

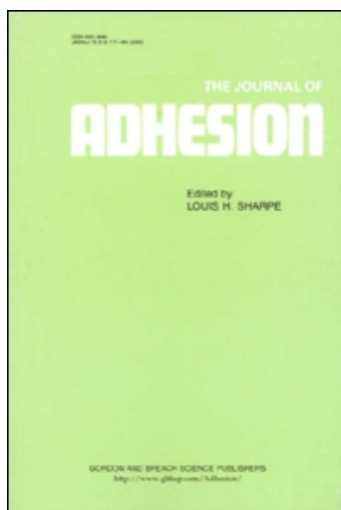
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### **Letter**

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## Letter

Sir:

The purpose of this communication is to propose a new and generic term "adherate" to represent materials which adhere to an adherend. Salomon in 1956<sup>1</sup> pointed out "Adherend is the term coined by DeBruyne for solids bonded by adhesives; it is used throughout the industry, but has not yet found recognition by lexicographers. The word has yet no counterpart in other languages. A more general and old term is substrate. By this is meant any (mostly) solid body serving as a mechanical support of surface layers, e.g., coatings, films, adhesives."

It is interesting to note that in 1973, Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary<sup>2</sup> has included the term adherend. Obviously, there is an induction period before the technical neologisms are assimilated in the general language and find a place in lexicon.

Although the term adherend was specially coined to represent solids bonded by adhesives, the current usage has been extended to include all solid bodies on which some material adheres. This necessitates having a general term to represent substances which adhere to an adherend and this term should be "adherate" as pointed out in the opening paragraph.

Adsorption and adhesion are parallel phenomena and it behooves to have terms which describe these phenomena precisely.

The table below presents the current usage of different terms in these areas.

Phenomenon	Terms for Surfaces on which materials adsorb or adhere	Terms for Materials which adsorb or adhere
Adsorption	Adsorbent† Substrate	Adsorbate†
Adhesion	Adherend Substrate	

† Adsorbents are generally solids whereas adsorbates may be solids, liquids, gases or vapors.

<sup>1</sup> G. Salomon, in "Adhesion and Adhesives", Vol. I, Ed. R. Houwink and G. Salomon (Elsevier, 1965). P. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 1973 Edition (G. & C. Merriam Company, Springfield, Mass.).

It is obvious from the table that there is a need for a suitable term to represent the materials which adhere to an adherend. Consequently, the term "adherate" as proposed in this communication is well warranted.

The term adherate should include all coatings, films, paints, lacquers and adhesives. Adhesives depict a special class of adherates in the sense that these adhere to two adherends instead of one as is true for coatings, paints, films, etc.

I feel the term "adherate" should be given due respectability and recognition and its frequent use will render it a part of the adhesion science vocabulary.

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