

THE ALPHABET IN PHARMACEUTICAL LITERATURE
THE LETTER B

by

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THE ALPHABET IN PHARMACEUTICAL LITERATURE

THE LETTER B

"Pharmaceutical literature, as well as the literature of other sciences and arts, frequently contains abbreviations, symbols, and signs, the meaning of which does not lie at the surface. Not only does the general reader meet this difficulty, but even the specialist not infrequently encounters problems that are not easy of satisfactory interpretation, problems for the solution of which he knows not where to turn." The foregoing sentences quoted from the introduction to a series of papers upon the alphabet in pharmaceutical literature sets forth the reason for the compilation of the series. The first paper of the series, The Letter A, was prepared by Professor Kremers, others are in the process of preparation by students in the department of pharmacy.

This list, like the others of the series, makes no pretensions of being complete. It is a compilation of the symbols and abbreviations found by the writer in the literature to which he had access, i.e., in the University Library.

For convenience, the list is divided into two main

parts:

I. The use of the letter B as a symbol (without a period)

II. The use of the letter B as an abbreviation

The second part is subdivided into three smaller parts:

1. As an abbreviation for words beginning with the letter B.

2. As an abbreviation for words not beginning with the letter B.

3. Multiples of the letter B.

As symbol, the second letter of the alphabet, the letter "b", "B", or its Greek equivalent, the B(beta¹) is used to designate the second in a series, second in order or class, the next after the original.

As illustration of this use, whenever a numerical value is attributed to the letters of the alphabet, b = -2. Hence we have B quality, B grade, etc. Used to designate minor sub-divisions in a system of classification, b represents the second of such sub-divisions. Used to designate the

1. The word alphabet is made up of the first two letters of the Greek alphabet, alpha and beta, just as we speak in English of a, b, c.

next after the original, illustrations are found in B-sulphur, B-pinene, B-ionone, Vitamin B, Aloes B, etc.

As a symbol for a definite known quantity, the letter B or b finds use in algebraic expressions. See U. S. P. Assay for peppermint oil. "B-(AxO.021) where B = the weight of acetyllized oil taken."

Used to denote position in the molecule, the Greek B is used to represent the position next but one from the differentiated position as e.g., B-naphthol, B-lactic acid, etc.

As a chemical symbol B, alone, stands for Boron; combined with other letters we have Ba = Barium; Be = Beryllium; Bi = Bismuth; Br = Bromine.

As a line of the solar spectrum (Fraunhofer line), the letter B designates the oxygen line.

As abbreviation, the letter B is used much more frequently and universally than as symbol. Commonly it is the initial letter of the word for which it stands. In this way it may be used either in conjunction with another letter or letters of the same word, e.g., B. = British, but also Br. and Brit. stand for British; also B. = Berichte, but also Ber. is used as abbreviation for Berichte. At times, however, B is not the initial letter of the word for which it stands, as in cinnabar (See Gessman Tafel 80) and Herba.

In other instances, no direct connection whatsoever is traceable as in Sal Communis, Common Salt (See Gessman).

The letter B, b, or the Greek B, is used:

As a symbol. In the older literature we find the letter B or the Greek B used as follows:

Balneum, Eng. bath, Ger. Bad, Fr. Bain, It. Bagno,
e.g.,

B_{\neq} B_{\neq} \mathcal{B}

Balneum noris (vaporis), Eng. vapour-bath, Ger. Dampf-
bad, Fr. Bain a vapeur, It. Bagno di vapore.

Of the four symbols tabulated by Gessman, Table 83, two
involve the letter B, one of which is modified. e.g.,

$\mathcal{V}\mathcal{B}$ \mathcal{B}

Balneum maris, Eng. Water-bath, Ger. Marien-Bad, Fr.
Bain d'eau, It. Bagno maria. Eight symbols are tabulated
by Gessman, Tafel 83, of which four are suggestive of the
letter B.

