

Contents

Abstract	I
Zusammenfassung	III
Abbreviations	VI
List of Figures	IX
List of Tables	X
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Mixtures	1
1.1.1 Exposure to chemical mixtures	1
1.1.2 Combination effects	2
1.1.3 Risk assessment	4
1.1.4 Mathematical modeling	5
1.2 Liver - one target organ of human toxicity	6
1.2.1 Steatosis	7
1.2.2 Nuclear receptors	8
1.3 Approach for the toxicological investigation of mixtures	10
1.3.1 AOP of steatosis	10
1.3.2 Test compound selection	12
2 Objective	14
3 Material and Methods	15
3.1 Liver cell lines	15
3.2 AOP-based assays	15
3.2.1 Nuclear receptor activation	16
3.2.2 Gene expression analysis	16
3.2.3 Knockdown via siRNA	16
3.2.4 Triglyceride accumulation	17
3.3 Metabolism-based assays	17
3.4 Experimental design of mixture studies	17

4	Cumulative Part - Summary of Results	19
4.1	Publication I - Mixture effects of chemicals: The difficulty to choose appropriate mathematical models for appropriate conclusions	19
4.2	Publication II - Combinations of LXR and RXR agonists induce triglyceride accumulation in human HepaRG cells in a synergistic manner	20
4.3	Publication III - More than additive effects on liver triglyceride accumulation by combinations of steatotic and non-steatotic pesticides in HepaRG cells	22
5	Summarizing Discussion	26
5.1	Study design of mixture experiments	26
5.2	Comparison of mathematical mixture models	27
5.3	Thresholds for mixture models	29
5.4	Whole concentration-response curve for mathematical modeling	30
5.5	Substance interactions in mixtures	31
5.6	AOP as a useful framework for the investigation of steatosis	32
5.7	Evaluation of different endpoints	33
5.8	<i>In vitro</i> and <i>in silico</i> investigations for mixture studies	34
6	Conclusion and future perspective	36
7	References	37
8	Publications	55
8.1	Mixture effects of chemicals: The difficulty to choose appropriate mathematical models for appropriate conclusions	56
8.1.1	Abstract	57
8.1.2	Introduction	58
8.1.3	Materials and methods	59
8.1.4	Results	62
8.1.5	Discussion	67
8.1.6	Conclusion	70
8.1.7	Supplementary Data	72
8.1.8	References	78
8.2	Combinations of LXR and RXR agonists induce triglyceride accumulation in human HepaRG cells in a synergistic manner	82
8.2.1	Abstract	83

8.2.2	Introduction	84
8.2.3	Materials and methods	86
8.2.4	Results	94
8.2.5	Discussion	104
8.2.6	Supplementary Data	108
8.2.7	References	110
8.3	More than additive effects on liver triglyceride accumulation by combinations of steatotic and non-steatotic pesticides in HepaRG cells	118
8.3.1	Abstract	119
8.3.2	Introduction	121
8.3.3	Materials and methods	122
8.3.4	Results	129
8.3.5	Discussion	137
8.3.6	Supplementary Data	142
8.3.7	References	149
	Acknowledgments	155
	Selbstständigkeitserklärung	157