

Antifungal constituents of the stem bark of *Bridelia retusa*

In a continuation of our work on the search for bioactive compounds from Sri Lankan plants, the present investigation was carried out on *Bridelia retusa* (L.) Spreng. of the family Euphorbiaceae. *B. retusa* is a tree of moderate size growing in Sri Lanka. Roots and stem bark of this plant are used in the indigenous system of medicine for the treatment of rheumatism and as an astringent. No previous phytochemical work has been reported on this plant. Antifungal activity guided fractionation of solvent extracts of the stem bark of *Bridelia retusa* against *Cladosporium cladosporioides*, furnished new bisabolane sesquiterpenes, (*E*)-4-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-1-hexenyl)benzoic acid, (*E*)-4-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-1,4-hexadienyl) benzoic acid, 4-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxo-4-hexenyl)benzoic acid and (-)-isochaminic acid, together with the known (*R*)-4-(1,5-dimethyl-3-oxohexyl)benzoic acid [(*R*)-ar-todomatuic acid], 5-allyl-1,2,3-trimethoxy benzene (elemicin), (+)-sesamin and 4-isopropylbenzoic acid (cuminic acid). All these compounds showed fungicidal activity on TLC bioautography method at very low concentrations.