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Perinatal programming of intestinal homeostasis following exposure to low dose of chlorpyrifos in male rats offspring

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Objective: This work was aimed at studying the effects of a peri-gestational exposure of dams to a low dose of pesticide (chlorpyrifos) with a prebiotic supplementation (inulin) on the anatomo-functional development of the digestive system and associated metabolic consequences of the growing male offspring.

INTRODUCTION

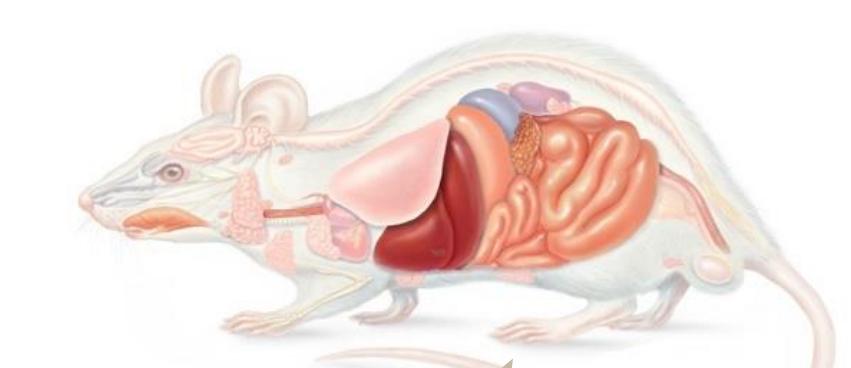
Perinatal period is characterized by a succession of developmental phases with high sensitivity to environmental factors. Among the risk factors, pesticide exposure is now recognized to reprogram children's metabolism and promote the occurrence of obesity or type 2 diabetes.

This work was dedicated to the peri-gestational exposure of dams to a low dose of pesticide (chlorpyrifos, CPF) and the exploration of the prebiotic supplementation benefits

HYPOTHESIS



- Chlorpyrifos : cause of ↑ the occurrence of obesity, associated with metabolic disorders and disturbances of digestive function in male offsprings ?
- Prebiotic: limitation of observed disorders induced by the pesticide ?



OFFSPRING
(N=56 MALES)

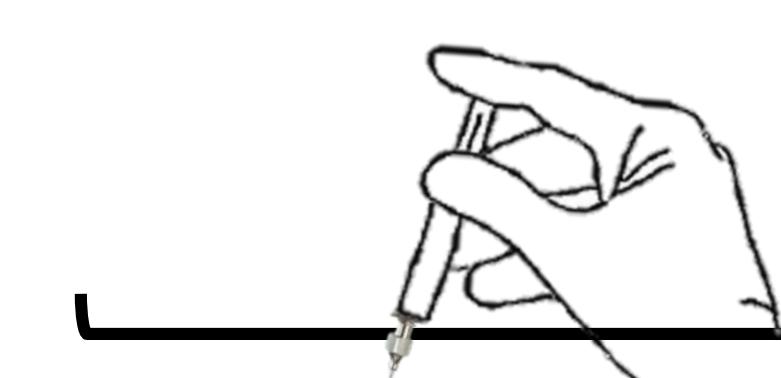
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METHODS

PRE-GESTATION

4 MONTHS (16 WEEKS)

MOTHERS (N=16)



