

# Benign by design approach for more sustainable chemicals: prioritization of chemicals of environmental concern by QSAR modelling in **QSARINS-Chem**

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<http://www.qsar.it>

ICCE- Oslo (Norway) - 18-22 June 2017





## Principle 4: Design Safer (Benign) Chemicals

Wherever practicable, synthetic methodologies should be designed to use and generate substances that possess little or no toxicity to human health and the environment

## Principle 10: Design for Degradation

Chemical products should be designed so that at the end of their function they do not persist in the environment and break down into innocuous degradation products.

**BENIGN by Structural DESIGN using QSAR**



# QSAR for synthesis of sustainable chemicals

The **HAZARD** is an inherent property of a chemical

A chemical has the potentiality to be dangerous included in its **MOLECULAR STRUCTURE**

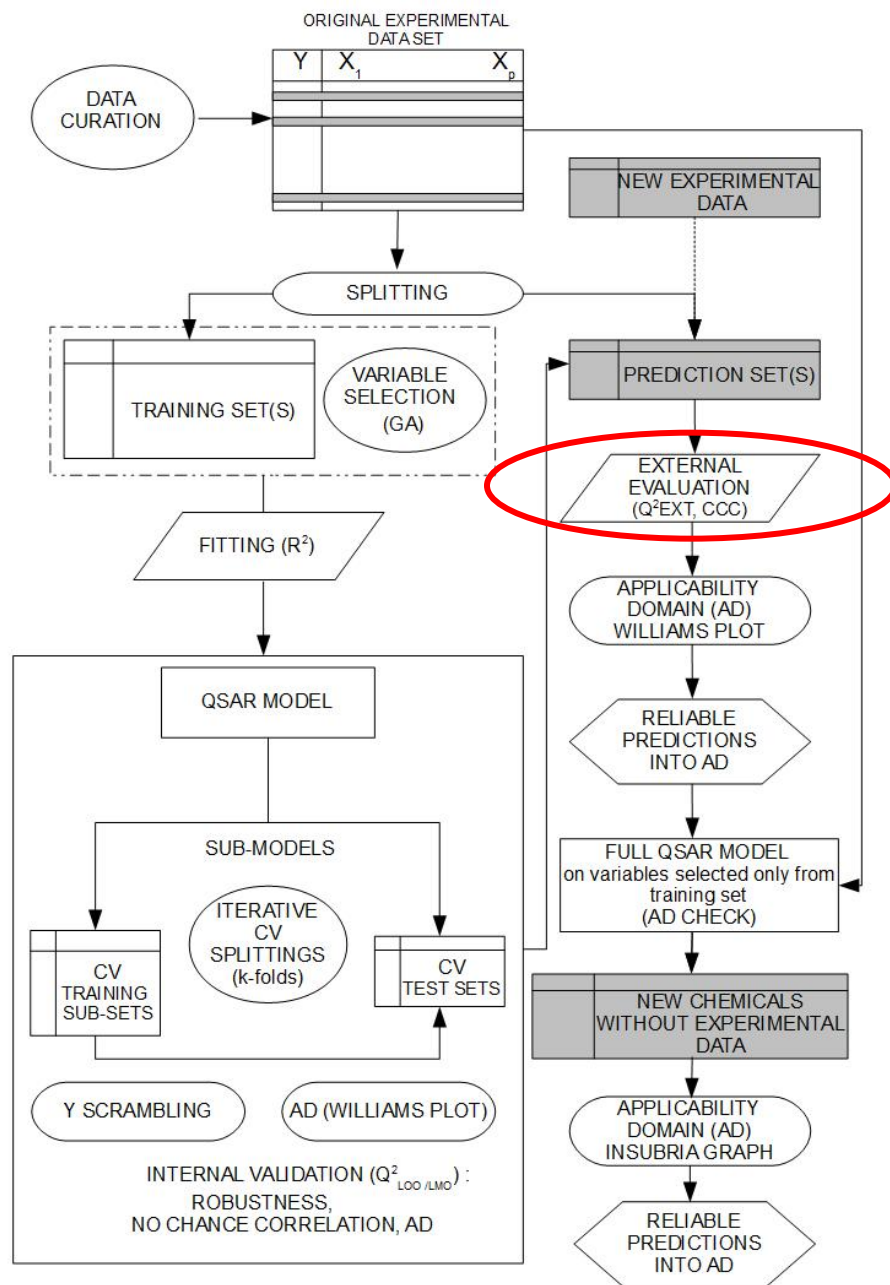
**EXPLOIT AVAILABLE KNOWLEDGE!**

A recognized harmful behaviour of a chemical must be taken into consideration to avoid similar concerns for new chemicals.

From QSAR-based screening: Priority Lists of the most hazardous chemicals can be proposed

**AVOID SYNTHESIS of REGRETTABLE CHEMICALS !**





Free licence request  
in <http://www.qsar.it>



# QSARINS

QSAR INSubria, version 2.2.2 - © 2017

Includes QSARINS-Chem

Software for QSAR MLR Model Development and Validation

By Gramatica P., Chirico N., Papa E., Cassani S., Kovarich S., Sangion A.

Software developed by Chirico N.

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P. Gramatica et al.

*J. Computational Chemistry*  
(Software News and Updates)

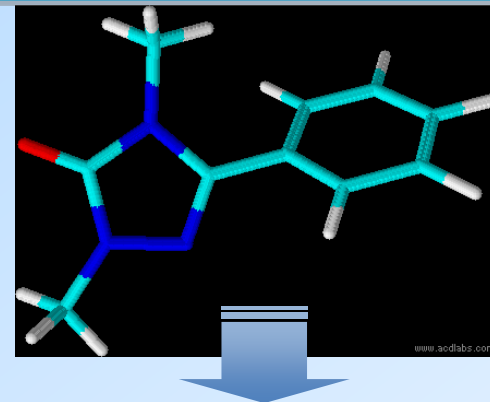
34, 2121-2132, 2013.

