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Phosphate flame retardants and novel brominated flame retardants in home-produced eggs from an e-waste recycling region in China

**Reference:**

Zheng Xiabo, Xu Fuchao, Luo Xiaojun, Mai Bixian, Covaci Adrian.- Phosphate flame retardants and novel brominated flame retardants in home-produced eggs from an e-waste recycling region in China  
Chemosphere - ISSN 0045-6535 - 150(2016), p. 545-550  
Full text (Publisher's DOI): <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.CHEMOSPHERE.2015.09.098>  
To cite this reference: <http://hdl.handle.net/10067/1332220151162165141>

1           **Phosphate flame retardants and novel brominated flame**  
2           **retardants in home-produced eggs from an e-waste recycling**  
3                           **region in China**

4  
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16

17 **ABSTRACT**

18 Phosphate flame retardants (PFRs) and novel brominated flame retardants (NBFRs)  
19 (2-ethylhexyl-2,3,4,5-tetrabromo-benzoate (EH-TBB) and  
20 bis-(2-ethylhexyl)-3,4,5,6-tetrabromo-phthalate (BEH-TEBP)) were measured in free-range  
21 chicken eggs from three e-waste recycling sites and a negative control site located in  
22 Guangdong province, Southern China. BEH-TEBP, tris-(chloroethyl)-phosphate (TCEP),  
23 tris-(chloropropyl)-phosphate ( $\Sigma$ TCPP, two isomers) and  
24 tris-(1,3-dichloroisopropyl)-phosphate (TDCIPP) were detected in more than 50% of eggs  
25 samples with low concentrations. The median values of BEH-TEBP and total PFRs were  
26 0.17-0.46 ng/g ww (wet weight) and 1.62-2.59 ng/g ww in eggs from the e-waste sites,  
27 respectively. The results indicate that EH-TBB, BEH-TEBP and PFRs are less persistent and  
28 bioaccumulative than polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in chicken eggs, and possibly  
29 also in other bio-matrices. Triphenyl phosphate (TPHP) were identified in albumen with  
30 higher frequencies, but at similar concentrations compared to yolk, while BEH-TEBP was  
31 mainly detected in yolk. The estimated daily intake (EDI) of BEH-TEBP and total PFRs from  
32 consumption of chicken eggs ranged from 0.03-0.09 and 0.32-0.52 ng/kg bw/day for adults,  
33 and 0.20-0.54 and 1.89-3.02 ng/kg bw/day for children in e-waste sites, respectively. Indoor  
34 dust ingestion seems to be a more important pathway for the intake of these FRs, while egg  
35 consumption is probably a more important exposure pathway for PBDEs.

36

37 *Keywords:* Flame retardants; dietary exposure; home-produced eggs; e-waste recycling region

## 38 **1. Introduction**

39 With the ban of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in Europe and the United States  
40 (European Court of Justice, 2008; UNEP, 2009), the usage of alternative flame retardants  
41 (FRs), like 2-ethylhexyl-2,3,4,5-tetrabromobenzoate (EH-TBB), bis-(2-ethylhexyl)-  
42 3,4,5,6-tetrabromo-phthalate (BEH-TEBP) and phosphate flame retardants (PFRs), has  
43 significantly increased in recent years (Covaci et al, 2011; van der Veen and de Boer, 2012;  
44 Wei et al, 2015). As novel brominated flame retardants (NBFRs), EH-TBB and BEH-TEBP  
45 have been used as alternative of Penta-BDE (Covaci et al, 2011; Roberts et al, 2012). They  
46 have been reported as major components of Firemaster 550, a commercial fire safety additive,  
47 with a ratio of 4:1 (Stapleton et al, 2008), while another additive FR product, BZ-45, was also  
48 found to contain them (Davis and Stapleton, 2009). PFRs, such as  
49 tris-(1-chloro-isopropyl)-phosphate (TCIPP), triphenyl phosphate (TPHP) and  
50 tris-(2-butoxyethyl)-phosphate (TBOEP), have been widely used in commercial products  
51 such in textures, cable coating, paints, foams and electronic products, and also being applied  
52 as plasticizers or additives in lubricant (van der Veen and de Boer, 2012). EH-TBB,  
53 BEH-TEBP and PFRs contain ester bonds in their chemical structures, given them less  
54 persistent properties and different bioaccumulation characters comparing with persistent FRs,  
55 such as PBDEs, dechlorane plus (DPs), decabromodiphenyl ethane (DBDPE), or  
56 1,2-bis-(2,4,6-tribromophenoxy) ethane (BTBPE).

