

# What is the fate and significance of PPCPs and EDCs following the application of biosolids to soils?



Chemical structures of PPCPs and EDCs are shown on a yellow background. The structures are labeled with their respective acronyms: HCHs, AHCs, and AECs. Below the structures, the text reads: Ed Topp, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, London, Ontario, Canada. [toppe@agr.gc.ca](mailto:toppe@agr.gc.ca)



# Collaborators

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# Research funding

- **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**
- **Health Canada**
- **Ontario Ministry of the Environment**
- **Ontario Federation of Agriculture**
- **Ontario Municipalities**
  
- **ERApHarm**



# Presentation outline

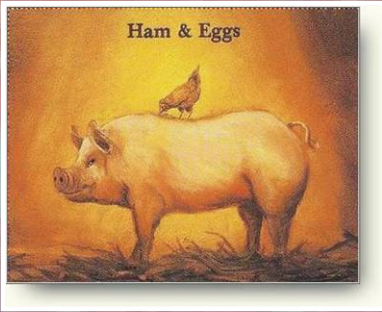
- **Introduction- general comments on protection of water quality from contaminants carried in fecal fertilizers.**
- **Pharmaceuticals and hormonal substances:**
  - **State of “big picture”**
  - **Evidence of environmental risk?**
- **Are PPCPs/EDCs in biosolids?**
- **Environmental behaviour of some EDCs and PPCPs**
  - **Persistence characteristics in soils**
  - **Transport characteristics from land receiving biosolids**
- **General conclusions**



# Risk from:

- **Microorganisms.**
  - **Endocrine-disrupting chemicals.**
  - **Pharmaceuticals.**
  - **Nutrients**
- 
- **Livestock and poultry wastes**
  - **Human wastes (municipal biosolids.)**

# Exposure: Opportunities for managing risk



**This is not a BMP**



# 'Emerging' organic contaminants

- **Exposure**
  - Some pharmaceutically- or endocrine-active substances are now found in the environment, but at very low concentrations.
  - Some of these substances are not removed during the sewage treatment process, and some may/do partition preferentially in biosolids.
- **Impacts**
  - The human health significance of these chemicals is unknown.
    - Reproductive cancers, early onset of puberty.
  - There are examples of environmental impacts, eg. intersex in fish downstream of STPs.
  - It is characteristic of (some) EDCs/PPCPs that short exposure at crucial developmental times, or chronic exposure at very low concentrations, may be problematic.
    - Challenges regulatory acute/chronic toxicology tests and endpoints.
- **Overall,**
  - the issue of these chemicals as 'emerging contaminants' is at a 'definition of problem' stage.

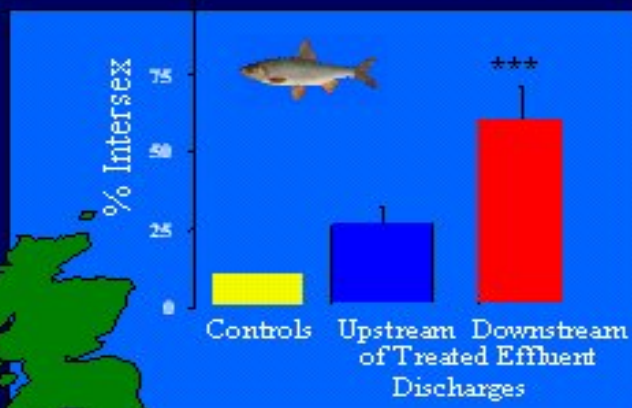




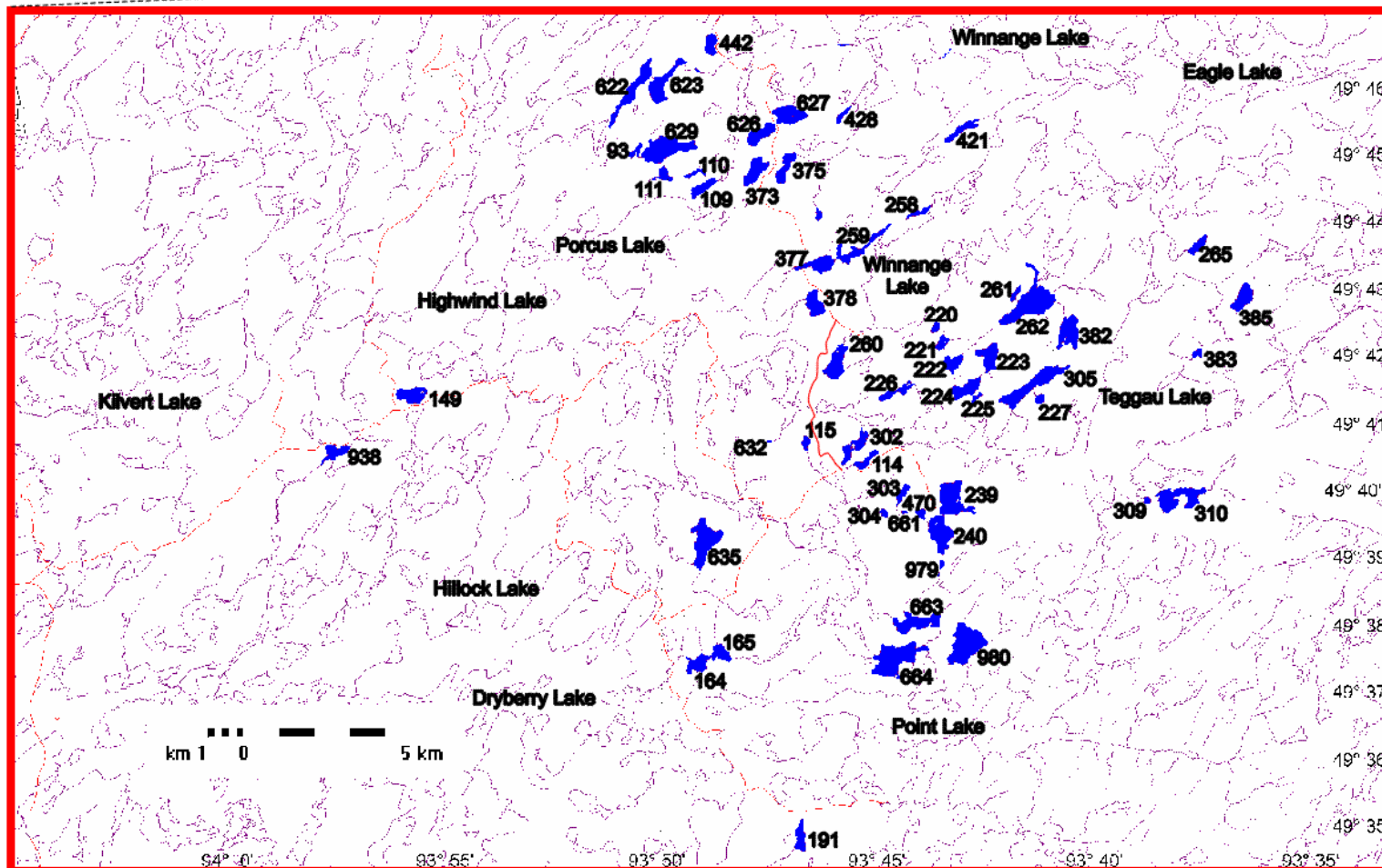
**Is there any evidence that  
PPCPs or EDCs in the  
environment are harmful?**



# Reproductive abnormalities in fish exposed to sewage outflows



# 58 Designated Research Lakes and their Watersheds Detailed Monitoring since 1969



Experimental Lakes Area

**Boreal  
Shield of  
northwestern  
Ontario**

# Lake 260 - Estrogen Addition

Dr. Karen Kidd [PNAS]

Max depth - 14 m

Surface Area - 36 ha

inflow



outflow



Dominant species

Lake trout

White sucker

Fathead minnow

Pearl dace





# Study Design

recovery?



effects on individuals & populations

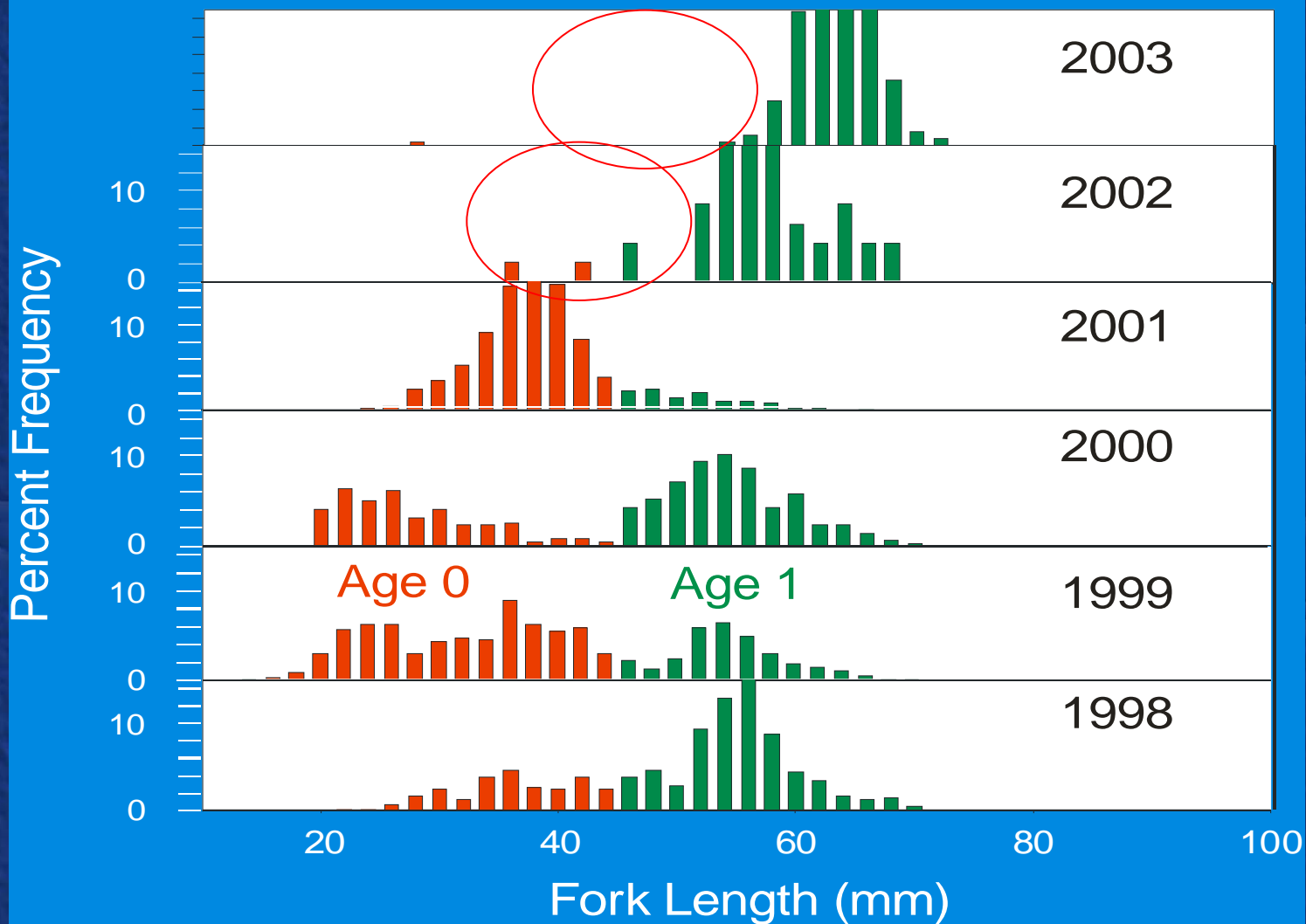


ethynylestradiol additions - 5 ng/L

baseline data



# Fathead Minnow Lake 260 Fall Trapnet Catches



# EDC/PPCP exposure and impacts: Risk from agricultural use of organic materials

- Are EDCs/PPCPs present in materials that are applied to land?
- What are their dissipation kinetics and pathways?
- How is dissipation influenced by key rate-controlling parameters?
- What are their transport characteristics in commercial application context?



# Selected PPCP concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{Kg OC}$ ) in biosolids (range and median; n=9) Kinney et al. ES&T 40:7207-7215.

