

P-114: AMARYLLIDACEAE ALKALOIDS FROM *SCADOXUS PUNICEUS*

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Scadoxus puniceus, commonly called “snake lily”, “royal paintbrush” or “King-of-Candida” was derived from “doxus” meaning glory or splendor and “puniceus” meaning crimson, scarlet or purple. The bulbs and roots of this plant are used to treat coughs, gastro-intestinal problems, febrile colds, asthma, leprosy, sprains and bruises, as an antidote to poisons and used as a diuretic. The leaves are used as an antiseptic on sores and ulcers. The plant is also used traditionally as part of a medicine taken regularly during pregnancy to ensure safe labour. Excessive use and consumption of the plant may lead to poisoning, dizziness, visual disturbances, CNS depression or excitation. A phytochemical investigation of the bulbs of *Scadoxus puniceus* yielded eight alkaloids, haemanthamine, haemanthamine hydrochloride, 11-*epi*-haemanthamine hydrochloride, haemanthidine, 6- β -hydroxycrinamine, scapunine, scadoxucine and scadoxucine hydrochloride. Although haemanthamine and 11-*epi*-haemanthamine are known Amaryllidaceae alkaloids, its hydrochlorides have not been reported from a natural source. This is the first report of scapunine, scadoxucine and scadoxucine hydrochloride.