57 The occurrence of NBFRs and PFRs has been frequently reported in environment,  
58 including air, indoor dust, soil, and sediment (Brandsma et al, 2015; Cequier et al, 2014; Kim  
59 et al, 2014; Liu et al, 2014), but limited studies investigated their levels in biota, such as fish,

60 wild birds, mammals or humans (van der Veen and de Boer, 2012; Wei et al, 2015). Sundkvist  
61 et al. (2010) detected TCIPP (0.4-16 ng/g ww, wet weight), TPHP (0.04-2.3 ng/g ww) and  
62 TBOEP (0.86-4.2 ng/g ww) in fish tissues, which had similar PFR levels with those in fish  
63 from Netherland (Brandsma et al, 2015). Tri-ethylhexyl phosphate (TEHP) (6 ng/g ww) and  
64 2-ethylhexyl diphenyl phosphate (EHDPHP) (3.5 ng/g ww) were reported as main PFRs in  
65 fish from Philippines (Kim et al, 2011a, b). PFR values in fish tissues from the Dutch North  
66 Sea were not correlated with lipid percentage (Brandsma et al, 2015), suggesting that PFRs do  
67 not follow the same distribution as lipids like other PBDEs (Brandsma et al, 2015,  
68 Malarvannan et al, 2015). Based on the limited studies on PFRs in creatures, the  
69 bioaccumulation of PFRs seemed to be different from PBDEs (Brandsma et al, 2015, Kim et  
70 al, 2011a, b; Malarvannan et al, 2015; Sundkvist et al, 2010). EH-TBB and BEH-TEBP might  
71 undergo hydrolysis in gastrointestinal tract, with 70% degradation of BEH-TEBP being  
72 reported in a gastrointestinal absorption model (Fang and Stapleton, 2014). The rapid hepatic  
73 elimination of tris-(1,3-dichloroisopropyl)-phosphate (TDCIPP) was reported in an *in vitro*  
74 study using chicken hepatocytes, where TDCIPP was all transformed into  
75 bis-(1,3-dichloroisopropyl) phosphate (BDCIPP) in 36 h (Farhat et al, 2014).

76 Qingyuan is one of the largest e-waste recycling areas in China. However, the improper  
77 handling process during e-waste recycling leads to terrible pollution to regional environment  
78 and seriously threatens the health of on-site workers and local residents. The environmental  
79 contamination in e-waste recycling regions could further pass down to local agriculture and  
80 eventually threaten food safety (Song and Li, 2014).

81 Dietary intake has been considered as an important human exposure pathway for

82 persistent FRs, but data about less persistent FRs in food is still limited (Domingo, 2014; Xu  
83 et al, 2015). Eggs from free-range chicken were recognized as to have higher level of organic  
84 pollutants than eggs from caged chicken and other food, due to the (more) intensive contact of  
85 hens with the environment (Covaci et al, 2009; Domingo, 2014). In our previous studies,  
86 intakes of persistent FRs (including PBDE, DPs and DBDPE) via local home-produced  
87 free-range egg consumption were proved to be a great threat to health of the locals in e-waste  
88 recycling area (Zheng et al, 2012). As a follow-up study, we aimed (1) to investigate the  
89 extent of contamination of EH-TBB, BEH-TEBP and PFRs in free-range chicken eggs from  
90 e-waste recycling region; and (2) to assess the human exposure risks of these FRs via egg  
91 consumption for local residents. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study on human  
92 dietary exposure of PFRs in e-waste recycling sites.

