

# Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Study of Defects in $\gamma$ -irradiated Marine Mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) and Scallop (*Pecten jacobaeus*) Shells

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Z. Naturforsch. **59a**, 773 – 779 (2004); received May 31, 2004

EPR studies have been performed on some gamma-irradiated marine mussels (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) and scallops (*Pecten jacobaeus*) from the families of *Mytilidae* and *Pectinidae*, respectively. Before  $\gamma$ -irradiation, the EPR lines of *Mytilus galloprovincialis* indicated the existence of  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$  ions, which were not observed in the powders of scallop shells.  $\gamma$ -irradiation induced defects in powders of *Mytilus galloprovincialis* shells, were attributed to orthorhombic  $\text{CO}_3^-$ , axial  $\text{CO}_3^{3-}$ , orthorhombic  $\text{CO}_2^-$ , freely rotating  $\text{CO}_2^-$ , freely rotating  $\text{SO}_2^-$ , axial  $\text{SO}_3^-$ , isotropic  $\text{PO}_4^{2-}$  and organic free radicals.  $\gamma$ -irradiation induced defects in powders of *Pecten jacobaeus* shells were attributed to orthorhombic  $\text{CO}_3^-$ , axial  $\text{CO}_3^{3-}$ , orthorhombic  $\text{CO}_2^-$ , freely rotating  $\text{CO}_2^-$ , freely rotating  $\text{SO}_2^-$ , and axial  $\text{SO}_3^-$  free radicals. The EPR parameters of the free radicals were compared with literature data on similar defects.

**Key words:** EPR; Free Radicals;  $\gamma$ -irradiation; Mussel; Scallop.