



## Fluoxetine effects assessment on the life cycle of aquatic invertebrates

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1 **Fluoxetine effects assessment on the life cycle of aquatic invertebrates**

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10

## 11 **Abstract**

12           Fluoxetine is a serotonin re-uptake inhibitor, generally used as an antidepressant. It is  
13 suspected to provoke substantial effects in the aquatic environment. This study reports the effects  
14 of fluoxetine on the life cycle of four invertebrate species, *Daphnia magna*, *Hyaella azteca* and  
15 the snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* exposed to fluoxetine spiked-water and the midge  
16 *Chironomus riparius* exposed to fluoxetine-spiked sediments. For *D. magna*, a multi-  
17 generational study was performed with exposition of newborns from exposed organisms. Effects  
18 of fluoxetine could be found at low measured concentrations (around  $10 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ), especially for  
19 parthenogenetic reproduction of *D. magna* and *P. antipodarum*. For daphnids, newborns length  
20 was impacted by fluoxetine and the second generation of exposed individuals showed much  
21 more pronounced effects than the first one, with a NOEC of  $8.9 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . For *P. antipodarum*,  
22 significant decrease of reproduction was found for concentrations around  $10 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . In contrast,  
23 we found no effect on the reproduction of *H. azteca* but a significant effect on growth, which  
24 resulted in a NOEC of  $33 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , expressed in nominal concentration. No effect on *C. riparius*  
25 could be found for measured concentrations up to  $59.5 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$ . General mechanistic energy-  
26 based models showed poor relevance for data analysis, which suggests that fluoxetine targets  
27 specific mechanisms of reproduction.

28

29 *Keywords* : invertebrates, fluoxetine, pharmaceuticals, sublethal effects, multi-generational  
30 test, mechanistic models.

31

## 32 1. Introduction

33

34 For the past few years, there has been a growing concern about ecotoxicological risk  
35 of pharmaceuticals. Indeed, human medicines have been detected in many countries in  
36 sewage treatment plant effluents, surface waters, seawaters, groundwater and some drinking  
37 waters (Fent *et al.*, 2006). As pharmaceuticals are present at relatively low levels in the  
38 environment, risk for acute toxic effects is unlikely, but chronic environmental toxic effects  
39 cannot be excluded (Carlsson *et al.*, 2006). However, little is known about the chronic effects  
40 of these substances. Moreover, environmental risk assessment based on acute data is  
41 inappropriate (Ferrari *et al.*, 2004). For instance, carbamazepine and propranolol would be  
42 inaccurately identified as having negligible risks in France and Germany. There is a real lack  
43 of long term effects studies, in particular chronic data on the entire life cycle and  
44 investigation of multigenerational effects (Fent *et al.*, 2006).

45 Fluoxetine is a serotonin re-uptake inhibitor. It is apparently the most acute toxic  
46 human pharmaceuticals reported so far (Fent *et al.*, 2006), which makes necessary more  
47 studies about risks of low levels of exposure. In terms of environmental concentrations,  
48 Kolpin *et al.* (2002) estimated at  $0.012 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  the median concentration of fluoxetine in U.S.  
49 streams. In terms of chronic effects, the recently published data on the effects of fluoxetine to  
50 invertebrates provide contradictory information. Flaherty and Dodson (2005) found an  
51 enhancement of reproduction for *Daphnia magna* exposed to a concentration of  $36 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . In  
52 contrast, Brooks *et al.* (2003) found a reproduction decrease for *Ceriodaphnia dubia* with a  
53 NOEC of  $56 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and a LOEC of  $112 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . Henry *et al.* (2004) also found reproduction  
54 decrease for the same species with a NOEC of  $89 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and a LOEC of  $447 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . Brooks *et al.*  
55 *al.* (2003) derived growth LOECs for *Chironomus tentans* and *Hyalella azteca* of respectively  
56  $1.3$  and  $5.6 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$  sediment, but Nentwig (2007) did not find any significant effect on

57 *Chironomus riparius* for concentrations up to 5.86 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> sediment. This author obtained an  
58 extremely low LOEC of 0.47 µg L<sup>-1</sup> for the reproduction of the snail *Potamopyrgus*  
59 *antipodarum*, comparable to concentrations measured in surface water.

