

TRIFLURALIN

1. Exposure Data

1.1 Chemical and physical data

1.1.1 Synonyms, structural and molecular data

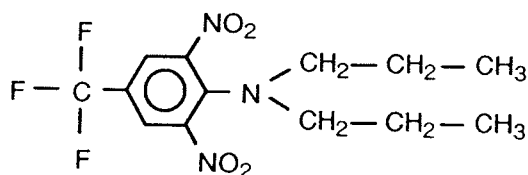
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Chem. Abstr. Name: 2,6-Dinitro-*N,N*-dipropyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)benzenamine

IUPAC Systematic Name: α,α,α -Trifluoro-2,6-dinitro-*N,N*-dipropyl-*para*-toluidine;
2,6-dinitro-*N,N*-dipropyl-4-trifluoromethylaniline

Synonyms: 4-(Trifluoromethyl)-2,6-dinitro-*N,N*-dipropylaniline



$C_{13}H_{16}F_3N_3O_4$

Mol. wt: 335.28

1.1.2 Chemical and physical properties

- (a) *Description:* Yellow-orange crystals (Royal Society of Chemistry, 1989)
- (b) *Boiling-point:* 139-140°C at 4.2 mm Hg [0.56 kPa] (Budavari, 1989)
- (c) *Melting-point:* 48.5-49°C (technical-grade, 98% pure) (Worthing & Walker, 1987)
- (d) *Spectroscopy data:* Infrared spectroscopy data have been reported (US Environmental Protection Agency, 1975).
- (e) *Solubility:* Slightly soluble in water (< 1 mg/l at 27°C); freely soluble in common organic solvents, such as acetone (400 g/l), Stoddard solvent, xylene (580 g/l) and aromatic naphthas (Worthing & Walker, 1987; Budavari, 1989; Royal Society of Chemistry, 1989; Meister, 1990)
- (f) *Vapour pressure:* 1.02×10^{-4} mm Hg [0.14×10^{-4} kPa] at 25°C (Royal Society of Chemistry, 1989)
- (g) *Stability:* Stable to hydrolysis (US Environmental Protection Agency, 1987); decomposed by ultraviolet irradiation under acidic conditions, mainly to 2-amino-6-nitro- α,α,α -trifluoro-*para*-toluidine; at alkaline pH mainly to 2-ethyl-7-nitro-5-fluoromethylbenzimidazole (Leitis & Crosby, 1974)

(h) *Conversion factor for airborne concentrations*¹: $\text{mg/m}^3 = 13.71 \times \text{ppm}$

1.1.3 Trade names, technical products and impurities

Some examples of trade names are: Agreflan; Agriflan 24; Elancolan; L 36352; Lilly 36,352; Nitran; Nitran K; Olitref; Super-Treflan; Synfloran; Trefanocide; Treflan; Trifloran; Trifluraline; Trikepin; Tristar.

In the USA, trifluralin is available as 94.5-98% active ingredient technical product (US Environmental Protection Agency, 1987). It is available as emulsifiable concentrates, granules and liquid formulations (Anon., 1989; Meister, 1990). In Europe, a soluble concentrate is also available (Royal Society of Chemistry, 1986). In the USSR, trifluralin is available as emulsifiable concentrates and in granules (Izmerov, 1985).

Trifluralin is compatible with most other pesticides and may be combined with both dry and liquid fertilizers (Royal Society of Chemistry, 1989). It is formulated in combination with isoproturon, linuron, napropamide, terbutryne, benefin (benfluralin), metribuzin, bromoxynil octanoate, ioxynil octanoate, trietazine, neburon and alachlor with petroleum distillates (Worthing & Walker, 1987; Anon., 1989).

Technical-grade trifluralin may be contaminated with *N*-nitrosodi-*n*-propylamine (Kello, 1989; see IARC, 1978). This compound is present as a result of a side-reaction between nitrosating agents and di-*n*-propylamine during an amination step in the manufacturing process (West & Day, 1979). In the USA, trifluralin may contain no more than 0.5 ppm (mg/kg) total *N*-nitrosamine (US Environmental Protection Agency, 1987) and in Italy, no more than 0.4 ppm (mg/kg) nitrosamines (Anon., 1990). In the specification of FAO (1988), trifluralin may contain no more than 1 mg/kg.

1.1.4 Analysis

Selected methods for the analysis of trifluralin in various matrices are given in Table 1.

