

Chlorpyrifos

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Summary

Chlorpyrifos is a chlorinated organophosphate insecticide. It is described as one of the most widely used insecticides in the world, on a wide range of crops and in numerous non-agricultural situations.

However its developer, Dow AgroSciences, stated recently that use has reduced in the last 5 years as growers move to more modern products that fit with 'green' spray programs.

It is still used in domestic situations, in homes and gardens although some countries, such as South Africa and USA, have now discontinued those uses. Dow AgroSciences does not support the use of chlorpyrifos in the home garden or for indoor/outdoor domestic or industrial pest control, because of concerns about exposure to children, pets, wildlife and the environment from this type of use. All uses of chlorpyrifos have been banned in Yemen since 2006.

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Regulatory risk statements

European Union:

R25 – Toxic if swallowed

R50/53 – Very toxic to aquatic organisms, may cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment.

European Commission: member states must pay particular attention to the protection of birds and aquatic organisms, bees and non-target arthropods.

It is a priority pollutant in the European Water Framework Directive 2000/60/CE.

United States:

Primary environmental concerns are acute and chronic risks to birds, mammals, terrestrial invertebrates, fish, and aquatic invertebrates.

Toxicity

Mode of action

Chlorpyrifos has at least three main modes of action in mammals. It inhibits the enzyme acetylcholinesterase (AChE) causing overstimulation of the nervous system.

It causes oxidative stress, a process involved in many human diseases, including cancer, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and heart failure. It also causes endocrine disruption.

Acute toxicity

It is classified by WHO as Class II, moderately hazardous. Inhibition of AChE leads to increased secretions, sensory and behavioural disturbances, incoordination, depressed motor function, respiratory depression, tremors, convulsions, and death. Seizures, lethargy, and coma are common in children.

Chronic toxicity

Metabolic effects

Early life exposure may predispose a person to obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular problems later in life.

Liver

Acute and chronic exposure can cause liver damage and disturbance of metabolic function. Chlorpyrifos is a potent inhibitor of the liver CYP450 metabolism of a number of substances including the body's own hormones testosterone and oestrogen, other pesticides, and drugs.

Cancer

US EPA reported no evidence of carcinogenicity in animal studies, but recognised that a number of epidemiological studies indicate chlorpyrifos may be carcinogenic in humans, the association being strongest for lung and rectal cancers. It acknowledged preliminary associations with breast and prostate cancer. Studies also indicate possible associations with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, lung, kidney, and brain cancer. Chlorpyrifos causes breast cancer cells to grow *in vitro*.

Genotoxicity and mutagenicity

Independent studies have found chlorpyrifos to be mutagenic or genotoxic in human, rat, mouse, Chinese hamster, toad, fish, fruitfly, and plant cells. US EPA stated chlorpyrifos is not mutagenic, but California EPA stated it may be genotoxic.

Endocrine disruption

Chlorpyrifos is an endocrine disruptor; it is antiandrogenic, oestrogenic, and affects thyroid hormones. It inhibits metabolism of testosterone and oestradiol, and testosterone synthesis. It reduces serum levels of cortisol and thyroid hormone T4, induces alterations in thyroid and adrenal glands and differentially affects levels of thyroid-stimulating hormones in men and women. It causes breast cancer cells to grow and is a breast cancer risk through its endocrine actions.

Reproductive and developmental effects

Teratogenic effects observed in rats include skeletal malformations, small hind and fore limbs, lack of spinal development, absence of thoracic vertebrae and cleft palate; in humans, defects of the brain, eyes, ears, palate, teeth, heart, feet, nipples, and genitalia have been associated with gestational exposure to chlorpyrifos. Neuroteratogenicity has also been found in both animal and human studies. Reproductive effects in animals include decreased foetal weight and viability; increased foetal death and early resorption; decreased sperm motility and count; decline in viability and developmental competence of oocytes.

In humans, chlorpyrifos exposure is associated with decreased birth weight and birth length, DNA damage in sperm, and decreased sperm concentration and sperm motility.

Nervous system – Neurodevelopment and behaviour

Chlorpyrifos is a potent developmental neurotoxin at low levels of exposure, below those that trigger foetal AChE inhibition. This is demonstrated in numerous laboratory studies and a number of recent epidemiological studies. Exposures *in utero* and in early childhood can lead to behavioural anomalies in adolescence and adulthood.

Epidemiological studies have found delayed cognitive and psychomotor development, reduced IQ, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and pervasive developmental disorder, smaller head circumference and altered brain structure. It may have long-term consequences for social adjustment and academic achievement. The effects reported are regarded by some scientists as being comparable to those seen with exposures to other neurotoxicants such as lead and tobacco smoke.

Immature organisms are far more sensitive to the effects of chlorpyrifos, in terms of both acute toxicity and developmental and neurobehavioural effects, than mature animals. Chlorpyrifos and its oxon metabolite affect the brain and developing nervous system by interfering at numerous sites and points in time, making the pesticide far more toxic than originally thought when cholinesterase inhibition was assumed to be the sole mechanism of concern.

Chlorpyrifos has a greater adverse effect on neural cell replication and is inherently more toxic to the developing brain than the more acutely toxic organophosphates such as diazinon and parathion. It is toxic to children at doses that are not toxic to adults, and tests using adult animals cannot predict the long-term delayed effects of chlorpyrifos in offspring.

There are sex-related differences in effects on the brain, and subsequent cognitive function in adolescence and adulthood, with females affected more than males by prenatal exposures and vice versa for postnatal exposures.

Nervous system – other effects

Epidemiological studies have shown that both acute and chronic exposures to

chlorpyrifos result in a range of long-term neuropsychological effects, including peripheral and central neuropathy, affective disorders, and neurocognitive deficits.

It can cause organophosphate induced delayed polyneuropathy (OPIDP), and organophosphate-induced chronic neuropathy (OPICN), involving degeneration of the peripheral and central nervous systems, which may result in weakness, numbness and paresthesia, and even life-threatening paralysis. It can also cause chronic neuropsychological effects like anxiety, depression and suicide.

There is evidence from laboratory and epidemiological studies of an association with Parkinson's disease.

Immune system

There is evidence from both laboratory and epidemiology studies of immune toxicity, including effects on lymphocytes, thymocytes, T cells, tumour necrosis factor, and autoimmunity.

Exposure

Chlorpyrifos is pervasive in the environment. Adults and children are widely exposed through occupational use, contact with treated surfaces, ingestion or inhalation of contaminated dust, breathing air in treated buildings or near treated fields or orchards, contact with flea collars on pets, and residues in food and drinking water.

It is a widespread contaminant of fruit and vegetables, but is also found in grains, beans, dairy products, meat, fish, tea, and soft drinks. It is even found in processed products such as bread, hamburgers, jam, meat pies, muesli, olive oil, pasta, pizza, sausages, and snack bars. It is a common residue in the dust of rural houses and farmworker vehicles.

Body burdens and poisonings

Chlorpyrifos has been found in cervical fluid, sperm fluid, cord blood, meconium, breast milk, and maternal and infant hair. Biomonitoring in the US showed that 94% of residents had chlorpyrifos in their bodies in 1999-2000.

There are numerous reports of occupational and non-occupational poisonings, and suicides, from a number of countries.

Environmental effects

Aquatic

Chlorpyrifos is very toxic to fish, and moderately to very highly toxic to amphibia and aquatic invertebrates. It can have significant effects on aquatic community structure.

Residues have been found in sea otters, frogs, fish, and oysters. It can accumulate in areas of intense biological productivity, such as littoral zones and river deltas, posing a long-term threat to aquatic ecosystems. It causes endocrine disruption in fish, frogs, and mussels. In fish, it has caused mutagenicity, spinal deformities, and altered swimming behaviour. There have been large fish kills reported in several countries.

Some species of amphibia are very highly sensitive to chlorpyrifos and scientists are concerned about its potential involvement in declining frog populations. Sublethal effects include teratogenicity, genotoxicity, and altered swimming of tadpoles.

Terrestrial

Chlorpyrifos is moderately toxic to earthworms, very toxic to mammals, very highly toxic to some birds, and extremely toxic to bees and beneficial insects, making it completely incompatible with IPM. Sublethal effects in birds include reduced flying ability. There have been a number of reported bird kills.

Chlorpyrifos has an inhibitory effect on soil microbial functional diversity, reducing microbial biomass by as much as 50% after application, inhibiting nitrogen mineralisation, and reducing bacterial, fungal and actinomycete populations.

Environmental fate

Persistence

Chlorpyrifos meets the Stockholm Convention criteria for persistence in soil, sediment and water. Residues are found in soil, groundwater, surface waters and sediments, wastewater, marine sediments, air, rain, snow, and fog.

Bioaccumulation

Bioaccumulation is described as moderate to high. The K_{ow} ranges from 4.7 to 5.11, meeting the Stockholm Convention criteria of 5. Reported bioaccumulation factors vary, but some are higher than the criteria of 5,000.

Long-range transport

Chlorpyrifos volatilises, undergoes long-range transport, and distils out of the air in cold climates far from its site of application.

It has been measured consistently in the Arctic, in ice, snow, fog, air, seawater, lake sediment, fish and vegetation. It is amongst the pollutants with the highest concentrations present in the Arctic, in excess of most legacy POPs pesticides.

Pest resistance

Resistance is now widespread, involving 65 species in at least 47 countries.

Alternatives

Numerous alternatives exist, including biopesticides such as neem, biological controls such as Btk, and predatory and parasitic insects.

There are also numerous agroecological pest management practices that focus on preventing pest build up.

1 Chemical Profile

1.1 Identity

Common name

Chlorpyrifos

Common trade names

Dursban, Lorsban

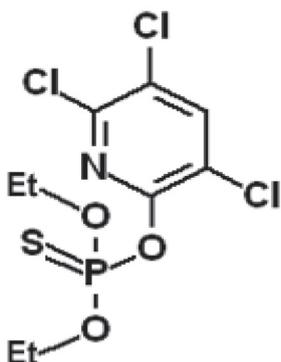
Chemical names and form

O,O-diethyl O-3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridyl phosphorothioate

White to tan coloured crystalline solid. Formulations include gels, emulsifiable concentrates, granules, wettable powders, dry flowable powders, pressurized liquids, dusts, ready-to-use solutions, microencapsulated material, pellets/tablets, soluble concentrates, and impregnated materials such as cattle ear tags and plastic bags.

Molecular formula and structure

C₉H₁₁Cl₃NO₃PS



Chemical group

Organophosphate (OP)

Other related chemicals

Chlorpyrifos-methyl

CAS numbers

2921-88-2: chlorpyrifos

5598-13-0: chlorpyrifos-methyl

5598-15-2: chlorpyrifos oxon

5598-52-7: fospirate (chlorpyrifos-methyl oxon)

Other trade names

Ballad, Binachlor, Bonidel, Brodan, Cequisa, Chemiban, Chemicide, Chemitox, Chlorfos, Coroban, Cyren, Dadas, Danusban, Deforce, Dowco 179, Durmet, Dymite, Embark, Empire, Equity, Eradex, Etec, Flypel, Fosban, Govern, Kensban, Killmaster, Languard, Lenfos, Lentrek, Lidcide, Logic, Lyntox, Mas-kill, Milex,

Mission, Mortein Roach Bait, Parapet, Paraulod, Pattas, Perri, Pest-Ban 100, Pestgone, Pestox, Piridane, Plasbon, Polaris, Pychlorex, Pyriban, Pyrinex, Pyritilene, Pyrophus, Radar, Rampage, Rentogard, Siga, Spanniti, Suscon Green, Terban, Termiban, Termicide, Termifos, Termigard, Termitedown, Termitezap, Termitof, Termitrek, Test, Toppel, Torban, Tracer, Tricel, Vessel, Vexter, Vulcan, Wormgun, X-phos, Xterminate, Zemmiban, Zesban, Zespest.

Chlorpyrifos is also found in mixtures with other insecticides, including abamectin, acetamiprid, buprofezin, cyfluthrin, cypermethrin, diazinon, dichlorvos, emamectin, ethiprole, fenobucarb, hexaflumuron, isoprocarb, permethrin, phoxim, pyretrozone, spinosad, thiram, triazophos, trichlorfon, and fungicides such as mancozeb and carbendazim. Other formulations contain fertilisers, and herbicides such as trifluralin and benfluralin. It is commonly formulated with pyrethroids for use in warehouses, ships, etc.

Trade names of mixtures containing chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin or alpha-cypermethrin include: Accurate ACE, Agent 505, Azudin, Banner, Bisect, Blink, Bombard, Comman, Cychlophos, Cyclone, Dragon, Eclipse, Emrell, Energy, Fighter, Gaya, Invathrin, Kayak, Kenrel, Konsep, Meriphos, Myphos, Naga, Newro, Nurelle, Pazelo, Perforce, Power, Protocol, Safari, Sirelle, Starphos, Strike, Subside, Trend, Twinspan.

1.2 Inerts and contaminants

Contaminants

World Health Organization specifications for maximum levels of contaminants (WHO 2009a):

- sulfotep (O,O,O',O'-tetraethyl dithiopyrophosphate) = 3 g/kg
- acetone insolubles = 5 g/kg

1.3 Metabolites

The main degradate in the environment is 3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinol (TCP). It is less toxic than chlorpyrifos. A secondary metabolite is 3,5,6-trichloro-2-methoxypyridine (TMP) (EC 2005).

Chlorpyrifos may also be oxidised to an active metabolite, chlorpyrifos oxon (NMFS 2008). The oxon is rapidly formed in chlorinated water, but also degrades rapidly to TCP (Duirk & Collette 2005). Chlorpyrifos oxon is approximately 12 times more toxic than chlorpyrifos (US EPA 2013a).

Six degradation products, including chlorpyrifos oxon, have been identified after electrochemical degradation of chlorpyrifos in wastewater (Robles-Molina et al 2012).

1.4 Mode of action in insects

Chlorpyrifos is a non-systemic organophosphate insecticide, acting as a cholinesterase inhibitor with contact, stomach, and respiratory action (WHO 2009a). It affects the nervous system by binding to the active site of the cholinesterase enzyme, preventing the breakdown of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine in the synaptic cleft. The resulting accumulation of acetylcholine in the synaptic cleft causes overstimulation of the neuronal cells, which leads to neurotoxicity and eventually death (NPIC 2009).

1.5 Uses

Chlorpyrifos is used as an insecticide, acaricide, and nematicide to control Coleoptera, Diptera, Homoptera and Lepidoptera in soil, on foliage, and on animals (WHO 2009a). It is used on nuts, fruit, vegetables, grain, seeds, fodder crops, and Christmas trees; in forestry, nurseries, greenhouses, food processing plants, industrial plants, warehouses, and ships; for disease vector control (mosquito larvicide and adulticide), household pests, fire ants, termites, and pests in animal houses; as a sheep dip for the control of lice, blowfly and ked; on golf courses and turf; as an anti-mildew agent in wood preservatives, and as ant baits; for treating poles, fence posts, railway ties, and railway box cars; in ear tags for cattle which may also contain other insecticides such as diazinon, cypermethrin or permethrin.

In some Latin American countries, chlorpyrifos-treated plastic bags are fixed over bunches of bananas to prevent insect damage (Bellamy 2012).

It is also formulated into paint for controlling insects, in slow release microencapsulated form. One formulation, IGR FITO®, which also contains pyriproxifen, has been trialled as a painted band around citrus trees to prevent ants from foraging in the trees (Juan-Blasco et al 2011), and for preventing infestations of the red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*, in palms (Llácer et al 2010). Another insecticidal paint, Inesfly 5A IGR™, which contains diazinon as well as chlorpyrifos and pyriproxifen, has been trialled as an indoor paint in Benin against mosquitoes *Anopheles gambiae* and *Culex quinquefasciatus* (Mosqueira et al 2010); and in Argentina against *Triatoma*

infestans, the main vector of Chagas disease (Amelotti et al 2009). One media item reported that approximately 7,000 houses in the Chaco region of Bolivia have been coated with the paint to combat Chagas disease, and that it has been used against scorpions, *Triatoma*, and *Aedes* mosquitos in Mexico, although it has not been evaluated by the World Health Organization for these uses (Friedman-Rudovsky 2012).

In 2010, in Cali, Colombia, urban building owners used chlorpyrifos at an average rate of 2 kg/month/house to control leaf-cutting ants. An urban area with 200 homes was using approximately 4.8 tonnes/year for this one pest (Montoya-Lerma et al 2012).

Chlorpyrifos-methyl is used for post-harvest fumigation of stored grains such as wheat, barley and maize; residues can turn up in animal products, flour and beer (JMPR 2013).

Application

In agriculture, chlorpyrifos is commonly used as a foliar spray, or applied directly to soil and incorporated into it before planting (US EPA 2009a). It may also be applied to bark or seeds. It is applied by aerial spraying, chemigation, ground boom sprayers, tractor-drawn granular spreaders, airblast sprayers, low and high pressure hand wands, backpack sprayers, hydraulic hand-held sprayers, shaker cans, belly grinders, push-type spreaders, large tank sprayers, compressed air sprayers, hose-end sprayers, and aerosol sprayers (US EPA 2006).

Extent of use

Chlorpyrifos is one of the most widely used insecticides in the world. It is one of the main insecticides in countries such as Thailand (Panuwet et al 2009), the Philippines (Lu 2011), Vietnam (Phung et al 2012), Argentina (Jergentz et al 2005), and Brazil where there is an estimated annual usage of 1.8 kt/year (Meire et al 2012). It was ranked as the most common insecticide in 2007 in the US (Alavanja et al 2013). It is the most widely used organophosphate in Chile because it is cheap and easily accessible to the public (Muñoz-Quezada et al 2012). In The Gambia, chlorpyrifos is freely available in local markets for mosquito control (Murphy et al 2012).

China alone has 1,022 registered products containing chlorpyrifos (ICAMA 2012). In 2011, it exported chlorpyrifos to the value of USD 110 million, making it China's 6th highest pesticide export by value. By 2015, China's production capacity is expected to reach 200,000 tonnes, and its output 170,000 tonnes, accounting for over 85% of global capacity and output (AgroNews 2013).

However, Dow AgroSciences, in their submission to the New Zealand Environmental Protection Authority's reassessment of OP and carbamate insecticides, stated that:

- “use has dropped off over the last 20 years and particularly in the last 5 years as growers move to products that fit with ‘green’ spray programs”;
- “in general over the last 20 years, chlorpyrifos has been largely phased out of horticulture and replaced by more modern products”; and
- “Dow AgroSciences does not support the use of chlorpyrifos in the home garden or for indoor/outdoor domestic or industrial pest control. Dow AgroSciences has voluntarily withdrawn its chlorpyrifos products from these uses globally because of concerns about exposure to children, pets, wildlife and the environment from this type of use (Dow AgroSciences 2013).

1.6 Manufacturers

Dow AgroSciences is the original discoverer and developer, but chlorpyrifos is no longer under patent so there are many manufacturers, including Cheminova, Gharda Chemicals, Makhteshim, and SumiAgro.

The main producers in China are Redsun Group, Shandong Tiancheng, Zhejiang Xinnong, Jiangsu Baoling, Zhejiang Dongfeng, Lier Chemical, and Shandong Lvba (AgroNews 2013).

1.7 Regulatory Status

Chlorpyrifos was first registered in 1965 in the US (Cal EPA 2010), and it is now registered in many countries.

Regional and National Bans

In Yemen, chlorpyrifos has been banned from sale and restricted for use since 2006 (El-Zaemey et al 2013).

It is approved in the EU until June 30th 2016, and is authorised in all member countries except Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Sweden (IUPAC 2012).

Restrictions

USA: Residential uses, uses in indoor areas where children could be exposed such as schools, and use in children's parks, are banned, with the exception of child-resistant ant and roach baits, because of risks to children. All

these uses ceased by the end of 2001, and all termite treatments ceased by the end of 2005. It was also prohibited for use on tomatoes (US EPA 2006).

South Africa: Household, home garden and domestic use was banned in 2010 (DAFF 2010).

Reassessments

Chlorpyrifos is being reassessed in a number of countries, including the European Union, New Zealand, and the USA.

1.8 International Standards

PAN International

Chlorpyrifos is on PAN International's list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides for global phase-out (PAN Int 2011).

2 Toxicological & Epidemiological Assessment

2.1 Absorption and metabolism

Chlorpyrifos is absorbed by inhalation, ingestion and skin penetration (Reigart & Roberts 1999). It is completely metabolised to chlorpyrifos oxon and then to 3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinol (TCP) in the liver by the cytochrome P450 enzyme system (CYP450) (Hodgson & Rose 2008). CYP450 replaces the sulfur of the P=S group with oxygen in a process known as oxidative desulfuration to form the oxon (Flaskos 2012). The oxon is a more potent inhibitor of acetylcholinesterase than chlorpyrifos itself (Verma et al 2009).

Chlorpyrifos is absorbed rapidly and widely distributed in rats, with 80% excretion in urine within 48 hours (EC 2005). US EPA (2011) gives different figures, stating it is excreted as metabolites, mainly TCP, in urine (84%) and faeces (5%) within 7 hours.

There is some question about the extent of dermal absorption of chlorpyrifos in humans. US EPA (2011) gave a figure of 1-3% dermal absorption based on a 1982 industry (Dow) study. However, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA) accepted 9.6% as the appropriate absorption level, stating concerns about the high doses used in the industry study leading to an inadequate characterisation of absorption (Thongsinthusak 1999). An earlier memorandum from Tian Thongsinthusak of Cal EPA, in 1991, shows quite clearly that the higher the dose administered, the lower the dermal absorption, with a dermal dose of 316 $\mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ resulting in

4.3% dermal absorption and $3 \mu\text{g}/\text{cm}^2$ resulting in 11.4 % dermal absorption. A subsequent analysis from the University of Washington, of how dermal absorption figures were arrived at for chlorpyrifos, confirmed Cal EPA's view that 3% is too low and 9.6% more realistic for occupational exposure (Kissel 2011). More recently, Ertl & Butte (2012), in a study on the bioavailability of pesticides in house dust, described it as 93% absorbed in humans, with a dermal penetration ability of 56% and a digestive bioaccessibility of 37% (when food is present in the gut). Epidemiology studies described later in the section on *Human exposure* indicate that there is relatively high dermal exposure occurring under practical conditions of use.

There is a huge variation in the rate of chlorpyrifos detoxification in humans: the enzyme paraoxonase (PON1) plays an important role in this. PON1 is a calcium-activated enzyme distributed in various tissues, including the liver, brain, and blood; and it hydrolyses the oxon before it can reach its target, the acetylcholinesterase enzyme (AChE) (US EPA 2011). Several polymorphisms (variations) of the PON1 gene influence both the level of expression of the enzyme and its catalytic ability, thus determining the rates at which an individual will detoxify a specific pesticide (Cal EPA 2008). PON1 levels vary significantly between people, as much as 14-fold among mothers and as much as 26-fold among newborns (Furlong et al 2006). A 57-fold variation in metabolism was found in a study using human liver microsomes (Croom et al 2010).

Chlorpyrifos also crosses the placenta: in a study on rats, in which dams were fed chlorpyrifos, total residues in fetuses ($0.0447 \mu\text{g}/\text{g}$) were higher than in the dams ($0.0120 \mu\text{g}/\text{g}$), with the highest level of residues in the liver ($0.053 \mu\text{g}/\text{g}$), followed by the brain ($0.036 \mu\text{g}/\text{g}$), placenta ($0.040 \mu\text{g}/\text{g}$) and amniotic fluid ($0.001 \mu\text{g}/\text{g}$) (Akhtar et al 2006).

A study for Dow AgroSciences measured residues in rats milk following chlorpyrifos intake at $0.3 \text{ mg}/\text{kg}/\text{day}$ (US EPA 2011).

2.2 Modes of action in mammals

Chlorpyrifos has at least three main modes of action in mammals: (a) inhibition of the enzyme AChE, (b) oxidative stress, and (c) endocrine disruption. The first two are described below, and endocrine disruption is described later.

Additionally, USEPA(2011) states that the modes of action associated with the effects of chlorpyrifos

on the developing brain are still not fully known, but biologically plausible hypotheses include effects on signalling pathways, a morphogenic role of AChE on the structure of the brain, and reduction in axonal transport mediated through impaired tubulin polymerization.

Chlorpyrifos shows a non-monotonic dose response, typical of endocrine disruption, in some circumstances, such as in weight gain in male rats following foetal exposure (Lassiter & Brimijoin 2008).

Inhibition of acetylcholinesterase (AChE)

One of the main actions of chlorpyrifos in humans and insects, as with other organophosphates, is to inhibit the AChE through phosphorylation. This enzyme breaks down the neurotransmitter acetylcholine which activates cholinergic neurons, the nerve cells that control signals in the peripheral nervous system, brain, and spinal cord. If acetylcholine is not inactivated immediately after it has done its job, the neurons become over-stimulated leading to increased secretions, sensory and behavioural disturbances, incoordination, depressed motor function, respiratory depression, tremors, convulsions, and death (Reigart & Roberts 1999; Colborn 2006). Recovery depends on manufacturing more AChE. This effect of chlorpyrifos is said to be caused by the metabolite, chlorpyrifos oxon, rather than the parent compound (Slotkin 2004).

Available data indicates that humans are more sensitive than animals to inhibition of AChE from both oral and dermal exposures (US EPA 2011).

