

Zinc oxide and silver nanoparticles influence the antioxidative status in a higher aquatic plant, *Spirodela punctata*.

Melusi Thwala^{1,2}, Ndeke Musee^{3,4}, Lucky Sikhwivhilu⁵,
Victor Wepener²

¹Water Ecosystems and Human Health Research Group, CSIR, Pretoria.

²Zoology Department, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg.

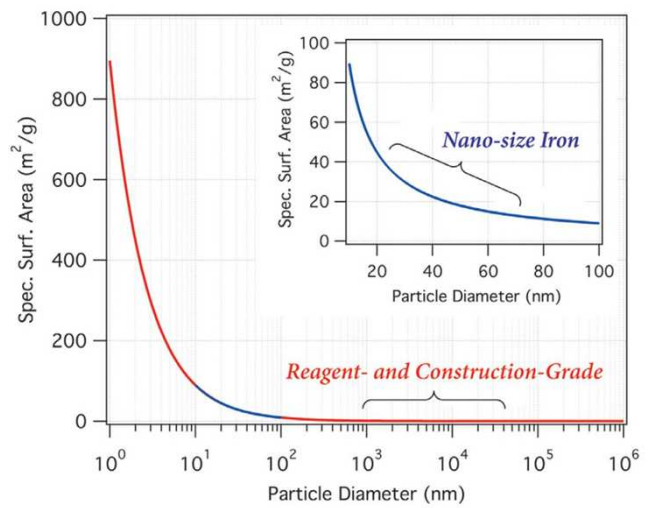
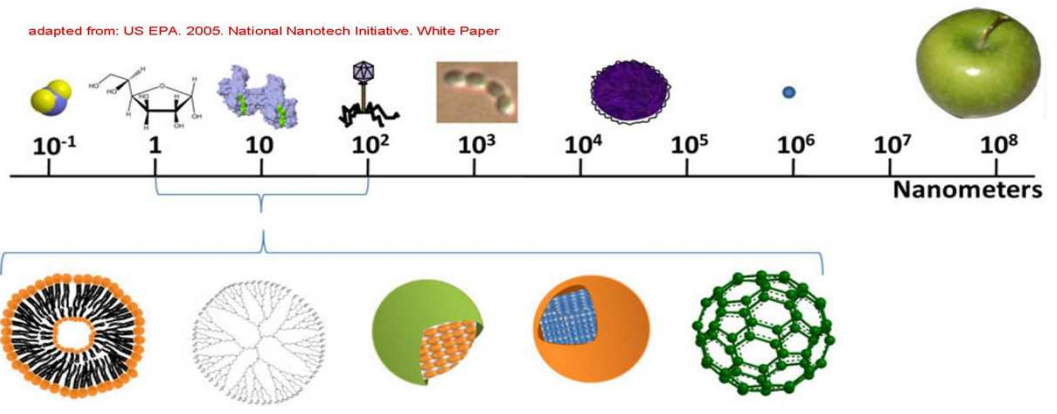
³Nanotech Environmental Impacts Research Group, CSIR, Pretoria.

⁴Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg.

⁵DST/Mintek Nanotechnology Innovation Centre, Advanced Materials Division,
Mintek, Johannesburg.

7th ICEENN 2012, BANFF CENTRE, CANADA, 11 SEPTEMBER 2012





reactivity
solubility
conductivity
strength

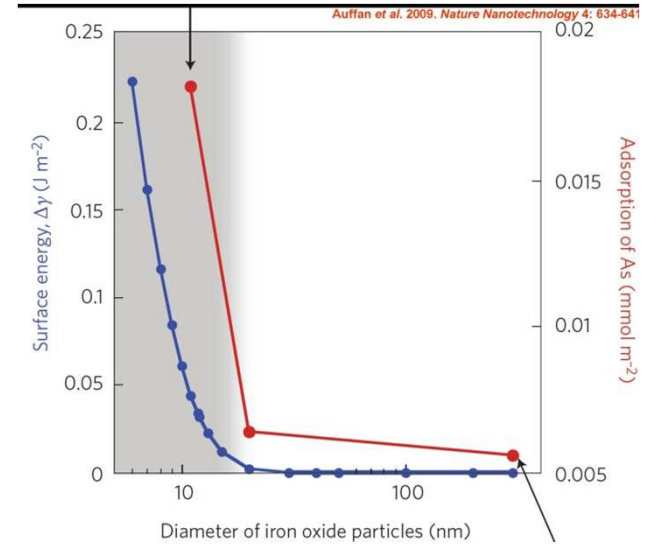


Fig. 2 Particle surface area calculated from diameter assuming spherical geometry and density 6.7 g/cm³ (based on the average of densities for pure Fe⁰ and Fe₃O₄). [Tratnyek and Johnson. 2006. NanoToday 1\(2\): 44-48](#)

