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It is known that the herb *Potentilla erecta* (L.) Hampe (tormentilla cinquefoil) contains tanning substances [1], the flavonoid kaempferol and its glycoside astragalín [2], vitamin C, organic acids, gums, resins, and starch [3]. We have found no information in the available literature on the presence of coumarins in this plant. In the present communication we consider the coumarin composition of tormentilla cinquefoil.

The substances were isolated in the following way. The group of compounds under investigation was extracted with a sevenfold amount of 80% ethanol from 2 kg of raw material collected in the environs of Kursk in the period of the flowering of the plant. The resulting extract was evaporated to an aqueous residue (1 liter), from which the chlorophyll and other lipophilic substances that had precipitated were filtered off; the filtrate was treated with chloroform (3 × 300 ml), and the solvent was evaporated off. The residue so obtained was heated with 25% ethanol. The aqueous ethanolic solution was filtered, and the filtrate was treated with chloroform. The residue after the evaporation of the chloroform extract (14 g) was deposited on a column of polyamide sorbent (3 × 4 cm), which was washed first with benzene, then with mixtures of benzene and chloroform, and finally with chloroform. Separation was monitored by paper chromatography in the petroleum ether-formamide and chloroform-formamide systems.

As a result, three substances of coumarin nature (I-III) were isolated.

Substance (I) —  $C_9H_6O_2$ , mp 67–68°C (from ethanol) was identified as coumarin [4].

Substance (II) —  $C_{10}H_8O_4$ , mp 200–202°C (from ethanol-chloroform) was identified as scopoletin [5].

Substance (III) —  $C_9H_6O_3$ , mp 230–232°C (from ethanol) was identified as umbelliferone [5].

The substances were identified by their physicochemical properties, their  $R_f$  values in various solvent systems, the results of UV and IR spectroscopy, and mixed melting points with authentic samples.

## LITERATURE CITED

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