Oxidative stress

Oxidative stress occurs when the production of 'reactive oxygen species', such as free radicals and hydrogen peroxide, exceeds the body's ability to neutralise and eliminate them, overwhelming antioxidant defences such as glutathione, and resulting in DNA damage, and cell and tissue death. Oxidative stress is involved in many human diseases, including Parkinson's disease, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and heart failure. Oxidative stress can also lead to cardiovascular, respiratory and neurological problems as well as advance general aging (Verma et al 2009). Commonly used measures of the extent of oxidative stress in laboratory studies are the levels of glutathione and associated enzymes of the antioxidant system such as glutathione reductase (GR), glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (GPD or G6PD), glutathione-S-transferase (GST), glutathione peroxidase (GPx), catalase (CAT), and superoxide dismutase (SOD); and measures of the oxidation of lipids in cell membranes,

lipid peroxidation (LPO), such as levels of malondialdehyde (MDA) and 4-hydroxynonal (4-H). Alterations in the components of the antioxidant system can be used as biomarkers for pesticide poisoning (Mehta et al 2009; Kalender et al 2012).

Oxidative stress, in addition to AChE inhibition, underlies the developmental neurotoxicity of chlorpyrifos (Slotkin & Seidler 2009). Additionally, chlorpyrifos causes damage to the dopaminergic neurons via oxidative stress effects on mitochondria, and this mechanism may lead to neurodegenerative disease such as Parkinson's disease (Lee et al 2012).

A number of studies have demonstrated oxidative stress damage in rodent tissues:

- Chlorpyrifos caused oxidative stress in rat brain, resulting in accumulation of MDA and 4-H in all three regions of the rat brain (fore, mid and hind). It also increased levels of hydrogen peroxide, nitrate and nitrite in brain and liver (Mehta et al 2009; Verma et al 2009).
- At a dose of 5.4 mg/kg (1/25th of the LD₅₀), it caused decreased levels of GPx and GST, but increased activity of MDA, SOD and CAT in rat testis tissue (Kalender et al 2012).
- Another study in rat testis tissue found that 9 mg/kg caused a 179-fold increase in LPO, and significantly decreased CAT, SOD, GPx and GST resulting in oxidative damage to tissue (Attia et al 2012).
- At a dose of 6.75 mg/kg, it increased LPO, and decreased SOD, GST, CAT, and AChE in rat red blood cells (Mansour & Mossa 2009).
- It decreased GPx and GST, but increased the activity of SOD, CAT, and MDA in rat lung tissue (Uzun et al 2010).
- A single oral dose of 63 mg/kg caused oxidative stress in the retina of mice, with increased LPO, and decreased SOD, CAT, and GPx (Yu et al 2008).
- A single dose of 30 mg/kg caused significant increase in LPO and decrease in total antioxidants in rats (Elsharkawy et al 2013).
- Chlorpyrifos decreased SOD and glutathione and increased plasma GPx activity at low doses in rats, but increased it at higher doses (Bebe & Panemangalore 2003).
- An increase in MDA, indicating increased LPO, was observed in plasma, liver, kidney and foetal tissue when pregnant rats were fed chlorpyrifos from the 6th to 15th days of gestation (Zama et al 2007).
- Increase in MDA, SOD and CAT, but decrease in GPx and GST in rats fed a sublethal dose of

chlorpyrifos of 5.4 mg/kg per day for 4 weeks (Uzun & Kalender 2013).

- Consistent dose-dependent toxicity to brain cells known as oligodendrocyte progenitors, through oxidative stress (Saulsbury et al 2009).

Chlorpyrifos also causes oxidative stress in fish: it inhibited SOD, CAT, and GR in mosquito fish, *Gambusia affinis* (Kavitha & Rao 2008) and common carp (Xing et al 2012).

2.3 Acute toxicity

Lethal doses

The lethal dose, LD₅₀, is the dose that kills 50% of test animals.

No & Lowest Observed Adverse Effects Levels

The No Observed Adverse Effects Level (NOAEL) is the lowest dose of the chemical given to a test animal at which no harmful effects are observed, and the Lowest Observed Adverse Effects Level (LOAEL) is the lowest dose of the chemical at which a harmful effect is observed.

WHO (2009b) Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard: Class II Moderately hazardous

US EPA (2006) Hazard Classification:

- Acute toxicity by oral, dermal and inhalation = Category II, moderately toxic
- Eye irritation = Category IV, slightly toxic
- Skin irritation = Category IV, mildly toxic

A wide variety of lethal doses have been reported:

Oral LD₅₀:¹

- rat = 64 mg/kg (IUPAC 2012)
- rat = 66-195 mg/kg (EC 2005)
- rat = 223 mg/kg (US EPA 2011)
- rat = 82-270 mg/kg (Cal EPA 2010)
- rat, female = 144-223 mg/kg (WHO 2009a)
- rat, male = 221-223 mg/kg (WHO 2009a)
- rat = 96 mg/kg (96-480 mg/kg) (NZ EPA 2012)
- chicken = 32-35 mg/kg (ATSDR 1997)

Acute dietary NOAEL = 0.5 mg/kg (US EPA 2009b)

An acute oral study in humans gave the following results (EC 2005):

- LOAEL = 2 mg/kg based on red blood cell AChE inhibition
- NOAEL = 1.0 mg/kg

¹ All values are expressed as mg/kg body weight/day.

The acute oral LD₅₀ of sulfotep is 5 mg/kg; at an 'average' oral LD₅₀ of 229 mg/kg for chlorpyrifos, the sulfotep contamination at the maximum specification level of 3 mg/kg increases the toxicity of chlorpyrifos by 242% (WHO 2009a).

The acute oral LD₅₀ of chlorpyrifos oxon is 100-300 mg/kg bw/day (male and female, respectively) (EC 2005).

Dermal

- LD₅₀ rat = 1250-2000 mg/kg (EC 2005)
- LD₅₀ rat = >2000 mg/kg (WHO 2009a)
- LD₅₀ rabbit = >5000 mg/kg (WHO 2009a)
- LD₅₀ mouse = 120 mg/kg (NZ EPA 2012)
- Short-term NOAEL = 5 mg/kg (US EPA 2009b)
- Absorbed dermal NOAEL = 0.15 mg/kg (US EPA 2011)

Inhalation

- LC₅₀ rat = 0.1 mg/L (IUPAC 2012)
- LC₅₀ rat = >1.0 mg/L (EC 2005)
- LC₅₀ rat = >0.2 mg/L (US EPA 2011)
- LC₅₀ rabbit = > 200 mg/m³ (WHO 2009a)
- LC₅₀ rat female (4hr) = 2890 mg/m³ (WHO 2009a)
- NOAEL = 0.1 mg/kg (US EPA 2009b)

Acute sublethal effects in laboratory studies

US EPA (1999a) reported the following symptoms: decreased motor activity and increased incidence of clinical signs consistent with organophosphate intoxication.

Acute effects in humans

The primary effect of acute exposure to chlorpyrifos is on the nervous system. Acute exposure may result in the classic signs and symptoms of organophosphate poisoning in humans (Reigart & Roberts 1999):

Critical symptoms:

- respiratory: bronchospasm and bronchorrhoea, producing tightness in the chest, wheezing, productive cough, and pulmonary oedema;
- life threatening severity is indicated by loss of consciousness, incontinence, convulsions, and respiratory depression;
- cardiovascular: bradycardia which may progress to sinus arrest; may be superseded by tachycardia and hypertension; toxic myocardiopathy;
- primary cause of death is respiratory failure and there may be a secondary cardiovascular component.

Early symptoms include:

- headache, nausea, dizziness, hypersecretion including sweating, salivation, lacrimation, and rhinorrhoea;
- muscle twitching, weakness, tremor, incoordination, vomiting, abdominal cramps, and diarrhoea;
- miosis, blurred and/or dark vision;
- anxiety, restlessness, depression, memory loss, confusion, and toxic psychosis manifested as confusion or bizarre behaviour.

Cal EPA (2010) reported, in addition, slurred speech and cardiac arrest.

US EPA (2013a) reported that between 23 and 56% of the cases of chlorpyrifos reported by various US surveillance programmes involved respiratory symptoms.

Children may have slightly different symptoms, less likely to have bradycardia, muscular fasciculations, and lacrimation but seizures, lethargy and coma are common, together with flaccid muscle weakness, constricted pupils and excessive salivation (Reigart & Roberts 1999).

A 9-year-old, who had ingested chlorpyrifos, developed progressive acute respiratory distress syndrome characterised by irreversible fibrosis and obliteration of the lung parenchyma (Nel et al 2002).

Skin and eye irritation

It causes slight irritation to skin, and moderate irritation to eye (WHO 2009a).

2.4 Subchronic / intermediate toxicity

EC (2005):

- lowest relevant NOAEL, oral = 1 mg/kg; 90-day rats, mice and dogs
- lowest relevant NOAEL, inhalation = >0.296 x 10⁻³ mg/L (nose-only)
- lowest relevant NOAEL, dermal = >5 mg/kg; 21-days rats
- peripheral tissue AChE inhibition NOAEL = 1 mg/kg; 6-weeks dietary, dogs
- brain AChE inhibition NOAEL = 2 mg/kg; 6-week dietary, dogs
- red blood cell AChE inhibition NOAEL = <0.5 mg/kg; 6-weeks dietary, dogs

A subacute oral study in humans gave the following results (EC 2005):

- LOAEL = 0.5 mg/kg based on clinical symptoms.

Subchronic effects in laboratory studies

US EPA (2009b) reports the following adverse effects from subchronic toxicity testing:

- inhibition in plasma AChE in rats and dogs at 0.025 to 0.03 mg/kg;
- inhibition in red blood cell AChE in dogs and rats at 0.22 to 0.3 mg/kg;
- higher doses caused increased heart and brain weight, adrenal gland effects, decreased body weight.

Intermediate syndrome

Intermediate syndrome (IMS), lying between acute cholinergic response and long-term neuropathy, is a sequence of neurological signs that appear 24 to 36 hrs after the acute cholinergic effects. Animals generally develop tetraparesis, mydriasis and ventroflexion of the neck several days post exposure. IMS is not a direct effect of AChE inhibition, and the underlying mechanisms are unknown (Idris et al 2012).

A 16-month-old girl developed intermediate syndrome after accidentally ingesting chlorpyrifos. Initially exhibiting lethargy and tachycardia, she developed delayed onset respiratory arrest and flaccid paralysis after an asymptomatic period (Mattingly et al 2003).

IMS was described in a study of 10 patients in Sri Lanka with chlorpyrifos poisoning as a result of intentional ingestion (Jayawardane et al 2008). IMS is a major cause of death from respiratory failure following OP poisoning.

In India, a 14-year-old boy developed both intermediate syndrome and delayed neuropathy after ingesting chlorpyrifos, the later involving wrist drop (Chatterjee & Sarma 2003).

2.5 Chronic toxicity

The chronic NOAELs and LOAELs are:

EC (2005):

- Lowest relevant NOAEL = 1 mg/kg; 2-years rats, mice, dogs; based on AChE inhibition

US EPA (2009b):

- Chronic dietary NOAEL = 0.03 mg/kg
- Chronic RfD = 0.0003 mg/kg
- Long term dermal NOAEL = 0.03 mg/kg
- Long term inhalation NOAEL = 0.03 mg/kg

Systemic effects – laboratory studies

Systemic effects include inhibition of plasma, red blood cell and brain cholinesterase, increased liver weights, decreased body weight gain, ocular

effects, adrenal gland effects, altered clinical chemistry and haematological parameters, and increased keratitis and hepatocyte fatty vacuolation (US EPA 2009b).

A single dose of 30 mg/kg caused a significant decrease in haemoglobin concentration, haematocrit percentage, thrombocytic indices, and total protein and albumin levels in rats (Elsharkawy et al 2013).

A sublethal dose of 5.4 mg/kg/day for 4 weeks caused a significant increase in white blood cells and platelets in rats (Uzun & Kalender 2013).

Metabolic effects

A number of studies indicate that exposure to chlorpyrifos, and particularly early life exposure, may predispose a person to obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular problems later in life. The California EPA (Cal EPA 2010) expressed concern, based on the available limited animal data, about a possible link between “the widespread chlorpyrifos exposure among the general population and the percentage of obesity in the United States”.

Laboratory studies

Developmental exposure to chlorpyrifos can cause long-lasting changes in serotonin receptors and signal transduction, which may result in appetite disorders in adulthood, and consequent increases in obesity and diabetes (Aldridge et al 2004).

Foetal and neonatal male rats exposed to chlorpyrifos experienced excessive weight gain and leptin dysfunction (leptin is a hormone that regulates appetite). The weight gain showed an inverted U-shaped dose-response relationship, typical of endocrine responses (Lassiter & Brimijoin 2008).

Neonatal male rats exposed to sub-toxic levels of chlorpyrifos produced, in adulthood, a “metabolic pattern for plasma lipids and insulin that resembles the major adult risk factors for atherosclerosis and type 2 diabetes mellitus”, i.e. elevated cholesterol and triglycerides, and insulin after eating (Slotkin et al 2005).

In 2011, Slotkin reported on studies in which neonatal rats given chlorpyrifos, in doses devoid of any acute sign of toxicity, developed metabolic dysfunction resembling prediabetes.

Adult exposure to chlorpyrifos can also cause problems: a single acute exposure (50 mg/kg) in adult male rats resulted in hyperglycaemia and

hyperlipidemia, and a corresponding increase in cardiovascular and atherosclerosis risk: there were increases in the levels of glucose, glycogen, corticosterone, triglycerides, and low-density lipo-protein-cholesterol; and a decrease in high-density lipoprotein (Acker & Nogueira 2012). In another study on rats, a single dose of 30 mg/kg induced hyperglycaemia, a significant increase in total cholesterol, and decreases in triglycerides and glycogen (Elsharkawy et al 2013).

In rats fed a sublethal dose of chlorpyrifos of 5.4 mg/kg/day for 4 weeks, there was a significant increase in total cholesterol and decrease in triglyceride levels (Uzun & Kalender 2013).

Liver

Chlorpyrifos is a potent inhibitor of the liver CYP450-dependent metabolism of a number of substances including the body's own hormones testosterone and oestrogen, other pesticides, and drugs such as the antidepressant imipramine. Chlorpyrifos oxon inhibits the metabolism of permethrin (Hodgson & Rose 2008).

Acute exposure can also cause liver damage: a single dose of 30 mg/kg caused liver damage in rats (Elsharkawy et al 2013).

Chronic exposure can cause liver damage and disturbance of metabolic function in the liver. Rats fed a sublethal dose of chlorpyrifos of 5.4 mg/kg/day for 4 weeks suffered liver damage including congestion of the central vein, dilation of sinusoids, diffuse Kupffer cell proliferation, mononuclear infiltration, picnosis, and eosinophilic cytoplasm. They also experienced significant changes to liver function as indicated by an increase in the activity of the enzymes alkaline phosphatase (ALP), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), but decreased total protein and albumin levels in blood (Uzun & Kalender 2013).

Ninety-day treatment of rats at doses 1/20th or less of the lethal dose led to increased urinary levels of the metabolites creatinine, glycine, dimethylglycine, dimethylamine, glutamine, succinate, alanine, lactate, and glucose (Wang et al 2011).

Kidneys

Chronic exposure to chlorpyrifos can alter the structural and functional integrity of the kidney, induce oxidative stress, and cause nephrotoxicity, which may lead to renal failure (Wang et al 2011).

Cardiac and haematolymphatic system

One epidemiological study found a statistically significant association between exposure to chlorpyrifos and nonfatal myocardial infarction in farm women, in a small number of cases (9) in the US. The Odds Ratio (OR) was 2.1, i.e. more than double the risk (Dayton et al 2010).

Cancer

US EPA (2011) reported no evidence of carcinogenicity in animal studies, but there are a number of epidemiological studies indicating that chlorpyrifos may be carcinogenic in humans, the association being strongest for lung and rectal cancers, an association recognised by the US EPA (2011) as being consistent and warranting follow-up and further research. US EPA (2011) also acknowledged "preliminary associations with breast and prostate cancer", describing them as weak but warranting further monitoring.

There are several studies on chlorpyrifos showing mutagenicity and genotoxicity (see below), which are strong indicators of potential carcinogenicity. There are also the laboratory studies, referred to below in the section on endocrine disruption, in which chlorpyrifos caused human breast cancer cells to proliferate.

Epidemiology

A case-control study of men with Hodgkin's lymphoma in Canada found a significant association with exposure to chlorpyrifos (Odds Ratio = 5.26), although the number of cases (6) was small (Karunanayake et al 2012).

Case-control studies in 3 US states were pooled to evaluate the risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma from exposure to organophosphates. There was an elevated risk from exposure to chlorpyrifos (OR = 3.2) but there were only a small number of cases (7) (Waddell et al 2001).

A number of analyses of exposure to chlorpyrifos and increased risk of various cancers were carried out in the US as part of the Agricultural Health Study, involving more than 50,000 pesticide applicators:

- Lee et al (2004), in a study of 54,383 US male pesticide applicators, with a total of 2,070 malignant neoplasms, found increased risk of lung, kidney, and brain cancer although only the lung was statistically significant (OR = 2.18) for lifetime-exposure days compared with non-exposed individuals. Individuals in the highest category of intensity-weighted exposure-days but not lifetime exposure days, had statistically significant increases in rates of lymphohaematopoietic cancers, leukaemia

and brain cancer compared with non-exposed individuals.

- A further study of the US male pesticide applicators (56,813), found a 2.7-fold increased risk of rectal cancer in the highest exposure category (Lee et al 2007a).
- Alavanja et al (2003) found an increased risk (OR = 1.65) of prostate cancer amongst male applicators exposed to chlorpyrifos, but only in those with a family history of prostate cancer.
- Engel et al (2005) found a slightly increased risk (OR = 1.4) of breast cancer amongst wives of the pesticide applicators who had used chlorpyrifos themselves, and those that had not used it but whose husbands had (OR = 1.3).

Summary

There are a considerable number of epidemiological studies indicating an association between exposure to chlorpyrifos and cancer, particularly lung and rectal cancer. Weaker associations have been found with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, leukaemia, brain, prostate, and breast cancer. Taken together with the studies showing genotoxicity and mutagenicity, as well as the laboratory studies on endocrine disruption showing that chlorpyrifos caused breast cancer cells to proliferate, there is strong indication that chlorpyrifos is carcinogenic.

Genotoxicity / mutagenicity

One of the main health implications of genotoxicity is cancer. A pesticide is genotoxic if it causes damage to a gene that could result in cell death or changes in the structure or function of the gene. The damage can be mutagenic or non-mutagenic.

Mutagenicity refers to the ability of a toxic agent to induce heritable or transmissible changes in the genetic material of cells or organisms, for example through base-pair substitution (change in amino acid sequence), deletion or addition of gene fragments, chromosomal translocations, sister chromatid exchanges, or some other mechanism. Mechanisms involved include causing damage to the chromosome such as loss, breaks, or rearrangements of chromosomal segments. Mutagenicity tests include the Ames test, mouse lymphoma assay, and micronucleus induction test (increase in the frequency of small fragments formed when chromosomes break).

Genotoxicity also includes interchanges and re-attachments of strands in the chromosome during DNA replication. However, mutagenicity tests are also considered to be genotoxicity tests, and the two terms are often used interchangeably.

US EPA (2011) stated that chlorpyrifos was not mutagenic in bacteria or mammalian cells but did cause slight genetic alterations in yeast and DNA damage to bacteria, that it did not induce chromosome aberrations *in vitro*, was not clastogenic (causing breaks in chromosomes) in mouse micronucleus test, and did not induce unscheduled DNA synthesis in rat hepatocytes, based mainly on studies submitted by the pesticide manufacturer. However, Cal EPA (2010) concluded that some studies suggest chlorpyrifos may be genotoxic, and there is substantial evidence of mutagenicity and genotoxicity from a number of studies, summarised below:

A: Mutagenicity

- Sobti et al (1982) found significantly increased sister chromatid exchange in human lymphoid cells treated with Dursban.
- Amer & Aly (1992) concluded that the chlorpyrifos formulation Dursban was mutagenic, as it induced a high percentage of metaphases with chromosomal aberrations in mouse spleen cell cultures, with sister chromatid exchanges increasing with increasing concentration of the insecticide.
- Yaduvanshi et al (2012) found significant, dose-dependent micronucleus induction in mouse bone marrow.
- Tian & Yamauchi (2003) measured significant dose-dependent micronuclei induction in 3-day mouse embryos following maternal exposure during the early preimplantation period.
- Cui et al (2011) refer to 2 studies, published in Chinese, which found chlorpyrifos induced micronuclei in mouse bone marrow and Chinese hamster lung cells (Li et al 1993; Song et al 1997).
- Lieberman et al (1998) reported DNA damage including chromosomal alterations, chromatid and chromosome breaks, and sister chromatid exchanges in humans exposed to domestic application.
- Yin et al (2009) found increased induction of micronuclei and chromosomal lesions in erythrocytes, and DNA damage in erythrocytes and liver cells of *Bufo bufo gargarizans* tadpoles exposed to the sublethal concentrations of chlorpyrifos.
- Ali et al (2008) found micronucleus induction and DNA damage in the freshwater fish *Channa punctatus* (Bloch).

B: Genotoxicity

- Chlorpyrifos caused an increased ratio of

DNA migration, as assessed by the comet assay, in human lymphocytes at 10 μM (Sandal & Yilmaz 2011).

- Both acute and chronic exposure to chlorpyrifos caused significantly marked DNA damage in rat liver, brain, kidney, and spleen, when measured 24 hours after treatment; the damage was partially repaired at 48 and 72 hours after treatment (Ojha et al 2011).
- Cui et al (2011) found DNA strand breakage and DNA hypomethylation in mouse lymphocytes.
- Rahman et al (2002) found a significant dose-related increase in mean comet tail length, indicating DNA damage in mice leucocytes.
- Chlorpyrifos caused DNA damage in fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*) at 15.0 $\mu\text{g/L}$, thought to be as a result of reactive oxygen species generation (Gupta et al 2010).
- Patnaik & Tripathy (1992) concluded that the chlorpyrifos formulation Durmet was genotoxic on the basis of induction of mosaic wing spots and sex-linked recessive lethals in *Drosophila*.
- Woodruff et al (1983) found that chlorpyrifos induced a significant amount of ring-X chromosome loss in *Drosophila*.
- JanakiDevi et al (2013) found significantly higher dose and time-dependent DNA damage in gill, foot and body tissues of the marine bivalve *Donax faba* exposed to chlorpyrifos for 96 hrs in a comet assay.

Chlorpyrifos also shows evidence of genotoxicity in plant cells: Dimitrov & Gadeva (1997) found statistically significant increased frequency of micronuclei in root meristem cells of smooth hawksbeard (*Crepis capillaris* L.), due to partial spindle disturbances leading to anaphase distribution of chromosomes, as a result of exposure to the chlorpyrifos formulation Dursban. The authors also referred to studies showing increased frequency of chromosomal aberrations after exposure to Dursban in fava bean (*Vicia faba*) (Amer & Farah 1983) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) (Kaur & Grover 1985).

Chlorpyrifos shows evidence of mutagenicity in the fungus *Aspergillus terreus*: a concentration of 0.8 ml/L increased mutations in the conidial spores (Sabir 2010).

Additionally, an epidemiological study in India showed that DNA damage is significantly higher in people occupationally exposed to organophosphates (chlorpyrifos, malathion, pirimiphos-methyl, and temephos); and that, amongst those occupationally exposed, damage was even greater in those individuals with certain

PON1 genetic polymorphisms, specifically the PON1 Q/Q and M/M genotypes (Singh et al 2011). This indicates that the risk of DNA damage and cancer from exposure to chlorpyrifos is elevated in certain susceptible individuals and subpopulations.

Summary

Independent studies have found chlorpyrifos to be mutagenic or genotoxic in human, rat, mouse, Chinese hamster, toad, fish, fruitfly, and plant cells, although the US EPA (2011) stated that chlorpyrifos is not mutagenic.

Endocrine disruption

There is a considerable amount of evidence that chlorpyrifos causes endocrine disruption, and it is on the US EPA's final list of 60 pesticides for initial Tier 1 screening for endocrine disruption (US EPA 2011).

According to Vandenberg (2012), effects resulting from exposure to chlorpyrifos follow a non-monotonic dose-response curve (NMDRC) in animals, *in vivo*. NMDRCs are now regarded as common phenomena with well-understood mechanisms for endocrine disrupting chemicals (Birnbaum 2012). That means traditionally derived NOAELs and LOAELs very likely are set above the effect level at which the adverse effects are greatest.

Chlorpyrifos is described in a mini review by Hodgson & Rose (2008) as a 'potent inhibitor' of human liver CYP450 metabolism of testosterone and oestradiol (citing Usmani et al 2003, 2006 – see below), thought to be as a result of the interaction of highly reactive sulphur, released during the oxidative desulphuration reaction, with the haeme iron of CYP450.

