# Understanding the ecotoxicological risks of ionic liquids - where are we?

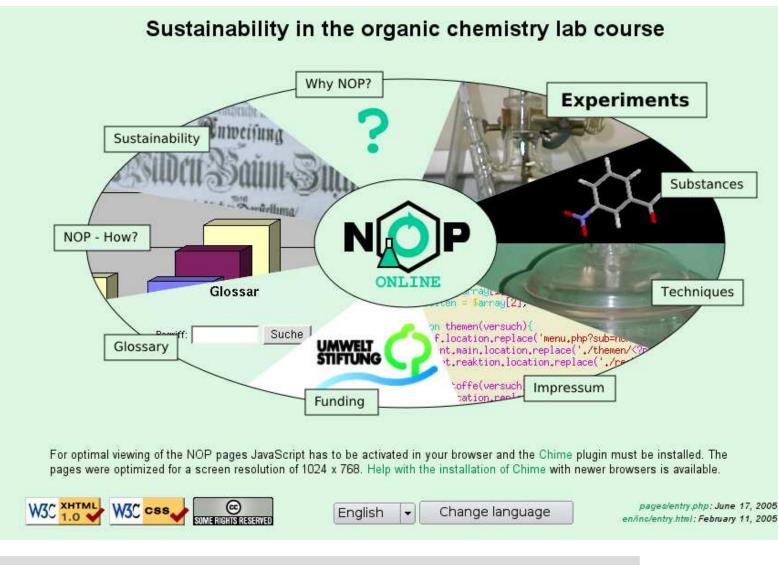
Green Solvents for Processes Friedrichshafen/Germany October 8-11, 2006.

J. Ranke, J. Arning, P. Behrend, A. Böschen, U. Bottin-Weber, J. Filser, T. Juffernholz, M. Matzke, A. Müller, M. Schaefer, S. Stolte, R. Störmann, K. Thiele, J. Thöming, B. Jastorff University of Bremen/D





#### www.oc-praktikum.de







# The UFT

Chemical Engineering Regeneration & Recycling *Prof. Thöming* 

Environmental Process Engineering *Prof. Räbiger* 



Zentrum für Umweltforschung und Umwelttechnologie Molecular Genetics Prof. Becker

> Ecology Prof. Filser

#### Physiogeography Prof. Venzke

Bioorganic Chemistry Prof. Jastorff

Biotechnology

Prof. Blohm





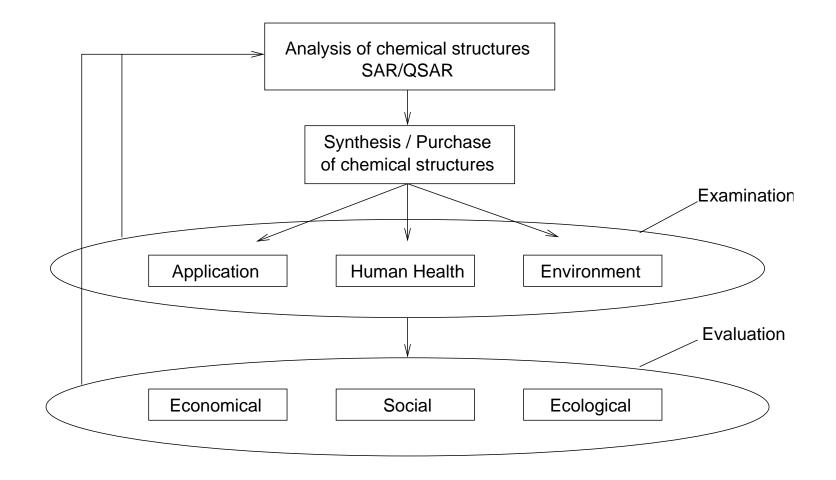
# The UFT IL team







# **Sustainable Product Design**







# **Technosphere vs. Environment**

	Technosphere	Environment
Degree of control	high	low
Degree of knowledge	high	low





# **Uncertainty and Ignorance**

Chemistry dealing with biological and environmental systems has to deal with

more complexity





# **Uncertainty and Ignorance**

Chemistry dealing with biological and environmental systems has to deal with

- more complexity
- more uncertainty





# **Uncertainty and Ignorance**

Chemistry dealing with biological and environmental systems has to deal with

- more complexity
- more uncertainty
- more ignorance



includes both technospheric and environmental chemistry:





includes both technospheric and environmental chemistry:

 $\Rightarrow$  High standards of deterministic knowledge in technospheric area





includes both technospheric and environmental chemistry:

 $\Rightarrow$  High standards of deterministic knowledge in technospheric area

 $\Rightarrow$  Great efforts to deal with uncertainty in environmental area





includes both technospheric and environmental chemistry:

 $\Rightarrow$  High standards of deterministic knowledge in technospheric area

 $\Rightarrow$  Great efforts to deal with uncertainty in environmental area

 $\Rightarrow$  Understanding ecotoxicological risks





## **Elements of ecotoxicological risks**





Ranke J (2001) PhD Dissertation

#### **Five risk indicators**

#### Technosphere

Environment





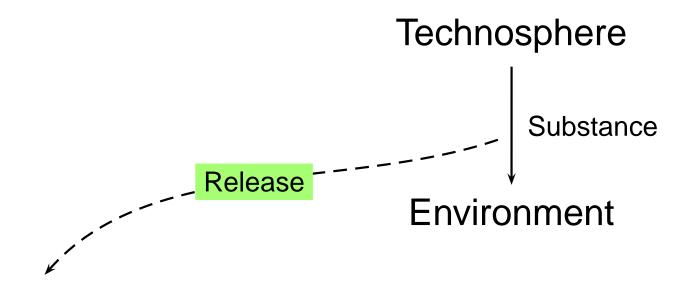
Understanding the ecotoxicological risks of ionic liquids - where are we? - p.10/??

# Technosphere Substance



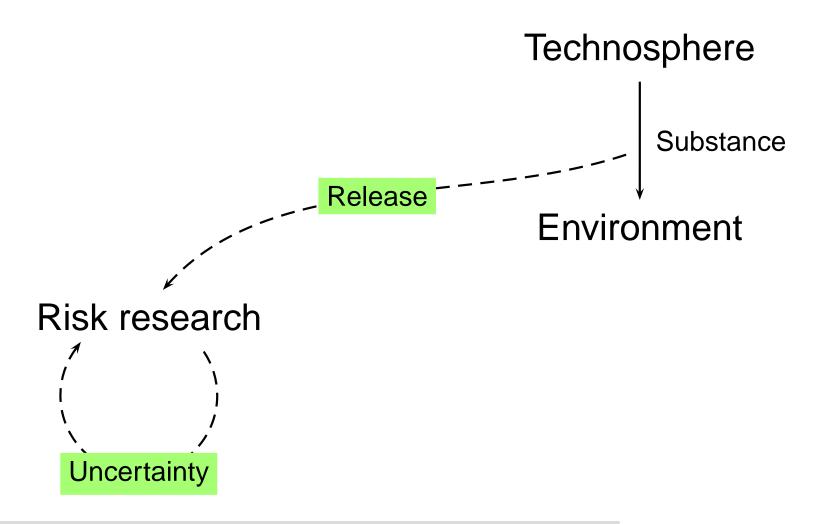


Understanding the ecotoxicological risks of ionic liquids - where are we? - p.10/??



