

Appendix A – Methods Used in Literature Analysis

The literature review encompassed, 1) searching of traditional literature databases, 2) contacting specific experts in this field to obtain additional insight, and 3) evaluating the literature and personal communications. The following databases were searched:

<u>Database</u>	<u>Literature Topics</u>
Medline/PubMed	Biomedical literature
Biological Abstracts	Biological literature
Chemical Abstracts	Chemical literature
Toxline	Toxicological literature

Search strategies involved key word and author search strategies. The words or phrases were indexed by the databases. General searches were conducted initially using the key words amphibian metamorphosis and amphibian thyroid separately. This general search provided over 10,000 references on these subjects. This subset of references was then searched the specifically to obtain the literature used in this review using the Boolean operators “and” and “or” with other key words including, endocrine disruptors, thyroid impairment, TH analysis, cDNA techniques, and culture methods.

The retrieved searches were downloaded electronically as ASCII files directly into Microsoft Excel, version 2000. Initially, each database was stored separately, but later combined to form the final literature database used to prepare the draft DRP. The final result was a combined database of over 1,000 references (Appendix A).

Additional information used to generate the DRP included research presented at recent meetings, or currently on-going research programs at various laboratories. In the case of the former, abstracts were obtained electronically when available or by directly contacting the investigators to obtain a copy of the presentation and abstract. Proceeding from the following meetings were reviewed and pertinent papers included in the database, the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), Society of Toxicology (SOT), and Experimental Biology.

Research currently on-going at various research laboratories or information that was currently unpublished required direct contact with principle investigators, researchers, or lab directors. Although detailed information concerning research design and results were not obtained in many cases due to data confidentiality issues, data clarification and investigator interpretation of the results was the primary objective in this form of communication. Additional investigators selected based on their experience in this area (number and quality of relevant publications, and reputation [nation and international, author of critical, reviews, reviewer or editor of pertinent new scientific literature or grant applications). Responses to interviews with expert investigators are provided in Appendix B.

LITERATURE SEARCH

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