

82.1 Introduction

Signaluo, Retinervus Luffae fructus, is the fibrovascular bundle of the dry ripe fruits of *Luffa cylindrica* (L.) Roem. (Cucurbitaceae) collected in the summer and fall when the fruits are ripe and the pericarp has turned yellow. It is officially listed in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia and used for treatment of paralytic diseases. In folk medicine it is used as an antitussive and in the treatment of chronic bronchitis.

82.2 Chemical Constituents

In recent years, a number of saponins named lucyosides A–M [1–3] together with oleanolic acid [4], oleanolic acid 3-*O*- β -D-glucopyranoside, hederagenin 3-*O*- β -D-glucopyranoside [3], and ginsenosides Re and Rg₁ [1] were isolated from the fruits or leaves and stem of *L. cylindrica*. Oleanolic acid, hederagenin, 21 β -hydroxyhederagenin, arjunolic acid, machaerinic acid, maslinic acid, gypsogenin, 2 α -hydroxygypsogenin, and 21 β -hydroxygypsogenin were identified as sapogenins for the lucyosides. The structures of lucyosides A–M (81-1–81-13) are summarized in Table 82.1.