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(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS FOR ANTIFOULING PROTECTION

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to antifouling compositions comprising compounds of formula IA and/or IB that are highly effective against marine biofouling of surfaces of ships and marine structures, their use for inhibiting marine biofouling, as well as antifouling paints comprising said compositions.

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COMPOSITIONS FOR ANTIFOULING PROTECTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to antifouling compositions comprising compounds of formula IA and/or
5 IB that are highly effective against marine biofouling of surfaces of ships and marine structures, their
use for inhibiting marine biofouling, as well as antifouling paints comprising said compositions.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Ships, aquaculture fishnets, underwater structures and equipment tend to be attacked by marine
organisms such as barnacles, bryozoans, hydroids, mussels, algae, and the like. Organisms can grow
10 and multiply and eventually cause significant problems. For example, in the case of a ship's hull, the
growth of marine organisms on the hull can increase the frictional resistance between the hull and
water, thus increasing fuel consumption and reducing the speed of the ship. Ship hulls need to be
protected against the growth of marine organisms in order to keep them clean and smooth for
maximum fuel efficiency. There is also a concern for transporting marine organisms from one part of
15 the world to another, with the possibility of the foreign organisms disrupting the indigenous ecology.
Thus, adequate protection against marine biofouling is required for underwater parts, which is typically
achieved with antifouling paints.

The binder systems used for such antifouling paints are typically composed of an erodible binder. The
erosion of the paint film aids in preventing fouling by releasing antifouling agents (biocidal agents)
20 from the coating over time thus impeding the attachment of fouling organisms. There are two main
types of eroding antifouling coatings, described by the industry as "self-polishing" and as "ablative".

The binder system of ablative coatings is composed of mostly rosin which will react with sea water to
become water soluble and erodes away. Alternatively, rosin or rosin derivatives are also used in
mixtures with non-erodible binders such as polyester resin, acrylic resin, epoxy resin, vinyl chloride
25 resin, chlorinated rubber resin, chlorinated polyethylene resin, chlorinated polypropylene resin,
styrene-butadiene resin, or polyamide resin.

In "self-polishing antifouling coatings", the binder system is based on hydrolysable acrylate polymers.
The hydrolysable functionality is commonly provided to the polymer by either a metal carboxylate
acrylate monomer or a silyl acrylate monomer. Erodeable polyester binders are also used and result in
30 lower cost antifouling paints. The difference between ablative and self-polishing coatings lies mainly in

the thickness of the leached layer and the more linear rate of erosion over time for the self-polishing coating.

“Hybrid coatings” also exist whose binder systems are composed of an erodible acrylate such as in self-polishing paints, and rosin. The thickness of the leached layer is thinner than in ablative coatings,
5 but thicker than in true self-polishing coatings.

Most commercially available antifouling paints contain a high metal content due to the high concentration of cuprous oxide (Cu_2O) used as the biocidal agent therein, i.e., typically about 40 wt %, which is required for appropriate antifouling protection. Cuprous oxide is potentially harmful to many organisms. The leaching from antifouling paints can contribute to elevated copper levels in the water,
10 sediments and surrounding environments. Artificial high copper levels may have a significant ecological impact. Whilst Cu_2O is very widely used as antifouling agent in antifouling paints, antifouling paints can also contain additional biocidal agents since Cu_2O alone is only effective against the hard fouling organisms like barnacles.

As an additional disadvantage, cuprous oxide typically imparts a strong red-brown color to the
15 antifouling paint film, and may also react with atmospheric carbon dioxide and chlorides from seawater to form non-uniform streaking on the surface of the coating. This is an unattractive appearance and may occur, e.g., shortly after the ship is launched into the sea. Some yacht owners and cruise ship operators prefer bright colors and uniform appearance that cannot be attained in paints that contain cuprous oxide.

20 Attempts to replace cuprous oxide in commercially available antifouling paints led to the development of alternatives to cuprous oxide such as copper thiocyanate, which is white in color, and tralopyril, an agricultural pesticide that has efficacy against barnacles. But the costs are higher for these alternatives and they are not as effective as cuprous oxide based antifouling paints.

Therefore, there is a need for ecologically and economically improved marine antifouling paints with
25 reduced copper content, or that even fully replace the cuprous oxide in conventionally used antifouling paints.

The antifouling compositions of the present invention comprising a compound of formula IA and/or IB fulfill this need. The inventors have surprisingly found that both, the compounds of formula IA and IB are highly effective and versatile agents that enhance the antifouling performance of all types of
30 antifouling paints such as ablative paints or self-polishing paints, and may also be used in simple contact leaching coatings.

Thus, it is now possible to partly or fully replace Cu_2O in antifouling paints and hence to drastically reduce the metal content therein while remaining appropriate antifouling performance. Moreover, the

antifouling compositions of the invention comprising a compound of formula I A and/or IB are essentially colorless and hence do not interfere with the bright colors oftentimes desired for ship hulls.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

FIG. 1 depicts panels coated with antifouling paints of example 2, Table 1, and shows the appearance of the panels after 6 months in sea-water (Himeji, depth: 1.5m). The black square indicates the region for negative control, i.e., coating without any antifouling ingredient.

FIG. 2 depicts panels coated with the antifouling paints of example 2, Table 2, and shows the appearance of the panels after 4 months in sea-water (Himeji, Nagasaki and Onagawa). Panel 6 of the "Nagasaki" trial and the Himeji trial, respectively, show the panel after 1 month in the sea water. Panel 6 of the "Onagawa" trial shows the panel after 4 month in the sea water.

FIG. 3 depicts panels coated with the antifouling paints of example 2, Table 3, and shows the appearance of the panels after 1 months in sea-water (Nagasaki; depth: 1.5m). The black squares indicate the region for negative control, i.e., coating without any antifouling ingredient.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention is related. The following abbreviations and terms are used herein:

AIBN: azobis(isobutyronitril)

AMBN: azobis-(2-methylbutyronitrile)

A630-20X: a fatty acid amide

BA: butyl acrylate

Chlorothalonil: 2,4,5,6-tetrachlorobenzene-1,3-dicarbonitrile

Copper Omadine®, CuPT, copper pyrithione: copper 2-pyridinethiol-1-oxide

Cu₂O: cuprous oxide

CuSCN: copper(I) thiocyanate

DCOIT: 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one

Diuron: 3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea

Disparlon A650-20x: Synthetic polyamide wax dispersion. Acts as a superior anti-settling agent for heavy pigments and metallics. Possesses highly shear thinning resulting in superior application properties.

ETFAA: ethyl 4,4,4-trifluoroacetoacetate

Laroflex® MP 25: copolymer of vinyl chloride and vinyl isobutyl ether

2MEA: 2-methoxyethyl acrylate monomer

Medetomidine: 4-[1-(2,3-dimethylphenyl)ethyl]-1H-imidazole

MMA: methyl methacrylate monomer

MIBK: methyl isobutylketone

MPM: methoxy propylene monomer

5 PGM: propylene glycol monomethylether

TIPX: tri-isopropylsilyl acrylate monomer

Tralopyril: 4-bromo-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrrole-3-carbonitrile

VAGH: vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate/vinyl alcohol copolymer (commercial product)

Zineb: zinc ethane-1,2-diylbis(dithiocarbamate)

10 Ziram: zinc N,N-dimethylcarbamoate

Zn(ETFAA)₂: zinc di(ethyl 4,4,4-trifluoroacetoacetate), also referred to herein as ZnETFAA

ZnO: zinc oxide

ZnPT : zinc pyrrhione: zinc 2-pyridinethiol-1-oxide

The term "(meth)acrylate" is a collective term indicating both acrylate and methacrylate monomers.

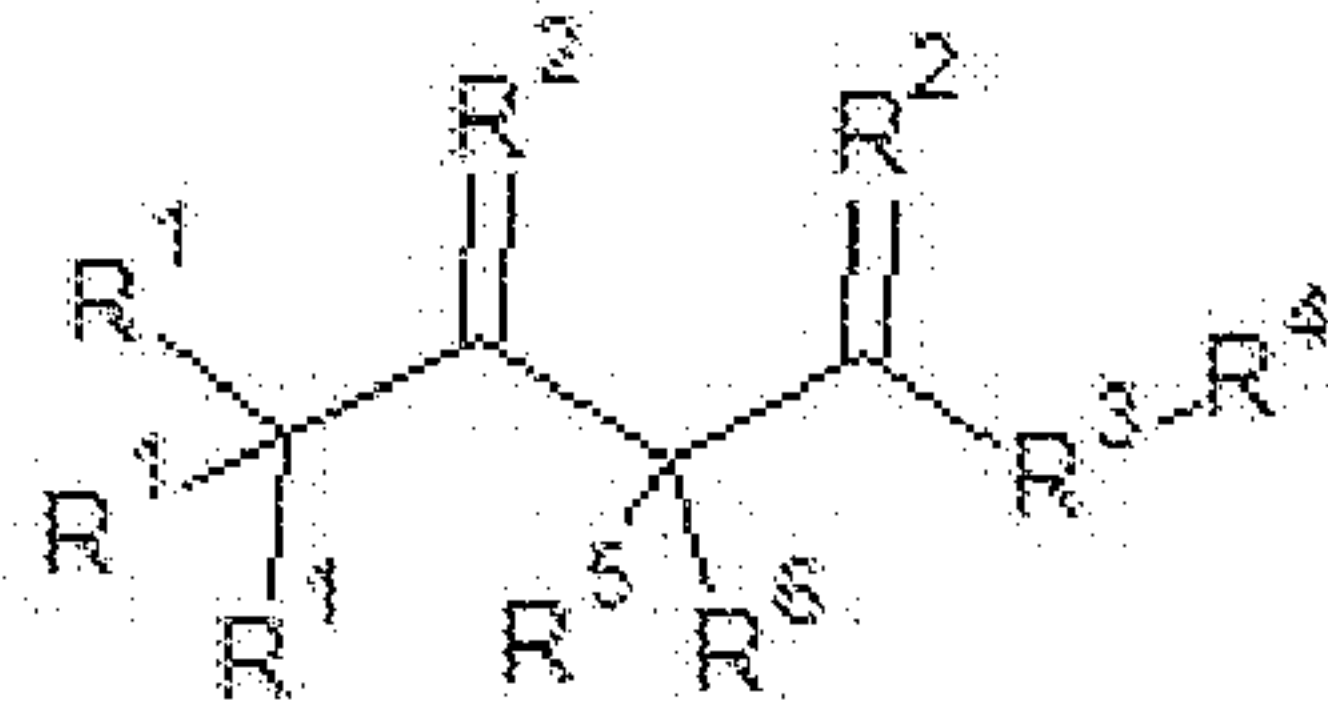
15 The term "methacrylate" or "meth-acrylate" indicates only methacrylate monomers.

