TECHNICAL PAPERS

1-C^{14}-D-Glucose and 1-C^{14}-D-Mannose

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Radioactive C^{14} was first incorporated in the hexose molecule by allowing green plants to assimilate $C^{14}O_2$ (*2*). The resulting glucose contained C^{14} in all positions of the carbon chain, with the highest concentration of the radioactivity in carbons 3 and 4 (*1*). Starch labeled with isotopic C^{13} also has been prepared by growing plants in an atmosphere of $C^{13}O_2$ (*3*).

Previously, glycogen containing isotopic C^{11} had been produced by injecting $NaHC^{11}O_3$ into rats being fed nonradioactive sodium lactate (*7*). Evidence was subsequently obtained, using C^{13}, that the biosynthetic glucose comprising the glycogen was labeled only in carbons 3 and 4 (*9*). This synthesis of labeled glucose has recently been employed with $NaHC^{14}O_3$ (*10*).

For studies of the fate of hexose in experiments that involve fragmentation of the molecule, the need was apparent for a glucose containing C^{14} in only one known position of the carbon chain, preferably in the reactive reducing group of carbon 1.

D-Glucose and D-mannose labeled with C^{14} in the aldehyde carbon have now been prepared in the crystalline state by application of the nitromethane synthesis (*8*) to D-arabinose.

Sixteen grams of C^{14}-methanol containing 4 mc of radioactivity was converted to 60 gm of methyl iodide by the method of Norris (*6*). By application of the Victor Meyer reaction (*4*) with silver nitrite, the methyl iodide yielded 18 gm of nitromethane and 4 gm of the isomeric methyl nitrite. Condensation of the nitromethane with D-arabinose yielded, after separation and purification, 11.0 gm of 1-nitro-1-desoxy-D-mannitol and 6.0 gm of 1-nitro-1-desoxy-D-glucitol. Conversion of the respective nitroalcohols to the corresponding hexoses by the Nef reaction (*5, 8*) gave D-mannose phenylhydrazone in 80% yield and crystalline D-glucose in 60% yield. Crystalline D-mannose was obtained from the phenyl hydrazone in 90% yield by cleavage with benzaldehyde.

The sugars, whose calculated specific activity is .044 μc/mg showed an observed activity of approximately 62,000 cpm/mg when counted from a thin layer in the R.C.L.-Nucleometer.[1]

Experimental details will be published elsewhere.

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Crushing Strengths of Minerals at Low Temperatures

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An attempt was made to measure and evaluate the effects of subnormal temperatures on the crushing strengths of several available common minerals (prochlorite, serpentine, graphite, selenite, and halite).

In all cases except that of halite, cylindrical samples 0.4″ in diameter were cut from mineral masses by means of a milled hollow tool. Ends of the samples were squared and polished on a lapping wheel to ensure equal distribution of the pressure applied. All halite samples were nearly perfect cubes cleaved from a single mass.

The apparatus used to produce and measure the force applied consisted essentially of a hydraulic jack with a registering pressure gauge attached. Containers fashioned of sheet aluminum, asbestos insulated, permitted cooling of the test samples in place. Dry ice and liquid oxygen were used as refrigerating agents, tests being made at room temperature, – 78.7° C, and – 183° C.

Pressure was applied at opposite ends of the samples, normal to the planes of cleavage when cleavage was present. Since halite cleaves in three planes at right angles, two planes of cleavage therefore lay parallel to the direction of force.

Graphite exhibited a decelerating increase in crushing strength with decrease in temperature, while prochlorite, serpentine, and selenite showed an accelerating increase. Halite, contrary to the others, showed an accelerating *decrease* in crushing strength with decrease in temperature. (The crushing strength of halite dropped from 11,850 PPSI to 3,250 PPSI with a decrease in temperature from 25° C to – 183° C.)

Since halite presented two planes of cleavage parallel to the direction of pressure applied, it is probable that in this case the results involved not only a change in crushing strength but an increased ease of cleaving with lowered temperature.

The changes in crushing strength with temperature

change from 25° C to −183° C were as follows: serpentine, +517%; prochlorite, +227%; selenite, +129%; graphite, +104%; and halite, −72%.

A Microscope Stage for Continuous Anesthesia of Insects

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Williams (*1*) described a method of continuous anesthesia for insects using carbon dioxide with a Buchner funnel as the anesthetizing cell, the insects being placed in the open depression of the funnel. The Buchner funnel must be mounted flush in the top of a table or used with a microscope having an elevated stage with the funnel fitted to a metal plate which is substituted for the glass stage.

