

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF DRUGS AND CHEMICAL PRODUCTS.\*

BY B. L. MURRAY, CHAIRMAN.

*To the Members of the American Pharmaceutical Association:*

The Chairman reports that it has been a year of profitable endeavor on the part of the Committee, unusual interest having been shown in the work by the various members. About 25 drugs are now under study.

Monographs have been completed on

Absinthium

Kamala

Areca

Salvia

and are herewith attached.

Monographs for the following drugs are in the hands of the Chairman and ready for submission to the members of the Committee: Dill Fruit, Arnica Root, Anthemis.

Monographs for the following drugs are at present in the process of preparation:

Aspidosperma	Levisticum	Achillea
Calabar bean	Mallow Flowers	Agrimonia
Cascarilla	Marrubium	Carthamus
Chenopodium	Menyanthis	Chelone
Comfrey Root	Rue	Eupatorium Purpureum
Coto	Sweet Marjoram	Polygonum
Paracoto	Tilia	Tanacetum
Dill Herb	Verbena	Lactuca Canadensis.
Hedeoma	Wild Thyme (Thymus Serpyllum)	

Various changes in the personnel of the Committee have occurred. We have lost by death Mr. G. M. Beringer, who was a former Chairman of this Committee and under whose direction much constructive work was done. Dr. George Rosengarten and Dr. W. A. Puckner have resigned owing to changed conditions and interests on their part.

It is felt that with the good start the Committee has, much can be accomplished in the preparation of these standards for unofficial drugs during the ensuing year.

### ABSINTHIUM.

Old Woman.—Wormwood.

#### Absinth.

Absinthium consists of the dried leaves and flowering tops of *Artemisia Absinthium* Linné (Fam. *Compositæ*).

Absinthium contains not more than 3 per cent of its stems over 4 mm. in diameter or more than 2 per cent of other foreign organic matter, and yields not more than 2 per cent of acid-insoluble ash.

#### Description and Physical Properties.

*Unground Absinthium.*—Stems and leaves gray-green, finely silky hairy and glandular throughout; largest leaves up to 12 cm. in length and of nearly equal breadth, on long petioles, two to three times pinnately divided or lobed, the ultimate segments oblong or obovate, obtuse, entire or slightly toothed; upper leaves shorter petioled, small and narrower, the uppermost being about 2 cm. in length and resembling the ultimate segments of the larger ones; heads racemose-paniculate, drooping on short peduncles, greenish yellow, from 3 to 4 mm. in width, round ovoid, the outer bracts linear-oblongate, obtuse, the inner broader and scarious margined; receptacle hairy; outer flowers sometimes pistillate. Odor aromatic, characteristic; taste very bitter.

\* Portland meeting, A. Ph. A., August 1928.

*Powdered Absinthium*.—Brownish to yellowish green. Numerous T-shaped, non-lignified, non-glandular hairs consisting of 2- to 4-, occasionally 5-celled stalks bearing single apical cells attached near the middle, the latter up to about 0.850 mm. in length and 0.035 mm. in width; many of the hairs are collapsed, twisted or broken; glandular hairs with 1- to 2-celled stalks and glandular portions of from 4 to 8 secreting cells surrounded by a membrane; few simple hairs from the flowers, some of which are very long and up to 0.085 mm. in width; fragments of epidermis with broadly elliptical stomata, the latter up to 0.035 mm. in length; fragments of mesophyll and palisade tissue with cells containing chloroplastids; tracheae mostly spiral, occasionally annular or with simple or bordered pores, up to 0.035 mm. in width; few fibers with thick, usually lignified walls and simple pores, up to 0.020 mm. in width; pollen grains few, spherical or triangular, up to 0.030 mm. in diameter; calcium oxalate rosettes up to 0.010 mm. in diameter.

### ARECA.

Betel Nut, Areca Nut.

Areca is the dried seed of *Areca Catechu* Linné (Fam. *Palmae*).

Areca yields not more than 1 per cent of acid-insoluble ash.

#### Description and Physical Properties.

*Unground Areca*.—Rounded-conical, up to about 2.75 cm. in length and 2.9 cm. in diameter; apex bluntly rounded, base flattened and with a shallow central depression, the latter usually bearing remains of a fibrous pericarp; outer surface grayish brown, marked by many broad, branching veins, running spirally from base to apex; internally brownish red with whitish veins, a horny ruminant endosperm and a small embryo near the base; fracture hard, horny. Odor on fracturing faint; taste astringent.

*Structure*.—Tissue consists chiefly of endosperm cells containing aleurone grains and having peculiarly thickened, non-lignified walls with large simple pores; through this endosperm tissue there extends, somewhat radially, toward the center, irregular, wavy bands of the brown seed coat, the latter being made up chiefly of polygonal cells with thin, lignified, brownish walls, many of them with a brownish amorphous content; occasional fibrovascular bundles occur distributed throughout the seed-coat.

