

The digestive enzyme of lecithin is called Lecithinase which digests the lecithin into lycolecithin. Lycolecithin is harmful for human being and causes health hazard. Lecithinase is present in the venoms of Cobra and honey bee. Lecithin is necessary for transportation and synthesis of other lipids in our body. Deficiency of lecithin in our body causes accumulation of lipids in liver as a result it causes fatty acid disease in human being.

(ii) Cofactors: — it is an important component of thromboplastin which is necessary for blood clotting mechanism in our body.

(iii) Plasmalogens: — it is found in brain and muscles of animals. In higher group of plants, it is found at central region.

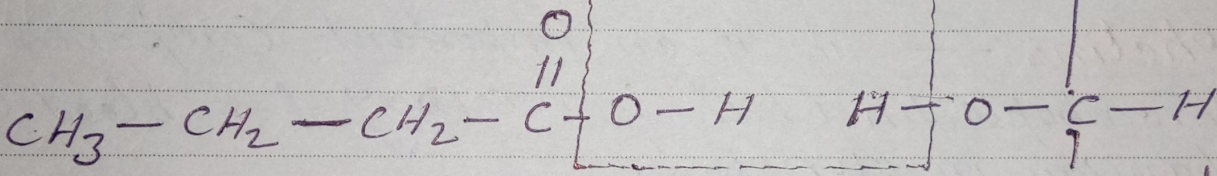
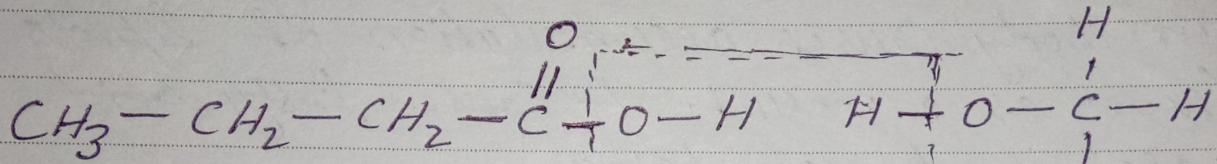
(B) GLYCOLIPIDS: — In these lipids galactose are present with fatty acid and glycerol. it may be of two types: —

(a) Cerebrocides: — Found in brain.

(b) Gangliosides: — found in ganglions of nerves

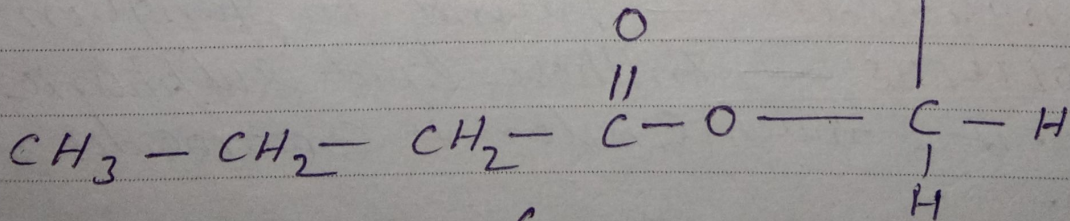
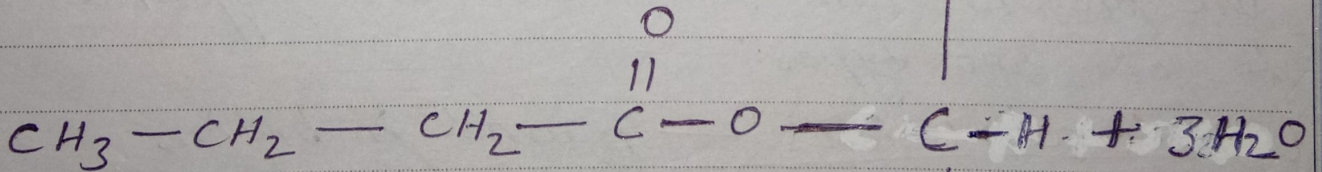
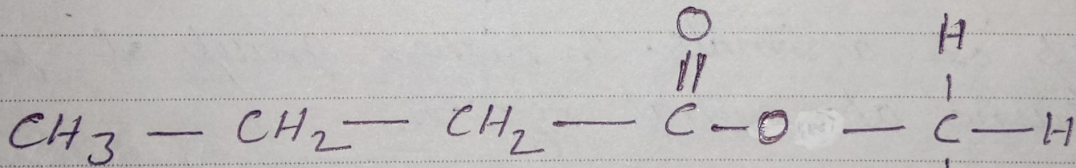
(C) SULPHOLIPIDS: — In these lipids sulphuric acid is present. it is much similar to Cerebrocides and found in brain.

(D) LIPIDPROTEINS — In these lipids protein are present with fatty acid and glycerol. it is an important component of plasma membrane.



Butyric acid

Glycerol



TRIBUTYRIN (SIMPLE LIPID)

DERIVED LIPIDS: — These lipids are derived from simple lipids and Compound lipids in which one functional hydroxyl group is present. Some important derived lipids are sterols, steroids, Vitamin A, D, E, K and some pigments of plants and animals. Description of some important derived lipids are as follows: —

(A) STEROLS: — These are solid and waxy substances present in both plants and animals. In animals its best example is cholesterol which is found in brain and spinal cord of all vertebrates. In some cases, it causes health hazard because in gall bladder it takes part in the formation of stone. It is also deposited at the internal surface of blood vessels and causes hypertension and cardiac failure. In plants sterols are present in the form of ergosterol.

(B) Steroids: — These are present in gall bladder, sex hormones, hormones of adrenal gland etc. Some important examples are as follows: —

(i) Cholic acid: — it is present in gall bladder, and necessary for emulsification of fats.

(ii) progesterone: — it is an important female sex hormone which is secreted by Corpus luteum. it prevents the menstrual cycle period in female after pregnancy and necessary for growth of uterus.

(iii) Estrogen: — it is also an important female sex hormone which is secreted by uterus after six month of pregnancy and also necessary for growth of uterus.

(iv) Testosterone: — it is an important male sex hormone which is secreted by interstitial cells of testis. it is necessary for development of secondary sexual characters in male.

(v) Cortisol: — it is an important hormone which is secreted by Cortex of adrenal gland and necessary for carbohydrate, protein and fats metabolism.

(vi) Aldosterone: — it is also a hormone which is secreted by Cortex of adrenal gland and necessary for control the electrolytes of body.

Functions: — (1) Fats are important energy yielding substances for us. (2) it acts as reserve food material in our body. (3) Steroids are used as hormones in our body. (4) Some derived fats are found in the form of vitamins which are necessary for control the activities of our body.

(5) Some fats are important part of our nervous system and found in brain, spinal cord etc.