CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL

1. Botanical aspect of Labiatae

The Labiatae (Lamiaceae) contains 200 genera and about 3,000 species (Heywood, 1978), which are distributed chiefly in North temperate regions.

The Labiatae is a family of herbs, rarely shrubs, usually loaded with oil-glands. *Stem* usually 4-gonous. *Leaves* opposite or whorled, stipules 0. *Flowers* irregular, solitary 2-nate or fascicled and axillary, or in centrifugal spicate cymes which by their union in pairs form false whorls. *Calyx* persistent irregular, 4-5-cleft or 2-lipped. *Corolla* sympetalous, hypogynous; limb 4-5-lobed or 2-lipped, lobes imbricate in bud. *Stamens* inserted in the corolla-tube, 4 didynamous, or the 2 upper imperfect. Anthercells connate or separate or confluent. Disc prominent. *Ovary* free, 2 of 2-celled carpels; style simple, inserted between the lobes, stigma usually bifid; ovules one in each cell, erect, anatropous. *Fruit* of 4 dry or rarely fleshy 1-seeded lobes (nutlets) at the base of the calyx. *Seeds* small, erect, albumen sparing or ,radicle inferior. (Hooker, 1953)

The genus *Coleus* belongs to subfamily Ocimoideae and subtribe Euocimeae of this family (Hooker, 1953). According to Smitinand (1980), there are 5 species of *Coleus* in Thailand. These are as follows:

- 1. Coleus amboinicus Lour.
 - C. aromaticus Benth.
 - C. carnosus, Hassk.

[Huu suea (หูเสือ) , Niam huu suea (เนียมหูเสือ) (Central) ; Hom duan luang (หอมค่วนหลวง) , Hom duan huu suea (หอมค่วนหูเสือ) (Northern) ; Indian borage ; Country borage ; Oregano]

2. Coleus atropurpureus Benth.

[Ruesee phasom laeo (ฤาษีผสมแล้ว) (Central)]

3. Coleus blumei Benth.

[Waan lueat haeng (ว่านเลือดแห้ง) (Chiang Mai)]

Coleus blumei var. verschaffeltii, Lem.

[Ruesee phasom laeo (ฤาษีผสมแล้ว) (Central)]

4. Coleus parvifolius Benth.

C. tuberosus Benth.

[Man khee nuu (มันขี้หนู), Man nuu (มันหนู) (Peninsular) ; U-bee ka-ling (อุบีกะลิง) (Malay-Narathiwat)]

2. Classification of *Coleus* terpenoids

A number of terpenoids with great potential in drug development were reported as constituents of *Coleus forskohlii* Brig. (syn. *C. barbatus*). A preliminary biological screening of root extract of this plant indicated hypotensive and spasmolytic activities (Dubey *et al.*, 1981). The steam distillate of its roots has been reported to contain mono and sesquiterpenes (Mathela, Kharkwal and Mathela, 1986). Benzene extract of its roots also afforded labdane diterpenoids including coleonol (forskolin) (Tandon *et al.*, 1977), a major component which is a potential drug for treatment of glaucoma, cardiomyopathy and asthma (Valdes, Mislankar and Paul, 1987; Bhat, 1993) because of its unique adenylate cyclase stimulant activity (Seamon, 1983; de Souza, 1993). Several species of *Coleus* are used in traditional Ayurvedic healing. Chemical studies of plants in the genus *Coleus* led to isolation of a large number of terpenoids. Currently, there are about 116 terpenoids of 16 structural types reported from 11 species of *Coleus*. These terpenoids can be classified into 4 major groups as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Terpenoids from Coleus species

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
1. Monoterpenes			
1.1 Acyclic	Myrcene (1)	Coleus amboinicus	Malik <i>et al.</i> , 1985
		Coleus barbatus	Mathela et al., 1986; Maia et al., 1988
1.2 p-Menthanes	p-Cymene (2)	Coleus amboinicus	Bos, Hendriks and van Os, 1983; Malik et al., 1985; Haque, 1988
		Coleus barbatus	Mathela et al., 1986; Maia et al., 1988
	Thymol (3)	Coleus amboinicus	Baslas and Kumar, 1981; Bos <i>et al.</i> , 1983; Malik <i>et al.</i> , 1985; Haque, 1988
	Carvacrol (4)	Coleus amboinicus	Baslas and Kumar, 1981; Bos <i>et al.</i> , 1983; Malik <i>et al.</i> , 1985; Morton, 1992
		Coleus barbatus	Maia <i>et al.</i> , 1988
	Limonene (5)	Coleus amboinicus	Malik <i>et al.</i> , 1985; Morton, 1992
	α-Terpinene (6)	Coleus barbatus	Maia et al., 1988

