



Agrochemical Compositions and Surfactant Compounds

This invention relates to agrochemical compositions including surfactant compounds which include a polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl, particularly a saccharide, amine residue, a hydrophobic residue and a linking group, particularly including a glycidyl group, to the use of such compounds as surfactants in agrochemicals and to certain of these compounds as such.

Surfactants are widely used in agrochemical compositions and formulations for a variety of reasons including as adjuvants, wetting agents, emulsifiers or solubilisers (or to serve more than one such function). Adjuvants act to increase the effect of agrochemicals (by a variety of possible mechanisms); wetting agents improve the wetting of agrochemical sprays on the target substrate, usually plant leaves; emulsifiers are used to emulsify liquid agrochemicals in aqueous media, to emulsify oils used as solvents or diluents for agrochemicals and/or to emulsify oils used as formulation additives (to provide improved properties); and solubilisers are used to improve the solubility or compatibility of otherwise insoluble or incompatible formulation components. The benefit of including surfactants in agrochemical formulations is widely recognised and for many agrochemicals is a very widespread practice.

Surfactants including polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl, particularly saccharide, substituents, particularly as amides have been suggested e.g. for cleaning applications. Other surfactant compounds including polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl and amino groups are disclosed in JP 54163829 A to fatty alcohol glycidyl amine glucoside derivatives in making cosmetic emulsions; DE 4238214 A and DE 4238215 A to fatty glycidyl amine glucoside derivatives in making polyurethane materials; DE 4238216 A and DE 4238217 A to quaternary derivatives of such materials as textile surfactants and DE 4307475 A to betaine derivatives.

This invention is based on the finding that certain surfactants including polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl, particularly saccharide, amine groups can be useful in agrochemical applications, compositions and formulations, in particular providing adjuvancy, wetting, emulsification, dispersancy, thickening and/or solubilisation. The compounds of and used in this invention can:

- 1 provide enhanced activity for agrochemicals, especially water soluble herbicides, notably in terms of enhancing the speed of effectiveness; and
- 2 have significantly lower aquatic toxicity than conventional surfactants used in agrochemical formulations, especially adjuvant surfactants.

The present invention accordingly provides an agrochemical composition which includes an agrochemically active compound and a compound of the formula (I):



where

R^1 is polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl;



- 2 -

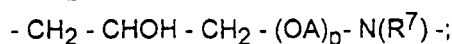
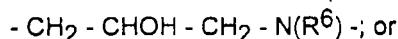
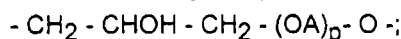
- R^2 is H or hydrocarbyl, particularly alkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxyalkyl, or is a group as defined for R^1 ;
- X^1 is N; $N^+ \rightarrow O^-$; N^+R^4 - where: R^4 - is C_1 to C_6 hydrocarbyl carrying an anionic substituent, particularly - $CH_2 - COO^-$; or $N^+R^5 An^-$ where: R^5 is a C_1 to C_{20} hydrocarbyl, particularly alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl or aralkyl; and An^- is a charge balancing anion e.g. alkali metal or ammonium;
- Link is a linking group of the formula: - $CH_2 - CHOH - X^2$ -
 where X^2 is a direct bond; - $CH_2 - O$ -; - $CH_2 - N(R^6)$ -; - $CH_2 - (OA)_p - O$ -; or
 - $CH_2 - (OA)_p - N(R^7)$ -;
 where
 OA is an oxyalkylene residue;
 p is from 1 to 100;
 R^6 is H; C_1 to C_8 hydrocarbyl, especially alkyl or alkenyl; or a group $R^1 - (R^2)X^1 - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 -$ where R^1 , R^2 and X^1 are as defined above; and
 R^7 is H; C_1 to C_8 hydrocarbyl, especially alkyl or alkenyl; or a group $R^1 - (R^2)X^1 - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - (OA)_p -$ where R^1 , R^2 , X^1 , OA and p are as defined above; and
- R^3 is hydrocarbyl, usually C_6 to C_{30} , particularly C_6 to C_{30} , more particularly C_{10} to C_{30} , especially alkyl, alkenyl, alkaryl, aryl or aralkyl.

The invention also includes compounds of the formula (IIa) [within the general formula (I)]:



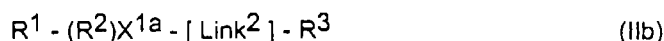
where R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are as defined above for formula (I); and

Link¹ is a linking group of one of the formulae:



where OA, p, R^6 and R^7 are as defined above for formula (I).

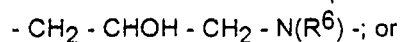
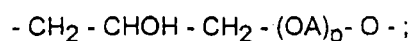
The invention further specifically includes compounds of the formula (IIb) [within the general formula (I)]:



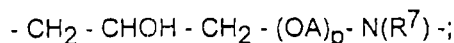
where R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 are as defined above for formula (I);

X^{1a} is $N^+ \rightarrow O^-$, N^+R^4 - or R^5An^- where: R^4 -, R^5 and An^- are as defined above for formula (I); and

Link² is a linking group of one of the formulae:



- 3 -



where OA, p, R^6 and R^7 are as defined above for formula (I).

The invention particularly includes agrochemical compositions which include an agrochemically active compound and, particularly as an adjuvant, at least one compound of at least one of the formulae (IIa) or (IIb). The invention further includes the use of compounds of any of the formulae (I), (IIa) or (IIb) as agrochemical surfactants, particularly as adjuvants.

The group R^1 is a polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl, particularly polyhydroxy alkyl, group, and desirably has a linear C_4 to C_7 chain and at least three hydroxyl groups directly bonded to chain carbon atoms. The group may include substituents, in particular, alkoxy groups e.g. by etherification of further hydroxyl groups or further polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl, e.g. polyhydroxy alkyl, group(s), but the group desirably includes at least three free hydroxyl groups including such hydroxyl groups on substituents of the basic chain. Particularly R^1 is an open chain tetraol, pentitol, hexitol or heptitol group or an anhydro e.g. cycloether anhydro, derivative of such a group. Especially desirably, R^1 is the residue of, or a residue derived from, a sugar, particularly a monosaccharide such as glucose, fructose or sorbitol, a disaccharide such as maltose or palitose or a higher oligosaccharide. It is particularly convenient that R^1 is the residue of a reducing sugar, because the amines can be made by straightforward reductive alkylation reactions on ammonia or an amine H_2NR^2 .

In the compounds of the formula (I) of and used in this invention the group R^1 is present as or as part of the hydrophile. Thus it will usually be desirable that the hydrophilicity of this group is not unduly reduced. The open chain form of such groups is typically the most hydrophilic form and will thus usually be the form desired. Groups including internal cyclic ether functionality can however be used, if desired, and may be obtained inadvertently if the synthetic route exposes the group to relatively high temperatures or other conditions which promote such cyclization.

Where R^1 is the residue of, or a residue derived from, a monosaccharide, the saccharide derived group or residue will usually be present as an open chain material. Where R^1 is the residue of, or a residue derived from, an oligosaccharide it can be considered as an open chain monosaccharide derived group or residue with a saccharide or oligosaccharide substituent which may be cyclic or a chain of cyclic residues. Particularly useful R^1 groups are derived from glycoses and are of the formula: $-CH_2-(CHOH)_4-CH_2OH$, e.g. corresponding to residues from glucose, mannose or galactose. In this case the group $-NR^1R^2$ is of the formula: $-NR^2-CH_2-(CHOH)_4-CH_2OH$ and the group is conveniently called a glycamine group. Most commonly the group R^1 will be derived from glucose and the corresponding amines may be called glucamines (as they will usually be made from glucose) or sorbitylamines (as they are no longer unsaturated). Strictly, such compounds are derivatives of 1-deoxyglycitol (and 1-deoxyglucitol) and can be referred to as 1-deoxyglycitolamines (and 1-deoxyglucitolamines) or as corresponding aminoglycitol (and aminoglucitol).

The group X^1 is a nitrogen atom which either has no further substituent (other than R^1 , R^2 and Link) or includes a substituent which makes the group a quaternary group, so that when X^1 is a substituted nitrogen atom it can be an amine oxide group $N \rightarrow O$; a group $N^+R^4^-$; or $N^+R^5 An^-$.

When X^1 is a nitrogen atom, the substituent R^2 on the nitrogen atom of X^1 , can be a hydrocarbyl group (see further below) or it can be as defined for R^1 in which case the amine function provides two hydrophilic polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl groups. In this case, the two groups of the formula R^1 will often be (but need not be) the same, as it is usually easier to make the symmetrical polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl substituted amine intermediate.

Where the group R^2 is a hydrocarbyl group, it is desirably an alkyl or alkenyl group, and typically it has from 1 to 30, more usually from 1 to 22, carbon atoms. R^2 can be a blocking group (mainly used to keep the synthesis straightforward), as when R^2 is a lower e.g. C_1 to C_6 , alkyl group, particularly a methyl or ethyl group. R^2 can be a longer chain e.g. C_6 to C_{30} , particularly a C_8 to C_{22} alkyl, group and such a longer chain group will tend to act as a secondary hydrophobe. R^2 can also be a substituted alkyl group e.g. a hydroxy or alkoxy substituted alkyl group, particularly a C_2 to C_6 alkyl group which is hydroxy substituted e.g. a hydroxyethyl, particularly 2-hydroxyethyl, or hydroxypropyl, particularly 3-hydroxypropyl, group, or a C_1 to C_6 alkyl group substituted with an alkoxy, particularly a C_1 to C_6 alkoxy and especially a methoxy, ethoxy or propoxy, group, so that the alkoxyalkyl group is particularly a 2-methoxyethyl, 2-ethoxyethyl, 3-methoxypropyl, or 3-ethoxypropyl group. The additional hydroxyl group or oxygen atom may provide a modest increase in water solubility. R^2 can also be an aralkyl group, particularly a C_7 to C_{12} aralkyl group, such as a benzyl group.