35, 1036-1044, 2014.



# MODELING in QSARINS: not «PUSH a BUTTON»

➤ Molecular structures are drawn and minimized by the semi-empirical method AM1 (HYPERCHEM software, hin files), and converted into SMILES or MOL files (Open Babel)



CAS	AMW	Sv	Ss	Mv	Me	Ms
000050-29-3	12.66	21.69	45.81	0.77	1.03	2.41
000050-30-6	12.73	11.22	33.89	0.75	1.06	3.08
000050-31-7	15.03	11.92	37.67	0.79	1.09	3.14
000050-32-8	7.89	23.59	37.33	0.74	0.98	1.87
000051-28-5	10.83	11.14	49	0.66	1.1	3.77
000051-44-5	12.73	11.22	33.89	0.75	1.06	3.08
000055-38-9	8.98	19.38	35.81	0.63	1.01	2.24
000055-63-0	10.77	11.67	60.83	0.56	1.14	4.06
000056-23-5	30.76	5	17.69	1	1.21	3.54
000056-38-2	9.1	19.71	49.31	0.62	1.03	2.74
000057-15-8	11.83	9.6	24.83	0.64	1.05	3.1
000057-74-9	17.07	19.79	46.81	0.82	1.07	2.6
000058-89-9	16.16	13.79	32.67	0.77	1.07	2.72
000058-90-2	17.84	11.11	32.78	0.85	1.1	2.98
000059-50-7	8.91	10.6	23.11	0.66	1.01	2.57
000060-29-7	4.94	7.5	10.5	0.5	0.98	2.1
000060-51-5	9.55	14.17	31.97	0.59	1.02	2.66

➤ Mono-, bi-, three-dimensional descriptors are calculated using PaDEL (free on line)

➤ Multiple linear regression (MLR) performed by Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method

➤ Variable selection by Genetic Algorithm (GA)

➤ Validation by many statistical parameters.

➤ Various plots, also for Applicability Domain.



# Chemicals of Environmental Concern (CEC)

- Persistent Organic Pollutants: from 12 «legacy» POPs
- Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics (PBTs)

## CADASTER EU-Project

- Emerging pollutants: Flame Retardants (FRs), Perfluorinated (PFC), Personal Care Products (PCPs)

PCPs and Pharmaceuticals, together named PPCPs



# Screening of POPs and PBTs

COMBINED APPROACH: Multivariate Analysis by PCA + QSAR

Two PCA were made on:

1. Half-lives in different environmental media for POPs
2. PBT properties

*PC1: New Macro-Variables*

1. GLOBAL Half-Life Index - GHLI
2. PBT Index

QSAR Models  
MLR -OLS in QSARINS

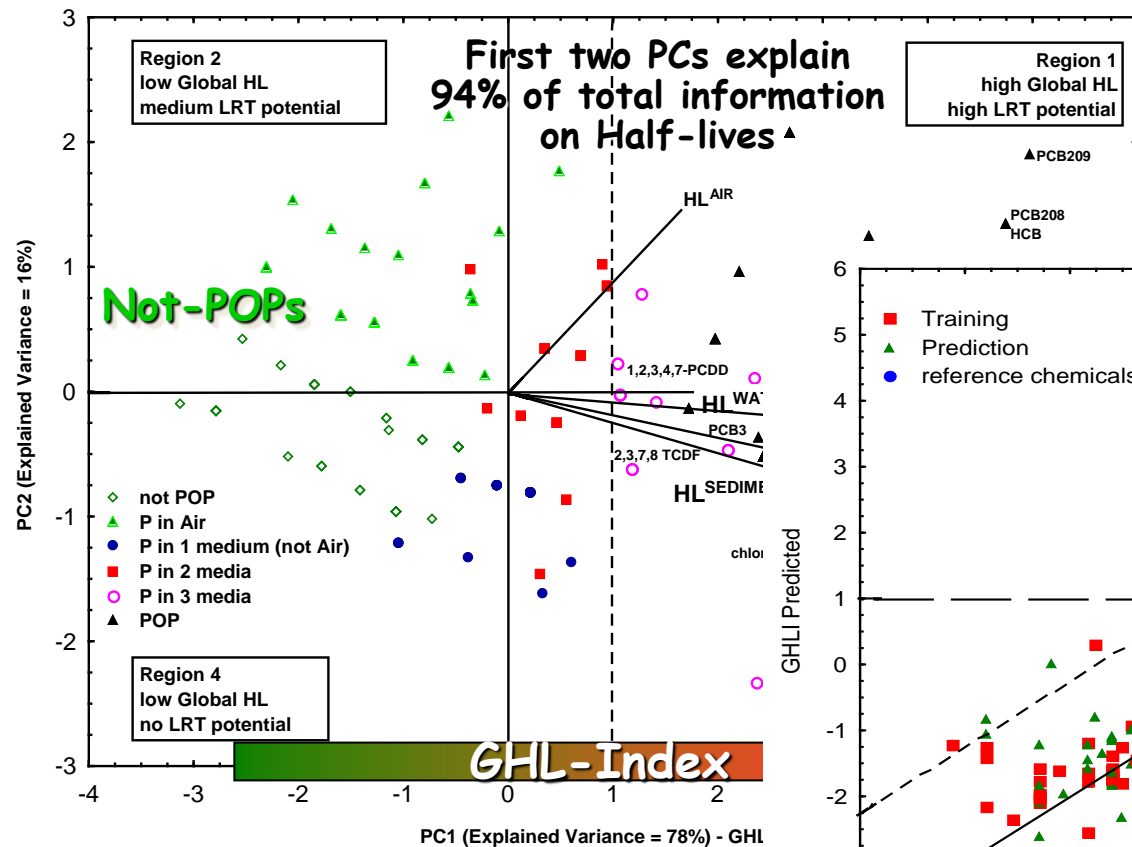
Predictive Tools for Screening and Prioritization of potentially high concern chemicals, based on their **cumulative properties**

