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Tests on a 5-per-cent Biconvex Aerofoil
in the Compressed Air Tunnel

By

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of the Aerodynamics Division, N.P.L.

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Summary.—A symmetrical 5 per cent. biconvex aerofoil has been tested from $R = 0.3 \times 10^6$ to $R = 7.5 \times 10^6$. No scale effect was found on C_L . To show the effect of camber, comparative curves are given for circular-back aerofoils. $C_{L\max}$ increases linearly with camber from 0.7 for the symmetrical wing to 1.18 for a wing with 6 per cent. camber. The aerofoil was also tested with a 15 per cent. split flap. With flap, $C_{L\max}$ was 1.35.

Tests have been carried out in the Compressed-Air Tunnel on a symmetrical biconvex aerofoil, 5 per cent. thick, over a range of Reynolds number from $R = 0.3 \times 10^6$ to $R = 7.5 \times 10^6$. The upper and lower surfaces were circular arcs.

The model was made of steel with a good buffed surface. The span was 48 in. (1.219 m), the chord was 7.94 in. (0.202 m). The aerofoil was designed to have a chord of 8 in., but, to avoid razor edges, 0.03 in. was cut from each end of the chord and the leading and trailing edges were rounded to a radius of 0.003 in. (0.0004c).

Tests were also made on the aerofoil fitted with a 15 per cent. flap at 90 deg. fixed at 0.15c from the trailing edge.

The results are given in the tables, which include the values for infinite aspect ratio, derived from the formulae

$$\alpha = \alpha_0 + 3.55 C_L \text{ (degrees)},$$
$$C_D = C_{D0} + 0.0555 C_L^2.$$

Very little scale effect was found. Lift curves are plotted in Fig. 1 against α_0 at $R = 0.3 \times 10^6$ and $R = 7.5 \times 10^6$. The main feature of the curves is the flat top of the lift curve. C_L remains at 0.7 from $\alpha_0 = 9$ deg. to $\alpha_0 = 22$ deg., then rises to 0.8 at $\alpha_0 = 32$ deg., after which it begins to fall. The effect of camber may be seen in the same figure, where corresponding lift curves are drawn for a 5 per cent. circular-back aerofoil (camber 2.5 per cent.). These are taken from results carried out in the Compressed-Air Tunnel for Dr. G. S. Baker¹ on a series of circular-back aerofoils with flat undersurfaces. To find the effect of rounding the leading edge, the leading edges of the circular-back aerofoils were rounded in stages. No scale effect was found with slight rounding and it was only when a considerable amount of the forward part had been cut off that any scale effect was observed. From this it is assumed that the amount of rounding carried out on the biconvex aerofoil would not affect its characteristics over the range of the experiments. In Fig. 1, the lift curves for the biconvex wing with flap are also known.

Figs. 2 and 3 give the profile drag and moment coefficients for the biconvex and 5 per cent. circular-back aerofoils, plotted against C_L . The very rapid rise of profile drag with lift coefficient should be noted, a rise which is several times greater than that of the induced drag on a conventional aerofoil of aspect ratio 6.

In Fig. 4, $C_{L_{\max}}$ has been plotted against camber ratio for sharp-nosed aerofoils based on circular arcs. These are the biconvex (zero camber) and circular-back aerofoils of thicknesses 5, 10, 15 and 20 per cent. (cambers 2·5 per cent., 5 per cent., 7·5 per cent. and 10 per cent. respectively). Maximum lift coefficient increases linearly with camber from 0·7 for the symmetrical wing to 1·25 for 7·5 per cent. camber. Some of the circular-back aerofoils had irregularities in the lift curves, they had an early stall followed by a drop in lift coefficient, and then C_L increased again to a higher value. These irregularities disappeared at the high Reynolds numbers and there was no scale effect on the final stalling angle. In all cases, it is this final value of $C_{L_{\max}}$ that has been given.

REFERENCE

No.	Author		Title, etc.
1	G. S. Baker	The Efficiency of Marine Screw Propellers and the Drag Coefficient. Transactions of the North-East Coast Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders. March, 1945.

TABLE 1
5 per cent. Biconvex Aerofoil
 $R = 0 \cdot 30 \times 10^6$, $P = 1$ at., $V = 72 \cdot 8$ f./s. (22·2 m./s.)

