



(51) International Patent Classification:

A01N 25/10 (2006.01) A01N 47/06 (2006.01)

A01N 25/30 (2006.01) A01P 7/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2020/060076

(22) International Filing Date:

08 April 2020 (08.04.2020)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

19168504.9 10 April 2019 (10.04.2019) EP

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(CH).(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO,
DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP,
KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR,
TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ,
UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ,TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK,
EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV,
MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM,
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

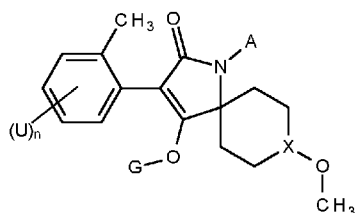
Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: PESTICIDAL COMPOSITIONS



(I)

(57) Abstract: A pesticidal composition comprising: (i) A compound of Formula (I) as active ingredient, wherein: A is hydrogen or methyl; U is independently chloro or methyl; n is 1 or 2; G is hydrogen or -C(=O)OCH₂CH₃; and X is N or C(H); or an agrochemically acceptable salt thereof; and (ii) an adjuvant combination comprising: (a) an oxirane/methyl oxirane block co-polymer (polyoxyethylene/polyoxypropylene block copolymer); and (b) an alcohol alkoxyate; wherein the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is 1:3 to 3:1; and the weight ratio of component (i) to (ii) is 1:1 to 1:4.



Pesticidal compositions

The present invention relates to a suspension concentrate composition comprising an insecticidal active ingredient, to the preparation thereof and to a method of using such a composition to control pests in crops of useful plants.

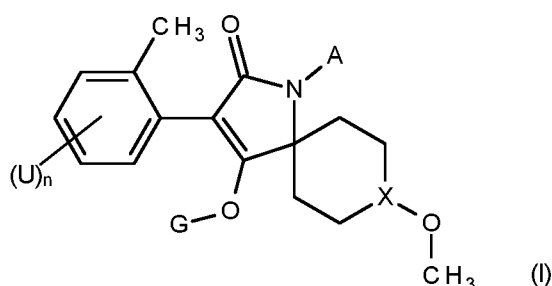
A pesticide adjuvant may be defined as a substance present in a pesticide spray formulation, either incorporated into an active ingredient concentrate (ie, the so-called "built-in" adjuvant) which is diluted in a spray tank prior to spraying, or is added to a spray tank prior to spraying and is not a component of the active ingredient concentrate (ie, the so-called "tank-mix" adjuvant), which improves pesticidal active ingredient performance, for example by facilitating the spreading of the active ingredient on a leaf surface or penetration into the leaf. The use of built-in adjuvants in an agrochemical formulation may simplify the spraying process by eliminating the step of separate addition of an adjuvant to the spray tank, and so in certain circumstances might be preferred.

WO 2004/007448 and WO 2010/066780 disclose that certain spiroheterocyclic pyrrolidine dione derivatives have pesticidal activity, in particular, insecticidal, acaricidal, molluscicidal and nematocidal activity. Such derivatives function systemically and upon foliar application are able to penetrate into a plant leaf and move through the plant's vascular system. For this reason, these derivatives are, in particular, effective against insect sucking pests, such as aphids, thrips and whiteflies. However, it is important when applying to a plant a composition comprising such derivatives to strike a balance between achieving acceptable pesticidal efficacy whilst limiting phytotoxic outcomes, which may result from excessive penetration of the active ingredient into the plant.

Thus, there remains a motivation in the development of agrochemical formulations, in particular those comprising a built-in adjuvant, for novel compositions which meet these dual requirements of an optimised pesticidal (insecticidal) efficacy, whilst limiting phytotoxicity and thus significant damage to a plant (crop safety).

According to the present invention, there is provided a pesticidal composition comprising:

- (i) a compound of Formula (I) as active ingredient:



wherein:

A is hydrogen or methyl;

U is independently chloro or methyl;

n is 1 or 2;

G is hydrogen or $-C(=O)OCH_2CH_3$; and

X is N or C(H);

or an agrochemically acceptable salt thereof; and

5

(ii) an adjuvant combination comprising:

(a) an oxirane/methyl oxirane block co-polymer (polyoxyethylene/polyoxypropylene block copolymer); and

(b) an alcohol alkoxylate;

10

wherein the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is 1:3 to 3:1; and

the weight ratio of component (i) to (ii) is 1:1 to 1:4.

15

Surprisingly, it has been found that the compositions of the invention, have for practical purposes, a very advantageous level of activity in controlling insect pests in crops of useful plants after foliar or soil application, whilst also maintaining acceptable crop safety (phytotoxicity) outcomes. By activity, it is meant that the compositions of the invention are capable of killing or controlling insects, retarding the growth or reproduction of insects, reducing an insect population, and/or reducing damage

20 to plants caused by insects.