- Carbamazepine 51-1200, 64
- Diphenhydramine 32-22000, 340
- Fluoxetine 140-4700, 370
- Triclosan 1170-32900, 10200





# Vive la difference

# Estrogens

# Androgens

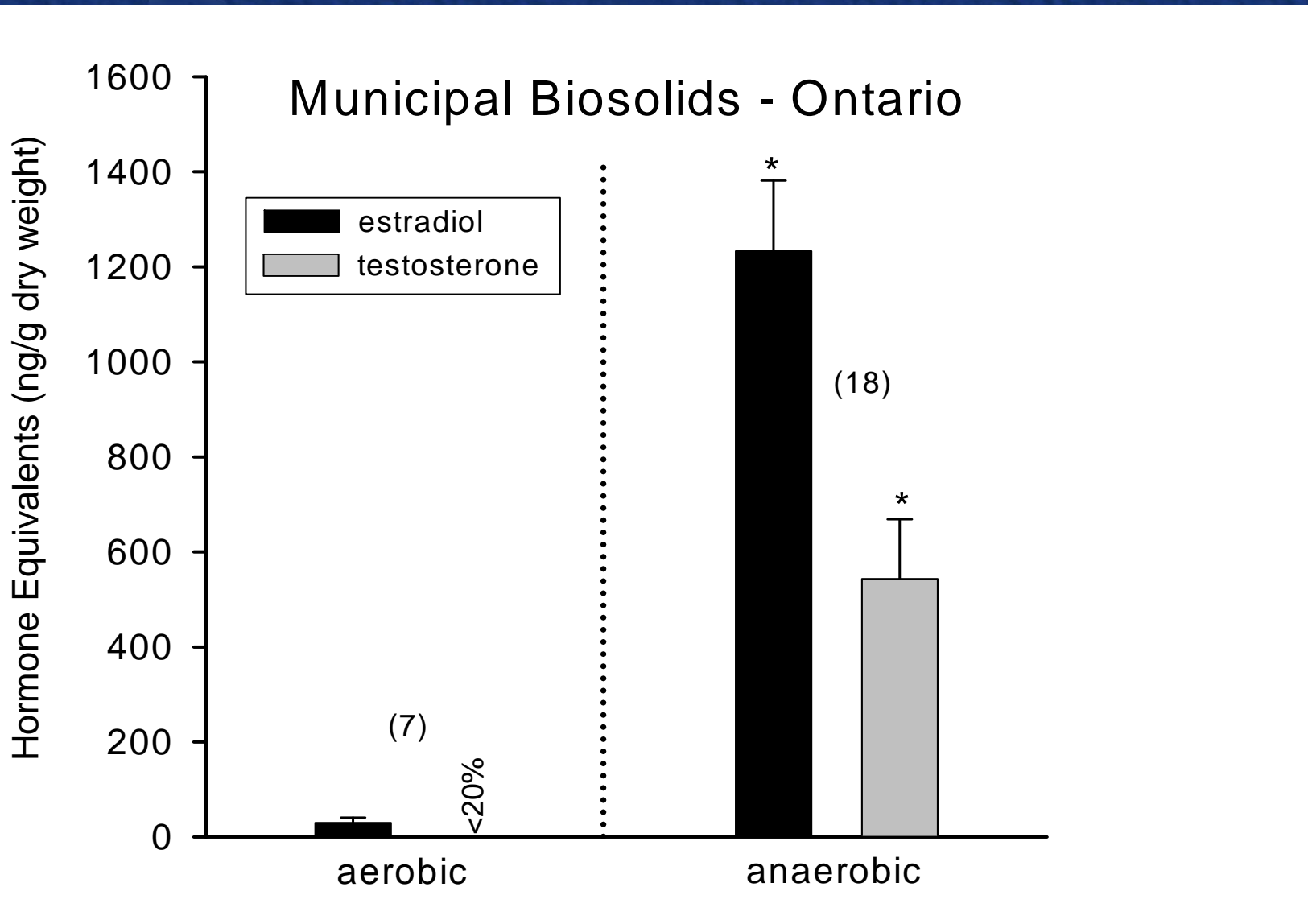


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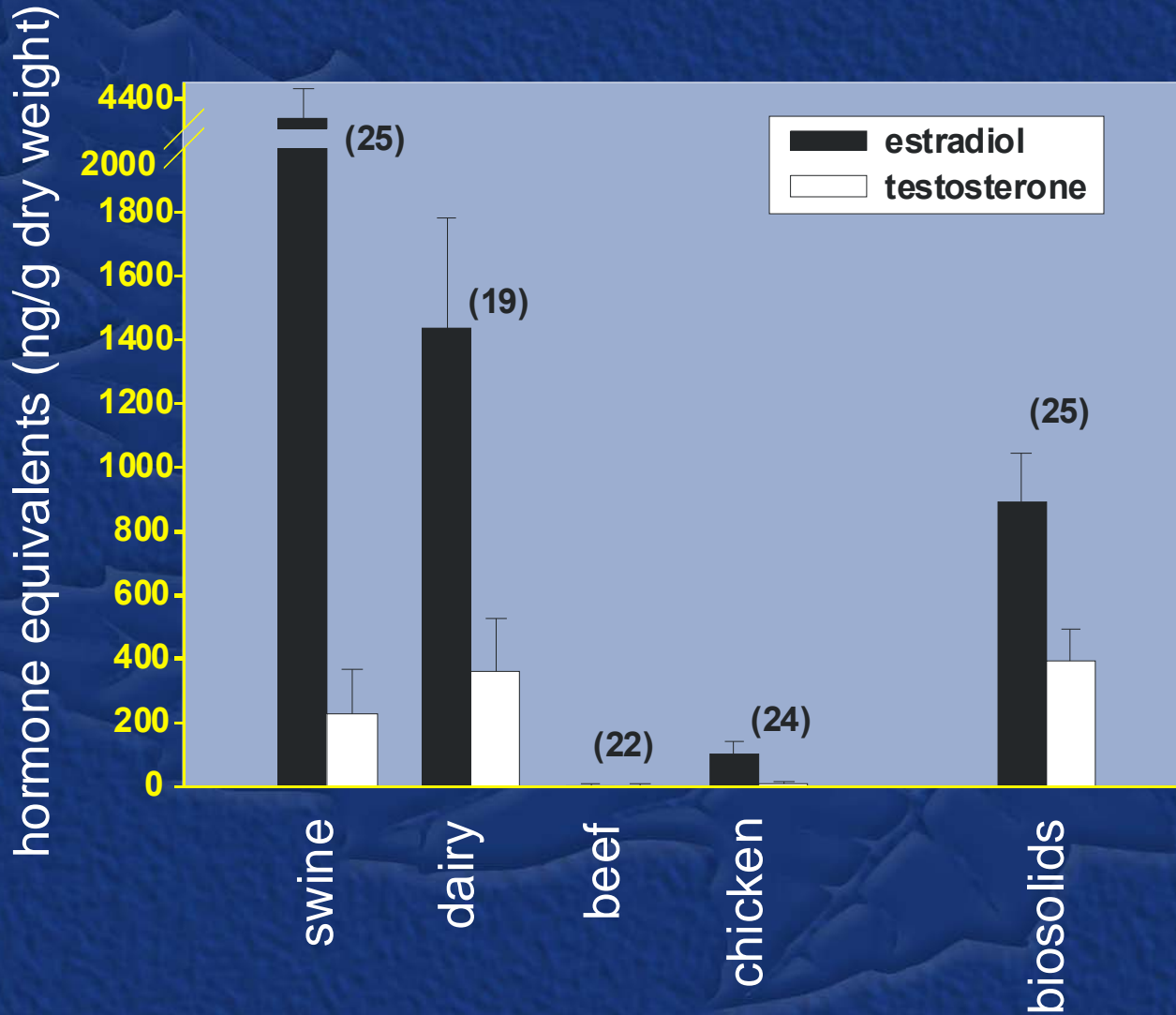
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# Hormonal activity in Biosolids



# Hormone Activities: Manures and Municipal Biosolids



# Summary

- **Are EDCs/PPCPs present in materials that are applied to land?**
- **Yes, but the concentrations vary widely.**
- **Biosolids can be managed to reduce content.**
- **Sex hormone activity can be comparable with some other agricultural “fecal fertilizers”.**



# EDC/PPCP exposure and impacts: Risk from agricultural use of organic materials

- **Are EDCs/PPCPs present in materials that are applied to land?**
- **What are their dissipation kinetics and pathways?**
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- **What are their transport characteristics in commercial application context?**

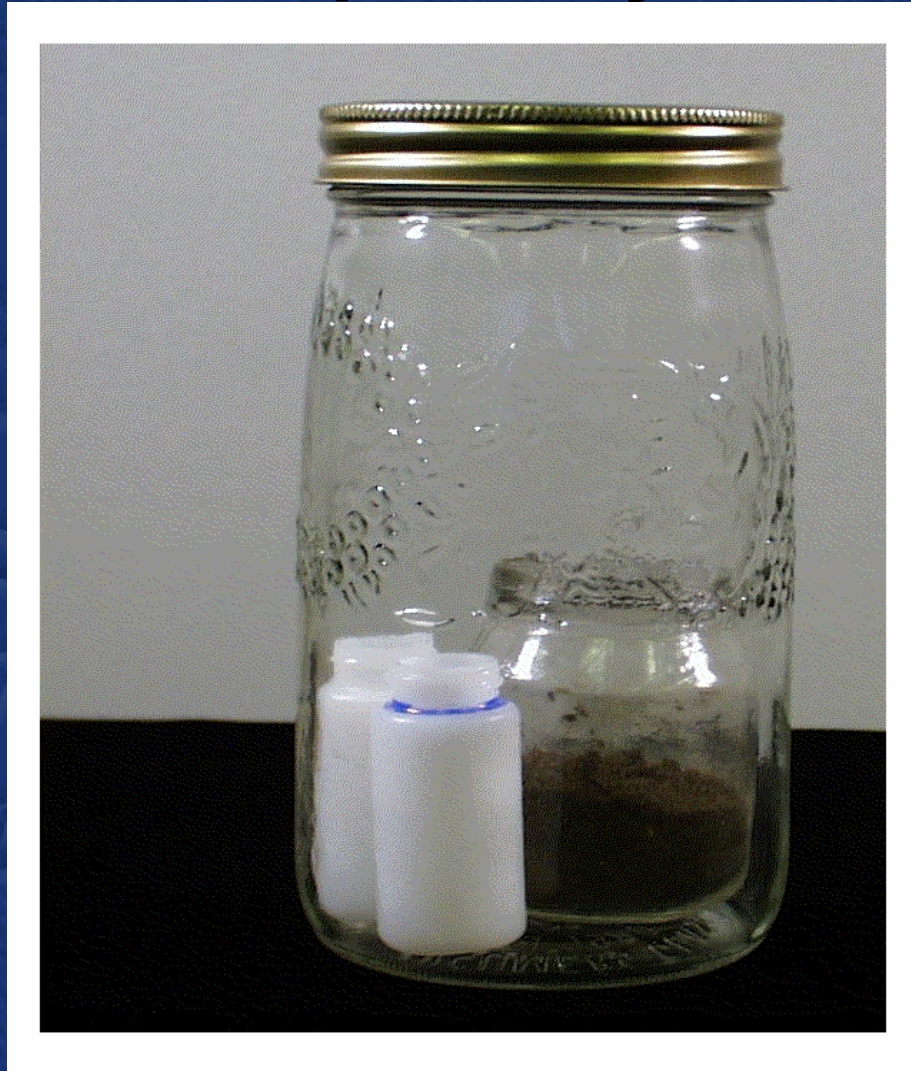


# Persistence in soils

- **Texture**
- **Temperature**
- **Moisture**
- **Concentration**
- **Transformation products**
- **Carrier effects**



