

# TOOLS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF STRUCTURAL ALERTS FOR BOTH PRE- AND PRO-HAPTENS



International Dialogue for the Evaluation of Allergens

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# FLOW OF PRESENTATION

- Skin sensitization alerts
- Identification of Pre/Pro hapten mechanisms – In silico tools
- Examples of Pre/Pro hapten identification using TIMES-SS
- Experimental identification of Pre/Pro hapten
- Limitations
- Summary

# SKIN SENSITIZATION

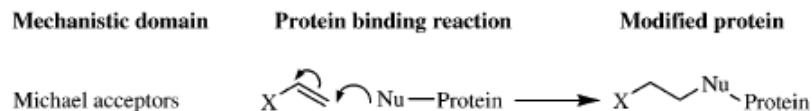
- Skin sensitization to chemicals, in most cases if not all, involves a reaction with nucleophilic groups on skin protein, leading to formation of antigens (Haptenation; OECD AOP Key Event 1).
- Degree of haptenation/alkylation could be predicted using Relative Alkylation Index (RAI) Model

$$\text{RAI} = \log D + A \log k + B \log P \quad \text{or} \quad \text{pEC3} = a \log k + b \log P + C$$

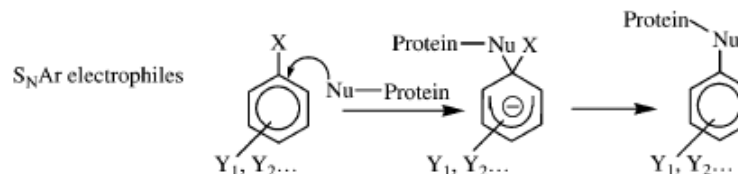
- Hydrophobicity ( $\log P$ ), reactivity ( $\log k$ ) and dose ( $D$ )

Roberts DW et. al. SAR and QSAR in Environmental research, (2007)18;343-365

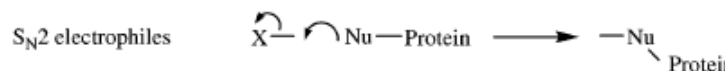
## Scheme 1. Reaction Mechanistic Applicability Domains



*Identification characteristics.* Double or triple bond with electron-withdrawing substituent X, such as -CHO, -COR, -CO<sub>2</sub>R, -CN, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -NO<sub>2</sub>...Includes para quinones and ortho quinones, often formed by oxidation of para and ortho dihydroxy aromatics acting as pro-Michael acceptors. X can also be a heterocyclic group such as 2-pyridino or 4-pyridino.



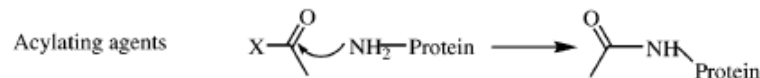
*Identification characteristics.* X = halogen or pseudohalogen, Y's are electron withdrawing groups (at least two) such as -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -CHO, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -SOMe, -SO<sub>2</sub>Me, ring fused nitrogen...One halogen is too weak to act as an X, but several halogens together can activate.



*Identification characteristics.* X = halogen or other leaving group, e.g. OSO<sub>2</sub>(R or Ar), OSO<sub>2</sub>O(R or Ar) bonded to primary alkyl, benzylic, or allylic carbon. OR and NHR or NR<sub>2</sub> do not usually act as leaving groups, but can do so if part of a strained 3-membered ring (e.g. epoxides, ethylenimine and substituted derivatives).