Table 1. Methods for the analysis of trifluralin^a

Sample	Sample preparation	Assay procedure	Limit of detection	Reference
Water	Extract with dichloromethane; isolate extract; dry; concentrate with solvent exchange to methyl <i>tert</i> -butyl ether	GC/ECD	0.025 µg/l	US Environmental Protection Agency (1989a)
Crops	Extract with methanol; re-extract into dichloromethane; evaporate; dissolve in hexane; clean-up on Florisil column; evaporate to dryness; dissolve in benzene	GC/ECD	0.005-0.01 ppm (mg/kg)	US Food and Drug Administration (1989)

¹Calculated from: $\text{mg/m}^3 = (\text{molecular weight}/24.45) \times \text{ppm}$, assuming standard temperature (25°C) and pressure (760 mm Hg [101.3 kPa])

Table 1 (contd)

Sample	Sample preparation	Assay procedure	Limit of detection	Reference
Specified vegetables (carrots, green beans, <i>Brassica</i> vegetables)	Crops containing BHC, ethion and/or zineb require an extra TLC clean-up procedure. Develop TLC plate; scrap trifluralin region; transfer to a micro column; elute with acetone; evaporate eluate to dryness; dissolve residue in benzene	GC/ECD	< 0.01 ppm (mg/kg)	US Food and Drug Administration (1989)
Dry formulation	Extract with acetone in Soxhlet; evaporate; dilute to volume with acetone	GC/FID	Not reported	Williams (1984)
Liquid formulation	Extract with acetone	GC/FID	Not reported	Association of Official Analytical Chemists (1984)

^aAbbreviations: BHC, benzene hexachloride; GC/ECD, gas chromatograph/electron capture detector; GC/FID, gas chromatograph/flame ionization detector; TLC, thin-layer chromatography

1.2 Production and use

1.2.1 Production

Trifluralin was first registered in 1963 (US Environmental Protection Agency, 1987). It is prepared by reacting di-*n*-propylamine with 2,6-dinitro-4-trifluoromethylchlorobenzene (Izmerov, 1985).

Trifluralin is produced currently in Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Spain and the USA (Meister, 1990). According to information supplied by current manufacturers, annual worldwide production is approximately 20 000-25 000 tonnes. Production by two companies (in tonnes) was: 1985, ~19 000; 1980, ~28 000; 1975, ~17 600; 1970, ~4100; 1965, ~1500. A third company produced 11 900 tonnes in 1986-89, 9400 tonnes in 1981-85 and 3200 tonnes in 1978-80.

1.2.2 Use

Trifluralin is a selective soil herbicide which acts by entering the seedling in the hypocotyl region and disrupting cell division. It also inhibits root development (Royal Society of Chemistry, 1989).

Trifluralin is used for pre-emergence control of many annual grasses and broad-leaved weeds in *Brassicas*, beans, peas, carrots, parsnips, lettuce, capsicums, tomatoes, artichokes, onions, garlic, vines, strawberries, raspberries, citrus fruit, oilseed rape, groundnuts, soya beans, sunflowers, safflowers, ornamental plants, cotton, sugar beets, sugar-cane and in forestry. It is also used with linuron or isoproturon for control of annual grasses and broad-leaved weeds in winter cereals. Trifluralin is normally applied to soil before planting, but it may be applied after planting of some crops (Royal Society of Chemistry, 1989). Trifluralin plus 2,4-D is used as a post-planting herbicide for transplanted rice (Worthing & Walker, 1987).

In the USA in 1980, 90% of yearly usage of trifluralin (active ingredient) was accounted for by three crops: soya beans, 9700 tonnes; cotton, 2900 tonnes; and sunflowers, 1200 tonnes (Weiler, 1980). Approximately 14-16 thousand tonnes of trifluralin (active ingredient) were used in the USA in 1987 (US Environmental Protection Agency, 1990).

1.3 Occurrence

1.3.1 Water

Trifluralin was found in 172 of 2047 surface water samples and in one of 507 groundwater samples in the USA. Residues were found in surface water in seven states in the USA at a concentration (85th percentile) of 0.54 µg/litre. Trifluralin has also been detected in finished drinking-water (US Environmental Protection Agency, 1988).

N-Nitroso-di-*n*-propylamine was not detected in water samples from ponds or wells located in or near fields that had been treated with trifluralin at various rates (limit of detection, 0.01 µg/litre) (West & Day, 1979).

1.3.2 Soil

In studies carried out anaerobically in the dark at 25°C, trifluralin at 5 ppm (mg/kg) degraded rapidly in a non-sterile silt loam soil, and < 1% of the applied material was detected after 20 days. Autoclaving and flooding of the soil decreased the rate of degradation. Under aerobic conditions, degradation was slower, with 15% of the trifluralin lost after 20 days (Parr & Smith, 1973).

¹⁴C-Trifluralin applied at 1.1 kg/ha was relatively immobile in sand, sandy loam, silt, loam and clay loam columns (30 cm) eluted with 60 cm of water. More than 90% of the applied radiolabel remained in the top 0-10 cm segment (US Environmental Protection Agency, 1988).

In the field, ¹⁴C-trifluralin (99% pure) applied at a rate of 0.84-6.72 kg/ha dissipated in the top 0-0.5-cm layer of a silt loam soil, with 14, 4 and 1.5% of the amount applied remaining after 1, 2 and 3 years, respectively. Some 30 minor degradation products were identified; none represented more than 2.8% of the amount applied. In a medium loam soil, trifluralin (4 lb/gal [7 kg/litre] emulsifiable concentrate) applied at 0.75 and 1.5 lb/acre [0.85 and 1.7 kg/ha] degraded, with 20 and 32%, respectively, remaining after 120 days. Trifluralin (7 kg/litre emulsifiable concentrate) applied to a sandy loam soil at 1.0 lb active ingredient/acre [1.1 kg/ha] had a half-time of 2-4 months (US Environmental Protection Agency, 1988).