# Laboratory elucidation of dissipation kinetics and pathways





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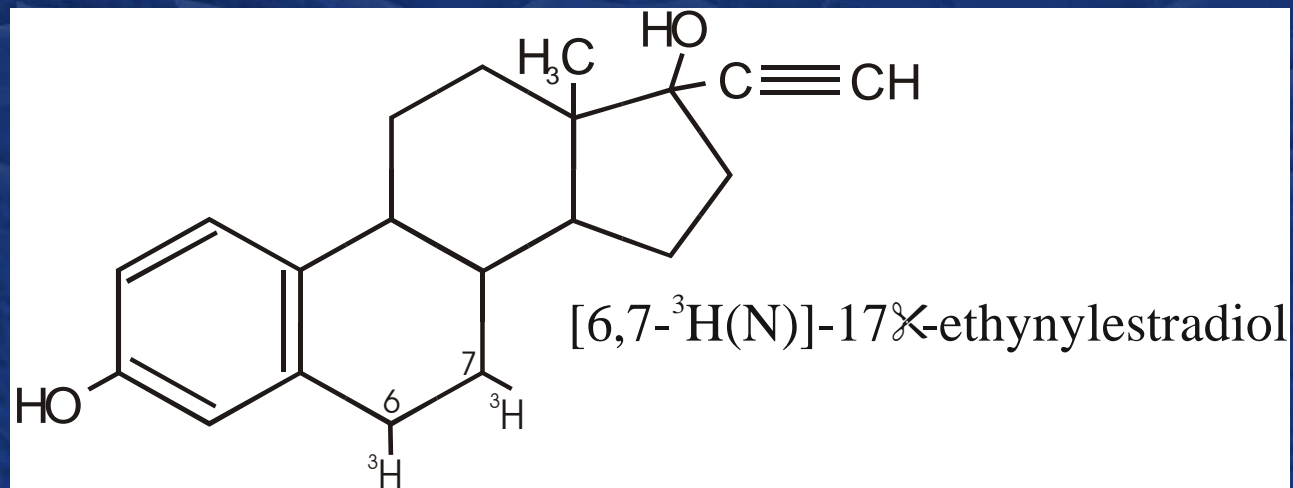
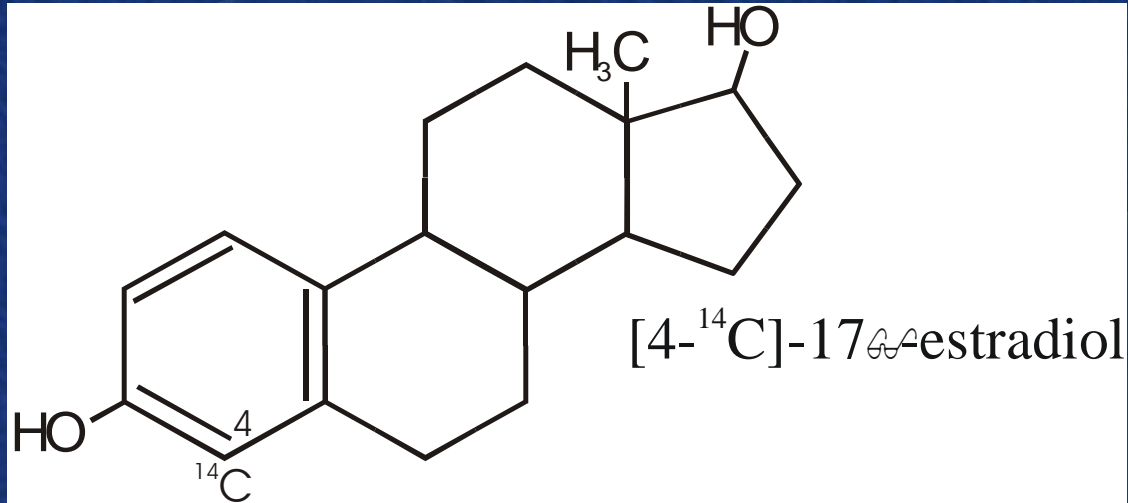


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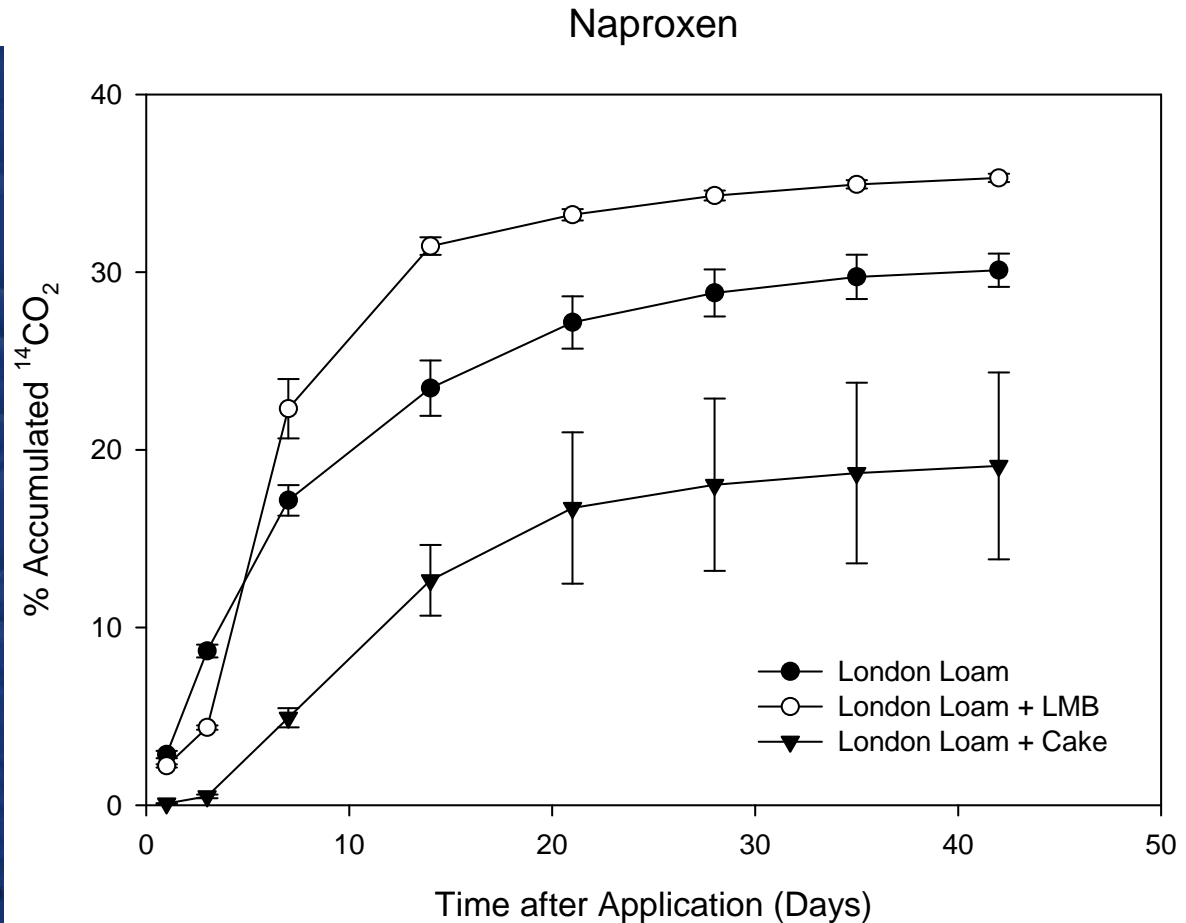
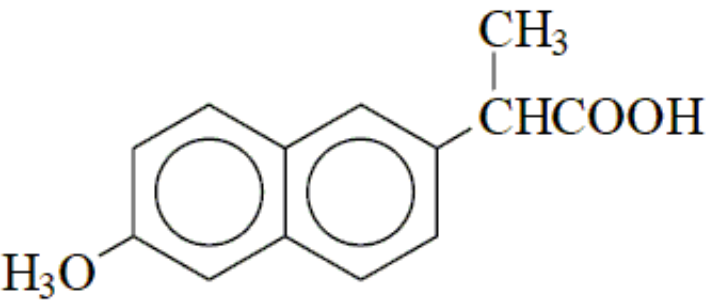
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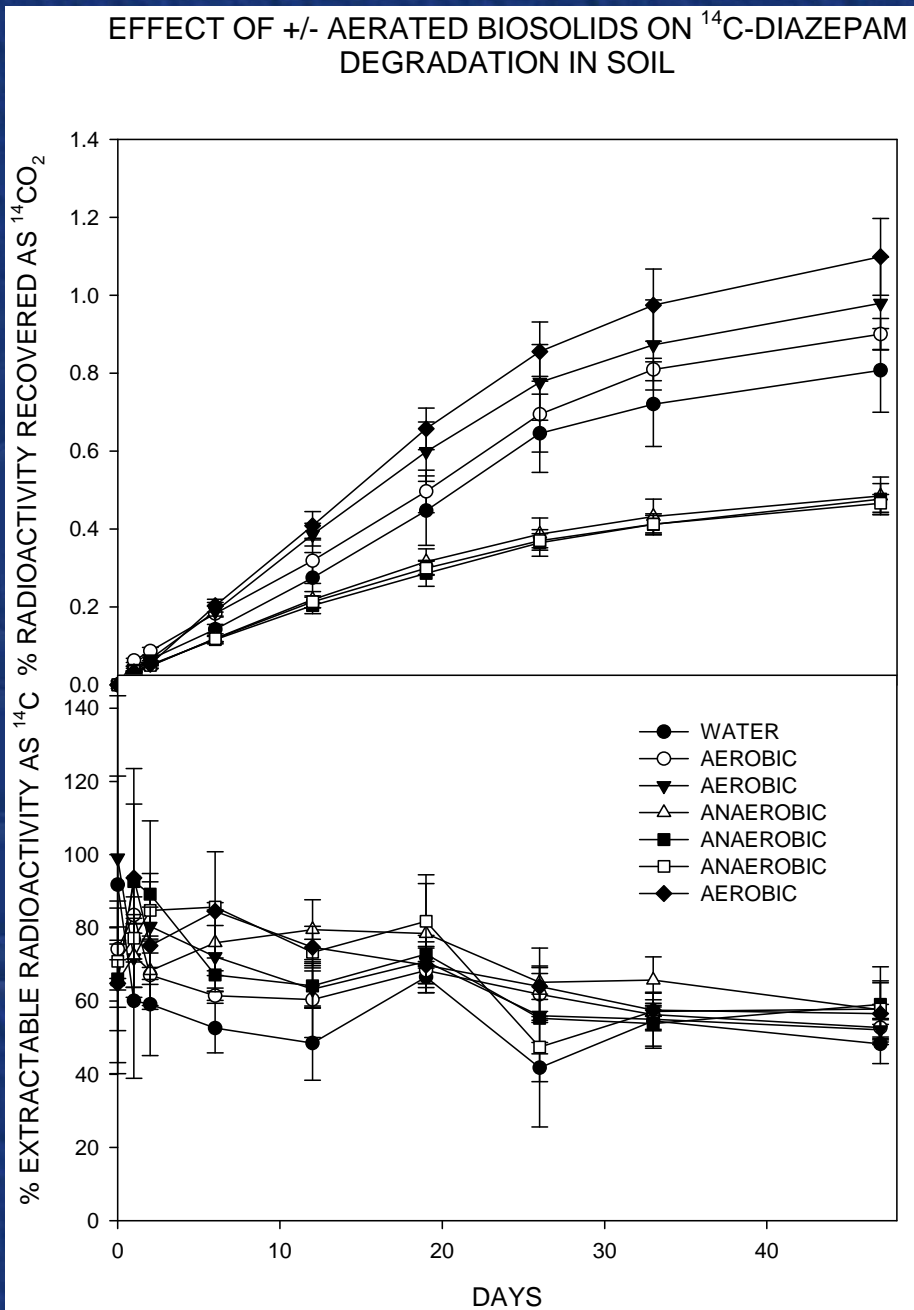
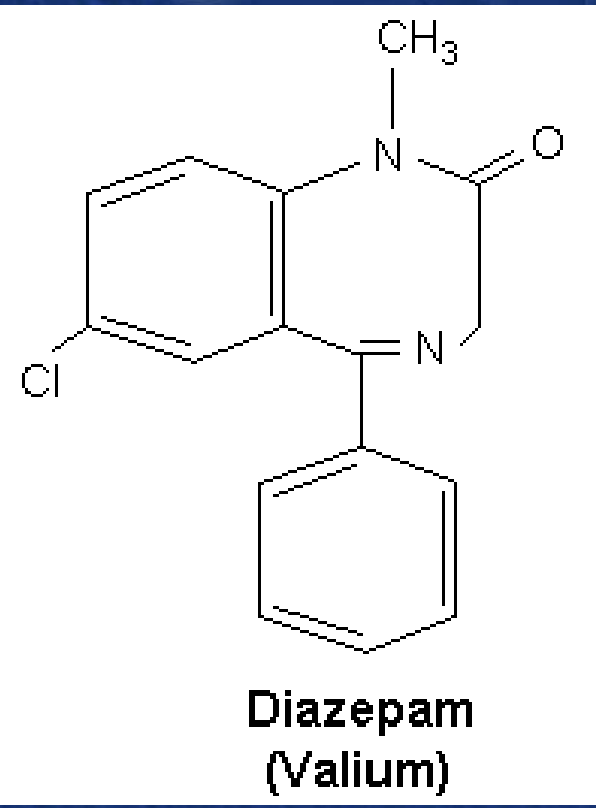
# Radiolabeled substrates



