
Combined effects of antifouling biocides on the growth of three marine microalgal species

Dupraz Valentin^{1,2,*}, Stachowski-Haberkorn Sabine¹, Ménard Dominique¹, Limon Gwendolina³, Akcha Farida¹, Budzinski H el ene^{4,5}, Cedergreen Nina⁶

¹ Ifremer, Laboratoire d' cotoxicologie, rue de l' le d'Yeu, BP 21105, F-44311, Nantes Cedex 03, France

² Universit  de Nantes, UFR Sciences et Techniques, 2, rue de la Houssini re, BP 92208, 44322, Nantes Cedex 03, France

³ LABOCEA, Unit  R&D, 120 Avenue de Rochon, 29280, Plouzan , France

⁴ Universit  de Bordeaux, UMR 5805, EPOC, Laboratoire de Physico Toxico Chimie de l'environnement, 351 Cours de la Lib ration, CS 10004, F-33405, Talence Cedex, France

⁵ CNRS, UMR 5805, EPOC, Laboratoire de Physico Toxico Chimie de l'environnement, 351 Cours de la Lib ration, CS 10004, F-33405, Talence Cedex, France

⁶ Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg, Denmark

* Corresponding author : Valentin Dupraz, email address : valentin.dupraz@ifremer.fr

Abstract :

The toxicity of the antifouling compounds diuron, irgarol, zinc pyrithione (ZnPT), copper pyrithione (CuPT) and copper was tested on the three marine microalgae *Tisochrysis lutea*, *Skeletonema marinoi* and *Tetraselmis suecica*. Toxicity tests based on the inhibition of growth rate after 96-h exposure were run using microplates. Chemical analyses were performed to validate the exposure concentrations and the stability of the compounds under test conditions.

Single chemicals exhibited varying toxicity depending on the species, irgarol being the most toxic chemical and Cu the least toxic. Selected binary mixtures were tested and the resulting interactions were analyzed using two distinct concentration-response surface models: one using the concentration addition (CA) model as reference and two deviating isobole models implemented in R software; the other implementing concentration-response surface models in Excel , using both CA and independent action (IA) models as reference and three deviating models. Most mixtures of chemicals sharing the same mode of action (MoA) were correctly predicted by the CA model. For mixtures of dissimilarly acting chemicals, neither of the reference models provided better predictions than the other. Mixture of ZnPT together with Cu induced a strong synergistic effect on *T. suecica* while strong antagonism was observed on the two other species. The synergy was due to the transchelation of ZnPT into CuPT in the presence of Cu, CuPT being 14-fold more toxic than ZnPT for this species. The two modelling approaches are compared and the differences observed among the interaction patterns resulting from the mixtures are discussed.

Highlight

► The toxicity of antifouling binary mixtures was tested on three microalgae species. ► Both methods used to predict interactive effects of mixtures gave similar results. ► Mixtures of similarly acting chemicals were close to the CA model predictions. ► Mixture of ZnPT and Cu induced strong synergism on *Tetraselmis suecica*. ► Transchelation of ZnPT into CuPT in presence of Cu²⁺ was demonstrated.

Keywords : Diuron, Irgarol, Pyrithione, Copper, Microbial ecotoxicology, Mixture model

44 1 Introduction

45 Diuron (1-(3,4 dichlorophenyl)-3,3 dimethyl urea), irgarol (2-methylthio-4-tertbutylamino-6-
46 cyclopropylamino-s-triazine), Zinc Pyrithione and Copper Pyrithione (ZnPT/CuPT, bis(2-
47 pyridylthio)zinc/copper 1,1'-dioxide) are among the proposed chemicals to be used as “booster”
48 biocides in Cu-based antifouling paints (Konstantinou and Albanis, 2004). These biocides are usually
49 used alone, in combination with Cu, although two can co-occur in some paint formulations
50 (Environment Agency, 1998). Leaching of these substances to the environment occurs directly from
51 both the ship hull (Readman et al., 1993; Takahashi, 2009) and the discarded antifouling paint
52 particles (Turner et al., 2008; Turner, 2010; Hasan et al., 2014), especially during maintenance and
53 cleaning (Links et al., 2006).

54 Recently, the use of diuron (Regulation (EU) No 528/2012) and irgarol (Regulation (EU) No 2016/107)
55 as biocides has been prohibited in Europe because of their high toxicity towards aquatic life and both
56 have been included in the list of “48 priority pollutants to be monitored in European waters” in the
57 Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC and 2013/39/EU). Nonetheless, diuron and irgarol are still
58 found in European fresh and coastal waters. Concentrations up to $0.27 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ diuron and $0.19 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$

59 irgarol were reported by Caquet et al. (2013) in Vilaine Bay (Brittany, France) and even higher
60 concentrations up to $2.60 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ diuron and $0.82 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ irgarol were reported in careening areas of
61 several French ports (Cozic and Durand, 2013). Diuron (phenylurea) and irgarol (S-triazine) both act
62 as photosystem II (PSII) inhibitors by competing with the quinone Q_B on its binding site located in the
63 D1 protein, thus preventing electron transfer between Q_A and Q_B and inhibiting Hill's reaction (Nimbal
64 et al., 1996; Jones and Kerswell, 2003). Several studies reported the high toxicity of these compounds
65 towards microalgae: Koutsaftis and Aoyama (2006) determined 72-h 50% inhibitory concentrations
66 (IC50) of 36.0 and $1.10 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ on the growth of the diatom *Chaetoceros gracilis* for diuron and irgarol,
67 respectively. Bao et al. (2011) reported 96-h EC50 values for diuron and irgarol of 5.90 and $0.57 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$
68 ¹, and 4.30 and $0.39 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ on the growth of the marine microalgae *Skeletonema costatum* and
69 *Thalassiosira pseudonana*, respectively.

70 On contrary to diuron and irgarol, very little is known about the occurrence of the two organometals
71 ZnPT and CuPT in the environment. Indeed, literature about pyriothione concentrations in water is very
72 scarce: to our knowledge, only one study reported the occurrence of pyriothione (PT, Hydroxy-2(1H)-
73 pyridinethione) in the marine environment, at a concentration of $13.4 \pm 0.60 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ measured by
74 cathodic stripping voltammetry in a marina from Mersey estuary (United Kingdom) (Mackie et al.,
75 2004). ZnPT and CuPT usually co-occur in the marine environment as they are both present in
76 antifouling paints, and because ZnPT easily transchelates into CuPT in presence of Cu (Thomas,
77 1999; Maraldo and Dahllöf, 2004; Grunnet and Dahllöf, 2005). ZnPT has long been used for its
78 bactericidal and fungicidal activity, especially in antidandruff shampoos (Yebra et al., 2004), and has
79 been proposed as one of the most relevant compounds to replace TBT in antifouling paints during the
80 past decade (Doose et al., 2004). It is assumed to act by disrupting cell membrane integrity and
81 inhibiting ATP synthesis and membrane transport (Chandler and Segel, 1978; Dinning et al., 1998b,
82 1998a). No study specifically evaluated the mode of action (MoA) of CuPT, though it is reasonable to
83 think that it shares the same mechanism as ZnPT. Regarding their toxicity on microalgae, Yamada
84 (2006) reported 72-h EC50 of 2.10 and $28.4 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ on the growth of *S. costatum*, and 28.0 and $35.0 \mu\text{g}$
85 L^{-1} on the growth of *Selenastrum capricornutum*, for ZnPT and CuPT, respectively. In another study on
86 *S. costatum*, the 72-h EC50 were 1.60 and $1.50 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ for ZnPT and CuPT (Onduka et al., 2010),
87 while Devilla et al. (2005) determined a 72-h EC50 of $0.54 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ for ZnPT on the growth of the
88 microalga *Emiliana huxleyi*.

