

## Assessment of vanadium distribution in shallow groundwaters

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1           **ASSESSMENT OF VANADIUM DISTRIBUTION IN**  
2                           **SHALLOW GROUNDWATERS**

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## 26 **Abstract**

27 Shallow groundwater samples (filtered at 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ ) collected from a catchment in Western France  
28 (Petit Hermitage catchment) were analyzed for their major- and trace-element concentrations (Fe,  
29 Mn, V, Th and U) as well as their dissolved organic carbon (DOC) concentrations, with the aim  
30 to investigate the controlling factors of vanadium (V) distribution. Two spatially distinct water  
31 types were previously recognized in this catchment based on variations of the rare earth element  
32 (REE) concentrations. These include: (i) DOC-poor groundwater flowing below the hillslope  
33 domains; this type has low V contents; and (ii) DOC-rich groundwater originating from  
34 wetlands, close to the river network; the latter water type displays much higher V concentrations.  
35 The temporal variation of the V concentration was also assessed in the wetland waters; the results  
36 show a marked increase in the V content at the winter-spring transition, along with variations in  
37 the redox potential, and DOC, Fe and Mn contents.

38 In order to allow the study of organo-colloidal control on V partitioning in water samples,  
39 ultrafiltration experiments were performed at different pore size cut-offs (30 kDa, 10 kDa and 5  
40 kDa). Two shallow, circumneutral waters were sampled: one was both DOC- and Fe-rich and the  
41 other was DOC-rich and Fe-poor. In terms of major- and trace-cations and DOC concentrations,  
42 the data were processed using an ascendant hierarchical classification method. This revealed the  
43 presence of two main groups: (i) a "truly" dissolved group (Na, K, Rb, Ca, Mg, Ba, Sr, Si, Mn,  
44 Co, Ni, Cr, Zn and Ni), and (ii) a colloidal group carrying DOC, Fe, Al, Pb, Cu, REE, U, Th and  
45 V. Vanadium has an unpredictable behaviour; it can be either in the organic pool or in the  
46 inorganic pool, depending on the sample.

47 Moreover, V speciation calculations - using Model VI and SCAMP - were performed on both  
48 samples. Speciation modelling showed approximately the same partitioning feature of these  
49 elements as compared to ultrafiltration data, namely: a slight change of the V speciation in  
50 groundwaters along the studied topographic sequence.

51 This implies that vanadium in hillslope groundwater wells occurs as a mixing of organic and

52 inorganic complexes, whereas V in wetland groundwater wells comprises mainly organic  
53 species. Using the dataset described above, factors such as aquifer-rock composition or  
54 anthropogenic input were demonstrated to probably play a minor role in determining the V  
55 distribution in shallow groundwaters. Although an anthropogenic impact can be ruled out at this  
56 local scale, we cannot preclude a perturbation in the global V cycle. Most likely, the two  
57 dominant factors involved are the organic matter content and the redox state either promoting  
58 competition with Fe-, Mn-oxides as V carriers in groundwater or not. In this context, it appears  
59 challenging to determine whether organic matter or redox-sensitive phases are the major V  
60 carriers involved, and a further study should be dedicated to clarify this partition, notably to  
61 address the processes affecting large-scale V transport.

62

## 63 **1. Introduction**

64

65 Vanadium (V) is a naturally occurring element in air, soil, plants and water. Its average content  
66 in the earth's crust is approximately 0.0136% (Greenwood and Earnshaw, 1997). Vanadium in  
67 trace amounts represents an essential element for normal cell growth, but it may cause adverse  
68 effects when its concentration is much greater than a few tenths of  $\mu\text{g}$  per litre (Hope, 1997).  
69 Most data on the release of V into the environment have been related to industrial activities,  
70 especially from oil refineries and power plants using V-rich fuel oil and coal (e.g., Moskalyk and  
71 Alfanti, 2003 and references therein). Crude oil is enriched in V with respect to many other trace  
72 elements, with concentrations occasionally exceeding  $1 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  (Hope, 1997). Thus, the fraction  
73 of dissolved V in surface waters might be an environmental indicator of oil combustion or  
74 pollution. Such pollution sources may be responsible for appreciable amounts of V into the  
75 environment, well above the natural background levels associated with rock weathering and  
76 sediment leaching (Hope, 1997; Lowenthal et al., 1992; Rühling and Tyler, 2001). Fluvial  
77 dissolved V concentrations might also be indicative of the types of rocks being weathered or, of

78 the nature of the weathering process. Shiller and Boyle (1987) presented an overview of the  
79 behaviour of dissolved V in rivers and estuaries. Shiller and Boyle (1987) and Shiller and Mao  
80 (2000) concluded that weathering rate and type of source rock, rather than solution chemistry or  
81 anthropogenic influences, appeared to be the important controlling factors on fluvial dissolved V  
82 concentrations.

83 Vanadium has several oxidation forms between -1 and +5. Vanadium(II) is particularly  
84 unstable in the environment (Wehrli and Stumm, 1989). Vanadium(III) is more stable than V(II),  
85 but it is also gradually oxidized by the air or dissolved oxygen. Vanadium(V) is expected to be  
86 the prevailing form in waters exposed to atmospheric oxygen, whereas V(IV) may be present in  
87 reducing environments. The oxidation rate of V(IV) to V(V) and the equilibrium between these  
88 two species in aqueous solution depend on several factors, such as pH, V concentration, redox  
89 potential, the ionic strength of the aqueous system and biological activity (e.g., Wang and  
90 Sanudo Wilhelmy, 2009). In water, V(IV) is commonly present as a vanadyl cation [ $\text{VO}^{2+}$ ,  
91  $\text{VO}(\text{OH})^+$ ], whereas V(V) exists as a vanadate oxyanion ( $\text{H}_2\text{VO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{HVO}_4^{2-}$ ) (Wanty and  
92 Goldhaber, 1992).  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  is strongly adsorbed on solid phases, including organic and  
93 oxyhydroxide phases (Wehrli and Stumm, 1989). Adsorption of anionic V ( $\text{H}_2\text{VO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{HVO}_4^{2-}$ ) is  
94 much lower than the cations; however,  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  solubility may be greatly increased through  
95 complexation with organic matter (Lu et al., 1998; Szalay and Szilagyi, 1967). While V(IV) is  
96 not thermodynamically stable at  $\text{pH} > 7$ , complexation by various organic and inorganic species  
97 may considerably increase its stability (Wanty and Goldhaber, 1992). Eventually, the V(V)  
98 oxidation state ion is more toxic than the V(IV) ion (Hope, 1997; Hope, 2008).

99 A recent study on the geochemistry of V has emphasized the redox features of this  
100 element (Wright and Belitz, 2010), which makes it more soluble in oxidizing waters than in  
101 reducing waters (Wehrli and Stumm, 1989). As a consequence, fluvial dissolved V  
102 concentrations might be an indicator of inputs from reducing sources within river drainage  
103 systems (Shiller, 1997; Sugiyama, 1989). Additionally, this difference in solubility appears to be

104 an important contributing factor to the enrichment of V in organic-rich reducing sediments (Breit  
105 and Wanty, 1991). Other studies have investigated V geochemistry as a potential  
106 paleoceanographic tool. For example, Francois (1988) and Calvert and Pedersen (1993)  
107 examined the V accumulation in sediments as an indicator of past reducing conditions in specific  
108 oceanic regions. Hastings et al. (1996) have also evaluated the incorporation of V into biogenic  
109 carbonate phases as a possible indicator of the past oceanic conditions. Seeking a better  
110 understanding of the processes that result in V removal into organic-rich sediments, Emerson and  
111 Husted (1991) assessed V distributions in oxygen-depleted present-day natural waters. They  
112 found that dissolved V concentrations were generally lower in anoxic basins than in oxic  
113 seawater, due to V removal into anoxic sediments. In addition to the study by Emerson and  
114 Husted (1991), other authors (e.g., Szalay and Szilagyi, 1967) have suggested that organic  
115 matter may play a role in modifying vanadium's redox behaviour through the reduction of V(V)  
116 by humic acid and by the competition of organics with solid surfaces for V(IV). However, in  
117 order to explain oceanic changes in terms of dissolved V, the processes majorly affecting the  
118 oceanic sources of this element must also be understood (i.e., rivers, groundwaters).

119 This study reports temporal and spatial variations of V shallow groundwaters from wells located  
120 along a transect set perpendicular to the topographic slope (hereafter denoted as toposequence)  
121 set up in a small catchment in France. Ultrafiltration and speciation modelling of representative  
122 samples of this toposequence, using the Windermere Humic Aqueous Model (WHAM) including  
123 both Humic Ion-binding Model VI (Tipping, 1998) and the Surface Chemistry Assemblage  
124 Model for Particles (SCAMP; Lofts and Tipping, 1998), are also presented. Such modelling  
125 permits the calculation of equilibrium chemical speciation for waters in which natural organic  
126 matter plays a significant role. The catchment studied here was chosen as a suitable site for V  
127 investigation because information in terms of hydrogeology, hydrochemical and trace elements  
128 such as rare earth elements (REE) settings is already available (Clément et al., 2003; Gruau et al.,  
129 2004). In this context, the main aims of this work are to address the respective influence of

130 source-rock composition, redox changes and organic matter on the distribution of V in shallow  
131 groundwaters.

132

## 133 **2. Material and methods**

134

### 135 2.1 Site description

136 The study was conducted between winter 1998 and spring 2004 in a riparian ecosystem  
137 (the “*Le Home*” toposequence) located along a small tributary (Petit Hermitage Creek) in western  
138 France (48.3°N, 1.3°W), at an altitude of ca. 20 m above sea level (Fig. 1). The study site was  
139 located within a 14 km<sup>2</sup> drainage basin. The region has an oceanic climate characterized by mild,  
140 humid weather throughout the year. Annual rainfall ranged between 850 and 900 mm during the  
141 study period. The mean discharge of the stream is approximately 90 L s<sup>-1</sup>. The stream  
142 hydrological regime is characterized by low permanent flow during dry periods (i.e., late spring  
143 and summer), and rapid and significant flood events during high water periods (i.e., late winter  
144 and early spring). The upland-riparian boundary is characterized by a steep 2–3 m drop in  
145 elevation from the surrounding fields into the riparian ecosystem (Fig. 1). The catchment drained  
146 by the riparian wetland is mainly agricultural with crops and grass fields for cattle. At the time of  
147 the study, the eastern part of the upslope was under perennial grassland mown for hay and grazed  
148 by suckling cows and calves for only a few weeks per year. The western part of the upslope was  
149 a crop field (maize/wheat) with intensive agricultural practices. Fertilizer application rates were  
150 high, [N]<sup>3</sup> 200 kg ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>, which resulted in high groundwater NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-N concentrations ranging  
151 from 10 to 20 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (Clément et al., 2003; Gruau et al., 2004). The geological substratum of the  
152 catchment is granite in the upstream part (Villectartier Forest) and micaschist (Proterozoic schist)  
153 in the downstream part where the study site is located. Compared to the deeper fresh rocks, the  
154 upper 10-20 m have been weathered into a higher clay content. The wetland is filled with late  
155 Phanerozoic clay-rich alluvium.

156

## 157 2.2 Sampling and field measurements

158 Wetland groundwater samples (F14 well) were recovered weekly from January 1999 to  
159 June 1999 for the temporal and spatial variation study. Groundwater samples flowing below the  
160 upland/wetland transition zone (F5 and F7 wells) were collected twice, in February 1998 and  
161 January 1999, while the upland P11 well was sampled only once, in January 1999 (Fig. 1).  
162 Wetland groundwaters (F14 well) and other samples flowing below the upland/wetland transition  
163 zone (F7 well) were sampled in November 2004 for the ultrafiltration experiments. These water  
164 samples were immediately filtered on site using 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  cellulose acetate filters. Filters were pre-  
165 cleaned with ultrapure water to prevent any contamination (Bouhnik-Le Coz et al., 2001;  
166 Petitjean et al., 2004). Temperature, pH and Eh were measured on site. The pH was measured  
167 with a combined Sentix 50 electrode; the accuracy of the pH measurement is  $\pm 0.05$ . Eh was  
168 measured using a platinum combination electrode (Mettler Pt 4805). Electrodes are inserted into  
169 a cell constructed to minimize diffusion of atmospheric oxygen into the sample during  
170 measurement. Eh values are presented in millivolts (mV) relative to the standard hydrogen  
171 electrode. The accuracy of Eh measurement is  $\pm 5$  mV.

172

## 173 2.3 Ultrafiltration set-up description and chemical analyses

174

175 Ultrafiltration experiments were performed on two samples recovered from the F7 and  
176 F14 wells using 15 mL centrifugal tubes (Millipore Amicon Ultra-15) equipped with permeable  
177 membranes of decreasing pore sizes of 30 kDa, 10 kDa, and 5 kDa ( $1 \text{ Da} = 1 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$  for H) for  
178 the separation of the colloidal bound elements. Metal-colloid complexes are retained by the  
179 ultrafiltration membrane, whereas free ions and smaller chemical complexes pass into the  
180 ultrafiltrate. The degree of metal-colloid complexation is usually determined from the metal  
181 concentration in the ultrafiltrate relative to the original solution. Each centrifugal filter device



182 was washed and rinsed with HCl 0.1 mol L<sup>-1</sup> and ultra-pure (MilliQ) water two times before use.  
183 The starting filtrates were passed through a 0.2 µm filter, and then aliquots of these filtrates were  
184 passed through membranes of smaller sizes. All ultrafiltrations of the 0.2 µm filtrates were done  
185 in parallel. The centrifugations were performed using a Jouan G4.12 centrifuge equipped with  
186 swinging bucket rotor at about 3,000 g for 20 minutes for the 30 kDa and 10 kDa filters and 30  
187 minutes for the 5 kDa filters, respectively. All experiments were carried out at room temperature  
188 (~20 ± 2°C).

