



# Investigations de la biogéochimie isotopique du Zn en zones côtières et mangroves

Daniel Ferreira Araujo

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Université  
de Toulouse

# THÈSE

En vue de l'obtention du

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Délivré par :

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Présentée et soutenue par :

**Daniel Ferreira Araújo**

Le mercredi 12 octobre 2016

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Investigations into isotope biogeochemistry of Zn in coastal areas and mangroves

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## **PREFACE**

This thesis was developed in a program of cooperation between the *Universidade de Brasília-UnB* (Brazil) and the *Université Paul Sabatier III-UPS* (France), and was supervised by the professors Dr. Geraldo Resende Boaventura (UnB) and Dr.Jérôme Viers (UPS). For meeting the agreement established by these two institutions, and due to the international relevance of this project, the English language was adopted. An expanded abstract in Portuguese is included at the end of this work.

## **PREFÁCIO**

Esta tese foi desenvolvida pela cooperação entre a Universidade de Brasília (Brasil) e a Université Paul Sabatier III- UPS (França), e foi supervisionado pelos professores Dr. Geraldo Resende Boaventura (UnB) e Dr.Jérôme Viers (UPS). Para contemplar o acordo estabelecido pelas duas instituições, e tendo em vista a relevância internacional do projeto, a língua inglesa foi adotada. Um resumo expandido em português está incluído ao final deste trabalho.

## **PRÉFACE**

Cette thèse a été réalisée par la coopération entre l'Université de Brasília-UnB (Brasília) et l'Université Paul Sabatier III- UPS, et a été dirigée par les professeurs Dr. Geraldo Resende Boaventura (UnB) et Dr.Jérôme Viers. De façon à contempler l'accord établi par les deux institutions et la relevance internationale du projet, la langue anglaise a été adoptée. Un résumé étendu en portugais est inclus au final du manuscrit.

*À minha mãe, Dona “Ursa”, por todo amor e café*

*To my mother, Ms. “Bear”, for all love and coffee*



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## ABSTRACT

Coastal areas worldwide are under strong pressure from anthropogenic contamination, as most of the global population and of economic activities are concentrated along the coasts and estuaries. The threaten of contaminant releasing into these ecosystems makes imperative the development of tools capable of detecting biogeochemical changes in order to help prevention, monitoring and prediction of risks in environmental studies. In this way, this thesis investigates the isotope biogeochemistry of Zinc (Zn) in order to develop a tool capable of tracing natural and anthropogenic sources, identifying biogeochemical processes and enabling the biomonitoring of metal contamination in coastal areas and mangroves. To this end, Zn isotopes compositions were determined in several natural samples collected from Sepetiba bay (southeastern Brazil), an estuarine-lagoon impacted by an industrialized coastal area near Rio de Janeiro. This bay constitutes an ideal natural laboratory for evaluating the Zn isotopic system to environmental issues, since it hosts important ecosystems of commercial and ecological interest – estuaries, mangroves and tidal flats – threaten by the metal contamination resultant of old electroplating activity and other anthropogenic diffuse sources. The collected samples include sediment cores, surface mangrove sediments, suspended particulate matter (SPM), leaves of mangrove's trees, tissues of bivalve mollusks (oysters and mussels) and rocks. Ores from Vazante deposit, Brazil were collected to represent the raw material used in the old electroplating industry. Firstly, an initial laboratory work established a method for accurate and precise determinations of Zn isotope compositions in natural samples by multi-collector inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (MC-ICP-MS). Spatial and temporal analysis of Zn isotope compositions of sediment and rock samples fits well in a model of mixing between three main end-members: i) continental materials brought via rivers; ii) marine sources; and iii) a major anthropogenic source associated to the old electroplating wastes released into the bay. Sediment cores collected in the mud flat showed high correlation between Zn isotope compositions and Zn enrichment factors, suggesting (i) good preservation of isotopic records of natural and anthropogenic sources and (ii) no significant isotopic fractionation during sediment transport or as a result of diagenetic reactions post-deposition in the estuarine system. The sediment core sampled from a mangrove located in the zone impacted by the old electroplating activity presented

levels of Zn up to 4% (dry weight) and preserved the isotopic signatures of electroplating wastes. However, there is evidence that biogeochemical processes triggered by hydrodynamics, bioturbation or rhizosphere processes slightly changed the isotopic signatures in some layers. Calculations based in this mixing model quantified contributions of the major anthropogenic source of Zn, ranging from negligible values in the pre-industrial period to nearly 80% during periods of electroplating activities between the 60's and 90's. The Zn isotope systematics of mollusc bivalves were not associated to mixing process of sources. Instead, these bioisotopic signature seems related to different routes of bioaccumulation, i.e. uptake via dissolved or particulate phase. It is hypothesized that in the zone heavily impacted zone by old electroplating wastes, the bivalves incorporate the high levels of Zn in the dissolved phase through the bivalve gills, while outside this zone, these organisms incorporate the labile Zn bound to particulate matter during the gut digestion. Zinc isotopic signatures of leaves did not also allowed identification of sources due to the significant isotopic fractionation during Zn uptake by the roots. Leaves of sites highly contaminated presented different Zn isotopic patterns of those of low or no contaminated sites. These patterns may be associated to activation of tolerance mechanisms of mangrove's trees where Zn reach toxic levels. To conclude, Zn isotopes compositions of abiotic samples such as sediments are effective to detect biogeochemical changes triggered by anthropogenic activities and, therefore, can be useful to support prevention, monitoring and prediction of risks in coastal sites impacted by metal contamination. Biological samples of mollusc bivalves and leaves of mangrove's trees are not suitable to sources tracing, but the distinct isotopic patterns of Zn found for those samples from sites highly contaminated are promising as biomarkers of metabolic pathways and physiological effects associated to metal contamination. Future investigations are required to constrain the relationships among Zn speciation, uptake mechanisms and the Zn bioisotopic of leaves and bivalve tissues.

## RESUMO

Zonas costeiras do mundo afora estão sob forte pressão da contaminação antrópica, uma vez que a população global e as atividades econômicas concentram-se ao longo das costas e dos estuários. A ameaça de contaminantes nestes ecossistemas torna imperativo o desenvolvimento de ferramentas capazes de detectar mudanças biogeoquímicas no intuito de auxiliar a prevenção, o monitoramento e a predição de riscos em estudos ambientais. Assim, esta tese investiga a geoquímica isotópica do Zinco (Zn) de forma a desenvolver uma ferramenta capaz de traçar fontes naturais e antrópicas, identificar processos biogeoquímicos e possibilitar o biomonitoramento de contaminação metálica em áreas costeiras e mangues. Para este fim, composições isotópicas de Zn foram determinadas em várias amostras naturais coletadas na baía de Sepetiba (sudeste do Brasil), um estuário lagunar impactado por uma costa industrializada próximo à cidade do Rio de Janeiro. Esta baía constitui um laboratório natural ideal para avaliação do sistema isotópico de Zn para questões ambientais, pois apresenta importantes ecossistemas de interesse comercial e ecológico – estuários, mangues e planícies de maré – ameaçados pela contaminação de uma antiga atividade galvânica e outras fontes difusas. As amostras coletadas incluem testemunhos de sedimento, sedimentos superficiais de mangue, folhas de árvores de mangue, tecido mole de moluscos bivalves (ostras e mexilhões) e rochas. Minérios do depósito de Vazante (Minas Gerais, Brasil), também foram coletadas para representar a matéria-prima utilizada na antiga atividade galvânica. Primeiramente, um trabalho laboratorial inicial estabeleceu um método acurado e preciso para determinações isotópicas de Zn em amostras naturais por espectrometria de massa com plasma indutivamente acoplado e multi-coletor (MC-ICP-MS). Análises espaciais e temporais dos resultados das composições isotópicas de Zn de amostras de sedimento e rocha se ajustam à um modelo de mistura entre três membros finais: i) materiais continentais carregados pelos rios; ii) fontes marinhas; e iii) uma fonte antropogênica principal associada a antigos rejeitos de galvanoplastia lançados na baía. Testemunhos de sedimento coletados na planície lamosa mostraram altas correlações entre as composições isotópicas de Zn e fator de enriquecimento de Zn, sugerindo (i) uma boa preservação dos registros isotópicos de fontes naturais e antrópicas, e (ii) ausência de fracionamento isotópicos significativos durante o transporte de sedimentos ou em reações diagenéticas pós-deposição no sistema estuarino. O testemunho de

sedimento coletado em um mangue localizado na zona impactada pela antiga atividade galvânica apresentou níveis de Zn acima de 4% (peso seco) e preservou as assinaturas isotópicas dos rejeitos da galvanoplastia. Entretanto, há evidências de que processos biogeoquímicos promovidos por processos hidrodinâmicos, biotubação e rizosfera podem alterar sutilmente as assinaturas isotópicas em algumas camadas do perfil. Cálculos baseados neste modelo de mistura quantificaram contribuições da principal fonte antropogênica variando de valores desprezíveis em períodos pré-industriais até 80% durante períodos da atividade eletrogalvânica entre as décadas de 60 e 90. A sistemática dos isótopos de Zn de bivalves não foi associada a processos de mistura de fonte. Em vez disso, suas assinaturas bioisotópicas parecem estar relacionadas às diferentes rotas de bioacumulação, i.e., via incorporação da fase dissolvida ou particulada. A hipótese é que nas zonas severamente impactadas pelos antigos rejeitos da galvanoplastia, os bivalves incorporam altas concentrações de Zn na fase dissolvida através das brânquias, enquanto fora desta zona, estes organismos incorporam o Zn lábil ligado ao material particulado durante a digestão. Assinaturas isotópicas de Zn de folhas também não permitiram a identificação de fontes por causa do significativo fracionamento isotópico durante a incorporação do Zn pelas raízes. Folhas de ambientes contaminados apresentaram padrões isotópicos de Zn diferentes dos padrões encontrados em folhas de áreas pouco ou não contaminadas. Estes padrões podem estar associados à ativação de mecanismos de tolerância pelas árvores do mangue onde as concentrações de Zn atingem concentrações tóxicas. Em conclusão, as composições isotópicas de Zn de amostras abióticas como sedimentos são efetivas para detectar mudanças biogeoquímicas desencadeadas por atividades antrópicas e, portanto, podem ser úteis para dar suporte à prevenção, ao monitoramento e à predição de riscos em áreas impactadas pela contaminação metálica. Amostras biológicas de moluscos bivalves e folhas de árvores de mangue não são adequadas para traçar fontes, porém, os distintos padrões isotópicos de Zn encontrados para amostras de ambientes altamente contaminados são promissores para aplicar isótopos de Zn como biomarcadores de reações metabólicas e efeitos fisiológicos associados à contaminação metálica. Futuras investigações são necessárias para compreender as relações entre a especiação de Zn, mecanismos de incorporação e as assinaturas bioisotópicas de tecidos de bivalves e folhas.

## RÉSUMÉ

Les zones côtières du monde entier sont sous forte pression de contamination anthropique comme conséquence de la concentration de la plupart de la population mondiale et des activités économiques le long des côtes et des estuaires. La menace de contaminant sur les écosystèmes rend primordial le développement d'outils capable de détecter les modifications biogéochimiques en vue d'aider dans la prévention, la gestion, et la prédiction de risques dans les études environnementales. Dans ce but, cette thèse étudie la biogéochimie des isotopes du Zinc (Zn) en vue de développer un outil capable de tracer les sources naturelles et anthropiques, d'identifier les processus biogéochimiques et de permettre à la biosurveillance de la contamination par les métaux dans les zones côtières et les mangroves. A cette fin, les compositions isotopiques du Zn ont été déterminées à plusieurs échantillons naturels prélevés dans la baie de Sepetiba (au sud-est du Brésil), un estuaire lagunaire affecté par une côte industrialisée située près de Rio de Janeiro. Cette baie constitue un laboratoire naturel idéal pour valider le système isotopique du Zn. En effet, cette zone héberge des écosystèmes d'intérêt commercial et écologique –estuaire, mangrove, estran– menacés par la contamination d'une ancienne activité de galvanoplastie, et d'autres sources diffuses. Les échantillons collectés comprennent des carottes de sédiments, des sédiments de la surface des mangroves, des matériaux particuliers en suspension (SPM), des feuilles provenant d'arbres de mangrove, des tissus de mollusques bivalves (huîtres et moules) et des roches. Minéraux de dépôt de Vazante (Brésil) ont été collectés pour représenter matière première utilisée par l'industrie de la galvanoplastie. Tout d'abord, un travail initial de laboratoire a établi une méthode exacte et précise pour les déterminations isotopiques Zn en échantillons naturels par spectrométrie de masse avec plasma couplé par induction et multicollecteur (MC-ICP-MS). Des analyses spatiales et temporelles des compositions isotopiques du Zn des échantillons de sédiments et de roches s'ajustent bien à un modèle de mélange entre trois principales extrémités : i) les matériaux continentaux charriés par les rivières ; ii) les sources marines ; et iii) une source anthropique majeure associée aux anciens déchets de galvanoplastie jetés dans la baie. Les carottes de sédiment collectées dans la vase ont montré une haute corrélation entre la composition isotopique du Zn et le facteur d'enrichissement du Zn. Ceci suggère : i) une bonne préservation du registre isotopique des sources naturelle et anthropique, ii) l'absence de fractionnement isotopique significatif durant le transport de sédiments ou durant les réactions diagenétiques post-dépôts dans le système

estuarien. La carotte de sédiments collectée dans la mangrove, située dans la zone impactée par l'ancienne activité galvanoplastique a présenté des concentrations de Zn au-dessus de 4% (pèse sec) et a préservé les signatures isotopiques des déchets de la galvanoplastie. Cependant, il est évident que les processus biogéochimiques déclenchés par les processus hydrodynamiques, par la bioturbation, et par la rhizosphère peuvent altérer les signatures isotopiques de certaines couches de sédiment. Les calculs basés sur ce modèle de mélange quantifient les contributions de la principale source anthropique variant de valeurs négligeables en périodes préindustrielles jusqu'aux 80% pendant les périodes d'activités de galvanoplastie entre les années 60 and 90. La systématique des isotopes du Zn des mollusques bivalves n'est pas associée au processus de mélange des sources. Au lieu de cela, ces signatures bioisotopiques semblent liées à différentes routes de bioaccumulations, i.e. par l'incorporation de phase dissoute ou de particules. L'hypothèse est que, dans les zones sévèrement impactées par les anciens rejets de galvanoplastie, les bivalves incorporent les hautes concentrations du Zn sous forme dissoute via les branchies. Cependant, hors de cette zone, ces organismes incorporent via la digestion le Zn labile. Les signatures isotopiques du Zn des feuilles également n'ont pas permis l'identification des sources en raison du fractionnement isotopique significatif au cours de l'incorporation du Zn par les racines. Les feuilles des sites hautement contaminé ont montré des standards isotopiques du Zn différent des feuilles des sites peu ou non contaminé. Ces standards peuvent être associés à l'activation de mécanismes de tolérance par les arbres de la mangrove où le Zn atteint des niveaux toxiques. En conclusion, les compositions isotopiques du Zn des échantillons abiotiques, comme les sédiments, permettent de détecter les changements biogéochimiques déclenchés par des activités anthropiques. Ainsi, elles sont utiles pour donner des supports à la prévention, à la gestion, et à la prédiction de risques dans les zones impactées par la contamination métallique. Échantillons biologiques de mollusques bivalves et de feuilles provenant d'arbres de mangroves ne sont pas appropriés pour tracer les origines du Zn. Cependant, les distinctes compositions isotopiques du Zn des échantillons collecté aux sites hautement contaminé sont prometteurs pour l'application de ces isotopes comme marqueurs biologiques de réactions métaboliques et de réponse physiologiques. Toutefois, il faut plus de recherches afin de comprendre la relation entre la spéciation du Zn, mécanismes de d'incorporation et les signatures bioisotopiques de cet élément dans les tissus de bivalves et feuilles.



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### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The relevance of isotope biogeochemistry to environmental studies

Over the past four decades, there have been advances in theoretical concepts of chemistry and physics accompanied by technological developments in mass spectrometry instrumentation. This has allowed higher precision and sensitivity in the measurement of radioactive and stable isotopes (Baskaran, 2011). Isotopic studies of bio- and geo-materials have provided qualitative and quantitative information about chemical, physical, geological, and biological processes useful for understanding the controls that govern the elemental cycles across the Earth's biogeospheres (Baskaran, 2011). This field of study has come to be known as isotope biogeochemistry.

The Earth's spheres undergo transformations due to climate changes (Biachi, 2007). These systems furthermore experience large disturbances associated to anthropogenic activities, such as the releasing of contaminants into the environment, the exploitation of natural resources, and landscape alterations (Mason, 2001).

The study of isotopes in the Earth's systems becomes an important tool to elucidating the interactions and interrelations between elemental fluxes and natural compartments, either biotic or abiotic (Mason, 2011). Of special interest and relevance for health and environmental issues are the stable isotopic systems of (post-)transition metals (e.g. Zn, Cu, Fe, Mo). These elements are ubiquitous in the environment, normally occurring as trace metals (except Fe) (Adriano and Adriano, 2001). These elements are important micronutrients for living beings, play important economic and technological roles linked to industries, metallurgy, and mining, as well as present serious implications in environmental impacts triggered by these anthropogenic activities (Kossof et al., 2014; Ettler et al., 2016). Their cycles have been altered drastically due to their large anthropogenic remobilisation from deep reservoirs to the Earth's surface (for example, in ores, coal, and crude oil), which have lead to the contamination and enrichment of important natural compartments of soils, water and air (Mason, 2001). Depending on their bioavailability and speciation they can be

incorporated to biogeosphere cycling, post-uptaking by microorganisms, plants and animals. Essential elements (e.g. Zn, Cu, Mo) can play an important biological role, constituting basic components of enzymes and proteins (*metalloproteins*), and in biogeochemical reactions at the cellular level (Reilly, 2004). However, these same elements can present high toxicity to living organism in high concentrations (Adriano and Adriano, 2001; Sparks, 2005). Other transition metals do not present any biological function, and even in low concentrations can present high toxicity, as Hg and Cd (Adriano and Adriano, 2001; Sparks, 2005).

Stable isotopes of transition and post-transition metals are fractionated in nature or artificially during biogeochemical reactions, resulting in products or reservoirs isotopically distinct from the original substrate (Wiederhold, 2015). The understanding of the main factor of isotopic fractionation, and their magnitudes and mechanism (equilibrium vs. kinetics), open the possibility to use the isotope ratios of post-transition metals as powerful tracers to obtain important qualitative and quantitative information about sources, transport and fates of these elements (Wiederhold, 2015). Since such information are in the core of environmental contamination questions, these isotopes become a prominent tool to be applied for in environmental studies of biogeospheres.

Of the isotopic systems of transition and post-transition metals, Zn isotopes have been successfully employed in the discrimination and quantification of natural and anthropogenic sources including vehicle emissions and tire wear (Gioia et al., 2008; Thapalia et al., 2015), wastewaters and sewage (Chen et al., 2008; 2009), and mining and metallurgy byproducts (Dogolopova et al., 2006; Mattielli et al., 2006; Weiss et al., 2007; Sivry et al., 2008). The effectiveness of Zn isotopes is due to their nuclides undergoing strong isotopic fractionations in industrial processes (e.g metallurgy and combustion by high-temperature or electrolysis processes) resulting in fingerprints isotopically distinct for man-made materials and by-products from those found in nature (Kavner et al.; 2008; Sivry et al., 2008; Borrok et al.; 2010; Ochoa and Weiss, 2015; Thapalia et al., 2015; Yin et al.; 2016). In addition, low temperature biogeochemical processes such as adsorption on organic and inorganic solid surfaces, ligand exchange and complexation, precipitation, biological uptake, and intercellular transport can also fractionate the Zn isotopes, which is useful for distinguishing difference biogeochemical processes (Pichat et al., 2003; Stenberg et al., 2004; Weiss et al., 2004; Pokrovsky et

al., 2005; Bermin et al., 2006; Gélabert et al., 2006; Balistrieri et al., 2008; Peel et al., 2009; Fujii et al., 2011; Jouvin et al., 2012; Little et al., 2014b; Kafantaris and Borrok, 2014; Matthies et al., 2014; Dekov et al., 2014; Coutaud et al., 2014; Zhao et al., 2014; Bryan et al., 2015; Veeramani et al., 2015).

However, when it comes to complex environments as coastal zones, the several factors involved on the Zn isotopic fractionation make the interpretation of their isotopic signatures a challenging task. The dynamic nature of estuaries and intertidal zones, characterized by strong chemical and physical gradients in the water and sediment properties, including pH, potential redox, salinity and others, promote constant changes on solubility, mobility, bioavailability, and toxicity of trace metals. In addition, the pathways and sinks of these elements are conditioned by binding to organic and inorganic ligands, adsorption on colloids or surface solids (e.g, clay minerals, oxyhydroxides, organic matter), biogeochemical processes (e.g, microbiological activity and diagenesis), presence of multiple sources (urbanization, agriculture, energy production, industries) and climatic conditions (Biachi, 2007; Du Laing, 2009; Mason, 2013). In previous studies, in the Gironde fluvial-estuarine system (France), the Zn isotopic composition of suspended particulate matter (SPM) did not enable the separation between anthropogenic and natural sources, probably due to on-site remediation of the contamination source and the mixture with natural Zn in the fluvial-estuarine continuum (Petit et al., 2015). In the dissolved phase, the large isotopic variation observed was attributed to adsorption processes in the estuary gradient and in the maximum turbidity zone (MTZ), rather than to sources contributions (Petit et al., 2015).

Zinc isotopes have also been determined in biological samples as tissues of bivalves mollusks intending to develop a new biomonitoring tool potentially capable of integrating sources, fates, and bioavailability information (Shiel et al. 2012; Shiel et al. 2013; Petit et al. 2015). However, previous studies conducted with bivalves on the west coast in Canada and Gironde estuary, showed homogenous Zn isotopic signatures without correlation with anthropogenic sources neither in temporal or spatial analysis (Shiel et al. 2012; Shiel et al. 2013; Petit et al. 2015). Thus, the applicability of Zn isotopes as tracer of sources and as a biomonitoring tool in coastal areas remains inconclusive.

To improve our knowledge about metal transition and post-transition isotopes in coastal zones and mangroves, this thesis investigates the Zn isotope biogeochemistry in Sepetiba bay (Southern Brazil). This bay constitutes an ideal natural laboratory for evaluating the Zn isotopes as a tracer of metal contaminants in coastal areas, since it hosts important ecosystems of commercial and ecological interest - estuaries, mangroves and tidal flats- threaten by the metal contamination from an old electroplating activity and other anthropogenic diffuse sources (Molisani et al., 2004; Rodrigues et al., 2012). Previous geochemical studies performed in the last decades consolidated a good data base and an appreciable knowledge about the dispersion mechanisms of metal contaminants, which serve as important starting-point to sampling strategies and to interpret the Zn isotopic compositions of the natural samples collected in this complex system. (Molisani et al., 2004; Lacerda and Molisani, 2006).

This study is relevant because the trace metal contamination is supposedly more critical in coastal zones and mangrove since these areas are normally under greater anthropogenic pressure than inland. Coastal margins are inhabited by more than 60% of the world's population within 50 km of estuaries and play important roles for the supply and global transport via shipping of food, minerals, building materials and serves as strategical sites for transport and ore processing (Agardy and Alder, 2010). Such panorama induce major risks of metal contamination, threatening important and unique, but vulnerable intertidal ecosystems, as mangroves, coral reefs, saltmarsh and seagrass which provide an ecological environment for diverse fauna and flora, sustaining a complex food web with intricate relationships between aquatic and terrestrial habitats (Agardy and Alder, 2010; Lewis, 2011; Bayen, 2012). As well as the releasing of metal contaminants into the environment, human activities have altered sediment flows in rivers due to erosion related to landscape use and dams, doubled the global average for nitrogen loading, and deteriorated the water quality by discharge of no treated sewage (Alcamo and Bennett, 2003). As a consequence, a series of dilemmas and trade-offs have arose between these important social and economic activities and the maintenance of the environmental quality. Such outcomes make it imperative to improve our understanding of trace metal biogeochemistry as well as to continue the development of tools capable of detecting changes in biogeochemical systems in order to auxiliary the prevention, monitoring, prediction of risks and remediation of impacted sites by metal contamination (Biachi, 2007). In this way, Zn isotopic signatures in natural samples such as sediments, water, leaves, and aquatic animals as bivalves are promising



indicators of the environment quality and processes occurring in the determined sites of study.

## **1.2 Objectives**

The main objective of this thesis was to investigate the applicability of Zn isotopes as a tracer of sources and biogeochemical processes, and as biomonitoring tool for metal contamination into coastal-zone ecosystems. The first step of this project was to set up a method for accurate and precise Zn isotopic measurements in environmental reference. Then, the stable isotopic composition of Zn was determined in several natural samples of Sepetiba bay (southeastern Brazil) and ore samples (from Vazante deposit, Minas Gerais, Brazil) refined in an old electroplating industry close the bay, in order:

- i) To identify sources and sinks of anthropogenic Zn;**
- ii) To reconstruct the temporal and spatial evolution of Zn contamination;**
- iii) To verify the influence of estuarine biogeochemical processes on the Zn isotopic signature during the element transport and deposition;**
- iv) To understand the effects of anthropogenic contamination on the mechanism of Zn uptake and tolerance of high-plant mangroves;**
- v) To unveil the meaning of bio-isotopic records of bivalves molluscs concerning the sources tracing and biogeochemical processes.**

## **1.2 Study area**

This study was conducted in Sepetiba Bay (southern Brazil), a microtidal estuary type lagoon, located 60 km west from Rio de Janeiro city (Fig.1). Sepetiba bay play a strategical role in the geo-economic center of Brazil, hosting a large population of metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro City (estimated in 1,400000 inhabitants), an expressive industrial park, including the largest steel industry complex of American Latin and important harbor activity with three ports in operation.

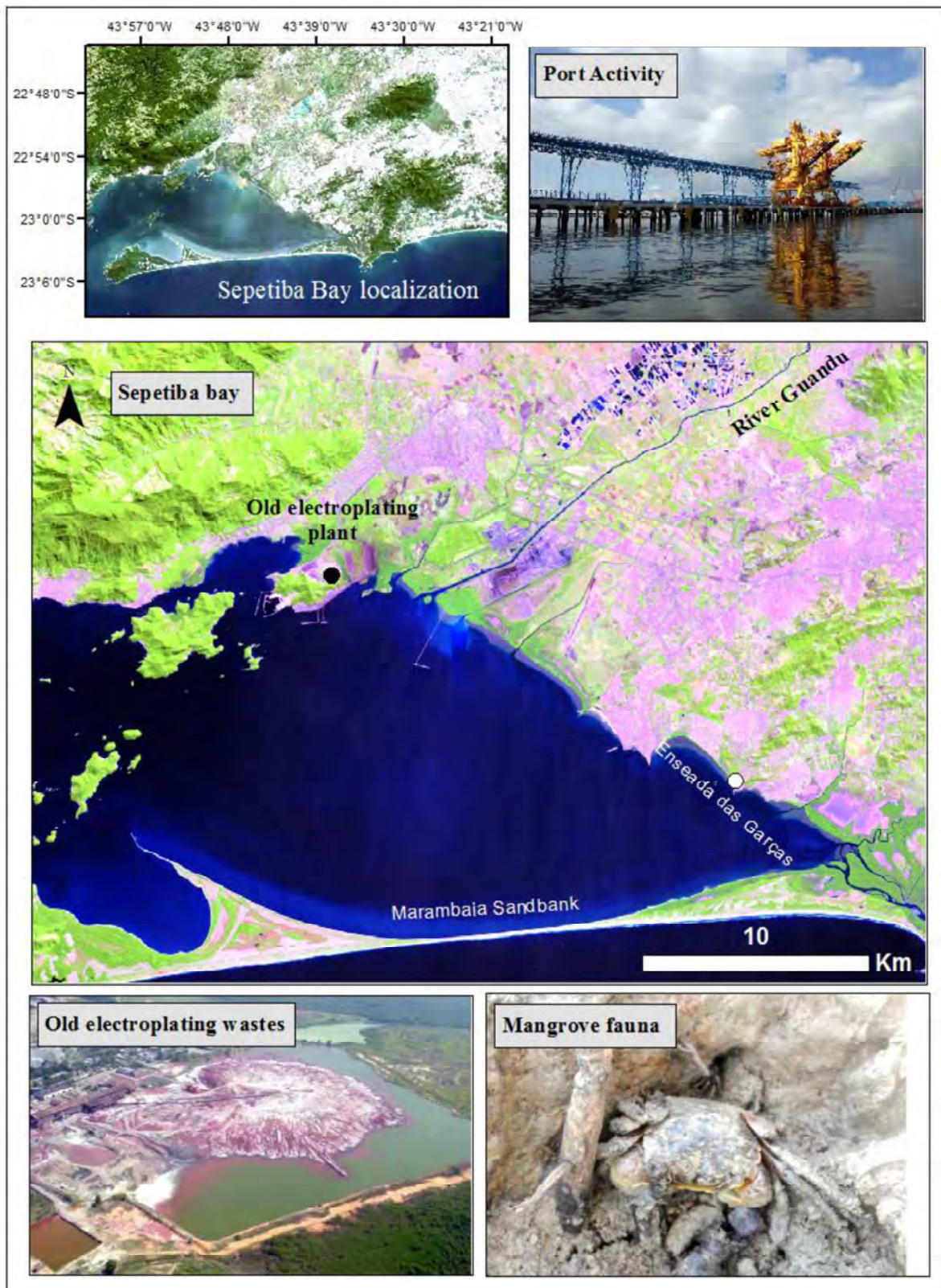


Fig.1. Localization of Sepetiba bay

The water circulation in the bay is controlled by tides and the pattern of surface currents trends in a clockwise direction creating a preferential deposition area along the northern coast (Neto et al., 2006; Roncarati and Carelli, 2012). Water column depths ranging from 2 to 12 m, except in navigation channels where the depth is greater (Molisani et al., 2004). Approximately 50% of its area has water columns with depth less than 6 m (Molisani et al., 2004). The turnover time of the water mass was estimated at around 6 days with maximum current velocity at peak tides ranging from 50 to 75 cm.s<sup>-1</sup> (Molisani et al., 2004), being limited at the north and the east by the continent, and at the south by a sandbank (Fig.1).

The geological setting of the bay watershed is composed by Quaternary sediments spread in the low relief and granite-gneiss rocks in the ridge zones belong to the Proterozoic. The waters of three main rivers, Guandu, Guarda and Guandu-Mirim river, reach the bay by artificial channels that cross an industrial park (Molisani et al., 2006; Roncarati and Carelli, 2012). The São Francisco channel, with an annual flow of  $6.5 \times 10^9 \text{ m}^3$ , is responsible for over 86% of the total freshwater runoff flow. The fluvial waters dilute marine waters in the inner part of the bay resulting in salinities between 20 to 34 (Molisani et al., 2004).

The original hydrological features of this bay and its watershed have been affected since the 1950's when large scale works for the diversion of water and construction of reservoirs were performed in the main river of the bay (River Guandu), aimed at addressing the regional demand for water (Rodrigues et al., 2012). However, these changes on the drainage system resulted in an increase of sediment load and fresh water inputs into the lagoon system (Molisani et al., 2006). It is estimated there has been a rise of about 28% of sediment load delivered to the bay, an increase in sedimentation rates from 0.12 to 1.3 cm per year (Smoak and Patchineelam, 1999; Molisani et al., 2004; Marques et al., 2006; Molisani et al., 2006). Batimetric studies and tax sedimentation calculations have shown a continuous silting up in the inner bay, resulting in the expansion of tidal flats and the delta of São Francisco channel (Roncarati and Carelli, 2012).

In the 1960's, a large industrial park began to be implanted, inducing an unstructured, sprawled urbanization, drastic landscape alterations, sewage releasing into the environment, and metal contamination by metallurgic activities (Molisani et al., 2004). An electroplating plant started to operate in the Saco do Engenho close to the Itaguaí harbor (Fig.1). The zinc purification process used silicate ores (calamine-

$\text{Zn}_2\text{SiO}_3(\text{OH})_2$  and willemite-  $\text{SiO}_4\text{Zn}_2$ ) acquired from Vazante (Minas Gerais, Brazil), the most important Zn deposit in Brazil. The ores were crushed and leached by sulfuric acid followed by filtration and purification of solution. Then the purified solution was carried to electrolytic cells where the zinc plates were produced. After this, the plates underwent smelting and casting processes (Barone, 1973). In 1996, the electroplating plant represented one of the three largest producers of zinc in Brazil with a total capacity of 60.000 tons per year (Barone, 1973).

The low production efficiency (75 to 90%) in the employed technological process have been appointed as responsible factor for high production of wastes (Barcellos, 1994).

The electroplating wastes (estimated to about 600,000 tons, and containing about 200 tons of Cd and 50.000 tons of Zn) were disposed in an area of 40 m<sup>2</sup> adjacent to the small marine channel Saco do Engenho (Fig.1). Rainfalls continuously leached the waste tailing to this channel and into the bay (Barcellos, 1991). To reduce the transport of these materials to the coastal area a dike was built between the bay and the tailing disposal site in 1984. However its rupture in 1996 caused a large input of contaminants to the surrounding bay area. In 1998 the industrial activities ceased (Molisani et al., 2004).

Several studies identified high metal concentrations in biota and sediment compartments of Sepetiba Bay, particularly for Zn (Barcelos et al., 1991). Zinc content in sediments (Pellegati et al., 2001; Wasserman et al., 2001), oysters (Rebelo et al.2003) and brown algae (Amado Filho et al., 1999) exceed 2000, 80000 and 800  $\mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$  respectively. Other toxic elements also have been reported with concentrations reaching 396  $\mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$  for Cd (Lacerda et al., 1988), 360  $\mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$  for As (Magalhães and Pfeiffer, 1994) and 460  $\mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$  for Pb (Lacerda et al.1987). Despite the end of electroplating refining of Zn, high metal concentrations have been reported even ten years later (Marques et al.2006; Gomes et al.2009; Patchineelam et al.2011; Ribeiro et al.2013) possibly due to the continuous leaching of wastes and remobilization of sediments from the *hot spot* of contamination, Saco do Engenho, to across the bay. In 2012, the tailings of wastes was removed from the bay, leading to a probable decrease of metal inputs in the lagoon system. However no published study has reported the actual levels and tendencies in the metal contamination.

Recently, the Itaguaí port was expanded and adapted to become a Hub Port, capable of receiving big ships transporters of (*cape size*) bulk cargos like ores, charcoal,

sulfur, and aluminium. A third port, Porto Sudeste, started its operation in 2015, with the capability to handle more than 50 million tonnes per year of iron ores and an expansion capacity prevised for up to 100 million tonnes per year. Due to traffic of large ships, major dredging actions have been performed to deepen the water column, leading to resuspension of sediment with potential remobilization of contaminants (Rodrigues et al., 2012).

Sediment mobilization is the main transport of metal and contaminants in Sepetiba bay (Lacerda et al., 1987). The complex hydrodynamic of the system and sediment re-suspension lead to large transport of suspended particles before its deposition promoting the remobilization and the dispersion of the contaminants along different zones of the bay (Barcellos, 1997). Computational modeling of the lagoon hydrodynamics shows a trend of fine sediments deposition along the northeastern coastal area of the bay where the tidal flats and mangroves acts as sinks of contaminants (Montezuma, 2013). In the mangroves and tidal flats sediments, the anoxic and organic matter-rich conditions result in the production of hydrogen sulfide ( $H_2S$ ) in sediment pore waters and the formation of insoluble metallic sulfides and complexes with organic matter (Lacerda et al.1994; Machado et al.2008; Andrade et al., 2012). This leads to the immobilization of Zn and other toxic metals (Cd, Cu, Ni and Pb) along the bay area (Andrade et al.2012; Ribeiro et al. 2013).



### 1.3 Thesis structure

Apart from this introductory chapter, this thesis is composed of the following Chapters:

**Chapter 2 – The trace metal biogeochemistry in coastal zones and mangroves:** This chapter presents a brief literature review about the aspects of trace metal biogeochemistry cycling in coastal zones, in particular in estuaries, mud flats and intertidal zones. The chapter describes the sources, mechanism of transport and diagenetic processes in the sediment-water interface.

**Chapter 3 – Zinc stable isotope biogeochemistry: a review:** In paper format, this chapter provides a conceptual framework of main principles of isotopic fractionation, applications and important findings of the Zn isotope biogeochemistry.

**Chapter 4 – Ion exchange chromatography and mass bias correction for accurate and precise Zn isotope ratio measurements in environmental reference materials by MC-ICP-MS:** Here is presented the manuscript published as a paper in the *Journal of the Brazilian Chemical Society* (DOI: 10.5935/0103-5053.20160167). This paper discusses the Zn isotope methodology established in this work.

**Chapter 5- Zinc isotopes as tracers of waste from electroplating industries in coastal environments:** This chapter includes the manuscript submitted to *Chemical Geology* journal and accepted with corrections. It presents the results and discussion of sediments, rocks, leaves and ores concerning the application of Zn isotopes as a tracer of electroplating wastes in coastal environments and biogeochemical processes in mangroves.

**Chapter 6- Zinc isotopes composition in bivalves mollusc tissues from a Brazilian estuary: implications for biomonitoring of metal contamination:** In this chapter, it is presented a manuscript in preparation, where is discussed the Zn isotopic information in mollusc bivalves for biomonitoring studies.

**Chapter 7- Summary and Conclusions:** The main findings and conclusions of this project are presented in this chapter.

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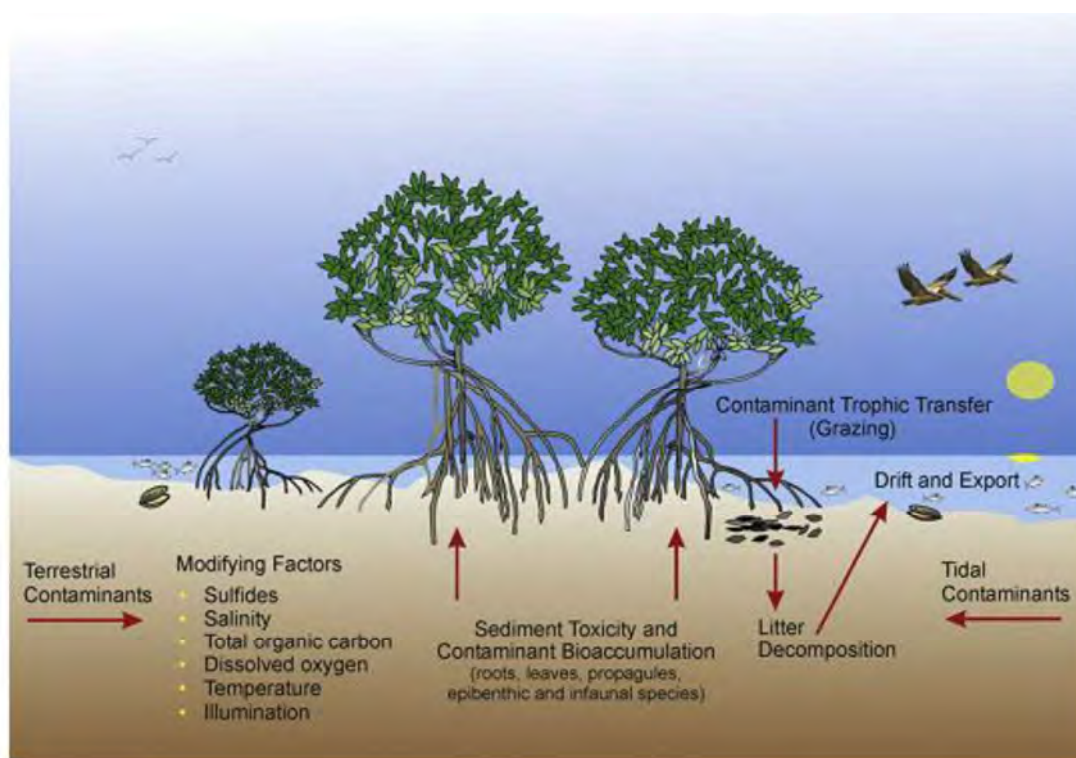
### THE TRACE METAL BIOGEOCHEMISTRY IN COASTAL ZONES AND MANGROVES

In coastal zones, the boundary between land and sea can take different forms including rocky cliffs, banks, sandy beaches, dunes, coral reef systems, lagoons, estuaries, intertidal zones or water wetlands as mangrove forests, marshes, etc. This chapter focuses on the biogeochemistry of trace metals in estuaries and intertidal sediments because of their ecological relevance concerning anthropogenic impacts and their potential risks to the biota and human health (Jickells and Rae, 1997; Alcamo and Bennett, 2003). In addition, the use of bivalve molluscs as biomonitors of metal contamination is also discussed.

Estuaries areas where the fresh water of rivers meets the salt water of oceans - are highly productive, dynamic, ecologically critical to other marine systems, and valuable to man (Agardy and Alder, 2010). Worldwide, some 1,200 major estuaries have been identified and mapped, yielding a total digitized area of approximately 500,000 Km<sup>2</sup>. These aquatic systems are particularly important as nursery areas for fisheries and other species, and form one of the strongest linkages between coastal, marine, and freshwater systems and the ecosystem services they provide (Beck et al. 2001). Estuaries represent the main route in the transference of terrigenous and anthropogenic materials from watersheds to coastal zones and the ocean. Along the estuarine pathway, chemical compounds including trace metals, can undergo several biogeochemical processes that influence their fate and toxicity (Bianchi, 2007). The knowledge of the biogeochemistry of estuaries is, therefore, imperative to elucidate the metal cycling in the coastal zones either in a regional or global context (Bianchi, 2007).

Mangrove and tidal flats are ecosystems developed in intertidal zones. They present large biological diversity and productivity, contributing to the support of food webs with intricate relationships with neighboring habitats (Bayen, 2012). These ecosystems can act as a filter for chemical compounds in the interface between terrestrial and coastal areas, receiving and trapping potentially deleterious

anthropogenic contaminants within its organic rich sediments (Machado and Lacerda, 2004). The high capabilities of retention within mangrove sediments contribute to the reduction of the metal transfer to adjacent coastal areas, however, depending on the changes in biogeochemical conditions, these elements can become bioavailable to plants and animals (MacFarlane et al., 2000). In the year 2000, the total area of mangroves in the world was estimated to 137,760 km<sup>2</sup> in 118 countries (Giri et al., 2010), covering between 110,000 and 200,000 km<sup>2</sup> along more than 70% of the world's tropical and subtropical coastlines (FAO, 2007; Spalding et al., 1997; Wilkie and Fortune, 2003). In this way, mangroves worldwide have a great influence on the metal dynamics of coastal areas (Fig.2).



**Fig.2.** Pathways for contaminant toxicity and bioaccumulation on mangrove ecosystems. Source: Lewis et al., 2011.

## 2.1 Trace metal in the estuarine system: sources, transport and fates.

Estuaries are common features in the continent-ocean interface and can be defined as “a semi-enclosed coastal body of water that extends to the effective limit of tidal influence, within which sea water entering from one or more free connections with the open sea, or

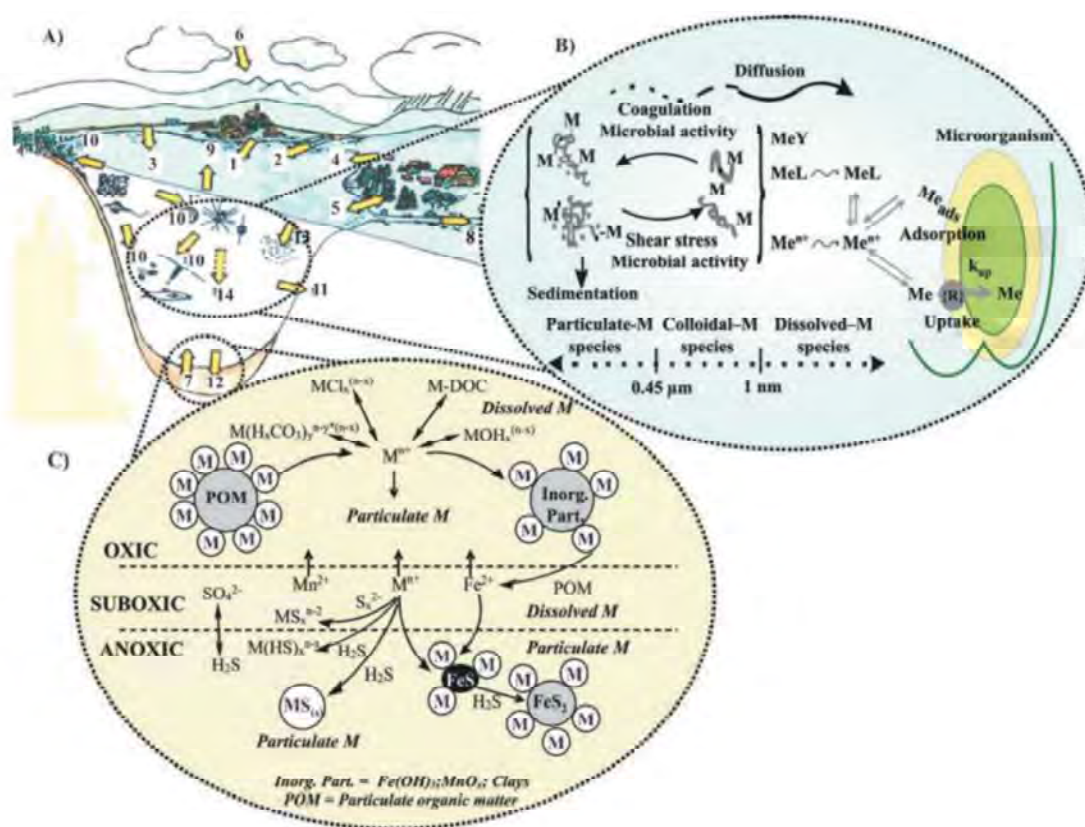
any other saline coastal body of water, is significantly diluted with fresh water derived from land drainage, and can sustain euryhaline biological species from either, part or the whole of their life cycle” (Perillo, 1995). They present internal water circulation, tidal cycles, sediment resuspension events, exchange of water flow with adjacent marshes, mangroves and other ecosystems, and receive river and groundwater discharges and atmospheric inputs (Leonard and Luther, 1995).

Estuaries are highly dynamic systems, characterized by strong chemical and physical gradients and multiple sources (Bianchi, 2007). This results in complex trace metal cycling, conditioned by a combination of factors such as redox conditions, ionic strength, abundance of adsorbing surfaces, pH, primary activity, coagulation, flocculation, sediment resuspension, tidal cycles, tidal currents and post depositional processes in sediments such as diagenesis (Millward, 1995; Wen et al., 1999; Bianchi, 2007).

Trace metals release into estuaries from natural process such as weathering and erosion of rocks and soils, volcanic activity, or anthropic sources including industrial, agricultural and domestic activities present in the drainage basin (Adriano and Adriano, 2001; Sparks, 2005). They can reach in the estuaries system via the atmosphere, groundwater or via fluvial pathways, of which the latter constitutes the main input (Mason, 2013). Once they have entered the fluvial-estuarine waters, they are transformed by biogeochemical processes and distributed under various physico-chemical forms (Fig.3), i.e. particulate (0.45 mm), colloidal (1 nm–0.45 mm) and dissolved metal species (<1 nm). Overall, anthropogenic contributions and formation of stable complexes with dissolved organic matter enhance the metal concentrations in the dissolved phase (Windom and Smith 1985; Tercier-Waeber and Taillefert, 2008; Mason, 2013). In addition, as trace metals are strongly associated with particles, the total concentration in the dissolved phase is a strong function of the suspended particulate material loading (Tuner and Millward, 2002; Mason, 2013).

In the dissolved phase, the metal can occur in three main forms: free hydrated ion, inorganic and organic complexes. The five inorganic ligands of primary importance in natural waters are  $F^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $OH^-$ ,  $HCO_3^-$ ,  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $HPO_3^{2-}$ ,  $NH_3$  and, in anoxic waters,  $HS^-$  and  $S_2$  (Parametrix, 1995). Organic ligands include natural organic matter, often dominated by humic substances (decomposing organic matter), which present organic functional groups (carboxylic, amino, sulfidi and phenolic) as binding sites

(Paquin et al.2002). The formation of complexes in natural waters can affect the rates of redox processes, mineral solubility and biochemical availability. The effect of these ligands on metal bioavailability is often seen as a direct consequence of dissolved ligand competition with binding sites on gills or gut surface for the free metal ion. They may also modify metal transport across membranes through several mechanisms, including competition with surface ligand sites, modification of lipid solubility, precipitation of complexes, and modification of biological processes (e.g., osmoregulation, respiration, excretion) (Newman and Jagoe, 1994). The free (hydrate)-metal ions are recognized as the most bioavailable and toxic form, while inorganic and organic complexes can also be potentially bioavailable presenting some toxicity (Anderson et al., 1984; Milero, 2001).



**Fig.3.** Schematic representation of the different fluxes of trace metals between aquatic ecosystems (A), with emphasis on the geochemical processes regulating metal cycling in the water column (B) and in sediments (C). Trace metals may reach aquatic systems via: (1) waste water treatment; (2) tributaries, surface runoff from (3) roads and (4) agricultural lands and soils, (5) exchange with groundwater, (6) atmospheric deposition, (7) release from sediments; they may be eliminated through: (8) discharge in effluents, (9) evaporation, (10) uptake by surrounding vegetation and organisms, (11) infiltration into subterranean waters, (12) reaction in the upper sediment layers, (13) adsorption by suspended matter, and (14) sedimentation. Source: Tercier-Waeber and Taillefert, 2008.

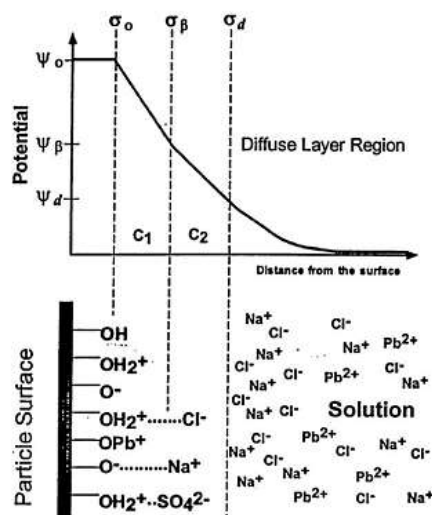
The distribution between the dissolved and particulate phase of trace metals is a function of the competition between the dissolved ligands and the sorption processes on

the surface binding sites of materials sorbents. In particular, the finest particles and the colloidal fractions of inorganic (clay minerals, metal oxides and oxyhydroxides and sulfides) and biogenic materials (bacteria, fungi, protozoans, plankton, faecal matter, marine and terrestrial plant debris, proteins, carbohydrates, lipids and pigments) play a pivotal role on the sorption processes of trace metal due their significant surface area and surface charge (Oades, 1989; Mayer, 1994a,b; Aufdenkampe et al., 2001; Turner and Millward, 2002). Special attention have been given to the Fe and Mn-oxyhydroxides because they are found in a wide variety of geological settings, nearly ubiquitous in sediments and soils (Heyden and Roychoudhury, 2015). The interaction of these metals with even small amounts of Fe and Mn-oxyhydroxides has been reported to decrease the dissolved metal concentration by several orders of magnitude, and therefore, they constitute an important repository for a wide variety of metals such as Cu, Co, Cd, Zn, Ni, Sn, Pb, Ca, Fe, Ra, Hg U, Pu, Po, As, Se and Th (Young and Harvey, 1992; Post, 1999, MERAG, 2007)

A general configuration of ions or complexes on a solid surface can be described by the diffuse double layer (DDL) model. At solid- solution interfaces, the counter-ions (ions with a charge opposite that of the solid surface) and co-ions (ions with a charge of the same sign as that of the surface) are diffusely distributed in the double layer, with counter-ions increasing in concentration toward the solid surface and co-ions increasing in concentration away the solid surface. The high concentration of counter ions close to clay surface gradually reduces, and reaches equilibrium concentration at a distance away from clay surfaces. For co-ions, concentration increases with distance from clay surfaces (Brown and Calas, 2011). Fig.4 illustrates schematically the distribution of counter-ions and co-ions on a particle surfaces.