Nanotech Environmental Impacts Research Group

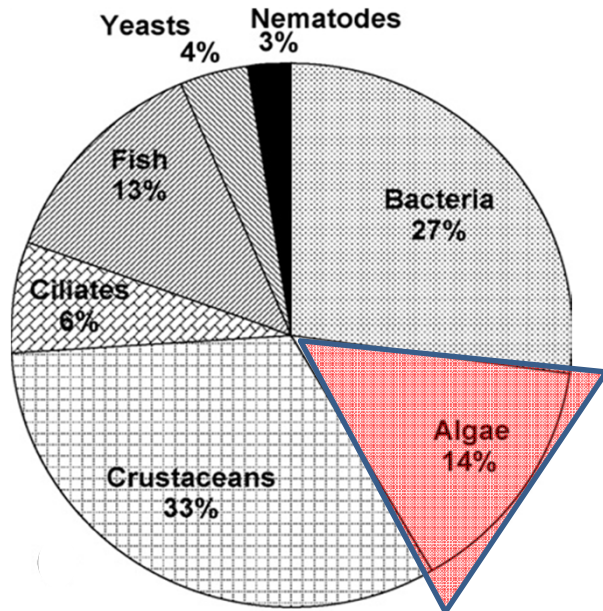
SOME FUNDAMENTAL COMPLEXITIES

- Interaction with biological matter?
- Uptake routes: Do NM parameters influence uptake, how?
- Basis for biological response? Molecular definition
- Inducive level of dosage: environmentally relevant?
- Biomarkers of exposure: nano vs bulk

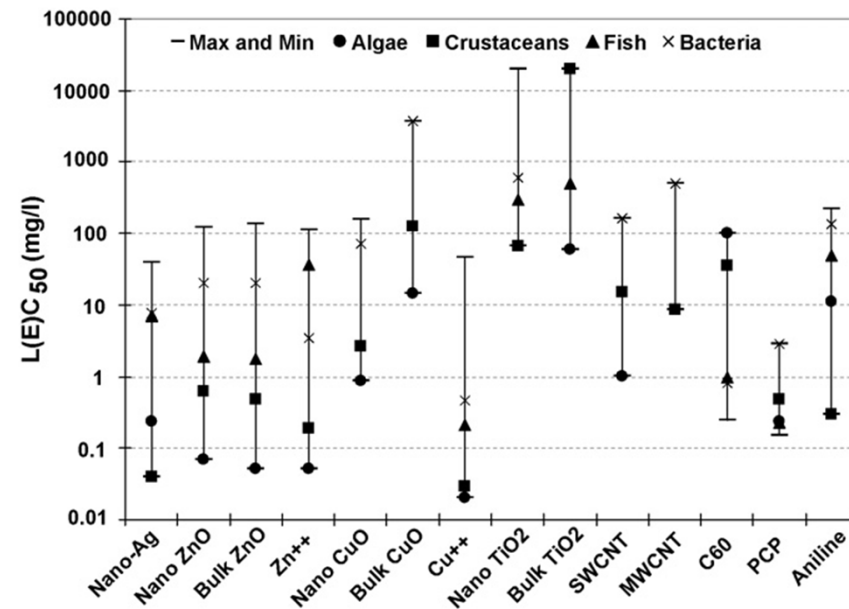


OLD SCIENCE SOLUTIONS FOR NEW TECHNOLOGY PROBLEMS

LOOK AT WHAT HAD BEEN DONE



The distribution of nanoecotoxicological data between organism groups. Kahru and Dubourgier . 2010. *Toxicology* 269: 105-119.



The distribution of L(C)50 values if nanoparticles to different groups of organisms. Kahru and Dubourgier . 2010. *Toxicology* 269: 105-119

