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Aroclor Degradation in Soil

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Biodegradation

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Marsh Magner has told me that several Aroclors were applied to soil in test plots at the University of Florida, Gainesboro on the 28th of June, 1939. The application was to determine possible termite proofing value of the Aroclors. Marsh believes that the test plots are still undisturbed and that he can locate them from plot maps which he has in his files.

Aroclors 1242, 1248 and 1254 were mixed in test soil (1 cubic foot per plot) at two rates of application and in replicate spots. In addition there were additional plots with these Aroclors mixed with penta.

Additionally Aroclor 5442 was applied at one rate of application.

Marsh had reasons to look at some of these sample plots in June of 1963 and recalls that in some instances there was still visual evidence of the presence of Aroclor.

I believe we should consider asking Marsh to look into the possibility of obtaining samples of these plots for measurement of loss or "degradation".

I never would have suspected that we might come across such a situation where we may be able to obtain data on actual aging of Aroclors in soil. Thirty years of exposure might be much more valuable than any accelerated test that could be devised.

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