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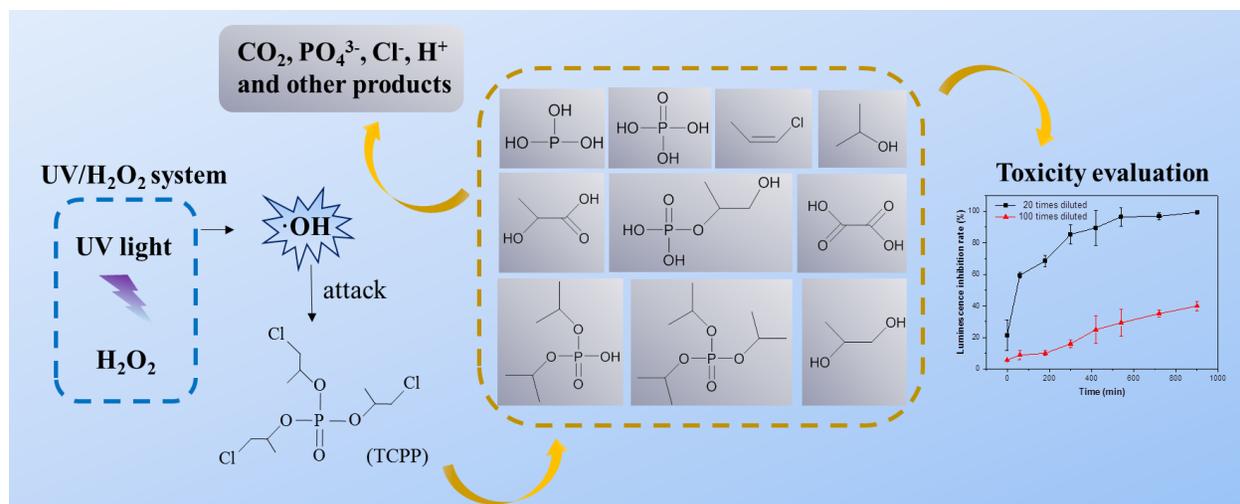
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# Degradation of tri(2-chloroisopropyl) phosphate by the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system: kinetics, mechanisms and toxicity evaluation

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**Abstract:** A photodegradation technology based on the combination of ultraviolet radiation with H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) for degrading tri(chloroisopropyl) phosphate (TCPP) was developed. In ultrapure water, a pseudo-first order reaction was observed, and the degradation rate constant reached 0.0035 min<sup>-1</sup> (R<sup>2</sup>=0.9871) for 5 mg L<sup>-1</sup> TCPP using 250 W UV light irradiation with 50 mg L<sup>-1</sup> H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. In detail, the yield rates of Cl<sup>-</sup> and PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> reached 0.19 mg L<sup>-1</sup> and 0.58 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. The total organic carbon (TOC) removal rate was 43.02%. The pH value of the TCPP solution after the reaction was 3.46. The mass spectrometric detection data showed a partial transformation of TCPP into a series of hydroxylated and dechlorinated products. Based on the luminescent bacteria experimental data, the toxicity of TCPP products increased obviously as the reaction proceeded. In conclusion, degradation of high concentration TCPP in UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> systems may result in more toxic substances, but its potential application for real wastewater is promising in the future after appropriate optimization, domestication and evaluation.

**Key words :** TCPP, UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, kinetics, mechanisms, toxic evaluation

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## 22 1. Introduction

23 Emerging contaminants (ECs) are defined as chemicals that have recently been detected in the  
24 environment, which pose a significant risk to human and ecosystem health. The ECs mainly include  
25 personal care products, pharmaceuticals, pesticides and disinfectants, etc. (Montes et al., 2015). An  
26 important class of ECs are flame retardants (FRs). The materials processed by the FRs can  
27 effectively prevent, delay or terminate the propagation of the flame when attacked by external fire  
28 sources, thereby achieving the flame retarding effect. Phosphorus flame retardants (PFRs), which  
29 have been used for over 150 years, can be divided into three main groups (Veen and Boer, 2012):  
30 organophosphate esters (OPEs), phosphonates, and phosphinates. The existing studies are focused  
31 mainly on tetrabromobisphenol A and other polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) (Chow et al.,  
32 2012; Chunyan et al., 2012; Guo et al., 2012; Huang et al., 2013; Cao et al., 2015). However, the  
33 research data of organophosphorus (OPFRs) is very scarce (Antonopoulou et al., 2016).

34 OPEs are not chemically bound in materials and easily leach into the environment via abrasion,  
35 volatilization and dissolution. As a result, OPEs have been frequently detected in the environment,  
36 such as seawater and groundwater and increasingly in indoor environments (Andresen et al., 2004;  
37 Axel et al., 2011). Tri(chloroisopropyl) phosphate (TCPP), one of chlorinated organophosphate  
38 esters (Cl-OPEs), represents approximately 80% of the chlorinated OPFRs in Europe and is by  
39 volume the most important OPFR (Bollmann et al., 2012). Recent studies have reported that TCPP  
40 is among the most frequently detected emerging pollutants in wastewater effluents in EU at  
41 concentration as high as  $24 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . TCPP has been also detected in surface water, ground water and  
42 drinking water reaching concentrations ranging from few  $\text{ng L}^{-1}$  to few  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , even  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$  in  
43 wastewater (Bollmann et al., 2012; Cristale et al., 2013; Jun et al., 2014). Physical, biological and

44 chemical treatment methods have been used to remove the Cl-OPEs. Adsorbents such as modified  
45 zeolites (Grieco and Ramarao, 2013) and carbon nanotubes (Yan and Jing, 2014) can effectively  
46 adsorb chlorinated organophosphates in water, but cannot achieve the purpose of degradation or  
47 mineralization of Cl-OPEs. The biological method has a low removal rate of the Cl-OPEs. Only  
48 12.3% of tri(2-chloroethyl)phosphate (TCEP) and 11.8% of TCPP can be removed in the University  
49 of Capetown (UCT) process (Pang et al., 2016). Among treatment methods, the advanced oxidation  
50 processes (AOPs) in chemical treatment method are one of the most effective methods for  
51 degrading Cl-OPEs (Watts and Linden, 2009).

