

# Effect-based nationwide water quality assessment

**Milo de Baat**

M.L.deBaat@uva.nl

 UNIVERSITY  
OF AMSTERDAM



 Freshwater and  
Marine Ecology

BioDetectors Conference 2018, Aachen

# Assessing chemical water quality



# Assessing chemical water quality

- ▶ Chemical water quality assessment is based on the analysis of 45 priority substances<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. *Off. J. Eur. Union* **2013**

<sup>2</sup> Brack *et al. Sci. Total Environ.* **2017**

<sup>3</sup> Wernersson *et al. Environ. Sci. Eur.* **2015**

# Assessing chemical water quality

- ▶ Chemical water quality assessment is based on the analysis of 45 priority substances<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Priority of these substances is often outdated, i.e. they are frequently absent

<sup>1</sup> The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. *Off. J. Eur. Union* **2013**

<sup>2</sup> Brack *et al.* *Sci. Total Environ.* **2017**

<sup>3</sup> Wernersson *et al.* *Environ. Sci. Eur.* **2015**



# Assessing chemical water quality

- ▶ Chemical water quality assessment is based on the analysis of 45 priority substances<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Priority of these substances is often outdated, i.e. they are frequently absent
- ▶ Observed ecotoxicological effects are thus caused by other, unmonitored substances<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. *Off. J. Eur. Union* **2013**

<sup>2</sup> Brack *et al. Sci. Total Environ.* **2017**

<sup>3</sup> Wernersson *et al. Environ. Sci. Eur.* **2015**

# Assessing chemical water quality

- ▶ Chemical water quality assessment is based on the analysis of 45 priority substances<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Priority of these substances is often outdated, i.e. they are frequently absent
- ▶ Observed ecotoxicological effects are thus caused by other, unmonitored substances<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Legislation and laundry lists of priority substances will always lag behind development and application of alternative molecules

<sup>1</sup> The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. *Off. J. Eur. Union* **2013**

<sup>2</sup> Brack *et al. Sci. Total Environ.* **2017**

<sup>3</sup> Wernersson *et al. Environ. Sci. Eur.* **2015**



# Assessing chemical water quality

- ▶ Chemical water quality assessment is based on the analysis of 45 priority substances<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Priority of these substances is often outdated, i.e. they are frequently absent
- ▶ Observed ecotoxicological effects are thus caused by other, unmonitored substances<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Legislation and laundry lists of priority substances will always lag behind development and application of alternative molecules
- ▶ Hence, there is a need for an effect-based monitoring strategy that employs bioanalytical tools to identify environmental risks<sup>3</sup>

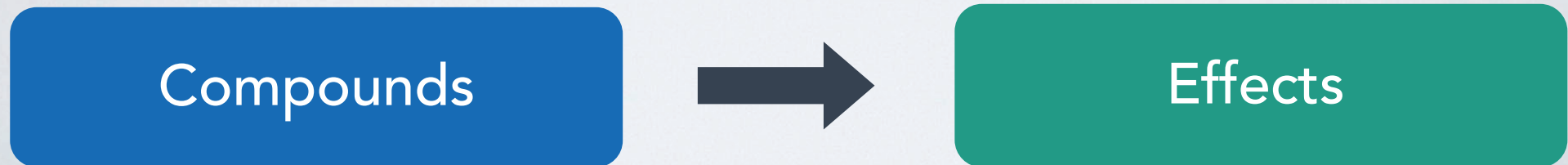
<sup>1</sup> The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. *Off. J. Eur. Union* **2013**

<sup>2</sup> Brack *et al. Sci. Total Environ.* **2017**

<sup>3</sup> Wernersson *et al. Environ. Sci. Eur.* **2015**

# Assessing chemical water quality

- ▶ Chemical water quality assessment is based on the analysis of 45 priority substances<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Priority of these substances is often outdated, i.e. they are frequently absent
- ▶ Observed ecotoxicological effects are thus caused by other, unmonitored substances<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ Legislation and laundry lists of priority substances will always lag behind development and application of alternative molecules
- ▶ Hence, there is a need for an effect-based monitoring strategy that employs bioanalytical tools to identify environmental risks<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. *Off. J. Eur. Union* **2013**

<sup>2</sup> Brack *et al. Sci. Total Environ.* **2017**

<sup>3</sup> Wernersson *et al. Environ. Sci. Eur.* **2015**



# Passive sampling

# Passive sampling

- ▶ Compound concentrations in surface water are typically low and vary over time



# Passive sampling

- ▶ Compound concentrations in surface water are typically low and vary over time
- ▶ Grab sampling only provides a snapshot of the chemical make-up of a water body

# Passive sampling

- ▶ Compound concentrations in surface water are typically low and vary over time
- ▶ Grab sampling only provides a snapshot of the chemical make-up of a water body
- ▶ Compounds are often present below detection limits of chemical or bioanalytical analyses



# Passive sampling

- ▶ Compound concentrations in surface water are typically low and vary over time
- ▶ Grab sampling only provides a snapshot of the chemical make-up of a water body
- ▶ Compounds are often present below detection limits of chemical or bioanalytical analyses
- ▶ Passive sampling can overcome these limitations by exposing a sorbent to the target environment, accumulating compounds from the water over time<sup>4</sup>

