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ANTHOCYANINS OF *LAGERSTROEMIA INDICA* FLOWERS

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Key Word Index—*Lagerstroemia indica*; Lythraceae; new anthocyanins.

Plant and source. Lagerstroemia indica L., collected from the N.R.C. grounds. *Uses.* Ornamental. *Previous work.* None.

Plant part examined. The flowers were extracted with 0·1% methanolic HCl. Following standard prcedures,[1,2] the extract revealed three anthocyanins which were identified by strong and mild acid hydrolysis, H_2O_2 oxidation and UV spectra, as delphinidin-3-arabinoside, petunidin-3-arabinoside and malvinidin-3-arabinoside. This is the first record of the isolation of the three arabinosides, although they had been reported as an unseparable mixture with other arabinosides in the berries of *Vaccinium angustifolium.*[3] Also, delphinidin-3-arabinoside has been recently identified in the Epacridaceae.[4] Along with the three anthocyanins, gallic acid, methyl gallate, ellagic acid and traces of three *C*-glycosides were also identified.

TABLE 1

Compound	R_f in solvent (× 100)†				MeOH–HCl* λ_{max} (mμ)	$AlCl_3$ $\Delta\lambda$ (mμ)
	BAW	BuHCl	3% HCl	HOAc–HCl		
Delphinidin-3-arabinoside	27	12	3	20	271,538	10
Petunidin-3-arabinoside	38	16	4	25	232,538	11
Malvidin-3-arabinoside	50	24	8	33	273,538	0

* The E_{440}/E_{max} and E_{acyl}/E_{max} = 18–20 for all three anthocyanins.
† Solvents: BAW (*n*-BuOH–HOAc–H_2O, 4:1:5), BuHCl (*n*–BuOH–2 N HCl, 1:1), 3% HCl and HOAc–HCl (HOAc–conc. HCl–H_2O, 15:3:82).

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