

Regional trends in eutrophication across the Loire river basin during the 20th century based on multi-proxy paleolimnological reconstructions

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Abstract: Excessive inputs of sediment and acceleration of primary production have been observed worldwide in a large number of water bodies. Human-environment interactions were recognized as one of the main drivers of this evolution during the 20th century with the occurrence of major landscape changes and a greater use of agricultural inputs. In this study, we used paleo-production proxies such as chlorophyll-a, organic matter properties (TOC and TN concentrations, $\delta 13C$ and $\delta 15N)$ measured in sediment cores dated with fallout 210Pbex and 137Cs activities for reconstructing changes in accumulation rates and sources of organic matter during the recent period of agricultural intensification (1920-2020). In order to record these changes at the regional scale, sediment cores were collected at the outlet of several headwater catchments (n=9), covering a wide range of land covers / land uses across the Loire River basin (117,000 km²), France. The rates of sedimentary organic matter deposition in the studied water bodies accelerated from 1950 onwards (+48%). Between 1950 and 1970, the signature of sedimentary organic matter indicates a dominant contribution of soil-derived inputs. This period corresponds to major landscape modifications across the basin (land consolidation, stream re-design, implementation of tile drains) driving a general acceleration of erosion rates. Then, from 1960 onwards, chlorophyll-a and C/N proxies indicate an increase in primary production coupled with a decrease of terrigenous supply in agricultural catchments. These proxies were strongly correlated to the agricultural inputs during the 1955-1990 period (e.g., r=0.9 between chlorophyll-a content and N inputs), suggesting a progressive eutrophication of these reservoirs driven by increasing fertilizer use. During these 35 years, sedimentary organic matter deposition rates

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- 20th century based on multi-proxy paleolimnological reconstructions

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37 <u>Abstract</u>

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Excessive inputs of sediment and acceleration of primary production have been observed worldwide in a large number of water bodies. Human-environment interactions were recognized as one of the main drivers of this evolution during the 20th century with the occurrence of major landscape changes and a greater use of agricultural inputs.

In this study, we used paleo-production proxies such as chlorophyll-a, organic matter properties (TOC and TN concentrations, δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N) measured in sediment cores dated with fallout ²¹⁰Pb_{ex} and ¹³⁷Cs activities for reconstructing changes in accumulation rates and sources of organic matter during the recent period of agricultural intensification (1920-2020). In order to record these changes at the regional scale, sediment cores were collected at the outlet of several headwater catchments (n=9), covering a wide range of land covers / land uses across the Loire River basin (117,000 km²), France.

The rates of sedimentary organic matter deposition in the studied water bodies accelerated 50 51 from 1950 onwards (+48%). Between 1950 and 1970, the signature of sedimentary organic matter indicates a dominant contribution of soil-derived inputs. This period corresponds to major landscape 52 modifications across the basin (land consolidation, stream re-design, implementation of tile drains) 53 driving a general acceleration of erosion rates. Then, from 1960 onwards, chlorophyll-a and C/N 54 55 proxies indicate an increase in primary production coupled with a decrease of terrigenous supply in agricultural catchments. These proxies were strongly correlated to the agricultural inputs during the 56 1955-1990 period (e.g., r=0.9 between chlorophyll-a content and N inputs), suggesting a progressive 57 eutrophication of these reservoirs driven by increasing fertilizer use. During these 35 years, 58 59 sedimentary organic matter deposition rates increased on average by 30%. During the 1990s, despite a 60 slight reduction in fertilizer use (-13%), the paleo-production proxies (e.g. chlorophyll-a) still indicate a positive trend suggesting the contribution of another driving factor such as climate warming or again 61 nutrient release from soils and sediments. 62

In the absence of long term geochemical and sediment input monitoring, paleolimnological
 reconstructions provide a powerful tool to reconstruct past agricultural pressures in rural

65	environments. This study illustrates the impact of intensive farming on water body siltation driven by
66	varying sources of organic material during the 20 th century. In addition, these results suggest that
67	eutrophication processes of these reservoirs with contrasting land uses started during the 1960-1970
68	period and are still ongoing nowadays.
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70	Keywords: terrigenous organic matter, autochthonous production, agricultural inputs, agriculture
71	intensification, soil erosion, Anthropocene
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Intensification of agricultural practices during the second half of the 20th century induced a 91 significant acceleration of soil erosion and sediment delivery worldwide (Dearing & Jones, 2003; 92 93 Cerdan et al., 2010). This period of agriculture development is associated with a greater use of 94 agricultural inputs including industrially produced fertilizers. Global fertilizer consumption was 95 multiplied by 4.5 between 1960 and 2015 according to the FAO database (Tilman et al., 2001; Lu & 96 Tian, 2017). Both landscape management and the increase use of agricultural inputs have generated 97 deleterious effects on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (e.g. Boardman & Poesen, 2006; Rowan et al., 98 2012). Among these adverse consequences, the excessive delivery of sediment may contribute to the 99 siltation of water bodies including dams, ponds, lakes or river systems (e.g. Gellis et al., 2006; 100 Downing et al., 2008; Ahn et al., 2010). Two main sources of material can contribute to this sediment 101 accumulation: sediment originating from terrestrial sources (e.g. soil erosion, river channel erosion) 102 including mineral and organic material supply or organic matter associated with excessive primary 103 production induced by eutrophication (e.g. Meyers & Ishiwatari, 1995; Gudasz et al., 2017). Causes 104 and mechanisms of water body eutrophication were widely studied during the 1970s and 1980s in a large number of lakes in the Northern hemisphere (Glooschenko et al., 1974; Hecky & Kilham, 1988). 105 106 This research clearly outlined the key role of phosphorous (P) and nitrogen (N) point-based and diffuse source pollution in the bloom of algae in aquatic environments (Bennett et al., 2001). Despite 107 108 substantial management efforts implemented since this period to regulate agricultural N and P inputs and to improve wastewater treatment (EEC, 1991a; b), the excess of phytoplanctonic production 109 remains problematic in coastal and continental waters (Le Moal et al., 2019). According to the 2018 110 111 European water assessment status, at least 38% of the continental water bodies have agricultural 112 diffuse source pollution in Europe (EEA, 2018).

