



Title	Interspecies differences in cytochrome P450-mediated metabolism of neonicotinoids among cats, dogs, rats, and humans
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Citation	Comparative biochemistry and physiology Part C: Toxicology & pharmacology, 239, 108898 <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cbpc.2020.108898">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cbpc.2020.108898</a>
Issue Date	2021-01
Doc URL	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2115/83753">http://hdl.handle.net/2115/83753</a>
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Type	article (author version)
File Information	2. Manuscript for kinetic study of NN_CBP_revision.pdf



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1       **Interspecies differences in cytochrome P450-mediated metabolism of**  
2                   **neonicotinoids among cats, dogs, rats, and humans**

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24

25 **ABSTRACT**

26 Neonicotinoid insecticides are used for agricultural and non-agricultural purposes  
27 worldwide. Pets are directly exposed to neonicotinoids in veterinary products and through  
28 environmental contamination. Cytochrome P450 (CYP) is among the most significant  
29 xenobiotic metabolizing enzymes that oxidizes several chemicals, including neonicotinoids.  
30 However, CYP activities and metabolite compositions of neonicotinoid metabolites are  
31 unknown in most domesticated pet species. Our objectives were to reveal the differences in  
32 metabolites of neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, clothianidin, and acetamiprid) and CYP  
33 activities among common pet species (cats and dogs), humans, and rats. The results indicated  
34 that the CYP-mediated neonicotinoid metabolism was different depending on species and  
35 each neonicotinoid. Among these four species, the kinetics of imidacloprid metabolism  
36 indicated that rats have the highest rate of oxidation of imidacloprid to 4OH-imidacloprid,  
37 while the greatest enzyme kinetics of imidacloprid metabolism to 5OH-imidacloprid were  
38 found in rats and humans. Clothianidin was rapidly metabolized to 1-methyl-3-  
39 nitroguanidine and dm-clothianidin in rats, but cats and humans showed the lowest formation  
40 of dm-clothianidin. CYP activities in metabolism of acetamiprid to dm-acetamiprid and N-  
41 acetyl-acetamiprid were determined to be significantly higher in humans compared to other  
42 species. However, further studies should be targeted at identifying the differences in hepatic  
43 metabolism of neonicotinoids in these species using recombinant CYP enzymes.

44

45 **Keywords:** Neonicotinoids, cytochrome P450, species variations, *in vitro* microsomal assay

## 46 **1. Introduction**

47 Fleas are one of the most common ectoparasites in wildlife and companion animals  
48 worldwide, particularly in cats and dogs. They serve as a vector for bacteria (e.g., *Yersinia*  
49 *pestis*, *Rickettsia felis*, and *Bartonella henselae*) and can be an intermediate host for  
50 tapeworms (*Dipylidium caninum*) (Dryden and Rust, 1994). The most common variety of  
51 flea found on cats and dogs is the cat flea (*Ctenocephalides felis*) (Dryden and Rust, 1994;  
52 Mehlhorn et al., 2001). Clinical symptoms of flea infestation include over-grooming, hair  
53 loss, papular dermatitis, seborrhea, and pruritus, as well as secondary bacterial infections in  
54 cats and dogs (Koutinas et al., 1995; Mehlhorn et al., 2001). Control measures have been  
55 developed to limit flea population and impede their spread on animal skin and the  
56 environment by interrupting their life cycle. Interventions focus on the prevention of egg  
57 laying and development. Several systemic and topical treatments are available in the form of  
58 powder, sprays, and spot-on formulations that can be applied directly to skin of cats and dogs  
59 or their collars (Vo et al., 2010). These veterinary products mostly contain various effective  
60 insecticide formulations that have toxic potentials in pets, but information on the toxicities  
61 and metabolic pathways of these chemicals are highly limited for cats and dogs.

62 Neonicotinoids, such as imidacloprid, acetamiprid, and clothianidin, belong to a class  
63 of neuroactive insecticides linked the activation of post-synaptic nicotinic acetylcholine  
64 receptors (nAChR) that are highly selective to some insect species (Casida, 2018; Sheets et  
65 al., 2016). The chemical structure of neonicotinoids varies by generation; the first-generation  
66 neonicotinoids (imidacloprid, nitenpyram, thiacloprid, and acetamiprid) share a  
67 chloropyridine ring, whereas the core structure of second-generation neonicotinoids

68 (thiamethoxam and clothianidin) has a chlorothiazole group (Thompson et al., 2020).  
69 Imidacloprid is one of the most common veterinary insecticide for eliminating fleas in cats  
70 and dogs, while acetamiprid and clothianidin are typical neonicotinoids used to control  
71 insects and pests in agricultural, commercial, and residential contexts worldwide (Mehlhorn  
72 et al., 2001; Simon-Delso et al., 2015; Vo et al., 2010). Non-target vertebrates such as humans,  
73 pets, and wildlife can be unintentionally exposed to these neonicotinoid residues in the  
74 environments leading to toxicities and adverse effects that have been reported globally  
75 (Gibbons et al., 2015; Sheets et al., 2016; Simon-Delso et al., 2015). Neonicotinoids can be  
76 absorbed by skin (7.9%-11.4%) and efficiently absorbed through the intestine of humans and  
77 animals, causing neurotoxicity, hepatotoxicity, and impaired immune function (Aggarwal et  
78 al., 2014; Li et al., 2012; Simon-Delso et al., 2015; Thompson et al., 2020). The parent  
79 compounds and their metabolites are different in toxicity considerations. In wild birds, the  
80 low-dose of imidacloprid could affect their thyroid homeostasis and reproduction (Pandey  
81 and Mohanty, 2015). Clothianidin (metabolite of thiamethoxam) and imidacloprid desnitro  
82 olefin (metabolite of imidacloprid) played a key role in down regulation of acetylcholine  
83 gene expression in Chinese lizards (*Eremias argus*) (Wang et al., 2019). In the 2-year rat  
84 study, acetamiprid induced histopathological change in the liver in males and body weight  
85 reduction in females, whereas the toxicity of different metabolites of acetamiprid is still  
86 unclear (Authority, 2016). The studies indicate that the toxicities of neonicotinoids relate to  
87 the metabolism and detoxifying enzymes such as the cytochrome P450 (CYP) inhibitors  
88 partially block imidacloprid, thiacloprid and clothianidin metabolism, elevating the levels of  
89 the parent compounds in the brain and liver involved in carcinogenicity in mice (Casida,

90 2011; Ford and Casida, 2006; Shi et al., 2009; Thompson et al., 2020), highlighting the need  
91 for a more thorough understanding of interspecies differences in the metabolism of  
92 neonicotinoids for phase I and phase II biotransformation.

