

Chlorination and bromination of 1,3-diphenylguanidine and 1,3-di-o-tolylguanidine: Kinetics, transformation products and toxicity assessment

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- 1 CHLORINATION AND BROMINATION OF 1,3-DIPHENYLGUANIDINE AND 1,3-DI-O-
- 2 TOLYLGUANIDINE: KINETICS, TRANSFORMATION PRODUCTS AND TOXICITY3 ASSESSMENT
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16 Abstract

This works investigates the chlorination and bromination of two rubber and polymer 17 related chemicals, which have emerged as relevant water contaminants, i.e. 1,3-di-o-18 19 tolylguanidine (DTG) and 1,3-diphenylguanidine (DPG). Kinetic constants at different pH values were obtained and modelled, taking into account the pK_a values of DTG/DPG 20 and HClO, showing that the maximum reaction rate $(k_{app} > 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1})$ is obtained at 21 22 pH values 8.8 for DPG and 9.1 for DTG. Bromination is also very fast, although unlike chlorination, deviation from the model was observed at neutral pH, which was 23 attributed to formation of metastable transformation product (TP). A total of 35 TPs, 24 25 corresponding to halogenation, hydroxylation, formation of monophenylguanidine derivatives and cyclization reactions, were tentatively identified. Furthermore it was 26 27 found that chloroform can be formed up to a 25% molar yield, while 28 dichloroacetonitrile was formed into less than a 3% yield. Several ecotoxicological endpoints were predicted by quantitative structure-activity relationship models 29 30 (QSAR) for the TPs, some of which were predicted to be more toxic than DPG/DTG. Also a chlorinated solution investigated by a Vibrio Fisheri acute toxicity test, 31 32 confirmed that toxicity increases with chlorination.

33 Keywords

Halogenation; transformation products; high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS);
 ecotoxicity; disinfection by-products.

36 **1. Introduction**

Polar organic compounds, if persistent, spread along the water cycle, even becoming a 37 human health problem if that substances reach drinking waters (Hernández et al. 38 39 2015, Reemtsma et al. 2016, Schulze et al. 2019). 1,3-Di-o-tolylguanidine (DTG) and 40 1,3-diphenylguanidine (DPG) are chemicals used as accelerators in the vulcanization 41 processes of rubber and other polymers manufacture, with a registered production in 42 Europe, according to the REACH dossiers, in the 100-1000 tons (DTG) and 1000-10,000 tons (DPG) (ECHA 2018a, b). However, so far, little information about their 43 environmental (particularly water) occurrence is available. A first study from Montes et 44 45 al. (Montes et al. 2017), in the frame of the project PROMOTE(Metcalfe et al. 2003), reported DTG occurring in environmental water samples across Europe by liquid 46 47 chromatography-high resolution mass spectrometry (LC-HRMS) screening. Later on, 48 within the same project, it has been shown that DPG as well as DTG occur in different water compartments at the ng L⁻¹ level (Montes et al. 2019, Schulze et al. 2019). Zahn 49 50 et al. have recently shown that, when considering natural processes, DPG (DTG was not considered in that study) photolyzes and reacts with manganese oxide, but does 51 52 not biodegrade and is stable to hydrolysis (Zahn et al. 2019). Furthermore, this compound has been identified in drinking water in China at 0.7 mg L⁻¹, migrating from 53 polyethylene pipes (Tang et al. 2015) and, more recently, has also been recently 54 identified as being the major chemical leaching from tire wear particles (Hübner et al. 55 2019, Zahn et al. 2019). Furthermore, there is some literature that describes DTG and 56 57 DPG toxicity and pharmacological activity in mice and rats (Jaramillo-loranca and Es-58 ram 2015, Lamy et al. 2010).

59 Yet, the possible reaction of both chemicals with chemical oxidants used in drinking water treatment plants (DWTPs) and wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) has not 60 been studied so far. Several disinfection techniques and processes are employed in 61 DWTPs and WWTPs. Among them, chlorine is the oxidant used in the vast majority of 62 DWTPs in Europe, and also in some WWTPs to a minor extent (Benitez et al. 2011, 63 64 Quintana et al. 2014). Although chlorine is effective to inactivate bacteria, the formation of possible harmful transformation products (TPs), including well-known 65 66 disinfection byproducts (DBPs), as e.g. trihalomethanes, needs to be taken into account (Acero et al. 2013, Postigo and Richardson 2014, Quintana et al. 2014, Rodil et 67 al. 2012). Such TPs (including DBPs) may in some cases be more (eco)toxic than the 68 precursor chemicals themselves (Postigo and Richardson 2014, Quintana et al. 2014). 69 70 Therefore, their identification is necessary in order to obtain a relevant interpretation 71 of the reaction.

Thus, the aim of this work was to perform a comprehensive study about the chlorination of DTG and DPG in water. This includes a kinetic study and modelling, identification of TPs (including those formed by bromination, since hypobromite is rapidly formed from bromide into solution during chlorination (Benitez et al. 2011)) by LC-HRMS, quantification of the yield of known DBPs formed and preliminary (eco)toxicological assessment.

