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* Titrations involving ceric sulphate may be termed cerimetry on the analogy of permanganometry, dichrometry, etc.

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CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF THE SEEDS OF *LUFFA GRAVEOLENS* ROXB. AND *LUFFA ECHINATA* ROXB.

Luffa greveolens Roxb.¹ known in Hindustani as *Bindal*, belongs to the natural order *Cucurbitaceæ*. It is found in U. P. and Bengal in India, in Abyssinia and in tropical Africa. The fruits are used in chronic bronchitis, in lung complaints and for several other ailments.²

brownish red in moderate thickness. The oils were examined chemically and gave:

TABLE I

The oils	<i>Luffa greveolens</i> Roxb. (A)	<i>Luffa echinata</i> Roxb. (B)
Specific gravity ..	0.9594 (37 °C.)	0.9157 (32 °C.)
Refractive index ..	1.4740 (31 °C.)	1.4725 (31 °C.)
Saponification value ..	197.20	143.0
Acetyl value ..	75.06	27.30
Iodine value (Winkler's) ..	96.70	94.52
Acid value ..	47.75	63.96
Reichert Meissel number ..	3.315	1.954
Hehner value ..	92.45	95.45
Unsaponifiable matter ..	0.2905%	2.756%

TABLE II

Constant	A			B		
	Mixed acids	Solid acids	Liquid acids	Mixed acids	Solid acids	Liquid acids
Refractive index at 31° ..	1.4695	1.4780	..	1.4775	..	1.4710
Iodine value ..	107.60	135.40	..	82.12	Zero	107.90
Acid number ..	187.90	187.10	..	187.2	200.2	168.10
Mean molecular weight ..	298.0	299.30	..	299.0	279.7	333.10
Percentage of saturated acids ..	..	20.78	..	..	..	25.0
Percentage of unsaturated acids ..	..	79.22	..	..	..	75.0
Titre value	24.25 C.	..	..	23.75 C.	48.0 C.	..

Luffa echinata Roxb.⁴ also known as *Bindal*, belongs to the same order and is reputed to possess medicinal properties similar to the other.⁵

The seeds from the fruits were extracted with petroleum ether (60-80°C.). The extracts, after complete removal of the solvent, gave in each case a fixed oil (yields being respectively 11.6 and 11.14%), which was yellow in thin layers and

Full details of the complete examination of the oils will be published later.

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