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Mobility of major-, minor- and trace elements in solutions of a planosolic soil: distribution and controlling factors

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Abstract

Subsurface waters circulating in an unpolluted soil of a planosolic horizon (Massif Central, France) were studied in order to determine their physico-chemical characteristics. Three water sampling sites were chosen along a toposequence according to topography. For each site, two piezometers were placed above and in the gravely and concretion-rich horizon (Fe- and Mn- oxyhydroxides). Concentrations of major-, minor- (cations, anions, iron, manganese, phosphorus, silica) and trace elements (Al, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, Zn, U) were monitored on bulk and filtered water (0.45 μm) to study both the particulate and the dissolved components, from 2004 to 2006, during the soil saturation period (i.e. from November to May).

Chemical characteristics of soil solutions provide evidence for various chemical water compositions and for time variations of the water quality, pointing out that the hydrodynamic and chemical reactivity in the solution is different for the three sites. Calculations of pe values allow to give an information about a range of the redox state of soil solutions. The pe ranges are different for each piezometer but correspond to anoxic solution. For all piezometers, distribution between the dissolved and the particulate fraction and correlations between the various elements in the soil solutions indicate that: (i) Al and Fe show similar behaviour, (ii) Al is mainly present as oxyhydroxides and (iii) some trace metals are mainly associated with particles which

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have a mixed nature. The impact of the concretion-rich horizon is noticed both on the nature of particles and on the speciation of trace metals and could be explained by the hydrodynamic and chemical reactivity of the circulating solution. Very few correlations exist between elements in the dissolved phase.

Keywords

Soil solutions, Planosol, trace metals, speciation, Al, Fe, controlling factors, mobility.

1. Introduction

Trace metals are naturally present in soils reflecting their occurrence in the parent material. They are, however, also present as environmental contaminants, particularly since soil pollution has become a major problem due to anthropogenic activities. As a consequence, assessment of this pollution requires a good knowledge of the distribution of trace metals in unpolluted soils, the so-called pedogeochemical background level. The total concentration of trace metal is not the only factor to be considered to assess toxicity hazard. The speciation of trace metals (i.e., the distribution of their physico-chemical forms) ultimately determines their bioavailability and their mobility in the soil (Alloway, 1990). These characteristics of trace metals in soils, sediments and aquatic systems depend largely upon their interaction with organic compounds and/or minerals like clays, hydrous oxides of Fe, Al and Mn (Stumm and Morgan, 1970). Adsorption of trace metals onto solid compounds and associated surface coatings is considered very important in controlling metal activity (Sposito, 1989; Sigg, 1992; Alloway, 1990). Moreover, pH and redox conditions are factors that also affect the chemistry of metals in soils, and their uptake by organisms (Singh and Steinnes, 1994).

Planosols are characterised by a vertical succession of clay-poor horizons overlying a clay-rich horizon that drastically restricts the vertical flow of water and induces the occurrence of a seasonal water table (Baize, 1989). According to the water hydrodynamic during the year, oxide concretions may develop at the base of the last horizon. In this horizon, trace elements can be accumulated or released depending on the dynamic of oxide formation/dissolution.

The Planosol studied here is developed from metamorphic parent material. Naturally rich in trace elements due to the geology, this soil is subject to seasonal water saturation during winter and spring (Salvador-Blanes, 2002). In this hydromorphic soil, water circulation, notably lateral underflow above clayey horizons, can involve specific chemical reactions and transfers (Bourrié et al., 1994). Soil solutions were collected above and in a gravely and concretion-rich (Fe and Mn oxides) horizon, in order to assess its impact on the distribution of trace metals in the soil waters. The objectives of this paper are (i) to determine the range, distribution and behaviour of major-, minor- and trace elements in these unpolluted soil solutions, (ii) to identify the main physical and chemical controlling factors of their distribution, and (iii) to assess the impact of the concretion-rich horizon on the trace metal distribution. The soil solutions have been monitored for three years. Concentrations both in the soluble and in the particulate fraction have been considered. Redox conditions have been assessed to provide evidence for particular mechanisms. The study of chemical speciation of some trace elements has been developed in a further paper (Pelfrêne *et al.*, 2008).

2. Environmental settings

The study area is located on the Aigurande plateau in the northern part of the Massif Central (France). The substratum is composed of Paleozoic metamorphic formations

(gneiss and amphibolite) and intrusive granitic rocks (Quenardel and Rolin, 1984). The area is a grassland in a hedged farmland district. The studied soil is a Planosol developed from gneissic parent material. Planosols are characterized by the vertical succession of horizons (Fig. 1a). The upper horizon (sandy and organic-rich horizon) is allochthonous and derived from colluvial materials of amphibolitic (site 1, piezometers 1a and 1b) and gneissic (sites 2 and 3, piezometers 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b) origin (Salvador-Blanes *et al.*, 2001) (Fig. 1b). The gravelly and concretion-rich horizon below comprises concretions which are mainly composed of several types of cements (Fe-rich, Si- and Al-rich, Mn-rich and Ti-rich) surrounding grains of quartz, feldspars, micas and accessory minerals (Salvador-Blanes, 2002; Cornu *et al.*, 2005). The deeper horizons (a silty horizon and alterite) are developed in gneissic material (mainly quartz with feldspars, micas and clay minerals) (Salvador-Blanes, 2002). The horizons are waterlogged during winter and spring. The mean annual rainfall in the area was 872, 667 and 772 mm for 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively. The main rainfall occurs between December and March.

3. Sampling and analytical methods

Three water sampling sites were chosen along a toposequence according to topography (Fig. 1). Two piezometers were placed in each site, in November 2003: above (noted 1a, 2a, 3a respectively for sites 1, 2 and 3) and in (noted 1b, 2b and 3b respectively for sites 1, 2 and 3) the gravelly and concretion-rich horizon. Piezometers were made of a strainer (20 cm height) in order to collect free water circulating in the soil horizon. Soil solution samples were collected from March 2004 to May 2006 (every 15 days) during the soil saturation period (i.e. from November to May). In 2004, sampling began in March in order to allow the soil to reach equilibrium. Bulk and filtered water were

sampled to study both the particulate and the dissolved phases. The concentrations of the particulate fraction were determined by subtracting concentration measured in the bulk solution from concentration measured in the dissolved fraction. Soil waters were filtered in the field through 0.45 μm membrane filters (acetate of cellulose) with a frontal-flow system in order to separate dissolved and particulate fractions. Prior to use, each membrane was rinsed with deionized water (18 M Ω) and then with the sample. Filtered and bulk water samples were acidified to pH \approx 2 with Suprapur[®] grade nitric acid for aliquots intended for cation, phosphorus, dissolved silica, TOC, DOC and trace metal analysis. The samples were stored in previously washed polypropylene containers. Physico-chemical parameters (temperature, pH and electrical conductivity C) were measured in the field. Alkalinity was measured the same evening by the Gran method (Gran, 1950) with a HCl solution. Bicarbonate concentrations were calculated considering alkalinity mainly due to carbonate. Total organic C (TOC, on unfiltered water samples) and dissolved organic C (DOC) were determined by using a C analyzer (Shimadzu TOC-V_{CSH}, NPOC method). Particulate organic C (POC) was obtained by difference between TOC and DOC. Calcium and Mg, in the bulk and filtered waters (0.45 μm), were determined by flame atomic absorption spectrometry, and Na and K by flame atomic emission spectrometry. Chloride, F⁻, NO₃⁻ and SO₄²⁻ in the filtered waters were measured by ionic chromatography. Total and dissolved P and Si were measured by molecular spectrometry.

Iron and Mn in the bulk and filtered waters were measured by graphite furnace atomic absorption spectrometry. Trace elements (Al, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, Zn and U) in the different fractions were measured by ICP-MS. Bulk solutions were analyzed by ICP-MS after successive HNO₃ digestions in order to destroy organic matter and to dissolve amorphous particles. However, the clayey fraction and other silicates were not

destroyed. Therefore, the particulate fraction corresponds to amorphous particles (plus carbonates) and ions adsorbed on the clay minerals.

All samples exhibited a charge imbalance lower than 10%.

Blank filters were run out in the field to check for possible contamination. Deionized water passed through filters was also analyzed. Blank tests showed that the filtration introduces insignificant levels of contamination for all the elements of interest.