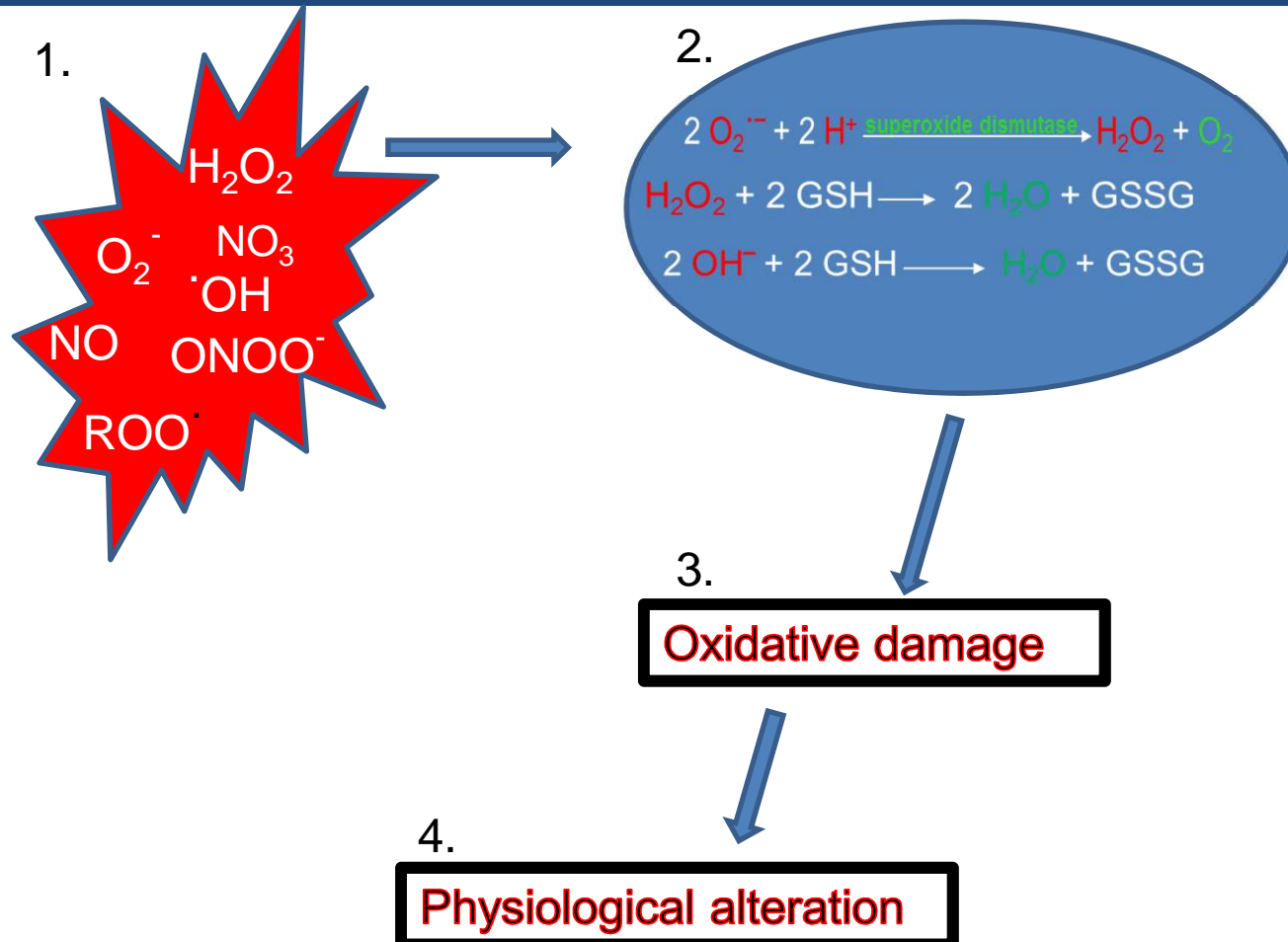
Production of nanoparticles from different sources and respective applications.

Source	Type of nanoparticle	Quantity used in terms of tons	Application/uses
Metals and alkaline earth metals	Ag	High	Antimicrobials, paints, coatings, medical use, food packaging
	Fe	High	Water treatment
Metal oxides	TiO ₂	High	Cosmetics, paints, coatings
	ZnO	Low	Cosmetics, paints, coatings

<<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/37/19/37770473.pdf>>.

OVERALL APPROACH

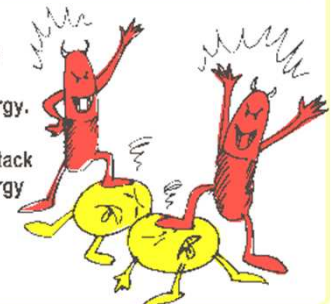
THE OXIDATIVE STRESS HYPOTHESIS



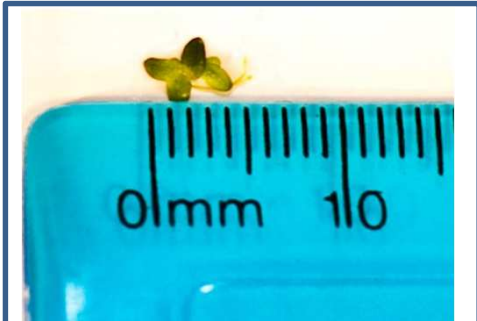
What are Free radicals ?

Free radicals are like robbers which are deficient in energy.

Free radicals attack and snatch energy from the other cells to satisfy themselves.



LABORATORY MAINTANANCE and TESTING



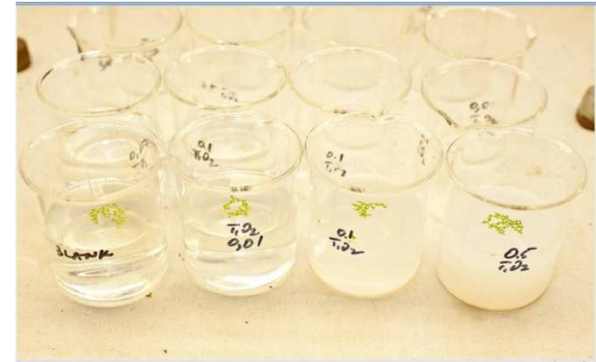
Free floating higher aquatic plant,

- easy laboratory maintenance,
- higher protein content,
- rapid growth.



