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Alkylated PAHs – The overlooked blow-out?

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Introduction

PAHs are widespread compounds originating mostly from anthropogenic input such as pyrogenic and petrogenic sources. Assessments of contaminations are often limited to consider the "16 USEPA priority PAHs", which are all **non alkylated PAHs**. However, it is commonly known that oils from spills (petrogenic input) **contain magnitudes higher proportions of alkylated PAHs**. Despite this, fate and effects of alkylated PAHs has, to our knowledge, **never been examined** with respect to ecotoxicology.

Hypothesis

Pyrene metabolism is well described, and 1-hydroxypyrene (1OH-P) is reported as the primarily phase I product (>99%). 1-sulfate-, 1-glucoronide- and 1-glucoside are reported as the existing phase II conjugates.

For 1-methylpyrene (1MP) only little literature is on the field. This shows that 1MP can either be hydroxylated on the methyl group (benzylic hydroxylation) or on the ring structure to form different hydroxymethylpyrenes (HMP). There is to our knowledge no information on phase II metabolism. We expect that cytochrome P450 enzymes will further metabolize HMP to either sulfate, glucoronide or glucoside conjugates, following the same routes as pyrene. (Engst, Landsiedel et al. *Carcinogenesis* 1999.)

Documented cytochrome P450 pathways



Expected results from mass analysis

mass	Method	Groups or compounds	Examples of structure
202	GC-MS or UPLC-F/qTOF	Pyrene	
216	GC-MS or UPLC- F/qTOF	Methylpyrenes	CH ₃
218	GC-MS or UPLC- F/qTOF	Hydroxypyrenes	OH
232	GC-MS or UPLC- F/qTOF	Hydroxymethylpyrenes	HO CH ₂ OH
246	GC-MS or UPLC- F/qTOF	1-pyrenecarboxylic acid	O C OH
298	UPLC- F/qTOF	Pyrene-1-sulfate	
312	UPLC- F/qTOF	Methylpyrene sulfates	$\begin{array}{c c} & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & &$
381	UPLC- F/qTOF	Pyrene-1-glucoside	$H = CH_2OH$ $H = C = O O$ $H = H = C$ $H = OH$ $H = OH$ $H = OH$
394	UPLC- F/qTOF	Pyrene-1-glucoronide	
395	UPLC- F/qTOF	Methylpyrene glucosides	$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} CH_2OH \\ H \\ CH_2OH \\ H \\ C \\ C \\ H \\ H \\ OH \\ H \\ OH \\ H \\ OH \\ H \\ OH \\ H \\ $
408	UPLC- F/qTOF	Methylpyrene glucoronides	$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \end{array} $

Experimental setup

Setup:

For each replicate: 100 g dw 500µm-sieved, prefreezed and thawed sediment, 650 ml 17 ‰ sterile filtered seawater, covered with alumina foil and wetted paper towels to prevent evaporation. Exposure at 17°C in the dark, continuously aerated through glass Pasteur pipette.

Exposure:

5 replicates of each exposure:

Pyrene1MPPyrene1MPNoneWormsWormsNo wormsNo wormsWorms







Sampling site



Results

None yet. Worms are in culture, experiments are starting June 15th 2010.





Worm in culture

Perspectives

To develop an experiment suitcase that includes exposure, extraction, fractionation and analysis of toxic compounds and their metabolites. This suitcase will be used in future studies with the final perspective to couple conventional toxicological endpoints (e.g. mortality) with studies of sub-lethal endpoints (such as metabolism).

Cited references:

Engst, W., R. Landsiedel, et al. (1999). "Benzylic hydroxylation of 1-methylpyrene and 1-ethylpyrene by human and rat cytochromes P450 individually expressed in V79 Chinese hamster cells." Carcinogenesis **20**(9): 1777-1785. Jørgensen, A., A. M. B. Giessing, et al. (2005). "Biotransformation of the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon pyrene in the marine polychaete Nereis virens." Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry **24**(11): 2796-2805.