4. Results

4.1. Major elements and nutrients

In the dissolved fraction, wide ranges of concentrations are recorded for the three sites from 2004 to 2006 for major- and minor-elements (Table 1, exhaustive data are available in Pelfrêne, 2008). In 1a and 1b, low conductivities (79 ± 12 and 85 ± 16 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, respectively), low and stable major element concentrations and low nutrient (NO_3^- , P and Si) concentrations are observed. For the site 2, conductivities are higher (269 ± 31 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in 2a and 248 ± 41 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in 2b) and important variations of nutrient concentrations are noticed (NO_3^- : 260.5 ± 360.2 μM in 2a and 129.6 ± 149.1 μM in 2b). In 3a and 3b, conductivities are highest (295 ± 62 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in 3a and 322 ± 74 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in 3b) and important variations of major elements (K^+ : 38.8 ± 29.4 μM in 3a and 17.4 ± 14.9 μM in 3b) and nutrients (NO_3^- : 10.6 ± 10.8 μM in 3a and 21.0 ± 39.7 μM in 3b) are observed.

Concentrations of major cations do not differ significantly between sites except Ca^{2+} , which is higher in 1a and 1b (Fig. 2). This Ca-rich content could be explained by the origin of colluvial materials. Amphiboles which are the main minerals of amphibolites might cause high Ca values at sites 1a and b. Low values for Ca at sites 2 and 3 indicate

a different circulation system, perhaps via lateral input of water from a low Ca source (gneisses).

For each piezometer, the cation concentrations do not show important temporal evolution (less than 20%, Fig. 2). Results for the anion distribution are different (Table 2). Strong temporal variations are observed for (i) HCO_3^- , mainly in 3a and 3b, and (ii) NO_3^- and $\Sigma(\text{Cl}^- + \text{SO}_4^{2-})$ in 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b. For 3b in 2005, HCO_3^- concentrations were high (3.70 ± 0.23 mM), and no correlation exists between HCO_3^- and Ca^{2+} . Because waters circulate in crystalline rocks, HCO_3^- cannot originate from bedrock weathering. During this period, concentrations of some other elements (Ca, Na, Mn and Fe) are also high. Calculations show that soil solutions are in a thermodynamic equilibrium with a pCO_2 (5.11×10^{-2} atm in 2005) higher than medium pCO_2 (2004-2006, 1.72×10^{-2} atm).

For sites 2 and 3 NO_3^- concentrations exhibit strong temporal variations (Table 2), with low values during spring, indicating vegetation assimilation, absorption and/or denitrification.

4.2. Fe, Mn, Al, Si and organic matter

For each piezometer, results on soluble/particulate form distributions (Table 3) show that Fe (excepted in 1a) and Al are mainly associated with particles, while Mn, Si and organic matter have an ubiquitous behaviour. The particulate phases in the soil waters are rich in Fe, Al and Si. The composition of particles varies spatially and temporally. In the sites 1 and 3, particles are richer in Si. Silicium percentage increases from March 2004 to May 2006, while Fe and Al decrease in all sites.

In the dissolved and particulate fraction, Al is not linked to Si (no correlation between these elements is recorded), indicating that the source of Al may not be aluminosilicate minerals but rather Al oxyhydroxides.

Correlations between Al, Fe, Mg and POC are observed in the particulate fraction. These relationships will be discussed site by site.

In January 2005, soil waters at site 3b exhibited more reducing characteristics with a maximum recorded concentration of dissolved Fe (4.31×10^{-5} mol/L) and dissolved Mn (3.82×10^{-5} mol/L) (Table 2).

4.3. Trace elements

Concentrations of trace elements are presented in Table 4.

4.3.1. Site 1

In the particulate fraction, three groups of trace elements can be distinguished. In 1a, Cr is linked to Al ($R^2 = 0.986$); Co, Pb and Zn are strongly linked to Fe ($R^2 = 0.999$; 0.992 and 0.992 respectively). In 1b, Co, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, U and Zn are linked to Mg, Fe and Al (Table 5). No relationship between trace metals and organic matter is recorded.

In the dissolved fraction, it was observed that (1) in 1a and 1b, some elements are linked to HCO_3^- ; the relationships are particularly significant for Ca ($R^2 = 0.726$ in 1a and 0.813 in 1b), Mg ($R^2 = 0.831$ in 1a and 0.902 in 1b), Sr ($R^2 = 0.868$ in 1a and 0.907 in 1b) and Ba ($R^2 = 0.874$ in 1a and 0.813 in 1b); (2) in 1a and 1b, Cr is linked to Al ($R^2 = 0.986$ and 0.906 , respectively).

The correlations between HCO_3^- and some elements (Ca, Mg, Sr and Ba) could indicate that these elements are linked to carbonate dissolution.

Chromium is linked to Al both in the dissolved and particulate fraction (1b).

In 1b, the similar behaviour of Al, Fe and Mg suggests that these elements are controlled by the same mechanism. If Al is present as Al oxyhydroxide, Fe as Fe oxyhydroxide, Mg as clay, which are particles exhibiting different properties, this result could also suggest the presence of mixed particles, which is corroborated by a link between Al and Mg ($R^2 = 0.978$).

The absence of correlation between organic matter content and trace metals could be attributed to the fact that the reactive fraction of the organic matter could not be assessed in the relationship (Harter, 1983; McBride et al., 1997).

4.3.2. Site 2

In the particulate fraction, six groups of trace elements can be distinguished. In 2a, Cr, Ni and U are linked to Al ($R^2 = 0.929$; 0.903 ; 0.934 respectively); Cd is linked to POC ($R^2 = 0.719$). In 2b, Co, Cu, Pb, U, Zn are linked to Mg (Table 6); Al, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, U are strongly correlated with Fe (Fig. 3); Co, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, U, Zn are linked to Al and POC (Table 7).

No relationship is observed in the dissolved fraction.

In 2b, relationships between some trace elements and Mg and/or Al and Fe and/or POC suggest mixed particles made of a combination of clay + Al-Fe oxyhydroxide + POC are involved in the mobilization of these elements. Observed relationships between POC and Fe ($R^2 = 0.865$), Mg and Fe ($R^2 = 0.948$), Al and Mg ($R^2 = 0.978$) and POC and Al ($R^2 = 0.952$) corroborate this hypothesis.

No evidence of mixed particles is recorded in 2a.

4.3.3. Site 3

In the particulate fraction, the correlation diagrams delineate several groups of elements. In 3a, Pb and U are correlated with Si ($R^2 = 0.850$ and 0.888 respectively); Al, Co and Cr are correlated with Mg ($R^2 = 0.943$; 0.900 and 0.919 respectively); Co, Cr, Pb and Zn are strongly correlated with Al (Table 8). In 3b, no correlation exists between Si, Mg

and metals; Co, Cr, Cu, Ni, U and Zn are correlated with Fe (Fig. 4) and Al (except Ni) (Table 8); Cr and Cu are correlated with POC ($R^2 = 0.980$ and 0.987 , respectively).

In the dissolved fraction, in 3a, Co and Mn are correlated with Fe ($R^2 = 0.947$ and 0.964 , respectively), and in 3b, Cu, Mn, Sr and U are correlated with HCO_3^- and Ca (Table 9).

In 3a, some trace metals exhibit interaction with clay and Al oxyhydroxide where a relationship between Al and Mg ($R^2 = 0.943$) is recorded in particles. In 3b, observed relationships between POC and Fe ($R^2 = 0.985$), Al and Mg ($R^2 = 0.971$), and Al and Fe ($R^2 = 0.940$) suggest mixed particles made of a combination of clay + Al-Fe oxyhydroxides + POC. But here trace metals exhibit interaction mainly with Al and Fe oxyhydroxides. Also, in site 3, mixed particles can also assumed but with different composition and/or reactivity (interaction with carbonate in solution for 3b) according to horizon.

5. Discussion

5.1. Chemical characteristics of soil solution and water circulation

Waters circulating in sites 2 and 3 are more mineralized than that in the site 1. The soil solution composition seems to depend on the water residence time. The Ca-rich content in the site 1 may evidence that water circulating in the sites 2 and 3 does not mainly come from vertical infiltration but rather from lateral flow.

