1	Supporting Information
2	Fate of New Persistent Organic Chemical 3,6-Dichlorocarbazole in Chlorinated
3	Drinking Water
4 5	Guowei Wang ^{†, §} , Kefu Ye ^{†, I} , Shixiang Gao [‡] , Huijie Hou ^{†, I, **} , Bingchuan Liu ^{†, I} , Keke Xiao ^{†, I} ,
6	Jingping Hu ^{†, I} , Sha Liang ^{†, I} , Jiakuan Yang ^{†, I} , $^{\perp, *}$
7	[†] School of Environmental Science and Engineering, Huazhong University of Science and
8	Technology (HUST), Wuhan, 430074, China
9	[‡] State Key Laboratory of Pollution Control and Resource Reuse, School of the Environment,
10	Nanjing University, Nanjing 210093, China
11	§ School of Environmental Ecology and Biological Engineering, Wuhan Institute of Technology,
12	Wuhan, 430205, China
13	¹ Hubei Provincial Engineering Laboratory of Solid Waste Treatment, Disposal and Recycling,
14	Wuhan, 430074, China
15	$^{\perp}$ State Key Laboratory of Coal Combustion, Huazhong University of Science and Technology
16	(HUST), Wuhan, 430074, China
17	Number of pages: 23
18	Number of figures: 15

* **Co-Corresponding authors:** Prof. Jiakuan Yang.

E-mails: jkyang@mail.hust.edu.cn; yjiakuan@hotmail.com

Tel.: +86-027-87792102; Fax: +86-027-87792101.

^{**} Assoc. Prof. Huijie Hou. E-mails: houhuijie@hust.edu.cn

Tel.: +86-027-87793948; Fax: +86 027 87792101.

19	Contents
----	----------

20	Text S1. Reagents	S3
21	Text S2. Transformation products (TPs) identification using the high-resolution MS	S3
22	Text S3. Quality assurance and quality control (QA&QC)	S3
23	Text S4. Kinetics of 36-CCZ degradation	S4
24	Figure S1. Pseudo-first-order kinetic plot of 36-CCZ in chlorinated water	S6
25	Figure S2. Products formed after treatment of 1.2 μ M 36-CCZ with 60 μ M chlorine	S7
26	Figure S3. Extracted ion chromatograms show approximate retention times	S 8
27	Figure S4. MS/MS spectra of the molecular ions for the transformation products	S10
28	Text S5. High-resolution MS analysis of the products of 36-CCZ in chlorinated water	S11
29	Figure S5. Structures of parent and fragment ions for the product P1	S11
30	Figure S6. Structures of parent and fragment ions for the product P2	S12
31	Figure S7. The possible reason for the product P3 detected as the corresponding alcohol	S13
32	Figure S8. Structures of parent and fragment ions for the product P4	S14
33	Figure S9. Structures of parent and fragment ions for the product P5	S15
34	Figure S10. Structures of parent and fragment ions for the product P6	S16
35	Figure S11. Structures of parent and fragment ions for the product P7	S17
36	Figure S12. Atom HOMO (highest occupied molecular orbital) density	S18
37	Figure S13. A further analysis GC–MS for the products P5	S20
38	Figure S14. The percentages of the chlorination products P1 and P2	S21
39	Figure S15. Product evolution versus time at environmentally relevant concentration of chlorine	
40	over 24 h	S22
41	References	S23
40		

43 Text S1. Chemicals.

44 The chemical standards of 3,6-dichlorocarbazole (36-CCZ), 1,3,6-trichlorocarbazole (136-CCZ), and 1,3,6,8-tetrachlorocarbazole (1368-CCZ), both of the purities >98%, were purchased from 45 46 Wellington Laboratories (Ontario, Canada). The carbazole derivatives of 9-phenylcarbazole 47 (PCZ, >98%) and 3,6-bis(tert-butyl)carbazole (36-BtbCZ, >98%), served as internal standards for 48 instrumental analysis, were purchased from J&K Chemical (Beijing, China). Organic solvents (HPLC 49 grade) and other chemicals of reagent grade were purchased from Merck and Sigma-Aldrich. Sodium 50 hypochlorite stock solution (NaOCl, ~852 mg/L (12 mM) as Cl₂) was prepared by diluting a 51 concentrated NaOCl solution (4.00-4.99% Cl₂, reagent grade) and standardized by the DPD ferrous 52 titrimetric method.¹

