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Title: Estimate of uptake and translocation of emerging organic contaminants from irrigation water concentration in lettuce grown under controlled conditions

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Keywords: plant uptake; emerging contaminants; rhizosphere; bioconcentration factors; degradation; translocation factor

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Abstract: The widespread distribution of emerging organic contaminants (EOCs) in the water cycle can lead to their incorporation in irrigated crops, posing a potential risk for human consumption. To gain further insight into the processes controlling the uptake of organic microcontaminants, Batavia lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) grown under controlled conditions was watered with EOCs (e.g., non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, sulfonamides,  $\beta$ -blockers, phenolic estrogens, anticonvulsants, stimulants, polycyclic musks, biocides) at different concentrations (0 - 40  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ). Linear correlations were obtained between the EOC concentrations in the roots and leaves and the watering concentrations for most of the contaminants investigated. However, large differences were found in the root concentration factors ( $= 0.27 - 733$ ) and leaf translocation concentration factors ( $= 0 - 3$ ) depending on the persistence of the target contaminants in the rhizosphere and the specific physicochemical properties of each one. Of these properties, DOW, KOA and KAH were the best descriptors for predicting potential EOC uptake by lettuce grown in a low-interaction soil (sand:perlite) and leachate-less culture. With the obtained dataset, a simple predictive model based on a linear regression and the root bioconcentration and translocation factors can be used to estimate the concentration of the target EOCs in leaves based on the dose supplied in the irrigation water or the soil concentration. Finally, enantiomeric fractionation of racemic ibuprofen from the initial spiking mixture suggests that biodegradation mainly occurs in the rhizosphere.

COVER LETTER

Dear editor,

The manuscript entitled *Estimate of uptake and translocation of emerging organic contaminants from irrigation water concentration in lettuce grown under controlled conditions* has not been previously published, in whole or in part, and that it is not under consideration to any other journal. All authors are aware of the manuscript submission, and accept responsibility for, this manuscript.

Although the uptake of organic contaminants in crops has already been reported, the processes involved in the rizosphere and the uptake processes are largely unknown. The originality of this manuscript is to assess the relationship between the concentration in the irrigation water and plant uptake for a broad spectrum of organic contaminants with a wide range of physical-chemical properties including both neutral and ionized. Soil, root and leaves were independently analyzed and bioconcentration and translocation factors. For the first time, volatilization from soil and foliar sorption as a route of contaminant uptake from irrigation water is proposed for polycyclic musk fragrances occurring in irrigation water. Furthermore, the enantiomeric fraction of ibuprofen in soil, roots and leaves gives some insights in the relative contribution of biotic degradation processes in the different plant compartments (roots & leaves). The environmental relevance of this study is related to the fate of PPCPs in the soil-plant environment where multiple processes occur and to study their significance demands a systematic study under well-controlled conditions that could be replicate elsewhere.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. J.M. Bayona,**  
Research Professor

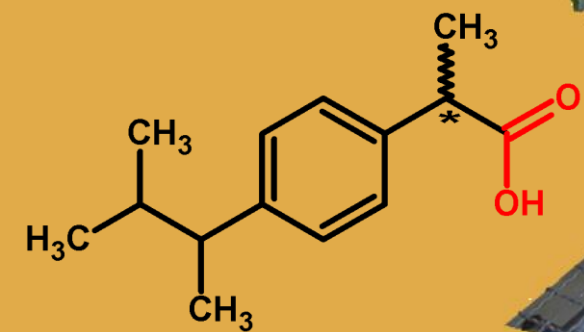
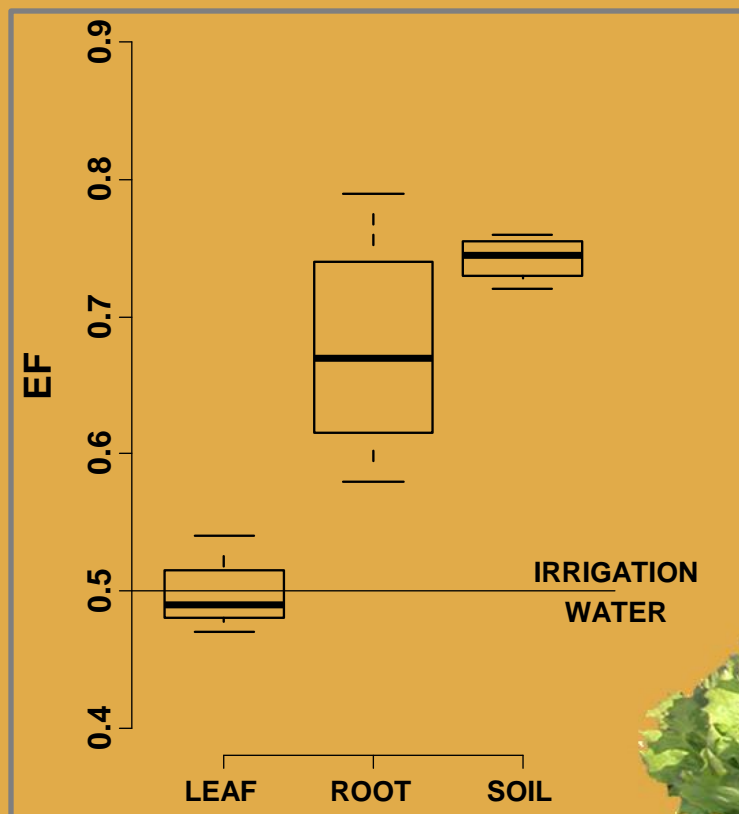
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## NOVELTY STATEMENT

For the first time, linear correlations were obtained between the EOC concentrations in the roots and leaves and the watering concentrations for most of the contaminants investigated under controlled conditions in a low interaction soil.

The enantiomeric fraction (EF) of ibuprofen shows significant changes depending on the compartment suggesting that different biodegradation pathways.



## Highlights (for review)

- Linear uptake of EOCs in lettuce was observed along their irrigation concentration.
- EOCs translocation factor is dependent of their Dow.
- Volatilization and foliar uptake is significant pathway for fragrances.
- IBU biodegradation in root and leaves was confirmed by its changes in EF.

1 Estimate of uptake and translocation of  
2 emerging organic contaminants from irrigation  
3 water concentration in lettuce grown under  
4 controlled conditions

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12 KEYWORDS: plant uptake, emerging contaminants, rhizosphere, bioconcentration  
13 factors, degradation, translocation factor.

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15 **ABSTRACT**

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4 16 The widespread distribution of emerging organic contaminants (EOCs) in the water  
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6 17 cycle can lead to their incorporation in irrigated crops, posing a potential risk for human  
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8 18 consumption. To gain further insight into the processes controlling the uptake of  
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10 19 organic microcontaminants, Batavia lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) grown under controlled  
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12 20 conditions was watered with EOCs (e.g., non-steroidal anti-inflammatories,  
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14 21 sulfonamides,  $\beta$ -blockers, phenolic estrogens, anticonvulsants, stimulants, polycyclic  
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16 22 musks, biocides) at different concentrations (0 - 40  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ). Linear correlations were  
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18 23 obtained between the EOC concentrations in the roots and leaves and the watering  
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20 24 concentrations for most of the contaminants investigated. However, large differences  
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22 25 were found in the root concentration factors ( $R_{CF_i} = 0.27 - 733$ ) and leaf translocation  
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24 26 concentration factors ( $L_{TCF_i} = 0 - 3$ ) depending on the persistence of the target  
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26 27 contaminants in the rhizosphere and the specific physicochemical properties of each  
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28 28 one. Of these properties,  $D_{OW}$ ,  $K_{OA}$  and  $K_{AH}$  were the best descriptors for predicting  
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30 29 potential EOC uptake by lettuce grown in a low-interaction soil (sand:perlite) and  
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32 30 leachate-less culture. With the obtained dataset, a simple predictive model based on a  
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36 32 estimate the concentration of the target EOCs in leaves based on the dose supplied in  
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40 34 racemic ibuprofen from the initial spiking mixture suggests that biodegradation mainly  
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## 1. Introduction

In a context of climate change and a burgeoning world population,[1] the pressure on water resources will grow, particularly in arid and semiarid regions. Agriculture is the sector that consumes the most water at the global level, accounting for approximately 70% of total consumption.[2]

However, emerging organic contaminants (EOCs) such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) have been detected in surface water used for irrigation in agriculture.[3, 4] It is thus necessary to assess the behavior, fate, and health risks these compounds pose.

Depending on their physicochemical properties, EOCs transferred to soil through irrigation can be volatilized, sorbed to soil, mobilized to groundwater, biodegraded in the rhizosphere, and taken up by crops.[5] Some studies have already shown the potential uptake of pesticides, veterinary medicines, and other EOCs by crops in different experimental setups. For example, in *in vitro* experiments,[6, 7] plants like cabbage and lettuce have been shown to take up certain anticonvulsants (e.g., carbamazepine), antibiotics (e.g., trimethoprim), and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (e.g., ibuprofen and naproxen) from the nutrient solution. Other studies conducted in greenhouse conditions have demonstrated that crops watered with treated wastewater (TWW) or soil amended with biosolids can uptake pollutants such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (e.g., ibuprofen, naproxen, flunixin), fragrances (e.g., galaxolide, ambrettolide), herbicides and pesticides (e.g., simazine, DDT), and PPCPs (e.g., triclosan, triclocarban, carbamazepine).[8-11] Field trials have demonstrated that vegetables (celery, carrot, lettuce, cabbage, and cucumber) were able to take up PPCPs (e.g., primidone, carbamazepine, dilantin)[12] and fragrances (e.g., galaxolide,[11]



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61 methyl dihydrojasmonate) from TWW spiked with PPCPs and that alfalfa and apple  
62 trees could take up anticonvulsants (e.g., carbamazepine) from reclaimed water.[13]

63 As PPCPs include a wide spectrum of compounds exhibiting different  
64 physicochemical properties, distinct behaviors should be expected. Accordingly, highly  
65 hydrophobic compounds such as polycyclic musks are strongly sorbed to the soil  
66 organic matter and thus become less bioaccessible to crops, while more hydrophilic  
67 persistent compounds, such as carbamazepine, exhibit a high uptake potential for many  
68 crops.[14, 15]

69 Several empirical and process-based models have been developed to try to predict the  
70 concentration of metals[16-18] and organic compounds in plants, including polycyclic  
71 aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs),[19] organophosphates,[20] and certain PPCPs (e.g.,  
72 carbamazepine, cimetidine, triclocarban),[21] among others. However, while useful for  
73 building a theoretical framework for risk assessment, some of these models,[22, 23]  
74 such as the dynamic plant uptake model,[22] are too data intensive to assess the uptake  
75 of emerging contaminants in practice.[24] Therefore, more experimental studies are  
76 needed to identify the most relevant processes.