93         The metabolism of neonicotinoids has been most commonly studied in mice, rats, and  
94 humans (Schulz-Jander and Casida, 2002; Shi et al., 2009; Thompson et al., 2020). *In vivo*,  
95 a human pharmacokinetic model for neonicotinoids was established and found that the  
96 clothianidin was partly metabolized, whereas acetamiprid and imidacloprid was largely  
97 metabolized and excreted in urine (Harada et al., 2016). The liver of mice treated with  
98 imidacloprid, thiacloprid, and clothianidin contains metabolites formed by imidazolidine  
99 hydroxylation, thiazolidine hydroxylation and desaturation, and N-demethylation (Shi et al.,  
100 2009). These studies have found that the formation of many neonicotinoid metabolites is  
101 mediated CYP enzymes (Schulz-Jander and Casida, 2002; Thompson et al., 2020). CYP,  
102 major metabolic enzyme in phase I reactions, is one of most important enzymes for  
103 neonicotinoid metabolism via oxidation reactions. The CYP3 and CYP2 families are  
104 responsible for imidacloprid and clothianidin metabolism in humans (Casida, 2011; Schulz-  
105 Jander and Casida, 2002). However, the role of CYP in neonicotinoid metabolism in  
106 vertebrate species or domestic pets, such as cats and dogs, is not well known. Moreover,  
107 studies of neonicotinoid toxicities in vertebrates suggest that there are toxicological risks  
108 associated with some neonicotinoid metabolites; understanding the metabolism of  
109 neonicotinoids is critical to characterizing potential health risks in each species (Casida,  
110 2011; Thompson et al., 2020). To our knowledge, no information is available on interspecies  
111 differences in the role of CYP in neonicotinoid metabolism or the variation in metabolite

112 composition among species. The objectives of this *in vitro* study were therefore to investigate  
113 the interspecies differences among cats, dogs, rats, and humans in neonicotinoid metabolite  
114 formation following CYP metabolism, and to elucidate CYP activities in these studied  
115 species in the metabolism of first generation (imidacloprid and acetamiprid) and second  
116 generation (clothianidin) neonicotinoids, which are the most commonly used insecticides  
117 worldwide and their residues are ubiquitous in environments.

## 118 **2. Materials and Methods**

### 119 ***2.1. Sample and microsomes preparation***

120 Table 1 details the samples used in this study. Human microsomes were purchased  
121 from Celsis In Vitro Inc. (MD, USA). Sample details of human microsomes are shown in  
122 Supplemental Table 1. Cat and dog liver samples were obtained from vehicle control animals  
123 in the previous studies that performed at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Hokkaido  
124 University, Japan (approval number 14-0054 and 14015) and at the Korea Institute of  
125 Toxicology, Korea (approval number 13027), respectively (Khidkhan et al., 2019; Takaguchi  
126 et al., 2019). Sprague Dawley (SD) rats (7-week-old) were acquired from Japan SLC, Inc.  
127 (Shizuoka, Japan). Microsomal fractions of rats, dogs, and cats were prepared and modified  
128 using the method described by Omura and Sato (1964). Livers were homogenized with three  
129 volumes of 0.1 M potassium phosphate buffer (KPB, pH 7.4). The homogenates were  
130 centrifuged at 11,635 g at 4 °C for 20 min. The supernatants were filtered with sterile gauze  
131 and centrifuged twice at 92,706 g at 4 °C for 60 min. Microsomal pellets were suspended  
132 with 0.1 M KPB and stored at -80 °C until use. The protein concentrations of microsomal  
133 fractions were measured using the BCA protein assay kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, IL, USA),

134 and CYP concentration was determined using a previously reported method (Omura and Sato,  
135 1964).

## 136 **2.2. *In vitro* CYP metabolism of neonicotinoids**

137 Neonicotinoid metabolism assay using liver microsomes was conducted using the  
138 methods described in the previous report (Wu et al., 2014). The reaction mixture included  
139 0.1 M KPB (pH 7.4), magnesium chloride (MgCl<sub>2</sub>, final concentration 3 mM), and glucose  
140 6-phosphate (G6P, final concentration 5 mM) mixed with pooled hepatic microsome (final  
141 protein concentration 5 mg/mL) of each species [rats (n=3), dogs (n=3), cats (n=4), and  
142 humans (n=10)]. Imidacloprid (Kanto Chemical Co., Inc., Tokyo, Japan), clothianidin (Wako  
143 Pure Chemical Co., Osaka, Japan), or acetamiprid (Cosmo Bio Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) in  
144 3% methanol (MeOH) were added (final substrate concentration of 10, 25, 50, 100, 200, and  
145 400 μM) and pre-incubated at 37 °C for 5 min. A mixture of glucose-6-phosphate  
146 dehydrogenase (G6PDH, final concentration 2 IU/mL) and β-nicotinamide adenine  
147 dinucleotide phosphate (β-NADPH, final concentration 0.5 mM) was added to each sample  
148 to start the reaction. After 30 minutes in a shaking water bath, 100% MeOH was added to  
149 stop the reaction. Reaction samples were then placed on ice for 15 min before centrifugation  
150 at 15,000 g for 10 min, and filtered using the GL Chromato Disk sample filter (pore size 0.2  
151 μM; GL Sciences, Tokyo, Japan). All assays were performed in duplicate for each sample.  
152 Appropriate negative controls (the reaction mixture without substrate) were used.

## 153 **2.3. *Chemical analysis***



154 Liquid chromatography mass spectrometer (6495 triple quad LC/MS; Agilent  
155 Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) equipped with a 1.7  $\mu\text{m}$  Biphenyl 100 A LC column  
156 (2.1\*150 mm; Kinetex, Phenomenex Inc, Torrance, CO, USA) was used to quantify the target  
157 metabolites of imidacloprid, clothianidin and acetamiprid. The target neonicotinoid  
158 metabolites were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Co. LLC. (Darmstadt, Germany) or  
159 synthesized at Toho University (Chiba, Japan) (Supplemental Table 2). Detection methods  
160 followed those of previous studies (Ichikawa et al., 2019; Ikenaka et al., 2019). For all  
161 analyses, mobile phase A consisted of 0.1% formic acid + 10 mM ammonium acetate in  
162 distilled water and mobile phase B consisted of 0.1% formic acid + 10 mM ammonium  
163 acetate in 100% MeOH. An injection volume of 5  $\mu\text{L}$ , a flow rate of 0.35 mL/min with  
164 gradient elution, and a column temperature of 60  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  were used for all experiments. The limit  
165 of quantification was defined as the concentration of the target compounds sufficient to  
166 produce a signal to noise ratio (S/N) higher than 9 under the lowest calibration point (0.5 ppb  
167 for imidacloprid and clothianidin; 0.05 ppb for acetamiprid).

