9780

## A Note on the Color Test for Pentoses.

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With the benzidine color test recently described[1] the following glucuronates* have been tested; borneol glucuronic acid, menthol glucuronic acid, and glucuronic acid monobenzoate. When 20 mg. samples were employed the test was negative, whereas Bial's test was positive with 2 mg. except in the case of borneol glucuronic acid which showed a positive test with Bial's reagent only when large amounts were employed. Glucuronic acid and glucuronic acid lactone gave a positive test with more than 0.2 mg. In this respect the benzidine test resembles Bial's test.

The new test is based on the formation of furfural. This aldehyd gives a red color with the benzidine solution without boiling.

In view of the fact that glucuronic acid does not occur free in urine, but in combination with phenols, etc., the benzidine test may be used to differentiate between pentoses and glucuronates.

9781

## Effect of pH upon Metamorphosing Action of Thyroxine on Tadpoles.

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The basis for the present study was an observation made in experiments performed in the spring of 1935 to investigate the finding of Zondek and Reiter[1] that $CaCl_2$ inhibited and KCl accelerated the metamorphosing action of thyroxine on tadpoles. It was observed that, while $CaCl_2$, Ca gluconate and KCl media, all with the same pH, 6.4-6.8, as our tap water control medium, had no effect upon the metamorphosing action of thyroxine,* alkaline Na phosphate

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[1] Tauber, H., PROC. SOC. EXP. BIOL. AND MED., 1937, **37**, 600.

* I am indebted to Dr. A. J. Quick for samples of glucuronates.

[1] Zondek, H., and Reiter, T., *Klin. Wschr.*, 1923, **2**, 1344.

* Kosmin and Resnicenko[3] had also obtained negative results with $CaCl_2$ and KCl, and Hellwig[4] subsequently obtained negative results with $CaCl_2$.

[3] Kosmin, N. P., and Resnicenko, M. S., *Trudy laboratorii eksperimentalnoj biologii Moskovskogo zooparka*, 1927, **3**, 9.

[4] Hellwig, C. A., *J. Lab. and Clin. Med.*, 1936, **21**, 1131.