In a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of combating and controlling pests which comprises applying to a pest, to a locus of a pest, or to a crop of a useful plant susceptible to attack by a pest a composition according to the invention.

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In a third aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of controlling pests, which method comprises applying to the soil of a crop of a useful plant a composition according to the invention, wherein the application is by drip, drenching or injection to the soil.

Preferably, the composition according to the invention is a suspension concentrate formulation.

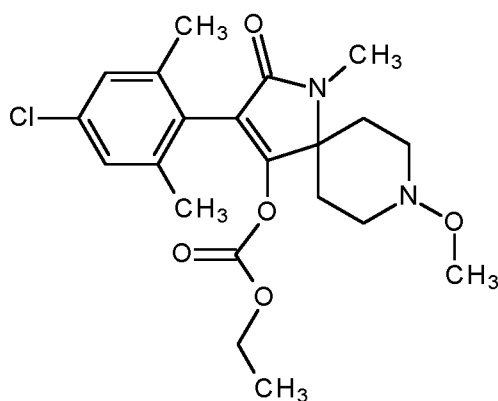
30 Suspension concentrate (SC) formulations are stable suspensions of a solid pesticidal active ingredient(s) in a fluid usually intended for dilution before use. Ideally, the suspension should be stable (i.e., not settle out). Suspension concentrate formulations are generally diluted with water prior to customary spraying via nozzles and besides the active ingredient(s), may also contain also other auxiliaries, such as surfactants, emulsifiers, dispersants, wetting agents, antifreeze agents, antifoaming

35 agents, biocides, solvents, stabilizers, anti-microbials, pigments, buffers, surface-active substances, etc. Such substances will be known to the person skilled in the art of agrochemical formulation. Suspension concentrate formulations may be prepared by ball or bead milling the solid active ingredient compound in a suitable medium, optionally with one or more dispersing agents, to produce a fine particle suspension of the compound. One or more wetting agents may be included in the composition and

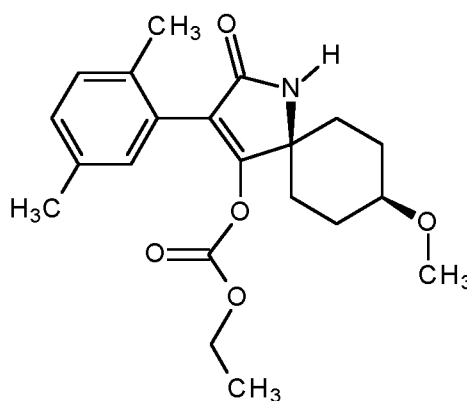
40 suspending (anti-settling) agent may be included to reduce the rate at which the particles settle.

Alternatively, the active ingredient may be dry milled and added to water, containing agents hereinbefore described, to produce the desired end product.

Preferably, the compound of Formula (I) (component (i)) is selected from one of compound 1 (spiropidion - CAS no.: 1229023-00-0) or compound 2 (spirotetramat - CAS no.: 203313-25-1), and most
5 preferably compound 1 (spiropidion).



Compound 1

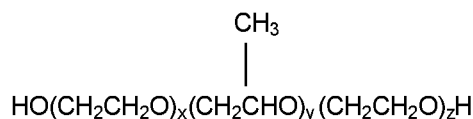


Compound 2

Component (ii) is an adjuvant combination comprising: (a) an oxirane/methyl oxirane block co-polymer (polyoxyethylene/polyoxypropylene block copolymer); and (b) an alcohol alkoxylate.

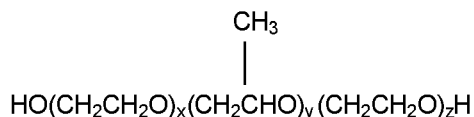
10 The oxirane/methyl oxirane block co-polymer used as component (a) of the adjuvant combination (ii) preferably has a molecular mass in the range of 2500 to 7000 g/mol, and more preferably 4000 to 6000 g/mol. Preferably, this oxirane/methyl oxirane block co-polymer comprises a central polyoxypropylene group (block) flanked by two polyoxyethylene groups (blocks). That is, the oxirane/methyl oxirane block co-polymer comprises a POE-POP-POE sequence, wherein POE
15 represents a polyoxyethylene (-CH₂CH₂O-) block and POP (-CH₂CH(CH₃)O-) represents a polyoxypropylene block, and has a molecular mass (g/mol) of 2500 to 7000.

In one embodiment of the invention, the oxirane/methyl oxirane block co-polymer used as component (a) of the adjuvant combination (ii) is of the general formula:



20 wherein x is an integer in the range of 10 to 15, y is an integer in the range of 25 to 35, and z is an integer in the range of 10 to 15, preferably wherein the block co-polymer has a molecular mass (g/mol) in the range of 2500 to 3500 g/mol.

