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Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Naphthylisoquinoline Alkaloids, a Fascinating Class of Axially Chiral Biaryl Natural Products -- 3. <i>Ancistrocladus</i> , a Genus of Woody Lianas of the Monotypic Plant Family <i>Ancistrocladaceae</i> Widely Occurring in India, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia -- 4. The Indian Liana <i>Ancistrocladus heyneanus</i> and <i>Ancistrocladus hamatus</i> from Sri Lanka: Early Studies and More Recent Discoveries -- Full Absolute Stereostructures of Naphthylisoquinoline Alkaloids Directly from Crude Extracts: Characterization of New Metabolites from <i>Ancistrocladus griffithii</i> by the HPLC-MS/MS-NMR-ECD Triad -- 6. <i>Ancistrobenomine A</i> , the First Naphthylisoquinoline Alkaloid with a Hydroxymethylene Function at C-3, and Related 5,1'-Coupled Compounds -- 7. <i>Ancistrocladus cochinchinensis</i> from Central Vietnam, a Distinct <i>Ancistrocladus</i> Taxon? — Metabolite Pattern und Phylogenetic Relationship to <i>Ancistrocladus</i> aff. <i>tectorius</i> from China -- 8. Widespread Throughout Southeast Asia: <i>Ancistrocladus tectorius</i> , a Rich Source of Unique, Structurally Most Diverse Mono- and Dimeric Naphthylisoquinoline Alkaloids -- 9. Tables of the Naphthylisoquinoline Alkaloids and Related Compounds Isolated from

Asian *Ancistrocladus* Species.

Sommario/riassunto

This book describes a unique class of secondary metabolites, the mono- and dimeric-naphthylisoquinoline alkaloids. They exclusively occur in lianas of the palaeotropical *Ancistrocladaceae* and *Dioncophyllaceae* plant families. Their unprecedented structures include stereogenic centers and rotationally hindered, and therefore stereogenic, axes. Extended recent investigations on six *Ancistrocladus* species from Asia, as reported in this contribution, shed light on their fascinating phytochemical productivity, with over 100 intriguing natural products. This high chemodiversity arises from a similarly unique biosynthesis from acetate-malonate units, following a novel polyketidic pathway to plant-derived isoquinoline alkaloids. Some of the compounds show most promising anti-parasitic activities. Additionally, strategies for the regio- and stereoselective total synthesis of the alkaloids, including the directed construction of the chiral axis, are also presented.