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Effects of Dendrimer Oil Dispersants on Dictyostelium discoideum

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Motivation: A Friendlier Oil Dispersant







Dendrimer Oil Dispersants



Aims and Techniques

- Assess G4-PAMAM(NH2) toxicity ± Phenanthrene
 - Culture proliferation
 - Cell membrane potential
 - Visualization of labeled dendrimers within cells
 - Cell-association kinetics



Amoeba Culture Proliferation

Normalized Fluorescence Proliferation Assay



Amoeba Culture Proliferation: 24h



Membrane Potential



Control

G4 Dendrimers

G4+PN



Scale: 10 µm

20 million Dend/cell/min

1 *million* Dend/cell/min

Conclusions and Ongoing Work

- G4-PAMAM(NH2) dendrimers non-toxic to studied amoeba at low (<10µM) concentrations, toxic at higher
- Toxicity caused by uptake and resulting membrane depolarization
- Uptake and resulting toxicity reduced by presence of phenanthrene
- Examination of varying surface functionality

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Ongoing Work: Minimizing Toxicity



Cell-Association Kinetics



- Assume all uptake halted at 2°C
- Approximate exposed amoeba surface area as 2πr2
- Number of live cells in each well counted:
 0.88 million cells/well



Dendrimer uptake: 20 million/cell/min Dendrimer+PN Uptake: 1 million/cell/min

Adsorption spacing: 3-6 nm between dendrimers

Cell-Association Kinetics



Room Temp



588nm/601nm