60 Toxic effects of fluoxetine on invertebrates are consequently still worth being studied.  
61 We selected four invertebrates, with the following criteria: first, we tested species for which at  
62 least one test result is available in the literature to allow comparisons between our data and  
63 data from other studies ; second, as past studies indicated that the sublethal effects of  
64 fluoxetine are likely to be on reproduction, we tried to have different reproduction strategies  
65 (sexual reproduction and parthenogenesis). We consequently used a large test battery  
66 encompassing several phylogenetic groups. The species selected were then *Chironomus*  
67 *riparius* for sediment borne exposure, the crustacean *Daphnia magna* and *Hyalella azteca*,  
68 and the mollusc gastropod *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* concerning water borne exposure.  
69 This selection for water borne exposure is relevant to cover a large range of invertebrate  
70 sensitivity for organic compounds, as presented by Wogram and Liess (2001). Indeed, these  
71 authors showed that, relative to organic compounds, amphipoda are significantly more  
72 sensitive than daphnids and that gastropoda are significantly less sensitive than daphnids. We  
73 plan here to investigate effects on all the components of the life cycle of our species. In  
74 particular, effects on adults survival and reproduction as well as effects on juveniles survival  
75 and growth have been assessed. Moreover, for one of the species (*Daphnia magna*), fitness of  
76 the newborns produced during exposure and exposed themselves at the same concentration as  
77 their mother was assessed, to account for subtle effects on reproduction (like malformation)  
78 which would be undetectable with results expressed only in terms of numbers of newborns.  
79 Finally, the growth and reproduction data were analyzed using energy-based models, DEBtox  
80 (Kooijman and Bedaux, 1996). These models permit to estimate parameters not dependent on  
81 time, which is valuable to assess effects for long term exposure, and they allow insides

82 relative to the physiological mode of action of the compound (Kooijman and Bedaux, 1996;  
83 Péry *et al.*, 2003).

84

## 85 **2. Materials and Methods**

86

### 87 *2.1. Chemical substance*

88 Fluoxetine-HCL was used for all ecotoxicity tests (CAS 59333-67-4). It was  
89 purchased from Interchim (Montluçon, France ; product number 09674, batch number  
90 RD0001).

### 91 *2.2. Chironomus riparius tests*

92 Larvae were exposed to fluoxetine-spiked sediment. Sediment has been taken from  
93 Port-Galland, a tributary of the river Ain (France). This sediment has **been monitored for**  
94 **years by Cemagref**. Chemicals concentration are at low level and it has never been toxic to  
95 sediment organisms. Sediments were 2 mm sieved and homogenised before use. Organic  
96 carbon content is 3%, organic nitrogen content is 0.35%. Water was constituted of ¼ water  
97 from a spring, situated under our laboratory, added to demineralised water, resulting in pH of  
98 7.8 and conductivity of 450  $\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$ . Sediments were spiked with fluoxetine 10 days before  
99 starting the tests. Fluoxetine (Interchim, Montluçon, France) was introduced in 0.5 L water at  
100 the concentration corresponding to the chosen nominal exposure concentrations and mixed  
101 with 1.5 kg wet sediment. Tested exposure concentrations were 1.2, 3.7, 11, 33, 100 and 1000  
102  $\text{mg kg}^{-1}$  d.w., the latest being the concentration for which a compound is considered as **safe if**  
103 no significant effect occur at this exposure concentration (OECD, 2004). Sediments were  
104 transferred in beakers three days before starting tests. There were ten beakers per  
105 concentration. We put 0.1 L sediment and 0.4 L water in these beakers. The beakers were set  
106 in a water bath at 21°C with a 16:8 h light:dark photoperiod. Conductivity, temperature, pH,

107 amount of dissolved oxygen were measured daily. We used an aeration system (air introduced  
108 through a Pasteur pipette in each beaker) to maintain oxygen level.

109 The experiment was initiated with two-day-old larvae (end of first instar) from our  
110 laboratory culture. We put ten larvae per beaker. Length at the beginning of the test, measured  
111 on 20 organisms, was 1.7 +/- 0.1 mm. Organisms were fed daily with 0.6 mg per larva  
112 Tetramin® fish food.

113 At day 7, survivor and growth were monitored by sampling five beakers per  
114 concentration. Individuals were counted, killed using formaldehyde, then length was  
115 measured using a binocular microscope. Emergence was monitored for the five remaining  
116 beakers per concentration which had been covered to prevent organisms from escaping. The  
117 females were then put into 1 L mating chambers, with 0.1 L water, with males from  
118 laboratory culture in a ratio of three males per female as described by Péry *et al.* (2002).  
119 After mating and oviposition, each egg mass was removed and put into a 5 mL tube with 2  
120 mL H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 2N overnight and the number of eggs was counted.