53 Text S2. Transformation products (TPs) identification using the high-resolution MS

54 TP identification: To identify the TPs, 30 mL water sample were first acidified by HCl solution to 55 pH \sim 3, and mixed with 10 mL of hexane/ethyl acetate (1:1 v/v). The acidification treatment was to 56 prevent the dissociation of some hydroxyl or carboxyl groups in the TPs, and to facilitate the extraction of TPs from water using organic solvents. The mixed solution was ultrasonicated for 10 57 58 min at 21 °C. After 15 min, the organic layer was collected, passed through Na₂SO₄ for removing 59 residual water and evaporated to dryness. The residue was reconstituted with acetonitrile to a final 60 volume of 250 µL. The TPs of 36-CCZ were searched on a UPLC-HRMS system composed of a 61 Dionex Ultimate 3000 liquid chromatograph coupled with a Q Exactive Plus Orbitrap mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA). TPs were separated on a thermo Scientific[™] 62 63 AccucoreTM aO C18 column (2.1×150 mm, 2.6 μ m). The mobile phase was 0.1% formic acid in water 64 (A) and 100% acetonitrile (B). A gradient run was as follows: started at 10% B, increased to 70% B in 15 min, and then held for 5 min, decreased to 10% B in 0.1 min, and maintained constant for a total 65 66 run time of 25 min. The flow rate was 200 μ L/min with the constant temperature of 30 °C. The optimized orbitrap parameters were: negative ESI full scan mode, resolution of 17500, AGC target 67 68 of 1×10^6 , maximum injection time of 100 ms, scan range of 75 to 700 m/z, sheath gas flow rate of 40 AU, discharge voltage of 3.2 kV, and capillary temperature of 350 °C. Information-dependent 69 70 acquisition of MS/MS spectra were obtained to assist the identification of the TPs. All data were 71 acquired and processed using Xcalibur 4.1 SP1 software (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA).

72 Text S3. Quality assurance and quality control (QA&QC)

For the GC–MS analysis, recoveries of the chemicals were assessed by spiking water samples with a standard solution. Recoveries of 36-CCZ, 136-CCZ, 1368-CCZ as well as the two internal standards ranged from 94.2% to 102.3% in water samples. Precision was evaluated after replicate analysis of random samples (n = 5). The relative standard deviations were ranged from 1.3% to 4.9%. The concentrations of 36-CCZ, 136-CCZ and 1368-CCZ in water samples were calculated according to
their corresponding calibration curves with the two internal standards.

79 During the TPs analysis using the high-resolution MS, product identification should meet four 80 successive requirements. To be specific, these were: (i) the peak signal-to-noise ratio is needed to 81 exceed 10:1, (ii) the measured m/z value of the molecular ion should be within 5 ppm of the 82 theoretical value; (iii) the Cl isotope pattern of the detected product should match within 5% of the 83 theoretically predicted abundances of its proposed chemical formula; (iv) MS/MS spectrum of the molecular ion of individual product should match well with the proposed chemical structure. 84 85 Instrument blanks (50 μ L acetonitrile) were run before and after sample analysis. Control (without 86 chlorine) and blank (with chlorine but without 36-CCZ) treatments run in parallel. No metabolites 87 were found in instrument and the sample blanks.

88 Text S4. Kinetics of 36-CCZ degradation

89 The degradation kinetics of 36-CCZ in chlorinated water was investigated under the pseudo-first-90 order rate condition. The initial concentration of 36-CCZ was 1.2±0.03 µM, and several concentrations of chlorine ranging from 0-120 μ M were added. Figure S1 show the plot of $-\ln($ 91 92 $[36-CCZ]_t/[36-CCZ]_0)$ as a function of reaction time at pH = 7.6. The result show that the kinetic 93 experiments can be well described by a pseudo-first-order kinetics as demonstrated by the linear plots 94 $(R^2 > 0.98)$. The reaction order with respect to chlorine was examined at pH 7.6 by varying the 95 chlorine concentrations. The Figure 1b (In the manuscript) shows that the pseudo-first-order rate constant k_{obs} is linearly correlated to the chlorine dose at pH 7.6. Therefore, the rate of 36-CCZ in 96 97 chlorine group disappearance was first order to the initial concentration of chlorine and to the 36-98 CCZ concentration as Eq. (1):

99
$$-\frac{d[36-CCZ]}{dt} = k_{app,Cl}[HOCl]_{tot}[36-CCZ]$$
 (1)

100 where $k_{app,Cl} = k_{obs}/[HOCl]_{tot}$ is the apparent second-order rate constants of 36-CCZ in chlorinated 101 water. Subsequently, the 36-CCZ chlorination kinetics can be expressed by Eq.s (2)-(6) as follows:

- $102 \quad HOCI \leftrightarrow OCI^- + H^+ \qquad k_{a,Cl} \tag{2}$
- 103 36-CCZ + HOCl \rightarrow products $k_{\text{Cl-1}}$ (3)
- $104 \quad 36\text{-}\text{CCZ} + 0\text{Cl}^- \rightarrow \text{products} \qquad k_{\text{Cl}-2} \tag{4}$
- and the rate expression for the above reaction is

106
$$-\frac{d[36-CCZ]}{dt} = k_{Cl-1}[HOC][36-CCZ] + k_{Cl-2}[OCl^-][36-CCZ]$$
 (5)

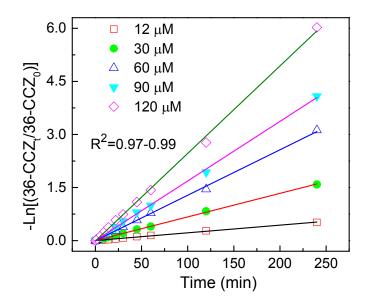
107 By replacing [HOCl] and [OCl⁻] as ratios of [HOCl]_{tot}, the rate of 36-CCZ degradation is

108
$$-\frac{d[36-CCZ]}{dt} = k_{Cl-1}\alpha_{Cl-1}[HOCl]_{tot}[36-CCZ] + k_{Cl-2}\alpha_{Cl-2}[HOCl]_{tot}[36-CCZ]$$
(6)

- 109 where α_{Cl-1} and α_{Cl-2} are the fraction of species HOCl and OCl⁻ in chlorinated water, respectively.
- 110 Therefore, by combining Eq.s (1) and (6), $k_{app,Cl}$ is a function of pH as Eq.(7).