77 For neutral compounds, lipophilicity is the most widely used molecular descriptor. In  
78 1982, Briggs et al.[25] showed that non-polar compounds followed a Gaussian-like  
79 distribution between the transpiration stream concentration factor (TSCF) and  $\log K_{OW}$ ,  
80 with a maximum value between 1 and 3. However, this behavior is not found with ionic  
81 or ionizable compounds.[26] In fact, based on the pH of the soil and the pH of the plant  
82 xylem, ionizable compounds or weak electrolytes can occur in anionic, cationic, and  
83 zwitterionic forms. Consequently, these ionic compounds can be taken up as counter  
84 ions or by the ion trap effect, which occurs when a compound is neutral and can be  
85 dissociated inside the plant cells.[27, 28]

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86 Several studies have reported the use of rhizobacteria to promote plant growth and in  
87 phytoremediation.[29] Among them, endophytic bacteria[30, 31] were recently  
88 proposed for the biodegradation of organic pollutants.[32-35] Moreover, it is well  
89 established that biotic processes are enantioselective, affecting one of the enantiomers  
90 of chiral contaminants (e.g., ibuprofen).[36] Therefore, the enantiomeric fractionation  
91 of chiral contaminants can be used to assess the occurrence of biotic processes in  
92 environmental compartments.

93 This study aimed to evaluate the uptake of eight EOCs with a broad range of  
94 physicochemical properties supplied at four concentrations to lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*)  
95 through soil with a low colloidal fraction. The EOCs were selected based on their high  
96 detection and occurrence in all types of waters and their effects in humans. For  
97 example, compounds with an endocrine disruptor activity such as bisphenol A  
98 (BPA),[37-40] persistent and highly bioaccumulable compounds such as carbamazepine  
99 (CBZ),[41-43] propranolol (PROP)[44-46] and tonalide (TON).[47-51] Moreover,  
100 compounds which main concern is the bacterial resistance like the veterinary antibiotic  
101 sulfamethazine (SMT)[52-56] and the biocide triclosan (TCS) present in many care  
102 products.[57-60] Finally, the biological active compound caffeine (CAF) which is also  
103 recognized as a contaminant of freshwater and urban aquatic environment[61-65] and  
104 ibuprofen (IBU) which is one of the most used analgesics and it has been detected also  
105 in most of the aquatic system.[66-68]

106 The concentration of the supplied EOCs in the soil close to the roots, in the roots  
107 themselves and in the leaves was determined in order to study the processes of  
108 incorporation and translocation of the different EOCs. Finally, a simplified model was  
109 developed using the data for all four concentrations to predict the concentration of a  
110 given EOC in the leaves for a specific initial treatment, which could be useful for risk

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111 assessment. Moreover, the lettuce was watered below the soil field capacity so as not to  
112 generate leachates.  
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## 114 2. Materials and methods

115

### 116 2.1 Experimental Layout

117 The experiment was carried out in a glass greenhouse located at the Agròpolis-UPC  
118 agriculture experimental station (41° 17' 18" N, 2° 02' 43" E) in Viladecans (Barcelona,  
119 Spain). The experimental units consisted of 2.5 L cylindrical amber glass pots ( $\varnothing = 15$   
120 cm and 20 cm high) fitted with a tubing outlet at the bottom ( $\varnothing = 3$  cm). In order to  
121 minimize potential interactions between EOCs and soil colloids, the experimental units  
122 were filled with 2 L of a mixture of perlite and sand (2:1, v/v, average dry weight 1.2  
123 kg). One Batavia lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*, cv. Arena) seedling was planted in each  
124 experimental unit and watered with the Hoagland and Arnon[69] solution prepared with  
125 harvested rainwater (pH = 5.5). A nutrient solution was supplied through an on-line drip  
126 irrigation system. A dose of 50 mL of irrigation water was applied to each experimental  
127 unit per day. The number of daily irrigations was regulated to keep water in the soil at  
128 field capacity, thereby preventing leachate production.

129 Treatments consisted of the direct application of 14, 35, 70 and 140  $\mu\text{g}$  of eight  
130 EOCs per experimental unit. This procedure made it possible to avoid possible  
131 adsorption of the applied products by the irrigation tubing and associated biofilm.  
132 Taking into account the irrigation water supplied, this corresponds to an average EOC  
133 concentration in the irrigation water ( $IW_C$ ) of 4, 10, 20 and 40  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , and taking into  
134 account the soil mass in each experimental unit, it corresponds to an average  
135 concentration in the soil ( $S_C$ ) of 11.7, 29.2, 58.3 and 116.7  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ . The control  
136 consisted of planted experimental units to which no EOCs were applied.

137 Treatments were distributed among eight applications over the course of four weeks,  
138 starting six weeks after planting. The experiment had a total duration of 10 weeks. The

139 treatments and control were replicated four times. The selected EOCs were as follows:  
140 bisphenol A (BPA, 99%), caffeine (CAF, 99%), carbamazepine (CBZ, 99%), ibuprofen  
141 (IBU, 98%), propranolol (PROP, 99%), sulfamethazine (SMT, 99%), triclosan (TCS,  
142 97%), and tonalide (TON, 97 %). The BPA, CAF, CBZ, IBU, PROP, SMT, and TCS  
143 were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA), and the TON from Ventós  
144 (Sant Just Desvern, Spain). Table 1 shows their structure and physicochemical  
145 properties.

## 147 *2.2 Analysis of Vegetable Tissues and Substrate*

148 Upon conclusion of the experiment (at 10 weeks), the plants were harvested and the  
149 substrate close to roots, the roots themselves, and the entire aerial part of the plant  
150 (mostly leaves) were analyzed.

151 After the sampling was performed, the roots were watered with deionized water to  
152 remove the adhered perlite-sand mixture. The roots and leaves were comminuted with  
153 liquid nitrogen and stored at -20°C until analysis. The extraction of vegetable tissue was  
154 performed as reported elsewhere.[70] Briefly, a matrix solid-phase dispersion method  
155 was applied to the vegetable tissue. A 0.5 g aliquot of plant tissue (root or leaf) was  
156 spiked at 10 ng g<sup>-1</sup> with a mixture of surrogates (10 11-dihydrocarbamazepine, DHCBZ;  
157 2,2'-dinitrobiphenyl, DNBP; fenoprop, FEN; sulfamethoxazole SMX, and tonalide-  
158 d3,TON-D3 (SI, Section 1.1)). The sample was then blended with florisil, Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, Na<sub>3</sub>-  
159 citrate dihydrate, NaCl, Na<sub>2</sub>H-citrate sesquihydrate, and Hydromatrix using a pestle.  
160 The mixture was extracted with a mixture of acetone:hexane (1:1, v/v) using a  
161 pressurized solvent extraction (PSE) apparatus (Applied Separations (Allentown, PA,  
162 USA)). Samples were extracted with two 14-minute cycles at 104 °C and 110 bar.  
163 Neutral-basic and acid fractions were obtained by solvent partitioning at neutral and

164 acid pH respectively. The final extracts were analyzed by GC and LC coupled to  
165 tandem mass spectrometry.

166

167 Extraction of the EOCs in the soil close to the roots was performed as follows: a 1 g  
168 aliquot spiked with the same mixture of surrogates was mixed with 0.5 g of sodium  
169 sulfate anhydrous, equilibrated for 1 h, and extracted twice with 10 mL of an  
170 acetone:hexane (3:1, v/v) mixture for 15 min by sonication. A third extraction with 10  
171 mL of methanol was performed. The resulting extracts were combined, evaporated to 2  
172 mL, and dried by percolation through an anhydrous sodium sulfate column. The  
173 extraction solvent mixture was replaced with ethyl acetate prior to the samples'  
174 injection in the GC system.

175 The aliquots of the sample extracts were analyzed first using an EI GC-MS/MS  
176 Bruker 450-GC gas chromatograph coupled to a Bruker 320-MS triple-stage quadrupole  
177 mass spectrometer (Bruker Daltonics Inc., Billerica, MA, USA). Qualitative and  
178 quantitative analyses were performed based on retention time and the selected reaction  
179 monitoring (SRM) mode of two product ions, as well as the ratio between the product  
180 ions (Table S1).

181 Another sample extract aliquot was evaporated and reconstituted with methanol:water  
182 (20:80, v/v). SMT and PROP were analyzed by LC-MS/MS using a TSQ Quantum  
183 triple-stage quadrupole mass spectrometer equipped with an ESI source (Thermo  
184 Fischer Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA). Qualitative and quantitative analysis was  
185 performed based on retention time and the selected reaction monitoring (SRM) mode of  
186 two product ions, and the ratio between the product ions was determined by  
187 confirmation (Table S2). The limits of detection and quantification for all the targeted  
188 analytes and matrices are given in Table S3, and the recoveries are given in Table S4.

189 Finally, sample extract aliquots were subjected to chiral derivatization of IBU as  
190 described by Hashim and Khan.[71] The full procedure is described in the SI (Section  
191 1.4).

### 193 *2.3 Data Analysis*

#### 195 *Standardized Concentrations*

196 The standardized concentrations of the tested EOCs in the soil close to the roots (  
197  $SR_{SC}$ ) were calculated as follows:

$$198 \quad SR_{SC} = \frac{1}{4} \times \sum_{T_i}^4 \frac{SR_{C_i}}{S_{C_i}} \quad [\text{Eq. 1}]$$

199 where  $T_i$  stands for the treatment applied (1 to 4),  $SR_C$  is the concentration of a given  
200 EOC in the soil close to the roots, and  $S_C$  is the initial soil concentration (11.7, 29.2,  
201 58.3 or 117  $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ ). The standardized concentrations in the roots ( $R_{SC}$ ) and leaves  
202 ( $L_{SC}$ ) were calculated similarly.

#### 204 *Enantiomeric Fraction (EF)*

205 Many EOCs are produced synthetically as racemic mixtures. Hence, 50% of the  
206 compound is the *R* form, and 50% the *S* form. The enantiomeric fraction is a descriptor  
207 of enantiomeric (chiral) mixtures.[72] Although in the natural environment, many  
208 physical processes are not enantioselective (e.g., hydrolysis, photolysis), microbial  
209 degradation and biological metabolism can be.[36, 73] The EF was calculated as  
210 described in Equation 2.

$$211 \quad EF = \frac{S}{S + R} \quad [\text{Eq. 2}]$$

212

213 *Bioconcentration and Translocation Factors*

214 The concentration factor for soil close to the roots in treatment  $i$  ( $SR_{CF_i}$ ) was  
215 calculated as follows:

216 
$$SR_{CF_i} = \frac{SR_{C_i}}{S_{C_i}} \quad [\text{Eq. 3}]$$

217 where  $SR_{C_i}$  and  $S_{C_i}$  are the concentration of a given EOC in the soil close to the roots  
218 and the average concentration of EOC for the soil mass in treatment  $i$ , respectively.

219 Likewise, the root concentration factor in treatment  $i$  ( $RCF_i$ ) was calculated as  
220 follows:

221 
$$RCF_i = \frac{R_{C_i}}{S_{C_i}} \quad [\text{Eq. 4}]$$

222 where  $R_{C_i}$  is the concentration in the roots in treatment  $i$ .

223 For each EOC, the linear regression coefficient (assuming an intercept of zero) of  $R_{C_i}$   
224 over  $S_{C_i}$  was also calculated ( $b_{R_C/S_C}$ ).

225

226 Finally, the leaf translocation concentration factor ( $L_{TCF_i}$ ) was calculated as follows:

227 
$$L_{TCF_i} = \frac{L_{C_i}}{R_{C_i}} \quad [\text{Eq. 5}]$$

228 where  $L_{C_i}$  is the concentration in the leaves in treatment  $i$ .

