

(-)- EPIGALLOCATECHIN FROM THE FLOWERS

OF *Onobrychis iberica*

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In the flowers of plants of the genus *Onobrychis* growing in Georgia - *O. iberica*, *O. oxytropoides*, *O. cyri*, *O. kemularia*, *O. inermis*, *O. arenaria*, *O. sosnowskji*, *O. angustifolia*, *O. kachetica*, *O. mescheyica*, *O. radiata* - by paper-chromatographic analysis we have detected five catechins with R_f 0.37; 0.46, 0.54; 0.61; 0.71 [BAW (4:1:5) system]; the main component is the substance with R_f 0.37.

An aqueous ethanolic extract of the flowers of *O. iberica* was purified and separated on Sephadex by a method proposed by us previously [1]. The six flavonoids that we have described previously [2] and one catechin were obtained in the pure state. The catechin isolated formed acicular crystals with mp 211-214°C $\lambda_{\max}^{C_2H_5OH}$ 277 nm. On paper chromatograms with a 1% solution of vanillin in concentrated hydrochloric acid it showed a red spot at the level of authentic (-)-epigallocatechin. A mixture gave no depression of the melting point.

The physicochemical properties of this substance correspond to those of (-)-epigallocatechin [3].

This is the first time that catechins have been found in plants of the genus *Onobrychis*.

LITERATURE CITED

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