



# Effect of effluent dissolved organic matter on trace metals sorption by mineral particles in aquatic systems under strong urban pressure

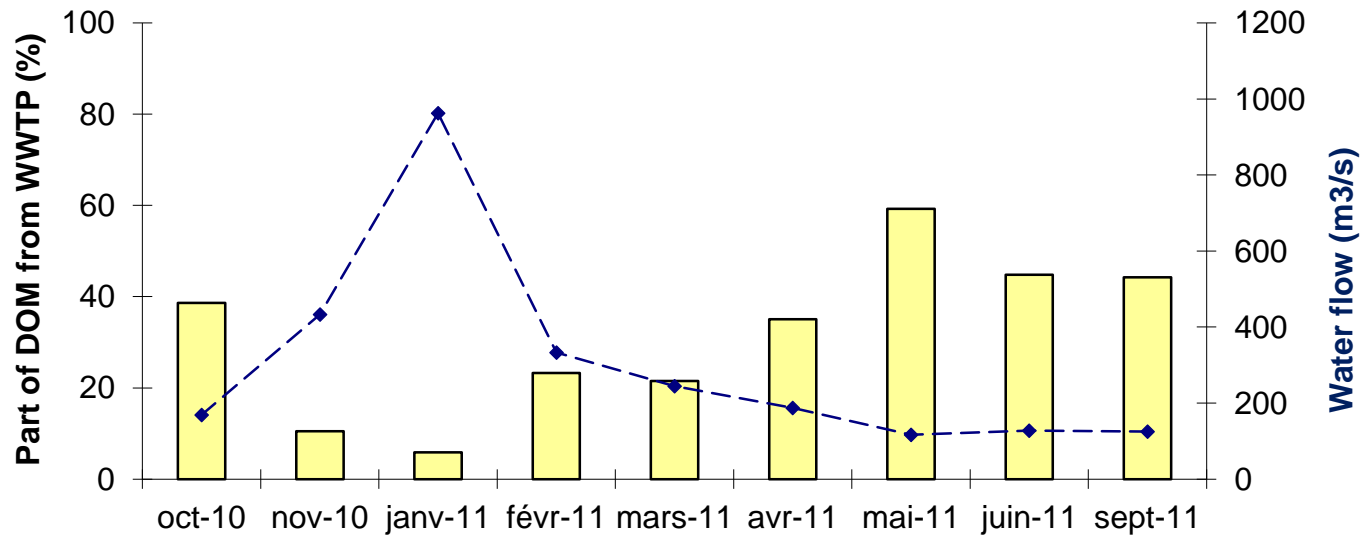
Gilles Varrault, Caroline Soares-Pereira, **Adèle Bressy**

**Leesu:** Water Environment and Urban Systems research group  
(Paris-Est University, UPEC, ENPC, AgroParisTech)  
[varrault@u-pec.fr](mailto:varrault@u-pec.fr)



# Why studying effluent dissolved organic matter (EfDOM)?

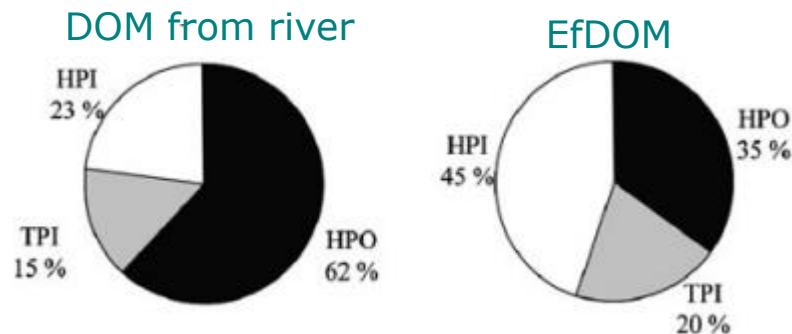
- Organic matter from WWTPs
- Present in anthropized aquatic environment
  - 10 to 60% of the DOM in the Seine River is from the WWTP depending on the flow (low-flow period)



Matar *et al.* (2015) Environ Sci Pollut Res 22:19461–19472

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- Physico-chemical properties different from natural DOM
  - More hydrophilic
    - 20 to 40% of hydrophilic DOM **before** Paris
    - 50 to 55% of hydrophilic DOM **after** Paris



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- Physico-chemical properties different from natural DOM
  - More hydrophilic
    - 20 to 40% of hydrophilic DOM **before** Paris
    - 50 to 55% of hydrophilic DOM **after** Paris
  - More nitrogen and sulfur groups
  - Lower molecular weight

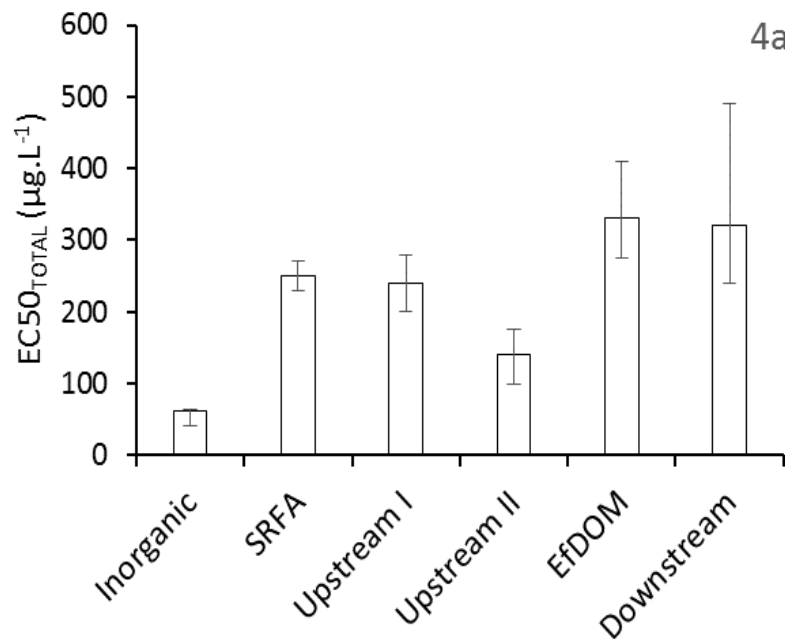
# Why studying effluent dissolved organic matter (EfDOM)?

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- Strong influence on the **speciation** of the trace metals
  - 80 to 90% of lead and mercury are binded to EfDOM after Paris conurbation in the Seine River
  - Decrease of the free copper (-70%) after Paris conurbation