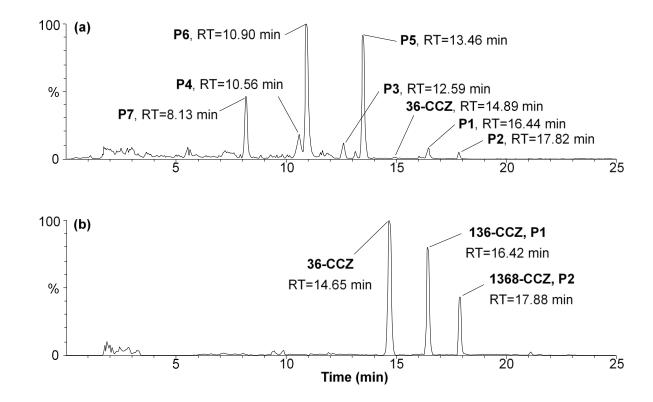
111
$$k_{app,Cl} = k_{Cl-1}\alpha_{Cl-1} + k_{Cl-2}\alpha_{Cl-2} = \frac{k_{Cl-1}[H^+] + k_{Cl-2}k_{a,Cl}}{k_{a,Cl} + [H^+]}$$
 (7)

- 112
- 113



114

Figure S1. Pseudo-first-order kinetic plot of 36-CCZ in chlorinated water at 20 ± 1 °C. Symbols represent measured data, and the straight line is the linear regression. Experimental conditions: [36-CCZ]₀ = $1.2 \pm 0.03 \mu$ M, pH = 7.6, and [chlorine]₀ = 12, 30, 60, 90 and 120 μ M.



118

Figure S2. Products formed after treatment of $1.2 \pm 0.02 \,\mu$ M 36-CCZ with 60 μ M chlorine at pH 7.6 (10 mM phosphate) in deionized water for 4 h. (a) Full-scan UPLC–HRMS chromatogram showing seven major products P1-P7 at retention times of 16.44 min, 17.82 min, 12.59 min, 10.56 min, 13.46 min, 10.90 min and 8.13 min. A low peak of the precursor 36-CCZ was found at RT = 14.89 min. (b) Full-scan UPLC–HRMS chromatogram of the commercial standards of the 36-CCZ, 1,3,6trichlorocarbazole (136-CCZ) and 1,3,6,8-tetrachlorocarbazole (1368-CCZ).

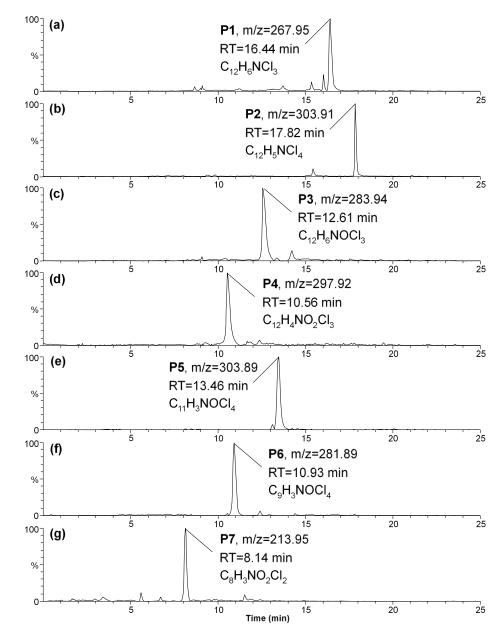
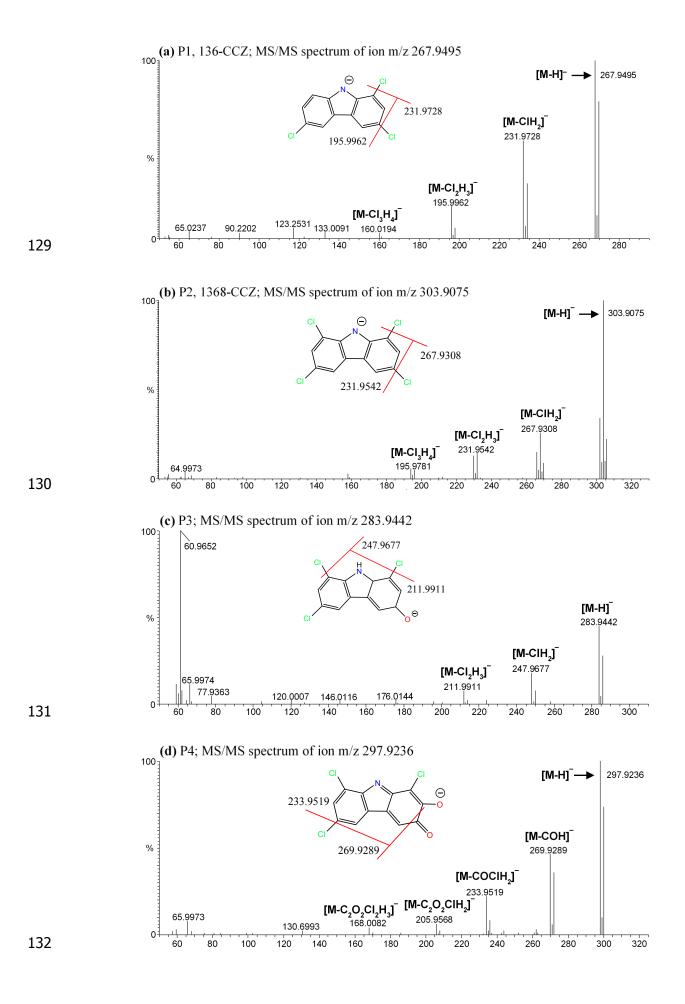