In the absence of long term geochemical and algae production monitoring in river systems
(Minaudo *et al.*, 2015; Chen *et al.*, 2016), trajectories of eutrophication and paleoproduction are less

documented over the last century. Paleolimnological techniques based on the collection of sediment 115 cores can provide a useful tool to reconstruct primary productivity over the last century (Brenner et al., 116 117 1999; Anderson et al., 2014). To this end, a large number of methods was developed in order to reconstruct changes in paleo-productivity in sediment cores (e.g. Meyers, 1994; Lu et al., 2010), 118 including the analysis of pigment contents in lake sediments (Waters et al., 2005; Florian et al., 2015). 119 Chlorophyll-a and its degradation products are the most abundant pigments in lake sediments (Leavitt 120 121 & Hodgson, 2001). They were widely analyzed for reconstructing histories of eutrophication, and assessing the respective impacts of human activities and climate change (Korosi & Smol, 2012; 122 Stewart et al., 2015). Chlorophyll-a concentration can be quantified through a wide range of chromatic 123 techniques (Millie et al., 1993; Hodgson et al., 1997). In recent years, the potential of the rapid and 124 125 non-destructive Visual Reflectance Spectroscopy has been demonstrated to detect chlorophyll-a and the associated pheopigments in sedimentary sequences (Wolfe et al., 2006). In this way, a variety of 126 indices were used to infer chlorophyll-a and its degradation products abundances including its relative 127 absorbance depth at 660/670 nm (Rein & Sirocko, 2002), sediment reflectance near 675 nm (Wolfe et 128 129 al., 2006), the absorbance peak between 650 and 700 nm (Michelutti et al., 2010) or again the Q7/4 ratio developed by Debret et al. (2011). 130

Stable C and N isotope signatures of sediment organic matter (δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N) provide one of the most 131 132 widely used methods to identify changes in sources of organic material. This methodology was applied to palaeoenvironmental reconstructions based on the analysis of lake sediments (e.g. Meyers, 133 1994; Huon et al., 2018). The carbon isotopic composition of plants is variable and depends on the 134 source of carbon assimilated. Terrestrial plant record δ^{13} C values range from -13 to -30% (C3 plants 135 are associated with values of -23 to -30% whereas C4 plants correspond to values between -9 and -136 137 17‰ with an average value of -13‰) - (Meyers, 1994; Bowsher et al., 2008). Freshwater aquatic plants and plankton have δ^{13} C values ranging between -25 and -30‰. Both terrestrial and aquatic 138 organic matter may be distinguished through the comparison of their C/N ratio. Macrophyte residues 139 have C/N ratios >20 but mineralization and aggregation in soils reduces C/N to *ca.* 10 (Meyers, 1994). 140 In addition, δ^{15} N can provide information on biogeochemical processes including N consumption by 141

organisms, varying sources of N, denitrification – nitrification and diagenetic processes (e.g. Jinglu *et al.*, 2007; Gälman *et al.*, 2009).

Although these proxies were widely used in sediment cores collected in estuarine, coastal areas or even in urban environments to investigate the relationship between nutrient inputs and a change in the water body trophic status (e.g. Vo β & Struck, 1997; Rabalais *et al.*, 2007), many fewer studies were conducted in small reservoirs located in continental environments. In addition, to the best of our knowledge, the study of freshwater reservoirs located in contrasted agricultural environments at the large basin scale (<100,000 km²) has never been conducted especially considering the second part of the 20th century.

The current research investigates the potential of sedimentary sequences collected at the outlet of contrasted rural catchments (with land cover dominated by forest, grassland or arable land) to reconstruct regional paleoproductivity trends. The objectives of this work are to determine the rates of organic matter deposition in sediments and to identify the sources of organic matter accumulated during the 20th century in these reservoirs, through the discrimination of the terrigenous (soil-derived) *vs.* autochthonous (biological) inputs. Finally, these results will be compared to available agricultural N input data and to current knowledge on soil erosion in these catchments.

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160 II. Site and methods

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The Loire river basin (117,000 km², France) – (Fig. 1) is characterized by contrasted climate
(annual rainfall varying between 600 and 1300 mm per year); landform (mean altitude = 300 m, 10%
of the catchment >800 m); lithology (sedimentary; metamorphic and magmatic rocks) and land use
conditions between its upper and lower parts (Fig.1). Characteristics of the studied sub-catchments
were summarized in Table 1.

168 This large basin was impacted by major changes in agricultural practices during the second 169 part of the 20th century. Some areas experienced an intensification of agricultural practices (mainly in

^{162 1.} Study sites

the middle and lower catchment sections) - (Foucher et al., 2014) whereas other parts were impacted 170 by land abandonment following rural depopulation (mainly in upper parts of the catchment) -171 172 (Foucher et al., 2019b) - Table 2. After 1950, the spreading of "NPK" fertilizers has significantly increased in France in particular in the Loire River basin (Poisvert et al., 2017). In response to these 173 changes, the Loire river basin - as most European basins - has been impacted by eutrophication 174 processes. The first monitoring surveys focusing on primary production have demonstrated the 175 176 pronounced eutrophic conditions of the Loire river in the early 1980s (Meybeck et al., 1988; Etcheber et al., 2007). A recent study showed that the continuous decline then stabilization of 177 phosphate and nitrate concentrations in the river since 1990 led to the significant reduction of 178 phytoplankton biomass across the whole river system (Minaudo et al., 2015). Nevertheless, 179 180 eutrophication still represents a crucial environmental problem in this basin nowadays. According to a recent report of the regional water agency, eutrophication remains one of the main causes of 181 degradation of the ecological status of water bodies (lakes, ponds, dams, etc.) with 29% of those in 182 medium ecological status, 18% in low ecological status and even 26% in bad ecological status 183 184 (AELB, 2013).

Nine reservoirs (lakes and ponds, with a surface ranging between 1.2 and 57 ha) located at the 185 outlet of rural catchments (<100km²) were selected in various environments across the Loire river 186 187 basin to reconstruct trends in rates of sedimentary organic material deposition and to identify the 188 sources of sediment (Fig. 1). These reservoirs were selected among the 14,000 natural and artificial water bodies of the Loire basin because their catchment histories are well known. Furthermore, to the 189 best of our knowledge, these reservoirs were never dredged or drained during prolonged periods. 190 These water bodies are mainly artificial (n=8 artificial and one natural (Tazenat lake)) and they are 191 192 connected by ephemeral river networks to their drainage area during heavy rainfall. These sites were 193 selected in order to be representative of the diversity of landscape, climate, topography and agricultural practices found across the Loire basin. Although they are unevenly distributed in space 194 across the basin, they cover all the characteristics of the agricultural landscapes found in this region. 195 196 Among these catchments, four are mainly covered with grassland, three with arable land and two with 197 forests.