Between March 2004 to May 2006, for sites 2 and 3, some constituents (NO_3^- , Cl^- , SO_4^{2-} , HCO_3^- , Ca^{2+} , Fe, Mn) exhibit interesting temporal patterns.

Chloride and SO_4^{2-} variation could be linked to the hydrodynamic of the soil solution, which is controlled both by the effective rainfall variations and vegetation uptake. During high rainfall, transfer and dilution processes can occur. Autumn rainfall flushes

evaporated and thus concentrated superficial waters, whereas winter rainfall causes dilution.

From November 2004 to May 2005, the high $p\text{CO}_2$ recorded in site 3 may indicate that confined waters circulated in the studied horizon. This could be explained by a shoaling of the water table. This explanation has also been proposed by Alberic et al. (Unpublished study), based on redox data.

The reduction in NO_3^- content recorded at sites 2 and 3 in spring 2005 and 2006 may be linked to denitrification, because the concentration of dissolved Fe and mainly dissolved Mn increase at this same time.

The subsurface water circulation pattern is not in agreement with topography. Site 2 seems to receive mainly lateral waters. Site 3 water may originate from site 2, from the side, or from a confined aquifer. Also, the evolution of trace element behaviour upstream/downstream cannot be discounted.

5.2. Range of the redox state of soil solutions

Redox reactions play an important role in the chemistry of natural water systems and influence the mobility and availability of many elements. In this work, the range of pe values in soil solutions was calculated in order to determine the degree of oxidation of trace metals and to study the links between metals and Fe/Mn/Al oxyhydroxides. Temporary waterlogging of soils may cause the redox potential to decrease.

In the soil solutions, Fe and Mn are redox sensitive elements and can be used to evaluate the pe values, which were calculated using a pe-pH diagram, considering different redox couples and solids. Here pe-pH diagrams were constructed considering the following species: Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , FeOH^{2+} , $\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_2$, FeOOH and Mn^{2+} , MnO_2 . For the Fe pe-pH diagram, it was considered that soluble Fe was at equilibrium with FeOOH

(pKs = -1, Michard, 1989) and not with Fe(OH)₃ because of Fe-minerals (mainly goethite) present in the studied soil (Cornu *et al.*, 2005) (for Fe(III) solid). The highest calculated pe values for Fe and Mn are +1.3 and +2.2, respectively, and the lowest are -6.0 and -2.5, respectively. For all piezometers, Mn pe calculated values are higher than Fe pe. Differences of up to 1.2-2.5 (pe) are observed between Fe and Mn redox couples, indicating a disequilibrium in the soil solutions. The redox reaction rates are typically slow. In this dynamic system where several redox reactions can occur simultaneously, redox species can hardly reach an equilibrium. Nevertheless, these calculations provide a range of the redox states of soil solutions.

The pe ranges are different for each piezometer (Fig. 5), but correspond to anoxic conditions (pe values < +2.5) from November to May (for each year). When pe < 0, electrons are available for SO₄²⁻ reduction. In this case, typical products in soil solution are H₂S, bisulphide (HS⁻) or thiosulphates (S₂O₃⁻) ions. However, in the field, the typical smell of these products was only present for site 3. The pe values for site 3 are lower than for site 2 and site 1. Upstream (site 1), waters are recently infiltrated and contain little O₂. Then, during water circulation in the soil (site 2 and then site 3), mineral reactions result in a decrease in O₂ content and pe values.

5.3. Behaviour of trace elements

Binary correlations provide evidence when one mechanism prevails in the regulation of an element's behaviour. If several mechanisms with the same impact are involved, they cannot be identified.

At the scale of the 3 sites, various behaviours are highlighted, notably: (i) good correlations between Co and Mn in the soluble phase ($R^2 = 0.908$; Fig. 6a), (ii) strong correlations between U and Fe in the particulate phase ($R^2 = 0.958$; Fig. 6b), (iii) some

trace metals are mainly associated with particles (Table 4) and (iv) very few elements are correlated in the dissolved fraction. In the narrow range of calculated redox states, no difference is really noticed from site 1 to site 3, perhaps excepted for Cr and U in the particulate fraction.

The relationship between Co and Mn reflects the well-known affinity and adsorption (or co-precipitation)/desorption of Co onto amorphous MnO₂. Cobalt associated with Mn-oxide phases is probably released (or maybe reduced) when the oxides are reduced (Spencer *et al.*, 1972; Murray, 1975). Significant correlations were also found between dissolved Co and dissolved Mn in aquatic systems by Lienemann *et al.* (1997). Most of the Co in the soils is contained in or associated with Mn in mineral form. Indeed, there is a large literature on the adsorption of cobalt by MnO₂: in soils and sediments (Means *et al.*, 1978b; Alloway, 1990), in fresh waters (Hem *et al.*, 1985), in lakes (Balistrieri *et al.*, 1992) and in sea water (Knauer *et al.*, 1982; Hem *et al.*, 1985; Santschi, 1988; Shaw *et al.*, 1990). Studies of adsorption of Co(II) on synthetic birnessite have been carried out too by Crowther *et al.* (1983). They proposed several mechanisms of Co incorporation into Mn-rich phases of minerals. In the soil solutions, co-precipitation and adsorption seem to be the mechanisms which explain the link between Co and Mn.

Some studies have shown a high sorptive capacity of Mn oxyhydroxides and MnO₂ towards some trace metals. In various natural settings (Jenne, 1968; Carpenter *et al.*, 1975; Robinson, 1981; Dillard *et al.*, 1982; Lind and Hem, 1993) and in a series of laboratory experiments, many metals are closely associated with Mn oxyhydroxides, including: Zn (Balistrieri and Murray, 1986; Catts *et al.*, 1986; Hem *et al.*, 1987), Cu and Ni (Balistrieri *et al.*, 1986; Hem *et al.*, 1989), Cd (Hem *et al.*, 1991), Pb (Catts *et al.*, 1986); but also in deep-sea sediments (Cu, Ni, Pb and Zn) (Thomson *et al.*, 1993), in sea water (Ni, Cu and V) (Shaw *et al.*, 1990) and as coating on quartz (Manceau *et al.*

2007). The importance of processes occurring at reaction sites on solid-phase surface in contact with Mn-bearing solutions has long been recognized, but these results are not observed here. In this work, redox equilibrium and oxidation kinetics of Mn are important factors in the speciation of trace metals.

Significant correlations exist between U and Fe in the particulate fraction. Uranium transport is dominated by U sorbed to Fe oxyhydroxides which are $>0.45 \mu\text{m}$ in size. In spite of the dynamic redox environment expected in soil solutions, this result shows that U comprised of both U(IV) and U(VI) species. Some authors (Ragnarsdottir and Charlet, 2000) have shown that the most important species for near neutral waters are the uncharged $\text{UO}_2(\text{OH})_2^0$ and $\text{U}(\text{OH})_4^0$ species.

The trace metal concentration is governed by a number of interrelated processes, including inorganic and organic complexation, precipitation/dissolution reactions, adsorption/desorption reactions and redox reactions (Evans, 1989; Singh and Steinnes, 1994). These observed results indicate the high impact of particles on the regulation of trace mobility (Table 10). In addition, they intend to assess the mixed nature of particles. If Al is mainly present as oxyhydroxides (no correlation with Si) its links with Mg suggest an association with clay mineral. This result is also observed for Fe. An adsorption of Fe and Al oxyhydroxides can occur on clay minerals and involves various types of binding between metals (M^{n+}) and oxyhydroxides and/or clay minerals: (i) M^{n+} – Al/Fe oxyhydroxides, (ii) M^{n+} – clay minerals, and/or (iii) M^{n+} – Al/Fe oxyhydroxides – clay minerals. Some authors have provided evidence for similar mechanisms. Robinson (1981) showed that the chemical properties of the Mn oxides are associated with the clay minerals. Jenne (1968) noted the probable occurrence of Fe and Mn oxides as partial coatings on other minerals (and notably clay minerals). Clay minerals and oxyhydroxide minerals have long been recognized as the main metal sorbents in soils

(Jenne, 1968; Evans, 1989) and in aquatic systems (Förstner and Wittmann, 1979; Benjamin and Leckie, 1981; Bilinski *et al.*, 1991).

