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Quaternary (triphenyl-) phosphonium compounds: Environmental behavior and toxicity

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ACCEPTED	MAN	US	CRIPT

1	Quaternary (Triphenyl-) Phosphonium Compounds: Environmental
2	Behavior and Toxicity
3	
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14	Note:
15	All authors declare no competing financial interest.
16	Abstract
17	An analytical method based on high resolution mass spectrometry coupled with liquid chromatography
18	(LC-HRMS) for 25 quaternary phosphonium compounds (QPCs) and derived phosphine oxides (POs)
19	was developed and validated. To investigate the occurrence and fate of QPCs in the aquatic
20	environment, water, suspended solids and sediments from the rivers Rhine and Elbe (upper and middle
21	Elbe as well as tidal Elbe) were analyzed, as well as samples from tributaries bearing significant loads
22	of QPCs. For the first time, the quaternary phosphonium compound tetrabutylphosphonium (Bu_4P^+)
23	was detected. In the river Elbe concentrations were determined of up to 4.7 μ g/L (surface water) and
24	1000 µg/kg (sediment), respectively. Analysis of a time series of suspended solids (2005-2015)
25	showed that QPCs have been present in the Elbe and Rhine catchment for at least one decade, with
26	partly rising tendency. A degradation experiment with Rhine sediment revealed that
27	triphenylphosphonium compounds (R-Ph ₃ P ⁺) and Bu_4P^+ are persistent in contact with sediment and
28	suspended solids and tend to sorb onto sediment particles. Toxicological studies (reactive oxygen

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