

Short Communication

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**CHEMICAL INVESTIGATION OF
BERBERIS ZEBILIANA**

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Berberis sp. is quite important from medicinal and chemical point of view. Its use for various ailments in folklore medicine is known [1]. Many alkaloids have been obtained from other Berberis spp. [2], but no work has been done on *Berberis zebiliana*. We have obtained berbamine and oxyberberine from the roots of this plant [3]. In the present communication the isolation of berberine is reported. It is obtained from the ethanol extract of the plant. Alcoholic extract was concentrated under reduced pressure, it was brought to pH 7.0 with ammonium

hydroxide and extracted with chloroform. The aqueous part was again made alkaline (pH 10.0) with ammonium hydroxide and extracted with chloroform. The aqueous portion was finally extracted with a mixture of chloroform and ethanol (2:1). The organic layer was concentrated under reduced pressure and chromatographed on alumina column. It was crystallised with ethanol-chloroform, mp 195-200°. It showed no depression in mp on mixing with an authentic sample of berberine and showed superimposable IR and NMR spectra.

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REFERENCES

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