Pre-incubation of CYP2A4² genes with chlorpyrifos (2 μM) followed by testosterone (100 μM) resulted in 98% inhibition of testosterone metabolism (Usmani et al 2003). Pre-incubation of human liver microsomes with chlorpyrifos irreversibly reduced CYP450 metabolism of testosterone by 98% (Usmani et al 2003) and oestrogen by 94% (Usmani et al 2006). Reduced metabolism of oestrogen or testosterone in humans or animals would result in increased exposure of hormone sensitive tissues to these hormones.

Androgenic effects – Laboratory studies

Viswanath et al (2010) described chlorpyrifos as one of the most potent anti-androgenic compounds (along with endosulfan and piperophos) out of the 9 they tested. Chlorpyrifos significantly decreased biosynthesis of testosterone in

² Cytochrome P450, family 2, subfamily a

rat Leydig cells; it decreased the expression of key steroidogenic enzymes (cytochrome P450_{scc}, 3 β -HSD, and 17 β -HSD), decreased steroidogenic acute regulatory (StAR) protein expression, and decreased luteinizing hormone receptor stimulated cAMP (cyclic adenosine monophosphate) production.

Androgenic effects - Epidemiology

The androgenic effects of chlorpyrifos demonstrated in laboratory studies are supported by an epidemiological study of 322 male partners in couples presenting to a USA infertility clinic. Their urinary levels of the metabolite TCP were associated with a dose-dependent decrease in oestradiol: an interquartile range increase in TCP was associated with a 1.36 pg/mL decline in oestradiol concentration (Meeker et al 2008). Oestradiol is important in male reproductive health, particularly in germ cell survival. The levels of TCP found in this study were comparable to those found in the Second National Report on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals, NHANES 1999-2000, which reported TCP in over 90% of urine samples in the US population. Meeker et al (2008) concluded that this reduction is of potential public health importance on a population level because of widespread exposure.

Oestrogenic effects – laboratory studies

Ventura et al (2012) described chlorpyrifos as a breast cancer risk. They found that low doses (0.05 μ M) caused human oestrogen-dependent MCF-7 breast cancer cells to proliferate, mediated by the oestrogen receptor ER-alpha; but high doses (50 μ M) induced a decrease in proliferation. However, at 50 μ M, chlorpyrifos induced cell cycle arrest; modification of cell cycle progression is a hallmark of tumour cells and is crucial in human cancer progression. Additionally, at 50 μ M but not lower concentrations, it induced increases in reactive oxygen species of 58% in MCF-7 cells and 108% in non-hormone dependent breast cancer cells MDA-MB-231. Reactive oxygen species are described as potent mutagens increasing genomic instability. Thus, in this study, chlorpyrifos contributed to breast cancer risk by 2 mechanisms: oestrogenic effect at low doses, and disruption of cell cycle through production of reactive oxygen species (oxidative stress) at high doses, in non-hormone dependent breast cancer cells. The lowest concentration used, 0.05 μ M, was described as similar to levels found in water and soil.

In another study on human breast cancer cells, Rich et al (2012) found a non-statistically significant increase in MCF-7 cells at low and

medium dose-ranges but not high dose, and not in 2 other breast cell lines that are not oestrogen-responsive (MDA-MB-231 and MCF-10A).

Chlorpyrifos was weakly oestrogenic in 2 *in vitro* assays: MCF-7 human breast cancer cell proliferation assay, and oestrogen receptor transactivation assay (Andersen et al 2002). Kojima et al (2004) also found chlorpyrifos to be oestrogenic in an oestrogen receptor ER-alpha assay using Chinese hamster ovarian cells.

Grünefeld & Bonefeld-Jorgensen (2004) found it to weakly increase mRNA levels in oestrogen receptor ER β in human breast cancer MCF-7BUS cells.

Thyroid effects – Laboratory studies

Thyroid hormones are also affected by chlorpyrifos. Thyroid hormone disruption can result in negative impacts on foetal brain development (Ghisari & Bonefeld-Jorgensen 2005).

Haviland et al (2010) found increased thyroid hormone levels and altered learning behaviour in female mice exposed to 1 and 5 mg/kg chlorpyrifos on gestational days 17-20 (similar effects were not found in males).

Oral chlorpyrifos (12.5 mg/kg twice/week for 43 days) significantly reduced serum concentrations of cortisol and thyroxine (T4) in sheep (Rawlings et al 1998).

Chlorpyrifos exposure, at levels that did not induce brain AChE inhibition or other signs of toxicity (6 mg/kg bw/day), reduced serum T4 in pregnant mice, and their offspring once they had reached adulthood. It also induced alterations in the thyroid gland in both generations and adrenal glands only in the dams. Effects on T4 were more marked in male mice (De Angelis et al 2009).

In another study, chlorpyrifos stimulated the proliferation of thyroid-hormone dependent rat pituitary GH3 cells, the greatest effect being at 10⁻⁵ M concentration. However, in the presence of thyroid hormone T3, it slightly but insignificantly increased proliferation at 10⁻⁵M, but inhibited it at 5 x 10⁻⁵M (Ghisari & Bonefeld-Jorgensen 2005).

Thyroid effects - Epidemiology

These laboratory findings of effects on thyroid hormones are supported by the results of an analysis of urinary levels of TCP and thyroid hormones in the U.S. National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) (Fortenberry et al 2012). An interquartile range increase in urinary TCP was associated with

statistically significant increases in serum T4 of 3.8% in 12-18 year old males, and 3.5% in 18-40 year old males relative to the median T4 levels. It was also associated with decreases in thyroid stimulating hormone of 10.7% among men 18-40 years old, and 20% among men >60 years old, but with increases in the same hormone in women >60 years of age.

Other endocrine effects – Laboratory studies

Gore (2001) showed that vaginal opening and first diestrus both occurred significantly earlier in the offspring of chlorpyrifos-treated vs. control rats (chlorpyrifos was administered in a single dose of 1 mg/kg on gestational day 16). Chlorpyrifos also caused significant increases in gonadotrophin-releasing hormone (GnRH) mRNA levels in adult offspring of treated rats. Pregnant rats received 1 mg/kg chlorpyrifos on gestational day 16.³

Chlorpyrifos, at 1 μ M, had significant effects on the gene transcription of GnRH neurons, which regulate the reproductive axis, and on levels of GnRH mRNA, in *in vitro* tests. These effects may be mediated by the oestrogen receptors. The effect was biphasic with lower doses stimulating and higher doses inhibiting mRNA levels (Gore 2002).

Slotkin et al (2005) found sex-selective elevated plasma cholesterol and triglycerides in adult rats exposed to 1 mg/kg chlorpyrifos on postnatal days 1-4. The effect was restricted to males, as was postprandial hyperinsulinemia in the face of normal circulating glucose levels.

Both *in utero* and early postnatal exposure of rats to chlorpyrifos resulted in a 50% decrease in the activity of aromatase, the enzyme that catalyses the conversion of androgens to oestrogen (Buratti et al 2011).

Other endocrine effects - Epidemiology

A prospective study of pregnant women in the Rio Negro province of Argentina where OPs, including chlorpyrifos, are used intensively for 6 months of the year, concluded that OP exposure 'very significantly' (by 55%) increased cortisol levels in the first trimester of pregnancy during the spraying period, and that this increase may lead to impaired foetal growth and postnatal development (Cecchi et al 2012).

Summary

Chlorpyrifos is an endocrine disruptor. It is antiandrogenic, oestrogenic, and affects thyroid hormones. It inhibits metabolism of testosterone and oestradiol, and testosterone synthesis. It reduces serum levels of cortisol and thyroid

hormone T4, induces alterations in thyroid and adrenal glands and differentially affects levels of thyroid-stimulating hormones in men and women. It causes breast cancer cells to grow and it is a breast cancer risk through its endocrine actions. Chlorpyrifos also causes endocrine disruption in fish, frogs, and mussels (refer section on *Environmental effects*).

Reproductive & developmental effects

The NOAEL and LOAELs for reproductive and developmental toxicity are:

EC (2005):

- Lowest relevant reproductive NOAEL/NOEL = 1 mg/kg, rats; based on decreased body weight and survival of pups at parental toxic doses
- Lowest relevant developmental NOAEL/NOEL = 2.5 mg/kg, rats; based on increased embryo-foetotoxicity (increased post-implantation loss at maternal toxic doses)

Laboratory studies

The California EPA (Cal EPA 2008) reported that there are some studies showing reproductive toxicity at levels of exposure that do not cause excessive maternal toxicity, including resorptions, decreases in foetal weight and long-term effects on brain and behaviour. Additionally, they showed physical abnormalities including small hind and fore limbs, and lack of spinal development amongst litters treated at 0.3 mg/kg/day on gestation day 0-7 (Muto et al 1992).

Farag et al (2003) found chlorpyrifos to be fetotoxic and teratogenic in rats at a maternal dose of 25 mg/kg/day, a dose that also produced some maternal toxicity (depressed body weight and AChE activity). Foetal weight and viability were decreased; foetal death and early resorption were increased; and visceral, skeletal, and external variations also increased. Farag et al (2010) also found a decreased number of live foetuses and increased number of dead foetuses, along with decreased sperm motility and count, when adult male mice were treated with 25 mg/kg/day 4 weeks before mating with untreated females.

A study by Tian et al (2005) indicates that chlorpyrifos is teratogenic and embryotoxic in mice at doses below those that cause maternal toxicity. Pregnant females were given a single intraperitoneal injection (80 mg/kg) of chlorpyrifos on day 10 of gestation and foetuses were evaluated on gestation day 17. No maternal toxicity was observed. There was a significant reduction in the numbers of live foetuses, and increase in resorptions, compared with control

³ GnRH = gonadotrophin releasing hormone

litters. External and skeletal malformations were observed. Rates of cleft palate increased significantly (5.97%) versus control litters (0.97%). Similarly, the absence of thoracic vertebrae was increased and the number of caudal vertebrae was significantly decreased.

In a study on buffalo ovotoxicity, Nandi et al (2011) found that chlorpyrifos at 0.02 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ reduced oocyte nuclear maturation, and observed a dose-dependent decline in viability and developmental competence of oocytes.

The effect of chlorpyrifos on gonadotrophin-releasing hormone, as reported for rats in the section on *Endocrine disruption*, is likely “to have long-lasting consequences to the fertility of the animal” (Miller et al 2004).

A study of the effects of chlorpyrifos on gene expression in mouse embryonic stem cells found that doses of 100 μM chlorpyrifos and 400 μM of the oxon significantly increased expression of alpha-fetoprotein, a marker gene in the process of stem cell differentiation. These doses were described as only slightly cytotoxic, causing less than 20% reduction in cell viability (Estevan Martínez et al 2011).

Chlorpyrifos and its metabolite chlorpyrifos oxon damage chromatin in human sperm, the oxon more so than the parent compound. Chromatin integrity is essential for proper transmission of paternal genetic information, and hence for sperm fertilising ability (Salazar-Arredondo et al 2008). Late gestational exposure of mice pups to chlorpyrifos at 6 mg/kg, which did not cause systemic toxicity in mothers or inhibit AChE in pups, caused a decrease in body length in male, but not female, pups (Venerosi et al 2009).

Chlorpyrifos, at 5.4 mg/kg, caused necrosis, degeneration, decreasing number of spermatogenic cells in some seminiferous tubules, separating of cells from the basal region of seminiferous tubules, and oedema in interstitial tissue in rat testis tissue (Kalender et al 2012).

When pregnant mice were exposed to sublethal doses of chlorpyrifos (20-80 mg/kg) at day 6 of gestation, the developing embryos had reduced crown-rump length and weight at day 15 (Zubair et al 2010).

A number of animal studies have demonstrated the neurodevelopmental and neurobehavioural teratogenicity of chlorpyrifos. These are discussed further in the following section on the *Nervous system*.

Epidemiology

Sherman (1996) reported 4 cases of birth defects amongst children all exposed *in utero* to the chlorpyrifos formulation Dursban, including defects of the brain, eyes, ears, palate, teeth, heart, feet, nipples, and genitalia. Brain defects were present in the ventricles, corpus callosum, choroid plexus, and septum pellucidum, and genital defects included undescended testes, microphallus, and fused labia. All children had growth retardation, and 3 had hypotonia and profound mental retardation.

Residential chlorpyrifos exposure *in utero*, as measured by levels in umbilical cord blood, was associated with decreased birth weight and birth length in a New York study (Whyatt et al 2004), and significantly poorer mental and motor development at 3 years of age (Rauh et al 2006). This confirmed findings of an earlier study of African-American women, in which high levels of prenatal exposure to chlorpyrifos correlated with reduced birth weight and body length (Perera et al 2003). The PON1 genotype influences the effects of organophosphate exposure on birth outcomes: among pregnant women with measurable levels of chlorpyrifos in their blood, in a New York study, those with lower PON1 levels had children with smaller infant head circumferences at birth. Smaller head size is predictive of subsequent reduced cognitive ability and IQ (Berkowitz et al 2004).

Cal EPA (2008) reported studies showing that exposure to chlorpyrifos has caused DNA damage in sperm, decreased sperm concentration and sperm motility, and decreased testosterone and oestradiol levels in men.

Summary

Teratogenic effects observed in rats include skeletal malformations, small hind and fore limbs, lack of spinal development, absence of thoracic vertebrae and cleft palate; in humans, defects of the brain, eyes, ears, palate, teeth, heart, feet, nipples, and genitalia have been associated with gestational exposure to chlorpyrifos. Neuroteratogenicity has also been found in both animal and human studies. Reproductive effects in animals include decreased foetal weight and viability; increased foetal death and early resorption; decreased sperm motility and count; decline in viability and developmental competence of oocytes. In humans, chlorpyrifos exposure is associated with decreased birth weight and birth length; DNA damage in sperm, and decreased sperm concentration and sperm motility. Additionally, chlorpyrifos has been found in a number of human reproductive tissues including cervical fluid, sperm fluid, cord blood,

meconium, and breast milk (refer sections on *Human exposure, Residues in humans*).

Nervous system – Neurodevelopment and behaviour

Laboratory studies in the early 1990s showed that immature organisms are far more sensitive to the effects of chlorpyrifos, in terms of both acute toxicity and developmental and neurobehavioural effects, than mature animals (Slotkin 2004). Initially, it was assumed that chlorpyrifos' effect on brain development resulted from the same mechanism that underlies general toxicity, i.e. cholinesterase inhibition (Slotkin et al 2006). However, it was subsequently found that chlorpyrifos itself, as well as the oxon metabolite, affect the brain and developing nervous system by other mechanisms and they interfere at numerous sites and points in time, making the pesticide far more toxic than originally thought when cholinesterase inhibition was assumed to be the sole mechanism of concern (Slotkin et al 2006; Flaskos 2012). Recent work by López-Granero et al (2013) on rats indicates that oxidative stress may be another mechanism involved in the deleterious effects of chlorpyrifos on brain cells, causing cognitive and emotional deficits.

Developmental neurotoxicity can result in the death of an embryo, foetus or infant or it can cause severe and permanent neurological defects (Flaskos 2012).

Chlorpyrifos is a potent developmental neurotoxin at low levels of exposure, below those that trigger foetal ChE inhibition. This is demonstrated in numerous laboratory studies and a number of recent epidemiological studies. Exposures *in utero* and in early childhood can lead to behavioural anomalies in adolescence and adulthood. Epidemiological studies have found delayed cognitive and psychomotor development, and reduced IQ.

Chlorpyrifos has a greater adverse effect on neural cell replication and is inherently more toxic to the developing brain than the more acutely toxic organophosphates such as diazinon and parathion (Slotkin et al 2006). It is toxic at doses that are not toxic to adults and tests using adult animals cannot predict the long-term delayed effects of chlorpyrifos in offspring (Colborn 2006).

Laboratory studies: developmental neurotoxicity

A series of studies beginning in the early 1990s showed that foetal and early childhood exposure to low levels of chlorpyrifos (e.g. 1 mg/kg), below the threshold for foetal ChE inhibition (2 mg/kg) (Qiao et al 2002), interfere with the development of the mammalian brain and

nervous system, and that these effects may still be apparent in adolescence and adulthood (Qiao et al 2003). These studies showed that it directly targets events specific to the developing brain, disrupting the cellular machinery of most phases of nervous system development, namely neural cell proliferation, differentiation and maturation, the formation and activity of synapses, and the proliferation and differentiation of glia (Whitney et al 1995; Slotkin et al 2006; Flaskos 2012).

Chlorpyrifos inhibits cell membrane function (Barber et al 2001) and is toxic to immature neurons and glia (Monnet-Tschudi et al 2000). Its most critical effects involve interference with the functioning of nuclear transcription factors that control cell fate, including their expression, phosphorylation and ability to bind to their DNA promoter recognition sites (Dam et al 1998; Crumpton et al 2000; Garcia et al 2001; Schuh et al 2002; Slotkin et al 2005).

Initially, chlorpyrifos attacks the neurons that form at the earliest stages of brain and central nervous system development, reducing cell replication and differentiation (by impairing DNA transcription), and reducing neuritic outgrowth including cholinergic projections (Song et al 1998; Dam et al 1999; Das & Barone 1999; Slotkin et al 2001; Qiao et al 2002, 2003; Howard et al 2005). This results in a reduction in neural connections and cell signalling capabilities (Aldridge et al 2003, 2005; Slotkin 2004; Jameson et al 2006). This reduced signalling capacity leads to subsequent deficits in cholinergic synaptic activity and eventually to behavioural anomalies in adolescence and adulthood (Slotkin 1999, 2004; Dam et al 2000; Levin et al 2001; Slotkin et al 2001; Aldridge et al 2004; Slotkin et al 2006). One brief subtoxic dose (1 or 5 mg/kg) can cause behavioural alterations during adolescence and adulthood (Icenogle et al 2004).

Glial cells, which develop later than neurons, are even more susceptible to chlorpyrifos (Qiao et al 2002; Slotkin 2004). Glial cells are critical to normal development, forming a "scaffold" for the migration of cells during tissue construction (Colborn 2006). Other functions include providing nutrition to neurons, formation of the myelin sheath covering nerves, brain homeostasis, and linking with the immune system (Colborn 2006; Muñoz et al 2010). Chlorpyrifos preferentially targets glial cells (Qiao et al 2002; Garcia et al 2002). Glial cells continue to develop during childhood, so exposures during this period can also cause developmental neurotoxicity (Slotkin 2004). In fact, effects on the rat forebrain, which is rich in cholinergic projections and the development of which peaks *in utero*, are not as severe as effects on the cerebellum which peaks 2 weeks after birth and is non-cholinergic (Campbell et

al 1997; Crumpton et al 2000). This means that the postnatal development period may be even more vulnerable to the effects of chlorpyrifos than the prenatal period (Qiao et al 2002). Neonatal (days 1-4) exposure of rats to chlorpyrifos at levels that cause systemic toxicity (5 mg/kg) also cause severe cell loss in the brainstem in survivors. When exposure occurred at days 11-14, the target shifted to the forebrain and cell loss occurred at levels (1 mg/kg) that did not compromise survival or growth (Campbell et al 1997).

Other studies have demonstrated the diverse effects of chlorpyrifos on the developing brain:

- Doses of 1 mg/kg, below the threshold for inhibiting ChE, caused suppression of fibroblast growth factor *fgf20* in the forebrain and *fgf2* in the brain stem, whilst elevating *fgf4* in the brain stem, in neonatal rats. The *fgfs* play a vital role in neuronal cell differentiation, neurite outgrowth and recovery from neural damage in the striatum and hippocampus (Slotkin et al 2007).
- In cell studies, at concentrations of 0.005-0.1 mM, chlorpyrifos oxon binds to the brain protein tubulin, disrupting tubulin polymerization (which forms microtubules that transport cell components such as mitochondria to nerve axons). Disruption of tubulin has been implicated in neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease (Grigoryan & Lockridge 2009).
- Doses of 1mg/kg fed to pregnant rats on gestational days 17-20 resulted, in the pups, in marked suppression of hemicholinium-3 binding to the presynaptic choline transporter, which is responsive to nerve impulse activity, the difference disappearing at weaning but again becoming apparent in adolescence and adulthood (Qiao et al 2003).
- Subtoxic doses of chlorpyrifos affect the expression of 277 genes in the rat forebrain. Low doses (0.5-5 mg/kg) affected neuroactive ligand-receptor interaction, transmission of nerve impulses, synaptic transmission, regulation of protein metabolism, and DNA-dependent transmission (Stapleton & Chan 2009).
- Finally, US EPA (2011) reports alterations in brain development in offspring of rat mothers exposed at 1mg/kg/day, specifically significant decreases in measurements of the parietal cortex in female offspring at postnatal day 66. The only effect noted in the mothers was plasma and red blood cell AChE inhibition.

As animals mature, damage is evident in a wide variety of brain regions, the most vulnerable being the hippocampus, resulting in behavioural abnormalities (Colborn 2006).

Effect levels in relation to human concentrations

As already stated the effects of chlorpyrifos on the developing brain have been observed at levels of 1 mg/kg, well below the 2 mg/kg (5.7 μ M) threshold for effects on AChE. Flaskos (2012), in reviewing the effects of chlorpyrifos oxon on the developing brain, noted that:

- in cell culture studies, the oxon interferes markedly with glial cell differentiation in the concentration range 1-10 μ M, impairing the development of extensions by 47% after 24 hr. It also disrupts the microtubule network;
- in cultures of cortical neurons from newborn rats, at concentrations of 20-50 μ M, the oxon increased apoptosis (cell death);
- in humans, foetal concentrations of chlorpyrifos commonly reach 8 mg/kg (22.8 μ M). The steady state ratio of oxon/chlorpyrifos varies but can be higher than 0.05 in adults. The ratio is expected to be considerably higher in developing organisms, thus levels of the oxon "in the low micromolar range in the developing human can be attainable".

Chlorpyrifos oxon can be 1,000 times more potent than chlorpyrifos in its damage to neurons, and 65% more damaging to glia (Flaskos 2012).

Laboratory studies: effects on behaviour

As well as the effects on the developing brain, listed above, chlorpyrifos also disrupts serotonin, a neurotransmitter that provides essential signals during brain development, and which in turn has been linked to appetite and mood disorders (Aldridge et al 2003, 2004; Garcia et al 2003; Colborn 2006).

Late gestational exposure of mice pups to chlorpyrifos at 6 mg/kg caused significantly less pivoting behaviour and increased immobility (Venerosi et al 2009).

Four-month old female mice that had been exposed prenatally (gestational days 15-18) to 6 mg/kg, and again on postnatal days 11-14 to 1 or 3 mg/kg showed a marked increase in ultrasound vocalisation and increase in frequency but not in duration of social investigation (Venerosi et al 2006).

Repeated post-natal sub-threshold (i.e. with no overt symptoms) exposure to chlorpyrifos can result in persistent cognitive effects in rats, including deficits in learning, memory and sustained attention (Terry et al 2012).

Both acute and chronic postnatal exposure of rats to chlorpyrifos at levels that caused only "negligible acute cholinergic symptoms" resulted in deficits in spatial working memory (Barril et al 2010).

Repeated postnatal (days 4-21) exposure of mice to chlorpyrifos-oxon (0.25 mg/kg) elicited delayed startle response. Other tests carried out, for reflex development, motor coordination, learning and memory in fear conditioning, did not show significant effects. This prompted the authors to conclude that the neurobehavioural consequences of known effects of chlorpyrifos on the developing brain may only be determined by alternative tests, such as those for social interactions, age-dependent effects on learning and memory, or tests designed to assess dopaminergic or noradrenergic function (Cole et al 2012).

Chen et al (2012) found that prenatal exposure of male mice to 5 mg/kg/day induced selective cognitive impairments in adults, with a gradual increase in the lose-shift errors on increased memory loads. There was a weak increase in females. Morphological analysis showed extensive condensed nucleus, enlarged intercellular spaces, and reduced cell count in the CA1 and dentate gyrus sub-regions in the dorsal hippocampus of the males, and the dentate gyrus sub-region of the females.

Exposure of pregnant mice to 3mg/kg/day resulted in visuospatial deficits in adult offspring using performance test in the Morris Maze (Billauer-Haimovitch et al 2009).

Sex-selected effects

To add to the complexity of chlorpyrifos' effects, there are sex-related differences in effects on the brain, and subsequent cognitive function in adolescence and adulthood, with females affected more than males by prenatal exposures and vice versa for postnatal exposures (Slotkin 2004).

Confirming that link, researchers at the University of Wisconsin—Madison found that female mice exposed *in utero* to chlorpyrifos are slow learners, but male mice are not affected (Haviland et al 2010).

Persistent gender-selective behavioural alterations were observed in adolescent and adult rats exposed prenatally to chlorpyrifos at 1 or 5 mg/kg on gestational days 17-20, a peak period of neurogenesis. There was initial hyperactivity in a maze test, and then females but not males showed reduced habituation and memory (Levin et al 2002).

Late gestational exposure of mice pups to chlorpyrifos at 6 mg/kg, which did not cause systemic toxicity in mothers or inhibit AChE in pups, caused a decrease in ultrasonic

vocalisation in male but not female pups (Venerosi et al 2009).

Perinatal exposures to ongoing low doses of chlorpyrifos resulted in anxiety in adult female mice (Braquenier et al 2010).

As Venerosi et al (2012) concluded after their review of data on the neurobehavioural effects of developmental exposures to chlorpyrifos, the neurotoxic and endocrine disrupting activities of chlorpyrifos overlap, posing a risk for sex-biased neurodevelopmental disorders in children.

