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In vitro and in vivo assessments of the genotoxic potential of 3-chloroallyl alcohol

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Abstract

3-Chloroallyl alcohol (3-CAA) can be found in the environment following the application of plant protection products. 3-CAA is formed in groundwater following the injection of 1,3-dichloropropene, a fumigant used to control nematodes. 3-CAA is also formed, in leafy crops, as a glycoside conjugate following application of the herbicide, clethodim. Human exposure may occur from groundwater used as drinking water or through dietary consumption. To characterize 3-CAA's potential to cause genotoxicity in mammals, in vitro and in vivo studies were conducted. 3-CAA was negative in an Ames test and positive in a mouse lymphoma forward mutation assay. 3-CAA was negative in an acute in vivo CD-1 mouse bone marrow micronucleus assay when administered up to a dose level of 125 mg/kg/day for two consecutive days. In a combined gene mutation assay and erythrocyte micronucleus assay, using transgenic Big Blue[®] Fischer 344 rats, 3-CAA was administered via drinking water at targeted dose levels of 0, 10, 30, and 100 mg/kg/day for 29 days. Peripheral blood samples, collected at the end of treatment, were analyzed for micronucleus induction in reticulocytes using flow cytometry. Liver and bone marrow samples, collected 2 days after the termination of the treatment, were analyzed for the induction of mutations at the cll locus. 3-CAA did not induce an increase in mutant frequency or micronuclei under the experimental conditions. In conclusion, the mutagenic response observed in the in vitro mouse lymphoma assay is not confirmed in the whole animal. 3-CAA is not considered to pose a mutagenic risk.

KEYWORDS

Ames test, aneugenicity, Big Blue[®] rat, clastogenicity, mouse lymphoma assay, mutagenicity

INTRODUCTION 1 |

3-Chloroallyl alcohol (3-CAA; CAS No. 29560-84-7) is formed in groundwater following the injection of 1,3-dichloropropene, a fumigant used to control nematodes. 3-CAA is also formed in rodents

following administration of 1,3-dichloropropene via a minor hydrolytic metabolic pathway (Bartels et al., 2004). 3-CAA occurs as a racemic mixture of cis- (Z) and trans- (E) isomers (Figure 1). Human exposure to 3-CAA can occur from drinking polluted water and via dietary consumption of contaminated food products. 3-CAA degrades rapidly in

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FIGURE 1 Structure of cis- (a) and trans- (b) 3-chloroallyl alcohol

the environment under both aerobic and anaerobic conditions, with a half-life of <0.5 days (McCall, 1987). Due to its short environmental half-life, 3-CAA has been sporadically detected and at very low levels in groundwater monitoring studies conducted in vulnerable aquifers in areas of high use of 1,3-dichloropropene in both Europe and North America (van Wesenbeeck & Knowles, 2019). 3-CAA is also formed as a plant metabolite in leafy crops as a glycoside following clethodim application.

The acute oral toxicity of 3-CAA is moderate, with the rat LD_{50} values in the range of 91-141 mg/kg (Stebbins & Brooks, 1999). The metabolic fate of 3-CAA in the rat was investigated using a single oral gavage administration of radiolabeled ¹⁴C-3-CAA (Hansen & Bartels, 2000). Absorption of 3-CAA following dose levels of either 5 or 65 mg/kg body weight was found to be high, with the administered ¹⁴C-dose recovered in urine (21%), expired air (50%-52% as ¹⁴CO₂), feces (13%), and tissues/carcass (5%-6%). In the 28-day and 90-day drinking water studies with rats, the primary target organ was identified as the liver, and the effects included hepatocellular hypertrophy, increased single hepatocyte necrosis, chronic inflammation in the periportal zones, increases in liver-related clinical chemistry parameters, and relative liver weight increases. There was a small, equivocal effect on the kidneys. The small increase of this minor lesion was attributed to the increased metabolic demand on the kidneys for urine concentration because of a significantly decreased water intake, rather than a direct renotoxic effect (EU RAR 2018). 3-CAA was not teratogenic when assessed by oral gavage in the rat (Carney & Liberacki, 1999).

As stated above, 3-CAA is also an in vivo metabolite of the fumigant 1,3-dichloropropene. 1,3-dichloropropene has been extensively investigated in vitro and in vivo for its genotoxic potential (Gollapudi et al., 1998; Stott et al., 2001; Badding et al., 2020; Yan et al., 2020). In vitro, the soil fumigant yielded mixed results. Several of these studies were confounded by the use of a test material containing known genotoxic impurities or such impurities generated during the purification of the test substance. However, there are some studies showing positive genotoxicity in vitro, including in the Ames test. The in vivo genotoxicity of 1,3-dichloropropene has been investigated in several studies, including DNA adduct analysis, rodent erythrocyte micronucleus test, dominant lethal assay, and the transgenic Big Blue[®] mouse and rat studies (Badding et al., 2020). The weight of evidence suggests that the soil fumigant does not pose a genotoxic hazard in vivo.

The purpose of the studies reported here is to investigate the in vitro and in vivo genotoxic potential of 3-CAA. The in vitro test battery consisted of the Ames bacterial reverse mutation assay and the mouse lymphoma forward mutation assay. The in vivo battery included erythrocyte micronucleus tests in the mouse and the rat as well as an investigation for *clI* gene mutations in the liver and bone marrow tissues of the Big Blue[®] transgenic rat. All these studies were compliant to the OECD test guidelines in effect at the time of their conduct.

2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

The studies described below were conducted under Good Laboratory Practice standards and with approval from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee where animals were involved. The nominal concentrations of 3-CAA in stock dosing solutions used for all the experiments described below were confirmed by analytical methods.

Test substance: 3-CAA was obtained from Dow AgroSciences, Indianapolis (IN) with a purity of 98.6% (ratio E/Z isomers = 1.26/1) for the Ames, mouse lymphoma, and mouse bone marrow micronucleus tests or 96% (ratio of E/Z isomers: 1.05/1) for the in vivo transgenic mutation and micronucleus assay in rats.

2.1 | Bacterial reverse mutation test

The mutagenic potential of 3-CAA was assaved in Salmonella and Escherichia coli (Ames et al., 1975; OECD 471, 1983) in the presence and absence of an exogenous metabolic activation system (Aroclor-1254 induced male Sprague-Dawley rat liver S9 fraction). The assay was conducted using pre-incubation methodology with tester strains of Salmonella typhimurium TA98, TA100, TA1535, TA1537, and E. coli WP2uvrA. For assays with metabolic activation, 0.5 ml of S9 mix was added to 0.1 ml of appropriate tester strain and 0.05 ml of vehicle (ethanol, Sigma, CAS No. 64-17-5) or 3-CAA. For assays without metabolic activation, 0.5 ml of 0.1 M phosphate buffer was substituted for the S9 mix. Ethanol was used as the vehicle to prepare stock solutions of 3-CAA. The stock solutions containing the test material were analyzed by HPLC/UV. The analytically determined concentrations ranged from 88% to 110% of the target. The mixture was incubated for 20 min at 37°C. Two milliliter (2 ml) of molten selective top agar was added to each tube and the mixture was overlaid onto the surface of minimal agar plates. The plates were incubated for 48-56 h at 37°C. Positive controls were plated using a 0.05 ml plating volume. The following positive controls were used in the study for the respective strains and conditions: TA98 with S9 (benzo(a)pyrene; Sigma, CAS No. 50-32-8), TA98 without S9 (2-nitrofluorene; Sigma, CAS No. 607-57-8), TA100 with S9 (2-aminoanthracene; Sigma, CAS No. 613-13-8), TA100 without S9 (sodium azide; Sigma, CAS No. 26628-22-8), TA1535 with S9 (2-aminoanthracene), TA1535

REDMOND ET AL.

without S9 (sodium azide), TA1537 with S9 (2-aminoanthracene), TA1537 without S9 (ICR-191; Sigma, CAS No.1707-45-0), WP2uvrA with S9 (2-aminoanthracene), WP2uvrA without S9 (4-nitroquinoline-N-oxide; Sigma, CAS No. 56-57-5).

