

of ascorbic acid.

Discussion. The results indicate that desoxyfructo-serotonin competes with DOPA for uptake through the same system, which is not related to auto-oxidation. If it is proved beyond doubt that DOPA is an essential metabolite for *M. leprae* growing *in vivo*, the competition of desoxyfructo-serotonin will be quite an interesting method to block the enzyme-controlled utilization of DOPA by *M. leprae*. Consequently, the viability of *M. leprae* in mice should be suppressed in the presence of this compound as observed [17].

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*The Foundation for Medical
Research,
84 A, R. G. Thadani Marg,
Worli,
Bombay 400 018, India.
Institut de Chimie des Substances
Naturelles,
C.N.R.S.,
Gif-sur-Yvette 91190, France*

P. JAYARAMAN
P. R. MAHADEVAN

M. MESTER
L. MESTER*

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*To whom enquiries should be addressed.