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Contents of Volume II

New Antineoplastic Chemotherapeutics: Alkylating Agents

<i>T. S. Safonova</i> : On Some Directions in Search of Antitumour Substances	3
<i>S. M. Minakova, Yu. A. Yershova, P. A. Nasibulin, V. A. Chernov and A. A. Grushina</i> : Antimitotic and Antitumour Effects of Prospidin in Intact, Hypophysectomized and Thyroidectomized Rats	5
<i>B. T. Hill and K. R. Harrap</i> : Acquired Drug Resistance: Studies on the Transport and Cellular Distribution of Chlorambucil in the Yoshida Ascites Sarcoma	7
<i>C. R. Ball</i> : The Role of DNA Repair Mechanisms in Resistance to Alkylating Agents	11
<i>B. B. Lozzio and M. J. Cawein</i> : Effects of Phytohemagglutinin on the Depression of Hematopoiesis by Cytotoxic Drugs	13
<i>M. Halász, E. Csányi, T. Horváth and L. Vargha</i> : Newer Type of Potential Cytostatic Sugaralcohol Derivatives	17
<i>J. Sebestyén, E. J. Hidvégi, G. J. Köteles, L. D. Szabó, F. Antoni and L. Instilóris</i> : Comparative Studies on the Biological Activities of 1,6-Disubstituted and 1,2—5,6-Dianhydro Derivatives of Cytostatic D-Hexitols	21
<i>T. Horváth, L. Vargha, E. Csányi and M. Halász</i> : The Possible Metabolism and Action of Zitostop ^(R)	23
<i>I. P. Horváth, J. Kralovánszky, I. Elekes, S. Eckhardt and C. Sellei</i> : Studies on the Mechanism of Action of Cytostatic Hexitol Derivatives	27
<i>E. Instilóris, L. Holczinger, D. Bánfi and L. Instilóris</i> : Investigation in the Distribution of ³ H-1,6- Dibromodulcitol and ³ H-1,2—5,6-Dianhydrodulcitol in DNA, Histone and Non-Histone Fractions of the Chromatin of Yoshida Ascites Tumour Cells	31
<i>É. Gáli, I. P. Horváth, J. Kralovánszky and J. Tóperczer</i> : Studies on the Metabolism of Dibromodulcitol in Rats Bearing Yoshida Ascites Tumours	33
<i>G. Astaldi, I. Krč, A. Astaldi Jr., B. Alanassov and B. Yalcin</i> : The Effect of a New Antiblastic Compound (m-Dichlorodiethyl-Amino-L-Phenylalanyl-Peptide) on Lymphocyte Blastic Transformation	37
<i>B. Kellner, L. Németh, L. Instilóris, S. Somfai and F. Gál</i> : Antitumoral Effect of Dulcitol-Diepoxyde (1,2—5,6-Dianhydrogalactitol)	39

New Antineoplastic Chemotherapeutics: Antimetabolites of Pyrimidine and Purine Type

<i>P. Langen</i> : Problems of Current Antimetabolite Research	43
<i>P. W. Wigler, E. T. Best and C. B. Lozzio</i> : Synthesis and Biological Action of a New Pyrimidine Antimetabolite	47
<i>E. Mihich and M. Kilano</i> : Increased Immunogenicity of Leukemia L1210 Resistant to Chemotherapy	49
<i>A. Čihák</i> : Metabolic Alterations of Liver Regeneration by 5-Azacytidine	53
<i>V. Jellinek, V. Pujman and H. Veselá</i> : The Effect of Fluoxidine on Experimental Tumours in Mice	55
<i>A. Černý, A. Čapek and M. Semonský</i> : Microbial Catabolites of N-[δ -(6-Purinylothio)valeryl] glycine Ethyl Ester and Analogous Diglycine and Triglycine Derivatives	57
<i>K. Ráž, V. Francová, Z. Franc and M. Semonský</i> : Pharmacokinetics of N-[δ -(6-Purinylothio)valeryl] glycine- ³⁵ S Ethyl Ester and Analogous Di- and Triglycine Derivatives in Mice	59

<i>H. Hilz, S. Nolde and E. Kaukel: The Cytostatic Action of Cyclic Nucleotides and Pyridine Nucleotides</i>	63
<i>V. A. Chernov, T. S. Safonova, N. A. Ryabokon, N. A. Andreyeva, A. S. Sokolova, Y. A. Ershova, and M. P. Nemeryuk: A New Type of Folic Acid Antagonists with Antitumour Activity.</i>	65
<i>K. Slavík, R. Čihář, J. Souček, K. Přisloupilová, E. Hermannová and V. Slavíková: Synthesis, Biochemical and Biological Properties of the New Antifolics</i>	69
<i>J. Souček, V. Slavíková and M. Kuchař: Effect of Some 6-(1-Adamantyl)-Derivatives on Mouse Liver Folate Reductase</i>	71

New Antineoplastic Chemotherapeutics: Anti-Tumour Antibiotics

<i>G. F. Gause: Some Aspects of the Study of Antitumor Antibiotics</i>	75
<i>H. Umezawa: Progress in Antitumor Antibiotics</i>	81
<i>S. J. Jørgensen: Dose Schedules and Combination with Radiotherapy in Bleomycin Treatment</i>	83
<i>M. G. Brazhnikova, N. V. Konstantinova and A. S. Mesentsev: A Study on Chemical Properties of Antitumor Antibiotic Sibiromycin</i>	85
<i>G. F. Gause and Y. V. Dudnik: Mechanism on Action of Antitumor Antibiotic Sibiromycin</i>	87
<i>V. A. Shorin: Chemotherapeutic Study on Antitumor Antibiotic Sibiromycin</i>	89
<i>M. Mordarski and K. Szyba: Inhibition of Nucleic Acids and Protein Synthesis in Animal Cells by Antibiotic Wr-142</i>	91
<i>M. M. Yeselevich, Y. O. Sazykin and L. I. Torbochkina: Mechanism of Action of Variamycin — New Antitumour Antibiotic</i>	95
<i>J. Fuska, P. Nemeš, I. Kuhr and A. Fusková: Inhibition of Protein and Nucleic Acids Synthesis in Ehrlich Ascites Carcinoma Cells by Frequentin.</i>	97

