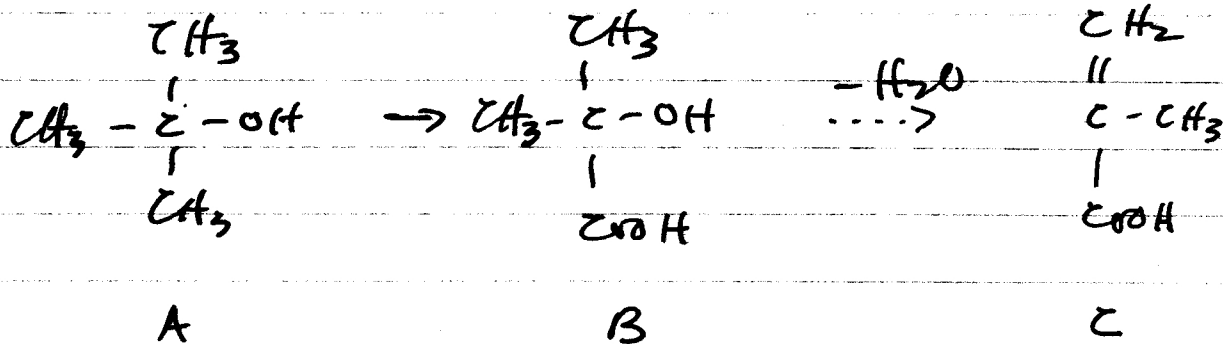


Dear Sol

MAR 14 1982

Thank you for your note of Jan 26.

If the metabolism of *t*-butanol does go $A \rightarrow B$



it raises the possibility that B might be chemically dehydrated to C, methacrylic acid.

This would be a value added from about \$25 per kg mole for *t*-butanol to \$86 for methacrylic acid.

I would also ask if B (2-methyl lactic acid or "acetic acid" according to my hand book) has any known or foreseeable uses.

Almost any of these considerations might justify a study of the actual-microbiological pathway.

cc: Peterson
Wilson
Mitchell
Chase

