ALKALOIDS OF *ACTINODAPHNE SPECIOSA* (LAURACEAE)

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*Actinodaphne speciosa*, endemic to Sri Lanka, is a tree of moderate size growing in the upper montane zone of the island.

The leaves of the plant were extracted sequentially with hot light petroleum and methanol. Evaporation of the methanolic extract gave a residue which was partitioned between 2N HCL and CH$_2$Cl$_2$. The aqueous fraction was washed with CH$_2$Cl$_2$. Separation of the alkaloids on silica gel gave B$_1$, B$_2$ and B$_3$ in order of increasing polarity. After further purification by preparative layer chromatography. B$_1$ and B$_3$ have been identified as N-methyllaurotetanine and laurotetanine respectively. The available data on B$_2$ and a possible structure will be presented.

Identification of B$_1$ and B$_3$ was based on their physical and spectral data$^{1,2}$ as well as comparison with authentic samples. The identity of B$_3$ was confirmed by a spectral analysis of its N,O-diacetyl derivative$^3$, while the identity of B$_1$ was confirmed by its formation from B$_3$ by N-methylation with HCHO-HCO$_2$H.

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References


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