52 The AOPs, including electrochemistry (Loffler et al., 2019), ozonation (Dar et al., 2019),  
53 sonolysis (Choi et al., 2019), UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> photolysis (Qiu et al., 2019), photocatalysis (Monteagudo et  
54 al., 2019), and Fenton process (Rostamizadeh et al., 2019), are the most commonly used chemical  
55 methods for water treatment. The potential application of ultraviolet-advanced oxidation processes  
56 (UV-AOPs) to the degradation of OPEs has only begun in recent years. Yuan et al. (2015) have  
57 found that UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was more efficient than ozonation for the degradation of OPEs in a municipal  
58 secondary effluent. The UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> process is a conventional advanced oxidation process, based on  
59 the production of hydroxyl radicals ( $\bullet$ OH) via the photolysis of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. The hydroxyl radicals ( $\bullet$ OH)  
60 are extraordinarily reactive and can attack most organic molecules with very high rate constants  
61 (Andreozzi et al., 1999). Thus, the hydroxyl radicals ( $\bullet$ OH) can degrade rapidly and non-selectively  
62 a wide range of organic pollutants in aquatic environment (Khataee et al., 2009). The quantum yield  
63 of  $\bullet$ OH production and molar absorption coefficient of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> at 254 nm were 0.5 mol E<sup>-1</sup> and 18.6  
64 M<sup>-1</sup>cm<sup>-1</sup>, respectively (Morgan et al., 1988; Liao and Gurol, 1995). Hence, the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> process has  
65 been confirmed to be effective in degrading organic pollutants in aquatic environments (Bledzka et

66 al., 2010; Ghodbane and Hamdaoui, 2010; Pamela et al., 2010; Zhou et al., 2012).

67 The removal of OPEs in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system has been reported in the literature (Santoro et al.,  
68 2010), but the bis(trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide (BSTFA) derivatization and quantum  
69 calculations are still unclear. Gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS) and nuclear  
70 magnetic resonance are often used as means of mechanism analysis, but the identification of  
71 intermediates requires verification by quantum calculations (Watts and Linden, 2008). Previous  
72 studies have carried out research on low concentration Cl-OPEs, but there are few studies on high  
73 concentration Cl-OPEs. There is still a knowledge gap on the detailed mechanisms and pathways  
74 involving the degradation of TCPP using UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, not to mention the environmental safety of their  
75 degradation products. Besides, the degradation pathway of TCPP in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system has not  
76 been reported yet and the toxicity of the intermediates and the toxicity of the degradation system  
77 require further investigation.

78 The present study aims to degrade high concentration TCPP in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system and perform  
79 the kinetics, mechanisms and toxicity analysis. Besides, it also aims to identify the toxic  
80 intermediates of TCPP during its degradation. The intermediates were identified by GC-MS.  
81 Quantum calculation was also carried out to ascertain the position of the TCPP molecule where the  
82 oxidation was firstly initiated. The degradation pathway was estimated based on the intermediate  
83 product. In addition, the toxicity of the intermediates was consulted and the toxicity of the  
84 degradation system was evaluated by luminescent bacteria experiments.

## 85 **2. Experimental section**

### 86 **2.1. Chemicals**

87 The TCPP was purchased from Aldrich (Milwaukee, WI, USA). H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (30%, v/v) was obtained

88 from Fisher Company. HPLC-grade methanol, ethyl acetate, acetonitrile and dimethylsulphoxide  
89 (DMSO) were purchased from Tedian Company and used without further purification. The  
90 luminescent bacteria *Photobacterium phosphoreum* T3 (*P. phosphoreum*, Strain Number CS233)  
91 was obtained as freeze-dried reagents (0.5 g each bottle) from the Institute of Soil Science, Chinese  
92 Academy Sciences, Nanjing, China. They were stored at -20 °C and hydrated prior to testing.  
93 Ultrapure deionized water was obtained from a Milli-Q water purification system (Milli-Q system,  
94 Millipore, Bedford, MA) and was used in the preparation of all the aqueous solution.

## 95 2.2. Experimental Procedures

96 The degradation experiments were carried out in a photoreactor (XPA-7, Xujiang Power Plant,  
97 Nanjing, China). XPA-7 multi-tube stirring reaction instrument (Fig. S2) includes light source,  
98 quartz cold trap, quartz test tube, reaction vessel, multi-tube stirring device, rotating device, water  
99 tank, micro water pump, light shield, etc. Samples can be magnetically stirred and evenly  
100 illuminated in a test tube with a uniform rotation around the light source. The UV lamps (250 W)  
101 were manufactured by Shanghai Yaming Lighting Co., Ltd., China. The emitted UV-light flux was  
102 measured by an actinometer made by Beijing Normal University (Beijing, China). Solutions spiked  
103 with 5 mg L<sup>-1</sup> of target compound and 50 mg L<sup>-1</sup> H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (30%) were irradiated while continuously  
104 mixed. The total solution volume for each exposure was 50 mL.

## 105 2.3. Analytical methods

106 The residual TCPP was extracted from 1 mL of the UV-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> treated solution with 1 mL of ethyl  
107 acetate by a mixture of liquid and liquid mixture. The extracted analytes were then separated and  
108 assayed by a 7890N gas chromatograph (Agilent Technologies, USA) equipped with a split/splitless  
109 injector, HP-5 capillary column (30 m x 0.32 mm i.d., 0.25 µm film thickness) and flame

110 Photometric detector (FPD). The column temperature was set as follows: the initial oven  
111 temperature was 80 °C (for 1 minute), the temperature was raised to 140 °C at a rate of 20 °C min<sup>-1</sup>  
112 (for 2 min), and then increased at a rate of 4 °C min<sup>-1</sup> up to 280 °C (for 6 min). The injector and  
113 detector temperatures were set at 250 °C. Helium (99.999%) was used as a carrier gas at a constant  
114 flow rate of 1.5 mL min<sup>-1</sup> and nitrogen (99.999%) was used as a make-up gas at a flow rate of 20  
115 mL min<sup>-1</sup>. Synthetic air (99.995%) and hydrogen (99.999%) were used as detector gases at flow  
116 rates of 100 and 65 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.

