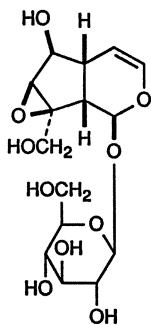


106.1 Introduction

Dihuang, Radix Rehmanniae, is the fresh or dry root of *Rehmannia glutinosa* Libosch. (Scrophulariaceae). This officially in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia listed herbal drug is to be used in fresh or dried form or after processing. Processing is carried out by boiling in the rice wine or steaming. The fresh and dry roots of *R. glutinosa* are used in traditional Chinese medicine as an antipyretic and hemostatic. The processed roots are used mainly as a tonic and sedative.

106.2 Chemical Constituents

The main constituents in the root of *R. glutinosa* are iridoid glycosides. The first iridoid glycoside isolated from fresh tubers was catalpol (106-1) [1].



Catalpol (106-1)

A systematic study of the iridoid glycosidic constituents in the root of *R. glutinosa* led to the isolation of four new iridoid glycosides named rehmannioside A (106-2), rehmannioside B (106-3), rehmannioside C (106-4), and rehmannioside D (106-5) together with known compounds of the same class, catalpol, ajugol (106-6), aucubin, and melittoside (106-7). The structures of rehmanniosides A, B, C, and D were determined as 6'-O- α -D-galactopyranosylcatalpol, 6-O- α -D-galactopyranosylcatalpol, 7-O- α -D-galactopyranosyl-ajugol, and sophorosylmonomelittoside, respectively [2].