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A SESQUITERPENE LACTONE FROM *Saussurea salicifolia*

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From the epigeal part of willow-leaved saussurea (*Saussurea salicifolia* (L) DC.), collected in August in Khakassia, by extraction with water and treatment of the aqueous extract with chloroform followed by the chromatography of the evaporated chloroform extracts on silica gel with elution by chloroform, we have isolated with a yield of 0.3% an individual substance in the form of a colorless viscous liquid with the composition $C_{19}H_{22}O_6 \cdot H_2O$ $[\alpha]_D^{20} +100^\circ$ (c 4.0; ethanol). Its IR spectrum contains bands at (cm^{-1}) 3492 (OH), 3470–3350 (H_2O), 1760 (γ -lactone), 1716 (OCO–C=C), and 1662 and 1645 (C=C). The NMR spectrum (in $CDCl_3$, ppm) has the following proton signals: two multiplets of 1 H each at 6.18 and 5.91; two doublets of 1 H each at 6.01 and 5.51; broadened doublets of 1 H each at 5.06 and 4.81; a broadened singlet of 1 H at 5.20; a multiplet of 2 H at 5.15; and a broadened triplet of 1 H at 4.34.

When the substance was hydrolyzed (4% solution of KOH at room temperature for 2 days), a dihydroxylactone with the composition $C_{15}H_{18}O_4$ was obtained in the form of a viscous liquid, which readily formed a diacetate with the composition $C_{19}H_{22}O_6$, likewise in the form of a viscous liquid. On comparing the results obtained with literature information, we found that the substance isolated was identical with cynaropicrin – a sesquiterpene lactone isolated previously from *Cynara scolymus* L. [1] and *Centaurea americana* [2].

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