89 Concerning copper, since its bioavailable form is the dissolved ionic form Cu^{2+} , the abbreviation Cu
90 will refer to Cu^{2+} ions throughout this article. Most antifouling paints contain copper in the form of
91 copper(I) oxide (or cuprous oxide, Cu_2O), or more rarely copper(I)thiocyanate (or cuprous thiocyanate,
92 CuSCN). Once in seawater, Cu_2O and CuSCN are oxidized in Cu^{2+} (Vetere et al., 1997). As a result,
93 marinas, coastal and estuarine waters are often contaminated by elevated concentrations of Cu in
94 sediments and surface waters. Average dissolved Cu concentrations of 8.50 and 11.2 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ have
95 been reported in marinas of the San Diego region (USA) (Schiff et al., 2007) and beach waters in
96 Acapulco (Mexico) (Jonathan et al., 2011), respectively. Cu is an essential component in many
97 metabolic processes in microalgae, however, concentrations above the optimum level can become
98 toxic (Baron et al., 1995). Toxic MoA of Cu is thought to inhibit electron transport by damaging
99 acceptor and donor sides of the PSII (Patsikka et al., 1998), hence decreasing the photosynthetic
100 efficiency (El Berdey et al., 2000). Regarding its toxicity towards microalgae, a 96-h EC_{50} of 970 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$
101 was reported by Bao et al. (2008) on the growth of the microalgae *Thalassiosira pseudonana*, while
102 Koutsaftis and Aoyama (2006) determined a 72-h IC_{50} of 1200 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ on the growth of *Chaetoceros*
103 *gracilis*.

104 Numerous studies have shown the importance of studying mixtures of chemicals, as it is more
105 environmentally relevant and because chemicals in mixtures can exhibit higher toxicity than they
106 would alone (Fernandez-Alba et al., 2002; Franklin et al., 2002; Cedergreen et al., 2006; Koutsaftis
107 and Aoyama, 2006). Cedergreen (2014) reported that approximately 5% of the tested pesticide
108 mixtures exhibit larger effects than predicted, while for antifouling mixtures it was approximately 26%
109 of the tested mixtures. Two main reference models are used to predict the toxicity of mixtures. The
110 most frequently used is the concentration addition (CA) model, also referred as Loewe additivity
111 (Loewe and Muischnek, 1926), which is based on the assumption that chemicals sharing the same
112 molecular target can thus be considered as dilutions of each other. On the contrary, the independent
113 action (IA) model considers that chemicals acting on independent targets can result in a binary
114 response: either affected or non-affected. Hence, the probability of surviving a mixture following IA is
115 equal to the product of the probabilities of surviving each of the chemicals individually. Several other
116 models (Hewlett, 1969; Vølund, 1992; Jonker et al., 2005) describe types of deviations from these two
117 reference models, being either synergistic (greater effect than predicted), antagonistic (smaller effect
118 than predicted) or a mixture of the two.

119 Phytoplankton is responsible for over half of the global annual primary production on earth (Beardall
120 and Raven, 2016) and occupies a key role in the oceanic food web. As many phytoplankton species
121 are living in marinas and harbor areas, they are exposed to cocktails of chemicals, especially
122 antifouling biocides. In this study, binary mixtures of antifouling biocides (including Cu) were tested on
123 three marine microalgal species: the haptophyte *Tisochrysis lutea*, the diatom *Skeletonema marinoi*
124 and the chlorophyte *Tetraselmis suecica*.

125 To evaluate the extent to which the combined toxicity of antifouling biocides together with Cu can
126 harm marine microalgae, the goals of this study were: i) to determine the toxicity of diuron, irgarol,
127 ZnPT, CuPT and Cu on the three species of microalgae; and ii) to evaluate and compare the
128 interaction patterns of six chosen binary mixtures through two different modelling approaches testing
129 deviations from the CA and IA models.

130

131 **2 Materials and methods**

132 **2.1 Chemical / toxicant preparation**

133 Diuron, irgarol®, (PESTANAL®, analytical standard), Zinc Pyrithione (ZnPT) and copper(II) sulfate
134 pentahydrate (CuSO_4 , $\geq 98\%$) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Copper Pyrithione (CuPT) was
135 purchased from Santa Cruz Biotechnology. Internal standards diuron-d6 and irgarol-d9 were
136 purchased from Cluzeau Info Labo (Sainte Foy la Grande, France). Stock solutions of irgarol (0.57 g L^{-1})
137 ¹), diuron (1.04 g L^{-1}), ZnPT (0.51 g L^{-1}) and CuPT (0.49 g L^{-1}) were prepared in pure DMSO ($\geq 99\%$)
138 and stock solution of CuSO_4 (3.20 g L^{-1}) was prepared in sterile ultra-pure water. All stock solutions
139 were analyzed to ensure their concentrations (2.4; Table 2 and supplementary data Table S3). Stock
140 solutions were diluted to make working solutions; in pure DMSO for irgarol, diuron, ZnPT and CuPT; in
141 sterile ultra-pure water for CuSO_4 .

142

143 **2.2 Microalgal cultures**

144 The marine microalga *Tisochrysis lutea* (*T. lutea*) CCAP 927/14 was purchased from the Culture
145 Center of Algae and Protozoa (CCAP, Oban, Scotland). The marine diatom *Skeletonema marinoi*
146 (*S. marinoi*) AC174, was purchased from the University of Caen Algobank (Caen, France). The marine
147 microalgae *Tetraselmis suecica* (*T. suecica*) CCMP 904 was obtained from the Provasoli–Guillard

148 National Center for Marine Algae and Microbiota (NCMA). Microalgal cultures were maintained in
149 sterile f/2 (*T. lutea* and *T. suecica*) and f/2-Silica (*S. marinoi*) mediums (Guillard and Ryther, 1962;
150 Guillard, 1975) at $20 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$, in a thermostatic chamber at $130 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ (Quantometer Li-Cor Li-250
151 equipped with a spherical sensor), with a dark:light cycle of 8:16 h. Cultures were grown in 100 mL
152 round borosilicate sterile glass flasks previously heated to 450°C for 6 h and autoclaved 20 min at
153 121°C and then filled with 50 mL of sterile culture medium. Cultures were diluted weekly in order to
154 maintain an exponential growth phase.

155

156 **2.3 Exposure experiments**

157 **2.3.1 Concentration-response experiments**

158 Concentration-response experiments were performed for each chemical/mixture to calculate the
159 EC50, meaning the Effective Concentration inducing a 50% inhibition on growth rate after a 96-h
160 exposure. Toxicity assays were run in sterile 48-well transparent polystyrene microplates (Greiner Bio-
161 One GmbH, cat. 677102, untreated), each well being filled with 0.9 mL of sterile f/2 or f/2-Si culture
162 medium and 0.1 mL of microalgal culture. Microplates were covered with their own lid, allowing gas
163 exchanges. Peripheral wells were not used in order to avoid edge effect (Caux et al., 1992; St-Laurent
164 et al., 1992); instead, they were filled with sterile $0.2\text{-}\mu\text{m}$ filtered ultra-pure water to prevent
165 evaporation and maintain high humidity. One assay test was conducted per tested substance/mixture.
166 Each assay consisted in the exposure to six concentrations (supplementary data: Figure S1, Table
167 S1) in triplicates and six solvent-control (SC) containing the highest solvent percentage used in the
168 microplate (0.1% of DMSO). Specific growth rates for control with and without solvent are displayed in
169 supplementary data (Table S2). Chemicals and solvent (for solvent-control condition) were spiked in
170 separate sterile glass flasks (one glass flask per tested chemical and concentration) containing 25 mL
171 of sterile culture medium prior to distribution in the triplicate wells of the microplate. After
172 measurement of the cell density by flow cytometry (Accuri C6, Becton Dickinson Accuri™), 0.1 mL of
173 the diluted microalgal culture was added in each assay well to reach a concentration of 20,000 cell
174 mL^{-1} at the beginning of exposure. The final volume of each well was 1.0 mL.

