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(54) **CORROSION RESISTANT COMPOSITION FOR TREATMENT OF CONCRETE STRUCTURES**

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Related U.S. Patent Documents

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Water soluble materials, compositions and systems for use in treating concrete-containing materials and surfaces are disclosed. Treatment modalities that include addition of the disclosed materials, compositions and systems to pre- and post-construction concrete-containing materials and surfaces are provided. Reductions in the rate and/or impact of corrosion are achieved for concrete-containing structures and surfaces. In addition, despite the water soluble properties of the material, composition or system, the treatments are effective in delivering an advantageous level of moisture resistance to the treated concrete-containing structure and/or surface. The composition is synthesized from a feedstock that includes C₉ to C₁₆ branched hydrocarbons of varying structures.

18 Claims, No Drawings

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**CORROSION RESISTANT COMPOSITION
FOR TREATMENT OF CONCRETE
STRUCTURES**

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Technical Field

The present disclosure generally relates to a water soluble material, composition or system for use with materials that are subject to potential corrosion and, more particularly, relates to a water soluble material, composition or system providing corrosion and/or moisture resistance to reinforced and un-reinforced concrete structures.

2. Description of Background Art

The cost of corrosion in materials is devastating with respect to damage and deterioration to structures as well as the potential for human injury. From a financial perspective, the cost of corrosion is estimated to be over \$300 billion each year in the United States. The problem of preventing corrosion remains a challenge confronting the construction and maintenance industries.

Commonly, structures are made of concrete materials. Because conventional concrete has very low tensile strength, it is common practice to reinforce concrete with steel bars in applications where the concrete is subjected to substantial loads. In such implementations, the concrete has at least two functions. One function is to protect the reinforcing steel bars against corrosion. Another prominent function is to improve resistance from shear and compressive stresses. As a general matter, the protective effect of hardened concrete against climatic and environmental conditions on reinforcing steel depends, for example, on the amount and type of cement, water/cement factor and concrete integrity. However, since concrete is also a permeable absorptive material, concrete is often subject to undesirable intrusion of moisture and other substances, each of which can lead to corrosion of the reinforcing steel.

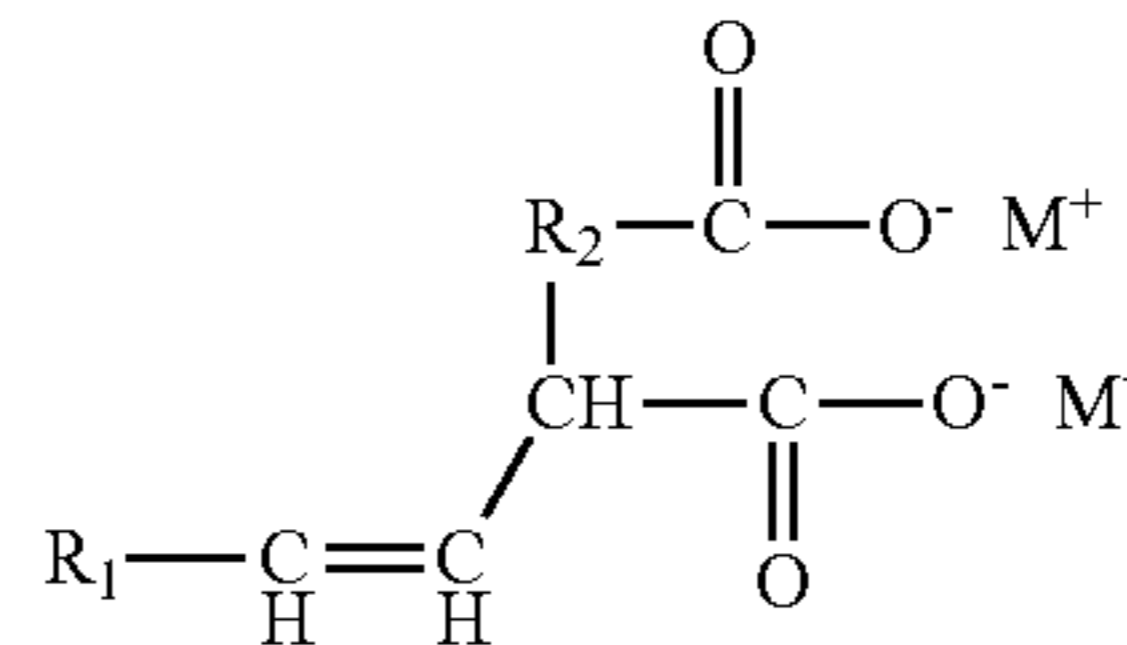
As the reinforcing steel corrodes, it expands, thus cracking the concrete, which in turn allows for more impurity invasion, e.g., water ingress, which in turn advances corrosion as the cycle builds. Moreover, as a result of various distresses, such as environmental conditions, including at least shear and compressive stresses, accumulated after some length of service, the concrete can eventually crack and fail. These processes often lead to premature deterioration and subsequent failure of concrete structures.

Efforts have been made to solve the premature deterioration of such structures. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 4,869,752 to Jaklin describes the use of modified inorganic silicates, e.g., modified alkali silicates, as a concrete additive to prevent corrosion of steel structures or reinforcing steel. U.S. Pat. No. 6,277,450 to Katoot describes the use of a coating process to coat metal surfaces which are modified to an active moiety of metal hydroxide receptive to a fully cross-linked polymer of various thickness. Other processes that have been used have included precoating surfaces of metals used in the building and construction industry. However, such methods are generally costly, ineffective and inefficient/impractical.

In commonly assigned applications, materials and systems for treatment of concrete structures have been disclosed. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0237834 to Humphrey et al.

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discloses a composition for concrete treatment and a method for synthesis thereof. The disclosed composition is an alkali-based salt solution of a dioic acid of the following chemical formula:



wherein M⁺ is selected from the group comprising Na⁺ and K⁺; R₁ is a C₁ to C₂₄ branch or linear aliphatic compound; and R₂ is a C₁ to C₁₀ branch or linear aliphatic compound.

U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0237835 to Rhodes et al. discloses a further concrete treatment system that includes the alkali-based salt solution of a dioic acid of the Humphrey et al. patent publication (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0237834) in combination with a defoaming agent, e.g., a polyether modified polysiloxane, tri-alkane/alkene phosphates and mixtures thereof. The disclosed defoaming agent is effective in reducing excessive air entrainment and/or foaming during preparation of concrete mixes and in controlling air content of the cured concrete.

Reference is also made to a pair of publications by Mark Allyn, Jr. and Gregory C. Frantz. In a first publication, Allyn, Jr., et al. describe strength and durability testing of concrete containing salts of alkenyl-succinic acid, specifically disodium tetrapropenyl succinate (DSS) and diammonium tetrapropenyl succinate (DAS). [Allyn, Jr., et al., "Strength and Durability of Concrete Containing Salts of Alkenyl-Succinic Acid," ACI Materials Journal, January-February 2001, pages 52-58]. In a second publication, Allyn, Jr., et al. describe corrosion testing of the foregoing materials over a 48 week period. [Allyn, Jr., et al., "Corrosion Tests with Concrete Containing Salts of Alkenyl-Substituted Succinic Acid," ACI Materials Journal, May-June 2001, pages 224-232.] Neither of the Allyn, Jr., et al. publications provides structural details of the disclosed composition nor teachings as to synthesis of the disclosed composition.

