

- [54] DETERGENT
- [75] Inventors: Vincent Lamberti, Upper Saddle River, N.J.; Henry Lamaire, Fairfield, Conn.
- [73] Assignee: Lever Brothers Company, New York, N.Y.
- [22] Filed: Feb. 5, 1971
- [21] Appl. No.: 113,079
- Related U.S. Application Data**
- [60] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 764,362, Aug. 7, 1968, Pat. No. 3,562,337, which is a division of Ser. No. 502,299, Oct. 22, 1965, Pat. No. 3,427,248.
- [52] U.S. Cl. .... 260/609 R, 252/530, 252/DIG. 1, 252/DIG. 2, 260/607 A
- [51] Int. Cl. .... C07c 149/14
- [58] Field of Search ..... 260/607 A, 609 R

[56] **References Cited**

<b>UNITED STATES PATENTS</b>			
2,565,986	8/1951	Olin .....	260/609 R
3,158,663	11/1964	Von Brachel et al. ....	260/609 R
3,522,311	8/1970	Hickner .....	260/607 A
3,539,635	11/1970	Priestley .....	260/607 A

<b>FOREIGN PATENTS OR APPLICATIONS</b>			
1,167,202	10/1969	Great Britain .....	260/609 R

*Primary Examiner*—Lewis Gotts  
*Assistant Examiner*—D. R. Phillips  
*Attorney*—Brumbaugh, Graves, Donohue & Raymond

[57] **ABSTRACT**  
 This specification relates to a detergent. More particularly, it is concerned with a detergent which is a sulfur analog of a polyolether or polyolpolyether.

**3 Claims, No Drawings**

1

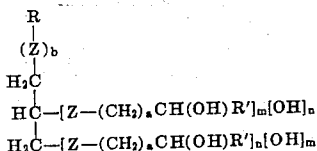
## DETERGENT

This application is a continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 764,362, filed Aug. 7, 1968, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 3,562,337 which in turn is a divisional of application Ser. No. 502,299 filed Oct. 22, 1965, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 3,427,248.

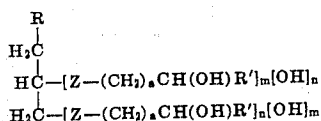
In the past a straight chain or branched chain alcohol has been reacted with ethylene oxide to form ethoxylates, such as n-tetradecyl alcohol-7 moles ethylene oxide, dodecyl alcohol-10 moles ethylene oxide and Sterox AJ (tridecyl alcohol-about 9.5 moles ethylene oxide). These ethoxylates have detergent properties.

It has now been discovered that certain thioether analogs of polyolethers and polyolpolyethers, known also as sulfides, are surface active agents, e.g., detergent actives, dishwashing detergents, lime-soap dispersants and suds-boosters for other detergent actives. The compounds of the invention also have anti-microbial activity and are nontoxic, mild towards skin and completely biodegradable.

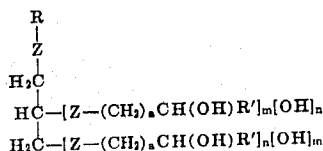
These new nonionic detergents have the following generic structure:



wherein R is an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having six to 14 carbon atoms; Z is oxygen, sulfur or sulfoxide but at least one Z is sulfur or sulfoxide; a is 1 or 2, b is 0 or 1; m is 0 or 1; n is 0 or 1; m + n in all occurrences is 1; and R' is H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH or CH<sub>3</sub>. Subgeneric structures within the generic structure are as follows:



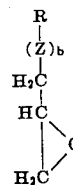
wherein R is an aliphatic saturated hydrocarbon group having five to 15 carbon atoms; Z is sulfur or sulfoxide; a is 1 or 2; m is 0 or 1; n is 0 or 1; m + n in all occurrences is 1; and R' is H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH or CH<sub>3</sub>.



wherein R is an aliphatic saturated hydrocarbon group having six to 14 carbon atoms; Z is oxygen, sulfur or sulfoxide but at least one Z is sulfur or sulfoxide; a is 1 or 2; m is 0 or 1; n is 0 or 1; m + n in all occurrences is 1; and R' is H, CH<sub>2</sub>OH or CH<sub>3</sub>. As used herein, these structures are intended to include isomeric compounds.