175 For binary mixture experiments, the approach of concentration-response surfaces was chosen
176 (Gessner, 1995; White et al., 2004). This design provides data for the full range of possible
177 combinations between two chemicals, which is data-demanding but remains the most elaborate and

178 informative approach to evaluate the joint toxicity of two chemicals in binary mixture (Cedergreen et
179 al., 2013). For being able to perform these experiments, the EC50 of the single chemicals, which are
180 prerequisite, have been determined in preliminary experiments (Table 1; Figure 1). Concentration-
181 response experiments were then carried out for single chemicals (considered as mixture ratios
182 100:0% and 0:100%) and mixtures at three perceived effective concentration ratios of 75:25%,
183 50:50% and 25:75%, using six concentrations in triplicates and six-solvent controls, as described
184 above. As all possible combinations could not been investigated, six selected binary mixtures were
185 tested using the previously mentioned design: diuron+irgarol; ZnPT+CuPT; diuron+Cu; irgarol+Cu;
186 diuron+ZnPT and Cu+ZnPT.

187

188 **2.3.2 Chemical stability assays**

189 The chemical stability of the biocides selected in this study was investigated in the microplate wells
190 over time, during 24 or 96 h (Table 2 and supplementary data: Table S3). To that aim, an abiotic
191 microplate assay was run for each chemical tested, under the same conditions as the concentration-
192 response experiments (2.3.1). In order to specifically investigate the potential transchelation of ZnPT
193 into CuPT, the microplate assays were run using a mixture of ZnPT and Cu at concentrations for
194 which transchelation was suspected to happen. It is noteworthy that regarding the first results we
195 obtained, transchelation was also assessed in biotic conditions using *T. suecica*. For each condition,
196 1- to 5-mL of the spiked culture medium were taken off the wells into separate vials at the beginning of
197 the assay, and after 6 and 96 h for diuron and irgarol, after 24 and 96 h for ZnPT, CuPT and the
198 mixture of ZnPT with Cu (with and without algae), and after 24 h for Cu. The vials were then stored at -
199 20°C before chemical analysis.

200

201 **2.4 Chemical analyses**

202 **2.4.1 Diuron and irgarol:**

203 Classical methods were used to quantify diuron and irgarol and the global protocol was adapted from
204 Coquillé et al. (2018). Each abiotic sample (2.3.2) was diluted in ultra-pure water to reach a theoretical
205 final concentration of 100 ng L⁻¹ and 40 µL of the diluted samples were directly analyzed by liquid
206 chromatography (1290 Infinity system, Agilent Technologies, USA) coupled to tandem mass
207 spectrometer (6460 triple quadrupole LC/MS system, Agilent Technologies, USA), after adding

208 internal standards (diuron-d6, irgarol-d9). The separation was performed using a Kinetex C18 column
209 and using a gradient of 5.00 mM ammonium acetate with 0.1% acetic acid in ultra-pure water and pure
210 methanol as mobile phases, with a flow rate of 0.50 mL min⁻¹. Analyses were performed in multiple
211 reaction monitoring mode (supplementary data: Table S4). The LOQ was 1.19 ng L⁻¹ for diuron and
212 0.24 ng L⁻¹ for irgarol.

213

214 **2.4.2 Copper:**

215 A classical method was adapted from Garbarino and Taylor (1996) to quantify Cu. Each abiotic
216 sample (2.3.2) was diluted 50 times in ultra-pure water containing 0.2% HNO₃. Dissolved Cu
217 concentrations in samples were determined on a X series II ICP-MS (Thermo Fisher Scientific®). An
218 internal solution, containing In and Rh was added to the samples to correct signal drifts. The LOQ for
219 Cu was 0.73 µg L⁻¹. The accuracy and the precision of the method were evaluated using the NIST
220 2976 (National Institute of Standard and Technology) and SLRS-5 (National Research Council of
221 Canada (CNRC)) certified reference materials. Measured concentrations of Cu agreed with
222 recommended values to within ± 5%.

223

224 **2.4.3 ZnPT and CuPT:**

225 Prior to extraction, the samples containing ZnPT, CuPT or the mixture of ZnPT and Cu (with and
226 without algae; 2.3.2) were centrifuged during 1 minute at 3000 g. After half dilution with water
227 containing the internal standard, 1000 µL supernatant of the samples were directly injected and
228 extracted using an on-line solid-phase extraction system Waters (Milford, Massachusetts, USA)
229 XBridge® C8 Direct Connect cartridges with elution during the chromatography mobile phase.
230 Separation was achieved by ultraperformance liquid chromatography (Acquity® HClass, Waters),
231 using a Waters Acquity® UPLC BEH C18 column (50 × 2.1 mm; 1.7 µm) and an elution gradient
232 consisting of ammonium acetate 20.0 mM/methanol. Detection relied on ultra-performance liquid
233 chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry (MS–MS) (Xevo TQ-S, Waters).

234 Two curves of six-points calibration, one for ZnPT, one for CuPT were prepared extemporaneously in
235 water and were treated like samples. Concentration range linearity was observed from 0.05 µg L⁻¹
236 (LOQ) to 100 µg L⁻¹ for CuPT and 0.05 µg L⁻¹ (LOQ) to 50.0 µg L⁻¹ for ZnPT.

237

238 **2.5 Analysis of microalgal growth using microplate reader**

239 Microalgal growth was measured every 24 h, during the light phase and at least two hours after its
240 start, by the chlorophyll fluorescence. Microplates were analysed using a SAFIRE microplate reader
241 (TECAN) with XFluor4beta Excel® macro as software. Excitation/emission wavelengths were: 450/684
242 nm (10 nm bandwidth), 9 reads were performed per well from the bottom, with an integration time of
243 20 µs. Each microplate was shaken during 20 s before the reading, using a Orbis Plus (Mikura Ltd)
244 microplate shaker in orbital mode.

245 For each well, the growth rate was calculated, for each species and substance tested over the 96 h
246 exposure period, with the following equation: $\mu = \ln(F_t - F_0)/t$, where F_t was the fluorescence (a.u.) of the
247 well at t (h), μ (h^{-1}) was the growth rate and F_0 the initial fluorescence intensity at $t = 0$ h.

248

249 **2.6 Statistical analysis**

250 **2.6.1 Concentration-response**

251 Concentration-response analyses were carried out using R software 3.3.2 with 'drc' package (Ritz and
252 Streibig, 2005; Ritz et al., 2015). For each chemical, tested using six concentrations in triplicates, a
253 single three-parameters log-logistic regression model, Equation 1, was applied:

$$U = \frac{d}{\left(1 + \left(\frac{x}{EC50}\right)^b\right)} \quad (1)$$

254 where U is the response, in our case the 96 h growth rate (μ , h^{-1}), at the concentration x , d the upper-
255 limit corresponding to the growth rates of the untreated algae and b is the slope of the curve around
256 EC50.

257

258 **2.6.2 Mixture analysis**

259 **2.6.2.1 Isobole model**

260 Isobolograms (Figure 2) permit the visualization of several isoboles, which consist of concentration
261 combinations of two substances that yield the same effect. In this study, a 50% inhibition effect on
262 growth rate was used. Predictions from the two reference isobole models, CA and IA, were calculated

263 for each mixture based on the concentration response parameters of the single chemicals. To
 264 calculate the isobole for the CA model, Equation 2 was used:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{z_i}{ECx_i} = 1 \quad (2)$$

265 where, z_i is the concentration of the chemical i in the mixture giving $x\%$ effect and ECx_i is the effective
 266 concentration yielding the same effect as the mixture, in our case, $EC50_i$ for a 50% inhibition. The
 267 quotient z_i/ECx_i corresponds to the dimensionless Toxic Units (TUx_i) that quantifies the relative
 268 contribution to toxicity of the individual chemical i in the mixture of n chemicals.

