

INTERNATIONAL BIODETERIORATION RESEARCH GROUP

Paints Project Group: Annual Report 2002

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The Paints Project Group met twice in the 2002 period. Thirty two participants attended a meeting in April hosted by IMSL in Potsdam, Germany, and in October, 28 participants attended a meeting hosted by TNO in Zeist, The Netherlands.

At the Spring meeting, discussions about challenge inocula and the maintenance of test strains continued. It was agreed that Akzo-Nobel, Sassenheim, would initiate some studies before a ring test was carried out. The results of these studies were reported at the Autumn meeting, where it was agreed to start work on characterising common isolates in “modern” paints.

The In-can Preservation Sub-Group questioned the relevance of the test organisms listed in the draft method. When these organisms were originally isolated from paint by the IBRG members, the formulations were rather different from today’s paints. It was decided to do some work to establish the original organisms' ability to infect “modern” paint formulations before finalising the draft for publication. Work has also been undertaken by Akzo-Nobel, Sassenheim, on one alternative method for testing fungal growth in tinters. Proposals for further work were discussed at the Autumn meeting.

The Algicidal Coatings Sub-Group has decided which parameters need to be investigated in the next stage of the laboratory studies. At the Autumn meeting it was also concluded that one of the initial aims, to develop a laboratory method with good correlation to field trials, will not be fulfilled. However, the aim of the Group is still to develop a standardised, reproducible test that can be performed on a paint film in the laboratory to evaluate algicidal efficacy.

The Group’s work with a rating system for surface growth has resulted in an agreement that BS3900 Part G6 should continue not to contain pass / fail criteria. The excellent photos, which have been produced for the study will be made available as reference material on the IBRG web site.