FLAVONOIDS OF Cichorium intybus

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Continuing an investigation of the phenolic composition of Cichorium intybus L. (common chicory), we have studied the flavonoid compounds of the epigeal part of this plant. An aqueous ethanolic (60°) extract was subjected to fractional separation on a column of polyamide. By using generally adopted methods, five flavonoid compounds were isolated in the individual state: apigenin, luteolin O-7-β-D-glucopyranoside, quercitrin, hyperin, and the previously unknown apigenin O-7-L-arabinoside.

The structures of these compounds were determined by acid hydrolysis (2-15% H_2SO_4, 100C°), enzymatic cleavage (rhamnodiastose, emulsin, pH 6.37), and UV spectroscopy, and also by analysis of other physicochemical properties.

We may note that arabinose is an extremely rare sugar component in flavone glycosides.

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