When X^1 is a group $N^+R^4^-$, the group R^4 is a C_1 to C_6 hydrocarbyl group carrying an anionic substituent (nominally carrying a balancing negative charge). Thus, typically R^4^- is a carboxyalkyl group, particularly a $-CH_2-COO^-$ group forming a betaine structure, although other possibilities include, alkyl sulphate, alkyl sulphonate, alkyl phosphate and alkyl phosphonate groups. The precise charge status and the presence of other ions associated with such groups will depend mainly on the pH. At near neutrality, the compound is likely to exist mainly as the zwitterion, whereas remote from neutrality, the quaternary nitrogen and the anionic group in R^4 may become associated with charge balancing ions. The charge balancing ions will usually be alkali metal or onium (ammonium or amine onium) ion for the anionic, usually carboxyl, group and halide, sulphate, phosphate or carboxylic acids for the amine function.

When X^1 is a group $N^+R^5 An^-$, the group R^5 is a C_1 to C_{22} hydrocarbyl, particularly an alkyl group and more usually a C_1 to C_6 or a C_{10} to C_{18} alkyl group, a C_2 to C_6 hydroxy alkyl group, a $(C_1$ to $C_6)$ alkoxy $(C_1$ to $C_6)$ alkyl group or a C_7 to C_{12} aralkyl, particularly a benzyl, group. Where R^5 is an alkyl group, it will most commonly be a C_1 to C_6 alkyl, particularly methyl, group, although it may be a longer chain e.g. C_6 to C_{30} , particularly a C_8 to C_{22} alkyl, group and such a longer chain

group will tend to act as a secondary hydrophobe. The anion group An^- is a charge balancing anion and can be any suitable counterion, for example mineral acid anions such as a halide, particularly chloride or bromide, sulphate or phosphate ion or a fatty carboxylate species.

The group Link is a group $-CH_2-CHOH-X^2-$ group which functions to connect the hydrophilic substituted amino group with the hydrophobic group R^3 . As such its precursor(s) provide suitable reactivity to enable the "linking" reactions but desirably do not include functionality that would interfere with the desired properties of the end products. The Link groups include a hydroxyl group, typically derived from epoxy or glycidyl functionality in synthetic precursors, which may provide a modest increase in the hydrophilicity of the end product. The group Link can be connected to the group R^3 by a direct bond, as when the corresponding precursor is a 1-epoxy hydrocarbyl, particularly alkyl, compound; an oxygen atom, an amino function or a (poly)alkylenoxy chain which itself may be linked to the group R^3 through an oxygen atom or an amino function. Where the group Link includes an amino function, the amino group may be substituted with a residue that includes a further glycidyl group (linked as appropriate via a (poly) alkylenoxy chain) and a hydrophilic (polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl)amino residue. In such compounds, the further glycidyl linked group is desirably the same as the first glycidyl linked group in the molecule. The group Link is desirably a group as defined for Link¹ or Link² in formulae (IIa) and (IIb) above i.e. it is desirably a group of one of the formulae: $-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-O-$; $-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-(OA)_p-O-$; $-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-N(R^6)-$; or $-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-(OA)_p-N(R^7)-$; where OA, p, R^6 and R^7 are as defined above.

When the linking group includes an oxyalkylene group or chain $-(OA)_p-$, the oxyalkylene group(s) can be oxyethylene ($-C_2H_4-O-$), oxypropylene ($-C_3H_6-O-$) or oxybutylene ($-C_4H_8-O-$), but desirably the oxyalkylene groups are all oxyethylene groups or are mixtures of oxyethylene and oxypropylene groups, desirably having a molar ratio of oxyethylene to oxypropylene groups of from 1:5 to 10:1. When the oxyalkylene groups are mixed oxyethylene and oxypropylene groups, the polyoxyalkylene chain can be a random or block copolymeric chain. Within the range 1 to 100, p is desirably 1 to 50, particularly 1 to 30. The number of units in the (poly)oxyalkylene chain, 'p', is an average value and may be non-integral.

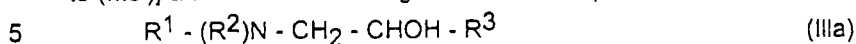
The groups R^6 and R^7 can be C_1 to C_8 hydrocarbyl, particularly alkyl or alkenyl, groups. More usually they will be groups corresponding to the hydrophile linked to the Link group and will thus be $R^1-(R^2)X^1-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-$ for R^6 and $R^1-(R^2)X^1-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-(OA)_p-$ for R^7 .

The group R^3 is or contains a hydrophobic hydrocarbyl group, particularly an alkyl or alkenyl group. R^3 may be a straight chain group or may be branched or a mixture of straight chain and branched moieties. Where the hydrophobic group is connected to the link group by a direct bond or an ether group (including a polyoxyalkylene ether group) the hydrocarbyl radical is desirably an alkyl or alkenyl group. Generally it is a C_6 to C_{30} , usually C_8 to C_{30} , more usually a C_{10} to C_{30} , particularly a C_{12} to C_{20} , especially a C_{12} to C_{18} , group. R^3 may also be an alkyl phenyl group

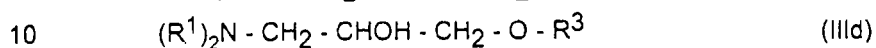
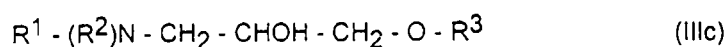
- 6 -

e.g. a C₈ to C₁₈ alkyl phenyl group and particularly a 3-linear alkyl phenyl group. Such groups can be derived from cardenols (3-alkyl phenols) which are readily biodegradable compounds.

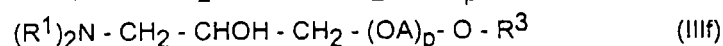
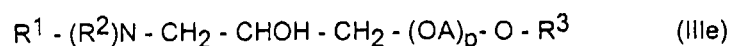
In particular the invention is directed to the compounds of the formulae (IIIa) to (IIIi) [including (IIIg') to (IIIi')] and/or their use in agrochemical compositions and formulations, particularly as adjuvants:



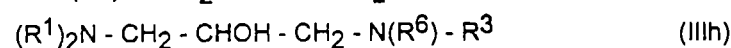
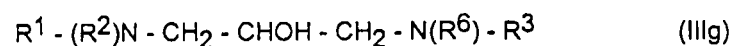
compounds of the formulae (IIIa) and (IIIb) are compounds of the formula (I) where X¹ is a nitrogen atom and Link is a group: -CH₂ - CHOH - ;



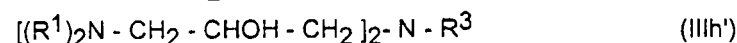
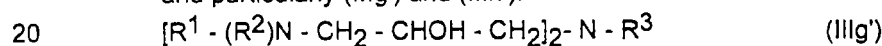
compounds of the formulae (IIIc) and (IIIc) are compounds of the formula (I) where X¹ is a nitrogen atom and Link is a group: -CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - O - ;



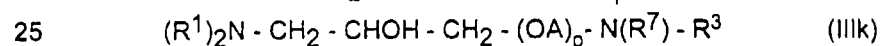
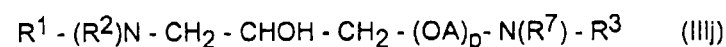
15 compounds of the formulae (IIIe) and (IIIe) are compounds of the formula (I) where X¹ is a nitrogen atom and Link is a group: -CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - (OA)_p - O - ;



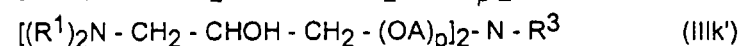
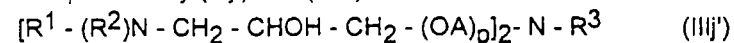
and particularly (IIIg') and (IIIh'):



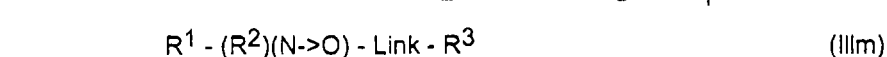
compounds of the formulae (IIIg) and (IIIh) are compounds of the formula (I) where X¹ is a nitrogen atom and Link is a group: -CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - N(R⁶) - ;



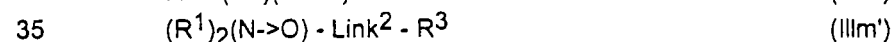
and particularly (IIIj') and (IIIk'):



compounds of the formulae (IIIj) and (IIIk) are compounds of the formula (I) where X¹ is a nitrogen atom and Link is a group: -CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - (OA)_p - N(R⁷) - ;