# Aim



# Aim

**Identify drivers of ecological risks in an effect-based nationwide water quality assessment**

# National monitoring campaign

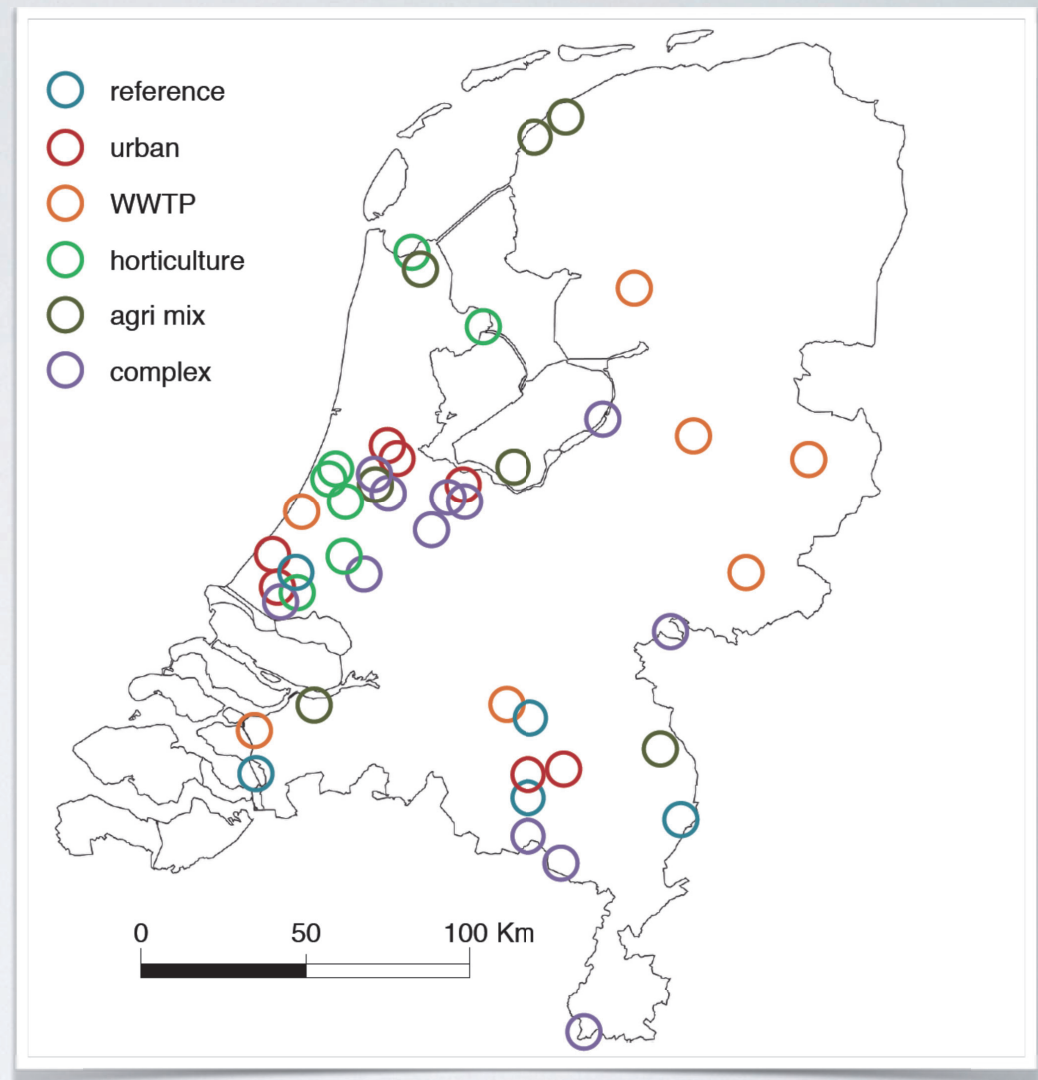


# National monitoring campaign

- ▶ September - November 2016

# National monitoring campaign

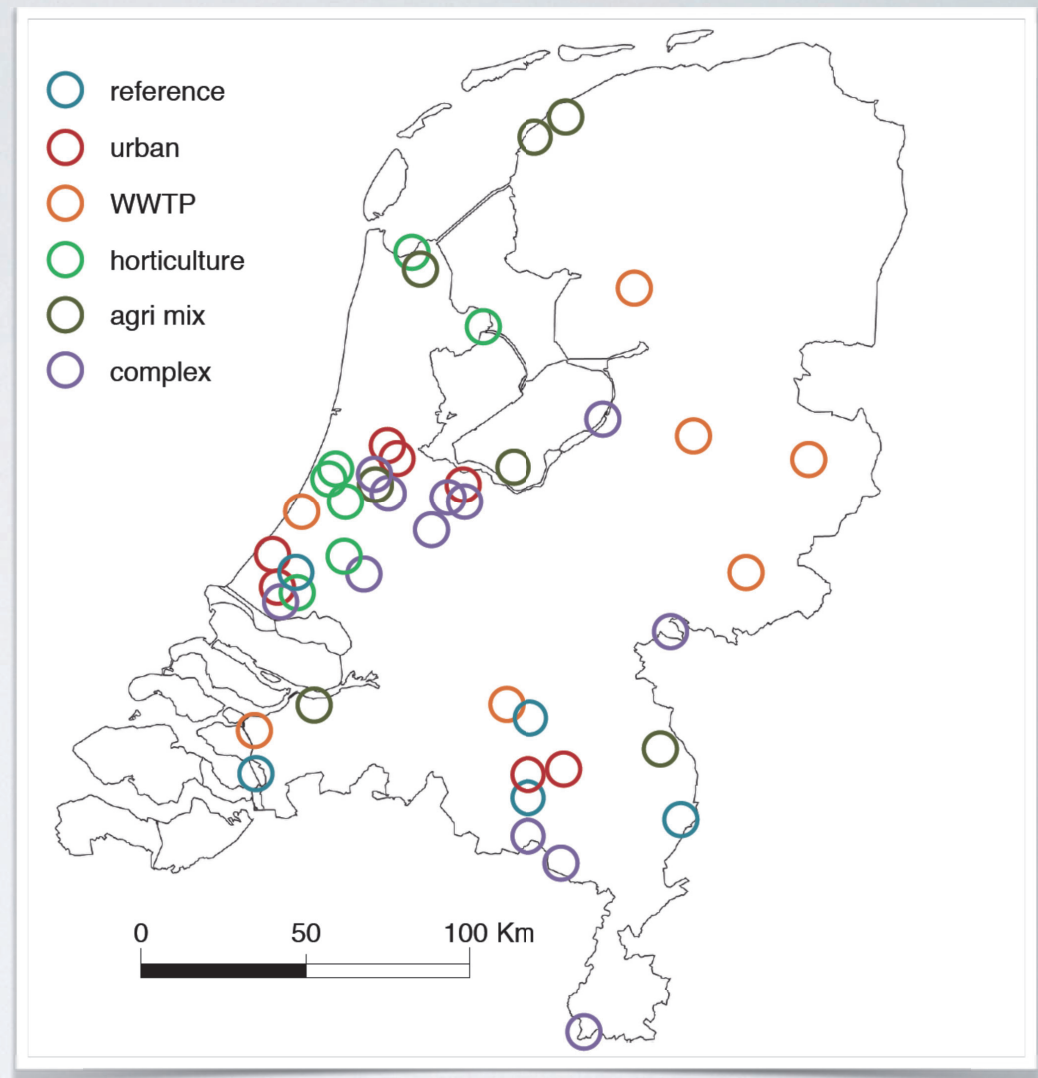
- ▶ September - November 2016
- ▶ 45 locations provided by the Dutch waterboards





# National monitoring campaign

- ▶ September - November 2016
- ▶ 45 locations provided by the Dutch waterboards
- ▶ 6 land use categories



# National monitoring campaign

- ▶ September - November 2016
- ▶ 45 locations provided by the Dutch waterboards
- ▶ 6 land use categories
- ▶ **Passive sampling:**
  - POCIS (polar compounds)
  - Silicone rubber (non-polar compounds)





# National monitoring campaign

- ▶ September - November 2016
- ▶ 45 locations provided by the Dutch waterboards
- ▶ 6 land use categories
- ▶ **Passive sampling:**
  - POCIS (polar compounds)
  - Silicone rubber (non-polar compounds)
- ▶ **Effect-monitoring:**





# National monitoring campaign

- ▶ September - November 2016
- ▶ 45 locations provided by the Dutch waterboards
- ▶ 6 land use categories
- ▶ **Passive sampling:**
  - POCIS (polar compounds)
  - Silicone rubber (non-polar compounds)
- ▶ **Effect-monitoring:**
  - *in situ* Daphnia magna (7d)





# National monitoring campaign

- ▶ September - November 2016
- ▶ 45 locations provided by the Dutch waterboards
- ▶ 6 land use categories
- ▶ **Passive sampling:**
  - POCIS (polar compounds)
  - Silicone rubber (non-polar compounds)
- ▶ **Effect-monitoring:**
  - *in situ* Daphnia magna (7d)
  - 3 *in vivo* - microtox, alगतox, daphniatox





# National monitoring campaign

- ▶ September - November 2016
- ▶ 45 locations provided by the Dutch waterboards
- ▶ 6 land use categories
- ▶ **Passive sampling:**
  - POCIS (polar compounds)
  - Silicone rubber (non-polar compounds)
- ▶ **Effect-monitoring:**
  - *in situ* Daphnia magna (7d)
  - 3 *in vivo* - microtox, alगतox, daphniatox
  - WaterSCAN test for 5 antibiotics





# National monitoring campaign

- ▶ September - November 2016
- ▶ 45 locations provided by the Dutch waterboards
- ▶ 6 land use categories
- ▶ **Passive sampling:**
  - POCIS (polar compounds)
  - Silicone rubber (non-polar compounds)
- ▶ **Effect-monitoring:**
  - *in situ* Daphnia magna (7d)
  - 3 *in vivo* - microtox, alगतox, daphniatox
  - WaterSCAN test for 5 antibiotics
  - 10 *in vitro* CALUX assays