Holding conditions:

- 22°C±2
- cool-white fluorescent
- light:dark/8:16hrs
- weekly water renewal.



- Exposure period: 4 days-static and 14 days- static renewal
- Hoegland's Medium
- 5 replicates- 30 plants/replicate

Free radical activity

- ROS/RNS
- H₂O₂, ROO[•], NO, ONOO⁻
- DCFH-DiOxyQ probe

Enzymatic scavengers

- Catalase
- Superoxide dismutase
- Total antioxidant capacity

Size

- TEM
- DLS

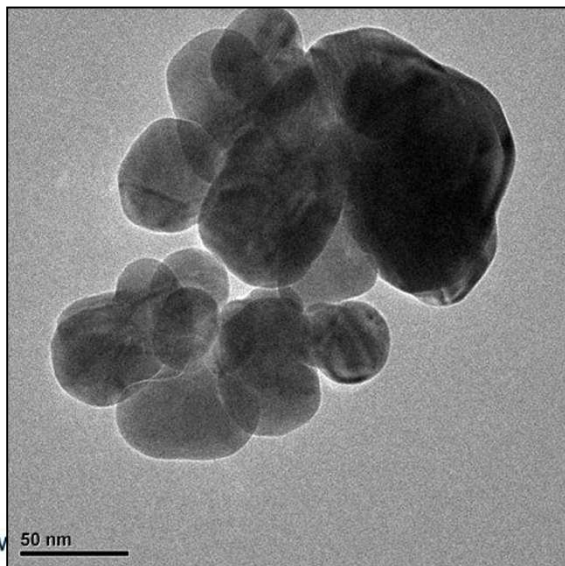
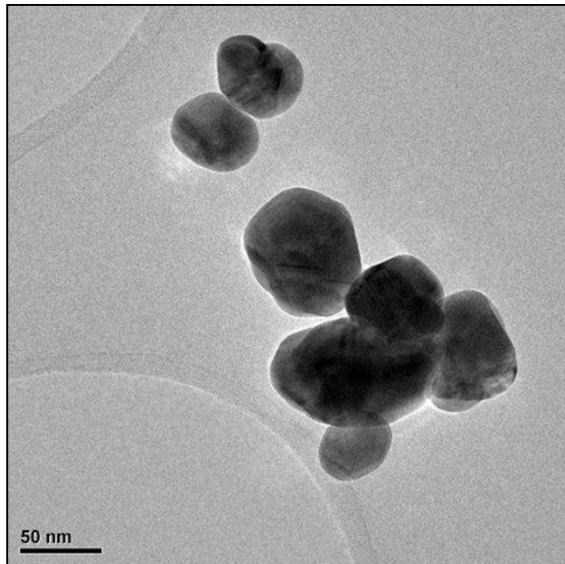
Morphology

- TEM
- XRD

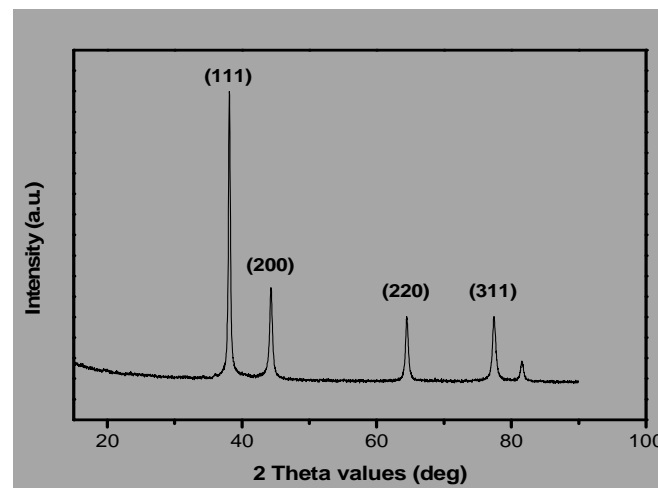
Surface area

- BET

Ag nanoparticles



Sample	SA _{BET} (m ² /g)	Pore Volume (cm ³ /g)	Particle size (nm)	Z-potential (mV)
nAg	3.399	0.01509	40-60	-16.3



Morphology

- Spherical nanoparticles.

