

tane-insoluble solid was crystallized twice from 82% of acetone. The resulting tetrabromostearic acid had an activity of 0.074 d.p.s. per mg. (expressed on the basis of the bromine-free compound). Too little activity remained for further purification.

#### Discussion

The fish employed in these studies were maintained on Purina Trout Chow until the start of the experiment when they were fed the same diet after ether extraction. Under these circumstances the fish deposited fat which apparently contained high proportions of the typical mammalian polyunsaturated acids, linoleic and arachidonic acids. Linolenic acid, the typical marine fatty acid, is present in very small amounts. It therefore appears in agreement with previous studies (7,8) that the fish deposits, to a significant extent, the fatty acids of the diet. In this case these were the typical animal and vegetable fatty acids furnished by the 4% of fat in the diet.

The longer-chain, more highly unsaturated acids, for which arachidonic may be taken as an example, appear to be formed by desaturation and elongation processes typical of the mammalian metabolism (3). If this is indeed the case, structure determination will probably show them to be derived largely from oleic or linoleic acid and not from linolenic acid as is the case with fish on a natural marine diet (4,5). Thus the same processes of alteration of unsaturated fatty acids found in mammals probably holds for fish with the exception that in the latter case the process continues to produce fatty acids of somewhat greater chain-length and higher degree of unsaturation.

The tracer studies revealed that under conditions of the experiment the fish synthesized large amounts of fatty acids. In agreement with animal studies the rapidly synthesized fatty acids were largely of the saturated type; the polyunsaturated acids were by far the least active.

Degradation studies indicated that the 20-carbon polyunsaturated acid, probably largely arachidonic, was synthesized by addition of acetate to a relatively inactive 18-carbon portion, probably largely derived from linoleic. The nature of the active 18-carbon acid that contributed activity to the linoleic and the terminal 18 carbons of the arachidonic acid was indicated by two experiments. Degradation of the linoleic fraction showed it to contain equal activity in the carboxy and methyl moieties. That the active acid in the fraction was not linoleic is revealed by the fact that the activity did not appear in the recrystallized tetra-

bromostearic acid derived from the linoleic acid. A suggestion as to its nature can be made. Since it had uniform activity throughout the molecule, it could have been derived from oleic acid (similar degradation of the crude oleic acid fraction from these fish revealed that, unlike mammals, fish appear to synthesize uniformly labelled oleic acid). Furthermore an octadecadienoic acid derived from oleic must be postulated for rats which have been fed a fat-free diet (14). This is the 6,9-octadecadienoic acid, which is a probable intermediate between oleic and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acids (14). Another probability is the postulated 8,11-octadecadienoic acid intermediate between palmitoleic and 7,10,13-eicosatrienoic acids (14). The existence of this acid in rats has been demonstrated by Fulco and Mead (3). Either of these acids would have the properties of the active octadecadienoic acid postulated in the present study.

In any event the tracer studies tend to confirm the hypothesis that polyunsaturated fatty acid metabolism is not qualitatively different in fish and mammals. Although small quantities of polyunsaturated acids can be synthesized from acetate, these are apparently not the higher essential fatty acids, which must be formed from dietary linoleic acid.

#### Summary

Following injection of *Tilapia mossambica* with acetate- $^{14}C$ , their fatty acids were isolated, fractionated, and degraded. The high content of linoleic and arachidonic acids was evidently derived from the diet. Degradation of these acids revealed a distribution of carbon-14 similar to that found in similar studies on mammals.

#### REFERENCES

1. Privett, O. S., Aaes-Jørgensen, E., Holman, R. T., and Lundberg, W. O., *J. Nutrition*, **67**, 423 (1959).
2. Thomasson, H. J., *Int. Rev. of Vitamin Res.*, **25**, 1 (1953).
3. Mead, J. F., *Am. J. Clin. Nutrition*, **8**, 55 (1960).
4. Klenk, E., and Brockerhoff, H., *Z. Physiol. Chem.*, **307**, 272 (1957).
5. Klenk, E., and Brockerhoff, H., *Z. Physiol. Chem.*, **310**, 153 (1958).
6. Stoffel, W. Jr., and Ahrens, E. H. Jr., *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.*, **99**, 238 (1958).
7. Kelly, P. B., Reiser, Raymond, and Hood, D. W., *J. Am. Oil Chemists' Soc.*, **35**, 189 (1958).
8. Kelly, P. B., Reiser, Raymond, and Hood, D. W., *J. Am. Oil Chemists' Soc.*, **35**, 503 (1958).
9. Farquhar, J. W., Insull, W. Jr., Rosen, P., Stoffel, W., and Ahrens, E. H. Jr., *Nutrition Reviews*, **17**, No. 8, Part II (1959).
10. Mead, J. F., *J. Biol. Chem.*, **227**, 1025 (1957).
11. Dauben, W. G., Hoerger, E., and Petersen, J. W., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, **75**, 2347 (1953).
12. Steinberg, G., Slaton, W. H. Jr., Howton, D. R., and Mead, J. F., *J. Biol. Chem.*, **220**, 257 (1956).
13. Haverkamp-Begemann, P., Keppler, J. G., and Boekenoogen, H. A., *Rec. trav. chim.*, **69**, 439 (1950).

[Received March 17, 1960]

## Search for New Industrial Oils. IV.

F. R. EARLE, C. A. GLASS, GLENDA C. GEISINGER, and I. A. WOLFF, Northern Regional Research Laboratory,<sup>1</sup> Peoria, Illinois; and QUENTIN JONES, Crops Research Division,<sup>2</sup> Beltsville, Maryland

AS RELATED in previous papers of this series (1), a program is in progress to determine by chemical screening analyses what amounts and general classes of fatty acids are contained in seed oils of a large number and variety of presently uncultivated species. Those with suitably high oil content,

and with fatty acid composition thought to be sufficiently different from that of present commercial vegetable oils to make them of potential practical interest, are then scheduled for more intensive chemical study.