# Why studying effluent dissolved organic matter (EfDOM)?

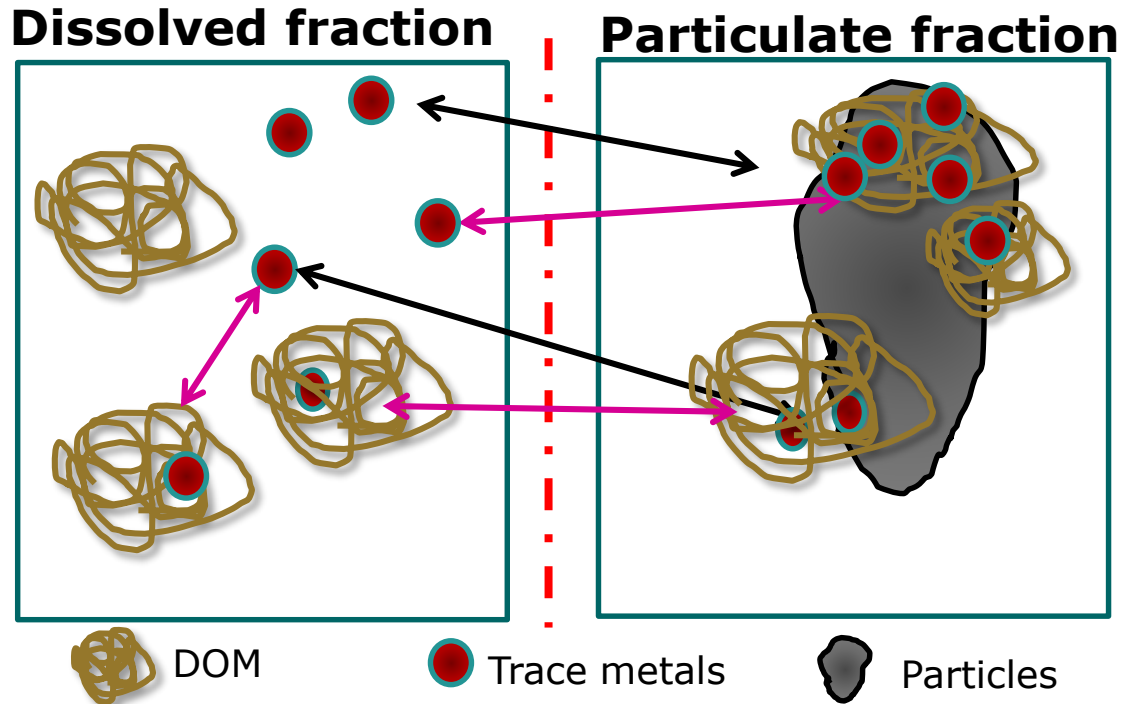
- Strong influence on the **speciation** of the trace metals
- Strong influence on the **biodisponibility** of the trace metals
  - Copper EC<sub>50</sub> on *daphnia magna* with different DOM



⇒ **Decrease** of the copper biodisponibility and toxicity **with EfDOM**

# Influence of DOM on the trace metals fate in aquatic systems

- Sorption/desorption onto suspended solids



- Studies focused on natural DOM and natural particles

# Objectives

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1. To characterize EfDOM sorption onto mineral particles
  - Natural DOM: Suwanee River Fulvic Acid (SRFA)
  - EfDOM: from WWTPs

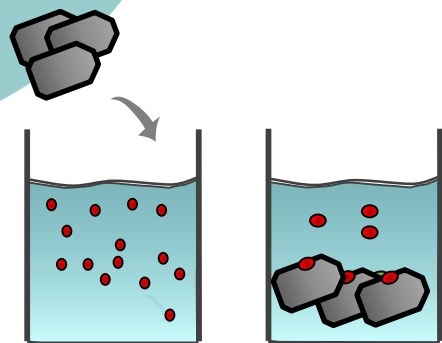
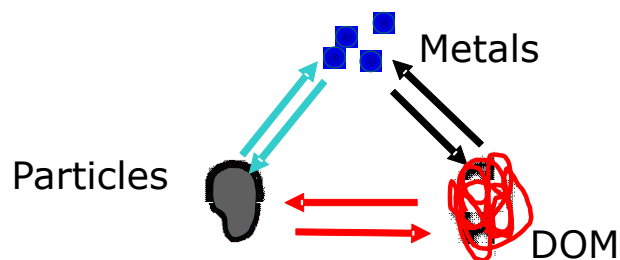


# Objectives

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1. To characterize EfDOM sorption onto mineral particles
  - Natural DOM: Suwanee River Fulvic Acid (SRFA)
  - EfDOM: from WWTPs
  
2. To characterize metals sorption onto mineral particles with or without DOM
  - Natural DOM: Suwanee River Fulvic Acid (SRFA)
  - EfDOM: from WWTPs

# Methodology

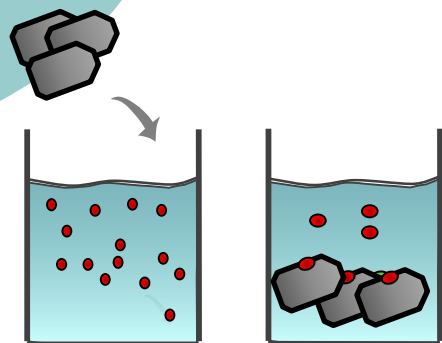
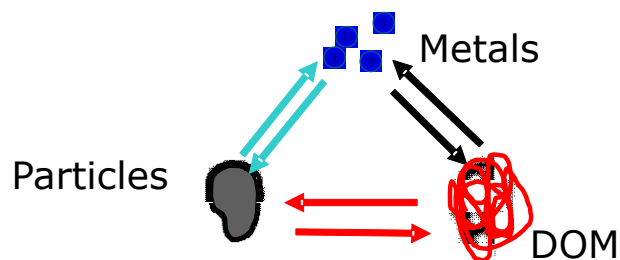


Under stirring during 72 hours at 19°C

- DOM (10mgC/L)
  - Without DOM
  - SRFA
  - EfDOM from WWTP

- Adsorbant (0-500mg/L)
  - Montmorillonite
  - Goethite

# Methodology



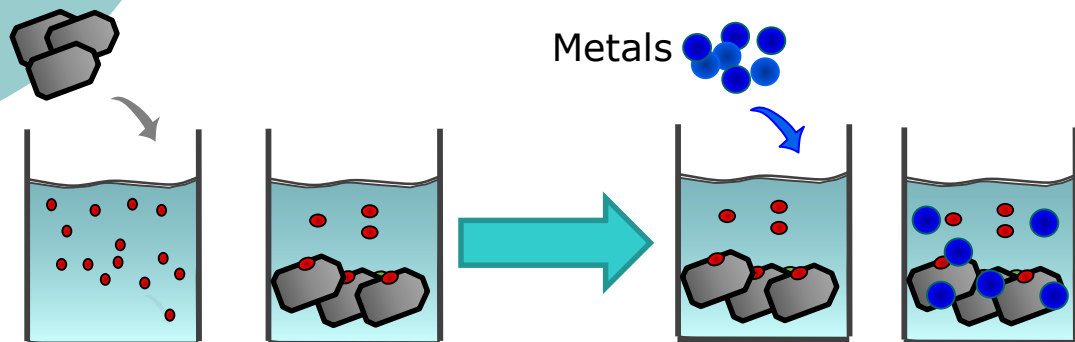
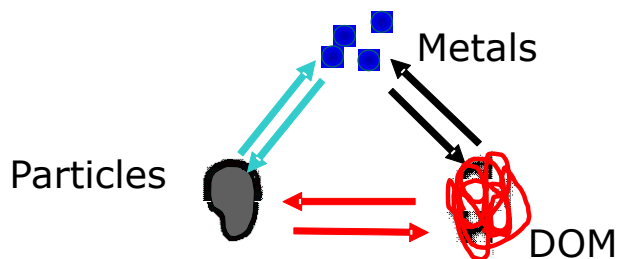
- DOM (10mg C/L)
  - Without DOM
  - SRFA
  - EfDOM from WWTP