269 The response of a binary mixture of X and Y following the IA model predictions corresponds to the
 270 multiplication of the relative responses, where maximal growth rates are set to 1 and can be described
 271 as: $R_{mix} = R_x R_y$; the response of the chemical Y in a mixture achieving a 50% inhibition effect is then:
 272 $R_y = 0.5/R_x$. Knowing the response of Y at a given concentration of X makes it possible to calculate the
 273 corresponding concentration of Y by solving the equation of the chosen concentration–response
 274 model for y . Hence, solving Eq. 1 with $d = 1$ for the concentration z , gives

$$z = EC50 \left(\frac{1}{U} - 1 \right)^{1/b} \quad (3)$$

275 and y can be determined using the $EC50$ and slope (b) given by the concentration-response curve of
 276 chemical Y . The predicted concentrations of X and Y yielding a 50% inhibition effect can then be
 277 plotted on the isobologram.

278 The Hewlett and Vølund models (Hewlett, 1969; Vølund, 1992), that are extensions of the CA model
 279 were also tested. These two models are based on a four-parameters log-logistic model, with common
 280 upper and lower-limit; the latter being fixed to zero, thereby reducing it to a three-parameters model.

281 Both models allow the isobole to describe either synergistic or antagonistic responses relative to CA.

282 The Hewlett model uses the $EC50$ of the two chemicals X and Y and one additional parameter, giving
 283 symmetric deviations from CA, while the Vølund model introduces two additional parameters allowing
 284 for asymmetric deviations from the CA model (Ritz and Streibig, 2014). Further details about these
 285 models are available in (Cedergreen et al., 2007).

286 The Hewlett isobole model is described by:

$$EC50_{\text{mix}} = \left(\left(\frac{p_X}{EC50_X} \right)^{1/\lambda} + \left(\frac{p_Y}{EC50_Y} \right)^{1/\lambda} \right)^{-\lambda} \quad (4)$$

287 where p_X and p_Y are the proportions of the chemicals X and Y in the mixture relative to the EC50 of the
 288 mixture, corresponding to multiplying Eq. 2 with $EC50_{\text{mix}}$ (making $p_i = z_i EC50_{\text{mix}}$) and λ the interaction
 289 parameter that describes combination effects: if $\lambda = 1$ the equation reduces to concentration addition; if
 290 $\lambda < 1$ the isobole describes antagonism; if $\lambda > 1$ it describes synergism.

291 The Vølund isobole model is described by:

$$EC50_{\text{mix}} = \frac{EC50_X/p_X}{\left(1 + \frac{p_Y EC50_X}{p_X EC50_Y}\right)^{1-\eta_1} + \left(\frac{p_Y EC50_X}{p_X EC50_Y}\right)^{\eta_2} \cdot \left(1 + \frac{p_Y EC50_X}{p_X EC50_Y}\right)^{1-\eta_2}} \quad (5)$$

292 using two interaction parameters, η_1 and η_2 : if $\eta_1 = \eta_2 = 1$ the model simplifies to the CA model; if η_1 and
 293 $\eta_2 > 1$ the isobole shows antagonism; if η_1 and $\eta_2 < 1$ it displays synergism. If $\eta_1 > 1$ $\eta_2 < 1$, or vice-
 294 versa, the interaction is part synergistic and partly antagonistic.

295 The CA model (Eq. 2, two chemicals gives 5 parameters) was first tested against a simultaneous fit of
 296 all data to five concentration-response curves computed by the three-parameters log-logistic model
 297 using freely-varying slopes and EC50-values and a common upper-limit (11-parameters model). The
 298 two fits were compared using an F -test to test if the extended model describes the data significantly
 299 better than the reduced model: if $p > 0.05$ there is no significant difference between the model
 300 predictions, hence, the reduced model (in this case CA) will be preferred. If the hypothesis of the
 301 previous test is rejected (i.e. the CA model do not describe the data well), extended models (Hewlett
 302 or Vølund) can be tested. To assess if an extended model provides a better fit to the data than the CA
 303 model, the extended model is tested against the simpler model (Hewlett vs. CA, and Vølund vs.
 304 Hewlett and CA) using the F -test.

305

306 2.6.2.2 MIXTOX model

307 The MIXTOX model provides an alternative approach to Hewlett and Vølund isobole models. The
 308 model is implemented in an Excel® macro and was developed by Jonker et al. (2005). The model also
 309 describes an entire concentration-response surface, not based on rays following a sigmoid curve, as
 310 described above, but rather models the entire surface mathematically including all data. This also

311 means that data achieved using other designs than the ray design described above can be used,
312 providing that the data cover the majority of the concentration-response surface. On the other hand,
313 modelling the entire surface without the restrictions of each “ray” having to follow a sigmoid model,
314 such as is implemented in the Hewlett and Vølund models, may have the consequence of the “rays”
315 having other shapes than the sigmoid shape, which experience have shown most concentration-
316 response relationships follow (Scholze, et al., 2001).

317 In the model developed by Jonker et al. (2005), the CA and IA models are implemented as described
318 above, using knowledge of the upper-limit, slope and EC50 calculated by the three-parameters log-
319 logistic model (Eq. 1) for the two single compounds. Deviations from the CA or IA models can be
320 described by the addition of a single parameter, a , pulling the entire concentration-response surface
321 below the plane of the reference model (synergism, $a < 0$) or above the plane (antagonism, $a > 0$).
322 This model extension is called S/A (Synergism/Antagonism). Alternatively, an additional parameter
323 can be added, b , allowing for asymmetric deviations from the reference model. In the MIXTOX
324 concept, this model extension is called DR/DL (Dose Ratio/Dose Level-dependent deviation). The
325 mathematical derivations of the models and interpretations are given in Jonker et al. (2005).

326 In order to fit the models to the experimental data, the built-in solver function (Excel®) is used to
327 minimize the residual sum of squares (SS) by interacting with the parameters: upper-limit, slopes and
328 EC50 as well as interaction parameters in the case of S/A and DR/DL model extensions. The lower
329 the residual sum of squares is, the better is the fit of the experimental data to the model. A χ^2 test is
330 also performed to determine if S/A model extension provides a significantly better fit ($p < 0.05$) than
331 the reference model (CA or IA), and similarly for DR/DL vs. S/A and CA/IA.

332

333 **3 Results**

334 **3.1 Chemical analyses**

335 For each chemical, the nominal and measured concentrations of stock solutions (supplementary data:
336 Table S3) were compared by calculating the percentages of variation, which were always below 10%.
337 The chemical concentrations in the microplate wells remained steady over time for diuron, irgarol or
338 Cu, although the measured concentration at the beginning of the exposure (t_0) was slightly lower than
339 targeted for diuron and irgarol (supplementary data: Table S3). The analysis of the samples containing

340 only ZnPT or CuPT (Table 2) showed that more than half of the chemicals had disappeared after 24 h
341 and that the concentrations were below $0.05 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (LOQ) after 96 h. Interestingly both ZnPT and
342 CuPT were present at almost equimolar concentration at t_0 and t_{24} in the samples supposed to
343 contain only ZnPT. Note that Cu and Zn, present at nominal concentrations of 2.50 and $5.00 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$
344 (Table 2), are part of the f/2 medium as necessary micronutrients for algal growth. Similarly, for CuPT
345 (Table 2), while the concentration at t_0 was higher than expected, both ZnPT and CuPT were detected
346 after 24 h, even though no ZnPT was added nor detected at t_0 . As for ZnPT, no CuPT nor ZnPT were
347 detected ($< \text{LOQ}$) after 96 h.

348 Samples containing the mixture of ZnPT with Cu without microalgae showed that 87.8 nM of CuPT
349 were present at t_0 , while only 47.9 nM of ZnPT were added to the culture medium (Table 2). In the
350 same sample, 30.3 nM of ZnPT were also detected, giving a sum of PT-associated metals about twice
351 the concentration added. This was unexpected, but it was confirmed by the analytical method that PT
352 contamination was not occurring in the inserted blank samples. After 24 h, the concentration of CuPT
353 almost decreased by half, while the concentration of ZnPT slightly increased. After 96 h, neither ZnPT
354 nor CuPT were detected ($< \text{LOQ}$). Samples containing the same mixture with *T. suecica* showed very
355 similar results (Table 2), the only difference being a greater decrease after 24 h in both ZnPT and
356 CuPT concentrations.