Bentone SD2 is an organo clay added for anti-settling properties; Bentone#38 is quaternium 18-hectorite clay; Minex 4 is nepheline syenite clay. Disparlon 6900-20x (A630-20X polyamide wax) is a 20% dispersion of polyamide wax in xylene used as rheology modifier; Disperbyk 161 is a dispersing additive. Resin refers to all pre-polymers or polymers that may serve as raw materials for the binders
20 to be used in the antifouling paints of the invention. Rosin or gum rosin refers to colophony (CAS: 8050-09-7, see also <https://www.megaglori.com/what-is-gum-rosin/>).

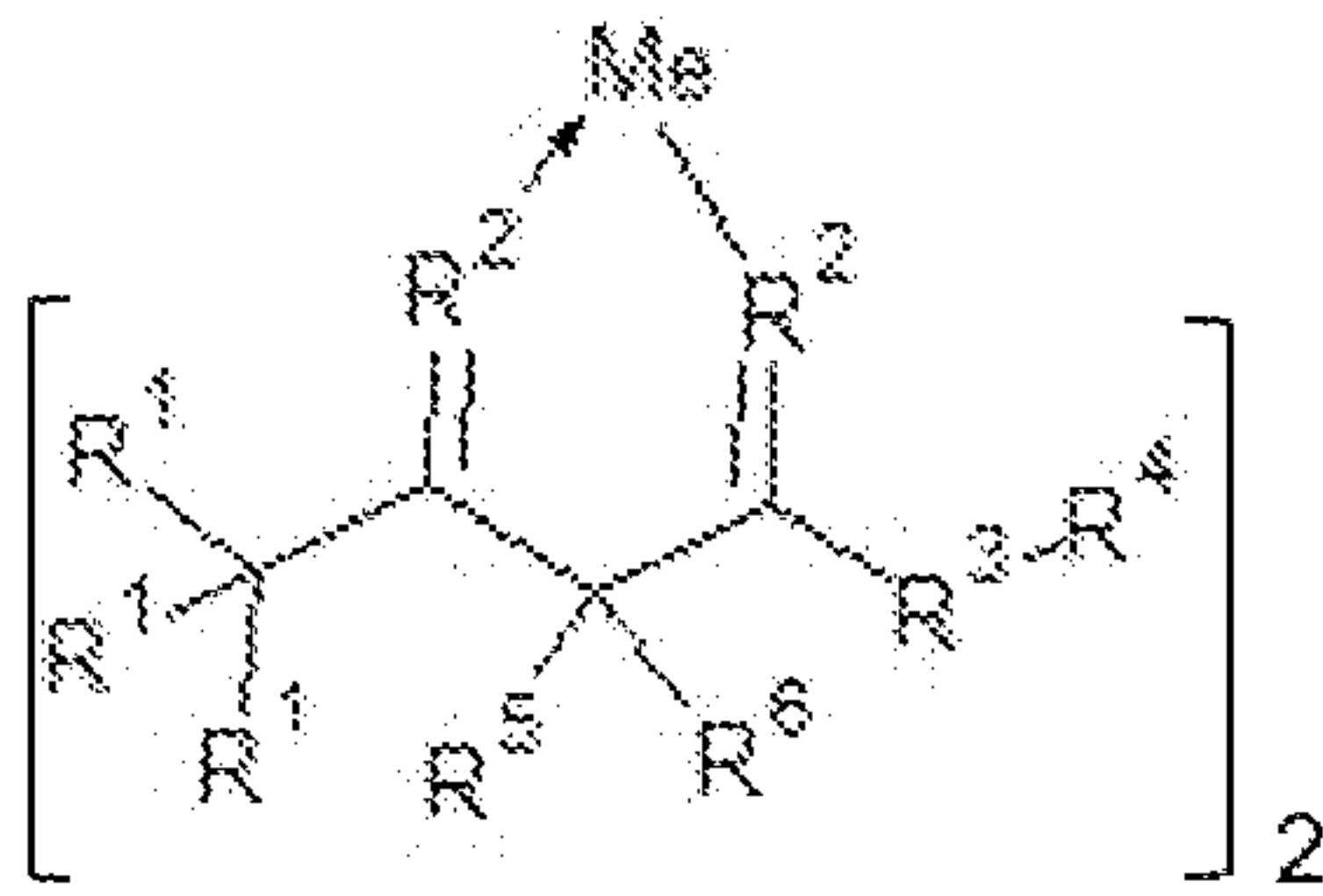
By "biocidal agent" is meant any chemical compound that prevents the settlement of marine organisms on a surface and/or prevents the growth of marine organisms on a surface and/or encourages the dislodgement of marine organisms from a surface.

25 The terms "antifouling paint", "antifouling coating" and "antifouling formulation" are used interchangeably herein.

The present invention provides a new approach to inhibit the fouling of surfaces of underwater objects such as ship hulls or any other marine structures. Specifically, the present invention provides an antifouling composition comprising a compound of formula IA and/or IB



IA



IB

5

wherein

Me represents metal, preferably Cu, Zn, Co, Ni, Ca, Mg or Mn;

R1 may be any functionality that brings high hydrophobicity, for example,

10 R1 is each independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkyl, C₂₋₂₀ alkenyl, C₂₋₂₀ alkynyl, C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₂₀ aryl and C₇₋₂₀ arylalkyl;

R2 is each independently selected from NH, O, S, and Se;

R3 is NH, N(R4), O, S, and Se;

R4 is hydrogen, linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkyl, C₂₋₂₀ alkenyl, C₂₋₂₀ alkynyl, C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₂₀ aryl, C₇₋₂₀ arylalkyl;

15 R5 and R6 are each independently selected from H, linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkyl, C₂₋₂₀ alkenyl, C₂₋₂₀ alkynyl, C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₂₀ aryl and C₇₋₂₀ arylalkyl; or

R5 and R6 together form a group =O, =S, =Se, =NR₄, =C(R₄)₂, =C(R₄)(OR₄), =C(R₄)(NHR₄).

20 In one embodiment, the present invention provides an antifouling composition comprising a compound of formula IA and/or IB as depicted above wherein

Me represents Cu, Zn, Ca, Mg or Mn;

R1 is each independently selected from H, F, Cl, Br, I, linear or branched C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkynyl, C₆₋₁₂ aryl, and C₇₋₁₂ arylalkyl;

R2 is each independently selected from NH, O, and S;

R3 is NH, N(R4), O, and S;

R4 is H, linear or branched C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkynyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₁₂ aryl, C₇₋₁₂ arylalkyl;

5 R5 and R6 are each independently selected from H, linear or branched C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₁₂ aryl and C₇₋₁₂ arylalkyl; or

R5 and R6 together form a group =O, =S, =NR₄, =C(R₄)₂, =C(R₄)(OR₄), =C(R₄)(NHR₄).

In one embodiment, the present invention provides an antifouling composition comprising a compound of formula IA and/or IB as depicted above wherein

10 Me represents Cu or Zn;

R1 is each independently selected from H, F, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *i*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, cyclo-butyl, cyclo-pentyl, cyclo-hexyl, C₈ alkyl, C₉ alkyl, C₁₀ alkyl, C₁₁ alkyl, C₁₂ alkyl, and benzyl;

R2 is each independently selected from NH, and O;

R3 is N(R4) and O;

15 R4 is H, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *i*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, cyclo-butyl, cyclo-pentyl, cyclo-hexyl, C₈ alkyl, C₉ alkyl, C₁₀ alkyl, C₁₁ alkyl, C₁₂ alkyl, and benzyl;

R5 and R6 are each independently selected from H, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *i*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, and benzyl; or

20 R5 and R6 together form a group =CH(OCH₃); =CH(OC₂H₅); =CH(OnC₃H₇); =CH(OiC₃H₇); =CH(OnC₄H₉); =CH(OiC₄H₉); =CH(O*tert*.C₄H₉); =CH(NHCH₃); =CH(NHC₂H₅); =CH(NH*n*C₃H₇); =CH(NHiC₃H₇); =CH(NH*n*C₄H₉); =CH(NHiC₄H₉); =CH(NH*tert*.C₄H₉).