Figure S3. Extracted ion chromatograms of the seven detected products of 36-CCZ in chlorinated

water samples.

128



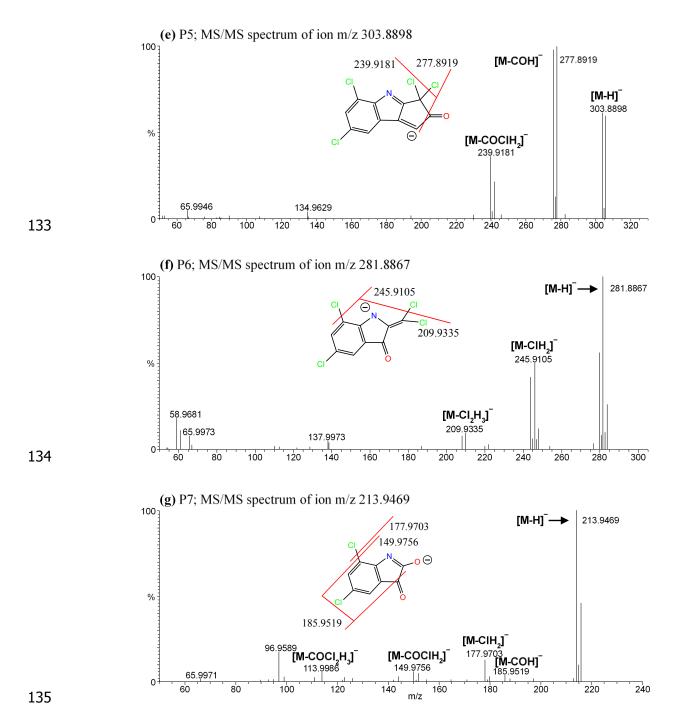
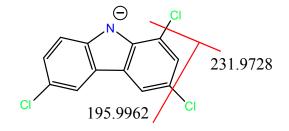


Figure S4. MS/MS spectra of the molecular ions for the seven transformation products of 36-CCZin chlorinated water.

138 Text S5. Products identification of 36-CCZ in chlorinated water

139 The UPLC-HRMS system was used to characterize the structures of the seven major products of 140 36-CCZ in chlorinated water. Separation was achieved using a thermo ScientificTM AccucoreTM aQ 141 C18 column (2.1×150 mm, 2.6μ m) held at 30 °C.

Product P1: As the description in the manuscript, the product P1 was suggested to be 1,3,6trichlorocarbazole (136-CCZ) formed by the chlorine electrophilic attack on the C1 or C8 of 36-CCZ due to the activated by the "–NH" on the middle heterocyclic ring.^{2, 3} Figure S5 provides structure of ionized 136-CCZ, proposed as products consistent with these parent and fragment masses obtained from the MS/MS spectra by the high-resolution MS analysis.



P1: 1,3,6-trichlorocarbazole Chemical formula: $C_{12}H_5NCl_3^-$ Exact Mass: m/z = 267.9493/269.9464/271.9434

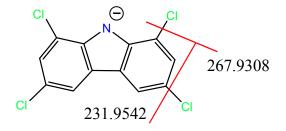
147

Figure S5. Structures of parent and fragment ions for the product P1. Red lines provide the potentialfragmentation cleavage points to produce fragment ions.

150

Product P2: The extract ion (301.91 or 303.91) chromatogram show the retention time (RT) of P2 at 151 17.82 min (Figure S3b). The full-scan mass spectrum of the product P2 at retention time of 17.82 min 152 exhibit molecular ion ([M-H]⁻) at m/z 301.9105/303.9075/305.9046/307.9018 in the ~8:10:6:1 153 154 isotope ratio characteristic of this compound containing four chlorine (Figure 2b). High-resolution 155 MS analysis resolved the product ion at m/z 301.9105, consistent with an elemental formula of 156 $C_{12}H_4NCl_4^-$ (exact mass m/z 301.9103; mass shift 1.34 ppm). MS/MS analysis of m/z 303.9075 shows the fragments at m/z 267.9308 and 231.9542, consistent with elemental formulas of 157 158 $C_{12}H_3NCl_3^-$ (exact mass 267.9307; mass shift 0.19 ppm) and $C_{12}H_2NCl_2^-$ (exact mass 231.9540; mass shift 0.73 ppm), indicating the loss of one and two HCl from the precursor ion (Figure S4b and S6). 159 160 According to the results from high-resolution MS analysis, the product P2 was suggested to be 1.3.6.8-tetrachlorocarbazole (1368-CCZ) formed by the chlorine electrophilic attack on the C1 and 161

- 162 C8 of 36-CCZ due to the activated by the "-NH" on the middle heterocyclic ring, which was further
- verified by the commercial standard (Figure S2b). Figure S7 provides structure of ionized 1368-CCZ,
- 164 proposed as products consistent with these parent and fragment masses.



