

Supporting Information

Medium-chain Chlorinated Paraffins (CPs) dominate in Australian sewage sludge

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Materials

The following eight commercial available CP standard mixtures were used for the deconvolution of the SCCP, MCCP and LCCP pattern in the 15 sewage sludge samples;

- Chlorinated paraffin C10-C13 51.5% Cl (SCCP 51.5% Cl)
- Chlorinated paraffin C10-C13 55.5% Cl (SCCP 55.5% Cl)
- Chlorinated paraffin C10-C13 63% Cl (SCCP 63% Cl)
- Chlorinated paraffin C14-C17 42% Cl (MCCP 42% Cl)
- Chlorinated paraffin C14-C17 52% Cl (MCCP 52% Cl)
- Chlorinated paraffin C14-C17 57% Cl (MCCP 57% Cl)
- Chlorinated paraffin C18-C20 36% Cl (LCCP 36% Cl)
- Chlorinated paraffin C18-C20 49% Cl (LCCP 49% Cl)

The concentration of the eight commercial CP standard mixtures was 100 ng/ μ L and purchased from Dr. Ehrenstorfer GmbH (Augsburg, Germany). All solvents and chemicals used were HPLC analysis grade. *N*-hexane, acetonitrile (ACN), acetone and dichloromethane (DCM) were used for extraction cleanup and analysis. Mass labeled ($^{13}\text{C}_6$) pentachlorophenol was used as injection standard and was purchased from Sigma Aldrich (Sunnyvale, CA, USA). Silicagel (63-200 μm) was also purchased from Sigma Aldrich (Sunnyvale, CA, USA), aluminum oxide (MP EcoChromTM Alumina B-Super I from MP Biomedical (Seven Hills, NSW, Australia) and Chem tube-hydromatrix was purchased from Agilent Technologies.

Sampling collection

Sewage sludge sampling occurred from the 4th March – 1st May 2014. Local sewage sludge samples were collected by Entox and samples from interstate were collected by WWTP employees. Samples were collected following the final dewatering step (typically the belt press or centrifuge) to represent the final sewage sludge product that is removed from each WWTP. Eight sub samples were collected at one time point from most sites. Sites S10 and S15 collected subsamples over longer time periods (representing several days to approximately one month) to obtain the most representative sample of a production batch. The sample from Site S11 was collected in a sludge lagoon that represented approximately a year of sludge accumulation. At one site located in South Australia (S9), samples were also collected from a stockpile dating from December 2012 (S12). Samples were collected in glass jars that were pre-rinsed with acetone and *n*-hexane and were refrigerated or frozen and couriered on an overnight service to Entox. Sewage sludge sub-samples from each site were mixed vigorously whilst wet and freeze-dried. Freeze-dried sub-samples were then manually ground into a fine powder and pooled equally to make one pooled sample per site.

Deconvolution and quantification

The CP pattern measured in each sample was reconstructed into a linear combination of patterns of CPs of the technical mixtures using a deconvolution algorithm. First, the *m/z* values of CP congener groups in the analysed sample (*S*) and in the technical CP mixtures (*Y*) were extracted from the full scan spectra and peak areas were integrated. After correcting for the injection standard ($^{13}\text{C}_6$ -PCP), the peak area of each CP congener group (e.g. $\text{C}_{10}\text{C}_{14}$, $\text{C}_{10}\text{C}_{15}$, $\text{C}_{10}\text{C}_{16}$ etc.) was divided by the total sum of the peak areas of all congeners within each CP category (SCCPs, MCCPs or LCCPs). The sum of all CP congeners group within the corresponding CP category represents the relative contribution of each congener group to their CP category, which is also referred to as the congener group pattern (see Figure 2A for an example for SCCPs in sewage sludge sample S2). Also for the SCCP, MCCP, and LCCP technical formulations with known concentrations, their congener group patterns were calculated by the normalization procedure. The basic principle of the deconvolution procedure consists in assuming that for each CP category, its congener group pattern can be decomposed into a linear combination of the congener group patterns of

the technical formulations of the corresponding CP category. Thus, the following system of linear equations is obtained: $S = Y_1 \cdot X_1 + Y_2 \cdot X_2 + Y_3 \cdot X_3$ whereby, the known $S = [\dots]$ and $Y = [\dots]$ are the normalized CP congener group patterns of the sample and technical CP formulations, respectively (S/Y are vector/matrices with 34 lines corresponding to the 34 CP congener groups monitored here for the SCCPs). X_1, X_2, X_3 are three unknowns of the overdetermined equation system and represent the contribution of each of the three technical formulations (51.5%, 55%, 63% CI for the SCCPs) used to reconstruct (deconvolve) the CP congener pattern of the sample (see Figure 2B for an example of the reconstructed CP pattern in sewage sludge sample S2). The overdetermined equation system could be solved (i.e. X_1, X_2 , and X_3 estimated), following a least-squares approximation procedure in MATLAB with the following function $X = \text{lsqnonneg}(Y, S)$. This function allows no negative values for X_1, X_2 and X_3 . The X_1, X_2 and X_3 values were normalized to 1 in MATLAB using the following function ($X = X / \text{norm}(X, 1)$). The reconstructed CP pattern (i.e. the pattern recomposed with the estimated values of X_1, X_2 and X_3), was compared to the initial CP pattern of the analysed sample to determine the goodness of fit (R^2). Quantification was performed by external calibration standards, considering the known concentration of the technical CP mixtures and the instrumental response corrected for the contribution of the estimated X_1, X_2 and X_3 values of each of the three technical mixtures calculated for each sewage sludge sample.

