



5 EPILOGUE

As a unique compound, thailandine may enjoy two potential applications. It may substitute phenolphthalein as an indicator in acid-base titration while the color change is sharp on the alkaline side (yellow to red). This has been confirmed experimentally and analytically. Thailandine may also find use as a tracer for infectious diseases carried by mosquitoes, since, as mentioned at the beginning of this thesis, a 5 ppm. solution of this compound causes the total excretion of the stomach contents of larvae. The various bacterial diseases conveyed by mosquitoes can be readily followed by causing the stomach of larvae empty through the administration of thailandine. The intake of bacteria into the stomachs of larvae can then be observed microscopically. As the effect brought about by thailandine is transient, in time larvae's stomach contents will be refilled, with the intake of the requisite bacteria. The study of the mentioned effect will be left in the hand of medical researchers and entomologists. The above suggestion, however, has been made to illustrate the possible usefulness of thailandine.

Prior to the publication of this thesis, a paper by Pedersen (3) on the synthesis of macro cyclic poly-ethers came to the author's attention. These macro cyclic poly-ethers are unique in many interesting properties including complex salt formation. As thailandine is also a macro cyclic

poly-ethers, it should be expected to exhibit similar properties. Since the present author is rather short of time, the study of this aspect of thalidomide will be left to further investigators. At any rate, she is anticipating interests in thalidomide from academic circles in due course.