#### 168 **2.4. Data analysis**

169 All kinetic parameters (including maximum velocity ( $V_{max}$ ), Michaelis-Menten  
170 constants ( $K_m$ ), and  $V_{max}/K_m$  ratio) were calculated using the Michaelis-Menten equation in  
171 GraphPad Prism version 8.0 for Windows (GraphPad Software, CA, USA). Statistical  
172 analyses were performed using JMP Pro 13 (SAS Institute, NC, USA). Tukey's HSD test  
173 was performed to compare the  $V_{max}/K_m$  among species.  $P$  value  $< 0.05$  was considered  
174 statistically significant in all analyses.

### 175 **3. Results and Discussion**

#### 176 **3.1. Kinetic studies on imidacloprid**

177 *In vitro* CYP activities for imidacloprid were measured and compared among rats,  
178 dogs, cats, and humans in this study. Although many metabolites of imidacloprid (including  
179 4-hydroxy-imidacloprid (4OH-imidacloprid), 5-hydroxy-imidacloprid (5OH-imidacloprid),  
180 5-methoxymethoxy-imidacloprid, 6-CNA, desnitro-dehydro-imidacloprid (dn-dh-  
181 imidacloprid), desnitro-imidacloprid (dn-imdacroprid) and imdacroprid olefin) have been  
182 reported (Dai et al., 2006; Ikenaka et al., 2018; Simon-Delso et al., 2015; Takahashi et al.,  
183 2019), 4OH-imidacloprid, 5OH-imidacloprid, dn-dh-imidacloprid, dn-imdacroprid, and  
184 imidacloprid-olefin were detected in all selected species. The kinetic parameters of 4OH-  
185 imidacloprid and 5OH-imidacloprid are presented in Table 2; other metabolites were  
186 detected in extremely low quantities and were only found in some reactions that involved a  
187 high substrate concentration; therefore, these could not be fit to the Michaelis-Menten plot.  
188 These results indicated that *in vitro* reactions using liver microsomes in a nicotinamide  
189 adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADPH)-dependent system may primarily contribute to  
190 hydroxylation of the imidazolidine ring at positions 4 or 5 yielding 4OH-imdacroprid and  
191 5OH-imidacloprid. A recent study indicates 5OH-imidacloprid as the only metabolite of  
192 imidacloprid when rat and rainbow trout microsomes are used (Kolanczyk et al., 2020). Fig.  
193 1 demonstrates the Michaelis-Menten plots for CYP activities when imidacloprid was used  
194 as a substrate and Table 2 shows the Michaelis-Menten parameters during formation of 4OH-  
195 imidacloprid and 5OH-imidacloprid in each species. Significant differences in the  $V_{max}/K_m$   
196 values for 4OH-imidacloprid formation were found among species; the rate of oxidation of

197 imidacloprid to 4OH-imidacloprid was found to be most rapid when rat liver microsomes  
198 were used, followed by that using human, dog, and cat microsomes (Fig. 1A, Table 2). The  
199  $V_{max}/K_m$  values for 5OH-imidacloprid formation using rat and human microsomes were  
200 significantly higher than those using dog and cat microsomes (Fig. 1B and Table 2). A  
201 previous *in vitro* study (Kolanczyk et al., 2020) reports that the clearance of 5OH-  
202 imidacloprid in the SD rat ( $K_m = 158.7 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $V_{max} = 38.4 \text{ pmol/min/mg}$ ) is much higher than  
203 that in rainbow trout ( $K_m = 79.2 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $V_{max} = 0.75 \text{ pmol/min/mg}$ ). In humans, CYP2D6 and  
204 CYP3A4 are selective for the nitro-reduction of imidacloprid and formation of 5OH-  
205 imidacloprid, respectively (Casida, 2011; Schulz-Jander and Casida, 2002). Although human  
206 CYP3A4 is orthologous to rat CYP3A9 and dog CYP3A12 (Court, 2013a; Martignoni et al.,  
207 2006; Xue et al., 2003), our results indicated that CYP3A in rats and humans may have a  
208 greater enzymatic affinity to imidacloprid as a substrate and could therefore more efficiently  
209 metabolize imidacloprid to 5OH-imidacloprid, as compared to CYP3A in dogs and cats.

### 210 **3.2. Kinetic studies on clothianidin**

211 The CYP metabolic assay for clothianidin indicated that 1-methyl-3-nitroguanidine  
212 and desmethyl-clothianidin (dm-clothianidin) were the major metabolites detected in all  
213 analyzed species. In mice, dm-clothianidin is the principal metabolite found in the brain and  
214 liver after exposure to clothianidin (Ford and Casida, 2006). As shown in Fig. 2 and Table 2,  
215 the clothianidin was rapidly metabolized to 1-methyl-3-nitroguanidine (Fig. 2A) and dm-  
216 clothianidin (Fig. 2B) using rat microsomes compared to dog, human, and cat microsomes.  
217 A study of human CYP recombinant enzymes in NADPH-dependent reactions reveals that  
218 CYP3A4, CYP2C19, and CYP2A6 are responsible for converting clothianidin to dm-

219 clothianidin (Ford and Casida, 2006; Shi et al., 2009). Among the four chosen species, our  
220 findings suggested that CYP3A, CYP2A, and CYP2C in rats may have higher clothianidin  
221 substrate-binding capacities and clothianidin demethylation ability than in other species.  
222 Interestingly, cats and humans showed no significant difference in clearances ( $V_{max}/K_m$ ) of  
223 these metabolites.

