

Environmental Risk Assessment

using the QSPR-Thesaurus Web Tool

***P. Sopasakis, I. V. Tetko, P. Kunwar, S. Brandmaier,
S. Novotarskyi, L. Charochkina, V. Prokopenko
and W. J. G. M. Peijnenburg***



Case studies on the development and application of *in silico* techniques for Environmental Hazard and Risk Assessment



Case studies on the Development and Application of *in-Silico* Techniques for Environmental hazard and Risk assessment

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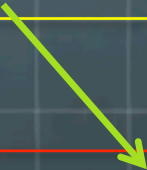
About CADASTER

Implementation of [REACH](#) requires demonstration of the safe manufacture and use of chemicals. [REACH](#) aims to achieve a proper balance between societal, economic and environmental objectives, and attempts to efficiently use the scarce and scattered information available on the majority of substances. Thereupon [REACH](#) aims to reduce animal testing by optimized use of *in silico* and *in vitro* information on related compounds.



An open source predictive toxicology framework

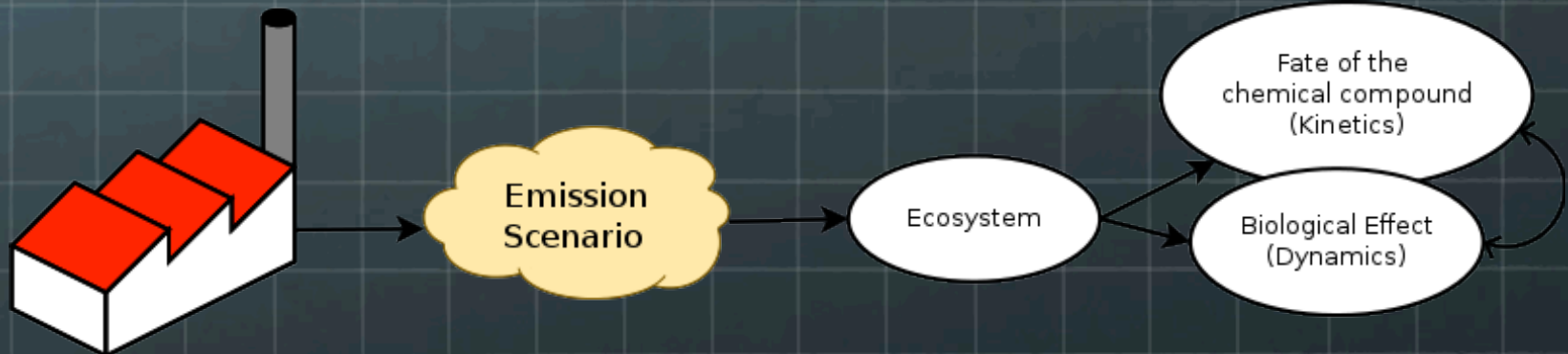
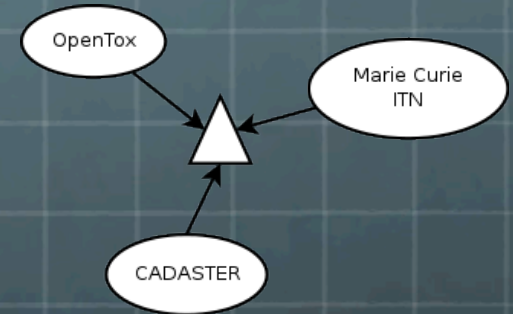
- Common standards for data and model exchange
- Improvement of interoperability
- Reproducibility of QSAR models

- 
- Computer-Aided Drug Development
 - Reduction of the cost for the development of candidates
 - Reduction of the number of animal experiments

Problem Statement



In environmental chemo-informatics the key question we need to answer is *whether the emission of a certain chemical to the ecosystem can cause environmental effects* and, subsequently, to quantify the extent or the likelihood of adverse effects.