79 **2.** Materials and methods

80 **2.1. Chemicals and stock solutions**

DTG (99%) and DPG (97%) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Steinheim, Germany) and stock solutions were prepared in ultra-pure water. Ultra-pure water was obtained directly in the lab from a Milli-Q Gradient A-10 system (Millipore, Bedford, MA, USA). All solutions and dilutions necessary for the experiments were done in ultra-pure water until desired concentration.

86 Sodium hypochlorite (8-14% Cl_2), ammonium chloride (> 99%) and potassium 87 phosphate dibasic trihydrate (> 99%) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. Sodium thiosulfate (99.5%) and potassium bromide were from ACS Acros Organics (Thermo 88 89 Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA) and potassium di-hydrogen phosphate (99.5%) was from Panreac (Barcelona, Spain). Standard solutions of chloroform and 90 91 haloacetonitriles (HANs) were prepared from EPA 551B Halogenated Volatiles Mix 92 supplied from Supelco. The exact nominal free chlorine content employed was regularly determined spectrophotometrically by measuring the hypochlorite anion 93 absorption at 292 nm (ϵ = 350 L⁻¹ cm⁻¹) (Johnson and Melbourne 1996) of the stock 94 solution (pH >10). 95

96 **2.2. Real samples**

97 Two samples were used to study the extent of the chlorination reaction with a real 98 matrix. A surface water sample was collected from the River Sarela in Santiago de 99 Compostela (pH 6.8, Dissolved Organic Carbon: 2.42 mg L⁻¹, chloride: 7.98 mg L⁻¹, 100 bromide: 0.043 mg L⁻¹). A wastewater effluent was collected from a WWTP comprising 101 a primary and a secondary conventional sludge treatment (pH: 7.5, Dissolved Organic 102 Carbon: 14.1 mg L⁻¹, chloride: 23.1 mg L⁻¹, bromide: 0.075 mg L⁻¹). Dissolved organic 103 carbon was measured with a Shimadzu 5000A TOC analyzer (Duisburg, Germany), 104 while bromide and chloride were determined with a Metrohm 850 Professional Ion 105 Chromatograph (Zofingen, Switzerland).

106

2.3. Chlorination experiments

107 Chlorination of DTG and DPG were performed individually in 100 mL amber closed vials
108 at room temperature. Also, experiments without chlorine were prepared as a control.

109 Experiments to study chlorination kinetics were performed in a similar way, but with lower compound concentrations (1 µM), an excess of chlorine (10 µM, 20 µM or 50 110 111 μ M) and different pH of sample (5-12) being considered in 10 mM phosphate buffer and NaOH for very basic pHs. Aliquots of 1 mL were taken at different reaction times 112 and the reaction stopped with 20 µL of 0.01 M sodium thiosulfate before residual 113 114 concentration of guanidine was analysed by liquid chromatography-photodiode array 115 detection (LC-PDA). Ammonium chloride (1 mM) was used in some experiments as 116 "soft" quenching method as being selective to free chlorine and as to avoid any 117 Na₂S₂O₃-induced back reaction that could interfere with determination of rate constant (Dodd and Huang 2004). An experiment was also performed without stopping 118 119 the reaction and aliquots were manually injected at different reaction times using a 120 Rheodyne valve in the LC-PDA system.

Experiments were performed at room temperature ($22 \pm 1^{\circ}$ C). The pH was measured before and after the experiment, and variation was less than 0.1 unit. Free active chlorine was analysed by DPD colorimetric method (Clesceri et al. 1998) at the end of reaction time. Chlorine consumption was usually below 10% and pseudo-first-orderplots were always linear (see Figure S1 for examples).

Additional experiments for the identification of TPs (performed in triplicate) were carried out with a similar procedure. For these experiments, ultrapure water adjusted at pH 7.0 was used, spiked with the compound at 10 μ M, and initial chlorine dose set to 100 μ M. TPs were identified after reduction by ascorbic acid for reaction times of 30 s, 1 min, 2 min, 5 min, 10 min and 30 min.

131 DBPs formation potentials (chloroform and haloacetonitriles) were determined for a 132 reaction time of 2 days at pH 7.0 in ultrapure water with an initial concentration (of 133 either DPG or DTG) of 10 μ M and molar chlorine to guanidine ratios of 1, 10 and 100 in 134 headspace-free conditions.

135 **2.4. Bromination experiments**

136 Bromination experiments were performed under the same conditions as chlorination, 137 in order to determine apparent rate constants and detect TPs that can be produced in bromide containing waters. Bromine was generated in the lab according to the 138 procedure described by Benitez et al. (Benitez et al. 2011). Briefly, bromine was 139 140 produced from the reaction between 9 mM HOCl and 10 mM potassium bromide. The 141 yield of this reaction was followed spectrophotometrically (hypobromite anion maximum absorption wavelength at 329 nm with an ε = 332 M⁻¹ cm⁻¹ at pH above 11.5) 142 143 (Benitez et al. 2011).

