

Dear Editor,

Please find below the point by point response to the reviewer that includes the list of changes to the manuscript, as well as the marked-up manuscript version.

Sincerely,

Laure Gandois, on behalf of the authors.

Answer to Reviewer 1:

The authors present a unique data set on trace metals from the water draining tropical peatlands and provide a valuable insight into downstream DOM processing. This data is greatly needed and of value to the tropical peatland community and the effects of land use change on such fragile ecosystems. I support the publication of this research and offer only minor comments, which I outline below.

We thank the reviewer for the appreciative feedback. We have addressed the comments below.

Line 103: is the predominate agriculture from oil palm? Would be nice to add some detail in regarding the current land-use i.e. industrial plantations/ small holders etc. if known. We unfortunately do not have any detailed data on land use. Current land use consists of small scale rubber plantation, secondary forest, and oil palm. This information has been added (l.103).

Line 108: Should figure 1 be referenced somewhere in this area? I am not sure if it is referenced at all?

Reference to figure 1 has been added in the text, at line 105 and 1119.

Line 126: how long after collection were the DOC samples left until they were analysed? I assumed that they needed to be shipped back for analysis on the TOC machine? Did any DOC flocculation occur with acidification? As this can hinder analysis.

The samples were acidified in Pontianak immediately following collection. Acidification was kept as minimal as possible to avoid flocculation. At the end of each mission, the samples were brought back to Toulouse and analyzed within two weeks. These details have been added in the text (l. 131).

Line 148: 'Fluorescence' is in blue font colour needs to be changed to black

The color has been changed.

Line 163: I wouldn't say that the DOC concentrations were 'extremely' high for a black water river maybe just 'high' or moderately high

The text has been modified.

Line 294: 'Corals' is in blue font needs to be changed to black

The color has been changed.

Table 1: the numbers have a mixture of decimal places and commas to separate the numbers. Should all be decimal places. The SUVA column needs to be centralised. There is also a mixture of italics and regular font. I am not sure if this is on purpose and if so what this signifies?

The suggested changes have been made. The italic text is the standard deviation. It has been added in the table legend.

Figure 4: the bar caps are missing from the standard deviation? Also there is no mention of whether these lines represent +/- standard error. This should be added from clarification.

The description of the boxplots has been added in the figure's legend.

Figure 6: there appear to be grey triangles on Fig 6b – should these be purple to indicate Java aerosols? Also would be good to indicate what the error bars refer to i.e. +/- standard deviation or standard error of the mean?

The grey triangles are Borneo soils data. The legend has been truncated. An updated figure has been included in the manuscript. The error bars are the +/- standard deviation of the analysis. It has been added in the figure's legend.

Figure S1:1 it is quite hard to distinguish the minus standard deviation part of the bar as it is the same colour (blue) as the bar chart lines. Perhaps change the bars to black so that they stand out.

The color has been changed.

Figure S1.2: the bar caps are missing from the standard deviation? Also there is no mention of whether these lines represent +/- standard error. This should be added from clarification.

Similar to Figure 4, the description of the boxplots has been added in the figure's legend.

Answer to reviewer 2:

Review of Gandois et al. *From Canals to the Coast: Dissolved Organic Matter and Trace Metal Composition in Rivers Draining Degraded Tropical Peatlands in Indonesia*

The manuscript by Gandois et al. examines dissolved organic matter characteristics together with trace metal composition for a peatland-draining river system in Indonesian Borneo. These results add further to our understanding of tropical peatland river biogeochemistry, and in particular the combination with trace metals makes this an important contribution that also fits the topic of the special issue very well. The manuscript is written well, the data are presented clearly, and they are discussed appropriately. I only have a series of relatively minor comments.

We thank the reviewer for his positive and constructive comments on the manuscript. We address each of the reviewer's concerns in detail below.

1) My main comment concerns the fluorescence index, which shows surprisingly high values, but also spans a large range. The canonical interpretation is that $FI < 1.4$ indicates terrestrial fulvic acids, while $FI > 1.4$ indicates microbially-derived fulvic acids (Cory et al. 2010), at least if instrument-specific spectral corrections are made. Here, most data even for the blackwater river are above 1.5. If instrument-specific correction factors were not applied, then it might be better to calculate the FI with lower emission wavelengths (e.g. Kida et al. 2018). Regardless of the correction factors, I think the high and variable FI data should be discussed in a bit more detail – maybe FI is not the most useful measurement to identify terrestrial vs. microbial DOM? We also found a large range in FI in our river data in Sarawak, with some rivers having $FI > 1.4$ despite predominantly conservative transport and no indications of strong microbial DOM processing in the rivers (Zhou et al. 2019 in this special issue). I feel therefore that the conclusion in Lines 242 ff. of extensive microbial processing in some locations is perhaps somewhat questionable. What I would recommend is that the authors use their absorbance data to calculate CDOM spectral slopes for 275–295 nm and 350–400 nm. The slope at 350–400 nm is usually found to increase with microbial processing, while the slope at 275–295 increases upon both photodegradation and microbial degradation (e.g. Helms et al. 2014; Hansen et al. 2016; Lu et al. 2016). This would provide an additional indication of whether microbial processing really is taking place, or whether perhaps the FI is a problematic measurement.

We agree with the reviewer that the FI values observed are high and we explored alternative emission wavelengths below. In summary, we find they all show similar trends. We have also updated the text to highlight potential uncertainties in interpreting these values.

The fluorescence data have been corrected by applying instrument-specific corrections. The emission spectra peak around 470 nm (470 ± 4 , Figure 1). This value is similar to that recommended by Cory et al. (2010), of a maximum between 477 and 480. The shape of the spectra clearly supports the use of the 470/520 ratio to calculate the FI index (This point has been added in the manuscript L. 164–165)

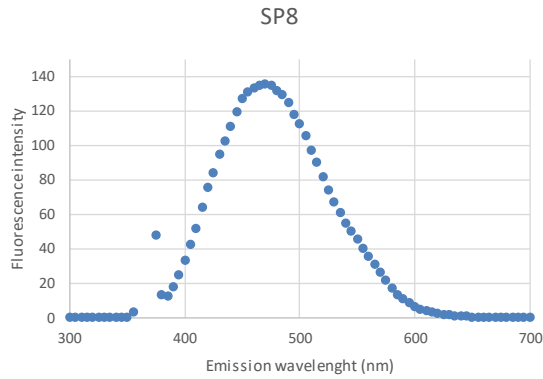


Figure 1. Example of an emission spectra for a 370 nm excitation.

We also calculated alternative FI indices using lower emission wavelengths, which lead to lower values (FI between 1 and 1.2). These values are correlated to the values presented in the manuscript ($y=0.63a+0.11$, $r^2=0.78$, $p<4e^{-14}$). As stated by Cory et al. (2010), this emphasizes that trends, rather than absolute values, are most important.

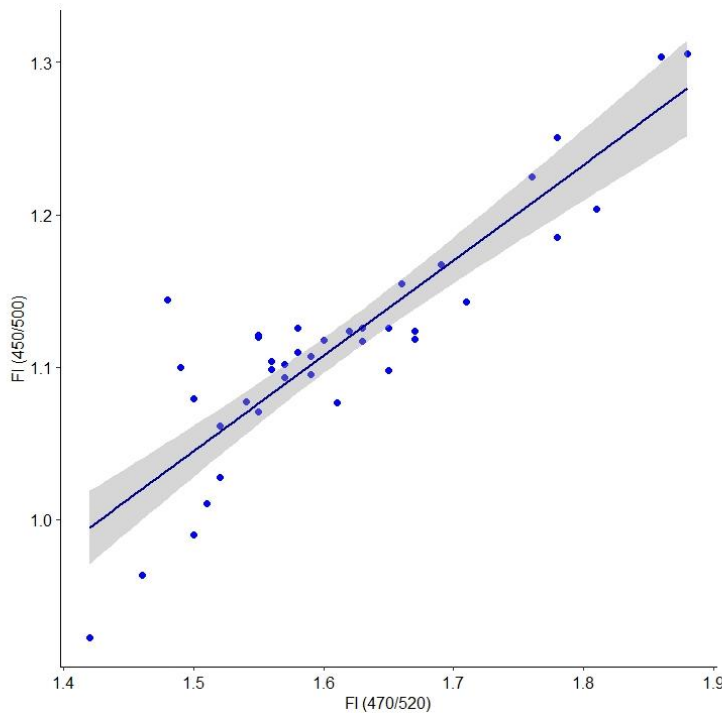


Figure 2. Relationship between the FI value calculated using ratio of emissions 450 to 500 nm and the FI value calculated with the ratio of emission of 470 to 520 nm

The ratios of spectral slopes at 275/295 and 350/400 were calculated. Higher values of these indices are also observed in sections of the river with higher FI values. This is consistent with the hypothesis of localized enhanced processing of DOM. However, we agree with the reviewer that it is difficult to conclude whether this processing is microbial or due to photodegradation. The text was modified accordingly to reflect this uncertainty (L. 199-200, 202-203, L. 263-265).

2) Line 24: “characterised the characteristics” could perhaps be phrased more elegantly
The sentence has been modified to “determined the characteristics” (L. 24).

3) Line 32: significantly higher than what? Is this compared to the whitewater river, or is this a statement in general about blackwater rivers compared to other rivers?

This statement was meant to be a comparison to the white river. This was specified at the end of the sentence (L. 33), but has now been updated for clarity.

4) Line 75: what is meant by “re-emission” as opposed to just emission? Isn’t this simply referring to emission of CO₂ after DOC degradation?

We agree that this word was confusing. We modified the text to “emission” (L. 78)

5) Line 82: what is meant by “with contrasted effects on optical properties”?

This part of the sentence was meant to introduce the following one, which discusses the opposite effects of microbial processing and photooxidation on aromaticity. The sentence has been modified to clarify for future readers (L. 88-89).

