# ALKALOIDS OF *ACTINODAPHNE SPECIOSA (LAURACEAE)*

B.M.R. Bandara*, U.L.B. Jayasinghe*, V.Karunaratne*
G.P. Wannigama* and S. Sotheeswaran**
*Dept. of Chemistry, University of Peradeniya.
**University of the South Pacific, Fiji.

*Actinodaphne speciosa*, endemic to Sri Lanka, is a tree of moderate size growing in the upper montane zone of the island.

The leaves of the plant were extracted sequentially with hot light petroleum and methanol. Evaporation of the methanolic extract gave a residue which was partitioned between 2N HCL and $CH_2CI_2$. The aqueous fraction was washed with $CH_2CI_2$. Separation of the alkaloids on silica gel gave $B_1$,$B_2$ and $B_3$ in order of increasing polarity. After further purifation by preparative layer chromatography. $B_1$ and $B_3$ have been identified as N-methyllaurotetanine and laurotetanine respectively. The available data on $B_2$ and a possible structure will be presented.

Identification of $B_1$ and $B_3$ was based on their physical and spectral data[1,2] as well as comparison with authentic samples. The identity of $B_3$ was confirmed by a spectral analysis of its N,O-diacetyl derivative[3], while the identity of $B_1$ was confirmed by its formation from $B_3$ by N-methylation with $HCHO-HCO_2H$.

A grant from NARESA is gratefully acknowledged.

*References*

Johns, S.R., Lamberton, J.A. and Sioumis, A.A. (1967) Aust. J. Chem., 20, 1457
Tewari, S., Bhakuni, D.S. and Dhar, M.M. (1972) Phytochemistry II, 1149
Johns, S.R., and Lamberton, J.A. (1966) Aust. J. Chem., 19, 297

*09th Dec. 1987 (Wednesday) 09.00 a.m. - 09.15 a.m.*