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231 *Modeling of Concentration in Leaves*

232 The predicted concentration of a given EOC in the leaves ( $L'_{C_i}$ ) was calculated by  
233 means of the following equation:

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234 
$$L'_{C_i} = L_{TCF_m} \times b_{R_c/S_c} \times S_{C_i} \quad [\text{Eq. 6}]$$

235 where  $L_{TCF_m}$  is the average leaf translocation factor, and  $b_{R_c/S_c}$  is the linear regression  
236 coefficient of  $R_{C_i}$  over  $S_{C_i}$  over the course of the different treatments  $i$ .

237  $L'_{C_i}$  could also be expressed relative to the average concentration of a particular EOC  
238 in the irrigation water ( $IW_{C_i}$ ) in a given treatment  $i$  as follows:

239 
$$L'_{C_i} = L_{TCF_m} \times b_{R_c/IW_c} \times IW_{C_i} \quad [\text{Eq. 7}]$$

240 where,  $b_{R_c/IW_c}$  is the linear regression coefficient of  $R_{C_i}$  over  $IW_{C_i}$  over the course of the  
241 different treatments  $i$ . This model has been validated for soil with very low CEC and no  
242 leachates.

#### 243 *2.4 Statistical Analysis*

244  
245 The regressions, analysis of variance (ANOVA), and subsequent mean separation  
246 (LSD) were conducted in R (R Development Core Team, 2015).[74]

249 **3. RESULTS**

250

251 *3.1 Occurrence of EOCs in the Different Compartments*

252

253 *3.1.1 Concentration in the Soil Close to the Roots*

254 The concentrations of the tested EOCs in the soil close to the roots ( $SR_C$ ) were lower  
255 than in the roots themselves ( $R_C$ ) or in the leaves ( $L_C$ ). They ranged from 0.3 to 167 ng  
256  $g^{-1}$  dw depending on the product and dose applied (Table 1). Overall, TCS was the EOC  
257 to exhibit the highest concentration, while SMT had the lowest; their standardized  
258 concentrations (Eq. 1) were  $1.47 \pm 0.45$  and  $0.03 \pm 0.01$ , respectively (Figure 1A).

259

260 *3.1.2 Concentrations in the Roots*

261 Generally, the average concentration in the roots ( $R_C$ ) was between 2.6 and 150 times  
262 higher than in the soil close to the roots ( $SR_C$ ). In absolute terms,  $R_C$  varied widely,  
263 from below the LOQ to  $1630 \text{ ng } g^{-1}$  dw, again depending on the EOC and treatment  
264 (Table 1). Overall, CBZ had the highest concentrations, and IBU, the lowest; their  
265 standardized concentrations were  $9.67 \pm 1.99$  and  $0.90 \pm 0.78$ , respectively (Figure 1B).

266 *3.1.3 Concentration in the Leaves*

267 Overall, EOC concentration in the leaves ( $L_C$ ) averaged between 0.5 and 110 times  
268 lower than in the roots. The concentration varied, depending on the EOC tested and the  
269 treatment used; however, the concentration of CBZ in the leaves was much higher than  
270 that of the other products (Figure 1C).

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272 *3.2 Enantiomeric Fractionation of IBU*

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273 IBU is sold as a racemic mixture; however, in the soil close to the roots, the *S*  
274 enantiomer predominated over the *R* enantiomer ( $EF = 0.74 \pm 0.02$ ), which means that  
275 the *R* form was degraded more easily than the *S* form. In the roots, the *S* enantiomer was  
276 still predominant, although less so than in the  $S_R$ , as the  $EF$  decreased ( $0.68 \pm 0.09$ ).  
277 Finally, in the leaves, a complete racemization ( $EF = 0.50 \pm 0.03$ ) was observed (Figure  
278 2).

279

### 280 3.3 Bioconcentration Processes

281 TCS was the only tested EOC to have a concentration factor in the soil near the roots  
282 ( $SR_{CF}$ ) greater than 1; its average was 3.5. The  $SR_{CF}$  of the remaining EOCs was  
283 significantly lower, averaging between 0.1 and 0.4 (Figure 3A).

284 The root concentration factor ( $R_{CF}$ ) values were much greater than the  $SR_{CF}$ . Their  
285 values ranged from 0.43 to 11.7. The EOC with the highest  $R_{CF}$  was CBZ (average of  
286 9.3), followed by PROP (average of 6.0) (Fig 3B). The other EOCs tested exhibited  
287 much lower values. For IBU, the  $R_{CF}$  clearly increased as larger and larger doses were  
288 applied; the opposite was true of PROP. For TON, at the lower application rate, the  
289 value of  $R_{CF}$  was very low. It then stabilized at a greater value as the application rates  
290 increased. For the remaining products, the values of  $R_{CF}$  were relatively independent of  
291 the application rates (Figure 3B).

292 It is noteworthy that the leaf translocation concentration factor ( $L_{TCF}$ ) for CBZ is  
293 much higher (average of 3.4) than that of the remaining products, which, on average,  
294 are lower than 1.

295 The  $L_{TCF}$  values are also slightly dependent on the concentration, declining at the  
296 highest concentrations (Figure 3C).

297

### 298 3.3 Modeling the uptake of EOC

299

300 The concentration of the tested EOCs in the roots showed a strong linear relationship  
301 with the application rate expressed as the average concentration in the soil ( $S_c$ ) or in  
302 the irrigation water ( $IW_c$ ) (Figure 4). The coefficients of determination ( $R^2$ ) always take  
303 values higher than 90%. This strong linear relationship is held even for IBU, PROP, and  
304 TON, for which the  $R_{CF}$  clearly depends on the rate of application. The high values of  
305 the slopes indicate the ease with which most products are taken up by the roots.  
306 Moreover, translocation from roots to leaves remained relatively stable regardless of the  
307 treatments applied, as shown by the values of the translocation concentration factors  
308 (Fig. 3C).

309

310 The above considerations make it possible to build a simplified model to predict the  
311 concentration of a given EOC in the leaves ( $L'_c$ ) for a specific treatment  $i$ , multiplying  
312 the average leaf translocation concentration factor ( $L_{TCF_m}$ ), the slope of the linear  
313 relationship of the root concentration ( $b_{R_c/S_c}$ ) over the mean soil concentration of the  
314 given EOC, and the mean concentration of the EOC in the soil in a given treatment  $i$  ( $S_{c_i}$ ) (Eq. 6)

315  
316 Figure 5 shows that there is strong agreement between the predicted concentration  
317 values in the leaves using Equation 6 and the observed values ( $R^2 = 0.9985$ ). Depicted  
318 values are located very close to the bisecting line, even for EOCs like BPA, IBU, and  
319 TCS, for which the linear relationship between the concentration in leaves and the  
320 initial applied concentration is less strong (Figure 4).

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322 **4. Discussion**

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324 Although the uptake of pharmaceuticals by plants from irrigation water and biosolids  
325 has been widely documented,[3, 9, 12, 13, 15, 75-80] the exact soil-root-plant system  
326 processes involved in this uptake are not yet well understood. This paper looked at the  
327 uptake of several EOCs by lettuce when the plants are grown in a soil with a very low  
328 cation exchange capacity (CEC) and the dose of irrigation is adjusted to prevent  
329 leaching. Therefore, the permanence of an EOC in the soil should depend on its  
330 recalcitrance and the ease with which it is taken up by roots. Volatilization from the soil  
331 can also be a significant transport pathway for semivolatile EOCs such as TON (log  
332  $K_{AW} = -2.04$ , log  $K_{OA} = 7.95$ , Table 1). According to the non-steady state model for both  
333 hydrophilic and hydrophobic neutral organic chemicals described by Undeman et  
334 al.,[81] volatilization becomes a potential source of leaf contamination through the soil–  
335 air pathway.[82]

336

337 *4.1 Root Uptake*

338 The chemical speciation of the tested EOCs can be anticipated from their pKa (Table 1)  
339 and the pH of the soil (6.42). Whereas BPA, CAF, CBZ, SMT, TCS, and TON occur  
340 predominantly in neutral forms, IBU is predominantly anionic, and PROP is cationic.  
341 Accordingly, the low concentration of IBU in the roots (Table 2 ) could be explained by  
342 its electronegativity, as long as the root membranes have a negatively charged  
343 potential[83] (i.e. plasmalemma), which would hinder the absorption of negatively  
344 charged ions. Instead, PROP (a positively charged compound, Table 1) occurred in the

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345 root at a higher concentration than IBU, but at a lower concentration than most of the  
346 neutral products (Figure 1B).

347 CBZ was the product found in the highest concentrations in the roots. This could be  
348 explained by its neutrality and low hydrophobicity ( $\log D_{OW} = 2.25$ ). Indeed, it has been  
349 established that neutral products with  $\log K_{OW}$  between 1 and 3 can be readily absorbed  
350 by the roots because they exhibit a high root membrane permeability. In addition, they  
351 exhibit a low interaction with the soil's organic colloids.[25] However, since the soil we  
352 used had a low CEC, more hydrophobic products ( $\log K_{OW} > 4.66$ ) could also be easily  
353 sorbed by roots. This is the case of TCS and TON. Besides, highly hydrophilic neutral  
354 products, such as CAF and SMT ( $\log D_{OW} < 0.85$ ), showed an appreciable root uptake,  
355 although less than CBZ, TCS, and TON.

356 The high concentration of CBZ found in roots is consistent with the literature. For  
357 example, in a study of soybean plants irrigated with  $10 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  of CBZ and TCS, Wu et  
358 al.[9] reported that TCS was found mostly in the roots ( $16.9 \pm 2.6 \text{ ng g}^{-1} \text{ dw}$ ). In this  
359 study, TCS likewise exhibited a higher concentration in the roots ( $147 \pm 92 \text{ ng g}^{-1} \text{ dw}$ ),  
360 while CBZ was found mostly in the leaves ( $216 \pm 75 \text{ ng g}^{-1} \text{ dw}$ ). Shenker et al.[80]  
361 irrigated cucumbers with fresh and reclaimed water spiked with  $1 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  of CBZ. The  
362 CBZ concentration found in the roots was between 2 and  $4.5 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$  in fw, while the  
363 concentration in the leaves ranged from 19 to  $39 \mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ . Wu et al.[12] reported that  
364 several PPCPs were detected in edible parts of common vegetables that had been  
365 watered with PPCP-spiked treated wastewater. CBZ concentrations of between 0.1 and  
366  $2.5 \text{ ng g}^{-1}$ , depending on the plant species, were detected in lettuce, celeries, cabbages,  
367 cucumbers, bell peppers, and tomatoes, although the initial concentrations were lower  
368 than in this study. Interestingly, like most of the compounds examined here, the PPCPs  
369 were found at higher concentrations in the roots than in the leaves. Goldstein et al.[15]

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370 reported CBZ levels between 50 and 500 ng g<sup>-1</sup> dw in cucumbers and tomatoes. CAF  
371 was detected at concentrations between 1 and 9 ng g<sup>-1</sup> dw in the same plants. Hence,  
372 although this experiment used a simplified set-up and a low CEC soil, the findings are  
373 comparable to those of other studies performed with real soil.