121

### 122 2.3. *Hyalella azteca* tests

123 Amphipods were exposed to fluoxetine-spiked water. Experimental protocol was the  
124 same as in Péry *et al.* (2005) : amphipods were exposed in beakers and an artificial nylon-  
125 shelter was introduced at the bottom of each beaker. The beakers were set in a water bath at  
126 21 °C with a 16:8 h light:dark photoperiod. Test water in the beakers was continuously  
127 renewed (four renewals a day): for each concentration, there was a continuous pumping of  
128 clean water (same as for *C. riparius*) and stock solution at a speed calculated to obtained the  
129 required exposure concentration and then mixed in a bottle. Stock solution was protected from  
130 light and renewed every three days. The nominal exposure concentrations were 3.7, 11, 33  
131 and 100 µg L<sup>-1</sup>. Specific conductivity, temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen were measured

132 daily. Organisms were fed daily with 0.16 mg Tetramin® per individual. Two experiments  
133 were conducted. In the first one, young organisms (between 7 and 9 days old, mean length  
134 1.69 +/- 0.17 mm) selected in our laboratory culture were exposed (ten per beaker) and length  
135 was measured every 7 days to assess effects on growth. Length measurements were  
136 performed on the dorsal side from the base of the first antenna to the end of the next to last  
137 segment, using an image analysis method (Sigma Scan Pro 5.0, SPSS Inc., Chicago). In the  
138 second one, we exposed five precopula (one male and one female, resulting in ten organisms  
139 per beaker) taken from our laboratory culture per beaker during 28 days, and we monitored  
140 reproduction every week. For each experiment, there was four replicates per concentration.

141

#### 142 2.4. Daphnia magna tests

143 Organisms were exposed individually in 100 mL-bottles which contained 80 mL of  
144 solution. There were ten replicates per concentration. Tested fluoxetine concentrations were 0,  
145 3, 10, 30, 100 and 300 µg L<sup>-1</sup>. Test duration was 21 d, temperature was maintained at 20 °C  
146 by putting the bottles in temperature-controlled chambers, water (M4 medium, as  
147 recommended by ISO 10706) was renewed every day. Daphnids length was measured at days  
148 7, 14 and 21 using image analysis and reproduction (number of newborns) was monitored  
149 every day. Length of the newborns was measured for the third brood. Food was algae  
150 *Pseudokirchneriella subcapitata* from our laboratory culture. Each organism received  
151 10<sup>7</sup> algal cells per day the two first days, 2. 10<sup>7</sup> algal cells per day the three following days, 3.  
152 10<sup>7</sup> algal cells per day the two following days and 4.10<sup>7</sup> algal cells per day until the end of the  
153 test. These feeding conditions are *ad libitum* conditions, as it has been chosen by previous  
154 tests (unpublished results).

155 To assess effects on two generations, an experiment in the same conditions was  
156 performed with newborns from the fifth brood. This experiment with the newborns started



157 exactly the day when the experiment with their mother ended. There was not enough  
158 surviving newborns to start this new test for nominal concentration 300 µg L<sup>-1</sup>.

159

## 160 2.5. *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* tests

161 Snails from the species *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* came from our laboratory culture.  
162 The test beakers were filled with 0.5 L fluoxetine-spiked water (the same as for amphipods),  
163 three days before the beginning of the tests. The beakers were set in a water bath at 21 °C  
164 with a 16:8 h light:dark photoperiod. The exposure system was the same as for *H. azteca*. The  
165 nominal exposure concentrations were 3.7, 11, 33 and 100 µg L<sup>-1</sup>. Specific conductivity,  
166 temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen were measured daily. Organisms were fed with 0.6 mg  
167 Tetramin® fish food (Tetrawerke, Melle, Germany) per individual per day. We performed  
168 two experiments, one to assess effects on growth, the other one to assess effects on  
169 reproduction. Growth was monitored every week through shell length measurements using a  
170 binocular. At the beginning of the growth test, each beaker contained ten organisms, which  
171 had been selected in the culture according to their length (0.48 +/- 0.026 mm). **Reproduction**  
172 **was monitored once a week, by counting and removing all newborns using a binocular.** The  
173 test was initiated with individual adult length superior to 4 mm at the beginning of the test,  
174 and also ten individuals per replicate. For each experiment, there were three replicates per  
175 concentration. The experiments lasted six weeks.

176

## 177 2.6. *Analytical Procedures*

178 Spiked water was sampled for all exposure concentrations in the *D. magna* and *P.*  
179 *antipodarum* tests at day 10 for daphnids and day 42 for snails. We could not have chemical  
180 measurements for amphipod tests. To get enough volume to perform chemical measurements,

181 waters for all replicates of a given concentration were pooled. Spiked sediments were sampled  
182 for all concentrations at the end of the toxicity test.