Despite efforts to date, a need remains for corrosion-resistant treatments, materials and processes that are effective, efficient and reliable. These needs extend to treatment modalities wherein a corrosion-resistant material, composition and/or system may be added to a concrete-containing formulation during initial formulation/mixing as well as to a material, composition and/or system that may be used with post-construction materials to provide corrosion resistance and/or moisture resistance to reinforced and un-reinforced hardened concrete. These and other needs are advantageously satisfied by the disclosed water soluble materials, compositions and systems for anti-corrosion treatment and/or moisture resistance treatment of concrete-containing structures including, inter alia, post-construction materials.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT DISCLOSURE

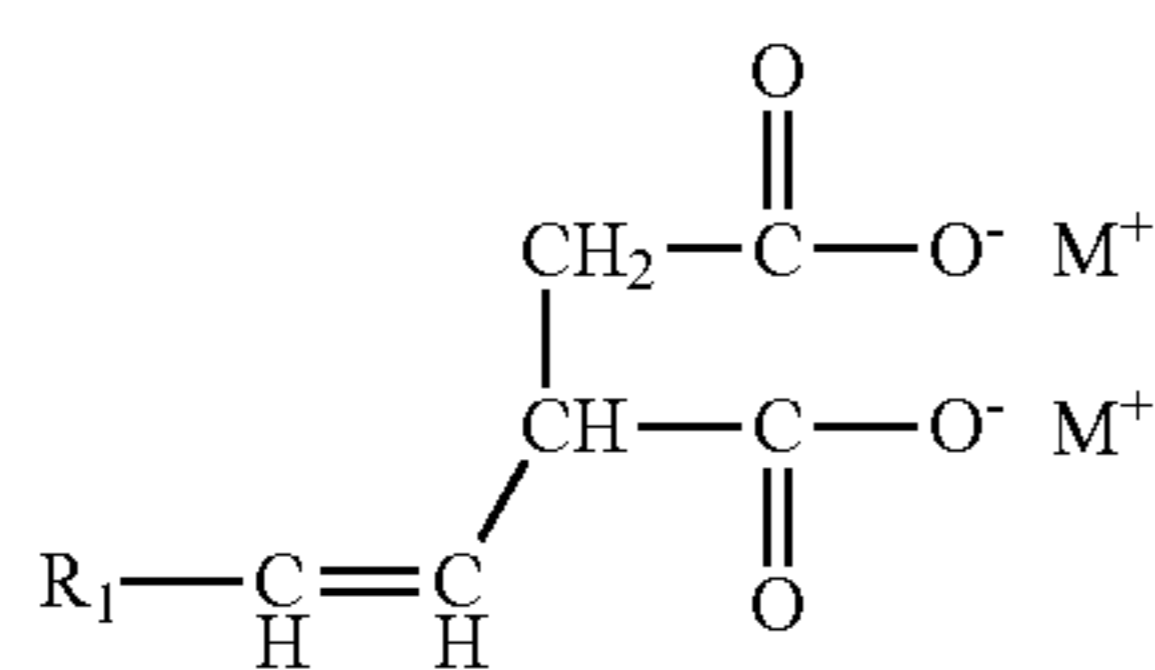
According to the present disclosure, water soluble materials, compositions and systems for use in treating concrete-containing materials and surfaces are provided. The disclosed water soluble materials, compositions and systems are useful in treatment modalities wherein the concrete is being mixed/formulated as well as treatment modalities wherein hardened concrete structures and/or surfaces are subjected to one or

more applications of an advantageous water soluble corrosion-resistant and/or moisture-resistant composition, material or system. The disclosed treatment modalities are effective in reducing the rate and/or impact of corrosion in or for a concrete-containing structure/surface. In addition, despite the water soluble properties of the disclosed material, composition or system, treatments involving the disclosed material, composition or system are effective in delivering an advantageous level of moisture resistance to the treated concrete-containing structure and/or surface.

In exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure, the water soluble material, composition or system may be added during cement formulation at various water-cement ratios. In alternative exemplary embodiments, the disclosed water soluble material, composition or system may be applied to a hardened concrete-containing structure or surface through various treatment techniques, e.g., by spraying, brushing or misting an effective amount of the disclosed material, composition or system onto one or more surfaces of the concrete-containing structure. The treated structure(s) advantageously demonstrate improved corrosion properties, e.g., a substantially reduced corrosion rate. Moreover, the treated structure(s) resist water permeation at highly advantageous levels.

According to the present disclosure, an aqueous solution of a blend or mixture of molecules/compounds is utilized to achieve the desired anti-corrosion and moisture resistance properties. The disclosed water soluble blend/mixture includes hydrocarbon molecules featuring branched side chains of varying carbon lengths. However, all or substantially all of the branched side chains include a specified number of carbon atoms, namely between nine (9) and sixteen (16) carbon atoms. It has been found that branched side chains falling within a range of C₉ to C₁₆ (inclusive) are critical to the effectiveness of the disclosed material, composition or system. The inclusion of shorter branched hydrocarbon side chains (e.g., C₈ and less) is ineffective because, when incorporated into a concrete-containing structure (whether at the mixing/formulation stage or at the post-construction stage), such smaller hydrocarbon side chains are highly likely to be washed away by permeating water, thereby failing to perform the advantageous anti-corrosion and moisture resistance functions of the disclosed treatment. With reference to longer branched hydrocarbon side chains (e.g., C₁₇ and higher), it has been found that such longer chain molecules raise substantial water solubility issues. Thus, according to the present disclosure, a critical branched side chain range has been identified that advantageously achieves optimal properties and performance, as described herein.

The disclosed water soluble material, composition or system includes molecules of the following formula:



wherein R₁ is a C₉ to C₁₆ branched hydrocarbon and M⁺ is Na⁺ or K⁺. Of note, the disclosed water soluble material constitutes a mixture or blend of molecules of the above-noted formula, but the precise chemical formula of the molecules included in the mixture/blend are non-uniform. Thus, in a typical blend/mixture, a percentage of the molecules are

characterized by R₁=C₉, a percentage of the molecules are characterized by R₁=C₁₀, a percentage of the molecules are characterized by R₁=C₁₁, etc. On a weighted basis, the average R₁ hydrocarbon chain length is typically in the range of C₁₂.

With reference to the sodium/potassium constituents, exemplary blends/mixtures according to the present disclosure generally include molecules that include each of the alkali metal constituents. Thus, M⁺ for purposes of a percentage of the molecules in the disclosed blend/mixture is sodium, while M⁺ for purposes of a second percentage of the molecules in the disclosed blend/mixture is potassium, and M⁺ for a third percentage of the molecules in the disclosed blend/mixture is sodium as to one position and potassium as to the second position. In an exemplary embodiment of the present disclosure, on a molar basis, sodium constitutes about 90 to 95% and potassium constitutes about 5 to 10%.

An advantageous technique for synthesizing the disclosed materials, compositions and systems is provided herein. Of note, the active compositions disclosed herein are water soluble and are generally stored, distributed and utilized in an aqueous form. In an exemplary implementation of the present disclosure, the active ingredient is present in the aqueous solution at a level of about 20% by weight. Despite the solubility of the active ingredients/compositions disclosed herein, such ingredients/compositions are effective to inhibit and/or prevent water penetration in situ, i.e., in cement-containing structures.

Exemplary corrosion-inhibiting and moisture-inhibiting solutions and systems of the present disclosure may further include a thinning agent and/or a carrier that is effective to reduce the viscosity of the disclosed solution/system, particularly for post-construction treatments, i.e., treatments for hardened concrete structures/surfaces. For example, a thinning agent may be incorporated into the disclosed solution/system in an amount of about 5% to about 70% by weight. The thinning agent advantageously facilitates penetration of the disclosed water soluble corrosion-inhibiting solution/system into the concrete-containing structure, e.g., through pores, cracks and/or fissures formed or defined in the concrete-containing structure. Exemplary thinning agents include isopropyl alcohol or a similar solvent (or combinations thereof). Of note, the disclosed thinning agents may additionally function to reduce the potential for impurity(ies) to react with the disclosed corrosion-inhibiting solution/system, e.g., potential reactions with Ca⁺ ions in the concrete-containing structures, thereby enhancing the stability and/or overall effectiveness of the disclosed corrosion-inhibiting solution/system.