6) Line 118: please give the duration and temperature at which the filters were baked

The filters were baked for 5h at 450 °C. This has been added to the manuscript (L. 129).

7) Line 120: nutrient analysis is mentioned here, but the data are not shown. This is a shame, these results would be useful if they can be made available, especially since the authors mention the hypothesis that biodegradation might be nutrient-limited.

The nutrient concentrations have been included in the manuscript. In the revised version of the manuscript, Table 1 presents general water characteristics, including nutrients as well as DOM characteristics. The TM concentrations have been moved to Table 2.

8) Throughout the manuscript and figures, Cl should be changed to Cl⁻, since it’s referring to the chloride ion, not to chlorine.

This has been changed throughout the manuscript.

9) Lines 142–149: were the EEM data also spectrally corrected using instrument-specific correction factors?

Yes, the EEM data were spectrally corrected using instrument-specific correction factors. This has now been clarified in the manuscript (L. 157-158).

10) Line 163: “anoxic” is the wrong word, the rivers clearly do contain measurable amounts of oxygen. Hypoxic would be a better choice.

The word “anoxic” has been replaced by “hypoxic” (L. 180).

11) Since the authors have dissolved Fe measurements at all their stations, I would recommend that they estimate how much of the absorbance at 254 nm might be due to dissolved Fe(III), using the relationship in Fig. 1 of Poulin et al. (2014). I did a quick estimate based on the mean SUVA, DOC, and Fe reported in Table 1, which suggests that the errors in SUVA are on the order of 5% or less, but it is important to have more data available about these potential interferences.

This is a very useful suggestion. We checked the potential additional absorbance related to Fe(III) in our samples using Poulin’s procedure and the total Fe concentration we measured with ICPMS. The additional contributions to absorbance from Fe (A_{Fe(III)}) are low (A_{Fe(III)}=0.04±0.02) and represent less than 5% of the measured absorbance (3.6 ± 1.4% across all samples). As a result, we have decided not to correct the SUVA values presented in the first version of the manuscript. We have added a brief summary of this issue in the text as clarification for future readers (L. 154-156).

12) Lines 230 ff.: the increase in C1/C2 ratio is interesting, and in fact our photodegradation experiments with peatland river water in Sarawak provide direct experimental support for this interpretation (Zhou et al. 2019). The components 1 and 2 in the present study are quite similar

to C1 and C2 in Zhou et al., and in all of the experiments the ratio of C1/C2 increases upon photodegradation, especially in the blackwater river.

This is a really interesting point. We have added a comment and a reference to Zhou et al. 2019 in the text (L. 199-200).

13) Line 250: The reference to Wickland et al. has the wrong year, it should be 2012.

This has been corrected.

14) Line 250: since nutrients were measured, it would be really interesting to have these data discussed in this context. I'm actually doubtful that microbial DOM degradation is nutrient-limited, since blackwater rivers in SE Asia do tend to have a few micromolar DIN and DIP (e.g. data table in Alkhatib et al. 2007; Bange et al. 2019).

The nutrient concentration ranges have been added to the manuscript. The measured concentrations of DIN and DP are low, and fall within the range of previously reported values from black rivers of Borneo (Alkhatib et al. 2007). Higher concentrations are measured during the dry season in the black river samples. We agree with the reviewer that nutrient concentrations are unlikely to be the primary limitation on microbial activity. The general conditions in the Black river (low pH, low DO) are unfavorable to microbial activity. However, it is possible that the low nutrient concentrations present may further reduce rates of microbial activity. The sentence has been rephrased for clarity (L 269-271).

15) Section 6.4: the authors argue that the large change in DOC/Cl⁻ ratio after the confluence of the rivers cannot be due to dilution alone, and must involve degradation of DOC. This doesn't necessarily follow: the two river systems both have similar, and low, concentrations of Cl⁻, but a large difference in DOC concentration. Cl⁻ is therefore not a good tracer of the mixing behaviour. It seems more likely that the blackwater river makes a quantitatively relatively small contribution to the whitewater river, so that after mixing there is not much of an impact on the river chemistry. If the change in the ratio really was partly due to degradation, I think this would imply that the DOC from the blackwater does not degrade much in the blackwater river, then suddenly undergoes significant degradation between the confluence and the first whitewater sampling station less than 5 km downstream, but thereafter doesn't show much further degradation (since the DOC/Cl⁻ is quite similar in all the whitewater stations). So, I think that the relevant parts of Section 6.4 need to be re-written.

We agree with the reviewer that differentiating the relative contributions of dilution vs. enhanced microbial degradation of DOM after mixing is beyond this scope of this dataset. Distinguishing the relative contributions of dilution and potentially enhanced microbial degradation of DOM after mixing is difficult with our data. Based on the reviewer's comments, we have rephrased this interpretation in the manuscript. It was intended to be presented as a possible hypothesis, but the text has now been modified to temper it, following the reviewer's suggestion (L. 323-326).

We now more clearly acknowledge that our data does not enable the determination of the relative importance of photooxidation, microbial degradation and dilution at the confluence or along the continuum. However, we do believe our data, in particular the consistent increases in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -DOC and C1/C2 along the continuum, both before and after the confluence, support the important role of photo-oxidation of DOM. This possible interpretation is still discussed in the manuscript.

16) The data tables have a mixture of points and commas as the decimal marker

This has been corrected.

17) In the figure legends, "WRu" is sometimes given as "WRt"

This has been corrected.

18) The fonts in Figure 5 might need to be increased somewhat, it's very hard to read in a print-out.

The fonts have been increased in Figure 5.

19) In Figure 6b, there are a few light-coloured triangles at the top left of the graph, but this symbol is not explained in the legend.

[This has been corrected. They correspond to the signature of Borneo soils.](#)

20) The authors switch between the terms “black river” and “blackwater river”. Would it be better to pick one and stick with it?

[The term blackwater river was replaced by black river throughout the manuscript.](#)

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1 From Canals to the Coast: Dissolved Organic Matter and Trace 2 Metal Composition in Rivers Draining Degraded Tropical 3 Peatlands in Indonesia

4 Laure Gandois^a, Alison M. Hoyt^{b*}, Stéphane Mounier^c, Gaël Le Roux^a, Charles F. Harvey^{bd},
5 Adrien Claustres^a, Mohammed Nuriman^e, Gusti Anshari^c

6 ^a EcoLab, Université de Toulouse, CNRS, INPT, UPS, Toulouse, France

7 ^bDepartment of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
8 01239, USA

9 ^c PROTEE, Université de Toulon, F-83957, La Garde, France

10 ^d Center for Environmental Sensing and Modeling, Singapore MIT Alliance for Research and Technology,
11 Singapore

12 ^eMagister of Environmental Science, and Soil Science Department, Universitas Tanjungpura (UNTAN),
13 Pontianak, West Kalimantan Province, Indonesia

14 *Present address: Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, 07745 Jena, Germany

15 Corresponding author: ahoyt@bgc-jena.mpg.de
16

17 **Abstract.** Worldwide, peatlands are important sources of dissolved organic matter (DOM) and trace metals (TM)
18 to surface waters and these fluxes may increase with peatland degradation. In Southeast Asia, tropical peatlands
19 are being rapidly deforested and drained. The black rivers draining these peatland areas have high concentrations
20 of DOM, and the potential to be hotspots for CO₂ release. However, the fate of this fluvial carbon export is
21 uncertain, and its role as a trace metal carrier has never been investigated. This work aims to address these gaps in
22 our understanding of tropical peatland DOM and associated elements in the context of degraded tropical peatlands
23 in Indonesian Borneo. We quantified dissolved organic carbon and trace metal concentrations in the dissolved and
24 fine colloidal (<0.22µm) and coarse colloidal (0.22 – 2.7 µm) fractions and **determined** the characteristics ($\delta^{13}\text{C}$,
25 Absorbance, Fluorescence: excitation-emission matrix and PARAFAC analysis) of the peatland-derived DOM as
26 it drains from peatland canals, flows along the **Ambawang River**, a black river, and eventually mixes with **the**
27 **Kapuas Kecil River (white river)** before meeting the ocean near the city of Pontianak in West Kalimantan,
28 Indonesia. We observe downstream shifts in indicators of in-stream processing. An increase in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of DOC,
29 along with an increase in the C1/C2 ratio of PARAFAC fluorophores, and decrease in SUVA (Specific UV
30 Absorbance) along the continuum suggest the predominance of photo-oxidation. However, very low dissolved
31 oxygen concentrations also suggest that oxygen is quickly consumed by microbial degradation of DOM in the
32 shallow layers of water. Black rivers draining degraded peatlands show significantly higher concentrations of Al,
33 Fe, Pb, As, Ni, and Cd, **compared the white river**. A strong association is observed between DOM, Fe, As, Cd and
34 Zn in the dissolved and fine colloid fraction, while Al is associated with Pb and Ni and present in a higher
35 proportion in the coarse colloidal fraction. We additionally measured the isotopic composition of lead released
36 from degraded tropical peatlands for the first time and show that Pb originates from anthropogenic atmospheric

37 deposition. Degraded tropical peatlands are important sources of DOM and trace metals to rivers and a secondary
38 source of atmospherically deposited contaminants.

39 **Keywords:** Tropical peatlands, Dissolved Organic Matter, Absorbance, Fluorescence, PARAFAC, Stable
40 isotopes, Trace metal, Lead isotopes

41 1. Introduction

42 Most Southeast Asian tropical peatlands developed as domes beneath ombrotrophic peat swamp forests (Page et
43 al., 2006; Cobb et al. 2017). They store at least 68.5 Pg C, or 15-19% of the global peat carbon stocks (Dargie et
44 al., 2017; Lahteenoja et al., 2009; Page et al., 2011). They have experienced widespread degradation as a result of
45 deforestation, conversion to agriculture and drainage, which all accelerated in the late 2000s. This abrupt change
46 in land use, and corresponding lowering of the water table, has led to subsidence and a massive release of carbon
47 from peatlands to the atmosphere due to enhanced aerobic decomposition of organic matter from the drained peat.
48 Extensive work has focused on quantifying the resulting CO₂ fluxes (Couwenberg et al., 2010; Hoyt et al., 2019;
49 Jauhainen et al., 2012; Miettinen et al., 2017) and land surface subsidence (e.g. Hooijer et al., 2012; Carlson et
50 al., 2015).

