

## Short Communication

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### CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS OF JUTE— CORCHORUS CAPSULARIS AND CORCHORUS OLITORIUS

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Fresh roots of the plants *Corchorus capsularis* (white jute) and *C. Olitorius* (tossa jute) were chopped into small pieces and soaked in ethanol at room temperature, and extracted three times, following the procedure of Manzoor-i-Khuda *et al.*<sup>1</sup> The whole seeds were also similarly extracted. Extractives from the two varieties of roots and seeds, were evaporated separately *in vacuo* to a small, mainly aqueous concentrate, and the gummy solids obtained on refrigeration were separately investigated. The aqueous mother liquor from seeds on paper chromatography showed the presence of raffinose, sucrose, arabinose, fructose, galactose and glucose. The root extracts showed four spots of raffinose, arabinose, fructose and glucose.<sup>2</sup>

The precipitated solids obtained from the concentrated extracts of *C. Capsularis* roots on refrigeration were further purified by fractional crystallisation to give a new crystalline substance from the sparingly soluble fractions, m.p. 290–92°C decomp. (hexagonal plates, capillary tube, uncorrected m.p.) now designated as *corosin*.  $\beta$ -Sitosterol, m.p. and mixed m.p. with authentic sample m.p. 137–38°C was obtained from the more soluble fractions. Corosin crystals readily dissolved in aqueous alkali indicating its acidic nature.

Further investigations are being carried out and the details will be published later.

#### References

1. M. Manzoor-i-Khuda, *Technological Research Board Research and Review Bulletin No. 1* (1970).
2. M. Manzoor-i-Khuda and (Mrs.) Rashida Islam, *Pakistan J. Sci. Ind. Res.*, **13**, 234 (1970).