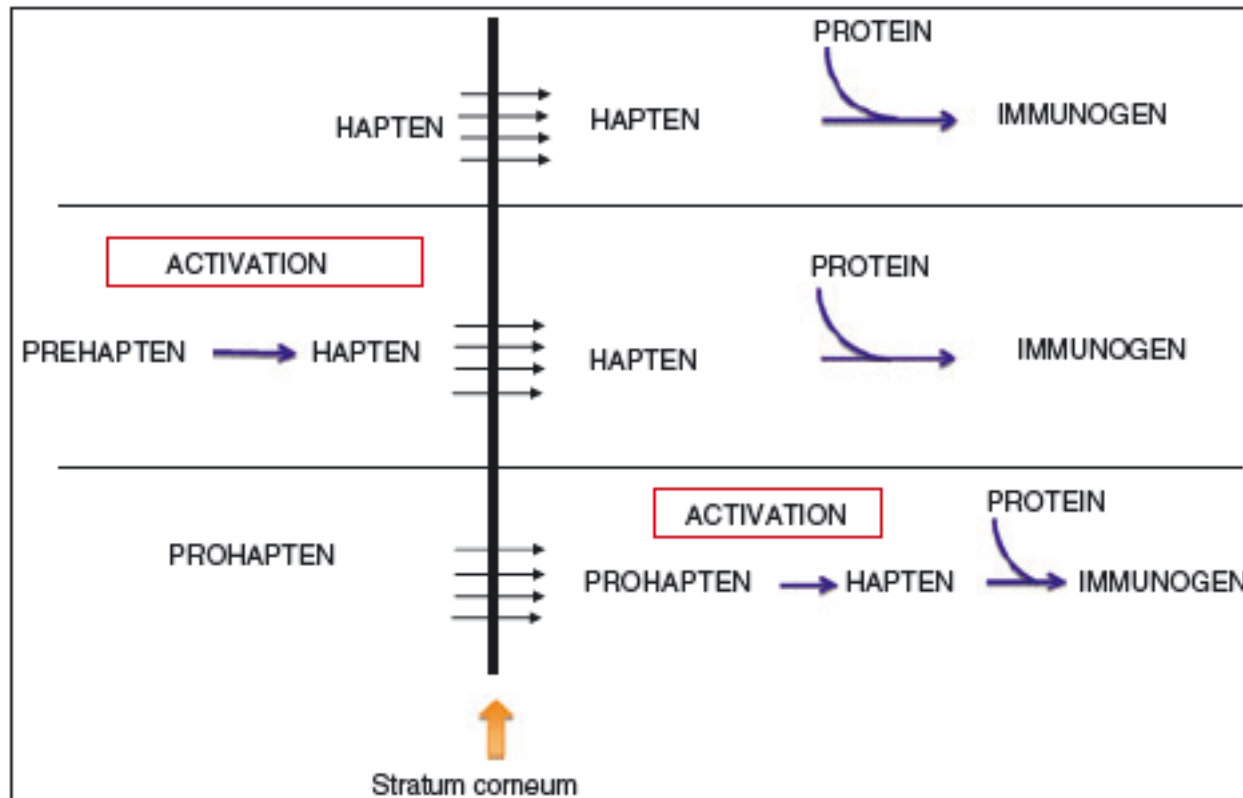


*Identification characteristics.* Reactive carbonyl compounds such as aliphatic aldehydes, some α,β- and α,γ-diketones, α-ketoesters. Not simple monoketones and aromatic aldehydes. Other hetero-unsaturated systems can behave analogously, e.g. C-nitroso compounds, thiocarbonyl compounds (C=S), cyanates and isocyanates, thiocyanates and isothiocyanates.



*Identification characteristics.* X = halogen, or other group (e.g. -OC<sub>6</sub>H<sub>5</sub>) such that XH is acidic enough for X<sup>-</sup> to act as a good leaving group. Includes anhydrides, cyclic or non-cyclic. X = -Oalkyl does not qualify, except when part of a strained lactone ring, e.g. β-propiolactone (but not γ-butyrolactone). Analogous reactions can occur with attack at sulfonyl S, phosphoryl P and thioacyl C.