I THOUGHT I WAS
INTERESTED IN UNCERTAINTY
BUT NOW I'M NOT SO SURE

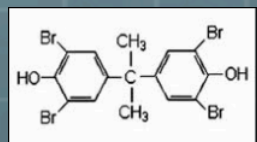


Uncertainty

Uncertainty is ubiquitous in environmental chemo-informatics:

- 🌐 Uncertainty of the output of QSAR models (modelling error),
- 🌐 Uncertainty induced by the use of uncertain experimental measurements (including random and systematic errors),
- 🌐 Mismatch between the modelled ecosystem and the real one including time-varying fluctuations of the local population dynamics and chemical state (pH of water, concentration of ions etc).

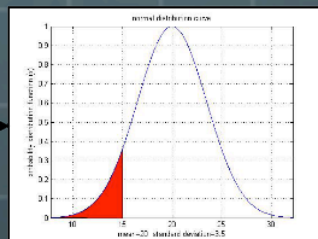
Modelling & Uncertainty



Descriptor
Calculation

QSAR
Model

Prediction accompanied by an
estimation of its uncertainty



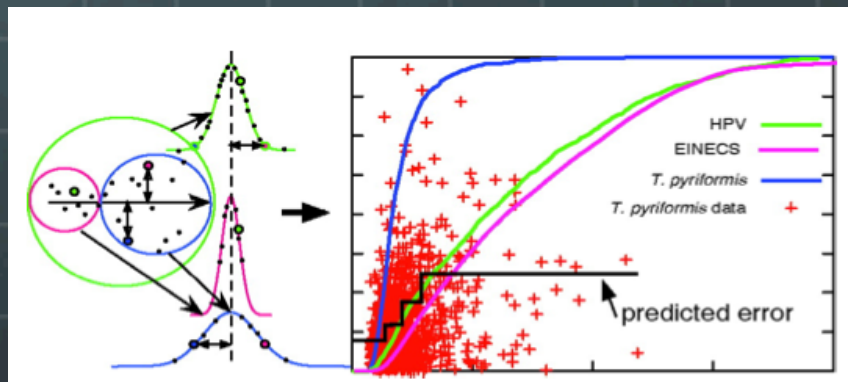
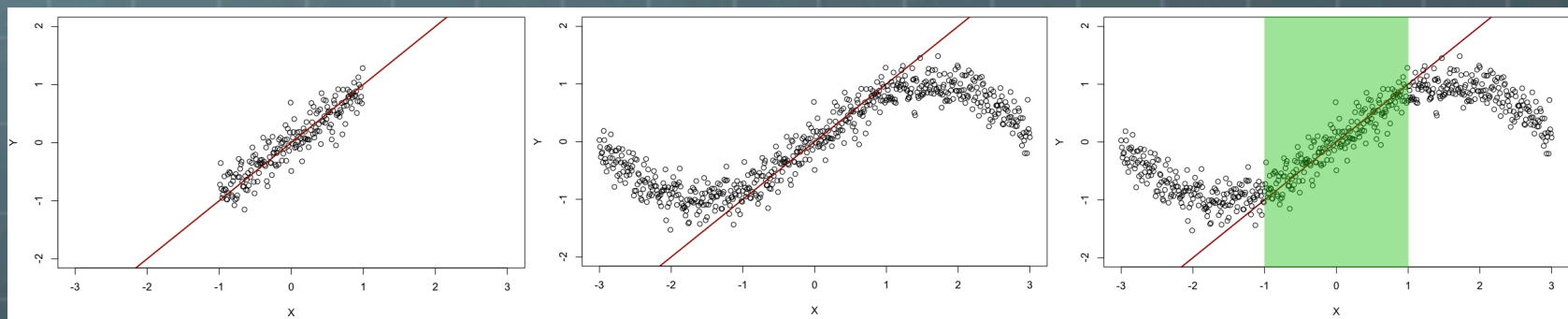
For arbitrary chemical compounds certain physicochemical parameters may not be known; for these we employ QSAR models.



