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Physical Sciences Section

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THE KINETICS OF THE DECARBOXYLATION OF METHYLETHYLMALONIC ACID IN CATECHOL

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(Received February 12, 1981; revised August 12, 1982)

Kinetic data reveal decarboxylation of methylethylmalonic acid in resorcinol and catechol. The activation parameters are calculated and compared with those earlier reported for the decarboxylation of methylmalonic acid and ethylmalonic acid. The isokinetic temperature corresponds to the exact melting point of methylethylmalonic acid.

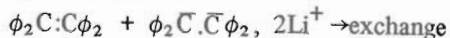
DOES A SIMULTANEOUS TWO-ELECTRON TRANSFER OCCUR IN THE SYSTEM TETRAPHENYLETHYLENE AND ITS DIANION

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(Received March 1, 1982; revised August 16, 1982)

The ^{13}C NMR spectrum of tetraphenylethylene ($\phi_2\text{C}:\text{C}\phi_2$), of its dilithium salt ($\phi_2\text{C}:\text{C}\phi_2 \cdot 2\text{Li}^+$), and of their mixtures in C_6D_6 were recorded. The spectra of the mixture consist of two sets of the hydrocarbon and the lithium salt lines each. This demonstrates that the exchange.



is very slow, even on NMR scale, and its bimolecular rate constant has, therefore, to be smaller than $100\text{M}^{-1}\text{sec}^{-1}$

HETEROCYCLIC SYNTHESIS WITH MALONYL DICHLORIDE AND NITRILES

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(Received May 24, 1981; revised October 2, 1982)

Reaction of malonyl dichloride with cyclopropane carbonitrile yielded 2-chloro-3-(2'-chloroethyl) 4-hydroxy-6-pyridone which on recrystallization from ethanol converted to 2-chloro-1,6,4',5'-tetrahydro-6-oxo-furano-(3',2'-3,4) pyridine. Cyclohexane carbonitrile with malonyl dichloride yielded the mixture of 2-cyclohexyl-4-chloro-6-pyrimidone and 2-cyclohexyl-7-chloro-4,5-dioxopyrano - [3,4-e] - [1,3] - oxazine. Reactions of malonyl dichloride with 1-phenylcyclopentane carbonitrile and pivalonitrile gave the corresponding bicyclic oxazines. Malonyl dichloride with pyruvonitrile yielded most probably a four membered heterocyclic compound.

VOLUMETRIC DETERMINATION OF URANIUM AND VANADIUM WITH HEXAMINECOBALT (III) TRICARBONATOCOBALTATE(III)

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(Received June 25, 1981)

Hexaminecobalt (III) tricarbonatocobaltate(III) has been successfully used as redox titrant for the volumetric determination of uranium from 59.5 μg to 35.7 mg with maximum error of -0.73% in 0.1 to 0.5N H_2SO_4 and vanadium from 0.54 to 31.74 mg with a maximum error of $+5.55\%$. The method is quick, precise and rapid. There is no interference by Ag(I), Pb(II), Zn(II), and Ni(II) and chromium for uranium and vanadium determination respectively within the given limits whereas Fe(II) interferes seriously in both the cases.

REACTION BETWEEN ACRYLIC ACID AND PEROXYDISULPHATE A KINETIC STUDY

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(Received July 19, 1981)

The uncatalyzed reaction between acrylic acid and peroxydisulphate has been studied kinetically over the range $60 - 80^{\circ}$. The reaction is found to follow an overall first order. The products of the reaction have been analyzed and the rate law deduced.

THE EFFECT OF SULPHATE IONS ON THE KINETICS OF THE REACTION OF IRON (III) WITH SULPHIDE ION IN PERCHLORATE MEDIA

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(Received August 18, 1981; revised July 11, 1982)

The Kinetics of reduction of Fe(III) ions by sulphide ion have been investigated in perchlorate medium. In all cases the reaction is first order in sulphide ion and second order in ferric ion. Over all the reaction is found to be third order.

The decrease in the third order rate constant k_o for the reaction of iron (III) with sulphide ion found with added sulphate ions. k_o decreases to a very low insignificant value.

This is interpreted in terms of complex formation between ferric ions and sulphate ions, the complex not reacting with sulphide ions. From the variations of k_o with concentration of sulphate ions the type of complex is distinguished. Formation constant are determined for the complex under experimental conditions.

