

the purification of crude vasicin which probably is also what Späth and Nikawitz mean by 'a characteristic odour'.

Our investigation would be published elsewhere in a more detailed form.

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The Effect of Germination on the Reducing Power of *Phaseolus mung*.

SINCE the discovery that Szent-Györgyi's hexuronic acid or ascorbic acid is identical with vitamin C, the reducing property of ascorbic acid has been sought to be used as a measure of the vitamin C-content of natural food-stuffs.¹ The presence of other naturally occurring reducing substances like glutathione might be supposed to interfere with the specificity of this method of chemical assay. But substantial evidence¹ has been brought forward to show that this method is a fairly accurate one for nearly all the food-stuffs studied. It is known that vitamin C is produced during germination and that germinated *mung* (*Phaseolus mung*) is rich in vitamin C.² We have found that germination does indeed cause a six-fold increase in the reducing power of *mung*, calculated on the basis of dry weight.

¹ Harris and Ray, *Biochem. J.*, **27**, 303, 1933; Birch, Harris and Ray, *Biochem. J.*, **27**, 590, 1933.

² Wats and Fyles, *Ind. J. Med. Res.*, **20**, 89, 1932.

The reducing value was determined by titrating trichloroacetic acid extracts of the germinated and ungerminated *mung* against 0.01 N Iodine as well as against the oxidation-reduction indicator 2:6-dichlorophenol indophenol (0.01 M). Harris and Ray³ have also observed an increase in the reducing power of peas on germination. Johnson⁴ has observed, however, that this increase in the reducing power of germinated peas is out of proportion to the increase in anti-scorbutic potency and concludes that a reducing substance besides ascorbic acid is produced during germination.

In estimating the reducing power by means of the indophenol indicator according to the technique of Tillmans, as modified by Birch, Harris and Ray,¹ it has been found that even dilute trichloroacetic acid (0.5%) by itself decolorises the indicator. This decolorisation can be inhibited by the addition of glacial acetic acid to the indicator solution prior to titration by the trichloroacetic acid extract. By means of this titration technique, a sample of red chillies has been found to have a reducing power of at least the same order as Hungarian paprika.

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³ Harris and Ray, *Biochem. J.*, **27**, 580, 1933.

⁴ Johnson, *Biochem. J.*, **27**, 1942, 1933.

Current Science and the Indian Academy of Sciences.

IN view of the recent publication of certain disputatious statements in the press regarding the institution of an Indian Academy of Sciences and the totally unexpected and embarrassing trend which the affairs have assumed, the Board of Editors, *Current Science*, desire to announce that the Journal, having taken the initiative in the proposal to establish such a foundation, now stands aside in a spirit of detachment. It will not lend its support to any movement which is apt to produce a factious spirit among the scientific workers, which must be absolutely fatal to the fundamental cause of progress in India. The policy of the Journal is to follow and promote peace, and in pursuance of this declared object, it will seek for oppor-

tunities to establish good understanding in all endeavours calculated to advance the higher destinies of science.

This policy of the Journal does not, however, impose restraints on the freedom of action on the part of the individual members of the Editorial Board as also those of the Board of Editorial Co-operation who may desire to participate in any particular movement and if and when they do so, they act either in their own private capacities or as members of some one or other of the scientific institutions favouring such a movement. The public utterances of such members or their action in the committees in which they choose to function, do not reflect the official views of the Journal.—ED.