The condition of the bacterial background lawn was evaluated for evidence of cytotoxicity and test article precipitation. For a test article to be considered positive, it had to produce at least a 3-fold (TA98, TA1535, TA1537, and WP2uvrA) or 2-fold (TA100) dose-related and reproducible increase in the mean revertant counts per plate of at least one tester strain over the mean revertant counts per plate of the appropriate vehicle control.

2.2 | Mouse lymphoma forward mutation assay

The potential of 3-CAA to induce gene mutations at the thymidine kinase locus was investigated in cultured mouse lymphoma cells (L5178Y Tk+/- 3.7.2) with and without S9 activation [Aroclor-1254 induced male Sprague–Dawley rat liver S9 (OECD 476, 1997)]. The cells were routinely maintained in Fischer's medium (F_{10P}) containing 204 mg/ml L-glutamine (GIBCO, Grand Island, NY), 10% (v/v) heat-inactivated (56°C, 30 min) horse serum (Hyclone Laboratories, Inc., Logan, UT), antibiotics (penicillin G, 20 units/ml; streptomycin sulfate, 20 µg/ml, GIBCO), 0.22 mg/ml sodium pyruvate (Sigma St. Louis,

MO), and 10 mg/ml Plurionic F68 (GIBCO). F_{OP} , the above medium without serum, was used during treatment. The cloning medium consisted of F_{10P} containing 0.28% granulated agar (BBL, Becton Dickinson and Company, Cockeysville, MD) to achieve a semi-solid state. The selection medium for the detection of Tk + /- mutants consisted of the cloning medium supplemented with 1 µg/ml trifluor-othymidine (TFT, Sigma, CAS No. 70-00-8). The conditioned medium consisted of F_{10P} from which cells had been removed. This medium was used during treatments.

3-CAA was first dissolved in dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO, Sigma, CAS No. 67-68-5) and further diluted in the treatment medium to obtain the desired final concentrations. The stock solutions containing the test material were analyzed by HPLC/UV and the analytically determined concentrations ranged from 98% to 103% of the target. DMSO was also used as the negative control treatment. Methyl methanesulfonate (MMS, Sigma, CAS No. 66-27-3) dissolved in phosphate-buffered saline was used at concentrations of 10 and 15 μ g/ml as the positive control without S9 activation, while 20-methylcholanthrene (20-MCA, Sigma, CAS No. 56-49-5) dissolved in DMSO was used at concentrations of 2.5, 5.0 and 7.5 μ g/ml in the presence of S9 activation.

Cells from logarithmically growing stock cultures were treated in individual 50 ml culture tubes. Each tube consisted of 6 ml of a cell suspension containing $1\,\times\,10^6$ cells/ml in a 1:1 mix of F_{OP} and

TABLE 1 Results of the bacterial reverse mutation assay with 3-CAA

	Mean revertants per plate (Exp. 1/Exp. 2) with metabolic activation								
Concentration (µg/plate)	TA98	TA100	TA1535	TA1537	Escherichia coli WP2uvrA				
0	39/40	211/95	15/12	8/9	13/17				
33.3	36/43	184/100	16/17	7/6	15/19				
100	39/43	197/92	16/19	8/7	14/14				
333	51/48	190/110	23/20	8/10	15/13				
1000	63/58	169/99	26/27	8/9	16/13				
3330	9/26	47/46	19/20	1/3	10/14				
5000	1/0	1/3	4/4	0/1	16/14				
Positive control+	571/543	791/700	87/79	122/104	212/212				
	Mean revertants pe	er plate (Exp. 1/Exp. 2) without metabolic	activation					
Concentration (µg/plate)	TA98	TA100	TA1535	ΤΔ1537	Escherichia coli WP2uvrA				
				141337	Eschemenia con VVI ZaviA				
0	21/26	176/93	14/12	5/7	9/20				
0 33.3	21/26 18/28	176/93 162/108	14/12 12/10	5/7 4/5	9/20 15/15				
0 33.3 100	21/26 18/28 26/30	176/93 162/108 180/90	14/12 12/10 14/14	5/7 4/5 7/5	9/20 15/15 11/20				
0 33.3 100 333	21/26 18/28 26/30 47/30	176/93 162/108 180/90 185/102	14/12 12/10 14/14 13/16	5/7 4/5 7/5 8/4	9/20 15/15 11/20 11/21				
0 33.3 100 333 1000	21/26 18/28 26/30 47/30 22/37	176/93 162/108 180/90 185/102 148/94	14/12 12/10 14/14 13/16 13/20	5/7 4/5 7/5 8/4 8/9	9/20 15/15 11/20 11/21 17/16				
0 33.3 100 333 1000 3330	21/26 18/28 26/30 47/30 22/37 33/41	176/93 162/108 180/90 185/102 148/94 114/120	14/12 12/10 14/14 13/16 13/20 19/22	5/7 4/5 7/5 8/4 8/9 6/4	9/20 15/15 11/20 11/21 17/16 11/9				
0 33.3 100 333 1000 3330 5000	21/26 18/28 26/30 47/30 22/37 33/41 0/0	176/93 162/108 180/90 185/102 148/94 114/120 0/51	14/12 12/10 14/14 13/16 13/20 19/22 0/8	5/7 4/5 7/5 8/4 8/9 6/4 4/0	9/20 15/15 11/20 11/21 17/16 11/9 3/0				

Note: Positive controls (+): TA98 with S9–benzo(a)pyrene, TA98 without S9–2-nitrofluorene, TA100 with S9–2-aminoanthracene, TA100 without S9–sodium azide, TA1535 with S9–2-aminoanthracene, TA1535 without S9–sodium azide, TA1537 with S9–2-aminoanthracene, TA1537 without S9–ICR-191, and WP2uvrA with S9–2-aminoanthracene, WP2uvrA without S9–4-nitroquinoline-N-oxide.

conditioned medium. To treat the cells, 4 ml of either S9 activation (see below) or F_{OP} was added along with the test material. The treatment consisted of duplicate cultures per concentration level, except for positive controls, where only one replicate was used. Following the addition of the test compounds, the tubes were incubated for approximately 4 h at 37°C in a roller drum. At the end of the incubation period, the cells were pelleted, rinsed with F_{OP} , and resuspended in 20 ml F_{1OP} . The tubes were returned to the roller drum and maintained at 37°C during a standard expression period of 2 days.

S9 liver homogenate was reconstituted at a final concentration of 5% (v/v) in a co-factor "mix." The mix consisted of 2.0 mg/ml NADP and 11.25 mg/ml sodium isocitrate. The reconstituted mix was added to the culture medium to obtain the desired final concentration of S9 in the culture, that is, 2% v/v.