P2: 1,3,6,8-tetrachlorocarbazole Chemical formula: $C_{12}H_4NCl_4^-$ Exact Mass: m/z = 301.9103/303.9074/305.9044/307.9015

Figure S6. Structures of parent and fragment ions for the product P2. Red lines provide the potentialfragmentation cleavage points to produce fragment ions.

168

165

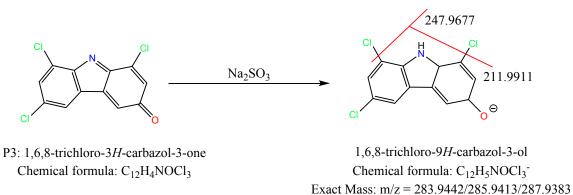
169 Product P3: The extract ion (23.94) chromatogram show the retention time (RT) of P3 at 12.61 min 170 (Figure S3c). The full-scan mass spectrum of the product P3 at RT 12.59 min exhibit molecular ion 171 ([M-H]⁻) at m/z 283.9442/285.9413/287.9383 in the ~3:3:1 isotope ratio characteristic of this 172 compound containing three chlorine (Figure 2c). High-resolution MS analysis resolved the product 173 ion at m/z 283.9442, consistent with an elemental formula of $C_{12}H_5NOCl_3^-$ (exact mass m/z 283.9441; 174 mass shift 0.28 ppm). MS/MS analysis of m/z 283.9442 shows the fragments at m/z 247.9677 and 211.9911, consistent with elemental formulas of $C_{12}H_4NOCl_2^-$ (exact mass 247.9675; mass shift 0.48 175 176 ppm) and C₁₂H₃NOCl⁻ (exact mass 211.9909; mass shift 0.94 ppm), indicating the loss of one and 177 two chlorine from the precursor ion (Figure S4c and S7). From the elemental formula of $C_{12}H_5NOCl_3^-$ and the fragment ions, it is speculated that the 178

product P3 may be an alcohol structure of 1,6,8-trichloro-carbazol-3-ol (Figure S7), but under the oxidizing conditions of chlorination, the product P3 is more likely to be a halobenzoquinone-like structure of 1,6,8-trichloro-carbazol-3-one (Figure S7). The possible reason is that the product P3 (1,6,8-trichloro-carbazol-3-one) was reduced to the corresponding alcohol 1,6,8-trichloro-carbazol-3-one) was reduced to the corresponding alcohol 1,6,8-trichloro-carbazol-3-one (Figure S7).

185 Considering the mentioned reasons, we speculate that the product P3 of 36-CCZ in chlorinated
186 water would be 1,6,8-trichloro-3H-carbazol-3-one. It could be formed from the product P2 after the

187 reaction of chlorine electrophilic attacks, chlorine elimination, water addition and HCl elimination

188 (section "**Proposed reaction pathway**" in the manuscript).

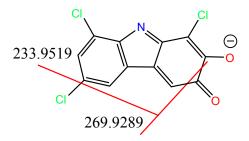


189

Figure S7. The possible reason for the product P3 (1,6,8-trichloro-3H-carbazol-3-one) detected as the corresponding alcohol (1,6,8-trichloro-9H-carbazol-3-ol). Structures of parent and fragment ions for the corresponding alcohol of product P3 was provided. Red lines indicate the potential fragmentation cleavage points to produce fragment ions.

194

Product P4: The extract ion (297.92) chromatogram show the retention time (RT) of P4 at 10.56 min 195 196 (Figure S3d). The full-scan mass spectrum of the product P4 at RT 10.56 min exhibit molecular ion 197 $([M-H]^{-})$ at m/z 297.9236/299.9206/301.9176 in the ~3:3:1 isotope ratio characteristic of this 198 compound containing three chlorine (Figure 2d). High-resolution MS analysis resolved the product ion at m/z 297.9236, consistent with an elemental formula of $C_{12}H_3NO_2Cl_3^-$ (exact mass m/z 199 297.9235; mass shift 0.27 ppm). MS/MS analysis of m/z 297.9236 shows the fragments at m/z 200 201 269.9289 and 233.9519, consistent with elemental formulas of $C_{11}H_3NOCl_3^-$ (exact mass 269.9286; 202 mass shift 1.29 ppm) and $C_{11}H_2NOCl_2^-$ (exact mass 233.9519; mass shift 0 ppm), indicating the loss of the "-CO" and a HCl from the precursor ion (Figure S4d and S8). According to the results from 203 high-resolution MS analysis, the product P4 was suggested to be 1,6,8-trichloro-2-hydroxy-3H-204 carbazol-3-one, which would be formed from the product P3 after the reaction of chlorine 205 electrophilic addition, water addition and HCl elimination (section "Proposed reaction pathway" in 206 207 the manuscript).



