

Title of Chapter in Book: Organochlorines

Author: Akan Bassey Williams

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Abstract: Organochlorines are composed primarily of carbon, hydrogen, and chlorine. These chlorine-containing compounds are found in the environment as a result of human activities. Organochlorines such as chlorinated pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls represent an important group of persistent organic pollutants that have caused worldwide concern as toxic environmental contaminants. The large-scale manufacture and distribution of organochlorines took place after the accidental discovery of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) as an insecticide by Paul Hermann Muller in 1946. Uses of organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) take a wide range of forms, ranging from pellet application in field crops to sprays for seed coating and grain storage. Some organochlorines are applied to surfaces to kill insects.