Each test concentration level was set up in duplicate from the time of treatment until the completion of the assay. At 24 h following treatment (Day 1), the test cultures were counted and diluted to a density of approximately 3×10^5 cells/ml with fresh F_{10P}. If the treated cells failed to multiply to a density of 4×10^5 cells/ml on the first day following treatment, the culture was returned to the incubator without any dilution. On Day 2, cultures were again counted and

treatment levels with desired levels of toxicity were selected for cloning. A total sample size of 3×10^6 cells from each culture was suspended in cloning medium with trifluorothymidine (TFT) and plated into three Petri dishes (100 mm), allowed to gel for approximately 15 min at 0–6°C, and returned to the incubator for approximately 12 days to allow for mutant colony formation. The cloning efficiency (CE) was determined by serially diluting the sample in a cloning medium without TFT and then plating the cells into three Petri dishes (100 mm) at a density of approximately 200 cells per dish. The dishes were returned to the incubator for 12 days before counting the number of colonies per dish.

An image analyzer (LAI High-Resolution Colony Counting System, Loats Associates, Inc., Westminster, MD) was used to count and size colonies. Colonies that were equal or greater than 0.55 mm were classified as large colonies, while those smaller than this were classified as small colonies.

The relative total growth (RTG) parameter was used to determine cytotoxicity of various treatments. Calculations of the RTG are described below:

% RTG = Day 2 RSG \times relative cloning efficiency (RCE) \times 100. Day 2 RSG = relative suspension growth over the first 2 days.

	Cum. RS	6G (%)*	Plating e	fficiency	ficiency Mutant frequency (\times 10 ⁻⁶)		(10⁻⁶)	Mutant index			
Concentration (µg/ml)	Day 1	Day 2	Abs %	Rel %	RTG (% survival)	Total	Small	Large	Total	Small	Large
0**	90	81	100	100	81	115	38	77	1.10	1.02	1.14
0**	110	119	100	100	118	94	37	57	0.90	0.98	0.86
12.5	174	172	92	92	158	96	30	66	0.92	0.79	0.99
12.5	155	111	92	92	103	125	43	82	1.20	1.15	1.22
25	143	145	69	70	101	144	48	96	1.38	1.29	1.43
25	110	119	74	74	88	160	66	94	1.52	1.74	1.40
50	118	144	57	57	82	159	62	97	1.52	1.65	1.45
50	127	133	81	81	108	127	53	74	1.21	1.40	1.11
100	134	134	132	132	177	73	25	48	0.70	0.68	0.72
100	129	97	115	115	112	127	49	78	1.21	1.31	1.16
250	80	75	84	84	63	130	61	69	1.24	1.61	1.04
250	110	84	135	135	114	95	42	53	0.91	1.12	0.79
500	28	19	56	57	11	215	110	105	2.06	2.93	1.57
500	19	18	59	59	11	241	130	111	2.30	3.46	1.65
700	13	4	_ ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
700	10	4	_ ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
925	6	1	_ ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
925	3	1	_a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10***	96	106	41	41	43	711	431	280	6.79	11.47	4.17
15***	80	80	37	37	30	784	472	311	7.49	12.58	4.64

TABLE 2 Summary of results following treatment of mouse lymphoma cells with 3-CAA in the absence of activation (assay 1)

Abbreviations: RSG, relative suspension growth; RTG, relative total growth.

^aNot plated due to excessive toxicity.

*Absolute cumulative suspension growth of 0 μ g/ml replicate 1 = 18 and replicate = 26.

**Solvent control (1% dimethyl sulfoxide).

***Positive control methyl methanesulfonate.

RCE = cloning efficiency of the test culture at the time of mutant selection/Average cloning efficiency of the control at the time of mutant selection.

 $\label{eq:CE} \mathsf{CE} = \mathsf{average} \ \mathsf{no.} \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathsf{colonies} \ \mathsf{in} \ \mathsf{the} \ \mathsf{TFT}\mathsf{-}\mathsf{free} \ \mathsf{plates}/\mathsf{no.} \ \mathsf{of} \ \mathsf{cells}$ seeded per plate.

The mutant frequency (MF) per 10^6 clonable cells = average no. of mutants per TFT plate/CE.

Mutant index = MF of the treated/average MF of the control.

The following strategy was used to assess the statistical and biological significance of the results. The frequency of mutants per 10^6 clonable cells was statistically evaluated using a weighted analysis of variance (Hsie et al., 1980). Weights were derived from the inverse of the MF variance. The actual plate counts were assumed to follow a Poisson distribution; therefore, the mean plate count was used as an estimate of variance (Kirkland, 1989). A linear trend test and lack of fit test is employed (alpha = 0.05) as omnibus tests to compare treated groups to the negative control. If there is a significant increasing trend or a significant lack of fit, then a Dunnett's *t*-test is conducted (Winer, 1971), comparing each treated group and the positive control to the negative control (alpha = 0.05, one-sided). The lack of fit test is an indicator that further analysis needs to be performed (i.e., Dunnett's test). An additional comparison of the positive control to the negative control (alpha = 0.05) was conducted using a linear contrast statement. The test chemical is considered positive when the conditions below are satisfied: (a) there is a statistically significant, dose-related, reproducible increase in MF with a range of dose levels yielding >20% RTG. (b) The MF in at least one dose level of the treated cultures (resulting in >20% RTG) is 100×10^{-6} above concurrent solvent controls (assuming these to be in the range of $20-80 \times 10^{-6}$).

2.3 | Mouse bone marrow micronucleus test

The clastogenic/aneugenic potential of 3-CAA in bone marrow cells was investigated in accordance with OECD 474 (1997). Groups of mice (5/sex/dose) were treated with either the vehicle used to mix the test material (distilled water) or the test material (three dose levels, 31.25, 62.5, and 125 mg/kg/day) by oral gavage in aliquots of 10 ml/kg on two consecutive days. An additional group of five animals/sex was treated at the highest dose level (125 mg/kg/day) to ensure the availability of an adequate number of animals in the event of unexpected mortalities. All treated animals were sacrificed 24 h

TABLE 3 Si	ummary of results follo	ving treatment of mouse	lymphoma cells with 3	3-CAA in the absen	ce of activation (assay 2
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	Cum. RS	G (%)*	Plating eff	iciency		Mutant fr	equency (×:	10 ⁻⁶)	Mutan	t index	
Concentration (µg/ml)	Day 1	Day 2	Abs %	Rel %	RTG (% survival)	Total	Small	Large	Total	Small	Large
0**	93	71	100	116	83	104	52	52	1.04	1.01	1.08
0**	107	129	72	84	108	95	50	45	0.96	0.99	0.92
12.5	142	123	_ ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.5	131	95	_ ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	116	124	_ ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	113	126	_ ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	100	113	81	94	106	104	53	52	1.05	1.03	1.07
50	89	114	67	77	88	99	49	50	0.99	0.95	1.04
100	95	98	73	85	83	116	47	69	1.17	0.92	1.43
100	93	90	88	102	91	84	38	45	0.84	0.75	0.94
200	91	100	65	76	76	136	57	79	1.37	1.12	1.64
200	78	98	68	79	77	124	47	77	1.25	0.92	1.60
300	80	53	103	120	64	136	47	89	1.36	0.92	1.84
300	71	78	69	80	63	150	75	75	1.51	1.46	1.56
400	44	42	73	85	36	169 ^b	80	89	1.70	1.56	1.85
400	64	61	73	85	51	166 ^b	73	92	1.67	1.43	1.92
500	41	36	67	78	28	212 ^b	118	94	2.13	2.30	1.96
500	47	37	75	87	32	204 ^b	96	108	2.05	1.87	2.24
10***	84	95	57	66	63	431 ^b	247	183	4.33	4.84	3.80
15***	82	102	37	43	44	612 ^b	347	265	6.16	6.79	5.50

Abbreviations: RSG, relative suspension growth; RTG, relative total growth.

^aNot plated as they were considered to be superfluous.