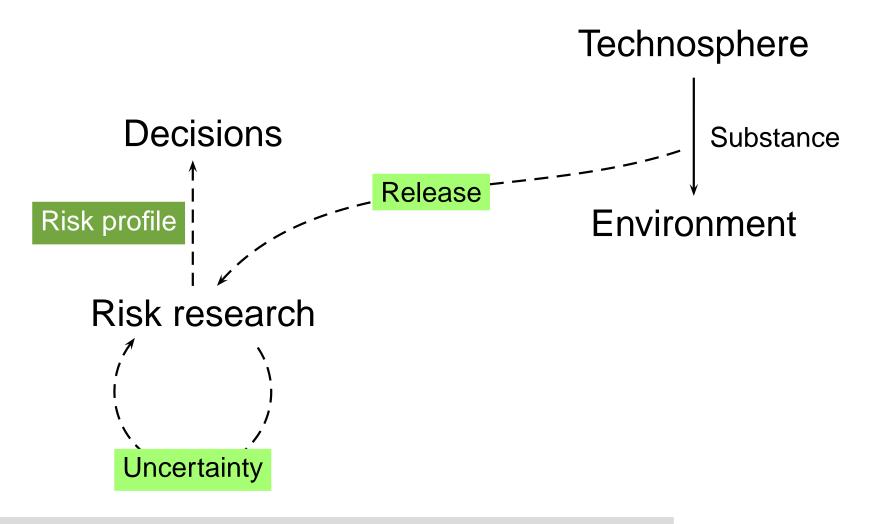






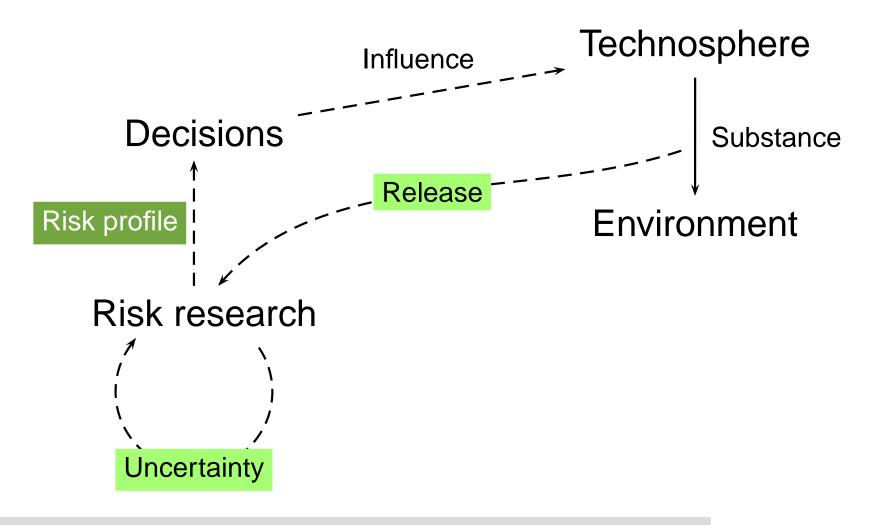






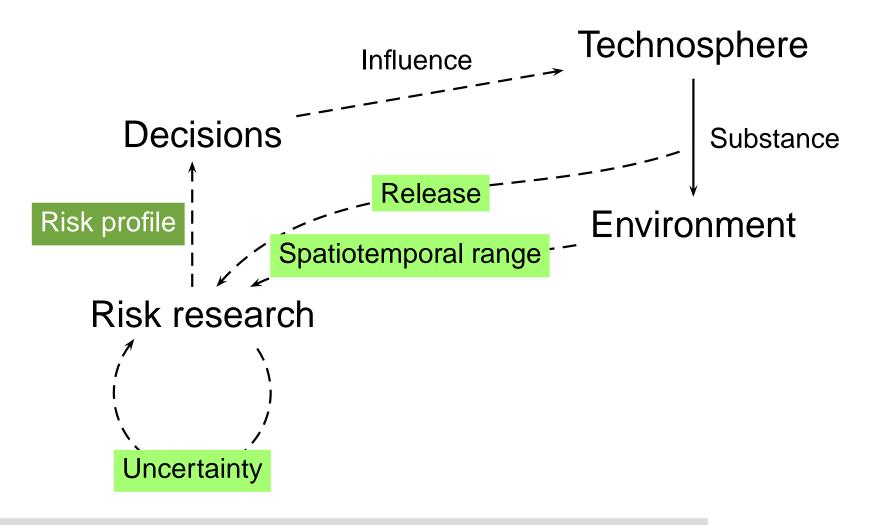






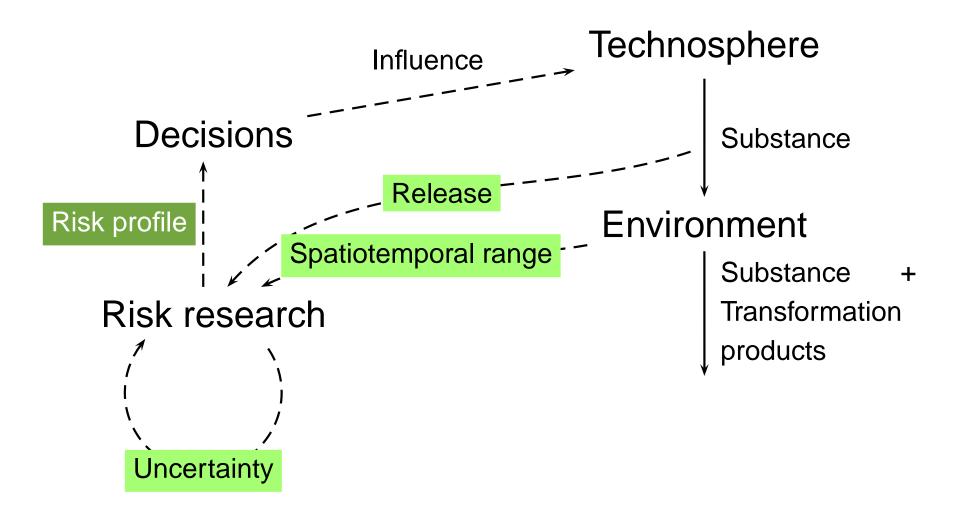






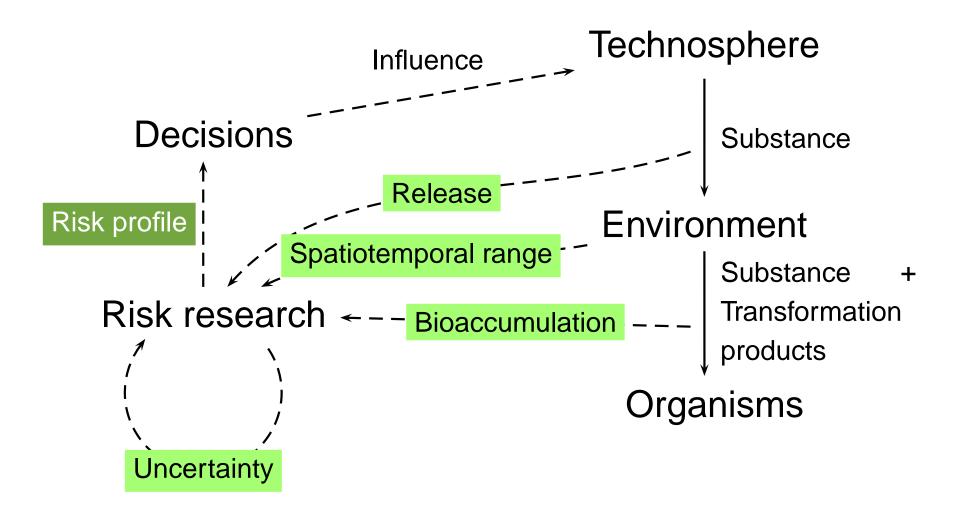






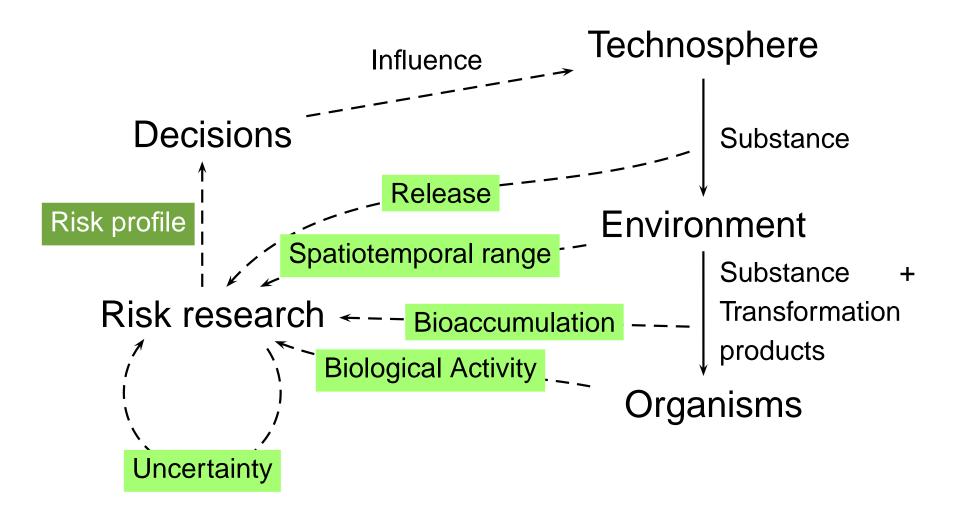
















Gaseous release (impurities, decomposition products)





- Gaseous release (impurities, decomposition products)
- Waste water



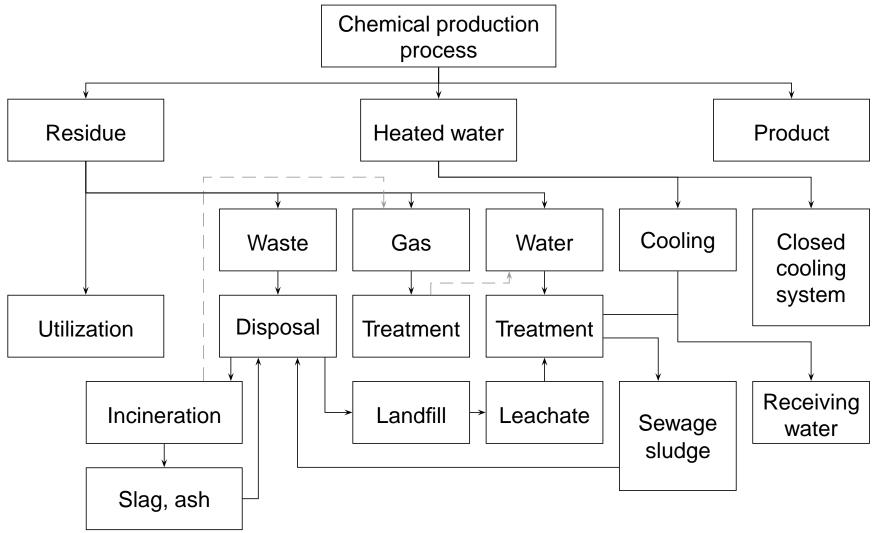


- Gaseous release (impurities, decomposition products)
- Waste water
- Accidental releases to soil or water





#### Release

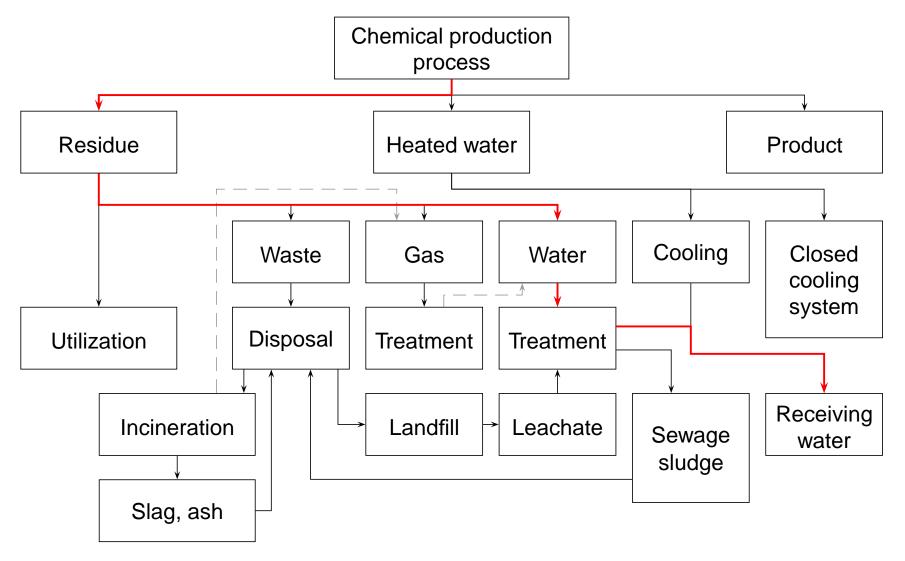


according to Christ, C. Chem Eng Technol 1999, 22, 642-650





