

## A METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF CORCHOROSIDE A

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Corchoroside A is a preparation used in the treatment of cardiovascular insufficiency [1]. Several methods for the isolation of this glycoside directly from the seeds of *Corchorus* (jute) [2, 3] by the hydrolysis of the main glycoside of jute, olitoriside [4], and also from various species of *Erysimum* [5-7] have been described.

We have developed an enzymatic method for obtaining corchoroside A from residues from the preparation of olitoriside.

To prepare the solution containing the hydrolyzing enzymes, 1 kg of ground jute seeds was covered with 4 l of water cooled to 5° C, and was kept at 5-10° C for 2 hr, and then the viscous aqueous solution was centrifuged. After the isolation of the olitoriside, 200 g (calculated to dry weight) of the noncrystallizing viscous residue was dissolved in 20 l of water, and the solution was mixed with 10 ml of toluene and 3 l of enzyme solution. The mixture was kept in a thermostat at 35-36° C for 48-72 hr. Then the solution was concentrated in vacuum at 45-50° C to a volume of 3 l. The concentrate was extracted with chloroform (5 × 3 l). The chloroformic extract was evaporated to dryness giving 62 g of a yellowish powder. This was dissolved in 250 ml of 50% methanol, and the solution was filtered through 60-70 g of alumina (activity grade II) in a column with a diameter of 20 mm.

Then the column was washed with 100 ml of 50% methanol. The combined methanolic solution was left to crystallize for 20-24 hr. The yield of corchoroside A (mp 163-165° C) was 20% of the weight of the dry substances of the mother solution.

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