

THE SECONDARY ALKALOIDS OF TOBACCO

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It has been observed repeatedly that, in segregating converter strains of tobacco, the increases in nornicotine fail to account for the concomitant decreases in nicotine. These unaccounted losses could arise from (1) side-reactions to the main pathway of conversion; (2) the accumulation of intermediates in the main pathway; or (3) extension of the mechanism beyond nornicotine. Work has been initiated to identify these other alkaloid derivatives and to study the mechanism of conversion using methyl-labeled nicotine as the substrate. Investigations on the inheritance of conversion will be continued using appropriate genetic procedures.

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