In another embodiment of the invention, the oxirane/methyl oxirane block co-polymer used as component (a) of the adjuvant combination (ii) is of the general formula:



wherein x is an integer in the range of 30 to 40, y is an integer in the range of 50 to 60, and z is an integer in the range of 30 to 40, preferably wherein the block co-polymer has a molecular mass (g/mol) in the range of 6000 to 7000 g/mol.

5 Examples of oxirane/methyl oxirane block co-polymers which may be used in accordance with the present invention are Pluronic® PE 6400 (BASF Corporation, USA) and Pluronic® PE 10500 (BASF Corporation, USA).

The alcohol alkoxylate used as component (b) of the adjuvant combination (ii) is preferably an alkoxylated C₁₂ to C₁₅ fatty alcohol, and more preferably, an ethoxylated and/or propoxylated C₁₂ to C₁₅ fatty alcohol. An example of an alkoxylated C₁₂ to C₁₅ fatty alcohol is Plurafac® LF 404 (BASF Corporation, USA).

The weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is 1:3 to 3:1. This may include the specific weight ratios of component (a) to component (b) of 1:3, 1:2, 2:3, 1:1, 3:2, 2:1 or 3:1. Preferably, the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is 1:1 to 3:1, and more preferably, 1:1 to 2:1, in particular 1.5:1.

The weight ratio of component (i) to (ii) is 1:1 to 1:4. This may include the specific weight ratios of component (i) to component (ii) of 1:1, 2:3, 1:2, 2:5, 1:3, 2:7 or 1:4. Preferably, the weight ratio of component (i) to component (ii) is 1:2 to 1:4, and more preferably, 1:2 to 1:3, in particular 2:5.

Preferably, treatments applying the composition of the present invention are as the sole pesticidal active ingredient being the compound of formula (I), however, the compositions may also be applied in combination with one or more additional pesticidal (insecticidal, acaricidal or nematocidal) active ingredients or active ingredient compositions, eg, in a tank mix.

Examples of pests which may be controlled in accordance with the present invention include those:

25 from the order *Acarina*, for example, *Acalitus spp.*, *Aculus spp.*, *Acaricalus spp.*, *Aceria spp.*, *Acarus siro*, *Amblyomma spp.*, *Argas spp.*, *Boophilus spp.*, *Brevipalpus spp.*, *Bryobia spp.*, *Calipitimerus spp.*, *Chorioptes spp.*, *Dermanyssus gallinae*, *Dermatophagoides spp.*, *Eotetranychus spp.*, *Eriophyes spp.*, *Hemitarsonemus spp.*, *Hyalomma spp.*, *Ixodes spp.*, *Olygonychus spp.*, *Ornithodoros spp.*, *Polyphagotarsonus latus*, *Panonychus spp.*, *Phyllocoptura oleivora*, *Phytonemus spp.*, *Polyphagotarsonemus spp.*, *Psoroptes spp.*, *Rhipicephalus spp.*, *Rhizoglyphus spp.*, *Sarcoptes spp.*, *Steneotarsonemus spp.*, *Tarsonemus spp.* and *Tetranychus spp.*;

from the order *Anoplura*, for example, *Haematopinus spp.*, *Linognathus spp.*, *Pediculus spp.*, *Pemphigus spp.* and *Phylloxera spp.*;

from the order Coleoptera, for example, *Agriotes* spp., *Amphimallon majale*, *Anomala orientalis*, *Anthonomus* spp., *Aphodius* spp, *Astylus atomaculatus*, *Ataenius* spp, *Atomaria linearis*, *Chaetocnema tibialis*, *Cerotoma* spp, *Conoderus* spp, *Cosmopolites* spp., *Cotinis nitida*, *Curculio* spp., *Cyclocephala* spp, *Dermestes* spp., *Diabrotica* spp., *Diloboderus abderus*, *Epilachna* spp., *Eremnus* spp.,
 5 *Heteronychus arator*, *Hypothenemus hampei*, *Lagria vilosa*, *Leptinotarsa decemLineata*, *Lissorhoptrus* spp., *Liogenys* spp, *Maecolaspis* spp, *Maladera castanea*, *Megascelis* spp, *Melighetes aeneus*, *Melolontha* spp., *Myochrous armatus*, *Orycaephilus* spp., *Otiorhynchus* spp., *Phyllophaga* spp, *Phlyctinus* spp., *Popillia* spp., *Psylliodes* spp., *Rhyssomatus aubtilis*, *Rhizopertha* spp., *Scarabeidae*, *Sitophilus* spp., *Sitotroga* spp., *Somaticus* spp, *Sphenophorus* spp, *Sternechus subsignatus*, *Tenebrio*
 10 spp., *Tribolium* spp. and *Trogoderma* spp.;