MB

BM

B

6

BM

MB

Balneum Arenae (Arenosum), Eng.:Gravel-bath, Ger.:Sand bad, Fr.:Bain de sable, It.:Bagno di rena. One of the three symbols, Tafel 106, contains the letter B, e.g.,

⋮B

Bolus armenus (~~armena~~ bolus), Eng.:Armenia bole, Ger.:Armenischer bolus, Fr.:bole d'Arminie, It.:bolo armenio. Gessman tabulated five symbols, one of which has the letter

B in combination. Tafel 9, e.g.

AB

Bolus Alba (albus), Eng.:white bole, Ger.:~~w~~weisser bolus, Fr.:bole blanche, It.:bolo bianco. Two symbols are listed by Gessman Tafel 10, contain the letter B in combination, e.g.,

AB

AB

Cinnabaris, Eng.:Cinnabar, Ger.:Zinnober, Fr.:Cinabre, It.:Cinabro. Of the twenty-eight symbols Tafelon 79-80,

one is suggestive of the letter B, e.g.,

13

Drachma semis, Eng.:A half dram, Ger.:halbe drachme, Fr.:Demi drachme, It.:Mezzo dramma. The two symbols tabulated by Gessman, Tafel 88, have the letter B in combination, e.g.,

3B

3B

Flores benzoe, Eng.:benjamin flowers, Ger.:Benzoinblumen, (Benzoëblumen), Fr.:fleures de benjoin, It.:fiori di benzoe. The symbol is a combination of letters B and F. Tafel 7, e.g.,

B

Herba, Eng.:Herb, Ger.:Kraut, Fr.:Herbe, It.:Erba.
Gessman tabulates two symbols, one of which contains the
letter B in combination, e.g.,

HB

Hermetice sigillatum, Eng.:Hermetic sealed, Ger.:
Hermetisch sigilliert, Fr.:Scelle hermetique, It.:Turato
ermeticament. Gessman, Tafel 95, lists two symbols, one
of which contains the letter B in combination with the
letter H, e.g.,

HB

Libra semis, Eng.:A half pound, Ger.:Pfund $\frac{1}{2}$, Fr.:
Demi livre, It.:Mezzolibra. Of the three symbols, Tafel
102, one is suggestive of the letter B, e.g.,

HB

Manipulus dimidius, Eng.:A half handfull, Ger.: $\frac{1}{2}$ Hand-
 vall, Fr.:Demi botte, It.:Mezzo pugno. Tafel 95 has two
 symbols, of which one contains the letter B in combination
 with the letter M, e.g.,

MB

Obolus, Eng.:A half scruple, Ger.:Scrupil halber, Fr.:
 Scrupulus semis, It.:Mezzo scrupulo. Two of the four sym-
 bols listed by Gessman, Tafel 107, are suggestive of the
 letter B, e.g.,

HB

HB

Pugillus semis, Eng.:A half pugill, Ger.:halbes pugill, Fr.:Demi pugille, It.:Mezzo pugillo. Both symbols have the letter B in combination with the letter P, Tafel 103, e.g.,

PB

Pß

Recipe, Eng.:Take, Ger.:Nimm, Fr.:Prend, It.:Prendue. Gessman, Tafel 100, lists six symbols, one of which is suggestive of the letter B, e.g.,

B_c

Sal commune, Eng.:Common salt, Ger.:Gemeines Salz, Fr.:Sel commun, It.:Sale da cucina. Of the thirty-seven symbols listed by Gessman, Tafel 53, one only is referable to the letter B, e.g.,

B

Semis, Eng.:Half, Ger.:Halb, Fr.:Demi, It.:Mezzo.

Three symbols are given by Gessman, Tafel 94, one of which is the single letter B, e.g.,

B

Succinium album, Eng.:white amber, Ger.:Agtstein weisser, Fr.:Ambre, It.:elettro bianco. Gessman tabulates five symbols, three of which contain the letter B, e.g.,

B

B

B+

Uncia semis, Eng.:Half-ounce, Ger.:halbe Onz, Fr.:Demi once, It.:Mezzo oncia. In two of the three symbols listed by Gessman Tafel 101, the letter B is remotely suggested, e.g.,

BS

3B

3B

I. As abbreviation for words beginning with this letter.

1. Proper names.

Baillon, bot., e.g. Rhubarb is the rhizome of
Rheum officinale, Baill. and other species of
 Rheum.....