C_L	α°	C_D	C_m	C_{D_0}	α_0°
-0·403	-5·6	0·0388	-0·0092	0·0298	-4·2
-0·310	-4·3	0·0295	-0·0050	0·0242	-3·2
-0·226	-3·0 ₅	0·0187	+0·0009	0·0159	-2·2 ₅
-0·143	-1·7 ₅	0·0133	+0·0048	0·0122	-1·2 ₅
-0·034	-0·5	0·0079	0	0·0078	-0·4
+0·076	+0·7 ₅	0·0093	-0·0049	0·0090	+0·5
0·164	2·0	0·0134	-0·0042	0·0119	1·4
0·246	3·2 ₅	0·0191	-0·0009	0·0158	2·3 ₅
0·328	4·5	0·0278	+0·0038	0·0218	3·3 ₅
0·414	5·7	0·0393	0·0083	0·0297	4·2 ₅
0·501	6·9 ₅	0·0545	0·0102	0·0406	5·2
0·585	8·2	0·0770	+0·0032	0·0580	6·1 ₅
0·657	9·4	0·1040	-0·0184	0·0800	7·1
0·692	10·7	0·1313	-0·0433	0·1147	8·2 ₅
0·698	11·9 ₅	0·155	-0·0627	0·128	9·5
0·699	13·2 ₅	0·176	-0·0742	0·149	10·8
0·691	14·5 ₅	0·196	-0·0799	0·170	12·1
0·689	15·8 ₅	0·214	-0·0837	0·188	13·4
0·696	17·1	0·235	-0·0882	0·208	14·6 ₅
0·700	18·4	0·257	-0·0917	0·230	15·9
0·697	19·7	0·276	-0·0926	0·249	17·2 ₅
0·696	21·0 ₅	0·296	-0·0930	0·269	18·6
0·695	23·6 ₅	0·336	-0·0947	0·309	21·2
0·732	26·3	0·394	-0·1054	0·364	23·7
0·787	28·8 ₅	0·468	-0·1191	0·434	26·0 ₅
0·825	31·4 ₅	0·541	-0·1342	0·503	28·5 ₅
0·833	33·6	—	—	—	30·6 ₅
0·832	34·9 ₅	—	—	—	32·0
0·826	35·4	—	—	—	33·4 ₅
0·814	37·8	—	—	—	34·9
0·782	39·3	—	—	—	36·5
0·747	40·6 ₅	—	—	—	38·0
0·681	42·1 ₅	—	—	—	39·7 ₅

TABLE 1—*continued* $R = 0.73 \times 10^6$, $P = 2.7$ at., $V = 67.7$ f./s. (20.6 m./s.)

C_L	α°	C_D	C_m	C_{D0}	α_o°
-0.179	-2.4 ₅	0.0136	-0.0014	0.0118	-1.8
-0.075	-1.2 ₅	0.0092	-0.0033	0.0089	-1.0
+0.006	+0.0 ₅	0.0053	+0.0007	0.0053	+0.0 ₅
0.091	1.3 ₅	0.0088	0.0029	0.0083	1.0 ₅
0.186	2.7	0.0132	0.0046	0.0113	2.0 ₅
0.364	5.1	0.0304	0.0074	0.0231	3.8
0.528	7.6	0.0618	+0.0118	0.0463	5.7 ₅
0.672	10.0 ₅	0.1115	-0.0229	0.0865	7.6 ₅
0.696	11.3 ₅	0.1384	-0.0471	0.1116	8.9
0.705	12.7	0.160	-0.0641	0.132	10.2
0.699	13.9 ₅	0.182	-0.0719	0.155	11.5
0.698	15.2	0.203	-0.0809	0.176	12.7 ₅
0.689	16.5	0.222	-0.0848	0.196	14.1
0.702	19.0	0.263	-0.0922	0.236	16.5
0.702	21.6	0.299	-0.0936	0.272	19.1
0.705	24.2 ₅	0.345	-0.0972	0.317	21.7 ₅
0.737	26.8	0.406	-0.1072	0.376	24.2
0.792	29.4 ₅	0.476	-0.1222	0.441	26.6 ₅
0.817	32.1 ₅	0.555	-0.136	0.518	29.2 ₅
0.835	34.9 ₅	0.628	-0.150	0.589	32.0
0.785	37.7 ₅	0.664	-0.146	0.630	35.0
0.692	42.0 ₅	0.668	-0.139	0.641	39.6

 $R = 1.31 \times 10^6$, $P = 4.9$ at., $V = 67.4$ f./s. (20.5 m./s.)