Post-construction materials and structures that may be treated with the disclosed solutions/systems vary widely, and include structures such as reinforced or un-reinforced concrete assemblies or elements, mortar, stucco and the like. In exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure, the disclosed solution/system may be applied directly to the exterior surface of a reinforced and/or un-reinforced concrete structure and be permitted to penetrate to interior regions thereof, e.g., by capillary action.

Additional features, functionalities and beneficial results associated with the disclosed solution/system and treatment modalities associated therewith will be apparent from the detailed description which follows.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENT(S)

Water soluble materials, compositions and systems for use in treating concrete-containing materials and surfaces are

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disclosed. Treatment modalities that include addition of the disclosed materials, compositions and systems to pre- and post-construction concrete-containing materials and surfaces are advantageously provided. Reductions in the rate and/or impact of corrosion are achieved for concrete-containing structures/surfaces. In addition, despite the water soluble properties of the disclosed material, composition and system, the disclosed treatments are effective in delivering an advantageous level of moisture resistance to the treated concrete-containing structure and/or surface.

The water soluble material, composition or system may be added during cement formulation at various water-cement ratios. The formulation of cement mixtures is well known to persons skilled in the art, and a detailed discussion thereof will not be provided herein. It is to be noted that the disclosed materials, compositions and systems may be utilized in essentially any concrete application, and the level of treatment may generally be in the range of about 10% to 20% by weight relative to the underlying concrete/water formulation. The disclosed materials, compositions and systems offer beneficial results to many users including, inter alia, concrete producers, builders, designers and owners. Among the benefits afforded by the disclosed materials, compositions and systems are cost savings, schedule acceleration and sustainable construction solutions. Exemplary projects/implementations include, inter alia, deep foundation slabs and walls, podium and plaza decks, roof, parking and tunnel structures.

The disclosed materials, compositions and systems advantageously deliver integral waterproofing that essentially eliminates the need for external membranes, coatings and sheeting treatments. With the disclosed materials, compositions and systems, concrete may be batched therewith to achieve hydrophobic performance (e.g., less than 1% absorption). As described herein, treatment with the disclosed materials, compositions and systems advantageously transforms concrete from an open network of capillaries and cracks into a structure that exhibits ultra-low absorption characteristics, thereby effecting a desirable level of waterproofing and resultant anti-corrosive functionality.

The disclosed materials, compositions and systems provide two distinct and advantageous levels of protection. First, the disclosed materials, compositions and systems protect the reinforcing steel that is frequently incorporated into concrete structures by coating the steel surface with a monomolecular film. With reference to the molecules included in the disclosed blends/mixtures, one end of each individual molecule is polar and attaches to other polar particles, such as iron or other metallic molecules. In this way, the disclosed materials, compositions and systems become bonded with respect to iron ions present at the steel surface, thereby preventing potential oxidation and associated corrosion of such surface.

Second, the disclosed materials, compositions and systems provide advantageous waterproofing properties to the concrete by reacting, in situ, with divalent metals to form long chain obstructions within concrete capillaries, fissures and other potential passages. Thus, as water (or another liquid) attempts to penetrate a treated concrete structure/surface, the disclosed materials, compositions and systems within the concrete structure/surface are solubilized, i.e., re-enter the aqueous phase, and react with divalent metals present in the penetrating liquid and/or the concrete to form long chain molecules that impede further penetration/intrusion by the water. Like oil repels water, this reaction product fills the capillaries of the concrete, repelling water and shutting down capillary absorption.

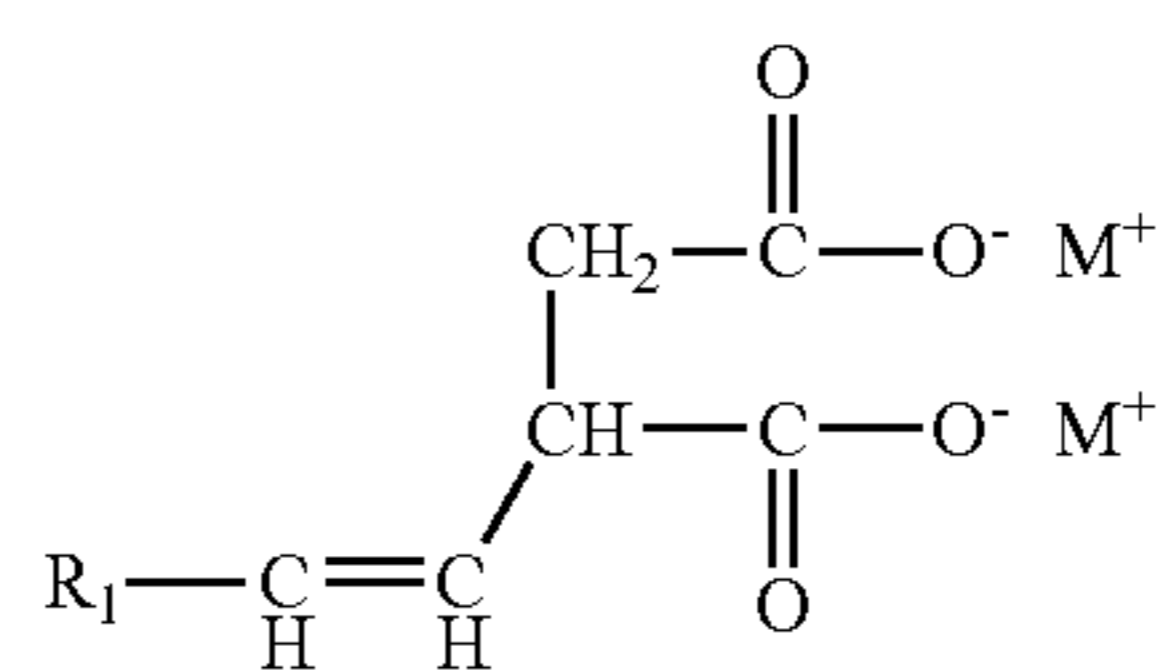
As noted herein, the disclosed water soluble corrosion inhibiting material, composition or system may be applied to

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a hardened concrete-containing structure or surface through various treatment techniques, e.g., by spraying, brushing or misting an effective amount of the disclosed material, composition or system onto one or more surfaces of the concrete-containing structure. The treated structure(s) advantageously demonstrate improved corrosion properties, e.g., a substantially reduced corrosion rate, and the treated structure(s) advantageously resist water permeation.

According to the present disclosure, an aqueous solution of a blend or mixture of compounds is utilized to achieve the desired anti-corrosion and moisture resistance properties. The disclosed water soluble blend/mixture includes hydrocarbon molecules featuring branched side chains of varying carbon lengths. However, all or substantially all of the branched side chains include a specified number of carbon atoms, namely between nine (9) and sixteen (16) carbon atoms. It has been found that branched side chains falling within a range of C₉ to C₁₆ (inclusive) are critical to the effectiveness of the disclosed material, composition or system. The inclusion of shorter branched hydrocarbon side chains (e.g., C₈ and less) is ineffective because, when incorporated into a concrete-containing structure (whether at the mixing/formulation stage or at the post-construction stage), such smaller hydrocarbon side chains are highly likely to be washed away by permeating water, thereby failing to perform the advantageous anti-corrosion and moisture resistance functions of the disclosed treatment. With reference to longer branched hydrocarbon side chains (e.g., C₁₇ and higher), it has been found that such longer chain molecules raise substantial water solubility issues. Thus, according to the present disclosure, a critical branched side chain range has been identified that advantageously achieves optimal properties and performance.