Table 2 Terpenoids from Coleus species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
	α-Terpinolene (7)	Coleus amboinicus	Baslas and Kumar, 1981
		Coleus barbatus	Maia <i>et al.</i> , 1988
	γ-Terpinene (8)	Coleus amboinicus	Malik <i>et al.</i> , 1985
		Coleus barbatus	Maia <i>et al.</i> , 1988
	α-Phellandrene (9)	Coleus barbatus	Maia et al., 1988
	β-Phellandrene (10)	Coleus amboinicus	Baslas and Kumar, 1981
		Coleus barbatus	Mathela et al., 1986
	Terpinen-4-ol (11)	Coleus amboinicus	Haque, 1988
		Coleus barbatus	Maia <i>et al.</i> , 1988
	α–Terpineol (12)	Coleus barbatus	Maia <i>et al.</i> , 1988
	Piperitone (13)	Coleus barbatus	Maia <i>et al.</i> , 1988
1.3 Bicyclic			
- Camphanes	Borneol (14)	Coleus barbatus	Maia <i>et al.</i> , 1988

Table 2 Terpenoids from Coleus species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
	Camphor (15)	Coleus amboinicus	Morton, 1992
		Coleus barbatus	Maia et al., 1988
- Pinanes	α-Pinene (16)	Coleus amboinicus	Baslas and Kumar, 1981; Malik et al., 1985
		Coleus barbatus	Mathela et al., 1986; Maia et al., 1988
	β-Pinene (17)	Coleus amboinicus	Baslas and Kumar, 1981; Malik et al., 1985
		Coleus barbatus	Mathela et al., 1986; Maia et al., 1988
	Verbenone (18)	Coleus amboinicus	Haque, 1988
- Carane	3- Carene (19)	Coleus barbatus	Maia <i>et al.</i> , 1988
- Thujane	α-Thujene (20)	Coleus barbatus	Mathela et al., 1986
2. Sesquiterpenoids			
2.1 Bisabolanes	α–Curcumene (21)	Coleus barbatus	Mathela et al., 1986
	β–Bisabolene (22)	Coleus barbatus	Mathela et al., 1986
2.2 Elemane	β–Elemene (23)	Coleus barbatus	Mathela et al., 1986

Table 2 Terpenoids from *Coleus* species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
2.3 Humulane	α-Humulene (24)	Coleus barbatus	Maia et al., 1988
2.4 Caryophyllanes	β-Caryophyllene (25)	Coleus amboinicus	Baslas and Kumar, 1981; Bos et al., 1983
		Coleus barbatus	Maia et al., 1988
2.5 Cuparane	Cuparene (26)	Coleus barbatus	Mathela et al., 1986
2.6 Eudesmane	β–Selinene (27)	Coleus amboinicus	Malik <i>et al.</i> , 1985
2.7 Cadinane	δ-Cadinene (28)	Coleus barbatus	Maia et al., 1988
2.8 Copaane	α-Copaene (29)	Coleus barbatus	Mathela et al., 1986; Maia et al., 1988
3. Diterpines			
3.1 Labdanes	Coleonol E (30)	Coleus barbatus	Painuly, Katti and Tandon, 1979
	Coleonol D (31)	Coleus barbatus	Katti, Jauhari and Tandon, 1979
	Coleonol F (32)	Coleus barbatus	Painuly et al.,1979
	1α, 6β, 7α-Triacetylcoleonol B	Coleus barbatus	Jin, Xie and Mu, 1990; Gan, Zheng and
	(33)		Shen, 1993

