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# Biochemical Studies on Pityrol, VI. Distillation of Palmitic Acid

By

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## I. PREPARATION OF PALMITIC ACID

Palmitic acid, one of the chief constituents of fatty acids occurs in rice oil, which is easily obtained and in a pure state from Haze tallow. According to Dr. Tsujimoto,<sup>1</sup> the fatty acids of Haze tallow are composed of 84 % palmitic acid, 14 % oleic acid and 2 % Japanese acid, and the tallow was regarded by the writer as a good source in Japan, for the preparation in a pure state, of palmitic acid. The raw material which showed the constants, was saponified with a caustic soda solution, and the mixture of sodium salts of the fatty acids separated from the glycerine solution was treated with sulphuric acid. The free fatty acids-mixture was subjected to distillation under 15 mm. pressure after being dehydrated by the melting process, and the fraction B.p. 215°-220° was collected for palmitic acid which shows the following constants :

	Haze tallow
M. p.	49°-53°
Saponification number	227 -246
Acid number	20 -28
Ester number	207 -218
Iodine „	8.5-9
	Palmitic Acid
B. p.	(215°-220°) 15 mm.
M. p.	59°
Iodine number	8.5

The yield was about 60 % of the theory. The purity of the acid was calculated from its iodine number to be about 90 %, assuming the presence of oleic acid to be an impurity.

## II. DISTILLATION OF SODIUM PALMITATE

The sodium salt of the acid was prepared by neutralizing the acid with sodium carbonate, and purified by recrystallization from alcohol solution. The sodium content was determined to be  $\text{Na}=9.3\%$  while the theory requires 8.7%.

25 gm. of dry sodium salt were distilled in Fischer's aluminium retort; it appears that gas is evolved up to about  $380^\circ$  and the distillation of tar commenced at  $400^\circ$ , the evolution of tar and gas rapidly increased at about  $440^\circ$  and is finished at about  $540^\circ$ . The yield of tar, coke and gas is 70%, 24% and 6% respectively.

The chemical composition of gas was determined with the following results:

CO	11.8 %
CO <sub>2</sub>	12.2 "
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	1.7 "
C <sub>n</sub> H <sub>2n+2</sub> H	27.4 "

The coke which shows 27.6% of ignition loss, was assumed to be composed of sodium carbonate, containing  $\text{Na}=44.1$ , with some organic matter as an impurity.

2 kg. of the salt yielded by the operation 1370 gm. of tar which is a yellowish brown oil of green fluorescence and a burning odour, and was separated first by steam distillation into two fractions-volatile and non-volatile parts:

Volatile part	45 %
Non-volatile "	55 "

### A. VOLATILE PART

The volatile part, having as constants, B.p.  $80^\circ-270^\circ$ ;  $d_4^{25}=0.748$ ; iodine-no. 119, was assumed to be a mixture of saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons of the ratio 60 and 40 by means of conc. sulphuric acid.<sup>1</sup>

1. Z. f. angew. Chem., **33**, 172 (1920).

### 1. Saturated hydrocarbons

45 grm. of the saturated hydrocarbons which remain without any reaction with conc. sulphuric acid, were fractionated carefully on metallic sodium six times, and of each distillate the weight, specific gravity, and index of refraction were determined and the results are shown in Table I, II, III. Both the temperature-weight curve and the temperature-mol per cent curve of the fractions shown in Figs. 1 and 2, show the five maxima which indicate the presence of the hydrocarbons of the carbon atom  $C_8$ ,  $C_9$ ,  $C_{10}$ ,  $C_{11}$ ,  $C_{12}$ , and  $C_{13}$ . The assumption for the occurrence of the hydrocarbons in the distillates was confirmed by comparison of their physical constants and analytical results with those of the pure substances mentioned in the literature.