- Filtration on GF/F 0.7  $\mu$ m
- DOC analysis

1. To characterize DOM sorption onto mineral particles

- Adsorbant (0-500mg/L)
  - Montmorillonite
  - Goethite

# Methodology



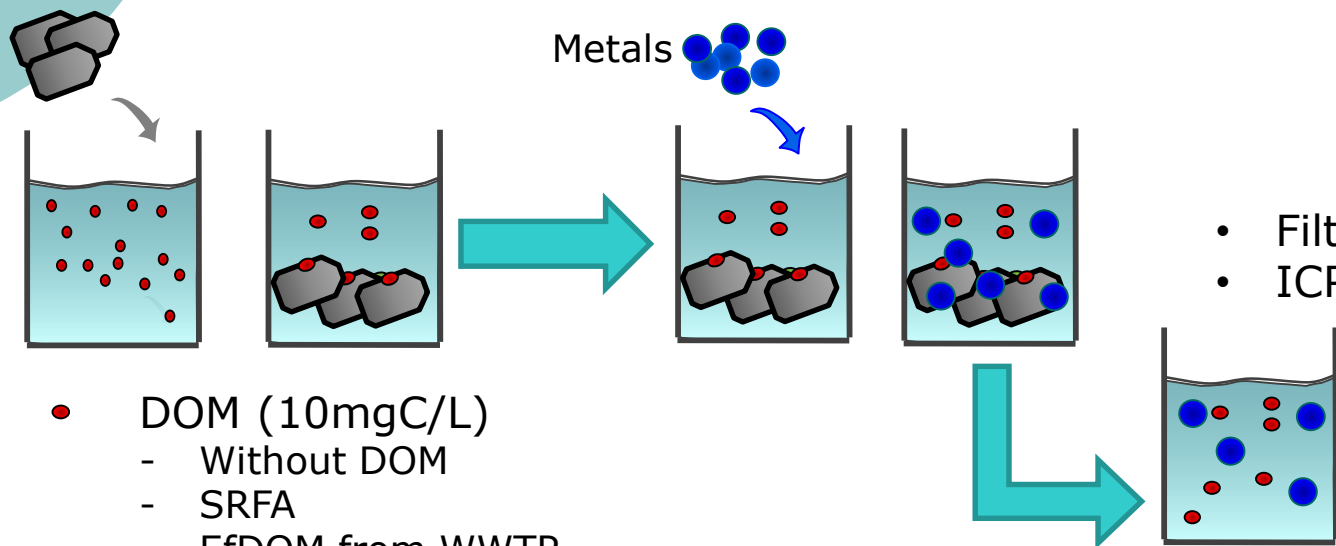
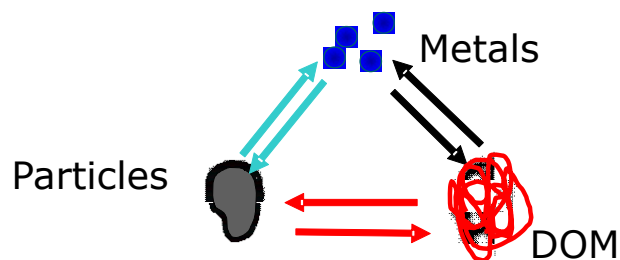
Under stirring during  
72 hours at 19°C

- DOM (10mgC/L)
  - Without DOM
  - SRFA
  - EfDOM from WWTP

- 7 metals (Cd, Co, Cu, Ni, Pb, V and Zn)
- 1 metalloid (As)

- Adsorbant (0-500mg/L)
  - Montmorillonite
  - Goethite

# Methodology

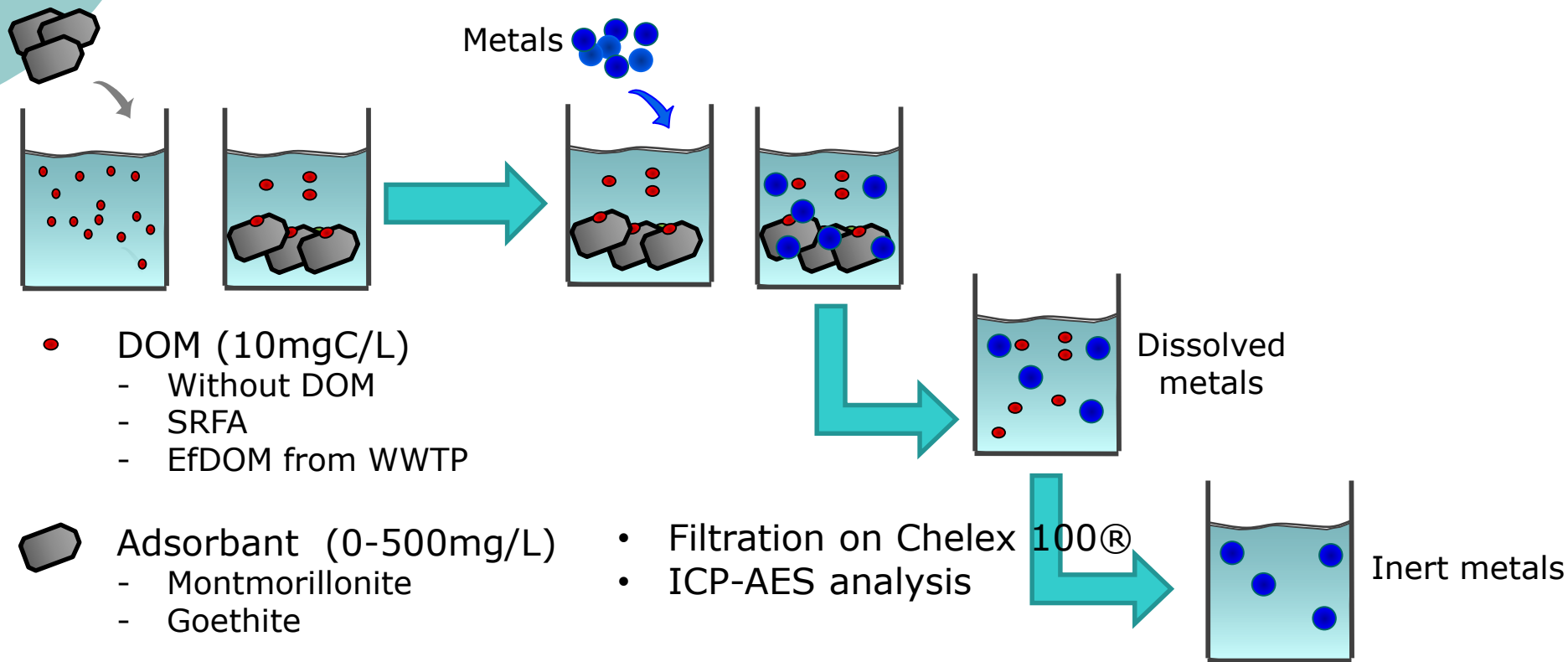
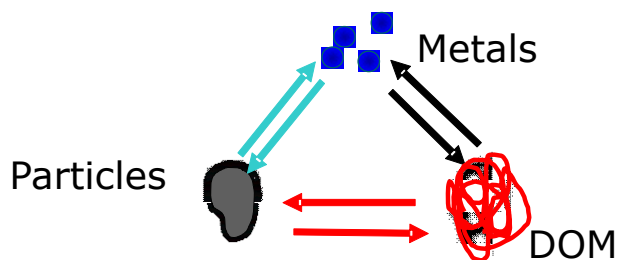