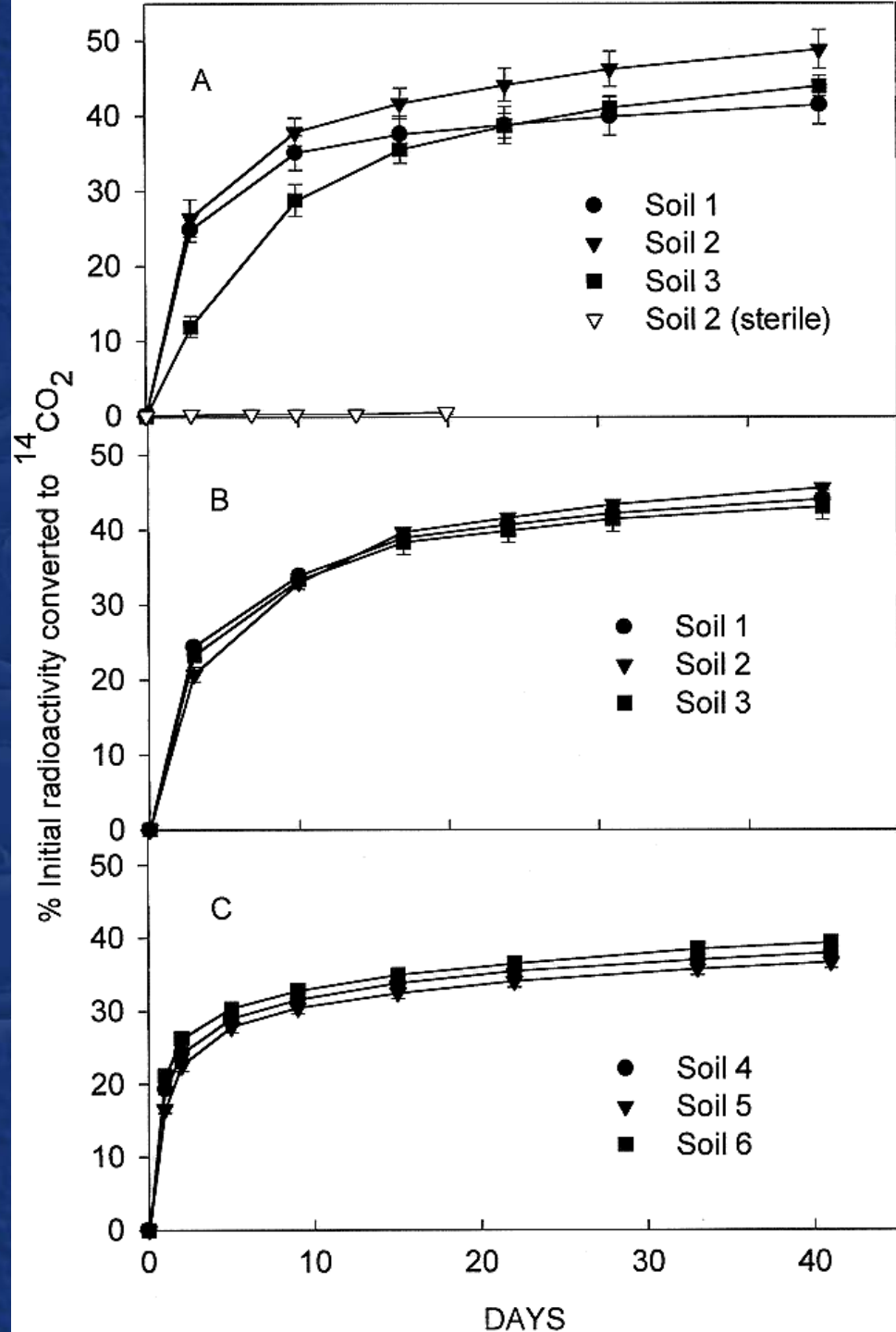
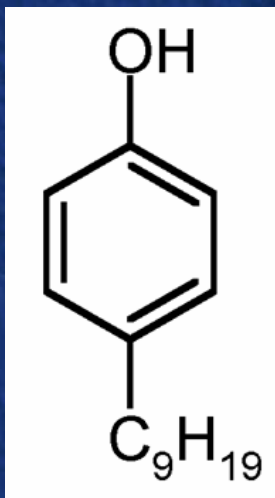
# Naproxen is labile, varies with matrix



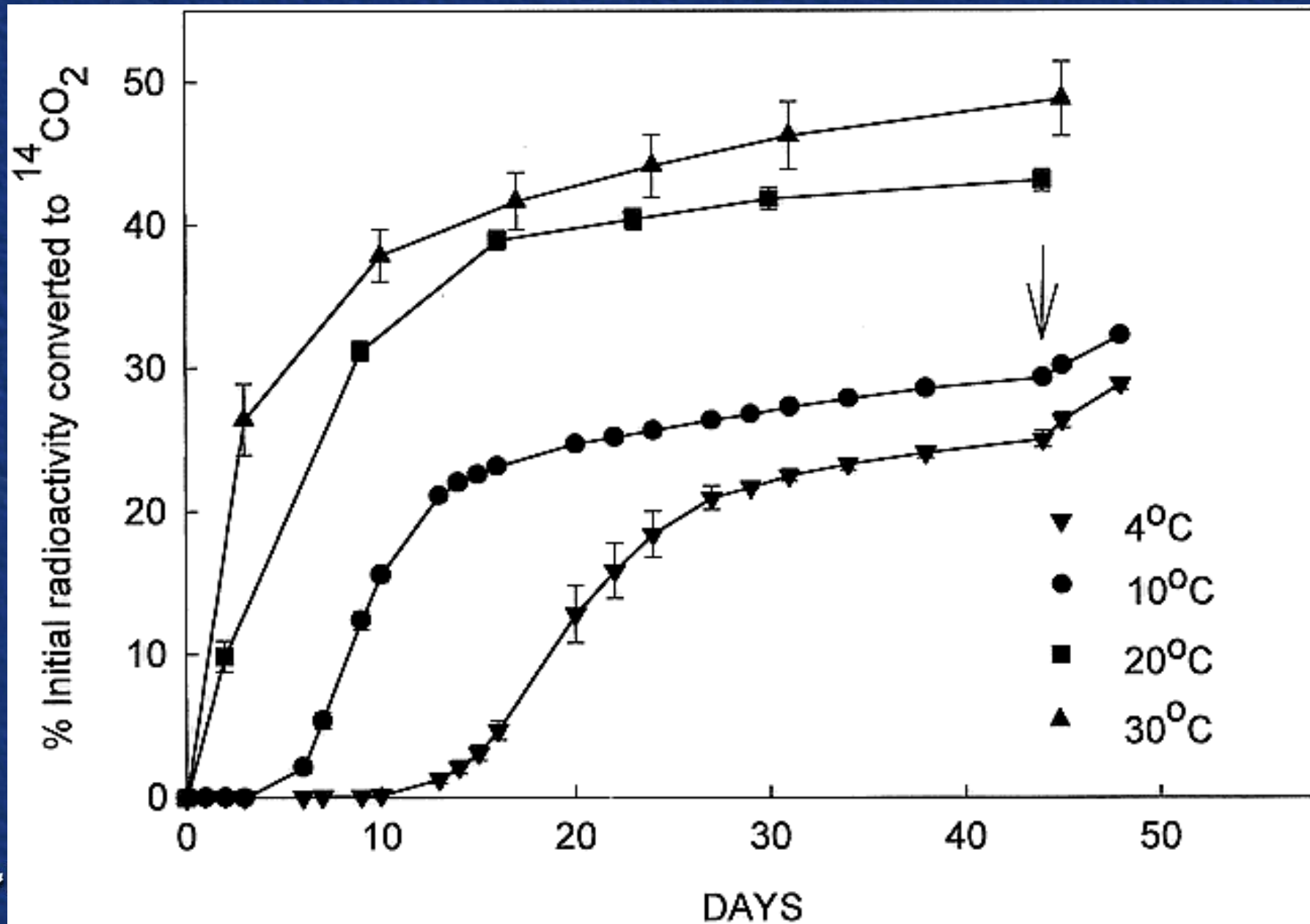
# Valium is very persistent



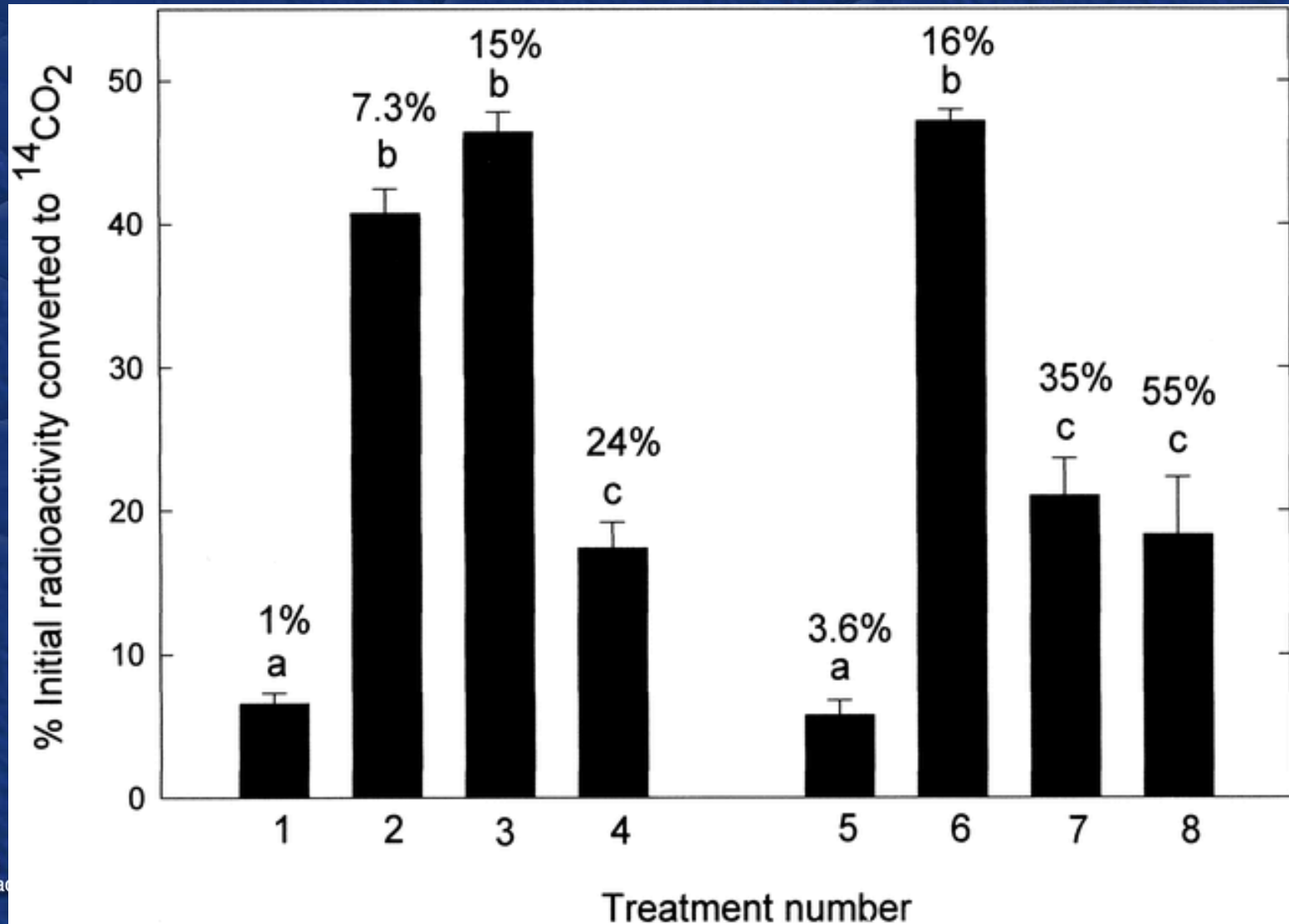
# Mineralization of $[^{14}\text{C}]4\text{-NP}$ by various soils



# Effect of temperature on $^{14}\text{C}$ -4NP mineralization



# Effect of moisture on $^{14}\text{C}$ -NP mineralization



# Summary

- **Dissipation**
- **These chemicals vary widely in their persistence in soil, need to consider on a case by case basis.**
  - **Low temperature and redox can limit degradation.**



# **EDC/PPCP exposure and impacts: Risk from agricultural use of organic materials**

- Are EDCs/PPCPs present in materials that are applied to land?**
- What are their dissipation kinetics and pathways?**
- How is dissipation influenced by key rate-controlling parameters?**
- What are their transport characteristics in commercial application context?**





**Transport studies:  
(semi)-commercial  
scale applications  
of slurry or  
dewatered biosolids  
-tile drainage  
-runoff**



# Classes of agents of interest

- **Substances carried in human waste-municipal biosolids.**
  - **Pharmaceuticals, fragrances, antimicrobials, synthetic hormonal substances.**



# PPCPs under investigation in field studies

- Acetaminophen Analgesic
- Naproxen NSAID
- Ibuprofen Analgesic
- Gemfibrozol lipid regulator
- Atenolol Beta-Blocker
- Cotinine Nicotine met. Neutral
- Carbamazepine Anticonvulsant Neutral
- Fluoxetine SRI [prozac]
- Sulfapyridine Sulfonamide
- Sulfamethoxazole Sulfonamide
- Triclosan Antibacterial



