

QUANTITATIVE DETERMINATION OF GALANTHAMINE AND LYCORINE IN *GALANTHUS FOSTERI*

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Among the 14 taxa and one hybrid of the genus *Galanthus* growing in Turkey, *Galanthus fosteri* Baker is distributed mainly in south-and north-central Turkey (1, 2). Galanthamine, the most important alkaloid found in Amaryllidaceae species, is used for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease (3). Lycorine, a widespread alkaloid found in Amaryllidaceae plants has important biological activities (4). Therefore it is important to quantify these alkaloids in Amaryllidaceae species. In the present study, a reversed-phase high-performance liquid chromatographic method has been used for the quantitative determination of lycorine and galanthamine in *G. fosteri*. The chromatographic separation was performed using an isocratic system with a mobile phase trifluoroacetic acid-water-acetonitrile (0.01: 92.5: 7.5) and diode array detector (5). The linearity of the method was studied by injecting five known concentrations of lycorine in the range of 2.5–40 µg/mL and five known concentrations of galanthamine in the range of 1–16 µg/mL. The calibration curves for lycorine and galanthamine were determined as $Y = 15.6024x + 0.4459$ and $Y = 10.8302x - 1.9292$, respectively. The contents of galanthamine in the aerial parts was found to be 0.003% whereas the amount of

the lycorine was found as 0.010%. The contents of galanthamine and lycorine in the bulbs of *G. fosteri* were found to be 0.012% and 0.035%, respectively.

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OVERVIEW OF HERBAL MEDICINE/SUPPLEMENTS IN USA

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Herbal product studies cannot be considered scientifically valid if the product tested was not authenticated and characterized in order to ensure reproducibility in the manufacturing of the product in question. In the case of botanicals, misidentification of the collected plant, adulteration with other species or contamination with extraneous ingredients are possibilities in which reproducibility may be effected unknown to the manufacturer. Many studies refer to the use of standardized material, but in reality they are referring to chemical standardization. While chemical standardization is important, its utility is limited when the starting material is not well characterized botanically.

Although the resulting studies are sound with respect to the actual product tested, adequate authentication of the product cannot be compared to other products on the market. Also, a comparison of one study to another cannot be made due to inconsistencies in the identity of the botanical matrix. The tools needed for authentication of the field plant material also depend on the plant and process involved. This could be as straightforward as botanical/morphological identification or as elaborate as genetic or chemical profiling. These controls are also critical for the evaluation of pharmacological, toxicological and clinical studies of the botanical supplements.