In this paper we report results obtained on 158 species representing 52 plant families in 23 orders. Of these, 138 are previously unreported in the compilations of Hilditch (2) and Eekey (3) or in more

<sup>1</sup> This is a laboratory of the Northern Utilization Research and Development Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

<sup>2</sup> Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

TABLE I  
Analytical Data on Seeds and Derived Oils

Common name	Source	Component analyzed		Protein content (N x 6.25), % D.B.	Iodine value, Wijs	Saponification value	Refractive index, 20/D	Fatty acid content of oil				Saturates, %	HBr uptake, as C <sub>18</sub> epoxy acid, %	C=O as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	OH as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	Infrared
		Plant part (see key)	Weight, g.					Oil content, % D.B.	Triene as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	Diene as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	Monoenes, as oleic, %					
<b>Coniferales</b>																
<b>Podocarpaceae</b>																
1. <i>Podocarpus nagi</i> .....		A	882.0	40	10	157	1.4707	0	0	(61)✓	0	(50)✓	(-16)✓	0.4	2/	Trace-trans
<b>Taxodiaceae</b>																
2. <i>Cryptomeria japonica</i> .....		A	4.5	11	11	189	1.4769	(41)✓	0	(21)✓	0	(34)✓	(-3)✓	1.9	3.0	Usual
<b>Liliaceae</b>																
<b>Liliaceae</b>																
3. <i>Allium porrum</i> .....	Leek	A	3.4	16	26	135	1.4690	0	0	61	1.7	24	9	2.1	-	Usual
4. <i>Asparagus officinalis</i> .....	Garden asparagus	A	20.1	15	16	182	1.4677	0	0	52	0	40	3	0.4	-	Usual
5. <i>Dasylirion alberti</i> .....	Whorler sotol	B	1.6	22	16	182	1.4678	0	0	72	0	34	8	0.5	0.1	Usual
6. <i>Ilmnercodialis</i> (hort. sp.).....	Day-lily	B	27.9	27	39	183	1.4678	1	0	59	0	28	9	2.7	-	Usual
7. <i>Yucca constricta</i> .....	Rockley yucca	A	20.0	26	21	176	1.4683	0	0	65	0	24	8	0.5	-	Trace ROH
8. <i>Yucca glauca</i> .....	Small sorweed	A	24.5	27	21	142	1.4684	0	0	69	0	19	8	0.2	-	Usual
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>																
9. <i>Agave schottii</i> .....	.....	A	2.2	21	29	142	1.4690	0	0	72	0	11	12	0.3	-	Usual
<b>Trichaceae</b>																
10. <i>Iris germanica</i> .....	German iris	A	59.9	17	15	138	1.4940	0	0	(21)✓	0	(111)✓	(-36)✓	0.3	5.0	High ROH; bands at 6.0, 6.2, and 11.9 μ
<b>Cuscutariales</b>																
<b>Cuscutaraceae</b>																
11. <i>Casuarina torulosa</i> .....	Forest beefwood	A	2.8	42	49	142	1.4683	0	0	(56)✓	0	(44)✓	(-5)✓	0.4	-	Usual
<b>Urticales</b>																
<b>Urticaceae</b>																
12. <i>Zeltora serrata</i> .....	Japanese zelkova	C	14.0	21	18	284	1.4473	0	0	3	0	7	85	0.2	-	10% Trans
<b>Moraceae</b>																
13. <i>Machera pomifera</i> .....	Osage orange	A	21.6	44	38	145	1.4689	0	0	72	0	14	9	0.2	-	Usual
<b>Santalales</b>																
<b>Oleaceae</b>																
14. <i>Ximantia americana</i> .....	.....	A	84.0	62	20	85	1.4718	(✓)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	0.7	1.0	Triple bond; 5% conj. triene
<b>Chenopodiales</b>																
<b>Chenopodiaceae</b>																
15. <i>Koehia scoparia</i> .....	Summer-rygrass	A	0.6	16	28	135	1.4693	5	0.1	48	0	38	5	0.6	-	Usual
16. <i>Salsola prostifera</i> .....	Russian thistle	C	1.7	22	40	132	1.4686	5	0.2	50	0	30	10	0.7	-	Usual
<b>Ranales</b>																
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>																
17. <i>Paronia bronni</i> .....	Brown peony	A	195.0	19	14	155	1.4690	34	0	19	0	31	12	0.4	-	Usual
18. <i>Thalictrum rotundifolium</i> .....	Meadow-pue	C	1.5	36	28	175	1.4721	1	0	(61)✓	0	(68)✓	(-35)✓	0	-	Trans
<b>Menispermaceae</b>																
19. <i>Menispermum canadense</i> .....	Moonseed	D	104.0	16	13	178	1.4678	25	0	(46)✓	0	(29)✓	(-4)✓	1.0	-	High free acid
<b>Dilleniaceae</b>																
20. <i>Artinidia arguta</i> .....	Tart. vine	A	1.6	22	16	185	1.4765	44	0.3	7	2.1	35	3	4.1	6.0	10% ROH; Trace-Trans
<b>Calycanthaceae</b>																
21. <i>Calycanthus floridus</i> .....	Carolina allspice	A	59.4	48	24	134	1.4671	0	0	62	0	24	10	0.2	-	Usual
22. <i>Chimonanthus praecox</i> .....	Wintersweet	A	105.6	37	34	117	1.4657	1	0	52	0	23	20	1.0	-	Usual
<b>Lauraceae</b>																
23. <i>Sassafras albidum</i> .....	Sassafras	D	58.0	60	24	6	1.4470	0	0	0	0	6	89	0.6	-	Trace-trans
<b>Rubiales</b>																
<b>Rubiacaceae</b>																
24. <i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i> .....	Crested prickly poppy	A	2.5	32	17	125	1.4659	0	0	57	0	24	15	0.5	-	Usual
25. <i>Agrimonia intermedia</i> .....	Prickly poppy	A	2.8	37	18	138	1.4672	0	0	65	0	18	12	0.4	-	Usual
<b>Capparidaceae</b>																
26. <i>Cleome scutellata</i> .....	Bee-spider flower	A	2.6	34	21	166	1.4711	29	0	38	0	21	8	0.2	-	Usual
27. <i>Cleome spinosa</i> .....	Spiny spider flower	A	2.2	36	19	116	1.4658	4	0	40	0	36	16	0	-	Usual
28. <i>Isomeris arborea</i> .....	Tree burrhead	B	40.8	45	37	107	1.4656	1	0	35	0	44	15	0.2	-	Usual
29. <i>Polanisia trachysperma</i> .....	Roughseed clammyweed	A	3.0	25	18	140	1.4683	2	0	65	0	19	10	0	-	Usual
30. <i>Polanisia viscosa</i> .....	Clammyweed	A	1.4	26	16	130	1.4686	0	0.5	55	0	32	8	0.8	-	Usual
<b>Rosales</b>																
<b>Hamamelidaceae</b>																
31. <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> .....	Sweet gum	A	4.0	30	33	141	1.4678	1	0	67	0	20	8	0.6	-	Usual
<b>Rosaceae</b>																
32. <i>Crataegus mollis</i> .....	Downy hawthorn	A	9.0	31	47	128	1.4676	0	0.1	50	1.0	38	6	2.3	-	Usual
33. <i>Geum chiloense</i> .....	Double crimson avens	A	1.4	24	30	162	1.4720	30	0	26	0	37	5	0.5	-	Usual

(Continued)

TABLE I—(Continued)