Soil solutions were collected above and in the gravelly and concretion-rich horizon, in order to assess the impact of the concretion-rich horizon on the distribution of trace metals in the soil waters. In this horizon, concretions are Fe- and Mn-rich coatings and can stabilize trace metals by adsorption or co-precipitation processes with Fe-Mn oxyhydroxides under oxidizing conditions (Jenne, 1968; Stumm and Morgan, 1996). When soils become reduced, trace metals (in soluble or particulate form) can be released into the soil solution by reductive dissolution of Fe-Mn oxyhydroxides. Much higher correlations were found between Fe/Al/Mg and/or POC and trace metals in the concretion-rich horizon. This can be linked to (i) concretion composition or (ii) hydrodynamic (reaction time between water and soil due to porosity) and chemical reactivity of the solution circulating.

7. Conclusions

This study highlights the distribution, behaviour and controlling factors of some trace metals in unpolluted soil solutions of a planosolic horizon and enhanced knowledge of these kinds of solution. The relationships between the different parameters and trace metals are complex and can not be related to only one parameter. However, results show Fe and Al oxyhydroxides, clay minerals and organic matter play an important role in trace metal distribution and mobility. In these weakly reductive waters, trace metals are mainly linked to particles. In addition, the concretion-rich horizon has an impact both on the trace element composition and on the particle composition, although this impact cannot be linked to the chemical distribution of the horizon.

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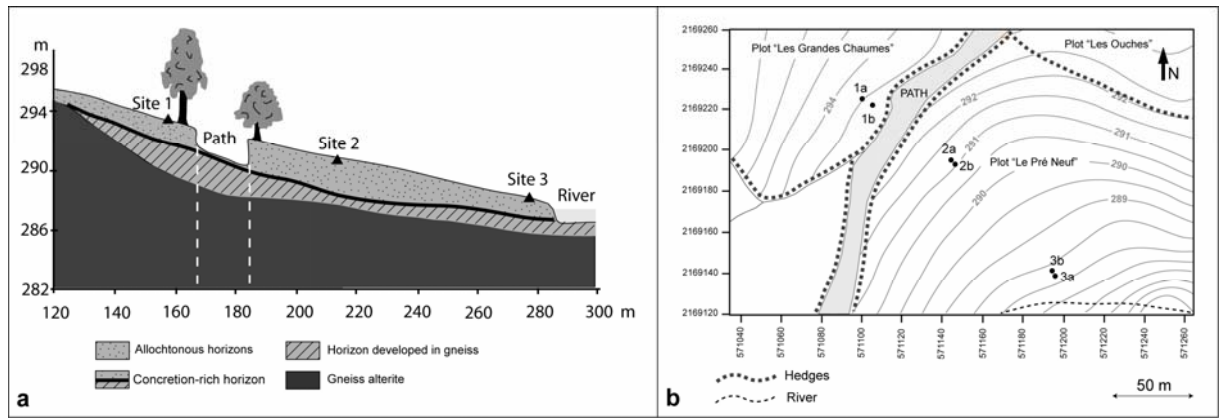


Figure 1 a) Schematic diagram of the studied toposequence (modified from Cornu *et al.*, 2005). b) Study area and location of three water sampling sites (piezometers 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b) (modified from Alberic *et al.*, Unpublished study).

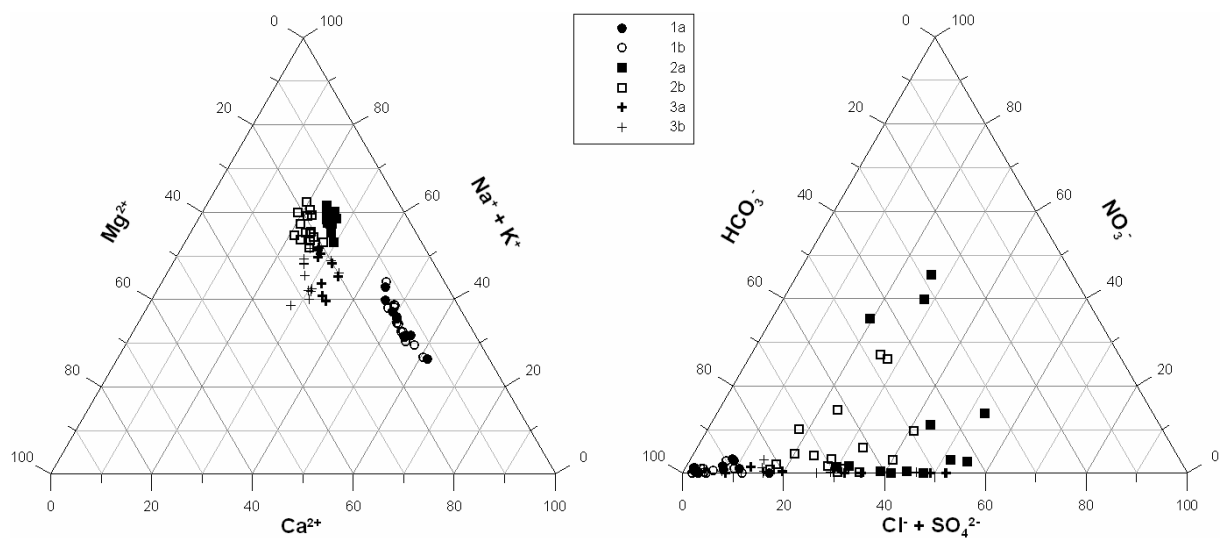


Figure 2: Cation and anion distribution (expressed in % mol/L) in the three soil solution sites from 2004 to 2006.

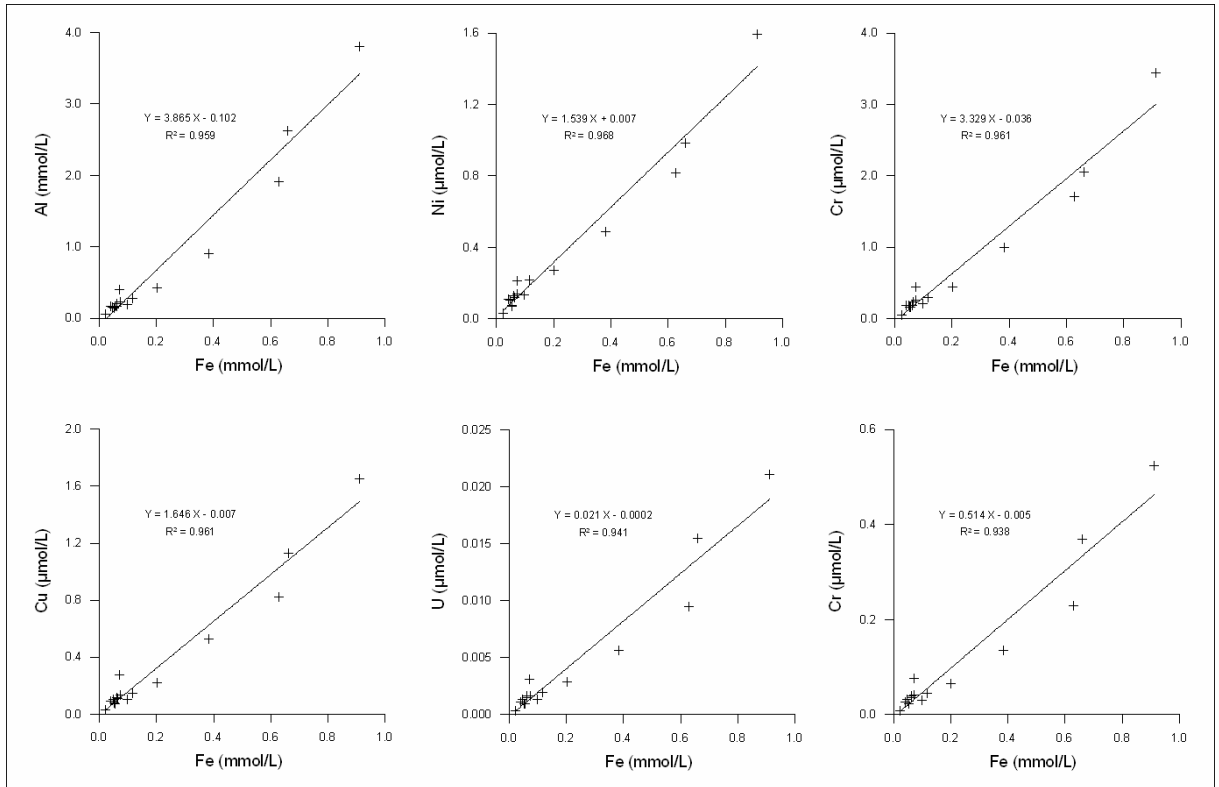


Figure 3: Correlations between some trace elements and Fe in 2b, the particulate phase of soil solutions.