P. Gramatica

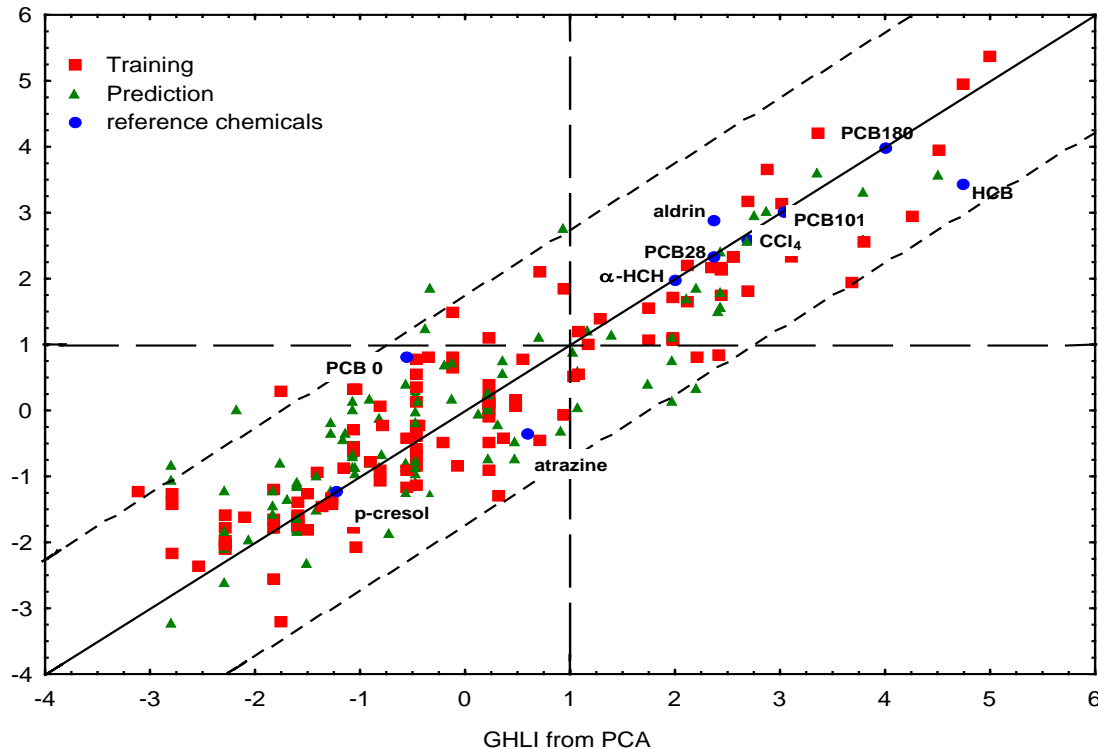
Chemometric Methods and Theoretical Molecular Descriptors in Predictive QSAR Modeling of the Environmental Behaviour of Organic Pollutants,  
Ch. 12 in *Recent Advances in QSAR Studies*, Springer-Verlag, 2009

# Screening of POPs: Global Half Life Index - GHLI

P. Gramatica, E. Papa, *Environ. Sci & Technol.* 41, 28, 2007.



$n_{tr.} = 125$   $R^2 = 0.85$   
 $Q^2_{LOO} = 0.83$   $RMSE = 0.76$   
 $n_{pr.} = 125$   $Q^2_{EXT} = 0.79$   
 $RMSEP = 0.78$



Environ. Sci. Technol.

**Screening and Ranking of POPs for Global Half-Life: QSAR Approaches for Prioritization Based on Molecular Structure**

PAOLA GRAMATICA\* AND ESTER PAPA

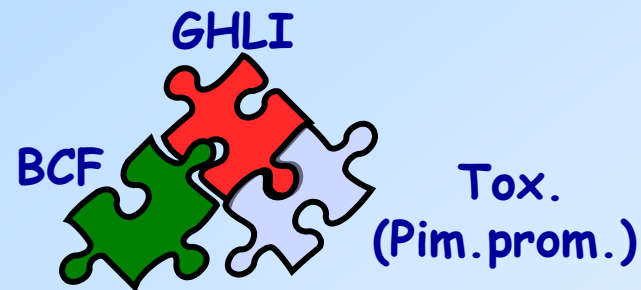
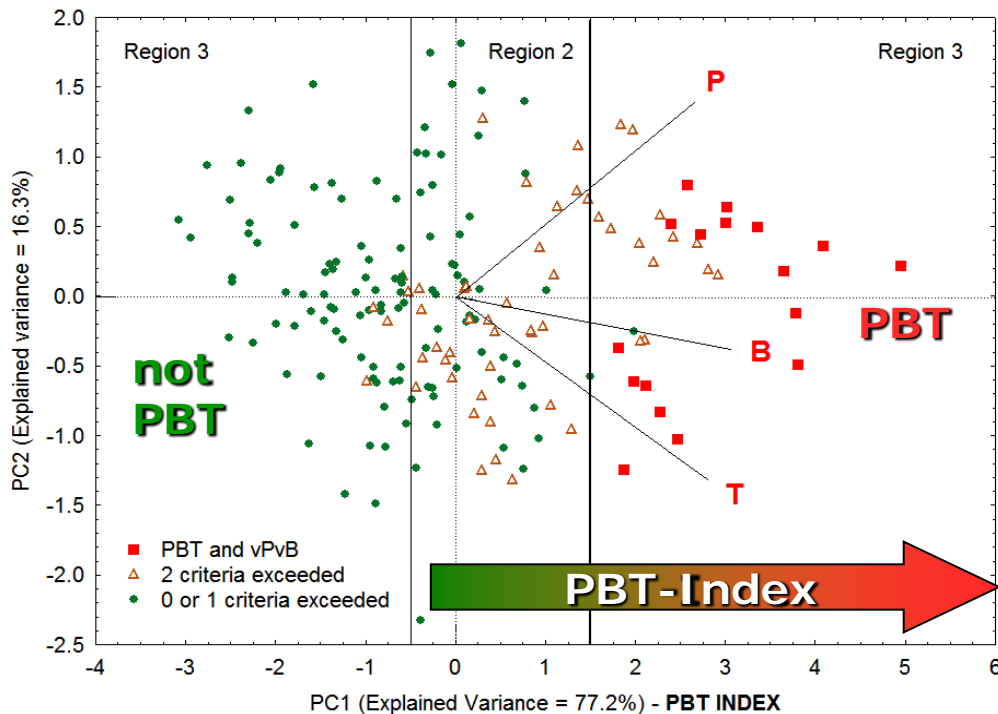
**QSAR MODEL**

**GHLI Index**

$$Y = -3.12 + 0.33 X_{Ov} + 5.1 M_v - 0.32 MAXDP - 0.61 nHDon - 0.5 CICO - 0.61 O-060$$



# Screening of PBTs: QSAR model of PBT Index



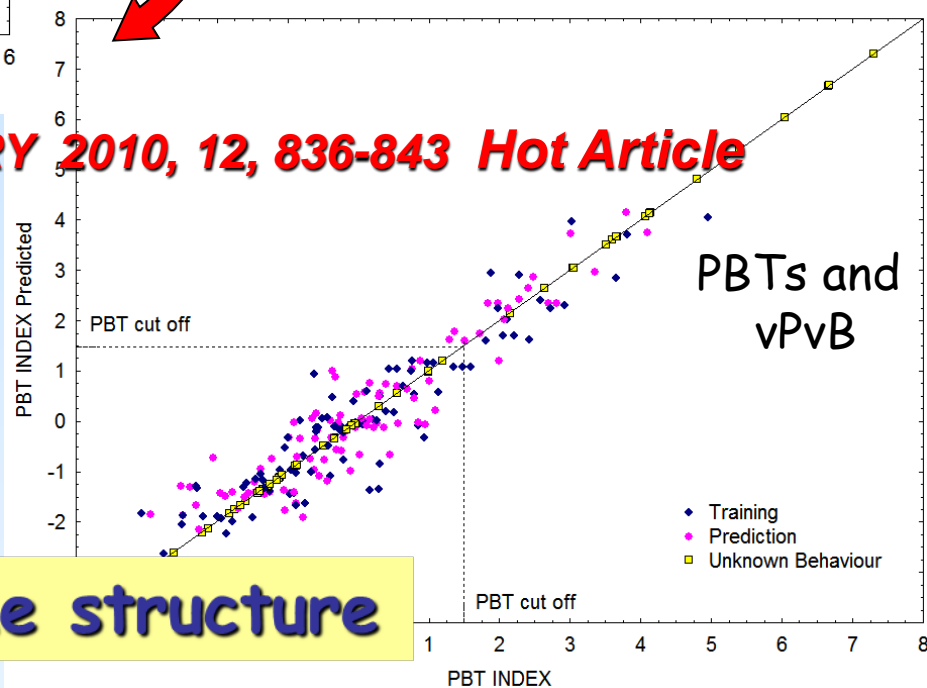
Global Index of Persistence  
Bioaccumulation and Toxicity

QSAR-Model

E.Papa, P. Gramatica, *GREEN CHEMISTRY* 2010, 12, 836-843 Hot Article

$$\text{PBT Index} = -1.25 + 0.63nX + 0.21nBM - 0.39nHDon - 0.12 \text{ MAXDP}$$

ntr=94;  $R^2 = 0.88$ ;  $Q^2 = 0.86$ ;  $\text{RMSE}_T = 0.53$ ;  
npred=93;  $Q^2_{\text{ext}} = 0.87$ ;  $\text{RMSE}_P = 0.55$



PBT HAZARD inherent in the structure

# PBT Assessment and Prioritization by Consensus Modeling

Environment International 77 (2015) 25–34

Contents lists available at

2015, 77, 25-34

Environment International

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envint](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envint)



Agreement graph



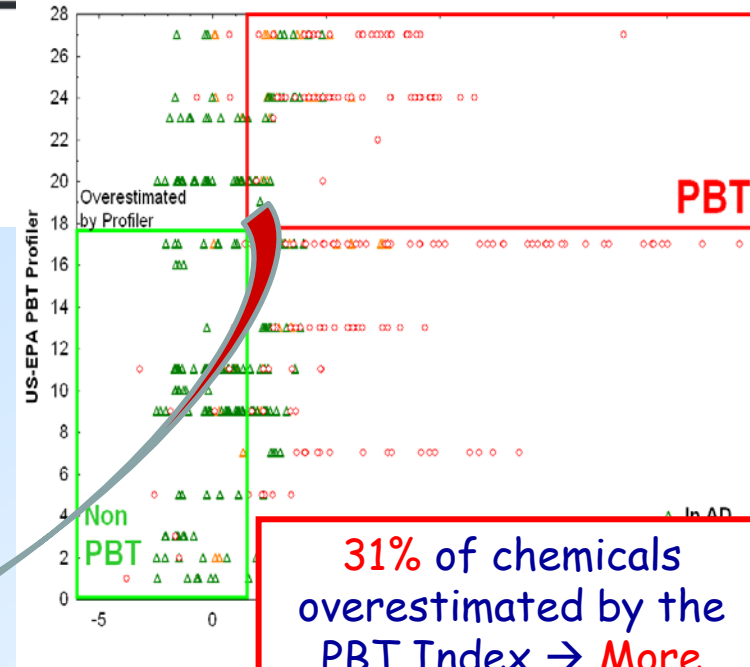
ELSEVIER

PBT assessment and prioritization by PBT Index and consensus modeling: Comparison of screening results from structural models

Paola Gramatica\*, Stefano Cassani, Alessandro Sangion

**4412** chemicals screened by Insubria PBT Index and US-EPA PBT Profiler → **Consensus Approach** (>80% agreement)

**1313** chemicals identified as PBTs by Consensus: **PRIORITY LIST** of SVHC



31% of chemicals overestimated by the PBT Index → **More Precautionary**



# Screening of New Brominated Flame Retardants (NBFRs) and OrganoPhosphorous FR (OPFRs) by PBT Index

Journal of Hazardous Materials 306 (2016) 237–246

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Hazardous Materials

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jhazmat](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jhazmat)



Are some “safer alternatives” hazardous as PBTs? The case study of new flame retardants<sup>☆</sup>

2016, 306, 237

Paola Gramatica<sup>☆,1</sup>, Stefano Cassani, Alessandro Sangion

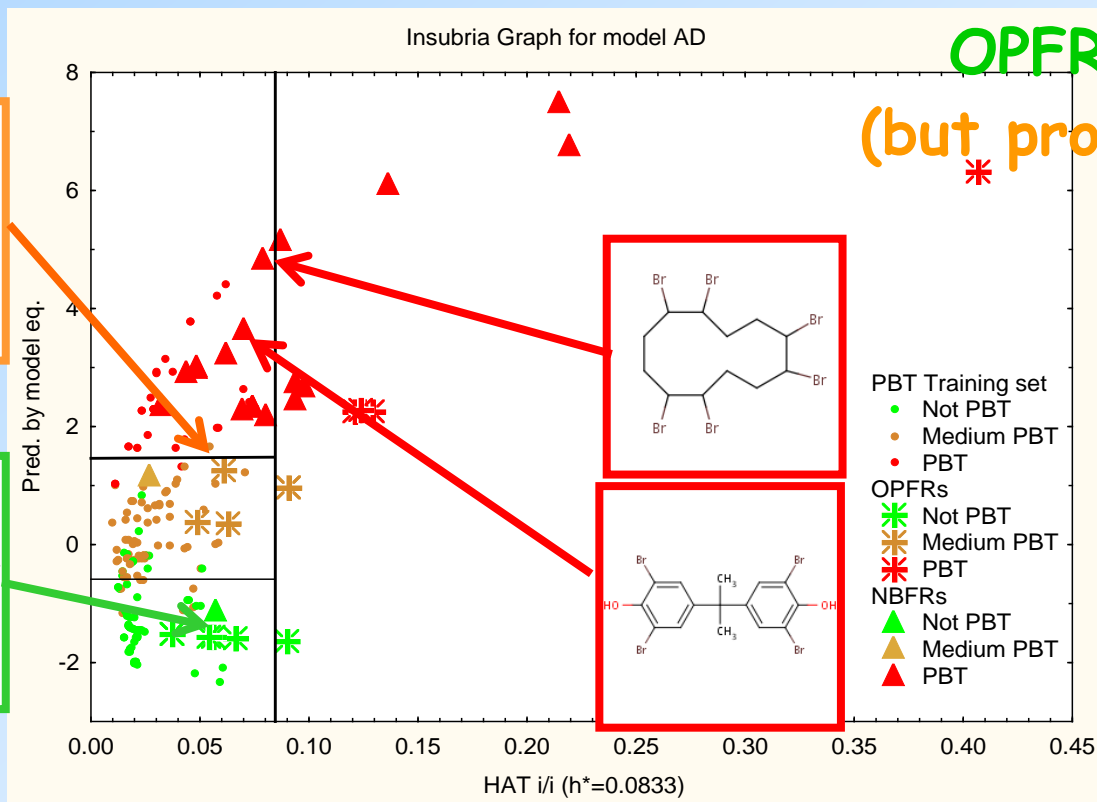
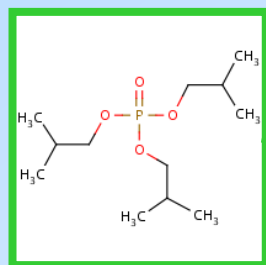
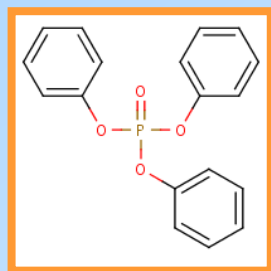
PBT Index highlights, from the design, that:

Some «safer alternatives» are not so safe:

NBRFs are mainly PBTs

OPFRs are safer

(but probably not all...)



Applicability Domain (AD) of QSARINS PBT Index model

# PBT behaviour of Pharmaceuticals and PCPs (PPCPs)

## Comparison and consensus of two different modeling approaches for the PBT assessment

### Insubria PBT Index

- Cumulative index for P, B and T, inherent to chemical structure (QSARINS)

### US-EPA PBT Profiler

- Separate predictions for P, B and T

Sustainable Chemistry and Pharmacy 1 (2015) 19-27

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Sustainable Chemistry and Pharmacy

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/scp](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/scp)



ELSEVIER



Identification of potential PBT behavior of **personal care products** by structural approaches<sup>☆</sup>

Stefano Cassani, Paola Gramatica\*

QSAR Research Unit in Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology, Department of Theoretical and Applied Sciences, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy



**2015, 1, 19-27.**

Environmental Research 147 (2016) 297-306

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environmental Research

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envres](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envres)



ELSEVIER



PBT assessment and prioritization of contaminants of emerging concern: **Pharmaceuticals**<sup>☆</sup>

Alessandro Sangion, Paola Gramatica\*

QSAR Research Unit in Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology, Department of Theoretical and Applied Sciences, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy



**2016, 147, 297-306.**

> 500 Personal Care Products

> 1200 Pharmaceuticals



# Screening of PPCPs for PBT Behaviour

	all	%
Agreement	1570	87
Overestimated by Profiler	75	4
Overestimated by Index	156	9

Insubria PBT Index more precautionary



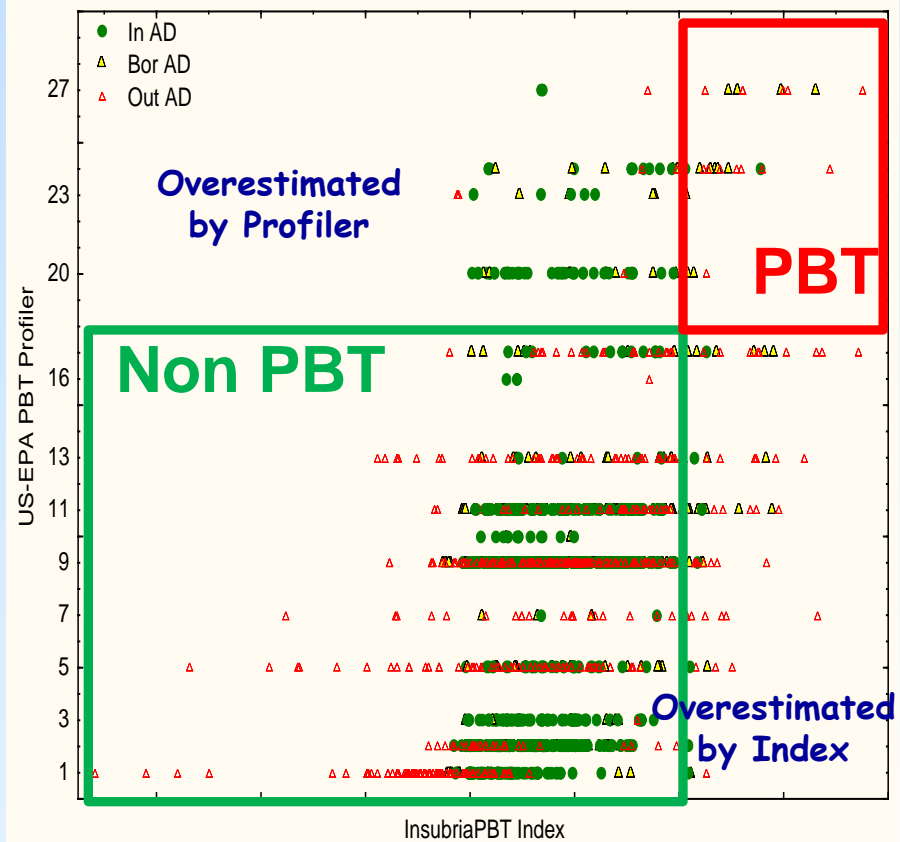
Agreement graph

## Consensus approach

	Interp	Extrap	All
non-PBTs in agreement	1095	432	1527
PBTs in agreement	28	15	43

Priority List:

8 PCPs and 35 pharmaceuticals

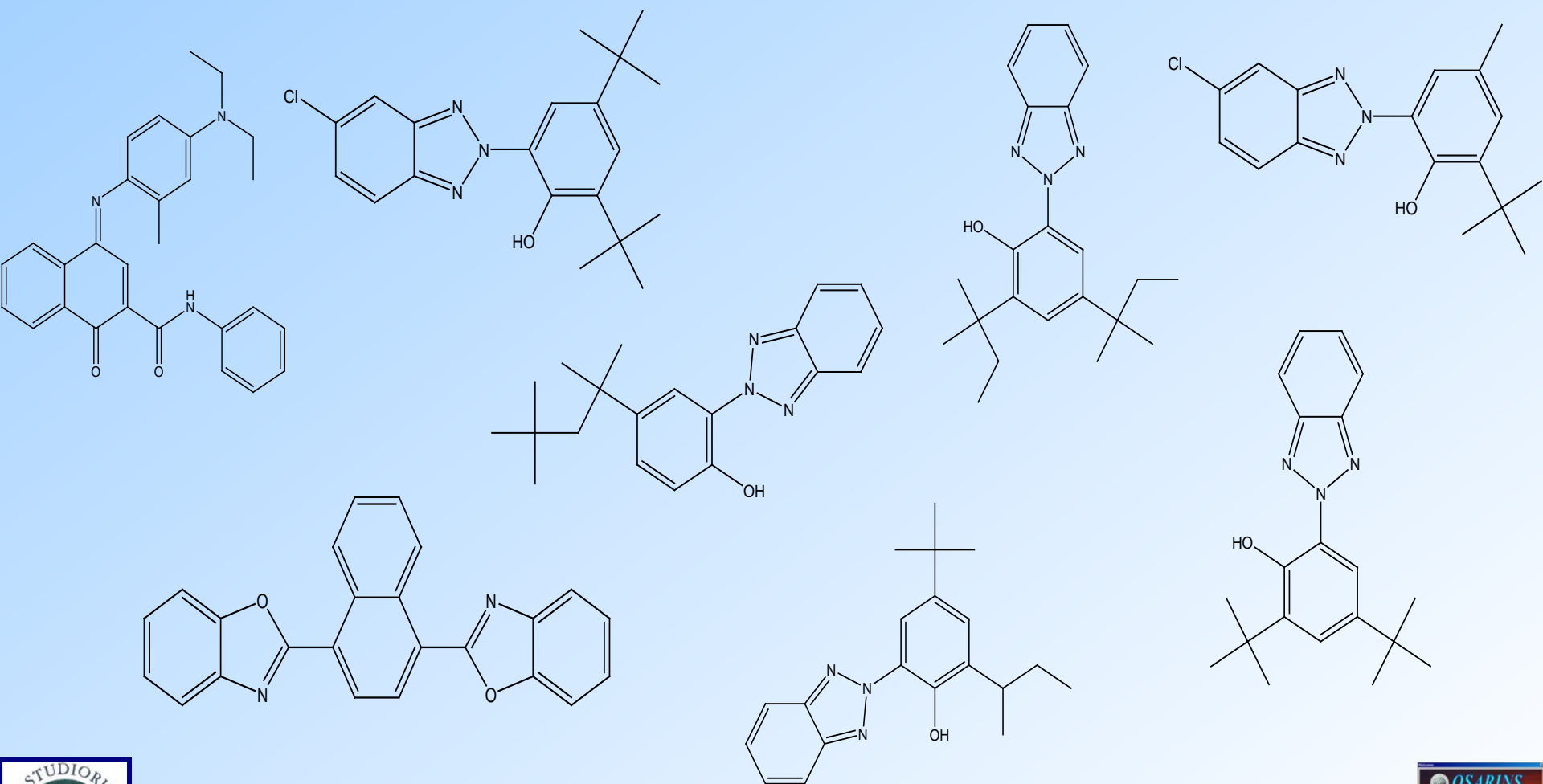


chemicals labelled according to the AD



# Priority List of PCPs potentially PBTs

8 PCPs were predicted as potential PBT by consensus: they are mainly **benzotriazoles**, used as **UV-filters** in **Sun-Screeners**.



# Aquatic toxicity of PCPs and Pharmaceuticals (PPCPs)

The aquatic toxicity of environmental chemicals is studied by toxicity tests on three different trophic levels: algae, daphnids and fish.

Very limited experimental data availability for PPCPs, mainly of homogeneous data, useful for QSAR modeling.

## Data Curation for homogeneous datasets:

- same species,
- time,
- end point
- etc.

# QSAR models for Eco-toxicity of PCPs

Volume 18 | Number 16 | 21 August 2016 | Pages 4315–4572

## Green Chemistry

Cutting-edge research for a greener sustainable future  
www.rsc.org/greenchem

Themed issue: Molecular Design for Reduced Toxicity

ISSN 1463-9052

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY

PAPER  
Paola Gramatica et al.  
Aquatic ecotoxicity of personal care products: QSAR models and ranking for prioritization and safer alternatives' design

175 YEARS

$Q^2_{L00}$	$Q^2_{LMO}$	$RMSE_{cv}$	$CCC_{ext}$	$Q^2_{ext Fn}$	%AD
-10.58 + 13.05GGI8 - 21.88Mp					
0.91	0.90	0.45	0.94-0.95	0.87-0.90	98%
49 +0.015MW -3.21ATSC0c - 1.52GATS1p					
0.88	0.87	0.55	0.89-0.95	0.80-0.91	98%
) +0.43XlogP+2.356minHother +15.38AVP-7					
0.79	0.79	0.63	0.85-0.90	0.72-0.86	95%

**Externally Predictive Models**  
High AD to more than  
500 PCPs

16



# QSAR models for Eco-toxicity of Pharm.

D  
A  
T  
A  
  
C  
U  
R  
A  
T  
T

Models' summary		n	R <sup>2</sup>	Q <sup>2</sup> <sub>LOO</sub>	Q <sup>2</sup> <sub>LMO</sub>	RMSE <sub>cv</sub>	CCC <sub>ext</sub>	Q <sup>2</sup> <sub>ext Fn</sub>	%AD	
pEC50 <i>P. subcapitata</i>	Eq.	0.93 -3.72minHother -4.61VCH-6 +0.48piPC6 -0.09 VE3_Dt								
	Stat. Par.	45	0.78	0.74	0.73	0.67	0.83-0.88	0.68-0.81	74%	
pEC50 <i>D. magna</i>	Eq.	0.65 + 0.32 CrippenLogP -0.08 minHBint2-0.06 SpMAD_Dzs -0.75 AATSC4i + 0.13 C2SP3								
	Stat. Par.	125	0.75	0.72	0.72	0.41	0.84-0.86	0.70-0.79	87%	

Environment International xxx (2016) xxx-xxx



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environment International

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/envint](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/envint)



xHBint2 -1.15HybRatio TSC0v									
68	0.82-0.86	0.71-0.83	96%						
.39nHBacc+1.11SpMin7_Bhp									
79	0.87-0.89	0.70-0.86	80%						

Hazard of pharmaceuticals for aquatic environment: Prioritization by structural approaches and prediction of ecotoxicity

Alessandro Sangion, Paola Gramatica \* **2016, 95, 131-143**

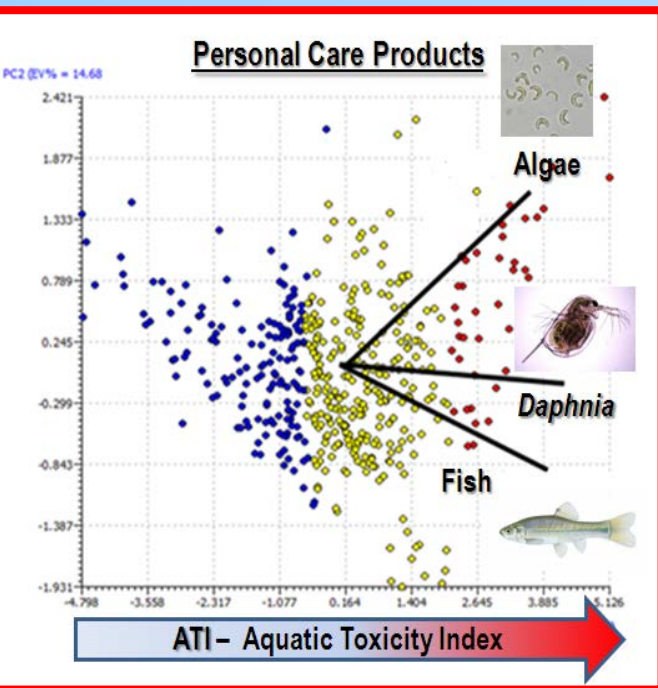
QSAR Research Unit in Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology, Department of Theoretical and Applied Sciences, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy

**AD to 1200 Pharm**

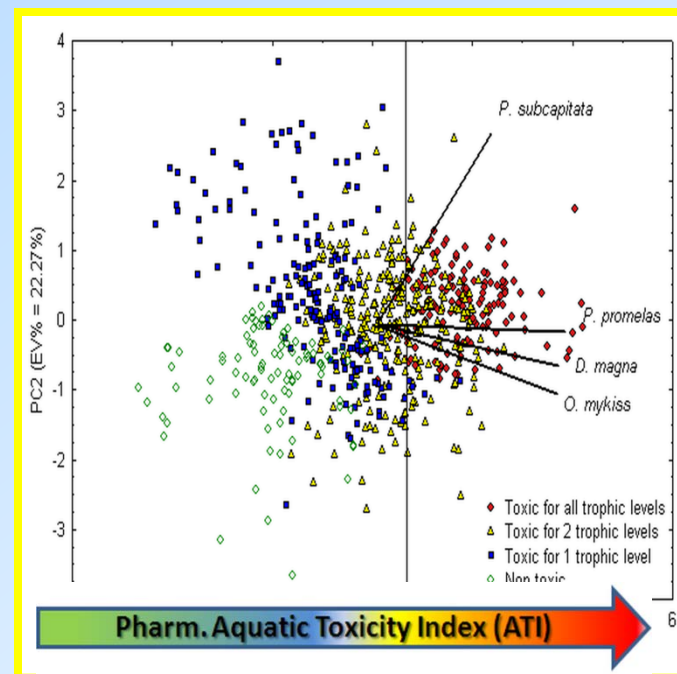


# Aquatic toxicity trend of PCPs and Pharm.

Combining toxicities on different organisms: overall aquatic toxicity

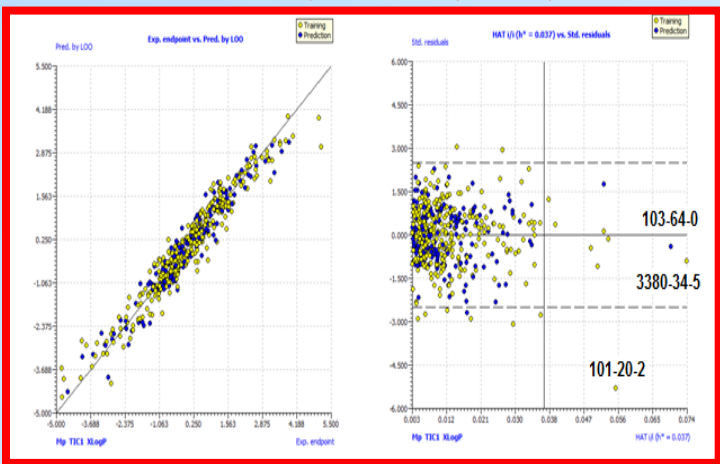


Aquatic Toxicity Index by PCA: ATI

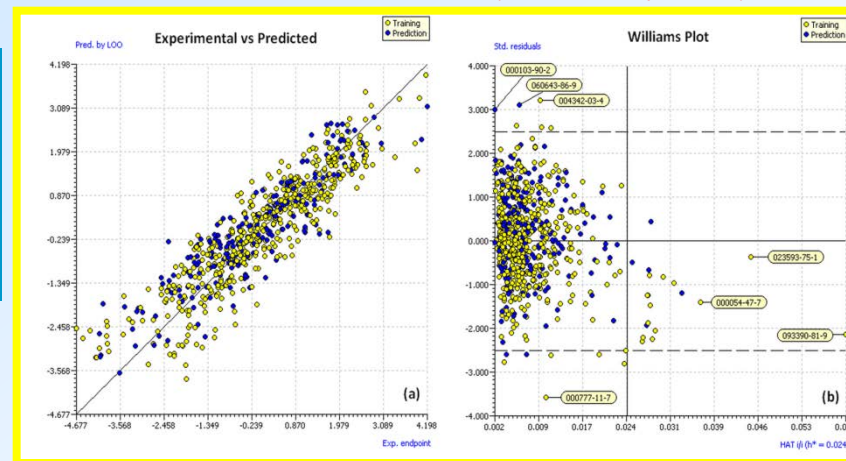


Environ. Int., 2016, 95, 131

Green Chem., 2016, 18, 4315



Plots for QSARs and AD





All the Insubria MLR QSAR  
models are available  
and applicable in  
QSARINS- Chem



<http://www.qsar.it>

Poster 94 in Environmental Modelling Session

Predictive QSAR models and chemometrics are useful for  
**screening/prioritisation** of large sets of chemicals, and  
for the **design of alternative/sustainable chemicals**

P. Gramatica. Prioritization of Chemicals Based on Chemoinformatic Analysis, 2016  
Handbook of Computational Chemistry Vol 5,  
Ed. J. Leszczynski, Springer

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<http://www.qsar.it>





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