Table S1. Details of the participating WWTPs

WWTP	Region	Connected population	Population Equivalents	Inflow volume (ML/d)	Biosolid Production (dry t/yr)	Source	Sludge treatment	Sampling point/s
S1	South-East Queensland	30,000	34,000	6	688	R; T	Activated sludge	Belt press
S2	South-East Queensland	455,000*	807,000	130	9198	R; T	Anaerobic digestors	Centrifuge
S3	North Queensland	25,000	31,000	6	475	R	Aerobic digestors	Belt press
S4	Northern Australia	32,100		18	3103	66% R; 33% C; 1% I	Flocculation, chemically assisted sludge treatment	Centrifuge
S5	South-East Queensland		200,000	45	4508	R, I, T	Activated sludge	Belt press
S6	South-East Queensland	30,000		5	566	R; I; T	Activated sludge	Centrifuge
S14	North Queensland	55,000	72,000	20	964	90% R; 8% I; 2% T	Aerobic digestors	Belt press
S16	North Queensland	27,000	25,000	5	1091	R	Activated sludge / bioreactor	Belt press
S7	Central New South Wales		115,000	27	1183	R; I; T	Aerobic digestors	Centrifuge
S9	Southern Australia	>600,000	850,000	145	22995	90% R; 8-10% T,I	Anaerobic digestors	Centrifuge
S10	South-East Queensland	285,000	325,000	50	4198	85% R; 15% T	Thermal hydrolysis then anaerobic digestors	Centrifuge
S11	Central New South Wales		32,000	7	423	R; I; T	Activated sludge	Mobile centrifuge at sludge lagoon
S13	Western Australia	>500,000		135	7884	Primarily R	Anaerobic digestors	Centrifuge
S15	North Queensland	51,000	68,600	24	1752	70% R; 30% I (40% infiltration currently)	Aerobic digestors	Belt press
S12	Southern Australia	>600,000	850,000	145		90% R; 8-10% T,I	Anaerobic digestors	Stockpile 2012

*Population estimate obtained from O'Brien et al. 2014; R=residential, I=industrial, T=trade waste, C=commercial; ML/d = megalitres per day; t/d = tonnes per day

Table S2. Calculated chlorination degree for the eight technical CP mixtures.

	calculated Cl-degree
SCCP (51.5%)	55.9% Cl
SCCP (55.5%)	58.2% Cl
SCCP (63%)	63.7% Cl
MCCP (42%)	49.4% Cl
MCCP (52%)	54.2% Cl
MCCP (57%)	57.5% Cl
LCCP (36%)	41.5% Cl
LCCP (49%)	49.0% Cl

Table S3. The results of a triplicate recovery experiments containing the three technical SCCP formulations which were extracted, cleaned and analysed in conjunction with the sewage sludge samples. The recoveries were only corrected by the injection standard ($^{13}\text{C}_6\text{-PCP}$). Results for the MCCPs and LCCPs are given in the Supplementary Table S2 and S4.

Sample	CPs	measured conc. (ng abs)	spiked conc. (ng abs)	recovery (%)	R ² of deconvolution
1	SCCP 63%Cl	123	141	87%	0.95
	SCCP 55.5%Cl	150	141	106%	
	SCCP 51.5%Cl	101	141	72%	
	Total SCCPs	374	424	88%	
2	SCCP 63%Cl	106	141	75%	0.95
	SCCP 55.5%Cl	154	141	109%	
	SCCP 51.5%Cl	79	141	56%	
	Total SCCPs	339	424	80%	
3	SCCP 63%Cl	93	141	66%	0.94
	SCCP 55.5%Cl	112	141	79%	
	SCCP 51.5%Cl	83	141	59%	
	Total SCCPs	288	424	68%	

Table S4. The results of a triplicate spike experiments with three technical SCCP formulations for four different sewage sludge samples. The recovery was calculated by subtracting the values observed in the samples from the spiked samples. The values were only corrected by the injection standard ($^{13}\text{C-PCP}$). Results for the MCCPs and LCCPs are given in the Supplementary Table S3 and S5.

Sample	CPs	measured conc. (ng abs)	spiked conc. (ng abs)	recovery (%)	R ² of deconvolution
1	SCCP 63%Cl	114	121	94%	0.97
	SCCP 55.5%Cl	141	121	116%	
	SCCP 51.5%Cl	51	121	42%	
	Total SCCPs	305	363	84%	
2	SCCP 63%Cl	115	121	95%	0.97
	SCCP 55.5%Cl	182	121	150%	
	SCCP 51.5%Cl	46	121	38%	
	Total SCCPs	343	363	94%	
3	SCCP 63%Cl	129	121	106%	0.94
	SCCP 55.5%Cl	143	121	118%	
	SCCP 51.5%Cl	83	121	69%	
	Total SCCPs	355	363	98%	
4	SCCP 63%Cl	131	121	108%	0.97
	SCCP 55.5%Cl	139	121	115%	
	SCCP 51.5%Cl	88	121	73%	
	Total SCCPs	358	363	99%	

Table S5. The results of a triplicate recovery experiment containing the three technical MCCP formulations which were extracted, cleaned and analysed in conjunction with the sewage sludge samples. The recoveries were only corrected by the injection standard (^{13}C -PCP).

Sample	CPs	measured conc. (ng abs)	spiked conc. (ng abs)	recovery (%)	R ² of deconvolution
1	MCCP 42%Cl	73	159	46%	
	MCCP 52%Cl	177	159	111%	
	MCCP 57%Cl	168	159	105%	
	Total MCCPs	417	478	87%	0.93
2	MCCP 42%Cl	72	159	45%	
	MCCP 52%Cl	179	159	113%	
	MCCP 57%Cl	167	159	105%	
	Total MCCPs	419	478	88%	0.94
3	MCCP 42%Cl	67	159	42%	
	MCCP 52%Cl	122	159	76%	
	MCCP 57%Cl	131	159	82%	
	Total MCCPs	320	478	67%	0.93

Table S6. The results of a triplicate spike experiment with the three technical MCCP formulations on four different sewage sludge samples. The recovery was calculated by subtracting the values measured in the samples from the spiked samples. The values were only corrected by the injection standard (^{13}C -PCP).

Sample	CPs	measured conc. (ng abs)	spiked conc. (ng abs)	recovery (%)	R ² of deconvolution
1	MCCP 42%Cl	48	121	39%	
	MCCP 52%Cl	129	121	107%	
	MCCP 57%Cl	175	121	144%	
	Total MCCPs	352	410	86%	0.97
2	MCCP 42%Cl	0	121	0%	
	MCCP 52%Cl	235	121	194%	
	MCCP 57%Cl	231	121	191%	
	Total MCCPs	465	410	113%	0.97
3	MCCP 42%Cl	50	121	41%	
	MCCP 52%Cl	147	121	121%	
	MCCP 57%Cl	203	121	168%	
	Total MCCPs	400	410	98%	0.94
4	MCCP 42%Cl	64	121	53%	
	MCCP 52%Cl	156	121	129%	
	MCCP 57%Cl	202	121	167%	
	Total MCCPs	421	410	103%	0.97

Table S7. The results of a triplicate recovery experiment containing the three technical LCCP formulations which were extracted, cleaned and analysed in conjunction with the sewage sludge samples. The recovery was only corrected by the injection standard (13C-PCP).