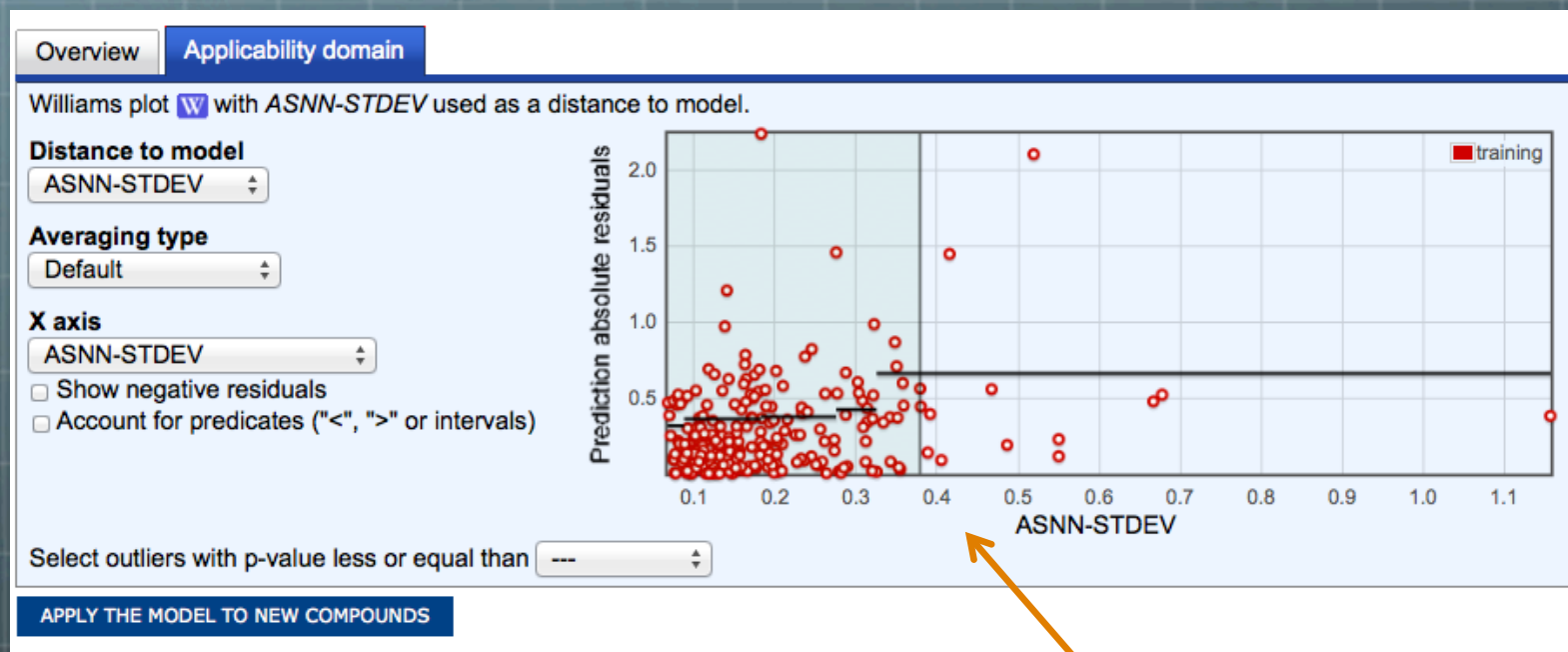
We assume that **all QSAR predictions are accompanied by an estimation of their uncertainty** (in the form of a probability distribution function).

Accuracy of Predictions

Fact: Models that describe the whole chemical space are still to be found...



