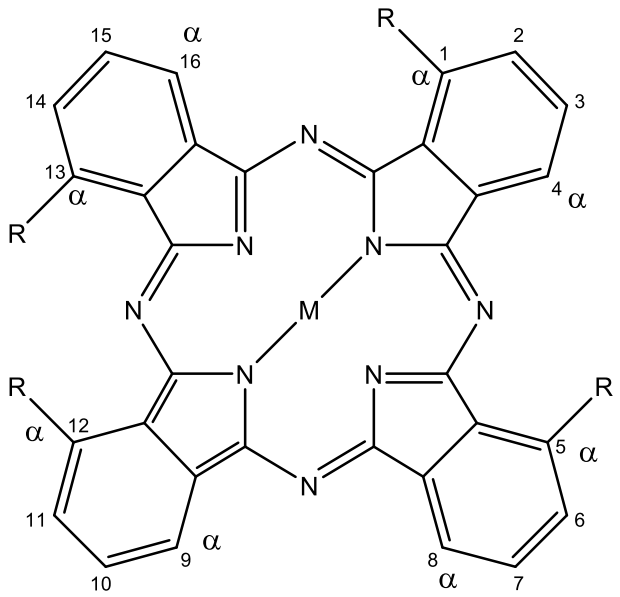
CLAIMS

1. Compounds according to the following formula:



X^-(b)

Formula 1

R=R'(a) or R''(b)
R' oxygen linked pyridyl
R'' oxygen linked N-alklyated pyridinium

in which:

M is selected from aluminium or zinc,

R'' is linked via an oxygen atom to a pyridine group at least 1 of which bears a cationic charge, and the remaining peripheral carbon atoms are an unsubstituted organic radical,

a + b = 4

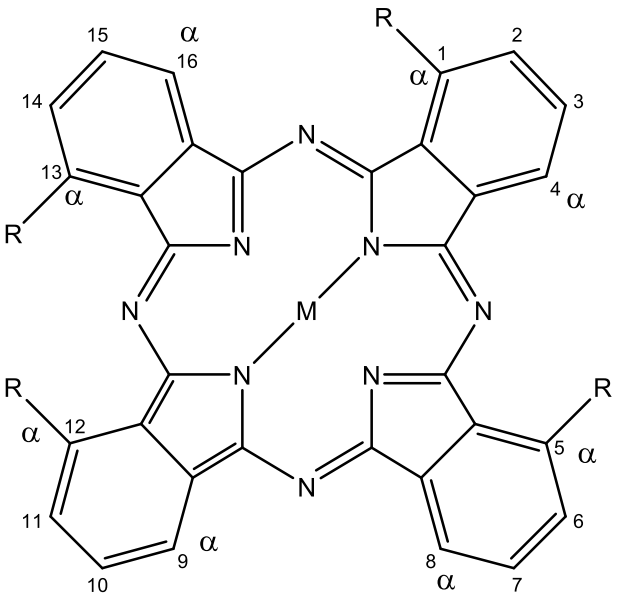
b = 1 to 3.9

X = Cl^-, Br^-, I^-, methanesulphonate, ethanesulphonate, formate, acetate or other inorganic or organic counter-ion or mixture thereof;

and

in which alkylation on the pyridine nitrogen is optionally branched C1-C8 alkyl.

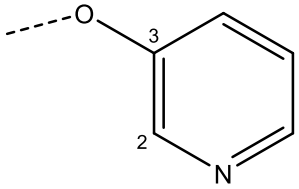
2. Compounds according to Claim 1 with the following formula:



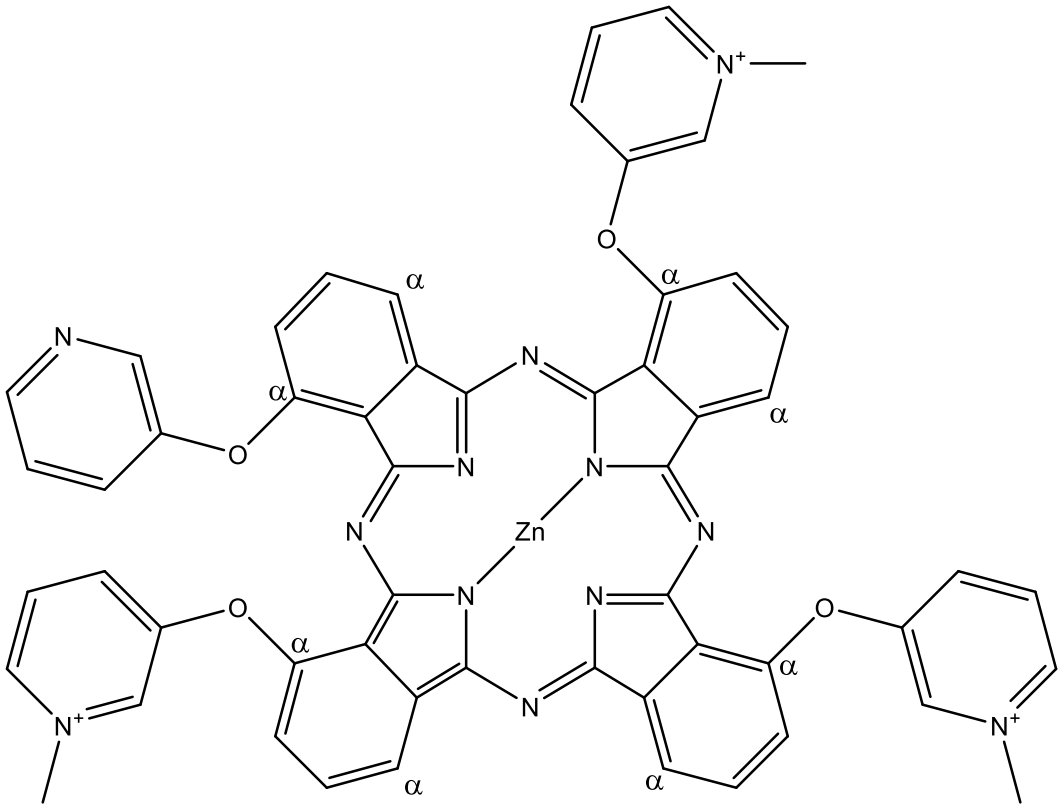
X^-(b)

Formula 4

R'(a) or R"(b)
R' 3-oxygen linked pyridyl
R" 3-oxygen linked N-alklyated pyridinium



3. Compounds according to Claim 1 or 2 with the following formula:



X^-(2-4)

Formula 5

in which the mean average total number of alkylated pyridines is 2 to 3, preferably 2.5 to 3.

4. Compounds according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the compounds absorb electromagnetic radiation at a wavelength from 600 to 800 nm.

5. An antimicrobial surface comprising the compounds according to any preceding claim.

6. An antimicrobial surface according to Claim 5, in which the compounds are contained in a polymer, metal or textile comprised by the surface.

7. A surface according to Claim 6, in which the surface is an elastomer or nitrile latex surface.

8. A nitrile glove comprising the compounds according to any of Claims 1 to 4.

9. A method of manufacturing a nitrile glove according to Claim 8, in which the method comprises dissolving the compounds in an aqueous coagulant and then dipping in a nitrile dispersion.

10. A process for removing stains on a surface, in which the method comprises contacting a stained surface with an aqueous composition of the compounds according to any of Claims 1 to 4, and exposing the surface to light, preferably sunlight, during or after the contacting step.

11. A process according to Claim 10, in which the surface is of any of fabric, cement, stone, brick or glass.