

endocrine disruptive effects  
of tetrabromobisphenol-A  
in wistar rats and zebrafish

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Flame retardants  
Integrated  
Risk assessment for  
Endocrine effects



## **FIRE key issues**



- improve risk assessment of BFRs
- for human health & environment
- potential endocrine disruption

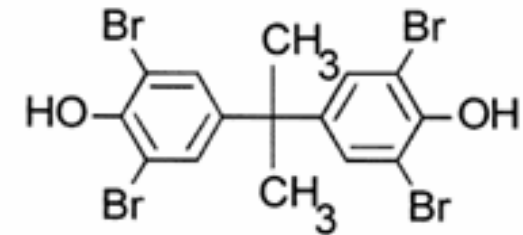
## FIRE rat studies

- subacute toxicity - 28 day - OECD407  
TBBPA - HBCD - pBDE - dBDE
- reproduction / development –  
1-gen - OECD415

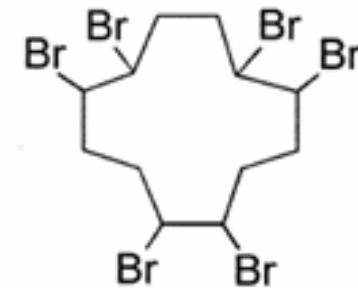
### TBBPA – HBCD

+ endocrine / immune parameters

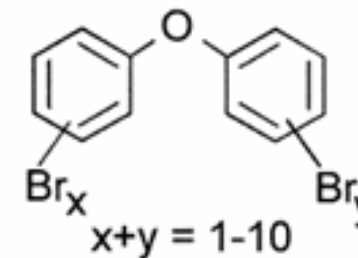
oral dosing (mixed in the feed);  
0.3 ..... 3000 mg/kg bw



