8]

Table 5: COSY (^1H - ^1H) and HSQC (^1H - ^{13}C) data of compound E5.

^1H Assignment	^1H - ^1H Correlation	^1H - ^{13}C Correlation	^{13}C Assignment
		H1 – C1	C1
		H2 – C2	C2
		H2' – C4	C9
H1		H2' – C5	C6
H2, H2'	H1 – H2	H2' – C10	C4
H5	H2' – H3	H3 – C6	C5
H3	H2' – H5	H3' – C6	C3
H3'	H5 – H6	H4 – C7	C11
H6	H3 – H4	H4 – C8	C10
DMSO	H3' – H4	H5 – C9	C14
H ₂ O	H7 – H8	H6 – C11	C16
H7, H9	H8 – H9	H7 – C14	C17
H8	H10 – H11	H8 – C15	C18
H10		H9 – C16	C15
H11, H11'		H10 – C17	C7
H4		H11 – C18	C8
			C12
			C13

DISCUSSION

The phytochemical analysis carried out on the bark of *Ficus polita* plant shows the presence of saponin, steroid, triterpenoid, tannin and lipids in all the fractions. Carbohydrate and anthraquinone are present in all the fractions with exception of methanolic fraction. Flavonoid however is present in crude ethanol extract and ethyl acetate fractions. However, alkaloid is present only in crude ethanol extract. The result corresponds to the report in the literature that different solvent extraction and geographical area may result in obtaining different phytochemical constituents.^{[11][12][13]}

The compound E5 spectral data is identical with the literature spectral data obtained. The compound E5 was elucidated to be Tetraoleoylcardiolipin ($C_{81}H_{150}O_{17}P_2$).

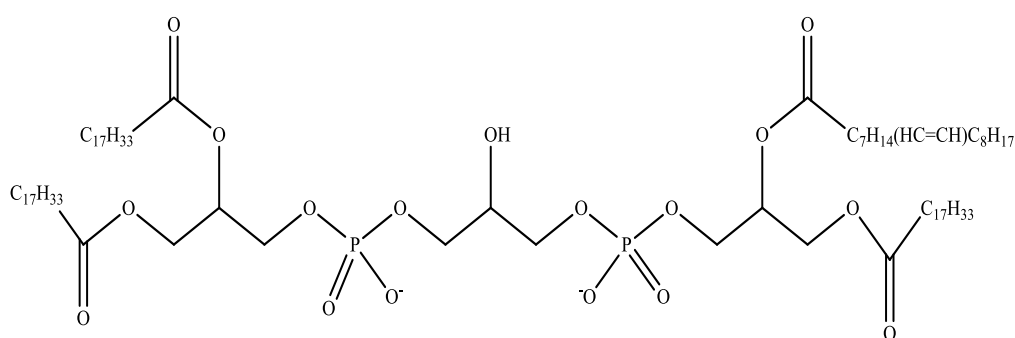


Figure 6: Structure of Tetraoleoylcardiolipin (E5).

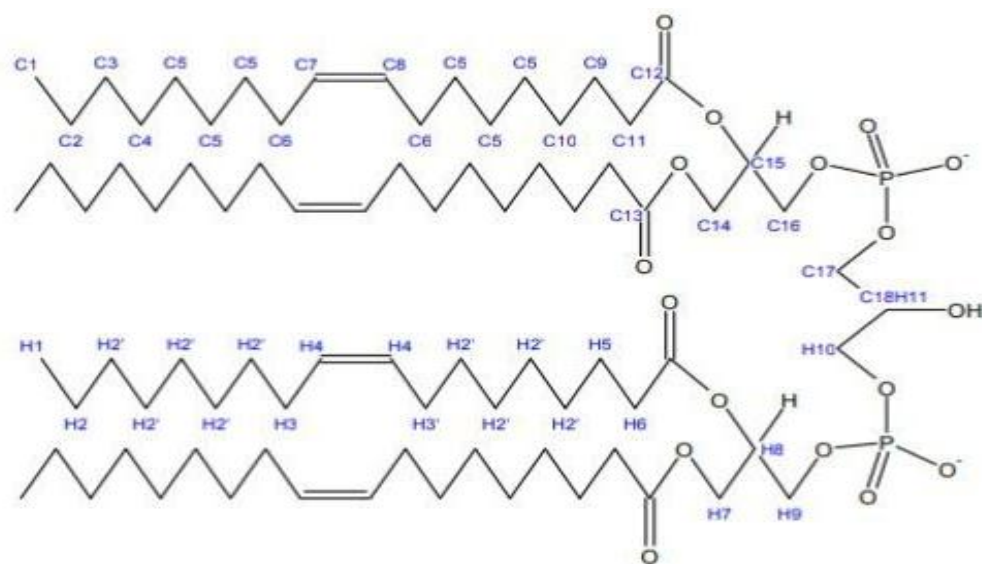


Figure 7: Proposed 1H and ^{13}C assignment of Compound E5.

The characteristic 1H NMR shows overlapping around 1.264 ppm, proton that is bonded carbon connected to oxygen, alcoholic proton, vinylic proton and there is presence of allylic

proton and also proton adjacent to carbonyl carbon as shown in figure 1. The characteristics of ^{13}C peaks in the spectrum of E5 revealed that the carbons are mainly aliphatic, carbon directly bonded to oxygen, alcoholic carbon, vinylic carbons, and esters as shown in figure 2. The COSY and HSQC correlation correspond with the structure of the compound. The FT-IR Spectrum of the compound shows a characteristic absorbance for OH (3435cm^{-1}), C=C (3007cm^{-1}), C-H (2921cm^{-1} and 2854cm^{-1}), and C=O (1741cm^{-1}), CH_2 and CH_3 (1462cm^{-1}), CH_3 (1380cm^{-1}), C-O (1242cm^{-1}), P=O (1167cm^{-1}) and P-OR (1037cm^{-1}) as shown in figure 5.

The compound E5 is cardiolipin derivatives, is a kind of disphosphatidylglycerol lipid in which all four of the phosphatidyl acyl groups are specified as oleoyl. It has two phosphatidic acid moieties connect with a glycerol backbone in the center and potentially carries two negative charges with IUPAC name [(2R)-3-[[3-[[[(2R)-2,3-bis[[[(Z)-octadec-9-enoyl]oxy]propoxy]-hydroxyphosphoryl]oxy-2-hydroxypropoxy]-hydroxyphosphoryl]oxy-2-[(Z)-octadec-9-enoyl]oxypropyl](Z)-octadec-9-enoate.

CONCLUSION

The *Ficus polita* bark methanol extract shows presence saponins, tannins, steroids, triterpenoids and lipids. Isolation and identification of bioactive compound indicates that the compound isolated is a cardiolipin derivative, tetraoleoylcardiolipin ($\text{C}_{81}\text{H}_{150}\text{O}_{17}\text{P}_2$).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledged the support given to me by Alh. Goni Baba Gana's family, Alh. Bulama Lawan's family, my colleagues, Umar Ya'u, Ali Ya'u Yusuf, Abdulsalam AS, M. Kaka YSU, Abdullahi Firat, Dr. Fatih Briyan and the entire staff of Pure and Industrial Chemistry Department, Bayero University Kano.

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