Table 2 Terpenoids from Coleus species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
	8, 13-Epoxy-labd-14-en-11- one (34)	Coleus barbatus	Gabetta, Zini and Daneli, 1989
	6β, 7α-Diacetoxy-8, 13- epoxy- labd-14-en-11-one (35)	Coleus barbatus	Gabetta et al., 1989
	Coleol (36)	Coleus barbatus	Katti et al, 1979
	6β-Hydroxy-8, 13-epoxy-labd- 14-en-11-one (37)	Coleus barbatus	Gabetta et al., 1989
	Coleosol (38)	Coleus barbatus	Jauhari et al., 1978
	1-Acetoxycoleosol (39)	Coleus barbatus	Roy et al., 1993
	6β, 7β-Dihydroxy-8, 13- epoxy- labd-14-en-11-one (40)	Coleus barbatus	Gabetta et al., 1989
	6β, 7β, 9α-Trihydroxy-8, 13- epoxy-labd-14-en-11-one (41)	Coleus barbatus	Gabetta <i>et al.</i> , 1989

Table 2 Terpenoids from *Coleus* species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
	1α, 6β, 7β, 9α-Tetrahydroxy- 8, 13-epoxy-labd-14-en-11- one (42)	Coleus barbatus	Tandon <i>et al.</i> , 1977
	1,9-Dideoxyforskolin (43)	Coleus barbatus	Gabetta et al., 1989; Khandelwal et al., 1989; Roy et al., 1993
	9-Dideoxyforskolin (44)	Coleus barbatus	Gabetta et al., 1989; Tandon et al., 1992
	1-Dideoxyforskolin (45)	Coleus barbatus	Khandelwal et al., 1989
	Forskolin (Coleonol, Colforsin, USAN) (46)	Coleus barbatus	Tandon et al., 1977, 1984, 1992; Singh and Tandon, 1982; Viswanathan and Gawad, 1985; Valdes et al., 1987; Gabetta et al., 1989
	6β- Acetoxy -7β- hydroxy- 8, 13-epoxy-labd-14-en-11- one (47)	Coleus barbatus	Painuly et al.,1979
	Coleonol B (48)	Coleus barbatus	Tandon <i>et al.</i> , 1978, 1984; Jin <i>et al.</i> , 1990; Gan <i>et al.</i> , 1993

Table 2 Terpenoids from Coleus species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
	Coleonol C (49)	Coleus barbatus	Tandon <i>et al.</i> , 1978
	Coleonone (50)	Coleus barbatus	Katti <i>et al.</i> , 1979
3.2 Abietanes			
- Abietanes	20-Deoxocarnosol (51)	Coleus barbatus	Kelecom, 1984
	6α-Hydroxycarnosol (52)	Coleus barbatus	Kelecom and Medeiros, 1987
	Esquirolin D (53)	Coleus esquirolii	Li et al., 1991b, 1992
	6β-Hydroxycarnosol (54)	Coleus barbatus	Kelecom, 1983a
	Carnosolone (55)	Coleus amboinicus	Yoshizaki, Ruedi and Eugster, 1979
	Royleanone (56)	Coleus amboinicus	Yoshizaki, et al., 1979
	7α-Hydroxyroyleanone	Coleus amboinicus	Yoshizaki, et al., 1979
	(Horminone) (57)		
	7α-Acetoxyroyleanone (58)	Coleus amboinicus	Yoshizaki, et al., 1979
	6β-Hydroxyroyleanone (59)	Coleus amboinicus	Yoshizaki, et al., 1979

Table 2 Terpenoids from *Coleus* species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
	6β, 7α-Dihydroxyroyleanone (60)	Coleus amboinicus	Yoshizaki, <i>et al.</i> , 1979
	7α-Acetoxy-6β- hydroxyroyleanone (61)	Coleus amboinicus	Yoshizaki, <i>et al.</i> , 1979
		Coleus zeylanicus	Mehrotra et al., 1989
	7α-Acetoxy-6β-20- dihydroxyroyleanone (62)	Coleus amboinicus	Yoshizaki, <i>et al.</i> , 1979
	6β, 7β-Dihydroxyroyleanone (63)	Coleus zeylanicus	Mehrotra et al., 1989
	7β-Acetoxy-6β- hydroxyroyleanone (64)	Coleus zeylanicus	Mehrotra et al., 1989
	6, 7-Dehydroroyleanone (65)	Coleus amboinicus	Yoshizaki, <i>et al.</i> , 1979
	Coleon U (66)	Coleus amboinicus	Yoshizaki, <i>et al.</i> , 1979
		Coleus xanthanthus	Li et al., 1991a, 1991b