93

## 94 **2. Methods and materials**

### 95 *2.1. Sampling*

96 Free-range chicken eggs (N = 45) were collected from three villages that rely on e-waste  
97 recycling business (Site 1, N 23°32' E 113°03'; Site 2, N 23°36' E 113°04'; and Site 3, N  
98 23°34' E 113°02') and a negative control site (N 23°34' E 113°03') in Qingyuan (Guangdong  
99 Province, China) in July, 2010. The free-ranged hens were raised on the recycling sites where  
100 the e-waste was primitively dismantled and extracted. The control site is about 5 km away  
101 from other three recycling sites and free of e-waste recycling activities. More details about  
102 sampling areas were provided in our previous study (Zheng et al, 2012). The collected egg  
103 samples were transported to our laboratory within 12 h. The albumen of eight eggs was

104 separated from yolk, and analyzed individually, while the remains of each egg were  
105 homogenized. All samples were then lyophilized individually, and the water content of each  
106 sample was gravimetrically determined. Dry samples were packed with aluminum foil, sealed  
107 in zip bags and stored at -20 °C until analysis.

108

## 109 2.2. Chemicals and materials

110 Standards of EH-TBB, BEH-TEBP and their isotope labeled internal standards (IS)  
111  $^{13}\text{C}_6$ -BEH-TEBP- $\text{D}_{34}$  (MBEH-TEBP) and  $^{13}\text{C}_6$ -EH-TBB- $\text{D}_{17}$  (MEH-TBB) were purchased  
112 from Wellington Laboratories (Guelph, ON, Canada). Standards of tricresyl phosphate (TMPP,  
113 mixtures of 4 isomers), TEHP, EHDPHP, tri-n-propyl phosphate (TNPP), tri-n-butyl  
114 phosphate (TNBP), TPHP, tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP) and TDCIPP were purchased  
115 from Chiron AS (Trondheim, Norway). TCPP mixture (2 isomers, tris (1-chloroisopropyl)  
116 phosphate (TCIPP) is the major component) was purchased from Pfaltz & Bauer (Waterbury,  
117 CT, USA). Triamyl phosphate (TAP, IS) was purchased from TCI Europe (Zwijndrecht,  
118 Belgium). Isotope labeled IS of PFRs, TCEP- $\text{D}_{12}$ , TDCIPP- $\text{D}_{15}$ , TPHP- $\text{D}_{15}$ , and TBOEP- $\text{D}_6$   
119 were synthesized by Dr. Vladimir Belov (Max Plank, Germany) and had a purity of >98%.  
120 TBOEP standard was purchased from Acros (Belgium) and had a purity of 94%. DSC-18  
121 sorbent, Z-SEP sorbent and Supelclean<sup>TM</sup> ENVI<sup>TM</sup>-Florisol<sup>®</sup> cartridges (500 mg, 3 mL) were  
122 purchased from Supelco (Bellefonte, PA, USA). Aminopropyl silica (APS) cartridges (500 mg,  
123 3 mL) were purchased from Agilent (Santa Clara, CA, USA). Silica gel, anhydrous  
124 magnesium sulfate ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ), concentrated sulfuric acid ( $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , 98%) and all solvent in used  
125 (chromatography grade) were purchased from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany).

126

### 127 2.3. Sample preparation and analysis

128 The sample preparation and analysis method were described in details by Xu et al, (2015)  
129 and are given in the Supplementary Information (SI). Briefly, about 2 g freeze-dried yolk or  
130 whole egg sample (for albumen only 1 g was used) was spiked with IS (MEH-TBB,  
131 MBEH-TEBP, TAP, TPHP-D<sub>15</sub>, TDCIPP-D<sub>15</sub> and TCEP-D<sub>12</sub>), then extracted with  
132 ultrasonication and vortexation in 5 mL acetonitrile:toluene (9:1, v/v). After solvent exchange  
133 to hexane, the extract was performed with multi-step clean-up to further remove lipid and  
134 pigment. First, the extract was fractionated on a Florisil cartridge: the first fraction (F1) was  
135 eluted with 8 mL hexane and the second fraction (F2) was eluted with 5 mL acetonitrile. After  
136 concentrated under a gentle nitrogen flow, the F1 was further cleaned-up on 2 g acid silica  
137 (10%, pre-cleaned with 6 mL hexane) with 10 mL hexane:dichloromethane (1:1, v/v, F3). F2  
138 was concentrated to 2.5 mL, adding with 200 mg Z-SEP/DSC18 mixture sorbent to perform  
139 dispersive SPE for the removal of interference. After centrifugation, the supernatant of F2 was  
140 combined with F3, then, solvent-exchange to 2 mL of hexane, which was further fractionated  
141 on an APS cartridge. Elution was performed with 10 mL hexane (F4) and 12 mL  
142 hexane:dichloromethane (1:1, v/v, F5). Both fractions were evaporated to nearly dryness, and  
143 then resolubilized in 100 µL of iso-octane prior to GC-MS analysis.