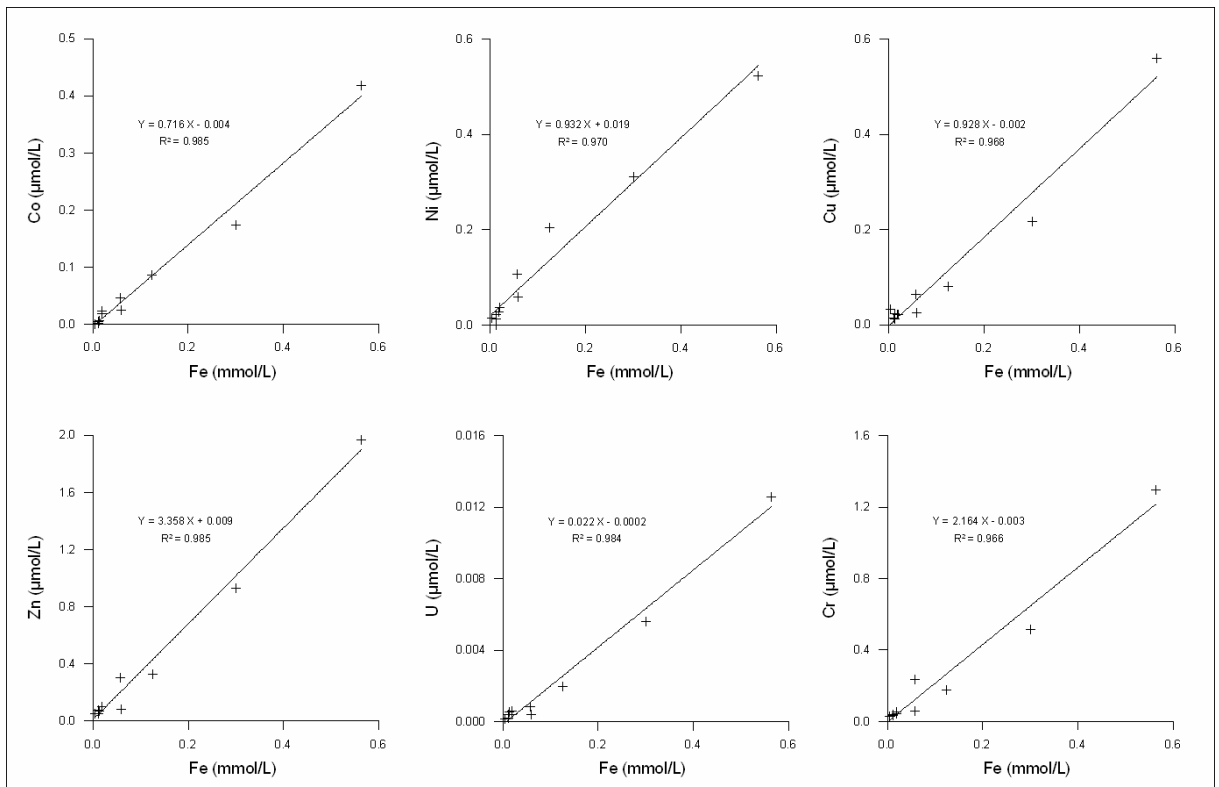


Figure 4: Correlations between some trace metals and Fe in 3b, the particulate phase of soil solutions.

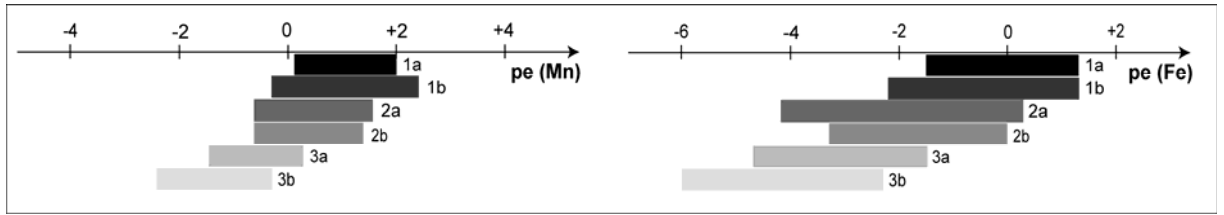


Figure 5: pE range calculated for the soil solutions from the six piezometers (see text for explanation).

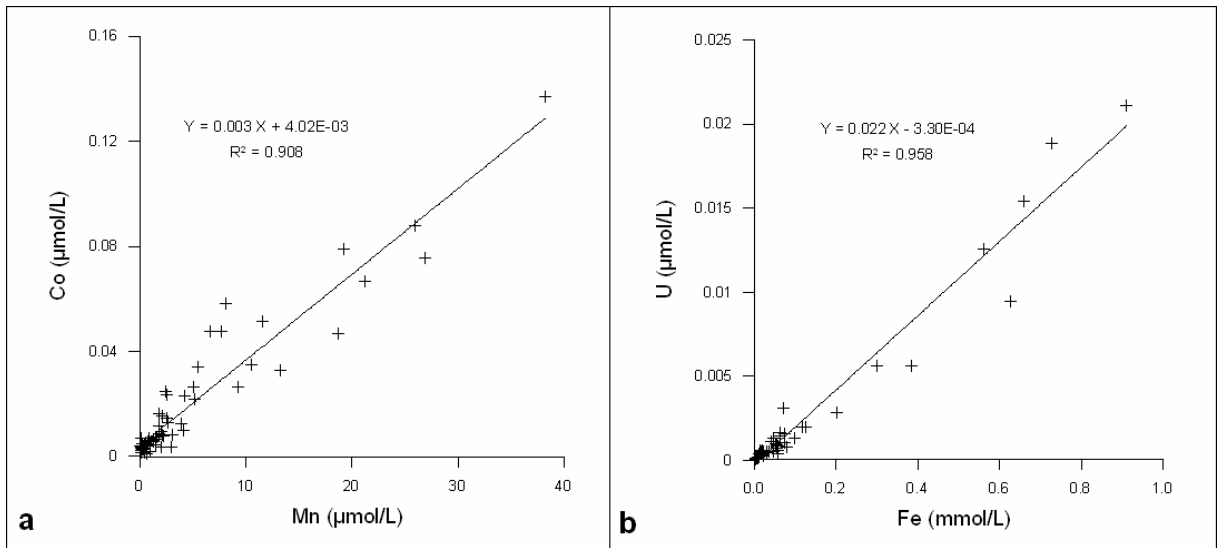


Figure 6: a) Correlations between Co and Mn in the soluble phase (piezometers 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b). b) Correlations between U and Fe in the particulate phase (piezometers 1b, 2a, 2b and 3b).

Table 1: Analytical results (mean, min, max and median) for samples from 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b in the dissolved phase.