Trifluralin was detected in 12% of soil samples taken from 15 states in the USA at levels ranging from 0.08 to 0.24 ppm (mg/kg). The areas from which the samples were taken were considered to use pesticides regularly according to available records (Stevens *et al.*, 1970). Trifluralin residues were also detected in 3.5% of 1729 agricultural soil samples tested in 1969 in the USA (Wiersma *et al.*, 1972). α,α,α-Trifluorotoluene-3,4,5-triamine, a degradation product of trifluralin, appeared to be a key compound in the formation of soil-bound residues (Golab *et al.*, 1979).

Maximal seasonal losses of trifluralin applied for three consecutive years at 1.4 kg/ha were less than 0.05% in the run-off (water/sediment suspensions) from silty clay loam field

plots planted with cotton or soya beans under a wide range of rainfall (0.3-13 cm) (Willis *et al.*, 1975).

1.3.3 Food

As part of the national surveillance programme in Canada, 1344 food samples were analysed for trifluralin in the period 1984-89. Residues were detected in carrots at 0.05-0.3 mg/kg in seven of 138 samples. No residue was detected in fruit, other vegetables or maize (Government of Canada, 1990).

Residues of volatile nitrosamines (*N*-nitrosodimethylamine, *N*-nitrosodi-*n*-propylamine or *N*-butyl-*N*-ethyl-*N*-nitrosamine) were not detected in crops and plants from fields treated with trifluralin at 0.56-2.2 kg/ha (limit of detection 0.2 ppb [$\mu\text{g/kg}$]) (West & Day, 1979).

1.3.4 Occupational exposure

Application of trifluralin containing 3.5-6.4 ppm (mg/kg) *N*-nitroso-di-*n*-propylamine at a rate of 0.69-2 lb/acre [0.78-2.27 kg/ha] resulted in average air concentrations of < 0.001-0.015 $\mu\text{g/m}^3$ of the nitrosamine and 0.12-37.3 $\mu\text{g/m}^3$ trifluralin (Day *et al.*, 1982).

1.4 Regulations and guidelines

WHO (1987) recommended a drinking-water guideline level of 170 $\mu\text{g/litre}$ for trifluralin. In the USSR, the maximal allowable concentration in water of open basins is 860 $\mu\text{g/litre}$ and that in basins used for fish-breeding purposes, 0.3 $\mu\text{g/litre}$ (Izmerov, 1985).

The tolerance established in the USA for residues of trifluralin in peppermint oil and spearmint oil is 2 ppm (mg/litre) (US Environmental Protection Agency, 1989c). National pesticide residue limits for trifluralin in foods are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. National pesticide residue limits for trifluralin in foods^a

Country	Residue limit (mg/kg)	Commodities
Australia	0.5	Carrots
	0.05 ^b	Adzuki beans, all other vegetables, cereal grains, chickpeas, cowpeas, eggs, faba beans, fruit, lablab, lupins, meat, milk, milk products, mung beans, oilseeds, peanuts, poultry meat, sugar-cane
Austria	3.0	Cauliflower
	1.0	Carrots
	0.1	Cabbage, oilseeds, sweet red/green peppers, tomatoes
	0.05	Other
Belgium	0.05	Carrots, tomatoes, onions, artichokes, cabbages and related vegetables
	0.01	Grains
	0 (0.01) ^c	Other
Brazil	0.05 ^d	Carrots, garlic, onions, citrus fruit, <i>Brassicas</i> , eggplant, okra, peppers, tomatoes, field beans, string beans, manioc, oilseeds, coffee beans
Canada	0.5	Carrots
	Negligible	Asparagus, barley, cole crops, crambe, beans, flax, herbs, kale, lentils, mustard seed, peas, peppers, rapeseed (canola oil), rye, safflower (oil), sainfoin forage (meat, milk and eggs), Saskatoon berries, strawberries, soya beans, sunflower, tomatoes, triticale, turnips (rutabagas), wheat

Table 2 (contd)