#### Release



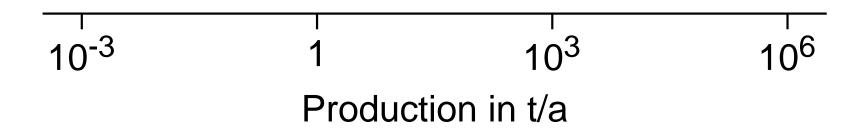




### **Global production scale**

ionic liquids

LAS







#### **Release factors**

• 0.01 to 0.5 for LAS





#### **Release factors**

- 0.01 to 0.5 for LAS
- 0.001 to 0.5 for IL

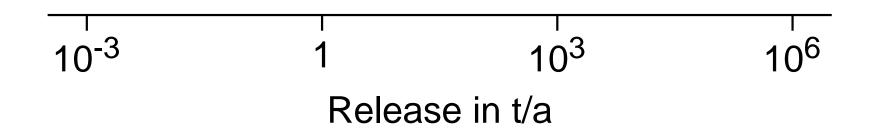




#### **Global release scale**

ionic liquids

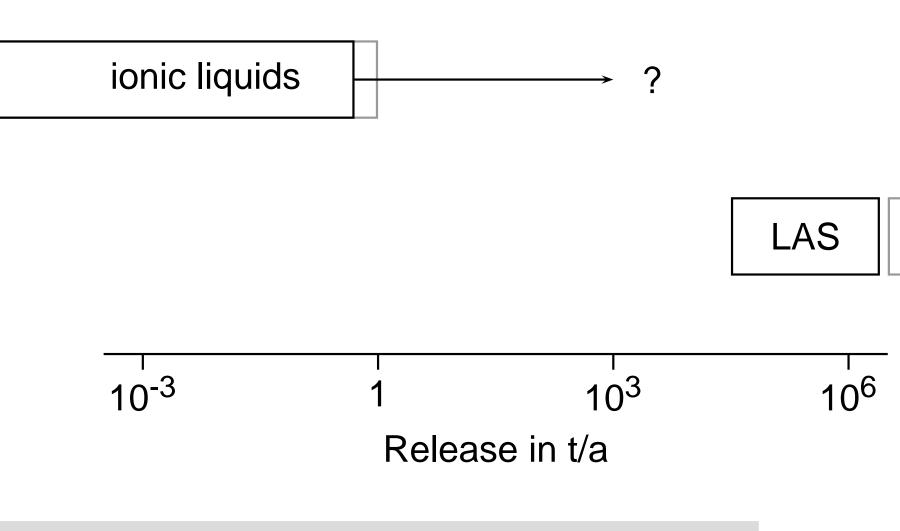








#### **Global release scale**







Impurities can be controlled





- Impurities can be controlled
- Decomposition can be avoided





## **Release of ionic liquids**

- Impurities can be controlled
- Decomposition can be avoided
- IL in waste water could be removed