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. 949

Bartholomew, e.g. St. B. H. = The Pharmacopoeia
 of St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Lucas and Stevens - The Book
 of Pharmacopoeias (1915) p.VII

Barton, bot., e.g. Bart.

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. IX

Baumé, e.g. Bé. = Baumé (hydrometer)

Handbook of Chemistry and
 Physics, IX Edition, p. 415

Baumé's Hydrometer, e.g. B. = Baume's Hydrometer

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed., p. IX

Belgica, Lat. subs., Eng. Belgium. e.g. B. A. R. B.
 = Bulletin de l'Academie Royale de Belge

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed., p. IX

Ph. Belge. = Pharmacopoeia Belgica, Belgian Pharmacopoeia.

Bennett - Med. and Pharm.

Latin, p. 69

Bentham, bot., e.g. Inhambane copal has been shown to be the product of Copaifera Gorskiana Benth.....

B. et H. = Bentham and Hooker

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. pp. 1337
and IX

Bentley, bot., e.g. B. and T. = Bentley and Trimen's Medicinal Plants

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. IX

Berberid. = Fluidextractum Berberidis, Fluid extract of Berberis.

N. F. IV Edition

Gam. = Oleum Bergamottac, Oil of Bergamot.

N. F. IV Edition

Berliner, Ger., Eng., Berlin e.g. B. K. W. =

Berliner klinische Wochenschrift. B. Thier.

W. = Berliner Theirarzt Wochenschrift

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. X

Blume, bot., e.g. Dioscorea hirsuta Bl. grows in
the island of Java.....

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. 1363

Boehmer, bot. e.g., Boehm. = Boehmer

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. IX

Boissier, bot. e.g., Baycuru Root. - This is the
root of a Brazilian plant, probably the Statice
braziliensis, Boiss.

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. 1273

Bonpland, bot. e.g. Cabbage-Tree Bark. The bark
of Vouacapoua inermis (Sevz.) "Andirainermis")
(H. B. K.)

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed., p. 1292

Borussica, Russia, e.g. Ph. Boruss. Pharmacopoeia

Borussica, Russian Pharmacopoeia

Bennett-Med. and Pharm. Latin

p. 69

Boston, e.g. B. M. S. J. = Boston Medical and Sur-
gical Journal

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. X

Bristol, e.g. B. G. = Bristol General Hospital
Pharmacopoeia

Sutherland, W. G. - Dispensing Made Easy. List of Abbreviations. opp. p. 1

Britannica, Lat. adj., Eng. British, e.g. B. P. =
Pharmacopoeia Britannica, British Pharmacopoeia

Bennett - Med. and Pharm.
Latin (1906) p. 64

P. B. = Pharmacopoeia Britannica

Bennett - Med. and Pharm.
Latin, p. 68

Ph. B. = Pharmacopoeia Britannica

Bennett, Med. and Pharm.
Latin, p. 69

British, e.g. Br. Add. Indian and Colonial Addendum
(1900) to the British Pharmacopoeia

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. IX

Br. = The British Pharmacopoeia, B. C. D. =

British and Colonial Druggist. B. F. M. R. =

British and Foreign Medical Review

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. IX, X

B. P. C. = Unofficial Formulary of the British
Pharmacopoeal Conference

Beasley's Formulary (Braith-
waite) 12th Edition, List of
References, opp. p. VI of
Preface

B. M. J. = British Medical Journal

Sutherland, W. J., Dispensing
Made Easy, List of Abbrevia-
tions, opp. p. 1

B. and C. D. = British and Colonial Druggist

The Prescriber's Pharmacopoeia
(1904) Fifth Edition, p. IX

B. M. R. = British Medical Record

Prescriber's Pharmacopoeia
(1904) Fifth Edition, p. IX

B. P. C. = British Pharmaceutical Codex

Lucas and Stevens - Book of
Pharmacopoeias (1915) List of
Abbreviations, opp. p. VI of
Preface

B. T. U. = British Thermal Unit(s)

Directions for Ass't. Editors

and Abstractors of Chemical
Abstracts (1925). Published
by Am. Chem. Soc. p. VII

Brit. Pharm. Conf. = British Pharmaceutical Conference - Year-Book of Pharmacy and Transactions of the British Pharmaceutical Conference - Title of Book.