New Antineoplastic Chemotherapeutics: Other Compounds

<i>B. Rosenberg: Enhanced Antigenicity as a Possible Mode of Action of Platinum Antitumor Drugs</i>	101
<i>K. Fukushima, Y. Selo, H. Fujita, Y. Nakamura, S. Toyoshima and S. Kanao: Anti-Tumour Effect of New Amino Acid Analogues</i>	103
<i>A. De Barbieri, P. Di Villorio, A. Golferini, M. Maugeri, A. P. Mistrella, F. Perrone, G. C. Tassi, O. Temelcou and P. Zapelli: Further Investigations on the Effect of Antitumor Peptides and of Their Mixtures</i>	107
<i>D. C. Livingston, A. M. Creighton and S. W. Fisher: Biochemical Studies Relating to the Mechanism of Action of the Antitumour Agent ICRF 159 and Related Compounds.</i>	109
<i>L. B. Gorbacheva, L. G. Milskevich and G. V. Kukushkina: Utilisation of RNA Polymerase Activity of Nuclei Isolated from Ehrlich Ascites Carcinoma Cells in Studying the Mechanism of Action of Some Anti-Tumor Agents</i>	111
<i>L. Pavlíková-Němcová, V. Francová, K. Ráž, Z. Franc, S. Šmolík and M. Semonský: Metabolic Study of Sodium β-4-Methoxybenzoyl-β-Bromoacrylate (Cytembena Spofa) and Its Synthetic Precursor γ-4-Methoxyphenyl-α, β-Dibromo-$\Delta^{\alpha,\beta}$-Crotonolactone.</i>	113
<i>H. Veselá, K. Režábek, E. Zlátkovská and V. Pujman: Effect of Cytembena, Cyclophosphamide, and Their Combinations on Yoshida's Ascitic Sarcoma</i>	115

V. Pujman, H. Veselá, Z. Záhoř, K. Řežábek and E. Zlatkovská: Biochemical and Morphological Changes in Normal and Yoshida Ascites Tumour-Bearing Infantile Rats Following the Application of Cytembena and Cyclophosphamide Individually or in Combination Simultaneously	117
V. Zikán, M. Semonský and V. Jelinek: Some Analogues of β -4-Methoxybenzoyl- β -Bromoacrylic Acid with Antineoplastic Activity by Oral Administration	119
G. F. Kolar: Biologically Active Derivatives of 1,3-Triazene	121
N. Komarov, S. Popov, G. Michailov and P. Usunov: Anti-Tumour Activity of Preparation KP-2; Morphological Investigation of the Results of Its Anti-Tumour Action	125
C. Dave, J. Ehrke, J. Souček and E. Mihich: Molecular Basis for the Inhibition of DNA Synthesis by 4,4'-Diacetyldiphenylurea-Bis-Guanylhydrazone, an Agent with Activity against Experimental Leukemia	127
K. Molyčka, E. Hermanová, J. Souček and E. Mihich: Cytostatic Effect of 4,4'-Diacetyl-Diphenyl-Urea-Bis-Guanylhydrazone (DDUG) on L14 AKR Mouse Leukemia and HeLa and S 180 Cells in Tissue Culture	131
A. Ledóchowski: Studies on Structure-Activity Relationship in the Anti-Tumour Properties of Acridine Derivatives	133
E. Cholkovská and J. Konopa: The Influence of 1-Nitro-9-(3-Dimethylaminopropyl-amino)-Acridine in Biosynthesis of DNA, RNA and Protein in Synchronized Culture of <i>Euglena gracilis</i>	137
O. V. Zubova, Y. E. Kirch, T. S. Lebedeva, L. S. Samoilovich, A. B. Silayev, V. A. Kabanov and V. A. Kargin: Anti-Tumour and Toxic Effect of Polymeric Compounds	141
B. Vlček: Deoxycholate as a Potential Cancerostatic and Antiviral Factor	145
Z. Szentirmay, A. Gyeshő and J. Sugár: Cytochemical Investigations on Tumour Cells Treated with Vincristine. I. Feulgen Cytophotometric and Polarisation Microscopic Studies	149
A. Gyeshő, Z. Szentirmay and J. Sugár: Cytochemical Investigations on Tumour Cells Treated with Vincristine. II. Fast Green-Cytophotometric and Interference Microscopic Investigations	153
J. Sugár, O. Csuka and I. Pályi: The Effect of Vincristine on the Ultrastructure of Interphase Cells in Induced Skin Carcinoma	157
D. Burk: Effects of Amygdalin, Prunasin, Mandelonitrile and HCN-Benzaldehyde on the Pasteur Effect, Metabolic Death and Trypan Blue Staining of Ehrlich Ascites Carcinoma Cells	161
J. Konopa, J. Zieliński, A. Matuszkiewicz and M. Hrabowska: Cucurbitacins, the Cytotoxic and Anti-Tumour Substances from <i>Bryonia alba</i> L.	163
S. Oka, N. Kumano, K. Kurita, K. Salo, K. Tamari, K. Matsuda, H. Hirai, K. Ogawa, T. Oguma, S. Kiyooka, T. Ogawa and K. Miyao: Biological and Chemical Studies on the Anti-Tumour Yeast Mannan	167
N. N. Sukhareva-Nemakova, R. H. Zeleneva and A. B. Silaev: Anti-Tumour Activity of Lipid and Microsomal-Mitochondrial Fractions Isolated from <i>Crithidia (Strigomonas) oncopelli</i> Cells	169
V. Ujházy, E. Bohunická, V. Krempaský and Š. Kuželá: Uptake of Drug-Resistant Tumour Cell Cytoplasmic Fractions by Drug-Sensitive Cells	171
G. Gillissen and K. Schweizer: Effect of Histone on Tumour Growth and Survival Rate of Tumour Bearing Mice	175
E. Garcia-Giralt, V. H. Morales and E. Lasalvia: Immunosuppressive Effect of an Inhibitor of DNA Synthesis Obtained from Bovine Spleen	177
N. Kiger and I. Florentin: A Lymphocytic Chalone Extracted from Thymus: Immunosuppressive Action	181
P. Tran Ba Loc: New Interferon Produced by Chemically Modified Friend Virus RNA and Its Effects on Friend Virus Leukemia	183