The surface charge can be permanent, resulting from ionic substitution in the clay structure. Or the charge can be pH dependent, varying between negative, neutral or positive charges as pH increases or decreases. Clay minerals such as montmorillonite and vermiculite exhibit constant surface charge independent of pH variations. Clay minerals such as kaolinite and Al and Fe-oxides, organic matter and amorphous Fe and Mn-oxihydroxides reveal varying surface charge with pH, becoming positively charged with the protonation of functional groups at low pH and negatively charged with deprotonation at high pH values (Sparks, 2005). Each ion has its own optimum pH range for adsorption, but in general, for cationic trace metals, the adsorption efficiency

increases with pH. When surface charge becomes neutral at a determined pH, i.e., the total concentration of surface anionic sites is equal to the total concentration of surface cationic sites, this pH value is named the Point of Charge Zero (PCZ) (Sparks 2005). At pH values above the PCZ, the surface is overall negatively charged, and *vice-versa*.

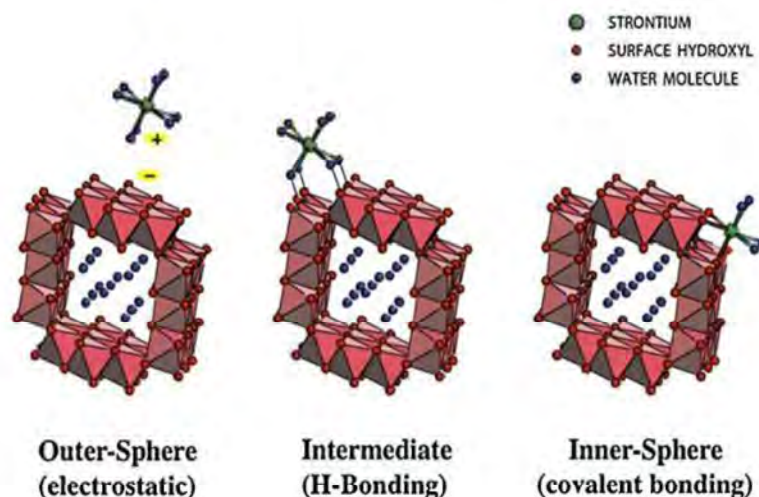


**Fig.4.** Schematic view of the electrical double layer at a mineral/aqueous solution interface showing possible inner-sphere ( $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ ) and outer-sphere ( $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) complexes and the drop off of the electrical potential away from the interface. Source: Hayes, 1987.

Both physical and chemical forces are involved in sorption processes. Physical forces include van der Waals forces (e.g. partitioning) and electrostatic coulombic interactions and tends to occur in outer-sphere complexation processes, i.e., during interactions between hydrated ions complexes and the solid surface. The presence of water molecules prevents the close approach of the metal ion to the surface functional groups of the solid surface, not allowing the formation of chemical bonds (Sposito, 1989). The outer-sphere processes is usually a rapid process that is reversible, and the adsorption occurs only on surfaces that are of opposite charge to the adsorbate. Chemical forces occurs in short-range interactions during inner-sphere complexation processes and involve ligand exchange mechanism, covalent bonding, and hydrogen bonding. Adsorption of ions via inner-sphere complexation can occur surface regardless of the original surface charge and is usually slower than outer-sphere complexation and is often not reversible (Stumm 1992; Sparks 2005; Heyden and Roychoudhury, 2015). A scheme of these different modes of adsorption is shown in Fig.5 using Sr as an



example: i) the sorption of  $\text{Sr}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8^{2+}$  aqueous complex onto the surface of Mn-oxyhydroxide via weak outer-sphere sorption in which the waters of hydration around Sr(II) are retained and the interaction is electrostatic, ii) intermediate H-bonding interactions between the aqueous complex and the solid surface, and iii) strong inner-sphere bonding in which some of the waters of hydration are lost and the  $\text{Sr}^{+2}$  ion bonds directly to the Mn-oxyhydroxide surface, forming partly covalent bonds (Brown and Calas, 2011)..



**Fig.5.** Schematic illustration of different modes of  $\text{Sr}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_8^{2+}$  sorption onto Mn-oxidehydroxides surfaces. Source: Grolimund et al., 2000.

The metals weakly adsorbed (i.e. H-bonded or electrostatically bonded to mineral surfaces), can be released to solution by a simple change in the ionic strength or pH of the solution. In contrast, metal strongly adsorbed (i.e. forming direct covalent/ionic bonds with reactive sites on mineral surfaces) undergo desorption processes only with significant changes in the aqueous solution. Such dramatic lowering of pH is due to acid mine drainage (Brown and Calas, 2011). Therefore, determining the mode of binding of metal cations and oxyanions to mineral surfaces is an essential step in evaluating their mobility in aquatic systems. For this, synchrotron-based XAFS spectroscopy has been the main method for elucidating the dominant binding mode (i.e. inner- vs. outer-sphere, monodentate vs. bidentate, mononuclear vs. multinuclear) and average structure of metal ion and oxyanion sorption complexes at mineral/aqueous solution interfaces (Brown and Sturchio, 2002; Brown and Calas, 2011).

In the marine and fresh water mixing zone of estuaries, the partition between dissolved and particulate fractions is affected by coagulation, sedimentation and successive sorption processes triggered by a set of changes in physical and chemical conditions of the water column including salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen and suspended material (Tercier-Waeber and Taillefert, 2007; Chester, 2000). All these processes induce either the addition or removal of dissolved components via particulate trapping on bottom sediments (Eby, 2004).

As fresh water enters a marine estuary, the pH increases from typical circum-neutral to alkaline values above 8, leading to deprotonation of functional groups and increasing of sorption capacity of binding surfaces (Eby, 2004). In turn, the increasing of salinity (or ionic strength) leads to the release of metals adsorbed on colloids and particulate matter due to the competition between bound metal ions and major ions of marine water or due to the formation of soluble chloride complexes (Du Laing et al., 2009). The salinity also favors the coagulation and flocculation of suspended material by neutralizing the negative charges of the particles by electrolytes of seawater (Turner and Millward, 2000). The coagulation and flocculation and posterior settling on bottom sediment promote the water column scavenging by the adsorption of dissolved metals on the surface of particle sediments. (Mason, 2013). The region of high particulate load and settling is termed as Turbidity Maximum Zone (TMZ). As the sediment plumes obstruct light penetration in this zone, the highest productivity on the water column normally occur farther, in an area known as the Chlorophyll Maximum Zone-CMZ. The delimitations of these zones are variable, depending on estuarine type, circulation, and freshwater flow (Bianchi, 2007). These two regions account for most of the particulate settling and trace metal removal in the water mixing zone, which become the estuarine sediments; the main sink of metals exported from the continent toward the oceans (Bianchi, 2007; Mason, 2013).

## **2.2 Biogeochemistry processes in the intertidal zones: tidal flats and mangroves**

The fluvial-estuarine sediments deposit within the intertidal zones at tidal flats and mangroves. These consist of the accumulation of large amounts of organic matter and nutrients brought by the rivers or produced by the primary activity linked to aquatic biomass of algae and phytoplankton (Jickells and Rae, 1997; Mason, 2013).

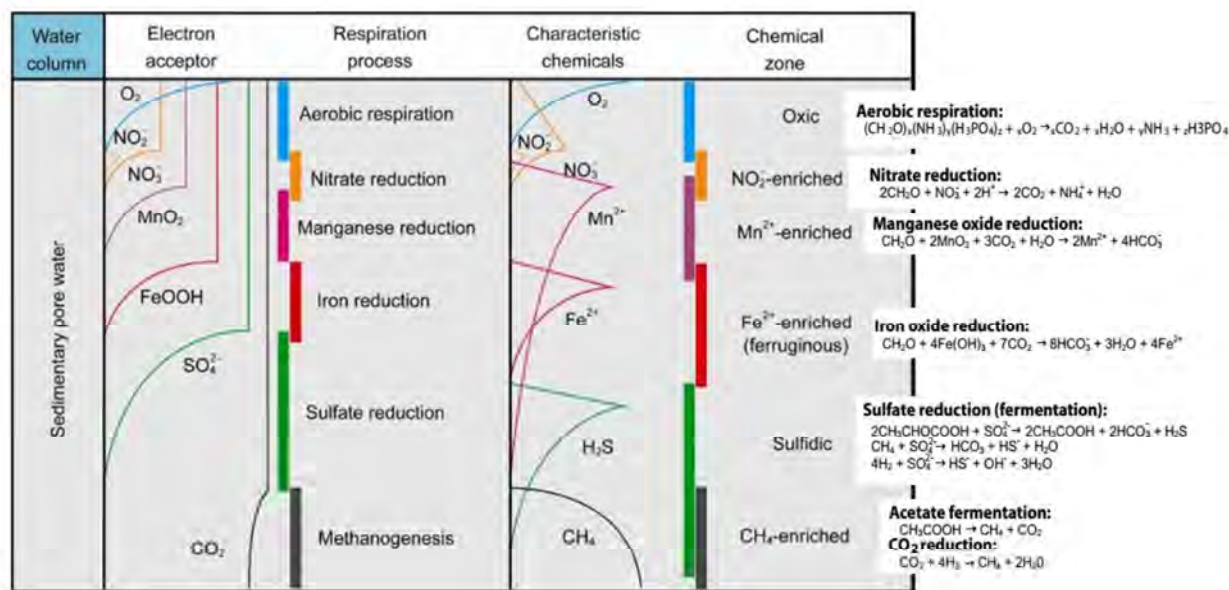
This organic matter can also be known as  $\text{CH}_2\text{O}$  (formaldehyde), a very simple compound precursor of sugars and which is oxidized into  $\text{HCO}_3^-$ , the stable form of carbon in solution (Albarède, 2009). The labile fraction of the organic matter is associated with unstable compounds such as detritus of dead organisms, fecal pellets and low weight molecules such as carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, nucleic acids and pigments (Bianchi, 2007). Once in the environment, this fraction tends to decompose in relatively short times, from some hours to days. In turn, the most resistant (or inert) part of the organic pool tends to be less reactive in the environment. This fraction is generally associated to humic substances and/or molecules with long aliphatic chains of lipids derived from membrane material and the aromatic compounds derived from the phenol rings of lignin (Albarède, 2009).

Within sediments, the organic matter recycling (i.e, its remineralization) is directly influenced by the microbial activity. In order to obtain energy, these microorganisms promote the oxidation of the labile organic matter via enzymes using different metabolic pathways and oxidants (or electron acceptors:  $\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{MnO}_2$ ,  $\text{FeOOH}$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{CO}_2$ ) following a sequence of reactions determined by energetic advantages and by the supplying of determined oxidant species (Chester 2000; Ebay, 2004) (Fig.6).

The oxygen penetration depth is a function of the relative supply of organic matter compared to the rate of diffusion of oxygen into the sediments. In the deep sea, organic matter supply is low and sediments are permeable, and so oxygen supply is sufficient to support aerobic degradation (Burdige, 2005). In estuarine sediments, the presence of mud flats with high content of organic matter results in the lowest oxygen penetration and in the dominance of anaerobic processes involving alternative oxidant species commonly abundant in marine sediments and marine water such as  $\text{MnO}_2$ ,  $\text{FeOOH}$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  (Jickells and Rae, 1997).

Biogeochemical reactions and redox gradients driven by the decomposition of organic matter is given the term *Diagenesis*. Thus, the diagenetic processes can be defined as the combination of biological, chemical, and physical processes in the interstitial-water–sediment interface which lead to the formation of new and altered mineral phase, changes in the composition of waters themselves and the quantity and composition of the organic matter (Berner, 1980; Chester, 2000). In the case of intertidal zones, the diagenesis are also influenced by bioturbation processes and by the

redox variations associated to often submersion and air exposition during tidal cycles (Ebay, 2004; Chester, 2000).



**Fig.6.** Bacterial decomposition of organic matter in marine/estuarine sediment through a sequence of terminal electron acceptors (e.g.,  $O_2$ ,  $NO_3^-$ ,  $MnO_2$ ,  $FeOOH$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$  and  $CO_2$ ) and changing redox. Source: Li et al.2015, modified from Canfield and Thamdrup, 2009.

In mud flat and mangrove sediments, the top oxic layers are well oxygenated by the bioturbation of burrowing animals, and so microorganisms use aerobic respiration mechanisms to oxidize the organic matter and converting it in carbon dioxide plus water (Albarède, 2009). As oxygen is exhausted, the organisms switch to a succession of anaerobic pathways using alternative terminal electron acceptors to oxidize organic matter (Fig.6). In these anaerobic conditions, nitrate ( $NO_3^-$ ) is reduced to nitrogen (denitrification), which is lost to the overlying water through diffusion and advection of pore waters. The use of  $O_2$  and  $NO_3^-$  as oxidants causes a slight decrease in the pH of the pore waters, to values around 5, an increase in the concentration of  $CO_2$  as a result of degradation of organic matter and increments in  $Ca^{+2}$  concentration and alkalinity, as a result the dissolution of  $CaCO_3$  (Li et al., 2015).

After depletion of the nitrate supplying, ferric iron ( $Fe^{3+}$ ) and  $Mn^{+4}$  present as hydroxides ( $MnO_2$ ,  $FeOOH$ ) are progressively reduced and dissolved in the oxidation of the organic matter. While the most of the reduced  $Mn^{2+}$  returns to the column water, ferrous iron ( $Fe^{+2}$ ) reacts with the sulfur liberated by the dissimilatory reduction of sulfate and precipitates as insoluble iron sulfides (amorphous-FeS, mackinawite-FeS,

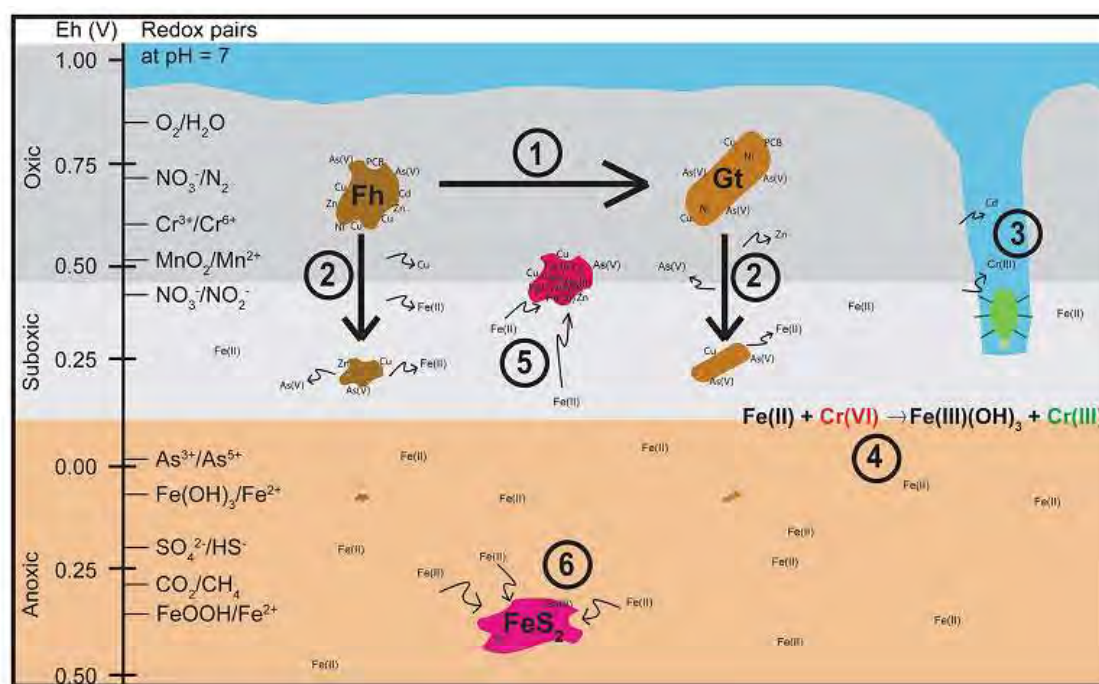
greigite-Fe<sub>3</sub>S<sub>4</sub>, pyrrhotite FeS<sub>1.1</sub>) and posteriorly as pyrite-FeS<sub>2</sub> (Huerta-Diaz and Morse, 1990; Morse and Luther, 1999; Machado et al., 2014). The latter constitutes a common authigenic mineral in sediments with high organic matter content. The anaerobic degradation of organic matter using MnO<sub>2</sub>, FeOOH, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> as oxidants is accompanied by an increase in alkalinity with production of HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>3-</sup>, HS<sup>-</sup>, HPO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>, FeS<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> and precipitated of CaCO<sub>3</sub> in the form of aragonite and calcite produced biologically. The CO<sub>2</sub> produced in this decomposition is the precursor of anion HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, which is primarily responsible for the alkalinity (Albarède, 2009).

The diagenesis have important implications for trace metal cycling. In low oxygen environments, the anaerobic metabolic processes can induce dissolution of Fe and Mn-oxyhydroxides phases leading to the release of trace metals to interstitial water. This can make these metals available for transport, organism incorporation or sediment redistribution (Mason, 2013). In cases of environments with high degree of anoxia and sulfate supplying the trace metals can also interact with insoluble sulfides adsorbing it, entering the iron sulfides structure via isomorphic substitution, or forming its own minerals (Morse and Luther, 1999; Huerta-Diaz and Morse, 1990). This association of trace metals to insoluble sulfides decrease the biological availability and the potential of toxicity for the biota (Ankley et al., 1996, MERAG, 2007).

In mangroves sediments, the intense diageneses promote the partition of trace metal between the different sorbent phases (Fe-Mn oxyhydroxides, organic matter, clay minerals, sulphides, etc.) in stratified redox zones from oxic to anoxic layers (Fig.7). This partition is largely influenced by the controlling factors of redox conditions as the quantity and reactivity of organic matter, sediment grain size, bioturbation activity, rhizosphere processes, and periods of water logging during tidal cycles (Lewis, 2011; Marchand et al., 2011). In general, the characteristic high organic matter and sulfides in the anoxic zones of mangroves gives this system its large capacity to retain metals and act as sinks for these elements. The formation of sulfides is favored during high tide where sediments become waterlogged and remain under anoxic conditions (Andrade et al. 2012; Huerta-Diaz and Morse, 1990). Furthermore, the sulfidic phase can be oxidized when exposed to air during the low tide or by the O<sub>2</sub> inputs driven by the exchanges between rhizosphere and atmosphere or diffused by bioturbation activity (Lewis, 2011; Bayen 2012; Machado et al. 2014). The oxidation of sulphides result in the precipitation of Fe-oxyhydroxides and formation of Fe plaques around root surfaces and ultimately

results in significant accumulation of trace metals in these zones (Lacerda et al., 1993; Chaudhuri et al., 2014). Thus, the redox variations in mangrove sediments can be understood as two contrasting effects taking place in the biogeochemical cycling of trace metals: first, the oxidation process of sulfides increases the mobility and availability of trace elements, then, the precipitation of Fe-oxyhydroxides tends to decrease the mobility and bioavailability to plant uptake (Lacerda et al., 1993; Chaudhuri et al., 2014)

The formation of metal-sulfides, metal-organic matter complexes and adsorption on Fe-plaques on the roots of plants restricts their bioavailability for plant uptake. This results in a low metal allocation in leaves, which in turn reduces the metal export through leaf litter transport, as well as the metal availability to enter in food chains based on leaf consumption (Machado and Lacerda, 2004). Low metal concentrations in leaves have also been attributed to tolerance mechanism of mangroves to exclude metals or regulate their translocation to the shoot and leaves (McFarlane and Burchett, 2002). The metal uptake can be regulated at the root endodermis through modifying uptake from predominantly apoplastic to selective symplastic transport (McFarlane and Burchett, 2000). Overall, mangrove plants tend to operate as excluder species for non-essential metals and regulators of essential metals (MacFarlane et al., 2007).



**Fig.7.** Interactions between Fe mineral phases and inorganic and organic contaminants and the transformations and variations that occur due to sediment biogeochemistry. (1) Ageing transformations from poorly crystalline phases (e.g. ferrihydrite, schwertmannite) to more crystalline phases (e.g. goethite, hematite) typically lead to an expulsion of adsorbed contaminants due to decreases in mineral surface area. However, divalent cations associated with the more crystalline phases typically become more recalcitrant. (2) Reductive dissolution of Fe oxide minerals leads to the release of adsorbed and co-precipitated contaminants, with a concomitant release of reduced Fe(II) into solution. (3) Disturbances to the sediment structure during diagenesis (e.g. bioturbation, dredging and sediment re-suspension) can lead to speciation changes (due to infiltrating O<sub>2</sub>) and can also lead to release of contaminants into the water column, thus posing a threat to aquatic organisms. (4) The released flux of Fe(II) can act as an electron donor during coupled redox transformation of contaminant phases. This is the premise on which the Fe(0) and Fe(II) amendment strategies are based. (5) The reduced Fe(II) flux can also reprecipitate at the redox boundary to form poorly crystalline phases (including mixed metal species such as FeAsO<sub>4</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O) which can incorporate various trace metal contaminants. (6) Under highly anaerobic conditions, sulphur speciation has the strongest control on contaminant chemistry. Pyrite readily precipitates and can incorporate trace metals such as Co and Ni. Source: Heyden and Roychoudhury, 2015.

### 2.3. Bivalve molluscs: ecological importance and applicability as biomonitors of metal contamination

Chemical analysis of natural mediums such as water, soil and sediment is widely employed as the most direct approach to assess the metal(oid) contamination status



and possible risks for the biota (Zhou et al.2008). However, these samples are limited to evaluate the bioavailability and toxicity of the contamination on the organisms and ecosystem. Alternatively, the sampling and analysis of biological samples (*biomonitors*) such as individual organism's tissues and fluids, can inform about the amounts of metals that have entered and remained in the organisms, indicating the portions of the total ambient metal load that present ecotoxicological relevance, as well as possible deleterious effects (Raibow, 1995; Market et al., 2003). Thus, biomonitors are useful to establishing either geographical and temporal variations in the bioavailabilities of metals and are advantageous to reduce the costs of environmental monitoring programmes (Raibow, 1995).

For aquatic metal contamination, biomonitor samples include plankton, insects, molluscs, fish, plants, and birds. While macrophytic alga responds essentially to dissolved metal sources only, bivalve mollusc responds to metal sources in dissolved and suspended phases, and a deposit feeder responds to metal available in sediment (Zhou et al., 2008; Raibow, 1995).

Despite this variety of options and their specificities, bivalve molluscs have been the class of animals most employed in environment studies concerning metal contamination due their several suited tributes as biomonitor and ecological relevance (Oehlmann and Schulte-Oehlmann, 2003). The bivalves represent the second most abundant between the six classes of the phyla Mollusca, which is one of the most diverse phyla in the animal kingdom (more than 130.000 known species; Gosling, 2003). Molluscs bivalves are soft-bodied animals laterally compressed by two protective shells. Abundant and ubiquitous in nature, they occur in almost all coastal habitats found on Earth on a large variety of substrates including rocky shores, coral reefs, mud flats, and sandy beaches and have a vital ecological role in different aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Molluscs are responsible for litter decomposition and contribute large amounts of biomass to the different trophic levels in ecosystems (from primary consumers to top predators), and are common preys of other animals like echinoderms, fish, birds and mammals (Castro and Huber, 2010). Bivalve molluscs are also economically important. They constitute an important part of the diet of many human populations, mainly in coastal zones, presenting high nutritious value, with high protein content, many amino acids, and relatively low fat content (actionbioscience, 2016). Today, the knowledge of mollusc reproductive cycles has led to the development of hatcheries and new culture techniques. In 1999, over 95% of all



oysters were consumed from aquaculture origin whereas the corresponding figures for mussels, scallops and clams were 86%, 63% and 77%, respectively (FAO, 2001). Since the molluscs can contain toxins (produced by themselves or accumulated from environment), or act as vectors for a number of human-relevant parasites and diseases, their consumption requires special attention by public-health organisations (Goslim, 2003). Bivalves are also important for the economy in the production of pearls industry (Fassler, 1995).

Several attributes make molluscs good organisms for environmental monitoring: firstly, their sedentary nature does not require consideration of complex migratory factors in the interpretation of the bioaccumulation data (Gupta and Singh, 2011; Zhou et al., 2008). Secondly, they are strong bioaccumulators of chemicals, possessing high uptake and low efflux rates for metals, capable of filtering large water volumes and incorporating metals in their tissues and shells in higher than the surrounding environment (Gupta and Singh, 2011; Wang et al., 1996). Thus, chemicals present at undetectable levels in water can be identified in bivalves due to their high bioaccumulation ability. Bivalves present other desirable characteristics for biomonitors. They are abundant and widely found, geographical, show tolerance to environmental alterations and various environmental contaminants, have wide and stable populations, reasonably long-lived, reasonable sized, and withstand rough environments during laboratory and infield studies (Oehlmann and Schulte-Oehlmann, 2003).

Despite bivalves adequately fulfilling the requirements as biomonitors, it is important to emphasize that it is impossible to determine contamination levels in an aquatic ecosystem directly or in an absolute way, using only metal bioaccumulation data in bivalves because they are influenced by a number of biotic and abiotic factors (Zuykov et al., 2013). Bioaccumulation results from a dynamic equilibrium between exposure from the outside environment and uptake, excretion, storage, and degradation within an organism. These in turn, are influenced by biotic and abiotic factors (*e.g.*, species variability, gender, age, body size, nutrition, reproductive status, temperature, salinity, pH, light, mode of exposure, etc.) (Raiwbow, 1995; Zhou et al., 2008; Zuykov et al., 2013). Furthermore, due to a depuration effect, the residence time of the pollutant may be shorter than the time interval separating two sampling periods (Freitas et al., 2012). Understanding of the dynamic process of bioaccumulation is, therefore, crucial for accurately interpret the magnitude of environmental impacts.

## 2.4. Bivalve mollusc morphology and feeding behavior

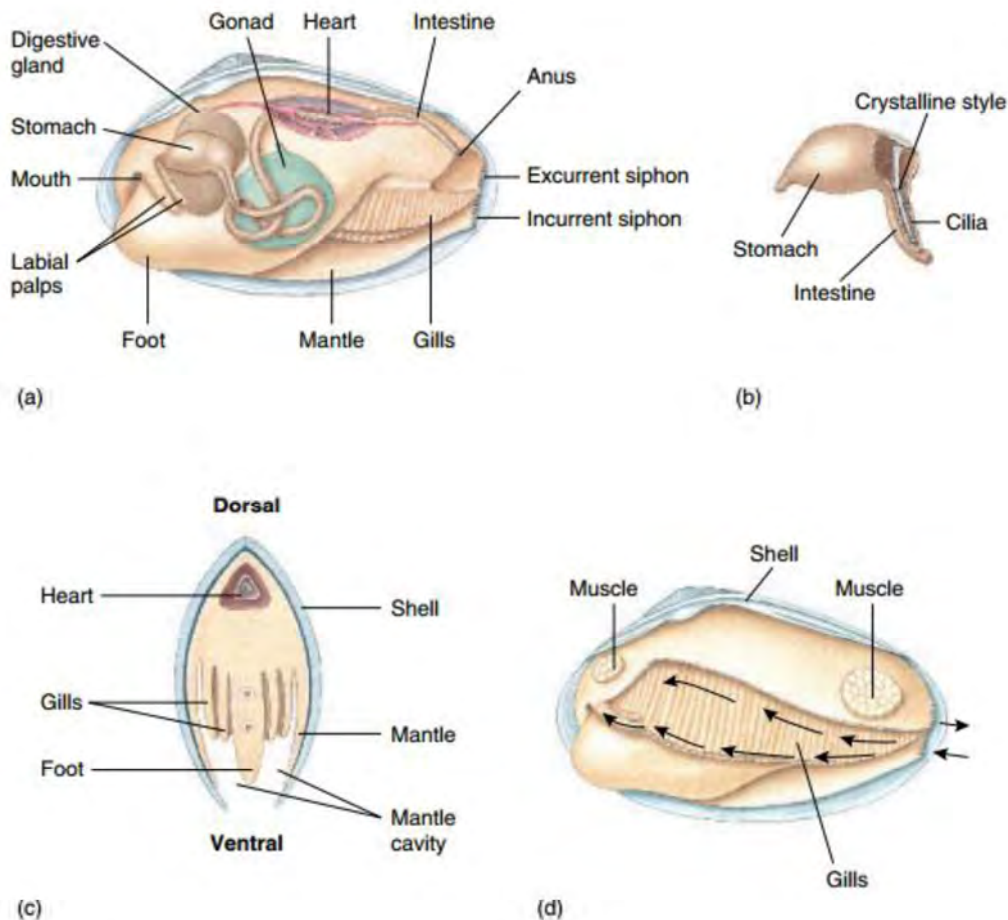
Bivalves are characterized by two oval or elongate valves, which enclose the visceral mass. They are entirely aquatic and rather stationary organisms, generally possessing a muscular foot which they use to attach themselves to the substrate and/or burrow down into sediments (Castro and Huber, 2010).

The first part of a bivalve shell to develop is the umbo which is seen as a large bump towards the anterior end of the dorsal side of the shell. An internal elastic ligament automatically opens the valves, but by contracting one of two of its adductor muscles it is able to hold the shell shut. The inner surface of the shell is lined by the mantle, so that the whole body lies in the mantle cavity, a large space between the two halves of the mantle (Castro and Huber, 2010).

As mentioned before, bivalves are filtering-feeding, i.e., obtain their aliment (bacteria, phytoplankton, microzooplankton, detritus, amino acids and sugar) through water passing over a specialized filtering structure. For this, two siphons are used: one, the inhalant siphon, which carries water to the internal cavity, while the exhalant siphon takes water away from the internal cavity. In certain cases these siphons can be fused, but the water in the two tubes still remains separate. Once inside the water runs by folded gills, which are used not only to obtain oxygen, but also to filter and sort via cilia small food particles from the water. The gills also can control the rate at which suspended material is removed from the surrounding water by ciliary beat or muscular expansion of the ostia. Most bivalves retain particles as small as 0.4-0.6  $\mu\text{m}$  with 86% of its efficiency for larger particle capture (Goslim, 2003). The retained food particles are incorporated to a mucus and then carried by cilia along food grooves on the edges of the gills to the mouth region, where the particles are sorted on the ciliated labial palps before to pass the mouth, esophagus and reach the stomach (Goslim, 2003).

The digestive gland opens into the stomach by several ducts, which liberate digestive enzymes to mix with ingested particles. The ciliary system of the stomach beats coordinately causing the rotation of the crystalline style, an elongated rod of solidified mucus, which promotes the constant mixing of particles and digestive enzymes and propels food particles into a sorting region at the rear of the stomach, distributing smaller particles into the digestive glands, and heavier particles into the intestine. Some of digestive glands also include cells that phagocytose food particles, and digest them intracellularly. Waste or segregated material not digested are channeled

into the intestine along a deep rejection groove and eliminated by the anus as pellets (Goslim, 2003).

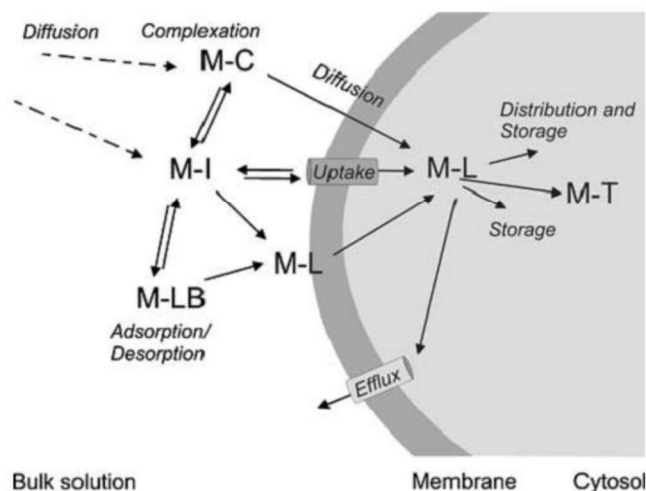


**Fig.8.** A laterally compressed body is the most distinctive feature of bivalves, illustrated here by a clam. The gills, which hang on both sides of the body (a, c), sort out food particles and transport them to the mouth with the help of cilia and mucus. The palps then push the food into the mouth. Food is then digested in the stomach with the help of the crystalline style (b). The path of the particles from the incurrent siphon to the mouth is indicated by arrows (d). Source: (Castro and Huber, 2010).

## 2.5 Metal bioaccumulation mechanisms and their implications for environmental risk assessing

Bivalves are able to uptake metals in different forms by different routes (free metal ions, metal complexes, and particle-bound metals), as schematized in Fig.9. The most important sites for absorption of dissolved metals are the gills. Metals bound to particulate phases can be incorporated post desorption or solubilization by enzymes and

non-enzymatic ligands during digestion processes in the gastro-intestinal tract (Griscom and Fishcer, 2004).



**Fig.9.** Conceptual model of the main processes and sources for uptake of trace metals at a biological membrane. (M-C metal complex, M-I metal ion, M-LB labile particle-bound metal, M-T metal at target site, M-L metal bound to a biological ligand). Source: Ahlf et al., 2009.

Not all ingested metal is assimilated during the digestion processes. The assimilation efficiency (AE), defined as the fraction of metal incorporated into animal tissue after initial absorption across the gut lining following digestion, is conditioned by several factors. These include the nature and physiology of the organism (ingestion rate, gut passage time, and relative significance of extracellular and intracellular digestion), characteristics of the ingested particles (size, organic content and composition, degree of metal contamination, abundance of microalgae and adherent bacteria), and the nature and reactivity of the metal (distribution coefficient, redox behavior, ability to penetrate cytosolic material and gut lining) (Wang, 2002). In general, metals which preferentially sorb to fine, organic-rich particles, or linked to the cytosolic material, desorb at pH 5 to 6 (the conditions in the bivalve gut), and occur in organometallic forms are assimilated with greatest efficiency (Decho and Luoma, 1994; Lee and Luoma, 1998; Griscom et al., 2002).

The assimilation of metals to the bivalve tissue occurs across the plasma membrane of epithelial cells of the gills or gut, which most likely occurs via facilitated diffusion or by energy dependent processes such as (i) transport by a membrane-protein of relatively wide specificity; (ii) transport by specific proteins of the plasma membrane

through which metal ions pass selectively; or (iii) endocytosis (Langston and Bebianno, 1998).

After crossing the plasma membrane, the incoming metal binds immediately to ligands and distributes between sites of storage, efflux, or toxic action (Ahlf et al., 2009). In the case of an essential metal, it is available to bind to sites where it can play an essential role (e.g. zinc in the enzyme carbonic anhydrase or copper in haemocyanin) or, if present in excess (caused by entry at too high a rate), to sites where it may cause toxic effects. To avoid reaching toxication, the bivalve cells can activate detoxification mechanisms, which involves the binding of metals to proteins such as metallothioneins or to insoluble metaliferous granules, in order to make the metal unavailable to play any activity in metabolic processes (Rainbow, 2002; Raibow, 2007). In this way, the accumulated trace metal in the organism can be classified into two components: (i) metabolically available metal and (ii) stored detoxified metal. Toxicity results when the rate of metal uptake from all sources (via particulate and dissolved) exceeds the combined rates of detoxification and excretion of the metal concerned (Rainbow, 2002; Ahlf et al., 2009).

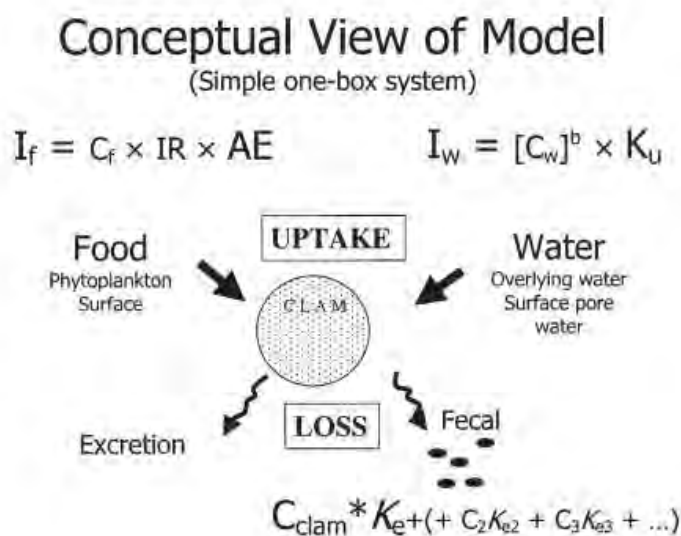
The link between bioavailability, metal bioaccumulation mechanisms and toxicity effects in aquatic invertebrates are currently ongoing research themes (Luoma and Rainbow, 2005; Bourgeault et al., 2011; Rainbow and Luoma, 2011). Of major interest is the understanding of the factors controlling metal bioavailability and the routes of metal assimilation (via dissolved, food or particulate) for better regulation of water and sediment quality criteria, comprehension of metal trophic transfer and biogeochemical cycling in coastal systems (Wang and Fishier, 1999). In this sense, different approaches have been used to predict the bioavailability and toxicity of metals in water and sediment. The first, named Biotic Ligand Model (BLM), have been developed to explain and predict the effects of water chemistry on the toxicity of metals (MERAG, 2007; Ahlf et al., 2009). This model combines the geochemical complexities and biological ligands that affect metal exposure, considering the influences of speciation (e.g., free metal ion, dissolved organic complexation) and cationic competition (e.g.,  $K^+$ ,  $Na^+$ ,  $Ca^{2+}$  and  $Mg^{2+}$ ) on metal toxicity to organisms (Di Toro et al., 2001; Santore et al., 2001; Deleebeeck et al., 2007). The biological surface (e.g., gill) is seen as a ligand competing with other organic molecules in the water phase. This kind of equilibrium partitioning method is a tool, which is increasingly used for regulatory purposes (US EPA 2003; MERAG, 2007). Although the model has been validated in a

couple of studies, some inherent limitations have been documented for organisms that can uptake metals from algae, bacteria and colloidal matter, beyond of the dissolved phase (Hassler et al. 2004).

Other approach for risk assessment of metals, applicable for anoxic sediments, is the concept of sulfide bound metals described by the ratio of simultaneously extracted metals (SEM) and acid volatile sulfide concept (AVS). This model assumes that the potential bioavailability of a metal could be predicted by comparing the relative molar concentrations of the SEM and AVS, both obtained in extraction with 1 M HCl. If sufficient sulfide exists to bind all SEM as insoluble compounds, no release of metal to pore water occurs and metal toxicity will not be expected. Unlike, if SEM exceeds the AVS concentration, a potential toxicity can be expected. The SEM-AVS concept has been shown to be predictive for the lack of toxicity for metals having a high affinity for AVS, e.g., Cd, Cu, Pb, Ag, and Zn. As the BLM model, the SEM-AVS approach assumes also that the free ion concentration is the greatest exposure pathway (MERAG, 2007; Ahlf et al. 2009).

Approaches have also been developed to predict and understand the metal concentrations in aquatic invertebrates (Wang and Fisher, 1999; Wang, 2002; Griscom and Fisher, 2004). One is by the use of a simple kinetic model which considers the metal uptake by dissolved and dietary phases as first-order physiological process (Luoma and Rainbow, 2005). This model represents the accumulation of metals in an animal as a balance of the rates of metal uptake into and loss out of the organism (Fig.10), where uptake from each source is additive (food + water). Loss of metals from an animal proceeds by excretion, diffusion, and fecal depuration. Furthermore, the relative importance of each uptake pathway can then be quantitatively assessed by comparing influx rates into the animals from each source. However, the model requires metal uptake and loss rates, typically quantified in laboratory experiments, and measurements of metal concentrations in food (including sediments) and water from a specific study area (Wang and Fisher, 1999; Griscom and Fisher, 2004; Luoma and Rainbow, 2005). The rate determinations, combined with field concentrations of metal in food and water from the study area are used to predict metal concentrations in animals from that particular area. Because the variability of each physiological parameter can be measured over a wide range of environmental conditions, the kinetic model is more flexible than empirical studies for delineating metal exposure pathways

under different field conditions (Wang and Fisher, 1999; Griscom and Fisher, 2004; Luoma and Rainbow, 2005).



**Fig.10.** Conceptual view of the biokinetic model and the equations used to understand the concentrations of trace metals accumulated by aquatic invertebrates.  $I_f$  : influx rate of metal from food ( $\mu\text{g metal g}^{-1}$  animal dry wt  $\text{d}^{-1}$ );  $C_f$  : metal concentration in the food ( $\mu\text{g metal g}^{-1}$  food dry wt);  $IR$ : ingestion rate ( $\text{g food dry wt g}^{-1}$  clam dry wt);  $AE$ : assimilation efficiency of ingested metal;  $I_w$ : the influx rate from water ( $\mu\text{g metal g}^{-1}$  animal dry wt  $\text{d}^{-1}$ );  $k_u$ : uptake rate constant from dissolved phase ( $\text{l g}^{-1}\text{d}^{-1}$ );  $C_w$ : metal concentration in dissolved phase ( $\mu\text{g l}^{-1}$ );  $b$ : power of the relationship, typically  $1 \pm 0.1$ , unless metal uptake is biologically regulated;  $k_e$  : the rate constant of loss (from the slowest compartment;  $\text{d}^{-1}$ );  $C_2$  and  $C_3$ ,  $k_{e2}$  and  $k_{e3}$ : metal concentrations in compartments  $C_n$  in the clam with loss rates. Source: Griscom and Fisher, 2004.

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### ZINC STABLE ISOTOPE BIOGEOCHEMISTRY: A REVIEW

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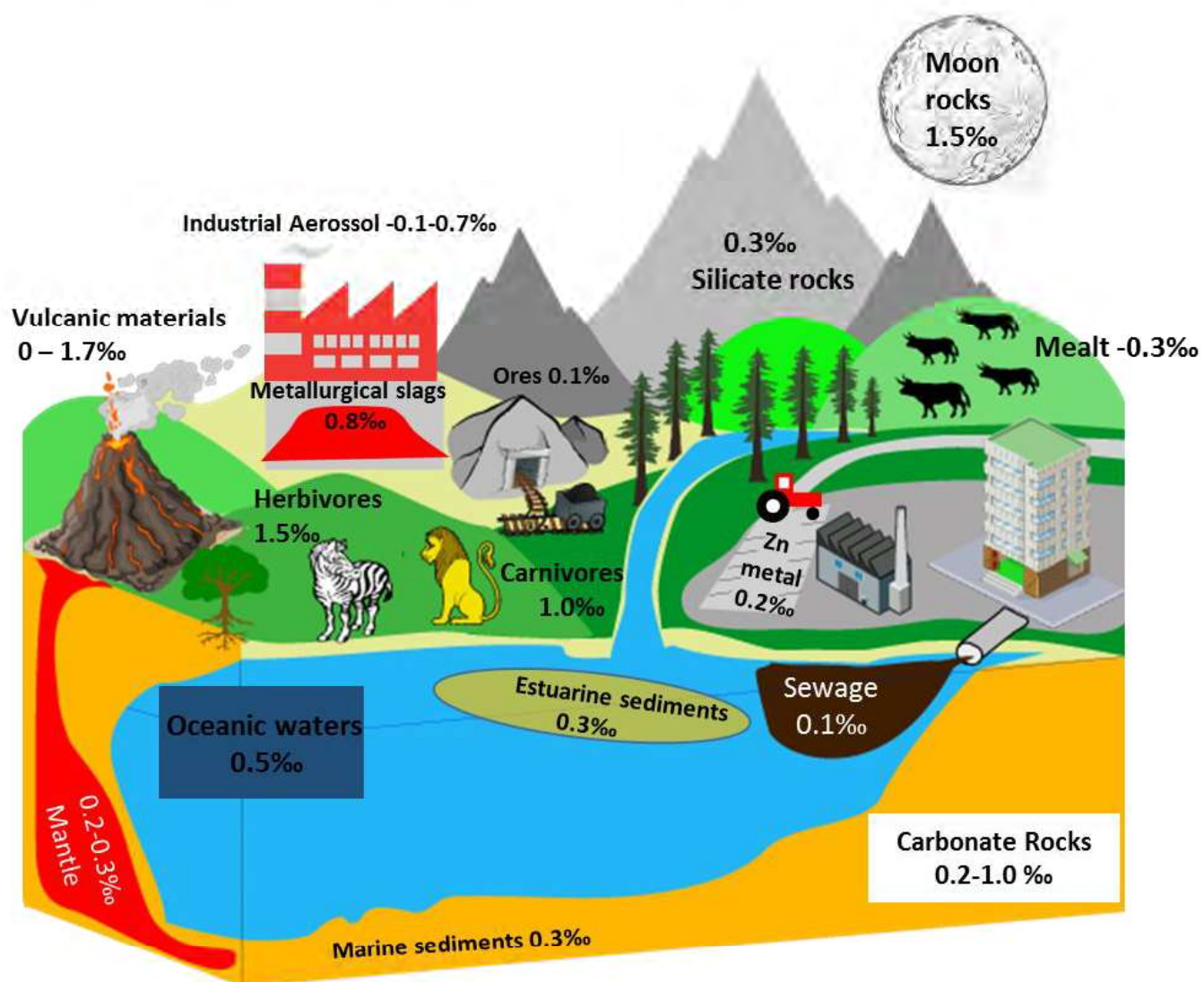
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#### Abstract

Zinc (Zn) is a chalcophile metal of Group 12, ubiquitous in the environment and with important participation in many biogeochemical processes that take place in the cellules and in abiotic systems, from the Earth core up to surface environment, and in primitive extraterrestrial materials. In the last 20 years, advances in the mass spectrometry instrumentation have allowed to measure, with precision, the Zn isotopic fractionation in natural and anthropogenic samples, leading to emergence of the field of Zn stable isotope biogeochemistry. Supported by a solid theoretical background inherited from the classical non-metal stable isotopes (C, N, H, O, N), the understanding of the control factors of Zn isotopic fractionation in the nature have rapidly evolved. Here, we review the main applications and findings of Zn isotopes in diverse issues of the most variated scientific domains including metal contamination, magmatic differentiation, cosmochemistry, plant uptaking, weathering, global climate changes, dietary and trophic chains and biomedicine. The analytical aspects for their determination in solid and water samples and the mechanisms responsible for the Zn isotopic fractionation in the nature are also revisited. Thus, we aim to give a general panorama of Zn isotope biogeochemistry, demonstrating the versatility and potentiality of this isotopic system to elucidate the Zn elemental cycle through the biogeosphere and in extraterrestrial materials.

## Zinc isotope compositions in the nature ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$ )



## 1. Introduction

In the last 20 years, the metal stable isotopes have been applied in diverse fields of the knowledge such as inorganic chemistry, biomedicine, environmental, anthropology, ecology, climate changes and geology. The main factor of this propulsive scientific interest is the result of the advances in the mass spectrometry instrumentation and sample preparation methods, which allowed to determine precisely the isotopic compositions of metals in natural and manmade materials (Johnson et al., 2004; Bullen and Eisenhauer, 2009; Wiederhold, 2015).

Notoriously, the advent of the multicollector- inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (MC-ICP-MS) opened the access to several isotopic systems of periodic table until then unexplored due the analytical limitations or unsuitable techniques of analysis (Johnson et al., 2004; Weiss et al. 2007; Bullen, 2011). The MC-ICP-MS present a variety of sample introduction systems (e.g., nebulizer/spray chambers, desolvation, and laser ablation) allowing to work with different matrices and low concentrations (Prohaska et al., 2015). The coupling of the high ionization efficiency of the ICP source, a sector mass analyzer and a double focusing multicollector array system gives it a high sensibility and precision capable to discriminate until small isotopic variations lower 0.1‰ in the samples (Becker, 2007; Bullen, 2011). In other hand, the MC-ICP-MS creates some unavoidable obstacles that can hamper precise and accurate measurements such as: (a) the formation of polyatomic species at the ICP source from unwanted molecular ions, (b) potential isobaric interferences from atmospheric and plasma gases, and (c) higher instrumental fractionation or mass bias requiring more rigorous corrections methods. In this way, many laboratories have been struggling to overcome these analytical challenges and today, accurate and precise methods to determine the isotopic compositions are available for many elements (Johnson et al., 2004; Mason et al., 2007; Prohaska et al., 2015)

Amidst the new disponible isotopic systems, increasing interest has been addressed to Zn isotopes because of the relevance of this element for healthy, economic, technological and environmental studies (Weiss et al., 2007; Adriano and Adriano, 2011; Bullen, 2011). It is an essential micronutrient for organisms and an important cofactor of several enzymes. In high concentrations however, it can be toxic (Kabata-Pendias, 2008; Adriano and Adriano, 2011). This metal is used in alloys, pesticides and

electroplating and is commonly associated with mining environmental impacts (Sivry et al., 2008; Yin et al. 2015).

In this review, the Zn isotope biogeochemistry is presented, including the general methodological aspects of metal isotope analysis, mechanisms of isotope fractionation and the main applications and findings of Zn isotopes in themes including metal contamination, magmatic differentiation, cosmochemistry, plant uptake, weathering, global climate changes, dietary and trophic chains, and biomedicine.

## 2. General Biogeochemistry of Zinc

Zinc (Zn, atomic number 30) is a chalcophile metal of Group 12 (d-block), the 24<sup>th</sup> most abundant element in Earth's Crust, ubiquitous in the environment and with important participation in diverse biogeochemical processes in the cellular metabolism and abiotic compartments of terrestrial and aquatic systems. With more than 200 zinc enzymes known, this metal plays vital functions for the living beings, including the provisioning of structural integrity to several metabolically important proteins (Cloquet et al., 2006; Hansch and Mendel, 2009). In an adult human, about 2g of Zn are distributed throughout the body, composing important enzymes such as carbonic anhydrase and carboxypeptidase A (Cloquet et al., 2006). This great usefulness in biological systems is accounted for by a combination of chemical properties. The electronic configuration of Zn is  $[\text{Ar}]d^{10}s^2$ , but in the nature is found as a divalent ion (i.e,  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ ) through the loss of the valence shell electrons (Adriano and Adriano, 2011). Because its d-shell orbital is filled, the zinc atom has a ligand-field stabilization energy of zero in all coordination geometries, and hence the lack of an energy barrier to access different coordination geometries can be used by zinc metalloenzymes to alter the reactivity of the metal ion and catalyze many biochemical reactions (Reilly, 2004). Since Zn serves as micronutrient for almost all living beings, the organisms have evolved mechanisms to supply their needs regardless the external concentration, maintaining the Zn homeostasis (Bird, 2015). However, in environments containing Zn at concentrations either so high or so low that overcome the organism's ability to regulate it, undesirable effects may occur (Bird, 2015). Dietary deficiency on Zn have been associated to deleterious effects on immune system, while high concentrations have been linked to poisoning of individuals, causing nausea, abdominal cramping, vomiting, tenesmus, and diarrhea with or without bleeding (Salgueiro, 2000; Reilly, 2004).



Zinc is found primarily combined with sulfur and oxygen, in the form of sulphide or oxide associated. The principal ores of Zn are composed of sphalerite and wurtzite,  $\text{ZnS}$ , of the same chemical formula but with distinguished crystallographic structures, cubic and hexagonal, respectively. Other important ores are zincite ( $\text{ZnO}$ ), smithsonite ( $\text{ZnCO}_3$ ), willemite ( $\text{Zn}_2\text{SiO}_4$ ) and hemimorphite ( $\text{Zn}_4\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7(\text{OH})_2 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). Considering only the mass of the zinc contained in the ores, the world reserve of zinc is more than 480 million tons (Neves, 2011). These mineral reserves are distributed mainly (more than 70%) over Australia, China, USA, Mexico, Canada, Peru, Bolivia and Kazakhstan (USGS, 2016). In silicate rocks, Zn occurs as trace element uniformly distributed in magmatic rocks (40-120 ppm), whereas in sedimentary rocks it is likely to be concentrated in argillaceous sediments comprising the range of 80-120 ppm. In coal, Zn concentrations varies from 52 to 19,000 ppm. Mean Zn for worldwide soils is calculated as 64 ppm (Kabata-Pendias, 2008). In the ocean, Zn displays nutrient-like depth profiles (Mason, 2013), generally with lower concentrations at surface water and higher in deep waters, reflecting intense removal of this element into phytoplankton and posterior regeneration at depth. It has been suggested, based on laboratory studies, that Zn could limit phytoplankton growth (Shaked et al., 2006).