# National monitoring campaign

- ▶ September - November 2016
- ▶ 45 locations provided by the Dutch waterboards
- ▶ 6 land use categories
- ▶ **Passive sampling:**
  - POCIS (polar compounds)
  - Silicone rubber (non-polar compounds)
- ▶ **Effect-monitoring:**
  - *in situ* Daphnia magna (7d)
  - 3 *in vivo* - microtox, algatox, daphniatox
  - WaterSCAN test for 5 antibiotics
  - 10 *in vitro* CALUX assays
- ▶ Bioanalytical responses were compared to effect-based trigger values (EBT)<sup>5,6</sup>

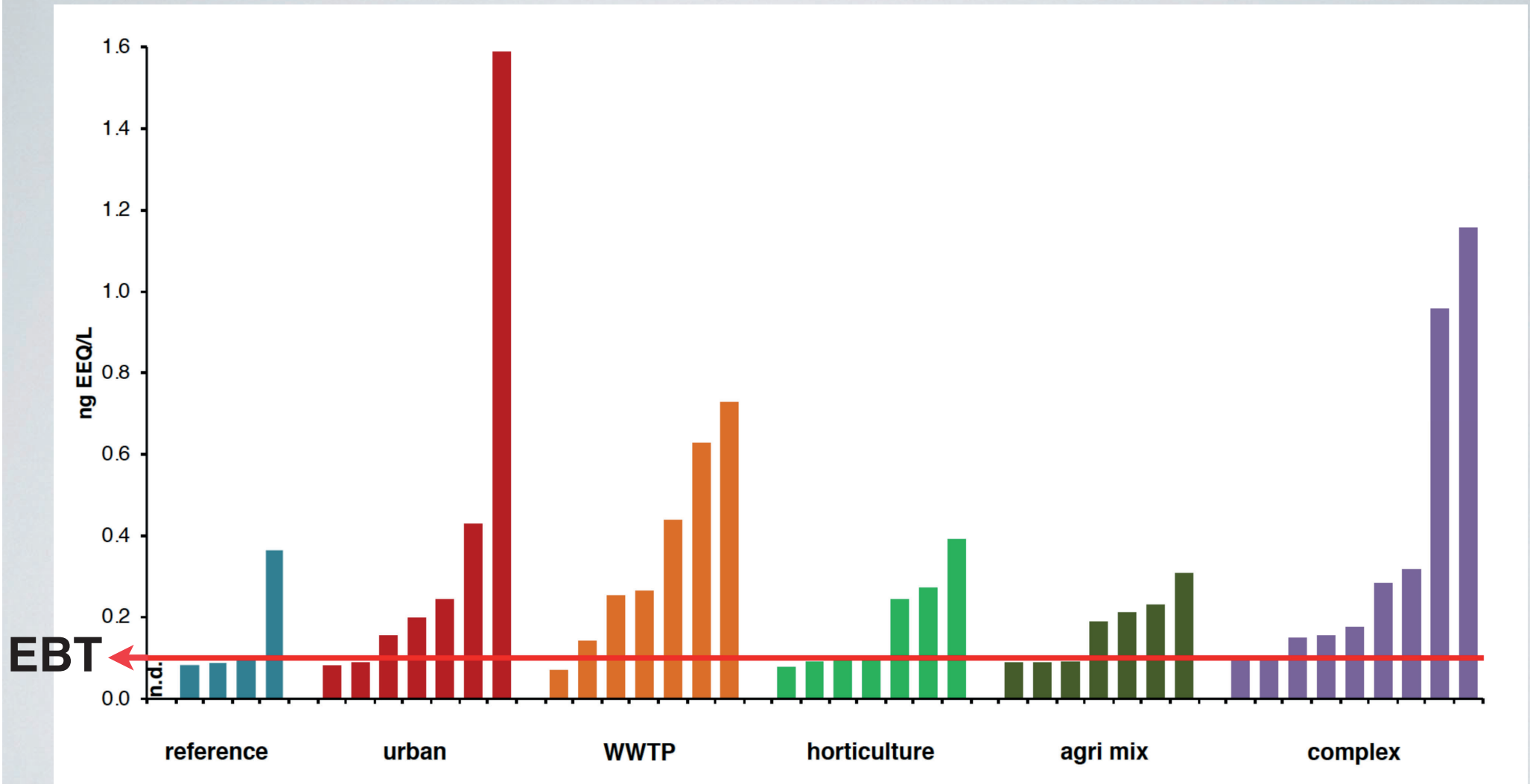


<sup>5</sup> Van der Oost *et al. Environ. Toxicol. Chem.* **2017**

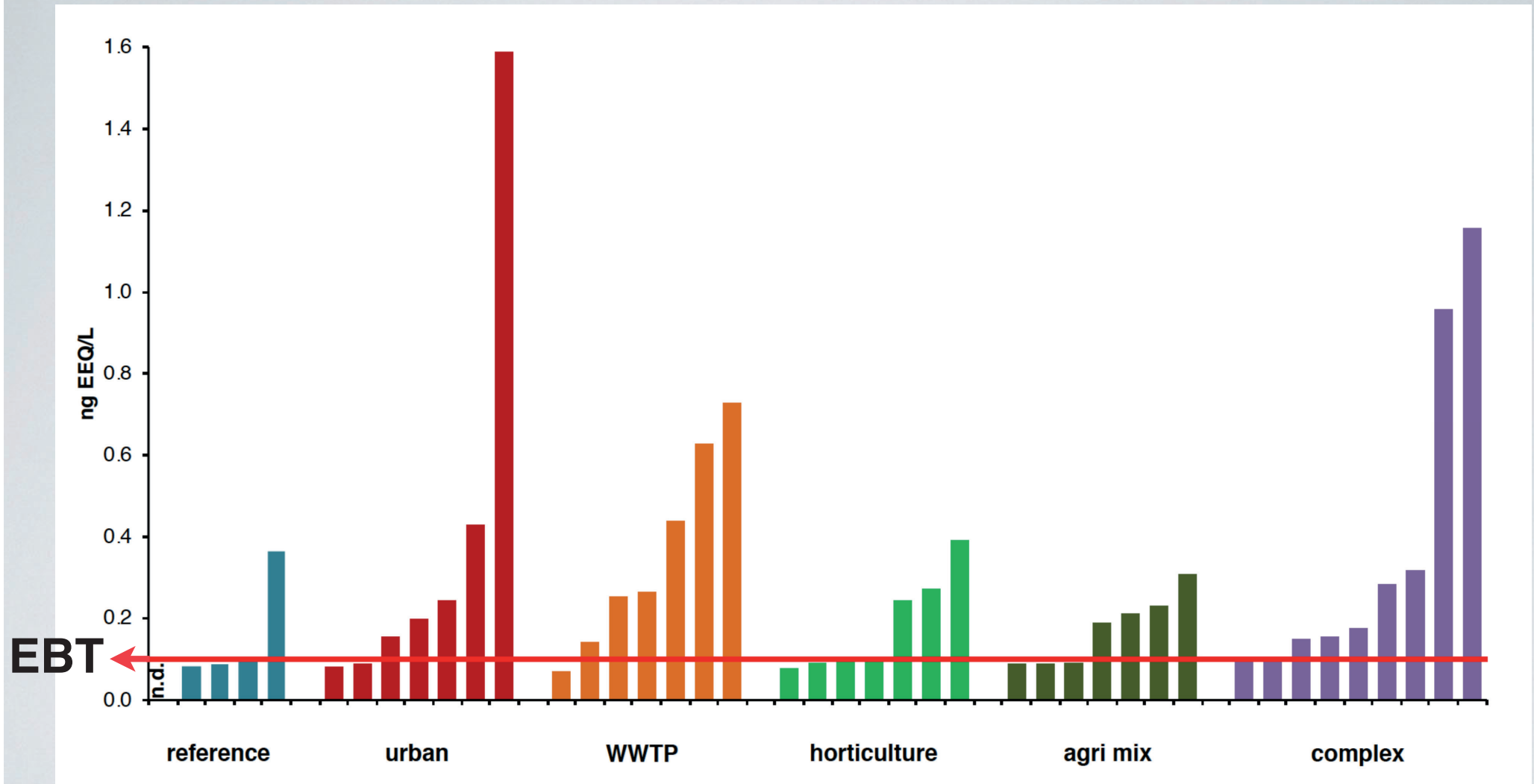
<sup>6</sup> Escher *et al. Sci. Total Environ.* **2018**