		T°C	pH	C	HCO ₃ ⁻	Na ⁺	K ⁺	Ca ²⁺	Mg ²⁺	H ₄ SiO ₄	Cl ⁻	SO ₄ ²⁻	NO ₃ ⁻	ΣPO ₄	F ⁻
				μS/cm	mM	mM	μM	mM	μM	mM	μM	μM	μM	μM	μM
1a	Mean	9.0	6.25	79	0.71	0.15	7.03	0.24	62.1	0.18	29.0	22.0	14.4	0.65	7.0
	Min - Max	3.1 - 14.3	5.57 - 6.60	62 - 100	0.41 - 1.03	0.12 - 0.18	2.20 - 12.50	0.16 - 0.33	42.8 - 86.8	0.16 - 0.22	8.8 - 65.6	3.5 - 38.2	1.5 - 32.0	0.28 - 0.87	5.2 - 8.0
	Median	9.5	6.32	81	0.79	0.15	6.61	0.23	63.5	0.17	15.6	26.5	11.6	0.70	7.2
1b	Mean	7.2	5.93	85	0.81	0.16	4.54	0.26	67.1	0.19	22.9	18.2	9.8	0.59	5.9
	Min - Max	1.6 - 13.5	5.56 - 6.62	54 - 106	0.46 - 1.13	0.14 - 0.20	2.64 - 8.09	0.15 - 0.37	38.5 - 89.5	0.15 - 0.26	8.3 - 65.1	4.3 - 41.0	0.0 - 32.0	0.34 - 0.70	3.7 - 7.0
	Median	7.0	5.85	87	0.86	0.16	4.17	0.28	67.9	0.18	11.9	15.0	10.1	0.61	6.1
2a	Mean	9.1	6.60	289	1.10	0.99	1.12	0.45	267.7	0.17	621.5	275.4	260.5	0.55	5.4
	Min - Max	1.8 - 14.0	5.91 - 7.25	217 - 525	0.60 - 1.70	0.91 - 1.17	0.00 - 3.14	0.40 - 0.56	211.0 - 321.0	0.14 - 0.27	222.3 - 972.3	205.7 - 309.0	0.9 - 970.0	0.43 - 0.65	3.5 - 7.0
	Median	9.1	6.66	265	1.09	0.99	0.78	0.43	258.5	0.18	748.0	274.0	55.1	0.57	5.3
2b	Mean	9.8	6.55	248	1.52	0.94	7.46	0.38	352.2	0.33	376.1	228.9	129.6	0.47	11.5
	Min - Max	3.7 - 15.3	6.09 - 7.08	106 - 295	0.81 - 2.11	0.79 - 1.09	0.59 - 43.30	0.25 - 0.50	259.8 - 456.0	0.22 - 0.54	97.4 - 614.0	170.0 - 321.0	5.6 - 500.0	0.00 - 0.71	7.6 - 18.0
	Median	9.4	6.59	260	1.60	0.93	2.89	0.38	346.5	0.31	425.5	226.5	72.5	0.52	10.5
3a	Mean	7.7	6.76	295	2.19	0.89	38.82	0.61	447.0	0.14	351.0	253.5	10.6	0.51	10.0
	Min - Max	1.2 - 15.5	6.25 - 7.40	185 - 372	1.13 - 3.88	0.61 - 1.02	3.90 - 90.30	0.46 - 0.86	274.0 - 657.0	0.10 - 0.21	34.0 - 686.0	37.0 - 553.0	0.0 - 29.0	0.00 - 0.85	8.0 - 12.0
	Median	6.8	6.86	306	1.75	0.92	30.57	0.51	390.9	0.12	471.0	169.0	3.4	0.55	9.7
3b	Mean	10.1	7.04	322	2.60	0.96	17.37	0.62	570.1	0.24	325.0	222.7	21.0	0.44	16.8
	Min - Max	3.3 - 20.0	6.69 - 7.54	188 - 446	1.15 - 3.92	0.64 - 1.19	3.10 - 58.40	0.46 - 0.91	278.0 - 938.0	0.13 - 0.67	61.0 - 696.0	56.1 - 548.0	0.0 - 148.7	0.00 - 0.60	10.7 - 25.0
	Median	9.1	7.00	308	2.40	0.94	12.80	0.52	512.6	0.21	260.4	182.0	5.7	0.48	16.3

Table 2: Concentrations of HCO_3^- , Cl^- , SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^- , Mn and Fe in the dissolved fraction for each year.

		HCO_3^- mM	Cl^- μM	SO_4^{2-} μM	NO_3^- μM	Mn μM	Fe μM
	2004	1.33 \pm 0.18	332.5 \pm 38.5	269.5 \pm 7.5	30.0 \pm 1.1	0.09 \pm 0.06	0.14 \pm 0.04
2a	2004-2005	1.35 \pm 0.36	597.3 \pm 375.0	256.4 \pm 50.7	395.4 \pm 381.2	0.96 \pm 0.88	1.41 \pm 0.98
	2005-2006	0.96 \pm 0.36	607.0 \pm 349.0	289.5 \pm 19.5	485.4 \pm 484.6	1.08 \pm 1.02	1.59 \pm 1.25
	2004	1.59 \pm 0.26	414.5 \pm 105.5	181.0 \pm 11.0	75.0 \pm 51.0	9.60 \pm 9.59	1.25 \pm 1.15
2b	2004-2005	1.84 \pm 0.27	361.7 \pm 252.3	229.7 \pm 36.7	121.2 \pm 101.6	2.65 \pm 2.50	1.32 \pm 0.96
	2005-2006	1.42 \pm 0.60	340.7 \pm 243.3	248.5 \pm 72.5	252.8 \pm 247.2	4.69 \pm 4.59	0.97 \pm 0.46
	2004	1.76 \pm 0.01	77.5 \pm 17.5	136.0 \pm 33.0	14.5 \pm 14.5	0.81 \pm 0.47	1.10 \pm 1.00
3a	2004-2005	3.48 \pm 0.41	323.6 \pm 289.6	85.4 \pm 48.4	19.1 \pm 0.4	14.62 \pm 4.09	7.02 \pm 1.78
	2005-2006	1.43 \pm 0.30	578.5 \pm 107.5	436.0 \pm 117.0	2.4 \pm 1.0	0.87 \pm 0.68	1.77 \pm 0.49
	2004	1.75 \pm 0.05	93.0 \pm 32.0	144.5 \pm 37.5	14.0 \pm 14.0	1.16 \pm 1.01	1.29 \pm 1.19
3b	2004-2005	3.70 \pm 0.23	337.4 \pm 239.4	122.8 \pm 66.7	83.7 \pm 65.1	29.71 \pm 8.47	21.60 \pm 21.50
	2005-2006	1.90 \pm 0.75	439.7 \pm 256.3	356.1 \pm 191.9	2.9 \pm 2.9	6.68 \pm 4.92	2.89 \pm 1.58

Table 3: Concentrations of Al, Mn, Fe, Si and organic matter in the dissolved and particulate fraction for each piezometer (expressed as mol/L of solution).

