

**Spence, D.**, Analysis of the Latex from *Ficus Vogelii* Miq. and of Memleku Rubber therefrom. (Quart. Journ. Inst. Com. Research. Liverpool. III. p. 64-75. 1908.)

*Ficus Vogelii*, a West African tree, is the source of a rubber of inferior quality and of low commercial value. Analyses are given of samples of latex received from the Gold Coast. The percentage of resin was very high 32.9% in one sample, 37.84% in another. The various constituents of the latex are considered in detail.

W. G. Freeman.

**Spence, D.**, Distribution of the Protein in Para Rubber, and its relation to Weber's insoluble oxygen-addition compound of India Rubber. (Quart. Journ. Inst. Com. Research. Liverpool. III. p. 47-60. ill. 1908.)

Para Rubber (from *Hevea brasiliensis*) acted on by solvents does not completely dissolve but leaves an often voluminous gelatinous mass which Weber considered as an oxygen-addition compound of rubber and others have regarded as an isomeric modification. The author brings physical and chemical evidence to show that this substance is really proteid in nature and that there is in Para Rubber a fibrous or thread like protein network structure running through the rubber and that this protein structure may be important in giving certain physical properties to the mass. The paper has, amongst other illustrations, drawings of microscopic sections of Para Rubber.

W. G. Freeman.

**Stapf, O.**, Ecanda Rubber (*Raphionacme utilis* Brown & Stapf) (Kew Bull. V. p. 209-15. 1 plate. 1908.)

In 1906 Prof. C. E. de M. Gerales brought to notice a new rubber plant known in Benguela as "Ecanda" or "Marianga". Later from Mozambique apparently the same plant was reported under the name "Bitinga". Specimens of the latter have been cultivated at Kew and named *Raphionacme utilis*, Brown & Stapf. They are dwarf herbaceous plants belonging to the *Asclepiadaceae* and are peculiar amongst rubber plants in having turnip-shaped tubers, (up to 4 inches high and 2 to 5½ inches diameter) rich in caoutchouc. The Ecanda occurs in Benguela in the drier portions of treeless, sandy alluvial tracts between the rivers Kwanza and Zambese, at elevation of from 4,000 to 5,000 feet. Processes for extracting and coagulating the latex, none very satisfactory, are described and analyses of the rubber recorded. Estimates by Prof. Gerales of yield etc. are given but more information is necessary on several points before definite conclusions can be drawn.

W. G. Freeman.

## Personalnachricht.

Herr Prof. Dr. **M. Treub**, Director des Botanischen Gartens und des Agriculturdepartements in Buitenzorg ist in den Ruhestand getreten und wird Ende dieses Jahres repatriieren.

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