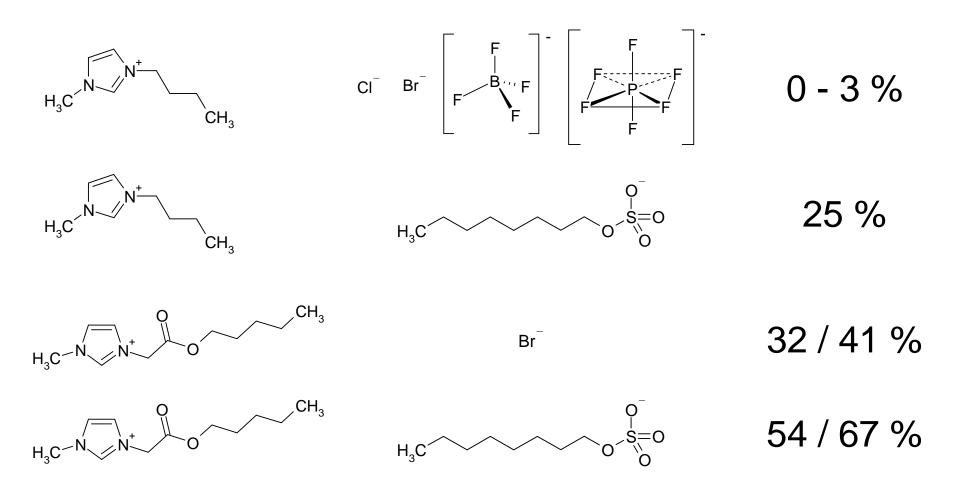


## **Release of ionic liquids**

- Impurities can be controlled
- Decomposition can be avoided
- IL in waste water could be removed
- Accidental releases must be considered



#### Are IL readily biodegradable?

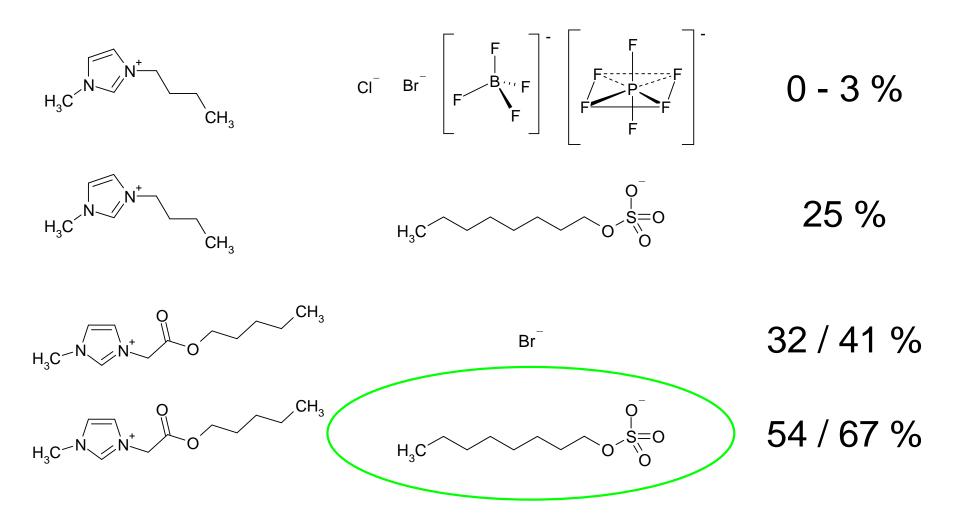


N. Gathergood, M. T. Garcia, and P. J. Scammells. Green Chem 2004, 2005, 2006





#### Are IL readily biodegradable?



N. Gathergood, M. T. Garcia, and P. J. Scammells. Green Chem 2004, 2005, 2006



Fate of cations and anions in STP has to be judged separately!

 Degradation in sewage treatment plants (STP) presumably higher





Fate of cations and anions in STP has to be judged separately!

- Degradation in sewage treatment plants (STP) presumably higher
- Sorption of 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium (bmim) cation presumably low





Fate of cations and anions in STP has to be judged separately!

- Degradation in sewage treatment plants (STP) presumably higher
- Sorption of 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium (bmim) cation presumably low
- Overall removal of bmim presumably incomplete





Fate of cations and anions in STP has to be judged separately!

- Degradation in sewage treatment plants (STP) presumably higher
- Sorption of 1-butyl-3-methylimidazolium (bmim) cation presumably low
- Overall removal of bmim presumably incomplete
- Good removal of alkyl sulfates





Interplay of

Hydrolysis





Interplay of

- Hydrolysis
- Biodegradation





Interplay of

- Hydrolysis
- Biodegradation
- Sorption to organic material and various surfaces





Interplay of

- Hydrolysis
- Biodegradation
- Sorption to organic material and various surfaces

No fate modelling carried out yet,

 $\Rightarrow$  High uncertainty





Analogy to ionic surfactants





Analogy to ionic surfactants

BCF estimation method [1]

[1] Meylan et al. Environ Toxicol Chem 1999 18 664-672





- Analogy to ionic surfactants
- BCF estimation method [1]
- Some log K<sub>ow</sub> values [2]

[1] Meylan et al. *Environ Toxicol Chem* **1999** *18* 664-672[2] Ropel et al. *Green Chem* **2005** *7* 83-90





- Analogy to ionic surfactants
- BCF estimation method [1]
- Some log K<sub>ow</sub> values [2]
- Partitioning to mammalian cells [3]

[1] Meylan et al. Environ Toxicol Chem 1999 18 664-672

- [2] Ropel et al. Green Chem 2005 7 83-90
- [3] Ranke et al. Toxicol Env Chem 2006 88 273-285





- Analogy to ionic surfactants
- BCF estimation method [1]
- Some log K<sub>ow</sub> values [2]
- Partitioning to mammalian cells [3]
- k<sub>0</sub> values from HPLC [4]

[1] Meylan et al. Environ Toxicol Chem 1999 18 664-672

[2] Ropel et al. Green Chem 2005 7 83-90

[3] Ranke et al. Toxicol Env Chem 2006 88 273-285

[4] Ranke et al. Ecotoxicol Environ Safety 2006 in press



## Problems with log $K_{\rm ow}$ for IL

 Experimental difficulties in the case of surface activity





## Problems with log $K_{\rm ow}$ for IL

- Experimental difficulties in the case of surface activity
- Dependence on presence of counter-ions





## Problems with log $K_{\rm ow}$ for IL

- Experimental difficulties in the case of surface activity
- Dependence on presence of counter-ions
- Shake-flask experiments are time-consuming





### log $\mathbf{k}_0$ values from gradient HPLC

 Describe distribution between stationary phase and water (ideally)





## log $\mathbf{k}_0$ values from gradient HPLC

- Describe distribution between stationary phase and water (ideally)
- Easily generated by one or more gradient runs





## log k<sub>0</sub> values from gradient HPLC

- Describe distribution between stationary phase and water (ideally)
- Easily generated by one or more gradient runs
- Separate lipophilicity assessment of cations and anions





## log k<sub>0</sub> values from gradient HPLC

- Describe distribution between stationary phase and water (ideally)
- Easily generated by one or more gradient runs
- Separate lipophilicity assessment of cations and anions
- Good correlation with cytotoxicity





Tests on different levels of biological organisationEnzymes (AChE, GST, GR)





Tests on different levels of biological organisation

- Enzymes (AChE, GST, GR)
- Cells (rat leukemia cell line IPC-81, others)





Tests on different levels of biological organisation

- Enzymes (AChE, GST, GR)
- Cells (rat leukemia cell line IPC-81, others)
- Aquatic organisms (luminescent bacteria, monocellular algae, duckweed)



