Chemical markers in Veronica sect. Hebe. III

In a continued chemosystematic investigation of the water-soluble compounds in Veronica sect. Hebe, we have investigated two more of the species formerly classified as Parahebe. Both species contained mannitol in considerable amount and in addition some glucosides of iridoid acids. Veronica cheesemanii was characterised by aucubin and its esters: 2'-O-benzoylaucubin and an aucubin diester named cheesemanioside. The main iridoid compounds in Veronica hookeriana were catalpol and its ester verminoside, but this species also contained the sugar ester methyl 1-O-benzoyl-3-a-glucuronosylglycerol and a caffeoyl phenylethanoid glycoside (CPG) named parahebeoside, a 2''-O-b-xylopyranosyl derivative of the known plantamajoside. The results show that the studied species of the former genus Parahebe are very different with regard to their chemical content. This in agreement with the DNA sequence data and implies the genus was polyphyletic as previously circumscribed.

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