from the order Diptera, for example, *Aedes* spp., *Anopheles* spp, *Antherigona soccata*, *Bactrocea oleae*, *Bibio hortulanus*, *Bradysia* spp, *Calliphora erythrocephala*, *Ceratitis* spp., *Chrysomyia* spp., *Culex* spp., *Cuterebra* spp., *Dacus* spp., *Delia* spp, *Drosophila melanogaster*, *Fannia* spp., *Gastrophilus* spp., *Geomyza tripunctata*, *Glossina* spp., *Hypoderma* spp., *Hyppobosca* spp.,
 15 *Liriomyza* spp., *Lucilia* spp., *Melanagromyza* spp., *Musca* spp., *Oestrus* spp., *Orseolia* spp., *Oscinella frit*, *Pegomyia hyoscyami*, *Phorbia* spp., *Rhagoletis* spp, *Rivelia quadrifasciata*, *Scatella* spp, *Sciara* spp., *Stomoxys* spp., *Tabanus* spp., *Tannia* spp. and *Tipula* spp.;

from the order Hemiptera, for example, *Acanthocoris scabrator*, *Acrosternum* spp, *Adelphocoris lineolatus*, *Amblypelta nitida*, *Bathycoelia thalassina*, *Blissus* spp, *Cimex* spp., *Clavigralla*
 20 *tomentosicollis*, *Creontiades* spp, *Distantiella theobroma*, *Dichelops furcatus*, *Dysdercus* spp., *Edessa* spp, *Euchistus* spp., *Eurydema pulchrum*, *Eurygaster* spp., *Halyomorpha halys*, *Horcias nobilellus*, *Lep- tocorisa* spp., *Lygus* spp, *Margarodes* spp, *Murgantia histrionic*, *Neomegalotomus* spp, *Nesidiocoris tenuis*, *Nezara* spp., *Nysius simulans*, *Oebalus insularis*, *Piesma* spp., *Piezodorus* spp, *Rhodnius* spp., *Sahlbergella singularis*, *Scaptocoris castanea*, *Scotinophara* spp. , *Thyanta* spp , *Triatoma* spp., and
 25 *Vatiga illudens*;

from the order Homoptera, for example, *Acyrtosium pisum*, *Adalges* spp, *Agalliana ensigera*, *Agonosцена targionii*, *Aleurodicus* spp, *Aleurocanthus* spp, *Aleurolobus barodensis*, *Aleurothrixus floccosus*, *Aleyrodes brassicae*, *Amarasca biguttula*, *Amritodus atkinsoni*, *Aonidiella* spp., *Aonidiella auranti*, *Aphididae*, *Aphis* spp., *Aspidiotus* spp., *Aulacorthum solani*, *Bactericera cockerelli*, *Bemisia* spp,
 30 *Brachycaudus* spp, *Brevicoryne brassicae*, *Cacopsylla* spp, *Cavariella aegopodii Scop.*, *Ceroplaster* spp., *Chrysomphalus aonidium*, *Chrysomphalus dictyospermi*, *Cicadella* spp, *Cofana spectra*, *Cryptomyzus* spp, *Cicadulina* spp, *Coccus hesperidum*, *Dalbulus maidis*, *Dialeurodes* spp, *Diaphorina citri*, *Diuraphis noxia*, *Dysaphis* spp, *Empoasca* spp., *Eriosoma larigerum*, *Erythroneura* spp., *Gascardia* spp., *Glycaspis brimblecombei*, *Hyadaphis pseudobrassicae*, *Hyalopterus* spp, *Hyperomyzus pallidus*,
 35 *Idioscopus clypealis*, *Jacobiasca lybica*, *Laodelphax* spp., *Lecanium corni*, *Lepidosaphes* spp., *Lopaphis erysimi*, *Lyogenys maidis*, *Macrosiphum* spp., *Mahanarva* spp, *Metcalfa pruinosa*, *Metopolophium dirhodum*, *Myndus crudus*, *Myzus* spp., *Neotoxoptera* sp, *Nephotettix* spp., *Nilaparvata* spp., *Nippolachnus piri Mats*, *Odonaspis ruthae*, *Oregma lanigera Zehnter*, *Parabemisia myricae*, *Paratrioza cockerelli*, *Parlatoria* spp., *Pemphigus* spp., *Peregrinus maidis*, *Perkinsiella* spp, *Phorodon*

humuli, *Phylloxera* spp., *Planococcus* spp., *Pseudaulacaspis* spp., *Pseudococcus* spp., *Pseudatomoscelis seriatus*, *Psylla* spp., *Pulvinaria aethiopica*, *Quadraspidotus* spp., *Quesada gigas*, *Recilia dorsalis*, *Rhopalosiphum* spp., *Saissetia* spp., *Scaphoideus* spp., *Schizaphis* spp., *Sitobion* spp., *Sogatella furcifera*, *Spissistilus festinus*, *Tarophagus Proserpina*, *Toxoptera* spp., *Trialeurodes* spp.,
 5 *Tridiscus sporoboli*, *Trionymus* spp., *Trioza erytrae*, *Unaspis citri*, *Zygina flammigera*, and *Zyginidia scutellaris*;

from the order *Hymenoptera*, for example, *Acromyrmex*, *Arge* spp., *Atta* spp., *Cephus* spp., *Diprion* spp., *Diprionidae*, *Gilpinia polytoma*, *Hoplocampa* spp., *Lasius* spp., *Monomorium pharaonis*, *Neodiprion* spp., *Pogonomyrmex* spp., *Slenopsis invicta*, *Solenopsis* spp. and *Vespa* spp.;