198 The characteristics of these catchments are summarized in Table 2.

199

200 2. Materials and methods

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Fieldwork was conducted between January 2017 and June 2018. Sediment cores (n=9) were 202 collected in the nine water bodies using an Uwitec gravity corer (Uwitec®, Mondsee, Austria) 203 equipped with a 90 mm PVC liner and a floating platform available at the Tours University (GeHCo 204 205 laboratory, France). In each artificial reservoir, the sediment core was collected in the dam vicinity (\approx 50 to 100m from the dam) in the zone where the sedimentation rates are the highest. In the natural 206 207 reservoir of Tazenat, the sediment core was retrieved in the center of the water body. Given the relatively small size of these reservoirs (<52 ha), it is assumed that the sediment properties recorded at 208 209 these sampling sites are representative of those found across the entire water bodies with the exception 210 of variations for the sedimentation rates.

211 Sampling locations and bathymetric data were recorded using a Garmin® Echomaps depth sounder212 (Garmin, Lenexa, USA).

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214 *2.1. Chronology*

Sediment dating of the nine cores (selected to be representative of the entire water bodies) 215 were established using Caesium-137 (¹³⁷Cs) and excess Lead-210 (²¹⁰Pb_{ex}) activities measured in 130 216 samples of dried sediment material (ca 10g). These samples were regularly collected along the 217 sediment cores with on average one sample taken every 6 cm. Gamma spectrometry measurements 218 were obtained using coaxial N- and P- type HPGe detectors (Canberra/Ortec®) available at the 219 Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement (Gif-sur-Yvette, France). The ²¹⁰Pb 220 activities were determined at 46.5 keV. ²¹⁰Pb_{ex} was calculated by subtracting the supported activity 221 from the total ²¹⁰Pb activity (measured at 46.5 keV) using two Radium-226 daughters, Lead-214 222 (average count at 295.2 and 351.9 keV) and Bismuth-214 (609.3 keV). All measurements were 223

corrected for background level determined every two months as well as for detector and geometry
efficiencies. Activities were also decay-corrected to the sampling date (Evrard *et al.*, 2016).

226 Age of the sediment sequence layers was determined using the Constant Rate of Supply model (CRS), (Appleby & Oldfield, 1978). This model assumes a constant rate of ²¹⁰Pb_{ex} supply from 227 atmospheric fallout, although sediment accumulation is allowed to vary throughout time. For 228 improving the ²¹⁰Pb_{ex} age model of some cores, the corrected CRS model described in Appleby (2001) 229 was used. The ²¹⁰Pb_{ex} age model validation was carried out through the identification of ¹³⁷Cs peaks in 230 the sedimentary sequences. This artificial radionuclide may originate from two sources in Western 231 Europe: the Chernobyl accident (1986) and the thermonuclear weapons testing (maximal emissions in 232 1963). Fukushima fallout was shown to be negligible in France (Evrard et al., 2012). To distinguish 233 between both potential ¹³⁷Cs sources, Americium-241 (²⁴¹Am), a daughter product of plutonium-241, 234 was used to identify the ¹³⁷Cs peak attributed to the maximum nuclear bomb fallout of 1963 (e.g. 235 Cambray et al., 1989). Information related to sediment core dating was summarized in Table 3. 236

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238 *2.2. Laboratory analyses*

Measurements of Visible Reflectance Spectroscopy (VRS) were obtained using a portable spectrophotometer (Konica® Minolta 700-D) equipped with a 3 mm target radius. Spectral reflectance was measured between 400 and 700 nm, with a 10 nm resolution. Before each set of measurements, the device was calibrated using a white and black calibration box.-Measurements were continuously recorded on the fresh sediment surface with a 1-cm resolution, in each core.

The absorbance peak between 650 and 700 nm was extracted for a sequence of samples selected in the sedimentary sequences to cover 5-year periods on average as a spectral index to measure the summed concentration of all compounds associated with both primary and degraded chlorophyll-a (chlorophyll-a + all chlorophyll-a isomers + pheophytin-a + pheophorbide-a) -(Michelutti & Smol, 2016). The area under the absorbance peak from 650 to 700 nm was calculated following the procedure described in Das *et al* (2005). These values provide a relative information on chlorophyll-a occurrence index derived from the true area calculation. In order to reduce the noise of the colorimetric time series, a LOESS smoothing model was applied using the free software PAST 3
(Hammer *et al.*, 2001).

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The occurrence of carbonate minerals was determined for 95 samples selected on the 9 master 254 cores (on average one sample every 5 years) with a Bernard calcimeter (University of Tours, France) 255 following the method described in NF ISO 10693 (1995). When detected, carbonates were 256 257 systematically removed from the sample aliquots before performing analyses to determine the total organic carbon concentration (TOC) and stable C isotopes ratios of organic matter and clay-bound 258 organic matter. To reduce possible leaching effects on sedimentary organic matter during carbonate 259 removal, sediments were carefully treated with a 1N HCL solution during 96 hours under constant 260 agitation and pH control in order not to drop below 2.5. Powder X-ray diffraction controls were 261 conducted to ensure the full dissolution of all carbonate minerals in the sediment residue (calcite, 262 dolomite, ankerite, ...). All the samples were rinsed six times in deionized water to remove dissolved 263 salts. The solid residues were recovered by high velocity centrifugation (2500 rounds.min⁻¹) for 15 264 265 minutes each time (Huon et al., 2002).

On these decarbonized sample aliquots, EA-IRMS analyses were conducted on dry sediment 266 for elemental concentration (TOC and total nitrogen concentration TN) and stable C and N isotopes 267 $(\delta^{13}C, \delta^{15}N)$ measurements. These measurements were performed with a continuous flow Elementar® 268 269 VarioPyro cube elemental analyzer (EA) coupled to a Micromass® Isoprime Isotope Ratios mass Spectrometer (IRMS) at the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Science of Paris. Oxygen for 270 combustion was injected during 70 s (30 mL min⁻¹) and temperatures were set at 850 °C and 1120 °C 271 for the reduction and combustion furnaces, respectively (Agnihotri et al., 2014). Analytical precision 272 273 and repeatability were controlled with tyrosine samples calibrated against international standards (Coplen et al., 1983). In the current research, the mean uncertainties were 0.2 ‰ for TN, 0.18 ‰ for 274 TOC, 0.1 ‰ for δ^{13} C and 0.2 ‰ for δ^{15} N. 275

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277 2.3. Mass accumulation rate of organic material

Organic matter Mass Accumulation Rates (MARorg, expressed in gC cm⁻² yr⁻¹) were estimated for each individual core using the Sediment Accumulation Rate (SAR, cm yr⁻¹, estimated with the 210 Pb_{ex} decay), the Dry Bulk Density (DBD, expressed in g cm⁻³ and calculated by measuring the amount of dry sediment in a known volume) and the total organic carbon concentration (TOC, expressed in gC g⁻¹) following eq. 1. MARorg corresponds to the amount of organic material deposited at each individual coring site. This sediment may originate from terrestrial inputs (allochthonous inputs) or may be directly produced in the water body (autochthonous production).