117 Due to the complexity of the intermediate product, the Thermo Fisher Trace gas chromatograph  
118 coupled to a Polaris Q ion trap mass spectrometer (GC/MS, Thermo Fisher, USA) with a DB-5  
119 fused silica capillary column (30 m, 0.32 mm i.d., 0.25 mm film thickness) was used to analyze the  
120 sample. Samples were extracted by SPE column Poly-Sery PSD prior to GC-MS analysis.

121 All SPE columns were sequentially adjusted with 5 mL of methanol and water at a flow rate of 1  
122 mL min<sup>-1</sup> prior to use. The loaded SPE column was then eluted with 5 mL acetonitrile / ethyl acetate  
123 (1:1, V/V). The extracted solution was dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate and concentrated to 1  
124 mL by rotary evaporation. After the solvent was purged with mild nitrogen, trimethylsilylation was  
125 carried out with 0.2 mL of BSTFA at 60 °C for 15 h. The initial temperature of the column oven was  
126 40 °C, and after maintaining at this temperature for 1 minute, it was then heated to 300 °C at a  
127 heating rate of 6 °C min<sup>-1</sup>. Helium was used as a carrier gas. Mass spectrometry was performed in a  
128 70 eV electron bombardment (EI) mode. Electron impact was used for ionization of the sample.  
129 Some intermediates were identified by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)  
130 library identification process.

131 **2.4. Calculation of the Frontier electron density and bond dissociation enthalpies (BDEs)**

132 The ab initio molecular orbital (MO) calculations were carried out using Gaussian 03 program  
133 (Gaussian, Inc.). Structures were fully optimized with the B3LYP/6-311+G\* basis set at the level of  
134 the density functional theory (DFT) for all calculations. Then, the Frontier electron densities (FEDs)  
135 of the highest occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) and the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital  
136 (LUMO) were calculated.

## 137 2.5. Toxicity measurements

138 For the acute toxicity tests, 200 mL of solution before or after reduction/oxidation treatment was  
139 collected. The pH values of all samples were adjusted to 7.0 before the toxicity test. The water  
140 samples were filtered through membrane filter with a porosity of 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$ , and then passed through  
141 a column with non-polar neutral resin (XAD-2). The constituents adsorbed on the column and the  
142 filtered nanoparticles were eluted by methanol, acetone and dichloromethane. The elution was  
143 concentrated to 1 mL by rotary evaporation, dried by the gentle nitrogen and then re-dissolved in 1  
144 mL DMSO. Finally, the samples were stored at  $-18\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the dark. Prior to toxicity assessment, the  
145 bacteria *P. phosphoreum* was reactivated in 1 mL 2.5% NaCl solution and stored in an ice water  
146 bath. Subsequently, 0.2 mL of each treated sample and 10  $\mu\text{L}$  reactivated bacteria were added to 2  
147 mL of 3% NaCl solution. After being exposed to sample for 15 min at  $15\pm 1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , the  
148 bioluminescence was measured by the DeltaTox Analyzer (SDI, USA). DMSO was used as solvent  
149 control. Each degradation reaction sample of TCPP was run in duplicate set. Toxicity was expressed  
150 as the luminescence inhibition ratio and it could be described as Eq. 1:

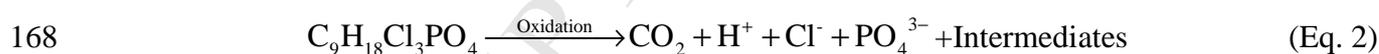
$$151 \quad \text{Inhibition rate (\%)} = \left(1 - \frac{\text{Sample intensity}}{\text{Control intensity}}\right) \times 100\% \quad (\text{Eq. 1})$$

## 152 3. Results and discussion

### 153 3.1. Performance of TCPP degradation by UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system

154 Photolysis of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was the predominant mode of •OH formation. Hydroxyl radical, with its  
 155 relatively high redox potential (2.8 V), is often the oxidant of choice for engineered remediation of  
 156 waters pollutants. The potential for •OH formation in UV-irradiated water containing the oxidant  
 157 H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> has led to the design and implementation of UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> for oxidation of unwanted organics at  
 158 full-scale water treatment plants. The results in Fig.S1 indicated that no obvious removal of the  
 159 TCPP was observed in the UV alone experiment, due to its poor UV absorbance properties in the  
 160 UV-C range ( $\lambda=200\text{--}300$  nm). Therefore, at an initial concentration of 50 mg L<sup>-1</sup>, H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> was the only  
 161 significant photon absorber ( $\lambda=254$  nm) in irradiated solutions. As shown in Fig.1, the degradation  
 162 of the TCPP approximately followed the pseudo-first-order reaction in kinetics under tested  
 163 conditions. The pseudo-first-order rate constant k was measured for the oxidation rate of TCPP,  
 164 which was 0.0035 min<sup>-1</sup> (R<sup>2</sup>=0.9871).

165 TCPP is composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, chlorine, and phosphorus elements. Therefore,  
 166 the final degradation products of TCPP should contain CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup> and PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>. The simplified  
 167 oxidation pathway for TCPP in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system can be described as Eq. 2:



169 The final product of TCPP in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system included Cl<sup>-</sup>, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>, CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sup>+</sup>. The  
 170 concentrations of Cl<sup>-</sup> and PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> after photooxidation were measured to evaluate the degradation  
 171 efficiency of TCPP. Besides, the TOC and pH values were also measured.