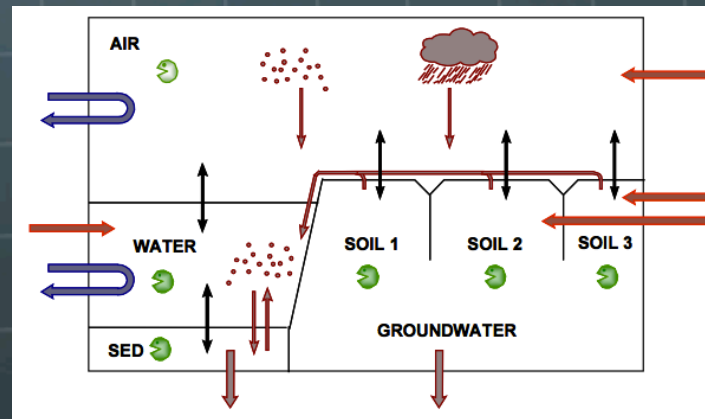
Accuracy Estimation for Regression Models



Abiotic degradation in water

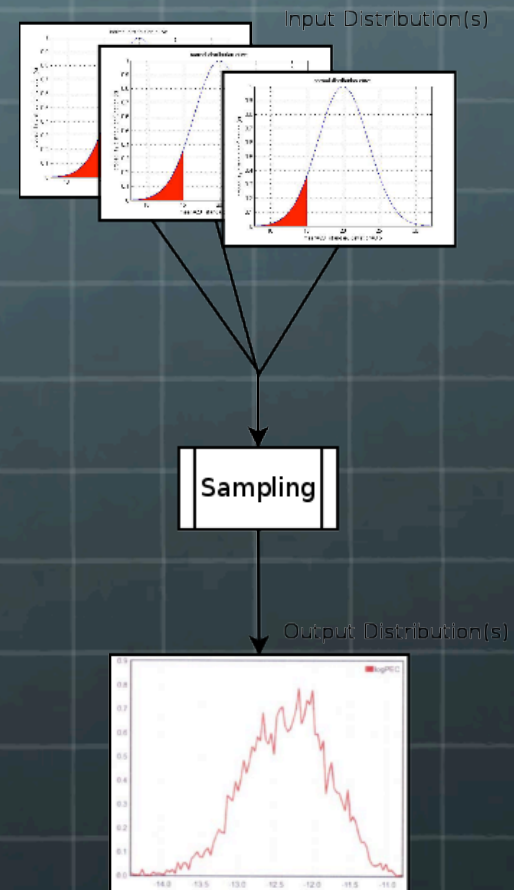
SimpleBox

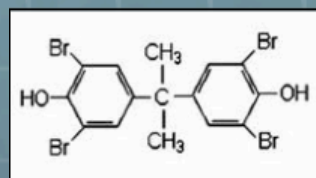
- SimpleBox is an **environmental fate model** we employed to calculate PEC (Predicted Environmental Concentration)
- SimpleBox assumes the knowledge of a number of physicochemical properties & information in regard to the local ecosystem.



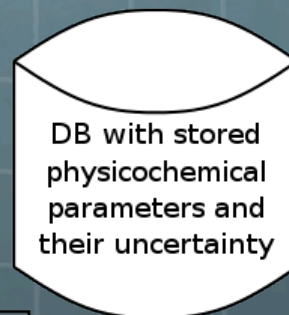
Monte-Carlo Simulations

- 🌐 The key question: **How does uncertainty propagate in one's computations?**
- 🌐 A bit more rigorously: “**How to map a probability distribution function through an (arbitrary) function.**”
- 🌐 Given that: **In most cases there is no analytical solution available** and this gives rise to **Monte-Carlo simulations.**



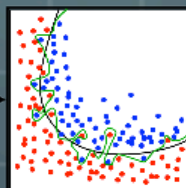


Experimental properties provided by the experimenter (accompanied by an estimation of their uncertainty)

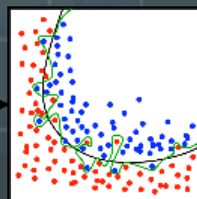
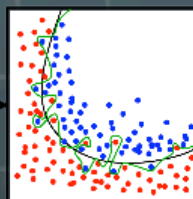