Sample	CPs	measured conc. (ng abs)	spiked conc. (ng abs)	recovery (%)	R ² of deconvolution
1	LCCP 36%CI	125	144	87%	1.00
	LCCP 49%CI	164	144	113%	
	Total LCCPs	289	289	100%	
2	LCCP 36%CI	112	144	77%	1.00
	LCCP 49%CI	158	144	110%	
	Total LCCPs	270	289	94%	
3	LCCP 36%CI	90	144	63%	1.00
	LCCP 49%CI	144	144	100%	
	Total LCCPs	234	289	81%	

Table S8. The results of a triplicate spike experiment with the three technical MCCP formulations on four different sewage sludge samples. The recovery was calculated by subtracting the values measured in the samples from the spiked samples. The values were only corrected by the injection standard (13C-PCP).

Sample	CPs	measured conc. (ng abs)	spiked conc. (ng abs)	recovery (%)	R ² of deconvolution
1	LCCP 36%CI	89	121	73%	1.00
	LCCP 49%CI	156	121	129%	
	Total LCCPs	245	247	99%	
2	LCCP 36%CI	99	121	82%	0.54
	LCCP 49%CI	203	121	168%	
	Total LCCPs	302	247	122%	
3	LCCP 36%CI	103	121	85%	1.00
	LCCP 49%CI	186	121	153%	
	Total LCCPs	288	247	117%	
4	LCCP 36%CI	114	121	94%	1.00
	LCCP 49%CI	191	121	158%	
	Total LCCPs	304	247	123%	

Table S9. Average peak area of the SCCPs and MCCPS of an 8-fold measurement of sewage sludge sample S9.

SCCPs	average peak area	std	rel std (%)	MCCPs	average peak area	std	rel std (%)
C10C14				C14C14	259	71	27%
C10C15	207	94	45%	C14C15	36194	1846	5%
C10C16	6762	1135	17%	C14C16	158432	4039	3%
C10C17	1541	284	18%	C14C17	182620	4305	2%
C10C18	475	222	47%	C14C18	82817	4211	5%
C10C19				C14C19	24836	1670	7%
C10C110				C14C110	4936	654	13%
Total C10 RSD(%)				C14C111			
				C14C112			
C11C14				C14C113			
C11C15				C14C114			
C11C16	5119	565	11%	Total C14 RSD (%)			9%
C11C17	5538	440	8%	C15C14	195	69	35%
C11C18	2217	322	15%	C15C15	25884	2272	9%
C11C19	1001	283	28%	C15C16	112266	6551	6%
C11C110				C15C17	151734	2519	2%
C11C111				C15C18	73103	2173	3%
Total C11 RSD(%)				C15C19	26543	731	3%
				C15C110	4873	1041	21%
C12C14				C15C111	686	236	34%
C12C15	650	264	41%	C15C112			
C12C16	7719	787	10%	C15C113			
C12C17	10495	837	8%	C15C114			
C12C18	4538	244	5%	C15C115			
C12C19	963	301	31%	Total C15 RSD (%)			14%
C12C110				C16C14	113	14	12%
C12C111				C16C15	3385	475	14%
C12C112				C16C16	40224	1957	5%
Total C10 RSD(%)				C16C17	56293	1689	3%
				C16C18	35680	769	2%
C13C14				C16C19	14072	605	4%
C13C15	2025	567	28%	C16C110	2751	264	10%
C13C16	17022	592	3%	C16C111			
C13C17	22099	1137	5%	C16C112			
C13C18	10307	831	8%	C16C113			
C13C19	1951	319	16%	C16C114			
C13C110	504	145	29%	C16C115			
C13C111				C16C116			
C13C112				Total C16 RSD (%)			7%
C13C113				C17C14	167	37	22%
Total C10 RSD(%)				C17C15	4212	641	15%
				C17C16	18980	1625	9%
overall RSD			20%	C17C17	25902	3158	12%
				C17C18	20418	1045	5%
				C17C19	10159	512	5%
				C17C110	2340	260	11%
				C17C111	249	99	40%
				C17C112			
				C17C113			
				C17C114			
				C17C115			
				C17C116			
				C17C117			
				Total C17 RSD (%)			15%
				overall RSD			11%

Table S10. list of m/z ratios considered for CPs.

