

# Benign by Design as an Important Building Block of Green and Sustainable Chemistry-The Example of Small Molecules

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Klaus  
Kümmerer



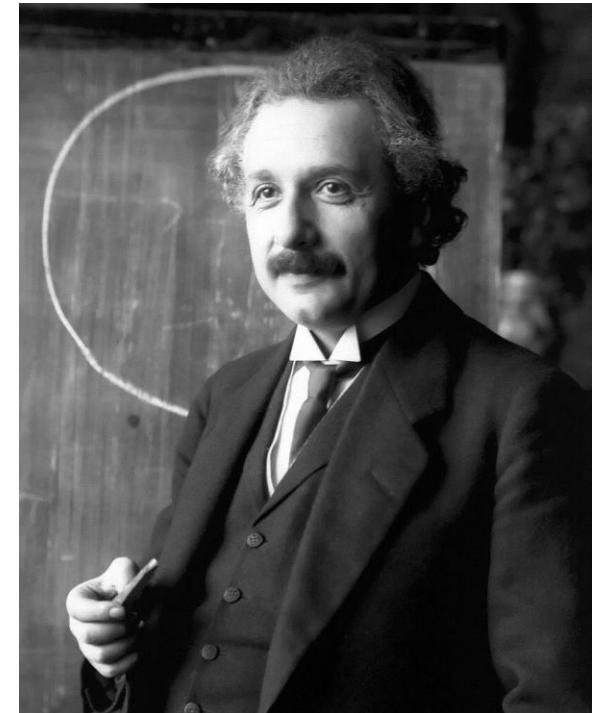
Bildquelle: UBA 2011

$$S = k \cdot \ln W$$

**A smart person solves a problem.**

**A wise person avoids it.**

Attributed to Albert Einstein



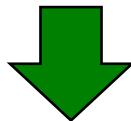
# What Is the Problem ?

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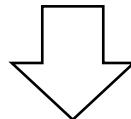
## Persistence