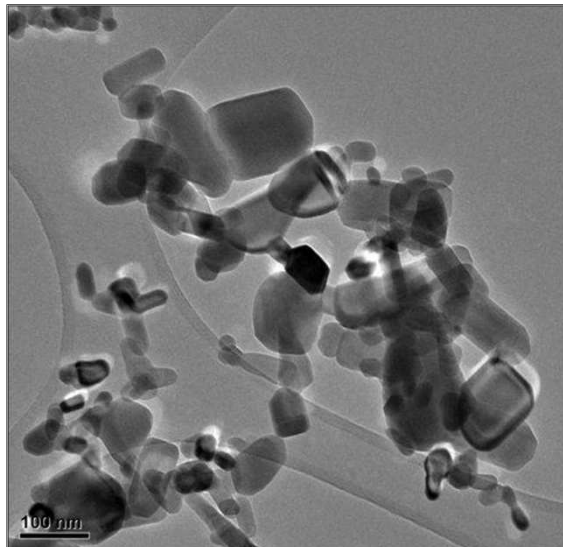
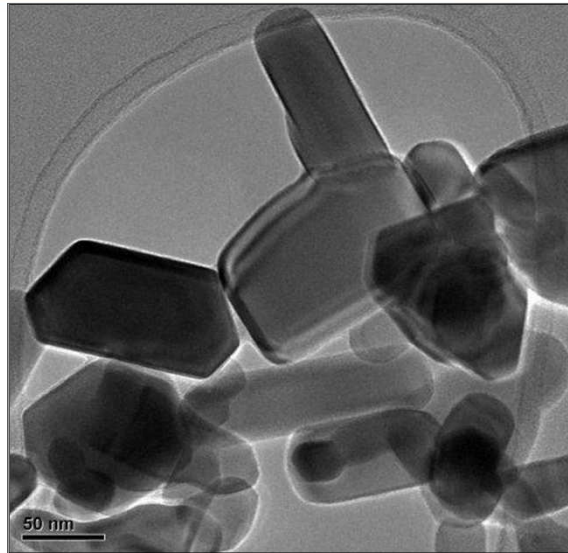
Surface area

- Small relative to size.

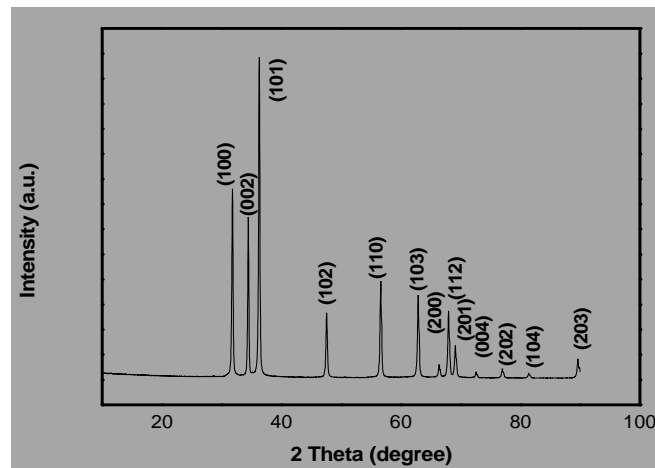
XRD pattern

- Few crystal particles also detected.
- Pure phase: no impurities peaks detected.

ZnO nanoparticles



Sample	SA _{BET} (m ² /g)	Pore Volume (cm ³ /g)	Particle size (nm)	Z-potential (mV)
nZnO	11.44	0.03020	10-130	22.7
nAg	3.399	0.01509	40-60	-16.3



Morphology

- regular (20-50 nm) and irregular spheres (80-120 nm), rods (15-45 nm), cubes (10-130 nm) and hexagonal platelets (60-80 nm).

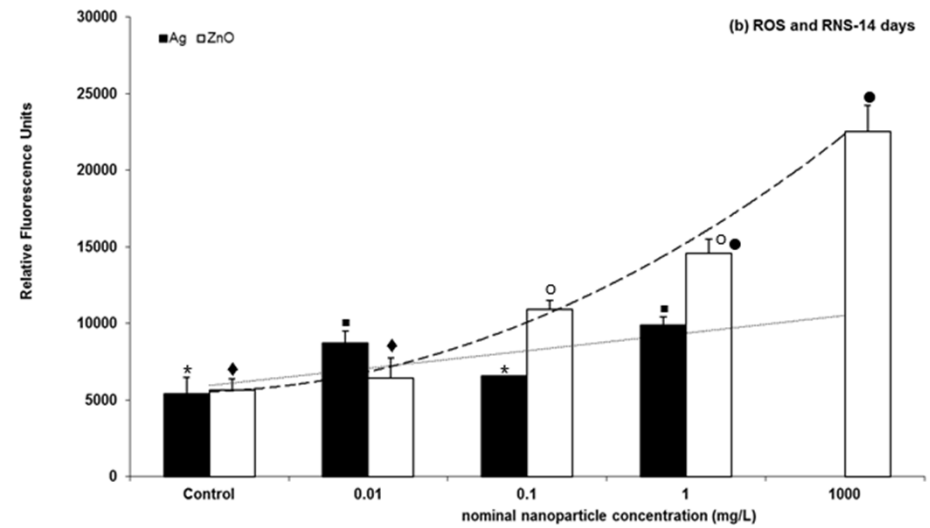
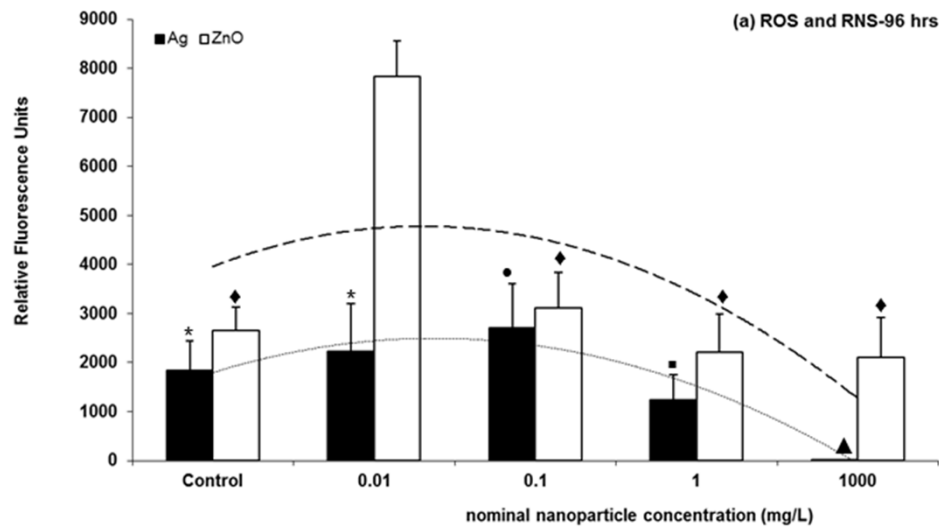
Surface area

