

**B<sub>12</sub> CONTENT OF MOLDY BRAN AND  
BROOD LAC EXTRACTS**

IN the course of our studies on the microbiological assay of the B complex vitamins of aqueous extracts of moldy bran and brood lac, it was found that they contained some growth factors other than those shown to be present when the "all-vitamin" medium was employed for assaying.<sup>1-2</sup> Addition of the moldy bran extract in concentrations corresponding to 20 mg. of nitrogen of the extract per 100 ml. of the "all-vitamin" medium gave a 20-25% increase in acidity.

The presence of B<sub>12</sub> and its functionally related compounds have been tested for their presence in the extracts with the aid of the lactic culture, *L. lactis* Dorner, kindly supplied to us by Drs. Kocher, and K. K. Iya.\* The response was strikingly positive and preliminary estimates reveal the presence of 1.6 my B<sub>12</sub> activity per c.c. of moldy bran extract and 0.17 my per mg. nitrogen of lac extract. The data are computed from a standard curve which was obtained by using a solution of crystalline B<sub>12</sub>. Compared with liver extract, however, the moldy bran extract contains only 0.148 of the B<sub>12</sub> potency of the latter. The differential test for thymidine and B<sub>12</sub> has not yet been made. The details of the investigations, now under progress, will be reported elsewhere. Our grateful thanks are due to Merck & Co., New York, for the gift of B<sub>12</sub> (Cobione) ampoules.

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\*Obtained from Lederle Labs., Pearl River, New York.

1. Mistry, S. P., and Sreenivasaya, Unpublished data.
2. Raghavendra Rao, M. R., Mistry, S. P., and M. Sreenivasaya, *J. Sci. Ind. Res.*, 1948, **7B**, 116.