Preliminary screening for antiinflammatory activity of various extracts of the seeds and flowers of *Vitex negundo*, the roots of *Vanda roxburghii*, and the roots and stem and leaves of *Acampe papillosa* revealed that the activity was in the petroleum ether extract and the chloroform extract of these plant parts. The petroleum ether extract of the seeds of *V. negundo* exhibiting 21.5% inhibition of oedema on chromatographic separation and purification led to the isolation of terpenoids characterized as $5\beta$-hydro-8,11,13-abietatrien-6α-ol (60) and lanostane-8,25-dien-3β-ol (61) in addition to β-sitosterol, n-alkanes, n-alkanol and the flavonoid artemetin (65). Out of these $5\beta$-hydro-8,11,13-abietatrien-6α-ol (60) and artemetin (65) could be subjected to antiinflammatory activity determination at 50 mg/kg, p.o. doses and these exhibited 18.1% and 32.4% inhibition of oedema, respectively. The chloroform extract of the seeds of *V. negundo* exhibiting 34.8% inhibition of oedema on chromatographic fractionation and purification yielded four triterpenoids characterized as $3\beta$-acetoxyolean-12-en-27-oic acid (66), $2\alpha,3\alpha$-dihydroxyoleana-5,12-dien-28-oic acid (70), $2\beta$, $3\alpha$-diacetoxyoleana-5,12-dien-28-oic acid (73) and $2\alpha,3\beta$-diacetoxy-18-hydroxyoleana-5,12-dien-28-oic acid (77), a lignan, 6-hydroxy-$\alpha$-4(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-3-hydroxymethyl-7-methoxy-3,4-di-3 dihydronaphthalen-2-al (71). The triterpenoid (70) and the
lignan (71) each at 50 mg/kg, p.o. dose exhibited 18.7% and 40.6% inhibition of oedema in carrageenan induced rat paw oedema model. The petroleum ether extract of the flowers of *V. negundo* exhibiting 16.3% inhibition of oedema on chromatographic resolution yielded n-alkane, n-alkanol, β-sitosterol and artemetin (65). The chloroform extract of the flowers of *V. negundo* showing 39.7% inhibition of oedema on chromatographic separation yielded only β-sitosterol-D-glucoside.

The petroleum ether extract of the roots of *Vanda roxburghii* exhibiting 54.3% inhibition of oedema, when chromatographed yielded n-alkane, a wax ester, a wax alcohol, β-sitosterol and tetracosylferulate (78). From the chloroform extract showing 42.1% inhibition of oedema only β-sitosterol-D-glucoside could be isolated. Anti-inflammatory activity has been detected in the petroleum ether extract and chloroform extract of the roots and stem and leaves of *Acampe papillosa* but no any interesting phytoconstituents could be isolated.

This forms the first reported occurrence of (60) in nature. However, the compounds (61) and (66) have been isolated for the first time from the genus *Vitex*. This is the first report of the isolation of artemetin (65) from *Vitex negundo* seeds and flowers although it is previously known to occur in the leaves of the plant. The isolation of three triterpenoids (70), (73) and (77) and the lignan (71) from *V. negundo* seeds constitutes the first report of their occurrence in nature. From the genus *Vanda* isolation of tetracosylferulate (78) is reported for the first time.