Topical Anti-inflammatory Activity of Flavonoids and a New Xanthone from *Santolina insularis*

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Z. Naturforsch. **60 c**, 63–66 (2005); received July 21/September 20, 2004

Bioactivity-guided fractionation of the methanol extract from the leaves of *Santolina insularis* led to the isolation of one new xanthone, (*E*)-3-{6-[(*E*)-3-hydroxy-3-oxo-1-propenyl]-9-oxo-9*H*-xanthen-2-yl}-2-propenoic acid, together with six known flavonoids: hispidulin, nepetin, cirsimaritin, rhamnocitrin, luteolin and luteolin 7-*O*-β-D-glucopyranoside. The structures were elucidated by means of 1D-, 2D-NMR spectroscopy and mass spectrometry. The topical anti-inflammatory activity of all isolated compounds and extracts was investigated employing the croton oil-induced dermatitis in mouse ear. The most active compound, luteolin, showed an ID_{50} of 0.3 μmol/cm^2 and prevented ear oedema more effectively than an equimolar dose of indomethacin within 24 h.

Key words: Santolina insularis, Anti-inflammatory Activity, Flavonoids