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BUCHU LEAVES.*

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The leaves of species of *Barosma* growing at the Cape, known under the name of buchu leaves, are but little used, and have not yet been the objects of a chemical or microscopical investigation, although worthy in a high degree of both. The smell of buchu leaves appears to the author not alone to depend upon the essential oil, for in this respect it is more suggestive of peppermint. By long exposure to the cold of winter he has obtained from the oil a well crystallized camphor which melts at 85° C. and commences to sublime at 110° C. It dissolves in bisulphide of carbon, from which it may be obtained in fine needles that might well be taken for peppermint stearoptine. The elementary analysis gave, carbon 74.07, and hydrogen 9 to 10, but it was not sufficiently satisfactory to construct a formula from. The oil poured off from the camphor of *Barosma betulina* does not boil under 200° C., and after being rectified over soda, answers to the formula $C_{10}H_{16}O$. The crude oil turns the plane of polarization to the left.

* Abstract of an article in the *Schweizerische Wochenschrift fur Pharmacie*, Dec. 19, 1873, published in the *Pharm. Jour. and Trans.*