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# Fate of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in wastewater treatment plants - Conception of a database and first results

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By means of a database including information from 117 international scientific papers, we present quantitative conclusions on the concentrations, frequencies of detection and removals of pharmaceutical products in wastewater treatment plants.

**Abstract:** We created a database in order to quantitatively assess the occurrence and removal efficiency of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) in wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). From 117 scientific publications, we compiled 6641 data covering 184 PPCPs. Data included the concentrations of PPCPs in WWTP influents and effluents, their removal efficiency and their loads to the aquatic environment. The first outputs of our database allowed to identify the most investigated PPCPs in WWTPs and the most persistent ones, and to obtain reliable and quantitative values on their concentrations, frequency of detection and removal efficiency in WWTPs. We were also able to compare various processes and pointed out activated sludge with nitrogen treatment and membrane bioreactor as the most efficient ones.

**Keywords:** database; pharmaceuticals; personal care products; removal efficiency; wastewater treatment plants

## INTRODUCTION

The concern for pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) as toxic substances in the environment and the need to assess their environmental risk have greatly increased since the early nineties. Several reviews dealing with the exposition and effect of pharmaceuticals have been published recently (Halling-Sorensen *et al.*, 1998; Daughton and Ternes, 1999; Jorgensen and Halling-Sorensen 2000; Kümmerer, 2001; Ternes *et al.*, 2001; Heberer, 2002; Petrovic *et al.*, 2003; Larsen *et al.*, 2004; Janex-Habibi *et al.*, 2004; Jones *et al.*, 2004; Kuster *et al.*, 2004; Zwiener and Frimmel 2004; Garric and Ferrari, 2005; Hernando *et al.*, 2005; Fent *et al.*, 2006; Zuccato *et al.*, 2006). These reviews allow to identify more than one hundred pharmaceuticals and personal care

products from various prescription classes measured in WWTPs in several European countries, Brazil and North America. These PPCPs include analgesics and anti-inflammatory drugs, antibiotics and bacteriostatics, antiepileptics, betablockers, blood lipid regulators, contrast media, cytostatics, hormones (including oral contraceptives), antidepressants and anxiolytics, musk fragrances, disinfectants and antiseptics. These reviews outline the exposure routes to the aquatic and soils environment for different classes of drugs (Halling-Sorensen *et al.*, 1998; Jorgensen and Halling-Sorensen 2000; Kümmerer, 2001; Heberer, 2002), the environmental risk assessment strategy (Daughton and Ternes, 1999; Jones *et al.*, 2004; Garric and Ferrari, 2005; Hernando *et al.*, 2005; Fent *et al.*, 2006; Zuccato *et al.*, 2006). Some authors listed the annual quantities of PPCPs prescribed for different countries (Halling-Sorensen, 1998; Jorgensen and Halling-Sorensen 2000; Fent *et al.*, 2006). Two papers summarised the modes of action of PPCPs in humans and mammals (Fent *et al.*, 2006) and their metabolization in humans (Richardson and Bowron 1985). A few reviews deal with their effect and concentration in aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates (Halling-Sorensen, 1998; Daughton and Ternes, 1999; Jones *et al.*, 2004; Fent *et al.*, 2006). The analytical protocols to identify and quantify PPCPs in environmental matrices have also been scrutinized (Ternes *et al.*, 2001; Petrovic *et al.*, 2003; Kuster *et al.*, 2004; Zwiener and Frimmel 2004). Several papers present ranges of PPCPs concentrations in various compartments of the aquatic environment and in wastewaters (Halling-Sorensen, 1998; Daughton and Ternes, 1999; Kümmerer, 2001; Heberer, 2002; Garric and Ferrari, 2005; Fent *et al.*, 2006). Finally, a few papers present and compare the various processes used in WWTPs to eliminate PPCPs (Janex-Habibi *et al.*, 2004; Larsen *et al.*, 2004). Larsen *et al.* (2004) presented the source separation approach, which consists of pre-treatment of highly contaminated sources such as urines or wastewaters from hospitals.

However, we noted that the reviews dealing with the occurrence of PPCPs in wastewaters and their removal efficiency could not reach quantitative conclusions as they did not use a database to collect and process data from the literature.

Our objective in this study was to obtain reliable and quantitative information on PPCPs concentrations and removal efficiency and to study if existing data extracted from the literature permitted to establish trends on PPCPs removal efficiency for some processes or operating parameters.