### 224 **3.3. Kinetic studies on acetamiprid**

225 An *in vitro* acetamiprid metabolism assay using microsomes of the four species  
226 revealed the formation of several metabolites including 6-chloronicotinic acid (6-CNA),  
227 descyano-acetamiprid (dc-acetamiprid), desmethyl-acetamiprid (dm-acetamiprid), N-acetyl-  
228 acetamiprid, and N-acetyl-desmethyl-acetamiprid (N-acetyl-dm-acetamiprid). Among these  
229 metabolites (Table 2), the kinetics of N-acetyl-dm-acetamiprid were calculated for the  
230 microsomes obtained from humans and cats. 6-CNA, the final metabolites of acetamiprid  
231 (Hussain et al., 2016; Marfo et al., 2015; Nomura et al., 2013), was fit to the Michaelis-  
232 Menten curve in the reaction using rat microsomes, while it could not be detected in the  
233 reactions using dog microsomes. In addition, the levels of 6-CNA were not fit to the  
234 Michaelis-Menten equation in the reactions using the microsomes of cats and humans. 6-  
235 CNA is indicated as a common metabolite of chloropyridyl neonicotinoids, including  
236 imidacloprid and acetamiprid. It is excreted in human urine and has been proposed as an  
237 indicator in monitoring exposure to insecticides (Taira et al., 2011; Uroz et al., 2001).  
238 However, our findings indicated that 6-CNA may be not a suitable marker in dogs, cats, or  
239 humans exposed to acetamiprid and imidacloprid. Dc-acetamiprid was also found in all  
240 analyzed species; however, the detected levels were not fit to the Michaelis-Menten plot.

241 Kolanczyk et al., (2020) report the detection of only a single metabolite, dm-acetamiprid,  
242 when acetamiprid is metabolized *in vitro* using rat and rainbow trout microsomes. While the  
243 kinetic parameters for microsomal demethylation of acetamiprid could not be quantified in  
244 rainbow trout (Kolanczyk et al., 2020). The kinetics of dm-acetamiprid in rats were  
245 determined ( $K_m = 70.9 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $V_{max} = 10 \text{ pmol/min/mg}$ ) (Kolanczyk et al., 2020), but these  
246 parameters are different from those in our results ( $K_m = 565 \pm 171 \mu\text{M}$ ,  $V_{max} = 1344 \pm 274$   
247  $\text{pmol/min/mg}$ ). Although the microsome of male SD rats was similarly used, the differences  
248 in materials and methods, such as microsome and imidacloprid concentrations, buffer,  
249 incubation periods, chemical analysis, and detector, are applied and may cause the  
250 differences in the kinetics of dm-acetamiprid in rats between our study and previous report  
251 (Kolanczyk et al., 2020). In humans, dm-acetamiprid is the dominant metabolite of  
252 acetamiprid and is frequently detected in urine samples (Harada et al., 2016). As shown in  
253 Figs. 3A and 3B and in Table 2, the  $V_{max}/K_m$  values of dm-acetamiprid and N-acetyl-  
254 acetamiprid formation were significantly higher in humans than in other examined species.  
255 There is currently no published information regarding the specific CYP-mediated  
256 acetamiprid demethylation in humans or in other vertebrates. The residues of dm-acetamiprid  
257 in urine can be used as a marker to detect environmental exposure to acetamiprid in humans  
258 owing to the slow excretion of this metabolite (Harada et al., 2016; Marfo et al., 2015).  
259 Therefore, the lower clearance ( $V_{max}/K_m$ ) of acetamiprid and its metabolism to dm-  
260 acetamiprid in rats, dogs, and cats, as compared to humans, suggested that dm-acetamiprid  
261 might serve as a marker to indicate environmental exposure to acetamiprid in these species  
262 also. However, interspecies differences in excretion of acetamiprid involved in the enzymes

263 in phase II metabolism should be considered as well because it could affect the variation in  
264 residue levels of dm-acetamiprid in the blood in each animal species.

#### 265 ***3.4. Interspecies differences of metabolic capacities for neonicotinoid metabolism***

266 In this study, the interspecies differences in neonicotinoid metabolites were analyzed,  
267 particularly those in acetamiprid metabolism. Among these chosen species, kinetic  
268 parameters of imidacloprid metabolism indicated that the maximum rate of oxidation of  
269 imidacloprid to 4OH-imidacloprid was presented in rats, while the highest enzyme kinetics  
270 of imidacloprid metabolism to 5OH-imidacloprid were found in rats and humans. The  
271 greatest clearances of 1-methyl-3-nitroguanidine and dm-clothianidin was noticed in in rats,  
272 but cats and humans showed the lowest formation of dm-clothianidin. CYP activities in  
273 metabolism of acetamiprid to dm-acetamiprid and N-acetyl-acetamiprid were determined to  
274 be significantly higher in humans in comparison to other species. Phase I metabolism of  
275 neonicotinoids is largely dependent on CYP (Simon-Delso et al., 2015; Thompson et al.,  
276 2020); however, the CYP isoforms that were involved in the metabolism of neonicotinoids  
277 was unclear. Our previous study (Khidkhan et al., 2019) found that the mRNA expressions  
278 of CYP1-3 families in the liver of cats are different from those in humans (Rodriguez-Antona  
279 et al., 2001), dogs (Martinez et al., 2013) and rats (Jin et al., 2016). In addition, the studies  
280 on species differences between mouse, rat, dog, monkey, and human CYP-mediated drug  
281 metabolism found that the species-specific isoforms of CYP1A, CYP2C, CYP2D, and  
282 CYP3A cause the significant interspecies differences in terms of catalytic activity  
283 (Martignoni et al., 2006). Based on our results in present study, it can be concluded that the  
284 interspecies differences in the metabolism of neonicotinoids might be due to the differences

285 in expression levels and functions of CYP isoforms in rats, dogs, cats, and humans. Previous  
286 studies report that glutathione conjugation, glycine conjugation, and glucuronidation in phase  
287 II metabolism are important in neonicotinoid clearance (Ford and Casida, 2006; Tomizawa  
288 and Casida, 2000). However, cats lack the metabolic capacity for glucuronidation (Court,  
289 2013b). Although our results suggested approximately the same  $V_{max}/K_m$  values in cats and  
290 dogs in the metabolism of neonicotinoids, in reality, cats may display lesser metabolic  
291 capacity than dogs. Further studies should be directed at identifying the differences in hepatic  
292 metabolism of neonicotinoids in these species using recombinant CYP enzymes. Moreover,  
293 to clearly define the species variations in toxicological risks involved in the exposure of  
294 neonicotinoids to household pets, the investigations on phase II metabolism, *in vivo*  
295 experiments, and biomonitoring exposures are needed.