10 from the order *Isoptera*, for example, *Coptotermes* spp., *Cornitermes cumulans*, *Incisitermes* spp., *Macrotermes* spp., *Mastotermes* spp., *Microtermes* spp., *Reticulitermes* spp.; *Solenopsis geminate*;

from the order *Lepidoptera*, for example, *Acleris* spp., *Adoxophyes* spp., *Aegeria* spp., *Agrotis* spp., *Alabama argillaceae*, *Amylois* spp., *Anticarsia gemmatalis*, *Archips* spp., *Argyresthia* spp., *Argyrotaenia* spp., *Autographa* spp., *Bucculatrix thurberiella*, *Busseola fusca*, *Cadra cautella*, *Carposina*
 15 *nipponensis*, *Chilo* spp., *Choristoneura* spp., *Chrysoteuchia topiaria*, *Clysia ambiguella*, *Cnaphalocrocis* spp., *Cnephasia* spp., *Cochylis* spp., *Coleophora* spp., *Colias lesbia*, *Cosmophila flava*, *Crambus* spp., *Crocidolomia binotalis*, *Cryptophlebia leucotreta*, *Cydalima perspectalis*, *Cydia* spp., *Diaphania perspectalis*, *Diatraea* spp., *Diparopsis castanea*, *Earias* spp., *Eldana saccharina*, *Ephestia* spp., *Epinotia* spp., *Estigmene acrea*, *Etiella zinckinella*, *Eucosma* spp., *Eupoecilia ambiguella*, *Euproctis* spp.,
 20 *Euxoa* spp., *Feltia jaculiferia*, *Grapholita* spp., *Hedya nubiferana*, *Heliothis* spp., *Hellula undalis*, *Herpetogramma* spp., *Hyphantria cunea*, *Keiferia lycopersicella*, *Lasmopalpus lignosellus*, *Leucoptera scitella*, *Lithocollethis* spp., *Lobesia botrana*, *Loxostege bifidalis*, *Lymantria* spp., *Lyonetia* spp., *Malacosoma* spp., *Mamestra brassicae*, *Manduca sexta*, *Mythimna* spp., *Noctua* spp., *Operophtera* spp., *Omiodes indica*, *Ostrinia nubilalis*, *Pammene* spp., *Pandemis* spp., *Panolis flammea*, *Papaipema*
 25 *nebris*, *Pectinophora gossypiella*, *Perileucoptera coffeella*, *Pseudaletia unipuncta*, *Phthorimaea operculella*, *Pieris rapae*, *Pieris* spp., *Plutella xylostella*, *Prays* spp., *Pseudoplusia* spp., *Rachiplusia nu*, *Richia albicosta*, *Scirpophaga* spp., *Sesamia* spp., *Sparganothis* spp., *Spodoptera* spp., *Sylepta derogate*, *Synanthedon* spp., *Thaumetopoea* spp., *Tortrix* spp., *Trichoplusia ni*, *Tuta absoluta*, and *Yponomeuta* spp.;

30 from the order *Mallophaga*, for example, *Damalinea* spp. and *Trichodectes* spp.;

from the order *Orthoptera*, for example, *Blatta* spp., *Blattella* spp., *Gryllotalpa* spp., *Leucophaea maderae*, *Locusta* spp., *Neocurtilla hexadactyla*, *Periplaneta* spp., *Scapteriscus* spp. and *Schistocerca* spp.;

from the order *Psocoptera*, for example, *Liposcelis* spp.;

35 from the order *Siphonaptera*, for example, *Ceratophyllus* spp., *Ctenocephalides* spp. and *Xenopsylla cheopis*;

from the order *Thysanoptera*, for example, *Calliothrips phaseoli*, *Frankliniella* spp., *Heliothrips* spp., *Hercinothrips* spp., *Parthenothrips* spp., *Scirtothrips aurantii*, *Sericothrips variabilis*, *Taeniothrips* spp., *Thrips* spp.; and/or

from the order *Thysanura*, for example, *Lepisma saccharina*.