# Non-toxic Environment: Avoiding Persistence

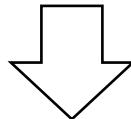
Chemical



Fast and complete mineralization in the environment

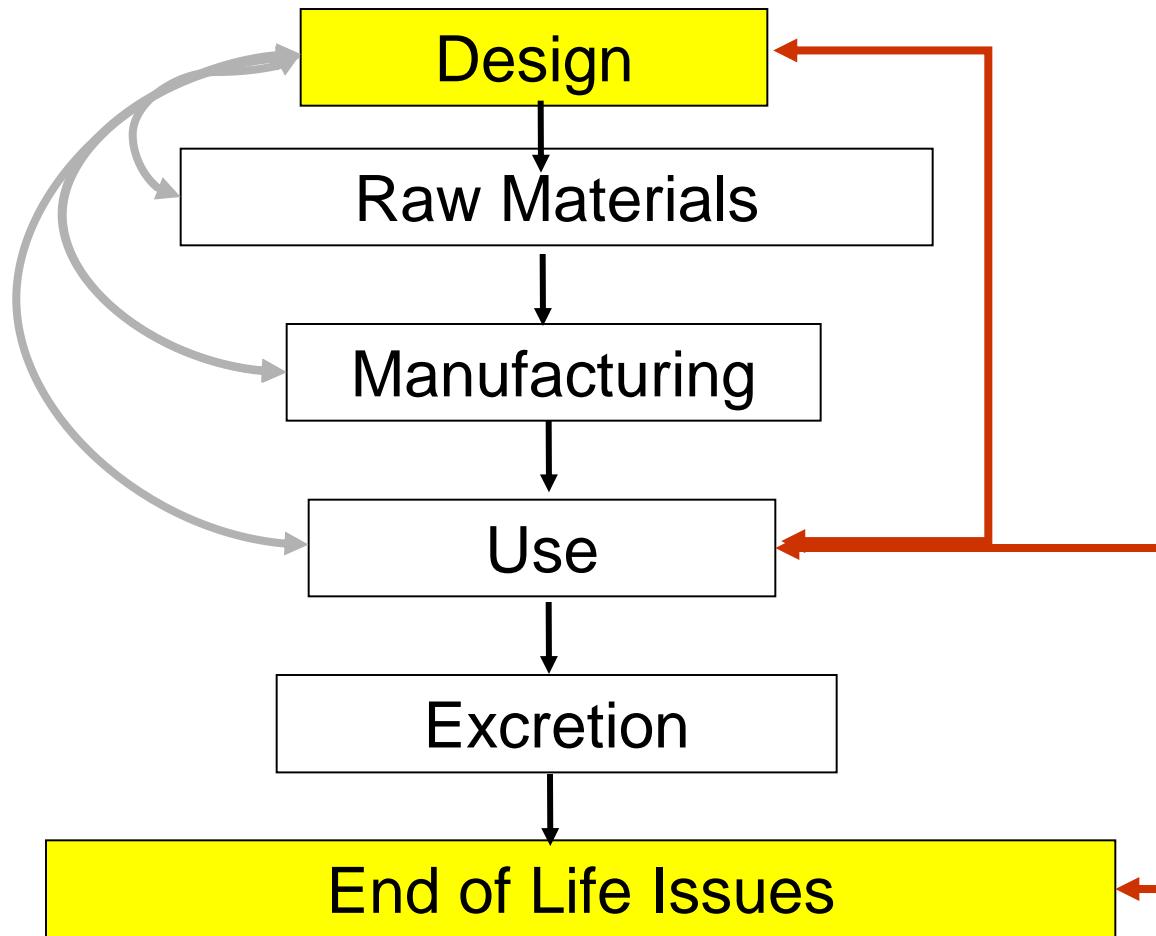


No Exposition



No Effect

# Summary: Life Cycle of Chemicals, Materials and Products



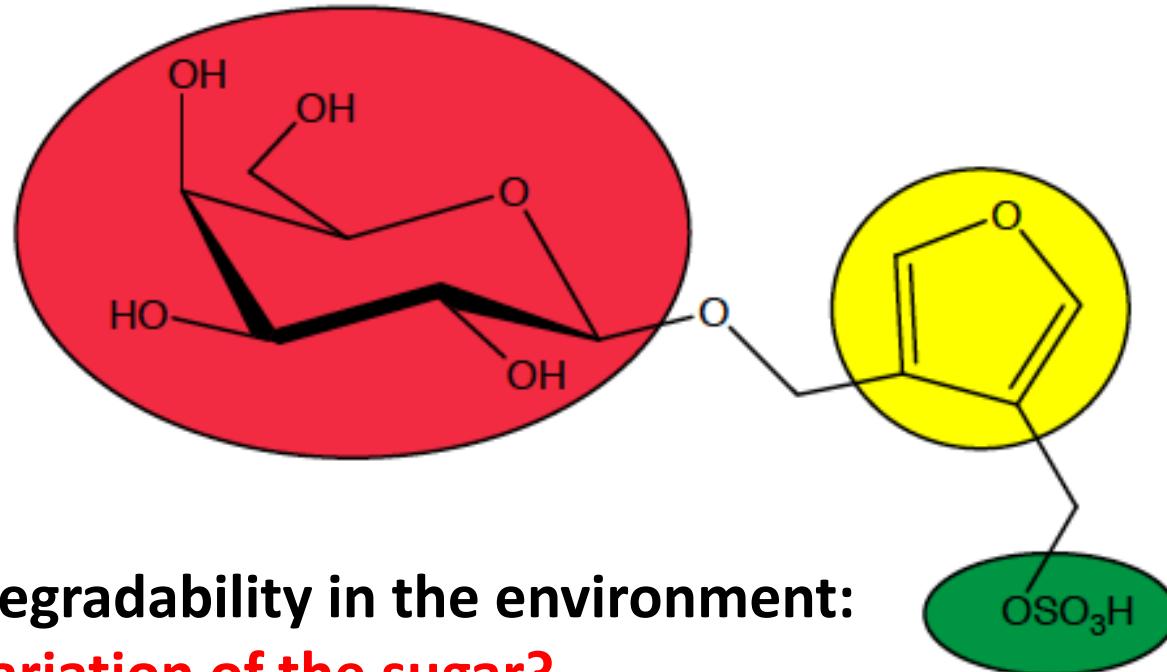
**The end  
already  
always  
in mind!**