^bSignificantly higher than the concurrent negative control (alpha <0.05).

*Absolute cumulative suspension growth of 0 μ g/ml replicate 1 = 14 and replicate = 25.

**Solvent control (1% dimethyl sulfoxide).

***Positive control methyl methanesulfonate.

after the second dose for the collection of bone marrow samples. All animals were observed at least daily for signs of toxicity. The analytical determined concentrations of 3-CAA in dosing formulations ranged from 106% to 110% of the nominal concentrations.

Cyclophosphamide monohydrate (CP) dissolved in distilled water and dosed by oral gavage (120 mg/kg) 24 h prior to sacrifice served as the positive control. The animals were euthanized, and bone marrow samples were obtained from both femurs into 1 ml of fetal bovine serum. The tubes were centrifuged at 80g for 5 min in a table-top centrifuge, and wedge smears were prepared on microscope slides using small portions of the cell suspension. The prepared slides were allowed to air dry and stained with Wright-Giemsa using an automatic slide stainer.

Two thousand polychromatic erythrocytes (PCE) were examined from each animal from coded slides, and the number of micronucleated (MN) PCE was recorded. Micronuclei were identified as darkly stained bodies with smooth contours and varying shapes such as round, almond, or ring (Schmid, 1976). The proportion of PCEs among bone marrow erythrocytes was determined by examining 200 erythrocytes and expressed as PCE \times 100/total erythrocytes.

The raw data on the counts of MN-PCE for each animal were first transformed by adding 1 to each count and then taking the natural log of the adjusted number. The transformed MN-PCE data and the data

Environmental Mutagenesis Sandu Carapulas Sandu MULIFY_

on percentage PCE were analyzed separately by a three-way analysis of variance (sex, dose, and time) assuming the three-way interaction was zero (Winer, 1971). From these initial analyses, the two-way interactions were reviewed for significance. Depending on these reviews, the data were analyzed by one-, two-, or three-way analysis of variance by looking at the main effects only. Pairwise comparisons of treated versus control groups were done, if necessary, by Dunnett's *t*-tests, one-sided (upper) for MN-PCE and two-sided for percent PCE (Winer, 1971). Linear dose-related trend tests were performed if any of the pairwise comparisons yielded significant differences. The alpha level at which all the tests were conducted was 0.01. The final interpretation of the biological significance of the responses was based on both statistical outcome and scientific judgment.

2.4 | Combined gene mutation and micronucleus assay in transgenic Big Blue[®] rats

The effect of 3-CAA in drinking water on MF at the *cll* gene in liver and bone marrow from male transgenic Fischer 344 Big Blue[®] rats, and the induction of micronuclei was investigated in a Big Blue[®] Assay transgenic rodent mutation assay in accordance with OECD

TABLE 4	Summary of results following	g treatment of mouse lymphoma	cells with 3-CAA in the presence of	of activation (assay 1)
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	Cum. RS	6G (%)*	Plating e	fficiency		Mutant f	requency (>	(10 ⁻⁶)	Mutant	index	
Concentration (µg/ml)	Day 1	Day 2	Abs %	Rel %	RTG (% survival)	Total	Small	Large	Total	Small	Large
0**	93	102	66	103	105	117	23	95	0.90	0.77	0.94
0**	107	98	63	97	95	144	36	107	1.10	1.23	1.06
1.5	97	90	74	114	103	130	38	92	1.00	1.29	0.91
1.5	133	84	81	126	106	165	44	121	1.26	1.47	1.20
3	91	83	70	108	90	163	47	117	1.25	1.58	1.16
3	69	65	74	115	75	121	34	87	0.93	1.14	0.86
6.1	87	84	63	97	82	137	42	95	1.05	1.42	0.94
6.1	87	69	70	108	75	132	38	95	1.01	1.28	0.94
12.5	93	57	77	119	68	172	52	121	1.32	1.75	1.20
12.5	95	69	70	109	75	156	45	111	1.19	1.53	1.10
25	79	59	74	114	68	186	662	125	1.43	2.08	1.24
25	55	50	76	118	59	191	64	127	1.46	2.16	1.26
37.5	46	39	73	114	45	202	70	132	1.55	2.37	1.31
37.5	63	44	72	112	50	239	86	153	1.83	2.92	1.551
50	36	24	71	109	26	274	118	156	2.10	4.00	1.55
50	38	23	81	126	29	219	93	126	1.68	3.15	1.25
100	26	14	56	86	12	362	172	190	2.78	5.82	1.89
100	14	16	47	72	12	368	149	219	2.82	5.04	2.17
5***	38	9	22	34	3	1402 ^a	798	603	10.74	27.00	5.98
7.5***	26	9	12	19	2	1379 ^a	800	579	10.57	27.06	5.74

Abbreviations: RSG , relative suspension growth; RTG, relative total growth.

^aSignificantly higher than the concurrent negative control (alpha <0.05).

*Absolute cumulative suspension growth of 0 μ g/ml replicate 1 = 23 and replicate = 22.

**Solvent control (1% dimethyl sulfoxide).

***Positive Control 3-MCA.

TABLE 5 Summary of results following treatment of mouse lymphoma cells with 3-CAA in the presence of activation (assay 2)

	Cum. RS	5G (%)*	Plating et	fficiency		Mutant frequency (\times 10–6)		Mutant index			
Concentration (µg/ml)	Day 1	Day 2	Abs %	Rel %	RTG (% survival)	Total	Small	Large	Total	Small	Large
0**	97	95	93	104	99	134	58	76	1.00	0.87	1.12
0**	103	105	86	96	100	135	75	60	1.00	1.13	0.88
3	78	122	_a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	91	112	_ ^a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.25	85	87	102	114	99	113	49	64	0.84	0.74	0.95
6.25	77	109	83	93	101	139	67	71	1.03	1.01	1.05
12.5	71	52	121	136	70	134	58	76	1.00	0.87	1.12
12.5	69	87	87	97	84	129	68	61	0.96	1.01	0.91
25	43	66	82	91	60	158	69	89	1.18	1.03	1.32
25	33	69	84	94	65	163	83	80	1.21	1.24	1.18
37.5	35	59	89	100	59	159	83	76	1.18	1.25	1.12
37.5	47	48	77	86	41	193	104	89	1.43	1.55	1.32
50	30	35	105	117	41	203	95	111	1.51	1.38	1.64
50	40	31	87	97	30	222	103	119	1.65	1.54	1.76
75	14	16	98	109	17	264 ^b	114	150	1.96	1.70	2.22
75	18	21	85	95	20	286 ^b	123	163	2.13	1.84	2.41
100	12	7	145	162	12	376 ^b	210	167	2.80	3.14	2.46
100	5	6	108	120	7	406 ^b	193	213	3.02	2.89	3.15
2.5***	67	61	56	63	39	739 ^b	414	325	5.49	6.21	4.79
5***	46	20	34	38	8	936 ^b	585	350	6.69	8.77	5.17

Abbreviations: RSG, relative suspension growth; RTG, relative total growth.

^aSignificantly higher than the concurrent negative control (alpha <0.05).

^bNot plated as they were considered superfluous.

*Absolute cumulative suspension growth of 0 μ g/ml replicate 1 = 6 and replicate = 7.

**Solvent control (1% dimethyl sulfoxide).

***Positive Control 3-MCA.

Test Guideline 488 (2020). The micronucleus assay was conducted in accordance with OECD Test Guideline 474 (2016). Fischer 344 homozygous Big Blue[®] transgenic male rats (F344-TgN (lambda/*lacl*)) were obtained from Taconic Biosciences, Germantown, NY. At the time of dosing initiation (Day 1), the animals were 8–9 weeks of age.

