

PREFACE

Flavonoids are naturally occurring compounds of plant origin which are known to be active ingredients of many native medicines especially in anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial ointments and salves. Normally, these compounds are formed in plants as by-products in very minute quantities and are sometimes formed due to the environmental stress experienced by plants. These compounds are extracted from plant leaves, flowers, bark or root, only in micro-gram quantities and the separation processes are both tedious and ineffective. Hence, however effective they are in curing diseases, the flavonoids obtained from plant sources are not commercially viable as drugs. The alternative is to synthesise these compounds in the laboratory.

The chemical syntheses of flavonoid glycosides are not very successful because of the associated problems of chemical and stereochemical controls of the reactions involved. The electrochemical method of organic synthesis

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is gaining approval since it provides a route which offers to the synthetic organic chemist, greater control over the reaction products. The present work is an attempt in this direction viz. to synthesise a few flavonoid glucosides by electrochemical techniques and characterise the products by suitable analytical methods.
