QSAR TOOLBOX

The OECD QSAR Toolbox for Grouping Chemicals into Categories

OECD QSAR Toolbox v.3.2

Step-by-step example of how to build a user-defined QSAR

- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow of the exercise

Background

- This is a step-by-step presentation designed to take you through the workflow of the Toolbox for building a QSAR model for predicting aquatic toxicity.
- By now you are have some experience in using the Toolbox so there will be multiple key strokes between screen shots.

- Background
- Objectives
- The exercise
- Workflow of the exercise

Objectives

- This presentation demonstrates building a QSAR model for predicting acute toxicity to Tetrahymena pyriformis of aldehydes. The presentation addresses specifically:
 - predicting acute toxicity for a target chemical;
 - building QSAR model based on the prediction;
 - applying the model to other aldehydes;
 - exporting the predictions to a file.

- Background
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The Exercise

- This exercise includes the following steps:
 - select a target chemical Furfural, CAS 98011;
 - extract available experimental results;
 - search for analogues;
 - estimate the 48h-IGC50 for Tetrahymena pyriformis by using trend analysis;
 - improve the data set by either:
 - subcategorizing by "Protein binding" mechanisms, or
 - assessing the difference between outliers and the target chemical
 - evaluate and save the model;
 - use the model to display its training set, visualize its applicability domain and perform predictions.

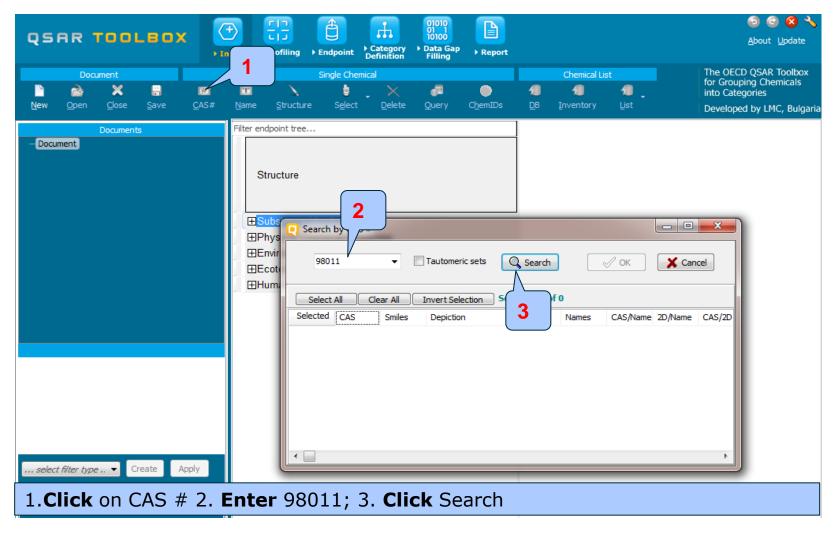
- Background
- Objectives
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Workflow of the exercise

- Remember the Toolbox has 6 modules which are used in a sequential workflow:
 - Chemical Input
 - Profiling
 - Endpoints
 - Category Definition
 - Filling Data Gaps
 - Report

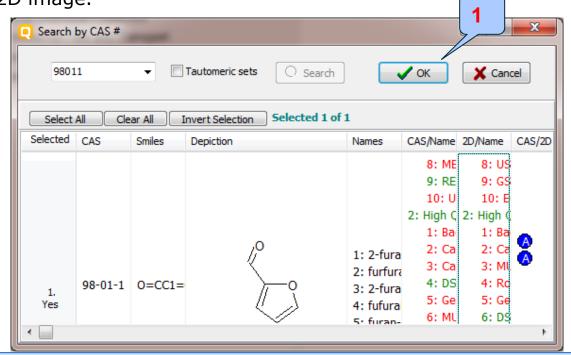
- Background
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 - Chemical Input

Chemical Input



Chemical Input Target chemical identity

The Toolbox now searches the Toolbox databases and inventories for the presence of the chemical with structure related to the current CAS number. It is displayed as a 2D image.



1. Click OK to add chemical in data matrix

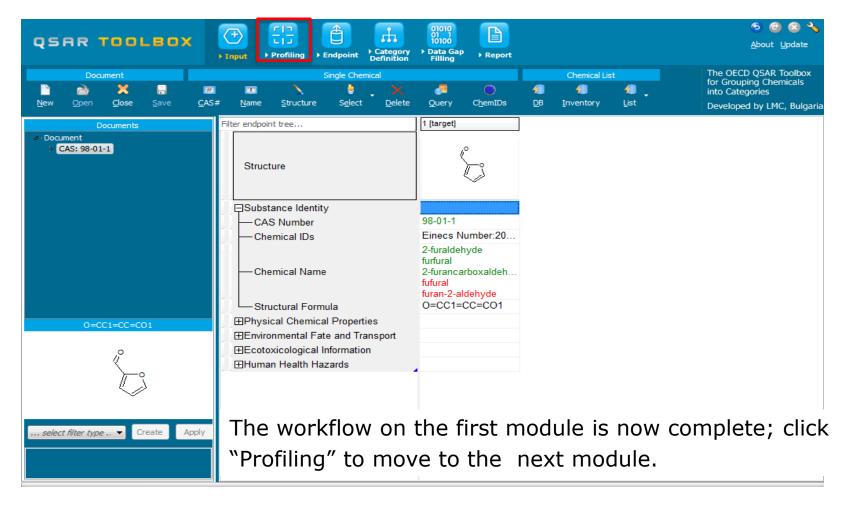


In case a structure has several CAS numbers or a structure could be related to more than one substance (e.g. in the case of compounds), more than one chemical identity could be retrieved. In this case the user can decide which substance is to be retained for the subsequent workflow.

Chemical Input Target chemical identity

- You have now your target chemical with its structure.
- Click on the box next to "Substance Identity"; this
 displays the chemical identification information. (see
 next screen shot)

Chemical Input Target chemical identity

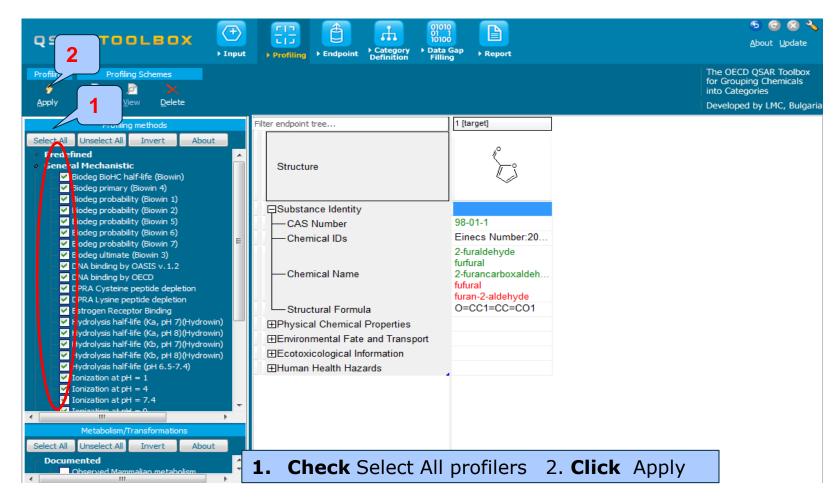


- Background
- Objectives
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- Workflow of the exercise
 - Chemical Input
 - Profiling

ProfilingProfiling the target chemical

- Select the "Profiling methods" related to the target endpoint
- This selects (a green check mark appears) or deselects(green check disappears) profilers.
- For this example, select all profilers (see next screen shot)