Work in this laboratory requires that small insects such as clothes moths, flour beetles, and mosquitoes be held under continuous anesthesia during experimental manipulation. When operating on small insects, a shallow stage in which the sides of the anesthetizing cell do not interfere with the dissecting instruments is preferred. It is also desirable that the microscope with the stage in place be readily moved to any table for use without an elevated stage. The anesthetizing stage shown in Fig. 1 was designed for use with a Spencer stereoscopic microscope; however, the device can be adapted for use with any similar type of microscope.

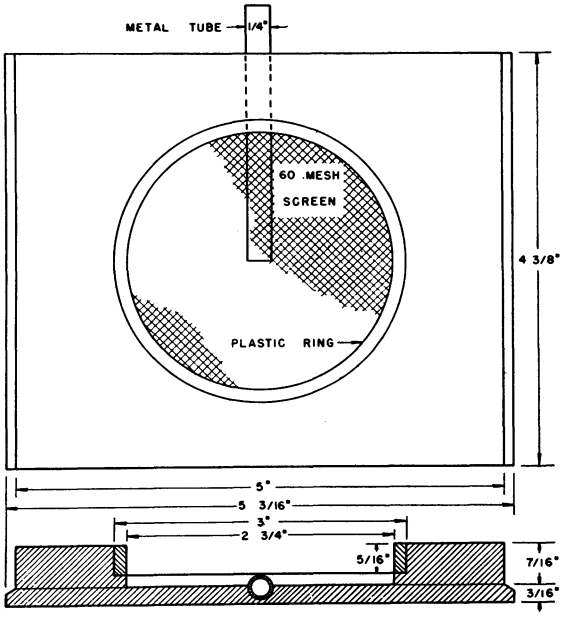

FIG. 1. Plan and cross section drawings of anesthetizing stage.

The stage is made from two plates with the cell cut in the upper plate (see cross section in Fig. 1). The wider lower plate that forms the bottom of the cell slides into the base of the microscope. A hole is drilled between the two plates to receive a metal tube connection for carbon dioxide. The connection opens into the center of the cell in the space between the bottom plate and the screen above. A shoulder is machined around the periphery of the cell opening in the upper plate, against which a disc of 60-mesh screen is held by a tightly fitting plastic ring. If deeper cells are needed for use with larger insects, the height can be increased by using plastic rings which will project as far as necessary above the plate. Steel was used for the plates that form the stage, although aluminum or plastic would have the advantages of lightness and resistance to corrosion from perspiration. The diameter of the cell is larger than the field of the microscope at the lowest magnification; for use at higher magnifications the cell diameter might advantageously be reduced. The stage in place in the microscope is shown in Fig. 2.

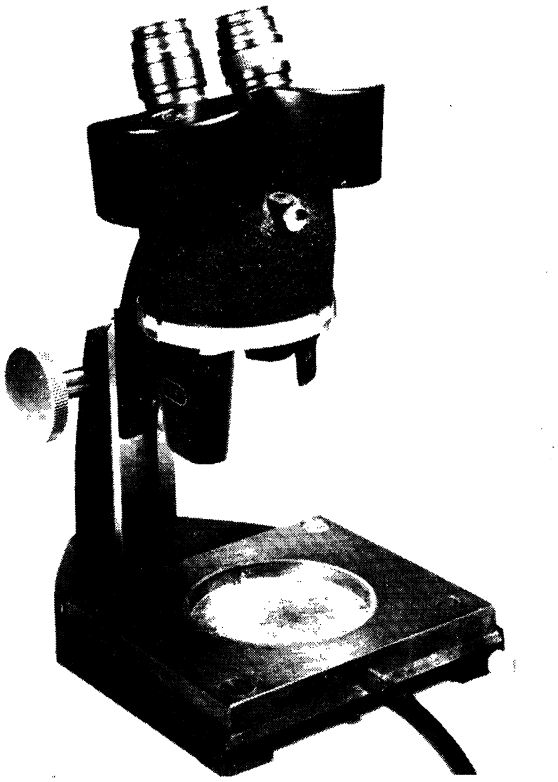

FIG. 2. Anesthetizing stage in position in dissecting microscope.

This stage permits convenient experimental micrurgy of small insects under continuous carbon dioxide anesthesia. It eliminates the Buchner funnel, which has been used previously, and has the advantages of not requiring a permanent mounting in a table or the use of an elevated stage for the microscope.

Reference

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