Degradation of isazofos in the soil environment

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Degradation of isazofos in the soil environment

Abstract
Field and laboratory studies were conducted to investigate the degradation of the organophosphorus insecticide isazofos (0-5-chloro-l-isopropyl-1H-l,2,4-triazol-3-ylO,O-diethyl phosphorothioate) in soil. In a 6-year field study, soil pH was an important factor influencing the degradation of isazofos inasmuch as an increased rate of degradation was observed in soils with previous isazofos applications and pH of 6.9 or more. A laboratory study of [14Clisazofos confirmed the rapid degradation of this insecticide in high pH soils. No increased degradation rate, however, was observed in sterilized high-pH soils. The availability of isazofos to microorganisms, based on sorption of isazofos to soil, seems to be an important factor influencing the degradation of isazofos in soil. Sorption coefficients were negatively correlated with isazofos degradation rate.

Disciplines
Agronomy and Crop Sciences | Entomology | Environmental Health | Other Plant Sciences | Plant Sciences | Weed Science

Comments
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Degradation of Isazofos in the Soil Environment

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Field and laboratory studies were conducted to investigate the degradation of the organophosphorus insecticide isazofos (O,5-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl O, O-diethyl phosphorothioate) (Figure 1) in soil. In a 6-year field study, soil pH was an important factor influencing the degradation of isazofos as much as an increased rate of degradation was observed in soils with previous isazofos applications and pH of 6.9 or more. A laboratory study of [14C]isazofos confirmed the rapid degradation of this insecticide in high pH soils. No increased degradation rate, however, was observed in sterilized high-pH soils. The availability of isazofos to microorganisms, based on sorption of isazofos to soil, seems to be an important factor influencing the degradation of isazofos in soil. Sorption coefficients were negatively correlated with isazofos degradation rate.

INTRODUCTION

Isazofos (O,5-chloro-1-isopropyl-1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl O, O-diethyl phosphorothioate) (Figure 1) is a broad-spectrum organophosphorus insecticide and nematicide that effectively controls soil-inhabiting pests of agricultural crops and turf (Toba and Turner, 1979; Hamlen et al., 1979; Niemczyk and Krueger, 1987). At 20 °C, the solubility of isazofos in water is 150 mg/L and its vapor pressure 1.3 × 10⁻⁶ mmHg (Ciba-Geigy Corp., 1983). Field research and laboratory research on bioefficacy and degradation of isazofos indicate its short persistence in soil (Sears and Chapman, 1979; Toba and Turner, 1979; Hamlen et al., 1979; Chapman and Harris, 1982; Niemczyk and Krueger, 1987; Bowman, 1990, 1991, 1993). The half-life of isazofos ranges from 0.5 to 5.0 weeks (Chapman and Harris, 1982; Bowman, 1993). Because of the relatively short persistence of isazofos, the potential either to develop high residue levels in soil or crops or to leach is minimal (Chapman and Harris, 1982; Bowman, 1990).

Although the rapid disappearance of isazofos in soils has been well documented, little is known about the mechanisms of degradation or the factors influencing its degradation. The potential of isazofos to undergo enhanced biodegradation, a phenomenon in which adapted soil microorganisms make use of the pesticide and/or its metabolite(s) as an energy or nutrient source (Somasundaram et al., 1990), has not been studied. Because isazofos persists only briefly in soils, its potential to undergo enhanced degradation after repeated application is an important issue. The objectives of the current study were to investigate isazofos persistence in soil as affected by its prior treatment under both field and laboratory conditions and to elucidate the factors influencing its degradation in soil.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field Studies. The study site was located in the Nicollet-Clarion-Webster soil association. The soil is a loam with 40% sand, 35% silt, and 25% clay. Organic matter (OM) content and pH of soils from the experimental plots are given in Table I. Because the field selected had been in an annual corn-soybean-rotation throughout, no soil insecticide had been used for corn rootworm control before this study. The field was in continuous corn for 6 years. Isazofos 10G was applied at a rate of 0.61 oz of active ingredient (al) per 1000 row-ft in a 7-in. T-band ahead of the closing wheels. The 40 × 40 ft experimental plots were separated by untreated plots of equal size. The study was initiated in 1984, with treatment of one plot. The plot treatments were planned in such a way that, during each growing season for 5 years, isazofos was applied to each previously treated plot and to one new plot for the first time. In 1989, at the end of the sixth and final year of the field study, the treatments included soils with 0-6 years of isazofos history.

