

# **Contamination Level, Ecological Risk and Source Identification of Heavy Metals in the Hyporheic Zone of the Weihe River, China**

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## **Supplementary material**

### **The detailed procedure for total metal digestion :**

In brief, a mass of 0.25 g dry sediment sample was weighed into a set of 10 mL Teflon vessel. About 2 mL concentrated  $\text{HNO}_3$  and 2 mL concentrated HCL and 1 mL concentrated  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  were added to the samples and the vessel were left on a hot plate for one day to remove organics. Afterwards, the samples were dried at 120 °C and the residues were dissolved in 1 mL concentrated  $\text{HNO}_3$  and 2 mL concentrated HF and subjected to ultrasonic treatment for 20 min. Then the samples were put into sealed vessel and placed in an oven at 180 °C for 24 hour. This procedure generated a clear solution from the samples. After evaporation at 120 °C, the samples were subjected to ultrasound treatment for another 30 min and dissolved in 1%  $\text{HNO}_3$ . Then sample cool down at room temperature and prepared 50% volumetric flask. ICP-MS was used to determine total concentrations of trace metals in the sediments [1].

"Gao, L.; Gao, B.; Xu, D.; Peng, W.; Lu, J. Multiple assessments of trace metals in sediments and their response to the water level fluctuation in the Three Gorges Reservoir, China. *Sci. Total Environ.* **2019**, *648*, 197–205."

### **No of Figures: 2**

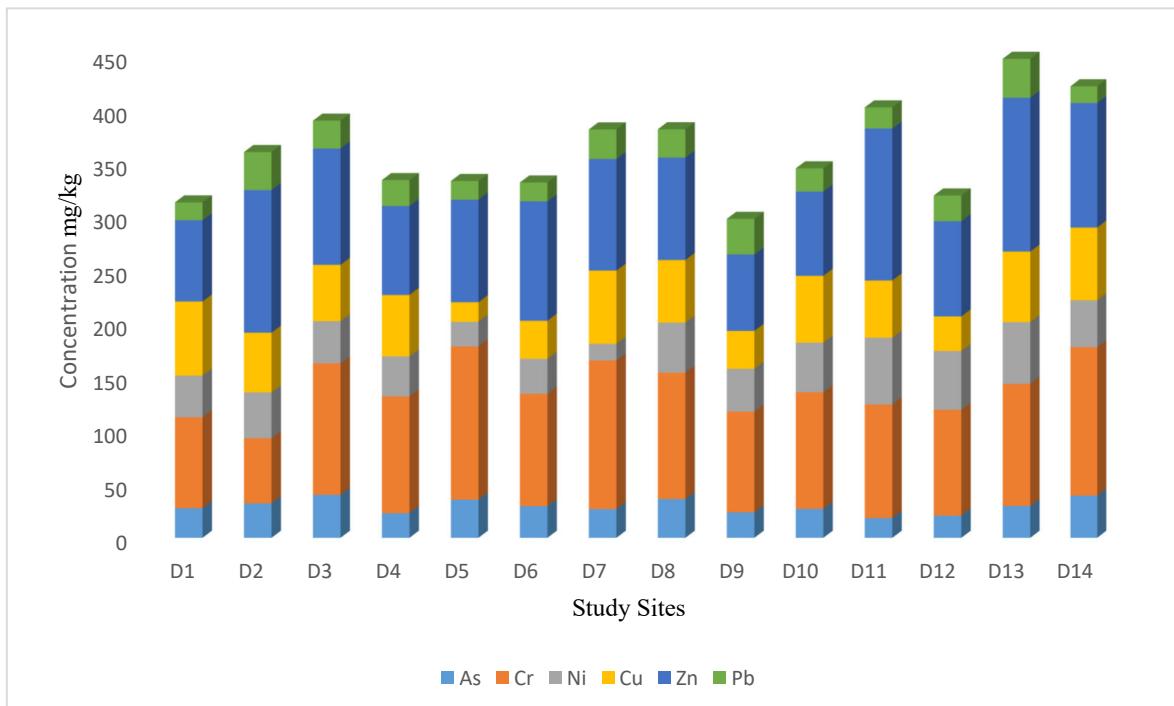
**Figure S1.** Variation in concentrations of heavy metal in the sediment collected from different stations of the Weihe River