51 Drainage canals are dug in forested peatlands for multiple reasons: first, as a mechanism to transport timber out of
52 the peatland during deforestation, and later to lower the water table, making the land suitable for agriculture. These
53 peatland drainage canals channel water from the peatlands to surrounding surface waters. The resulting fluvial
54 export of dissolved organic matter (DOM) has been recognized as an **important** component of the carbon budget
55 of tropical peatlands, that could increase with deforestation and peatland exploitation (Gandois et al., 2013; Moore
56 et al., 2011). Indonesia alone contributes over 10% of the global riverine dissolved organic carbon (DOC) input
57 into the ocean (Baum et al., 2007), as a result of both high peatland coverage and high precipitation rates. This
58 proportion is likely to increase with rapid peatland conversion to agriculture, which destabilizes long-term peat C
59 stocks (Moore et al., 2013).

60 Another implication of DOM transfers from peatlands to surface water is the transport of associated elements,
61 especially trace metals (TM). Tropical peatlands in Southeast Asia are mainly ombrotrophic systems, which
62 receive critical nutrients through atmospheric deposition, and serve as a sink for atmospheric pollutants (Weiss et
63 al., 2002). Northern peatlands have been shown to constitute a source of major and trace elements to surface waters
64 (Broder and Biester, 2017; Jeremiason et al., 2018; Rothwell et al., 2007). This has important implications: as a
65 result of colloidal association between peatland-derived organic molecules and Fe, northern peatlands are
66 responsible for a significant transfer of Fe to the Atlantic Ocean (Krachler et al. 2010, 2012). In the UK, peat
67 degradation and erosion has led to the dispersion of lead into watersheds, which previously accumulated through
68 atmospheric deposition over decades (Rothwell et al., 2008). Although drainage of tropical peatlands is occurring
69 at a rapid rate across Southeast Asia, to our knowledge no data are available on trace metal release in black rivers
70 draining tropical peatlands.

71 Black rivers draining peatlands (as defined in Alkhatib et al., (2007)) also have the potential to be hotspots of
72 fluvial carbon degassing (Muller et al., 2015; Wit et al., 2015). By measuring pCO₂ in Indonesian and Malaysian

73 black rivers, Wit et al. (2015) estimated that 53% of DOC entering surface waters was converted to CO₂, which is
74 similar to global averages for inland waters. In contrast, **black river** measurements and incubations by Martin et
75 al., (2018) found a smaller proportion of DOC was processed in rivers. Rixen et al., (2008) also found a large
76 proportion of the DOM was resistant to decomposition in a laboratory incubation study. These studies have focused
77 on CO₂ measurements and incubations to assess the potential for DOM processing.

78 Monitoring **both isotopic and optical characteristics** of DOM composition in canals and rivers can provide
79 complementary information on the extent of in-stream processing of fluvial carbon, and potential **emission** of
80 greenhouse gases (GHGs) to the atmosphere. Qualitative evaluation of in-stream DOM transformation by UV light
81 and microbial processes can be performed using isotopic and optical characterization of DOM. The stable isotope
82 signature of DOM is **both** an indicator of its origin (Barber et al., 2017; Hood et al., 2005), **as well as** transformation
83 processes. Lalonde et al. (2014) assessed photochemical processing of DOM in major rivers worldwide, and found
84 that it caused an increase in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of DOM of 0.5 to 2.3‰. Similarly, microbial processing is also expected to
85 lead to an increase in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of DOM. Optical properties of DOM are also sensitive indicators of DOM processing
86 (Hansen et al., 2016; Harun et al., 2015; Spencer et al., 2009). **However, in contrast to the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of DOM, which is**
87 **similarly enriched by both microbial processing and photo-oxidation, the optical properties of DOM change in**
88 **opposite directions in response to microbial processing or photo-oxidation.** Microbial processing is generally found
89 to increase the aromaticity of DOM by selective processing of less aromatic molecules, while photo-oxidation
90 tends to decrease aromaticity, because of selective photo-oxidation of aromatic moieties (Spencer et al., 2009;
91 Hansen et al., 2016).

92 In summary, although there has been an increase in efforts to quantify DOC exports from tropical peatlands, our
93 complementary understanding of the transfer of associated elements and in-stream processing of DOM remains
94 limited. This work aims to address these gaps in our understanding of the composition and evolution of tropical
95 peatland DOM and how it could act as a carrier of trace metals to surface waters, in the context of highly degraded
96 tropical peatlands in Indonesia. We characterize the quality of the peatland-derived DOM and trace metals as they
97 drain from peatland canals, flow along black rivers, and eventually mix with a white water river before meeting
98 the ocean. We assess spatial and seasonal changes in the organic matter quality, and document changes in DOM
99 composition due to transport, mixing, and processing. We also assess black river trace metal release to surface
100 waters, analyzing trace metal concentrations and the isotopic composition of lead released from degraded tropical
101 peatlands for the first time.

102 **2. Material and methods**

103 **2.1 Study area**

104 The study area is located in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, near the city of Pontianak (0.09°N, 109.24°E) on the
105 island of Borneo (Figure 1). The climate is humid equatorial with 2953±564 mm of rainfall and a mean annual
106 temperature of 27°C (1985-2017 data). The monthly annual rainfall ranges from 170±126 mm (August) to 349±98
107 mm (November). The highest rainfalls are measured from October to January. The mean rainfall is 274 ± 123 mm
108 for January, and 199 ± 106 mm for June. (Figure SI.1). The study focused on the Ambawang River, which flows
109 into the Landak river, which in turn flows into Kapuas Kecil river. It is a black river draining a watershed

110 (approximately 706 km²) entirely covered with peatlands. This river was selected to represent water of
111 exclusively peatland origin. All peatlands in the sampling area have been drained and converted to agriculture.
112 **Current land use consists of small scale rubber plantation, secondary forest, oil palm plantation, and human**
113 **settlements.**

114 **2.2 Sample collection and treatment**

115 Two sampling campaigns were conducted in June 2013 (drier period) and January 2014 (wetter period). Using a
116 boat, samples were collected in the center of the river, from the origin of the Ambawang river (BR, black river
117 sites) to its downstream confluence with the Landak and Kapuas Kecil Kecil (WR, white river sites). White river
118 samples collected upstream of the confluence with the white river (WRu, white river upstream). Drainage canals
119 (DC) flowing into the black river were also sampled during the second sampling campaign (Figure 1). In January
120 2014, a rain collector was installed on the roof of the Pontianak's meteorological station to collect rain samples
121 for lead isotopic analysis. In situ parameters (pH, conductivity and dissolved oxygen) were measured using a
122 multiparameter probe (WTW, Germany). Depth profiles of dissolved oxygen in the black river were also measured
123 with an oxygen microelectrode (MI-730 dip-type micro-oxygen electrode and O2-ADPT adapter; Microelectrodes,
124 Inc., Bedford, NH, USA). Frequent calibration was performed with a zero oxygen solution and distilled water
125 equilibrated to ambient oxygen concentrations, where temperature was carefully monitored. To create the zero
126 oxygen solution, 1 g of sodium sulfite (Na₂S₀3) and a few crystals (~1 mg) of cobalt chloride (CoCl₂) was
127 dissolved in 1 L of distilled water. For measurements of additional parameters, a larger volume of water was
128 collected for further analysis. Samples were filtered immediately following collection on the boat using a portable
129 peristaltic pump (Geotech, USA) and prebaked (5h, 450°C) and pre-weighed GF/F filters (0.7 µm) and stored in
130 glass bottles for DOC, δ¹³C-DOC and optical properties of DOM analysis, and acidified with HCl for DOC and
131 δ¹³C-DOC. Samples were filtered with cellulose acetate filters (0.22 µm), acidified with HNO₃ and stored in
132 polypropylene vials for analysis of major nutrients and trace element. DOC analysis was repeated on the cellulose
133 acetate samples and DOC concentrations did not differ significantly based on filtration at 0.2 or 0.7 µm. In January
134 2014, at selected sites (8), samples were first filtered with GF/D filters (2.7µm) to assess to the coarse colloidal
135 fraction of trace metals and DOC.

136 **3. Sample analysis**

137 Non-purgeable organic carbon (NPOC, referred to hereafter as DOC) was analyzed on filtered (GF/F Whatman)
138 samples after acidification to pH 2 (HCl) with a TOC-V CSH analyzer (Shimadzu, Japan), with a quantification
139 limit of 1 mg L⁻¹. Major cations and anions were analysed using an HPLC (Dionex, USA). The quantification limit
140 was 0.5 mg L⁻¹ for chloride, nitrate and sulphates and 0.025 mg L⁻¹ for ammonium, potassium, magnesium and
141 calcium. Certified material (ion 915 and ion 96.4 Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canada) was included
142 in the analytical loop and recovery was >95% of the certified value. For trace element analysis, samples were
143 acidified with ultrapure HNO₃ prior to ICP-MS (7500 ce, Agilent Technologies) analysis. ¹¹⁵In was used as an
144 internal standard, and SLRS-4 (River water certified for trace elements) was used as a reference material on every
145 run and accuracy (recovery>95%) was checked. Determination limits were < 0.5 µg g⁻¹ for Fe and Al, <0.05 µg g⁻¹
146 ¹ for Ni, Cu and Zn and < 0.005 µg g⁻¹ for Cd and Pb. Pb isotope ratios (²⁰⁶Pb/²⁰⁷Pb; ²⁰⁸Pb/²⁰⁶Pb) in water samples

147 were analyzed using a High Resolution ICP-MS (Thermo Element II XR; OMP service ICP-MS, Toulouse,
148 France). Measurements were corrected for mass bias using individual sample bracketing with certified and
149 adequately diluted NIST NBS-981 (100 ng L⁻¹ to 500 ng L⁻¹) according to Krachler et al. (2004).

