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Continuing a study of the genus *Ajuga* (family Labiatae) for its content of phytoecdysones [1], we have investigated the plant *A. chia* (collected in 1972, Western Georgia).

A methanolic extract of the whole plant (610 g) was diluted with water and treated with petroleum ether and ethyl acetate as described previously [1]. By chromatography on alumina [elution with chloroform and chloroform-ethanol (9:1) and (4:1)] and rechromatography on silica gel [elution with chloroform-methanol (9:1) and (4:1)] the ethyl acetate fraction yielded 59 mg (0.01% of the weight of the raw material) of a compound $C_{27}H_{44}O_7$, R_f 0.5 [$SiO_2 + 5\%$ of gypsum, chloroform-methanol (4:1); thin-layer chromatography]. The substance obtained had the double mp 153-154°C and 236-237°C (aqueous methanol), and also 243-244°C (aqueous acetone), $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 54.8^\circ$ (c 0.51; CH_3OH), $\lambda_{max}^{C_2H_5OH}$ 244 nm ($\lg \epsilon$ 4.05). The constants given above and the characteristics of its IR and mass spectra, and also the results of a direct chromatographic comparison permitted the compound obtained to be identified as ecdysterone [2].

Cyasterone has been isolated from *A. chia* previously [3]. This is the first time that ecdysterone has been isolated from this species of *Ajuga*.

LITERATURE CITED

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