		Al diss μM	Al part μM	Al part %	Mn diss μM	Mn part μM	Mn part %	Fe diss μM	Fe part μM	Fe part %	Si diss mM	Si part mM	Si part %	DOC mg/L	POC mg/L	POC %
1a	mean	2.74	184.3	88.3	1.28	2.05	48.1	2.17	90.2	75.6	0.18	0.32	55.6	11.2	1.4	13.2
	min	0.28	5.6	62.5	0.08	0.08	6.5	0.10	1.53	37.4	0.16	0.03	12.5	4.9	0.0	0.0
	max	9.99	693.8	100.0	2.60	8.74	97.8	5.20	341.0	99.9	0.22	0.60	77.0	17.5	6.1	55.8
	median	1.76	26.5	95.3	1.24	0.48	49.2	2.39	7.34	78.6	0.17	0.36	68.5	10.9	0.6	3.6
1b	mean	1.59	149.8	95.6	3.19	2.21	34.7	1.59	159.4	87.6	0.19	0.37	58.1	10.8	1.6	14.8
	min	0.27	13.9	83.7	0.25	0.06	1.6	0.10	2.26	61.5	0.15	0.00	0.0	4.7	0.0	0.0
	max	4.89	769.1	100.0	8.10	11.00	76.5	2.82	1010.0	99.9	0.26	0.73	80.5	21.8	4.4	44.3
	median	1.06	74.3	98.5	2.42	1.80	36.5	1.40	29.71	95.4	0.18	0.41	68.8	10.5	1.6	14.0
2a	mean	1.89	101.5	95.7	0.53	0.77	61.0	1.18	39.81	93.3	0.17	0.24	41.1	9.8	3.2	22.6
	min	0.10	25.4	82.9	0.03	0.00	0.0	0.10	8.27	75.2	0.14	0.00	0.0	4.3	0.0	0.0
	max	5.85	305.7	99.9	2.10	1.97	98.2	2.84	130.0	99.9	0.22	0.66	81.7	18.3	10.5	50.4
	median	1.09	77.3	98.4	0.12	0.52	72.8	1.18	29.8	96.2	0.18	0.10	38.4	8.5	2.5	26.6
2b	mean	0.96	1033.8	99.7	2.98	5.73	61.8	1.06	466.7	99.0	0.33	0.62	50.1	12.7	10.0	38.1
	min	0.10	61.7	99.3	0.01	0.20	4.8	0.10	22.68	96.5	0.22	0.01	3.7	5.4	0.0	0.0
	max	2.88	3999.0	100.0	19.20	31.10	99.9	2.40	4185.0	100.0	0.54	2.45	90.8	27.2	41.0	75.7
	median	0.89	258.1	99.7	1.22	2.25	65.9	0.97	85.74	99.1	0.31	0.36	47.2	11.9	8.6	37.4
3a	mean	2.18	435.9	97.3	5.21	2.78	54.0	3.21	103.77	91.6	0.14	0.17	43.3	21.4	2.5	10.5
	min	1.31	32.3	94.5	0.18	0.55	4.0	0.10	13.82	76.4	0.10	0.01	2.6	15.8	0.0	0.0
	max	3.64	3199.0	99.9	18.70	10.18	96.8	8.80	620.0	99.9	0.21	0.40	79.8	33.5	8.7	35.3
	median	1.81	73.4	97.7	1.28	2.31	67.1	2.09	38.36	91.8	0.12	0.14	40.2	19.9	2.0	10.0
3b	mean	1.53	719.5	97.7	14.32	8.39	26.0	6.06	974.9	88.4	0.24	0.28	51.5	18.3	3.6	14.1
	min	0.26	29.1	91.8	0.15	0.00	0.0	0.10	3.85	46.3	0.13	0.00	0.0	11.4	0.0	0.0
	max	3.60	6466.4	99.9	38.18	64.88	97.6	43.10	11165.0	99.9	0.67	0.53	74.1	26.2	18.6	54.6
	median	1.07	64.0	99.2	7.63	2.31	16.5	2.25	57.52	90.0	0.21	0.25	57.3	17.0	1.6	8.2

Table 4: Concentrations of Cd, Co, Cu, Cr, Ni, Pb, Zn and U in the dissolved and particulate fraction for each piezometer (express as mol/L of solution).

		Cd diss	Cd part	Cd part	Co diss	Co part	Co part	Cu diss	Cu part	Cu part	Cr diss	Cr part	Cr part	Ni diss	Ni part	Ni part	Pb diss	Pb part	Pb
		nM	nM	%	nM	nM	%	nM	nM	%	nM	nM	%	nM	nM	%	nM	nM	%
1a	mean	0.74	1.15	60.8	6.61	51.8	88.7	52.4	78.1	59.8	6.3	165.0	96.3	22.3	93.3	80.7	0.81	24.95	96
	min	0.25	0.02	7.4	1.43	2.4	62.7	37.7	0.5	1.3	2.9	6.4	68.8	16.3	1.2	6.8	0.09	1.31	93
	max	1.34	3.5	72.3	14.61	204.3	93.3	77.3	285.7	78.7	14.9	549.3	97.4	32.5	277.1	89.5	2.3	101.58	97
	median	0.72	0.62	46.3	4.92	9.1	64.9	52.1	19.5	27.2	5.0	29.2	85.4	21.8	21.4	49.5	0.62	4.82	88
1b	mean	0.57	1.15	66.9	16.97	60.6	78.1	39.3	78.5	66.6	4.2	162.8	97.5	25.7	84.0	76.6	0.5	24.26	97
	min	0.00	0.04	100.0	2.55	4.2	62.2	24.9	11.3	31.2	2.6	14.3	84.6	6.6	7.5	53.2	0.05	2.33	97
	max	1.05	4.1	79.6	58.33	324.3	84.7	56.4	356.3	86.3	9.1	826.2	98.9	86.7	409.0	82.5	1.22	117.08	95
	median	0.54	0.52	49.1	11.74	29.2	71.3	39.0	45.7	53.9	4.1	89.1	95.6	22.2	41.0	64.9	0.43	14.6	97
2a	mean	0.67	0.79	54.1	4.16	34.5	89.2	30.4	51.9	63.1	5.9	93.1	94.0	12.2	72.0	85.5	0.36	14.27	97
	min	0.25	0.00	0.0	1.56	8.7	84.8	21.2	11.4	34.9	3.3	23.9	87.9	7.9	9.3	54.1	0.02	3.84	97
	max	1.35	5.31	79.7	8.49	88.0	91.2	37.2	122.3	76.7	9.5	231.4	96.1	19.3	234.7	92.4	0.96	29.15	96
	median	0.65	0.52	44.4	3.39	27.5	89.0	28.9	46.3	61.6	5.4	76.0	93.4	10.8	60.8	84.9	0.26	11.64	97
2b	mean	0.86	5.38	86.2	11.33	316.5	96.5	29.5	464.5	94.0	3.8	962.0	99.6	13.2	452.3	97.2	0.46	138.73	99
	min	0.00	0.09	100.0	0.96	17.5	94.8	11.2	26.8	70.5	1.8	55.4	96.8	6.9	30.9	81.7	0.02	8.44	99
	max	2.35	34.95	93.7	78.88	1220.6	93.9	101.9	1654.0	94.2	5.9	3881.8	99.8	33.2	1719.1	98.1	1.71	524.81	99
	median	0.54	0.99	64.7	4.94	96.4	95.1	23.4	141.2	85.8	3.4	281.1	98.8	11.2	176.3	94.0	0.25	43.52	99
3a	mean	0.63	1.39	68.8	16.47	55.8	77.2	52.7	70.1	57.1	16.8	288.1	94.5	45.1	113.7	71.6	1.14	43.85	97
	min	0.25	0.17	40.5	4.07	11.4	73.7	26.6	0.0	0.0	12.9	28.2	68.6	21.6	0.0	0.0	0.49	7.96	94
	max	1.28	5.65	81.5	46.99	242.2	83.8	74.0	386.4	83.9	22.4	1951.2	98.9	110.3	513.2	82.3	3.76	206.54	98
	median	0.47	0.71	60.2	7.17	26.6	78.8	54.0	25.7	32.2	16.1	66.4	80.5	35.0	63.2	64.3	0.95	17.41	94
3b	mean	0.38	2.31	85.9	48.2	180.6	78.9	32.4	226.4	87.5	11.4	561.2	98.0	40.5	269.4	86.9	0.71	107.41	99
	min	0.00	0.26	100.0	2.77	0.0	0.0	14.0	12.1	46.4	6.5	30.8	82.6	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.12	5.31	97
	max	1.06	15.47	93.6	136.9	1487.0	91.6	64.9	1805.2	96.5	18.4	4598.9	99.6	63.5	2105.0	97.1	1.7	710.23	99
	median	0.31	0.79	71.8	47.72	24.7	34.1	31.8	33.3	51.2	10.0	59.4	85.6	37.4	58.7	61.1	0.68	13.35	95

