

During an investigation of the ether-soluble fraction of a methanolic extract of the herbage of *Equisetum arvense* L. (field horsetail) [1, 2] we have isolated two flavone compounds (I) and (II) by chromatography on polyamide.

Substance (I) (7 mg), mp 284-286°C (methanol),  $\lambda_{\max}$  (CH<sub>3</sub>OH) 269, 335 nm. UV spectroscopy with ionizing and complex-forming reagents showed the presence of free hydroxy groups in positions 5 and 4'. In the mass spectrum there are the peaks of ions with m/e 284 (M<sup>+</sup>), 256 (M - CO)<sup>+</sup>, 241 (M - COCH<sub>3</sub>)<sup>+</sup>, 167, and 166. The demethylation of (I) with pyridine hydrochloride [3] formed apigenin, which we have isolated previously [4].

Substance (I) has the structure of 4',5-dihydroxy-7-methoxyflavone (genkwanin) [5].

Substance (II), mp 328-330°C (methanol), M<sup>+</sup> 286 (mass spectrum), melting point of the acetyl derivative 224-226°C. On the basis of UV spectroscopy with additives, PMR spectroscopy of the acetate of (II), and mass spectrometry, (II) was identified as 3',4',5,7-tetrahydroxyflavone (luteolin).

Genkwanin has not previously been detected in the family Equisetaceae.

## LITERATURE CITED

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