

D T U Wijayaratne, W A S W Perera
Dept of Chemistry, University of Colombo, Colombo 3

Compounds possessing interesting biological properties have been isolated from fungi and some of them have been developed into useful pharmaceutical compounds. Crude extract of *Trichoderma viridae*, isolated from mushroom compost was tested for biological activities and found to have some antifungal and antibacterial activities. The isolation and purification of the components in the crude extract was performed in order to obtain a biologically active compound.

Trichoderma viridae was grown in a liquid medium containing maltose, glucose, peptone, yeast extract and 5 mineral salts. After 21 days at room temperature the liquid medium was separated from the fungal mat and was freeze dried to obtain a thick paste. This crude paste was then extracted into methylene chloride and the components in the methylene chloride extract were purified on a silica gel preparative TLC plate using acetone, methylene chloride and hexane. Spectroscopic methods were used in the structure elucidation.

Methylene chloride extract of *Trichoderma viridae* contains a furan which showed the following spectroscopic data. IR (film) ν max 3422, 3350, 1682, 1469, 1269, 1030, 983, 912, 771; ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 Mhz) δ 7.63 (1H, dd, $J=0.7, 1.7$ Hz, H-5), 7.31 (1H, dd, $J=0.7, 3.6$ Hz, H-3), 6.60 (dd, $J=1.7, 3.6$ Hz, H-4) 4.75 (2H, s), 3.30 (broad singlet, OH); ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3 , 200 Mhz) 187.63 (C=O), 150.12 (C-2), 147.04 (C-5), 117.86 (C-3), 112.54 (C-4), 65.05 (CH_2). This suggests that the major component in the methylene chloride extract is 2-furyl hydroxymethyl ketone.

Such compounds are formed from sugars during caramelisation where thermal decomposition of sugars gives a mixture of furans, furanones, pyrones, lactones, aldehydes, ketones, acids and esters. The formation of the above furan in the culture broth of *Trichoderma viridae* suggests the enzymatic transformation of sugars in the medium by the fungi.
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