150 The UV absorption spectra of pore water were measured with a spectrophotometer (Secoman UVi-lightXT5) from
151 190 to 700 nm in a 1 cm quartz cell. The Specific UV Absorbance at 254 nm (SUVA, L mg⁻¹ m⁻¹) was calculated
152 as follows: $SUVA = A_{254}/(b \cdot DOC)$ (Weishaar et al., 2003), where A_{254} is the sample absorbance at 254 nm (non-
153 dimensional), b is the optical path length (m) and DOC is in mg L⁻¹. The baseline was determined with ultra-pure
154 water. **Potential additional absorbance related to Fe content was following the procedure described by Poulin et**
155 **al., (2014). The additional absorbance was small, and represented only $3.6 \pm 1.4\%$ of the total absorbance across**
156 **all samples and was therefore neglected.**

157 Emission Excitation Matrices (EEM) were acquired using a Hitachi F4500 fluorescence spectrometer, and
158 instrument specific correction were applied. Emission spectra were acquired from 250 to 550 nm for excitation
159 ranging from 250 to 550 nm. The slits were set to 5 nm for both the excitation and emission monochromators. The
160 scan speed was 2400 nm min⁻¹ and the integration response was 0.1 s. Fluorescence intensity was corrected from
161 the excitation beam to ensure stability. The inner filter effect water was taken into account using a dilution
162 approach as developed by Luciani et al. (2009). The fluorescence index was calculated as defined by McKnight et
163 al. (2001) and Jaffé et al. (2008), by the ratio of the fluorescence intensity at 470 nm to the fluorescence intensity
164 at 520 nm for a 370 nm excitation. **The shape of the excitation spectra was checked following the recommendation**
165 **of Cory et al., (2010).** The PARAFAC analysis (PARAllel FACtor analysis (Bro, 1997)) was performed on all
166 samples using the PROGMEEF program in Matlab (Luciani et al., 2008).

167 The isotopic composition ($\delta^{13}C$) of DOC was determined at the UC Davis Stable Isotope Facility, following the
168 described procedure (<http://stableisotopefacility.ucdavis.edu/doc.html>). Briefly, a TOC Analyzer (OI Analytical,
169 College Station, TX) is interfaced to a PDZ Europa 20-20 isotope ratio mass spectrometer (Sercon Ltd., Cheshire,
170 UK) utilizing a GD-100 Gas Trap Interface (Graden Instruments).

171 **4. Statistical analysis**

172 Statistical analysis was performed using R (R Core Team, 2019) and the R studio software (Version 1.2.1335),
173 using ggplot (Wickham, 2016), dplyr (Wickham et al., 2019), and dunn.test (Dinno, 2017) packages. Significant
174 differences ($p < 0.05$) between groups were evaluated using Kruskal Wallis and Dunn's post hoc multiple test.

175 **5. Results**

176 **5.1. Trends in water chemistry from the source of the black river to the ocean**

177 The observed water chemistry of the Ambawang river and drainage canals is typical of black rivers draining
178 peatlands (Table 1, Figure 2), and does not show significant differences between the two sampling seasons. It is
179 acidic with a pH of 3.2 ± 0.6 and 3.5 ± 0.3 in the drainage canals (DC) and black river (BR) respectively, has a
180 low conductivity (DC: $89.8 \pm 21.4 \mu S cm^{-1}$, BR: $85.2 \pm 21.6 \mu S cm^{-1}$), is **hypoxic** (DC: 2.3 ± 0.3 , BR: $1.9 \pm 0.7 mg$

181 L⁻¹), and has low nutrient concentrations (DIN < 0.3 mg L⁻¹ and P-PO₄ < 0.015 mg L⁻¹) but high DOC
182 concentrations (DC: 35.2 ± 5.9, BR: 35.8 ± 3.5 mg L⁻¹). The Cl⁻ concentrations are low and homogeneous (DC:
183 2.6 ± 0.7, BR: 2.4 ± 0.6 mg L⁻¹). After the confluence with the white river, the chemistry of the river radically
184 changes. An abrupt increase in pH is observed (WR: 5.3 ± 0.7). The dissolved oxygen concentration increases to
185 3.7±1.0 mg L⁻¹, while DOC concentrations drop sharply to 9.2 ± 3.2 mg L⁻¹. We also observe a slight increase in
186 NO₃⁻ and decrease in PO₄²⁻. Across all samples, the DOC concentrations show a significant negative correlation
187 with DO concentrations (r²=0.63, n=40, p<4.10⁹). In contrast, no increase in Cl⁻ concentration is observed until
188 close to the ocean (3 samples corresponding to ocean water intrusion were excluded from Figure 2).

189 5.2. DOM optical characteristics and stable isotopic signature

190 No systematic differences are observed for the DOM characteristics between the two sampling campaigns. The
191 δ¹³C signature of DOC (Figure 3a) is very negative, reaching -30.3±0.4‰ in the drainage canals. It gradually and
192 continually increases along the continuum from upstream in the black river to the ocean (Figure 3a). As a result,
193 the δ¹³C of DOC in the drainage canals and the black river, is significantly more depleted than the white river. The
194 δ¹³C signature of DOC is significantly negatively correlated with DOC concentration (r²=0.68, p<10⁻⁴, n=40), with
195 the highest DOC values being associated with the lowest δ¹³C-DOC values.

196 The SUVA index (Figure 3b) has high values in the black river (5.3±1.2), with the highest values measured
197 upstream. A wide range of values is measured in the drainage canals (4.3 ±1.4). The SUVA values of the black
198 river are significantly higher than those measured in the Kapuas Kecil (4.5±0.3) and its tributaries (4.2 ±0.2). The
199 fluorescence index has relatively high values for tropical peatlands, where most DOM mostly originates is of
200 terrestrial origin (Gandois et al., 2014; Zhou et al., 2019). The values varies widely in the drainage canals
201 (1.60±0.17) and black river (1.55±0.06), but is more uniform in the white river, both upstream (1.55±0.03) and
202 downstream (1.55±0.05) of the confluence with the black river. Despite the high FI values, these two optical
203 indices show coherent spatial patterns within the black river and drainage canals (Figure 3b&d). For example,
204 lower SUVA values are associated with higher FI values, in three drainage canals and in the black river close to
205 their connection, sampled during the second sampling campaign. Across all samples, a significant correlation is
206 observed between FI and SUVA values (r²=0.37, p<10⁻⁴, n=41).

207 The EEMS of all water samples have two main peaks (Figure SI.2). The primary peak (λ_{ex}=250 nm, λ_{em}= 460
208 nm), is coupled with a less intense peak (λ_{ex}=350 nm, λ_{em}= 460 nm). The peaks are typical of high molecular
209 and aromatic molecules, which have been observed in wetlands (Fellman et al., 2009). The PARAFAC analysis
210 reveals two fluorophores: C1 (λ_{ex}=255 nm, λ_{em}= 450 nm) and C2 (λ_{ex}=285 nm, λ_{em}= 485 nm, Figure SI. 3) The
211 first component constitutes from 60 to 73 % of the total fluorescence of samples. The relative contribution of these
212 two fluorophores evolves along the sampled continuum, with the lowest values measured upstream in the black
213 river (Figure 3c). The spatial evolution of the C1/C2 ratios and the δ¹³C-DOC values show consistent trends. A
214 significant (r²=0.43, p< 0.001, n=41) relationship is observed across all the samples between these two indicators.
215 A stronger relationship (r²=0.85, p< 0.001, n=5) is observed when the drainage canals samples alone are
216 considered.

217 **5.3. Trace element concentrations and physical fractionation**

218 Black rivers originating from drained peatlands have a unique composition of inorganic elements. The
219 concentrations of trace metals (Pb, Ni, Zn, Cd) as well as Al and Fe and are significantly higher in the black river
220 and drainage canals than the concentrations in the white river (Table 2, Figure 4). For Al, Fe and As, high
221 concentrations are measured in the **black river** during the first sampling campaign (drier conditions). In contrast to
222 other TM, higher Cu concentrations are measured in the white river. A PCA analysis (Figure 5) of TM
223 concentration and DOM properties reveals specific associations between DOC, Fe and As and to a lesser extend
224 Zn and Cd, while another group is formed by Al, Pb and Ni. Cu shows no association with DOM but does show
225 increased concentrations with higher FI. The first axis of PCA (load of DOC, Fe, As) strongly discriminates the
226 black river and drainage canals samples from the white river.

227 The distributions of DOC and TM are presented in Table 3. Dissolved organic carbon is mostly (>98%) dissolved
228 or in the form of fine colloids (<0.22 μm) along the entirety of the studied continuum. Iron and As are mostly
229 present in dissolved form or as fine colloids in the black river and drainage canals (>96%). However, after transfer
230 to the white river, half of Fe and a third of As is present in the coarse colloidal form. Zinc and Cd do not show
231 similar patterns. Aluminium is mostly present in the coarse colloidal phase (>60%) in the black river and drainage
232 canals and this proportion further increases in the white river (>80%). Lead is mostly present in the dissolved and
233 fine colloid phase (>75%) in the drainage canals and black river and shifts to coarse colloidal (>60%) forms after
234 the confluence with the white river. Nickel and Cu are mostly present in the dissolved and fine colloidal phase in
235 the DC and BR but almost entirely in the coarse colloidal fraction in the white river.