GESTATION

3 WEEKS



LACTATION

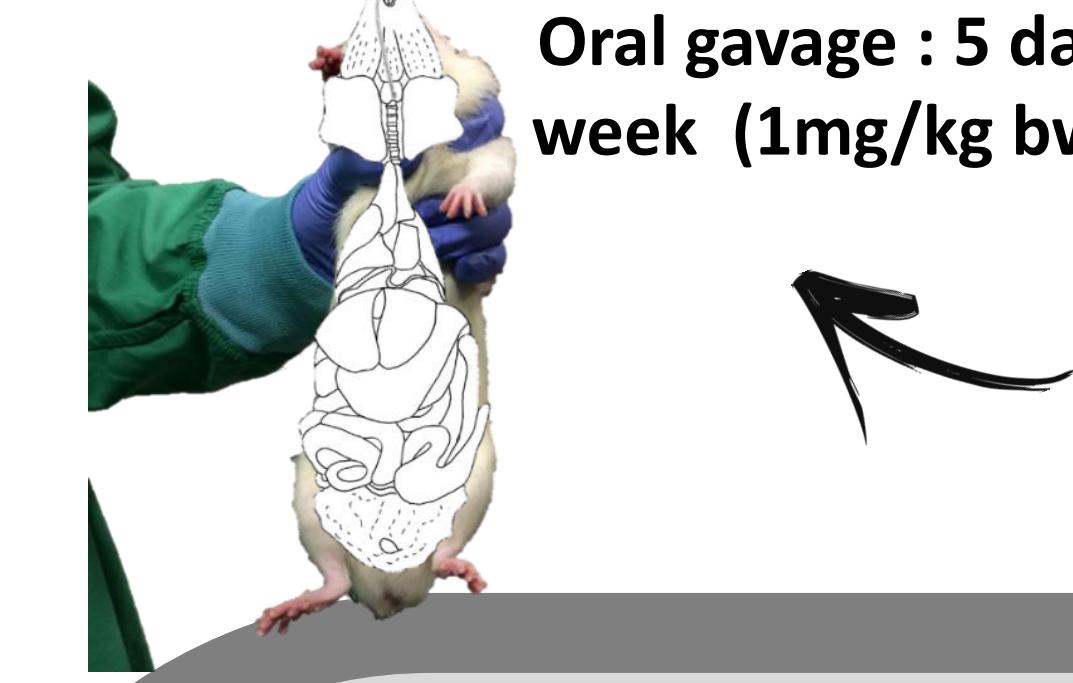
3 WEEKS



POST-WEANING

9 WEEKS

	C	CPF	Ci	CPFi
Mothers	4	4	4	4
