

ABSTRACT

The resin obtained from the leaves, twigs, and flowering tops of Cannabis sativa has been used as a medicine and psychotomimetic drug since ancient times, and has for a long time attracted the interest of the chemist. The isolation, structural elucidation and reactions of the cannabinoids as well as synthetic studies are reviewed, and metabolic studies summarised in Part I of this thesis.

Part II describes the structural elucidation of cannabitriol, a new cannabinoid and three non-cannabinoid compounds designated E, F and K isolated from Jamaican Cannabis sativa. The spectral and analytical data of a fifth compound designated D, as well as a study of the differences between the pistillate and staminate extracts as observed on TLC (thin layer chromatography) are also included.