Table 2 Terpenoids from Coleus species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
	Coleon C (67)	Coleus barbatus	Yoshizaki, <i>et al.</i> , 1979
	Coleon H (68)	Coleus somaliensis	Matloubi-Moghadam, Ruedi and Eugster, 1984
	Coleon L (69)	Coleus somaliensis	Ruedi and Eugster, 1977; Matloubi- Moghadam et al., 1984
	Sugiol (70)	Coleus xanthanthus	Li <i>et al.</i> , 1991a, 1991b
	Coleon V (71)	Coleus amboinicus	Yoshizaki, <i>et al.</i> , 1979
	Coleon D (72)	Coleus barbatus	Yoshizaki, et al., 1979
	Coleon I (73)	Coleus somaliensis	Matloubi-Moghadam et al., 1984
	Coleon K (74)	Coleus somaliensis	Matloubi-Moghadam et al., 1984
	6,11-Epoxy-6,12-dihydroxy- 6,7-seco-8,11,13-abietatrien- 7-al (75)	Coleus barbatus	Kelecom, 1983b
	Cariocal (76)	Coleus barbatus	Kelecom and Dos Santos, 1985

Table 2 Terpenoids from *Coleus* species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
	Coleon A (77)	Coleus igniarius	Eugster et al, 1963
	Edulone A (78)	Coleus edulis	Kunzle <i>et al.</i> , 1986
	Coleon B (79)	Coleus igniarius	Eugster et al, 1963
- 13, 16-Cycloabietanes	Barbatusin (80)	Coleus barbatus	Wang et al., 1973; Zelnik et al., 1977
	3β-Hydroxy-3-	Coleus barbatus	Zelnik <i>et al.</i> , 1977
	deoxybarbatusin (81)		
	Coleon J (82)	Coleus somaliensis	Ruedi and Eugster, 1973
	Coleon G (83)	Coleus somaliensis	Matloubi-Moghadam et al., 1984
	Coleon O (84)	Coleus barbatus	Devriese, Buffel and Geuns, 1988
		Coleus blumei	Devriesee et al., 1988
		Coleus coerulescens	Grob et al., 1978
		Coleus somaliensis	Arihara, Ruedi and Eugster, 1975;
			Matloubi-Moghadam et al., 1984

Table 2 Terpenoids from *Coleus* species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
	12-o-Deacetyl-18- acetoxycoleon Q (85)	Coleus somaliensis	Matloubi-Moghadam et al., 1984
	12-o-Deacetyl-7- o-acetyl-19- hydroxycoleon Q (86)	Coleus somaliensis	Matloubi-Moghadam et al., 1984
	12-o-Deacetylcoleon R (87)	Coleus coerulescens	Grob et al., 1978
	6,12-o-bis-Deacetylcoleon R (88)	Coleus coerulescens	Grob <i>et al.</i> , 1978
	Coleon Y (89)	Coleus coerulescens	Grob <i>et al.</i> , 1978
		Coleus somaliensis	Matloubi-Moghadam <i>et al.</i> , 1984
	3-o-Deacetyl-3-o- formylcoleon Y (90)	Coleus coerulescens	Grob <i>et al.</i> , 1978
		Coleus somaliensis	Matloubi-Moghadam et al., 1984
	Cyclobutatusin (91)	Coleus barbatus	Zelnik <i>et al.</i> , 1977
	Fredericone A (92)	Coleus fredericii	Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 1988

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Table 2 Terpenoids from *Coleus* species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
- 19(4→3)-abeo-abietanes	19(4β→3β)-abeo-6,11-Epoxy-6,12-dihydroxy-6,7-seco-4 (18),8,11,13-abietatetraen-7-al (93)	Coleus barbatus	Kelecom, 1983b
	Coleon E (94)	Coleus barbatus	Ruedi and Eugster, 1973; Ruedi, 1986
	Coleon E (94)	Coleus kilimandschari	Ruedi and Eugster, 1973
	Coleon F (95)	Coleus barbatus	Ruedi, 1986
	Coleon F (95)	Coleus kilimandschari	Ruedi and Eugster, 1973
	Fredericone C (106)	Coleus fredericii	Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 1988
	Fredericone D (107)	Coleus fredericii	Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 1988
- 9(10→20)- <i>abeo</i> -abietanes	Barbatusol (96)	Coleus barbatus	Kelecom, 1983b
	11-Hydroxypisiferanol (97)	Coleus barbatus	Kelecom, 1983b
- 17(15→16)- <i>abeo</i> -abietanes	Xanthathusin A (98)	Coleus xanthanthus	Li et al., 1991b