- Filtration on cellulose acetate
- ICP-AES analysis

- DOM (10mgC/L)
  - Without DOM
  - SRFA
  - EfDOM from WWTP

- Adsorbant (0-500mg/L)
  - Montmorillonite
  - Goethite

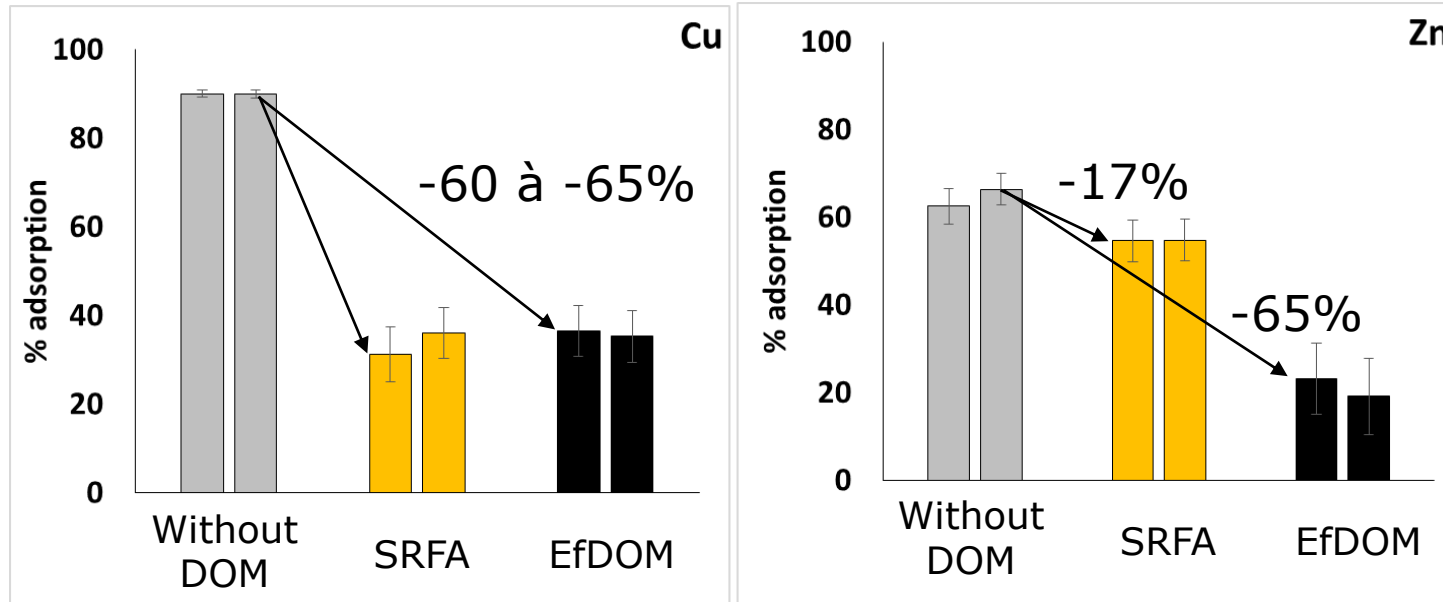
# Methodology



➔ 2. To characterize metals sorption onto mineral particles with or without DOM

# Influence of DOM on Cu and Zn sorption on montmorillonite

## Sorption with or without DOM



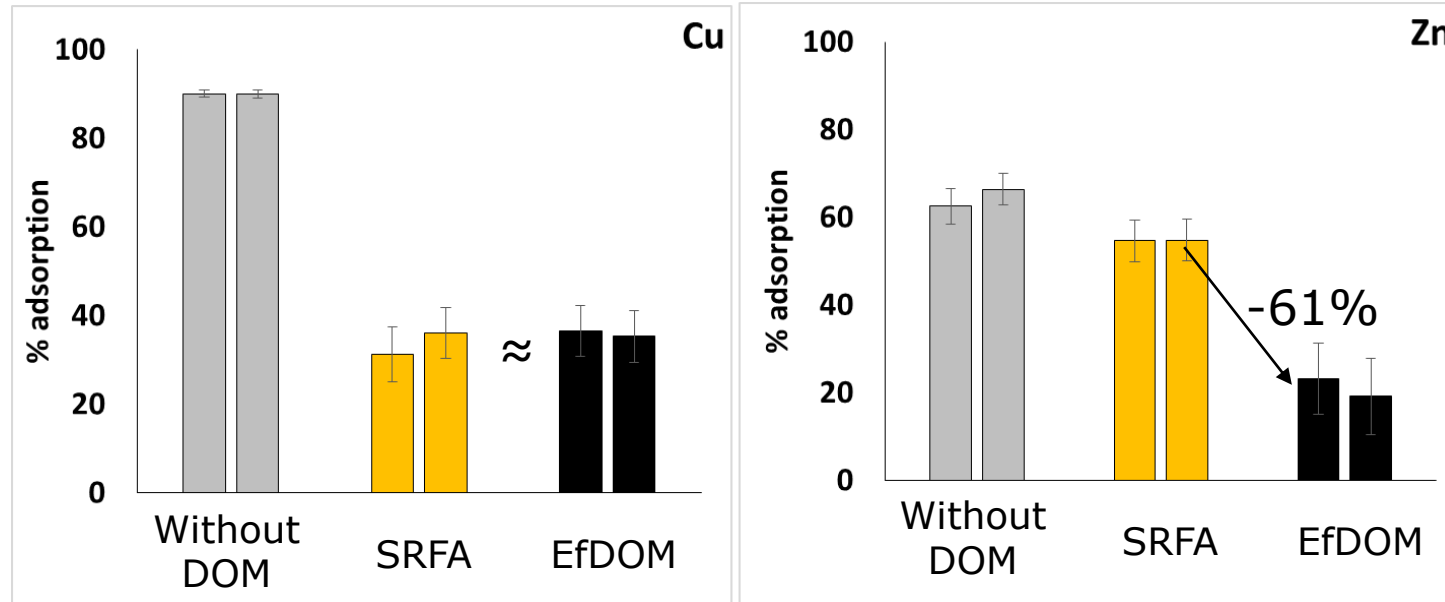
## Copper and zinc

➤ Less sorption with DOM

1. Retention in dissolved fraction → complexes DOM-Cu or DOM-Zn
2. Competition DOM vs. Cu and Zn for surface sites