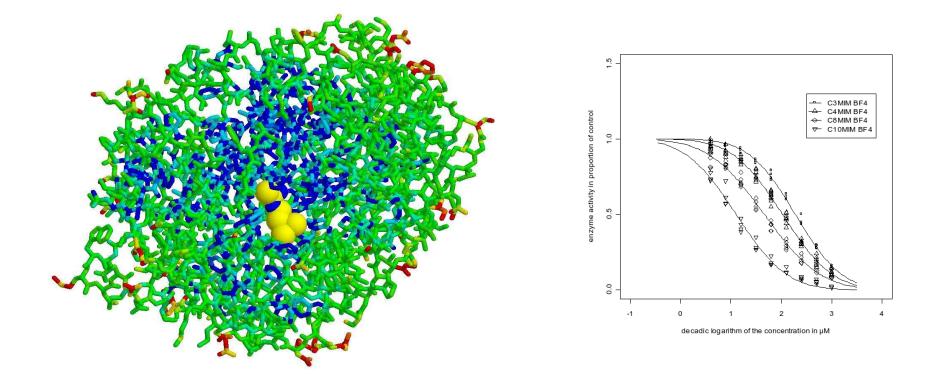
Tests on different levels of biological organisation

- Enzymes (AChE, GST, GR)
- Cells (rat leukemia cell line IPC-81, others)
- Aquatic organisms (luminescent bacteria, monocellular algae, duckweed)
- Terrestrial organisms (springtails, enchytraeids, earthworms, terrestrial plants)





#### **Acetylcholinesterase inhibition**

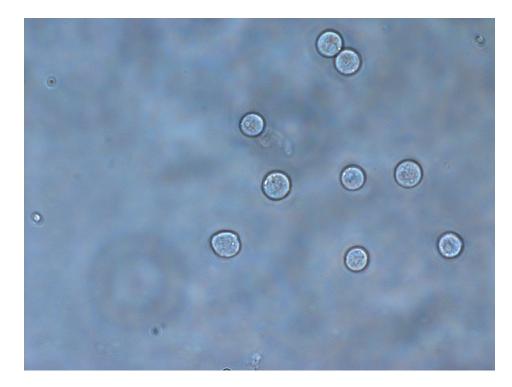


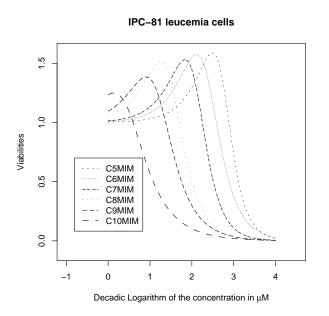
Stock et al. *Green Chem* **2004** *6* 286-290 Arning et al. in preparation





## **Cell viability assay**



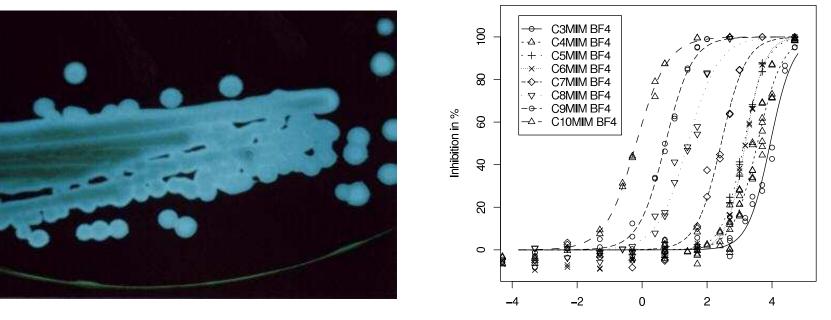


Ranke et al. *Ecotoxicol Environ Safety* **2004** *58* 396-404 Stolte et al. *Green Chem* **2006** *8* 621-629





#### Luminescence inhibition



Decadic Logarithm of the concentration in  $\mu M$ 

Vibrio fischeri

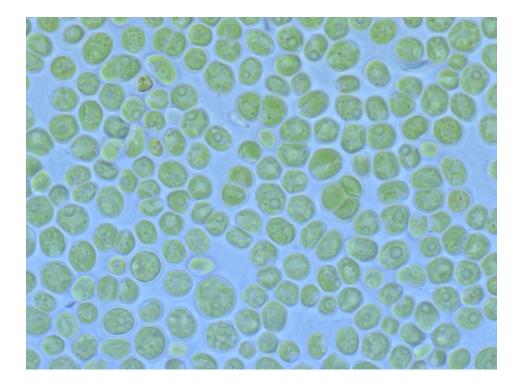
#### Marine bacteria Vibrio fischeri, DIN 38412 L 341

Ranke et al. Ecotoxicol Environ Safety 2004 58 396-404





#### Algae growth inhibition



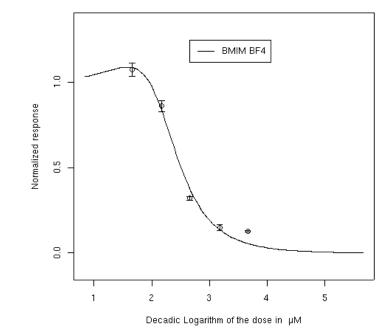
Monocellular algae Scenedesmus vacuolatus





#### **Duckweed growth inhibition**





#### Lemna minor, ISO TC 147/SC 5 N draft





#### **Plant growth inhibition**

#### [bmim] [BF4]







10 mg/kg







100 mg/kg

333 mg/kg 1

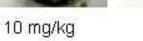
1000 mg/kg

[omim] [BF4]



0 mg/kg







100 mg/kg



333 mg/kg



1000 mg/kg

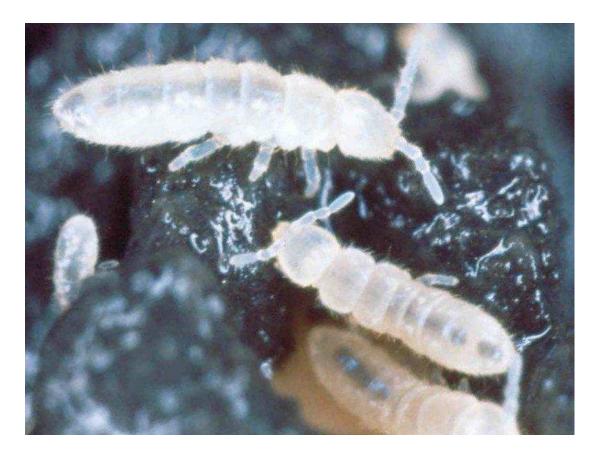
Lepidium sativum, ISO 11269-2

Jastorff et al. Green Chem 2005 7 362-372





#### Inhibition of springtail reproduction



#### Folsomia candida ISO 11267





## **Biological activity of IL (literature)**

Tests with different organisms

 Aquatic organisms (Luminescent bacteria, monocellular algae, water fleas, zebra fish)





# **Biological activity of IL (literature)**

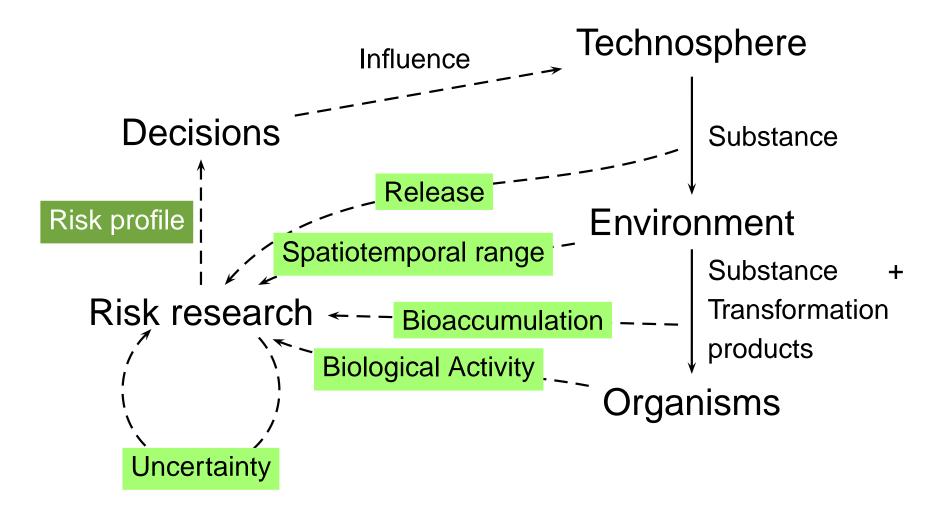
Tests with different organisms

- Aquatic organisms (Luminescent bacteria, monocellular algae, water fleas, zebra fish)
- Terrestrial organisms (Nematodes, rats, rabbits, mice)