C_L	α°	C_D	C_m	C_{D0}	α_o°
-0.162	-2.5	0.0120	-0.0076	0.0105	-1.9 ₅
-0.067	-1.3	0.0081	-0.0063	0.0079	-1.0 ₅
+0.003	0	0.0064	+0.0016	0.0064	0
0.085	+1.3	0.0084	0.0055	0.0080	+1.0
0.174	2.6 ₅	0.0125	0.0070	0.0108	2.0 ₅
0.354	5.1	0.0293	0.0120	0.0224	3.8 ₅
0.524	7.6	0.0618	+0.0152	0.0466	5.7 ₅
0.676	10.0	0.1148	-0.0223	0.0895	7.6
0.700	11.3	0.1408	-0.0464	0.1137	8.8 ₅
0.711	12.5 ₅	0.165	-0.0645	0.137	10.0 ₅
0.709	13.8	0.186	-0.0756	0.158	11.3
0.698	15.1 ₅	0.203	-0.0814	0.176	12.7
0.702	16.4 ₅	0.223	-0.0870	0.196	13.9 ₅
0.706	18.9 ₅	0.265	-0.0927	0.237	16.4 ₅
0.711	21.5	0.306	-0.0973	0.278	19.0
0.709	24.1 ₅	0.347	-0.0980	0.319	21.6 ₅
0.752	26.7	0.409	-0.1098	0.378	24.0 ₅
0.819	29.3 ₅	0.483	-0.130	0.446	26.4 ₅
0.840	32.0 ₅	0.552	-0.138	0.513	29.1
0.852	34.8 ₅	0.619	-0.154	0.579	31.8 ₅
0.813	37.6	0.647	-0.155	0.610	34.7 ₅
0.693	41.9 ₅	0.676	-0.141	0.649	39.5

TABLE 1—*continued* $R = 2 \cdot 18 \times 10^6$, $P = 8 \cdot 3$ at., $V = 67 \cdot 1$ f./s. (20·5 m./s.)

C_L	α°	C_D	C_m	C_{D0}	α_0°
-0.174	-2·5	0·0121	-0·0041	0·0104	-1·9
-0.084	-1·3	0·0079	-0·0017	0·0075	-1·0
+0.008	0	0·0079	-0·0001	0·0079	-0·0 ₅
0·097	+1·3	0·0096	+0·0015	0·0091	+0·9 ₅
0·184	2·6	0·0131	0·0041	0·0112	1·9 ₅
0·358	5·1	0·0304	0·0119	0·0233	3·8 ₅
0·529	7·6	0·0620	+0·0147	0·0465	5·7
0·676	10·0	0·1127	-0·0227	0·0873	7·6
0·704	11·2 ₅	0·1395	-0·0465	0·1120	8·7 ₅
0·705	13·8	0·182	-0·0733	0·153	11·3
0·700	16·4	0·221	-0·0848	0·194	13·9
0·712	18·8 ₅	0·261	-0·0936	0·233	16·3 ₅
0·711	21·4 ₅	0·304	-0·0963	0·276	18·9 ₅
0·704	24·1 ₅	0·347	-0·0984	0·320	21·6 ₅
0·734	26·7	0·406	-0·1049	0·376	24·1
0·811	29·3	0·487	-0·130	0·451	26·4
0·833	31·9 ₅	0·560	-0·141	0·521	29·0
0·864	34·7	0·630	-0·159	0·589	31·6 ₅
0·798	37·5 ₅	0·656	-0·155	0·621	34·7 ₅
0·684	41·8 ₅	0·660	-0·138	0·634	39·4

 $R = 4 \cdot 83 \times 10^6$, $P = 17 \cdot 9$ at., $V = 71 \cdot 8$ f./s. (21·9 m./s.)