# Influence of DOM on Cu and Zn sorption on montmorillonite

## Sorption with SRFA or EfDOM



### Copper

- No influence of the type of DOM

### Zinc

- Influence of the type of DOM => less sorption with EfDOM

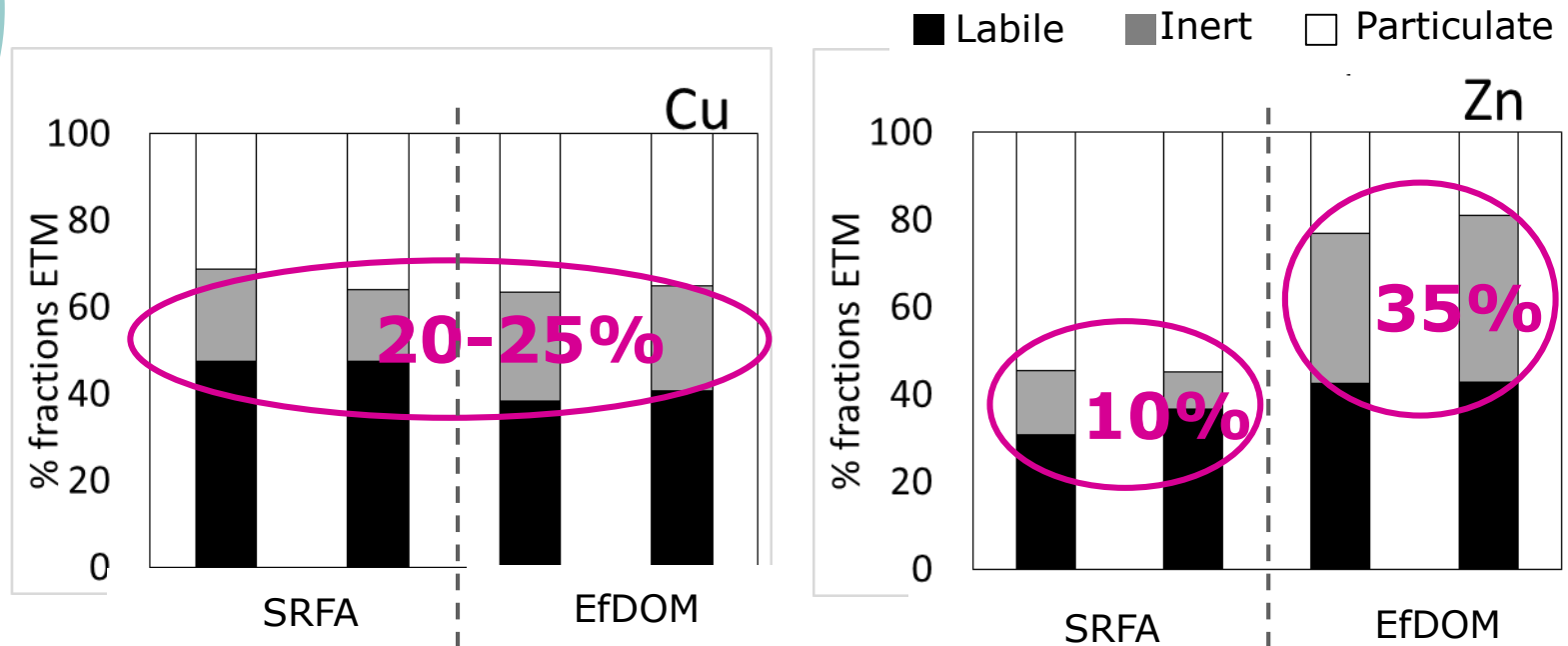
### Fate of Cu and Zn

- Between 65 and 80% in the dissolved fraction
- What speciation? Free or complexed?



# Influence of DOM on Cu and Zn sorption on montmorillonite

## Speciation of Cu and Zn: comparison SRFA and EfDOM

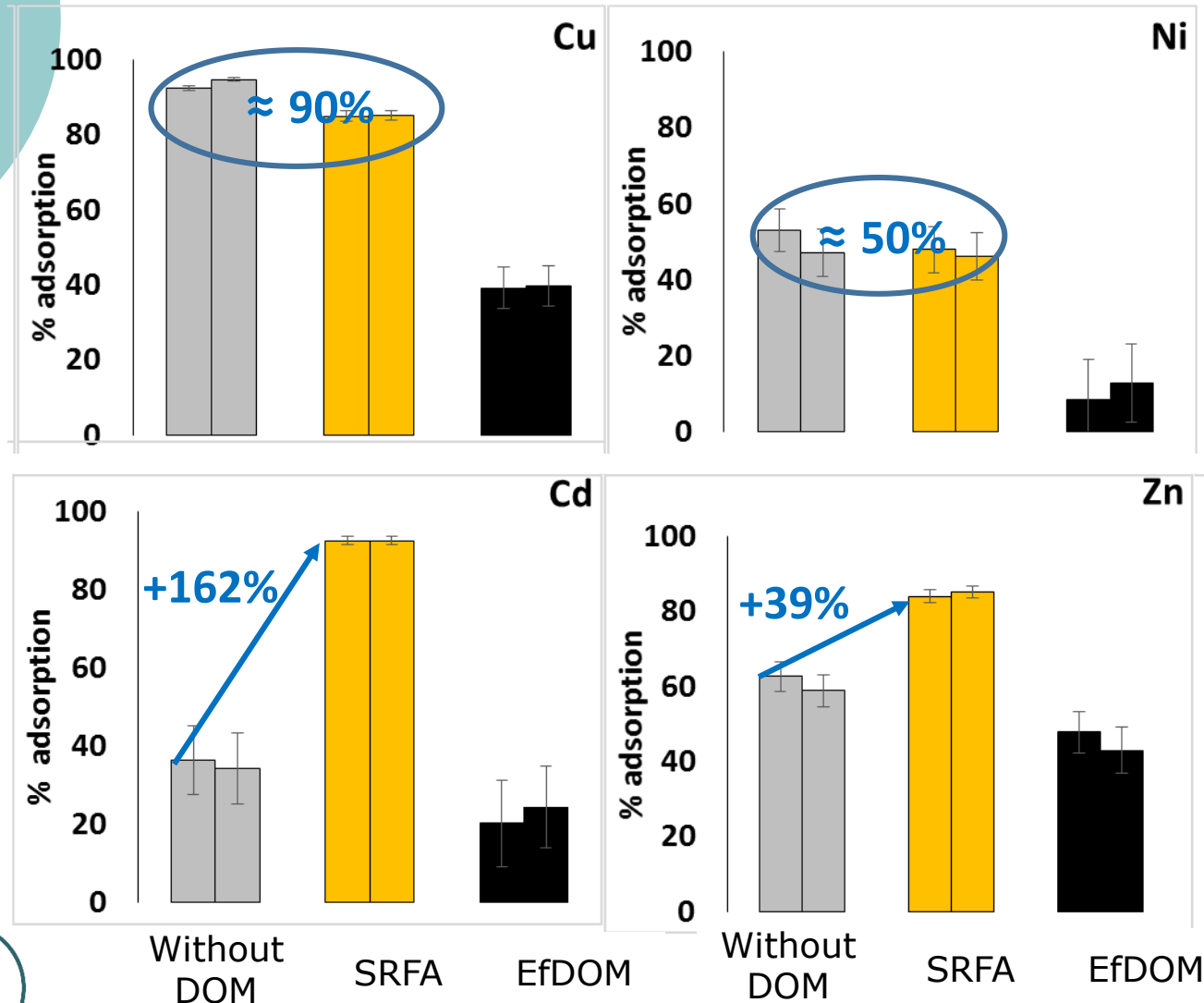


- Cu speciation is similar with SRFA and EfDOM
- Zn inert fraction is higher with EfDOM