Biological Sciences Section

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EFFECT OF SPLIT APPLICATION OF P ON P UPTAKE IN COTTON FROM P^{32} -LABELLED SUPERPHOSPHATE

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(Received June 25, 1981; revised September 8, 1982)

The effects of split application of P on cotton yield and P uptake from P^{32} -labelled superphosphate were studied in the field. Phosphorus was applied at four levels (i.e. 10, 20, 30 and 40 kg P/ha) in a single dose at seeding and in two equal splits at seeding as well as 60 days after the seeding. A significant increase in yield was obtained at 20 kg P/ha level and above. The application of P significantly increased P percentage in leaves at all growth stages irrespective of its rate. However P percentage in bolls did not differ significantly due to its application. . Percent P derived from fertilizer (% P dff) in leaves and bolls increased significantly with the increase in its rate of application. Splitting the P application slightly improved %P dff but it did not benefit the yield of seed cotton. The correlation coefficient of % P dff in leaves to yield showed that % P dff in leaves upto 90 days after seeding was a better and direct measure of utilization of fertilizer P.

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**EFFECT OF GIBBERELIC ACID (GA) ON GROWTH AND YIELD OF
CICER ARIETINUM (GRAM) VARIETY C-727**

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(Received August 23, 1981; revised March 13, 1982)

Seeds of *Cicer arietinum* variety C-727 were soaked in five concentrations (0, 100, 150, 200 and 250 ppm) of Gibberellic acid for 24 hrs. GA treated plants significantly increased the plant height, number of nodes, number of internodes, number of branches, number of leaves per plant and shoot dry weight. Number of pods per plant, yield per plant and total yield increased in plants treated with 100 ppm GA but the root dry weight and number of flowers per plant decreased.

Technology Section

Pakistan J.Sci.Ind.Res., Vol.26, No.1, February 1983.

SYMBIOTIC BIODEGRADATION OF CELLULOSIC RESIDUES

Part II. Biodegradation of Bagasse and Beet Pulp Feed

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(Received August 18, 1980; revised September, 1982)

Biodegradation of bagasse and beet pulp feed was studied by submerged fermentation process. Biodegradation of beet pulp feed was 36.36% and 40.30% when *Penicillium* and *Trichoderma* were employed singly. Symbiosis of *Penicillium* with *Trichoderma* degraded 48.37% of the cellulose present in beet pulp feed with 32.58% increase in nitrogen contents. In case of bagasse 25.30% increase in the degradability of cellulose was observed with the same combination. In beet pulp feed, maximum biodegradation of cellulose (70.20%) was observed due to the symbiotic effect of *Bacillus pumilus* and *Streptomyces*. Reduction in particle size increased the susceptibility to enzymic hydrolysis.

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NEUTRAL LIPIDS FROM SEEDS OF *TRIGONELLA CORNICULATA*

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and Muhammad Khurshid Bhatti

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(Received September 3, 1981)

The fatty acids of the oil of the seeds of *Trigonella corniculata*, were identified as myristic (0.90%), palmitic (16.78%), stearic (3.48%), oleic (12.65%), linoleic (50.54%), linolenic (15.71%) and arachidic acid (1.13%). The oil gave unsaponifiable matter (5.92%) which was resolved into hydrocarbons, alcohols, sterols etc. The distribution of *n*-alkanes ranged from C₁₅ to C₃₅, with two maxima at C₂₁ (34.67%) and C₂₉ (14.26%). The *n*-alkanols ranged from dodecanol to triacontanol with maxima at octadecanol (5.04%) and hexacosanal (62.53%). Cholesterol and β -sito-sterol have also been confirmed.

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THERMAL DEGRADATION OF COPOLYMERS OF VINYL ALCOHOL AND VINYL BUTYRAL

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(Received December 14, 1980)

A series of copolymers of vinyl alcohol (V-OH) and vinyl butyral (VB) with different degrees of VB substitution were prepared from poly(vinyl alcohol) (PV-OH), and were subjected to thermal degradation under vacuum. The degradation products were then identified. Alcohol rich copolymers showed increased thermal stability, whereas it decreased with the increase in VB contents in the copolymer. No interaction between adjacent V-OH and VB units in the chain was observed. A degradation mechanism is proposed to account for the principal features of the reaction and the products of degradation.

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ACID TREATMENT OF LATERITE FOR THE RECOVERY OF IRON, ALUMINIUM AND TITANIUM*

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(Received August 9, 1982)

Ziarat laterite was leached with different acids for recovering titanium, aluminium and iron. Solvent extraction with high molecular weight amines and alkylphosphates was used for separation of iron from leach liquors. Titanium and aluminium recoveries were of good purity. The residue left after the acid treatment was rich in aluminium. The process is promising for commercial exploitation of laterite.

**SANTONIN CONTENT OF *ARTEMISIA* SAMPLES OF PARACHINAR
AREA OF PAKISTAN: A SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR ITS DETERMINATION**

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PCSIR Laboratories, Karachi 39, Pakistan

(Received January 21, 1983)

Six samples of *Artemisia* plants have been collected from Parachinar area of Pakistan, and their santonin contents have been determined by a simple procedure developed by us. Santonin content of these sample varied in the range of 1.27 to 2.75%.