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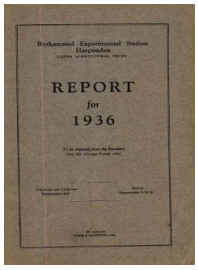
Rothamsted Report for 1936

Full Table of Content



General

Rothamsted Research

Rothamsted Research (1937) *General ;* Rothamsted Report For 1936, pp 152 - 152 **- DOI: https://doi.org/10.23637/ERADOC-1-68**

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from many floral sources have been examined, and all except those derived from *Calluna vulgaris* and *Leptospermum scoparium* are found to have viscosities which are unaffected by stirring. Honey from these two exceptional plants increases in viscosity on standing undisturbed, but the viscosity decreases on stirring. This property, well known in many other materials is called thixotropy.

A simple method for measuring the thixotropy of honey is described in detail. Thixotropic honeys can hold more water without fermenting than can non-thixotropic honeys, and for this and other reasons, the property is of practical importance.

An investigation is in progress on the effect of soil, climate, and elevation on the thixotropy of ling honey.

TECHNICAL AND OTHER PAPERS

GENERAL

LXXV. C. B. WILLIAMS. "*A Modified Greenwich Night-Cloud Recorder used for Ecological Work.*" Journal of Animal Ecology, 1936, Vol. V, pp. 348-350.

An apparatus is described which by photographing the track of the pole star at night gives an indication of when this is obscured by cloud and hence an average measure, in these latitudes, of the cloudiness of the night sky. The apparatus will not work in the tropics or the southern hemisphere.

LXXVI. R. K. SCHOFIELD and G. W. SCOTT BLAIR. "*Bemerkung zum Mechanismus der Spinnbarkeit.*" Kolloid-Zeitschrift, 1937, Vol. LXXIX, p. 308.

If a glass rod dipping into certain materials is withdrawn, Erbring has shown that strands of material can be formed, the length of strand depending on the rate of withdrawal, and on a property of the material which he calls "Spinnbarkeit" (Fibrosity).

It is shown that certain honeys called in the trade "stringy" are fibrous, and that when a drop of fibrous honey is extended into a strand on a mercury bath its behaviour is highly elastic, the strand reforming into a spherical drop when the stress is released. The phenomenon is believed to be akin to work-hardening in flour doughs. (See Paper VII in 1932 Report.) Fibrous honeys appear to obey Poiseuille's law fairly exactly when caused to flow through capillary tubes.

LXXVII. G.W. SCOTT BLAIR. "*Ein Mikroviskosimeter für Nicht-Newton'sche Flüssigkeiten.*" Kolloid-Zeitschrift, 1937, Vol. LXXVIII, pp. 19-21.

An apparatus is described for measuring the viscosity of small samples of materials. It is especially suited to determine the extent of deviation from Poiseuille's law in the case of non-Newtonian liquids and thixotropic systems, and gives an empirical measure of degree of thixotropy.

LXXVIII. R. K. SCHOFIELD and G. W. SCOTT BLAIR. "*Influence of Viscosity Variation on the Rupture of Plastic Bodies.*" Nature, 1935, Vol. CXXXVI, p. 147.

LXXIX. B. A. KEEN. "*A Preliminary Report on the Behaviour of the Ashby and Owens Evaporimeters.*" Ministry of Agriculture Report on Agricultural Meteorological Conference, 1935.

LXXX. HUGH NICOL. "*Quiescence at the Surface of a Liquid Disturbed by at least Two Agencies.*" "The School Science Review," 1936, pp. 87-90.

CROPS, SOILS AND FERTILISERS.

LXXXI. E. J. RUSSELL. "*Soils and Fertilisers.*" The Farmer's Guide to Agricultural Research in 1935. Royal Agricultural Society of England, 1936, pp. 177-229.