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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMITHERS VISCIENT STUDY POINTS TO SHORTER FULL LIFE-CYCLE TESTING

WAREHAM, MA, USA – July 13, 2016 – [Smithers Viscient](http://www.smithersviscient.com), a global contract research organization (CRO), has announced new findings regarding the duration of [fish full life-cycle testing](#). The testing protocol, designed to assess the toxicity of a given chemical over the full life-cycle of fish, historically requires an average exposure of 260 days (or 8.7 months). The Smithers Viscient studies produced consistent and accurate data with an exposure of approximately 180 days (6 months).

“Our recent control performance shows that a fathead minnow full life-cycle test can be accomplished during a shorter than traditional timeframe while providing consistent, high reproductive output,” said Ron Biever, Chief Scientific Officer at Smithers Viscient and the team of scientists leading the studies. “Decreasing the necessary length of these studies provides our clients with actionable data sooner, helping to protect and enhance their testing investment.”

The fathead minnow (*Pimephales promelas*) is a common choice for fish life-cycle testing. However, their lifespan is relatively long and reproduction data tends to be highly variable. Therefore, confidence in the evaluation of effects on their reproduction and development during exposures over multiple generations is often limited by variable responses. The traditional test design (Benoit, 1981), typically involves a 260-day exposure, which the Smithers Viscient approach improved upon by 80 days.

In order to achieve this, the Smithers Viscient team worked to manage the fathead minnows' diet at different life stages, to maintain a constant temperature at 25.5 +/- 1.5⁰ C, and to utilize a consistent strain of fathead minnow. All of these factors played an important part in the enhanced maturation rate and fecundity (e.g. >40 egg/female/day over a 6-week period) common to the traditional test design. In addition, with the consistent fecundity numbers, the spawning phase has been condensed from the scope of the original test method.

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About Smithers Viscient

Smithers Viscient is a global contract research organization (CRO). The company delivers a comprehensive range of ecotoxicology, environmental fate, metabolism, chemistry, and [toxicology](#) services, for the pharmaceutical, crop protection, chemical, and consumer household product industries. Pollinator testing capabilities include laboratory-based studies, semi-field, and field exposures. With laboratories located in North America and Europe, Smithers Viscient, has performed standard guideline and higher-tiered environmental studies for 45 years. For more information about Smithers Viscient's environmental regulatory testing solutions, visit www.smithersviscient.com.

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