**Figure S2.** Three principal components plot in the principal component analysis (PCA)

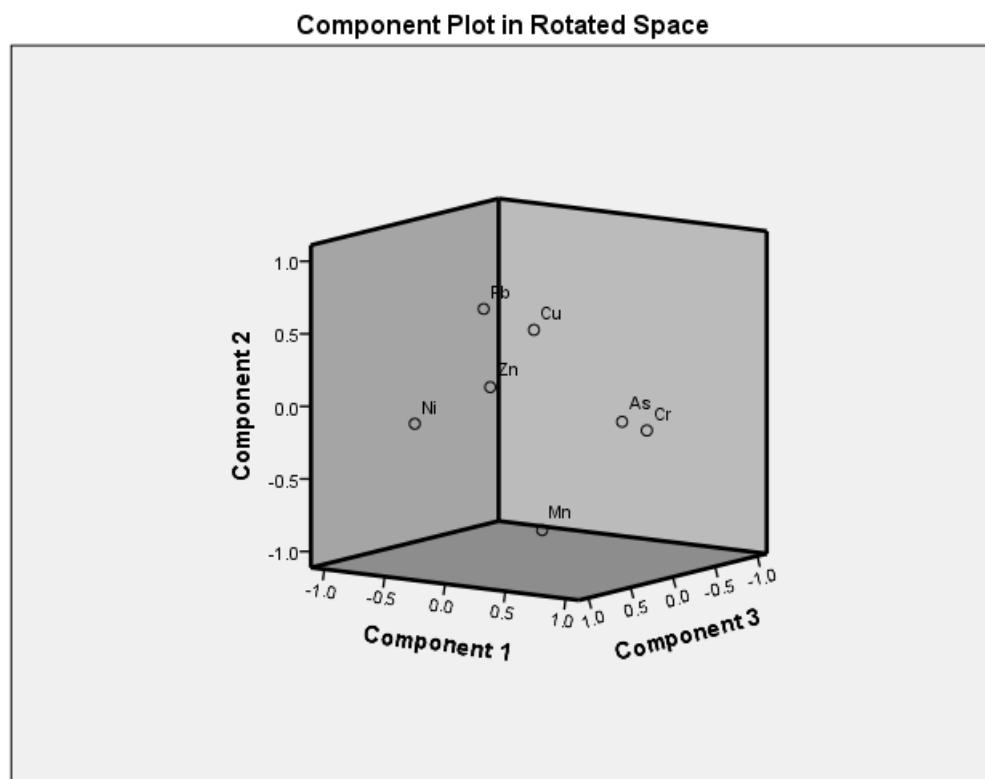
### **No of Tables: 2**

**Table S1.** Background concentration of heavy metals used in this study

**Table S2.** Variation in contamination levels "geo accumulation index (Igeo), enrichment factor (EF), contamination factor (CF), ecological risk (ER), pollution load index (PLI) and risk index (RI)" in the Weihe River.



**Figure S1.** Variation in concentrations of heavy metal in the sediment collected from different stations of the Weihe River



**Figure: S2.** Three principal components plot in the principal component analysis (PCA)

**Table S1.** Background concentration of heavy metals used in this study

Metal	Background Value			Metal	Background Value			Metal	Background Value		
As	13			Cr	90			Ni	68		
Cu	45			Zn	95			Pb	20		
Mn	850										

**Table S2.** Variation in contamination levels “geo accumulation index (Igeo), enrichment factor (EF), contamination factor (CF), ecological risk (ER) and risk index (RI)” in the Weihe River.

