

ALKALOIDS – NATURAL CARDIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

ANGELIKA KOLIŃSKA, PAWEŁ MARCINIAK, ZBIGNIEW ADAMSKI, GRZEGORZ ROSIŃSKI

*Department of Animal Physiology and Development, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Umultowska 89, 61-614 Poznań,*

*E-mail: kolinska.angelika@gmail.com*

Summary

Cardiovascular diseases belong to the most common ones in humans. Therefore, broad knowledge of substances able to modify and standardize activity of the heart, both of the natural and synthetic origin, provides the basis for the development of prophylaxis and treatment of cardiac ailments. In this regard, alkaloids seem to be of a great importance, as they exhibit a wide range of physiological activity. Investigations carried out until now, have led to identification of over 10000 different types of materials containing alkaloids, of which more than one hundred were used in pharmacy as analgetics, stimulants, relaxants, analeptics and influencing heart activity.

The paper describes the most important alkaloids from the medical point of view and their effects on the human body. Also results of experimental studies on the effects exerted by selected alkaloids and mixtures thereof on the insect's myocardium are presented, as a model in studies on the pharmacological effects of the tested substances.