

# Supplementary Materials: Environmental Impacts and Immobilization Mechanisms of Cadmium, Lead and Zinc in Geotechnical Composites Made from Contaminated Soil and Paper-Ash

Marija Djurić <sup>1,3</sup>, Primož Oprčkal <sup>1</sup>, Vesna Zalar Serjun <sup>1</sup>, Alenka Mauko Pranjić <sup>1</sup>, Janez Ščančar <sup>2,3</sup>, Radmila Milačič <sup>2,3,\*</sup> and Ana Mladenovič <sup>1,\*</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Department, Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute, Dimičeva 12, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia; marija.djuric@zag.si (M.D.), primoz.oprckal@zag.si (P.O.); vesna.zalar@zag.si (V.Z.S.); alenka.mauko@zag.si (A.M.P.)
- <sup>2</sup> Department of Environmental Sciences, Jožef Stefan Institute, Jamova 39, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia; janez.scancar@ijs.si
- <sup>3</sup> Jožef Stefan International Postgraduate School, Jamova 39, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
- \* Correspondence: radmila.milacic@ijs.si (R.M.); ana.mladenovic@zag.si (A.M.); Tel.: +386-1-477-3560 (R.M.); + 386-1-280-4394 (A.M.)

**Table S1.** ICP-MS operating parameters for determination of element concentrations.

Parameter	Type/Value	Helium mode	No gas mode
<i>Sample introduction</i>			
Nebuliser	Miramist		
Spray chamber	Scott		
Skimmer and sampler	Ni		
<i>Plasma conditions</i>			
Forward power	1550 W		
Plasma gas flow	15.0 L/min		
Carrier gas flow		1.05 L/min	0.75 L/min
Dilution gas flow		0.10 L/min	0.45 L/min
He gas flow		4.5 mL/min	
QP bias		-15 V	-3.6 V
Oct bias		-18 V	-8.0 V
Cell entrance		-40 V	-40 V
Cell exit		-60 V	-50 V
Deflect		-2.2 V	13.4 V
Plate bias		-60 V	-40 V
Sample uptake rate	0.3 mL/min		
<i>Data acquisition parameters</i>			
Isotopes monitored	<sup>66</sup> Zn		<sup>111</sup> Cd, <sup>208</sup> Pb
Isotopes of internal standards	<sup>72</sup> Ge, <sup>89</sup> Y, <sup>103</sup> Rh, <sup>115</sup> In		<sup>72</sup> Ge, <sup>89</sup> Y, <sup>103</sup> Rh, <sup>115</sup> In

**Table S2.** Concentrations of elements in standard reference material SPS-SW1 (Reference material for measurements of elements in surface waters) determined by ICP-MS. The results represent the mean concentration from three parallel samples. The uncertainty of ICP-MS determination was  $\pm 2\%$ .

Parameter	Certified concentration ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )	Determined concentration ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )
Cd	0.50 $\pm$ 0.01	0.48 $\pm$ 0.01
Pb	5.0 $\pm$ 0.1	4.94 $\pm$ 0.15
Zn	20 <sup>a</sup>	19.7 $\pm$ 0.6

<sup>a</sup>informative value

**Table S3.** Concentrations of elements in certified reference material CRM 320R (Trace Elements in River Sediment) determined by ICP-MS after microwave assisted digestion. The results represent the mean concentration from three parallel samples. The expanded uncertainty of analytical procedure was better than  $\pm 3\%$  ( $k = 2$ ).

Element	Certified ( $\text{mg/kg}$ )	Determined ( $\text{mg/kg}$ )
Cd	2.64 $\pm$ 0.18	2.52 $\pm$ 0.07
Zn	319 $\pm$ 20	308 $\pm$ 9
Pb	85 $\pm$ 5	87 $\pm$ 2

**Table S4.** Concentrations of Cd in individual fractions of extraction procedure in uncontaminated, contaminated, and remediated soils during the course of the experiment. Concentrations of Cd were determined by ICP-MS. The results represent the mean concentration from two parallel samples. The expanded uncertainty of analytical procedure was better than  $\pm 3\%$  ( $k = 2$ ).

Days after the start of the experiment	Extraction step	Uncontaminated soil Cd (mg/kg)	Contaminated soil Cd (mg/kg)	Remediated soil Cd (mg/kg)
7	I	0.0007	0.07	0.0007
	II	0.0007	1.30	0.0007
	III	0.015	5.90	0.07
	IV	0.012	0.32	6.80
	V	0.0007	0.01	0.03
	VI	1.01	1.20	0.80
	Total concentration	1.04	8.73	7.70
28	I	0.0007	0.57	0.0005
	II	0.0007	0.47	0.0007
	III	0.015	4.80	0.93
	IV	0.012	0.60	0.51
	V	0.0007	0.01	0.006
	VI	1.01	2.30	6.10
	Total concentration	1.04	8.73	7.70
56	I	0.0007	0.39	0.0005
	II	0.0007	0.41	0.0005
	III	0.015	2.60	1.50
	IV	0.012	0.45	3.30
	V	0.0007	0.01	0.002
	VI	1.01	4.90	2.90
	Total concentration	1.04	8.73	7.70
90	I	0.0007	0.62	0.0005
	II	0.0007	0.22	0.0005
	III	0.015	2.90	1.50
	IV	0.012	0.51	5.80
	V	0.0007	0.01	0.003
	VI	1.01	4.40	0.40
	Total concentration	1.04	8.73	7.70
120	I	0.0007	0.80	0.0008
	II	0.0007	1.40	0.006
	III	0.015	5.60	4.30
	IV	0.012	0.83	3.30
	V	0.0007	0.003	0.006
	VI	1.01	0.10	0.10
	Total concentration	1.04	8.73	7.70
365	I	0.0007	0.75	0.0005
	II	0.0007	1.50	0.007
	III	0.015	5.90	3.60
	IV	0.012	0.51	3.20
	V	0.0007	0.01	0.03
	VI	1.01	0.04	0.80
	Total concentration	1.04	8.73	7.70

**Table S5.** Concentrations of Pb in individual fractions of extraction procedure in uncontaminated, contaminated, and remediated soils during the course of the experiment. Concentrations of Pb were determined by ICP-MS. The results represent the mean concentration from two parallel samples. The expanded uncertainty of analytical procedure was better than  $\pm 3\%$  ( $k = 2$ ).

