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## Controlled-Release Pesticides

### 2. Fungicidally Active Water-soluble Polymer

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Some water-soluble polymers were prepared as controlled-release fungicides. Copoly-(vinyl sodium dithiocarbamate-vinyl isothiocyanate) and poly(ethyleneimine sodium dithiocarbamate) were inhibitory for the growth of *Aspergillus niger* and *Trichoderma viride*. Poly(vinyl sodium xanthate) prevented the sporulation of *Asp. niger*. Poly-(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl acrylate) inhibited the mycelial growth of *Pythium debaryanum*. Decomposition products of poly(ethyleneimine sodium dithiocarbamate) by light was more inhibitory on the growth of *Asp. niger* than the intact polymer.

## INTRODUCTION

Copolymers, to which bioactive groups bind covalently, were recently prepared as an attempt for controlled-release pesticides (Naruse and Maekawa, 1977). The copolymers were found to release some compounds of lower molecular weight by exposure to natural light at a moderate temperature for a considerable time and reveal an antifungal or herbicidal activity. Some of the decomposition products were more fungicidal than the original compound combined with the polymer. For the purpose of further development of these facts, water-soluble polymers combined covalently with a bioactive moiety were synthesized and their antifungal activity was investigated.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Chemical modification of some synthetic polymers

#### 1) Copoly(vinyl sodium dithiocarbamate-vinyl isothiocyanate) (I)

By means of Hofmann degradation of poly(acrylamide) ( $n=10^4$ , Katayama Kagaku commercial product), poly(vinylamine) (II) with 83 % of primary amine content was obtained (Sugiura *et al.*, 1969). Ultraviolet absorption spectrum of this compound (II) as hydrochloride salt was shown in Fig. 1. Anal. Found (%): N, 16.33.  $\eta_{sp}/c$  (0.5 % aq. soln., 20°C) = 2.7222.  $IR_{\max}^{KBr}$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>): 3400-3200 (-NH-, -COOH), 2900 (-CH<sub>2</sub>-), 2800-2000 (-NH<sub>3</sub><sup>+</sup>Cl<sup>-</sup>), 1700-1500 (-CONH-, -COOH). Empirical formula:  $(C_{14}H_{33}N_5O_3Cl_4)_n$ ,  $n=715$ .

Ten ml of 15 % aqueous sodium hydroxide solution was added to 10 ml of 1% poly(vinylamine hydrochloride), then mixed with 2 ml of carbon disulfide.

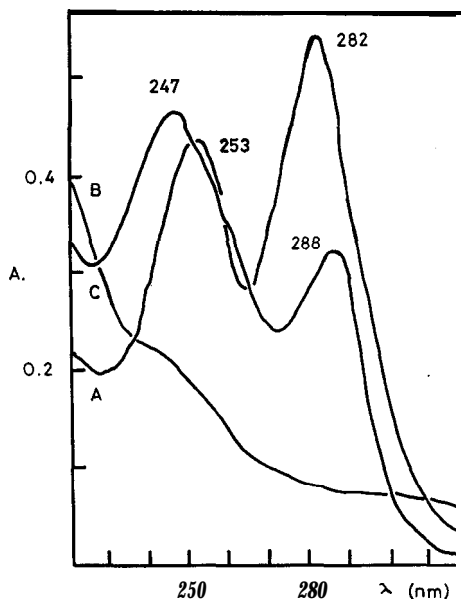


Fig. 1. UV spectra of copoly(vinyl sodium dithiocarbamate-vinyl isothiocyanate) (A), poly(vinylamine) (B), and sodium ethyldithiocarbamate (C).

The mixture was stirred for 5 hours at 40°C. The red reaction mixture was dialyzed against water, then was concentrated to 50ml *in vacuo*. The residue was poured into 500 ml of tetrahydrofuran to give a yellow precipitate which was filtered, washed well with methanol and ether, then dried under reduced pressure. One-fourth gram of copoly(vinyl sodium dithiocarbamate-vinyl isothiocyanate) was obtained (Carpov *et al.*, 1971; Hoff and Blok, 1973). Anal. Found (%): C, 38.41; H, 5.78; N, 16.18.  $\eta_{sp}/c$  (0.5 % aq. soln., 20°C)=0.7327.  $UV\lambda_{max}^{H_2O}(nm)$ : 282 ( $-NH\overset{|}{C}=S$ ), 247 ( $-CSSNa$ ) (Fig. 1).  $IR\nu_{max}^{KBr}(cm^{-1})$ : 3400-3000 ( $-NH$ -,  $-OH$ ), 2900, 1430 ( $-CH_2-$ ), 2100 ( $-N=C=S$ ), 1700-1500 ( $-CONH$ -,  $-COOH$ -,  $-NH\overset{|}{C}=S$ ), 1250 ( $-CH-NH-$ ), 1120 ( $C=S$ ) (Fig. 2).