#### 296 **4. Conclusions**

297 In summary, this study constituted the first investigation of interspecies variations in  
298 CYP-mediated metabolism of neonicotinoids and the specific compositions of neonicotinoid  
299 metabolites detected using the hepatic microsomal fractions of rats, dogs, cats, and humans.  
300 The rate of formations of most neonicotinoid metabolites (including 4OH-imidacloprid,  
301 5OH-imdacloprid, 1-methyl-3-nitroguanidine, and dm-clothianidin) was highest in rats,  
302 followed by humans, dogs and cats. The formation of dm-acetamiprid and N-acetyl-  
303 acetamiprid was highest in humans, followed by rats, dogs, and cats. These results indicated  
304 that the variation of CYP-mediated neonicotinoid metabolism could depend on species and  
305 each neonicotinoid, which was confirmed using *in vitro* microsomal assay.

306 **Acknowledgements**

307           This work was supported by the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the  
308 Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology of Japan awarded to M.  
309 Ishizuka (No. 16H0177906, 18K1984708, 18KK028708 and JPMXS0420100620), and Y.  
310 Ikenaka (No. 17K2003807 and 18H0413208), and S.M.M. Nakayama (No. 17KK0009). This  
311 work was also supported by the foundation of JSPS Bilateral Open Partnership Joint Research  
312 Projects (JPJSBP120209902) and the Environment Research and Technology Development  
313 Fund (SII-1/3-2, 4RF-1802/18949907) of the Environmental Restoration and Conservation  
314 Agency of Japan. We also acknowledge financial support from the Soroptimist Japan  
315 Foundation, the Nakajima Foundation, the Sumitomo Foundation, the Nihon Seimei  
316 Foundation, Act Beyond Trust, the Japan Prize Foundation, and the Triodos Foundation. This  
317 research was also supported by JST/JICA, SATREPS (Science and Technology Research  
318 Partnership for Sustainable Development; No. JPMJSA1501) and the Hokkaido University  
319 School of Veterinary Medicine Wise/Leading Travel and Subsistence grant. The funders had  
320 no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of  
321 the manuscript. We would like to thank Editage ([www.editage.com](http://www.editage.com)) for English language  
322 proof.

323 **Conflict of interest**

324 There are no conflicts of interest to declare.

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326



327 **Figure legends**

328 **Fig. 1** Michaelis-Menten plots for CYP activity (mean  $\pm$  SD) of imidacloprid substrates in  
329 SD rat (black circle), dog (blue square), cat (green triangle) and human (red triangle) liver  
330 microsomes

331

332 **Fig. 2** Michaelis-Menten plots for CYP activity (mean  $\pm$  SD) of clothianidin substrates in  
333 SD rat (black circle), dog (blue square), cat (green triangle), and human (red triangle) liver  
334 microsomes

335

336 **Fig. 3** Michaelis-Menten plots for CYP activity (mean  $\pm$  SD) of acetamiprid substrates in  
337 SD rat (black circle), dog (blue square), cat (green triangle), and human (red triangle) liver  
338 microsomes

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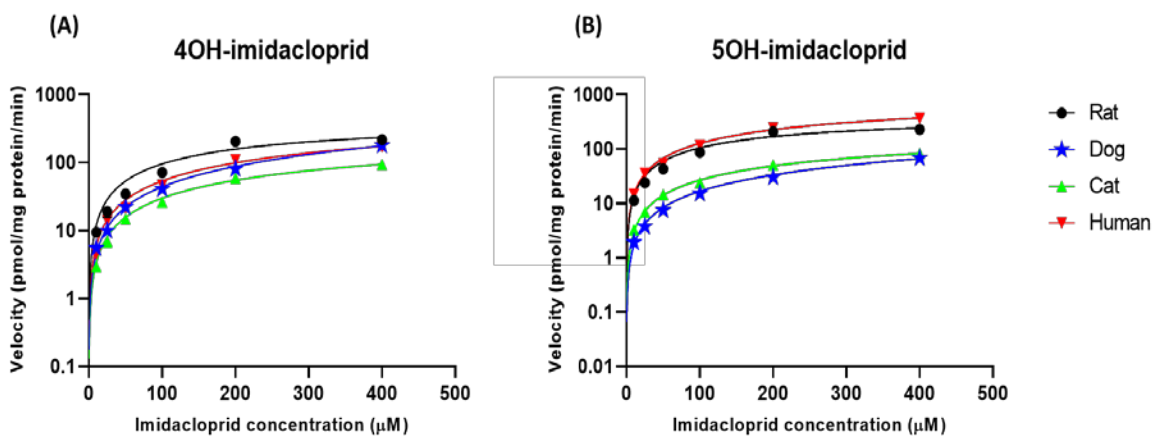
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Fig. 1

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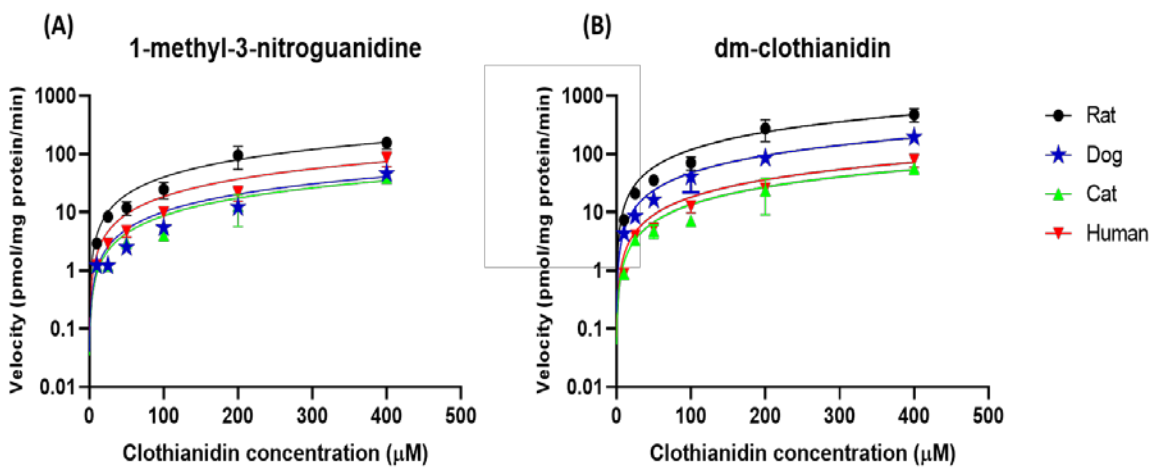
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Fig. 2