Residue Analysis. Soil samples were collected at 0, 1, 3, 6, and 10 weeks posttreatment. On each sampling date, five soil cores (4-in. diameter by 4-in. depth) were collected from the center four rows of treated plots. The cores were frozen until processed. Air-dried composite samples were sieved, and two 100-g subsamples were used for residue analysis. The soil was extracted three times with 200 mL of hexane/acetonitrile (3:2), with the extract filtered between extractions. The recovery of isazofos by this method was >88%, and the recovery spikes were performed at a range of 0.1-6.0 ppm to adequately cover the range of field residues reported. The filtrate was concentrated on a rotary evaporator and brought to a volume of 10 mL. The concentration of isazofos in the extract was determined by using a Varian 3740 gas chromatograph. The operating parameters were as follows: column, 2 mm × 90 cm i.d. glass column packed with 10% DC 200/2% OV-225 on 80/100-mesh Chromosorb maintained at 210 °C; detector, nitrogen-phosphorus, 250 °C; carrier gas, nitrogen (25 mL/min); H₂ flow rate, 4.5 mL/min; injector temperature, 240 °C; injector volume, 3 μL. The minimum detectable concentration of isazofos was 0.1 ppm, and the retention time

Figure 1. Chemical structures of isazofos and 5-chloro-1-isopropyl-3-triazolol.
was 1.7 min. The method of quantification was by using an external standard.

**Laboratory Treatment and Soil Incubation.** Soils were collected from the experimental plots at the end of the growing season, sieved to remove debris, and stored at 4°C until used. The storage time ranged from 0 to 6 months. To allow comparison of microbial and chemical degradation, a portion of the field-collected soil was autoclaved at 121°C for 1 h. A 50-g dry weight portion of each soil was treated, in duplicate, with 5 ppm of 14C-labeled (sp act. 34.6 μCi/mg; 98% radio purity) isazofos. The treating solution made in acetone was applied with a pipet uniformly all over the soil, and air was passed through the jar containing the soil to evaporate the acetone. Aliquots of treated soils were used in the 14C02 incubation and for analysis of initial isazofos concentration. Each treatment was replicated twice, and the treated soils were placed in 8-oz French square bottles. Soils were moistened to field capacity (v2 bar soil moisture tension) with distilled water, and glass vials containing 10 mL of 0.1 N NaOH were placed in each bottle to trap the 14CO2 evolved. The bottles were closed tightly and incubated at 25°C for 3 weeks. The CO2 traps were replaced daily for the first week and on alternate days for the next 2 weeks and were subsequently analyzed for 14CO2 by liquid scintillation counting.

**Analyses.** At the end of the incubation period, [14C]isazofos residues were extracted twice with 150 mL of acetone/methanol (1:1) and once with 150 mL of acetone/methanol/dichloromethane (1:1:1). The resultant extract was rotary evaporated to about 60 mL and then partitioned three times into 50 mL of dichloromethane. The organic and aqueous fractions were analyzed by liquid scintillation counting. The organic fraction was subsequently rotary evaporated to about 3 mL and rediluted to 10 mL with dichloromethane. The presence of isazofos and its metabolites in the organic fraction was identified by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and autoradiography techniques. Normal-phase silica gel plates were used and developed with chloroform/ethyl acetate/hexane/acetic acid (12:12:6:1) for a distance of 14 cm and air-dried. Nonradioactive standards of isazofos (RF = 0.89) and 5-chloro-1-isopropyl-3-triazolol (RF = 0.49) were run for comparative purposes. Autoradiography was performed using X-Omat Kodak diagnostic film. A film was placed in contact with each plate for 3 weeks and then developed. The radioactivity was quantified by scraping the silica gel areas corresponding to standards into 15 mL of scintillation cocktail. The identity of the metabolite was confirmed by HPLC using the method described under Sorption Studies. The retention time for the triazolol metabolite was 2.16 min. Unidentified minor metabolites in the TLC system and radioactivity in the aqueous fraction of the partitioning process were grouped as “others” to obtain the mass balance. Unextractable, soil-bound 14C residues were determined by combusting pellets, three per replicate, made of 0.5 g of soil and 0.1 g of hydrolyzed starch in a Packard sample oxidizer. Evolved 14CO2 was trapped in 10 mL of Carbo-Sorb E. The samples were added with 10 mL of Permafluor, and the radioactivity was quantified using a LKB 1217 Rack Beta liquid scintillation counter. All counts were corrected for background and quenching, if any.