<i>Y. Sakurai, S. Tsukagoshi, H. Saloh, T. Akiba, S. Suzuki and Y. Takagaki: Tumour-Inhibitory Effect of Streptococcal Preparations, PC-B-45</i>	185
<i>M. Adámek: Influence of Radioactive Fungi on the Inception of Jáchymov Cancer and Potential Preventive Treatment with Mucos Preparations.</i>	187
<i>S. Mansy and B. Rosenberg: The Interaction of Platinum Compounds with Nucleosides and Nucleic Acids</i>	191
<i>M. J. Cleare and J. D. Hoeschele: Studies on Analogues of Anti-Tumour Active Platinum Complexes</i>	193
<i>R. J. P. Williams: Heavy Metal Binding to Macromolecules</i>	197
<i>A. J. Thomson and S. Mansy: Circular Dichroism Measurements of the Interaction of Platinum Compounds with Oligo-Nucleotides</i>	199
<i>P. Horáček and J. Drobnik: The Study on Interaction between Some Pt(II) Compounds and DNA</i>	203
<i>J. Kára, J. Svoboda and J. Drobnik: cis-Dichlorodiammine-Platinum(II): Irreversible Inhibition of DNA Synthesis and Cell Growth in Tissue Culture and Inhibition of Chick Embryo Cell Transformation by Rous Sarcoma Virus</i>	205
<i>S. Rešlová, M. Šrogl and J. Drobnik: The Transforming Activity of <i>B. subtilis</i> DNA Treated with cis-Pt(II) Complexes</i>	209
<i>A. B. Robins: The Interactions of Platinum Anti-Tumour Agents with Nucleic Acids</i>	213
<i>H. Babková and M. Stárek: The Influence of cis-Platinum(II)Diamminedichloride on the Multiplication of Central European Tick-Borne Encephalitis Virus in Human Diploid Cells</i>	215
<i>S. Rešlová, A. Krekulová and J. Drobnik: Study on the Mechanism of Prophage Induction by cis-Dichlorodiammineplatinum II</i>	219
<i>J. Drobnik and J. Růžicková: The Effect of Cis-Dichlorodiammineplatinum(II) on Repression and Induction of Enzymes</i>	223
<i>B. Kniže, H. Myslivečková and J. Drobnik: The Effect of cis-Dichlorodiammineplatinum(II) on the Growth of Muscles in Growing Chickens</i>	227
<i>J. D. Jones, A. B. Robins and D. M. Taylor: Metabolism and Cytotoxic Effects of Platinum Anti-Tumour Agents in Rats</i>	229
<i>C. W. Welsch: cis-Platinum Diamminedichloride-II Induced Regression of Carcinogen-Induced Rat Mammary Tumors</i>	231
<i>J. M. Vendilli: Combination Chemotherapy of Mouse Leukemia L1210.cis-Pt(II) Diamminedichloride Plus Cyclophosphamide, Isophosphamide or ICRF-159</i>	233
<i>P. B. Conran and B. Rosenberg: The Role of Host Defenses in the Regression of Sarcoma-180 in Mice Treated with cis-Dichlorodiammineplatinum(II)</i>	235
<i>T. A. Connors: Chemotherapy of Animal Tumours with Platinum Compounds</i>	237
<i>Lorella VanCamp and B. Rosenberg: Combination Therapy of cis-Dichlorodiammineplatinum(II) with Cytosan against the Sarcoma 180 Tumor in Swiss White Mice</i>	239
<i>J. D. Hoeschele and L. VanCamp: Whole-Body Counting and the Distribution of cis-^{195m}[Pt(NH₃)₂Cl₂] in the Major Organs of Swiss White Mice</i>	241
<i>R. L. Dixon, D. A. Cooney, R. D. Davis, I. Heyman, R. W. Fleischman and U. H. Schaeppi: Preclinical Toxicological Evaluation of cis-Dichlorodiammine platinum(II)</i>	243
<i>O. Andrysek, J. Drobnik and E. Stránská: Results of Laboratory Estimated Sensitivity of Human Malignancies to Platinum Chemotherapeutics</i>	247
<i>J. J. Roberts and J. M. Pascoe: Evidence for Cross-Linking of Complementary Strands of DNA in Cultured Mammalian Cells by Platinum Compounds and Mustard Gas</i>	249
<i>R. J. Speer, S. Lapis, H. Ridgway, T. D. Meyers and J. M. Hill: cis-Platinous Diammine Dichloride (PDD) in Combined Therapy of Leukemia L1210</i>	253
<i>J. M. Hill, R. J. Speer, E. Loeb, A. MacLellan, N. O. Hill and A. Khan: Clinical Experience with cis-Platinous Diammine Dichloride (PDD)</i>	255
<i>A. Khan and J. M. Hill: Immunosuppressive Effect of Platinum Compounds</i>	259

<i>S. Groszkowski, J. Sienkiewicz and L. Najman: Contribution on the Study of Cytostatic Reactivity of Acylpiperazine Derivatives</i>	261
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Screening Methodes. Evaluation of Cancerostatics

<i>K. Karrer: Screening Methods of Anti-Tumor Substances Prospective to Clinical Treatment</i>	265
<i>S. R. Opler: Leukemia in Guinea Pigs: A New Model for Experimental Chemotherapy Studies</i>	269
<i>F. Gál, Z. R. Somfai, Z. Szentirmay and L. Németh: Effects of Cytostatics on Transplantable Myeloid Rat Leukaemia Induced by 7,12-Dimethylbenz(a)anthracene (DMBA)</i>	271
<i>F. Švec: Cytostatic Effect of Podophyllic Acid Ethylhydrazide (SP-I) on Sarcomas in Chickens</i>	273
<i>S. Somfai, L. Németh and F. Gál: Comparison of the Effect of Antitumoral Drugs on NK/Ly Ascites Lymphoma and Leukemia L 1210 i. p.</i>	275
<i>I. Oeriu, E. Mîrza, D. Winter, N. Dumitrasc, E. Vochitu and S. Oeriu: Experimental Chemotherapy with SH Groups Releasing Substances, in Diseases Related to Ageing</i>	279
<i>L. Holczinger: Density Distribution Spectra of Yoshida Ascites Tumor Cell Populations Treated with 1,6-Dibromodulcitol (DBD), 1,2,5,6-Dianhydrodulcitol (DAD) and Vincristine (VCR)</i>	283
<i>H. P. Friedl and K. Karrer: Adjuvant Chemotherapy on Metastasizing Experimental Tumors</i>	285
<i>P. Chandra, D. Gericke and A. Wacker: Effect of Nucleoside - (3', 5') - Monophosphates on Tumor Growth and Immunological Response in Mice</i>	287
<i>A. Drivsholm: Malignant Tumours and M-Components</i>	289
<i>H. Endo, H. Yamagami, M. Ishizawa and K. Horibata: Bleomycin Sensitivity and Cell Membrane</i>	293
<i>T. L. Loo and A. H. Gerulath: Studies of the Mechanism of Action of 5-(3,3-Dimethyl-1-Triazeno)-Imidazole-4-Carboxamide</i>	297
<i>U. Willing, K. Norpoth and H. M. Rauen: Effects of Low-Dosed Alkylating Agents on Yoshida Ascites Cells in Vitro</i>	299
<i>K. Přisloupilová, E. Hermanová and J. Fortlínová: Dependence of the Penetration of Methotrexate on the Age of HeLa Cells Culture</i>	301
<i>T. G. Terentlieva, V. V. Radzievskaja, S. M. Navashin, E. B. Marinbach and A. V. Laskin: Clinical Evaluation of Tests of Sensitivity of Human Testicle Tumors to Various Anti-Tumor Drugs in Tissue Culture</i>	303
<i>L. Ebringer: Euglena — A New Model for Research of Anti-Cancer Antibiotics</i>	307

