

and not to any deterioration caused by long storage.

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1. Puntambekar and Krishna, *Quarterly J. Pharm. & Pharm.*, 1932, 5, 633.

EFFECT OF STORAGE ON THE ALKALOIDAL CONTENT OF STRYCHNOS NUX-VOMICA SEEDS

THE effect of some conditions of storage on the constancy of the alkaloidal content of *Strychnos nux-vomica* was reported¹ from this laboratory in 1932. Since then the seeds (from Shriharkota, Nellore) stored in a gunny bag in the humid atmosphere of Dehra Dun (average annual rainfall 85", about 60" of which occur in July-August) have been tested from time to time for appearance and for total alkaloidal and strychnine content. The results are given in the following table.

*Effect of storage of Nux-vomica seeds
on the Alkaloidal content*

Time of storage (months)	Total Alkaloidals (on dry basis)	Strychnine (on dry basis)
0	2.75	1.20
1.5	2.65	1.15
2.5	2.60	1.20
14.5	2.55	1.23
26.5	2.76	1.21
38.5	2.63	1.20
50.5	2.55	1.23
62.5	2.62	1.30
74.5	2.58	1.26
104	2.68	1.27
194	2.70	1.17

The above data clearly show that for the last sixteen years the total alkaloidal and strychnine contents of the seeds have remained practically unaltered. The seeds also have not so far exhibited any lessening of their bright and silky appearance. It may, therefore, be stated that, for the purpose of storage, the mature seeds should be collected and stored in gunny bags in the usual way till required for the preparation of the tincture or the manufacture of strychnine and brucine. In this connection attention may be drawn to the poor grade seeds that are occasionally met in the trade. The poor quality is due mainly to the initial low alkaloidal content of seeds from the same or closely allied species from different localities