Rosales (cont'd)	Component analyzed		Fatty acid content of oil								Infrared			
	Plant part (see key)	Weight (see key)	Oil content (% D.B.)	Protein content (N x 6.25), % D.B.	Jalob value, Wjls	Saponification value	Refractive index n <sub>20</sub> <sup>D</sup>	Trienic as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	Dienic as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	Monoenic as oleic, %		Saturates, %	HBr uptake, as C <sub>18</sub> epoxy acid, %	C=O as acid, %
Leguminosae														
	34. <i>Bauhinia purpurata</i> .....	A 265.0	20	28	100	182	1.4641	0	48	13	34	1.0	—	Usual
	35. <i>Catalpa crochylida</i> .....	A 18.5	16	39	82	185	1.4654	0	26	28	36	14	—	Usual
	36. <i>Cordia alliodora</i> .....	A 222.0	16	54	100	183	1.4670	0	36	32	24	9.6	—	Usual
	37. <i>Commersonia alata</i> .....	A 246.0	45	35	72	183	1.4712	0	30	58	27	0.3	—	Usual
	38. <i>Erythrina sp.</i> .....	A 113.6	19	42	95	176	1.4659	0	36	31	28	0.4	—	Usual
	39. <i>Girardinia sp.</i> .....	A 106.2	20	48	83	184	1.4680	0	27	33	34	1.4	—	Usual
	40. <i>Macleodina roseocaulis</i> .....	A 85.0	25	42	85	170	1.4655	0	35	26	35	0.4	—	100% THRS Usual
	41. <i>Medicago tribuloides</i> .....	A 4.0	16	44	133	181	1.4674	24	0	30	20	1.8	—	Usual
	42. <i>Milletia ovalifolia</i> .....	A 221.0	37	27	100	186	1.4722	0	33	45	18	0.6	—	Usual
	43. <i>Pongamia pinnata</i> .....	A 816.0	35	22	88	181	1.4730	1	0	56	19	0.5	—	Usual
	44. <i>Stylosanthes gracilis</i> .....	A 2.8	17	40	110	184	1.4659	1	0	46	22	0.9	—	Usual
	45. <i>Tephrosia sp.</i> .....	A 30.9	10	44	85	181	1.4659	1	0.4	40	29	0.1	—	Usual
	46. <i>Trifolium subterraneum</i> .....	A 7.4	15	36	110	184	1.4650	2	0	24	24	2.1	—	Usual
Geraniales														
Zygophyllaceae														
	47. <i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i> .....	A 890.0	46	22	93	186	1.4641	0	37	3.2	32	7.9	—	Trace ROH
Rutaceae														
	48. <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> .....	E 11.0	46	44	179	182	1.4751	30	0	22	1	0.8	—	Usual
	49. <i>Skimmia japonica</i> .....	A 34.0	45	26	144	182	1.4695	28	0	42	8	0.7	—	Usual
Simaroubaceae														
	50. <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> .....	B 9.0	56	28	133	188	1.4677	0	56	0	4	0.5	—	Usual
Melastomaceae														
	51. <i>Pteranthus pentandra</i> .....	A 95.0	55	12	86	181	1.4670	1	0	35	2	0.1	—	Trace ROH
Euphorbiaceae														
	52. <i>Trichilia sp.</i> .....	A 69.2	54	14	127	182	1.4701	(16)	0	(69)	(-2)	0.6	—	Many bands
	53. <i>Croton tigris</i> .....	A 7.0	26	25	165	186	1.4730	28	0	8	15	0.1	—	Usual
	54. <i>Daphniphyllum humile</i> .....	A 50.0	35	15	100	178	1.4642	1	0	53	14	0.7	—	Usual
	55. <i>Mercureialis annua</i> .....	A 1.5	37	19	211	190	1.4763	70	0	7	12	0.2	—	Usual
	56. <i>Phyllanthus sp.</i> .....	A 11.0	30	14	160	187	1.4705	35	0	30	10	0.1	—	Usual
Sapiindales														
Celastraceae														
	57. <i>Celastrus orbiculata</i> .....	A 9.0	46	22	116	245	1.4747	21	0	16	36	2.3	—	8.0 μ band
Sipholiaceae														
	58. <i>Xoerotheria formosana</i> .....	B 40.0	53	29	82	176	1.4643	5	0	54	25	0.2	—	Triple bond
	59. <i>Sopinaria mukrosii</i> .....	B 321.0	35	31	89	186	1.4654	5	0	69	14	0.3	—	Usual
Balsaminaceae														
	60. <i>Impatiens balsamina</i> .....	A 8.7	22	16	174	187	1.5026	0	0.5	...	...	0.3	—	Partharic acid
Rhamnales														
Rhamnaceae														
	61. <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> .....	D 13.1	25	20	166	184	1.4718	31	0	19	10	0.3	—	Usual
	62. <i>Rhamnus davurica</i> .....	D 24.4	27	20	159	185	1.4718	24	0	18	11	0.3	—	Usual
	63. <i>Rhamnus purshiana</i> .....	B 30.3	57	25	108	186	1.4648	3	0	55	10	0.2	—	Usual
Vitaceae														
	64. <i>Vitis vulpina</i> .....	A 27.6	16	10	142	181	1.4688	0	0	(14)	(-5)	0	—	Usual
Malvales														
Malvaceae														
	65. <i>Abutilon theophrasti</i> .....	A 8.5	15	23	130	181	1.4693	1	0	16	16	1.0	—	Usual
	66. <i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i> .....	A 22.5	18	26	107	186	1.4645	1	0	43	23	4.0	—	Usual
	67. <i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> .....	A 7.4	13	29	118	188	1.4680	1	0	36	13	1.3	—	Band at 9.9 μ
	68. <i>Hibiscus sylvaticus</i> .....	F 7.3	29	22	116	188	1.4667	0	0	43	11	2.1	—	Band at 9.9 μ
	69. <i>Lavatera trimestris</i> .....	A 6.5	16	25	100	192	1.4664	0	0	30	19	1.3	—	Usual; trace ROH
Sterculiaceae														
	70. <i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i> .....	B 184.0	30	36	116	178	1.4684	1	0	46	15	1.1	—	Usual
	71. <i>Firmiana simplex</i> .....	B 91.0	37	26	109	184	1.4652	1	0	39	15	1.6	—	Usual
Paritales														
Loasaceae														
	72. <i>Mentzelia decapetala</i> .....	A 0.6	42	21	140	193	1.4689	4	0	58	8	0.6	—	Usual
Myrtales														
Eucalyptaceae														
	73. <i>Eucalyptus angustifolia</i> .....	A 15.9	26	42	155	184	1.4702	14	0	48	1	0.4	—	Trace ROH; trace-trans; high free acid
Lythraceae														
	74. <i>Cuphea lancea</i> var. <i>minata</i> .....	A 1.0	21	17	18	272	1.4480	0	0	5	82	0.2	—	Trace-trans

(Continued)

TABLE I—(Continued)