We considered PPCPs used for human treatments and included antiseptics, hormones and personal care products. For the most studied PPCPs, we were able to compute mean and median liquid influent and effluent concentrations, mean removal efficiency, and we calculated minimum and

maximum values, and relative standard deviations. We also studied the influence of the type and the operating conditions of WWTPs in order to explain and to predict the fate of these contaminants in WWTPs.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE DATABASE**

We built our database from the compilation of 115 international research papers and 2 French research reports covering a period from January 1997 to June 2006 for international studies and from 1997 to February 2007 for French studies. These 117 scientific publications are reported in annex 1. We considered all pharmaceuticals used for human treatment and included hormones, antiseptics and personal care products (musk fragrances, sun-screen agents and insect repellents). The total number of molecules covered in the database reaches 184.

We recorded 6641 data from the literature including concentrations in influents (1602 data), concentrations in effluents (3120 data), loads of compounds (kg/d) to be treated in influents (115 data), loads released in the environment by effluents (186 data) and removal efficiency (1618 data) for the dissolved aqueous compartment of WWTPs. In this paper the removal of PPCPs in the dissolved phase is referred to as R.

In our database, values of R obtained with activated sludge processes (ASP) are well documented, with 742 data for the high sludge retention time configuration for nitrogen removal, 129 data for the low sludge retention time configuration for carbon removal, 185 for ASP with phosphorus treatment (and also nitrogen treatment for some of these 185 WWTPs). We also recorded R for other types of processes: membrane bioreactors with nitrogen treatment (63 data), pre-treatment and primary sedimentation tanks (49 data), fixed biomass systems (immersed biofilters, biodiscs and trickling filters, 18 data) and waste stabilization ponds (14 data).

To reach quantitative conclusions, we only considered concentrations and R in the dissolved phase of WWTPs as too few data are available for sludges and suspended solids. Only data obtained from 24h flow proportional composite sample were compiled, as it is the only way to obtain a sample representative of the wastewater that enter the treatment plants. When available, we favoured individual values of concentration or R. Nonetheless, we decided to use also mean values when the number of individual values was mentioned in the original paper so we could weight these mean values.

When it was available, we recorded detailed information on the WWTPs: design capacity (mean flow rate in m<sup>3</sup>/d and population equivalent); nature of influent (municipal, dry or wet weather influent, industrial, hospital); type of treatment (primary, secondary and tertiary stages); temperature and pH of the mixed liquor in the biological reactor; volume of the reactor; hydraulic and sludge retention times; physico-chemical characteristics of wastewaters (e.g., chemical oxygen demand and suspended solid concentration).

The sampling and analytical procedures were also documented in detail if available: period of the year (month or season, year), sampling type (grab, time or flow proportional), nature of the sample (raw sewage, pre-treatment effluent, primary, secondary or tertiary effluents), water fraction analysed (dissolved, particular, raw or total), description of the analytical method (extraction and purification steps, chromatographic analysis, use of internal standards), and description of the performances of the analytical method (recovery, relative standard deviation, limits of detection and quantification). But this information is rarely described in a comprehensive manner in papers dealing with pharmaceuticals occurrence in WWTP. Therefore, at this stage, it cannot be a selection criteria since it would have led us to suppress most of the available data from our analysis. This aspect will be the subject to a following publication dealing with the difficulty to assess the reliability of data in scientific papers on PPCPs in WWTPs.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **The PPCPs the most investigated in WWTPs**

The molecules and the therapeutic classes the most investigated in WWTPs are reported in Table 1. The frequency of citation for each molecule was calculated as the ratio of the number of data recorded in the database for a given molecule over the total number of data for all studied molecules. We then compiled this information for each therapeutic class for the 80% most frequently cited molecules. The results show that the therapeutic classes the most cited in our database are hormones (30%, 7 molecules), analgesics and antiinflammatories (20%, 5 molecules) and antibiotics (9%, 7 molecules). Estrone and 17 $\beta$ -estradiol are the most investigated molecules (553 and 543 data respectively, 8%). The lipid regulators, anti-epileptics, metabolites, betablockers, personal care products and contrast products cited in Table 1 have citation frequencies between 1 and 5%. For all other molecules, the frequency of citation is below 1%.

Thus, 33 molecules represent 80% of the recorded data. They have been investigated because they are highly prescribed and continuously discharged in the environment, and could be potentially toxic. For the other PPCPs (151 molecules), more limited information is available: e.g., citation frequency of only 0.6% for paracetamol and 0.3% for aspirin, bisoprolol and sotalol.