SCCP congener	m/z of [M+Cl] ⁻	MCCP congener	m/z of [M+Cl] ⁻	MCCP congener	m/z of [M+Cl] ⁻
C10Cl4	314.9817	C14Cl4	371.0448	C16Cl15	776.6415
C10Cl4	316.9792	C14Cl4	373.0418	C16Cl15	778.6385
C10Cl5	348.9432	C14Cl5	405.0058	C16Cl16	810.6025
C10Cl5	350.9403	C14Cl5	407.0029	C16Cl16	812.5996
C10Cl6	382.9042	C14Cl6	438.9668	C17Cl4	413.0917
C10Cl6	384.9013	C14Cl6	440.9639	C17Cl4	415.0888
C10Cl7	416.8653	C14Cl7	472.9279	C17Cl5	447.0528
C10Cl7	418.8623	C14Cl7	474.9249	C17Cl5	449.0498
C10Cl8	450.8263	C14Cl8	506.8889	C17Cl6	481.0138
C10Cl8	452.8233	C14Cl8	508.8859	C17Cl6	483.0108
C10Cl9	486.7844	C14Cl9	542.8470	C17Cl7	514.9748
C10Cl9	488.7814	C14Cl9	544.8440	C17Cl7	516.9719
C10Cl10	520.7454	C14Cl10	576.8080	C17Cl8	548.9358
C10Cl10	522.7424	C14Cl10	578.8050	C17Cl8	550.9329
C11Cl4	328.9978	C14Cl11	610.7690	C17Cl9	584.8939
C11Cl4	330.9949	C14Cl11	612.7661	C17Cl9	586.8910
C11Cl5	362.9589	C14Cl12	644.7300	C17Cl10	618.8549
C11Cl5	364.9559	C14Cl12	646.7271	C17Cl10	620.8520
C11Cl6	396.9199	C14Cl13	680.6881	C17Cl11	654.8130
C11Cl6	398.9169	C14Cl13	682.6852	C17Cl11	652.8160
C11Cl7	430.8809	C14Cl14	714.6492	C17Cl12	686.7770
C11Cl7	432.8780	C14Cl14	716.6462	C17Cl12	688.7740
C11Cl8	464.8419	C15Cl4	385.0604	C17Cl13	722.7351
C11Cl8	466.8390	C15Cl4	387.0575	C17Cl13	724.7321
C11Cl9	500.8000	C15Cl5	419.0215	C17Cl14	756.6961
C11Cl9	502.7971	C15Cl5	421.0185	C17Cl14	758.6932
C11Cl10	534.7610	C15Cl6	452.9825	C17Cl15	790.6571
C11Cl10	536.7581	C15Cl6	454.9795	C17Cl15	792.6542
C11Cl11	568.7221	C15Cl7	486.9435	C17Cl16	824.6182
C11Cl11	570.7191	C15Cl7	488.9406	C17Cl16	826.6152
C12Cl4	343.0135	C15Cl8	520.9045	C17Cl17	860.5762
C12Cl4	345.0105	C15Cl8	522.9016	C17Cl17	862.5733
C12Cl5	376.9745	C15Cl9	556.8626		
C12Cl5	378.9716	C15Cl9	558.8597		
C12Cl6	410.9355	C15Cl10	590.8236		
C12Cl6	412.9326	C15Cl10	592.8207		
C12Cl7	444.8966	C15Cl11	624.7847		
C12Cl7	446.8936	C15Cl11	626.7817		
C12Cl8	478.8576	C15Cl12	658.7457		
C12Cl8	480.8546	C15Cl12	660.7427		
C12Cl9	514.8157	C15Cl13	694.7038		
C12Cl9	516.8127	C15Cl13	696.7008		
C12Cl10	548.7767	C15Cl14	728.6648		
C12Cl10	550.7737	C15Cl14	730.6619		
C12Cl11	582.7377	C15Cl15	762.6258		
C12Cl11	584.7348	C15Cl15	764.6229		
C12Cl12	618.6958	C16Cl4	399.0761		
C12Cl12	620.6928	C16Cl4	401.0731		
C13Cl4	357.0291	C16Cl5	433.0371		
C13Cl4	359.0262	C16Cl5	435.0342		
C13Cl5	390.9902	C16Cl6	466.9981		
C13Cl5	392.9872	C16Cl6	468.9952		
C13Cl6	424.9512	C16Cl7	500.9592		
C13Cl6	426.9482	C16Cl7	502.9562		
C13Cl7	458.9122	C16Cl8	534.9202		
C13Cl7	460.9093	C16Cl8	536.9172		
C13Cl8	492.8732	C16Cl9	570.8783		
C13Cl8	494.8703	C16Cl9	572.8753		
C13Cl9	528.8313	C16Cl10	604.8393		
C13Cl9	530.8284	C16Cl10	606.8363		
C13Cl10	562.7923	C16Cl11	638.8003		
C13Cl10	564.7894	C16Cl11	640.7974		
C13Cl11	596.7534	C16Cl12	672.7613		
C13Cl11	598.7504	C16Cl12	674.7584		
C13Cl12	630.7144	C16Cl13	708.7194		
C13Cl12	632.7114	C16Cl13	710.7165		
C13Cl13	666.6725	C16Cl14	742.6805		
C13Cl13	668.6695	C16Cl14	744.6775		

Figure S1. Composition profile of the SCCPs, MCCPS and LCCPs congeners in the 15 sewage sludge samples and the 2 blanks.

