

## **Cembrane diterpenes as chemotaxonomical markers for *Sinularia flexibilis***

### **Abstract**

Chemical extraction of the soft coral *Sinularia flexibilis* collected from Mantanani Island, Kota Belud, Sabah has led to the isolation of ten known cembrane diterpenes. The chemical structures of isolated compounds were elucidated based on  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectroscopic data. This is the first record of chemical analysis of *S. flexibilis* from the waters of Malaysia. Identical secondary metabolites isolated from *S. flexibilis* from other regions suggest the use of these cembrane diterpenes as possible chemotaxonomical markers for this genus of soft coral.