Animals were administered 3-CAA by drinking water at a targeted dose of 0, 10, 30, and 100 mg/kg/day for 29 consecutive days. The drinking water route was chosen because it represents a possible route of human exposure to the test substance. Dose level selection was based on a previously conducted 28-day drinking water study in Fischer 344 rats (EU RAR, 2018). In that study, treatmentrelated effects that were not considered to be adaptive were increased liver weights, a periportal pattern of hepatocyte hypertrophy, and individual hepatocyte necrosis in males of the 30 and 100 mg/kg/day dose groups. The drinking water dosing formulations containing 3-CAA were determined to be stable when stored for up to 6 days at 2-8°C followed by 7 days at 20.5-24.0°C in an animal room. The analytically (UHPLC/UV) determined concentrations of 3-CAA in the drinking water of the test groups varied from 94% to 103% of the target values. CP was used as the positive control for the micronucleus portion of the study and was administered by oral

gavage at a dose level of 13 mg/kg/day to six male rats. CP formulations were administered on Days 1, 2, 26, and 27 at a dose volume of 10 ml/kg. The DNA isolated from previously dosed positive control animals [F344 transgenic male rats] exposed to N-ethyl-N-nitrosourea by oral gavage, at 20 mg/kg/day for 6 non-consecutive days was used as a packaging positive control for the transgenic mutation portion of the study.

On Day 29, peripheral blood was collected for flow-cytometric analysis of micronuclei in erythrocytes using the Micro-Flow kit from Litron Laboratories (Rochester, NY). Flow cytometer parameters were set to score 10,000 RETs per animal, when possible, for the incidence MN and %RET. A parametric one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed followed by Dunnett's post-hoc analysis to compare each dose group to the concurrent vehicle control. A linear regression analysis was conducted to assess dose responsiveness in the test substance treated groups ($p \le .01$ and $R^2 \ge 70\%$). A pair-wise comparison (Student's *t*-test; $p \le .05$) was used to compare the positive control group to the concurrent vehicle control group.

Two days after the exposure, the animals were sacrificed for the collection of liver and bone marrow. The samples were flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. Liver was selected because it was the target tissue in

the 28-day study used to select dose levels, while bone marrow was selected to represent a rapidly proliferating tissue. Water consumption was measured on study Day 1, 4, 7, 11, 14, 15, 18, 21, 23, 25, and 30. Body weights were recorded on days 2–7, Day 8, 15, 22, 29, and prior to sacrifice on Day 31. Genomic DNA was isolated using the Recover-Ease isolation kit from Agilent

(Santa Clara, CA). Isolated DNA was processed using Packaging Reaction Mix (PRM), purchased from New York University, New York, NY. Packaging, plating, and scoring of *cll* mutants from coded plates following the Agilent Instruction Manuals. The MF was calculated (number of mutant phage/numbers of total phage screened) for each tissue analyzed from each animal. The

TABLE 6 Frequencies (mean ± SD) of micronucleated (MN) polychromatic erythrocytes (PCEs) in the mouse bone marrow following oral gavage administration of 3-CAA

	Males			Females	Females			
Dose (mg/kg b.w.)	No. mice	MN/1000 PCE	%PCE ^a	No. mice	MN/1000PCE	%PCE		
0	5	0.9 ± 0.4	57.3 ± 10.5	5	0.6 ± 0.7	58.0 ± 4.4		
31.25	5	1.2 ± 1.2	53.2 ± 13.6	5	1.8 ± 0.4	60.5 ± 11.8		
62.5	5	1.7 ± 1.3	56.5 ± 6.2	5	0.6 ± 0.5	61.5 ± 5.9		
125	10	1.0 ± 0.7	49.2 ± 6.1	10	0.5 ± 0.5	58.3 ± 9.2		
120CP	5	49.1 ± 14.1	42.0 ± 10.7	5	50.7 ± 16.7	57.4 ± 8.6		

Abbreviation: CP, cyclophosphamide.

^a(PCE/PCE + NCE) \times 100; values are means ± SD.



FIGURE 2 Body weight summary of Big Blue[®] rats administered 3-chloroallyl alcohol in drinking water under the nominal concentration of 0, 10, 30, and 100 mg/kg/day



FIGURE 3 Water consumption (g/ animal/day) of Big Blue[®] rats administered 3-chloroallyl alcohol in drinking water under the nominal concentration of 0, 10, 30, and 100 mg/ kg/day.

 log_{10} transformed MF data was analyzed by a parametric one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's test. The significance level for all the comparisons was $p \le 0.05$.

 TABLE 7
 Frequencies (mean ± SD) of micronucleated (MN)

 reticulocytes in the peripheral blood of male rats administered 3-CAA

 in drinking water

Dose (mg/kg/day)	No. rats	MN/1000 PCE	% Reticulocytes ^a
0	6	0.6 ± 0.5	2.01 ± 0.37
10	6	0.7 ± 0.2	1.98 ± 0.20
30	6	0.5 ± 0.2	2.55 ± 0.67
100	6	0.8 ± 0.4	1.50 ± 0.53
13CP	6	3.8 ± 1.3	0.16 ± 0.07

Abbreviation: CP, cyclophosphamide.

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^a(Reticulocytes/Total erythrocytes) × 100.

3 | RESULTS

3.1 | Bacterial reverse mutation assay

3-CAA is cytotoxic to Salmonella tester strains at \geq 3330 µg/plate as evidenced by decreased background lawn. No mutagenic response was observed in any tester strain either with or without metabolic activation in two independent experiments (Table 1). The revertant counts observed in the negative and positive control plates confirmed the adequacy of the experimental conditions to detect a mutagenic response.

3.2 | Mouse lymphoma forward mutation assay

In a preliminary toxicity assay (data not shown), 3-CAA was evaluated at concentrations of 3.6–925.2 μ g/ml. The highest concentration tested represented the limit concentration of 10 mM.

Dose (mg/kg/day)	Animal no.	No. of packaging	No. of phage screened	No. of mutants	cll mutant frequency (\times 10 ⁻⁶)
0	570	2	232,414	15	64.5
	571	2	398,850	11	27.6
	572	3	283,494	6	21.2
	573	2	225,178	10	44.4
	574	3	346,067	6	17.3
	Mean				35.0
10	576	3	303,500	14	46.1
	577	2	296,690	14	47.2
	578	2	215,813	10	46.3
	579	2	342,662	11	32.1
	580	2	233,691	13	55.6
	Mean				45.5
30	582	4	434,606	9	20.7
	583	2	257,528	10	38.8
	584	2	223,901	5	22.3
	585	2	335,425	20	59.6
	586	2	220,070	7	31.8
	Mean				34.7
100	588	2	203,469	6	29.5
	589	2	314,142	7	22.3
	590	2	228,242	6	26.3
	591	2	342,236	13	38.0
	592	2	336,277	12	35.7
	Mean				30.3
PC	437	2	471,213	120	254.7
	438	2	357,560	71	198.6
	439	3	430,349	90	209.1
	440	2	427,369	51	119.3
	441	3	424,815	94	221.3
	Mean				200.6

TABLE 8 cll mutant frequencies in the liver of Big Blue[®] rats administered 3-CAA in drinking water

Abbreviation: PC, positive control.

The test substance was excessively toxic at 925.2 μ g/ml in the absence of S9, resulting in RSG of 1.7%. In cultures treated in the presence of S9, however, excessive toxicity was noted at concentrations of 115.7 μ g/ml and above. Based up the results of the preliminary toxicity assay, concentrations in the range of 12.5-925 μ g/ml and 1.5-100 μ g/ml were selected for the first gene mutation assay without and with S9, respectively.