183 Water samples (10-250 mL), adjusted to pH 3 with sulphuric acid, were spiked with  
184 the surrogate standard fluoxetine-d5 (Isotec, Miamisburg, USA). Samples were enriched at a  
185 flow rate of 10-20 mL min<sup>-1</sup> (ca. 200 mbar) with OASIS HLB SPE cartridges (200 mg, 30  
186 µm, Waters, Milfort, USA) and the SPE material was dried for 1 h under a nitrogen stream.  
187 Fluoxetine was eluted using 4 x 2 mL of methanol/acetic acid (98/2, v/v). After blowing down  
188 to 100 µL the samples extracts, they were reconstituted to 1 mL of the LC eluent A (see  
189 below).

190 Sediment samples (1 g) were spiked with the surrogate standard fluoxetine-d5 and extracted  
191 by pressurized liquid extraction (PLE) with MeOH/water/acetic acid (49:49:2) at 100 bar and  
192 120 °C during two static cycles of five min. Afterwards, the extract was made up to 50 mL  
193 and one aliquot of 0.1-1 mL diluted in 500 mL of groundwater. SPE clean-up was carried out  
194 with OASIS HLB cartridges eluted with MeOH-MTBE (95:5).

195 The sample extracts were measured by LC tandem MS (Agilent 1100 with degasser,  
196 quaternary pump and autosampler, Agilent Technologies, Waldbronn, Germany/API 4000  
197 with ESI ionization, Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, USA) operating in the positive ion  
198 mode using multiple reaction monitoring (MRM). Chromatographic separation took place at  
199 room temperature by means of a Synergi Polar RP 80A column (150 x 3 mm, 4µm)  
200 (Phenomenex®, Aschaffenburg, Germany). A mixture of 20 mM ammonia solution (pH 5.7  
201 adjusted with acetic acid): acetonitrile (98:2) (A) and a mixture of A:acetonitrile (2:3) (B)  
202 were used as mobile phases. Two MRM transitions were monitored for each substance for  
203 identification and quantification of the analytes (fluoxetine: 310/44 and 310/148 amu;  
204 fluoxetine-d5: 315/44 and 315/143 amu).

205 Calibration curves showed a good correlation in the range 5-2000 ng.mL<sup>-1</sup>. Limits of  
206 quantification for fluoxetine in sediment and water samples were 10 ng.g<sup>-1</sup> and 5 ng.L<sup>-1</sup>,  
207 respectively.

208

## 209 *2.7. Statistical analysis*

210 To analyse the data, we used standard methods (ANOVA, Dunnett-t tests) but also  
211 DEBtox models (See a complete description in Kooijman and Bedaux, 1996 and in the OECD  
212 guideline about statistics in ecotoxicology (OECD, 2006)). These models are based on the  
213 DEB theory (Kooijman, 2000), which describes growth and reproduction as a function of  
214 bioenergetics parameters like for instance costs of maintenance or food assimilation rate.  
215 Effects on growth and reproduction are described as the consequences of effects on one of  
216 these bioenergetics parameters. These effects are proportional to the difference between  
217 accumulated compound concentration and a threshold concentration, called the NEC (No  
218 Effect Concentration). The estimate of this threshold concentration, obtained through  
219 maximum likelihood methods, does not depend on the duration of the test.

220

## 221 **3. Results**

222

### 223 *3.1. Chironomus riparius tests*

224 Temperature was constant (21±1 °C) so as pH (7.9 ±0.3). Conductivity was 490 ±  
225 35 µS cm<sup>-1</sup>, and the percentage of dissolved oxygen was always above 90 %. Growth (length  
226 of 12.1 mm at 7 days) and survival (72%) in the control were enough to validate the test.  
227 Chemical measurement showed a recovery of 63 ± 4% for fluoxetine spiked on the  
228 sediments. Traces of fluoxetine near detection limit (0.1 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>) were found in the control.

229 There was no significant effect on *Chironomus riparius* growth, emergence and reproduction  
230 for concentrations up to 59.5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> (ANOVA, p>0.05). Final length for all these  
231 concentrations were between 11.9 and 12.1 mm and total number of eggs per female were  
232 between 426 and 456. For measured concentration 666 mg kg<sup>-1</sup>, there was no emergence,  
233 survival at day 7 was low (34%) and growth at day 7 was very significantly reduced (p<0.01,  
234 Dunnet-t test), by 31%.

235

### 236 3.2. *Hyalella azteca* tests

237 Temperature was constant (20.9±0.4 °C) so as pH (7.55 ±0.2). Conductivity was  
238 391 ± 17 µS cm<sup>-1</sup>, and the percentage of dissolved oxygen was always above 90%.