In one embodiment, the present invention provides an antifouling composition comprising a compound of formula IA and/or IB as depicted above wherein

25 Me represents Cu or Zn;

R1 is each independently selected from H and F;

R2 is each independently selected from NH, and O;

R3 is N(CH₃), N(C₂H₅) and O;

30 R4 is H, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *i*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, C₈ alkyl, C₉ alkyl, C₁₀ alkyl, C₁₁ alkyl, C₁₂ alkyl, and benzyl;

R5 and R6 are each H; or

R5 and R6 together form a group =CH(OCH₃); =CH(OC₂H₅); =CH(NHCH₃); =CH(NHC₂H₅);

In one embodiment, the compound of formula IB is as defined above with the proviso that if Me is Cu, each R1 is F, each R2 is O, R3 is O, and R5 and R6 are each H, then R4 is not ethyl.

Suitable compounds of formula IA and IB, respectively, are, for example

Ethyl 3-amino-4, 4, 4-trifluorocrotonate;

5 [Ethyl 3-amino-4, 4, 4-trifluorocrotonate]₂Zn,

[Ethyl 3-amino-4, 4, 4-trifluorocrotonate]₂Cu,

Ethyl 3-amino-2-methylene-(methylamino)- 4, 4-difluorocrotonate,

[Ethyl 3-amino-2-methylene-(methylamino)- 4, 4-difluorocrotonate]₂Zn,

[Ethyl 3-amino-2-methylene-(methylamino)- 4, 4-difluorocrotonate]₂Cu

10 4, 4, 4-Trifluoro-N, N-dimethyl-3-oxobutanamide;

[4, 4, 4-Trifluoro-N, N-dimethyl-3-oxobutanamide]₂Cu,

[4, 4, 4-Trifluoro-N, N-dimethyl-3-oxobutanamide]₂Zn,

Dodecyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoro-3-oxobutanoate,

[Dodecyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoro-3-oxobutanoate]₂Zn,

15 Dodecyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoro-3-oxobutanoate]₂Cu,

Benzyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoroacetoacetate,

[Benzyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoroacetoacetate]₂Zn,

[Benzyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoroacetoacetate]₂Cu,

Octyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoroacetoacetate,

20 [Octyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoroacetoacetate]₂Zn,

[Octyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoroacetoacetate]₂Cu,

Isopropyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoroacetoacetate,

[Isopropyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoroacetoacetate]₂Zn,

[Isopropyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoroacetoacetate]₂Cu,

25 Ethyl 4,4,4-trifluoroacetoacetate,

[Ethyl 4,4,4-trifluoroacetoacetate]₂Zn

Tert-Butyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoro-3-oxobutanoate,

[Tert-Butyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoro-3-oxobutanoate]₂Zn,

[Tert-Butyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoro-3-oxobutanoate]₂Cu

30 In some embodiments, the antifouling composition comprises a compound of formula IA or IB as defined above. In some embodiments, the antifouling composition comprises a compound of formula IA and IB as defined above.

It has been surprisingly found that compounds of formula IA and IB significantly enhance the antifouling efficacy of antifouling compositions against the settling of marine organisms such as barnacles, bryozoans, hydroids, mussels, algae and the like.

35 The antifouling composition of the invention may further comprise one or more biocidal agents capable of preventing the fouling on the surface of an object.

Such biocidal agents may be inorganic biocidal agents, organometallic biocidal agents or organic biocidal agents.

Examples of inorganic biocidal agents are copper and copper compounds such as copper oxides, e.g. cuprous oxide and cupric oxide; copper alloys, e.g. copper-nickel alloys; copper salts, e.g. copper thiocyanate (CuSCN), copper sulphide; or barium metaborate.

Examples of organometallic biocidal agents are zinc 2-pyridinethiol-1-oxide [ZnPT, zinc pyrithione];
5 organo-copper compounds such as copper 2-pyridinethiol-1-oxide [CuPT, copper pyrithione], copper acetate, copper naphthenate, copper 8-quinolinolate [oxine-copper], copper nonylphenolsulfonate, copper bis(ethylenediamine)bis (dodecylbenzenesulfonate) and copper bis(pentachlorophenolate);
dithiocarbamate compounds such as zinc N,N-dimethylcarbamodithioate [ziram], zinc ethane-1,2-
10 diylbis(dithiocarbamate) [zineb], manganese ethylenebis(dithiocarbamate) [maneb] or manganese ethylenebis(dithiocarbamate) complexed with zinc salt [mancozeb].

Examples of organic biocidal agents are heterocyclic compounds such as 2-(tert-butylamino)-4-(
cyclopropylamino)-6-(methylthio)-1,3,5-triazine [cybutryne], 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one
[DCOIT], 1,2-benzisothiazolin-3-one [BIT], 2-(thiocyanatomethylthio)-1,3-benzothiazole [benthiazole],
3-benzo[b]thien-2-yl-5,6-dihydro-1,4,2-oxathiazine-4-oxide [bethoxazin] and 2,3,5,6-tetrachloro-4-
15 (methylsulphonyl)pyridine; urea derivatives such as 3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea [diuron];
amides and imides of carboxylic acids, sulphonic acids and sulphenic acids such as N-
(dichlorofluoromethylthio)phthalimide, N-dichlorofluoromethylthio-N',N'-dimethyl-N-phenylsulfamide
[dichlofluanid], N-dichlorofluoromethylthio-N',N'-dimethyl-N-p-tolylsulfamide [tolylfluanid] and N-(2,4,6-
trichlorophenyl) maleimide; other organic compounds such as pyridine triphenylborane, amine
20 triphenylborane, 3-iodo-2-propynyl-N-butylcarbamate [iodocarb], 2,4,5,6-tetrachloroisophthalonitrile
[chlorothalonil], p-((diiodomethyl)sulphonyl) toluene or 4-bromo-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-
1H-pyrrole-3-carbonitrile [tralopyril].

Other examples of biocidal agents are tetra-alkylphosphonium halogenides, guanidine derivatives,
imidazole containing compounds such as 4-[1-(2,3-dimethylphenyl)ethyl]-1H-imidazole [medetomidine]
25 and derivatives, macrocyclic lactones including avermectins and derivatives thereof such as
ivermectine, or spinosyns and derivatives thereof such as spinosad, or enzymes such as oxidase, or
proteolytically, hemicellulolytically, cellulolytically, lipolytically or amylolytically active enzymes.

In one embodiment, the antifouling composition of the invention comprises a compound of formula IA
and/or IB as defined above and further one or more biocidal agents selected from the group consisting
30 of copper 2-pyridinethiol-1-oxide (CuPT, copper pyrithione), zinc 2-pyridinethiol-1-oxide (ZnPT, zinc
pyrithione), 4,5-dichloro-2-n-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one (DCOIT), cuprous oxide (Cu₂O), zinc oxide
(ZnO), 4-bromo-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrrole-3-carbonitrile (tralopyril), zinc ethane-
1,2-diylbis(dithiocarbamate) (zineb), zinc N,N-dimethylcarbamodithioate (ziram), 3-(3,4-
dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea (diuron), copper(I) thiocyanate (CuSCN), 4-[1-(2,3-
35 dimethylphenyl)ethyl]-1H-imidazole (medetomidine), triazines, fluanids and 2,4,5,6-
tetrachloroisophthalonitrile (chlorothalonil).

In a preferred embodiment, the antifouling composition of the invention comprises a compound of formula IA and/or IB as defined above and one or more biocidal agents selected from the group consisting of CuPT, ZnPT, DCOIT, Cu₂O and tralopyril.

5 In a more preferred embodiment, the antifouling composition of the invention comprises a compound of formula IA and/or IB as defined above and one or more biocidal agent selected from the group consisting of CuPT and Cu₂O. The ratio of said compound of formula IA and/or IB (wt %) to CuPT (wt %) and/or the ratio of said compound of formula IA and/or IB (wt %) to Cu₂O (wt %) is advantageously from 100:1 to 1:100, preferably from 15:1 to 1:15, and most preferably from 5:1 to 1:5.

10 In a specific embodiment, the antifouling composition of the invention comprises said compound of formula IA and/or IB and CuPT. The ratio of said compound of formula IA and/or IB (wt %) to CuPT (wt %) is advantageously from 100:1 to 1:100, preferably from 10:1 to 1:10, and most preferably from 5:1 to 1:5.

In another specific embodiment, the antifouling composition of the invention comprises said compound of formula IA and/or IB and Cu₂O. The ratio of said compound of formula IA and/or IB (wt %) to Cu₂O (wt %) is advantageously from 100:1 to 1:100, preferably from 10:1 to 1:10, and most preferably from 5:1 to 1:5.

20 In a more specific embodiment, the antifouling composition of the invention comprises said compound of formula IA and/or IB, CuPT and Cu₂O, wherein the ratio of said compound of formula IA and/or IB (wt %) to CuPT (wt %) is from 5:1 to 5:1, and wherein the ratio of said compound of formula IA and/or IB (wt %) to Cu₂O (wt %) is 5:1 to 1:5.

In another specific embodiment, the antifouling composition of the invention comprises said compound of formula IA and/or IB and CuPT and is free of Cu₂O, wherein the ratio of said compound of formula IA and/or IB (wt %) to CuPT (wt %) is from 5:1 to 5:1.

25 The antifouling compositions of the invention comprising a compound of formula IA and/or IB as defined above not only provide excellent antifouling properties, but are also essentially colorless and hence do not interfere with the bright colors oftentimes desired for ship hulls.

The present invention further provides the use of the antifouling compositions of the invention for the inhibition of marine biofouling on a solid surface. The solid surface may be any solid surface of underwater objects such as ships, an aquaculture fishnet, an underwater structure and equipment, a tank, an offshore construction, a pipe, a net, a pier, a pile or a pillar or the like.

