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ANALYSIS OF FLAVONOIDS AND COUMARINS IN *IXERIS LAEVIGATA* VAR. *OLDHAMI* BY HIGH-PERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY

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Tao-shang-tsaο (刀傷草) is the dried entire plant of *Ixeris laevigata* var. *oldhami* (Compositae) and a commonly used folk herb in Taiwan. It possesses anti-inflammatory and antibacterial effects and used to treat cold, cough, asthma and hepatitis. The volume of sales of folk herbs tends to increase in Taiwan, therefore the quality control for folk herbs are needed. To evaluate the quality of *I. laevigata* var. *oldhami*, a simple, rapid and accurate high-performance liquid chromatographic (HPLC) method was developed for the assay of its four flavonoids: apigenin, apigenin-7-O-glucoside, luteolin and luteolin-7-O-glucoside, two coumarins: esculetin and esculin. The present HPLC system uses an Inertsil ODS-2 column by gradient elution with acetonitrile and 0.1 % (v/v) phosphoric acid as the mobile phase. Ethylparaben was used as an internal standard and detected at 254 nm. Regression equations revealed linear relationships (correlation coefficients: 0.9998-0.9999) between the peak-area ratios of each constituent to ethylparaben. The relative standard deviations of these six constituents ranged between 0.56-3.04 % (intraday) and 0.79-4.39 % (interday). The contents of six constituents of *I. laevigata* var. *oldhami* in 7 crude drugs have been determined.

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