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ROHDEXIN A FROM *Convallaria keiskei*

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Having continued an investigation of the herb *Convallaria keiskei* Miq. (Far Eastern lily-of-the-valley), by the partition chromatography of a chloroform-ethanolic (9:1) extract on silica gel [stationary phase: water, mobile phase: the methyl ethyl ketone-benzene (1:2)-(1:1) system], we have isolated a cardenolide with the empirical formula  $C_{29}H_{44}O_9$ , mp 248-252°C,  $[\alpha]_D^{20} -22^\circ$  (c 1.0; methanol). With 84% sulfuric acid it formed colorations changing with time: 1 min - red-brown; 10-15 min - blue-green; 30-45 min - greenish blue; 60 min - light green; 90 min - greenish grey.

On acid hydrolysis by Mannich and Siwert's method [1], the substance was cleaved into L-rhamnose and an aglycone  $C_{23}H_{34}O_5$ , mp 265-270°C,  $[\alpha]_D^{21} +21.5^\circ$  (c 0.5; methanol), which proved to be identical with sarmentogenin. As was established from the molecular rotation difference, the sugar component was attached to the genin by an  $\alpha$ -glycosidic bond [3]. The compound isolated was sarmentogenin 3-O- $\alpha$ -L-rhamnoside. A comparison of physicochemical properties, IR spectra,  $R_f$  values on paper chromatography in various solvent systems, and a mixed melting point confirmed its identity with rohdexin A, which has been obtained previously from *Ornithogalum magnum* [2] and *Rohdea japonica* [4].

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