374

#### 375 *4.2 Biodegradability*

376 Biodegradation of EOCs in the rhizosphere is considered to be the most significant  
377 removal mechanism for EOCs that are not readily absorbed by the roots. Indeed, as  
378 much as 40% of a plant's photosynthate can be released into the soil as sugars, organic  
379 acids, and larger organic compounds such as root exudates.[84] These exudates are used  
380 as carbon and energy sources by soil microbial biomass, leading to a significant  
381 enrichment compared with soil that is uninfluenced by roots.[85] Several studies have  
382 addressed the dissipation of pharmaceuticals in agricultural soil, but the interaction  
383 between soil and the rhizosphere effect has been neglected.[86, 87] This  
384 notwithstanding, it is widely accepted that, in phytoremediation, the rhizosphere plays a  
385 role in removing organic contaminants from soil through a synergistic interaction of  
386 many factors.[29] The results of this study underscore the importance of the relative  
387 persistence of EOCs in the rhizosphere as a key primary parameter for assessing plants'  
388 exposure to them.

389 TCS is the only tested EOC with a positive concentration factor in the soil near the  
390 roots (S<sub>R</sub>CF). This accumulation is consistent with the recalcitrance resulting from its  
391 biocidal activity. Interestingly, IBU was spiked as a racemic mixture; however, an EF of  
392 0.74 was found in the soil. Furthermore, an EF of 0.69 was observed in the roots. This  
393 could indicate biotic degradation in both the rhizosphere and the roots. However, the EF  
394 was 0.50 in the leaves. Therefore, racemization was taking place inside the plant. This

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395 can be explained by different detoxification processes that occur in plants. For instance,  
396 plants have their own detoxification system with many enzymes that can metabolize  
397 organic contaminants (e.g., cytochrome P450, monooxygenases, peroxidases,  
398 glutathione S-transferases), and endophytic bacteria can live inside plants and have a  
399 potentially large impact on their metabolism.[32, 88] The total degradation of both plant  
400 and bacteria could lead to a racemization of the IBU in the leaves. Deeper research in  
401 the field of degradation routes in soil and plants is needed.

402

### 403 *4.3 Modeling Plant Uptake*

404 The relationship between EOC concentration in soil and plant uptake has seldom been  
405 studied. Usually, root concentration factors ( $R_{CF}$ ) are calculated based on their nominal  
406 concentrations; however, as demonstrated in the previous section, their behavior in the  
407 rhizosphere is largely dependent on the compound. One of the few existing studies used  
408 a simplified two-compartment model[89] to assess the plant concentration and found a  
409 linear relationship between soil-water concentration and plant concentration. However,  
410 that model was only validated for norfloxacin. Kumar et al.[90] observed an increase of  
411 chlortetracycline in onions and cabbage related to the dose of manure applied to the soil.

412 However, to the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to report a linear  
413 relationship between root and leaf concentrations for a wide range of EOCs supplied in  
414 irrigation water. Moreover, the fact that the leaf translocation concentration factors ( $L_{TCF_i}$ )  
415 remain fairly stable regardless of the dose of EOC applied (Fig. 3C) makes it  
416 possible to predict fairly accurately the content of the tested EOC based on the dose  
417 supplied and the calculated average soil concentration (Fig. 5).

418 Although the experimental setup used in this study was rather simple (low CEC, no  
419 leachates produced), the approach could be particularly useful in risk assessment studies



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420 for estimating EOC concentrations in crops in the worst case scenario, in which the soil-  
421 contaminant interaction is negligible.

422

## 423 **5. Conclusions**

424 • Although previous studies in real scenarios have shown that several organic  
425 pollutants can be taken up by plants, it is difficult, if not impossible to  
426 reproduce the experimental set-up elsewhere. In this study, a mesocosm  
427 characterized by a low CEC exhibited similar behavior with regard to the  
428 evaluated EOCs as in previous studies. Degradation, uptake and translocation  
429 processes were all highly dependent on the specific EOC evaluated and the  
430 compartment.

431 • Linear relationships observed between the root concentration and the  
432 application dose, along with the stability of the leaf translocation  
433 concentration factors, makes it possible to predict the leaf concentrations of  
434 tested EOCs fairly accurately.

435 • Enantiomeric IBU degradation was detected in the soil, and a racemization  
436 trend was observed in the plants, from the roots to the leaves. This would  
437 seem to suggest that mixed biotic degradation pathways might occur in the  
438 plant either through endophytic bacteria or the plant's own detoxification  
439 system, leading to complete racemization in the leaves. Further research is  
440 required to address the complexity of the biotic degradation pathways for  
441 EOCs in plants.

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**Annex I**  
**Definition of symbols used in the article**

$b_{R_C/S_C}$	Linear regression coefficient of $R_{C_i}$ over $S_{C_i}$ over the course of the different treatments $i$
$IW_{C_i}$	Calculated average irrigation water concentration of a given EOC in treatment $i$
$L_{C_i}$	Leaf concentration of a given EOC in treatment $i$
$L'_{C_i}$	Predicted leaf concentration of a given EOC in treatment $i$ (Eq. 5)
$L_{SC}$	Standardized leaf concentration of a given EOC (Eq. 1)
$L_{TCF_i}$	Leaf translocation factor of a given EOC in treatment $i$ (Eq. 5)
$L_{TCF_m}$	Mean leaf translocation factor of a given EOC
$R_{C_i}$	Root concentration of a given EOC in treatment $i$
$R_{CF_i}$	Root concentration factor of a given EOC in treatment $i$ (Eq. 4)
$R_{SC}$	Standardized root concentration of a given EOC (Eq. 1)
$S_{C_i}$	Calculated average soil concentration of a given EOC in treatment $i$
$SR_{C_i}$	Concentration in the soil close to the roots of a given EOC in treatment $i$
$SR_{SC}$	Standardized concentration in the soil close to the roots of a given EOC (Eq. 1)
$SR_{CF_i}$	Concentration factor in the soil close to the roots of a given EOC in treatment $i$ (Eq. 3)

447

**ASSOCIATED CONTENT**

**Supporting Information**

450 Chemicals; analysis of soil, roots, and leaves (Table S1 and Table S2); limits of  
451 detection and quantification (Table S3); recoveries of surrogates in all samples (Table  
452 S4); linear regression coefficients (Table S5). This material is available online free of  
453 charge at <http://pub.acs.org/>

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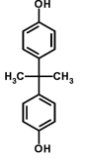
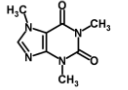
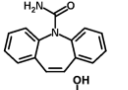
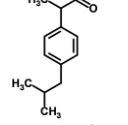
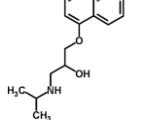
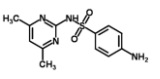
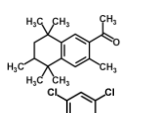
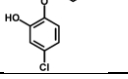
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## 734 TABLES

735 Table 1. Physicochemical properties of the selected emerging organic contaminants.

Name	Molecular structure	pKa <sup>1</sup>	Solubility (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	Log $K_{OW}$ <sup>2</sup>	Log $K_{OA}$ <sup>2</sup>	Log $K_{AW}$ <sup>2</sup>	$f_n$ <sup>3</sup>
Bisphenol A (BPA)		8.7[0/-]	173	3.32	12.75	-9.43	0.995
Caffeine (CAF)		0.8[+/0]	2632	-0.07	8.77	-8.83	0.999
Carbamazepine (CBZ)		2.45[+/0]	17.7	2.45	10.81	-7.20	0.999
Ibuprofen (IBU)		4.3[0/-]	41.1	3.97	9.18	-5.21	0.008
Propranolol (PROP)		9.5[+/0]	228	3.48	13.97	-10.49	0.001
Sulfamethazine (SMT)		2.7[+/0] 7.4[0/-]	2846	0.89	8.29	-8.10	0.797
Tonalide (TON)		NA <sup>4</sup>	0.29	5.70	7.95	-2.04	1.000
Triclosan (TCS)		7.9[0/-]	4.62	4.76	11.45	-4.08	0.967

736 <sup>1</sup> Dissociation reaction, [0]: neutral; [+]: cationic; [-]: anionic.737 <sup>2</sup>Log  $K_{OW}$ , Log  $K_{OA}$  and Log  $K_{AW}$  from database provided by Episuite v4.11  
738 (<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/exposure/pubs/episuite.htm>)739 <sup>3</sup> The neutral fraction  $f_n$  was calculated from Trapp et al.[91] at soil pH 6.42 .740 <sup>4</sup> Not applicable

741

742 **Table 2.** Mean concentration (N = 4.  $\pm$  sd; soil in ng g<sup>-1</sup>; root in ng g<sup>-1</sup> dw; leaf: ng g<sup>-1</sup>  
743 dw) of the emerging organic contaminants in the different compartments at the end of  
744 the exposure experiment (70 d)

Compound	Compartment	Applied concentration $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$				
		0	11.7	29.2	58.3	116.7
BPA	<b>Soil</b>	< LOD	5.1 $\pm$ 3.5	11 $\pm$ 3	25 $\pm$ 3	55 $\pm$ 16
	<b>Root</b>	< LOD	73 $\pm$ 11	124 $\pm$ 18	212 $\pm$ 71	325 $\pm$ 69
	<b>Leaf</b>	< LOD	33 $\pm$ 17	54 $\pm$ 8	83 $\pm$ 19	158 $\pm$ 53
CAF	<b>Soil</b>	1.5 $\pm$ 0.9	4.2 $\pm$ 1.0	5.8 $\pm$ 0.6	18 $\pm$ 6	64 $\pm$ 10
	<b>Root</b>	< LOD	32 $\pm$ 9	126 $\pm$ 50	255 $\pm$ 61	398 $\pm$ 105
	<b>Leaf</b>	< LOD	32 $\pm$ 6	53 $\pm$ 11	77 $\pm$ 8	147 $\pm$ 20
CBZ	<b>Soil</b>	< LOD	0.85 $\pm$ 0.91	10.4 $\pm$ 10	37 $\pm$ 4	117 $\pm$ 30
	<b>Root</b>	< LOD	142 $\pm$ 88	234 $\pm$ 98	473 $\pm$ 116	1214 $\pm$ 314
	<b>Leaf</b>	< LOD	233 $\pm$ 47	461 $\pm$ 48	1031 $\pm$ 149	2054 $\pm$ 315
IBU	<b>Soil</b>	< LOD	0.73 $\pm$ 0.22	2.1 $\pm$ 0.81	8.7 $\pm$ 3.4	24 $\pm$ 3
	<b>Root</b>	< LOD	< LOD	13 $\pm$ 5	69 $\pm$ 32	223 $\pm$ 68
	<b>Leaf</b>	< LOD	0.93 $\pm$ 0.32	2.4 $\pm$ 1	4.9 $\pm$ 1.1	24 $\pm$ 7
PROP	<b>Soil</b>	< LOD	1.5 $\pm$ 0.2	3.8 $\pm$ 1.7	9.7 $\pm$ 6.9	27 $\pm$ 18
	<b>Root</b>	< LOD	113 $\pm$ 14	195 $\pm$ 60	313 $\pm$ 49	393 $\pm$ 47
	<b>Leaf</b>	< LOD	< LOD	29 $\pm$ 8	67 $\pm$ 11	119 $\pm$ 26
SMT	<b>Soil</b>	< LOD	0.30 $\pm$ 0.11	0.82 $\pm$ 0.44	2.4 $\pm$ 0.9	4.7 $\pm$ 1.9
	<b>Root</b>	< LOD	60 $\pm$ 18	92 $\pm$ 22	243 $\pm$ 54	495 $\pm$ 64
	<b>Leaf</b>	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD	< LOD
TON	<b>Soil</b>	1.5 $\pm$ 1.1	5.3 $\pm$ 1.8	13 $\pm$ 3	21 $\pm$ 14	39 $\pm$ 12
	<b>Root</b>	< LOD	9.4 $\pm$ 4.3	117 $\pm$ 27	270 $\pm$ 69	587 $\pm$ 122
	<b>Leaf</b>	< LOD	26 $\pm$ 14	73 $\pm$ 6	105 $\pm$ 19	321 $\pm$ 99
TCS	<b>Soil</b>	1.2 $\pm$ 1.0	10 $\pm$ 4	56 $\pm$ 18	97 $\pm$ 25	167 $\pm$ 32
	<b>Root</b>	< LOD	21 $\pm$ 18	147 $\pm$ 92	353 $\pm$ 95	772 $\pm$ 206
	<b>Leaf</b>	< LOD	13 $\pm$ 2	17 $\pm$ 1	25 $\pm$ 3	32 $\pm$ 3