- 5 Examples of soil-inhabiting pests, which can damage a crop in the early stages of plant development, are:

from the order *Lepidoptera*, for example, *Acleris* spp., *Aegeria* spp., *Agrotis* spp., *Alabama argillaceae*, *Amylois* spp., *Autographa* spp., *Busseola fusca*, *Cadra cautella*, *Chilo* spp., *Crociodolomia binotalis*, *Diatraea* spp., *Diparopsis castanea*, *Elasmopalpus* spp., *Heliothis* spp., *Mamestra brassicae*,
10 *Phthorimaea operculella*, *Plutella xylostella*, *Scirpophaga* spp., *Sesamia* spp., *Spodoptera* spp. and *Tortrix* spp.;

from the order *Coleoptera*, for example, *Agriotes* spp., *Anthonomus* spp., *Atomaria linearis*, *Chaetocnema tibialis*, *Conotrachelus* spp., *Cosmopolites* spp., *Curculio* spp., *Dermestes* spp., *Diabrotica* spp., *Dilopoderus* spp., *Epilachna* spp., *Eremnus* spp., *Heteronychus* spp., *Lissorhoptrus*
15 spp., *Melolontha* spp., *Oryzaephilus* spp., *Otiorhynchus* spp., *Phlyctinus* spp., *Popillia* spp., *Psylliodes* spp., *Rhizopertha* spp., *Scarabeidae*, *Sitotroga* spp., *Somaticus* spp., *Tanymecus* spp., *Tenebrio* spp., *Tribolium* spp., *Trogoderma* spp. and *Zabrus* spp.;

from the order *Orthoptera*, for example, *Gryllotalpa* spp.;

from the order *Isoptera*, for example, *Reticulitermes* spp.;

- 20 from the order *Psocoptera*, for example, *Liposcelis* spp.;

from the order *Anoplura*, for example, *Haematopinus* spp., *Linognathus* spp., *Pediculus* spp., *Pemphigus* spp. and *Phylloxera* spp.;

from the order *Homoptera*, for example, *Eriosoma larigerum*;

- from the order *Hymenoptera*, for example, *Acromyrmex*, *Atta* spp., *Cephus* spp., *Lasius* spp.,
25 *Monomorium pharaonis*, *Neodiprion* spp., *Solenopsis* spp. and *Vespa* spp.;

from the order *Diptera*, for example, *Tipula* spp.;

crucifer flea beetles (*Phyllotreta* spp.), root maggots (*Delia* spp.), cabbage seedpod weevil (*Ceutorhynchus* spp.) and aphids.

- In particular, the compositions of the invention may be applied against insects from the order
30 *Homoptera* (in particular, white flies, aphids, psyllids and armoured and soft scales), *Thysanoptera* (thrips), *Acarina* (mites) and *Lepidoptera* (butterflies and moths, and larva thereof). Preferably, the compositions of the invention may be applied against white flies, aphids, thrips.

Crops of useful plants in which the compositions according to the invention can be used include perennial and annual crops, such as berry plants for example blackberries, blueberries, cranberries, raspberries and strawberries; cereals for example barley, maize (corn), millet, oats, rice, rye, sorghum, triticale and wheat; fibre plants for example cotton, flax, hemp, jute and sisal; field crops for example sugar and fodder beet, coffee, hops, mustard, oilseed rape (canola), poppy, sugar cane, sunflower, tea and tobacco; fruit trees for example apple, apricot, avocado, banana, cherry, citrus, nectarine, peach, pear and plum; grasses for example Bermuda grass, bluegrass, bentgrass, centipede grass, fescue, ryegrass, St. Augustine grass and Zoysia grass; herbs such as basil, borage, chives, coriander, lavender, lovage, mint, oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage and thyme; legumes for example beans, lentils, peas and soya beans; nuts for example almond, cashew, ground nut, hazelnut, peanut, pecan, pistachio and walnut; palms for example oil palm; ornamentals for example flowers, shrubs and trees; other trees, for example cacao, coconut, olive and rubber; vegetables for example asparagus, aubergine, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cucumber, garlic, lettuce, marrow, melon, watermelon, okra, onion, leek, pepper, potato, pumpkin, squash, rhubarb, spinach and tomato; and vines for example grapes.

The compositions of the invention can also be applied on turf, lawn and pastures.

Preferably, the compositions of the invention may be applied to a crop of a useful plant selected from:

- the order Solanaceae (including tomato, potato, aubergine, chilli, pepper, tobacco);
- the order Cucurbitaceae (including squash, pumpkin, watermelon, melon, cucumber);
- the order Alliaceae (including onion, garlic, leek);
- the order Asparagaceae (including asparagus).

Preferably, the compositions of the invention may be applied to a crop of a useful plant selected from cucumber, squash, pepper, melon, watermelon, tomato, aubergine, courgette or gourd.