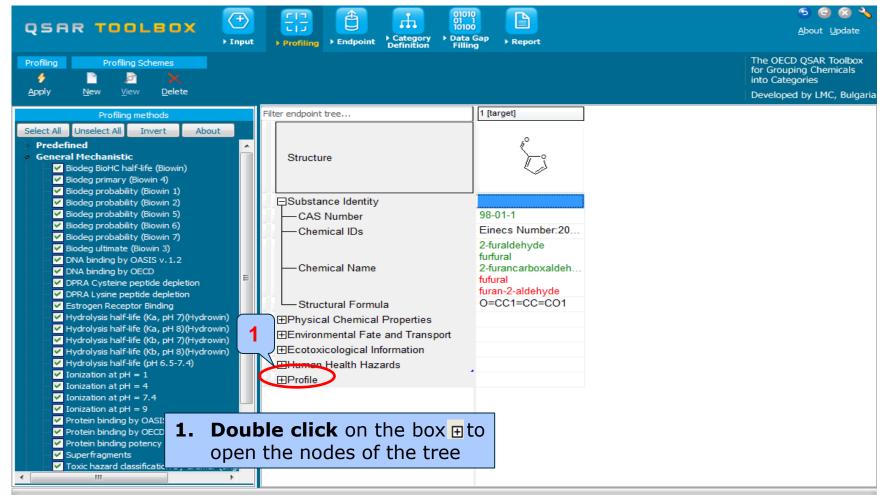
ProfilingProfiling the target chemical



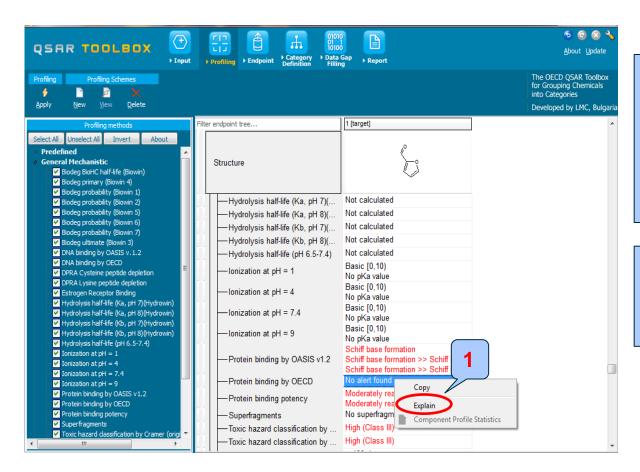
ProfilingProfiling the target chemical

- The actual profiling will take several seconds depending on the number and type of selected profilers.
- The results of profiling automatically appeared as a dropdown box under the target chemical. (see next screen shot)

ProfilingProfiles of "Furfural"



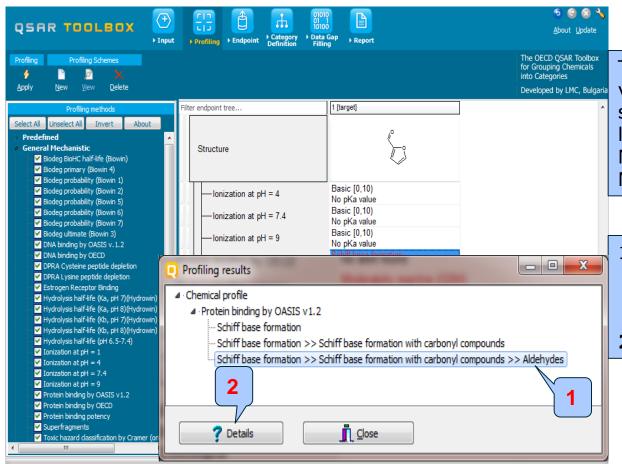
ProfilingProfiles of "Furfural"



In this case there is structural evidence that the target could interact to DNA and proteins, it has also mode of action and it is aldehyde. This step is critical for next grouping of analogues.

1. Right click to see why the target is Protein binder (see next screen shot).

ProfilingProfiles of "Furfural"

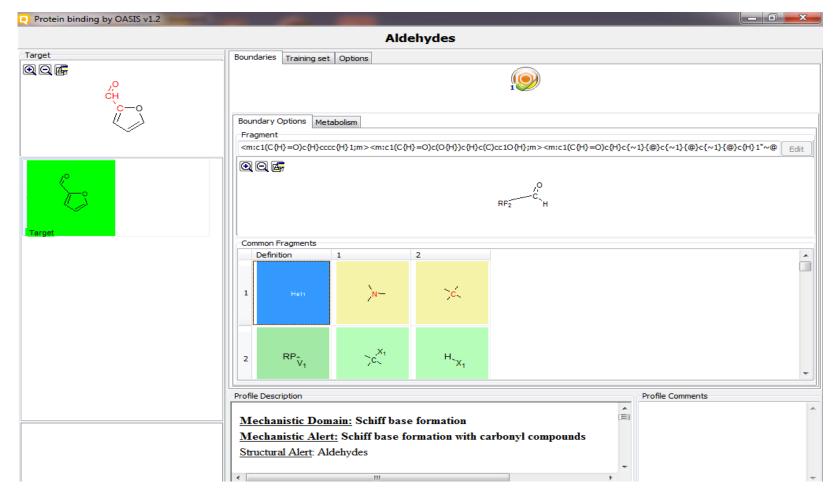


The Protein binding by OASIS v.1.2 profiler has hierarchical structure consisting of three levels: Structural alert, Mechanistic alert and Mechanistic domain

- From the list of the profiling results Click on the structural alert Aldehydes
- 2. Click Details

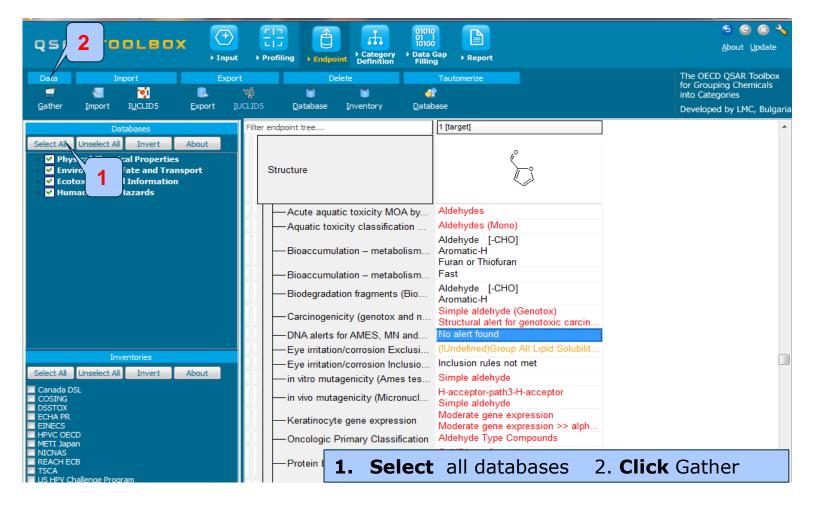
Profiling

Protein binding by OASIS v.1.2 of target chemical



- Background
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 - Profiling
 - Endpoints

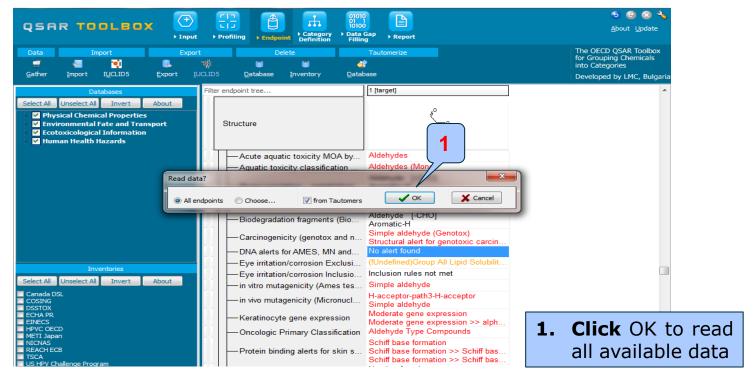
EndpointsExtracting endpoint values



EndpointsProcess of collecting data

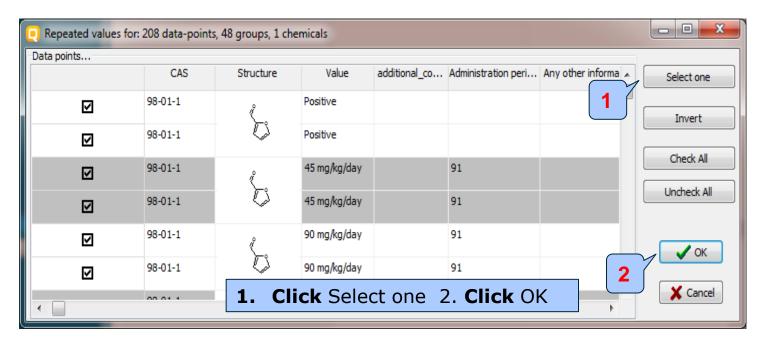
Toxicity information on the target chemical is electronically collected from the selected datasets.

