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## **New Insights into Pb Isotope Fingerprinting of U-Mine Material Dissemination in the Environment: Pb Isotopes as a Memory Dissemination Tracer**

Alkiviadis Gourgiotis, Arnaud Mangeret, Gérard Manhès, Pascale Blanchart, Lucie Stetten, Guillaume Morin, Pierre Le Pape, Pierre Lefebvre, Mathieu Le Coz, Charlotte Cazala

### ► To cite this version:

Alkiviadis Gourgiotis, Arnaud Mangeret, Gérard Manhès, Pascale Blanchart, Lucie Stetten, et al.. New Insights into Pb Isotope Fingerprinting of U-Mine Material Dissemination in the Environment: Pb Isotopes as a Memory Dissemination Tracer. *Environmental Science and Technology*, 2019, 54 (2), pp.797-806. 10.1021/acs.est.9b04828 . hal-03041326

**HAL Id: hal-03041326**

**<https://hal.science/hal-03041326v1>**

Submitted on 4 Dec 2020

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1 **New insights into Pb isotope fingerprinting of U-mine**  
2 **material dissemination in the environment: Pb isotopes as a**  
3 **memory dissemination tracer.**

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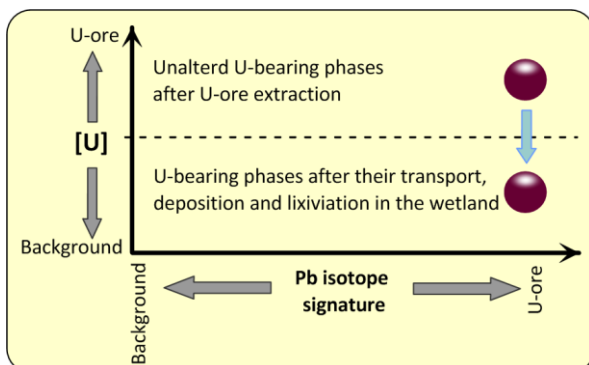
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**Abstract**

Stable Pb isotope ratios were measured and compared to U distributions in three soil cores located in a wetland highly impacted by water discharge of a former U-mine. Pb isotope ratios showed notable alignments in binary mixing plots demonstrating the dissemination of radioactive-enriched material from the U-mine. Thanks to these alignments and to the measurement of  $^{204}\text{Pb}$  isotope, a precise characterization of the Pb isotope composition of the U-ore was performed without the use of U-ore samples. The well-defined end-members with the help of a reevaluated isotope mixing model allowed the accurate determination of the radiogenic Pb percentages in the cores that were overall found to be >50%. Non-correlated distributions of radiogenic  $^{206}\text{Pb}$  and U are observed in several of the wetland soil samples studied. They reveal post-depositional U redistribution explained by major U speciation changes due to redox cycling in the wetland. On the contrary, the radiogenic  $^{206}\text{Pb}$  showed no or small post-depositional mobility and thus can be considered to be a memory tracer of the dissemination of U-rich radioactive material: even after an important U loss, the radiogenic  $^{206}\text{Pb}$  is able to reveal past contamination by U-rich materials.