239 No adult died for any of the concentrations during the test. There was no significant  
240 effect of fluoxetine on reproduction (ANOVA, p>0.5), with mean number of newborns per  
241 female from 12.8 to 15.9. For the young organisms, more than 87.5% amphipods survived in  
242 all the concentrations. Effects on growth were significant for nominal concentration 100 µg L<sup>-1</sup>  
243 at days 14, 21 and 28 (p<0.01, Dunnet-t test), as presented by Figure 1. This resulted in a  
244 LOEC of 100 µg L<sup>-1</sup> and a NOEC of 33 µg L<sup>-1</sup>. We used DEBtox models, with the three  
245 possible physiological modes of action for growth (effects on food assimilation, on growth  
246 energy costs or on maintenance energetic costs), and with a Von Bertalanffy growth rate of  
247 0.08 d<sup>-1</sup> (parameter required by the software, estimated with a least square method using  
248 control data). Growth was very low the first week, so we used DEBtox only from day 7 to 28,  
249 but taking into account that compound accumulation has started from the very first day. The  
250 best fit was obtained for the mode of action “increase of energetic costs for growth”, the two  
251 other modes of action leading to estimations significantly different from the data at day 28  
252 obtained for nominal concentration 100 µg L<sup>-1</sup>. To propose a rough explanation for that, we  
253 should point that, in the DEBtox context, “increase of energetic costs for growth” is

254 characterized by effects on growth rate but no effect on ultimate length. By looking at Figure  
255 1, it seems that all growth curves tend to reach the same ultimate length. The NEC estimated  
256 by DEBtox was  $19 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , but the software was unable to provide a confidence interval,  
257 which means that all numbers between 0 and infinity were in this confidence interval.

258

### 259 3.3. *Daphnia magna* tests

260 Temperature was constant ( $19.9 \pm 0.34 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) so as pH ( $7.9 \pm 0.27$ ) and conductivity  
261 ( $642 \pm 30 \mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$ ). Chemical measurements showed a recovery of fluoxetine in the  
262 exposure system from 80 to 102%.

263 In the first test, a significant effect on growth was found at day 7 for concentrations 102  
264 and  $241 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . At days 14 and 21, this effect was only significant for exposure concentration  
265  $241 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . Moreover, there was 40% mortality for this concentration at day 21 and a  
266 significant decrease of reproduction by 32%. No effect on reproduction was found for the  
267 other concentrations. The measurements of the newborns length for the third brood of the first  
268 test showed significant effects of fluoxetine for exposure concentrations 31, 102 and  $241 \mu\text{g}$   
269  $\text{L}^{-1}$  (Figure 2). This parameter is the most sensitive to fluoxetine, resulting in a NOEC of  $8.9$   
270  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and a LOEC of  $31 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . Concerning the second test, effects were much more  
271 pronounced than for the first one, but with the same LOEC and NOEC. 70 % of the newborns  
272 were found dead at 21d for exposure concentration  $102 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . Moreover, reproduction was  
273 significantly reduced for exposure concentration  $31 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  (by 18%) and length was  
274 significantly lower than the control for exposure concentrations 31 and  $102 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ .

275

### 276 3.4. *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* tests

277 Temperature was constant ( $20.8 \pm 0.4 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ) so as pH ( $7.6 \pm 0.3$ ). Conductivity was  $400$   
278  $\pm 24 \mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$ , and the percentage of dissolved oxygen was always above 90%. Chemical

279 measurements showed a bad recovery of fluoxetine in the exposure system (from 27 to 69%),  
280 with measured exposure concentrations : 1, 4.2, 13 and 69  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ .  
281 There was no significant effect of fluoxetine on growth for all weekly measurements  
282 (ANOVA,  $p>0.5$ ). As for reproduction, we observed a significant decrease at 69  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$   
283 (Figure 3) but no significant effect at lower concentrations (Dunnett-t tests,  $p<0.05$ ), resulting  
284 in a NOEC of 13  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and a LOEC of 69  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . We used DEBtox models to analyse data  
285 on reproduction. We selected the physiological mode of action « increase of the energetic  
286 costs of reproduction ». Indeed, the selection of effects on reproduction due to effects on  
287 growth would have no sense here, because we exposed adults. We obtained a NEC of 5  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$   
288 with 95% confidence interval 4.3-10.4  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . All values in this confidence interval are lower  
289 than the estimated NOEC.

290

#### 291 **4. Discussion**

292

293 The chemical measures for the tests with daphnids and chironomids showed a correct  
294 spiking with fluoxetine. In contrast, the chemical measurements for the tests snails showed an  
295 irregular, sometimes low efficiency of water spiking (especially for low concentrations),  
296 despite a continuous renewal of the solution. Recently Kwon and Armbrust (2006) have  
297 demonstrated that fluoxetine is hydrolytically and photolytically stable in aqueous solutions  
298 including natural waters. Fluoxetine may thus not be degraded in our system. Our  
299 hypothesis is thus that fluoxetine, which is likely to sorb very quickly on the sediments, could  
300 sorb very quickly on the fish food provided to the snails and the amphipods in our test or to  
301 the plastic tubes of the renewing system. As the exposure system was the same for *H. azteca*  
302 as for *P. antipodarum*, and as the tests for the snails were performed immediately after the  
303 tests with amphipods, we could consider that the actual concentrations that have been

304 measured for snails exposure to fluoxetine are also valid for amphipods exposure to  
305 fluoxetine. The NOEC of  $33 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  expressed in nominal concentration for growth of  
306 amphipods would be a NOEC of  $13 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  expressed in measured concentration.