357

358 **3.2 Toxicity of single chemicals among microalgal species**

359 For all species tested, the maximum DMSO concentration used in the experiments (0.1%) did not
360 induce any significant differences on growth rate compared to control (supplementary data: Table S2).
361 The EC₅₀ values obtained for the three algal species ranged from 0.34 to $0.85 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ for irgarol, 3.73
362 to $10.3 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ for diuron, 1.60 to $18.0 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ for CuPT, 1.30 to $256 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ for ZnPT and 703 to
363 $1449 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ for Cu (Figure 1, Table 1). *T. lutea* was the most sensitive species for all tested chemicals
364 except CuPT, which exhibited a slightly higher toxicity towards *S. marinoi*. The diatom was the less
365 sensitive to the two PSII inhibitors, whereas *T. suecica* was the less sensitive to Cu and the
366 organometals ZnPT and CuPT. EC₅₀ of ZnPT and CuPT were similar and between 1 and $2 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ for
367 *T. lutea* and *S. marinoi* while much higher values of $256 \pm 18.1 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ and 18.0 ± 1.50 were obtained
368 for *T. suecica*. Based on the EC₅₀, the toxicity of the five tested chemicals can be ranked as follows

369 for the three species, from the most toxic to the least toxic: irgarol > CuPT > ZnPT > diuron > Cu for *T.*
370 *lutea* and *S. marinoi*; irgarol > diuron > CuPT > ZnPT > Cu for *T. suecica*.

371

372 **3.3 Toxicity of binary mixtures**

373 **3.3.1 Similar mode of action**

374 The mixture toxicity of diuron and irgarol on *T. lutea* (Figure 3) was found to be additive, as evidenced
375 by the EC50 of the 50:50% mixture ($\Sigma TU_{50:50}$) of 1.01 ± 0.08 (Table 3). A slight but significant
376 synergism was observed for *S. marinoi* and *T. suecica* (Figure 3), with $\Sigma TU_{50:50}$ of 0.92 ± 0.04 and
377 0.79 ± 0.05 , respectively (Table 3) and a better fit of the Hewlett model tested against the CA model (p
378 $= 0.03$; $p < 10^{-3}$) was obtained, describing slight synergism for *S. marinoi* and *T. suecica*, respectively.

379 The mixture toxicity of the two organometals ZnPT and CuPT was additive for *T. lutea*, antagonistic for
380 *S. marinoi* and synergistic for *T. suecica* (Figure 3) with $\Sigma TU_{50:50}$ of 0.94 ± 0.05 , 1.15 ± 0.03 and $0.81 \pm$
381 0.57 TU (Table 3), respectively. The Hewlett model described the data significantly better than the CA
382 model for *S. marinoi* and *T. suecica* ($p < 10^{-3}$; $p = 0.04$). It can be noted that for every case where an
383 extended model provided a better fit than the CA predictions, the Hewlett model was preferred to the
384 Vølund model, thus meaning that the deviations were symmetric compared to the CA isobole.

385 Using the MIXTOX model, interactive effects were the same as with the isobole model: two mixtures
386 were additive, three were synergistic and one was antagonistic, compared to the CA model
387 predictions. If looking at the best reference model for mixtures of chemicals sharing the same MoA,
388 the CA model always provided a better fit than the IA model. Results for the MIXTOX model are
389 summarized in Table 3.

390

391 **3.3.2 Dissimilar mode of action**

392 Mixtures of diuron or irgarol together with Cu on *T. lutea* and *T. suecica* led to very similar findings
393 (Figure 4, Table 3). For *T. lutea*, $\Sigma TU_{50:50}$ were 1.95 ± 0.05 and 1.95 ± 0.08 ; for *T. suecica* the $\Sigma TU_{50:50}$
394 were 1.47 ± 0.14 TU and 1.53 ± 0.07 , for diuron:Cu and irgarol:Cu mixtures, respectively. The two-
395 parameter Vølund model was found to better fit the data than the CA and Hewlett models ($p < 10^{-3}$) for
396 both mixtures with *T. lutea* and for the mixture of diuron and Cu for *T. suecica*. The interaction effect
397 was asymmetric and antagonistic compared to the CA model predictions: the magnitude of the

398 antagonism was stronger when 50 or 75% of the effect was due to Cu. Regarding the mixture of
399 irgarol and Cu for *T. suecica*, the Hewlett model was the best fitting model ($p < 10^{-3}$) describing
400 antagonism compared to the CA model. For *S. marinoi*, the $\Sigma TU_{50:50}$ of the diuron:Cu mixture was 1.15
401 ± 0.04 . The Hewlett model provided the best fit ($p < 10^{-3}$), however the antagonism was not as strong
402 as for the two other species (Figure 4, Table 3). Again, the antagonism was particularly noticeable
403 when 50 or 75% of the mixture effect was due to Cu. The mixture of irgarol and Cu was additive, with
404 a $\Sigma TU_{50:50}$ of 1.03 ± 0.05 , for the diatom *S. marinoi*.

405 For the mixture of diuron and ZnPT on *T. lutea* and *T. suecica* (Figure 4), the $\Sigma TU_{50:50}$ were $1.25 \pm$
406 0.09 and 1.08 ± 0.08 (Table 3) and the Hewlett model provided the best fit ($p < 10^{-3}$), describing slight
407 antagonism in both cases. For *S. marinoi*, the $\Sigma TU_{50:50}$ was 0.98 ± 0.02 , the CA model provided the
408 best fit to the data, indicating additivity.

409 The $\Sigma TU_{50:50}$ was 2.20 ± 0.03 for the mixture of Cu and ZnPT on *T. lutea* (Table 3), meaning a very
410 strong antagonism for this mixture ratio, which was lower for the two other mixture ratios (Figure 4).
411 The Hewlett model provided the best fit ($p < 10^{-3}$). The same response pattern was observed for the
412 diatom *S. marinoi*, the $\Sigma TU_{50:50}$ was 2.43 ± 0.25 , also implying a very strong antagonism for this
413 mixture ratio. Similarly, the Hewlett model provided a better fit than the CA model ($p < 10^{-3}$). Finally, for
414 *T. suecica*, the response pattern was opposite compared to the two other species (Figure 4), as
415 evidenced by the $\Sigma TU_{50:50}$ of 0.16 ± 0.004 (Table 3). The Hewlett model provided the best fit ($p < 10^{-3}$),
416 describing a very strong synergism.

417 Using the MIXTOX model (Table 3), the results were identical to what was found with the isobole
418 model: two mixtures were additive, 9 were antagonistic and one was synergistic, compared to the CA
419 model predictions. Seven mixtures out of 12 were better predicted by the IA model than the CA model
420 (Table 3). Interestingly, in three cases (mixtures of diuron:ZnPT on *T. lutea* and Cu:ZnPT on *T. lutea*
421 and *S. marinoi*) the interactive effect switches from antagonism to synergism when considering the IA
422 model as reference instead of the CA model. Results for the MIXTOX model are summarized in Table
423 3.

424

425 4 Discussion

426 4.1 Toxicity of the single chemicals

427 Regarding the toxicity of single chemicals towards the three species of microalgae, it appears that the
428 three species exhibited roughly the same sensitivity towards the tested compounds (Figure 1, Table
429 1), except for ZnPT and CuPT to which *T. suecica* was less sensitive. Such values are in agreement
430 with previously reported EC50 values for these compounds (Koutsaftis and Aoyama, 2006; Yamada,
431 2006; Buma et al., 2009; Onduka et al., 2010; Bao et al., 2011; Avelelas et al., 2017).

432 Even though they share the same MoA, irgarol was approximately 10-fold more toxic than diuron for
433 the three algal species, likely due to its higher affinity for the Q_B niche (Chesworth et al., 2004) that
434 might be explained by its higher Log K_{ow} .

