

displacement of the acetyl group. Bikhaconitine like other aconitines produces in excessively dilute solution a tingling sensation on the tongue. The toxicity towards warm blooded animals is greater than that of aconitine and japaconitine owing to its greater depressing action on the respiratory function.

During the course of investigation on the aconitines two groups of alkaloids have been determined. ( $\alpha$ ) the aconitine group including aconitine from *Aconitum Napellus*, japaconitine from *A. japonicum* or *A. Fischeri*, pseudaconitine from *A. dimorrrhizum*, bikhaconitine from *A. spicatum*, indaconitine from *A. chasmanthum*. All these are highly poisonous. ( $\beta$ ) The atisine group including atisine from *A. heterophyllum* and palmatisine from *A. palmatum*. These are not poisonous in the ordinary sense.

E. Drabble (Liverpool).

EASTERFIELD, T. H. and G. BAGLEY, The Resin Acids of the *Coniferae*. Part I. The Constitution of Abietic Acid. (Journ. Chem. Soc. London. Vol. LXXXV. 1904. p. 1238—1249.)

The following probable constitutions are given:

Rimnic acid,  $C_{16}H_{20}O_3$  = oxymethylphenanthrenecarboxylic acid.

Podocarpic acid,  $C_{17}H_{22}O_3$  = oxydimethylphenanthrenecarboxylic acid.

Abietic acid,  $C_{19}H_{28}O_2$  = methylisopropylphenanthrenecarboxylic acid.

Pimaric acid,  $C_{20}H_{30}O_2$  = dimethylisopropylphenanthrenecarboxylic acid.

The observations of the authors dont lend support to the view that abietic acid is an oxidation product of the terpenes. They suggest that terpenes act as solvents in which the resins are removed from the plant system and that this is the true meaning of the constant association of the two classes of compound.

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