A window with "Read data?" appears. Now the user could choose to collect "all" or "endpoint specific" data.

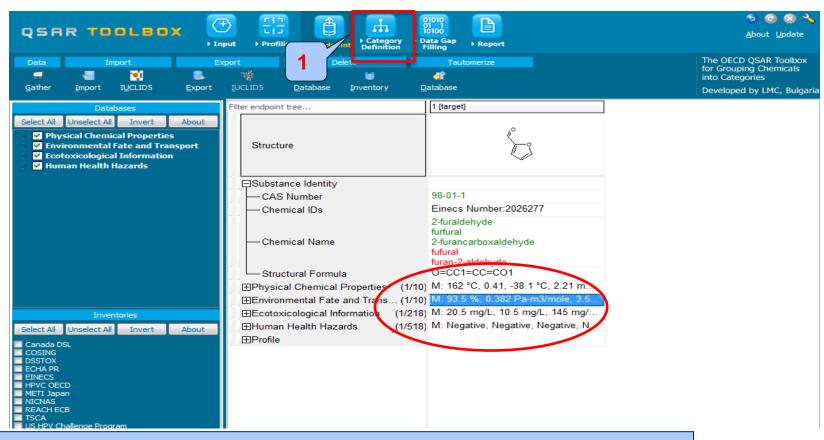


EndpointsRead data for analogues

Due to the overlap between the Toolbox databases same data for intersecting chemicals is found simultaneously in more than one database. The data redundancy is identified and the user has the opportunity to select either a single data value or all data values.



EndpointsInserting data for target in data matrix



Now the data is inserted into data matrix; 1. **Click** Category Definition

- Background
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 - Chemical Input
 - Profiling
 - Endpoints
 - Category definition

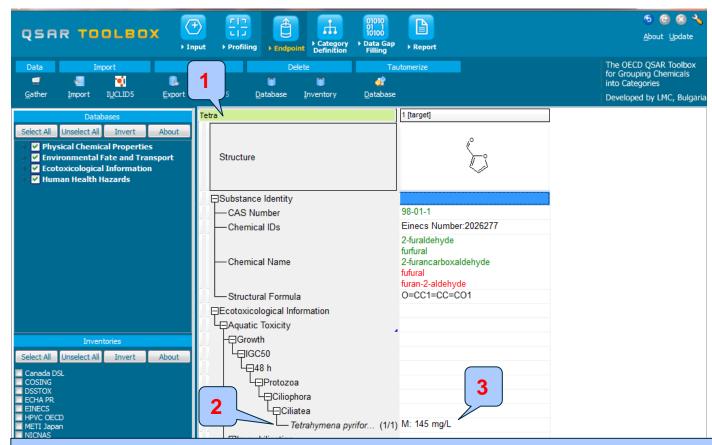
Category definition Target endpoint

 In this exercise we will build a QSAR model to estimate the following endpoint:

Ecotoxicological Information#Aquatic Toxicity#Growth#IGC50#48h#Protozoa#Ciliophora#Ciliat ea#Tetrahymena pyriformis

 The initial search for analogues is based on structural similarity, of US EPA categorization

Category definition Navigate to the target endpoint

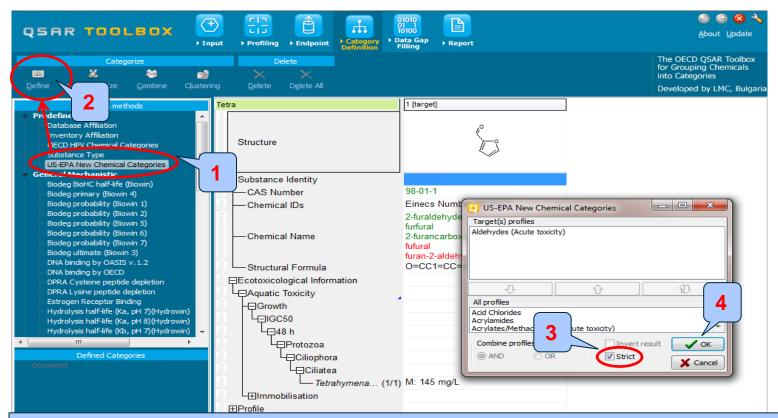


1. **Type** "Tetra" in the empty filter field; 2. **Open** the nodes to target endpoint; 3. **Highlight** the cell that will be filled in (in this case we will reproduce the observed data).

Category definition Defining US-EPA category

- The initial search for analogues is based on structural similarity, of US EPA categorization
- Select US-EPA category
- Click Define (see next screen shot)

Category definition Defining US-EPA category



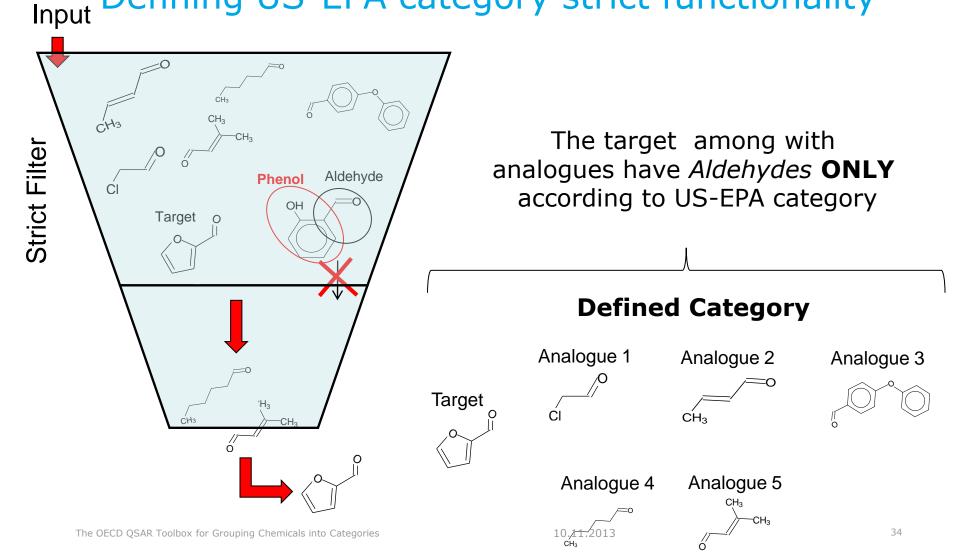
1. Highlight "US-EPA New Chemical Categories"; 2. Click Define; 3. Select Strict (see next screen shot); 4. Click OK to confirm the category Aldehydes (Acute toxicity) Defined from US-EPA category.

Category definition Defining US-EPA category strict functionality

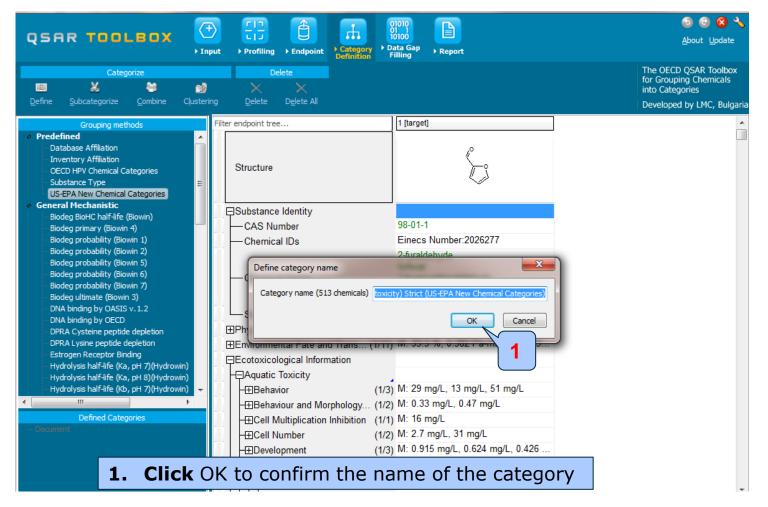
- The **Strict** functionality means that the software will group analogues having **ONLY** the categories of the target and will exclude the analogues having any other categories according to the profiler used in the grouping method.
- For example, if the profiling for the target results in Aldehydes(Acute toxicity) ONLY according to US-EPA category, the group of analogues will include Aldehydes(Acute toxicity) ONLY.(See next screen shot)

Category definition

Defining US-EPA category strict functionality



Category definitionDefining US-EPA category



Category definition Analogues

- The Toolbox now identifies all chemicals corresponding to Aldehydes(Acute toxicity) by US-EPA listed in the databases selected under "Endpoints".
- 513 analogues including the target chemical are identified; they form a mechanistic category "Aldehydes (Acute toxicity)", which will be used for gap filling.
- The name of the analogues and name of the category appear in the "Defined Categories" window.