# Transport Characteristics: Managing the application



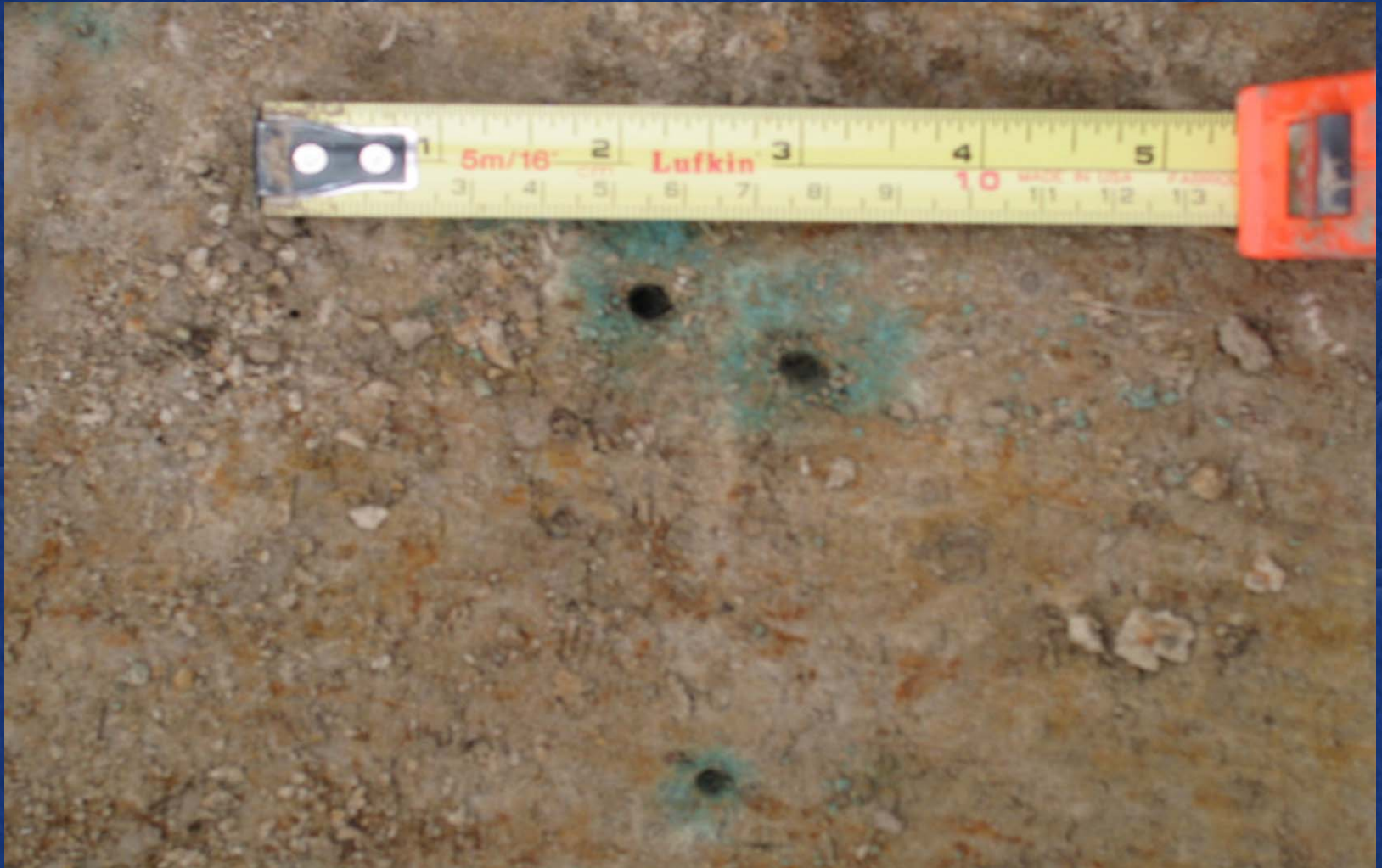


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# Worm Channels a Common Macropore



