

## SENECIPHYLLINE FROM *Senecio propinquus*

D. S. Khalilov, I. A. Damirov,  
and M. V. Telezhenetskaya

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*Senecio propinquus* Schischk has been investigated partially and there is information only on the amounts of total alkaloids in the epigeal and subterranean parts, their quantitative composition having been determined probably only chromatographically [1].

We have studied the subterranean part (rhizome with root) collected on November 1, 1970, in the environs of the village of Ilisu, Kakhi region of the Azerbaidzhanian SSR, in the withering phase. First, the presence of N-oxide forms of the alkaloids and their percentage of the total (47.82%) were established by the method of L. Ya. Areshkina [2].

The comminuted raw material was extracted with 2% sulfuric acid and was then reduced with zinc dust. The acid solution was made alkaline with 25% ammonia, and the alkaloids were extracted completely with ether. This gave 0.92% of combined alkaloids calculated on the air-dry weight of the raw material. They were recrystallized from methanol. This gave prismatic crystals with mp 210°C; after purification 215°C (methanol);  $[\alpha]_D^{20} - 125.5^\circ$  ( $t = 10$ ,  $c$  0.95; chloroform), picrate with mp 185°C. These figures correspond to those for an authentic sample of seneciphylline. A mixture of seneciphylline and our base showed no depression of the melting point, and the UV and IR spectra of the two samples were identical.

The mother liquor after the extraction of the seneciphylline was shown by chromatography in the benzene-chloroform-methanol (5:4:1) system in a fixed layer of alumina to contain another three bases. The first base remained at the start, and the other two had  $R_f$  0.91 and 0.14.

Thus, we are the first to have isolated the alkaloid seneciphylline from *S. propinquus*. The yield of technical seneciphylline was 86.95% of the total alkaloids or 0.80% of the raw material.

### LITERATURE CITED

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