Days after the start of the experiment	Extraction step	Uncontaminated soil Pb (mg/kg)	Contaminated soil Pb (mg/kg)	Remediated soil Pb (mg/kg)
7	I	0.0003	0.04	2.1
	II	0.0003	1.60	1.2
	III	0.0021	68.4	0.31
	IV	0.18	244	634
	V	0.0043	0.45	0.0003
	VI	9.3	631	127
Total concentration		9.5	946	767
28	I	0.0003	0.41	0.13
	II	0.0003	2.03	0.32
	III	0.0021	617	72.6
	IV	0.18	273	240.8
	V	0.0043	0.17	0.001
	VI	9.3	53.3	453
Total concentration		9.5	946	767
56	I	0.0003	0.19	0.001
	II	0.0003	1.4	0.005
	III	0.0021	313	169
	IV	0.18	143.2	478
	V	0.0043	0.49	0.0007
	VI	9.3	488	120
Total concentration		9.5	946	767
90	I	0.0003	0.27	0.0002
	II	0.0003	1.24	0.014
	III	0.0021	350	163
	IV	0.18	127	414
	V	0.0043	0.29	0.0002
	VI	9.3	467	190
Total concentration		9.5	946	767
120	I	0.0003	0.24	0.002
	II	0.0003	3.7	0.030
	III	0.0021	373	177
	IV	0.18	158	341
	V	0.0043	0.0001	0.0002
	VI	9.3	411	250
Total concentration		9.5	946	767
365	I	0.0003	0.21	0.002
	II	0.0003	7.97	0.12
	III	0.0021	670	228
	IV	0.18	180	508
	V	0.0043	0.37	0.020
	VI	9.3	57.5	31.5
Total concentration		9.5	946	767

**Table S6.** Concentrations of Zn in individual fractions of extraction procedure in uncontaminated, contaminated, and remediated soils during the course of the experiment. Concentrations of Zn were determined by ICP-MS. The results represent the mean concentration from two parallel samples. The expanded uncertainty of analytical procedure was better than  $\pm 3\%$  ( $k = 2$ ).

Days after the start of the experiment	Extraction step	Uncontaminated soil Zn (mg/kg)	Contaminated soil Zn (mg/kg)	Remediated soil Zn (mg/kg)
7	I	0.0025	69.0	7.6
	II	0.0025	15.1	6.4
	III	0.063	7338	5.6
	IV	0.22	993	7075
	V	0.14	15.2	1.9
	VI	40.9	384	395
	Total concentration	41.3	8814	7491
28	I	0.0025	50.7	0.6
	II	0.0025	15.4	1.4
	III	0.063	7022	1613
	IV	0.22	913	877
	V	0.14	5.4	1.7
	VI	40.9	808	4998
	Total concentration	41.3	8814	7491
56	I	0.0025	34.7	0.0012
	II	0.0025	10.4	0.015
	III	0.063	5763	2932
	IV	0.22	596	3861
	V	0.14	5.1	0.074
	VI	40.9	2405	698
	Total concentration	41.3	8814	7491
90	I	0.0025	58.3	0.1362
	II	0.0025	9.3	0.161
	III	0.063	6660	3568
	IV	0.22	525.3	3298
	V	0.14	3.4	0.191
	VI	40.9	1557	624
	Total concentration	41.3	8814	7491
120	I	0.0025	63.6	0.44
	II	0.0025	41.2	0.52
	III	0.063	7563	3198
	IV	0.22	753	3793
	V	0.14	0.10	0.55
	VI	40.9	393	498
	Total concentration	41.3	8814	7491
365	I	0.0025	55.3	0.41
	II	0.0025	36.8	0.65
	III	0.063	7606	2033
	IV	0.22	656	5024
	V	0.14	1.70	12.0
	VI	40.9	458	421
	Total concentration	41.3	8814	7491

**Table S7.** Concentrations of Cd in individual fractions of extraction procedure in uncontaminated soil treated with CaSO<sub>4</sub>, contaminated and remediated soils during the course of the experiment. Concentrations of Cd were determined by ICP-MS. The results represent the mean concentration from two parallel samples. The expanded uncertainty of analytical procedure was better than  $\pm 3\%$  ( $k = 2$ ).

Days after the start of the experiment	Extraction step	Uncontaminated soil Cd (mg/kg)	Contaminated soil Cd (mg/kg)	Remediated soil Cd (mg/kg)
7	I	0.0007	0.12	0.0007
	II	0.0007	2.00	0.0007
	III	0.015	4.70	0.072
	IV	0.009	0.23	6.40
	V	0.0007	0.01	0.01
	VI	0.97	1.90	1.30
	Total concentration	0.99	8.90	7.70
28	I	0.0007	1.5	0.0005
	II	0.0007	0.83	0.0005
	III	0.015	3.80	1.40
	IV	0.009	0.54	0.57
	V	0.0007	0.01	0.008
	VI	0.97	2.30	5.70
	Total concentration	0.99	8.90	7.70
56	I	0.0007	0.96	0.0004
	II	0.0007	0.93	0.0004
	III	0.015	3.40	1.10
	IV	0.009	0.46	2.80
	V	0.0007	0.009	0.0009
	VI	0.97	3.20	3.90
	Total concentration	0.99	8.90	7.70
90	I	0.0007	0.83	0.0005
	II	0.0007	0.22	0.0005
	III	0.015	3.40	1.30
	IV	0.009	0.51	5.30
	V	0.0007	0.007	0.002
	VI	0.97	4.00	1.20
	Total concentration	0.99	8.90	7.70
120	I	0.0007	1.00	0.002
	II	0.0007	1.60	0.006
	III	0.015	5.60	4.20
	IV	0.009	0.63	3.30
	V	0.0007	0.00	0.006
	VI	0.97	0.10	0.20
	Total concentration	0.99	8.90	7.70
365	I	0.0007	1.30	0.002
	II	0.0007	2.00	0.005
	III	0.015	5.10	3.80
	IV	0.009	0.50	3.30
	V	0.0007	0.01	0.023
	VI	0.97	0.10	0.90
	Total concentration	0.99	8.90	7.70

**Table S8.** Concentrations of Pb in individual fractions of extraction procedure in uncontaminated soil treated with CaSO<sub>4</sub>, contaminated and remediated soils during the course of the experiment. Concentrations of Pb were determined by ICP-MS. The results represent the mean concentration from two parallel samples. The expanded uncertainty of analytical procedure was better than  $\pm 3\%$  ( $k = 2$ ).

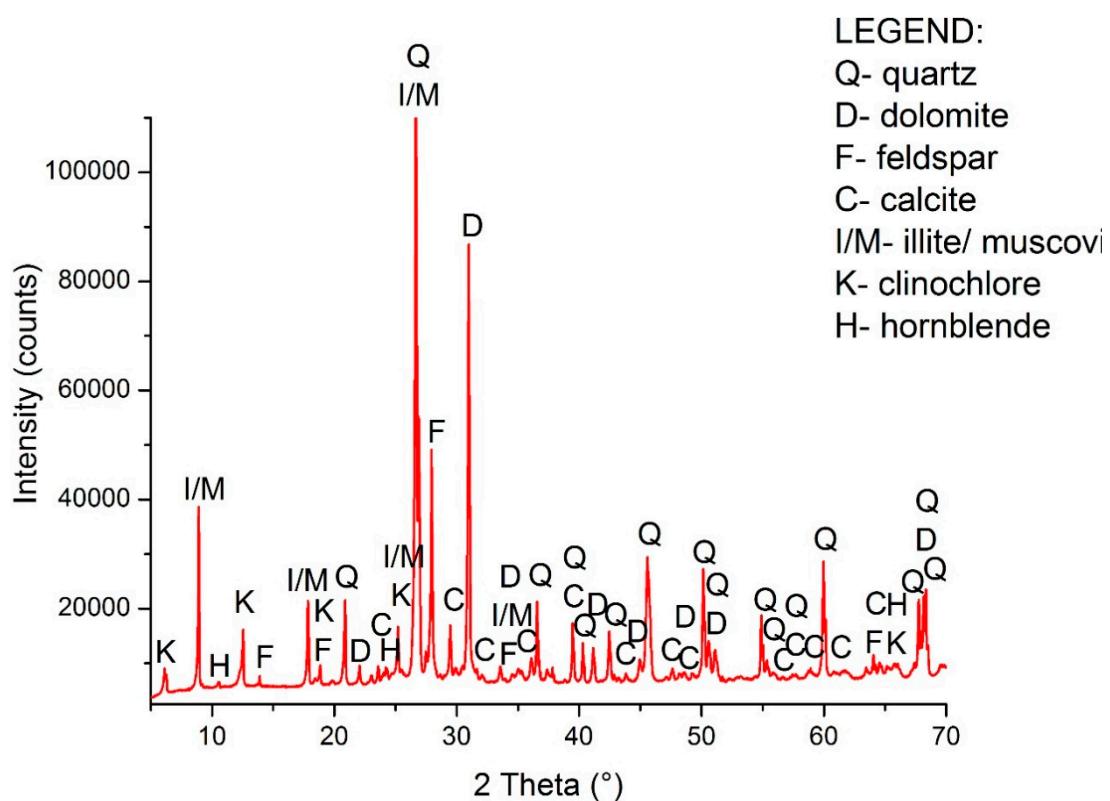
Days after the start of the experiment	Extraction step	Uncontaminated soil Pb (mg/kg)	Contaminated soil Pb (mg/kg)	Remediated soil Pb (mg/kg)
7	I	0.0003	0.0461	2.43
	II	0.0003	5.50	1.28
	III	0.0028	68.00	4.48
	IV	0.20	238	621
	V	0.0067	0.15	0.0003
	VI	8.50	659	44.5
Total concentration		8.70	970	734
28	I	0.0003	0.77	0.022
	II	0.0003	5.50	0.064
	III	0.0028	713	103
	IV	0.20	228	259
	V	0.0067	0.13	0.002
	VI	8.50	22.3	311
Total concentration		8.70	967	734
56	I	0.0003	0.35	0.0004
	II	0.0003	6.30	0.005
	III	0.0028	491	95.3
	IV	0.20	156	470
	V	0.0067	0.19	0.0001
	VI	8.50	316	168
Total concentration		8.70	970	734
90	I	0.0003	0.32	0.0003
	II	0.0003	2.58	0.0078
	III	0.0028	515	122
	IV	0.20	139	325
	V	0.0067	0.28	0.0002
	VI	8.50	313	287
Total concentration		8.70	970	734
120	I	0.0003	0.37	0.0014
	II	0.0003	2.5	0.029
	III	0.0028	374	194
	IV	0.20	157	328
	V	0.0067	0.001	0.0002
	VI	8.50	436	211
Total concentration		8.70	970	734
365	I	0.0003	0.41	0.0037
	II	0.0003	17.5	0.07
	III	0.0028	753.3	205
	IV	0.20	171.2	501
	V	0.0067	1.23	0.0032
	VI	8.50	25.9	27.4
Total concentration		8.70	970	734

**Table S9.** Concentrations of Zn in individual fractions of extraction procedure in uncontaminated soil treated with CaSO<sub>4</sub>, contaminated and remediated soils during the course of the experiment. Concentrations of Zn were determined by ICP-MS. The results represent the mean concentration from two parallel samples. The expanded uncertainty of analytical procedure was better than  $\pm 3\%$  ( $k = 2$ ).

