



## Chris Urch

Redag Crop Protection Ltd, United Kingdom

### The discovery of new benzimidazole oomycete fungicides

Oomycete diseases are an important agrochemical target, with an annual market of \$1.7Bn. Within this the principal crops are vines (\$560M) and potatoes (\$360M). Picarbutrazox was introduced by Nippon Soda<sup>1</sup> and shows excellent activity against Oomycete. Redag has discovered a series of highly active analogues containing a Benzimidazole fragment, the general structure of which is shown below<sup>2,3</sup>. Optimisation has been undertaken and this process will be described for the various regions of the molecule. Where possible, this will be rationalised with reference to molecular modelling. This process has resulted in a series of compounds that have been evaluated in semi-field conditions. The results of this will be presented and in addition some interesting chemistry that was encountered in the project will be discussed. Optimisation of the series is on-going and results will be shown where confidentiality allows

**Biography:** Chris Urch is a research chemist by profession. He holds a BA and Ph.D. from Cambridge University and has worked in chemical research for over 30 years in both the pharmaceutical and agrochemical fields.

[chris.urch@redagcrop.com](mailto:chris.urch@redagcrop.com)