189 Major cations and trace elements concentrations were determined by ICP-MS (Agilent  
190 Technologies HP4500) at the University of Rennes 1. Quantitative analyses were carried out by  
191 external calibration (three points) by using mono- and multi-element standard solutions (Accu  
192 Trace Reference, USA) with major- and trace-element concentrations similar to that of the  
193 analyzed samples. Indium was used as an internal standard at a concentration of 100 µg L<sup>-1</sup> in  
194 order to correct for instrumental drift and matrix effects. The measurement bias for the  
195 determination of the concentration of major- and trace-elements was assessed in a previous work  
196 by the analysis of the SLRS-4 certified reference material (river water); a bias < 2% was obtained  
197 for all analytes (Pédrot et al., 2008; Pourret et al., 2007b; Yeghicheyan et al., 2001). Dissolved  
198 organic carbon concentrations were determined using a Shimadzu 5000 TOC analyzer  
199 (Université de Rennes 1). A measurement bias of ± 5% was obtained by the analysis of a freshly  
200 prepared standard solution of potassium biphtalate. Total alkalinity was determined by  
201 potentiometric titration with an automatic titrating device (794 Basic Titrino Methrom). Major  
202 anion (Cl<sup>-</sup>, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> and NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>) concentrations were measured by ionic chromatography (Dionex  
203 DX-120) with a bias below 4%. Carbonate alkalinity was determined by potentiometric titration  
204 with an automatic titrator (Basic Titrino Metrohm).

205 It is worth noting that the ultrafiltration procedure prevents the calculation of the mass  
206 balance using the ratio between the filtrate and the retentate because the retentate volumes are  
207 limited (0.2 mL). However, as the same material was used for all filtrations, molecular size

208 exclusion rather than adsorption onto membranes should control the colloid distributions between  
209 ultrafiltrates.

210 In our study, all ultrafiltrations were performed in duplicate. A good repeatability was  
211 observed for DOC and both major and trace element concentrations. The relative difference  
212 between duplicates was generally < 5% for most elements except for some trace elements in the  
213 lower pore size cut-off fraction (i.e., in the < 5 kDa fraction, about 10%). Further information on  
214 the ultrafiltration procedure can be found in Pourret et al. (2007b). The possible adsorption of  
215 major and trace inorganic species onto the membrane or cell walls was also monitored. For this  
216 purpose, inorganic multi-element standard solutions - whose concentrations were representative  
217 of that of the studied groundwaters - were ultrafiltered several times (Pourret et al., 2007b).

218 The results showed that between 92.99% (for Pb) and 99.99% (for Mg) of the major- and trace-  
219 elements present in solutions were recovered in the ultrafiltrates (96.13% for V), demonstrating  
220 that neither the major nor trace elements were adsorbed onto the membranes or walls of the cell  
221 devices.

222 In order to lessen the cross-contamination of any of the analytical steps (sampling,  
223 filtration, storing and analysis), the samples were stored in acid-washed Nalgene polypropylene  
224 containers before analyses. The blank levels were lower than 2% of the measured concentrations  
225 for all studied elements, except for DOC (< 6%).

226

## 227 2.4 WHAM 6, Model VI and SCAMP description

228

229 WHAM 6 (version 6.0.10) was used to calculate V speciation. Predictions for the  
230 equilibrium metal binding by environmental colloids made for the present study were done using  
231 the combined WHAM-SCAMP speciation code. WHAM-SCAMP is able to provide a full  
232 description of solid-solution speciation by incorporating two main codes: (1) the Windermere  
233 Humic Aqueous Model (WHAM) to calculate the equilibrium solution speciation (Tipping,

234 1994), and (2) the Surface Chemistry Assemblage Model for Particles (SCAMP) to calculate the  
235 binding of protons and metals by natural particulate matter (Lofts and Tipping, 1998). The code  
236 for the WHAM model incorporates a number of submodels: Humic Ion-Binding Model VI and a  
237 description of inorganic solution chemistry, cation exchange by clays, the precipitation of  
238 aluminium and iron oxyhydroxides, and adsorption-desorption of fulvic acids. The SCAMP  
239 model consists of three submodels: (1) Humic Ion-Binding Model VI, (2) a SCM describing  
240 proton and metal binding to oxides (i.e. AlO<sub>x</sub>, SiO<sub>x</sub>, MnO<sub>x</sub> and FeO<sub>x</sub>), and (3) a model  
241 describing the electrostatic exchange of cations on clays.

242 Model VI, a discrete binding site model in which binding is modified by electrostatic  
243 interactions, was described by Tipping (1998; 2002). It is worth noting that there is an empirical  
244 relationship between the net humic charge and an electrostatic interaction factor. The discrete  
245 binding sites are represented by two types of sites (A and B) and within each site type, there are  
246 four different sites present in equal amounts. The two types of sites are described by intrinsic  
247 proton binding constants ( $pK_A$  and  $pK_B$ ) and spreads of the values ( $\Delta pK_A$  and  $\Delta pK_B$ ) within each  
248 site type. There are  $n_A$  (mol g<sup>-1</sup>) A-type sites (associated with carboxylic type groups) and  $n_B =$   
249  $n_A/2$  (mol g<sup>-1</sup>) B-type of sites (often associated with phenolic type groups). Metal binding occurs  
250 at single proton binding sites or by bidentate complexation between pairs of sites depending on a  
251 proximity factor that defines whether pairs of proton binding groups are close enough to form  
252 bidentate sites. Type A and Type B sites have separate intrinsic binding constants ( $\log K_{MA}$  and  
253  $\log K_{MB}$ ), both of which are associated with a parameter,  $\Delta LK_1$ , defining the spread of values  
254 around the medians. A further parameter,  $\Delta LK_2$ , takes into account a small number of stronger  
255 sites. By considering results from many datasets, a universal average value of  $\Delta LK_1$  is obtained,  
256 and a correlation is established between  $\log K_{MB}$  and  $\log K_{MA}$  (Tipping, 1998). Then, a single  
257 adjustable parameter ( $\log K_{MA}$ ) is necessary to fully describe the metal binding. The generic  
258 parameters for HA are presented in Table 1. WHAM 6 databases were modified by including  $\log$   
259  $K_{MA}$  for V(IV)O complexation with fulvic and humic acids (Tipping, 2002) and well-accepted,

260 infinite dilution (25°C) stability constants for V(IV)O inorganic complexes (Wanty and  
261 Goldhaber, 1992 and references therein).

262 The SCAMP model (Lofts and Tipping, 1998) was also modified to include V species, as  
263 well as Fe, Mn and Al oxides. Briefly, SCAMP describes the equilibrium adsorption of protons  
264 and metals by natural particulate and colloidal matter using a combination of submodels for  
265 individual binding phases. Interactions with natural organic matter are described with Model VI,  
266 and adsorption by oxides with a surface complexation model that allows for site heterogeneity.  
267 An idealized cation exchanger is also included. SCAMP uses published parameters for Model VI,  
268 and the parameters for the oxide model are derived from published data for proton and metal  
269 binding by oxides of Al, Si, Mn, and Fe(III) (Table 2).

270

## 271 2.5 Data treatment

272

273 The ascending hierarchical classification using Ward's criterion was performed through  
274 XLSTAT so as to implement sample classification. This method is based on squared Euclidian  
275 distances between individuals in the space formed by the available variables. The initial sample  
276 is partitioned into several classes of individuals so as to maximize interclass inertia (i.e., to  
277 maximize variability between groups) and minimize intraclass inertia (i.e., to maximize  
278 homogeneity in each group). As for the factor analysis, the raw data matrix was introduced in the  
279 principal component analysis, without any rotation. The input data are the whole set of  
280 ultrafiltrates after each cut-off for all considered elements, as in Pourret et al. (2007b) and Pédrot  
281 et al. (2008).

282

## 283 3. Results

284

285 Measured concentrations of major and trace elements are reported in Table 3. The major  
286 and trace element data recovered after the filtration and ultrafiltration experiments will be  
287 discussed in the following section.

288

### 289 3.1 Temporal and spatial variation

290

291 The analytical data are reported in Table 3 and allow the recognition of two distinct  
292 groups of waters based on their spatial location. All data, except for V, have already been  
293 published elsewhere (Gruau et al., 2004).

294

#### 295 *3.1.1 Hillslope groundwaters*

296

297 This first group - hillslope groundwater - corresponds to waters collected below the  
298 upland domain (P11 well) and below the upland–wetland transition zone (F5 and F7 wells).  
299 These waters display slightly acidic pH, low DOC, moderate to high  $\text{NO}_3^-$  concentrations, and  
300 low to very low REE, Th, U, Mn and Fe levels (Gruau et al., 2004; Table 3). Vanadium  
301 concentrations are also very low (Table 3). The most striking feature is the increasing V  
302 concentrations from upland to hillslope from  $0.32 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  to  $1.42 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ . This spatial variation is  
303 followed by temporal variation from  $0.35 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  to  $0.78 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  and from  $0.95 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  to  $1.42 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$   
304 for the F5 and F7 wells, respectively.

305

#### 306 *3.1.2 Wetland groundwaters*

307

308 The water samples of this group are restricted to wetland well F14 and have high to very  
309 high DOC contents (ranging from  $7.98 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$  to  $53.10 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ ), high REE, Th, U, Mn and Fe  
310 concentrations, and low to very low  $\text{NO}_3^-$  concentrations (Gruau et al., 2004). Vanadium

311 concentrations are also high and the range of V concentrations ( $1.25 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  to  $12.20 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ) is  
312 large with values considerably higher than those reported for average world rivers ( $0.76 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ;  
313 Johannesson et al., 2000).

314 Systematic seasonal concentration changes are evidenced in these waters. As shown in  
315 Fig. 2, concentrations were rather low in January and increased markedly with the beginning of  
316 February until the middle of March, then showing an irregular decline from April to June 1999.  
317 Comparison of V data with Fe, Mn, DOC concentrations and redox potential results shows that  
318 the onset of V release at the end of January was concurrent with a decline of the redox potential  
319 (Fig. 2b, c) and coincides with an increase in DOC and both Mn and Fe concentrations (Figs. 2a,  
320 b, c and 3).

321

### 322 3.2 Ultrafiltration

323

324 In order to establish the role of organic colloids in the colourless, DOC-poor part of the  
325 *Le Home* water table and in DOC-rich water, hillslope and wetland groundwater samples (i.e., F7  
326 and F14 wells) were successively filtered through membranes of smaller pore size (i.e., 30 kDa,  
327 10 kDa and 5 kDa; see Table 4). Vanadium concentrations decrease upon successive filtrations at  
328 decreasing pore size (Figs. 5 and 6). These results illustrate differences with regards to the  
329 colloidal and dissolved partitioning of V in these two samples. Two clusters corresponding to  
330 common elemental distribution in the two samples were identified through the ascending  
331 hierarchical classification (Fig. 3), as following:

332 (i) cluster I: "truly" dissolved behaviour

333 Concentrations of Rb and alkaline metals such as Na and K are not affected by  
334 ultrafiltrations since no fractionation - following the decreasing pore sizes or the DOC  
335 concentrations - theoretically occurs. Alkaline elements behave as "truly" dissolved in the form  
336 of inorganic species as often reported in the literature (e.g., Pokrovsky and Schott, 2002). The

337 concentrations of major- and trace-alkaline metals (Ca, Mg, Rb, Sr and Ba) do not change  
338 significantly during filtration. Silica concentrations display no significant variations in the  
339 successive filtrates. This suggests that aqueous silica is not trapped by organic colloids and/or by  
340 small-size clay minerals or phytolites. Cobalt, Ni, Cr, Mn, Zn concentrations do not exhibit large  
341 variations through the different decreasing pore size cut-offs suggesting that these transition  
342 metals have to be mostly present as "truly" dissolved species or small size inorganic complexes  
343 (e.g., Gaillardet et al., 2003).

344 (ii) cluster II: colloidal pool-borne elements

345 Copper, REE, Pb, Th and U concentrations display extremely regular positive correlations  
346 versus DOC concentrations for both samples. The linear relationships (see Table 4) suggest that  
347 these trace elements are strongly bound to organic matter and probably complexed to very low  
348 molecular weight organic ligands such as extracellular ligands, as well as larger size colloids  
349 such as fulvic and/or humic acids, cell fragments or bacteria as elsewhere reported (e.g., Sigg et  
350 al., 2000; Pourret et al., 2007b). Aluminium and Fe concentration variations through successive  
351 filtrations suggest that: (i) these elements do not occur as free species in solution, and (ii) two  
352 types of colloids can carry these metals (i.e. Al-, Fe-rich inorganic colloids or organic-, Al-, Fe-  
353 complexing colloids). This indicates a major control of Al by inorganic mixed Fe/Al  
354 oxyhydroxides. Moreover, as shown in Pourret et al. (2007b), V displays an unpredictable  
355 behaviour with regards to the considered sample.