# PRE/PRO HAPTENS



# IN SILICO TOOLS FOR PRE/PRO HAPTENS

- OECD (Q)SAR toolbox (Developed by LMC OASIS, Bourgas, Bulgaria)
  - Metabolism simulators – Autooxidation simulator and Skin metabolism simulator
  - List of metabolites
- TIMES-SS (Developed by LMC OASIS, Bourgas, Bulgaria)
  - Hybrid system ((Q)SAR with Metabolism including Autooxidation)
  - Simulates in-vivo skin metabolism with auto-oxidation
  - Effect of metabolism on skin sensitization potential
- Meteor Nexus (Developed by Lhasa, Leeds, UK)
  - All biotransformation reactions
  - How likely a reaction will occur
  - Metabolite toxicity prediction from Derek Nexus

- **TIMES-SS:** Collaboration with Prof. Mekenyan and Dr. Dave Roberts
- **Assumptions:**
  - 1. Chemicals always penetrate stratum corneum
  - 2. Formation of protein conjugates is a premise for ultimate effect
  - 3. Metabolism may play significant role in skin sensitization
- **Training set:** 875 chemicals with experimental data from three sources (436 LLNA, 568 GPMT and 171 BfR).
- 380 hierarchically ordered transformations
  - Non-enzymatic transformations e.g. Hydrolysis of salts, Autoxidation reactions
  - Enzyme-mediated reactions (Phase I and Phase II) e.g. C-hydroxylation, Glucoronidation
  - Covalent interactions of chemicals/metabolites with skin proteins are described by almost 160 protein binding reactions

The screenshot displays the Tissue Metabolite Simulator (v1.134) interface. It features a list of chemical structures on the left, a central table of transformations, and a right-hand panel with a chemical structure and a bar chart. Red callout boxes highlight specific features:

- Parent chemical and list with generated metabolite:** Points to the list of chemical structures at the top left.
- Hierarchically ordered list of transformations:** Points to the table of transformations in the center.
- Quantity of generated metabolites:** Points to the bar chart in the bottom right panel.
- Preview of generated metabolic tree:** Points to the metabolic tree diagram in the bottom left panel.

The transformation table shows the following data:

No.	Transformation	Source	Base Product	Forbidden
327	PGroup3: EDGroup3: H17 [Phase I] Oxidation	Pub: 4500, Toxval: wt = 1.000	<chem>CC(=O)N</chem>	
328	PGroup3: EDGroup3: H18 [Phase I] Oxidation	Pub: 4500, Toxval: wt = 0.500	<chem>Cc1ccc(N)cc1</chem>	

The bar chart, titled "Metabolites distribution", shows the quantity of metabolites for transformation 327. The x-axis is labeled "Metabolites" and the y-axis is "Quantity". The data points are:

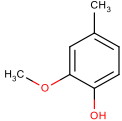
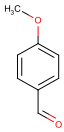
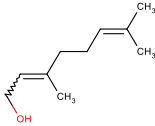
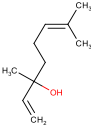
Metabolite	Quantity
Transformation 327: Quantity=0.0000	0.0000
Quantity=0.3600	0.3600
Quantity=0.3600	0.3600
Quantity=0.0000	0.0000
Quantity=0.1800	0.1800



