

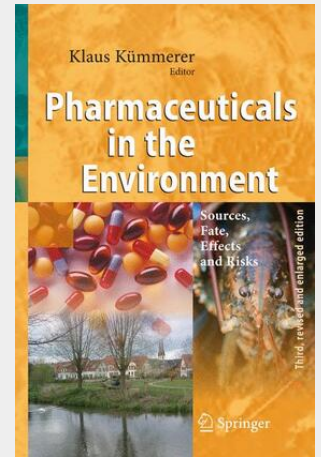
Kümmerer

## Pharmaceuticals in the Environment

Sources, Fate, Effects and Risks

When the first green wave appeared in the mid and late 1960s, it was considered a feasible task to solve pollution problems. The visible problems were mostly limited to point sources, and a comprehensive "end of the pipe technology" (= environmental technology) was available. It was even seriously discussed in the US that what was called "zero discharge" could be attained by 1985. It became clear in the early 1970s that zero discharge would be too expensive, and that we should also rely on the self purification ability of ecosystems. That called for the development of environmental and ecological models to assess the self purification capacity of ecosystems and to set up emission standards, considering the relationship between impacts and effects in the ecosystems. This idea is illustrated in Fig. 0.1. A model is used to relate an emission to its effect on the ecosystem and its components. The relationship is applied to select a good solution to environmental problems by application of environmental technology.

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