

WAXES

These are esters of higher homologues of both the fatty acids and monohydric alcohols, e.g.

Bees wax. Bees wax is of commercial use. It is a constituent of cosmetics eg lipsticks, creams and lotions. Chemically Bees wax is myricyl palmitate. It is the ester of Palmitic acid and myricyl alcohol. The long alkyl chain makes it compatible to the proteins and protein like entities. Bees wax has the chemical formula $C_{15}H_{31}CO_2C_{30}H_{61}$.

Spermaceti wax is cetyl palmitate. Both the acid part and the alcohol part have sixteen carbons in a linear chain. Its chemical formula is $C_{15}H_{31}CO_2C_{16}H_{33}$. This is of medicinal use. Many antibiotics, steroids are diluted in this wax.

Carnauba wax finds its use in making leather polishes. Chemically carnauba wax is myricyl cerotate, $C_{25}H_{51}CO_2C_{30}H_{61}$.

These above waxes are lipids. As lipids comprise of oils, fats and waxes. However, Paraffin wax which is a mixture of higher hydrocarbons. Paraffin wax also finds its use in making candle wax, and associated applications.