The Chemistry of Brazilian Quiinaceae.

I. Constituents of Touroulia guianensis and Lacunaria jenmani

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The small family Quiinaceae includes 4 genera (Froesia, Lacunaria, Quiina and Touroulia) with 37 central and south american species. Although generally included in the subclass Dilleniidae, order Theales [Cronquist, 1968], and considered derived from the Ochnaceae or the Theaceae, the family has even been placed in the subclass Rosidae, order Linales, and considered derived from the Linaceae [Hegnauer, 1968]. It was hoped that chemical data, lacking at present time, may help to clarify the presently uncertain systematic position.

The analysis of trunk wood of Touroulia guianensis Aubl. revealed the presence of 2,6-dimethoxy-p-benzoquinone [Corrêa et al., 1970], friedelan-3oc-ol and friedelin [Drake & Campbell, 1936], sitosterol and 8-sitostenone [Lavie & Kaye, 1963], and syringaresinol [Weinges, 1961]. Friedelin, sitosterol and syringaresinol were also isolated from the trunk wood of Lacunaria jenmani Ducke.

While, thus, both genera appear to be close chemical relatives, the analysis fails to indicate affinities of the family, since the isolated constituents are of widespread occurrence in the plant kingdom.
LITERATURE CITED

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