# Cracks in Structured Soil are a Common Macropore



# Application over tile





# Tile sampling pit



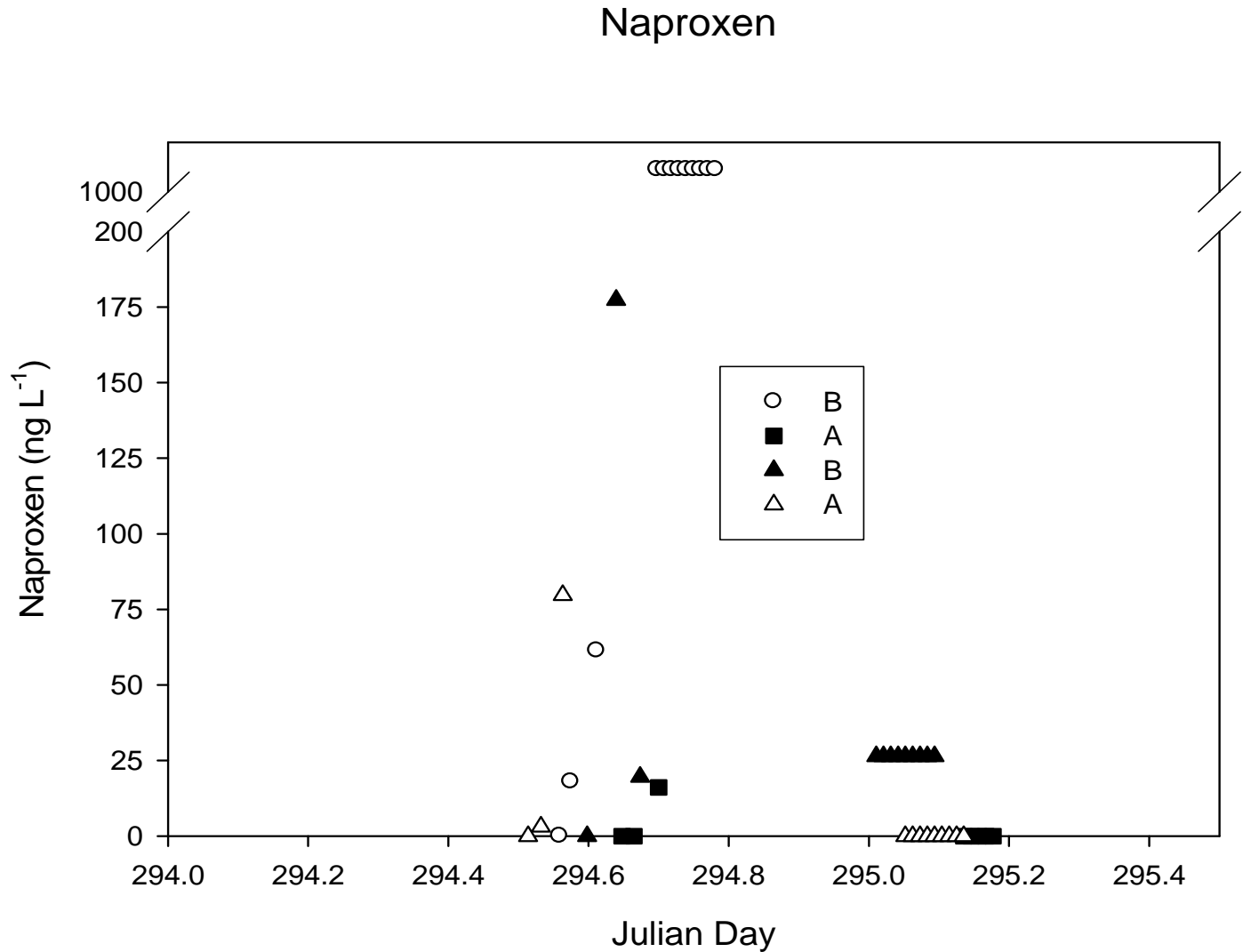
# Macropore flow to tiles

-Over 90% of flow to tile drains can result from macropores



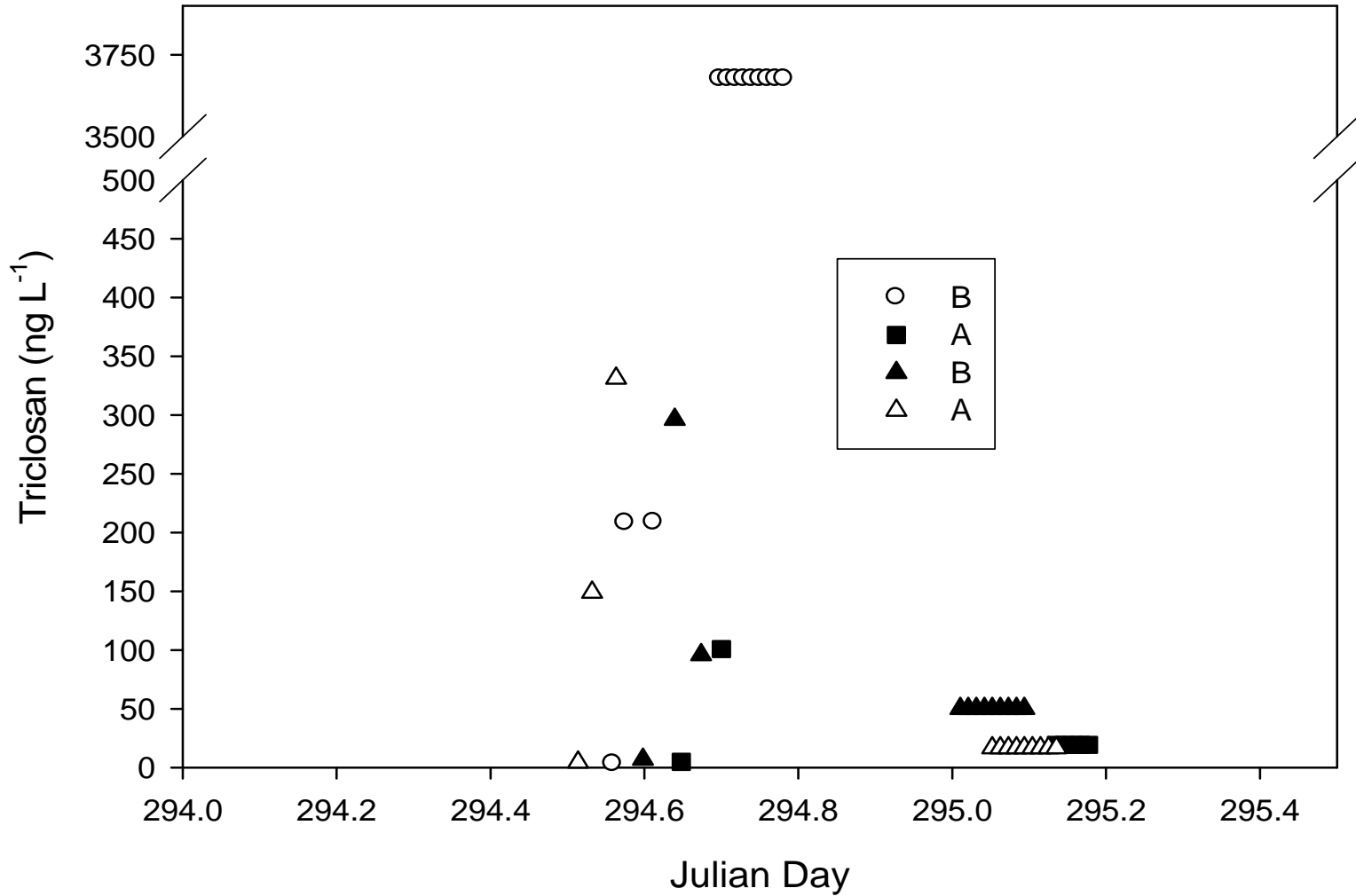
[ ]s B>A

Concentration  
spike  
within minutes  
of application

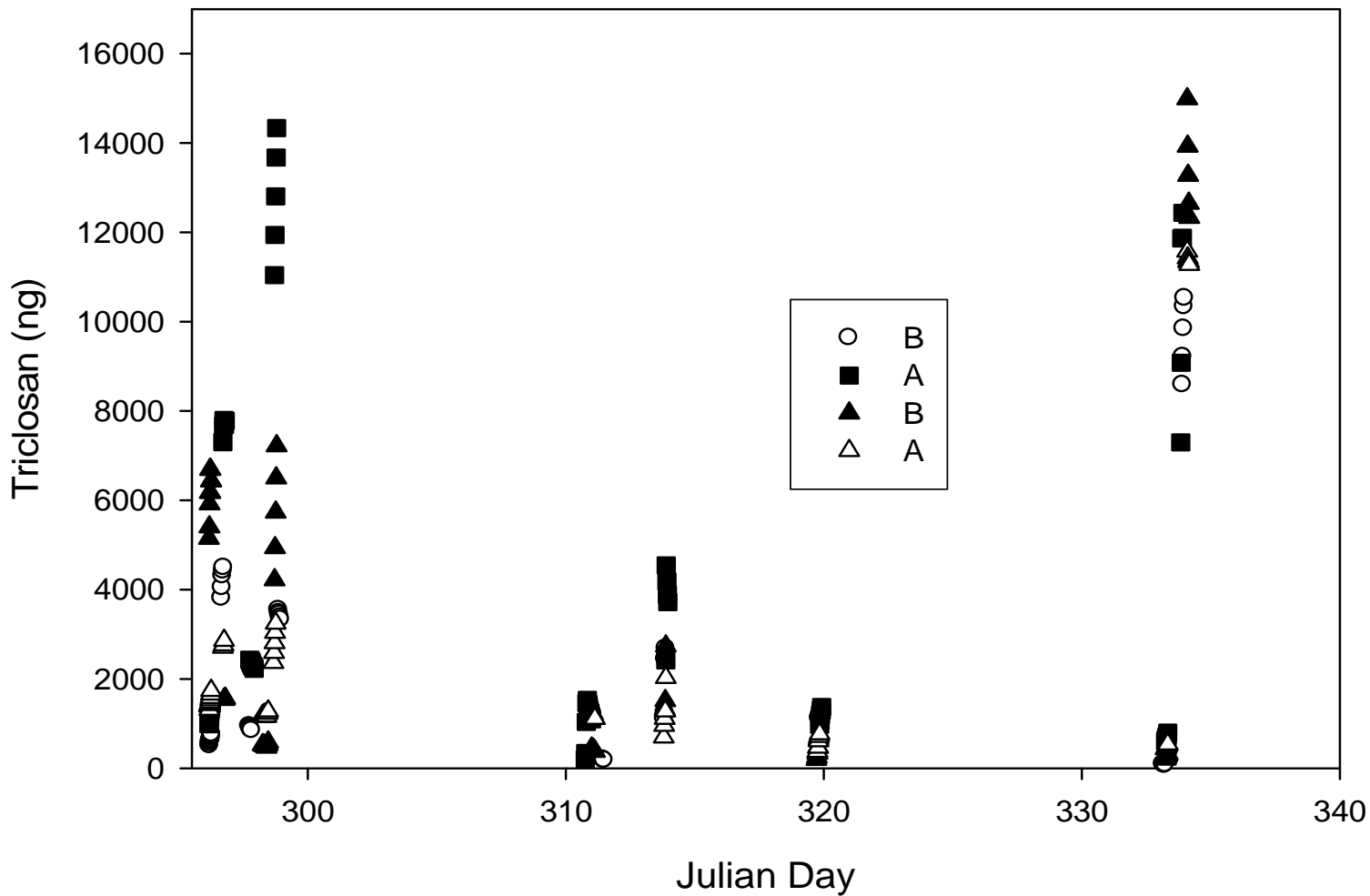




# Triclosan



# Triclosan output (per 15 minute interval)



# Max fluxes of PPCPs in tile drainage.

PPCPs and RWT	Linear regression equation and (R <sup>2</sup> )	T3(A)		T6(SS)		Study period export (A:SS)	
		Study period mass flux (ng)	Study period PPCPs tile export as % of total applied <sup>a</sup>	Linear regression equation and (R <sup>2</sup> )	Study period mass flux (ng)		Study period PPCPs tile export as % of total applied
Carbamazepine	Y=0.86x (0.73)	167962	0.9	Y=0.99x (0.98)	241269	1.3	0.69
Atenolol	Y=0.83x (0.84)	8781	0.7	Y=0.95x (0.94)	158539	13.4	0.05
Cotinine	Y=0.73x (0.37)	25996	0.9	Y=0.97x (0.96)	79484	2.6	0.35
Sulfamethoxazole	Y=0.73x (0.62)	2425	0.4	Y=0.99x (0.99)	94144	15.9	0.03
Triclosan	Y=0.77x (0.65)	644763	2.4	Y=0.91x (0.90)	655617	2.4	1.00
Acetaminophen	Y=0.80x (0.77)	42594	0.13	Y=0.99x (0.99)	665901	2.1	0.06
Naproxen	Y=0.72x (0.21)	2889	0.02	Y=0.99x (0.99)	123832	1.0	0.02
Ibuprofen	Y=0.72x (0.21)	31436	0.08	Y=0.99x (0.99)	567844	1.4	0.06
Gemfibrozil	Y=0.72x (0.21)	4564	0.04	Y=0.98x (0.97)	147930	1.2	0.03
Rhodamine WT	NA	614663	1.0	NA	327229	0.5	2.00



# Runoff potential

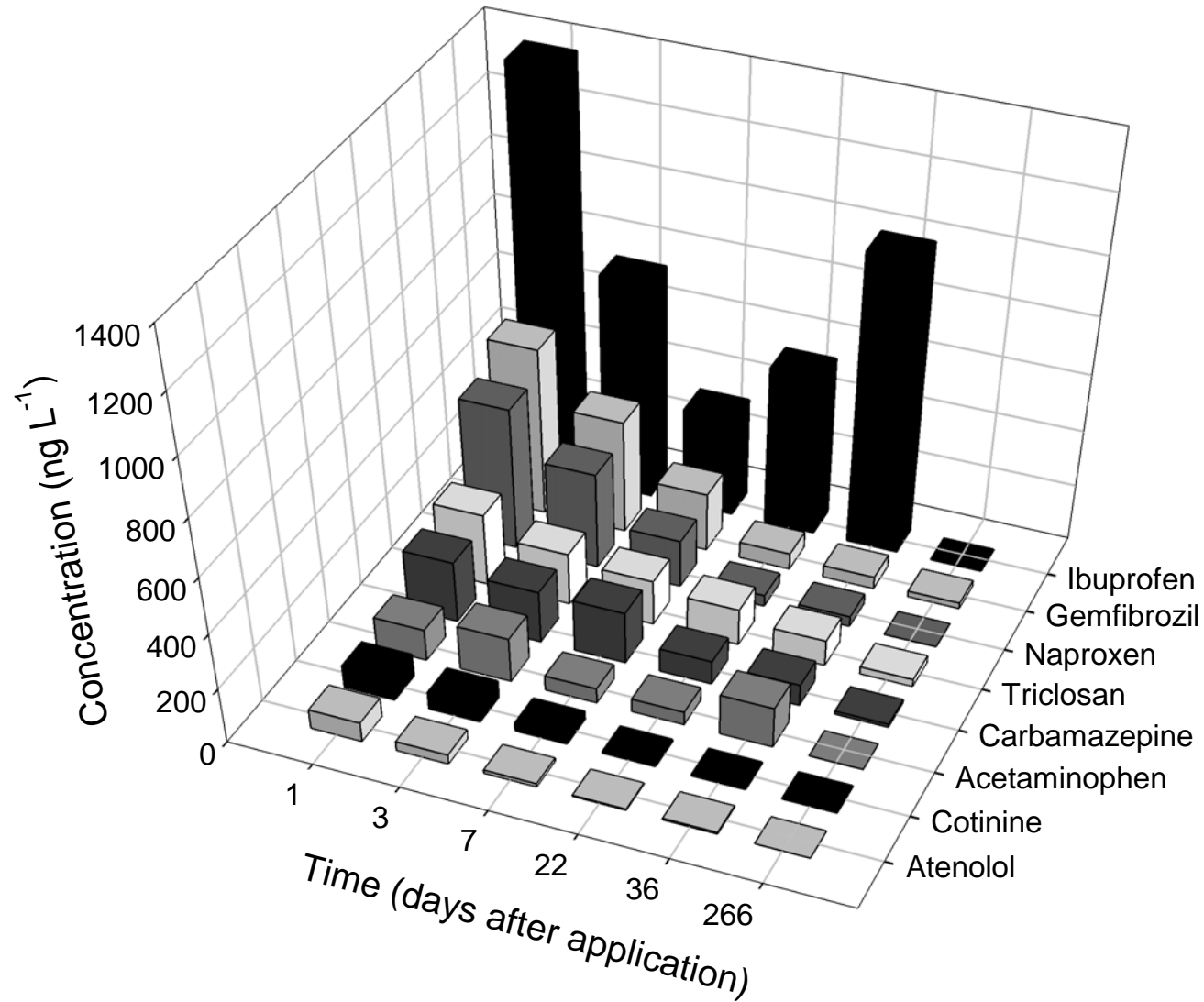
- Pharmaceuticals [LC/MC/MS, Micromass Quattro LC-triple-quadrupole MS]
- Musks
- PBDEs
- PFOS
- HMetals
- Bacteria
- P





## 5 key observations

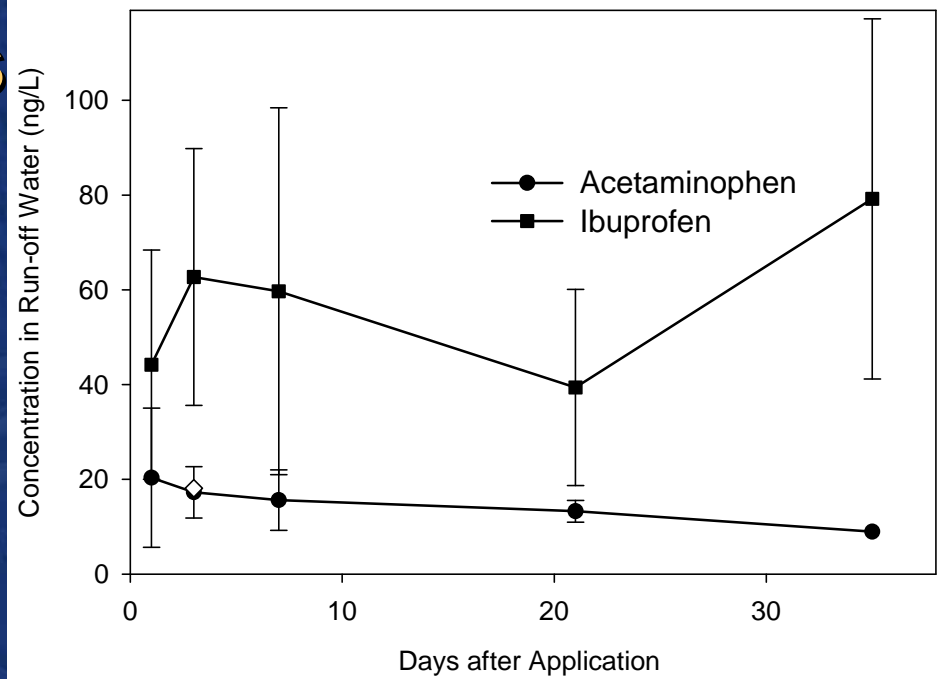
- runoff concentrations are in ppt or in case of ibuprofen ppb range
- Generally first order loss of materials post-application.
- but kinetics don't hold at low concentration end
- Carbamazepine and triclosan detected after winter.
- acetaminophen and (especially) ibuprofen have unusual concave Kinetics.



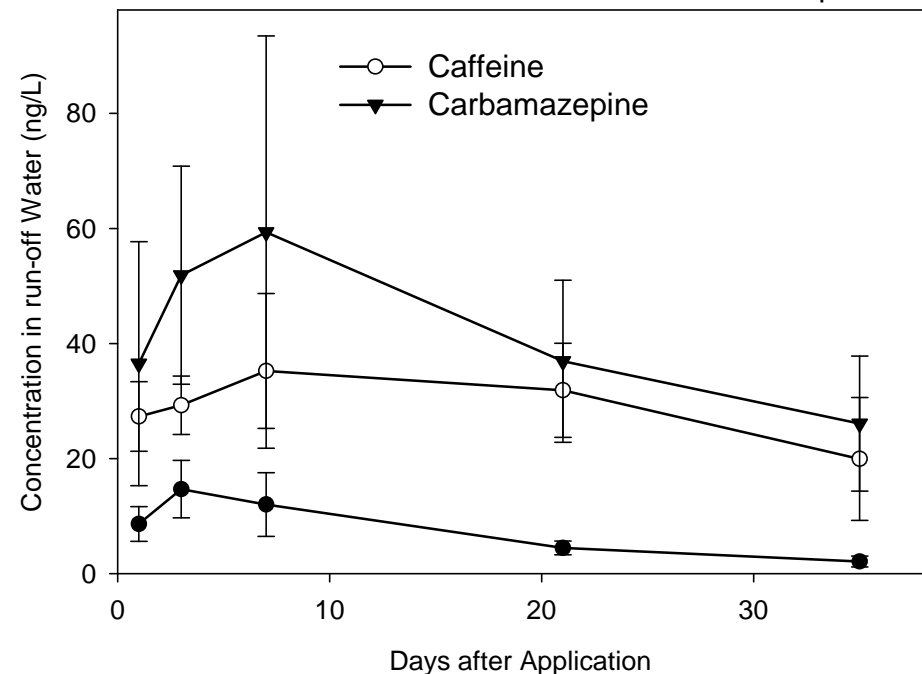
# PPCP concentrations in runoff from plots receiving dewatered

- Concentration not maximal at start
- Slow decline
- Ibuprofen behaviour?