**Estimation of Microbial Biomass and Enumeration of Isazofos-Degrading Soil Microorganisms.** Soil microbial biomass was determined for 1988 and 1989 soils by using the methods described by Tate et al. (1988) and Wu et al. (1990). Duplicate samples were used for fumigation and incubation

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Degradation of Isazofos As Influenced by Previous Applications. The residue analysis for the field experiment was conducted for four growing seasons beginning in 1986. The laboratory metabolism studies were conducted for soils collected in 1986, 1987, and 1988. The persistence of isazofos under field conditions is expressed as percent of initially applied isazofos remaining at specific sampling intervals (Figures 2-5). For the laboratory study, persistence is expressed as the percent of applied [14C]-isazofos remaining at the end of the 3-week incubation. A simple correlation analysis was conducted to determine the influence of soil pH on the persistence of isazofos at 0, 1, 3, 6, and 10 weeks after field application and at the end of the 3-week laboratory incubation. The same

**Table I. Properties of Soils Used**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Isazofos Application</th>
<th>1986</th>
<th>1987</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>1989</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>OM</td>
<td>OM</td>
<td>OM</td>
<td>OM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* X, plot treatment not available at this time; NA, not analyzed.
Degradation of Isazofos

% of Initial Recovered

Weeks After Application

Figure 3. Isazofos field persistence (1987).

% of Initial Recovered

Weeks After Application

Figure 4. Isazofos field persistence (1988).

% of Initial Recovered

Weeks After Application

Figure 5. Isazofos field persistence (1989).

Statistical treatment was used from year to year. The results of these studies will be discussed by year.

1986. The field treatments consisted of soils applied with isazofos for 1, 2, and 3 years. Residue data indicate that field residues of isazofos declined rapidly from soil treated with isazofos for the third consecutive year (Figure 2). Three weeks after application, less than 10% of the applied isazofos remained in the 3-year soil, compared with 39 and 33% in 1- and 2-year treatments, respectively. Moreover, in the laboratory studies isazofos was least persistent in the soil with 3 previous years of isazofos application (Table II). Only 2% of the applied parent insecticide was recovered at the end of the 3-week incubation period. This increased degradation resulted in the production of greater amounts of the hydrolysis metabolite 5-chloro-1-isopropyl-3-triazolol (CGA 17193), soil-bound residues, and 14CO2 than in other treatments. No such increase in degradation of isazofos was evident in the soils with either one or two previous isazofos field applications. In all soils, the major extractable metabolite was the hydrolysis product, 5-chloro-1-isopropyl-3-triazolol. Persistence and accumulation of this metabolite in soil has been described (Bowman, 1991).

The increased degradation of isazofos in the 3-year soil indicates that isazofos could have undergone enhanced biodegradation. But because a significant increase in degradation rate was not evident in other soils with an isazofos history, the increased rate of degradation observed in the 3-year soil may have been due to inherent differences between that soil and others. The soil with a 3-year history of isazofos had a higher pH than did the soils with either a 1- or 2-year history (Table I). Isazofos was also less persistent in the laboratory treatment with no prior isazofos exposure than in other treatments, and the insecticide-free soil also had a higher pH. A significant inverse relation (P < 0.10) was observed between pH and isazofos persistence under both field and laboratory conditions. Thus, isazofos is probably relatively unstable at high pH values.

1987. Three weeks after application, residues of isazofos declined dramatically in soils with 4 years of previous applications (Figure 3). Similarly, in the soils not previously exposed to isazofos more than 90% of the insecticide applied disappeared within the first 3 weeks. In a recent study, isazofos disappeared quite quickly (DT50 = 0.53 week) when applied for the first time to a Vittoria loam soil (Bowman, 1993). The rapid degradation of isazofos in soil treated for the first time in the current study as well as that of Bowman (1993) suggests that the microorganisms were able to degrade isazofos with little or no lag period. In this study, pH was the major difference between 1- and 4-year and 2- and 3-year soils (Table I). As in our 1986 field studies, correlation analysis indicated an inverse relationship between soil pH and isazofos persistence. The reduced persistence of isazofos in first and fourth year treatments is because of high pH values.