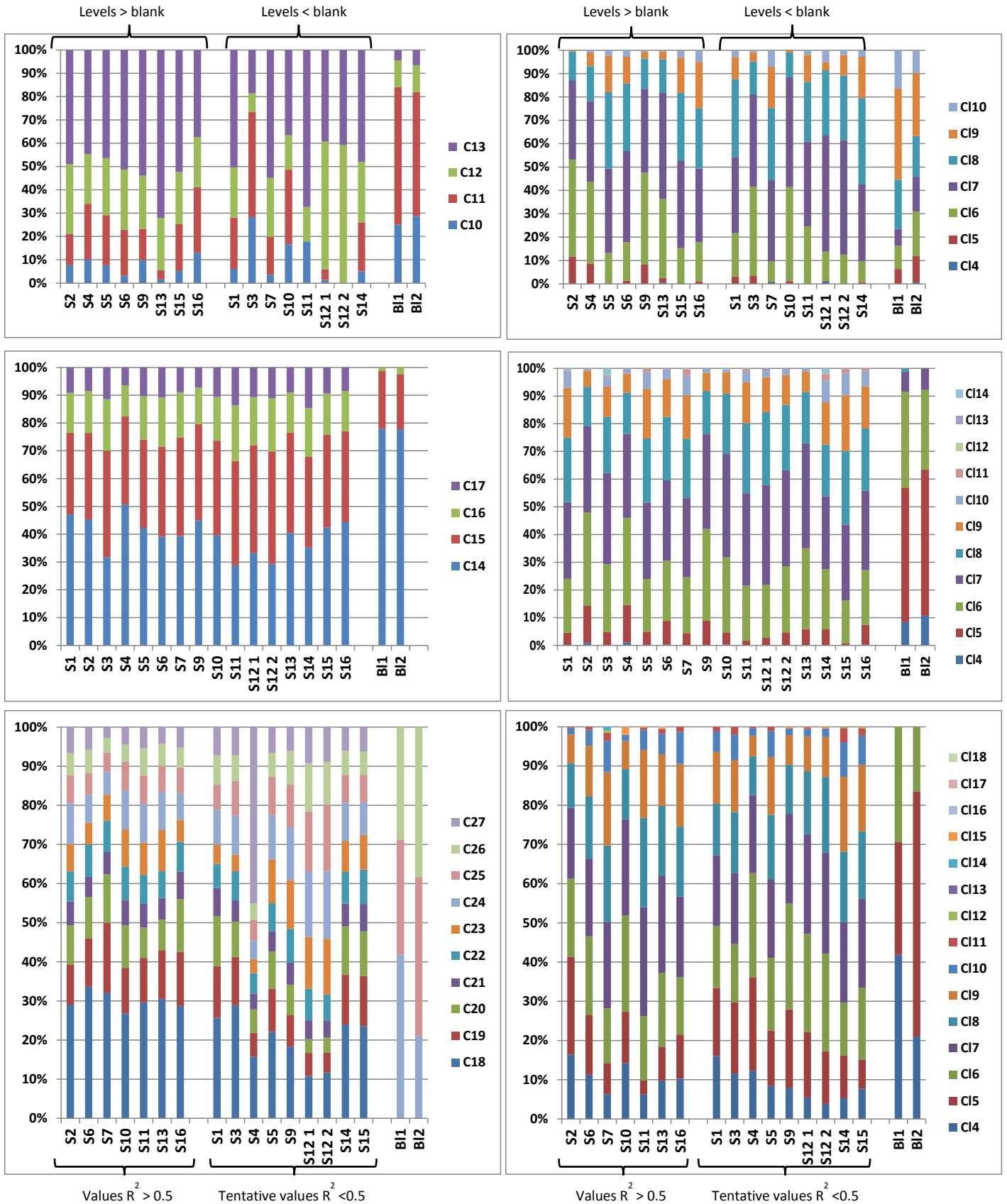


Figure S2. Congener pattern of the three SCCPs technical mixtures.

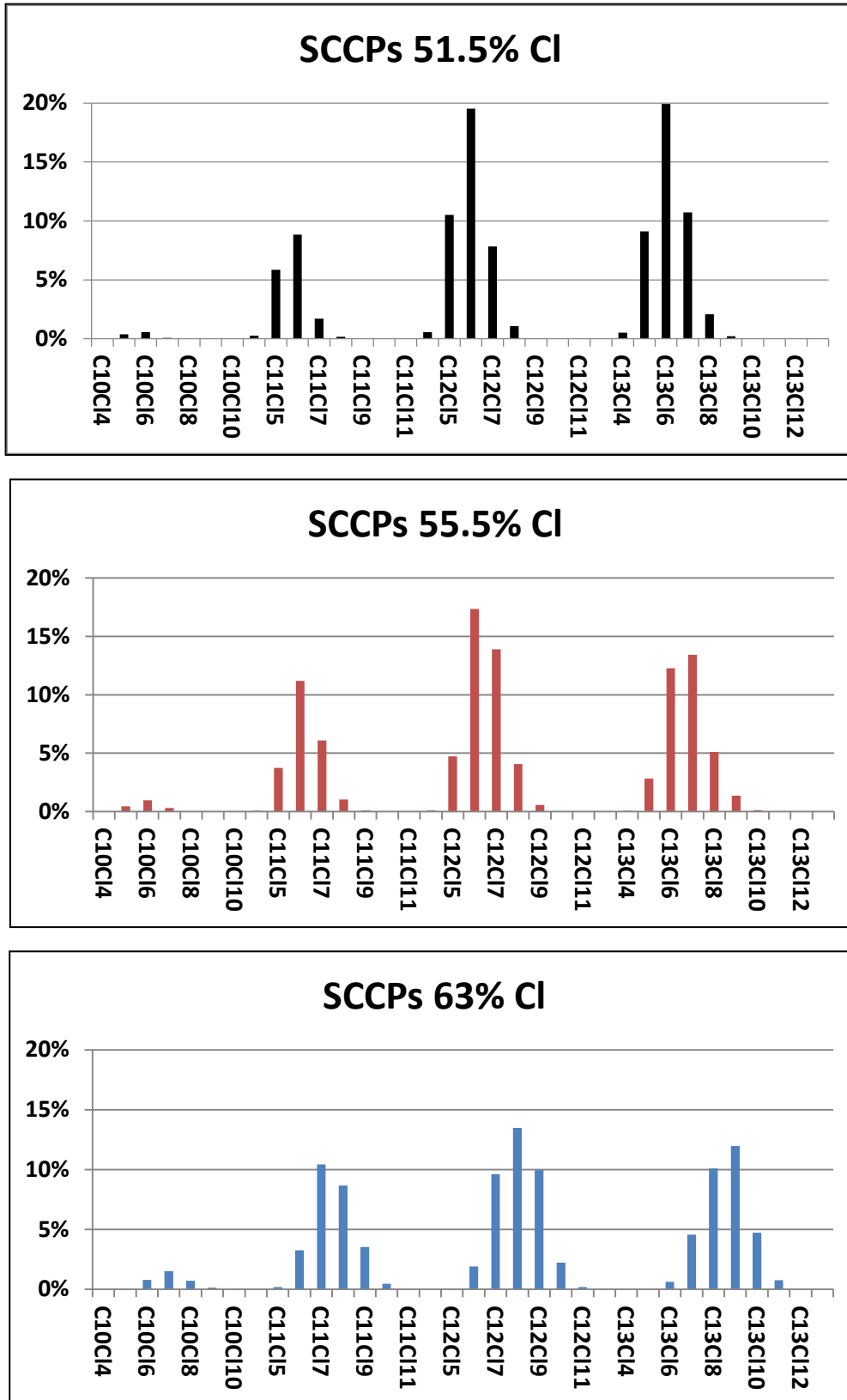


Figure S3. Congener pattern of the three MCCPs technical mixtures.