144 Kinetics of bromination were studied as for chlorination for pH values ranging from 5 145 to 9 using direct method in batch reactor with an excess of bromine (10 to 100 μ M) 146 compared to 1 μ M DPG or DTG solution (see Figure S2 for examples of bromination of

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147 DPG). Apparent rate constants were also determined by using the competition kinetics 148 method (Acero et al., 2005) with 4-bromophenol (BP) in pH 8 - 11 range or 2,4,6-149 tribromophenol (TBP) at pH 7.0 and 8.0 as reference compounds (see Figure S3). In this method, different concentrations of bromine from 0 to 10 μ M were introduced in 25 150 mL of a 10 mM phosphate buffer solution containing 5 μ M DPG or DTG and 5 μ M 151 152 reference compound (either BP or TBP). Residual concentrations of organic compounds were determined by LC-PDA. Apparent rate constants of BP and TBP were 153 154 calculated for each pH from intrinsic rate constants compiled by Heeb et al. (2014) and pKa HOBr/BrO- = 8.8. Values are given in Table S3 and S4. An apparent rate constant of 155 2063 M⁻¹ s⁻¹ was determined for the reaction of bromine with TBP at pH 6.94 by direct 156 157 method using 20 μ M bromine and 1 μ M TBP (Figure S4); value similar to 2100 M⁻¹ s⁻¹ 158 determined by Acero et al. (2005) and used in this study.

2.5. Liquid chromatography - photodiode array detection (LC-PDA)

The chlorination kinetic study was followed by analysing the samples in a LC-PDA system. The instrument was a Waters 2695 LC (Milford, MA, USA) equipped with a degasser, binary high-pressure pump, LC column oven and an autosampler. The PDA was a Waters 2996 equipped with a deuterium lamp. DPG was monitored at 235 nm, whereas DTG, BP and TBP were measured at 225 nm.

The LC column used was a 250 mm x 4.6 mm; 5 μm Kinetex EVO C18 (Phenomenex,
Torrance, CA, USA) at a flow rate of 1 mL min⁻¹. Mobile phase consisted in Milli-Q
water (eluent A) and acetonitrile (eluent B), both acidified with 0.1 % formic acid.
Gradient was as follows: 0 min, 5% B; 10 min, 100% B; 12 min, 100% B; 12.10 min, 5%

B; 20 min, 5% B. Injection volume was set to 50 μL. Instrument control and data
treatment were done with Empower software (Waters).

171 **2.6. LC-HRMS**

The system used for the determination of TPs was an Agilent 1200 Series LC (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) equipped with a degasser, a binary high-pressure pump, LC column oven and an autosampler. This LC system was interfaced to an Agilent 6520 Series Quadrupole-Time of Flight (QTOF) MS equipped with a Dual Electrospray (Dual-ESI) ion source.

The LC column was a Luna 150 mm x 2 mm; 3 μ m C18 (2) (Phenomenex) at a flow of mobile phase of 0.2 mL min⁻¹, and column temperature established at 35 °C. Mobile phase and gradient used are the same as described in Section 2.5. Injection volume was set at 10 μ L.

For the QTOF, Nitrogen (99.999%) used for nebulising and drying gas was supplied by a 181 182 nitrogen generator (Erre Due Srl, Livorno, Italy). Collision-Induced Dissociation (CID) in tandem mass spectrometry analysis (MS/MS) was performed with Nitrogen 183 (99.9995%) purchased from Praxair (Santiago de Compostela, Spain) as collision gas. 184 185 ESI source operated in positive (no TPs were detected in negative) polarity and its 186 parameters were as follows: gas temperature 350 °C; drying gas 5 L min⁻¹; nebulizer 42 psig, capillary 4000 V; fragmentor 120 V; skimmer 65 V; and octapole RF 750 V. 187 188 Instrument acquired MS spectra in centroid mode and operated at 2 GHz (extended-189 dynamic range), which provided a Full Width at Half Maximum (FWHM) resolution of ca. 4500 at m/z 121 and ca. 11000 at m/z 922, scan range: 70-1000 m/z. The 190 manufacturer reference solution was also infused during every run and ionized with 191

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192 the second sprayer of the Dual-ESI at 5 psig, to calibrate automatically and keep the 193 mass accuracy. In this solution, two masses, m/z 121.0509 and 922.0098 for ESI (+) 194 were used for m/z-axis continuous recalibration.

195 Instrument control and data treatment were done with different software included in 196 the MassHunter package (Agilent Technologies). Determination of TPs was performed as described elsewhere (Carpinteiro et al. 2017). Briefly, the algorithm "Find by 197 198 Molecular Feature" from the MassHunter Qualitative (Agilent Technologies) software was used to generate a list of features (chromatographic peaks and m/z values) with a 199 response higher than 1000 counts. Data obtained was then analysed with the software 200 201 Mass Profiler Professional (Agilent Technologies) that compares the intensity of those 202 features at different reaction times, where features whose intensity increases as 203 compared to time 0 can be possible TPs. Then, formulas were generated for those 204 features. The isotope pattern matching as well as error between the experimental m/zvalues and those calculated (from the generated formula) is grouped by the software 205 206 to provide a score in percentage, in which 100% would indicate a perfect match.

207 Tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) analysis were obtained for the structure 208 elucidation of the TPs structures, using CID with different collision energies between 209 10 and 40 V.