Among the five different treatments (0-4-year histories) studied in the laboratory, more than one-third of the initially applied isazofos persisted in soil with no prior exposure to isazofos (Table III). In all other treatments, less than 10% of the applied [14C]isazofos was recovered. This increased degradation of isazofos in history soils resulted in greater amounts of both 5-chloro-1-isopropyl-3-triazolol (33-30%) and soil-bound residues (40-47%). The reduced persistence of isazofos in the 1-year soil corroborates our findings from the field, which confirm the susceptibility of isazofos to high pH. The instability of isazofos under alkaline conditions has been reported (Ciba-Geigy Corp., 1983).

The increased rate of degradation observed in high-pH soils under both field and laboratory conditions indicates that isazofos is prone to significant hydrolytic degradation with increasing soil pH. The half-lives of isazofos in solution hydrolysis studies at 20 °C were 85, 48, and 19 days at pH 5.7, 5.9, and 7.9, respectively (Worthing, 1991). These data support our findings on the instability of isazofos with increasing soil pH. Soil bacteria play a major role in the microbial metabolism of many pesticides, and the
The instability of isazofos seems to be influenced by high than two-thirds of the applied $^{14}$Clisazofos was recovered applied for the first time, than in 1- and 3-year soils. The degradation of isazofos or 4-year histories. A dramatic decrease in the persistence studied (Table I). These data constitute a strong linear trend ($R^2 = 0.73$, $P < 0.05$) of decreasing persistence of isazofos with increasing pH. The rapid degradation of isazofos in high-pH soils is similar to our findings in field and laboratory studies in 1986 and 1987. In 1987, reduced persistence of isazofos was observed in soil treated for the first time; that soil had a pH of 7.9.

Table II. Degradation of $[^{14}$C]$[l^aC]$Isazofos in Soil As Affected by Its Previous Use (1986)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X</th>
<th>$^{14}$C recovered in % of applied $[^{14}$C]$[l^aC]$Isazofos after X years of isazofos application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X = 0</td>
<td>X = 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isazofos</td>
<td>17.9 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-chloro-1-isopropyl-3-triazolol</td>
<td>10.1 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soil-bound</td>
<td>49.1 (1.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{14}$CO$_2$</td>
<td>5.5 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>others*</td>
<td>10.6 (1.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>95.2 (0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Results after a 3-week incubation are the means of duplicate test. Numbers in parentheses represent standard error. Includes traces of other metabolites, water-soluble products, and volatile products other than $^{14}$CO$_2$.

Table III. Degradation of $[^{14}$C]$[l^aC]$Isazofos in Soil As Affected by Its Previous Use (1987)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X</th>
<th>$^{14}$C recovered in % of applied $[^{14}$C]$[l^aC]$Isazofos after X years of isazofos application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X = 0</td>
<td>X = 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isazofos</td>
<td>33.5 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-chloro-1-isopropyl-3-triazolol</td>
<td>18.6 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soil-bound</td>
<td>28.1 (0.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{14}$CO$_2$</td>
<td>3.5 (0.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>others*</td>
<td>4.6 (1.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>89.3 (2.0)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Results after a 3-week incubation are the means of duplicate tests. Numbers in parentheses represent standard error. Includes traces of other metabolites, water-soluble products, and volatile products other than $^{14}$CO$_2$.

Table IV. Degradation of $[^{14}$C]$[l^aC]$Isazofos in Soil As Affected by Its Previous Use (1988)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X</th>
<th>$^{14}$C recovered in % of applied $[^{14}$C]$[l^aC]$Isazofos after X years of isazofos application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X = 0</td>
<td>X = 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isazofos</td>
<td>66.7 (1.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-chloro-1-isopropyl-3-triazolol</td>
<td>6.2 (0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soil-bound</td>
<td>12.9 (0.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$^{14}$CO$_2$</td>
<td>1.2 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>others*</td>
<td>3.7 (0.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>89.7 (3.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Results after a 3-week incubation are the means of duplicate tests. Numbers in parentheses represent standard error. Includes traces of other metabolites, water-soluble products, and volatile products other than $^{14}$CO$_2$.

