

FRINGS NEWS



2/00

A NEW SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Heinrich Frings, Bonn

ALKOMAT - REVOLUTION IN THE LAB

A novel analysis instrument for the laboratory is revolutionizing the determination of alcohol in vinegar. All visitors to the Frings laboratory and the participants to this year's Annual Meeting of the Vinegar Institute Members in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, who saw the prototype of the instrument (photos 1 and 2), were enthusiastic about it. The instrument makes neutralization, distillation, areometry or pycnometry superfluous. With a syringe a small liquid sample is injected into the instrument, and one to two minutes later the alcohol value is shown on the display. Precision and reproducibility of the results are equivalent to an analysis by gas chromatography, and the handling is substantially less complicated. Calibration of the instrument is easy and stable over a long time. Due to the high precision achieved, the Alkomat is suited for a calibration of the Alkosens display as well. The demand is overwhelming. The first Alkomats will be dispatched to our customers in August. We will be pleased to send you a quotation.

Shortly we will analyze the suitability of the Alkomat for alcohol analyses in the yeast industry. We will let

you know the results.
MORE ALCOHOL

Brazil is a country where large quantities of alcohol are used as gasoline or as an additive to gasoline. The raw material for alcohol production is sugar cane. From the cane juice cane wine is obtained by alcoholic fermentation. The wine is purified in distillation and rectification columns. Distillation is particularly economical if only a small percentage of alcohol remains in the vinasse (the residue from distillation), and if the steam consumption can be minimized. Frings has developed to this purpose an instrument which has been successfully in use for over one year now. The instrument regulates the steam supply to the distillation column in relation to the residual alcohol in the vinasse, which is normally set to 0.05%. The core of the instrument is the alcohol probe known in the production of vinegar, the so-called Alkosens for the continuous determination of alcohol concentration in the cold vinasse (photo 3).



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