285

286 MARorg
$$[g \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}] = DBD [g \text{ cm}^{-3}] \text{ x SAR } [\text{cm yr}^{-1}] \text{ x TOC } [g \text{ C } g^{-1}] (\text{eq. 1})$$

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288 2.4. Agricultural inputs

Data from the CASSIS_N model (www.geosciences.univ-tours.fr/cassis) - (Poisvert *et al.*, 2017) was extracted for each individual catchment and for the entire Loire river basin. This model was used for estimating the mineral and organic nitrogen (N) consumption expressed in kg.ha⁻¹. This model based on data from agricultural census is available between 1955 and 2015 with an annual resolution.

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295 *2.5. Statistical analyses*

The Mann-Kendall non-parametric test (MK-test) was used for detecting monotonic trends in temporal series (Warren & Gilbert, 1988). In this study, the temporal series correspond to the evolution of production proxies (δ^{13} C, δ^{15} N, TN, TOC, chlorophyll-a), MARorg, MARmin as well as agricultural inputs throughout time. This test was applied to confirm the occurrence of monotonic upward or downward trends of a given variable throughout time (P-value < 0.05). Trends can be positive, negative or non-null. The non-parametric Buishand test (BU-test) was used for detecting the occurrence of changes in temporal series (Buishand, 1982). Buishand test with a P-value < 0.05 indicated a heterogeneous temporal trend between two periods.

In addition, the correlation coefficient (denoted r) was used to quantify the direction (positive,negative) and strength of the linear association between two variables.

307

308 3. Results

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310 *3.1. Chronology*

311 According to the dating models, the deepest sediment layers in the cores were deposited before 1925 (n=8) except for a single core where it is assumed to have deposited after 1950 (Table 3). The 312 age controls provided by the detection of artificial radionuclides (¹³⁷Cs and ²⁴¹Am) were identified in 313 four reservoirs for the Chernobyl fallout and in eight sequences for the 1963 fallout (Fig 4, 5 and 6). 314 Errors between continuous ²¹⁰Pb_{ex} age models and those obtained with the radiocesium were in 315 average of 2 years for 1986 and 3 years for 1963. Chronology of two cores, respectively those of the 316 317 Prugnolas pond and Malaguet lake (Fig. 1) was detailed in Foucher et al. (2019b; a). Chronology of the nine cores is detailed in Table 3. 318

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320 *3.2. Trends in paleo-production proxies*

Organic material production has significantly changed in seven of the nine study sites with a statistical increase of TOC concentrations in five of the reservoirs. For the two catchments dominated by forests, TOC contents varied between 94 and 180 gC kg⁻¹ (average value of 130 ± 24 gC kg⁻¹) – (Fig. 2). A non-significant trend in TOC content was recorded at both forested sites (P >0.05 MK-Test) – (Table 4). TOC content in catchments mainly occupied by grassland ranged between 18 and 160 gC kg⁻¹ (average value of 50 ± 29 gC kg⁻¹) – (Fig. 3). Content in organic material increased by

0.04, 1.6, 2.6 and 7.8 % after 1950 (for Loroux, Goule, Beaurepaire and Tazenat reservoirs, 327 respectively). The Loroux pond did not record any statistical change in TOC content. Nevertheless, a 328 peak of organic material was identified in 1965 (TOC = 75 gC kg⁻¹) – (Fig. 3). For the Malaguet lake, 329 this peak was identified in 1956 (TOC = 159 gC kg⁻¹) – (Fig. 2). During the same period, Tazenat lake 330 recorded an acceleration of organic material accumulation, with TOC contents increasing from 2.6 to 331 7.6 % (between 1950 and 1958). TOC concentrations measured in the three study sites dominated by 332 arable land ranged between 28 and 157 gC kg⁻¹ (average value of 65 ± 28 gC kg⁻¹) – (Fig. 4). 333 Concentration in organic material decreased by 0.1 and 1.1% (for Brosse and Passavant ponds, 334 respectively) although it increased by 1.3 % for the Boisvinet pond during the last century. Brosse and 335 Passavant ponds recorded an acceleration of organic material accumulation in the middle of the 20th 336 century (respectively between 1952 and 1960 (TOC = 157 gC kg⁻¹) and between 1955 and 1966 (TOC 337 $= 95 \text{ gC kg}^{-1}) - (\text{Fig. 4}).$ 338

During the 20th century, δ^{13} C results showed a significant positive trend in six of the studied 339 reservoirs with a switch around 1973 ± 11 yr in grassland environments, in 1969 in catchments 340 341 dominated by forest and in 1984 ± 1 yr in areas mainly occupied by arable land (Table 4). For the three remaining water bodies (Brosse, Boisvinet and Prugnolas pond), no statistical trend was 342 observed (Table 4). In forested catchments, δ^{13} C ranged between -27.4 ‰ and -29 ‰ (average value of 343 -28 ± 0.4 %) – (Fig. 2). For the Malaguet lake, the δ^{13} C decreased by 0.3 % during the covered period 344 while it decreased by 0.6 ‰ during the last century in the Prugnolas pond. For the pond located at the 345 outlet of catchments dominated by grassland, the δ^{13} C signature of organic matter ranged between -346 26.7 ‰ and -30.5 ‰ (average value of -28.6 \pm 0.95 ‰) – (Fig. 3). For these four catchments, δ^{13} C 347 values decreased by 0.5, 0.6, 1.7 ‰ and increased by 0.54 ‰ during the 20th century (for the 348 Beaurepaire, Goule, Tazenat and Loroux ponds, respectively). The δ^{13} C of organic matter measured in 349 sediment cores collected in reservoirs draining catchments under arable land ranged between -26.7 ‰ 350 and -32.3 % (average value of -29.3 \pm 1.4 %) – (Fig. 4). Values prior to 1950 were in average of -28.6 351 ± 1.7 % compared to -29.5 ± 1.1 % afterwards. During this period, δ^{13} C values decreased by 1.6 % 352 and 0.32 ‰ (for Passavant and Boisvinet ponds, respectively) and increased by 0.2 ‰ in Brosse Pond. 353