### **Concentrations of PPCPs in the dissolved phase of WWTP influents and effluents**

The collected data covered influent and effluent concentrations for ASP combined with a pre-treatment, which could be associated, depending on the WWTP, with a primary sedimentation tank, a treatment of nitrogen and / or phosphorus, or a tertiary treatment. For all studied molecule, we calculated the mean, median, relative standard deviation (RSD), minimum and maximum concentrations of PPCPs in influent and effluent of WWTPs. For this calculation, we did not use values from pilot or batch experiments. The results are presented in Table 2 (in alphabetic order of molecule by therapeutic class). We only reported the results for the molecules for which a minimum of 3 concentration data were recorded for influent or for effluent. This represents a total of 43 molecules for influent concentrations and 43 molecules for effluent concentrations.

Generally, the frequency of quantification in influent and effluent is above 90% for a majority of molecules. Mean dissolved concentrations in the influent range from 4 ng/L for 17 $\alpha$ -ethinylestradiol (detected in 91% of the influent samples) to 212  $\mu$ g/L for salicylic acid (detected in 100 % of the influent samples). Salicylic acid may be a metabolite of acetylsalicylic acid, but there are several other possible sources of salicylic acid. The lowest influent concentrations quantified (ng/L level) are found for the hormones and the highest measured concentration (above 292  $\mu$ g/L) are recorded for some analgesic-antiinflammatory (naproxen and paracetamol) and a metabolite (salicylic acid). These influent concentrations depend mainly on the degree of prescription and human metabolization.

Mean dissolved concentrations in the effluent range from 0.8 ng/L for 17 $\alpha$ -estradiol (detected in 64% of the effluent samples) to 5.7  $\mu$ g/L for iopromide (detected in 57% of the effluent samples). As for the influent, we observe that the lowest quantified concentrations are found for hormones (around 0.1 ng/L) and the highest ones for analgesic-antiinflammatory (25 and 34  $\mu$ g/L for ibuprofen and naxopren, respectively).

RSD are between 10% and 150%. Some higher RSD (up to 365%) are found for 2 antiinflammatories (naproxen in influents and effluents, ibuprofen in effluents), 3 hormones (17 $\alpha$ ethinylestradiol in influents, 17 $\beta$ estradiol and estriol in effluents) and 1 lipid regulator

(bezafibrate in effluents). These ranges of RSD values are mainly resulting from the large number and variety of WWTPs considered in these papers.

### **Removal of PPCPs in the dissolved aqueous phase of WWTPs**

In the literature, the removal efficiency is generally computed as the percentage of reduction between the dissolved aqueous phase concentration of the contaminant in the influent and the dissolved aqueous phase concentration of the contaminant in the effluent. Except for a few recent studies, PPCPs concentrations in sludge or suspended solid are generally not considered nor measured, probably because of the difficulty to sample and to analyse such complex matrices. Only 15 publications, over the 117 publications studied, reported PPCPs concentrations in sludges and 1 in suspended solid. None of the 117 papers reported removal obtained taking into account both liquid and solid (sludges and suspended solids) compartments of WWTPs.

In order to compute statistics on R in the dissolved aqueous phase for the different molecules studied, we used results on R from our database with the following conditions: for measured and also calculated R from influent and effluent concentrations (if measured in the same WWTP); for full scale WWTP and pilots WWTP, but not for batch experiments; excluding negative values of R.

### *Removal for ASP for the studied molecules*

We calculated mean R and RSD for WWTPs with ASP in order to evaluate the persistence of the studied PPCPs.

The collected data of R concerned ASP combined with a pre-treatment stage, which could be associated, depending on the WWTP, with a primary sedimentation tank and/or a treatment of phosphorus. Two types of ASP were considered: the ones that perform carbon removal (sludge age < 10 d), and the others that perform nitrogen removal (sludge age > 10d).

Mean values of R could be calculated for 50 molecules and the data set was equal to or above 3 for 32 molecules (Figure 1). Considering molecules with a minimum data set of 3, we could point out triclosan, norfloxacin, 17 $\beta$ -estradiol and estriol as highly removed contaminants ( $R > 80\%$ ), whereas atenolol, carbamazepine, metoprolol, trimetoprim, mefenamic acid and clofibric acid have low removal efficiency ( $R < 30\%$ ). The RSD are quite variable, ranging from 22 to 143% (mean RSD=43%, median RSD=39%, n=32) for the different molecules (for those with a data set higher  $\geq 3$ ). This variability could be mainly attributed to the variety of WWTPs from various countries considered. Nonetheless, the available database, coupled with a thorough data screening procedure,

succeeded to establish a relatively robust data set on R (dissolved fraction) for activated sludge treatment for these 32 molecules.

