

Home About Jacobs News & Events University Events

Spec. Molecular Life Science Semina

By: Lalith Jayasinghe
From: Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy, Sri Lanka
When: Jun 14 2011 - 13:00
Where: Lecture Hall of Research II
Further Info: Prof. Dr. Nicolai Kuhnert Prof. of Chemistry Jacobs University Bremen Email: n.kuhnert@jacobs-university.de Telephone: +49 421 200-3120 Fax: +49 421 200-3229 Office: Research III, Room 117

“Chemistry and Bioactivity of Some Edible Fruits”

Management of various diseases in plants and humans by the use of natural products rather than by the use of synthetic compounds offers less risk. Synthetic compounds are often toxicologically and environmentally undesired. Biologically active compounds originating from natural sources are generally more accepted and less hazardous than synthetic compounds. Hence the identification of environmental friendly biologically active compounds originating from natural sources has come to play a prominent role.

People have used edible fruits as a source of nutraceuticals from ancient time and this knowledge has passed from generation to generation. Based on this knowledge and experience, edible fruits are a potential source to identify environmental friendly bioactive compounds since their safety and toxicological issues are remarkably less than other natural sources. Recently we commenced a research project titled “Chemistry and bioactivity of some edible fruits” at the Institute of Fundamental Studies. Under this project we investigated some popular edible fruits *Aegle marmelos*, *Artocarpus altilis*, *Averrhoa carambola*, *Flacourtia indica* and *Flacourtia inermis*. These work led to the isolation and structure elucidation of various classes of compounds including some novel natural products. Some of these isolates showed significant antioxidant, antifungal, cytotoxic and phytotoxic activities.