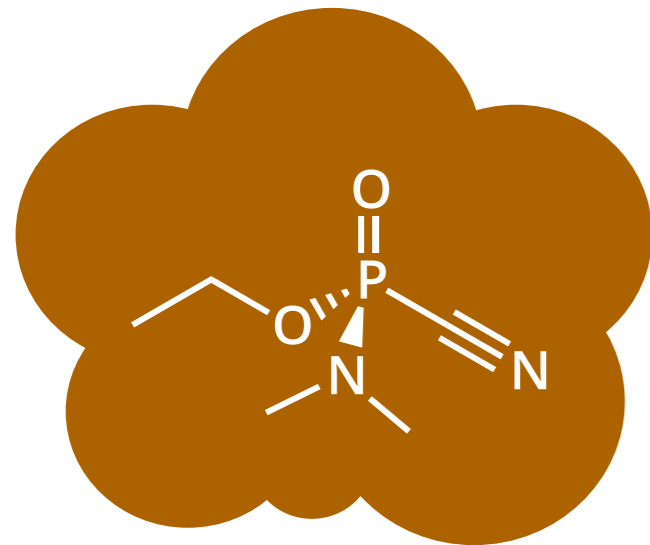


CHEMICAL WARFARE NERVE AGENTS

PART ONE: THE G SERIES

THE G SERIES NERVE AGENTS ARE SO NAMED BECAUSE THEY WERE ALL FIRST SYNTHESISED IN GERMANY. THEY ARE ALL EXTREMELY TOXIC VOLATILE LIQUIDS, CLASSIFIED AS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION BY THE U.N., AND THEIR PRODUCTION & STOCKPILING IS OUTLAWED.



TABUN (GA)

(ethyl dimethylphosphoramidocyanidate)

SMELL & APPEARANCE

Clear, colourless liquid, though impure tabun can have a brown appearance. Pure tabun is odourless, but it often has a faint 'fruity' odour due to impurities.

SYNTHESISED

1936

Discovered accidentally by Gebhardt Schrader, a German chemist who was investigating organophosphates as pesticides.

LETHALITY

median lethal concentration

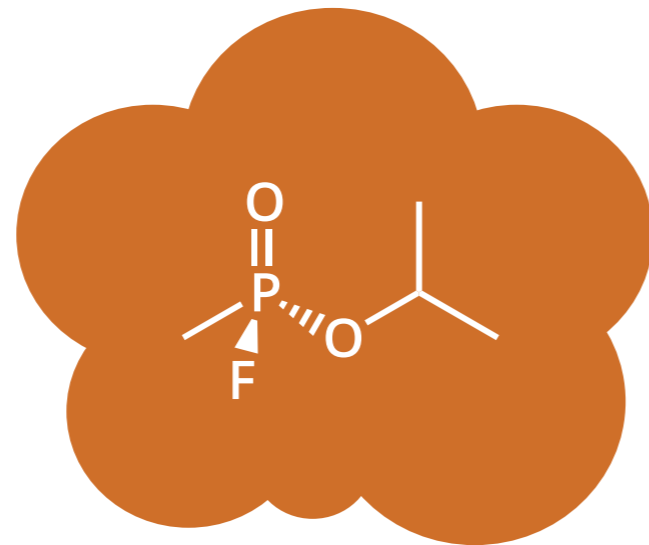
400

milligram-minutes per cubic metre

median lethal dose

4000

milligrams per person (skin exposure)



SARIN (GB)

(isopropyl methylphosphonofluoridate)

SMELL & APPEARANCE

A clear, colourless liquid, tasteless and odourless in its pure form. It's a volatile liquid; like other nerve gases the vapour generated is heavier than air.