Most of the Zn produced (~95%) in the world comes from ores containing Zn sulfide minerals (<http://www.zinc.org>). As Zn ores normally contain 5-15% zinc, they are concentrated first by crushing and grinding to enable optimal separation from the other minerals. Typically, a zinc concentrate contains about 55% of zinc and 25-30% or more of sulfur as well as different amounts of iron, lead, silver and other minerals. Today, over 90% of global metal Zn is produced hydrometallurgically in electrolytic plants (<http://www.zinc.org>). First, ore concentrate is brought to a temperature of more than 900°C, so the zinc sulfide ( $\text{ZnS}$ ) converts into the more active zinc oxide ( $\text{ZnO}$ ). Then, the zinc oxide is separated from the other calcines by dissolution in sulfuric acid (Yin et al. 2015). After some purification steps, the sulfuric leached passes through an electrolytic cell, where an electrical current is circulated through it by applying an electrical difference between the anode and the cathode, causing the zinc to deposit on the cathodes (zinc.org, 2016). Most part of the refined zinc produced is used as a coating to protect iron and steel from corrosion (galvanized metal), as well as alloying metal to make bronze and brass and zinc-based die casting alloy (USGS, 2016). Other secondary applications of Zn compounds are as catalyst in several chemical production

(e.g., rubber, pigments, plastic, lubricants, and pesticides) and as component in technological devices such as batteries, television-screen phosphors and automotive equipment (Bullen, 2011).

The large disturbances in the natural Zn cycle associated to its exploitation, production and releasing by anthropogenic activities, such as vehicle emission, sewage sludge, road runoff, industrial emission and mining and metallurgy, have led to an enrichment of this element in soils, air, waters, sediments and biota (John et al., 2007; Weiss et al. 2007; Chen et al. 2009; Juillot et al., 2011; Yin et al., 2015). The inputs to atmosphere have been increased by 25% for Zn due anthropogenic activities and these impact on rainwater chemistry has been clearly demonstrated in large cities and even in regions far from industrial centers (Gaillardet et al., 2003; Mason, 2013). In addition to these emissions related to human activity, a natural Zinc cycling continues uninterruptedly through the environment due to the natural processes of weathering and erosion (Kabata-Pendias, 2008; Adriano and Adriano, 2001). All these processes mobilize a variety of Zn compounds in the environment.

### **3. Sample preparation for isotope analysis**

#### *3.1 Solid and water samples*

Collection of solid samples of soils, biological tissues and landfill materials, among others, should be collected into plastic bags, and care should be taken to ensure that sampling equipment (e.g. shovels, augers stem wood borers) does not contain the metal of interest (Gill, 1997; Bullen 2011). The determination of isotope composition of solid samples can be performed *in situ* using laser ablation techniques, but the conversion to liquid form via acid dissolution for nebulization introduction onto spectrometer is more common. In this last case, the bulk sample should be first crushed to disaggregation in order to facilitate the acid dissolution, as well as homogenized in order to reduce the volume for storage (Gill, 1997). Sediments and soils normally require drying (e.g. at 60°C, disaggregation and sieving (<63 µm and <2 mm, respectively). Rocks are crushed and grinded into fine power using agate, swing or ball mill. In case of biological tissues such as plants, bivalves, fish and other organisms, water removal by freeze drying is crucial to avoid sample deterioration (Gill, 1997). After this pre-preparation, the samples are dissolved totally with concentrated acid mixing of HF, HNO<sub>3</sub> and HCl,

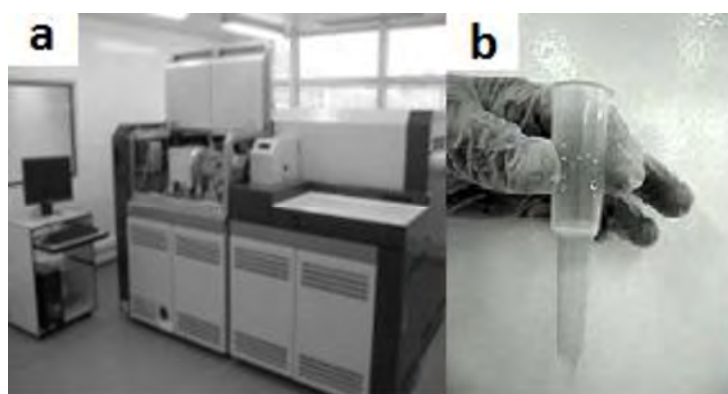
using preferentially PFA labwares on hot plates. In case of refractories samples, digestion assisted by microwave is more indicated. The reagents employed on the sample preparation must be preferentially of high purity to keep the blank as low possible. The sub-boiling distillation of acids are commonly used to remove impurities of the acid reagents.

The sampling protocol for transition or post-transition metal isotope analysis of water is similar to that for standard dissolved cation analysis (Bullen, 2011). The sample is collected using plastic tubing for pumps or plastic containers for dipping and placed into plastic containers that have been rinsed several times with the water being collected. Pre-cleaning of the plastic containers with nitric acid is required to assure lower blanks. The water sample needs to be filtered passing through membranes with pore-size normally varying between 0.45 and 0.22  $\mu\text{m}$  (Chen et al., 2008; Bullen, 2011). Depending on scientific purposes, the ultra-centrifugation can be an option to separate the colloidal phase for analysis. After obtaining the dissolved fraction, this should be acidified with nitric or hydrochloric acid to a pH of approximately 2.0 for sample preservation (APHA, 2005). Knowledge of metal concentrations in the sample prior to collection for isotope analysis is useful in order to ensure that sufficient metal is collected to meet the requirements of the analytical technique. The minimum amount of Zn required for isotope analysis ranges from as 100 ng to 1000 ng, depending on factors such as ionization efficiency in the mass spectrometer, instrumental settings and laboratorial blank (Bullen, 2011). After collection, water samples can be dried and afterwards digested with acids for posterior analyte separation and analysis (Borrok et al., 2007). In case of very diluted waters or marine waters which present high degree of dissolved solids, the dryness method for concentration become unfeasible. As alternative, pre-concentration methods can be performed using specific resin such as BioRad Chelex®100 column or by co-precipitation adding basic compounds to water samples (Bermin et al., 2006).

All chemical procedures of sample dissolution and Zn chromatographic separation (discussed on the next section) are normally conducted in clean laboratory enable with class 100-1000 hoods.

### 3.2 Analyte separation: eliminating matrix interferences

Prior to mass spectrometry, the metal of interest must be isolated from the rest of the sample matrix and particularly from elements that would produce isobaric interferences on the target masses for analysis (Becker, 2005). To this end, the ion exchange chromatography separation is the technique more widely used (Maréchal et al. 1999; Chapman et al., 2006; Bullen, 2011). It consists in eluting the sample in the liquid form (mobile phase) through a specific resin packed in a column (stationary phase), where the analyte of interest will be retained while other the matrix elements are lixiviated (Collins et al., 2006). The principle of the technique is based on the different specific affinities of the ions between the mobile and the steady phase, which depends on the charge/ratio of the ions in the mobile phase and the dipole moment of functional groups in the steady phase (Collins et al., 2006). The adsorption of ion on the stationary phase are reversible, being adjusted by pH and ionic strength (Skoog, 2000). For separating metal transition elements like Zn, Cu and Fe, it is usual to use the anionic type, in which analyte is converted from free ion to complexes chlorides or bromides of negative charge in acid hydrochloric or acid bromidic medium (Maréchal et al., 1999; Borrok et al., 2009). Because the ion-exchange process between the eluted metals and resin can fractionate Zn isotopically, a recovery close to 100% is required to avoid a significant change of original isotope compositions of the samples (Maréchal and Albarède, 2002). That process requires a prior calibration and tuning of chromatography protocol to assure reliable data after isotope measurements.



**Fig.1.** a) A multicollector-inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (MC-ICP-MS) from the laboratory of Estudos Geodinâmicos e Ambientais (University of Brasília); b) A chromatographic column packed with ionic exchange resin AG MP-1 (BioRad®).

#### 4. The MC –ICP-MS instrumentation

The MC-ICP-MS is the most suitable analytical instrument to measure the (post-) transition metal isotopic ratios (Fig.2). This instrument consists basically on three main components: ion source, ion optics (ion acceleration, ion beam focusing, and isotope mass separation by magnetic sector) and ion collection by Faraday cups or microionic counters (Becker, 2005; Allègre, 2007).

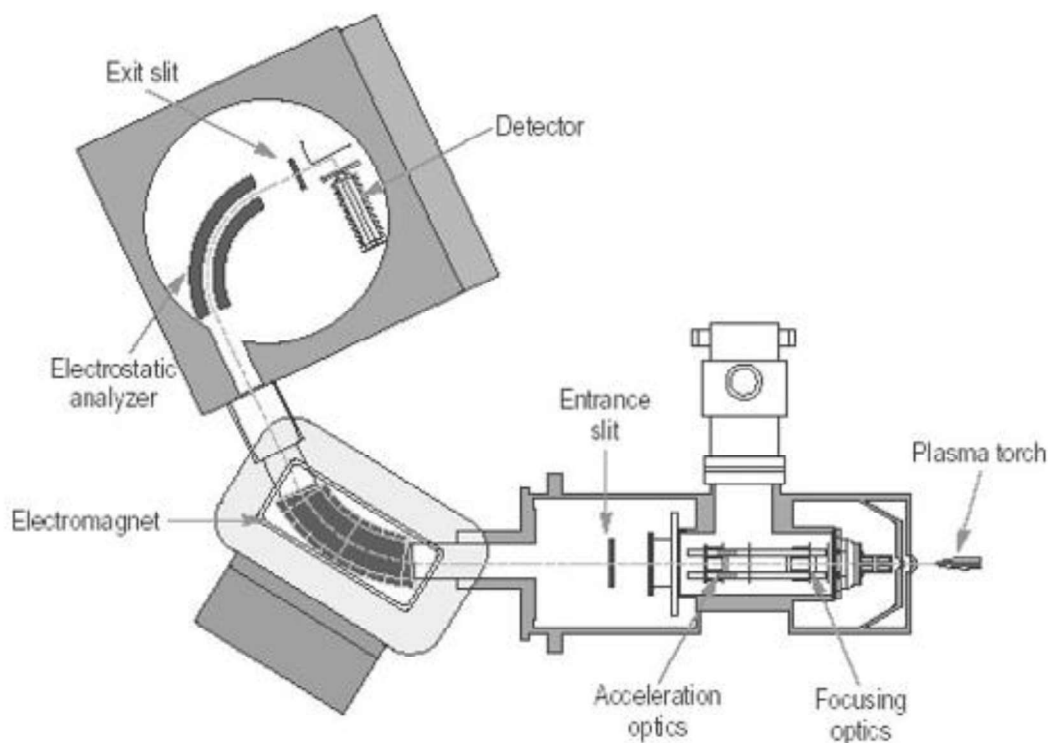
The sample is injected into the source region either as a nebulized liquid aerosol or as an ablated solid particulate in a gaseous stream which passes through a high-temperature Ar plasma (up to 10,000 K) at near-atmospheric pressure (Johnson et al., 2004). At this high temperature, atoms of the sample material are vaporized, atomized and ionized very efficiently, which works for almost all elements across the periodic table (Johnson et al., 2004). The ions produced then enter the optics region, where they are accelerated through a large potential (up to 10 kV) and focused electronically to create an ion beam. The accelerated and focused ion beam then passes through a slit into the flight tube where the different isotopes of the element are reflected and separated by the magnetic sector (Allègre, 2007). This slit allows only ions with an energy within an acceptable range to be transmitted in the direction of the magnetic sector (Vanhaecke and Degryse, 2012). By reducing the width of an entrance and exit slit, the mass resolution can be increased to discriminate the analyte ions from interfering species of similar mass (isobaric interferences). High mass resolution is often enabled to resolve some critical interferences like the one from  $^{56}\text{Fe}$  derived from polyatomic species formed in the plasma as  $^{40}\text{Ar}^{16}\text{O}$ . However, the use of narrower slits presents some disadvantages such as the decreasing of analysis sensibility. To counterbalance these effects an electrostatic sector is placed before the magnetic sector in order to improve the ion beam transmission (Vanhaecke and Degryse, 2012). This combination of electrostatic and magnet sector are referred as double-focusing geometry. Most commercially available MC-ICP-MS instruments use a 90° electrostatic sector immediately after the ion source for velocity focusing, followed by a 90° magnetic sector. This double-focusing configuration is known as Nier–Johnson geometry (Vanhaecke and Degryse, 2012). The inverse order, i.e, the electrostatic sector placed after the magnetic sector, is known as inverse Nier-Johnson geometry (Fig.2). In the magnetic sector, the magnetic field exerts a perpendicular force onto the ion beam, bending it down according to Lorentz law. The lighter ions

suffer more deflection than the heavier ones, and so the ions can be sorted according to their mass-to-charge ratio ( $m/z$ ). The ion beam deflection is related to the intensity of magnetic field, the radius of the magnet and the voltage applied on the ion extraction (Vanhaecke and Degryse, 2012; Becker, 2005).

Ion detection collectors are set to intersect the resulting flight paths of the ions. The MC-ICP-MS are enabled with Faraday cup detectors: credit-card sized in thin rectangular boxes, open on one narrow end with a deep bucket to receive and trap ions on the internal surfaces, resulting in a measurable total ion current on the internal surfaces (Prohaska, 2011). Made from graphite or graphite-coated metal, Faraday cups are connected to current amplifiers with high-ohmic feedback resistors, typically on the order of  $10^{11} \Omega$ . These detector are highly robust with large range of linearity and elevated accuracy (Prohaska, 2011; Vanhaecke and Degryse, 2012). Secondary electron multipliers can also be used in cases of extremely low ion currents. Incoming ions strike a conversion dynode that ejects several electrons per incoming ion (Vanhaecke and Degryse, 2012; Prohaska, 2011). These ions are accelerated towards a second conversion dynode where each electron again causes the ejection of several secondary electrons. Several cascading dynode stages result in gains of anywhere from  $10^5$  - to  $10^8$  -fold, depending on the voltage bias applied on the device (typically from 500 to 2000 V). Secondary electron multipliers are bulky devices and cannot be placed adjacent to each other in an MC array to allow high-sensitivity ion current detection of neighboring masses. In this case, miniaturized conversion dynodes (channeltrons) that are identical in size with the standard Faraday cups can be inserted directly in the collector array (Prohaska, 2011; Vanhaecke and Degryse, 2012).

An important component in the MC-ICP-MS instrument design is the vacuum system, where several pumping stages are required to maintain an ultra-high vacuum in its inner. Otherwise ions transmitted from ion source will lose their charge by collision with air molecules and return to the atom state deteriorating the instrumental sensitivity (Becker, 2005). In general, a vacuum of  $10^{-7}$  millibars near the source, and another vacuum of  $10^{-9}$  millibars or lower near the collector is produced via efficient mechanical and electrical “ion getter” vacuum pumps (Prohaska et al., 2011; Vanhaecke and Degryse, 2012). The pumping of the interface is only required if the plasma is in operation. As a consequence, the interface pump is operating separately from the high-vacuum system. (Prohaska et al., 2011; Vanhaecke and Degryse, 2012).

After acquired the Zn isotope compositions data, it is necessary to correct it, discounting the instrumental fractionation (or *mass bias*) and drifts that took place during analysis. The mass bias occurs because isotopes are transmitted with different efficiencies by the mass spectrometer, resulting in non-uniform sensitivity across the mass range and in inaccurate isotope ratio measurements (Heumann, 1998; Maréchal et al.1999; Mason et al.2004). The simplest technique used to correct mass bias is sample standard bracketing (SSB), which consists of analyzing an unknown sample “bracketed” by standards that are used to interpolate and correct the mass bias drift during data collection (Archer and Vance, 2004; Peel et al.2008). Another technique widely applied is the external normalization which consists of doping samples and standard with an element with a known isotope composition and similar fractionation behavior to the element being analyzed (e.g. Zr doping to Mo isotope analysis, Mg doping for Si and Cu doping for Zn isotope analysis). The measured isotope ratio of the dopant can be compared to its known value to quantify machine-induced fractionation (or factor of fractionation  $-f$ ) and a correction can then be applied to the isotope ratio of the target element (Heumann, 1998; Archer and Vance, 2004; Peel et al.2008). A well-established technique that is applicable to any element that has four or more isotopes is the Double-Spike (DS) technique (Johnson et al., 2004). In the last years, some works have been applied the (DS) technique for Zn isotopic determinations (Arnorld et al.2008; Moeller et al.2012; Costa-Rodriguez et al.2014) which the main advantages over the standard-sample bracketing technique and external normalization are the no requirement of quantitative yields since the mass fractionation that occurs during chemical separation can be corrected for determinations (Johnson et al., 2004; Arnorld et al.2008; Moeller et al.2012; Costa-Rodriguez et al.2014). The main difficult to apply the DS technique are: obtaining pure spikes, determining optimal double spike compositions and double spike-sample mixing proportions, and calibrating the double spike (Johnson et al., 2004; Arnorld et al.2008; Moeller et al.2012; Costa-Rodriguez et al.2014).



**Fig.2.** Scheme of a reverse geometry double-focusing magnetic-sector mass spectrometer. Source: Moldovan et al., 2004.

## 5. Data reporting and analytical quality control

The Zn stable isotope variations are reported as relative values compared with standard reference materials using delta values ( $\delta$ ) expressed on per mil, which can assume positive or negative values. As the heavy isotope is used in the numerator and the light in the denominator, the ratios more positive are “heavier” compared to the standard ones, while negative values are “lighter”. For the Zn isotopic system, the ( $^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$ ) ratio is commonly chosen because of the high abundance of these isotopes and are expressed as  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values as follow:

$$\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = \frac{\left(\frac{^{66}\text{Zn}}{^{64}\text{Zn}}\right)_{\text{sample}}}{\left(\frac{^{66}\text{Zn}}{^{64}\text{Zn}}\right)_{\text{standard}}} - 1 \quad \text{eq.1}$$



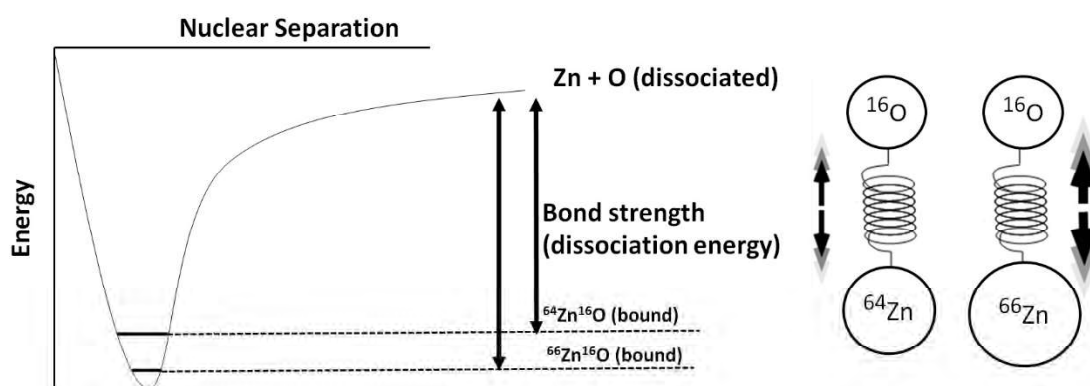
The  $\delta$ -notation are also advantageous because overcome the analytical problem of comparing directly the measured ratios amongst the laboratories, which is difficult to replicate in an accurately and precisely way (Wiederhold, 2015). Establishing a common Standard Reference Materials (SRM) as “zero baseline”, it is possible to perform comparisons and calibrations interlaboratories. For the Zn isotopic system, two certified isotopic reference materials (iCRMs) are available commercially, supplied by the Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM-651 and IRMM-3702) (Vogl and Pritzkow, 2012; Irrgeher, 2015). However, the Zn elemental solution JMC 3-0749 L (“JMC”) have been adopted in most of published works within the appurtenant literature, hence was chosen for this work to express the Zn isotope compositions. Because iCRMs and elemental standards are synthetic solutions, not suitable for sample preparation validation and effect matrix control, many laboratories have analyzed certified reference materials for elemental concentrations, being the most available Zn isotopic data provided for silicate rocks such as the RMs BHVO-2 basalt, BCR-2 basalt and AGV-2 andesite (Moeller et al.2012). Data for RMs with environmental matrices such as soils, plants, and sediments are still scarce (Araújo et al., 2016).

**Table 1.** Main Zinc isotope compositions of reference isotopic standards and reference Materials

Isotopic Standard/ RMs	Reference	$\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn JMC}$	<i>N</i> (measurements)
<b>IRMM-3702</b>	Araújo et al., 2016	$-0.27 \pm 0.07$	30
	Sossi et al., 2015	$-0.30 \pm 0.02$	
<b>BHVO-2 Basalt</b>	Araújo et al., 2016	$+0.25 \pm 0.09$	10
	Herzog et al., 2009	$+0.29 \pm 0.09$	
	Moynier et al., 2009	$+0.21 \pm 0.09$	
	Moeller et al., 2012	$+0.48 \pm 0.13$	3
<b>BCR-2</b>	Araújo et al., 2016	$+0.25 \pm 0.08$	10
	Archer and Vance, 2004	$+0.20 \pm 0.09$	12
	Chapman et al., 2006	$+0.29 \pm 0.12$	8
	Cloquet et al., 2007	$+0.32 \pm 0.13$	2
	Sonke et al., 2008	$+0.25 \pm 0.04$	4
	Herzog et al., 2009	$+0.33 \pm 0.09$	
	Moeller et al., 2012	$+0.33 \pm 0.13$	3
<b>AGV-2 Andesite</b>	Araújo et al., 2016	$+0.29 \pm 0.06$	2
	Moynier et al., 2009a	$+0.25 \pm 0.09$	
	Chen et al., 2013	$+0.32 \pm 0.04$	
<b>BCR -482 Lichen</b>	Weiss et al., 2007	$+0.14 \pm 0.03$	8
	Cloquet et al., 2006	$+0.07 \pm 0.10$	3
<b>2709 San Joaquin Soil</b>	Araújo et al., 2016	$+0.28 \pm 0.10$	4
<b>1646a Sediment Estuarine</b>	Araújo et al., 2016	$+0.32 \pm 0.06$	4
<b>1573a Tomate Leaves</b>	Araújo et al., 2016	$+0.79 \pm 0.09$	4
<b>BCR-176 Incineration Fly Ash</b>	Gonzalez and Weiss, 2015	$-0.17 \pm 0.13$	45
<b>Nod-P-1 Manganese Nodule</b>	Chapman et al., 2006	$+0.78 \pm 0.09$	9
<b>BCR-027 Blend Ore</b>	Chapman et al., 2006	$+0.33 \pm 0.07$	8

## 6. Metal isotope fractionation mechanisms

Physical, chemical and biological processes (e.g., evaporation, melting, crystallization, diffusion, complexation, adsorption, precipitation, cell membrane transportation, etc.) can affect the relative abundance of stable isotopes of an element between the reactant and product phases (Hoefs, 2009). This isotope effect is named *isotopic fractionation* and occurs on account of the quantum mechanical effects associated to differences on the energy levels of vibrational frequency of bonds between the isotopes and adjacent ligands (Fig.3, McSween et al., 2003). The vibrational frequency of a bond is inversely proportional to its mass, hence if two stable isotopes of an element are distributed randomly in molecules of the same substance, the vibrational frequency associated with bonds to the lighter isotope will be greater than that with bonds to the heavier one (Fig.3, Hoefs, 2009; McSween et al., 2003). In this way, molecules formed with the light isotope will more likely to react than molecules with the heavier one. These different reactivities of light and heavy isotopes result in a partition of them between products and reactants. The enrichment in the heavy or light isotope in a certain reservoir must always be balanced by a corresponding depletion in another reservoir, in such way the isotopic mass balance of the overall system remains unchanged (Allègre, 2008). The magnitude of isotopic fractionation is proportional to the mass differences amongst the isotopes of an element, excepting when the isotopic fractionation is ruled by processes independent of mass as occurs for S and Hg (Hoefs, 2009; Wilderhold, 2015). The latter, nonetheless, is out of the scope of this review.



**Fig.3.** Zinc isotope fractionation during chemical reactions is fundamentally a quantum chemical phenomenon that arises from differences in the basal energies between chemical bonds of the isotopes. The bond between atoms in a molecule can be modeled as a spring. The vibration frequency ( $f$ ) of a  $^{64}\text{Zn}^{16}\text{O}$  bond is higher than the vibration frequency of a  $^{66}\text{Zn}^{16}\text{O}$  bond, and therefore, is broken faster than the bond of the heavy isotope.

The mass-dependent isotope fractionation can undergo by two main mechanism: kinetic and equilibrium. The first occurs in irreversible and unidirectional reactions like evaporation, dissociation reactions, biologically mediated reactions, and diffusion. The kinetics fractionation favor the formation of products enriched in the light isotope because bonds with the lighter isotope are broken faster in collation to bonds involving the heavy isotope (Weiss et al., 2007; McSween et al., 2003). The influence of kinetic effects on the sample isotopic composition depends strongly on the relative extent of reaction progress. The largest effects are observed in remaining reactants that can be strongly enriched in heavy isotopes due to the continuous preferential removal of light isotopes, especially when reactions have proceeded far toward completion (Allègre, 2008). The isotopic equilibrium fractionation involves the redistribution (or exchange) of isotopes of an element amongst various species or compounds during a chemical equilibrium reaction, in which the heavy isotopes are enriched in the compounds thermodynamically more stable or with stronger bonding (Wiederhold, 2015). As rule of thumb, the enrichment of the heavy isotope is expected in compounds that present higher degree of oxidation (ions of high charge tend to form more stable bonds), low spin electronic configuration and lower number of coordination (Anbar and Rouxel, 2007). In the equilibrium state, the rates of forward and backward reactions are identical and the equilibrium isotope effect tends to decrease as temperature increases, in most case proportional to  $1/T^2$  (Allègre, 2008; Wiederhold, 2015).

The partitioning of two stable isotopes of an element in two substances or phases controlled by equilibrium or kinetics is described by the isotopic fractionation factor  $\alpha$  (Allègre, 2008):

$$\alpha = \frac{R_B}{R_A} \quad \text{eq.2}$$

where  $R_A$  and  $R_B$  are the ratios of heavy to light isotopes in the substance or phases A and B, respectively. In general, the equilibrium fractionation factor ( $\alpha_{\text{eq}}$ ) is smaller than the kinetic fractionation factor ( $\alpha_{\text{kin}}$ ). Because  $\alpha$  is very close to 1, it can be related to  $\delta$  values by the simplified equations  $\alpha$  (Allègre, 2008):

$$10^3 \ln \alpha_{B-A} \approx \delta^{i/j} X_B - \delta^{i/j} X_A \approx \Delta^{i/j} X_{B-A} \quad \text{eq.3}$$

where  $\delta^{i/j}X_A$  and  $\delta^{i/j}X_B$  are the  $\delta$  values of substances or phases A and B, respectively; and the isotope pair  $i$  and  $j$  corresponding to heavier (numerator) and light isotopes (denominator), respectively;  $\Delta^{i/j}X_{B-A}$  is the fractionation between phases A and B.

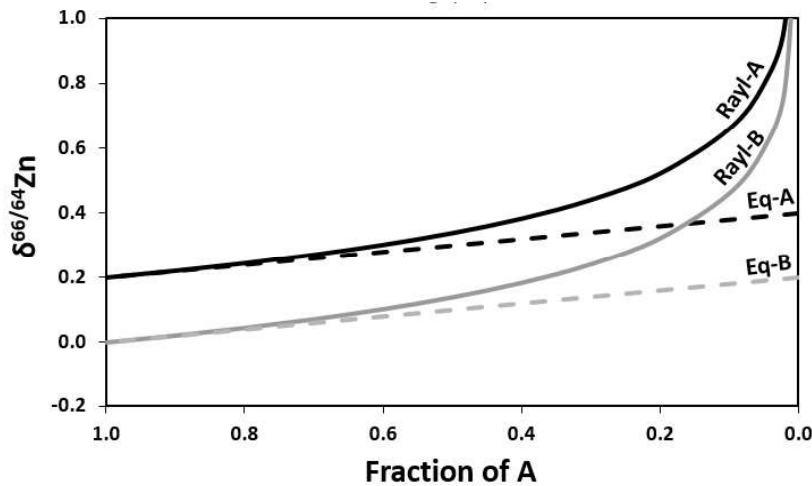
Given a fractionation factor, isotopic compositions of reactants and products can usually be calculated once it have been known if the reaction is reversible and if it is an open or a closed system. In a closed-system equilibrium the isotopic difference between products and reactants will be controlled by the fractionation factor ( $\alpha$ ) and a mass balance will be taken account  $\alpha$  (Weiss et al.,2007; Allègre, 2008). In this case, the  $\delta^{i/j}X_B$  at a given fraction of A is described as:

$$\delta^{i/j}X_B = \delta^{i/j}X_o + \Delta^{i/j}X_{B-A} \cdot f_A \quad \text{eq.4}$$

Where  $\delta^{i/j}X_o$  is the initial  $\delta$  value of the substance B and  $f_A$  is the elemental fraction of the substance or phase A (Fig.4).

To describe the evolution of isotope ratios during incomplete unidirectional reactions, either controlled by kinetic or equilibrium mechanism, in which the product is physically removed or prevented from isotopically interacting with the reactant, the Rayleigh model is employed (Hayes, 2004). This model is expresses as:

$$\left( \frac{\delta^{i/j}X_A + 1000}{\delta^{i/j}X_o + 1000} \right) = f^{(\alpha-1)} \quad \text{eq.5}$$



**Fig.4.** A hypothetical isotopic fractionation during a reaction where phase A reacts to phase B, under (1) equilibrium conditions in a closed system (Eq-A and Eq-B, dotted lines) and (2) unidirectional conditions (Rayl-A and Rayl-B, solid lines). The initial isotope ratio of the system is 0.2‰ (only phase A is present), and the fractionation factor is -0.2‰; thus  $\alpha_{B-A} = 0.998$ .

## 7. Zinc isotopic fractionation in natural and anthropogenic processes

### 7.1 High temperature igneous processes and extraterrestrial materials

Zinc isotopic variation on silicate rocks (including igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary) are small and tend to cluster within a narrow range of +0.20-+0.40‰ (Chapman et al.2006; Cloquet et al.2006; Herzog et al.2009; Moynier et al.2009; Chen et al.2013). Investigations on suites of volcanic rocks have shown that high temperature igneous induces fractionations no larger than 0.10‰ and, therefore, Zn isotopes seems limited to reveal planetary formation and differentiation processes (Chen et al.2013). Based on that findings and assuming a homogenous Earth's mantle and that Zn is not partitioned into the core, a Zn isotope composition for the bulk Earth estimated in  $+0.28 \pm 0.05\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ) have been proposed (Chen et al.2013). Despite this overall restricted Zn isotopic range for rocks, cases of geological settings with contrasting  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values have been reported (e.g, Taiwan orogen), which can enable the use of Zn isotopes as tracer for sedimentary provenance (Bentahila et al., 2004). The very homogenous Zn isotopic composition of the Earth is most likely the result of large-scale melting, mixing and differentiation events that occurred in the terrestrial mantle during and post-accretion (Chen et al.2013).

In other hand, as Zn is a moderately volatile element (condensation temperature of ~730 K), Zn isotope signatures have a large potential to explore evaporation-condensation processes in actively degassing volcanoes, planetary bodies as lunar sample and shocked rocks from terrestrial impact crater as tektites. At Merapi Vulcano degassing, the gas cooling from 590 to 297 °C is accompanied by a decreasing on Zn concentrations of gaseous phase, which become gradually enriched in the light Zn isotope, while the condensates become progressively enriched in the heavier isotopes (Toutain et al., 2008). Gas and condensate isotopic compositions could be explained by a Rayleigh condensation model (Toutain et al., 2008). The  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  of lunar basalt is ~1‰ heavier than terrestrial basalt, suggesting that this fractionation occurred during a large-scale evaporation event, likely related to the giant impact that originated the Moon (Paniello et al.,2012). Tektites samples showed also broader  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values than terrestrial crust, encompassing from lighter values of +0.3 until anomalous values of +2.49‰. All these values were negatively correlated to the elemental abundance of Zn,

evidencing the isotopic fractionation occurred by evaporation during the heating event upon tektite formation (Moynier et al.2009b).

Investigations on Zn isotope compositions of meteorites showed  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values spread over a range of +0.3‰ for carbonaceous chondrites, 2‰ for ordinary chondrites, and 4‰ for irons (Luck et al.2005; Brigdestock et al., 2014). All meteoritic and terrestrial samples plot on the same mass dependent fractionation line which implies that Zn from the inner Solar System formed from a single isotopically homogeneous reservoir (Luck et al., 2005). For CI chondrites, the  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values of  $+0.46 \pm 0.08\text{‰}$  have been attributed as the best estimate for the primordial Zn isotope composition of solar system (Barrat et al., 2012). The large range of Zn isotope compositions observed in the most part of primitive meteorites is thought to be related to variable mixing of isotopically distinct components in the case of the carbonaceous chondrites (Luck et al., 2005), and in the case of the ordinary and EL enstatite chondrites, related to thermal reworking on parent bodies (Moynier et al., 2011). In turn, Ureilites samples which showed a range of  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values about 0.7‰, and a negative correlation between the elemental abundance of Zn and  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values, which evidences isotopic fractionation occurred by evaporation during the heating event on the ureilite parent body by possible impacts (Moynier et al., 2011).

## 7.2 Pedogenesis and soil-plant system

Soils present larger range of isotope compositions in relation to the parental rock variation from -0.18 to 0.55‰ (unpolluted soils, Fekiacova et al.,2015), which can be attributed to combination of natural abiotic and biological processes in the redistribution of Zn into different soil horizons during the pedogenesis (Viers et al.2007). Due to the inherent complexity of pedogenesis processes, pattern on Zn isotopic signatures between horizons are difficult to establish, but a general tendency to  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values centered on 0.1‰ and on 0.2‰ in the B and O horizons, respectively, have been noticed (Fekiacova et al.,2015). The isotopic composition of soil profile from Central Siberia is rather constant with a  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  value around 0.2‰ close to the value of various basalts (Viers et al., 2015). The processes of humification that take place in the Siberian soils leads the preferential retention of heavier Zn and the releasing of the lighter isotopes in solution, preserving the heavy isotopes in the humification products. (Viers et al., 2015).

In addition to the pedogenesis, the several, chemical reactions of soils change the Zn speciation and consequently its isotope composition. A study of Zn isotopes combined with EXAFs spectroscopy in a soil wetland system observed that tetrahedral Zn species were enriched in heavy isotopes (+0.33‰), whereas octahedral Zn compounds were enriched in light isotopes (-0.04‰) (Aucour et al., 2013). Such results have important implications to source tracing since the isotopic signatures of sources can potentially be overprinted by biogeochemical processes. For example, Juillot et al.(2011) suggested alterations post deposition of anthropogenic isotopic signatures of Zn in smelter-impacted soils triggered by pedological processes and vegetation influence.

Moreover, the geochemistry of soils are largely affected by the plants which may accelerate chemical weathering by a factor of 2 to 5 (Berner et al. 2004) and act as important pump recycling metals through the biogeosphere (Blackenburg, 2009). Previous studies have demonstrated significant Zn isotopic fractionation on the continuum soil-plant (Viers et al.2007) and large isotopic variations during uptake, translocation and distribution of Zn between the internal compartments of plants (Jouvin et al., 2012; Caldelas et al., 2011; Moynier et al., 2009; Weiss et al., 2005; Viers et al., 2007). The magnitude and direction (toward light or heavy isotopic compositions) are related to the interspecies specificities, uptake strategies (types I and II), nutritive solution concentration, elemental speciation, ligands, transpiration flow and height (Weiss et al.2005; Moynier et al.2009; Arnold et al.2010 Caldelas et al., 2011; Jouvin et al.2012; Couder et al.2015). Models of the Zn transference across the root cell membrane have been based in kinetic fractionations with preferential incorporation of light isotope via diffusion in low-affinity plants; or with preferential heavy isotope incorporation via Zn complexation in carrier-mediated transport (e.g, ZIP - Zinc/Iron-regulated Protein) in high-affinity pathways (Jouvin et al.2012). The preferential adsorption of the heavy isotope on cell wall of roots also seems to induce lighter isotope into solution. The pattern of Zn isotopic compositions in plant may also vary depending on the toxic conditions of the grown medium, where chelation and compartmentation preferential of the heavy isotope of Zn exceed in the roots would leader to a lighter isotopic pool of the Zn translocated to aerial compartments. These results were consistent with the pattern of Zn isotope compositions of plants grew in laboratory using as substrate contaminated soils from a metallurgic site (Couder et al., 2016).



### 7.3 Aquatic systems

The weathering and erosion of soils and rocks constitute the main source of sediments to aquatic sediments. Thus, both fluvial and terrestrial sediments seems to inherit the lithogenic Zn isotope composition:  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = +0.31 \pm 0.04\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=4$ ) for the background areas of Lot Watershed in France (Sivry et al.2008);  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = +0.31 \pm 0.09\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=4$ ) for background area of Lommel in Belgium (Sonke et al.2008);  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = +0.23 \pm 0.08\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=20$ ) for marine sediments and  $+0.28 \pm 0.02\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ) for sapropels (Maréchal et al.2000). In turn, the Zn dissolved pool of rivers and estuaries show large range of  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values varying from -0.57 (Rio Grande, USA, Szykiewicz and Borrok,2016) to +0.90‰ (Gironde, France, Petit et al., 2015), associated to the multiplicity of biogeochemical processes involving the Zn transport in waters.

Amongst them and of pivotal importance on the mobility of Zn in aqueous systems are the sorption processes. Thus, many works have investigated on controlled experiments the isotopic effects related to the aqueous solid interactions in variable pH values and ionic strength conditions. Overall, the results demonstrate that the adsorption of Zn on solid surface (such as mineral particles and membranes) generally lowers the  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  of dissolved Zn in solution because of the preferential incorporation of heavier Zn isotopes in adsorbed phase (Pokrovsky et al., 2005; Gélabert et al., 2006; Balistrieri et al., 2008; Juillot et al., 2008; Kafantaris and Borrok, 2014; Bryan et al., 2015; Guinoiseau et al., 2016). At surface of clay minerals (kaolinite), the fractionation between the adsorbed pool and the solution ( $\Delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{adsorbed-solution}}$ ) ranged from 0.11‰ at low pH and low ionic strength to 0.49‰ at high pH and high ionic strength. The Zn isotopic fractionation at the surface of iron oxides with respect to coexisting solution was reported, with  $\Delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{solid-solution}}$  of  $+0.29 \pm 0.07\text{‰}$  and  $+0.53 \pm 0.07 \text{‰}$  ferrihydrite (Balistrieri et al., 2009; Juillot et al., 2008). For Zn adsorption on birnessite (manganese oxides), Zn isotopes showed limited fractionation at low ionic strength, while heavy Zn isotopes are sorbed preferentially at high ionic strength ( $\Delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{solid-solution}}$  from 0.52 to 0.77 ‰, Bryan et al., 2015). Regarding organic matter, Zn binds to the phenolic sites of purified humic acid with a  $\Delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{solid-solution}} = 0.24 \pm 0.06 \text{‰}$  (Jouvin et al., 2011).

In agreement with the laboratorial findings, a field work on Rio Grande (USA) performed by Szykiewicz and Borrok (2016) have reported that increase in water pH from 7.5 to 8.5 lead to a considerable decrease in the  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  of dissolved Zn ( $R^2$

$= -0.37$ ,  $p = 0.003$ ,  $n = 22$ ), and to a isotopic fractionation average between the adsorbed and dissolved pool ( $\Delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{adsorbed-dissolved}}$ ) of  $+0.31\text{‰}$ . However, in disagreement with these last findings, in the Gironde estuary, the dissolved Zn showed an enrichment in heavy isotopes due to the preferential light isotope sorption onto suspended particulate matter, maybe associated to kinetically driven adsorption caused by the strongly increasing of sorption sites in water mixing zone of the estuary (Petit et al. 2015).

Other laboratorial experiments have shown significant Zn isotopic fractionation during chemical diffusion, precipitation and biological incorporation by the phytoplankton. Veeramani et al. (2015) showed increasing trend to heavier values of  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  in solution during sphalerite ( $\text{ZnS}$ ) formation, but decreasing trend in  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  during the precipitation of hydrozincite ( $\text{Zn}_5(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_6$ ) and hopeite ( $\text{Zn}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ). An experimental study by John et al. (2007) reported the Zn isotope compositions of intracellular Zn in cultured diatoms. Low Zn concentrations in media drove high-affinity uptake and a more negative isotope fractionation effect ( $\Delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{cells-medium}} = -0.8\text{‰}$ ) compared to low affinity transport when more Zn was available ( $\Delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{cells-medium}} = -0.2\text{‰}$ ).

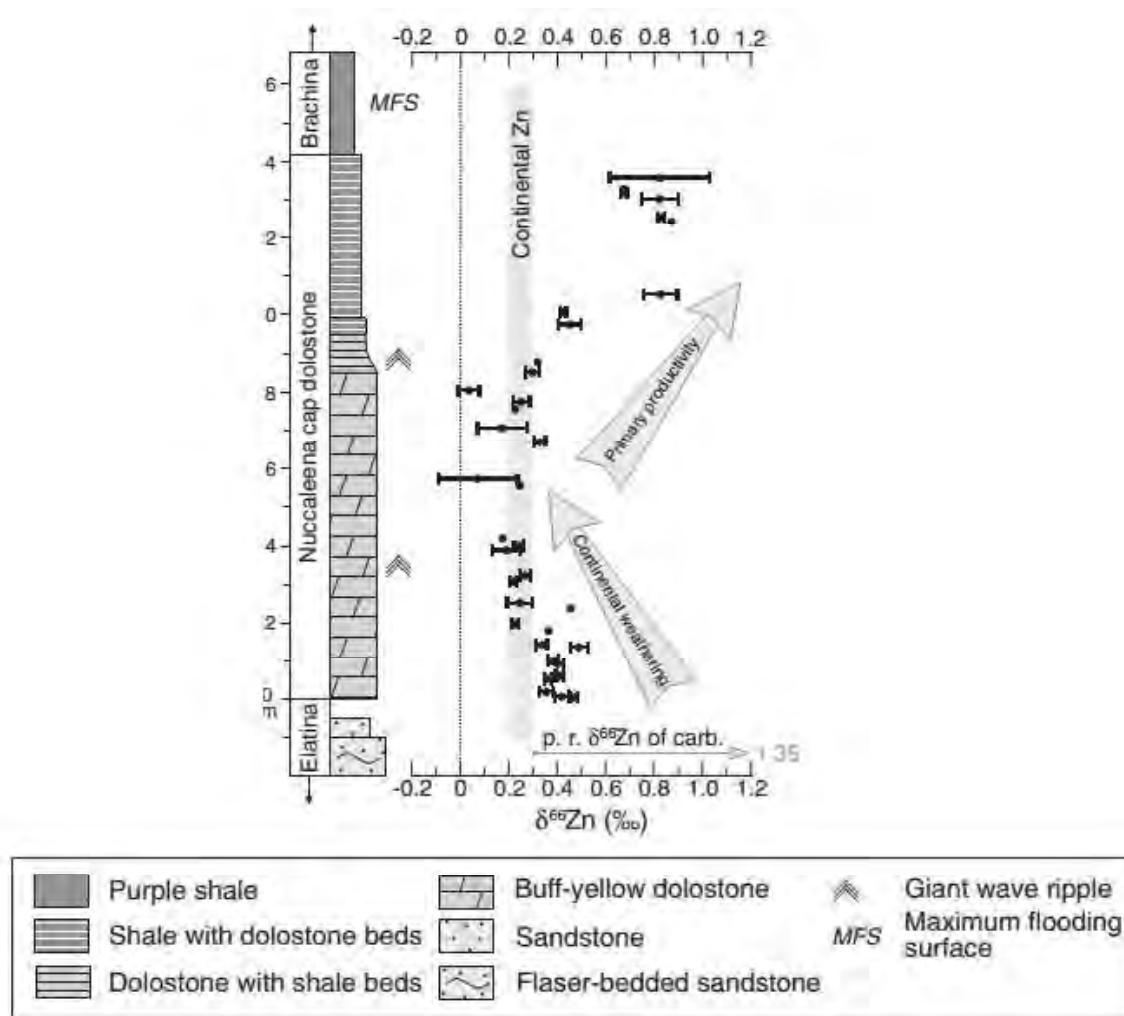
In the ocean, data from the Southern ocean, North Atlantic and North Pacific, are strikingly homogeneous, with an average  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = +0.53 \pm 0.14\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma = \pm 0.03$ ,  $n = 21$ ). The surface Southern Ocean is more variable, with  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  ranging from  $+0.07$  to  $+0.80\text{‰}$ . A common thin horizon at 40–80 m Southern ocean, North Atlantic and North Pacific with lighter  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values close  $+0.3\text{‰}$  have been attribute to the preferential biological uptake of the light isotope. Then, the primary activity and the removal of the light isotope have been evoked to explain the heavier isotopic compositions of authigenic marine sediment, including Fe–Mn nodules ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = +0.90 \pm 0.28\text{‰}$ ; Maréchal et al., 2000), biogenic carbonates ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = 0.91 \pm 0.24\text{‰}$ ; Pichat et al., 2003), and biogenic opal ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = 0.76\text{--}1.47\text{‰}$ ; Andersen et al., 2011). However, estimates on mass balance between inputs and outputs of Zn isotopes on the oceans do not match, appointing that a missing light sink is still to be located (Little et al., 2014).

The biological isotope fractionation have also been evoked to explain the temporal variations of  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values in particulate matter from a temperate Swiss lake (Lake Greifen, Peel et al., 2009). These samples showed distinct variations from  $-0.66$  to  $+0.21\text{‰}$  with the highest negative values observed after the spring productive period,

among June and September and most positive values from May to July. The observed temporal pattern is consistent with the preferential uptake of the lighter Zn isotopes during photosynthesis and incorporation of Zn into the algal material, which result in the depletion of Zn in the surface waters and at same time the enrichment of the heavier Zn isotopes in the residual dissolved and particulate Zn pool (according to Rayleigh distillation dynamics). At the end of productive period, the algal detrital material enriched in the light isotope pass to contribute to bulk particulate matter, leading the particulate Zn pool to lighter isotope compositions.

#### 7.4 Paleoclimate

Since assimilatory uptake of Zn appears to fractionate its isotopes, Zn isotope ratios measured in carbonate precipitated seems reflect fluctuations in primary productivity (Pichat et al.2003). Zinc isotopic data from a Neoproterozoic cap dolostone (the Nuccaleena Formation in the Flinders Ranges, South Australia) have been interpreted as a two-stage evolution of the deglacial ocean pos snow ball event (Fig.5). Slightly  $^{66}\text{Zn}$ -enriched values at the base of the cap dolostone indicate immediate resumption of the biological pump upon melting of the surface ocean, but this signal was diluted by intense surface runoff that drove  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values down to the composition of continentally derived Zn. A subsequent rise in  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values seem records a vigorous increase in primary production (associated to the removal of light isotope) and export from a nutrient-laden surface ocean.



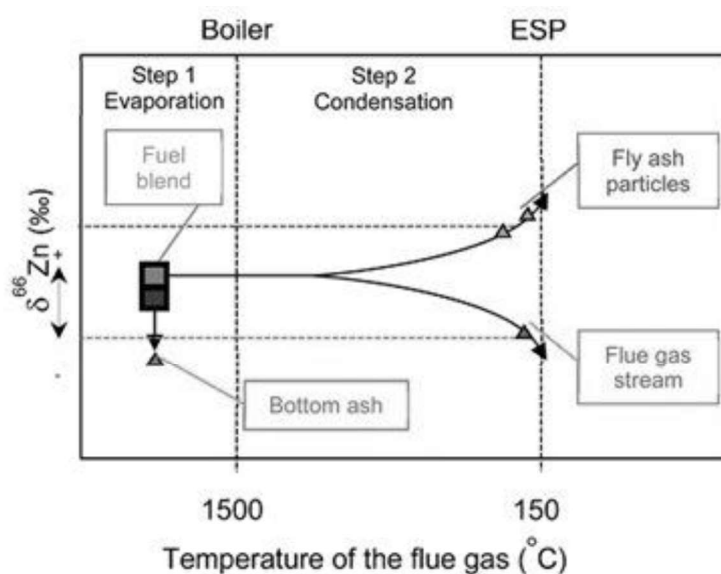
**Fig.5.** Lithostratigraphy and isotope chemostratigraphy of the investigated Nuccaleena cap dolostone section.

## 7.5 Ore deposits, coal and industrial and metallurgical processes

Some Zn isotope studies have been conducted in ore deposits like on the Alexandrinka volcanic-hosted massive sulfide deposit (Mason et al. 2005), the carbonate-hosted Zn-Pb deposits of the Irish Midlands ore field (Wilkinson et al. 2005; Crowther 2007), the Red Dog shale-hosted base metal deposit (Kelley et al. 2009), and modern submarine hydrothermal systems (John et al. 2008). All these studies showed that the Zn isotope composition of sphalerite is controlled by the composition of the source-rock(s), and, temperature-related and kinetic fractionation during precipitation of sulfides (Pasava et al., 2014). Based on a compilation of data set published in the literature for Zn ores sulfides, Sonke et al. (2008) calculated an average of  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  of  $+0.16 \pm 0.20\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=10$  mines,  $n=61$  analyses). Coal and Coal mixture with fuels tire-derived present

$\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values from +0.13 to +0.88 (Borrok et al., 2010; Gonzalez and Weiss, 2016). Such range in coal is suggested be related to different Zn speciation and diagenetic processes in the precursor material of the coal (Gonzales and Weiss, 2016).

The isotopic signatures of feed ores and coals have important implications to final products and byproducts produced in metallurgic and coal-fired power plants. High temperature processes employed during sulfide ores smelting and coal combustion induce significant isotope fractionation (Fig.6), with lighter Zn isotopes entering the vapor phase and leaving the residual material (e.g fly ash particles, slags) enriched with the heavier isotopes according to the Rayleigh's law (Sivry et al., 2008; Borrok et al., 2010; Yin et al., 2015; Gonzalez and Weiss, 2016). In case of ores refining, the additional electroplating step also seems affect the Zn isotope fractionation, as demonstrated in controlled electrochemical experiments (Kavner et al., 2008, Black et al., 2011; Black et al., 2014) and evidenced in analysis of contaminated sediment by metallurgic slags (Sivry et al., 2016). Apart these gaps concerning the electrochemistry effects on industrial plants, a general trend have been observed in Zn extraction of sulfide ores: the production of air emissions with the lightest signature ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = -0.66\%$ , Mattielli et al., 2009), slags with the heaviest ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = 1.49\%$ , Sivry et al., 2008) and final products (refined Zn electroplated materials) with isotope compositions close to the ores ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = 0.22 \%$ , Yin et al., 2015). The significant difference in the isotopic compositions derived of anthropogenic sources compared to the natural background (soils and rocks, for example) have enable Zn isotopes as a powerful tracer of sources capable of discriminate and quantify several pollutant sources concerning mining and metallurgy byproducts (Dogolopova et al., 2006; Mattielli et al., 2006; Weiss et al., 2007; Sivry et al., 2008), and others such as vehicle emissions and tire wear (Gioia et al., 2008; Thapalia et al., 2015), and wastewaters and sewage (Chen et al., 2008; 2009).



**Fig.6.** Conceptual model for predicting Zn isotopic fractionation during coal combustion, after pass by the boiler and electrostatic precipitator (ESP) steps. Source: Gonzalez and Weiss, 2015.

In acid mine drainage (AMD) or acid rock drainage (ARD) context, the zinc isotopic signature of dissolve phase are similar to the original ores (sphalerites for examples) and few correlations with geochemical parameters (pH, ionic strength, temperature and diel changes) suggests limited fractionation due to ore weathering or and, therefore, Zn isotopic signatures reflect basically the original source of sulfides minerals

In biomonitoring studies, Zn isotopes have been determined in tissues of bivalves mollusks as a novel tool, potentially capable of integrating sources, fates, and bioavailability information for detection, evaluation and biomonitoring of environmental contamination (Shiel et al.,2012; Shiel et al.2013; Petit et al.2015). However, its effectiveness for sources tracing remain inconclusive. Studies conducted with bivalves on the west coast in Canada showed homogenous Zn isotopic signatures that overlapped those of unpolluted soils, sediments and marine water (Shiel et al.,2012). In the Gironde-estuary (a site historically impacted by metallurgy) the isotopic record of oysters seemed to rather reflect adsorption processes along the Maximum Turbid Zone (MTZ) rather than different Zn sources (Petit et al.2015).