## 172 **3.2. TOC, pH, Cl<sup>-</sup> and PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> analysis**

### 173 **3.2.1 TOC removal rate and pH values of TCPP aqueous solution in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system**

174 TOC values before and after photooxidation were measured to evaluate the mineralization effect  
 175 of TCPP. A Shimadzu TOC-5000A TOC (combustion) analyzer was employed to evaluate the

176 mineralization efficiency of target compounds. The removal rate of TOC can be expressed as TOC  
177 (%). In ambient temperature, the reaction time from 0 to 900 min were examined. It can be seen  
178 from Fig. 2A that the TOC removal increased with the increasing of reaction time from 0 to 900 min.  
179 From 720 min to 900 min, the rate of increase in TOC removal rate was significantly faster. At 900  
180 min, the removal rate of TOC reached up to 43.02%, indicating that the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system had a  
181 certain effect on the degradation of TCPP.

182 The pH values of the system were measured by suppression of the eluent and achieved with a  
183 Dionex anion ASRS 300 electrolytic suppressor (4 mm) in the auto suppression external water  
184 mode. The pH values after the reaction were depicted in Fig. 2B. From 0 to 180 min, the pH value  
185 of TCPP began to show sharp drops, after that (from 180 min to 900 min) the pH value changed  
186 unremarkably. The initial pH value of TCPP was 8.02 and final pH value was 3.46, indicating that  
187 there was a large amount of H<sup>+</sup> production in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system, further confirming that TCPP  
188 was degraded.

### 189 **3.2.2 Concentration of Cl<sup>-</sup> and PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> of TCPP aqueous solution in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system**

190 The final degradation products of TCPP are supposed to include Cl<sup>-</sup> and PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup>. The residual  
191 concentration of Cl<sup>-</sup> and PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> can be employed to evaluate the degradation of organic  
192 contaminants. The concentration of Cl<sup>-</sup> and PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system can indicate the  
193 degradation degree of TCPP. The formation of Cl<sup>-</sup> and PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system was analyzed  
194 by a Dionex ion chromatograph (IC, Dionex model ICS 1000) equipped with a dual-piston (in  
195 series) pump, a Dionex IonPac AS11-HC analytical column (4 mm, 250 mm) and a Dionex DS6  
196 conductivity detector.

197 From Fig. 2C and 2D, it is obvious that the concentration of Cl<sup>-</sup> and PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> increases with the

198 increase of the time from 0 to 900 min. The theoretical concentration of  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  was 1.63 mg  
199  $\text{L}^{-1}$  and 1.45  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ , respectively. The formation concentration of  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  was 0.19  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$  and  
200 0.58  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ . That is, the degradation rate of  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{PO}_4^{3-}$  was 11.7% and 40%. The low degradation  
201 rate of Cl means the formation of chlorine-containing compounds, which may cause the solution to  
202 be highly toxic after degradation. The results obtained may also be related to the bond energy.

### 203 **3.3. Calculation of the frontier electron densities (FEDs) and bond dissociation enthalpies** 204 **(BDEs)**

205 The ab initio molecular orbital (MO) calculations were carried out using Gaussian 03 program  
206 (Gaussian, Inc.). Structures were fully optimized with the B3LYP/6-311+G\* basis set at the level of  
207 the density functional theory (DFT) for all calculations. Then, the FEDs of the highest occupied  
208 molecular orbital (HOMO) and the lowest unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) were calculated.  
209 The values of  $\text{FED}_{\text{HOMO}}^2 + \text{FED}_{\text{LUMO}}^2$  were obtained to predict the reaction sites for radical attack.  
210 The C-H BDEs and O-H BDEs were also calculated to predict the reaction sites for abstracting  
211 hydrogen reaction initiated by hydroxyl radical. From Table 1, the larger the value of  $2\text{FED}_{\text{HOMO}}^2$ ,  
212 the higher the density of the electron cloud, and the easier it is to be attacked by  $\bullet\text{OH}$ , such as C9  
213 (0.344), C15 (0.591) and Cl 16 (0.349). The larger the value of  $\text{FED}_{\text{HOMO}}^2 + \text{FED}_{\text{LUMO}}^2$ , the stronger  
214 the activity of the reaction, which means that it is unstable and prone to reaction, such as P1 (0.888).  
215 From Table 2, the smaller the bond energy, the more unstable it is, such as P1-O8 (0.6216) and  
216 C9-C15 (0.6844).

### 217 **3.4. Degradation pathways of TCPP**

218 The degradation of TCPP mainly included two pathways (Fig. 3). The first pathway included 4  
219 routes. Route I was an  $\bullet\text{OH}$  addition reaction and a hydrogen extraction reaction to form

220 1-chloropropan-2-ol. In route II, Compound 1 was produced by 1-chloropropan-2-ol with  
221 dehydration. Compound 2 was generated by the  $\bullet\text{OH}$  addition reaction, oxidized to Compound 3,  
222 and further oxidized to Compound 4. Compound 7 was produced by 1-chloropropan-2-ol with  
223 hydrogen abstraction. Compound 5 was generated by hydrogen extraction reaction and Compound  
224 6 was further generated by  $\bullet\text{OH}$  addition in route III. Route IV generated oxygen by oxidation of  
225  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and generated Compound 8 by the addition reaction of  $\bullet\text{OH}$ . The second pathway generated  
226 1-chloropropan-2-yl dihydrogen phosphate by the addition reaction of  $\bullet\text{OH}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and generated  
227 Compound 11 by attacking C11-Cl 12 and C15-Cl 16 by  $\bullet\text{OH}$ . 1-chloropropan-2-yl dihydrogen  
228 phosphate generated Compound 9 and Compound 10 by attacking P1-O3 and C5-Cl 6 by  $\bullet\text{OH}$ ,  
229 respectively. From Table 3, the  $\text{LC}_{50}$  of Compound 1 is  $221 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ , which is much more toxic than  
230 TCPP ( $\text{LD}_{50}=1500 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$ , Wikipedia). Since the pH value was adjusted to 7.0 before the toxicity  
231 test, the effect of hydrogen ions can be ignored. According to the removal rate of the TOC (Fig. 2A),  
232 it can be known that about 57% of the organic molecules were not converted to  $\text{CO}_2$ . From the  
233 calculation of the theoretical and actual values of chloride ions (Fig. 2C) and the degradation rate of  
234 TCPP (Fig. 1), it can be inferred that the intermediates produced chlorine-containing compounds.  
235 When luminescent bacteria are used to detect toxicity, a high concentration of salt must be added to  
236 the test system to maintain their normal survival. Therefore, an increase in the concentration of  
237 chloride ions (Fig. 2C) did not affect the toxicity test. Hence, the toxicity was the result of a  
238 combination of various products or components in the degradation process.