SYNTHESISED

1938

Named after the team of scientists behind its initial discovery: Schrader, Ambros, Ritter & Van der Linde

LETHALITY

median lethal concentration

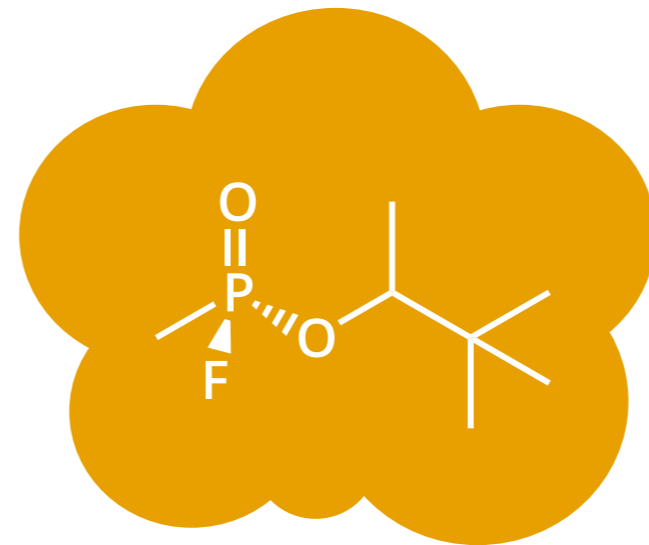
100

milligram-minutes per cubic metre

median lethal dose

1700

milligrams per person (skin exposure)



SOMAN (GD)

(3,3-dimethylbutan-2-yl methylphosphonofluoridate)

SMELL & APPEARANCE

Soman is a clear, colourless, tasteless liquid. Its odour is faint when pure, but when impure it has a yellow-brown colour and has a strong, camphorous odour.

SYNTHESISED

1944

Discovered during research into the pharmacology of tabun & sarin funded by the German army.

LETHALITY

median lethal concentration

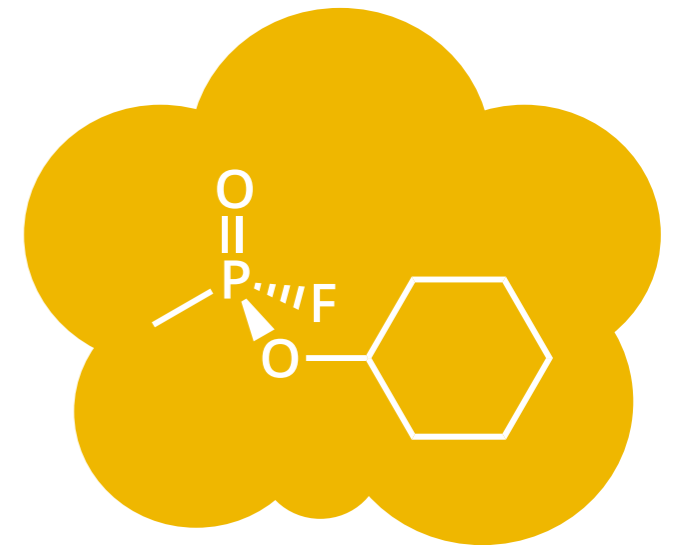
70

milligram-minutes per cubic metre

median lethal dose

300

milligrams per person (skin exposure)



CYCLOSARIN (GF)

(cyclohexyl methylphosphonofluoridate)

SMELL & APPEARANCE

Clear, colourless liquid with a sweet, musty smell, sometimes likened to peaches. It evaporates around 70 times slower than sarin, and is also flammable.

SYNTHESISED

1949

Also a result of German research, Iraq is the only country known to have manufactured significant quantities.

LETHALITY

median lethal concentration

50

milligram-minutes per cubic metre

median lethal dose

350

milligrams per person (skin exposure)

EFFECTS OF NERVE AGENTS



Inhibit breakdown of acetylcholine



Cause contraction of the pupils



Excessive mucus, tears, saliva & sweat



Nausea, gastrointestinal pain & vomiting



Bronchoconstriction & chest tightness



Spasms, convulsions & loss of bowel control



Coma & eventual death