236 **5.4. Pb isotopic composition**

237 We observe distinct differences between the lead isotope ratios in the white river and those in the black river and
238 drainage canals. A decrease in the $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ isotopic ratio is observed with increasing Pb concentrations in the
239 black river but not the white river (Figure 6a). Furthermore, the biplot of the $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ and the $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$
240 signatures illustrate significant differences between the white water and black river/drainage canal groups (Figure
241 6b).

242 **6. Discussion**

243 **6.1. In-stream processing of DOM in black rivers**

244 We observe in-stream processing of DOM, but the total DOM exported from tropical peatlands exceeds the
245 processing capacity of the rivers which drain them and a large proportion of DOM is transported to the ocean. We
246 find persistently high DOC concentrations in both drainage canals and black rivers draining degraded peatlands
247 consistent with the range of previously reported values in Borneo (Cook et al., 2018; Moore et al., 2011) and in
248 the upper range of black rivers in Sumatra (Rixen et al., 2008; Baum et al., 2007). We also find indicators of in-
249 stream processing of DOM. The transformation of DOM we observe along the continuum is likely **primarily** due
250 to photo-oxidation with a **smaller contribution from microbial processing**. We observe an increase in the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -
251 DOC values along the studied continuum (Figure 3a). This shift toward higher $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -DOC is correlated with an

252 increase in the C1/C2 ratio of PARAFAC fluorophores (Figure 3c). The two fluorophores are typical of terrestrial
253 input of DOM (Yamashita et al., 2008), and similar to observed fluorophores in other black rivers in Borneo
254 (Harun et al., 2015; Zhou et al., 2019). An increase in this C1/C2 ratio reflects a shift toward lower wavelengths
255 and therefore toward lower aromaticity and lower molecular weight (Austnes et al., 2010; Zhou et al., 2019).
256 Moreover, a decreasing trend in SUVA values is observed along the continuum (Figure 3b). These observations
257 indicate that at our site, aromatic features are preferentially processed in-stream, consistent with a dominant effect
258 of photo-oxidation (Amon and Benner, 1996; Sharpless et al., 2014; Spencer et al., 2009). This has also been
259 observed in the Congo River where photo-oxidation led to an increase in $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ -DOC and a decrease in aromatic
260 features (Spencer et al., 2009).

261 However, photo-oxidation is not the only process responsible for the processing of DOM. The low oxygen levels
262 in the black river and drainage canals and the significant relationship between DOC and DO concentrations suggest
263 that nearly all oxygen entering the well-mixed water is quickly consumed by DOM oxidation (Figure 2a&b).
264 Furthermore, the sharply decreasing oxygen profiles measured in the black river suggest that the transformation
265 of DOM is restricted to the shallow surface layers of these waters (Figure SI.3). Additionally, localized increases
266 in fluorescence index, coupled with decreases in SUVA (reflecting a higher proportion of microbial derived DOM,
267 Figure 3d) suggest that microbial processing occurs in some locations in drainage canals. Both photo-oxidation
268 and microbial processing have been quantified in laboratory experiments for DOM originating from tropical
269 peatlands. Martin et al. (2018) found that up to 25 % of riverine DOC from a black river in Sarawak, Malaysia,
270 was lost within 5 days of exposure to natural sunlight. Microbial long-term incubation studies by (Rixen et al.,
271 2008), showed that 27% of DOC was degraded after two weeks. **In black rivers, it is likely that in-stream microbial
272 processing of DOM is limited by the low oxygen concentrations, low pH, and low nutrient levels (especially
273 inorganic nitrogen), (Wickland et al., 2012), rather than intrinsic refractory characteristics.** Although the precise
274 extent of in-stream processing cannot be quantified here, our results are consistent with in stream transformation
275 of DOM by photo-oxidation as well as some contribution of microbial degradation in the shallow surface layers.
276 In the future, quantitative assessment of outgassing in tropical peatland drainage canals would improve the
277 evaluation of carbon release following peatland drainage. Overall, more work is needed to understand the extent
278 of upstream processing of peatland DOM.

279 **6.2. Role of DOM, Al and Fe in trace metal dynamics in peat draining waters**

280 This study provides the first record of trace metals in black rivers originating from degraded tropical peatlands.
281 We observe strong enrichment of Al and Fe, as well as Pb, As, Ni and Cd in peat-draining waters. The measured
282 concentrations are comparable to those measured by Kurasaki et al. (2000) in Borneo rivers for Pb, Zn, Cu and
283 Cd, but significantly higher (5 to 10 times) for Fe. The concentration levels, however, remain low compared to
284 highly impacted regions of Indonesia (Arifin et al., 2012). The elevated concentrations of Al and Fe in water
285 draining tropical peatlands is consistent with existing observations of elevated Fe concentrations from black rivers
286 in the tropics (Zhang et al., 2019) and northern peatlands. This enrichment is likely due to the weathering of mineral
287 material under the peat during peat accumulation processes (Tipping et al., 2002; Pokrovsky et al., 2005). As a
288 consequence, in water draining peatlands, strong organo-mineral associations between DOM and Fe (Krachler et
289 al. 2010, 2012; Broder and Biester 2015), as well as DOM and Al (Helmer et al., 1990) have been observed. These

290 colloidal associations between DOM and Al and Fe in the form of hydroxides strongly control TM transfer and
291 speciation in peat draining waters (Tipping et al., 2002). In the present study, specific associations of trace metals
292 with Al and Fe are observed, including strong links between Al and Pb and Ni. However, the lack of a direct
293 relationship between Pb and DOM contrasts with reported observations in the literature (Graham et al., 2006;
294 Jeremiason et al., 2018; Pokrovsky et al., 2016). Despite this, we do observe strong links between Fe, As, Zn, Cd
295 and DOM, which have been previously reported in water draining peatlands (Broder and Biester, 2015; Neubauer
296 et al., 2013; Pokrovsky et al., 2016). The coupled dynamics of Fe and As might be related to similar mobilization
297 processes within the peat column, with the sorption of As to Fe(III)-(oxyhydr)oxides (ThomasArrigo et al., 2014)
298 in anoxic peat water. Widespread drainage of tropical peatlands and the corresponding release of anoxic water to
299 surface water networks could induce a coupled increase in DOM and Fe concentrations, similar to that which has
300 occurred in Sweden (Kritzberg and Ekström, 2011).

301 **6.3. Peatlands as secondary sources of atmospheric pollutants**

302 The isotopic composition of Pb in peat draining water strongly suggests it is of anthropogenic origin. The isotopic
303 signatures measured in river samples are a combination of the signature of undisturbed soils of Borneo (Valentine
304 et al., 2008), and a mix of both present and past anthropogenic inputs. Older anthropogenic inputs are reflected by
305 the signature of atmospheric deposition from Java aerosols (Bollhöfer and Rosman, 2000), while the signature of
306 recent regional anthropogenic inputs was characterized by rain samples collected in Pontianak as part of this study
307 (Figure 6b). In the black river and drainage canals, the isotopic ratio is close to that of aerosols and recently sampled
308 rainwater and is dominated by anthropogenic inputs, whereas the isotopic ratio in the white river is closer to the
309 natural signal (Figure 6). This isotopic difference is consistent with the difference between the watersheds drained
310 by these two rivers: tropical peatlands are ombrotrophic systems, and the trace metal content in peat soil is derived
311 from the atmosphere (Weiss et al., 2002), whereas the Kapus Kecil is recharged from a larger watershed and
312 reflects contribution of mineral soils. Tropical peatlands can serve as secondary sources of atmospheric pollutants
313 to the environment. With peatland drainage, black rivers release the accumulated atmospheric deposition over
314 hundreds of years on much shorter timescales. For example, the isotopic signature observed in the black river
315 reflects anthropogenic sources deposited at different times, including older deposition such as the lead measured
316 in the Java aerosols (Bollhöfer and Rosman, 2000), and more recent deposition following the widespread
317 introduction of unleaded fuel (characterized by samples collected from rainwater during the January 2014 sampling
318 period in this study). This release of lead by degraded tropical peatlands has the potential to impact records from
319 environmental archives, for example the corals of the Singapore Strait (Chen et al., 2015). Although this is the
320 first measurement of the aquatic release of trace metals from tropical peatlands, the role of tropical peatlands as a
321 secondary source of contaminants has also been highlighted by the trace metal content analysis of dust emitted to
322 the atmosphere by peat fires (Betha et al., 2013).

323 **6.4. From degraded tropical peatlands to the ocean**

324 Sharp changes in physico-chemical conditions are observed after the mixing of the black and the white river,
325 including sharp increases in DO concentrations and pH values. This strongly controls the transport of DOM and
326 TM drained from degraded tropical peatlands. **After the confluence with the white river, DOC concentrations
327 decrease abruptly. This decrease primarily results from the dilution of the black river signal. However, the sudden**

328 elevation of pH and DO after the confluence might create favorable conditions for microbial processing of DOC,
329 making the mixing zone a likely hotspot of GHG emissions (Palmer et al., 2016).. This would also be consistent
330 with the decrease in the SUVA index observed after the confluence. Despite processing of DOM along the
331 continuum, a significant proportion of DOM originating from degraded peatlands actually reaches ocean. We
332 observe high DOC concentrations at all sampling locations, with concentrations remaining high even close to the
333 ocean (Figure 2a). Additionally, the results of our physical fractionation show that even close to the estuary, DOC
334 remains in the dissolved and fine colloid form ($<0.22 \mu\text{m}$), and that flocculation processes might be limited. Then,
335 the important proportion of coastal peatlands in Indonesia and Malaysia results in the relatively high fluvial organic
336 carbon export reported in to South China Sea (Huang et al., 2017). The decrease in trace metal concentrations after
337 the confluence might be influenced by shifts in physical fractionation and an increased proportion of colloidal
338 form. This is especially true for Al and Pb. Some flocculation at the estuary might limit their transfer to the ocean.
339 For Fe and As, a higher proportion remains in the form of fine colloids after mixing with the whiter river, and is
340 still associated with DOC. Similar conservative behavior of LMW organic molecules associated with Fe was
341 observed at the outlet of northern peatlands (Krachler et al., 2012), and in Arctic rivers (Pokrovsky et al., 2014).
342 This highlights that dissolved organic molecules derived from tropical peatlands can also act as carriers of trace
343 metals to the ocean.