### 239 3.5. Toxicity evaluation

240 The luminescent bacteria toxicity test can effectively detect the acute toxicity of intermediate  
241 products. When these bacteria were in a toxic environment, the light they emit would be suppressed.

242 The toxicity of the sample can be quickly and accurately tested according to the change in light  
243 intensity, and the potential toxic substances can be directly detected. That is to say, the higher the  
244 luminescence inhibition rate, the greater the toxicity of the aqueous solution sample. It can be seen  
245 from Fig.4 that as the reaction time increases, the luminescence inhibition rate of the TCPP diluted  
246 20 times and diluted 100 times in the system gradually increases, that is, the toxicity of intermediate  
247 products gradually increases. TCPP has less toxicity studies, but its acute toxicity is smaller than  
248 TCEP, so it has been used as a substitute for TCEP. The  $LD_{50}$  of TCPP is  $1500 \text{ mg kg}^{-1}$  and the  $LC_{50}$   
249 of Compound 1 is  $221 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ . The intermediate product Compound 1 and other compounds with  
250 unknown toxicity produced by degradation may be the main cause of high toxicity. Among the  
251 detected intermediates, Compound 1 was the only chlorine-containing compound. Since the pH was  
252 adjusted to 7.0 before the toxicity test, the inhibitory effect of  $H^+$  on the luminescent bacteria can be  
253 excluded. Chloride ion was a salt necessary for luminescent bacteria, so it did not inhibit the  
254 illumination intensity. Based on the results of incomplete removal of the TOC, it was concluded that  
255 Compound 1 was able to influence the toxicity of the solution to a large extent. As is known to all,  
256 Cl-containing compounds are highly toxic. Thus, in order to reduce the toxicity of aqueous solution,  
257 how to remove Cl-containing compounds from water should be taken into consideration in the next  
258 step. For example, a nanofiltration reverse osmosis unit can be added to the UV/ $H_2O_2$  system. Yujia  
259 et al. (2019) have found that the early stage products have lower toxicity than TCEP (initial  
260 concentration was  $3.51 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$ ) or their further small molecule products with 185 nm vacuum  
261 ultraviolet based on the toxicology analysis including reactive oxygen species and apoptosis of  
262 *Escherichia coli*. Based on the proteomics data at molecular and metabolic network levels, the  
263 toxicity of TCEP (initial concentration was  $3.5 \text{ }\mu\text{M}$ ) products was reduced obviously as the reaction

264 proceeded (Liu et al., 2018), which was different from the research results of this paper. The main  
265 reason may be that the initial concentration of TCPP in this paper was high ( $5 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ), the reaction  
266 time was not long enough, so the point of toxicity reduction has not yet been reached.

#### 267 **4. Conclusions**

268 The degradation rate of  $5 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  TCPP in UV/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  system can reach 96% in 900 min. The  
269 degradation of TCPP using UV/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  followed a pseudo-first order reaction with a  $k$  of  $0.0035$   
270  $\text{min}^{-1}$  ( $R^2=0.9871$ ) and  $\bullet\text{OH}$  was confirmed to be the dominating active radical species. As the  
271 reaction proceeded, TCPP was transformed to several hydroxylated and dechlorinated products.  
272 Based on the luminescent bacteria experimental data, the toxicity of TCPP products was increased  
273 obviously as the reaction proceeded. In conclusion, degradation TCPP at a high concentration ( $5 \text{ mg}$   
274  $\text{L}^{-1}$ ) in UV/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  systems may result in more toxic substances, but its potential application for real  
275 wastewater is promising in the future after appropriate optimization, domestication and evaluation.  
276 For example, a nanofiltration reverse osmosis unit can be introduced to the UV/ $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  system.

277

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285

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**Figure Captions**

**Fig.1.** The degradation efficiency and kinetics of TCP from 0 to 900 min in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system ( $C_{\text{TCP}}= 5 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ,  $C_{\text{H}_2\text{O}_2}=50 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ,  $P_{\text{UV}}=250 \text{ W}$ )

**Fig.2.** The (A) TOC removal (B) pH values (C) Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration and (D) PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> concentration of TCP from 0 to 900 min in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system ( $C_{\text{TCP}}= 5 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ,  $C_{\text{H}_2\text{O}_2}=50 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ,  $P_{\text{UV}}=250 \text{ W}$ )