30 The antifouling compositions of the invention may further be used in combination with a polymer and/or copolymer allowing the controlled release of said compound of formula IA and/or IB, and if present also the controlled release of said one or more biocidal agents comprised therein, e.g., by

releasing these agents from an antifouling coating over time as is the case with self-polishing or ablative coatings.

The inventors have surprisingly found that compounds of formula IA and/or IB are versatile agents that may be used in all types of antifouling coatings, i.e., in antifouling coatings based on various
5 different polymers and/or copolymers typically used as binders for antifouling coating compositions.

Thus, the polymers and/or copolymers allowing the controlled release of said compound of formula IA and/or IB, and if present also the controlled release of said one or more biocidal agents comprised therein, may be any polymers and/or copolymers typically used as binder in antifouling coatings.

Suitable polymers and/or copolymers for that purpose are known to the person skilled in the art.

10 Depending on the amount and kind of binder used, said compound of formula IA and/or IB and the one or more biocidal agents will be released in a controlled manner at a predetermined desired rate, e.g., that is appropriate for the sailing pattern of a ship.

For example, the polymers and/or copolymers that are used as binders in “self-polishing antifouling coatings” allowing the controlled release of said compound of formula IA and/or IB and said one or

15 more biocidal agents may be hydrolysable acrylate polymers such as (meth)acrylate based polymers and/or copolymers. The (meth)acrylate monomer moiety in a (meth)acrylate polymer and/or copolymer may be an *alkyl (meth)acrylate*, for example a methyl (meth)acrylate, ethyl (meth)acrylate, propyl (meth)acrylate, isopropyl (meth)acrylate, butyl (meth)acrylate, isobutyl (meth)acrylate, tert-butyl (meth)acrylate, pentyl (meth)acrylate, hexyl (meth)acrylate, heptyl (meth)acrylate, cyclohexyl
20 (meth)acrylate, octyl (meth)acrylate, iso-octyl (meth)acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl (meth)acrylate, 3,5,5-trimethylhexyl (meth)acrylate, lauryl (meth)acrylate, cetyl (meth)acrylate and stearyl (meth)acrylate; but also *phenyl (meth)acrylate*; *benzyl (meth)acrylate*; or an *alkoxyalkyl (meth)acrylate* such as methoxymethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-methoxyethyl (meth)acrylate, ethoxymethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-ethoxyethyl (meth)acrylate, 4-methoxybutyl (meth)acrylate, methoxypropyl (meth)acrylate,
25 ethoxypropyl (meth)acrylate, propoxyethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-butoxyethyl (meth)acrylate, isobutoxybutyl diglycol (meth)acrylate; but also a *phenoxyethyl (meth)acrylate*; or a *hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate* such as hydroxymethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, 4-hydroxybutyl (meth)acrylate or 2-hydroxy-3-phenoxypropyl (meth)acrylate;

the (meth)acrylate monomer moiety in a (meth)acrylate polymer and/or copolymer may further be a

30 *silyl (meth)acrylate* such as tribenzylsilyl (meth)acrylate, trimethylsilyl (meth)acrylate, triethylsilyl (meth)acrylate, tri-isopropylsilyl (meth)acrylate, tri-*n*-butylsilyl (meth)acrylate, tri-isobutylsilyl (meth)acrylate, tri-*t*-butylsilyl (meth)acrylate, tri-*n*-amylsilyl (meth)acrylate, tri-*n*-dodecylsilyl (meth)acrylate, tri-*n*-hexylsilyl (meth)acrylate, tri-*n*-octylsilyl (meth)acrylate, tri-*n*-propylsilyl (meth)acrylate or triphenylsilyl (meth)acrylate;

35 the (meth)acrylate polymers and/or copolymers may also comprise a metal salt moiety of acrylic or methacrylic acid, referred to herein as a “metal salt (meth)acrylate”. The metal may be any suitable

metal known to the skilled artisan, e.g., zinc, calcium, magnesium, lithium, iron, zirconium, aluminum, cobalt, zirconium, barium and bismuth.

The polymer and/or copolymer allowing the controlled release of said compound of formula IA and/or IB and if present also the controlled release of said one or more biocidal agents, may also be a VAGH
5 copolymer. The VAGH copolymer may be dissolved in 2:3 xylene:MIBK.

Thus, in one embodiment, the polymer and/or copolymer allowing the controlled release of said compound of formula IA and/or IB and if present also the controlled release of said one or more biocidal agents comprises a (meth)acrylate polymer and/or copolymer, or a VAGH copolymer. The (meth)acrylate polymer and/or copolymer may be a polymer or copolymer of monomer moieties
10 selected from the group consisting of alkyl (meth)acrylate, phenyl (meth)acrylate, benzyl (meth)acrylate, alkoxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylate, zinc (meth)acrylates, and silyl- (meth)acrylate; or the (meth)acrylate polymer and/or copolymer may be a polymer or copolymer of monomer moieties selected from the group consisting of ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate, 2-methoxyethyl acrylate, zinc methacrylate, and tri-isopropylsilyl acrylate, preferably, the
15 (meth)acrylate polymer and/or copolymer is a copolymer of monomer moieties selected from the group consisting of ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, and zinc methacrylate, more preferably, the (meth)acrylate polymer and/or copolymer is a copolymer of monomer moieties selected from the group consisting of ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, 2-methoxyethyl acrylate and zinc methacrylate, and most preferably, the (meth)acrylate polymer and/or copolymer is a
20 copolymer of monomer moieties selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate, 2-methoxyethyl acrylate and tri-isopropylsilyl acrylate.

Consequently, the invention further provides an antifouling paint comprising the antifouling composition of the invention and a polymer and/or copolymer allowing the controlled release of said compound of formula IA and/or IB and if present also the controlled release of said one or more
25 biocidal agents.

The content of said compound of formula IA and/or IB in the antifouling paint of the invention is from about 1 to about 25 wt%, preferably from about 3 to about 20 wt%, and more preferably from about 4 to about 18 wt%, and most preferably from about 5 to about 15 wt%.

Due to the excellent enhancing properties of said compound of formula IA and/or IB only low amounts
30 of said one or more biocidal agents are required in the antifouling paint of the invention. The total content of the one or more biocidal agents in the antifouling paint of the invention is less than about 30 wt%, preferably less than about 25 wt%, more preferably less than about 20 wt%, and most preferably less than about 18 wt%.

The total content of CuPT in the antifouling paint of the invention is less than about 10 wt%, more preferably less than about 8 wt%, and most preferably less than about 7 wt%.

The total content of Cu₂O in the antifouling paint of the invention is less than about 20 wt%, more preferably less than about 15 wt%, and most preferably less than about 12 wt%.

- 5 Thus, the content of toxic metal compounds, in particular of Cu₂O, is kept at a very low level, and can even be avoided.

The present invention further provides a method for inhibiting marine biofouling on a solid surface, characterized in that an antifouling paint comprising the antifouling composition of the invention is applied on said surface. The solid surface may be any solid surface of underwater objects such as
10 ships, an aquaculture fishnet, an underwater structure and equipment, a tank, an offshore construction, a pipe, a net, a pier, a pile or a pillar and the like.

In the following, the present invention will be further described with reference to Examples, but should be construed that the present invention is in no way limited to these Examples.

EXAMPLES

15 **Example 1: Preparation of exemplary polymer-based binders for antifouling paints**

Different exemplary polymer-based binders that can be used in self-polishing antifouling paints or hybrid coatings have been prepared as outlined in the following.

Example 1A: Synthesis of an acrylate polymer “Acid acrylate low acid value” referred to herein as “Ac (AV=100-)”

Description	Quantity (g)	Weight (%)
MPM	355.03	11.83
Xylene	671.01	22.37
ethyl acrylate	56.8	1.89
bring to 100°C while mixing and drop into the following mixture over 6 hours		
methyl methacrylate	213.02	7.1
ethyl acrylate	1009.47	33.65
methacrylic acid	149.11	4.97
Xylene	147.93	4.93
Methyl Styrene Dimer	14.2	0.47
AIBN	35.5	1.18
AMBN	99.41	3.31
add chaser and xylene over 1/2 hour		
<i>t</i> -butylperoxy 2-ethylhexyl carbonate	7.1	0.24
Xylene	143.2	4.77
mix for 90 minutes after chaser is in. Cool down and add		
Xylene	98.22	3.27
Total	3000	100
Manual Yield %	100	
Net	3000	

Example 1B: Synthesis of an acrylate polymer “Acid acrylate 100 acid value” referred to herein as “Ac (AV=100)”

5

Description	Quantity (g)	Weight (%)
MPM	355.5	11.85
Xylene	668.4	22.28
ethyl acrylate	56.7	1.89
bring to 100°C while mixing and drop into the following mixture over 6 hours		
methyl methacrylate	142.2	4.74
ethyl acrylate	867.3	28.91
methacrylic acid	142.2	4.74
2-methoxyethyl acrylate	213.6	7.12
Xylene	142.2	4.74
Methyl Styrene Dimer	14.1	0.47
AIBN	35.4	1.18
AMBN	99.3	3.31
add chaser and xylene over 1/2 hour		
<i>t</i> -butylperoxy 2-ethylhexyl carbonate	7.2	0.24
Xylene	142.2	4.74
mix for 90 minutes after chaser is in. Cool down and add		
Xylene	113.7	3.79
Total	3000	100
Manual Yield %	100	
Net	3000	