tetrabromo- bisphenol-A

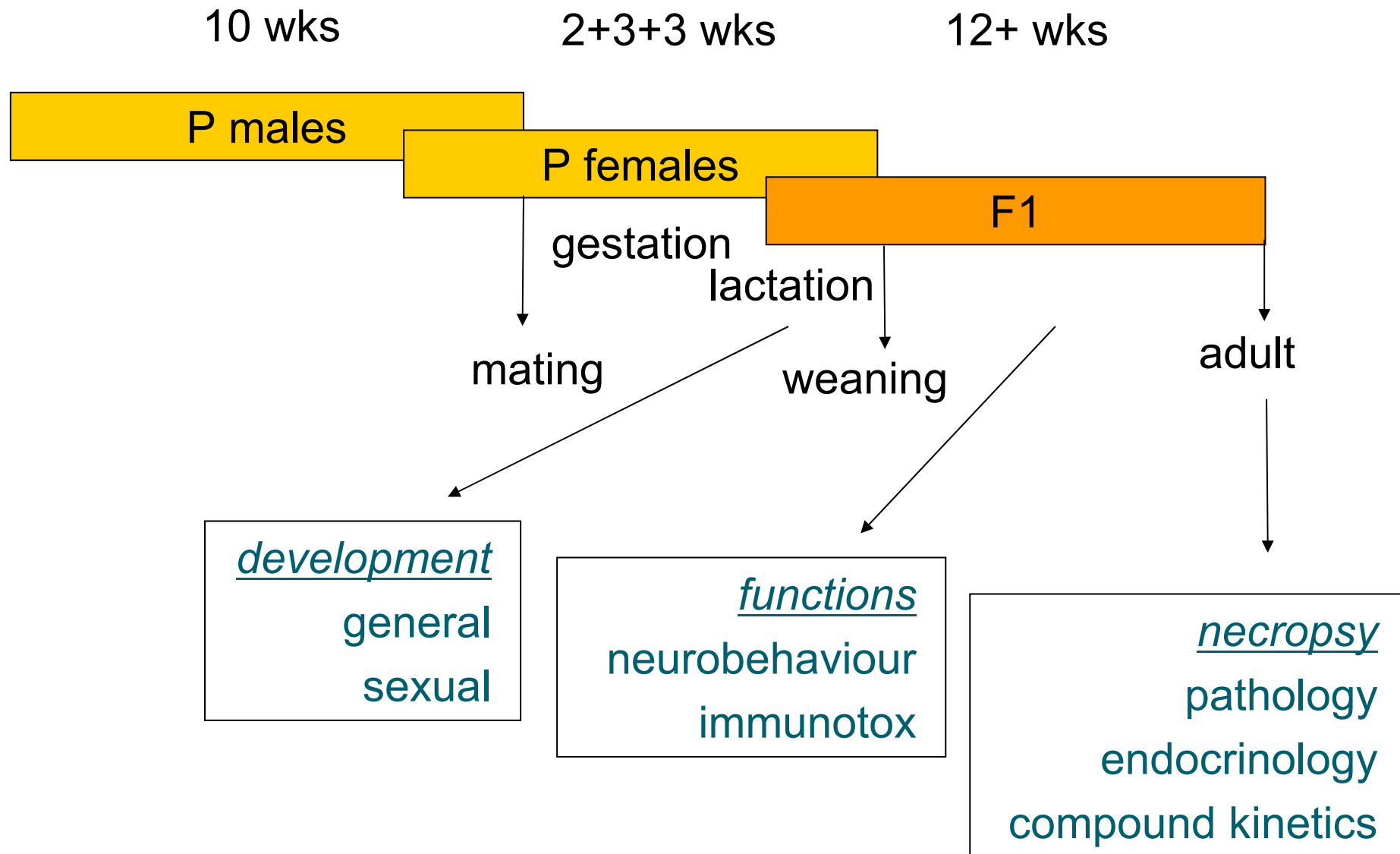


hexabromo  
cyclododecane



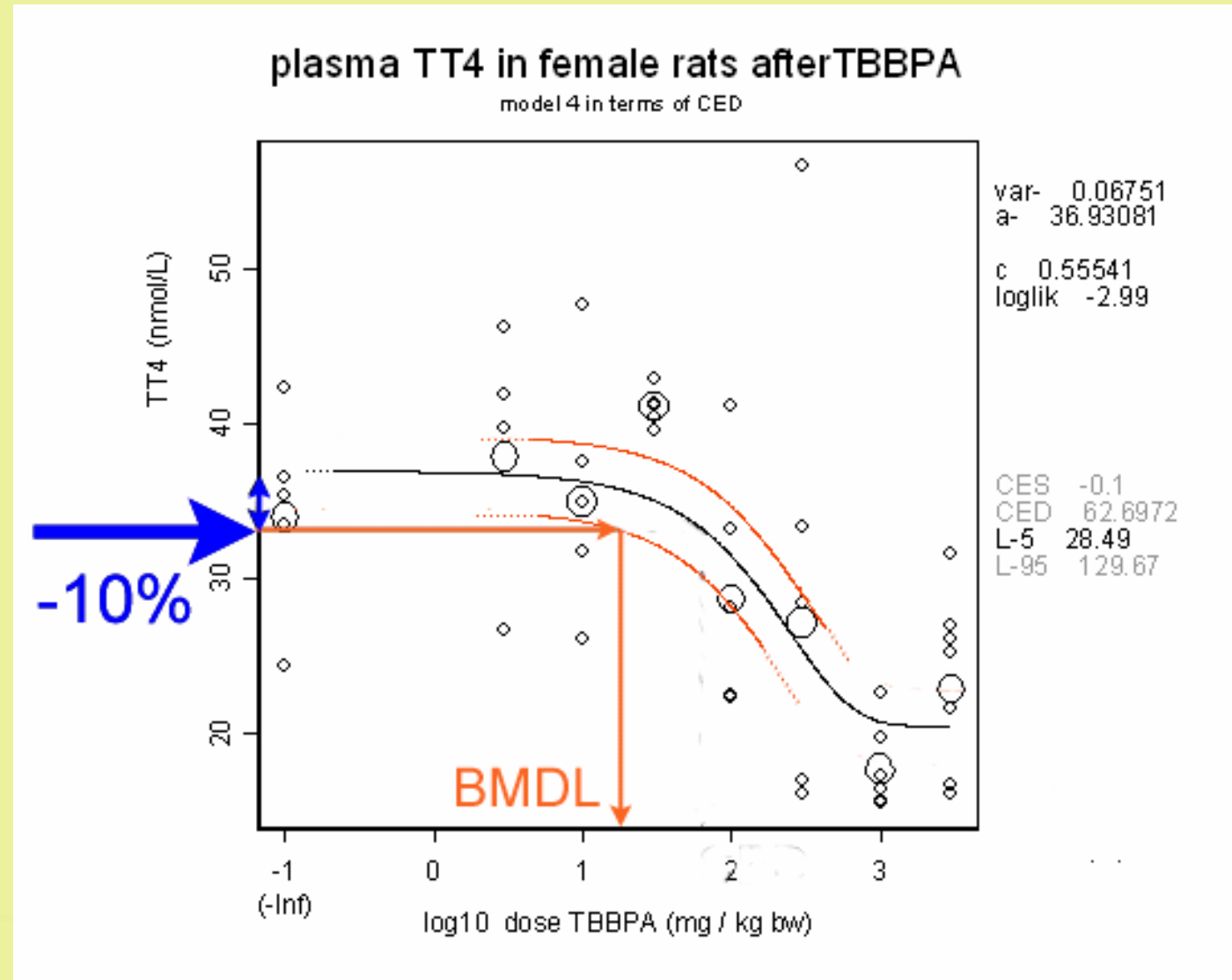
polybrominated  
diphenylethers

# study design



# benchmark design

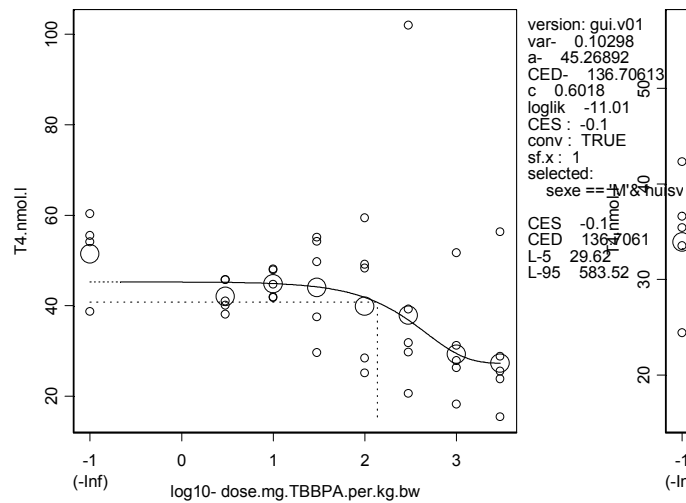
- 8 dose groups
- critical effect size
- benchmark dose @ 5% confidence level = BMDL



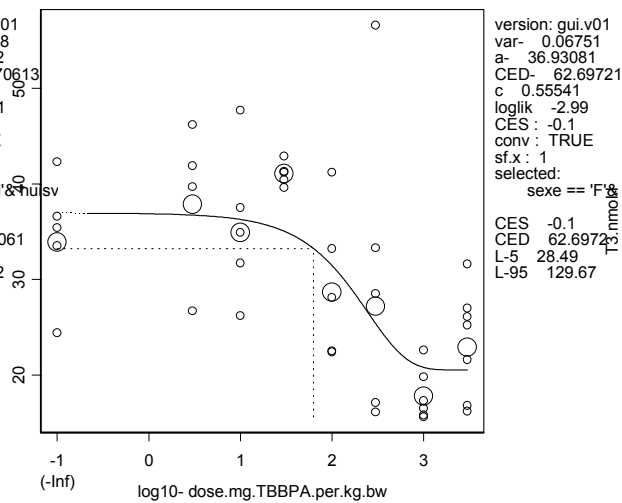
# TBBPA affects levels of circulating Thyroid Hormones in F1

	males		females	
	BMDL (mg /kg bw)	max response (%)	BMDL (mg /kg bw)	max response (%)
plasma total T3			1.9	27
plasma total T4	17	-60	28	-56