## 7.6 Dietary, trophic chains and human body

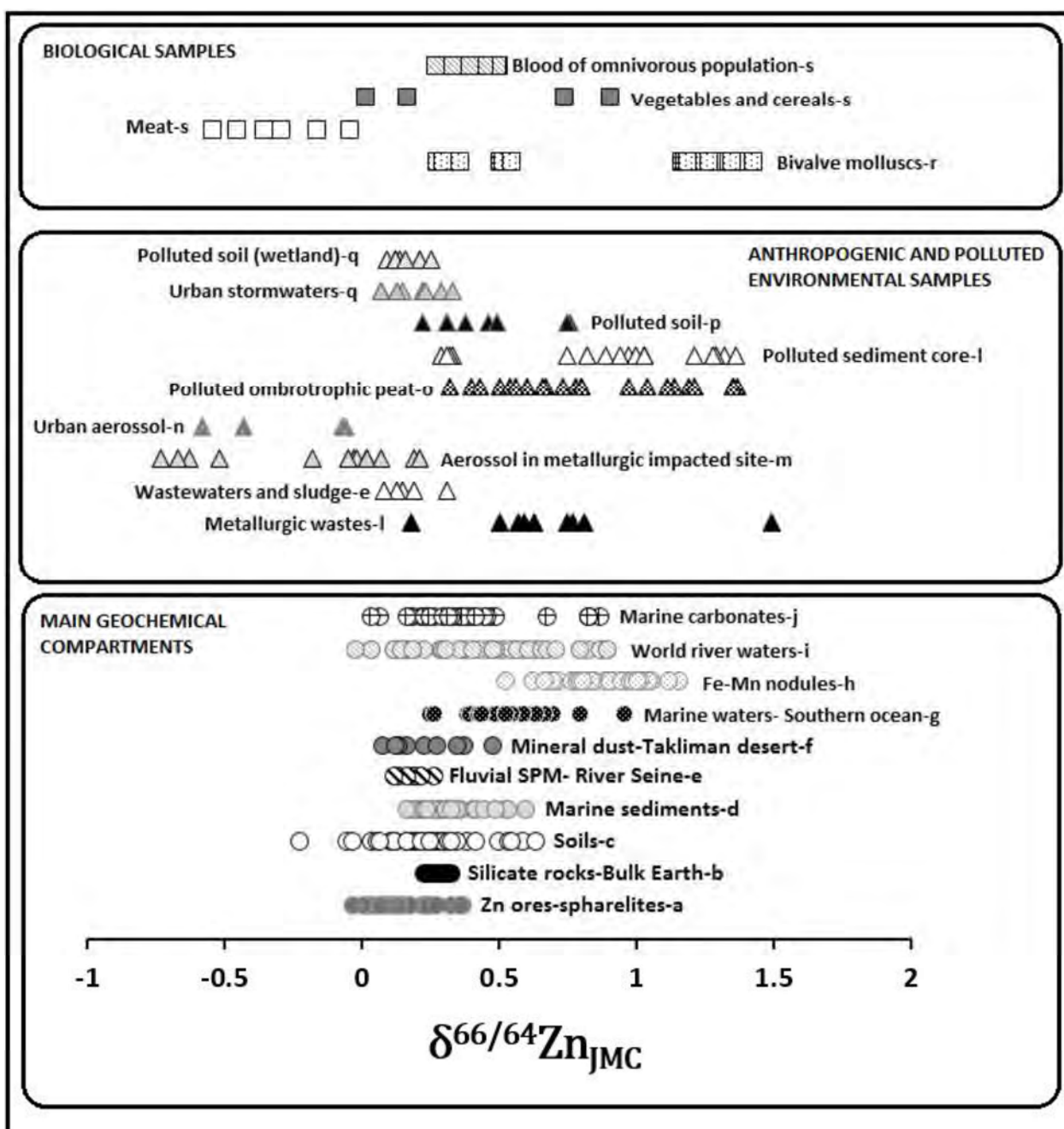
The range of  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values observed in food products is approximately 1.9‰ and the strong differences in the blood Zinc isotopic signatures of vegetarians and omnivores reflect the effects of diet of each group (Costas-Rodríguez et al., 2014). In general, vegetables, cereals and derived products showed an enrichment of the heavier Zn isotopes, whereas a depletion was observed in products of animal origin (meat, fish, egg and semi-skimmed milk), relative to human blood samples. Thus, the lower  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values found in food products of animal origin appear to be reflected in the lower  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  value observed in blood from an omnivorous population compared to that from a vegetarian population (Van Heghe et al., 2012; Costas-Rodríguez et al., 2014). Beyond the dietary, correlations between Zn isotope compositions of blood with age were also found in the isolated population of Yakut (Jaouen et al., 2016). These same sampling showed a discrepant average of  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  value in comparison to European and Japanese populations, which can be associated to different metabolic rates (Jaouen et al., 2013). The lighter  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values in the food of animal origin seems to reflect the isotopic fractionation that take place along the trophic chains. In African terrestrial food webs,  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values in both bone and dental enamel of carnivore animals were lighter by approximately 0.4–0.5‰ in comparison to bones and dental enamel of herbivores. In the analysis of marine mammal bones (walruses, bearded seals, ringed seals and polar bears), the  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values of marine mammal bones also showed a trend toward lighter isotopes compositions with the increasing of trophic level. However, different Zn isotope patterns were found in terrestrial trophic chain of South Africa, where no significant Zn isotopic fractionation was observed between bones of herbivores and bones of carnivores (including lion and hyena) (Jaouen et al., 2012).

More studies regarding to internal Zn isotopic fractionation within animal bodies and the relation between dietary and bioavailability are necessary to understand how Zn isotope fractionate from low to high trophic steps. For example, the tendency of heavier Zn isotope compositions of herbivores face to plants have been attributed to the precipitation of Zn with phytates in the intestine, inhibiting its absorption. This precipitation favors the binding of light Zn isotopes to the phytates, which implies that heavy Zn isotopes are more bioavailable (Jaouen et al., 2012). In controlled feeding studies, it has been demonstrated that for modern mammals, muscle tissue and bones have a different Zn isotopic composition (Moynier et al., 2009; Balter et al., 2013),

where muscle tissue had  $^{66}\text{Zn}$ -depleted values compared to the food ( $\Delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{muscles-food}} \approx -0.2\text{‰}$ ) and bone had  $^{66}\text{Zn}$ -enriched values ( $\Delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{bones-food}} \approx 0.1$  to  $0.4\text{‰}$ ). In contrast, a feeding experiment using sheep reported that, for the four animals analyzed, there were similar values between bone and muscle tissue, and both tissues were enriched in heavy isotopes relative to their diet (Balter et al., 2010).

The partition processes of Zn isotope between tissues and organs within an organism have been also explored to biomedicine purposes such as early diagnostic biomarker for breast cancer. The Zn isotopic signatures of various tissues in breast cancer patients and controls showed to have a significantly lighter Zn isotopic composition than those that can be found in blood, serum or healthy breast tissue. This change of isotopic signatures for carcinogenic tissues may be associated to a mechanism of Zn delivery and posterior Zn-sequestering in vesicles by metallothioneins (Larner et al., 2015).





**Fig.7.** Zinc isotope compositions (expressed relative to JMC standard) of the main geochemical compartments, anthropogenic and environmental polluted samples and biological samples. a-Sonket et al., 2008; b- Chen et al., 2013; c- Vance et al., 2016; Viers et al., 2015; d- Maréchal et al., 2000; Bentahila et al., 2008; e-Chen et al., 2009; f-Dong et al., 2013; g-Zhao et al., 2014; h-Maréchal et al., 2000; i-Little et al., 2014; Petit et al., 2015; j-Kuzmann et al., 2012; l-Sivry et al., 2008; m-Mattielli et al., 2009; n-Gioia et al., 2008; o-Weiss et al., 2007; p-Juillot et al., 2011; q-Aucour et al., 2011; r- Shiel et al., 2012; Shiel et al., 2013; Petit et al., 2015; s- Costa-rodriguez et al., 2014.

## 8. Conclusions

The versatility and usefulness of Zn isotopes is proved by the many applications in different scientific fields, as seen in this review. The current increasing of research groups on metal isotope biogeochemistry will contribute to the continuous developing of the Zn isotope biogeochemistry, leading to new methodologies and advances in the theoretical understanding about the factors that control its isotopic fractionation in the nature. Challenging, but promising is the coupling between chromatographic separation techniques (GC or HPLC) and the MC-ICP-MS instruments. The isotopic determinations combined with Zn speciation are an important step forward to the understanding of biogeochemical and environmental cycles, and can open new frontiers in the biomedicine applications, including the establishment of the medical isotope metallomics field.

Future studies are required to link the Zn speciation and bioavailability and mechanisms of isotopic fractionation during its incorporation to the biota. and subsequent partition within human and animal body. The development of selective or sequential extraction for isotopic analysis of different phases of soils and sediments could be an interesting auxiliary tool for comprehend the isotopic fractionation during uptake. However, more robust and reproducible protocols are required, beyond the verification of possible artifacts associated to the chemical procedure.

Apart from the analytical and methodological advances, additional investigations as into deposit ores, including that with non-sulfidic mineral phases, as occurring in some Brazilian deposits (Vazante, Minas Gerais), may provide new insights into the genesis of ore systems. Concomitant, new efforts to increase the dataset in environmental compartments can contribute to identify sources and sinks of anthropogenic Zn and its cycling through the biogeosphere, either in local or global scale. Of special concern for aquatic systems is the analysis of the pore waters, since it present important implications to understand diagenetic reactions and bioavailability, mainly in coastal zones and wetlands, where the large gradients of redox conditions promote periodical releasing and trapping of metal on sediments. In biomonitoring context, more tests in other biomonitors organisms must be encouraged to verify the feasibility of Zn isotopes as monitor of metal contamination. Actually, its use in bivalve molluscs have been hampered by the lack of knowledge about physiological influence

on the Zn bioisotopic record. Other gap is related the studies addressed to the agriculture or urban diffuse sources. The legitimacy of Zn isotopes as a monitoring tool for atmospheric contamination in big cities has already been demonstrated (Gioia et al., 2008), but still demands for more works for a better characterization of anthropogenic and natural sources. At last, new theoretical and controlled experiments regarding the effects of chemistry coordination of Zn with different ligand will be useful to interpret and predict the isotopic fractionation in the environment and biological systems, encompassing since stratigraphic Zn profiles along the geological time until cellular metabolism processes.

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### ION EXCHANGE CHROMATOGRAPHY AND MASS BIAS CORRECTION FOR ACCURATE AND PRECISE Zn ISOTOPE RATIO MEASUREMENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL REFERENCE MATERIALS BY MC-ICP-MS

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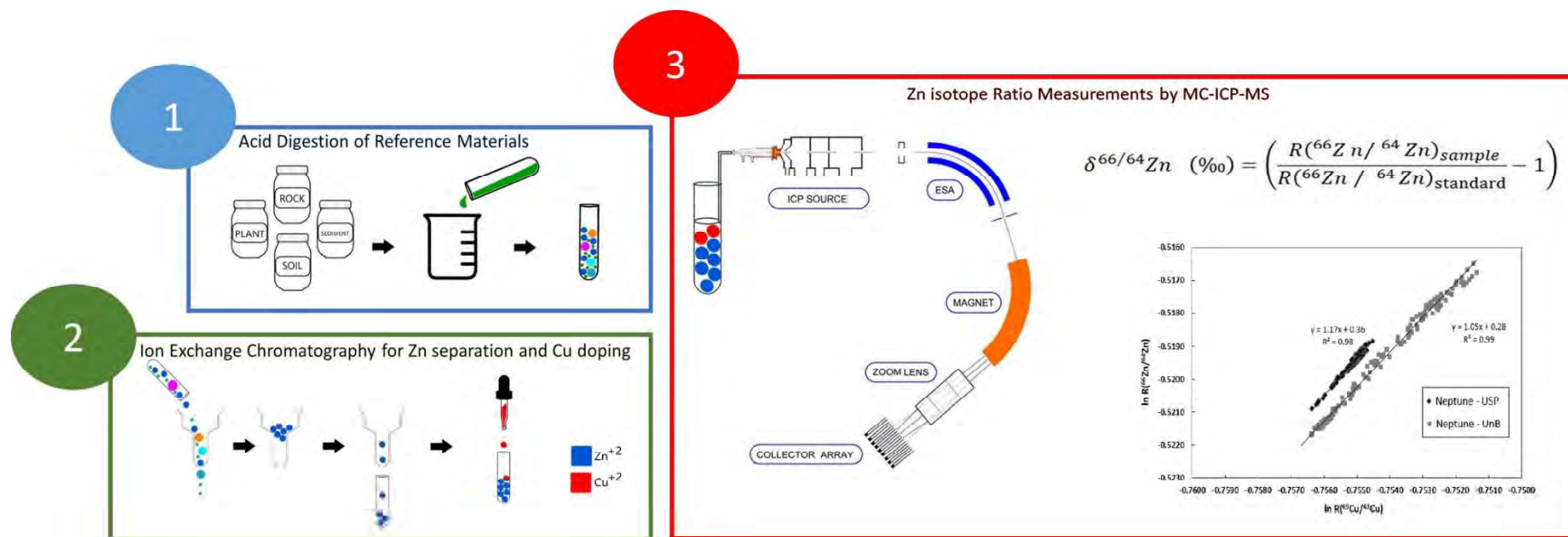
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## Graphical Abstract



Zinc isotope ratios were determined in soil, plant, rock and sediment reference materials by MC-ICP-MS. The procedure encompassed an improved ion exchange chromatography protocol for a fast and simple Zn separation, investigations into the instrumental mass bias processes and its correction using different approaches.

## Abstract

We present precise and accurate  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  data for environmental reference materials (RMs) including rocks, sediments, soils, and plants in order to improve the metrological traceability and analytical control of Zn isotopes ratio determinations in future environmental studies. We adjusted a previously developed ion exchange chromatography protocols to enable faster sample throughput and investigated the instrumental mass bias processes. The improved chromatographic protocol yielded precise and quantitative recoveries ( $99 \pm 7\%$ ,  $\sigma$ ,  $n=16$ ), while the mass bias correction using Cu as external dopant provided precisions better than  $0.02\%$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=7$ . Investigations into spectral and non-spectral interferences identified significant formation of Cr and Ti oxides and hydroxides ionic species. The analysis of six RMs (BHVO-2 basalt; BCR-2 basalt; AGV-2 andesite; 2709 San Joaquin soil, 1646a estuarine sediment and 1573a tomato leaves) showed good reproducibility ( $<0.01\%$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $5 \leq n \leq 1$ ).

**Keywords:** Analytical geochemistry; Zn isotopes; Isotope geochemistry; Mass spectrometry; Metal isotopes.

## 1. Introduction

The advent of multi-collector inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (MC-ICP-MS) promoted the development of new research areas in the isotope geosciences, in particular the stable isotope biogeochemistry of transition metals such as Cu, Zn, Fe and others.<sup>1-3</sup> Recent studies have shown the great potential of stable metal isotopes to identify contaminant sources,<sup>4-5</sup> to constrain biogeochemical processes during nutrient cycling,<sup>6</sup> weathering,<sup>7-8</sup> and to reconstruct metal transfer processes in complex systems such as the human body.<sup>9-10</sup> Special attention has been given to Zn due to its key function as micronutrient in the biosphere and as pollutant in industrial, mining and urban environments.<sup>1-3, 11</sup>

The natural variations in the Zn isotopic composition are small ( $< 1\text{‰}$ ), requiring reliable analytical procedures including chromatographic separation of Zn from the matrix<sup>12-14</sup> and accurate correction of the instrumental mass bias.<sup>14-16</sup> To date, a number of ion exchange chromatographic protocols for specific sample types such as rocks, sediments, marine and fresh water, aerosols, plants and food have been published.<sup>17-26</sup> Moreover, our understanding about instrumental controls of mass bias including effect of acid strength, dopant/analyte ratios, wet and dry plasma, and matrix has improved.<sup>27-32</sup> However, the rapid advance of the stable metal isotopes field has not been accompanied by the supply of reference materials (RM), hindering the inter laboratory studies and quality assurances.<sup>16</sup> For Zn isotopic compositions, only two certified isotopic reference materials (iCRMs) are available commercially, supplied by the Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM-651 and IRMM-3702).<sup>16, 33</sup> These two iCRMs are synthetic solutions that do not matrix match with environmental and geological samples, hence they are not suitable for sample preparation and effect matrix control.<sup>16</sup>

To address this problem, many laboratories have analyzed certified reference materials for elemental concentrations.<sup>34</sup> To date, the most available Zn isotopic data have been provided for silicate rocks such as the RMs BHVO-2 basalt, BCR-2 basalt and AGV-2 andesite.<sup>27</sup> Data for RMs with environmental matrices such as soils, plants, and sediments are rarely published, such that only one environmental RM (BCR-281 rye grass)<sup>20</sup> was reported in a data compilation from different laboratories (see Table 1 in reference 11).

Thus, improvement of metrological traceability, data quality control and methodological validation for the production of reliable and comparable data on metal isotopes analysis is of the utmost urgency.<sup>12,34</sup>

To address this gap, we set up a method for accurate and precise Zn isotopic measurements in environmental reference materials in two Brazilian laboratories (Laboratório de Geocrologia at University of Brasília, UnB, and the CPGeo at University of São Paulo, USP). To this end we 1) introduced and calibrated a fast and simple chromatographic separation for Zn; 2) assessed critically mass bias effects related to the analyte-dopant ratios (Zn/Cu); 3) quantified effects of spectral and non-spectral interferences on Zn isotopic compositions; and 4) determined new isotopic values for RMs of soils, sediments and plant matrices (2709 San Joaquin soil, 1646a estuarine sediment and 1573a tomato leaves) extending the data base for  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  in materials relevant for environmental studies. We further expanded the database for previously analyzed RMs like the BHVO-2 basalt, BCR-2 basalt and AGV-2 andesite.

## 2. Experimental

### *2.1 Reagents, standards and reference materials*

The work was carried out under clean laboratories conditions in “Class 100” fume hoods, utilizing only Savillex® PFA labware. Ultrapure acids (Merck®) distilled by sub-boiling in Teflon stills, Merck Suprapur H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (30%), and de-ionized water (Milli-Q, 18.2 MΩ) were used. Multi-element standard solutions (Merck®) were used to produce calibration curves to measure Cu, Zn, Na, Fe, Al, Ca, Mg, Ti, Cr and K by inductively coupled plasma optical emission spectrometer (ICP OES) and quadrupole inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (Q ICP-MS).

The reference materials BHVO-2 basalt (USGS), BCR-2 basalt (USGS) and the AGV-2 andesite (USGS) were used to assess the quantitative recovery of acid dissolution and ion exchange chromatography and the accuracy of the Zn isotope ratio determinations. The RM 2709 San Joaquin soil (NIST), 1646a estuarine sediment (NIST) and 1573a tomato leaves (NIST) were analyzed to extend the isotope data set for environmental reference materials. The RMs BHVO-2, BCR-2 and AGV-2 were processed and analyzed for comparison with literature data.

## 2.2 Isotopic reference materials and data presentation

Stable isotopic variations are reported as relative values compared to a reference material and generally expressed in terms of  $\delta$ -values.<sup>1</sup> Zinc has five stable isotopes, <sup>64</sup>Zn, <sup>66</sup>Zn, <sup>67</sup>Zn, <sup>68</sup>Zn and <sup>70</sup>Zn, with average natural abundances of 48.63, 27.90, 4.10, 18.75, and 0.62%, respectively.<sup>12</sup> The isotope ratio  $R(^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn})$  is commonly used because of the highest abundance of the isotopes <sup>66</sup>Zn and <sup>64</sup>Zn. In this work, the  $\delta$ -values of Zn isotopic composition are expressed in per mil relative to the Zn standard MERCK (#9953), henceforward labeled “Zn UnB”:

$$\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{UnB}}(\text{‰}) = \left( \frac{R(^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn})_{\text{sample}}}{R(^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn})_{\text{UnB}}} - 1 \right) (1)$$

Since common RMs are established as “zero baseline” for isotopic analyses, the results of different laboratories can be compared.<sup>11,12</sup> To date, the  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values have been reported in relation to the RM Johnson Matthey® zinc (JMC 3-0749), labeled as  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$ .<sup>11, 12</sup> Since this standard is no longer available, the Zn isotopic certified reference material from the Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements – IRMM-3702 (Zn) have been adopted ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{IRMM}}$ ).<sup>27</sup> Our Zn UnB Merck solution was calibrated against Zn JMC 3-0749 and IRMM-3702 to enable comparisons with values of literature.

## 2.3 Dissolution of reference materials

Soils, sediments and rocks reference materials (RMs) were weighed in Savillex® Teflon beakers with sample masses ranging from 20 to 150 mg and digested using a multiple-step acid attack on a hot plate: 1) 1 ml of 14 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HNO<sub>3</sub> + 4 ml of 21 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HF for 48 h; drying at 100°C; 2) 3 ml of 6 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl + 1 ml of 14 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HNO<sub>3</sub>; for 24 h; drying at 100°C; 3) 1ml of 6 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl + 0.5 ml of 14 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HNO<sub>3</sub> for 24 h; drying at 100°C; 4) 1 ml of 6 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl. Subsequently, the samples were dried again and re-dissolved in 1 ml of 2 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl prior to Zn chromatographic purification (protocol details in the following sections). Blanks and the RMs (BCR-2 or BHVO-2) were included in every sample batch as analytical controls in the elemental analysis. For the plant reference material (1573a tomato leaves, NIST), the digestion was performed

using microwave digestion (Speedwave 4, Berghof) with an acid mixture of 3 ml of 21 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HF + 5 ml of 14 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HNO<sub>3</sub> + 4 ml of 6 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl. After digestion, the solution was transferred to Savillex<sup>®</sup> Teflon beakers dried on a hot plate at 100°C, dissolved in 1 ml of 2 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl, dried again and re-dissolved in 1 ml of 2 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HCl.

#### *2.4 Determination of elemental concentration*

Zinc concentrations in the acid dissolutions were determined using ICP OES (*Spectroflame FVM03, Spectro Analytical Instrumental GmbH*). Zinc in the purified fractions after the chromatographic separation and in the procedural blanks were analyzed using Q ICP-MS (XSeries2, Thermo Scientific). The isotopes <sup>66</sup>Zn, <sup>68</sup>Zn, <sup>49</sup>Ti, <sup>47</sup>Ti, <sup>52</sup>Cr, <sup>53</sup>Cr, <sup>56</sup>Fe and <sup>57</sup>Fe were analyzed in CCT mode (Collision Cell Technology), and <sup>43</sup>Ca, <sup>43</sup>Ca, <sup>27</sup>Al, <sup>24</sup>Mg, <sup>25</sup>Mg and <sup>23</sup>Na were analyzed in the standard mode. The accuracy of concentration determinations in ICP OES and Q ICP-MS was verified with the certified values of the RMs BHVO-2 and BCR-2. The determined elemental concentrations were always within 10% of the certified values.

#### *2.5 Zinc chromatographic separation: column specifications and development of the elution protocol*

The Zinc separation procedure was developed using Poly-prep Bio-Rad chromatography columns with 2 ml of bed volume (0.8 x 4 cm) and 9 cm height, loaded with AG MP1 Bio-Rad macro porous resins (100-200 mesh) and was based on the protocol originally published for the separation of Zn, Cu and Fe.<sup>12</sup> Since Zn was the only element of interest, the protocol was modified to reduce time; reagents and sample mass (Table 1). In our protocol, the sample is loaded directly in the column with a molarity of 2 mol L<sup>-1</sup>, where Zn has a high sorptive capacity for the resin AG MP-1,<sup>35</sup> thus avoiding undesirable losses of Zn during the matrix elution process.

**Table 1.** Original Protocol of Maréchal et al.<sup>12</sup> and the modified protocol used in this study

Maréchal et al. <sup>12</sup> protocol		
Step	Volume (ml)	Eluent
Column conditioning	6	7 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HCl + 0.001% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Sample loading	1	7 mol L <sup>-1</sup> + 0.001% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Matrix elution	10	7 mol L <sup>-1</sup> + 0.001% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Cu elution	20	7 mol L <sup>-1</sup> + 0.001% H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Fe elution	10	2 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HCl
Rinse	2	0.5 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HNO <sub>3</sub>
Zn elution	8	0.5 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HNO <sub>3</sub>
Quartz column; high column: 4.3 cm; resin volume: 1.6 ml		
Modified Protocol – This study		
Step	Volume (ml)	Eluent
Column conditioning	10	2 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HCl
Sample loading	1	2 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HCl
Matrix elution	20	2 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HCl
Zn elution	12	0.5 mol L <sup>-1</sup> HNO <sub>3</sub>
Biorad <sup>®</sup> column; height column: 5 cm; resin volume: 2.0 ml		

The mass of sample loaded on the column was calculated to avoid saturation of exchange sites, since amounts of Fe >20% of theoretical resin saturation can lead to the early elution of light Zn isotopes and induce its fractionation.<sup>13</sup> Thus, the content of Fe in each sample was calculated so as not to exceed this value. Considering the theoretical capacity of AG MP1 Bio-Rad resin is 1 meq/ml, 2 ml of resin support  $4 \times 10^{-4}$  moles or 22.4 mg of Fe.<sup>13</sup> The resin was cleaned by passing three times 5 ml of 0.5 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HNO<sub>3</sub> and 5 ml of de-ionized water before and after each chromatographic procedure.

## 2.6 Assessment of the ion exchange chromatography procedure

The RMs 1646a Estuarine Sediment (NIST), 1573a Tomato Leaves (NIST), BHVO-2 Basalt (USGS), BCR-2 Basalt (USGS), AGV-2 andesite (USGS) were used to assess



the chromatographic separation with respect to recovery, reproducibility and matrix separation efficiency.

The recovery of Zn is a critical methodological step for its accurate isotopic determination since the ionic exchange process along the chromatographic column induces isotope fractionation throughout the Zn elution.<sup>36</sup> The recovery was calculated from the difference between the amount of mass Zn recovered from purified solution at the end of chromatographic separation and the amount of Zn initially loaded on the column. The amount of Zn loaded on the column (1 to 3.5 µg) was calculated using the certified values of the elemental standards and RMs. The reproducibility was estimated as the relative standard deviation (RSD) from the Zn mass recovery of different replicates. In addition, possible chromatographic isotopic fractionation on the column was assessed measuring the Zn isotopic composition of the RM Zn UnB before and after the ion exchange procedure using the proposed protocol.

Matrix separation efficiency was assessed analyzing the residual matrix elements (Ti, Cr, Al, Fe, Mg, Ca) in the Zn fractions of the RMs after passing through the column. Procedural blanks of the entire analytical protocol including digestion and chromatographic separation were performed during the processing of the sample batches

#### Zinc isotope ratio measurements

Zinc isotopic compositions of sediments sample and reference materials were measured using a ThermoFinnigan Neptune MC-ICP-MS at the Laboratório de Geocronologia of the University of Brasília (UnB) and at the Centro de Pesquisas Geocronológicas (CPGeo) of the University of São Paulo (USP). Both instruments were configured in similar ways using the same inlet system, cones and acid concentrations. The typical operating conditions of the Neptune from both laboratories are shown in the Table 2.

The inlet system consisted of a stable introduction system (SIS) composed by a tandem quartz glass spray chamber (cyclone + standard Scott double pass) coupled with a low flow PFA nebulizer (50 µL min<sup>-1</sup>). The masses 62 (Ni), 63 (Cu), 64 (Zn/Ni), 65 (Cu), 66 (Zn), 67 (Zn) and 68 (Zn) were detected simultaneously using Faraday cups.

The analytical sequences ran automatically using a Cetac ASX-100 autosampler and low mass resolution collector slits, matching Cu and Zn concentrations at 300 µg L<sup>-1</sup>. Using the standard-sample bracketing technique, each sample was bracketed by a mixed isotopic reference solution (Zn UnB + Cu NIST SRM 976) with rinses between

sample and standard analyses with 0.05 mol L<sup>-1</sup> HNO<sub>3</sub> from two different vials for 1 minute each. Blank measurements consisted of 1 block of 10 cycles (8s) while samples and the isotopic reference solution were measured in 2 blocks of 20 cycles of 8s each. For a single measurement (40 cycles), internal precision ranged from 3 to 8 ppm (2σ) for both Cu and Zn. An on-peak baseline correction was applied to correct instrumental and acid blank interference.

The Zn isotopic determinations of the RM samples were carry out on replicates prepared in separate batches (thus separate digestion and chromatography for each batch). The AGV-2 RM was prepared using a single aliquot.

**Table 2.** Typical Neptune operating conditions of the USP and UnB laboratories

	CPGeo-USP	Geocronologia-UnB
Extraction [V]:	-2000.0	-1816.3
Focus[V]:	-720.1	-651.7
Source Quad1[V]:	248.0	248.7
Rot-Quad1[V]:	-6.6	-2.7
Foc-Quad1[V]:	-19.5	-19.4
Rot-Quad2[V]:	-0.1	28.8
Source Offset[V]:	20.0	0.0
Matsuda Plate[V]:	-1.0	0.0
Cool Gas[l/min]:	16.5	15.3
Aux Gas[l/min]:	0.8	0.7
Sample Gas[l/min]:	1.1	1.0
Operation Power[W]:	1303	1263
X-Pos[mm]:	0.6	1.6
Y-Pos[mm]:	-2.6	-4.8
Z-Pos[mm]:	-3.2	-7.0
Ampl.-Temp[°C]:	46.79	45.86
Fore Vacuum[mbar]:	1.61 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.43 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>
High Vacuum[mbar]:	1.38 x 10 <sup>-7</sup>	1.12x10 <sup>-7</sup>
IonGetter-Press[mbar]:	1.8 x 10 <sup>-8</sup>	1.31x10 <sup>-8</sup>
<b>Ni cones</b>		
<b>Low resolution</b>		

## 2.7 Instrumental mass bias corrections

Mass bias (or instrumental fractionation) is a process in which isotopes of the same chemical element are transmitted with different efficiencies by the mass spectrometer resulting in non-uniform sensitivity across the mass range and inaccurate isotope ratio measurements.<sup>14,15,29,31,37</sup>

The simplest technique used to correct mass bias is sample standard bracketing (SSB), which consists of analyzing an unknown sample “bracketed” by standards that are used to interpolate and correct the mass bias drift during data collection.<sup>15,31</sup> The SSB approach assumes that temporal drift in mass bias between bracketing standards is predictable and approximates to a simple mathematical expression (typically a linear interpolation), requiring a stable mass bias over the measurement session there is no significant matrix-induced mass bias.<sup>15,29,31</sup>

Another technique widely applied is the external normalization which consists of doping samples and standard with an element with a known isotope composition and similar fractionation behavior to the element being analyzed (*e.g.* Zr doping to Mo isotope analysis, Mg doping for Si, and Cu doping for Zn isotope analysis).<sup>15,31,38</sup> The measured isotope ratio of the dopant can be compared to its known value to quantify instrument-induced fractionation (or factor of fractionation –  $f$ ) and a correction can then be applied to the isotope ratio of the target element.<sup>15,31,38</sup> Different mathematical laws are used to associate the true isotopic composition with the measured values and the respective ( $f$ ) values. For the instrumental fractionation (mass bias) of Zn and Cu, the exponential law (Equation 2) has been indicated as the most appropriate law to describe it:<sup>12</sup>

$$R_{meas} = R_{true} \cdot \left( \frac{mass^i E}{mass^j E} \right)^f \quad (2)$$

where  $mass^i E$  and  $mass^j E$  represent the masses of the isotopes  $i$  and  $j$  of the analyte-element  $E$ ;  $R_{meas}$  and  $R_{true}$  represent the isotopic ratio measured experimentally and the true isotopic ratio of the analyte-element  $E$ , respectively.

Maréchal and coworkers<sup>12</sup> demonstrated that Cu and Zn isotopes do not fractionate to the same extent but the empirical relationship of  $f(Cu)/f(Zn)$  can be determined plotting the natural logarithm of the raw Cu and Zn isotope ratios of standards measured during an analytical session and be used to correct the measured ratios of the analyte element. The corrected  $R(^{66}Zn/^{64}Zn)$  ratios for each sample and its bracketing standards are used to calculate the  $\delta^{66/64}Zn$  values by  $\delta$ -equation (equation 1). In this work, external normalization was performed by doping samples and bracketing standards with Cu NIST SRM 976. The certified isotopic value of 0.4456 was used to correct the Zn isotopic ratios by application of the exponential law.<sup>12</sup>

## 2.8 Effect of variable analyte-dopant (Zn/Cu) ratios on MC-ICP-MS

The extent of mass bias is a function of the analyte-dopant (Zn/Cu) ratio and plasma condition (wet *versus* dry).<sup>19,23</sup> Wet plasma conditions show a stronger effect of the Zn/Cu ratio compared to the dry plasma (using Aridus I, DSN-100 or Apex HF), likely because of stronger turbulence effects during ionization, vaporization, atomization and excitation.<sup>23</sup> To this end, we conducted an experiment with sequential analysis of a mixed isotopic reference solution (Zn UnB + Cu NIST SRM 976) with variable concentration ratios ranging from 1 to 8. The  $\delta$ -values were calculated using the SSB and external normalization approaches to compare accuracy and precision for different concentration ratios (Cu/Zn) and mass bias correction methods. This experiment also allows the identification of the best Cu/Zn ratio to be used in the established method and offer a good opportunity to verify similarities and differences between instruments of the same model under different laboratory conditions.

## 2.9 Spectral and non-spectral interferences

Matrix elements induce spectral (isobaric) and non-spectral (matrix effects) interferences, inducing suppression or enhancement of signals, changes on sensitivity and instrumental mass bias, and overlap between the analyte isotopes and other elemental isobars (*e.g.*,  $^{64}\text{Ni}$  at  $^{64}\text{Zn}$ ), polyatomic ions species such as oxides  $(\text{MO})^+$  and hydroxides  $(\text{MOH})^+$  or double charged ions (*e.g.*,  $^{48}\text{Ca}^{2+}$  at  $^{24}\text{Mg}$ ).<sup>19,29,30</sup>

Even post-chromatographic separation procedures, some residual matrix elements can remain in the purified samples solution, affecting the accurate and precise determinations of Zn isotope ratios. As demonstrated in previous studies, the Zn solutions doped with different elements (Na, Fe, Mg, Al, Ti, V, Cr, Ba and Ce) showed different magnitudes of interference on the Zn isotopic ratios, which Cr and Ti oxides and hydroxides ions species formed in the plasma were the main isobaric interferences for Zn isotopes.<sup>19,30</sup> Other polyatomic species formed in the plasma such  $(^{27}\text{Al}^{40}\text{Ar}^+)$  can cause strong isobaric interference while remaining major elements as Fe can induce matrix affect Zn isotope ratio measurements.<sup>19,30</sup> These studies, however, were carried out on VG Axiom, MicroMass Isoprobe and Nu Plasma<sup>19,30</sup> but not on a MC-ICP-MS Neptune instrument.

In this work, we assessed the potential interferences of Fe, Cr, Al, Ti, Mg, Na and Ca in a Neptune MC-ICP-MS, doping the isotopic references solution (Cu NIST SRM 976 + Zn UnB) with these representative matrix elements in the proportion 1:1 at concentrations of 300  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . The interference magnitude on Zn isotope ratios was estimated using the  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{UnB}}$  values for the doped reference isotopic solution against the average of the undoped bracketed isotopic reference solution using SSB and external normalization for mass bias correction.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### *3.1 Assessing the ion exchange chromatographic procedure: recovery, reproducibility, matrix separation and blanks*

The experiment of Zn recovery using replicates of RMs are shown in the Table 3. The chromatographic procedure yielded, on average, recoveries of  $99.3 \pm 7.1\%$  ( $\sigma$ ,  $n=16$ ), which falls within the relative error of  $\pm 10\%$  for the certified concentrations values of the

CRMs analyzed by ICP OES and Q ICP-MS in our laboratories. Average reproducibility of replicates was *c.a.* 5%, expressed as percentage of relative standard deviation of the replicates, indicating that the procedure including digestion and chromatographic separation is robust, and confirms quantitative recovery during the separation process. The RMs processed on the column and analyzed by MC-ICP-MS in an intra-run showed  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values of  $0.01 \pm 0.02\text{‰}$  (3 replicates,  $\sigma$ ,  $n=6$  measurements). This uncertainty is well within the reproducibility estimated from repeated measurements of the iCRM Zn IRMM-3702 relative to the RM Zn UnB during several analytical session-days ( $\pm 0.03\text{‰}$ ,  $n=30$ , table 5), confirming that the chromatographic column does not induce significant isotopic fractionation on the samples.

The Q ICP-MS scan of all the samples and most of the certified reference materials processed using the ion exchange procedure showed efficient separation of potential interfering elements and Al/Zn, Mg/Zn, Ca/Zn, Na/Zn, Ti/Zn and Cr/Zn ratio were all below  $< 0.001$ . The purified Zn fractions were free from the main potential interfering metals Cr and Ti. The reference materials BHVO-2 (basalt) and Estuarine

Sediment 1646a had Fe remaining after the chromatographic separation with Fe/Zn values corresponding 0.12 and 0.02 respectively.

The blank contribution of our total procedure including dissolution reagents and chromatography elution was about  $44 \pm 14$  ng ( $\sigma$ ,  $n=6$ ), which correspond less than 0.1% of the total Zn found in samples. This low blank did not require any additional corrections.

**Table 3.** Zinc recovery yields and reproducibility data obtained for replicates of reference materials.

Replicates <sup>a</sup>	Zn mass loaded ( $\mu$ g)	Zn recovered ( $\mu$ g)	Recovery (%)	Reproducibility (%) <sup>b</sup>
Zn UnB – a	1.0	0.95	95.0	1.5
Zn UnB – a	1.0	0.93	93.0	
BHVO-2 basalt- a	1.0	1.08	108.0	4.9
BHVO-2 basalt- a	1.0	1.01	100.8	
BCR-2 basalt – a	2.5	2.50	99.8	2.8
BCR-2 basalt – b	2.5	2.40	96.0	
San Joaquin soil – a	5.0	5.15	103.0	5.4
San Joaquin Soil – b	5.0	4.77	95.4	
1646 <sup>a</sup> Estuarine Sediment- a	3.5	3.65	104.2	7.0
1646 <sup>a</sup> Estuarine Sediment- b	3.5	3.07	87.8	
1646 <sup>a</sup> Estuarine Sediment- c	3.5	3.36	96.0	
1646 <sup>a</sup> Estuarine Sediment – d	3.5	3.36	96.0	
1573 <sup>a</sup> Tomato Leaves – a	5.0	5.28	105.6	11.4
1573 <sup>a</sup> Tomato Leaves – b	5.0	5.88	117.6	
1573 <sup>a</sup> Tomato Leaves – c	5.0	4.68	93.6	
AGV andesite	1.0	0.97	97.2	
<b>Average</b>			<b>99.3 <math>\pm</math> 7.1</b>	<b>5.2</b>

a- Replicates are indicated by different letters (a, b, c, d.). For AGV-2 (andesite), only one test-portion was analysed.

b- The reproducibility is expressed as the percentage of relative standard deviation of Zn recovery masses for the different replicates.

### 3.2 Determining the optimum analyte-dopant ratio (Zn/Cu) of isotopic measurements

The effect of variable Cu/Zn ratios on the mass bias was investigated using bi-variant plots of raw Cu and Zn isotope ratios (*i.e.*, ratios uncorrected for the mass bias effect) of standards in the ln-ln space (Fig.1). We find consistently straight lines indicating constant instrumental fractionation behavior of Zn and Cu confirming invariable  $f_{\text{Zn}}/f_{\text{Cu}}$  over the analytical sessions. The slope ranges between 0.99 and 1.22 for the different Cu/Zn ratios, however, demonstrating the mass bias behavior of Zn and Cu depend on the analyte/dopant ratio. Our results reinforce the importance of verify empirically the relationship between the factor of fractionation of Zn ( $f_{\text{Zn}}$ ) and Cu ( $f_{\text{Cu}}$ ) for each analytical session if the SBB is used and highlight the importance of matching dopant (Cu) analyte (Zn) concentrations of samples and standards.<sup>23</sup>

Table 4 shows the  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values and precision (expressed as  $2\sigma$  of the total number measurements) of the mixed reference isotopic solution (Zn UnB + Cu NIST SRM 976) analyzed sequentially with different ratios of Cu/Zn. We find that variable Cu/Zn ratios do not have significant effects on accuracy of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values (all  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values obtained were close to  $0.00 \pm 0.01\text{‰}$ ,  $\sigma$ ,  $n=31$ ). However, the analytical precision (or external reproducibility) is affected by the different Cu/Zn ratios and hence the mass bias corrections (Table 4). The best external reproducibility ( $\pm 0.02\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=7$ ) was obtained using the Cu/Zn ratio of 1 and correcting the ratios by external normalization using the exponential law. The Cu/Zn ratio of 1 yielded the best correlation and the slope closest to the theoretical value (0.96) indicating that  $f_{\text{Cu}} \approx f_{\text{Zn}}$ . Therefore, this experiment shows that the higher the coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) between the natural logarithms of Cu and Zn, more precise will be the correction by the external normalization.

Since instrument mass bias behavior can change day to day, a plot of the measurements of the mixed reference isotopic solution (Zn UnB + Cu NIST SRM 976) analyzed on consecutive days ( $n=121$ ) are presented in Fig.2. The results showed that the Cu/Zn ration of 1 maintains the slope of the mass bias line close to 1.0 and a good correlation coefficient on both instruments. Throughout this study, the largest extent of mass bias was observed in the Neptune-at UnB (Fig.2).

Summarizing our recent results using different Cu/Zn ratios, the use of Cu-doping in the proportion of 1:1 with Zn (at concentrations of  $300 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) provided the

more constant mass bias and consequently more precise results using the external normalization. Thus, the ratio Cu/Zn ratio of 1 was applied to all samples and isotopic reference solution measured in this study.

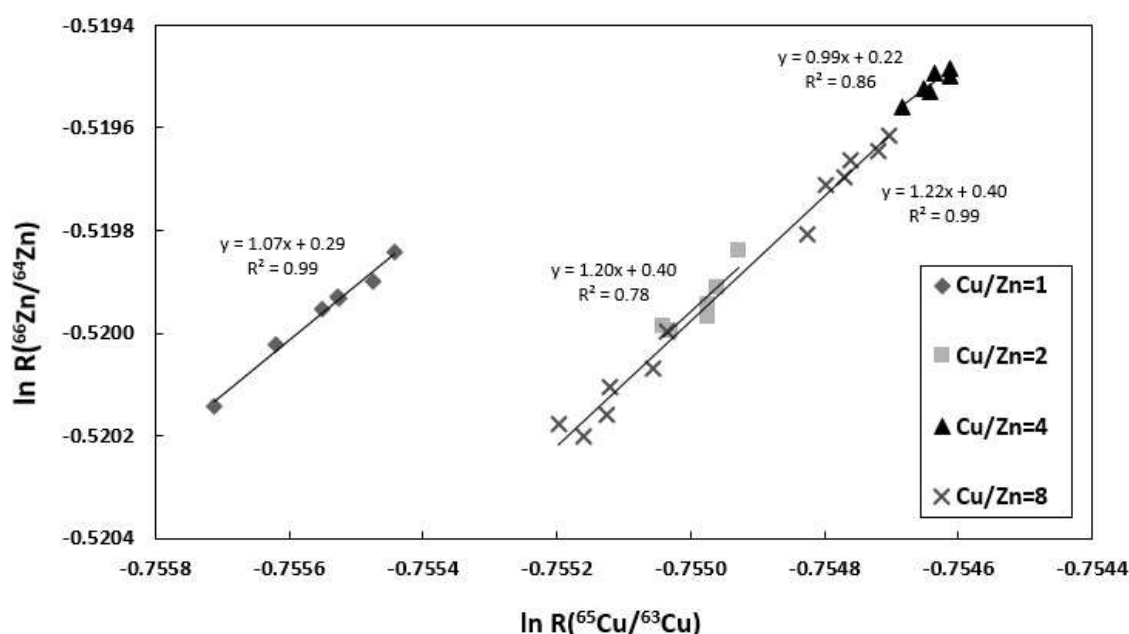
**Table 4.** Accuracy and reproducibility for the isotopic reference solution (Zn UnB + Cu NIST SRM 976) using different methods of mass bias correction and different Cu/Zn concentration ratios.

	$\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{UnB}}$ SSB		$\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{UnB}}$ Ext		$n^*$
	average	$2\sigma$	average	$2\sigma$	
Cu/Zn=1	0.01	0.07	0.00	0.02	7
Cu/Zn=2	-0.01	0.17	-0.01	0.11	6
Cu/Zn=4	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.05	6
Cu/Zn=8	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.08	12

$n^*$  : number of measurements

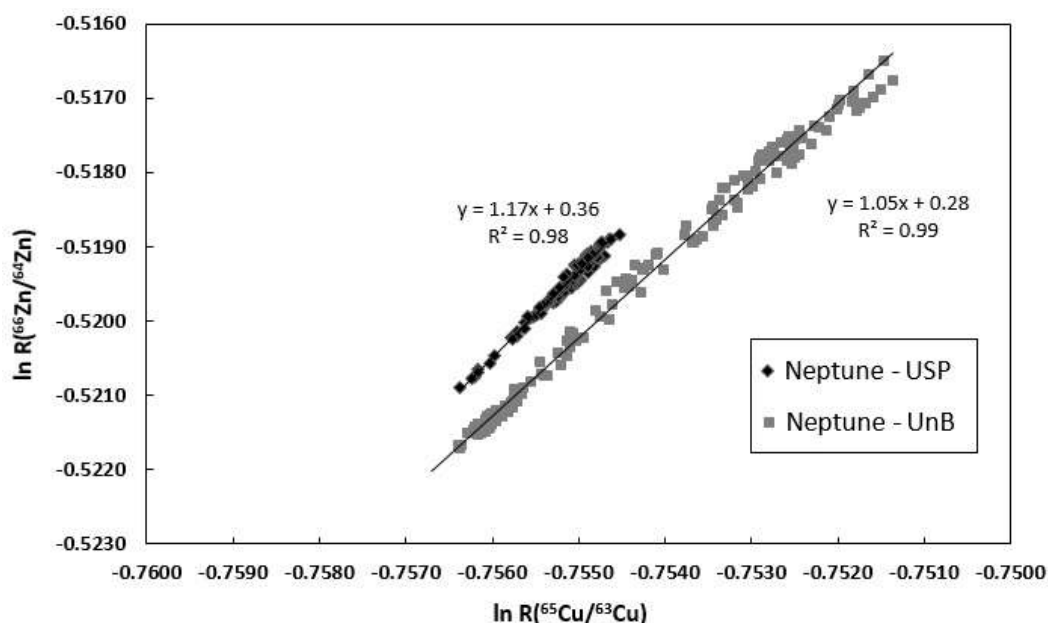
SSB: sample standard bracketing.

Ext: external normalization applying the exponential law.



**Fig.1.** The effect of variable Cu/Zn ratios performed on the Neptune USP using the mixed reference isotopic solution (Zn UnB + Cu NIST SRM 976). The Cu/Zn ratio of 1 showed the closest slope to the theoretical value ( $\approx 0.96$ ) and the best coefficient of determination ( $R^2 = 0.99$ ).





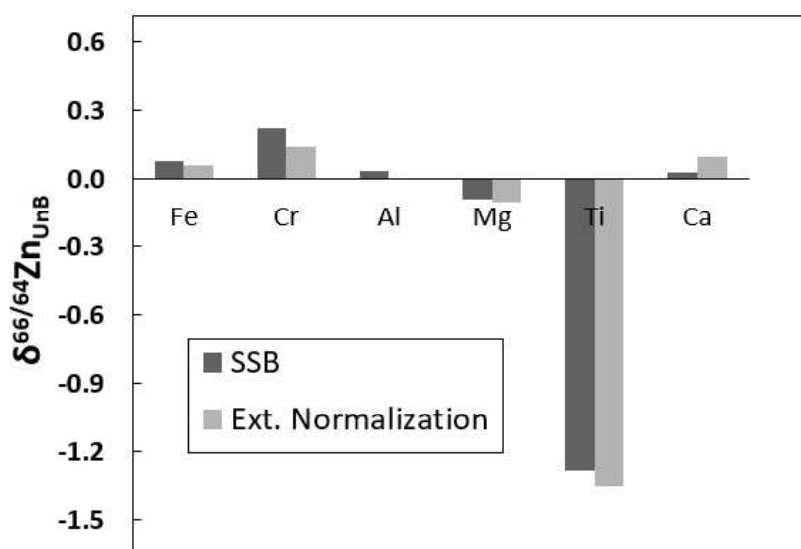
**Fig.2.** Plot of  $\ln R(^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn})$  versus  $\ln R(^{65}\text{Cu}/^{63}\text{Cu})$  for 121 measurements of the isotopic solution (Zn UnB + Ni NIST 986) over several analytical sessions on consecutive days using the Neptunes of USP and UnB universities over a year. The slopes of the mass bias lines obtained in both instruments (1.17 at USP and 1.05 at UnB) is close to the theoretical value ( $\approx 0.96$ ) indicating that  $f_{\text{Cu}} \approx f_{\text{Zn}}$ . Moreover, both instruments maintained good correlations between the Cu and Zn isotopic ratios. In general, the Neptune-UnB showed large mass bias drift over time.

### 3.3 Assessing spectral and non-spectral interferences effects on Zn isotopic ratios

The doped isotopic reference solution (Zn UnB + Cu NIST SRM 976) with matrix elements, *i.e.*, Fe, Cr, Al, Ti, Mg, and Ca showed a strong effect on the accuracy of the  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  values (Fig.3). Chromium and titanium induced shifts higher than 0.1‰ due to the isobaric oxides and hydroxide ionic species  $(^{48}\text{Ti}^{16}\text{O})^+$ ,  $(^{48}\text{Ti}^{16}\text{OH})^+$ ,  $(^{52}\text{Cr}^{16}\text{O})^+$ ,  $(^{52}\text{Cr}^{16}\text{O}^1\text{H})^+$ , while Fe, Al, Ca, Mg inducing lower shifts ( $< 0.1\text{‰}$ ). This pattern was observed in previous studies<sup>19,30</sup> and suggests that inlet systems and ICPs from different MC-ICP-MS models do not differ with respect to the production of interferences when operating in wet plasma. Mason et al.<sup>30</sup> found little differences in the formation and/or persistence of matrix related polyatomic species in the VG Axiom or the Isoprobe instruments. Our data suggests that the MC-ICP-MS Neptune instrument operated in the wet mode is affected in a similar way to other instruments.

Comparing the isotopic compositions by the different mass bias correction approaches, the external normalization method improved precision compared to the SSB method. This demonstrates that external normalization is capable of attenuating

(but not totally) the matrix effects, reinforcing the importance of chemical separation quality prior the chromatography. As demonstrated by Mason et al.<sup>30</sup> and Petit et al.<sup>22</sup>, the reduction of oxide and hydroxide ionic species using dry plasma or a second passage through the column are the best alternatives in case of remaining matrix elements on the sample solution.<sup>39</sup>



**Fig.3.** Interference assessed for different elements of the Zn isotopic compositions. The  $\delta$ -values of doped mixed reference isotopic solution (Zn UnB + Cu NIST SRM 976) were calculated against the undoped bracketed mixed reference solution using the sample standard bracketing (SSB) and external normalization (Ext) corrections.

### 3.4 Zn isotopic compositions of environmental RMs

The RM Zn UnB was calibrated against the iCRM Zn IRMM 3702 and the RM Zn JMC 3-0749 during several analytical session. The instrumental settings and analytical procedures were the same applied to the samples, using the external normalization for mass bias corrections, Cu-dopant and Zn-analyte matched at concentrations of 300  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and the RM Zn UnB as a bracketed standard. The results are presented in Table 5 and the conversion of the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{UnB}}$  values to  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{IRMM}}$  and  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values is obtained applying the following equations:

$$\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{UnB}} = \delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{IRMM}} + 0.13\text{‰} \quad (3)$$

$$\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{UnB}} = \delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} - 0.14 \text{‰} \quad (4)$$

The  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{UnB}}$  and  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC-3-0749L}}$  determined for the iCRM Zn IRMM 3702 are presented in Table 5. The  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC-3-0749L}}$  values are shown to enable comparison with the literature since the  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  continues to be the more widely reported reference standard. Error propagations were used to calculate the error of  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values (expressed as  $2\sigma$ ). The corresponding  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{IRMM}}$  values can be obtained using equation 3.