C_L	α°	C_D	C_m	C_{D0}	α_0°
-0·088	-1·3	0·0087	-0·0017	0·0083	-1·0
+0·007	0	0·0076	+0·0003	0·0076	0
0·093	+1·3	0·0088	0·0021	0·0083	+0·9 ₅
0·188	2·6 ₅	0·0131	0·0043	0·0111	2·0
0·365	4·9 ₅	0·0300	0·0124	0·0226	3·6 ₅
0·537	7·4	0·0634	+0·0142	0·0475	5·5
0·676	10·0	0·1140	-0·0234	0·0886	7·6
0·706	11·2	0·140	-0·0471	0·112	8·7
0·712	13·7	0·179	-0·0730	0·151	11·2
0·708	16·2	0·217	-0·0865	0·189	13·7
0·711	18·6 ₅	0·260	-0·0952	0·232	16·1 ₅
0·713	21·2 ₅	0·302	-0·0991	0·274	18·7 ₅
0·710	23·9	0·346	-0·1011	0·318	21·4
0·754	26·4 ₅	0·399	-0·1118	0·367	23·7 ₅
0·795	29·0 ₅	0·444	-0·129	0·409	26·2 ₅
0·849	31·7	0·551	-0·146	0·511	28·7
0·851	34·5	0·606	-0·145	0·566	31·4 ₅
0·817	37·3	0·650	-0·146	0·623	34·4
0·735	40·1 ₅	0·659	-0·138	0·629	37·5 ₅

TABLE 1—*continued* $R = 7 \cdot 46 \times 10^6$, $P = 24 \cdot 2$ at., $V = 82 \cdot 6$ f./s. (25·2 m./s.)

C_L	α°	C_D	C_m	C_{D0}	α_0°
-0.084	-1·4	0.0092	-0.0016	0.0088	-1·1
+0.012	0	0.0079	+0.0007	0.0079	-0·0 ₅
0.106	+1·3 ₅	0.0092	0.0013	0.0086	+0·9 ₅
0.197	2·7	0.0126	0.0039	0.0105	2·0
0.372	5·2 ₅	0.0326	0.0124	0.0250	3·9 ₅
0.543	7·9	0.0672	+0.0137	0.0509	6·0
0.678	10·0	0.1144	-0.0243	0.0889	7·6
0.706	11·1 ₅	0.137	-0.0456	0.109	8·6 ₅
0.712	12·3 ₅	0.159	-0.0627	0.131	9·8
0.708	13·6	0.179	-0.0738	0.151	11·1
0.699	16·1	0.221	-0.0855	0.194	13·6
0.698	18·5	0.263	-0.0945	0.236	16·0
0.704	21·1	0.303	-0.0984	0.276	18·6
0.711	23·7 ₅	0.339	-0.0933	0.311	21·2
0.716	26·2 ₅	0.371	-0.0827	0.343	23·7
0.763	29·1 ₅	0.420	-0.0783	0.388	26·4 ₅
0.795	31·8 ₅	0.469	-0.0678	0.434	29·0 ₅
0.797	34·7 ₅	0.514	-0.0582	0.479	31·9
0.776	37·6 ₅	0.550	-0.0439	0.517	34·9
0.653	42·0	0.586	-0.0247	0.562	39·7

TABLE 2

5 per cent. Biconvex Aerofoil with 15 per cent. Split Flap at 90 deg. fixed at
0·15c from Trailing Edge $R = 0 \cdot 30 \times 10^6$, $P = 1$ at., $V = 73 \cdot 6$ f./s. (22·4 m./s.)

C_L	α°	C_D	C_m	C_{D0}	α_0°
-0.247	-11·6	0·155	-0·039	0·152	-10·7 ₅
+0.187	-9·0 ₅	0·160	-0·149	0·158	-9·7
0·407	-6·4	0·182	-0·162	0·173	-7·8 ₅
0·598	-3·9	0·198	-0·169	0·178	-6·0
0·748	-1·3	0·217	-0·158	0·186	-3·9 ₅
0·923	+1·2 ₅	0·239	-0·151	0·192	-2·0 ₅
1·139	3·7	0·267	-0·162	0·195	-0·3 ₅
1·354	6·1 ₅	0·325	-0·219	0·223	+1·3 ₅
1·354	7·4	0·363	-0·243	0·261	2·6
1·323	8·6 ₅	0·399	-0·255	0·302	3·9 ₅
1·247	9·9 ₅	0·431	-0·258	0·345	5·5 ₅
1·160	12·5 ₅	0·482	-0·256	0·407	8·4 ₅
1·143	15·2 ₅	0·549	-0·260	0·477	11·2
1·187	17·8 ₅	0·634	-0·273	0·556	13·6 ₅
1·296	20·4	0·739	-0·293	0·646	15·8
1·284	23·0	0·795	-0·294	0·704	18·4 ₅
1·260	25·6	0·817	-0·286	0·729	21·1
1·181	28·2 ₅	0·806	-0·284	0·729	24·0 ₅

TABLE 2—*continued* $R = 0.76 \times 10^6$, $P = 2.9$ at., $V = 65.8$ f./s. (20.1 m./s.)

