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P/2/1.15

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Dear Arthur

PARAQUAT - EMETICS AND BITTER AGENTS

May I reply to your note of 7 July to Nigel about various additions to paraquat. On the question of emetics, we examined this some time ago and turned it down for a variety of reasons; (a) 'Gramoxone' itself is quite a good emetic, (b) there was no really suitable agent to add which would be effective, and (c) the expense would be prohibitive.

I believe some of these objections apply to the Pharmaceuticals compound ICI 63,197. I accept it would be effective at a dose of about 10 mg which would imply about 4 g/gallon. Two difficulties I foresee are cost and registration. If you are convinced that the proposition is viable on these two counts, then we would be prepared to evaluate it from the toxicological aspect and try to see if it is effective.

Similar arguments apply to the bitter agent, although testing this would require some thought and we may have to decide on grounds similar to those used with the smells. Incidentally, I would think any nasty taste would do.

Both ideas have some merit, but the decision on feasibility is, I think, PPL's.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely