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² H and ¹³ C isotope fractionation analysis of organophosphorus compounds for
characterizing transformation reactions in biogas slurry: Potential for anaerobic
treatment of contaminated biomass
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18 Abstract

19 The ability of anaerobic digestion (AD) to eliminate organophosphorus model compounds (OPs) 20 with structural elements of phosphate, phosphorothioate and phosphorodithioate esters was 21 studied. The enzymatic mechanism of the first irreversible degradation reaction was 22 characterized using metabolite pattern and kinetic ²H/¹³C-isotope effect in original, cell-free and 23 heat sterilized biogas slurry. The isotope fractionation study suggests different modes of 24 degradation reactions. Representatives for phosphate ester, tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate and 25 tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate, were hydrolyzed in biogas slurry without carbon or 26 hydrogen isotope fractionation. Representatives for phosphorodithioate, Dimethoate and 27 Malathion, were degraded in original slurry yielding carbon enrichment factor ($\varepsilon_{\rm C}$) of -0.6 ± 0.1‰ 28 and $-5.5 \pm 0.1\%$ (-0.9 $\pm 0.1\%$ and $-7.2 \pm 0.5\%$ in cell-free slurry), without hydrogen isotope 29 fractionation. Phosphorothioate degradation represented by Parathion and Parathion-methyl 30 yielded surprisingly different $\varepsilon_{\rm C}$ (-0.7 ± 0.2 and -3.6 ± 0.4‰) and $\varepsilon_{\rm H}$ (-33 ± 5 and -5 ± 1‰) in 31 original slurry compared to cell-free slurry ($\varepsilon_{\rm C} = -2.5 \pm 0.5$ and $-8.6 \pm 1.4\%$; $\varepsilon_{\rm H} = -61 \pm 10$ and -32 $10 \pm 3\%$) suggesting H-C bond cleavage. Degradation of Parathion and Parathion-methyl in 33 sterilized slurry gave carbon but not hydrogen fractionation implying relative thermostable enzymatic activity with different mechanism. The correlation of ²H and ¹³C stable isotope 34 35 fractionation of Parathion in biogas slurry showed distinct pattern ($\Lambda_{\text{original}} = 31 \pm 11$, $\Lambda_{\text{cell-free}} =$ 20 ± 2), indicating different mechanism from chemical hydrolysis. Overall, AD can be a 36 37 potential treatment for OPs contaminated biomass or contaminated organic waste material.

- 38 Key words: Organophosphorus compounds, enzymatic hydrolysis, biogas reactor, two
- 39 dimensional compound-specific stable isotope analysis, isotope fractionation, reaction
- 40 mechanism

41

1. Introduction

42 Synthetic organophosphorus compounds (OPs) have been produced for various purposes. Most 43 of them are used as pesticides, plasticizers, air fuel ingredients and chemical warfare agents 44 (Singh and Walker, 2006). OPs constitute the largest group of insecticides, accounting for an 45 estimated 34% of world-wide sales, compared with other types of insecticides, such as carbamate 46 and organochlorine compounds (Chanda et al., 2006; Karami-Mohajeri and Abdollahi, 2010). 47 Biomass may be contaminated with residual OP pesticides (Battersby and Wilson, 1989; Kupper 48 et al., 2008), and the waste material from crops or organic wastes containing OPs (Pang et al., 49 2018) could be well used for biogas production. The efficiency and robustness of degradation 50 need to be assessed for the development of biotechnological strategies on treating organic waste 51 in biogas producing anaerobic digestion (AD) systems.

52 Thus, the monitoring and characterization of OPs degradation in AD system is an important 53 aspect for developing treatment concepts. Knowledge on degradation mechanisms might be used 54 to optimize the reduction of residual concentration in digestate. Till now, degradation of OPs has 55 been investigated in natural water systems (Druzina and Stegu, 2007), soils (Singh et al., 2005), 56 sediments (Graetz et al., 1970) and bioreactors (Li et al., 2008). The fates of OPs in environment 57 comprise both biotic transformation via microorganisms and abiotic processes. The hydrolysis is 58 assumed as the most important step for detoxification of OPs (Singh and Walker, 2006; Theriot 59 and Grunden, 2011). The biotic and chemical hydrolysis of OPs proceeds probably 60 simultaneously in AD.

61 OPs contain three main core structures based on the oxygen or sulfur atom position: phosphate,

62 phosphorothioate and phosphorodithioate (Sogorb and Vilanova, 2002). In this study, six typical

63	OPs (tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (TCEP), tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate (TDCPP),
64	Parathion, Parathion-methyl, Dimethoate and Malathion) were chosen as model compounds to
65	investigate transformation containing phosphate, phosphorothioate and phosphorodithioate in
66	AD system. TCEP and TDCPP appear to be the most recalcitrant and are ubiquitous flame
67	retardants in the environment (Ding et al., 2015; Reemtsma et al., 2008). Degradations of
68	Parathion and Parathion-methyl were observed in anoxic soils via reduction and hydrolysis
69	(Adhya et al., 1981). Several researchers reported the reductive transformation of Parathion and
70	Parathion-methyl by anaerobic microorganisms (Barton et al., 2004; Guo and Jans, 2006; Katan
71	et al., 1976; Yang et al., 2007). A long adaption time was needed to reach the complete removal
72	of Dimethoate in an expanded granular sludge bed reactor (Monsalvo et al., 2014). A
73	Dimethoate-degrading enzyme from Aspergillus niger ZHY256 isolated from sewage and the
74	soil of highly contaminated cotton field was reported (Liu et al., 2001). Biodegradation of
75	Malathion was found in estuarine waters (Lacorte et al., 1995), as well as with Acinetobacter
76	strain baumannii AFA isolated from domestic sewage in Egypt (Azmy et al., 2015). Hydrolysis
77	was found to be an important biodegradation pathway of OPs under aerobic and anaerobic
78	conditions (Singh, 2009; Singh and Walker, 2006; Theriot and Grunden, 2011).

To improve degradation rate and promote investigation on the fate of OPs, the identification of
degradation mechanism in AD is crucial. Multi-element fingerprinting of chemicals via
compound-specific stable isotope analysis (CSIA) was applied to trace the degradation
mechanisms making use of isotope fractionation concepts (Meyer et al., 2009; Penning et al.,
2010; Zhang et al., 2015). Several studies on CSIA to trace abiotic hydrolysis of OPs have been
reported (Wu et al., 2018a, 2017, 2014). A recent study on natural attenuation of Parathion by

hydrolysis at a contaminated field site in Denmark using CSIA was described (Wu et al., 2018b),
indicating that the isotope fractionation pattern has potential to characterize and monitor
hydrolysis in field studies. Moreover, application of CSIA for investigating the
biotransformation of hexachlorocyclohexanes in biogas slurry has been recently published (Lian
et al., 2018). To our best knowledge this is the first report that elucidates biotransformation of
OPs in biogas reactors making use of isotope fractionation to characterize the bond cleavage of
the initial degradation reactions steps.

92 This study intends to evaluate the degradation mechanism of phosphate, phosphorothioate and 93 phosphorodithioate derivatives in AD, using biogas slurries from a pilot-scale biogas plant as a 94 model system. In case of effective transformation, phytoremediation (Peuke and Rennenberg, 95 2005) combined with AD can also be considered as a potential strategy for environmental 96 cleanup (Lian et al., 2018). The specific objectives of this study were to: (i) assess 97 biodegradation of OPs in the original biogas slurry in order to evaluate the capability of microbes 98 for OPs elimination; (ii) monitor enzymatic hydrolytic activity in cell-free slurry (slurry after 99 centrifugation and filtration with a 0.22 μ m filter to remove cells) and identify the similarity of 100 degradation mechanism in original slurry; (iii) characterize the degradation pathways of OPs by 101 dual C-H isotope fractionation patterns. The potential of biogas reactors to degrade OPs could be 102 exploited to treat contaminated waste materials and CSIA could be useful for characterizing and 103 monitoring the degradation pathways.

104 **2. Materials and Methods**

105 **2.1 Chemicals**

106 TCEP (tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate, analytical standard, 97.0% pure), TDCPP (tris(1,3-

107 dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate, 95.7% pure), Parathion (*O*,*O*-diethyl-*O*-(4-nitrophenyl)

- 108 phosphorothioate, analytical standard, 99.7% pure), Parathion-methyl (O,O-dimethyl-O-(4-
- 109 nitrophenyl) phosphorothioate, analytical standard, 99.8% pure), Dimethoate (O,O-dimethyl S-
- 110 [2-(methylamino)-2-oxoethyl] phosphorodithioate, analytical standard, 99.6% pure), Malathion
- 111 (O,O-dimethyl S-(1,2-dicarbethoxyethyl) phosphorodithioate, analytical standard, 99.7% pure),
- 112 Dichlorvos (2,2-dichlorovinyl dimethyl phosphate, analytical standard, 98.8% pure) and tris base
- 113 (2-Amino-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1,3-propanediol) were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (Munich,
- 114 Germany). Anhydrous Na₂SO₄ (extra pure) and hydrochloric acid (HCl) were purchased from
- 115 Merck (Darmstadt, Germany).

116 **2.2 Anaerobic biogas slurry**

Biogas slurry (total solids (TS) = 6.84%, volatile solids = 77.34% of TS) was taken from a pilotscale biogas plant operated with an organic loading rate of 3.5 $g_{vs}L^{-1}day^{-1}$ and hydraulic retention time of 47 days, utilizing maize silage and cattle manure as main substrates. The slurry was sieved (1cm) before using for biodegradation assays.