- Higher than nAg although bigger sized.

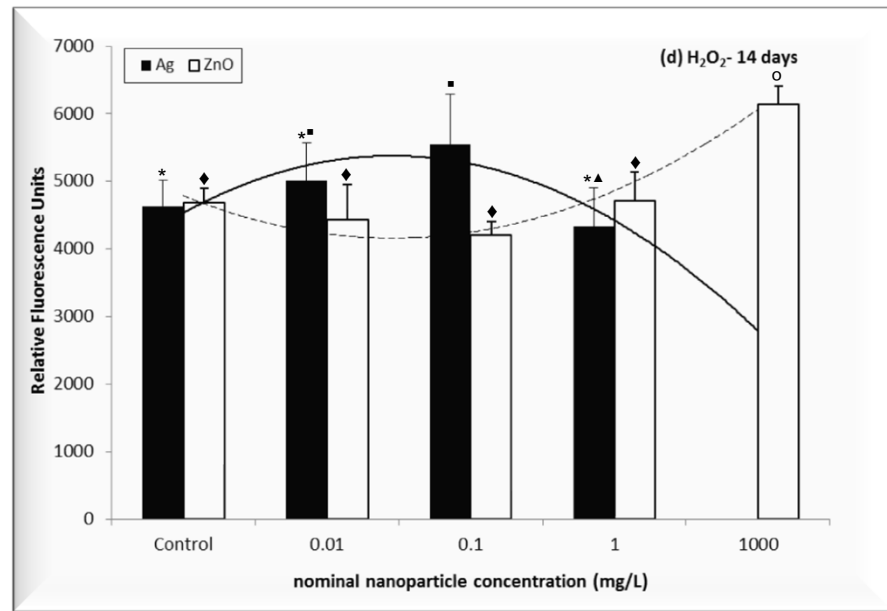
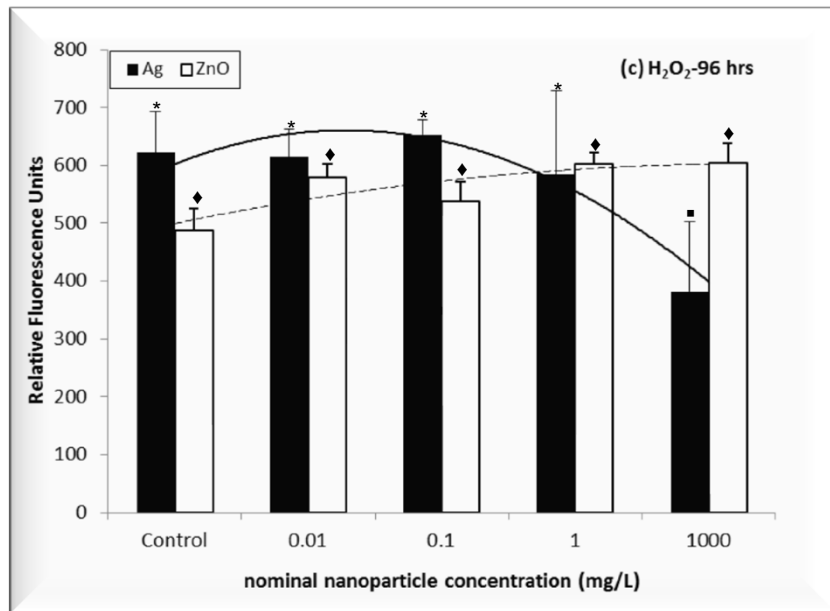
XRD pattern

- High crystallisation: hexagonal crystal system.
- Pure phase: no impurities peaks detected.

