

# Polycyclic aromatic compounds (PAHs, OPAHs, azaarenes) in soil: Occurrence – Transformations – Availability

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PAHs are a group of several 100 compounds consisting of at least two condensed aromatic rings. Some representatives are carcinogenic and mutagenic (e.g., benz(a)pyrene).

PAHs are produced in any kind of combustion or charring of organic matter (naturally and anthropogenically) and some have partly biological sources (e.g, perylene).

Primary OPAHs are produced together with PAHs in combustion processes and secondary OPAHs are formed from parent-PAHs in the environment. OPAHs can be more toxic than their parent-PAHs.

AZAs contain an N-heterocycle and have been much less studied than other polycycles.



Introduction





Concentrations of the sum of the 16 EPA-PAHs in a sediment core of Lake Holzmaar, Eifel mountains, Germany.

Bandowe et al. (2014): Palaeogeogr. Palaeoclim. Palaeoecol. 401, 111-121.



Occurrence







Occurrence





Relationship between background and anthropogenic contributions to the sum of PAH concentrations for own data (left) and for literature data (right, refs. in Wilcke, 2007).



Introduction





Wania and Mackay (1996): Environ. Sci . Technol. 30, A390-396.









Naphthalene, phenanthrene and benzo(a)pyrene stocks in the Brazilian Cerrado expressed as British deposition equivalents.

Wilcke et al. (2004): J. Environ. Qual. 33, 946-955.



Occurrence





Relationship between the concentrations of  $\sum 16EPA$ -PAHs and (A)  $\sum 70PAHs$  and (B)  $\sum 4AZAs$  in surface soils.



Occurrence





Composition pattern of OPAHs mixtures in topsoils.



Occurrence







Occurrence





Mean OPAH to related parent-PAH ratio. Error bars show standard deviations (n = 176-190).

Relationship between the  $\Sigma$ 16EPA-PAHs concentrations and the  $\Sigma$ 70PAHs/  $\Sigma$ 16EPA-PAHs concentration ratios.

## II Transformations

FORMIAN



Transformations





Krauss et al. (2000): Environ. Pollut. 110, 79-88.



Transformations





Relationship between  $logK_{OW}$  and mean remaining percentages after 19 wk of incubation of the initial concentrations of 14 OPAHs. Error bars indicate standard errors of the means (error propagation considered).

Wilcke et al. (2014): Environ. Pollut. 184, 385-390.

![](_page_14_Picture_0.jpeg)

Transformations

![](_page_14_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_5.jpeg)

Relationship between plant species richness and mean concentrations of a) the sum of 29 PAHs (black) and the sum of the 16 EPA-PAHs (gray), b) phenanthrene, c) pyrene and d) the benzo(bjk)fluoranthenes. Error indicators show standard deviations (n = 4-14).

![](_page_15_Picture_0.jpeg)

Transformations

![](_page_15_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Figure_4.jpeg)

Relationship between plant species richness and concentrations of a) 1naphthaldehyde, b) 1,2-acenaphthenequinone (1,2-ACQ), c) benzo-[a]fluorenone (B(A)FLUone), and d) benzo[a]anthracene-7,12-dione (7,12-B(A)A). Error indicators show standard deviations (n = 4-14).

![](_page_16_Picture_0.jpeg)

Availability

![](_page_16_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_4.jpeg)

III Availability

![](_page_17_Picture_0.jpeg)

Availability

![](_page_17_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Figure_4.jpeg)

Biota-to-soil accumulation factors of PAHs and PCBs (means and ranges, 11 soils).

Krauss & Wilcke (2001): Environ. Sci. Technol. 35, 3931-3935.

![](_page_18_Picture_0.jpeg)

Availability

![](_page_18_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Figure_4.jpeg)

Concentrations of benzo(a)pyrene and PCB 153 in earthworm lipid as a function of concentration in different soil pools (log-transformed data, n = 25).

Krauss et al. (2000): Environ. Sci. Technol. 34, 4335-4340.

![](_page_19_Picture_0.jpeg)

Availability

![](_page_19_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_4.jpeg)

Depth distribution of PAHs and OPAHs in soil at a selected site in Bratislava.

Bandowe et al. (2011): Environ. Pollut. 159, 539-549.

![](_page_20_Picture_0.jpeg)

Conclusions

![](_page_20_Picture_3.jpeg)

- The global distribution of PAHs can be explained by global distillation and biological sources, but only occasionally by oil spills.
- > PAH concentrations correlate closely with those of other PACs.
- > OPAHs are transformed from PAHs in soils in a short time.
- OPAH concentrations can be higher than those of the related parent-PAHs and OPAHs are more soluble.
- > The assessment of bioavailability of PACs depends on the kind of uptake.

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