435 *T. suecica* was less sensitive to the organometals: ZnPT was 200-fold and 130-fold more toxic to
436 *T. lutea* and *S. marinoi* than to *T. suecica*, respectively; CuPT was 15-fold more toxic to *T. lutea* and
437 *S. marinoi* than to *T. suecica*. The chlorophyte also exhibited a different sensitivity to ZnPT and CuPT
438 as CuPT was 14-fold more toxic than ZnPT. It was not the case for *T. lutea* and *S. marinoi*, for which
439 ZnPT and CuPT toxicity was similar (less than 2-fold difference). Since only very few studies reported
440 on the toxicity and MoA of ZnPT and CuPT towards microalgae, these differences in sensitivity are, at
441 the present time, difficult to interpret.

442 Results of the chemical analyses showed that the presence of Cu as micronutrient in the culture
443 medium induced an almost immediate transchelation of about half of the ZnPT into CuPT (Table 2),
444 hence indicating that the toxicity of ZnPT might have been modified by the presence of newly
445 generated CuPT in the medium. Surprisingly, after 24 h, some CuPT also transchelated into ZnPT in
446 the presence of Zn ions, which were also added as part of the f/2 medium. This was not expected
447 since CuPT is thought to be a more stable PT-metal complex than ZnPT (Grunnet and Dahllöf, 2005).

448 In addition to the interaction between Cu and ZnPT, EDTA, which is part of the f/2 culture medium in
449 the form of Na₂EDTA, was also shown to interact with ZnPT, by chelating zinc from ZnPT, thus
450 dissociating ZnPT into NaPT (Kim et al., 2017). As NaPT form was not measured in the chemical
451 analyses performed, there is no evidence indicating the formation of this substance in our
452 experiments. Nevertheless, as ZnPT is able to interact with both Cu and EDTA, one should be very
453 careful when testing ZnPT together with these substances. Chemical analyses should be performed

454 and avoiding the presence of Cu and EDTA in the culture medium would probably be required to
455 ensure that the observed toxicity is not due to CuPT or NaPT instead of ZnPT.

456 Concerning Cu toxicity, the EC50 values obtained in this study were within the same range than
457 already reported for the marine microalgae *C. gracilis* and *T. pseudonana* (Koutsaftis and Aoyama,
458 2006; Bao et al., 2008), while 30- to 140-fold smaller EC50 values were reported for *Tetraslemis* sp.
459 and *Isochrysis* sp. These discrepancies might be due to the presence of EDTA, whose effect on trace
460 metal toxicity is still controversial. Indeed, a recent study conducted by Expósito et al. (2017) showed
461 that the percentage of Cu²⁺ ions in test tubes containing 2.50 µg L⁻¹ of Cu (which is the concentration
462 of Cu in the f/2 medium) in ASTM medium (6.9 µM Na₂EDTA) represented only 0.02% of the total Cu
463 concentration, the rest of the Cu being complexed with EDTA. Moreover, Tubbing et al. (1994)
464 demonstrated that Cu is biologically available to the microalgae *S. capricornutum* when complexed
465 with EDTA while Ma et al. (2003) observed increasing EC50 values with increasing EDTA
466 concentrations when exposing the microalgae *Scenedesmus subspicatus* to Cu. As a result, the
467 presence of EDTA in the growth medium might have lowered the toxicity of Cu in our tests.

468 **4.2 Mixtures of chemicals with similar modes of action**

469 The principle behind the CA model is that non-interacting chemicals only differ in potency, so if they
470 share the same molecular target, they can be viewed as dilutions of the same chemical, which will
471 always conform to the CA model (Berenbaum, 1989). For that reason, it is generally thought that the
472 CA model is best at predicting mixture toxicity of chemicals that share the same MoA. This was
473 confirmed in this study as the CA model gave better predictions than the IA model for all mixtures of
474 chemicals sharing the same MoA (Table 3).

475 The mixture of the two PSII inhibitors diuron and irgarol (Figure 3) was found to be additive for *T. lutea*
476 (Table 3), while it appeared to be slightly synergistic on *S. marinoi* and *T. suecica*. Synergism in
477 diuron:irgarol mixtures has already been reported on the seagrass *Zostera marina* (Chesworth et al.,
478 2004) and microalgae *S. capricornutum*, *C. gracilis* and *T. suecica* (Fernandez-Alba et al., 2002;
479 Koutsaftis and Aoyama, 2006). It has often been argued that, although these two compounds share
480 the same MoA, they come from two different chemical families: phenylureas for diuron and S-triazines
481 for irgarol. Hence, it cannot be excluded that they can have dissimilar toxicokinetic-toxicodynamic (*i.e.*
482 the processes responsible for toxicity over time at the level of organisms) (Gramatica et al., 2001;

483 Borgert et al., 2004), as well as different secondary targets that could be responsible for the synergism
484 observed in some cases.

485 Mixture of ZnPT and CuPT (Figure 3) was additive on *T. lutea* and very close to additivity for *S.*
486 *marinoi* and *T. suecica* (Table 3). The MoA of these two compounds on microalgae is not well known,
487 however, the additivity resulting from their mixture seems to point out a common MoA.

488 Regarding mixtures that exhibited a significant deviation from the CA model predictions, one can
489 argue that the deviations are too small to be considered as biologically significant. Indeed, as stated in
490 Belden et al. (2007), a factor of two between expected and observed values should be respected to
491 define biologically significant and repeatable interactions. Moreover, small deviations are very often
492 difficult to reproduce (Cedergreen et al., 2007), although it also depends on the test organism. With
493 respect to these statements, previously mentioned deviations from the CA model cannot be regarded
494 as biologically significant.

495

496 **4.3 Mixtures of chemicals with dissimilar modes of action**

497 Like the CA model, the IA model is based on the assumption of non-interacting chemicals. It differs,
498 however, as it is based on binomial endpoints and populations of independent organisms (Greco et
499 al., 1995). Even though such assumptions are not fulfilled when considering the growth rate in a
500 microalgal culture as the endpoint, the IA model has been found to provide good predictions of
501 mixtures of chemicals with dissimilar modes of action (Backhaus et al., 2004). Cedergreen et al.
502 (2008) explored the accuracy of both the CA and IA models on 98 mixtures of pesticides and
503 pharmaceuticals on different organisms, and found that neither CA nor IA gave better predictions than
504 the other. Thus, the predictability of both models was tested in this study.

505 In a study from Koutsaftis and Aoyama (2006), mixtures of diuron or irgarol together with Cu on the
506 diatom *Chaetoceros gracilis* were found to be synergistic compared to the CA model, the synergism
507 being stronger for the diuron and Cu mixture. It was the opposite in this study, as the mixtures were
508 antagonistic for the three species, especially *T. lutea* and *T. suecica* (Figure 4, Table 3). Very similar
509 responses were obtained with the diuron:Cu and irgarol:Cu mixtures and interestingly, the magnitude
510 of the antagonism observed for these mixtures depends on the species: strong for *T. lutea*, moderate
511 for *T. suecica* and close to additivity for *S. marinoi*. These differences might indicate that the observed
512 antagonism is not due to a chemical interaction between diuron and Cu happening outside the cell, as

513 if it had been the case, the same pattern would have been expected for the three species. Therefore,
514 the antagonism might rather be due to a specific interaction with the photosynthetic apparatus, since it
515 is the target of both diuron/irgarol and Cu. Teisseire et al. (1999) found a slight antagonistic effect for
516 the mixture of diuron together with Cu on the growth of *Lemna minor* and made the hypothesis that
517 diuron might have a protective effect against Cu by stimulating the activity of antioxidant enzymes like
518 ascorbate peroxidase or glutathione reductase and/or increasing the numbers of photosystems and
519 thus reducing the number of photosystems damaged by Cu.