356

### 357 *3.1.1 Hillslope groundwaters (F7)*

358

359 Dissolved V was found to be associated with Fe colloids as their concentrations sharply  
360 decrease with decreasing pore size from 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  to 30 kDa (Fig. 5). It has been argued that  
361 dissolved V in rivers draining silicate rocks originates from silicate weathering (Shiller and Mao,  
362 1999; Shiller and Mao, 2000). However, no correlation was observed between dissolved Si and V

363 in the studied samples. The presence of high amounts of colloidal Fe in these rivers, which serves  
364 as a potential V carrier, is likely to hide the different silicate vectors of V. The vanadium  
365 concentration displays a positive relationship with the DOC concentration, suggesting that the  
366 ability of V to form complexes with organic colloids remains constant over the molecular size  
367 range of the available colloid materials. The decrease following the lowering of the DOC  
368 concentrations suggests, on one hand, that for the uppermost sample, V is still carried by the  
369 organic phase (low- and high-molecular weight), and on the other hand, the decrease of V  
370 concentrations follows the same trend as that for Al. This suggests that V concentrations in such  
371 groundwater are controlled by mixed DOC/Al-rich phases, regardless of the pore size cut-off.  
372 Moreover, the large decrease of V concentrations following that of Fe between 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  and 30  
373 kDa suggests, as earlier reported, that Fe-rich phases exert significant control on the speciation of  
374 V at this cut-off. At lower filtration sizes, V concentrations tend to be the lowest concentrations  
375 ( $0.15 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ), suggesting that V is also carried by a mixed Al/DOC-rich phase (Fig. 5).

376

### 377 3.2.2. Wetland groundwaters (F14)

378

379 Vanadium concentrations display a large drop between 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  and 30 kDa filtrations  
380 (Fig. 6), which may imply that a significant fraction (about 55%) of V is carried by large-size  
381 colloids. When looking at the lower cut-off data, the strong decrease in the first filtration step  
382 implies that V is strongly bound to high-molecular weight organic material. The nearly constant  
383 V concentration after the 30 kDa filtration implies that V behaves more independently of DOC  
384 (Fig. 6). Moreover, the V concentration pattern is different than that of the more DOC-depleted  
385 sample with far less variation regarding the Fe concentrations after 30 kDa filtration. This  
386 suggests that V should be partly carried by a Fe-rich phase. In addition, Fe concentrations  
387 strongly decrease with respect to the high molecular organic colloids (~80% in the > 30 kDa  
388 fraction) similarly to V, hence implying that V could be carried by mixed Fe-C phases.



389 Furthermore, when comparing the behaviour of V with respect to Al and Fe with that in the  
390 ultrafiltered DOC-depleted sample recovered from the hillslope (F7), we note that whereas V  
391 concentrations after the 30 kDa filtration follow the same trend as the Al and Fe concentrations  
392 in the wetland sample, V concentrations in the hillslope sample is mostly correlated with Al, but  
393 to a lesser extent with Fe. This latter point suggests that Fe and Al behave differently with  
394 regards to V in wetland and hillslope groundwater; low-molecular weight Fe compounds in the  
395 hillslope groundwater probably transport less V.

396

### 397 3.3 Speciation calculation using Model VI

398

399 Model VI and SCAMP included in WHAM 6.0 were used to calculate V speciation in  
400 groundwaters from the F7 and F14 wells. The modelling results were compared with the  
401 experimental data presented above. Major cations and anions were considered, as well as Fe and  
402 Al, for calculating the V speciation of the studied samples (see Table 4). In WHAM 6.0 (Lofts  
403 and Tipping, 1998), neither oxide precipitation nor redox reaction occur, so only complexation in  
404 solution is modelled by our speciation calculation. The assumption that 50% of the DOM is  
405 active as HM in our samples (Thurman, 1985), of which 80% is present as HA and 20% as FA  
406 (Viers et al., 1997), was chosen. More details on the "active" DOM parameter can be found in  
407 Pourret et al. (2007a; 2010). Aluminium colloids as well as Fe oxides were also considered  
408 (Lofts and Tipping, 1998). The speciation modelling results are displayed in Table 5.

409 Consistently with the ultrafiltration results, speciation calculations show that organic V  
410 species are the dominant species in the F7 groundwater (i.e., 47% complexed with HA and 47%  
411 with FA). The remaining V is present as  $V(IV)O^{2+}$  (6%) (Table 5). In the F14 groundwater  
412 sample, the inorganic proportion of V is lower (i.e., only 1%). Speciation calculations show that  
413 organic V species are also the dominant species in the F14 groundwater (i.e., 58% complexed  
414 with HA and 41% with FA) (Table 5). Therefore, as with the ultrafiltration results, the speciation

415 modelling calculations illustrate a slight change of the V speciation in groundwaters along the *Le*  
416 *Home* transect. Vanadium in the hillslope groundwaters wells occurs as a mixing of organic and  
417 inorganic complexes, whereas V in the wetland groundwaters wells comprises mainly organic  
418 species. It is worth to underline that the modelling calculation and ultrafiltration results both  
419 conclude that the downhill decrease in inorganic complexation occurs in phase with a progressive  
420 scavenging of the V by a colloidal organic pool.

421

## 422 **4. Discussion**

423

### 424 4.1 Approach limitation

425

426 The authors of the WHAM-SCAMP model have noted a number of possible pitfalls in its  
427 application (Lofts and Tipping, 1998); the major ones are as follows: (i) the application of the  
428 WHAM-SCAMP model relies upon consistency between the metal binding data obtained for  
429 laboratory prepared phases and the metal binding properties of component phases found in  
430 natural colloidal assemblages; (ii) the surface complexation modelling technique is difficult to  
431 adapt in order to obtain model parameters from experimental Mn oxide data available in the  
432 literature (e.g., Dzombak and Morel, 1990; Kosmulski, 2006); (iii) there is some evidence in the  
433 literature that component phases constituting natural particulate materials are intimately  
434 associated (Peacock and Sherman, 2004); and (iv) ternary surface complexes are not considered  
435 even if it has been shown that Fe-rich organic colloids may adsorb metal ions (Buffle et al., 1998;  
436 Fein, 2002; Hiemstra and Van Riemsdijk, 1999; Schindler, 1990). These types of associations  
437 have implications when considering the validity of the modelling approach, which relies upon the  
438 assumption that the components of the colloidal assemblage exist as discrete phases. Lofts and  
439 Tipping (1998) note that these associations can lead to a deviation from the additivity of metal

440 binding expected from a simple combination of isolated phases such as DOC-rich colloids, and  
441 Mn and Fe oxyhydroxides.

442 Vanadium(IV) may account for more than 50% of the total dissolved V in mildly  
443 reducing groundwaters (Bosque-Sendra et al., 1998; Elbaz-Poulichet et al., 1997; Emerson and  
444 Husted, 1991). Both the oxidation rate from V(IV) to V(V) and the coexistence of the two  
445 species in aqueous solution depend on the pH, V concentration, reduction-oxidation potential and  
446 ionic strength of the system (Fig. 7). Even if V(IV) is not thermodynamically stable above pH 7,  
447 complexation by various organic and inorganic species may considerably increase its stability  
448 (Lu et al., 1998; Szalay and Szilagy, 1967; Tribouillard et al., 2006; Wanty and Goldhaber,  
449 1992). Thus, V(IV) has only been considered in a speciation calculation performed using the  
450 WHAM-SCAMP model, considering a pH below 7 and DOC concentrations ranging between  
451 11.1 and 21.5 mg L<sup>-1</sup>.

452 Although the 5 kDa cut-off allows very small size colloids to remain in solution, the lack  
453 of integration of adsorption processes onto inorganic species, as well as the coprecipitation of  
454 inorganic species appear to be the major causes of divergence between ultrafiltration data and  
455 speciation calculations for V. It is then important to be aware that this type of model does not  
456 take into account any uptake of metals resulting from competitive reactions between Fe-rich and  
457 DOC-rich colloids and that the occurrence of ternary surface complexes is thus not considered.

458 The studied samples are organic-rich groundwaters with an organic pool that seems to be  
459 in excess with regards to the metals available for complexation. However, this kind of  
460 competition (i.e., ternary surface complexes) is still difficult to interpret using only ultrafiltration  
461 data. Cation ligand complexes can be adsorbed onto solid particles to form ternary surface  
462 complexes either as a cation linked to the mineral surface over the ligand or as a ligand linked to  
463 the surface over the cation (Buerge-Weirich et al., 2002). As an example, relatively recently  
464 published data on REE (Davranche et al., 2008) showed the impact of ternary surface complexes  
465 (humates/oxyhydroxides/REE) on metal speciation. Thus, it appears necessary for speciation

466 models to take processes such as adsorption onto Mn and Fe oxyhydroxides into account -  
467 considering that the lack of such a reaction precludes any true speciation to be assessed - as the  
468 competition between Fe and C-based colloidal carriers is required for constraining element  
469 geochemical cycles or element fate in polluted environments. Apart from this, such a modelling  
470 approach is not intrinsically incorrect (Zhu and Anderson, 2002); these values may well be the  
471 best possible overall values even if they cannot be extrapolated to all applications.

472

#### 473 4.2 Colloid-mediated control on V distribution in shallow groundwaters

474

475 It is now widely accepted that the colloidal phase plays a significant role in the transport  
476 and cycling of trace metals in water as assessed here for V, as it has already been illustrated for  
477 REE on this catchment (Gruau et al., 2004; Pourret et al., 2007a). Colloid-mediated carriage of  
478 V has been well described (Dupré et al., 1999; Gaillardet et al., 2003; Lyvén et al., 2003;  
479 Pokrovsky et al., 2005; 2006; Dahlgvist et al., 2007; Pourret et al., 2007b; Pédrot et al., 2008;  
480 2009), although not unambiguously with regards to the nature and source of the involved V  
481 carrier phases, as often debated elsewhere (e.g., Lyvén et al., 2003 and references therein). Key  
482 issues still have to be answered such as: which role is played by (i) the source-rock, (ii) the  
483 organic matter, (iii) the true competition between Fe- and C-based colloidal carriers for V, and  
484 whether or not the colloidal pool involved in V carriage in solution be typed.

485

##### 486 *4.2.1 Influence of source-rock on vanadium speciation in solution*

487

488 Since the fraction of dissolved V has been shown to be primarily derived from silicates  
489 with an efficiency comparable to that of dissolved silicate during weathering, chemical  
490 weathering of silicate rocks has been considered as the primary control of the globally  
491 encountered dissolved V (Shiller and Mao, 2000; Wright and Belitz, 2010). Elbaz-Poulichet et al.

492 (1997) proposed that alumina-silicate colloids are a dominant host for V in water. However, V-  
493 focused studies emphasized that silicate weathering cannot be the only controlling speciation  
494 with regards to V dissolved species. The so-called 'secondary factors', as referred by Shiller and  
495 Mao (2000), include the nature, style and regime of the prevailing weathering processes  
496 (Gaillardet et al., 2003), redox reactions, organic-mediated complexation and anthropogenic  
497 inputs. Furthermore, Wehrli and Stumm (1989) considered that  $VO^{2+}$  has a strong tendency to  
498 coordinate with oxygen donor atoms, thus forming both strong complexes with organic chelates  
499 and becoming adsorbed especially onto hydrous oxides. Vanadium(V) - as vanadate oxyanion -  
500 behaves as phosphate and forms surface complexes with hydrous oxides by ligand exchange.  
501 These results led us to the assumption that, although not excluding a primary source of V in  
502 silicate weathering, the V stock available in wetland soil solutions mostly results from surface  
503 processes at organic matter/solution/hydrous oxide interfaces probably driven by acid-base and  
504 redox reactions. Moreover, as also stressed by Pokrovsky and Schott (2002) who did not find any  
505 relationships between V and Si in the Karelian rivers, no correlation was observed between  
506 dissolved V and Si, irrespective of the pore size cut-off used for ultrafiltration (Tables 2 and 3).  
507 Hence, dissolved V behaves independently of dissolved Si. The occurrence of large amounts of  
508 colloidal Fe and/or C that serve as efficient V carriers as assessed by the positive relationships  
509 between DOC and V as well as Fe and V (Figs. 5 and 6), as has often been previously reported, is  
510 likely to hide the fingerprint of the source-rock of V. Two studies by Dupré et al. (1999) and  
511 Pokrovsky and Schott (2002) reached the same conclusion. In the first case, these authors  
512 observed that V content and DOC decrease during successive filtrations through decreasing pore  
513 size membranes, whereas in the latter study, the dissolved V was found to be essentially  
514 associated with the Fe colloids, as their concentrations sharply decrease with decreasing pore  
515 size. The presence of high amounts of colloidal Fe or C in these rivers, which serve as a V  
516 carrier, is thus likely to hide the different silicate sources.

517

#### 518 4.2.2 Influence of the colloid type in the transport of vanadium

519

520 Since the source rocks do not reflect the major control of dissolved V speciation and  
521 considering that it is now widely admitted that colloids are major V carriers playing a significant  
522 role in both the transport and cycling of V in natural waters, the question becomes which is the  
523 prevailing nature of the colloidal carriers of V. The above discussion, with regards to the role  
524 played by the source-rocks, showed a different behaviour to that proposed by Elbaz-Poulichet et  
525 al. (1997) for the silica-rich colloids, except for very specific cases.