**With EfDOM, retention of complexes DOM-Zn in dissolved fraction**

# Influence of DOM on metals sorption on goethite

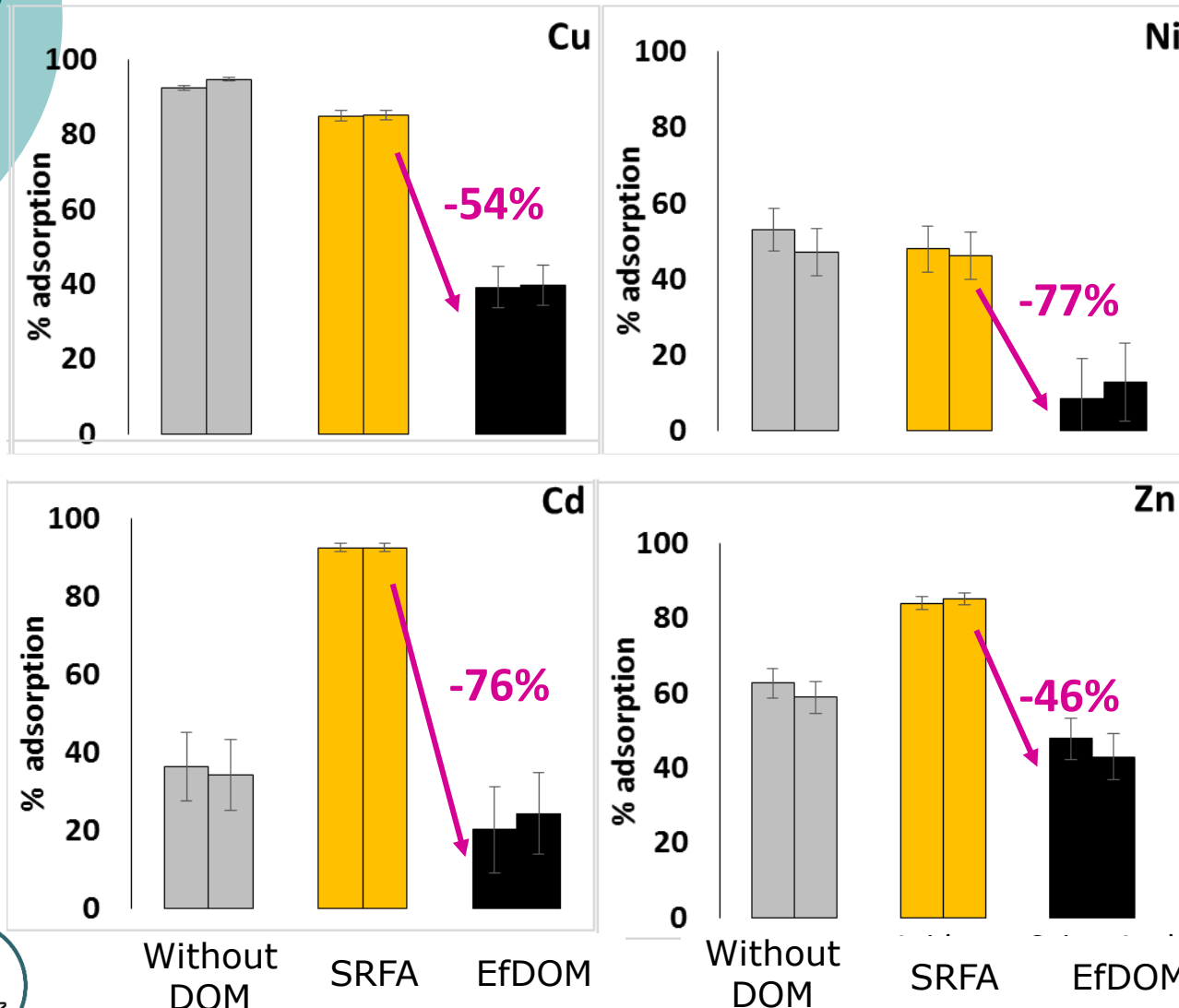
## Sorption without DOM or with SRFA



- (≈) Cu and Ni
- (+) Cd and Zn

# Influence of DOM on metals sorption on goethite

## Sorption with SRFA or EfDOM



➤ Less adsorption with EfDOM

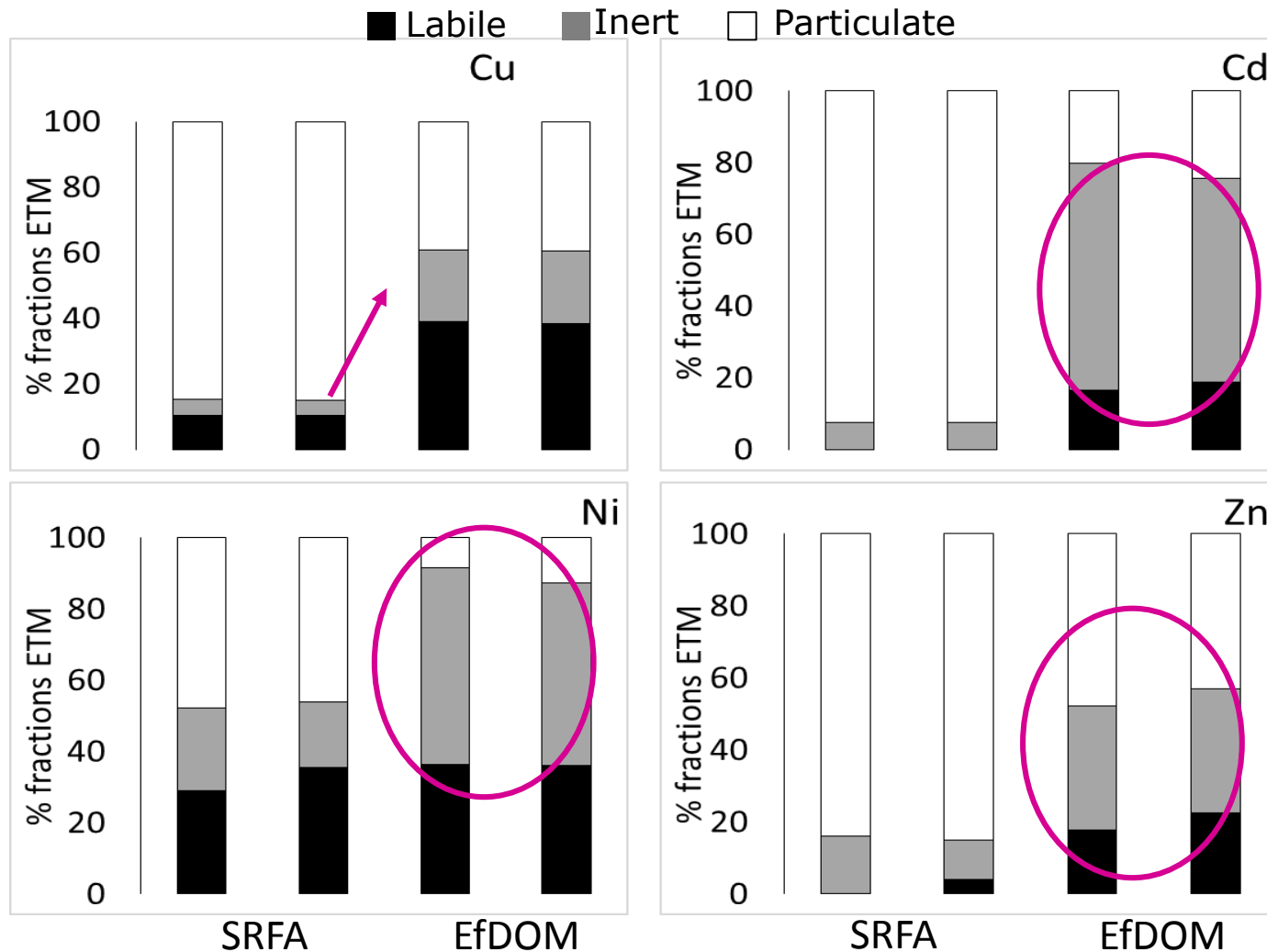
# Influence of DOM on metals sorption on goethite