# A representative example: ER $\alpha$ CALUX



# A representative example: ER $\alpha$ CALUX

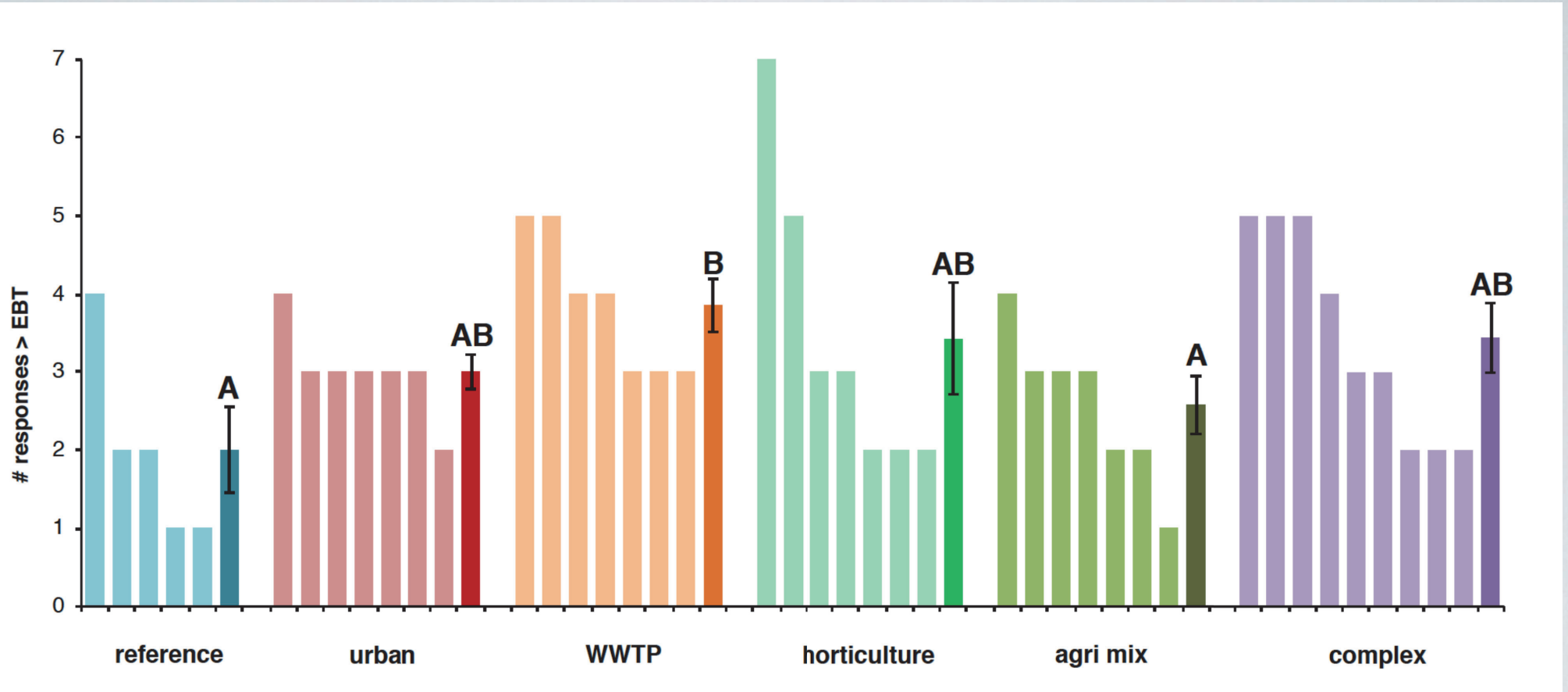


A wide range of bioassay responses were observed, from non detect to EBT exceedance





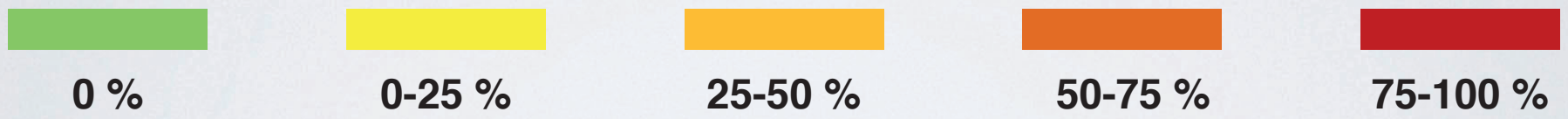
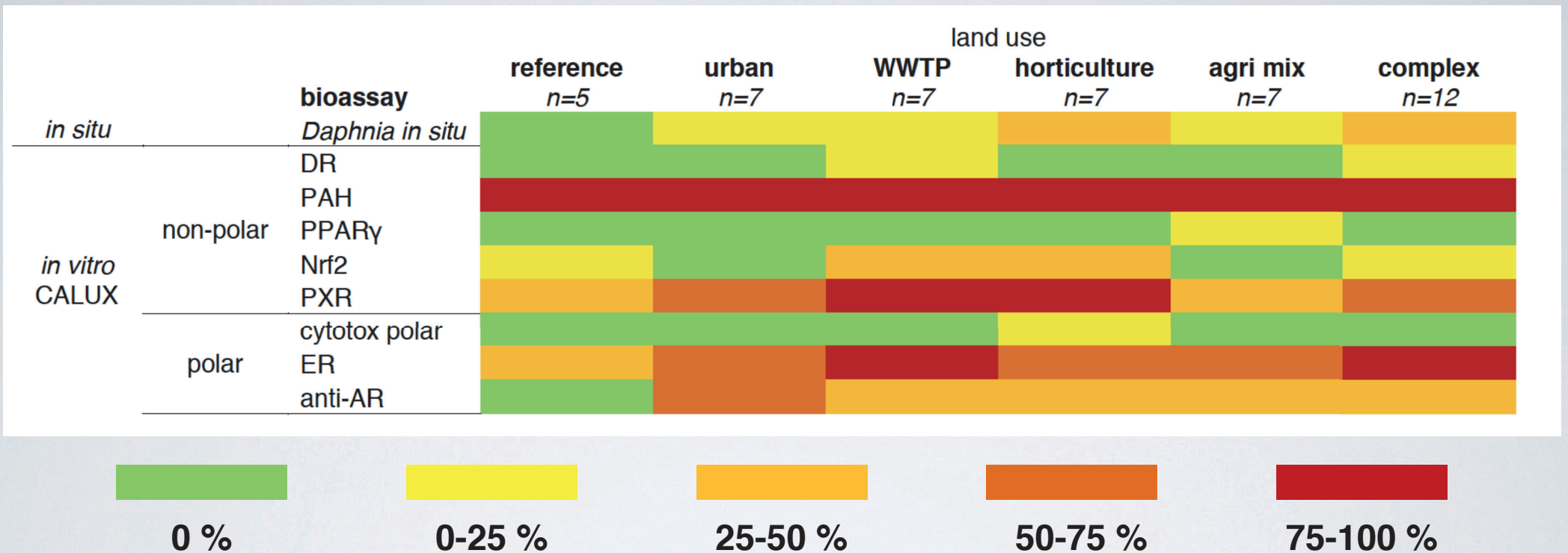
# EBT exceedances per land use