526 On one side, the observed time-linked variations showed that the onset of V in solution at  
527 the end of January and following the decline of redox potential (Fig. 2b) occurred concomitantly  
528 with the increase of DOC, Mn and Fe concentrations (Figs. 2 and 3). Nevertheless, it is not  
529 possible to assess which of the metallic or organic phases could be the most efficient V carrier.  
530 On the other side, when considering the space-linked variations, the increase of V concentrations  
531 from upland (P11) to hillslope (F5-F7), as seen in the DOC concentrations, were observed,  
532 thereby suggesting that V might be carried by C-rich phases, as also found in other studies  
533 (Wehrli and Stumm, 1989; Dupré et al., 1999; Tyler, 2004; Audry et al., 2006). This feature has  
534 already been observed for REE whose speciation is considered as being mostly organic (Gruau et  
535 al., 2004; Pourret et al., 2007b). Indeed, the largest V concentrations are observed for wetland  
536 well F14, reaching up to 12.2 mg L<sup>-1</sup> (Table 3). However, these concentrations also follow both  
537 the highest DOC and Fe contents, making it impossible to unambiguously determine whether the  
538 C- or Fe-colloids are the most efficient V carriers. Therefore, neither time-linked V nor space-  
539 linked concentration variations, in both cases positively related to the DOC and Fe variations,  
540 allowed to distinguish between the predominance of C-or Fe-colloidal carrying phases. However,  
541 Pourret et al. (2007a) suggested that the “colloidal” REE budget of samples F7 and F14 is partly  
542 controlled by REE-bearing Fe colloids and the contribution of Fe colloids estimated between ~30  
543 and 50%.

544 Further information can be obtained from ultrafiltration data on hillslope and wetland  
545 samples as has been done in a previous study (Pourret et al., 2007b). The ascending hierarchical  
546 classification displayed in Figure 3 reveals - beyond the first evidence that V is mostly borne by  
547 the colloidal pool since its concentrations decrease following decreasing pore size cut-off - that  
548 the hillslope groundwater sample F7 shows a double control of V distribution by large-size (0.2  
549  $\mu\text{m}$  and 30 kDa) Fe-rich colloids, as reported by Pédrot et al. (2009). A continuous control by a  
550 mixed DOC/Al-rich phase is also simultaneously seen, irrespective of the size of the concerned  
551 colloidal pool (Fig. 5). This control by the mixed DOC/Al-rich phase has been also already  
552 shown elsewhere, but in a similar context by Pourret et al. (2007b), who showed that  
553 concentrations of both dissolved V and Th were mostly controlled by mixed DOC/Al-rich  
554 phases, regardless of the filtration membrane cut-off. In the hillslope case, V is therefore carried  
555 on one side by the large-size ( $> 30$  kDa) Fe oxide colloidal phase and mixed DOC/Al-rich phases  
556 (Fig. 5).

557 Although large-size Fe colloids are also involved in V dissolved carriage, the coupled  
558 observation of Fig. 3 and Fig. 5 led to the assumption that the major colloidal control for  
559 maintaining V in dissolved phase has to be mixed DOC/Al phases since V distribution appears  
560 closer to those of DOC and Al than to that of Fe (Fig. 3). Additionally, the V versus DOC and Al  
561 distribution (Fig. 5) displays a positive relationship, regardless of the size cut-off, whereas Fe is  
562 not carried by DOC-rich low-molecular weight colloids still carrying V. This has to be compared  
563 to previous studies such as the one carried out by Pokrovsky et al. (2006), who observed that V  
564 did not exhibit any clear correlation with dissolved Fe or DOC in the  $< 0.2$   $\mu\text{m}$  fraction. By  
565 contrast, ultrafiltration performed on peat solution showed that Al played an important role as a  
566 colloidal carrier of V (Pokrovsky et al., 2005). In another context, field-flow fractionation  
567 performed on freshwaters showed that V was strongly associated to iron-rich colloids (Stolpe et  
568 al., 2005).

569 Another interesting point is that the observed V concentrations are also much higher than  
570 those reported for average world rivers (Johannesson et al., 2000) (Fig. 7) suggesting that the  
571 involved mixed DOC/Al colloidal carriers of V emphasize the level of dissolved V in such  
572 organic-rich environments, possibly, as proposed by Wehrli and Stumm (1989), as complexes  
573 with humic substances (HS) (Tyler, 2004) in which Al, V and HS are intimately associated. This  
574 has to be related to the fact that  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  is commonly considered as an exceptionally stable  
575 diatomic ion (Greenwood and Earnshaw, 1997), which forms strong complexes with soluble  
576 organic compounds (Aström and Corin, 2000). Such speciation information must also be linked  
577 with the sequential extraction experiments conducted on soil samples such as those of Poledniok  
578 and Buhl (2003) showing that V is mainly contained in the organic fractions.

579 The observation of Figure 6, corresponding to the sample recovered in the wetland (F14),  
580 led to a slightly different result, although characterized by an important combined Al/DOC  
581 control on the V distribution. In this case, the Fe distribution follows that of V throughout the  
582 pore size cuts, which was not the case for the hillslope sample (F7) which displayed a drastic fall  
583 between 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  and 30 kDa, pointing out a non-exclusively organic speciation. Ultrafiltration  
584 data on the wetland sample (F14) point out a triple control of mixed Fe/Al/C-rich carrier phases  
585 of V, which may correspond to nano-colloidal Fe oxides embedded within Al-enriched humic  
586 substances, as elsewhere evidenced in wetlands and experimentally shown to be a significant  
587 source of bioavailable Fe (Pédrot et al., 2011). Such colloid-mediated organically complexed V  
588 is probably transported by humic substances from the source areas located in the humus-rich  
589 uppermost horizons.

590 Therefore, V speciation changes between the hillslope and the wetland, as assessed from  
591 the ultrafiltration data, agree with modelling calculations. Vanadium carriage moves from (i) the  
592 hillslope with a shared contribution of Fe nanooxide and organic colloids vector towards (ii) the  
593 wetland with a whole organic pool in which V, Fe and Al are complexed and embedded in  
594 organic matrices. This is also often pointed out for other trace metals elsewhere in wetlands (e.g.,



595 Gruau et al., 2004), whose interaction with mineral colloids is hampered by the negative charge  
596 of organic matter (i.e., Wilkinson et al., 1997), which is ubiquitous in such waterlogged  
597 environments.

598

## 599 **5. Conclusions**

600

601 Combining an ultrafiltration fractionation approach and modelling conducted on shallow  
602 groundwaters allowed the assessment of the main factors that control V speciation. Additionally,  
603 it can be concluded that the water samples can be divided into two groups in terms of their  
604 location along the hillslope and their associated DOC content, which are positively related to  
605 their V content (organic-rich waters recovered in wetland display the largest V concentrations).  
606 Moreover, time variations of V concentrations were also seen in wetland samples with a marked  
607 increase of V content at the winter-spring transition along with DOC, Fe and Mn content  
608 variations, as well as redox potential changes. In this context, the source rock was shown to play  
609 a minor role in V distribution, whereas the colloidal pool was shown to be the main factor  
610 controlling V speciation and its distribution in shallow groundwaters. Ascendant hierarchical  
611 classification showed that V was associated to DOC, Fe, Al, Pb, Cu, REE, U and Th, which are  
612 elements known to exhibit colloidal affinity. Speciation modelling using Model VI and SCAMP  
613 as well as ultrafiltration data evidenced a slight change in the V speciation occurring along the  
614 transect with a mixed organic-inorganic speciation in the hillslope and an organic speciation of V  
615 in the wetland probably involving Fe nanooxides embedded in Al-rich organic colloids. The  
616 binding of V in this organic environment most likely occurs through the C-rich ligand end-  
617 member, which is in agreement with the behaviour of V in shallow groundwater.

618 Although the role of organic matter is clearly assessed as controlling the dissolved V  
619 fraction, it appears challenging to accurately determine the real contribution of the inorganic and  
620 organic colloidal pool because the oxides are generally intimately bound to the organic matter,

621 especially in the case of organic-rich wetland soil solutions. Further study should be dedicated to  
622 clarifying this partition, notably to address the prevailing processes affecting V transport at the  
623 global scale.

624

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816 TABLE AND FIGURE CAPTIONS  
817

818 Table 1. Model VI parameters for humic substances (Tipping, 1998; Tipping, 2002).

819

820 Table 2. SCAMP parameter values for Fe, Mn, Al and Si oxide. Site density  $\Gamma_{\max}$  is expressed in  
821  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2}$  and P in  $\text{m}^2 \text{eq}^{-1}$  (data are from Lofts and Tipping, 1998). Values of  $\text{pK}_{\text{MH}}$  for V(IV)O  
822 are calculated from Eqns. 10 to 13 in Lofts and Tipping (1998) using well-accepted infinite-  
823 dilution (25°C) stability constants for V(IV)O first hydrolysis complexes (Peacock and Sherman,  
824 2004).

825

826 Table 3. Physico-chemical parameters: pH, Eh (in mV) and temperature (in °C), and chemical  
827 concentrations ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ), except for  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and DOC, which are reported in  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ .

828

829 Table 4. Ultrafiltration results; the concentrations are expressed in  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ , except for  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$   
830  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and DOC which are reported in  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ , and alkalinity in  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$ .

831

832 Table 5. Speciation results obtained using Model VI and SCAMP for groundwater from the F7  
833 and F14 wells (species proportion).

834

835 Figure 1. Geographical location of the Petit Hermitage Catchment (France) and well water  
836 sampling placements set up along the *Le Home* toposequence.

837

838 Figure 2. Time series results of dissolved ( $< 0.2 \mu\text{m}$ ) (a) Fe and Mn ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ), (b) V and U ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ )  
839 and (c) Eh (mV) and DOC ( $\text{mg L}^{-1}$ ) content in the *Le Home* wetland samples (F14 well).

840

841 Figure 3. Dendograms of samples (a) F7 and (b) F14, showing the hierarchical classification of  
842 the elements in three clusters.

843

844 Figure 4. Relationships between: (a) V and DOC and (b) V and Fe concentrations for the F14  
845 groundwater samples. The data are expressed in  $\text{mg L}^{-1}$  except for V ( $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ ). The corresponding  
846 values are provided in Table 3.

847

848 Figure 5. Variations of (a) V and Al versus DOC concentrations and (b) V and Fe versus DOC  
849 concentrations in the different filtrates for the F7 well. The corresponding values are provided in  
850 Table 4.

851

852 Figure 6. Variations of (a) V and Al versus DOC concentrations and (b) V and Fe versus DOC  
853 concentrations in the different filtrates for the F14 well. The corresponding values are provided  
854 in Table 4.

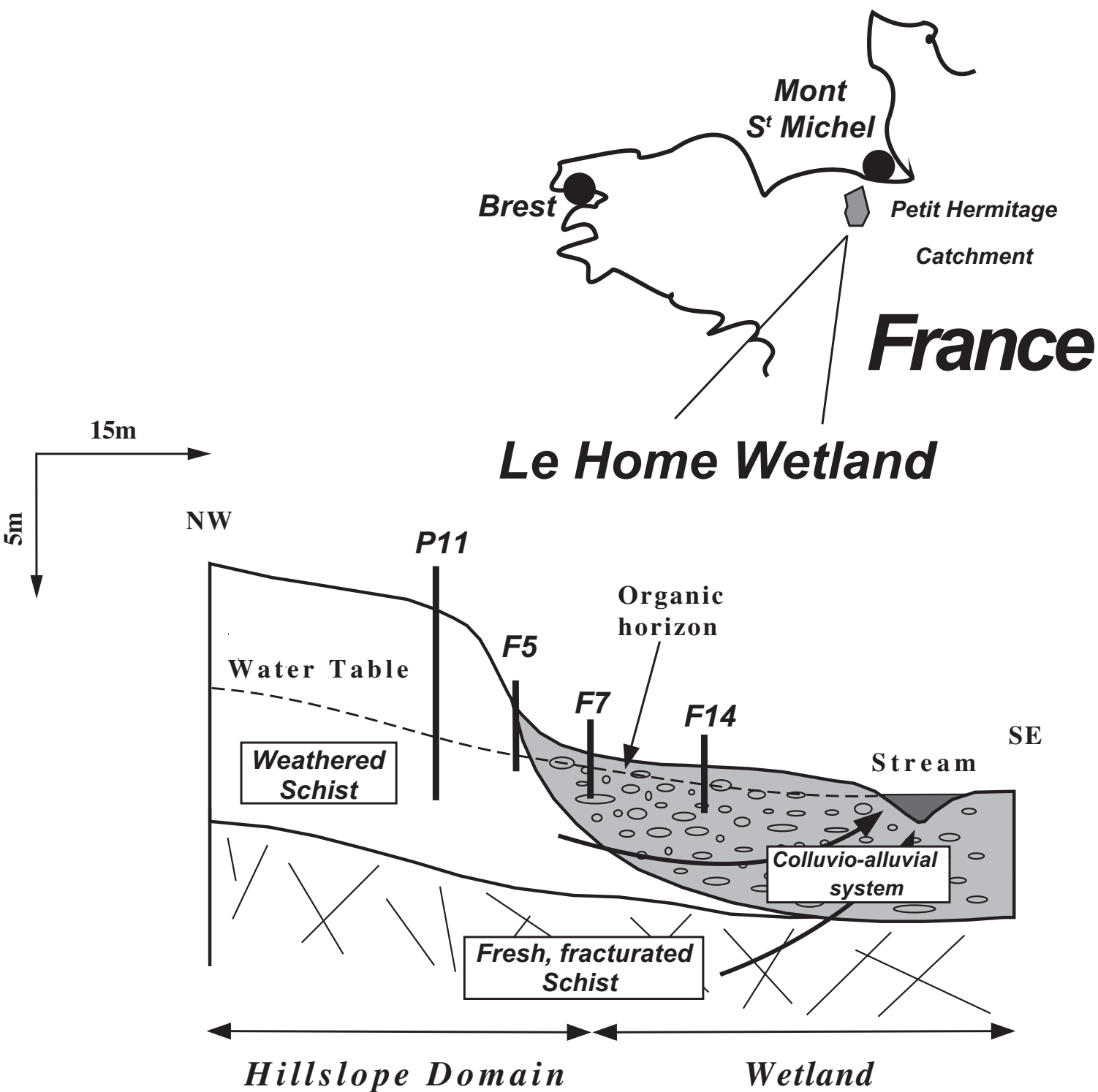
855

856 Figure 7. Eh/pH diagram for inorganic V species at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  and 1 atm for a V concentration of  $10$   
857  $\mu\text{mol L}^{-1}$  (Breit and Wanty, 1991; Peacock and Sherman, 2004; Templeton and Chasteen, 1980;  
858 Wanty and Goldhaber, 1992; Wehrli and Stumm, 1989). Vanadium data (black dots) are from  
859 Table 2.