Pups ♂	16	20	9	11



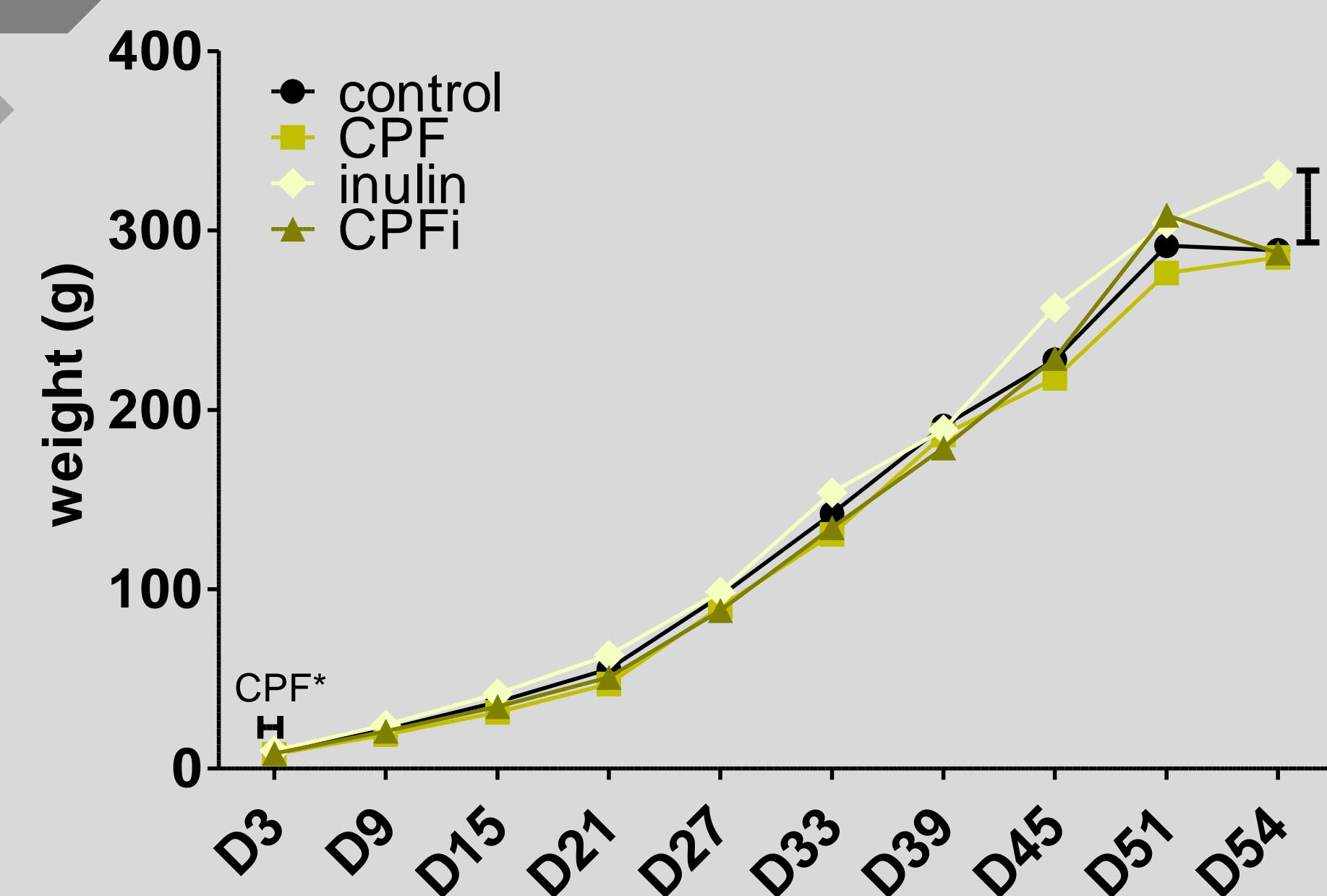
Oral gavage : 5 days / week (1mg/kg bw/d)

CHLORPYRIFOS (CPF)