Country	Residue limit (mg/kg)	Commodities
France	0.05	Carrots, tomatoes, onions, artichokes, cabbage
Germany	3	Cauliflower
	1.0	Carrots
	0.5	Turnips, rutabagas
	0.1	Other vegetable foodstuffs
Hungary	0.1	Crops and food
Italy	0.15	Carrots, oilseeds
	0.05	Citrus fruit, drupes, apples, pears, strawberries, grapes, garden vegetables (except carrots), potatoes, sugar beets, mint
	0.01	Wheat, barley, rye, rice
Japan	0.2	Carrots
	0.01	Rice, oats and other minor cereals, fruit, vegetables (except carrots), potatoes, etc., pulses, tea
Kenya	1.0	Carrots
	0.5	Citrus fruit, cottonseed, cucurbits, fruiting vegetables, grapes, hops, leafy vegetables, nuts, peanuts, root crop vegetables (except carrots), safflower seed, seed and pod vegetables, stone fruits, sugar-cane, sunflower seed, wheat grain
Mexico	1.0	Carrots
	0.2 ^e	Alfalfa (hay)
	0.05 ^e	Cotton (seed), peanuts, sugar cane, citrus fruit, celery, eggplant, broccoli, wheat, grapes, nuts, squash, safflower seed, chili peppers, cabbage, asparagus, spinach, lettuce, tomato, maize (forage), cucumber, watermelon
Netherlands	0.01 ^f	All cereals
	0 (0.01) ^g	Other
Spain	1.0	Carrots
	0.05	Other plant products
Switzerland	0.05	Cereals, rapeseed, tomatoes, cabbages, peas
USA ^h	2	Mung bean sprouts
	1.0	Carrots
	0.2 ^e	Alfalfa, hay
	0.1	Peanut (hulls)
	0.05 ^e	Asparagus, barley (fodder, forage, hay and straw), citrus fruit, maize grain (excluding popcorn); maize (grain forage and fodder, excluding popcorn), cottonseed, cucurbits, flax seed and straw, grain crops (excluding fresh maize and rice grain), grapes, hops, legume forage, nuts, peanuts, peppermint hay, rape (seed and straw), safflower seed, sorghum (fodder and forage), spearmint hay, stone fruit, sugar-cane, sunflower seeds, upland cress, vegetables (fruiting, leafy, root excluding carrots, seed and pod), wheat (grain and straw)

Table 2 (contd)

Country	Residue limit (mg/kg)	Commodities
USSR ⁱ	0.05	Vegetables

^aFrom Health and Welfare Canada (1990)

^bAt or about the limit of analytical determination

^cThe figure in parentheses is the lower limit for determining residues in the corresponding product according to the standard method of analysis.

^dProvisional

^eTolerance for negligible residues

^fA pesticide may be used on an eating or drinking ware or raw material without a demonstrable residue remaining. The value listed is considered to be the highest concentration at which this requirement is deemed to have been met.

^gResidues shall be absent; the value in parentheses is the highest concentration at which this requirement is still deemed to have been met.

^hFrom US Environmental Protection Agency (1989b)

ⁱFrom Izmerov (1985)

The USSR has established a maximum allowable concentration in workplace air of 3 mg/m³ (Cook, 1987).

2. Studies of Cancer in Humans

2.1 Case-control studies of lymphatic and haematopoietic neoplasms

In the population-based case-control study of soft-tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in Kansas, USA (described in detail in the monograph on occupational exposures in spraying and application of insecticides, p. 66), three cases of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and two controls reported use of trifluralin (odds ratio, 12.5; 95% confidence interval [CI], 1.6-116.1) (Hoar *et al.*, 1986).

In the population-based case-control study of leukaemia among white male farmers in Iowa and Minnesota, USA (Brown *et al.*, 1990; described in detail in the monograph on occupational exposure in spraying and application of insecticides, p. 68), 32 cases and 87 controls reported use of trifluralin (odds ratio, 1.0; 95% CI, 0.7-1.6).

[Exposure to other pesticides could not be excluded in these studies.]

2.2 Case-control study of cancer of the ovary

In the population-based case-control study of ovarian epithelial cancer in northern Italy (described in detail in the monograph on atrazine, p. 449), one case and three controls were farmers and were judged to have been exposed to trifluralin (alone or with linuron) [crude odds ratio, 0.64; 95% CI, 0.1-6.5]. These subjects were also exposed to triazine herbicides (Donna *et al.*, 1989).

3. Studies of Cancer in Experimental Animals

3.1 Oral administration¹

3.1.1 Mouse

Groups of 50 male and 50 female B6C3F₁ mice, six weeks old, were fed diets containing various levels of technical-grade trifluralin (purity, > 90%; analysis of the compound three years after completion of the bioassay established the presence of 84-88 ppm (mg/kg) *N*-nitrosodi-*n*-propylamine). Initially, males were fed 2000 or 4000 mg/kg of diet; due to toxicity, administration of the high dose was stopped in week 57 of the study for one week, followed by dietary administration for four weeks at the previous concentration. This cyclic administration was continued for 22 weeks. In females, the initial concentrations were 4500 and 9000 mg/kg of diet for 17 weeks; at week 18, the low and high doses were decreased to 2250 mg/kg and 4500 mg/kg, respectively. In week 57, animals in the high-dose group were administered the compound intermittently for 22 weeks (one week on trifluralin-free diet followed by four weeks on trifluralin-treated diet). From week 79, all treated animals were given control diet for a further 12 weeks. The experiment was terminated at week 90. Twenty mice of each sex were used as matched controls, and a pooled control group (60 females and 60 males) was also available. Survival of high-dose males was lower than in the other groups: 52% of the low-dose and 55% of the control males survived at least 86 weeks compared to only 34% of the high-dose males. In female mice, survival was 95% controls, 92% low-dose and 62% high-dose mice. In females, an increased incidence of hepatocellular carcinomas was noted: control, 0/20; low-dose, 12/47; and high-dose, 21/44 (Fisher exact test, $p < 0.01$; test for trend, $p < 0.001$); in males the incidence was 4/19 controls, 12/47 low-dose and 9/49 high-dose. Hepatocellular adenomas were observed in 3/47 low-dose females and in 2/47 low-dose males. Alveolar/bronchiolar adenomas or carcinomas of the lung were observed predominantly in female treated mice: 0/19 controls, 7/43 low-dose (Fisher exact test, $p = 0.005$ when compared with pooled controls) and 3/30 high-dose (test for trend; $p < 0.026$ when compared with pooled controls). In females, squamous-cell carcinomas of the forestomach occurred in 4/45 low-dose and in 1/44 high-dose animals; no such tumour was observed in controls or treated male mice; however, a squamous-cell papilloma occurred in 1/47 low-dose males (US National Cancer Institute, 1978). [The Working Group noted that contamination of the trifluralin with *N*-nitrosodi-*n*-propylamine was observed three years after the experiment was performed and that no account was made for differential survival.]

