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Action of Bufotenines.

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Handovsky[1] isolated an "alkaloid" from *B. vulgaris*, and named it bufotenine. In our investigation of *Ch'an Su*, we[2] obtained cinobufotenine, and found it to have a marked pressor action. It appears now that the secretions of most toads contain bufotenines—a name also used generically. The bufotenines are organic bases having an indole ring, and form organic salts such as the flavianates, which have been used in this investigation. Three bufotenine flavianates, prepared from *Ch'an Su* and the secretions of *B. fowleri* and *B. bufo gargarizans*, respectively, have a marked pressor action in pithed cats (Table I): those separated from the secretions of *B. formosus*, *B. bufo bufo*, and *B. viridis viridis* are slightly less active; and the remaining bufotenines have little blood pressure raising property. All of them have an oxytocic action, and with one exception, a stimulating action on isolated intestines.

TABLE I.

Bufotenine flavianate from	m.p.	Elementary Analysis C	H	N	S	Pressor Activity
	°C.	%	%	%	%	
Bufo viridis viridis	170	49.03	4.82	9.70	— *	65
B. formosus	186-187	49.65	4.77	9.54	5.94	89
B. valliceps	261-262	49.03	3.85	11.14	6.57	5
B. arenarum	130-131	47.70	4.71	10.36	5.74	5
B. fowleri	188-189	50.24	4.85	9.91	6.00	108
B. alvarius	224-225	49.30	4.94	9.62	5.81	3

* Not determined.

[1] Handovsky, H., *Arch. Exp. Path. Pharm.*, 1920, **86**, 138.

[2] Chen, K. K., Jensen, H., and Chen, A. L., *J. Pharm. Exp. Ther.*, 1931, **43**, 13.