

CORRESPONDENCE

Editor,
Journal of the Institute of Brewing.

Dear Sir,

Determination of β -amylase

Regarding the recent article by Robbins and Egan², permit me to point out that since their method for detecting β -amylase is not entirely specific (E.B.C. Analysis Committee report, *this Journal*, 1992), and since they did not carry out the same extraction, digestion and analytical procedures as we did¹, their criticism of our results are somewhat misguided. We are aware that the mercuric chloride method is not ideal. However, the variability of their own α -amylase results using similar concentration of mercuric chloride indicate that their assumption, that differences in methodology could not account for the different results found for β -amylase activities in our respective laboratories, is incorrect. We nevertheless concede that methods which work for barley may not be suitable for sorghum, without appropriate controls.

Yours Faithfully,

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1. Aniche, G. N. & Palmer, G. H., *Journal of the Institute of Brewing*, 1990, **96**, 377.
2. Robbins, D. J. & Egan, B., *Journal of the Institute of Brewing*, 1992, **98**, 383.