## ACIDS OF POMEGRANATE PEEL

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The present paper gives the results of a chemical investigation of the peel of the fruit of <u>Punica</u> granatum L. (pomegranate), which is a waste material from the production of pomegranate juice.

The air-dried peel was exhaustively extracted with 70% ethanol. After the elimination of the solvent under vacuum, the aqueous residue was treated with chloroform to eliminate ballast substances and was then extracted with ether. On concentration of the ethereal extract, a precipitate deposited which was insoluble in hot water, ethanol, and ether and partially soluble in methanol. After purification, the substance had decomp. p. 355°C.

Qualitative reactions [1], R<sub>f</sub> value (FN-15 paper, 15% acetic acid system), and the IR spectrum of the substance were identical with those of ellagic acid.

On the basis of the results of a determination of the maximum intensities of the spots (SF-4a at  $\lambda$  440 nm) revealed with a 1% solution of iron ammonium alum, it was established that the peel contains 0.55% of ellagic acid on the air-dry raw material. The ethereal extract was evaporated to dryness and chromatographed on Kapron with water. This gave gallic acid with mp 239°C, which was identified from its IR spectrum and by chromatography with a marker. The quantative determination of the gallic acid (0.09% on the absolutely dry raw material) was performed similarly.

## LITERATURE CITED

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