

FLAVONOIDS OF LESPEDEZA BICOLOR

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We have found no less than 12 substances of a flavonoid nature in Lespedeza bicolor Turez. (shrub lespedeza) by the two-dimensional paper chromatography of an ethanolic extract.

The combined flavonoids were obtained from the ethanolic extract purified with chloroform in a yield of 0.5%. When the flavonoids were separated on a column of polyamide sorbent by using repeated rechromatography of the individual fractions, six substances were isolated and identified.

Quercetin, $C_{15}H_{10}O_7$, mp 307-312° C (pentaacetate with mp 198-199° C). It was identified by direct comparison with a sample of quercetin.

Kaempferol, $C_{15}H_{10}O_6$, mp 278-281° C (tetraacetate with mp 185-186° C). It was identified by direct comparison with a sample of kaempferol.

Trifolin, $C_{21}H_{22}O_{11} \cdot 2H_2O$, mp 229-231° C, $[\alpha]_D -46^\circ$ (c 0.16, ethanol), λ_{max} 267 and 354 m μ . The substance was identified on the basis of its IR and UV spectra and by direct comparison with a sample isolated from Sorbaria sorbifolia [1].

Isoquercitrin, $C_{21}H_{20}O_{12}$, mp 220-222° C, λ_{max} 256-359 m μ . The substance was identified by a direct comparison with a sample of isoquercitrin from Nardosmia laevigata [2].

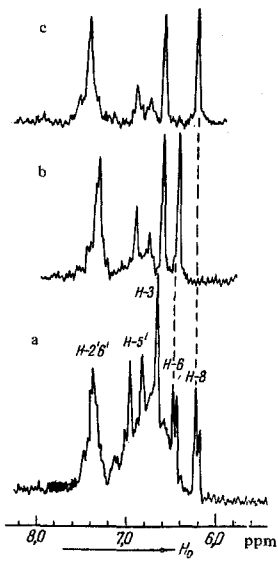
Homoorientin, $C_{21}H_{22}O_{11} \cdot H_2O$, mp 229-231° C, $[\alpha]_D +40^\circ$ (c 0.1, ethanol), λ_{max} 261 and 355 m μ . The substance is not hydrolyzed under the usual conditions. On hydrolysis with hydriodic acid in phenol, the aglycone $C_{15}H_{10}O_6$ was obtained with mp above 300° C, λ_{max} 268 and 352 m μ ; acetate with mp 224-226° C, identical with luteolin.

In the NMR spectrum of luteolin taken in dimethyl sulfoxide, the signal with δ 7.38 ppm corresponds to the H-2' and H-6' protons, the doublet at δ 6.91 ppm to H-5', the singlet with δ 6.68 to H-3, and the doublets with δ 6.48 ppm and 6.21 ppm to H-8 and H-6, respectively. Since opinions vary concerning the position of the hydroxyl substituent in homoorientin and other C-glycosides [3], we recorded the NMR spectrum of homoorientin under conditions similar to those for luteolin (parts a and c of the figure). The NMR spectrum of homoorientin lacks the signal of the H-6 proton, which shows that the glucose is attached at this position. Thus, homoorientin is 6-C- β -D-glucopyranosyl-5, 7, 3', 4'-tetrahydroxyflavone.

Orientin, $C_{21}H_{22}O_{11}$, mp 258-261° C, $[\alpha]_D +20.5^\circ$ (c 0.3, dimethylformamide), λ_{max} 272 and 355 m μ . It was obtained by the preparative separation of the fraction on chromatographic paper. Hydrolysis with hydriodic acid yielded luteolin and D-glucose. The position of the glucose in orientin was established on the basis of its NMR spectrum (part b of the figure), in which the signal of the H-8 proton is absent and there is a singlet with δ 6.21 ppm corresponding to the proton in position 6. Consequently, orientin is 8-C- β -D-glucopyranosyl-5, 7, 3', 4'-tetrahydroxyflavone.

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NMR spectra of a) luteolin, b) orientin, and c) homoorientin.

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