

obscure, and in any case there seems to be no immediate hope of bringing them into connection with the science of biology.

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## SURFACE TENSION

Of all common liquids, except mercury, water has the greatest surface tension.

TABLE OF SURFACE TENSIONS

Water . . . . .	75
Carbonic acid . . . . .	1.8
Ammonia . . . . .	41.8
Mercury . . . . .	436
Benzene . . . . .	28.8
Methyl alcohol . . . . .	23
Ethyl alcohol . . . . .	22
Ether . . . . .	16.5
Glycerine . . . . .	65
Acetone . . . . .	23
Formic acid . . . . .	37.1
Acetic acid . . . . .	23.5
Chloroform . . . . .	26

This fact is of enormous moment in biology, most obviously perhaps in its influence upon the soil. For surface tension and density determine the height to which a liquid will rise in a capillary system, and thus it comes about that the principal factor in bringing water within reach of plants is the exceptional surface tension of water. The nature of the case is clearly explained by Hilgard. "The