The main mechanisms involved in removal efficiency of PPCPs are biodegradation (e.g., oxidation, hydrolysis, demethylation, cleavage of glucuronide conjugates), sorption on sludge or particulate matter (by hydrophobic or electrostatic interactions), filtration and chemical oxidation. Loss by volatilization can be considered as negligible for PPCPs except for musk fragrances, which are slightly volatile (Larsen *et al.*, 2004).

#### *Influence of the type of process on R values*

According to our results, the type of WWTP process significantly influences R of PPCPs.

We computed mean R value for each molecule for the various studied processes (y axis) and plotted them against mean R value calculated for the same molecules for the ASP with nitrogen removal (x axis) (Figure 2). Indeed, we decided to use the ASP with nitrogen removal as a reference in our comparison, as it is nowadays the most common process over Europe since the discharge objectives stated by the European Commission (European Directive 91/271/EEC (1991)) with for instance about 75% of the current French WWTPs.

Primary treatment sedimentation tank provide R in the range 0-40% for the molecules tested (Figure 2A), whereas, R with biological treatment are mainly in the range 50-90% (Figure 2B). For most molecules, activated sludge with nitrogen removal (low loaded ASP) is more efficient than activated sludge without nitrogen removal (highly loaded ASP) (Figure 2B). Considering Figure 2B, most of the R values obtained with phosphorus activated sludge treatment are comparable to the ones recorded for activated sludge with nitrogen removal. However, for some molecules, R values appear to be higher or lower. This could be explained by the lack of specification on the type of process: indeed, the type of phosphorus removal (biological or chemical) is never specified in the original papers and the authors may also have omitted to mention an additional nitrogen treatment.

Removal for membrane bioreactor (MBR, which consists of ASP with very high sludge retention time and a filtration stage), fixed biomass reactor and waste stabilization ponds are compared to low loaded ASP in Figure 2C. Values of R for MBR are equivalent to R for low loaded ASP for some molecules (e.g., diclofenac, ibuprofen, sulfamethoxazole, carbamazepin, estrone) ; MBR is more efficient for three molecules (i.e., roxithromycin, tonalide and galaxolide). It is difficult to conclude on the R values with fixed growth biomass processes because of the too small number of data (only



6 molecules with both data on low loaded ASP and fixed growth biomass process). Fixed growth biomass process was found very efficient ( $R > 92\%$ ) to remove estrone,  $17\alpha$  and  $\beta$ estradiol. It also allowed to remove tetracycline and sulfamethoxazole with R of 58 and 75% respectively. High values of R were obtained with waste stabilisation ponds:  $R > 87\%$  for estrone,  $17\alpha$  and  $\beta$ estradiol, galaxolide and tonalide. This can be explained by the high hydraulic retention time (HRT) and sludge retention time (SRT) and also by possible photodegradation for this type of process. The two low R values obtained for fixed biomass reactor and waste stabilization pond in Figure 2C correspond to  $17\alpha$ -ethinylestradiol.

#### *Influence of the influent concentration on R values*

For each type of process, we also tested the influence of influent concentration on R of PPCPs. We examined only the data set (removal vs influent concentration) with more than 10 paired results. We were able to observe a tendency of higher values of R with higher influent concentration for 5 molecules over 9 with low loaded ASP: 3 hormones ( $17\alpha$ ethinylestradiol,  $17\beta$  estradiol, estriol), diclofenac and ketoprofen. For the 4 other molecules (estrone, ibuprofen, norfloxacin and mefenamic acid), no tendency were shown. We wonder if processes would be less efficient under a minimum influent concentration which would be interesting to determine and to compare with future regulations.

#### *Influence of the operating conditions on R values*

The hydraulic retention time (HRT) and the sludge retention time (SRT) are often used to explain the variation of PPCPs removal efficiency for WWTPs (Henze *et al.*, 1996, Clara *et al.*, 2005). Indeed, high retention times allow low rate reactions like biodegradation and sorption mechanisms to occur.