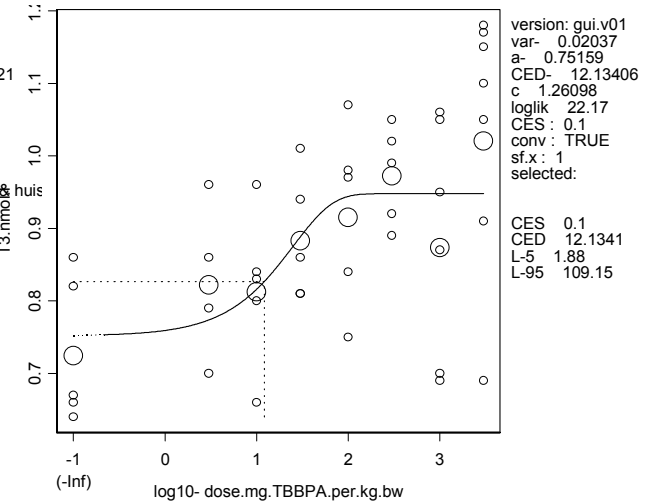
TT4, m



TT4, f

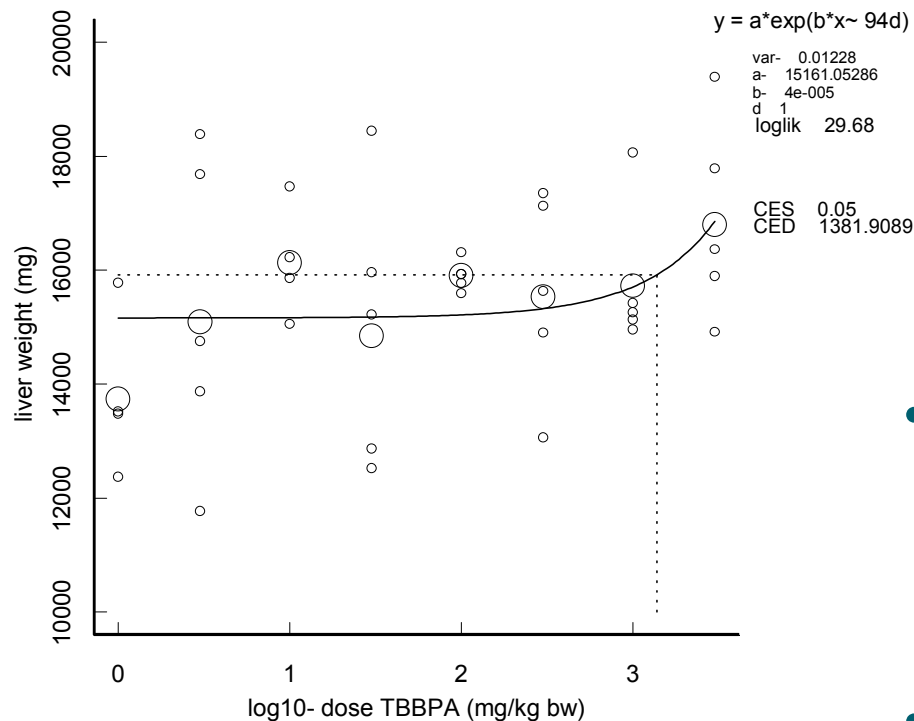


TT3, f



# liver weight

dose response in liver weights of F1 males



- no hepatic P450 enzyme induction

*Germer, Schrenk 2005*

- no histopathology

M

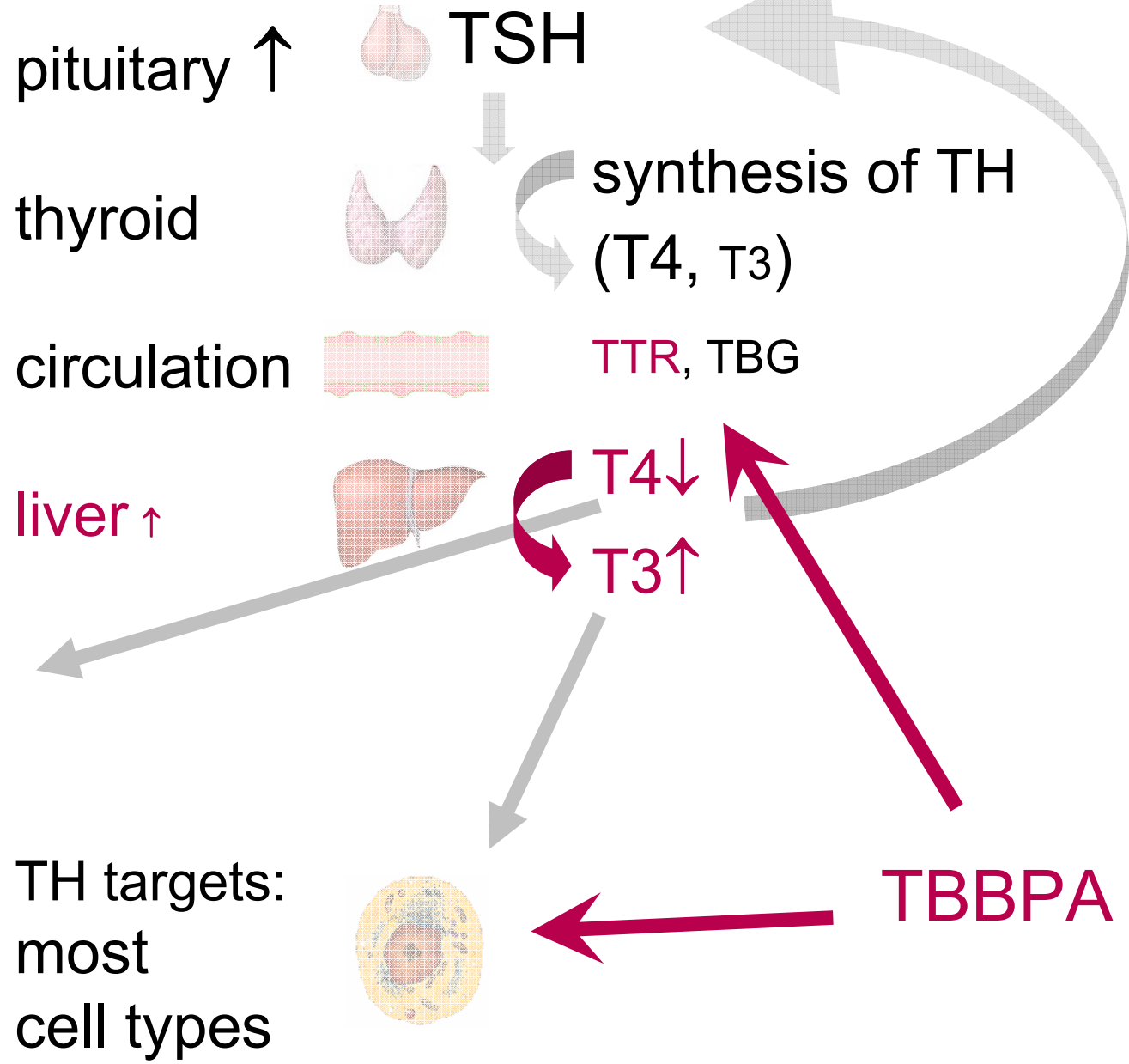
# *in vitro* bioassays for endocrine activity

