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Abstract
Two processes of campothecin (CPT) extraction from fresh leaves of Camptotheca acuminate by alcohol and NaOH solution was developed and compared. The fresh leaves of C. acuminate were either extracted by 10 ml/g of 95% alcohol at 25℃ for 24 hours or extracted by 50 mM NaOH solution at 25℃ for 24 hours followed by adjusting pH value to 5.5 for another 24 hours. The extracts were then subjected to liquid – liquid extraction by uaing CH2Cl2 as extraction for the separation of CPT from other residues. Finally, a patition column filled with silica gel was used to further isolate CPT. In conclusions, if 1 g of C. acuminate leaves contained 1 mg of CPT, 0.54 mg CPT can be obtained with 69.95% purity from the alcohol extraction process while 0.49 mg of CPT with 75.39% purity would be obtained from the NaOH extraction process.
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