The rate at which the agrochemical compositions of the invention are applied will depend upon the particular type of insect, etc, to be controlled, the degree of control required and the timing and method of application and can be readily determined by the person skilled in the art. In general, the compositions of the invention can be applied at an application rate of between 0.005 kilograms/hectare (kg/ha) and about 5.0 kg/ha, based on the total amount of active ingredient in the composition. An application rate of between about 0.1 kg/ha and about 1.5 kg/ha is preferred, with an application rate of between about 0.3 g/ha and 0.8 kg/ha being especially preferred.

Further other components that may be incorporated in the compositions of the present invention include crystallisation inhibitors, viscosity modifiers, suspending agents, dyes, anti-oxidants, foaming agents, light absorbers, mixing auxiliaries, antifoams, complexing agents, neutralising or pH-modifying substances and buffers, corrosion inhibitors, fragrances, wetting agents, take-up enhancers, micro-nutrients, plasticisers, glidants, lubricants, dispersants, fillers, thickeners, antifreezes, microbicides, and liquid and solid fertilisers.

The compositions of the present invention when in an agrochemical formulation may possess any number of other benefits including, *inter alia*, the prevention of sedimentation, thickening, phase separation, cloudiness, foaming or crystal growth, improved chemical stability of the active ingredient (degradation), long-term formulation stability, or reduced clogging of spray nozzles during application and spray drift.

EXAMPLES:

The Examples which follow serve to illustrate the invention and demonstrate how various compositions comprising compound 1 (ie, spiropidion ([2-(4-chloro-2,6-dimethyl-phenyl)-8-methoxy-4-methyl-3-oxo-4,8-diazaspiro[4.5]dec-1-en-1-yl] ethyl carbonate) - CAS no.: 1229023-00-0) as active ingredient provide acceptable levels of insect control along with an acceptable crop safety profile relative to the presence of an adjuvant. Compound 1 may be prepared according to the procedures described in WO 2010/066780, WO 2018/114649 and WO 2018/114648.

The commercially-available adjuvants used in the compositions of the Examples are Pluronic® PE 6400 (BASF AG) and Pluronic® PE 10500 (BASF Corporation, USA) which are oxirane/methyl oxirane block co-polymers with a molecular mass (g/mol) in the range 2500 to 7000. Plurafac® LF 404 is a low-foaming non-ionic surfactant predominantly consisting of ethoxylated and propoxylated C₁₃ to C₁₅ alcohols (liquid at 23 °C).

Insecticidal activity and crop safety were tested on four weeks old Chinese cabbage (*Brassica rapa*) plants infested with green peach aphid (*Myzus persicae*). Plants were treated with a horizontal spray at described rates and incubated at 22 °C, with a 14 hour light regime and ca. 60% relative humidity. Plants used for efficacy (activity) evaluations were infested with a mixed aged population of green peach aphid (*Myzus persicae*) two hours and six days after application. Plants used for crop safety evaluations were left uninfested and kept separately, but under identical environmental conditions. One and two weeks after application, the efficacy (i.e. aphid control relative to check) and crop safety (i.e., phytotoxicity relative to untreated) were assessed for each individual treatment. Each treatment was done in triplicate, i.e., three individual plants.

Compositions A-1 to I-1 were assessed for insecticidal activity against a spiropidion formulation applied at 50 g/ha active ingredient with rapeseed oil methyl ester (RME) EW40 as adjuvant at a weight ratio of 1:2 as a standard providing a score of 100 (an acceptable activity).

Compositions A-2 to I-2, which possess the same active ingredient to adjuvant weight ratios as formulations A-1 to I-1, were assessed for crop safety against a formulation applied at 100 g/ha active ingredient rapeseed oil methyl ester (RME) EW40 standard as adjuvant as standard providing a score of 100 (an acceptable crop safety).

The relative performance of formulations A-1 to I-1 (activity) and A-2 to I-2 (crop safety) was scored against the respective standards based on the following:

A (-/-) rating was not considered acceptable for activity at the specified rate of active ingredient application, and a (-), (+) or (+/+) rating was considered acceptable.

- 90 - 99.
 + 101-110.
 +/+ greater than 110.

5 A (-/-) rating was not considered acceptable for crop safety at the specified rate of active ingredient application, and a (-), (+) or (+/+) rating was considered acceptable.

+/+ less than 90.
 + 90 - 99.
 - 101-110.
 -/- greater than 110.

