

3-*O*-Acetyl-narcissidine, a Bioactive Alkaloid from *Hippeastrum puniceum* Lam. (Amaryllidaceae)

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Z. Naturforsch. **63c**, 639–643 (2008); received March 10/April 24, 2008

In the context of the study on plant defensive compounds we have isolated the main alkaloid from *Hippeastrum puniceum* (Amaryllidaceae), 3-*O*-acetyl-narcissidine (**1**), and its biological activities tested against two divergent insect species and several plant species. **1** was isolated from the bioactive alkaloidal fraction of *H. puniceum*. Its chemical structure was established by spectroscopic analysis. The biological activity tests showed that **1** is an antifeedant against the polyphagous insect *Spodoptera littoralis* but not against the oligophage *Leptinotarsa decemlineata*. Furthermore, the root growth of *Amaranthus hypochondriacus*, *Rottboellia cochinchinensis*, *Panicum maximum* and *Solanum lycopersicum* was significantly affected by **1**. These results suggest a plant protective role for *H. puniceum* alkaloids.

Key words: *Hippeastrum*, Antifeedant, 3-*O*-Acetyl-narcissidine