

# Novel sterols from the sponge *Esperiopsis edwardii*

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The sponge *Esperiopsis edwardii* was examined for its steroids. It contains forty-three C<sub>27</sub>-C<sub>29</sub> derivatives with four different types of nucleus: 3 $\beta$ -hydroxy- $\Delta^5$ -; 3 $\beta$ -hydroxy-5 $\beta$ H-; 3 $\beta$ -hydroxy-5 $\alpha$ H- and 3-keto- $\Delta^4$ -derivatives. The four groups present similar side-chain patterns and identical GC profiles. Those sterols having the 3 $\beta$ -hydroxy-5 $\beta$ H-structural configuration constitute a new group of natural products. © 1988.