

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON UNOFFICIAL STANDARDS.

PLANTAGINIS SEMEN.

Plantago Seed.

Psyllium Seed—Plantain Seed.

The cleaned, dried, ripe seed of *Plantago Psyllium* Linné, known in commerce as French Psyllium Seed, or of *Plantago ovata* Forsk., known in commerce as Blonde Psyllium or Indian Plantago Seed (Fam. *Plantaginaceæ*).

It contains not more than 0.5 per cent of foreign matter, none of which is injurious, and all of its natural mucilage. It yields not more than 4 per cent of total ash and not more than 0.8 per cent of acid-insoluble ash.

Description and physical properties.—*Plantago Psyllium Seed.* Elliptical to ovoid, dark brown to reddish brown, shining, from 2 to 3 mm. in length and from 1 to 1.2 mm. in breadth, concavo-convex, with a longitudinal light brown area extending lengthwise along the center of the upper surface and a deep concavity on the lower surface in the center of the base of which is an oval, white hilum; when soaked in water the seed coat swells and the seeds become enveloped with a transparent mucilage free from taste and odor.

One part of seed occasionally agitated with 8 parts of water forms a thick tasteless mucilage.

Plantago ovata Seed. Broadly elliptical or ovate, boatshaped, pale grayish brown with a pinkish tinge, and with a dull surface, from 2 to 3 mm. in length and from 1 to 1.5 mm. in width; on the convex surface there is a small, elongated, shining, brown spot; on the concave surface is a deep excavation at the base of which is the hilum, covered with a thin whitish membrane; when soaked in water the seed coat swells and the seeds become enveloped with a transparent, colorless mucilage free from taste and odor.

One part of seed occasionally agitated with 15 parts of water forms a thick tasteless mucilage.

Structure.—Transverse sections cut through the center of the seed have a reniform outline and show a seed coat composed of a colorless epidermis of mucilaginous cells with more or less obliterated walls, a hyaline layer (in groove) and a brown pigment layer beneath which is a broad endosperm of thick-walled cells in the center of which is an embryo. Both endosperm and embryo possess aleurone grains of rounded, oval, pyriform or irregular shape from 2 to 8 microns in diameter and fixed oil droplets.

POTASSII THIOCYANAS.

Potassium Thiocyanate.

Pot. Thiocyan.

Potassium Sulphocyanate, Potassium Rhodanate

Potassium Thiocyanate, when dried to constant weight at 110° C., contains not less than 99 per cent of KCNS. It contains not more than 3 per cent of water.

Description and physical properties.—Colorless, transparent, adherent, prismatic crystals. It is odorless and has a cooling, saline taste.

One Gm. of Potassium Thiocyanate is soluble in 0.5 cc. of water and in 12 cc. of alcohol at 25° C. One Gm. is soluble in 0.2 cc. of boiling water and in 8 cc. of boiling alcohol.

Tests for identity: The salt fuses at about 170° C. and at a higher temperature decomposes, finally leaving a white residue, which imparts a violet color to a non-luminous flame and is alkaline to litmus paper.

An aqueous solution of the salt (1 in 10) responds to the reactions for potassium and for thiocyanates, U. S. P. X, page 444.

Tests for purity: Dissolve 1 Gm. of the salt in 10 cc. of boiling alcohol: the solution is clear and free from undissolved residue.