C_L	α°	C_D	C_m	C_{D0}	α_0°
0.186	-9.1	0.165	-0.155	0.163	-10.7 ₅
0.376	-6.4 ₅	0.176	-0.159	0.168	-7.8
0.599	-3.9 ₅	0.203	-0.179	0.183	-6.0 ₅
0.770	-1.3 ₅	0.225	-0.173	0.192	-4.1
0.953	+1.2	0.245	-0.167	0.195	-2.2
1.158	3.6 ₅	0.267	-0.174	0.193	-0.4 ₅
1.358	6.1	0.327	-0.226	0.225	+1.3
1.371	7.3 ₅	0.365	-0.251	0.261	2.5
1.324	8.6	0.401	-0.262	0.304	3.9
1.209	11.2 ₅	0.456	-0.266	0.375	6.9 ₅
1.177	13.8 ₅	0.517	-0.270	0.440	9.6 ₅
1.185	16.4	0.592	-0.278	0.514	12.2
1.335	18.9 ₅	0.726	-0.313	0.627	14.2
1.301	21.6	0.747	-0.314	0.653	17.0
1.170	24.2 ₅	0.803	-0.292	0.727	20.1
1.076	26.9 ₅	0.865	-0.285	0.801	23.1 ₅

 $R = 1.28 \times 10^6$, $P = 4.8$ at., $V = 68.7$ f./s. (20.9 m./s.)

C_L	α°	C_D	C_m	C_{D0}	α_0°
0.182	-9.2	0.163	-0.155	0.161	-10.8 ₅
0.375	-6.5 ₅	0.173	-0.157	0.165	-7.8 ₅
0.599	-4.0 ₅	0.200	-0.176	0.180	-6.1 ₅
0.773	-1.4 ₅	0.223	-0.172	0.190	-4.2
0.951	+1.0 ₅	0.244	-0.168	0.194	-2.3 ₅
1.156	3.6	0.264	-0.171	0.190	-0.5
1.361	6.0	0.321	-0.220	0.218	+1.1 ₅
1.370	7.2	0.362	-0.248	0.258	2.3 ₅
1.328	8.4 ₅	0.398	-0.260	0.300	3.7 ₅
1.225	11.1	0.454	-0.269	0.371	6.7 ₅
1.157	13.7	0.508	-0.266	0.434	9.6
1.174	16.2 ₅	0.585	-0.276	0.509	12.1
1.297	18.8 ₅	0.722	-0.309	0.629	14.2 ₅
1.361	21.3 ₅	0.822	-0.334	0.719	15.5 ₅
1.237	24.0 ₅	0.867	-0.314	0.782	19.6 ₅
1.068	26.8	0.840	-0.277	0.777	23.0

TABLE 2—*continued* $R = 2 \cdot 16 \times 10^6, P = 8 \cdot 2$ at., $V = 67 \cdot 6$ f./s. (20·6 m./s.)

C_L	α°	C_D	C_m	C_{D0}	α_0°
0·175	-9·2 ₅	0·146	-0·148	0·144	-10·8 ₅
0·377	-6·6 ₅	0·180	-0·160	0·172	-8·0
0·581	-4·1 ₅	0·200	-0·172	0·181	-6·2
0·762	-1·5	0·225	-0·171	0·193	-4·2
0·942	+1·0	0·244	-0·163	0·195	-2·3 ₅
1·169	3·4 ₅	0·270	-0·172	0·194	-0·7
1·336	5·9	0·324	-0·217	0·225	+1·1 ₅
1·371	7·1	0·361	-0·246	0·257	2·2 ₅
1·356	8·3	0·397	-0·262	0·295	3·5
1·311	10·8 ₅	0·461	-0·275	0·366	6·2
1·230	13·4 ₅	0·536	-0·284	0·452	9·1
1·323	16·0	0·660	-0·312	0·563	11·3
1·388	18·5 ₅	0·756	-0·328	0·649	13·6 ₅
1·388	21·1 ₅	0·842	-0·338	0·735	16·2 ₅
1·292	23·8 ₅	0·875	-0·329	0·782	19·2 ₅
1·050	26·7	0·842	-0·265	0·781	23·0

 $R = 4 \cdot 96 \times 10^6, P = 18 \cdot 2$ at., $V = 70 \cdot 6$ f./s. (21·5 m./s.)