The external reproducibility ( $2\sigma$ ) for replicate measurements ( $n=2$  to  $5$ ) of RM with environmental matrices are below  $0.1\text{‰}$  (Table 5). For the synthetic RMs Zn UnB and Zn JMC 3-0749, the reproducibility calculated from 34 measurements in different analytical sessions were  $0.08$  and  $0.06\text{‰}$ , respectively.

The RMs BHVO-2 and BCR-2 were used to test critically the analytical accuracy of our analytical procedures as it allows comparison with previously published data (Table 5), while the RMs 2709 San Joaquin soil, 1646a estuarine sediment and 1573a tomato leaves are reported to enable future quality controls of Zn isotope ratio measurements related to environmental studies. The results of our BHVO-2 and BCR-2 ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} = +0.25 \pm 0.09$  and  $+0.25 \pm 0.10\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ , respectively) are in line with previously published values (Table 5) ranging between  $+0.2$  and  $+0.3\text{‰}$  associated to igneous rocks.<sup>40</sup> The  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  value for 1646a estuarine sediment ( $+0.32 \pm 0.07\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=8$ ) is close to typical values for igneous rocks, marine sediments and sapropels ( $0.23 \pm 0.08\text{‰}$   $2\sigma$ ,  $n=20$ ;  $0.28 \pm 0.02\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ , respectively).<sup>41</sup>

The  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  value for the 2709 San Joaquin soil is  $0.28 \pm 0.09\text{‰}$  which is close to the  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  of  $0.2\text{‰}$  suggested for unpolluted soils.<sup>42</sup> The  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of  $0.79 \pm 0.09\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=8$ ) for 1573a tomato is within the large range found in the plant leaves ranging from  $-0.91$  to  $0.63\text{‰}$  for herbaceous species and  $0.98 \pm 0.19\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$  for bamboo leaves.<sup>7,43</sup> The several factors of fractionation such as diffusive processes in cross-cell membrane transport, Zn bioavailable speciation, and rhizosphere reactions<sup>44,45</sup> probably is associated to this heavy isotopic compositions of 1573a tomato leaves compared with soils and sediments.

**Table 5.** Results of Zinc isotope determinations of Reference Isotopic Standards and Reference Materials.

Isotopic Standard/ RMs	Reference	$\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn JMC}$	$\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn UnB}$	<i>n</i> (Replicates) <sup>b</sup>
<b>IRMM-3702</b>	This study	$-0.27 \pm 0.07$	$+0.13 \pm 0.03$	30 (1)
	Moeller et al. <sup>27</sup>	$-0.30 \pm 0.05^a$		
<b>BHVO-2 Basalt</b>	This study	$0.25 \pm 0.09$	$0.08 \pm 0.08$	10 (5)
	Herzog et al. <sup>46</sup>	$0.29 \pm 0.09$		
	Moynier et al. <sup>47</sup>	$0.21 \pm 0.09$		
	Moeller et al. <sup>27</sup>	$0.48 \pm 0.13$		3
	Chen et al. <sup>41</sup>	$0.33 \pm 0.04$		
<b>BCR-2 Basalt</b>	This study	$0.25 \pm 0.08$	$0.08 \pm 0.06$	10 (5)
	Archer and Vance <sup>32</sup>	$0.20 \pm 0.09$		12
	Chapaman et al. <sup>13</sup>	$0.29 \pm 0.12$		8
	Cloquet et al. <sup>12</sup>	$0.32 \pm 0.13$		2
	Sonke et al. <sup>5</sup>	$0.25 \pm 0.04$		4
	Herzog et al. <sup>46</sup>	$0.33 \pm 0.09$		
	Moeller et al. <sup>27</sup>	$0.33 \pm 0.13$		3
<b>AGV-2 Andesite</b>	This study	$0.29 \pm 0.06$	$0.12 \pm 0.03$	2 (1)
	Moynier et al. <sup>47</sup>	$0.25 \pm 0.09$		
	Chen et al. <sup>41</sup>	$0.32 \pm 0.04$		
<b>2709 San Joaquin Soil</b>	This study	$0.28 \pm 0.10$	$0.11 \pm 0.09$	4 (2)
<b>1646a Sediment Estuarine</b>	This study	$0.32 \pm 0.06$	$0.15 \pm 0.04$	4 (2)
<b>1573a Tomate Leaves</b>	This study	$0.79 \pm 0.09$	$0.62 \pm 0.07$	4 (2)

a-The value reported represent the average of the values published in the literature.<sup>11, 14, 19</sup>

b- For the standards and reference materials analyzed in this study, the number of replicates are indicated in the parentheses. Each replicate was prepared separately with different digestions and chromatographic separation for the determination of the Zn isotopic compositions.

## 4. Conclusion

A procedure for determining the Zn isotopic compositions in environmental samples has been developed through the co-operation between two Brazilian laboratories. The method focused on establishing of a simple and fast chromatographic separation of Zn isotopes from complexes environmental matrices (soils, sediments, rocks and plants), on instrumental controls of mass bias and matrix interferences and on the determinations of Zn isotopic compositions in reference materials from NIST and USGS.

The chromatographic column calibration experiments showed a fit-for-purpose matrix separation, reproducibility ( $<0.01\%$ ,  $5 \leq n \leq 1$ ,  $2\sigma$ ) and practically 100% recoveries yields. During analysis sessions, both laboratories instruments (ThermoFinnigan Neptune) presented similar mass bias behavior with  $f_{Zn} \approx f_{Cu}$ . External normalization using Cu NIST SRM 976 with the dopant/analyte ration (Cu/Zn) of 1 produced more precise results than *Standard Sample Bracketing (SSB)* for the mass bias corrections. Investigations on spectral and non-spectral interferences in matrix-doped standards identified the formation of Cr and Ti oxides and hydroxides ionic species in the plasma as the main interferences on Zn isotopes ratios. Other elements such Fe, Ca, Mg do not produce large interferences, with shifts commonly lower than 0.1‰.

Six certified reference materials (USGS and NIST materials) were analyzed: BHVO-2 basalt; BCR-2 basalt; AGV-2 andesite; San Joaquin Soil SRM 2709, 1646a Estuarine Sediment and 1573a tomato leaves. In the case of rock RMs (BHVO-2 basalt; BCR-2 basalt; AGV-2 andesite) the  $\delta^{66/64}Zn_{JMC}$  values were in agreement with the values reported in the literature.

This work contributed with a simplified chromatographic protocol for Zn separation, additional insights about the mass bias processes in the MC-ICP-MS instruments and a new dataset of Zn isotopic compositions for environmental reference materials in order to fill a gap in the metrological traceability and analytical control of Zn isotopic data, and stimulate future inter-laboratorial calibrations.

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### ZINC ISOTOPES AS TRACERS OF WASTE FROM ELECTROPLATING INDUSTRIES IN COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

(manuscript submitted to Chemical Geology Journal and accepted with corrections)

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## Abstract

The legitimacy of Zn isotopes to trace anthropogenic sources in coastal areas has been tested in this study. We determined the stable isotopic composition of Zn of five sediment cores, surface sediment samples, suspended particulate matter (SPM), leaves of mangrove trees and rocks collected at the Sepetiba Bay, an estuarine-lagoon impacted by an industrialized coastal area near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as well as in ore samples. The aim was to test if this tracer system enables i) to identify sources and sinks of anthropogenic Zn; ii) to reconstruct the temporal and spatial evolution of Zn contamination; iii) to verify the influence of estuarine biogeochemical processes on the Zn isotopic signature during the element transport and deposition and iv) to investigate the effects of anthropogenic contamination on the Zn isotopes signature of mangrove leaves. Zinc contents in the more contaminated sampling site reached levels up to 4% of sediment dry weight. The zinc isotopic compositions (expressed using the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  notation relative to the JMC 3-0749-L solution) showed significant variations in the sediment cores, the SPM, leaves and willemite ore minerals ranging between -0.01 and +1.15‰. Sediment cores showed high correlation between  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  and Zn enrichment factors, suggesting good preservation of the isotopic record. The Zn isotopic composition of leaves is lighter than in the contaminated sediments confirming isotopic fractionation occurring during plant uptake. The sediments and SPM samples collected close to old metallurgic area have the highest Zn concentrations and the heaviest isotopic compositions. The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  signature for metallurgical wastes was estimated to  $+0.86 \pm 0.15\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ), which is heavier than the values observed for willemite (ranging from -0.1 to 0.14‰). This suggests a significant fractionation induced by electroplating processes. The sediment core sampled from a mangrove located close to the metallurgical wastes source preserved the isotopic signatures of this source in most layers. However, there is evidence that biogeochemical processes triggered by hydrodynamics, bioturbation and rhizosphere processes slightly changed the isotopic signatures in some layers from this core toward heavier  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values above +1.0‰. The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  signature for the terrestrial natural material background end member was  $+0.28 \pm 0.12\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ). The isotopic compositions of the sediments are in line with source mixing involving terrestrial, marine and the major anthropogenic source (i.e., metallurgical waste). Mixing model calculations quantified the contribution of this major anthropogenic source of Zn as ranging from negligible values in the pre-industrial

period to nearly 80% during periods of electroplating activities. The sedimentary records of this anthropogenic contribution consistently decreased in different areas of the bay during the most recent years, reflecting the end of metallurgical activities in 1998. Our work clearly demonstrates that Zn isotopes trace metallurgical wastes spatially and temporally in coastal areas and mangrove forests and extends the applicability of this novel tool to trace human sources and processes affecting the fate of Zn in these areas.

## 1. Introduction

Coastal areas worldwide are under strong pressure from anthropogenic pollution as most of the global population and of economic activities are concentrated along the coasts and estuaries (Clark, 1996; Lewis et al., 2011). The main activities include mining and metallurgy and large quantities of waste (slags, ash, liquid effluents) containing elevated concentrations of metals are released during the ore processing, contaminating the surrounding atmosphere, soils, sediments and waters (Hudson-Edwards, 2011; Kossof et al., 2014). Estuaries and mangrove forests act as sinks of the contaminants transported via rivers and their environmental health is seriously threatened by pollutants (MacFarlane et al., 2007; Lewis et al., 2011).

A representative example of coastal areas impacted by metallurgical industry is Sepetiba Bay, a lagoon system with 519 km<sup>2</sup> located 60 km from Rio de Janeiro City, southeastern Brazil. This site has been severely impacted by toxic metals, notably Zn and Cd, since the implementation of the industrial park in its watershed during the 1960s (Molisani et al., 2004). Zinc content in sediments (Pellegati et al., 2001; Wasserman et al., 2001), oysters (Rebelo et al., 2003; Lacerda and Molisani, 2006;) and brown alga (Amado Filho et al., 1999) exceed 2,000, 80,000 and 800 µg g<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Cadmium reaches concentrations in sediments that are comparable to the concentrations found in soils of sites with historical of Itai-itai disease outbreak (Kasuya et al., 1992). The main source of these contaminant is an old stack of tailings (estimated as 600,000 tons) derived from a Zn electroplating plant, which was exposed to the open air for almost 50 years and its materials have been transported to the bay and mangroves of the region (Barcellos et al., 1991, 1992; Barcellos and Lacerda, 1994). The estimated input rates from the electroplating waste into the bay were about 24 t y<sup>-1</sup> of Cd and 3,660 t y<sup>-1</sup> for Zn during electroplating activity (Molisani et al., 2004). Other diffuse

contaminant sources include the industrial district located along the watershed which host petrochemical, pyrometallurgical, smelter, plastic and rubber production and food and beverage plants, and port activities that include sediment remobilization by dredging (Molisani et al., 2004). In addition, the watershed is threatened by increasing population of Sepetiba city (from 0.6 million in 1980 to 1.34 million in 2000) and an inappropriate infra structure to domestic effluents (Leal Neto et al., 2006). Reconstructions of past pollution using coastal sediment cores as archive have shown increasing inputs of Cu, Pb, Cr, Cd and Zn (Molisani et al., 2004; Marques et al., 2006; Gomes et al., 2009; Patchineelam et al., 2011), resulting in high enrichment factors of the elements in surface sediments. However, while increasing fluxes and enrichment factors are evidences of the human impact, sources contributions and pathways of the contaminants remain little constrained (Molisani et al., 2004; Ribeiro et al., 2013). Fate and mobility of the metals after release into aquatic systems is controlled by numerous biogeochemical processes including complexation with organic and inorganic ligands, uptake by microorganisms or adsorption onto suspended particulate matter, which will eventually settle on bottom sediments (Langston, 1988; Adriano and Adriano, 2001; Du Laing et al., 2008). The inherent complexity of metal cycles challenge the identification and understanding about their sources, sinks and related risks for the human and biota health.

In recent years, stable isotopes have been critically assessed as potential tool to obtain improved qualitative and quantitative information about sources, pathways and biogeochemical processes of Zn in the environment (Wiederhold, 2015). This element is ubiquitous in the biosphere and geosphere. It is an essential micronutrient to organisms and an important cofactor of several enzymes, however, in high concentrations can be toxic (Adriano and Adriano, 2001). It is used in alloys, pesticides, electroplating and commonly associated to mining impacts due the economic importance of its ores (Hudson-Edwards et al., 2011, Gordon et al., 2013). Previous work suggested that Zn isotopes fractionate during anthropogenic process such as smelting (Shiel et al., 2010), combustion (Ochoa and Weiss, 2015) and electroplating (Kavner et al., 2008), generating anthropogenic fingerprints isotopically distinct from natural isotopic compositions (Yin et al., 2016). High-temperature processes involved during roasting and smelting of ores tend to fractionate Zn isotopes in the gas phase, with an enrichment of the lightest Zn isotopes in air emissions and heavier Zn isotopes in slags and effluents (Sonke et al., 2008; Borok et al., 2010; Ochoa and Weiss, 2015; Yin et al., 2016). In

contrast to these anthropogenic high temperature processes, geological high temperature processes including magmatic differentiation seems not produce significant isotopic fractionation resulting in a homogeneous Zn isotopic composition for the bulk Earth (Chen et al., 2013). The significant difference in the isotopic compositions derived of anthropogenic sources compared to the natural background (soils and rocks, for example) suggest that Zn isotopes are a powerful tracer of sources capable of discriminate and quantify several pollutant sources, such as vehicle emissions and tire wear (Gioia et al., 2008; Thapalia et al., 2010; Thapalia et al., 2015), wastewaters and sewage (Chen et al., 2008; 2009), mining and metallurgy byproducts (Dolgoplova et al., 2006; Mattielli et al., 2006; Weiss et al., 2007; Sivry et al., 2008).

A critical appreciation of Zn isotopes as tracers of biogeochemical processes and sources in coastal environment has been scarce to date. In the Gironde fluvial-estuarine system (France), the isotopic composition of suspended particulate matter (SPM) did not enable the separation of the anthropogenic and natural sources, probably due to on-site remediation of the contamination source and the mixture with natural Zn in the fluvial-estuarine continuum (Petit et al., 2015). In the dissolved phase, the large isotopic variation observed was attributed to adsorption processes in the estuary gradient and maximum turbidity zone (MTZ), rather than sources contributions (Petit et al., 2015). Therefore, the applicability of Zn as tracer of metallurgical sources in coastal areas remains not conclusive, requiring additional investigations.

Sepetiba Bay offers an ideal environment to test the possible application of Zn isotopes as tracers of contaminants in coastal areas because the observed isotopes ratios can be correlated to the well-documented history of metallurgic activities in this area. In this work, the stable isotopic composition of Zn was determined in five sediment cores, surface mangrove sediments, suspended particulate matter (SPM), leaves of mangrove trees, rock samples and ore samples, with the aim of to develop new constraints on the use of a novel tracer for coastal areas to i) identify sources and sinks of anthropogenic Zn, ii) to reconstruct the temporal and spatial evolution of Zn contamination, iii) to verify the influence of estuarine biogeochemical processes on the Zn isotopic signature during the element transport and deposition and for last, iv) to investigate the effects of anthropogenic contamination on the Zn isotope composition of mangrove leaves.

## 2. Study area

### 2.1. General characteristics

Sepetiba Bay (Fig.1) is a 519-km<sup>2</sup>, semi-enclosed water body located 60 km south of Rio de Janeiro City. In the vicinity, a wide intertidal area with about 40 km<sup>2</sup> of mangrove ecosystems has developed (Leal Neto et al., 2006; Roncarati and Carelli, 2012). Water circulation in the bay is controlled by tides and the pattern of surface currents tends to clock direction, creating a preferential deposition area along the northern coast (Neto et al., 2006; Roncarati and Carelli, 2012). Main river estuaries and extensive mangrove vegetation occur in the northern and eastern portions of the bay, respectively. Nine rivers drain an extensive watershed of approximately 2,654 km<sup>2</sup>, which includes agricultural, industrial and urban areas. The geological setting is composed by Quaternary sediments and granite-gneisses rocks. Three main waterways (Guandu, Guandu-Mirim and Guarda rivers) contribute with more than >90% of watershed's total input of fresh water to the bay. The waters of , Guarda and Guandu-Mirim rivers reach the bay by artificial channels, crossing an industrial park (Molisani et al., 2004; Roncarati and Carelli, 2012). The São Francisco channel, with an annual flow of  $6.5 \times 10^9 \text{ m}^3$ , is responsible for over 86% of the total freshwater runoff input (Molisani et al., 2004). The extensive contribution of sediments to the bay coming from the rivers result in sedimentation rates of 0.12 to 1.3 cm per year (Smoak and Patchineelam, 1999; Molisani et al., 2004; Marques et al., 2006; Gomes et al., 2009). Numerous industrial plants are located in the bay watershed, including a large metallurgical complex between the Guandu and São Francisco channels at the border of the bay, while two important harbors operate in the bay area, besides a past electroplating industry refuse pile located at the northern bay margin (Fig.1), which promoted the major anthropogenic Zn input to the bay (Molisani et al., 2004).

### 2.2. History of environmental impacts

The population of Sepetiba Bay drainage basin increased significantly in the 1970s, from 600,000 to up 1.34 million today, resulting in an inadequate infrastructure to support the population growth (Leal Neto, 2006). In the 1960s, an electroplating plant started to operate, close to the Itaguaí harbor (Fig.1). In 1996, the electroplating plant represented one of the three largest producers of zinc in Brazil, with a total capacity of

60.000 tons per year. The zinc purification process used silicate ores (calamine and willemite) acquired from Vazante (Minas Gerais, Brazil), the most important Zn deposit in Brazil. The ores were crushed and leached by sulfuric acid followed by filtration and purification of solution. The purified solution was then carried to electrolytic cells where the zinc plates were produced. After this, the plates underwent smelting and casting processes (Barone, 1973). The low production efficiency (75 to 90%) of this process contributed for the high production of wastes (Barcellos and Lacerda, 1994), that had inadequate contention.

The electroplating wastes (estimated to about 600,000 tons, and containing about 200 tons of Cd and 50,000 tons of Zn) were disposed in an area adjacent to the small tidal creek of Saco do Engenho (Fig.1). Rainfall continuously leached the waste tailing to this channel and to the bay (Barcellos et al., 1991). To reduce the transport of these materials to the coastal area a dike was built between the bay and the tailing disposal site in 1984. However, its rupture in the 1996 caused a large input of contaminants to the surrounding bay area. In 1998, the industrial activities of this electroplating plant ceased (Molisani et al., 2004).

Several studies identified high metal concentrations in biota and sediment compartments of Sepetiba Bay, particularly for Zn and Cd (Amado Filho et al., 1999; Pellegati et al., 2001; Wasserman et al., 2001; Rebelo et al., 2003; Lacerda and Molisani, 2006). Some authors suggest that the complex hydrodynamics of the system and sediment re-suspension eventually lead to large transport of suspended particles before its deposition, promoting the remobilization and the dispersion of the contaminants along different zones of the bay (Barcellos et al., 1997). Computational modeling of the lagoon hydrodynamics shows a trend of fine sediments deposition along the northeastern coastal area of the bay, where the tidal flats and mangroves acts as sinks of contaminants (Montezuma, 2013). In the mangroves and mud flats sediments, the anoxic and organic matter-rich conditions result in the formation of insoluble metallic sulfides and metal-organic matter complexes, as indicated for Zn and other toxic metals (Cd, Cu, Ni and Pb) along the bay area (Lacerda et al., 1993; Machado et al., 2008; Andrade et al., 2012; Ribeiro et al., 2013).

### 3. Materials and Methods

#### 3.1 Sampling and sample preparation

The sediment cores were collected from five different locations within the Sepetiba Bay (Fig.1). The core T1 was sampled within a white mangrove (*Laguncularia racemosa*) stand, located into the Saco do Engenho tidal creek, representing the contamination hot spot due to the leaching process of the electroplating wastes and deposition in this area. The other cores were collected in subtidal or intertidal mud flats located along the inner bay areas. The core T2 was collected next to the Saco do Engenho channel mouth, while the core T3 was located near the mouth of the São Francisco channel. The T4 core was collected in Enseada das Garças, in a tidal flat located in the northeastern bay area, close to an ecological reserve with mangrove vegetation, but under the influence of anthropogenic activities, such as the discharge of untreated domestic sewage. In contrast to the cores collected close to the northeastern shore, the T5 core was collected near the Marambaia sandbar and the main communication of the bay with the open sea. All sediment cores were taken using 6 cm-diameter, 60 cm-length acrylic tubes, and sectioned in the field at 5 cm intervals. Each sub-sample was stored in polyethylene bags and kept frozen. The samples were dried at 40 °C, crushed and sieved at 63 µm. This grain size fraction (< 63 µm) was used for elemental and isotopic analyses.

Surface sediments were collected at three different mangrove sites (Fig.1), during low tide. The first is located in the Saco do Engenho (station MSE), the second is located close the mouth of São Francisco channel (station MSF) and the third is located in the mangrove of Enseada das Garças (station MENS). At each sampling station, three superficial (~ 0-5 cm depth) sediment replicates were sampled into polyethylene bags and kept frozen. The surface sediment samples were processed as described for sediment cores. In the three sampling stations, *L. racemosa* trees colonized the sediments. *L. racemosa* leaves were also sampled in triplicate from trees surrounding the sampled sediments. The leaf samples were stored in plastic bags until the return to the laboratory for cleaning with ultrapure water. These samples were dried at 80°C during 24 h and finely ground for homogenization.

The sampling locations for suspended particulate matter (SPM) were chosen with the aim to characterize: 1) the fluvial material, which includes the natural terrestrial material and potential contaminants brought to the bay by the San Francisco Channel



and Guandu Rivers, 2) the contaminant wastes transported by the creek that cross the Saco do Engenho's mangrove, and 3) the ocean particulate matter that enters the bay to the west (Fig.1). The SPM samples from the rivers were collected 6 km upstream during the low tide to represent best the fluvial inputs. Conductivity was controlled to guarantee the sampling in the fresh waters. Bottles for sampling were washed overnight in sub-boiling HCl and rinsed three times with pure water prior to using in the field. After sample collection, between 150 and 500 ml of water was filtered through a 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  acetate cellulose membrane previously dried and weighted. Back to the laboratory SPM samples were dried and weighed again to calculate the mass of the suspended material.

Granite rock samples were collected around a quarry located at north of the Saco do Engenho's mangrove. The rocks were split in two group and crushed. The two groups were pulverized separately, constituting two aliquots representative for the geology of the study area. Three willemite ores originated from hypogene non-sulfide zinc deposit from the Vazante Mine, Minas Gerais, Brazil were used to represent the main mineral refined during the industrial electroplating process (Barone, 1973).

### 3.2. Sample treatment

All reagents used for the samples digestion were prepared using  $> 18.2 \text{ M}\Omega \text{ H}_2\text{O}$  (Nanop System®) and ultra-pure acids (Merck®) distilled by sub-boiling in teflon stills. The chemical procedures for trace elements were performed under clean-air conditions and evaporations were conducted in clean boxes. The samples were weighed in Savillex® Teflon beakers with sample masses ranging from 20-100 mg (sediments, rocks and certified reference materials, i.e. BCR-2 and BHVO-2, USGS) and 5-10mg for willemite ores were digested on a hot plate using a multiple-step acid procedure with HF,  $\text{HNO}_3$ , HCl. Suprapur  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  30% (Merck®) was used to oxidize organic matter in some sediment samples. Subsequently, the samples were evaporated to dryness on a hot plate and 1 ml of concentrated  $\text{HNO}_3$  was added to drive off the remaining HF. After, the samples were dissolved in 6 M HCl evaporated to dryness again and redissolved in 2 M HCl. From each digested sample, two separated aliquots were taken for chemical Zn separation and trace elements analysis. Leaf samples were digested using a microwave system (Speedwave 4, Berghof) and concentrated acid mixing (HF, HCl and  $\text{HNO}_3$ ). After digestion, the solution was transferred to Savillex® Teflon beakers dried on a hot

plate, the remaining HF drive off by concentrate HNO<sub>3</sub> addition and subsequently dissolved in 6 M HCl, dried again and re-dissolved in 2 M HCl.

For major elements analysis, ca 20 mg of sediment and rock samples were weighted in platinum crucible and digested by alkaline fusion with lithium metaborate followed by dissolution in 2 M HCl.

### 3.3. Elemental analysis

Major elements (Al, Fe, Ti, Ca, Mg, P, Mn and Si) and trace elements (Zn, Cu, Ni and Cr) were analyzed using ICP-OES (ICP Spectro Ciros Vision, Spectro). Potassium was analyzed by AAS (Analyst 200, Perkin Elmer). Multi-element standard solutions (Merck®) were used to produce external calibration curves. Certified reference materials (BHVO-2 and BCR-2 basalts from USGS; 1646a estuarine sediment and 1573a from NIST) and an internal basalt standard were used to assess the accuracy of analysis. The accuracy expressed as percentage relative error were always within 10% of the certified values for all the elements studied.

Energy dispersive spectroscopy (EDS) analysis was performed using an electron microprobe (Jeol JXA-8230) with scanning electron microscopy (SEM). The sediment samples were deposited in double-sided tape over laminar glass. The samples were coated by gold sputtering using the coating system of Quorum Q150R ES.

### 3.4. Enrichment factor, bio-concentration factor and multivariate statistic

The enrichment Factor (EF) was used to identify and quantify anthropogenic impact:

$$EF = ([X]/[Al])_{\text{sample}} / ([X]/[Al])_{\text{reference}}$$

where  $([X]/[Al])_{\text{sample}}$  represents the concentration ratio in the sample,  $([X]/[Al])_{\text{reference}}$  the concentration ratio in the rock granite collected near the Sepetiba bay, [X] is the element of interest and [Al] is the reference element with no significant anthropogenic source.

The biota-sediment accumulation factor (BSAF) was used to assess bioaccumulation of Zn in biota relative to the sediments (Arnot and Gobas, 2006). The BSAFs values were calculated dividing average Zn leaf concentration to corresponding average Zn concentration of the sediment.

A multivariate approach (*Principal Component Analysis -PCA*) using the software SPSS® (IBM) was performed as auxiliary tool to interpret the set of data of sediment cores. A correlation matrix with varimax rotation was used to calculate the factor loads and the sample factor scores. The principal components (PCs) that had eigenvalues higher than one were selected (Voudouris et al., 1997). The communalities values of all variables equal or higher than 0.5 was used as criterions for PCA results acceptance.

### 3.5. Zinc isotope ratio analysis

Prior to the mass spectrometry, Zn was separated from matrix components by anion exchange chromatography using a modified procedure from that proposed by Maréchal et al., (1999). Bio-Rad PolyPrep columns were filled with 2.0 ml of the anion exchange resin AG-MP1 (100-200 mesh size) and 1 to 4 µg of sample were loaded in 2 M HCl. Once the sample is loaded, matrix elements are eluted with 20 ml of 2 M HCl. Then Zn is eluted with 12 ml of 0.5 M HNO<sub>3</sub>. The Zn purified samples were dryness and redissolved in 0.05 M HNO<sub>3</sub>. To test for the complete recovery aliquots of Zn purified samples were measured by ICP-MS. The yield was 99±7%.

Zinc isotopic ratios were measured using the ThermoFinnigan Neptune MC-ICP-MS at the Laboratório de Geocronologia of the University of Brasília and at the Laboratorio de Geocronologia of the University of Sao Paulo. The introduction interface consisted of quartz glass spray chamber (cyclone + standard Scott double pass) coupled with a low flow PFA nebulizer (50 µl min<sup>-1</sup>). After a minimum of two hours of warm up and tuning to achieve the best sensibility, the analytical sequences ran automatically using a Cetac ASX-100 autosampler and low mass resolution collector slits. Masses 62 (Ni), 63 (Cu), 64 (Zn/Ni), 65 (Cu), 66 (Zn), 67 (Zn) and 68 (Zn) were detected simultaneously. A Cu standard (NIST 976) was added to all samples and matched in the proportion 1:1 (300 µg/ml in 0.05 M HNO<sub>3</sub>).

The Zn isotopes ratios were measured relative to the in-house Zn single element standard MERCK Lot #9953 labeled henceforward as Zn UnB standard. The standard-sample bracketing technique was used, i.e, each sample was bracketed by standard solution mixture (Zn UnB and Cu NIST 976) with rinses between sample and standard analyses with 3 % (v/v) HNO<sub>3</sub>. Instrument blanks were analyzed after each sample and each bracketing standard and on-line subtracted. Typical sample and standard signals

were 3 V to  $^{64}\text{Zn}$  and  $^{65}\text{Cu}$  masses. Blank measurements consisted of 1 block of 10 cycles (8s) while samples and standards were measured in 2 blocks of 20 cycles of 8s each. For a single measurement (40 cycles), internal precision ranged from 3 to 8 ppm ( $2\sigma$ ). The raw ratios were corrected for instrumental mass fractionation using the exponential law based and the certified ratio (0.4456) for Cu of the NIST SRM 976 standard.

### 3.6. Zinc isotopic data presentation, reproducibility and accuracy

The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  of the samples were then calculated as the deviation of the mass bias corrected Zn isotope ratio of the samples from the mean of the mass bias-corrected Zn isotopes ratios of the bracketing standards:

$$\delta^{66}\text{Zn}(\text{‰}) = \left( \frac{{}^{66}\text{Zn}/{}^{64}\text{Zn}_{\text{sample}}}{{}^{66}\text{Zn}/{}^{64}\text{Zn}_{\text{standard}}} - 1 \right) \quad \text{eq.1}$$

Zn isotopic data reported in this study are expressed relative to the Johnson Matthey Company 3-0749-L (JMC<sub>3-0749-L</sub>) reference standard calibrated against our Zn UnB standard ( $\Delta\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC-UnB}} = +0.17 \text{ ‰}$ ). Error propagations were used to calculate the error (expressed as  $2\sigma$ ) of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values. The calibration is based in a total of  $n=30$  analysis ( $\pm 0.05$ ,  $2\sigma$ ). More methodological details concerning the Zn isotopes measurements in our laboratories can be found in Araújo et al.(2016).

For assess the accuracy of analysis, the Zn IRMM 3702 were measured two and three times along the session analysis yielding a  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  value of  $-0.27 \pm 0.06 \text{ ‰}$  ( $n=30$ ,  $2\sigma$ ), comparable to values published previously (Moeller et al., 2012). Different certified reference were prepared in different replicates (full protocol including digestion, ion-exchange chromatography and replicated isotopic analyses) to assess the accuracy analytical and procedural: BHVO-2 and BCR- 2 basalts ( $n=5$ ), to AGV-2 andesite ( $n=1$ ) and NIST 1646a estuarine sediment ( $n= 2$ ). Each replicate was measured twice. The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values obtained to BHVO-2 and BCR-2 basalts were  $+0.25 \pm 0.10\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ) and  $+0.25 \pm 0.08\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ) respectively. The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  value obtained to AGV-2 was  $+0.29 \pm 0.07$  ( $2\sigma$ ). The results agree well with those reported in the literature (Archer and Vance, 2004; Chapman et al., 2006; Sonke et al., 2008; Moynier et al., 2010; Chen et al., 2013). The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  value for 1646a estuarine sediment was  $+0.32$

$\pm 0.07\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=8$ ), close to silicate rocks, marine sediments ( $+0.23 \pm 0.08\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=20$  Maréchal et al., 2000) and sapropels ( $+0.28 \pm 0.02\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ , Maréchal et al., 2000). The average of external reproducibility of unknowing samples was  $\pm 0.04\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ) (one replicate, two or three measurements). The average reproducibility of the certified reference material Zn IRMM and unknown samples was  $0.06\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ). This value was considered the external reproducibility of the method and applied to all samples in all tables and graphs of this work.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Zinc isotopic compositions and enrichment factors of sediment cores

The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of the sediment cores are shown in Table 1 and Fig. 2. We find a significant range of Zn isotopic signatures within the individual profiles and between the cores. Core T1 (sampled within the mangrove of the Saco do Engenho channel, the *hot spot* of the contamination from the electroplating waste) showed extremely high Zn concentrations, resulting in EF values varying between 117 and 784. The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values in this core ranged from  $+0.72$  to  $+1.15\text{‰}$ . The heaviest isotopic composition found ( $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} = +1.15\text{‰}$ ) was observed in the deeper sediments (80-85 cm depth) from this core. From the core base to the 50 cm depth, the isotopic signatures decreases toward lighter values, reaching  $+0.72\text{‰}$ . From 50 cm depth to upper layers, the isotopic signatures shows large variations, with peaks of  $+1.03$  and  $+1.00\text{‰}$  at 25 and 10 cm depth, respectively (Fig. 2). Core T2 (located near to the Saco do Engenho creek mouth) also has very high EF, varying between 68 to 697, and heavier isotopic compositions, with a smaller range of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values ( $+0.65$  to  $+0.83\text{‰}$ ) than core T1. We find a slight upward shift to heavier isotopic composition in this core, although most isotopic signatures are statistically not differentiable (taking the error bars into account,  $\pm 0.06\text{‰}$ ). Core T3 (São Francisco channel mouth) displays EF values between 1.7 to 8.2 and the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values range between  $+0.30$  and  $+0.75\text{‰}$ . This profile shows a progressive increase of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values and EF from bottom to the middle, with a salient peak at 20 cm depth corresponding to the heaviest  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  value ( $+0.75\text{‰}$ ) and highest EF value (8.2). Following this peak,  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  and EF values decrease to  $+0.46\text{‰}$  and 181 in the core top. Core T4 (Enseada das Garças), collected in a tidal flat more than 20 km away from the point source of metallurgic wastes, displays higher EF

than T3 core (between 11.9 and 18.2). The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values from this core show isotopically heavy Zn (+0.67 to +0.74‰), comparable to T1 and T2 cores collected near the old wastes of the metallurgical refining. From the base to the top,  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  and EF values decrease slightly (Fig.2). Core T5 (Marambaia) exhibits EF values higher than T3 core and lower than cores T1, T2 and T4, while the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values are comparable to core T3. From the base (45 cm) to 35 cm depth, EF and  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values increase from 10.5 and +0.60‰ to 14.2 and +0.71‰, respectively. Above 35 cm depth, EF and  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values decreased continuously until the values of 6.9 and +0.36‰, respectively.

Correlations between  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$ , Zn concentration and enrichment factor (EF) for each core are assessed in Fig.3A and 3B, respectively. We find a strong positive correlation between  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values and enrichment factor in cores T2, T3, T4 and T5 ( $R^2 = 0.90, 0.87, 0.84$  and  $0.74$ ,  $p < 0.01$ , respectively; Fig. 3B). The T1 core displays an absence of correlation for the whole profile, but a moderate correlation ( $R^2 = 0.51$ ) from the top until 35 cm. An overview of all results plotted in the Fig. 3A and 3B reveals a general model of mixing between the samples of lithogenic origin (granite rock and T2 core) and those collected in the metallurgic impacted zone (samples from the Saco do Engenho creek). The T4 core slightly deviates from this mixing trend, suggesting the influence of other source of Zn, as the visible discharge of sewage near the sampling site.

## 4.2 Zn isotopic compositions of rocks and willemite ores

The granites have average  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  value of  $+0.21 \pm 0.01\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n = 2$ ). This value is well within the range of igneous rocks reported in the literature (from +0.20 to +0.40‰, Cloquet et al., 2007; Chen et al., 2013). The willemite ores have  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values ranging between -0.1 and +0.14‰ (average of  $0.03 \pm 0.24\text{‰}$ ,  $n = 3$ ). These values are well in the range of  $+0.16 \pm 0.20\text{‰}$  proposed for sphalerite ores from various deposits worldwide (Mason et al., 2005; Wilkinson 2005; Sonke et al., 2008; Kelly et al., 2009).

## 4.3 Zn isotopic compositions of surface sediments and mangrove leaves

The results for surface sediments and mangrove leaves (*Laguncularia racemose*) are shown in table 2 and presented in the Fig.4. The surface sediments collected in the mangrove close to the São Francisco Channel (station MSF) display  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values

between +0.44 and +0.49‰ (average of +0.47‰), slightly heavier than the values found in the mangrove of Enseada das Garças (station MENS) ranging between +0.36‰ to +0.42‰ (Fig.4A). Samples from the Saco do Engenho mangroves (station MSE) exhibit the highest values, ranging between +0.80 and +0.84‰ (Fig.4A), which are very close to the values obtained to the SPM samples collected in the mouth of Saco do Engenho channel (Table 3). The highest Zn concentrations are found in the MSE station ( $21,551 \pm 2,072 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ ,  $1\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ), intermediate values in the MENS stations ( $316 \pm 12 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ ,  $1\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ), and the lowest values in the MSF ( $164 \pm 17 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ ,  $1\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ).

The average Zn concentrations of *L. racemose* leaves in the mangrove stations show the same pattern observed for sediments, i.e. the highest concentrations are observed in the MSE station ( $47 \pm 5 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ ,  $1\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ), followed by the MENS ( $25 \pm 2 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ ,  $1\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ) and MSF ( $15 \pm 2 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ ,  $1\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ) stations (Fig. 4A). The leaves collected in the stations with higher degree of Zn contamination in sediments (MSE and MSF stations) display similar  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values ( $+0.09 \pm 0.04\text{‰}$  and  $+0.08 \pm 0.10\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ), respectively), while heavier  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values ( $+0.23 \pm 0.02\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ) were observed for leaves from MSF station, which have the lower Zn accumulation heavier  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values around  $+0.23 \pm 0.02\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ , Fig. 4A).

All BSAFs values are lower than 1.0, with the MSF station presenting the highest value (0.92), followed by MENS station (0.073). The MSE station presented the lowest BSAF value of 0.003. Notable tendencies of inverse correlations are observed between BSAFs values and the Zn concentrations of leaves and sediments of the mangrove (Fig.4B).

The isotopic fractionation between plants and sediments ( $\Delta_{\text{plant-sediment}}$ ) varies between the mangroves stations, ranging from -0.73 to -0.24‰. The  $\Delta_{\text{plant-sediment}}$  values of mangrove stations show an inverse tendency in relation to the Zn concentrations of surface sediments and leaves (Fig.4C), and a positive trend with the BSAF values (Fig.4C).

#### 4.4 Zn isotopic compositions of suspended particulate matter (SPM)

The results for the SPM are presented in the table 3. The SPM from the rivers show an average concentrations of  $99 \pm 13 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$  ( $1\sigma$ ,  $n=2$ ) and isotope signatures of  $+0.27 \pm 0.11\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ), which falls in the range of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values typically for the Earth crust of  $+0.28 \pm 0.5\text{‰}$  (Fig.3A; Chen et al.,2013). The SPM samples collected at the



west side of the bay, being strongly influenced by the marine source (B1, B2, B3 samples), display  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values around  $+0.45 \pm 0.03\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ) and low Zn concentrations of about  $45 \pm 3 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$  ( $1\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ). These  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values are slightly above the range of  $+0.2$  to  $+0.4\text{‰}$  commonly reported for silicate rocks (Fig.3A; Cloquet et al., 2007; Chen et al.2013), but within of the range of isotopic compositions of carbonates rocks (from  $+0.07$  to  $1.34\text{‰}$ , Fig.3A; Kunzmann et al., 2013) and seawater ( $+0.53 \pm 0.14\text{‰}$ ; Zhao et al., 2014). The samples collected close to the mouth of Saco do Engenho channel present  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values ranging from  $+0.83$  to  $+0.88\text{‰}$  and high Zn concentrations of  $1,242 \pm 198 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$  ( $1\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ). These  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values are similar to those reported for wastes and slags of metallurgy industry (from  $+0.59$  to  $+1.49\text{‰}$ , Fig.3A; Sivry et al., 2008; Juillot et al., 2011; Yin et al., 2015). This range of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values excludes the discrepant “Dunet sample” reported by Sivry et al.(2008), which presents  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values of  $+0.18 \pm 0.04\text{‰}$ .

#### 4.5 Major and trace elements profiles of sediment cores

The depth profiles of the major elements Al, Fe, Mn and P are shown in Fig. 2. The depth profiles of Ca, Ti and Si are shown in the Appendices A. The Fe/Mn ratio is included to assess redox processes, as supported by the higher susceptibility of Mn to be remobilized from the solid phase under reduced sedimentary conditions than observed for Fe (Burdige, 1993). The profile of T1 core, collected in the mangrove of Saco do Engenho, shows the largest variations for all major elements. The other cores show less variations for Ca, Si, Al and Fe profiles.

The enrichment factor (EF) of the trace elements Cu, Ni and Cr are shown in Table 1 and their profiles are shown in Appendice A. All cores show high EF for the trace metals analyzed. Zinc and Cu profiles show similar profiles, while Ni display no changes from bottom to the top layers and Cr exhibits slight variations in the cores. The highest EF values found are for Cu and Zn in the T1 and T2 core (i.e. the northeastern region of the bay, Fig.1) and for Cr and Ni in the T5 core (southern region of the bay, close the open sea, Fig.1). The T3 core (located in the mouth of the estuary, Fig.1) displays high concentrations of Cr and the lowest concentrations of Zn and Cu. The T1 core, displays large variations within the profile for all the trace elements, similarly to the major elements.



#### 4.6 Multivariate statistics of sediments cores in Sepetiba bay

The principal component analysis (PCA) separates the variables determined in the sediment cores into three principal components (PC), explaining 76% of the total variance. PC1 accounts for 33.9% of the variance and includes the elements Ca, Mg, Mn, Ni, Cr. PC2 accounts for 32.5% of total variance and includes Zn,  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ , Fe, Cu and P. PC3 accounts for 9.6% of the total variance and includes Al. The plots displaying the variable factor loads and the sample factor scores of PC1 and PC2 are shown in the Fig.5A and 5B, respectively. A fourth group of variables (Si, K and Ti) is identified in the plot of factor loads (Fig.5A) and shows an inverse correlation with the main variables associated to PC2 (Zn,  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ , Fe, Cu and P). More details as eigenvalues and factor loads are included in the Appendices B1 and B2.

Strong correlation are found between Zn and Cu ( $r=0.77$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) and between Ni and Cr ( $r=0.86$ ,  $p<0.01$ ). Zinc and Cu are associated with Fe ( $r=0.64$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) and Ni and Cr are associated with Mn ( $r=0.64$ ,  $p<0.01$  and  $r=0.75$ ,  $p<0.01$ , respectively). The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values showed a strong correlation with Zn ( $r=0.66$ ,  $p<0.01$ ) and Fe ( $r=0.60$ ,  $p<0.01$ ).

The plot of sample factor scores show the variations of the geochemical composition of sediment cores (Fig. 5B). The T1 core sub samples presents the highest factor scores associated to the PC2 (Zn,  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ , Fe, Cu and P) and T3 core sub samples are associated to Si, K and Ti variables (Fig.5B). The T4 core showed an intermediate association between these two elemental groups. In contrast, the samples of T5 core (collected close the open sea) were highly correlated to Ca, Mg, Mn, Ni and Cr of PC2.

#### 4.7 SEM/EDS analysis of sediments

Scanning electron microscope (SEM) images shows a mixture of pyrites, diatoms shells, organic matter and clay minerals. The frequent occurrence of pyrite, as isolated or as framboid crystals evidences sulfate-reduction stimulation (Fig.6). Chemical analysis using EDS suggests that the sediments are dominated by clay minerals ( $\text{SiO}_2$  and  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  are above 70 wt.%), by quartz particles ( $\text{SiO}_2$  representing above 72 wt%) and by organic matter (associated with inorganic particles).

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Identifying sediment sources and processes with multivariate statistics

The PCA analysis (Fig. 5A) reveals different groupings of variables. The association of Si, K, Ti, Fe and Al represent terrestrial material reaching the bay, i.e. primary and secondary minerals originated from the weathering and erosion of silicate rocks and soils. The core T3, located in the São Francisco estuary, displays the largest factor scores for these elements, suggesting a major contribution of terrigenous materials. The association of Zn and Cu reflects the common origin from the waste produced by the electroplating industry during 60's to end of 90's years (Lacerda et al., 1987; Gomes et al., 2009). The high factor scores of T1, T2 and T3 core and MSE associated to these elements in the PC1 support the region of Saco do Engenho as the contamination *hot spot* of these metals. The association of Zn and Cu with Fe is likely explained by the importance of Fe oxyhydroxides and sulfides as geochemical carriers. In coastal environments under suboxic to anoxic conditions, redox reactions associated with anaerobic decomposition of organic matter via bacterial sulfate reduction produces hydrogen sulfide ( $H_2S$ ), which reacts with reduced Fe and trace metals forming insoluble compounds. Trace metals can also interact either adsorbing or entering iron sulfides structures (amorphous-FeS, mackinawite-FeS, greigite- $Fe_3S_4$ , pyrrhotite  $FeS_{1.1}$  and pyrite- $FeS_2$ ; Alongi et al., 2004; Otero and Macias, 2002; Machado et al., 2014;) via isomorphic substitution (Huerta-Diaz and Morse, 1990; Morse and Luther, 1999). Ribeiro and coworkers (2013) analyzed acid volatile sulfides (AVS) and simultaneously-extracted metals (SEM) in surface sediments from Sepaetiba Bay, and observed a strong spatial correlation between reactive metal concentrations and sulfides. The SEM/EDS analysis performed in the sediments of Sepetiba bay show a frequent presence of pyrites (Fig.6a,b,c,d). As pyrite formation corresponds to the last stage of a sequence of reactions involving the crystallization of Fe sulfides, its presence is indicative of intense sediment diagenesis (Huerta-Diaz and Morse, 1990; Morse and Luther, 1999).

The T5 core (collected close to the bay connection to the sea; Fig.1) is strongly associated with elements of biogenic/marine origin, i.e. Ca, Mg. These elements are associated with precipitated inorganic carbonates or biogenic carbonates deposited in the sediments. The association to Mn (Fig.5A) can be explained by Mn-carbonates

formed during diagenetic processes in sediments under anoxic conditions, where the Mn(IV)-oxyhydroxides are reduced to Mn(II), mobilized into the pore water and precipitated posteriorly as carbonates in oxygenated marine waters (Burdige, 1993; Neumann et al., 2002; Emerson and Hedges, 2004;). The precipitation of Mn-oxides or carbonates can scavenge trace metals dissolved in the water column (Singh et al.1984; Burdige, 1993) and hence, could explain the association of Ni and Cr with Mn, Ca and Mg in the PC1.

Phosphorus is correlated to PC1 and PC2 components due to its dual origin from anthropogenic sources (e.g, domestic wastes, industrial effluents and farming activities) and natural processes related to the weathering of rocks and vegetation and biomass organic matter (Rodrigues et al., 2009).

## **5.2 Deciphering Zn isotopic signatures in the coastal system: mixing sources or/and biogeochemical processes during sediment transport and diagenesis?**

In this section, we combine the Zn isotope signatures with the main finding of PCA analysis. Each one of terrestrial, anthropogenic and marine sources implied by the PCA analysis can be associated to the respective representative SPM samples: (i) the terrestrial material brought to the bay by the San Francisco and Gandu rivers with  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of  $+0.27 \pm 0.11\%$  ( $2\sigma$ ); (ii) the contaminant waste transported by the creek that cross the Saco do Engenho's mangrove, characterized by  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of  $+0.84 \pm 0.07\%$  ( $2\sigma$ ); and (iii) the oceanic material that enters the bay from the west, characterized by  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of  $+0.45 \pm 0.03\%$  ( $2\sigma$ ). The distinct Zn isotopic signatures of each end members enable us to identify and quantify the contribution of each one in a tertiary system of mixing.

Figure 3B is showing  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  vs Zn (EF) plot from core T3 in the São Francisco estuary. We find that the isotope signatures plot on a straight line between the granite rocks and the metallurgic impacted sediments of Saco do Engenho, suggesting binary mixture between the anthropogenic and terrestrial end members, respectively. This is in line with the trends observed in the PCA analysis, where T1, T2, T3 and T5 cores showed a gradient encompassing sediments with geochemical composition associated to the metallurgic wastes (T1 core, Zn and Cu; Fig.5B) and terrestrially-derived elements (T2 core, Si, Ti and K; Fig. 5B). The match between the linear coefficient values of  $+0.24\%$  obtained in the linear regression of T3 core subsamples

with the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  value of +0.21‰ of granite rocks also supports the isotopic mixing assumption (Fig.3B). Thus, both Zn isotopic signatures and PCA analysis of T3 core indicate the dominance of terrestrial and metallurgic waste materials close the northeastern shore. The marine contributions are negligible in these areas, with a stronger influence in the west and outside of the bay (Barcellos et al., 1997). According to our PCA analysis, marine contributions were relevant only the T5 core, situated close the open sea (Fig.5B).

The isotope signatures found in cores T4 and T5 (located further away from old metallurgic zone, Fig.1) deviate from the trend observed to the T3 core, not aligning with granite rock isotope compositions or marine carbonates (Fig.3A and 3B). This deviation is possibly because of (i) isotopic fractionation during the particles transport along the bay, and or (ii) post-depositional processes posterior the settling in bottom sediments; and/or (iii) influence of additional sources influence the isotopic compositions in the region south of the bay. With respect to the first mechanism, Zn isotopic fractionation may be associated to the chemical modifications of particles promoted by the successive resuspension events in the shallow and turbulent waters of Sepetiba bay (Barcellos et al., 1997), or due diagenetic processes involving the formation and dissolution of metal-bearing geochemical phases (such as metal oxides and sulfides). For example, re-suspension and seaward transport of sediments can expose the associated metals to conditions more oxidizing and saline, accelerating the desorption of metals due ionic strength increasing (Turner, 1996; Windom et al., 1999), or sulphide and organic matter oxidation (Zwolsman et al., 1997; Martino et al., 2002; Hatje et al., 2003; Egleton et al., 2008). Further, diagenetic processes can induce the release of metals to interstitial waters, allowing their incorporation in authigenic solid compounds (e.g., metal sulfides). All these biogeochemical processes could lead to changes of the Zn speciation, coordination number and bond lengths, affecting significantly the Zn isotopes distribution between the solution and particles (Pokrovsky et al., 2005; Aucour et al., 2011; Jouvin et al., 2011; Julliot et al., 2011). However, the proportion of Zn released of contaminated sediments of Sepetiba during laboratory resuspensions (Maddock et al., 2007) or Zn content typically present in the pore water during diagenesis of coastal sediments are very low (below  $1 \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{ml}^{-1}$ , Sakelari et al., 2011; Gieskes et al., 2015). Moreover, Zn concentrations in pore water tends to decrease in the presence of AVS (Huerta-Diaz and Morse, 1992). Analysis of Zn concentrations in water of Sepetiba bay also indicate low concentrations compared with

the particulate pool ( $<0.1\%$ , Costa et al., 2005). Thus, considering the mass balance of the partition of Zn in the sediment and in the dissolved phase, we suggest that biogeochemical processes typically operating in estuaries probably are not enough to change the isotope compositions of Zn in the sediments.

With respect to the second proposed mechanism, additional sources could be attributed to the detritus of algae biomass as observed in zones of T4 and T5 cores as result of a major primary activity induced by nutrient-enrich effluents released of urban channels of Sepetiba bay (Rodrigues et al., 2012). At high discharge events on the humid summer season, the sediment plume become more enriched in nutrients (as N and P) leading to increasing of the fertilization and chlorophyll-a in the inner part of the bay (Rodrigues et al., 2012). The algal biomass includes diatoms and other microorganism with high superficial charge which tend to be enriched in the heavy isotope (Gélabert et al., 2008; Coutaud et al., 2014).