## Cu

Increase of labile fraction with EfDOM

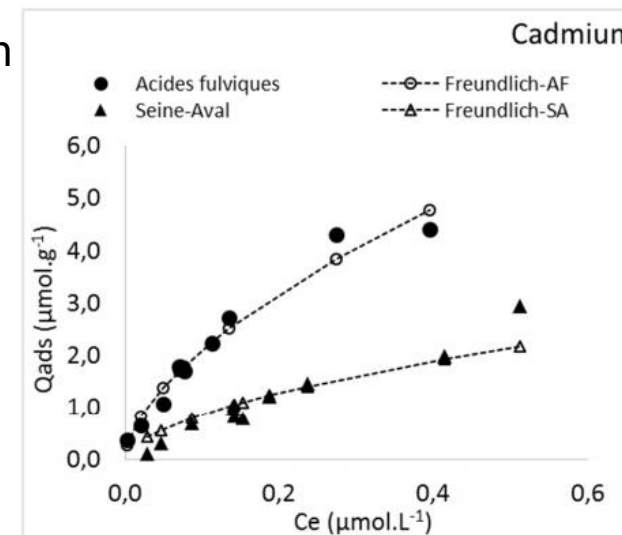
## Cd, Ni and Zn

Less sorption due to the retention in dissolved fraction by complexation



# Conclusion and outlook

- **EfDOM strongly influence the dissolved/particulate partition of metals**
  - DOM and in particular EfDOM maintain metals in dissolved fraction by:
    - Complexation and/or
    - Competition for surface sites
- **EfDOM strongly influence the speciation of metals in dissolved fraction**
  - Increase of zinc labile fraction with EfDOM and montmorillonite by complexation
  - Strong increase of copper labile fraction with goethite
- **Complete sorption isotherms => to model the constants describing dissolved/particulate partition of metals**
  - Explain the mechanisms responsible of the speciation





**Thank you for your attention**

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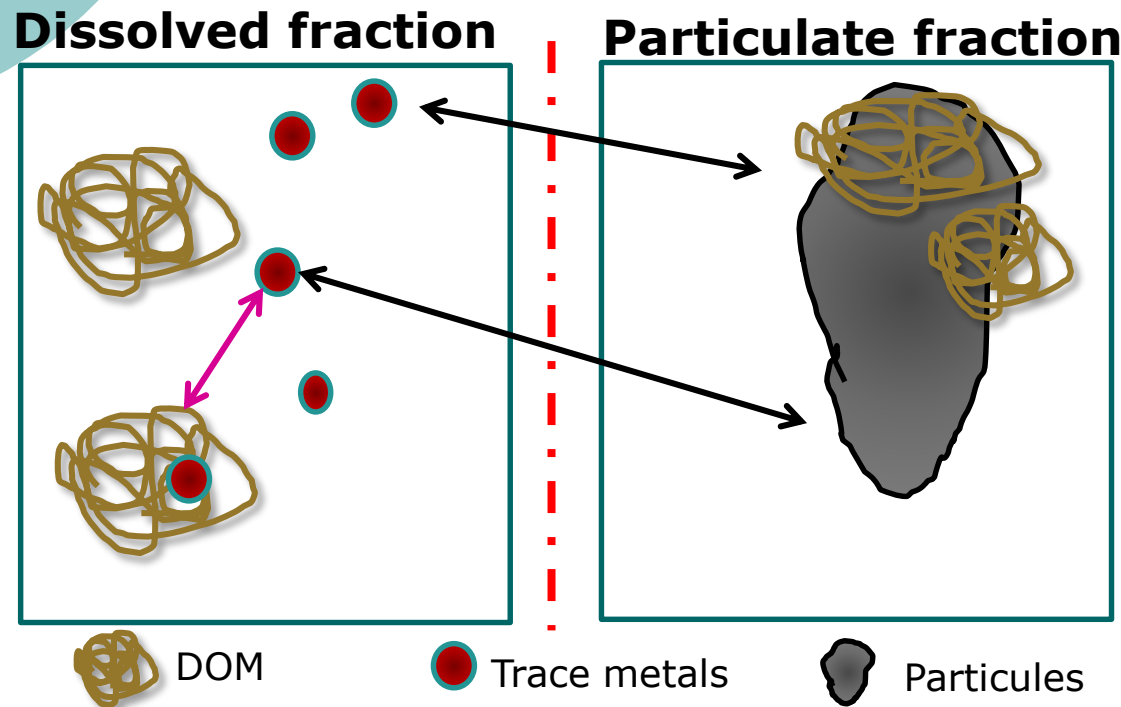
**Corresponding author: [varrault@u-pec.fr](mailto:varrault@u-pec.fr)**

# Influence of DOM on the trace metals fate in aquatic systems

- Sorption/desorption onto suspended solids

## 1. Competition between DOM and metals at the particules surface

(Moon *et al.*, 2003)



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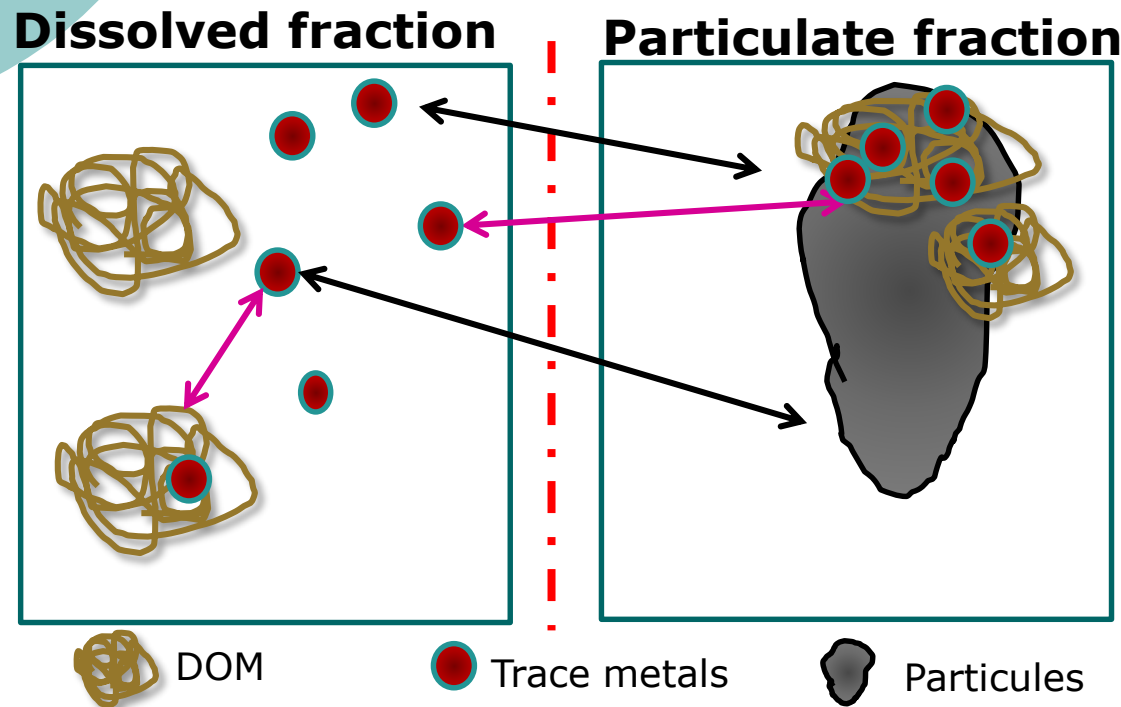
- Sorption/desorption onto suspended solids

## 1. Competition between DOM and metals at the particules surface

(Moon *et al.*, 2003)

## 2. Increase of the fixation ability

(Saada *et al.*, 2003)





