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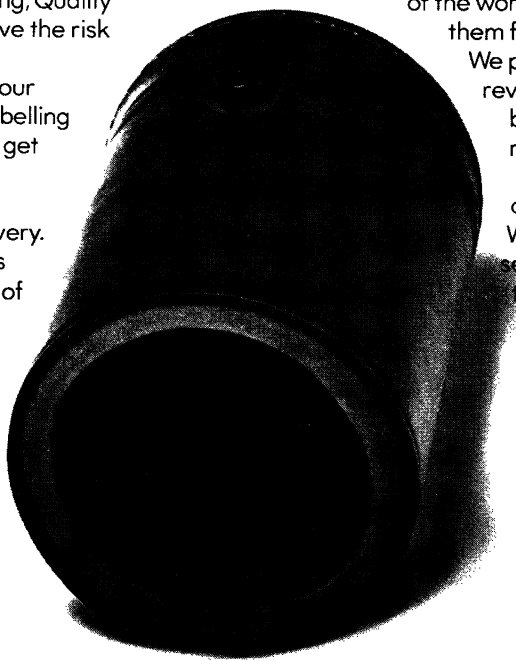
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VOL. 52, No. 3

MARCH 1977

CONTENTS

Editorial Review: The molecular basis for abnormal gene action: recent lessons from the thalassaemia model. By D. J. WEATHERALL

Enzyme activities in human liver biopsies: assay methods and activities of some lysosomal and membrane-bound enzymes in control tissue and serum. By CAROL A. SEYMOUR and T. J. PETERS

Lysosomal changes in liver tissue from patients with the Dubin-Johnson-Sprinz syndrome. By CAROL A. SEYMOUR, G. NEALE and T. J. PETERS

The relative transfer rates for sodium and xenon from gut lumen to plasma in man. By A. H. G. LOVE, L. C. CHEN, J. REEVE and N. VEALL

Concentrations of prostaglandin A-, E- and F-like substances in gastric mucosa of normal subjects and of patients with various gastric diseases. By W. SCHLEGEL, K. WENK, H. C. DOLLINGER and S. RAPTIS

Amino acid concentrations in portal venous plasma during absorption from the small intestine of the guinea pig of an amino acid mixture simulating casein and a partial enzymatic hydrolysate of casein. By M. H. SLEISENGER, D. PELLING, D. BURSTON and D. M. MATTHEWS

Interaction of mental factors with hypercapnic ventilatory drive in man. By J. R. A. RIGG, E. M. INMAN, N. A. SAUNDERS, S. R. LEEDER and N. L. JONES

Oxygen affinity *in vivo* and *in vitro* in chronic ventilatory failure. By P. M. TWEEDDALE, R. J. E. LEGGETT and D. C. FLENLEY

Human skeletal muscle function: description of tests and normal values. By R. H. T. EDWARDS, A. YOUNG, G. P. HOSKING and D. A. JONES

A study of the contractility, biochemistry and morphology of an isolated preparation of human skeletal muscle. By R. F. W. MOULDS, A. YOUNG, D. A. JONES and R. H. T. EDWARDS

Blood pressure response of nephrectomized hypertensive rats to converting enzyme inhibition: evidence for persistent vascular renin activity. By H. THURSTON and J. D. SWALES

The role of the false neurotransmitter octopamine in the hypotension of fulminant hepatic failure. By P. N. TREWBY, R. A. CHASE, M. DAVIS and R. WILLIAMS

Plasma glucose, non-esterified fatty acids and amino acids in Huntington's chorea. By O. T. PHILLIPSON and E. D. BIRD

The urinary excretion of catecholamines and their derivatives in primary hypertension in man. By R. F. BING, J. HARLOW, A. J. SMITH and M. M. TOWNSHEND

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

Leucocyte intracellular pH in patients with the metabolic acidosis of renal failure. By G. E. LEVIN and D. N. BARON

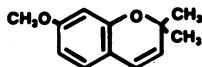
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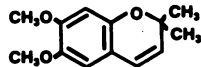
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Precocenes