**Benign – by  
Design**

Kümmerer, K. (2007) Green Chemistry 9, 899-907, modified

# De Novo-Design

## Systematic Structure Variation of a New Leadstructure



**Efficacy and biodegradability in the environment:**

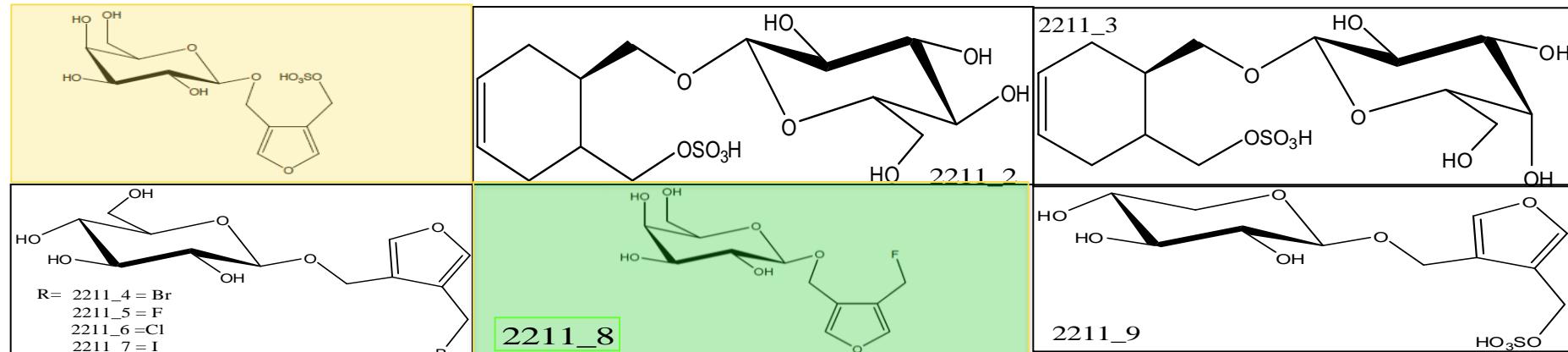
- Improved by variation of the sugar?
- Improved by variation of substituents at the furan ring?
- Improved by variation of the aromatic ring?

Kümmerer K, Frei E, Marano G, in preparation

# De-Novo Design-Systematic Structure Variation

Marano G. et al. EP 2 474 552 A1

| Structure ID                  | Log Kow | Effect threshold (rel. units) | Biodegradation [%] (CBT) |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>GSF (D-Gal)</b>            | -2.1    | 1                             | 19                       |
| <b>2211_2 (Glu ,Cyclohex)</b> | -1.8    | > 1                           | 37                       |
| <b>2211_3 (Gal, Cyclohex)</b> | -1.8    | > 1                           | 37                       |
| <b>2211_4 (Glu-Br)</b>        | -0.5    | > 1                           | 14                       |
| <b>2211_5 (Glu-F)</b>         | -0.9    | > 1                           | 14                       |
| <b>2211_6 (Glu-Cl)</b>        | -0.7    | > 1                           | 14                       |
| <b>2211_7 (Glu-I)</b>         | -0.5    | > 1                           | 14                       |
| <b>2211_8 (Gal-F)</b>         | -2.0    | <0,01                         | 37                       |
| <b>2211_9 (Desoxyglu)</b>     | -1.5    | > 1                           | 31                       |



# “Non-Targeted” Re-Design

Pharmaceutical

Photolysis

LC-MS<sup>n</sup> analysis

Biodegradation

Closed Bottle Test [CBT,  
OECD 301D]

Manometric Respirometry  
Test [MRT, OECD 301F]

Biodegradable  
Photo TPs

LC-MS<sup>n</sup> analysis

Green Derivatives  
(e.g.  $\beta$ -blockers)