**Fig.3.** Two pathways of TCP (A and B)

**Fig.4.** Luminescence inhibition rate of degraded TCP for 20 times diluted and 100 times diluted

**Table 1**

The frontier electron densities and bond dissociation enthalpies

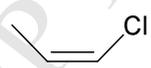
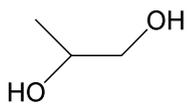
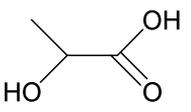
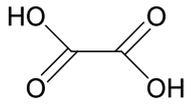
Atom	$FED_{HOMO}^2$	$FED_{LUMO}^2$	$2FED_{HOMO}^2$	$FED_{HOMO}^2 + FED_{LUMO}^2$
P1	0.010	0.878	0.021	0.888
O2	0.007	0.140	0.014	0.147
O3	0.006	0.267	0.011	0.273
C4	0.001	0.179	0.001	0.180
C5	0.001	0.370	0.002	0.371
Cl 6	0.000	0.259	0.001	0.259
O7	0.001	0.412	0.003	0.414
O8	0.106	0.041	0.212	0.147
C9	0.172	0.013	0.344	0.185
C10	0.001	0.083	0.002	0.084
C11	0.000	0.496	0.001	0.496
Cl 12	0.000	0.344	0.000	0.344
C13	0.000	0.028	0.000	0.028
C14	0.002	0.041	0.004	0.043
C15	0.295	0.025	0.591	0.321
Cl 16	0.174	0.006	0.349	0.180
C17	0.007	0.001	0.013	0.008

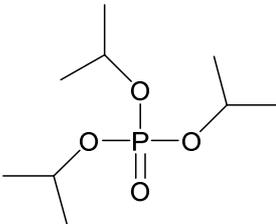
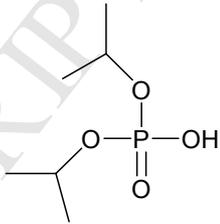
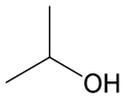
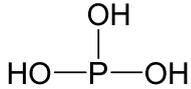
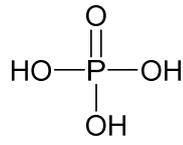
**Table 2**

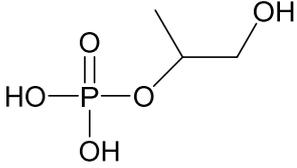
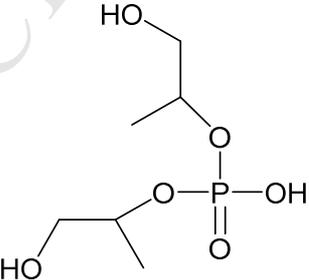
Bond energy in TCPP

Bonds	Bond energy
P1-O2	1.5388
P1-O3	0.8370
P1-O7	0.8192
P1-O8	0.6216
O3-C4	0.9151
C4-C5	0.9787
C5-C16	0.9395
C4-C13	1.0036
O7-C10	0.9066
C10-C11	0.9793
C11-C12	0.9435
O8-C9	1.1589
C9-C15	0.6844
C15-C18	0.9685
C9-C17	0.9685
C10-C14	1.0041
C15-C16	0.9685

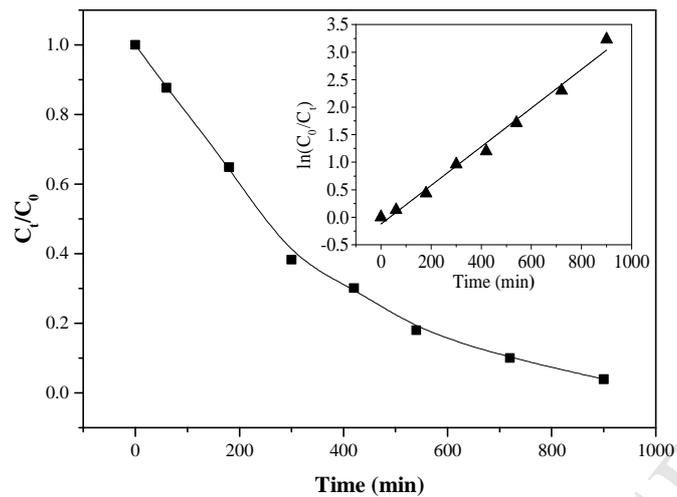
**Table 3**The intermediate products of TCPP in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system

No	t <sub>R</sub> (min)	Name	Toxicity LD <sub>50</sub> (Rat,oral)	EI-MS spectrum ions	Possible structure
				41 (999); 39 (741); 76 (390); 38 (153); 78	
1	8.08	(Z)-1-chloroprop-1-ene	(LC <sub>50</sub> , mouse, inhalation)	(128); 40 (114); 37 (110); 49 (73); 75 (51uk); 27 (50)	
			221 mg L <sup>-1</sup>	207 (999); 147 (816); 298 (762); 73 (611); 283	
2	8.63	Propane-1,2-diol	20000 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	(237); 208 (209); 299 (196); 209 (150); 135 (139); 133 (133)	
				73 (999); 117 (696); 147 (691); 45 (182); 75 (142);	
3	9.85	2-hydroxypropanoic acid	3543 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	191 (126); 66 (122); 148 (112); 190 (99); 74 (92)	
				147 (999); 73 (924); 148 (165); 45 (150); 74 (88);	
4	9.19	Oxalic acid	7500 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	149 (84); 66 (80); 72 (69); 190 (65); 59 (58)	

5	26.72	Triisopropyl phosphate	NA	99 (999); 125 (682); 43 (354); 41 (183); 141 (160); 45 (153); 27 (87); 123 (76); 42 (74); 39 (70) 99 (999); 125 (585); 41 (478); 43 (337); 42 (287); 91 (283); 65 (155); 45 (103); 40 (90); 139 (84) 147 (999); 75 (864); 73 (745); 45 (301); 117 (265); 43 (249); 131 (169); 133 (163); 148 (145); 59 (143)	
6	19.06	Diisopropyl hydrogen phosphate	NA	99 (999); 125 (585); 41 (478); 43 (337); 42 (287); 91 (283); 65 (155); 45 (103); 40 (90); 139 (84) 147 (999); 75 (864); 73 (745); 45 (301); 117 (265); 43 (249); 131 (169); 133 (163); 148 (145); 59 (143)	
7	7.41	Propan-2-ol	5045 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	99 (999); 125 (585); 41 (478); 43 (337); 42 (287); 91 (283); 65 (155); 45 (103); 40 (90); 139 (84) 147 (999); 75 (864); 73 (745); 45 (301); 117 (265); 43 (249); 131 (169); 133 (163); 148 (145); 59 (143)	
8	8.96	Phosphorous acid	NA	207 (999); 147 (816); 298 (762); 73 (611); 283 (237); 208 (209); 299 (196); 209 (150); 135 (139); 133 (133)	
9	14.62	Phosphoric acid	1530 mg kg <sup>-1</sup>	299 (999); 73 (464); 300 (252); 314 (184); 301 (132); 45 (112); 133 (84);	