Groups of 80 male and 80 female B6C3F₁ mice [age unspecified] received trifluralin (technical-grade, containing less than 0.01 µg/g *N*-nitrosodi-*n*-propylamine) in the diet at levels of 563, 2250 or 4500 mg/kg for 24 months. Groups of 120 mice of each sex received a control diet. Survival at the end of the study ranged from 67 to 80% in the various groups. Body weight gains of high-dose mice were reduced by as much as 30% compared to those of

¹The Working Group was aware of a completed but as yet unpublished study in rats by oral administration (US Environmental Protection Agency, 1988).

controls during the study. There was no increased incidence of neoplasms at any site in treated mice (Francis *et al.*, 1991).

3.1.2 Rat

Groups of 50 male and 50 female Osborne-Mendel rats, six weeks old, were initially given 6500 or 13 000 mg/kg of diet technical-grade trifluralin (purity > 90%; analysis of the compound three years after completion of the bioassay established the presence of 84-88 ppm [mg/kg] of *N*-nitrosodi-*n*-propylamine). In week 22 of the study, the low and high concentrations were decreased to 3250 and 6500 mg/kg of diet, respectively. In week 63, administration of trifluralin to the high-dose female rats was stopped for one week and then resumed for four weeks; high-dose males received the same cyclic pattern beginning in week 69. This intermittent feeding pattern was maintained until week 78. All animals were then given control diet until week 111, when the study was terminated. Fifty rats of each sex were used as matched controls. No difference in survival was observed between treated and control groups. The combined incidence of follicular-cell adenomas and carcinomas of the thyroid in female mice was: control, 1/50; low-dose, 7/50 ($p = 0.028$ Fisher exact test); and high-dose, 0/49. Two haemangiosarcomas of the spleen were observed in the 12 low-dose females in which this organ was examined histologically (US National Cancer Institute, 1978). [The Working Group noted the incomplete histological examination of many organs in the treated groups and that contamination of the trifluralin with *N*-nitrosodi-*n*-propylamine was observed three years after the experiment was performed.]

3.2 Administration by injection

Mouse: Groups of 25 female Swiss mice, seven weeks of age, were given 13 intraperitoneal or subcutaneous injections at three-day intervals of 0.25 ml of Treflan® (44.5% trifluralin, 55.5% unspecified), for a total dose of 0.0065 mg trifluralin. Groups of 50 mice received either intraperitoneal or subcutaneous injections of saline. The animals were kept under observation for seven months from the start of treatment; one animal from each group was killed at each 15-day interval beginning one month after the end of treatment. Lymphomas (one was questionable) were reported in 5/25 mice receiving Treflan by subcutaneous injection and in 3/21 mice receiving Treflan by intraperitoneal injection. A mesothelioma was reported in one treated mouse given a subcutaneous injection and in three mice given intraperitoneal injections. No tumour was observed in control mice (Donna *et al.*, 1981). [The Working Group noted the presence of unspecified material in the Treflan mixture and the very early appearance of lymphomas.]

4. Other Relevant Data

4.1 Absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion

4.1.1 Humans

No data were available to the Working Group.

4.1.2 Experimental systems

Few published data are available on the metabolism and disposition of trifluralin. Rats dosed orally with radiolabelled trifluralin ($^{14}\text{CF}_3$ or ^{14}C -*N*-propyl-; 100 mg/kg bw) excreted

80% of the dose in the faeces; only 8% was unchanged trifluralin (Emmerson & Anderson, 1966). Incomplete absorption was indicated by the finding that only 11-14% of the radioactivity was recovered from bile. Extensive nitro-reduction to the corresponding amines occurred, probably as a result of metabolism by the gut microflora. Absorbed trifluralin was extensively metabolized, primarily by *N*-dealkylation and nitro-reduction, and then excreted in the urine. The extent of *N*-dealkylation was indicated by the fact that approximately 20% of the dose was recovered from expired air after administration of the ¹⁴C-propyl compound. [The Working Group noted that the analytical methods used in this study would have been inadequate to determine the presence of side-chain hydroxylated or benzimidazole metabolites, which have been formed by rat liver microsomes *in vitro* (Nelson *et al.*, 1977).]

4.2 Toxic effects

4.2.1 Humans

No data were available to the Working Group.