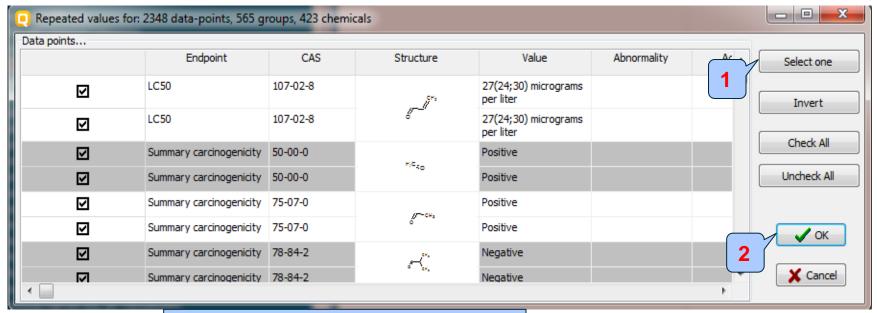
Category definition Reading data for Analogues

- The Toolbox will now retrieve those chemicals that have the same structural alert as the target
- The Toolbox automatically request the user to select the endpoint that should be retrieved
- The user can either select the specific endpoint or by default choose to retrieve data on all endpoints (see bellow)



Category definition Reading data for Analogues

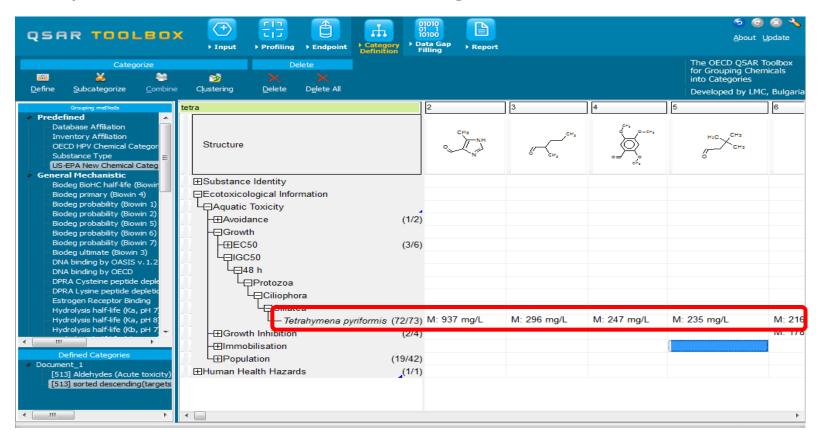
Due to the overlap between the Toolbox databases same data for intersecting chemicals is found simultaneously in more than one database. The data redundancy is identified and the user has the opportunity to select either a single data value or all data values.



1. Click Select one; 2.Click OK

Category definitionSummary information for Analogues

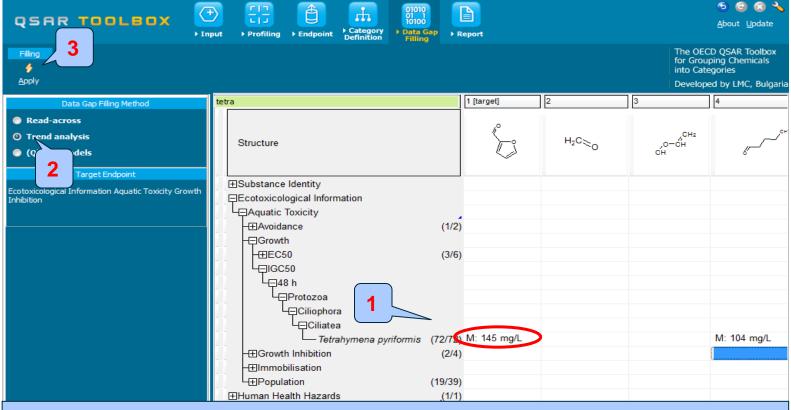
The experimental results for the analogues are inserted into the matrix



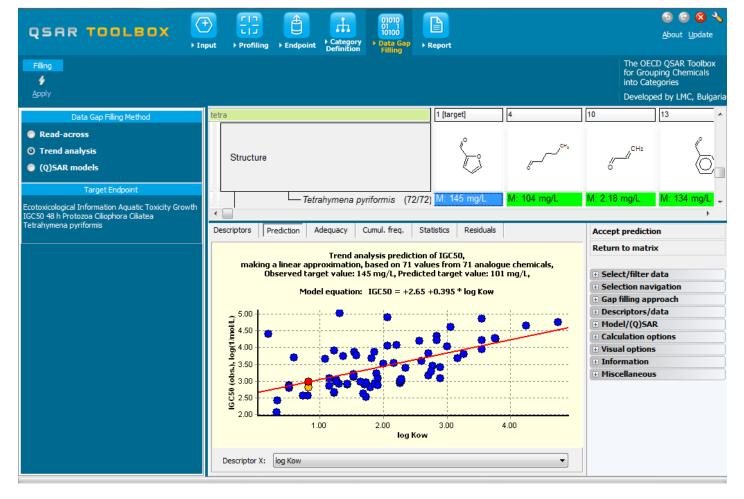
Outlook

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 - Endpoints
 - Category definition
 - Data gap filling

Data Gap Filling
(IGC 50 48h of *T. pyriformis*)
Apply Trend analysis



1. **Highlight** the Data gap corresponding to Tetrahymena pyriformis IGC50 under the target chemical; 2. **Select** Trend analysis; 3. **Click** Apply



Data Gap Filling (IGC 50 48h of *T. pyriformis*) Interpreting dots on the graph

- The resulting plot outlines the experimental results of all analogues (Y axis) according to a descriptor (X axis) with LogKow being the default descriptor (see next screen shot)
- The RED dot represents the predicted value for target chemical.
- The BLUE dots represent the experimental results available for the analogues
- The GREEN dots (see the following screen shots)
 represent analogues belonging to different subcategories

Data Gap Filling (IGC 50 48h of *T. pyriformis*) An accurate analysis of data set

- In this example, the mechanistic properties of the analogues are consistent.
- Subcategorization can be performed based on protein binding mechanisms. This is the second stage of analogue search - requiring the same interaction mechanism.
- Acute effects are associated with covalent interaction of chemicals within cell proteins, i.e. with protein binding.
- Chemicals with a different protein binding mechanism/reactions compared to the target chemical will be removed.

Subcategorisation by Protein binding by OASIS v.1.2

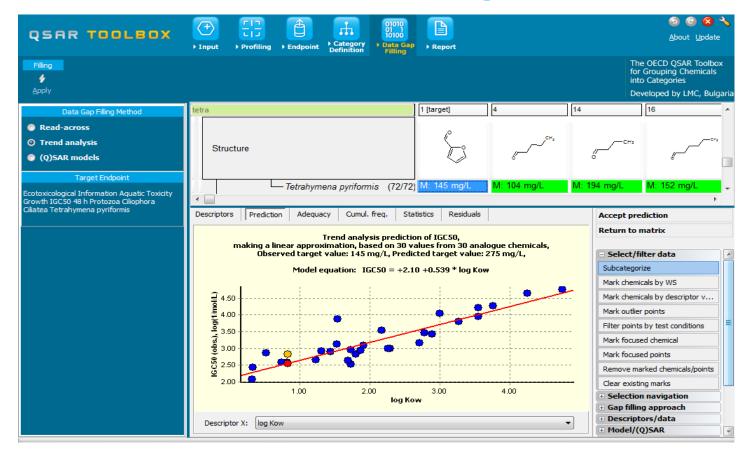
- To improve the data by subcategorizing, the Protein binding by OASIS v.1.2 profiler is used:
- Click on Select filter data then click Subcategorize
- Select Protein binding by OASIS v.1.2 from the Grouping methods list.
- All chemicals which have a potential protein binding mechanism different from the target chemical are GREEN coloured.
- Click on Remove (see next two screen shots).