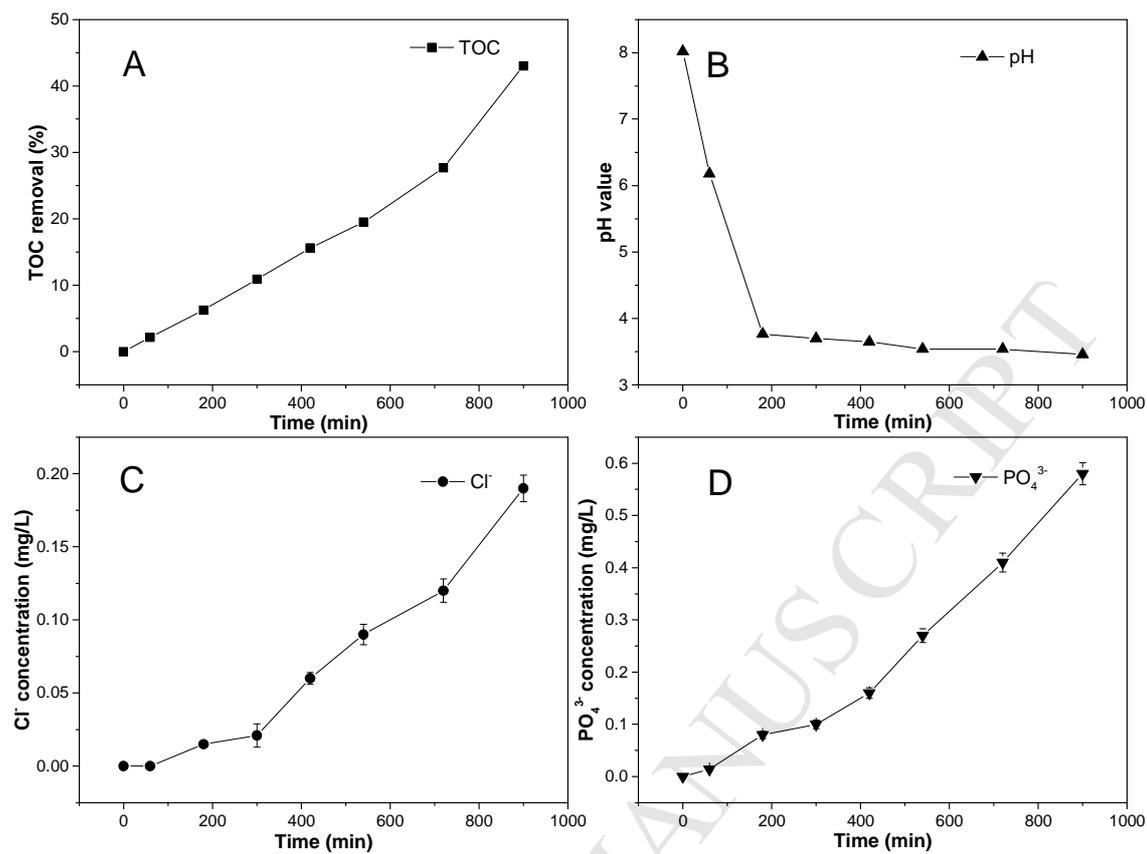
			211 (64); 75 (52); 147 (52)	
			73 (999); 18 (601); 299	
			(441); 256 (220); 75	
10	20.04	1-hydroxypropan-2-yl dihydrogen phosphate	NA	
			(184); 211 (181); 117	
			(157); 45 (145); 17 (138);	
			227 (133)	
			73 (999); 131 (267); 227	
			(204); 211 (199); 75	
11	23.20	Bis(1-hydroxypropan-2-yl) hydrogen phosphate	NA	
			(188); 130 (184); 285	
			(160); 299 (152); 117	
			(130); 115 (118)	

\*Most of the toxicity data were obtained from Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>); NA means the toxicity data are not available.



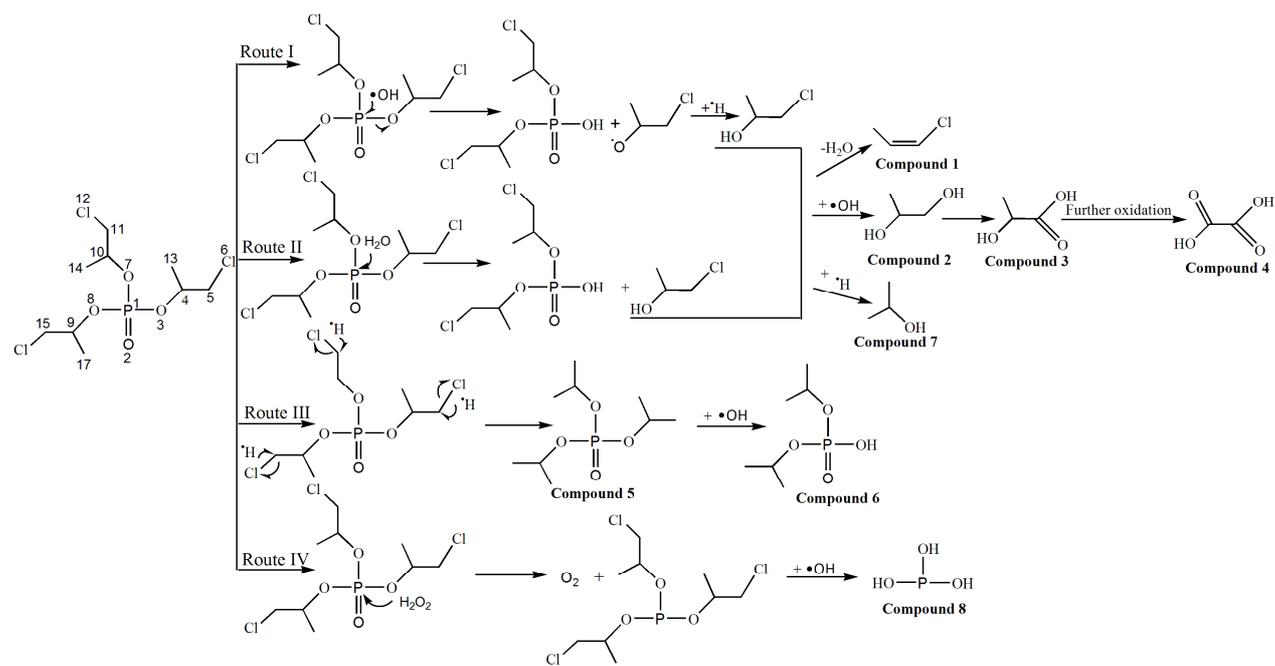
**Fig.1.** The degradation efficiency and kinetics of TCPP from 0 to 900 min in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system ( $C_{\text{TCPP}}= 5 \text{ mg}$