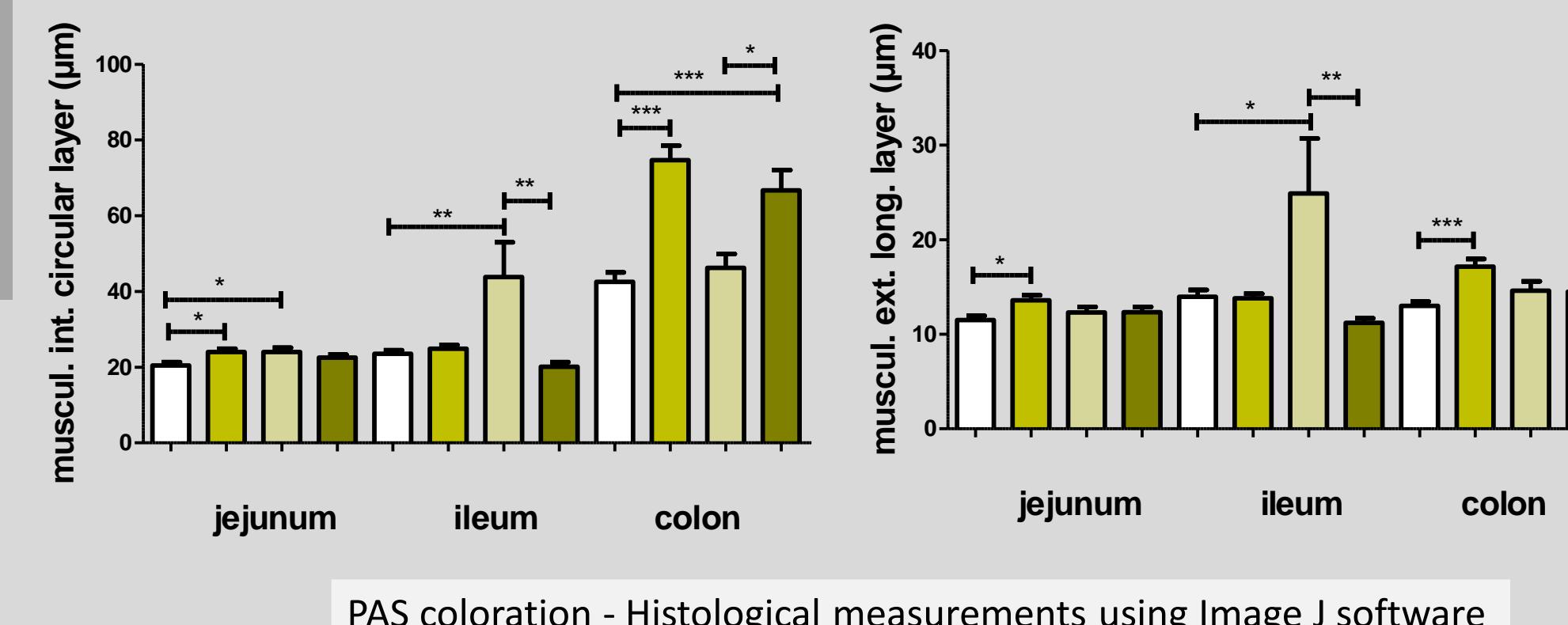
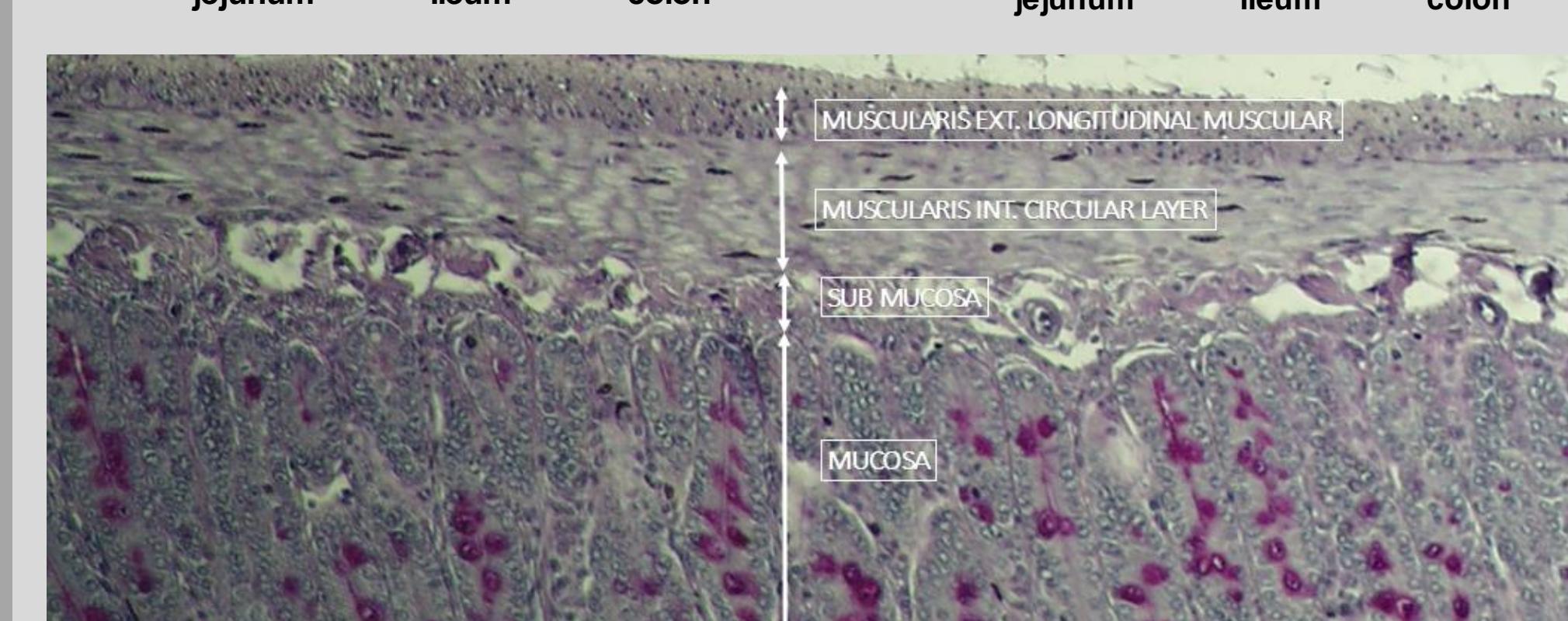