344 7. Conclusions

345 This study characterizes the composition and concentration of DOM and TM in the canals and rivers draining the
346 degraded tropical peatlands of Indonesian Borneo. It highlights in-stream processing of DOM in drainage canals
347 and rivers draining degraded peatlands. Both stable isotopic and optical properties of DOM are consistent with
348 photo-oxidation along the continuum from the black river to the ocean. In the black river and drainage canals, rates
349 of microbial processing are likely limited by the low dissolved oxygen concentrations, and limited to shallow
350 depths. Along the continuum, DOM is found at relatively high concentrations in the dissolved and fine colloidal
351 phases, suggesting a substantial fraction of DOM derived from degraded peatlands reaches the ocean. Additionally,
352 we provide the first assessment of trace metal concentrations in rivers draining degraded tropical peatlands. Rivers
353 draining these peatlands are enriched in some trace metals (Pb, Ni, Zn, Cd) as well as Al and Fe. Using the isotopic
354 signature of Pb, we show that degraded tropical peatlands are secondary sources of atmospherically deposited
355 contaminants to surface waters. Trace metal dynamics after transfer to the white river show clear trends: while Pb
356 and Ni are associated with Al; As, Zn and Cd are associated with Fe and DOM. Lead and Al are present in coarse
357 colloidal form and may be transferred to sediments after flocculation. In contrast, DOM, Fe and As are found
358 predominantly in fine colloidal form even after the confluence with the white river, and as a result may be
359 transferred to the ocean. The role of degraded tropical peatlands as a source of DOM, as well as Fe and As to the
360 ocean requires further investigation.

361 Author contribution

362 LG, AMH, GH and CFH designed the study. LG, AMH, MN and GH conducted field campaigns. SM and LG
363 conducted fluorescence analysis. GLR and AC conducted lead isotope analysis. LG and AMH wrote the
364 manuscript, with inputs from all co-authors.

365 **Competing interests**

366 The authors declare no competing interests.

367 **Data availability**

368 The data are available at <https://doi.org/10.5194/bg-2019-253>.

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580 **Table 1.** Mean and standard deviation (mean±sd) of pH, conductivity and main elemental concentrations of the white river, and upstream of the white river, black river and
 581 drainage canals for the two sampling campaigns (June: drier period, January, wetter period). DO: Dissolved oxygen, FI: Fluorescence Index, SUVA: Specific UV Absorbance).

		n	pH /	DO mg L ⁻¹	Cond μS cm ⁻¹	SM mg L ⁻¹	DOC mg L ⁻¹	N-NO ₃ μmol L ⁻¹	N-NH ₄ μmol L ⁻¹	P-PO ₄ μmol L ⁻¹	Cl ⁻ mg.L ⁻¹	δ ¹³ DOC ‰	FI -	SUVA L.mg ⁻¹ .m ⁻¹
White River	dry	5	5.2 ± 0.33	4.49 ± 0.26	37.2 ± 13.2	47.9 ± 13.2	8.43 ± 1.61	0.192 ± 0.062	<DL	<DL	4.83 ± 4.03	-29.46 ± 0.23	1.63 ± 0.08	3.4 ± 0
	wet	5	4.43 ± 0.86	3.37 ± 0.96	1220.6 ± 981.8	21.1 ± 2.5	11.25 ± 4.29	0.043 ± 0.049	<DL	0.003 ± 0.249	409 ± 342	-29.41 ± 0.41	1.64 ± 0.04	4.6 ± 0.3
White River upstream	dry	2	5.45 ± 5.71	4.91 ± 0.17	24 ± 3.8	55.7 ± 17.2	6.89 ± 1.28	0.196 ± 0.033	<DL	<DL	1.31 ± 0.64	-29.32 ± 0.06	1.54 ± 0	n.a
	wet	3	5.37 ± 0.06	4.15 ± 0.39	268.7 ± 92	29.4 ± 10.1	8.69 ± 0.78	0.061 ± 0.011	<DL	0.005 ± 0.404	47.9 ± 65.2	-29.56 ± 0.13	1.57 ± 0.01	4.1 ± 0.1
Black river	dry	8	3.45 ± 0.06	1.69 ± 0.39	98.7 ± 18.2	23.7 ± 19.1	36.42 ± 2.54	0.092 ± 0.042	0.120 ± 0.091	0.023 ± 2.32	2.78 ± 0.5	-30.29 ± 0.38	1.7 ± 0.04	4.8 ± 0.4
	wet	11	2.97 ± 0.13	1.98 ± 0.75	77.3 ± 18.3	13.4 ± 8.5	35.37 ± 3.7	0.043 ± 0.022	0.014 ± 0.028	0.014 ± 1.22	2.2 ± 0.6	-30.04 ± 0.38	1.8 ± 0.09	4.9 ± 1.3
Drainage canal	wet	6	3.08 ± 0.43	2.34 ± 0.3	89.8 ± 19.6	n.a	35.17 ± 5.47	0.034 ± 0.033	0.020 ± 0.039	0.021 ± 1.65	2.6 ± 0.6	-30.27 ± 0.4	1.8 ± 0.13	4.3 ± 1.3

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584 **Table 2.** Mean and standard deviation (mean±sd) of trace meatal concentration of the white river, white river
 585 tributaries, black river and drainage canals for the two sampling campaigns (June: drier period, January, wetter
 586 period).

	n	Al μg.L ⁻¹	Fe μg.L ⁻¹	Ni μg.L ⁻¹	Cu μg.L ⁻¹	Zn μg.L ⁻¹	Pb μg.L ⁻¹
White River	5			0.53 ±	1.14 ±		0.262 ±
	dry	312 ± 407.1	444.9 ± 383.9	0.11	0.16	18.57 ± 9.028	0.236
	we	147.2 ±		1.19 ±	0.87 ±		0.129 ±
White River upstream	5	124.6	547.5 ± 497.3	1.17	0.09	10.26 ± 6.14	0.102
	dry	101.61 ±		0.52 ±	1.06 ±		0.139 ±
	we	27.5	242.5 ± 44.5	0.08	0.01	15.29 ± 3.06	0.027
Black river	3			0.72 ±	1.19 ±		0.236 ±
	t	148.6 ± 72	408.7 ± 170.2	0.44	0.24	9.7 ± 6.23	0.167
	8		2143.5 ±	1.96 ±	0.58 ±	119.38 ±	0.467 ±
Drainage canal	dry	592.8 ± 43	187.6	1.67	0.19	86.47	0.054
	we	443.1 ±			0.72 ±		
	t	137.5	1441 ± 493.5	1.3 ± 0.53	1.13	10.95 ± 6.98	0.316 ± 0.11
Drainage canal	we	489.2 ±			0.37 ±		0.313 ±
	t	194.9	1348 ± 494.1	1.54 ± 0.8	0.07	14.52 ± 11.62	0.048

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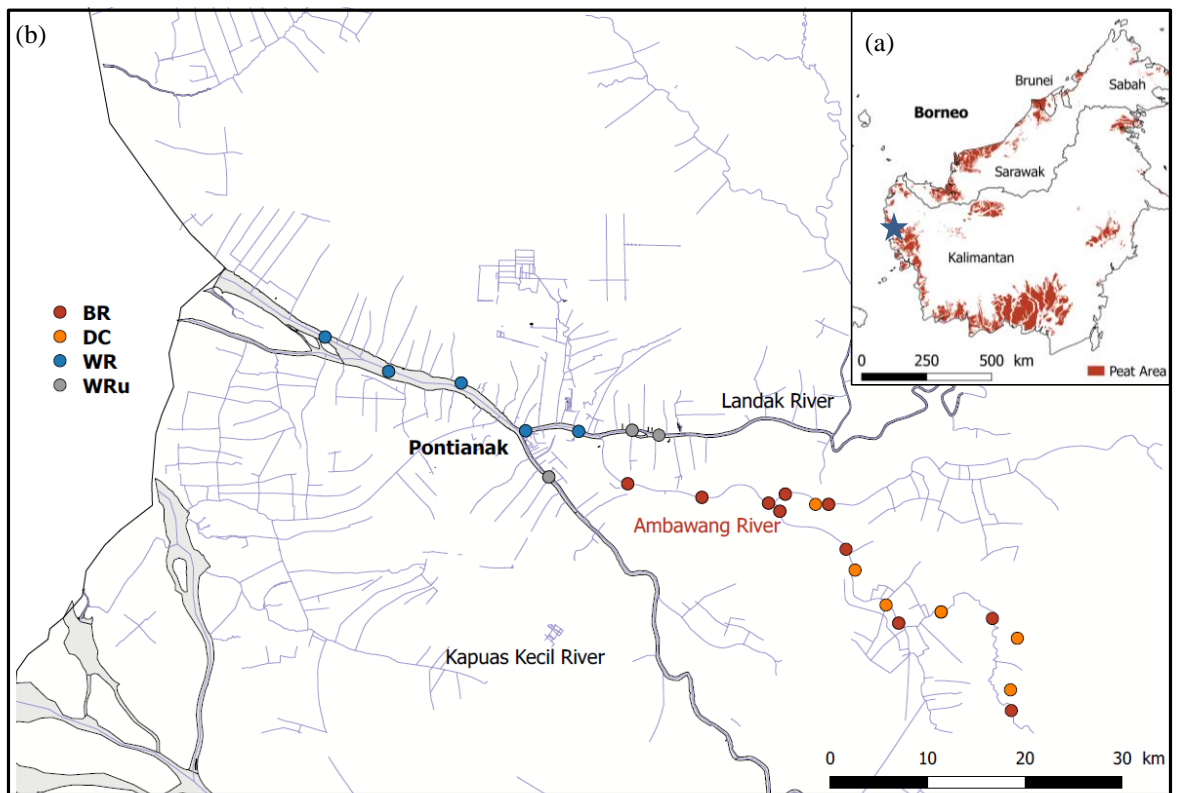
601 **Table 3.** Proportion of DOC and selected trace metals in the form of dissolved and fine colloids (< 0.22 μm) and
 602 coarse colloids (0.2-2.7 μm)

