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Some Nitro-Acenaphthenephosphonic Acids as Potential Plant-Growth Regulators

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SOME NITRO-ACENAPHTHENEPHOSPHONIC ACIDS AS POTENTIAL PLANT-GROWTH REGULATORS

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It is well known that some benzene, naphthalene, and indole phosphonic acids are plant-growth regulators. In the series of acenaphthenephosphonic acids, only 1-acenaphthenephosphonic acid was mentioned as being bio-regulator of plants.

We present our studies concerning methods of synthesis and biological testing of 5-nitro- and 5,6-dinitroacenaphthenephosphonic acids. The two acids were synthesized two ways: first, by the direct nitration of 1-acenaphthenephosphonic acid and the second, by bromination of the corresponding nitro-acenaphthene derivatives followed by a reaction with natrium diethylphosphite and hydrolysis of the obtained phosphonate.

The two acids were characterised by UV, IR, and 1H-NMR spectra.

The synthesized acids were assessed in laboratory by Tsibulskaya-Vassiliev bio-test to establish if they are auxins or not. The bio-test shows that the two acids have a rooting activity, the increase of the number of roots being 14% for the first acid and 42% for the second, the length of the main root being 29% and 30%, respectively. Then, the two acids were tested on the wooden cuttings of *Ligustrum Vulgaris*. We observed the variation of the average length of the main root, the number of the roots, and the number of the offshoots depending on the acid concentration and the immersion time, comparing with water control. The increase of the number of roots was 41.6% for 5-nitroacenaphthenephosphonic acid, and 57.6% for 5,6-dinitroacenaphthenephosphonic acid. The increase of the length of the main root was 67% for the first acid and 97% for the second. The number of the offshoots after 87 days from the treatment has an increase of 20.4% for the first and 47.7% for the second acid.

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