



Identification of Chromones in the Seeds Extract of *Saposhnikovia divaricata* by Liquid Chromatography-Electrospray Ionization Mass Spectrometry

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SUMMARY. The present work describes a liquid chromatography-electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (LC-ESI-MS) method for rapid identification of four chromones, prim-O-glucosylcimifugin, 4'-O- β -D-glucosyl-5-O-methylvisamminol, cimifugin and 5-O-methylvisamminol in the seeds extract from *Saposhnikovia divaricata* for the first time. By using a binary mobile phase system consisting of 0.5 % acetic acid and acetonitrile under gradient conditions, a good separation was achieved in 25 min. The $[M+H]^+$ ions, the $[2M+Na]^+$ ions, the molecular weights, and the fragment ions of the four chromones were obtained in the positive ion mode using LC-ESI-MS. The identification of the chromones (peaks 1-4) in seeds extract of *S. divaricata* was based on matching their retention times, the detection of molecular ions, and the fragment ions obtained by LC-ESI-MS experiments with those of the authentic standards and data reported in the literature.

KEY WORDS: Chromones, LC-ESI-MS, *Saposhnikovia divaricata* seeds.

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