

***n*-Alkane Profile of *Argemone mexicana* Leaves**

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An *n*-hexane extract of fresh, mature leaves of *Argemone mexicana* (Papaveraceae), containing thin-layer epicuticular waxes, has been analysed for the first time by TLC, IR and GLC using standard hydrocarbons. Seventeen long-chain alkanes (*n*-C₁₈ to *n*-C₃₄) were identified and quantified. Nonacosane (*n*-C₂₉) was established as the *n*-alkane with the highest amount, whilst octadecane (*n*-C₁₈) was the least abundant component of the extracted wax fraction. The carbon preference index (CPI) calculated for the hydrocarbon sample with the chain lengths between C₁₈ and C₃₄ was 1.2469, showing an odd to even carbon number predominance.

Key words: Alkane, Epicuticular Wax, Carbon Preference Index