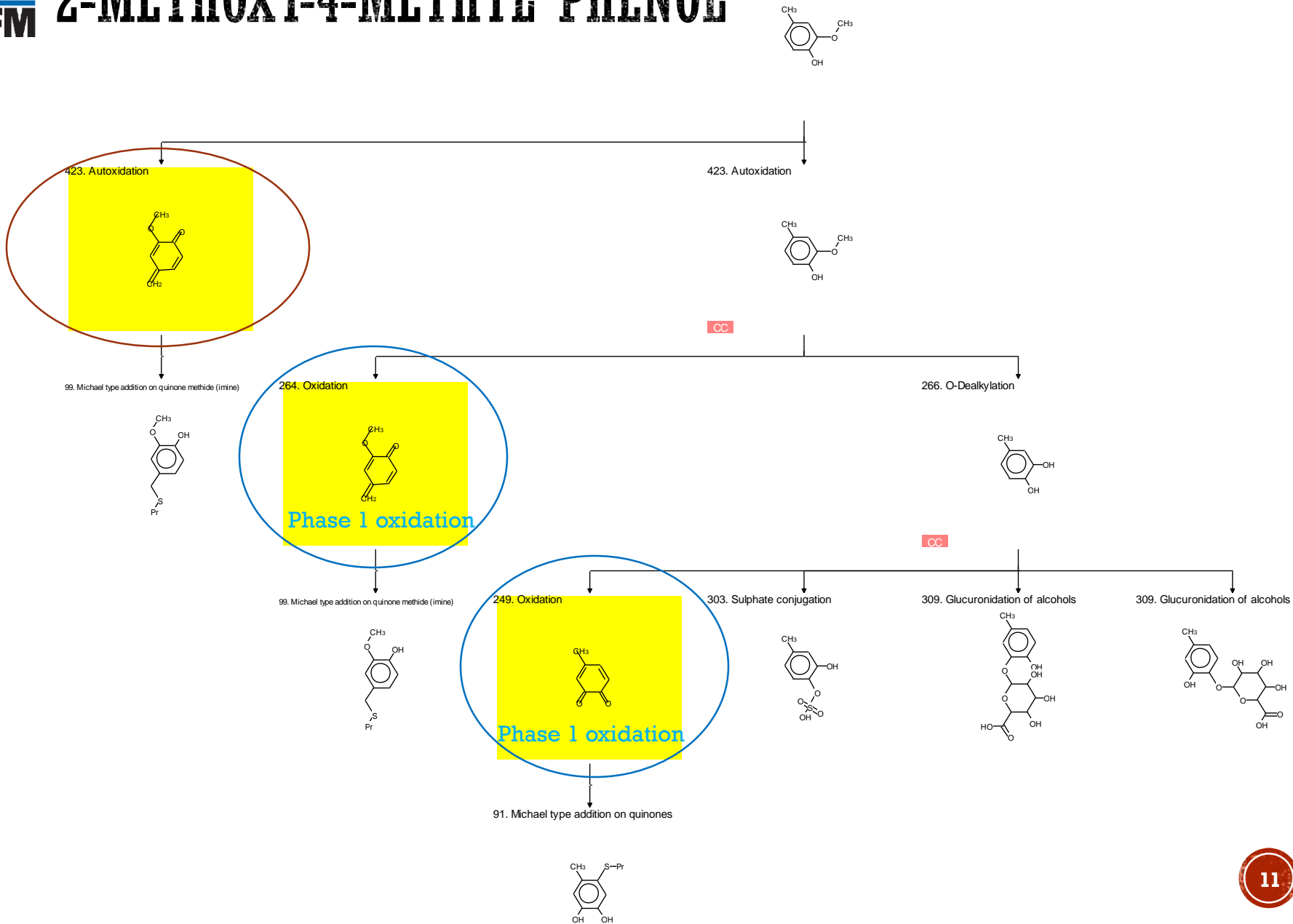
# TRANSFORMATION OF FRAGRANCE CHEMICALS

- Transformation alerts resulting in weak sensitizers
  - Hydroperoxides
  - Ketones
  - Quinone methide(s)/imines, Quinoide oxime structure, Nitroquinones
- Transformation alerts resulting in strong sensitizers
  - Epoxides, Aziridines and Sulfuranes
  - alpha, beta-Aldehydes
  - Di-substituted a,b-unsaturated aldehydes
  - Quinone methide(s)/imines, Quinoide oxime structure, Nitroquinones

# EXAMPLES FROM TIMES-SS v2.27.19

#	Parent Cas#	Parent Chem. Name	Parent Smiles	Parent skin_sens_exp	Parent Predicted SkinSens	Parent Total Domain	Metabolite Predicted SkinSens	Metabolite Active alert	Summary Predicted SkinSens
1	93-51-6	2-Methoxy-4-methyl phenol		Strong sensitizer	Non sensitizer	In domain	Strong sensitizer	Quinone methide(s)/imines, Quinoide oxime structure, Nitroquinones,	Strong sensitizer
2	123-11-5	p-Methoxybenzaldehyde		Non sensitizer	Non sensitizer	In domain			Non sensitizer
3	106-24-1	Geraniol		No data	Non sensitizer	In domain	Strong sensitizer	Di-substituted a,b-unsaturated aldehydes	Strong sensitizer
4	78-70-6	Linalool		Weak sensitizer	Non sensitizer	In domain	Weak sensitizer	Hydroperoxides	Weak sensitizer