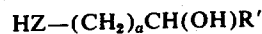
2

Any known method may be employed to prepare the aforementioned sulfur analogs of polyolethers and polyolpolyethers. One method is to react a long chain epoxide or long chain glycidyl ether with hydroxy alkyl mercaptans, such as, 2-mercapto-ethanol, 3-mercapto-1,2-propanediol, 1-mercapto-2-propanol, 3-mercapto-1-propanol, 4-mercapto-1,2-butanediol and 4-mercapto-2-butanol, in the presence of a basic catalyst, e.g., NaOCH<sub>3</sub>. The reaction can also be carried out without a catalyst, but in such cases, longer reaction times are required. In accordance with this method, the compounds of the invention are the reaction products of:



(IV)

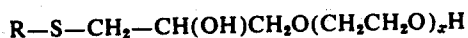
with:



25

(V)

wherein R, a, b and R' are as defined heretofore and Z is oxygen or sulfur but at least one Z is sulfur. The thioether reaction product can be oxidized, for example with t-butyl hydroperoxide in methanol, to form the corresponding sulfoxide. It is also possible to react either a long-chain diol containing sulfur or a monoalkyl thioether of glycerol with one molar proportion of ethylene oxide. By this process, however, a mixture of products is obtained containing large proportions of unreacted starting diol or thioether, with some monoethoxylated compound with which this invention is concerned, and with some poly-ethoxylated compounds such as those represented by the formula



wherein x is greater than 1.

If a long-chain sulfur-containing epoxyalkane is a reactant, it may be obtained by any suitable method. For example, long chain mercaptans can be reacted with epichlorohydrin to form 3-alkylthio-2-hydroxy-1-chloropropanes which, in turn, are reacted with strong aqueous sodium hydroxide to produce alkyl glycidyl thioethers. Similarly, if a long-chain sulfur-containing diol is a reactant, it may be obtained by any suitable method such as the reaction of hydrogen sulfide with long chain epoxides.

The following short-chain polyhydroxy reactants among others are within the scope of the above structure I:

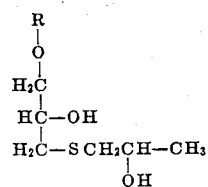
## Short-chain polyhydroxy reactant (Structure V)

a	R'	Z Name	Structure	
60	H	O ethylene glycol	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH	
1	CH <sub>2</sub> OH	O glycerol	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH(OH)CH <sub>2</sub> OH	
1	CH <sub>3</sub>	O 1,2-propanediol	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CHOHCH <sub>3</sub>	
1	H	S 2-mercapto ethanol	HSCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH	
1	CH <sub>2</sub> OH	S 3-mercapto-1,2-propanediol	HSCH <sub>2</sub> CH(OH)CH <sub>2</sub> OH	
65	1	CH <sub>3</sub>	S 1-mercapto-2-propanol	HSCH <sub>2</sub> CHOHCH <sub>3</sub>
2	H	O 1,3-propanediol	HO-CH <sub>2</sub> -CH <sub>2</sub> -CH <sub>2</sub> OH	
2	CH <sub>2</sub> OH	O 1,2,4-butane-		

3

2	CH <sub>3</sub>	O	1,3-butylene glycol	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH(OH)CH <sub>2</sub> OH
2	H	S	3-mercapto-1-propanol	HOCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH(OH)CH <sub>3</sub>
2	CH <sub>2</sub> OH	S	4-mercapto-1,2-butanediol	HSCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> OH
2	CH <sub>3</sub>	S	4-mercapto-2-butanol	HSCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH(OH)CH <sub>3</sub>

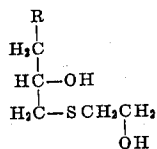
4

(2-hydroxy-3-alkoxy)propyl 2'-hydroxypropyl sulfide  
(b=1; Z=O; R'=CH<sub>3</sub>)

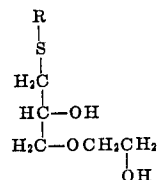
(XI)

Preferred types of compounds in this invention, among others, include sulfides having the following structures:

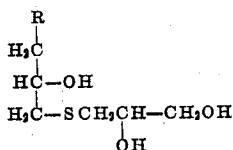
10

2-hydroxyalkyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide  
(b=0; R'=H)

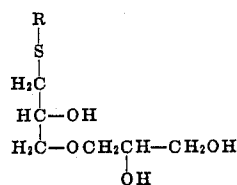
(VI)

(2-hydroxy-3-alkylthio)propyl 2'-hydroxyethyl ether  
(b=1; Z=S; R'=H)

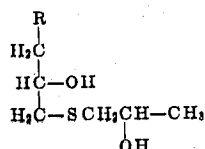
(XII)

2-hydroxyalkyl 2',3'-dihydroxypropyl sulfide  
(b=0; R'=CH<sub>2</sub>OH)