The δ^{15} N signature of organic matter displayed a significant positive trend in three reservoirs 354 (Beaurepaire, Passavant and Boisvinet) and a negative trend in two other water bodies (Loroux and 355 356 Prugnolas ponds) - (Table 4). Regarding the observed positive trend, the change in trajectory was recorded to occur around 1977 ± 11 yr while it started in 1976 ± 26 yr for negative trends. For the four 357 remaining sites located under various land covers, no statistical trend was recorded (Table 4). For the 358 forested catchments, $\delta^{15}N$ decreased by 0.2 % and 1.3 % (for Malaguet and Prugnolas reservoirs, 359 360 respectively) during the documented periods (Fig. 2). Under grassland environments, these values ranged between 4.1 ‰ and 8.8 ‰ (average 7 ± 1.4‰). $\delta^{15}N$ increased by 0.3‰ in the Beaurepaire 361 pond and decreased by 0.4, 0.6 and 2.2 ‰ during the last century (for Goule, Loroux and Tazenat 362 study sites, respectively) – (Fig. 3). In catchments dominated by arable land, δ^{15} N ranged between 4.4 363 ‰ and 8.1 ‰ (± 5.7 ‰). When comparing values recorded prior to and after 1950, δ^{15} N increased by 364 0.5, 1 and 1.1 ‰ (for Brosse, Boisvinet and Passavant ponds, respectively) – (Fig. 4). 365

366 C/N ratios showed a significant negative trend in only two ponds (Loroux and Goule ponds) 367 with a switch in this trend occurring around 1969 ± 6 yr. For these two reservoirs, C/N ratio increased 368 from 7.3 to 9.5 for the Goule pond and from 8.6 ± 0.2 to 8.9 ± 0.6 for the Loroux pond, in 1950 and 369 2010, respectively (Fig. 3)

Statistical positive trends in chlorophyll-a were recorded in seven reservoirs. Only the Prugnolas pond and the Tazenat lake did not show any statistical trend (Table 4). In the forested catchment, this increase reached around 160 ± 205 % (Fig. 2). In catchments dominated by grassland, chlorophyll-a values increased by 136 ± 87 % after 1950 (Fig. 3). During this period, an increase of 190 ± 160 % was recorded in arable land environments (Fig. 4). Changes in these trends were recorded around 1996 ± 5 yr 1963 ± 7 yr and 1990 – for catchments dominated by arable land, grassland, and forest, respectively.

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378 *3.3. Mass accumulation rate of organic material*

Accumulation rate of sedimentary organic material (originating from soil erosion andautochthonous production) has significantly changed during the last century. In the two catchments

occupied by forest, negative trends were recorded (decrease of $160 \pm 100\%$ – Table 4). In these 381 catchments, the deposition rates started to decrease around 1963 ± 23 yr (Fig. 5). A significant positive 382 383 trend in organic production was recorded in the four catchments occupied by grassland (MK test P <0.05) – (Table 4). In this context, organic matter deposition rate increased on average by 58 ± 23 % 384 between 1950 and 2015 (Fig. 5). In catchments dominated by arable land, a positive trend was only 385 recorded in one catchment (Boisvinet catchment) with an acceleration of organic accumulation around 386 387 1970. For the five catchments recording a positive trend, the average rate of deposition raised from 67 \pm 35 gC m⁻² yr⁻¹ before 1950 to 134 \pm 66 gC m⁻² yr⁻¹ after 1950 (Fig. 5). In the two reservoirs where no 388 statistical trend was observed (MK test P < 0.05) - (Brosse and Passavant reservoirs), a significant 389 increase of productivity was recorded between 1940 and 1975 (Fig. 5). On average, rates of organic 390 deposits reached 260 ± 44 gC m⁻² year⁻¹ before 1950, 350 ± 302 gC m⁻² year⁻¹ between 1950 and 1975 391 and 318 ± 126 gC m⁻² year⁻¹ after 1975. 392

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394 *3.4. Agricultural inputs*

The analysis of N fertilizer inputs (mineral + organic) of the nine selected catchments shows 395 the occurrence of three main trends. In the six catchments occupied by arable land and grassland, a 396 397 significant increase in N fertilizer use was observed during the last century (MK test P < 0.05) - (Table 4) In these sites, a major acceleration occurred around 1966 ± 5 yr (BU test) – (Fig. 6). On average, 398 this consumption started to stabilize or to decrease in 1994 ± 5 yr. For these catchments, consumption 399 of N fertilizers increased on average by $60 \pm 10\%$ for the 1955-2015 period. No statistical trend (MK 400 test P > 0.05) was observed for the Boisvinet catchment (site 5, Fig. 1) located in lowland 401 environments dominated by arable land (Table 2). 402

Finally, the two catchments currently occupied by forest displayed a negative or the absence of any
significant statistical trend in N fertilizer inputs (for the Malaguet and the Prugnolas catchment,
respectively) – (Table 4). For the Malaguet site, a significant decrease in consumption was recorded
around 1975. The use of N fertilizer inputs decreased by 20 % at this site (Fig. 6).

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409 4. Discussion

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411 Local records

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The non-linear decrease and the independent variation of paleo-production proxies through time (chlorophyll-a, sedimentary bulk organic matter δ^{13} C and δ^{15} N and C/N concentration) does not suggest the post-depositional degradation of organic matter as no typical increasing logarithmic trend of TOC and TN concentrations was observed in the upper part of the sediment cores (Fig. 2, 3 and 4) -(Emerson *et al.*, 1985; Arndt *et al.*, 2013). Variation in individual proxies can therefore be attributed to a change in organic matter sources.

Results obtained on the nine sedimentary sequences collected at the outlet of contrasted catchments showed variable contributions of terrestrial versus autochthonous organic matter during the 20th century. These changes in organic matter sources were attributed to anthropogenic pressures observed in the landscape, with the intensification of anthropogenic activities and a greater use of agricultural inputs (e.g. Schindler Wildhaber *et al.*, 2012).