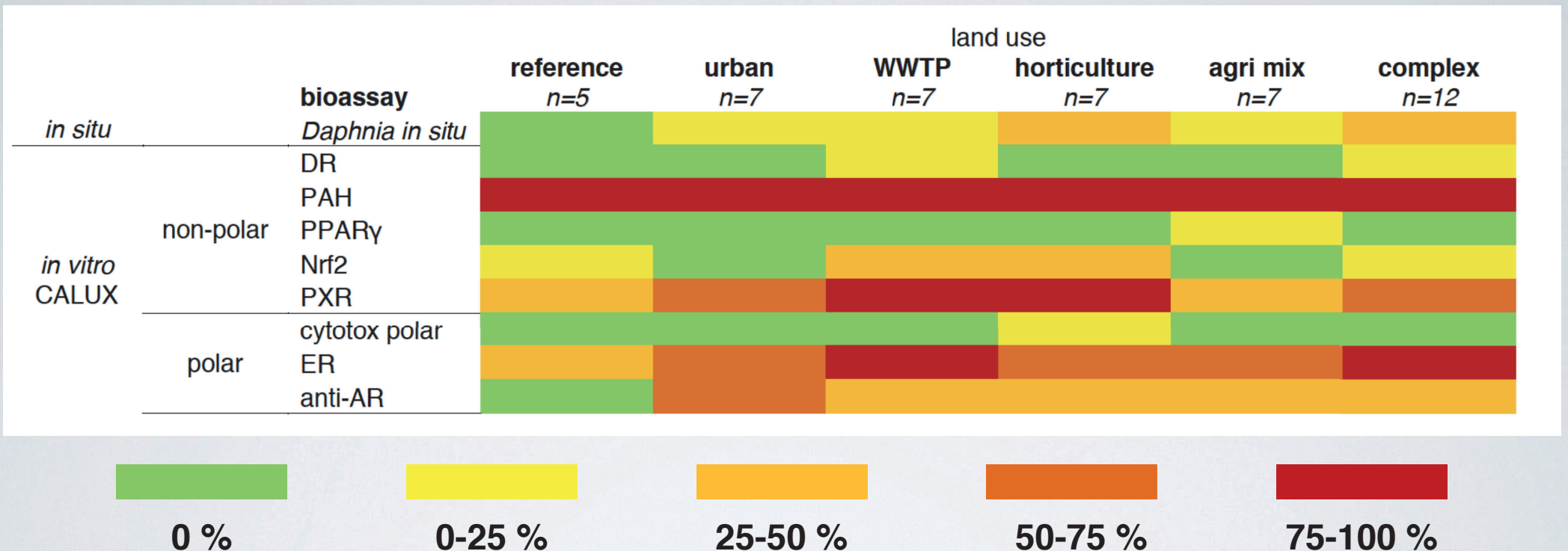
The number of EBT exceedances was highest for WWTP locations, however, variation was larger between sites within land use than between land uses



