

The identification of the methyl esters of the four acids was achieved by direct comparison with authentic samples (TLC, GLC, i.r. and MS).

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## MYRISTICACEAE

### TRIGLYCERIDES OF THE SEEDS OF *MYRISTICA OFFICINALIS*

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*Plant.* *Myristica officinalis* Mart.

*Source.* State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

*Uses.* As a folk remedy against arthritis.<sup>1</sup>

*Previous work.* None.

*Seeds.* Extracted with hot EtOH. On cooling, a white precipitate was obtained (13% of dry seed weight), which, after recrystallization from EtOH, showed m.p. 43–5° (uncorrected) and was constituted of only triglycerides<sup>2</sup> (TLC, light petrol (40–70)–ethyl ether–MeOH–AcOH—90:7:2:0.5). These were saponified with KOH, the fatty acids were methylated (BF<sub>3</sub> in MeOH) and methyl esters sepd by GLC (20% EGS column, 170°) showing the following composition:<sup>3</sup> less than 9C: 4.06%; 9:0: 0.30%; 10:0: 0.40%; 12:0: 20.30%; 12:1: traces; 14:0: 66.45%; 14:1: 2.07%; 16:0: 4.27%; 17:0: 1.10%; 18:0: 0.54%; 19:0: 1.60%.

GLC peaks were identified by direct comparison with authentic standards and by carbon number theory.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> F. C. HOEHNE, *Plantas e Substâncias Vegetais, Tóxicas e Medicinais*, Departamento de Botanica do Estado, S. Paulo (1939).

<sup>2</sup> A. MARZO, P. GHIRARDI, D. SARDINI, G. MERONI, *Clin. Chem.* **17**, in press.

<sup>3</sup> C. J. F. BÖTTCHER, F. P. WOODFORD, E. BOELSMA VAN HOUT, C. M. VAN GENT, *Rec. Trav. Chim. Pays Bas* **78**, 794 (1959).

<sup>4</sup> F. P. WOODFORD, C. M. VAN GENT, *J. Lipid Res.* **1**, 188 (1960).