In the two forested catchments, the period prior to 1960 was characterized by the highest C/N 424 ratios recorded in this study (ranging between 17 and 24), suggesting the dominant delivery of 425 vascular debris (C/N >20 from vascular plants (Meyers, 1994)). These results were in agreement with 426 our historical knowledge on the processes occurring in these catchments. During the 20th century, both 427 catchments were affected by land abandonment, evolving from an open landscape, mostly occupied by 428 grassland, to forested catchments. Between 1950 and 1960, major afforestation works were conducted 429 in the Malaguet catchment inducing a significant acceleration of soil erosion (Foucher et al., 2019b). 430 431 The forest regrew spontaneously in the Prugnolas catchment and, as a consequence, soil erosion decreased progressively during the 20th century. The increase of values recorded by terrigenous 432 organic matter proxies (C/N, TOC concentration) during the 1950-1960 period was recorded during 433 this period of afforestation, soil disturbance and soil erosion. After this period, organic sediment 434 sources have drastically changed as reflected by an increase of TOC contents in sediment (from 130 to 435 170 gC kg⁻¹ and from 110 to 150 gC kg⁻¹) as well as a decrease in the C/N ratios (from 24 to 13 and 436

from 16 to 11, for Prugnolas and Malaguet reservoirs, respectively) - (Fig. 2). In contrast, during this 437 period, chlorophyll-a increased (450% and 160% for Prugnolas and Malaguet reservoirs, respectively). 438 The strong negative relationship observed between chlorophyll-a and $\delta^{13}C$ (r = 0.99 and 0.87 for 439 Prugnolas and Malaguet reservoirs, respectively) suggests a greater contribution of autochthonous 440 production during the second half of the 20th century. During this period, agricultural inputs remained 441 constant or even decreased (Fig. 6), and they were not correlated to paleo production proxies (e.g. 442 443 correlation between chlorophyll-a vs N inputs r = 0.02 and 0.5 for Prugnolas and Malaguet lakes). In the Prugnolas catchment, the increase of ¹³⁷Cs activities recorded in sediment deposited after 1999 was 444 445 attributed to a greater contribution of surface soil erosion during a landscape management period following the major 1999 windstorm (Foucher et al., 2019a). During this period both TN 446 concentration and $\delta^{15}N$ increased as well as chlorophyll-a values (r = 0.98 and 0.99, respectively) – 447 (Fig. 2). Acceleration of autochthonous production during the last 25 years can be therefore attributed 448 449 to a release of soil nutrients.

In grassland areas (drained by the Beaurepaire, Tazenat and Loroux-Bottereau reservoirs), 450 changes in sedimentary matter signatures were also recorded during the 20th century. Between 1950 451 and 1970, a general increase in TOC contents (on average 120 ± 110 %) associated with higher C/N 452 organic ratios (average value of 9.5 ± 1), an increase of MARorg rate (140 ± 70%) and changes in δ^{13} C 453 and δ^{15} N proxies were observed (Fig. 3). A similar observation was made in catchments dominated by 454 455 arable land (Passavant and Brosse basins). During this same period, TOC contents increased on average by 63 ± 1 % and were associated with an acceleration of MARorg deposition (84 ± 40 %) and 456 high C/N (11.5 \pm 0.5). In addition, this period corresponds to an increase of ¹³⁷Cs activity suggesting a 457 mobilization of material originating from surface soil sources (Olley et al., 2013) for le Loroux, 458 459 Beaurepaire, Tazenat and Passavant catchments (Fig. 3 and 4).

In both contexts of arable land and grassland, this post Second Word War (WWII) period corresponds to a phase of intensification of agricultural practices across the Loire river basin, with the implementation of major landscape modifications (e.g. land consolidation corresponding to the reorganization and the increase of plot size, stream redesign, tile drain creation) - (Vandromme *et al.*, 2016; Chartin *et al.*, 2013; Grangeon *et al.*, 2017). The change in proxy values observed in the current research together with this increase of accumulation of organic matter characterized by high C/N ratios
very likely occurred in response to these landscape modifications (Mackie *et al.*, 2005).

After this period of more intense management (after 1970) the MARorg, TOC and chlorophyll-a proxies increased following a statistically significant trend (Table 4). These results suggest a greater accumulation of autochthonous organic matter. MARorg values obtained in agricultural and abandoned catchments during the 2010-2017 period (255 ± 170 and 78 ± 22 gC m⁻² yr⁻¹, respectively) are in agreement with those obtained in previous studies (Fig. 5). For example, a median value of 350 gC m⁻² yr⁻¹ and 56 gC m⁻² yr⁻¹ were respectively recorded in reservoirs draining cultivated and abandoned catchments - (Schlesinger & Bernhardt, 2013).

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475 Regional trend

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477 The compilation of results obtained in the seven agricultural catchments demonstrates the continuous acceleration in organic material accumulation in ponds across the Loire River basin during 478 the 20th century (MK-test P <0.05). Similar observations were made in agricultural catchments of the 479 northern United-States (Heathcote et al., 2013). In this area, the regional acceleration started around 480 1950 and was accompanied by an increase of C/N ratios in sediment (Fig. 7). In previous 481 482 paleolimnological studies, these increases were interpreted as historical periods characterized by the 483 delivery of a high proportion of organic matter derived by soil erosion particularly during periods of greater human-induced environmental modifications (Guilizzoni et al., 1996; Routh et al., 2004). In 484 addition to this change, $\delta^{15}N$ signature recorded a general decrease suggesting a major change in 485 organic matter sources. The beginning of acceleration of organic matter deposits (1950) recorded in 486 487 these reservoirs occurred concomitantly with the major landscape changes that took place in the Loire 488 river basin. These changes were associated with an acceleration of erosion processes and a higher sediment delivery to the reservoirs (Foucher et al., 2014). This period of soil erosion was observed in 489 490 various catchments across Europe. For example, a two to ten-fold acceleration of soil erosion rates was recorded in various catchments of the UK after 1950 in response to land-use change (Foster et al., 491 492 2011). In addition, the greater contribution of phytoplanctonic production was also observed from

1955 onwards: chlorophyll-a started to increase following the regional trends of N fertilizer inputs (r = 493 0.9 between chlorophyll-a contents and N inputs during the 1955-1990 period). From 1970 onwards, 494 495 the terrigenous contribution decreased sharply following the trend of MARorg. After 1970, human 496 pressure on landscape started to decrease in France (land consolidation programs mainly took place between 1955 and 1975, Andre & Polombo, 2013). After a period dominated by the terrigenous 497 contribution to sediment deposited in the reservoirs, the MARorg showed a progressive acceleration 498 from 1970 to 2015 (+40%). At the regional scale, $\delta^{15}N$ is well correlated to N inputs (r = 0.76), C/N 499 ratio (r = 0.8), to MARorg after 1970 (r = 0.72) as well as to chlorophyll-a (r = 0.68). The increase of 500 organic matter deposition associated with a good correlation between phytoplanctonic proxies 501 502 demonstrates a shift in the paleo productivity evolving from a system dominated by terrigenous inputs 503 just after WWII to a period of dominant autochthonous production after 1970.