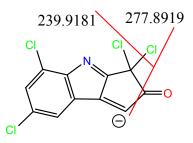
P4: 1,6,8-trichloro-2-hydroxy-3*H*-carbazol-3-one Chemical formula: $C_{12}H_3NO_2Cl_3^-$ Exact Mass: m/z = 297.9235/299.9205/301.9176

Figure S8. Structures of parent and fragment ions for the product P4. Red lines provide the potential
fragmentation cleavage points to produce fragment ions.

211

208

Product P5: The extract ion (303.89) chromatogram show the retention time (RT) of P5 at 13.46 min 212 213 (Figure S3e). The full-scan mass spectrum of the product P5 at RT 13.46 min exhibit molecular ion 214 ([M-H]⁻) at m/z 303.8898/305.8867/307.8839/309.8811 in the ~8:10:6:1 isotope ratio characteristic 215 of this compound containing four chlorine (Figure 2e). High-resolution MS analysis resolved the 216 product ion at m/z 303.8898 consistent with an elemental formula of $C_{11}H_2NOCl_4^-$ (exact mass m/z 217 303.8896; mass shift 1.12 ppm). MS/MS analysis of m/z 303.8898 shows the fragments at m/z 218 277.8919 and 239.9181, consistent with elemental formulas of $C_{10}H_2NCl_4^-$ (exact mass 277.8917; 219 mass shift 0.61 ppm) and C_{10} HNCl₃⁻ (exact mass 239.9180; mass shift 0.42 ppm), indicating the loss of the "--CO" and a HCl from the precursor ion (Figure S4e and S9. According to the results from 220 221 high-resolution MS analysis, the product P5 was suggested be 3.3.5.7to 222 tetrachlorocyclopenta[b]indol-2(3H)-one, which would be formed from the product P4 after the 223 reaction of electrophilic addition of chlorine, water addition and decarboxylation (section "Proposed 224 reaction pathway" in the manuscript).



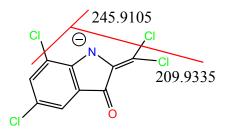
P5: 3,3,5,7-tetrachlorocyclopenta[*b*]indol-2(3*H*)-one Chemical formula: $C_{11}H_2NOCl_4^-$ Exact Mass: m/z = 303.8896/305.8867/307.8837/309.8808

Figure S9. Structures of parent and fragment ions for the product P5. Red lines provide the potentialfragmentation cleavage points to produce fragment ions.

229

226

230 Product P6: The extract ion (279.89 or 281.89) chromatogram show the retention time (RT) of P6 at 231 10.93 min (Figure S3f). The full-scan mass spectrum of the product P6 at RT 10.9 min exhibit 232 molecular ion ([M-H]⁻) at m/z 279.8897/281.8867/283.8838/285.8809 in the ~8:10:6:1 isotope ratio 233 characteristic of this compound containing four chlorine (Figure 2f). High-resolution MS analysis 234 resolved the product ion at m/z 279.8897 consistent with an elemental formula of $C_9H_2NOCl_4^-$ (exact 235 mass m/z 279.8896; mass shift 0.59 ppm). MS/MS analysis of m/z 281.8867 shows the fragments at 236 m/z 245.9105 and 209.9335, consistent with elemental formulas of C₉HNOCl₃⁻ (exact mass 245.9100; 237 mass shift 2.16 ppm) and C₉NOCl₂⁻ (exact mass 209.9333; mass shift 1.01 ppm), indicating the loss 238 of one and two HCl from the precursor ion (Figure S4f and S10). According to the results from high-239 MS resolution analysis, the product P6 was suggested to be 5.7-dichloro-2-240 (dichloromethylene)indolin-3-one, which would be formed from the product P4 via the reactions of the opening the ring of cyclohexa-dienone, chlorine electrophilic addition, decarboxylation, chlorine 241 242 re-addition, water addition and small molecule disinfection byproduct CH₂Cl₂ elimination (section 243 "Proposed reaction pathway" in the manuscript).



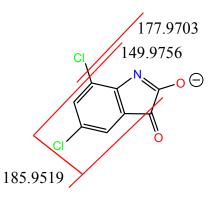
P6: 5,7-dichloro-2-(dichloromethylene)indolin-3-one Chemical formula: $C_9H_2NOCl_4^-$ Exact Mass: m/z = 279.8896/281.8866/283.8837/285.8808

Figure S10. Structures of parent and fragment ions for the product P6. Red lines provide the potential
fragmentation cleavage points to produce fragment ions.