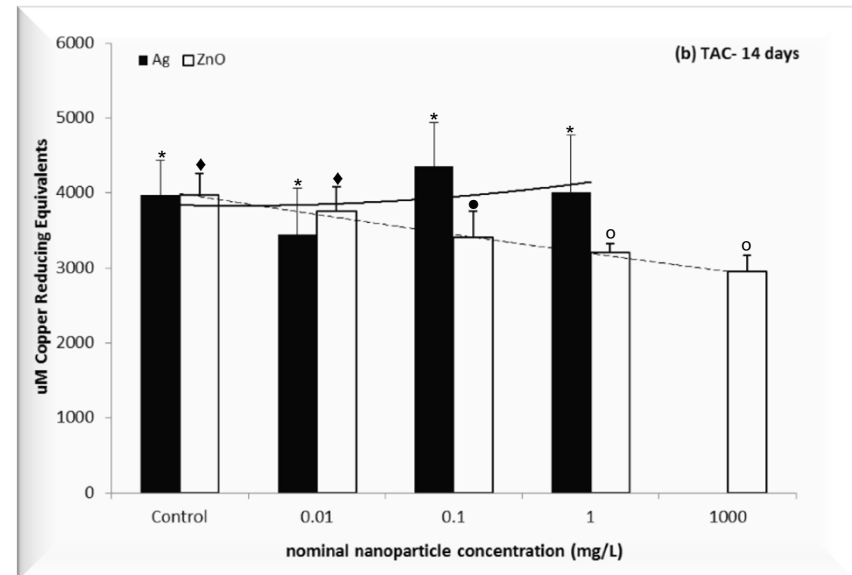
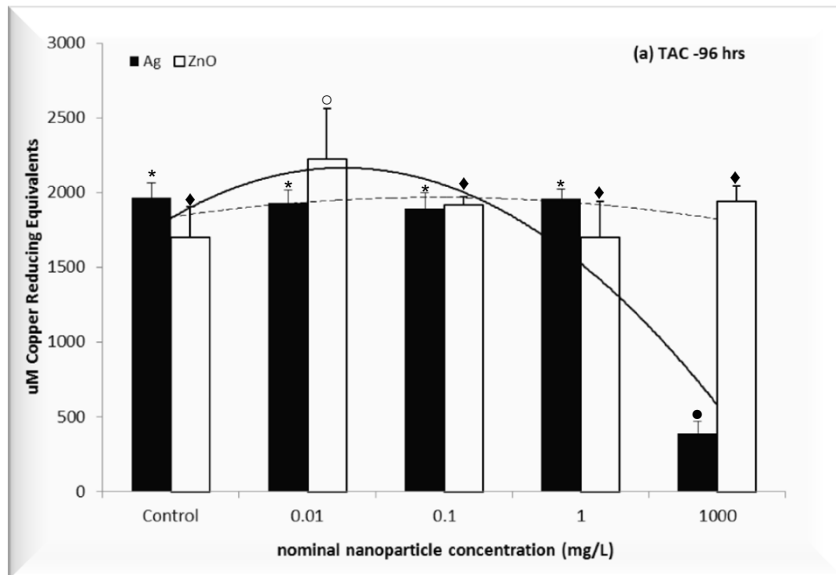
ROS/RNS