The disclosed water soluble material, composition or system includes molecules of the following formula:



wherein R₁ is a C₉ to C₁₉ branched hydrocarbon and M⁺ is Na⁺ or K⁺. Of note, the disclosed water soluble material constitutes a mixture or blend of molecules of the above-noted formula, but the precise chemical formula of the molecules included in the mixture/blend are non-uniform. Thus, in a typical blend/mixture, a percentage of the molecules are characterized by R₁=C₉, a percentage of the molecules are characterized by R₁=C₁₀, a percentage of the molecules are characterized by R₁=C₁₁, etc. On a weighted basis, the average R₁ hydrocarbon chain length is typically in the range of C₁₂.

With reference to the sodium/potassium constituents, exemplary blends/mixtures according to the present disclosure generally include molecules that include each of the alkali metal constituents. Thus, M⁺ for purposes of a percentage of the molecules in the disclosed blend/mixture is sodium, while M⁺ for purposes a second percentage of the molecules in the disclosed blend/mixture is potassium, and M⁺ for a third percentage of the molecules in the disclosed blend/mixture is sodium as to one position and potassium as to the second position. In an exemplary embodiment of the

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present disclosure, on a molar basis, sodium constitutes about 90 to 95% and potassium constitutes about 5 to 10%.

An advantageous technique for synthesizing the disclosed materials, compositions and systems involves a multi-stage process. In a first stage, a feed stream is fed to a first reaction chamber. An exemplary feed stream for synthesis of the disclosed materials, compositions and systems is characterized as follows:

A mixture/blend of unsaturated branched C_9 to C_{16} hydrocarbon molecules;

Non-homogeneous branching;

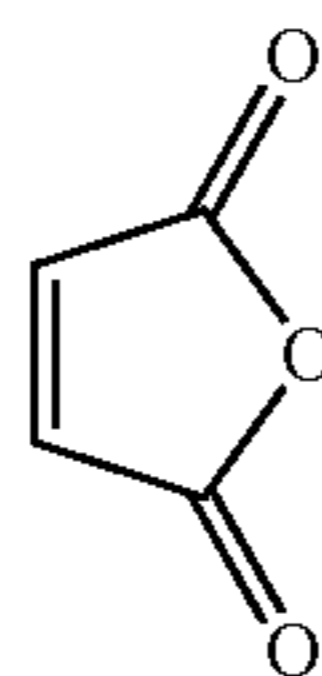
Non-homogeneous double/triple bond locations;

An overall absence of cyclic molecules; and

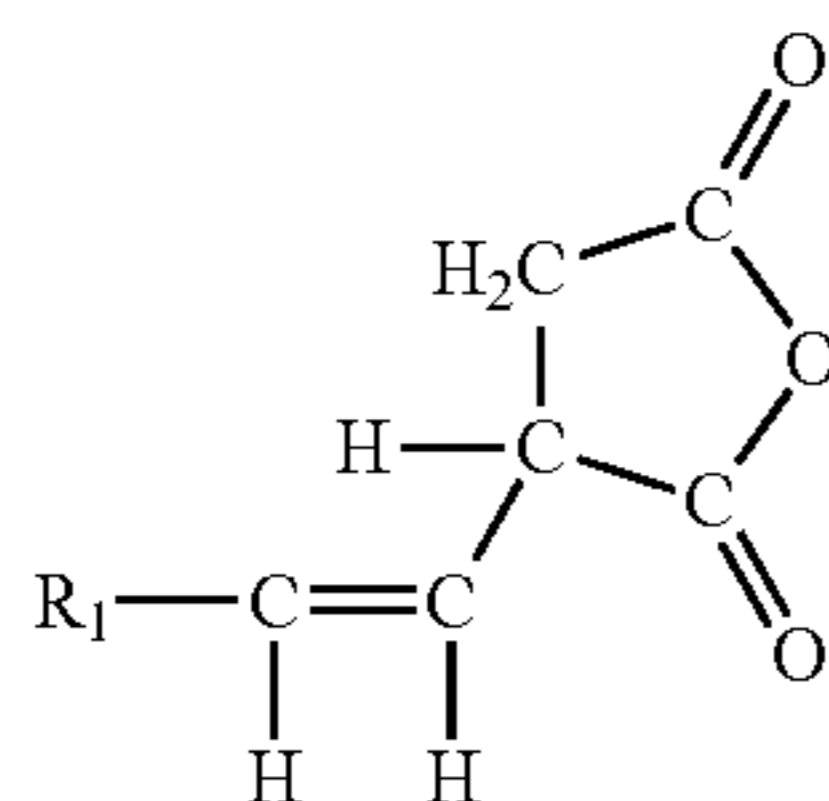
A weighted average of hydrocarbon chain lengths that generally corresponds to about C_{12} .

Feed streams satisfying the foregoing specifications may be sourced from conventional chemical supply sources, as will be apparent to persons skilled in the art.

The foregoing feed stream is generally fed to a reactor for reaction with a maleic anhydride (2,5-furandione) of general formula:



The unsaturated feed stream reacts with the maleic anhydride (in a liquified/molten form) through an addition reaction until such time as the maleic anhydride is consumed. Reaction conditions generally involve an elevated temperature of about 400° F. to about 430° F. and an elevated pressure of about 30-40 psi. The foregoing addition reaction forms an addition compound of the following formula:



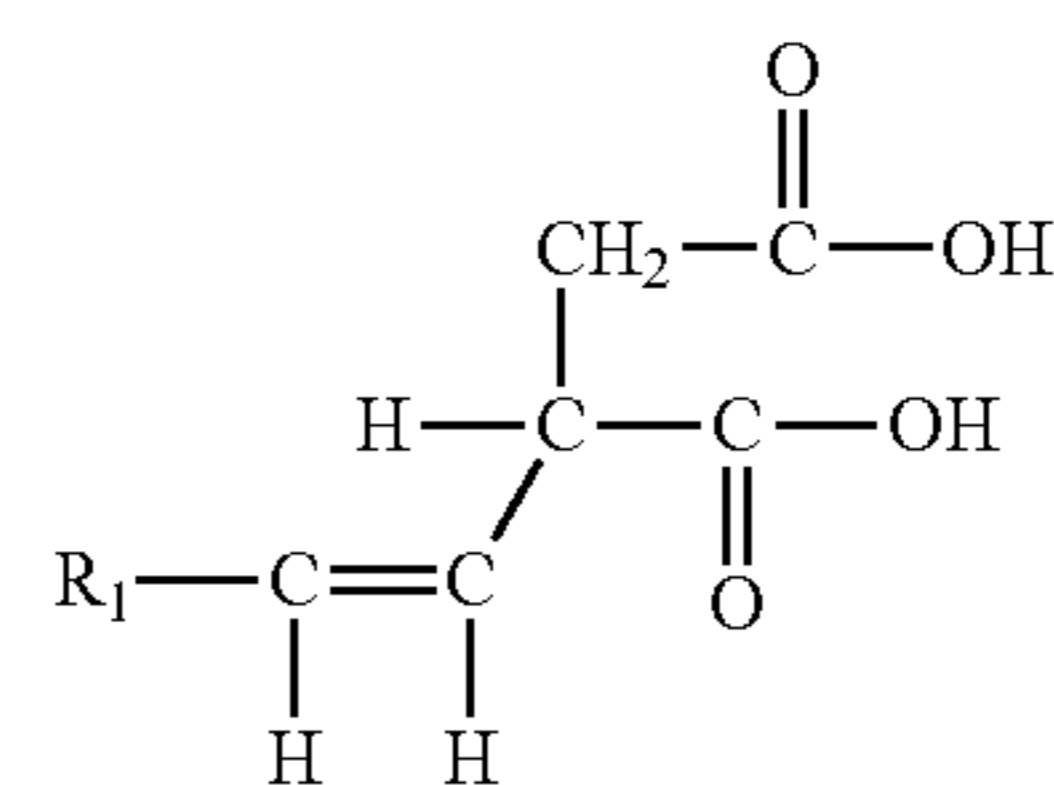
wherein R_1 is a C_9 to C_{16} branched hydrocarbon.

