

Characterization of the Polyphenolic Composition of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Jussi-Pekka Rauha^a, Jean-Luc Wolfender^b, Juha-Pekka Salminen^c, Kalevi Pihlaja^c, Kurt Hostettmann^b and Heikki Vuorela^{a,*}

^a Department of Pharmacy, Division of Pharmacognosy, P. O.Box 56, FIN-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland. Fax: +358-9-191 59 578. E-mail: heikki.vuorela@helsinki.fi

^b Institut de Pharmacognosie et Phytochimie, Université de Lausanne, BEP, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

^c Department of Chemistry, Laboratory of Physical Chemistry, FIN-20014 University of Turku, Finland

* Author for correspondence and reprint requests

Z. Naturforsch. **56c**, 13–20 (2001); received August 22/September 14, 2000

Lythrum salicaria, Flavonoids, Phenolic Acids, Tannins

Phenolic compounds of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria* L.) were analysed by the use of liquid chromatography – mass spectrometry (LC/MS) equipped with atmospheric pressure chemical ionisation (APCI) and electrospray ionisation (ESI). The presence of vitexin and orientin as well as their isomers, isovitexin and isoorientin, were confirmed using ion trap multiple stage LC/MS³ analysis. Several phenolic acids and tannins were also detected. Ellagitannins, vescalagin and pedunculagin, are reported from the plant for the first time.