Compound	PR 300	AR 200	TScreen 200a	TTR	ESULT	ER 300	DR 200a	ER 200a	DR 200	TScreen 200	PR 200a	AR 200a
TBBPA	1	1	1	5	5	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
BDE39	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	3
BDE99	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	3
BDE127	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	2	3
BDE185	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	2

- transthyretin binding
- TH receptor interaction

*Hamers et al., Toxicol. Sci. 2006*

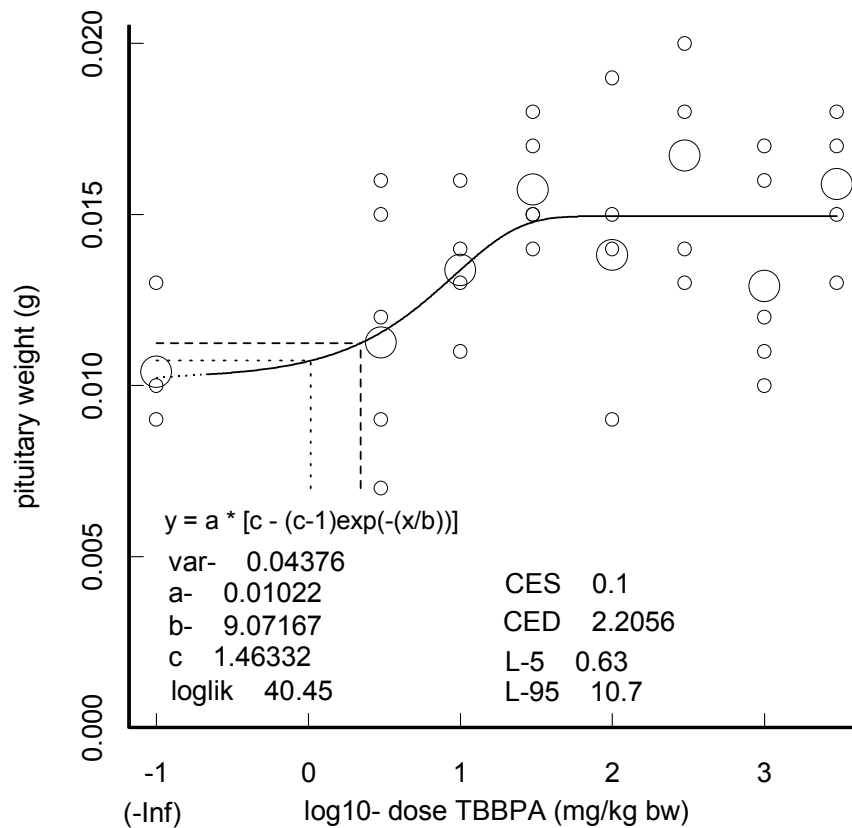




- metabolism**
- P450 detox
  - glucuronidation
  - deiodination

# pituitary weight (males)

Pituitary weights in F1 males after TBBPA

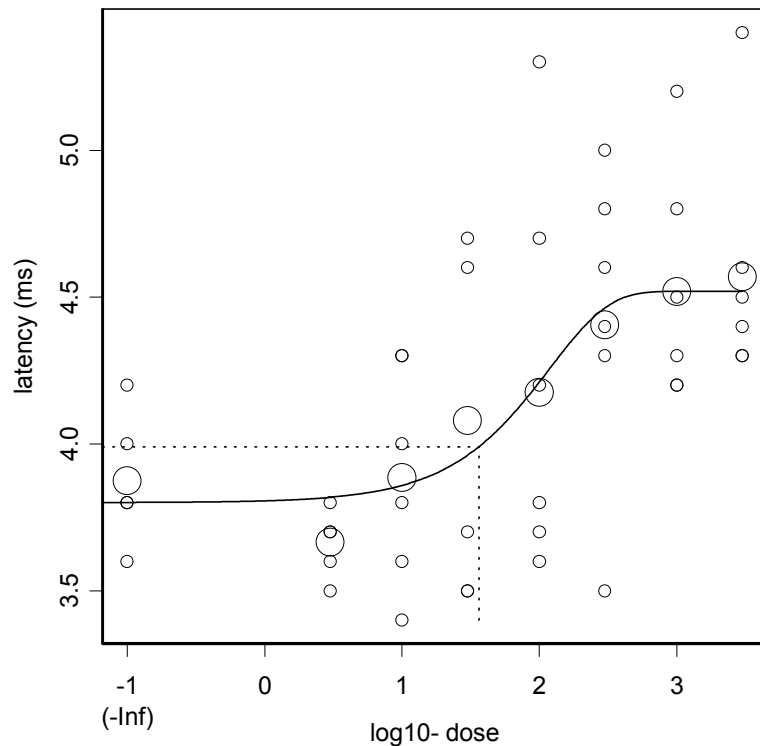


- statistically not associated with TH effects
- no increased TSH immunostaining
- no effect on thyroid gland

