

Oxygen consumption rate of *Caenorhabditis elegans* as a high-throughput endpoint of toxicity testing using the Seahorse XF⁹⁶ Extracellular Flux Analyzer

G. Du Preez^{1,2,*}, H. Fourie¹, M. Daneel², H. Miller³, S. Höss^{4,5}, C. Ricci^{6,7}, G. Engelbrecht¹, M. Zouhar^{1,8} & V. Wepener¹

¹Unit for Environmental Sciences and Management, North-West University, Private Bag X6001, Potchefstroom, 2520, South Africa

²Agricultural Research Council – Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Crops, Private Bag X11208, Nelspruit, 1200, South Africa

³Human Metabolomics, Faculty of Natural Sciences, North-West University, Potchefstroom, 2520, South Africa

⁴EcoSSA, Giselastrasse 6, 82319 Starnberg, Germany

⁵University of Bielefeld, Department of Animal Ecology, Konsequenz 45, 33615 Bielefeld, Germany

⁶Centre of Excellence for Nutrition (CEN), North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa

⁷Pediatric Epidemiology, Department of Pediatrics, University Medicine Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany

⁸Czech University of Life Sciences, Faculty of Agrobiological Sciences, Food and Natural Resources, Department of Plant Protection, Kamycka 129, 165 21 Prague, Czech Republic

*Corresponding author: gerhard.dupreez@nwu.ac.za

Segmented model

The segmented model states that for any value of x less than x_0 the expected value of Y is a quadratic function, while for values of x greater than x_0 the mean of Y is the constant c .

$$E[Y|x] = \begin{cases} \alpha + \beta x + \gamma x^2 & \text{if } x < x_0 \\ c & \text{if } x \geq x_0 \end{cases}$$

Continuity and smoothness conditions were imposed to the two segments of the model. Firstly, the continuity condition was obtained so that the quadratic and the plateau section meet at x_0 . Secondly, the first derivative with respect to x was set to 0 at x_0 .

Continuity condition

$$E[Y|x_0] = \alpha + \beta x_0 + \gamma x_0^2$$

Smoothness condition

$$\frac{\delta E[Y|x_0]}{\delta x} = \beta x_0 + 2\gamma x_0 \equiv 0$$

Solving the equation for x_0 and substitute into the expression for c , the two conditions are jointly satisfied when:

$$x_0 = -\beta / 2\gamma$$

$$c = \alpha - \beta^2 / 4\gamma$$

Please see SAS (2013) for additional information.