

volving allosteric interactions²¹. The rate of inactivation of barley α -amylase by ammonium molybdate increases as the incubation period is gradually increased (Unpublished data) and maximum inhibition occurs at 40 min. Incubation longer than 40 min did not result in any further increase in the inhibition of barley α -amylase. The inhibition is not due to molybdate ion since sodium molybdate did not show any inhibitory effect. Therefore, inhibitory effect is specifically caused by the ammonium group. The mechanism of this inhibition appears to consist of a reversible binding of the ammonium molybdate to the enzyme molecule as is suggested by dialysis experiments. Similarly ammonium molybdate has been reported as an inhibitor of plant invertases²². The inhibition was of mixed type and heptamolybdate is postulated to act by a reversible binding to the enzyme.

The inhibition of barley amylase by ammonium molybdate will help in the preparation of undegraded starch from natural resources where the process of degradation may completely be prevented or kept to a minimum.

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NEWS

B. C. ROY AWARD

Prof. V. Ramalingaswamy, Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research, Dr. R. K. Menda of Bombay and Dr. M. M. S. Siddhu of Lucknow have

been awarded the B. C. Roy National Award for 1985. The Awards are of the value of Rs.50,000 in cash and a silver salver.