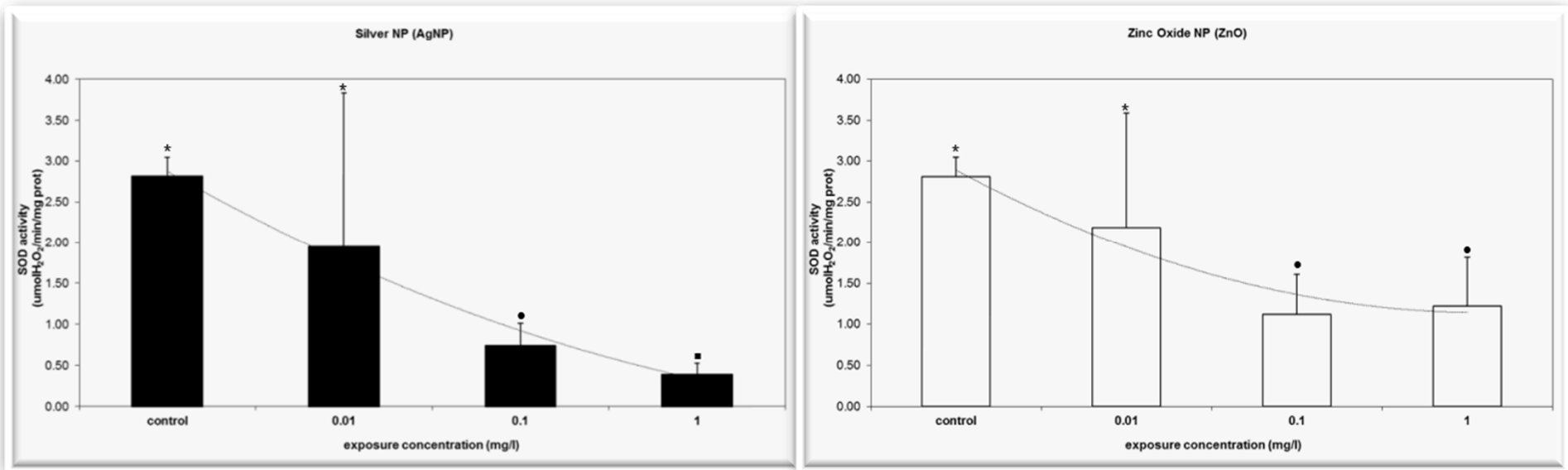
H₂O₂



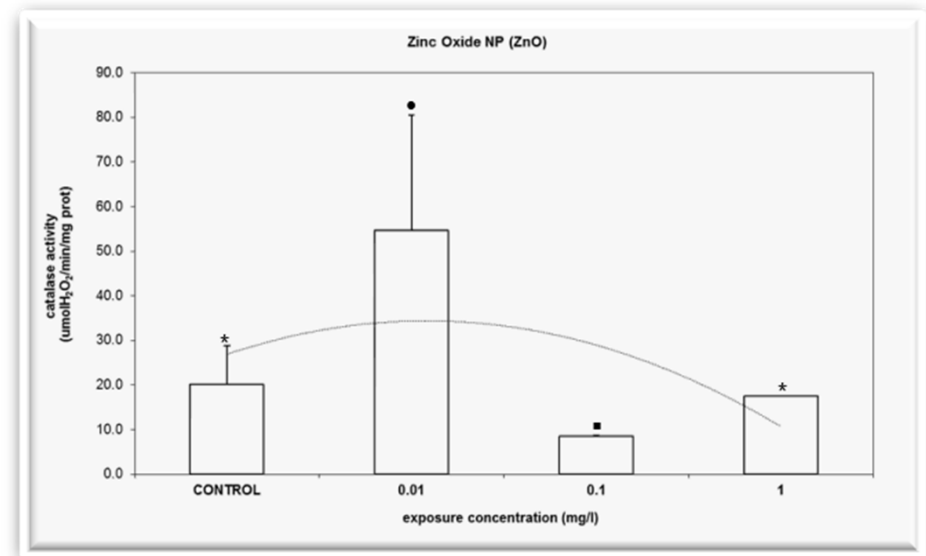
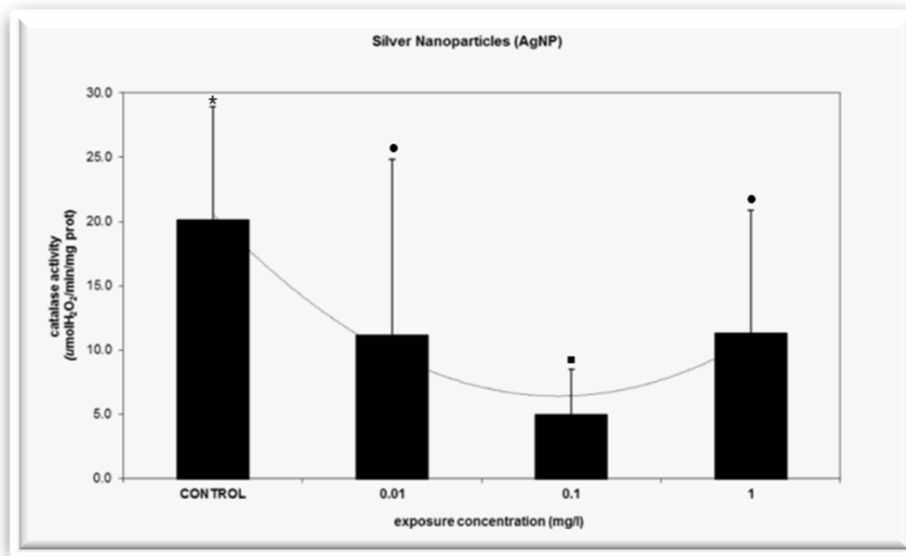
Total Antioxidant Capacity



Superoxide dismutase – 96 hrs



Catalase – 96 hrs



CONCLUSIONS and THE FUTURE

- Significant bottom settling of particles → nano tracking analysis.
→ Generally, what are actual environmental implications?
- Exposure period as significant parameter on toxicity
- Clear evidence of significant oxidative offence due nZnO and nAg exposure.
- Suggestion of toxicity influence by nanoparticle parameters
 - further investigate this phenomena (morphologies and z-potential)
 - how does such influence uptake dynamics

CURRENT WORK

- Investigate protein damage and lipid peroxidation.

FUTURE

- DNA damage → focus on oxidative linked DNA damage.
- Physiological pathways integrity – photosynthetic and energy metabolism parameters.

THANK YOU



science
& technology

Department:
Science and Technology
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



UNIVERSITY
OF
JOHANNESBURG



TABLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK- CAPE TOWN

