

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF THE 69TH MEETING OF THE
AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS SUB-COMMITTEE OF T.A.C.
HELD ON MONDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 1979

Present: Mr. J.G. Burgan (Imperial, Chairman)
Mr. E.M. Cumming (Carreras-Rothmans)
Mr. T.W. Hill (Gallaher)
Mr. A.B. Naish (Imperial)
Mr. D.J. Wood (BAT, Secretary)

In Attendance: Mr. J.S. Campbell
Mr. H.B. Grice
Mr. D.H. Beese

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. WELCOME

The Chairman extended a welcome to Mr. J.S. Campbell.

3. MINUTES OF THE 68TH MEETING

The Minutes (T 1248) were signed after making the following corrections:

Page 3, para. 2, the sentence: "Mr. Grice said ... like Fenidol" was deleted.

Page 4, bottom line, the figure of \$5,000 was altered to \$3,000.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Item 7

A letter (TA 1404) had been received from Dr. B.J. Carpenter giving information about the analytical methods used in Canada for determining tobacco sugars and alkaloids, and commenting on the magnitude of the variance. Mr. Wood added that he understood that the results of an inter-laboratory cross-check would be available at the annual meeting of Delhi Research Station on the 16th November.

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5. GENERAL REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS IN N. AMERICA

Mr. Campbell presented a review of the situation in the U.S.A. and Canada, touching on matters other than blue mould and Ridomil.

EPA - In spite of representations to Mr. Preston, the guidelines still make no provision for carcinogenicity tests on the smoke from pesticide-treated tobacco. It was agreed that Mr. Campbell would make further attempts to have such tests included.

JSC

MH - As indicated in a recent issue of "Pesticide and Toxic Chemical News" (see TA 1301) the diethanolamine salt of maleic hydrazide may be cancelled and the potassium salt retained. The potassium salt accounts for about 60% of current use in the U.S.A. In an effort to reduce residues of MH, Mr. Lanier of the U.S.D.A. has proposed that growers be asked to sign a declaration stating that they have used only one application of MH. It is possible that knapsack sprayers may be banned presumably to safeguard the operators.

Tyvac - Research is continuing, although the material is very expensive compared with polythene.

Methoprene - Philip Morris are planning to pack around 40,000 - 60,000 hogsheads treated at 10 ppm with Methoprene (alias Kabat, Altosid). The cost is \$3.30 per hogshead. Mr. Campbell asked what the attitude of members was to the deliberate addition of this material to tobacco. No particular worries were voiced, but Mr. Campbell was asked to find out whether pyrolysis data were available.

JSC

Beetle Detection - Mr. Campbell will circulate a paper on the detection of insects in bales of tobacco by means of infra-red CO₂ analysis.

JSC

Actellic - Mr. Campbell believes that I.C.I. may have withdrawn Actellic. However, Mr. Hill reported that it is still widely used as a space treatment in warehouses, and that it is satisfactory for this purpose provided it does not come into direct contact with tobacco.

DDVP - This is going through the pre-R.P.A.R. stage of examination, but is unlikely to be cancelled for use on tobacco. Mr. Hill referred again to complaints of headaches etc. by personnel in warehouses where DDVP is used (see item 9, minutes of 68th meeting). Mr. Campbell said his organisation had experienced no such problems after extensive use of DDVP.

CGA 41065 - This chemical has no application other than control of suckers on tobacco, and Ciba-Geigy may not be prepared to spend a lot of money on it.

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Taint Tests - The requirement for taint tests is still causing problems, particularly with new chemicals where toxicological information is insufficient to reassure panellists.

NCSU - Mr. Grice reported that T.A.C.'s funding of the NCSU pesticide residue laboratory would shortly be coming up for renewal. It was agreed to recommend the continuance of funding at the same level, i.e. \$3,000 per annum for a further three years.

6. BLUE MOULD / RIDOMIL

Mr. Campbell referred to the Canadian growers' urgent need for a fungicide to be available in the event of another attack of blue mould next year. Ridomil had proved highly effective, and the Canadians wanted T.A.C. approval for its use. Referring to his letter of the 18th October (TA 1382) he asked if BAT had been successful in tracking down Mr. Jim Swain, and whether the latter had been able to provide information on Ciba-Geigy's toxicological submissions. Mr. Wood replied that Mr. Swain is Ciba-Geigy's representative in Australia, and it seemed unlikely that he would be any more forthcoming than other parts of Ciba-Geigy's organisation. Furthermore, the feeling of members was that Australia's requirements for toxicological data prior to registration might not be as stringent as those of other authorities.

Mr. Hill said he had made a further direct approach to Ciba-Geigy for toxicological information, but to no effect. Gallaher had themselves carried out some investigations on Ridomil. The Ames test for mutagenicity had proved negative. Pyrolysis followed by gas chromatography and mass spectrometry had revealed the presence of 2,6-dimethylaniline and a number of compounds with an aromatic ring structure, but no breakdown products to be worried about. He understood the Ministry of Agriculture were examining Ridomil for use against potato blight and had found a number of metabolites.

In discussion it was noted that Ridomil is registered in Germany for use on hops, with registration for use on potatoes expected shortly, that it has an experimental label in the U.K. for use on lettuce and an experimental label in the U.S.A. for control of black shank on tobacco. Ciba-Geigy have applied for full registration in the U.S.A. and wish to include blue mould as well as black shank on the label. It was understood that long-term toxicity tests requested by the German health authorities and conducted in the U.S.A. were due to terminate in January 1980, but that evaluation of the results would occupy several months and registration for use on the German crop was not expected until late 1980. This, however, did not rule out the importation of Ridomil-treated tobacco into Germany, as made clear in Dr. Wittekindt's letter of the 9th October, 1979 (TA 1336).

