the individual rete invaginations and the ostial funnel are morphologically members of a homologous series.

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ARGINASE

ARGINASE as compared with the starting material—a watery extract from ground beef liver—was purified 50 times, using the common protein separation methods. The ferment solution obtained showed absence of catalase, amylase and proteolytic enzymes. Spectroscopic examination revealed the absence of hemoglobin, myoglobin and cytochrome C.

10γ of this protein solution hydrolyzed 30 to 35 per cent. of 17.4 mg arginine within 10 minutes under the condition of the experiment.

While the addition of Mn^{++}-ions[1] to a crude liver extract is frequently without any effect upon the activity of the enzyme, it was found that in the further stages of purification Mn^{++}-ions are essential for obtaining maximum activity of the enzyme. The activation of arginase by metallic ions, for instance, Mn^{++}, is a time reaction requiring about 15 minutes under the condition of the experiment for obtaining optimum activation. The optimum pH for the purified enzyme (with or without Mn^{++}-ions) is about 9.5. Other ions, such as Fe^{++}, Ni^{++} and Co^{++} also activate the enzyme but to a less extent than Mn^{++}. Here again, however, the optimum pH for these ions was found to be about 9.5.

Arginase (no addition)	.35
" + Mn^{++}	.71
" + Mn^{++}—vitamin C	.71
" + Co^{++}	.53
" + Co^{++}—vitamin C	.56
" + Ni^{++}	.50
" + Fe^{++}	.48
" + Fe^{++}—cysteine	.59

10γ arginase; 17.4 mg arginine; heavy metal salts 0.5γ; vitamin C or cysteine 1γ; total volume 1.5 cc adjusted to pH 9.5; incubated for 10 minutes at 37.5° C. Numbers are n/20 KOH. Method of determination was the Linderstroem-Lang method[2] for titration of ornithine, modified to semi-micro.

In the purified state arginase is quite stable, tolerating dialysis for 48 hours at 4° C. without loss of activity. The ferment solution is also stable at this temperature for weeks and its activity not altered by evaporating from the frozen state to dryness and subsequent redissolving.

The isoelectric point of the enzyme was found by electrophoresis to be at pH 5.7. The investigation of the ash content of the purified enzyme gave in one case an Mn-content of 0.08 per cent.

[1] G. Klein and W. Ziese, *Klin. Woch.*, 14: 205, 1935.
[2] K. Linderstroem-Lang, L. Weil and H. Holter, *Z. physiol. Chem.*, 233: 174, 1935.

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THE INDUCTION OF FERTILITY IN GENETICALLY SELF-STERILE PLANTS

IN hybridization experiments designed for the production of new colors in the various classes of commercially important Petunias, a strain of Golden Rose was discovered that has been found to be completely self-sterile under natural conditions. The self-sterility in this strain of Petunia behaves in inheritance as a simple Mendelian recessive character. By means of cuttings the strain has been maintained in the Botanical Laboratory of Bucknell University for the past five years. The plants are unusually floriferous and everblooming, due, in part at least, to their inability to produce seeds unless they receive pollen from plants which are not homozygous recessive for the self-sterility gene. Although many thousands of flowers were produced during this period and although repeated attempts were made to self-fertilize the plants, not a single seed capsule was ever produced until recently when self-fertility was induced by the techniques described below.

Dr. H. Clyde Eyster, of the Botany Department of the University of South Dakota, made microscopic observations of the pollen tubes in the stigmas and styles of the self-pollinated self-sterile plants and found that the pollen grains germinate well and develop into tubes which extend into the neck of the style but rarely if ever grow as far as one half the distance from the stigma to the ovary. In styles that had been cut three days after they had been self-pollinated, Dr. Eyster found that most of the pollen tubes grow only about one tenth of the distance from the stigma to the ovary, while an occasional tube grows somewhat less than one half of the distance down the style. Before any of the tubes reach the ovary, the style is cut off from the top of the ovary by the formation of an abscission layer. From these observations it appears that the self-sterility in the Golden Rose Petunia studied is caused by the very slow rate of growth of the pollen tubes and the formation of an abscission layer which severs the style from the ovary before any of the tubes enter the latter.

The pollen of the self-sterile plants was placed on the stigmas of normal self-fertile plants and allowed to develop for forty-eight hours. At the end of this time the styles were cut, preserved and sent to Dr. Eyster for microscopic examination. Approximately 75 per cent. of the pollen grains were found to have developed pollen tubes of varying lengths, including many which extended all the way down the style and,

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