

# Notas & Comunicações

## The 1,3,7,9-tetramethyluric acid content of cupu (*Theobroma grandiflorum* Schum.)

T. W. Baumann

H. Wanner

Institute of Plant Biology  
University of Zurich, Switzerland

In cupu seeds, Vasconcelos *et al.* (1975) found in contrast to Freise's report (1935) neither theobromine nor caffeine but the 1,3,7,9-tetramethyluric acid (TMU). We have determined the TMU contents by the isotope dilution method using ring-labelled TMU which was synthesized for this purpose. The average values for the seeds are listed below.

Table: TMU content of cupu seeds (n=10)

Tissue	Relative (%, d.wt.)	Absolute (mg/seed)
Cotyledons	0.25	4.8
Shell	0.08	0.5

We could not find any other purine alkaloids in the seeds. Leaves of different size (0.92, 1.62 and 2.80 g average d.wt./leaf) did not contain either TMU or other purine alkaloids (detection limit 0.01 %).

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### Resumo

Nas sementes do cupuaçu, Vasconcelos *et al.* (1975) não encontraram, ao contrário do trabalho de Freise (1935), teobromina nem cafeína, mas sim ácido 1, 3, 7, 9 — tetrametilúrico TMU. Foram determinados os conteúdos do TMU pelo método de diluição isotópica, usando anel marcado; TMU foi sintetizado para este fim. Os conteúdos médios das sementes são apresentados.

### REFERENCES

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