### 2. Unsaturated hydrocarbons

The unsaturated hydrocarbons which occur in the volatile oil were separated from the saturated ones by means of liquid sulphur dioxide according to the method suggested by Edeleanu<sup>1</sup>, being divided by fractional

Table I

	Fraction	Yield	$\Delta t^1$	$\frac{\Delta W^2}{\Delta t}$
I	-122°	0.2	—	—
II	122°-126°	0.5	4°	0.125
III	126°-148°	3.0	24°	0.125
IV	148°-152°	1.5	4°	0.375
V	152°-171°	2.7	19°	0.142
VI	171°-175°	1.8	4°	0.450
VII	175°-193°	4.9	18°	0.272
VIII	193°-197°	1.7	4°	0.425
IX	197°-212°	3.5	15°	0.233
X	212°-216°	1.7	4°	0.425
XI	216°-232°	3.6	16°	0.225
XII	232°-236°	2.0	4°	0.500
XIII	236°-251°	1.9	15°	0.127
XIV	251°-255°	0.5	4°	0.125
XV	255°-270°	0.3	15°	0.020

<sup>1</sup> Z. angew. Chem., 25, 175 (1919).

Table II

Fraction		$d_4^{25^\circ}$ (obs.)	$d_4^{t^\circ}$	$n_D^{25^\circ}$ (obs.)	$n_D$	$C_n$
I	-122°	0.6983		1.3890		
II	122°-126°	0.7075	$0.7185\left(\frac{0^\circ}{4^\circ}\right)$	1.3924	—	$C_8$
III	126°-148°	0.7150		1.3962		
IV	148°-152°	0.7207	$0.733\left(\frac{0^\circ}{4^\circ}\right)$	1.3998	—	$C_9$
V	152°-171°	0.7283		1.4024		
VI	171°-175°	0.7333	$0.7303\left(\frac{20^\circ}{4^\circ}\right)$	1.4062	*1.4136	$C_{10}$
VII	175°-193°	0.7398		1.4100		
VIII	193°-197°	0.7462	$0.7411\left(\frac{20^\circ}{4^\circ}\right)$	1.4132	1.4158	$C_{11}$
IX	197°-212°	0.7510		1.4152		
X	212°-216°	0.7555	$0.7511\left(\frac{20^\circ}{4^\circ}\right)$	1.4181	1.4209	$C_{12}$
XI	216°-232°	0.7589		1.4204		
XII	232°-236°	0.7660	$0.7571\left(\frac{20^\circ}{4^\circ}\right)$	1.4227	—	$C_{13}$
XIII	236°-251°	0.7707		1.4251		
XIV	251°-255°	0.7817	$0.7645\left(\frac{20^\circ}{4^\circ}\right)$	1.4315	*1.4358	$C_{14}$
XV	255°-270°	0.7965				

Table III

	Found		Calc.		$C_n$
	C%	H%	C%	H%	
II	84.11	15.91	84.2	15.8	$C_8$
IV	84.38	15.39	84.4	15.6	$C_9$
VI	84.42	14.87	84.5	15.5	$C_{10}$
VIII	84.33	15.21	84.6	15.4	$C_{11}$
X	84.35	15.28	84.7	15.3	$C_{12}$
XII	84.44	14.87	84.8	15.2	$C_{13}$
XIV	84.73	14.43	84.8	15.2	$C_{14}$

Table IV

	Fraction	Yield	I. V.		C <sub>n</sub>
			obs.	calc.	
I	7°-100°	0.5	—		C <sub>6</sub>
II	100°-120°	0.7	166.1	259.2	C <sub>7</sub>
III	120°-140°	1.4	167.3	226.8	C <sub>8</sub>
IV	140°-160°	1.7	145.6	201.6	C <sub>9</sub>
V	160°-180°	2.5	163.1	181.4	C <sub>10</sub>
VI	180°-200°	2.4	131.6	164.9	C <sub>11</sub>
VII	200°-220°	2.1	126.1	151.2	C <sub>12</sub>
VIII	220°-240°	2.0	109.9	139.6	C <sub>13</sub>