307 The classification of sensitivity for our species was quite different from our expectations based  
308 on the works of Wogram and Liess (2001) on effects on organic compounds on invertebrates,  
309 which classified amphipods, daphnids and snails in order of decreasing sensitivity, which  
310 confirms the necessity to treat pharmaceuticals specifically among all organic compounds. In our  
311 tests, the most sensitive species is *P. antipodarum*, with a NEC of  $5 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  relative to  
312 reproduction. Moreover, the effects of fluoxetine were on reproduction for daphnids and snails  
313 (juveniles fitness and total amount of newborns respectively), whereas they were on growth for  
314 *H. azteca*. Our choice of tested species was consequently relevant to capture a large range of  
315 different types of responses.

316 For daphnids, the highest effects were found on the development of the embryos, with smaller  
317 newborns resulting in significant effects on their future reproduction. Exposure to fluoxetine  
318 has thus consequences on the fitness of the newborns, which energy-based models like  
319 DEBtox are not able to account for. Indeed, they assume that the total amount of energy  
320 invested per newborn is not concentration dependent, so that newborns should have the same  
321 length and ability to resist to toxic exposure. This suggests a direct action of fluoxetine on the  
322 development of newborns, which may not be the consequence of energy depletion in the adult  
323 female. Consequently, no result from modeling was presented for daphnids toxicity tests, for  
324 our models cannot account for fluoxetine mode of action. For *H. azteca*, the use of DEBtox  
325 models was also irrelevant. DEBtox was unable to provide a confidence interval, which  
326 means that all numbers between 0 and infinity were in this confidence interval. This suggest  
327 that energy-based models like DEBtox are unable to account accurately for the observed

328 effects, and that, probably, the main target of fluoxetine in *H. azteca* is not the dynamics of  
329 energy.

330 We can compare our results with other studies from the literature. Fluoxetine appeared to  
331 have different effects on growth, fecundity and reproduction depending on species. The  
332 freshwater snail *P. antipodarum* has shown to be the most sensitive invertebrate species for  
333 reproduction as a NOEC of  $3.2 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  (56 days) has been reported by Nentwig (2007). This is  
334 very coherent with the NEC of  $5 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  we found in this project. For *H. azteca*, fluoxetine  
335 treatments inhibited growth with a NOEC of  $33 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  expressed in nominal concentration.  
336 Brooks *et al.* (2003) also showed an inhibition of growth due to fluoxetine exposure. We have  
337 contradictory results compared to the data from Flaherty and Dodson (2005) who found an  
338 enhancement of reproduction for *Daphnia magna* exposed to a concentration of  $36 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$   
339 fluoxetine. In contrast, our results are coherent with Brooks *et al.* (2003) who found a  
340 reproduction decrease for *Ceriodaphnia dubia* with a NOEC of  $56 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and a LOEC of  $112$   
341  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . Henry *et al.* (2004) also found reproduction decrease for the same species with a  
342 NOEC of  $89 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and a LOEC of  $447 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . Nentwig (2007) found a LOEC of  $1.12 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$   
343 <sup>1</sup> (measured value) when studied fluoxetine effects on *C. riparius* emergence which was  
344 associated to a significant increase of number of eggs per clutch. However, he observed no  
345 effect on growth for concentrations up to  $5.86 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$  and he recommends confirming the  
346 potential reduced emergence and increased clutch size observed after fluoxetine exposure. In  
347 our study, we observed no effect for concentrations below  $59 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$ . Fluoxetine is  
348 consequently very unlikely to have effects in the field on *Chironomus riparius*.

349 To conclude, data sets on acute and chronic toxicity of the selected case study  
350 pharmaceuticals have been derived in our study. Fluoxetine seems to interact with growth and  
351 reproduction processes in invertebrates. Depending on the tested species, effects of fluoxetine  
352 can be found at low exposure concentrations, around  $10 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . The fact that the second



353 generation of daphnids was more sensitive than the first one highlights the need for  
354 investigation of the effects of pharmaceuticals on at least two generations of invertebrates.  
355 Energy-based models were developed and used to describe effects on growth and  
356 reproduction, but were not relevant to estimates threshold effect for fluoxetine.

