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# The Tetracyclic Diterpenes



J.R. Hanson

Lecturer in Chemistry,  
University of Sussex

*INTERNATIONAL SERIES OF MONOGRAPHS IN*  
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VOLUME 9

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## PREFACE

IN this book I have tried to record the present status of a branch of natural product chemistry which has seen a rapid development over the last few years. The emphasis is primarily on recent studies which have served to clarify and unite some extremely interesting parts of terpenoid and alkaloid chemistry. This group of natural products, with a biological activity ranging from the plant-growth promoting properties of the gibberellins to the highly toxic aconite bases, has been the subject of study for more than a century. However, only within recent years have their structure and stereochemistry become known. Much of this is due to the powerful light that spectroscopic methods and X-ray analysis have shed on structural problems. It has been my good fortune to be able to witness some of this development over the last nine years.

I should like to record my thanks to my former colleagues at the Frythe, Drs. B. E. Cross, R. H. B. Galt, J. F. Grove, and J. MacMillan, for many interesting discussions. Professor D. H. R. Barton, F.R.S. suggested that I write this book and I am grateful to him for his encouragement and hospitality in enabling me to work at Imperial College. I am indebted to Miss Sue Wilson, who performed the difficult task of typing the manuscript. Finally a word of gratitude to Ann for her help and tolerance.

*University of Sussex*

J. R. HANSON