Source	Common name	Plant part (see key)	Component analyzed	Oil content, % (T.D.B.)	Protein content (N x 6.25), % (D.B.)	Iodine value, Wigs	Saponification value	Refractive index n <sub>D</sub> 20/D	Fatty acid content of oil				Saturates, %	HBr uptake, as C <sub>18</sub> epoxy acid, %	C=O as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	OH as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	Infrared
									Triene as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	Diene as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	Monoleo, as oleic, %	Nonconj., Conj., %					
Mirtales (cont'd)																	
Ponticeae																	
75. <i>Punica granatum</i> .....	Pomegranate	A	24.0	4	8	165	183	1.5146	...	62	...	1	...	0	...	Conj. triene	
Onagraceae																	
76. <i>Oenothera biennis</i> .....	Common evening-primrose	A	0.6	25	16	153	186	1.4702	8	0	61	0	24	3	...	Usual	
77. <i>Oenothera rhombipetala</i> .....	.....	A	0.2	31	16	151	184	1.4695	5	0	69	0	13	8	...	Usual	
Umbelliferae																	
78. <i>Anthriscus carotolum</i> .....	Salad chervil	C	2.1	16	19	108	184	1.4648	0	0	30	0	59	6	...	Usual	
79. <i>Daucus carota</i> .....	Carrot	E	1.7	30	30	106	168	1.4660	0	13	0	81	1	20	...	Many weak bands	
80. <i>Daucus carota</i> .....	Carrot	F	0.8	26	25	162	181	1.4749	0	0	...	2.8	...	14	...	Many bands	
81. <i>Daucus pusillus</i> .....	Southwestern carrot	E	0.8	27	20	122	190	1.4785	0	0	...	0	...	...	...	Many bands 7-15 μ	
82. <i>Heraclium lanatum</i> .....	Common cow parship	C	5.6	18	22	87	200	1.4775	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Ericales																	
Ericaceae																	
83. <i>Arctostaphylos glauca</i> .....	Great-berried manzanita	A	11.0	56	25	157	189	1.4704	25	0	33	0	32	6	...	Usual	
Ebenea																	
Symplocaceae																	
84. <i>Syzygium americanum</i> .....	Mock-orange	A	16.6	43	19	124	173	1.4609	9	0	28	0	39	16	...	Many bands	
85. <i>Symplocos paniculata</i> .....	Sapfireberry sweetleaf	A	17.0	52	21	115	192	1.4656	0	0	36	0	53	6	...	Usual	
Gentianales																	
Loganiaceae																	
86. <i>Buddleia davidii</i> .....	Orange eye butterflybush	A	0.1	28	19	130	175	1.4684	1	0	59	0	22	13	...	Usual	
Apocynaceae																	
87. <i>Apocynum cannabinum</i> .....	Hemp dogbane	A	468.0	56	29	151	184	1.4708	10	0	53	0	30	2	...	Usual	
88. <i>Thevetia</i> sp. ....	.....	A	.....	.....	16	79	181	1.4615	0	0.1	17	0	54	25	...	Usual	
Asteraceae																	
89. <i>Asclepias engelmanniana</i> .....	Milkweed	A	6.1	36	42	114	186	1.4667	2	0	34	0	53	6	...	Usual	
90. <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> .....	Swamp milkweed	A	3.6	27	31	119	181	1.4667	2	0	39	0	48	6	...	Usual	
91. <i>Marsdenia edulis</i> .....	.....	B	10.0	47	27	85	181	1.4684	0	0	18	0	58	20	...	Usual	
Polemoniales																	
Boraginaceae																	
92. <i>Onosmodium occidentale</i> .....	Western marbleseed	B	18.5	56	36	190	...	1.4736	(46)	0.1	(18)	0	(35)	(-5)	...	Usual	
Labiatae																	
93. <i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> .....	Bushmint	C	7.4	24	22	146	188	1.4696	0	0.2	77	0	6	12	...	Usual	
94. <i>Leonurus cardiaca</i> .....	Common motherwort	C	0.4	30	13	133	180	1.4680	2	0	51	0	35	6	...	Usual	
95. <i>Zycopus asper</i> .....	Bugleweed	C	0.7	25	17	155	168	1.4719	30	0	16	0	49	0	...	Many weak bands; high free ac	
96. <i>Mentha arvensis</i> .....	Field mint	C	0.1	23	18	199	183	1.4752	58	0	16	0	13	9	...	Usual	
97. <i>Mentha</i> sp. ....	Mint	C	0.6	14	26	214	180	1.4767	64	0	17	0	12	5	...	Usual	
98. <i>Peppa catararia</i> .....	Catnip	C	0.5	21	18	201	185	1.4754	57	0	17	0	12	8	...	Usual	
99. <i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i> .....	Mountain mint	C	0.4	35	31	213	184	1.4773	62	0.1	14	0	19	0	...	Usual	
Solanaceae																	
100. <i>Datura metel</i> .....	Hindu datura	A	14.1	19	14	110	179	1.4658	1	0	40	0	39	16	...	Usual	
Scrophulariaceae																	
101. <i>Atropa vanderweitzii</i> .....	Heartleaf monk flower	A	0.9	26	20	128	172	1.4732	(3)	0.1	(36)	0	(61)	(-1)	...	Usual	
102. <i>Antirrhinum majus</i> .....	Common snapdragon	A	0.2	15	16	141	206	1.4684	2	0	69	0	17	9	...	Usual	
103. <i>Nemesia suttonii</i> .....	Pouch nepesia	F	0.2	46	29	130	177	1.4696	2	0	60	0	18	16	...	30% Free acid; trace ROH	
104. <i>Penstemon tomentosus</i> .....	Royal penstemon	F	0.1	24	12	159	185	1.4680	0	0	66	0	19	9	...	Trace ROH	
105. <i>Penstemon albidus</i> .....	White penstemon	A	0.6	20	15	148	180	1.4618	(1)	0	(34)	7.6	(58)	(-4)	...	Ca 30% ROH; 30% free acid	
106. <i>Penstemon grandiflorus</i> .....	Shell-leaf penstemon	A	1.6	17	15	128	186	1.4719	2	0	49	0	42	20.0	...	Usual	
107. <i>Fernoxia spicata</i> .....	Spike-spedwell	A	0.5	27	26	151	182	1.4701	2	0	70	0	21	3	...	Usual	
Bignoniaceae																	
108. <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> .....	Common catalpa	F	15.0	35	36	153	173	1.4684	0	28	36	0	14	18	...	Like elaeostearic	
109. <i>Chilopsis linearis</i> .....	Desert willow	A	5.0	32	20	142	183	1.4684	0	21	28	12	14	21	...	Like elaeostearic	
Rubiaceae																	
110. <i>Gmelina</i> .....	Cinchona	B	0.4	16	18	115	177	1.4665	0	0	42	0	43	10	...	Usual	
111. <i>Gardenia jasminoides</i> .....	Cape-jasmine	A	3.4	20	14	122	184	1.4660	0	0	50	0	35	11	...	Usual	
Caprifoliaceae																	
112. <i>Lonicera tatarica</i> .....	Tartarian honeysuckle	A	2.5	32	21	140	184	1.4682	1	0	68	0	18	10	...	Trace ROH	
113. <i>Fiburnum dentatum</i> .....	Arrow-wood	A	11.0	42	17	97	180	1.4656	0	0	16	0	74	5	...	Usual	

(Continued)