The aqueous solution of the copolymer produced water-insoluble precipitates by heating or on standing long at room temperature. The dithiocarbamoyl content determined by UV spectrometry was 25 % as sodium diethyldithiocarbamate.

## 2) Poly(ethyleneimine sodium dithiocarbamate) (III)

Poly(ethyleneimine sodium dithiocarbamate) was prepared from poly(ethyleneimine) (Tokyokasei Organic Chemicals) (IV), sodium hydroxide, and carbon disulfide (Okawara *et al.*, 1966). The dithiocarbamoyl content determined was 14.3 mole % (Clark *et al.*, 1951).  $\eta_{sp}/c$  (0.5 % aq. soln., 20°C)=0.3830. Anal. Found (%): C, 26.40; H, 5.21; N, 10.44.  $UV\lambda_{max}^{H_2O}(nm)$ : 292 ( $=N-\overset{|}{C}=S$ ), 257 ( $-CSSNa$ ).  $IR\nu_{max}^{KBr}(cm^{-1})$ : 3400-3000 ( $-NH$ -, hydrate  $-OH$ ), 2900 ( $-CH_2-$ ), 1630 (hydrate  $-OH$ ), 1460 ( $=N-\overset{|}{C}=S$ ), 1120 ( $C=S$ ).

The product in dimethylformamide or aqueous solution was decomposed by natural light at room temperature to release sulfur-containing compounds and to become alkaline.

### 3) Poly(vinyl sodium xanthate) (V)

A mixture of 38 g of carbon disulfide, 300 ml of aqueous solution of 7 % poly-(vinyl alcohol) ( $n=500$ , Katayama Kagaku Chemicals), and 100 ml of 20 % sodium hydroxide solution was agitated for 10 hours at 30°C. After the reaction was over, the lower layer, unreacted carbon disulfide, was separated off. The aqueous layer obtained was dialyzed against water and lyophilized to give 8.2 g of a hygroscopic yellowish-green powder (Pramanik and Choudhury, 1970). The detection of sulfur by Lassaigne's test was positive. Anal. Found (%): C, 46.83; H, 7.87. Empirical formula:  $(C_{28}H_{55}O_{14}S_2Na)_{n=36}$ .  $UV\lambda_{max}^{H_2O}(nm)$ : 302 (-CSSNa).  $IR\nu_{max}^{KBr}(cm^{-1})$ : 3300 (-OH), 2900 (-CH<sub>2</sub>-), 1640 (-OCOCH<sub>3</sub>), 1140-1010 (-CSSNa). The xanthate content by UV spectrometry: 18.6 %.

### 4) Poly(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl acrylate) (VZ)

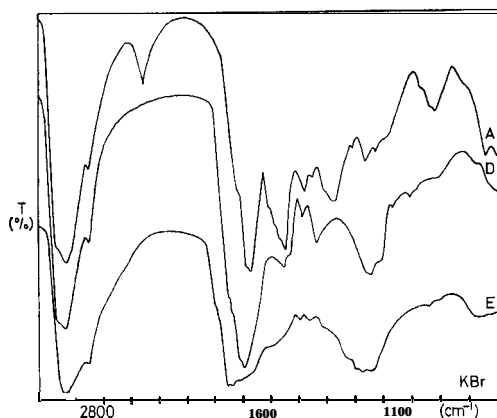
Acryloyl chloride was synthesized from acrylic acid and benzoyl chloride (Stempel *et al.*, 1950). Four and a half grams of acryloyl chloride were polymerized by UV-irradiation from high pressure mercury lamp under dry nitrogen gas for 5 hours at room temperature. Tetrahydrofuran-soluble poly(acryloyl chloride) with 80 % of acid chloride content was obtained in a good yield (Vrancken and Smetz, 1954; Linoli *et al.*, 1970).

