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Aquatic Life Water Quality Criteria for Selected Pesticides

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Special Foreword

California's Central Valley has been a leader in agricultural productivity since it was first settled by European immigrants in the nineteenth century. Drained by both the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Systems, its fertile farmlands represent the most productive region in the USA today. Key to that productivity is the use of modern agrochemicals, including fertilizers and pest control agents. However, while enormously useful as tools, they also present their share of risks to both human health and the environment.

The Central Valley also contains a rich, endemic flora and fauna—both terrestrial and aquatic. Thus, the challenge for many years has been how to enhance agricultural productivity in the region while maintaining environmental quality, as agricultural residues pose a risk to not only the valley, but also the San Francisco Bay-Delta Region. In recent years, the California State Water Resources Control Board, through its Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB; Central Valley Region), has sought to better characterize the risk to endemic aquatic organisms posed by agricultural pesticides used in the valley. Such characterization would assist in guiding the continued use of pesticides in an environmentally safe manner. However, methods for assessing the risk of pesticides to aquatic species have been slow to develop. Therefore, the RWQCB approached us a number of years ago with the request that we develop an advanced method for assessing such risk, and then apply it to develop criteria for the continued safe use of many of the most effective agents available today.

In response, we first surveyed the methods currently available worldwide—published in *Reviews of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* (Volume 199). We subsequently developed an advanced method (the University of California—Davis Methodology)—also published in *Reviews* (Volume 209)—which significantly built upon the early progress of others. We then applied the methodology to develop risk criteria for representative agents from three pesticide classes: organophosphates, pyrethroids, and substituted ureas. Those papers are the subject of this volume—providing guidance on the safe use of pesticides, not only in California's Central Valley but potentially worldwide. It should be noted that the assessment of risk is not a one-time task but an ongoing process, as criteria

can be continually refined by the addition of new, and potentially high-quality, data to decrease uncertainty in the derived values over time. In fact, to our knowledge water quality criteria for the pyrethroids have not been previously derived in the USA. Thus, the wide-ranging review of each chemical presented in the subsequent papers represents a good foundation for future refinements.

Another useful aspect of the risk assessment process is that data gaps can be identified—which may stimulate new research to fill them. For instance, there is currently a lack of chronic toxicity data for all seven targeted pesticides (chlorpyrifos, diazinon, malathion, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, cypermethrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, permethrin and diuron), and because of this the uncertainty of the derived chronic criteria could not be quantified. High-quality tests using flow-through exposure systems which generate calculated toxicity values based on measured concentrations are needed for all the agents but particularly the pyrethroids, which are highly sorptive. The influence of both temperature and nonadditive mixture effects also need further documentation so that they may be incorporated into criteria compliance.

The authors of the papers presented in this volume (Tessa Fojut, Amanda Palumbo, Patti TenBrook, and Isabel Faria) possess a wealth of experience in toxicology and environmental chemistry—as well as environmental risk assessment. It is through their tireless efforts that these criteria are now available with the hope that their application will facilitate the continued use of the subject agents in an environment-friendly manner. I am particularly grateful to Tessa Fojut for her many efforts in preparing the final criteria manuscripts for publication.

Davis, CA, USA

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Foreword

International concern in scientific, industrial, and governmental communities over traces of xenobiotics in foods and in both abiotic and biotic environments has justified the present triumvirate of specialized publications in this field: comprehensive reviews, rapidly published research papers and progress reports, and archival documentations. These three international publications are integrated and scheduled to provide the coherency essential for nonduplicative and current progress in a field as dynamic and complex as environmental contamination and toxicology. This series is reserved exclusively for the diversified literature on “toxic” chemicals in our food, our feeds, our homes, recreational and working surroundings, our domestic animals, our wildlife, and ourselves. Tremendous efforts worldwide have been mobilized to evaluate the nature, presence, magnitude, fate, and toxicology of the chemicals loosed upon the Earth. Among the sequelae of this broad new emphasis is an undeniable need for an articulated set of authoritative publications, where one can find the latest important world literature produced by these emerging areas of science together with documentation of pertinent ancillary legislation.

Research directors and legislative or administrative advisers do not have the time to scan the escalating number of technical publications that may contain articles important to current responsibility. Rather, these individuals need the background provided by detailed reviews and the assurance that the latest information is made available to them, all with minimal literature searching. Similarly, the scientist assigned or attracted to a new problem is required to glean all literature pertinent to the task, to publish new developments or important new experimental details quickly, to inform others of findings that might alter their own efforts, and eventually to publish all his/her supporting data and conclusions for archival purposes. In the fields of environmental contamination and toxicology, the sum of these concerns and responsibilities is decisively addressed by the uniform, encompassing, and timely publication format of the Springer triumvirate:

Reviews of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology [Vol. 1 through 97 (1962–1986) as Residue Reviews] for detailed review articles concerned with any

aspects of chemical contaminants, including pesticides, in the total environment with toxicological considerations and consequences.

Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology (Vol. 1 in 1966) for rapid publication of short reports of significant advances and discoveries in the fields of air, soil, water, and food contamination and pollution as well as methodology and other disciplines concerned with the introduction, presence, and effects of toxicants in the total environment.

Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology (Vol. 1 in 1973) for important complete articles emphasizing and describing original experimental or theoretical research work pertaining to the scientific aspects of chemical contaminants in the environment.

Manuscripts for Reviews and the Archives are in identical formats and are peer reviewed by scientists in the field for adequacy and value; manuscripts for the Bulletin are also reviewed, but are published by photo-offset from camera-ready copy to provide the latest results with minimum delay. The individual editors of these three publications comprise the joint Coordinating Board of Editors with referral within the board of manuscripts submitted to one publication but deemed by major emphasis or length more suitable for one of the others.

Coordinating Board of Editors

Preface

The role of *Reviews* is to publish detailed scientific review articles on all aspects of environmental contamination and associated toxicological consequences. Such articles facilitate the often complex task of accessing and interpreting cogent scientific data within the confines of one or more closely related research fields.

In the nearly 50 years since *Reviews of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology* (formerly *Residue Reviews*) was first published, the number, scope, and complexity of environmental pollution incidents have grown unabated. During this entire period, the emphasis has been on publishing articles that address the presence and toxicity of environmental contaminants. New research is published each year on a myriad of environmental pollution issues facing people worldwide. This fact, and the routine discovery and reporting of new environmental contamination cases, creates an increasingly important function for *Reviews*.

The staggering volume of scientific literature demands remedy by which data can be synthesized and made available to readers in an abridged form. *Reviews* addresses this need and provides detailed reviews worldwide to key scientists and science or policy administrators, whether employed by government, universities, or the private sector.

There is a panoply of environmental issues and concerns on which many scientists have focused their research in past years. The scope of this list is quite broad, encompassing environmental events globally that affect marine and terrestrial ecosystems; biotic and abiotic environments; impacts on plants, humans, and wildlife; and pollutants, both chemical and radioactive; as well as the ravages of environmental disease in virtually all environmental media (soil, water, air). New or enhanced safety and environmental concerns have emerged in the last decade to be added to incidents covered by the media, studied by scientists, and addressed by governmental and private institutions. Among these are events so striking that they are creating a paradigm shift. Two in particular are at the center of everincreasing media as well as scientific attention: bioterrorism and global warming. Unfortunately, these very worrisome issues are now superimposed on the already extensive list of ongoing environmental challenges.

The ultimate role of publishing scientific research is to enhance understanding of the environment in ways that allow the public to be better informed. The term “informed public” as used by Thomas Jefferson in the age of enlightenment conveyed the thought of soundness and good judgment. In the modern sense, being “well informed” has the narrower meaning of having access to sufficient information. Because the public still gets most of its information on science and technology from TV news and reports, the role for scientists as interpreters and brokers of scientific information to the public will grow rather than diminish. Environmentalism is the newest global political force, resulting in the emergence of multinational consortia to control pollution and the evolution of the environmental ethic. Will the new politics of the twenty-first century involve a consortium of technologists and environmentalists, or a progressive confrontation? These matters are of genuine concern to governmental agencies and legislative bodies around the world.

For those who make the decisions about how our planet is managed, there is an ongoing need for continual surveillance and intelligent controls to avoid endangering the environment, public health, and wildlife. Ensuring safety-in-use of the many chemicals involved in our highly industrialized culture is a dynamic challenge, for the old, established materials are continually being displaced by newly developed molecules more acceptable to federal and state regulatory agencies, public health officials, and environmentalists.

Reviews publishes synoptic articles designed to treat the presence, fate, and, if possible, the safety of xenobiotics in any segment of the environment. These reviews can be either general or specific, but properly lie in the domains of analytical chemistry and its methodology, biochemistry, human and animal medicine, legislation, pharmacology, physiology, toxicology, and regulation. Certain affairs in food technology concerned specifically with pesticide and other food-additive problems may also be appropriate.

Because manuscripts are published in the order in which they are received in final form, it may seem that some important aspects have been neglected at times. However, these apparent omissions are recognized, and pertinent manuscripts are likely in preparation or planned. The field is so very large and the interests in it are so varied that the editor and the editorial board earnestly solicit authors and suggestions of underrepresented topics to make this international book series yet more useful and worthwhile.

Justification for the preparation of any review for this book series is that it deals with some aspect of the many real problems arising from the presence of foreign chemicals in our surroundings. Thus, manuscripts may encompass case studies from any country. Food additives, including pesticides, or their metabolites that may persist into human food and animal feeds are within this scope. Additionally, chemical contamination in any manner of air, water, soil, or plant or animal life is within these objectives and their purview.

Manuscripts are often contributed by invitation. However, nominations for new topics or topics in areas that are rapidly advancing are welcome. Preliminary communication with the editor is recommended before volunteered review manuscripts are submitted.

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