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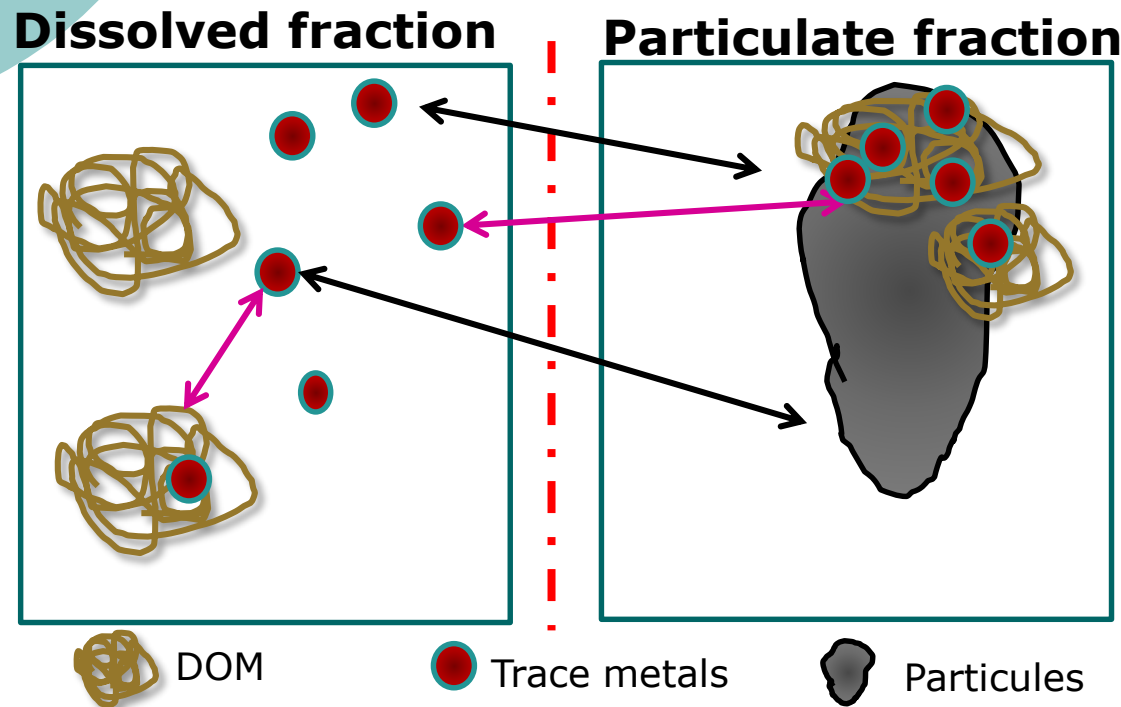
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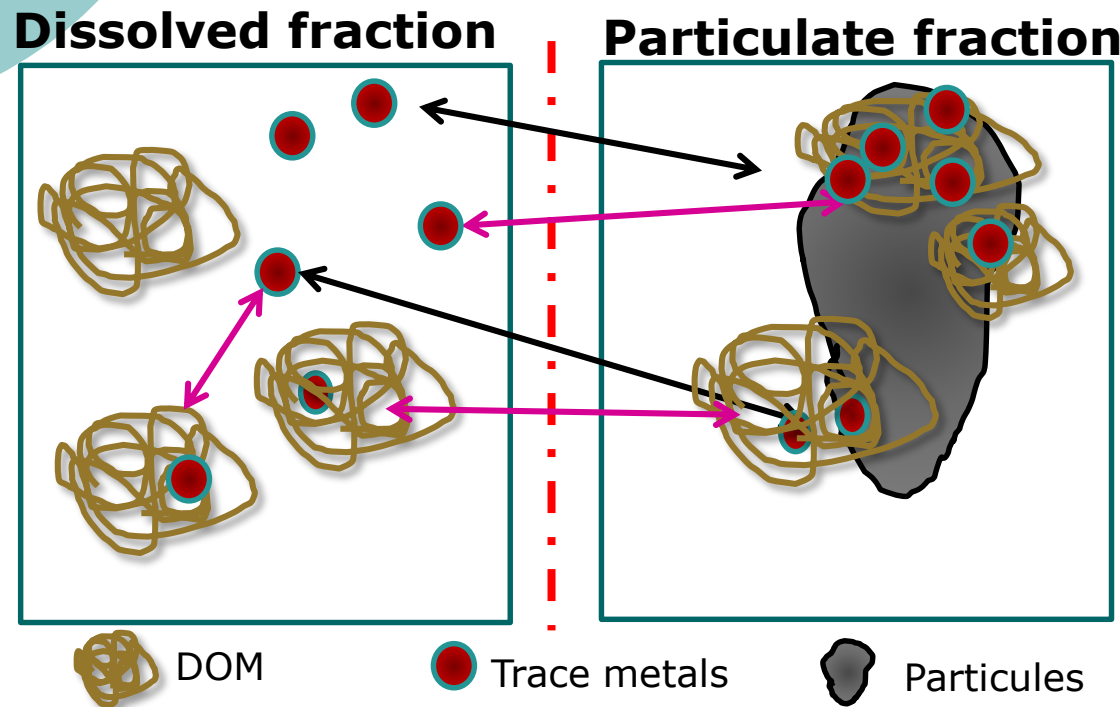
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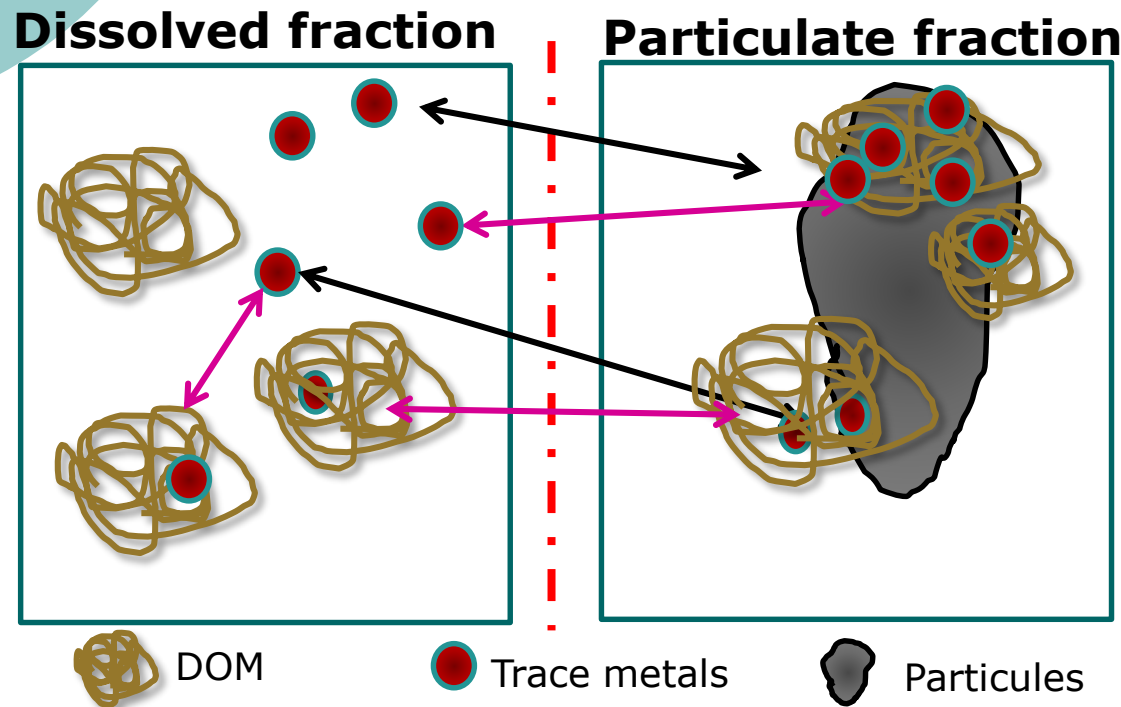
**4. Adsorption of metals on DOM**

(Wu *et al.*, 2011)



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## 5. Pores obstruction

(Newcombe *et al.*, 2002 ; Li *et al.*, 2003)