# Brainstem auditory evoked potentials (BAEP)

0.5 – 1 – 2 – 4 – 8 – 16 kHz

Latency wave IV - 0.5 kHz (males)  
model 5 in terms of CED



secondary to  
disruption of TH

	females		males	
	BMDL	size	BMDL	size

thresholds

0.5 kHz	42	12%		
2 kHz	0.9	13%		

latencies – wave II

0.5 kHz	33	10%		
1 kHz	1029			
8 kHz	10			
16 kHz			1869	

latencies – wave IV

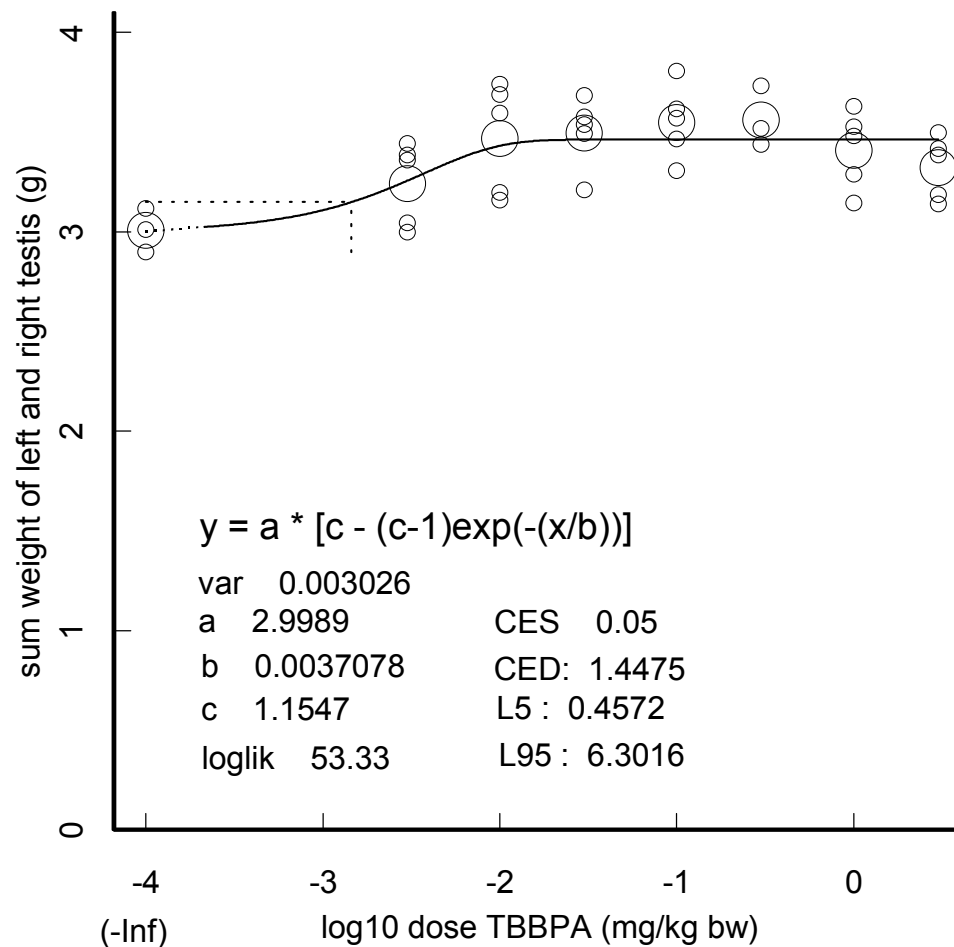
0.5 kHz	8	11%	<b>8</b>	<b>19%</b>
1 kHz			19	
2 kHz			56	21%
4 kHz			59	
click 60 dB	34	8%		

# TBBPA effects on sex hormone related parameters:

testis weight ↑  
 pituitary weight ↑  
 gonad m d21 weight ↑

*associated with*  
 gonad f d21 weight  
 uterus weight  
 endometrium size  
 saccharin intake f  
 testosterone m

Testis weight in F1 males after TBBPA



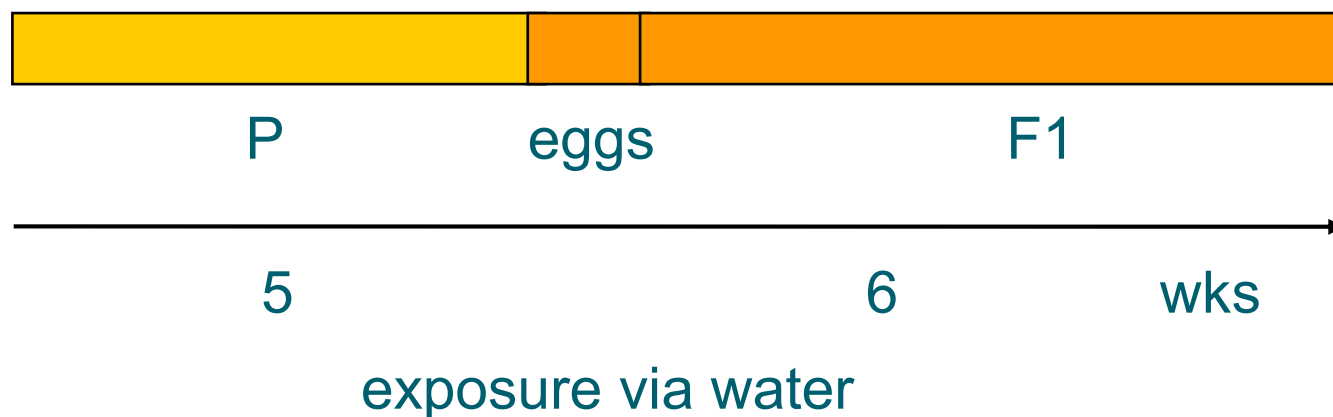
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Compound	AR 200	AR 200	ToScreen 200a	TTR	ER-SULT	ER 200	DR 200a	ER 200a	DR 200	ToScreen 200	AR 200a	AR 200a
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BDE127	1	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	2	3
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- E2 sulfation inhibition