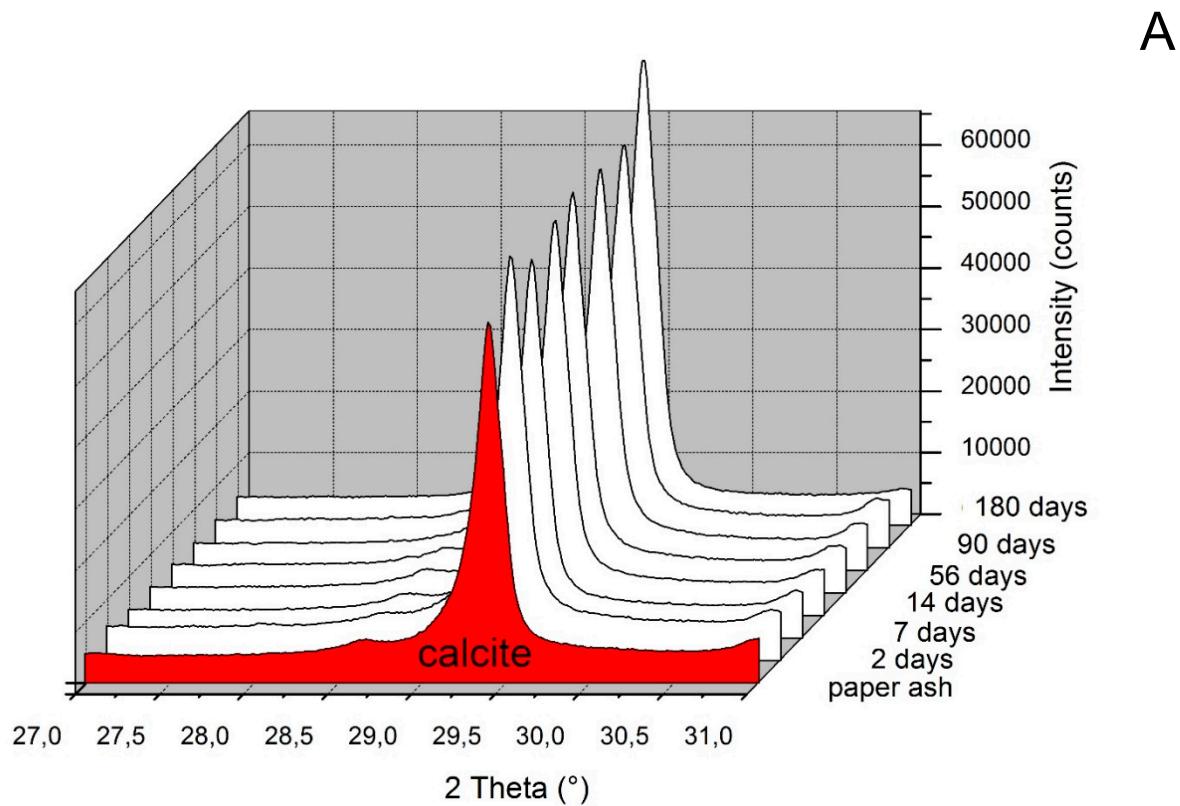
Days after the start of the experiment	Extraction step	Uncontaminated soil Zn (mg/kg)	Contaminated soil Zn (mg/kg)	Remediated soil Zn (mg/kg)
7	I	0.0026	101.2	10.2
	II	0.0026	50.7	8.0
	III	0.047	7596	401
	IV	0.19	847	6511
	V	0.16	10.5	5.8
	VI	38.8	77.4	88.7
	Total concentration	39.2	8782	7024
28	I	0.0026	117	0.4
	II	0.0026	32.5	0.6
	III	0.047	7235	3022
	IV	0.19	376.1	421
	V	0.16	5.6	2.6
	VI	38.8	915	3578
	Total concentration	39.2	8782	7024
56	I	0.0026	82.8	0.0012
	II	0.0026	40.8	0.0073
	III	0.047	6278	3267
	IV	0.19	566	3097
	V	0.16	4.0	0.028
	VI	38.8	1711	660
	Total concentration	39.2	8782	7024
90	I	0.0026	76.8	0.13
	II	0.0026	19.7	0.023
	III	0.047	6350	3232
	IV	0.19	558	2451
	V	0.16	4.2	0.607
	VI	38.8	1672	1340
	Total concentration	39.2	8782	7024
120	I	0.0026	97.3	0.74
	II	0.0026	56.0	0.48
	III	0.047	7715	3247
	IV	0.19	749	3512
	V	0.16	0.1	1.02
	VI	38.8	64.9	264
	Total concentration	39.2	8782	7024
365	I	0.0026	93.9	1.31
	II	0.0026	68.5	0.44
	III	0.047	7894	2264
	IV	0.19	684	4668
	V	0.16	5.5	12.6
	VI	38.8	36.1	77.2
	Total concentration	39.2	8782	7024