121 **2.3 OPs biodegradation assays with biogas slurry**

For assessing biodegradation of OPs in AD system, the original slurry was used. The cell-free supernatant was assigned for study on enzymatic hydrolysis of OPs. In order to obtain the cell-

124 free fraction, slurry from biogas reactor was centrifuged at $16,100 \times g$ (4 °C) for 20 min to

remove solid particles, and then the supernatant was filtered through a 0.22 µm membrane filter
(Merck Millipore). The slurry was autoclaved (121 °C, 30 min) three times in bottles for
sterilized control experiments.

Thus, four sets of experiments were conducted simultaneously: (i) original slurry directly taken from the biogas plant was used to detect the capability of microbes for OPs degradation; (ii) cellfree slurry after centrifugation and filtration (see above) was utilized to analyze the hydrolytic activity of extracellular enzymes; (iii) sterilized slurry was used for assuming that cells were killed and enzyme activity were inactivated by elevated temperature typical for sterilization; (iv) chemical hydrolysis experiments of OP with tris-HCl buffer at pH 7.4 was conducted as an abiotic control.

135 Original slurry was initially tested to transform Parathion and Parathion-methyl initially, but the 136 reaction was too rapid to analyze the associated isotope fractionation. Therefore, a 50-fold 137 dilution of original slurry was used after a series of dilution experiments, in order to reduce the rate of reaction for obtaining first order rate constants and fractionation factors. For the original 138 139 slurry assays and cell-free slurry assays of Parathion and Parathion-methyl, 1 mL original slurry 140 or 1 mL cell-free supernatant were directly added into the prepared bottles and diluted. For 141 TCEP and TDCPP degradation experiment slurry after 25-fold dilution was taken. The 142 degradation rates of Dimethoate and Malathion were obtained after 5-fold dilution. The cell-free 143 and sterilized slurry were conducted with the same dilution as the original slurry experiments for 144 all tested OPs.

8

145 All experiments were performed at 37 °C, in 120 mL serum bottles containing 50 mL of 10 mM 146 tris-HCl buffer and adjusted to pH 7.4 with 6 N HCl. The bottles with 70 mL headspace were 147 flushed with N_2/CO_2 (80%/20%, v/v) for at least 15 min to maintain anoxic condition and 148 crimped with TeflonTM-coated butyl rubber septa. Afterwards, the corresponding slurries were 149 added into bottles in the anaerobic box according to different fold dilutions for each OP. The 150 mixtures were incubated at 37 °C for 1 hour before adding the stock solutions of OPs. Stock 151 solutions of OPs dissolved in acetone were added into serum bottles respectively to achieve the 152 intended initial concentrations as described in **Supporting Information** (SI) section S1, Table 153 **S1**.

2.4 Extraction

155 Parallel batch bottles were sacrificed at different time intervals for each OP compound. The 156 reactions were stopped with 6 N HCl to inactivate the enzymes by adjusting pH to 5 for 157 Parathion and Parathion-methyl assays to avoid further hydrolysis at acid condition and below 158 pH 4 for other experiments. Control experiments were treated identically. Subsequently, 2 mL of 159 dichloromethane (DCM) containing Dichlorvos as an internal standard was added to extract 160 residual OPs and the metabolites. All bottles were shaken at 180 rpm for 2 hours and the organic 161 phase with DCM was separated and transferred into screwed vials with a glass syringe. For 162 cleanup of organic phase, the method was the same as previous study (Lian et al., 2018) but elute 163 solvent was DCM (see Section S2.2 in SI). Extracts were stored at -20 °C until further analysis.

9

164 **2.5 Analytical methods**

165 **2.5.1 Concentration**

166 An Agilent 6890 series gas chromatograph (GC) (Agilent Technologies, Germany) equipped

- 167 with a flame ionization detector (FID) was used to determine the concentration. OPs were
- separated using a HP-5 column (30 m length * 320 µm inner diameter * 0.25 µm thickness,
- 169 Agilent, USA) with 1.5 mL min⁻¹ helium flow as the carrier gas. The temperature program was:
- 170 60 °C for 2 min, increased by 10 °C min⁻¹ to 160 °C, followed by 5 °C min⁻¹ to 220 °C and by 15 °C
- 171 min⁻¹ to 280 °C, and held for 2 min isotherm (Wu et al., 2018a). The temperatures of injector and
- 172 detector were set to 180 °C and 280 °C, respectively.

173 **2.5.2 Isotope composition**

174 The carbon isotope composition was analyzed by an isotope ratio mass spectrometry (IRMS)

175 system (Finnigan MAT 252, Thermo Fischer Scientific) consisting of a GC (Agilent 6890)

176 coupled with a GC/C III interface to IRMS (Wu et al., 2017). For analysis of hydrogen isotope

177 composition, the samples were analyzed with GC-chromium-based high-temperature

- 178 conversion–IRMS system (Renpenning et al., 2015; Wu et al., 2017). Thermal decomposition of
- 179 OPs in GC injector may cause isotope fractionation, thus, the deactivation of glass liner using
- 180 BSTFA (*N*,*O*-bis (trimethylsilyl) trifluoroacetamide) was needed. Detailed information of
- 181 deactivation is given in **SI**, section S2.

183 ratio of ${}^{13}C/{}^{12}C$ (or D/H) in the sample, and R_{standard} is the ratio based on the international isotope

184 standard: Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite (V-PDB) for carbon and Vienna Standard Mean Ocean

¹⁸² Isotope compositions are reported with notation δ (**Eq. 1**) in parts per thousand. R_{sample} is the

185 Water (V-SMOW) for hydrogen, respectively (Coplen et al., 2006; Gehre et al., 2015).

186
$$\delta = \frac{R_{sample} - R_{standard}}{R_{standard}}$$
(1)

187 Isotope enrichment factor (ε) is determined with the logarithmic form of the Rayleigh equation 188 (**Eq. 2**) for quantification of the isotope fractionation (Mariotti et al., 1981; Rayleigh, 1896). 189 Notations δ_t and δ_0 are the isotopic compositions (C_t and C₀ are the concentrations) of the 190 substrate at time t and time 0, respectively.

191
$$ln\left(\frac{\delta_t+1}{\delta_0+1}\right) = \varepsilon * ln\left(\frac{C_t}{C_0}\right)$$
 (2)

192 The relationship between carbon and hydrogen fractionation (Λ) is described by the slope of 193 linear regression between $\Delta\delta^2$ H and $\Delta\delta^{13}$ C (**Eq. 3**). To correct the variation, shifts for hydrogen 194 ($\Delta\delta^2$ H) and carbon ($\Delta\delta^{13}$ C) are calculated by subtracting the isotopic signature at time t from the 195 initial value ($\Delta\delta = \delta_0 - \delta_t$). An approximation of Λ is the correlation of ε_H and ε_C .

196
$$\Lambda = \frac{\Delta \delta^{2} H}{\Delta \delta^{13} c} \approx \frac{\varepsilon_{H}}{\varepsilon_{C}}$$
(3)

197 **2.5.3 Identification of metabolites**

198 The GC amenable products in DCM extracts were analyzed via a GC (7890A, Agilent

199 Technologies, Palo, USA)-mass spectrometry (MS) (5975C, Agilent Technologies, Palo, USA).

200 Since some of the OPs metabolites in biogas slurry were hydrophilic and not GC amenable, they

- 201 were characterized via an ultra-high resolution Fourier-transform ion cyclotron resonance (FT-
- 202 ICR)-MS using a Solarix XR 12 T (Bruker Daltonics, Germany) and UPLC-Q-Tof-MSA

(Waters, USA). Samples with ca. 50% degradation of OPs were selected and 10 mL of aqueous
solution centrifuged at 16,100 × g (4 °C) for 20 min was extracted by solid phase extraction (SPE)
with 100 mg Bond Elut PPL cartridges (Agilent Technologies, USA) for analysis of metabolites.
Detailed information is described in SI, section S5.1.

3. Results

During biotransformation of the six typical OPs in biogas slurry, the first irreversible degradation step was deduced based on metabolite analysis (**Scheme 1** and **Scheme S2**, **SI**) and isotope fractionation. The degradation curves could be described by the first order reaction (**Fig. 2** and **Fig. S2**, **SI**), suggesting that Rayleigh concept can be used to quantify the ²H and ¹³C isotope fractionations. The isotope fractionation pattern provides further evidence for the first bond cleavage reaction for the interpretation of OPs transformation pathway.

3.1 Degradation of phosphate esters in biogas slurry

TCEP and TDCPP were studied as representatives of phosphate esters. The degradation with original slurry after 25-fold dilution was conducted for acquiring the isotope fractionation. TCEP and TDCPP were transformed to ca. 70% with rate constants ($\times 10^{-3}$ h⁻¹) of 3.1 ± 0.5 and 2.6 ±

218 0.4 in original slurry compared to lower rates of 0.8 ± 0.1 and 2.4 ± 0.3 in cell-free slurry,

219 respectively. Bis(2-chloroethyl) hydrogen phosphate was tentatively identified in the degradation

220 experiment of TCEP and bis(1,3-dichloro-2-propanyl) hydrogen phosphate in the degradation

221 experiment of TDCPP suggesting that hydrolysis lead to cleavage of the phosphate ester bond

222 (**Table S2** and **S3**, **SI**).

223 Constant concentrations were found indicating no significant degradation of phosphate esters in 224 the sterilized slurry (Fig. S1, SI). Neither carbon nor hydrogen isotope enrichment was observed 225 (Table 1) suggesting that probably no H or C bond cleavage was involved in the first irreversible 226 reaction step and hydrolysis is the dominant reaction. Hydrolysis reactions were found in 227 experiments with phosphate esters and liver microsomes as a side reaction which can occur also 228 spontaneously also without activation (Van den Eede et al., 2013). Combining the information 229 from detected products in experiments of both phosphate esters and the absence of carbon 230 isotope fractionation, hydrolysis of P-O bond was assumed to be the first irreversible step.

231

3.2 Degradation of phosphorothioate in biogas slurry

232 Parathion and parathion-methyl selected as representatives for phosphorothioate were 233 transformed rapidly in the biogas slurry. Thus, 50-fold dilution was used to slow down reaction 234 in the original slurry for achieving stable isotope fractionation and it gave rate constants ($\times 10^{-3}$) h^{-1}) of 12.8 ± 1.2 and 10.5 ± 1.0, respectively. The degradation of Parathion and Parathion-235 methyl with the cell-free slurry was slower and could be described by rate constants ($\times 10^{-3}$ h⁻¹) 236 237 of 2.8 ± 0.3 and 5.3 ± 0.5 , respectively. The degradation in 50-fold diluted sterilized slurry gave rate constants ($\times 10^{-3}$ h⁻¹) of 2.1± 0.2 and 3.5 ± 0.3 for Parathion and Parathion-methyl 238 239 respectively showing that enzymatic activity was preserved after heat treatment.



- 241 experiments both via GC-MS (Fig. S4-S5, SI) and FT-ICR MS analysis (Table S4-S5, Fig. S8
- and **S15-S16**, **SI**), indicating reduction of the nitro group. *O*-ethyl *O*-(4-nitrophenyl)
- 243 phosphorothioate and p-nitrophenol were detected in negative mode by FT-ICR MS and

244	confirmed via LCMS, implying hydrolysis of Parathion. O-ethyl O-(4-aminophenyl)-
245	phosphorothioate was observed in biogas slurry experiments (Fig. S9-S11, SI), implying
246	reduction of the nitro group of parathion. Tentatively, O-ethyl O-(1,1-ethanediyl) O-(4-
247	nitrophenyl) phosphorothioate and O-ethyl O-(1,1-ethanediyl) O-(4-aminophenyl)
248	phosphorothioate were found (Table S4 and Fig. S12-S13, SI), suggesting a hydroxylation of the
249	side chain. The detection of O-methyl O-(4-nitrophenyl) phosphorothioate (Fig. S14, SI) and p-
250	nitrophenol with increasing intensity over time in the degradation experiments with Parathion-
251	methyl suggests hydrolysis reaction.
252	The $\delta^{13}C$ values of Parathion-methyl were enriched from -32.9 \pm 0.3‰ to -28.5 \pm 0.4‰ with ϵ_C
253	of -3.6 \pm 0.4‰ in original slurry experiment upon about 75% degradation. Carbon isotope
254	enrichment from -31.4 \pm 0.1‰ to -18.6 \pm 0.5‰ with ϵ_C of -8.6 \pm 1.4‰ was found in experiments
255	with cell-free supernatant after 80% transformation. Accordingly, the $\delta^2 H$ isotope composition of
256	Parathion-methyl in original slurry changed from -126.4 \pm 0.5% to -111.1 \pm 1.6% and yielded a
257	ϵ_{H} of -5 \pm 1‰. In the experiment with cell-free supernatant the ^{2}H isotope composition of
258	Parathion-methyl shifted from -122.5 \pm 1.4‰ to -115.1 \pm 3.7‰ and yielded a ϵ_{H} of -10 \pm 3‰
259	(Fig. 1 and Fig. 3).

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265 to -84.4 \pm 3.8‰ with a $\epsilon_{\rm H}$ of -61 \pm 10‰ during the biodegradation of Parathion was observed 266 (**Fig. 1** and **Fig.3**).

267 **3.3 Degradation of phosphorodithioates in biogas slurry**

268 Dimethoate and Malathion as the representatives for phosphorodithioates were rapidly degraded 269 in the slurry and a 5-fold dilution was selected for isotope fractionation experiments to slow 270 down the reaction. With this dilution Dimethoate and Malathion were transformed up to around 80% after 40 hours with rate constants ($\times 10^{-3}$ h⁻¹) of 39.6 ± 7.9 and 50.5 ± 5.3 in original slurry 271 272 $(33.3 \pm 5.5 \text{ and } 35.5 \pm 6.7 \text{ in the cell-free slurry})$, respectively. The degradation rate constant of Dimetoate in the sterilized slurry was $14.8 \pm 3.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ h}^{-1}$ (Fig. S2, SI). No degradation of 273 274 Malation was detected in sterilized slurry (Fig. S1, SI). 275 In experiment with Dimethoate, O,O,S-trimethyl phosphorodithioate was detected by GC-MS 276 (Fig. S6, SI). O,O-dimethyl S-[2-(methylamino)-2-oxoethyl] dithiophosphate, O,O-dimethyl 277 hydrogen phosphorodithioate and O,O-dimethyl hydrogen phosphorothioate were observed by 278 FT-ICR MS (Table S6, SI). In the experiments with Malathion, diethyl succinate and diethyl 279 (2E)-2-butenedioate were found using GC-MS (Fig. S7, SI). The FT-ICR MS detected exact 280 masses corresponding to diethyl 2-{[hydroxy(methoxy)phosphorothioyl]sulfanyl}succinate, 281

- 281 *O,O*-dimethyl hydrogen phosphorodithioate and *O,O*-dimethyl hydrogen phosphorothioate as
 282 metabolites (**Table S7, SI**).
- 283 The δ^{13} C of Dimethoate slightly enriched from -39.1 ± 0.3‰ to -37.4 ± 0.2‰ and yielded a ϵ_{C} of
- $-0.6 \pm 0.1\%$ upon 79% degradation in original slurry. Enrichment from $-39.2 \pm 0.1\%$ to $-37.2 \pm 0.1\%$
- 285 0.1‰ upon 75% degradation was detected in cell-free slurry, yielding a ε_C of -0.9 ± 0.1 ‰ (**Fig.**

S1 and S3, SI). The carbon isotope fractionation indicated that a carbon bond cleavage was
 involved in the first irreversible rate limiting reaction step. No ²H fractionation could be detected

suggesting that no H bond cleavage was involved.

The δ^{13} C values of Malathion were enriched from -26.5 \pm 0.5‰ to -14.9 \pm 0.4‰ after 88%

transformation in the original slurry and from $-25.7 \pm 0.5\%$ to $-15.2 \pm 0.4\%$ after 77%

degradation in the cell-free slurry, resulting in $\varepsilon_{\rm C}$ values of -5.5 \pm 0.1‰ and -7.2 \pm 0.5 ‰,

respectively (Fig. S1 and S3, SI). The transformation of Malathion in biogas slurry was not

associated with detectable hydrogen isotope fractionation. Similar to phosphate esters, Malathion

did not degrade in sterilized slurry.

4. Discussion

4.1 Interpretation of transformation mechanisms

297 The transformation of OPs is suggested to be predominated by biodegradation compared to 298 abiotic degradation processes in natural environment (Zhang and Bennett, 2005). In this study, 299 biodegradation of OPs was governed by hydrolysis and reduction reactions, as predicted in 300 anaerobic aquatic system (Druzina and Stegu, 2007). The anaerobic digestion reactor showed a 301 high potential for hydrolytic reactions and the hydrolysis was remarkably faster than expected 302 for chemical hydrolysis. We intended to study the structure-activity relationship on degradation 303 of OPs in AD at neutral condition, the half-life times of OPs in AD system decreased in the order 304 of original slurry < cell-free slurry < sterilized slurry (Fig. 2 and Fig. S2, SI). The results 305 showed a high capability for hydrolysis in cell-free slurry via exoenzymes which may be

abundant in the AD reactor. Hydrolases are key enzymes in the AD system (Gasch et al., 2013)and our results showed that they can degrade OPs.

308

4.1.1 Degradation of phosphate esters

309 No ²H and ¹³C isotope fractionation of phosphate esters was found, similar to alkaline hydrolysis. 310 This suggested that hydrolysis at P-O bond was the rate limiting reaction step, which was 311 consistent with the detection of metabolites. The isotope fractionation indicated an enzymatic 312 hydrolysis with P-O bond cleavage in biogas slurry probably by an esterase using an S_N2 313 mechanism (Scheme S2, SI). The potential to monitor hydrolysis of phosphate esters employing 314 ²H and ¹³C isotope fractionation was low as neither C nor H bond was cleaved. The advantage of 315 isotope fingerprint is that it can give hint on the reaction deduction via enrichment factor when 316 the intermediate is not easy to determine or is further degraded.

317

4.1.2 Degradation of phosphorothioates

318 The transformation kinetic of both phosphorothioates decreased in the experiment with living 319 cells, enzyme extracts and heat treated autoclaved slurry showing a robust capability for 320 degradation. The proposed transformation mechanisms for Parathion and Parathion-methyl are 321 summarized below (see Scheme 1): (i) biotic hydrolysis via esterase caused by P-O cleavage (Wanamaker et al., 2013), which is not expected to lead to isotope fractionation of 2 H and 13 C. 322 323 Thus, the contribution of this reaction could not be directly evaluated via isotope fractionation; 324 (ii) the hydrolysis of a C-O bond cleaving the alkyl side chain via $S_N 2$ reaction, leading to ${}^{13}C$ fractionation and no ²H fractionation (Wanamaker et al., 2013; Wu et al., 2018a); (iii) the 325 reduction reaction of NO₂·to NH₂, which will not lead to ²H or ¹³C fractionation but took place 326

327 as we observed the reduction of the nitro group; (iv) the dehydrogenation leading to C-H 328 cleavage at the side chain of parathion which infers a radical reaction in the rate limiting reaction step likely caused by dehydrogenase. The pronounced ²H and low ¹³C isotope fractionation in the 329 330 experiments of original slurry and cell-free slurry suggested this dominant reaction other than 331 hydrolysis (**Table 1**). The contribution of dehydrogenation reaction was lower taking the fractionation pattern of Parathion-methyl into account, showing larger ¹³C (ϵ_{c} = -8.6 ± 1.4) and 332 lower ²H (ϵ_{H} =-10 ± 3) isotope fractionation compared to Parathion. The extent of ¹³C isotope 333 334 fractionation may suggest that hydrolysis reaction with C-O bond cleavage was the rate limiting 335 step for parathion-methyl. In summary, parallel reactions can catalyze the transformation of 336 phosphorothioates in AD systems showing a functional redundancy and implying a robust 337 capability to transform and possibly detoxify phosphorothioates.

338

8 4.1.3 Degradation of phosphorodithioates

339 The degradation kinetic of Dimethoate showed a similar pattern as phosphorothioates with 340 decreasing rate constants comparing original slurry, cell free slurry and heat treated autoclaved 341 slurry. The latter still showed a robust capability for degradation. In contrast, the heat treated 342 autoclaved slurry lost capability to degrade Malathion. The metabolites of Dimethioate and 343 Malathion in AD system gave the hint on: (i) hydrolysis with C-O cleavage (Scheme S2, SI); (ii) 344 hydrolysis with C-S cleavage; (iii) enzymatic hydrolysis leading to P-S cleavage of 345 phosphorodithioate. The detected carbon isotope effect was consistent with metabolites formed 346 by C-O or C-S bond cleavage in the rate limiting reaction step. The carbon isotope effect of 347 Dimethoate was much smaller compared to Malathion implying that the contribution of a C bond 348 cleavage was higher in the original and cell-free slurry experiment with Malathion. The

hydrolysis mechanism of phosphorodithioates in AD was distinguished from neutral chemical
hydrolysis as indicated by the different extent of isotope fractionation. The P-S bond cleavage is
not expected to yield a primary ²H or ¹³C KIE isotope effect and the contribution of these types
of bond cleavage could not be evaluated in this work.

4.2 Diagnostic potential of two-dimensional isotope fractionation

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4.2.1 Carbon isotope fractionation

355 For degradation of phosphorothioate in biogas slurry, an increase in $\varepsilon_{\rm C}$ values for both 356 compounds was obtained from original slurry to cell-free slurry and sterilized slurry (**Table 1**), 357 suggesting different contribution of the particular reactions. The ¹³C isotope fractionation was 358 probably dominated by C-O bond cleavage and the slightly depleted carbon isotope fractionation 359 could be assumed due to the contribution of P-O cleavage by phosphotriesterases (PTE) or 360 reduction of the nitrogen group (Munnecke, 1976; Serdar and Gibson, 1985). The $\varepsilon_{\rm C}$ value in 361 sterilized slurry with parathion-methyl (-10.3 ± 0.1) was close to chemical neutral hydrolysis at 362 pH 7 (-9.9 \pm 0.7‰), indicating a dominant mechanism of C-O bond cleavage. The ε_{C} of 363 Parathion in sterilized slurry (pH 7.4, $-4.3 \pm 0.4\%$) was lower than chemical hydrolysis under 364 neutral conditions at pH 7 (-6.0 \pm 0.2‰) (Wu et al., 2018a), implying distinct mechanism of the 365 relative thermostable enzymatic activity (Brock, 1985).

The same phenomenon was observed for phosphorodithioates, an increase in $\varepsilon_{\rm C}$ values for both compounds was obtained from original slurry to cell-free slurry and sterilized slurry (**Table 1**), with more contribution of P-S cleavage induced via enzymatic hydrolysis in active slurry. The various carbon isotope fractionation patterns suggest that possible several modes of hydrolytic

370	reaction are at work, implying a functional redundancy of hydrolysis. It indicates a robust
371	degradation and possibly detoxification of phosphorodithioates in AD systems.

372

4.2.2 Hydrogen isotope fractionation

373 Hydrogen isotope fractionations were found during the transformations of phosphorothioates. 374 Significant hydrogen isotope fractionation of Parathion was discovered in biogas slurry system 375 (**Table 1**). Weaker hydrogen isotope fractionation of Parathion-methyl than Parathion was 376 observed. However, the abiotic hydrolysis of Parathion and Parathion-methyl at pH 7.0 showed 377 no hydrogen isotope fractionation (Wu et al., 2018a). The results suggested that Parathion 378 degradation was associated with a significant hydrogen isotope fractionation in biogas slurry 379 caused by the dehydrogenation induced via dehydrogenase. It is assumed that dehydrogenation 380 occurred at the sub-terminal carbon of the side chain of Parathion (C-H), giving significant 381 hydrogen fractionation (Table S4, SI). Owing to the stable terminal carbon hydrogen bond of the 382 methyl group in Parathion-methyl, it is unlikely to be attacked by dehydrogenase leading to C-H 383 bond cleavage. We supposed that the smaller $\varepsilon_{\rm H}$ of -5 and -10 in Parathion-methyl were induced 384 via secondary hydrogen isotope effect caused by adjacent bond cleavage (Elsner et al., 2007). 385 Since the atom was not directly involved in substitution attack, it possessed much smaller value 386 than the primary hydrogen isotope effect (Cleland, 2003; Hennig et al., 2006; Rickert and 387 Klinman, 1999).

388

4.2.3

Two-dimensional isotope analysis

389 The relationship between carbon and hydrogen isotope fractionation (Λ) can be used to

390 distinguish the mechanism of biotic and abiotic degradation more accurately, and this technique

has been adopted in several studies (Fischer et al., 2009; Palau et al., 2017; Woods et al., 2018).
The substantial differences between biotic transformation and chemical hydrolysis can be
visualized in the dual isotope plots (Fig. 4 and Fig. S17, SI).

394 Distinct dual isotope pattern of Parathion is depicted in Fig. 4 A. It showed weak carbon isotope 395 fractionation with C-O bond cleavage, diluted by P-O cleavage, and significant strong hydrogen 396 isotope fractionation with C-H bond cleavage during transformation of Parathion in biogas slurry. 397 The opposite pattern was discovered for chemical hydrolysis under neutral condition, showing 398 strong isotope carbon isotope fractionation with C-O bond cleavage and lack of hydrogen isotope 399 fractionation. Similarly, the chemical hydrolysis of Parathion-methyl conducted in neutral 400 condition was associated with significant carbon isotope enrichment and no hydrogen isotope 401 fractionation. Whereas strong carbon isotope fractionation via C-O bond cleavage and slight 402 hydrogen isotope fractionation were observed in biotransformation of Parathion-methyl (Fig. 4 403 **B**). The Λ values of Parathion in biogas slurry ($\Lambda_{\text{original}} = 31 \pm 11$, $\Lambda_{\text{cell-free}} = 20 \pm 2$) showed 404 distinct pattern compared to chemical hydrolysis ($\Lambda = 0.1 \pm 0.1$), as no hydrogen fractionation in 405 abiotic hydrolysis reaction. Same trend was observed in Parathion-methyl. The value of chemical 406 hydrolysis ($\Lambda = -0.2 \pm 0.1$) was lower than in biogas slurry ($\Lambda_{\text{original}} = 2 \pm 1$, $\Lambda_{\text{cell-free}} = 1 \pm 1$).

In general, fractionation patterns of Parathion and Parathion-methyl are concordant with the assumed degradation pathways which are shown in **Scheme 1**. Hence, taking into account of the dual isotope fractionation pattern, it helps to further elucidate the proposed biotransformation pathway with the related functional enzymes and microbes in biogas slurry. Interestingly, the anaerobic degradation of Parathion using isolated strain from soil was not associated with ²H or ¹³C isotope fractionation, which was assumed by reduction of the nitro groups and hydrolysis of the P-O bond (Wu et al., 2018b). A low secondary hydrogen isotope effect and no significant primary carbon isotope effect was detected during reduction of nitro group of nitrobenzene (Hofstetter et al., 2008). Thus, the pronounced ²H and ¹³C fractionation indicated that reduction of nitro group was not the dominant reaction and a cleavage of a C-H bond lead to the primary isotope effect of ²H and ¹³C in the AD system. This implies that different transformation pathways under anaerobic conditions are possible and more systematic work is needed to understand the anaerobic degradation.

420 **4.3 Proposed reactions in biogas slurry**

421

4.3.1 Enzymatic and abiotic hydrolysis

422 In our study Parathion was biologically transformed approximately 300 times faster than 423 chemical hydrolysis. Similar phenomenon was also found in a mixed bacterial culture growing 424 on Parathion and Parathion-methyl. They were hydrolyzed 2,450 times faster than conventional 425 chemical hydrolysis (Munnecke, 1976). Hence, it was assumed to be caused by enzymatic 426 hydrolysis, which can lead to P-O (S) cleavage at P position or C-O (S) cleavage at C position 427 with nucleophilic attack via PTE (Serdar and Gibson, 1985; Zhang and Bennett, 2005). PTEs are 428 a group of OP compounds degrading enzymes, which are found in microorganisms, animals and 429 plants. The esterase, as one of the hydrolases, is the key enzyme in the first phase of biogas 430 production (Gasch et al., 2013). Moreover, the non-specific esterase activity is suggested as 431 indicator of bacterial heterotrophic activity in fermentation process, since the high esterase activity accompanies with increasing conversion rate of substrate to methane (Lebuhn et al., 432 433 2015). Thus, it is assumed that transformation of OPs could be caused by the $S_N 2$ nucleophilic 434 substitution reaction during P-O (S) or C-O (S) bond cleavage in AD system.

435 **4.3.2 Dehydrogenation**

436 Significant hydrogen isotope fractionation is most likely a result of a C-H cleavage at alkyl side 437 chain catalyzed by a dehydrogenase during biotic transformation of Parathion. Dehydrogenation 438 was discovered in Clostridium, Desulfovibrio desulfuricans and a Bacteroides sp. via 439 dehydrogenase in anaerobic pathway (Dwyer and Tiedje, 1986; Kocholaty and Hoogerheide, 440 1938; Zhang and Bennett, 2005). Aliphatic hydrocarbons and alkyl groups of aromatic 441 hydrocarbons are activated by dehydrogenase reactions under anoxic conditions (Musat et al., 442 2016). The large diversity of bacteria in AD system (Qiao et al., 2013; Weiland, 2010) suggested 443 that certain strains may be capable of dehydrogenation, such as *Clostridium* sp. Moreover, 444 several studies had already reported that microbes in biogas plants possess dehydrogenase 445 (Lebuhn et al., 2008; Maus et al., 2017; Rotaru et al., 2014) and dual C-H isotope analysis could 446 be used to show their activity in degradation. Moreover, the tentative identification of diethyl 447 (2E)-2-butenedioate (Fig. S7, SI) as the metabolite of Malathion gave also a hint for the 448 dehydrogenation in biogas slurry.

449 **4.3.3 Reduction of the nitro group**

Amino-parathion and amino-parathion-methyl were found in biogas slurry system, which gave
direct evidence for reduction mechanism. This reaction will not contribute to carbon or hydrogen
isotope fractionation. The reductive transformation of Parathion and Parathion-methyl by *Bacillus* sp. was also investigated in a former study (Yang et al., 2007).

454 **5.** Conclusion

455 OP can be transformed by different reaction modes in the AD system. The varying isotope 456 fractionation pattern illustrated coexistence of different modes of hydrolytic activities, implying 457 the functional redundancies of enzymes in biogas slurry and suggesting that AD systems provide 458 robust degradation capacity for OP transformation. The cell-free experiments showed variety of 459 enzymatic activities which were partly bound to enzymes resident to higher temperature, as 460 tested in heat sterilized experiment. Very interesting is that the different modes of hydrolytic 461 activities in AD are capable to degrade OPs efficiently. Consequently, in AD condition, most 462 OPs can be degraded rapidly and biogas process could be a promising remediation measure for 463 the biomass from contaminated field sites or organic rich waste materials. Thus, this study 464 promotes the investigation on the fate of OPs in the environment, providing a new remediation 465 method for the contaminated biomass and illustrating different pathways of biotic and abiotic 466 transformations via 2D-CSIA.

467 **Supporting information**

468 E-supplementary data (Supporting Information) for this work can be found in e-version of this469 paper online.

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478

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Enzymatic hydrolysis of Parathion ($R = C_2H_5$) and Parathion-methyl ($R = CH_3$)



649 Scheme 1. Proposed transformation pathways of Parathion and Parathion-methyl in biogas slurry

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Fig. 1. Concentration of the remaining fractions (black symbols), and stable isotope compositions (blue = 13 C /red = 2 H) of Parathion (A) and Parathion-methyl (B). The isotope composition of experiments with original slurry, cell-free slurry and sterilized slurry are represented by empty square (\Box), dark circle (\bullet) and empty triangle (Δ), respectively.

A. Parathion

B. Parathion-methyl





Fig. 2. First order rate constants of Parathion (A) and Parathion-methyl (B) degradation in biogas

slurry.



Fig. 3. Carbon and hydrogen enrichment factors of Parathion (A&C) and Parathion-methyl
(B&D) during transformations in original biogas slurry and cell-free slurry.



Fig. 4. 2D-CSIA plots of Parathion (A) and Parathion-methyl (B) for comparing enzymatic
hydrolysis in biogas slurry with abiotic hydrolysis. Dashed lines are linear regressions with 95%
confidential intervals.

Compounds	Reactions		T(°C)	$\kappa (\times 10^{-3} h^{-1})$	t 1/2 (h)	$\epsilon_C \pm 95\% CI~(\text{\%})$	\mathbb{R}^2	$\epsilon_{H}\pm95\%CI~(\text{m})$	\mathbb{R}^2	Λ
	Original slurry (50-fold dilu	ution)	37	12.8 ± 1.2	54	-0.7 ± 0.2	0.71	-33 ± 5	0.89	31 ± 11
	Cell-free slurry (50-fold dil	ution)	37	2.8 ± 0.3	247	-2.5 ± 0.5	0.83	-61 ± 10	0.86	20 ± 2
	Sterilized slurry (50-fold dil	lution)	37	2.1 ± 0.2	330	-4.3 ± 0.4	0.98	nf		
	aerobic strains TERI OP1*		30	71.4 ± 14.5	9.7	nf		nf		
	aerobic strains TERI OP	2*	30	35.1 ± 8.5	19.7	nf		nf		
Parathion	anaerobic strain TERI ANA	A-1*	30	19.4 ± 1.8	35.7	nf		nf		
	p	H 2	60		70.1	$\textbf{-6.9} \pm \textbf{0.8}$	0.99	nf		
	Chemical hydrolysis* p	Н5	60		71.8	-6.7 ± 0.4	0.99	nf		
	p.	Η 7	60		74.9	-6.0 ± 0.2	0.99	nf		
	p	Н9	60		49.5	-3.5 ± 0.4	0.99	nf		
	pł	H 12	20		27.3	nf		nf		
	Original slurry (50-Fold dil	ution)	37	10.5 ± 1.0	66	-3.6 ± 0.4	0.94	-5 ± 1	0.72	2 ± 1
	Cell-free slurry (50-fold dilution)		37	5.3 ± 0.5	131	-8.6 ± 1.4	0.86	-10 ± 3	0.70	1 ± 1
	Sterilized slurry (50-fold dil	lution)	37	3.5 ± 0.3	198	-10.3 ±0.1	0.99	nf		
Parathion-	p	H 2	60		23.2	-10.0 ± 0.7	0.99	nf		
methyl	p	Н 5	60		17.3	-10.5 ± 1.1	0.99	nf		
	Chemical hydrolysis [*] p	Η 7	60		16.2	-9.9 ± 0.7	0.99	nf		
	p	Н9	60		13.0	-6.5 ± 0.4	0.98	nf		
	pł	H 12	20		3.7	nf		nf		
	Original slurry (5-fold dilu	tion)	37	39.6 ± 7.9	13.7	-0.6 ± 0.1	0.87	nf		
	Cell-free slurry (5-fold dilu	ution)	37	33.3 ± 5.5	20.8	-0.9 ± 0.1	0.93			
Dimethoate	Sterilized slurry (5-fold dilu	ution)	37	14.8 ± 3.5	46.8	-1.6 ± 0.4	0.86			
	Hydro _pH7*		60		37.7	-8.3 ± 0.3	0.99	nf		
	Hydro _pH9*		30		56.3	-1.4 ± 0.1	0.98	-10 ± 3	0.92	
Malathion	Original slurry (5-fold dilu	tion)	37	50.5 ± 5.3	17.5	-5.5 ± 0.1	0.99	nf		
	Cell-free slurry (5-fold dilu	ution)	37	35.5 ± 6.7	19.5	-7.2 ± 0.5	0.99			
TCEP	Original slurry (25-fold dilu	ution)	37	3.1 ± 0.5	223	nf		nf		
	Cell-free slurry (25-fold dilution)		37	0.8 ± 0.1	866	nf		nf		
	UV/H ₂ O ₂ *		20		2.6	-1.4 ± 0.1	0.99	-56 ± 3	0.99	
TDCPP	Original slurry (25-fold dilu	ution)	37	2.6 ± 0.4	266	nf		nf		
	Cell-free slurry (25-fold dilution)		37	2.4 ± 0.3	289	nf		nf		

Table 1 Carbon/hydrogen isotopic enrichment factors (ϵ) and two dimensional plot- Λ values of OPs degradation in AD process.

*: Data were derived from hydrolysis tests and reported by Wu et al. (Wu et al., 2018a, 2018b); nd: no degradation; nf: no fractionation.

1	Supporting information to
2	² H and ¹³ C isotope fractionation analysis of organophosphorus compounds for
3	characterizing transformation reactions in biogas slurry: Potential for anaerobic
4	treatment of contaminated biomass
5	
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39 S1. Characteristics of organophosphate ester derivatives (OPs)

40 **Table S1** Chemical properties of OPs

	Solubility in water [#]	Density (g mL ⁻¹) [#]	Molar mass (g mol ⁻¹) [#]	Boiling point (°C) [#]	Chemical formula	Initial concentration in this study*	κ ((×10 ⁻³ h ⁻¹) in biogas slurry without dilution (estimated value) *
Phosphate							
TCEP	7.82 g L^{-1}	1.39	285.48	192	$C_6H_{12}Cl_3O_4P$	12 mg L ⁻¹	141
TDCPP	18.1 mg L ⁻¹	1.514	430.91	326	$C_9H_{15}C_{16}O_4P$	5 mg L ⁻¹	158
Phosphorothioate							
Parathion	24 mg L ⁻¹	1.27	291.3	375	C ₁₀ H ₁₄ NO ₅ P S	12 mg L ⁻¹	2.8×10 ³
Parathion-methyl	50 mg L ⁻¹	1.358	263.21	154	$C_8H_{10}NO_5PS$	25 mg L ⁻¹	2.3×10^{3}
Phosphorodithioate							
Dimethoate	25 g L ⁻¹	1.3	229.26	117	C ₅ H ₁₂ NO ₃ PS 2	100 mg L ⁻¹	288
Malathion	145 mg L ⁻¹	1.23	330.36	156	$C_{10}H_{19}O_6PS_2$	25 mg L ⁻¹	217

41 [#]: Data were taken from <u>https://www.wikipedia.org/</u>.

42 *: concentrations were decided based on solubility in water and kinetic constants were estimated from experimental data.

43 **Scheme S1.** Chemical structures of OPs included in present study.



 $(R_1 \text{ and } R_2 \text{ are predominantly aryl or alkyl group. } R_3 \text{ can be diverse and may belong to a wide range of aliphatic, aromatic or heterocyclic group.)}$

1. Phosphate



ТСЕР



2. Phosphorothioate



45 S2. Methods

46 S2.1. Deactivation of the GC glass liner

47 Our previous study showed that the performance of glass liner used for split/splitless injection 48 into GC is critical for precise isotope analytics (Wu et al., 2014). Poor inertness of the liner led to significant shifts on δ^{13} C and δ^{2} H values and showed an unconventional linearity range, due to 49 50 decomposition of analytes in the liner. Thus, the glass liner was deactivated before isotope 51 measurement. For deactivation, BSTFA (N, O-bis (trimethylsilyl) trifluoroacetamide, SUPELCO) 52 was injected manually into the GC inlet (The Agilent multimode inlet). The detailed steps are as 53 below: temperature of the GC injector was adjusted to 100 °C, constant flow was adjusted to 1 54 mL min⁻¹ and the split ratio was set to 200:1; The gas flow of the gas chromatography-mass 55 spectrometry (GC-IRMS) system was set to backflush-on mode to protect the combustion unit; 1 56 µL of BSTFA was injected manually for 3 time waiting for 4 to 5 min between the injections. After 20 min, the temperature of injector was adjusted to 180 °C and the GC oven was heated up 57 58 to 280 °C for 30 min for removing the residues from the column.

59 S2.2. Extraction and clean-up of OPs for analysis

The DCM extracts (see section 2.4) were purified prior gas chromatographic separation before analysis for concentration and isotope composition. For cleanup of the residue OPs and the metabolites after reaction, column chromatography was used. The anhydrous Na₂SO₄ for drying the extracts were activated by heating at 200 °C overnight and stored in an airtight container. Florisil[®] for column chromatography was activated at 120 °C for 12 h before use.

14 FIORISH TOF COTUMIT CHIOMATOGRAPHY was activated at 120°C TOF 12 II before use.

65 The chromatographic column (20 mm ID * 20 cm) was filled from the bottom to the top with 0.5

66 cm glass wool, 1 cm cleaned sea sand as a filter, 12 cm activated Florisil[®] and 4 cm activated

anhydrous Na₂SO_{4.} The column was pre-eluted with 15 ml DCM and the eluate was disposed.

Then the extract was added on the top of the column and eluate was collected into a 20 ml glass

vial. 15 mL DCM was added to elute the OPs and metabolites through the column with a natural

70 flow rate. The eluate was collected into another 20 ml glass vial. The eluates were combined in a

71 200 ml evaporation tube and the DCM was reduced by an evaporator (TurboVap II, Biotage AB,

72 Sweden) with a gentle N₂ stream at room temperature to 2 mL. The recovery of this method was

73 found to be better than 80% when material from a control experiment spiked with Parathion was

restracted. Aliquots of the extract were used for concentration and isotope analysis.

75 S3. Biotransformation of OPs

76 S3.1. Transformation of OPs in biogas slurry

77 TCEP, TDCPP, Parathion, Parathion-methyl, Dimethoate and Malathion can be transformed in

anaerobic digestion (AD) system. The transformation process of these OPs can be characterized

79 by the first-order kinetic (Fig. S2), which allows to assess the isotope fractionation with the

80 Rayleigh concept employing compound-specific stable isotope analysis (CSIA).

81 The rate constants for degradation of TCEP and TDCPP in original slurry and cell-free slurry

82 after 25-fold dilution were descried in **Section 1.1**. The sterilized control experiments showed no

degradation during period of almost 400 h. Carbon isotope compositions ranged from $-32.0 \pm 0.1\%$

to $-31.6 \pm 0.1\%$ and from $-27.8 \pm 0.5\%$ to $-28.5 \pm 0.4\%$ for TCEP and TDCPP in original slurry,

respectively. Similar trends were found in cell-free slurry. Values of δ^{13} C varied from -32.1 ± 0.1‰

86 to $-31.8 \pm 0.3\%$ in TCEP and from $-28.4 \pm 0.6\%$ to $-28.2 \pm 0.7\%$ in TDCPP. The hydrogen

- isotope compositions of TCEP (from $44 \pm 2\%$ to $34 \pm 5\%$ in original slurry, from $38 \pm 5\%$ to 28
- \pm 5‰ in cell-free slurry) and TDCPP (from 127 ± 3‰ to 120 ± 5‰ in original slurry, from 127 ±
- 89 1‰ to $120 \pm 5\%$ in cell-free slurry) were almost constant. Hence, neither significant carbon nor

90 hydrogen fractionations could be detected.

In original slurry diluted with five fold, the degradation rates of $39.6 \pm 7.9 \times 10^{-3}$ h⁻¹ and $50.5 \pm$ 91 5.3×10^{-3} h⁻¹ were estimated for Dimethoate and Malathion, respectively. Dimethoate was 92 degraded (ca. 60%) in sterilized slurry with the rate constant of $14.8 \pm 3.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ h}^{-1}$, and it is 93 consistent with the rate constants of abiotic hydrolysis, which are about 18.4×10^{-3} h⁻¹ at pH 7 94 and 12.3×10^{-3} h⁻¹ at pH 9 (Wu et al., 2018), indicating hydrolysis took place at pH 7.4. Whereas, 95 96 the sterilized control experiments showed no degradation within 50 h for Malathion. The carbon 97 isotope compositions of Dimethoate and Malathion were described in Section 1.2. The hydrogen 98 isotope compositions of Dimethoate and Malathion ranged from $-145 \pm 3\%$ to $-153 \pm 1\%$ and 99 from $-190 \pm 8\%$ to $-191 \pm 1\%$ in original slurry, respectively (**Fig. S1**). In the cell-free slurry, values of Dimethoate ranged from $-147 \pm 7\%$ to $-146 \pm 4\%$ and from $-190 \pm 7\%$ to $-192 \pm 5\%$ 100 101 in experiments with Malathion.



102



104 TDCPP (B), Dimethoate (C) and Malathion (D) during biotransformation in the biogas slurry.

105 Carbon and hydrogen isotope compositions are represented by blue and red symbols.

106 Experiments with original slurry, cell-free slurry and sterilized slurry are represented by empty

107 square (\Box), dark circle (\bullet) and empty triangle (\triangle).

108



Fig. S2. The first-order kinetics of TCEP (A), TDCPP (B), Dimethoate (C) and Malathion (D) 112 upon biodegradation in original biogas slurry. Experiments with original slurry, cell-free slurry 113 and sterilized slurry are represented by \bullet , \times and \blacktriangle , respectively.



A. Dimethoate



118 Fig. S3. The Rayleigh plots of carbon isotope fractionations of Dimethoate and Malathion during

 $\ln(C_t/C_0)$

- 119 transformation in biogas slurry. Experiments with original slurry and cell-free slurry are
- 120 represented by \blacklozenge and \times , respectively.

121 **S4. Identification of metabolites by GC-MS**

122 The GC amenable metabolites were analyzed and identified by GC-MS. At the beginning of the

- 123 experiment (time = 0 min) only the parent compounds with internal standards were observed. In
- 124 samples after degradation to a certain extent reported in % of initial concentration metabolites
- 125 described below show transformation of OPs in AD (**Fig. S4-S7**).



- 127 **Fig. S4.** Metabolites of Parathion analyzed by GC-MS found in the system after 3h (ca. 30%
- 128 degradation). Parathion was added to 50-fold dilution of original biogas slurry. Amino-parathion
- 129 was detected by the mass spectra.



Fig. S5. Metabolites of Parathion-methyl analyzed by GC-MS after 21h (ca. 40% degradation).

132 Amino-parathion-methyl was detected as metabolite.



Fig. S6. Metabolites of Dimethoate analyzed by GC-MS. *O,O,S*-trimethyl phosphorodithioate

- 137 was tentatively identified by the mass spectrum after 62 h (ca. 70% degradation). Dimethoate
- 138 was added to 5-fold dilution of original biogas slurry.



140 **Fig. S7.** Metabolites of Malathion were tentatively identified by their mass spectra using GC-MS.

141 Malathion was added to 5-fold dilution of original biogas slurry and the compounds were

142 detected in the system after 20 h (ca. 70% degradation). Diethyl succinate and diethyl (2E)-2-

143 butenedioate were identified.

145 S5. Characterization of metabolites by FT-ICR MS

146 **S5.1. Preparation of samples**

Three sets of samples were prepared for the analysis of metabolites: one set was prepared in tris-HCl buffer rather than biogas slurry as control set (OP-C), and it was stopped at 0 hour point with 6 N HCl as described in **section 2.4**; another two sets of experiments were conducted with biogas slurry and were stopped at hour **0** (OP-0) and hour **t** after achieving ~ 50% degradation (OP-t, specific t-time points are described in each section for each OP below). The experiments were conducted at 37 °C. For solid phase extraction (SPE), 10 mL of aqueous solution was extracted with 100 mg Bond Elut PPL cartridges (Agilent) for analysis of metabolites.