For several reasons, statistical analyse of the influence of SRT and HRT was difficult to perform using our database. Firstly, HRT and SRT were rarely mentioned in papers from our database on PPCPs in WWTPs. Secondly, most authors did not specify how they calculated HRT. Indeed, HRT could be calculated according to 2 different definitions, taking into account, or not, the flow of the recycling water. This difference of calculation may induce misinterpretations of the HRT influence on R. Thirdly, R can be influenced by various other factors, such as the temperature of the mixed liquor inside the biological reactor (T), the presence of inhibitors (antibiotics or metals), the concentration of the PPCP of interest in the influent, the pH in the biological reactor, the total suspended solids, the concentration of dissolved oxygen, the agitation condition, the nature of the molecule and the type of process. Fourthly, it is not possible to perform principal component

analysis and to test the effect of all factors, because our data set for each molecule is not complete. Indeed, a meticulous description of the WWTP process together with all operating factors are far from being presented in all papers dealing with PPCPs in WWTPs. And lastly, when testing one parameter influencing removal, it is necessary that the other ones do not vary, which is not necessarily verified when compiling data from various authors.

To conclude, more specific in situ study with pilot seems to be necessary to rigorously put in light the effect of T, HRT and SRT as it was done for example by Clara *et al.* (2005).

## **CONCLUSION AND PERSPECTIVES**

Using our database, we were able to identify the most investigated PPCPs in WWTPs and the most persistent ones in the dissolved phase. We also computed reliable and quantitative values on concentrations, frequency of detection and removals for about 50 molecules. We could compare various WWTP processes for a limited number of molecules and pointed out activated sludge with nitrogen treatment and membrane bioreactor as the most efficient ones.

By further statistical tests compiling data from our database, it was difficult to conclude on the influence of operating conditions, such as T, SRT, HRT, on PPCPs removal. Indeed, a limit of such a database is that it is not possible to perform PCA since the dataset is rarely complete (i.e. lack of information on process or operating conditions for each molecule removal data). Furthermore, it is not possible to test each operating condition independently as in real conditions, they could vary together.

These results do not take into account the full removal of PPCP in WWTPs as only the dissolved concentrations are usually measured and reported in the literature. This probably does not change results dramatically for hydrophilic molecules, but it cannot be overlooked for more hydrophobic compounds, such as hormones for instance.

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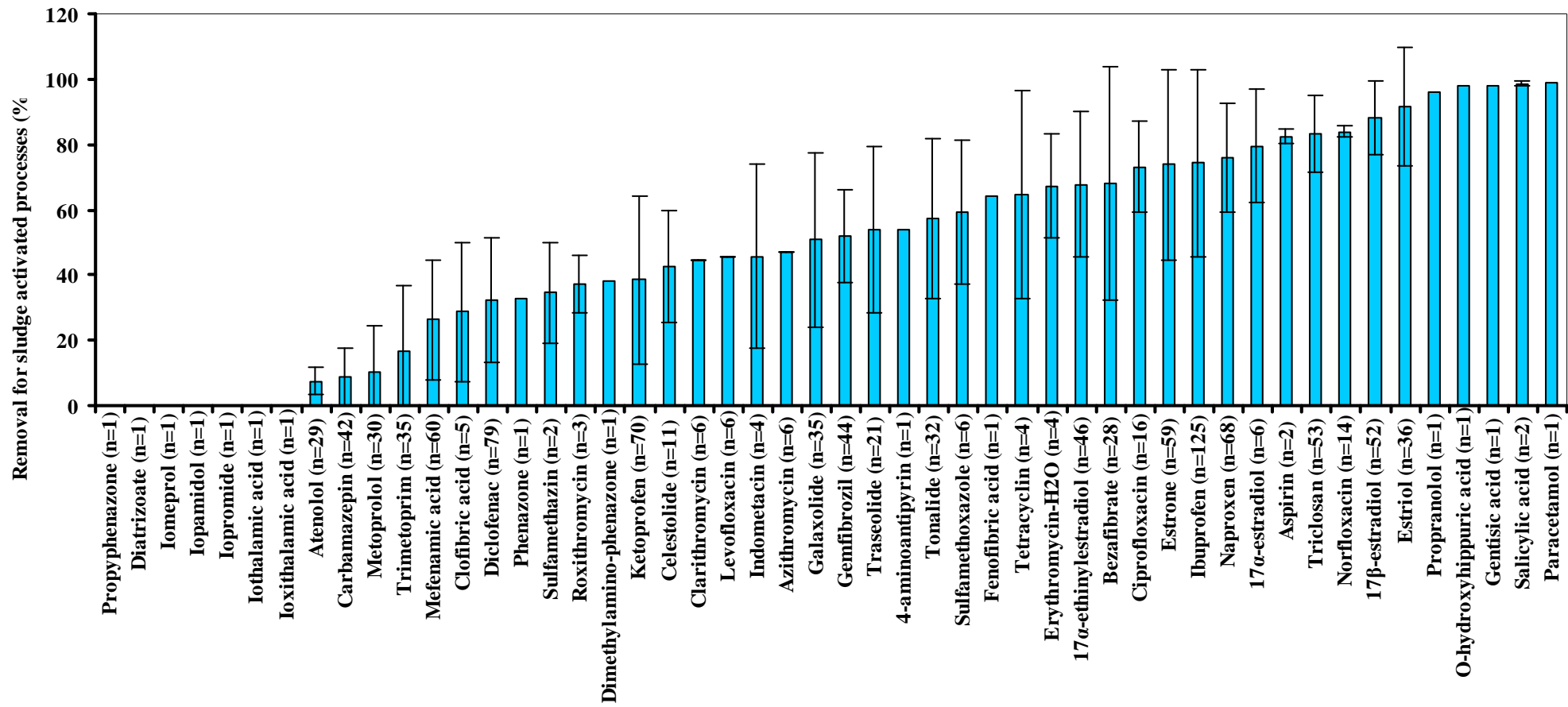
**Table 1:** The pharmaceuticals and personal care products the most investigated in wastewater treatment plants.

