

ALKALOIDS OF THE GENUS *CINNAMOMUM*

III.* IDENTIFICATION OF RETICULINE AS THE MAJOR BARK ALKALOID OF *CINNAMOMUM LAUBATTII*

By J. ELLIS,† E. GELLERT,† and R. E. SUMMONS†

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The bark of *Cinnamomum laubattii* F. Muell. afforded a crude alkaloid mixture in 0.01% yield. Thin-layer chromatography indicated that although the mixture contained traces of a number of constituents one compound, (+)-reticuline, constituted the bulk of the material. The two other species of the genus which have so far yielded alkaloids, *Cinnamomum camphora*¹ and *Cinnamomum* sp. T.G.H. 13077,² also contained reticuline as their major constituent.

Experimental

Bark was collected by the CSIRO Phytochemical Survey Unit, from McKeller Road, Ather-ton Tableland in northern Queensland. The dried, milled plant material (22 kg) was extracted and worked up in the manner described previously² and the crude alkaloids (2.3 g, 0.01%) were chromatographed on deactivated neutral alumina using chloroform with increasing methanol content (0–5%) as eluent. Fractions which were shown by t.l.c. to consist essentially of reticuline were combined and converted into the perchlorate salt, m.p. 201°, $[\alpha]_D + 80^\circ$. Comparison of this salt with an authentic sample of reticuline perchlorate (mixed m.p. and i.r. spectrum) confirmed the identity.

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* Part II, *Aust. J. Chem.*, 1970, **23**, 2095.

† Chemistry Department, Wollongong University College, Wollongong, N.S.W. 2500.

¹ Tomita, M., and Kozuka, M., *J. pharm. Soc. Japan*, 1964, **84**, 365.

² Gellert, E., and Summons, R. E., *Aust. J. Chem.*, 1970, **23**, 2095.