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747 **FIGURE CAPTIONS**

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3 748 **Figure 1.** Boxplots of standardized concentration of tested EOCs in the three different  
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5 749 analyzed compartments (a) in the soil close to the roots ( $SR_{SC}$ ), (b) in the roots ( $R_{SC}$ ) and  
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8 750 (c) in the leaves ( $L_{SC}$ ).  
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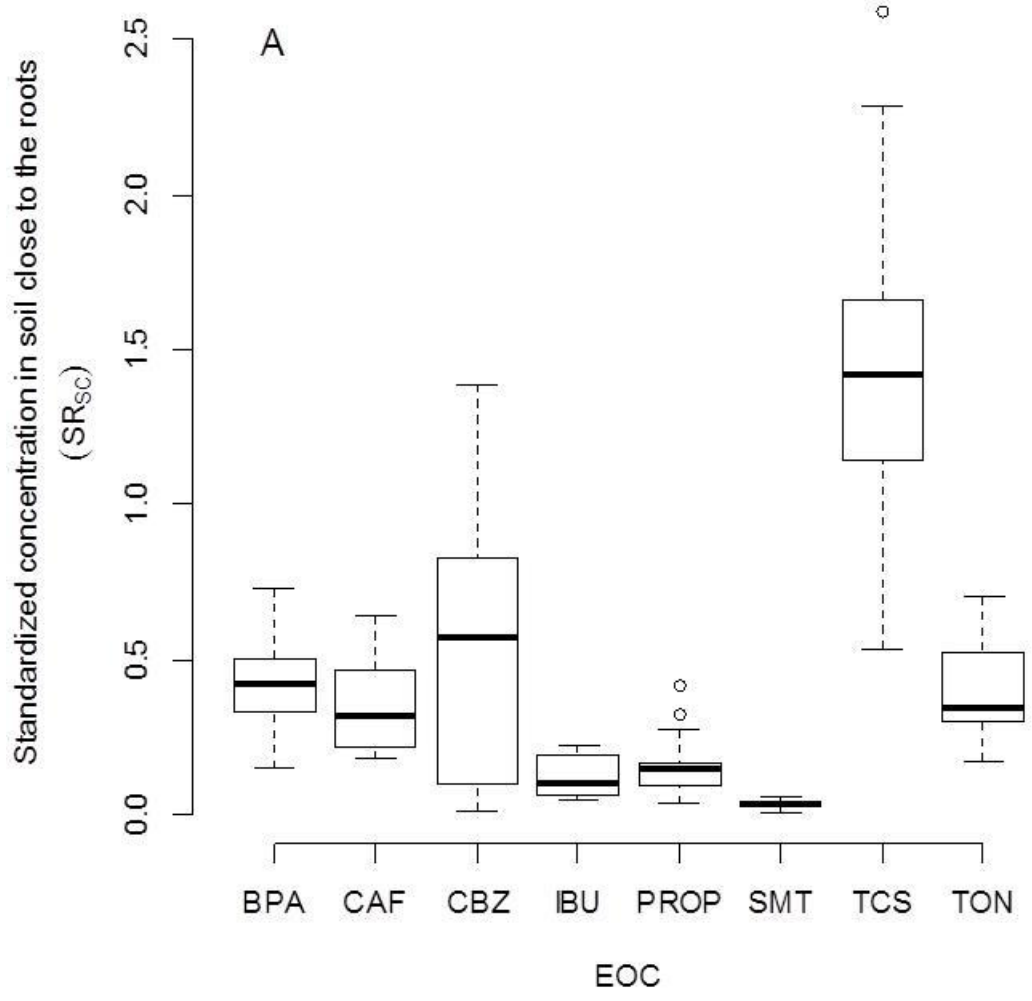
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11 751 **Figure 2.** Boxplots of the enantiomeric factors (EF) of IBU in the soil close to the roots,  
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13 752 in the roots and in the leaves. The horizontal line was the value of the commercial  
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15 753 racemic mixture of IBU (EF = 0.50).  
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19 754 **Figure 3.** Mean of the concentration factors (a) in the soil close to the roots ( $SR_{CF}$ ), (b)  
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21 755 in the roots ( $R_{CF}$ ) and (c) and leaf translocation factor ( $L_{TCF}$ ) along the initial applied  
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23 756 concentration in soil ( $S_C$ ).  
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27 757 **Figure 4.** Concentration of tested EOC in the roots ( $R_C$ , ng g<sup>-1</sup> dw) over application rate  
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29 758 expressed as the average concentration in the soil ( $S_C$ , μg kg<sup>-1</sup> dw)  
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33 759 **Figure 5.** Values of tested EOC in the leaves compared with the values obtained from  
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35 760 the product of the concentration of supplied EOC in the soil ( $S_C$ ), the concentration  
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37 761 factor of the roots ( $R_{CF}$ ) and leaf translocation concentration factor ( $L_{TCF}$ ) (Equation 2).  
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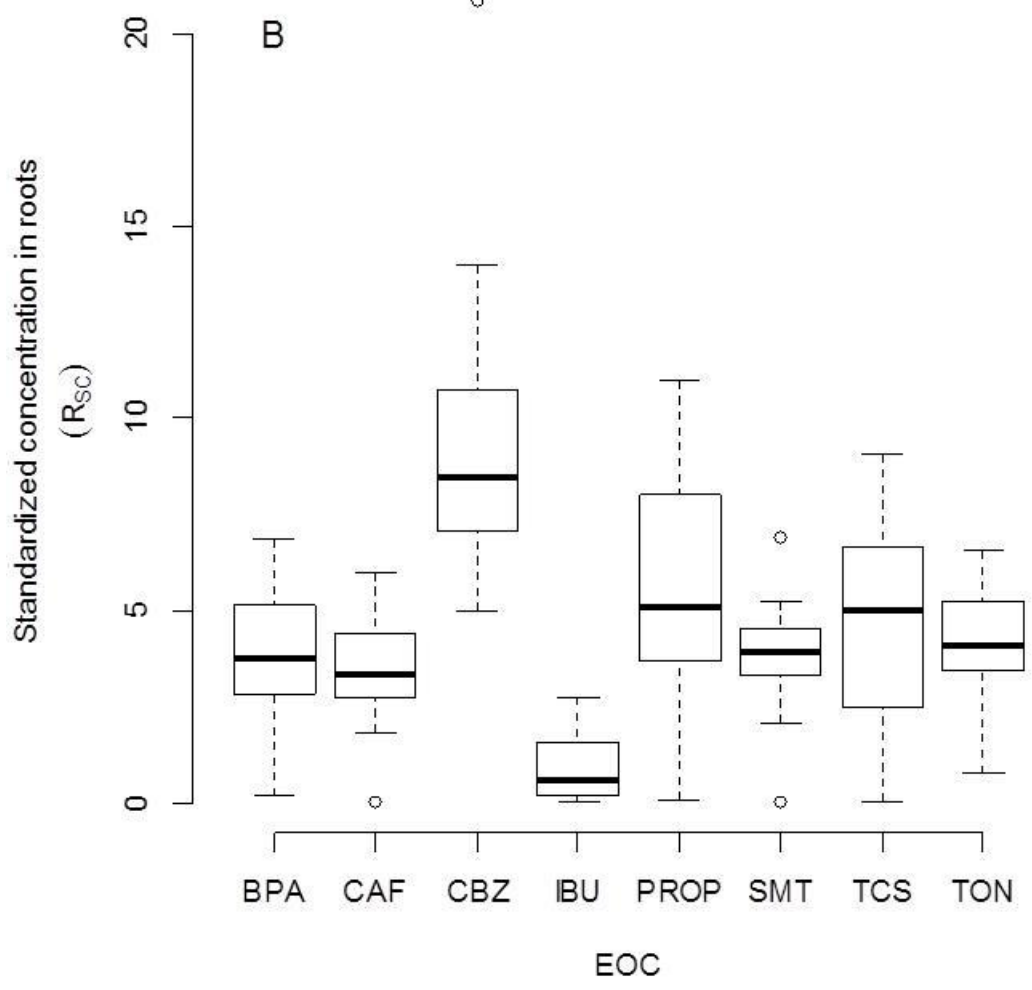
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763 **Figure 1A.**

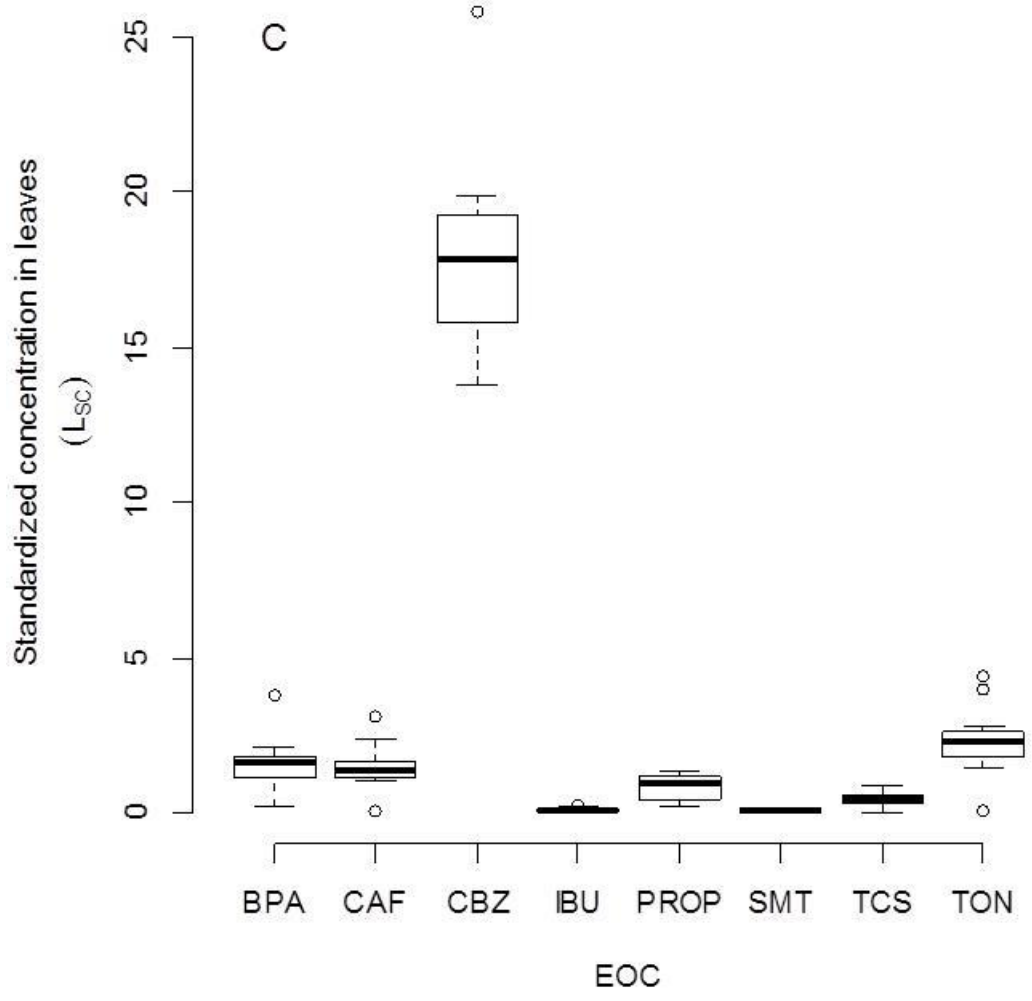
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765 **Figure 1B.**