The addition compound is generally separated from the unreacted feedstock and undesired by-products through vacuum distillation. According to exemplary processing implementations, a two pass vacuum distillation is employed (although single stage separation may be employed through appropriate separation techniques). In a first pass, unreacted feed stream constituents are flashed off at temperatures of about 350° F. In the second pass, the addition product is flashed at temperatures of about 450° F. The addition product is typically yellow in color. Residual byproducts, e.g., tars and the like, are typically discarded and/or reclaimed.

In a next reaction stage, the addition compound is generally reacted with deionized water at an elevated temperature, e.g.,

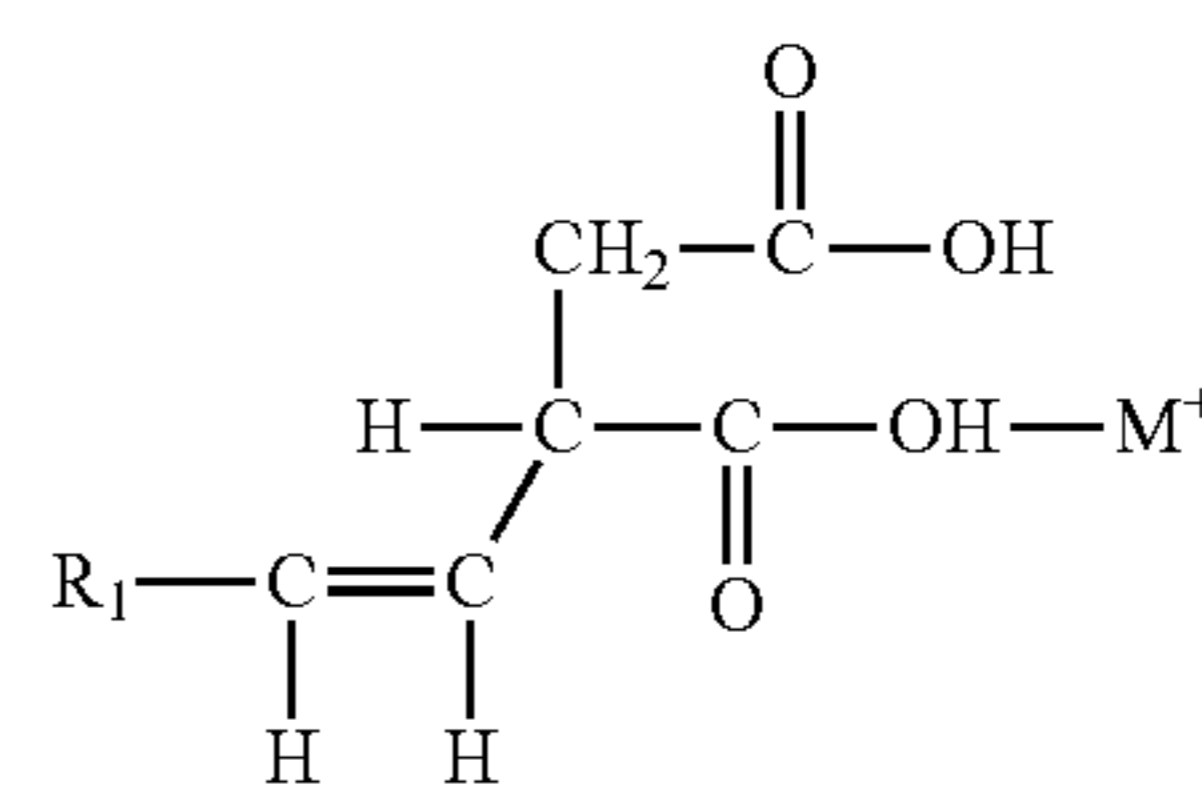
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at or about the boiling point of water, to form a diacid. By such reaction, a diacid of general formula is formed:

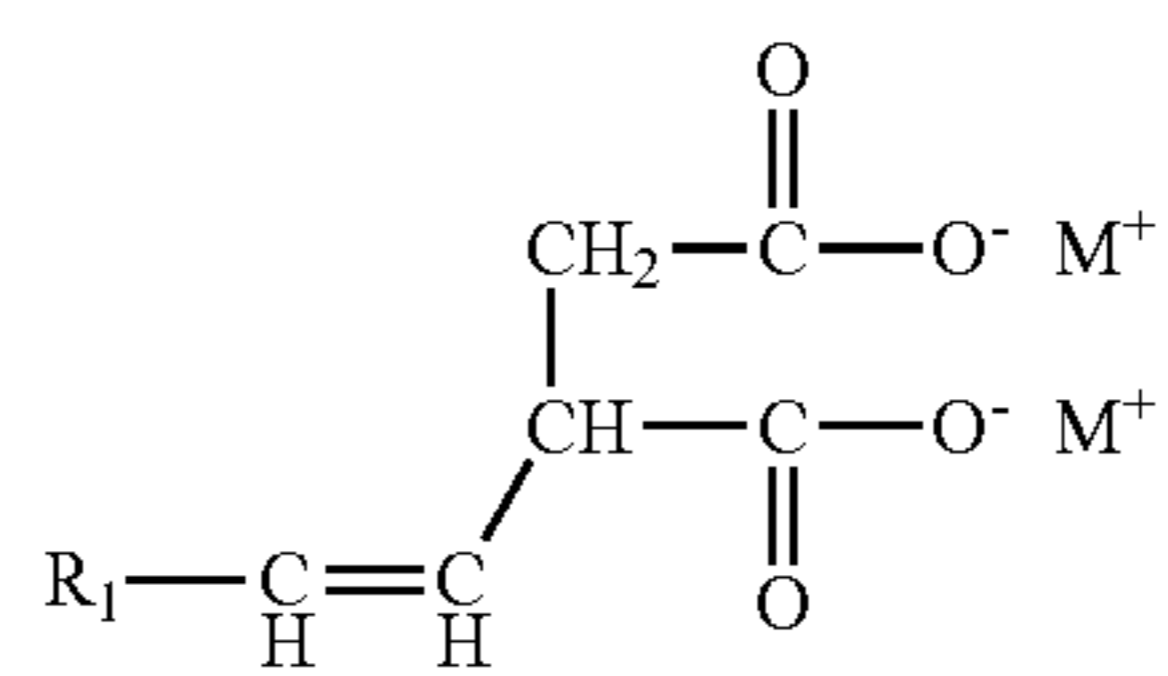


wherein R_1 is a C_9 to C_{16} branched hydrocarbon. The diacid product formed by the foregoing reaction is generally a resinous solid that is soluble in water.

In the next synthesis stage, the diacid is reacted with a caustic solution that includes both sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide. In an exemplary embodiment, both hydroxides are supplied as aqueous solutions to a reaction chamber, e.g., at weight percentages of about 25% (with deionized water). The caustic solution generally includes sodium hydroxide at a 90 to 95 weight percentage and potassium hydroxide at a 5 to 10 weight percentage. The reaction vessel is typically closed and sufficient headroom is maintained to allow controlled pressure buildup during the reaction process. As the diacid reacts with the caustic solution, an intermediate product is generally formed of the following formula:



Further reaction with caustic solution yields a salt of general formula:



wherein R_1 is a C_9 to C_{16} branched hydrocarbon and M^+ is Na^+ or K^+ (or one of each). pH conditions within the reaction chamber are generally monitored and the reaction is complete when the pH reaches a neutral condition, thereby evidencing depletion of the caustic solution. The salt is generally soluble in water and defines the active ingredient for purposes of the disclosed material, composition and system.

