

PREFACE

The dissertation embodies the results of a series of investigation on chemical constituents of two Indian medicinal plants belonging to the Flacourtiaceae family carried out by the author in the Department of Chemistry, University of North Bengal, District Darjeeling, West Bengal, India. It is divided into three parts. In Part I, after a short introduction, morphological features of the family Flacourtiaceae and its two species — Gynocardia odorata and Flacourtia sepiaria — and a short account of the previous works on the plants of this family have been discussed. The studies leading to the isolation and structure elucidation of four new triterpenoids possessing the friedelane skeleton from Gynocardia odorata comprise the major part of the subject matter of Part II. Part III embodies the phytochemical investigation on Flacourtia sepiaria. A new sterol has been isolated from this plant and its structure has been elucidated.

The numbers in the literature references, tables, charts, figures, schemes and structures have been made separately for each part of the dissertation.

The author takes the opportunity to record his gratitude to Dr B P Pradhan, Reader, Department of Chemistry, University of North Bengal, for his unstinted help and sincerest guidance. The help rendered by Dr S N Bose, Reader, Department of Chemistry, and Dr T K Roy, Senior Research Assistant, Department of Chemistry, University of North Bengal, is gratefully acknowledged.

The author acknowledges his indebtedness to Dr S C Ray, Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of North Bengal, for his discussion and advice.

The author is highly indebted to Dr J N Shoolery, Varian Associate, NMR application Laboratory, Palo Alto, USA for the NMR spectra and for his generous help with points of interpretation. Thanks are due to Dr P M Scopes, Imperial College, London for CD and optical rotations recorded in Part II, and Dr S K Sengupta, EIPW, Calcutta for optical rotations recorded in Part III. Thanks are also extended to the Director, CDRI, Lucknow for MS and microanalysis, to the authority of Sukhna Forest, District Darjeeling, West Bengal, for supplying and identification of the plant materials.

The author is grateful to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for financial assistance, and the principal of Malda College, Malda for granting study leave.

The author duly acknowledges various sorts of help from Dr (Mrs) Sikha Dutta, Senior Research Associate, Dr S K Saha, Lecturer, Dr B Basu, Lecturer, Dr A K Majumder, Scientific Officer, Department of Chemistry, Mr M Yasin, Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Dr S L Dutta, Development Officer, University of North Bengal, and his other colleagues and friends.

The author thanks Mr B Bagchi for drawings and Mr C K Pal for typing the manuscript.

The shortcomings, if any, are entirely the author's.

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