

156. *GLORIOSA SUPERBA* L. (LILIACEAE) — Glory Lily

Ornamental lily, being considered as an alternative source of colchicine. Indians and Sri Lankans use the flowers in religious ceremonies. Javanese poison dogs by mixing the grated fruits with their food. Juice of ground leaves is used to destroy head lice.²⁶

Reported to be abortifacient, alexiteric, alterative, anodyne, bactericide, cholagogue, laxative, mitogenic, pediculicidal, poison, stomachic, tonic, and vermifuge, the glory lily is a folk remedy for bruises, cancer, colic, erysipelas, gonorrhea, labor, leprosy, malaria, neuralgia, parturition, piles, scabies, skin ailments, snakebite, sore, splentitis, syphilis, tumors, ulcers.^{3,32} Indians and Sri Lankans use the root for abortion or to expedite parturition. South Africans use juice from the root stock mixed with leaf juice from *Anamirta* for killing guinea worms. They use the root itself for ascites and parasites. Iranians use the rootstock for epistaxis, impotence, and nocturnal emissions, Indians for bruises, colic, gonorrhea, leprosy, malaria, piles, snakebites, and sprains. Indians also use the root for abortion, homicide, and suicide.³

Leaves contain 3-desmethylcolchicine $C_{21}H_{23}NO_6$, colchicine $C_{22}H_{25}NO_6$, and chelidonic acid. Flowers contain beta-lumicolchicine, $C_{22}H_{25}NO_6$, *N*-formyl-desacetyl-colchicine, $C_{21}H_{23}NO_6$, and 3-desmethylcolchicine. Tubers contain 0.3% colchicine, *N*-formal-desacetyl-colchicine, 2-desmethylcolchicine, beta-lumicolchicine, gloriosine $C_{33}H_{38}N_2O_9$ or $C_{15}H_{17}NO_4$, gloriosol, $C_{33}H_{56}O_6$ which may represent a mixture of sitosterol and stigmasterol, traces of choline, benzoic acid, salicylic acid, 6-methyloxysalicylic acid, fatty acids, glucose, starch, γ -resorcylic acid, monomethylether, etc.³³ In *Cultivation and Utilization of Medicinal Plants*,⁵⁹ Gupta describes a new aqueous extracting method to obtain colchicine, which has been advocated in arthritis, Bright's disease, cholera, colic, skin ailments, and typhus. Compared to the older alcoholic extraction process, the aqueous method has the following