Pharmacology of Antineoplastic Agents

<i>G. N. Pershin: Pharmacology of Antineoplastic Agents</i>	311
<i>H. Fujita and K. Kimura: Characteristic Patterns of in Vivo Distribution of Various Anti-Cancer Agents</i>	313
<i>A. Zesch, H. Schaefer and G. Stüttgen: Comparison of the Penetration of an Antibiotic with Antiviral Properties with Two Corticosteroids into the Skin</i>	317
<i>K. Norpoth, J. Knippschild and H. M. Rauen: In Vitro Oxidation of Cyclophosphamide</i>	321
<i>T. C. Hall, A. Nahas, M. Goldman and D. Roberts: Induction of Dihydrofolate Reductase (DHFR) by Triamterene (TMT) and Pyrimethamine (PMM)</i>	323

<i>F. Hernádi and A. Daróczy</i> : Changes in the Tryptophan Pyrrolase Level of Rat Liver after Treatment with L-Asparaginase	327
<i>P. Voylek, R. Cysyk and W. H. Prusoff</i> : Photopharmacology of Halogenated Deoxyribonucleosides	329
<i>Lê Xuân Tú</i> : The Role of Endogenic Thiols in the Radiosensitivity of Mammals	331
<i>J. Grafnellerová, O. Šmahel, V. Jedlička, A. Blahošová and J. König</i> : Relation between the Effects of 6-Azauridine and Calcitonin on Metabolism of Calcium	333
<i>M. P. Merkulov</i> : Significance of Immunological Body Systems in the Mechanism of Action of Antitumor Agents	335
<i>A. I. Braude and Z. V. Yermolieva</i> : Experimental Grounds for the Combined Application of Antibiotics and Some Substances Non-Specifically Enhancing Immunobiological Reaction of an Organism	339
<i>I. Umezawa, K. Komiyama, Y. Kawakubo, Y. Nishiyama and T. Hala</i> : Effect of Antitumor Agents on Malignant Tumor Transplanted in Organs	341
<i>M. Boranić and I. Tonković</i> : The Effect of Cyclophosphamide on the Ability of Graft-Versus-Host Reaction to Suppress Leukaemia in Mice.	345
<i>H. Oerkermann, W. D. Hirschmann, K. Schumacher, G. Alzer, G. Uhlenbruck and R. Gross</i> : The Effect of Antileukaemic Drugs on the Cytoaggressive Action of Human Lymphocytes <i>in Vitro</i>	347
<i>M. K. Jensen and A. Nyfors</i> : The Cytogenetic Effect of Folic Acid Antagonists on Human Cells <i>in Vivo</i>	351
<i>P. Klener, L. Donner and J. Housková</i> : Dynamics of Morphological Patterns in Bone Marrow Following Administration of Different Antitumorous Drugs in Rats	353
<i>F. Masszi, G. Till and L. Nemesánszky</i> : Research of Human Chromosome and Bone Marrow Changes before and after R-74 — 1,4-di(2'-Mesyloxyethylamino)-1,4-Dideoxymesoerythritol Dimesylate — Treatment	357
<i>V. Seyček, H. Duchková, M. Kubíková, J. Elis, H. Rašková and M. Gulová</i> : Therapeutic Effect of 6-Azauridine in Psoriasis	359
<i>H. Rašková, J. Elis and F. Perlík</i> : Difference in Efficacy and Safety of 6-Azauridine in Several Indications	361
<i>O. Schüek, J. Grafnellerová, O. Šmahel, J. König, S. Růžicková and O. Dvořák</i> : Renal Elimination and Distribution of Cytembena in Man	365
<i>F. Perlík and J. Elis</i> : Comparison of the Effect of Some Cytostatic Drugs on Tuberculin Hypersensitivity in Animal and Man	367
<i>K. Rieche and M. L. Malthes</i> : Side Effects of Cytostatics on Tuberculin Reaction and Blood Coagulation in Cancer Patients	371

Evaluation of Tumour Cell Sensitivity to Cytostatics *in Vitro*

<i>S. Tanneberger</i> : Individualization of Tumour Chemotherapy by <i>in Vitro</i> Studies	377
<i>F. E. Knock, R. M. Gall, Y. T. Oester, O. V. Renand, R. Sylvester, M. Rubnitz, A. Dakin, R. Haeffiger and B. Thomson</i> : Preferential Drug Attack on Some Human Cancers by Selected SH Inhibitors	381
<i>R. Esaki, K. Shibata, A. Tanaka, J. Hayashi, K. Funahashi, T. Ito and I. Mizuno</i> : Sensitivity of Anticancer Drugs and Their Concentration in Tissues	383
<i>A. Dawson and P. P. Dendy</i> : Responses of Freshly Cultured Human Tumour Cells to Cytostatics <i>in Vitro</i>	387
<i>O. Andrysek</i> : Estimation of Sensitivity of Human Tumors to Cytostatics by Means of Labelled ¹²⁵ I-Iododeoxyuridine	391
<i>A. Jandová, O. Andrysek, A. Miluničová, E. Stránská, V. Škoda and L. Laurová</i> : Distribution of Some Inherited Blood Characters, Changes in Serum-LDH ₅ Activity, Resistance to Cytostatics in Patients with Gynaecological Cancer and Estimation of Sensitivity to Cytostatics by Means of Labelled ¹²⁵ I-Iododeoxyuridine	393