*Powder*.—Reddish brown. Many fragments of endosperm made up of irregular, polygonal cells with thick, colorless walls and large simple pores; portions of the seed-coat with cells having brownish, lignified walls and often a brownish amorphous content; stone cells, somewhat irregular, rounded or triangular in outline, from 0.020 to 0.110 mm. in length; occasional thick-walled, fiber-like cells up to about 0.150 mm. in length.

### KAMALA.

Kamila, Rottlera.

Kamala consists of the glandular and non-glandular hairs from the capsules of *Mallotus philippinensis* (Lamarck) Muell. Arg. (Fam. *Euphorbiaceae*).

Kamala yields not more than 7.00 per cent of acid-insoluble ash.

*Description and Physical Properties*.—A brownish red, mobile, finely granular powder with practically no odor or taste. Glandular hairs, yellowish red, consisting of a nearly spheroidal head from 0.050 to 0.110 mm. in diameter made up of from 20 to 50 ellipsoidal, spatulate or club-shaped secretory cells, arranged radially about a short central stalk. Non-glandular hairs, stellate, consisting of from 5 to 20 unicellular, uniseriate, thick-walled hairs, the latter somewhat curved or occasionally hooked at the ends; few fragments of pericarp of the capsules or irregular, angular pieces of inorganic matter.

Kamala is not readily miscible with water, to which it imparts only a light yellow color, upon being boiled; to ether, chloroform or water made alkaline with Sodium Hydroxide T. S. it yields a deep-red solution.

### SALVIA.

Sage.

Sage is the dried leaf of *Salvia officinalis* Linné (Fam. *Labiatae*).

Sage yields not less than 1 per cent of ether-soluble extractive, not more than 25 per cent of crude fiber and not more than 1.5 per cent of acid-insoluble ash.

**Description and Physical Properties.**

*Unground Sage.*—Oblong lanceolate or ovate, 2 to 10 cm. in length and 1 to 2.5 cm. in width; apex acute or rounded, base rounded, frequently lobed or somewhat heart-shaped; margin finely crenulate; upper surface grayish green, densely pubescent in the younger leaves, nearly smooth in the older ones, midrib and veins depressed; lower surface light grayish green, densely pubescent, minutely reticulate; petiole grayish purple, from 1 to 4 cm. in length. Odor characteristic, aromatic; taste aromatic and bitter.

*Structure.*—An upper epidermis of cells polygonal in surface view and with slightly wavy vertical walls; non-glandular hairs, 1 to 5 cells in length, uniseriate, sharp-pointed, the basal cell usually filled with air; glandular hairs with 2- to 4-celled stalks and 1-celled heads or with 1-celled stalks and 2-celled heads or a stalkless hair with an 8-celled head; two layers of palisade cells and about 4 rows of loose parenchyma cells, beneath which occurs the lower epidermis, the vertical walls of which are thin and very wavy; stomata are enclosed between pairs of crescent-shaped epidermal cells with the long axis at right angles to the wall, common to the two neighboring cells.

*Powdered Sage.*—Dark green. Numerous fragments of epidermal tissue bearing broadly elliptical stomata from 0.018 to 0.030 mm. in length; many uniseriate, sharp-pointed non-glandular hairs from 0.150 to 0.770 mm. in length; glandular hairs with a reddish or yellowish amorphous content, those with 8-celled heads measuring from 0.045 to 0.095 mm. in diameter; fragments of the mesophyll and palisade tissue with cells bearing chlorophyll or other protoplasmic contents.

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICAL  
NOMENCLATURE.\*

BY A. G. DUMÉZ, CHAIRMAN.

*To the Members of the American Pharmaceutical Association:*

In 1924, your Committee expressed the opinion that its labors would be most productive if it were to cooperate with the Committee on International Nomenclature of the Federation Internationale Pharmaceutique. Shortly thereafter, the Chairman of your Committee addressed a communication to the Chairman of the Federation's Committee and since then he has been in constant touch with that Committee.

You will no doubt recall that several years ago the Federation's Committee prepared a table of Latin titles official in the different national pharmacopœias. During the past year, this Committee has directed its efforts to devising a suitable nomenclature for items marketed under protected names. The report on this work, which has just been received, contains a list of names of seventy pharmacopœial items of this class derived by the application of the following rules:

1. The title shall be formed by simple contraction of the scientific name, suppressing the least characteristic syllables, *e. g.*,

Acetosalicyclic acid—Acetosal.

Hexamethylenetetramine—Hexamine.

2. Anesthetics shall terminate in "caine," like cocaine, *e. g.*,

Ethyl aminobenzoate—Benzocaine.

Ethyl aminoxybenzoate—Salicaine.

3. Hypnotics derived from barbituric acid shall terminate with "barbital," *e. g.*,

Diethylbarbituric acid—Barbital.

Phenylethylbarbituric acid—Phenobarbital.

4. Colloidal combinations of silver shall be named after the colloid protector which they contain, *e. g.*,

Protargol—Protargentum.

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\* Portland meeting, A. PH. A., August 1928.