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SHORT COMMUNICATION

CONSTITUENTS OF THE GENUS *CNIDOSCOLUS**

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Plant: Cnidoscolus texanus (Muell. Arg.) Small—Euphorbiaceae.

Previous work: Seed oil,[1] Roots.[2, 3]

Roots: (Extracted with ethyl acetate, chromatographed on silica gel).

Acetone cyanohydrin-β-glucoside (linamarin), m.p. 141–142° (lit.[4] 143–144°) NMR, i.r. 0·02 per cent yield. Hydrolysis with 5% NaOH gave acetone (NMR, 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazone). Hydrolysis with dil HCl gave glucose (identified by TLC).

Leaf and stem material: Extracted with pentane, chromatographed over Florisil, and then over silicic acid. β-amyrin acetate and β-amyrin (m.p. i.r. NMR, GLC comparison with known β-amyrin).

Plant: Cnidoscolus stimulosus (Michx.) Gray—Euphorbiaceae.

Seeds: Extracted with pentane. The seed oil (31 per cent) was transesterified with methanol-*p*-toluenesulfonic acid and the resulting methyl esters were determined by GLC. (Linoleic acid, 64·8 per cent; oleic acid 18·9 per cent, palmitoöleic acid 1·3 per cent, linolenic acid (0·05–0·1 per cent), palmitic acid 12·3 per cent, stearic acid 2·8 per cent, and myristic acid 0·2 per cent.)

Roots: Cyanogenetic, but the principle responsible was not isolated.

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