

Second Edition

HANDBOOK OF

Physical-Chemical Properties and Environmental Fate for Organic Chemicals

Volume I

Introduction and Hydrocarbons

Volume II

Halogenated Hydrocarbons

Volume III

Oxygen Containing Compounds

Volume IV

Nitrogen and Sulfur Containing Compounds
and Pesticides

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Preface

This handbook is a compilation of environmentally relevant physical-chemical data for similarly structured groups of chemical substances. These data control the fate of chemicals as they are transported and transformed in the multimedia environment of air, water, soils, sediments, and their resident biota. These fate processes determine the exposure experienced by humans and other organisms and ultimately the risk of adverse effects. The task of assessing chemical fate locally, regionally, and globally is complicated by the large (and increasing) number of chemicals of potential concern; by uncertainties in their physical-chemical properties; and by lack of knowledge of prevailing environmental conditions such as temperature, pH, and deposition rates of solid matter from the atmosphere to water, or from water to bottom sediments. Further, reported values of properties such as solubility are often in conflict. Some are measured accurately, some approximately, and some are estimated by various correlation schemes from molecular structures. In some cases, units or chemical identity are wrongly reported. The user of such data thus has the difficult task of selecting the “best” or “right” values. There is justifiable concern that the resulting deductions of environmental fate may be in substantial error. For example, the potential for evaporation may be greatly underestimated if an erroneously low vapor pressure is selected.

To assist the environmental scientist and engineer in such assessments, this handbook contains compilations of physical-chemical property data for over 1000 chemicals. It has long been recognized that within homologous series, properties vary systematically with molecular size, thus providing guidance about the properties of one substance from those of its homologs. Where practical, plots of these systematic property variations can be used to check the reported data and provide an opportunity for interpolation and even modest extrapolation to estimate unmeasured properties of other substances. Most handbooks treat chemicals only on an individual basis and do not contain this feature of chemical-to-chemical comparison, which can be valuable for identifying errors and estimating properties. This most recent edition includes about 1250 compounds and contains about 30 percent additional physical-chemical property data. There is a more complete coverage of PCBs, PCDDs, PCDFs, and other halogenated hydrocarbons, especially brominated and fluorinated substances that are of more recent environmental concern. Values of the physical-chemical properties are generally reported in the literature at a standard temperature of 20 or 25°C. However, environmental temperatures vary considerably, and thus reliable data are required on the temperature dependence of these properties for fate calculations. A valuable enhancement to this edition is the inclusion of extensive measured temperature-dependent data for the first time. The data focus on water solubility, vapor pressure, and Henry’s law constant but include octanol/water and octanol/air partition coefficients where available. They are provided in the form of data tables and correlation equations as well as graphs.

We also demonstrate in [Chapter 1](#) how the data may be taken a stage further and used to estimate likely environmental partitioning tendencies, i.e., how the chemical is likely to become distributed between the various media that comprise our biosphere. The results are presented numerically and pictorially to provide a visual impression of likely environmental behavior. This will be of interest to those assessing environmental fate by confirming the general fate characteristics or behavior profile. It is, of course, only possible here to assess fate in a “typical” or “generic” or “evaluative” environment. No claim is made that a chemical will behave in this manner in all situations, but this assessment should reveal the broad characteristics of behavior. These evaluative fate assessments are generated using simple fugacity models that flow naturally from the compilations of data on physical-chemical properties of relevant chemicals. Illustrations of estimated environmental fate are given in Chapter 1 using Levels I, II, and III mass balance models. These and other models are available for downloading gratis from the website of the Canadian Environmental Modelling Centre at Trent University (www.trent.ca/cemc).

It is hoped that this new edition of the handbook will be of value to environmental scientists and engineers and to students and teachers of environmental science. Its aim is to contribute to better assessments of chemical fate in our multimedia environment by serving as a reference source for environmentally relevant physical-chemical property data of classes of chemicals and by illustrating the likely behavior of these chemicals as they migrate throughout our biosphere.

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Much credit goes to the team of professionals at CRC Press/Taylor & Francis Group who worked on this second edition. Especially important were Dr. Fiona Macdonald, Publisher, Chemistry; Dr. Janice Shackleton, Input Supervisor; Patrica Roberson, Project Coordinator; Elise Oranges and Jay Margolis, Project Editors; and Marcela Peres, Production Assistant.

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Biographies

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His awards include the SETAC Founders Award, the Honda Prize for Eco-Technology, the Order of Ontario, and the Order of Canada. He has served on the editorial boards of several journals and is a member of SETAC, the American Chemical Society, and the International Association of Great Lakes Research.

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