

LIST OF CONTENTS

List of manuscripts	I
List of contents	II
Figure Index	V
Table Index	VI
Abbreviations	VII
Summary	X
Zusammenfassung	XII
Resumen	XIV
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Eutrophication and cyanobacteria	1
1.2 Presence of microcystins in fresh waters worldwide	6
1.3 Effects of microcystins in freshwater environments	8
1.3.1 Oxidative stress and formation of reactive oxygen species	9
1.4 Defense Mechanisms in macrophytes	12
1.4.1 Biotransformation	16
2. Objectives	20
3. Materials and Methods	22
3.1 Chemicals, technical equipment and software	22
3.2 Analytic determination and quantification of microcystins	24
3.3 Microcystin extraction from laboratory and field study samples ..	24
3.3.1 Calculation of microcystin uptake and biotransformation rates, biotransformation and bioconcentration factors in macrophytes ..	26
3.4 Cyanobacterial cell free crude extract preparation	27
3.5 Model macrophytes used in laboratory experiments	28
3.6 Laboratory exposure scenarios	31
3.7 Macrophyte non-enzymatic defense: Glutathione and Glutathione disulfide	35
3.8 Macrophyte enzymatic defense systems	36
3.8.1 Protein and enzyme extraction	36
3.8.2 Protein concentration	36
3.8.3 Enzyme activity measurements	36
3.9 Photosynthetic pigment concentrations	38
3.10 Field study	39
3.10.1 Sampling Site: Lake Amatitlán, Guatemala	39

3.10.2	<i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i> bloom, lake water, macrophytes and agricultural products sampling	40
3.10.3	Identification and quantification of cyanobacterial and macrophyte species	43
3.11	Statistical Analysis	44
4.	Results	46
4.1	Phase I-Laboratory studies	46
4.1.1	Time dependent cell free CE microcystins uptake and bioaccumulation in three macrophytes	46
4.1.2	Time dependent physiological and biochemical effects in three macrophytes exposed to cell free CE microcystins	48
4.2	Phase II-Field Study	53
4.2.1	Cyanobacterial bloom species identification and microcystin quantification	53
4.2.2	Microcystin bioaccumulation capacities in four macrophytes from field samples	54
4.2.3	Microcystin bioaccumulation in agricultural products	54
4.2.4	<i>In situ</i> and <i>In vivo</i> bioaccumulation of microcystins in <i>H. verticillata</i>	55
4.3	Comparison of microcystin uptake and bioaccumulation capacities of macrophytes from laboratory and field studies	55
5.	Discussion	57
5.1	Laboratory studies	57
5.1.1	Microcystin uptake, bioaccumulation and biotransformation potential in exposed macrophytes	57
5.1.2	Microcystin cell free crude extract physiological and biochemical effects in three macrophytes	60
5.2	Field studies in Lake Amatitlán, Guatemala	62
5.2.1	Microcystin quantification and bioaccumulation in sampled macrophytes and their phytoremediation potential	62
5.3	Comparisson of calculated microcystin bioconcentration factors obtained from laboratory and field studies	64
6.	Conclusions	67
7.	Reference List	70
8.	Acknowledgments	82
PAPER 1		84
PAPER 2		94
PAPER 3		106