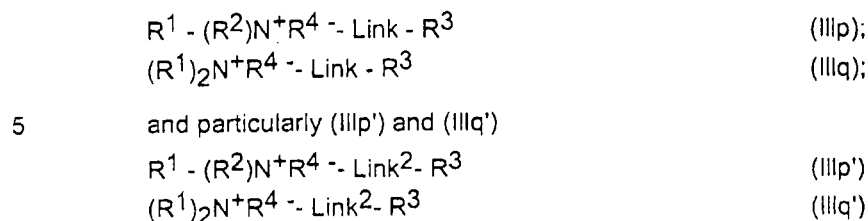


and particularly (III'm') and (III'n'):

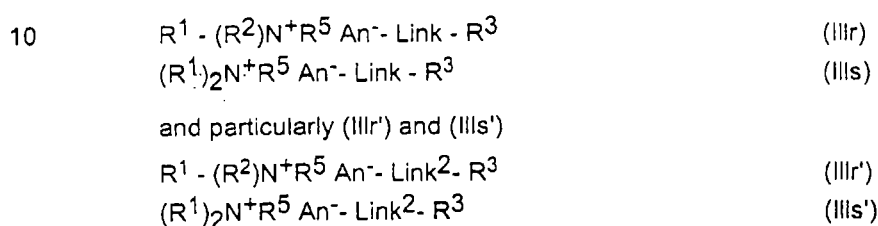


- 7 -

compounds of the formulae (III_m) and (III_n) are compounds of the formula (I) where X¹ is an amine oxide group;



compounds of the formula (III_p) and (III_q) are compounds of the formula (I) where X¹ is a quaternary nitrogen atom and a substituent group including anionic functionality;



15 compounds of the formula (III_r) and (III_s) are compounds of the formula (I) where X¹ is a quaternary nitrogen atom with a charge balancing anion.

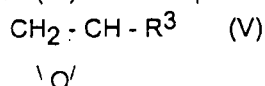
In the formulae (III_a) to (III_s) [including (III_g') to (III_s')], each R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷, An, Link, OA, and p is independently as defined for formula (I).

The invention includes agrochemical compositions which includes an agrochemically active
20 compound and, particularly as an adjuvant, at least one compound of at least one of the formulae (III_a) to (III_s) [including (III_g') to (III_s')]. The invention further includes the use of compounds of any of the formulae (III_a) to (III_s) [including (III_g') to (III_s')] as agrochemical surfactants, particularly as adjuvants.

The compounds of and used in the invention can be made by routes involving generally
25 conventional synthetic steps. In particular:

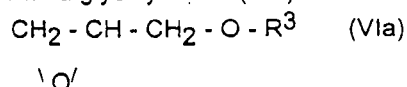
Compounds of the formulae (III_a) and (III_b) can be made by reacting an amine (IV):

R¹R²NH (IV) with an epoxide (V):



30 under nucleophilic epoxide ring opening conditions.

Compounds of the formulae (III_c) and (III_d) can be made by reacting an amine (IV) (as above) with a glycidyl ether (VI_a):

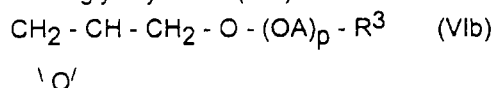


35 under nucleophilic epoxide ring opening conditions.

Compounds of the formulae (III_e) and (III_f) can be made by reacting an amine (IV) (as

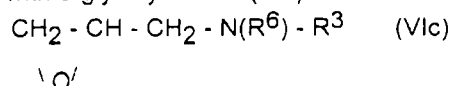
- 8 -

above) with a glycidyl ether (VIb):

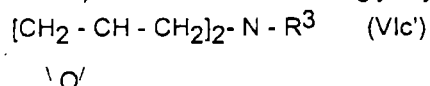


under nucleophilic epoxide ring opening conditions.

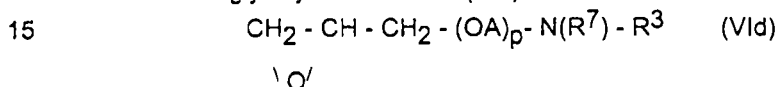
- 5 Compounds of the formulae (IIIg) and (IIIh) can be made by reacting an amine (IV) (as above) with a glycidyl amine (VIc):



- 10 Compounds of the formulae (IIIg') and (IIIh') can be made by reacting two moles of an amine (IV) (as above) with one mole of a bis-glycidylamine (VIc'):

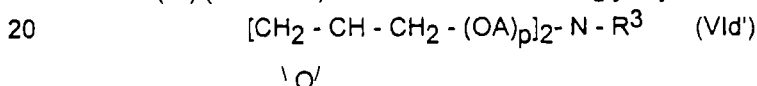


Compounds of the formulae (IIIj) and (IIIk) can be made by reacting an amine (IV) (as above) with a glycidyl ether amine (VId):



under nucleophilic epoxide ring opening conditions.

Compounds of the formulae (IIIj') and (IIIk') can be made by reacting two moles of an amine (IV) (as above) with one mole of a bis-glycidylamine (VId'):



under nucleophilic epoxide ring opening conditions.

Compounds of the formulae (IIIlm) and (IIIln) can be made by oxidising e.g. with hydrogen peroxide, an amine of the formula: $\text{R}^1 - (\text{R}^2)\text{N} - \text{Link} - \text{R}^3$.

- 25 Compounds of the formulae (IIIp) and (IIIq) can be made by reaction of an amine of the formula: $\text{R}^1 - (\text{R}^2)\text{N} - \text{Link} - \text{R}^3$ with a reactive precursor of the group R^4 , typically a halogen derivative, under nucleophilic substitution conditions.

Compounds of the (IIIr) and (IIIs) can be made by reaction of an amine of the formula:



- 30 In the above outline reaction sequences the groups R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , Link, OA and p are as defined above.

Typically, reactions of epoxides and amines in the syntheses outlined above are carried out by heating the reagents in solution or dispersion in an inert solvent or diluent (glycols such as monopropylene glycol are suitably inert for this purpose). Compounds where X^1 is a substituted nitrogen atom can be made from the corresponding compounds where X^1 is an unsubstituted nitrogen atom by reaction with a suitable reactive intermediate, particularly a halogen substituted compound including the residue for substitution on the nitrogen atom.

35

Precursors used above can be made by the following general routes:

Amines of the formula (IV) (R^1R^2NH) can be made by reductive alkylation of an amine R^2NH with a reactive precursor of the residue R^1 , e.g. a reducing sugar of which R^1H is a (possibly notional) 1-deoxy derivative.

- 5 Epoxides of the formula (V) can be made by selective oxidation of olefins of the formula:
 $CH_2 = CH - R^3$.

Glycidyl ethers of the formulae (VIa) and (VIb) can be made by reacting alcohols of the formulae R^3OH and $R^3 - (OA)_p - OH$ respectively with *epi*-chlorohydrin under nucleophilic substitution conditions (of course avoiding conditions that promote epoxide ring opening).

- 10 Glycidyl amines of the formulae (VIc) and (VIc') can be made by reacting amines of the formulae: $HN(R^6) - R^3$ and $H_2N - R^3$ with *epi*-chlorohydrin under nucleophilic substitution conditions.

Glycidyl ether amines of the formulae (VI d) and (VI d') can be made by alkoxyating amines of the formulae: $HN(R^7) - R^3$ and $H_2N - R^3$ and subsequently reacting the product (poly)alkyleneoxyamines with *epi*-chlorohydrin under nucleophilic substitution conditions.

- 15 The compounds of the formula (I) above can be used in agrochemical formulations particularly as adjuvants, emulsifiers, wetting agents, dispersants, thickeners or solubilisers and the invention accordingly includes agrochemical formulations incorporating compounds of the formula (I), particularly formulae (IIa) and (IIb) or formulae (IIIa) to (IIIc), as adjuvants, emulsifiers, wetting agents, dispersants, thickeners or solubilisers.
- 20 Surfactants of the formula (I) and particularly of the formulae (IIa), (IIb) or (IIIa) to (IIIc) can be used (particularly as adjuvants) with a wide range of agrochemical active materials and specifically, the active component of the formulation may be one or more plant growth regulators, herbicides, and/or pesticides, for example insecticides, fungicides, acaricides, nematocides, miticides, rodenticides, bactericides, molluscicides and bird repellants. Specific examples of actives include:
- 25 Herbicides: including
 water soluble, particularly non-selective, herbicides, more particularly phosphonomethyl glycines, especially as salts such as Glyphosate and Sulfosate {respectively the *iso*-propylamino and trimethylsulphonium salts of *N*-phosphonomethyl glycine}; and phosphinyl amino acids such as Glufosinate {2-amino-4-(hydroxymethylphosphinyl) butanoic acid}
- 30 particularly as the ammonium salt and bipyridinium compounds such as Paraquat {1,1'-dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium};
 triazines such as Atrazine {6-chloro-*N*-ethyl-*N'*-(1-methylethyl)-1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diamine, and Prometryn {*N,N'*-bis(1-methylethyl)-6-(methylthio)-1,3,5-triazine-2,4-diamine};
 substituted ureas such as Diuron {*N'*-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-*N,N*-dimethylurea};
- 35 sulphonyl ureas such as metsulfuron-methyl {2-[[[(4-methoxy-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl) amino]carbonyl]amino]sulfonyl]benzoate}, triasulfuron {2-(2-chloroethoxy)-*N*-[[[(4-methoxy-

- 10 -

6-methyl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)amino]carbonyl]benzenesulfonamide}, tribenuron-methyl {methyl 2-[[[(4-methoxy-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl)-methylamino]carbonyl]amino]sulfonyl] benzoate} and chlorsulfuron {2-chloro-*N*-[[[(4-methoxy-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl) amino]carbonyl] benzenesulfonamide};

- 5 pyridine carboxylic acids such as clopyralid {3,6-dichloropyridine-2-carboxylic acid};
 aryloxy alkanoic acids such as 2,4-D {2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid};
 2-(4-aryloxyphenoxy)propionic acids such as clodinafoppropargyl {prop-2-ynyl
 (R)-2-[4-(5-chloro-3-fluoropyridin-2-yloxy) phenoxy]-propionate}; and
 bis-carbamates such as Phenmedipham {3-[(methoxycarbonyl)amino]phenyl (3-methyl
 10 phenyl)carbamate}.

