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THE COUMARINS OF ARTEMISIA PERSICA

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The plant was collected in the flowering phase (June 1968) in the Kurama range of the Tashkent region. By treatment of the epigeal part with chloroform, 6.1% of extractive substances were obtained and when these were treated with 5% sodium bicarbonate solution a coumarin derivative $C_{10}H_8O_4$ was isolated. With diazomethane, the substance formed a methyl ether. The coumarin was identified as scopoletin.

On continuing extraction of the plant with methanol, we obtained an additional 13.1% of extractive substances. When the concentrated extract was treated with acetone, the mixture was converted into a solid mass readily soluble in water and methanol but insoluble in ether, benzene, and chloroform. This mass contained no scopoletin, but after hydrolysis with 10% hydrochloric acid for 12 hr, without heating, scopoletin was detected by thin-layer chromatography on silica gel.

For separation, the pulverulent mixture was acetylated with acetic anhydride in pyridine (48 hr without heating). After the elimination of the acetylating reagents, the mixture of acetylation products was dissolved in chloroform and the solution was washed with water and evaporated, and the residue was chromatographed on alumina (activity grade III). Elution with a mixture of benzene and chloroform (1 : 1) gave an acetyl derivative with mp 169–170° C (from methanol) having the composition $C_{24}H_{26}O_{13}$. The UV spectrum of this compound had maxima at 228, 290, and 340 mμ and the IR spectra lacked absorption bands of an OH group but exhibited a broad band at 1720–1760 cm^{-1} ($-O-C-CH_3$ and a δ-lactone ring) and bands at 1610 and 1570 cm^{-1} (aromatic C=C bond), and at 830 and 890 cm^{-1} (tetrasubstituted benzene ring). The NMR spectrum had signals at δ 2.00 ppm ($C-CO-CH_3$, 9 protons), δ 2.07 ppm ($C-CO-CH_3$, 3 protons), δ 3.79 ppm (aromatic OCH_3, 3 protons), a doublet at δ 4.18 ppm ($-CH-CH_2-O-CO$, 2 protons) (J = 6 Hz), a multiplet at δ 5.24 ppm ($-CH-CH-$, 4 protons), and a doublet at δ 6.30 ppm (J = 10 Hz) (olefinic proton at C_3). An olefinic proton at C_4 also appeared in the form of a doublet at δ 7.67 ppm (J = 10 Hz). Singlets at δ 7.05 and 6.8 ppm are due to aromatic protons in positions 5 and 8.

From the products of the hydrolysis of the acetyl derivative with 10% hydrochloric acid we isolated scopoletin, and glucose was detected on a paper chromatogram with a reference sample (butanol–acetic acid–water, (4 : 1 : 5); spots revealed with aniline phthalate).

The hydrolysis of the acetyl derivative with barium hydroxide yielded scopolin (scopoletin 7-glucoside) [2, 3], which has been found in the genus Artemisia for the first time.

The NMR spectra were taken by M. R. Yagudaev.

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SCOPOLETIN AND β-SITOSTEROL FROM ARTEMISIA BRACUNCULUS

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From the epigeal part of Artemisia dracunculus L. [1], collected in the budding and flowering stage in the neighborhood of the village of Nura (Alai valley, TadzhSSR) by chloroform extraction we have isolated 5% of total extractive substances. When the chloroform extract was treated with ether, a hydrocarbon $C_{29}H_{60}$ with mp 63–64° C identical with the compound from Artemisia absintium [2] was obtained.