#### **Five risk indicators**







# Understanding risk related properties





Molecular interaction potentials





- Molecular interaction potentials
- Linear free enthalpy relationships (LFER)





- Molecular interaction potentials
- Linear free enthalpy relationships (LFER)
- Basal cytotoxicity





- Molecular interaction potentials
- Linear free enthalpy relationships (LFER)
- Basal cytotoxicity
- Baseline toxicity





- Molecular interaction potentials
- Linear free enthalpy relationships (LFER)
- Basal cytotoxicity
- Baseline toxicity
- Mixture toxicity





- Molecular interaction potentials
- Linear free enthalpy relationships (LFER)
- Basal cytotoxicity
- Baseline toxicity
- Mixture toxicity
- Bioavailability



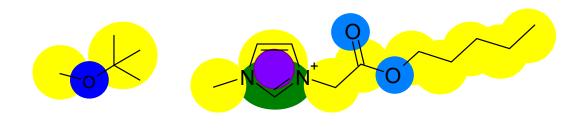


- Molecular interaction potentials
- Linear free enthalpy relationships (LFER)
- Basal cytotoxicity
- Baseline toxicity
- Mixture toxicity
- Bioavailability
- Molecular biology





#### **Molecular interaction potentials**



MTBE

IM1-1COO5



Jastorff, B., Störmann, R., Wölcke, U.: Struktur-Wirkungs-Denken in der Chemie — eine Chance für mehr Nachhaltigkeit. Aschenbeck & Isensee, **2003** 





LFERs correlate Gibbs free energies of IL transfer between

• water and pure IL (log  $c_{w}^{sat}$ )





- water and pure IL (log  $c_w^{sat}$ )
- water and octanol (log K<sub>ow</sub>)





- water and pure IL (log  $c_{w}^{sat}$ )
- water and octanol (log  $K_{ow}$ )
- water and air-water surfaces (surface tension)





- water and pure IL (log  $c_{w}^{sat}$ )
- water and octanol (log  $K_{ow}$ )
- water and air-water surfaces (surface tension)
- water and C18-silica (log k<sub>0</sub>)



- water and pure IL (log  $c_w^{sat}$ )
- water and octanol (log  $K_{ow}$ )
- water and air-water surfaces (surface tension)
- water and C18-silica (log k<sub>0</sub>)
- water and artificial membranes or biota





- water and pure IL (log  $c_w^{sat}$ )
- water and octanol (log K<sub>ow</sub>)
- water and air-water surfaces (surface tension)
- water and C18-silica (log k<sub>0</sub>)
- water and artificial membranes or biota
- water and cytotoxicity target sites (log EC<sub>50</sub>)





LFERs correlate Gibbs free energies of IL transfer between

- water and pure IL (log  $c_w^{sat}$ )
- water and octanol (log  $K_{ow}$ )
- water and air-water surfaces (surface tension)

• water and C18-silica (log  $k_0$ )

water and artificial membranes or biota

• water and cytotoxicity target sites (log  $EC_{50}$ )





 toxicity to basal functions of all cells of an organism





- toxicity to basal functions of all cells of an organism
- as opposed to organ specific or extracellular toxicity





- toxicity to basal functions of all cells of an organism
- as opposed to organ specific or extracellular toxicity
- similar across many in-vitro cytotoxicity tests

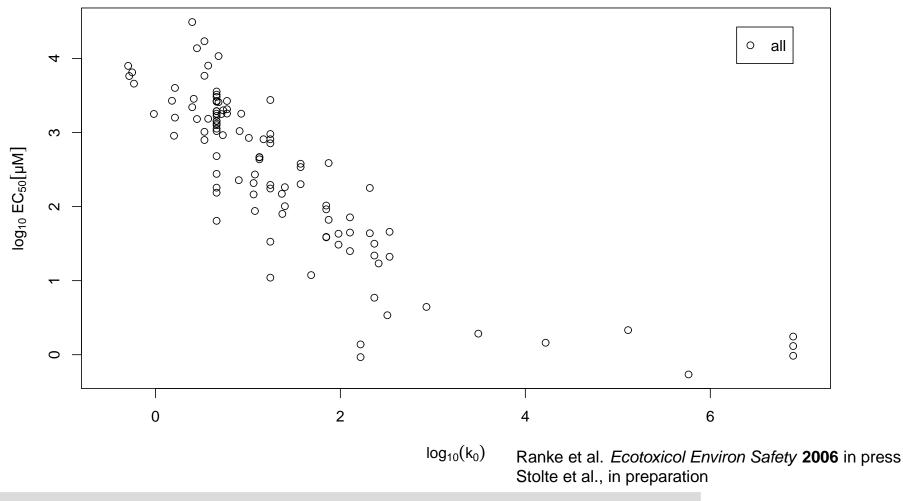




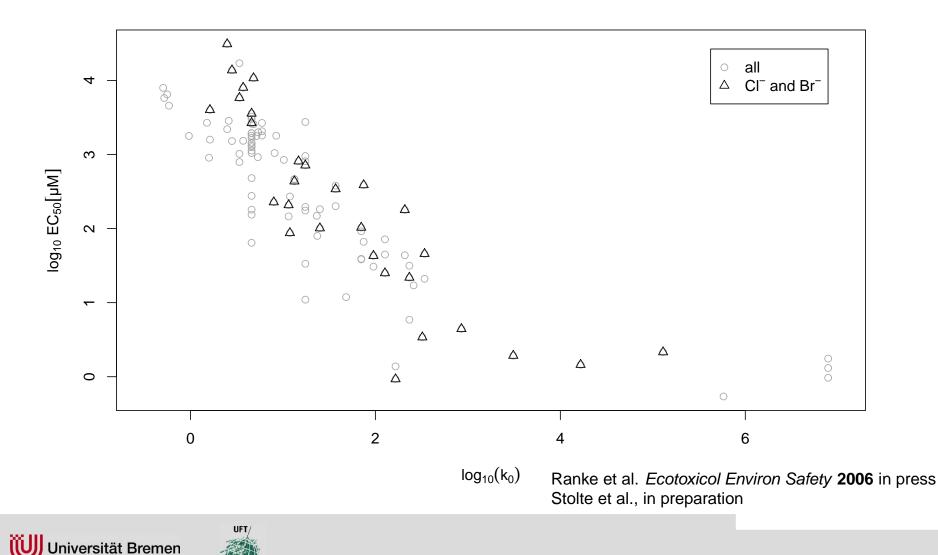
- toxicity to basal functions of all cells of an organism
- as opposed to organ specific or extracellular toxicity
- similar across many in-vitro cytotoxicity tests
- similar across very different organisms