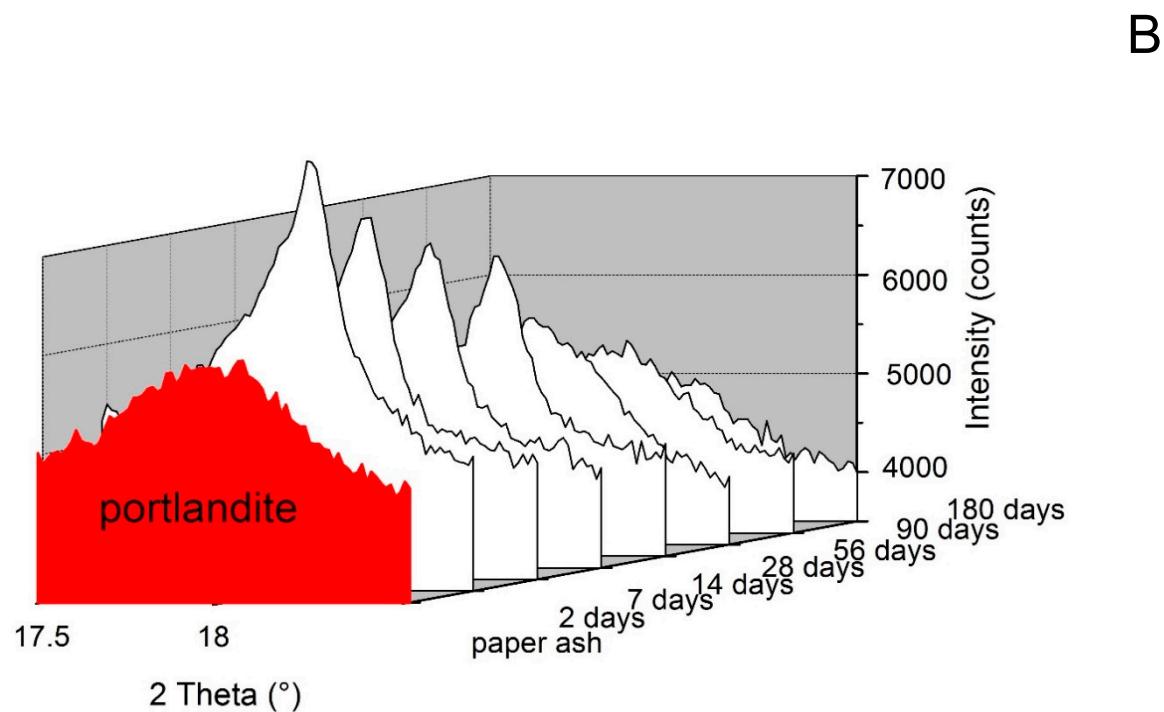
**Table S10.** Data on the statistical processing of the results.

Data on the statistical processing of the results for Cd														
t-Test: Two-Sample Assuming Unequal Variances	Step I		Step II		Step III		Step IV		Step V		Step VI			
		Variable 1	Variable 2											
	Mean	0.533333	0.000583	0.883333	0.002567	4.616667	1.983333	3.818333	0.536667	0.012833	0.008833	2.156667	1.85	
	Variance	0.072427	1.77E-08	0.331147	9.39E-06	2.261667	2.643627	4.936417	0.029187	0.000179	8.17E-06	4.440867	5.307	
	Observations	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
	Hypothesized Mean Difference	0		0		0		0		0		0		
	df	5		5		10		5		5		5	10	
	t Stat	4.848973		3.749041		2.912386		3.607315		0.715478		0.240595		
	P(T<=t) one-tail	0.002339		0.00653		0.007751		0.007712		0.253162		0.407365		
	t Critical one-tail	2.015048		2.015048		1.812461		2.015048		2.015048		1.812461		
t-Test: Two-Sample Assuming Unequal Variances	P(T<=t) two-tail	0.004678		0.013307		0.015501		0.015424		0.506324		0.814729		
	t Critical two-tail	2.570582		2.570582		2.228139		2.570582		2.570582		2.228139		
Data on the statistical processing of the results for Pb														
Step I		Step II		Step III		Step IV		Step V		Step VI				
	Variable 1	Variable 2	Variable 1	Variable 2	Variable 1	Variable 2	Variable 1	Variable 2	Variable 1	Variable 2	Variable 1	Variable 2		
Mean	0.372533	0.226667	2.99	0.2815	398.5667	134.985	435.9667	187.5333	0.295017	0.003733	351.3	195.25		
Variance	0.718845	0.014427	6.74976	0.216494	48146.65	6877.631	18752.81	3410.347	0.034058	6.36E-05	57798.4	21318.98		
Observations	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6		
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0		0		0		0		0		0			
df	5		5		6		7		5		8			
t Stat	0.417253		2.51365		2.752413		4.087612		3.86256		1.35895			
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.346902		0.026794		0.016593		0.002322		0.005925		0.105617			
t Critical one-tail	2.015048		2.015048		1.94318		1.894579		2.015048		1.859548			
t-Test: Two-Sample Assuming Unequal Variances	P(T<=t) two-tail	0.693804		0.053589		0.033186		0.004645		0.011849		0.211233		
	t Critical two-tail	2.570582		2.570582		2.446912		2.364624		2.570582		2.306004		
Data on the statistical processing of the results for Zn														
Step I		Step II		Step III		Step IV		Step V		Step VI				
	Variable 1	Variable 2	Variable 1	Variable 2	Variable 1	Variable 2	Variable 1	Variable 2	Variable 1	Variable 2	Variable 1	Variable 2		
Mean	55.26667	1.531233	21.36667	1.524333	6992	2224.933	3988	739.3833	5.15	2.735833	1272.333	1000.833		
Variance	142.2187	8.88644	194.4587	5.939499	488863.6	1717474	4162288	33598.56	28.307	21.18715	3344972	672560.6		
Observations	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6		
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0		0		0		0		0		0			
df	6		5		8		5		10		7			
t Stat	10.70772		3.433377		7.861236		3.884742		0.840555		0.331792			
P(T<=t) one-tail	1.96E-05		0.009284		2.48E-05		0.005793		0.210121		0.37488			
t Critical one-tail	1.94318		2.015048		1.859548		2.015048		1.812461		1.894579			
t-Test: Two-Sample Assuming Unequal Variances	P(T<=t) two-tail	3.92E-05		0.018568		4.95E-05		0.011586		0.420241		0.749759		
	t Critical two-tail	2.446912		2.570582		2.306004		2.570582		2.228139		2.364624		