Juvenile hormones are necessary throughout most stages of the insect life cycle for development of ovaries, sex pheromone production and larval diapause.¹ Application of



Precocene I



Precocene II

exogenous juvenile hormones to insect populations can upset development only during the brief period of metamorphosis that occurs when an immature insect molts to the adult stage.^{2,3}

Bowers and co-workers⁴ have found that introduction of some anti-juvenile hormones (antiallotropins) into an insect colony terminates juvenile hormone secretion and induces:

- 1) precocious molting of insects to sterile adults,
- 2) inability of larvae which are dependent on a high titer of juvenile hormones to diapause,
- 3) sterility in adult insects which are dependent on juvenile hormone for ovarian development, and
- 4) artificial diapause in species which diapause through a lack of juvenile hormones.

Bowers isolated 7-methoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene and 6,7-dimethoxy-2,2-dimethylchromene from extracts of the plant *Ageratum houstonianum*. Since these compounds were found to induce precocious metamorphosis in insects, he named them Precocene I and Precocene II, respectively.⁴

In tests performed by Bowers⁴ with the Precocenes, milkweed bugs underwent precocious metamorphosis, and in several other species of insects, sterilization was induced. Precocene II was also found to induce diapause in Colorado potato beetles.

In these tests, the biological effect of the Precocenes is equivalent to that of the surgical removal of the corpora allata which produce juvenile hormones in insects. Indeed, Precocene II was found to inhibit the biosynthesis of juvenile hormone by the cockroach *corp. allata*.⁵ Thus, the Precocenes depress juvenile hormone titer and can be highly effective insecticides. Moreover, Bowers,⁴ in some instances, succeeded in reversing the antiallotropic activity in precocious adults by treatment with exogenous juvenile hormones.

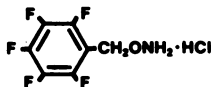
We believe that this remarkable discovery of antiallotropic activity could guide the way to safe, economical and insect-specific pesticides.⁶

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Pentafluorobenzylhydroxylamine



PFBHA · HCl

O-(2,3,4,5,6-Pentafluorobenzyl)hydroxylamine hydrochloride (PFBHA · HCl) has recently been introduced as a very sensitive derivatizing agent for the *gas chromatographic analysis of ketosteroids* using electron capture detection.^{1,2} For this type of detection technique to be effective, the compound must be analyzed with a strong electron-withdrawing group. Since most ketosteroids do not contain a sufficiently strong electron-withdrawing group, a suitable derivative must be prepared.

Clark and Wotiz³ first suggested the use of heptafluorobutyrate ester derivatives for the chromatography of hydroxysteroids such as testosterone. Although these derivatives are sensitive to electron capture detection, they suffer from the difficulty encountered in controlling the reaction to prepare selectively the 17-hydroxy mono ester, the 3-enol mono ester or the 3-enol-17-hydroxy diester. As a result, one steroid may be resolved into several peaks in the chromatogram, leading to confusion and error in the analysis. Koshy and co-workers have shown PFBHA · HCl to be a more effective derivatizing reagent. PFBHA · HCl converts ketosteroids to their oximes, and glc conditions can be chosen

such that both the *syn* and *anti* oximes appear as one peak.¹

Steroid *O*-(2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorobenzyl) oximes are readily prepared under mild conditions by treating the ketosteroid with a solution of PFBHA · HCl in pyridine at 60 to 65°C.¹ After evaporation of the solvent, the oxime is extracted into cyclohexane, and the cyclohexane solution is washed with water and dried over Na₂SO₄. Derivatives can be prepared from less than one nanogram of steroid. PFB-oxime derivatives of testosterone have been detected with samples as small as 5 picograms.

Nambara and co-workers have used PFBHA · HCl for the determination of dehydroepiandrosterone in human plasma with satisfactory results.² It has been suggested that this analytical technique may also be applicable to the determination of specific prostaglandins in tissues, and the analysis of ketosteroid levels in meat carcasses to ascertain if they fall within federal standards.⁴

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