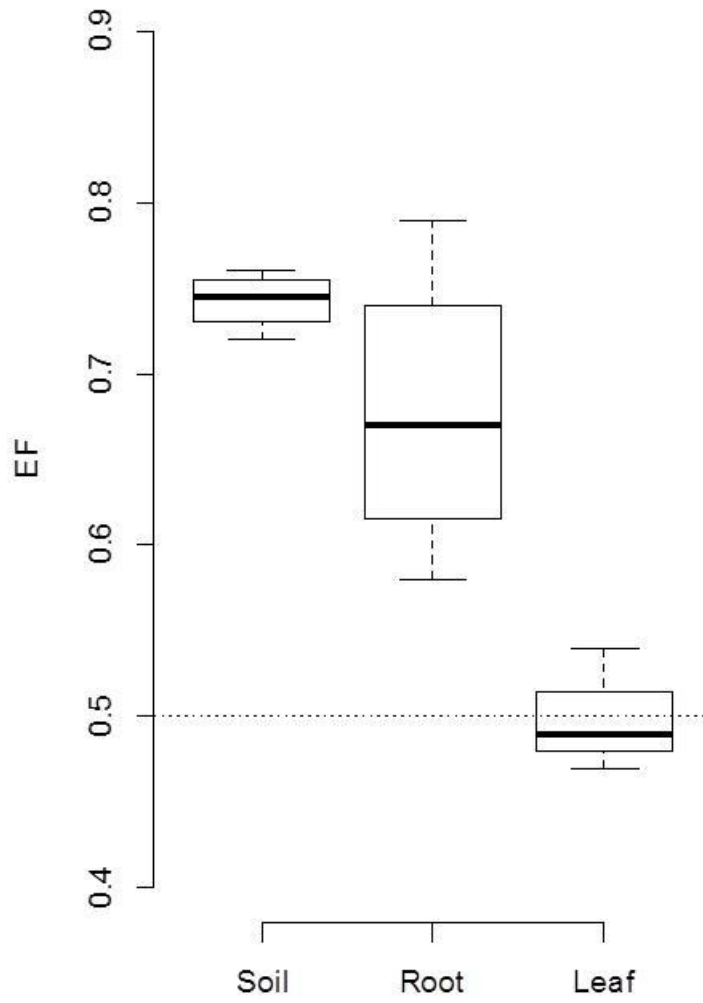
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767 **Figure 1C.**

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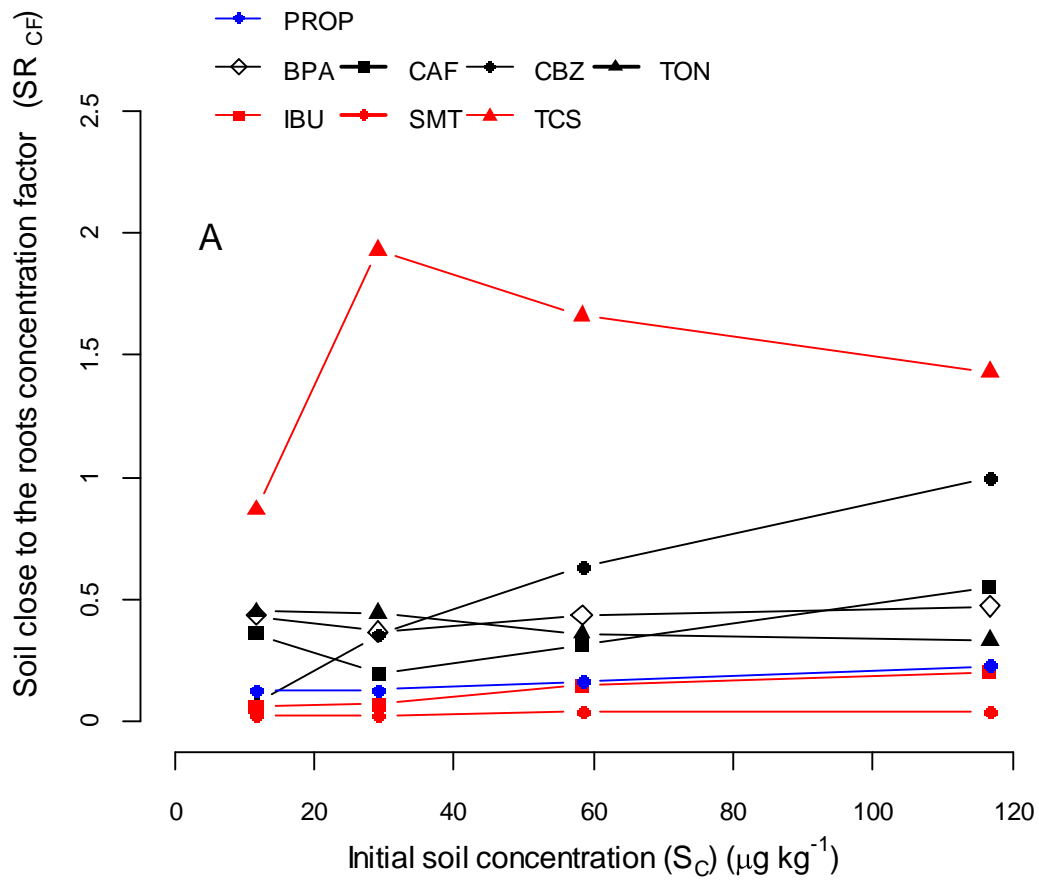


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770 **Figure 2.**

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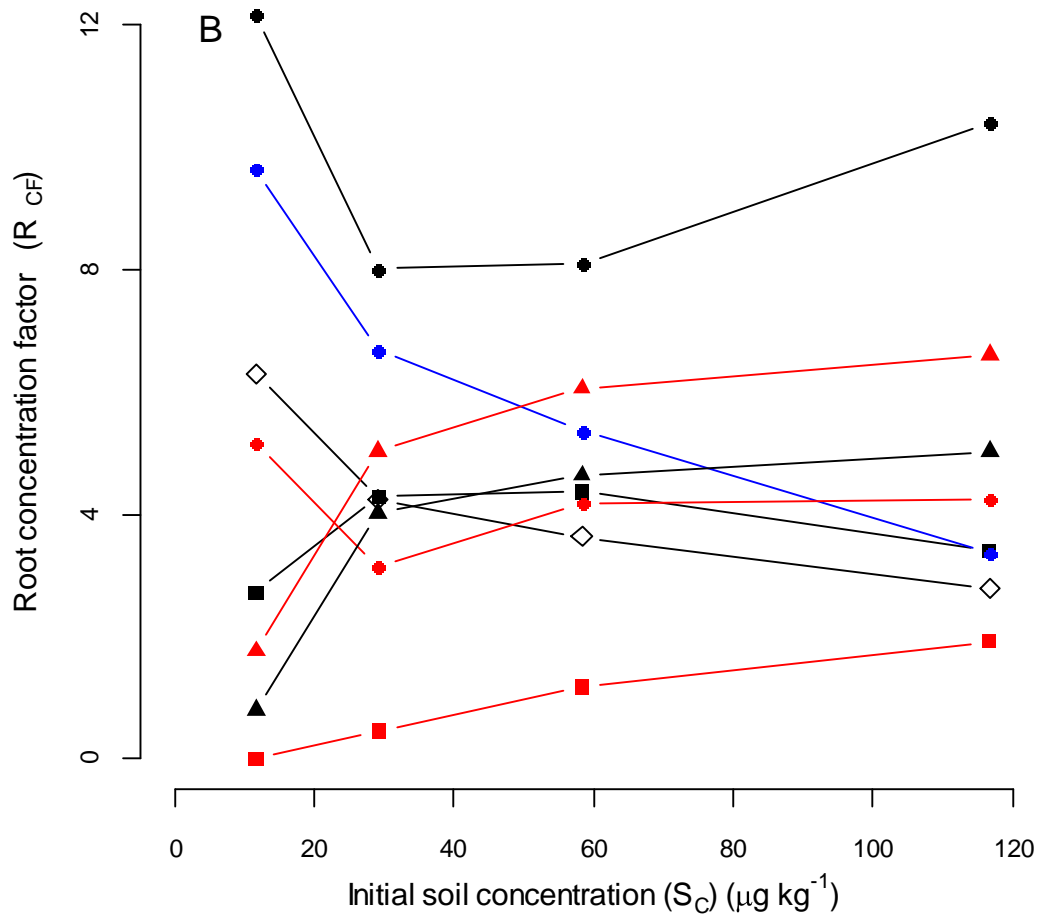
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773 **Figure 3A.**

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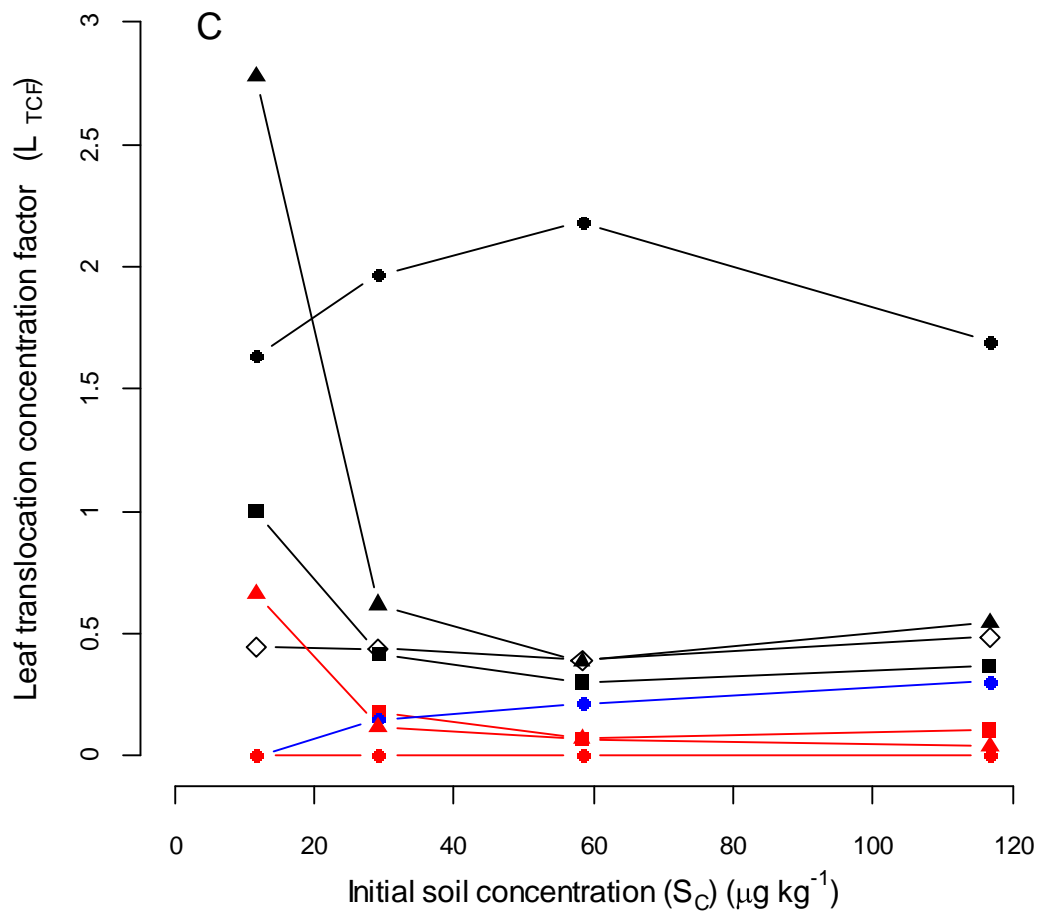