Other probable additional source affecting the Zn isotopic compositions could be associated to diffuse urban pollution linked to the intense urban sprawl and industrial development in the watershed of Sepetiba bay initiated in the 1970's (Molisani et al., 2004). The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of common urban anthropogenic sources, such as tire wear ( $+0.04 \pm 0.2\%$ , Thapalia et al., 2010), vehicle emission ( $-0.87$  to  $+0.07$ , Gioia et al., 2008), urban runoff (from  $+0.13$  to  $+0.15\%$ , Chen et al., 2009) and wastewaters and sludge ( $+0.08$  to  $+0.31\%$ , Chen et al., 2009) are in agreement with the high EF and lighter isotopic signatures in the T4 and T5 cores when compared with T3 core. Thus, we hypothesize that a third and unknown Zn endmember, probably associated to diffuse sources present in the Sepetiba bay watershed, such as sewage and/or industrial effluents, affects the Zn isotope compositions of T4 and T5 cores. Therefore, we suggest that while in the northeastern area of the bay the observed Zn isotope compositions are derived from binary mixing of metallurgic and natural terrestrial sources, this third endmember explains the isotopic signature difference observed in the southeastern and southern areas of the bay. The mixing source model is represented graphically in the Fig.7.

### 5.3 Tracing Zn contamination in mangrove sediments using stable isotope composition

Mangroves ecosystems play an important role in the dynamics of contaminants across the boundaries of terrestrial and coastal areas, receiving, trapping and exporting contaminants (Machado and Lacerda, 2004). The balance between inputs and outputs of metals in the mangroves determine its function as sources or sinks (Lacerda et al., 1988; Alongi et al., 2004)

In Sepetiba bay, the water circulation controlled by tides and surface currents tends to create a preferential deposition of sediments along the mangroves located at the shore (Roncarati and Carelli, 2012; Leal Neto et al., 2006), where metal contaminants (including Zn) are trapped on organic and sulfide-rich sediments that make the mangrove ecosystems from our study area important sinks of metal contaminants (Lacerda et al., 1993; Wasserman et al., 2001; Machado et al., 2008). If the Zn isotopic signatures of the SPM brought during the tidal cycles to the mangrove sediment remain well preserved after deposition and are not significantly altered by biogeochemical processes, past sources and the fate of the Zn contamination can be reconstructed.

The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values between the top layers of the mudflat cores and the respective superficial mangrove sediments are very similar in the Saco do Engenho, i.e. +0.83‰ for the first layer of the core T2 and +0.82‰ (average) for the surface mangrove sediments. In the São Francisco Channel, it was observed a value of +0.46‰ for the first layer of core T3 and +0.47‰ (average) for the surface mangrove sediments. The overlap of the isotope signature between the sediment particles of mud flat and mangrove stations is in line with the lack of significant Zn isotopic fractionation during the SPM transport in the estuarine system as discussed in section 5.2, and evidence little or no post-depositional alterations of Zn isotopic signatures, at least in the superficial layers. However, in the mangrove core (T1 core) the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values and Zn EF (Fig.3B) are not significantly correlated, contrasting with the good correlations of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values with Zn EF observed for all other cores. This contrast suggests that the Zn isotopic record is less preserved in mangrove sediments.

The good isotopic record preservation of mud flat cores can be explained by the more stable redox conditions in these sediments, since bioturbation and vegetation influence are limited. Moreover, except for T4 core, the mud flat cores are in subtidal zone, constantly waterlogged, and therefore, not exposed to open air during tidal cycles.

The Fe/Mn ratios in the mud flat cores (T2, T3, T4, T5 cores, Fig.2) suggest moderate variations in redox state, leading to reduced elemental remobilization triggered by redox conditions (Fig.2) and a preservation of the geochemical records. The  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  profiles of dated sediments of Sepetiba bay and their consistence with temporal changes of Zn and Cd concentrations during the beginning of industrialization and metallurgic impacts of the bay, are strong evidences for preservation of the geochemical records in the mud flats (Molisani et al., 2004; Marques et al., 2006; Gomes et al., 2009; Patchineelam et al., 2011). The studies of  $^{210}\text{Pb}$  have also demonstrated that sediment remobilization (probably due to bioturbation) is restricted to the first 10 cm. Such findings agree well with the variations of Fe/Mn ratios found on the top profiles of the mud flat sediments obtained in this study (Fig.2).

The mangrove environment, however, may present more intense biogeochemical changes due to combined influences of tidal hydrodynamics, plants and bioturbation. In the core T1 (Saco do Engenho), large variations in the Fe/Mn (Fig. 2) and trace elements profiles (Appendices A) indicate remobilization of elements possibly promoted by these combined influences. During the high tide, sediments are waterlogged, promoting the Fe-oxyhydroxides reduction and the formation of insoluble iron and trace elements sulfides by the microbial activity (Huerta-Diaz and Morse, 1992; Andrade et al., 2012). In turn, insoluble sulfide phases are oxidized during low tides and by  $\text{O}_2$  release in the rhizospheres (Lacerda et al., 1993; Purnobasuki and Suzuki, 2005; Marchand et al., 2011; Machado et al., 2014), leading to precipitation of Fe-oxyhydroxides and formation of iron plaques around root surfaces (Lacerda et al., 1993; Otte et al., 1995; Zhou et al., 2011). While oxidation of sulfides and reduction of Fe minerals may increase the mobility of trace elements, the precipitation of Fe-oxyhydroxides tends to decrease this mobility, limiting their transport and bioavailability for the plant uptake (Lacerda et al., 1993; Clark et al., 1998; Machado et al., 2005; Zhou et al., 2011). These continuous geochemical processes of releasing and immobilization involving Zn on the different Fe-minerals phases can result in significant isotopic fractionation post deposition within mangrove sediments. Experimental works appoint that the mineral surfaces tend to be enriched in the heavy isotope compared with the solution phase (Pokrovsky et al., 2005; Baliestri et al., 2008; Juillot et al., 2008). Moreover, in marine waters, the formation of Zn-chloride complexes enriched in the light isotope likely increase the factor of fraction ( $\Delta$ ) between the particulate and dissolved phase (Bryan et al., 2015). In the sulfidic phase, the light

Zn isotope seems be incorporated preferentially (Wilkinson et al., 2005; John et al., 2008; Veeramani et al., 2015). Thus, the preferential retention of the heavy isotope in the Fe-oxyhydroxides and the loss of light isotope to pore waters during oxidation of sulfides or reduction of Fe-minerals could explain the heaviest isotope compositions of Zn (above 1.0‰) found in the mangrove core (T1). Similarly to urban wetlands, soils and peat bogs systems, Zn isotopic signatures of mangroves seem be affect by post deposition processes (Weiss et al., 2007; Julliot et al., 2011; Aucour et al., 2015). A scheme summarizing our main findings are presented at Fig.7.

#### **5.4 Effects of anthropogenic contamination on Zn isotope compositions of mangrove tree leaves**

The Zn concentrations of leaves of *Laguncularia racemosa* increases with the degree of Zn contamination observed in the mangrove surface sediments (Fig.4A). This indicates that the inputs of anthropogenic Zn increased the bioaccumulation of this element in leaf tissues. However, the BSAF of the leaves shows an inverse correlation with the sediment Zn loading (Fig.4B), appointing that the substantial excess of anthropogenic Zn in the sediments of the station MSE (highly impacted by the metallurgic wastes) in comparison to MSENS and MSF does not reflect a proportional increasing in the Zn incorporation by mangrove leaves. An EF above 100-fold is noticed between the Zn concentrations in sediments of MSE and MSF stations, while the BSAF for leaves is slightly more than 3-fold.

The results agree with the previously observed trends that leaves BSAF for Zn and other essential metals decrease as environmental concentrations increase (MacFarlane et al., 2007). This is linked to the capability of the mangroves sediments to reduce metal bioavailability due to the formation of stable metal sulfides, metal–organic matter complexes and metal-retention in clays minerals and in Fe-oxyhydroxide plaques on the roots (Machado et al., 2002; Marchand et al., 2006; MacFarlane et al., 2007; Marchand et al., 2011; Lewis et al., 2011). A second control is the activation of tolerance mechanisms of mangroves plants under toxic environments, including excretion of elements through leaves or roots (Macfarlane and Burchett, 1999; MacFarlane and Buchett, 2000; MacFarlane and Burchett, 2002; Naido et al., 2014) and limited translocation of elements from roots to aboveground tissues. These mechanisms may involve metal apoplastic association to cell walls and intracellular association to



metal-binding compounds and subcellular compartmentation of excess metals into vacuoles (MacFarlane and Buchett, 2000; MacFarlane et al., 2007).

The leaves of *Laguncularia racemosa* show  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values between +0.07 and +0.25‰ and large fractionation in relation to the sediments ( $\Delta_{\text{plant-sediment}}$ ), ranging from 0.73 to -0.24‰. These results evidence a strong biological Zn isotopic fractionation by mangrove trees. Previous studies have demonstrated significant Zn isotope fractionation during uptake, translocation and distribution between the internal compartments (Weiss et al., 2004; Viers et al., 2007; Moynier et al., 2009; Arnold et al., 2010; Caldelas et al., 2011; Jouvin et al., 2012; Arnold et al., 2015). These processes may be dependent on plant uptake strategies, concentration, speciation, transpiration flow and height (Weiss et al., 2004; Moynier et al., 2009; Arnold et al., 2010; Jouvin et al., 2012; Caldelas et al., 2011; Couder et al., 2015; Arnold et al., 2015). For example, isotope fractionation of zinc during uptake across the root cell membrane have been associated with preferential incorporation of the light isotope if controlled by diffusion, while preferential uptake of the heavy isotope occurs via Zn complexation with phytosiderophores and carrier-mediated transport (e.g., Zn/Fe-regulated protein, ZIP) (Jouvin et al., 2012). The preferential heavy Zn isotope sorption on surface walls of roots also contribute to the final isotopic balance between the nutritive solution and the plant (Weiss et al., 2004; Jouvin et al., 2012).

Possible intra-specific variability related to strategies of Zn uptake and internal translocation from roots to shoots and leaves may influence the observed results. However, a single species was collected and leaves were collected at similar heights to improve comparability, and the variable  $\Delta_{\text{plant-sediment}}$  values found between the mangrove stations indicates that the observed isotopic fractionation magnitude is controlled by external factors. The strong correlations observed between the  $\Delta_{\text{plant-sediment}}$  and BSAF values and Zn concentrations of sediments (Fig.4C) suggest the degree of Zn contamination of sediments as the major factor affecting Zn isotope signatures of leaves. Our data suggests that mangrove trees affected by the electroplating wastes likely employ tolerance mechanisms, as discussed above. The binding of Zn by carrier-proteins or other ligands for immobilization or Zn adsorption onto cell walls can lead to the preferential retention of heavy isotopes. These mechanisms imply in enrichment of the light isotope in the Zn pool translocated to aerial plant compartments, including leaves tissues. This contribute to explains the lower BSAF value in the most contaminated mangrove station and the lighter isotopic compositions in the leaves

(Fig.4B and C). In opposition, areas with low concentrations of micronutrients such as Zn may induce the translocation from roots to shoots and leaves by an active transport of this element chelated to organic molecules or bound to carrier-transport proteins to supply nutritional demands (MacFarlane and Burchett 2000; 2002), leading to a preferential transport of the heavy isotope. These physiological responses may contribute to explain the heavier isotope compositions found in the leaves of MSF station.

Previous studies have observed changes in the Zn isotope signature patterns in plants depending on Zn supply. Caldelas et al. (2010) performing experiments with wet plants in substrates with toxic levels of Zn, observed heavier isotopic compositions in roots than in leaves compared with that found under sufficient Zn concentrations. These results were interpreted as consequences of the processes of chelation and compartmentation preferential of the heavy isotope of Zn excess in the roots, leading to a translocation of the lighter isotopic Zn pool to aerial tissues. These results were consistent with the pattern of Zn isotope compositions of plants grown in soils contaminated by metallurgic waste (Couder et al., 2016). Arnold et al. (2010) found contrasting isotopic fractionation mechanisms between plants grown in soils enriched in Zn (with fertilizer) and soils deficient in Zn (without fertilizer). In the latter case, the association of Zn to complexing substances released from the roots and the uptake of complexed Zn by specific carriers in roots implied in heavier isotopic compositions. Our interpretation on the systematics of Zn isotopic signatures from leaves under high and low environmental exposure to Zn fits well to the interpretation of laboratorial experiments (Arnold et al., 2010; Caldelas et al., 2010; Weiss et al., 2014).

## 5.5 Quantifying the anthropogenic Zn inputs in the past and present days

### 5.5.1 *The Zn isotope signatures of electroplating wastes*

Cores T1 and T2, superficial sediments and SPM samples collected close to the mangrove impacted by the old tailing wastes (Saco do Engenho) show high Zn concentrations and an heavier isotopic composition ( $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values ranging from +0.68 to +1.15‰). These  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values are largely different from the geological background of Sepetiba bay, as represented by granites rocks ( $+0.21 \pm 0.01\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=2$ )

and from the average of global crust ( $+0.28 \pm 0.05\text{‰}$ , Chen et al. 2013). These heavy  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values reflect the isotopic fractionation during electroplating process, which tends to produce wastes enriched in the heavy isotope (Kavner et al., 2006) and agrees with Zn signatures of wastes and polluted sediments by metallurgical processes (Sivry et al., 2008; Juilliot et al., 2011). The isotopic signatures of sediments from Saco do Engenho indicate a large fractionation factor associated to the electroplating process, in relation to the signatures of willemite ores (average of  $+0.03 \pm 0.24\text{‰}$ ). This is coherent with the fractionation factor found by Sivry et al. (2008), i.e.,  $\alpha_{\text{tailings-ores}}$  values ranging from 1.00012 to 1.00062. Thus, the average of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of these samples of  $+0.86 \pm 0.15\text{‰}$  represents the best estimate for the isotopic signature of the electroplating wastes.

### 5.5.2 Zinc isotope signature of natural terrestrial sources

The base of the T3 core (i.e., 45-55 cm depth) have EF values  $\leq 2$  and are likely representative of the terrestrial background source. To improve the characterization of this terrestrial source, we analyzed granite rock from the region and the average  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  value for granite rock and the base profile samples of T3 core yield a value of  $+0.28 \pm 0.12\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ). This range is close to the bulk Earth zinc isotopic composition of  $+0.28 \pm 0.05\text{‰}$  (Chen et al., 2013), marine sediments ( $+0.23 \pm 0.08\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=20$  Maréchal et al., 2000) and sapropels ( $0.28 \pm 0.02\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ , Maréchal et al., 2000) and regional backgrounds from areas such as the Lot Watershed (France) ( $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} = +0.31 \pm 0.04\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ),  $n=4$ , Sivry et al., 2008) and Lommel (Belgium) ( $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} = +0.31 \pm 0.09$  ( $2\sigma$ ),  $n=4$ , Sonke et al., 2008).

### 5.5.3 Quantifying past and present anthropogenic inputs

In the previous sections, three main end-members were identified for Zn: (i) the major anthropogenic source (represented by the major electroplating wastes), (ii) natural terrestrial sources (represented by the signatures of granites and sediments from the basis of core T3), and (iii) marine natural sources. A fourth source related to diffuse pollution sources derived from the drainage basin is also suspected (section 5.2), however, since the sediment samples of Sepetiba bay plot are dominated by the two the

first major sources, a simplification for a binary mixture model can be used to quantify the relative contribution from the major anthropogenic Zn source, according to the equation below:

$$Zn_{anthr.\%} = \left( \frac{\delta_{sample} - \delta_{terrestrial}}{\delta_{anthropogenic} - \delta_{terrestrial}} \right) * 100 \quad \text{eq.2,}$$

The Fig.8 shows the  $Zn_{anth.\%}$  estimated for cores T3, T4 and T5. Since cores T1 and T2 represent the isotopic composition essentially from the anthropogenic end member, they were not considered in the mixing model. Clear evolution from a period without significant contribution from electroplating wastes discharge into the bay (with low  $Zn_{anth.\%}$  values at the base of profile; < 10%) to periods of dominant contributions from this source were observed in the profile T3. For the core T4, however, only high contributions from the major anthropogenic Zn source were found ( $Zn_{anth.\%} \geq 70\%$ ), which indicates that only the post-industrialization period was recorded. In the core T5, the  $Zn_{anth.\%}$  varied high values at deeper layers (between 50% and 70% below 35 cm depth) and a tendency of decreasing above 25 cm depth, reaching the lowest  $Zn_{anth.\%}$  value of 14% . As discussed above (section 5.2), possible contributions from diffuse sources may have also affected the results from cores T4 and T5, leading to lighter isotope compositions. Therefore, this may imply in some underestimation of the percentage of anthropogenic Zn related to electroplating wastes. Previous works have confirmed the significant changes in Zn concentrations in dated cores from Sepetiba Bay, corresponding to the 1960s and 1970s, in agreement with the beginning of the electroplating plant influence (Molisani et al., 2004; Marques et al., 2006; Gomes et al., 2009; Patchineelam et al., 2011). The  $Zn_{anth.\%}$  peaks found in the core T3 and T5 corroborate these previous observations, as attested by the isotopic source signature assessment. Another important feature of both cores T3 and T5 is that the observed Zn EF in uppermost layers (Fig.2) was associated to a diminished relative contribution from the major industrial source (Fig.8). This evidences an attenuation of the total Zn input from electroplating wastes to the bay. The Zn isotopic characterization of diffuse sources will be useful to dimension their relative contributions face to the continuous declining of the metallurgic point source influence. Thus, the temporal and spatial Zn isotopes signature variability allows to verify the degree of the impacts of the

electroplating activity and can be an important tool for futures monitoring in Sepetiba bay as well coastal areas worldwide.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

The zinc isotopic compositions of sediment samples and SPM collected in the Sepetiba bay, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and of willemite ores, show significant variation of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values (-0.01 to +1.15‰). The main conclusions derived from these results are:

- The Zn isotopic composition of sediments are well explained by a mixing model, including three source end member, i.e. terrestrial background, marine and anthropogenic, this last represented by the electroplating wastes.
- The sediment cores collected in the mud flat of the bay showed good correlation between  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values and Zn enrichment factors, indicating the Zn isotopes as effective tracer of past and present metallurgical impacts, since the record of this source is well preserved in the sediments. The other sediment cores, however, located away from the contamination *hot spot*, have been likely affected by additional sources such as diffuse pollution associated to sewage and other industrial effluents.
- In mangrove forests, the Zn isotopic compositions of superficial sediments seems to preserve the isotopic compositions of the sources. However, the isotopic signature of the electroplating wastes is slightly modified at specific depths of the profile, due the biogeochemical processes triggered by tidal cycles, bioturbation and rhizosphere processes.
- Sediment and SPM samples collected close to the old metallurgical impacted zone in the Saco do Engenho creek showed the highest concentrations and the heaviest isotopic compositions. The estimated  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  value representative for metallurgical wastes was  $+0.86 \pm 0.15\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ). Willemite ores have lighter compositions (-0.1 to 0.14‰) indicating a significant fractionation induced by electroplating processes, favoring the enrichment of heavy isotopes in the wastes.
- The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  for the terrestrial source was constrained to  $+0.28 \pm 0.12\text{‰}$  using the pre-industrial record of the sediment cores and rocks representative of the local geology.

- Negligible contributions of marine sources and the dominance of terrestrial and major anthropogenic sources in the inner bay, allowed the application of a binary mixing model to quantify relative contributions from these sources. The calculations suggest contributions of anthropogenic Zn ranging from negligible values, during the pre-industrial period, up to 80% during the industrial period. The relative contribution of the major anthropogenic source of Zn has decreased in some specific regions of the bay, after the end of metallurgical activities in 1998.
- Low Zn biota-sediment accumulation factors ( $BSAF < 0.1$ ) and isotopic signatures ranging between +0.07 and +0.25‰ were found for leaves of the mangrove stations sampled. Isotopic fractionation between mangrove leaves and sediments (expressed using  $\Delta_{\text{plant-sediment}}$ ) varied between -0.73 to -0.25‰ and was negatively correlated to the Zn sediment concentrations, suggesting that high Zn contaminated sites trigger tolerance mechanisms of mangrove's trees, inducing different Zn isotopic pattern from leaves collected in sites with low contamination.
- Zinc isotopes successfully trace spatial and temporal variations in source contributions of metallurgical wastes in a complex ecosystem such as a coastal area, confirming previous finding that Zn isotopes are an effecting tracer of anthropogenic sources in the environment.

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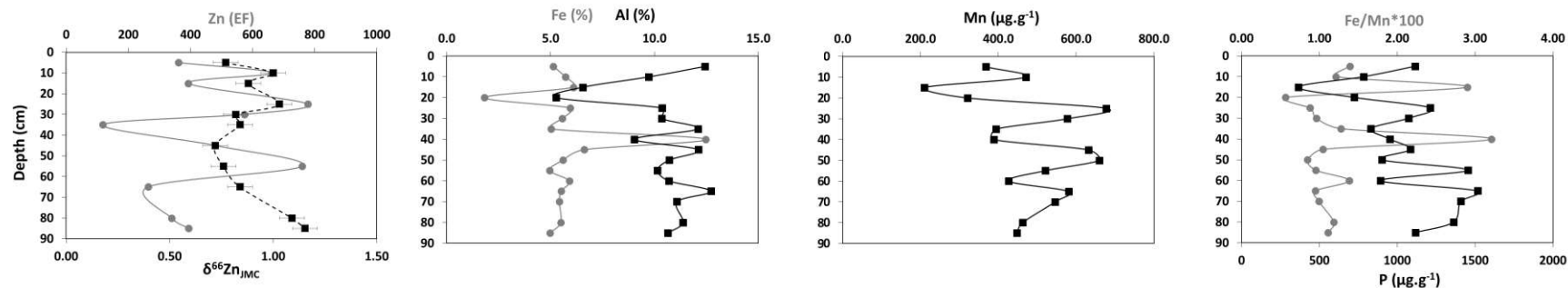
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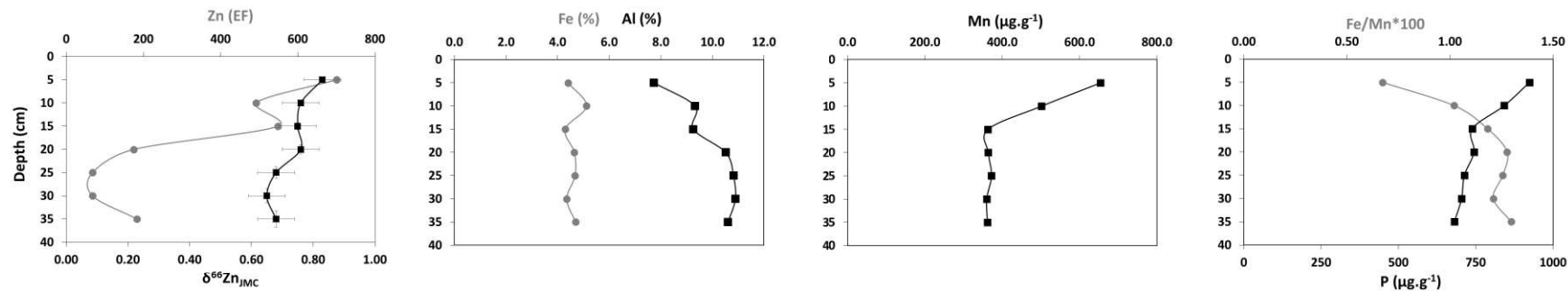


**Fig.1.** Map of the study area and location of sampling sites. The mangrove surface sediment samples (not shown) were collected in the mangrove of Saco do Engenho, the mangrove region surrounding the São Francisco Channel and the mangrove located in Enseada das Garças. In the zoom at left is shown the northeastern shore where are located the main river and channels that desembogue in the Sepetiba Bay and the sediments cores collected in the Saco do Engenhos' mangrove (T1), in the inner bay close the mouth of Saco do Engenho (T2) and in the estuary mouth of São Francisco Channel (T3).

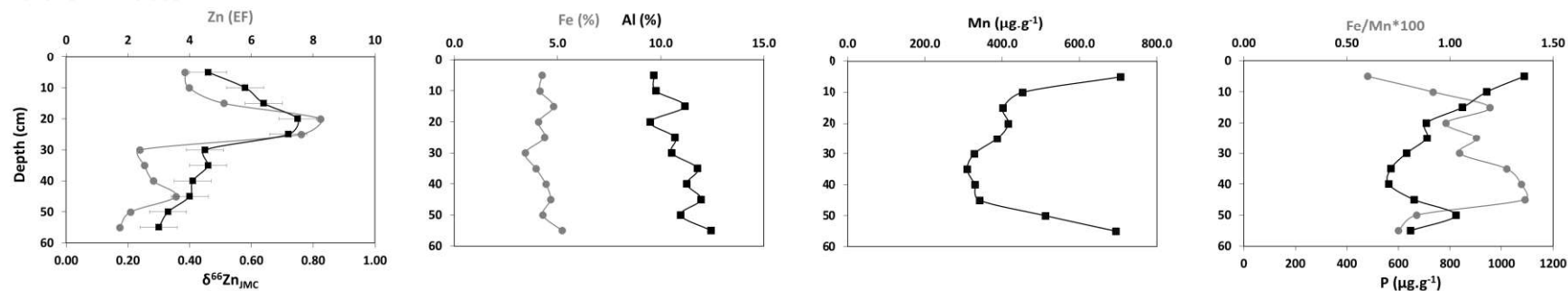
### T1- SACO DO ENGENHO



### T2- SACO DO ENGENHO MOUTH

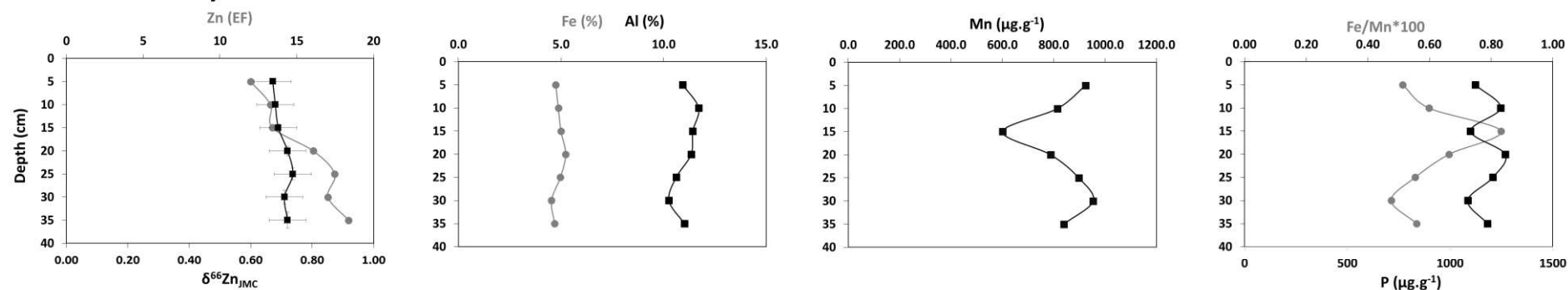


### T3- SÃO FRANCISCO

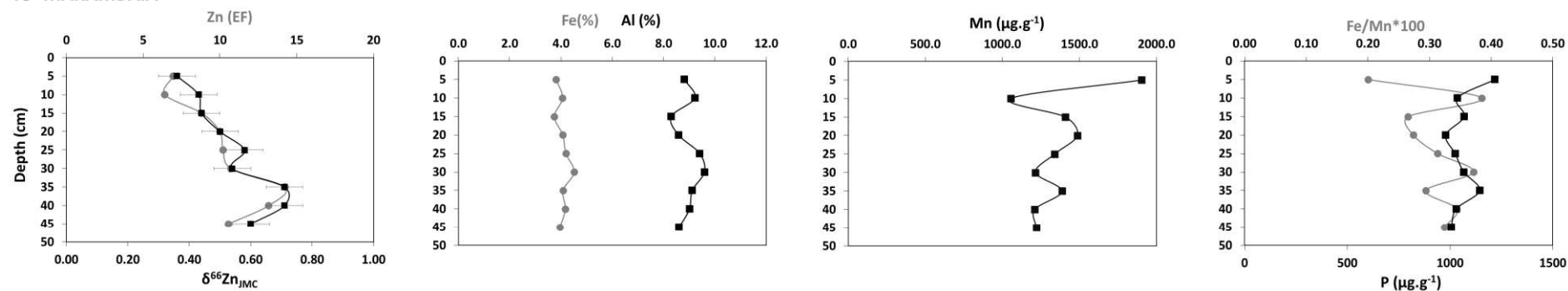


**Fig.2.** Sediment core profiles of the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values, Zn enrichment factor (EF) and major elements.

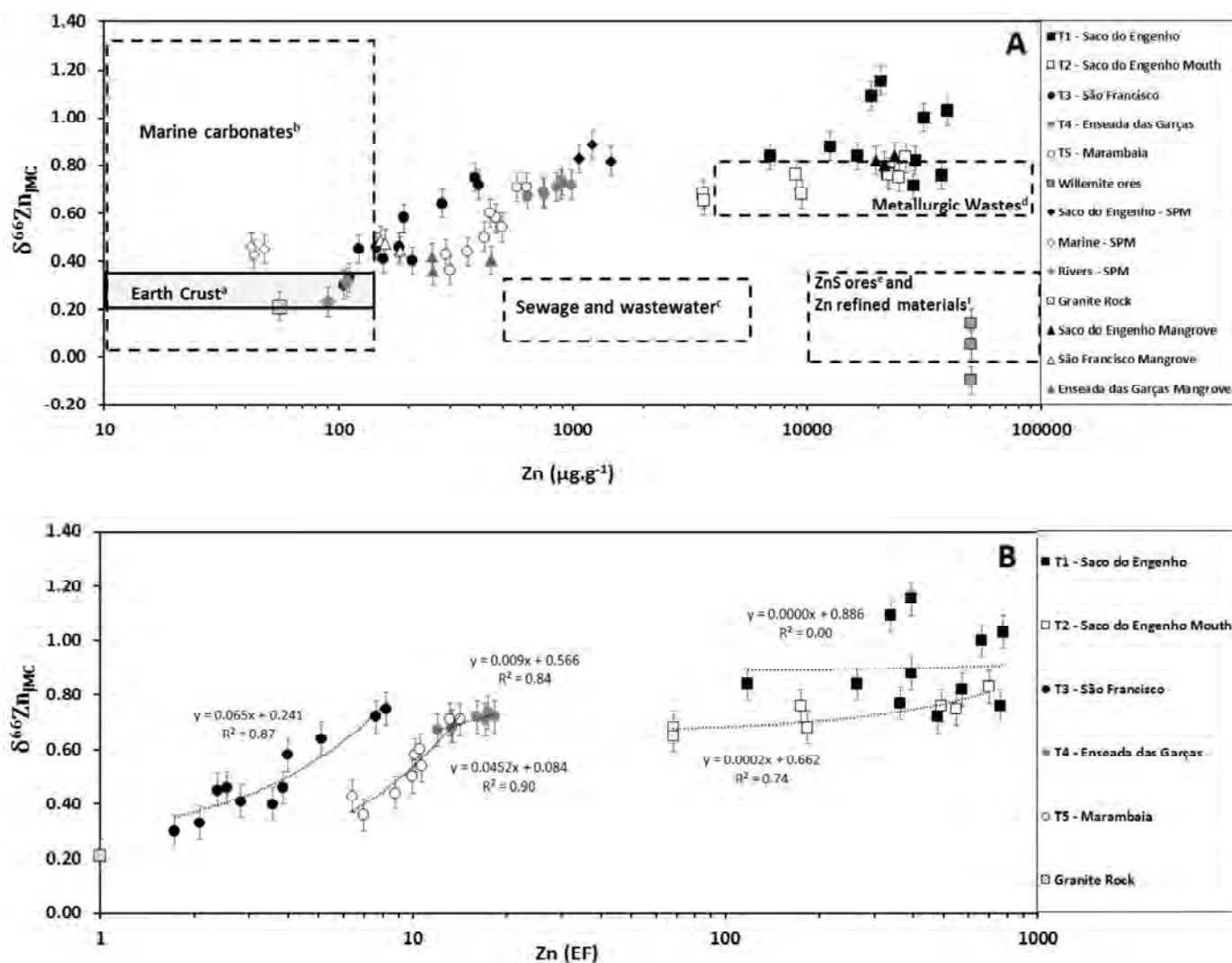
#### T4- ENSEADA DAS GARÇAS



#### T5- MARAMBAIA

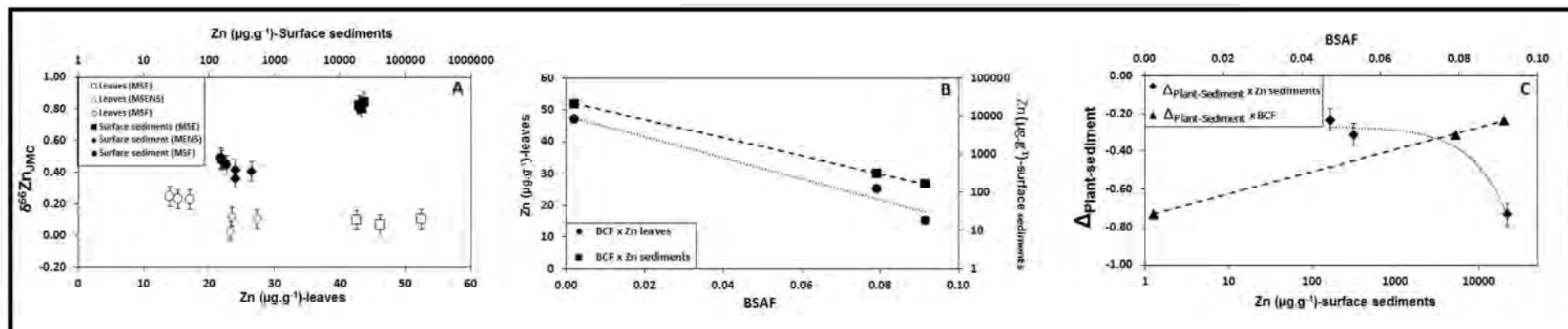


**Fig.2.** Continuation: Sediment core profiles of the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values, Zn enrichment factor (EF) and major elements.

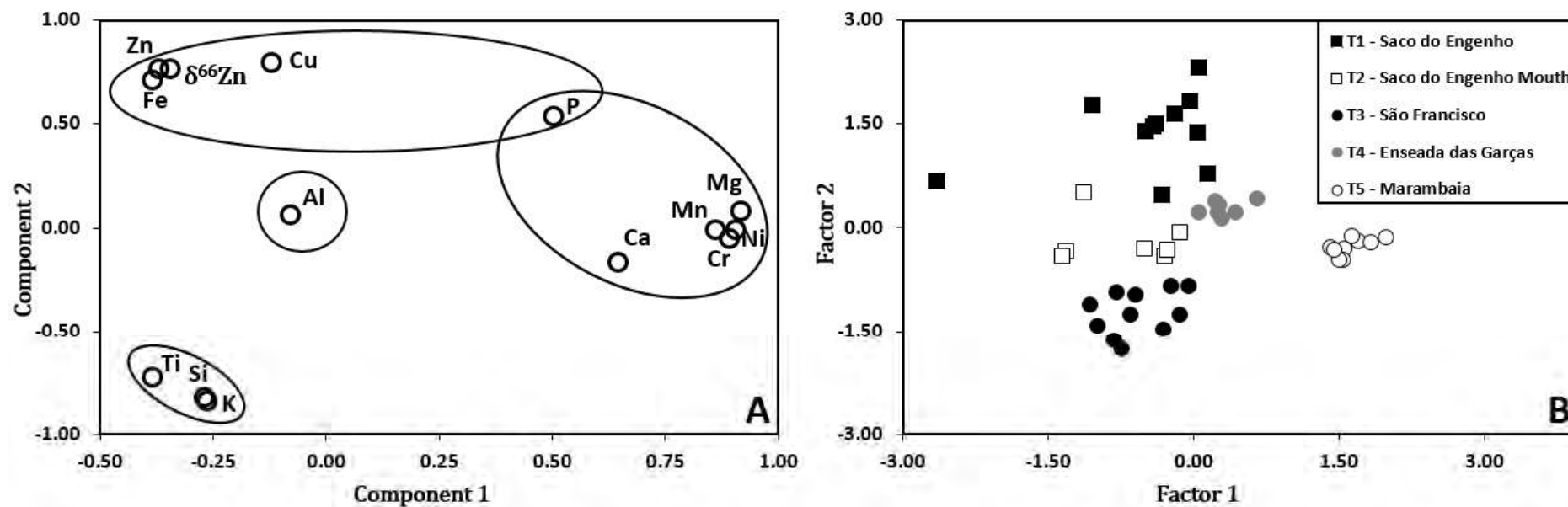


**Fig.3.** (A) The plot between  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values against Zn concentrations of granite rocks, sediment samples (SPM, cores and from surface of mangroves) and willemite ores. The dashed squares and the grey rectangle (highlighting the Earth crust) indicate  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of naturals and anthropogenic materials reported in the literature for: a- the Earth Crust ( $+0.28 \pm 0.05\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ , Chen et al., 2013); b- Marine carbonates (from  $+0.04$  to  $+1.34\text{‰}$ , Kunzmann et al.2013; Pichat et al., 2003); c- Sewage and wastewater (from  $+0.08$  to  $+0.31\text{‰}$ ; Chen et al., 2009); d- Metallurgic wastes (from  $+0.59$  to  $+0.81$ , excluding outliers, Julliot et al., 2011; Sivry et al., 2008); e- ZnS ores ( $+0.16 \pm 0.20\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ , Sonke et al., 2008); f- Zn refined materials (from  $+0.1$  to  $+0.3$ , John et al., 2007). (B) The plots between  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  against concentration and enrichment factor (EF) of the core samples and the respective correlations ( $R^2$ ). T1 core did not present a clear relation between  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values and EF, but at the first 35 cm a moderate correlation of  $R^2 = 0.51$  was obtained (not shown).

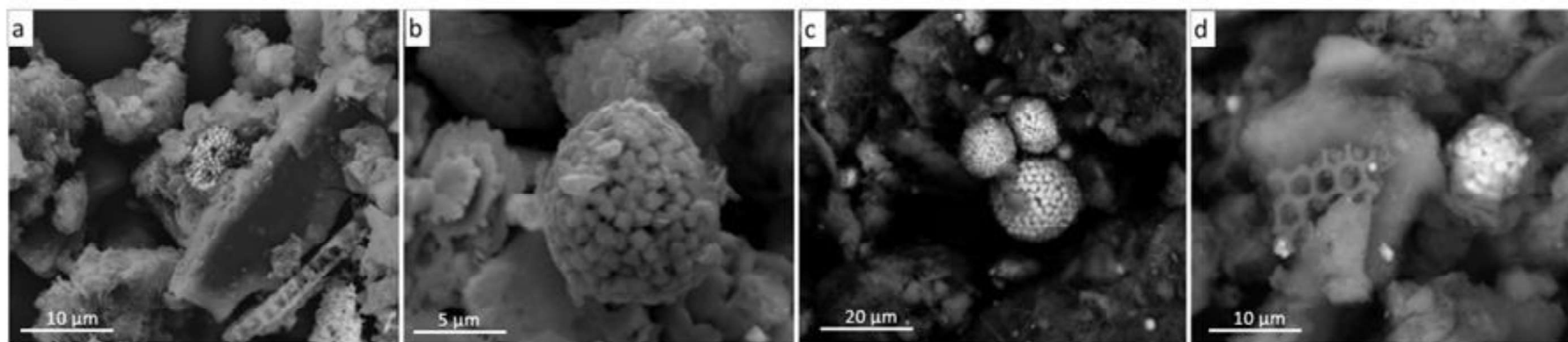




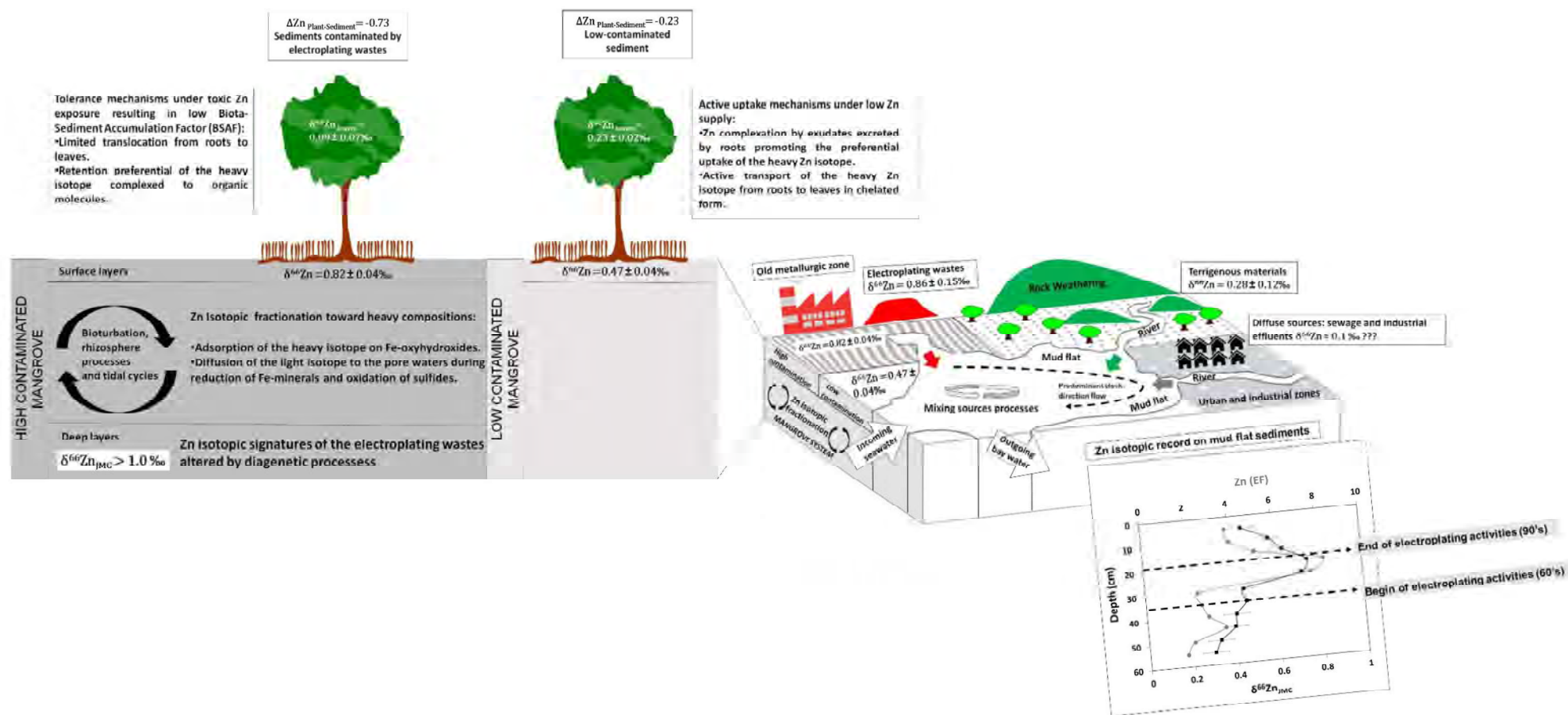
**Fig.4.** (A) The plots of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values against Zn concentrations of leaves (*L.racemosa*) and surface sediment samples; (B) BSAF against Zn concentrations of leaves and sediments Zn; (C)  $\Delta_{\text{Plant-Sediment}}$  values against Zn concentrations of surface sediments and BSAF value.



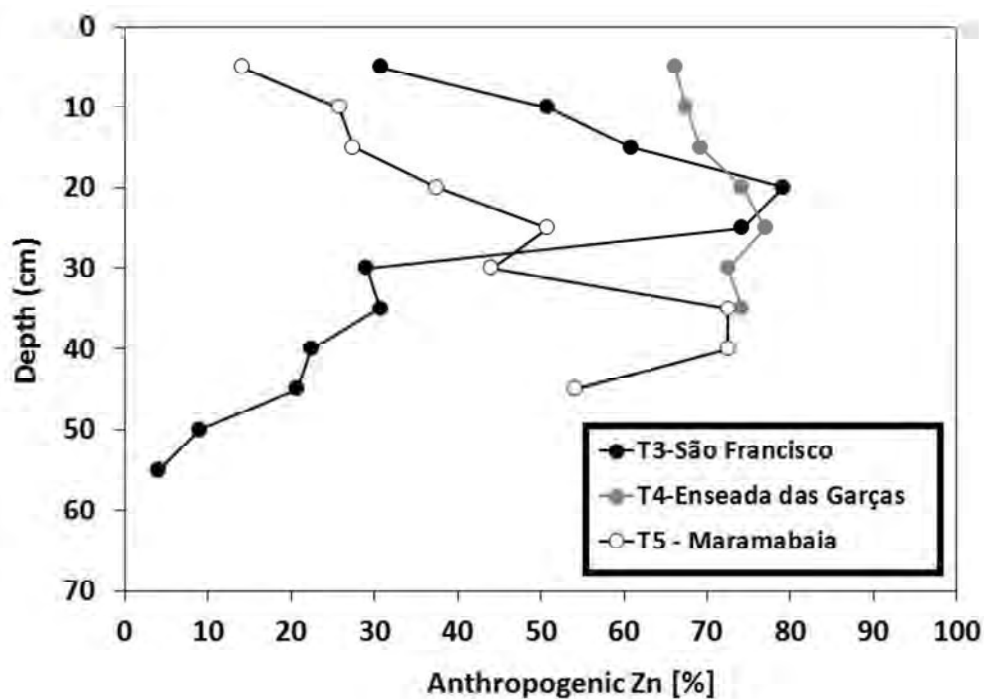
**Fig.5.** The plots of the variables factor loads (A) and sample factor scores (B) obtained in PCA analysis.



**Fig.6.** Scanning electron microscope (SEM): (a) framboids and diatoms; (b) framboids in details; (c) association of many framboids; (d) framboids coated by clayminerals.



**Fig.7.** Summary of the main findings obtained in this study on Sepetiba bay: the main sources identified with Zn isotopes: electroplating wastes as the major anthropogenic source, terrigenous and marine materials. Diffuse sources with a hypothetic  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{PMC}}$  values  $\approx 0.1\text{‰}$  are suspected of influencing the isotopic record of cores at southern region of the bay. In the mangrove profile collected in the old metallurgic zone, superficial layers are similar to SPM exported to the bay and the mud flat isotopic signatures. The deepest layers tends to heavier isotopic compositions possibly due the Zn isotopic fractionation related to combination of diagenetic processes, bioturbation, rhizosphere processes that taking place within sediments. Leaves isotopic signatures change from mangrove trees under high toxicity levels of Zn contamination to that under low contamination.



**Fig.8.** Quantification of anthropogenic Zn in the cores of inner bay. A mixing model was used to quantify the influence of electroplating wastes along the time. The representative  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$  values of end members were  $+0.86 \pm 0.15\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ) and  $+0.28 \pm 0.12\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ) to electroplating wastes and continental source (terrigenous materials brought by the rivers) respectively.