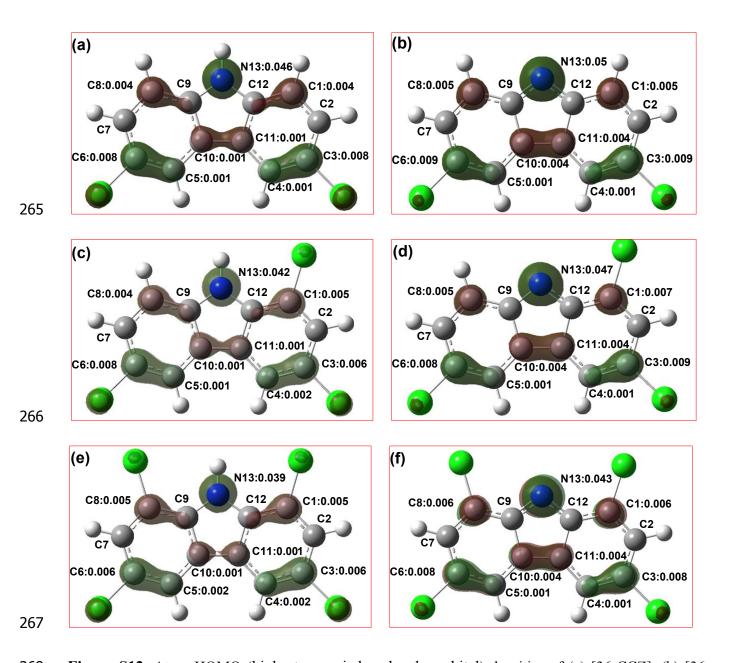
247

244

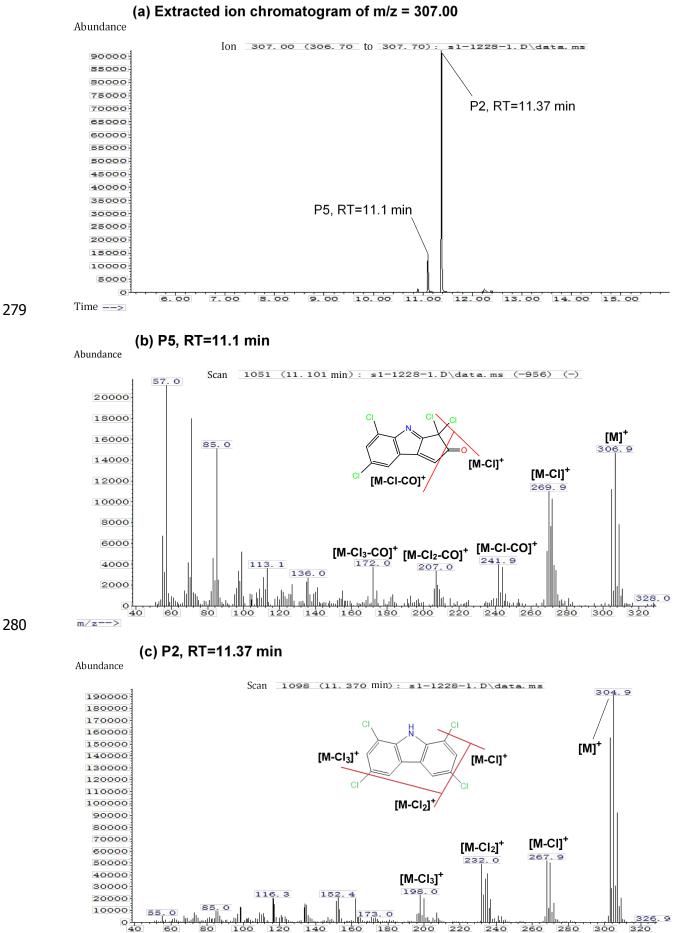
248 Product P7: The extract ion (213.95) chromatogram show the retention time (RT) of P7 at 8.14 min 249 (Figure S3g). The full-scan mass spectrum of the product P7 at RT 8.13 min exhibit molecular ion 250 $([M-H]^{-})$ at m/z 213.9469/215.9440/217.9410 in the ~9:6:1 isotope ratio characteristic of this 251 compound containing two chlorine (Figure 2g). High-resolution MS analysis resolved the product ion 252 at m/z 213.9469 consistent with an elemental formula of $C_8H_2NO_2Cl_2^-$ (exact mass m/z 213.9468; 253 mass shift 0.60 ppm). MS/MS analysis of m/z 213.9469 shows the fragments at m/z 185.9519, 254 177.9703 and 149.9756, consistent with elemental formulas of C₇H₂NOCl₂⁻ (exact mass 185.9519; 255 mass shift 0 ppm), C₈HNO₂Cl⁻ (exact mass 177.9701; mass shift 0.96 ppm) and C₇HNOCl⁻ (exact 256 mass 149.9752; mass shift 2.60 ppm), indicating the loss of the "-CO", one HCl, and both the "-CO" 257 and one HCl from the precursor ion (Figure S4g and S11). According to the results from high-258 resolution MS analysis, the product P7 was suggested to be 5,7-dichloro-2-hydroxy-3H-indol-3-one, 259 which would be formed from the product P6 after the reactions of electrophilic addition of chlorine, nucleophilic attack of water and the small molecule disinfection byproduct CHCl₃ elimination 260 261 (section "Proposed reaction pathway" in the manuscript).



- P7: 5,7-dichloro-2-hydroxy-3*H*-indol-3-one Chemical formula: $C_8H_2NO_2Cl_2^-$ Exact Mass: m/z = 213.9468/215.9439/217.9409
- **Figure S11.** Structures of parent and fragment ions for the product P7. Red lines provide the potential
- 264 fragmentation cleavage points to produce fragment ions.



