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Physical Sciences Section

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THE MICROENVIRONMENT AND KINETICS OF HUMAN ERYTHROCYTE ACETYL CHOLINESTERASE

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(Received December 11, 1980)

Human erythrocyte acetylcholinesterase is an externally oriented intrinsic membrane-bound enzyme whose kinetics were studied under a variety of different conditions. Activities of the enzyme in different preparations were measured spectrophotometrically at pH 7.4 and 30°. The enzymic velocity (v), thermal decay constant (λ) and the apparent Michaelis-Menten parameters (K_{app} and V_{app}) were used as probes to follow changes in the enzyme and/or its microenvironment.

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SYNTHESIS OF 2-PYRAZOLIN-5-ONES, 3-PYRAZOLIN-5-ONES AND 3, 5-PYRAZOLIDINEDIONE DERIVATIVES

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(Received January 26, 1980)

Treatment of α -arylhydrazono derivatives of ethyl acetoacetate (Ia-d) with each of N, N-diphenylsulphonylhydrazine, *p*-acetamidobenzenesulphonhydrazide and acetylhydrazine afforded 4-arylhydrazono-3-methyl-2-pyrazolin-5-ones (IIIa-d). On the other hand when (Ia, c) were treated with N-phenyl-N-phenylsulphonylhydrazine it gave the corresponding 1-phenyl derivatives (VIa, c). Interaction of α -N-methyl derivatives (VIIa-d) with phenylhydrazine afforded (IIIa-d) and 1-phenyl-4-methyl-3, 5-pyrazolidinedione (IX.).

Short Communication

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AN ANOMALOUS BEHAVIOUR OF f_oF_2 AT KARACHI

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Biological Sciences Section

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SOOTY MOLD ON MANGO PLANTS AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH LEAFHOPPERS AND CLIMATIC FACTORS IN KARACHI-PAKISTAN DURING 1978-79

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(Received July 9, 1980)

Fungal infestation or sooty mold of mango has become serious problem in recent years in Karachi. In view of its increasing economic significance, a study of its relationship with mango leafhoppers, and several environmental variables was made from May 1978 to May 1979 in Karachi. Statistical analysis based on data obtained in these studies on 10 randomly picked up mango plants in Karachi University Campus showed that the growth of sooty mold is significantly related with the population of mango leafhoppers and minimum week temperatures, but highly significantly related with maximum day temperatures. The fungal growth is at its peak during May and June, at minimum temperature between 25–30°, and maximum temperature around 35°.

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A SIMPLIFIED TECHNIQUE FOR MASS CULTURE OF UNICELLULAR ALGAE

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(Received January 8, 1980)

Algae have a bright future as a potential source of food and fodder. They may be introduced as direct sources of protein for humans. One method for production of such proteins is through cultivation of microscopic green and blue-green algae. For this purpose a laboratory scale mass culture apparatus was established and the suitability of *Scenedesmus quadricauda*, *Scenedesmus dimorphus* and *Monoraphidium contortum* as sources of good quality protein was studied.

Short Communication

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ECOLOGICAL NOTES ON A FEW HYMENOPTERA ASSOCIATED WITH LAC

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Technology Section

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RECOVERY OF METALLIC COPPER FROM LEACH SOLUTIONS. PART II

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First part of this review dealt with the salient features of the application of cementation and solvent extraction in the recovery of copper from its leach solutions. In this Part we shall try to present the case of gaseous reduction and ion exchange with solid resins.

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RECYCLING OF CROP RESIDUE AND ANIMAL WASTE AS FEED STUFF

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(Received April 27, 1980)

Bagasse pith and fresh cow dung were ensiled, in laboratory type silos, for a period of 33 days. The silage was free from pathogenic bacteria, contained up to 2.94% lactic acid and showed up to 9.4% increase in protein and up to 8.3% in ether extracts. The *in vivo* increase in dry matter digestibility was up to 22 %.

THE INFLUENCE OF WATER VAPOUR ON THE CONVERSION OF α - TO γ -Fe₂O₃ *

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An attempt has been made to study the significance of water vapour in the conversion of α -Fe₂O₃ (hematite) to pure phase γ -Fe₂O₃ (maghemite or γ -hematite) which represents the information carrier for magnetic tape recording. A gas mixture of 10 % carbon monoxide and 90 % nitrogen instead of conventional hydrogen/nitrogen gas mixture was used as a reducing agent for γ -Fe₂O₃ to Fe₃O₄ (magnetite). Subsequently Fe₃O₄ was oxidized by dry air to produce γ -Fe₂O₃. Air oxidation of freshly reduced active magnetite forms pure phase γ -Fe₂O₃ while that of altered magnetite (which was exposed to atmospheric conditions and has developed γ -Fe₂O₃ nuclei on its surface) results in the formation of a mixture of γ - and γ -Fe₂O₃. In the presence of water forming reducing gases, γ -Fe₂O₃ was obtained at switching temperatures (i.e. changing over from reducing to oxidising atmosphere) of 190–280° whereas in the absence of water a smaller temperature range of 240–280°, was found. The results suggest that the presence of water vapour is not a necessary condition in the production of γ -Fe₂O₃.

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CHLORINATION OF ZIARAT LATERITE – A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION*

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Chlorination of Ziarat laterite was studied for the recovery of iron, aluminium and titanium as volatile chlorides. Optimum conditions such mesh size, temperature and amount of wood charcoal as reductant are reported. It is found that -85 to +100 laterite when chlorinated at 900° – 950° (fixed carbon 47.74%) gave a recovery 92–96 % iron, aluminium and titanium.