520 Mixture of Cu together with ZnPT was previously studied several times (Mochida et al., 2006; Zhou et
521 al., 2006; Bao et al., 2008) to explore the potential transchelation of ZnPT into CuPT which could lead
522 to unpredictable results and sometimes remarkable synergy. In our case, this mixture led to very
523 contrasted results: strong antagonism for *T. lutea* and *S. marinoi* and strong synergism for *T. suecica*
524 (Figure 4, Table 3). No synergism was expected for this mixture on *T. lutea* and *S. marinoi* because
525 they both exhibit a similar sensitivity to the two organometals. However, the strong antagonism
526 observed for the 50:50% mixture ratio was not expected either and remains to be explained.
527 Performing additional chemical analyses might permit to understand the phenomenon lying behind the
528 antagonism observed. For the chlorophyte *T. suecica*, as CuPT was 14-fold more toxic than ZnPT
529 (Table 1), strong synergism was expected for this mixture, assuming that higher amount of CuPT
530 would be produced when increasing the concentration of Cu mixed with ZnPT. The response obtained
531 was clearly synergistic and was consistent with the chemical analyses which demonstrated the
532 presence of CuPT when ZnPT was mixed with Cu (Table 2). The observed transchelation even
533 yielded more CuPT at t0 than could be accounted for by the PT added as ZnPT. This discrepancy
534 could possibly be explained by the presence of non-complexed pyridinethione (Hydroxy-2(1H)-
535 pyridinethione) molecules in the ZnPT stock and working solutions. The magnitude of the synergism
536 varied among the three mixture ratios, which seems to indicate that the amount of CuPT formed might
537 also depend on the concentrations of both ZnPT and Cu in the culture medium. Indeed, the more
538 ZnPT (and so the less Cu) there is in the mixture, the more toxic the mixture gets (Figure 4), as
539 demonstrated by the Σ TU of the different mixture rays which were 0.54 ± 0.04 , 0.16 ± 0.004 and 0.08
540 ± 0.003 for the 75:25%, 50:50% and 25:75% (Cu:ZnPT) mixtures, respectively.

541 Contrary to what was found for mixtures of chemical sharing the same MoA, the IA model was equal, if
542 not better than the CA model, for predicting the toxicity of mixture with dissimilar MoA. However, as

543 already stated in previous studies (Junghans et al., 2006; Kortenkamp et al., 2009), the CA model
544 should be preferred in terms of regulation as it provides more conservative predictions than the IA
545 model. Nearly half of the mixtures of chemicals having dissimilar MoA induced deviations of at least a
546 factor of two from the CA model predictions and could thus be considered as biologically significant,
547 according to Belden et al. (2007).

548 The two modelling approaches (isobole versus MIXTOX) each have their strengths and weaknesses.
549 The isobole model is easily usable with the 'drc' package in R opensource software and provides
550 visual representations of interactions with isobolograms but requires a specific data format and
551 currently only has CA implemented. The MIXTOX implementation in Excel® has a more user-friendly
552 interface, is more flexible in terms of input data and has both CA and IA implemented. However, it
553 does not provide fitted dose-response parameter, nor a good visual presentation of data.
554 Mathematically deviations from the reference models are described differently in the two approaches,
555 but when applied to data, the results in terms of type and degree of deviation is similar, as also
556 demonstrated in Cedergreen et al. (2007). Thus, one should choose either of the two according to the
557 chosen experimental design and goals of the study.

558

559 **5 Conclusion and outlook**

560 Evaluating the toxicity of antifouling binary mixtures towards three species of marine microalgae
561 revealed several points of interest:

- 562 - Both the sensitivity to single chemicals and the interactive effects resulting from mixtures were
563 different among the three microalgal species.
- 564 - The two modelling approaches used for predicting the mixture toxicity provided similar results.
- 565 - The Concentration Addition (CA) model should be preferred compared to the Independent
566 Action (IA) model, as it provides more conservative predictions, is easier to use and
567 implemented in the opensource software R ('drc' package).
- 568 - Even though significant, slight deviations from the reference models should be interpreted
569 very cautiously regarding their "biological" significance.
- 570 - The chemical analyses performed pointed out the very low stability of ZnPT and its ability to
571 rapidly transchelate into CuPT in the presence of Cu²⁺ ions.

572 - The demonstrated transchelation of ZnPT into CuPT was responsible for the strong synergy
573 observed in the mixture of ZnPT and Cu towards *T. suecica*.

574 The results underline the importance of studying mixtures of antifouling chemicals co-occurring in
575 locations close to harbors, careening areas and marinas. As the complex chemistry of organometals
576 together with copper induced severe synergy for one species, it would be interesting to closer
577 investigate the environmental concentrations of these chemicals in contaminated sites together with
578 their resulting toxicity to the local aquatic community.

579

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587

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Figure captions

Figure 1: Concentration-response curves for all compounds tested singly on each species. Points (in triplicates; *T. lutea*: circles; *S. marinoi*: squares; *T. suecica*: triangles) correspond to the 96 h growth rate. Lines (*T. lutea*: straight line; *S. marinoi*: dotted line; *T. suecica*: dashed line) correspond to the fitted three parameter log-logistic model with their respective 95% confidence interval in gray.

Figure 2: Illustration of an isobologram. Axes represent the concentration of the two pure substances in mixture A and B, also represented as mixture ratios 100:0% (A) and 0:100% (B). The dashed lines represent mixture ratios 75:25, 50:50 and 25:75% (A:B). The straight solid line identified as 'CA' is the CA isobole. The curved solid lines symbolize isoboles illustrating either antagonism (above CA) or synergism (below CA).

Figure 3: Isobolograms of binary mixtures of chemicals sharing the same mode of action. The points represent the $EC_{50} \pm 2$ standard-error, s.e. The straight solid line is the CA isobole; the dot-dashed line is the IA isobole; the curved solid line (when displayed) is the best fitting isobole model when there is a significant interaction.

Figure 4: Isobolograms of binary mixtures of chemicals with dissimilar modes of action. The points represent the $EC_{50} \pm 2$ s.e. The straight solid line is the CA isobole; the dot-dashed line is the IA isobole; the curved solid line (when displayed) is the best fitting isobole model when there is a significant interaction.

Table 1: Summary of the toxicity results obtained for the three species of microalgae exposed to the five single chemicals. For each chemical/species, the slope b (\pm standard-error, s.e.) and the EC50 (with 95% confidence interval) were calculated based on the 96-hour growth rate using a three-parameter log-logistic regression model (Eq. 1; Figure 1) with R 'drc' package.

Chemical	Mode of action	<i>Tisochrysis lutea</i>		<i>Skeletonema marinoi</i>		<i>Tetraselmis suecica</i>	
		Slope (b)	EC50 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (\pm 95% CI)	Slope (b)	EC50 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (\pm 95% CI)	Slope (b)	EC50 $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (\pm 95% CI)
diuron	PSII inhibitor	1.86 \pm 0.13	3.73 \pm 0.35	3.01 \pm 0.25	10.3 \pm 0.80	1.62 \pm 0.03	4.20 \pm 0.12
irgarol		1.35 \pm 0.12	0.34 \pm 0.05	2.98 \pm 0.15	0.85 \pm 0.03	1.96 \pm 0.10	0.62 \pm 0.04
ZnPT	Membrane disruption	10.7 \pm 0.66	1.25 \pm 0.07	6.72 \pm 0.59	1.98 \pm 0.05	3.75 \pm 0.87	256 \pm 18.1
CuPT		10.3 \pm 0.60	1.21 \pm 0.04	10.5 \pm 0.64	1.16 \pm 0.02	6.71 \pm 2.40	18.0 \pm 1.46
Cu	Multiple targets	5.16 \pm 0.67	703 \pm 28.8	11.2 \pm 2.60	1105 \pm 48.3	6.11 \pm 0.57	1449 \pm 45.6

Table 2: Measured concentrations of ZnPT and CuPT following varying conditions in the microplate wells (with and without microalgae) at 0, 24 and 96 h. Concentrations are given both in $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ (left) and nM (right), as the latter is needed to evaluate the stoichiometry of chemical transformations. Note that for each condition, $5.00 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ of Zn^{2+} and $2.50 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ of Cu^{2+} are included as necessary micronutrients in the f/2 culture medium.