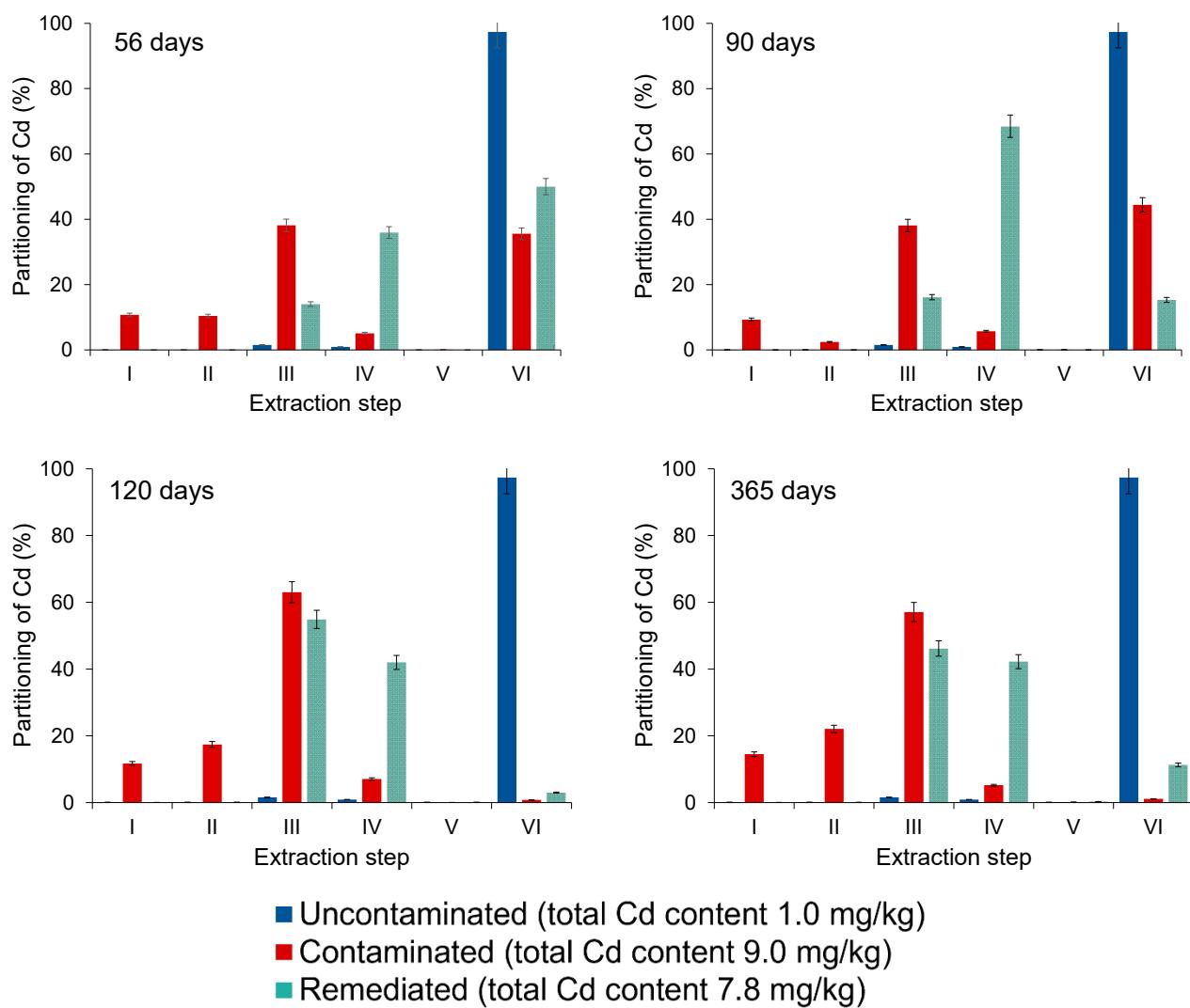


**Figure S1.** XRD pattern of uncontaminated soil.





**Figure S2.** Sections of the XRD patterns of the paper ash paste.



**Figure S3.** Partitioning of Cd in sulphate-treated uncontaminated, contaminated, and remediated soil samples with time elapsed after the remediation.