Britton, bot. e.g. Cunila. - Cunila organoides
(L.) Britt.

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. 1352

~~Brotaro~~, bot., e.g. Brot. = Brotero

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. IX

Brothers', e.g. M. B. D. = Meyer Brother's Druggist

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. XI

Brussels, Fr. Bruxelles, e.g. B. S. Ph. Br. =
Bulletin de la Societie Royale de Pharmacie de
Bruxelles

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. X

II. As abbreviation for other words beginning with B, or b.

Baccalaureus, Lat. subs., Eng. Bachelor, e.g. B. Sc.
Pharm., Bachelor of Science (Pharm.), B. Pharm.,
Bachelor of Pharmacy.

Pharmaceutical Journal, p. 255

Bacteriology, e.g. Cb. B., Central Blatt für Bacteriologie.

U. S. Disp., 20th Ed. p. X

bacteriol., bacteriology

Directions for Ass't. Editors
and Abstractors of Chemical
Abstracts (1925) p. VII

Bacillum, Lat. Subs., Eng. vacillum, bougie, e.g.
Bacill., = bacillum

International Handbook for
Pharmacists

Balneum, Lat. subs., Eng. bath, e.g. B.A. = Balneum
arenae, a sand bath, B. M. = Balneum maris, a salt-
water bath

Handbook of Pharmacy and
Therapeutics, Lilly, 7th
Rev. p. 273

Balneum, e.g. bal. cal. = balneum calidum, hot bath

bal. frig. = balneum frigidum, cold bath

Wall, O. A., The Prescription
(1917) p. 140

B. T. = Balneum tepidum, a tepid bath, B. V. = Balneum
vaporis, a vapour bath

Bennett - Med. and Pharm. Latin
p. 61

Balsamum, Lat. subs., Eng. balsam, e.g. Bals. = Balsa-
mum, balsam

Bennett - Med. and Pharm. Latin
p. 61

Baptisia, Lat. subs. Eng. Baptisia, e.g. Baptis

N. F. IV Edition

Barbitalum, Lat. subs., Eng. Barbital, e.g. Barbital

U. S. P. X

Barometer, e.g. Bt = Barometric reading at temperature t

Chemists Year Book (1924) p.171

Beitrage, e.g. B. K. Ch. = Beitrage zur Klinischē
chirurgie

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. X

Belladonna, Lat. subs., Eng. Belladonna, e.g. Pilulae
 A. S. et B. = Pilulae Aloini, Strychnini et Belladonnae,
 Pills of Aloin, Strychnine and Belladonna. A. B.
 C. Liniment - contains aconite, belladonna and camphor.
 Emp. Bellad. = Emplastrum Belladonnae, Belladonna
 Plaster

N. F. IV Edition

Bene, Lat. adv. Eng. well, e.g. m.b. = misce bene, mix
 well

Bennett - Med. and Pharm. Latin
 p. 67

Ben. = Bene, well

International Handbook for
 Pharmacists

Benzoinatum, Lat. adj. Eng. Benzoinated, e.g. Sev.
 Benz. = Sevum Benzoinatum, Benzoinated Suet

N. F. IV Edition

Benzol, e.g. B. = Benzol

National Druggist (1902)
 Aug. p. 10

Benzoyl, e.g. BzH, Benzaldehyde; BzON, benzoic acid

Directions for Ass't Editors
and Abstractors of Chemical
Abstracts. Published by American
Chem. Soc. (1925) p. VII

Berberidis, Lat. Eng. Berberis, e.g. Flidext. Berberid.
= Fluidextract of Berberis

N. F. IV Edition

Bergammottae, Lat. Eng. Bergamot, e.g. Ol. Bergam. =
Oleum Bergamottae, Oil of Bergamot

N. F. IV Edition

Bentel, e.g. B. = Bentel

Pharm. Zeitung (1924) M. 15

Bibe, Lat. imp. Eng. drink

Bibendus, a, um, Lat. inf., Eng. to be drunk, e.g.

