INTERNATIONAL BIODETERIORATION RESEARCH GROUP

Paints Project Group: Annual Report 2001

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The Paints Project Group met twice in the 2001 period. Thirty five participants attended a meeting in April hosted by Borax in Guildford UK, and in October, 24 participants attended a meeting hosted by Schülke & Mayr in Hamburg Germany (The unusually low attendance was mainly due to travel restrictions in some companies after the terror attacks on USA on September 11th)

At the Spring meeting, the Paints Project Group had a special presentation from PhD. student Susan English, about the use of MALDI-TOF (Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionisation – Time-Of-Flight) for identification of microorganisms isolated on exposed paint panels.

A discussion about the maintenance of test strains was begun at the Spring meeting and information about the different methods currently applied was collected from the members. This was followed up at the Autumn meeting by an agreement to perform a ring test: "Determination of the Effect of Inoculum Subculture Regime on Potency of Challenge Consortia in Paint". The work will be started by volunteering members early in 2002.

The Algicidal Coatings Sub-Group continued to examine individual factors which affect growth in laboratory studies. The latest phase has identified a defined replacement for the commercial NPK fertiliser that has been used to date.

The In-Can Preservation Sub-Group has finalised the draft for the bacterial test method for publication in the European Coatings Journal. A second test by the “task force” on in-can fungal growth has been completed and activity is being focussed on tinting pastes.

The Plant Hygiene Testing Sub-Group has decided to settle for 2 papers, amending the paper "Recommendations for Production Hygiene in the Paint Industry" to include methods for monitoring the production hygiene.

A new ring test was performed by selected members at the Spring meeting as part of the discussions on the rating systems for surface growth. It appears that a ranking between the photographs of panels is helpful compared to direct rating of the separate panels on a scale from 0 to 5.