<b>Therapeutic class</b>	<b>Molecules</b>	<b>Frequency (%)<sup>a</sup></b>
Hormone	Estrone, 17 $\beta$ -estradiol, 17 $\alpha$ -ethinylestradiol, Estriol, 17 $\alpha$ -estradiol, Testosterone, Progesterone	30
Analgesic-antiinflammatory	Ibuprofen, Diclofenac, Naproxen, Ketoprofen, Mefenamic acid	20
Antibiotic	Sulfamethoxazole, Trimetoprim, Ciprofloxacin, Roxithromycin, Norfloxacin, Clarithromycin, Erythromycin	8.7
Lipid regulator	Bezafibrate, Gemfibrozil	4.4
Anti-epileptic	Carbamazepin	4.0
Metabolite	Clofibric acid, Salicylic acid	3.9
Betablocker	Metoprolol, Propranolol, Atenolol	2.8
Personal care product	Galaxolide, Tonalide	2.7
Contrast product	Iopromide	1.1
Disinfectant	Triclosan	0.8
Vasodilator	Pentoxifyllin	0.7
Antidepressant	Diazepam	0.6
<b>Total</b>		<b>80</b>

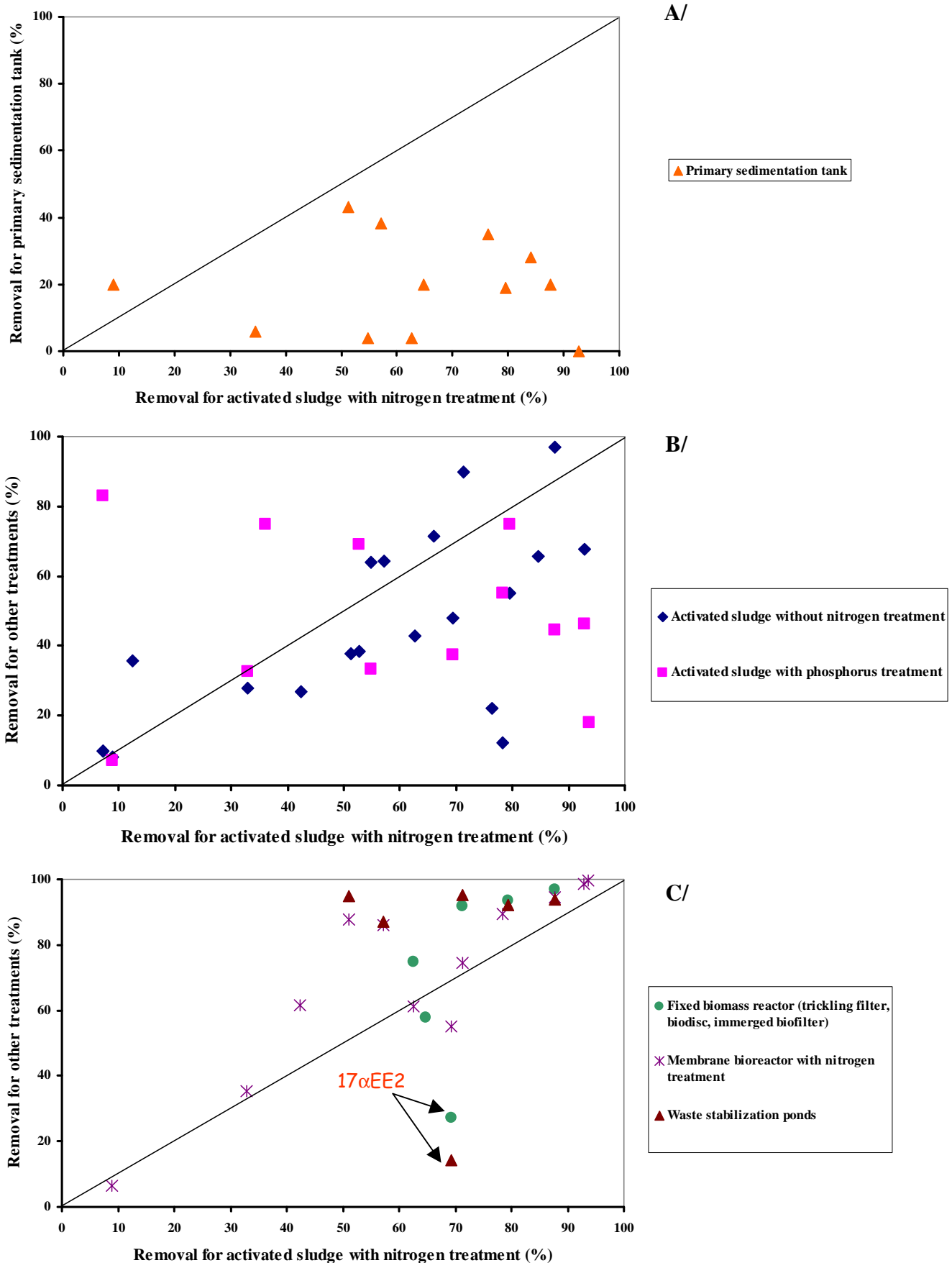
<sup>a</sup>: frequency of citation in our database (117 papers, 6641 data, 184 molecules)