144 EH-TBB and BEH-TEBP (in F4) were analyzed by 6890 Agilent (Palo Alto, CA, USA)  
145 gas chromatography (GC) coupled to a 5973 mass spectrometer (MS) operated in electron  
146 capture negative ionization (ECNI). A DB-5 column (15 m × 0.25 mm × 0.10 µm) was used  
147 for separation and the MS was deployed in selected ion monitoring (SIM) mode. The analysis

148 of PFRs (in F5) was performed by GC-MS in electron ionization (EI) mode. A HT-8 column  
149 (25 m × 0.22 mm × 0.25 μm) was used and the MS was operated in SIM mode with two  
150 characteristic ions acquired for each compound. Detailed information about analytical  
151 parameters was provided by Xu et al. (2015).

152

#### 153 *2.4. Quantification and quality assurance*

154 For quality control, procedural blanks (N = 9 in total) and spiked egg samples (N = 6 in  
155 total) were added in the each batch of sample extraction. All target analytes were  
156 blank-corrected. The recoveries of target compounds in spiked egg samples ranged from 98 ±  
157 12% to 134 ± 38%. The limits of quantification (LOQs, table 1) were set as the mean values  
158 plus three times standard deviations of blanks. For the undetected compounds in blanks, the  
159 LOQs were estimated as a signal to noise ratio of 10.

160

#### 161 *2.5. Statistical analysis*

162 Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS 16 for Windows (SPSS, Inc., Chicago, IL).  
163 Data below LOQs were replaced with ½\*LOQ in statistical analysis when the chemical have  
164 over 50% detection frequency (DF). After log-transformation, data was performed with  
165 one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) to compare the differences of TCEP, ΣTCPP, and  
166 total PFRs levels in eggs from different sites.

167

### 168 **3. Results and discussion**

#### 169 *3.1. Levels of target FRs in home-produced eggs*

170 EH-TBB was detected in 30% of eggs from e-waste sites, but not in eggs from the

171 control site. BEH-TEBP could be quantified in two thirds of eggs from e-waste sites, ranging  
172 from nd-1.82, 0.077-0.96 and nd-0.31 ng/g ww in Sites 1-3, respectively (Table 1), but it was  
173 also found in two out of eight eggs from the control site. A weak relationship could link  
174 e-waste recycling activities with EH-TBB/BEH-TEBP contamination in free-range chicken  
175 eggs. By contrast, if considering approximately 10% lipid content in eggs, Labunska et al.  
176 (2015) reported higher levels of EH-TBB (average: 4.3 ng/g lw) and similar levels of  
177 BEH-TEBP (average: 1.1 ng/g lw) in poultry eggs from another e-waste recycling area in  
178 southern China. Similar to our findings, the concentrations of EH-TBB and BEH-TEBP in  
179 their egg samples were only 2-5 times higher than the levels (or LOQ) for control site, while  
180 distinctive differences of persistent contaminants, such as PBDEs, hexabromocyclododecane  
181 (HBCD) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) could be seen in eggs from e-waste sites and  
182 control sites (1-3 orders of magnitude higher in eggs from e-waste sites than control sites)  
183 (Labunska et al, 2013, 2015; Zheng et al 2012).

184 Among the PFRs measured in the present study, TPHP, EHDPHP, TCEP,  $\sum$ TCPP and  
185 TDCIPP were detected in eggs, but only TCEP,  $\sum$ TCPP and TDCIPP have over 50% DF in  
186 eggs from e-waste recycling sites. TEHP, TNPP, TNBP, TBOEP and TMPP were not detected  
187 in all samples. Total PFRs levels were 0.92-7.61, 0.48-15.8, 1.02-3.62 and 0.62-3.03 ng/g ww  
188 in eggs from three e-waste sites and the control site, respectively (Table 1). All three  
189 chlorinated PFRs, TCEP,  $\sum$ TCPP and TDCIPP, could be found in eggs, while only EHDPHP  
190 and TPHP, out of five non-chlorinated PFRs were detected, probably implying that  
191 chlorinated PFRs might be more persistent or bioaccumulative in eggs than non-chlorinated  
192 PFRs. No significant differences were found between levels of TCEP,  $\sum$ TCPP and total PFRs

193 in eggs from e-waste sites and the control site (one-way ANOVA,  $p > 0.05$ ). Accordingly,  
194 e-waste recycling activities seem to have little influence on the PFR levels in eggs.

195 Only limited studies reported the PFR levels in food or biota. Chen et al. (2012)  
196 reported low levels of EHDPHP (<0.09-0.17 ng/g ww), TBOEP (0.16-2.2 ng/g ww), TCEP  
197 (<0.10-0.55 ng/g ww) and TCPP (<0.20-4.1 ng/g ww) in herring gull eggs from the  
198 Channel-Shelter Island (Lake Huron, US) in 2010, while TEHP and TPHP were not detected.  
199 In another study about herring gull eggs from the Great Lakes basin during 2013, TCEP was  
200 detected in 58% of samples (max 13 ng/g ww) (Chu and Letcher, 2015). In free-range chicken  
201 eggs from the Belgium market, only TPHP (0.27 ng/g ww) could be found (Xu et al, 2015).  
202 These studies about PFRs in eggs showed similar range of PFR levels with our results.  
203 Moreover, Malarvannan et al. (2015) reported a median of 8.4 ng/g ww (range 3.4-44 ng/g  
204 ww) of total PFR levels in eel muscle from catchments in Belgium. In Western Scheldt  
205 catchment (Netherlands and Belgium), the median levels of total PFRs in different aquatic  
206 species ranged from 3 to 22 ng/g ww (Brandsma et al, 2015). So far, there are no reports on  
207 correlations between the bioaccumulation of PFRs in biota and the contamination of ambient  
208 environment. Kim et al (2011a) observed no accumulation for nine PFRs, except TPHP, in  
209 demersal (aquatic) species. Trophic magnification was tentatively observed for TCEP, TCIPP  
210 and TBOEP in the benthic aquatic food web, but PFRs showed trophic dilution in the pelagic  
211 food web (Brandsma et al, 2015).

212 Although it is not possible to estimate the emission of PBDEs and PFRs from e-waste  
213 recycling to local environment, we found the ratio of total PFRs (2200-6800 ng/g) and PBDEs  
214 (680-24000 ng/g) were range from 0.3-4 in indoor dust from the same area with this study

215 (Zheng et al, 2015). In another study, PBDE levels were 10-50 times higher in eggs from  
216 e-waste sites (2600-14000 ng/g lw) than from the control site (300 ng/g lw) (Zheng et al,  
217 2012). However, little differences of PFR profiles could be observed between e-waste sites  
218 and control site in the same egg samples. In terms of contamination levels in eggs from  
219 e-waste area, PFRs, as well as EH-TBB and BEH-TEBP, were hundreds folds lower than  
220 PBDE concentrations (Zheng et al, 2012), implying their weaker bioaccumulation and  
221 persistency potential in eggs compared to PBDEs. This could possibly due to several factors.  
222 First, the bioaccumulation of organic chemicals was influenced by hydrophobicity (or  $K_{OW}$ ),  
223 and chemicals with  $\log K_{OW}$  around 6-8 tend to be more bioaccumulative (Gobas et al, 2003;  
224 Kelly et al, 2007). Most PFRs have lower  $\log K_{OW}$  1.4-5.1), except TEHP ( $\log K_{OW} = 9.5$ ),  
225 than PBDEs ( $\log K_{OW}$  6-10) (Bergman et al, 2012; CEPA, 1999; van der Veen and de Boer,  
226 2013). Although EH-TBB and BEH-TEBP have  $\log K_{OW}$  of 7.7 and 9.3, respectively, their  
227 bioaccumulation might be also influenced by other factors. Second, the ester bonds of  
228 EH-TBB, BEH-TEBP and PFRs could be broken during metabolism processes, such as in  
229 gastrointestinal tract or liver (Roberts et al, 2012; Van den Eede et al, 2013). TDCIPP can be  
230 completely metabolized to BDCIPP by chicken embryo hepatocytes in 36 h (Farhat et al,  
231 2014). BEH-TEBP and EH-TBB were found to degrade by almost 70% in digestive fluids in  
232 an *in vitro* study (Fang and Stapleton, 2014). Many PFR metabolites have been identified in *in*  
233 *vitro* microsomal studies and in human urine samples (Ballesteros-Gómez et al, 2015; Van den  
234 Eede et al, 2013, 2014, 2015). As a result, metabolism might be an important reason  
235 explaining why only low levels of our target compounds present in the eggs. Further studies  
236 are necessary to elucidate the absorption, metabolism and elimination of PFRs, EH-TBB and