Fungicides: including

- thiocarbamates, particularly alkylenebis(dithiocarbamate)s, such as Maneb {[1,2-ethanediylbis-[carbamodithiato] (2-)] manganese} and Mancozeb {[1,2-ethanediylbis[carbamodithiato]](2-)]manganese mixture with [1,2-ethanediylbis[carbamodithiato]]
 15 (2-)]zinc};
 strobilurins such as azoxystrobin {methyl (E)-2-[[6-(2-cyanophenoxy)-4-pyrimidinyl]oxy]-*a*-(methoxymethylene)benzeneacetate} and kresoxim-methyl {(E)-*a*-(methoxyimino)-2-[(2-methylphenoxy)methyl]benzeneacetic acid methyl ester};
 dicarboximides such as Iprodione {3-(3,5-dichlorophenyl)-*N*-isopropyl-2,4-dioxo
 20 imidazolidine-1-carboxamide};
 halogenated phthalonitriles such as 2,4,5,6-tetrachloro-1,3-dicyanobenzene;
 benzimidazoles such as Carbendazym {methyl benzimidazol-2-yl carbamate};
 azoles such as Propiconazole {1-[2-(2,4-dichlorophenyl)-4-propyl-1,3-dioxolan-2-yl-methyl-1*H*-1,2,4-triazole]}, and Tebuconazole {(RS)-1-*p*-chlorophenyl-4,4-dimethyl-
 25 3-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazole-1-ylmethyl)-pentan-3-ol}; and
 inorganic fungicides such as Copper hydroxide {Cu(OH)₂};
 benzoyl ureas such as Diflubenzuron {*N*-[[[(4-chlorophenyl)amino]carbonyl]-2,6-difluoro-benzamide)} and pyrethroid insecticides; and

Acaricides including: tetrazines such as Clofentezine {3,6-bis(2-chlorophenyl)-1,2,4,5-tetrazine}.

- 30 Among water soluble active materials particularly suitable actives include, non-selective herbicides, particularly *N*-(phosphono- methyl) glycine type herbicides, such as Glyphosate and Sulfosate and phosphinyl amino acids, such as Glufosinate, particularly as the ammonium salt. Such water soluble actives can be used as the sole active in for example in aqueous solutions or in water dispersible granules, but more usually, they will be used in combination with water insoluble or
 35 immiscible actives in multi active formulations. In particular, formulations can be made up using a water soluble (non-specific) herbicide such as Glyphosate, Sulfosate and/or Glufosinate, with a selective herbicide, such as a sulphonyl urea e.g. metsulfuron-methyl, pyridine carboxylic acid e.g.

- 11 -

clopyralid, aryloxy alkanolic acids e.g. 2,4-D, substituted ureas e.g. diuron, or 2-(4-aryloxyphenoxy)propionic acids e.g. clodinafoppropargyl, and/or with an insecticide and/or fungicide.

5 Generally, when used as adjuvants in agrochemical formulations, the compounds of and used in this invention can be added to agrochemical formulations as part of the tank mix (the formulation actually used for spraying) or can be included in pre-formulated products which usually take the form of concentrates, emulsifiable concentrates or solid dispersible granules.

When added to tank mix compositions for spray formulations using current spray application rates, generally from 100 to 400 l(spray).ha⁻¹ (crop treated), usually about 300 l.ha⁻¹, the concentration of
10 the active agrochemical is typically from about 0.05 to about 3%, more usually from 0.1 to about 0.5 and particularly about 0.2 % by weight of the spray formulation and the concentration of adjuvant will typically be 0.02 to about 2%, more usually 0.2 to about 1% and particularly about 0.1%. The weight ratio of active agrochemical to adjuvant is usually from 1:5 to 10:1, more usually from 1:2 to about 4:1. These figures correspond to crop application rates of the active
15 agrochemical generally in the range 300 to 4000 g.ha⁻¹, more usually from 750 to about 2000 g.ha⁻¹ (the actual amount depending on the particular crop, agrochemical and effect desired). For low volume spraying, generally higher spray concentrations will be used, but the ratio of agrochemical to adjuvant will be within the ranges given above.

The surfactants of the formula (I) can be used as "built in" adjuvants in concentrate agrochemical
20 formulations that are intended for dilution prior to use. In such concentrates, the concentration of active agrochemical is typically from about 5 to about 60%, more usually from 10 to 40% and the adjuvant concentration is from about 3 to about 50%, more usually from 5 to 30% by weight of the concentrate. The use as built in adjuvants in concentrates is particularly applicable for concentrates where the carrier is aqueous and the active is or includes one or more water soluble
25 herbicides, such as Glyphosate, Sulfosate and Glufosinate.

As adjuvants the compounds of and used in this invention can provide faster effectiveness of agrochemicals especially water soluble herbicides, particularly of the glyphosate type, and can have significantly lower toxicity, particularly aquatic toxicity, than conventional adjuvants, particularly those based on fatty amine ethoxylates. The improved toxicity is also important when
30 the compounds are used to provide other surfactant effects in agrochemical formulations.

When used as emulsifiers, dispersants, thickeners or solubilisers, the surfactants will usually be incorporated into concentrate forms of agrochemical formulation. The functions of the surfactants and the amounts typically used are:

Emulsifiers - emulsifier surfactants are included in concentrate formulation for diluting to make
35 emulsions often, and desirably, as emulsifiable concentrates (concentrates including agrochemical active, either liquid or in solution in an organic liquid, and emulsifier which

- 12 -

emulsifies spontaneously or with minimal stirring on dilution in water). The proportion of emulsifier surfactant is typically from 1 to 40%, commonly from 1 to 30%, more typically 3 to 15% by weight of the concentrated formulation, typically from 1 to 80% by weight, more usually from 3 to 50% by weight based on the total weight of the oil phase in the formulation (or formed when the formulation is diluted to form an emulsion);

Dispersants - dispersant surfactant is used to make solids dispersed in liquid carriers in concentrates more stable to settling or flocculation of the solids. The amount of surfactant used is typically from 1 to 30% by weight of the dispersed phase of the formulation;

Thickeners - surfactants can be used as thickeners or rheology modifiers in liquid concentrate formulations, especially in emulsion or emulsifiable concentrate formulations, to stabilise the concentrate formulation against settling flocculation or phase separation prior to dilution. The amount of surfactant used is typically from 0.01 to 5% by weight of the formulation and usually from 0.1 to 5% by weight of the non-aqueous, usually oil, phase in the formulation (or formed when the formulation is diluted to form an emulsion);

Solubilisers - surfactant solubilisers are typically used to increase the (mutual) solubility, miscibility or compatibility of other formulation components with the beneficial effect of increasing the stability of liquid, especially concentrate, formulations. The amount of surfactant used is typically from 10 to 40% by weight of the concentrate formulation, and possibly up to 80% by weight of the non-aqueous, usually oil, phase in the formulation (or formed when the formulation is diluted to form an emulsion).

When used as wetting agents i.e. principally to improve the wetting of plant leaves by the spray droplets, the surfactant can be included in a concentrate or added as a tank mix additive. The amount used will typically be from 0.0001 to 0.5%, more usually not more than about 0.1%, by weight of the (dilute) spray formulation and may be from 1 to 15% by weight of a concentrate.

Agrochemical formulations of the invention can be made up using surfactants of the formula (I) in a variety of formulation types including:

i Water soluble liquids (aqueous dilutable solutions) in which water soluble agrochemical active(s) and surfactant(s) are dissolved in water and the formulation is diluted with water before use. In such formulations the surfactant(s) are usually present as adjuvants or wetting agents. Typically such formulations use concentrations within the ranges:

agrochemical active : 100 to 500 g.l⁻¹

surfactant : 30 to 500 g.l⁻¹

The surfactant can be a mixture of compounds of the formula (I) and other, particularly non-ionic surfactants (see also below about mixtures).

Possible other components in such formulations include

i antifoams, particularly polysiloxane antifoams, typically included at a concentration of from 0.1 and 10% by weight of the concentrate formulation; and

- 13 -

- ii viscosity modifiers : gums, e.g. xanthan gums, modified cellulose e.g. carboxy- methyl, -ethyl or -propyl cellulose, typically included at between 0.01 and 5% by weight of the concentrate formulation.

Such concentrate formulations can be made by simple mixing of the components.

- 5 Conveniently this may be carried out by dissolving the agrochemical active(s) and the adjuvant surfactant(s) and any other components in water to give either a concentrate for subsequent dilution to end use concentrations or directly at end use concentration e.g. in the spray tank.

