COUMARINS OF THE GENERA *Asperula* AND *Galium*

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Continuing a study of the chemical composition of *G. cruciata* (L.) Soop. [1] and *G. tauricum* (Willd.) Roem. et Schult. [2], family Rubiaceae Juss., by thin-layer chromatography on acidic alumina (activity grade II) in the solvent systems cyclohexane–ethyl acetate (3:1) and ethyl acetate–chloroform–cyclohexane (2:1:7) [5] we have isolated from the herbage of each species two substances (A and B) giving reactions for coumarins [3] with mp 230-233°C (A) and 201-204°C (B).

On the basis of the absence of depressions of the melting point of mixtures and of an analysis of their IR spectra, substances A and B were identified as umbelliferone and scopoletin, respectively.

The compositions of the coumarins in 92 species of the genera *Asperula* and *Galium* have been analyzed by paper chromatography but in not one of them was it possible to detect the coumarin found previously in *A. odorata* L. by other workers [4, 6].

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