**Table 2:** Mean, minimum and maximum concentrations of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in wastewater treatment plants with activated sludge processes (reported only for individual and mean value with a data set  $n \geq 3$  for influent or effluent). / : no individual value reported

Therapeutic class	Name	Concentration in influent (µg/L)						Frequency of quantification in influent (%)	Concentration in effluent (µg/L)						Frequency of quantification in effluent (%)
		Mean	RSD (%)	Median	Min	Max	n		Mean	RSD (%)	Median	Min	Max	n	
Analgesic-antiinflammatory	Dextropropoxyphene	0.0273	20	0.0270	0.0220	0.0330	3	100	0.0523	27	0.0560	0.0370	0.0640	3	100
Analgesic-antiinflammatory	Diclofenac	1.34	83	0.997	0.105	4.11	91	81	0.680	82	0.420	0.0350	1.95	101	85
Analgesic-antiinflammatory	Ibuprofen	14.6	149	3.20	0.170	83.5	101	97	1.96	177	0.800	0.0020	24.6	109	93
Analgesic-antiinflammatory	Ketoprofen	1.03	117	0.340	0.0800	5.70	55	73	0.325	101	0.210	0.0400	1.62	53	73
Analgesic-antiinflammatory	Mefenamic acid	1.73	52	1.70	0.136	3.20	41	100	1.14	57	1.00	0.0900	2.40	41	100
Analgesic-antiinflammatory	Naproxen	26.4	343	6.00	1.79	611	45	96	1.89	245	0.880	0.170	33.9	53	87
Analgesic-antiinflammatory	Paracetamol	80.0	152	26.0	5.53	292	5	100	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Antibiotic	Azithromycin	0.260					6	100	0.138					6	100
Antibiotic	Ciprofloxacin	0.413	27	0.430	0.180	0.571	20	83	0.0723	27	0.071	0.0450	0.140	29	91
Antibiotic	Clarithromycin	0.647					6	100	0.359					6	100
Antibiotic	Erythromycin	0.108	33	0.113	0.0710	0.141	3	100	0.212	34	0.202	0.145	0.290	3	100
Antibiotic	Levofloxacin	0.552					6	100	0.301					6	100
Antibiotic	Norfloxacin	0.438	12	0.433	0.343	0.515	18	100	0.0608	37	0.0515	0.0390	0.120	26	100
Antibiotic	Roxithromycin	0.0620	62	0.0640	0.0250	0.117	5	100	0.0496	27	0.0450	0.0360	0.069	5	100
Antibiotic	Sulfamethazin	0.333	91	0.210	0.110	0.680	3	43	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Antibiotic	Sulfamethoxazole	0.342	114	0.157	0.0200	1.25	10	71	0.115	85	0.0700	0.0180	0.320	11	73
Antibiotic	Tetracyclin	0.457	43	0.465	0.240	0.790	6	86	0.282	135	0.115	0.0500	0.850	4	67
Antibiotic	Trimetoprim	0.449	94	0.281	0.0800	1.30	10	100	0.118	120	0.0600	0.0200	0.550	27	93
Anti-epileptic	Carbamazepin	0.968	61	0.732	0.100	1.90	64	100	0.674	68	0.520	0.150	2.30	63	100
Antifongic	Clotrimazole	0.0290	18	0.0310	0.0230	0.0330	3	100	0.0170	52	0.0140	0.0100	0.0270	3	100
Antineoplastic, cytostatic	Tamoxifen	0.170	23	0.153	0.143	0.215	3	19	0.238	49	0.199	0.146	0.369	3	19
