

Solvent evaporator for paper chromatography

We use a device somewhat like that described by GANIS¹ for evaporating solvent during the application of solution to paper (Figs. 1 and 2). Our scheme differs in three respects whose description may be useful to others.

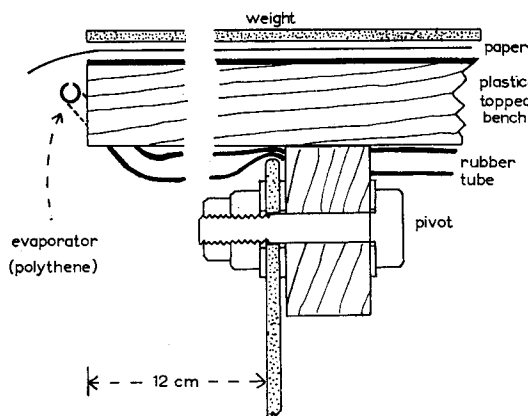


Fig. 1. Side view of evaporator, with clamping lever in closed position.

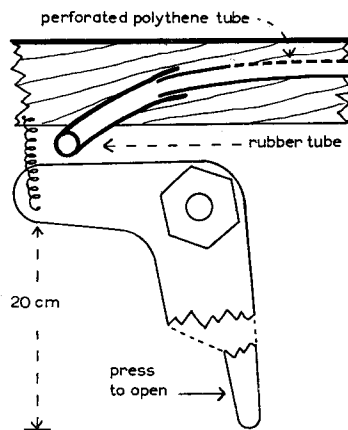


Fig. 2. Front view of lever system, showing "valve" in open position.

1. Polythene tubing is preferred to metal, because the holes are easily made with a hot pin. It is desirable, too, to avoid risk of accidental contact between paper and metal.

2. The N_2 is carried under the bench by a rubber tube against which a lever is held by a spring. The lever prevents N_2 flowing except when needed. Pressure from a knee releases the lever and allows gas to flow. Evaporation is thereby easily controlled. Alternatively a pedal may be used as described for control of a vacuum line for column chromatography².

3. A rectangular plate holds the paper on the bench. The paper overhangs the bench, so that the starting line comes over the perforated tube. This arrangement holds the paper against gentle pressure from the pipette during application of solution.

The device is used during the determination of tocopherol contents of leaves³.

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¹ F. M. GANIS, *J. Chromatog.*, 5 (1961) 84.

² V. H. BOOTH, *Carotene, its Determination in Biological Materials*, Heffer, Cambridge, 1957, p. 32.

³ V. H. BOOTH AND A. HOBSON-FROHOCK, *J. Sci. Food Agr.*, 12 (1961) 251.

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