

THE WOLLEMI PINE (*WOLLEMIA NOBILIS*)CHRIS FOOKES^a, JOE BROPHY^b AND BOB GOLDSACK^b

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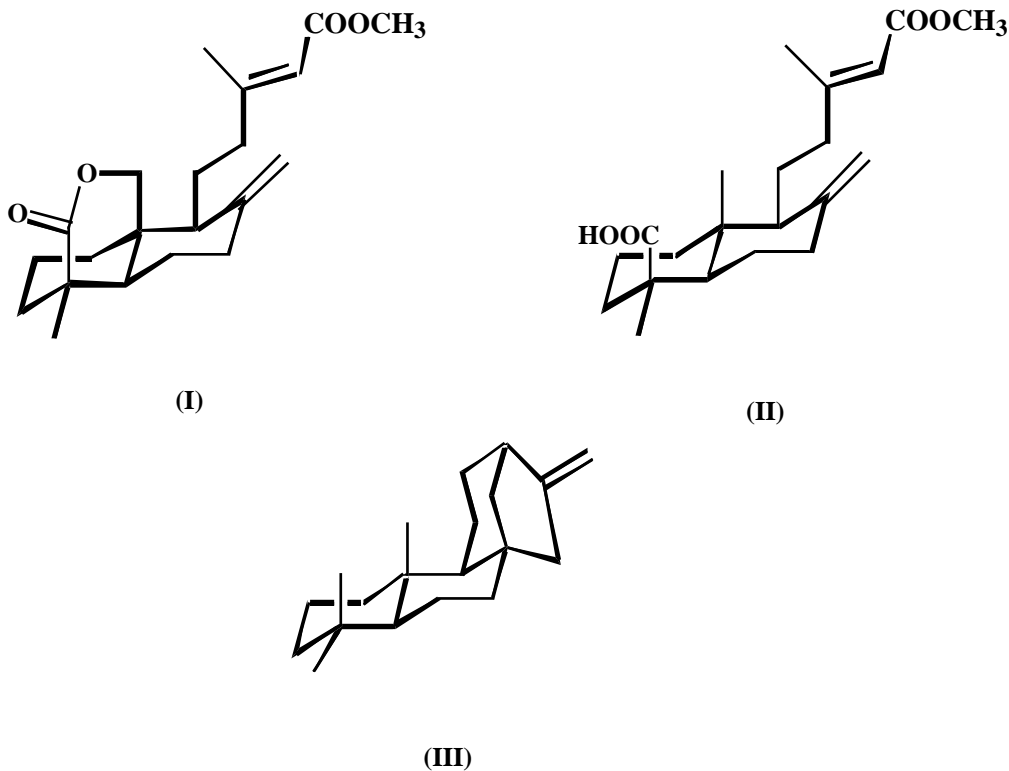
In 1994, David Noble found a stand of trees, some up to 40 m tall in the Wollemi National Park, NSW which turned out to represent a hitherto unknown genus, whose closest relatives appeared to be fossil from the Cretaceous period. The species was named *Wollemia nobilis* and placed as a monotypic genus within the family Araucariaceae.¹

We have been privileged to be the first to have access to leaf material from living trees to study their chemistry.

The major component of the leaves of the Wollemi Pine is a novel diterpene lactone which we have called (+)-Wollemia lactone (I). This is accompanied by the closely related terpene (+)-15-methyl agathate (II). Also present was the tetracyclic diterpene hydrocarbon (+)-16-kaurene (III). Other significant terpenes were the monoterpene α -pinene and the sesquiterpene germacrene-D.

Major non terpenoid compounds were the bis-flavones amentoflavone tetramethyl ether and cupressuflavone tetramethyl ether.

This chemistry is typical of the Araucariaceae, consistent with the classification of *Wollemia* within this family.



1. Jones, W.G., Hill, K.D. and Allen, J.M., *Telopea*, 1995, **6**, 173.