Table V

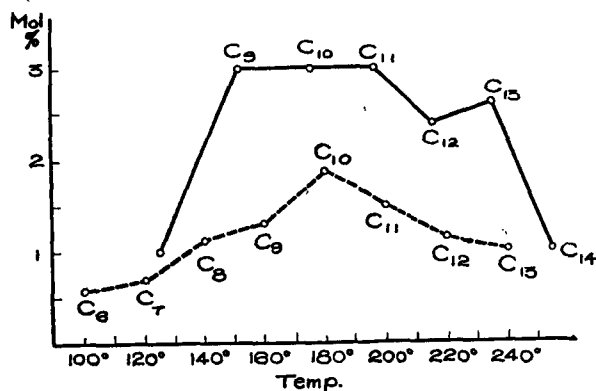
	Fraction	d <sub>4</sub> <sup>25°</sup> (obs.)	d <sub>4</sub> <sup>t°</sup> (Beilstein)	n <sub>D</sub> <sup>25°</sup>	n <sub>D</sub> <sup>t°</sup>	C <sub>n</sub>
I	7°-100°	—	0.683( $\frac{20°}{4°}$ )	1.4022	—	C <sub>6</sub>
II	100°-120°	0.736	0.699( $\frac{15°}{4°}$ )	1.3958	—	C <sub>7</sub>
III	120°-140°	0.737	0.723( $\frac{0°}{4°}$ )	1.3966	—	C <sub>8</sub>
IV	140°-160°	0.751	0.743( $\frac{20°}{4°}$ )	1.4023	* 1.4286	C <sub>9</sub>
V	160°-180°	0.762	0.763( $\frac{0°}{4°}$ )	1.4090	* 1.4301	C <sub>10</sub>
VI	180°-200°	0.773	0.773( $\frac{15°}{15°}$ )	1.4147	* {1.4219 1.4376	C <sub>11</sub>
VII	200°-220°	0.779	0.773( $\frac{0°}{4°}$ )	1.4193	* {1.4212 1.4231	C <sub>12</sub>
VIII	220°-240°	0.785	0.844( $\frac{0°}{4°}$ )	1.4215	* 1.4488	C <sub>13</sub>

fractions 5 times into 8 parts. The occurrence of the hydrocarbons of the carbon atoms C<sub>7</sub>, C<sub>8</sub>, C<sub>9</sub>, C<sub>10</sub>, C<sub>11</sub>, C<sub>12</sub>, C<sub>13</sub>, was indicated from the analytical results and the determination of physical constants of the fractions as will be seen in Table IV, V, VI, and figure. I. (dotted line)

Table VI

	Fraction	Found		Calc.		C <sub>n</sub>
		C%	H%	C%	H%	
I	70°-100°	—	—	85.7	14.3	C <sub>6</sub>
II	100°-120°	85.41	13.97	85.7	14.3	C <sub>7</sub>
III	120°-140°	85.22	13.91	85.7	14.3	C <sub>8</sub>
IV	140°-160°	85.76	13.92	85.7	14.3	C <sub>9</sub>
V	160°-180°	84.87	13.86	85.7	14.3	C <sub>10</sub>
VI	180°-200°	85.12	13.88	85.7	14.3	C <sub>11</sub>
VII	200°-220°	84.42	13.71	85.7	14.3	C <sub>12</sub>
VIII	220°-240°	84.61	13.99	85.7	14.3	C <sub>13</sub>

Fig. 1



## B. NON-VOLATILE PART

### 1. Palmitone, (C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>31</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO

The occurrence of this ketone in the non-volatile part of the tar was previously assumed from the experiment which was carried out by Kraft,<sup>1</sup> and 20 gm. of the ketone were actually isolated from 270 gm. of the tar by treating with ether, and the ketone was confirmed by converting it into its oxime of m.p. 58°.<sup>2</sup>

1. Ber. D. Chem. Ges., **15**, 1711 (1882).

2. Kipping: J. Chem. Soc., **57**, 985 (1890).

## 2. Hydrocarbons

The oily part separated from the ketone, which showed by its iodine number 69 about 85% of unsaturated hydrocarbons, was fractionated under 10–12 mm. pressure.

