BISBYNIN : A NEW REARRANGED CARBOHYDRATE DIMER FROM FUNGUS STACHYBOTRYS BISBYI (SRINIVASAN) BARRON

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A large number of antibiotics in use today were initially obtained from fungal sources. The rich Sri Lankan fungal flora, however, remains untapped. It is very likely that some of these fungi may habour novel and highly effective antibiotics. Therefore, the study was begun, to isolate and characerize such compounds from local fungi. The fungi were grown on potato liquid medium. The filterate obtained were tested against the bacteria, Escherechia Coli, Staphylococcus aureus and Streptococcus vividae on a blood agar base. The purfication of the active fraction by columns and TLC chromatography resulted in the isolation of bisbynin (1) as colourless crystals (mp 144° C).

Its structure was determined by a combination of spectroscopic and single crystal X-ray diffraction analysis.