**Table 1.** Data set of sediment cores, granite rocks and willemite ores samples.

Sam ples	$\delta^{66}$ Zn	Zn ( $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ E F)	Zn ( $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ )	C (%)	M (%)	T (%)	F (%)	Si (%)	A (%)	K (%)	Mn ( $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ )	P ( $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ )	Ni ( $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ )	Cr ( $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ )	Cu ( $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ )
<i>T1 Core- Saco do Engenho</i>															
T1 0-5	0. 77	3 6 2	21, 960	3. 9	0. 9	0. 5	5. 1	1 9. 6	1 2. 4	0. 8	368 .5	111 5	20. 9	57. 9	75. 6
T1 5-10	1. 00	6 6 3	31, 410	1. 0	0. 8	0. 5	5. 7	1 7. 1	9. 7	0. 4	470 .6	783	16. 3	54. 2	175 .4
T1 10- 15	0. 88	3 9 4	12, 560	1. 3	0. 6	0. 5	6. 1	2 8. 9	6. 5	0. 6	210 .4	366	5.4	22. 9	67. 5
T1 15- 20		2 0 8	5,3 30	1. 4	0. 4	0. 2	1. 8	3 3. 7	5. 3	0. 6	321 .3	725	13. 5	43. 5	175 .6
T1 20- 25	1. 03	7 7 8	39, 330	1. 1	1. 0	0. 5	5. 9	1 7. 0	1 0. 4	0. 6	677 .4	121 3	24. 1	74. 6	329 .3
T1 25- 30	0. 82	5 7 4	28, 980	0. 8	0. 9	0. 5	5. 6	1 6. 7	1 0. 3	0. 6	577 .5	107 2	22. 4	64. 7	223 .6
T1 30- 35	0. 84	1 1 8	6,9 70	0. 8	0. 8	0. 5	5. 0	2 0. 2	1 2. 1	0. 8	393 .9	832	21. 6	59. 9	56. 5
T1 35- 40		2 0 4	9,0 00	1. 1	0. 8	0. 5	1 2. 5	1 7. 2	9. 0	0. 7	388 .3	953	18. 8	64. 9	133 .4
T1 40- 45	0. 72	4 8 0	28, 370	0. 6	1. 0	0. 6	6. 6	1 7. 7	1 2. 1	1. 2	631 .7	108 4	17. 3	63. 5	206 .5
T1 45- 50		4 3 4	22, 640	0. 6	0. 9	0. 6	5. 6	1 8. 1	1 0. 7	1. 2	659 .3	903	21. 4	65	238 .1
T1 50- 55	0. 76	7 5 9	37, 540	0. 5	1. 0	0. 5	5. 0	1 6. 6	1 0. 1	0. 9	520 .6	145 5	22. 9	61. 9	324
T1 55- 60		7 7 5	40, 400	1. 0	1. 0	0. 6	5. 9	1 9. 3	1 0. 7	1. 1	426 .8	894	19. 6	61. 8	105
T1 60- 65	0. 84	2 6 4	16, 350	0. 7	1. 0	0. 5	5. 5	2 0. 4	1 2. 7	1. 2	580 .5	151 8	22. 7	58. 3	342 .7
T1 65- 70		7 8 9	42, 620	0. 6	1. 1	0. 5	5. 4	1 6. 5	1 1. 1	0. 9	546 .0	140 8	18. 8	51	178 .1
T1 75- 75	1. 09	3 4	18, 830	0. 6	1. 0	0. 6	5. 5	1 7. 7	1 1. 1	1. 0	462 .6	136 1	19. 4	56	168

80		0						9	4						
T1	1.	3	20.	0.	1.	0.	5.	1	1	0.	447	111	20.	58.	183
80-	15	9	470	5	0	5	0	7.	0.	9	.4	8	7	2	.5
85		4						6	6						

*T2 Core- Saco do Engenho Mouth*

T2	0.	7	26,	0.	0.	0.	4.	1	7.	1.	654	924	14.	56.	29.
0-5	83	0	410	5	5	6	4	9.	7	8	.4		4	5	6
		0						0							
T2	0.	4	22,	0.	0.	0.	5.	2	9.	2.	501	843	13.	57.	24.
5-10	76	9	360	6	7	9	1	5.	3	8	.8		9	4	3
		2						1							
T2	0.	5	24,	0.	0.	0.	4.	2	9.	2.	362	739	13.	58.	21.
10-15	75	4	790	6	7	9	3	5.	3	2	.8		8	3	7
		9						3							
T2	0.	1	8,9	0.	1.	0.	4.	2	1	1.	363	745	18.	65.	18
15-20	76	7	90	7	0	7	6	2.	0.	9	.8		8	8	
		5						9	5						
T2	0.	6	3,6	0.	1.	0.	4.	2	1	1.	372	713	19.	64.	17.
20-25	68	8	10	8	1	7	7	3.	0.	7	.2		5	7	1
		8						3	8						
T2	0.	6	3,6	0.	1.	0.	4.	2	1	1.	359	704	19.	62.	16.
25-30	65	8	30	6	1	6	4	1.	0.	5	.7		4	5	2
		8						6	9						
T2	0.	1	9,5	0.	1.	0.	4.	2	1	1.	361	681	20.	68.	23.
30-35	68	8	00	5	3	6	7	1.	0.	5	.6		8	0	5
		4						0	6						

**Table 1.** Continuation

Sam ples	$\delta^{66}$ Zn	Zn EF	Zn ( $\mu\text{g.}$ $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	C ( $\%$ )	M ( $\%$ )	Ti ( $\%$ )	F ( $\%$ )	Si ( $\%$ )	Al ( $\%$ )	K ( $\%$ )	Mn ( $\mu\text{g.}$ $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	P ( $\mu\text{g.}$ $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Ni ( $\mu\text{g.}$ $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Cr ( $\mu\text{g.}$ $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Cu ( $\mu\text{g.}$ $\text{g}^{-1}$ )
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*T3 Core –São Francisco*

T3 0-5	0.4	3.8	181	1.	0.	1.	4.	30	9.	2.	706.	108	17.5	55.4	20.1
	6			4	7	5	2	.1	7	6	0	8			
T3 5-10	0.5	4.0	189	1.	0.	1.	4.	27	9.	2.	452.	943	14.8	57	17.9
	8			2	7	3	1	.8	8	5	0				
T3 10-15	0.6	5.1	278	1.	0.	1.	4.	26	11	2.	401.	848	19	61.3	23.8
	4			3	8	0	8	.0	.2	1	9				
T3 15-20	0.7	8.2	381	1.	0.	1.	4.	27	9.	2.	415.	708	16.1	55	19.4
	5			2	7	1	1	.6	5	2	8				
T3 20-25	0.7	7.6	397	1.	0.	0.	4.	26	10	2.	386.	711	18.5	59.6	23.9
	2			0	7	9	4	.3	.7	0	5				
T3 25-30	0.4	2.4	122	1.	0.	0.	3.	28	10	2.	327.	632	17	56.9	19.7
	5			1	7	9	4	.3	.5	5	6				

T3 30- 35	0.4 6	2.5	146	1. 1	0. 8	0. 7	3. 9	26 .6	11 .8	2. 2	309. 4	571	20.1	51.2	22.6
T3 35- 40	0.4 1	2.8	155	0. 9	0. 9	0. 7	4. 4	22 .7	11 .3	1. 7	328. 9	563	23.4	59.8	29.6
T3 40- 45	0.4 0	3.6	207	0. 8	0. 8	0. 7	4. 7	22 .9	12 .0	1. 6	341. 4	661	26.1	63.4	30.6
T3 45- 50	0.3 3	2.1	111	1. 1	0. 8	1. 2	4. 3	24 .8	11 .0	2. 3	511. 5	823	22.2	58.8	27.4
T3 50- 55	0.3 0	1.7	105	0. 8	0. 8	0. 8	5. 2	25 .7	12 .4	2. 5	693. 9	647	24	62.4	27.2

*T4 Core –Enseada das Garças*

T4 0- 5	0.6 7	12. 0	639	1. 1	1. 1	0. 5	4. 7	19 .3	10 .9	0. 8	923. 8	112 3	18.6	55.5	23.5
T4 5- 10	0.6 8	13. 3	758	1. 1	1. 1	0. 6	4. 9	20 .5	11 .7	1. 0	813. 9	124 6	21.2	63.7	29.3
T4 10- 15	0.6 9	13. 4	747	0. 9	1. 1	0. 6	5. 0	22 .3	11 .4	1. 0	600. 7	110 0	23.6	63	32.8
T4 15- 20	0.7 2	16. 1	888	0. 8	1. 2	0. 6	5. 2	20 .1	11 .3	1. 0	787. 9	126 9	24.4	72.2	36.3
T4 20- 25	0.7 4	17. 5	904	0. 8	1. 0	0. 7	5. 0	20 .0	10 .6	1. 0	897. 4	120 9	20.9	65.5	35.4
T4 25- 30	0.7 1	17. 0	852	0. 8	1. 0	0. 6	4. 5	21 .0	10 .3	1. 0	953. 3	108 6	18.7	59.2	31.7
T4 30- 35	0.7 2	18. 4	986	0. 8	1. 0	0. 6	4. 7	21 .2	11 .0	1. 0	838. 8	118 2	20.7	63.1	36.7

*T5 Core –Marambaia*

T5 0- 5	0.3 6	6.9	298	3. 1	1. 5	0. 5	3. 8	20 .1	8. 8	1. 1	190 3.7	121 8	25.8	76	27
T5 5- 10	0.4 3	6.4	288	3. 0	1. 6	0. 5	4. 1	22 .0	9. 2	1. 2	105 5.5	103 6	24.8	73.5	19.7
T5 10- 15	0.4 4	8.8	356	2. 6	1. 5	0. 5	3. 7	20 .8	8. 3	1. 1	140 8.8	106 9	27.3	79.6	23.6
T5 15- 20	0.5 0	10. 0	418	2. 9	1. 5	0. 6	4. 1	22 .5	8. 6	1. 3	148 6.2	979	25.8	79.5	23.1
T5 20- 25	0.5 8	10. 2	467	1. 8	1. 6	0. 6	4. 2	26 .4	9. 4	1. 5	133 8.8	102 4	27.4	88.7	23.2



**Table 1.** Continuation

Sampl es	$\delta^{66}$ Zn	Z n (E F)	Zn ( $\mu\text{g.}$ $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	C a ( %) )	M g ( %) )	Ti ( %) )	F e ( %) )	Si ( %) )	Al ( %) )	K ( %) )	Mn ( $\mu\text{g.}$ $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	P ( $\mu\text{g.}$ $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Ni ( $\mu\text{g.}$ $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Cr ( $\mu\text{g.}$ $\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Cu ( $\mu\text{g.}$ $\text{g}^{-1}$ )
<i>T5- Core –Marambaia</i>															
T5 25- 30	0.5 4	10 .7	501	2. 3	1. 6	0. 7	4. 5	24 .8	9. 6	1. 5	121 4.8	106 7	26.3	88.7	24.4
T5 30- 35	0.7 1	14 .2	632	1. 8	1. 5	0. 6	4. 1	23 .5	9. 1	1. 5	138 7.0	114 4	30.8	94.2	28.5
T5 35- 40	0.7 1	13 .2	578	2. 5	1. 5	0. 7	4. 2	23 .8	9. 0	1. 6	120 9.7	103 0	28.2	84.6	22.3
T5 40- 45	0.6 0	10 .5	442	2. 8	1. 4	0. 6	4. 0	19 .3	8. 6	1. 3	122 0.9	100 6	27.8	86.5	22.2
Granite	0.2 1	1	56	3. 0	0. 3	0. 5	4. 3	28 .9	11 .5	6. 7	107 1.4	143 0	6.9	10	7.3
Willemite ores															
Wille mite 1	- 0.1 0														
willem ite 2	0.0 5														
willem ite 3	0.1 4														

**Table 2.** Data set of mangrove superficial sediments and *Laguncularia Racemosa* leaf samples.

Samples	$\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$ n	Z n (E F)	Zn ( $\mu\text{g}$ $\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ )	C a ( %)	M g ( %)	Ti ( %)	F e ( %)	Si ( %)	Al ( %)	K ( %)	Mn ( $\mu\text{g}$ $\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ )	P ( $\mu\text{g}$ $\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Ni ( $\mu\text{g}$ $\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Cr ( $\mu\text{g}$ $\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Cu ( $\mu\text{g}$ $\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ )
<i>Saco do Engenho Mangrove (MSE station)</i>															
Sedimen t MSE 1	0.80	36 4	21, 387	0. 5	1. 0	0. 6	10 .3	20 .2	12 .1	1. 1	255 .1	877	21. 4	57	41. 9
Sedimen t MSE 2	0.82	36 2	19, 566	0. 4	0. 9	0. 6	10 .2	18 .7	11 .1	1. 1	308 .0	887	21. 3	57. 3	44. 3
Sedimen t MSE 3	0.84	39 5	23, 700	0. 5	0. 9	0. 6	10 .6	20 .3	12 .3	1. 2	543 .8	111 1	21	59	38
Leaves MSE <sup>a</sup>	0.09 $\pm$ 0.04		47 $\pm$ 5												
<i>São Francisco Mangrove (MSF station)</i>															
Sedimen t MSF 1	0.49	3. 0	151	1. 0	0. 5	1. 1	3. 8	32 .1	10 .5	3. 2	364 .3	759	12. 9	48. 1	14. 9
Sedimen t MSF 2	0.44	3. 5	183	1. 1	0. 6	1. 5	4. 7	29 .2	10 .7	2. 9	440 .5	350	15. 4	62. 7	19
Sedimen t MSF 3	0.47	3. 3	158	1. 3	0. 5	1. 1	3. 7	30 .2	9. 7	2. 9	359 .5	789	55. 12	15. 1	6
Leafs MSF <sup>a</sup>	0.08 $\pm$ 0.10		15 $\pm$ 2												
<i>Enseada das Garças Mangrove (MENS station)</i>															
Sedimen t MENS 1	0.42	8. 0	251	0. 5	0. 6	0. 6	3. 1	30 .5	6. 4	0. 4	349 .8	102 2	33. 9.5	19. 2	3
Sedimen t MENS 2	0.40	8. 5	445	0. 7	1. 1	0. 6	4. 7	21 .8	10 .7	1. 0	341 .2	135 1	18. 8	62. 9	35. 8
Sedimen t MENS 3	0.36	5. 0	252	0. 9	1. 2	0. 6	4. 5	19 .7	10 .3	0. 9	204 .7	962	11. 8	43. 4	32
Leafs MENS <sup>a</sup>	0.02 $\pm$ 0.02		25 $\pm$ 2												

a- The Zn concentrations of the leafs collected from *Laguncularia Racemosa* threes represents the average and the standard desviation ( $\sigma$ ) obtained from three different replicates. Each replicate was composted by leafs collected in different threes.

**Table 3.** Data set of suspended particulate matter (SPM) samples.

	$\delta^{66}\text{Zn}$	Zn ( $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$ )	Conductivity mS/cm	pH	SPM $\text{mg}\cdot\text{l}^{-1}$
SE1	0.88	1207	67.24	8.06	411
SE2	0.82	1455	60.31	8.68	413
SE3	0.83	1063	56.20	8.33	407
B1	0.43	43	67.38	7.02	177
B2	0.45	48	67.45	8.27	177
B3	0.46	42	67.52	8.20	179
R1	0.31	108	0.08	7.25	278
R2	0.23	90	0.27	6.65	275

## Chapter 6

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### **ZINC ISOTOPE COMPOSITIONS IN BIVALVE MOLLUSCS TISSUES FROM A BRAZILIAN ESTUARY: IMPLICATIONS FOR BIOMONITORING OF METAL CONTAMINATION**

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- 18- Imperial College London, Earth Science and Engineering, London, United Kingdom.
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## Abstract

Determination of zinc (Zn) isotopes in bivalve tissues have been explored as a novel biomonitoring tool of metal contamination, potentially capable of integrating sources, fates and bioavailability information. However, its applicability remains inconclusive. In order to investigate if the bioisotopic record of Zn in bivalve tissues can be used to trace sources or infer possible biogeochemical processes, we conducted a study with bivalve mollusks (*Crassostrea brasiliiana* and *Perna Perna*) and suspended particulate matter (SPM) samples collected from a tropical estuary historically impacted by metallurgic activities (Sepetiba Bay, southeastern Brazil). The Zn isotope systematics of the SPM samples allowed the identification of end-members and mixing process in the fluvial-estuarine system. The Zn isotope systematics of bivalve tissues distinguished two groups: one comprising bivalve samples collected in the old metallurgic zone ( $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} +0.49 \pm 0.06\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ) and other composed by the rest of sampling stations ( $+0.83 \pm 0.10\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=22$ ). The bivalve isotopic signatures did not enable the identification of end-member or tendencies of mixing process, suggesting limitations to sources tracing. We found, however, that the Zn isotope systematics of bivalves from Sepetiba bay can be related to mechanism of bioaccumulation, i.e. uptake via dissolved and particulate phase. It is hypothesized that in the zone heavily impacted zone by old electroplating wastes, the bivalves incorporate the high levels of Zn in the dissolved phase through the bivalve gills by facilitated diffusion or actively pumped across the membranes. Outside this zone, due the low content of Zn in the dissolved phase and high Zn concentrations on suspended particulate matter, bivalves incorporate the labile Zn bound to particulate matter during the gut digestion. The confirmation of our hypothesis to use Zn isotopes as tracer of routes of bioaccumulation would be of great interest to environmental management concerning the setting of water and sediment quality criteria.

## 1. Introduction

Bivalve molluscs are widely used as biomonitors to inform geographical and temporal trends in the bioavailabilities of metals contaminants in aquatic systems (Raibow, 1995; Oehlmann and Schulte-Oehlmann, 2003). However, their use are limited to identification of sources, while evaluation and prediction of ecological risks from metal contaminants are hampered because the metal bioaccumulation of bivalves is influenced by multiple routes of exposure (diet and solution) and geochemical effects on metal bioavailability (Wang and Fischer, 1999; Griscom et al., 2004; Wang and Rainbow, 2005; Zhou et al., 2008; Gupta and Singh, 2011; Kumar et al., 2015). To overcome these drawbacks, determination of zinc (Zn) isotopes in bivalve tissues have been explored as a novel biomonitoring tool of metal contamination, potentially capable of integrating sources, fates and bioavailability information (Shiel et al., 2012; Shiel et al., 2013; Petit et al., 2015).

Zinc isotopes undergo strong isotopic fractionations in industrial processes (e.g metallurgy and combustion by high-temperature or electrolysis processes), resulting in fingerprints isotopically distinct for man-made materials and byproducts from those found in nature (Sivry et al., 2008; Borrok et al., 2010; Shiel et al., 2010; Gonzalez and Weiss, 2015; Thapalia et al., 2015; Yin et al., 2015), and therefore are able to discriminate and quantify natural and anthropogenic sources, including vehicle emissions and tire wear (Gioia et al., 2008; Thapalia et al., 2015), wastewaters and sewage (Chen et al. 2008; 2009), mining and metallurgy byproducts (Dogolopova et al., 2006; Mattielli et al., 2006; Weiss et al., 2007; Sivry et al., 2008; Yin et al., 2015). Zinc isotopic fractionation also occur in low temperature processes, and hence can be used to determine reactions pathways such as adsorption on organic and inorganic solid surfaces, ligand exchange and complexation, precipitation, biological uptake, and intercellular transport (Pichat et al., 2003; Stenberg et al., 2004; Weiss et al., 2005; Pokrovsky et al., 2005; Bermin et al., 2006; Gélabert et al., 2006; John et al., 2007b; Balistrieri et al., 2008; Peel et al., 2009; Fujii et al., 2011; Jouvin et al., 2012; Little et al., 2014b; Kafantaris and Borrok, 2014; Matthies et al., 2014; Dekov et al., 2014; Coutaud et al., 2014; Zhao et al., 2014; Bryan et al., 2015; Veeramani et al., 2015).

Until now, the application of Zn isotopes in bivalves as biomonitoring tool has been little explored and its effectiveness for sources tracing remains inconclusive. A recent study conducted with bivalves on the west coast in Canada showed homogenous

Zn isotopic signatures that overlapped those of unpolluted soils, sediments and marine water (Shiel et al., 2012). In the Gironde-estuary (a site historically impacted by metallurgy) the isotopic record of oysters seemed to reflect adsorption processes associated to the Zn dissolved pool along the Maximum Turbid Zone (MTZ) rather than different Zn sources (Petit et al., 2015).

While these studies suggest that source tracing is difficult to achieve with bivalves, they also suffered from the study design. Both investigations were carried out in large, open systems with multiple anthropogenic and natural sources, point and diffusively alike, which make the task of source identification much more difficult, especially given the relatively small isotope variability of Zn in sources.

To a better appreciation of Zn isotopes as biomonitoring tool in aquatic systems, we conduct a study in a small tropical estuary system (Sepetiba Bay, southeastern Brazil). The use of this bay as model costal area are advantageous because it presents a single major anthropogenic source of Zn (associated to old electroplating wastes) and transport mechanisms of metal contaminants well-established by previous geochemical and biomonitoring studies. Zinc isotope compositions were determined in oysters (*Crassostrea brasiliiana*), mussels (*Perna Perna*) and suspended particulate matter (SPM), while Zn concentrations were determined in water samples. In this way, this work aims to verify the applicability of Zn isotopes as a biomonitoring tool capable of tracing sources or indicating biogeochemical processes.

## 2. Study area

Sepetiba bay is a small semi-enclosed estuary about 519 km<sup>2</sup> located 60 km south of Rio de Janeiro City (Molisani et al., 2004). It plays a strategical role as geo-economic center of Brazil, hosting a large population of metropolitan region of Rio de Janeiro City, an expressive industrial park and important harbor activity (Fig.1).

Rivers, estuaries and extensive mangroves vegetation occurs in the northern and eastern portions of the bay. The watershed of approximately 2,654 km<sup>2</sup> is drained by rivers that crossing agricultural, industrial and urban areas. The São Francisco channel represent the main fluvial system, receipting transposed waters of a neighbor watershed located upstream and attending for over 86% of the total freshwater and most part of fluvial sediment load (Molisani et al., 2006).

This study area was heavily impacted along the last decades by tailings (estimated at 600.000 tons) from a Zn electroplating plant, which was exposed to the open air for almost 50 years close the mangrove's shore (Barcellos et al., 1991, 1992, 1994). Mostly part of the wastes were lixiviated during rainfalls reaching the bay through a small marine channel located in the Saco do Engenho mangrove, considered the *hot spot* area (Fig.1). During the tidal cycle, large loads of Zn and Cd arising from wastes materials were remobilized and dispersed to the inner bay via particulate or in the dissolved form (Barcellos et al., 1991, 1992, 1994). The estimative of emission rates from the electroplating wastes into the bays were about 24 t.y<sup>-1</sup> of Cd and 3,660 t.y<sup>-1</sup> for Zn, until 1997 when the plant ended its activities (Barcellos et al., 1994). High Zn content in sediments (Pellegati et al., 2001; Wasserman et al., 2001), oysters (Larcerda and Molisani, 2006; Rebelo et al., 2003) and brown algal (Amado Filho et al., 1999) exceeding 2000, 80000 and 800 µg.g<sup>-1</sup> respectively have been reported along the last four decades. Despite the end of Zn refining activities in 1997, the continuous wastes lixiviation by pluvial waters keep the high inputs of metal loads for more than a decade later as confirmed in posterior studies (Pellegati et al., 2001; Wasserman et al., 2001; Molisani et al., 2004; Lacerda and Molisani, 2006; Marques et al., 2006; Gomes et al., 2009; Ribeiro et al., 2013). The stack of wastes was definitively removed in 2012, however, enriched- Zn sediment particles from the *hot spot* area has been continuously remobilized during tidal cycles that combined with the natural water confinement of the bay have been contributing to a major resilience of the electroplating impacts in the system.

### 3. Materials and Methods

#### 3.1 Sampling and sample preparation

Oysters samples (*Crassostrea Brasiliiana*) were collected at five different locations within the Sepetiba Bay in order to obtain a transect from the channel located in Saco do Engenho mangrove (the *hot spot* area of electroplating impacts, Fig.1) to close the open sea at south of the bay (point 5, Fig.1). Oyster samples from the Saco do Engenho were collected in rocks near the mouth of this channel, while the other oysters were collected in rocks of different islands spread in west side of the bay (Fig.1). About 17 to 21 individual oyster samples were collected in each one of the points 1 to 5, accounting



a total of 91 oyster sampled in the bay. The individual selection was based on the size, *i.e.*, length x width, which average was about 3.3 x 2.3 cm. Mussels (*Perna Perna*) were found only in the point 5, where 10 individuals were collected to verify possible inherent interspecies differences on Zn isotope compositions. For mussels, male and female individuals were identified according the color (white for man, orange for woman) and labelled by the letters “W” and “O”, respectively.

Oysters and mussels were removed from the rocks and kept in the local water under 48 h for depuration. Bivalve samples were rinsed with distilled water before being shucked with a stainless steel knife. Bivalve tissues were extracted with plastic spatula and rinsed with distilled and deionized water to remove particles before being stored separately individually in polyethylene little flasks and frozen for 48 hours. After, all oysters and mussels were freeze dried. For each sampling site, oysters were pooled in three different representative aliquots, each one representing a sample.

To represent the main terrestrial, marine and anthropogenic sources, water samples and suspended particulate material (SPM) were collected: i) in a transect along the São Francisco Channel, which represent the main freshwater outlet into the bay, ii) at the south mouth of the bay, where marine environment is dominant and iii) in the Saco do Engenho Channel, close the old metallurgic plant (Fig.1), where anthropogenic sources are dominant. The transect in the fluvial system (São Francisco Channel) encompassed sampling points from ~7 km upstream until the inner bay (Fig.1). Bottles for sampling were washed overnight in sub-boiling HCl and then rinsed three times with pure water prior to use in the field. Water samples comeback to the laboratory preserved under low temperatures (4°C) during 4h. At laboratory, precise volume of waters (between 150 ml and 500 ml) were filtered through a 0.45 µm acetate cellulose membrane previously dried and weighted. The dissolved phase were adjust to pH=2 by adding of concentrate acid nitric and stored under 4 °C until the moment for Zn total concentrations determinations. Colloidal-sized particles smaller than 0.45 µm are, therefore, operationally defined as solutes in this study. The filter containing the SPM samples were dried and weighed to calculate the mass of sediment.

All reagents used for the total solid samples dissolutions were prepared using > 18.2 MΩ H<sub>2</sub>O (Nanop System®) and ultra-pure acids (Merck®) distilled by sub-boiling in teflon stills. The chemical procedures were performed under clean-air conditions and evaporations were conducted in clean boxes. The SPM samples and reference materials of United Survey Geological Survey (USGS) as BHVO-2, BCR-2,

AGV-2, and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as 1616a were digested in Savillex<sup>®</sup> Teflon on a hot plate using a multiple-step acid procedure with HF, HNO<sub>3</sub>, HCl. The oysters samples (about 100 mg) were dissolved using an acid mixing (HF, HCl and HNO<sub>3</sub>) in closed vessel in a microwave system (Speedwave 4, Berghof). After total sample dissolution, the sample was transferred to Savillex<sup>®</sup> Teflon beakers dried on a hot plate, the remaining HF drive off by concentrate HNO<sub>3</sub> addition and subsequently dissolved in 6 M HCl, dried again and re-dissolved in 2 M HCl. From this mother solution, aliquots were taken for determine Zn concentrations and isotopic compositions.

### 3.2 Zn concentrations and isotope ratio analysis

Zinc concentrations were determined by flame absorption atomic spectrometry (FAAS), model Varian AA240FS at GEOPS laboratory in the Université Paris-Sud. The calibration curves were prepared with elemental Zn Merck<sup>®</sup> standards and the accuracy and precision of analysis verified with certified reference materials of United Survey Geological Survey-USGS (BHVO-2 and BCR-2 basalt), National Research Council Canada (Dorm 3 fish protein) and of SCP SCIENCE (EP-L-3 water). The experimental values agreed within of 10% of certified values. Detection limits for Zn were around 20 µg.l<sup>-1</sup>.

The sample aliquot destined to the Zn isotope determinations by MC-ICP-MS were processed on anion exchange chromatography to matrix separation previously the analysis. A modified procedure from that proposed by Maréchal et al. (1999) using a Bio-Rad PolyPrep columns filled with 2.0 ml of the anion exchange resin AG-MP1 (100-200 mesh size) was used (more details in Araújo et al.2016). A Cu standard (NIST 976) was added to all samples and matched in the proportion 1:1 (300 µg/ml in 0.05 M HNO<sub>3</sub>) to mass bias corrections. The recovery of the samples processed on the column were verified using the voltages signals on MC-ICP-MS previously calibrated for Zn concentration using a Zn Merck<sup>®</sup> standard. All samples showed recovery close to 100±5%.

Zn isotopic ratios were measured using the ThermoFinnigan Neptune *Plus* MC-ICP-MS at the Centro de Pesquisas Geocronológicas (CPGeo) in the São Paulo University. The introduction interface consisted of quartz glass spray chamber (cyclone + standard Scott double pass) coupled with a low flow PFA nebulizer (50 µl.min<sup>-1</sup>).

Masses 62 (Ni), 63 (Cu), 64 (Zn/Ni), 65 (Cu), 66 (Zn), 67 (Zn) and 68 (Zn) were detected simultaneously in low resolution. Blank measurements consisted of 1 block of 10 cycles (8s) while samples and standards were measured in 2 blocks of 20 cycles of 8s each. Mass bias corrections were performed verifying the factor of fractionation of Cu and Zn ( $f_{Zn}/f_{Cu}$ ) in the  $\ln \times \ln$  plot in each session by the application of the exponential law (Maréchal et al.1999).

The Zn isotopes ratios were measured relative to an in-house Zn single element standard from MERCK (Lot #9953) labeled Zn UnB standard and expressed in  $\delta$ -notation as below:

$$\delta^{66}\text{Zn}(\text{‰}) = \left( \frac{{}^{66}\text{Zn} / {}^{64}\text{Zn}_{\text{sample}}}{{}^{66}\text{Zn} / {}^{64}\text{Zn}_{\text{standard}}} - 1 \right) \text{ eq.1}$$

The final data were reported relative to the Johnson Matthey 3-0749-L (JMC) reference material, which was previously calibrated against our Zn UnB reference material ( $\Delta\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC-UnB}} = +0.17 \text{ ‰}$ ,  $n=30$ ,  $2\sigma \pm 0.05$ ). Error propagations were applied to final estimation of analytical uncertainty (expressed as  $2\sigma$ ) of  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values.

For analytical control, the isotopic certified reference material Zn IRMM 3702 were measured two or three times along the session analysis yielding a  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  value of  $-0.27 \pm 0.06 \text{ ‰}$  ( $n=30$ ,  $2\sigma$ ), comparable to values published previously (Satto et al.2016). In addition, USGS and NIST reference materials prepared in different replicates (full protocol including digestion, ion-exchange chromatography and twice isotopic measurements for each replicate) were used to assess the accuracy and procedural reproducibility ( $n= 5$  to BHVO-2 and BCR-2 basalts,  $n=1$  to AGV-2 andesite and  $n= 2$  to 1646a estuarine sediment). The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values obtained to BHVO-2, BCR-2 basalts and AGV-2 andesite were  $+0.25 \pm 0.10\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ),  $+0.25 \pm 0.08\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ) and  $+0.29 \pm 0.07$  ( $2\sigma$ ), respectively. All these results agree well with those reported in the literature for silicate rocks (Chapman et al., 2006; Herzog et al., 2009; Moynier et al., 2009; Chen et al., 2013; Sossi et al., 2015). The average of external reproducibility of unknowing samples (SPM, oysters and mussels) was  $\pm 0.07\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=36$ ) and this value were considered the external reproducibility of the all methodological procedure.

### 3.3 Statistical analysis

Comparison of Zn concentrations and Zn isotope compositions between the different sampling sites were verified by statistical tests using the SPSS® software v.18.0 (IBM®, Armonk, NY, USA). The normality distribution of data were verified with Kolmogorov–Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk tests, while Levene's test was applied to check the homogeneity of variances. One-way ANOVA and test *t* were applied to data normal distributed. If data deviate from the normal distribution or fall in Levene's test, the Welch ANOVA were used instead of a one-way ANOVA.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Zn particulate isotopic compositions and Zn dissolved concentrations

All dataset of Zn isotope compositions and Zn concentrations of water and SPM samples are summarized in the Table 1. The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of the SPM samples vary between +0.15 and +0.95‰ (Table 1, Fig.2 and Fig.3). The samples collected around the old metallurgic zone (Saco do Engenho, Fig.1) show higher Zn concentrations (325 to 2,339  $\mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ ) and isotope compositions (+0.87 to +0.95‰) when compared to the samples from the bay mouth area and the San Francisco channel. At the south bay area, Zn concentrations range from 60 to 629  $\mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$  and the isotope compositions vary from +0.44 to +0.52‰. At San Francisco channel, a clear enrichment of heavy isotopes on the SPM, from +0.15 to +0.53, can be observed from upstream toward the channel mouth at the Sepetiba bay. Along the fresh and marine waters mixture, a positive correlation ( $R^2 = 0.80$ ) is noticed between electrical conductivity and Zn isotope composition (Fig.3).

The dissolved Zn concentrations vary from 66 to 3,384  $\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ , with the highest concentration detected again near the old metallurgic zone (Saco do Engenho). The sampling site MZ1 exceeded the Brazilian Legislation threshold value for marine water of 170  $\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  (CONAMA, 357/2005). At the south bay area and the San Francisco channel, dissolved Zn concentration were low and in most cases were below the analytical limits of detection (20  $\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ ).

## 4.2 Zn isotopic compositions of oysters and mussels

All dataset of Zn isotope compositions and Zn concentrations of oyster and mussels samples are summarized in the Table 2. Zinc concentrations of oysters tissues in general decrease along the transect from the *hotspot* of metallurgic contamination (Saco do Engenho) to the south bay area, *i.e.*, from the first sampling site (P1) to the last one (P5) (Table 2). In the old metallurgic zone (Saco do Engenho), the Zn concentration of oyster were 3-6 fold higher than the other sampling sites located throughout Sepetiba bay (Fig.4). The average of Zn isotope compositions of oysters samples from Saco do Engenho is  $+0.49 \pm 0.06\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ), contrasting with the isotope composition of other oyster samples collected along the island's bay (P2 to P5 sites, Fig.4), which present average of  $+0.85 \pm 0.06\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=12$ ). The averages of oysters from P2 to P5 sites are statistically equal (Welch test,  $p>0.05$ ).

Mussels have lower Zn concentrations than oysters collected at the same sampling site (P5) with an average of  $136 \pm 29 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$  ( $1\sigma$ ,  $n=10$ ). The Zn isotope compositions of mussels *Perna Perna* are about  $+0.82 \pm 0.14\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=10$  samples, Fig.4), which are statistically equal (teste  $t$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ) to oysters collected in the island's bay (P2 to P5 points). The average of Zn concentrations of male ( $120 \pm 11 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ ,  $1\sigma$ ,  $n=6$ ) and female ( $161 \pm 31 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ ,  $1\sigma$ ,  $n=4$ ) were statistically different (test  $t$ ,  $p<0.05$ ), but not for Zn isotope compositions (test  $t$ ,  $p>0.05$ ).

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 The Zn isotopic signatures of sediment plume in the fluvial-estuarine system

The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of SPM samples from the impacted area of Saco do Engenho fell within the range of heavy isotopic signatures associated to metallurgic wastes and effluents reported in previous studies that vary from  $+0.18$  to  $+1.49\text{‰}$  (Sivry et al., 2008; Juillot et al., 2011; Yin et al., 2015). These results seems to reflect an isotopic record of the contamination by the old electroplating wastes and endorse previous models of Zn isotopic fractionation during the high-temperature and electroplating process, which points to a formation of solid wastes enriched in the heavy isotope (Kavner et al., 2008; Borrok et al., 2010; Shiel et al., 2010; Gonzalez and Weiss, 2015; Black et al., 2014).

The great Zn concentrations in the dissolved and particulate phase from samples collected in the old Metallurgic zone indicate a high remobilization of Zn-enriched sediments during low tides and point out the fact that this source is still a significant Zn supplier to the Sepetiba bay system, despite the end of metallurgic activities (1997) and wastes removal (2012).

In the transect from the São Francisco channel to the inner bay,  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values increase accompanying the increasing of salinity (conductivity), from +0.15 to +0.53‰ (Fig.3), and Zn concentrations increase from 66 to 247  $\mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ . These results likely reflect the mixture between the Zn continental and the Zn metallurgic-anthropogenic during the tidal cycles. The heavier isotope compositions of the sample located at final of the fluvial transect (R5) indicate the old metallurgic zone as main source of Zn close in the inner bay. The Zn isotope compositions of upstream samples of the fluvial system, R1 (+0.15‰) and R2 (+0.19‰), overlap the typical signatures of diffuse sources as sewage and wastewaters (+0.10‰, Chen et al., 2009), traffic emission (+0.10‰ Thapalia et al., 2015) and manufactured Zn products Zn (+0.22  $\pm$  0.06‰, John et al., 2007a; Shiel et al., 2010; Yin et al., 2015). Thus, it seems that the continental Zn encompasses contributions of both natural and anthropogenic sources. The first is related to the rock and soil weathering and the second, to the intense urbanization, industrialization and urban sprawl of the watershed of Sepetiba bay.

At south bay area, under a marine environment, the SPM of SB1 and SB3 samples show low concentrations and  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values heavier than river upstream samples (R1 and R2). A possible explanation could be associated to marine carbonate contributions, which tend to present heavier isotope compositions (Kunzmann et al., 2012). The high Zn concentration and the heavy  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  value of +0.62‰ of the sample SB2 seem to reflect an anthropogenic Zn origin from the metallurgic impacted zone. The SB2 sample evidences the transport of contaminants in long distances induced by the hydrodynamics characteristics of the system and due to the continuous processes of deposition and resuspension of sediment particles (Barcellos et al., 1997). The dispersion of plume sediments shows a pattern of distribution towards west, leading the most fine-grained and colloids rapidly to cross the bay with high load of metal, while coarser sediments tends to be deposited in the northeastern shore (Patchineelam et al., 2011; Montezuma, 2013).

## 5.2 Tracing sources with Zn isotope compositions of bivalves tissues

A spatial analysis of the sampling sites (from P1 to P5) reveals the reduction of Zn concentrations in oyster tissues with the distance from the old metallurgic zone. Similar tendency were obtained previously by Rebelo et al.(2003), who concluded that the temporal and spatial Zn concentrations changes are directly related to major or lower influence of metallurgic-anthropogenic Zn exported to the bay. In comparison to this last study, the Zn concentrations decreased eight to four fold probably due to the closure of metallurgic activities in 1997 and the removal of wastes from the watershed in 2012.

However, the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of bivalve tissues of Sepetiba bay were not correlated to Zn concentrations nor associated to SPM samples. In the metallurgic impacted zone (Saco do Engenho mangrove), we find a strong significant isotopic difference between sediments and oysters ( $\Delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{SPM-oyster}} \approx 0.43\text{‰}$ , Fig.4). In the rest of the bay, the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of oysters and mussels from P2 to P5 sampling sites clustered around  $+0.83 \pm 0.10\text{‰}$ , not showing any spatial tendency toward lighter or heavier values. Thus, unlike the SPM samples, Zn isotopes compositions of bivalve tissues did not enable the identification of end-member or tendencies of mixing process. However, it is important to note an apparent matching between the  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of oysters and mussels from P2 to P5 ( $+0.83 \pm 0.10\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=22$ ) and the Zn-enriched SPM collected in the old metallurgic zone ( $+0.92 \pm 0.04\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ).

Moreover, oysters (*Crassostrea Brasiliana*) and mussels (*Perna Perna*) collected at same sampling site (P5) showed Zn isotope compositions statistically equals, despite the considerable difference on Zn concentrations. This suggests that differences on physiological processes concerning the controlling of uptaking, accumulation and excretion of trace metals do not influence significantly their isotope compositions. Male and female mussels, in similar way, presented statistically different Zn concentrations as reported in previous studies (La Touche and Mix, 1982; Roméo et al., 2012), but had also  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values statistically equals, denoting no relation between sex and Zn isotope compositions.

Our results are lined up with previous findings of Petit et al.(2015) in the Gironde estuary, who verified also a lack of correspondence between Zn isotopic signatures of bivalve tissues and sources. These authors suggested that oysters of this estuary incorporate the Zn of dissolved phase, which undergo constant isotope fractionations associated to adsorption processes on solid surfaces. Thus, the sources

signatures are overprinted and the bioisotopic record of Zn in the tissues reflect the geochemical processes that took place along the zone of fresh and marine waters mixing.

Such mechanism fits well to explain the lighter isotope compositions found in the oysters from the contaminated area by the old metallurgic activity. In the small channel inside the mangrove of Saco do Engenho (Fig.1), the dissolved phase presented anomalous concentrations above  $3,000 \mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ , indicating a probably high bioavailability of Zn associated to its forms as ion free or chloride complexes (Ahlf et al., 2009). Hence a large Zn incorporation via dissolved phase could be expected. Despite we were not able to measure the isotope composition of this phase to confirm it, experimental and empirical studies suggest that Zn adsorption on solid phases leads the dissolved pool toward lighter Zn isotope compositions (Pokrovsky et al., 2005; Gélabert et al., 2006; Balistrieri et al., 2008; Little et al., 2014; Bryan et al., 2015), which magnitude tend to be stronger in mediums of high ionic strength and variable pH ranges (Bryan et al., 2015; Szyrkiewicz and Borrok, 2016), such as occurs in estuaries environment. Therefore, the large difference between oyster tissues and the suspended particulate matter in the old metallurgic zone ( $\Delta_{\text{SPM-Oyster}} \approx 0.43\text{‰}$ ) could be explained by the Zn bioaccumulation mechanism via dissolved phase, which would be strongly fractionated in relation to sediment pool due to changes of pH and salinity during tidal cycles. The absorption pathway of dissolved forms as free or complexed ions occurs in the gills where these elements can be passively accumulated by facilitated diffusion or actively pumped across the membranes (Carpene and George, 1981; Goslim, 2003; Wang and Rainbow, 2005). The free (hydrate)-metal ions are recognized as the most bioavailable and toxic form, while inorganic and organic complexes can also be potentially bioavailable (Anderson et al., 1984; Milero, 2001).

In the others sampling sites (from P2 to P5), Zn isotope compositions were heavier and practically equals:  $+0.85 \pm 0.06\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=12$ ) to oysters and  $+0.82 \pm 0.14\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=10$  samples) to mussels. This suggest a common mechanism for Zn bioaccumulation by the bivalves in these areas, different from the oysters collected in the old metallurgic zone (P1). In the areas outside the hotspot of contamination (Saco do Engenho), Zn concentrations of dissolved phase decrease to values below our limit of detection ( $20 \mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$  for Zn), which makes the particulate phase the probable main route of metal transference to the biota of Sepetiba bay. Previous studies observed expressive Zn concentrations ( $\sim 80\%$  wt.) in the weakly bound fraction extracted with  $0.1 \text{ mol.L}^{-1}$



HCl. These high amounts of Zn in labile fractions of sediments are potentially bioavailable to the biota (Lacerda et al., 1987), since metals can undergo desorption at acid pH in the bivalve gut and be incorporated by the gut epithelial cells (Griscom et al., 2000; Griscom and Fishier, 2004; Birch and Hogg, 2011). Alternatively, metal transference via trophic chain may be also an important factor taking into account the high Zn concentrations found in brown algae from Sepetiba bay ( $\sim 800 \mu\text{g.g}^{-1}$ , Amado Filho et al., 1999).

As the labile Zn potentially bioavailable comes predominantly in the major anthropogenic source, i.e, the old electroplating wastes, it is plausible that bivalve tissues will incorporate the Zn isotopic signature of this source (Lacerda et al., 1987). Based on these hypothesis, we could explain: i) why the isotope compositions of oysters and mussels in the inner bay are very similar amongst the sampling sites from P2 to P5 ( $+0.83 \pm 0.10\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=22$ ) and ii) why they are isotopically similar to the SPM samples from the old metallurgic zone ( $+0.92 \pm 0.04\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ). A general model of Zn isotopic fractionation involving possible routes of bioaccumulation in bivalves of Sepetiba bay is presented in the Fig.5

## 6. Conclusions

The Zn isotope systematics of the SPM samples allowed the identification of end-members and mixing process in the fluvial-estuarine system. The SPM heavily contaminated by the old electroplating wastes presented  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of  $+0.92 \pm 0.04\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ), which are similar to reported values for metallurgical wastes and effluents (Yin et al., 2015). Continental Zn brought by the main river of the bay showed lighter  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of  $+0.15$  and  $+0.19\text{‰}$ , indicating probable anthropogenic diffuse sources contributions (Chen et al., 2009; Thapalia et al., 2015).

The Zn isotope systematics of bivalve tissues indicated two distinct groups: one representing the hotspot area of the old metallurgic zone with  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of  $+0.49 \pm 0.06\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ) and other comprising the rest of sampling stations with  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values around  $+0.83 \pm 0.10\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=22$ ). Unlike SPM samples, the Zn isotope systematics of bivalves were not associated to end-member or mixing processes. Instead, bioisotopic record of Zn in bivalve tissues seems reflect different routes of bioaccumulation: in the metallurgic impacted zone (P1), high abundance of Zn in the dissolved phase ( $> 3,000 \mu\text{g.L}^{-1}$ ) constitute probably the main route of bioaccumulation

to bivalves, while in the rest of the bay (P2 to P5 sites), the particulate route likely predominates through the ingestion, digestion and incorporation of the Zn bound to labile fraction of contaminated particles. We suggest that most part of the labile Zn bound to the particles preserves the isotope signature of the old electroplating wastes.

In conclusion, our study indicates that Zn isotopes in bivalve tissues for identification of natural and anthropogenic sources are limited. However, our hypothesis opens new possibilities to use Zn isotopes as tracer of routes of bioaccumulation. This would be of great interest to environmental management, concerning the setting of water and sediment quality criteria. However, future Zn isotope compositions determinations on the dissolved and labile phase of sediments are required to confirm our hypothesis. In addition, we recommend controlled laboratorial experiments in order to unveil the Zn isotope fractionation associated to the different routes of bioaccumulation and Zn speciation.

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**Table 1.** Suspended particulate matter (SPM) and water data set.

	$Zn_{SPM}$ $\mu g \cdot g^{-1}$	$Zn_{Diss}^{\ddagger}$ $\mu g \cdot L^{-1}$	$\delta^{6664}Zn_{JMC}$	$2\sigma$	$\delta^{6864}Zn_{JMC}$	$2\sigma$	$n$	SPM $mg \cdot L^{-1}$	Conductivity $mS \cdot cm^{-1}$	pH
<i>Saco do Engenho (Old metallurgic zone)</i>										
MZ1	2339	3384	0.87	0.05	1.62	0.10	2(1)	25	57	7.3
MZ2	1169	85	0.93	0.10	1.88	0.09	2(1)	21	55	7.8
MZ3	325	66	0.95	0.05	1.87	0.09	2(1)	59	51	7.8
<i>River – SF Channel</i>										
R1	66	87	0.15	0.09	0.32	0.15	4(2)	22	1.5	6.9
R2	23	<L.D <sup>a</sup>	0.19	0.06	0.31	0.06	2(1)	118	7	7.0
R3	68	<L.D	0.41	0.11	0.79	0.10	4(2)	84	10	7.2
R4	247	<L.D	0.29	0.14	0.60	0.31	4(2)	169	11	7.3
R5	208	<L.D	0.53	0.06	1.02	0.11	2(1)	20	29	7.9
<i>South bay</i>										
B1	60	<L.D	0.44	0.07	0.90	0.10	2(1)	29.4	69	7.9
BE2	629	<L.D	0.62	0.06	1.31	0.10	6(3)	16.9	68	8.0
BE3	82	<L.D	0.52	0.08	1.12	0.08	2(1)	24.8	68	8.1

\* n= total of measurements and the respective number of replicates in the brackets.

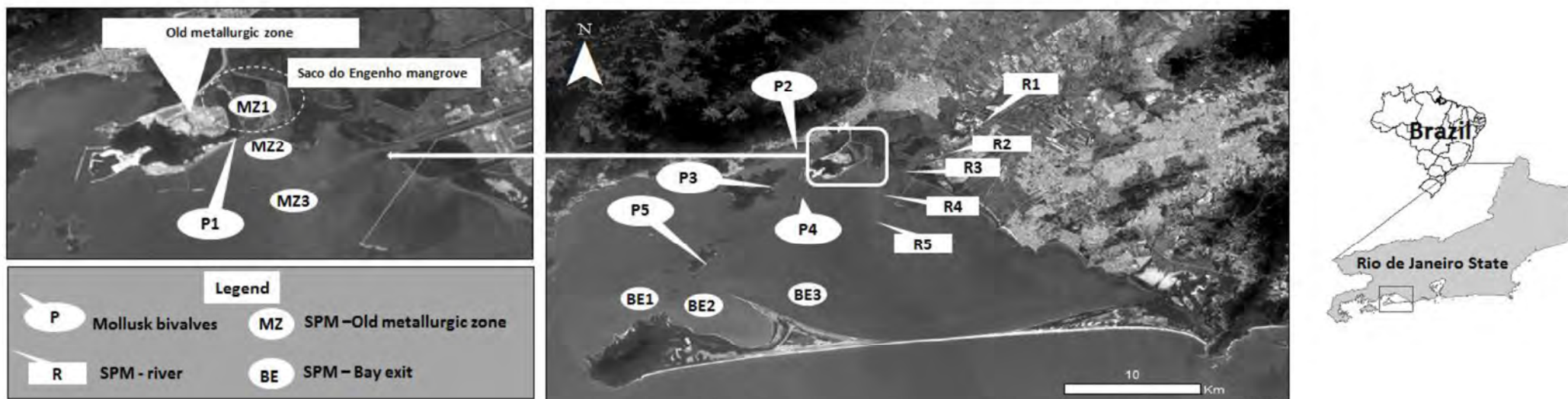
<sup>‡</sup> The limit of detection for Zn was estimated in 20  $\mu g \cdot L^{-1}$ .

**Table 2.** Oysters and mussels data set.

	Zn	$\delta^{66}$ JMC	2 $\sigma$	D68 JMC	2 $\sigma$	n
<i>Oyster Crassostrea Brasiliana</i>						
<b>P1- Saco do Engenho</b>						
SI	20824	0.48	0.06	1.03	0.06	2(1)
SII	21097	0.49	0.06	0.98	0.07	2(1)
SIII	20922	0.49	0.05	1.10	0.05	2(1)
Average	<b>20947 ± 138</b>	<b>0.49 ±0.01</b>		<b>1.04 ±0.12</b>		
<b>P2-Gato</b>						
GAI	4506	0.90	0.05	1.79	0.10	2(1)
GAI	5696	0.87	0.05	1.77	0.08	2(1)
GAI	4953	0.87	0.06	1.82	0.07	2(1)
Average	<b>5052 ± 601</b>	<b>0.88 ±0.03</b>		<b>1.79 ±0.05</b>		
<b>P3-Martins</b>						
MAI	6182	0.82	0.05	1.69	0.05	2(1)
MAI	6561	0.81	0.05	1.73	0.07	2(1)
MAI	7693	0.81	0.05	1.63	0.10	2(1)
Average	<b>6812 ± 786</b>	<b>0.81 ±0.01</b>		<b>1.68 ±0.07</b>		
<b>P4- Itacurussá</b>						
ITI	4454	0.83	0.07	1.66	0.08	2(1)
ITII	7625	0.87	0.05	1.70	0.06	2(1)
ITIII	3657	0.84	0.05	1.66	0.06	2(1)
Average	<b>5245 ± 2099</b>	<b>0.84 ±0.04</b>		<b>1.67 ±0.05</b>		
<b>P5- Jaguanum</b>						
JI	2836	0.84	0.06	1.72	0.07	2(1)
JII	2941	0.85	0.07	1.78	0.08	2(1)
JIII	3945	0.84	0.07	1.72	0.07	2(1)
Average	<b>3241 ± 613</b>	<b>0.85 ±0.01</b>		<b>1.74 ±0.07</b>		
<i>Mussels Perna Perna<sup>¥</sup></i>						
<b>P5- Jaguanum</b>						
W1	107	0.81	0.05	1.57	0.07	2(1)
W2	105	0.82	0.07	1.47	0.13	4(2)
W3	123	0.79	0.11	1.45	0.10	4(2)
W4	130	0.83	0.06	1.49	0.11	4(2)
W5	127	0.98	0.12	1.94	0.18	2(1)
W6	127	0.85	0.10	1.66	0.11	2(1)
O1	187	0.82	0.06	1.44	0.10	4(2)
O2	128	0.71	0.08	1.32	0.08	2(1)
O3	141	0.77	0.07	1.46	0.07	2(1)
O4	189	0.80	0.10	1.40	0.21	4(2)
Average	<b>136 ±29</b>	<b>0.82 ±0.14</b>		<b>1.52 ±0.35</b>		

\* n= total of measurements and the respective number of replicates in the brackets.

¥ Male and female mussels are designed by the letters “W” and “O”, respectively.



**Fig.1.** Map of sampling in Sepetiba bay. At left, it is shown a zoom in the old metallurgic zone, where the electroplating activity operated from 60's to end of 90's. The dashed circle line highlight the Saco do Engenho mangrove, one site heavily impacted by the wastes lixiviated from the old wastes produced by the electroplating processes. Bivalve sampling stations: P1- Saco do Engenho; P2- Gato; P3- Martins; P4- Itacurussá; P5- Jaguanum.



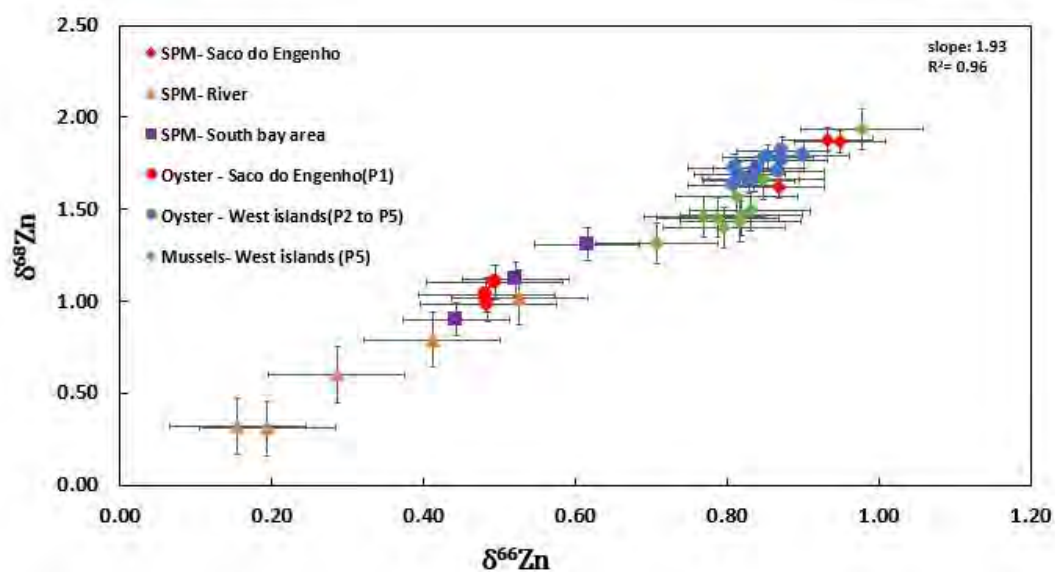


Fig.2. Zinc three-isotope plots for SPM, oyster and mussels samples follow the mass-dependent fractionation law of slope 1.93.