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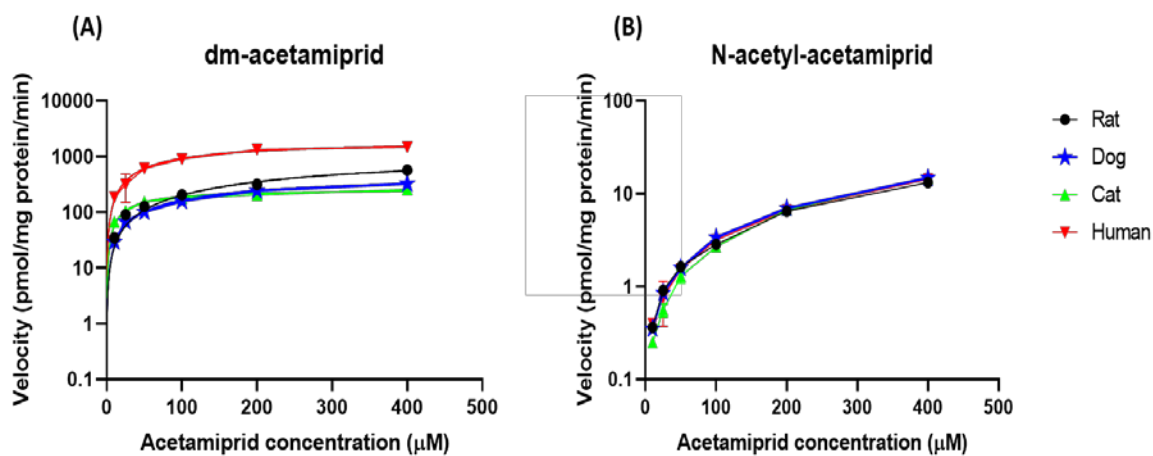
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Fig. 3

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370 **Table 1** Details of animals used to obtain liver microsomes

Species	SD Rat	Dog (Beagle)	Cat	Human
Age	7 weeks	5-7 months	24-28 months	19-77 years
Sex	Male	Male	Male	Male and Female
Number of samples	4	3	4	10
Sample procurement	Purchased	Previous study (Takaguchi et al., 2019)	Previous study (Khidkhan et al., 2019)	Purchased

371

372 **Table 2** Michaelis-Menten kinetic parameters ( $V_{max}$  (pmol/min/mg),  $K_m$  ( $\mu$ M),  $V_{max}/K_m$ , ( $\mu$ L/min/mg), mean  $\pm$  SD) for CYP  
 373 metabolism of neonicotinoids

Substrate	Metabolite	Parameter	Rat	Dog	Cat	Human
Imidacloprid	4OH-imidacloprid	$V_{max}$	454 $\pm$ 2	465 $\pm$ 606	336 $\pm$ 15	668 $\pm$ 68
		$K_m$	374 $\pm$ 2	1166 $\pm$ 1557	1025 $\pm$ 42	1142 $\pm$ 43
		$V_{max}/K_m$	1.2 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>A</sup>	0.5 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>B</sup>	0.3 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>B</sup>	0.6 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>B</sup>
	5OH-imidacloprid	$V_{max}$	440 $\pm$ 45	78 $\pm$ 53	283 $\pm$ 73	1042 $\pm$ 56
		$K_m$	320 $\pm$ 61	468 $\pm$ 358	958 $\pm$ 308	721 $\pm$ 17
		$V_{max}/K_m$	1.4 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>A</sup>	0.2 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>B</sup>	0.3 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>B</sup>	1.5 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>A</sup>
	5-methoxymethoxy-imidacloprid	$V_{max}$	ND	ND	ND	ND
		$K_m$	ND	ND	ND	ND
		$V_{max}/K_m$	ND	ND	ND	ND
	6-CNA	$V_{max}$	ND	ND	ND	ND
		$K_m$	ND	ND	ND	ND
		$V_{max}/K_m$	ND	ND	ND	ND
dn-dh-imidacloprid	$V_{max}$	NF	NF	NF	NF	
	$K_m$	NF	NF	NF	NF	
	$V_{max}/K_m$	NF	NF	NF	NF	
dn-imidacloprid	$V_{max}$	NF	NF	NF	NF	
	$K_m$	NF	NF	NF	NF	
	$V_{max}/K_m$	NF	NF	NF	NF	
Imidacloprid-olefin	$V_{max}$	NF	NF	NF	NF	
	$K_m$	NF	NF	NF	NF	
	$V_{max}/K_m$	NF	NF	NF	NF	
Clothianidin	1-methyl-3-nitroguanidine	$V_{max}$	26 $\pm$ 13	8 $\pm$ 6	8 $\pm$ 2	19 $\pm$ 15
		$K_m$	56 $\pm$ 31	113 $\pm$ 101	91 $\pm$ 28	141 $\pm$ 122
		$V_{max}/K_m$	0.5 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>A</sup>	0.1 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>B</sup>	0.1 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>B</sup>	0.2 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>B</sup>
	dm-clothianidin	$V_{max}$	105 $\pm$ 37	78 $\pm$ 1	23 $\pm$ 11	58. $\pm$ 13
		$K_m$	100 $\pm$ 30	189 $\pm$ 9	188 $\pm$ 107	391 $\pm$ 39
		$V_{max}/K_m$	1.1 $\pm$ 0.1 <sup>A</sup>	0.4 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>B</sup>	0.1 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>C</sup>	0.2 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>C</sup>
Clothianidin-urea	$V_{max}$	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	$K_m$	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	$V_{max}/K_m$	ND	ND	ND	ND	
dm-clothianidin-urea	$V_{max}$	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	$K_m$	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	$V_{max}/K_m$	ND	ND	ND	ND	
dm-dn-clothianidin	$V_{max}$	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	$K_m$	ND	ND	ND	ND	
	$V_{max}/K_m$	ND	ND	ND	ND	

374 **Table 2** Michaelis-Menten kinetic parameters ( $V_{max}$  (pmol/min/mg),  $K_m$  ( $\mu$ M),  $V_{max}/K_m$ , ( $\mu$ L/min/mg), mean  $\pm$  SD) for CYP  
 375 metabolism of neonicotinoids (continued)

