



SUMMARY

A method of determination of polyols in tobacco, based on that of Slanski and Moshy (1) has been developed. The method involves gas chromatography of the trimethylsilyl (TMS) ethers of the polyols using programmed oven temperatures.

The polyol humectants are extracted from tobacco with methanol, and, after removal of the methanol solvent, the TMS ethers are formed in pyridine solution under anhydrous conditions.

The main modification of the original method lies in the use of two internal standards. One standard, undecane, does not form a TMS ether and is used as the true standard. The other, diethylene glycol, forms a TMS ether, and will indicate any abnormality in the formation of the TMS derivative.

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