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776 **Figure 3B.**

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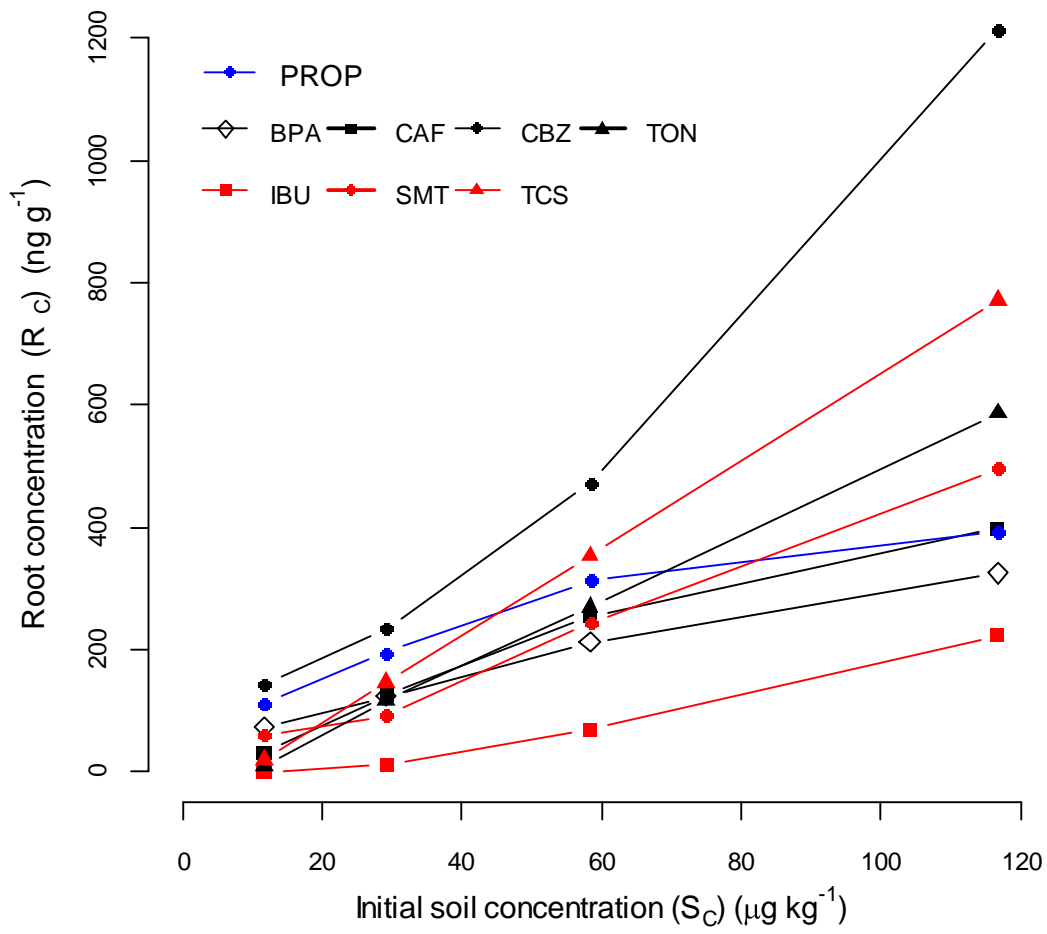


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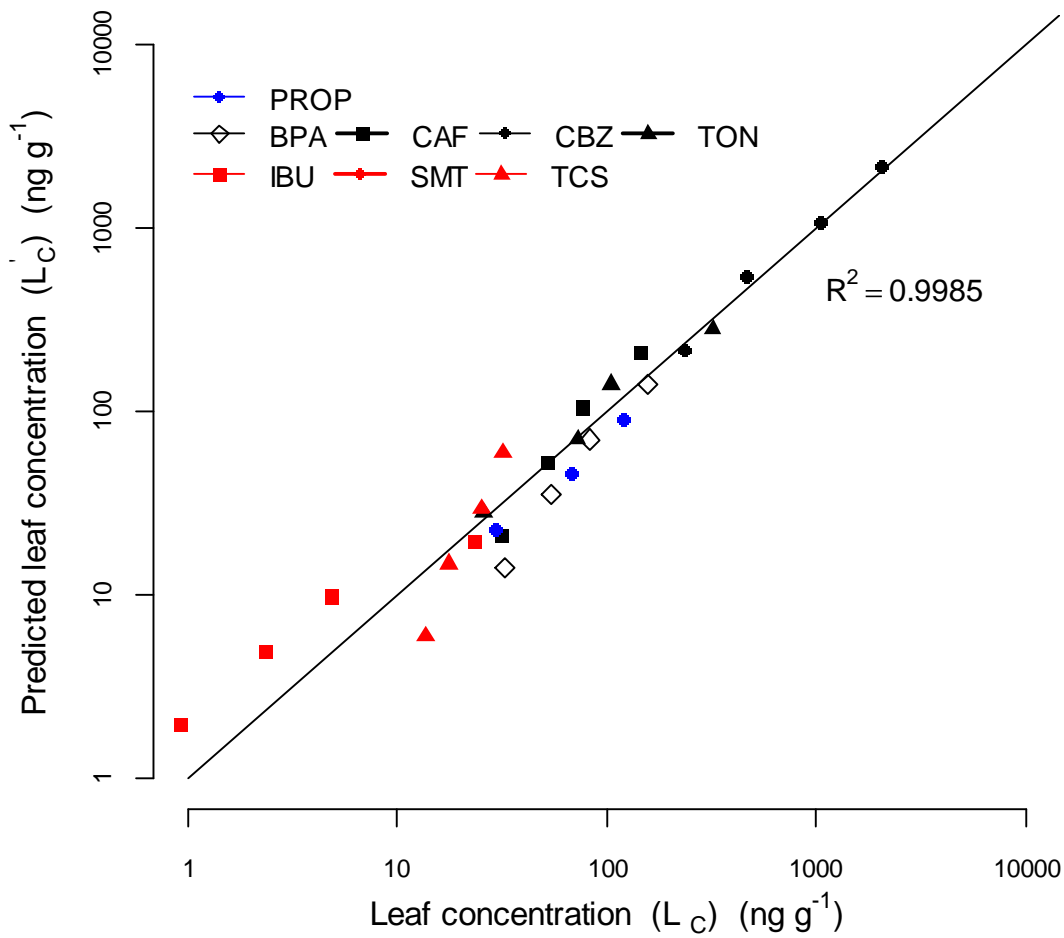
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782 **Figure 4.**

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785 **Figure 5.**

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1 Supplementary Information for

2 Estimate of uptake and translocation of emerging  
3 organic contaminants from irrigation water  
4 concentration in lettuce grown under controlled  
5 conditions

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## 16 **1.1 Materials and Reagents**

17 Internal standard triphenylamine (TPhA, 98 %) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis,  
18 MO, USA). Trimethylsulfonium hydroxide (TMSH) was obtained from Fluka (Buchs,  
19 Switzerland). 10,11-Dihydrocarbamazepine (DHCBZ, 99 %), 2,2'-dinitrobiphenyl (DNBP, 97  
20 %), 2-(2,4,5-trichlorophenoxy)propionic acid (FEN, Pestanal) and sulfamethoxazole (SMX, 99  
21 %) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich; tonalide-d3 (TON-D3) was purchased from Dr.  
22 Ehrenstorfer (Ausburg, Germany).

23 Florisil was purchased from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). Sodium sulfate anhydrous and  
24 sodium chloride were purchased from Fluka (Buchs, Switzerland). Disodium hydrogen citrate  
25 sesquihydrate and trisodium citrate dihydrate were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. Suprasolv®  
26 grade acetone, methanol, hexane, ethyl acetate and LiChrosolv® grade acetonitrile were  
27 purchased from Merck. Hydrochloric acid (37% v/v) and potassium carbonate (98 %) were  
28 purchased from Panreac (Barcelona, Spain). The Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was baked for 5 hours at 450 °C in a  
29 muffle furnace before using. Reagent water was deionized in the laboratory using the ultrapure  
30 water system Arium 611 from Sartorius (Aubagne, France).

31 (*R*)-(+)- $\alpha$ -methylbenzylamine for chiral derivatization (*R*-1-PEA,  $\geq 99\%$ ), triethylamine (TEA,  
32  $\geq 99\%$ ) and ethyl chloroformate (ECF, 97%) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Strata-X,  
33 Polymeric HLB-Phase, solid phase extraction (SPE) cartridges (30 mg / 3 mL) were purchased  
34 from Phenomenex (Torrance, CA, USA).

35

## 36 **1.2 GC-MS/MS determination**

37 BPA, CAF, CBZ, IBU, TON and TCS were analyzed by GC-MS/MS. Methylation of the  
38 acidic carboxyl group for both vegetal tissue and soils extracts was performed in a programmed

39 temperature vaporizing (PTV) injector of the gas chromatograph by adding 10  $\mu\text{L}$  TMSH to a 50  
40  $\mu\text{L}$  sample aliquot before injection. A volume of 5  $\mu\text{L}$  was injected into a Bruker 450-GC gas  
41 chromatograph coupled to a Bruker 320-MS triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (Bruker  
42 Daltonics, Billerica, MA, USA) fitted with a 20 m  $\times$  0.18 mm ID, 0.18  $\mu\text{m}$  film thickness  
43 Sapiens X5-MS capillary column coated with 5 % diphenyl 95 % dimethyl polysiloxane from  
44 Teknokroma (Sant Cugat del Vallès, Spain). The PTV was set at 60  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 0.5 min and rapidly  
45 heated to 300  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  at 200  $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$ , and hold for 7 min. Then the injector was cooled to initial 60  
46  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  at 200  $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$ . The oven temperature was held at 60  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 3.5 min and then the temperature  
47 was programmed at 30  $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$  to a 150  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  and finally at 8  $^{\circ}\text{C min}^{-1}$  to 320  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ , holding the final  
48 temperature for 6 minutes. Gas flow rate was set at 0.6  $\text{mL min}^{-1}$ . Ion source temperature and the  
49 transfer line both were held at 250 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ . A solvent delay of 8 minutes was applied. Argon gas was  
50 used for CID at a pressure of 1.8 mTorr, and the optimum collision energy (CE) was selected for  
51 each transition.

