

# URSOLIC ACID FROM *Rhododendron ungerii*

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UDC 547.972

Triterpene compounds have been detected in many species of the genus *Rhododendron* [1-3].

We have investigated for their ursolic acid content the leaves of an evergreen shrub widely distributed in southern Georgia, *Rhododendron ungerii* Trautv. (family Ericaceae), collected in July, 1971, in the Adzhar ASSR. Ursolic acid was isolated by the successive extraction of the plant material with petroleum ether and chloroform. The chloroform residue (2.3%) was treated with petroleum ether and was repeatedly recrystallized with the use of activated carbon from ethanol, giving finally a microcrystalline powder (0.8%) with mp 278-280°C [ $\alpha$ ]<sub>D</sub><sup>18</sup>+62.3° (c 1.0; chloroform). A mixture of the substance obtained with an authentic sample of ursolic acid gave no depression of the melting point. On TLC [silica gel in the methanol-acetone-CCl<sub>4</sub> (5:20:75) and toluene-ethyl acetate-CH<sub>3</sub>COOH (12:4:0.5) systems] it had mobilities similar to those of ursolic acid.

The IR spectrum of the substance isolated proved to be identical with that of standard ursolic acid [4].

## LITERATURE CITED

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