210

2.7. Determination of DBPs

211 Chloroform was analysed by headspace injection and gas chromatography coupled to 212 mass spectrometry detection (GC-MS). Analysis was performed by using a CTC 213 Analytics Combi Pal autosampler with an Agilent 7890 GC and an Agilent 5975C mass 214 spectrometer. 10 mL of sample were poured in 20 mL headspace vials containing 10 µL

of 1M ascorbic acid to quench residual chlorine. Vials were heated at 50°C and stirred
at 500 rpm for 10 min before 2.5 mL gas phase was injected into the gas
chromatography in pulsed split mode (ratio 1:10). The analytical column was an Agilent
HP-5MS column (30 m x 0.25 mm; film thickness 1 µm). Retention time of chloroform
was 3.8 min for temperature program starting at 40°C and ending at 55°C in 8 min.

Haloacetonitriles (HANs) were analysed by the 551.1 EPA extraction method followed
by GC-MS determination as described elsewhere (Le Roux et al. 2011). Detection limits
for DBPs were 0.1 µg L⁻¹.

223

2.8. Toxicity assessment

224 An estimation of the (eco)toxicity was done for DTG, DPG and the identified TPs by using the US Environmental Protection Agency Toxicity Estimation Software Tool 225 (TEST) version 4.1, which provides a prediction of the toxicity according to 226 227 quantitative-structure property relationships (QSAR) by the consensus method, which 228 uses an average value of the calculated toxicities by five different developed QSAR 229 methodologies (Carpinteiro et al. 2017, González-Mariño et al. 2015). Only the oral rat 230 LC₅₀, Daphnia Magna LC₅₀ and Tetrahymena pyriformis 50% growth inhibition concentration (IGC₅₀) were considered since other ecotoxicological endpoints could 231 232 not be calculated by the software for most TPs.

Besides the QSAR prediction, a bioluminescent *Vibrio Fisheri* test evaluation of the toxicity of DPG and DTG and different chlorination mixtures was performed according to the standard method NF EN ISO 11348-3 (2009) by using a LumisTox[®] 300. Details of the procedure are described elsewhere (Tawk et al. 2015).

238 3. Results and Discussion

239 **3.1. Chlorination kinetic study**

240 A full kinetic study of DTG and DPG reaction with chlorine was performed considering a 241 wide range of pH from 5 to 11-12. In excess of chlorine, results were adjusted to a pseudo-first order kinetic equation (Figure S1a) to obtain the observed rate constant 242 k_{obs} in s⁻¹ as the slope of the linear regression. The first order with respect to chlorine 243 244 was verified by changing the initial concentration of chlorine (Figure S1b). In addition, it was verified that guanidine concentrations were similar when thiosulfate or 245 ammonium chloride were used to stop the reaction or when manual injection was 246 247 used without quenching the reaction (Figure S1a) suggesting that N-chlorinated 248 guanidine was not formed (Dodd and Huang 2004).

The apparent rate constant (k_{app} in M⁻¹ s⁻¹) was determined for each experiment from k_{obs} value and the initial concentration of chlorine. The values of k_{app} are compiled in Tables S1 and S2. They range from 32 M⁻¹ s⁻¹ at pH 5 to a maximum of ca. 1.11 x 10⁴ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ at pH 8.4 for DPG. In the case of DTG, reaction is even faster, with k_{app} ranging from 25 (at pH 4.9, the lowest pH tested in this case) to 1.83 x 10⁴ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ at pH 9.9. At natural water pH values, this translates in very fast reactions, with half-lives of a few seconds to some minutes with typical chlorine doses (1-10 mg L⁻¹).

A theoretical model of the pH-dependent apparent rate constant (k_{app}) for the reaction between each guanidine and chlorine was described based on the speciation of HOCl/ClO⁻ (pK_a = 7.54) and guanidines (pK_a = 10.67 for DTG, and pK_a = 10.12 for DPG (Perrin 1965)) and considering HOCl as the only active electrophile (Gallard and von Gunten 2002). The large increase in k_{app} when the pH increased from 5 to 9 suggests a greater contribution of the neutral guanidine to the protonated form. Thus, the resulting model for the DTG and DPG reaction mechanism is described as follows assuming that HOCI reacts only with neutral guanidine species in the first assumption:

264 (1) HOCI
$$\xrightarrow{K_a}$$
 OCI + H fast

265 (2) guanidine⁺
$$\stackrel{K}{\longleftarrow}$$
 guanidine + H⁺ fast

266 (3) guanidine + HOCI \xrightarrow{k} TPs slow

The general expression for the reaction of the guanidine compound (either DPG or DTG) with chlorine is then:

$$\frac{d [guanidine]_{T}}{d t} = -k [guanidine][HOCI] = -k_{app} [guanidine]_{T} [HOCI]_{T}$$
and

270 (5)
$$k_{app} = k \alpha_{HOCl} \alpha_{guanidine}$$

where: k is the specific rate constant of HOCI with the neutral species of DTG/DPG, K_a is the acid-base equilibrium constant of HOCI, [HOCI]_T is the total concentration of free chlorine (HOCI + OCI⁻), [guanidine]_T is the total concentration of DPG or DTG, and α_{HOCI} and $\alpha_{guanidine}$ are the molar fractions of HOCI and neutral guanidine species, respectively.

