

An aphid repellent glycoside from *Solanum laxum*

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A spirostanic saponin was isolated from the ethanolic extract of the aerial parts of *Solanum laxum*

Steud. The compound, named luciamin, was characterised by NMR spectroscopy, mass

spectrometry and chemical methods, as (22R, 25S)-spirost-5-en-3 β , 15 β -diol

3-O-{ β -D-glucopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 2)- β -D-glucopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 4)-[β -L-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2)]- β -D-galactop

yranoside}. The compound was tested against the aphid *Schizaphis graminum* by incorporation in

artificial diets. It showed a deterrent (toxic) activity against the insect and is the first spirostane

glycoside reported to have this activity. (C) 2000 Elsevier Science Ltd.