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Flavonoids from Cactaceae Fruits

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A characterization of flavonols, betacyanins and possible anthocyanins from the fruits of several types of cacti by LC/ESI/MS-MS was conducted. The analysis included fruits from the Mammillaria and Opuntia genera. Previous work by Miller on the floral pigments of Echinocereus demonstrated the presence of a variety of flavone, flavonol, flavanone, and dihydroflavonol glycosides based upon the fundamental aglycones naringenin, eriodictyol, dihydrokaempferol, dihydroquercetin, apigenin, luteolin, kaempferol, and quercetin. Work on the fruits of Cactaceae has been limited to three species of Opuntia and the identification of betacyanins. The current investigation attempted to verify the presence of similar flavonols and betacyanins in the fruits of other members of the Cactaceae family and to explore the possible presence of anthocyanins. We have been able to identify several flavonols based on luteolin and isorhametin within the fruits as well as several tentatively identified anthocyanidins based on cyanidin and delphinidin.

Abstract ID#: 51084

Password: 746338

Title: Flavonoids from Cactaceae Fruits

Category Selection: Biochemistry and Biological Chemistry

Invited: N

Presentation Format: Poster

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