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Table 1:

Composition no.	Active ingredient (g/ha) (i)	Adjuvant (g/ha)		Active ingredient (i): Adjuvant ((a) & (b)) weight ratio	Score for activity	Score for crop safety
		(a)	(b)			
A-1	50	75	-	2:3	-/-	
A-2	100	150	-	2:3		+/+
B-1	50	75	25	2:3:1	-	
B-2	100	150	50	2:3:1		+/+
C-1	50	75	50	2:3:2	+	
C-2	100	150	100	2:3:2		+/+
D-1	50	100	-	1:2	-/-	
D-2	100	200	-	1:2		+/+
E-1	50	100	25	2:4:1	-/-	
E-2	100	200	50	2:4:1		+/+
F-1	50	100	50	1:2:1	+/+	
F-2	100	200	100	1:2:1		+
G-1	50	100	-	1:2	+/+	
G-2	100	200	-	1:2		-/-
H-1	50	100	25	2:4:1	+	
H-2	100	200	50	2:4:1		-/-
I-1	50	75	50	2:3:2	-	
I-2	100	150	100	2:3:2		+/+

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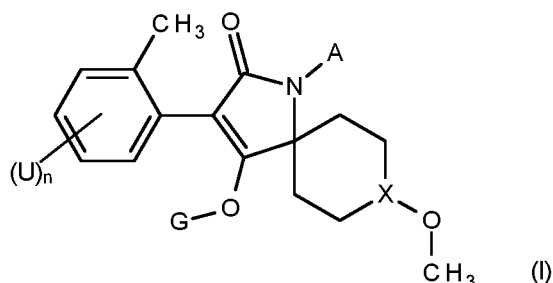
For formulations A to F - The component (a) adjuvant is Pluronic® PE 6400.
 For formulations G to I - The component (a) adjuvant is Pluronic® PE 10500.
 The component (b) adjuvant (where present) is Plurafac® LF 404.

As can be seen from Table 1, only the compositions **B**, **C**, **F** and **I** with weight ratios between compound 1 and adjuvants (a) and (b) according to the invention did not score either an unacceptable (-/-) rating for insecticidal activity or an unacceptable (-/-) rating for crop safety against the standard formulation.

Claims:

1. A pesticidal composition comprising:

5 (j) A compound of Formula (I) as active ingredient:



wherein:

A is hydrogen or methyl;

10 U is independently chloro or methyl;

n is 1 or 2;

G is hydrogen or $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3$; and

X is N or C(H);

15 or an agrochemically acceptable salt thereof;

and

(ii) an adjuvant combination comprising components:

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(a) an oxirane/methyl oxirane block co-polymer (polyoxyethylene/polyoxypropylene block copolymer); and

(b) an alcohol alkoxylate;

25 wherein the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is 1:3 to 3:1; and

the weight ratio of component (i) to (ii) is 1:1 to 1:4.

2. The composition according to claim 1, which is a suspension concentrate formulation.

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3. The composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the compound of Formula (I) is spiropidion.

4. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the oxirane/methyl oxirane block

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co-polymer comprises a POE-POP-POE sequence, wherein POE represents a polyoxyethylene block

and POP represents a polyoxypropylene block, wherein the co-polymer has a molecular mass (g/mol) of 2500 to 7000.

5. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the alcohol alkoxylate is an alkoxyated C₁₂ to C₁₅ fatty alcohol, preferably an ethoxylated and/or propoxylated C₁₂ to C₁₅ fatty alcohol.
6. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is 1:1 to 3:1.
7. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the weight ratio of component (i) to component (ii) is 1:2 to 1:3.
8. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7, further comprising one or more additional ingredients selected from emulsifiers, dispersing agents, wetting agents, antifreeze agents, antifoaming agents, biocides, solvents, stabilizers, anti-microbial agents (biocide), pigments, buffers and fillers.
9. An aqueous diluted composition comprising the pesticidal composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8.
10. A method of combating and controlling pests which comprises applying to a pest, to a locus of a pest, or to a crop of a useful plant susceptible to attack by a pest a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 9.
11. A method of controlling pests, which method comprises applying to the soil of a crop of a useful plant a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the application is by drip, drenching or injection to the soil.
12. The method according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the pest is selected from the order *Homoptera*, *Thysanoptera*, *Acarina* or *Lepidoptera*.
13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the pest is selected from white flies, aphids, thrips.
14. The method according to any one of claims 10 to 13, wherein the plant is selected from the order Solanaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Alliaceae or Asparagaceae.
15. The method according to any one of claims 10 to 14, wherein the plant is selected from cucumber, squash, pepper, melon, watermelon, tomato, aubergine, courgette or gourd.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/EP2020/060076

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. A01N25/10 A01N25/30 A01N47/06 A01P7/00 ADD.		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) A01N		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, CHEM ABS Data		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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Y	US 2010/056598 A1 (HIMMLER THOMAS [DE] ET AL) 4 March 2010 (2010-03-04) the claims; paragraphs 1-2, 16, 159-183, 188, 335-365, 407-428; the tables and the examples -----	1-15
Y	US 2015/259345 A1 (MUEHLEBACH MICHEL [CH] ET AL) 17 September 2015 (2015-09-17) the claims; paragraphs 333-460, 493 and the examples -----	1-15
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☒ See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report
13 May 2020		26/05/2020
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Lorenzo Varela, M

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