268 Figure S12. Atom HOMO (highest occupied molecular orbital) densities of (a) [36-CCZ], (b) [36-269 CCZ-H]⁻, (c) [136-CCZ], (d) [136-CCZ-H]⁻, (e) [1368-CCZ] and (f) [1368-CCZ-H]⁻. Atom HOMO 270 densities were calculated using the DFT method with the B3LYP/6-311G* basis set in Gaussian 09. 271 The isosurface of HOMO (isovalue = 0.05) and the higher 2FED² HOMO values (>0.001) of the six chemicals were provided. As show in figure S12a, c and e, the 2FED² HOMO values on "N13" were 272 273 decreased with the increase of the number of chlorine substituents on carbazole rings, indicating that the hydrogen atom on "-NH" becomes easy to dissociate as the number of chlorine substituents 274 275 on carbazole rings increases. The dissociation of hydrogen on "-NH" in [36-CCZ] (Figures 12a), 276 [136-CCZ] (Figures 12c) and [1368-CCZ] (Figures 12e) induces the increase of the electron cloud 277 density of the corresponding compound [36-CCZ-H]⁻ (Figures 12b), [136-CCZ-H]⁻ (Figures 12d) and 278 [1368-CCZ–H]⁻ (Figures 12f) on the C3 and C6 positions.



m/z-->

S19

- 282 Figure S13. Analysis of product P5 using gas chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry
- 283 (GC-MS) (a) Extracted ion chromatograms of m/z = 307 show approximate retention times of the
- 284 detected products P5 at 11.1 min and P2 at 11.37 min in chlorinated water samples. The extracted ion
- chromatogram of m/z = 307 has the characteristic peaks of P5 and P2 because both the products P5
- and P2 has the characteristic ion of m/z = 307 in the mass spectra. (b) Mass spectrum of the product
- 287 P5 at the retention time of 11.1 min. (c) Mass spectrum of the product P2 at the retention time of
- **288** 11.37 min.
- 289

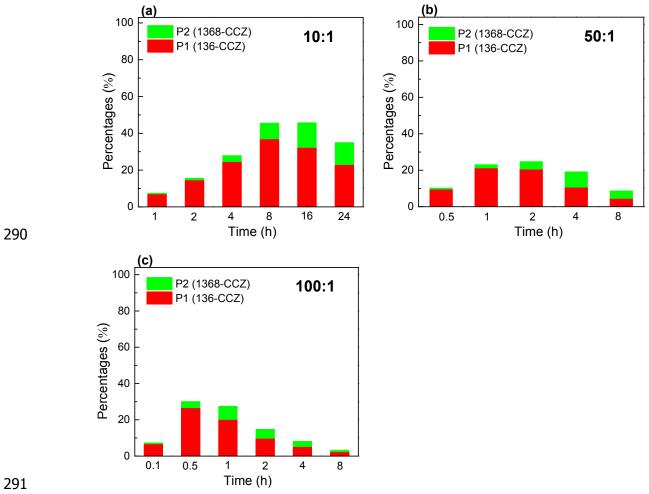


Figure S14. The percentages of the chlorination products P1 and P2 at different chlorine/36-CCZ 292 molar ratios. The percentages of the products P1 and P2 at the chlorine/36-CCZ molar ratio of (a) 293 10:1, (b) 50:1, and (c) 100:1. Experimental conditions: $[36-CCZ]_0 = 1.21\pm0.03 \ \mu\text{M}$, pH = 7.6, and 294 295 temperature = 20 ± 1 °C.

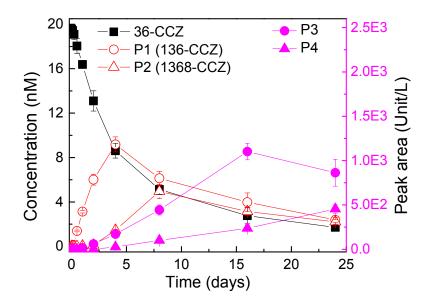


Figure S15. Product evolution versus time at environmentally relevant concentration of chlorine

- over 24 days. Experimental conditions: $[chlorine]_0 = 0.7 \ \mu M \ (0.05 \ mg/L), \ [36-CCZ]_0 = 20 \ nM \ (4.72)$
- 299 μ g/L), chlorine/36-CCZ molar ratio of 35:1, pH = 7.6 and temperature = 20 ± 1 °C.

301 References

- 302 (1) APHA, AWWA, WEF, 1995. Standard methods for the examination of water and wastewater,
- 303 nineteenth ed. American Public Health Association, Washington, D.C.
- 304 (2) Altarawneh, M.; Dlugogorski, B. Z., Formation and chlorination of carbazole, phenoxazine, and
- 305 phenazine. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* **2015**, *49*, (4), 2215-2221.
- 306 (3) Wang, G.; Yang, J.; Gao, S.; Hou, H.; Xiao, K.; Hu, J.; Liang, S.; Liu, B. New insight into the
- 307 formation of polyhalogenated carbazoles: Aqueous chlorination of residual carbazole under
- 308 bromide condition in drinking water. *Water Res.* **2019**, *159*, 252-261.