Acidic Compounds



Neutral Compounds



# Summary

- **Transport**
- **Slurry PPCP kinetics are close to first order.**
  - **Highest risk at time of application**
- **Dewatered biosolids, highest concentrations after a lag, slower decline in concentrations.**
- **Differences in pattern and timing of PPCP movement, not clear yet what differences are with respect to mass flux.**



# General Conclusions

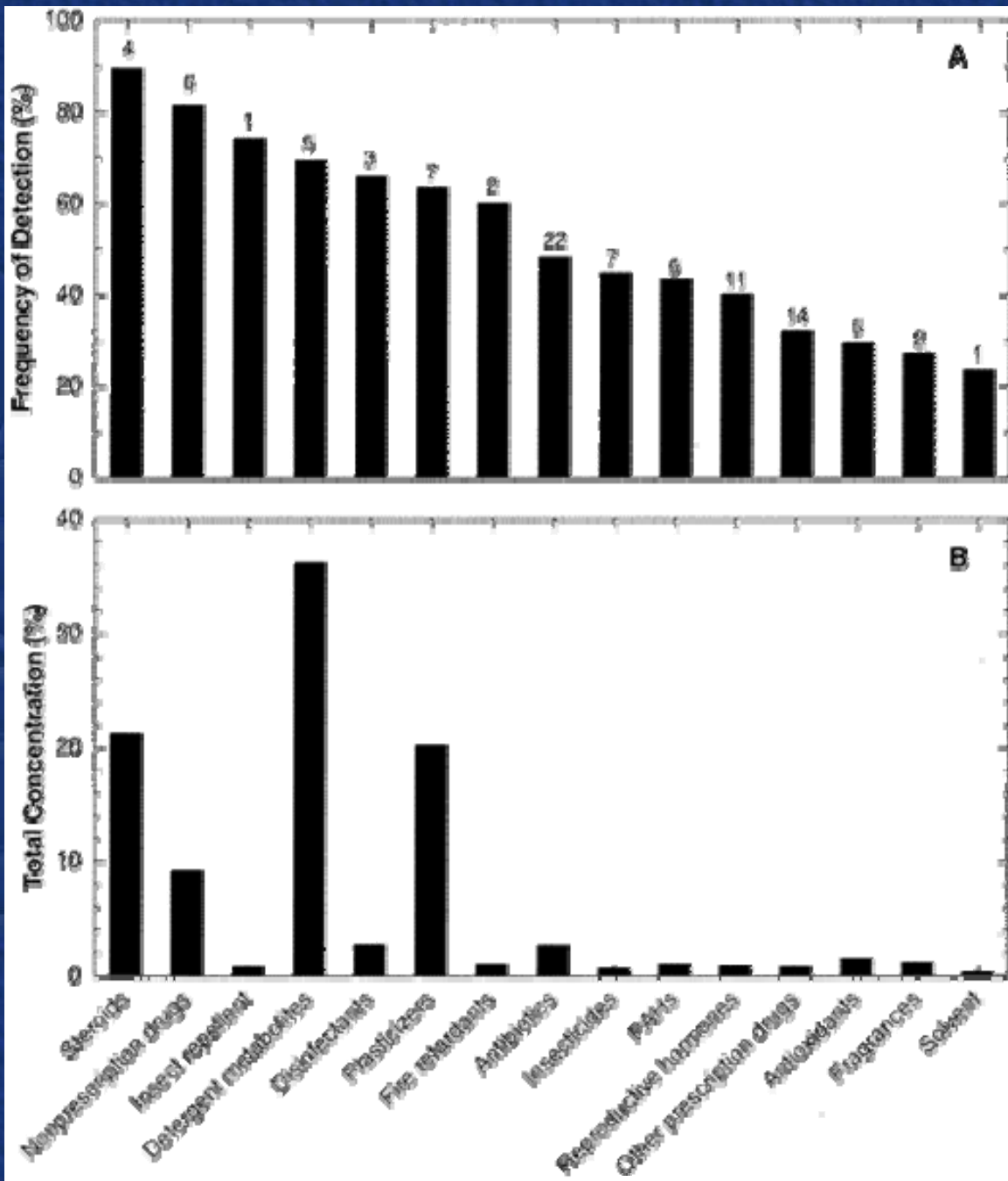
- The PPCP/EDC composition of biosolids will vary according to treatment.
- These chemicals vary in their persistence, need to consider on a case by case basis.
  - Low temperature and redox can limit degradation.
- Transport characteristics from agricultural applications does happen, fluxes and rate control mechanisms remain to be defined.



# Are PPCPs and EDCs in the environment?

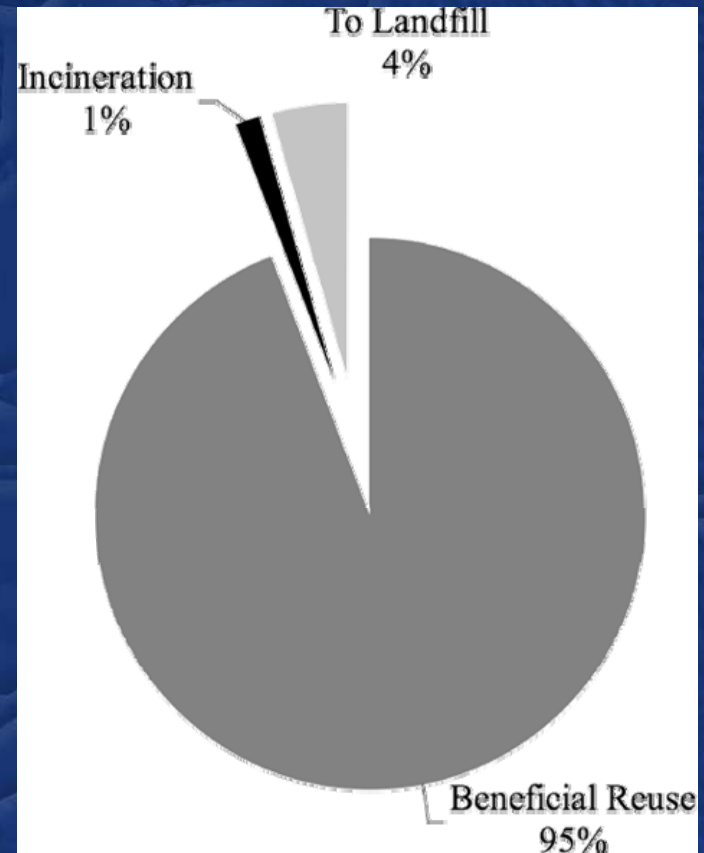
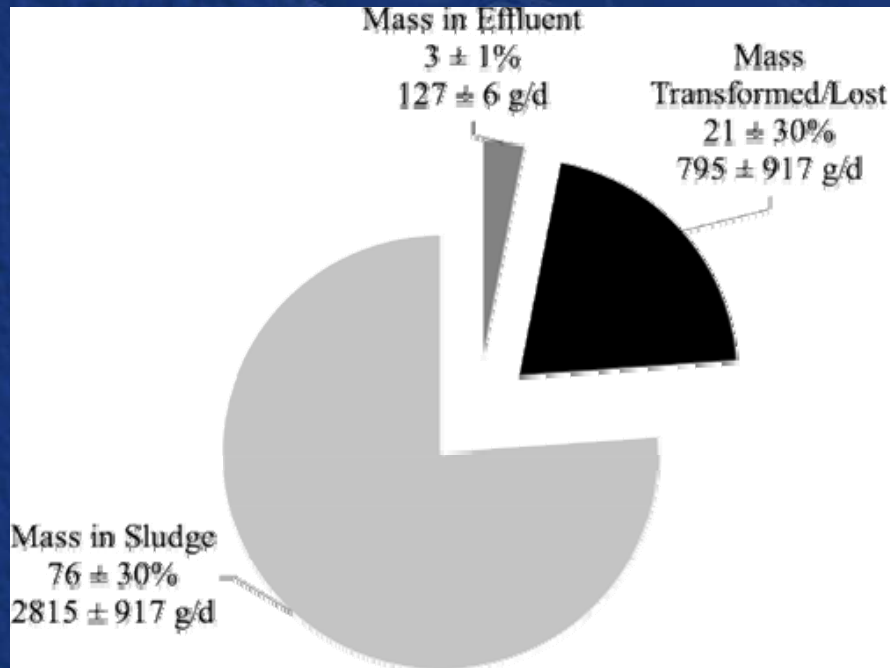
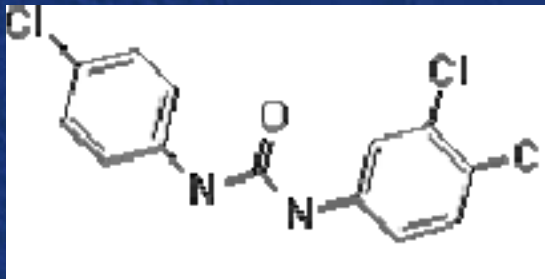


