ABSTRACT

Phytochemical Investigations of *Piper reticulatum* and *Piper aequale*

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In Chapter 1, the secondary metabolites isolated from a variety of *Piper* species and their biological activity are reviewed.

The isolation and structure elucidation of two novel 6-substituted-5,6-dihydro-2H-pyran-2-ones, a pyrroldidine amide alkaloid and benzoic acid obtained from the aerial parts of *Piper reticulatum* are the subject of Chapter Two.

In Chapter Three the isolation, structure elucidation and characterization of ten benzofuran type neolignans, of which two are novel, isolated from the leaves and stems of *Piper aequale* are discussed.

Keywords: Darrin R. Dabideen; Piperaceae; *Piper reticulatum*; *Piper aequale*; lactone; amide alkaloids; neolignans; benzofuran.