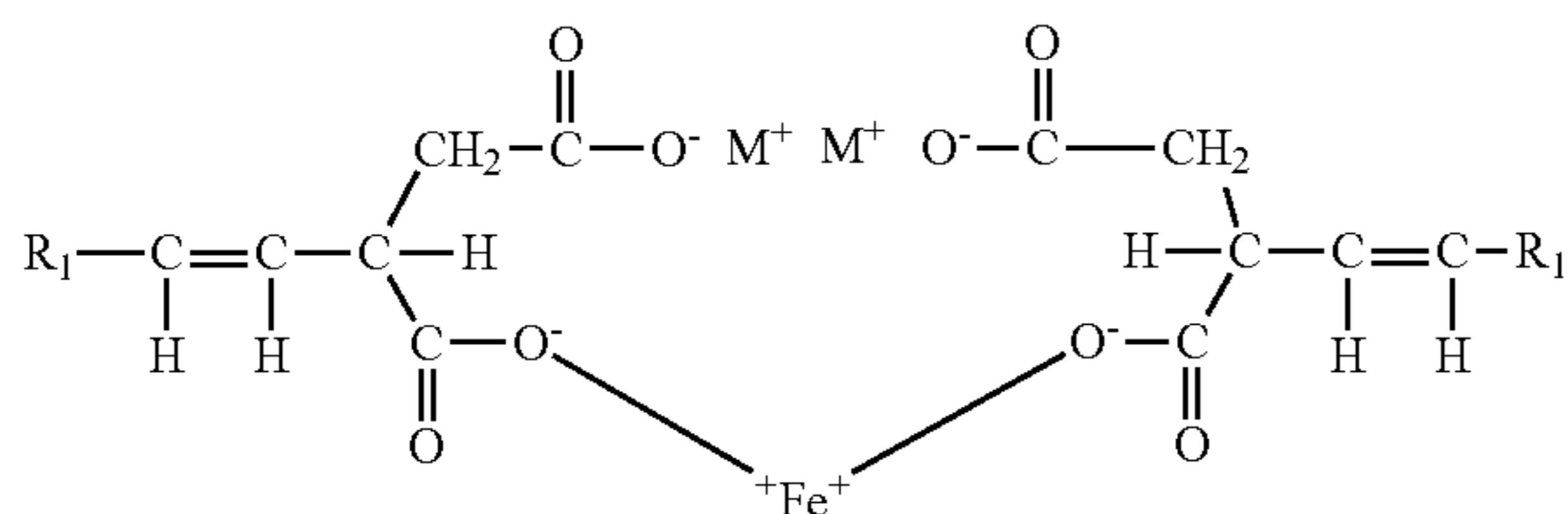
According to exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure, utilization of both sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide has been found to be advantageous to minimize the likelihood that the active ingredient will aggregate and precipitate from an aqueous solution. The active ingredient is generally supplied as an aqueous solution, e.g., 20% by weight active ingredient (with deionized water). The interspersions of different metals has been found to significantly decrease the potential for undesirable precipitation of the

active ingredient from the aqueous solution. Thus, the active materials, compositions and systems disclosed herein are water soluble and are generally stored, distributed and utilized in an aqueous form. Despite the solubility of the active ingredients/compositions disclosed herein, such ingredients/compositions are effective to inhibit and/or prevent water penetration in situ.

Exemplary corrosion-inhibiting and moisture-inhibiting solutions and systems of the present disclosure may further include a thinning agent and/or a carrier that is effective to reduce the viscosity of the disclosed solution/system, particularly for post-construction treatments, i.e., treatments for hardened concrete structures/surfaces. For example, a thinning agent may be incorporated into the disclosed solution/system in an amount of about 5% to about 70% by weight. The thinning agent advantageously facilitates penetration of the disclosed water soluble corrosion-inhibiting solution/system into the concrete-containing structure, e.g., through pores, cracks and/or fissures formed or defined in the concrete-containing structure. Exemplary thinning agents include isopropyl alcohol or a similar solvent (or combinations thereof). Of note, the disclosed thinning agents may additionally function to reduce the potential for impurity(ies) to react with the disclosed corrosion-inhibiting solution/system, e.g., potential reactions with Ca^+ ions in the concrete-containing structures, thereby enhancing the stability and/or overall effectiveness of the disclosed corrosion-inhibiting solution/system.

Post-construction materials and structures that may be treated with the disclosed solutions/systems vary widely, and include structures such as reinforced or un-reinforced concrete assemblies or elements, mortar, stucco and the like. In exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure, the disclosed solution/system may be applied directly to the exterior surface of a reinforced and/or un-reinforced concrete structure and be permitted to penetrate to interior regions thereof, e.g., by capillary action.

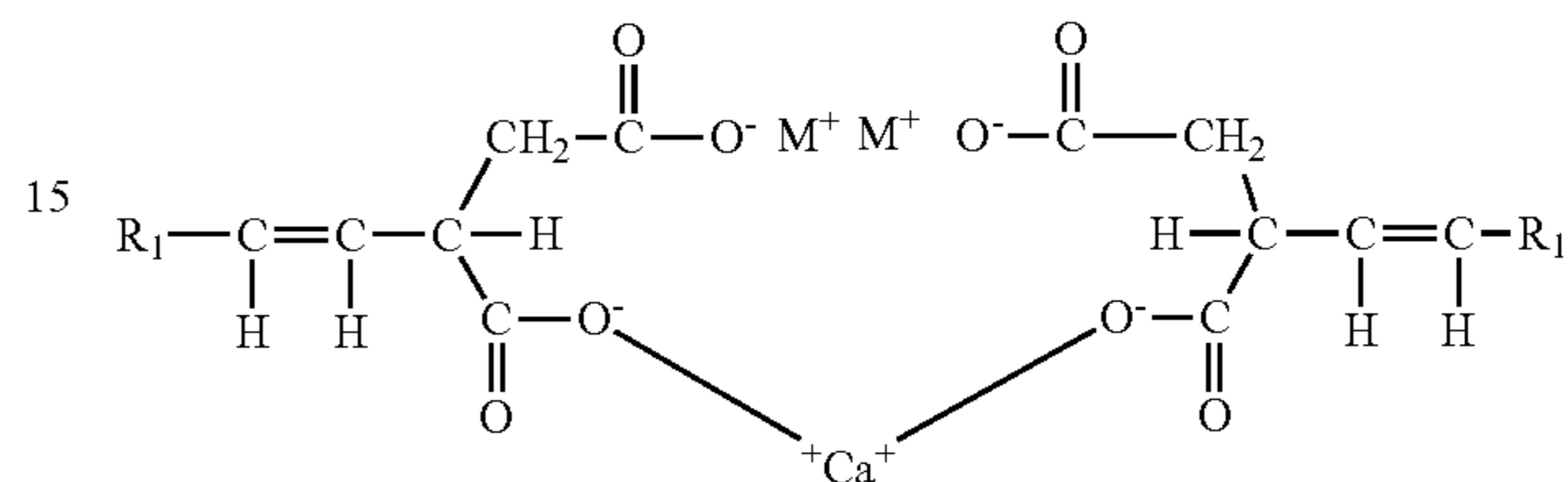
As noted above, the additive composition provides at least two levels of protection to the treated structure/assembly. A first level of protection involves corrosion resistance protection. Thus, the solution/system is capable of migrating to a potential corrosive site and forming a monomolecular film thereon. Of note, the additive composition exhibits polarity at one molecular end thereof, thereby facilitating adherence and/or attachment with respect to oppositely charged polar/ionic substrates, for example, iron and/or other metallic molecules and the like, in the following manner:



wherein R₁ is a C₉ to C₁₆ branched hydrocarbon and M⁺ is Na⁺ or K⁺.

