

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## ABSTRACT

## Studies on Local Anthozoans and Related Species

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This dissertation deals with the chemistry of various diterpenes found in octocorals, with emphasis on isolates from gorgonians. A review of the existing literature on these secondary metabolites is followed by a detailed study of these types of compounds from two Caribbean gorgonians.

From *Erythropodium caribaeorum*, the known compounds erythrolides A and B, together with a new briarein diterpene, were isolated and identified. Certain NMR assignments to erythrolides A and B were revised, and the structure of the new diterpene is discussed.

Finally the isolation and structure of a novel compound, methyl briareolate, from *Briareum asbestinum*, is discussed. This diterpene represents the first example of a new structural type within the briarein class of compounds.