- 10 ii Liquid concentrates, particularly emulsifiable concentrates, can include compounds of the formula (I). In liquid concentrates the surfactants are typically present as adjuvants, wetting agents, emulsifiers or solubilisers. The amount of surfactant(s) used in such concentrates is typically from 1 to 30% by weight of the concentrate. Other surfactants such as non-ionic, amphoteric, cationic or anionic or combinations of such surfactants may be used together with compounds of the formula (I) (see also below about mixtures). In liquid concentrates, typically use concentrations are within the ranges:

agrochemical active : 0.2 to 10% by weight (though with liquid agrochemicals, the concentration can be up to 90%); and

surfactant : 1 to 20% by weight of the liquid concentrate.

Liquid concentrate agrochemical formulations may also include:

- 20 solvents such as monoethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, glycerol, (mono)propylene glycol, which, especially with propylene glycol, may also act as a humectant, typically in an amount from 5 to 500% by weight of the surfactants;
- oils, particularly vegetable or mineral oils, such as spray oils, typically in an amount from 5 to 500% by weight of the surfactants;
- 25 salts, such as ammonium chloride and/or sodium benzoate, and/or urea as gel inhibition aids typically in an amount from 1 to 10% by weight of the formulation.

- 30 iii Solid dispersible granules - the surfactant will usually be included as an adjuvant or a dispersing agent and can be included in a granular agrochemical active formulation or itself be formulated as dispersible granules. Typically granules including agrochemical active contain from 1 to 80%, more usually from 1 to 30%, by weight of the granule of active. When included in granules containing an agrochemical active, the adjuvant typically forms from 5 to 50% by weight of the granule.

- 35 The granules can include clathrates, particularly urea clathrates, in particular incorporating the surfactant, especially as an adjuvant. Such clathrates can be made by forming a co-melt, including the urea and surfactant, and cooling by e.g. spray cooling. Such clathrate solid granules will typically have a ratio of urea to surfactant adjuvant of from 1:2 to 5:1 by weight. Clathrates can be included in the agrochemical granules or and desirably formulated

- 14 -

as a separate adjuvant granule which can be used by direct mixing with granular agrochemical active compositions.

When the adjuvant is provided in separate granules from the active agrochemical, the mixing rate of adjuvant granules to agrochemical active granules will depend on the respective concentrations in the granules, but will usually be such as to give a ratio of adjuvant to agrochemical active within the ranges described above.

In such granular formulations, other possible components of the granules include: binders, particularly binders which are readily water soluble to give low viscosity solutions at high binder concentrations, such as polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinylalcohol, carboxymethyl cellulose, gum arabic, sugars, starch, sucrose and alginates; diluents, absorbents or carriers such as carbon black, talc, diatomaceous earth, kaolin, aluminium, calcium and/or magnesium stearate, sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium tetraborate, sodium sulphate, sodium, aluminium or mixed sodium-aluminium silicates; and sodium benzoate;

disintegration agents, such as surfactants, materials that swell in water, for example carboxymethyl cellulose, collodion, polyvinyl pyrrolidone and/or microcrystalline cellulose swelling agents; salts such as sodium and/or potassium acetate, sodium carbonate, bicarbonate and/or sesquicarbonate, ammonium sulphate and/or dipotassium hydrogen phosphate;

wetting agents such as alcohol alkoxylates, particularly ethoxylates or ethoxylate/propoxylates;

dispersants such as sulphonated naphthalene formaldehyde condensates and acrylic copolymers; and

antifoam agents, typically at a concentration of from 1 to 10 % by weight of the granule.

Spray formulations at application concentration, including surfactants of the formula (I), particularly as adjuvants, can be made up by diluting/dispersing the agrochemical active and the adjuvant in the spray liquid (usually water). Also concentrate forms of the agrochemical formulation can be used, for example:

- i liquid concentrate containing the agrochemical active and, particularly adjuvant, surfactant dissolved in water;
- ii liquid concentrate containing the agrochemical active dissolved or dispersed in a non-aqueous, water immiscible liquid, which may be an emulsifiable concentrate and may include a proportion of water, including an adjuvant surfactant;
- iii liquid concentrate containing the agrochemical active dissolved or dispersed in a non-aqueous, water miscible liquid and including an adjuvant surfactant;
- iv a solid granular concentrate of or containing the agrochemical active and optionally including an adjuvant surfactant, or the adjuvant surfactant can be provided separately for example as

a solution in a solvent (water or a non-aqueous solvent) or a granule, particularly a urea adduct, containing the adjuvant.

Concentrated forms of the agrochemical active will typically be diluted from 10 to 10000, particularly 30 to 1000 times to generate the agrochemical spray for use.

- 5 Agrochemical formulations often include more than one surfactant either because surfactants are used in combination to achieve the desired effect or used to provide different effects. It is thus possible in this invention to use combinations of more than one surfactant of the formula (I) or to combine surfactant(s) of the formula (I) with other surfactants.

- For adjuvancy, mixtures of adjuvant surfactants can be used and the invention includes
10 agrochemical formulations including compounds of the formula (I) in combination with other adjuvant materials. Commonly such other adjuvants may be non-ionic surfactant adjuvants and examples include so-called hydrocarbyl, particularly alkyl, polysaccharides (generally more correctly described as oligosaccharides); hydrocarbyl, particularly alkyl, amine alkoxylates, particularly ethoxylates, linear or mono-branched alcohol alkoxylates, particularly ethoxylates;
15 sorbitol fatty acid esters; sorbitan fatty acid esters; and ethoxylated sorbitan fatty acid esters. The proportion of compounds of the formula (I) and other adjuvants, particularly non-ionic surfactant adjuvant, (when used) is typically from 1:5 to 10:1, more usually from 1:1 to 5:1 by weight. The proportions and concentrations of adjuvants referred to above include both compound(s) of the formula (I) and other, particularly non-ionic surfactant adjuvants. Co-adjuvants, including ionic
20 and/or inorganic materials, for example ammonium sulphate, may be included in adjuvant containing agrochemical formulations of the invention, particularly with non-ionic surfactant adjuvants, especially including those of the formula (I), optionally used in combination with other, particularly non-ionic, surfactant adjuvants.

- Especially where emulsification is desired the surfactant(s) will usually be included in or with the
25 formulation components including the phase to be emulsified. Other surfactants, especially non-ionic surfactants can be used together with the compounds of the formula (I).

Generally when other surfactants, especially non-ionic surfactants are used, the compound(s) of the formula (I) will be at least 25% and more usually at least 50% of the total surfactant used to provide the desired effect.

- 30 Other conventional components can be included in such formulations such as one or more oils e.g. mineral oil(s), vegetable oil(s) and alkylated vegetable oil(s) which are, typically C₁ to C₈, alkyl mono esters of vegetable oil fatty acids; solvents and/or diluents such as ethylene and/or propylene glycol or low molecular weight alcohols, which act to solubilise the formulation and/or to reduce the viscosity and/or to avoid or reduce dilution problems e.g. the formation of gels. In particular where
35 non-aqueous, particularly those which are not miscible with or soluble in water, liquids are included e.g. as solvents for the agrochemical and/or in a concentrate to form an emulsion on dilution with

- 16 -

water for spraying, other surfactants may be included as solubilisers and/or emulsifiers. Such materials will typically be chosen from anionic, cationic and/or non-ionic surfactants for their effectiveness in solubilisation and or emulsification. Such other surfactant components will, as with formulations using purely conventional surfactants, be used in amounts based on the desired effect.

Other surfactants may also be included to improve wetting. Examples of such wetting agents include nonionic surfactants such as alcohol ethoxylates for example of C₉ to C₁₅, particularly primary, alcohols, which may be linear or branched, particularly mono-branched, with from 5 to 30 moles of ethylene oxide; and alkoxyates of such alcohols particularly mixed ethoxylate/propoxylates which may be block or random mixed alkoxyates, typically containing from 3 to 10 ethylene oxide residues and from 1 to 5 propylene oxide residues, particularly where the polyalkoxyate chain is terminated with propylene oxide unit(s); polyoxyethylene/polyoxypropylene copolymers, particularly block copolymers, such as the Synperonic PE series of copolymers available from Uniqema, and alkyl polysaccharides; anionic surfactants e.g. isethionates, such as sodium cocoyl isethionate, naphthalene sulphonic acids or sulphosuccinates. The amounts of wetting surfactants are typically similar to or the same as the levels typically used to provide adjuvant effects (see above).

The compounds of the formula (I) may be used in combination with non-surfactant materials, particularly solvents or solvation aids such as glycols such as monopropylene glycol and/or polyethylene glycol. The proportion of compounds of the formula (I) to such solvents or solvation aids, (when used) is typically from 1:5 to 10:1, more usually from 1:1 to 5:1 by weight.

The invention includes a method of treating vegetation by applying to plants and/or soil a composition including a surfactant of the formula (I) and an agrochemical according to the invention. The agrochemical may be one or more of the types of actives described above, particularly, one or more growth regulators, herbicides, and/or pesticides, for example insecticides, fungicides or acaricides. This method of the invention includes:

- (i) a method of killing or inhibiting vegetation by applying a formulation which includes one or more growth regulators and/or herbicides and at least one compound of the general formula (I) as an adjuvant, and/or
- (ii) a method of killing or inhibiting plant pests by applying a formulation which includes one or more pesticides, for example insecticides, fungicides or acaricides, and at least one compound of the general formula (I) as an adjuvant.