G. P. Wüst: The Dosage-Dependent Effect of Some Chemotherapeutic Agents (Trenimon, Actinomycin C, Rubidomycin, Bleomycin, Hydroxyurea, L-Asparaginase), Overheating and pH Transformation on the <i>in Vitro</i> Incorporation of the ^3H -Thymidine and ^3H -Uridine in Explants of Tumors and Normal Tissues . . .	395
W.-D. Hirschmann and H. Oerkermann: Critical Aspects of Predictive Tests <i>in Vitro</i> : Some Experimental Results of Testing Antileukemic Drugs in Normal and Leukemic Bone Marrow . . .	399
F. Oreslano, J. E. Altwein and C. Planz: Failure of Cytostatics Tests <i>in Vitro</i> . . .	403
A. S. Tranekjer and A. K. J. Brachelli: <i>In Vitro</i> Behaviour of Gynecological Tumours against a New Podophyllotoxin Derivative VM 26 . . .	407

The Kinetics of Tumour Cells and Chemotherapy

S. Eckhardt: Kinetics of Tumour Cells and Cancer Chemotherapy . . .	411
C. B. Lozzio, P. W. Wigler and R. Kale: Effect of Thiopyrimidines on Cell Kinetics, DNA, RNA Synthesis and Chromosome Structure . . .	415
A. Jéney, J. Szabó, M. For, B. W. For, J. W. Garrett and J. Holland: The Pharmacobiochemical Effects of Dibromodulcitol on Resting and Growing Cells . . .	419
I. Pálgyi, E. Oláh and V. Pálgyi: Effect of Dibromodulcitol on the Life Cycle of Cells in Culture . . .	423
G. Palme and E. Liss: Effect of Alkylating Agent on the Non-Dividing Cell Population of Ehrlich Carcinoma Cells . . .	425
I. Wodinsky and C. J. Kenster: The Biology, Kinetics and Chemotherapy of a Slow Growing Tumor, the B 16 Melanoma . . .	427
H. O. Klein, K. J. Lennartz, W. Teichmüller and R. Gross: Cytostatic Treatment of Partially Synchronized Tumor Cells in Animals and Man . . .	431
P. Veselý, J. Šindelářová and J. Fúška: The Effect of Cytostatics on the Behaviour of Tumour Cells <i>in Vitro</i> Evaluated by Time-Lapse Cinemicrography . . .	435
I. Krč, A. Aslali Jr., G. Aslali, V. Krčová, I. Ugazio and A. Mischella: L-Asparaginase and the Behavior of Mitotic Activity in PHA-Stimulated Lymphocyte Culture . . .	437

Clinical Chemotherapy as a Part of General Management

R. Kepp: Chemotherapy as Part of Combined Therapy, Demonstrated in the Ovarian Carcinoma . . .	441
O. Wichterle: New Methods of Administering Chemotherapeutics . . .	445
L. S. Evseenko: Clinical Aspects of Application of Kinetic Methods in Oncology . . .	447
R. Poljanšek: The Contribution of Chemotherapy to the Treatment of Ovarian Cancer . . .	451
O. Valenta, A. Černoch, L. Laurová, V. Škoda and V. Truka: The Role of Chemotherapy in the Complex Treatment of Ovarian Malignant Tumours . . .	455
R. Nissen-Meyer, K. Kjellgren and B. Mansson (writing committee): Report from the Scandinavian Adjuvant Chemotherapy Study Group . . .	457
D. V. Razis, A. Tsatsaronis, D. Triantafyllou, J. Christodouloupoulos and M. Constantoulakis: Combined Chemotherapy and Hormonotherapy in Generalized Carcinoma of the Breast . . .	459
B. Lissaios and D. Razis: Combined Treatment of Generalized Breast Carcinoma (Case Report) . . .	463
P. A. Mannes, R. Derriks and R. Moens: Long-Term Survival after Treatment of Advanced Carcinoma of the Breast by Association, from the Beginning, of Hormonal Therapy and Non-Hormonal Anti-Neoplastic Chemotherapy . . .	465

<i>O. Costăchel, N. Guľulescu and A. Iosub: Preliminary Results Obtained by Chemo-Immunological Association in the Treatment of Leukemias and Malignant Lymphomas</i>	467
<i>S. Tura, M. Baccarani and F. Lauria: Splēnectomy as a Part of the General Management of Lymphomas</i>	471
<i>Z. Matějovský: Effects of Cytembena in the Treatment of Malignant Musculoskeletal Tumours</i>	473
<i>G. A. Nagel, H. J. Senn, F. Jungi, P. Smith, A. Mayr and C. Geiger: Studies on the Toxicity of Cytembena in Man</i>	477
<i>J. Bilder: Regional Intra-Arterial Chemotherapy for Oral Cancer</i>	479
<i>T. Yokoyama, I. Nishi, H. Koizumi and K. Kaneda: Combined Therapy with Bleomycin and Linac for Thoracic Oesophagus Carcinoma</i>	481
<i>I. Nishi, T. Yokoyama and H. Koizumi: Feed-Back Mechanism of Stomach Cancer Patient in Cancer Chemotherapy</i>	485
<i>K. Yoshikawa, H. Kitaoka and I. Ito: Prolonged Infusion Therapy by Intra-Aortic Catheterization for Advanced Cancer of the Stomach, Colon and Rectum</i>	487
<i>O. K. Shiyalaya: Clinical Aspects of Prognosis on Survival of Patients with Cancer of the Rectum</i>	491
<i>V. Škoda, A. Jandová, L. Laurová and V. Trnka: Danger of Side-Effects of the Treatment of Malignant Tumours by Cytostatics and Efforts for Their Suppression</i>	495
<i>O. Costăchel and I. Mogoş: Clinical Study of the Romanian Cytostatic IOB-82</i>	497
<i>R. Estévez, E. Chacón, O. T. de Estévez and C. A. Alvarez: Functional Successive Synchronous Chemotherapeutic Blockade on a Tumor Cell Population</i>	499
<i>K.-D. Paeschke: The Simultaneous Combination of Chemotherapy and Radiotherapy</i>	503