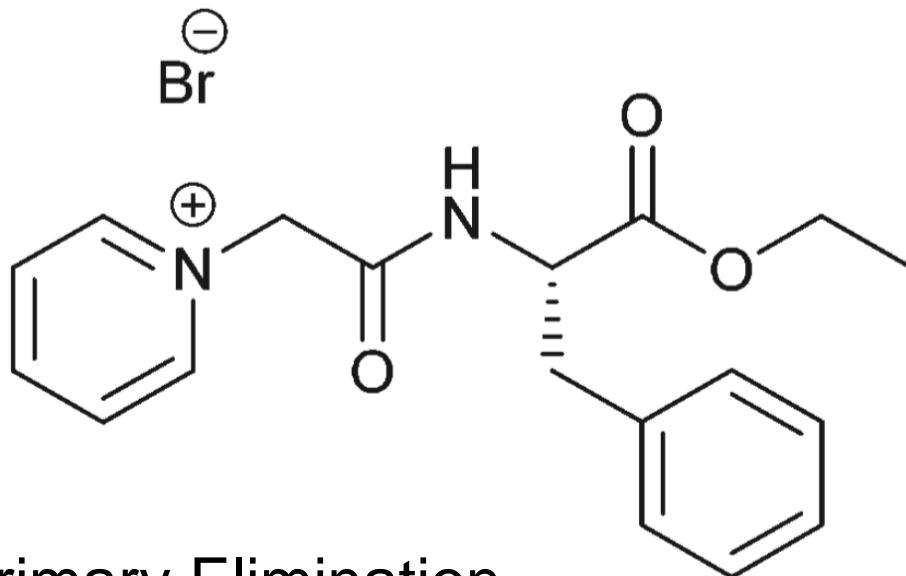
Improved

- Functionality
- Environmental biodegradability

- book Rastogi T, Leder C, Kümmerer K (2014) Chemosphere, 111, 493–499 (**Metoprolol**)
- book Rastogi T, Leder C, Kümmerer K (2015) RSC Advances, 5, 27-32 (**Atenolol**)
- book Rastogi T, Leder C, Kümmerer K (2015) Environmental Science and Technology, 49, 11756–11763 (**Propranolol**; editors choice, open access)

# Targeted Re-Design

Biodegradable Pyridinium Substituted Phenylalanine Derived Ionic Liquid



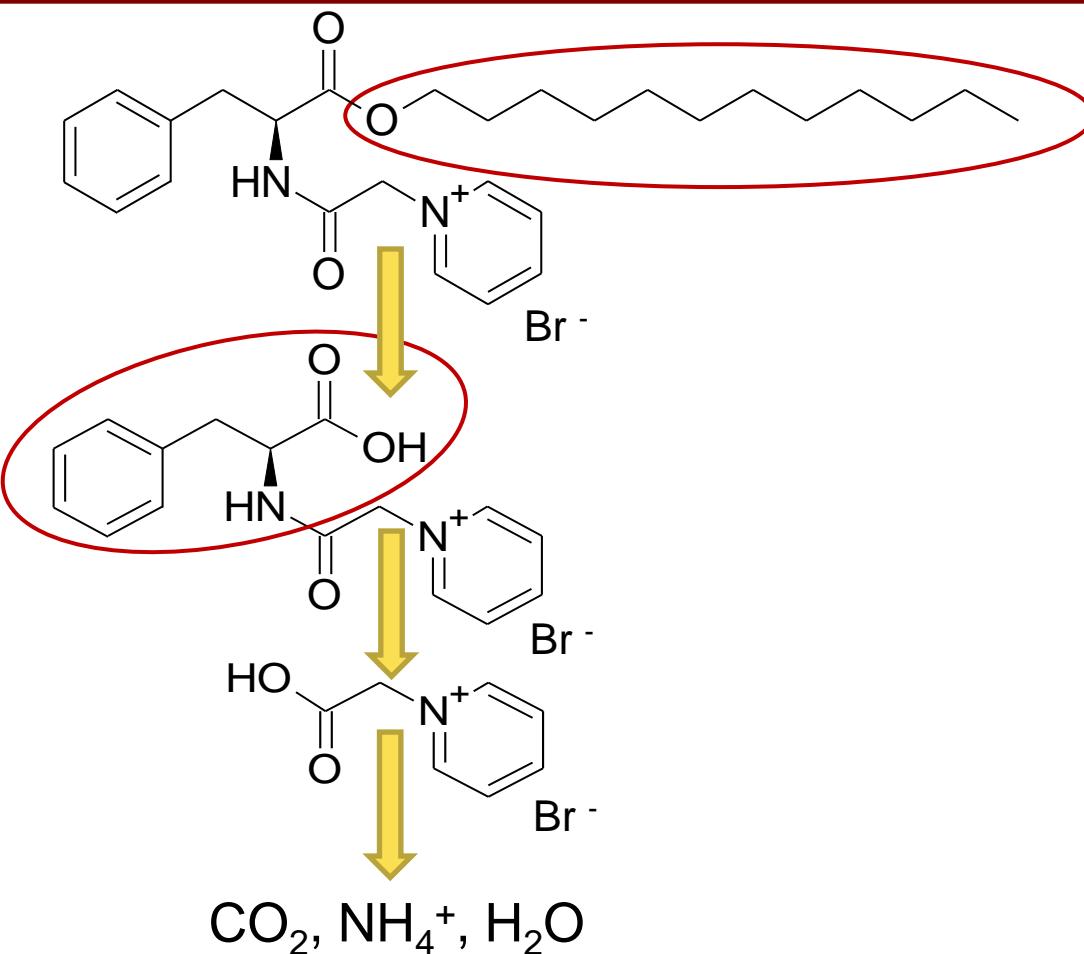
## Primary Elimination

Closed Bottle test (OECD 301D):

- $73\% \pm 0.7\%$  (28d)
- $100\% \pm 0.0\%$  (40d)
- No transformation products (LC-MS)



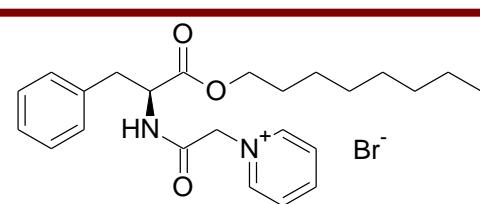
# Breakdown Pathway



1. Loss of alkyl chain  
( $\beta$ -oxidation?)
2. Loss of phenylalanin
3. Loss of pyridinium acetic acid
4. Full mineralisation?

Haiß, ..., Gathergood, Kümmerer et al. 2016, Green Chemistry 18, 4315-4572; Haiß, ..., Gathergood, Kümmerer et al., manuscript in preparation

# Structure Biodegradability Relationships (1)

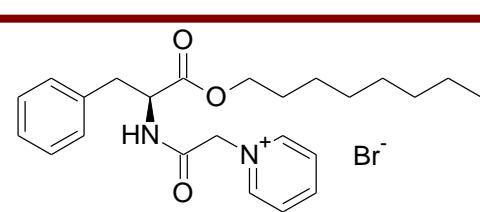


Phenylalanine-  
Pyridinium-Ils

Full mineralisation if  $\leq \text{C}_8$   
(>28 days in CBT)

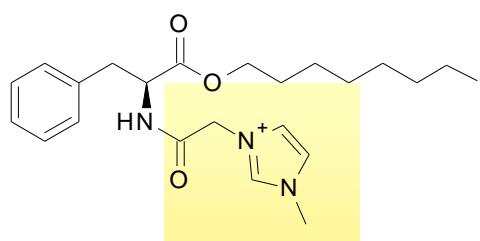
 Haiß et al. 2016, Green Chemistry 18, 4315-4572  
 Haiß et al., publication in preparation

# Structure Biodegradability Relationships (3)



Phenylalanine-  
Pyridinium-ILs

Full mineralisation if  $\leq C_8$   
(>28 days in CBT)



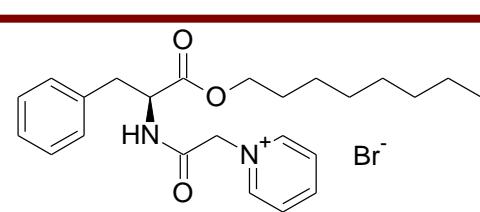
Phenylalanine-  
Imidazolium-ILs

Break-down ends with a probably  
persistent fragment  
(1-carboxymethyl)-3-methyl-imidazol-3-ium)

 Haß et al. 2016, Green Chemistry 18, 4315-4572

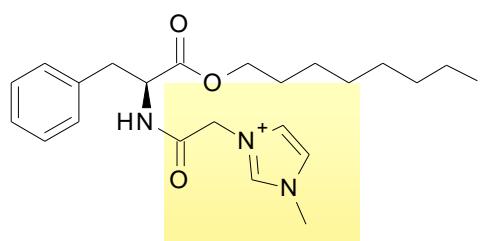
 Haß et al., publication in preparation

# Structure Biodegradability Relationships (4)



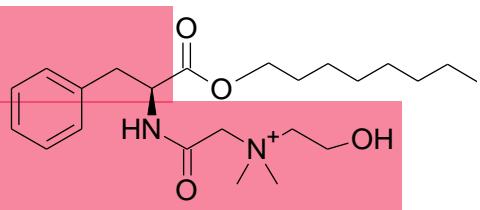
Phenylalanine-  
Pyridinium-ILs

Full mineralisation if  $\leq \text{C}_8$   
(>28 days in CBT)



Phenylalanine-  
Imidazolium-ILs

Break-down ends with a probably  
persistent fragment  
(1-carboxymethyl)-3-methyl-imidazol-3-ium)