# 2-METHOXY-4-METHYL PHENOL



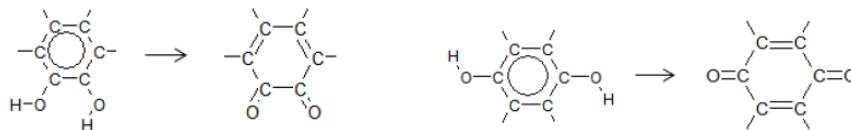
# QUINONE METHIDE(S)

## Oxidation

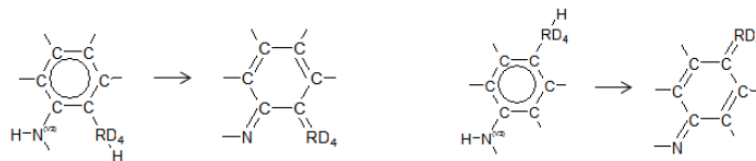
*The transformation is confirmed by 3<sup>rd</sup> party expert (Dr. D. Roberts)*

Oxidation transformations used in TIMES SS model are illustrated below:

- o- and p-quinones

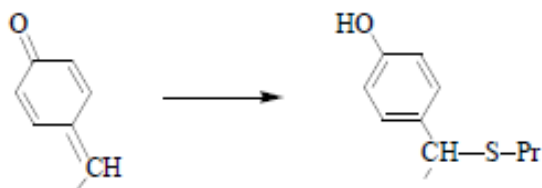


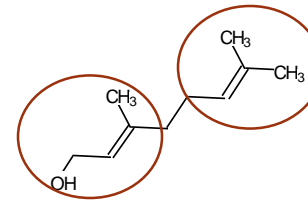
- o- and p-quinone (di)imines



The chemical is a strong sensitizer as a result of Michael type addition on quinone methide

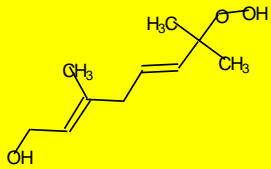
(imine):



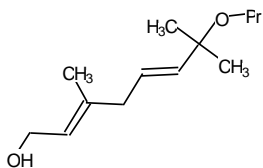


CC

423. Autoxidation

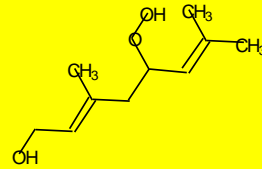


171. Hydroperoxide free radical decomposition

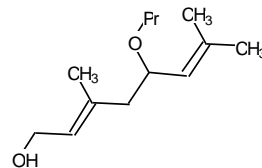


HD

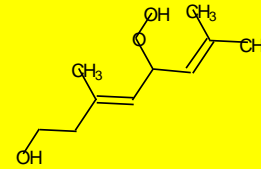
423. Autoxidation



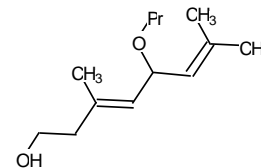
171. Hydroperoxide free radical decomposition



423. Autoxidation

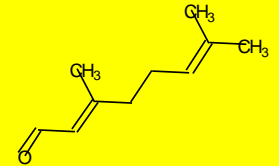


171. Hydroperoxide free radical decomposition



HD

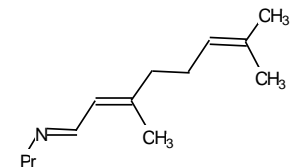
423. Autoxidation



**Strong sensitizer**

CC

78. Schiff base formation with disubstituted  $\alpha,\beta$ -aldehydes



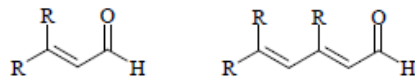
# DI-SUBSTITUTED $\alpha,\beta$ -UNSATURATED ALDEHYDES

Mechanistic Domain: Schiff base formation

Mechanistic Alert: Direct Acting Schiff Base Formers

Structural Alert: Di-substituted  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes

The chemical is a strong sensitizer as a result of Schiff base formation with disubstituted  $\alpha,\beta$ -aldehydes:



R = alkyl or aromatic carbon (including carbons in heterocyclic rings)

*Mechanism*

These chemicals have been suggested to act via Schiff base formation due to the steric hindrance at the  $\beta$ -carbon atom preventing Michael addition (Roberts *et al.*, 2006).