Chemotherapy of Advanced Cancer

<i>C. M. Sellei: New Hungarian Antitumour Agents</i>	507
<i>J. Schneider and H. Gerhartz: Combined Chemotherapy with 5-Fluorouracil and Cyclophosphamides in Carcinomas and Sarcomas</i>	513
<i>T. Sailo, S. Ohira, A. Wakui, M. Yokoyama, T. Himori, K. Sugawara, T. Kudo and S. Maezawa: Clinical Evaluation of Combination Chemotherapy of Cancer with 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU), Chromomycin A₃ (CHRM) and Prednisolone (Ps)</i>	517
<i>J. Kühböck, P. Aiginger, D. Pokorný and P. Pollerauer: Combination Chemotherapy in Patients with Advanced Cancer</i>	521
<i>K. R. Harrap, L. A. Price, J. Goldie, M. E. Furness, R. Styles and B. T. Hill: Attempts to Extend the Therapeutic Use of Methotrexate</i>	525
<i>M. P. Cole, C. T. A. Jones and I. D. H. Todd: The Treatment of Advanced Carcinoma of the Breast with the Antioestrogenic Agent Tamoxifen (ICI 46, 474) — A Series of 96 Patients</i>	529
<i>J. Horlon, K. B. Olson, T. Cunningham and A. Wright: Trials of Combination Therapy in Breast Cancer</i>	533
<i>O. Costăchel, A. Iosub and N. Guľulescu: Preliminary Results in Immunocytostatic Association (ICA) in the Treatment of the Carcinomatous Mastitis (CM) and Non Mastitic Advanced Mammary Carcinoma (AMC)</i>	537
<i>O. Dvořák: Cytembena Treatment of Advanced Genital Cancer</i>	541
<i>I. Tóth, C. Sellei and Ö. Hevér: Serum Ceruloplasmin Levels in Malignant Diseases</i>	543
<i>I. Christov: Collateral Manifestations of Methotrexate (Amethopterin) in the Chemotherapy of Malignant Tumours</i>	547
<i>I. Christov: Collateral Manifestations of 5-Fluorouracil in the Treatment of Malignant Tumours</i>	551
<i>L. Jurga and M. Klvaňa: Hyperuricemia in Malignant Lymphomas during Antineoplastic Therapy and Its Management by Allopurinol</i>	555

<i>K. Ola, S. Kurita, M. Nishimura and M. Shiota</i> : Carbazilquinone in the Chemotherapy of Inoperable Lung Cancer	557
<i>H. Koizumi, I. Nishi and T. Yokoyama</i> : Significance of Intensity of Gastric Carcinoma Relative to Chemotherapy	561
<i>J. A. Lubitz, L. Freeman and R. Okun</i> : Treatment of Inoperable Adrenal Cortical Carcinoma with Mitotane (o,p'-DDD)	563
<i>G. Kwasniewska-Rokicińska and J. Świątki</i> : Intracavitary Use of an Acridine Derivative (C ₂₈₃) in Ovarian-Peritonitis and Pleuritis Carcinomatosa	567
<i>O. Miró-Quesada, Jr., J. Burga, M. Beyá, J. J. Peredo and A. Humán</i> : Simultaneous Polychemotherapy for Far Advanced Human Cancer ("Karate — INS")	569
<i>H. Limburg and A. S. Tranekjer</i> : <i>In Vitro</i> Sensitivity of Gynecological Tumours against Cytostatic Agents: Clinical Experiences and Results	571
<i>P. Szegő</i> : Dibromodulcitol Treatment in Solid Tumor Patients	575
<i>L. A. Osłowska, N. P. Korman and E. M. Vermei</i> : Experimental and Clinical Study of N-Nitrosoalkylureas Antitumor Activity	577
<i>L. M. Rousselot, D. R. Cole, C. E. Grossi, A. J. Conte, E. M. Gonzales, B. S. Pasternack and W. A. Gardner</i> : Adjuvant Chemotherapy with 5-Fluorouracil in Surgery for Colorectal Cancer; Eight Year Progress Report	579
<i>D. R. Cole and T. F. Nealon, Jr.</i> : The Combined Usage of Cyclophosphamide and Hexamethylmelamine	581
<i>W. Th. Evers</i> : Extracorporeal Irradiation, an Alternative Treatment to Chemotherapy in Leukemia?	583

Clinical Evaluation of Antitumour Agents

<i>A. Slacher</i> : Problems in the Clinical Trial of New Cytostatic Agents in Hemoblastoses	589
<i>J. Böhncl, N. Gingold, F. Heřmanský, M. Pawlovski and A. Slacher</i> : Cytosine-Arabinoside in the Treatment of Acute Leukemias	595
<i>P. Klener</i> : Preliminary Experience with Cytosine Arabinoside in the Treatment of Polycythemia	599
<i>P. Höcker and J. Böhncl</i> : The Treatment of Acute Leukemia with Daunomycin and Adriamycin	603
<i>O. Hrodek and J. Veselý</i> : 5-Azacytidine in Childhood Leukemia	607
<i>J. Böhncl, H. Grohs and A. Slacher</i> : Pipobromane in the Therapy of Polycythemia	609
<i>J. Libánský</i> : Chronic Monocytosis — Relation to Leukaemia; Choice of Therapy	611
<i>H. H. Hansen, O. S. Selawry and F. Muggia</i> : 1-(2-Chlorethyl)-3-Cyclohexyl-1-Nitrosourea (CCNU) — A New Oral Nitrosourea	615
<i>L. Helson, A. Yagoda, M. L. Murphy and I. H. Krakoff</i> : Clinical Trials with 5-Trifluoromethyl-2'-Deoxyuridine (F ₃ TDR)	617
<i>K. Agre and A. Z. Lane</i> : An Overview of Bleomycin Studies in the U. S.	621
<i>G. Bonadonna, S. Monfardini, M. De Lena, E. Bajetta, G. Beretta, F. Fossali-Bellani and C. Bartoli</i> : Phase I and Preliminary Phase II Evaluation of Bleomycin	625
<i>H. Gerhartz</i> : Chemotherapy of Squamous Cell Carcinomas	629
<i>H. Miyake and Y. Inuyama</i> : Bleomycin in Malignant Tumors of the Head and Neck	633
<i>P. Berdal</i> : Experiences with Bleomycin in Tumors of Head and Neck	635
<i>T. Okamoto</i> : Treatment of Esophageal Carcinoma with Bleomycin	639
<i>M. Fujimaki, J. Soga, K. Wada, M. Kawaguchi, M. Maeda, K. Sasaki, Y. Omori and T. Mulo</i> : A New Chemotherapy as a Preoperative Treatment for Esophageal Cancer Surgery	647
<i>Y. Fujiwara and K. Akiya</i> : Studies on Bleomycin Therapy for Cancer of the Cervix	
<i>R. Kudo and K. Akashi</i> : Studies on Treatment of the Female Genital Carcinomas with Bleomycin and Experimental Tumours Induced by 20-Methylcholanthrene	649