A second level of protection is moisture resistance that arises, at least in part, from a blockage effect that is achieved by the disclosed composition/system in situ. Because the additive composition is reactive, it will tend to react with, for example, metallic or other ions in the aqueous systems that it encounters and/or metallic or other ions that it encounters in the reinforcement materials/substrates associated with the post-construction structures/assemblies. Reaction with divalent metals advantageously forms long chain molecules that effectively obstruct capillaries or other passages within the

concrete-containing structure. From one or more of the noted reactions (or other reactions that may occur due to the constituents present in or on the post-construction structure/assembly), molecules/compounds having limited water solubility, e.g., precipitates, are formed that include long hydrocarbon chains. These long chain hydrocarbon chains are generally hydrophobic. The disclosed in situ reactions generally involve a divalent metal, e.g. Ca^{+2} , assuming an intermediate position between respective molecules of the type disclosed herein, as follows:



These long chain molecules can only be formed in the presence of water, since the disclosed material, composition or system must enter the aqueous phase for an ion exchange reaction of the type described herein to be initiated. Thus, upon exposure to moisture, e.g., by diffusion into a concrete capillary, the disclosed material/composition will solubilized and react with available divalent metals, e.g., Ca^{+2} , to form long chain molecules that impede/prevent further travel of the water molecules. The long chain molecules precipitate from the water, but form a physical barrier to further ingress of the water molecules, thereby providing advantageous waterproofing to the treated concrete structure/surface. Indeed, the precipitated materials, fill the capillaries, cracks and/or fissures of the post-construction structure/assembly, e.g., the hardened concrete substrate to which the disclosed solution/system was applied, thereby advantageously repelling water and preventing or reducing capillary absorption.

For further reference purposes and as is known by those skilled in the art, corrosion generally occurs in what may be described as an oxy-redox reaction, whereby electrons flow through the metal from the anode to the cathode. If the anode is protected, electrons from hydroxyls (OH⁻) are prevented from entering. Conversely, if the cathode is protected, electrons are prevented from flowing thereto.

For purposes of an electron-flow discussion, additive compositions according to the present disclosure generally protect the anode. As electrons flow, the anode develops a positive charge. The positively charged surface then attracts the strongly electronegative or hydrophilic end of the additive composition. Upon the additive composition reaching the surface, it generally bonds or attaches itself to the iron of the reinforcing steel to form a slightly soluble hydrophobic layer which protects the anode potential of the iron/reinforcing steel. With respect to exemplary embodiments of the disclosed treatment regimen wherein the post-construction material is concrete, the cured/hardened concrete generally contains water molecules in pores, cracks and/or fissures defined in the hardened concrete, such water molecules enabling the additive composition to migrate to the anodic surface of the reinforcing steel within the concrete structure. Additionally, excess additive composition generally reacts with calcium (or other impurities) to form substantially water insoluble molecules/compounds, e.g., precipitate molecules, that reduce the water permeability of the hardened concrete structure/assembly. This reduced permeability further mitigates the corrosion process and/or the potential for further corrosion of any underlying reinforcing steel.

As disclosed herein, the additive composition/system may be applied to the surface of existing concrete or mortar, i.e., a

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post-construction material, and generally functions to penetrate cracks in the concrete/mortar to reach reinforcing steel or other potentially corrosive materials positioned there-
within, thereby preventing corrosion of the steel while reduc-
ing moisture permeability of the concrete. The additive com-
position may be applied by standard application methods
including, for example, but not limited to, ponding or roller
applied as well as high pressure and low pressure spraying
applications. In an exemplary embodiment of the present
disclosure, approximately 1 gallon of the disclosed solution
(20% active composition/80% water plus thinning agent at
about 5% to 70% by weight) may be applied to 50 to 150
square feet of concrete surface. In other exemplary embodi-
ments, prior to applying the disclosed solution composition to
a surface, the surface may be cleaned, for example, or pres-
sure washed to remove any existing laitance, contaminants,
coatings, dirt and/or pollution. The surface may then prefer-
ably be rinsed with clean water and allowed an opportunity to
dry prior to application of the additive composition. Option-
ally, more than one coat of the additive composition may be
sequentially applied to the surface, e.g., 2 to 5 treatment
applications.

In other exemplary embodiments, the disclosed solution/
composition may be mixed with an additional coating/carrier
that may have a low viscosity to increase penetration of the
composition into the concrete and then applied to post-con-
struction material. The coating/carrier may also have surfac-
tant properties that facilitate penetration into the hardened
concrete material of the treatment system. For example, the
solution/composition disclosed herein may be mixed with a
carrier and applied to existing reinforced concrete structures.
Embodiments of the present disclosure provide numerous
advantages, including, for example, the additive composition
is environmentally safe and is an air entraining agent in fresh
concrete. Indeed, exemplary embodiments of the disclosed
treatment system/solution exhibit reduced levels of volatile
organic compounds (VOCs) relative to other types of surface
treatments. Additionally, the use of the disclosed additive
composition in post-construction applications eliminates the
need for membranes and other water management systems,
offers decreased maintenance costs by increasing service life,
as well as providing a value-engineered solution to water
proofing and corrosion protection challenges. The disclosed
materials, compositions and systems may be applied on mul-
tiple occasions, e.g., reapplied on a periodic basis to enhance
the performance thereof.

To improve freeze/thaw properties, it is most effective to
control air entrainment within cured concrete to about 5 to 8%
with evenly spaced apart bubbles having a specific surface of
from 600 to 1,100 square inches per cubic inch spaced apart
by 0.004 to 0.008 inches. A defoaming agent is advanta-
geously employed to address air entrainment. Exemplary
defoaming agents include polyether modified polysiloxanes,
tri-alkane/alkene phosphates and mixtures thereof. Polyether
modified polysiloxanes are sold by BYK Chemie (Germany)
under the trademarks BYK 025 and BYK 094. An exemplary
phosphate for use as a defoaming agent according to the
present disclosure is available from Akzo Nobel (Germany)
under the trademark Phosflex 4 (tributyl phosphate).

According to exemplary embodiments of the present dis-
closure, a polyether modified polysiloxane is generally
admixed in an amount from about 0.1 to 2.0% by weight,
preferably about 1% by weight, relative to the disclosed water
soluble materials, compositions and systems. Tri-alkane/alk-
ene phosphates are generally admixed in an amount from
about 1.0 to 8.0% by weight, preferably 5.0% by weight,
relative to the disclosed water soluble materials, composi-