150 gm. of the non-volatile oil free from the ketone, were divided into 18 fractions by repeating fractional distillation five times which were confirmed as composed of hydrocarbons by determining the physical constants and chemical properties and also by analysis of the fractions. (Table VII, VIII, IX.) The proportion of saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons in the non-volatile oil was estimated by means of iodine number of the oil, and the results are shown in Table X. Among these hydrocarbons, unsaturated compounds of the carbon atom  $C_{15}$ ,  $C_{19}$ ,  $C_{20}$  and  $C_{30}$  as will be seen in Table X, composed the main part of the oil and the chief saturated hydrocarbons are  $C_{14}H_{30}$ ,  $C_{18}H_{38}$  and  $C_{20}H_{42}$ .

Table VII

	Fraction (10–12mm.)	Yield	I. V.		$C_n$
			(obs.)	(calc.)	
I	–120°	12.6	94.4	139.6	$C_{13}$
II	120°–130°	11.5	87.4	129.6	$C_{14}$
III	130°–140°	27.1	114.8	121.0	$C_{15}$
IV	140°–150°	7.9	111.0	113.4	$C_{16}$
V	150°–160°	5.5	150.8	106.7	$C_{17}$
VI	160°–170°	5.1	18.8	100.9	$C_{18}$
VII	170°–180°	6.7	59.0	96.2	$C_{19}$
VIII	180°–190°	10.8	42.8	90.7	$C_{20}$
IX	190°–200°	5.2	46.6	85.8	$C_{21}$
X	200°–210°	4.0	61.4	82.4	$C_{22}$
XI	210°–220°	4.5	58.2	78.8	$C_{23}$
XII	220°–230°	3.7	59.0	75.6	$C_{24}$
XIII	230°–240°	3.8	62.0	72.6	$C_{25}$
XIV	240°–250°	2.9	71.0	69.8	$C_{26}$
XV	250°–260°	2.9	69.2	67.2	$C_{27}$
XVI	260°–270°	1.2	57.5	64.8	$C_{28}$
XVII	270°–280°	0.7	59.0	62.6	$C_{29}$
XVIII	280°–290°	2.0	61.4	60.5	$C_{30}$
XIX	290°–300°	3.2	53.4	58.5	$C_{31}$



Table VIII

	Fraction (10—12mm.)	$d_{4}^{25^{\circ}}$ (obs.)	$d_{4}^{25^{\circ}}$ (Boilstein)	$n_D^{25^{\circ}}$	$C_n$
I	—120°	0.7837	{0.7977(20°) 0.8445(0°)}	1.4203	$C_{13}$
II	120°—130°	0.7825	0.7638(30°)	1.4210	$C_{14}$
III	130°—140°	0.7853	—	1.4226	$C_{15}$
IV	140°—150°	0.7974	0.7842(0°)	1.4288	$C_{16}$
V	150°—160°	0.8118	0.7977(10°)	1.4345	$C_{17}$
VI	160°—170°	0.8033	0.7881(22°)	—	$C_{18}$
VII	170°—180°	0.8110	—	—	$C_{19}$
VIII	180°—190°	0.8166	0.7810(0°)	—	$C_{20}$
IX	190°—200°	0.8224	—	—	$C_{21}$
X	200°—210°	0.8307	—	—	$C_{22}$
XI	210°—220°	0.8347	—	—	$C_{23}$
XII	220°—230°	0.8372	—	—	$C_{24}$
XIII	230°—240°	0.8412	—	—	$C_{25}$
XIV	240°—250°	0.8433	—	—	$C_{26}$
XV	250°—260°	0.8458	—	—	$C_{27}$
XVI	260°—270°	0.8479	—	—	$C_{28}$
XVII	270°—280°	0.8490	—	—	$C_{29}$
XVIII	280°—290°	0.8500	—	—	$C_{30}$
XIX	290°—300°	0.8545	—	—	$C_{31}$