4.2.2 Experimental systems

Trifluralin has a relatively low acute toxicity in experimental animals (Worth, 1970; Ben-Dyke *et al.*, 1970; Ladonin *et al.*, 1980; Gaines & Linder, 1986). Acute oral LD₅₀ values were 3700-10 000 mg/kg bw in rodents and 2000 mg/kg bw in rabbits, dogs and hens. Trifluralin did not appreciably irritate skin.

In a carcinogenesis bioassay (see section 3), no remarkable non-neoplastic toxicity was reported in rats or mice, other than reduced growth and a low incidence of forestomach acanthosis and hyperkeratosis in mice (US National Cancer Institute, 1978). [The Working Group noted that the technical-grade trifluralin used was later found to be contaminated with *N*-nitrosodi-*n*-propylamine at 84-88 ppm [mg/kg].] The report of Francis *et al.* (1991) of a study in mice using technical-grade trifluralin that was not contaminated with *N*-nitrosodi-*n*-propylamine confirmed the effects on growth and also revealed progressive glomerulonephritis in female mice. Increases in the blood level of urea nitrogen and the serum level of alkaline phosphatase and decreased erythrocyte and leukocyte counts were reported to be related to treatment in animals of each sex.

4.3 Reproductive and developmental effects

4.3.1 Humans

No data were available to the Working Group.

4.3.2 Experimental systems

Administration of 1 g/kg bw trifluralin per day by gavage to pregnant CD-1 mice on days 6-15 of gestation resulted in a significant reduction in the number of live litters and an increased rate of stillborns and of pups with pathological conditions (runts, haemorrhages on the snout, tail or feet, paralysed hind limbs, defective righting reflex and narrow pelvises). Pups were allowed to be delivered, and 88 different skeletal variants were assessed upon sacrifice at two months of age. In the trifluralin-treated group, 12/88 of these skeletal

variants increased in frequency. The most obvious was the occurrence of 14 ribs, parted frontals, an undoubled foramen ovale and accessory foramina in the cervical vertebrae. These animals appeared normal in physical conformation. Three of the 25 treated mothers died (Beck, 1981).

Application of trifluralin to fertile mallard eggs, by immersing them for 30 sec in an aqueous solution, resulted in embryonic death at exposure levels calculated to be 0.8 times that expected after usual application in the field, i.e., 1.6 lb/acre (1.8 kg/ha). Exposure at this level also reduced growth and increased the rate of bill malformation and of stuntedness in the embryos (Hoffman & Albers, 1984).

4.4 Genetic and related effects (see also Table 3 and Appendices 1 and 2)

4.4.1 Humans

No data were available to the Working Group.

4.4.2 Experimental systems

Trifluralin did not induce mutation in bacteria, in *Drosophila melanogaster* or in cultured mouse lymphoma cells at the *tk* locus. In a single report, chlorophyll mutation was induced in *Zea mays*. Recombination was not induced in *Aspergillus nidulans* or *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. Aneuploidy was induced in *Neurospora crassa* and *Hordeum vulgare*, but evidence was equivocal in *Sordaria brevicollis* and conflicting in *D. melanogaster*.

DNA repair was not induced in cultured human cells. In a single study, sister chromatid exchange was weakly induced in cultured human lymphocytes.

Chromosomal aberrations were induced by trifluralin in various plant species but not in cultured hamster CHO cells. Equivocal results were obtained in cultured human lymphocytes. In the study in which aberrations were seen, the damage may have been secondary to interference with the mitotic spindle (Donna *et al.*, 1981).

In a single study, sister chromatid exchange was not induced in Chinese hamster bone-marrow cells *in vivo*.

Conflicting evidence was obtained for the induction of aberrations in mouse bone marrow, but consistent reports are available of chromosomal aberration in mouse embryos and male germ-line cells. Dominant lethal mutations were observed in mice. [The Working Group noted that the studies in which effects were seen originated from one laboratory and were performed with a commercial formulation containing 26% trifluralin; other components or impurities were not mentioned.]

Trifluralin metabolites induced chromosomal aberrations in cultured human lymphocytes and in mouse bone-marrow cells *in vivo* (Pilinskaya, 1987).

5. Summary of Data Reported and Evaluation

5.1 Exposure data

Trifluralin is a selective pre-emergence herbicide used for the control of annual grasses and certain broadleaf weeds. It was first registered for use in 1963.