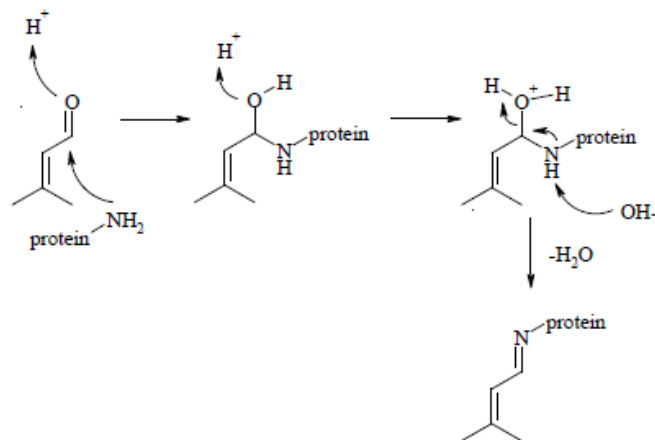
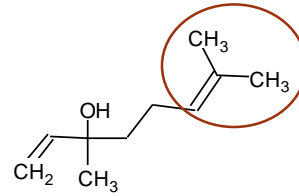


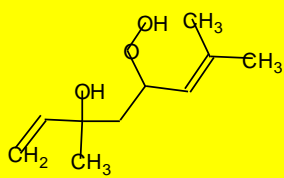
Figure 1: Mechanism for Schiff base formation for di-substituted  $\alpha,\beta$ -unsaturated aldehydes

# LINALOOL

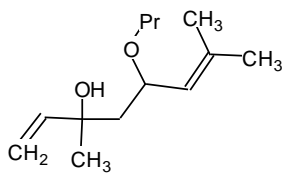


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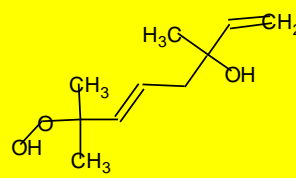
423. Autoxidation



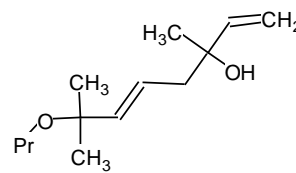
171. Hydroperoxide free radical decomposition



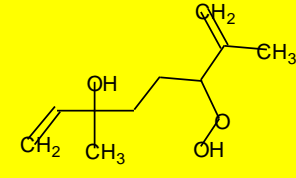
423. Autoxidation



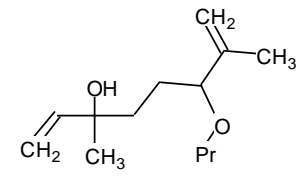
171. Hydroperoxide free radical decomposition



423. Autoxidation



171. Hydroperoxide free radical decomposition



# HYDROPEROXIDES

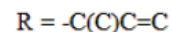
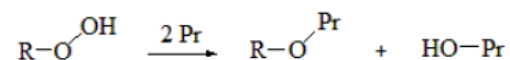
The reliability of the transformation is supported by Dr D. Roberts,  
 School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University,  
 Liverpool, England L3 3AF

Mechanistic Domain: Radical reactions

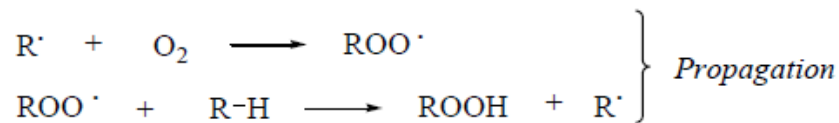
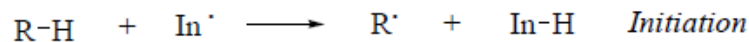
Mechanistic Alert: Free Radical formation

