

We have isolated a mixture of acidic substances from the epigeal part of *Artemisia scotina* Nevski [1]. Chromatography of this mixture on silica gel [benzene-methanol (9:1)] gave a substance with the composition $C_{15}H_{24}O_3$, mp 173°C. Its IR spectrum - 3000-2500, 1700, and a characteristic band of medium intensity at 945 cm^{-1} - shows the presence of a COOH group in it. A double bond appears in the spectrum at 1630 cm^{-1} and a methylene group adjacent to the carboxy group at 1412 cm^{-1} . An absorption band at 3440 cm^{-1} is due to a hydroxy group. The substance dissolves in bicarbonate solution, ethanol, methanol, and acetone, and with diazomethane it forms a methyl ester. The ester is not acetylated by acetic anhydride (in pyridine) which shows the presence of a tertiary hydroxy group in the substance. All the physicochemical properties of the compound isolated show that it is a sesquiterpene hydroxy acid, and from its constants it corresponds to vachanic acid [2, 3]. A mixture with an authentic sample gave no depression of the melting point, and their IR spectra were identical.

This is the first time that vachanic acid has been isolated from *Artemisia scotina*.

LITERATURE CITED

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