

Modification of the Isomerization Tube for the Determination of Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids

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IN THE AMERICAN OIL CHEMISTS' SOCIETY method for the determination of polyunsaturated fatty acids (1) the small glass vial which is used as a means of introducing a weighed sample into an isomerization tube causes an inconvenience in a quantitative transfer of the isomerized mixture. This can however be overcome by a simple modification of the isomerization tube.

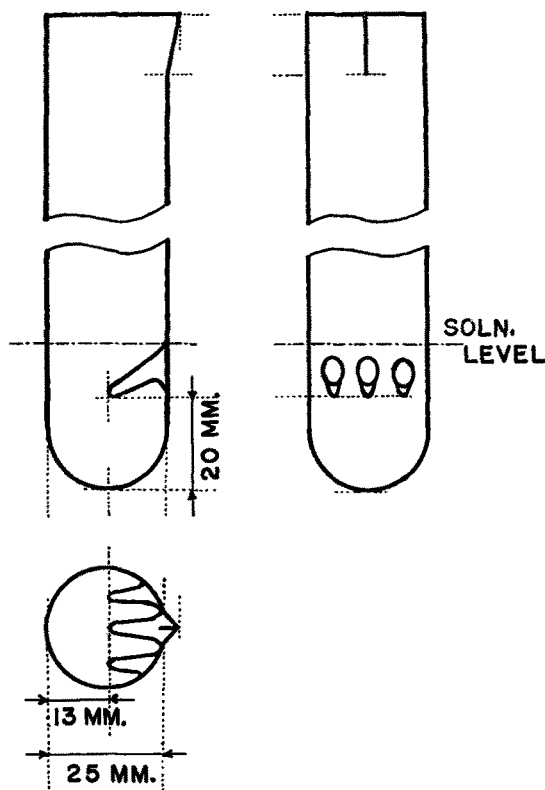


FIG. 1. Construction of isomerization tube.

The isomerization tube can be modified by inserting three long indentations near the bottom of the tube (Figure 1); these indentations extend toward the center of the tube at a slight angle. The clearance between the tips of the indentations and the inner wall of the tube should just be wide enough to allow a glass



FIG. 2. Glass vial held in isomerization tube.

vial, into which a sample is weighed, to pass into the bottom of the tube. These indentations are simply made at a sufficiently heated spot by pushing in the glass wall with the aid of an iron nail or iron file. This modification did not lessen the resistance of the tube toward sudden change in temperature.

During transfer of the isomerization mixture into a volumetric flask the glass vial is held on the indentations (Figure 2), thus assuring a quantitative transfer of the liquid into the volumetric flask.

REFERENCE

1. A.O.C.S. Tentative Method Cd 7-48, Polyunsaturated Acids, Ultraviolet Spectrophotometric Method.

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Report of the Referee Board—1955-1956

IN the year ended May 31, 1956, 50 referee certificates were granted, of which 33 were issued on cottonseed, oil cake and meal and fatty oils; 12 on cottonseed, oil cake and meal; two on oil cake and meal and fatty oils; four on oil cake and meal; and two on fatty oils only.

Several new names appear in the lists of certification, and one certificate was re-issued because of a change of location of the individual chemist.

Some additional progress has been made concern-

ing changes in the rules by which the Referee Examination Board operates. If certain expected changes in the constitution and by-laws of the American Oil Chemists' Society are effected, it should be possible to proceed with the plans under consideration.

The chairman extends his thanks to all members of the Referee Examination Board and to W. A. Peterson, *ex-officio member*, as well as to R. T. Doughtie Jr. for the efficient and cooperative manner in which they have replied to all requests.

E. R. HAHN
R. R. KING
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