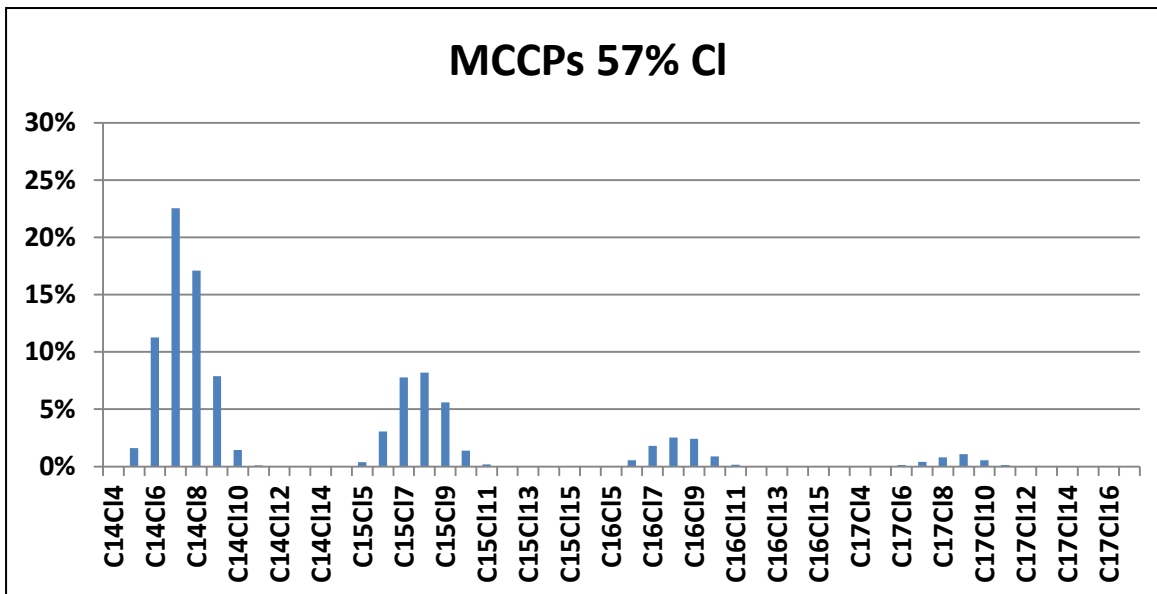
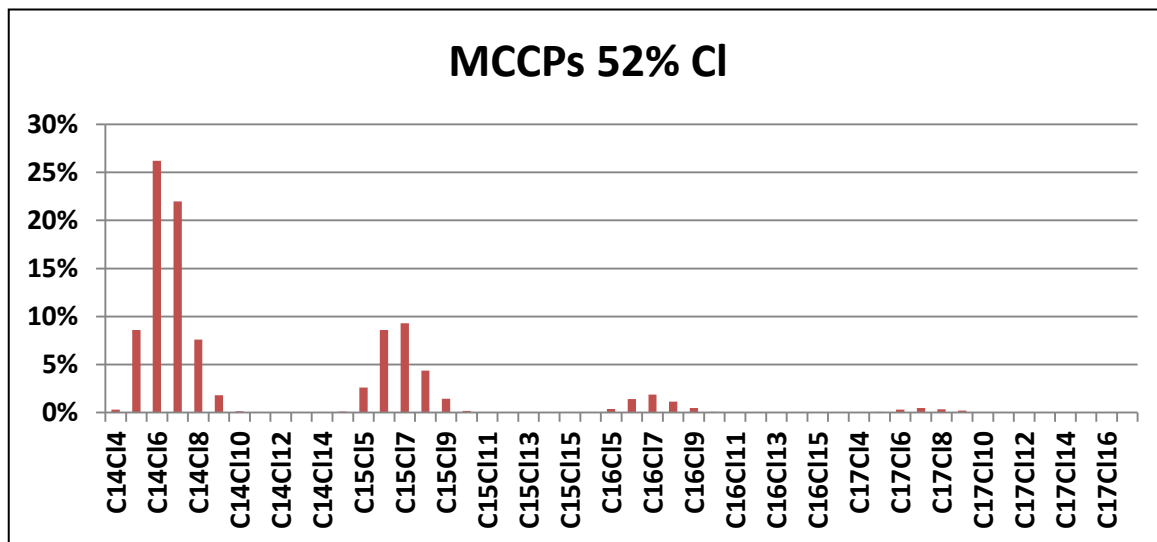
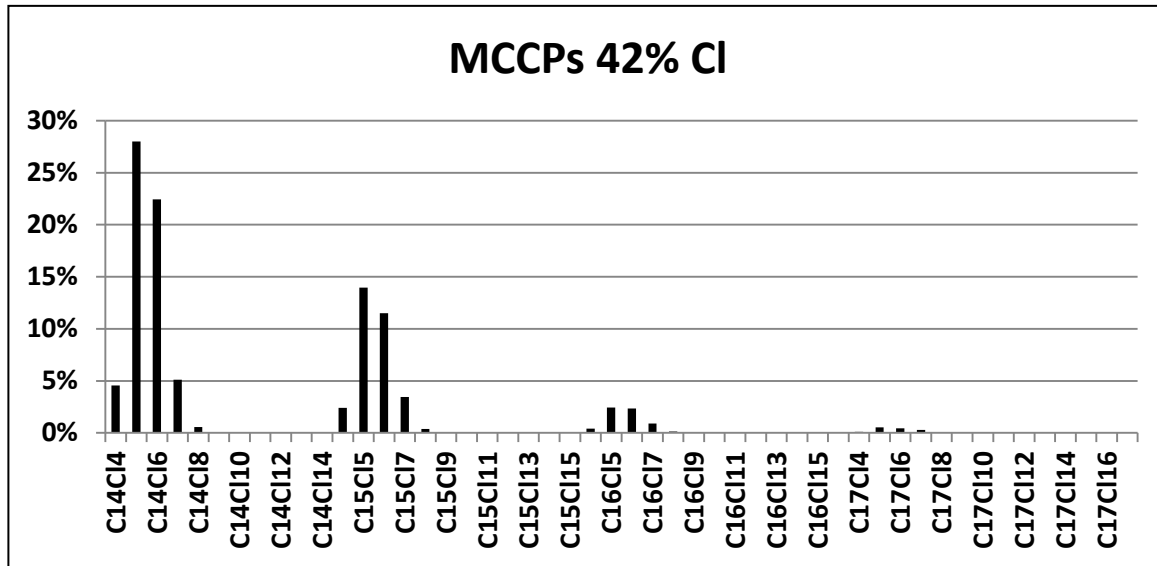


Figure S4. Congener pattern of the two LCCPs technical mixtures.