Table 2 Terpenoids from *Coleus* species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
	17(15→16)-abeo-3α,18- Diacetoxy-6β,7α,16- trihydroxyroyleanone (99)	Coleus coerulescens	Grob et al., 1978
	Fredericone B (102)	Coleus fredericii	Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 1988
	Esquirolin A (103)	Coleus esquirolii	Li <i>et al.</i> , 1991a
	Esquirolin B (104)	Coleus esquirolii	Li et al., 1991b, 1992
	Esquirolin C (105)	Coleus esquirolii	Li et al., 1991b, 1992
- 17(15-→16),19(4-→3)-Bis- abeo-abietanes	17(15→16),19(4→3)-Bis (abeo)-6β,7α,16 - trihydroxyroyleanone (3α)-form (100)	Coleus coerulescens	Grob <i>et al.</i> , 1978
	17(15 \rightarrow 16),19(4 \rightarrow 3)-Bis (abeo)-6β,7α,16 - trihydroxyroyleanone (3β)-form (101)	Coleus coerulescens	Grob et al., 1978

Table 2 Terpenoids from Coleus species (Continued)

Compound type	Compounds	Sources	References
4. Triterpenes			
4.1 Oleananes	Maslinic acid (108)	Coleus amboinicus	Brieskorn and Riedel, 1977b
	Oleanolic acid (109)	Coleus amboinicus	Brieskorn and Riedel, 1977b
		Coleus esquirolii	Li et al., 1991b
4.2 Taraxerane	Taraxerol (110)	Coleus esquirolii	Li et al., 1991b, 1992
4.3 Ursanes	Ursolic acid (111)	Coleus amboinicus	Brieskorn and Riedel, 1977b
	Mirianthic acid (112)	Coleus amboinicus	Higuchi et al., 1982
	Euscaphic acid (113)	Coleus amboinicus	Brieskorn and Riedel, 1977b
	Tormentic acid (114)	Coleus amboinicus	Brieskorn and Riedel, 1977b
		Coleus spicatus	Painuly and Tandon, 1983
	α–Amyrin (115)	Coleus spicatus	Painuly and Tandon, 1983
	Hyptadienic acid	Coleus barbatus	Roy et al., 1990
	(Coleonolic acid) (116)		

