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COMPOSITAE

SANTONIN FROM *ARTEMISIA FRAGRANS*

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Key Word Index—*Artemisia fragrans*; Compositae; santonin.

Plant. *Artemisia fragrans* Willd. identified by Prof. A. Baytop, deposited in the Herbarium of Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Istanbul, Turkey, Voucher No. ISTE 22922: *Source.* Central Anatolia (Ankara).

According to the literature, there is a discrepancy about the presence of santonin in *Artemisia fragrans* Willd. Qazilbash has claimed the presence¹ and absence² of santonin and suggested³ that the variation was due to differing environmental conditions such as altitude, atmospheric humidity, soil humidity and so on. *Artemisia fragrans* was collected in late August from the Central Anatolia highlands (altitude 1000 m), with little atmospheric or soil humidity. 1 kg of the powdered dry plant was extracted with benzene giving 95 g of a green residue which was extracted with MeOH-n-hexane-H₂O (6:25:2). The solvent layers were separated and the lower aqueous layer extracted with CHCl₃. On evaporation yellowish crystals separated which gave 2 g of pure santonin, m.p. 169–170°, [α]_D²⁰ –172° (c 2, CHCl₃) (IR, m. m.p. and TLC).

Extraction with MeOH, which was evaporated to dryness and re-extracted with 15% EtOH gave santonin in very poor yield.

¹ N. A. QAZILBASH, *Bull. Sci. Pharm.* **42**, 129 (1935); **29**, 7019 (1935).

² N. A. QAZILBASH, *Indian Pharmacist* **VI**, 3, 1, 65 (1950).

³ N. A. QAZILBASH, personal communication (1972).

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ARTEVASIN: A NEW SESQUITERPENE LACTONE FROM *ARTEMESIA TRIDENTATA**

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Key Word Index—*Artemesia tridentata*; Compositae; sesquiterpene lactone; artevasin.

Plant. *Artemesia tridentata* ssp. *vaseyana* (Rydb.) Beetle. Reported to be the most widely

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† R. O. ASPLUND and P. BALASUBRAMANIYAN, *Abstract of Papers, Am. Chem. Soc.* 158th Meeting (1969).