504 Between 1990 and 2015, the European legislation induced a slight reduction in fertilizer use in the Loire river basin (-13% on average) - (Poisvert et al., 2017). Nevertheless, organic matter continues to 505 accumulate in reservoirs (+17% in 15 years). The MARorg remained highly correlated to 506 507 phytoplanctonic proxies during this period (r = 0.87 between chlorophyll-a and MARorg). The negative correlation between N inputs and phytoplanctonic occurrence (r = 0.95 between chlorophyll-a 508 and N inputs and r = 0.97 between MARorg and N inputs) highlights the effects of other driving 509 510 factors and not only the trends in agricultural inputs. Past studies have demonstrated that in addition to 511 human activities, climate warming or again secondary release of nutrients (Shayo & Limbu, 2018) 512 may have a major impact on organic production and eutrophication phenomena.

Nowadays, although eutrophication represents a major threat for a large number of reservoirs 513 across the world (Le et al., 2010; Bhagowati & Ahamad, 2019), this process remains insufficiently 514 515 studied in small headwater basins. The general positive trend of paleo production proxies observed in study could be improved by the collection of additional samples in various catchments of the Loire 516 517 basin. Nevertheless, the results obtained in the current research emphasized the occurrence of a massive acceleration of organic matter deposition after 1950 in these reservoirs. Moreover, the 518 sediment recorded in ponds draining contrasting land uses also showed a transition between a system 519 520 dominated by terrigenous inputs to a system dominated by the autochthonous production during the

1950-2015 period. Although the paleo production proxies were highly correlated to the use of 521 agricultural inputs until the 1990s, this relationship was no longer observed since then. Accordingly, 522 523 questions remain to identify the factor(s) driving the recent autochthonous production in these reservoirs. Overall, soil erosion is classically considered to be the main factor inducing siltation of 524 water bodies. As the excess of organic matter production can also lead to the filling of water bodies, 525 the contribution of these processes and their respective contribution to reservoir siltation need to be 526 527 further quantified. This will allow the design of effective control measures such as the systematic sowing of cover crops in winter to improve nutrient absorption by plants and better protect soils 528 against erosion. 529

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531 5. Conclusions

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The collection and analysis of sediment accumulated in freshwater bodies provides a powerful 533 technique for reconstructing changes in organic matter sources and for investigating their relationship 534 with landscape management. Although these changes were studied during the 20th century in coastal 535 areas, great lakes or during the last decades in riverine systems, there is currently a lack of records to 536 support a regional analysis of these changes in continental areas over the last century. Results obtained 537 538 in the current research underline an acceleration of organic matter deposition rates in cultivated areas during the second part of the 20th century. Between 1950 and 1965, organic matter that accumulated in 539 540 water bodies draining agricultural catchments was mainly supplied by terrigenous sources. These deposits occurred during the implementation of major landscape management programs such as land 541 consolidation, soil drainage or stream re-design. The increasing use of synthetic fertilizers which 542 543 started in the 1970s induced a shift in organic matter accumulation with the acceleration of primary 544 production in water bodies. This autochthonous production was highly correlated to the use of N 545 fertilizers until the early 1990s. Nevertheless, the current research contributed to improve our understanding of long-term trends in eutrophication through the identification of a switch in 546 547 production and the associated driving factors during the 1960-1970 period. Since then, although the

primary production continues to increase, this change cannot be exclusively explained by the enhanced 548 use of fertilizers. The other factors driving this change should therefore be identified and quantified. 549 550 This identification is of prime importance in order to reduce primary production in these water bodies and to improve the water quality of freshwater systems.

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806	Figures:
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808	Fig.1 Localization of the nine studied catchments within the Loire river basin. (1) Le Loroux-
809	Bottereau, (2) Beaurepaire, (3) Passavant-sur-Layon, (4) Brosse, (5) Boisvinet, (6) Prugnolas,
810	(7) Goule, (8) Tazenat, (9) Malaguet
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812	Fig. 2 Evolution of sediment properties throughout time in reservoirs draining forested
813	catchments: (6) Prugnolas and (9) Malaguet. Grey lines correspond to the identification of
814	¹³⁷ Cs peaks associated to the 1963 and 1986 fallouts.
815	
816	Fig. 3 Evolution of sediment properties throughout time in reservoirs draining catchments
817	dominated by grassland: (1) Le Loroux-Bottereau, (2) Beaurepaire, (7) Goule and (8) Tazenat.
818	Grey lines correspond to the identification of ¹³⁷ Cs peaks associated to the 1963 and 1986
819	fallouts.

821	Fig. 4 Evolution of sediment properties throughout time in reservoirs draining catchments
822	dominated by arable land: (3) Passavant-sur-Layon, (4) Brosse and (5) Boisvinet. Grey line
823	correspond to the identification of ¹³⁷ Cs peak associated to the 1963 fallouts.
824	
825	Fig. 5 Evolution of Nitrogen consumption in the nine selected catchments under arable land,
826	grassland or dominated by forest (1) Le Loroux-Bottereau, (2) Beaurepaire, (3) Passavant-sur-
827	Layon, (4) Brosse, (5) Boisvinet, (6) Prugnolas, (7) Goule, (8) Tazenat, (9) Malaguet
828	
829	Fig. 6 Evolution of Mass Accumulation Rates of organic material (MARorg) during the last
830	century in reservoirs located at the outlet of the nine studied catchments: (1) Le Loroux-
831	Bottereau, (2) Beaurepaire, (3) Passavant-sur-Layon, (4) Brosse, (5) Boisvinet, (6) Prugnolas,
832	(7) Goule, (8) Tazenat, (9) Malaguet. Grey area correspond to a significant acceleration of
833	MARorg.
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833 834 835	MARorg. Fig. 7 Evolution of sediment properties throughout time in reservoirs draining the seven
833 834 835 836	MARorg. Fig. 7 Evolution of sediment properties throughout time in reservoirs draining the seven cultivated catchments. The light grey part corresponds to the period dominated by terrigenous
833 834 835 836 837	MARorg. Fig. 7 Evolution of sediment properties throughout time in reservoirs draining the seven cultivated catchments. The light grey part corresponds to the period dominated by terrigenous inputs whereas the dark grey colour corresponds to the period dominated by autochthonous
833 834 835 836 837 838	MARorg. Fig. 7 Evolution of sediment properties throughout time in reservoirs draining the seven cultivated catchments. The light grey part corresponds to the period dominated by terrigenous inputs whereas the dark grey colour corresponds to the period dominated by autochthonous primary productivity.
833 834 835 836 837 838 838	MARorg. Fig. 7 Evolution of sediment properties throughout time in reservoirs draining the seven cultivated catchments. The light grey part corresponds to the period dominated by terrigenous inputs whereas the dark grey colour corresponds to the period dominated by autochthonous primary productivity.
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 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 	MARorg. Fig. 7 Evolution of sediment properties throughout time in reservoirs draining the seven cultivated catchments. The light grey part corresponds to the period dominated by terrigenous inputs whereas the dark grey colour corresponds to the period dominated by autochthonous primary productivity. Tables: Table 1. Characteristics of the Loire Basin sub-catchments