# EBT exceedance frequency



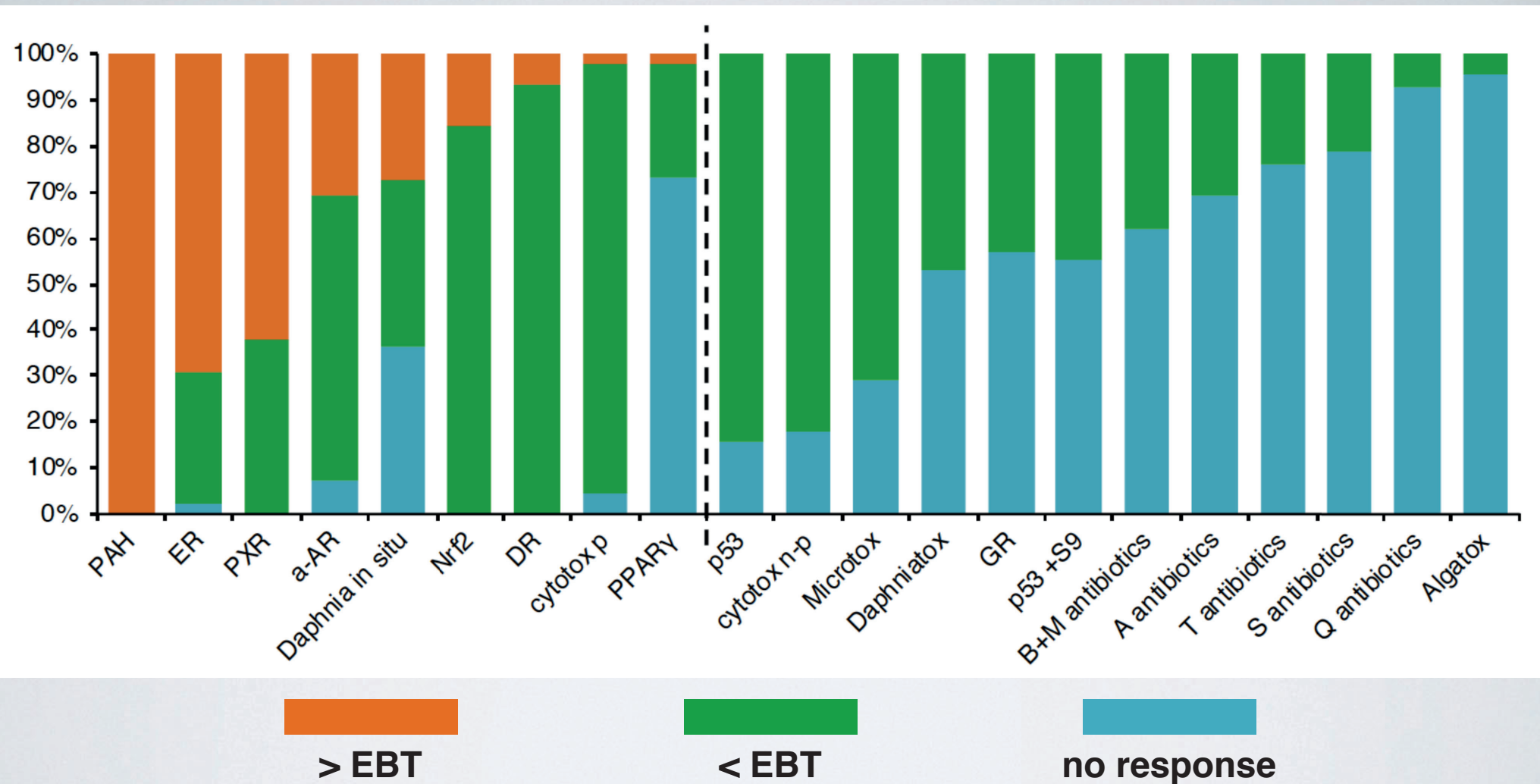
# EBT exceedance frequency



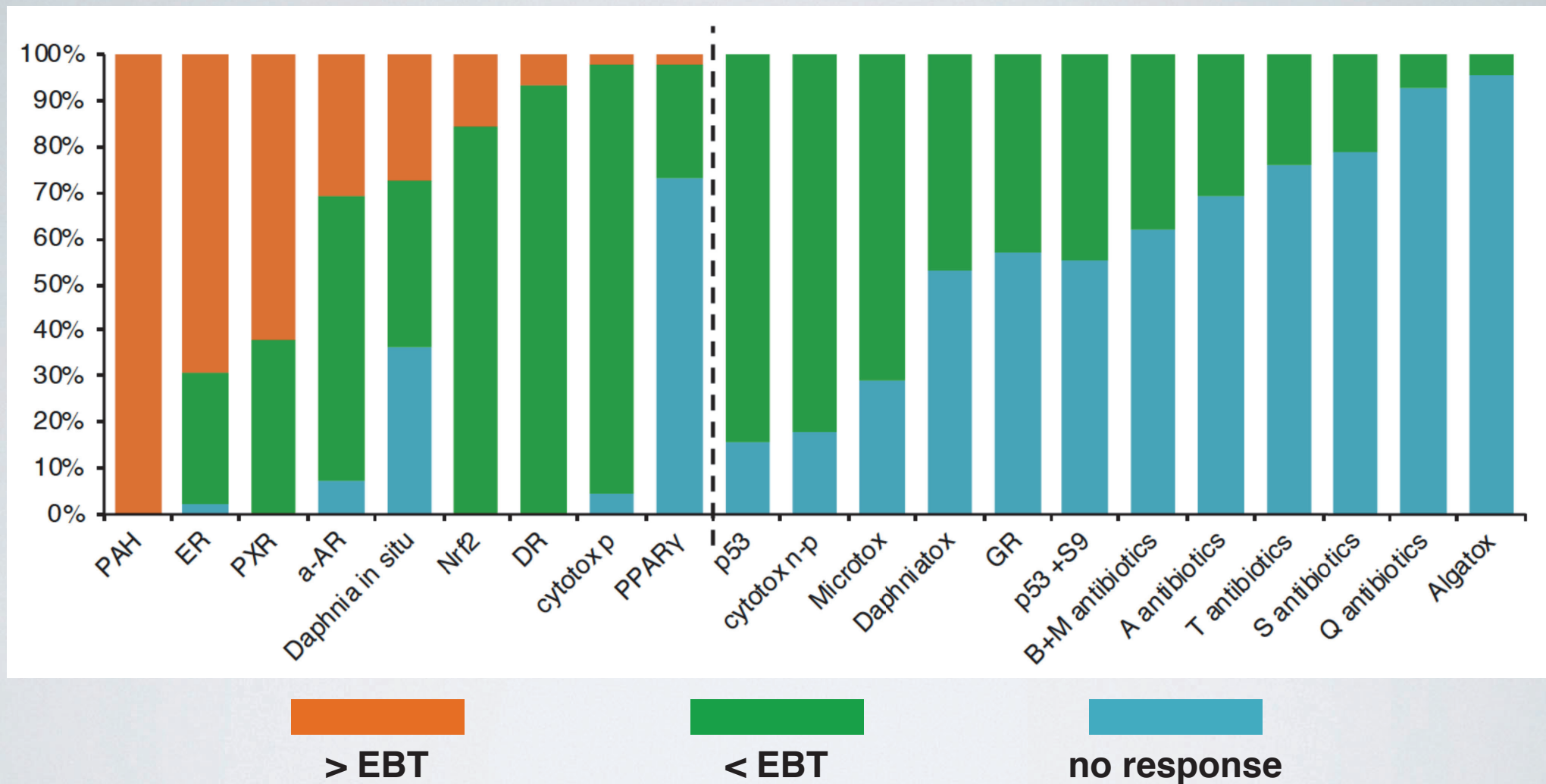
Several assays indicated ecological risks at all or the majority of locations, while others were land use specific



