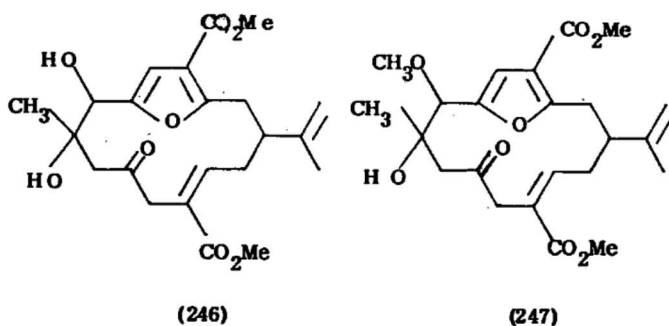


ABSTRACT

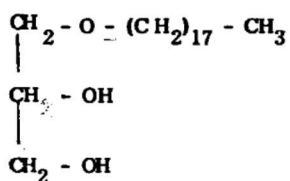
Marine organisms are a fascinating source of biologically active secondary metabolites such as anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, insecticidal, cytotoxic and anti-cancer agents.

In this research project aimed at identifying such bio-active compounds from Sri Lankan marine organisms, the extracts of a number of organisms collected from the Sri Lankan coastal waters were screened for biological activity.

Chemical investigation of the MeOH-CH₂Cl₂ (1:1) extract of the soft coral *Sinularia abrupta* collected at Kalkudah afforded two new closely related furano-cembranoid diterpenes (246) and (247). The structures of these compounds were deduced on the basis of their spectral data.

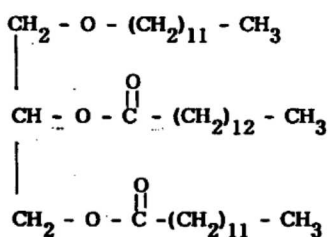


Chromatographic separation of the MeOH-CH₂Cl₂ (1 : 1) extract of the soft coral *Sinularia crispa* collected at Unawatuna yielded 1-O-octadecyl glycerol (batyl alcohol) (248) which showed potent anti-bacterial activity against *Pseudomonas* sp.

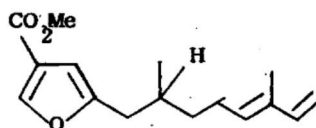


(248)

A specimen of the soft coral *Sinularia abrupta* collected from Unawatuna, afforded two bio-active constituents ; a diacyl glyceryl ether (249) and the furano-sesquiterpene, methyl (5', E) -5-(2', 6'-dimethylocta-5', 7'-dienyl) furan - 3 - carboxylate (44).



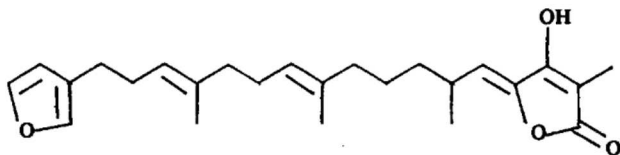
(249)



(44)

Activity directed fractionation of the CHCl₃ extract of an unidentified sponge collected at Wellawatta

furnished two furano-sesterpenes, which showed strong anti-bacterial activity against Staphylococcus aureus. One of them was identified as variabilin (228).



(228)

The crude extracts as well as the compounds isolated from them were screened for anti-bacterial (against Staphylococcus aureus, E. coli, and Pseudomonas sp.) and anti-fungal (against Cladosporium cladosporidae) activity. Compound (248) showed anti-bacterial activity against Pseudomonas sp., compound (228) showed activity against Staphylococcus aureus while compound (249) was active against both Staphylococcus aureus and the Pseudomonas sp. The compound (44) showed anti-fungal activity against the fungus Cladosporium cladosporidae.