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	Drainage Canals		Black River		White River	
	<0.2 μm	0.2-2.7 μm	<0.2 μm	0.2-2.7 μm	<0.2 μm	0.2-2.7 μm
DOC	97	3	98	2	100	0
Al	39	61	36	64	18	82
Fe	100	0	99	1	45	55
Pb	75	25	78	22	34	66
As	98	2	96	4	67	33
Ni	72	28	50	50	1	99
Cu	68	32	48	52	1	99
Zn	13	87	12	88	26	74
Cd	66	34	100	0	83	17

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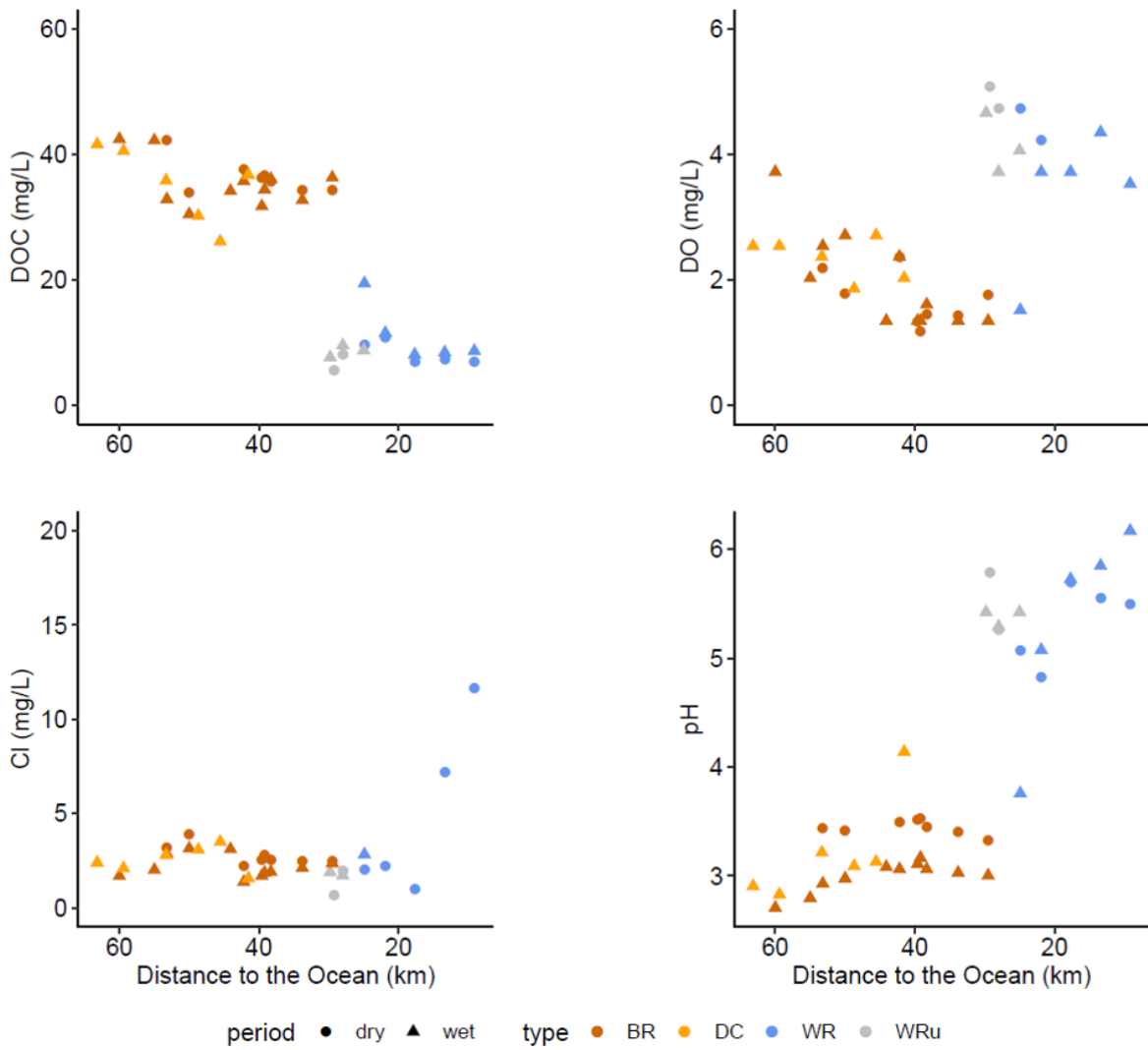
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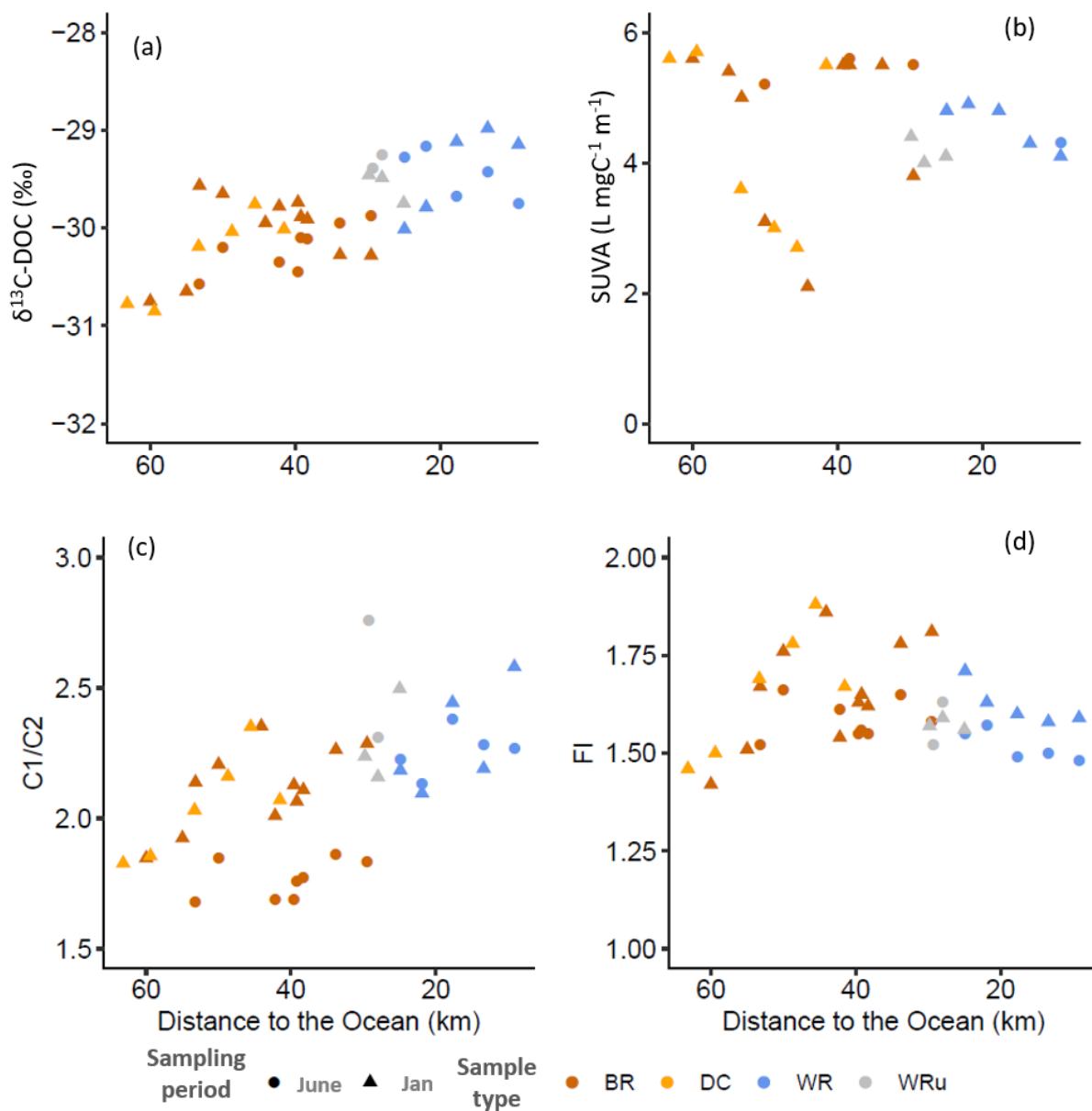
Figure 1: (a) Location of the study area on Borneo island. (b) Location of sampling sites and types of water: Black River (BR). Drainage Canals (DC). White River (WR). and white River upstream of the confluence with the black river (WRu).

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Figure 2: Evolution of (a) dissolved organic carbon concentration. (b) dissolved oxygen concentration. (c) chloride concentration and (d) pH along the continuum from the black river to the ocean.