In the mutation assay without S9, there was excessive toxicity at the top two concentrations (700 and 925 μ g/ml) as measured by Day 2 RSG (4% and 1% RSG, respectively), and hence, these treatment levels were not selected for cloning. Statistical analysis of mutant frequencies in 3-CAA treated cultures indicated no significant difference from the negative control in pair-wise comparisons. There was a 2.3-fold increase in MF in cultures treated with 500 μ g/ml; however, the RTG at this concentration (i.e., 11%) was at the upper limit of

acceptability and there was little cytotoxicity at the next lower concentration of 250 µg/ml. In an independent assay, 3-CAA was evaluated at concentrations ranging from 12.5 to 500 µg/ml without S9. Cultures treated with the two lower concentrations (12.5 and 25 µg/ml with Day 2 RSG \geq 95%) were considered superfluous for assessing mutagenic activity and hence were not selected for cloning. Statistically significant increases in mutant frequencies were observed at the top two concentrations of 400 and 500 µg/ml; both small and large colony mutants increased to similar levels.

In the presence of S9, RTG values in the test substance treated cultures ranged from 106% at the lowest concentration (1.5 μ g/ml) to 12% at the highest (100 μ g/ml). Although statistical analysis did not identify significant differences between the negative control and any of the 3-CAA treatment levels, there was a clear, statistically significant dose-related trend. The largest increase in mutant frequency

TABLE 9 cll mutant frequencies in the bone marrow of Big Blue® rats administered 3-CAA in drinking water

0 570 2 319,250 12 37,6 571 2 226,880 4 17,6 572 2 271,916 7 257 573 2 226,001 0 307 574 2 297,967 8 268 Mean 27.7 10 303 357 576 3 329,892 10 303 577 3 503,564 7 19,7 576 3 324,580 7 19,7 579 3 260,934 17 652 580 3 366,931 8 20,7 00 30 55,927 10 17,4 584 2 354,580 9 25,4 586 2 459,720 14 30,5 586 2 357,438 16 42,6 589 2 325,805 11 33,8 590	Dose (mg/kg/day).	Animal no.	No. of packaging	No. of phage screened	No. of mutants	cll mutant frequency (\times 10 ⁻⁶)
571 2 226,880 4 17.6 572 2 271,916 7 25.7 573 2 326,061 10 30.7 574 2 29,892 10 30.3 Mean 7 19.9 30.3 577 3 503,564 7 19.7 578 3 354,580 7 19.7 579 3 260,934 17 65.2 580 3 386,931 8 20.7 579 3 260,934 17 65.2 580 3 386,931 8 20.7 590 3 354,580 9 25.4 583 2 575,927 15 32.2 584 2 324,580 9 25.4 585 2 459,720 14 30.5 586 2 325,805 11 33.8 590 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 325,805 11	0	570	2	319,250	12	37.6
572 2 271,916 7 25.7 573 2 326,061 10 30.7 574 2 27.97 26.7 27.7 10 574 3 329,892 10 30.3 577 3 503,564 7 13.9 578 3 354,580 7 19.7 579 3 260,934 17 65.2 580 3 354,580 7 19.7 580 3 354,580 7 19.7 580 3 260,934 17 65.2 380 3 354,580 7 30.0 581 2 465,679 15 32.2 583 2 354,580 9 25.4 584 2 354,580 9 25.4 586 2 354,580 9 25.4 586 2 354,580 9 25.4 586 2 352,505 11 33.8 590 2 <td< th=""><td></td><td>571</td><td>2</td><td>226,880</td><td>4</td><td>17.6</td></td<>		571	2	226,880	4	17.6
573 2 326,061 10 30.7 574 2 297,967 8 26.8 Mean 27.7 20 200 200 576 3 329,892 10 30.3 577 3 503,564 7 13.9 578 3 364,580 7 19.7 579 3 260,934 17 65.2 580 3 386,931 8 20.7 Mean 30.0 364,580 7 30.0 30 582 2 465,679 15 32.2 583 2 575,927 10 17.4 584 2 354,580 9 25.4 585 2 459,720 14 30.5 586 2 317,547 13 40.9 Mean 2 325,055 11 33.8 590 2 326,486 11 40.2 591 2 326,486 11 40.2 592 2		572	2	271,916	7	25.7
574 2 297,967 8 26.8 Mean 27.7 10 576 3 329,892 10 30.3 577 3 503,564 7 13.9 578 3 354,580 7 19.7 579 3 260,934 17 652 580 3 386,931 8 20.7 Mean 7 19.7 30.0 30.0 30 582 2 465,679 15 32.2 583 2 575,927 10 17.4 584 2 354,580 9 25.4 585 2 459,572 14 30.5 586 2 317,547 13 40.9 Mean 2 325.805 11 33.8 590 2 273,704 11 40.2 591 2 326,486 11 33.7 Mean 2		573	2	326,061	10	30.7
Mean 27.7 10 576 3 329,892 10 30.3 577 3 503,564 7 119 578 3 354,580 7 19.7 579 3 260,934 17 652 580 3 366,931 8 207 Mean 300 362 366,931 30.22 30 582 2 465,679 15 322 583 2 575,927 10 17.4 584 2 354,580 9 25.4 585 2 459,720 14 30.5 586 2 375,438 16 42.6 589 2 325,805 11 33.8 590 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 326,486 11 33.7 Mean 12		574	2	297,967	8	26.8
10 576 3 329,892 10 30.3 577 3 503,564 7 13.9 578 3 354,580 7 19.7 579 3 260,934 17 65.2 580 3 368,931 80 20.7 Mean 30.0 32.2 30.0 32.2 30 583 2 575,927 10 17.4 584 2 354,580 9 25.4 586 2 459,720 14 30.5 586 2 375,438 16 42.6 586 2 375,438 16 42.6 587 2 328,805 11 338 590 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 326,486 11 33.7 7 3 482,280 180 373.2 438 2 455,247 180 404.3 439 <td></td> <td>Mean</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>27.7</td>		Mean				27.7
577 3 503,564 7 13.9 578 3 354,580 7 19.7 579 3 260,934 17 652 580 3 386,931 8 20.7 Mean 300 300 32 300 30 582 2 465,679 15 32.2 583 2 575,520 10 17.4 584 2 354,580 9 25.4 585 2 459,720 14 30.5 586 2 317,547 13 40.9 Mean 2 325,805 11 33.8 590 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 233,0466 11 33.7 Mean 22 325,805 11 33.7 PC 437 3 482,280 180 37.2 PC 437 3 482,247 180	10	576	3	329,892	10	30.3
578 3 354,580 7 19.7 579 3 260,934 17 65.2 580 3 386,931 8 20.7 Mean 30.0 30.0 32.2 30.0 583 2 75,927 10 17.4 583 2 375,927 10 17.4 585 2 459,720 14 30.5 586 2 317,547 13 40.9 586 2 317,547 13 40.9 Mean 2 325,805 11 33.8 590 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 326,486 11 33.8 590 2 273,704 11 40.2 591 2 273,074 11 40.2 438 2 445,247 180 404.3 439 </th <td></td> <td>577</td> <td>3</td> <td>503,564</td> <td>7</td> <td>13.9</td>		577	3	503,564	7	13.9
579 3 260,934 17 65.2 580 3 386,931 8 20.7 Mean 30.0 30.0 30.0 30.0 50 582 2 465,679 15 32.2 583 2 575,927 10 17.4 584 2 354,580 9 25.4 586 2 459,720 14 30.5 586 2 375,438 16 40.9 Mean 20.3 375,438 16 42.6 587 2 325,805 11 33.8 100 588 2 375,438 16 42.6 589 2 325,805 11 33.8 590 2 276,258 11 33.7 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 380,120 133 349.9 438 2 445,247 180 404.3 439 2 380,120 133 349.9		578	3	354,580	7	19.7
580 3 386,931 8 207 Mean 300 30 582 2 465,679 15 322 583 2 575,927 10 17.4 584 2 354,580 9 25.4 585 2 459,720 14 30.5 586 2 317,547 13 40.9 Mean 2 325,805 11 33.8 100 588 2 326,486 14 40.2 591 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 326,486 11 33.7 Mean 2 326,486 180 373.2 PC 437 3 482,280 180 373.2 438 2 445,247 180 404.3 439 2 380,120 133 349.9 440 </th <td></td> <td>579</td> <td>3</td> <td>260,934</td> <td>17</td> <td>65.2</td>		579	3	260,934	17	65.2
Mean300305822465,6791532.25832575,9271017.45842354,580925.45852459,7201430.55862317,5471340.9Mean2325,8051133.81005882325,8051133.85902276,258414.55912273,7041140.25922326,4861133.7Mean2380,120133349.9PC4373482,280180373.24382445,247180404.34392380,120133349.94402397,573174437.74412426,518203475.9Mean		580	3	386,931	8	20.7
30 582 2 465,679 15 322 583 2 575,927 10 174 584 2 354,580 9 254 585 2 459,720 14 305 586 2 317,547 13 409 Mean 20 375,438 16 42.6 589 2 375,438 16 42.6 590 2 276,258 11 33.8 590 2 273,704 11 40.2 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 700 437 3 482,280 180 373.2 PC 437 3 482,280 180 374.2 438 2 445,247 180 404.3 439 2 380,120 133 349.9 440 2 397,573 174 437.7 441 2 426,518 203 475.9 Mean		Mean				30.0
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584 2 354,580 9 25.4 585 2 459,720 14 30.5 586 2 317,547 13 40.9 Mean 29.3 29.3 29.3 100 588 2 375,438 16 42.6 589 2 325,805 11 33.8 590 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 326,486 11 33.7 Mean 2 326,486 11 33.7 PC 437 3 482,280 180 373.2 438 2 445,247 180 404.3 439 2 380,120 133 349.9 440 2 397,573 174 437.7 441 2 426,518 203 475.9 Mean 503 475.9 408.2 405.9		583	2	575,927	10	17.4
585 2 459,720 14 30.5 586 2 317,547 13 409 Mean 29.3 100 588 2 375,438 16 42.6 589 2 325,805 11 33.8 590 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 326,486 11 33.7 Mean		584	2	354,580	9	25.4
586 2 317,547 13 40.9 Mean 29.3 100 588 2 375,438 16 42.6 589 2 325,805 11 33.8 590 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 326,486 11 33.7 Mean 32.9 32.9 32.9 32.9 PC 437 3 482,280 180 373.2 438 2 445,247 180 404.3 439 2 380,120 133 349.9 440 2 397,573 174 437.7 441 2 426,518 203 475.9 Mean		585	2	459,720	14	30.5
Mean 29.3 100 588 2 375,438 16 42.6 589 2 325,805 11 33.8 590 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 326,486 11 33.7 Mean ***********************************		586	2	317,547	13	40.9
100 588 2 375,438 16 42.6 589 2 325,805 11 33.8 590 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 326,486 11 33.7 Mean ***********************************		Mean				29.3
589 2 325,805 11 33.8 590 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 326,486 11 33.7 Mean	100	588	2	375,438	16	42.6
590 2 276,258 4 14.5 591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 326,486 11 33.7 Mean PC 437 3 482,280 180 373.2 438 2 445,247 180 404.3 439 2 380,120 133 349.9 440 2 397,573 174 437.7 441 2 426,518 203 475.9 Mean - - 408.2 -		589	2	325,805	11	33.8
591 2 273,704 11 40.2 592 2 326,486 11 33.7 Mean		590	2	276,258	4	14.5
592 2 326,486 11 33.7 Mean 32.9 PC 437 3 482,280 180 373.2 438 2 445,247 180 404.3 439 2 380,120 133 349.9 440 2 397,573 174 437.7 Mean 2 426,518 203 475.9 Mean 408.2 408.2 408.2		591	2	273,704	11	40.2
Mean 32.9 PC 437 3 482,280 180 373.2 438 2 445,247 180 404.3 439 2 380,120 133 349.9 440 2 397,573 174 437.7 441 2 426,518 203 475.9 Mean - - 408.2 -		592	2	326,486	11	33.7
PC 437 3 482,280 180 373.2 438 2 445,247 180 404.3 439 2 380,120 133 349.9 440 2 397,573 174 437.7 441 2 426,518 203 475.9 Mean 408.2 408.2 408.2		Mean				32.9
4382445,247180404.34392380,120133349.94402397,573174437.74412426,518203475.9Mean408.2	PC	437	3	482,280	180	373.2
4392380,120133349.94402397,573174437.74412426,518203475.9Mean408.2		438	2	445,247	180	404.3
4402397,573174437.74412426,518203475.9Mean408.2		439	2	380,120	133	349.9
441 2 426,518 203 475.9 Mean 408.2		440	2	397,573	174	437.7
Mean 408.2		441	2	426,518	203	475.9
		Mean				408.2

Abbreviation: PC, positive control.

(i.e., 2.8-fold) occurred at a treatment level that induced 12% RTG. In the confirmatory trial (Assay 2, Tables 2-5), the statistical analysis identified significant increases (up to 3-fold) in mutant frequencies in cultures treated with the top two concentrations of 3-CAA. These increases occurred at concentrations that induced relatively high levels of toxicity, that is, \leq 20% RTG, with both small and large colony mutants increasing to similar levels.

Although this study pre-dated the International Workshop on Genotoxicity Testing (IWGT) evaluation criteria (OECD 490, 2016), the conclusion that 3-CAA was mutagenic in this assay, both with and without S9, does not change even after application of the IWGT criteria.

3.3 Mouse bone marrow micronucleus test

In a dose-range finding study, (4/sex/dose) all but one CD-1 mouse receiving ≥250 mg/kg 3-CAA died within 2 days of the first dose: there was one death at 125 mg/kg/day on Day 3 and no deaths at 62.5 and 31.25 mg/kg/day. Based on these results, dose levels of 125, 62.5, and 31.25 mg/kg/day were selected for the micronucleus test. A summary of the data on the frequencies of MN-PCE and % PCE of various treatment groups is given in Table 6. All treated animals survived until the time of scheduled necropsy, and there were no remarkable clinical observations during the in-life phase. There were no significant differences in MN-PCE frequencies and % PCE values between the groups treated with 3-CAA and the negative controls. The adequacy of the experimental conditions for the detection of induced micronuclei was ascertained from the observation of a significant increase in MN-PCE in the positive control groups.

3.4 Combined assay for gene mutations and micronuclei in Big Blue[®] rats

No mortalities were observed following treatment with 3-CAA in drinking water. Overall, mean body weight gain was significantly lower at the high dose level compared to the vehicle control group during the exposure period; the animals started gaining weights following cessation of the treatment (Figure 2). Over the course of the study, total water consumption decreased in each of the test substance dose groups (Figure 3). The concentration of 3-CAA in drinking water was periodically adjusted to compensate for the decreased water consumption, achieving 9.5, 28.9, and 83.9 mg/kg/day versus the targeted nominal dose levels of 10, 30, and 100 mg/kg/day over the course of the study. There was approximately a 5% increase in relative liver weight at the highest administered dose (data not shown); however, since the animals were sacrificed after a recovery period of 2 days following the final day of dosing, this increase is likely an underestimation of the actual effect.

