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**CHEMISTRY OF FIVE LICHENS OF SRI LANKA**

**AND**

**SEQUESTRATION OF LICHEN COMPOUNDS BY A LYCAENID**

**BUTTERFLY *TALICADA NYSEUS***

A THESIS PRESENTED

BY

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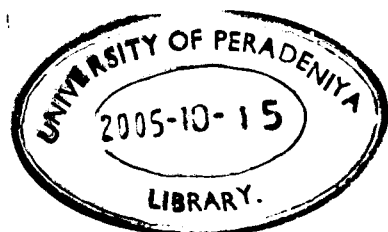
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ABSTRACT



**CHEMISTRY OF FIVE LICHENS OF SRI LANKA  
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SEQUESTRATION OF LICHEN COMPOUNDS BY A LYCAENID  
BUTTERFLY *TALICADA NYSEUS***

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The thesis is in two parts. Part I deals with the chemistry of five lichens: *Pyxine consocians*, *Usnea* sp., *Heterodermia leucomelos*, *Lepraria atrotomentosa* and *Leproloma sipmanianum* from Sri Lanka. *Pyxine consocians*, *Usnea* sp., *Heterodermia leucomelos* are common macrolichens from the montane zone while *Lepraria atrotomentosa* (new species) and *Leproloma sipmanianum* (new record) are two leprarioid lichens. It describes the isolation and identification of a large number of compounds from five lichens and also discusses the results of the mosquito larvicidal assay against the second instar larvae of *Aedes aegypti*. Of the 16 or so natural products isolated from the extracts and sometimes the powder of the lichens, three were new compounds.

The compounds, namely cabraleadiol monoacetate **55**, 4-*O*-methylcryptochlorophaeic acid **45** and lichexanthone **57** (from *Pyxine consocians*), methyl ether of stictic acid **61** (from *Usnea* sp.) and 3, 6-dimethyl-2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzoic acid **64** (from *Heterodermia leucomelos* and *Leproloma sipmanianum*) showed moderate activity against the second instar larvae of *Aedes aegypti*.

Part II of the thesis deals with the sequestration of the compounds isolated from the lichen *Leproloma sipmanianum* by a lycaenid butterfly *Talicada nyseus* and also describes the investigations regarding the stage of entry of lichen compounds into the life cycle of the butterfly and also its life history studies on *Bryophyllum calycinum* (host plant) and *B. laciniata* (a related species).