# Kolpin et al. 2002 ES&T 36:1202-1211



# Fate of the topical antiseptic triclocarban during wastewater treatment

Heudler et al. 2006 Environ Sci. Technol. 40:3634-3639

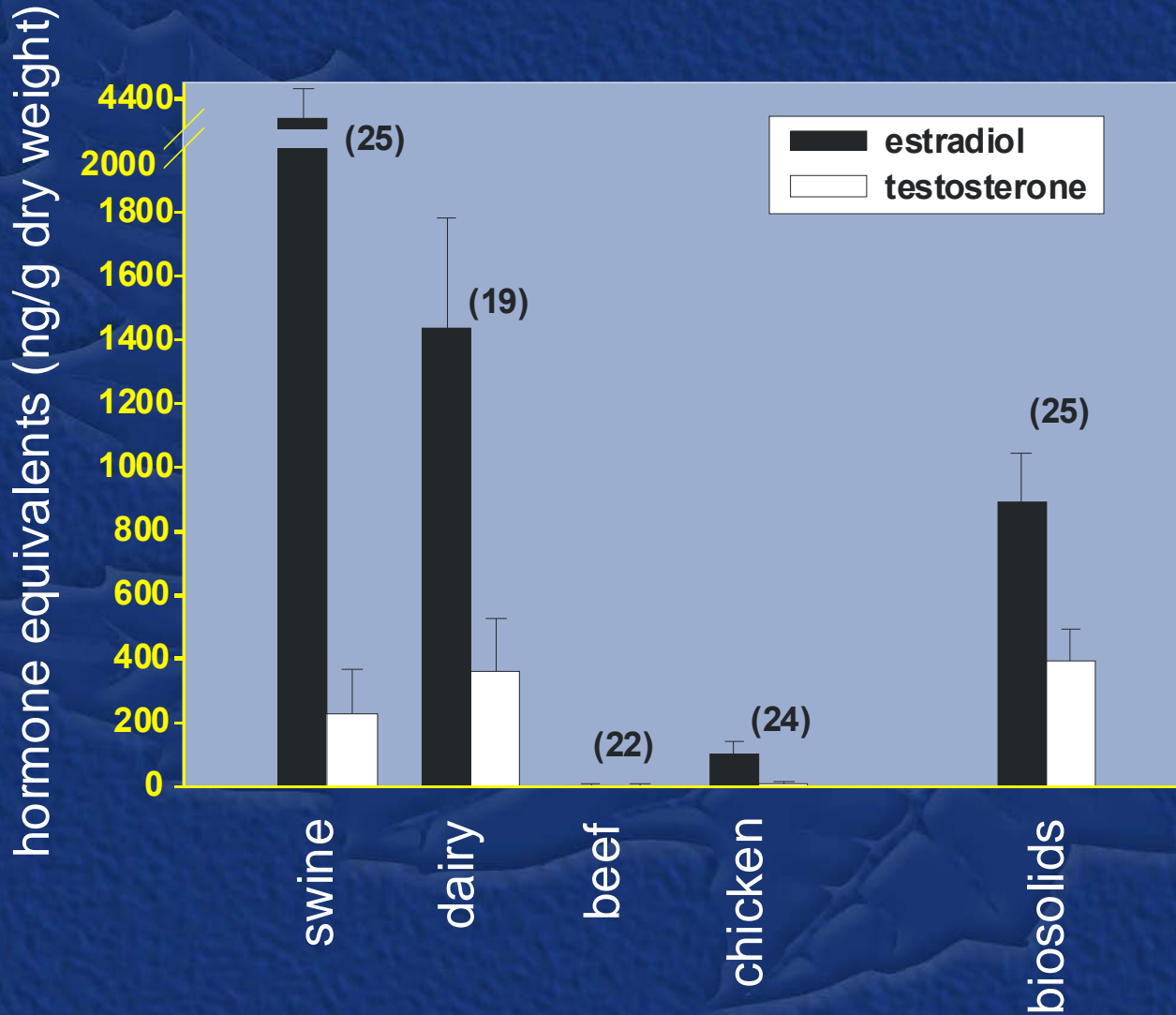


# Summary of Pharmaceutical Concentrations in Water & Sediment Samples

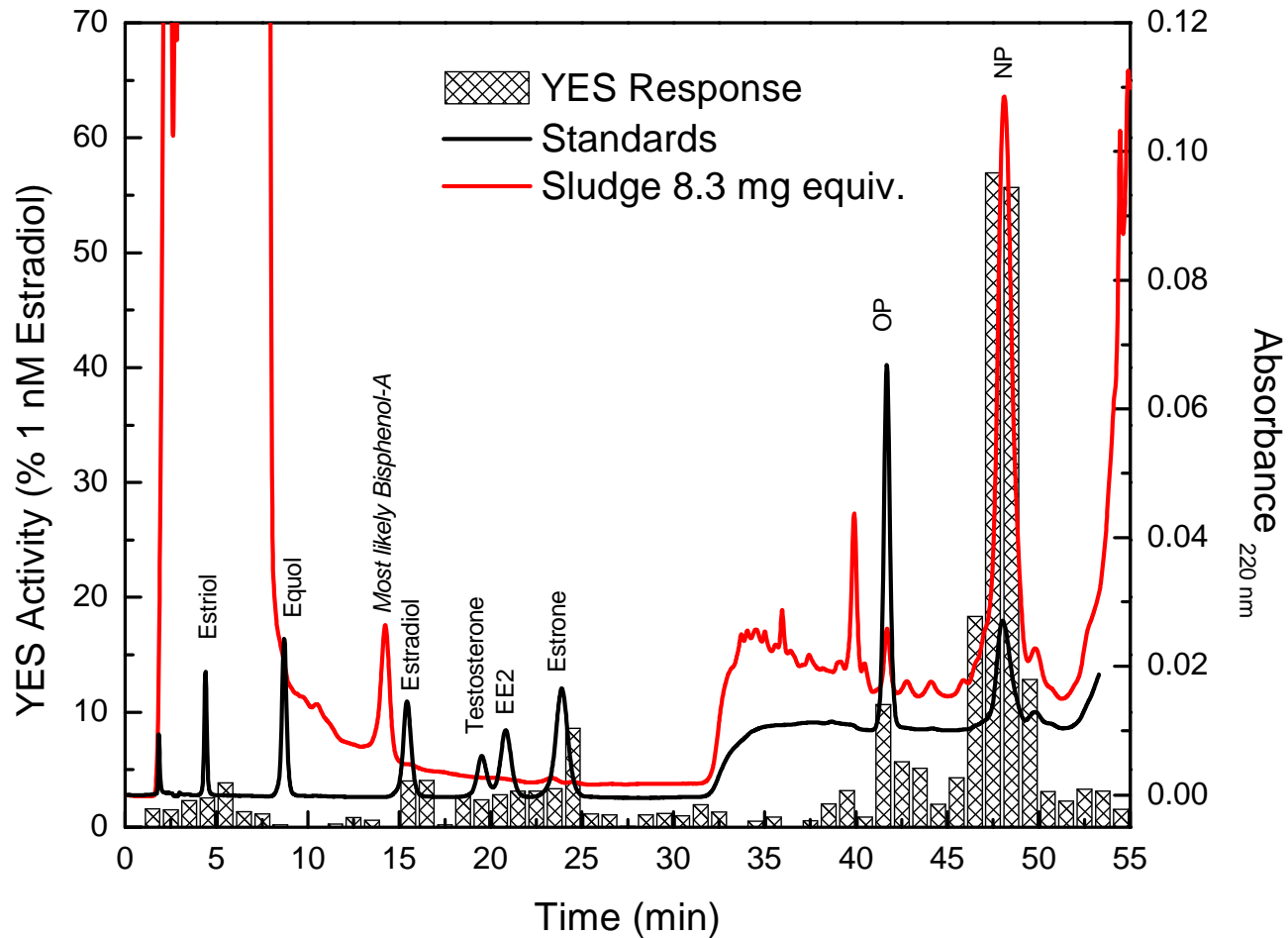
Compound	Number of detections in water (of 44)	Mean of detections in water, in µg/L	Number of detections in sediment (of 44)	Mean of detections in sediment, in µg/kg	Number of detections in biosolids (of 6)	Mean of detections in biosolids, in µg/kg
Metformin	3	0.1119	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cotinine	36	0.0332	15	0.51	5	21.04
Salbutamol	4	0.0282	0	0.00	1	29.68
Cimetidine	6	0.1122	15	2.45	3	44.98
Acetaminophen	16	0.0630	11	0.27	6	122.42
Ranitidine	4	0.1218	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1,7-dimethylxanthine	7	0.7501	1	0.09	6	1333.34
Trimethoprim	10	0.1110	12	1.22	2	11.81
Diltiazem	9	0.0265	19	1.60	3	23.92
Fluoxetine	2	0.0019	28	1.84	6	37.38
Ibuprofen	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gemfibrozil	0	N/A	10	20.35	6	235.16
Paroxetine metabolite	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Caffeine	24	0.4238	13	10.87	6	242.39
Sulfamethoxazole	16	0.1609	3	1.08	1	162.25
Dehydronifedipine	16	0.0088	28	1.79	3	16.75
Codeine	15	0.0700	3	0.70	3	10.12
Thiabendazole	1	0.0072	19	4.86	5	6.55
Diphenhydramine	12	0.0598	30	15.58	6	164.75
Erythromycin	0	N/A	16	5.87	2	5.00
Carbamazepine	26	0.0576	32	4.16	6	20.89
Miconazole	0	N/A	10	2.99	6	198.98
Warfarin	0	N/A	6	0.69	6	31.87



# Hormone Activities: Manures and Municipal Biosolids



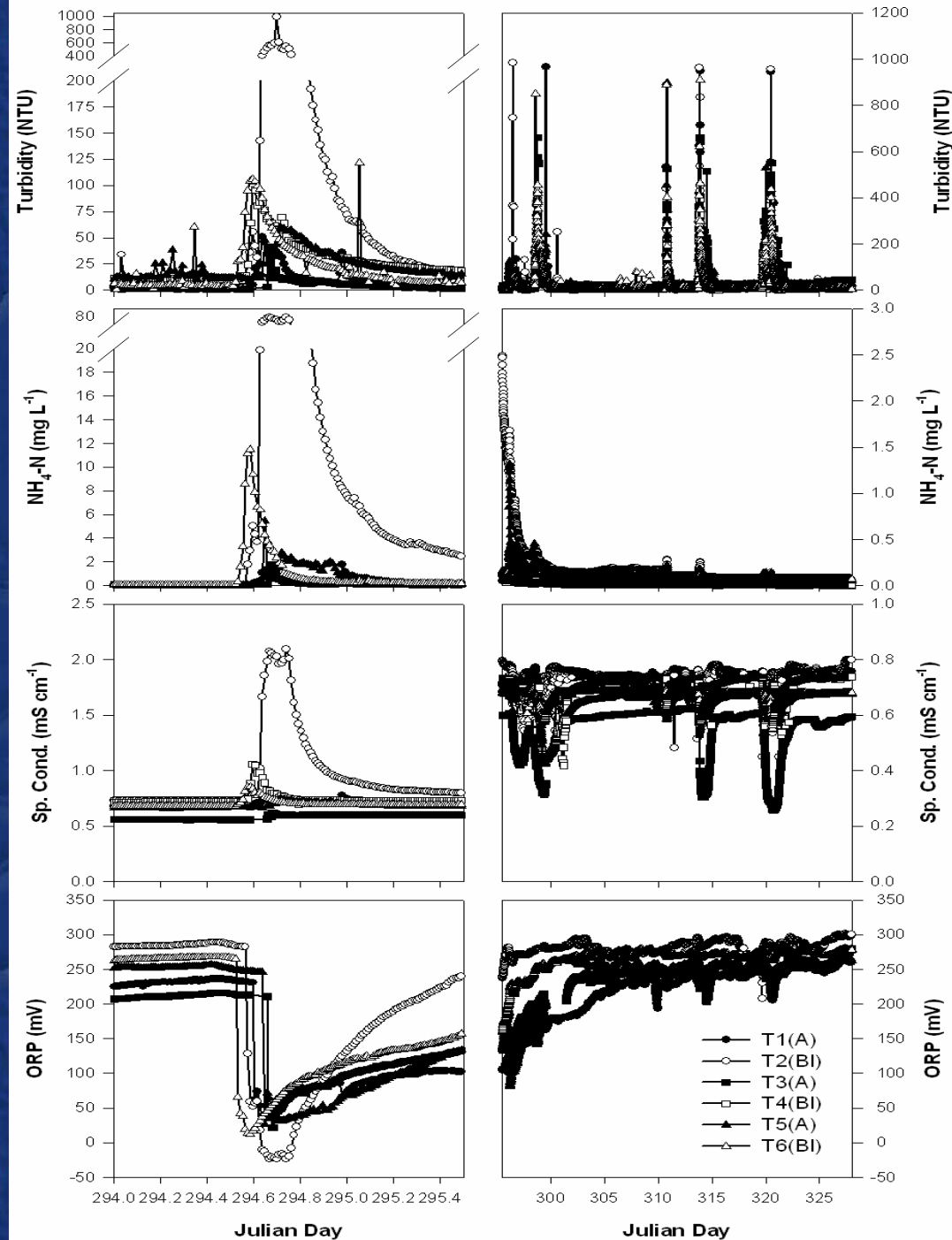
# Identity of estrogenic substances in municipal biosolids



Rapid movement to tile  
at time of application.

Periodic movement to  
tile with subsequent rain  
events.

Turbidity, ammonium  
and bacteria  
[not shown here]  
indicate macropore  
flow.



# Effects of PPCPs on zooplankton communities

- Laird, BD, et al. Chemos. 69:949-954. 2007
- Mixture of SSRIs fluoxetine, sertraline, fluvoxamine, 0-100 ug/l.
- 12,000l outdoor microcosms aquatic ecosystems, natural assemblage of microbiology, phyto- and zooplankton, 3 fish species.
- Abundance and species richness of rotifers, cladocerans, copepods. Acute (4d) and chronic (35d) exposures.
- Based on hazard and PEC [STP effluent], conclude no risk from this mixture.



# Effects of PPCPs on benthic invertebrates

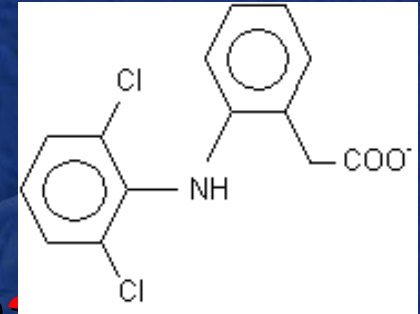
- Dussault EB, et al. ET&C 27:425-432. 2008
- Atorvastatin, CBZ, TCS, EE2
- midge *Chironomus tentans* and the freshwater amphipod *Hyalella azteca*; exposure 10d
  - Based on acute tox data and measured environmental [ ]s, conclude no risk from ATO and EE2, but TCS and CBZ may have, and merit further investigation.



# **Oriental White-Backed Vultures (*Gyps bengalensis*)**

- **>95% drop in populations in India, Pakistan and Nepal since early '90s. Was very abundant, now endangered.**
- **Mortality associated with renal failure.**
- **Carrion feeder, especially the remains of domestic livestock- cattle.**
  - **Nature 2004 427:630-633**

# Diclofenac residues in medicated livestock at fault



- Diclofenac widely used
- as vet drug- analgesic, anti-inflammatory. Over the counter, hooved livestock [cattle, buffalo, goat]
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)
- Residues [ $\sim < \text{ppm}$ ] in carrion poisoning vultures.
- Recovery program consists of withdrawing the drug



# *In Vitro* Estrogen Receptor Binding Assays:

- recombinant estrogen-responsive cell line stably transfected with an estrogen responsive luciferase reporter plasmid

