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Description

This invention relates to improvements in the stability of antibiotic compounds.

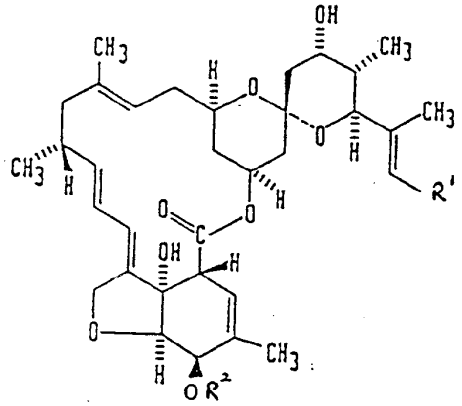
UK Patent Specification Nos 2166436, 2176182 and 2187742 and European Patent Specification No. 170006 describe antibiotic compounds, designated Antibiotics S541, prepared by fermentation of Streptomyces microorganisms and chemical derivatives thereof. Such compounds have antibiotic, and, in particular, anti-endoparasitic, anti-ectoparasitic, anti-fungal, insecticidal, nematicidal and acaricidal activity and are of special interest for use in agriculture, horticulture and animal and human health. They are also of use as intermediates in the preparation of other active compounds.

We have discovered that these antibiotic compounds tend to be unstable under normal conditions of preparation, use and storage. We have now found that the stability of the compounds can be considerably enhanced when they are in the presence of an antioxidant. Thus, any loss due to instability of the compounds during preparation can be minimised by addition of an antioxidant. In a similar way, the shelf-life of the compounds can be increased if admixed with an antioxidant, thereby allowing for the compounds to be prepared well in advance of their intended use. In the presence of an an tioxidant, the compounds also have increased protection against photodegradation, and this allows for the compounds to be readily stored.

Thus, according to one aspect of the invention, we provide a composition containing an antibiotic S541 compound preparable by fermentation of a Streptomyces microorganism or a chemical derivative thereof in the presence of an antioxidant as defined below.

The fermented compounds will in general be Antibiotic S541 compounds or derivatives thereof produced by an Antibiotics S541 producing microorganism belonging to the genus Streptomyces, especially an Antibiotics S541 producing strain of the species Streptomyces thermarchaensis or Streptomyces cyaneogriseus noncyanogenus. Particular examples of suitable strains include Streptomyces thermarchaensis NCIB 12015 [deposited 10th September 1984], Streptomyces thermarchaensis NCIB 12111, NCIB 12112, NCIB 12113, NCIB 12114 [all deposited 26th June 1985] and Streptomyces cyaneogriseus noncyanogenus NRRL 15773 [deposited 3rd May 1984] and mutants of all these strains.

Particular fermented compounds which may be recovered have the formula (I)



(I)

(where R^1 is a methyl, ethyl or isopropyl group and R^2 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group).

An important group of derivatives which may be used in the compositions of the invention is described in GB 2192630A, particularly 23[E]-methoxyimino Factor A.

The antioxidant for use in the composition according to the invention will in general be an antioxidant that is capable of reacting with free radicals, and may be a C_{1-12} alkyl gallate such as ethyl, propyl, octyl or dodecyl gallate; benzyl hydroxybenzoate; butylated hydroxyanisole; butylated hydroxytoluene; quinones and salts thereof, for example C_{1-6} alkyl hydroquinones such as t-butyl hydroquinone and salts thereof, eg the sodium salts; nordihydroguaiaretic acid; or tocopherols such as α-tocopherol. We have found butylated hydroxytoluene to be particularly useful.

The antioxidant may be present in the compositions according to the invention in amounts ranging from 0.005 to 1%, especially 0.02 to 0.3% with respect to the antibiotic compounds. If desired, a mixture of antioxidants may be present in the compositions.

The antibiotic compounds may be in a partially or wholly purified form either as a solid or as a solution in

a suitable solvent, for example a ketone such as acetone, an alcohol such as methanol, a hydrocarbon such as hexane, a halogenated hydrocarbon such as chloroform or methylene chloride, an ester such as ethyl acetate, or acetonitrile. Suitable methods for the preparation of the antibiotic compounds in these forms are described in UK Patent Specification Nos. 2166436, 2176182 and 2187742 and European Patent Specification No. 170006.

Where the compositions of the invention are to be used in human or veterinary medicine, or in agriculture, horticulture or forestry they may also contain one or more suitable carriers or excipients. Thus in a further aspect of the invention we provide a composition comprising an antibiotic compound preparable by fermentation of a Streptomyces microorganism or a chemical derivatives thereof and an antioxidant together with one or more carriers or excipients.

Examples of suitable carriers and excipients are those described in the aforementioned UK and European Patent specifications.

Where the compositions according to the invention have antibiotic activity e.g. antihelminthic activity, for example against nematodes, and in particular, anti-endoparasitic and anti-ectoparasitic activity, they can be used in the treatment of animals and humans with endoparasitic, ectoparasitic and/or fungal infections and in agriculture, horticulture and forestry as pesticides to combat insect, acarine and nematode pests. They may also be used generally as pesticides to combat or control pests in other circumstances, e.g. in stores, buildings or other public places or location of the pests.

Thus according to a further aspect of the invention we provide a composition comprising an antibiotic S541 compound preparable by fermentation of a Streptomyces microorganism or a chemical derivative thereof and an antioxidant optionally also containing one or more carriers or excipients for use as an antibiotic in the treatment of humans or animals or for combatting pests, for example in agriculture, horticulture or forestry.

In general, the compositions may be applied either to the host (animal or human or plants or other vegetation) or to the pests themselves or a locus thereof in accordance with conventional practice.

