

Propolis - an unique source of flavonoids.

Iyyam Pillai S, Kandaswamy M.

Department of Inorganic Chemistry, School of Chemical Sciences, University of Madras, Guindy campus, Chennai, India.

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ABSTRACT

Propolis, also known as “Bee glue” is a resinous material collected by honeybees from aerial plant parts. It is used by the bees for construction of hives and to prevent the spreading of microbial contamination as well as embalming dead insects that enter the hives. Propolis has been used in the traditional medicine for the treatment of ulcers, wounds and tumours. Previous reports indicate the presence of more than 300 compounds in propolis. Recently, we have reported the antiulcerogenic and wound healing properties of ethanolic extract of Indian propolis in experimental animal model. The present study was aimed to analyze the presence of pharmacologically active flavonoids in Indian propolis. The ethanolic extract was found to contain relatively more number of flavonoids than the aqueous extract. Several flavonoids with known pharmacological activities have been found to be present in the ethanolic extract. The presence of individual flavonoids was confirmed using reference samples of known spectral data.