Table 3. Genetic and related effects of trifluralin

Test system	Result ^a		Dose ^b LED/HID	Reference
	Without exogenous metabolic system	With exogenous metabolic system		
BPF, Bacteriophage, forward mutation	-	0	25.0000	Andersen <i>et al.</i> (1972)
BPR, Bacteriophage, reverse mutation	-	0	20.0000	Andersen <i>et al.</i> (1972)
SA0, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA100, reverse mutation	-	-	500.0000	US National Technical Information Service, Environmental Protection Agency (1977)
SA0, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA100, reverse mutation	-	-	250.0000	Benigni <i>et al.</i> (1982)
SA0, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA100, reverse mutation	-	-	2500.0000	Moriya <i>et al.</i> (1983)
SA0, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA100, reverse mutation	-	-	167.0000	Mortelmans <i>et al.</i> (1986)
SA0, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA100, reverse mutation	-	-	400.0000	Garriott <i>et al.</i> (1991)
SA5, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1535, reverse mutation	-	-	500.0000	US National Technical Information Service, Environmental Protection Agency (1977)
SA5, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1535, reverse mutation	-	-	250.0000	Benigni <i>et al.</i> (1982)
SA5, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1535, reverse mutation	-	-	2500.0000	Moriya <i>et al.</i> (1983)
SA5, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1535, reverse mutation	-	-	167.0000	Mortelmans <i>et al.</i> (1986)
SA5, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1535, reverse mutation	-	-	400.0000	Garriott <i>et al.</i> (1991)
SA7, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1537, reverse mutation	-	-	500.0000	US National Technical Information Service, Environmental Protection Agency (1977)
SA7, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1537, reverse mutation	-	-	250.0000	Benigni <i>et al.</i> (1982)
SA7, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1537, reverse mutation	-	-	2500.0000	Moriya <i>et al.</i> (1983)
SA7, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1537, reverse mutation	-	-	167.0000	Mortelmans <i>et al.</i> (1986)
SA7, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1537, reverse mutation	-	-	400.0000	Garriott <i>et al.</i> (1991)
SA8, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1538, reverse mutation	-	-	500.0000	US National Technical Information Service, Environmental Protection Agency (1977)
SA8, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1538, reverse mutation	-	-	2500.0000	Moriya <i>et al.</i> (1983)
SA8, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA1538, reverse mutation	-	-	400.0000	Garriott <i>et al.</i> (1990)

Table 3 (contd)

Test system	Result ^a		Dose ^b LED/HID	Reference
	Without exogenous metabolic system	With exogenous metabolic system		
SA9, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA 98, reverse mutation	-	-	250.0000	Benigni <i>et al.</i> (1982)
SA9, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA 98, reverse mutation	-	-	167.0000	Mortelmans <i>et al.</i> (1986)
SA9, <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> TA 98, reverse mutation	-	-	400.0000	Garriott <i>et al.</i> (1990)
ECW, <i>Escherichia coli</i> WP2 <i>uvrA</i> , reverse mutation	-	-	500.0000	US National Technical Information Service, Environmental Protection Agency (1977)
ECW, <i>Escherichia coli</i> WP2 <i>uvrA</i> , reverse mutation	-	-	2500.0000	Moriya <i>et al.</i> (1983)
SCH, <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> , D3 homozygosis by recombination	-	-	50000.0000	US National Technical Information Service, Environmental Protection Agency (1977)
ANG, <i>Aspergillus nidulans</i> , mitotic recombination	(+)	0	100.0000	Carere & Morpurgo (1981)
ANG, <i>Aspergillus nidulans</i> , mitotic recombination	+ ^c	0	100.0000	Benigni <i>et al.</i> (1982)
ANN, <i>Aspergillus nidulans</i> , nondisjunction	-	0	10000.0000	Carere & Morpurgo (1981)
NCN, <i>Neurospora crassa</i> , aneuploidy	+	0	1.0000	Griffiths (1979)
SCN, <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> , chromosome loss (aneuploidy)	-	0	250.0000	Whittakeer <i>et al.</i> (1990)
*, <i>Sordaria brevicollis</i> , aneuploidy	(+)	0	50.0000	Bond & McMillan (1979)
TSI, <i>Tradescantia paludosa</i> , micronuclei	?	0	178.0000 ^d	Ma <i>et al.</i> (1984)
ACC, <i>Allium cepa</i> , chromosomal aberrations	+	0	5.0000 ^d	Kabarity & Nahas (1979)
HSC, <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> , chromosomal aberrations	+	0	40.0000	Oku (1976)
PLC, <i>Gossypium hirsutum</i> , chromosomal aberrations	+	0	1.0000	Hess & Bayer
PLC, <i>Zea mays</i> , chlorophyll mutations	+	0	0.0000 ^d	Lapina <i>et al.</i> (1984)
PLC, <i>Zea mays</i> , chromosomal aberrations	+	0	0.0000 ^d	Grigorenko <i>et al.</i> (1986)
VFC, <i>Vicia faba</i> , chromosomal aberrations	+	0	90.0000 ^d	Wu (1972)
DMX, <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> , sex-linked recessive lethal mutation	-	0	100.0000	Murnik (1978) (Abstract)

Table 3 (contd)