C_L	α°	C_D	C_m	C_{D0}	α_0°
0·144	-9·6	0·161	-0·151	0·160	-11·1
0·368	-6·9 ₅	0·178	-0·164	0·171	-8·2 ₅
0·553	-4·4	0·192	-0·166	0·175	-6·3 ₅
0·726	-1·8	0·217	-0·165	0·188	-4·4
0·918	+0·8	0·239	-0·160	0·192	-2·4 ₅
1·138	3·2 ₅	0·263	-0·168	0·191	-0·8
1·331	5·5 ₅	0·313	-0·213	0·215	+0·8 ₅
1·381	6·6	0·350	-0·241	0·244	1·7
1·361	7·8 ₅	0·385	-0·260	0·282	3·0
1·286	10·4	0·457	-0·273	0·365	5·8 ₅
1·278	12·9 ₅	0·514	-0·275	0·423	8·4
1·343	15·5	0·610	-0·280	0·510	10·7 ₅
1·433	18·0 ₅	0·683	-0·302	0·569	12·9 ₅
1·476	20·5 ₅	0·800	-0·312	0·679	15·3
1·394	23·2 ₅	0·839	-0·297	0·731	18·3
1·099	26·1 ₅	0·808	-0·252	0·741	22·2 ₅

TABLE 2—*continued* $R = 6.44 \times 10^6$, $P = 23.8$ at., $V = 71.4$ f./s. (21.8 m./s.)

C_L	α°	C_D	C_m	C_{D0}	α_0°
0.143	-9.8	0.159	-0.150	0.158	-11.3
0.371	-7.1 ₅	0.179	-0.164	0.171	-8.4 ₅
0.548	-4.6	0.190	-0.166	0.173	-6.5 ₅
0.726	-2.0	0.213	-0.164	0.184	-4.6
0.909	+0.6 ₅	0.236	-0.160	0.190	-2.5 ₅
1.127	3.1	0.261	-0.167	0.190	-0.9
1.322	5.3	0.313	-0.215	0.216	+0.6
1.365	6.4 ₅	0.344	-0.240	0.240	1.6
1.350	7.6	0.376	-0.256	0.275	2.8
1.290	10.1 ₅	0.435	-0.262	0.343	5.5 ₅
1.252	12.8 ₅	0.488	-0.248	0.401	8.4
1.348	15.4	0.557	-0.251	0.456	10.6
1.423	18.0	0.629	-0.248	0.517	12.9 ₅
1.437	20.6 ₅	0.700	-0.239	0.585	15.5 ₅
1.347	23.3 ₅	0.770	-0.222	0.669	18.5 ₅
1.071	26.3 ₅	0.789	-0.171	0.725	22.5 ₅