Bennett - Med. and Pharm. Latin
p. 61

Bicarbonas, Lat. subs., Eng. Bicarbonate, e.g. Sod.

Bicarb., Sodii Bicarbonas, Sodium Bicarbonate

U. S. P. IX Revision

Bidium, Lat. subs., Eng. days, e.g. Bidi. = Bidium, two
days

Caspari, Chas. Treatise on
Pharmacy

per. bid. = per bidium, for a period of two days

Bennett - Med. and Pharm. Latin
p. 69

Biduo, Lat. sub., Eng. two, e.g. Om. bid. = every two
days, Om. bihorio, every two hours

Bennett - Med. and Pharm. Latin
p. 68

Berichte, e.g. Ber. d. chem. Ges. = Berichte der
Deutschen Chemischen Gesellschaft. B. P. G. = Berichte
der Deutschen Pharmazeutischen Gesellschaft. Ber. d.
pharm. Ges. = Berichte der Deutschen Pharmazeutischen
Gesellschaft

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. X

Betulae, Lat. Eng. Birch, e.g. Ol. Bet. Empyr. Rect.
= Rectified Oil of Birch Tar.

N. F. IV Edition

Beutel, e.g. B. = Beutel

Pharm. Zeitung (1924) M. 15

Bibe, Lat. imp., Eng. drink

Bibendus, a, um, Lat. inf., Eng. to be drunk

Bennett - Med. and Pharm. Latin

p. 61

Bicarbonas, Lat. subs. Eng. Bicarbonate, e.g. sod. Bi-carb. = Sodium Bicarbonate

U. S. P. IX Rev.

Bidium, Lat. subs., Eng. two days, e.g. Bidi. = Bidium two days

Caspari, Chas. Treatise on
Pharmacy

per bid. = per bidium, for a period of two days

Bennett - Med. and Pharm. Latin

p. 69

Biduo, Lat. subs., Eng. two days, e.g. Om. bid. = every two days, Om. bih. = every two hours

Bennett - Med. and Pharm. Latin

p. 68

Bihorium, Lat. subs., Eng. two hours, e.g. per b. = per bihorium, during two hours

Wall, O. A., The Prescription

(1917) p. 153

Biological, e.g. J. Bi. Chem. = Journal of Biological Chemistry

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. X

Biologie, Eng. Biology, e.g. A. I. B. = Archives Italiennes de Biologie, Z. B. = Zeitschrift fur Biologie, C. R. S. B. = Comptu-rendus de Biologie de Paris

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. IX,
X, XI

Bis, Lat. adv. Eng. twice, e.g. B. = Bis, twice
B. d. = Bis die, twice a day, also B. d. d., B. i. d.,
twice a day

Bennett - Med. and Pharm. Latin
p. 61

Bismuthi, Lat. Eng. Bismuth, e.g. Elix. Bismuth =
Elixir Bismuthi, Elixir of Bismuth

N. F. IV Edition

Bitter, e.g. Br. p., Bitter principle

Chemists Dictionary of Syno-
nyms and Trade Names (1912)
p. VI

Black, e.g. Bl. = Black

Chemists Year Book (1924)

p. 1110

Blatter, e.g., W. M. Bl. = Wiener Medicinische Blatter

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. p. XI

Blue, e.g. B. = Blue

Chemists Year Book (1924)

p. 1110

Boiling, e.g. b₁₃, boiling at 13 mm. pressure, b. p.,

boiling point, b. w., boiling water

National Druggist Aug. 1902,

p. 10

Directions for Ass't Editors

and Abstractors of Chemical

Abstracts (1925) Published by

Am. Chem. Soc., p. VII

Bolus, Lat. subs., Eng. Bolus, e.g. bol. = bolus

Wall, O. A., The Prescription

(1917) p. 140

Book, e.g. Y. B. = The Year Book of Pharmacy (London)

The Prescriber's Pharmacopoeia

(1904) Fifth Edition p. IX

Boracis, Lat. adj., Eng. Boric, e.g. A. B. C. Lotion,
Lotion of Carbolie and boric acids

Chemists Dictionary of Syno-
nyms and Trade Names (1912) p.