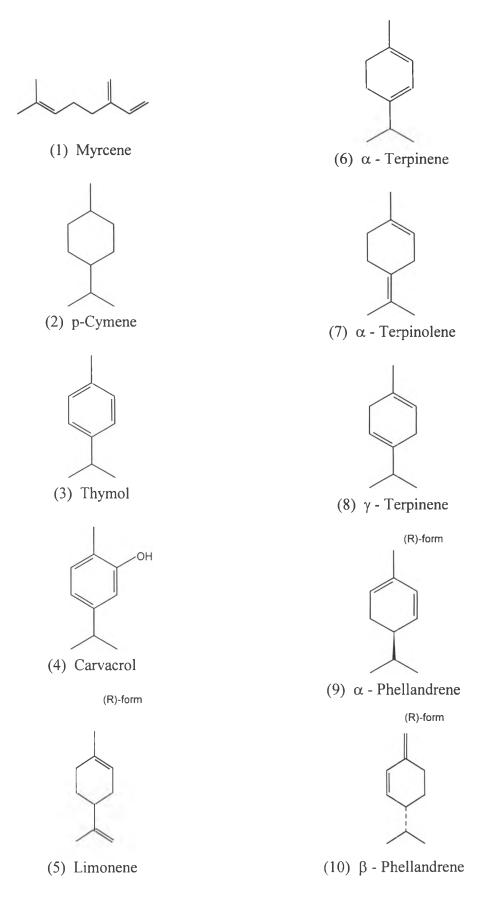


Figure 2. Monoterpenoids from Coleus species

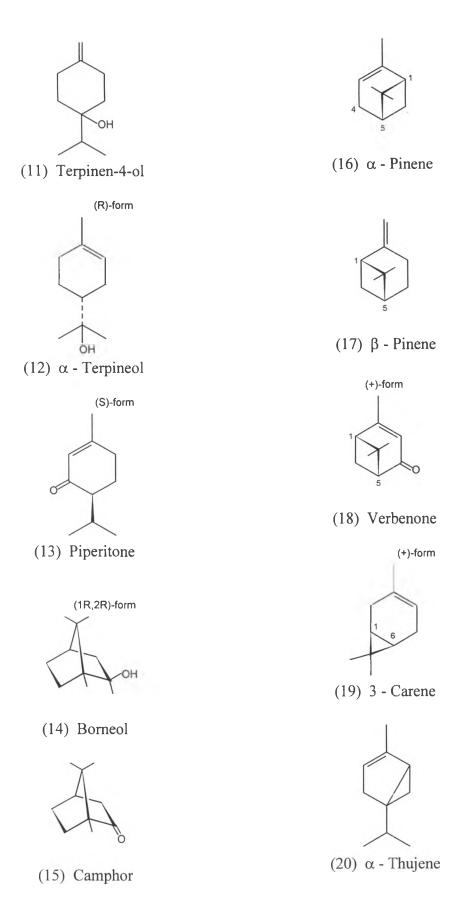


Figure 2. Monoterpenoids from Coleus species (Continued)

Figure 3. Sesquiterpenoids from Coleus species

(25) β - Caryophyllane

(49) Coleonol C

(50) Coleonone

Figure 4. Diterpenoids from Coleus species

$$(51) R = H$$

$$(52)$$
 R = OH

(53) Esquirolin D

(55) Carnosolone

	R_1	R_2	R_3
(56)	Н	Н	Н
(57)	Н	OH	Н
(58)	Н	OAc	Н
(59)	OH	Н	Н
(60)	OH	OH	Н
(61)	OH	OAc	Н
(62)	OH	OAc	OH

Figure 4. Diterpenoids from *Coleus* species (Continued)

Figure 4. Diterpenoids from *Coleus* species (Continued)

(76) Cariocal

(77) Coleon A

(80) Barbatusin

Figure 4. Diterpenoids from Coleus species (Continued)

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc}
R_1 & R_2 \\
\hline
(82) & Coleon J & OH & OH \\
\hline
(82) & Coleon J & OH & OH
\end{array}$$

(84) Coleon O

(87) R = OH (88) R = Oac

(89) Coleon Y R = OAc(90) R = formyl

(91) Cyclobutatusin

Figure 4. Diterpenoids from Coleus species (Continued)

(92) Fredericone A

(94) Coleon E

(95) Coleon F

(96) Barbatusol

(97) 11-Hydroxypisiferanol

(98) Xanthanthusin A

Figure 4. Diterpenoids from Coleus species (Continued)

Figure 4. Diterpenoids from Coleus species (Continued)

(108) Maslinic acid

(111) Ursolic acid

(109) Oleanolic acid

(112) Mirianthic acid

(110) Taraxerol

(113) Euscaphic acid

Figure 5. Triterpenoids from Coleus species

(114) Tormentic acid

(115) α -Amyrin

(116) Hyptadienic acid

Figure 5. Triterpenoids from Coleus species (Continued)

3. p-Menthane monoterpene glycosides in plants

Monoterpene glycosides are widely distributed in nature and comprise a great variety of different structures due to the individual aglycones or carbohydrates. An immense number of papers have been published in the last few years describing the isolation and characterization of monoterpene glycosides. This report covers *p*-menthane monoterpene glycosides found in plants during the period 1976-1996.

Carvacrol-β-D-glucopyranoside (117) and thymol-β-D-glucopyranoside (118) have been isolated from *Thymus vulgaris* (Skopp and Horster, 1976), and the latter was also found in the aerial parts of *Jasonia montana* (Ahmed and Jakupovic, 1990). Their structures were elucidated by NMR techniques. Thymoquinol-β-D-glucopyra noside (1,4-dihydroxy-2-*iso*-propyl-5-methylphenyl-1-0-β-D-glucopyranoside) (119), identified as 2-isopropyl-5-methylphdroquinone, has been isolated from *Geum japonicum* which are used in Japan as a diuretic (Shigenaga, Kouno and Kawano, 1985) and later was first isolated as a natural product from *Pteridium aquilinum* var. *caudatum* (L. Kuhn), one of the five most widely distributed organisms of the plant kingdom (Castillo *et al.*, 1995).