357

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363

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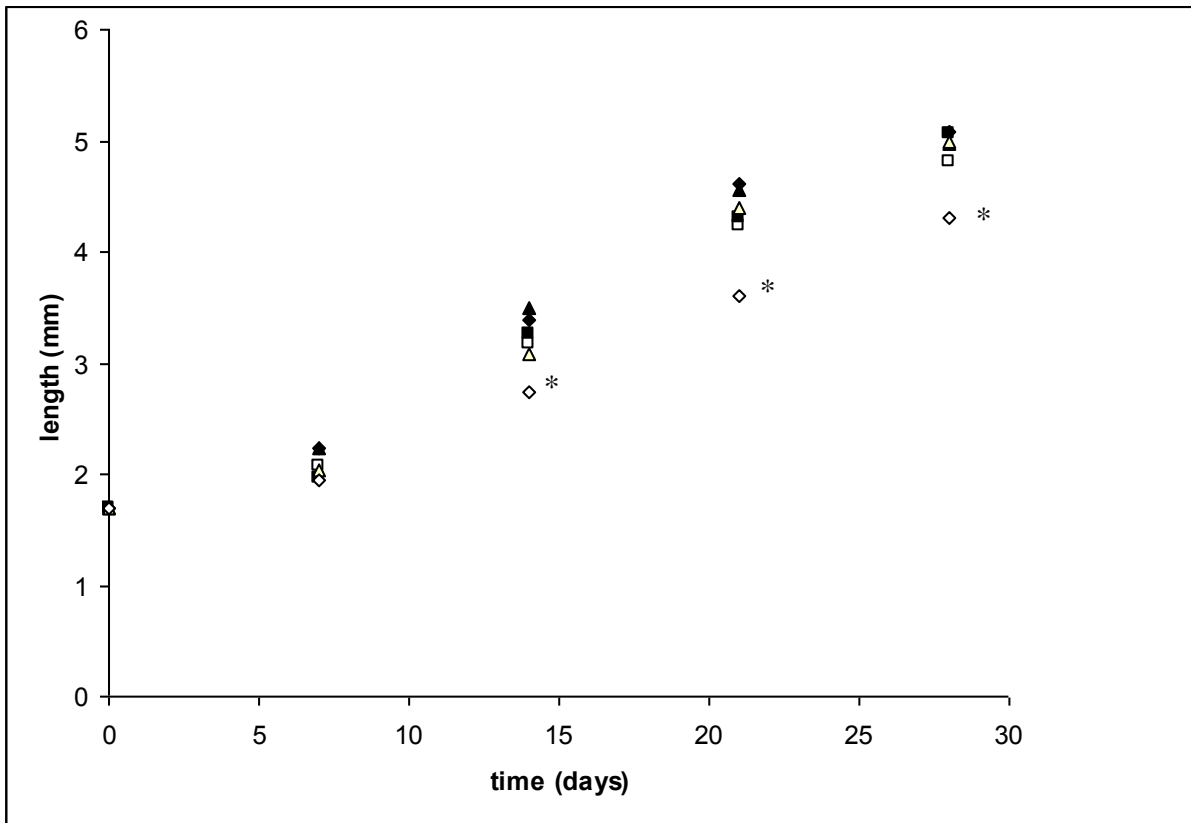
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413 Figure 1. Length of the young *H. azteca* as a function of time and nominal concentration  
414 (control : black diamonds, 1.2  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ : black squares, 3.7  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  : black triangles, 11  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  :  
415 white squares, 33  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  : white triangles, 100  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  : white diamonds). Asterisk accounts for  
416 significant difference with the control ( $p < 0.05$ , Dunnett-t test).

417 Figure 2. Length of *Daphnia* newborns from the third brood as a function of fluoxetine  
418 nominal concentration. Asterisk indicates significant difference from the control ( $p < 0.05$ ,  
419 Dunnett-t test).

420 Figure 3. Number of newborns per *P. antipodarum* adult (mean value and standard deviation) as  
421 a function of fluoxetine nominal concentration. Asterisk indicates significant difference from the  
422 control ( $p < 0.05$ , Dunnett-t test).