Database of QSPR Thesaurus

Descriptor Calculation



QSAR Predictions accompanied by an estimation of their uncertainty



Estimation of the Environmental Fate

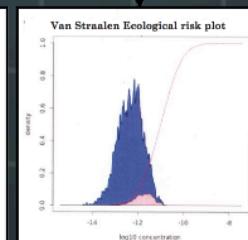
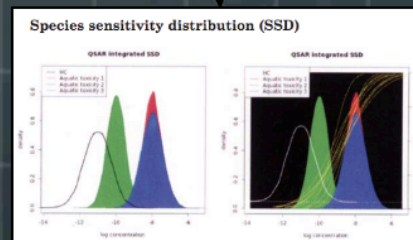
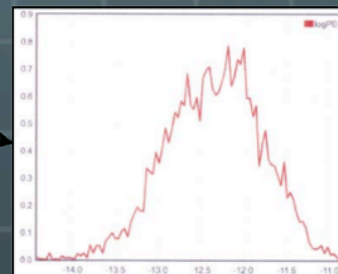
Simplebox
(Estimation of the environmental fate of the chemical compound)

Environmental Risk Assessment

These properties, if available, are provided by the experimenter or are looked up for in the QSPR-Thesaurus database or, otherwise, are predicted by some QSAR model.

Simplebox

Probabilistic estimation of the environmental fate of a chemical compound using the Simplebox model.

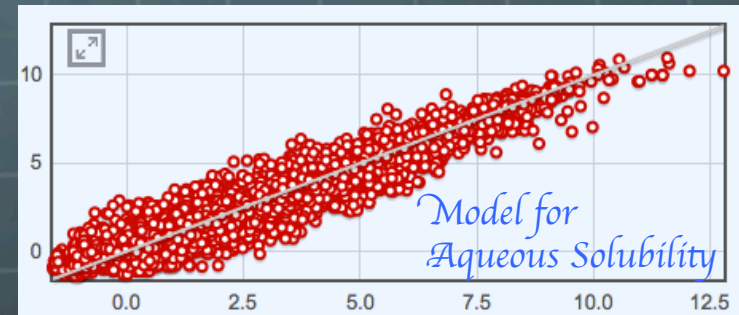


The Species Sensitivity Distribution (SSD) Method is used to estimate the environmental risk.

More...

Predictive Models

- Machine learning methods used: ANN, OLS.
- All models are validated and are accompanied by an estimation of their domain of applicability *
- For every prediction there is an estimation of its uncertainty.



The Web Interface

1. Information about the compound

Molecule ID: M4475
Molecular Weight: 722.48
Name: BDE-183

2. Emission Scenario

The substance is assumed to be emitted in the air. Please provide the estimated daily emission rate:

Emission
Emission rate ton/year: 10
Emission rate, std.: 1

3. Monte-Carlo Iterations

Number: 1000

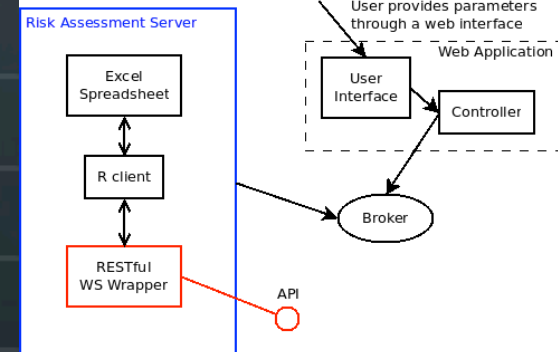
4. Experimental Properties and Uncertainty (All primary properties are required. The parameters that have empty values are marked as *. The parameters in the advanced options section are optional.)