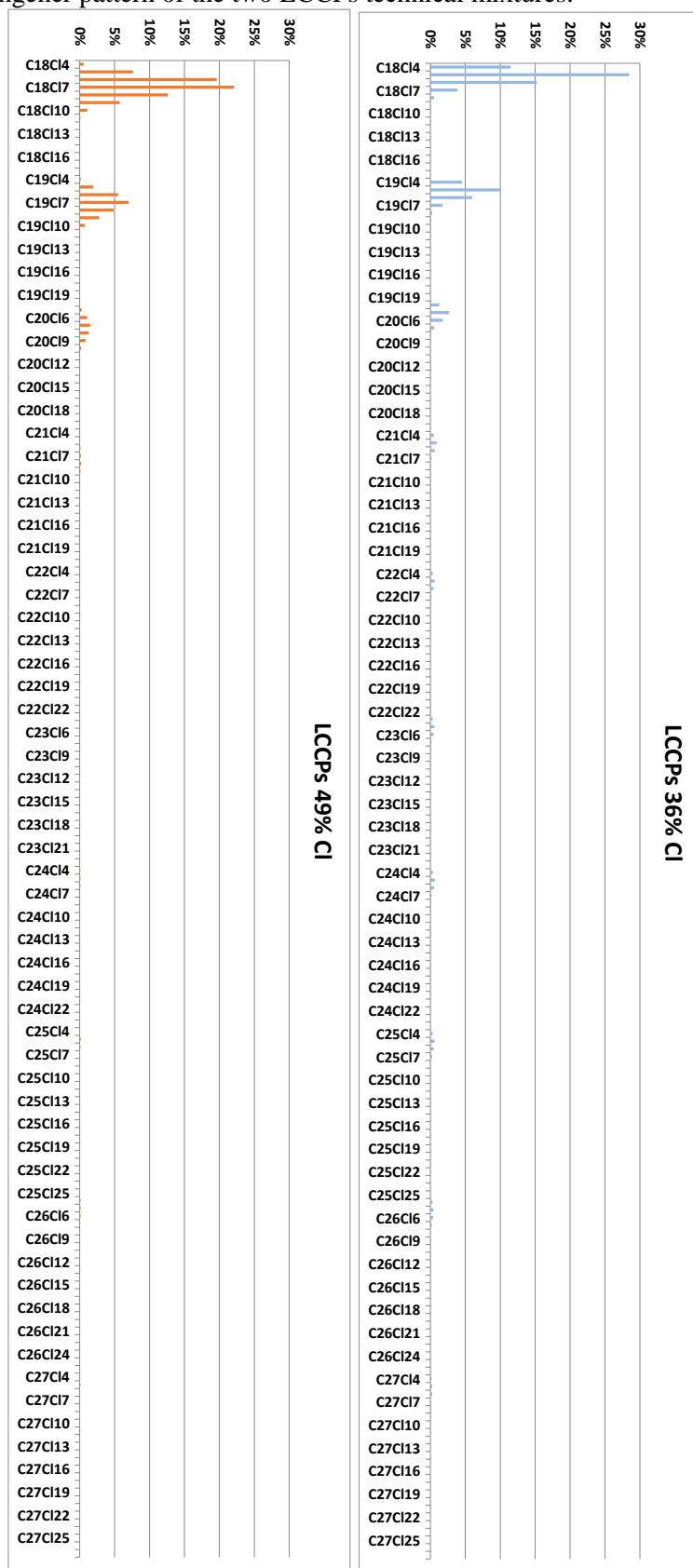


Figure S5. Example of the measured and deconvoluted congener pattern of SCCPs in the sewage sludge sample S1.

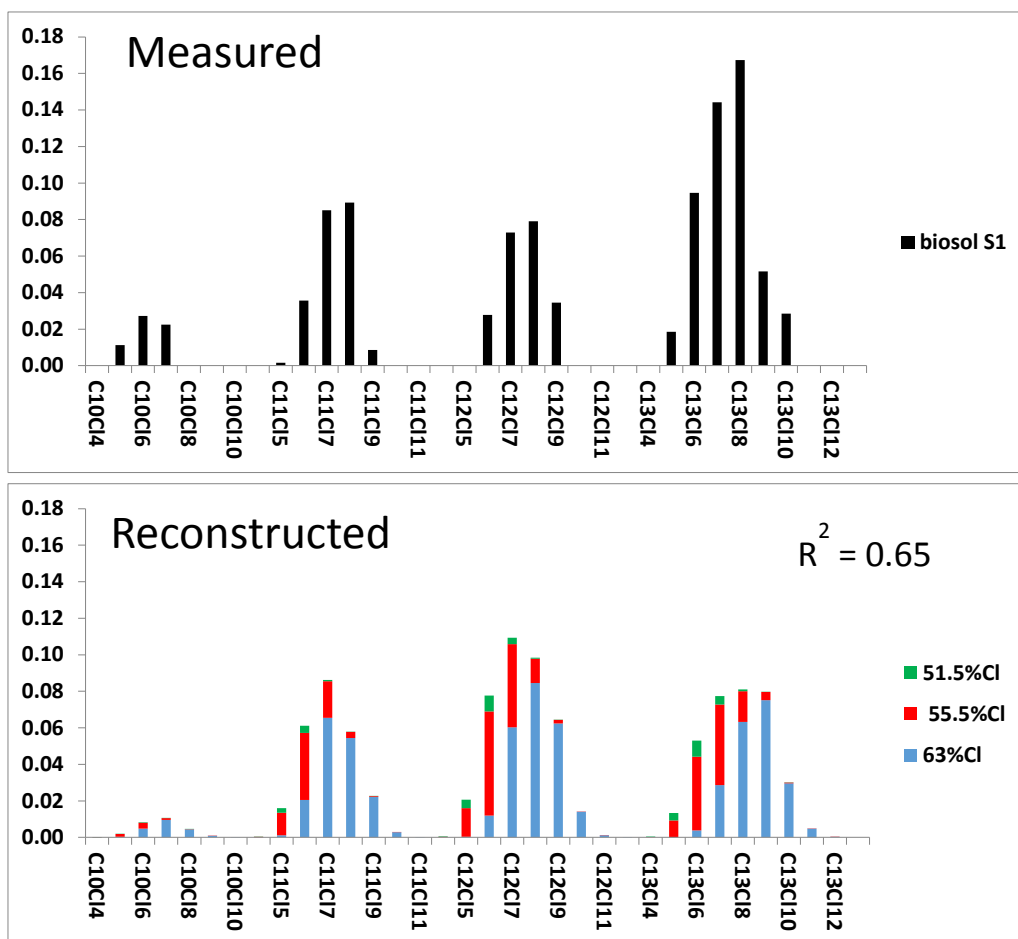


Figure S6. Example of the measured and deconvoluted congener pattern of MCCPs in the sewage sludge sample S3.