$\text{L}^{-1}$ ,  $C_{\text{H}_2\text{O}_2}=50 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ,  $P_{\text{UV}}=250 \text{ W}$ )

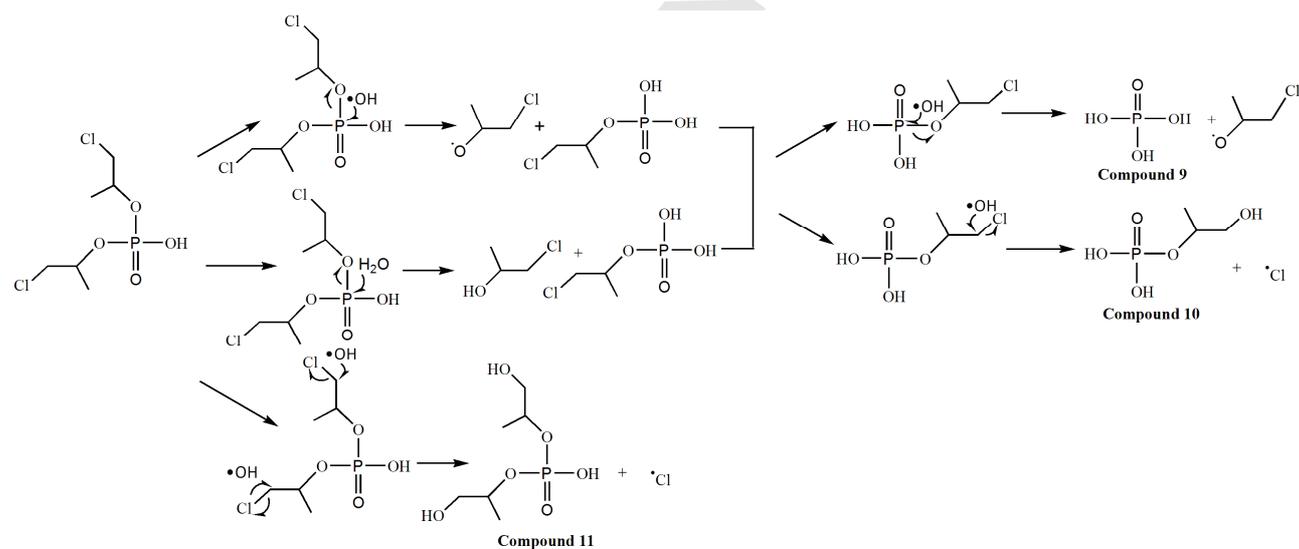


**Fig.2.** The (A) TOC removal (B) pH values (C) Cl<sup>-</sup> concentration and (D) PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> concentration of TCPF from 0 to

900 min in the UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system ( $C_{TCPF} = 5 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ,  $C_{H_2O_2} = 50 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ,  $P_{UV} = 250 \text{ W}$ )

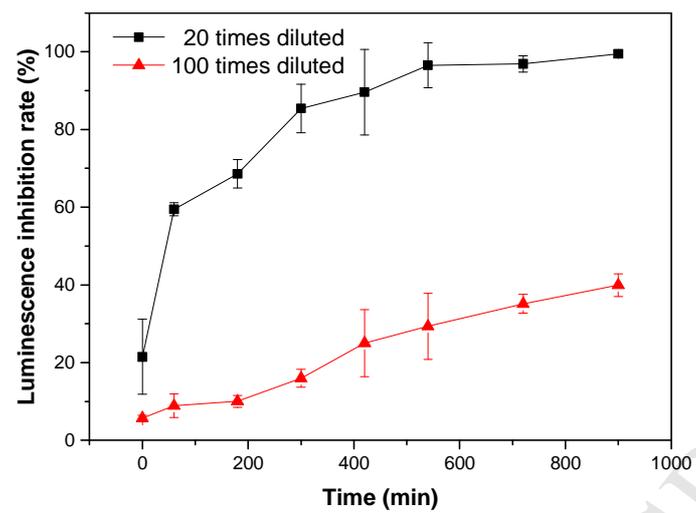


(A)



(B)

**Fig.3.** Two pathways of TCPP (A and B)



**Fig.4.** Luminescence inhibition rate of degraded TCPP for 20 times diluted and 100 times diluted

- UV/H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> system is an effective method to degrade TCPP in aqueous solution.
- TCPP was transformed to several hydroxylated and dechlorinated products.
- The degradation products of high concentration TCPP were more toxic.

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT