

Ecotoxicology studies are required by most of the major regulatory authorities to assess the potential hazards posed by chemical substances released, either intentionally or inadvertently, into the environment.

IIRT provides a full range of study types to assess the ecotoxicology and environmental safety of pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical, food additive, chemical, biocide, and agrochemicals. Our extensive experience includes the conduct of studies with a variety of test articles, including those that are volatile, unstable or partially soluble.

Earthworms are regarded as one of the most suitable for testing the toxicity of chemicals in soils and have been adopted as standard organisms for ecotoxicological testing. In several guidelines concerning earthworm toxicity tests, *Eisenia fetida/andrei* (*E. fetida/andrei*) was chosen because it can be easily cultured in the laboratory and an extensive database on the effects of all classes of chemicals exists for this species. Acute and chronic

Birds ecotoxicology studies the movement of environmental contaminants through ecosystems and their harmful effects on birds. Birds are recognized as valuable indicators and biomonitors of environmental quality, and recently also as sentinels of potential risks for human health. Special attention has been paid to studying chemical compounds able to interfere with endocrine systems altering reproduction and behavior in birds, and, consequently, as potential causes of population decline. Organochlorine compounds, metals, industrial chemicals, veterinary drugs, and pesticides are the chemicals most frequently described as hazardous to bird populations. Finally, data from experimental tests to determine the safety of pesticides and industrial chemicals are required.