Subcategorisation by Protein binding by OASIS

v.1.2

Subcategorization Adjust options Biodeg probability (Biowin 5) Biodeg probability (Biowin 6) The OECD QSAR Toolbox Biodeg probability (Biowin 7) for Grouping Chemicals Schiff base formation Biodeg ultimate (Biowin 3) into Categories Schiff base formation >> Schiff base DNA binding by OASIS v.1.2 Schiff base formation >> Schiff base Developed by LMC, Bulgaria DNA binding by OECD DPRA Cysteine peptide depletion 1 [target] III. DPRA Lysine peptide depletion Estrogen Receptor Binding Differ from target by: Hydrolysis half-life (Ka, pH 7)(Hyd O At least one category STOP Hydrolysis half-life (Ka, pH 8)(Hyd All categories Hydrolysis half-life (Kb, pH 7)(Hy Hydrolysis half-life (Kb, pH 8)(Hyd Hydrolysis half-life (pH 6.5-7.4) formis (72/73) M: 145 mg/L M: 296 mg/L Ionization at pH = 1 Michael Addition >> alpha,beta) Michael Addition >> alpha,beta Michael Addition >> Michael add Ionization at pH = 4Ionization at pH = 7.4Michael Addition >> Michael addi Statistics Residuals Accept prediction Sonization at pH = 9Return to matrix (54) Schiff base formation d analysis prediction of IGC50. Protein binding by OECD chiff base formation >: tion, based on 71 values from 71 analogue chemicals, Protein binding potency e: 937 mg/L, Predicted target value: 171 mg/L, Select/filter data (54) Schiff base formation >> Schiff Superfragments (54) Schiff base formation >> Schiff Subcategorize Toxic hazard classification by Crar ion: IGC50 = +2.69 +0.380 * log Kow Toxic hazard classification by Crar Mark chemicals by WS SNAr >> Nucleophilic aromatic Ultimate biodeg Mark chemicals by descriptor v... Mark outlier points Metabolism/Transformations Do not account metabolism Filter points by test conditions Documented Observed Mammalian metabolism 1. Click Select filter data 2. Select Subcategorize; Observed Microbial metabolism Observed Rat In vivo metabolisn Observed Rat Liver S9 metabol 3. **Select** Protein binding by OASIS v.1.2 Simulated Autoxidation simulator 4. **Click** Remove to eliminate dissimilar to the target Autoxidation simulator (a Selected 41 (30/71) Dissociation simulation Select different chemicals Hydrolysis simulator (acid Remove

Data Gap Filling (IGC 50 48h of *T. pyriformis*) Results after subcategorisation



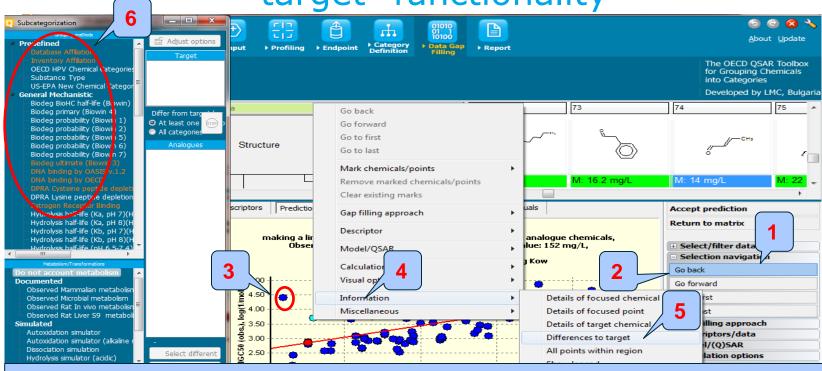
Data Gap Filling (IGC 50 48h of *T. pyriformis*) An accurate trend analysis of data set

- The chemicals which differ from the target according to Protein binding by OASIS v1.2 are:
 - Michael addition<<alpha, beta unsaturated carbonyl compounds<< alpha, beta-unsaturated aldehydes (20);
 - Michael addition << Michael addition on conjugated systems with electron withdrawing group << alpha, beta-Carbonyl compounds with polarized (2);
 - No alert found (17);
 - SNAr<<Nucleophilic aromatic substitution on activated halogens<<Activated aryl and hetetoalyl compounds(1).
- Another way for refining the data set is to ask what makes the obvious outliers different from the target.
- Click on Selection navigation then, click Back (see next screen shot).

Subcategorisation by using "Difference to target" functionality

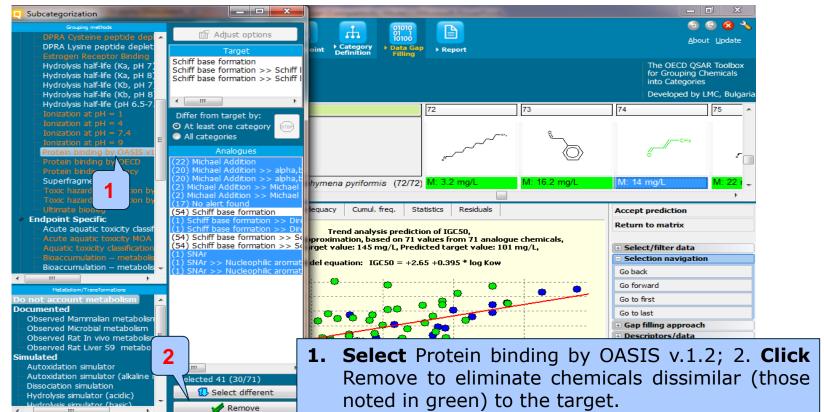
- Right-Click on any of the outlying analogues colored in BLUE.
- Select Differences to target from the context menu. The profilers by which the analogues differ to the target are colored in ORANGE.
- Select Protein binding by OASIS v.1.2 from the Grouping methods list
- Click on Remove (see next three screen shots).

Subcategorisation by using "Difference to target" functionality

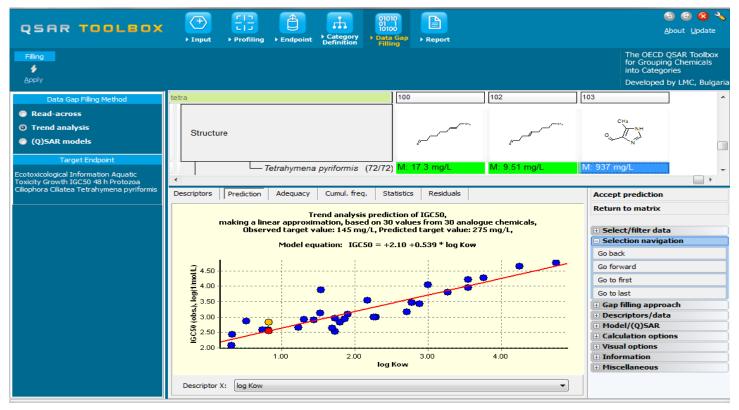


1.Click Selection navigation; **2. Click** Go back; 3. **Right click** above one of the outliers on the graph; 4. **Select** Information from the context menu; 5. From the newly appeared menu **Select** Difference to target 6. The profilers coloured in orange are those by which the analogues differ to the target; **Go to the next screen shot**

Subcategorisation by using "Difference to target" functionality



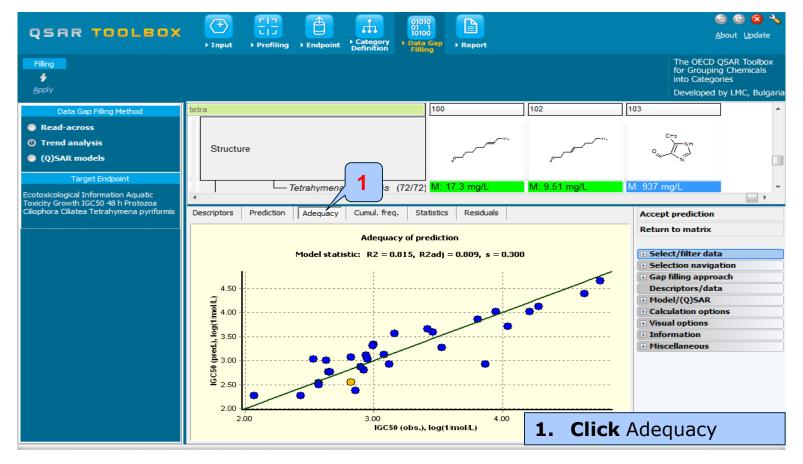
Subcategorisation by using "Difference to target" functionality



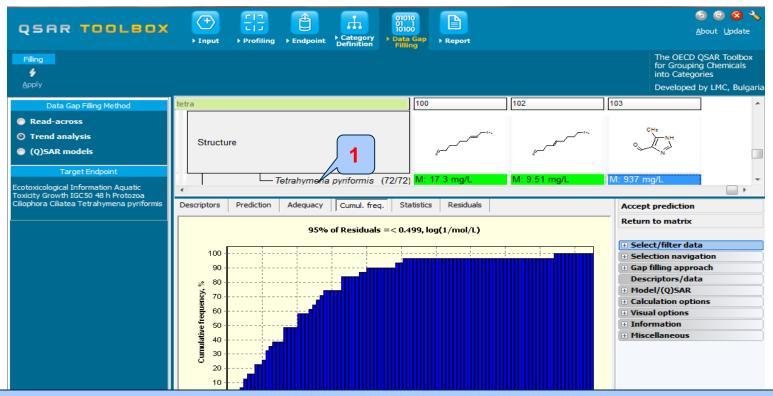
Data Gap Filling(IGC 50 48h of *T. pyriformis*) Evaluation of the model

- To assess the model accuracy use:
 - Adequacy (predictions after leave-one-out)
 - Statistics
 - Cumulative frequency
 - Residuals
- See next four screen shots

Evaluation of the model

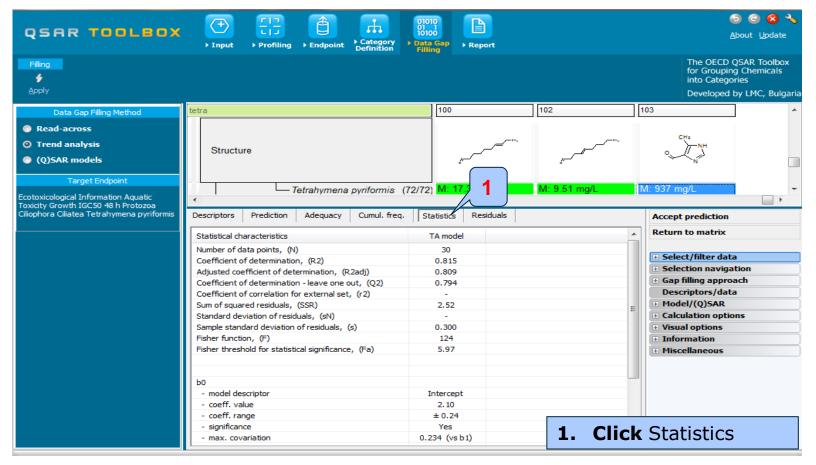


Evaluation of the model cumulative frequency

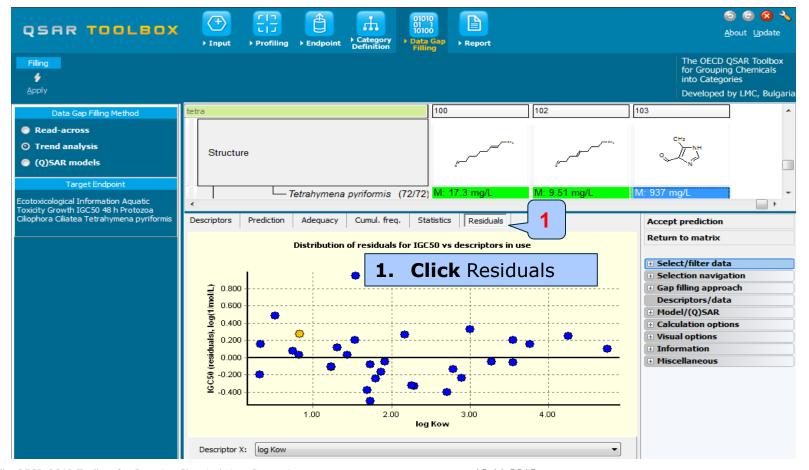


1. Click Cumul.freq.; The residuals abs (obs-predicted) for 95% of analogues are comparable with the variation of experimental data.

Data Gap Filling (IGC 50 48h of *T. pyriformis*) Evaluation of the model statistics



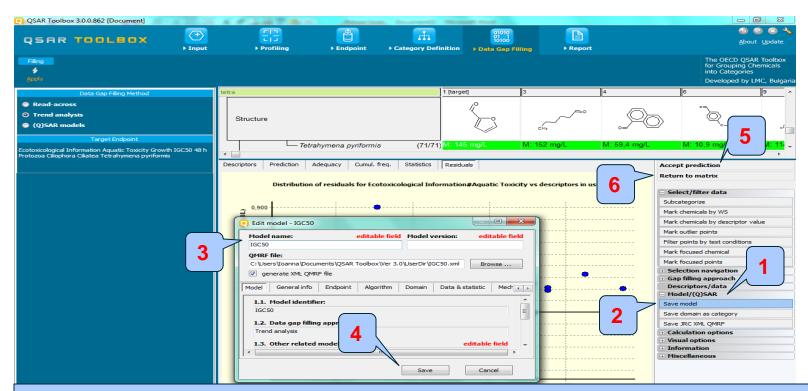
Data Gap Filling (IGC 50 48h of *T. pyriformis*) Evaluation of the model statistics



Data Gap Filling (IGC 50 48h of *T. pyriformis*) Save the derived QSAR model

- To save the new regression model follow these steps:
 - Click on Model (Q)SAR
 - Select Save model
 - Enter the model name and fill editable fields if necessary
 - Click on OK and
 - Accept the value
 - Click on Return to the matrix (see next screen shot)

Data Gap Filling (IGC 50 48h of *T. pyriformis*) Save the derived QSAR model

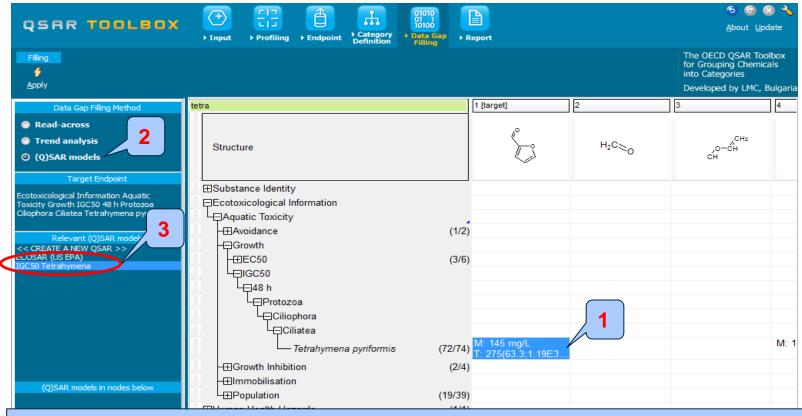


1. Click Model (Q)SAR; 2. Select Save model; 3. Type Name of the model and fill fields if necessary; 4. Click Save; 5. Click Accept prediction; 6. Select Return to the matrix

Outlook

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 - Profiling
 - Endpoints
 - Category definition
 - Data gap filling
 - QSAR model

Data Gap Filling How to see the derived QSAR?