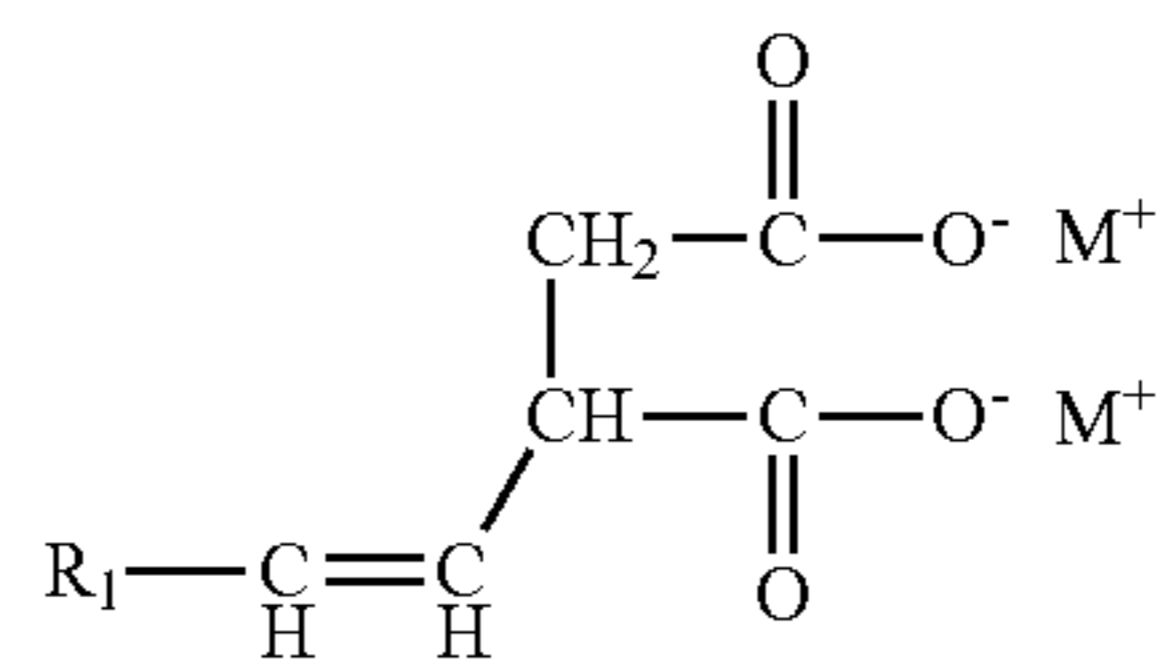
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tions and systems. Alternative defoaming agents may be
employed, as will be readily apparent to persons skilled in the
art. Additional stabilizing agents, such as benzoic acid,
maleic acid and the like, may also be employed with the
disclosed materials, compositions and systems.

While the present invention has been described with
respect to the exemplary embodiments thereof, it will be
recognized by those of ordinary skill in the art that many
modifications, enhancements, variations and/or changes can
be achieved without departing from the spirit and scope of the
invention. Therefore, it is manifestly intended that the inven-
tion be limited only by the scope of the claims and equivalents
thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. A composition [for use in treating a concrete-containing structure or surface], comprising:
an active ingredient of the formula:



wherein R₁ is a C₉ to C₁₆ branched hydrocarbon and M⁺ is
Na⁺, K⁺ or a combination thereof; and wherein the
active ingredient comprises a blend or mixture of mol-
ecules having differing R₁ structures.

2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is dissolved in an aqueous solution.

3. A composition according to claim 2, further comprising a thinning agent in an amount of about 5% to about 70% by weight.

4. A composition according to claim 3, wherein the thinning agent is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, ethanol, xylene and combinations thereof.

5. A composition according to claim 1, further comprising a defoaming agent.

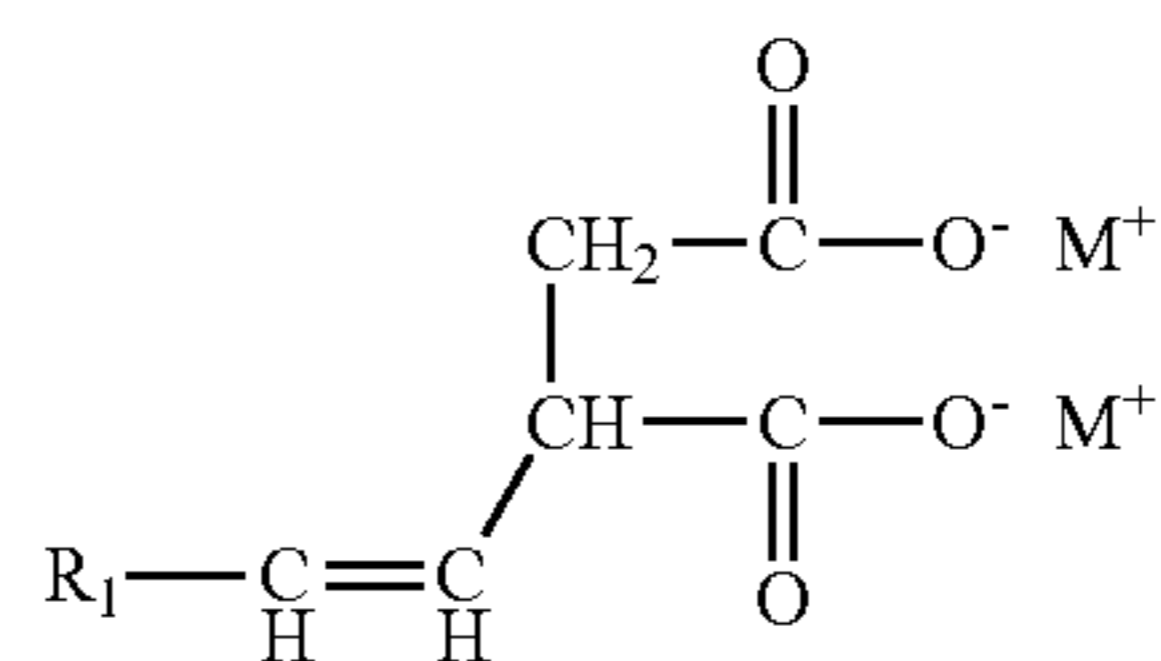
6. A composition according to claim 5, wherein the defoaming agent is selected from the group consisting of a polyether modified polysiloxane, a tri-alkane/alkene phosphate and mixtures thereof.

7. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the blend or mixture has a weighted average of about C₁₂.

8. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the blend or mixture includes Na⁺ at a level of about 90 to 95 weight percent and K⁺ at a level of about 5 to 10 weight percent.

9. A method for treating a [concrete-containing material] substrate, comprising:

- (a) providing a composition including an active ingredient having a formula:



wherein R₁ is a C₉ to C₁₆ branched hydrocarbon and M⁺ is
Na⁺, K⁺ or a combination thereof; and wherein the
active ingredient comprises a blend or mixture of
molecules having differing R₁ structures;

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(b) combining the composition with a [concrete-containing structure or surface] *substrate* by adding the composition during [concrete] formulation or by applying the composition to a [concrete-containing structure or surface] *substrate*.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the composition is combined with the [concrete-containing structure or surface] *substrate* in an amount sufficient to impart waterproofing properties to the [concrete-containing structure or surface] *substrate*.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the composition is combined with a concrete-water mixture during formulation of the concrete-water mixture.

12. A method according to claim 9, wherein the [concrete-containing structure or surface] *substrate* is a post-construction structure or material; and

wherein the composition is combined with the post-construction structure or material by applying the composition directly to a surface of the post-construction structure or material after the post-construction structure or material has hardened.

13. A method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of adding a thinning agent in an amount of about 5% to about 70% by weight to the composition prior to application of the composition to said surface.

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14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the thinning agent is selected from the group consisting of isopropyl alcohol, ethanol, xylene and combinations thereof.

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein the post-construction material comprises existing reinforced or unreinforced concrete.

16. The method according to claim 12, further comprising a reapplication of the composition to the surface of the hardened post-construction structure or material.

17. The method according to claim 9, wherein the [concrete-containing structure or surface] *substrate* is a post-construction structure or material; and

wherein the composition is combined with the post-construction structure or material that includes at least one constituent selected from the group consisting of concrete, mortar, stucco and steel.

18. The method according to claim 9, wherein the [concrete-containing structure or surface] *substrate* is a post-construction structure or material; and

wherein the composition is combined with the post-construction structure or material by an application mechanism selected from the group consisting of spray application, brush application, mist application, pressurized application, and combinations thereof.

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