Measured concentrations in microplates wells ($\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$)						Measured concentrations in microplate wells (nM)					
Condition	Chemical	Nominal	t0	t24	t96	Condition	Chemical	Nominal	t0	t24	t96
ZnPT	ZnPT	10.2	6.50	2.40	< LOQ	ZnPT	ZnPT	32.0	20.5	7.60	< LOQ
	CuPT	0.00	5.80	2.30	< LOQ		CuPT	0.00	18.3	7.20	< LOQ
	Zn	5.00					Zn	76.5			
	Cu	2.50					Cu	39.3			
CuPT	ZnPT	0.00	< LOQ	1.90	< LOQ	CuPT	ZnPT	0.00	< LOQ	5.90	< LOQ
	CuPT	9.40	13.7	2.00	< LOQ		CuPT	29.9	43.4	6.50	< LOQ
	Zn	5.00					Zn	76.5			
	Cu	2.50					Cu	39.3			
ZnPT + Cu	ZnPT	15.2	9.60	11.2	< LOQ	ZnPT + Cu	ZnPT	47.9	30.3	35.2	< LOQ
	CuPT	0.00	27.7	17.7	< LOQ		CuPT	0.00	87.8	56.0	< LOQ
	Zn	5.00					Zn	76.5			
	Cu	41.5					Cu	653			
ZnPT + Cu + <i>T. suecica</i>	ZnPT	15.2	9.50	1.50	< LOQ	ZnPT + Cu + <i>T. suecica</i>	ZnPT	47.9	29.8	4.80	< LOQ
	CuPT	0.00	27.6	2.40	< LOQ		CuPT	0.00	87.2	7.70	< LOQ
	Zn	5.00					Zn	76.5			
	Cu	41.5					Cu	653			

Table 3: Summary of mixture interactions on the three species of microalgae. For the isobole model, the best fitting model (BFM) is displayed aside the main interaction effect (EFF.) compared to the CA model; interaction parameters are displayed in the case of antagonism or synergism: λ for Hewlett model or η_1 and η_2 for Vølund model. For MIXTOX, the BFM is displayed aside the interaction effect, compared to the chosen reference model (REF, CA or IA); interaction parameters are displayed in the case of antagonism or synergism: a for S/A or a and b for DR/DL models; For each model, the p -value displayed corresponds to the F -test performed to determine if the extended model provides a significantly better fit ($p < 0.05$) than the less complex model.

	<i>Tisochrysis lutea</i>				<i>Skeletonema marinoi</i>				<i>Tetraselmis suecica</i>			
	Isobole		MIXTOX		Isobole		MIXTOX		Isobole		MIXTOX	
	$\Sigma TU_{50:50}$	BFM ⁽¹⁾ / EFF. ⁽²⁾ Int. param. \pm s.e. p -value	Reference model (REF)	BFM / EFF. Int. param. p -value	$\Sigma TU_{50:50}$	BFM / EFF. Int. param. \pm s.e. p -value	Reference model (REF)	BFM / EFF. Int. param. p -value	$\Sigma TU_{50:50}$	BFM / EFF. Int. param. \pm s.e. p -value	Reference model (REF)	BFM / EFF. Int. param. p -value
Similar MoA⁽³⁾												
diuron:irgarol	1.01 \pm 0.08	CA / ADD.	CA	CA / ADD.	0.92 \pm 0.04	Hewlett / SYN. $\lambda = 1.09 \pm 0.042$ $p = 0.03$	CA	S/A / SYN. $a = -0.26$ $p = 0.03$	0.79 \pm 0.05	Hewlett / SYN. $\lambda = 1.24 \pm 0.035$ $p < 10^{-3}$	CA	DL / SYN. $a = -0.25$ $b_{DL} = -1.87$ $p = 0.002$
ZnPT:CuPT	0.94 \pm 0.05	CA / ADD.	CA	CA / ADD.	1.15 \pm 0.03	Hewlett / ANT. $\lambda = 0.52 \pm 0.012$ $p < 10^{-3}$	CA	DR / ANT. $a = 19.7$ $b_{ZnPT} = 0.69$ $p < 10^{-3}$	0.81 \pm 0.57	Hewlett / SYN. $\lambda = 1.14 \pm 0.076$ $p = 0.04$	CA	DR / SYN. $a = -0.90$ $b_{ZnPT} = 1.25$ $p = 0.003$
Dissimilar MoA												
diuron:Cu	1.95 \pm 0.05	Vølund / ANT. $\eta_1 = 1.12 \pm 0.14$ $\eta_2 = 4.42 \pm 1.09$ $p < 10^{-3}$	IA	DR / ANT. $a = 8.86$ $b_{diuron} = -11.5$ $p < 10^{-3}$	1.15 \pm 0.04	Vølund / ANT. $\eta_1 = 2.49 \pm 0.54$ $\eta_2 = 0.44 \pm 0.13$ $p < 10^{-3}$	CA	DR / ANT. $a = 1.73$ $b_{diuron} = -2.50$ $p < 10^{-3}$	1.47 \pm 0.14	Vølund / ANT. $\eta_1 = 0.65 \pm 0.11$ $\eta_2 = 4.10 \pm 0.74$ $p = 1.07 \times 10^{-3}$	IA	DR / ANT. $a = 2.58$ $b_{diuron} = -4.22$ $p < 10^{-3}$
irgarol:Cu	1.95 \pm 0.08	Vølund / ANT. $\eta_1 = 1.17 \pm 0.15$ $\eta_2 = 4.01 \pm 0.86$ $p < 10^{-3}$	IA	DR / ANT. $a = 8.04$ $b_{irgarol} = -10.3$ $p < 10^{-3}$	1.03 \pm 0.05	CA / ADD.	CA	CA / ADD.	1.53 \pm 0.07	Hewlett / ANT. $\lambda = 0.22 \pm 0.093$ $p < 10^{-3}$	IA	DR / ANT. $a = 2.37$ $b_{irgarol} = -3.48$ $p < 10^{-3}$
diuron:ZnPT	1.25 \pm 0.09	Hewlett / ANT. $\lambda = 0.64 \pm 0.06$ $p < 10^{-3}$	IA	DL / SYN. $a = -0.01$ $b_{DL} = -275$ $p < 10^{-3}$	0.98 \pm 0.02	CA / ADD.	CA	CA / ADD.	1.08 \pm 0.08	Hewlett / ANT. $\lambda = 0.74 \pm 0.069$ $p < 10^{-3}$	CA	DL / ANT. $a = 0.39$ $b_{DL} = -1.69$ $p = 0.002$
Cu:ZnPT	2.20 \pm 0.03	Hewlett / ANT. $\lambda = 4.50 \times 10^{-3}$ $\pm 2.90 \times 10^{-5}$ $p < 10^{-3}$	IA	DR / SYN. $a = -9.30$ $b_{Cu} = 16.3$ $p < 10^{-3}$	2.43 \pm 0.25	Hewlett / ANT. $\lambda = 4.80 \times 10^{-3}$ $\pm 3.40 \times 10^{-5}$ $p < 10^{-3}$	IA	DR / SYN. $a = -1.99$ $b_{Cu} = 4.93$ $p < 10^{-3}$	0.16 \pm 0.004	Hewlett / SYN. $\lambda = 3.93 \pm 0.15$ $p < 10^{-3}$	CA	DL / SYN. $a = -10.70$ $b_{Cu} = 0.39$ $p < 10^{-3}$

- (1) BFM: Best fitting model, either a reference model (CA or IA) or a more complex model, Hewlett or S/A (one interaction parameter), Vølund or DR/DL (two interaction parameters).
- (2) EFF.: Main interaction effect retained for the mixture, either additivity (ADD.), antagonism (ANT.) or synergism (SYN.).
- (3) MoA: Mode of action.

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT