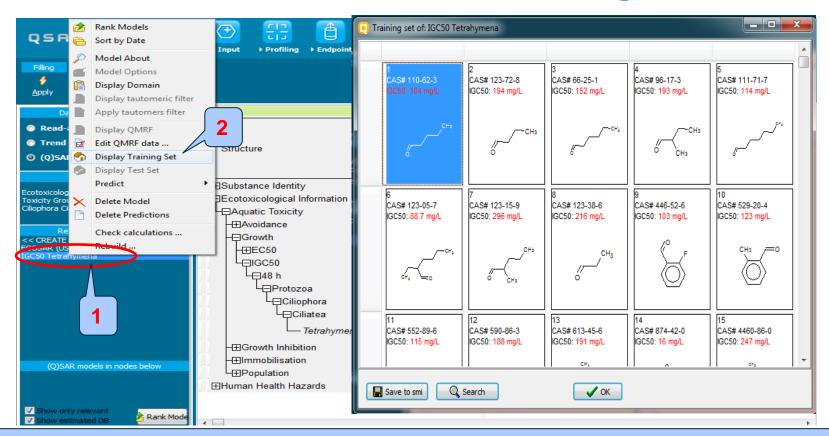
1. Note the accepted prediction is inserted into data matrix; 2. **Click** (Q)SAR models; 3. The derived QSAR is listed in the panel with Relevant (Q)SAR models.

Data Gap Filling How to see the derived QSAR?

As seen in the next five screen shots the derived model can be used to:

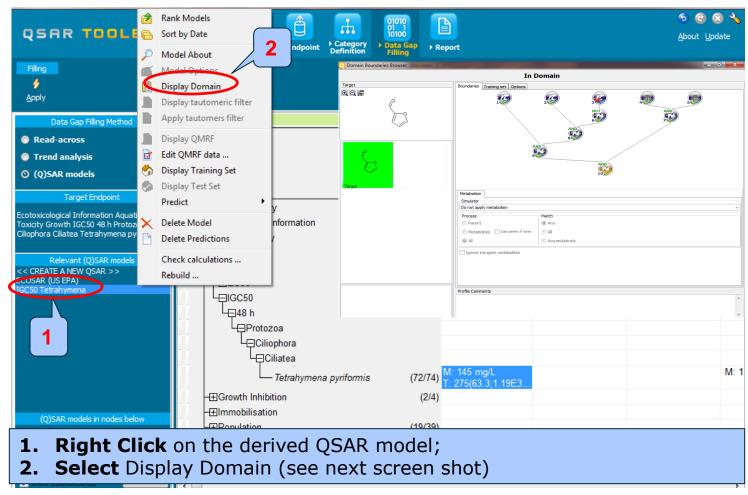
- Visualize training set of the model:
 - **Right-click** on the QSAR model IGC50 48h Tetrahymena pyriformis; **Select** Display Training Set from the context menu;
- Visualize the domain of the model:
 - Right-click on the QSAR model IGC50 48h Tetrahymena pyriformis; Select Display Domain from the context menu;
- Visualize whether a chemical is in the applicability domain of the model:
 - In the data matrix **highlight** the empty cell of one of the analogues (e.g. chemical no 2 in the matrix) for the endpoint 48h IGC50 *Tetrahymena pyriformis*; **Right-click** on the QSAR model IGC50 48h *Tetrahymena pyriformis*; **Select** Display domain;
- Edit QMRF data the user could change the data already saved in the QMRF form
- Perform predictions for:
 - All chemicals in the matrix.
 - Current chemical
 - Chemicals in domain:
 - Right-click on the QSAR model IGC50 48h Tetrahymena pyriformis; Select the desired option

Data Gap FillingVisualisation of the training set

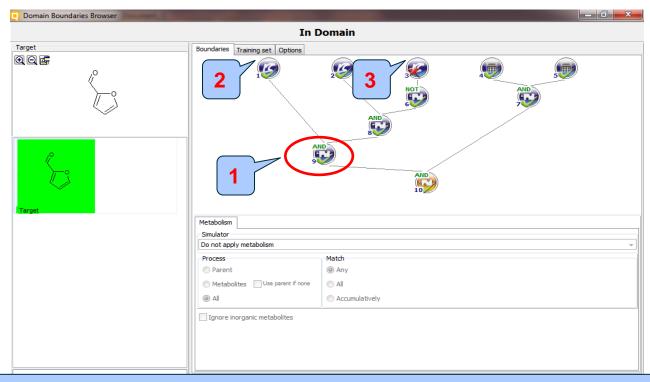


1. Right Click on the derived QSAR model; 2. **Select** Display Training Set; 3. Note the experimental data is displayed under CAS # of each chemical

Data Gap FillingVisualisation of model domain

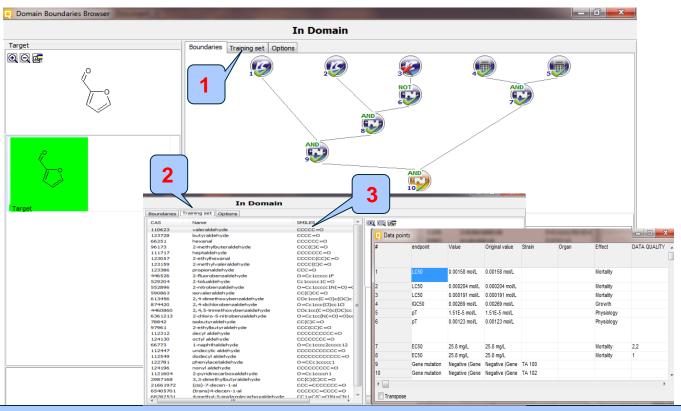


Data Gap FillingVisualisation of model domain



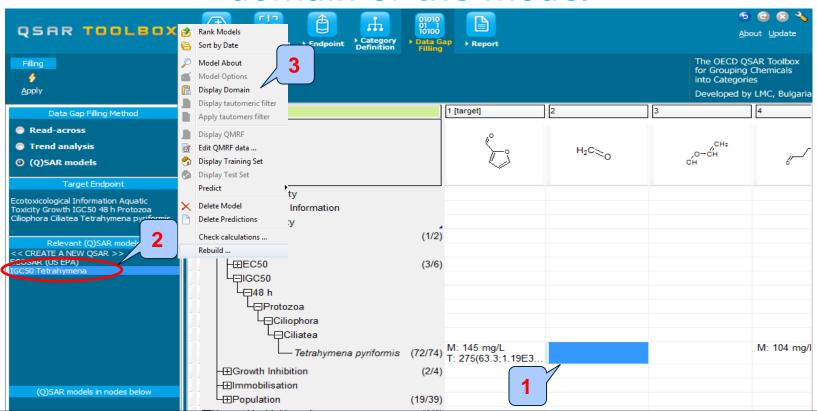
1. Note the boundaries of the domain are combined logically; 2. If the chemical answer the query of the domain then the current query is a labelled **GREEN**; 3. otherwise is labelled **RED**.

Visualisation of the training set of the model



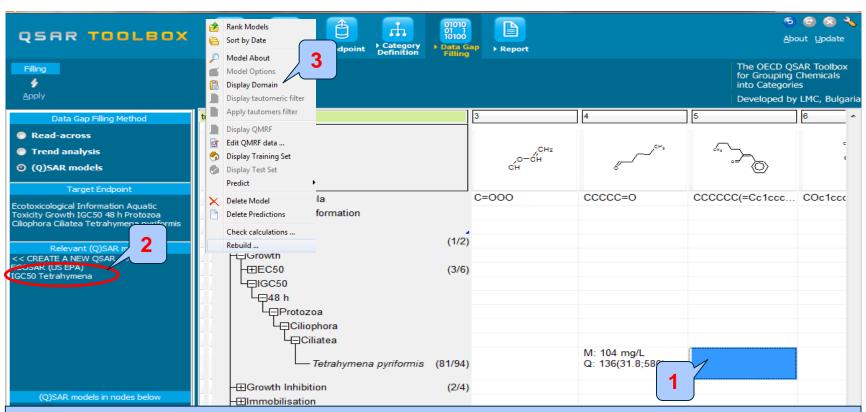
1. Click Training set to see training set of the model; 2. The training set is presented as a list of chemicals; Click above the chemical from the list and 3. Select Display data to see all available data.

Visualisation whether a chemical is in the domain of the model



1. **Highlight** the cell of one of the analogues (e.g., chemical # 2 in the data matrix; 2. **Click** above the model; 3. **Select** Display domain (see next screen shot).