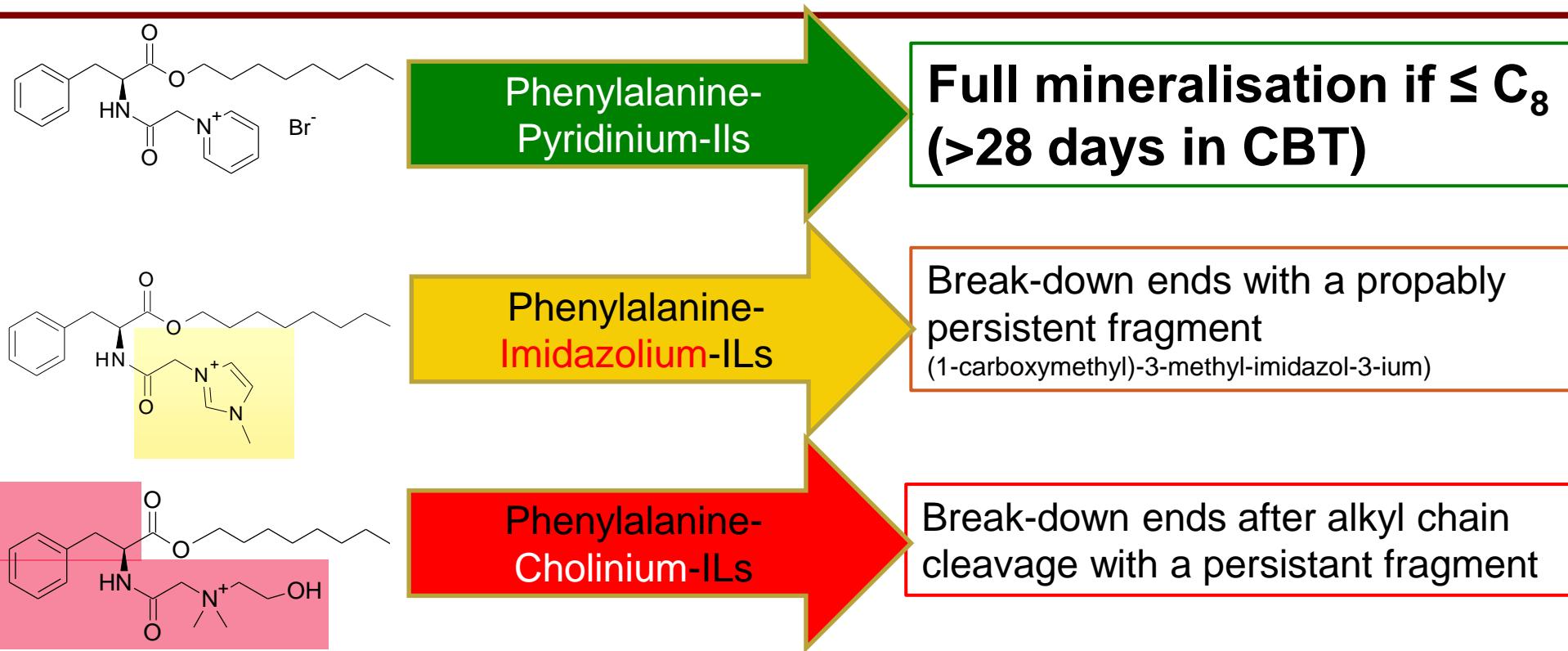
Phenylalanine-  
Cholinium-ILs

Break-down ends after alkyl chain  
cleavage with a persistant fragment

Haiß et al. 2016, Green Chemistry 18, 4315-4572

Haiß et al., publication in preparation

# Recommendation



Use Phenylalanine derived Pyridinium-ILs with an linear alkyl chain up to  $C_8$

Haiß et al. 2016, Green Chemistry 18, 4315-4572

Haiß et al., publication in preparation

# Conclusions

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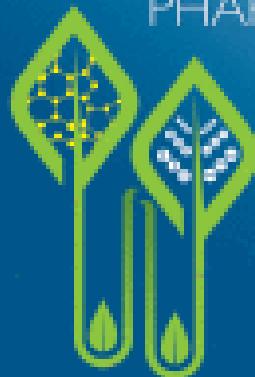
- Fully environmentally biodegradable chemicals and pharmaceuticals reduce micro pollutants **inherently**
- Environmentally benign design **is feasible**
- Structure biodegradability relationships allow for a **targeted selection of compounds**

S<sup>3</sup>C<sub>†</sub>  
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for Sustainable Development<sub>†</sub>

Sustainable Chemistry and Electronic Goods<sub>†</sub>

24<sup>th</sup> September – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017  
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