

6. Anthocyanin precursor in a₂ tester.

In the course of the above investigations, it was found that alcoholic-HCl extracts of a₂ aleurone tissue would give rise to a red pigment on heating. This pigment has since been identified as cyanidin, the aglycone of chrysanthemine. Parallel preparations of chrysanthemine from sib A₂ - kernels are not completely hydrolyzed to the aglycone, so the precursor present in a₂ is probably sugar-free. Since the anthocyanin produced in A C R Pr kernels is, instead, a pelargonidin derivative, a₂ pr extracts were tested, and found to produce pelargonidin on heating.

Husks of a₂ tester do not carry this precursor, nor does aleurone tissue of a₁, bz, a₁ a₂ bz. The precursor is very unstable, and thus far has eluded attempts at purification or concentration.