

# Accepted Manuscript

An environmentally relevant concentration of titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) nanoparticles induces morphological changes in the mouthparts of *Chironomus tentans*

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PII: S0045-6535(18)31404-8

DOI: 10.1016/j.chemosphere.2018.07.139

Reference: CHEM 21854

To appear in: *Chemosphere*

Received Date: 04 April 2018

Accepted Date: 23 July 2018

Please cite this article as: Dimitrija Savić-Zdravković, Boris Jovanović, Aca Đurđević, Milica Stojković-Piperac, Ana Savić, Janja Vidmar, Djuradj Milošević, An environmentally relevant concentration of titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>) nanoparticles induces morphological changes in the mouthparts of *Chironomus tentans*, *Chemosphere* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.chemosphere.2018.07.139

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**An environmentally relevant concentration of titanium dioxide (TiO<sub>2</sub>)  
nanoparticles induces morphological changes in the mouthparts of  
*Chironomus tentans***

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***Abstract:***

The present study was carried out in order to assess the influence of environmentally relevant concentrations of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles (E171 human food grade) toxicity on the freshwater midge *Chironomus tentans*. Tested concentrations were 125, 250, 500, 1000, 2000 and 4000 mg of E171 TiO<sub>2</sub> per 1 kg of sediment, for the experiment aiming at life trait toxicity observation; and 2.5, 25 and 250 mg of E171 TiO<sub>2</sub> per 1 kg of sediment for the experiment aiming at mouthpart deformity observation. The experimental design was constructed for the sediment dwelling chironomid larvae according to OECD guidelines. For the first

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