Substrate	Metabolite	Parameter	Rat	Dog	Cat	Human	
Acetamiprid	6-CNA	$V_{max}$	56 $\pm$ 12				
		$K_m$	310 $\pm$ 107	ND	NF	NF	
		$V_{max}/K_m$	0.2 $\pm$ 0.0				
	dc-acetamiprid	$V_{max}$		NF	NF	NF	NF
		$K_m$					
		$V_{max}/K_m$					
	dm-acetamiprid	$V_{max}$	1344 $\pm$ 274	472 $\pm$ 20	260 $\pm$ 5	1940 $\pm$ 204	
		$K_m$	565 $\pm$ 171	183 $\pm$ 5	36 $\pm$ 5	110 $\pm$ 38	
		$V_{max}/K_m$	2.4 $\pm$ 0.2 <sup>B</sup>	2.5 $\pm$ 0.0 <sup>B</sup>	7.2 $\pm$ 1.2 <sup>B</sup>	17.7 $\pm$ 4.2 <sup>A</sup>	
	dm-dc-acetamiprid	$V_{max}$		ND	ND	ND	ND
		$K_m$					
		$V_{max}/K_m$					
	N-acetyl-acetamiprid	$V_{max}$	11 $\pm$ 2	19 $\pm$ 16	5 $\pm$ 4	5 $\pm$ 0	
		$K_m$	271 $\pm$ 5	527 $\pm$ 459	173 $\pm$ 158	96 $\pm$ 11	
		$V_{max}/K_m$	0.039 $\pm$ 0.000 <sup>AB</sup>	0.037 $\pm$ 0.002 <sup>B</sup>	0.027 $\pm$ 0.001 <sup>C</sup>	0.047 $\pm$ 0.004 <sup>A</sup>	
	N-acetyl-dm-acetamiprid	$V_{max}$			0.4 $\pm$ 0.3	0.5 $\pm$ 0.5	
		$K_m$		NF	244 $\pm$ 210	61 $\pm$ 152	
		$V_{max}/K_m$			0.002 $\pm$ 0.001	0.008 $\pm$ 0.007	

376 Different characters (A, B, and C) indicate statistically significant differences of  $V_{max}/K_m$  (Tukey's HSD test,  $P < 0.05$ ), NF;

377 Not fit to Michaelis-Menten plot, ND; Not detected

378 **Supplemental Table 1** Tested details of human liver microsomes (10- donor mixed gender  
379 pool)

<b>Test</b>	<b>Result</b>
Protein concentration	21.6 mg/mL
Total CYP concentration	0.303 nmol/mg
CYP1A2 activity: rate of formation of acetaminophen	358 pmol/min/mg
CYP2A6: total rate of formation of 7-hydroxycoumarin and metabolites	295 pmol/min/mg
CYP2B6: rate of formation of hydroxybupropion	189 pmol/min/mg
CYP2C8: rate of formation of desethylamodiaquine	100 pmol/min/mg
CYP2C9: rate of formation of 4'-methylhydroxytolbutamide	36.6 pmol/min/mg
CYP2C19: rate of formation of 4'-hydroxymephenytoin	47.0 pmol/min/mg
CYP2D6: rate of formation of dextrophan	32.7 pmol/min/mg
CYP2E1: rate of formation of 6-hydroxychlorzoxazone	231 pmol/min/mg
CYP3A4: rate of formation of 6 $\beta$ -hydroxytestosterone	1304 pmol/min/mg
CYP3A4: rate of formation of 1-hydroxymidazolam	396 pmol/min/mg
UGT: rate of formation of 7-hydroxycoumarin glucuronide	1685 pmol/min/mg

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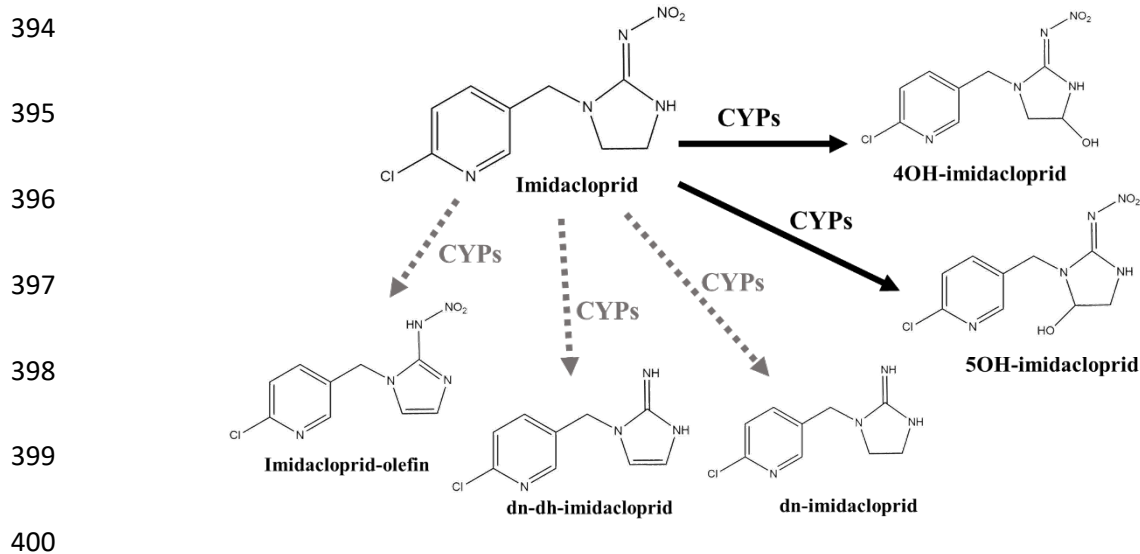
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391 **Supplemental Table 2** The substrate and target metabolites of imidacloprid, clothianidin and acetamiprid used in this study.