Example 1C: Synthesis of a binder component using the acrylate polymer "Ac (AV=100-)" to give a zinc acrylate polymer referred to herein as "Zn-Ac (AV=100-)"

Description	Quantity (g)	Weight (%)
Ac (AV=100-)	3000	82.395
Zinc Oxide	81	2.225
zinc naphthenate	560	15.38
Mix for 6 hours at 100°C and add 20 g water if ZnO is not dissolved after 6 hours		
Total	3641	100
Manual Yield %	100	
Net	3641	

Example 1D: Synthesis of a binder component using the acrylate polymer "Ac (AV=100)" to give a zinc acrylate polymer referred to herein as "Zn-Ac (AV=100)"

Description	Quantity (g)	Weight (%)
Ac (AV=100)	3000	75.82
Zinc Oxide	106.5	2.69
zinc naphthenate	850	21.48
Mix for 6 hours at 100°C and add 20 g water if ZnO is not dissolved after 6 hours		
Total	3956.5	100
Manual Yield %	100	
Net	3956.5	

Example 1E: Synthesis of a silyl acrylate polymer standard TIPX binder component referred to herein as "Si-Ac"

Description	Quantity (g)	Weight (%)
Xylene	1826	45.65
add the following monomer mixture dropwise over 3 hours at 90°C		
methyl methacrylate	665,4	16.64
butyl acrylate monomer	228	5.7
2- methoxyethyl acrylate	99,2	2.48
trisopropysilyl acrylate monomer (TIPX)	992,4	24.81
AIBN	20	0.5
after all monomer added, mix for additional 2 hours at 90°C, then add		
t-butylperoxy 2-ethylhexyl carbonate	10	0.25
Xylene	159	3.98
drop xylene mixture over 1/2 hour at 90°C, then mix another 1 hour before cooling down		
Total	4000	100
Manual Yield %	100	
Net	4000	

Example 1F: Synthesis of silyl acrylate polymer lower TIPX binder component referred to herein as “Si-Ac (TIPX-L)”

Description	Quantity (g)	Weight (%)
Xylene	1826	45.65
add the following monomer mixture dropwise over 3 hours at 90°C		
methyl methacrylate	912	22.8
butyl acrylate monomer	310	7.75
2- methoxyethyl acrylate	60	1.5
trisopropysilyl acrylate monomer	703	17.58
AIBN	20	0.5
after all monomer added, mix for additional 2 hours at 90°C, then add		
t-butylperoxy 2-ethylhexyl carbonate	10	0.25
Xylene	159	3.98
Total	4000	100
Manual Yield %	100	
Net	4000	

Example 2: Potency of Cu₂O and compounds of the invention in antifouling paints

In order to confirm that the amount of Cu₂O can be significantly reduced if a compound of formula IA or IB of the invention is present in antifouling paints, the efficacy of a set of ablative antifouling paints was evaluated by immersing experimental painted panels in seawater on a test raft.

Various ablative antifouling paints have been prepared for this purpose containing a) only a compound IA or IB of the invention (i.e., without a biocidal agent), b) a compound IA or IB of the invention together with a biocidal agent (i.e., Cu₂O), c) only biocidal agent (i.e., Cu₂O, or Cu₂O together with CuPT, respectively, as “positive control paints”), and d) without biocidal agent and without compound IA or IB (“negative control paint”).

The compounds of the invention employed in this example are depicted in Table 1 below. The detailed formulations of the paints are depicted in Tables 2 to 4 below. The paints have been applied to PVC panels as follows.

Each panel was divided into three sections and coated with the respective paints (i.e., containing either the biocide, or the compound of the invention, or biocide together with the compound of the invention) in three different concentrations, i.e., 25 % v/v, 15% v/v, and 5% v/v, respectively. The concentrations of these ingredients are indicated in Figures 1 to 3.

Results: The results after a predefined time (1, 4 or 6 months, as indicated below) immersion in sea water are shown in FIG. 1, FIG. 2 and FIG. 3.

Figure 1:

Panel 1 depicts a panel painted with a Cu_2O only formulation of an antifouling paint as indicated in table 2 below. The three sections indicate 3 areas on the panel that had been treated with paints containing Cu_2O in different concentrations. The paint applied to section 1 contained 15 % v/v of Cu_2O , the paint applied to section 2 of the panel contained 5 % v/v of Cu_2O . The last section of panel 1 (emphasized by a square) is a negative control of a painted panel where the paint did not include any antifouling acting ingredient, i.e., neither a biocide nor a compound of formula IA or IB. Panel 6 and Panel 12 in Figure 1 are negative controls of untreated PVC panels. Panels 2 to 5 and 7 to 10 of Figure 1 resemble paints containing compounds of formula IA or IB in different concentrations as indicated in Figure 1.

Figure 2:

Panel 1 in each of the trials, i.e., in Nagasaki, Himeji and Onagawa, in Figure 2 is a painted panel with a Cu_2O only formulation of an antifouling paint as indicated in table 3 below. The concentrations of the ingredients comprised in the paints applied to the three sections of the panels are indicated in Figure 2. Concentrations are in volume % 25, 15, 5. Panel 6 in each trial in Figure 2 are negative controls of untreated PVC panels. Panel 4 in each trial resembles in section 1 a paint with 25% v/v CuPt , in section 2 a paint with 5% v/v Cu_2O and 25% CuPt , and in section 3 a paint with 5% v/v Cu_2O and 15 % v/v CuPt . Panel 5 in each trial resembles in section 1 a paint with 25% v/v ZnETFAA , in section 2 a paint with 5% v/v Cu_2O and 25% ZnETFAA , and in section 3 a paint with 5% v/v Cu_2O and 15 % v/v ZnETFAA .

Figure 3:

Panels 7 and 10 in Figure 3 are painted with Cu_2O and $\text{Cu}_2\text{O}/\text{CuPT}$ only formulations of an antifouling paint as indicated in table 3 below. Concentrations are in volume % 25, 15, 5. Panel 12 in Figure 3 is a negative control of an untreated PVC panel. Panels 1 to 6 resemble in section 1 a paint with 25% v/v of the compound of the invention (i.e., panel 1: Der-2-Cu; panel 2: Der-3-Cu; panel 3: Der-4-Cu; panel 4: Der-5-Cu; panel 5: Der-6-Cu; panel 6: Der-7-Cu as indicated in Fig 3 and in table 1 below); in section 2 a paint with 5% v/v Cu_2O and 25% of the compound of the invention, and in section 3 a paint with 5% v/v Cu_2O and 15 % v/v of the compound of the invention.

In comparison to the untreated panel controls and the plain paint controls, all sections of the panels that resemble paints with different concentrations of the compounds of the invention are showing improved antifouling performance. A general trend that all evaluated derivatives are improving the performance of antifouling paints is observed.

Table 1: Compounds according to the invention used in example 2:

Compound	Formula	Me	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5 / R6
ETFAA	IA		F/F/F	O/O	O	Ethyl	H/H
Zn-ETFAA	IB	Zn	F/F/F	O/O	O	Ethyl	H/H
Ethyl 3-amino-4,4,4-trifluorocrotone ("Ace")	IA		F/F/F	NH/O	O	Ethyl	H/H
DF-Enoether ("DF-E")	IA		F/F/H	O/O	O	Ethyl	=CH(OEthyl)
DFE-Zn	IB	Zn	F/F/H	O/O	O	Ethyl	=CH(OEthyl)
4, 4, 4-Trifluoro-N, N-dimethyl-3-oxobutanamide "Deriv-2-Cu"	IB	Cu	F/F/F	O/O	N	CH3/CH3	H/H
Dodecyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoro-3-oxobutanoate "Deriv-3-Cu"	IB	Cu	F/F/F	O/O	O	C12H25	H/H
Benzyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoroacetate "Deriv-4-Cu"	IB	Cu	F/F/F	O/O	O	Benzyl	H/H
Octyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoroacetate "Deriv-5-Cu"	IB	Cu	F/F/F	O/O	O	C8H17	H/H
Isopropyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoroacetate "Deriv-6-Cu"	IB	Cu	F/F/F	O/O	O	iso-propyl	H/H
Tert-Butyl 4, 4, 4-trifluoro-3-oxobutanoate "Deriv-7-Cu"	IB	Cu	F/F/F	O/O	O	tert-butyl	H/H

Table 2: Composition of the paints and control paints:

Ingredient	Pos. control	Neg. control	T10-02	T10-03	T10-04	T10-05	T10-06	T10-07	T10-08	T10-09	T10-10	T10-11	T10-12	T10-13	T10-14	T10-15	T10-16	T10-17	T10-18	T10-19
Gum Rosin	10,5	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0
Laroflex MP25	3,5	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0
Chlor.Paraffin / Disperbyk161	4,1	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
Talc (PKS)	8,6	25,8	25,8	25,8	25,8	25,8	25,8	25,8	25,8	25,8	25,8	25,8	25,8	25,8	25,8	25,8	22,5	9,3	15,9	22,5
Red iron oxide	1,6	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0
Zinc Oxide	4,9	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0	5,0
Cu2O vol%	36,8																			
CuPT	2,7																			
Ace			8,5	4,5	1,4															
DF-E						8,5	4,5	1,4												
DF-P									8,5	4,5	1,4									
ETFAA											8,5	4,5	1,4							
DFE-Zn															11,5	6,9	2,3			
DFE-Zn																		11,5	6,9	2,3
Disparlon A650 -20x	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
Bentone 38	0,4	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0
Xylene (polymer)	13,9	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0
Xylene	11,1	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8	2,8
Total	100,0	65,6	74,1	70,1	67,0	74,1	70,1	67,0	74,1	70,1	67,0	74,1	70,1	67,0	66,1	68,1	70,1	66,1	68,1	70,1