52 Qualitative and quantitative analysis was performed based on retention time and selected  
53 reaction monitoring (SRM) mode of two product ions, and the ratio between the product ions  
54 (Table S1). The limit of detection (LOD) and the limit of quantitation (LOQ) for both vegetal  
55 tissue and soil were defined as the mean background noise in a blank triplicate plus three and ten  
56 times, respectively, the standard deviation of the background noise from three blanks. LODs and  
57 LOQs were compound dependent and for leaves and roots ranged from 0.8 to 5  $\text{ng g}^{-1}$  dry weight  
58 (dw) and for soil ranged from 0.5 to 1  $\text{ng g}^{-1}$  dw. The recoveries of the surrogates added can be  
59 seen in Table S4.

### 60 **1.3 LC-MS/MS determination**

61 Extract aliquots were evaporated to dryness and reconstituted with methanol:water (20:80, v/v)  
62 for SMT and PROP determination by LC-MS/MS. A TSQ Quantum triple-stage quadrupole  
63 mass spectrometer equipped with and ESI source (Thermo Fischer Scientific, San Jose, CA,  
64 USA), a Finnigan Surveyor MS Pump Plus and an HTC PAL autosampler (CTC Analytics,  
65 Zwingen, Switzerland) were used for LC-MS/MS determination.

66 The chromatographic separation was performed on a Kinetex® C18 Phenomenex® (50 × 2.1  
67 mm, 2.6 μm). The mobile phase consist of water (A) and methanol (B) both solvents with 0.1 %  
68 formic acid and is set at 350 μL min<sup>-1</sup>. The elution started at 20 % B for 1 min and was then  
69 linearly ramped up to 99 % B in 14 min, where it was held for 1 min before returning to the  
70 initial conditions in 1 min. The injection volume was 5 μL, and the column was maintained at 35  
71 °C. The MS/MS determination was carried out in ESI positive ion mode with the spray voltage at  
72 5.0 kV and the optimum tube lens voltage (TL) were optimized for each m/z. The ion transfer  
73 temperature was set at 250 °C. Nitrogen (purity, >99.999 %) was used as a sheath gas, ion sweep  
74 gas, and auxiliary gas at 70 psi. Data were acquired in the selected reaction monitoring (SRM)  
75 mode. Argon gas was used for CID at a pressure of 1.3 mTorr, and the optimum collision energy  
76 (CE) was selected for each transition (Table 2SI).

77 Qualitative and quantitative analysis was performed based on retention time and SRM mode of  
78 two product ions, and the ratio between the product ions as confirmation. The limit of detection  
79 (LOD) and the limit of quantitation (LOQ) for both vegetal tissue and soil were calculated as the  
80 mean background noise in a blank triplicate plus three and ten times, respectively, the standard  
81 deviation of the background noise from three blanks. LODs and LOQs were compound  
82 dependent and for leaves and roots ranged from 2.1 to 3.2 ng g<sup>-1</sup> dry weight (dw) and for soil  
83 ranged from 0.05 to 0.10 ng g<sup>-1</sup> dw respectively. Limits of detection (LODs) and limits of

84 quantification for each compound in the different compartments are presented in Table S3. The  
85 recoveries of the spiked surrogates can be seen in Table S4.

#### 86 **1.4 Chiral derivatization of IBU**

87 The derivatization procedure was described by Hashim and Khan<sup>1</sup>. The extracts were subjected  
88 to chiral derivatization by adding 30  $\mu\text{L}$  of TEA (50mM in acetonitrile) and 40  $\mu\text{L}$  of ECF  
89 (60mM in acetonitrile). This mixture was sonicated for 2 min and 10  $\mu\text{L}$  of *R*-1-PEA (0.5 M in  
90 acetonitrile) were added. Then, the mixture was again sonicated for 2 min. Sulfuric acid 0.1 M  
91 and ultrapure water were added to stop the reaction, lower the pH and prepare the sample for  
92 further extraction of the diastereomeric derivatives.

93 The SPE cartridges were initially conditioned with 1.5 mL of ethyl acetate, 1.5 mL of  
94 methanol and 1.5 mL of ultra pure water adjusted to pH 9.5. The aqueous solutions were passed  
95 through the cartridges under gravity and the cartridges were rinsed twice with 1.5 mL of ultra  
96 pure water adjusted to pH 9.5. The cartridges were then dried under vacuum for 10 min. Finally,  
97 the amide derivatives were eluted with ethyl acetate (1 mL) to 2 mL GC vials.

98 The ibuprofen derivatives analysis was performed on a Trace GC-MS 2000 gas chromatograph  
99 – mass spectrometer (GC-MS) equipped with a 20 m  $\times$  0.18 mm ID, 0.14  $\mu\text{m}$  film thickness  
100 TRB-50 column coated with (50%) diphenyl-(50%) dimethyl polysiloxane from Teknokroma.  
101 The carrier gas flow rate was 0.6 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. 1  $\mu\text{L}$  samples were injected in splitless mode and the  
102 injector temperature was set at 280 °C. The oven temperature was held at 65 °C for 2 min and  
103 then the temperature was programmed at 15 °C min<sup>-1</sup> to 120 °C, at 6 °C min<sup>-1</sup> to 220 °C and 12 °C  
104 min<sup>-1</sup> to 310 °C, holding the final temperature for 10 min. Mass spectrometric ionization was  
105 undertaken in electron impact (EI) mode (70 eV) and the GC interface temperature was held at  
106 270 °C. Acquisition was performed in single-ion monitoring (SIM) mode with dwell times



107 ranging from 0.300 to 0.190 s depending on the time segment, to achieve a minimum of 7 points  
108 per GC peak. The ions 161/119/105 (25 - 30 min) were monitored for ibuprofen derivatives and  
109 245 (16 - 25 min) for internal standard tryphenylamine.

110

111

112 **Table S1.** Monitoring ions in GC-MS/MS

Segment	Compound	RT (min)	Precursor ion (m/z)	Product ion (m/z)	Collision energy (eV)
1	IBU	11.02	161*	91	23
			220	161	11
2	FEN	13.68	196*	132	20
			284	198	15
3	CAF	14.79	194*	109	14
			194	55	20
3	TON	14.96	258*	243	10
			243	187	13
3	TON-d3	14.97	261*	246	10
			246	190	13
4	CBZ	16.81	193*	191	23
			193	167	18
4	DHCBZ	17.58	195*	152	30
			195	180	18
4	TPhA	17.16	245*	167	30
			245	141	21
5	BPA	17.74	241*	133	15
			241	211	17
5	DNBP	17.95	198*	168	15
			198	138	25
6	TCS	18.25	302*	252	19
			302	189	37

113 \* Transition used for quantification

114

115 **Table S2.** Monitoring ions in LC-MS/MS (ESI)

Segment	Compound	RT (min)	Precursor ion (m/z)	Product ion (m/z)	Collision energy (eV)
1	SMT	3.51	279*	149	17
			279	186	18
2	SMX	3.82	254*	183	17
			254	155	25
3	PROP	4.75	260*	156	16
			260	92	29

116 \* Transition used for quantification

117

118 **Table S3.** Limits of detection (LOD) and quantification (LOQ) of the selected ECs in the three  
 119 compartments studied

120

Compound	Compartment	LOD (ng g <sup>-1</sup> dw)	LOQ (ng g <sup>-1</sup> dw)
BPA	<b>Soil</b>	0.91	0.98
	<b>Root</b>	3.9	4.3
	<b>Leaf</b>	4.5	5.3
CAF	<b>Soil</b>	0.52	0.58
	<b>Root</b>	1.2	1.3
	<b>Leaf</b>	1.5	1.6
CBZ	<b>Soil</b>	0.49	0.54
	<b>Root</b>	1.1	1.2
	<b>Leaf</b>	1.3	1.5
IBU	<b>Soil</b>	0.47	0.51
	<b>Root</b>	1.1	1.2
	<b>Leaf</b>	0.80	0.89
PROP	<b>Soil</b>	0.81	0.93
	<b>Root</b>	2.3	2.9
	<b>Leaf</b>	5.3	6.0
SMT	<b>Soil</b>	0.49	0.54
	<b>Root</b>	0.77	0.86
	<b>Leaf</b>	3.9	4.3
TCS	<b>Soil</b>	0.41	0.44
	<b>Root</b>	0.85	0.91
	<b>Leaf</b>	0.93	1.2
TON	<b>Soil</b>	0.53	0.60
	<b>Root</b>	1.1	1.3
	<b>Leaf</b>	1.1	1.4

121

122 **Table S4.** Recoveries of the surrogates added in each compartment.

Compound	Compartment	Recovery (%)
DHCBZ	<b>Soil</b>	52 ± 5
	<b>Root</b>	77 ± 6
	<b>Leaf</b>	81 ± 7
DNBP	<b>Soil</b>	68 ± 5
	<b>Root</b>	65 ± 5
	<b>Leaf</b>	70 ± 8
FEN	<b>Soil</b>	41 ± 4
	<b>Root</b>	77 ± 6
	<b>Leaf</b>	71 ± 7
SMX	<b>Soil</b>	61 ± 12
	<b>Root</b>	38 ± 10
	<b>Leaf</b>	35 ± 7
TON-d3	<b>Soil</b>	59 ± 7
	<b>Root</b>	73 ± 12
	<b>Leaf</b>	68 ± 14

123

124

125 **Table S5.** Linear regression coefficients between the applied dose of EOC and the concentration  
 126 found in each compartment.

Soil	Compound	Slope	R <sup>2</sup>	p-value
	BPA	0.461	0.939	1.04E-10
	CAF	0.488	0.923	5.60E-10
	CBZ	0.894	0.899	4.63E-09
	IBU	0.188	0.937	1.30E-10
	PROP	0.211	0.710	1.32E-05
	SMT	0.040	0.879	1.70E-08
	TON	0.348	0.882	1.42E-08
	TCS	1.495	0.954	1.24E-11
<b>Roots</b>				
	BPA	3.030	0.926	4.21E-10
	CAF	3.625	0.931	2.54E-10
	CBZ	9.862	0.935	1.56E-10
	IBU	1.693	0.865	3.91E-08
	PROP	3.931	0.903	3.30E-09
	SMT	4.170	0.975	1.14E-12
	TON	4.891	0.958	1.59E-10
	TCS	6.396	0.931	2.60E-10
<b>Leaves</b>				
	BPA	1.394	0.917	1.05E-09
	CAF	1.296	0.968	7.30E-13
	CBZ	17.55	0.982	1.27E-14
	IBU	0.173	0.855	6.82E-08
	PROP	1.040	0.958	5.72E-12
	SMT	NA	NA	NA
	TON	2.533	0.911	1.73E-09
	TCS	0.320	0.910	1.90E-09

127 NA: not applicable

128 **REFERENCE**

- 129 1. Hashim, N. H.; Khan, S. J., Enantioselective analysis of ibuprofen, ketoprofen and naproxen in  
130 wastewater and environmental water samples. *J. Chromatogr. A* **2011**, *1218*, (29), 4746-4754.

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