Other additives can be included in agrochemical formulations of the invention including: inorganic salts such as ammonium chloride, calcium chloride and/or sodium benzoate and/or urea in an amount of from 0.01 to 1% by weight of composition. antifoams which can be silicon based materials such as organopolysiloxanes, which are typically used in an amount from 0.1 to 10%, preferably 0.2 to 6% by weight of the

- 17 -

surfactant; 0.01 to 5%, particularly 0.02 to 2% by weight of agrochemical concentrate and 0.0001 to 0.1% preferably 0.001 to 0.05% by weight of a spray formulation at end use dilution;

5 viscosity modifiers, particularly gums such as xanthan gums; cellulose derivatives, such as carboxyl-methyl, -ethyl, or -propyl cellulose, typically used at from 0.01 to 5 wt % of a concentrated formulation; and

other non surfactant materials such as stabilisers and/or anti-microbials, typically used at from 0.01 to 5 wt % of a concentrated formulation.

The following Examples illustrate the invention. All parts and percentages are by weight unless otherwise stated.

Materials

<i>N</i> -methylglucamine	<i>N</i> -methyl- <i>N</i> -(1-deoxyglucityl)amine
bis-sorbitylamine	bis(1-deoxyglucit-1-yl)amine
dodecyl-poly-4-oxyethylene	Brij 30 ex Uniqema
tridecyloxy poly-5.7-oxyethylene	Cresmer PTCD ex Uniqema (India)
Sulfosate	glyphosate trimethylsulphonium salt as a solution in water containing 720 g.l ⁻¹ active salt
Glyphosate	glyphosate <i>iso</i> -propylamine salt as a solution in water containing 767 g.l ⁻¹ active salt
Horizon EW	tebuconazole 250 g.l ⁻¹ active material ex Bayer
Roundup-ultra	commercially available glyphosate formulation ex Monsanto
MON0818	tallow amine (20) ethoxylate ex Monsanto
T150	Genamin T150 - tallow amine (15) ethoxylate ex Clariant

Synthesis Examples SE1 to SE26 illustrate the synthesis of the compounds of the formula (I).

5 Synthesis Example SE1 : *N*-(1-deoxyglucityl)-*N*-(2-hydroxydodecyl)-*N*-methylamine

N-methylglucamine (4.8 g; 24.6 mmol) was reacted with 1-epoxydodecane (5 g; 27.2 mmol) in propylene glycol (2.45 ml) at 120°C for 3 hours. The product was initially a highly viscous transparent liquid, solidified after keeping at ambient temperature overnight. The identity of the product was verified using IR and NMR spectroscopy.

- 10 The following further compounds were made by the general method of SE1 substituting the corresponding starting material for the 1-epoxydodecane used in SE1.

SE2 *N*-(2-hydroxy(mixed hexadecyl/octadecyl)amino)-1-deoxyglucitol

SE3 *N*-(2-hydroxytetradecylamino)-1-deoxyglucitol

The identity of the products was verified using IR and NMR spectroscopy.

15 Synthesis Example SE4 : *NN*-bis(1-deoxyglucityl)-*N*-(2-hydroxydodecyl)-amine

SE1 was repeated except that bis-sorbitylamine was used instead of the *N*-methyl glucamine used in SE1. The product solidified after cooling. The identity of the product was verified using IR and NMR spectroscopy.

- 20 The following further compound was made by the general method of SE4 substituting the corresponding starting material for the 1-epoxydodecane used in SE4.

SE5 *NN*-bis(1-deoxyglucityl)-*N*-(2-hydroxytetradecyl)-amine

The identity of the product was verified using IR and NMR spectroscopy.

Synthesis Example SE6 : 1-(N-methyl-N-1-deoxyglucityl)amino-2-hydroxy-3-dodecyloxy propane

N-Methylglucamine (4.03 g; 20.7 mmol) was reacted with dodecyl glycidyl ether (5 g; 20.7 mmol) at 120 to 130°C for 2 to 3 hours and the mixture was then cooled. The product was a colourless highly viscous liquid which turned to a white solid on keeping overnight. The identity of the product was verified using IR and NMR spectroscopy.

The following further compounds were made by the general method of SE6 substituting the corresponding starting material for the dodecyl glycidyl ether used in SE6.

SE7 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-octyloxy propane

SE8 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-(2-ethylhexyl)oxy propane

10 SE9 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-nonyloxy propane

SE10 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-decyloxy propane

SE11 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-(mixed octyloxy/decyloxy) propane

SE12 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-tetradecyloxy propane

SE13 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-(mixed dodecyloxy/tetradecyloxy) propane

15 SE14 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-(branched undecyloxy) propane

The identity of these was verified using IR and NMR spectroscopy.

Synthesis Example SE15 : 1-*NN*-bis(1-deoxyglucityl)amino)-2-hydroxy-3-dodecyloxy propane

SE6 was repeated except that bis-sorbitylamine was substituted for the *N*-methylglucamine used in SE6. The identity of the product was verified using IR and NMR spectroscopy.

20 The following further compounds were made by the general method of SE15 substituting the corresponding starting material for the dodecyl glycidyl ether used in SE15.

SE16 1-(*N*-bis-sorbitylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-(mixed dodecyloxy/tetradecyloxy) propane

SE17 1-(*N*-bis-sorbitylamino)-2-hydroxyl-3-tetradecyloxy propane

The identity of the products was verified using IR and NMR spectroscopy.

25 Synthesis Example SE18 : 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxyl-3-(dodecyloxy-poly-4-oxyethyleneoxy) propane

N-Methylglucamine (0.37 g; 1.91 mmol) was reacted with dodecyloxy-poly-4-oxyethylene glycidyl ether (1 g; 2.54 mmol) at 125 to 130°C for 2 to 3 hours. The product was obtained as a transparent viscous liquid. The identity of the product was verified using IR and NMR spectroscopy.

30 The following further compounds were made by the general method of SE18 but substituting the corresponding starting material for the dodecyl glycidyl ether and/or *N*-methylglucamine used in SE18.

SE19 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxyl-3-(tridecyloxy poly-5.7-oxyethyleneoxy) propane

35 SE20 1-(*N*-bis-sorbitylamino)-2-hydroxyl-3-tetradecyloxy propane

SE21 1-(*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxyl-3-(branched octadecyloxy poly-10PO-10EO)

- 20 -

propane*

SE22 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-(branched octadecyloxy poly-4PO-10EO)

propane*

- * The precursor used was a branched C₁₈ alcohol 10-propoxylate-10-ethoxylate glycidyl ether itself made by reacting a monobranched C₁₈ alcohol 10-propoxylate-10-ethoxylate with *epi*-chlorohydrin.

The identity of these products was verified using IR and NMR spectroscopy.

Synthesis Example SE23 : Betaine from 1-(*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-dodecyloxy propane

- 10 The direct reaction product of the heating stage from a repeat of Example SE6, using 66.9 g (343 mmol) of *N*-methylglucamine and 83.05 g (343 mmol) of dodecyl glycidyl ether), was cooled to 90 to 95°C, water (100 ml) was added and an aqueous solution of sodium chloroacetate (40.14 g; 343 mmol, dissolved in 90 ml water) was added slowly to this stirred mixture keeping the temperature at 90 to 95° C. The resultant mixture was further stirred at 90 to 95°C for 1 hour to
- 15 give the title compound product as a clear colourless liquid (50% active in water).

The following further compound was made by the general method of SE23 but substituting 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)tetradecyl glycidyl ether for the corresponding dodecyl glycidyl ether used in SE23.

SE24 Betaine from 1-(*N*-Methylglucamino)-2-hydroxy-3-tetradecyloxy propane

- 20 Synthesis Example SE25 : 1-(*N,N*-bis(*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)amonium)-2-hydroxy-3-dodecyloxy propane sulphate

- The direct reaction product of the heating stage from a repeat of Example SE15, using 149.2 g (433 mmol) of *N*-methylglucamine and 104.8 g (433 mmol) of dodecyl glycidyl ether, was cooled to 40 to 45°C, isopropyl alcohol (63 ml) added and the mixture stirred. Dimethyl sulphate (49.1 g; 390 mmol) was added to the stirred mixture over a period of 4 to 5 minutes and the resultant mixture stirred for 1 hour at which time the acid value was 9.6. Isopropyl alcohol was then removed under reduced pressure and water (26.5 ml) added to give the product as a white viscous liquid (90% active in water).

- The following further compound was made by the general method of SE25 but substituting 1-(*N*-methyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)tetradecyl glycidyl ether for the corresponding dodecyl glycidyl ether used in SE25.

SE26 1-(*NN*-dimethyl-*N*-1-deoxyglucitylamino)-2-hydroxy-3-tetradecyloxy propane sulphate

- The products of some of the synthesis examples (if necessary after purification) were tested for aquatic toxicity to *Daphnia magna* in a standard bio-assay to derive the EC50 (in mg.l⁻¹) for immobilising the *Daphnia* at the end of the 48 hour assay procedure. The results are given below:

Compound (SE No)	EC50
SE20	>100
SE21	31.4
MON0818*	2.0

* conventional fatty amine ethoxylate adjuvant particularly used with glyphosate type herbicides - toxicity data from 'Glyphosate: A unique global herbicide' by J E Franz *et al*, ACS Monograph 189, 1997 (96 hour figure).