Table 3 Composition of the paints and control paints:

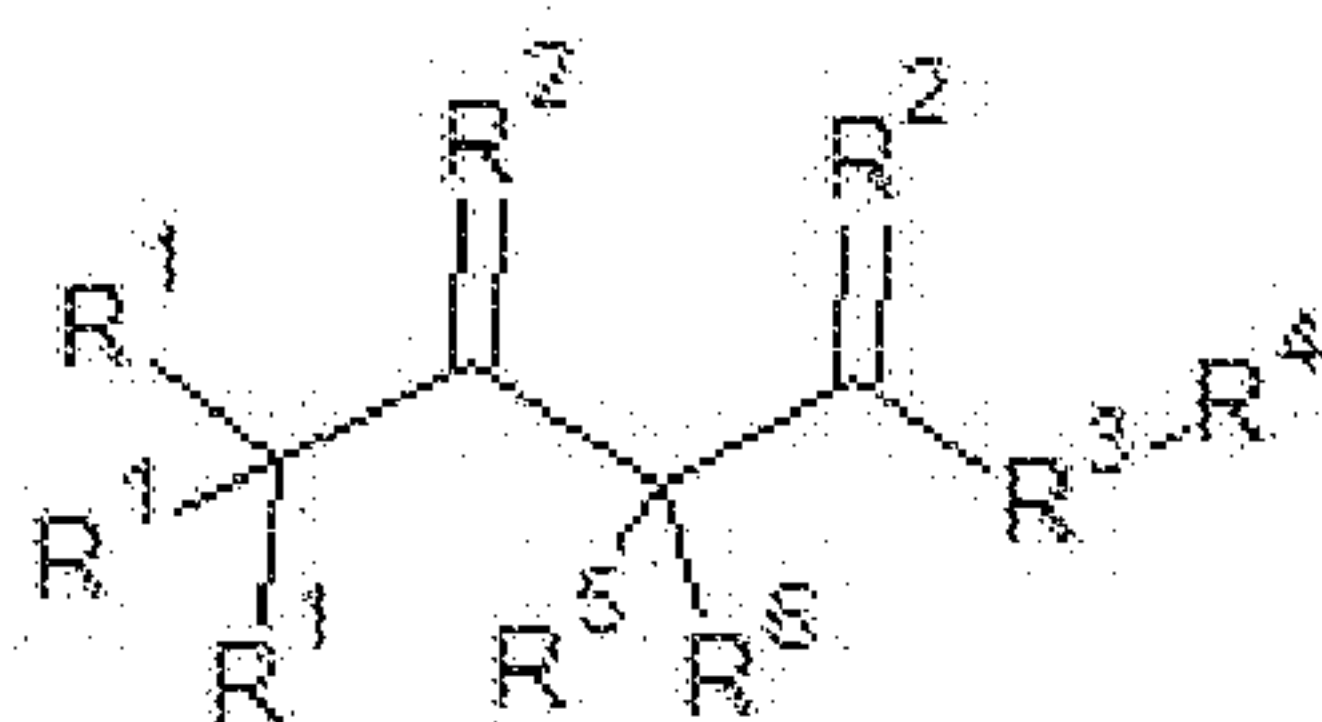
Ingredient	positive control	T11-01	T11-02	T11-03	T11-10	T11-11	T11-12	T11-13	T11-14	T11-15
Gum Rosin	10,5	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0	9,0
Laroflex MP25	3,5	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0
Chlorinated Paraffin/Disperbyk161	4,1	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
Talc (PKS)	8,6	9,2	15,6	21,8	9,3	6,0	12,6	9,3	6,0	12,6
Red iron oxide	1,6	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0	3,0
Zinc Oxide	4,9	5,2	5,8	6,5	5,2	4,8	5,4	5,2	4,8	5,4
Cu2O vol%	36,8	38,2	22,9	7,7		7,7	7,7		7,7	7,7
CuPT	2,7				11,5	11,5	6,9			
Zn-ETFAA								11,5	11,5	6,9
Disparlon A650-20x	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0	2,0
Bentone 38	0,4	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0
Xylene (polymer)	13,9	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0	12,0
Xylene	11,1	16,8	13,3	9,7	5,4	7,1	8,2	5,4	7,2	8,2
Xylene (additional)	0,0	3,0	7,0	5,0	6,0	6,0	6,0	3,0	3,0	3,0
Total	100,0	104,4	96,6	82,7	69,4	75,1	78,8	66,4	72,2	75,8
Total antifouling ingredient vol%	25,3	25,0	15,0	5,0	25,0	30,1	20,0	25,0	30,1	20,0
Cu2O vol%	20,3	25,0	15,0	5,0	0,0	5,0	5,0	0,0	5,0	5,0
Cu-Pt vol%	5,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	25,0	25,0	15,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Zn-EtFAA vol%	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	25,0	25,0	15,0
Total antifouling ingredient wt%	66,4	53,8	36,5	14,2	25,8	39,6	28,6	25,8	39,6	28,6
Cu2O wt%	61,8	53,8	36,5	14,2	0,0	15,9	15,1	0,0	15,9	15,1
Cu-Pt wt%	4,5	0,0	0,0	0,0	25,8	23,7	13,5	0,0	0,0	0,0
Zn-EtFAA wt%	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	25,8	23,7	13,5

Table 4 cont'd:

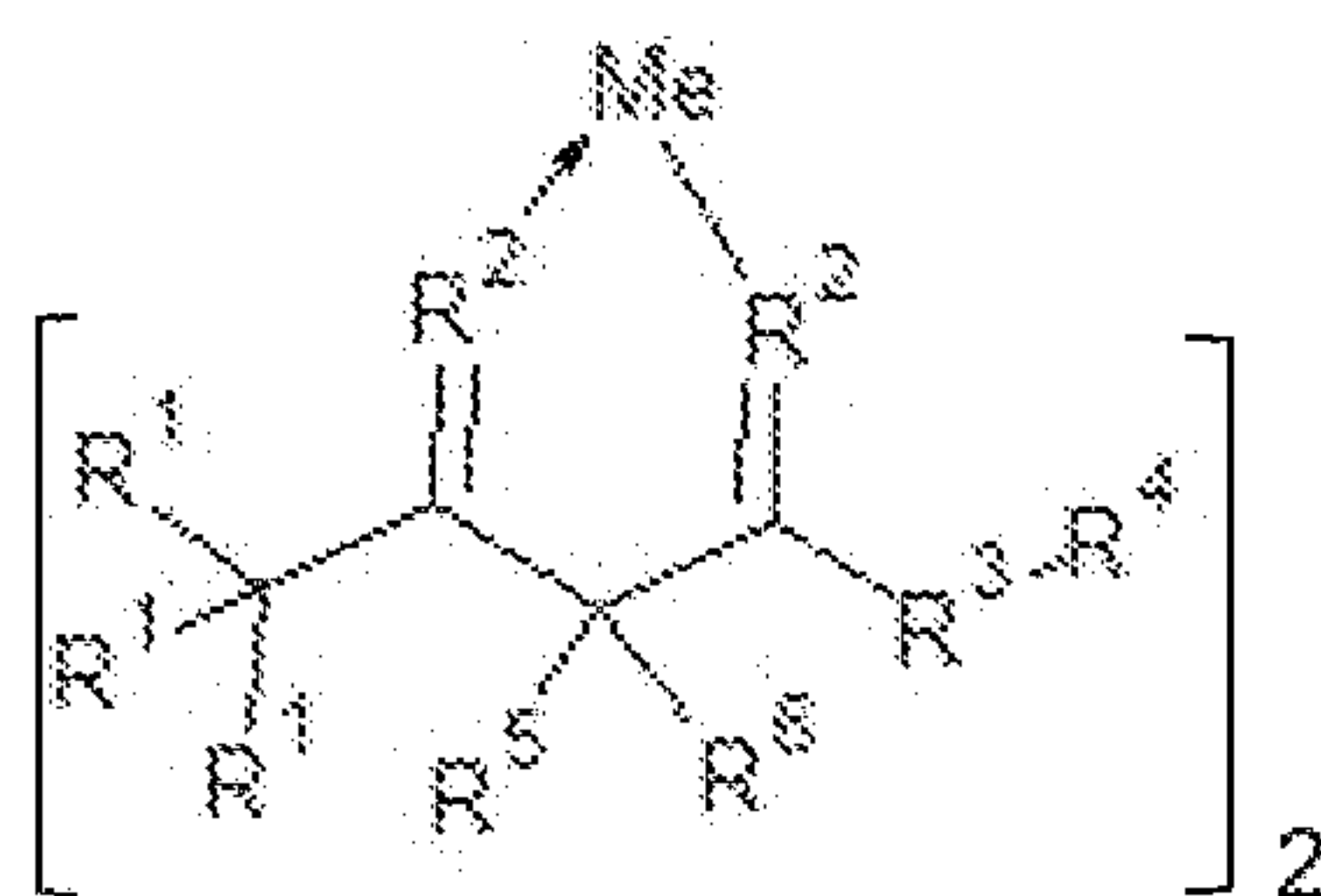
Total antifouling ingredient vol%	25,3	25,0	30,0	20,0	25,0	30,0	20,0	25,0	30,0	20,0	25,0	30,0	20,0	25,0	30,0	20,0
Cu2O vol%	20,3	0,0	5,0	5,0	0,0	5,0	5,0	0,0	5,0	5,0	0,0	5,0	5,0	0,0	5,0	5,0
Cu-Pt vol%	5,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Deriv vol%	0,0	25,0	25,0	15,0	25,0	25,0	15,0	25,0	25,0	15,0	25,0	25,0	15,0	25,0	25,0	15,0
Total antifouling ingredient wt%	53,8	25,9	39,5	28,7	25,9	39,5	28,7	25,9	39,5	28,7	25,9	39,5	28,7	25,9	39,5	28,7
Cu2O wt%	50,1	0,0	15,9	15,2	0,0	15,9	15,2	0,0	15,9	15,2	0,0	15,9	15,2	0,0	15,9	15,2
Cu-Pt wt%	3,7	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Deriv wt%	0,0	25,9	23,6	13,5	25,9	23,6	13,5	25,9	23,6	13,5	25,9	23,6	13,5	25,9	23,6	13,5

