

The essential oil content of Puerto Rican bay leaves runs 1.0 to 3.4%, the highest occurring in regions of lower rainfall (*circa* 11 dm), the lowest in wetter areas (*circa* 22 dm annual precipitation). Main constituents of the leaf oil are eugenol, alpha-pinene, myrcene, alpha-phellandrene, limonene, diterpene, cineol, citral, and chavicol.<sup>42</sup> McHale et al.<sup>260</sup> compared the typical bay oil with anise- and lemon-scented cultivars (formerly known as *P. acris* var. *citrifolia*). Eugenol constitutes 56.2% of the typical oil, chavicol 21.6%. These are present as methyl ethers in the anise-scented (43.1 and 31.6%). The lemon-scented oil contained 32.6% neral and 53.2% geranial and contained no phenols or phenol ethers. Lawrence<sup>193</sup> compared the bay rum oil with that of California bay and laurel bay.

**Toxicity** — Bayrum used in hair dressings has caused dermatitis of the face and scalp. Contact sensitivity has been reported for eugenol and phellandrene.<sup>6</sup>