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*Sophora griffithii* Stock, family Leguminosae, is characterized by the abundance of its fruit. However, up to the present time only a few authors [1, 2] in investigating the seeds of this plant have reported that they contain an alkaloid, cytisine; the pericarp has not been studied previously.

We have investigated raw material collected in 1972 in the KirgSSR close to the town of Tash-Kumyr in the water meadows of the river Naryn. The yield of total alkaloids from the defatted seeds was 3.93-4.09% and from the pericarp 0.85-0.9%.

After the cytisine had been removed, the mother solution was chromatographed on "Filtrak N2" paper [butan 1-ol-acetic acid-water (40 : 16 : 70) system] and on plates with Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> [benzene-ether-methanol (10 : 5 : 2) system]. The seeds gave seven spots and the pericarp eight.

Then the mother solution was separated by column chromatography on KSM silica gel. When the column was eluted with acetone-methanol (9 : 1) the seeds and the pericarp each yielded four crystalline substances (apart from cytisine) which were identified on the basis of chromatographic analysis, mixed melting points with authentic samples, and UV and IR spectra as the alkaloids matrine, N-methylcytisine, argentine, and sophocarpine.

The results of a quantitative analysis (gravimetric method) of the total alkaloids of the seeds showed that they contained 65% of cytisine, 15% of matrine, 10% of N-methylcytisine, and 3% each of argentine and sophocarpine.

This is the first time that sophocarpine has been isolated from *Sophora griffithii*.

On prolonged storage of the raw material, the amounts of cytisine and argentine in it change markedly: the amount of cytisine increases (from 35 to 65% in the course of a year) and the amount of argentine decreases (from 30 to 3%).

## LITERATURE CITED

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