<i>S. Oka, K. Salo and M. Oshibe: Treatment of Lung Cancer with Bleomycin</i>	655
<i>K. Takeuchi: Treatment of Brain Tumor by Intravenous Injection of Bleomycin</i>	657
<i>T. Harada, Y. Nishikawa, T. Suzuki, K. Ito and S. Baba: Bleomycin Treatment of Malignant Struma</i>	663
<i>K. Kimura, Y. Sakai, C. Konda, M. Shimoyama, T. Kitahara, T. Sakano and M. Miki: Chemotherapy of Malignant Lymphoma with Special Reference to the Effects of Sequential Therapy with Bleomycin and Vinca Alkaloids.</i>	667
<i>J. Horton, T. C. Cunningham, K. B. Olson, A. Wright and G. Harrington: Experiences in the Use of Bleomycin for Advanced Cancer</i>	669
<i>R. Paulisch and H. Gerhartz: Usefulness of New Cyclophosphamides in Neoplasias</i>	673
<i>J. Meyza: Clinical Experience with Intra-Arterial Injections of a Short-Acting Alkylating Agent</i>	679
<i>J. Elis, F. Pertik, O. Dvořák, M. Kvičalová, A. Jandová, V. Škoda and V. Kafka: A Controlled Clinical Comparison of Thyminalkylamine and Its Fluorinated Derivative in Ovarian Cancer</i>	681
<i>P. R. Band, A. B. McCarten, J. Horton and C. Reilly: High Intermittent Dose of 5-Fluorouracil</i>	683
<i>V. Jelinek, E. Maléjková-Zlalkorská, K. Řežábek and E. Polák: Fluoxydin in the Treatment of Digestive Tract Cancer</i>	685
<i>A. Maesaka, B. Toyola, T. Toyola and K. Rakuman: Topical Application of a Streptococcal Anticancer Preparation, PC-B-45 (OK-432)</i>	689
<i>T. Hallori, T. Kurokawa and H. Furue: Clinical Experiences with a Streptococcal Anticancer Preparation, PC-B-45 (OK-432)</i>	691
<i>S. Mileu and H. Zimet: Clinical Evolution of Stilbestrol Cytostatic Derivative (A₃) Efficacy on Prostate Carcinoma</i>	693
<i>S. D. Vassilaros: Clinical Trial of 4(5)-(3,3-Dimethyl-1-Triazeno)Imidazole-5(4)-Carboxamide (DIC) in Patients with Malignant Melanoma</i>	695
<i>D. Fièvre, P. A. Bryon and L. Revol: Asparaginase Therapy in Acute Leukemia</i>	701
<i>L. Wicart: Bleomycin and Carcinomatous Cells in Circulating Blood — Its Action, Its New Application</i>	703
<i>H. Grohs, F. Ruzicka and B. Fierkens: Adriamycin and Its Effect on Platelets</i>	705

Panel: Clostridia and Malignant Tumours

<i>U. Schneeweiss and E. M. Fabricius: Approaches to the Quantitative Analysis of Early Growth of Ehrlich Carcinoma Cells through the Spores of <i>Clostridium tetani</i></i>	711
<i>A. Chagnon, G. McSween, V. Fredelle and G. Vinet: A Quantitative Screening Technique of Estimating the Cytotoxic Activity of <i>Clostridium oncolyticum</i> Products that Cure the Solid Ehrlich Tumor in Mouse</i>	715
<i>V. Fredelle, G. McSween, G. Vinet and A. Chagnon: Production and Purification of the Oncolytic Principle from <i>Clostridium oncolyticum</i> Culture Filtrates</i>	719
<i>H. Kretschmer: Treatment of Malignant Brain Tumours by <i>Clostridium butyricum</i> M 55</i>	721
<i>G. Gillissen and K. Schweizer: Influence of Antibody Formation on Oncolytic Effect of Clostridia</i>	725
<i>J. R. Möse: A Serological Method to Detect Tumours with Clostridial Strains</i>	727
<i>D. Gericke and J. R. Möse: Experiments on a Serological Tumor Diagnosis Using Spore-Forming Bacilli</i>	731

Panel: Predictability of Experimental Test Systems for Clinical Chemotherapy

<i>W. Jungstland</i> : The Screening of Potential Cancerostatics Using Transplantable Tumours of Mice and Rats	735
<i>G. F. Gause</i> : The Significance of <i>in Vitro</i> Test Systems for the Screening of Antitumor Antibiotics	737
<i>S. Garallini</i> : Experimental Models for Investigation of Tumor Cell Invasiveness, Sequestration and Metastasis	739
<i>Y. Sakurai</i> : Preclinical Pharmacology of Alkylating Agents	743
<i>A. B. Syrkin, V. N. Solenov and Y. V. Lupinosov</i> : Dose and Time Factors in the Pharmacology of Antitumor Drugs	747
<i>N. Brock</i> : Pharmacological Studies with Ifosfamide — A New Oxazaphosphorine Compound	749
<i>E. Mihich</i> : Role of Host Defenses in the Therapy of Leukemia L1210 in DBA/2 Mice	757
<i>N. Brock</i> : The Predictability of Experimental Test Systems for Clinical Chemotherapy	759
<i>S. Tsukagoshi</i> : Comparison of the Effect of No. 838 (NSC-84641) and No. 864 (NSC-102627) on Mice Inoculated with Leukemia L1210 into Thigh or Footpad	763
<i>K. Karrer</i> : Relations of Dose Schedules of Adjuvant Chemotherapy in Experimental Systems and in Clinical Trials	765
<i>K. Hellmann</i> : Chemotherapy of Metastasis and Tumour Dissemination	769
<i>T. A. Connors and W. C. J. Ross</i> : Selectivity of Action of Anti-Tumour Agents	771
<i>L. Israel, M. Duchalellier and P. Chahinian</i> : Predictability Models for Drug Resistance	775
<i>A. Hoshino, T. Kato, H. Amo and K. Ota</i> : L1210 Mouse Leukemia as an Experimental Model for Clinical Combination Chemotherapy	777
<i>J. Veselý</i> : Molecular Alterations of Purified Uridine Kinase Isolated from Mouse Leukemic Cells Resistant to 5-Azacytidine	781
<i>A. Goldin and V. Pajman</i> : The Predictability of Experimental Test Systems for Clinical Chemotherapy — Summary of the Panel	785