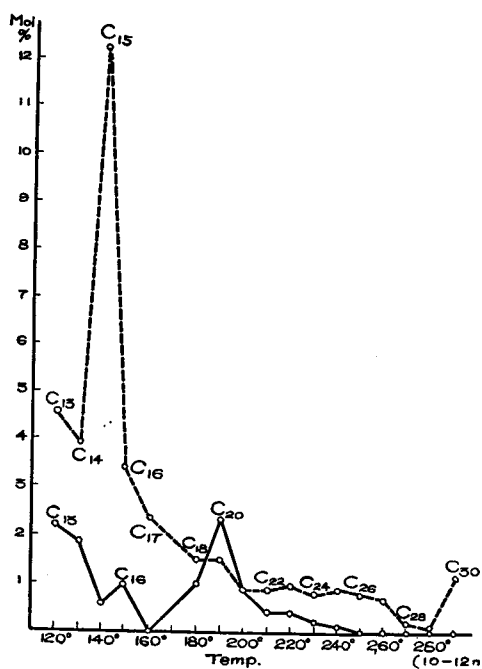
Table IX

	C%	H%	O% (by diff)
I	83.85	13.88	2.27
II	84.30	13.97	1.73
III	84.66	13.99	1.35
IV	83.20	13.33	3.47
V	82.68	13.53	3.79
VI	81.17	13.33	3.50
VII	79.09	12.80	8.11
VIII	81.89	13.54	4.57
IX	81.64	12.55	5.81
X	82.57	13.32	4.11
XI	82.52	13.22	4.26
XII	82.50	12.95	4.55
XIII	80.69	12.73	6.58
XIV	82.77	13.00	4.23
XV	83.22	13.25	3.53
XVI	83.82	12.83	3.35
XVII	82.88	12.91	4.21
XVIII	81.43	12.98	5.59
XIX	82.51	12.63	4.86

Table X

	Olefine			Paraffine	
	C <sub>n</sub>	Yield		Yield	
		(gr.)	Mol%	(gr.)	Mol%
I	C <sub>13</sub>	8.5	4.6	4.1	2.2
II	C <sub>14</sub>	7.7	3.9	3.8	1.9
III	C <sub>15</sub>	25.7	12.2	1.4	0.6
IV	C <sub>16</sub>	7.6	3.4	0.3	0.1
V	C <sub>17</sub>	5.5	2.3	0.0	0.0
VI	C <sub>18</sub>	0.9	0.4	4.2	1.6
VII	C <sub>19</sub>	4.0	1.5	2.7	1.0
VIII	C <sub>20</sub>	4.4	1.5	6.4	2.3
IX	C <sub>21</sub>	2.8	0.9	2.4	0.9
X	C <sub>22</sub>	2.8	0.9	1.2	0.4
XI	C <sub>23</sub>	3.2	1.0	1.3	0.4
XII	C <sub>24</sub>	2.9	0.8	0.8	0.2
XIII	C <sub>25</sub>	3.2	0.9	0.6	0.1
XIV	C <sub>26</sub>	2.9	0.8	0.0	0.0
XV	C <sub>27</sub>	2.9	0.7	0.0	0.0
XVI	C <sub>28</sub>	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.0
XVII	C <sub>29</sub>	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.0
XVIII	C <sub>30</sub>	5.2	1.2	0.0	0.0

Fig 2



In conclusion, sodium palmitate, when distilled in Fischer's aluminum retort produces 70% of a theory-yield of tar which is composed of the following constituents.

Volatile oil	{	acidic oil	trace
		saturated hydrocarbons	25%
		unsaturated ,,	23%
Non-volatile oil	{	palmitone	3%
		saturated hydrocarbons	8 ,,
		unsaturated ,,	47 ,,

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