

L. N. Pervykh, G. G. Zapesochnaya,
and A. N. Shchavlinskii

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From the epigeal part of *Nepeta velutina* Pojark., family Lamiaceae, gathered in the Caucasus (Nakhichevan ASSR, Shakhbuz), in the flowering phase we have isolated four flavone compounds (I-IV).

The evaporated methanolic extract was chromatographed on columns of polyamide and silica gel, using mixtures of water and ethanol and of chloroform and methanol.

Compound (I) was apigenin: yellow crystals with the composition $C_{15}H_{10}O_5$, M^+ 270, mp 341-344°C (decomp.); triacetate with mp 180-182°C.

Compound (II) was luteolin: yellow crystals, composition $C_{15}H_{10}O_6$, M^+ 286, mp 328-330°C (decomp.); tetraacetate with mp 228-230°C.

Compound (III) was cosmosiin (apigenin 7-O- β -D-glucopyranoside): light yellow crystals with the composition $C_{21}H_{20}O_{10} \cdot H_2O$, mp 178-180°C (from MeOH), $[\alpha]_D^{17} -66^\circ$ (c 0.3; pyridine).

Compound (IV) was cynaroside (luteolin 7-O- β -D-glucopyranoside): light yellow crystals with the composition $C_{21}H_{20}O_{11}$, mp 232-234°C, $[\alpha]_D^{20} -61^\circ$ (0.7; formamide). Heptaacetate with mp 245-248°C.

The acid hydrolysis of compounds (III) and (IV) gave the same carbohydrate fragment - D-glucose. Moreover, compounds (III) and (IV) underwent cleavage by β -glucosidase, giving the aglycones apigenin [compound (I)] and luteolin [compound (II)]. The substances isolated were identified on the basis of their NMR, UV, and mass spectra and by a chromatographic comparison with authentic samples.

The compounds isolated have not previously been described for the genus *Nepeta* [1].

LITERATURE CITED

1. J. B. Harborne and T. J. Mabry, eds., *The Flavonoids. Advances in Research*, Chapman and Hall, London (1982).

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