

The drug contains in addition to the alkaloids emetine and cephaline a great deal of pectinous matter and ipecacuanhic acid, the latter two of which precipitate in presence of 37% alcohol.

Believing that the alkaloids might be carried down with this precipitate, thus remaining occluded and not subject to solvent action of menstruum and be subsequently filtered out, an experiment was undertaken as follows:

Five hundred grammes of drug were moistened with 5 percent ammonia water, packed in percolator and exhausted with ether; the ether distilled off at temperature 60° C. and the residue taken up in 37 percent alcohol, filtered and the filter washed with sufficient 37 percent alcohol to make 500 Cc.

The product so obtained assayed 1.44% alkaloids of Ipecac, this experiment thus showing that the difficulty does not lie so much with the occlusion of alkaloids, as the inability of 37% alcohol to dissolve Ipecac alkaloids.

The writer is desirous of maintaining as high as standard as possible for pharmacopoeial preparations, but having found the yield of fluidextract to be somewhere in the neighborhood of 80%, over a period of three years and together with the above-mentioned experiment, the conclusion is reached that a requirement of an average of 2 Gm. of alkaloids per 100 Cc. is too high to maintain in the forthcoming Pharmacopoeia and, unless for some reason not obvious to the writer this standard should be maintained, it is recommended that we return to the requirements of the U. S. P. VIII, namely, 1.5 Gm. (with usual 10% variation) of ether-soluble alkaloids for each 100 Cc.

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NOTES ON ASH YIELD OF BUCHU.

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The following data relative to the amount of stems and ash in various commercial samples of Buchu are presented herewith.

The results indicate that the present purity rubric of 10 percent is satisfactory. The present ash standard of not to exceed 4 percent for Buchu seems to be too stringent. The comments by manufacturers bear this out, as well as the results presented herewith.

The ash tests have been carried out by C. H. Rogers and C. W. Folkstad. All of the data are presented in one table so as to facilitate comparison.

PURITY RUBRIC AND ASH TESTS—COMMERCIAL BUCHU SAMPLES.

Sample No.	Remarks.	Percent total ash.	Percent ash insol. in 10% HCl.
1a.	Whole Short Buchu, bought in 1920, garbled—5.5 percent stems, leaves free from stems powdered to No. 40.....	3.96	0.40
		3.85	0.62
1b.	Stems garbled from sample No. 1a, powdered to No. 40.....	3.38	0.64
		3.53	0.70
2a.	Whole Short Buchu, bought in 1920, garbled—7.7 percent stems, leaves freed from stems and powdered to No. 40.....	3.69	0.43
		3.69	0.61
2b.	Stems from sample No. 2a, powdered to No. 40.....	4.20	1.83
		4.55	2.11

3a.	Whole Long Buchu, bought in 1918, garbled—8.8 percent stems, leaves freed from stems and powdered to No. 40.....	3.98	0.30
		3.84	0.59
3b.	Stems from sample No. 3a, powdered to No. 40.....	4.16	0.666
		4.19	0.29
3c.	Whole Long Buchu, same as sample No. 3a but not garbled, powdered to No. 40.....	4.31	0.21
		4.37	0.33
4a.	Whole Long Buchu, in stock, garbled—20 percent stems, leaves freed from stems and powdered to No. 40.....	4.57	0.30
		4.39	0.34
4b.	Stems from sample No. 4a, powdered to No. 40.....	3.14	0.26
		2.99	0.22
5a.	Whole Short Buchu, bought in 1919, garbled—powdered to No. 40	3.79	0.21
		3.69	0.19
5b.	Stems from sample No. 5a, powdered to No. 40.....	2.96	0.33
		2.96	0.51
5c.	Whole Short Buchu, same as sample No. 5a but not garbled, powdered to No. 40.....	3.57	0.46
		3.49	0.42
6.	Whole Long Buchu, bought in 1916, not garbled, powdered to No. 40.....	4.14	0.47
		3.93	0.29
7.	Whole Short Buchu, bought in 1920, not garbled, powdered to No. 40.....	3.37	0.18
		3.26
8.	Powdered Short Buchu, bought in 1920, fine powder.....	4.59	0.42
		4.36	0.58
9.	Powdered Short Buchu, bought in 1920, fine powder.....	3.59	0.50
		3.56	0.32
10.	Powdered Long Buchu, bought in 1918, No. 40 powder.....	4.27	1.49
		4.54	1.48
11.	Whole Short Buchu, garbled and powdered to No. 40 powder.....	3.50	0.16
		3.55
12.	Powdered Short Buchu, bought in 1911, No. 60 powder.....	5.17	1.13
		4.99	1.17
13.	Powdered Short Buchu, bought in 1910, No. 60 powder.....	3.60	1.39
		3.34

All of the garbling on above samples was done by hand, 1000 grammes of the sample being used in each case for the test.

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TABLETS FOR THE NATIONAL FORMULARY.*

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The introduction of tablets into the National Formulary seems demanded by the extensive use of this solid dosage form, and the declaration of principles for admission into the National Formulary, *viz.*, that use should be the determining factor. We face here a curious situation that, while tablets are the popular form of medication with manufacturers, tablet making is as yet *terra incognita* to the

* Read before Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. Ph. A., New Orleans meeting, 1921.