860



Figure 1



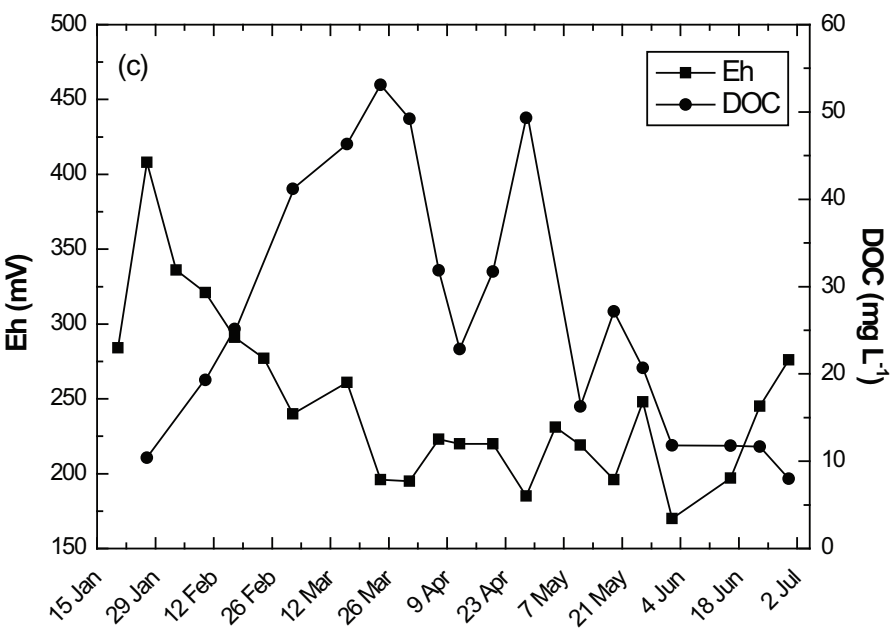
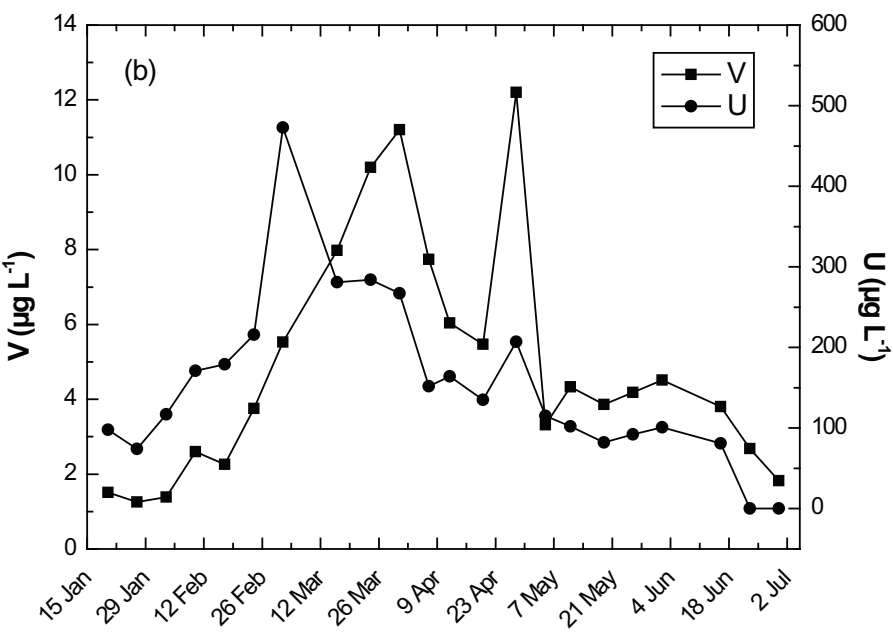
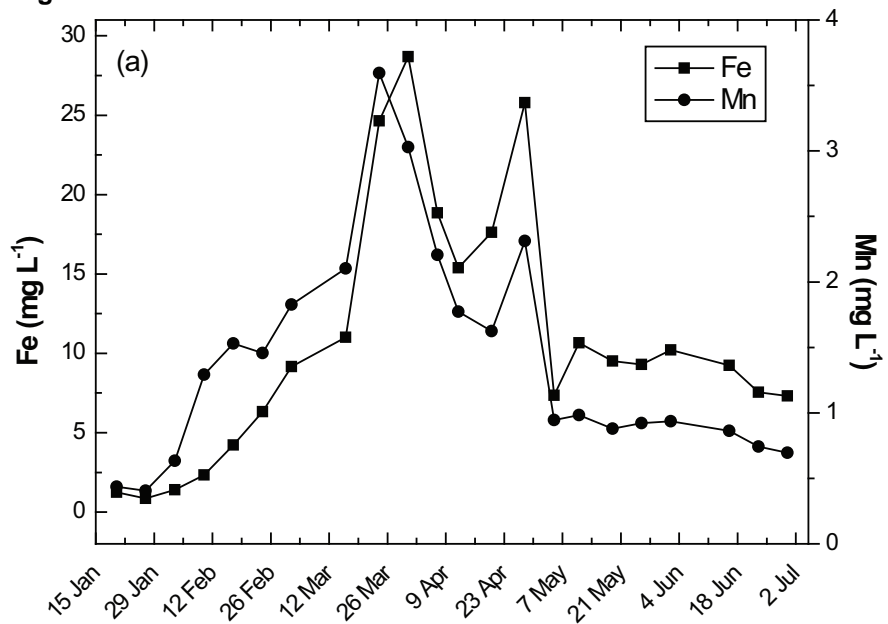
**Figure 2**



Figure 4

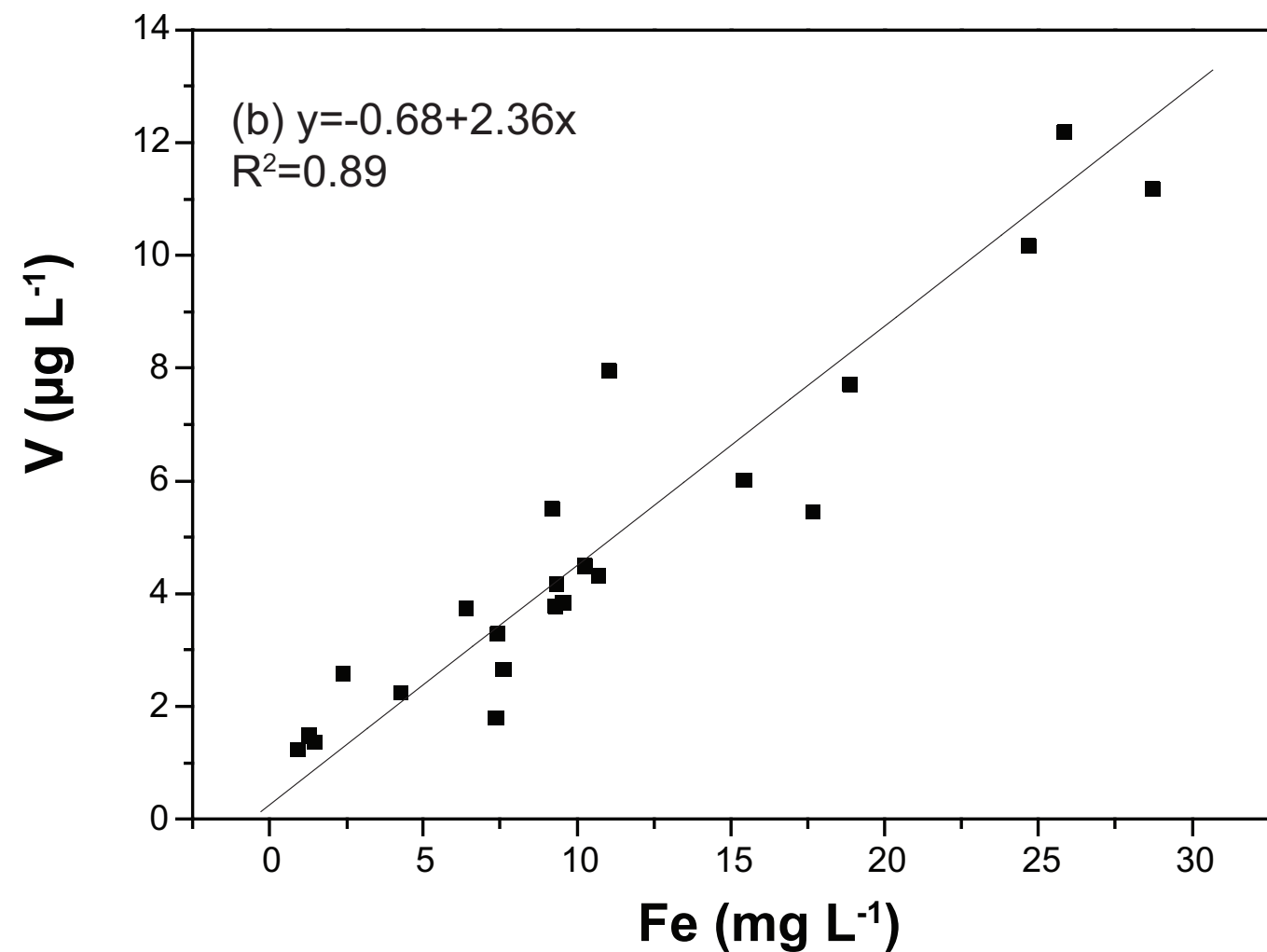
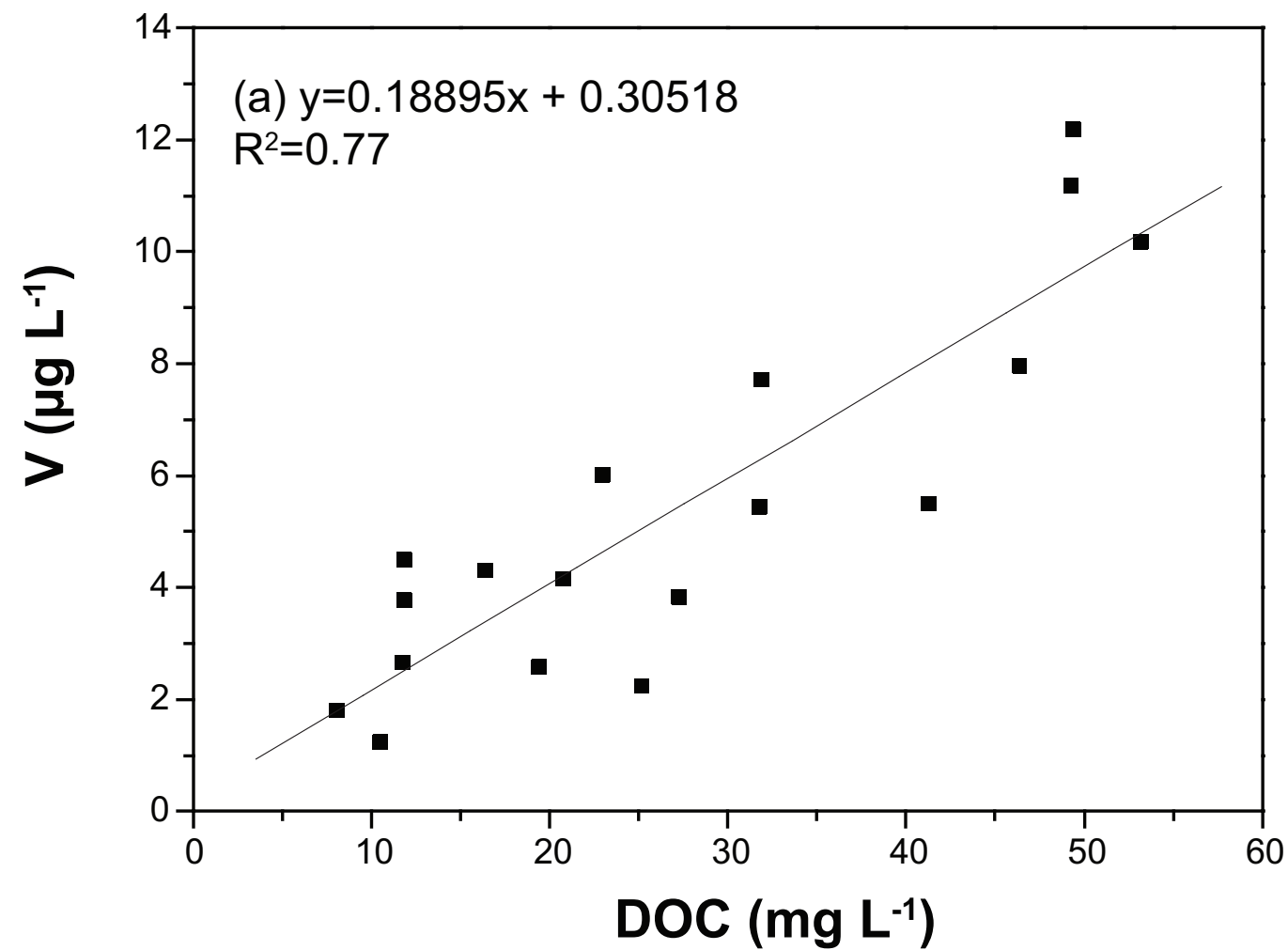