# EBT exceedances per test



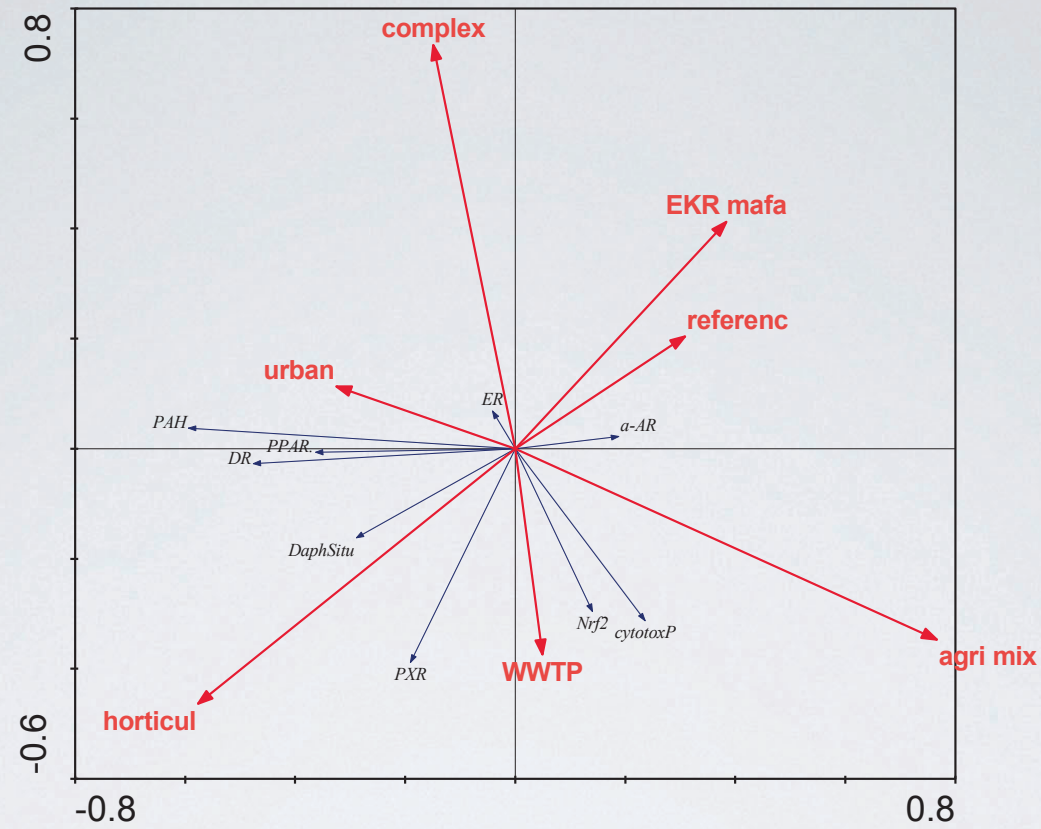
# EBT exceedances per test



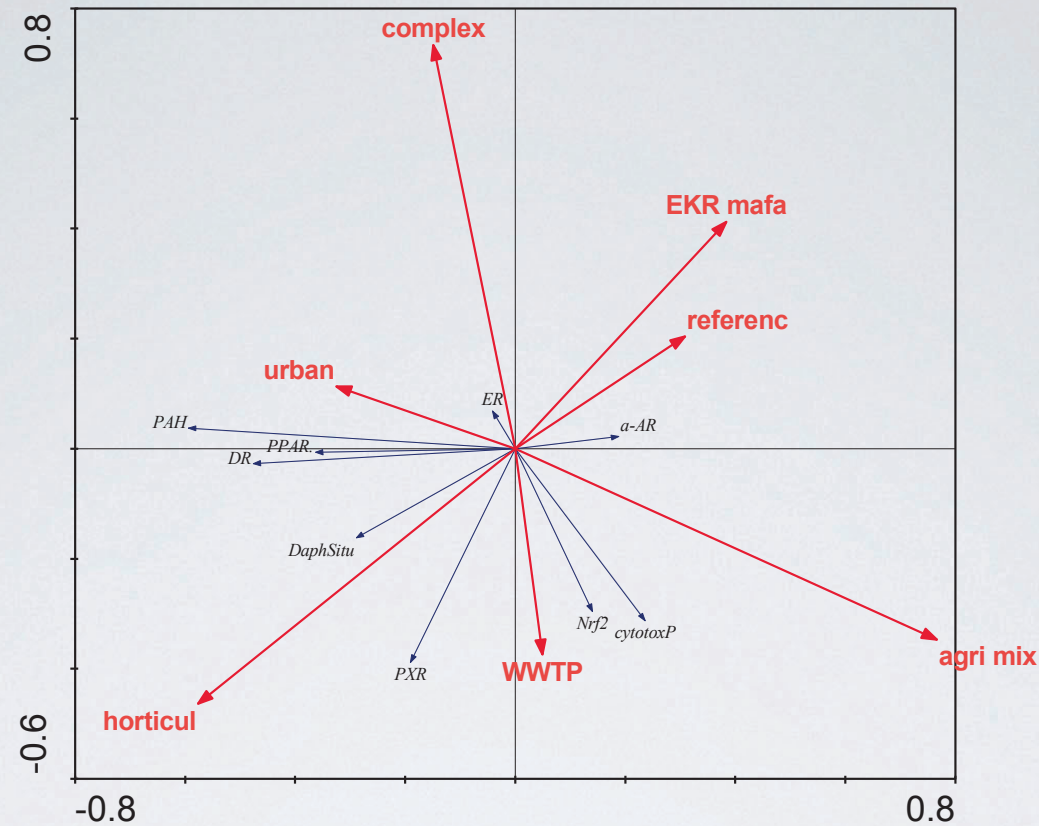
Effectiveness of bioassays to elucidate ecological risks varied widely



# Land use specific drivers?



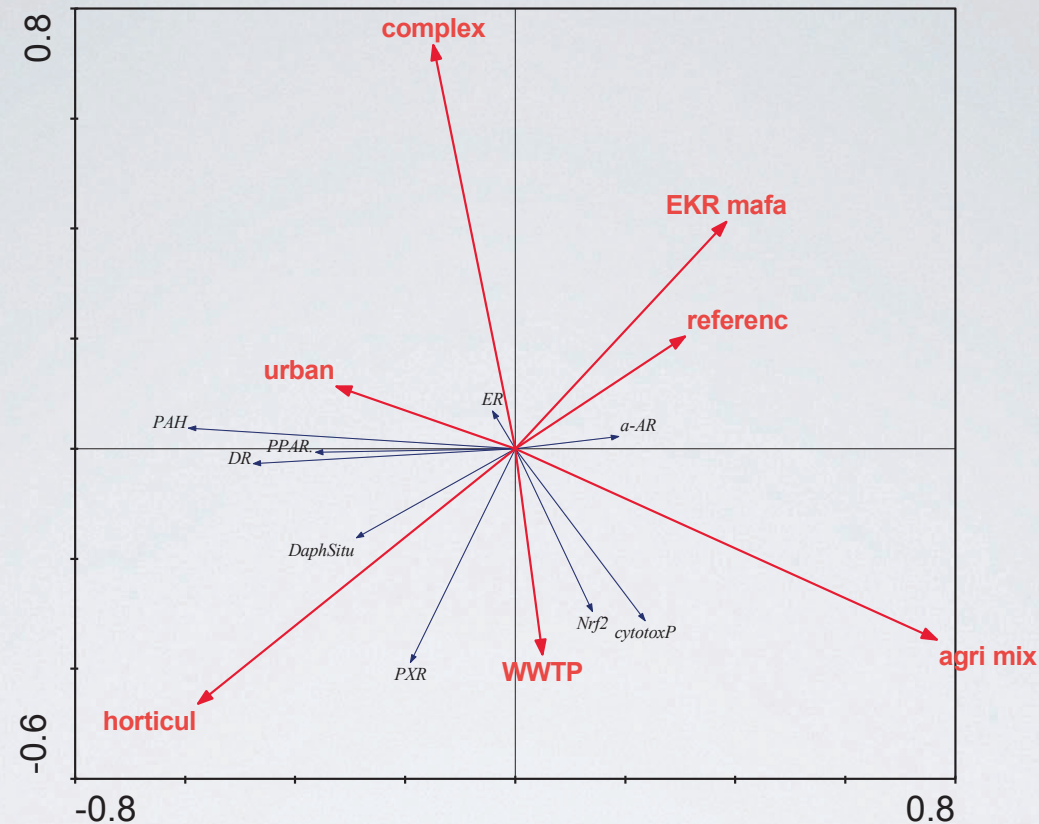
# Land use specific drivers?



- ▶ Multivariate analysis (RDA) indicated no significant land use specific effects on bioanalytical responses



# Land use specific drivers?



- ▶ Multivariate analysis (RDA) indicated no significant land use specific effects on bioanalytical responses
- ▶ However, there appears to be a negative correlation between chemical risk and ecological quality status

# Discussion



# Discussion

- ▶ Bioanalytical responses were observed in all assays, with EBT exceedances in 9 out of 21 assays

# Discussion

- ▶ Bioanalytical responses were observed in all assays, with EBT exceedances in 9 out of 21 assays
- ▶ We were not able to identify land use specific drivers of ecological risks



# Discussion

- ▶ Bioanalytical responses were observed in all assays, with EBT exceedances in 9 out of 21 assays
- ▶ We were not able to identify land use specific drivers of ecological risks
- ▶ Nonetheless, several discriminating bioassays allowed for the identification of locations at risk from chemical stressors

# Discussion



# Discussion

- ▶ The current methodology overlooks or underestimates specific effects of **metals**, **pesticides** and **antibiotics**

# Discussion

- ▶ The current methodology overlooks or underestimates specific effects of **metals**, **pesticides** and **antibiotics**
- ▶ Simultaneously, there appears to be a bias towards tests indicative of risks to human health



# Discussion

- ▶ The current methodology overlooks or underestimates specific effects of **metals**, **pesticides** and **antibiotics**
- ▶ Simultaneously, there appears to be a bias towards tests indicative of risks to human health
- ➔ Streamlining and expansion of the bioanalytical toolset is necessary to enable balanced and ecologically relevant effect-monitoring

# Conclusions



# Conclusions

- ▶ Effect-based monitoring allowed for the determination of ecological risks in the investigated surface waters

# Conclusions

- ▶ Effect-based monitoring allowed for the determination of ecological risks in the investigated surface waters
- ▶ However, several improvements in the sampling methodology and bioanalytical toolset are needed for a more complete assessment of water quality



# Conclusions

- ▶ Effect-based monitoring allowed for the determination of ecological risks in the investigated surface waters
- ▶ However, several improvements in the sampling methodology and bioanalytical toolset are needed for a more complete assessment of water quality
- ▶ Yet, there is no limitation in the wide application of effect-based monitoring for water quality assessment

# Conclusions

- ▶ Effect-based monitoring allowed for the determination of ecological risks in the investigated surface waters
- ▶ However, several improvements in the sampling methodology and bioanalytical toolset are needed for a more complete assessment of water quality
- ▶ Yet, there is no limitation in the wide application of effect-based monitoring for water quality assessment

**And we will...**



# Outlook

## *National monitoring campaign 2018*



Reference



Bulb fields



Metals



WWTP



# National monitoring campaign 2018



# National monitoring campaign 2018

- ▶ 20 sites within 4 land use categories

( $n=5$ )