Epidemiology

Epidemiological studies of pregnant mothers exposed to chlorpyrifos through home pesticide use demonstrate a link between *in utero* exposure and low birth weights and/or reduced head circumference of newborns, especially for mothers whose genetic makeup is such that they produce low levels of PON1, the enzyme responsible for detoxifying chlorpyrifos in the body. As stated earlier, reduced head circumference is indicative of subsequent reduced cognitive ability (Whyatt & Barr 2001; Whyatt et al 2004; Berkowitz et al 2004).

Newborn infants in New York, exposed *in utero* to chlorpyrifos from household use, were found to have delayed cognitive and psychomotor development. Those most exposed had significantly more attention problems, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) problems, and pervasive developmental disorder problems at 3 years of age (Rauh et al 2006; Gulson 2008). A second study found that these effects were independent of socio-economic factors (Lovasi et al 2011).

“These findings indicate that prenatal exposure to the insecticide chlorpyrifos not only increases the likelihood of developmental delay, but may have long-term consequences for social adjustment and academic achievement” said lead author and investigator on the study [Rauh et al 2006], Virginia Rauh, ScD. “Relatively speaking, the insecticide effects reported here are comparable to what has been seen with exposures to other neurotoxicants such as lead and tobacco smoke.” (CCCEH 2006)

In a separate study, Rauh et al (2011) provided evidence that prenatal exposure to chlorpyrifos results in deficits in working memory and IQ scores. As little as 4.6 pg/gm of chlorpyrifos in cord blood during gestation resulted in a drop of 1.4 percent of a 7-year-old child's IQ and 2.8 percent of her/his working memory. Working memory is described as “one of the core

processes of executive function”, encompassing ability to memorize new information, hold it in short-term memory, concentrate and manipulate information to produce results. Reduced development of executive functioning has been associated with psychopathology, physical aggression, and lack of school readiness (Horton et al 2012).

A study published in 2012 (Rauh et al 2012), demonstrates that prenatal exposure to chlorpyrifos is altering children’s brain structure, the effects being visible at least 11 years after birth. Non-invasive magnetic resonance imaging was used to identify effects of chlorpyrifos exposure as assessed from residues in umbilical cord blood. The authors found significant abnormalities in the cerebral surface, with enlargements there thought to be derived from enlargements in the underlying white matter (glia), at levels of exposure observed with routine non-occupational use and below the threshold for any signs of acute exposure. These abnormalities occurred in regions of the brain associated with attention, receptive language, social cognition, reward, emotion and inhibitory control. They also linked the abnormalities with significant reductions in IQ. Their findings support those from laboratory studies, and previous epidemiological studies linking chlorpyrifos exposure with child cognitive impairment. Higher levels of exposure were associated with a reduction in, or reversal of, the normal sex-related differences in brain development: the right parietal lobe is usually larger in girls than in boys, but in this study, in those with the higher levels of exposure, this was reversed.

This was followed by a study demonstrating the same sex-selectivity observed in laboratory studies on rodents: prenatal exposure to chlorpyrifos (as measured by residues in their cord blood) resulted in a greater decrement in working memory in male than in female children, at 7 years of age (Horton et al 2012).

Other outcomes of developmental exposures

Chlorpyrifos’ developmental effects extend beyond those involving neurotoxicity, to involve both heart and liver in ways that can result in the onset of cardiac and metabolic diseases (including diabetes and obesity) long after the end of chlorpyrifos exposure. Again, prenatal exposure to low doses that do not inhibit AChE result in alteration of adult cardiac and liver function. There is a complex dose-response relationship: whereas with acute poisoning a higher dose gives a worse effect, here in some instances effects do not occur at anything but a

low dose, and in some cases there were larger alterations at low doses than seen at high doses (Meyer et al 2004).

Summary

US EPA (2011) stated “there is consistency across animal behavior and epidemiology studies such as delays in cognitive achievement, motor control, social behaviour, and intelligence”.

Cal EPA (2010) concluded “there is now evidence that chlorpyrifos directly targets events that are specific to the developing brain and that are not related to inhibition of cholinesterase, including: inhibition of DNA synthesis, impairment of cell acquisition and differentiation, interactions with neurotrophic factors, interruption of cell signalling cascades, and alteration in synaptic function... based on cholinesterase inhibitions in dogs and rats and supporting information on cognitive deficiencies in rats”.

Cal EPA (2010) concluded that chlorpyrifos:

- affects the developing brain during cell division;
- interferes with RNA synthesis during differentiation;
- interrupts cell signalling;
- interferes with important nuclear transcription factors involved in cell differentiation;
- impairs cholinergic synaptic function during development;
- affects the catecholamine system in the developing brain;
- elicits oxidative stress in the developing brain;
- interferes with gliogenesis and axonogenesis;
- alters levels of neurotrophins in the developing brain; and
- results in behavioural abnormalities.

Together these studies demonstrate that adult models of toxicity do not work for the foetus, and do not predict the vulnerability of the foetus to the effects of chlorpyrifos, and probably other organophosphates (Slotkin 2004; Colborn 2006).

Nervous system - other neurotoxic effects

Laboratory studies

A variety of laboratory studies have demonstrated that adult exposure to chlorpyrifos can cause neurobehavioural changes, reduced cognitive ability, anxiety, and impaired memory and attention, as well as delayed neuropathy.

Adult rats chronically exposed to low levels of

chlorpyrifos (1-5 mg/kg/day) through their diet, with occasional high dose spikes (60, then 45 mg/kg), exhibited neurobehavioural changes and reduced cognitive ability (Moser et al 2005).

Rats injected with chlorpyrifos (1 mg/kg) showed impaired learning months later (Cañadas et al 2005). Adult rats exposed to repeated low doses (1-10 mg/kg) displayed impaired memories, especially in spatial recall, as well as behavioural abnormalities (Yan et al 2012).

High dose acute exposure to chlorpyrifos resulted in elevated anxiety in rats (Sánchez-Amate et al 2001).

Adult rats exposed to repeated doses of chlorpyrifos (18 mg/kg) experienced protracted impairment in sustained attention and increased impulsive behaviour (Middlemore-Risher et al 2010).

Delayed neuropathy in rats was noted at 60-90 mg/kg, which is 4-6 times the LD₅₀ (US EPA 2009b).

Epidemiology

Epidemiological studies have shown that both acute and chronic exposures to chlorpyrifos result in a range of long-term neuropsychological effects, including peripheral and central neuropathy, affective disorders, and neurocognitive deficits (Cañadas et al 2005).

Chlorpyrifos, like many other organophosphate compounds, can cause organophosphate induced delayed polyneuropathy (OPIDP). This syndrome is characterised by distal degeneration of axons of both the peripheral and central nervous systems, which may develop after several days or weeks from single or repeated exposure. Weakness, numbness and paresthesia may occur which may be followed by progressive weakness, depression of deep tendon reflexes especially in the lower limbs. In severe cases, quadriplegia with foot and wrist drop and ataxia may develop and the resulting paralysis may be life-threatening (Moretto & Lotti 1998; Lotti & Moretto 2005).

A broader range of neuropathological disorders resulting from organophosphate exposure, which probably overlaps with OPIDP, has been called OPICN or Organophosphate Induced Chronic Neuropathy (Abou-Donia 2003). It has been shown that individuals exposed to a single large toxic dose or to small subclinical doses of organophosphate compounds like chlorpyrifos developed chronic neurotoxicity signs and symptoms that persisted for years after exposure and is distinct from both cholinergic and OPDIP effects. The damaged areas of the

Central Nervous System do not regenerate and therefore the signs and symptoms are expected to persist for a long time.

A study which evaluated the neurobehavioral effects of chronic low-level exposure to chlorpyrifos in 22 patients is illustrative of OPICN (Kilburn 1999, cited by Abou-Donia 2003). Kilburn demonstrated an association between chlorpyrifos sprayed inside homes and offices and neurophysiological impairments in balance, visual fields, colour discrimination, hearing reaction time, and grip strength in 22 patients. These patients also had psychological impairment of verbal recall and cognitive function, and two-thirds of them had been prescribed antidepressant drugs. In addition, the patients exhibited severe respiratory symptoms, accompanied by airway obstruction.

People that have been exposed to acute or chronic levels of OP compounds exhibit long-term alterations in neuropsychological performance that mainly affect cognitive processes, such as speed of processing, visual attention, visuoperceptual abilities, memory impairment and problem solving (Moreno et al 2008).

A number of chlorpyrifos-induced chronic neurotoxicity incidents in humans have been reported, for example:

- A 15-year-old female in Sri Lanka, who recovered completely, initially, from ingestion of a large dose of chlorpyrifos, later developed delayed myelopathy and pure motor neuropathy. At 7 weeks, she developed urinary incontinence, followed by progressive spasticity and thoracic cord atrophy (Thivakaran et al 2012).
- A 3 year-old child who accidentally ingested chlorpyrifos suffered life-threatening OPIDP with transient bilateral vocal cord paralysis; recovery was slow (Aiuto et al 1993).
- Permanent paralysis has been reported at sites of dermal exposure to chlorpyrifos (hands) (Meggs 2003).
- Paudyal (2008) reports the development of intermediate syndrome and delayed polyneuropathy following acute poisoning with OPs including chlorpyrifos in Nepal.
- Steenland et al (1994) reported a significant loss of peripheral nerve conduction velocity consistent with delayed-onset neuropathy following poisoning by chlorpyrifos.
- In one attempted suicide case, a 42-year-old year man developed weakness and paresthesia, gait impairment, and loss of tendon reflexes in the legs. The symptoms

appeared 43 days after the poisoning and were unchanged 3 months later (Moretto & Lotti 1998).

- Miranda et al (2002) reported a persistent reduction in grip and pinch strength among patients severely poisoned with chlorpyrifos.
- Exposure to chlorpyrifos was associated with impaired peripheral nervous system function, in a study of pesticide applicators in the US (Starks et al 2012).
- A study of 65 recently exposed chlorpyrifos applicators for termite control found an average level of the metabolite TCP in urine of 629.5 µg/L compared with the general US population level of 4.5 µg/L. The applicators did not perform as well as controls on some neurological tests, and they reported memory problems, emotional states, fatigue and loss of muscle strength (Steenland et al 2000).
- In 1993, Kaplan et al reported 8 cases in the US that developed peripheral neuropathy after exposure to chlorpyrifos in the formulation Dursban, applied by an exterminator; 5 of them also experienced memory loss and cognitive slowing.
- An epidemiological study found an association between exposure to chlorpyrifos and a two-fold increased risk of suicide and non-motor vehicle accidents (Lee et al 2007b). This is supported by findings in animal studies that chlorpyrifos affects changes in the serotonergic system in the brain (Aldridge et al 2005; Moreno et al 2008) and elicits corresponding changes in emotional behaviours (Chen et al 2011). Deficiencies in the serotonergic system are associated with depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (Chen et al 2011). Exposure to organophosphates in general is associated with increased risk of suicide (London et al 2012).
- Rajasekaran et al (2009) reported a case of a 25 year-old male who developed Guillain-Barre syndrome after chlorpyrifos exposure.

Ziem & McTamney (1997) reported that exposure to chlorpyrifos has been associated with, and suspected of causing the onset of, multiple chemical sensitivity with chronic illness.

Other studies have associated OPs in general with a range of neuropsychological effects, including:

- 2 cases in South Africa developed choreiform dyskinesias (a type of involuntary movement), with one experiencing severe depression and emotional lability (Joubert & Joubert 1988).
- In 1997, Jamal referred to evidence of chronic psychiatric effects of OPs from case studies.

- Commercial sprayers exposed to OPs showed elevated levels of anxiety (Levin et al 1976).

Nervous system - neurodegenerative diseases

Exposure to OPs, including chlorpyrifos, results in oxidative stress, one of the factors implicated in neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

Laboratory studies

Animal and cell studies that have shown chlorpyrifos induces Parkinson's disease-associated changes in the dopaminergic nigrostriatal pathway in the brain:

- Xu et al (2012) showed chlorpyrifos causes inhibition of gene and protein expression of monoamine oxidase *in vitro*, with decreased PC12 cell viability and increased dopamine concentrations.
- Torres-Altora et al (2011) showed that chlorpyrifos dysregulates dopamine signalling and glutamate neurotransmission, and induces neuronal injury in the striatum of mouse brain *in vitro*.
- Lee et al (2012) found that chlorpyrifos causes damage to the dopaminergic neurons via oxidative stress effects on mitochondria.
- Montes de Oca et al (2013) showed that acute exposure to 250 mg/kg caused increased levels of dopamine metabolism in the hippocampus and decreased gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) and glutamate in the striatum of the brain, measured 7 months after exposure, as well as displaying long-term compulsive behaviour.

Epidemiology

Few epidemiological studies have been carried out to explore this association, but several have shown increased risk of Parkinson's (Dhillon et al 2008) and Alzheimer's diseases (Hayden et al 2010) after exposure to OPs. Additionally studies with mice have shown an increase in levels of amyloid β in the brains of mice 8 months after acute exposure to chlorpyrifos. Deposits of amyloid β, together with reduced synthesis of acetylcholine are associated with Alzheimer's disease (Salazar et al 2011).

Dhillon et al (2008) found a two-fold increase in risk (OR = 2.0) of Parkinson's disease amongst users of chlorpyrifos in a case-control study in Texas. An investigation of Parkinson's disease associated with contaminated well water in California, USA, found an increased risk (OR = 1.87) with high levels of chlorpyrifos contamination (Gatto et al 2009).

Manthripragada et al (2010) found increased risk of Parkinson's disease when exposed to chlorpyrifos (OR = 1.56, increasing to 2.61 for those carrying the PON1-55 genetic variation). A further study found that the association between chlorpyrifos and Parkinson's was strengthened, on average, 260% in people with the PON1 55MM variant genotype (Manthripragada et al 2010).

Immune system

US EPA (2009b) states that there is now a new data requirement for immunotoxicity, supported by reports in open literature of immunologic abnormalities in workers (Thrasher et al 1993; Gotoh et al 2001) and laboratory rats (Blakely et al 1999; Navarro et al 2001). US EPA also draws attention to the review by Galloway & Handy (2003) of the immunotoxicity of organophosphates in general.

Laboratory studies

A study published in 2001 demonstrated that development exposure to chlorpyrifos results in long-term deficits in immune competence. Exposure of neonatal rats to 1 mg/kg on postnatal days 1-4 had no immediate effect on T-cell mitogenic responses to concanavalin A challenge.⁴ However, once the animals reached adulthood, T-cell responses were significantly impaired. There were no deficits in basal T-cell replication rates, implying that the adverse effect of chlorpyrifos exposure was specific to mitogenic activation. Treatment during a later neonatal period (days 11-14) elicited similar deficits in adulthood (Navarro et al 2001).

In an earlier study, a commercial formulation of chlorpyrifos induced immune alterations in rats associated with lymphocyte subpopulations, demonstrated by the presence of normal antibody and phagocytic responses in association with reduced T-lymphocyte blastogenesis and enhanced expression of specific cell surface antigens (Blakely et al 1999).

A study by Rowsey & Gordon (1999) indicated that hypothermia and fever resulting from exposure to chlorpyrifos in rats is mediated by an endogenously produced cytokine, tumour necrosis factor.

In investigating the mechanisms of immunotoxicity of chlorpyrifos, Prakash et al (2009) found that it can induce apoptosis (programmed cell death) in murine thymocytes, possibly mediated through generation of reactive oxygen species.

Li et al (2009) found chlorpyrifos, at very low doses (0-100 ppm), induced apoptosis in human Jurkat T cells in a dose- and time-dependent manner.

Doses of 50 and 100 ppm also caused DNA fragmentation.

Epidemiology

An analysis of periodic medical examinations of 64 termite control operators using chlorpyrifos revealed abnormal white blood cells, as well as severely depressed serum butyl cholinesterase activity, depressed erythrocyte AChE, and abnormal blood urine nitrogen (Gotoh et al 2001).

A study of 12 people exposed to chlorpyrifos found a high rate of atopy and antibiotic sensitivities, elevated CD26 cells (T cell activation antigen, a key modulator of immune response), and a higher rate of autoimmunity, compared with two control groups.

Autoantibodies were directed toward smooth muscle, parietal cell, brush border, thyroid gland, myelin, and antinuclear antibodies (Thrasher et al 1993). In a further study of 29 people chronically exposed to chlorpyrifos, Thrasher et al (2002) again found elevated CD26 cells and increased frequency of autoantibodies, together with decreased CD5 phenotype, and decreased mitogenesis in response to phytohemagglutinin and concanavalin.

Summary

There is evidence from both laboratory and epidemiology studies of immune toxicity, including effects on lymphocytes, thymocytes, T cells, tumour necrosis factor, and autoimmunity.

Respiratory effects

A cross-sectional study of indigenous women in Costa Rica exposed to pesticides on plantain plantations found a strong association between exposure to chlorpyrifos and respiratory wheeze (OR = 6.7) (Fieten et al 2009).

2.6 Toxic interactions

Chlorpyrifos interacts with a number of other pesticides to increase toxic effects (Hernández et al 2012):

- A mixture of 5 OPs (chlorpyrifos, diazinon, dimethoate, acephate and malathion) produces greater than additive effects in laboratory animals, showing a clear pattern of synergism.
- Co-exposure to chlorpyrifos and alpha-cypermethrin increases the tissue concentration of cypermethrin.
- Chlorpyrifos oxon strongly inhibits the breakdown of permethrin by hydrolysis.
- Chlorpyrifos increases sensitivity to the toxic effects of carbaryl.

⁴ Concanavalin is a lectin (carbohydrate-binding protein) originally extracted from the jack bean, *Canavalia ensiformis*, and known to induce mitosis.

2.7 People at heightened risk

Newborn children can be 65-164 times more vulnerable than adults to the OPs chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and parathion (Furlong et al 2006). This is because the PON1 enzyme responsible for detoxifying chlorpyrifos is present at very low levels in children under the age of 2 (Furlong et al 2005), 3-to-4 fold lower than those of their mothers (Holland et al 2006).

Activity of PON1 increases up until the age of 7, so it is not until this age that children have the same ability as adults to detoxify OPs. PON1 levels are even lower in the unborn foetus (Huen et al 2009).

There is also a huge variation in the levels of PON1 between people because of genetic polymorphisms and, as a result, the range for chlorpyrifos sensitivity can be as much as 14-fold among mothers and as much as 26-fold among newborns (Furlong et al 2006).

Studies using human liver microsomes showed a variation of up to 57-fold in the metabolism of chlorpyrifos to chlorpyrifos oxon (Croom et al 2010).

US EPA (2011) states that pregnant women may be more sensitive to chlorpyrifos than non-pregnant people, because of a reduced capacity of the detoxifying enzymes (e.g. PON1, CYP450) – pregnant rats are 2 to 12 fold more sensitive than non-pregnant female rats for ChE inhibition.

Yet, the US EPA applies only a 10-fold uncertainty factor for interspecies variation (US EPA 2011).

3 Human Exposure

3.1 Exposure guidelines

- Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) = 0.01 mg/kg/day (EC 2005)
- Acute Reference Dose (ARfD) = 0.1 mg/kg/day (EC 2005)
- Child specific RfD = 0.0001 mg/kg/day (Cal EPA 2010)
- Acceptable Operator Exposure Level (AOEL) (US) = 0.0015 mg/kg/day (Fenske et al 2012)
- AOEL systemic = 0.01 mg/kg/day (IUPAC 2012)
- Acute dietary RfD = 0.0036 mg/kg/day (US EPA 2011)
- Chronic dietary RfD = 0.0003 mg/kg/day (US EPA 2011)

Chlorpyrifos oxon:

- Acute dietary RfD = 0.0005 mg/kg/day (US EPA 2011)
- Chronic dietary RfD = 0.00011 mg/kg/day (US EPA 2011)

Chlorpyrifos-methyl:

- ADI = 0-0.01 mg/kg/day (JMPR 2013)

The California EPA established a child-specific reference dose (chRfD) of 0.0001 mg/kg/day on the grounds that “there is now evidence that chlorpyrifos directly targets events that are specific to the developing brain and that are not related to inhibition of cholinesterase, including: inhibition of DNA synthesis, impairment of cell acquisition and differentiation, interactions with neurotrophic factors, interruption of cell signalling cascades, and alteration in synaptic function ... based on both cholinesterase inhibitions in dogs and rats and supporting information on cognitive deficiencies in rats” (Cal EPA 2010).

3.2 Occupational exposure

Chlorpyrifos has high potential for adverse effects in occupational applications, especially in developing countries (Phung et al 2012).

Using epidemiological data and a variety of probabilistic risk assessment techniques, Phung et al (2013) concluded that single-event spraying of chlorpyrifos in Vietnam is likely to have adverse effects on Vietnamese rice farmers, with 29-33% affected.

Measurements of chlorpyrifos levels in ambient air breathed by farmers in Tambon Bang Rieng, Thailand, found that farmers were inhaling concentrations up to 0.61 mg/m³, more than twice the ADI for all routes of exposure (Jirachaiyabhas et al 2004).

In Vietnam, exposure levels for farmers using chlorpyrifos on rice, measured post application, ranged from 0.35 to 94 µg/kg/day, exceeding “most of the acute guidelines”, and were significantly higher than in a similar study in Sri Lanka, (highest level there was 8.4 µg/kg/day). Urinary TCP levels ranged from 0.7-14.7 µg/g creatinine, with the highest levels reached 25 hrs after application (Phung et al 2012).

However, much higher levels of exposure have been recorded amongst pesticide applicators in Egyptian cotton fields using backpack mistblowers: TCP levels measured during the 1-2 week period of application were up to

6,437 $\mu\text{g/g}$ creatinine in applicators, 184 $\mu\text{g/g}$ in technicians, and 157 $\mu\text{g/g}$ in engineers, the latter 2 categories supervising the applications. Adverse effects on red blood cell AChE activity were recorded at TCP levels above 3,161 $\mu\text{g/g}$, and on plasma butyrylcholinesterase above 114 $\mu\text{g/g}$. These applicators had previously been shown to suffer a range of neurobehavioural deficits (Farahat et al 2010, 2011). A subsequent study found lower levels of TCP in applicators urine (mean 719 $\mu\text{g/g}$) (Crane et al 2013). In Egypt, most of the pesticide applicators used, by the Ministry of Agriculture, in the cotton fields are adolescents (12-21 years) (Crane et al 2013).

Dermal exposure, as applicators and technicians walked through the cotton, is the main source of exposure. Fenske et al (2012) determined that 94-96% of internal doses in these workers comes from dermal exposure, and that all workers exceeded the US AOEL of 1.5 $\mu\text{g/kg/day}$.

Both adults and children, from the age of 10, work in the banana and plantain plantations in Costa Rica, placing chlorpyrifos-treated blue plastic bags around bunches of plantain. Middlemen reportedly put considerable pressure on producers to use these bags. Many of them end up in the villages and streams when it rains (Barraza et al 2011). Elevated levels of chlorpyrifos metabolites have been found in the urine of both adults and children involved in banana plantation work and small-scale farming in Nicaragua (Rodríguez et al 2006).

Protective clothing

US EPA (2009a) stated that, even when all feasible PPE or engineering controls are used, there are still occupational exposures of concern. There were concerns about mixing/loading liquids, mixing wettable powder, aerial application, backpack sprayers, high-pressure wands, hand-held sprayers or dusters, and re-entry intervals especially for activities such as pruning, transplanting and burlap/balling (US EPA 2009b).

Many farmers in developing countries do not use PPE, let alone the engineering controls referred to above for the USA. Few workers in the Egyptian cotton fields report using PPE (Lein et al 2012), none of them wearing respiratory, eye, face or hand protection (Fenske et al 2012). In a study of chlorpyrifos exposure in Vietnamese rice fields, no applicators used gloves, most wearing only normal long-sleeve shirt and pants, hat and mask, with the proportion of body surface exposed being 63.5-84.8% (Phung et al 2012).

3.3 Non-occupational exposure

Non-occupational exposure to chlorpyrifos is widespread in many countries, particularly amongst rural populations, or where it is used for household pest control. People are exposed by contact with treated surfaces, ingestion or inhalation of contaminated dust, breathing air in treated buildings or near treated fields or orchards where it has been applied, contact with flea collars on pets, and eating food containing residues of chlorpyrifos.

Children's exposure to chlorpyrifos is of the greatest concern, because of their greater sensitivity to it, and because of its developmental effects. It has been found in umbilical cord blood, the meconium of newborns, breast milk, and children's urine, indicating considerable prenatal and neonatal exposure (refer section *Residues in humans* for details). It has been found in indoor air samplers of pregnant mothers in urban USA, rural house and vehicle dust, on the hands of toddlers, and in rural air monitoring.

Indoor air, dust and surfaces

Chlorpyrifos was phased out from household use in the USA in 2001. Prior to, and around the time of phase-out, its presence as residues in dust, floor wipes, and air in houses, childcare facilities and schools was almost ubiquitous (US EPA 2013b). It continues to persist in many homes. For example in 2011, residues were found in 40% of indoor air samples taken in Boston, USA, at an average concentration of 0.33 ng/m^3 (Lu et al 2013). Although these levels and the rate of detection are lower than in previous studies, the authors noted that all recent studies continued to measure chlorpyrifos in the indoor environment and proposed that a lack of significant degradation pathways in the indoor environment contributes to its persistence there. This proposal is supported by the findings published in 1994 that chlorpyrifos was still present in the air in houses, measured at levels of 0.1-0.7 $\mu\text{g/m}^3$ 8 years after its application for termite control (Wright et al 1994). Semi-volatile pesticides such as chlorpyrifos have long persistence on rugs, furniture, soft toys, pillows and other absorbent surfaces particularly in closed apartments (Landrigan et al 1999).