These data indicate that the compounds of the formula (I) have significantly lower aquatic toxicity as compared with the conventional tallow amine ethoxylate adjuvant.

The irritancy of the products of some of the synthesis examples (if necessary after purification)

5 was tested using standard testing protocols. The results are given below:

Compound (SE No)	Irritation assessment	
	Skin	Eye
FAE*	severe	severe
SE10	practically none	moderate/severe
SE23	slight	moderate
SE25	slight	moderate
SE21	slight/moderate	practically none/slight

* fatty amine ethoxylate (previously obtained data)

These data indicate that the compounds of and used in this invention are substantially less irritant than tallow amine ethoxylates such as are conventionally used as agrochemical adjuvants

Application Examples AE1 to AE5 illustrate the application of compounds of the formula (I) as agrochemical adjuvants. For convenience, most of the adjuvants used in these Examples were

10 diluted with monopropyleneglycol (MPG). The formulations, referenced as SE..M, used were:

SEM No	SE No	% amine	% MPG
SE3M	SE3	50	50
SE5M	SE5	50	50
SE10M	SE10	100	0
SE12M	SE12	50	50
SE14M	SE14	75	25
SE17M	SE17	50	50
SE22M	SE22	65	35
SE24M	SE24	40	60
SE26M	SE26	70	30

For some of the synthesised materials, reaction was not complete so the percentage figure for "amine" may overstate the actual proportion of amine in the additive as used.

In some of the Application Examples crop species are used for testing herbicidal effectiveness. This was done because crop plants do turn up as weeds (in other crops), they can be good models for effectiveness on certain types of weed and they are available as controlled seeds thus improving consistency in testing (weed seeds are much less readily available in such controlled forms).

Application Example AE1

Aqueous herbicide formulations were made up using Sulfosate as the active material at 3.3 g.l⁻¹ and (diluted) adjuvant at 2.4 g.l⁻¹. The formulations were tested for herbicidal activity on species of *Hordeum vulgare ssp.* (barley), *Lolium multiflorum* (Italian rye grass) and *Pisum sativum* (pea) by spraying the plants with 300 l.ha⁻¹ (equivalent to 990 g(active).ha⁻¹) herbicide formulation. Chlorosis and/or necrosis and growth reduction were assessed after 6, 10 and 16 days with the results quoted as a percentage of the plants so affected. The results are set out in Table 1 below with Chlorosis and/or necrosis and growth reduction data separated by a colon.

Table 1

Ex No	Adjuvant	days	Species		
			barley	rye grass	pea
AE1.1	SE3M	6	90 : 50	- : 65	60 : 65
		10	100 : 75	- : 75	65 : 65
		16	100 : 80	- : 95	75 : 80
AE1.2	SE5M	6	65 : 40	- : 45	25 : 30
		10	98 : 50	- : 75	10 : 50
		16	100 : 80	- : 95	15 : 60
AE1.3	SE12M	6	65 : 40	- : 45	55 : 50
		10	98 : 50	- : 75	60 : 65
		16	100 : 80	- : 95	65 : 75
AE1.4	SE16M	6	65 : 40	- : 45	25 : 20
		10	98 : 50	- : 75	10 : 40
		16	100 : 80	- : 95	10 : 60

Application Example AE2

A field trial was carried out using Sulfosate as active herbicide to investigate the effectiveness of adjuvants of the invention in weed control. The herbicide formulations were aqueous solutions of the herbicide (3.3 g.l⁻¹) and adjuvant (1.65 g.l⁻¹) in water which was applied by spraying at an application rate of 300 l.ha⁻¹, equivalent to 990 g.ha⁻¹ of active Sulfosate salt and 495 g.ha⁻¹ of adjuvant. An untreated control was used as the basis for comparison and a control treatment with Sulfosate without adjuvant was also included. Weed control was assessed by visual observation on a scale of 0 = 'no effect' to 100 = 'all weeds killed' at 7, 14 and 21 days after spraying.

4 replications of 2 m x 8 m plots containing mixtures of the following weeds were used:

Weed	Growth stage	Weed	Growth stage
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	4-6 leaves	<i>Galinsoga parviflora</i>	2-4 leaves
<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	4-5 leaves	<i>Solanum nigra</i>	2-4 leaves
<i>Stellaria media</i>	4-6 leaves	<i>Poa annua</i>	3-4 tillages
<i>Urtica urens</i>	4 leaves		

The weed control results are set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Ex No	Adjuvant type	% weed control		
		7 days	14 days	21 days
AE2.1C	-	25	50	45
AE2.1	SE5M	37.5	67.5	60
AE2.2	SE3M	60	85	80
AE2.3	SE16M	47.5	77.5	70
AE2.4	SE12M	60	82.5	80

5 Application Example AE3

A further field trial was carried out generally as described in AE2, but using Glyphosate as active herbicide. The same plot set up, selection of weeds and assessment was used as in AE2. The effective application rate of the Glyphosate was 1080 g.ha⁻¹ and of the adjuvant 540 g.ha⁻¹. The results are set out in Table 3 below.

10

Table 3

Ex No	Adjuvant type	% weed control		
		7 days	14 days	21 days
AE2.1C	-	35	65	65
AE2.1	SE5M	35	65	65
AE2.2	SE3M	47.5	72.5	77.5
AE2.3	SE16M	47.5	72.5	65
AE2.4	SE12M	50	72.5	80

Application Example AE4

A multi crop trial was run with Glyphosate as herbicide. The selected crops: Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*), Pea (*Pisum sativum*) and Savoy cabbage (*Brassica oleracea* var. *rapa*) were sown on a sandy lawn soil in strips with 40 m long and 2 m wide. Glyphosate and adjuvant combinations were applied across the crop strips in 2 m wide bands (one replicate), sprayed at 250 l.ha⁻¹. Glyphosate at 1080 g(active).ha⁻¹ + 540 g.ha⁻¹ adjuvant was sprayed. An untreated

15

control was carried out. Visual evaluation of crop growth reduction and chlorosis/necrosis were made of the different crops 7, 10 and 16 days after treatment. Each parameter was estimated as a percentage as compares with nearest untreated control plot (= 0%). The results are set out in Table 4 below.

5

Table 4

Ex No	Compound	days	Species		
			rye grass	pea	cabbage
AE4.1	SE5M	7	45 : 45	25 : 25	40 : 82
	SE3M	10	90 : 75	5 : 45	70 : 85
	SE16M	16	100 : 95	5 : 55	- : 88
AE4.2	SE12M	7	45 : 50	35 : 35	45 : 85
	SE5M	10	90 : 75	10 : 50	75 : 85
	SE3M	16	100 : 95	10 : 55	- : 93
AE4.3	SE16M	7	35 : 40	30 : 25	35 : 85
	SE12M	10	85 : 75	5 : 45	75 : 88
	SE5M	16	100 : 95	5 : 50	- : 92
AE4.4	SE3M	7	45 : 50	40 : 40	95 : 95
	SE16M	10	92 : 75	15 : 50	95 : 95
	SE12M	16	100 : 95	20 : 70	- : 98

Application Example 5

Field trials were carried out to test the effectiveness of fungicide on winter wheat (variety Versailles) using the active Horizon EW (tebuconazole) (250 g.l⁻¹) in the control of fungal leaf rust (*Puccinia recondita*). The plots were sprayed at a spray volume 300 l.ha⁻¹, with the adjuvants added as tank mix additives at a concentration of 0.1% weight/volume on the spray. The normal application rate (NAR) for Horizon alone is 1 l.ha⁻¹ (250 g.ha⁻¹) and this was used as a control together with 0.75 l.ha⁻¹ (187.5 g.ha⁻¹; 3/4 NAR). An untreated control was also included. For these trials, adjuvant containing formulations were at 3/4 NAR for the active and 0.1% weight/volume (300 g.ha⁻¹) adjuvant. The effect of the spraying was assessed 3 weeks after treatment and is expressed as % infected leaf area (2 and 3 top leaves).

Table 5

Ex No	Fungicide		Adjuvant		% infected	
	type	g.ha ⁻¹	type	g.ha ⁻¹	2 leaf	3 leaf
AE5.1C	tebuconazole	250	-	-	2.5	2.5
AE5.2C	tebuconazole	187.5	-	-	2.5	10
AE5.1	tebuconazole	250	SE5M	300	0	0
AE5.2	tebuconazole	187.5	SE3M	300	0	0

- 25 -

AE5.3	tebuconazole	250	SE16M	300	0	2.5
AE5.4	tebuconazole	187.5	SE12M	300	0	0

Application Example AE6

Field trials were carried out on multi-crop test plots to test the effectiveness of compounds of the formula (I) as adjuvants for Glyphosate herbicide. The herbicide used was aqueous Glyphosate applied at the same rate as used in AE3. Roundup-Ultra at an application rate of 1080 g(active Glyphosate).ha⁻¹ was used as a control. Three crop plants were used as the test species:

Crop	Scientific name	Crop stage at spraying
Savoy cabbage	<i>Brassica oleracea</i> var. <i>sabauda</i>	3-4 leaves, 10-12 cm
Flax	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	20-25 cm
Pea	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	5-6 branches, 20-30 cm

The effectiveness of the compositions was assessed by visual evaluation of the percentage crop growth reduction in comparison with control plots which were not sprayed with herbicide (0% growth reduction) at 7, 11, 16 days after treatment and also at 28 days for Pea as differences became more pronounced with time. The formulations using compounds of the formula (I) clearly have a high speed of action as compared to Roundup-ultra. For some plots an effect is noticeable after as little as 2 days.