237 BEH-TEBP in organisms.

238

### 239 *3.2 Distribution of FRs between albumen and yolk*

240 Eight eggs were randomly selected to investigate the distribution of FRs between albumen  
241 and yolk. TPHP and  $\sum$ TCPP were detected in albumen and BEH-TEBP and TDCIPP were  
242 detected in yolk, all with values slightly higher than LOQs. BEH-TEBP levels ranged from  
243 nd-0.22 ng/g ww (median = 0.15 ng/g ww) in yolk, while only one albumen sample was  
244 detected with BEH-TEBP above LOQ (0.26 ng/g ww). TPHP had a higher detection  
245 frequency in albumen (62% DF, nd-0.92 ng/g ww) than in yolk (38% DF, 0.28-0.50 ng/g ww).  
246  $\sum$ TCPP (2.06 ng/g ww) was detected in one albumen sample but not in yolk, while TDCIPP  
247 (4.74 ng/g ww) was detected in one yolk sample but not in albumen. PBDEs, BTBPE and  
248 DBDPE were found in yolk, not in albumen (Zheng et al 2012), while same phenomenon was  
249 reported by Rawn et al (2011). Trace amount of DPs were detected in albumen (median: 0.06  
250 ng/g ww), which were much lower than those in yolk (median: 2.78 ng/g ww). It seems that  
251 PBDEs, DPs, BEH-TEBP and other NBFrs tend to accumulate in yolk, and TPHP tend to  
252 accumulate in albumen. The distribution of other PFRs between albumen and yolk was still  
253 not clear, because the lower available amount of albumen samples used in analysis enhance  
254 their LOQ in albumen.

255 Albumen is mainly composed of water and albumin, while yolk contains higher  
256 proportion of lipids, including fat and cholesterol derivatives. The distribution patterns of  
257 NBFrs and PFRs in eggs yolk and albumen could probably link to the  $K_{ow}$  of each  
258 compound. It may relate to the different affinity for albumin and lipid compounds. Compared

259 with our results, Greaves and Letcher (2014) reported higher levels of PFRs in both albumen  
260 ( $14.8 \pm 5.9$  ng/g ww) and yolk ( $14.8 \pm 2.4$  ng/g ww) of herring gull eggs with different  
261 profiles. TBOEP accounted for 66% of the PFR concentrations in their albumen samples, but  
262 only 13% in yolk, while TNBP accounted for 25% of the PFR concentrations in yolk with no  
263 detection in albumen (Greaves and Letcher, 2014). Whereas the herring gulls are predators  
264 and their oviposition period/amount is also different compared to hens, it is reasonable to  
265 observe a different (and more contaminated) PFR profile in gull eggs.

266

### 267 *3.3 Human exposure of EH-TBB, BEH-TEBP and PFRs: comparison with indoor dust*

268 Based on a diet consumption survey in Guangdong Province conducted in 2002, the  
269 average egg consumption was 14.0 g/day/person in the rural regions (Ma et al, 2005).  
270 Applying an average body weight (bw) of 70 kg for adults and 12 kg for children (Zheng et al,  
271 2015), the median exposure our target contaminants via egg consumption were estimated  
272 (Table 2). The estimated dietary exposure of BEH-TEBP ranged from 0.03-0.09 and 0.20-0.54  
273 ng/kg bw/day for adults and children, respectively, which were similar with assessment for  
274 another e-waste recycling region (0.07 and 0.28 ng/kg bw/day for adults and children)  
275 (Labunska, 2015). PFR intakes were 0.32-0.52 and 1.89-3.02 ng/kg bw/day for adults and  
276 children in e-waste recycling sites, which was slightly higher than PFR intake values in the  
277 control site (0.28 and 1.62 ng/kg bw/day for adults and children, respectively).