By introducing the expression of both, HOCl and guanidine molar fractions, the k_{app} value is given by the following expression:

278 (6)
$$k_{app} = \frac{k K[H^+]}{(K+[H^+])(Ka+[H^+])}$$

The value of the rate constant k was determined by a non-linear least-square regression of the experimental pH profile of the k_{app} values using Sigma Plot 11.0 (Systat Software Inc., San Jose, CA, USA).

282 The pH dependence of k_{app} is shown in Figures 1a and 1b for DPG and DTG, respectively. For both compounds, the pH profile exhibits a maximum between pH 8 283 and pH 10. This maximum corresponds to the concomitant presence of both HOCl and 284 285 neutral guanidine. The maximum pH value is equal to the average value of the pK_a of 286 HOCI and guanidines i.e. 8.8 for DPG and 9.1 for DTG. As shown in Figure 1, the model fits well with the experimental data considering only the reaction of HOCI with neutral 287 guanidine. No improvement was obtained by including the reaction of ClO⁻ with 288 289 neutral guanidine and the reaction of HOCI with protonated guanidine (see Text S1 and 290 Table S5), which is in accordance with the literature (Deborde and von Gunten 2002). 291 The rate constants, k, of the reactions between HOCI and DPG and DTG neutral species determined from model fitting to the experimental values are 4.1 (±0.3) \times 10⁶ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ 292 and 2.6 (± 0.1) × 10⁷ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ for DPG and DTG, respectively. The apparent rate constants 293 at neutral pH (~10³ M⁻¹ s⁻¹) and intrinsic rate constants (k) of neutral species (~10⁶ - 10⁷ 294 295 M⁻¹ s⁻¹) are in the range of rate constants of secondary amines with chlorine (Deborde 296 and von Gunten 2008). However, N-chloroamino compounds were not detected during kinetic experiments and identification of TPs would indicate that initial reactive site is 297 the aromatic ring. Lower rate constant of 19 M⁻¹ s⁻¹ was obtained for ethyl guanidine at 298 pH 7.2 – 7.4 (Pattison and Davies 2001), which can be explained by the stronger basic 299 300 character of alkyl guanidines.

301 **3.2. Bromination kinetic study**

302 The apparent rate constants of bromination determined by using direct and competition kinetics methods are listed in Table S3 and S4 for DPG and DTG, 303 304 respectively and are plotted versus pH in Figure 2. Examples of pseudo-first-order and competition kinetics plots are given in Figure S2 and Figure S3 for DPG. The apparent 305 rate constants range from 76 to 2.89 x 10⁵ M⁻¹ s⁻¹ for DPG and from 36 to 5.87 x 10⁴ M⁻¹ 306 307 ¹ s⁻¹ for DTG. In contrast to chlorine, lower rate constants were determined for DTG, which could be attributed to steric effects between the bulky bromine atoms and the 308 methyl groups in DTG. 309

The experimental results fit well with the proposed model at pHs below 6 and above 9, while a strong deviation and even discrepancies between rate constants determined by the direct kinetics method and the competition kinetics method using BP as reference compound in the pH 7 – 9 range. Such deviations are attributed to a metastable TP with oxidizing properties which could not be identified by LC-HRMS in that pH range (see detailed discussion in Text S2 and Figures S3-S6).

Excluding those pH values, and compared to chlorination, maximum k_{app} values are 316 317 slightly shifted to higher pH values due to the higher pK_a of HOBr ($pK_a = 8.8$). 318 Calculated intrinsic rate constants for the reaction of HOBr with neutral DPG and DTG were 8.3 (±0.4) x 10^6 and 5.5 (±0.7) x 10^6 , respectively. While HOBr reacts usually much 319 320 faster than HOCI with organic compounds (Heeb et al., 2014), the rate constant of HOBr with DPG was only twice as high as the reaction of HOCl with DPG and the rate 321 322 constant for the reaction of HOBr with DTG was lower than that of HOCI. Steric 323 hindrance (as mentioned), different reactive sites and type of reaction (oxidation vs

324 substitution) might explain this unexpected result, which requires further325 investigation.

326 3.3. Transformation products

Identification of TPs was performed for both DTP and DPG considering chlorination 327 328 and bromination. Experiments were carried out as described in sections 2.3 and 2.4. All 329 samples were analysed in the LC-QTOF equipment as detailed in 2.6. The proposed 330 structures of the TPs are presented in Figures 3 and 4. Further details on formulas, 331 mass errors and scores of the TPs, as well as individual structures derived from the interpretation of MS/MS spectra are presented in Tables S6 and S7. TPs were named 332 333 with the precursor compound abbreviation followed by the nominal mass of its [M+H]⁺ 334 ion. As it can be observed the empirical formula could be proposed with a high degree of certainty, with score values higher than 95% and mass errors lower than 5 ppm, 335 336 except for DTG-274, whose score was 79% and mass error was 9.7 ppm due to its low 337 intensity.