Property	Description	Unit	Use Database Record	Database Record	Use Model	Model	Prediction	Provide Values	Exp. Value	Exp. St. Dev.
MW	Relative Molecular Mass	-	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	722.48						
Sol25	Water SOLUBILITY at 25 °C	lg([mg L ⁻¹])	<input type="radio"/>	-2.82lg(mg/L)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	HMGU: Aqueous Solubility [...]	-3.30±0.700 lg(mg/L)	<input type="radio"/>		
Tm	Melting point	[°C]	<input type="radio"/>	171.0°C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	UI: Melting Point (BFR) [...]	170±20.0 °C (in AD)	<input type="radio"/>		
Pvap25	VAPOR PRESSURE at 25 °C	lg([Pa])	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	-6.33lg(Pa)	<input type="radio"/>	UI: Vapor Pressure (BFR) [...]	-5.90±0.200 log(Pa) (in AD)	<input type="radio"/>		
Koc	Soil Organic Carbon-Water Partitioning Coefficient	lg([L])	<input type="radio"/>	-	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	HMGU: Koc [...]	5.20±0.600 log10	<input type="radio"/>		
kdeg.water	Dissolved phase degradation RATE CONSTANT at 25 °C	lg([s ⁻¹])	<input type="radio"/>	-	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	HMGU: Abiotic degradation in water [...]	-7.60±0.700 lg(1/s)	<input type="radio"/>		
kdeg.phot	Photolysis rate	lg([s ⁻¹])	<input type="radio"/>	-5.17lg(s)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	HMGU: Photolysis rate [...]	-3.30±0.600 -log(s) (in AD)	<input type="radio"/>		
Kow	Octanol/water PARTITION COEFFICIENT	lg([L])	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	8.27lg10	<input type="radio"/>	UI: logKow (PBDE) [...]	8.10±0.200 log10 (in AD)	<input type="radio"/>		
k0.OHrad	FREQUENCY FACTOR OH radical reaction	lg([cm ³ s ⁻¹])	<input type="radio"/>	-	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	HMGU: Atmospheric OH Rate [...]	-13.0±0.900 log(cm ³ (3)/(molecule*sec))	<input type="radio"/>		

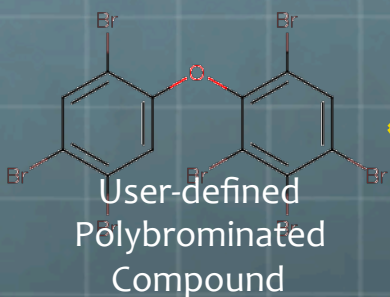
Advanced options...

Screenshot of the QSPR-Thesaurus Web Interface

See <http://qspr-thesaurus.eu>



The Web Interface



Use Database Record

Database Record

722.48

-2.82log(mg/L)

-2

0.1

HMGU: Aqueous Solubility [...]

-3.30±0.700 log(mg/L) (in AD)

[...]

0.10±0.200 log(mg/L) (in AD)

HMGU: Atmospheric OH Rate [...]

-13.0±0.900 log(cm³/(molecule*sec)) (outside AD)

Inspect the parameters

Parameter	Source	Value	Uncertainty
Kow	DatabaseRecord	8.27	0.0
CORG	ExperimentalProperty	0.02	-
RHOSolid	ExperimentalProperty	3.4	-
Pvap25	QSARModel	-5.9	0.2
H0vap	ExperimentalProperty	1.7	-
Sol25	DatabaseRecord	-2.82	0.0
H0sol	ExperimentalProperty	1.0	-
JungeConst	ExperimentalProperty	-0.76	-
Tm	QSARModel	170.0	20.0
kdeg.phot	DatabaseRecord	-5.17	0.0
C.OHrad	ExperimentalProperty	5.7	-
k0.OHrad	ExperimentalProperty	-10.1	0.5
Ea.OHrad	ExperimentalProperty	0.78	-
kdeg.water	QSARModel	-7.6	0.7
BACT.test	ExperimentalProperty	4.6	-
Q.10	ExperimentalProperty	2.0	-
Koc	ExperimentalProperty	5.0	0.0

