Prepared in cooperation with the
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SYNTHETIC ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Water and benthos communities sampled at 45 stations were analyzed for VPCs (volatile phenols, 4-Aminophenol, and ethanethiol) by the USGS (U.S. Geological Survey) (Pic 1). Similar levels of VPCs were detected at all stations sampled. The presence of these compounds was not observed in the benthos communities except for a few stations near the mouth of the Mermenta River. The distribution of these compounds was not uniform throughout the study area.

In summary, the presence of these compounds was not widespread, and their concentrations were generally low. However, the presence of these compounds in the benthos communities suggests that they may be contributing to the overall toxicity of the ecosystem. Further studies are needed to determine the sources and Fate of these compounds in the study area.

SELECTED REFERENCES


LOUISIANA HYDROLOGIC ATLAS MAP NO. 7: WATER-QUALITY SURVEY OF THE MERMENTA RIVER BASIN, 1989-90

By Dennis K. Dennoch

1994