Betablocker	Atenolol	0.0300					1	100	0.154	44	0.150	0.0100	0.380	18	100
Betablocker	Bisoprolol	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0.709	68	0.637	0.303	1.43	18	100
Betablocker	Metoprolol	0.160					1	100	0.338	55	0.373	0.0100	0.688	37	97
Betablocker	Propranolol	0.0747	41	0.0650	0.0500	0.119	4	100	0.341	54	0.381	0.0100	0.615	24	100
Contrast product	Iopromide	4.49	75	5.22	0.0260	7.50	4	57	5.68	71	6.58	0.250	9.30	4	57
Disinfectant	Triclosan	0.380					1	100	0.150	48	0.130	0.0700	0.430	19	100
Hormone	17?-estradiol	0.0074	58	0.0063	0.0015	0.0172	36	100	0.0008	110	0.0006	0.0001	0.0031	9	64
Hormone	17?-ethinylestradiol	0.0042	237	0.0019	0.0004	0.0700	70	91	0.0009	120	0.0005	0.0002	0.0050	33	59
Hormone	17?-estradiol	0.0222	78	0.0186	0.0025	0.125	108	100	0.0028	165	0.0015	0.0003	0.0300	63	74
Hormone	Estril	0.115	112	0.0695	0.0146	0.660	36	100	0.0131	365	0.0014	0.0004	0.275	33	92
Hormone	Estrone	0.0672	95	0.0600	0.0024	0.670	109	100	0.0209	121	0.0100	0.0006	0.0950	79	93
Lipid regulator	Bezafibrate	2.44	93	2.00	0.100	7.60	25	100	0.816	168	0.250	0.0200	4.80	21	78
Lipid regulator	Gemfibrozil	1.63	69	1.40	0.700	3.00	4	25	0.564	59	0.600	0.0600	1.34	21	70
Metabolite	Carbamazepin-10OH	0.0222					3	100	0.0325					3	100
Metabolite	Carbamazepin-2OH	0.0590					3	100	0.0704					3	100
Metabolite	Carbamazepin-3OH	0.0554					3	100	0.0692					3	100
Metabolite	Carbamazepin-DiOH	1.001					3	100	1.08					3	100
Metabolite	Carbamazepin-EP	0.0392					3	100	0.0191					3	100
Metabolite	Clofibric acid	0.294	55	0.250	0.0150	0.651	40	70	0.150	46	0.152	0.0420	0.230	24	55
Metabolite	Erythromycin-H2O	0.545	87	0.455	0.0700	1.20	4	67	0.220	52	0.270	0.0900	0.300	3	50
Metabolite	Salicylic acid	212	81	170	16.0	606	16	100	2.50	86	2.80	0.300	4.80	5	45
Personal care product	Galaxolide	2.51	51	3.06	0.790	4.443	9	100	0.642	32	0.600	0.451	1.08	9	100
Personal care product	Tonalide	0.990	50	1.02	0.210	1.69	8	100	0.162	11	0.160	0.144	0.200	8	100
Vasodilator	Pentoxifyllin	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	0.533	11	0.500	0.500	0.600	3	30



**Figure 1:** Mean removal efficiency (%) and relative standard deviation for pharmaceuticals and personal care products in wastewater treatment plants with activated sludge processes.



**Figure 2:** Comparison of removal efficiency (%) obtained for wastewater treatment plants with activated sludge process with nitrogen treatment (x-axis) and for wastewater treatment plants with other treatment processes (y-axis); each point represents mean removal calculated for one molecule.