There was no statistically significant increase in the incidence of MN-RET/1000 RET in the test substance groups relative to the vehicle control group (vehicle control group: 0.6 vs. 0.5-0.8 in 3-CAA

administered groups; Table 7). Furthermore, there was no remarkable effect of 3-CAA treatment on the %RET values. The positive control group, on the other hand, had a significantly higher incidence of MN-RET and lower %RET.

The mean *cll* MF in the liver tissue of the vehicle control rats was 35.0×10^{-6} whereas this value for the 3-CAA treated groups ranged from 30.3 to 45.5 \times 10⁻⁶ (p > .05) (Table 8). Similarly, no statistically significant difference was observed between vehicle control and any of the 3-CAA treated groups for the mean cll MF in the bone marrow $(27.7 \times 10^{-6}$ in the vehicle control group versus $29.3-32.9 \times 10^{-6}$ in the 3-CAA treated groups, Table 9).

4 DISSCUSSION

3-CAA was mutagenic in the in vitro mouse lymphoma forward gene mutation assay (MLA); however, such mutagenic activity was not observed either in bacteria or in vivo in the liver and bone marrow tissues of transgenic Big Blue[®] rats. Furthermore, 3-CAA did not induce micronuclei in the erythrocytes of mice or rats. The positive response in the MLA was relatively weak but dose-related and reproducible. Increases were observed both with and without S9, and there was no evidence for a preferential induction of small versus large colonies. Since MLA detects a wide range of genetic events (point mutations, deletions, chromosomal rearrangements, and mitotic recombination Schisler, et al., 2019), the genetic events responsible for the increased MF are unknown. However, given the absence of mutagenic activity in bacteria, it appears that 3-CAA and/or its metabolites are unlikely to be DNA-reactive. This assumption is further strengthened by the absence of mutagenic or cytogenetic activity in vivo given the general observation that DNA-reactive substances typically (but not always) induce both gene mutations and cytogenetic effects.

Although the bioavailability of orally administered 3-CAA was not determined either in the mouse or the rat as part of the studies reported here, corroborative experimental and in silico GastroPlus[™] modeling data support the conclusion that the test substance is readily absorbed and bioavailable following oral administrations. Absorption of 3-CAA in rats following single oral gavage administration of either 5 or 65 mg/kg body weight was found to be high, with approximately 50%-52%, 21%, and 5%-6% of the radioactivity recovered in expired air, urine, and tissues/carcasses, respectively; 13% of the radioactivity was recovered in feces. The total recovery of radioactivity in this study was 92%-99%. The major metabolite of 3-CAA was tentativelv identified as 3,3-bis-S-(N-acetylcysteinyl)-1-propanol, which is proposed to arise from dual conjugation with glutathione (Hansen and Bartels, 2000). In this study, half-lives for excretion of ¹⁴C-activity were estimated to be 3.92 and 7.43 h in urine and 3.62 and 4.30 h in exhaled air for the 5 and 65 mg/kg, respectively. In a recent study (unpublished), 3-CAA in water was administered daily for 28 days by oral gavage to male and female Sprague-Dawley rats at dose levels of 10, 25, and 50 mg/kg/day. The plasma C_{max} , T_{max} , and AUC_{Tlast} parameters estimated in this study, respectively, based on sampling blood and quantitative analysis of 3-CAA following the last

day of dosing were 3030 ng/ml, 10 min, and 92,100 min*ng/ml for 10 mg/kg/day dose level, 6010 ng/ml, 10 min, and 230,000 min*ng/ ml for 25 mg/kg/day dose level, and 13,300 ng/ml, 10 min, and 480,000 min*ng/ml for the 50 mg/kg/day dose level. Gastro Plus[™] PBPK model for predicting the toxicokinetic profile of 3-CAA (see Table S1 for details) also showed the oral absorption via drinking water to be >99% for all the dose levels administered in the transgenic rat study. Systemic levels of this substance are predicted to be well distributed to tissues, including the liver and bone marrow.

The oral gavage route of administration, rather than the drinking water, was a logical choice for the acute study design used for the mouse bone marrow micronucleus test. Although no mortalities were observed at the highest dose of 125 mg/kg, one of the eight mice died at this dose level within 3 days in a range-finding study; eight out of eight mice died at the next higher dose of 250 mg/kg. Thus, the highest dose level used in the mouse micronucleus test represented the maximum tolerated dose.

The most relevant route of human exposure to 3-CAA is oral. The drinking water, rather than dietary, route was opted for the transgenic Big Blue[®] rat study since data were already available for dose level selection from an existing 28-day toxicity study in Fischer 344 rats using this route of administration (Crissman et al., 1999). Secondly, the delivery of 3-CAA via drinking water is analogous to dietary administration, and thus a separate dietary study was deemed to be unnecessary in the interest of animal welfare considerations.

The concentration of 3-CAA administered in the drinking water to deliver the 100 mg/kg/day targeted dose had palatability issues, demonstrating that this dose level represented the maximum practicable dose without compromising the general health and welfare of the animals. In addition, the maximum concentration of 3-CAA administered in the drinking water (1.75 mg /ml) was nearly 18,000,000-times higher than the highest concentration of this substance measured in the EU groundwater (Terry et al., 2008).

Liver is the primary target organ in Fischer 344 rats following the drinking water administration of 3-CAA for 28 days (Crissman et al., 1999). The effects observed included hepatocellular hypertrophy and individual cell necrosis in five out of five males in the 100 mg/kg/day dose group. These changes were also observed in the 30 mg/kg/day dose group, *albeit* at a lower frequency. At the 100 mg/kg/day targeted dose, the above liver effects were accompanied by chronic periportal inflammation and scattered mitotic figures--changes interpreted to be reparative responses.

The drinking water route enabled administration of much higher doses than could have been achieved via oral gavage. With oral gavage, it is unlikely that rats would have tolerated 28 days of repeat dosing at 100 mg/kg/day given 3/5 females Fischer 344 rats died on the first day of dosing at this level in an acute oral toxicity study (Stebbins & Brook, 1999). In a developmental toxicity probe study, 2 of 10 pregnant female CD rats dosed with 75 mg/kg/day died after receiving two doses of 3-CAA (Carney & Liberacki, 1999). Thus, 3-CAA was evaluated in the transgenic study using a route of administration that enabled the delivery of the maximum achievable internal dose level.

In conclusion, the weak mutagenic response observed in the in vitro mouse lymphoma assay is not confirmed in the in vivo transgenic study. Based on this observation along with the lack of cytogenetic activity in vivo, it is concluded that 3-CAA is not likely to pose a mutagenic risk.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Aisling Redmond, WanYun Cheng, and B. Bhaskar Gollapudi analyzed the data and prepared the manuscript. Fagen Zhang conducted the GastroPlusTM in silico PBPK simulation.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Fagen Zhang is an employee of Dow which manufactures 1,3-dichloropropene. Aisling Redmond and WanYun Cheng are employees of UPL, which markets clethodim herbicide, where 3-CAA is formed in leafy crops as a glycoside following clethodim application. Bhaskar Gollapudi is a former employee of Dow and received financial compensation from Dow/UPL for his consulting work on the transgenic study and preparation of the manuscript.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information can be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of this article.

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