Test system	Result ^a		Dose ^b LED/HID	Reference
	Without exogenous metabolic system	With exogenous metabolic system		
DMX, <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> , sex-linked recessive lethal mutation	- ^e	0	30.0000 feeding	Yoon <i>et al.</i> (1985)
DMX, <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> , sex-linked recessive lethal mutation	-	0	400.0000 injection	Yoon <i>et al.</i> (1985)
DMN, <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> , aneuploidy	+	0	100.0000	Murnik (1978) (abstract)
DMN, <i>Drosophila melanogaster</i> , aneuploidy	-	0	400.0000	Foureman (1988)
G51, Gene mutation mouse lymphoma, L5178Y	-	-	20.0000	Garriott <i>et al.</i> (1990)
CIC, Chromosomal aberrations, Chinese hamster CHO cells <i>in vitro</i>	-	-	50.0000	Garriott <i>et al.</i> (1990)
UHF, Unscheduled DNA synthesis, human lung fibroblasts WI38 <i>in vitro</i>	-	-	335.0000	US National Technical Information Service, Environmental Protection Agency (1977)
UHF, Unscheduled DNA synthesis, EUE cells <i>in vitro</i>	-	0	0.0000	Carere & Morpurgo (1981)
UHF, Unscheduled DNA synthesis, EUE cells <i>in vitro</i>	-	0	100.0000	Benigni <i>et al.</i> (1984)
SHL, Sister chromatid exchange, human lymphocytes <i>in vitro</i>	(+)	0	0.0000	Ghiazza <i>et al.</i> (1984)
CHL, Chromosomal aberrations, human lymphocytes <i>in vitro</i>	(+)	0	0.0000 ^d	Donna <i>et al.</i> (1981)
CHL, Chromosomal aberrations, human lymphocytes <i>in vitro</i>	- ^e	0	40.0000	Pilinskaya (1987)
SVA, Sister chromatid exchange, Chinese hamster cells <i>in vivo</i>	-	0	500.0000	Garriott <i>et al.</i> (1987)
CBA, Chromosomal aberrations, mouse bone marrow <i>in vivo</i>	+	0	52.0000 × 1 i.p. ^f	Nehez <i>et al.</i> (1979)
CBA, Chromosomal aberrations, mouse bone marrow <i>in vivo</i>	- ^e	0	1000.0000	Pilinskaya (1987)
CGC, Chromosomal aberrations, mouse spermatogonia/spermatocytes	+	0	52.0000 × 1 i.p. ^f	Nehez <i>et al.</i> (1980)

Table 3 (contd)

Test system	Result ^a		Dose ^b LED/HID	Reference
	Without exogenous metabolic system	With exogenous metabolic system		
CGC, Chromosomal aberrations, mouse spermatogonia/ spermatocytes	+	0	1.6000 × 10 i.p. ^f	Nehez <i>et al.</i> (1982)
*Chromosomal aberrations, mouse embryos (males treated <i>in vivo</i>)	+	0	52.0000 × 1 i.p. ^f	Nehez <i>et al.</i> (1980)
DLM, Dominant lethal test, mouse	+	0	52.0000 × 1 i.p. ^f	Nehez <i>et al.</i> (1980)

*Not displayed on profile

^a+, positive; (+), weakly positive; -, negative; 0, not tested; ?, inconclusive (variable response in several experiments within an adequate study)

^bIn-vitro tests, µg/ml; in-vivo tests, mg/kg bw

^cTechnical grade, +; pure, sample, -

^dTreflan (44.5% trifluralin) tested; dose represents concentration of trifluralin

^eThe metabolites 2,6-dinitro-4-(trifluoro)aniline and 2,6-diamino-4-(trifluoro)aniline gave positive results

^fOlitref (26% trifluralin) tested; dose represents concentration of trifluralin

Trifluralin has been formulated as emulsifiable concentrates, granules and liquids.

Exposure to trifluralin may occur during its production and application and, at much lower levels, from consumption of residues in food and water.

N-Nitrosodi-*n*-propylamine has been detected in technical trifluralin, and levels of nitrosamines in trifluralin have been restricted in some countries.

5.2 Carcinogenicity in humans

Use of trifluralin was associated with an increased risk for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in a study in the USA. A study of ovarian cancer in Italy did not suggest an association with exposure to trifluralin. Both results were based on small numbers of exposed subjects. A larger US study showed no association with the occurrence of leukaemia.

5.3 Carcinogenicity in experimental animals

One technical grade of trifluralin (possibly contaminated with *N*-nitrosodi-*n*-propylamine) was tested for carcinogenicity in mice and rats by administration in the diet. In female mice, it induced an increased incidence of hepatocellular carcinomas; in the same study, an increase in the incidence of lung adenomas or carcinomas was observed in females. An increased incidence of squamous-cell carcinomas of the forestomach was noted in female mice at the lower but not at the higher dose. In rats, an increase in the combined incidence of follicular-cell adenomas and carcinomas of the thyroid was noted at the lower but not at the higher dose in females.

Another preparation of trifluralin was tested for carcinogenicity in mice by administration in the diet. No increase in tumour incidence was observed.

5.4 Other relevant data

In a single study, trifluralin was embryolethal and increased the incidence of skeletal variants in mice at doses that caused some maternal toxicity.

No data were available on the genetic and related effects of trifluralin in humans.

A commercial trifluralin formulation induced chromosomal aberrations in bone-marrow, embryonal cells and the male germ line in mice. Chromosomal aberrations were also induced in plants. Aneuploidy was induced in several lower eukaryotes. There was little evidence for the induction of gene mutation in any test system.

5.5. Evaluation¹

There is *inadequate evidence* in humans for the carcinogenicity of trifluralin.

There is *limited evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of technical-grade trifluralin.

Overall evaluation

Trifluralin is *not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans (Group 3)*.

¹For definition of the italicized terms, see Preamble, pp. 26-28.

6. References

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