Another study in the US also found that chlorpyrifos was one of the most frequently detected pesticide contaminants in house dust, with frequency of detection in rural homes being 57% (at up to 200 ng/gm) and in urban homes 39% (at up to 56 ng/g) (Quirós-Alcalá et al 2012).

In an earlier study, carried out in North Carolina, USA in 2000-2001, the metabolite TCP was detected in 100% of indoor floor dust (max 391 ng/m³) and air (max 29.4 ng/m³) in homes and day care centres, 97% of solid food and 95% of indoor air samples (Morgan et al 2005).

Residues (0.1-0.63 mg/kg dust) have recently been found in house dust in Germany, where it is one of the most commonly found residues, along with the POPs lindane and DDT, potential POPs methoxychlor and propoxur, and permethrin and piperonyl butoxide (Ertl & Butte 2012).

During 2001-2004, nearly 100% of indoor air samplers in the homes of pregnant women in New York contained chlorpyrifos (Whyatt et al 2007).

Levels of chlorpyrifos in the air following indoor household use in the US were significantly higher in the infant breathing zone than in the adult sitting zone (Fenske et al 1990).

Chlorpyrifos has been found in the air, but not dust, in daycare centres, kindergarten classrooms and homes in South Korea (Kim et al 2013).

Pets

Family pets can be another source of exposure: one study found up to 7,000 µg of chlorpyrifos on hair collected 4 hours after a dog had been treated with a commercial flea product, with 26.63 µg measured 3 weeks after treatment (Boone et al 2001).

Rural ambient exposures

Recently, the US EPA (2013a) released a preliminary assessment of the volatilisation of chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos oxon from sprayed crops. It concluded that there is a risk to bystanders from the vapour emitted from some crops sprayed with chlorpyrifos. The National Pesticide Information Center recorded 10 cases of poisoning resulting from spray drift from 2002 to 2010. The California Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program reported 61 incidents involving spray drift or volatilisation from 2002 to 2009 (US EPA 2013a).

Air monitoring in the US in 1996 identified a maximum 6-hour air concentration of 28 µg/m³ at 57 feet from the edge of a chlorpyrifos-sprayed field (US EPA 2013a)

Chlorpyrifos has also been detected in the house dust of 100% of applicator houses that were tested in the US (Fenske et al 2002), and in up to 90% of dust samples in farmworker houses (Bradman et al 2007). Chlorpyrifos was also found

in farmworker vehicles (Curl et al 2002), and in the urine of farmworkers' children (Curwin et al 2007).

Another, more recent, study of US farmworker children found chlorpyrifos in 100% of household air and dust samples even though it was not used in the homes, and calculated that non-dietary ingestion was the main route of exposure for these children (Beamer et al 2012).

Soil from outdoor play areas in homes in an agricultural area of Washington State, USA, contained residues of chlorpyrifos and other pesticides (Simcox et al 1995).

Ambient community (i.e. away from the fields) air monitoring data from agricultural regions of California showed that short-term chlorpyrifos exposure estimates exceeded the 'acute reference dose' ARfD for 50% of children; and non-cancer risks were higher for children than adults (Lee et al 2002).

A recent study in Australia found that there was widespread chronic exposure of preschool children to OP and pyrethroid insecticides and that, although most exposures were higher in the rural area, urban children's exposure to chlorpyrifos (and bifenthrin) was just as great, probably because they are used widely in the domestic setting, as well as in agriculture (Babina et al 2012).

In the Egyptian cotton fields referred to earlier, elevated levels of urinary TCP were found in residents from the same villagers as the applicators, although at lower levels (Crane et al 2013). The mean level was 44.9 µg/g, extremely high compared with the mean level of 2.09 µg/g in the general USA adolescent population (Crane et al 2013).

Children living near banana and plantain plantations in Costa Rica have elevated levels of urinary TCP, double that of children from other areas, and for many at levels exceeding both (US) acute and chronic reference doses (van Wendel de Joode et al 2012).

An assessment of risks from chlorpyrifos applied to citrus trees in Spain with airblast sprayers concluded there is a significant risk to bystanders from spray drift, and that risk is magnified 3-fold for children (Cunha et al 2012).

Food residues

Children's exposure continues with their food: when urban children in a US study changed to organic fruit and vegetables, their urinary levels of chlorpyrifos metabolites fell to undetectable

almost immediately (Lu et al 2006, 2008), indicating that their previous exposure was solely dietary. In Chiang Mai province in Thailand, residues of chlorpyrifos in the urine of schoolchildren were surmised by the authors of the study to have come from dietary exposure (Panuwet et al 2009).

A study of 129 preschool children in the US, which found TCP in 100% of the indoor floor dust and hard surface wipes of their homes and daycare centres, also found it in 97% of their solid food, and 95% of indoor air samples. Levels up to 104 ng/ml were found in preschool children's urine, and dietary intake was considered to be the main source for this (Morgan et al 2005).

An analysis of food intake and residue studies in the USA, showed that preschoolers are significantly more exposed to chlorpyrifos through residues in food than are parents, with a mean daily intake of 7.45×10^{-5} mg/kg/day (more than 3 times that of adults). The main contributors to this intake were grapes, apples, peaches, dairy, and tomatoes (in descending order). Dairy residues were thought to have originated from grazing fields after chlorpyrifos application, or in feed given to cows (Vogt et al 2012). Use of chlorpyrifos-impregnated ear tags to control parasites on cattle also results in residues of the insecticides in fat, muscle and organ tissue (Byford et al 1986).

In the US, chlorpyrifos has also been found in orange juice and a composite cherry/nectarine/apple juice (Riederer & Lu 2012), cranberries (Putnam et al 2003), peaches, nectarines, kale greens, collard greens, broccoli, corn, summer squash, almonds (NPIC 2009).

In a study on persistence in a cranberry bog, Putnam et al (2003) found that, although the half-life of chlorpyrifos was found to be 3.5 days in cranberries, residues were still detectable at harvest, 62 days after the chlorpyrifos application.

Chlorpyrifos has been found to be persistent in cotton gin trash, with a half-life of 133 days, hence trash from cotton plants treated with chlorpyrifos may result in residues in cattle (Crossan & Kennedy 2008).

Australian children have a much higher intake of chlorpyrifos, the most frequently found OP residue, than children in USA or Japan: the Australian estimated dietary intake for 2-5 year-olds is $0.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{day}$, compared with children aged 3-6 in Japan ($0.007 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{day}$) and in the US (age not given) of $0.03 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{day}$ (Babina et al 2012).

A survey of schoolchildren in Chile found that 80% of them had metabolites of chlorpyrifos in their urine; and this was associated with eating fruits and vegetables, prompting the authors of the study to suggest "the need for a review of policies to regulate the sale and application of chlorpyrifos in Chile" (Muñoz-Quezada et al 2012). Chlorpyrifos was detected in 50% of samples of fruit and vegetables collected in December 2010.

Potatoes can take up chlorpyrifos from the soil and remain in the harvested crop, and still be largely present after cooking. Boiling reduced residues by only 14%; storage for 17 days at 20°C reduced residues by 50% (Jurasko et al 2011).

Residues have been found in a wide variety of foods in many different countries, including fruit, vegetables, grains, fish and processed foods:

- Pakistan: cottonseed, apples, citrus fruit (Tariq et al 2007); imported wheat (Riazuddin et al 2011); apple gourd, bitter melon, cauliflower, chilli, eggplant, peas, spinach, and tomato with many residues exceeding the MRL, and up to 0.96 mg/kg found in bitter melon, prompting Latif et al (2011) to identify "an urgent need to control the use of some excessively applied and potentially persistent pesticides, such as....chlorpyrifos" (Latif et al 2011).
- India: beans, brinjal, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chilli, ladyfinger, leeks, mustard, okra, and tomato, at up to 0.179 mg/kg mean concentration in the latter (Mukherjee 2003; Sinha et al 2012; Ananda Gowda & Somashekar 2012); also in 'made' tea at 0.43 mg/kg and fresh tea leaves at 0.73 mg/kg (Bishnu et al 2009);
- China: at high levels in rice (mean = 0.174 mg/kg, and in fish (mean = 0.021 mg/kg) (Wang et al 2012c); vegetables such as Shanghai greens (94% of samples), Chinese cabbage (85%), carrot (64%), and spinach (Wang et al 2008); according to a media report residues have been found on peanuts imported into Australia from China (Kretowicz 2012);
- Thailand: one media item reports levels of 0.84 mg/kg in parsley (Sarnsamak 2012);
- Columbia: tomatoes (Uribe et al 2012);
- Mexico: maize, chickpeas and wheat (Aldana-Madrid et al 2008);
- Brazil: apples, beans, carrots, oranges, peaches, pears, potatoes, strawberries, and tomatoes (Gebara et al 2011);
- Nigeria: maize (0.062 mg/kg) (Ogah & Coker 2012);
- Turkey: in grapefruit (0.04 mg/kg); lemon (0.005 mg/kg) (Sungur & Tunur 2012);
- Serbia: potatoes and onions, at 1.18 mg/kg in the latter, which is 20 times the MRL (Marković et

- al 2010);
- Egypt: fish from the River Nile tributaries (at 9.38 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$) (Malhat & Nasr 2011).
 - Ghana: tomato, eggplant and pepper (Botwe et al 2012); and papaya, watermelon, banana, mango, pear, pineapple, lettuce, cabbage, carrot, and onion (Bempah et al 2012); waakye (rice and beans) and fufu (cassava and plantain dough) (Amuzu 2012);
 - Tanzania: spinach (0.02 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$) and rice (0.02 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$) (Ndengerio-Ndossi & Cram 2005);
 - New Zealand: apples, apricots, bananas, feijoas, grapes, kiwifruit, lemons, mandarins, oranges, peaches; bok choy, silver beet, spinach, spring onions, tomatoes; bran cereal, bread, hamburgers, jam, meat pies, muesli, olive oil, pasta, pizza, raisins, rice, sausages, and snack bars (MPI 2012a,b);
 - EU: in one report from the European Union, it was one of the most commonly found residues, including in beans, carrots, cucumbers, mandarins, oranges, pears, potatoes, rice, and spinach, up to 3.7 mg/kg in potatoes (EFSA 2010);
 - France: the most frequently detected pesticides included chlorpyrifos particularly in peaches, pears, apples, and grapes; and chlorpyrifos-methyl, particularly in wheat-based products (Nougadère et al 2012).

Drinking water

Residues of chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos oxon in drinking water are of concern. The US EPA (2011) estimates that chlorpyrifos used at an average typical application rate on sugar beet may result in infants aged <1 yr old consuming residues of chlorpyrifos (in drinking water) at 3.4 times higher than the acceptable level (the 'Acute Population Adjusted Dose'), and that maximum application rates on grapes would result in an estimated 27 times higher level than the acceptable, in the same infants.

A review of water monitoring in Australia reported chlorpyrifos in the state of Victoria's domestic water supplies, with residues having been found in the Mitchell River, Gippsland surface waters, Goulburn Murray Water, Katamatite water supply channel (at 0.089 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$), and Yarra River (0.04 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$) (Amis 2008, 2012).

It has been detected in drinking water reservoirs in Canada's Northern Great Plains, at 0.020 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ (Donald et al 2007). In India, chlorpyrifos has been found at levels of 4.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ in soft drinks, 47 times higher than the permissible limit recommend by the Bureau of Indian Standards (Ali et al 2008).

Chlorpyrifos has also been found in soft drinks: in India, it was found (along with a number of other pesticides) in 100% of samples of drinks such as Pepsi, Coca-Cola, Fanta, Sprite, Mountain Dew and 7 other bottled drinks all made by two American companies. The maximum concentration found was 7.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$, 72 times higher than the EU limit of 0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ for water.⁵ The average concentration was 42 times higher than the EU limit (Mathur et al 2003). A parliamentary investigation corroborated the findings, causing the parliament to ban its cafeterias from serving Pepsi and Coke and the defence ministry issued a circular ordering its clubs to stop selling the drinks (Singh 2004). A repeat analysis published in 2006 again found chlorpyrifos in 100% of samples, this time with a maximum concentration of 20.43 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ in Coca-Cola, and an average of 4.71 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ (Johnson et al 2006).

Other exposures

In South Africa, poverty drives many youths, even as young as 12-14 years of age, to sell pesticides illegally on the streets, at rail stations and even door-to-door. Chlorpyrifos, and other highly hazardous pesticides, are decanted into drink and medicine bottles and sold unlabelled for unregistered, mainly domestic, uses. The youths are at risk from spillage and contamination. Children also purchase these pesticides for parents and use them at home. This problem has also been documented in Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Mozambique, United States, Brazil, the Dominican Republic and Israel, although it is not stated whether chlorpyrifos is involved in all these countries (Rother 2010).

4 Body burdens and poisonings

4.1 Residues in humans

Biomonitoring in the US showed that 94% of residents had chlorpyrifos in their bodies in 1999-2000. Children aged 6-11 years had almost twice the levels of adults. Chronic exposure levels were 4.6 times higher than the 'acceptable' level for children, and 3 times for youth aged 12-19 years (Schafer et al 2004). A chlorpyrifos metabolite was found in the urine of over 80% of adults and 90% of children from representative population samples (Schettler et al 2000).

One study in Minnesota, USA, found that over a 5-day period metabolites of chlorpyrifos were detected in the urine of 98% of the urban children tested (Adgate et al 2001).

⁵ EU limit = 0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ for individual pesticides; 0.50 for total pesticides (COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption. Official Journal of the European Communities L330/32. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1998:330:0032:0054:EN:PDF>).

Chlorpyrifos is capable of crossing the placenta so foetal exposure occurs following the exposure of pregnant women. Chlorpyrifos has been found in the blood of pregnant women in South Africa (Naik 2012). One US study found chlorpyrifos in 63% of cord blood samples (Barr et al 2010). In another US study, it was found in 70.5% of samples of maternal blood and 87.5% of cord blood, the difference thought to be because of mothers' greater levels of the detoxifying enzyme PON1 (Huen et al 2012).

It has also been found in the meconium (first faeces) of newborn infants in the Philippines (Ostrea et al 2006) and USA (Whyatt et al 2009).

Exposure then continues with the newborn's first feed: chlorpyrifos has been found in breast milk in India and USA.

In Bhopal, India, chlorpyrifos was found at levels of 85-355 $\mu\text{g/L}$, which resulted in infant intake of 41 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ per day, 41 times higher than the level recommended by the WHO (Sanghi et al 2003).

Casey (2005) found chlorpyrifos in samples of breast milk from 25 of 26 lactating women in the USA, with milk concentrations (0.32 to 2.29 $\mu\text{g/L}$) significantly higher than plasma or saliva concentrations. This is because chlorpyrifos' high lipid solubility coefficient of 4.7-5.3 renders it capable of concentrating in milk fat.

A recent breast milk biomonitoring programme in the US reported median concentrations of 0.024 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ and 0.028 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ of milk for urban and agricultural women respectively in California; and 0.004 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ of chlorpyrifos-methyl in urban women. The detection frequency was 100% for chlorpyrifos, and 67% for chlorpyrifos-methyl in urban women (Weldon et al 2011). In other studies, chlorpyrifos has been detected in breast milk at 0.436 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ (Cal EPA 2008).

It has also been detected in cervical fluid (6.83 $\mu\text{g/kg}$), sperm fluid (0.50 $\mu\text{g/kg}$) (Cal EPA 2008), and maternal and infant hair (Ostrea et al 2009).

Residues in humans have been measured in a number of countries including China (cord blood - Wickerham et al 2012), the Philippines (maternal, foetal and infant samples - Ostrea 2002, 2009), Malaysia (schoolchildren - Mathur et al 2005), India (villagers, 85% of samples, up to 0.497 mg/L whole blood - Mathur et al 2005), US (maternal and cord blood, meconium - Whyatt et al 2009; Huen et al 2012).

4.2 Occupational poisonings

In a study of acute pesticide poisonings from 1995 to 2006 amongst working children in Nicaragua, aged 5 to 14 years, 47% were caused by organophosphates, mainly methamidophos and chlorpyrifos (Corriols & Aragón 2010).

Chlorpyrifos has been involved in acute poisonings in cashew nut peeling sheds in Kerala, India. Between February 2000 and January 2003, there were at least 10 such incidents involving the pesticides chlorpyrifos, malathion or methyl parathion, with in one case 227 women hospitalised (Thanal 2003).

An epidemiological study of pesticide applicators in the US found that there was a two-fold increased risk of accidents (non-motor vehicle) and suicide amongst users of chlorpyrifos, possibly reflecting a link between exposure and depression (Lee et al 2007b).

From Jan 2002 to Feb 2011, there were 141 poisoning incidents with chlorpyrifos recorded in the US, although some of these may have been from non-agricultural use. Of these, 37% reported respiratory problems. There was one fatality, described as follows: "A 58 year old male was reportedly exposed to a ULV product five to six times. Each time he was taken to the emergency room with difficulty breathing and an upset stomach. He was diagnosed with and treated for COPD⁶. The last time he was exposed to the ULV product, he fell while taking a shower after the exposure. He was subsequently hospitalized and died about 10 days later. He also suffered from peeling skin" (US EPA 2013a).

Other occupational poisoning cases were described in the section *Nervous system - other neurotoxic effects*.

4.3 Suicides

Cases of attempted or successful suicide have been reported in a number of countries including India (Srinivas Rao et al 2005), Iran (Soltaninejad et al 2007), Israel (Kventsel et al 2005), Italy (Moretto & Lotti 1998), Nepal (Paudyal 2008), Nicaragua (Miranda et al 2002), Spain (Martínez et al 2004), Sri Lanka (Wickramasinghe et al 2009), Taiwan (Lee & Lin 2006), Turkey (Daglioglu et al 2011), USA (US EPA 1999a; Arroyo Plasencia et al 2012), Venezuela (Guadarrama-Naveda et al 2001), and a subcutaneous self-injection case in France (Soummer et al 2011).

⁶ Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

In the Central province of Sri Lanka, of 78 patients with organophosphate poisoning, 59 had ingested chlorpyrifos (Jayawardane et al 2008).

Chlorpyrifos is reported to have a global case fatality rate of 8% for self-poisoning (Gunnell et al 2007).

A newborn baby died in South Africa soon after birth, following its mother's attempted suicide with chlorpyrifos. The mother experienced tonic-clonic seizures, vomiting, diarrhoea, a garlic odour, faecal incontinence, pinpoint pupils, and muscle weakness and fasciculations. The mother survived, but the baby born prematurely died 2 days after birth (Solomon & Moodley 2007).

Foetal death following maternal ingestion of chlorpyrifos has been reported in Turkey (Sebe et al 2005).

4.4 Accidental poisonings

In Nicaragua, children living in a community in the path of rainwater run-off from a large crop-dusting airfield had depressed cholinesterase activity, thought to be caused by playing barefoot in puddles of water. Pesticides found in their well-water included chlorpyrifos (McConnell et al 1999). Additionally, acute and chronic symptoms have been recorded both in the workers that manufacture chlorpyrifos-treated bags used in plantations, and in workers that put the bags on the fruit (Wesseling et al 2006, 2007).

In the USA, 2,593 people, mainly children, were identified with acute pesticide exposure to chlorpyrifos at school between 1998 and 2002. Sixty nine percent of 406 cases with detailed information arose from application of pesticides on the school grounds – diazinon, chlorpyrifos and malathion were commonly implicated; 13% arose from spray drift from neighbouring operations – chlorpyrifos was one of the main pesticides involved (Alarcon et al 2005).

Also in the US, between 2002 and 2008, there were 126 incidents involving chlorpyrifos, with more than 150 people affected (US EPA 2009a). US EPA (2013a) reported 141 incidents between 2002 and 2011 that involved chlorpyrifos alone but many more than involved other chemicals as well as chlorpyrifos. California alone reported 100 cases from 2002 to 2009 involving chlorpyrifos, of which 61 were associated with drift or volatilisation. Another database, NIOSH-SENSOR-Pesticides gives a figure of 204 cases of suspected chlorpyrifos poisoning, of which

21% were attributable to drift and volatilisation (6 were bystanders, 13 work-related, 1 residential application).

In November 2000, a cloud of chlorpyrifos drifted onto the grounds of Mound Elementary School in Ventura County, California (USA), from a lemon grove across the street. Dozens of students and teachers complained of dizziness, headaches, and nausea following the early morning application. The grower made a second application later that week that also drifted onto the school grounds. Samples from the kindergarten room (14 m from the grove), desks and play areas (hundreds of metres distant), and other campus locations tested positive for OPs (Kegley et al 2003).

In 2007, 26 vineyard workers reported effects from drift/volatilisation from an adjacent almond orchard; 12 had respiratory problems including difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, and chest tightness (US EPA 2013a).

A 61-year-old man sprayed a nest of termites with chlorpyrifos, without any protective clothing. After 30 minutes, he suffered nausea, abdominal cramps, arm and leg weakness, shoulder and chest pain, and numbness in left hand and arm. Clinical signs included urinary retention, left peritoneal palsy, and loss of strength. Widespread neuropathy was progressive, and paralysis of hands persisted. He never regained use of his hands, continued to have a disturbed gait with inability to clear his left foot when walking, and continued to suffer urinary retention which required catheterization (Meggs 2003).

There have been cases in the USA of children ingesting household formulations of chlorpyrifos (0.5%), including the fatality of a 22 month-old boy (US EPA 1999a).

A church in Harper Kansas, USA, was treated for termites with chlorpyrifos in July 1995. One year later chlorpyrifos was still being detected in the air, and people who worked at the church reported symptoms of "chronic neurobehavioural poisoning" (US EPA 1999a).

A man in his 30s suffered symptoms of OP poisoning after mowing a hospital grounds lawn that had been treated with fertilizer containing chlorpyrifos (US EPA 1999a).

There have been a number of media reports linking several incidents involving the deaths of young female tourists in Thailand and Vietnam with exposure to chlorpyrifos used in hotels (Daily Mail Reporter 2011; Hopper 2012; Thanh Nien News 2012).

In Jamaica, a hotel employee was reported to be still suffering respiratory complications a year after 3 employees were poisoned when chlorpyrifos was sprayed in their dining room to control cockroaches, according to a media report (Serju 2012). Another report from Jamaica refers to “many children” who fell ill after chlorpyrifos was used in two schools (The Gleaner 2012). Other accidental poisoning cases have been described under the section *Nervous system - other neurotoxic effects*.

5 Environmental Effects

5.1 Aquatic toxicity

GHS classification and labelling:

Category	Hazard Phrase
Aquatic Acute Tox 1	H400 – very toxic to aquatic life
Aquatic Chronic Tox 1	H410 – very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects

Transport to surface water via spray drift poses a risk to aquatic species (WHO 2009a).

Fish

Very ecotoxic to fish (NZ EPA 2012):

- LC₅₀ (96hr) = 0.00054-520 mg/L (EC 2005)
- Chronic NOEC = 0.00014 mg/L (EC 2005)

Reproductive NOAEC:

- Freshwater fish (fathead minnow) = 0.57 ppb (US EPA 2006)
- Estuarine fish (Atlantic silverside) = 0.28 ppb (US EPA 2006)

Chlorpyrifos causes inhibition of AChE in fish (Assis et al 2012; Oruc 2012).

Exposure of Australian catfish (*Tandanus tandanus*) to a short pulse of chlorpyrifos at 2 µg/L resulted in reduced growth, although there was no difference in food intake (Huynh & Nuggeoda 2012).

Sublethal exposure to chlorpyrifos results in oxidative stress in fish. For example, 40-day exposure to environmentally relevant doses of chlorpyrifos (116 µg/L) decreased the activity of antioxidant enzymes in common carp (*Cyprinus carpio* L.) (Xing et al 2012); and exposure to 5, 10 and 15 ppb increased MDA and SOD, but decreased GST and CAT in the Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) (Oruc 2012). Wu et al (2011) found that activity of SOD and CAT increased at lower

concentrations of chlorpyrifos, but decreased at higher concentrations.

Chlorpyrifos has been shown to be mutagenic in fish: Ali et al (2008) found micronucleus induction and DNA damage in the freshwater fish *Channa punctatus* (Bloch).

Chlorpyrifos has also been observed to cause endocrine disruption in fish, the Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), in particular lowering serum cortisol, oestradiol, and testosterone levels, without change to gonad somatic indices (Oruc 2010).

Developmental subchronic exposure to chlorpyrifos can result in neurobehaviour effects: exposure of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) larvae to 0.01 or 0.1 µM during development induced specific behavioural deficits in 7-day old fish, including decreased swim speed and thigmotaxis (preference for the edge, an anxiety-related disorder), but no change in avoidance behaviour. The authors described the thigmotaxis effect as interference in the development of anxiety-related behaviours (Richendrfer et al 2012).

Reduction in swimming activity has also been recorded in coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) at 0.6 µg/L; reduction in feeding occurred at 1.2 µg/L (Sandahl et al 2005).