I water-soluble

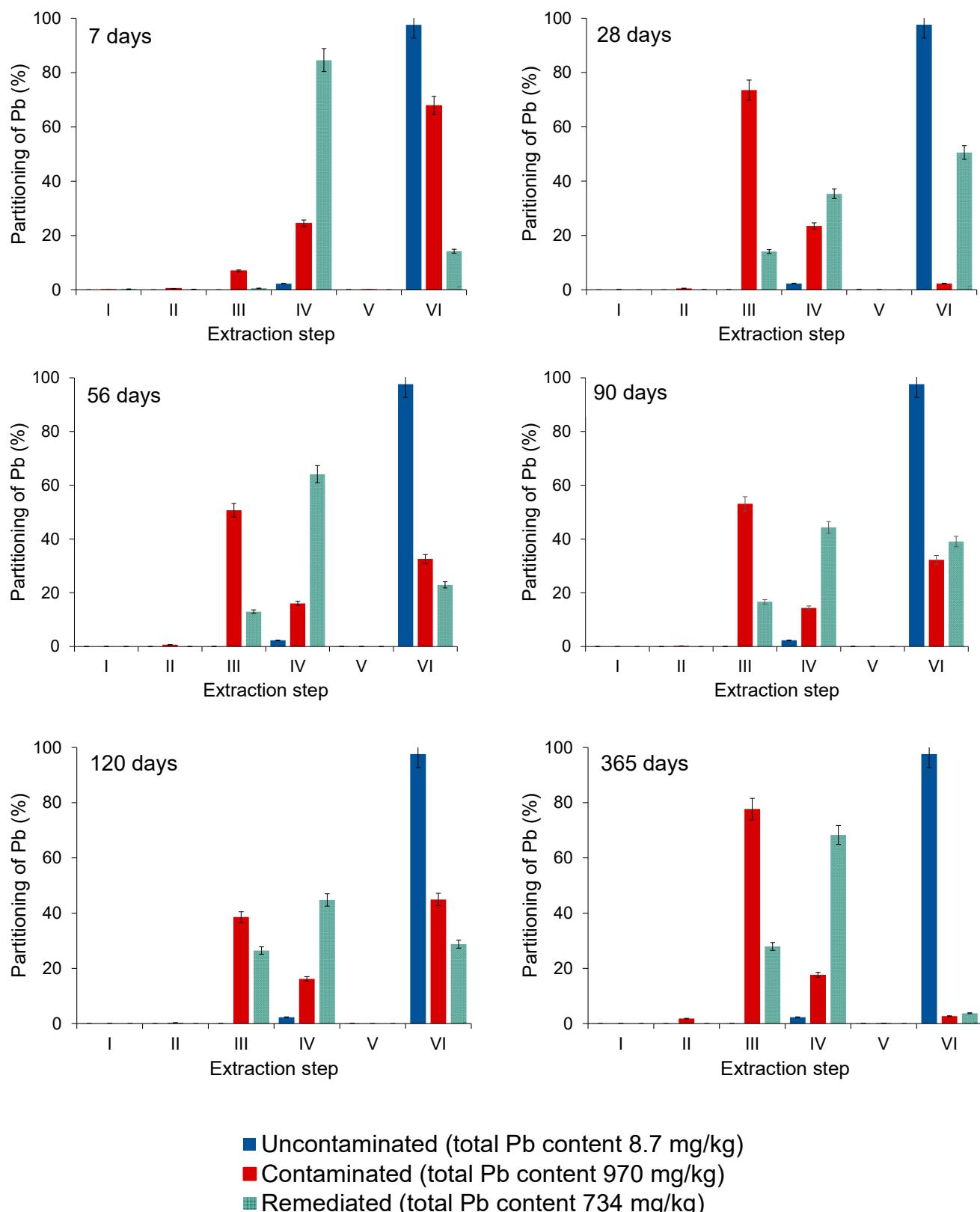
II exchangeable

III bound to carbonates

IV bound to Fe/Mn oxides and hydroxides

V bound to organic matter

VI bound to silicate lattice



**Figure S4.** Partitioning of Pb in sulphate-treated uncontaminated, contaminated, and remediated soil samples with time elapsed after the remediation.

I water-soluble

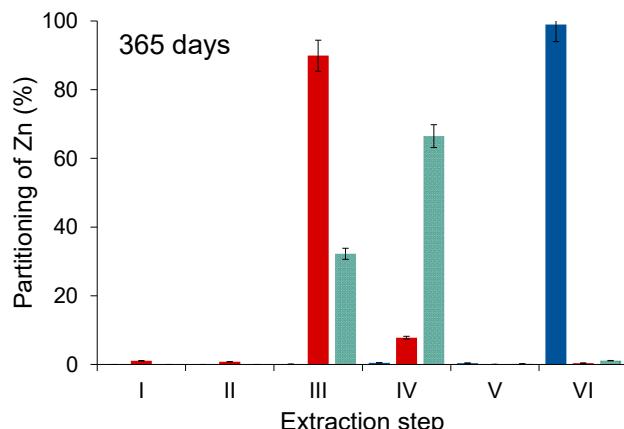
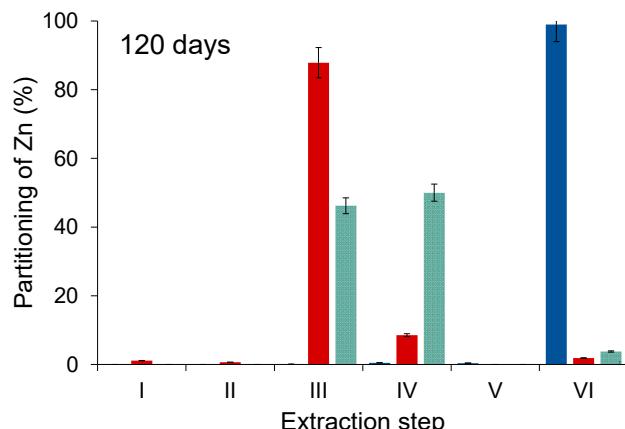
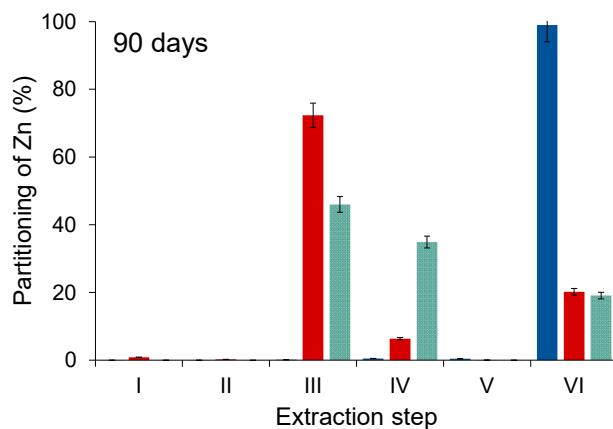
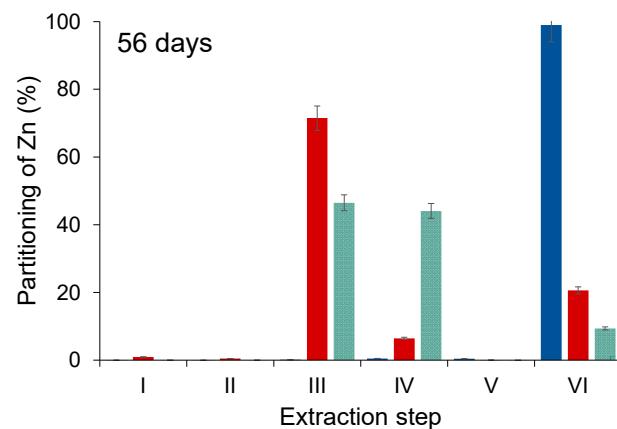
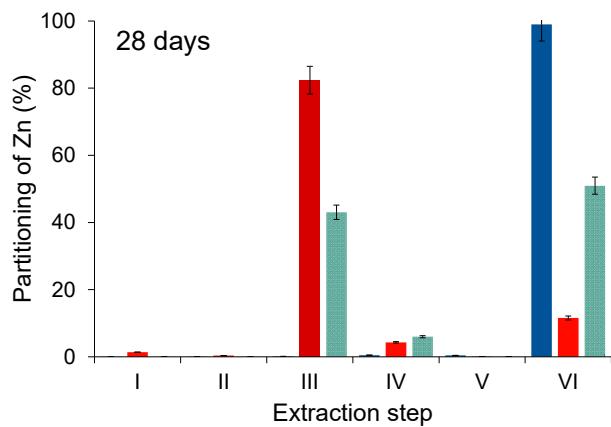
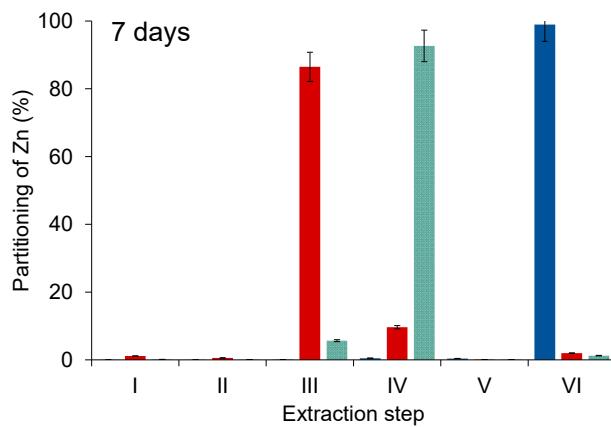
II exchangeable

