

## Preface

Ecotoxicology is concerned with chemicals in the environment, their transport and fate, their effects on man, other living organisms and the ecosystems as a whole.

The first concrete achievement of SCOPE in this new field was the publication of *Principles of Ecotoxicology* (SCOPE 12) in 1978, under the editorship of Gordon Butler. Basic concepts and methods were defined and described, covering pollutant transfer and transformation as well as the quantitative assessment of effects.

Several problems were recognized as requiring more detailed examination, which led the SCOPE Executive Committee to confirm ecotoxicology as one of its main project areas and to appoint in November 1979 a scientific advisory committee composed of:

Ph. Bourdeau, Brussels (Chairman)  
G. C. Butler, Ottawa  
F. Korte, Munich-Neuherberg  
C. R. Krishna-Murti, Lucknow  
D. R. Miller, Ottawa  
R. Truhaut, Paris

Two projects were initially approved. One dealing with the effects of pollutants at the ecosystem level resulted in the publication of SCOPE 22.

The other addressed the appraisal of tests to predict the 'behaviour' of chemicals in the environment. A working group was set up under the leadership of Friedhelm Korte and Werner Klein to carry out the study and to prepare the present report.\*

Following the procedure applied to SCOPE 12 and 21, an outline was developed and agreed by the advisory committee and experts were selected and invited to contribute draft chapters. The manuscripts were critically analysed and harmonized at meetings with the authors and the editorial group. The report is, therefore, the product of a true collective effort.

\*It should be noted that another series of reports pertaining to toxicology and ecotoxicology is prepared by SGOMSEC (Scientific Group on Methodologies for the Evaluation of the Safety of Environmental Chemicals), a joint SCOPE-WHO group which concentrates on the methodological aspects.

The writers of the various chapters, who freely contributed their time and effort, are thanked wholeheartedly, as well as those who took on the major task of editing (I. Scheunert, P. J. Sheehan, J. R. Roberts).

Financial help from SCOPE, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the Commission of the European Communities and the Gesellschaft für Strahlen- und Umweltforschung is gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, the unflagging hospitality of the Institut für Ökologische Chemie of the GSF for meetings of writers and editors is very much appreciated.

Ph. Bourdeau