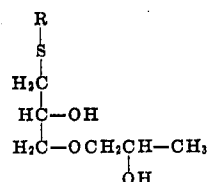
(VII)

(2-hydroxy-3-alkylthio)propyl 2',3'-dihydroxypropyl ether  
(b=1; Z=S; R'=CH<sub>2</sub>OH)

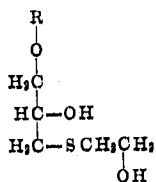
(XIII)

2-hydroxyalkyl 2'-hydroxypropyl sulfide  
(b=0; R'=CH<sub>3</sub>)

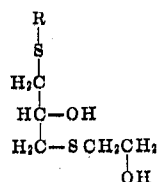
(VIII)

(2-hydroxy-3-alkylthio)propyl 2'-hydroxypropyl ether  
(b=1; Z=S; R'=CH<sub>3</sub>)

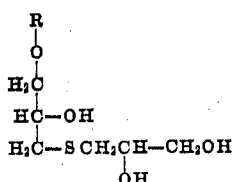
(XIV)

(2-hydroxy-3-alkoxy)propyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide  
(b=1; Z=O; R'=H)

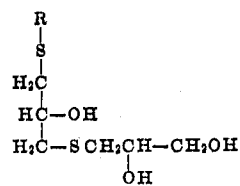
(IX)

(2-hydroxy-3-alkylthio)propyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide  
(b=1; Z=S; R'=H)

(XV)

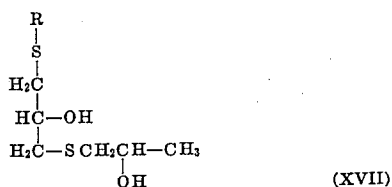
(2-hydroxy-3-alkoxy)propyl 2',3'-dihydroxypropyl sulfide  
(b=1; Z=O; R'=CH<sub>2</sub>OH)

(X)

(2-hydroxy-3-alkylthio)propyl 2',3'-dihydroxypropyl sulfide  
(b=1; Z=S; R'=CH<sub>2</sub>OH)

(XVI)

(2-hydroxy-3-alkylthio)propyl 2'-hydroxypropyl sulfide  
(b=1; Z=S; R'=CH<sub>3</sub>)



wherein R in structures VI to XVII is an aliphatic saturated hydrocarbon group having five to 15 carbon atoms. The corresponding sulfoxides for structures VI to XVII are also suitable for the present invention.

Suitable specific compounds of this invention, among others, include sulfides such as 2-hydroxyundecyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide; 2-hydroxydodecyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide; 2-hydroxy-C<sub>11</sub>-C<sub>14</sub> alkyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide; 2-hydroxydodecyl 2',3'-dihydroxypropyl sulfide; 2-hydroxydodecyl 2'-hydroxypropyl sulfide; (2-hydroxy-3-decyl)propyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide; (2-hydroxy-3-dodecyl)propyl 2',3'-dihydroxypropyl sulfide; (2-hydroxy-3-decyl)propyl 2'-hydroxypropyl sulfide; (2-hydroxy-3-dodecylthio)propyl 2'-hydroxyethyl ether; (2-hydroxy-3-tetradecylthio)propyl 2',3'-dihydroxypropyl ether; (2-hydroxy-3-dodecylthio)propyl 2'-hydroxypropyl ether; (2-hydroxy-3-dodecylthio)propyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide; (2-hydroxy-3-tetradecylthio)propyl 2',3'-dihydroxypropyl sulfide; (2-hydroxy-3-dodecylthio)propyl 2'-hydroxypropyl sulfide; and corresponding sulfoxides thereof.

The compounds of the present invention may be used alone as detergents. However, the compounds of the invention may also be used in combination with other detergents. Examples of detergent compounds with which the compounds of the invention may be admixed to form superior combinations are the well-known anionic types represented by the water-soluble and water-dispersible organic surface-active agents having in the molecule a hydrophobic group of about eight to about 22 carbon atoms and a hydrophilic sulfate, sulfonate or carboxylic group having a cation which does not insolubilize the compound. The following anionic detergents, among others, are suitable for use with the compounds of the present invention:

1. Alkylbenzenesulfonates, such as sodium and potassium salts having a branched or straight chain alkyl portion of about nine to about 15 carbon atoms.
2. Alkyl sulfates, such as the sodium and triethanolammonium salts of C<sub>10</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl sulfuric acid, prepared by sulfating the alcohols derived from coconut oil or tallow, or prepared synthetically.
3. The alkali metal and ammonium salts of the sulfated ethoxylates of a long-chain alcohol and 3 to 5 molar proportions of ethylene oxide, for example, the ammonium salt of an ethoxylate containing an average of 3.1 molar proportions of ethylene oxide and 1 mole of an alcohol mixture known commercially as Alfol 1412, composed of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  n-tetradecanol and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  n-dodecanol.
4. The compounds known as "Medialans", which are amido carboxylic acids formed by condensing fatty acids of C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> chain length with sarcosine,

CH<sub>3</sub>NHCH<sub>2</sub>COOH. Generally the alkali metal and basic nitrogen-radical salts are employed.

