

## Investigations into the source of non-mineral oils in the feathers of seabirds

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Investigations about oiled seabirds in the Federal Republic of Germany, which were conducted since 1984, have shown that other products than mineral oil are normally only a minor cause for the death of seabirds. There is, nevertheless, the risk of greater effects. In addition, there is a broad range from 'harmless' vegetable oils up to the very toxic nonylphenol and dodecylphenol, the mere presence of which as a form of marine pollution requires action. The possibilities to detect these products in the framework of the EC-project "oiled seabirds" and investigations into their sources are described. Thereby, the opportunity may be provided to assess the effects of tank-washings of non-mineral oil tankers and to make proposals for effective measures.

*Samenvatting 'Onderzoek naar het voorkomen van niet-minerale olie in zeevogelveren'*

*Onderzoek aan olieslachtoffers in Duitsland sinds 1984 heeft uitgewezen dat niet minerale oliën over het algemeen een geringe bijdrage aan de zeevogelsterfte leveren. Vastgesteld moet worden dat er een enorme range van producten is, van de relatief 'onschuldige' plantaardige oliën tot en met de buitengewoon toxische nonylphenol en dodecylphenol, waarvan simpelweg de aanwezigheid in het mariene milieu tot actie noopt. De mogelijkheden om deze producten aan te tonen in monsters die in het kader van het EEG project 'olie vogels' worden genomen en onderzoek naar de bronnen worden beschreven. Zo is het misschien mogelijk de effecten vast te stellen van tankerlozingen die andere stoffen dan minerale oliën betreffen. Aan de hand daarvan kunnen dan tegenmaatregelen worden vastgesteld. ■*

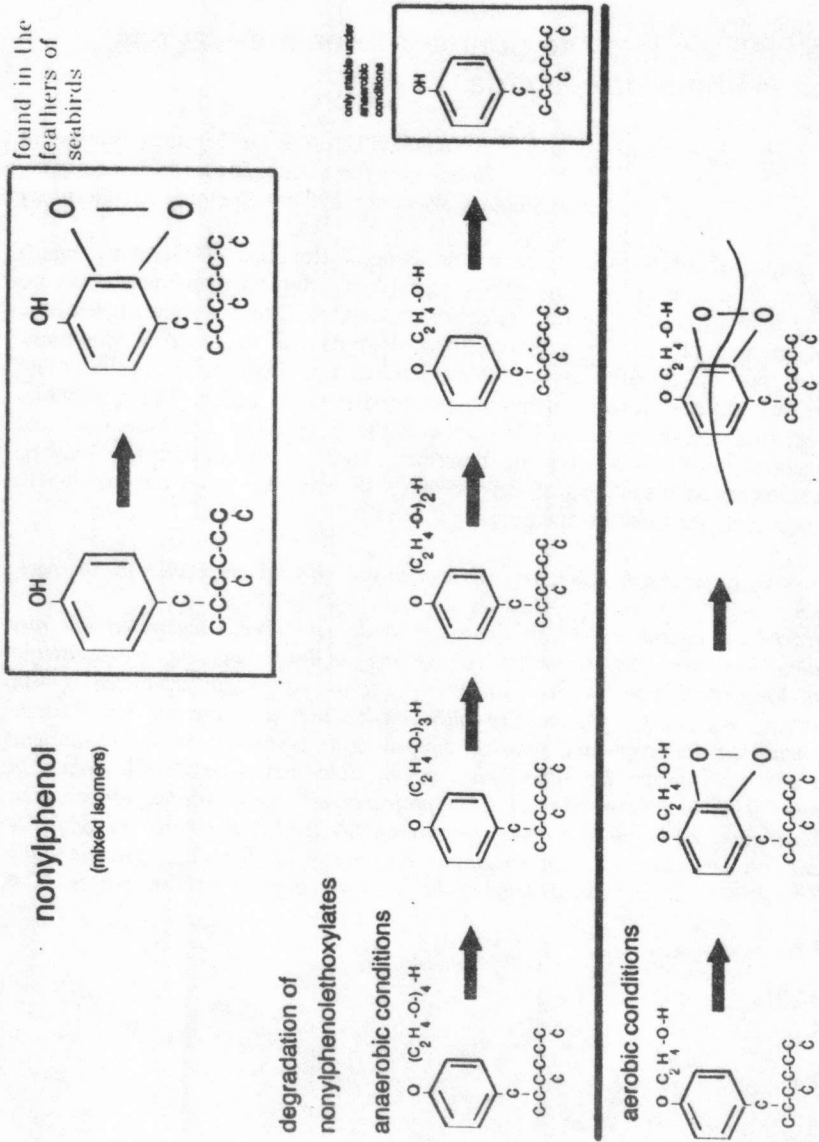
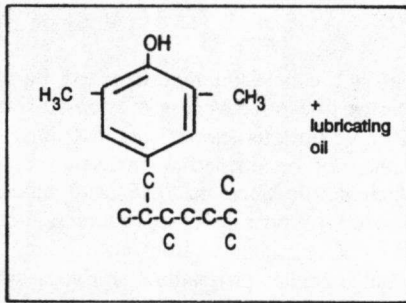


figure 1. Nonylphenol, as found in feathers of seabirds on the beach, and schemes of degradation of nonylphenoethoxylates under anaerobic and aerobic conditions.

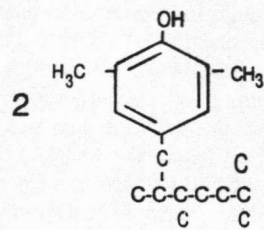
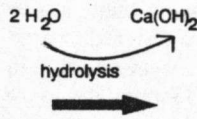
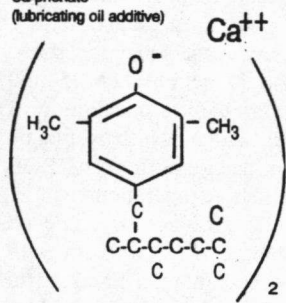
**dodecylphenol**

(mixed isomers)



found in the feathers of seabirds

Ca-phenate  
(lubricating oil additive)



gas chromatograms (schematically) showing the relationship between dodecylphenol and lubricating oil

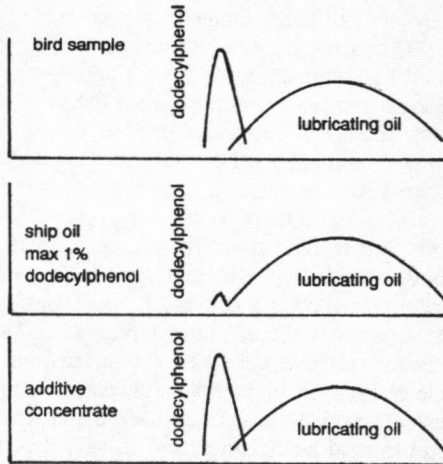


figure 2. Dodecylphenol, as found in feathers of seabirds on the beach, and gas chromatograms (schematically) showing the relationship between dodecylphenol and lubricating oil.