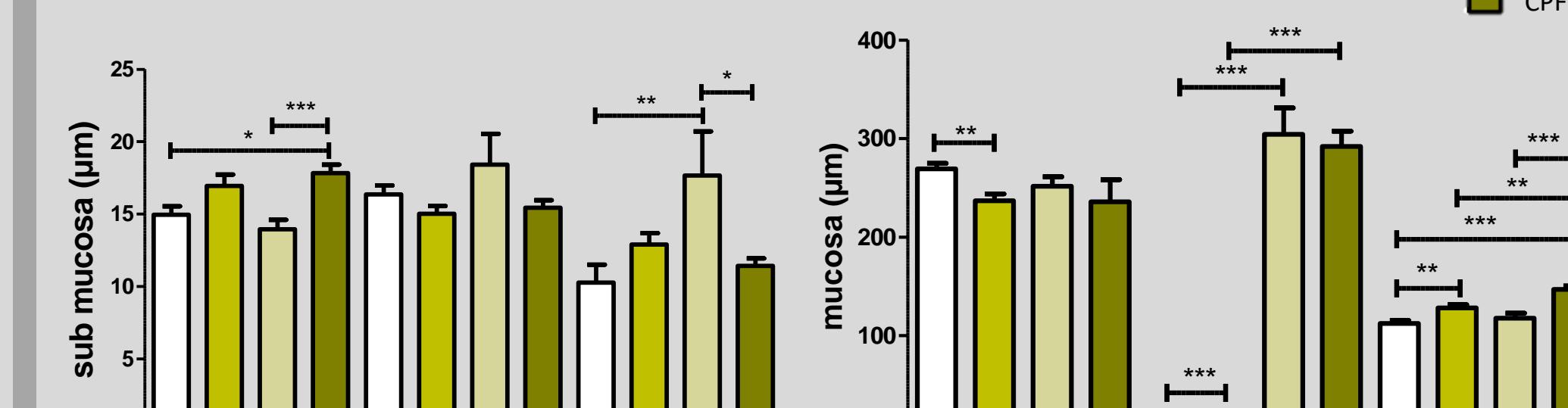
- Family of organophosphorus
- Insecticide action

