

The Alliaceae is a monocotyledon family with 10 genera and 1000 species distributed in temperate regions of northern hemisphere, Southern Africa and temperate South America (Boulos, 2005). In addition to the *Allium* species, mentioned below in details, the constituents of only few other genera have been reported. Steroid saponins have been identified in *Agapanthus* species (Alliaceae or Liliaceae) e.g. *Agapanthus africanus* (Singh *et al.*, 2007), *Agapanthus inapertus* (Liliaceae) (Yokosuka and Mimaki, 2007) and *Dichelostemma multiflorum* (Inoue *et al.*, 1995b). Yuccagenin (**1**) and agapanthagenin were tentatively identified from the rhizomes of *Agapanthus umbellatus* (Cyriac *et al.*, 1972). Tigogenin (**2**), neotigogenin (**3**) and other steroid saponins were isolated from *Tristagma uniflorum* (Brunengo *et al.*, 1985). The presence of phytoecdysteroids (e.g. 20-hydroxyecdysone), has been reported in the following *Agapanthus* species (Alliaceae): *Agapanthus campanulatus* ssp. *angustifolius*, *Agapanthus caulescens* ssp. *angustifolius*, *Agapanthus coddii* and *Agapanthus inapertus* ssp. *hollandii* (Savchenko *et al.*, 1997).

A dimeric dihydrochalcone (**4**) has been isolated from the roots of *Agapanthus africanus* (Kamara *et al.*, 2005). Five acylated anthocyanins (four delphinidin and one cyanidin glucosides) were identified from the blue-purple flowers of *Tritelia bridgesii* (Toki *et al.*, 1998). Two sulphur compounds *viz.* 2,4,5,7-tetrathiaoctane-2,2-dioxide and 2,4,5,7-tetrathiaoctane were characterized from *Tulbaghia violacea* (Burton and Kay, 1992).

The cytotoxicity of the steroidal glycosides from *Agapanthus inapertus* against HL-60 human promyelocytic leukemia cells, has been evaluated (Yokosuka and Mimaki, 2007).

The family is represented in Egypt by 2 genera and 26 species (Boulos, 2005).