Figure 5

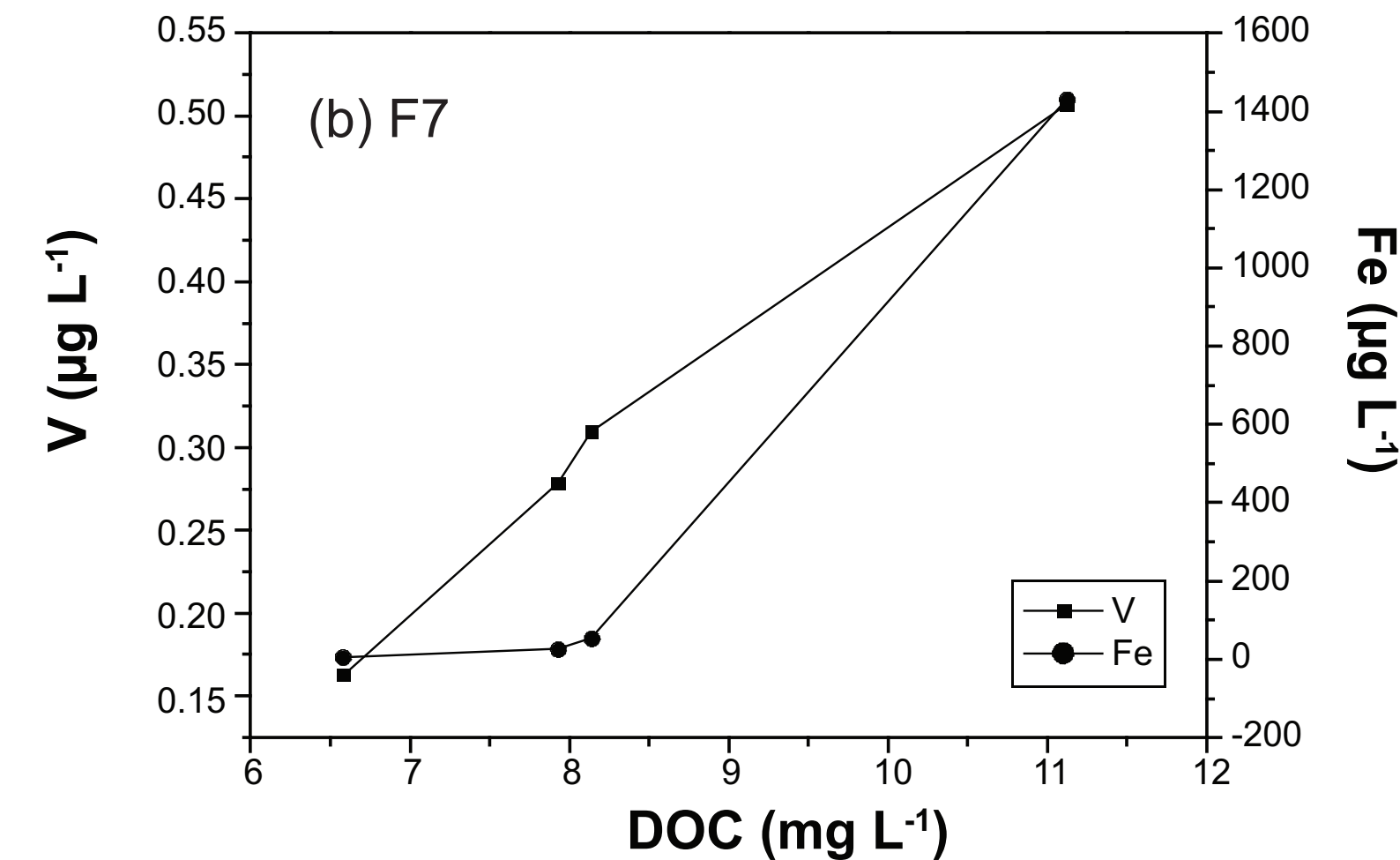
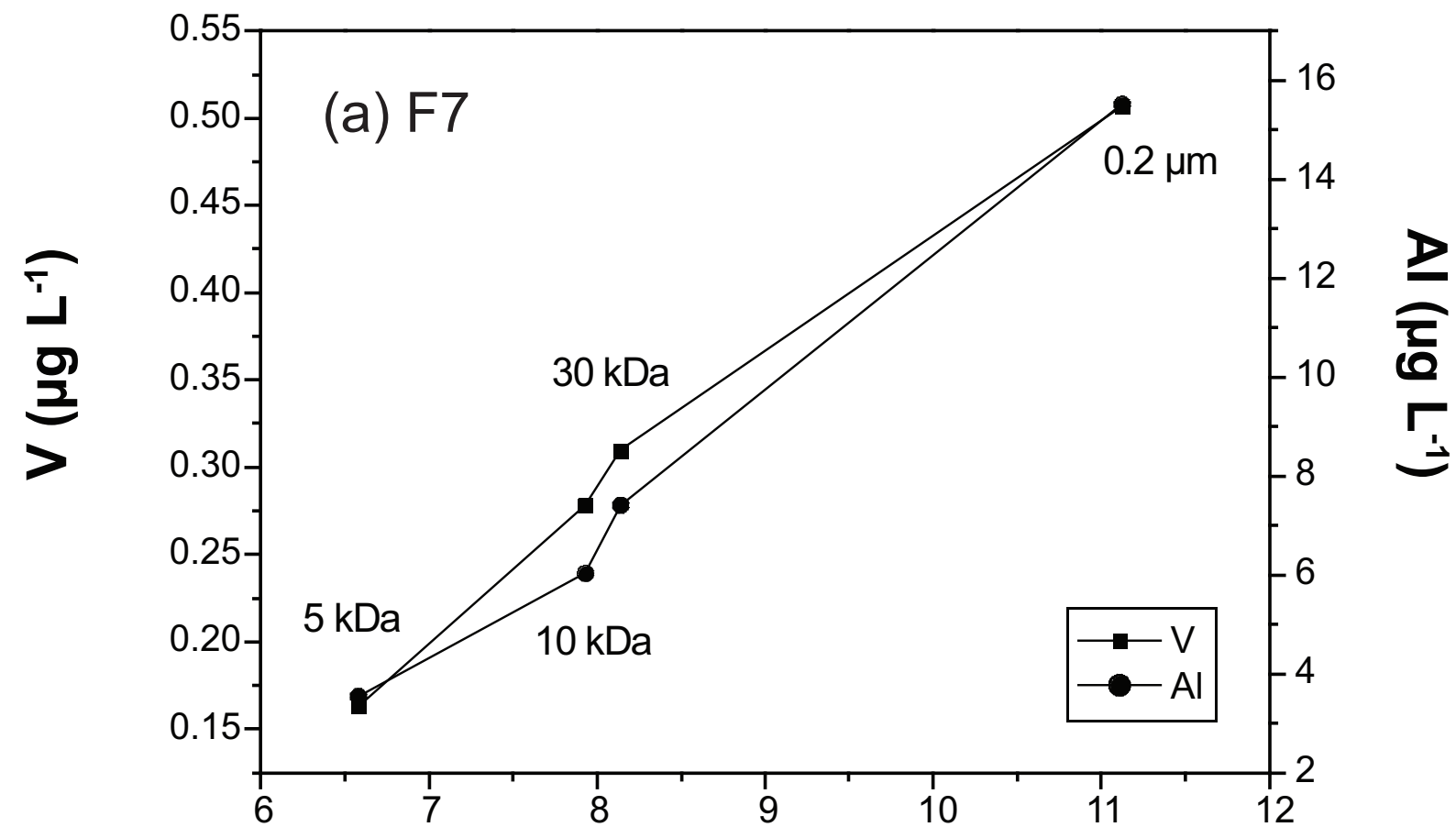