Four grams of 3-hydroxy-5-methylisoxazole (Tomita *et al.*, 1973) and 5.5 g of triethylamine dissolved in 50 ml dry tetrahydrofuran were added to 100 ml of 4 % poly(acryloyl chloride) tetrahydrofuran solution. The mixture was stirred for 22 hours at 25°C, then allowed to stand until two layers appeared. The lower layer treated with 20 ml of 20 % aqueous solution of triethylamine at room temperature divided into two layers on standing. The separated lower layer was poured into chloroform to give deposits whose solution of methanol was poured into 2 l of ether to give precipitates which were filtered, washed with chloroform and dried *in vacuo*. Yield of the crude product was 0.9 g. An aqueous solution of the crude product was dialyzed against water and lyophilized to give a hygroscopic white powder. Yield 0.3 g.  $\eta_{sp}/c$  (1% aq. soln., 20°C) = 5.5531. Anal. Found (%): C, 49.43; H, 6.46; N, 2.18. Empirical formula:  $(C_{28}H_{35}NO_{17})_n$ .  $IR\nu_{max}^{KBr}(cm^{-1})$ : 3400-3300 (-COOH), 2900 (-CH<sub>2</sub>-), 2800-2400 (isoxazole ring), 1720 (-COOR), 1710 (-COOH), 1690-1610 (-CH=C-, C=N), 1260 (-COOR), 1160 (-COOK) (Fig. 2).

The molar ratio of 5-methylisoxazol-3-yl acrylate and acrylic acid in the product was supposed to be 1 : 7 from analysis.

### 5) Poly(5-vinyl 2-amino-1,3,4-thiadiazole) (VZZ)

Nine grams of thiosemicarbazide were added drop by drop to 3.5 g of poly-(acrylic acid) (Wako Pure Chemicals) in 186 g of 98 % sulfuric acid. The homogeneous solution was further stirred for 7 hours at 80-90°C, and then the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature (Elderfield and Sherman, 1961; Kurono, 1974). Insoluble parts in the reaction mixture was removed by a glass-filter. The filtrate was added carefully to 1 l of cold ether with stirring, to



**Fig. 2.** IR spectra of copoly(vinyl sodium dithiocarbamate-vinyl isothiocyanate) (A), copoly(5-vinyl 2-amino-1,3,4-thiadiazole-potassium acrylate) (D), and copoly(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl acrylate-acrylic acid) (E).

obtain yellow precipitates. The precipitates were neutralized with potassium carbonate solution, then filtered, and washed thoroughly with acetone. An aqueous solution of the product was dialyzed against water and lyophilized to yield 2.2 g of light brown powder. The detection of sulfur by Lassaigne's test was positive.  $\eta_{sp}/c$  (1% aq. soln., 20°C) = 0.1855. Anal. Found (%): C, 42.50; H, 5.42; N, 17.40; Ash, (+). Empirical formula:  $(C_9H_{12}O_2SK_2)_n$ . UV  $\lambda_{max}^{IN NaOH}$  (nm): 251 (2-amino-1,3,4-thiadiazole ring). IR  $\nu_{max}^{KBr}$  ( $cm^{-1}$ ): 3400 (-NH-), 3300 (-COOK), 2900 (-CH<sub>2</sub>-), 1720-1600 (-COOK, C=N) (Fig. 2).

The thiadiazole content estimated by UV spectrometry was 25 mole % as 2-amino-1,3,4-thiadiazole.

#### Fungicidal test

An antifungal activity of the intact or decomposed polymer was evaluated by paper disc method using Toyokagaku's qualitative filter paper with 6mm diameter. *Aspergillus niger*, *Trichoderma viride* Pers. ex. Fr. (IFO 5720) and *Pythium debaryanum* Hesse (IFO 5919) were incubated at 28°C under a moderate humidity. The culture medium was 3 % Czapek-agar for *Asp. niger*, and 3 % potato-sucrose-agar for *T. viride* and *P. debaryanum*. The fungicidal activity was defined as rate of sporulation, extent of inhibiting zone and persistence. The inhibiting zone was measured at 5 to 11 days after inoculation (Yamamoto, 1960; Sugawara and Koyama, 1971; Reddish, 1957; Golden and Oster, 1947). The results were shown in Table 1.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Copoly(vinyl sodium dithiocarbamate-vinyl isothiocyanate) obtained by the dithiocarbamoylation of poly(vinylamine) had an inhibitory effect on the mycelial growth of *Asp. niger* and *T. viride*. The active substances were thought

