

TWO ANTI-BACTERIAL METABOLITES FROM
A SRI LANKAN SPONGE

J.A. Chandrasiri*, L.M.V. Tillekeratne*,
S.A. Deraniyagala* and Ananda Amarasekera**

*Dept. of Chemistry, University of Colombo.

**Dept. of Chemistry, Bar-Ilan University, Israel.

In our search for biologically active secondary metabolites from marine organisms, we have investigated a species of sponge collected from the sea off Wellawatta. The fresh specimen was extracted with methanol-CH₂Cl₂ (1:1) at room temperature. The solvent was evaporated off and the crude extract was partitioned between water and CH₂Cl₂. The CH₂Cl₂ solubles showed anti-bacterial activity against Staphylococcus aureus, as determined by paper disc method.

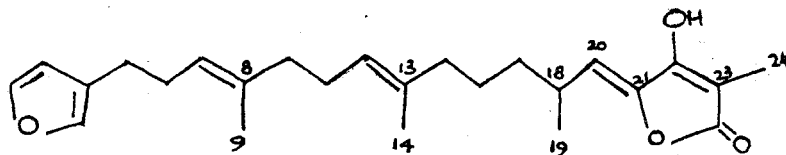
The CH₂Cl₂ extract was subjected to chromatographic separation on a column of silica gel in hexane-acetone. Two major metabolites which showed very strong anti-bacterial activity against Staphylococcus aureus were isolated. On the basis of spectral data, one of them was identified as variabilin (1) which has previously been isolated from the sponge Ircinia variabilis.

The second compound appears to be related to variabilin according to spectral data. The structure of this compound is being elucidated now.

This research project was supported by NARESA research grant RG/85/C/6.

Reference.

Faulkner D, John (1973), Tetrahedron Letters, 39, 3321.



(1)

09th Dec. 1987 (Wednesday) 02.15 p.m. - 02.30 p.m.