TABLE I—(Continued)

Source	Common name	Plant part (see key)	Component analyzed	Oil content, % D.B.	Protein content, % D.B.	Iodine value, Wjls	Saponification value	Refractive index n <sub>D</sub> 20	Triene as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	Diene as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	Monene, as oleic, %	Saturates, %	HBr uptake, as epoxy acid, %	C=O as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	OH as C <sub>18</sub> acid, %	Infrared
Cucurbitaceae																
114. <i>Cucurbita</i> sp.	Watermelon	B	52.4	18	16	145	185	1.4919	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	30% <i>Cis-trans</i> conj.
115. <i>Citrullus vulgaris</i> <sup>8</sup>	Watermelon	B	32.9	51	38	132	186	1.4678	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	U: sat
116. <i>Echinocystis tabacae</i>	Man-root	B	1157.0	52	51	114	186	1.4686	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	U: sat; trace ROH
117. <i>Echinocystis organa</i>	Man-root	B	946.0	47	34	115	189	1.4690	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	U: sat; trace ROH
Compositales																
Compositae																
118. <i>Ambrosia trifida</i>	Giant ragweed	C	15.8	25	22	136	185	1.4684	0.2	0	18	10	0.2	1.0	0	U: sat
119. <i>Artemisia sancti-johannis</i>	St. Johns cottonmille	C	0.6	24	18	142	182	1.4693	0.2	0	10	12	2.0	0	0	U: sat
120. <i>Artemisia minus</i>	Burdock	C	9.5	21	17	159	183	1.4696	0.2	0	(55)	(-10)	0.5	0.5	0	U: sat
121. <i>Atractis grandis</i>	African daisy	B	0.8	48	36	126	192	1.4649	0.1	0	27	13	7.0	0	0	U: sat
122. <i>Aster alpinus</i>	Rock aster	C	1.3	23	19	161	176	1.4712	0.8	0	(59)	(-22)	0.3	2.0	2	U: sat
123. <i>Aster ericoides</i>	Michauxias daisy	C	0.2	30	28	144	187	1.4684	0.4	0	26	3	0.3	1.0	0	U: sat
124. <i>Boltonia aseroides</i>	White boltonia	C	0.1	21	19	136	186	1.4736	0.7	0.7	39	2	2.0	0	0	U: sat
125. <i>Brachycome Iberidifolia</i>	Swan River daisy	C	0.2	27	18	125	185	1.4694	1.3	0.2	25	14	14.0	0	10	ROH; cis,trans conj
126. <i>Brachycome coronarium</i>	Garden chrysanthemum	C	1.9	19	18	142	184	1.4694	1.3	0	21	8	5	0	0	U: sat
127. <i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>	Plumed thistle	C	3.2	22	18	141	182	1.4691	1.3	0	25	10	0.4	1.0	0	U: sat
128. <i>Cnicus benedictus</i>	Blessed thistle	C	27.5	27	18	132	177	1.4677	0.6	0	22	12	0.9	0	0	U: sat
129. <i>Cynara cardunculus</i>	Cardoon	C	20.2	43	28	125	182	1.4670	0.6	0	18	18	1.5	0	0	U: sat
130. <i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	Coneflower	C	2.0	37	49	139	183	1.4685	0.5	0	22	8	1.0	0	3	U: sat
131. <i>Echinops exaltatus</i>	Russian globe thistle	C	11.0	24	24	120	180	1.4685	0.6	0	14	12	7.0	0	8	U: sat
132. <i>Encelia farinosa</i>	White brittlebush	C	1.1	35	37	159	184	1.4695	0.6	0	66	12	0.5	0	5	U: sat
133. <i>Eupatorium riposum</i>	White snakeroot	C	0.3	40	26	143	181	1.4697	0.4	0	70	8	0.2	0	2	U: sat
134. <i>Gaillardia aristata</i>	Common perennial gaillardia	B	2.0	28	46	141	186	1.4708	1.0	0	16	16	0.5	0	5	U: sat
135. <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Painted gaillardia	C	1.1	18	32	138	186	1.4690	0.4	0	17	6	4.0	0	2	U: sat
136. <i>Grindelia squarrosa</i>	Curlycup gumweed	C	0.7	20	14	150	186	1.4692	0.5	0	28	6	0.5	0	2	U: sat
137. <i>Helianthus annuus</i> <sup>1</sup>	Sunflower	C	40.0	49	25	153	202	1.4720	(1.4)	0	(26)	(-2)	1.0	1.0	0	U: sat
138. <i>Helianthus autumnalis</i>	Sunflower	A	20.0	44	34	110	...	1.4651	0.1	0	41	14	2.9	0	0	U: sat
139. <i>Helianthus annuus</i> <sup>2</sup>	Sunflower	A	20.0	44	34	110	...	1.4676	0.3	0	41	15	3.1	0	0	U: sat
140. <i>Helianthus maritimus</i>	Sunflower	C	2.0	30	31	145	184	1.4704	0.5	0	13	9	0.6	0	0	U: sat
141. <i>Helianthus scaberrimus</i>	Prairie sunflower	C	5.9	30	26	141	187	1.4689	0.2	0	26	5	0.7	0	0	U: sat
142. <i>Helianthus ruber</i>	Sunflower	C	5.4	30	24	140	184	1.4699	0.2	0.1	28	6	0.6	0	0	U: sat
143. <i>Helianthus scaberrimus</i>	Sunflower	C	2.0	26	31	145	185	1.4697	0.7	0	21	8	0.6	0	1	U: sat
144. <i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	Jerusalem artichoke	C	0.6	22	20	125	183	1.4678	0.3	0	31	13	0.8	0	0	U: sat
145. <i>Hibiscus heterochromus</i>	Rag sunflower	C	0.6	23	19	146	177	1.4700	0.8	0	28	8	0.6	0	0	U: sat
146. <i>Iva exanthifolia</i>	False bonaset	C	1.0	22	23	135	179	1.4698	0.5	0	27	9	0.8	0	0	U: sat
147. <i>Kuhnia elatioria</i>	Bitter lettuce	C	1.0	22	23	135	179	1.4698	0.5	0	27	9	0.8	0	0	U: sat
148. <i>Lactuca scariola</i>	Blazing star	C	1.2	41	47	127	181	1.4675	1.1	0	30	7	0.3	0.4	0	U: sat
149. <i>Liatris punctata</i>	Butter snakeroot	A	32.0	29	34	134	181	1.4698	0.5	0	30	4	0.5	0	0	U: sat
150. <i>Liatris punctata</i>	Coneflower	C	1.8	30	26	145	186	1.4690	0.5	0	26	2	0.3	0	0	U: sat
151. <i>Rudbeckia columbifolia</i>	Coneflower	C	0.6	26	27	145	186	1.4690	0.5	0	26	4	0.7	0	0	U: sat
152. <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Coneflower	C	1.7	26	26	148	188	1.4699	0.8	0	26	4	0.7	0	0	U: sat
153. <i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Goldenrod	C	0.5	18	14	143	148	1.4721	0.5	0	(84)	(-26)	2.0	3.0	20	ROH; many bands
154. <i>Solidago serotina</i>	Goldenrod	C	1.5	18	14	143	148	1.4721	(0.9)	0	(84)	(-26)	2.0	12.0	20	ROH; many bands
155. <i>Thithonia speciosa</i>	Scarlet thithonia	C	9.5	18	21	116	95	1.4660	0.1	0	(109)	(-28)	4	0	5	U: sat
156. <i>Thithonia speciosa</i>	Ironweed	C	0.4	20	24	107	175	1.4660	0.1	0.1	(5.1)	(-1)	0.7	0	0	U: sat
157. <i>Yernonia deppeana</i>	Ironweed	C	2.3	28	22	131	177	1.4700	1.2	0	29	9	5	2.0	0	U: sat
158. <i>Yugeria laciniata</i>	Outback Goldeneye	C	0.7	13	15	135	187	1.4678	0.5	0	34	17	0.6	0	3	U: sat
159. <i>Yugeria heterotaxis</i>	Golden crownbeard	C	35.5	15	21	126	176	1.4686	0.2	0	34	9	6.0	0	0	Trace ROH
160. <i>Ximenesia encrinellata</i>	Golden crownbeard	C	1.0	31	36	107	184	1.4654	0.3	0	64	5	0.4	0	0	U: sat