Effects on schooling behaviour (e.g. location, orientation, grouping pattern) in fathead minnows (*Pimephales promelas*) has been observed at exposure to > 47 µg/L of chlorpyrifos in the formulation Dursban (Holcombe et al 1982).

Spinal deformities occurred in rainbow trout (*Salmo gairdneri*) after 48 hours exposure to concentrations of chlorpyrifos > 47 µg/L in the formulation Dursban (Holcombe et al 1982).

Residues have been found in fish in a number of countries, including:

- China (mean = 21.4 µg/kg) (Wang et al 2012c);
- Egypt, in River Nile tributaries at 9.38 µg/kg (Malhat & Nasr 2011); and in a drainage canal surrounding a pesticide factory at 31.6 µg/kg (Abdel-Halim et al 2006);
- USA, at 3.1 µg/kg in liver tissue (Sapozhnikova et al 2004);
- Taiwan, in both wild fish (64 µg/kg) and farmed fish (463 µg/kg); in the latter, the chlorpyrifos came from the fish feed (Sun & Chen 2008);
- India, in Kolleru Lake, at 88,600 µg/kg (Amaraneni & Pillala 2001); in the sub-Himalayan Dal Lakes, at 54% frequency and up to 3 µg/kg (Muddasir et al 2012);

- Ghana, in lagoons, at 0.3 µg/kg (Essumang et al 2009);
- Ethiopia, Lake Koka, in 23% of *Clarias gariepinus* and 10% of *Oreochromis niloticus*, at up to 1.12 µg/kg (Deribe et al 2011).

Climate change may increase the toxicity of chlorpyrifos to fish: Patra et al (2007) found that sublethal exposures to chlorpyrifos reduced upper temperature tolerance limits in freshwater fish species by 3.8°C for silver perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*) and 5.8°C for rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

Between 1974 and 2005, chlorpyrifos was reported as the probable causative agent of 108 aquatic incidents, e.g. fish kills (US EPA 2009a). In 2001, chlorpyrifos killed hundreds of fish in the River Ouse, UK (PAN UK 2001). Fish kills have also been reported in Australia (NRA 2000a).

Amphibia

Chlorpyrifos is moderately to very highly toxic to amphibia depending on the species. In the US EPA's ECOTOX database, LC₅₀s for amphibia range from 66.2 to 5,471 µg/L (Davidson et al 2012). Exposure to chlorpyrifos inhibits AChE activity (Colombo et al 2005). Chlorpyrifos oxon is significantly more toxic to amphibia than the parent compound (Sparling & Fellers 2007).

Two formulations of chlorpyrifos, Dursban and Lorsban, were more neurotoxic to frogs than the active ingredient in *in vitro* tests (Swann et al 1996). They also caused swelling of mitochondria.

There is concern that contamination by pesticides, including chlorpyrifos, from sources at a distance from some frog populations may be contributing to their decline, particularly in the Sierra Nevada Mountains in California, USA, which are downwind of the intensely cultivated San Joaquin Valley (Sparling et al 2001). The authors found chlorpyrifos or diazinon in 50% of the Pacific tree frog (*Hyla regilla*) at the Yosemite National Park, compared with 9% at the coast. Mean tissue concentration of chlorpyrifos was 15 µg/kg.

This view is supported by the Sparling & Fellers (2009) study, which established an LC₅₀ for chlorpyrifos of 365 µg/L for larval Pacific tree frogs (*Pseudacris regilla*) and 66.5 µg/L for foothill yellow-legged frogs (*Rana boylei*), the first an abundant species, and the second in severe decline. Time to metamorphosis increased in both species, and mean body size was reduced in *R boylei*.

In another survey in California, chlorpyrifos was the 3rd most frequently found contaminant (after endosulfan and dacthal) in Cascade frogs (*Rana cascadae*) and Pacific chorus frogs (*Pseudacris regilla*). It was detected in 48.9% of samples, at a mean tissue weight of 0.484 µg/kg, although they found no difference in levels between sites of frog decline and sites where no decline was evident. It was also found in the sediment in the frog sites, at 62.9% frequency and 0.754 µg/kg mean sediment weight (Davidson et al 2012).

Residues of chlorpyrifos have also been found in Pacific tree frog tadpoles at 17.4 µg/kg in California (Datta et al 1998).

In a study in Sri Lanka (Jayawardena et al 2010) of chronic exposure to concentrations similar to those found in the environment there (50 to 500 µg/kg), chlorpyrifos was found to have a profound effect on amphibia even at the lowest concentrations. The following effects were found on the common hourglass tree frog (*Polypedates cruciger*):

- survival of the tadpole was reduced to 80% at 500 µg/kg; and was still significantly reduced at 50 µg/kg;
- growth of tadpoles was significantly reduced;
- tadpoles took longer to develop;
- malformations in 60% of tadpoles, mainly in the spine, including hunched back (kyphosis), and curvature (scoliosis), as well as skin ulcers and oedemas. The oedemas later resulted in twisting of the body axis and consequent effects on swimming behaviour (such as swimming upside down, inability to balance); they were often fatal upon rupture. Even at 50 µg/kg, 35% malformations occurred.

Amphibia are sensitive to endocrine disrupting effects of chlorpyrifos. Bernabò et al (2011a) exposed tadpoles of the frog *Rana dalmatina* to either 0.025 mg/L or 0.05 mg/L chlorpyrifos (both ecologically relevant doses). At 1 month of metamorphosis, 20-25% of those exposed were classified as 'intersex' due to the presence of testicular oocytes (compared to none in the control group).

Other effects of chlorpyrifos that have been recorded in amphibia include:

- damage to muscles (Colombo et al 2005);
- reduced swim speed and activity in tadpoles, swimming in a spiral orbit, and swimming upside down (Widder & Bidwell 2006; Wijesinghe et al 2011);
- reduced body length at 0.001 mg/L and mass at 0.1 mg/L (Richards & Kendall 2003);

- genotoxicity: increased induction of micronuclei and chromosomal lesions in erythrocytes, and DNA damage in erythrocytes and liver cells of *Bufo bufo gargarizans* tadpoles exposed to sublethal concentrations of chlorpyrifos (Yin et al 2009);
- teratogenic effects such as abnormalities in tail flexure, skeleton, and muscle development (Bernabò et al 2011b), and abnormal gut coiling (Bonfanti et al 2004);
- gill alteration including mucous secretion, and epithelium detachment and degeneration (Bernabò et al 2011b).

Exposure to environmentally relevant concentrations of chlorpyrifos (2-200 µg/L) increased the sensitivity of the tiger salamander to a pathogen, *Ambystoma tigrinum* virus (ATV), another mechanism by which chlorpyrifos may be contributing to the global decline in amphibia (Kerby & Storfer 2009).

Aquatic mammals

Chlorpyrifos residues have been measured in the blood of free-ranging sea otters in Alaska and California (Jessup et al 2010).

Aquatic Invertebrates

Moderate to very high toxicity. Very ecotoxic to aquatic crustaceans (NZ EPA 2012).

Freshwater:

- Acute LC₅₀ (*Daphnia magna*) = 0.1 ppb (US EPA 2006)
- Acute LC₅₀ (stonefly) = 50 ppb (US EPA 2006)
- Reproductive NOAEC (*Daphnia magna*) = 0.04 ppb (US EPA 2006)
- Chronic NOEC (*Daphnia magna*) = 0.000056 mg/L formulation, 21 days (EC 2005)

Crustaceans:

- Acute LC₅₀ (mysid shrimp) = 0.035 ppb (US EPA 2006)
- Reproductive NOAEC (mysid shrimp) = <0.0046 ppb (US EPA 2006)
- Chronic NOEC (mysid shrimp) = 0.0046 mg/L (EC 2005)

Chlorpyrifos can have significant effects on aquatic community structure. A single pulse of chlorpyrifos at 1 µg/L had long lasting effects on the macroinvertebrate community structure of a coastal stream mesocosm system in Australia. Significant community level effects were detected with no evidence of recovery after 124 days. The mayflies *Atalophlebia* sp. and *Koornonga* sp. were particularly sensitive to

chlorpyrifos and decreased in abundance after dosing (Colville et al 2008).

In a previous study on the effects of chlorpyrifos on a freshwater ecosystem, van Wijngaarden et al (2005) established a NOEC of 0.1 µg/L, noting that microcrustaceans (cladocerans and copepod nauplii) are amongst the most sensitive organisms. Under simulated Mediterranean conditions, algal blooms were experienced as an indirect effect of chlorpyrifos on grazing organisms.

Synergistic effects on toxicity have occurred when larvae of the aquatic midge *Chironomus tentans* have been exposed to mixtures of chlorpyrifos and the herbicides atrazine or cyanazine. The toxicity of chlorpyrifos was enhanced 1.8-fold by atrazine and 2.2-fold by cyanazine, the effect being associated with inhibition of AChE even though the herbicides are not inhibitors of AChE (Jin-Clark et al 2002). Synergism was also noted in a mixture of chlorpyrifos, imidacloprid and dimethoate, in terms of toxicity to *Chironomus dilutus* larvae (LeBlanc et al 2012).

Chlorpyrifos was found in prawns from Kolleru lake wetland in India, at a maximum concentration of 27.8 µg/L (Amaraneni 2006).

Echinoderms

Chlorpyrifos is very toxic to sea urchins. Exposure of the sea urchin *Paracentrotus lividus* to concentrations of 10⁻⁴ M, 10⁻⁵ M, and 10⁻⁶ M during the mating stage caused irreversible damage resulting in death in the embryonic stage. Concentrations of 10⁻⁴ M caused the death of all gastrulas, with the other concentrations leaving some larvae to metamorphose.

These survivors metamorphosed into immature sea urchins faster, but lacked certain skeletal components and spines and sometimes pedicles. Those exposed to 10⁻⁵ M died within a few days, and many of those exposed to 10⁻⁶ M developed but with elongated spines or other skeletal components (Amaroli et al 2013).

Aluigi et al (2010) found that the same doses, 10⁻⁴ M to 10⁻⁶ M, from 2 days after fertilisation prevented larval growth and fertilisation in *P. lividus*. Exposures to low doses, 10⁻⁷ M to 10⁻¹⁰ M, from 2 days after fertilization did not prevent metamorphosis but did alter size and shape.

Exposures at later stages caused reabsorption of larval structures and precocious release of the immature rudiments, followed by death of juveniles.

Molluscs

Moderate to very high toxicity (Kegley et al 2011).

- Acute LC₅₀ (oyster embryo-larva) = 2,000 ppb (US EPA 2006)

Chlorpyrifos causes endocrine disruption in molluscs. Studies on marine mussels *Mytilus galloprovincialis* showed complex interactions between chlorpyrifos and 17β-oestradiol in the digestive gland (Canesi et al 2011).

It was found in all samples of oysters in Chesapeake Bay, USA, at levels up to 0.42 µg/kg wet weight (Lehotay et al 1998).

Plankton

Phytoplankton: Moderate toxicity (Kegley et al 2011)

Zooplankton: Slight to very high toxicity (Kegley et al 2011)

Very ecotoxic to algae (NZ EPA 2012).

- Algal acute LC₅₀ 72 hrs = 1.2 mg/L technical (EC 2005)
- Algal acute LC₅₀ = 0.140-0.300 mg/L (US EPA 2006)
- Algal acute NOEC = 0.1-0.001 mg/L (EC 2005)
- Algal chronic NOEC = 0.027-0.063 mg/L formulation (EC 2005)

Chlorpyrifos, at a concentration of 0.1 µg/L, significantly changed the composition of the plankton community in seawater, particularly reducing arthropods (Tagatz et al 1982).

Chlorpyrifos was one of the most frequently detected pesticides in zooplankton, along with endosulfan, at 10 remote inland lakes in Ontario, at a maximum concentration of 0.08 ng/g (Kurt-Karakus et al 2011).

5.2 Terrestrial toxicity

Mammals

Chlorpyrifos is described as very ecotoxic to terrestrial vertebrates (NZ EPA 2012).

Acute toxicity – LD₅₀:

- Female mouse = 64 mg/kg (EC 2005)
- Rabbit = 1,000-2,000 mg/kg (NPIC 2009)
- Guinea pigs = 500 mg/kg (NPIC 2009)
- Sheep = 800 mg/kg (NPIC 2009)

Pets treated with products containing chlorpyrifos are at risk: dogs treated with a commercial flea product suffered depressed cholinesterase

activity which did not return to pre-treatment levels even after 3 weeks (Boone et al 2001).

Birds

Chlorpyrifos is described as very highly toxic to some birds, such as pheasant; highly toxic to common pigeons, house sparrows, and chickens; and moderately toxic to mallard ducks (NPIC 2009).

Acute toxicity – LD₅₀:

- common quail = 13.3 mg/kg (EC 2005)
- house sparrow = 10 mg/kg (US EPA 2006)
- pheasant = 8.41 mg/kg of formulation (EC 2005)

Dietary toxicity – LC₅₀:

- Mallard duck = 203 ppm (EC 2005)
- Mallard duck = 136 ppm (US EPA 2006)

Reproductive toxicity – NOEC/NOAEL:

- Mallard duck = 25 ppm (EC 2005; US EPA 2006)

There is growing concern that sublethal exposure to OPs might reduce bird populations by negatively affecting physiological and behavioural responses. Reduction in flying ability can affect migratory success. For example, exposure to chlorpyrifos at “environmentally relevant concentrations” (3 mg/kg), caused a significant increase in flight times in homing pigeons (*Columba livia*), indicating reduced flying ability (Moye & Pritsos 2010).

In 1995, chlorpyrifos was responsible for a “major incident” in Australia, at Macquarie Marshes. About 400-500 nestling ibis were killed. They had been feeding on grasshoppers, and chlorpyrifos was found in their liver (0.026 mg/kg) and intestinal tissue (0.167 mg/kg) (NRA 2000b).

Between 1974 and 2005, chlorpyrifos was reported as the probable causative agent of 79 terrestrial incidents, mainly bird and honey bee kills (US EPA 2009a).

The American robin (*Turdus migratorius*) is the most frequently reported bird species killed in field incidents involving chlorpyrifos in the US (NPIC 2009).

Bees

Chlorpyrifos is extremely toxic to honey bees (WHO 2009a).

Acute toxicity to honey bees (*Apis mellifera*):

- oral LD₅₀ = 0.25 µg/bee (EC 2005)

- oral LD₅₀ = 0.36 µg/bee (WHO 2009a)
- contact LD₅₀ = 0.059 µg/bee (EC 2005)
- contact LD₅₀ = 0.07 µg/bee (WHO 2009a)

According to Carrasco-Letelier (2012), the maximum recommended dose for the formulation Lorsban 48E for soybean crops in Uruguay is 23 times the formulation's contact LD₅₀ of 0.059 µg/bee.

Chlorpyrifos is also highly toxic to bumblebees. In an experiment in which *Bombus impatiens* were exposed for 2 weeks to white clover plots sprayed 24 hours previously with label rates of chlorpyrifos, half of the colonies had no live brood or adults and, overall, worker numbers were reduced by 57%, honey pots by 87%, and brood chambers by 94% (Gels et al 2002).

It is clear that honeybees are widely exposed to chlorpyrifos despite regulatory statements that risks to bees are minimised by label restrictions on time of application (e.g. WHO 2009). Chlorpyrifos was the most frequently detected insecticide in honey in Uruguay (42% of samples at up to 80 µg/kg), and propolis (78% at up to 111 µg/kg) (Pareja et al 2011). In North America, it was found in wax in 63.2% of colonies (at up to 890 µg/kg), in 43.7% of pollen samples (at up to 830 µg/kg), in 8.6% of bees (at up to 10.7 µg/kg) (Mullin et al 2010). The authors state the LD₅₀ as 1,220 µg/kg, but note that although these exposures are sublethal, sublethal exposures can reduce honeybee fitness especially that of the queen, and pesticides can interact synergistically to cause mortality. In Spain, chlorpyrifos was found in 5.6% of beeswax samples at 172 µg/kg (Serra-Bonvehí & Orantes-Bermejo 2010).

Beneficial insects

Chlorpyrifos is extremely toxic to beneficial insects (WHO 2009a), and is completely incompatible with IPM. A review from the University of Melbourne classified chlorpyrifos as in the highest class of toxicity to all groups of parasitoids and predators considered (beetles, ladybirds, predatory bugs, predatory mites, lacewings, and spiders (Thomson 2012).

The following LC₅₀s have been established:

- 0.058 µg/ml (range 0.039-0.081) for *Trichogramma ostrinae* (Wang et al 2012a)
- 0.0008 µg/ml for *Aphytis melinus* (Prabhaker et al 2007)
- 0.006 µg/ml for *Gonatocerus ashmeadi* (Prabhaker et al 2007)
- 0.012 µg/ml for *Eretmocerus eremicus* (Prabhaker et al 2007)

- 0.017 µg/ml for *Encarsia formosa* (Prabhaker et al 2007).

Frampton & van den Brink (2007) found that application of chlorpyrifos (at 0.48 kg/ha) in wheat fields in summer had a dramatic negative effect on arthropod abundance and taxonomic richness. There was a substantial reduction in Collembola (springtails) that had not recovered 44 days after application. Abundance of most macroarthropods was reduced, with the parasitic wasps, Hymenoptera, being most strongly affected.

Application of chlorpyrifos to soils at recommended field rates resulted in significant avoidance in the springtails *Folsomia candida*, and a significant drop in the number of juveniles produced (Santos et al 2012). Springtails play a key role in the soil food web through the breakdown of leaf litter in the soil, the release of nutrients, and the support of soil microorganisms (which feed on their faecal pellets).

Chlorpyrifos is highly toxic to the parasitic wasp *Trichogramma* including *Trichogramma ostrinae*, which is a major natural enemy of lepidopteran pests, and particularly the Asian corn borer (*Ostrinia furnacalis*) (Wang et al 2012a). Further, chlorpyrifos has significant effects on parasitisation and reproduction of *Trichogramma brassicae* at LD₂₀, a dose that kills 20% of the parasitoid. Following exposure, there was a significant decrease in egg parasitisation and therefore also a significant reduction in their progeny, especially of female progeny (Delpuech & Meyet 2003).

Chlorpyrifos, at a rate of 0.73 kg/ha, had severe adverse effects on the multicoloured Asian lady beetle, *Harmonia axyridis* (Pallas). It significantly reduced egg hatch and survival of first instar larvae, and caused 100% mortality of third instars and adults (Galvan et al 2005).

The recommended field rate of chlorpyrifos for European corn borer on maize (375 g/ha) is 7,982 times higher than its LD₅₀ for the parasitic wasp *Aphidius ervi*, according to Desneux et al (2004). Sublethal effects include alteration of orientation behaviour, with some females permanently bending their abdomens forward as if attacking aphids.

Chlorpyrifos inhibited the activity of ChE in the garden wolf spider *Anoteropsis hiliaris* (Pekár 2012).

Earthworms

Chlorpyrifos is moderately toxic to earthworms.

Acute toxicity:

- 14 days LC₅₀ = 129 mg/kg (species not included) (EC 2005)
- 14 days LC₅₀ = 9.5 mg/kg for *Lumbricus rubellus* (NZ EPA 2012)
- 96 hr LC₅₀ = 7.3 mg/kg for *Perionyx excavatus* (Das Gupta et al 2010)

Acute toxicity of metabolites:

- TCP - 14 days LC₅₀ = 9.8 mg/kg (species not included) (EC 2005)

Reproductive toxicity:

- 56 days NOEC = 9.5 kg/ha (EC 2005)
- TCP 56-day NOEC = 4.60 mg/kg dry soil (EC 2005)

A number of sublethal effects on earthworms have been reported. For example, application of chlorpyrifos to soils at recommended field rates resulted in avoidance behaviour, and a significant (43%) drop in number of juveniles produced by earthworms *Eisenia andrei* (Santos et al 2012). It also resulted in a significant reduction in total number of adults and juvenile earthworms (10 species) in Sri Lanka, which together with a decrease in termite numbers was claimed to have resulted in reduced leaf litter degradation (De Silva et al 2010).

Chlorpyrifos affects the immune system of earthworms: it is reported to have decreased immunocyte viability in *Eisenia andrei* (Galloway & Handy 2003).

Oxidative stress, as a result of exposure to chlorpyrifos (10-40 mg/kg dry soil), was demonstrated in *Eisenia foetida*, with inhibition in SOD, followed by a strong stimulation; CAT activity also increased (Wang et al 2012d).

A study of earthworms in an orcharding area of South Africa revealed that the persistence of chlorpyrifos in the soil following spraying resulted in chronic exposure of earthworms (*Aporrectodea caliginosa*) with a resultant loss of weight and decrease in AChE activity (Reinecke & Reinecke 2007).

A mixture of chlorpyrifos and cypermethrin showed increased toxicity over chlorpyrifos by itself, with 5 mg/kg causing significant reductions in growth and reproduction (Zhou et al 2011).

Plants

Chlorpyrifos is phytotoxic and has killed plants (US EPA 2009a).

Microorganisms

Chlorpyrifos has an inhibitory effect on soil microbial functional diversity, reducing microbial biomass by as much as 50% after application, inhibiting nitrogen mineralisation, and reducing bacterial, fungal and actinomycete populations. Microbial functional diversity is an important indicator of soil health (Hua et al 2009). It inhibits the saprotrophic bacterium *Pseudomonas putida* (Chen et al 2010). *P. putida* assists plant growth and protects it from pathogens.

6 Environmental Fate

The half-life of chlorpyrifos indoors is estimated to be 30 days but some studies show it is still present in ambient air up to 8 years after application (Cal EPA 2010).

6.1 Soil

Degradation

Both biotic and abiotic processes contribute to the degradation of chlorpyrifos. One key process is enzymatic or clay-/metal-catalysed hydrolysis, the rate of which increases with pH and temperature. It also undergoes photolytic degradation in sunlight (Gebremariam et al 2012).

However, the main route of degradation appears to be via aerobic and anaerobic microbial metabolism. Chlorpyrifos degrades slowly in soil under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions. The major degradate of chlorpyrifos in the environment, under most conditions, is 3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinol (TCP).

Hydrolytic degradation becomes the major mechanism in alkaline soils under low moisture conditions, but it is inhibited at high concentrations of chlorpyrifos (1,000 µg/g) (Racke et al 1996).

Chlorpyrifos has a strong tendency to sorb to organic matter and soil (Gebremariam et al 2012); it has a high soil sorption coefficient - average K_{oc} = 8,498 ml/g (Liu et al 2001), range = 652-30,381 ml/g (Gebremariam et al 2012). The dissipative half-life is significantly longer in organic soils than mineral soils (Gebremariam et al 2012).

Chlorpyrifos reduces the availability of nitrogen and phosphate in the soil (Sardar & Kole 2005).

Persistence

Chlorpyrifos is persistent in soils under some conditions. There is a wide range of half-

lives (DT₅₀) reported in the literature for soil persistence, ranging from a few days to 4 years, depending on application rate, ecosystem type, and various environmental factors. The persistence of chlorpyrifos on soil, foliage, and fruit has also been found to vary considerably with different formulations containing different inert ingredients, with a microencapsulated formulation being the most persistent (Montemurro et al 2002).

US EPA (2006) described chlorpyrifos as persistent in the absence of light, and the US submission to the Stockholm Convention POPs Review Committee in 2012 gave a half-life in soil of 180 days.⁷

Racke et al (1994), of Dow Chemical Company, the manufacturer of chlorpyrifos, found half-lives of 175, 214, 230, 335, and 1,576 days in five soils from different US states, in laboratory dissipation studies under standard laboratory conditions (25°C, darkness, field moisture capacity). These were termiticide treatments, with application rates of 738-897 µg/g. Termiticide application rates are much higher than in agricultural usage, and higher rates of application result in slower dissipation.

Baskaran et al (1999) determined a half-life of chlorpyrifos of 462 days in Australian red-brown soil under laboratory conditions of constant temperature at 25°C and moisture (60% maximum water holding capacity), and termiticide application rates of 1000 mg/kg. This study also found that hydrolytic breakdown of chlorpyrifos is more rapid in alkaline conditions.

In an evaluation of insecticides for soil treatment of termites in Arizona, 22% of chlorpyrifos applied at 1% active ingredient was still present in the soil 1 year after application: the initial concentration was 1,420 ± 214 ppm, and the residual amount after 1 year was 315 ± 48 ppm. Where the soil was covered by a slab, the mean residual level of chlorpyrifos after 1 year was 51% of initial concentration (1,601 ± 36 ppm falling to 813 ± 199 ppm), i.e. DT₅₀ > 365 days (Baker & Bellamy 2006).

Another study, on the efficiency of insecticides as soil termiticides, found a DT₅₀ of 8.2 months for chlorpyrifos at 0-2.5 cm depth. Chlorpyrifos was added to soil beneath a concrete slab, a common preconstruction technique in the USA before this use was prohibited in 2005 (Mulrooney et al 2006).