5. Alkanesulfonates, such as ammonium dodecane-sulfonate.
6. Alkoxyhydroxypropanesulfonates, such as the water-soluble salts of 3-dodecyloxy-2-hydroxy-1-propane-sulfonate.
7. Soaps, the surface-active substances formed usually by the reaction of caustic alkalies with natural glyceric fats and oils, generally prepared in high purity, and having the generic molecular formula RCOONa, wherein R is a straight-chain hydrocarbon group having from about seven to about 21 atoms.
8. Olefine sulfonates, such as dodecene sulfonate, and the compounds described in U.S. Pat. No. 3,332,880.

The compounds of the invention are also suds-boosters for nonionic detergents. The following nonionic detergents, among others, are suitable for use with the compounds of the present invention.

1. The Pluronics, formed by condensing propylene oxide with propylene glycol to a molecular weight of about 600-2500 to form a base followed by condensing ethylene oxide to this base to the extent of about 10 to about 90 percent, total molecule basis. U. S. Pat. Nos. 2,674,619 and 2,677,700 describe operable nonionic compounds.
2. Compounds formed by the simultaneous polymerization of propylene oxide and ethylene oxide, and containing randomly positioned oxypropylene and oxyethylene groups. These and related compounds are described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 2,979,528, 3,036,118, 3,022,335, 3,036,130 and 3,048,548.
3. Alkyl phenols having nine to 12 carbon atoms in the alkyl portion, (straight or branched) ethoxylated with 4-10 molar proportions of ethylene oxide.
4. Ethoxylates of fatty alcohols having eight to 18 carbon atoms per molecule and 5-30 molar proportions of oxyethylene groups.

In addition to being suds-boosters for the above detergents, the compounds of this invention act as suds-boosters for ampholytic compounds such as hydroxyl-alkyl methyl taurates and zwitterionic surface-active substances, such as coco dimethyl sulfopropyl betaine.

The compounds of this invention may interact synergistically with all suds-producing surface-active substances to provide mixtures having improved properties beyond those expected on the basis of the properties of the individual components of the mixture. With non-soaps, the synergism may be evident in suds production or stability. With soaps, the synergism may be evident in the form of reduced lime-soap scum formation.

Thus, in accordance with this invention, new compounds have been formed. The compounds of the present invention have certain noteworthy features. For example, the synergistic suds-producing properties of the compounds with other detergents and sudsing agents are surprising. The antimicrobial properties of the compounds are also surprising. Furthermore, the compounds of the invention are nonionic surfactants with foaming characteristics superior to both well-known anionic and nonionic detergents. The ability to formulate a detergent based on the nonionic materials of the invention having high foaming or dishwashing characteristics with built-in germicidal properties and which

at the same time is biodegradable by sewage or natural water bacteria is certainly surprising and unexpected.

The following examples are submitted to illustrate but not to limit this invention. Unless otherwise indicated, all parts and percentages in the specification and claims are based upon weight.

#### EXAMPLE I

Compound A, 2-hydroxydodecyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide, was prepared by stirring a mixture of 25.3 g. (0.325 moles) of 2-mercaptoethanol and 5.4 g. (0.1 mole) of sodium methoxide under nitrogen while adding dropwise 55.1 g. (0.324 moles) of 1,2-epoxydodecane over a period of 25 minutes. After continued stirring on a steam bath for 85 minutes, the crude material was cooled and dissolved in hexane. A portion therefrom was washed with water in the presence of methanol to remove the catalyst and another portion was merely filtered. Evaporation of the hexane in each case afforded the desired product, 2-hydroxydodecyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide.

Compound B, 2-hydroxy-C<sub>11</sub>-C<sub>14</sub> alkyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide, was prepared in the same manner except that 1,2 epoxy C<sub>11</sub>-C<sub>14</sub> alkane was used as one of the reactants.