<sup>1</sup> Method not applicable or questionable. <sup>2</sup> Negative carbonyl test indicated by dash. <sup>3</sup> 2% Tetraene. <sup>4</sup> 4% Tetraene. <sup>5</sup> Average of two similar samples. <sup>6</sup> 25% Conjugated tetraene. <sup>7</sup> Gives positive Haiphon test. <sup>8</sup> Not tested. <sup>9</sup> 4% Conjugated tetraene. <sup>10</sup> Average of four similar samples. <sup>11</sup> Of eight samples analyzed, the two cited are the extremes with respect to I.V., linoleic acid, and conjugated diene. Deviations in other characteristics were slight.

Key: A—Seed, B—Seed minus seed coat, C—Pericarp plus seed, D—Endocarp plus seed, E—Seed plus part of pericarp, F—Part of seed coat removed.

recent references that we have encountered. Many plant families and genera that we listed earlier (1) appear again, but no species appears a second time unless the oil composition differs distinctly from the earlier sample.

### Materials and Methods

Sample origin, sample preparation, and analytical procedures used were as previously described (1). In addition, a qualitative test for carbonyl (4) was made on the present oils. On oils positive to this test, the amount present was estimated by a colorimetric procedure (5).

Hydroxyl content was determined chemically (6) on methyl esters from selected oils, including a number indicated by infrared absorption to have significant amounts. Methyl esters were prepared by well-known transesterification (7) or diazomethane [for preparation see (8)] procedures most appropriate in consideration of functional groups present, sample quantities available, or the desire to exclude unsaponifiables. For convenience, the hydrogen bromide absorption was calculated in terms of the percentage of oxirane oxygen as apparent epoxy oleic acid although the lack of specificity of the method is now well recognized (9, 10). Gas chromatographic analyses were carried out on methyl esters from selected oils on a Burrell K-5 Kromotog with Apiezon-L and Resoflex-446 packed columns.

When more than one sample of a given species was analyzed, results were averaged unless there was some dissimilarity. The two *Daucus carota* [79, 80]<sup>3</sup> samples differed markedly in IBr absorption, infrared absorption, and behavior on isomerization. The *Helianthus annuus* oils showed a range in composition similar to published results (2), and the two samples reported [138, 139] give the extremes in iodine value and linoleic acid content for the eight samples analyzed. The amount of conjugated diene and IBr absorption (possibly dimorphecolic acid) in the *H. annuus* did not vary greatly.

### Results and Discussion

The species analyzed are listed in Table I according to orders in the plant kingdom so that familial similarities of chemical characteristics are more readily apparent.

Three species, *Zelkova serrata* [12], *Sassafras albidum* [23], and *Cuphea llavea* var. *miniata* [74], produced oils with such low iodine values that most of the acids present must be saturated. These three and *Celastrus orbiculata* [57] had high saponification values, indicating the presence of acids probably smaller than the usual C<sub>18</sub> acids. Hopkins and Chisholm (11) showed that *Z. serrata* oil contains primarily capric (73%) and caprylic (8%) acids; our results are in excellent agreement. Our chromatographic analyses (Table II) of the esters of *S. albidum* and *C. llavea* show that these oils are very similar to that of *Z. serrata* but that the *C. llavea* oil contains even more capric acid. Chromatography of the esters from *Celastrus orbiculata* shows no significant amounts of short-chain acids. The high saponification value may result from esters of formic and acetic acids, such as have been reported in other *Celastrus* species (2), which would be lost in the routine preparation of the methyl esters.

TABLE II

Gas Chromatographic Analyses of Methyl Esters from *Cuphea llavea*, *Sassafras albidum*, and *Zelkova serrata* Seed Oils

Type of acid	<i>C. llavea</i>	<i>S. albidum</i>	<i>Z. serrata</i>
Saturated	%	%	%
C <sub>8</sub> .....	....	13	....
C <sub>9</sub> .....	1	5	9
C <sub>10</sub> .....	83	59	77
C <sub>12</sub> .....	1	17	3
C <sub>14</sub> .....	1	1	1
C <sub>16</sub> .....	3	....	2
C <sub>18</sub> .....	1	....	....
Monene			
C <sub>18</sub> .....	5	5	3
Diene			
C <sub>18</sub> .....	6	....	4

*Sassafras albidum*, a small tree in the family *Lauraceae*, is the source of a spicy root bark used for preparing a medicinal tea and a flavoring extract for various uses (12). *Lindera* oils in this same family have been reported to contain saturated acids 10 to 14 carbon atoms in chain length along with the corresponding monoenes (2, 11). The sassafras oil by gas chromatographic evidence contains capric, lauric, and caproic acids as major components in the order of decreasing amount.

*Cuphea llavea*, family *Lythraceae*, belongs to a genus of about 100 species of herbs and subshrubs native to the subtropics and warm temperate areas of North and South America. Several of the species are grown as ornamentals in greenhouses in the North and in the open in the South. The outstanding high content of capric acid makes this oil the richest known natural source of this acid. *Cuphea*, containing numerous herbaceous species, undoubtedly has higher crop potential than *Sassafras* or *Zelkova*.

Confirmation of gas chromatographic data on these oils by conventional characterization is desirable and contemplated. As in the case of *Zelkova* oil, the lower-molecular-weight saturated acids are not accompanied by their unsaturated counterparts, a point of possible significance in the biosynthetic process (11).