1

Boras, Lat. subs., Eng. Borate, e.g. Sod. Bor. = Sodii
Boras, Sodium Borat~~e~~.

U. S. P. X

Boroglycerini, Lat. subs., Eng. Boroglycerin, e.g.
Glycer. Boroglyc. = Glycerite of Boroglycerin

N. F. IV Editions

Botany, e.g. Woodv. Med. Bot. = Woodville's Medical
Botany

U. S. Disp. 20th Ed. p. IX

Brachii, Lat. subs., Eng. arm, e.g. v. a. b. = venaesec-
tio brachii, bleeding in the arm

Wall, O. A., The Prescription
(1917) p. 160

Brachium, Lat. subs., Eng. the arm, e.g. Brach.

Bennett - Med. and Pharm.

Latin, p. 61

Brayera, Lat., Subs., Eng. Brayera, e.g. Brayer

N. F. IV Edition

Brevis, e, Lat. adj., Eng. short, e.g. Brev. = Brevis,
e, short

Bennett - Med. and Pharm.

Latin, p. 61

Bromidorum, Lat. subs., Eng. Bromides, e.g. Syr.

Bromidor. = Syrup of the Bromides

N. F. IV Edition

Bromoformum, Lat. subs., Eng. Bromoform, e.g. Bromof.

= Bromoformum

U. S. P. IX ED.

Brown, e.g. Br.

Chemists Year Book (1924)

p. 1110

Bryonia, Lat. subs., Eng. Bryonia, e.g. Tinct. Bryon.

= Tincture of Bryonia

N. F. IV Edition

Buch, e.g. A. B. 5 = Apotheker-Buch number 5

Symbol on advertisement of
Fritz Ambor

Busche, e.g. Bu

Pharm. Zeitung (1924) M. 15

Bulletin, e.g. B. A. M. = Bulletin de l'Academie de
Medicin de Paris. B. A. R. B. = Bulletin de
l'Academie Royale de Belge. B. D. A. J. = Bulletin,
Department of Agriculture Jamaica. B. G. T. = Bulle-
tin General de Therapeutique Medicale et Chirugicale.
B. Hop. Par. = Bulletin de la Sociétiés Medicale des
Hopitaux de Paris. B. M. = Le Bulletin Medicale.
B. M. N. = Bulletin Medicale du Nord. B. S. Ph. Br.
= Bulletin de la Sociétié Royale de Pharmacie die
Bruxelles. B. Sc. Pharm. = Bulletin de la Sociétié
Pharmacologique. Bull. Soc. Chim. = Bulletin de la
Sociétié Chimique de Paris

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. P. XI

U. P. M. B. = University of Pennsylvania Medical
Bulletin

U. S. Disp. 20th. Ed. P. XI

A. M. S. B. = American Medico-Surgical Bulletin

The Prescriber's Pharmacopoeia
(1904) 5th Ed., p. IX

Bulliat, Bulliant, Lat. imp., Eng., let boil, e.g.,
Bull.

Handbook of Pharmacy and
Therapeutics (Lilly) 1925
p. 273

Bulliens, Lat. adj., Eng. boiling, e.g. Aq. bull. =
boiling water

Bennett - Med. and Pharm.
Latin, p. 61

Bushel, e.g. Bu. = bushel

Wall, O. A., The Prescription
(1917) p. 140

Butyl, e.g. Bu. = butyl (normal)

Directions for Ass't Editors
and Abstractors of Chemical
Abstracts (1925) Published by
Am. Chem. Soc. p. VII

Butyrum, Lat. subs., Eng. butter, e.g. But. = Butyrum.

But. ant. = Butyrum Antimonii, butter of antimony

Bennett - Med. and Pharm.
Latin (1906) p. 65

III. Multiples of B.

Barbadensis, Lat. subs., Eng. Barbadoes, e.g. B. B. or

Bbds. = Barbadensis, Barbadoes

Bennett - Med. and Pharm.

Latin (1906) p. 64

also e.g. B. B Dinaphthyl, B B dinaphthylamine, also
dinaphthyl, etc.

Barrel, barrels, e.g. bbl., bbls.

Approved

Nellie Wakemans

Date

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