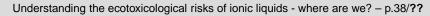


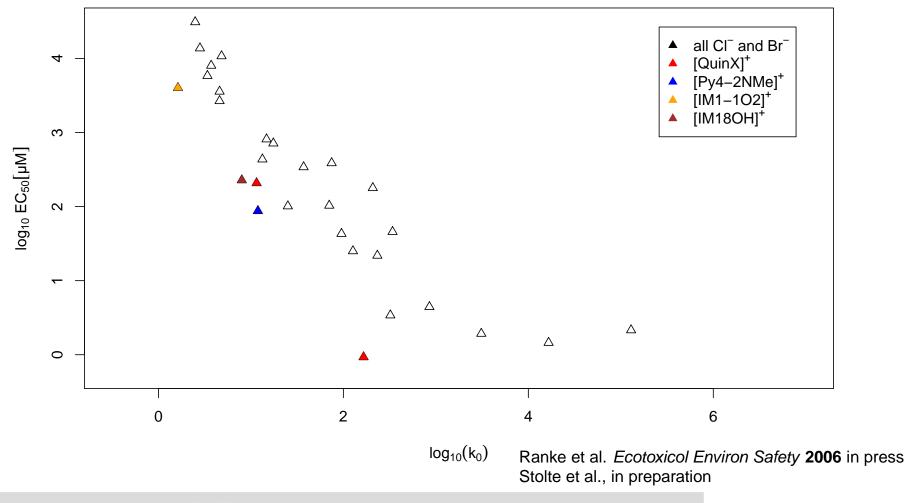






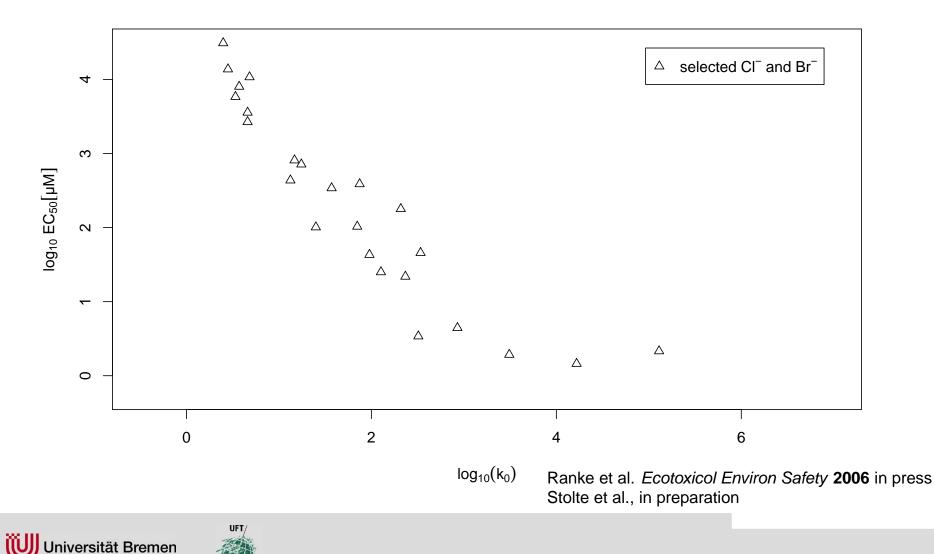


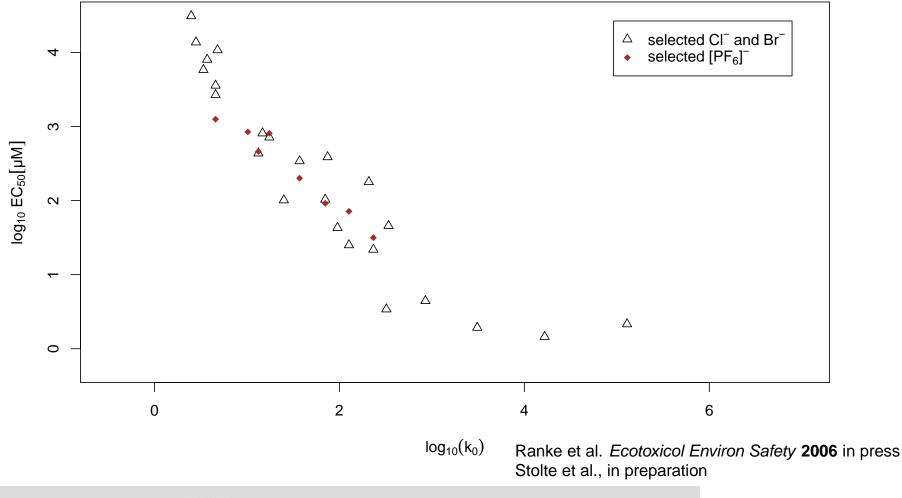






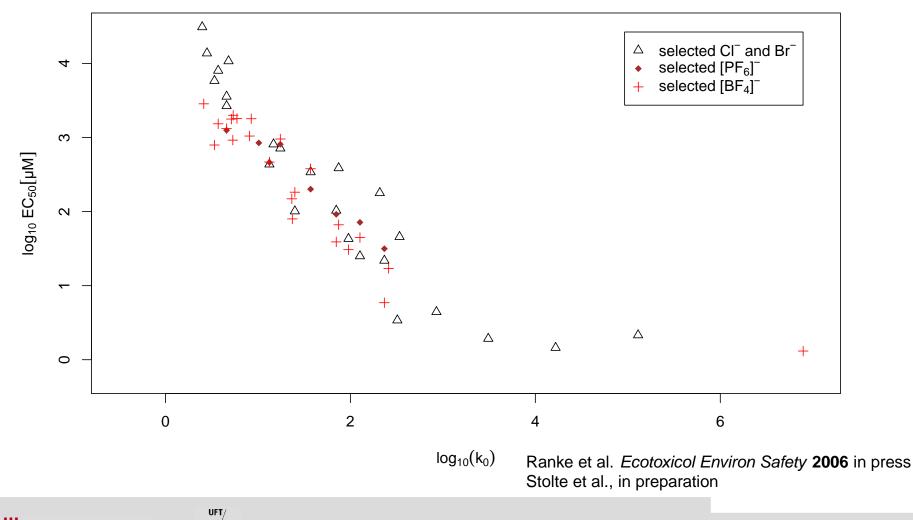


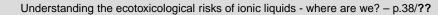


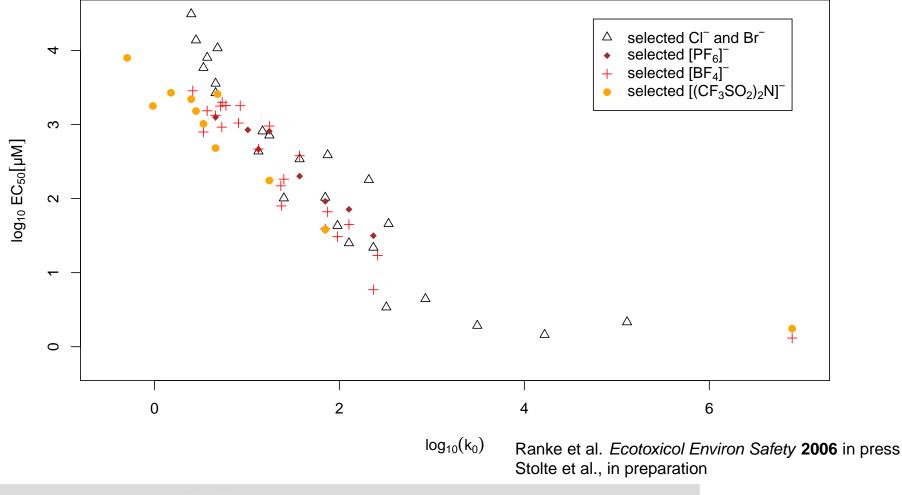














### **Mixture toxicity**

Binary 1:1 mixtures of cations and anions





## **Mixture toxicity**

Binary 1:1 mixtures of cations and anions

If concentration addition is assumed:

$$\mathrm{EC}_{50}^{1+2} = \frac{\mathrm{EC}_{50}^1 \cdot \mathrm{EC}_{50}^2}{\mathrm{EC}_{50}^1 + \mathrm{EC}_{50}^2}$$



