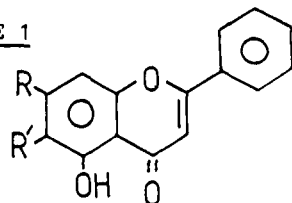


## ANTI-STEROIDOGENIC PROPERTIES OF SCUTELLARIA AND PUERARIA PLANT EXTRACTS

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The use of aqueous decoctions of species of Scutellaria (Labiatae) and Pueraria (Leguminosae) in Chinese herbal medicine is well documented, principally for the treatment of gastro-intestinal complaints. However, traditional sources also claim that an extract of S. baicalensis Georgi is used in breast cancer therapy

FIGURE 1



NAME	R	R'
CHRYSIN	OH	H
BAICALIN	O-G	OH

(G = Glucuronic acid)

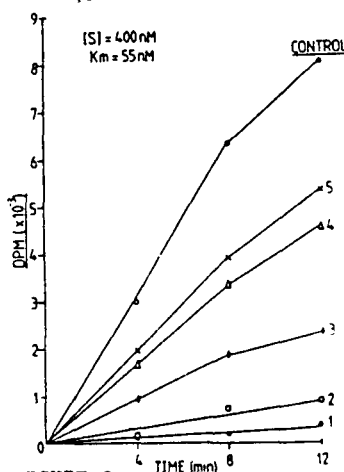


FIGURE 2

but this was not due to the major flavonoid glycoside, baicalin, which was inactive. (4) showed a lower activity, similar to (5), while an extract of Pueraria root, containing oestrogenic isoflavones, neither inhibited nor promoted aromatase. These results indicate a sound pharmacological basis for a traditionally used herbal medicine.

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