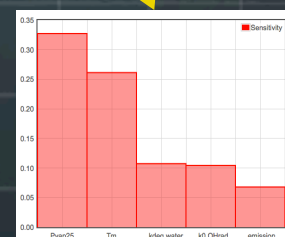
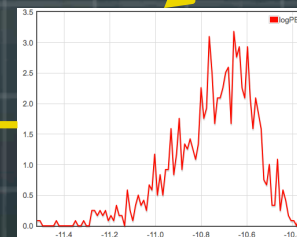
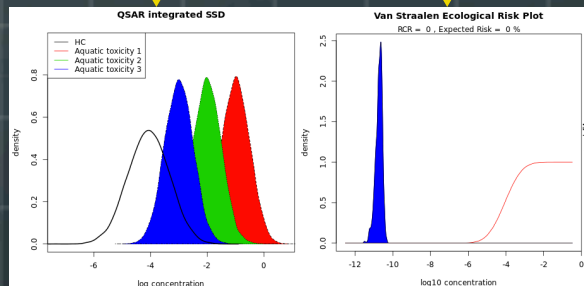
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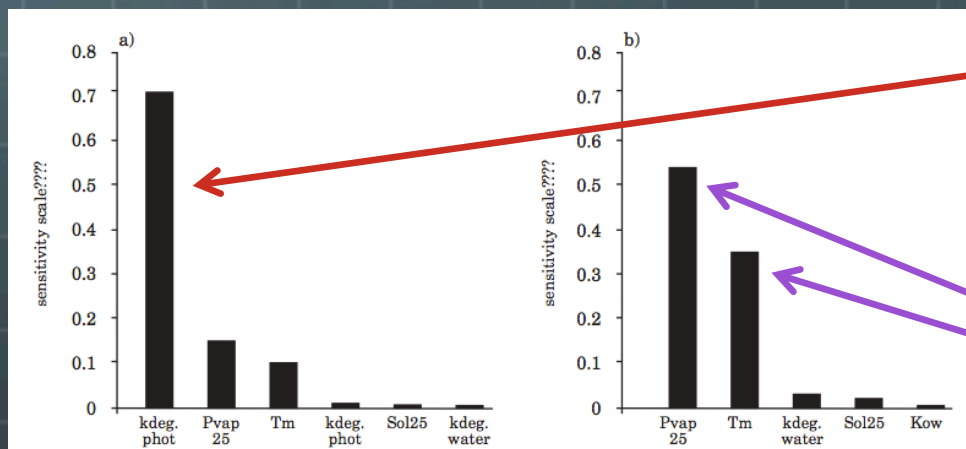
H11

sample	HC	Aquatic toxicity 1	Aquatic toxicity 2	Aquatic toxicity 3
1	-3.411	-0.363	-1.309	-2.459
2	-4.120	-1.645	-2.178	-3.377
3	-4.120	-0.209	-1.915	-2.737
4	-4.050	-1.012	-1.482	-3.144
5	-4.606	-0.752	-2.347	-3.281
6	-3.775	-0.799	-1.903	-2.799
7	-3.775	-0.944	-1.530	-2.927
8	-4.719	-0.821	-2.070	-3.492
9	-3.293	-0.659	-1.751	-2.387
10	-4.006	-0.644	-2.870	-3.060



Sensitivity analysis

- 🌐 Sensitivity analysis reveals the extent on which the outcome of the environmental risk assessment depends on the various physicochemical and/or biological parameters considered in the study
- 🌐 It, thus, provides evidence for a mechanistic interpretation of the key factors that create the environmental hazard.



In this study (on PBDE-177) it was found that the photo-degradation rate constant was the most determining factor.

If photodegradation is not taken into account, then the vapour pressure at 25°C and the melting point become the most influential parameters.

Recapitulation

- 🌐 We have developed a *web tool* for the exemplification of the use of QSAR models for the *fate*, *effect* and *risk* assessments of chemical compounds.
- 🌐 The fate assessment was carried out in terms of the *Predicted Environmental Concentration (PEC)*. The *effect* was quantified by the *Predicted No-Effect Concentration (PNEC)*.
- 🌐 SimpleBox and SSD (Species Sensitivity Distribution) were used to model the fate and the effect of PBDEs on the ecosystem.

Acknowledgements

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- 🌐 Prof. Mark Huijbregts (Radboud University) and
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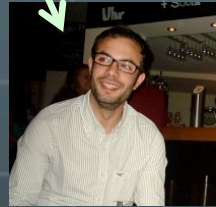
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