Table 6

Ex No	Adjuvant	Flax			Pea				Savoy cabbage		
		7d	11d	16d	7d	11d	16d	28d	7d	11d	16d
AE6.1	SE10M	75	90	95	75	90	95	98	85	95	99
AE6.2	SE12M	65	90	95	60	80	85	90	75	90	99
AE6.3	SE22M	80	90	95	75	88	98	99	75	95	100
AE6.4	SE14M	70	90	95	70	85	90	97	70	95	100
AE6.5	SE24M	60	90	95	47	65	70	80	50	88	97
AE6.6	SE26M	65	90	95	60	78	85	92	60	92	98
AE6.1C	-	50	88	95	53	75	88	95	55	90	97

Application Example AE7

Greenhouse trials were carried out to investigate the effect of rain on the adjuvant performance of a variety of glucamine based surfactants as adjuvants. The test species used were pea and barley plants at the 4-5 leaf stage (4 replicates) using Glyphosate as the agrochemical applied by spraying at various application rates with a weight ratio of glyphosate to adjuvant of 2:1 and using a spray volume of 200l/ha⁻¹. Some tests substrates were sprayed with ??? l/ha⁻¹ water ??? hours after applying the herbicide formulations to simulate the effect of rain on the effectiveness of the herbicide. Then effectiveness of the herbicide formulations was assessed visually with results expressed as percentage kill 11 Days after application of the herbicide formulations. The results

are set out in Table 7 below. The adjuvants are identified by their SEM Nos and the comparison material used in control Example AE7.1C was Roundup-ultra. These data indicate good herbicide performance with only modest reductions in efficacy for samples exposed to simulated rain (indicated '+').

5

Table 7

Ex No	Adjuvant	Barley				Pea			
		Glyphosate dose				Glyphosate dose			
		324 g.ha ⁻¹		756 g.ha ⁻¹		324 g.ha ⁻¹		756 g.ha ⁻¹	
		Rain				Rain			
		-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+
AE7.1	SE14 M	29	21	57	36	50	29	54	39
AE7.2	SE26 M	36	25	50	25	46	25	68	32
AE7.3	SE24M	39	21	50	29	39	21	54	32
AE7.1C	-	36	21	43	29	54	29	68	50

Application Example AE8

Field trial Herbicide tests using Glyphosate were run using a glucamine based adjuvants and T150 (amine ethoxylate) for comparison on three test crops: *Convolvulus arvensis*, Wheat and *Malva sylvestris*. The application rate of the active agrochemical was varied as was the ratio of agrochemical to adjuvant (2:1 and 2:0.25 - indicated as '1' and 0.25' in Table 8 below) to obtain some dose response data. The Results in table 8 below show that the adjuvants of this invention provided adjuvant effects broadly as good as the conventional amine ethoxylate.

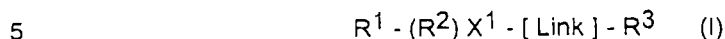
10

Table 8

Ex No	SEM No	Time	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>				Wheat				<i>Malva sylvestris</i>			
			540 g.ha ⁻¹		1080 g.ha ⁻¹		350 g.ha ⁻¹		700 g.ha ⁻¹		350 g.ha ⁻¹		700 g.ha ⁻¹	
			1	0.25	1	0.25	1	0.25	1	0.25	1	0.25	1	0.25
AE8.1	SE14 M	6	18	14.3	14.3	18	23.1	20	25	21.4	14.3	18	21.4	21.4
		14	14.3	18	39.3	39.3	57.1	39.3	71.4	57.1	21.4	32.1	46.4	43
		20	17.9	17.9	46.4	42.9	60.7	35.7	89.3	67.9	35.7	28.6	46.4	39.3
AE8.2	SE22M	6	21.4	18	14.3	14.3	21.4	20	21.4	20	14.3	21.4	21.4	29
		14	14.3	18	43	32.1	60.7	35.7	71.4	75	35.7	39.3	60.7	43
		20	17.9	25	67.9	42.9	75	35.7	89.3	89.3	28.6	32.1	57.1	46.4
AE8.1C	-	6	18	14.3	18	14.3	14.3	18	21.4	21.4	18	18	25	21.4
		14	39.3	21.4	60.7	43	64.3	50	71.4	64.3	32.1	25	57.1	43
		20	39.3	21.4	64.3	60.7	78.6	78.6	96.4	85.7	35.7	25	60.7	57.1

Claims:

1 An agrochemical composition which includes an agrochemically active compound and a compound of the formula (I):



where

R^1 is polyhydroxy hydrocarbyl;

R^2 is H or hydrocarbyl, or is a group as defined for R^1 ;

10 X^1 is N; $N^+ \rightarrow O^-$; $N^+ R^4 -$ where: $R^4 -$ is C_1 to C_6 hydrocarbyl carrying an anionic substituent, particularly $-CH_2 - COO^-$; or $N^+ R^5 An^-$ where: R^5 is a C_1 to C_{20} hydrocarbyl; and An^- is a charge balancing anion;

Link is a linking group of the formula: $-CH_2 - CHOH - X^2 -$

where X^2 is

a direct bond; $-CH_2 - O -$; $-CH_2 - N(R^6) -$; $-CH_2 - (OA)_p - O -$; or $-CH_2 - (OA)_p - N(R^7) -$;

15 where

OA is an oxyalkylene residue;

p is from 1 to 100;

R^6 is H; C_1 to C_8 hydrocarbyl; or a group $R^1 - (R^2) X^1 - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 -$ where R^1 , R^2 and X^1 are as defined above; and

20 R^7 is H; C_1 to C_8 hydrocarbyl; or a group $R^1 - (R^2) X^1 - CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - (OA)_p -$ where R^1 , R^2 , X^1 , OA and p are as defined above; and

R^3 is hydrocarbyl.

2 A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^1 is a polyhydroxy alkyl group having a linear C_4 to C_7 chain and at least three hydroxyl groups directly bonded to chain carbon atoms.

25 3 A composition as claimed in claim 2 wherein R^1 is a group of the formula:
 $-CH_2 - (CHOH)_4 - CH_2OH$.

4 A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein R^2 is an alkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxyalkyl group, R^5 is an alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl or aralkyl, An^- is an alkali metal or ammonium ion, R^6 and R^7 are each independently alkyl or alkenyl groups and R^3 is a
30 C_{10} to C_{30} alkyl, alkenyl, alkaryl, aryl or aralkyl group.

5 A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the oxyalkylene group(s) OA is(are) oxyethylene, oxypropylene or mixtures of oxyethylene and oxypropylene groups and p is from 1 to 50.

6 A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein Link is a group of one of the
35 formulae: $-CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - O -$; $-CH_2 - CHOH - CH_2 - (OA)_p - O -$;

- 28 -

- CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - N(R⁶)-; or - CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - (OA)_p- N(R⁷) -; where OA, p, R⁶ and R⁷ are as defined in either claim 1 or claim 2.

- 7 A composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the agrochemically active compound is one or more plant growth regulators, herbicides, and/or pesticides, for example insecticides, fungicides, acaricides, nematocides, miticides, rodenticides, bactericides, molluscicides and/or bird repellants.
- 8 A composition as claimed in claim 7 wherein the agrochemically active compound is or includes at least one water soluble herbicide.
- 9 A composition as claimed in claim 8 wherein the water soluble herbicide is or includes at least one phosphonomethyl glycine, particularly Glyphosate and/or Sulfosate; at least one phosphinyl amino acid, particularly Glufosinate; and/or at least one bipyridinium compound, particularly Paraquat.
- 10 A compound of the general formula (IIa): R¹ - (R²) X¹ - [Link¹] - R³ where R¹, R², and R³ are as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5 and Link¹ is a linking group of one of the formulae: - CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - (OA)_p- O -; - CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - N(R⁶) -; or - CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - (OA)_p- N(R⁷) -; where OA, p, R⁶ and R⁷ are as defined for formula (I) in any one of claims 1 to 5.
- 11 A compound of the general formula (IIb): R¹ - (R²)X^{1a} - [Link²] - R³ where R¹, R², and R³ are as defined above for formula (I); X^{1a} is N⁺->O⁻, N⁺R⁴ - or R⁵An⁻ where: R⁴ -, R⁵ and An⁻ are as defined above for formula (I); and Link² is a linking group of one of the formulae: - CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - O -; - CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - (OA)_p- O -; - CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - N(R⁶) -; or - CH₂ - CHOH - CH₂ - (OA)_p- N(R⁷) -; where OA, p, R⁶ and R⁷ are as defined above for formula (I).
- 12 A method of treating vegetation by applying to plants and/or soil a composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9.
- 13 A method of killing or inhibiting vegetation by applying a formulation as claimed in claim 1 which includes one or more growth regulators and/or herbicides and at least one compound of the general formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 as an adjuvant.
- 14 A method of killing or plant pests by applying a formulation as claimed in claim 1 which includes one or more pesticides, for example insecticides, fungicides or acaricides, and at least one compound of the general formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 as an adjuvant.