		Zn diss	Zn part	Zn part	U diss	U part	U part	Ba diss	Ba part	Ba part	Rb diss	Rb part	Rb part	Sr diss	Sr part	Sr part
		nM	nM	%	nM	nM	%	nM	nM	%	nM	nM	%	mM	mM	%
1a	mean	64.9	324.7	83.3	0.09	0.89	90.8	110.4	234.1	68.0	8.7	114.5	92.9	0.31	40.79	99.2
	min	20.8	0.0	0.0	0.05	0.03	37.5	83.2	7.5	8.3	4.4	3.7	45.5	0.21	4.13	95.1
	max	171.4	1138.1	86.9	0.16	3.37	95.5	158.5	785.1	83.2	12.9	387.3	96.8	0.45	129.25	99.7
	median	51.5	79.7	60.7	0.08	0.16	66.7	111.9	49.2	30.5	9.3	20.9	69.2	0.33	15.81	98.0
1b	mean	40.3	339.9	89.4	0.07	0.83	92.2	91.9	269.0	74.5	5.8	117.0	95.2	0.34	37.28	99.1
	min	4.3	41.9	90.7	0.05	0.09	64.3	65.6	24.7	27.4	3.7	10.5	74.2	0.20	3.50	94.5
	max	76.3	1615.0	95.5	0.09	4.06	97.8	117.7	1329.9	91.9	9.6	580.4	98.4	0.49	142.88	99.7
	median	46.4	194.9	80.8	0.06	0.5	89.3	95.6	140.6	59.5	5.6	62.3	91.7	0.35	20.23	98.3
2a	mean	46.2	209.6	81.9	0.06	0.63	91.3	195.4	178.9	47.8	2.8	53.3	94.9	0.61	31.31	98.1
	min	13.6	3.7	21.4	0.04	0.15	78.9	167.7	47.3	22.0	1.5	14.4	90.7	0.51	0.00	0.0
	max	190.5	469.4	71.1	0.08	1.79	95.7	259.5	361.3	58.2	4.5	141.3	96.9	0.76	124.09	99.4
	median	28.9	216.8	88.2	0.06	0.51	89.5	184.9	141.8	43.4	2.9	43.5	93.8	0.60	24.94	97.7
2b	mean	42.4	2065.9	98.0	0.18	5.87	97.0	134.1	1669.2	92.6	7.4	634.7	98.8	0.76	263.19	99.7
	min	10.6	199.1	94.9	0.04	0.36	90.0	73.9	92.8	55.6	3.0	36.5	92.4	0.56	0.00	0.0
	max	122.1	8411.2	98.6	0.66	21.06	97.0	195.9	6502.1	97.1	27.8	3022.2	99.1	0.97	840.0	99.9
	median	33.0	573.3	94.6	0.13	1.81	93.3	130.9	517.5	79.8	5.6	182.8	97.0	0.76	77.3	99.0
3a	mean	53.1	370.7	87.5	0.35	2.2	86.3	244.3	196.2	44.5	7.4	29.8	80.2	0.89	35.2	97.5
	min	37.3	66.1	63.9	0.15	0.16	51.6	179.5	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.64	0.00	0.0
	max	91.9	1877.3	95.3	0.73	14.21	95.1	297.2	384.7	56.4	15.7	55.5	78.0	1.23	78.82	98.5
	median	47.1	139.8	74.8	0.2	0.67	77.0	259.8	153.5	37.1	5.9	25.4	81.1	0.80	27.93	97.2
3b	mean	70.6	1016.6	93.5	1.08	6.01	84.8	234.8	1077.6	82.1	7.0	357.5	98.1	1.05	185.07	99.4
	min	14.2	52.9	78.8	0.00	0.16	100.0	169.1	84.1	33.2	1.7	15.6	90.3	0.64	0.00	0.0
	max	448.2	8766.5	95.1	4.28	53.27	92.6	333.5	7898.7	95.9	10.7	3132.3	99.7	1.59	1267.31	99.9
	median	36.9	102.5	73.5	0.74	0.61	45.2	223.8	128.9	36.5	7.3	33.2	82.0	0.94	39.85	97.7

Table 5: Correlations between trace metals and Al, Mg, Fe in 1b in the particulate phase. Trace metals are expressed in mol/L.

trace metal	best fit equation	correlation coefficient R ²
Co	[Co] = 4.05E-4 [Al] - 7.94E-11	0.993
	[Co] = 1.35E-3 [Mg] + 3.51E-9	0.948
	[Co] = 4.15E-4 [Fe] + 1.27E-8	0.987
Cr	[Cr] = 1.07E-3 [Al] + 2.00E-9	0.999
	[Cr] = 3.64E-3 [Mg] + 1.12E-8	0.979
Cu	[Cr] = 1.05E-3 [Fe] + 3.53E-8	0.991
	[Cu] = 4.44E-4 [Al] + 1.21E-8	0.990
	[Cu] = 1.49E-3 [Mg] + 1.68E-8	0.960
Ni	[Cu] = 4.41E-4 [Fe] + 2.59E-8	0.979
	[Ni] = 5.24E-4 [Al] + 5.55E-9	0.995
	[Ni] = 1.77E-3 [Mg] + 1.06E-8	0.972
Pb	[Ni] = 5.15E-4 [Fe] + 2.17E-8	0.989
	[Pb] = 1.52E-4 [Al] + 1.55E-9	0.996
	[Pb] = 5.14E-4 [Mg] + 2.94E-9	0.979
U	[Pb] = 1.48E-4 [Fe] + 6.25E-9	0.986
	[U] = 5.34E-6 [Al] + 3.46E-11	0.996
	[U] = 1.82E-5 [Mg] + 8.34E-11	0.985
Zn	[U] = 5.13E-6 [Fe] + 1.98E-10	0.990
	[Zn] = 2.12E-3 [Al] + 2.16E-8	0.994
	[Zn] = 7.23E-3 [Mg] + 4.11E-8	0.979
	[Zn] = 2.03E-3 [Fe] + 8.68E-8	0.988

Table 6: Correlations between trace metals and Mg in 2b soil solutions in the particulate phase. Trace metals are expressed in mol/L.

trace metal in 2b	best fit equation	correlation coefficient R ²
Co	[Co] = 1.23E-3 [Mg] + 1.07E-8	0.974
Cu	[Cu] = 1.70E-3 [Mg] + 4.37E-8	0.903
Zn	[Zn] = 8.24E-3 [Mg] + 4.82E-8	0.961
Pb	[Pb] = 5.33E-4 [Mg] + 7.80E-9	0.971
U	[U] = 2.23E-5 [Mg] + 4.03E-10	0.942

Table 7: Correlations between Al, POC and trace metals in 2b in the particulate phase. Trace metals are expressed in mol/L.

trace metals	best fit equation (Al)	correlation coefficient R^2 (Al)	best fit equation (POC)	correlation coefficient R^2 (POC)
Co	[Co] = 3.14E-4 [Al] + 1.25E-8	0.981	[Co] = 7.61E-9 [POC] - 1.74E-9	0.949
Ni	[Ni] = 3.76E-4 [Al] + 5.46E-8	0.980	[Ni] = 1.19E-8 [POC] + 5.31E-9	0.952
Cu	[Cu] = 4.18E-4 [Al] + 3.86E-8	0.994	[Cu] = 1.29E-8 [POC] - 1.46E-8	0.953
Zn	[Zn] = 2.07E-3 [Al] + 3.52E-8	0.989	[Zn] = 4.85E-8 [POC] - 1.14E-8	0.953
Pb	[Pb] = 1.37E-4 [Al] + 6.88E-9	0.994	[Pb] = 3.27E-9 [POC] + 1.83E-9	0.954
U	[U] = 5.54E-6 [Al] + 3.47E-10	0.994	[U] = 1.36E-10 [POC] + 8.20E-11	0.962
Cr	[Cr] = 8.56E-4 [Al] + 5.50E-8	0.993	[Cr] = 2.39E-8 [POC] - 1.97E-8	0.959

Table 8: Correlations between trace metals and Al in 3a and 3b soil solutions in the particulate phase. Trace metals are expressed in mol/L.

trace metals	best fit equation in 3a	correlation coefficient	
		R ² in 3a	R ² in 3b
Co	[Co] = 3.61E-4 [Al] - 2.59E-10	0.950	0.977
Cr	[Cr] = 9.12E-4 [Al] - 2.32E-9	0.963	0.986
Cu	-	-	0.991
Pb	[Pb] = 2.77E-4 [Al] - 1.59E-9	0.875	-
U	-	-	0.973
Zn	[Zn] = 2.16E-3 [Al] - 1.35E-8	0.973	0.970

Table 9: Correlations between elements (Mn, Sr and U) and Ca, Mg in 3b in the particulate phase. Trace metals are expressed in mol/L.

trace metals	best fit equation (Ca)	correlation coefficient R^2 (Ca)	best fit equation (Mg)	correlation coefficient R^2 (Mg)
Mn	$[Mn] = 7.87E-2 [Ca] - 3.48E-5$	0.955	$[Mn] = 6.21E-2 [Mg] - 2.11E-5$	0.844
Sr	$[Sr] = 1.64E-3 [Ca] + 2.70E-8$	0.919	$[Sr] = 1.36E-3 [Mg] + 2.76E-7$	0.899
U	$[U] = 6.76E-6 [Ca] - 2.91E-9$	0.849	$[U] = 5.20E-6 [Mg] - 1.69E-9$	0.758