



and (ii) by the action of ethyl bromacetate upon ethyl butanetetra-carboxylate. The hexa ester (II) on being boiled with hydrochloric acid (1:1) during 18 hours gets hydrolysed and decarboxylated to give rise to $\beta\beta'$ -dicarboxy-suberic acid (III). (Found: C, 45.04; H, 4.52; Equiv., 66.34; Calc., C, 45.78; H, 5.38 per cent.; Equiv., 65.5). The acid (III) melts at 177–78° when it is first crystallised from acetic acid and then from water. The acid (III) obtained from (I) on being crystallised from acetic acid and then from water also melts at 177–78°; the mixed melting point with the synthetic variety (m.p. 177–78°) remaining undepressed. The ethyl ester of the acid (III) boils at 195–205°/2 mm. (Found: C, 57.91; Calc., C, 57.75 per cent.).

With a view to effecting a double Dieckmann condensation with the tetra ester, it has been subjected to the action of molecular sodium under varying experimental conditions, the results of which will shortly be published elsewhere.

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¹ Guha, *Curr. Sci.*, 1936, 5, 19.

The Colouring Matter of Deccan Hemp (*Hibiscus cannabinus*) Flowers— Cannabiscitrin and Cannabiscetin.

FROM the pale yellow flower petals a yellow crystalline glucoside having the formula $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{20}\text{O}_{13}$ has been obtained. It yields a colourless non-acetyl derivative on acetylation. On hydrolysis with dilute mineral acids, it produces a molecule of glucose and a flavonol having the composition $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_8$. The flavonol which occurs free also to some

extent forms a hexa-acetate and a hexa-methylether and displays bright colours in dilute alkaline solutions in the presence of air. It is a penta-hydroxy flavonol which is not identical with gossypetin, quercetagetin or myricetin, but is isomeric. This new member of the flavonol series is named Cannabiscetin and the glucoside therefore becomes Cannabiscitrin. From the flowers of *Hibiscus sabdariffa*, Perkin¹ isolated besides gossypetin a pigment of unknown constitution which he named Hibiscetin. Hence the new names given by us indicate origin from *Cannabinus*.

Cannabiscetin resembles gossypetin in giving the gossypetone reaction though not so readily and probably therefore contains two hydroxyl groups in the positions 5 and 8. Further work is in progress.

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¹ A. G. Perkin, *J.C.S.*, 1909, 1855.

Influence of Added Chemicals on the Destructive Distillation of Coconut Shells.

SUDBOROUGH, Watson and co-workers^{1, 2} in an exhaustive study of distillation of different species of wood and wood wastes, found among the latter class, that coconut shells yielded the highest percentage of acetic acid in the pyroligneous liquor. They also found that the yield of the settled tar from the same source was sufficiently great to warrant a closer study with a view to obtain creosote therefrom. The distillation of the coconut shells has been carried out by A. H. Wells,³ Georgi and Buckley⁴ and by Kidavu and Nambiyar.⁵