

Biotransformation of $3\alpha,4\alpha$ -Dihydroxy-dihydro- β -agarofuran by *Rhizopus nigricans*

Julio Alarcón* and Sergio Águila

Departamento de Ciencias Básicas, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad del Bío-Bío, Chillán Chile. Fax: +56-42-20 30 46. E-mail: jalarcon@pehuen.chillan.ubiobio.cl

* Author for correspondence and reprint requests

Z. Naturforsch. **59c**, 215–217 (2004); received July 14/August 20, 2003

$3\alpha,4\alpha$ -Dihydroxy-dihydro- β -agarofuran (**1**), prepared from (+)-dihydrocarvone by a traditional synthetic method, the Robinson annelation, was biotransformed by *R. nigricans* to afford a new metabolite characterized as $1\alpha,3\alpha,4\alpha$ -trihydroxy-dihydro- β -agarofuran (**2**) by spectroscopic method. An acetylated derivative was prepared.

Key words: Celastraceae, Sesquiterpenes, Agarofuran Synthesis