Panel: Medical Advances with New Antitumour Agents

<i>S. K. Carter and L. Broder</i> : Clinical Studies with the Nitrosoureas: BCNU, CCNU and Streptozotocin — A New Class of Antitumor Agents	789
<i>T. Ichikawa</i> : Specific Effects of Bleomycin against Squamous Cell Carcinoma	793
<i>W. Scheef</i> : Problems, Experience and Results of Clinical Investigations with Ifosfamide	797
<i>G. Bonadonna</i> : Clinical Trials with Adriamycin in Neoplastic Disease in Children and Adults	801
<i>G. Malhé, J. L. Amiel, L. Schwarzenberg, M. Schneider, M. Hayat, F. De Vassal and P. Pouillart</i> : Attempts at Stimulation of Immune Responses in Acute Lymphoid Leukaemia Patients	805
<i>Z. Malějorský</i> : Clinical Effects of Cytembena Treatment of Gynaecological and Musculoskeletal Malignant Tumours	811

Radioprotectives

<i>Z. M. Bacq</i> : Substances which Protect against Ionizing Radiation	815
<i>M. Dostál, J. Mencl and P. Petýrek</i> : Comparison of the Acute Toxic and Protective Effects of Cystamine and 5-Methoxytryptamine Given Alone or in a Mixture Prior to Gamma-Irradiation of Mice	817
<i>P. Kuna</i> : Cardiovascular Changes in the Rat after an Intraperitoneal Administration of Radioprotective Dose of Cystamine	821

<i>T. Sugahara</i> : Chemical Radiation Protection by 2-Mercaptopropionylglycine	825
<i>F. Fremuth, Z. Dienstbier, I. Barla, M. Sadilková and F. Bradna</i> : Chromosome Aberrations and Radioprotection.	827
<i>J. Pradáč and J. Pradáčová</i> : Electrochemical Determination of Products of Conversion of AET in Animal Organs <i>in Vivo</i>	829
<i>J. Vranovská, J. Pospíšil and Z. Dienstbier</i> : Activity of Some Hydrolases in Blood Serum of Rats after Administration of AET and after Hypoxia	833
<i>P. S. Farmer, C. C. Leung and P. J. Foreman</i> : Radioprotective Thiazolidines	835
<i>E. F. Romantzev, I. V. Philippovich, Z. I. Zhulanova, V. B. Kolina, L. P. Mikhailova and T. H. Sheremetievskaya</i> : The Role Played by Mixed Disulphide Links in the Radioprotective Action of β -Mercaptoethylamine (MEA)	837
<i>A. Vacek, D. Rotková and A. Raková</i> : Protective Effect of 5-Methoxytryptamine on Haematopoietic Stem Cells of Mice	839
<i>A. Sántha, V. Várterész, E. Mándi, K. Nádor and P. Zaránd</i> : Radioprotective Effect of New Xanthogenic Acid Derivatives on Mice Exposed to Mixed Reactor Radiation	843
<i>L. Novák, I. Koláčný and J. Šikulová</i> : The Effect of Radioprotective Sodium Fluoroacetate Doses on the Activity of Aconitase <i>in Vivo</i>	847
<i>M. L. Beaumariage and P. van Caneghem</i> : Radioprotection and Hair Dysplasia	851
<i>K.-D. Paeschke, R. Häffele and P. Hofmann</i> : Coordination of X-Rays, Cytostatics and Radio-Protective Substances (^{60}Co , Radium, Proresid, Reducdyn). Controls in Enzymes and Histology	855

New Antineoplastic Chemotherapeutics:
Alkylating Agents



T. S. Safonova¹

On Some Directions in Search of Antitumour Substances

For the purpose of searching for anti-tumour substances a series of di-(2-chloroethyl)-amines of bicycle compounds (A), cyclophosphazotriene derivatives (B), diethylene imides of phosphoric acid (C) and condensed systems of 1,4-thiazine (D) have been obtained and studied biologically (T. S. Safonova, V. A. Chernov, 1970).

It was noted that antitumour activity and toxicity of the derivatives (A) (Fig. 1) containing di(2-chloroethyl) amino group is influenced by the presence of the substituent, by the cytotoxic group position and by a number of carbon atoms in the alicycle part of the molecule.

antitumour action is exerted only by the substances containing an ethylene imine cycle. It is ascertained that the degree of antitumour effect is determined by the character of the amine in the cycle. It should be noted that cyclotriphosphazene derivatives containing 5-ethylen imine groups and a heterocyclic residue, in addition to a considerable antitumour effect with respect to rat sarcoma 45 and mouse sarcoma 180, are capable of increasing the duration of mouse life with leukaemia.

Investigations in the field of ethyleneimine derivatives (C) came mainly to the preparation of a series of phosphoric and tiophosphoric acid diethylene imides.

These works have resulted in preparing drugs dipin and thiodipin which have proved to be effective for the treatment of some hemoblastoses. Dipin is used for the treatment of patients with a tumour-like form of chronic lympholeucoses. The effectiveness of this drug has been also noted in laryngeal cancer and hypernephroid tumour.

Thiodipin shows a therapeutic effect in patients with chronic lympholeucosis, chronic myeloleucosis and lymphogranulomatosis. It is administered per os.

At present much material has been collected which allows the comparison of the structure of the substances and their reactivity with biological action. The anti-tumour action of the substances belonging to this group depends on the heterocyclic nature, position of the diethylene imino phosphoramidate group in the cycle and on the electron-donor and acceptor properties of the substituents.

The alkylating properties of the compounds (C) (Fig. 1.) can be characterized in the simplest way by the ability of ethylene imine groups to hydrolytic splitting. Therefore, the study of the hydrolysis rate of the said compounds could characterize quantitatively

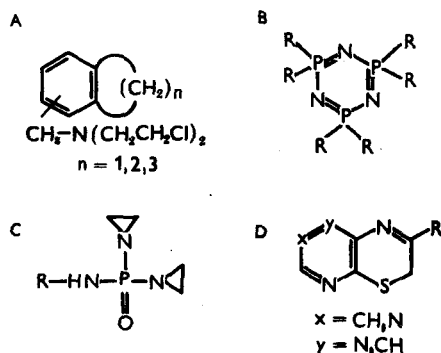


Fig. 1.

Of cyclophosphazotriene group (B) (Fig. 1) the compounds containing residues of various amine were subjected to biological study. Esters of amino acids, morpholin, piperidine, pyrrolidine and ethylene amine were used as amines.

The biological study of the compounds belonging to this group has shown that an

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