

ANTIVIRAL ACTIVITY OF PLANT TRITERPENOIDS

Summary

One of the most interesting groups of secondary plant compounds are penta- and tetracyclic triterpenoids and their glycosides and glycosidoesters. They have a wide spectrum of pharmaceutical activities such as anti-inflammatory, anti-tumor, anti-mutagenic, cytotoxic, anti-hepatotoxic, anti-diabetic, anti-bacterial etc. This review summarises studies on an-

tiviral activity of triterpenoids and their natural and synthetic derivatives. Possible mechanisms of pharmacological effects on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) as well as the prospects for future applications of these compounds are discussed.