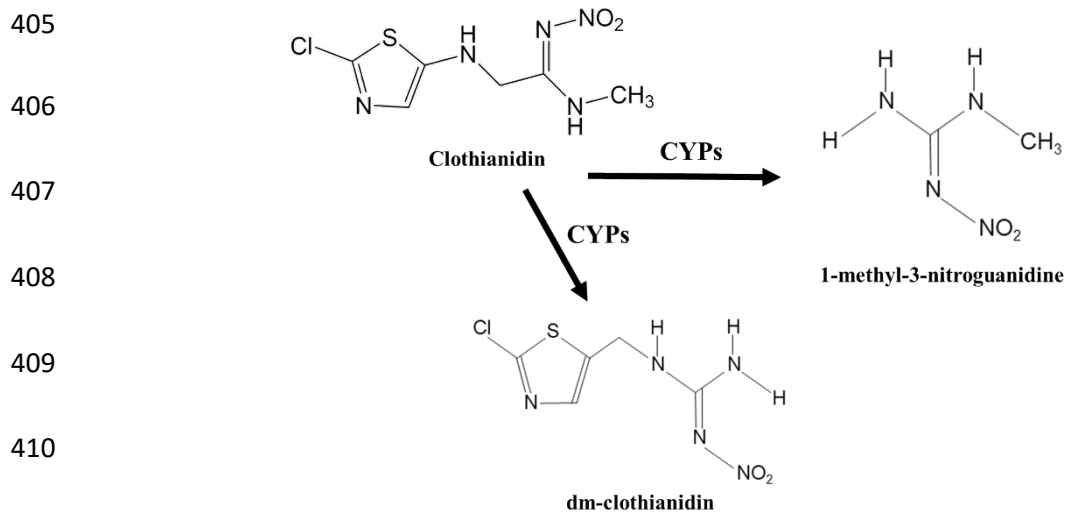
Neonicotinoids	Target metabolite	Retention time (min)	MRM ( <i>m/z</i> )	CE	Source
Imidacloprid	Imidacloprid	4.89	256.06>175.10	24	Kanto Chemical
	4OH-imidacloprid	4.41	272.01>191.20	24	Toho University
	5OH-imidacloprid	4.29	272.01>191.20	16	Toho University
	5-Methoxymethoxy-imidacloprid	5.21	316.71>317.30	0	Toho University
	6-CNA	3.77	158.00>122.20	20	Sigma-Aldrich
	Desnitro-dehydro-imidacloprid	3.54	209.10>126.00	20	Toho University
	Desnitro-imidacloprid	3.70	236.00>132.00	24	Sigma-Aldrich
	Imidacloprid-olefin	4.42	254.00>236.10	8	Sigma-Aldrich
Clothianidin	Clothianidin	4.26	250.02>169.00	12	Wako Pure Chemical
	1-Methyl-3-nitroguanidine	1.20	119.10>73.20	4	Sigma-Aldrich
	Clothianidin-urea	3.84	206.01>132.10	16	Toho University
	Desmethyl-clothianidin	3.93	236.00>132.00	16	Toho University
	Desmethyl-clothianidin-urea	3.30	192.01>132.10	16	Toho University
	Desmethyl-desnitro-clothianidin	2.05	191.01>132.00	16	Toho University
	Desnitro-clothianidin	2.65	205.01>132.1	20	Toho University
Acetamiprid	Acetamiprid	5.50	223.08>126.00	24	Cosmo Bio
	6-CNA	3.71	158.00>122.20	20	Sigma-Aldrich
	Descyano-acetamiprid	3.43	198.01>126.10	28	Toho University
	Desmethyl-acetamiprid	4.91	209.06>125.8	20	Sigma-Aldrich
	Desmethyl-descyano-acetamiprid	2.35	184.01>126.10	20	Toho University
	N-acetyl-acetamiprid	5.13	199.01>126.10	20	Toho University
	N-acetyl-desmethyl-acetamiprid	4.20	185.01>126.00	20	Toho University

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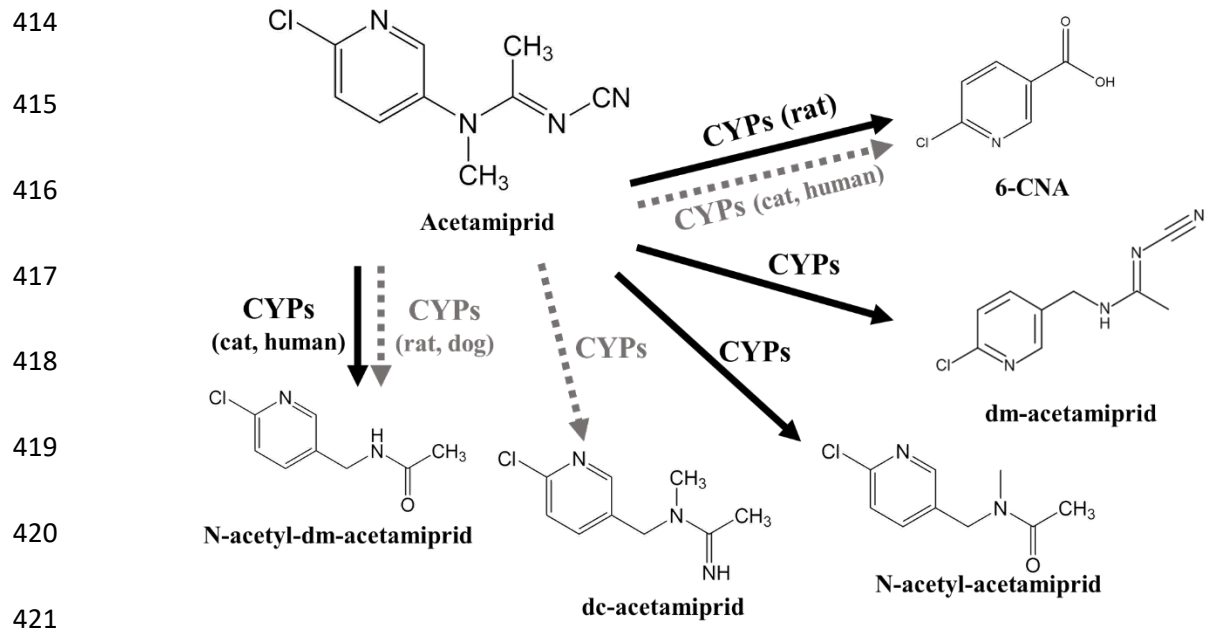


401 **Supplemental Fig. 1** The estimated pathways of total imidacloprid metabolite formation in  
 402 rats, dogs, cats, and humans (black arrow: kinetics calculated, gray dash arrow: not fit to  
 403 Michaelis-Menten plot)



412 **Supplemental Fig. 2** The predicted pathways of total clothianidin metabolite formation in  
 413 rats, dogs, cats, and humans (black arrow: kinetics calculated)





422 **Supplemental Fig. 3** The predicted pathways of total acetamiprid metabolite formation in  
 423 rats, dogs, cats, and humans (black arrow: kinetics calculated, gray dash arrow: not fit to  
 424 Michaelis-Menten plot)

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