The proposed structures are based on the interpretation of the MS/MS spectra, which are presented into Figures S7 and S8, for DPG and DTG TPs, respectively. Moreover, DPG-136 (i.e. monophenylguanidine) was unequivocally identified by purchasing its authentic standard from Sigma-Aldrich.

There are four main types of reactions occurring during chlorination, i.e. ipsochlorination to produce monoguanidine derivatives, introduction of chlorine atoms (bromine when samples are brominated) into an aromatic ring, hydroxylation and intramolecular cyclization. Thus, DPG-136 was easily identified by its spectrum (Figure S7), and because an authentic standard was available, as mentioned. This TP further reacts by halogenation to the corresponding chlorinated or brominated derivatives (DPG-170 and DPG-214), easily identified because their MS/MS spectra is similar to DPG-136 and exhibit the halogen isotopic pattern (Figure S7). DPG-119 is also produced at long reaction times. Hydroxylation of DPG produces DPG-228, while halogenation produces DPG-246 (chlorination) and DPG-290 (bromination), all of them easily identified by their MS/MS spectra (Figure S7).

353 A key TP is DPG-210, which a similar empirical formula than DPG itself but with one 354 further double-bond equivalent (i.e. 2 atoms of H less), Table S6. Its MS/MS spectrum exhibits first the loss of ammonia to m/z 192.0671 and also the elimination of CH₃N₂ to 355 m/z 167.0720 from the protonated molecular ion (Figure S7e). This second ion would 356 not be possible unless a cycle is formed. Because of this, we hypothesize here that 357 358 DPG-210 corresponds to the structure shown in Figure 3, by formation of the 7-359 membering cycle from DPG-228 (hydroxylated DPG) by elimination of water. In fact the maximum intensity of DPG-228 was observed at 0.5 min and then its intensity rapidly 360 361 drops, while DPG-210 maximum is reached at 1 min and then drops more slowly (see Figure S9a). The fact that DPG-210 has also been observed as a photolysis TP by Zahn 362 363 et al. (Zahn et al. 2019), although no structure was proposed in that publication, further supports this hypothesis. Once DPG-210 is formed, this molecule further reacts 364 to yield a mono-hydroxylated-TP (DPG-226), a hydroxychloro-TP (DPG-260) or a 365 366 dichloro, hydroxy-TP (DPG-294).

In the case of DTG, the reaction was similar to DPG, as expected, but a larger number of TPs could be identified (23 vs. 11 TPs). In general, the main difference in the TPs produced is that a greater degree of hydroxylation and halogenation is observed, e.g. DTG-308 (a dichlorinated derivative of DTG), which can be explained by the electrondonor effect of the methyl group on aromatic ring. Although no MS/MS spectra (Figure S8) was obtained for all TPs, due to the low intensity of some of them, structures compiled into Figure 4 and Table S7 (those TPs without MS/MS data are marked with a * symbol in the Table) were assigned on the basis of the MS/MS spectra (when available) and by analogy to DPG TPs.

376 As regards of the most relevant TPs, Figures S9b and 10b present the normalized 377 amount of each TP and their precursors for a reaction with 100 μ M chlorine and up to 30 min of contact time. Normalization was performed by using the signal of the 378 original compound (DPG or DTG) as a surrogate to calculate an approximate yield, 379 380 except for DPG-136, DPG-119, DPG-170, DTG-150, DTG-166, DTG-184 and DTG-228, 381 where monophenyl-guanidine (DPG-136) was used instead, as being considered structurally closer. In the case of DPG (Figure S9), the most intense TP is DPG-136 with 382 a yield of ca. 5% at 0.5-2 min, dropping down to 3% at 30 min. The second most 383 384 relevant TP is DPG-246 (monochloro-DPG), with a yield of ca. 3% at 0.5-2 min, dropping down to ca. 0.2% at 30 min. It is noteworthy that at 30 min, there was no DPG 385 386 detectable and the sum of all TPs intensities would approximately represent a 5% yield. This could likely be attributed to the formation of ring-opening products like 387 chloroform with a relatively high yield (see 3.4) and the uncertainty of the semi-388 389 quantitative approach, due to the lack of authentic standards for most TPs.

In the case of DTG (Figure S10), the most intense TP is DTG-254 (hydroxylated cyclic product) with a yield of ca. 30% at 0.5-2 min, followed by DTG-290 (hydroxy,chloro-DTG) with a yield of ca. 15% at 0.5-2 min. These two TPs are also the most relevant at 393 30 min, representing an estimated yield of 4 and 8% respectively. Also, in the case of DTG, the total yield of TPs at 30 min is ca. 20%. 394

395

3.4. Disinfection by-products

Subsequently to TPs identification, we investigated the formation potential of classical 396 397 DBPs (chloroform and HANs). Chloroform was measured as the only trihalomethane 398 that can be formed without bromide and representing the most relevant group of 399 DBPs, while HANs is another important group of DBPs which can be produced from N-400 containing chemicals, as it is the case of DPG and DTG. Figure S11 shows the molar 401 yields of CHCl₃ and dichloroacetonitrile (DCAN), the only HAN detected, produced from the chlorination of DPG and DTG after 2 day reaction time. Similar yields were 402 403 obtained for both guanidines. For CHCl₃, the yield of ca. 25% for a molar guanidine/Cl₂ ratio of 1:100 is similar to CHCl₃ yields ranging from 10 to 32% already described for 404 405 hydroxylated and chlorinated aromatic compounds (Gallard and von Gunten 2002). 406 This is consistent with the formation of chloro or/and hydroxy DPG and DTG that further react with chlorine leading to CHCl₃ as end-product after ring cleavage. Among 407 408 HANs, only DCAN was detected at significant levels and with yields much lower than CHCl₃. For a ratio of 1:100, molar yields were 4.4% and 2.3% for DPG and DTG, 409 410 respectively.

411

3.5. Reaction in real sample matrices

412 The reactivity of both guanidine compounds was tested by spiking two real matrices (a 413 surface water and a wastewater effluent) with 1 μ M (i.e., ca. 200 μ g L⁻¹) of either DPG or DTG and 10 μ M chlorine and the reaction kinetics followed for 20 min (reaction 414 415 quenched with ascorbic acid) by LC-HRMS.

416 In the case of the surface water, DPG and DTG reacted rapidly, being below 1% of their initial concentration after 2 min (Figure S12a-b). Conversely, with the effluent 417 418 wastewater (with a higher TOC), still an 87% of DPG and 73% of DTG remained after 20 min (Figure S12c-d). Indeed, formation of TPs is easier to happen during drinking water 419 420 production than by chlorination of wastewater (after secondary treatment). Even so, 421 the chlorinated wastewater was analysed for the TPs previously identified in ultrapure water and several of them could be detected. The amount of bromide in those samples 422 is very low (<0.1 mg L⁻¹, see 2.2), therefore no brominated TPs were detected. When 423 424 excluding those brominated TPs, 6 out of 9 TPs where detected for DPG (DPG-136, DPG-228, DPG-210, DPG-226, DPG-260 and DPG-294) and 7 out 16 where detected for 425 426 DTG (DTG-150, DTG-256, DTG-290, DTG-239, DTG-254, DTG-270 and DTG-288).

427 **3.6. (Eco)toxicity assessment**

To obtain a preliminary estimation of the ecotoxicological implications of the chlorination reaction, the US-EPA TEST software was used in order to predict the toxicity of the two guanidines and their TPs. This prediction was performed only for *Daphnia Magna* LC₅₀ (48 h), *Tetrahymena Pyriformis* LC₅₀ (48 h) and oral rat LD₅₀ (as a proxy of human toxicity), since the software was unable to produce an estimation for other endpoints. The results obtained are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

As it can be appreciated, oral rat toxicity LD_{50} values are in the 602-805 mg Kg⁻¹ bw for the two guanidines, which would classify them as Category 4 (i.e. the less toxic category) according to the ECHA Guidance (ECHA 2017). The TPs would also be classified as Category 4. Hence human toxicological hazard is expected to be low.

The predicted acute aquatic toxicity endpoint values lie in the 5-28 mg L⁻¹ and 3-6 mg L⁻ 438 ¹ ranges, for DPG and DTG respectively (Tables 1 and 2). Thus, they would not be 439 classified as Category Acute 1 (the only acute aquatic toxicity category) according to 440 the ECHA Guidance (ECHA 2017). As regards the TPs, the predicted aquatic toxicity of 441 442 the monoguanidine TPs is lower than the precursor guanidines for the crustacean 443 Daphnia Magna, while it could not be predicted for the fish T. pyriformis. On the other hand, particularly TPs which are halogenated are predicted to be more toxic. Thus, 444 DPG-294 and 14 TPs from DTG (see Table 1 and 2) would have a predicted toxicity 445 endpoint <1 mg L⁻¹ and would thus be classified in the Category Acute 1 for aquatic 446 organisms. Care must be taken with these data, since the third trophic level (algae) 447 448 toxicity could not be predicted and values obtained for algae can likely result into more ecotoxicity. In fact DTG is classified in the REACH dossier as Aquatic Acute 1 (ECHA 449 2018a). 450

451 Furthermore, the acute toxicity of DPG and DTG was assessed using the 452 bioluminescent *Vibrio fisheri* test.

The EC_{50} and EC_{20} values of Vibrio fisheri test were estimated from a series of 453 454 geometrical dilutions with dilution factors from 1 to 256 and initial guanidine 455 concentration of 100 mg L⁻¹. Figure S13 shows two dose-response curves of DPG after an incubation time of 30 min at 15°C. The initial EC_{20} of DPG was 40 ±2 mg L⁻¹ and the 456 EC₅₀ was estimated (as detailed in Text S3) to be 245 ±33 mg L⁻¹ from extrapolation of 457 the dose-response curves. The toxicity of DTG was lower and only an EC₂₀ of 80 mg L⁻¹ 458 459 could be determined. These results confirm that both guanidines have a low acute 460 aquatic toxicity. Due to solubility limitations, the effect of chlorination on acute toxicity

was only tested with a DPG solution of 40 mg L^{-1} corresponding to the EC₂₀. 461 Chlorination was performed with chlorine doses of 40 and 400 mg Cl₂ L⁻¹ (i.e. molar 462 463 Cl₂/DPG ratio of 3 and 30). Toxicity tests were conducted after the absence of chlorine residual was checked. Results in Figure 5 shows that the bioluminescence inhibition 464 strongly increases from 14% before chlorination to 45 and 99% for Cl₂/DPG ratios of 3 465 466 and 30, respectively. Similar results were generally observed in the literature after chlorination and were assigned to more toxic halogenated TPs (El Najjar et al. 2013, 467 Tawk et al. 2015). Even though the increase of toxicity could not be assigned to specific 468 TPs/DBPs, results of bioluminescent Vibrio fisheri test were in agreement with 469 predicted aquatic toxicity endpoints obtained by QSAR. 470

471

472 **4. Conclusions**

473 DPG and DTG rapidly react with chlorine and bromine at natural water pH values. This 474 reaction leads to the formation of several TPs via ipso-halogenation, hydroxylation, 475 halogenation and cyclization. Several of these TPs are predicted to be more toxic than 476 the original guanidine compounds, which was confirmed by measuring the acute toxicity of a chlorinated mixture by a Vibrio Fisheri acute toxicity assay. Moreover, 477 chlorination leads to the production of the traditional/regulated DBPs chloroform and, 478 479 to a minor extent, dichloroacetonitrile, when the molar ratio of chlorine to DPG/DTG is 480 high.

481

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- 593 constants of bromination of (a) DPG and (b) DTG. Direct kinetic method (circle) and
- 594 competitive kinetic method using 4-bromophenol (square) or 2,4,6-tribromophenol
- 595 (triangle) as reference compounds were used for k_{app} determination. Only full symbols
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604 Figure 1. pH dependence of the experimental and modelled apparent rate constants of

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613 Figure 3. Schematic representation of DPG TPs



616 Figure 4. Schematic representation of DTG TPs

617



620

Figure 5. Evolution of bioluminescence inhibition measured using *Vibrio fisheri* Microtox[®] test during DPG chlorination. $[DPG]_0 = 40 \text{ mg Cl}_2 \text{ L}^{-1}$, molar DPG:Cl₂ ratios of 1:3 and 1:30, chlorination time of 4 days at pH 7.0.

| | Daphnia magna | T. pyriformis | Oral rat |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | LC ₅₀ (48 hr) (mg/L) | IGC ₅₀ (48 hr) (mg/L) | LD ₅₀ (mg/kg) |
| DPG | 5.09 | 28.5 | 805 |
| DPG-119 | 16.4 | np | 493 |
| DPG-136 | 30.6 | np | 500 |
| DPG-170 | 11.5 | np | 455 |
| DPG-210 | 5.29 | 11.4 | 908 |
| DPG-214 | 1.14 | 9.53 | 1320 |
| DPG-226 | 2.46 | 10.4 | 1143 |
| DPG-228 | 5.24 | 21.1 | 2433 |
| DPG-246 | 1.22 | 7.21 | 886 |
| DPG-260 | 1.89 | 4.78 | 1241 |
| DPG-290 | 1.14 | 9.53 | 1320 |
| DPG-294 | 0.75 | 2.88 | 1019 |

Table 1. QSAR Predicted toxicity values for DPG and its TPs.

np: no prediction possible

| | Daphnia magna | T. pyriformis | Oral rat |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | LC ₅₀ (48 hr) (mg/L) | IGC ₅₀ (48 hr) (mg/L) | LD ₅₀ (mg/kg) |
| DTG | 2.92 | 5.53 | 602 |
| DTG-150 | 27.5 | np | 498 |
| DTG-166 | 23.5 | np | 993 |
| DTG-184 | 22.7 | np | 429 |
| DTG-228 | 5.00 | np | 519 |
| DTG-238 | 3.14 | 6.35 | 553 |
| DTG-254 | 1.68 | 8.26 | 1036 |
| DTG-256 | 3.43 | 9.19 | 1259 |
| DTG-270 | 2.16 | 6.52 | 1121 |
| DTG-272 | 2.52 | 11.2 | 2352 |
| DTG-274 | 0.70 | 2.29 | 1178 |
| DTG-286 | 8.28 | 9.80 | 527 |
| DTG-288 | 0.76 | 1.98 | 721 |
| DTG-290 | 0.93 | 2.14 | 1014 |
| DTG-306 | 0.95 | 2.06 | 1870 |
| DTG-308 | 0.49 | 1.24 | 1109 |
| DTG-318 | 0.39 | 4.35 | 1103 |
| DTG-324 | 0.74 | 1.11 | 940 |
| DTG-332 | 0.51 | 1.55 | 1627 |
| DTG-334 | 0.87 | 3.21 | 927 |
| DTG-340 | 0.31 | 1.11 | 1074 |
| DTG-250 | 0.79 | 2.38 | 1485 |
| DTG-396 | 0.19 | 1.46 | 563 |
| DTG-412 | 0.28 | 1.21 | 823 |
| DTG-426 | 0.03 | 0.55 | 384 |

 Table 2. QSAR Predicted toxicity values for DTG and its TPs.

np: no prediction possible