The compositions according to the invention may be prepared by admixture of the desired ingredients, and according to a further aspect of the invention we provide a process for the preparation of a composition comprising admixing an antibiotic compound preparable by fermentation of a Streptomyces microorganism or a chemical derivative thereof and an antioxidant together, where desired, with one or more carriers or excipients.

The compositions may be prepared by mixing or blending the ingredients in a conventional manner. Thus, in one embodiment a suitable antibiotic compound in a partially purified form in solution may be treated with the antioxidant and, if desired, subsequently co-precipitated from the resulting solution or suspension by the addition or an anti-solvent or by pH adjustment. In another embodiment, a suitable antibiotic compound in a partially or wholly purified form as a solid may be blended with the antioxidant, together, where desired, with one or more carriers or excipients by intimate mixing.

The fermented antibiotic compounds may be isolated from fermentation broth using the methods described in UK Patent Specification 2166436, 2176182 or 2187742 or European Patent Specification 170006. In a further aspect of the present invention we provide for the isolation of an antibiotic S541 compound prepared by fermentation of a Streptomyces microorganisms in the presence of an antioxidant.

According to a further aspect of the invention we provide a method of stabilising Antibiotics S541 compounds preparable by fermentation of a Streptomyces microorganism or chemical derivatives thereof which comprises contacting the said compound with an antioxidant in any conventional way.

The following Examples illustrate the invention. All temperatures are in °C.

In the following Examples 1 to 5 the increased stability of Factor A [a compound of Formula (I) in which R^1 is an isopropyl group and R^2 is a hydrogen atom] is demonstrated by comparing changes in potency using accelerated temperature techniques. Potency was measured by high performance liquid chromatography using a Spherisorb ODS2 chromatograph.

Example 1

A sample of Factor A (in a partially purified form) was dissolved in acetone to give a 5% w/v solution. The solution was divided into aliquots. To one aliquot was added butylated hydroxytoluene (25 ppm with respect to the volume of acetone), while nothing was added to a second aliquot. Both aliquots were separately precipitated by the simultaneous addition of the acetone solution (1 volume) and cold water containing 1% v/v sulphuric acid (3 volumes) to a stirred vessel, maintaining the temperature at 0-5°. The solid was filtered, washed with 3 volumes of cold water and dried.

A portion of each solid was heated at 50° for two weeks in a sealed vial, followed by reassay. The following results were obtained.

Added butylated hydroxytoluene (ppm)	None	25
Change in (%) Potency	-26.3	-1.1

Example 2

Following the method of Example 1 using butylated hydroxytoluene (250 ppm with respect to the volume of acetone) the following results were obtained.

Added butylated hydroxytoluene (ppm)	None	250
Change in (%) Potency	-36.8	no change

Example 3

Following the method of Example 1 using propyl gallate (250 ppm with respect to the volume of acetone) the following results were obtained.

Added propyl gallate (ppm)	None	250
Change in (%) Potency	-27.3	-8.8

Example 4

Following the method of Example 1 using t-butyl hydroquinone (250 ppm with respect to the volume of acetone) the following results were obtained.

Added t-butyl hydroquinone (ppm)	None	250
Change in (%) Potency	-27.3	-8.8

Example 5

Dry Factor A was blended with butylated hydroxytoluene (250 ppm) by shaking followed by intimate mixing in a mortar and pestle. A portion of the solid, along with a portion to which no butylated hydroxytoluene had been added, was heated at 50° for two weeks in a sealed vial followed by reassay. The following results were obtained:

Added butylated hydroxytoluene (ppm)		None	250
Change in Potency	(%)	-23.0	-10.0

Example 6

Exposure of Factor A to UV Light

Procedure of Example 5 was followed and the solids either stored under refrigeration or stored at ambient temperature with exposure to ultraviolet light. The following results were obtained:-

		MEASURED POTENCY (%)			
		Start	3 days	7 days	10 days
No butylated hydroxy-toluene	Stored under refrigeration	100.0	100.0	101.2	98.8
	Exposed UV light * Ambient temperature	100.0	92.8	83.5	84.3
Added butylated hydroxy-toluene (250 ppm)	Stored under refrigeration	100.0	100.0	100.5	100.1
	Exposed UV light * Ambient temperature	100.0	100.8	92.5	92.5

* A mercury UV lamp (wavelength 366nm)

The following are examples of formulations according to the invention. The term 'Active Ingredient' as used hereinafter means a compound of the formula (I) or a derivative thereof. In all of these compositions an anti-oxidant is additionally included, e.g. in an amount of 0.02 - 0.3%.

Tablet

Method of manufacture - wet granulation

	mg
Active Ingredient	250.0
Magnesium stearate	4.5
Maize starch	22.5
Sodium starch glycolate	9.0
Sodium lauryl sulphate	4.5
Microcrystalline cellulose	to tablet core weight of 450mg

Add sufficient quantity of a 10% starch paste to the active ingredient to produce a suitable wet mass for granulation. Prepare the granules and dry using a tray or fluid-bed drier. Sift through a sieve, add the remaining ingredients and compress into tablets.

If required, film coat the tablet cores using hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose or other similar film-forming material using either an aqueous or non-aqueous solvent system. A plasticizer and suitable colour may be included in the film-coating solution.

Veterinary tablet for small/domestic animal use

Method of manufacture - dry granulation

	mg
Active Ingredient	50.0
Magnesium stearate	7.5
Microcrystalline cellulose to tablet core weight of	75.0

Blend the active ingredient with the magnesium stearate and microcrystallise cellulose. Compact the blend into

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