Structural Alert: Hydroperoxides

The chemical has an assumptive weak sensitization effect as a result of **Hydroperoxide free radical decomposition:**

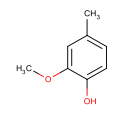
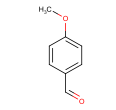
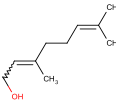
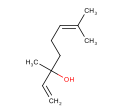


Autoxidation can be defined as insertion of oxygen into a C-H bond forming a hydroperoxide (ROOH). Autoxidation is a free radical chain reaction:





# EXPERIMENTAL IDENTIFICATION OF PRE/PRO HAPTENS

#	Parent Cas#	Parent Chem. Name	Parent chemical	Parent Predicted SkinSens	Summary Predicted SkinSens	Parent Total Domain	KE-1		KE-2	KE-3		KE-4	ADVERSE OUTCOME	
							DPRA	PPRA	KeratinoSens™	hCLAT	U-Sens™	LLNA (%) EC3	LOEL (µg/cm <sup>2</sup> )	NOEL (µg/cm <sup>2</sup> )
1 <sup>#</sup>	93-51-6	2-Methoxy-4-methyl phenol		Non sensitiser	Strong sensitiser	In domain	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Pos	5.80%	NA	118
2	123-11-5	p-Metoxybenaldehyde		Non sensitiser	Non sensitiser	In domain	Neg/Pos	Pos	Neg <sup>§</sup>	Pos	Pos	>25%	4700	3500
3 <sup>#</sup>	106-24-1	Geraniol		Non sensitiser	Strong sensitiser	In domain	Neg	NA	Neg	Pos	Pos	22.4%*	NA	11800
4 <sup>#</sup>	78-70-6	Linalool		Non sensitiser	Weak sensitiser	In domain	Neg	NA	Neg	Pos	Pos	46.2%*	NA	15000

\* EC3 value of pure material as reviewed by Uter W et. al Contact Dermatitis, 69 (2013) 196-230

# In-vitro data, except PPRA, are reported in Urbisch et. al Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology, 71 (2015) 337-351

§ KeratinoSens™ data provided by Andreas Natsch, Givaudan Inc.

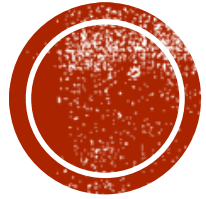
- Literature reports of activating a chemical using Air exposure/CYP before testing in one or more of the above methods
  - A-T Karlberg group e.g. Hagvall et. al Toxicology and Applied Pharmacology 233 (2008) 308-313
  - Andreas Natsch Rat liver S9 fraction in KeratinoSens™ e.g. Toxicological Sciences 135(2) (2013) 356-368
- Patlewicz G. et. al. Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology 82 (2016) 147e155
  - EURL ECVAM dataset of 127 indirect acting sensitizers (J-P Lepoittevin, DW Roberts, A-T Karlberg and G Patlewicz)
  - Concluded that “sensitizers requiring activation could be identified correctly using one or more of the current non-animal methods”

# LIMITATIONS OF THE TOOLS

- TIMES-SS is not a perfect in silico tool, it is most advanced –
  - Strong sens. 91%
  - Weak sens. 52%
  - Non sens. 70%
  - Overall performance: 78%
- Relevance of all alerts/transformations to positive outcomes in humans in real life scenario ?
- DPRA – One concentration, One time point
- KeratinoSens™ – Limited metabolic capacity
- hCLAT/U-Sens™ – Limited metabolic capacity

# SUMMARY

- Skin sensitization is a reactivity driven endpoint (Molecular Initiating Event)
- Chemicals, including fragrance ingredients, could be divided into various reaction mechanistic domains “Alerts”
- Chemicals that are non-sensitizers could be activated by (a)biotic transformations
- TIMES-SS can identify Pre/Pro haptens
- Validated In-chemico and In-vitro methods can identify indirect acting sensitizers



**THANK YOU!**