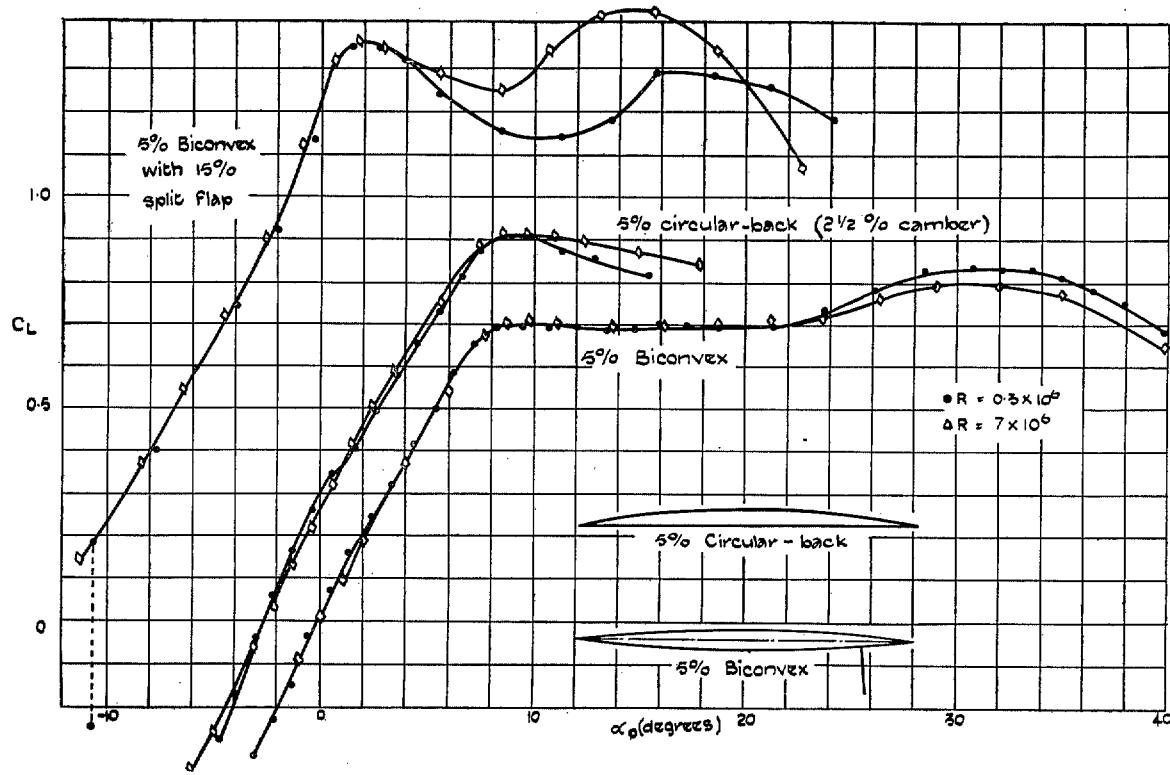


FIG. 1. Five per cent. Biconvex Aerofoil. Lift Coefficient against α_0 .

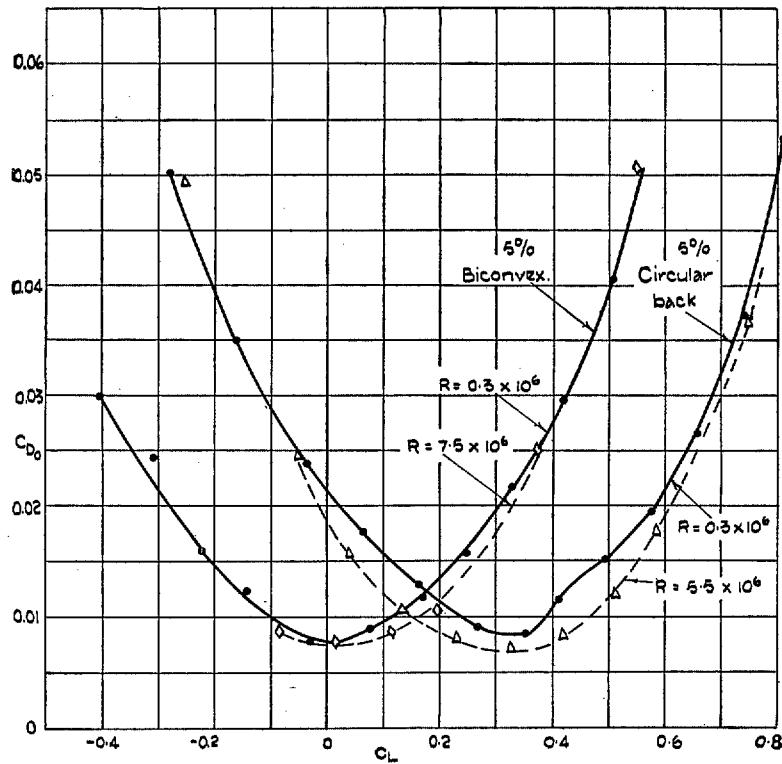


FIG. 2. Profile Drag Coefficient.

