# Contents

Annotation .................................................. 15

List of Abbreviations ........................................ V

List of Figures ................................................. VIII

List of Tables .................................................. IX

1 Introduction ................................................. 1

1.1 History and use of the herbicide atrazine .................. 1

1.2 Atrazine as an environmental hazard ....................... 2

1.3 Degradation, dissipation and transformation of atrazine .... 6

1.3.1 Bound residues formation ................................ 7

1.3.2 Atrazine degradation in the environment ............... 8

1.4 Intention and goals of the presented doctoral research .... 10

1.4.1 Location, desorption and characterization of aged \(^{14}\text{C}\)-labeled

atrazine residues ............................................ 11

1.4.2 Extraction and characterization of aged \(^{14}\text{C}\)-labeled atrazine residues 12

1.4.3 Evaluating bioaccessibility of aged \(^{14}\text{C}\)-labeled atrazine residues in

soil and soil size aggregates .............................. 12
1.4.4 Evaluating bioaccessibility of aged, soil bound $^{14}$C-labeled atrazine residues ........................................ 13

2 Material and Methods ........................................ 15
  2.1 Soil characteristics and atrazine application ................. 15
  2.2 Physico-chemical analysis .................................... 16
    2.2.1 Soil sampling and treatment ............................. 16
    2.2.2 Liquid sample preparation and analysis .................... 18
    2.2.3 LC-MS/MS-analysis ........................................ 22
  2.3 Microbial cultures and conditions ............................ 26
    2.3.1 Biodegradation study of soil-bound $^{14}$C-atrazine residues: soil sample extraction ................................... 29
    2.3.2 Biodegradation study of soil-bound $^{14}$C-atrazine residues: soil-slurry inoculation .................................. 29

3 Results and Discussion ......................................... 31
  3.1 General comments ........................................... 31
  3.2 Chemico-physical and $^{14}$C-activity analysis of solid samples .......... 32
    3.2.1 Soil and soil-aggregates ................................. 32
    3.2.2 Analysis of solid samples after AS-extraction ............ 37
    3.2.3 Elementary analysis of solid samples prior to and after AS-extraction 39
  3.3 Chemico-physical and $^{14}$C-activity analysis of liquid samples .......... 41
    3.3.1 Desorption experiments ................................... 41
    3.3.2 Carbon bound desorbed residual $^{14}$C-activity in liquid fractions .. 41
    3.3.3 DOM-fractions from various soil depths .................... 43
    3.3.4 LC-MS/MS analysis of desorption liquids .................. 46
    3.3.5 Analysis of ASE extracts .................................. 50
3.4 Mineralization of $^{14}$C-labeled atrazine associated residues in soil and soil-size aggregates ................................................. 55
3.5 Evaluating bioaccessibility of naturally aged soil-bound $^{14}$C-atrazine residues 60
  3.5.1 Soil sample extraction/desorption ........................................ 60
  3.5.2 Microbial mineralization of soil bound $^{14}$C-atrazine residues ........................ 62

4 Epilogue ............................................................................. 69

5 Summary ........................................................................... 75

Bibliography .......................................................................... 79

Acknowledgements .................................................................. 103