

**ANTIBACTERIAL ACTION OF *PLECTRANTHUS*
ZEYLANICUS AND *COLEUS AROMATICUS***

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Plectranthus zeylanicus (Sin: Irriweriya, Sanskrit: Valakan) and *Coleus aromaticus* (Sin: Kapprawalliya, Tamil: Kappoorawallie) belonging to the natural order Labiatae find extensive application in indigenous medicine. The present paper describes the anti-bacterial actions of the essential oils of the two species and dehydroroyleanone and a new compound plectranthin $C_{22}H_{30}O_8$ isolated from *Plectranthus zeylanicus*. The anti-bacterial actions on *Sh. dysenteriae*, *E. coli*; *Staph. aureus* and *M. tuberculosis* are discussed.