The SPE procedures were as followed: cleaning with 1 mL methanol; conditioning the cartridges with 2 mL acidic water (pH 2 adjusted with HCl); loading 10 mL of aqueous sample which was adjusted to pH 2 using HCl; drying the cartridge with vacuum pump; washing with 1 mL acidic water to remove the residual buffer salts; totally drying the cartridges with vacuum pump and elution of the transformation products with 1 mL methanol. The methanolic extract was collected and diluted 1:100 (v/v) with MilliQ water /MeOH mixture (1:1, v/v) before analysis.

A Fourier-transform ion cyclotron resonance mass spectrometer (FT-ICR MS, Solarix XR 12T, Bruker Daltonics) equipped with a dynamically harmonized analyzer cell was used for the analysis of methanolic extracts. Samples were measured with positive and negative modes of electrospray ionization (ESI) in direct infusion mode with a 4 MWord time domain using typical ESI conditions. MeOH/MQW 1:1 was used as solvent. For each spectrum 128-256 scans were co-added with an ion accumulation time of 50 ms for positive mode and 350 ms for negative mode, respectively. The instrument was calibrated in the mass range m/z 74-1000 using Arg
clusters 1-4 in positive (45 ppb RMSE) and negative (71 ppb RMSE) mode (64 scans each).

Parts of samples were extracted as described above and were subjected to UPLC mass spectrometric analysis using a Q-ToF system (Waters Synapt) to confirm the relative abundances of the compounds. In this case the compounds were separated by UPLC before ESI was used in positive mode for detection.

172 S5.2. Identified metabolites

173 Extracted samples from transformation experiments were analyzed by FT-ICR MS using positive 174 and negative modes of electrospray ionization. The masses detected in positive or negative mode 175 are summarized in tables for each OP compound. All the listed metabolites are detectable via FT-176 ICR MS. The abundance (with 1 ppm mass error) and intensities of mass fragments at time 0 177 (OP-0) and after compound specific degradation time (OP-t) were compared in order to analyze 178 the formation of metabolites. In few cases, especially where hydrolysis can take place, potential 179 metabolites were already present in the OP-0 samples, indicating a very fast reaction in the slurry. 180 Only the monoisotopic peaks were considered for analysis.

181 S5.2.1. TCEP (tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate)

182 Sample incubated with biogas slurry was sacrificed at 280h and all samples were measured in
183 positive mode only (Table S2).

184 Table S2. Proposed metabolites of TCEP

#	Nomo	Formula	aturnaturna	[] M + 11 +1+	<i>m/z</i> detected
#	Iname	rormula	structure	[1 v1+U .].	(intensity, mono)

Parent compound	TCEP	C6H12Cl3O4P	284.9612 (mono) 286.9583 (³⁷ Cl ₁)	pos: OP-C: 0.96×10 ⁹ OP-0: 5.65×10 ⁹ OP-t: 3.13×10 ⁹
1	bis(2- chloroethyl) hydrogen phosphate	C4H9Cl2O4P	222.9688 (mono)	pos: OP-C: n.d. OP-0: 1.86×10 ⁷ OP-t: 1.04×10 ⁷
1* (sodium adduct)			244.9507 [M+Na ⁺] ⁺	pos: OP-C: 0.86×10 ⁷ OP-0: 0.92×10 ⁷ OP-t: 1.19×10 ⁷

185 pos: positive mode. n.d.: not detected.

186 S5.2.2. TDCPP (tris(1,3-dichloro-2-propyl) phosphate)

187 Sample incubated with biogas slurry was sacrificed at 114h and all samples were measured in

188 positive mode only (**Table S3**).

189 **Table S3. Proposed metabolites of TDCPP**

#	Name	Formula	structure	$[M+H^+]^+$	<i>m/z</i> detected (intensity, mono)
Parent compound	TDCPP	C9H15Cl6O4P		428.8912 (mono) 430.8883 (³⁷ Cl ₁)	pos: OP-C: 4.17×10 ⁷ OP-0: 4.58×10 ⁷ OP-t: 3.41×10 ⁷
1	bis(1,3- dichloro-2- propanyl) hydrogen phosphate	C6H11Cl4O4P		318.9221 (mono)	pos: OP-C: 1.54×10 ⁶ OP-0: 0.4×10 ⁷ OP-t: 1.2×10 ⁷

¹⁹⁰ pos: positive mode.

192 **S5.2.3.** Parathion (O,O-diethyl-O-(4-nitrophenyl) phosphorothiote)

193 The detected metabolites of the FT-ICR MS are summarized in Table S4 and the intensity of

- 194 OP-t in the table is from incubated samples of 288h. To confirm the results of FT-ICR MS, the
- 195 metabolites formed during degradation of Parathion in the slurry were analyzed using UPLC-Q-
- 196 ToF-MS. Amino-parathion, O-ethyl O-(4-nitrophenyl)phosphorothionate, p-nitrophenol, O-ethyl
- 197 O-(4-aminophenyl)phosphorothioate were confirmed by their mass spectra.

198 **Table S4. Proposed metabolites of Parathion**

#	Name	Formula	structure	[M + H ⁺] ⁺	[M-H ⁺] ⁻	m/z detected (intensity)
Parent compound	Parathion	C ₁₀ H ₁₄ NO ₅ PS	H ₃ C CH ₃ S NO ₂	292.0403	290.0258	pos: OP-C: 3.64×10 ⁸ OP-0: 2.04×10 ⁹ OP-t: 4.56×10 ⁹ neg: OP-C: 1.55×10 ⁸ OP-0: 1.55×10 ⁸ OP-t: 1.73×10 ⁸
1	<i>p</i> -nitrophenol	C ₆ H ₅ NO ₃	OH NO ₂	140.0342	138.0197	neg: OP-C: 0.26×10 ⁹ OP-0: 0.56×10 ⁹ OP-t: 1.09×10 ⁹
2	<i>O</i> -ethyl <i>O</i> -(4- nitrophenyl) phosphorothioate	C ₈ H ₁₀ NO ₅ PS	H ₃ C OH S OH NO ₂	264.0090	261.9945	neg: OP-C: 1.76×10 ¹⁰ OP-0: 2.21×10 ¹⁰ OP-t: 3.33×10 ¹⁰
3	<i>O</i> -ethyl <i>O</i> -(4- aminophenyl) phosphorothioate	C ₈ H ₁₂ NO ₃ PS	CH ₃ O OH NH ₂	234.0348	232.0203	pos: in EP-t incubated samples OP-C: n.d. OP-0: n.d. OP-t: 8.28×10^7 (Fig. S9-S11)



neg: negative mode; pos: positive mode; n.d.: not detected.

In positive mode, peak of Parathion could be detected in EP-C, EP-0 and EP-t. Peaks of amino-

parathion at m/z 262.0661 were only detected in the incubated samples EP-t.



Fig. S8. $[M+H^+]^+$ peaks of amino-parathion at m/z 262.0661 in EP-C (green), EP-t_{137h} (red) and EP-t_{288h} (blue).

206 Moreover, a peak corresponding to the mass of protonated *O*-ethyl *O*-(4-aminophenyl)-

207 phosphorothioate (m/z = 234.0348) could be detected in the EP-t samples, but it was absent in 208 EP-C and EP-0 samples.

209 The peak was isolated using the Q1 (continuous accumulation of selected ions, CASI), and

210 isolation window was set to 1.5 Da. Furthermore, collision-induced dissociation (CID) was

211 performed with the collision voltage set to 6V. During CID experiment, a fragment at m/z 110.06

212 could be detected, which corresponds to the mass of an aminophenyl-cation. This peak could not

be observed in the standard CASI-spectrum. Hence, the peak with the mass m/z 234.0348 was

214 identified as O-ethyl O-(4-aminophenyl)-phosphorothioate. Moreover, deduced from the absence

of such a peak in the control and t₀-samples, the formation of *O*-ethyl *O*-(4-aminophenyl)-

216 phosphorothioate might be due to the inoculation of biogas slurry.

217 In negative mode, appearance of peak at m/z 290.0258 (Parathion) could be detected in all

samples. Furthermore, peaks representing nitrophenol, *O*-ethyl *O*-(4-nitrophenyl)

- 219 phosphorothioate, *O*-ethyl O-(1,1-ethanediyl) O-(4-nitrophenyl) phosphorothioate (m/z 306.0207)
- and O-ethyl O-(1,1-ethanediyl) O-(4- aminophenyl) phosphorothioate (m/z 276.0465) were
- 221 detected in samples incubated with slurry.



Fig. S9. Peaks corresponding to protonated *O*-ethyl *O*-(4-aminophenyl)-phosphorothioate at m/z 234.0348 (EP-C: purple, EP-0:

green, EP-t: red).



Fig. S10. Peaks corresponding to protonated *O*-ethyl *O*-(4-aminophenyl)-phosphorothioate at m/z 234.0348 in CASI mode. Orange:

226 standard CASI, green CASI-CID



Fig. S11. Peak corresponding to aminophenyl-cation at m/z 110.0601, present only in CID spectrum.



Fig. S12. $[M-H^+]^-$ peaks of #5 (C₁₀H₁₄NO₆PS) at *m/z* 306.0207 in EP-0 (green) and EP-t_{288h} (blue).



Fig. S13. $[M-H^+]^-$ peaks of #6 (C₁₀H₁₆NO₄PS) at *m*/*z* 276.0465 in EP-0 (green) and EP-t_{288h} (blue).

232 S5.2.4. Parathion-methyl (O, O-dimethyl-O-(4-nitrophenyl) phosphorothioate)

- 233 Sample incubated with biogas slurry was sacrificed at 48h and 288h for Parathion-methyl, and
- the detected metabolites are summarized in **Table S5**.

