

We have studied the fruit and leaves of *Cydonia oblonga* Mill. (common quince), family Rosaceae, collected in the environs of the town of Baku at the beginning of September, 1975.

The fruit and leaves, separately, were extracted in a Soxhlet apparatus, first with petroleum ether and then with chloroform. The latter was distilled off, and the residue was dissolved in hot ethanol and was precipitated with water. This gave a green-grey powder; 1.5% and 1%, respectively, calculated on the air-dry weight of the raw material). Thin-layer chromatography showed the presence in both residues of a substance with mp 280–282°C (50% ethanol),  $[\alpha]_D^{20} + 68^\circ$  (c 0.90; chloroform).

The substance dissolves readily in chloroform, ether, and ethanol and is insoluble in water; the Lieberman–Burchard and Salkowski reactions are positive, which shows its triterpenoid nature. In the UV spectrum (concentrated sulfuric acid) there is an absorption maximum at 310 nm and an inflection in the 300–305-nm region corresponding to pentacyclic triterpenoids of the  $\alpha$ -amyrin series. The substance forms an acetyl derivative (in a mixture of pyridine, benzene, and acetic anhydride) with mp 285–287°C (from ethanol). In thin layers (sorbent: Silufol) in several systems of solvents [chloroform–methanol (20:1); ether–benzene (4:1)], with phosphotungstic acid as the spray reagent, the substance forms a single spot corresponding to an authentic sample of ursolic acid.

A mixture of the substance with an authentic sample of ursolic acid gave no depression of the melting point, and their IR spectra were identical.

This is the first time that ursolic acid has been isolated from the fruit and leaves of the quince.

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