

## IRD 3 Application Brief

### Aromatic Substitution Isomers

#### Introduction

The trichlorophenols are used as fungicides, bactericides and wood preservatives. The 2,4,5-isomer is used in the manufacture of herbicides and insecticides. There is toxicological and environmental concern since the trichlorophenols can be absorbed through the skin in toxic amounts and they are fairly persistent in the environment. This is one of many examples.

The trichlorophenols are one of many examples of polysubstituted aromatic characterization in general where there is frequent need to know which isomer is present and which are not.

The mass spectra of the trichlorophenol isomers are virtually identical. This is not unexpected since the same fragments will occur with the typical 70eV electron impact process.

#### Results

The infrared spectrum of each of the trichlorophenols is unique. However, accurate assignment of all of the bands is complicated. In these tetra substituted compounds the C-H out-of-plane deformations occur in the region from 800 to 870  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Ring vibrations occur from 1430 to 1625  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The interactions of the O-H deformation and the C-O stretching produces the bands from 116- to 1200  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  and those around 1300  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . The bands from 3500 to 3700  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  are due to O-H stretching vibrations. Other bands are due to combinations and overtones of the strong low frequency C-Cl.