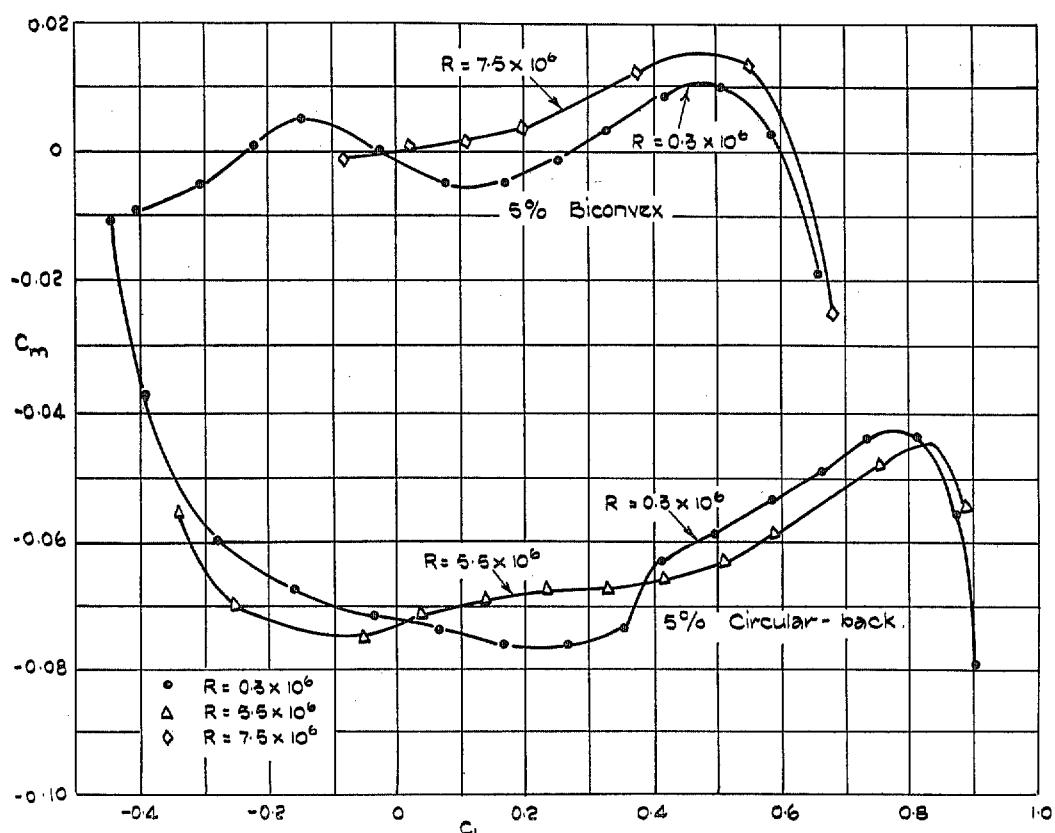


FIG. 3. Moment Coefficient.

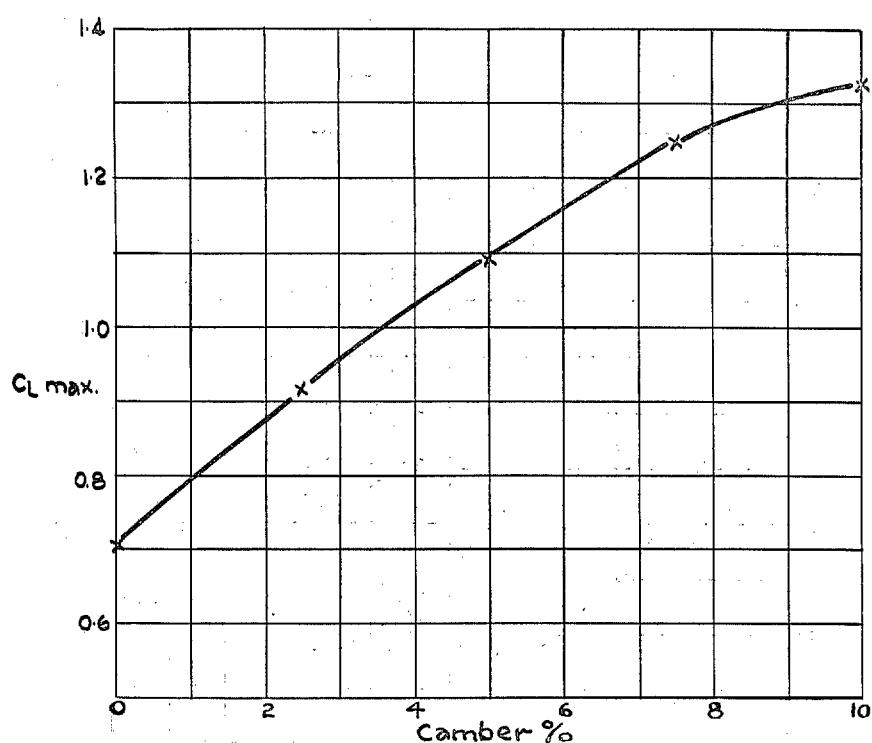


FIG. 4. Effect of Camber on Circular-arc Aerofoils.

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