RESULTS

WEIGHT



INTESTINAL LAYERS THICKNESSES



PAS coloration - Histological measurements using Image J software

GENE EXPRESSION

	JEJUNUM	ILEUM	COLON
MUC2	CPF ↓ *	∅	CPF ↓ ** with and without inulin
MUC3	CPF ↓ ***	CPF ↑ **	CPF ↓ ***
TLR4	CPF ↑ **	Inulin on CPF rats ↓ ind	CPF ↓ ** with and without inulin

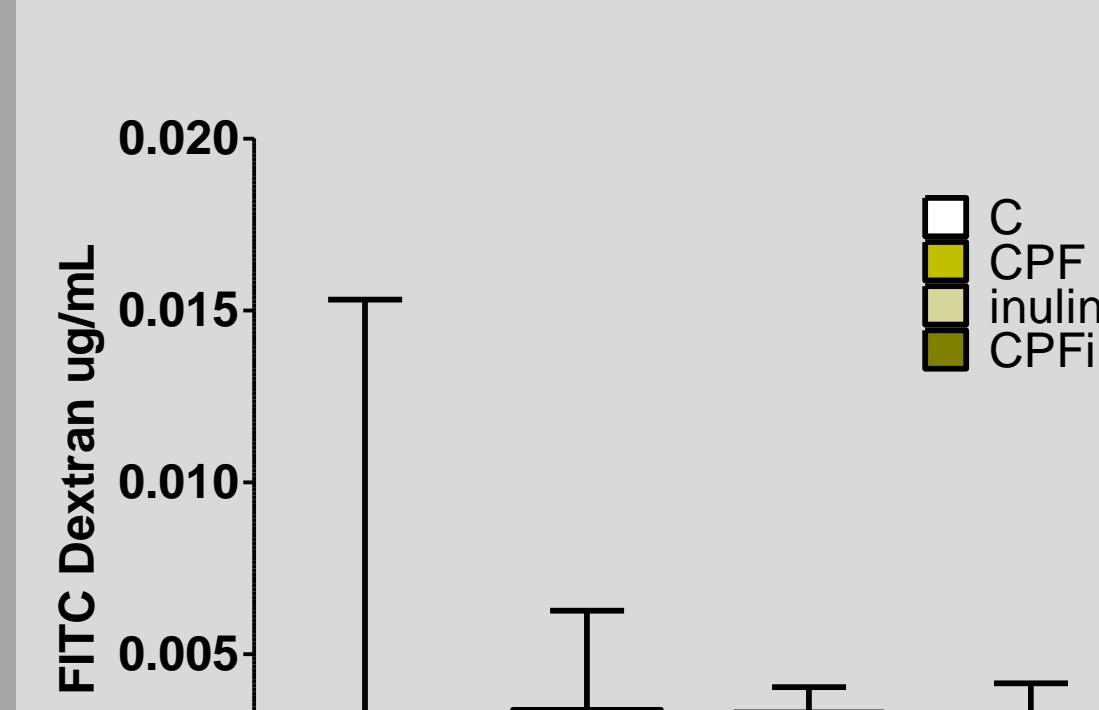
EPITHELIAL TIGHT JUNCTIONS PROTEINS

	JEJUNUM	ILEUM	COLON
CLAUD	CPF ↓ ***	CPF ↑ ***	∅
INE 4	Inulin ↓ ***	↑ ***	
OCCLU	∅	∅	CPF ↓ *** Inulin ↓ *** Inulin ↑ ind on CPF rats
DINE			

RT PCR : Expression of genes coding for mucin 2 and 3 and TLR4 receptor proteins and proteins involved in tight junctions constitution (standardization gene: GAPDH)

METABOLIC ASSAYS

INTESTINAL PERMEABILITY



Kruskal Wallis with Dunn's post test or ANOVA with Bonferroni's post test ; GraphPad Prism version 5.00 - *p<0,05; ** p<0,01; *** p<0,001

CONCLUSIONS

Pups from dams in contact with a pesticide during the peri-gestational period presented:

- Developmental alterations : a lower birth weight and a ↓ in plasma levels of factors involved in growth and metabolism (IGF1 and leptin).
- Modification of the intestinal epithelial permeability : underexpression of tight junctions proteins in some intestinal segments
- Disturbance of intestinal barrier function : a reduced expression of MUC2 and MUC3 genes
- Impacts on organs development and growth (digestive system) : ↑ of circular and longitudinal muscle layers thicknesses (jejunum and colon), ↑ of sub mucosa thickness (jejunum and colon) and ↓ of mucosa thickness (jejunum and ileum).
- We suggest that the pesticide slows down fetal and postnatal development (especially the digestive system) and may cause digestive function alterations such as an increase of intestinal permeability, and probably some impacts on intestinal motility.