*Hamers et al., Toxicol. Sci. 2006*

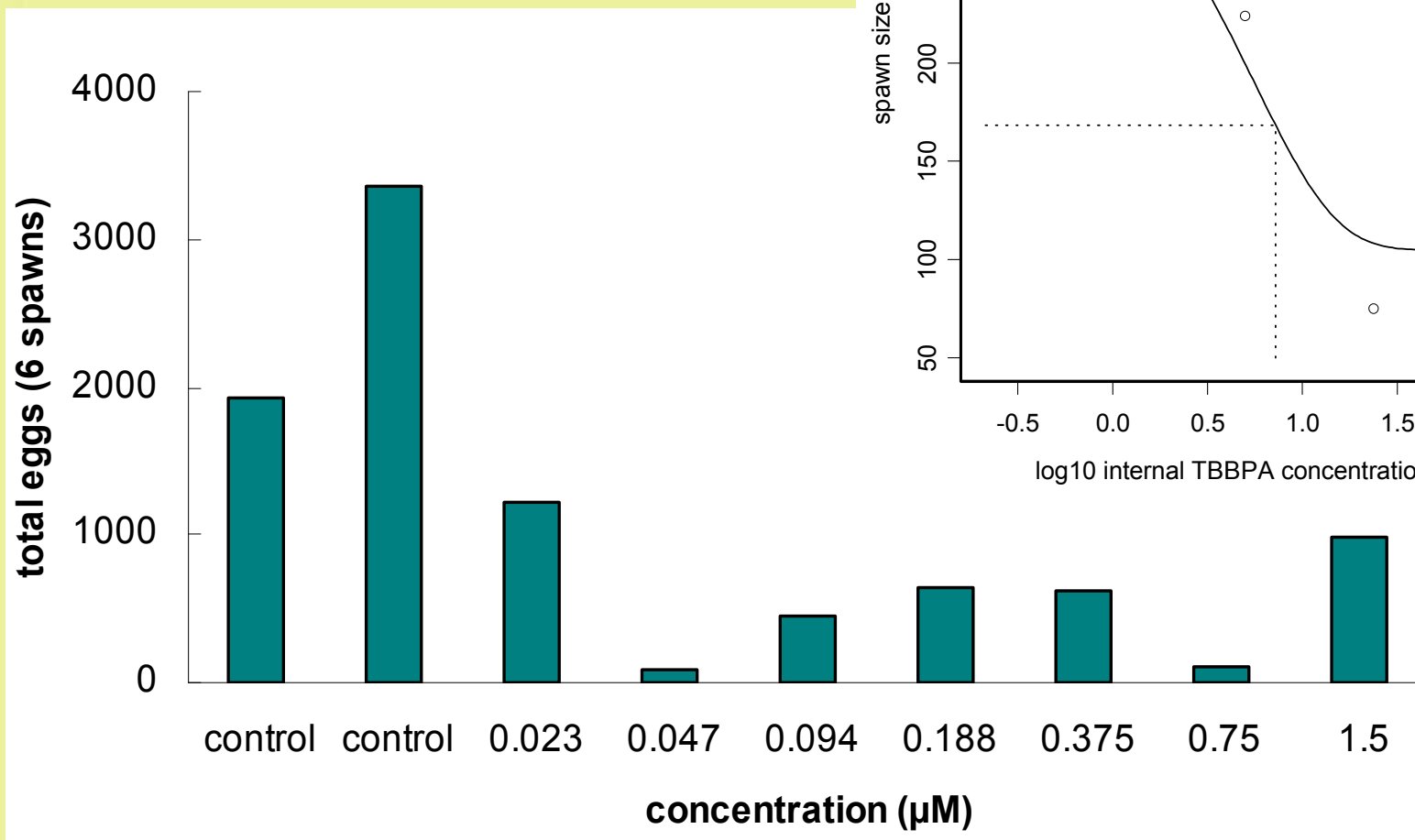
# zebrafish partial life cycle assay



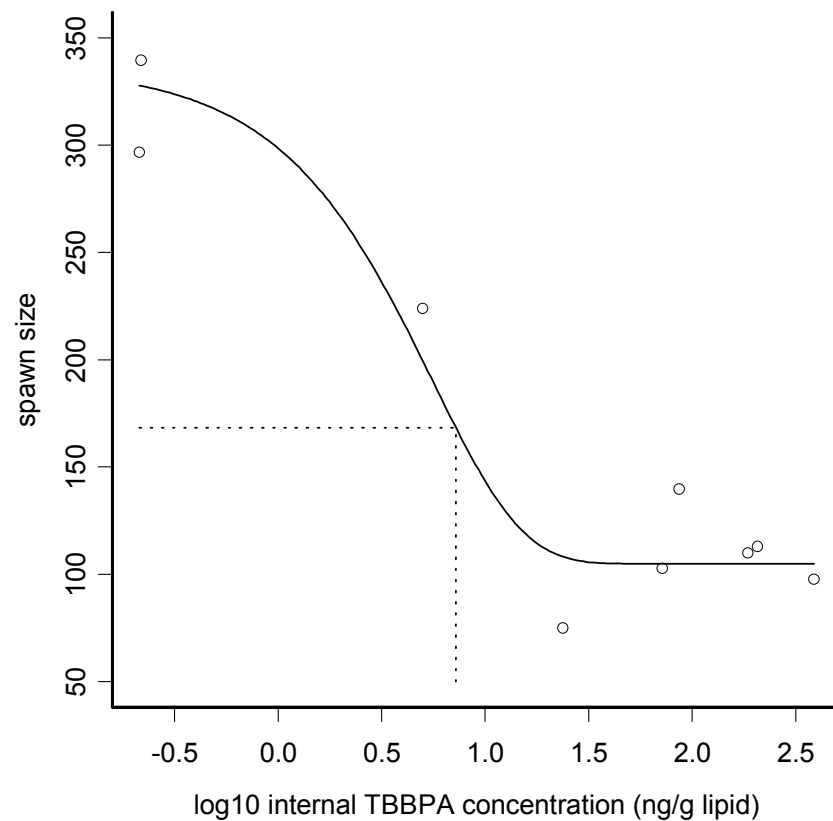
- reproductive performance
- juvenile growth & development
- histopathology