Figure 6

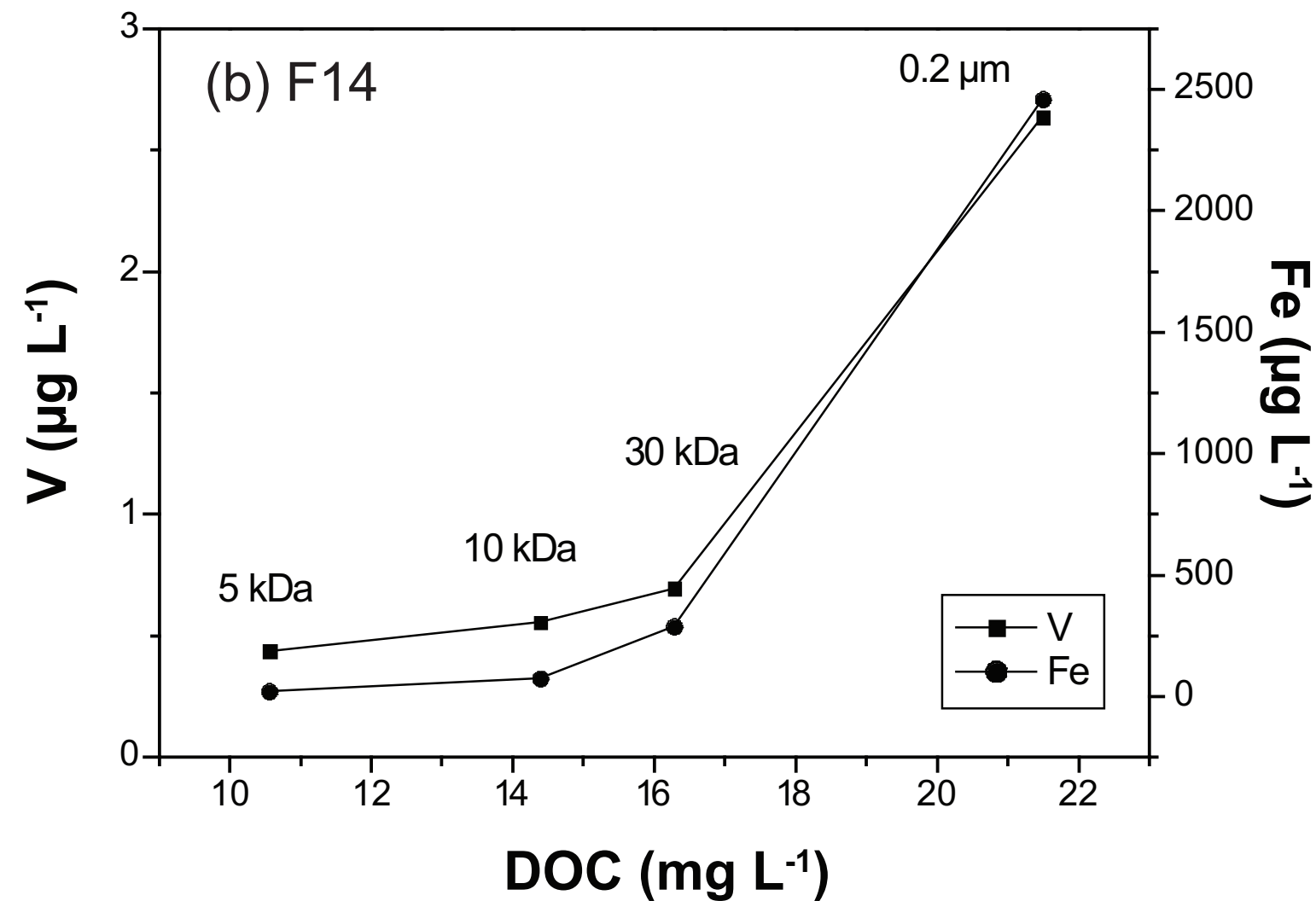
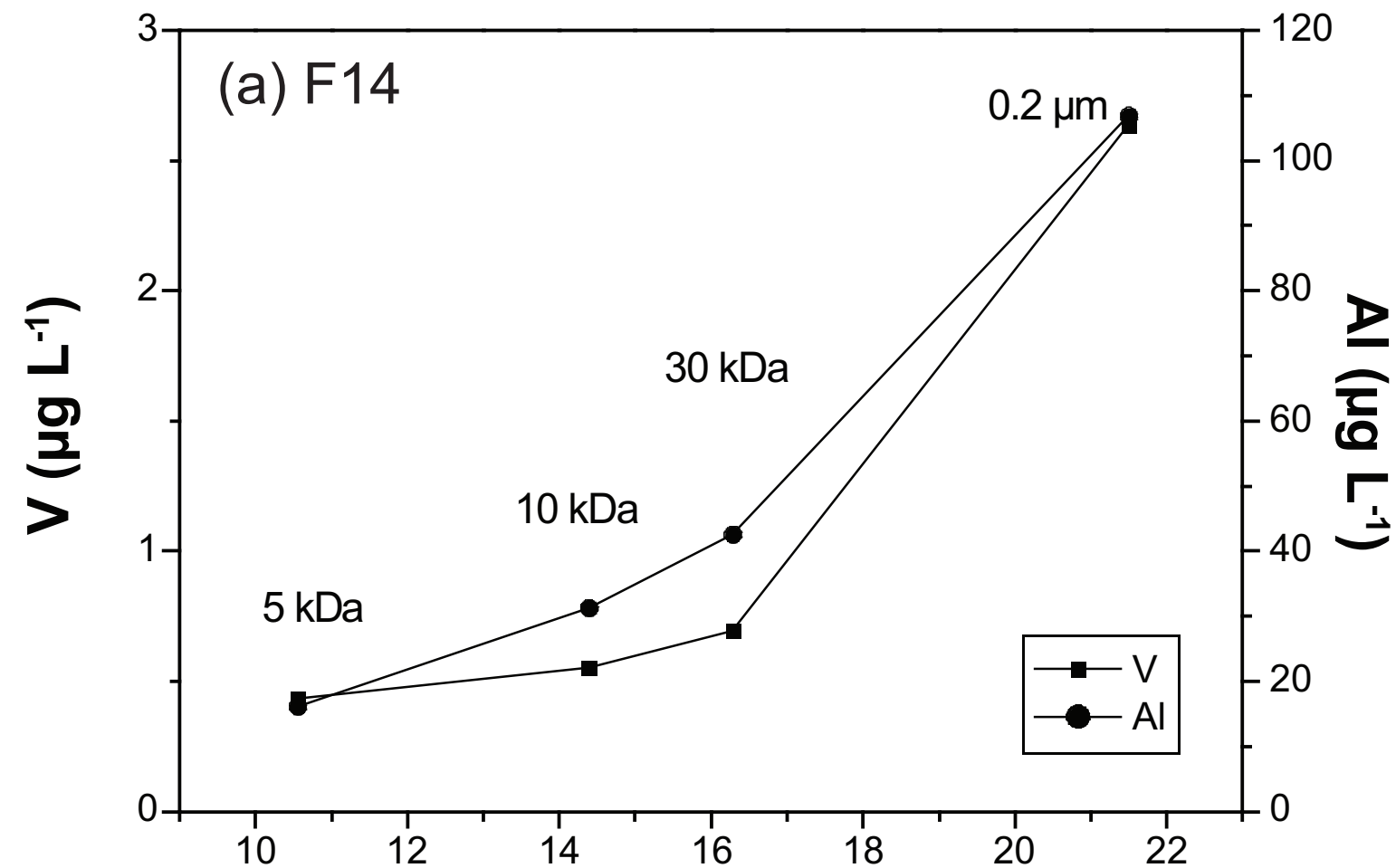
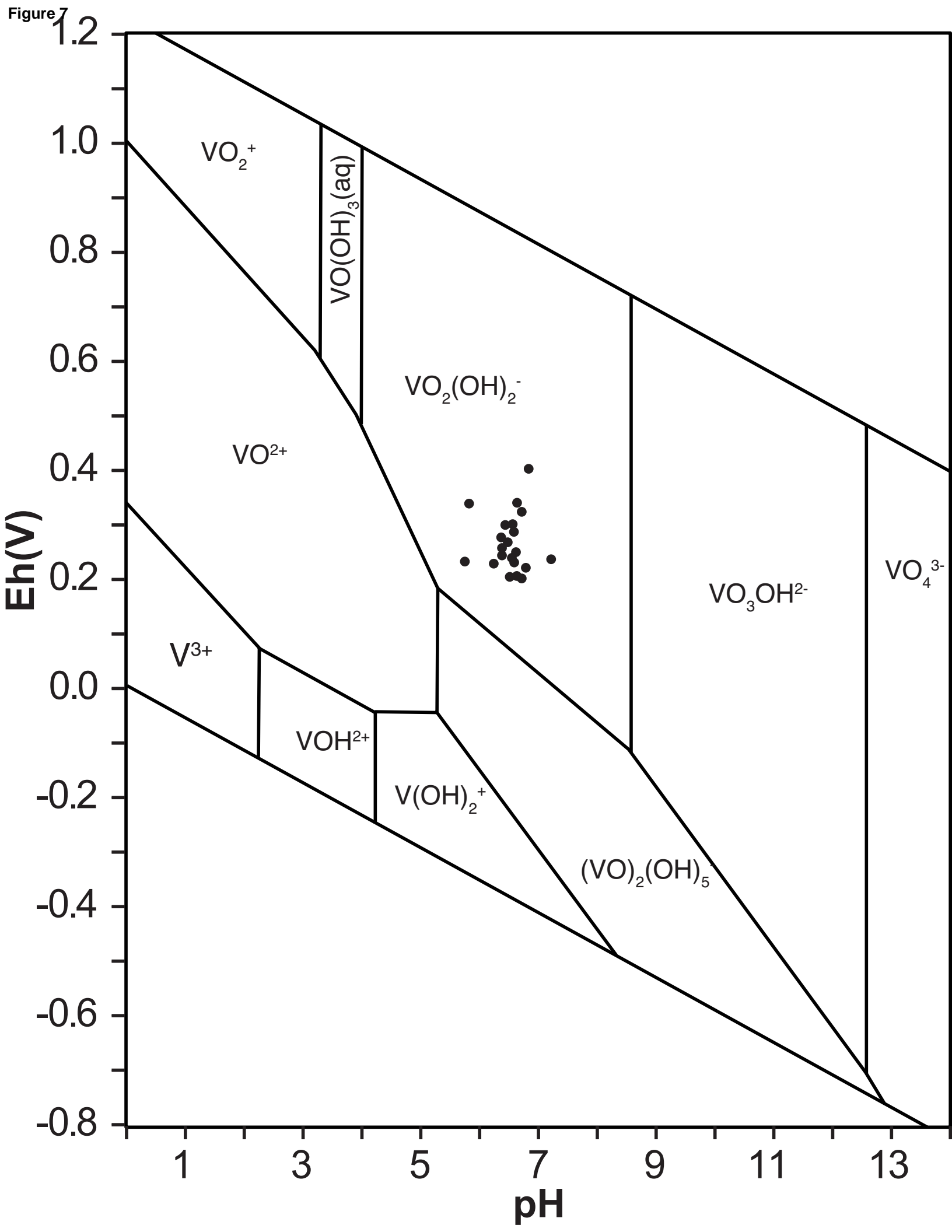


Figure 7



| Parameter     | Description  | Values   |
|---------------|--|--|
| $n_A$         | Amount of type-A sites (mol g <sup>-1</sup> )                                  | 4.8 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> (FA), 3.3 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> (HA) |
| $n_B$         | Amount of type-B sites (mol g <sup>-1</sup> )                                  | 0.5 x $n_A$  |
| $pK_A$        | Intrinsic proton dissociation constant for type-A sites                        | 3.2 (FA), 4.1 (HA)                                       |
| $pK_B$        | Intrinsic proton dissociation constant for type-B sites                        | 9.4 (FA), 8.8 (HA)                                       |
| $\Delta pK_A$ | Distribution term that modifies $pK_A$   | 3.3 (FA), 2.1 (HA)                                       |
| $\Delta pK_B$ | Distribution term that modifies $pK_B$   | 4.9 (FA), 3.6 (HA)                                       |
| $\log K_{MA}$ | Intrinsic equilibrium constant for metal binding at type-A sites               | 2.4 (FA), 2.5 (HA)                                       |
| $\log K_{MB}$ | Intrinsic equilibrium constant for metal binding at type-B sites               | 3.39 $\log K_{MA}$ -1.15                                 |
| $\Delta LK_1$ | Distribution term that modifies $\log K_{MA}$                                  | 2.8  |
| $\Delta LK_2$ | Distribution term that modifies the strength of bidentate and tridentate sites | 1.74 (V(IV)O)  |
| $P$           | Electrostatic parameter  | -115 (FA), -330 (HA)                                     |
| $K_{sel}$     | Selectivity coefficient for counterion accumulation                            | 1  |
| $f_{prB}$     | Fraction of proton sites that can form bidentate sites                         | Calculated from geometry                                 |
| $f_{prT}$     | Fraction of proton sites that can form tridentate sites                        | Calculated from geometry                                 |
| $M$           | Molecular weight   | 1.5 kDa (FA), 15 kDa (HA)                                |
| $R$           | Molecular radius   | 0.8 nm (FA), 1.72 nm (HA)                                |

**Table 1.**



|                  | AlOx  | FeOx  | MnOx  | SiOx  |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| $\Gamma_{\max}$  | 8.33  | 8.33  | 8.33  | 8.33  |
| $pK_{H1}$        | 6.45  | 6.26  | 0.63  | (-10) |
| $pK_{H2}$        | 9.96  | 9.66  | 4.21  | 8.51  |
| $10^6 P$         | -1.38 | -1.46 | -0.88 | -0.86 |
| $\Delta pK_{MH}$ | -2.2  | -2    | -3    | -1.5  |
| $pK_{MH}$        | 2.4   | 2.7   | 1.1   | 4.7   |

**Table 2.**

|                 | P11      | F5       | F5       | F7       | F7       | F14      |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Date            | 01/20/99 | 02/26/98 | 01/20/99 | 02/26/98 | 01/20/99 | 01/20/99 | 01/27/99 | 02/03/99 | 02/10/99 | 02/17/99 | 02/24/99 | 03/03/99 | 03/16/99 | 03/24/99 |
| T (°C)          | 11.1     | n.a.     | 10.9     | n.a.     | 12.7     | 9.4      | 8.1      | 7.6      | 7.0      | 7.6      | 9.1      | 10.1     | 10.1     | 11.5     |
| pH              | 5.95     | n.a.     | 6.05     | n.a.     | 6.07     | 5.6      | 6.59     | 6.4      | 6.46     | 6.31     | 6.33     | 6.36     | 6.95     | 6.45     |
| Eh              | 405      | n.a.     | 420      | n.a.     | 348      | 284      | 408      | 336      | 321      | 291      | 277      | 240      | 261      | 196      |
| Cl              | 43.16    | n.a.     | 49.46    | n.a.     | 47.3     | 36.32    | 33.84    | 34.67    | 34.98    | 35.79    | 34.78    | 34.05    | 36.91    | 37.84    |
| SO <sub>4</sub> | 17.31    | n.a.     | 23.61    | n.a.     | 25.46    | 18.08    | 16.03    | 18.54    | 14.02    | 16.4     | 15.8     | 13.78    | 4.66     | 11       |
| NO <sub>3</sub> | 67.42    | n.a.     | 69.71    | n.a.     | 46.27    | 15.47    | 19.29    | 41.88    | 6.84     | 14.39    | 16.05    | 0        | 0        | 11.41    |
| DOC             | n.a.     | 4.4      | n.a.     | 3.9      | n.a.     | n.a.     | 10.409   | n.a.     | 19.313   | 25.136   | n.a.     | 41.19    | 46.31    | 53.12    |
| Na              | 26290    | n.a.     | 22370    | n.a.     | 20080    | 19680    | 18400    | 18430    | 19040    | 19480    | 18680    | 18820    | 19150    | 19490    |
| Mg              | 10440    | n.a.     | 14140    | n.a.     | 12060    | 7033     | 6283     | 7715     | 7538     | 8376     | 7901     | 9907     | 10380    | 10710    |
| Al              | 4        | 2        | 4        | 7        | 5        | 109      | 92       | 89       | 157      | 129      | 131      | 151      | 188      | 170      |
| Si              | 8980     | 699      | 7770     | 808      | 7293     | 8477     | 7853     | 10340    | 8870     | 9298     | 9177     | 11560    | 7056     | 12480    |
| K               | 1700     | n.a.     | 4428     | n.a.     | 2595     | 2502     | 2766     | 1522     | 2114     | 1761     | 1677     | 1225     | 1755     | 1644     |
| Ca              | 15080    | n.a.     | 21150    | n.a.     | 18650    | 14310    | 12820    | 18250    | 17320    | 20050    | 19970    | 24240    | 21650    | 37610    |
| V               | 0.32     | 0.78     | 0.37     | 1.42     | 0.95     | 1.51     | 1.25     | 1.39     | 2.60     | 2.26     | 3.75     | 5.53     | 7.98     | 10.22    |
| Cr              | 2.01     | 4.00     | 1.95     | 2.40     | 0.70     | 1.43     | 1.37     | 1.49     | 1.86     | 1.62     | 1.62     | 2.01     | 2.86     | 2.43     |
| Mn              | 29       | 9        | 12       | 94       | 65       | 437      | 405      | 633      | 1292     | 1530     | 1456     | 1826     | 2102     | 3595     |
| Fe              | 91       | 93       | 307      | 168      | 373      | 1246     | 853      | 1408     | 2339     | 4220     | 6329     | 9160     | 11000    | 24640    |
| Co              | 0.10     | 0.23     | 0.19     | 0.88     | 0.56     | 2.63     | 2.05     | 2.92     | 7.41     | 8.06     | 8.47     | 10.10    | 11.36    | 14.38    |
| Ni              | 3.42     | 2.40     | 2.45     | 2.08     | 2.29     | 6.16     | 5.26     | 7.00     | 10.46    | 10.16    | 10.18    | 11.74    | 13.62    | 15.84    |
| Cu              | 0.94     | 0.40     | 0.96     | 1.11     | 1.17     | 4.61     | 3.31     | 4.21     | 6.24     | 5.29     | 4.64     | 4.71     | 4.38     | 2.31     |
| Zn              | 2.76     | 4.10     | 11.98    | 6.00     | 8.00     | 7.19     | 7.60     | 8.17     | 10.70    | 9.44     | 8.02     | 11.76    | 9.61     | 8.81     |
| Rb              | n.a.     | 1.13     | n.a.     | 1.38     | n.a.     | n.a.     | n.a.     | n.a.     | n.a.     | n.a.     | n.a.     | n.a.     | n.a.     | n.a.     |
| Sr              | 138      | 191      | 190      | 149      | 172      | 133      | 117      | 174      | 155      | 179      | 176      | 222      | 192      | 235      |
| Ba              | 28       | 30       | 31       | 36       | 41       | 28       | 26       | 30       | 31       | 33       | 33       | 37       | 35       | 41       |
| ΣREE            | 0.176    | 0.253    | 0.292    | 0.624    | 0.510    | 6.805    | 4.794    | 6.720    | 11.713   | 10.416   | 11.709   | 15.261   | 16.486   | 15.821   |
| Pb              | 0.617    | 10.050   | 18.750   | 1.555    | 2.980    | 6.320    | 5.220    | 5.160    | 7.690    | 7.280    | 6.540    | 9.120    | 14.180   | 8.900    |
| Th              | 0.110    | 0.011    | 0.135    | 0.038    | 0.230    | 1.850    | 1.400    | 1.680    | 3.180    | 2.760    | 2.740    | 4.280    | 5.340    | 4.950    |
| U               | 0.104    | 0.069    | 0.119    | 0.115    | 0.066    | 0.983    | 0.742    | 1.170    | 1.710    | 1.790    | 2.160    | 4.730    | 2.810    | 2.840    |

