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Organophosphorous and volatile organochlorine compounds in the waters of the Nilwala River of southern Sri Lanka

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ABSTRACT: The Nilwala River in Southern Sri Lanka was investigated for trace organic contaminants. Four anthropogenic organic phosphorus compounds, triphenylphosphate (TPP), tributylphosphate (TBP), tri-iso-butylphosphate (TIBP), tris-2-butoxyethylphosphate (TBEP) were detected at levels of 10–500 ng/l. The concentration pattern of these compounds is different to that of the River Weser in Germany. The main halogenated organic volatiles detected were trichloromethane, tetrachloromethane and trichloroethylene (100–500 ng/l). Some of their possible sources and effects are discussed.