OP-54 ANTHRAQUINONES AND PRE-ANTHRAQUINONES FROM THE SUBTERRANEAN STEMS OF THREE KENYAN *ALOE* SPECIES OF THE SAPONARIAE GROUP

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Some Aloe species are cultivated for their medicinal and cosmetic properties. In this study, the constituents of three Kenyan *Aloe* species, *A. kilifiensis*,, *A. lateritia* and *A. graminicolla* were characterized. A number of anthraquinones and pre-anthraquinones were isolated. They included chrysophanol , aloe saponarin I and II, helminthosporin, asphodelin, di-aloesaponarin, pre-chrysophanol (1), aloesaponol I & II, asphodelin-10-rhamnoside (2), 10-(chrysophanol-7'-yl)-10-hydroxychrysophanol-9-anthrone (3). Compound 2 was obtained for the first time from the genus *Aloe*. The structure elucidation and the chemotaxonomic significance of some of these compounds will be presented.