The oils of high iodine value (above 190) encountered among the species studied, although many are previously unreported, occur largely in families and genera—the mint and spurge groups—known to contain good drying-type oils and hence are not unexpected. Five species contained more than 55% “apparent linolenic” acid; the highest, with 70%, was *Mecurialis annua* [55], a spurge. From this maximum the content of linolenic acid ranged down to 0%.

*Onosmodium occidentale* [92] in the borage family is systematically closely allied to the mints; the high iodine value of its seed oil is therefore not surprising. *O. occidentale* seed is however most unusual in its exceptionally high ash content, 48.9% on a dry basis. Hand separation of kernel from hull revealed that the ash was largely in the hull, which contained 59.0% of total ash (15.2% of SiO<sub>2</sub>). The hull as we obtained it comprised 83% of the seed as received; oil and protein analyses in Table I refer only to the kernel (3.6% ash). *Onosmodium* is a small genus made up mostly of coarse perennial herbs found on dry, gravelly, or calcareous soils throughout much of the eastern half of the United States.

Nine species produced oils containing more than 70% “apparent linoleic” acid. Oil from *Hyptis suaveolens* [93], a mint, contains the highest concentration, 77% (equivalent to 80% in the mixed acids). If the acid is found to be linoleic, *H. suaveolens* will be among the richest sources.

<sup>3</sup> Numbers in brackets refer to position in Table I.

Exceptionally low saponification values (below 165) were obtained on seed oils from *Iris germanica* [10], *Ximenia americana* [14], *Daucus carota* [80], *Daucus pusillus* [81], *Penstemon albidus* [105], *Solidago serotina* [154], and *Vernonia deppeana* [156]. When refractive index is plotted against iodine value, points for all these oils, except possibly the last, lie off the line representing oils made up only of the common  $C_{18}$  acids (Figure 1). This deviation from the typical

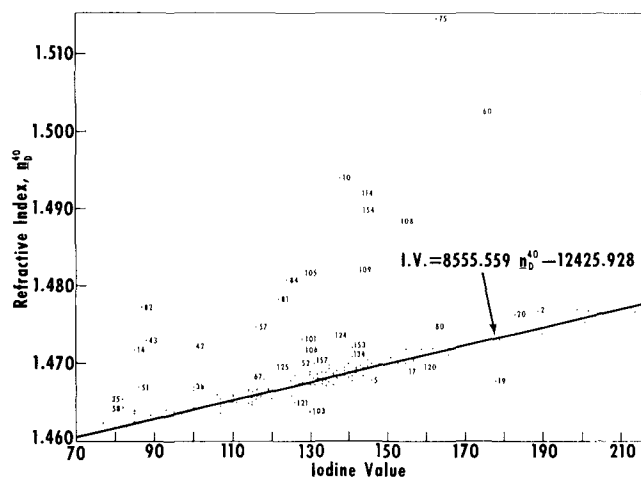


FIG. 1. Relation between iodine value and refractive index (regression line from reference 1a). Numbers on points refer to the numbered items of Table I.

behavior of common vegetable oils is sometimes ascribable to structural features, such as conjugated unsaturation, high carbonyl content, presence of essential oils, presence of apparent hydroxy acids, or excessively high content of unsaponifiables. In other cases it is due to unexplained factors that are revealed only by the presence of unidentified bands upon infrared analysis or by the failure of the usual analytical methods to provide reasonable values (e.g., large negative value for the percentage of saturated acids). For example, seed oils of four species of the genus *Penstemon* have been found in our studies to contain 9 to 18% unsaponifiable matter, values much in excess of the normal. Many of the oils with lower than normal saponification values deserve more detailed chemical examination.

Conjugated trienes were found in pomegranate [75] (2), in catalpa [108] (13), in one previously unreported species of *Bignoniaceae*, and in three of *Cucurbitaceae*. One of the cucurbits, *Momordica balsamina* (balsam apple), not reported in this paper because of similarity to a previous sample (1), has been given a preliminary field trial, and it appears to be well adapted to conditions at College Station, Tex. The species has been grown both with and without trellises; its viny habit with concomitant difficulties in mechanized harvest somewhat limits its crop potential.

Of a number of species containing some conjugated diene, only *Chilopsis linearis* [109] (which also had conjugated triene) had more than 10% in its constituent acids, according to ultraviolet spectroscopy. In practically every instance where there is conjugated diene unsaturation, there is at least an equivalent amount of hydrogen bromide absorption in the Durbetaki titration (reported arbitrarily as apparent epoxy acid) and of hydroxyl. In selected instances

lithium aluminum hydride reduction (9) confirmed that the HBr uptake is not due to true epoxy groups. This combination of conjugated diene, hydroxyl, and HBr absorption is characteristic of dimorphecolic acid (1c) and compounds with related structures. It appears probable that dimorphecolic acid is rather widespread in nature and indeed occurs in a considerable number of families other than the *Compositae*.

Among the oils reported none was found with outstandingly high percentages of HBr-absorbing components, such as *Vernonia anthelmintica* (65–70%) (14) and *Dimorphotheca aurantiaca* (ca. 50%) (1c). However a surprising number of the oils contain amounts from several tenths up to 20% or so of acids reactive in this titration. These undoubtedly have a number of chemically different groupings. For example, *Hibiscus moscheutos* [67] and *H. syriacus* [68] samples give a positive Halphen test and have a prominent infrared band at  $9.9 \mu$ , indicating the probable presence of acids similar to sterculic.

Twenty-nine oils gave positive qualitative tests for carbonyl, but only five contained enough to correspond to as much as 5% of a  $C_{18}$  keto acid. The types of carbonyl compounds present are unknown. In the two *Penstemon* samples [105, 106] approximately half the carbonyl occurs in the unsaponifiable fraction. Although the carbonyl-containing compounds have not been identified, the analyses provide an indication of their occurrence and amount.

Hydroxyl determinations on 48 methyl ester samples, selected on the basis of analyses on the raw oils, verified the presence of apparent hydroxy acids in all but four, in amounts ranging from 1 to 29%. Our qualitative infrared examination of the raw oils does not permit unequivocal detection of small amounts of hydroxy acids because of the presence of free acids and glyceryl hydroxyls. Failure of infrared to demonstrate the presence of hydroxyl groups in *Polanisia viscosa* [30] however is surprising, and the explanation is not evident. Gas chromatography shows the oil to be of complex composition but does not reveal known hydroxy compounds. In other instances, hydroxyl found in the esters is probably formed from epoxy groups during acid transesterification, but such a reaction cannot occur to a significant extent with *Polanisia* oil.

Figures given for apparent monoene and saturated acids, calculated by difference as they are in standard procedures, provide reliable values when usual types of  $C_{18}$  acids are present. If unusual types of acids are present, such values may serve only as guides to oils that deviate from the norm and require further study. Infrared analysis sometimes provides a similar guide.