278 The human exposure risks of PBDEs, NBRFs and PFRs via dust ingestion have been  
279 reported in the same sampling region (Zheng et al, 2015). Figure 1 compared the human  
280 exposure via dust ingestion and eggs consumption to PBDEs, NBRFs and PFRs. PBDEs,

281 BTBPE and DPs exposure via eggs were at least 5 times higher than exposure via indoor dust.  
282 Meanwhile, with exception of site 1, DBDPE, BEH-TEBP, and PFRs exposure via dust  
283 ingestion was over four times higher than via egg consumption. Egg consumption seems to be  
284 the main exposure pathway for PBDEs, BTBPE and DPs, while indoor dust ingestion is  
285 probably a more important pathway for DBDPE, BEH-TEBP, and PFRs. However, people  
286 usually have at least one egg (about 40-70 g) each time that leads to a pulse exposure of 3-5  
287 times of proposed average daily exposure for only one egg consumption. Furthermore, if  
288 considering consumption of other food, the FR exposure risk via diet might be higher. As a  
289 result, EH-TBB, BEH-TEBP and PFRs exposure via other food product consumption should  
290 also be investigated in the future for more comprehensive risk assessment.

291

## 292 **4 Conclusions**

293 EH-TBB, BEH-TEBP and eight PFRs were measured in free-range chicken eggs from  
294 three e-waste recycling sites and a control site. BEH-TEBP, TCEP,  $\sum$ TCPP and TDCIPP were  
295 detected in more than 50% of eggs. BEH-TEBP had a higher detection frequency and higher  
296 concentrations in yolk than albumen, while TPHP was more detected in albumen, likely due  
297 to its different physical-chemical properties (e.g.,  $K_{OW}$ ) and to its affinity for albumin or lipids.  
298 Human exposure risks to BEH-TEBP and PFRs via egg consumption were lower than  
299 exposure via indoor dust in e-waste recycling region. However, as the food intake is  
300 thousands times higher than the dust intake amount, and egg is only a small part of our daily  
301 diet, total dietary exposure to these FRs might be higher. Therefore, more studies about  
302 EH-TBB, BEH-TEBP and PFRs in food products are required in order to achieve better

303 assessment of their exposure risk via diet.

304

## 305 **Acknowledgements**

306 The present work was supported by the National Basic Research Program of China  
307 (2015CB453102), the National Nature Science Foundation of China (Nos. 41230639 and  
308 41273118), and the Strategic Priority Research Program of the Chinese Academy of Sciences  
309 (No. XDB14020301). We thank Guangzhou Elite Project 2013 (China) for providing  
310 scholarship for Xiaobo Zheng's one year stay at the University of Antwerp. The research  
311 leading to these results has received funding from the European Union Seventh Framework  
312 Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement #316665 (A-TEAM project) and from  
313 the University of Antwerp. Nele Van den Eede is acknowledged for her suggestions and  
314 discussions during the experiment.

315

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432 retardants and organochlorines in indoor dust from several e-waste recycling sites in South  
433 China: Composition variations and implications for human exposure. *Environ Int*, 2015,  
434 78:1-7.

435 Table 1. Medians (range) in ng/g ww (detection frequency) of PFRs, EH-TBB, and  
 436 BEH-TEBP in home-produced eggs.

437

	LOQs	E-waste Sites			Control Site (n=8)
		Site 1 (n=12)	Site 2 (n=7)	Site 3 (n=10)	
<b>TPHP</b>	0.23	nd <sup>a</sup> -0.69 (50%)	nd-0.36 (43%)	nd-0.43 (40%)	nd-0.29 (25%)
<b>EHDPPH</b>	0.30	nd-0.40 (17%)	nd-0.38 (28%)	nd-0.68 (40%)	nd-0.83 (50%)
<b>TCEP</b>	0.11	1.08 (0.44-2.38) (100%)	0.67 (0.32-1.07) (100%)	0.72 (0.32-0.94) (100%)	0.65 (0.62-1.29) (100%)
<b>TDCIPP</b>	0.60	nd-5.84 (42%)	nd-13.1 (43%)	0.49 (nd-1.95) (70%)	0.67 <sup>b</sup>
$\Sigma$ T CPP	0.15	0.56 (nd-3.49) (92%)	0.37 (0.16-1.53) (100%)	0.33 (0.19-0.94) (100%)	0.17 (nd-1.26) (75%)
$\Sigma$ PFRs	-	2.59 (0.92-7.61)	1.62 (0.48-15.8)	1.95 (1.02-3.62)	1.39 (0.62-3.03)
<b>EH-TBB</b>	0.005	0.005	0.058	0.062 (nd-0.10) (70%)	nd
<b>BEH-TEBP</b>	0.05	nd-1.82 (42%)	0.46 (0.077-0.96) (100%)	0.17 (nd-0.31) (80%)	nd-0.54 (25%)