# National monitoring campaign 2018

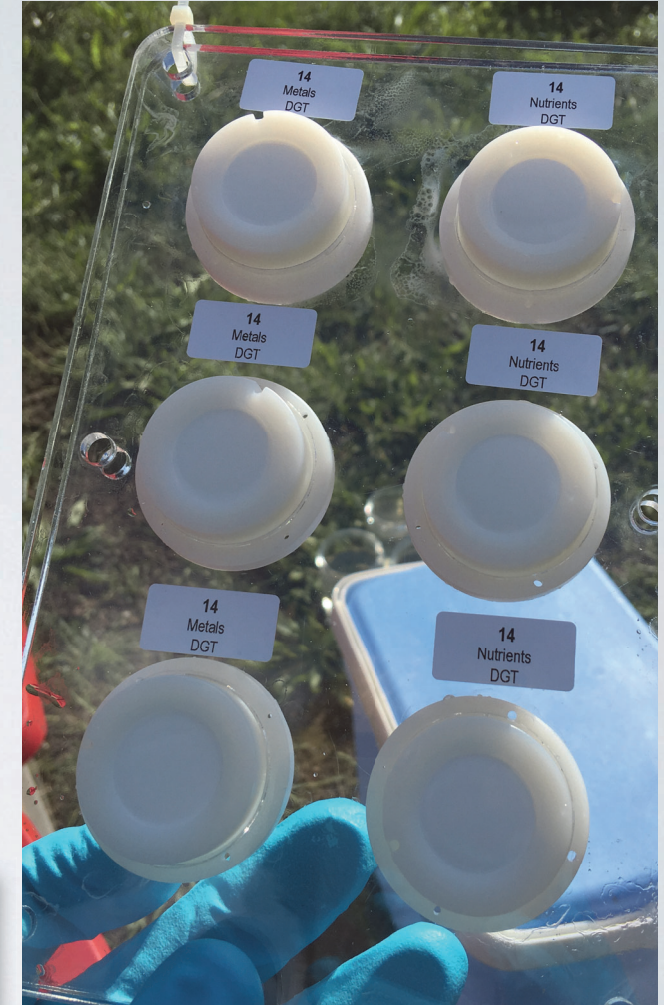
- ▶ 20 sites within 4 land use categories ( $n=5$ )
- ▶ Passive sampling of metals and nutrients





# National monitoring campaign 2018

- ▶ 20 sites within 4 land use categories ( $n=5$ )
- ▶ Passive sampling of metals and nutrients
- ▶ Expansion of the bioassay battery with insects and improved antibiotics and algal toxicity tests



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

Science of the Total Environment

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/scitotenv)



## Nationwide screening of surface water toxicity to algae

M.L. de Baat <sup>a,\*</sup>, D.A. Bas <sup>a</sup>, S.A.M. van Beusekom <sup>a</sup>, S.T.J. Droge <sup>a</sup>, F. van der Meer <sup>b</sup>, M. de Vries <sup>b</sup>,  
P.F.M. Verdonschot <sup>a,c</sup>, M.H.S. Kraak <sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Department of Freshwater and Marine Ecology, Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics, University of Amsterdam, Science Park 904, 1098 XH Amsterdam, the Netherlands

<sup>b</sup> Wetterskip Fryslân, Fryslânplein 3, 8914 BZ Leeuwarden, the Netherlands

<sup>c</sup> Department of Freshwater Ecology, Wageningen Environmental Research, Droevendaalsesteeg 4, 6708 PB Wageningen, the Netherlands

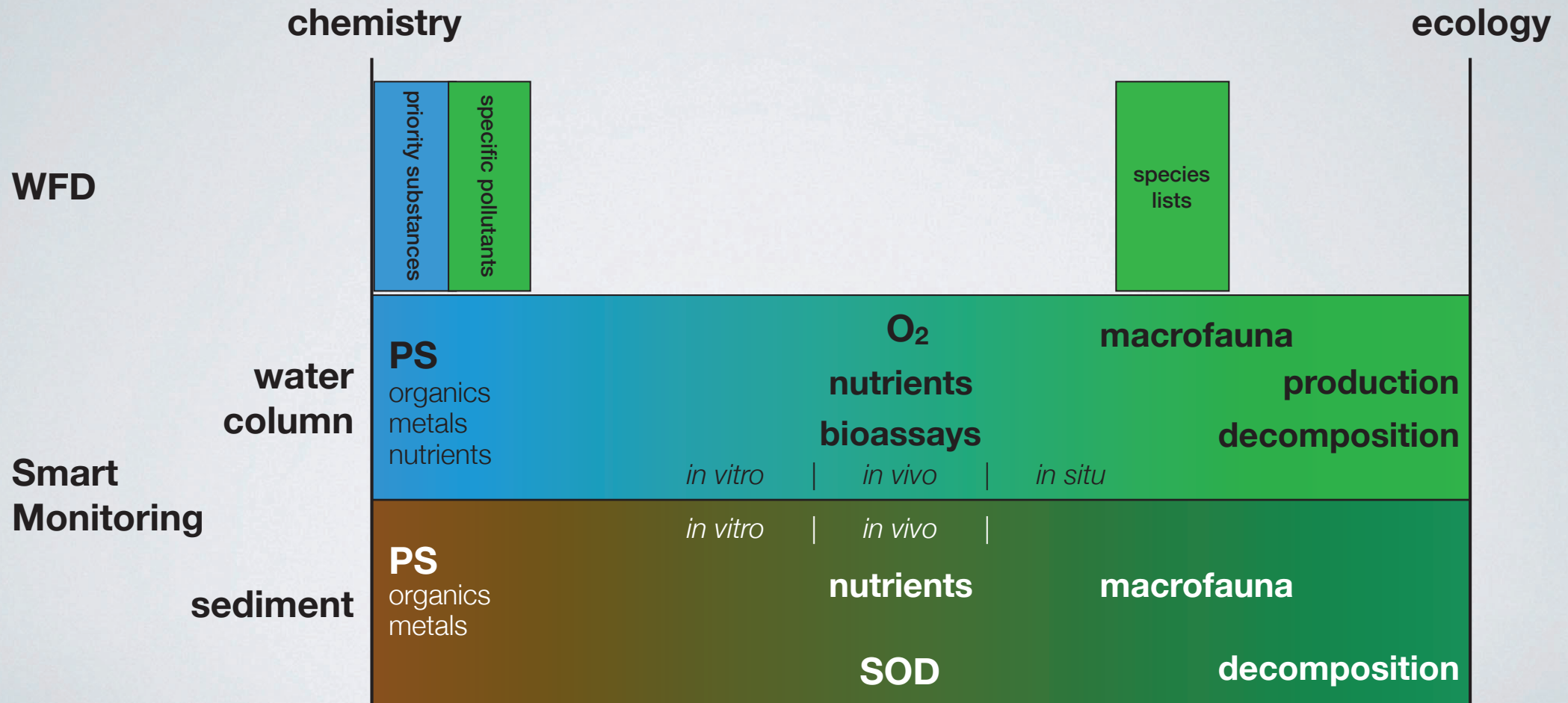
# National monitoring campaign 2018

- ▶ Inclusion of sediment and ecosystem functioning



# National monitoring campaign 2018

- ▶ Inclusion of sediment and ecosystem functioning







	<b>Bioassay</b>
<i>in situ</i>	Daphnia in situ
<i>in vivo</i>	Daphniatox Algatox Microtox
<i>in vitro</i> CALUX non-polar	cytotox nonpolar DR PAH PPAR $\gamma$ Nrf2 PXR p53 -S9 p53 +S9
<i>in vitro</i> CALUX polar	cytotox polar ER anti-AR GR
<i>in vitro</i> antibiotics	T Q B+M S A