Among the 23 oils obviously unsuited for complete analysis by the alkali-isomerization method, three contained conjugated triene or tetraene in sufficient quantity to give erroneous results for the iodine value. Seven have many absorption bands in the infrared not associated with the common fatty acids. One, *Ximenia americana* [14], contains an acetylenic bond conjugated with an ethylenic bond (2). Two, *Podocarpus nagi* [1] and *Thalictrum revolutum* [18], probably contain a double bond too far removed from other double bonds to conjugate under the influence of heat and alkali. Such a structure has been proposed for *P. nagi* (15); gas chromatography of *T. revolutum* shows a large amount of apparent triene rather than

the diene given by the isomerization method. One, *Penstemon albidus* [105], contains sufficient carbonyl, hydroxyl, and unsaponifiables to explain the anomalous results obtained. The remainder present no obvious reasons for inapplicability of the analyses. In fact, some oils showing from -2% to -5% saturated acids may actually be suitable for the isomerization procedure because such results are not necessarily outside acceptable limits of precision of the method.

Conversely, routine application of the isomerization method to unknown oils may give results that are incorrect but not obviously so. For example, *Picramnia pentandra* [51] appears to have a reasonable, though unusual, composition. However the oil is solid well above room temperature, and the major component has chromatographic characteristics not of the usual monoenes but of stearolic acid. About 85% of the mixed methyl esters is probably from tariric acid, known to occur in other *Picramnia* species (2), but it behaves like stearolic acid in the equipment used.

### Summary

Chemical screening of seed oils continues to reveal nature's diversity. This work provides leads to numerous species which warrant further research to investigate their oil and meal in greater detail, to appraise their crop potential, and to assess their practical value for providing new oilseeds.

### Acknowledgments

Gas chromatographic analyses were made and interpreted by T. K. Miwa. Others who contributed to these studies include R. V. Madrigal, K. L. Mikolajczak, Marjorie H. Rawls, Carol Wiedman, and C. R. Martin.

### REFERENCES

1. a) Earle, F. R., Melvin, E. H., Mason, L. H., Van Etten, C. H., Wolff, I. A., and Jones, Quentin, *J. Am. Oil Chemists' Soc.*, **36**, 304-307 (1959); b) Earle, F. R., McGuire, T. A., Mallan, Jean, Bagby, M. O., Wolff, I. A., and Jones, Quentin, *ibid.*, **37**, 48-50 (1960); c) Earle, F. R., Wolff, I. A., and Jones, Quentin, *ibid.*, **37**, 254-256 (1960).
2. Hilditch, T. P., "The Chemical Constituents of Natural Fats," New York, John Wiley and Sons Inc., 1956.
3. Ecker, E. W., "Vegetable Fats and Oils," New York, Reinhold Publishing Corporation Inc., 1954.
4. Esposito, G. G., and Swan, M. H., *Anal. Chem.*, **29**, 1861-1862 (1957).
5. Henick, A. S., Benca, M. F., and Mitchell, J. M. Jr., *J. Am. Oil Chemists' Soc.*, **31**, 88-91 (1954).
6. Ogg, C. L., Porter, W. L., and Willits, C. O., *Ind. Eng. Chem., Anal. Ed.*, **17**, 394-397 (1945).
7. Stoffel, W., Chu, Florence, and Ahrens, E. H. Jr., *Anal. Chem.*, **31**, 307-308 (1959); Markley, K. S., "Fatty Acids," New York, Interscience Publishers Inc., 1947.
8. Arndt, F., "Organic Syntheses," Collective Vol. II, A. H. Blatt, ed., New York, John Wiley and Sons Inc., 1943.
9. Smith C. R. Jr., Burnett, M. C., Wilson, T. L., Lohmar, R. L., and Wolff, I. A., *J. Am. Oil Chemists' Soc.*, **37**, 320-323 (1960).
10. Morris, L. J., Holman, R. T., and Fontell, K., *J. Am. Oil Chemists' Soc.*, **37**, 323-327 (1960).
11. Hopkins, C. Y., and Chisholm, Mary J., *J. Am. Oil Chemists' Soc.*, **36**, 210-212 (1959).
12. Schery, R. W., "Plants for Man," Englewood Cliffs, N. J., Prentice-Hall Inc., 1952.
13. Markman, A. L., and Bodnya, M. D., *Zhur. Obshechi Khim.*, **27**, 2293-2297 (1957); abstr. *J. Am. Oil Chemists' Soc.*, **35**, 319 (1958).
14. Gunstone, F. D., *J. Chem. Soc.*, 1611-1616 (1954).
15. Koyama, Y., and Toyama, Y., *Nippon Kagaku Zasshi*, **78**, 1223-1224 (1957); abstr. *J. Am. Oil Chemists' Soc.*, **36**, 265 (1959).

[Received March 15, 1960]

## Direct Conversion of Lipid Components to Their Fatty Acid Methyl Esters<sup>1</sup>

FRANCIS E. LUDDY, R. A. BARFORD, and R. W. RIEMENSCHNEIDER,  
Eastern Regional Research Laboratory,<sup>2</sup> Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

THE APPLICATION of gas-liquid chromatography (GLC) for analysis of lipids has created the need for a convenient, quantitative method for conversion of milligram quantities of lipid components to their fatty acid methyl esters. The methyl esters are more amenable to GLC analysis than the fatty acids or their higher-molecular-weight alkyl esters.

Transesterification with methanol and catalytic amounts of sodium methylate has proved to be a rapid and effective method for conversion of glycerides to methyl esters and has been employed for many years. The reaction is substantially complete when a mixture (1:2<sup>w/v</sup>) of glycerides and methanol (containing sodium methylate in amounts equal to about 1% of the weight of the glycerides) are refluxed for 30 min. The same procedure however does not give complete methanolysis of sterol esters and phospholipids.

Little has been published on the methanolysis of sterol esters and phospholipids. Rollet (6) reported some measure of success in the methanolysis of egg lecithin when using tin or zinc to prevent resinification. Shinowara and Brown (7) were able to get good

yields of methyl esters from methanolysis of phospholipids with 5-10% of dry hydrogen chloride as catalyst and reaction time of 36 hrs. Stoffel (8) recently described a micromethod for methanolysis of lipid components with methanol containing 5% of dry hydrogen chloride and 2 hrs. of reaction time; the methyl esters were volatilized from the unsaponifiable matter and collected.

This paper describes the results of further investigation of the use of methoxides in transesterification of lipids, particularly sterol esters and phospholipids. Quantitative conversion to methyl esters was obtained with excess methanol, which contained many times the amount of sodium or potassium methoxide normally used for methanolysis of glycerides. A simple chromatographic treatment on a silicic acid column was found effective in removing free sterols and other unsaponifiable matter from the methyl ester product.

### Experimental

*Sources of Samples.* The cholesteryl esters (Tables I and II) were synthesized by the reaction of lard fatty acid chlorides with cholesterol as described (2). The lipid components (Tables III to VI), except for soybean phospholipids, were obtained as fractions in

<sup>1</sup> Presented at the 50th Meeting, American Oil Chemists' Society, New Orleans, La., April 20-22, 1959.

<sup>2</sup> Eastern Utilization Research and Development Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.