845 Table 2. Characteristics of the studied catchments

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- Table 3. Chronology of sediment cores and modern and historic Mass Accumulation Rates of
- organic matter (MARorg expressed in gC m^{-2} yr⁻¹: modern MARorg correspond to average
- value of MARorg for the 2017-1950 period and the historical MARorg to the average value
- 850 before 1950). ND = non detected.
- 851
- Table 4. Results of the Mann Kendal test with the significant p value <0.05. NT = No trend, +
- 853 = positive trend and = negative trend
- 854

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	Sub catchment area (km ²)	Average elevation (m)	Average slope (%)	Land use
Lower Loire	36,780	108	1.7	Arable land (60%), Grassland (24%), Forest (11%), Urban (5%)
Middle Loire	48,471	216	2.1	Arable land (48%), Forest (25%), Grassland (24%), Urban (4%)
Upper Loire	32,630	570	5.5	Grassland (43%), Forest (35%), Arable land (17%), Urban (4%)

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Site ID	Reservoir name	Core location	Core length (cm)	Water depth (m)	Lake/Pond area (ha)	Catchment area (km²)	Average elevation (m)	Average slope (%)	Catchment location	Main land use	Land use	Landscape management
1	Loroux-Botterau	47.2379N, -1.3440E	71	1.2	1.7	4.5	68	2.7	Lower Loire	Grassland (65%)	Arable land (34%). urban area (1%)	Hedge removal during the 1965- 1975 period
2	Beaurepaire	47.0726N, -0.4737E	108	2.5	38	14.3	122	1.7	Lower Loire	Grassland (52%)	Arable land (45%). water bodies (3%). woodland (0.1 %)	tile drain implementation and land consolidation in 1977
3	Passavant-sur- Layon	47.1013N, -0.3941E	116	1.4	14	108	121	2.4	Lower Loire	Arable land (70.5%)	Grassland (21%). woodland (6.36%). water bodies (0.9%). mining (0.6%). urban areas (0.3%)	Major land consolidation during the 1960's
4	Brosse	47.2761N, 1.0558E	127	2.4	11	24.5	105	2.3	Middle Loire	Arable land (83%)	Woodland (8%). grassland (7%). water bodies (1%). urban areas (1%)	Major land consolidation in 1959
5	Boisvinet	48.0733N, 0.8832E	97	2.1	39	9.5	189	2.5	Lower Loire	Arable land (63%)	Grassland (23%). woodland (9.5%). water bodies (4.3%)	
6	Prugnolas	45.8689N, 1.9032E	82	0.8	1.8	7.8	727	12	Middle Loire	Woodland (82%)	Grassland (16%). arable land 0.4%)	Afforestation after 1950, major windstorm in 1999 inducing damage on forest
7	Goule	46.7277N, 2.8004E	152	4.3	52	34	242	3	Middle Loire	Grassland (65.9%)	Woodland (18.4%). arable land (13.3%). water bodies (1.5%). urban areas (0.8%)	Ū
8	Tazenat	45.9796N, 2.9900E	115	67	30	2.3	690	9.3	Upper Loire	Grassland (68%)	Woodland (16%). water bodies (15%)	Land consolidation in 1990
9	Malaguet	45.2512N, 3.7103E	69	3.1	20.5	3.7	1073	7.5	Upper Loire	Woodland (71%)	Grassland (13%). water bodies (7%). urban areas (6%). arable land (2%)	Afforestation works between 1950 and 1965

Site ID	Max ²¹⁰ Pb _{ex} date / depth	1986 ¹³⁷ Cs fallout	1963 ¹³⁷ Cs fallout	Modern MARorg	Historic MARorg
1	1921 (71 cm)	ND	\pm 3 year (40 cm)	133 ± 32	46 ± 21
2	1925 (105 cm)	ND	\pm 2 year (70 cm)	$219 \pm 71 $	76 ± 12
3	<100 (74 cm)	ND	\pm 2 year (46 cm)	$229 \pm 50 $	133 ± 11
4	1922 (130 cm)	ND	\pm 2 year (92 cm)	460 ± 117	342 ± 126
5	1898 (90 cm)	ND	\pm 3 year (50 cm)	111 ± 28	76 ± 2
6	1918 (140 cm)	\pm 1 year (55 cm)	\pm 1 year (85 cm)	167 ± 12	114 ± 25
7	1901 (65 cm)	\pm 1 year (11.5 cm)	ND	141 ± 46	450 ± 330
8	1902 (44 cm)	± 1 year (11 cm)	\pm 3 year (19 cm)	41 ± 11	21 ± 12
9	1948 (76 cm)	\pm 4 year (16 cm)	ND	163 ± 73	-

Tables		
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Site ID TOC		TOC δ ¹³ C		δ ¹⁵ N C/N		TN		chloropyll-a		MARorg		N Inputs				
1	0.46	NT	<0.05	-	<0.05	-	<0.05	-	0.46	NT	<0.05	+	<0.05	+	<0.05	+
2	<0.05	+	<0.05	-	<0.05	+	0.3	NT	<0.05	+	<0.05	+	<0.05	+	<0.05	+
3	<0.05	+	<0.05	-	<0.05	+	0.27	NT	<0.05	-	<0.05	+	0.53	NT	<0.05	+
4	0.84	NT	0.82	NT	0.07	NT	0.11	NT	0.96	NT	<0.05	+	0.33	NT	<0.05	+
5	<0.05	+	0.6	NT	<0.05	+	0.46	NT	<0.05	+	<0.05	+	<0.05	+	0.43	NT
6	<0.05	+	<0.05	-	0.19	NT	<0.05	-	<0.05	+	<0.05	+	< 0.05	+	<0.05	+
7	0.138	NT	0.408	NT	<0.05	-	0.5	NT	<0.05	+	0.06	NT	< 0.05	-	0.38	NT
8	<0.05	+	<0.05	-	0.54	NT	0.46	NT	<0.05	+	0.38	NT	<0.05	+	<0.05	+
9	0.13	NT	<0.05	-	0.45	NT	0.23	NT	<0.05	+	<0.05	+	<0.05	-	<0.05	-

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Figure 3 Click here to download high resolution image





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