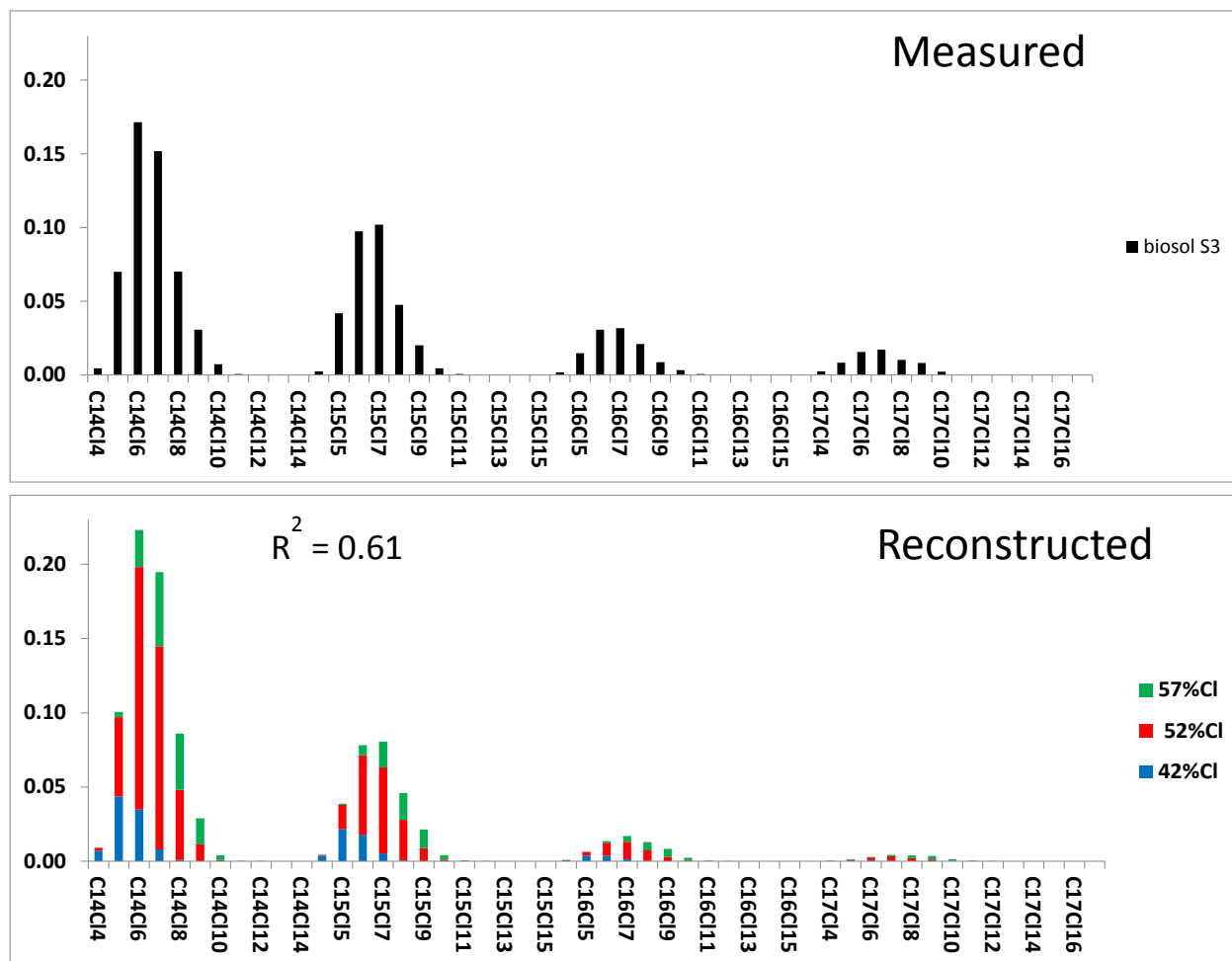
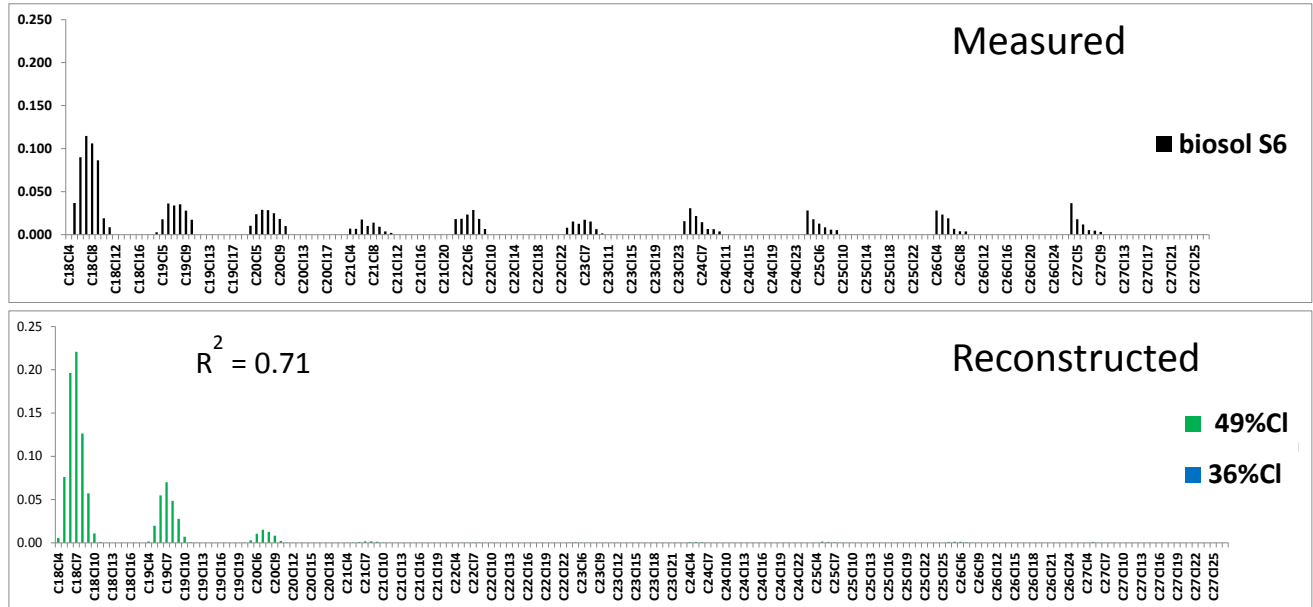


Figure S7. Example of the measured and deconvoluted congener pattern of LCCPs in the sewage sludge sample S6.



Reference

O'Brien, J.W., Thai, P.K., Eaglesham, G., Ort, C., Scheidegger, A., Carter, S., Yin Lai, F., Mueller, J.F., 2014. A Model to Estimate the Population Contributing to the Wastewater Using Samples Collected on Census Day. *Environ. Sci. Technol.*, 48, 517-525.