Compound C, a sulfoxide compound, 2-hydroxydodecyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfoxide, was formed by oxidizing Compound A, 2-hydroxydodecyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide, with t-butyl hydroperoxide in methanol. More specifically, a solution of 8 g. of 2-hydroxydodecyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide in 38 ml. of methanol was treated with 3 g. of t-butyl hydrogen peroxide and heated at 50°C. for two days. The solvent was evaporated and the crystals washed with hexane.

The dishwashing properties of the compounds prepared according to Examples A, B and C were determined by ascertaining the number of plates washed in duplicate tests with 1.8 g. of each of the above compounds in 6 quarts of 120 ppm water at 116°F., both with or without 0.54 g. of coconut fatty acid monoethanolamide (CMEA). The results are shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

Compound	Boosted with CMEA	No. of Dishes Washed
Compound	No	20-24
B	No	20
A	Yes	38-42
B	Yes	42
C	Yes	42

This example shows that the sulfides and a corresponding sulfoxide within the purview of the present invention have excellent dishwashing properties.

#### EXAMPLE II

The compounds listed in Table 2 are other compounds that are considered to be suitable detergents. They may be prepared by the same procedure described in Example I by varying the reactants to provide the required end product.

TABLE 2

2-hydroxyundecyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide;  
2-hydroxydodecyl 2',3'-dihydroxypropyl sulfide;  
2-hydroxydodecyl 2'-hydroxypropyl sulfide;

(2-hydroxy-3-decyloxy)propyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide;  
(2-hydroxy-3-dodecyloxy)propyl 2',3'-dihydroxypropyl sulfide;  
(2-hydroxy-3-decyloxy)propyl 2'-hydroxypropyl sulfide;  
(2-hydroxy-3-dodecylthio)propyl 2'-hydroxyethyl ether;  
(2-hydroxy-3-tetradecylthio)propyl 2',3'-dihydroxypropyl ether;  
(2-hydroxy-3-dodecylthio)propyl 2'-hydroxypropyl ether;  
(2-hydroxy-3-dodecylthio)propyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide;  
(2-hydroxy-3-tetradecylthio)propyl 2',3'-dihydroxypropyl sulfide;  
(2-hydroxy-3-dodecylthio)propyl 2'-hydroxypropyl sulfide; and corresponding sulfoxides thereof.

#### EXAMPLE III

The germicidal activity of several compounds described in this invention was determined by the Streak Gradient Plate Method.

The Streak Gradient Plate Method is a modification of the gradient plate method of Szybalski, Science 116: 46-48 (1952), for the determination of germicide MEC (Minimum Effective Concentration) values. This method employs streaks of several organisms per plate.

As shown in Table 3, certain compounds of the invention have surprisingly high antimicrobial activity and they are superior to well-known germicides and soaps against a number of micro-organisms.

TABLE 3

#### Germicidal Activity by the Gradient Streak Plate Method

Compound	Minimum Effective Concentration (MEC) in ppm				
	Sa	Mc	Sf	Ca	An
2-hydroxydodecyl hydroxyethyl sulfide	36	51	25	34	18
2-hydroxy C <sub>11</sub> -C <sub>14</sub> alkyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide	50	111	28	100	27
Controls:					
Alfonic 1418-6 (Alfol 1418-62.5% EO)	>10,000				
Sterox DJ (Dodecylphenol-10EO)	>10,000				
Igepon A (coconut Soap (LTS))	1780	3550	5000	3900	1660
Culture Codes:	1550	1880	2200	1610	455
	Sa — <i>S.aureus</i>	Mc — <i>M.candidus</i>	Sf — <i>Strep.faecalis</i>	Ca — <i>C.albicans</i>	An — <i>A.niger</i>

Having set forth the general nature and specific embodiments of the present invention, the true scope is now particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A detergent which is 2-hydroxydodecyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide.
2. A detergent which is 2-hydroxy-C<sub>11</sub>-C<sub>14</sub> alkyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfide.
3. A detergent which is 2-hydroxydodecyl 2'-hydroxyethyl sulfoxide.

\* \* \* \* \*

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Patent No. 3,758,595 Dated Sept. 11, 1973

Inventor(s) Vincent Lamberti and Henry Lamaire

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent are hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 7, line 44 (Table 1) "comound" should be

--compound--;

Column 7, Table 1, "compound" should be --A--.

Signed and sealed this 16th day of July 1974.

(SEAL)

Attest:

McCOY M. GIBSON, JR.  
Attesting Officer

C. MARSHALL DANN  
Commissioner of Patents