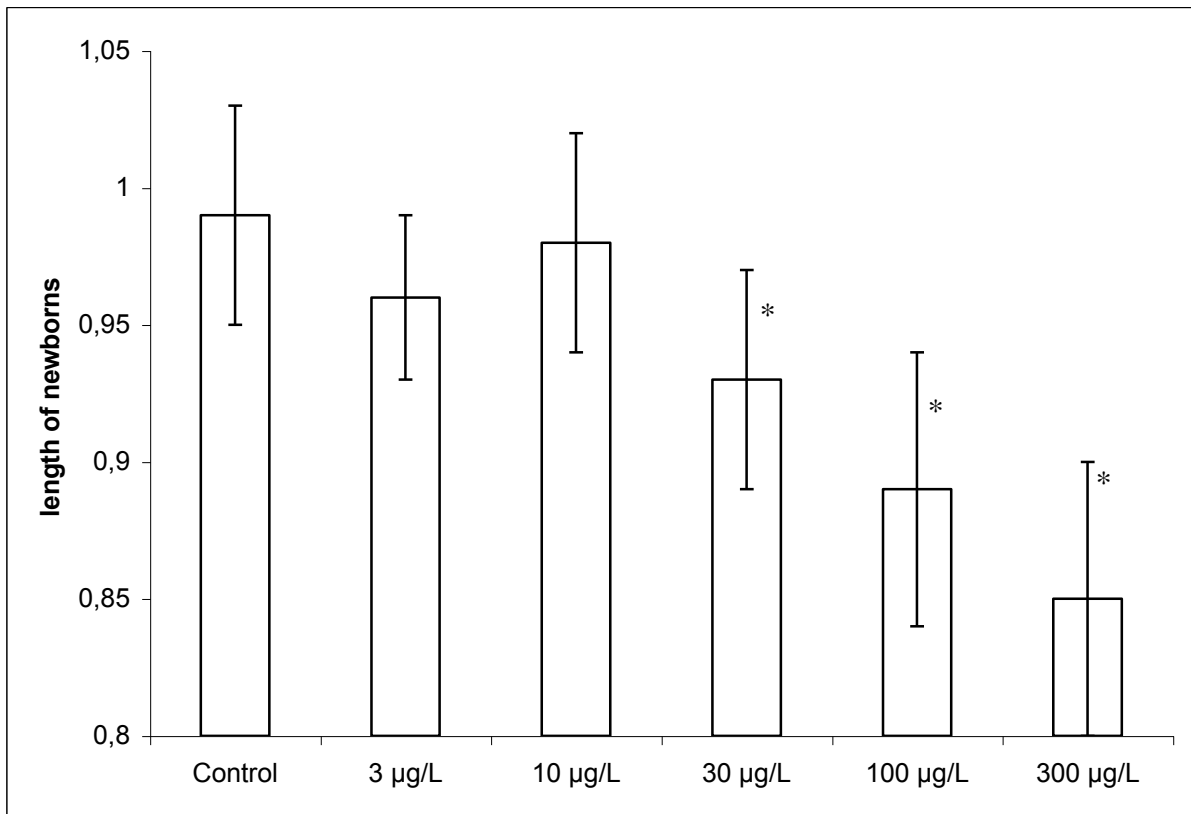
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425 Figure 1.

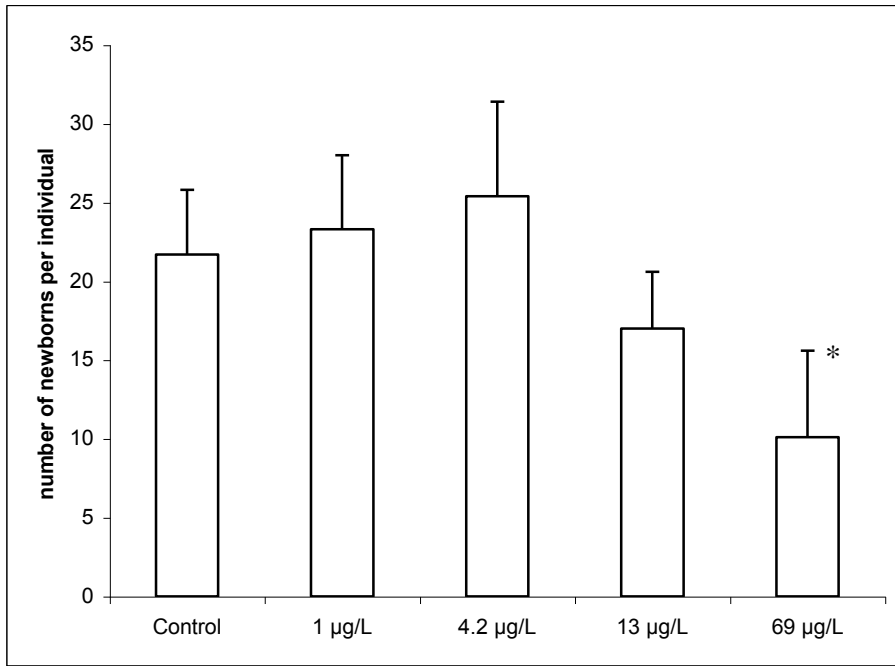
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427

428 Figure 2.

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430

431 Figure 3.

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