# reproductive performance

## egg production



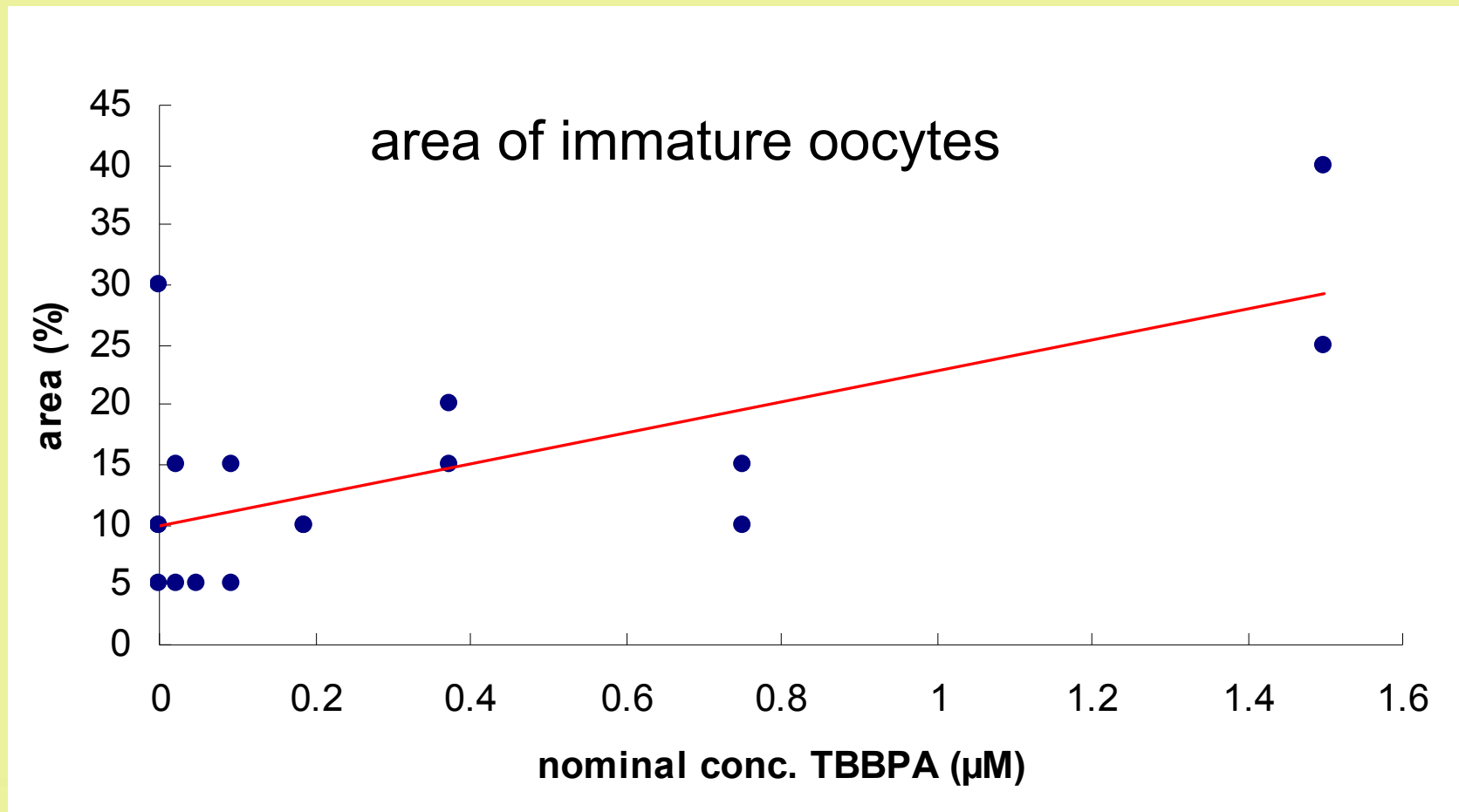
## average spawn size



version: 08  
var- 0.02826  
a- 336.45259  
CED- 7.23698  
c 0.31188  
loglik 3.28  
CES: -0.5  
conv: TRUE  
sf.x: 1000  
dtype: 1  
selected: all  
  
