

Secondary Metabolites and Insecticidal Activity of *Anemone pavonina*

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The insecticidal properties of the crude extracts of the leaves and flowers of *Anemone pavonina* were evaluated on *Pheidole pallidula* ants and showed significant levels of activity. Bioassay-guided fractionations led to the isolation of the butenolide ranunculin (**1**) as the active principle. Chemical investigations of the extracts showed them to contain as major components the sitosterol glycopyranoside lipids **2–5** and the glycerides **6–8**. The structures of the metabolites were elucidated, following acetylation and hydrolysis of the natural products, by interpretation of their NMR and mass spectral data. The uncommon lipid metabolites **2–8** were isolated for the first time from the genus *Anemone* and this is the first report of insecticidal activity of the *Anemone* metabolite ranunculin against ants.

Key words: Insecticidal Activity, *Anemone pavonina*, *Pheidole pallidula*