438 <sup>a</sup> not detected

439 <sup>b</sup> only found in one sample

440

441 Table 2. Human exposure assessment of BEH-TEBP and PFRs via egg consumption (ng/kg  
 442 bw/day).

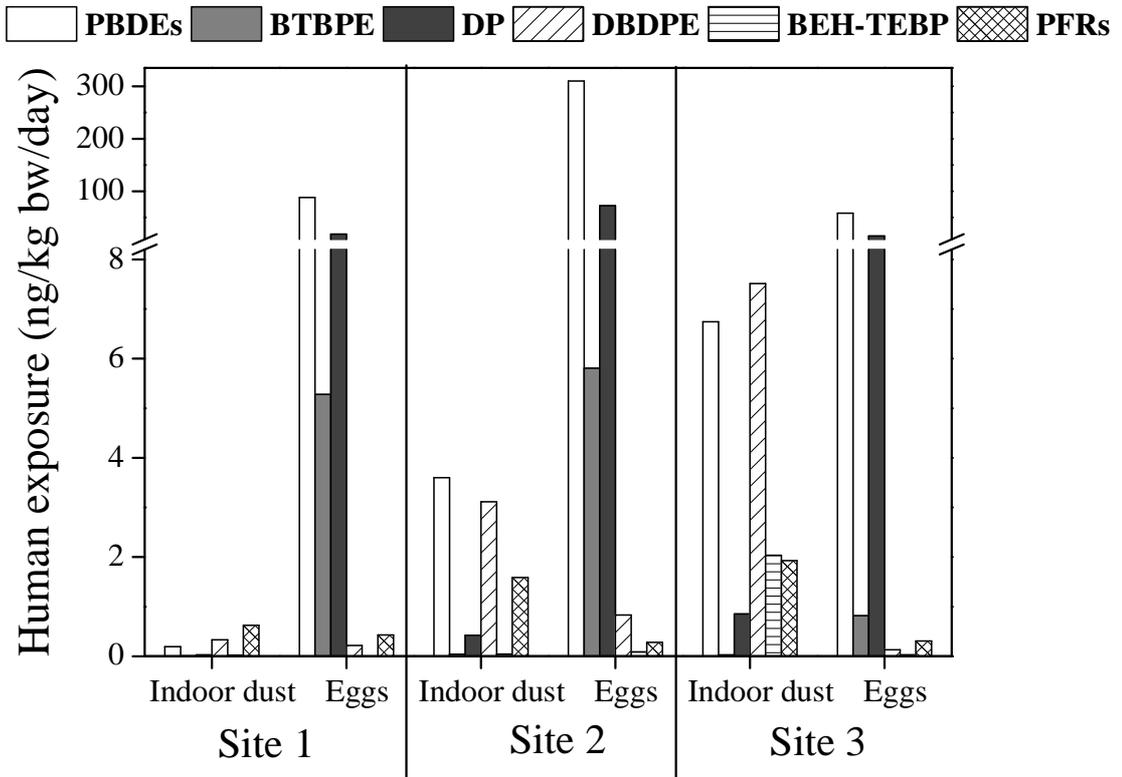
443

		<b>E-waste sites</b>			<b>Control site</b>
		<b>Site 1</b>	<b>Site 2</b>	<b>Site 3</b>	
<b>BEH-TEBP</b>	Adult	NA	0.09	0.03	NA
<b>(ng/kg bw /day)</b>	Children	NA	0.54	0.20	NA
<b>PFRs</b>	Adult	0.52	0.32	0.39	0.28
<b>(ng/kg bw /day)</b>	Children	3.02	1.89	2.28	1.62

444

NA – Not available

445 Figure 1. Human exposure of FRs via dust ingestion and egg consumption in e-waste sites.  
446



447  
448