Zhong et al (2012) reported that such is chlorpyrifos' persistence, that when it has been used as a soil termiticide, summertime levels in indoor air did not decline over a period of 7 years after initial application.⁸

In an experiment to determine the persistence of the toxicity of chlorpyrifos to the amphipod *Hyalella curvispina* and the fish *Cnesterodon decemmaculatus*, after application in experimental soybean crops in Argentina, Mugni et al (2012) found that toxicity persistence in the runoff from the soil remained at 100% for *H. curvispina* for 42 days, then decreased slowly to 30% after 140 days. In late season applications, chlorpyrifos mortality in the soil remained at 100% until 84 days after spraying, remaining still at 80% at the end of the experiment (140 days). Early- and mid-season applications resulted in more rapid decay of toxicity, showing that prevailing environmental conditions alter the rate of decay of chlorpyrifos toxicity. Temperatures were lower in the late season, suggesting a decreased loss of chlorpyrifos from the soil through vaporisation and photodegradation. The persistence of chlorpyrifos toxicity in soil to 80% after 140 days is indicative of the chemical's persistence in the soil: a half life was not identified but it is reasonable to assume it would exceed 180 days.

Chlorpyrifos dissipation from soil is faster under tropical conditions; in one study where it was applied to a mustard crop, there were negligible amounts left after 70 days; half-life was 3.6-9.4 days. In other studies where chlorpyrifos has been applied to bare fields in tropical conditions, the half-life ranges from 0.6-5.4 days (Chai et al 2009).

Whilst EC (2005) gave a half-life in soil for the metabolite TCP as ranging from 8 to 96 days, the US EPA (2006) describes TCP as mobile in soils but persistent when not exposed to light, with "substantial amounts" remaining 365 days after application.

Factors affecting persistence

The dissipative half-life is significantly longer in organic soils than mineral soils. Hydrolysis is slower in water containing clay minerals, humate, dissolved organic matter, and suspended sediment (Gebremariam et al 2012). The addition of organic matter to soil, in the form of biochar, increased persistence from a DT₅₀ of 21.3 days to 55.5 days, and to 158 days in sterilised soil (Yang et al 2010).

⁷ UNEP-POPS-POPRC7CO-SUBM-ENDOSU-DDT-US_2-120623.En.

⁸ Zhong et al (2012) cite the following reference which has not been located: Yoshida S, Taguchi S, Hori S. 2004. Chlorpyrifos and S-421 residues in indoor air and polished rice around nine years after application for termite control. *J Soc Indoor Environ Japan* 7:7-15

Degradation rates of chlorpyrifos are modulated by soil pH, moisture, and temperature, as well as formulation and application rates. In one experiment, degradation rates doubled with each increase of 10°C (Racke et al 1994).

Hydrolytic breakdown of chlorpyrifos is more rapid in alkaline conditions (Baskaran et al 1999).

Shading appears to reduce photodegradation (Chai et al 2009).

Hence, persistence of chlorpyrifos increases with increased soil organic matter, decreased temperature, decreased pH, and decreased ultraviolet light.

Muir et al (2004), using BIOWIN and a procedure described by Gouin (2003), calculated the following half-life for Arctic conditions:

- Soil DT₅₀ = 435 days

Residues

Chlorpyrifos has been measured in soils in a number of countries, including:

- Philippines: in 27.4% of soil samples with a mean concentration of 0.01 mg/kg in Benguet, a vegetable producing region in the Philippines (Del Prado Lu 2010);
- India: in the soil of tea ecosystems in West Bengal at a level of 0.53 mg/kg (Bishnu et al 2009);
- New Zealand: in cropping soils in the Auckland region, at 0.4 mg/kg (Gaw 2002);
- Argentina: in the orcharding area of Neuquen River Valley, at maximum concentrations of 60.5 µg/kg; levels were found to increase in concentration during the growing season (Loewy et al 2011);
- Ghana: in the vegetable production areas of Opeibea and Dzorwulu, Accra (Amuzu 2012);
- South Africa: in an orcharding area, a low but persistent level of chlorpyrifos in the soil prior to the start of the spray season (0.2-2.7 µg/kg), with that increasing up to a mean of 6.7 µg/kg in the orchard area, 3.98 µg/kg in the spray drift area adjacent to the orchards, 1.97 µg/kg in the far spray drift area (500m), and 8.68 µg/kg in the runoff area. Chlorpyrifos was persistent in the soil for up to 6 months after the last spraying event (Reinecke & Reinecke 2007);
- Serbia: at 47.4 µg/kg in the agricultural soils in the Belgrade area (Marković et al 2010).

6.2 Water and sediment

Chlorpyrifos is a priority pollutant in the European Water Framework Directive 2000/60/CE (Robles-Molina et al 2012).

Degradation and partitioning

Chlorpyrifos breaks down in water by microbial action, hydrolysis, and photolysis (Racke 1993).

- Solubility in distilled water = 0.39 mg/L (Liu et al 2001)
- Solubility in seawater = 0.073 mg/L (Liu et al 2001)
- Median aquatic sediment sorption, K_{oc} = 15,500 L/kg (Gebremariam et al 2012)

It has low water solubility, and is moderately hydrophobic (Gebremariam et al 2012). Based on its sorption coefficient (K_{oc}), chlorpyrifos is expected to be adsorbed to suspended solids and sediment (Gebremariam et al 2012). This makes it susceptible to movement to waterways via surface runoff (Wightwick & Allinson 2007). Chlorpyrifos has a relatively higher affinity for aquatic sediments than soils (Gebremariam et al 2012).

Volatilisation from water surfaces is expected to be an important fate process based on the Henry's Law constant (HSDB 2008). Degradation of chlorpyrifos is primarily due to microbial action and therefore is reduced by lower temperature, anaerobic conditions, and strong sorption to sediment.

Persistence

- Estimated volatilisation half-lives for a model river = 24 days; and for a model lake = 178 days (HSDB 2008)
- Hydrolysis DT₅₀ in distilled water at 25°C was 62 days (pH 4.7), 35 days (pH 6.9), and 22 days (pH 8.1) (HSDB 2008)
- DT₅₀ water sediment/whole system = 22-51 days (EC 2005)
- DT₅₀ water sediment/whole system = 36.5 days (IUPAC 2012)

However, a number of studies have shown much higher persistence under 'field' conditions, in some cases exceeding the Stockholm Convention criteria for persistence of 2 months [60 days] in water or 6 months [180 days] in sediment.

An environmental fate review from Dow Chemical Company (Racke 1993) gives a DT₅₀ of 150-200 days in anaerobic pond sediments. The Australian government review (NRA 2000a) refers to pond studies that give a DT₅₀ in sediment of

200 days, exceeding the Stockholm Convention persistence criteria.

In a study in California, the persistence of chlorpyrifos in sediment from a San Diego creek was found to increase significantly under anaerobic conditions: the DT₅₀ for aerobic conditions was 20.3 days but for anaerobic conditions it was 223 days, although only 57.6 days in sediment from Bonita Creek (Bondarenko & Gan 2004).

Chlorpyrifos had a half-life of 126 days in water of the Susquehanna River, Chesapeake Bay, USA (Liu et al 2001).

Using constructed wetlands to explore removal of chlorpyrifos and pyrethroids from agricultural runoff water in California, Budd et al (2011) demonstrated that the average DT₅₀ for chlorpyrifos in sediment under wetland and anaerobic conditions was 106 ± 54 days.

Chlorpyrifos degradation is significantly slower in seawater than it is in fresh water. One study in California found a DT₅₀ for seawater of 49.4 days at 10°C, compared with 18.7 days in freshwater. At 21°C, the DT₅₀ for seawater was 15.2 days, so temperature has a significant effect on seawater degradation (Bondarenko et al 2004).

Chlorpyrifos, at a concentration of 16.2 ng/L, was found in a section of an ice core sample from the largest icecap in Eurasia – Austfonna, Svalbard, Norway – believed to have been deposited in the early to mid 1980s, indicating considerable persistence under Arctic conditions (Hermanson et al 2005).

As in soil, the persistence of chlorpyrifos in water and sediment increases with decreased temperature, decreased pH, and decreased ultraviolet light. Muir et al (2007) concluded that low temperatures may preserve chlorpyrifos, particularly in icecaps and cold, oligotrophic lakes. It is therefore reasonable to assume that persistence will be significantly greater in the cold and often dark conditions of the Arctic than indicated by the half-lives derived from tropical or temperate regions. Muir et al (2004), using BIOWIN and a procedure described by Gouin (2003), calculated the following half-lives for Arctic conditions:

- Water DT₅₀ = 218 days
- Sediment DT₅₀ = 1,414 days

Residues - groundwater

Chlorpyrifos has been detected in groundwater in a number of countries, for example:

- Pakistan: in 58.3% of samples in the tobacco growing area of Mardan (0.03 µg/L) (Tariq et al 2007);
- New Zealand: in wells in Southland, at 0.56 µg/L, and in Waikato (Close & Skinner 2012);
- Argentina: in wells in the Neuquen River Valley (Loewy et al 2011);
- Brazil: in 75% of well water samples at up to 0.22 µg/L in the Cristal basin, after application to tobacco crops (Bortoluzzi et al 2007);
- Turkey: in 57% of samples taken along the Mediterranean coast (Tuncel et al 2008);
- Australia: in the State of Victoria it has been found in Bacchus Marsh (0.19 µg/L), Gippsland (0.09 µg/L), Goulburn-Murray (2.4 µg/L), Ovens/King (0.01 µg/L), and Werribee (0.2 µg/L) (Wightwick & Allinson 2007);
- EU: in Spain - Barcelona (0.021 µg/L) (Teijon et al 2010), and in a volcanic aquifer in the NE of Gran Canaria Island (0.294 µg/L) (Estévez et al 2012); in Greece (Vryzas et al 2012); in a vineyard area in the Alentejo region of South Portugal in 2004-6, at low levels (<0.05 µg/L) (Silva et al 2011);
- US: 'infrequently' in ground water in the US between 1992 and 2001 (Gilliom et al 2006).

Residues - surface water and sediment

The European Union maximum allowable level for drinking water is 0.1 µg/L, and the general water quality criterion for protecting freshwater organisms is 0.083 µg/L (Otieno et al 2012). The chronic US benchmark for aquatic invertebrates is 0.04 µg/L (Zhang et al 2012).

Chlorpyrifos has been found in surface waters and sediments in many countries, frequently exceeding these criteria, including:

- USA: in 15% of agricultural streams, and 65% of urban streams in the states of Georgia, Alabama and Florida in 1994 (US EPA 2006). In California, chlorpyrifos exceeded regulatory limits in 44 water bodies, 610.3 miles of rivers or streams, and 43,614.0 acres of estuary (NMFS 2008). Levels found in US streams are up to 5.8 µg/L. There have been 1,131 detections of chlorpyrifos in streams in just 4 states. Sediment concentrations have been found as high as 455.560 µg/kg dry weight in agricultural drains and 17.373 µg/kg in rivers (NMFS 2008). More recent monitoring, over the 5 years from 2006-2010, in California found chlorpyrifos in 17.7% of samples, at levels exceeding water quality criteria in 9.9%, with the highest level found being 3.7 µg/L. In one area, Santa Maria Valley, where the main uses are on vegetables, strawberries and wine grapes, the levels exceeded the

- criteria in 57% of the samples (Zhang et al 2012). It has been measured in tributaries and rivers running into Chesapeake Bay, at up to 0.190 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Harman-Fetcho et al 1999; Lehotay et al 1998; Liu et al 2001). Residues of 0.0042 $\mu\text{g/L}$ have been found in Lake Tahoe in the Sierra Nevada mountains in USA; residues were found in 100% of lake water samples, with the highest concentration at 25-m depth (McConnell et al 1998). Residues at 0.220 $\mu\text{g/L}$ have been found in the San Joaquin River, USA (McConnell et al 1998). Levels of chlorpyrifos in Beasley Lake in the Mississippi Delta, USA, were highest of all current use insecticides, at up to 0.039 $\mu\text{g/L}$; it was also found in leaf litter at 23 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ (Lizotte et al 2010). Chlorpyrifos was found in the sediments of 9 of 16 stormwater ponds tested including those draining from golf courses (up to 7 $\mu\text{g/g}$), residential areas (up to 13.84 $\mu\text{g/g}$), and commercial areas (up to 10.08 $\mu\text{g/g}$) in South Carolina in 2007 (Crawford et al 2010). Recently, it was found in 49% of sediment samples from streams in Central Valley, California, at levels up to 98.6 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ (Weston et al 2013);
- Canada: at all rural and urban surface water sites monitored in the Lower Fraser Valley, British Columbia, with levels in urban water reaching 0.38 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Woudneh et al 2009). Residues were also found in a 13% of samples from a wetland in Quebec, at an average of 0.06 $\mu\text{g/L}$, exceeding by 17 times the water quality criteria (Poissant et al 2008); it was one of the most frequently detected pesticides in the water at 10 remote inland lakes in Ontario, at a maximum concentration of 0.5 ng/L (Kurt-Karakus et al 2011);
 - China: in sediment of urban waterways in the Pearl River Delta (Zhong et al 2012). It was also found in the water (max 1.89 ng/L) and sediment (max 0.165 $\mu\text{g/kg}$) of Beijing Guanting reservoir (Xue et al 2005); in 97% of sediment samples from Chaohu Lake at a maximum concentration of 0.46 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ dry weight (Wang et al 2012b); in the sediment of an urban stream in Guangzhou at up to 17.8 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ dry weight (Li et al 2013); in the sediment of wetlands in northern Beijing at up to 0.237 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ (Xue et al 2008);
 - Bangladesh: in paddy field water (1.12 $\mu\text{g/L}$) and in lakes (0.98 $\mu\text{g/L}$) (Chowdhury et al 2012); and 0.12 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in the Kaligonga river (Bhattacharjee et al 2012);
 - Philippines: in 1 water sample (70 $\mu\text{g/L}$) in Benguet, a vegetable-producing region in the Philippines (Del Prado Lu 2010);
 - Japan: at low levels in river sediment in both urban and rural areas, the urban contamination thought to have come from previously permitted termiticide treatments, banned in 2003 (Kitada et al 2008); in river water in Okinawa (Zhong et al 2012).
 - India: residues of 0.103 $\mu\text{g/L}$ were found in water and up to 238,000 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ in sediment from Kolleru lake wetland (Amaraneni 2006); in 27% samples of water from rice fields and canals in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarkhand, at up to 0.006 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Mukherjee & Arora 2011);
 - Iran: at 22,430 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in spring water (Dehghani et al 2012);
 - Israel: during the first significant rainfall following dry season pesticide application in the Hula valley in 2009, the daily average levels in the upper Jordan River reached 4.5 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for chlorpyrifos, 18.6 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for the oxon, and 2.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for TCP; the load reaching one measuring station during the first 2 days was 1,785 g chlorpyrifos, 1,377 g oxon, and 161 g TCP. The levels observed exceeded acute toxicity levels for freshwater invertebrates and fish (Olsson et al 2013);
 - Malaysia: in the Selangor River at up to 0.1952 $\mu\text{g/L}$; wetlands that are habitat for fireflies could be threatened by chlorpyrifos levels of up to 0.1486 $\mu\text{g/L}$ which is above the ambient water quality level of 0.083 $\mu\text{g/L}$ for acute toxicity to aquatic organisms (Leong et al 2007);
 - Argentina: one of the most frequently detected pesticides in surface water and sub-surface drains in the pome-fruit growing region of Neuquen River Valley. It was detected in 73% of samples at a maximum concentration of 1.16 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Loewy et al 2011). It was also found along the Suquia River at levels up to 5.5 ng/L , reported as surpassing the Canadian Water Quality Guideline of 3.5 ng/L established to protect freshwater biota (Bonansea et al 2013). It was measured in 2 streams in a soybean production area: in the Brown stream, at 226 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ in the suspended particles, at 0.45 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in floodwater, 13.5 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ in bottom sediment, and at 30.3 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ in runoff sediment; and in the Horqueta stream, it was measured at 64 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ in the suspended particles and at 30.3 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ in runoff sediment (Jergentz et al 2005). Residues of chlorpyrifos in runoff and floodwater exceeded the water quality criteria on 5 occasions;
 - Mexico: in the sediment of agricultural drains in the Culiacan Valley, Sinaloa, at 0.9 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ dry weight (García-de la Parra et al 2012);
 - Brazil: at 0.54 $\mu\text{g/L}$ (Nogueira et al 2012); in 75% of surface water samples, at up to 0.29 $\mu\text{g/L}$, in

the Arvorezinha basin following application to tobacco crops (Bortoluzzi et al 2007);

- Costa Rica: at 26 ng/L in the Jiménez River as a result of pineapple production in the river's watershed (Echeverría-Sáenz et al 2012);
- Kenya: widely distributed in Lake Naivasha at levels up to 26.6 µg/L in water and 30 µg/kg dry weight in sediment, as a result of horticultural use on surrounding farmland (Otieno et al 2012);
- Ghana: at a mean level of 10.77 µg/kg in sediment of the Oyansia stream in the vegetable production areas of Opeibea and Dzorwulu in Accra (Amuzu 2012);
- Egypt: both chlorpyrifos and chlorpyrifos-methyl were found in water and sediment of a drainage canal surrounding a pesticide factory at Damietta Governorate in Egypt. Chlorpyrifos was present in water up to 303.8 µg/L and sediment up to 303.8 µg/kg; and chlorpyrifos-methyl at up to 41 µg/L in water and 61.3 µg/kg in sediment. Additionally chlorpyrifos, but not chlorpyrifos-methyl, was found in fish, at up to 31.6 µg/kg (Abdel-Halim et al 2006).
- Australia: in 39% of sediment samples from irrigation channels and drains in the cotton growing area of Queensland, at a maximum concentration of 94 µg/kg dry weight (Müller et al 2000); in the state of Victoria, it has been found in Gippsland (70 µg/kg of sediment and 0.002 µg/L water), and Goulburn-Murray irrigation supply channels (0.089 µg/L) (Wightwick & Allinson 2007); in New South Wales at 17 µg/L, Tasmania at 0.15 µg/L mean), and Onkaparinga South Australia (Wightwick & Allinson 2007);
- Turkey: in 75% of samples of surface water taken along the Mediterranean Coast (Tuncel et al 2008);
- EU: in Italy at 0.275 µg/L (EC 2005); Spain at 0.312 µg/L (Claver et al 2006);
- South Africa: 344 µg/kg in suspended sediment in the Lourens River (Schulz et al 2001).

Residues - wastewater

It is described as being "often present in wastewater" in Spain (Robles-Molina et al 2012), for example it was found at 0.01838 µg/L in the wastewater treatment plant in Barcelona by Teijon et al (2010).

Chlorpyrifos was detected in secondary treated effluent, water being recycled for use as drinking water in Perth, Australia, but was not found after the water was further treated with reverse osmosis (Rodríguez et al 2012).

Residues - marine

Chlorpyrifos has been found in the marine environment in a number of countries, including frequent detections in the sediments of coastal areas of Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama, as a result of riverine discharge of suspended sediment from agricultural drainage (Gebremariam et al 2012):

- Indonesia: in samples of coral taken from coastal waters (Sabdono et al 2007);
- Costa Rica: it was measured at 34.2 µg/kg in the coastal sediments around Rio Parismina (Galloway & Handy 2003);
- Ghana: in lagoons, at 1,580 µg/L (Essumang et al 2009);
- Mexico: widespread distribution in sediment of the Altata-Ensenada del Pabellon coastal lagoon at up to 8 µg/kg dry weight (Carvalho et al 2002);
- USA: in sediment in California at 9.5 µg/kg dry wt (Sapozhnikova et al 2004).

Chlorpyrifos can accumulate in areas of intense biological productivity, such as littoral zones and river deltas, posing a long-term threat to aquatic ecosystems (Gebremariam et al 2012).

6.3 Air

Chlorpyrifos is described as having intermediate vapour pressure (Gebremariam et al 2012), and as being volatile (IUPAC 2012).

- 3.35 x 10⁻³ Pa at 25°C (EC 2005)
- 2.546 x 10⁻³ Pa at 25°C (WHO 2009a)
- 1.43 x 10⁻³ Pa at 25°C (IUPAC 2012)

This indicates that chlorpyrifos will exist in both vapour and particulate phases in the atmosphere. Vapour-phase chlorpyrifos is degraded by reaction with photochemically-produced hydroxyl radicals, with the half-life for this reaction estimated to be 4.2 hours. Particulate-phase chlorpyrifos will be removed by wet or dry deposition (HSDB 2008).

Volatilisation from moist soil surfaces may be an important fate process (HSDB 2008). In a study of volatilisation from a rice paddy in Italy, 3.3% of the initially applied chlorpyrifos had volatilized after 6 days, but volatilisation was still continuing when the testing was stopped (Ferrari et al 2005).

Chlorpyrifos can be converted to chlorpyrifos oxon in the air via direct or indirect photolysis (US EPA 2013a).

Although the estimated atmospheric half-life of chlorpyrifos, given as 4.2 hrs in HSDB (2008) and PUBCHEM⁹, indicates that chlorpyrifos is not expected to undergo long-range transport, it has been found extensively in Arctic media indicating that long-range transport is occurring and has been occurring for many years. Ruggirello et al (2010) suggest this is likely to be a result of lack of ultraviolet radiation during the polar darkness lowering concentrations of hydroxyl radicals in the air and preventing atmospheric photolysis. The lack of chlorpyrifos oxon in the Austfonna ice core further suggests low levels of oxidation of chlorpyrifos in the Arctic region. A lack of atmospheric moisture may reduce water solubility, increasing the air-water partition coefficient, K_{aw} , increasing the time chlorpyrifos remains in the gas phase and further assisting its long-range transport (Hermanson et al 2005).

Residues – short to medium range transport

Chlorpyrifos was found in 100% of air samples, at a maximum concentration of 2,000 pg/m³ in the Chesapeake Bay area, USA. Calculated air-water gas exchange fluxes ranged from -20 to +68 ng/m²/day, the negative value indicating net absorption in the air. The major equilibrium transfer direction was from water to air (Harman-Fetcho et al 2000). Net volatile loss of chlorpyrifos from the surface waters of Chesapeake Bay was calculated to be 147 g/day in March, and net deposition to be 85 g/day in June (one of the main months of usage) (McConnell et al 1997).

It was one of the 2 most frequently detected pesticides in air in Iowa, in 19% of samples, at a maximum of 2.9 ng/m³ (Peck & Hornbuckle 2005).

Chlorpyrifos was found in 84% of samples taken in the citrus growing area of Tulare, in California's Central Valley, with a median concentration of 33 ng/m³ (Harnly et al 2005).

Air monitoring studies in the US demonstrated the presence of chlorpyrifos in the air near homes in agricultural communities in 75% of the air samples collected. Eleven percent of the samples had levels above those determined by regulators to be 'acceptable' for 24-hour exposure of children, with the highest concentration nearly 8 times the 'acceptable' level (Mills & Kegley 2006). Other studies carried out by the California Air Resources Board confirmed the potential for high exposure in areas near application sites (ARB 1998).

In the spring of 2006, the Farm Worker Project and PAN North America carried out air monitoring for chlorpyrifos in the Yakima Valley,

California, at two homes near orchards. At both locations, chlorpyrifos was measured on each day of a 3-week period. At one home, the levels exceeded regulatory 'acceptable' levels 29% of the time and at the other location 38% of the time. The highest concentration was 475 ng/m³, 2.8 times the 24-hour acute child Reference Exposure Level (REL) (Dansereau et al 2006).

PAN North America again carried out air monitoring, between June 2006 and August 2009, this time in Central Minnesota. Chlorpyrifos was found near Browerville in 2006 and Perham in 2009, with 33% of 40 field samples containing measurable levels of chlorpyrifos, the maximum concentration being 47 ng/m³ (Tupper et al 2012).

Chlorpyrifos undergoes regional air transport in the US, with an estimated annual loading of 24-31 kg/year in the Sierra Nevada mountains in California (McConnell et al 1998). It was found in air at up to 220 pg/gm in national parks in Washington and California (Landers et al 2008).

In a further demonstration of the regional transport of chlorpyrifos, Mast et al (2012) measured chlorpyrifos in the snow, rain, lichen, and lake sediment in Yosemite National Park, USA. It was detected in 100% of snow samples, at up to 4.9 ng/L, and was one of the most commonly detected current-use pesticides in rain, with an overall deposition rate of 1.14 µg/m², similar to that of endosulfan (1.55); and it was found in 70% of lichen samples, at an average concentration of 1.7 ng/g, and in 2 out of 19 sediment samples.

It has been found in the air in many other countries, including:

- Turkey: highest levels in the air of all pesticides measured (along with endosulfan); levels of 0.143 ng/m³ of chlorpyrifos have been measured in summer, and 121 pg/m³ in winter (Bozlaker et al 2009);
- Algeria: at 2.2 ng/m³ at Lake Baraki, and 1.9 ng/m³ at Lake Reghaia (Moussaoui et al 2012);
- Brazil: at up to 0.100 ng/m³ in the National Parks of Serra dos Órgãos and São Joaquim, the highest level of any pesticide except endosulfan (Meire et al 2012);
- Costa Rica: at up to 1.266 ng/m³ in the central valley, thought to have originated in the nearby coffee plantations at Belen (Gouin et al 2008);
- New Zealand: at up to 0.012 ng/m³ at Temple Basin in the Southern Alps, thought to have originated from the Canterbury Plains (Lavin et al 2012);

⁹ <http://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/summary/summary.cgi?cid=2730#x321>.