235 **Table S5. Proposed metabolites of Parathion-methyl**

#	Name	Formula	structure	$[M+H^+]^+$	[M-H ⁺] ⁻	<i>m/z</i> detected (intensity)
Parent compound	Parathion- methyl	C ₈ H ₁₀ NO ₅ PS	CH ₃ O-CH ₃ S O-CH ₃ NO ₂	264.0090	261.9945	pos: in all samples OP-C: 1.76×10^9 OP-0: 2.66×10^9 OP-t: 2.49×10^9 neg: in all samples OP-C: 5.96×10^7 OP-0: 1.88×10^7 OP-t: 0.94×10^7
1	<i>p</i> - nitrophenol	C ₆ H ₅ NO ₃	OH NO ₂	140.0342	138.0197	neg: OP-C: 5.99×10 ⁹ OP-0: 1.77×10 ⁹ OP-t: 2.62×10 ⁹
2	<i>O</i> -methyl <i>O</i> -(4- nitrophenyl) phosphoroth ioate	C7H8NO5PS	H ₃ C S O O O H NO ₂	249.9934	247.9788	neg: OP-C: 1.34×10 ¹¹ OP-0: 0.57×10 ¹¹ OP-t: 2.19×10 ¹¹
3	amino- parathion- methyl	C ₈ H ₁₂ NO ₃ PS		234.0348	232.0203	pos: in MP-t sample OP-C: n.d. OP-0: n.d. OP-t: 1.19×10 ⁹ (Fig. S15-S16)

236 neg: negative mode; pos: positive mode; n.d.: not detected.

237 In negative mode, masses representing Parathion-methyl (m/z 261.9945) were detected in all

samples. Masses of *O*-methyl *O*-(4-nitrophenyl) phosphorothioate (m/z 247.9788) and

- 239 nitrophenol at m/z 138.0197 were found in all samples. However, the abundance in MP- t_{288h} are 240 relatively higher than MP-C.
- 241 In MP-C, peak of O-methyl O-(4-nitrophenyl) phosphorothioate at m/z 247.9788 was isolated
- and fragmented. Fragmentation spectrum showed intense peak for nitrophenol at m/z 138.0197.
- 243 In positive mode, peak for Parathion-methyl at m/z 264.0090 could be detected in MP-C and
- 244 MP-t_{48h}. However, peak of amino-parathion-methyl at m/z 234.0349 was only detected in MP-t
- samples, absent in MP-C. Isolation and fragmentation of amino-parathion-methyl in MP-t_{48h} did
- not yield a *p*-aminophenol fragment; However, fragment with the m/z of 124.9821 representing
- 247 *O*-methyl-phosphorothiate could be detected (**Fig. S16**).





Fig. S15. Peak for amino-parathion-methyl at m/z 234.0349 in MP-t_{48h}.


252 S5.2.5. Dimethoate (O,O-dimethyl S-[2-(methylamino)-2-oxoethyl] phosphorodithioate)

A sample incubated with biogas slurry was sacrificed after 7h. Metabolites are detected in all

254 samples

255 **Table S6. Proposed metabolites of Dimethoate**

#	Name	Formula	structure	[M+H ⁺] ⁺	[M-H ⁺] ⁻	<i>m/z</i> detected (intensity)
Parent compound	Dimethoate	C5H12NO3PS2	H ₃ C-O O CH ₃ S NH ^{CH₃}	230.0069	227.9923	pos: OP-C: 2.56×10 ⁹ OP-0: 1.60×10 ¹⁰ OP-t: 1.37×10 ¹⁰ neg: OP-C: 9.69×10 ⁹ OP-0: 5.55×10 ⁹ OP-t: 6.26×10 ⁹
1	O-methyl S-[2- (methylamino)-2- oxoethyl] dithiophosphate	C4H10NO3PS2	H ₃ C-0 H0 ^{-P} S ^{NH} ^{CH₃}	215.9912	213.9767	neg: OP-C: 5.87×10 ¹¹ OP-0: 1.22×10 ¹¹ OP-t: 1.33×10 ¹¹
2	O,O-dimethyl hydrogen phosphorodithioate	C2H7O2PS2	H ₃ C-O-SH O-S CH ₃	158.9698	156.9552	neg: OP-C: 1.66×10 ¹⁰ OP-0: 2.75×10 ⁹ OP-t: 3.10×10 ⁹
3	O,O-dimethyl hydrogen phosphorothioate	C2H7O3PS	H ₃ C O ^H O-P-O S CH ₃	142.9926	140.9780	pos: OP-C: n.d. OP-0: 9.27×10 ⁶ OP-t: 5.82×10 ⁶
3* (sodium adduct)				164.9746 [M+Na ⁺] ⁺		pos: OP-C: 3.30×10 ⁷ OP-0: 4.64×10 ⁷ OP-t: 3.91×10 ⁷

²⁵⁶ neg: negative mode; pos: positive mode; n.d.: not detetced.

257

259 S5.2.6. Malathion (O,O-dimethyl S-(1,2-dicarbethoxyethyl) phosphorodithioate)

260 Sample incubated with biogas slurry was sacrificed at 13h.

261 **Table S7. Proposed metabolites of Malathion**

#	Name	Formula	structure	[M + H ⁺] ⁺	[M-H ⁺] ⁻	<i>m/z</i> detected (intensity)
Parent compound	Malathion	C10H19O6PS 2		331.0433	329.0288	pos: OP-C: 2.30×10 ⁹ OP-0: 9.04×10 ⁹ OP-t: 8.91×10 ⁹ neg: OP-C: 0.79×10 ⁹ OP-0: 0.99×10 ⁹ OP-t: 1.56×10 ⁹
1	diethyl 2- {[hydroxy(meth oxy)phosphorot hioyl]sulfanyl}s uccinate	C9H17O6PS2	H ₃ C H ₃ C H ₃ C H ₃ C CH ₃	317.0277	315.0131	neg: OP-C: 1.26×10 ¹⁰ OP-0: 0.27×10 ¹⁰ OP-t: 2.29×10 ¹⁰
1* (sodium adduct)				339.0096 [M+Na ⁺] ⁺		pos: OP-C: 5.91×10 ⁹ OP-0: 3.6×10 ⁸ OP-t: 7.5×10 ⁸
2	O,O-dimethyl hydrogen phosphorodithio ate	C2H7O2PS2	H ₃ C H ₃ C H ₃ C H ₃ C H ₃ C CH ₃	158.9698	156.9552	neg: OP-C: 6.21×10 ¹⁰ OP-0: 1.7×10 ⁹ OP-t: 4.6×10 ⁹
2* (sodium adduct)				180.9517 [M+Na ⁺] ⁺		pos: OP-C: 1.53×10 ⁷ OP-0: 1.74×10 ⁷ OP-t: 1.55×10 ⁷
3	O,O-dimethyl hydrogen phosphorothioat e	C2H7O3PS	H ₃ C O H O P O H S CH ₃	142.9926	140.9781	neg: OP-C: 3.73×10 ⁹ OP-0: 0.42×10 ⁹ OP-t: 5.50×10 ⁹
3*(sodium adduct)				164.9746 [M+Na ⁺] ⁺		pos: OP-C: 0.64×10^7 OP-0: 0.75×10^7 OP-t: 1.02×10^7

262 neg: negative mode; pos: positive mode.



263 S6. 2D-plot for TCEP, TDCPP, Dimethoate and Malathion

265 Fig. S17. 2D-CSIA plots of enzymatic hydrolysis in slurry of biogas reactor and abiotic



267 Scheme S2. Proposed transformation pathways of TCEP, TDCPP, Dimethoate and Malathion in

268 biogas slurry





271 S7. Methylation as subsequent reaction

- 272 Methylation of the metabolites was found in Parathion-methyl and Dimethoate experiments. For
- instance, the metabolite after the P-O bond cleavage was methylated to *O*,*O*,*O*-
- trimethylthiophosphate in Parathion-methyl set and *O*,*O*,*S*-trimethyl phosphorodithioate was
- 275 formed with methylation after S-C bond cleavage in Dimethoate. It is assumed that methylation
- is associated with methyltransferases in the AD system. However, this subsequent reaction did
- 277 not affect the isotope fractionation of the parent compound.
- 278 Methylation of the metabolites was found in Parathion-methyl and Dimethoate experiments. For
- 279 instance, O,O,O-trimethylthiophosphate was generated after the P-O bond cleavage in Parathion-
- 280 methyl set and phosphorodithioic acid, *O*,*O*,*S*-trimethylester was formed with methylation after
- 281 S-C bond cleavage in Dimethoate. It is assumed that methylation is associated with
- 282 methyltransferases in the AD system.
- 283 Among the methyltransferases, non- S-Adenosyl methionine (SAM) dependent
- methyltransferases using the cofactor vitamin B_{12} and tetrahydrofolate (Ragsdale, 2008), and
- 285 natural product methyltransferases (NPMTs), which mostly depended on SAM (Liscombe et al.,
- 286 2012), are putative enzymes for the methyl group transfers in anoxic condition (Jäger and Croft,
- 287 2018). The typical non-SAM dependent methyltransferases involved in methanogenesis of AD
- use tetrahydromethanopterin and coenzyme M as methyl acceptors for methane conversion
- 289 (Thauer, 1998). NPMTs contain a diverse group of enzymes which take naturally-produced small
- 290 molecules as acceptors, adding methyl group to S, N, O, or C atom for formation of metabolites.
- 291 Thus, it is inferred that the methylation of OPs in AD process is attributed to NPMTs.

292

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