Table 1. Fungicidal activity of synthetic polymers.\*

Compd. No.	<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	<i>Trichoderma viride</i>	<i>Pythium debaryanum</i>
$\text{CH}_3\text{NHCSSNa}$	4	3	3
$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OCSSNa}$	.	1	1
$\begin{array}{c} \text{HO}-\text{C}=\text{C} \\ \text{N} \quad \text{O} \\ \text{C}-\text{CH}_3 \end{array}$	0	0	5
$\begin{array}{c} \text{N} \quad \text{N} \\ \text{H} \text{C} \quad \text{C} \\ \text{S} \quad \text{C}-\text{NH}_2 \end{array}$	0	0	1
( I ) $\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{NHCSSNa} \quad \text{NCS} \end{array} \right)_n$	3	1	0
( II ) $\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{NH}_2 \end{array} \right)_n$	0	1	1
( III ) $\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{N}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{CSSNa} \end{array} \right)_n$	4	3	0
( IV ) $\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{NH}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{NCS} \end{array} \right)_n$	3	3	3
( V ) $\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{OCSSNa} \end{array} \right)_n$	.	3	1
( VI ) $\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{COOC}-\text{C} \\ \text{N} \quad \text{O} \\ \text{C}-\text{CH}_3 \end{array} \right)_n$	0	0	2
( VII ) $\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{CH}-\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{S} \quad \text{C}=\text{N} \\ \text{C}=\text{N} \\ \text{NH}_2 \end{array} \right)_n$	0	0	0
** $\left( \begin{array}{c} \text{N}-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2 \\ \text{CSSNa} \end{array} \right)_n$	5	3	0

5 : Zone of inhibition was more than 4 cm.

4 : Zone of inhibition was more than 2cm.

3 : Zone of inhibition was less than 2 cm.

2 : Organism failed to grow on disc.

1 : Slight growth of organism on disc.

. : No sporulation.

0 : No inhibition.

\* : 0.5% aqueous solution.

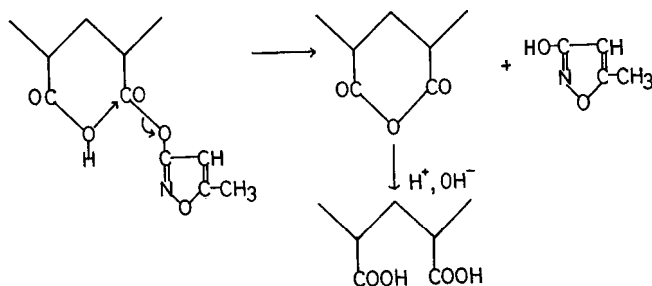
\*\* : Compound decomposed by natural light at room temperature.

to be sulfur, carbon disulfide, hydrogen sulfide, carbonyl sulfide, and sodium hydrosulfide released from the dithiocarbamate and isothiocyanate groups by hydrolysis or decomposition by light.

*Asp. niger* and *T. viride* were inhibited to grow by poly(ethyleneimine). Poly(ethyleneimine sodium dithiocarbamate) inhibited the growth of *Asp. niger* stronger than poly(ethyleneimine) did, and revealed the antifungal activity on *Asp. niger* in doors for about 8 months at 70-80 % humidity. The aqueous solution of yellow poly(ethyleneimine sodium dithiocarbamate) was decomposed by natural light at room temperature. The mixture of decomposition products exhibited a stronger inhibitory activity on the growth of *Asp. niger* than intact poly(ethyleneimine sodium dithiocarbamate) and sodium methylthiocarbamate.

The sporulation of *Asp. niger* was influenced by poly(vinyl sodium xanthate) with a less fungicidal activity than that of sodium ethylxanthate.

A viscous aqueous solution of poly(5-methylisoxazol-3-yl acrylate) was harmful for the growth of *P. debaryanum* on the disc paper. This polymer can release 3-hydroxy-5-methylisoxazole by the effect of neighbouring carboxyl group (Sakurada, 1968) to the isoxazole group, as shown in Scheme 1.



Scheme 1. Release of 3-hydroxy-5-methylisoxazole by hydrolysis.

It was evident that hydrolyzing velocity (Smets and van Humbeeck, 1963) of the ester was in concert with the neighbouring effect of carboxyl group at the release of pesticidal alcoholic moiety from the copolymer.

Poly(5-vinyl 2-amino-1,3,4-thiadiazole) was not effective on the growth of the three species of fungi.

It is concluded from these experiments that some water-soluble polymers which can be decomposed by hydrolysis or light to release antifungal substances are useful for the control of fungi.

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