Visualisation whether a chemical is in the domain of the model

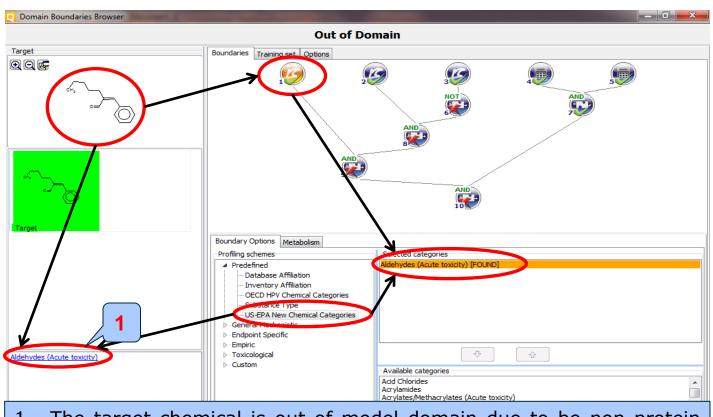


1. **Highlight** the cell of one of the analogues (e.g., chemical # 5 in the data matrix; 2. **Click** above the model; 3. **Select** Display domain (see next screen shot).

Visualisation whether a chemical is in the domain of the model

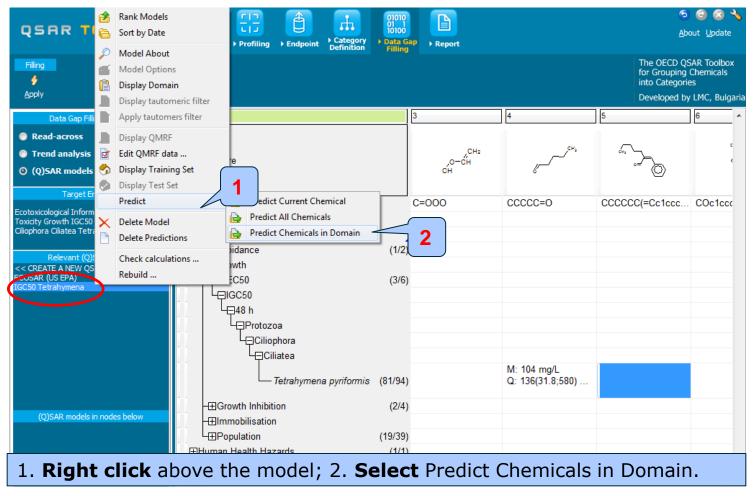
- The chemical is an aldehyde as required by US-EPA categorization group.
- It can react with protein by Schiff-base formation and does not belong to any of the eliminated mechanistic domains according to Protein binding by OASIS v.1.2:
 - Michael addition
 - No alert found
 - SNAr
- Another requirement is Log Kow to be >=0.3187 and <= 4.75.
- The second requirement is violated because the chemical is not protein binder and therefore it is outside of the applicability domain of the model (see next screen shot).

Visualisation whether a chemical is in the domain of the model

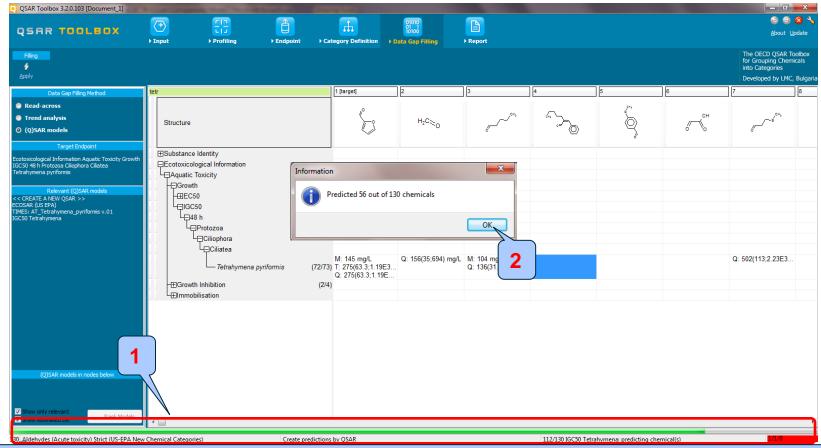


1. The target chemical is out of model domain due to be non protein binder

Data Gap FillingEdit QMRF data



Data Gap FillingPerform prediction

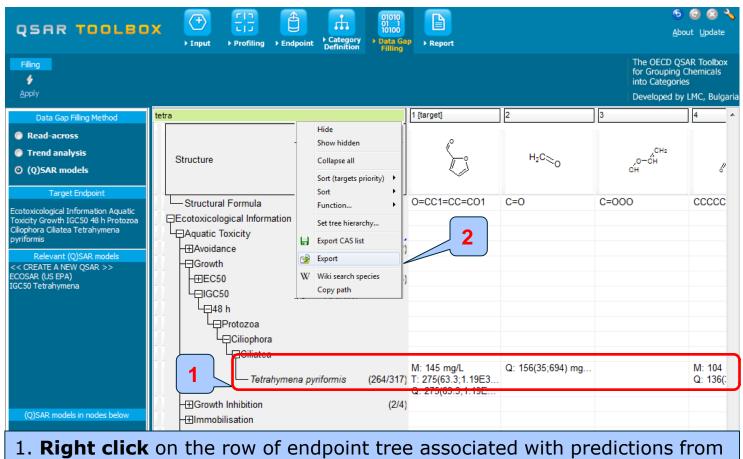


1. The process of applying the model is indicated by status bar on the bottom of the window; the massage with number of predicted chemicals appears; 2. **Click** OK.

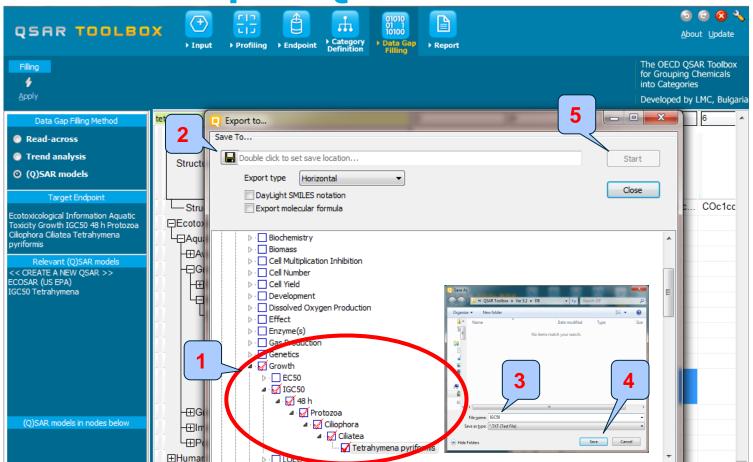
Outlook

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 - Data gap filling
 - QSAR model
 - Export QSAR prediction

- The predictions for the chemicals in the matrix can be exported into text file.
- In the data tree right-click on Tetrahymena pyriformis (for the endpoint IGC50 48h for Tetrahymena pyriformis) and select Export from the context menu (see next three screen shots).

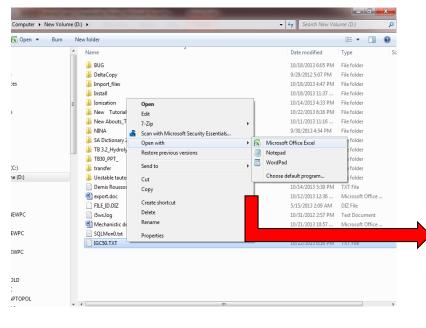


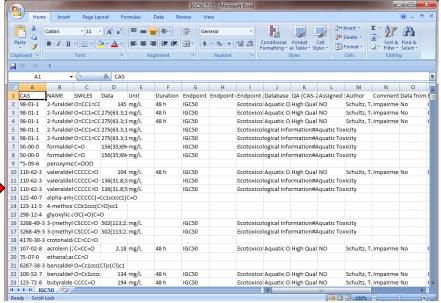
1. **Right click** on the row of endpoint tree associated with predictions from the QSAR model; 2. **Select** Export (see next screen shot).



1. The nodes from the tree associated with QSAR predictions which will be exported are labelled with **RED** check marks; 2. **Click** to browse the folder on your PC; 3. Give name of the file; 4. **Click** Save; 5. **Click** Start; 6. **Click** OK when the file is exported.

The resulting text file can be loaded into a spreadsheet and further analysed.





Congratulations

- You have used the Toolbox to build a user-defined QSAR model.
- You now know another useful tool in the Toolbox.
- Continue to practice with this and other tools. Soon you will be comfortable dealing with many situations where the Toolbox is useful.