L-5 3.9038  
L-95 14.3181

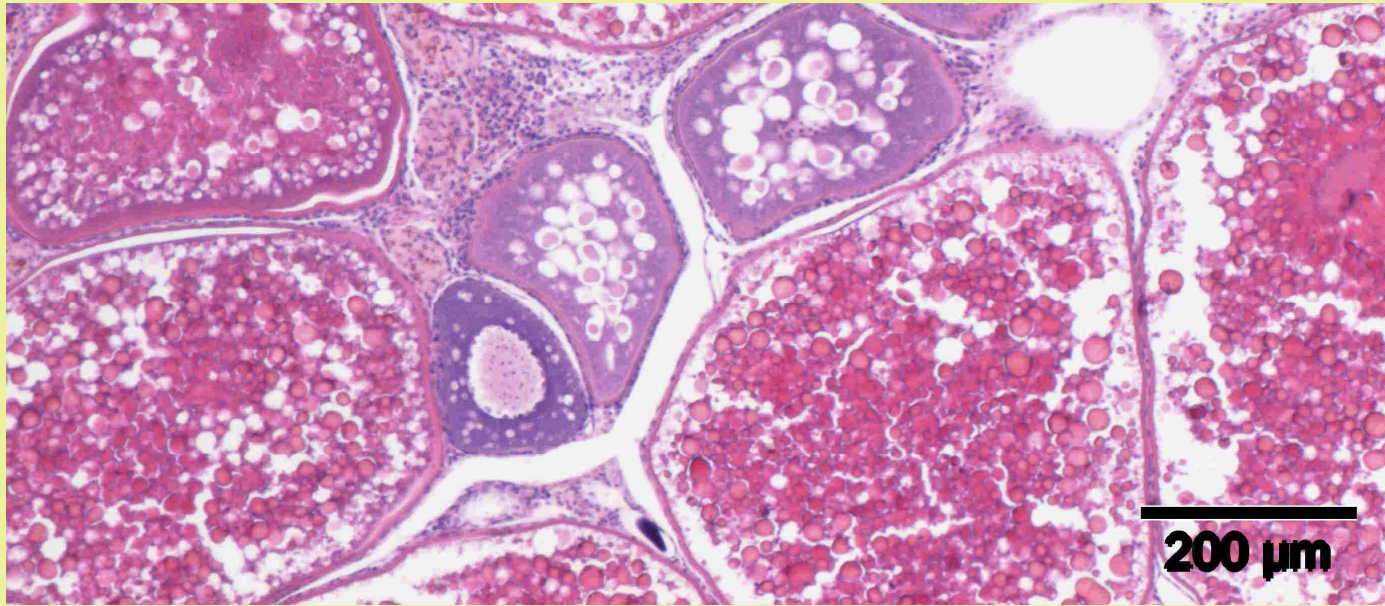
*Kuiper et al., Arch. Toxicol. 2007*

# reproduction – decrease of mature oocytes in the ovary

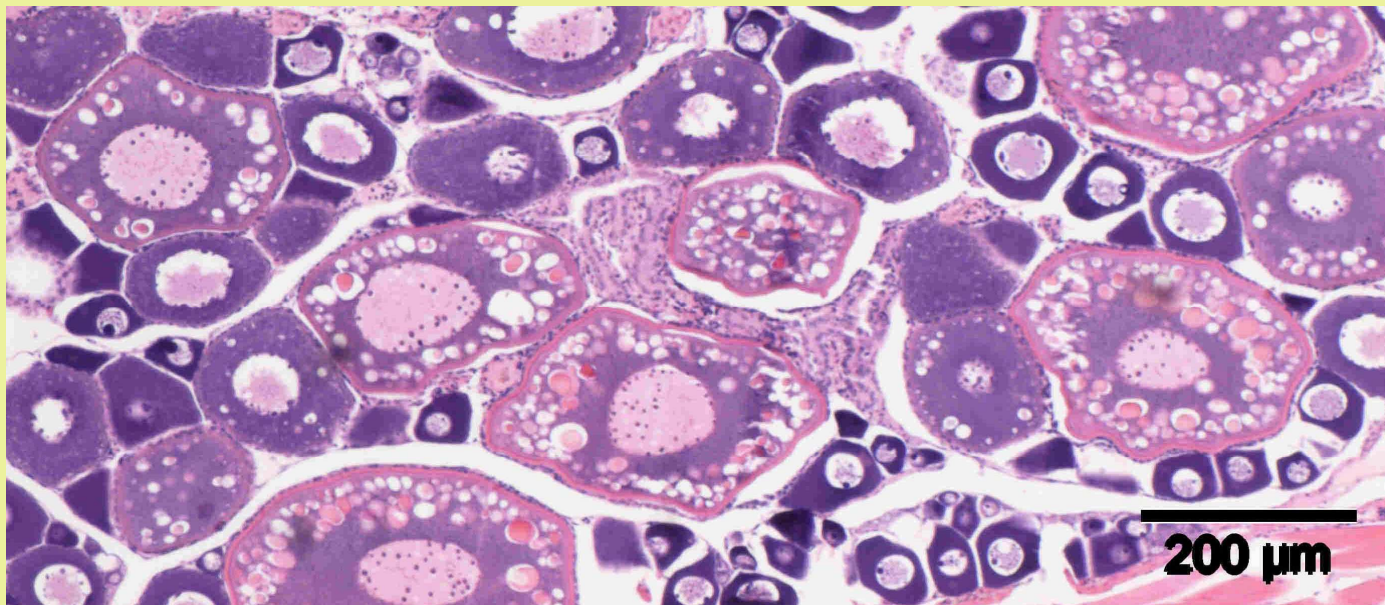




# reproduction - ovary histopathology

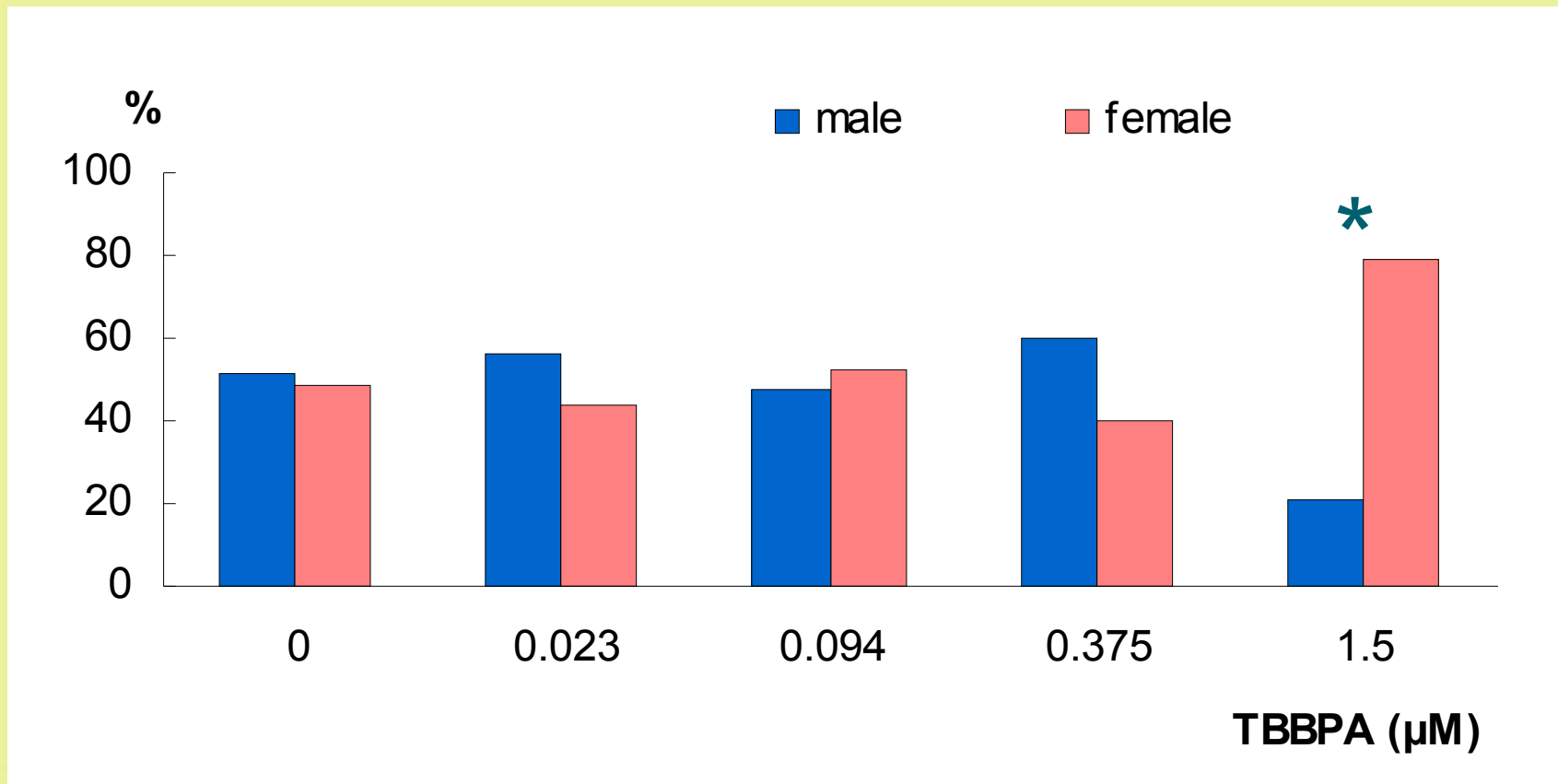


control



1.5 μM  
TBBPA

# F1 development – skewed sex ratio



# summary developmental effects of TBBPA

## rats

- neurobehaviour, related to TH
- (male) gonads, sex steroid related?

## zebrafish

- estrogenic

complementary models

# Risk Assessment TBBPA

## humans

- **estimated exposure** (EU-RAR)
  - 0.19 mg/kg/d (workers; consumers)
  - 0.024 µg/kg/d (consumers, scenario 2)
- **health effects**
  - testis weight BMDL 0.5 mg/kg/d
  - pituitary weight BMDL 0.6 mg/kg/d
- **margin of exposure** 2.6 (occupational / consumers) → concern!  
or >100 (consumers, scenario 2)

## aquatic wildlife

- margin of exposure zebrafish – aquatic environment >100

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Rija van Loenen

***immunotechnique***

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