



DOTTS – NEWSLETTER

No. 3 February 2004



Dear colleagues,

For a long time a NEWSLETTER containing relevant information in the area of dung organism testing has been promised. I beg your pardon that it took so long. Hopefully, such a paper can be produced regularly in the future. In detail, the NEWSLETTER is aimed to fulfil the following roles:

- give us as a group a platform to discuss our ideas;
- inform people about the development of DOTTS;
- collect information in the area of dung organism testing (e.g. regulatory news);
- facilitate the organisation of meetings;
- serves as a “bridge” between the membership and SETAC;
- structures the exchange of news and ideas which still – in addition – will be done via e-mail.

Of course, these demanding aims can only be reached if DOTTS as a whole is involved. So, I like to ask all of you to contribute actively to the development of the NEWSLETTER and, thus, to the further development of DOTTS.

The NEWSLETTER is planned to have some regular sections (e.g. the internal organisation of DOTTS (including an updated list of members)) but of course the content is flexible. For example, in this issue the main theme is the organisation and public relations of DOTTS. The next NEWSLETTER will nearly exclusively focus on the ringtest activities.

Finally, if you wonder why the NEWSLETTER has the number 3 I like to remind you that in 2002 an excellent overview of the discussions at the first DOTTS meeting in Huntingdon was produced. In 2003, the minutes of our Hamburg meeting were distributed. Despite the fact that these papers were not named NEWSLETTER they are in fact predecessors of this one.

Please do not hesitate to send me your comments, critics, information ... it will appear in the next issue! Best regards,
Jörg Römbke

1. Internal Organisation

In Annex 1, you will find a list of the actual DOTTS members. Please check it and tell me whether there is any mistake in it. Also please inform me if you do not want to be a member anymore or if another person from your institutions should be the contact for DOTTS.

As you can see, there are 43 colleagues representing governmental agencies, industry, contract laboratories, universities and other research institutions from 16 countries. Despite a strong bias towards Europe we fortunately have now people from all continents in our group. In this context I would like to welcome the “new” people which have joined us recently!

Probably it is not necessary to mention it but DOTTS is open for everybody being interested in our work and willing to participate.

In Annex 2 you will find the actual status of the Organising Committee (OC). This group was formed about a year ago. During our next meeting to be held at the SETAC Europe meeting in Prague (April 2004; see Section 3) the composition of the OC can be changed. At the last meeting in Hamburg, we agreed that the duration of the individual roles is one year.

Those of you who have co-operated in DOTTS from the very first beginning will have noticed that Carol Long is not in our list of members any more. Since she changed her job she decided to be put off the list. Let me take the opportunity to thank Carol very much for the remendous work she did for DOTTS!

2. Contacts to SETAC

As you know, DOTTS became affiliated to SETAC about a year ago (December 2002). This affiliation was briefly announced in the March- April 2003 issue of SETAC Globe. Since then, the number of official contacts was small. An annual report was provided last autumn (see Annex 3; the next has to be produced after the Prague meeting). We are listed on the homepage of SETAC but without further information (e.g. a contact address). Only quite recently

we were able to come in contact with Bo Weidema (SETAC Europe web editor). In order to set up an own web page linked to the SETAC page as one out of (then) six SETAC Special Interest Areas. In the November- December issue of SETAC Globe (p. 13) our activities were outlined (thank you, Dave!). In parallel to ring testing and OECD guideline development more such short reports will be published.

3. External presentations

As decided at the Hamburg meeting of DOTTS, a poster describing DOTTS was prepared in mid- 2003 (thanks for the comments I got from the group!). This poster, which is shown in Annex 4, was presented at the following SETAC meetings:

- SETAC Asia/Pacific meeting (Christchurch, New Zealand; September 2003);
- SETAC Latin America (Buenos Aires, Argentina; October 2003);
- SETAC North America (Austin, USA; November 2003).

This poster will be updated regularly so that DOTTS can be present at each of the “big” SETAC meetings.

In addition, members of DOTTS have presented their specific work at various meetings in the last year. As an example, information of beetle testing and environmental risk assessment of pharmaceuticals is available on the web as a result of the ENVIRONPHARMA meeting in Lyon in April 2003 (e.g. K. Barrett, J. Römbke; www.envirpharma.org).

Probably much more activities were undertaken by DOTTS members but have not been brought to the attention of the OC. So, please send me a reference or a copy of your work so that it can be listed in the next DOTTS NEWSLETTER.

As mentioned earlier, the next DOTTS meeting will take place during the SETAC Europe conference to be held in Prague (Czech Republic) in April 2004. A room at the conference site has been booked on Monday (April 19, 2004, between 15.00 and 18.00 in the afternoon). Please inform me whether you could attend this meeting and / or which issues you like to discuss. A separate invitation mail will be send around to make everybody aware of this event.

In addition, at the same SETAC conference will organise an own session numbered 2 T (chairs: Jörg Römbke & Katie Barrett) on Wednesday (April 21, 2004, in the morning).

The following talks and poster will be presented (only the presenters are shown):

Talks:

Jan Koschorrek: A regulatory perspective on the environmental risk assessment of veterinary medicinal drugs I

Joop de Knecht: A regulatory perspective on the environmental risk assessment of veterinary medicinal drugs II

Jörg Römbke: New test methods for assessing the effects of veterinary drugs on dung organisms: The work of DOTTS

Jean- Pierre Lumaret: Dung degradation in pastures when use of some veterinary drugs in cattle

Bruce Halley: Field study to evaluate effects of EPRINEX Pour- On for Beef and Dairy Cattle on dung fauna

Poster:

Jackie Hughes: Field Evaluation of the Impact of Neporex 2 SG upon Terrestrial Invertebrates

Neil Mackay Development of exposure modelling approaches for veterinary medicines in the European Union

A. Chapman Development of a toxicity test method using the dung beetle *Onthophagus taurus*

On the same day, another session will cover the ecotoxicology of pharmaceuticals in general.

4. Contacts with OECD

The main aim of DOTTS is the standardisation of tests methods with dung organisms. In this respect it is extremely important to work in close co-operation with the most important global standardisation organisation, i.e. OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; the other important one, ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation focuses its activities on potentially contaminated environmental media like soil but not on individual chemicals).

At the 15th meeting of the Working Group of National Co-ordinators of the Test Guidelines Program (WNT) held in Paris (May 26 – 28, 2003), the OECD agreed to include tests with dung organisms in its work programme

(Provisional project number and title: 2003/2.16: Dung Organism Toxicity Tests Standardisation). In the proposal, two draft protocols were attached (Working paper for rearing and testing *Onthophagus taurus* and/or *Euonicellus fulvus*), but it was announced that after further developmental work and/or ring testing, more protocols will be proposed (planned final number 4). Under the lead of the EMEA (London), this project will ultimately result in the development of an OECD guideline.

Last month I was contacted by OECD asking whether there is progress since in May the next meeting of the National Co-ordinators will take place. Unfortunately, I had to inform them that due to a delay in ring testing new developments can only be expected for later this year. However, a progress report (probably uncluding „working drafts“ have to produced within March. A copy of the DOTTS submission form for OECD is attached as Annex 5.