- Australia: chlorpyrifos was the most commonly detected pesticide in the air at the coastal town of Coffs Harbour, associated with domestic use and use on banana plantations, at a maximum of 208 ng/m³ (Beard et al 1995);
- Canada: chlorpyrifos was one of the most frequently detected pesticides in the air at 10 remote inland lakes in Ontario, at a maximum concentration of 0.06 ng/m³ (Kurt-Karakus et al 2011); it was one of the most frequently detected at Bratt's Lake, Saskatchewan, at up to 1,380 pg/m³, and 3,900 pg/m³ for the oxon, thought to come from use against grasshoppers on the Prairies (Raina et al 2010); it was found in 66% of samples taken at St Damase, an agricultural site located in the Yamaska basin in Québec, at up to 868 pg/m³ (Aulagnier et al 2008).

Rain

The oxon degradate was detected in 79% of rainwater samples in California at a maximum concentration of 100 ng/L (NMFS 2008).

Chlorpyrifos was found in 100% of rain samples in the Chesapeake Bay study referred to above, at maximum concentration of 0.081 ng/L (Harman-Fetcho et al 2000). It was detected more frequently in rain at urban sites than agricultural sites in the Mississippi River Valley (Majewski et al 2000).

Chlorpyrifos was one of the 10 most commonly detected compounds in rain across Maryland, Indian, Nebraska and California in the US in 2003-4, detected in 66% of samples, and at up to 1.84 µg/L, and 0.1 µg/L for the oxon (Vogel et al 2008).

It has been measured in rain in the Sierra Nevada mountains, USA, at 13 ng/L; and at 189 ng/L in Lindcove, California (McConnell et al 1998).

In one US study, the average levels of chlorpyrifos in rainwater in San Joaquin River basin, California, were higher than those in storm runoff by a factor of 2.5 (Zamora et al 2003).

Chlorpyrifos has been detected at low levels in rain in Brazil (Nogueira et al 2012).

Chlorpyrifos was one of the most frequently detected pesticides in the rain at 10 remote inland lakes in Ontario, Canada, at a maximum concentration of 43 ng/L (Kurt-Karakus et al 2011).

Snow

It is one of the most commonly detected pesticides in snow in Mt Rainier National Park, Washington (NMFS 2008).

It has been detected in snow in California's Sierra Nevada mountains at up to 4.4 ng/L (McConnell et al 1998).

Fog

Chlorpyrifos has been found in fog water in California at up to 14,200 ng/L in the Central Valley (McConnell et al 1998).

Residues – long-range transport

Residues in the Arctic are likely to have resulted from long-range atmospheric transport, so are reported here under the section on air.

The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) reported that chlorpyrifos has been identified in fish, surface water, ice and fog from the Bering and Chukchi Seas, air in the eastern Canadian archipelago, and subarctic and arctic lakes in Canada (Hoferkamp et al 2010). Other studies have consistently found it in Arctic media, including air, snow, seawater, lake sediment, and vegetation.

In 1993, the BERPAC programme carried out sampling in the Bering and Chukchi marine ecosystems, identifying chlorpyrifos in seawater, marine ice, and marine fog (1-5 ng/L). It was one of the most frequently detected contaminants in the seawater (6 of 9 samples) and ice (1 integrated sample). Concentrations were highest in the marine ice (170 ng/L) and seawater (19-67 ng/L) at locations closest to the ice edge, or polynya. The polynya ecosystem is the most biologically productive zone in the Arctic marine environment, with high concentrations of Arctic marine mammals and birds, and consequently important areas where northern Indigenous Peoples focus their traditional hunting and fishing. During melt periods, chlorpyrifos is likely to be released into the adjacent marine waters when biological spring is beginning. The authors of this study expressed the view that the measured levels of chlorpyrifos might have detrimental effects on the biota, especially aquatic organisms (Chernyak et al 1996).

Chlorpyrifos was not found in air samples in the above study, but it was found in air in a separate study, in interstitial air sampled concurrently with fog sampling in the same area, in 1993. It was also found in the fog by Rice & Chernyak (1997):

Chlorpyrifos in Arctic fog and air

Fog sample – water fraction	Air sample - vapour fraction	Air sample - particulates
0.08 ng/L	0.76 ng/L	0.08 ng/L

Fogs are common over much of the Bering and Chukchi Sea area, occurring up to 80% of the year in the Aleutian Islands, so exchanges at the interface between fog with snow, ice and seawater may be a common occurrence. Rice & Chernyak (1997) proposed that once chlorpyrifos and other contaminants are in the Arctic atmosphere, fog plays a major role in recycling them within the ecosystem.

Jantunen et al (2007) also found chlorpyrifos in Arctic air samples taken over the Labrador Sea, at 0.36-30.4 pg/m³.

In 2010, chlorpyrifos was again found in all oceanic air samples taken over the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea, and the Bering and Chukchi Seas, the concentration decreasing from Asia to the Arctic (Zhong et al 2012). Air-sea gas exchange varied from net volatilisation in East Asia (<40°N) to net deposition in the Arctic. Chlorpyrifos (along with endosulfan and dicofol) was one of the most abundant pesticides found in air and in the seawater. Chlorpyrifos levels in Arctic seawater were <1 pg/L, lower than in previous studies, perhaps reflecting lower releases following the restrictions on residential and termiticide uses in the USA. However, this study showing declining gradients from Asia to the Arctic indicates that Asia continues to be a significant source of long-range transport of chlorpyrifos to the Arctic.

The upper 40 m of an ice core taken from Svalbard, Norway in 1998 was analysed for the presence of a number of pesticides and metabolites. Nine compounds were not detected, including chlorpyrifos oxon. Twenty compounds were found in discontinuous layers, including many of the POPs pesticides. Eight compounds were found to have continuous profiles and these included chlorpyrifos, indicating historic deposition. Chlorpyrifos first appeared in 1972, peaked in 1980 at a concentration of 16.2 ng/L, and began to decline in the 1990s. Chlorpyrifos was not found in the 1992-1998 layer (Hermanson et al 2005).

Garbarino et al (2002) found high concentrations of chlorpyrifos (70-80 ng/L) in snow collected from sea ice at 3 sites in northwest Alaskan Arctic estuaries in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas during 1995-96. These concentrations were higher than those of any POP or other current use pesticide tested, including endosulfan, DDT, chlordane, dieldrin, HCH, and PCBs.

Ice core segments on Holtedahlfonna in Svalbard, Norway were compared with segments taken at Austfonna, also in Svalbard. Back trajectory

calculations show that Eurasia is the source of the chlorpyrifos 74% of the time for Austfonna, and 45% of the time for Holtedahlfonna. They found the peak flux of chlorpyrifos to be 809 pg/cm²/yr and calculated the contaminant burden for the years 1952 - 2005 to be 776 ng, well in excess of any other pesticide (the next highest burdens were gamma-HCH at 520 ng and alpha-HCH at 402). They also calculated that the chlorpyrifos burden is higher at Austfonna by a factor of about 13. These figures indicate that chlorpyrifos has had the greatest historical impact on Svalbard of all pesticides; and the input and burden is still growing. It was first detected in 1971-80 with a comparatively low input of 64.8 pg/cm²/yr but that had increased to 808 pg/cm²/yr by 2005. Chlorpyrifos was the only currently used pesticide (including endosulfan) detected continuously in the Holtedahlfonna ice core (Ruggirello et al 2010).

In a study of U.S. western parks, chlorpyrifos was found in all parks sampled including 2 in the Alaskan Arctic, and in more than 50% of the fish samples (up to 1.2 ng/g wet weight) (Hageman et al 2006; Landers et al 2008). It was found in snow, sediment, lichen, conifer needles, and fish. The authors noted that chlorpyrifos was better accumulated in plant material than in fish. Concentrations of chlorpyrifos in vegetation ranged up to 31 ng/g in conifers (higher than DDT, PCB, and chlordane). Levels in lichen were at or below detection limits. Chlorpyrifos and endosulfan were the most commonly detected current use pesticides. Levels found in snow were up to 2.8 ng/L (Hageman et al 2006). The study reports the flux in snow and ice cores as 204 ng/m²/yr at Lakes Burial, Matcharak and Kangilipack; and 0.5-32 ng/m²/yr at Lakes Wonder, McLeod and Kahiltna base camp. The authors stated that chlorpyrifos was identified as a potential concern because of comparatively high concentrations in vegetation, and because concentrations in sediment are increasing over time, and it is still in current use (Landers et al 2008).

Muir et al (2007) detected chlorpyrifos in water samples from 2 Canadian Arctic lakes at up to 1.6 ng/L.

6.4 Bioaccumulation

Moderate to high (HSDB 2008).

Bioaccumulation potential - Log K_{ow}
Values for log K_{ow} (octanol-water partition coefficient) vary from 4.7 to 5.11, all either close to, or exceeding, the bioaccumulation criteria for the Stockholm Convention of 5.

Values of log K_{ow} :

- 4.7 (EC 2005)
- 4.96 – 5.11 (Gebremariam et al 2012)
- 4.7; 4.82; 4.96, 5.11; 5.2; 5.27 (experimental) (Racke 1993)

Bioconcentration and bioaccumulation factors

Bioaccumulation studies were not required for registration in the US, although there is acknowledgement that it has been detected in fish tissue (US EPA 2006). Additionally, the US EPA (2006) stated “at maximum application rates chlorpyrifos may bioconcentrate in the tissues of fish and aquatic invertebrates to levels that exceed acute LC_{50} values for sensitive bird species and reproductive NOAELs for birds and small mammalian species”. “Bioconcentration of chlorpyrifos in ponds and estuarine areas may pose acute and/or reproductive risks to aquatic birds and mammals feeding adjacent to treated areas.”

The NZ EPA’s webpage¹⁰ on classification of chlorpyrifos describes it as bioaccumulative in the fish *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, threespine stickleback, with a BCF = 20,860, based on a study by Deneer (1994). Deneer (1994) also refers to lipid-based BCFs of 12,000 in bluegills, 21,000 in fathead minnow, and 17,500 in guppy.

The US government Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB 2008) identified the following studies:

- A measured log BCF value for chlorpyrifos of 2.67 was determined from a 35-day flowing-water study using mosquito fish (Veith et al 1979). Log BCF relates the bioconcentration factor to the partition coefficient log K_{ow} ;
- An experimental log BCF value of 2.50 was determined by Dow Chemical Company from a static ecosystem study using mosquito fish (Kenaga 1980);
- In a review of the environmental fate of chlorpyrifos by Dow Chemical Company, BCF values of 100-4,667 were reported in a variety of fish under field conditions. BCF values of 58-1,000 were reported in a variety of fish using flow-through aquariums (Racke 1993). According to a classification scheme, this BCF suggests the potential for bioconcentration in aquatic organisms is moderate to high, provided the compound is not metabolized by the organism (Franke et al 1994).

In addition, the 1993 review from Dow Chemical Company reported aquatic bioconcentration

factors of 100-5,100 in fish (Racke 1993). Marshall & Roberts (1978), in their review of the ecotoxicology of chlorpyrifos, reported BCFs up to 6,000 in fish species; however it is unclear if equilibrium was reached.

Hansen et al (1986) of US EPA reported a bioconcentration factor of 5,100 in gulf toadfish (*Opsanus beta*). Mulla et al (1973) measured a BCF range of 1,200-4,677 in fish in a small warm-water lake in southern California.

Log BCF values reported are 3.84 in zebrafish (El-Amrani et al 2012), and the authors of this study report other studies finding log BCFs in fish between 1.69 and 3.45.

Other measured bioconcentration factors include 1,400 in oysters (Woodburn et al 2003); 2,665 in red hybrid *Tilapia* (Thomas & Mansingh 2002); 1,700 in guppies (*Poecilia reticulata*) (Welling & de Vries 1992); and 400 in Mediterranean mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) (Serrano et al 1997).

A bioconcentration factor of 1,600 was measured in the freshwater amphipod *Gammarus pulex*. The authors of this study, based on this measurement, estimated a BCF of 4,658 in females at their maximum lipid content (lipid content varies seasonally). They also noted that the QSAR prediction using a log K_{ow} of 4.7 under-predicts BCFs compared to the measured value (Ashauer et al 2006). This gives weight to the higher values for log K_{ow} reported.

There are several studies showing bioaccumulation in plants, including duckweed *Lemna minor* L. and water lettuce *Pistia stratiotes* L. (Prasertsup & Ariyakanon 2011), and blue-green algae (Lal et al 1987). Racke (1993) reports BCFs for aquatic plants of 600-1900. Measurements taken in US Western National Parks found bioaccumulation occurring in conifer needles. The concentration of chlorpyrifos in 2 year-old needles was almost double that of first year needles (yr 1 = 11.6 ng/g; yr 2 = 20.5 ng/g) (Landers et al 2008).

Earthworms bioaccumulate chlorpyrifos to a limited degree (BCF = 0.73), especially in soils with high organic matter (Yu et al 2006).

7 Pest Resistance

Pest resistance to chlorpyrifos is now widespread, involving 65 species in at least 47 countries (MSU 2013).

¹⁰ <http://www.epa.govt.nz/search-databases/Pages/ccid-details.aspx?SubstanceID=2401>.

Species	Common name	Host	Countries
<i>Aedes aegypti</i>	yellow fever mosquito	human	11 countries
<i>Aedes albopictus</i>	Asian tiger mosquito	human	Pakistan
<i>Aedes canadensis</i>	woodland pool mosquito		USA
<i>Aedes melanimon</i>	medium-sized saltmarsh mos.		USA
<i>Aedes nigromaculis</i>	pasture floodwater mos.		USA
<i>Aedes togoi</i>			S Korea
Anopheles (6 species)	anopheles mosquito		UAE, Egypt, Turkey, El Salvador, Djibouti
<i>Aonidiella aurantii</i>	California red scale	citrus	USA, South Africa
<i>Aonidiella citrina</i>	yellow scale		USA
<i>Aphis gossypii</i>	melon and cotton aphid	cotton, vegetables	China, USA
<i>Bemisia argentifolii</i>	silverleaf whitefly		USA
<i>Bemisia tabaci</i>	sweetpotato whitefly	cotton	Pakistan, USA
<i>Blatella germanica</i>	German cockroach		USA, Cuba, Panama, Denmark, Malaysia
<i>Blissus insularis</i>	southern cinch bug	grasses	USA
<i>Boophilus microplus</i> / <i>Rhipicephalus microplus</i>	southern/ tropical cattle tick	cattle	Brazil, France, Australia
<i>Cacopsylla pyri</i>	pear psylla, European pear sucker		France
<i>Chaoborus astictopus</i>	clear lake gnat		USA
<i>Chilo suppressalis</i>	Asiatic rice borer	rice	China
<i>Choristoneura rosaceana</i>	oblique banded leafroller		USA
<i>Chrysoperla carnea</i>	common green lacewing		Pakistan

Species	Common name	Host	Countries
<i>Culex</i> (9 species)	house mosquito	houses; humans, birds	20 countries
<i>Culiseta inornata</i>	winter mosquito		USA
<i>Cydia pomonella</i>	codling moth	fruit trees, walnut	France, Spain
<i>Delia antiqua</i>	onion maggot	vegetables	USA
<i>Diaphorina citri</i>	Asian citrus psyllid	citrus	USA
<i>Drosophila melanogaster</i>	common fruitfly		Israel
<i>Earias vittella</i>	spotted bollworm	cotton	Pakistan
<i>Frankliniella occidentalis</i>	western flower thrips	cotton	USA, Australia
<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	cotton bollworm	cotton, corn, sorghum, tomato	India, Pakistan
<i>Helicoverpa zea</i>	corn earworm		Nicaragua
<i>Laodelphax striatellus</i>	small brown planthopper	rice	China
<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>	Colorado potato beetle	eggplant, pepper, potato, tomato	Serbia
<i>Leucoptera</i> (2 species)	coffee leaf miner	coffee	Brazil, Tanzania
<i>Liriomyza trifolii</i>	American serpentine leaf miner	chrysanthemum, celery	USA, Canada
<i>Musca domestica</i>	house fly		USA
<i>Myzus persicae</i>	green peach aphid	flowers, crops, fruit, trees, grains, tobacco, vegetables	Australia
<i>Oxya chinensis</i>	grasshopper		China
<i>Panonychus ulmi</i>	European red mite	fruit trees	Turkey
<i>Pectinophora gossypiella</i>	pink bollworm	cotton	India
<i>Phyllonorycter blancardella</i>	spotted tentiform leaf miner	apple	USA
<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	diamondback moth	crucifers, nasturium	USA, Pakistan, Australia
<i>Popilla japonica</i>	Japanese beetle	turf	USA
<i>Schizaphis graminum</i>	greenbug	sorghum	USA

Species	Common name	Host	Countries
<i>Spodoptera exigua</i>	beet army worm, lesser army worm	cotton, celery, tomato, lettuce, cabbage, alfalfa	Pakistan Nicaragua USA
<i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i>	fall armyworm	cotton, grasses, grains, sugarcane	USA
<i>Spodoptera littoralis</i>	Egyptian cotton leafworm, army worm	alfalfa, cotton, potato, vegetables	Egypt Israel
<i>Spodoptera litura</i>	Mediterranean climbing cutworm	tobacco	Pakistan India
<i>Tetranychus urticae</i>	twospotted spider mite	cotton, fruits, vegetables, walnut, ornamentals	6 countries
<i>Tribolium castaneum</i>	red flour beetle	stored grain, peanuts, sorghum	Australia
<i>Typhlodromus = Galenod pyri</i>	predatory mite mites		UK, France

8 Alternatives to chlorpyrifos

8.1 Alternative insecticides

There are many other synthetic chemical insecticides on the market, but most of these also have a range of adverse health and environmental effects, such as endocrine disruption, cancer, neurological damage, groundwater contamination, persistence, etc. Hence, their use is not recommended to replace chlorpyrifos.

There are some insecticides derived from natural plant extracts that can kill or repel insects; some deter insects feeding, or inhibit their growth. Natural soaps and minerals can also be used, as can naturally occurring pathogens like *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) used as a spray—NOT as a genetically engineered part of the crop itself.

Care must be taken even with natural plant extracts as some, such as pyrethrum, can have toxic effects on beneficial insects, animals, and humans. Other plant extracts that can be used to replace chlorpyrifos include neem, lemon grass, garlic, ginger, marigold, quassia, turmeric, and many more.

Generally an insecticide, even a natural one, should be regarded as the choice of last resort, with the primary focus being placed on alternative

pest management practices that prevent the need for a spray.

8.2 Agroecological pest management

There is now widespread support for agroecological, or ecosystem-based, approaches to pest management at the highest international levels, as well as among many farmers worldwide. Major improvements in crop yields and farmers' incomes have been achieved, as well as reversing the trend towards species loss and genetic erosion, and assisting adaptation to climate change (UNEP 2012).

Agroecological pest management focuses on sustainable ecological solutions that prevent pest build up. It takes a holistic approach to crop management that recognises pests as an integral part of the whole agroecosystem, forming a complex with beneficial insects, weeds, diseases and crops. The self-regulatory mechanisms of a highly biodiverse farming system help keep pest species in balance. A healthy soil with a rich diversity of biota and a high content of organic matter is key to sustainable management of pests and diseases.

Elements of alternative or ecological pest management:

- designing a farm ecosystem that encourages biodiversity, providing habitats for beneficial insects;
- using resistant, often indigenous, crop varieties;
- diversifying crops by intercropping, rotation, and use of multiple varieties;
- cultural practices that encourage healthy soils and hence healthy plants, such as fallowing, appropriate tillage, water management, mulching, and use of animal manures, green manures, vermicasts, composts, liquid bio-fertilisers, and enhanced indigenous micro-organisms;
- cultural practices that contribute to the suppression of pest populations, such as varying times of sowing, planting and harvesting, adjusting row width, use of trap crops, and appropriate pruning;
- companion planting to deter pests;
- accurate identification of both pests and beneficial insects and knowledge of their life cycles, habitats, and periods of population expansion and vulnerability;
- enhancing the habitats and hence populations of (or introducing) natural enemies such as parasitoids like the *Encarsia* wasp and

predators like the damselfly and spiders, as well as birds where appropriate; other beneficial insects that control pests for which chlorpyrifos is used include Braconid, *Cotesia* wasp, damsel bug, *Diadegma* wasp, carabid beetle, hoverfly, lacewing, ladybird beetles, minute pirate bug, praying mantis, predatory mites, rove beetles, spiders, tachinid flies, *Tiphia* wasp, and *Trichogramma* – see below for more details on some of these.

- field sanitation, removing infested plant material including crop residues to reduce carryover of pests from one planting to the next;
- systematic scouting of crops for pests and natural enemies, either regularly or at susceptible times, sometimes involving the use of sweep nets, sticky traps, and pheromone traps;
- use of mechanical methods such as light traps, fruit fly traps, trenches (e.g. to prevent migration of rice molluscs into paddy fields), nets, reflective ribbon, bird perches, pheromone traps, sticky board traps, soil baits, soil traps, bagging of fruit, and plant ash; and
- use of pheromone traps to trap insects and pheromone dispensers to disrupt mating. (SIBAT 1999a, 1999b; OISAT 2004; UNEP 2012)

The Online Information Service for Pesticide Management in the Tropics (OISAT), established by PAN Germany, contains extensive information on managing particular pests in specific crops without the use of chlorpyrifos.

Some specific examples of biological controls

(UNEP 2012)

1. Biological preparations

- *Neem/azadirachtin* - effective on over 200 pests including some species of whiteflies, thrips, leaf miners, caterpillars, aphids, scales, beetles, true bugs, and mealybugs; best used on immature stages of pests, before pest levels are high, and with repeated applications.

2. Pathogens

- *Bacillus thuringiensis*¹¹ Israeli - effective against mosquito larvae and is widely used as a larvicide in mosquito control programmes.
- *Bacillus thuringiensis* var *kurstaki* (Btk) - effective against larvae of members of the Lepidopteran family, i.e. moth and butterfly

caterpillars, such as bollworms, leafminer, leafroller, diamondback moth, borers, budworms, army worm, cutworm, etc.

- *Beauveria bassiana*¹² – effective against aphids, boll weevil, stem weevil, caterpillars, codling moth, coffee berry borer, Colorado potato beetle, diamondback moth, European corn borer, fire ants, flies, grasshoppers, Japanese beetle, leafhoppers, leaf-feeding insects, mealybug, Mexican bean beetle, mites, psyllids (lygus bugs and chinch bugs), thrips, whiteflies, and some scales.
- *Metarhizium anisopliae*¹³ - effective against aphids, thrips, leaf hopper, whiteflies, scarabs, weevils, mites, gnats, ticks, locusts, termites, cockroaches, flies, and mosquito larvae.
- *Nomuraea riley* - attacks the larvae of stem borers, leaf folders, army worms and case worms; also used against pod bore and cotton bollworm.
- *Helicoverpa armigera* nuclear polyhedrosis virus - against podborer, cotton bollworm, pink bollworm, fruit and shoot borer.

3. Predators

- *Chrysoperla carnea*, common green lacewing - the larvae prey on the nymphs and adults of aphids, bollworms, spider mites, jassids, thrips, whiteflies, leafhopper eggs, leaf miners, small caterpillars, beetle larvae, tobacco budworm, and others.
- *Coccinella septempunctata*, seven-spotted ladybird beetle - prey on aphids, whiteflies, and bollworms, attacking eggs, nymphs and adults; other ladybirds also prey on jassids, mealybugs, scale, mites, psyllids, timgids, planthoppers, and leafhoppers.
- *Orius* spp - thrips, spider mites, insect eggs, aphids, mites, psyllids, whiteflies, small caterpillars, corn earworm eggs, European corn borer, potato leafhopper nymphs, and leafminer.

4. Parasitoids

- *Trichogramma* sp - extremely tiny wasps that parasitize the eggs of hundreds of pests, including bollworms, borers, thrips, jassids, caterpillars, leaf miner, etc.
- Braconid wasps – parasitize larvae including aphids, beetles, bollworm, caterpillars, flies, and sawflies, etc.
- Ichneumonid wasps – parasitize larvae of diamondback moth, bollworm, caterpillars, pod borers, etc.

¹¹ *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) is a naturally occurring bacteria used as a biological pesticide. There are a number of different strains that are active against different insect species.

¹² *Beauveria bassiana* is a naturally occurring entomopathogenic fungus, causing white muscadine disease in foliar pests

¹³ *Metarhizium anisopliae* is a widely distributed natural soil fungus that attacks a variety of insects, causing green muscadine disease.

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Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN AP) is one of the five regional centres of PAN, a global network dedicated to eliminating the harm caused to humans and the environment by pesticides and promoting biodiversity-based ecological agriculture.

PAN AP's vision is a society that is truly democratic, equal, just, and culturally diverse; based on the principles of food sovereignty, gender justice and environmental sustainability. It has developed strong partnerships with peasants, agricultural workers and rural women movements in the Asia Pacific region and guided by the strong leadership of these grassroots groups, has grown into a reputable advocacy

network with a firm Asian perspective.

PAN AP's mission lies in strengthening people's movements to advance and assert food sovereignty, biodiversity-based ecological agriculture, and the empowerment of rural women; protect people and the environment from highly hazardous pesticides; defend the rice heritage of Asia; and resist the threats of corporate agriculture and neo-liberal globalization.

Currently, PAN AP comprises 108 network partner organizations in the Asia Pacific region and links with about 400 other CSOs and grassroots organizations regionally and globally.



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