CLAIMS

1. An antifouling composition comprising a compound of formula IA and/or IB



IA



IB

5

wherein

Me represents metal, preferably Cu, Zn, Co, Ni, Ca, Mg or Mn;

R1 is each independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkyl, C₂₋₂₀ alkenyl, C₂₋₂₀ alkynyl, C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₂₀ aryl and C₇₋₂₀ arylalkyl;

10 R2 is each independently selected from NH, O, S, and Se;

R3 is NH, N(R4), O, S, and Se;

R4 is hydrogen, linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkyl, C₂₋₂₀ alkenyl, C₂₋₂₀ alkynyl, C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₂₀ aryl, C₇₋₂₀ arylalkyl;

15 R5 and R6 are each independently selected from H, linear or branched C₁₋₂₀ alkyl, C₂₋₂₀ alkenyl, C₂₋₂₀ alkynyl,

C₃₋₁₂ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₂₀ aryl and C₇₋₂₀ arylalkyl; or

R5 and R6 together form a group =O, =S, =Se, =NR4, =C(R4)₂, =C(R4)(OR4), =C(R4)(NHR4).

2. The antifouling composition of claim 1, wherein in said compound of formula IA and/or IB

Me represents Cu, Zn, Ca, Mg or Mn;

R1 is each independently selected from H, F, Cl, Br, I, linear or branched C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkynyl, C₆₋₁₂ aryl, and C₇₋₁₂ arylalkyl;

5 R2 is each independently selected from NH, O, and S;

R3 is NH, N(R4), O, and S;

R4 is H, linear or branched C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkenyl, C₂₋₁₂ alkynyl, C₃₋₈ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₁₂ aryl, C₇₋₁₂ arylalkyl;

10 R5 and R6 are each independently selected from H, linear or branched C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₂₋₄ alkenyl, C₂₋₄ alkynyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, C₆₋₁₂ aryl and C₇₋₁₂ arylalkyl; or

R5 and R6 together form a group =O, =S, =NR₄, =C(R₄)₂, =C(R₄)(OR₄), =C(R₄)(NHR₄).

3. The antifouling composition of claims 1 or 2, wherein in said compound of formula IA and/or IB

Me represents Cu or Zn;

15 R1 is each independently selected from H, F, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *i*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, cyclo-butyl, cyclo-pentyl, cyclo-hexyl, C₈ alkyl, C₉ alkyl, C₁₀ alkyl, C₁₁ alkyl, C₁₂ alkyl, and benzyl;

R2 is each independently selected from NH, and O;

R3 is N(R4) and O;

20 R4 is H, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *i*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, cyclo-butyl, cyclo-pentyl, cyclo-hexyl, C₈ alkyl, C₉ alkyl, C₁₀ alkyl, C₁₁ alkyl, C₁₂ alkyl, and benzyl;

R5 and R6 are each independently selected from H, methyl, ethyl, *n*-propyl, *i*-propyl, *n*-butyl, *i*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, and benzyl; or

25 R5 and R6 together form a group =CH(OCH₃); =CH(OC₂H₅); =CH(OnC₃H₇); =CH(OiC₃H₇); =CH(OnC₄H₉); =CH(OiC₄H₉); =CH(O*tert*C₄H₉); =CH(NHCH₃); =CH(NHC₂H₅); =CH(NH*n*C₃H₇); =CH(NHiC₃H₇); =CH(NH*n*C₄H₉); =CH(NHiC₄H₉); =CH(NH*tert*C₄H₉);

4. The antifouling composition of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the one or more biocidal agent is selected from the group consisting of copper 2-pyridinethiol-1-oxide (copper pyrithione, CuPT), zinc 2-pyridinethiol-1-oxide (zinc pyrithione, ZnPT), 4,5-dichloro-2-*n*-octyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one (DCOIT), cuprous oxide (Cu₂O), zinc oxide (ZnO), 4-bromo-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrrole-3-carbonitrile (tralopyril), zinc ethane-1,2-diyldis(dithiocarbamate) (zineb), zinc N,N-dimethylcarbamoate (ziram), 3-(3,4-dichlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea (diuron), copper(I) thiocyanate (CuSCN), 4-[1-(2,3-dimethylphenyl)ethyl]-1H-imidazole (medetomidine), triazines, fluanids and 2,4,5,6-tetrachloroisophthalonitrile (chlorothalonil).
- 30

5. The antifouling composition of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the one or more biocidal agent is selected from the group consisting of CuPT, ZnPT, DCOIT, Cu₂O, and tralopyril.
6. The antifouling composition of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the one or more
5 biocidal agent is selected from the group consisting of CuPT and Cu₂O.
7. The antifouling composition of claim 6, wherein the ratio of the compound of formula IA and/or IB (wt %) to CuPT (wt %), and/or the ratio of compound of formula IA and/or IB (wt %) to Cu₂O (wt %) is from 100:1 to 1:100.
8. Use of an antifouling composition of any one of the preceding claims for the inhibition of marine
10 biofouling on a solid surface.
9. The use of claim 8, wherein the antifouling composition is used in combination with a polymer and/or copolymer allowing controlled release of compound of formula IA and/or IB.
10. An antifouling paint comprising the antifouling composition of any one of claims 1 to 7 and a polymer and/or copolymer allowing controlled release of compound of formula IA and/or IB.
- 15 11. The antifouling paint of claim 10, wherein the content of compound of formula IA and/or IB is from about 1 to about 25 wt%.
12. The antifouling paint of any one of claims 10 or 11, wherein the total content of said one or more biocidal agent is less than about 30 wt%.
13. The antifouling paint of any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the total content of CuPT is less
20 than about 10 wt%.
14. A method for inhibiting marine biofouling on a solid surface, comprising applying an antifouling paint of any one of claims 10 to 13 onto said surface.