898. The field residue data for 1988 are presented in Figure 4. Three weeks after application, 76% of applied isazofos remained in soils to which isazofos had been applied for the first time, as compared with 49-60% in other treatments. Throughout the 10-week field study, isazofos was less persistent in 2-, 4-, and 5-year treatments than in 1- and 3-year soils. The degradation of isazofos was positively correlated with soil pH value obtained for 1988 sampling ($P < 0.10$).

At the end of the 3-week laboratory incubation, more than two-thirds of the applied $[^{14}$C]$[l^aC]$isazofos was recovered in soils with no prior exposure (Table IV). Sixty-three to 79% of the applied isazofos persisted in soils with 1-, 3-, or 4-year histories. A dramatic decrease in the persistence of isazofos was observed in soils previously treated for 2 and 5 consecutive years, with less than 10% of applied isazofos remaining in those two treatments. Soils with 2- and 5-year histories of isazofos had high pHs, 7.4 and 6.9, respectively, compared with that of other treatments studied (Table I). These data constitute a strong linear trend ($R^2 = 0.73$, $P < 0.05$) of decreasing persistence of isazofos with increasing pH. The rapid degradation of isazofos in high-pH soils is similar to our findings in field and laboratory studies in 1986 and 1987. In 1987, reduced persistence of isazofos was observed in soil treated for the first time; that soil had a pH of 7.9.

Two different patterns of degradation products were formed in aggressive (2- and 5-year) and normal (1-, 3-, and 4-year) soils (Table IV). Rapid degradation of isazofos in aggressive soils produced more of the triazolol metabolite (21.3-26.9% in aggressive soils compared with 4.2-8.3% in normal soils). The greater levels of hydrolysis metabolite formation in aggressive soils are consistent with the activity of microbial esterases documented to hydrolyze a variety of organophosphorus insecticides (Munnecke et al., 1982). The aggressive soils also produced increased levels of water-soluble products and $^{14}$CO$_2$ relative to the normal soils. Those products were apparently formed as products of microbial metabolism. $^{14}$CO$_2$ evolution, however, was still a relatively minor component of total $^{14}$C, which suggests that soil microorganisms are not well adapted to metabolize the triazolol ring. The triazolol metabolite is probably the major component in the formation of bound residues. Thus, in aggressive soils, in which great quantities of the triazolol are produced, increased bound residue levels are expected. These differences in the quantity of degradation products formed in aggressive soils and in normal soils are consistent with our findings from 1986 and 1987 laboratory studies.

1989. Field studies were conducted for the sixth and final year during the 1989 growing season. The treatments included soils applied with isazofos for 1-6 years. Three weeks after field application, only 11% of applied isazofos bacterial activity is generally reduced when the soil pH falls below 6.0 (Walker, 1987). High pH favors both bacterial and biological degradation, as well as chemical degradation by hydrolysis. Similar observations of the influence of pH on pesticide persistence have been made by Somasundaram et al. (1987) and by Walker (1987).

Although the soil with no prior exposure to isazofos had a pH slightly higher than that of soil with 2–4-year histories, isazofos persisted well in the previously untreated soil. The instability of isazofos seems to be influenced by high soil pH or by a combination of high pH and repeated applications.
The correlation between greater degradation of isazofos in soil and soil pH as observed in both field and laboratory studies does not establish the contributions of chemical or biological mechanisms. Both pathways are probably operative, and both would result in the formation of triazole metabolite. The persistence of isazofos in the autoclaved soil (Figure 6) indicates that chemical hydrolysis is a minor component. The effect of pH on isazofos degradation may be indirect, in that it can alter microbial activity and biomass.

Estimation of Soil Microbial Biomass. The extractable carbon varied from 140 to 297 μg g⁻¹ of soil for 1988 treatments and from 163 to 284 μg g⁻¹ for 1989 treatments (Table VI). Although there was variation among the treatments studied, no strong correlation (R² = 0.33 and 0.45) was observed between pH and biomass for either year. The biomass data reflect the total microbial activity, and the lack of correlation of these data with pH (and thus isazofos degradation) can be attributed to the presence of specific isazofos-degrading microorganisms in the soils studied.