Sites	As			Cr			Ni			Cu			Zn			Pb			Mn			RI						
	Igeo	EF	CF	ER	Igeo	EF	CF	ER	Igeo	EF	CF	ER	Igeo	EF	CF	ER	Igeo	CF	ER	Igeo	CF	ER						
D1	0.50	2.51	2.12	21.19	-0.67	1.12	0.94	1.88	-1.40	0.68	0.57	2.85	0.04	1.83	1.54	7.70	-0.91	0.95	0.80	-0.84	0.99	0.84	4.18	-0.83	0.84	0.84	39.44	
D2	0.71	2.28	2.46	24.60	-1.16	0.62	0.67	1.35	-1.25	0.58	0.63	3.15	-0.28	1.15	1.24	6.20	-0.10	1.30	1.40	1.40	0.24	1.64	1.77	8.86	-0.47	1.08	1.08	46.63
D3	1.03	2.52	3.07	30.71	-0.14	1.12	1.36	2.73	-1.38	0.47	0.58	2.89	-0.36	0.96	1.17	5.85	-0.39	0.94	1.14	1.14	-0.21	1.06	1.30	6.48	-0.30	1.22	1.22	51.02
D4	0.23	1.23	1.76	17.61	-0.31	0.85	1.21	2.42	-1.45	0.38	0.55	2.74	-0.23	0.89	1.28	6.38	-0.78	0.61	0.87	0.87	-0.31	0.85	1.21	6.06	-0.07	1.43	1.43	37.51
D5	0.86	2.01	2.73	27.25	0.08	1.17	1.59	3.18	-2.15	0.25	0.34	1.69	-1.89	0.30	0.41	2.03	-0.57	0.74	1.01	1.01	-0.78	0.64	0.87	4.36	-0.15	1.36	1.36	40.87
D6	0.59	2.28	2.26	22.60	-0.37	1.17	1.16	2.33	-1.64	0.48	0.48	2.40	-0.93	0.80	0.79	3.95	-0.35	1.18	1.17	1.17	-0.76	0.89	0.88	4.42	-0.60	0.99	0.99	37.86
D7	0.45	3.35	2.05	20.47	0.04	2.52	1.54	3.08	-2.72	0.37	0.23	1.13	0.02	2.49	1.52	7.60	-0.45	1.80	1.10	1.10	-0.12	2.26	1.38	6.89	-1.30	0.61	0.61	40.89
D8	0.88	3.19	2.77	27.68	-0.20	1.51	1.31	2.62	-1.13	0.79	0.69	3.43	-0.21	1.50	1.30	6.50	-0.58	1.16	1.01	1.01	-0.18	1.52	1.32	6.62	-0.79	0.87	0.87	48.72
D9	0.28	2.26	1.82	18.23	-0.53	1.29	1.04	2.08	-1.35	0.73	0.59	2.94	-0.93	0.97	0.79	3.93	-1.00	0.93	0.75	0.75	0.15	2.06	1.66	8.32	-0.89	0.81	0.81	37.06
D10	0.46	1.61	2.07	20.67	-0.31	0.94	1.21	2.41	-1.14	0.53	0.68	3.40	-0.11	1.08	1.39	6.94	-0.86	0.65	0.83	0.83	-0.47	0.84	1.08	5.41	-0.23	1.28	1.28	40.94
D11	-0.08	1.45	1.42	14.18	-0.35	1.20	1.17	2.35	-0.71	0.94	0.92	4.59	-0.34	1.22	1.19	5.94	-0.01	1.53	1.49	1.49	-0.60	1.01	0.99	4.94	-0.62	0.97	0.97	34.45
D12	0.08	1.44	1.59	15.90	-0.46	0.99	1.09	2.19	-0.89	0.73	0.81	4.04	-1.06	0.65	0.72	3.59	-0.68	0.85	0.94	0.94	-0.32	1.08	1.20	6.00	-0.44	1.11	1.11	33.76
D13	0.60	2.69	2.28	22.76	-0.25	1.50	1.27	2.53	-0.83	1.00	0.85	4.23	-0.03	1.73	1.47	7.33	0.01	1.79	1.51	1.51	0.28	2.15	1.82	9.10	-0.83	0.85	0.85	48.30
D14	1.01	2.48	3.02	30.19	0.04	1.26	1.54	3.07	-1.22	0.53	0.64	3.22	0.01	1.24	1.51	7.55	-0.29	1.00	1.22	1.22	-0.94	0.64	0.78	3.91	-0.30	1.22	1.22	50.37
Minimum	-0.08	1.23	1.42	14.18	-1.16	0.62	0.67	1.35	-2.72	0.25	0.23	1.13	-1.89	0.30	0.41	2.03	-1.00	0.61	0.75	0.75	-0.94	0.64	0.78	3.91	-1.30	0.61	0.61	33.76
Maximum	1.03	3.35	3.07	30.71	0.08	2.52	1.59	3.18	-0.71	1.00	0.92	4.59	0.04	2.49	1.54	7.70	0.01	1.80	1.51	1.51	0.28	2.26	1.82	9.10	-0.07	1.43	1.43	51.02
Average	0.54	2.24	2.24	22.43	-0.33	1.23	1.22	2.44	-1.38	0.60	0.61	3.05	-0.45	1.20	1.16	5.82	-0.50	1.10	1.09	1.09	-0.35	1.26	1.22	6.11	-0.56	1.05	1.05	41.99