ABSTRACT

In Part I of this thesis the isolation of some of the constituents of *Croton corylifolius* (Euphorbiaceae) and the characterisation of some diterpenoids found in this plant are described. The structure, stereochemistry and absolute configuration of a new furano-diterpene are discussed. The chemical and physical data which revealed the structure and stereochemistry of a novel tricarbocyclic diterpenoid, *Crotofolin A* are presented. Strong evidence for a crotofolin carbon skeleton for two new diterpenoids, *corylifolin* and *isocorylifolin* is also presented. A plausible biogenesis of *Crotofolin A* is also discussed. Preliminary results are reported on Compound C to which a tiglian carbon skeleton is suggested.

In Part II the isolation and characterisation of some known sesquiterpenoids, hyenanchin (from *Picrodendron baccatum*), cedrol and widdrol (from *Juniperus leucayana*) are discussed. The discovery of the compound hyenanchin has defined the family to which the genus *Picrodendron* belongs.