Enumeration of Isazofos-Degrading Soil Microorganisms. Two weeks after the addition of 10 ppm of isazofos to the mineral salts medium (containing no serial dilution of the test soils), only 0.78 ppm of isazofos remained. The pH of the mineral salts medium was 7.2. The degradation of isazofos in the mineral salts medium was similar to the field and laboratory findings on the degradation of isazofos in the pH range 7.0–8.0. No isazofos was recovered in 10⁻¹ or 10⁻² dilutions of the 2-year soil. The concentration of isazofos increased with increases in dilution (data not given), confirming the role of microorganisms in the degradation of isazofos. To determine whether the degradation of isazofos occurred because of the high concentration of the mineral salts medium, studies were conducted with 1/10 the original concentration of the mineral salts medium. Isazofos degradation was fast in that low concentration also. Increased degradation of isazofos was also observed in the controls kept at 4 °C. Because of the instability of isazofos in the mineral salts medium, differentiation between MPN tubes containing degraders and those without degraders became increas-

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>X = 0</th>
<th>X = 1</th>
<th>X = 2</th>
<th>X = 3</th>
<th>X = 4</th>
<th>X = 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14CO₂</td>
<td>73.2</td>
<td>83.5</td>
<td>71.9</td>
<td>81.7</td>
<td>76.8</td>
<td>86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-chloro-1-isopropyl-3-triazolol</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soil-bound</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>othersa</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>85.9</td>
<td>96.1</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>95.3</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>104.8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Results after a 3-week incubation are the means of duplicate tests. Numbers in parentheses represent standard error. † Includes traces of other metabolites, water-soluble products, and volatile products other than 14CO₂.

**Table VI. Amount of Microbial Biomass Carbon in 1988 and 1989 Soils**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of Application</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>1989</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>194</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Results are the means of duplicate samples. † Plot treatment not available at this time.
Table VII. Sorption of Isazofos by 1988 Soils

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of isazofos application</th>
<th>( K_d ) mg/g</th>
<th>Years of isazofos application</th>
<th>( K_d ) mg/g</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.43b</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\( * \) Mean values followed by the same letter are not significantly different \((P > 0.05)\) as determined by analysis of variance and LSD procedures.

...difficult for the more dilute MPN tubes. Therefore, specific values were not calculated.

**Sorption Studies.** The degradation of isazofos in high pH soils under both laboratory and field conditions and the role of microorganisms (as illustrated by the autoclaved soils) in those soils indicate that a pH–microbial interaction may be responsible for the decreased persistence of isazofos in some soils. To investigate the influence of soil pH on the availability of isazofos to microorganisms, sorption studies were conducted with 0–5-year soils collected at the end of the 1988 growing season. Although the experimental plots were adjacent and in close geographic proximity, the sorption coefficient \( (K_d) \) ranged from 0.81 to 2.82 (Table VII). The variability in adsorption coefficient for a pesticide within a field has been demonstrated (Wood et al., 1987). A significant correlation existed between the degradation of isazofos (under both field and laboratory conditions) and \( K_d \) values. The \( K_d \) values of 0.94 and 0.81, respectively, for 2- and 5-year soils, were lower than in the other soils. An inverse correlation was observed between pH and \( K_d \) values for isazofos \((R^2 = 0.71, P < 0.05)\). Similar effects of pH on adsorption of isazofos have been observed (Ciba-Geigy Corp., 1983). The effect of pH on the adsorption of several pesticides to soil has been well documented (Renner et al., 1988; Clay et al., 1988). The increased availability of isazofos to microorganisms in high pH soils may also contribute to the rapid degradation observed in such soils.

...summary, the degradation of isazofos was most rapid in soils with relatively high pH (pH ≥ 6.9). An interaction between soil pH and microbial degradation of isazofos was observed. Soil pH seemed to be a more important factor influencing the degradation of isazofos than did number of years of pretreatment. High soil pH could influence the degradation of isazofos by providing an environment relatively conducive to the growth of bacteria that degrade isazofos and/or by increasing the availability of isazofos to degraders.

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