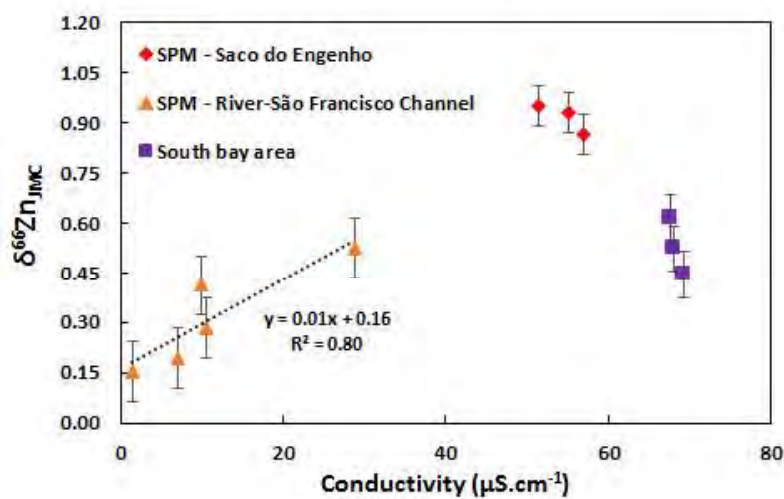
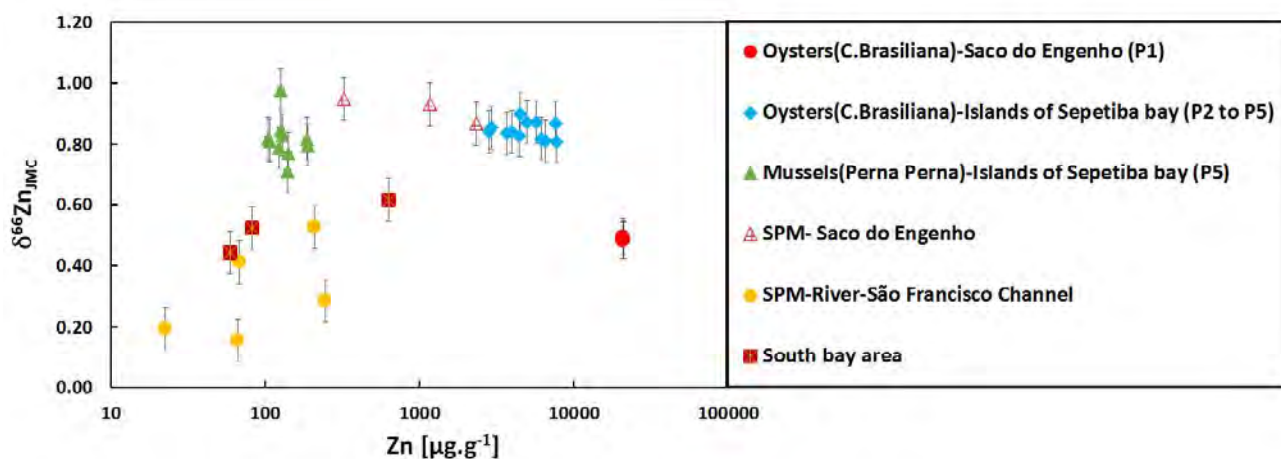
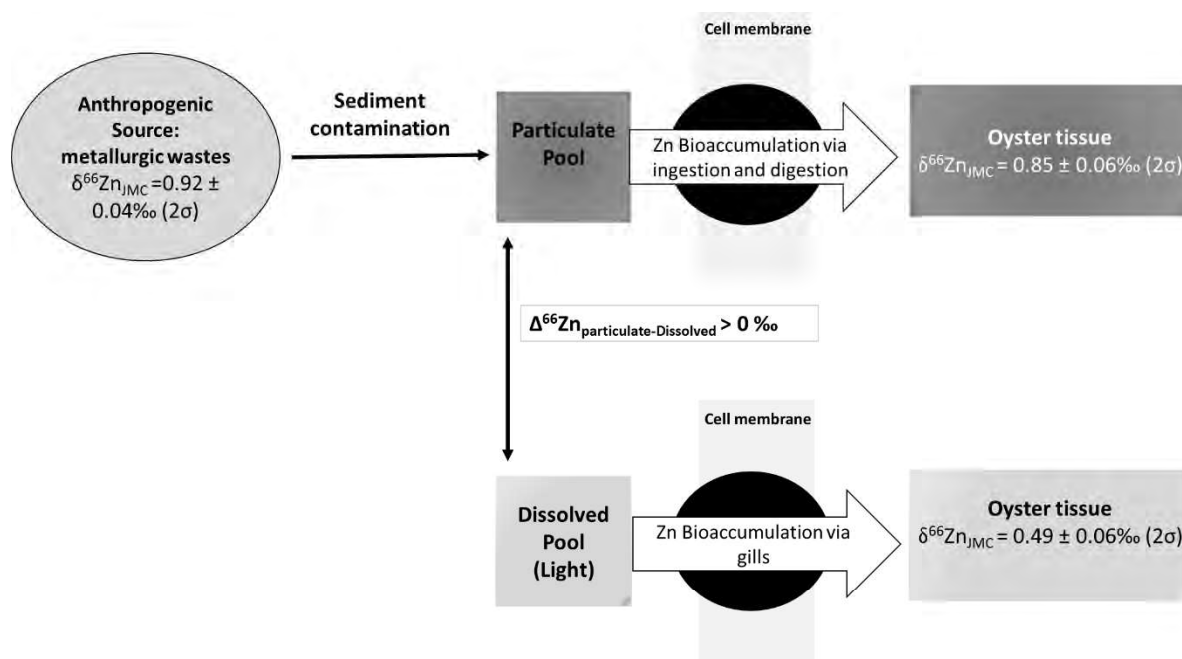


Fig.3. The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  of SPM samples against conductivity.



**Fig.4.** The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  and Zn concentrations of SPM, oysters and mussels samples of Sepetiba bay. The error bars ( $2\sigma$ ) correspond to 0.07‰. Together are presented  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of bivalves mollusks reported in previous studies in their respective errors ( $2\sigma$ ) reported



**Fig.5.** Model of Zn isotope fractionation for bivalve mollusks of Sepetiba bay. The  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of can be explained by two different routes of Zn bioaccumulation: one via dissolved phase and other via particulate phase, with preferential incorporation of the labile Zn bound-particles. Light refers to enrichment of light isotopes in the dissolved phase promoted by sorption processes at interfaces of solid surfaces, as demonstrated and predicted in experimental and theoretical studies (Bryan et al., 2015; Szyrkiewicz and Borrok, 2016).

### MAIN FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This thesis investigated the applicability of Zn isotopes as a tracer system for the sources and biogeochemical processes of this metal, and as a potential biomonitoring tool for metal contamination in coastal-zone ecosystems. The first step of this work addressed to establish a method for chromatographic separation and determination of Zn isotopic compositions in environmental reference materials. An ion exchange chromatography protocol was adjusted to enable faster sample throughput and the instrumental mass bias processes in MC-ICP-MS instruments was investigated. The improved chromatographic protocol yielded precise and quantitative recoveries ( $99 \pm 7\%$ ,  $\sigma$ ,  $n=16$ ), while the mass bias correction using Cu as external dopant provided precisions better than  $0.02\%$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n=7$ ). Analysis of reference materials of silicate rocks (BHVO-2 basalt; BCR-2 basalt; AGV-2 andesite) agreed with previous studies, while the Zn isotopic dataset for three environmental reference materials (San Joaquin Soil SRM 2709-  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} = +0.28 \pm 0.10\%$ ; 1646a Estuarine Sediment-  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} = +0.32 \pm 0.06\%$ ; 1573a tomato leaves  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} = +0.79 \pm 0.09\%$ ) contributed to fill a gap in the metrological traceability and analytical control of Zn isotopic data for environmental matrices.

Then, Zn isotopes were determined in natural samples collected from Sepetiba bay (southeastern Brazil) and ores from Vazant deposit (Brazil). The Zn isotope compositions of the samples (expressed using the  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  notation relative to the JMC 3-0749-L solution) varied between  $-0.01$  and  $+1.15\%$ , including rocks, sediment cores, leaves of mangrove's trees, tissues of bivalve mollusks (oysters and mussels) and ores.

Sediment and rock samples enabled the identification of three main end-members: i) continental materials brought via rivers; ii) marine sources and iii) a major anthropogenic source associated to the old electroplating wastes released into the bay. The  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  signature for metallurgical wastes was estimated to  $+0.86 \pm 0.15\%$  ( $2\sigma$ ), which is heavier than the values observed for willemite (ranging from  $-0.1$  to  $+0.14\%$ ). This suggests a significant fractionation induced by electroplating processes. The  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  signature for the terrestrial natural material background end member

was  $+0.28 \pm 0.12\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ), while the oceanic material that enters the bay was characterized by  $\delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values of  $+0.45 \pm 0.03\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ).

Sediment cores collected in the mud flat showed high correlation between  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  and Zn enrichment factors, suggesting (i) good preservation of isotopic records of natural and anthropogenic sources and (ii) no significant isotopic fractionation during sediment transport or by diagenetic reactions post deposition in the estuarine system. The sediment core sampled from a mangrove located in the zone impacted by the metallurgy presented levels of Zn up to 4% and preserved the isotopic signatures of electroplating wastes. However, there is evidence that biogeochemical processes triggered by hydrodynamics, bioturbation and rhizosphere processes slightly changed the isotopic signatures in some layers from this core toward heavier  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  values above 1.0‰. Spatial and temporal analysis of sediments fit well in a model of mixing involving terrestrial, marine and the anthropogenic end-members (i.e., metallurgical waste). Calculations based in this mixing model quantified the contribution of this major anthropogenic source of Zn as ranging from negligible values in the pre-industrial period to nearly 80% during periods of electroplating activities. The sedimentary records of this anthropogenic contribution consistently decreased in different areas of the bay during the most recent years, reflecting the end of metallurgical activities in 1998. Overall, these findings demonstrates that Zn isotope determinations of sediments are effective to trace anthropogenic sources both spatially and temporally in coastal areas and mangrove forests.

The Zn isotope systematics of bivalve tissues discriminated two groups: one comprising bivalve samples collected in the old metallurgic zone ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} +0.49 \pm 0.06\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=3$ ) and other composed by the rest of sampling stations ( $+0.83 \pm 0.10\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n=22$ ). Unlike sediments, bivalves did not enable the identification of end-member or tendencies of mixing process, suggesting limitations to sources tracing. Instead, these bioisotopic signature can be related to mechanism of bioaccumulation, i.e. uptake via dissolved and particulate phase. It is hypothesized that in the zone heavily impacted zone by old electroplating wastes, the bivalves incorporate the high levels of Zn in the dissolved phase though the bivalve gills by facilitated diffusion or actively pumped across the membranes. Outside this zone, due the low content of Zn in the dissolved phase and high Zn concentrations on suspended particulate matter, bivalves incorporate the labile Zn bound to particulate matter during the gut digestion.

Zinc isotopic signatures of leaves ranged between +0.07 and +0.25‰ and were also not able to identification of sources due to the significant Zn isotopic fractionation during Zn upktaking. However, analysis of the Zn isotopic fractionation between mangrove leaves and sediments (expressed using  $\Delta^{66}\text{Zn}_{\text{plant-sediment}}$ ) varied between -0.73 to -0.25‰ and was negatively correlated to the Zn sediment concentrations, suggesting that high Zn contaminated sites trigger tolerance mechanisms of mangrove's trees, inducing different Zn isotopic pattern from leaves collected in sites with low contamination.

The Zn isotope compositions of biological samples analyzed in this study indicate limitations to tracer sources, but great potential to elucidate routes of metal bioaccumulation in bivalve molluscs and to unveil physiological processes and responses of plants during environmental stress. Future studies are required to link the Zn speciation, bioavailability and mechanisms of isotopic fractionation during its incorporation to the biota. This knowledge can be useful to apply Zn isotopes as auxiliary tool in the setting of water and sediment quality criteria and to provide new insights on metal transference to food chains of coastal ecosystems.

To conclude, Zn isotopes compositions of abiotic samples such as sediments are effective to detect biogeochemical changes triggered by anthropogenic activities and to support prevention, monitoring and prediction of risks in coastal sites impacted by metal contamination. Biological samples of bivalves and leaves of mangrove's trees are not suitable to sources tracing, but the distinct isotopic patterns of Zn found for those samples from sites highly contaminated are promising to apply Zn isotopes as biomarkers of metabolic pathways and physiological effects associated to metal contamination. However, more investigations are required to elucidate the controlling mechanisms of Zn bioisotopic signatures.

## RESUMO ESTENDIDO EM PORTUGUÊS

**(Referências estão inseridas nos respectivos capítulos do corpo principal da tese)**

### Capítulo 1- Contexto, objetivos e área de estudo

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Nas últimas décadas, avanços conceituais de química e física e o desenvolvimento tecnológico na instrumentação da espectrometria de massa, permitiram a medição de isótopos radioativos e estáveis com alta precisão e sensibilidade (Baskaran, 2011). Desde então, análises isotópicas de materiais biológicos e abióticos vem fornecendo informações tanto qualitativas como quantitativas sobre processos químicos, físicos, geológicos e biológicos que governam os ciclos naturais dos elementos químicos. Este novo campo científico, baseado em medições isotópicas e conhecimentos multidisciplinares, deu-se o nome de Biogeoquímica Isotópica (Baskaran, 2011).

As diferentes esferas de nosso planeta –biosfera, hidrosfera, atmosfera, geosfera– estão sob constantes transformações devido às mudanças climáticas e pelas perturbações dos ciclos elementares naturais pelas atividades antrópicas (Biachi, 2007; Mason, 2001). Logo, a aplicação de isótopos nos sistemas naturais apresenta importante papel na elucidação destas mudanças com a criação de modelos que possam descrever e prever suas causas e consequências.

De especial interesse para estudos ambientais e de relevância para a saúde humana estão os sistemas isotópicos estáveis de metais transição e pós-transição (e.g, Zn, Cu, Fe, Mo). Estes elementos são ubíquos na natureza e normalmente ocorrem como elementos traços, à exceção do Fe (Adriano & Adriano, 2001). Apresentam-se como importantes micronutrientes para os seres vivos e tem grande importância econômica e tecnológica na indústria, mineração e metalurgia, bem como sérias implicações ambientais decorrentes destas atividades antrópicas (Kossov et al., 2014; Ettler et al., 2016). Os ciclos naturais destes metais são drasticamente alterados devido à grande remobilização de reservatórios profundos para a superfície terrestre, o que leva à contaminação e enriquecimento destes elementos nos compartimentos naturais como solo, água e ar (Mason, 2001). Dependendo da biodisponibilidade e especiação, metais traços podem ser incorporados pela biota, incluindo o Homem. Alguns deles, como Zn,

Cu e Mo, possuem papel biológico importante como componentes de enzimas e proteínas (*metaloproteínas*) e também como participantes diretos de reações bioquímicas à nível celular (Reylly. 2004). Entretanto, em altas concentrações, metais traços podem apresentar alta toxicidade, fornecendo riscos aos organismos vivos. Outros metais, que não desempenham funções biológicas, como Hg e Cd, mesmo em pequenas quantidades podem causar sérios danos à biota e aos humanos (Adriano & Adriano, 2001; Sparks, 2005).

Isótopos estáveis de transição e pós-transição são fracionados na natureza ou artificialmente durante reações biogeoquímicas, resultando em produtos ou reservatórios isotopicamente distintos do substrato ou reagente original (Wiederhold, 2015). A compreensão dos principais fatores de fracionamento isotópico, suas magnitudes e mecanismos, isto é, em equilíbrio ou via cinética, abre possibilidades para usar as razões isotópicas de metais de transição como traçadores para obtenção de informações sobre fontes, transporte e destino destes elementos no ambiente (Wiederhold. 2015).

Dentre estes novos sistemas isotópicos, isótopos de Zn tem sido aplicado com sucesso na discriminação de fontes naturais e antrópicas, em contextos de contaminação urbana por tráfico veicular (Gioia et al., 2008; Thapalia et al., 2015), efluentes domésticos e esgoto (Chen et al., 2008ç, 2009), mineração e metalurgia (Dogolopova et al., 2006; Mattielli et al., 2006; Weiss et al., 2007; Sivry et al., 2008). A eficácia destes isótopos decorre do significativo fracionamento isotópico que estes apresentam em processos industriais, como metalurgia, eletrólise e combustão à altas temperaturas, resultando em subprodutos e manufaturados isotopicamente distintos da matéria prima inicial (Kavner et al.; 2008; Sivry et al., 2008; Borrok et al.; 2010; Ochoa and Weiss, 2015; Thapalia et al., 2015; Yin et al.; 2015). Além disso, isótopos de Zn também são fracionados por processos de superfície à baixa temperatura, tais como adsorção em superfície de sólidos orgânicos e inorgânicos, complexação por ligantes, precipitação, incorporação biológica, transporte intercelular, etc. (Pichat et al., 2003; Stenberg et al., 2004; Weiss et al., 2004; Pokrovsky et al., 2005; Bermin et al., 2006; Gélabert et al., 2006; Balistrieri et al., 2008; Peel et al., 2009; Fujii et al., 2011; Jouvin et al., 2012; Little et al., 2014b; Kafantaris and Borrok, 2014; Matthies et al., 2014; Dekov et al., 2014; Coutaud et al., 2014; Zhao et al., 2014; Bryan et al., 2015; Veeramani et al., 2015).

Apesar de uma considerável literatura, desenvolvida em pouco menos de duas décadas, apontar por enorme potencial dos isótopos de Zn como traçador de fontes e processos, a aplicabilidade deste sistema isotópico em ambientes costeiros permanece pouco investigada. A zona de transição entre o ambiente terrestre e marinho é caracterizada por expressivos gradientes físico-químicos nas propriedades da água e do sedimento, como pH, salinidade, condições redox, matéria orgânica, além de intensa diagênese promovida pela atividade microbiana e múltiplas fontes naturais e antrópicas. Todo este conjunto de processos e fontes tornam o estudo dos ciclos biogeoquímicos de metais em sistemas costeiros extremamente desafiador, uma vez que solubilidade, mobilidade, biodisponibilidade e toxicidade destes elementos são constantemente modificados (Biachi, 2007; Du Laing, 2009; Mason, 2013). Aparte desta complexidade, os ambientes costeiros também apresentam grande relevância ambiental e econômico, pois neles se encontram ecossistemas essenciais, dos quais extraímos matérias-primas, combustíveis e comida, além de funcionarem como pontos estratégicos para o transporte comercial (Agardy & Alder, 2010; Lewis, 2011; Bayen, 2012). Todas estas benesses levaram historicamente as populações humanas de todo o planeta se assentarem preferencialmente próximo da costa, e hoje, mais de 60% da população mundial se concentra numa faixa de 60 km dos estuários. Como consequência, estas zonas são fortemente pressionadas pela atividade antrópica, tornando-se mais suscetíveis a processos de assoreamento, eutrofização, deterioração da qualidade da água e exposição à contaminantes orgânicos e metálicos (Alcamo and Bennett, 2003). Desde que a manutenção da qualidade dos ecossistemas costeiros são fundamentais para o contínuo progresso econômico e manutenção do bem-estar social do homem, torna-se imperativo o desenvolvimento de ferramentas que sejam capazes de identificar mudanças biogeoquímicas de sistemas naturais de forma a auxiliar à prevenção, monitoramento, predição de riscos e à remediação de áreas impactadas (Biachi, 2007). Neste sentido, as composições isotópicas de Zn de amostras naturais –sedimento, água, planta, animais biomonitoradores como bivalves- constituem uma promissora ferramenta para estudos ambientais de ambientes costeiros.

**Assim, o principal objetivo desta tese foi investigar a aplicabilidade de isótopos de Zn como traçadores de fontes e processos biogeoquímicos, e também como ferramenta de biomonitoramento de ecossistemas costeiros.** Como área modelo, foi escolhida a baía de Sepetiba, um estuário do tipo lagunar, localizada a 60



km da cidade do Rio de Janeiro. A escolha desta baía se justifica – além da presença de importantes ecossistemas como estuários, mangues, planícies de maré- por seu histórico de contaminação pela atividade de refino de Zn (galvanoplastia), que perdurou entre a décadas de 60 a 90 (Molisani et al., 2004; Rodrigues et al., 2012). Estudos biogeoquímicos prévios nas últimas décadas consolidaram uma considerável base de dados e conhecimentos acerca da dinâmica dos contaminantes metálicos nessa baía, os quais servem de ponto de partida para a amostragem e interpretação de resultados neste trabalho (Molisani et al., 2004; Lacerda and Molisani, 2006). Atualmente, a baía de Sepetiba hospeda em sua bacia de drenagem uma população estimada em mais 1,400.000 habitantes, o maior complexo industrial siderúrgico da América Latina e três grandes portos (Molisani et al., 2006; Roncarati and Carelli, 2012). Os principais rios na baía são o Rio Guandu, Guarda e Guandu-Mirim, os quais desembocam por meio de canais artificiais. Dentre eles, o canal do São Francisco, responde por mais de 86% de todo aporte de água doce no sistema lagunar (Molisani et al., 2004).

Para conduzir este projeto na baía de Sepetiba, estabeleceu-se primeiro uma metodologia analítica para determinação de composições isotópicas de Zn em amostras naturais. A partir dos dados obtidos das amostras desta área de estudo, objetivou-se:

- i) Identificar fontes e destinos do Zn antropogênico;**
- ii) Reconstruir temporalmente e espacialmente a evolução da contaminação de Zn;**
- iii) Verificar a influência de processos biogeoquímicos estuarinos nas assinaturas isotópicas de Zn durante o transporte e deposição deste elemento;**
- iv) Compreender os efeitos da contaminação antrópica nos mecanismos de incorporação de Zn e processos de tolerância pela vegetação de mangue;**
- v) Elucidar o significado do registro isotópico do tecido mole de moluscos bivalves em termos de fontes ou processos.**

## Capítulo 2- Biogeoquímica de metais-traços em ambientes costeiros e de mangue

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Em ambientes costeiros, diversas feições podem ser encontradas, incluindo costões rochosos, bancos de areias, dunas, recife de corais, lagunas, estuários, zonas intermarés, planícies de inundação como florestas de mangues, pântanos, etc. Este capítulo trata da biogeoquímica de metais traços de estuários e zonas intermarés devido à relevância ecológica relacionada à contaminação antrópica nesses ambientes e seu potencial risco para a biota e à saúde humana (Jickells & Rae, 1997; Alcamo & Bennett, 2003).

Estuários correspondem a principal via de transporte dos materiais continentais para o oceano. Eles podem ser definidos como um corpo aquático, semi-fechado, que se estende até o limite da influência de maré, no qual a água do mar entra a partir de uma ou mais conexões com o oceano aberto, ou ainda, um corpo de água costeiro salino diluído pela água doce (Perillo, 1995)

Metais-traços chegam aos estuários por processos naturais, como intemperismo e erosão das rochas e dos solos, atividade vulcânica, ou lançados por fontes antrópicas, como atividades industriais, agrícolas e domésticas presentes na bacia de drenagem (Adriano & Adriano, 2001; Sparks, 2005). Eles atingem o sistema estuarino através da atmosfera, águas subterrâneas ou através de vias fluviais, estes últimos constituindo o principal aporte (Mason, 2013). Ao longo do percurso no sistema fluvio-estuarino, metais-traços são transformados por processos biogeoquímicos e distribuídos entre as fases particulada (0.45 mm), coloidal (1 nm-0.45 milímetros) e dissolvida (<1 nm). No geral, as contribuições antropogênicas e formação de complexos estáveis com matéria orgânica dissolvida tendem a aumentar as concentrações de metais na fase dissolvida (Windom & Smith, 1985; Tercier-Waeber & Taillefert, 2008; Mason, 2013). Por se associarem fortemente a fase particulada, sua distribuição entre as fases sólida e dissolvida é influenciada pela carga de material particulado suspenso (Tuner & Millward, 2002; Mason, 2013).

Metais-traço ocorrem na fase dissolvida em três formas principais: como íon livre, complexo inorgânico e orgânico. Os cinco ligantes inorgânicos de importância primordial em águas naturais são  $F^-$ ,  $Cl^-$ ,  $SO_4^{2-}$ ,  $OH^-$ ,  $HCO_3^-$ ,  $CO_3^{2-}$ ,  $HPO_3^{2-}$ ,  $NH_3$  e, em

águas anóxicas,  $\text{HS}^-$  e  $\text{S}^{2-}$  (Parametrix, 1995). Ligantes orgânicos incluem a matéria orgânica natural, constituída por substâncias húmicas (matéria orgânica em decomposição), que apresentam grupos funcionais orgânicos (carboxílico, aminoácidos, sulfídricos e fenólicos) como sítios de ligação (Paquin et al. 2002). A formação de complexos em águas naturais influencia as taxas de processos redox, solubilidade mineral e disponibilidade bioquímica. Os íons livres são reconhecidos como a forma mais biodisponível e tóxica, enquanto complexos inorgânicos e orgânicos podem também ser potencialmente biodisponíveis e apresentarem alguma toxicidade (Anderson et al, 1984; Milero, 2001).

Nos estuários, ao longo da zona de mistura de águas doces e marinhas no estuário, o pH aumenta de valores tipicamente neutros para valores alcalinos acima de 8, levando a desprotonação dos grupos funcionais e o aumento da capacidade de sorção das superfícies de ligação (Eby, 2004). Por sua vez, o aumento de salinidade (ou da força iônica) conduz à liberação de metais adsorvidos na superfície de colóides e partículas, devido a competição entre íons metálicos e íons maiores da água do mar pelos sítios de sorção destas superfícies, ou devido à formação de complexos de cloreto solúveis (Du Laing et al., 2009). A salinidade também favorece a coagulação e floculação de material em suspensão através da neutralização das cargas negativas do material particulado por eletrólitos presentes na água do mar (Turner & Millward, 2000). O material floculado tende decantar no sedimento de fundo, e promove assim, a limpeza de coluna de água através da adsorção dos metais dissolvidos na superfície das partículas. (Mason, 2013). Esta característica dos estuários, torna seus sedimentos os principais sumidouros de metais exportados do continente em direção aos oceanos (Bianchi, 2007; Mason, 2013). O sedimento de fundo estuarino e das zonas intermarés também acumulam grande quantidade material orgânico, cuja decomposição catalisada por micro-organismos promove reações biogeoquímicas e gradientes redox, que levam à formação de novas fases minerais e alterações na composição das águas, bem como a especiação, mobilidade e toxicidade de metais traços (Berner, 1980; Chester, 2000). A este conjunto de processos, dá-se o nome de *Diagênese*.

A complexidade dos vários processos que ocorrem na interface sedimento-água, associadas ainda a dificuldades analíticas para a especiação de metais traços, inviabilizam muitas vezes a avaliação da biodisponibilidade e a toxicidade da contaminação a partir de amostras de sedimento ou água. Alternativamente, a

amostragem e análise de amostras biológicas (*biomonitores*), tais como os tecidos de organismo ou seus fluidos, podem informar sobre as quantidades de metais que incorporados nos organismos, indicando a carga total de metais no ambiente que apresenta relevância ecotoxicológica (Raibow, 1995; Mercado et al., 2003). Assim, biomonitores são úteis para o estabelecimento de variações, espaciais e/ou temporais, na biodisponibilidade de metais e são vantajosos para reduzir os custos dos programas de monitoramento ambiental (Raibow, 1995).

Moluscos bivalves é a classe de animais mais utilizados em estudos ambientais de biomonitoramento de contaminação por metais (Oehlmann e Schulte-Oehlmann, 2003). Os bivalves representam a segunda classe mais abundante entre as seis classes do filo Mollusca, um dos mais diversificados no reino animal (mais de 130,000 espécies conhecidas; Gosling, 2003). Eles são animais de corpo mole comprimidos lateralmente por duas conchas de proteção. Abundantes e com ampla ocorrência geográfica, eles ocorrem em quase todos os habitats costeiros encontrados na Terra em uma grande variedade de substratos, incluindo costões rochosos, recifes de coral, zonas intermarés, e praias arenosas, e apresentam um papel ecológico vital para os ecossistemas aquáticos e terrestres (Gosling, 2003).

Vários atributos fazem os moluscos organismos ideais para monitoramento de contaminação por metais: em primeiro lugar, sua natureza sedentária não requer a consideração de fatores migratórios complexos na interpretação dos dados de bioacumulação de metais (Gupta e Singh, 2011; Zhou et al., 2008). Em segundo lugar, eles apresentam altas concentrações de metais devido suas altas taxas de bioacumulação que facilitam aspectos de análise laboratorial (Gupta e Singh, 2011; Wang et al., 1996). Outras características vantajosas incluem: tolerância a alterações ambientais e a contaminantes, apresentam populações amplas e estáveis, ciclos de vida razoavelmente longos e tamanhos de fácil manuseio (Oehlmann e Schulte-Oehlmann de 2003).

Os bivalves são capazes de incorporar metais em diferentes formas, seja como íons livres, complexados e/ou associados ao material particulado. A incorporação pode se dar pelo trato intestinal ou pelas brânquias. Metais dissolvidos são incorporados pelas brânquias. Metais ligados a fases de partículas podem ser incorporados pós-desorção ou solubilização por enzimas durante os processos de digestão no trato gastrointestinal (Griscom e Fishcer, 2004). Após atravessarem a membrana plasmática, metais essenciais se ligam em sítios específicos dentro da célula onde desempenham um papel

essencial, por exemplo, zinco na enzima anidrase carbônica ou cobre em hemocianina. Caso, estejam em excesso, podem agir em sítios de outros elementos, e assim, causar efeitos adversos. Para evitar intoxicação, as células de bivalves podem ativar mecanismos de desintoxicação. Estes envolvem a ligação de metais a proteínas, tais como metalotioneínas ou a grânulos insolúveis, a fim de tornar o metal indisponível quimicamente para participar dos processos metabólicos (Raibow, 2002; Raibow, 2007). No geral, metais-traços causam efeitos tóxicos quando a taxa de absorção de metal excede as doses taxas de desintoxicação e excreção do metal (Rainbow, 2002; Ahlf et al., 2009).

### **Capítulo 3- Biogeoquímica dos isótopos estáveis de Zn: uma revisão**

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Zinco (Zn) é um metal de pós-transição, calcófilo do Grupo 12, ubíquo no ambiente e com participação em muitos processos biogeoquímicos, tanto intra e intercelular, e em sistemas abióticos, que abrangem desde o núcleo até a superfície terrestre, bem como em materiais extraterrestres. O Zn desempenha funções vitais para os seres vivos como componente estrutural de várias proteínas metabolicamente importantes (Cloquet et al, 2006; Hansch e Mendel, 2009). Num adulto humano, cerca de 2 g de Zn são distribuídos por todo o corpo, compondo enzimas essenciais, como anidrase carbônica e carboxipeptidase A (Cloquet et al., 2006). Este elemento é encontrado na natureza principalmente combinado com enxofre e oxigênio, sob a forma de sulfetos ou óxido, respectivamente. Os principais minérios de Zn são a esfarelita e wurtzita, ambas com a fórmula ZnS, mas com estruturas cristalográficas distintas (cúbica e hexagonal). A maior parte da Zn produzido (~ 95%) no mundo vem de minérios de sulfetos de Zn e maior parte de seu uso é empregado na galvanoplastia (<http://www.zinc.org>).

Atividades antrópicas têm alterado o ciclo natural do Zn, ocasionando seu enriquecimento no solo, ar, água e sedimento. As principais fontes antrópicas de Zn são as emissões veiculares, efluentes de águas residuárias e esgoto, e rejeitos industriais, metalúrgicos e de mineração, (John et al, 2007; Weiss et al.2007; Chen et al.2009; Juillot et al, 2011; Yin et al, 2015). Os aportes de Zn para a atmosfera aumentaram em

25% devido às atividades antrópicas e estes impactos tem se refletido sobre a química da água da chuva de grandes cidades e até mesmo em regiões distantes dos centros industriais (Gaillardet et al, 2003; Mason, 2013). Além dessas emissões relacionadas com a atividade humana, a ciclagem natural do Zn no ambiente continua ininterruptamente movida pelo intemperismo e erosão das rochas e dos solos (Kabata-Pendias, 2008; Adriano e Adriano, 2001). Todos estes processos mobilizam uma variedade de compostos de Zn no ambiente.

Nos últimos 20 anos, os avanços na instrumentação da espectrometria de massa permitiram medir com grande precisão as composições isotópicas de Zn. A compreensão dos fatores que controlam a abundância relativa de seus isótopos na natureza se deve em grande parte a sólida base teórica herdada dos isótopos estáveis clássicos não-metálicos (C, N, H, O, N), desenvolvidos nas décadas anteriores. Similarmente aos isótopos não-metálicos, o fracionamento isotópico de Zn decorre dos efeitos da mecânica quântica associados a diferenças nos níveis de energia de frequência vibracional de ligações entre os isótopos e ligantes adjacentes (McSween et al., 2003). Portanto, processos químicos, físicos e biológicos (por exemplo, evaporação, fusão, cristalização, difusão, complexação, adsorção, precipitação, transporte intercelular, etc.) podem afetar a abundância relativa de seus isótopos entre reagentes e produtos em reações físico-químicas ou entre as diferentes fases componentes de um sistema (Hoefs, 2009).

O fracionamento isotópico de Zn é dependente da massa dos isótopos e ocorre por dois mecanismos: cinético e equilíbrio. O primeiro ocorre nas reações irreversíveis e unidirecionais, como a evaporação, reações de dissociação, reações mediadas biologicamente, e difusão. O fracionamento cinético favorece a formação de produtos enriquecidos no isótopo leve porque suas ligações são quebradas mais rapidamente que ligações que envolvem o isótopo pesado (Weiss et al, 2007; McSween et al., 2003). O fracionamento em equilíbrio isotópico envolve a redistribuição de isótopos de um elemento entre as várias espécies ou compostos durante uma reação de equilíbrio químico ou físico, onde os isótopos pesados são enriquecidos nos compostos termodinamicamente mais estáveis ou com as ligações mais fortes (Wiederhold, 2015). Como regra geral, o enriquecimento do isótopo pesado é esperado em compostos que apresentam maior grau de oxidação (íons de alta carga tendem a formar ligações mais estáveis), baixa configuração eletrônica de spin e menor número de coordenação (Anbar

e Rouxel, 2007). No estado de equilíbrio, as taxas das reações para a frente e para trás são idênticas e a magnitude do fracionamento tende a diminuir à medida que a temperatura aumenta, na maioria dos casos proporcional a  $1/T^2$  (Allègre, 2008; Wiederhold, 2015). As variações isotópicas de Zn são relatadas como valores relativos em comparação a um dado padrão de referência, utilizando valores de delta ( $\delta$ ) expressos em por mil, que podem assumir valores positivos ou negativos. À medida que o isótopo pesado é usado no numerador e o leve no denominador, as razões mais positivas são mais "pesadas" em comparação com o padrão, enquanto que os valores negativos são mais "leves". Para o sistema isotópico de Zn, a relação ( $^{66}\text{Zn}/^{64}\text{Zn}$ ) é geralmente escolhida devido à grande abundância destes isótopos e são expressos como valores  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$ , como segue:

$$\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = \left( \frac{\left( \frac{^{66}\text{Zn}}{^{64}\text{Zn}} \right)_{\text{amostra}}}{\left( \frac{^{66}\text{Zn}}{^{64}\text{Zn}} \right)_{\text{padrão}}} - 1 \right)$$

A notação  $\delta$  também é vantajosa porque supera o problema analítico de comparar diretamente as razões medidas entre os laboratórios, o que torna difícil de se reproduzir de maneira exata e precisa (Wiederhold, 2015). O estabelecimento de um padrão de referência comum facilita comparações e calibrações interlaboratoriais. Para o sistema isotópico de Zn, dois materiais isotópicos de referência certificados estão disponíveis comercialmente, ambos fornecidos pelo *Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements* (IRMM-651 and IRMM-3702) (Vogl e Pritzkow, 2012; Irrgeher, 2015). No entanto, a solução elementar Zn JMC 3-0749 L ("JMC") tem sido adotada na maioria dos trabalhos publicados na literatura relacionada, sendo também escolhida para este trabalho para expressar as composições isotópicas de Zn.

Dada a relação inversa com a temperatura, o fracionamento isotópico de Zn torna-se bastante discreto em processos de diferenciação magmática, e portanto, as composições de rochas ígneas, metamórficas e sedimentares tendem a se agrupar dentro de uma faixa estreita de valores ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} = +0.20$  a  $+0.40$  ‰; Chapman et al.2006; Cloquet et al.2006; Herzog et al.2009; Moynier et al.2009; Chen et al.2013). Investigações em rochas vulcânicas mostraram que os processos de alta temperatura na diferenciação magmática induzem fracionamentos discretos, com valores de  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$

não maiores do que +0.10‰. Uma vez que magma e crosta não se diferenciam isotopicamente uma composição isotópica de Zn média para a Terra tem sido estimada em  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} = +0.28 \pm 0.05\text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ) (Chen et al. 2013). Apesar desta restrita faixa de composições isotópicas, existem casos de unidades geológicas com valores  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  contrastantes à média da crosta (por exemplo, o orógeno de Taiwan), que habilitam a utilização de isótopos de Zn como traçador de proveniência de sedimentos (Bentahila et al., 2004).

Perfis de solos apresentam maior variedade de composições isotópicas do que a rocha, com valores de  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  abrangendo de -0.18 a +0.55 ‰ (Fekiacova et al., 2015). Esta ampla faixa de valores pode ser atribuída à combinação de processos biológicos e abióticos na redistribuição de Zn em diferentes horizontes do solo durante processos pedogenéticos (Viers et al. 2007). Devido à complexidade inerente destes processos, padrões nas assinaturas isotópicas de Zn entre horizontes são difíceis de serem estabelecidas, apesar de uma certa tendência geral para valores de  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  centrarem em torno +0.1‰ e +0.2‰ nos horizontes B e O, respectivamente (Fekiacova et al., 2015). Além da pedogênese, as várias reações químicas do solo envolvendo a sorção de Zn em argilominerais e matéria orgânica, processos de eluição ao longo do perfil, podem alterar a especiação de Zn e, conseqüentemente, a sua composição isotópica. Um estudo de Zn isótopos combinada com espectroscopia de EXAFS em um sistema de sedimentos de planícies de inundação mostrou que as espécies de Zn com geometria tetraédrica foram enriquecidas em isótopos pesados (+0.33 ‰), enquanto que os compostos de Zn com geometria octaédrica foram enriquecidas em isótopos leves (-0.04 ‰) (Aucour et al., 2013). Tais resultados têm implicações importantes para o rastreamento de fontes uma vez que as assinaturas isotópicas de fontes podem ser modificadas por processos que modifiquem a coordenação ou, melhor dizendo, a especiação do Zn. Em solos contaminados, alterações das assinaturas isotópicas originais das fontes antrópicas de Zn foram reportados, e atribuídos às diversas reações químicas e a influência da vegetação no solo (Juillot et al., 2011).

No oceano, os dados do oceano Austral, Atlântico Norte e Pacífico Norte, são notavelmente homogêneos, com uma média de  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = +0.53 \pm 0.14 \text{‰}$  ( $2\sigma = \pm 0.03$ ,  $n = 21$ ). A superfície Oceano Antártico é mais variável, com  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  variando de +0.07 a + 0.80 ‰. Uma delimitada faixa de profundidade entre 40-80 m nestes oceanos mostrou valores mais leves, próximos de +0.3‰, possivelmente associados com



processos de incorporação biológica preferencial do isótopo leve. Assim, a atividade primária e a remoção do isótopo leve tem sido evocados para explicar as composições isotópicas mais pesadas de sedimentos marinhos autigênicos, incluindo nódulos Fe-Mn ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = 0.90 \pm 0.28 \text{ ‰}$ ; Maréchal et al, 2000), carbonatos biogênicos; e opala biogênica ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = 0.91 \pm 0.24 \text{ ‰}$  Pichat et al., 2003) ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = 0.76\text{-}1.47 \text{ ‰}$ ; Andersen et al, 2011). No entanto, balanços de massa entre entradas e saídas de isótopos de Zn nos oceanos não fecham, indicando que um sumidouro de isótopos leves ainda precisa ser identificado (Little et al., 2014).

Fracionamento isotópico por processos biológicos também foram evocadas para explicar as variações temporais de valores  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  em partículas de um lago suíço temperado (Lago Greifen, Peel et al., 2009). Estas amostras apresentaram variações de valores de  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  entre  $-0.66$  a  $+0.21\text{‰}$ , com os valores mais negativos observados após o período de alta produtividade primária na primavera e verão. O padrão temporal observado foi consistente com a captação preferencial do Zn isótopo leve na biomassa algal durante os períodos de alta produtividade primária. O fracionamento isotópico biológico de Zn também tem sido utilizado para avaliar produtividade primária ao longo do tempo geológico, a partir do registro estratigráfico de carbonatos (Pichat et al. 2003). Dados isotópicos de Zn de dolomitos neoproterozóicos da formação Nuccaleena, sul da Austrália, foram interpretadas como o crescimento da evolução da atividade primária que sucedeu períodos posteriores a deglaciação do planeta.

Em minérios sulfetados de Zn, composições isotópicas apresentam média de valores  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  em torno  $+0.16 \pm 0.20 \text{ ‰}$  ( $2\sigma$ ,  $n = 10$  minas,  $n = 61$  análises). Carvões minerais apresentam valores de  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  entre  $+0.13$  a  $+0.88$  (Borrok et al, 2010; Gonzalez e Weiss; 2016). As assinaturas isotópicas de minérios e carvões têm implicações importantes para produtos finais e subprodutos produzidos em usinas metalúrgicas e térmicas. Processos de alta temperatura empregadas no refino de minérios de sulfeto e combustão de carvão induzem importantes fracionamento de isótopos, com o enriquecimento dos Zn isótopos leves na fase de vapor e dos isótopos pesados no material residual (Sivry et al, 2008; Borrok et al, 2010; Yin et al, 2015; Gonzalez e Weiss, 2016). No caso do refino de minérios, a etapa de eletrólise também pode fracionar isotopicamente o Zn, como demonstrado em experimentos eletroquímicos controlados (Kavner et al, 2008, Black et al, 2011; Black et al, 2014), no entanto, seu fracionamento industrial ainda não foi mensurado. Aparte dessas lacunas

relativas aos efeitos eletroquímicos, uma tendência geral é observada no processo de refino do Zn: emissões atmosféricas produzidas no processo apresentam a assinatura mais leve com valores baixos de  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$ , atingindo valores negativos próximos a -0.66 ‰ (Mattielli et al, 2009); rejeitos sólidos ou escórias apresentam valores de  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  mais pesados, com valores de até +1.49 ‰ (Sivry et al., 2008); e os produtos refinados (Zn metálico) com composições isotópicas próxima dos minérios usados como matéria prima ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn} = +0.22$  ‰, Yin et al., 2015). A diferença significativa nas composições isotópicas derivadas de fontes antropogênicas em comparação com as amostras naturais (solos e rochas, por exemplo) habilita os isótopos de Zn como um poderoso traçador das fontes capazes de discriminar e quantificar várias fontes poluentes, como subprodutos da mineração e metalurgia (Dogolopova et al, 2006;. Mattielli et al, 2006;. Weiss et al, 2007;. Sivry et al, 2008), e emissões do tráfico veicular nas grandes cidades (Gioia et al, 2008;. Thapalia et al, 2015) e águas residuárias e esgotos (Chen et al, 2008;. 2009).

O crescente número de grupos de pesquisa em biogeoquímica isotópica de metais contribuirá para o contínuo desenvolvimento de novas metodologias e avanços na compreensão teórica sobre os fatores que controlam o seu fracionamento isotópico na natureza. Desafiador, mas promissor é o acoplamento entre técnicas cromatográficas de separação (GC ou HPLC) e os instrumentos MC-ICP-MS para análises isotópicas combinadas com a especiação. Esta combinação de informações é fundamental para a compreensão dos ciclos biogeoquímicos e ambientais, e pode abrir novas fronteiras de aplicações na biomedicina a partir da investigação das razões isotópicas de metaloproteínas (Albarède, 2015).

Futuros estudos são necessários para ligar a especiação Zn e biodisponibilidade e mecanismos de fracionamento isotópico durante a sua incorporação à biota, e sua subsequente partição no interior do corpo humano e animal. O desenvolvimento de extração seletiva ou sequencial para análise isotópica das diferentes fases de solos e sedimentos poderia ser uma ferramenta auxiliar interessante para compreender o fracionamento isotópico durante a captação. No entanto, protocolos mais robustos e reprodutíveis são necessários, além da verificação de possíveis artefatos associados ao procedimento químico. Além dos avanços analíticos e metodológicos, investigações adicionais como depósitos minerais, incluindo aqueles com fases minerais não-sulfetadas, como ocorre em alguns depósitos brasileiros (Vazante, Minas Gerais), podem fornecer novos *insights* sobre a gênese dos sistemas de minério.

Concomitantemente, novos esforços para aumentar o conjunto de dados em compartimentos ambientais podem contribuir para identificar as fontes e sumidouros do Zn antrópico e seus fluxos através do biogeosfera, seja em escala local ou global.

Por fim, novos experimentos laboratoriais controlados e desenvolvimentos teóricos sobre os efeitos de coordenação química do Zn com diferentes ligantes serão úteis para interpretar e prever o fracionamento isotópico no ambiente e sistemas biológicos, abrangendo desde perfis estratigráficos de Zn ao longo do tempo geológico até os processos metabólicos que ocorrem nas células.

#### **Capítulo 4- Cromatografia de troca iônica e correções de viés de massa para medição acurada e precisa das razões isotópicas de Zn em amostras ambientais de referência por MC-ICP-MS**

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Neste trabalho, apresentamos dados  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  precisos e acurados para materiais de referência (MRs), incluindo rochas, sedimentos, solos e plantas, a fim de melhorar a rastreabilidade metrológica e controle analítico das determinações de isótopos de Zn em futuros estudos ambientais. Nós ajustamos um protocolo de cromatografia de troca iônica simplificado para permitir uma rápida obtenção de Zn de amostras naturais e investigamos os processos de viés de massa. O protocolo cromatográfico ajustado produziu elevadas recuperações de Zn ( $99 \pm 7\%$ ,  $\sigma$ ,  $n = 16$ ), enquanto a correção do viés de massa, utilizando a normalização externa com um padrão de Cu produziu precisões, em média, de 0.02 ‰,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n = 7$ . As investigações sobre interferências espectrais e não-espectrais identificaram a formação significativa de óxidos e hidróxidos de espécies iônicas de Cr e Ti. A análise de seis MRs (basalto BHVO-2; basalto BCR-2; andesito AGV-2; solo 2709 San Joaquin, sedimento estuarino 1646a e folha de tomate 1573a) mostraram boa reprodutibilidade ( $<0.10\%$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $5 \leq n \leq 1$ ).

## Capítulo 5- Isótopos de Zn como traçador de rejeitos metalúrgicos em ambientes costeiros

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Neste capítulo, a legitimidade de Zn isótopos para rastrear fontes antropogênicas nas zonas costeiras foi averiguada. As composições isotópicas de Zn foram determinadas em testemunhos de sedimentos, sedimentos superficiais, material particulado em suspensão (MPS), folhas de árvores de mangue e as rochas da Baía de Sepetiba, um estuário lagunar impactado por uma área costeira industrializada perto do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. Amostras de minérios, oriundas de depósitos minerais brasileiros também tiveram suas composições isotópicas de Zn determinadas. O objetivo foi testar isótopos de Zn como um traçador capaz de i) identificar fontes e sumidouros do Zn antropogênico; ii) reconstruir a evolução temporal e espacial da contaminação de Zn; iii) verificar a influência dos processos biogeoquímicos estuarinos na assinatura isotópica Zn durante seu transporte e deposição e iv) avaliar os efeitos da contaminação antrópica sobre as assinaturas isotópicas de Zn em folhas de mangue. As composições isotópicas de Zn (expressa utilizando a notação  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  relativa à solução JMC 3-0749-L) mostraram variações significativas nos testemunhos de sedimento, MPS, folhas e minérios de willemita, variando entre -0.01 a + 1.15‰. Análise espacial e temporal das amostras de sedimentos se adequaram à um modelo de mistura envolvendo três principais fontes: i) materiais detriticos continentais transportados via rios ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} = +0.28 \pm 0.12\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ); ii) materiais marinhos ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} = +0.45 \pm 0.03 \text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ) e iii) materiais antrópicos associada aos rejeitos da galvânica ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} = +0.86 \pm 0.15 \text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ). Um modelo de mistura com duas fontes, abrangendo os rejeitos da galvanoplastia e os materiais terrígenos, indicaram contribuições dos rejeitos metalúrgicos no teor total de Zn nos sedimentos próximos de 80% durante períodos de funcionamento da atividade galvânica. Testemunhos de sedimentos coletados na planície de lama mostraram altas correlações entre os valores de  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}$  e fatores de enriquecimento de Zn, indicando boa preservação dos registros isotópicos das fontes naturais e antropogênicas e sem fracionamento isotópico significativo durante o transporte estuarino de sedimentos ou por reações diagenéticas no sedimento de fundo. Um testemunho de sedimentos amostrado no mangue localizado à zona mais impactada pela metalurgia apresentou níveis de Zn superiores a 4% (sedimento de peso seco) e preservou as assinaturas isotópicas dos rejeitos da galvanoplastia. No entanto, há

evidências de que os processos biogeoquímicos desencadeados pela hidrodinâmica, bioturbação e processos na rizosfera alteraram ligeiramente as assinaturas isotópicas em algumas camadas para valores mais positivos  $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}}$  acima de +1.0 ‰. As assinaturas isotópicas de Zn não permitiram a identificação das fontes devido ao fracionamento isotópico relacionado à sua incorporação ao tecido vegetal. Folhas coletadas nos sítios com elevados níveis de contaminação exibiram um diferente padrão isotópico em relação às demais áreas pouco ou não contaminados. Esses diferentes padrões podem estar associados à mecanismos de tolerância de árvores de mangue, onde o Zn atinge níveis tóxicos. Em conclusão, o nosso trabalho sugere que composições isotópicas de Zn de sedimentos são traçadores confiáveis de fontes antropogênicas e, portanto, uma ferramenta valiosa para auxiliar a prevenção e monitorização em zonas costeiras. Por sua vez, as composições isotópicas de Zn de folhas são promissoras como biomarcadores de efeitos fisiológicos associados à contaminação por metais.

## **Capítulo 6- Composições isotópicas de Zn de moluscos bivalves de um estuário brasileiro: implicações para biomonitoramento de contaminação por metais**

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Determinação do zinco (Zn) isótopos nos tecidos bivalves têm sido explorados como uma inovadora ferramenta de biomonitoramento de contaminação por metais, potencialmente capaz de integrar informações acerca das fontes, destinos e biodisponibilidade do Zn. No entanto, a sua aplicabilidade permanece inconclusiva na literatura até o presente momento. A fim de investigar a aplicabilidade do das assinaturas bioisotópicas de Zn dos tecidos de bivalves para rastreamento de fontes ou inferências acerca de processos biogeoquímicos, realizamos um estudo com moluscos bivalves (*Crassostrea brasiliiana* e *Perna perna*) e amostras de material particulado em suspensão (MPS) coletados a partir de um estuário tropical historicamente impactado por atividades metalúrgicas (Baía de Sepetiba, sudeste do Brasil). A sistemática de isótopos de Zn das amostras de MPS permitiram a identificação de fontes e processo de mistura no sistema fluvial-estuarino. Por sua vez, a sistemática Zn isótopos de tecidos bivalves distinguiu dois grupos: o primeiro formado por amostras de bivalves coletados

na zona metalúrgica de idade ( $\delta^{66/64}\text{Zn}_{\text{JMC}} +0.49 \pm 0.06\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n = 3$ ) e um segundo grupo composto pelas demais estações de amostragem ( $+0.83 \pm 0.10\text{‰}$ ,  $2\sigma$ ,  $n = 22$ ). As assinaturas isotópicas dos bivalves não permitiram a identificação de fontes ou tendências do processo de mistura, sugerindo limitações às fontes de rastreamento. Encontramos, no entanto, que a sistemática de isótopos de Zn de bivalves da baía de Sepetiba pode estar relacionada com o mecanismo de bioacumulação, ou seja, a captação via dissolvido e fase particulada. Supõe-se que, na zona fortemente impactada pelos antigos rejeitos da atividade de galvanoplastia, os bivalves incorporam altos níveis de Zn da fase dissolvida através de suas brânquias e com acumulação a nível celular promovida pela difusão facilitada ou transporte ativo de membrana. Fora desta zona, devido ao baixo teor de Zn na fase dissolvida e altas concentrações deste elemento no material particulado em suspensão, bivalves incorporam a fração de Zn biodisponível associado às partículas durante a digestão intestinal. A confirmação da nossa hipótese de usar isótopos de Zn como traçador de rotas de bioacumulação seria de grande interesse para a gestão ambiental relativa à definição de critérios de qualidade de água e sedimento. Futuros estudos laboratoriais sob ambiente controlado podem fornecer novos entendimentos acerca da relação de biodisponibilidade, especiação de Zn e seu fracionamento isotópico em bivalves.

## Capítulo 7- Conclusões

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As composições isotópicas de Zn de sedimentos foram capazes de detectar e quantificar espacialmente e temporalmente mudanças biogeoquímicas desencadeadas por atividades antropogênicas. Portanto, a análise isotópica de Zn em sedimentos se apresenta como uma valiosa ferramenta em estudos de prevenção, monitoramento e previsão de riscos em zonas costeiras afetadas pela contaminação por metais.

As composições isotópicas de Zn em amostras de folhas de árvores de mangue não são adequadas para rastrear fontes, porém, os distintos padrões isotópicos entre as amostras coletadas em áreas contaminadas e não contaminadas são promissores quanto

ao uso dos isótopos de Zn como biomarcadores de efeitos fisiológicos e mecanismos de tolerância ativados pela contaminação de Zn.

A determinação isotópica de Zn em moluscos bivalves mostrou-se potencialmente capaz de traçar fontes, no entanto, mais estudos são necessários para compreender como a especiação do Zn e sua biodisponibilidade afetam o seu fracionamento isotópico durante a incorporação por estes organismos. Adicionalmente, os resultados apresentados neste trabalho apontam o grande potencial para elucidar rotas de bioacumulação de invertebrados aquáticos. Esse conhecimento pode ser útil para aplicar isótopos de Zn como ferramenta auxiliar na definição de critérios de qualidade de água e sedimento e fornecer novos *insights* sobre a transferência de metal para cadeias alimentares dos ecossistemas costeiros.

Futuros estudos devem ser direcionados à interface sedimento-água para melhor compreensão dos processos digenéticos sobre as composições isotópicas de Zn e a especiação deste elemento. Este estudo é fundamental para melhor interpretar os dados isotópicos de amostras biológicas.