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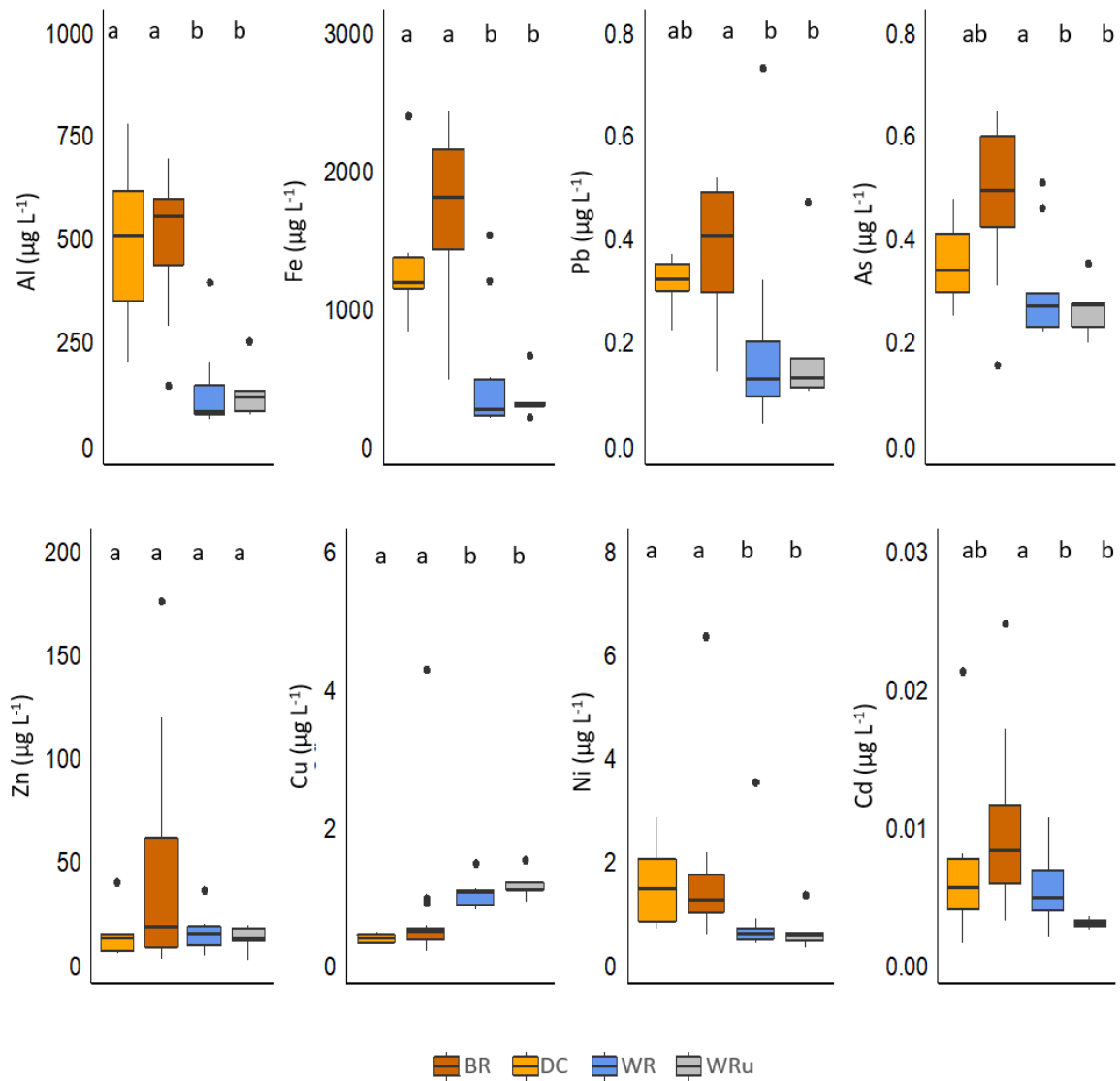
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636 **Figure 3:** Evolution of DOM along the black river to the ocean continuum. (a) $\delta^{13}\text{C-DOC}$. (b) SUVA (Specific
637 UV Absorbance) index. (c) C1/C2. (d) FI (Fluorescence Index).

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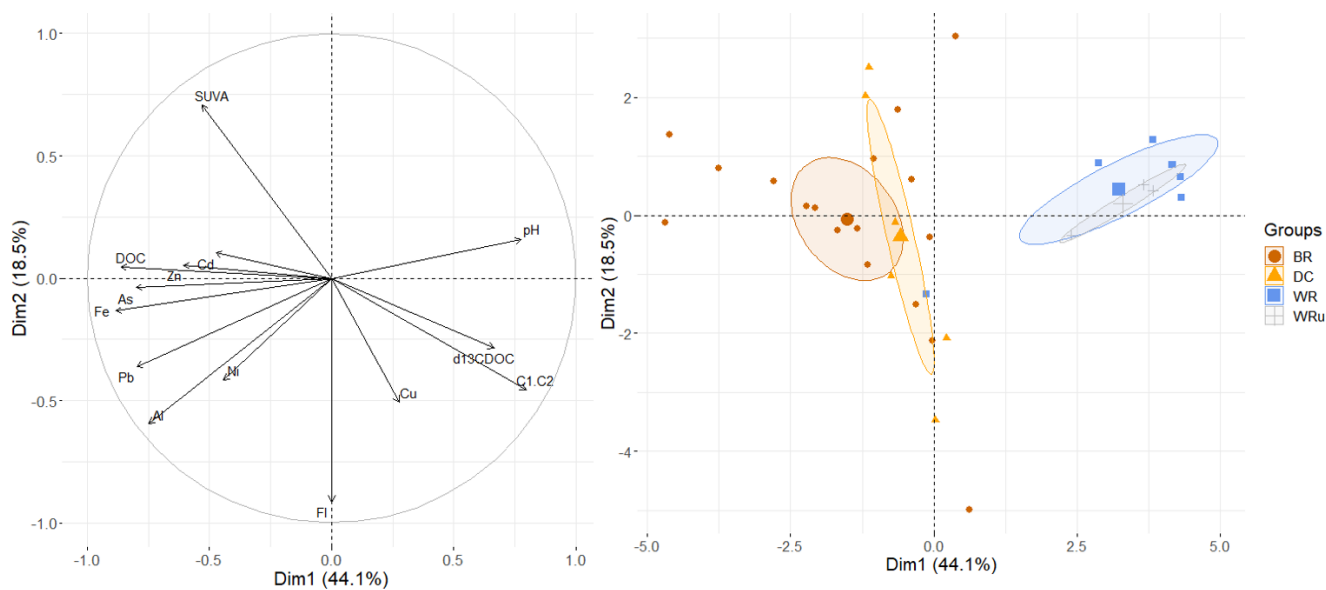


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645 **Figure 4:** Ranges of selected TM concentration for different sampled water types. Letters represent significantly
 646 different groups (Kruskal Wallis and Dunn's post hoc multiple test ($p < 0.05$)). The black line is the median. The
 647 lower and upper levels of the box represent the 25 and 75 % quartile, respectively. The lower whisker is smallest
 648 observation greater than or equal to lower hinge - $1.5 * \text{IQR}$ (inter-quartile range). the upper whisker, the upper
 649 whisker is the largest observation less than or equal to upper hinge + $1.5 * \text{IQR}$.

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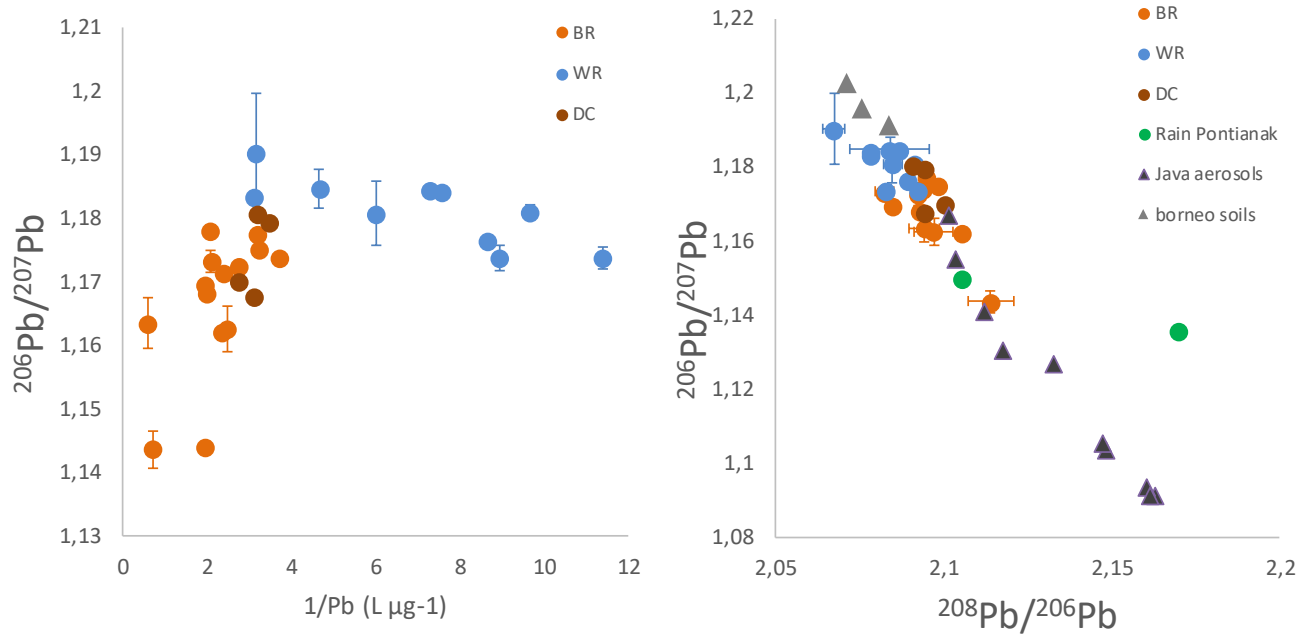
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Figure 5: The first two factors of the PCA (63.1 % of variance) by variables (a) and by observation (b) for the different sampled water types.

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680 **Figure 6:** (a) Dependence of $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ ratio on Pb concentrations for the different water samples. (b) Relationship
681 between $^{206}\text{Pb}/^{207}\text{Pb}$ ratio and $^{208}\text{Pb}/^{206}\text{Pb}$ ratio. The error bars represent the +/- standard deviation.

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