Recently, Lu et al. have performed morphological and chemical studies on 14 *Amomum* species found in China. It was shown that the plants could be divided into three groups, according to the major components in their seed essential oils and the morphological characteristics of their fruits. *A. chinense, A. longiligulare, A. thyrsoideum, A. villosum,* and *A. villosum* var. *xanthioides* have bornyl acetate and camphor as the major components in their seeds; *A. austrosinense, A. compactum, A. kravanh, A. subulatum,* and *A. tsao-ko* have cineole as the major component. Nerolidol or farnesol is the major component of the seed of *A. auranticum, A. dealbatum, A. maximum,* and *A. sericeum* [4].

13.3 Pharmacology

In a clinical study, patients with peptic ulcers were treated with the seeds of *A. villosum*. A marked curative effect was reported [5].

In rats given cineole at a dose of 800 mg/kg intragastrically, 1,8-dihydroxy-10-carboxy-*p*-menthane, 2-hydroxycineole, and 3-hydroxy-cineole were found to be the main metabolites. Cineole given as an aerosol to rats induced the cytochrome P450 system of the liver, but not of the lung [6].

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