III bound to carbonates

IV bound to Fe/Mn oxides and hydroxides

V bound to organic matter

VI bound to silicate lattice



- Uncontaminated soil (total Zn content 39.2 mg/kg)
- Contaminated soil (total Zn content 8782 mg/kg)
- Remediated soil (total Zn content 7024 mg/kg)

**Figure S5.** Partitioning of Zn in sulphate-treated uncontaminated, contaminated, and remediated soil samples with time elapsed after the remediation.

I water-soluble

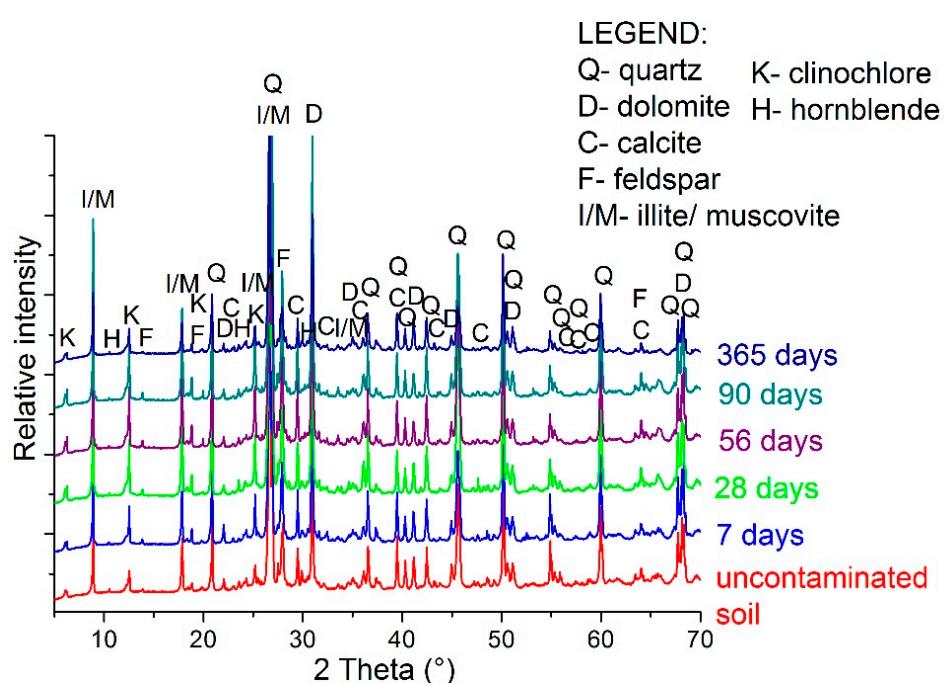
II exchangeable

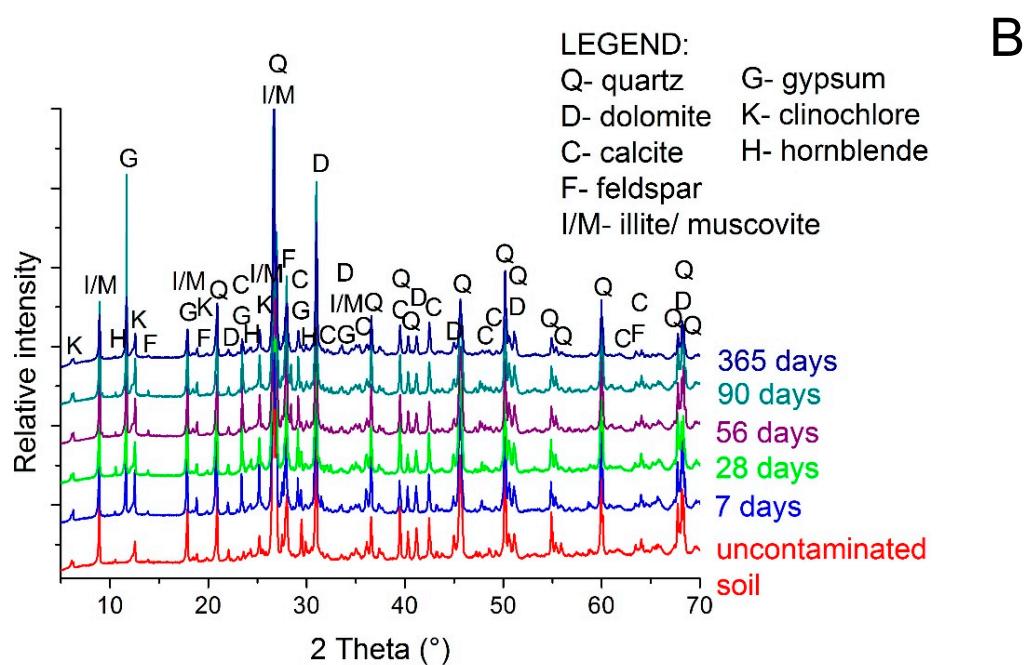
III bound to carbonates

IV bound to Fe/Mn oxides and hydroxides

V bound to organic matter

VI bound to silicate lattice





**Figure S6.** XRD patterns of contaminated soil (A) and sulphate-treated contaminated soil (B) with time elapsed.