Coleus forskohlii (C. barbatus) has yielded a number of interesting terpenoids, some with therapeutic potential. Further examination of the polar fraction of the root extract of this plant has furnished a new monoterpene glycoside named coleoside (120) and characterized as cuminyl-0- β -D-glucopyranosyl(1 \rightarrow 2)- β -D-galactopyra noside (Ahmed and Vishwakarma, 1988).

Phenol glucoside gallates, querglanin (121) and isoquerglanin (122), were isolated from the leaves of *Quercus glauca* (Sheu, Hsu and Lin, 1992). Finally, a non-aromatic *p*-menthane derivative, 6-O-β-D-glucopyranosyloxy-3-hydroxy-*p*-menth-1-ene (123), was reported from the butanolic extract of *Eupatorium tinifolium* H.B.K. (D'Agostino *et al.*, 1990) growing in the highlands of Colombia.

Figure 6. p-Menthane monoterpene glycosides in plants

Figure 6. p-Menthane monoterpene glycosides in plants (Continued)

$$R_1O$$
 OH OR_2 OH OR_2 OH OH OH OH OH OH

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} & R_1 & R_2 \\ \hline (121) & galloyl & H \\ (122) & H & galloyl \\ \end{array}$$

Figure 6. p-Menthane monoterpene glycosides in plants (Continued)

4. Biosynthesis of Monoterpenoids

The enzymic transformation of geranyl diphosphate (GPP) into simple cyclic monoterpenes, e.g. (-)-(4S)-limonene (5) is now firmly established. Initial isomerization of GPP (124) to (+)-(3S)-linalyl diphosphate (LPP) (125) allows cyclization to the (4S)-α-terpinyl cation (126), which loses a proton to give limonene (Scheme 1). (4S)-Limonene synthase enzymes have been isolated from glandular trichomes of both peppermint (Mentha x piperita) and spearmint (M. spicata) and the enzymes have been purified and characterized (Alonso et al., 1992). Both enzymes were monomeric, had almost identical properties, and transformed GPP principally into limonene (exclusively with the 4S configuration) plus trace amounts of the other cyclic monoterpenes myrcene (1), α -pinene (16), and β -pinene (17). General properties of the enzyme resembled those of other terpene cyclases in that a divalent metal ion was required, Mn²⁺ being preferred over Mg²⁺, and that a single enzyme catalyzed both the isomerization of GPP and the subsequent cyclization step. Neryl diphosphate (NPP) was a less acceptable substrate than GPP, with both enantiomers of LPP being better than GPP. Inhibitor of the enzyme provided evidence for carbocationic intermediates. The substrate GPP in the presence of Mn2+ afforded protection against inhibition, as did the sulfonium analogue of the linally cation in the presence of diphosphate and Mn²⁺.

A monoterpene cyclase from the leaves of thyme (*Thymus valgaris*) that converts GPP into γ -terpinene (8) has also been purified and studied (Alonso and Croteau, 1991). This enzyme was a very hydrophobic homodimer with a marked preference for Mg²⁺ over Mn²⁺ as cofactor. It also possessed the ability to cyclize GPP to small amounts of α -thujene (20), myrcene (1), α -terpinene (6), limonene (5), linalool (127), terpinen-4-ol (11), and α -terpineol (12), all derivable from intermediates in the reaction sequence (Scheme 1).

Scheme 1. Biosynthesis of monoterpenoids I

The biosynthesis of limonene, along with DMAPP, GPP, and FPP, could be demonstrated when isolated chromoplasts from *Citrus sinensis* fruits were incubated with IPP (Perez *et al.*, 1990). Monoterpene biosynthesis required Mg²⁺ or Mn²⁺, but was not dependent on an allylic diphosphate. The role of the metal cofactor in monoterpene biosynthesis is to facilitate elimination of the diphosphate group by chelation, thus leading to cyclization. Limonene was the only hydrocarbon product formed from exogenous GPP, NPP, LPP, and terpinyl PP, suggesting the presence of a single cyclase activity that could use all four precursors, probably via the terpinyl carbocation intermediate.