**Table 3.** (to be continued)

n.a.: not available

| F14             |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Date            | 03/31/99 | 04/07/99 | 04/12/99 | 04/20/99 | 04/28/99 | 05/05/99 | 05/11/99 | 05/19/99 | 05/26/99 | 06/02/99 | 06/16/99 | 06/23/99 | 06/30/99 |
| T (°C)          | 12.6     | 11.9     | 10.4     | 11.4     | 13.7     | 14.2     | 13.8     | 13.2     | 16.6     | 13.2     | 17.3     | 18.8     | 16.4     |
| pH              | 6.38     | 6.31     | 6.35     | 6.54     | 6.27     | 6.14     | 6.14     | 6        | 6.15     | 5.53     | n.d.     | 6.23     | 6.21     |
| Eh              | 195      | 223      | 220      | 220      | 185      | 231      | 219      | 196      | 248      | 170      | 197      | 245      | 276      |
| Cl              | 39.3     | 35.83    | 34.83    | 34.98    | 29.55    | 33.57    | 34.8     | 34.41    | 32.26    | 32.99    | 32.59    | 31.95    | 31.57    |
| SO <sub>4</sub> | 14.05    | 16.76    | 16.71    | 13.56    | 7.56     | 20.2     | 19.21    | 18.74    | 18.23    | 18.04    | 17.29    | 18.93    | 23.5     |
| NO <sub>3</sub> | 9.14     | 8.07     | 0        | 33.56    | 15.6     | n.a.     | 4.84     | 2.07     | 3.84     | 2.64     | 3.52     | 8.72     | 23.66    |
| DOC             | 49.21    | 31.84    | 22.85    | 31.72    | 49.31    | n.a.     | 16.27    | 27.17    | 20.7     | 11.8     | 11.76    | 11.65    | 7.98     |
| Na ppb          | 19750    | 19390    | 19560    | 16860    | 18200    | 18740    | 18130    | 18130    | 18080    | 18640    | 17833    | 17330    | 17030    |
| Mg              | 9765     | 8406     | 8300     | 7432     | 7846     | 7559     | 6922     | 6754     | 6902     | 7115     | 6875     | 7094     | 6233     |
| Al              | 165      | 106      | 95       | 109      | 165      | 45       | 69       | 66       | 69       | 63       | 60       | 48       | 42       |
| Si              | 12890    | 12940    | 13670    | 12700    | 9888     | 14870    | 14210    | 13710    | 13630    | 14150    | 13080    | 16760    | 15640    |
| K               | 1709     | 1181     | 1123     | 1391     | 1460     | 575      | 667      | 658      | 475      | 489      | 464      | 497.7    | 516.5    |
| Ca              | 34100    | 33630    | 32660    | 26850    | 32440    | 26560    | 24400    | 22160    | 23440    | 24220    | 22805    | 23280    | 21660    |
| V               | 11.22    | 7.74     | 6.04     | 5.47     | 12.21    | 3.32     | 4.33     | 3.86     | 4.18     | 4.51     | 3.80     | 2.68     | 1.83     |
| Cr              | 2.39     | 1.86     | 1.54     | 1.65     | 2.89     | 0.79     | 1.17     | 1.18     | 1.13     | 1.11     | 1.05     | 0.90     | 0.75     |
| Mn              | 3028     | 2206     | 1773     | 1625     | 2312     | 945      | 982      | 880      | 921      | 935      | 863      | 742      | 695      |
| Fe              | 28680    | 18840    | 15380    | 17630    | 25780    | 7355     | 10660    | 9511     | 9297     | 10220    | 9231     | 7550     | 7307     |
| Co              | 13.74    | 9.71     | 7.68     | 8.45     | 11.58    | 3.92     | 5.29     | 4.95     | 5.36     | 5.27     | 4.95     | 4.32     | 4.47     |
| Ni              | 12.05    | 9.73     | 7.87     | 8.09     | 11.73    | 5.46     | 6.55     | 6.40     | 7.00     | 6.72     | 6.41     | 5.83     | 5.46     |
| Cu              | 1.90     | 1.40     | 1.32     | 1.15     | 1.95     | 0.63     | 0.87     | 0.98     | 0.89     | 0.80     | 0.83     | 0.76     | 1.12     |
| Zn              | 8.13     | 7.26     | 5.98     | 6.32     | 19.33    | 4.60     | 3.99     | 4.07     | 4.23     | 3.59     | 3.84     | 3.53     | 6.99     |
| Rb              | n.a.     | 0.92     | 0.88     | 0.90     | 1.00     | 0.53     | 0.57     | 0.59     | 0.48     | 0.52     | 0.44     | 0.43     | 0.55     |
| Sr              | 223      | 198      | 198      | 167      | 195      | 163      | 153      | 140      | 148      | 157      | 148      | 143      | 136      |
| Ba              | 41       | 34       | 34       | 33       | 34       | 31       | 29       | 27       | 29       | 29       | 27       | 26       | 27       |
| ΣREE            | 15.655   | 10.514   | 9.255    | n.a.     | 15.479   | 6.921    | 8.373    | 6.791    | 7.854    | 8.132    | 6.744    | 5.633    | 4.406    |
| Pb              | 8.750    | 5.310    | 4.590    | 7.340    | 11.480   | 2.260    | 3.710    | 3.600    | 3.480    | 2.880    | 2.682    | 0.002    | 0.002    |
| Th              | 5.000    | 2.200    | 1.890    | 2.390    | 3.930    | 1.010    | 1.520    | 1.230    | 1.330    | 1.320    | 1.190    | 1.100    | 0.771    |
| U               | 2.670    | 1.520    | 1.640    | 1.350    | 2.070    | 1.150    | 1.020    | 0.823    | 0.922    | 1.010    | 0.811    | 0.001    | 0.001    |

**Table 3.**

n.a.: not available

|                 | F7          |        |        |        |        |        |        | F14         |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|-----------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|                 | 0.2 $\mu$ m | 30 kDa | 30 kDa | 10 kDa | 10 kDa | 5 kDa  | 5 kDa  | 0.2 $\mu$ m | 30 kDa | 30 kDa | 10 kDa | 10 kDa | 5 kDa  | 5 kDa  |
| T (°C)          | 10.6        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 10.4        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| pH              | 6.19        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 6.40        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Cl              | 69          |        |        |        |        |        |        | 53          |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| SO <sub>4</sub> | 62          |        |        |        |        |        |        | 35          |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| NO <sub>3</sub> | 1           |        |        |        |        |        |        | 1           |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| Alkalinity      | 1.318       |        |        |        |        |        |        | 623         |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| DOC             | 11.1        | 8.2    | 8.1    | 8.0    | 7.8    | 6.9    | 6.3    | 21.5        | 16.3   | 16.2   | 14.7   | 14.1   | 10.6   | 10.5   |
| Na              | 35,090      | 40,830 | 40,830 | 35,410 | 35,410 | 37,650 | 37,650 | 24,000      | 22,260 | 24,810 | 24,760 | 24,030 | 19,882 | 19,494 |
| Mg              | 12,150      | 12,780 | 13,000 | 15,680 | 11,450 | 12,160 | 11,510 | 7,613       | 6,738  | 7,460  | 7,332  | 7,297  | 6,222  | 6,064  |
| Al              | 16          | 10     | 9      | 9      | 7      | 8      | 5      | 107         | 41     | 44     | 33     | 30     | 16     | 16     |
| Si              | 14,220      | 15,050 | 15,730 | 18,420 | 13,860 | 14,740 | 13,740 | 12,860      | 11,610 | 13,190 | 13,110 | 12,705 | 11,674 | 11,294 |
| K               | 463         | 477    | 531    | 603    | 463    | 445    | 405    | 895         | 845    | 895    | 902    | 873    | 809    | 772    |
| Ca              | 30,800      | 32,270 | 34,840 | 40,370 | 30,850 | 31,600 | 29,570 | 24,880      | 23,220 | 24,730 | 24,290 | 23,648 | 22,389 | 21,481 |
| V               | 0.51        | 0.29   | 0.32   | 0.37   | 0.28   | 0.35   | 0.25   | 2.64        | 0.68   | 0.72   | 0.57   | 0.55   | 0.46   | 0.42   |
| Cr              | 0.91        | 1.07   | 1.20   | 1.35   | 1.03   | 0.95   | 0.82   | 1.71        | 1.44   | 1.51   | 1.32   | 1.22   | 0.83   | 0.73   |
| Mn              | 1,193       | 1,239  | 1,316  | 1,572  | 1,178  | 1,206  | 1,135  | 512         | 417    | 436    | 430    | 418    | 13     | 13     |
| Fe              | 1,431       | 373    | 372    | 46     | 51     | 30     | 22     | 2,462       | 275    | 305    | 83     | 69     | 20     | 26     |
| Co              | 6.72        | 6.84   | 7.34   | 8.20   | 6.22   | 6.15   | 5.51   | 4.74        | 3.46   | 3.72   | 3.46   | 3.31   | 0.14   | 0.14   |
| Ni              | 11.72       | 11.79  | 12.67  | 13.81  | 10.46  | 9.62   | 7.98   | 11.71       | 9.54   | 14.54  | 10.97  | 8.93   | 6.53   | 6.60   |
| Cu              | 2.52        | 2.29   | 2.43   | 2.39   | 1.83   | 1.87   | 1.38   | 10.19       | 7.42   | 7.90   | 6.51   | 5.69   | 4.73   | 4.50   |
| Zn              | 8.43        | 7.45   | 8.62   | 9.55   | 7.41   | 7.60   | 6.60   | 12.41       | 10.99  | 9.27   | 9.26   | 8.41   | 5.72   | 5.31   |
| Rb              | 1.72        | 1.76   | 1.92   | 2.28   | 1.75   | 1.72   | 1.60   | 0.88        | 0.86   | 0.88   | 0.88   | 0.85   | 0.87   | 0.85   |
| Sr              | 189.60      | 195.80 | 212.30 | 259.30 | 193.70 | 196.90 | 184.90 | 155.10      | 149.50 | 159.90 | 152.60 | 148.21 | 144.53 | 143.03 |
| Ba              | 51.20       | 51.38  | 56.42  | 66.37  | 51.62  | 49.76  | 46.72  | 34.21       | 29.95  | 29.75  | 29.42  | 28.83  | 22.39  | 21.81  |
| ΣREE            | 3.793       | 1.539  | 1.796  | 1.625  | 1.220  | 1.407  | 0.663  | 8.649       | 2.777  | 2.778  | 1.746  | 1.557  | 0.651  | 0.656  |
| Pb              | 0.057       | 0.031  | 0.006  | 0.002  | 0.031  | 0.027  | 0.026  | 1.195       | 0.096  | 0.085  | 0.011  | 0.013  | 0.023  | 0.018  |
| Th              | 0.037       | 0.019  | 0.019  | 0.015  | 0.011  | 0.007  | 0.003  | 0.163       | 0.098  | 0.099  | 0.060  | 0.049  | 0.013  | 0.013  |
| U               | 0.061       | 0.049  | 0.051  | 0.051  | 0.039  | 0.038  | 0.029  | 0.118       | 0.067  | 0.065  | 0.045  | 0.039  | 0.017  | 0.017  |

**Table 4.**

|     | <i>HA</i> | <i>FA</i> | <i>Inorganic</i> |
|-----|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| F7  | 47        | 47        | 6                |
| F14 | 58        | 41        | 1                |

**Table 5.**