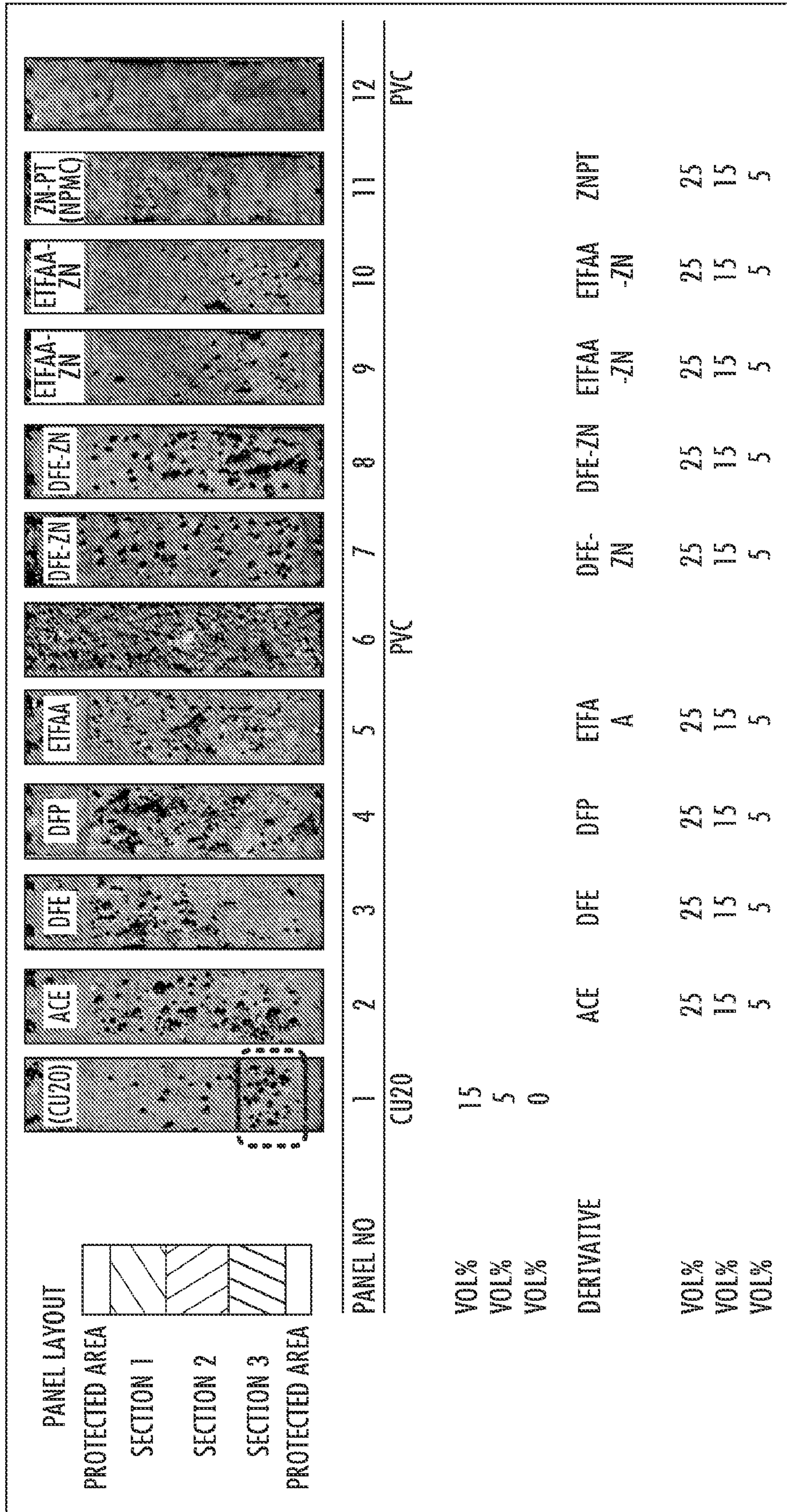


FIG. 1

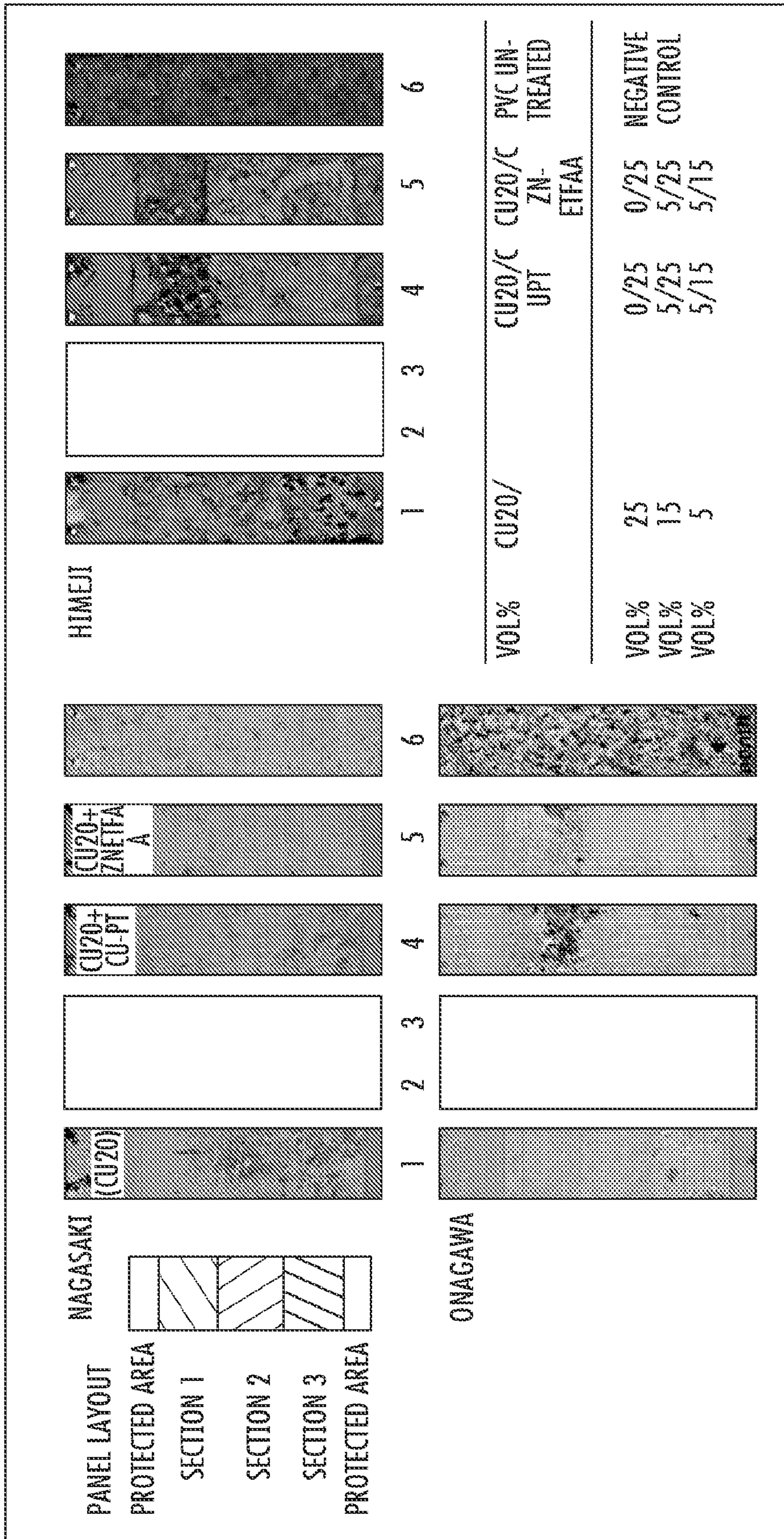


FIG. 2

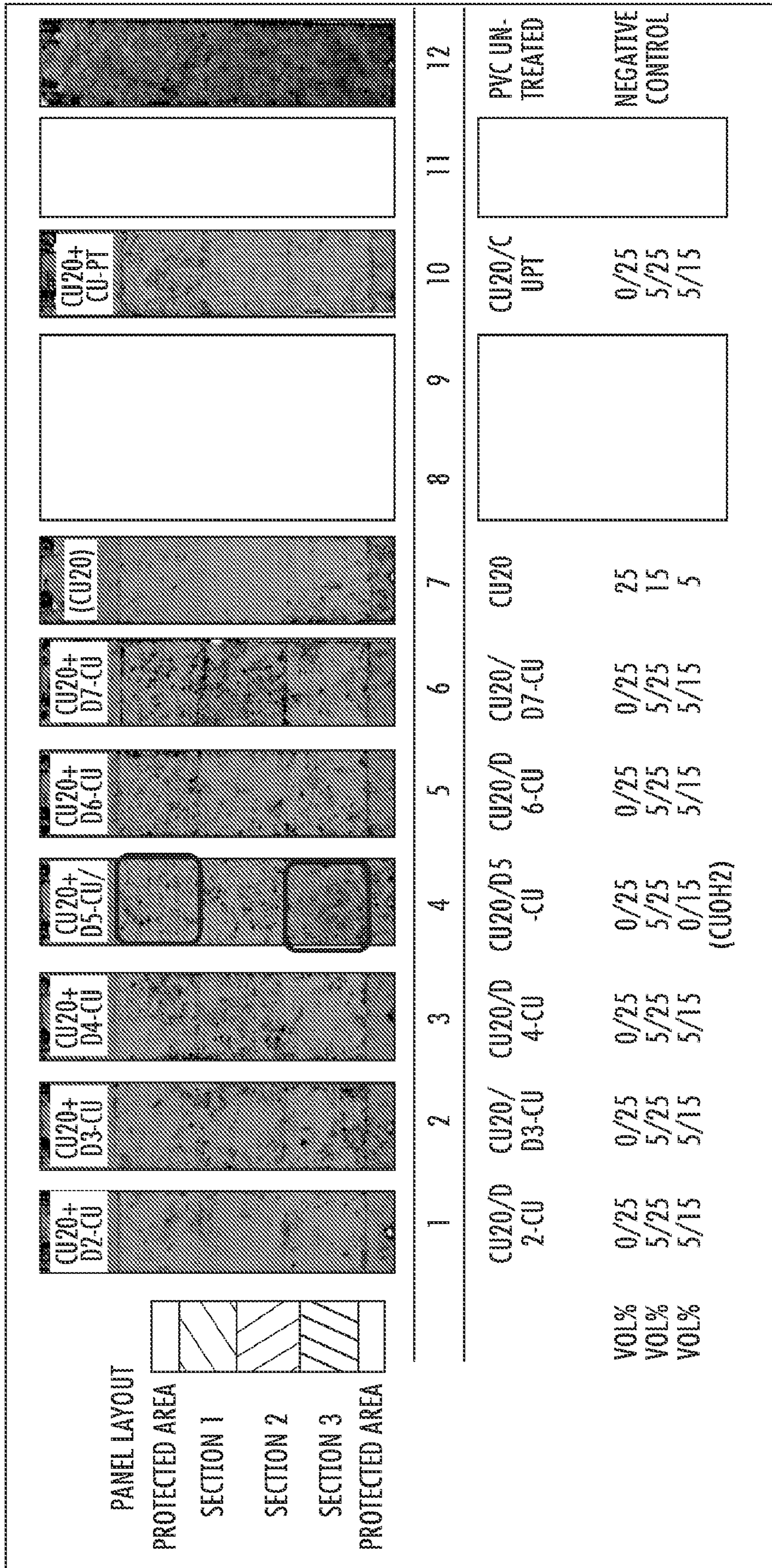


FIG. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2020/063193

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. C09D5/16 C09D7/63
 ADD. C08K5/00 C08K5/098

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)
 C09D C08K C09G

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

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 2007/030389 A2 (NOVUS INT INC [US]; ABOU-NEMEH IBRAHIM [US]) 15 March 2007 (2007-03-15) page 42, paragraph 103 - page 43 page 9, paragraph 30 - page 10 -----	1-14
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Y	WO 2014/096572 A1 (BLUESTAR SILICONES FRANCE [FR]) 26 June 2014 (2014-06-26) claim 1 -----	1-14
	-/--	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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"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

8 March 2021

Date of mailing of the international search report

17/03/2021

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2020/063193

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Information on patent family members

International application No

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