The allylic hydroxylation of (-)-limonene (5) may occur at positions 3, 6 or 7 according to the specificity of the cytochrome P-450-dependent monooxygenases produced by individual plant species (Karp *et al.*, 1990). Thus, microsomal preparations from epidermal oil glands of peppermint (*Mentha piperita*) hydroxylate (-)-limonene at C-3 to produce (-)-*trans*-isopiperitenol (128), those from spearmint (*Mentha spicata*) hydroxylate at C-6 to give (-)-*trans*-carveol (130), and enzyme preparations from perilla (*Perilla frutescens*) hydroxylate the side-chain to produce (-)-perillylalcohol (129) (Scheme 2). The reactions required NADPH and O₂, were completely regiospecific, and were highly specific for limonene as substrate.

Results from a study of the oil produced by a radiation induced mutant of Scotch spearmint (*Mentha x gracilis*), containing mostly 3-oxygenated *p*-menthane derivatives, and the *in vitro* measurement of enzyme activities present have allowed a detailed biosynthetic pathway (Scheme 2) inter-relating the *Mentha* monoterpenes to be proposed (Croteau *et al.*, 1991). Enzyme assays showed that all of the enzymes responsible for the production of both the 3- and 6-oxygenated families from the common precursor (-)-limonene were present in the wild-type plant and also in the mutant strain, except for the microsomal cytochrome P-450-dependent (-)-limonene

Scheme 2. Biosynthesis of monoterpenoids II

hydroxylase. The 6-hydroxylase which transforms (-)-limonene into (-)-trans-carveol (130) in the wild-type plant was absent but a new 3-hydroxylase activity which transformed (-)-limonene into (-)-trans-isopiperitenol (128) was detectable in the mutant. Therefore, mutation had disabled the 6-hydroxylation system and somehow replaced it with a 3-hydroxylation system. Although other enzyme activities functioning the 3-oxygenated pathway (which typically leads to menthol isomers) were shown to be present in the wild-type plant, the lack of the key 3-oxygenated intermediate (-)-trans-isopiperitenol (128) means such products are not elaborated. A further observation was that the mutant strain, but not the wild-type, was able to carry out a cytochrome P-450-dependent epoxidation of the α , β -unsaturated bond of 3-ketones formed by the new 3-hydroxylation route. These epoxidase and 3-hydroxylase activities appeared to have some properties in common, and it is possible that a single modified oxygenase is actually responsible for both reactions. The results clarify the origins of the 3- and 6-hydroxylation patterns, and also allow the correction of a number of earlier biogenetic proposals for monoterpene biosynthesis.

5. Biological activities of extracts of Coleus species

The biological activities of extracts of *Coleus* species are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Biological activities of extracts of *Coleus* species

Plant Names	Part uses	Activities	References
Coleus barbatus	Aerial Parts	Antispasmodic	Bhakuni et al., 1971
	Entire Plant	Antihypertensive	Dubey et al., 1981
	Flower	Molluscicidal	Kloos et al., 1987
	Leaf	Antitumor	Zelnik et al., 1977
	Root	Hypotensive	Tandon <i>et al.</i> , 1977; de Souza, Dohadwalla and Reden, 1983
		Antiamebic	Varma et al., 1990
		Passive Cutaneous Anaphylaxis Inhibition	Gupta, Srimal and Tandon, 1993
Coleus blumei	Entire Plant	Glutamate-Pyruvate- Transaminase Inhibition	Yanfg et al., 1987
	Leaf	Antibacterial	Garcia <i>et al.</i> , 1973
		Antimycobacterial	Garcia <i>et al.</i> , 1973
		Cytotoxic	Garcia et al., 1973
Coleus caninus	Entire Plant	Antitumor	Aswal <i>et al.</i> , 1984
		Diuretic	Aswal <i>et al.</i> , 1984

Table 3. Biological activities of extracts of *Coleus* species (Continued)

Plant Names	Part uses	Activities	References
Coleus kilimandschari	Root and Stem	Antibacterial	Boily and Van Puyvelde, 1986
		Antimycobacterial	Boily and Van Puyvelde, 1986
		Antiyeast	Boily and Van Puyvelde, 1986
Coleus spicatus	Aerial Parts	Antitumor	Painuly and Tandon, 1983
		Cytotoxic	Painuly and Tandon, 1983
		Diuretic	Painuly and Tandon, 1983