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ACTION

Mr. Campbell informed the meeting that, in a crisis situation, individual States would be able to issue a label for Ridomil. He suggested that interested parties in the U.S.A. and Canada should be urged to contact Dr. Wittekindt direct, as the information contained in his two recent letters (TA 1336 and TA 1418) could be very helpful to them.

Mr. Grice said the T.A.C. was under strong pressure from Canada to approve the use of Ridomil in the event of a further outbreak of blue mould next year. He thought it would be unfortunate to have to tell the Canadians not to use Ridomil, but at the same time wondered if they could be persuaded not to carry out any treatment unless there were actual signs of a blue mould outbreak. Mr. Campbell stressed the necessity for speed if an outbreak did develop, and pointed out that for control measures to be effective they would have to be fully worked out in advance.

Mr. Wood reported that Mr. R.S. Wade, of Imperial Tobacco Limited, Canada, had originally hoped to be present in order to put certain propositions to the A.C.S.C., but because of a meeting in Ottawa that he had to attend on the 13th November he had asked Mr. Wood to convey the message for him. Mr. Wade had three requests:

- (a) Can the T.A.C. approve the use of Ridomil on seedbeds?
- (b) Can the T.A.C. give interim approval for limited use of Ridomil in the field in 1980 if the necessity should arise? Limited use might take the form of a single prophylactic spray application after planting out in the field, with no further measures unless blue mould became established; in that event, the minimal amount of spraying (perhaps two further applications) to keep the blue mould at bay.
- (c) Can the T.A.C. approve the commercial use of dithiocarbamates on the Canadian crop? At present these are not registered for field use in Canada.

Some members were adamant that they could not agree to the use of Ridomil, even on seedbeds, until they were satisfied that adequate toxicological tests, including long-term tests for carcinogenicity and inhalation tests, had been carried out with negative results, that pyrolysis experiments did not reveal the presence of any breakdown products that might be a cause of concern, that residue levels on treated tobacco would be no higher than the figure of 5 ppm suggested in Germany, and that use of Ridomil would not give rise to problems of taint. The Chairman suggested that it was up to the Canadians to put pressure on Ciba-Geigy to release all relevant information. At the recent CORESTA meeting in

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Athens, Ciba-Geigy had given details of a method for determining residues of Ridomil but at the same time had stressed that the information was confidential to the members present, and this he considered unreasonable. It was agreed, however, that there would be no objection to the use of dithiocarbamates on the Canadian crop.

Mr. Wood asked what the attitude of members would be if Ridomil were registered by the federal authorities in the U.S.A. for use on tobacco in 1980. It was agreed that, in that event, there could be no objection to similar use in Canada.

Mr. Grice referred to a suggestion that Mr. R.S. Wade might come over shortly to have discussions with the A.C.S.C. The Chairman said he was sure members would be pleased to see Mr. Wade, but was not sure that Mr. Wade would find a visit worthwhile unless he could provide the sort of information that would satisfy members. Possibly this information would be forthcoming as a result of the meetings in Ottawa and at Delhi. Mr. Campbell added that the Director of Delhi Research Station, Mr. Marks, had just completed a visit to Australia to find out more about Ridomil, and would be reporting his findings at the Ottawa meeting.

It was agreed that Mr. Wood would 'phone Mr. Wade to inform him of the meeting's decisions with regard to Ridomil and dithiocarbamates, to impress on him the need for more information about Ridomil, to suggest that the Canadians put pressure on Ciba-Geigy to release information, and to recommend a direct approach to Dr. Wittekindt.

DJW

Mr. Naish, who recently attended the CORESTA meeting in Athens, reported that experiments with Ridomil conducted by S.E.I.T.A. had shown residues of around 1 ppm resulting from multiple sprayings (five sequential applications) with total weight of active ingredient per hectare of 1300-1500 g.

Mr. Campbell said he would be attending a blue mould symposium on the 4th December, sponsored by the N.C.S.U., and would report back.

JSC

7. 33RD TOBACCO CHEMISTS' RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Mr. Campbell drew attention to the symposium entitled "Pathological, Entomological and Physiological Factors which Influence Tobacco Chemistry", copies of which had been circulated (TA 1425). He considered points of particular interest to be the arguments concerning hydrazine and its possible derivation from MH (p.142), the reported absence of any effect on biological activity from fatty alcohols at a level of 480 ppm (p.146), the mention of dinitroanilines (p.146), and the remarks about Ethephon (p.147). He thought the widespread use of Ethephon was a bit unlikely.

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ACTION

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Campbell reported that the U.S.D.A. have produced a document entitled "Improved Tobacco Safety" bringing together a number of U.S.D.A. programmes: he promised to provide a copy for circulation.

JSC

Suggested measures for reducing the level of MH residues include the use of sprays which direct the material onto the stem of the tobacco plant, and sequential treatment consisting of two applications of fatty alcohols followed by one of MH.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was left open.

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DECISIONS

Item 5: Mr. Campbell to make further attempts to have carcinogenicity tests on the smoke from pesticide-treated tobacco included in the EPA guidelines.

Mr. Campbell to find out whether any pyrolysis data are available on Methoprene.

Item 6: Mr. Wood to 'phone Mr. R.S. Wade to inform him of the meeting's decisions on the use of Ridomil and dithiocarbamates in Canada, to impress on him the need for more information about Ridomil; to suggest that the Canadians put pressure on Ciba-Geigy to release information, and to recommend a direct approach to Dr. Wittekindt.

Mr. Campbell to send a report of the December 4 symposium on Ridomil at N.C.S.U.

Item 8: Mr. Campbell to send a copy of the document "Improved Tobacco Safety" for circulation to members.

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