### **Mixture toxicity**

Binary 1:1 mixtures of cations and anions

If concentration addition is assumed:

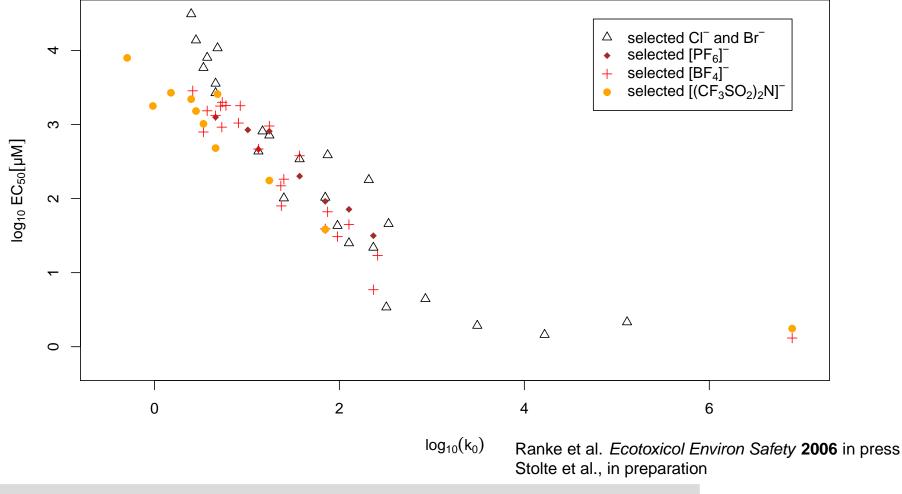
$$\mathrm{EC}_{50}^{1+2} = \frac{\mathrm{EC}_{50}^1 \cdot \mathrm{EC}_{50}^2}{\mathrm{EC}_{50}^1 + \mathrm{EC}_{50}^2}$$

Examples:

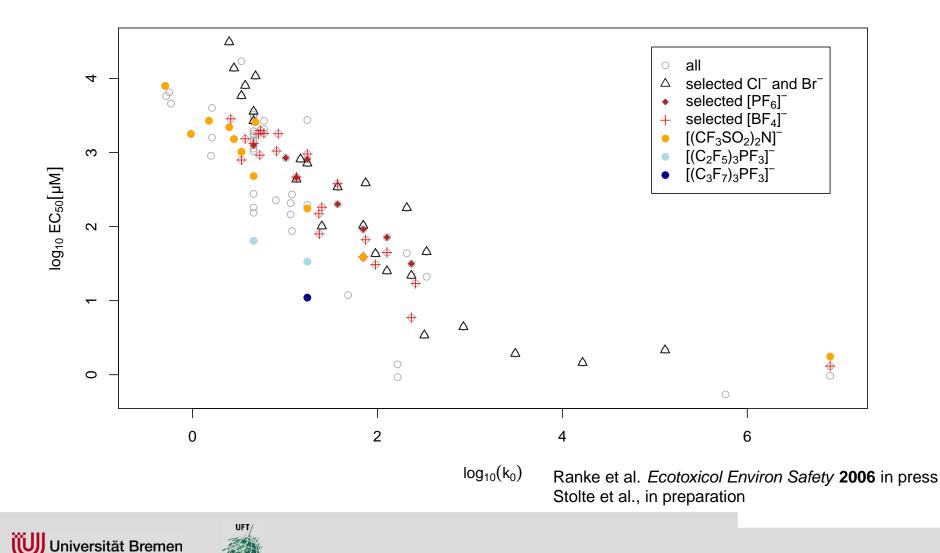
 $EC_{50}^1 = EC_{50}^2 = 10\mu$ M:  $EC_{50}^{1+2} = 5\mu$ M  $EC_{50}^1 = 100\mu$ M and  $EC_{50}^2 = 1\mu$ M:  $EC_{50}^{1+2} = 0.99\mu$ M

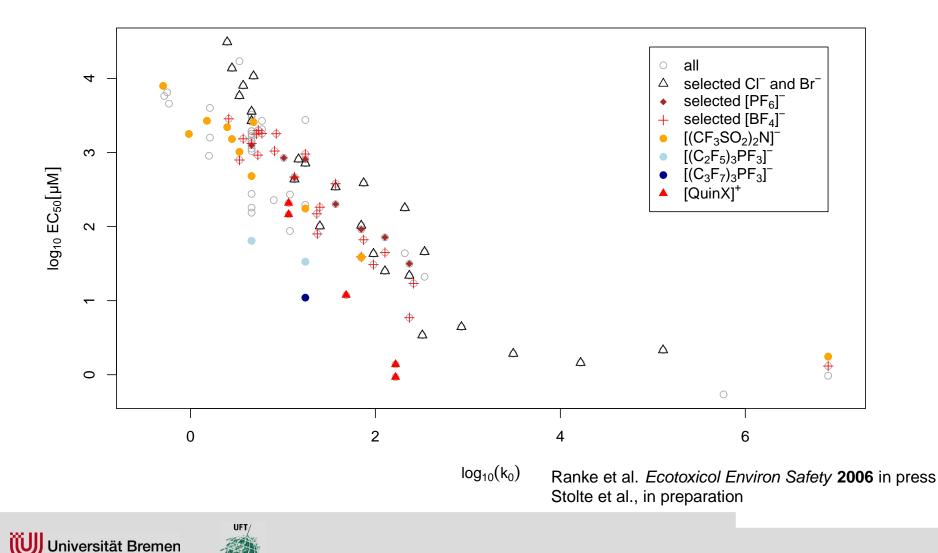












# IL baseline cytotoxicity

Exceptions to the rule:

 quinolinium or dimethylaminopyridinium headgroup





# IL baseline cytotoxicity

Exceptions to the rule:

- quinolinium or dimethylaminopyridinium headgroup
- hydrophobic or reactive anions









Many IL are not inherently green

 there is a possibility of thermal decomposition to unknown products





Many IL are not inherently green

- there is a possibility of thermal decomposition to unknown products
- most of the ions used are not readily biodegradable





Many IL are not inherently green

- there is a possibility of thermal decomposition to unknown products
- most of the ions used are not readily biodegradable
- some of the ions have a high basal cytotoxicity





Many IL are not inherently green

- there is a possibility of thermal decomposition to unknown products
- most of the ions used are not readily biodegradable
- some of the ions have a high basal cytotoxicity
- some IL have a high aquatic toxicity





But there are good news!

 knowledge about long term thermal stability is building up





But there are good news!

- knowledge about long term thermal stability is building up
- IL are being optimized for biodegradability





But there are good news!

- knowledge about long term thermal stability is building up
- IL are being optimized for biodegradability
- many of the ions have a low basal cytotoxicity





But there are good news!

- knowledge about long term thermal stability is building up
- IL are being optimized for biodegradability
- many of the ions have a low basal cytotoxicity
- some IL have low aquatic and terrestrial toxicity





#### Coauthors





- Coauthors
- Merck KGaA, Darmstadt





- Coauthors
- Merck KGaA, Darmstadt
- FSU Jena





- Coauthors
- Merck KGaA, Darmstadt
- FSU Jena
- IOLITEC, Solvent innovation and other cooperation partners





- Coauthors
- Merck KGaA, Darmstadt
- FSU Jena
- IOLITEC, Solvent innovation and other cooperation partners
- Prof. R. Schwarzenbach and Prof. K. Hungerbühler, ETH Zürich

#### www.uft.uni-bremen.de



- Coauthors
- Merck KGaA, Darmstadt
- FSU Jena
- IOLITEC, Solvent innovation and other cooperation partners
- Prof. R. Schwarzenbach and Prof. K. Hungerbühler, ETH Zürich
- Prof. B. Jastorff, Universität Bremen

#### www.uft.uni-bremen.de

