



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

Institut
Pengajian
Siswazah

THE DOCTORAL RESEARCH ABSTRACTS

Volume: 14, October 2018

14th
ISSUE



Name : SITI NORASHIKIN BT. MOHAMAD SHAIFUDDIN

Title : ENVIRONMENTAL FATE OF IMAZAPYR AND IMAZAPIC HERBICIDES IN PADDY SOIL AND WATER AND ITS POTENTIAL HEALTH RISK VIA *Anabas testudineus* CONSUMPTION

Supervisor : ASSOC. PROF. DR. HAZILIA HUSSAIN (MS)
DR. HAMZAH FANSURI HASSAN (CS)

Mixtures of imazapyr and imazapic herbicides are used to control weedy rice problem in Malaysian rice cultivation area. These two herbicides share the same characteristics which are high mobility, phyto-toxicity and persistency in soil, thus could pose problems to the environment and human health. Since there is limited information regarding the concentration and behaviour of imazapyr and imazapic herbicides in Malaysian paddy soil and water, this study was conducted: (i) to develop and optimize the extraction and detection method of imazapyr and imazapic in water, soil and fish tissue samples using HPLC-UV; (ii) to determine the concentration and distribution pattern of these herbicides for 120 days in paddy soil and water, and estimate their leaching potential capacity using GUS index; (iii) to evaluate their adsorption and desorption capability in soils; (iv) to evaluate their abiotic degradation in water and soil; and (v) to examine their level in *Anabas testudineus*, and estimate their potential health risk amongst farmers. Several extraction techniques including SPE, SLE and LLE were tested to extract imazapyr and imazapic in spiked water, soil and fish tissue samples. The extracts were then quantified using the optimized HPLC-UV. Collections of samples were carried out at Sawah Sempadan, Tanjung Karang, Selangor. Surface water and soil were sampled for 120 days, whereas *A. testudineus* were sampled just after rice harvesting period together with public survey. Adsorption-desorption and abiotic degradation of imazapyr and imazapic were investigated under controlled laboratory conditions using the standard protocols by USEPA. Results showed that SPE technique was able to successfully extract imazapyr and imazapic from spiked water and fish tissue, whereas SLE technique was suitable for fortified soil samples with the recoveries

ranging from 80% to 130%. These methods were then used to extract and determine the level of imazapyr and imazapic in the subsequent studies. Analysis of water samples showed that there were no traces of imazapyr and imazapic residues after 120 days from their single application. However, their leftovers were still detected at three different soil depths with half-lives between 24 to 186 days. The GUS index showed that imazapyr and imazapic are leacher herbicides (>2.8), with capability to be mobile and leach further into deep soil. Adsorption-desorption study proved that imazapyr and imazapic were strongly adsorbed into soil containing higher clay, CEC and organic content ($p < 0.05$). However, these two herbicides were also shown to have reversible sorption thus promoting abiotic degradation processes. Degradation studies of imazapyr and imazapic in aqueous solutions and soil found that hydrolytic activity for both herbicides was low, while photolytic results showed that these herbicides degraded faster in solutions compared to soil ($>90\%$). For the potential health studies, hazard index (HI) and hazard quotient (HQ) was less than 1, indicating that ingestion of imidazolinone-contaminated *A. testudineus* in six months period poses a low potential health risk. In conclusion, sorption and photodegradation of imazapyr and imazapic were greatly affecting the behaviour of these herbicides in water and soil. Hence, the results from this study can provide a fundamental scientific evidence and information regarding the concentration and behaviour of imazapyr and imazapic herbicides in Malaysian paddy soil and water. The optimized extraction and detection methods obtained in this study can be used by other researchers and regulatory agencies for routine monitoring of these herbicides in the environment.