

AG Name: Dung Organism Toxicity Testing (DOTTS)

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Council/Board Liaison:

Organization

Since 2002, DOTTS is organized by a small group of active members. Decisions are made during the annual meetings, usually by acclamation. Several non-SETAC-members regularly contribute to the group activities.

Activities Summary

The annual group meeting took place during the SE Annual Conference (Barcelona, May 2015). For the third (and probably last) time in a row, the DOTTS meeting was combined with a meeting of people preparing an OECD Guideline on the fate of pharmaceuticals in dung and manure as part of an UBA project which did end in the end of 2015.

- Recent publications:
There was no publication on dung organism testing from those people having been most active in the previous years. However, our long-term member J-P. Lumaret was involved in the following work which may be the basis for further standard testing:
Verdú, J.R., Cortez, V., Ortiz, A.J., González-Rodríguez, E., Martínez-Pinna, J., Lumaret, J-P., Lobo, J.M., Numa, C. & Sánchez-Piñero, F. (2015): Scientific Reports | 5:13912 | DOI: 10.1038/srep13912.
- The work of the group is regularly presented at SETAC conferences; usually in two ways:
(1) Presentation of a poster describing the activities of the group (actually, an only slightly modified version which has already been used in Basel in 2014).
(2) Talks or posters presented by individual group members:
 - Förster, B., Coors, A., Düring, R-A., Ebke, M., Graf, N., Kulenko, A., Scheffczyk, A., Wohde, M. & Römbke, J., Blanckenhorn, W.U., Floate, K., Lumaret, J-P., Tixier, T., Wohde, M., Düring, R-A. & Römbke, J. (2015): New Approach to Assess the Effects of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMP) on Dung- and Soil Organisms under Field Conditions. Talk, SETAC Barcelona.

As announced already last year, the UBA project on testing VMP in the field was finished in 2015. In total five manuscripts have been submitted to E, T & C. All of them, covering the scientific background of the project, the analytical determination of IVM in dung and soil, the effects of IVM on the structure (= diversity) and function (= dung degradation) of dung organisms, the effects of IVM on soil invertebrates and, finally, a contribution on the future implementation of the experiences made in this project in regulatory guidance and/or guidelines, were accepted – but will only be printed in 2016.

Future Plans

Currently, the recommendations laid-down in the papers listed above are discussed within different working groups of regulatory institutions in Europe.

A new group has started to work on the development of the OECD Guidance Document covering the testing of the (semi)-tropic dung beetle *Onthophagus Taurus*, but no formal plan has been set-up yet. Thus, it is currently not possible to give a date for the submission of a new standard test document.

Two other topics have been discussed since the last meeting:

- Is there a need to modify (or even exchange) test guidelines focusing on the effects of VMPs on selected test species when using sheep dung instead of cattle dung? However, there are not many people around who have worked with this substrate. So, it is not clear yet how to proceed regarding this topic.
- Discussions started about the use of barcoding methods in dung organism testing. One manuscript on this topic was prepared by DOTTS member W.U. Blanckenhorn and colleagues.

Business and Planning Meetings

DOTTS members will meet during the next SETAC Europe conference in Nantes in May 2015.

Membership Communications

Due to its small size, most communication is performed in the annual meetings or by e-mails.

Issues/Problems

None – in other words, those have been listed last year are still unsolved..

Current Steering Committee

The group is chaired by Jörg Römbke. The affiliation of members is: business (= 10), academia (= 5) and government (= 7). In fact there was no change in membership in 2015.

No. active members: 4

Total membership: 22